MARKET RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE BRADLEY SIDEROGRAPH

How Planetary Aspects Can Be Converted into a Market-Timing Barometer

A Detailed Study of Donald A. Bradley's Stock Market Prediction

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A Note to the Reader

For more than 22 years, I have studied the market through price, time, W.D. Gann's methods, planetary rotation, declination, natal degrees and the behaviour of traders under pressure. During this journey, I have repeatedly found that the market does not move only because a company announces a result or a government publishes a policy. The same news can produce completely different reactions at different times. The missing element is collective psychology.

Donald A. Bradley's Stock Market Prediction attempts to convert that collective psychology into a measurable planetary curve. Bradley called his finished graph the Siderograph. It is one of the most discussed—and most misunderstood—tools in financial astrology.

> *The Bradley Siderograph is not a fortune-telling line. It is a pre-calculated map of periods when collective psychology may change.*

In this article, I will explain what Bradley actually constructed, how its planetary values are calculated, what its turns can and cannot tell a trader, why inversion occurs, and how I believe it can be combined with price action, the Indian NSE FnO Natal Atlas and disciplined risk management.

The Most Important Warning

No trader should read a rising Siderograph as an automatic BUY signal or a falling Siderograph as an automatic SELL signal. Bradley himself described limitations, temporary loss of synchronisation and the inability of the curve to forecast the secular market trend. The Siderograph should identify a window of sensitivity. Price must decide the direction.

My Three Trading Mantras

1. TRADE WHAT U SEE, NOT WHAT U THINK.
2. STOP LOSS IS UR FRIEND—ALWAYS KEEP IT WITH U.
3. EVERY DEGREE MATTERS.

1. Why Mass Psychology Matters

Bradley begins with the mystery of mass psychology. Economists can explain valuation, earnings, interest rates and economic growth, but markets often reverse without a proportionate change in these factors. At other times, extremely important news produces almost no lasting movement.

The reason is that markets are not passive calculators. They are crowds. When confidence is high, traders emphasise favourable information and dismiss warnings. When confidence is weak, the same crowd interprets even neutral information negatively. Price is therefore not merely a reflection of facts; it is a reflection of facts filtered through the prevailing mood.

Collective mood	Typical market response
Rising confidence	Risk appetite expands; corrections are bought; unfavourable news is absorbed.

Collective mood	Typical market response
Extreme optimism	Public participation and leverage rise; the market becomes vulnerable to disappointment.
Falling confidence	Rallies are sold; good news fails to create sustained progress.
Extreme pessimism	Liquidation and fear dominate; the market may become vulnerable to a reversal.

Bradley's goal was to create a planetary barometer for these swings in mass temperament. His method does not attempt to analyse the horoscope of every investor. It combines the angular relationships of the planets operating at a particular time and converts them into a continuous numerical curve.

2. What the Siderograph Really Is

The Siderograph is a time-series graph created by adding the calculated values of major planetary aspects. Favourable values are added, adverse values are subtracted, and a separate Venus–Mars declination factor is included. The resulting line rises and falls through future calendar dates because planetary positions can be calculated in advance.

This gives the trader three broad types of information:

- Dates of major peaks and troughs in calculated planetary potential.
- Periods when the curve is rising or falling.
- Periods when the curve changes rapidly, flattens or reverses slope.

It does not provide a direct price target. A 40-point rise in the curve does not predict a 40-point rise in Nifty. Its vertical scale represents the model's combined aspect values, not rupees, index points or percentage return.

Bradley tells us when collective psychology may become unstable. The market still has to tell us whether that instability will resolve upward or downward.

3. The Five Major Aspects

Bradley's calculation is built primarily from five angular relationships. These aspects are measured through geocentric zodiacal longitude—the apparent positions of the planets as viewed from Earth.

Aspect	Angle	Bradley's basic treatment
Conjunction	0°	Positive or negative according to the planetary pair
Sextile	60°	Positive
Square	90°	Negative
Trine	120°	Positive
Opposition	180°	Negative

The conjunction deserves special attention. Bradley does not treat every conjunction as favourable. Its sign depends on the nature of the two planets involved, and the book includes a separate valency table for these combinations.

4. Every Aspect Operates Through an Orb

Bradley does not treat an aspect as active only on its exact date. He allows a 15° orb on either side of exactitude. The aspect begins with a small value at the edge of the orb, strengthens as the planets approach the exact angle, reaches maximum power at exactitude and then weakens while separating.

