

ASTRO 1050

Observing on the Roof

ABSTRACT

Tonight you will have a chance to observe the night sky both with the naked eye and through different sizes of telescopes. The main purpose of this lab is to have you look up and to realize that our galaxy is composed of many more exciting objects than just stars. Keep in mind that while the images you will see through the telescopes will not be as spectacular as the images you might see in your textbook (your eyes are not as sensitive as the Hubble Space Telescope), you are still seeing them with your own eyes! This is an opportunity many people don't have.

Astronomers always keep detailed records of exactly what conditions they are observing under, as well as where and when observations took place. When they are looking at their data months later, and notice a problem in an image, they can easily access these records and remember what exactly may have taken place during that image, such as light clouds. Without this information an observation does not provide any useful knowledge.

1. Where are you observing? What time are your observations taking place?

2. What are the conditions of the night sky tonight?

3. Is the moon out? What direction is it in? What phase is it in?

4. Throughout the history of astronomy, astronomers and engineers have been designing larger and larger telescopes. Why is this? What is the advantage of a larger telescope?

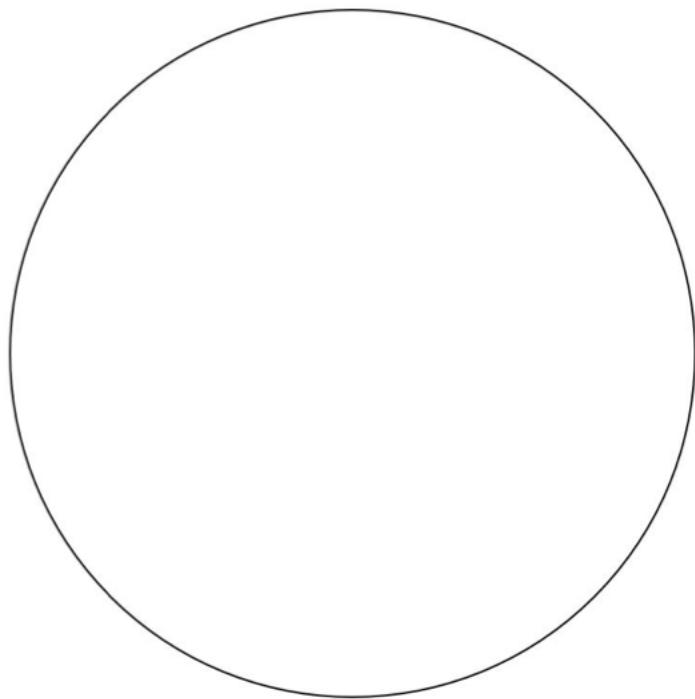
– 2 –

Date:

Time:

Sky Conditions:

Object:



Describe how your object appears through the telescope:

Physically, what is your object?

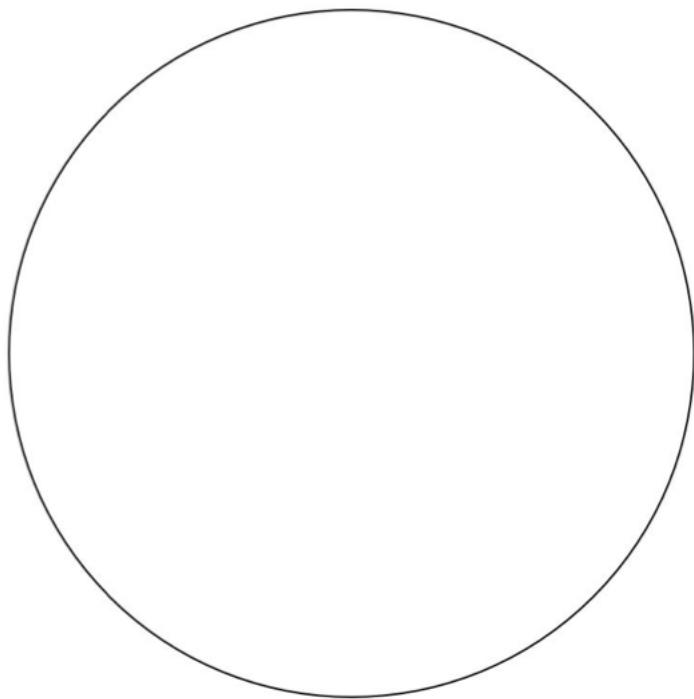
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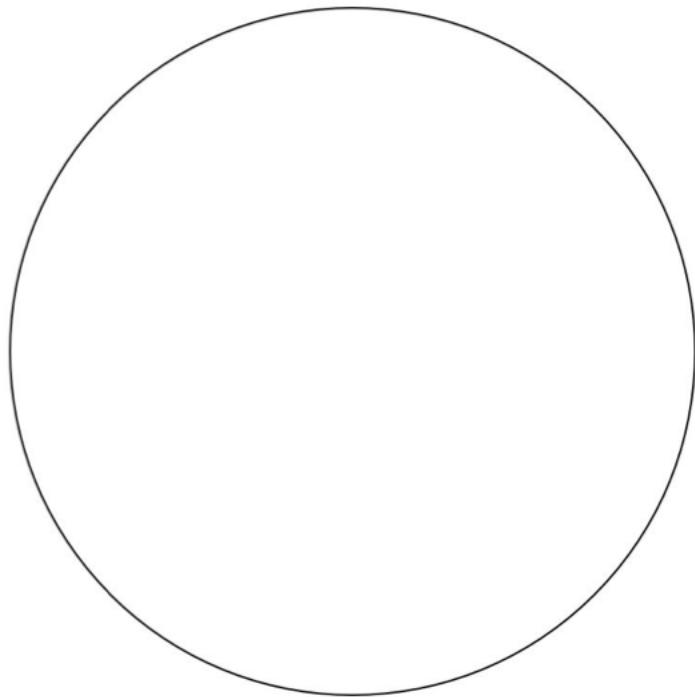
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Time:

Sky Conditions:

Object:



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