



Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets

By Jo Marchant

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant

The bronze fragments of an ancient Greek device have puzzled scholars for more than a century after they were recovered from the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, where they had lain since about 80 BC. Now, using advanced imaging technology, scientists have solved the mystery of its intricate workings.

Unmatched in complexity for a thousand years, the mechanism functioned as the world's first analog computer, calculating the movements of the sun, moon, and planets through the zodiac.

In *Decoding the Heavens* , Jo Marchant details for the first time the hundred-year quest to decode this ancient computer. Along the way she unearths a diverse cast of remarkable characters—ranging from Archimedes to Jacques Cousteau—and explores the deep roots of modern technology, not only in ancient Greece, but in the Islamic world and medieval Europe. At its heart, this is an epic adventure story, a book that challenges our assumptions about technology development through the ages while giving us fresh insights into history itself.

 [Download Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--a ...pdf](#)

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets

By Jo Marchant

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant

The bronze fragments of an ancient Greek device have puzzled scholars for more than a century after they were recovered from the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, where they had lain since about 80 BC. Now, using advanced imaging technology, scientists have solved the mystery of its intricate workings. Unmatched in complexity for a thousand years, the mechanism functioned as the world's first analog computer, calculating the movements of the sun, moon, and planets through the zodiac.

In *Decoding the Heavens* , Jo Marchant details for the first time the hundred-year quest to decode this ancient computer. Along the way she unearths a diverse cast of remarkable characters—ranging from Archimedes to Jacques Cousteau—and explores the deep roots of modern technology, not only in ancient Greece, but in the Islamic world and medieval Europe. At its heart, this is an epic adventure story, a book that challenges our assumptions about technology development through the ages while giving us fresh insights into history itself.

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1094157 in Books
- Published on: 2009-02-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.30" h x 5.80" w x 8.30" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 336 pages

 [Download Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer- ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Marchant, editor of *New Science*, relates the century-long struggle of competing amateurs and scientists to understand the secrets of a 2000-year-old clock-like mechanism found in 1901 by Greek divers off the coast of Antikythera, a small island near Tunisia. With new research and interviews, Marchant goes behind the scenes of the National Museum in Athens, which zealously guarded the treasure while overlooking its importance; examines the significant contributions of a London Science Museum assistant curator who spent more than 30 years building models of the device; and the 2006 discoveries made by a group of modern researchers using state-of-the-art X-ray. Beneath its ancient, calcified surfaces they found "delicate cogwheels of all sizes" with perfectly formed triangular teeth, astronomical inscriptions "crammed onto every surviving surface," and a 223-tooth manually-operated turntable that guides the device. Variously described as a calendar computer, a planetarium and an eclipse predictor, Marchant gives clear explanations of the questions and topics involved, including Greek astronomy and clockwork mechanisms. For all they've learned, however, the Antikythera mechanism still retains secrets that may reveal unknown connections between modern and ancient technology; this globe-trotting, era-spanning mystery should absorb armchair scientists of all kinds.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Discovered a century ago in an ancient Mediterranean shipwreck, the Antikythera mechanism instantly attracted scientific interest. It had gears, which was and remains unique among artifacts from Greco-Roman civilization. So begins Marchant's mystery about the object, a tale that ends in triumph but not before inveigling individuals who not only puzzled over the device but also became obsessively devoted to figuring it out. Tantalized by the Antikythera mechanism, scholar Derek de Solla Price felt it was the clue with which he could rewrite the history of technology. Price's conclusions, however, were challenged by a museum curator of Industrial Revolution technologies; he was Michael Wright, who emerges here as the David among academic Goliaths who, by the early 2000s, were closing in on a conclusive interpretation of the Antikythera mechanism. By then, archaeological evidence dated the ship on which it sank to between 70 and 60 BCE and suggested its connection to the astronomer Hipparchus. Science readers will be entranced by Marchant's vibrant depiction of the characters in this remarkable story of ancient technology. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

***Nature* , 10/16/08**

"[A] gripping and varied account...Fascinating final chapter."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jess Bolan:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible Decoding the

Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Theodore Parish:

The book untitled Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

Dennis Rodriguez:

Beside this specific Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets in your phone, it could give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or details. The information and the knowledge you may got here is fresh from the oven so don't become worry if you feel like an previous people live in narrow small town. It is good thing to have Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you do not get what it's all about. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the idea? Find this book along with read it from right now!

Nicole Williams:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Amount types of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is niagra Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets.

Download and Read Online Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant #BLZ7I4C6OKH

Read Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant for online ebook

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant books to read online.

Online Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant ebook PDF download

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant Doc

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant MobiPocket

Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant EPub

BLZ7I4C6OKH: Decoding the Heavens: A 2,000-Year-Old Computer--and the Century-Long Search to Discover Its Secrets By Jo Marchant