## Welcome to The Natural World N190: Stars and Galaxies

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-Astronomy is my hobby
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## Welcome to Astronomy AST203: Stars and Galaxies

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## The Natural World N190 COURSE OUTLINE Spring 2012

## 1. Organization of the Sky

The Sky. at Night

- Seasons / Lunar Phases /

Eclipses
Geocentric/Heliocentric
Cosmology
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## 2. Geocentric to Heliocentric transition The rise of the Scientific Process

Copernicus - Brahe
Kepler's Laws
Galileo
Newton's Laws
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## *3. How we gather information: The tools of the trade

## The Nature of Light Radiation

The Nature of Light Spectroscopy

The Tools of Astronomy
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## 4. The building blocks of galaxies: Stars; how they live and die


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## 5. The building blocks of Universe: Galaxies

The Milky Way Galaxy

Normal Galaxies
Types of galaxies, A
universe of galaxies
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## All Powerpoint lecture slides are posted at my website "as pdf files

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& \text { Download and print if you wish } \\
& \text { Take notes on } \\
& \text {. Can use on exams/ quizes . }
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Mais-ccd-spectroscopy.com
Go to links for Palomar College
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# "The COSMOS is all that is... or ever was... or ever will be". 

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\text { - Carl Sagan } \\
\text {. . COSMOS }
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## Solar System Inventory: 1 Star




## Solar System I nventory:

 8 Planets- Dio


## The Terrestrial Planets



## The Jovian Planets



## The Jovian Planets



## The J ovian Planets




Mimas, from Cassini fly by, 2010

# Solar System I nventory: $91+$ moons 



Ganymede 5262 km


Titan 5150 km


Mercury 4880 km


Callisto 4806 km

lo
3642 km


Moon


Europa 3138 km


Triton 2706 km

Pluto
 2300 km


Titania
1580 km

## Solar System Inventory:

 Countless numbers of Asteroids, . . Comets, Meteors, Dust


Asteroids (some are dwarf planets now.)




## What is our PLACE in the -COSMOS?









## A New Scale of Things

Sun....the size of a volley ball
Earth....half the size of a BB, 100 yards away
Solar System....ends at Notre Dame campus
Pioneer Space Craft....approaching Niles

- Nearest star....State of New Mexico

Center of Milky Way Galaxy.... $40 x$ farther then Earth-Moon
$\stackrel{100000 \mathrm{ly}}{\stackrel{1}{2}}$







## Virgo Supercluster



## Deepest Image EVER



# Organization of the Sky 

## -Three Main Ideas:

BWhat do we see in the sky? Bls there ORDER or CHAOS? ßHow are the motions related?

1. The Sky at Night
2. Seasons, Lunar phàses, Eclipses
3. Geocentric $\longrightarrow$ Heliocentric Cosmology

## Navigating the Night Sky -The Earth



Latitude and Longitude

## Navigating the Night Sky - The Earth



## Navigating the Night Sky: The Sky





## Star Trails:-

## Star Trails:

## $\because$

## Star Trails:




## Navigating the Night Sky: The Sky



Declination and Right Ascension
Latitude and Longitude = Declination and Right Ascension

## CELÉSTIAL SPHERE

It is often convenient to imagine the Earth is .at the center of a great "sphere of the sky"

## Observer at North Pole



## Observer at South Pole



## Observer at Equator



## Observer at San Diego



## CONSTELLATIONS

A pattern of stars named after mythological animals, "characters" or objects.
$\therefore$ A constellation name or pattern usually has no physical significance!


Rigel

## Bayer System (J ohann Bayer 1603)

## Developed the modern system of star

## designations

Greek Alphabet + Possessive ending: $\alpha-$ brightest . $\beta-2^{\text {nd }}$ brightest $\quad \gamma-3^{\text {rd }}$ brightest $\alpha$ Centauri
$\beta$ Cygni
$\delta$ Cephei



## -The illusion of constellations



## -The illusion of constellations



## -The illusion of constellations



## Constellation Borders




## MECHANICS OF THE SKY:

 APPARENT MOTIONS
## SOLAR DAY:

The time it takes the Sun to complete two successive crossings of the meridian.