This is one of the most valuable ideas in the entire book because it changes the aspect from a single event into a process. The applying phase, exact phase and separating phase can each affect market psychology.

Distance from exact aspect	Interpretation in Bradley's model
Near 15°	The calculated influence begins close to zero.
Near 10°	The aspect is active but still comparatively weak.
Near 5°	The aspect has gathered substantial potency.
0° exact	Theoretical maximum value of 10.
Separating	Potency declines gradually until it leaves the orb.

Bradley adopts a smooth sine-shaped curve to calculate this potency. Modern software can reproduce the function automatically, but the principle is more important than the arithmetic: an aspect accelerates toward exactitude and decays gradually after it.

5. Long, Middle and Short Terms

Bradley separates the planetary influences according to their duration. This is similar to separating the primary, secondary and minor trends in Dow Theory.

Component	Role	Trading interpretation
Long terms	Slow-planet combinations and declination background	Primary psychological trend or regime
Middle terms	Faster interplanetary combinations excluding the Moon	Intermediate rallies, reactions and turning windows
Short terms	Primarily lunar combinations	Daily or intraday fluctuations; omitted from the main curve

For my work, this separation is essential. The Bradley Siderograph should remain a broad psychological framework. Lunar aspects and natal Moon activations can then be studied separately for intraday timing. Mixing a fast Moon cycle into a slow outer-planet curve without proper scaling can make the result noisy and misleading.

6. The Jupiter–Uranus Business Cycle

Bradley gives special attention to the Jupiter–Uranus cycle. Their full synodic period is approximately 13.8124 years. A quarter of that cycle is roughly 3.45 years, or about 41½ months. Bradley connects this interval with the familiar three-and-a-half-year business cycle.

In the language of the book, Jupiter is associated with money, banking, credit and financial expansion. Uranus is associated with industry, invention, corporations, disruption and progress. Bradley therefore treats their changing relationship as an important component of economic psychology.

Jupiter–Uranus phase	Bradley’s stated cycle character
Conjunction	Critical point in the synodic cycle
Square	Adverse or trough-forming pressure
Opposition	Adverse or trough-forming pressure
Sextile	Constructive or crest-forming phase
Trine	Constructive or crest-forming phase

A modern trader should not assume that every Jupiter–Uranus square will create a crash. It is better to treat these as broad regime dates and test the market’s behaviour before, during and after each exact aspect. The surrounding Saturn, Neptune and Pluto configurations may strengthen, weaken or alter the result.

7. Sidereal and Synodic Periods

The book distinguishes a planet’s individual orbital period from the cycle formed between two planets. A sidereal period measures the planet’s own revolution. A synodic period measures the time required for two bodies to return to the same angular relationship.

For market research, the synodic period is often the more useful concept because financial astrology is largely concerned with relationships. A Jupiter return and a Jupiter–Saturn synodic cycle are not the same phenomenon and should not be combined without distinction.

Planet	Approximate sidereal period used in the book
Jupiter	11.86 years
Saturn	29.46 years
Uranus	84.02 years
Neptune	164.79 years
Pluto	247.70 years

8. Bradley's Declination Factor

One of the most interesting features of the original method is the use of Venus and Mars declination. Bradley calculates a declination factor from one-half of their algebraic sum, treating north declination as positive and south declination as negative.

$$D = (\delta\ \mathrm{Venus} + \delta\ \mathrm{Mars}) \div 2$$

This proves that Bradley's system is not based only on zodiacal longitude. It includes a second celestial coordinate. Because my own Almanac research also studies declination, I consider this part especially worthy of modern backtesting.

- Maximum northern and southern declination of Venus and Mars.
- Zero-declination crossings.
- Parallel and contra-parallel relationships.
- Speed of declination and changes in direction.
- Declination confluence with major longitude aspects.

9. Bradley's Basic Formula

$$P = X(L + D) + M$$

Symbol	Meaning
P	Total Siderograph potential
X	Selected multiplier for the long-term component
L	Algebraic total of long-term planetary aspects
D	Venus–Mars declination factor
M	Algebraic total of middle-term aspects

Bradley suggests multiplying the long-term component by 3, 4 or 5 so that it is not overwhelmed by the greater number of middle-term aspects. His 1946 comparison used a multiplier of 5. This creates an important limitation: the finished curve can change when the multiplier changes.

Therefore, whenever traders use commercial Bradley software, they should confirm the exact settings. Two curves carrying the same name may not have been constructed from identical rules.

