

Astronomy 101  
Syracuse University, Fall 2019  
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September 17, 2019

# Announcements

- Next Monday: People with Monday labs do Lab 3
- Next Tuesday: Exam 1
- Next Tues-Fri: *Everyone else will review the exam during lab* and get their exams back.
- Lab 3 goes with today's material and is crucial for the exam

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- Lab 3 goes with today's material and is crucial for the exam
- I will be holding an exam review Sunday from 2-5 PM in the Physics Clinic.
- Other help sessions in Physics 215: Wed 2-4, Fri 9:30-11:30
- Coaches might be holding some reviews
- ... CLASS tutoring is also holding some (ask them for details)

# The upcoming exam

Exam 1 will be held a week from today during your regular class time.

- Format: around 30 multiple choice questions
- You should bring:
  - A pencil
  - Your SUID (you'll need the number)

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- We will provide:
  - A blank map of the Earth with polar circles, tropical circles, and Equator labeled
  - A blank diagram of the Moon's orbit (for you to doodle on)
- Last year's exam is posted on the website
- ... as is the study guide for the first unit

# Two opportunities for extra credit

- Suggest a question for the first exam:
  - Go to the Google Form listed on the website
  - Suggest a question for the first exam
  - If I like it I'll use it, and you'll get 10% extra credit

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- Meme contest:
  - The best five science memes (all the way back to the start) in `ast101memes` will get 5% extra credit on the first exam
  - You may vote with Slack “reacts” for your favorite

O Fortune, like the Moon you are  
changeable, ever waxing and waning...



O Fortuna, velut Luna, statu variabilis,  
semper crescis et decrescis...



O Fortune, like the Moon you are changeable,  
ever waxing and waning; hateful life first  
oppresses and then soothes as fancy takes it;  
poverty and power, it melts them like ice.

O Fortuna, velut Luna, statu variabilis, semper  
crescis aut decrescis; vita detestabilis nunc  
obdurate et tunc curat ludo mentis aciem;  
egestatem, potestatem, dissolvit ut glaciem.

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ever waxing and waning; hateful life first  
oppresses and then soothes as fancy takes it;  
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Fate, monstrous and empty, you whirling wheel,  
you are malevolent: wellbeing is vain and always  
fades to nothing. Shadowed and veiled you  
plague me too; now through the game I bare my  
back to your villainy.

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Sors immanis et inanis, rota tu volubilis, status  
malus: vana salus, semper dissolubilis.  
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per ludum dorsum nudum fero tui sceleris.

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Fate is against me in health and virtue, driven on  
and weighted down, always enslaved.

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plague me too; now through the game I bare my  
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Fate is against me in health and virtue, driven on  
and weighted down, always enslaved.

So at this hour without delay pluck the vibrating  
strings: since Fate strikes down the strong,  
everyone weep with me!

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Hac in hora sine mora corde pulsum tangite;  
quod per sortem sternit fortem, mecum omnes  
plangite!

From *Carmina Burana*, a 13<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript found in an abbey south of Munich. This manuscript contained poetry written in Latin and German by clergy in their off-duty hours, when they were decidedly not being holy!

Set to music by Carl Orff (1937).

Other movements talk about springtime, sexuality, satire of the corrupt, drunkenness, and more sexuality; the work both opens and closes with this movement.

We now understand the motion of the stars, and the combined effects of the Earth's axial tilt, rotation, and orbit have on the seasons.

Our goal in this first segment of the course was to understand the night sky. What's left?

- The Moon (today)
- The planets (Thursday)
- Oddities: comets, meteors, novas, eclipses... (Thursday)

# The phases of the Moon

As in *O Fortuna*, the Moon has often been a symbol of change.

That change is regular, though: every 29.5 days, the pattern of phases repeats.

This is orderly enough that it is the basis of many calendars:

- Hebrew calendar
- Traditional Chinese calendar
- Islamic hijra calendar

... but not the traditional calendars of Europe. (Why might that be?)

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Everything else in the sky seems to be a constant size and shape, but the Moon waxes and wanes. Why?



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The Moon differs from the stars in that **it doesn't make its own light**.

It orbits the Earth 400,000 km (1/500 AU!) away, once every 29 days or so, orbiting counterclockwise when looking down at the North Pole.

What consequences does this have?

