

Exercise 4—Due in section from 27 April

Observing the Skies

Your assignment is to attend an observing session at Fuertes Observatory on campus. When you attend, be sure to show your student ID to the astronomer in charge so that they may record your name and student ID number. Take notes while observing, and be sure to include the names of the objects you look at, what they look like, and any other interesting information you learn.

To complete this exercise, submit a one-page summary describing the objects you observed, using the notes you took at the time. Be sure to include the day, time, and location of your observations. You are welcome to supplement your descriptions with images and notes from the web.

Fuertes Observatory

Fuertes Observatory holds open houses every clear Friday on the Cornell campus. To check and see if they'll be open, listen to the message on the machine at 255-3557. The official start time is 8 pm, but you can usually arrive earlier. For more information, see their website:

<http://www.astro.cornell.edu/CAS/fuertes.shtml>

Dress warmly!

Standing around in the cold looking through a telescope can be downright uncomfortable unless you dress properly. A safe rule of thumb is to dress as though the temperature is 15-20 degrees colder than it really will be. Wear multiple layers, a hat, and warm gloves. Students overheard complaining about the cold will be fed to the wild animals which live near the observatory.