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## DIGITIZED UNIVERSITY TEXTBOOK OF PROF. ZAHARIJE BRKIĆ IN VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS

**Abstract.** In the Virtual Library of the Faculty of Mathematics there are three digitized publications by professor Zaharije Brkić. These publications include his doctoral dissertation, which represents the first dissertation in astronomy that had been defended on Belgrade university. Also, two university textbooks written with prof. Branislav Ševarlić are digitized. In this paper, we give detailed analysis of these works along with explanations of their importance.

### 1. Introduction



Figure 1. Professor Zaharije Brkić photographed during the observations of total solar eclipse on Hvar (Croatia) in 1961 [3].

For the purpose of keeping and preserving a large number of rare books, textbooks, dissertations and papers, Virtual Library was built as a part of the Digitization project of the Faculty of Mathematics in Belgrade and the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts [1, 2]. Virtual Library is freely available and open via Internet link <http://elibrary.matf.bg.ac.rs> for general public. This project will allow future generations to better understand works of our prominent scientists, as well as to save past works from oblivion.

In this paper, we present digitized university textbooks written by Zaharije Brkić, who was an astronomer and respected professor at the University of Belgrade. Paper is organized as follows. In the next section we give a short biography of professor Zaharije Brkić. Third, fourth and fifth sections contain detailed analysis of two digitized textbooks and his dissertation.

### 2. Biography of professor Zaharije Brkić (1910-1979)

Zaharije Brkić (Figure 1) was born in Poljna (central Serbia, near municipality of Trstenik) at 1910. As a young pupil he showed great interest and affinity towards mathematics and physics. After he had finished grammar school in Čačak he started studying at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, as part of a group for theoretical

mathematics. He graduated at 1936 and two years afterwards he begun to work at the Astronomical observatory Belgrade. At observatory he was first an assistant but soon was promoted to researcher position. Due to his extensive knowledge of astronomical instruments, their usage and application for position determination he started working as an assistant professor on the Faculty of Civil Engineering at 1955. Two years after, on 1957. he was elected as a professor and he remained on that positions until he moved to Faculty of Natural sciences [3, 4].

Zaharije Brkić defended his doctoral dissertation in astronomy at Belgrade university on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1958. This was the first dissertation to have been defended at Belgrade university in astronomical sciences. His mentor, Vojislav Mišković, was the first person that had obtained doctorate in astronomy. On board for his defense were Tatomir Anđelić, full professor, Vojislav Mišković, full professor and academic, and Konstantin Voronjec as a corespondent member. One year after he got his doctoral degree he moved to department for mechanics and astronomy on Faculty of Natural sciences where he had been working until his retirement on July 1978. During his work at faculty, Zaharije Brkić was on board for multiple doctoral defenses: Branislav Ševarlić (1960), Vasilije Oskanjan (1961), Đorđe Teleki (1964) and Dragutin Đurović (1974) [3, 4].

Zaharije Brkić was one of the founders of the services for (1) time and changing of geographic latitude and (2) for longitude change and movement of Earth poles at the Astronomical observatory. Also, he published 34 scientific papers and 27 professional papers. Besides that, he is coauthor of two university textbooks: Geodetic astronomy and General astronomy. We should mentioned that General astronomy has two editions and it is still in use today. Both textbooks are digitized and available at Virtual Library. More detail about textbooks are given in the following sections.

Zaharije Brkić was married to Marica Marković with who he had two children: daughter Ružica and son Slobodan. Professor Zaharije Brkić died on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1979 after fighting a difficult disease. Shortly before his death, he was given medal for his scientific achievements and his influence on education for numerous generations of astronomers.

### 3. Doctoral Dissertation

As it was previous mentioned, doctoral disertation written by Zaharije Brkić, was the first dissertation in astronomy defended at the University of Belgrade. Its title is “Analiza sistematskih gresaka pasažnog instrumenta i drugih sistematskih uticaja na određivanje vremena” (The analysis of systematic errors of passage instrument and other systematic influences on time determination). His dissertation is publicly available on link: <http://elibrary.matf.bg.ac.rs/handle/123456789/22> [7].

Dissertation which was digitized is available in the library of the Faculty of Mathematics where it is classified as museum copy under the catalogue number “Dokt. 4/1”. Unfortunately, this copy is damaged and some pages are barely visible (Figure 2).

