# Comprehending Size

When gazing at a distant object, its true size cannot be appreciated by sight alone. A connection must exist to at least one other sense, forged by personal experience. The visual and the visceral combine to provide a frame of reference through which understanding can occur. Absent experience, the observation of massive entities such as planets register as nothing more than colored circles in one’s mind, devoid of comprehension. By contrast, a humble stairway that steeply climbs a hill can evoke vivid emotions with but a glance. Legs burn at the thought of its ascension, bringing forth memories of prior efforts on these or other stairs. Similarly, an experienced mountain climber does not just see the peak before her, she feels it.

But only up to a point.

As one considers larger and more distant objects, the relevance of human-sized experiences [approaches the vanishing point].

There exists a gap between that which can be directly assessed with our senses, and that which cannot. As one considers larger and more distant objects, [comprehension diminishes to the point of being vanishingly small]. At some point the elastic snaps, and we perceive only the [gross shape]. Occasionally natural phenomena bridge this chasm, offering glimpses into their true scale.

The limits of a featureless blue sky elude capture, yet when partially obscured by a thunderhead over familiar terrain a link emerges. The observer understands