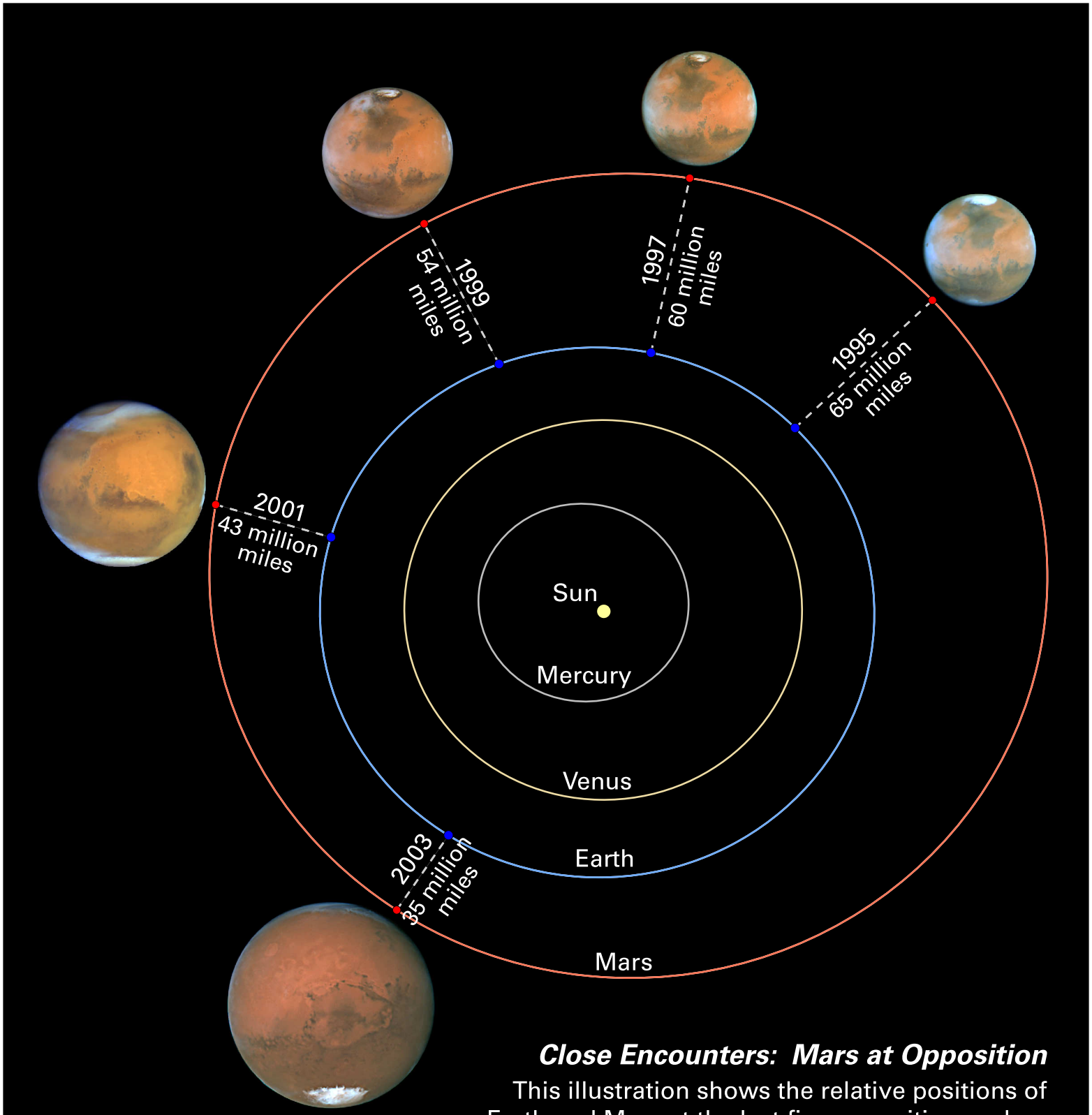

Close Encounters: Mars at Opposition

This illustration shows the relative positions of Earth and Mars at the last five oppositions, when the Sun and Mars are on exact opposite sides of Earth. Orbits of the inner planets are to scale. The images of Mars show the planet's apparent relative size at each opposition, as viewed by the Earth-orbiting Hubble Space Telescope.

Illustration credit: *Z. Levay (STScI)*