Dissertation has 120 pages and its content is divided in two parts. First part is a description of chosen problem and historical remarks. Second part is where Zaharije Brkić presents his own scientific work. Whole dissertation is written using typewriter and sufficient copies are obtained using indigo paper. Graphics were multiplied using photosensitive paper which is a reason for gradually degrading of their quality (Figure 2). Historic and scientific significance of this dissertation makes this digitization and its preservation.

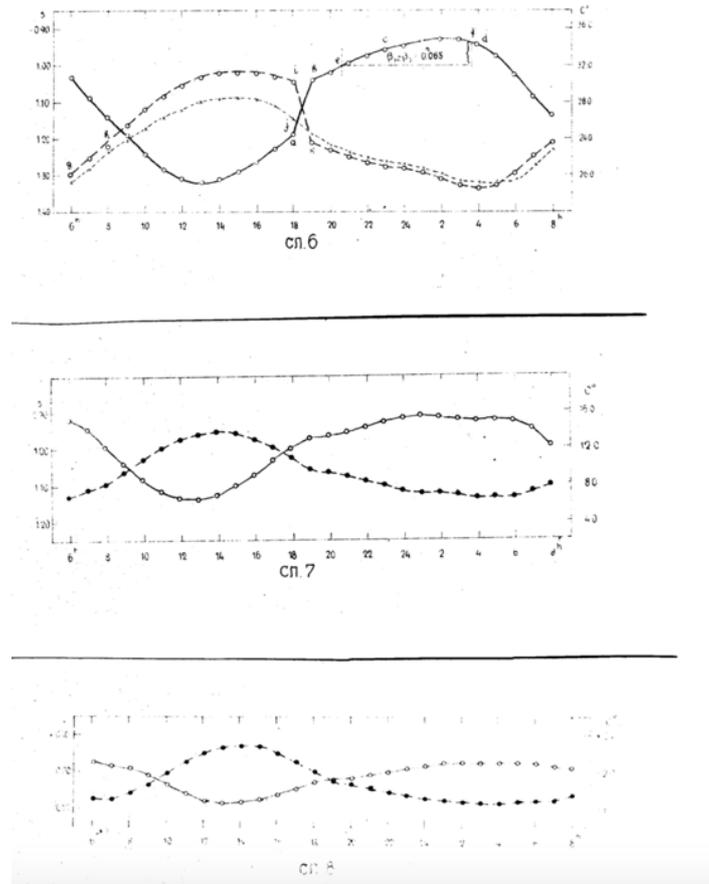


Figure 2. One page at the digitized version of doctoral dissertation of prof. Brkić. On this page, damages are clearly visible.

Authors of this paper have found that Miodrag Dačić has one copy of Zaharije Brkić's doctoral dissertation which is not damaged, and its digitization is on the way, and soon it will be available at the same link as already digitized version.

### 3. Geodetic astronomy

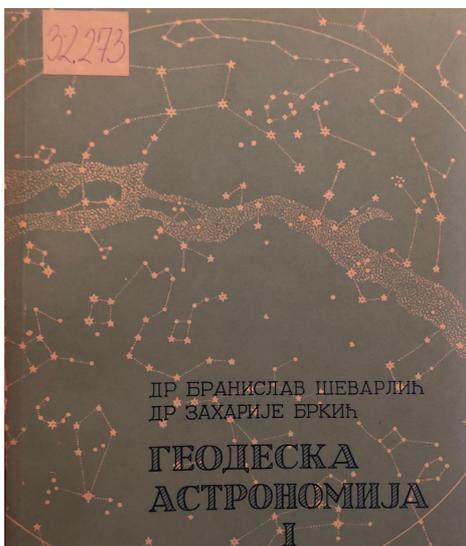


Figure 3. Front page of the textbook Geodetic astronomy.

“Гедеска астрономија” (Geodetic astronomy) was published in 1963. and it represents the first astronomy textbook for the students of the Geodesy department of the Faculty of Civil Engineering. Textbook has 266 pages, with 63 solved problems, 92 illustrations and 33 tables. Solved problems are very useful for students as they help them to overcome and easily accept new terms. In the following paragraphs we are showing some selected parts of this textbook.

On Figure 4 (pages 122 and 123 from textbook) we can see one solved problem (problem no. 49). This problem shows a method for calculation of the time of the Sun's setting and rising, but accounting for the atmospheric refraction. In this problem, duration of the day is

calculated for Belgrade and Zagreb, and in order to achieve a larger precision, problem is done using two approximations. At that time calculators and computers were not in use, hence extensive calculations had to be done using logarithmic tables or mechanical calculators.

