Lab 4: Observing Planets

Purpose

To directly observe as many planets you can find on the sky.

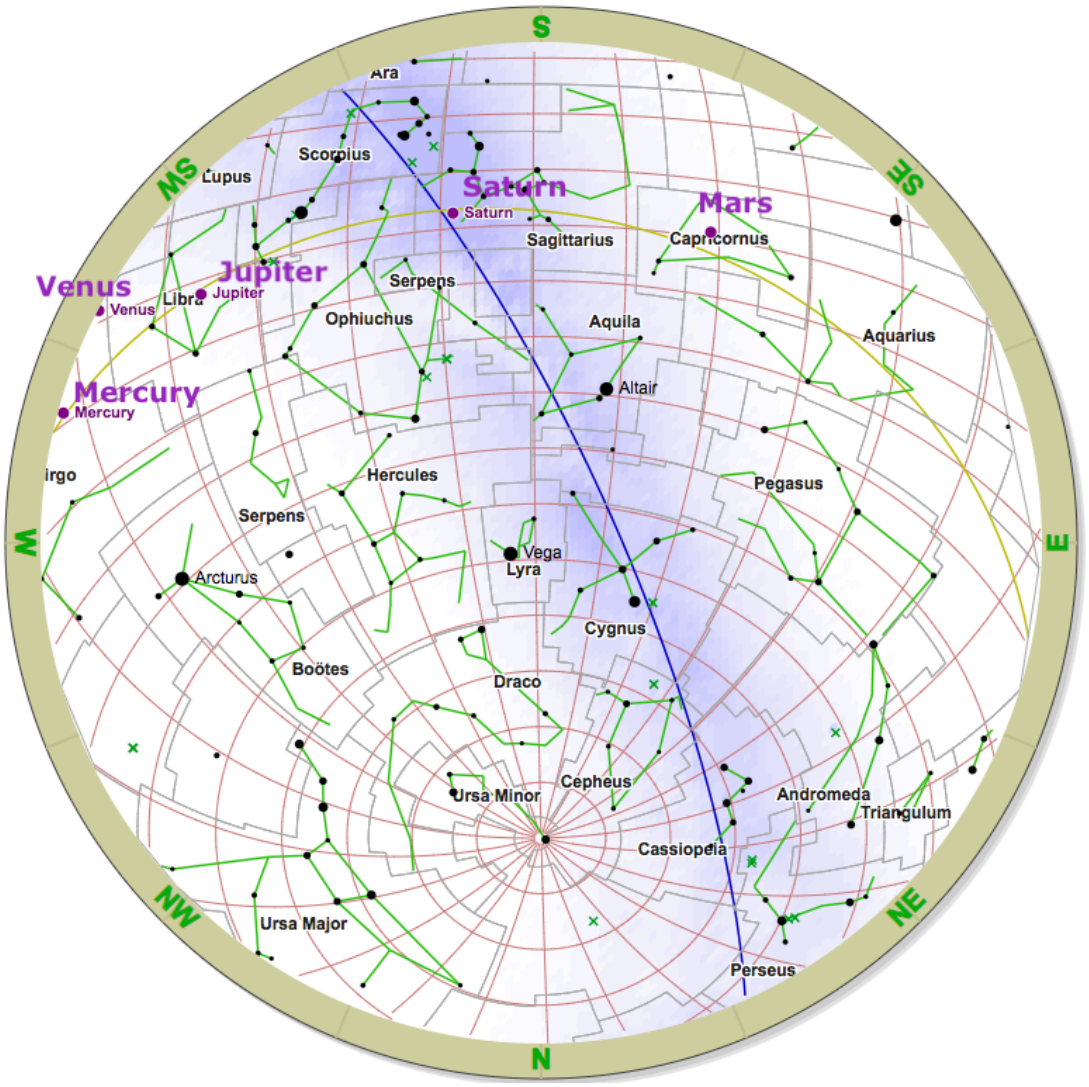
Introduction

The Greeks called them *planētēs* meaning “wanderers”. From Earth the other planets of our solar system look like roaming stars, but thanks to telescopes and spacecraft we know these pinpricks of light are actually worlds unto themselves, many with moons just as fascinating as they are. Among the most brilliant objects in the sky, some can be a great place to start your observing journey. Imagine Galileo peering up at Jupiter through his small telescope only to find four moons (Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto) orbiting around it, suggesting we did not live in a geocentric universe.