## 24 hours

Caused by the ROTATION of the Earth on its axis

## SIDEREAL DAY:

The time it takes for two successive crossings of a

* celestial object (other than the Sun, Moon or planets) across the meridian.
23 hours 56 minutes 4.091 seconds


## Solar Day vs. Sidereal Day



## Solar Day vs. Sidereal Day



## ANNUAL MOTI ON OF THE SUN



B ECLIPTIC - the apparent path the Sun travels across the sky.






## Lunar Craters






## Comet Shoemaker-Levy



## Comet Shoemaker-Levy

Cesa
www.spacetelescope.org


Mass Extinctions in 540 Million Years




## Lunar Maria




## Motion of the Moon with respect

 to the Celestial Sphere:§ Diurnal Motion (east -to- west)

- ß Monthly (west -to- east)
$\therefore$ B Moves $\sim 13^{\circ}$ each day

360 degrees in_a circle/28 days $=12.9$ degrees/day


## Moon Phases or Moon Shine?





## LUNAR PHASES

## Mother Goose \& Grimm

By Mike Peters


## Lunar Phases:

Caused by the change in the orientation between the Earth, Sun, \& Moon

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## Does the Moon Rotate on its Axis?

${ }^{*}=$

## No rotation:



## With rotation:


(b)



The revolution of the Earth around the Sun:

Tropical Year:
365.2422 days
*Why does the Earth experience Seasons?

## 1. The Sun rises and sets at

 different places along the horizon.







## 2. The height of the Sun at noon is

 different throulohout the venr:




## 3. The size of the Sun's path across the sky is different throughout the year.



## 4. The length of daylight compared to the length of night changes each day.




## Earth-Sun Distance <br> (Astronomical Unit) $\mathbf{= 9 3}$ million miles



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The Earth's rotational axis is tilted $23^{1 / 2}$ ㅇ with respect to its orbital plane. .

## Earth's Orbit




Summer


## Winter




Summer

## The intensity of sunlight stiriking the Earth varies with location:

Sun appears low in the sky

Light from the Sun

Sun appears high ${ }^{\wedge}$ in the sky

## Where on Earth is this photo taken?

 - What was the calendar date?

## LONG TERM CHANGES

## PRECESSION





## PRECESSION

Slow change in the orientation of the Earth's axis of rotation.
B Caused by the gravitational interaction

- between the Sun, Earth; and Moon.

B Tilt of the Earth remains $23^{1} / 2^{\circ}$-BUTchanges orientation.
$ß$ Period of precession ~ 26,000 years

## Precession of the Equinoxes



## EGL PSES



## Angular Diameter

- Angular Diameter

- Angular diameter of the Sun and Moon
$\therefore \quad$ are approximately the same.
Both Appear to be $\sim 1 / 2^{\circ}$


## -Solar Eclipses

Occurs when the shadow of the Moon is cast upon the Earth.

- Can only occur at NEW MOON


## Anatomy of a Solar Eclipse



## Solar Eclipse seen from space:




## Solar Eclipse seen from Earth:















## Annular Eclipses


$B$ The angular size of the Moon can appear smaller than the angular size of the Sun.
B The Moon's orbit is not a circle, but instead is an ellipse.



## - Lunar Eclipses

Occurs when the Moon passes through the shadow cast by the Earth.

- Can only occur at FULL MOON:


$c$







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## If a LUNAR ECLIPSE occurs during FULL MOON..

And a SOLAR ECLIPSE occurs during NEW MOON...-
. If there is a FULL MOON and a NEW MOON every month...
*Then why don't we experience eclipses every month??

## The Moon's orbit is inclined to the Earth's orbit by $5.2^{\circ}$





## Sun



Node


## Eclipse Predictions

How do we-know how lọng an eclipse will last?
-How do we know where eclipses will. occur?

## Length of Totality

The shortest time totality can last is a brief moment.

- The longest time totality can last is $71 / 2$ minutes

Total Solar Eclipse : 1997-2020


## Eclipses generally come in twos:

July 11, 1991 LONG total solar eclipse

Jan 4, 1992
Annular solar eclipse