10. The Venus–Uranus Experiment

Bradley describes an experiment covering Venus–Uranus aspects from 1898 through 1947. He examined 31-day windows centred on exact aspects and attempted to remove the secular trend. The book reports 311 usable events.

The reported average behaviour supported Bradley's chosen polarity: conjunctions and trines tended to show bullish deviations, while squares and oppositions tended to show bearish deviations. The value of this section lies in the attempt to aggregate many observations instead of presenting only a few famous examples.

A modern research caution

This historical study should not be accepted as final proof. The dataset, detrending method, outlier treatment and lack of a modern out-of-sample test require caution. One conjunction was reportedly omitted because the post-1933 banking-moratorium advance would have distorted the mean. Today, any rule for excluding an outlier should be fixed before the test begins.

For Nifty research, I would repeat the study with every event included, examine both mean and median returns, separate bull and bear regimes, and compare applying with separating phases.

11. The Most Misunderstood Feature: Inversion

The Siderograph may turn on an important date but the market can move in the opposite direction from the curve's apparent polarity. A curve peak can accompany a market top—or a market bottom. A trough can also produce either type of reversal.

Market movement into the Bradley turn	What the trader should watch
Market rises into the date	Possible top, loss of momentum or bearish reversal.
Market falls into the date	Possible bottom, selling exhaustion or bullish reversal.
Market is sideways	Breakout, volatility expansion or false move around the turn.
No reversal appears	Continuation or acceleration; do not force an inversion call.

The safest interpretation is that a major Siderograph turn marks a potential change in collective psychology. Direction must be obtained from the market's approach into the date and its behaviour at support, resistance and volume-sensitive levels.

Use the date. Do not blindly use the direction.

12. Rate of Change May Matter More Than Level

The book indicates that rates of change are critically important. A steep curve shows rapidly changing psychological pressure; a flat curve shows relative stability. A sharp bend or sudden change of slope can therefore be more important than the absolute height of the line.

- Mark the steepest rising and falling portions of the annual curve.
- Mark the date when a steep movement begins to flatten.
- Separate large, sharp turns from small rounded fluctuations.
- Watch for clusters of two or more turns within a short period.
- Compare the long-term curve with the middle-term curve for agreement or conflict.

13. Bradley's Own Limitations

Bradley's method is sometimes promoted with more certainty than the book itself permits. The original text clearly recognises important limitations.

Limitation	Trading consequence
Cannot forecast the secular trend	Determine the structural bull or bear market from price and economic context.
Temporary loss of synchronisation	Do not assume the curve must immediately control price.
No exact price magnitude	Do not convert curve amplitude into a Nifty target.
Possible inversion	Treat major turns as timing alerts until price confirms direction.
Discretionary multiplier	Fix model settings before testing; avoid fitting them to past results.
Heavy reliance on 1946 example	Validate across many decades and out-of-sample periods.

Bradley compares the Siderograph more closely with a diagnostic instrument than a guaranteed signal generator. It may indicate the general psychological environment, but non-psychological forces—policy, war, liquidity and mechanical market structure—can affect the final price movement.

14. Is Bradley Better for an Index or a Stock?

Bradley developed the method around collective psychology and compared it primarily with the Dow Jones Industrial Average. For this reason, I believe it is best applied first to broad indices such as Nifty 50, Sensex, Bank Nifty, S&P 500 or Dow Jones.

An individual stock can diverge from the broad market because of earnings, regulation, promoter activity, corporate action, sector rotation and its own natal structure. The Bradley curve should therefore provide the background climate, while stock-specific tools identify where that climate is likely to express itself.

15. Combining Bradley with the Indian NSE FnO Natal Atlas

The Bradley Siderograph and the Natal Atlas answer different questions. Bradley attempts to identify when the collective market mood may change. A natal chart identifies the fixed energy degrees of a particular stock or contract.

Layer	Question answered
Bradley Siderograph	When may broad market psychology become sensitive or change?
Nifty or stock natal chart	Which fixed planetary degree is being activated?
Price-degree conversion	Is price reaching a mathematically related degree?
Technical structure	Is the market confirming strength, weakness, breakout or reversal?
Risk management	Where is the analysis invalid and how much capital should be risked?

A powerful confluence may occur when a major Bradley turn coincides with a Nifty natal activation, an important transiting Moon degree, a historical price-degree zone and visible technical confirmation. But even this confluence does not remove the need for a stop-loss.