In this lab you will find as many planets you can find on the sky and observe them with a telescope at low and high magnification.

Observation Log

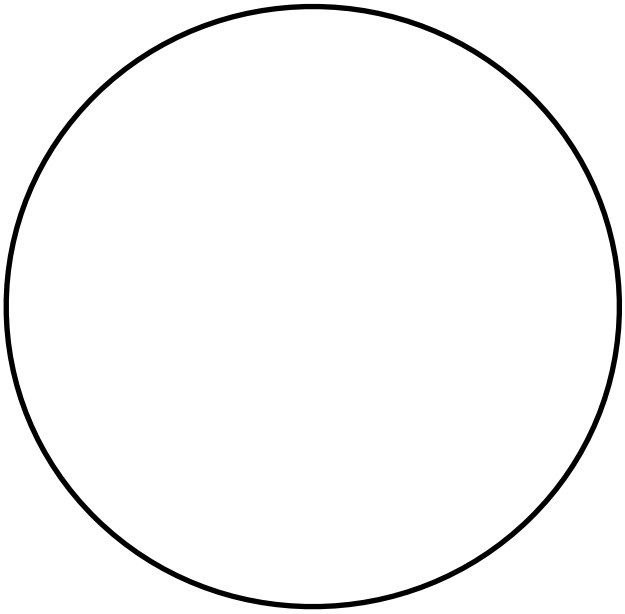
Date: Oct 8th, 2018 , Time: 19:00, Site: Gilroy, CA



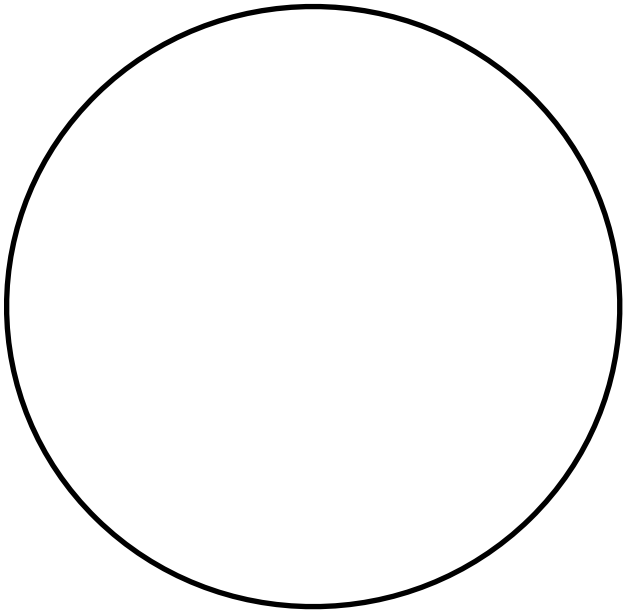
Planet 1: _____

Field Drawings

Low Magnification



High Magnification



Notes

Can you observe any moons for this planet? If so how many? Can you tell which moons are they (find out with https://stellarium-web.org/)?

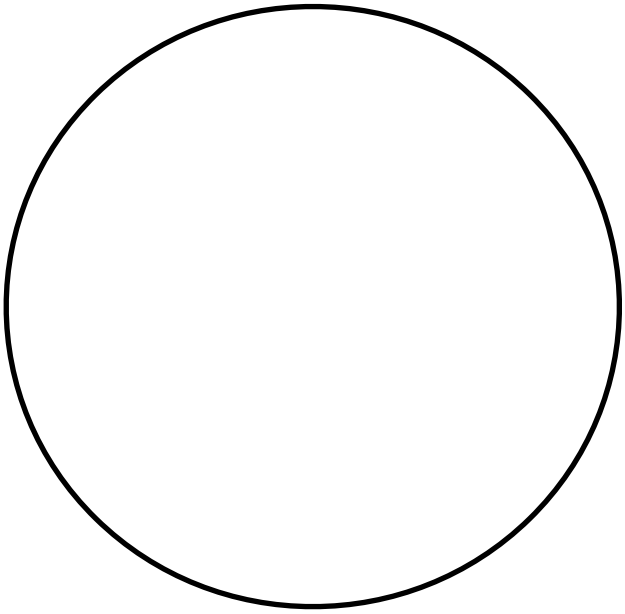
Can you see any colors on this planet? Which colors?