# The phases of the Moon

## Which is true?

A: The phases of the Moon happen because the Moon's motion around the Earth causes it to receive different amounts of light from the Sun, varying from completely lit (full moon) to not lit at all (new moon)

B: The phases of the Moon happen because half of the Moon is always lit by the Sun, but our perspective changes how much of that half we see

C: The phases of the Moon happen because the Earth blocks part of the light from the Sun, resulting in a shadow on the Moon's face

D: The phases of the Moon happen because the Earth moves around the Moon each day, and we see a different part of the Moon

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E: The phases of the Moon happen because sometimes people eat the green cheese that it is made of

# How does this work?

Half of the Moon is always sunlit, just like the Earth!

- Sometimes that half is pointed toward us: full moon!
- Sometimes that half is pointed away from us: new moon!

# Some new words for the moon phases...

- New moon: nothing visible
  - Crescent: less than half visible
  - Half moon: half of the moon's surface is visible
  - Gibbous: more than half visible
  - Full moon: all visible
- 
- Waxing: Tomorrow the Moon will be lit more than today
  - Waning: Tomorrow the Moon will be lit less than today

# How does this work?

## Note that:

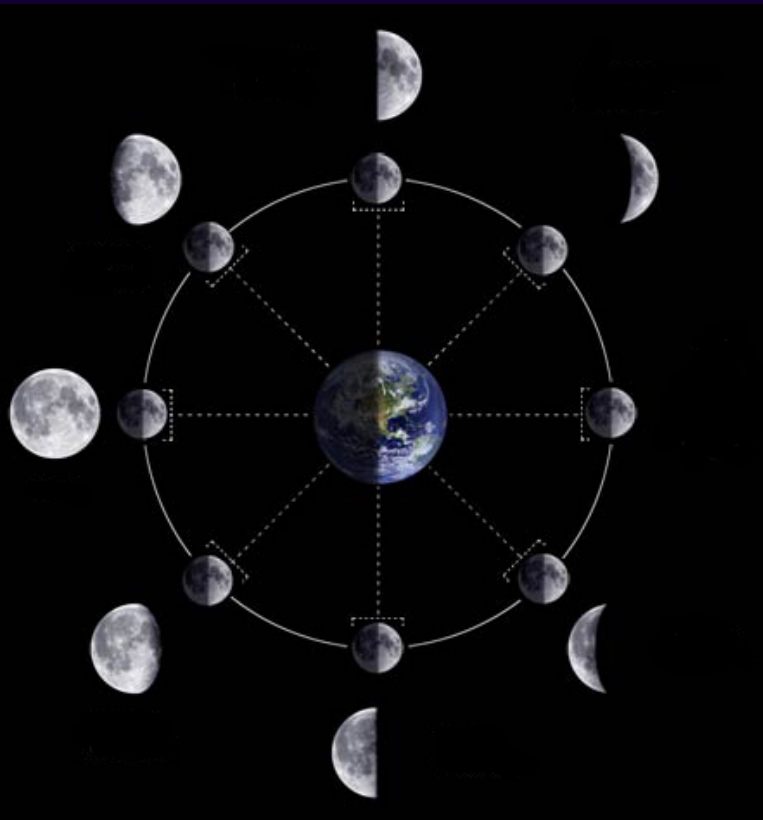
- Half of the Moon is always sunlit (facing toward the Sun)
- Half of the Moon is always visible from Earth (facing toward the Earth)
- The Moon orbits the Earth counterclockwise as seen from above the North Pole once a month
- The Earth rotates counterclockwise as seen from the North Pole (from west to east) once a day

## To figure out the phase of the Moon:

- Draw the Earth, lunar orbit, Moon, and direction of sunlight
- Figure out which half of the Moon is lit and label it
- Figure out which half of the Moon we can see, and determine what it looks like

## To know when it rises and sets:

- Figure out which half of the Earth is lit and label it, to tell you night/day
- Remember how the horizon works (I'll demonstrate)
- This will tell you what time of day the Moon rises and sets



You can figure all of this out by drawing pictures.

**Do this** on inclass problems, tutorials, exams...

Complete *Lecture Tutorials* pp. 81-84.



When the full moon is high in the sky, it is closest to:

A: 6AM

B: Noon

C: 6PM

D: Midnight

What phase of the moon is mostly seen during the day?

A: Crescent

B: Full

C: Half

D: Gibbous

Complete *Lecture Tutorials* pp. 85-88.

When the waxing half moon is just rising over the horizon, it is closest to:

A: 6AM

B: Noon

C: 6PM

D: Midnight

As seen from the Northern Hemisphere,  
which part of a waning crescent moon will  
be lit?

A: The right part

B: The left part

C: It depends on the time of day