16. My Practical Bradley Trading Framework

At the beginning of the year

- Calculate the annual Siderograph with fixed, documented settings.
- Mark major peaks, troughs and the sharpest changes of slope.
- Separate long-term and middle-term curves.
- Identify turn clusters within approximately three to five calendar days.
- Record the major outer-planet aspects operating behind the curve.

Before each month

- Highlight that month's major Bradley windows.
- Compare them with Gann Pressure Dates and seasonal patterns.
- Add major planetary stations, eclipses, declination events and ingress dates.
- Review previous market behaviour at the same natal and price degrees.

Before the trading session

- Note the current Siderograph slope and the distance to the next major turn.
- Determine how Nifty is approaching the window—rising, falling or sideways.
- Mark support, resistance, VWAP, prior high/low and active natal degrees.
- Prepare both bullish and bearish scenarios because inversion remains possible.

During the market

- Allow price action to reveal direction.
- Watch volume, breadth and acceptance above or below important levels.
- Use AP-ORB®, breakout/breakdown confirmation, spring or upthrust behaviour for execution.
- Place the stop immediately and size the trade from the stop distance.
- Reduce exposure when the curve and price remain in persistent conflict.

17. A Research Plan for Nifty

Before Bradley is used for actual capital, it should be tested as a hypothesis. The following questions can create a serious research programme:

4. How frequently do major Bradley turns coincide with Nifty reversals within ±1, ±3, ±5 and ±7 trading days?
5. Are peaks and troughs equally effective?
6. How often does directional inversion occur?

7. Does slope direction carry predictive information after controlling for the existing trend?
8. Do sharp turns outperform small rounded turns?
9. Do clusters of turns outperform isolated dates?
10. Do results change in bull, bear and sideways regimes?
11. Does the Venus–Mars declination factor add measurable value?
12. Do results improve when a Bradley turn also activates a Nifty natal degree?
13. Do Moon activation and price-degree confluence improve intraday timing?
14. Which model multiplier is most stable in out-of-sample data?
15. Do any results remain after transaction costs and realistic execution?

18. The Trader’s Decision Checklist

Check	Question
Bradley timing	Is a major peak, trough or rate-of-change event active?
Approach	Is the market rising, falling or consolidating into the date?
Inversion	Have I prepared for a turn in either direction?
Natal activation	Which Nifty or stock degree is being contacted?
Price degree	Is current price near a tested converted-degree zone?
Confirmation	Has price shown a valid breakout, reversal, spring or upthrust?
Risk	Where is my logical stop and what percentage of capital is at risk?
Reward	Is the expected reward materially greater than the possible loss?

19. What I Consider Most Important

16. The market is an expression of collective psychology as well as economic information.
17. Planetary aspects can be converted into a continuous, pre-calculable time curve.
18. An aspect operates through an orb; it is not limited to one exact date.
19. Every degree and minute changes the aspect’s calculated potency.
20. Long terms describe the background; middle terms describe intermediate swings.
21. Lunar terms should be treated separately for daily and intraday analysis.
22. The Jupiter–Uranus relationship is central to Bradley’s business-cycle theory.
23. The Venus–Mars declination factor is a distinctive and testable refinement.
24. Major turning dates and changes of slope are more useful than blindly following curve direction.
25. Inversion is normal enough that price confirmation is compulsory.
26. The method is more naturally suited to broad indices than isolated stocks.
27. A modern out-of-sample backtest is necessary before using the method with capital.

Donald A. Bradley’s real contribution was not the promise that one planetary aspect could predict the market. His contribution was the construction of a measurable curve representing the combined balance of planetary pressure through time.

That changes the question. Instead of asking whether one square or conjunction is bullish or bearish, we ask: What is the total psychological environment created by all active aspects, and when is that environment likely to change?

The method becomes most useful when it is placed inside a disciplined hierarchy:

28. Bradley identifies the broad timing window.
29. The Natal Atlas identifies the instrument and sensitive degree.
30. Price-degree confluence identifies the decision zone.
31. Price action and volume confirm the direction.
32. Stop-loss and position sizing protect the capital.

Timing first. Direction second. Confirmation third. Risk control always.

The Siderograph can become a valuable market barometer, but only when it is treated as a research instrument—not as a guaranteed prediction line. The market always retains the final vote.

Remember My Three Trading Mantras

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EVERY DEGREE MATTERS.

—Sagar Chaudhary
Trader, Author & Market Researcher