What other features can you observe (e.g. rings, bands, spots, polar caps)?

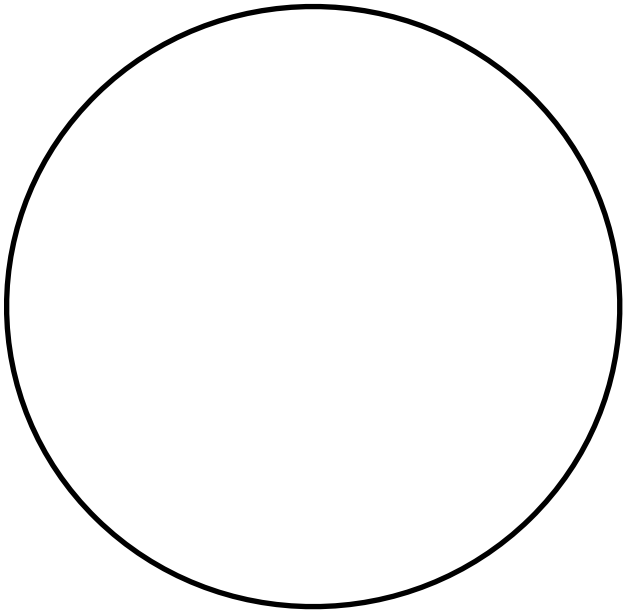
Planet 2: _____

Field Drawings

Low Magnification



High Magnification



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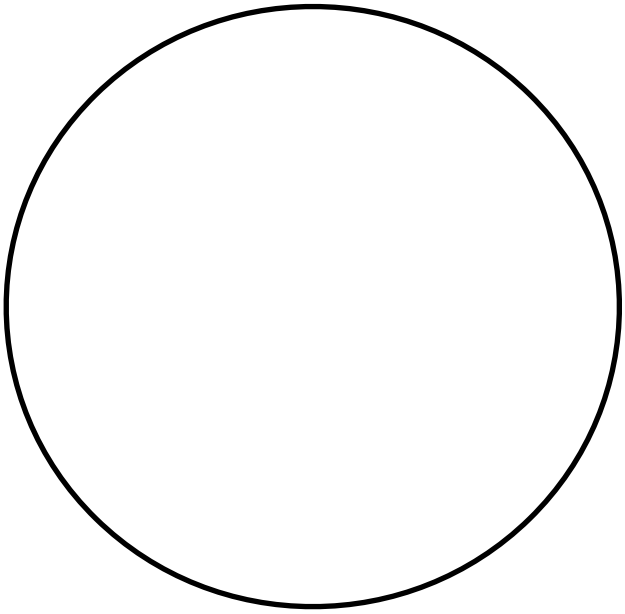
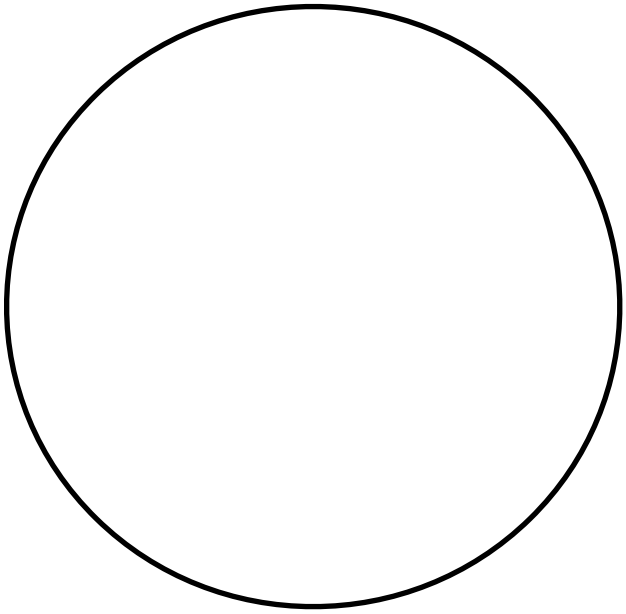
Planet 3: _____

Field Drawings

Low Magnification



High Magnification



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