Here, we should mention that completely solved problems with explanations can be found in “Zbirka urađenih zadataka iz Opšte astronomije” (Solved problems in general astronomy) by Vojislav Mišković [5, 6]. The first part of this problem book (published in 1957) and second part (as manuscript) is freely available at Virtual Library (<http://elibrary.matf.bg.ac.rs/handle/123456789/650>). This book is still the only one problem book in general astronomy.

Discovery and studying of irregularities of the Earth rotation, especially secular slowing down of its rotation led to new astronomical time: ephemeris time (ET). On Figure 5 two pages from the textbook are shown where authors explained ET using graphical and analytical way. Also, the relations between ephemeris time, universal time and sidereal time are given. From the expression  $336 (L_E = L + 1.00273 \Delta t)$  for geographic longitude of ephemeris meridian, we see that the ephemeris meridian is constantly moving away from the Greenwich meridian. This is the consequence of secular slowing down of the Earth rotation period. Determination of a correct longitude is greatly important for the geodesy.

Before determination of the irregularities of Earth rotation, the movements of the Earth poles had been discovered. Therefore, besides changes in longitude we have constant changes in latitude for every place on the Earth. In the Geodetic astronomy authors are deriving the equation of Kostinsky for determination of cartesian coordinates of Earth pole from observational data. It is important to note that the first mathematical model of Earth, and movement of its poles was discovered by our scientist Milutin Milanković. Milutin Milanković gave theoretical derivation of this Earth model in his monumental work “Canon of insolation and ice age problem”.

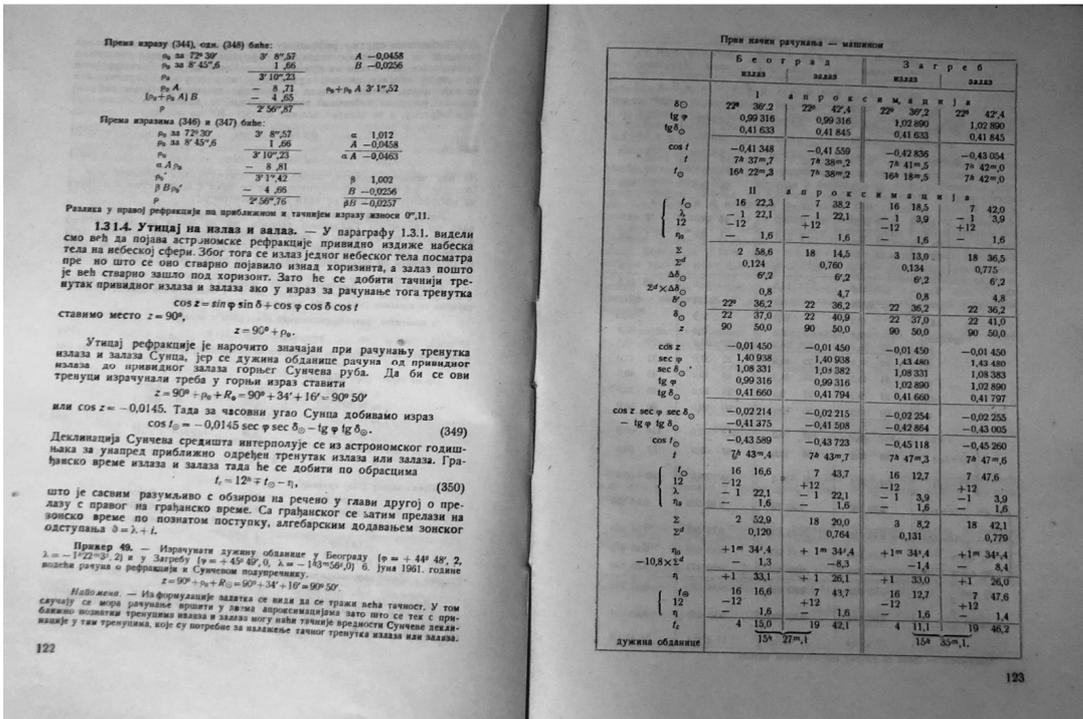


Figure 4. Scan of the pages 122 and 123 from Geodetic astronomy.



