Astral Café

Astral Café is a framework of Java classes designed for the processing, transmission, and rendering of astronomical data. The code for *Astral Café* is currently in the process of being ported from the C++ sources of Kaweah's *Night Sky* application.

Astral Café is being developed and tested to operate both as a stand-alone application and as a applet-servlet web application, with several possible client load vs. server load scenarios.

Release Notes
version 1.0

Functionality implemented:

- Stars displayed in color.
- Use scroll bars to change zenith (or part of sky in view).
- Draw a box to view a portion of the current view.
- Switch constellations on/off.
- Use menus to set right ascension, declination, and width of view.
- Use a popup menu to set brightness of view.
- Star name display.
- Monochrome display modes.

Functionality not yet implemented:

- All time-related functionality; automatic scrolling.
- Sun, moon, and planets.
- Messier objects.
- Status Bar.

Night Sky features not in the plan:

- *View-from-Star* navigation mode.
- Twilight and Magnitude density display modes.

Bugs:

•   XOR-based drawing (used in response to mouse drags) does not work cleanly using the J2SE 1.4.1 runtime environment and Safari 1.0.3 (Java 1.3.1 or 1.4.1 Plug-in), but it works fine within IE 5.2/Mac, Netscape 7.1, and OmniWeb 4.2.1. These latter three environments also provide crisper graphics.

•   Dragging to reframe can cause the projection to be reduced to a point on rare occasions. This may be more likely within Netscape 7.1.

Last updated on 1 October, 2004.