ASTR 1010 Lab 7: Lunar Features

A Little History

The same side of the Moon always faces us, but it has gone through many changes over the eons. Long ago, the Moon had a thinner crust and experienced volcanism, creating the dark mare.



Face of the Moon

The Moon does not exist in a vacuum. It flies through space in its orbit around us and the Sun and gets bombarded by meteorites. Unlike Earth, the Moon does not have a thick atmosphere to protect it from impacts. Thus the Moon is variously pockmarked.





We see three main types of craters:

Flat Bottom

Central Peak









Photograph Scale

Real

Goal: Measure features on the photograph and, with your knowledge of the real size of the Moon, figure out how big the Lunar features are in real life. The Moon has a radius of 1738 km, diameter 3476 km. Your photo of the Moon is a lot smaller but captures the relative sizes of objects. Find how many kilometers each photo millimeter represents. This is the scale.

Scale = Real Length (km) Photo Length (mm)

Real Length (km) = Scale (km/mm) x Photo Length (mm)





Photo

Compare to Earth's Mountains

You'll get an estimate of the height of a Moon mountain. For reference, here are some mountain heights on Earth, from base to peak:

Stone Mountain: 0.26 km

Mt. Rundle: 1 km K2: **3.2 km**



American Appalachians



Himalayas