On pages 216 and 217 (Figure 6), we can see pictures (photos) of two important astronomical instruments: large passage instrument and large vertical circle from the Astronomical observatory Belgrade. Large passage instrument gives the most precise determination of right ascension, and large vertical circle is used for declination determination. Using these two instruments observational catalogues were made. Unfortunately, due to light pollution these instruments are no longer in use at the observatory.

We should mention that for a relative coordinate determination of the equatorial coordinates of stars, meridian circle is used. Meridian circle can estimate both coordinates at the same time. Unhappily, this instrument was destroyed in fire during the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999.

#### 4. General Astronomy

“Opšta astronomija” (General astronomy) is one of the most significant textbook for students of astronomy. This book is still in extensive use for the first year students as material for the courses General astronomy 1 and General astronomy 2. The first edition of this book was published in 1971., and the second one ten years later (



Figure 7). General astronomy treats the basics of the classical astronomy disciplines such as: spherical, practical, positional and theoretical astronomy, celestial mechanics etc. Here, we should highlight that every chapter in this book starts with historical background and also is followed by graphical representation of the problem.



Figure 7. Front pages of the university textbook General astronomy. Left one is published in 1971., while the right one is the second edition published in 1981.

Second edition of this book is extended with newer data and solved problems. Also, the profit from the sale of this edition went to Fond of prof. Zaharije Brkić whose purpose is to give a reward for the best graduated astronomy students.

On pages 34 and 35 (Figure 8) it is shown how to use equations of spherical trigonometry in order to do transformations between spherical coordinate systems that are used in astronomy. There we can see one image (image number 12 in textbook) of the celestial sphere and spherical triangle that is used to derive the relations between equatorial and ecliptic coordinates. At chapter 70 (Figure 9) determination of true solar time with sundial is shown. With spherical trigonometry it is possible to obtain the relation between the shadow of gnomon and Sun's hour angle. At Belgrade there are a few sundials: in front of a mint of money at Topčider, at the entrance of the Astronomical observatory Belgrade, in front of Serbian clinical centre, in the centre of Zemun and at the representative office of the Hilandar monastery.

Ako je  $0 \leq t \leq 180^\circ$ , onda je и  $0 \leq A \leq 180^\circ$ . Ako je пак  $180^\circ \leq t \leq 360^\circ$ , onda je и  $180^\circ \leq A \leq 360^\circ$ ,  $z$  је увек између  $0^\circ$  и  $180^\circ$ .

2<sup>а</sup> Прелаз са хоризонтских на месне екваторске координате. — Применимо ли Гауссову групу образаца (16), (17) и (18) на положајни троугао  $P_0 Z \Sigma$  (сл. 11), по уласци да с леве стране дођу месне екваторске координате, добијемо везе за израчунавање ових координата кад су дате хоризонтске:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \delta &= \cos z \sin \varphi - \sin z \cos \varphi \cos A, & (65) \\ \cos \delta \sin t &= \sin z \sin A, & (66) \\ \cos \delta \cos t &= \cos z \cos \varphi + \sin z \sin \varphi \cos A. & (67) \end{aligned}$$

Сменама

$$\begin{aligned} \cos z &= n \cos N, & (68) \\ \sin z \cos A &= n \sin N, & (69) \end{aligned}$$

из којих се може десобом наћи помоћни угао  $N$ :

$$\operatorname{tg} N = \operatorname{tg} z \cos A, \quad (70)$$

везе (65), (66) и (67) добијају облик подесан за логаритамско рачунање:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \delta &= n \sin (\varphi - N), & (71) \\ \cos \delta \sin t &= \sin z \sin A, & (72) \\ \cos \delta \cos t &= n \cos (\varphi - N), & (73) \end{aligned}$$

Кад је угао који се тражи мали, тачније се одређује из тангенса. Као и у претходној тачки, последњим везама можемо дати и други облик. Десобом везе (72) са (73) добијемо

$$\operatorname{tg} t = \frac{\sin z \sin A}{n \cos (\varphi - N)}.$$

Ако смену (69) помножимо са  $\operatorname{tg} A$ , бројитељ овог израза можемо написати и овако

$$\sin z \sin A = n \sin N \operatorname{tg} A,$$

зато израз за  $\operatorname{tg} t$  добија облик

$$\operatorname{tg} t = \frac{\operatorname{tg} A \sin N}{\cos (\varphi - N)}. \quad (74)$$

Послајмо ли везу (71) са (73) добијемо за рачунање деklinације из тангенса израз

$$\operatorname{tg} \delta = \cos t \operatorname{tg} (\varphi - N). \quad (75)$$

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Ако смену (69) подељимо везом (73) добијемо образац

$$\frac{\sin z \cos A}{\cos \delta \cos t} = \frac{\sin N}{\cos (\varphi - N)} \quad (76)$$

који може служити за проверавање рачуна.

У погледу одређивања квадранта за  $N$  и  $t$  важе исте примедбе као и у претходној тачки.

За обострано претварање координата описано у тачкама 1<sup>а</sup> и 2<sup>а</sup>, данас постоји више врта таблица и номограма.

3<sup>а</sup> Прелаз са месних екваторских на небеске екваторске координате и обрнут прелаз. — Везе између месних екваторских и небеских екваторских координата дате су изразима (4), (5) и (8) у § 6. Ако се из датих хоризонтских траже небеске екваторске координате, најпре се пређе на месне екваторске, а затим на небеске екваторске координате.

4<sup>а</sup> Прелаз са небеских екваторских на еклиптичке координате. — Ако на сл. 12 упртимо и небески екваторски и еклиптички координатни систем и уочимо положај једне звезде  $\Sigma$  у оба система, добијемо сферни троугао  $P_0 \Pi \Sigma$  који у својим есементима садржи и небеске екваторске и еклиптичке координате. Његовим решењем добијају се везе за прелаз са једних координата на друге. Применом Гауссове групе образаца (16), (17) и (18) на троугао  $P_0 \Pi \Sigma$  тако да с леве стране добијемо еклиптичке координате, добијемо везе

Сл. 12. Веза између небеских екваторских и еклиптичких координата

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \delta &= \cos \epsilon \sin \delta - \sin \epsilon \cos \delta \sin \alpha, & (77) \\ \cos \delta \cos \lambda &= \cos \delta \cos \alpha, & (78) \\ \cos \delta \sin \lambda &= \sin \epsilon \sin \delta + \cos \epsilon \cos \delta \sin \alpha. & (79) \end{aligned}$$

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Figure 8. Pages 34 and 25 from the textbook General astronomy.

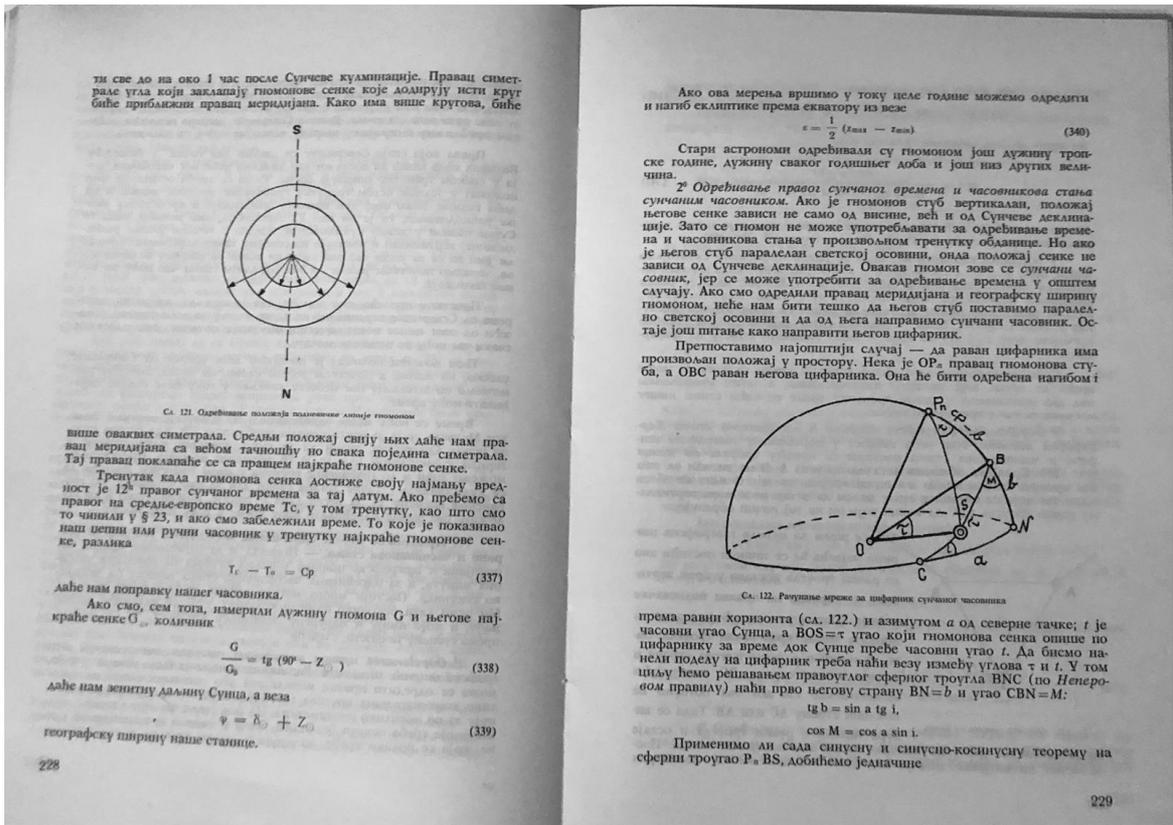


Figure 9. Pages 228 and 229 from the textbook General astronomy.

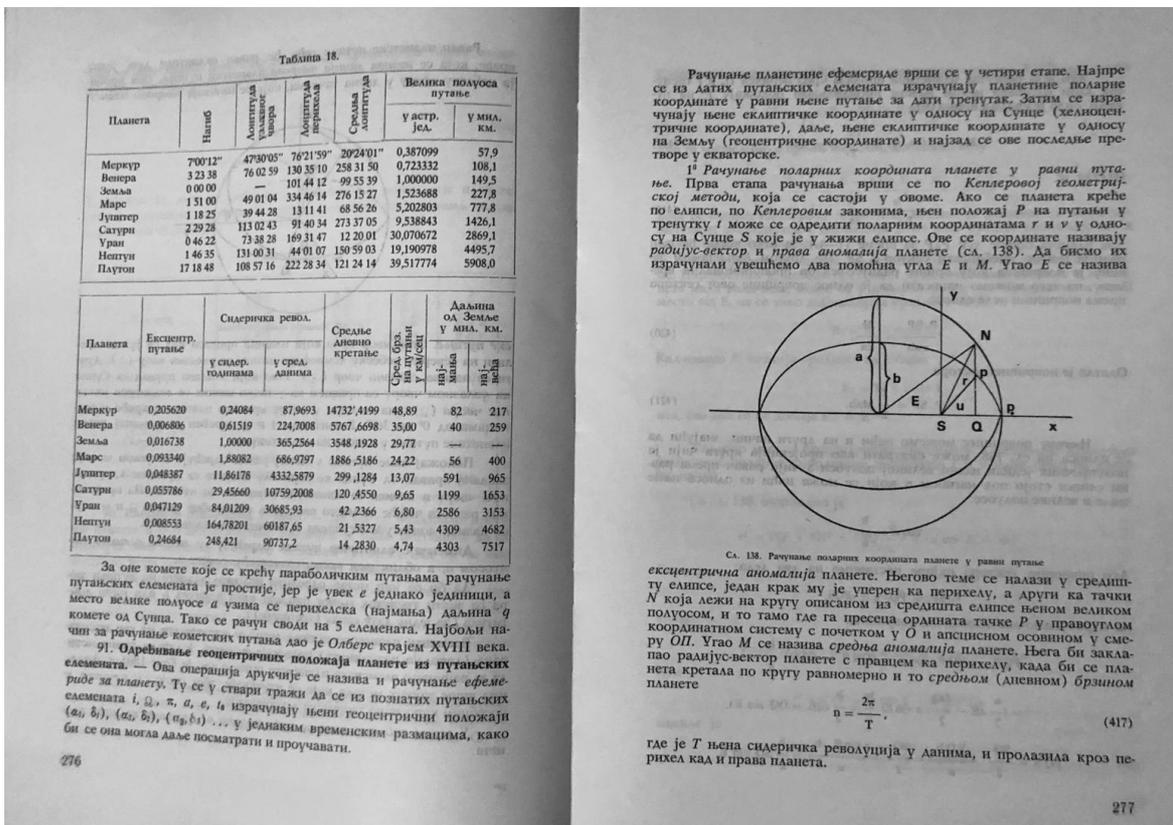


Figure 10. Pages 276 and 277 from the textbook General astronomy.

Figure 10 shows another one classical term – Kepler's equation. There we can see that for the calculations of planet's polar coordinates we need Kepler's equation. Kepler's equation:  $E - e \sin(E) = M$  is transcendental equation. Until the computer era solving of this equation was too hard.

### Acknowledgment

This work was supported by the Serbian Ministry of Science, grant number III 44006.

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