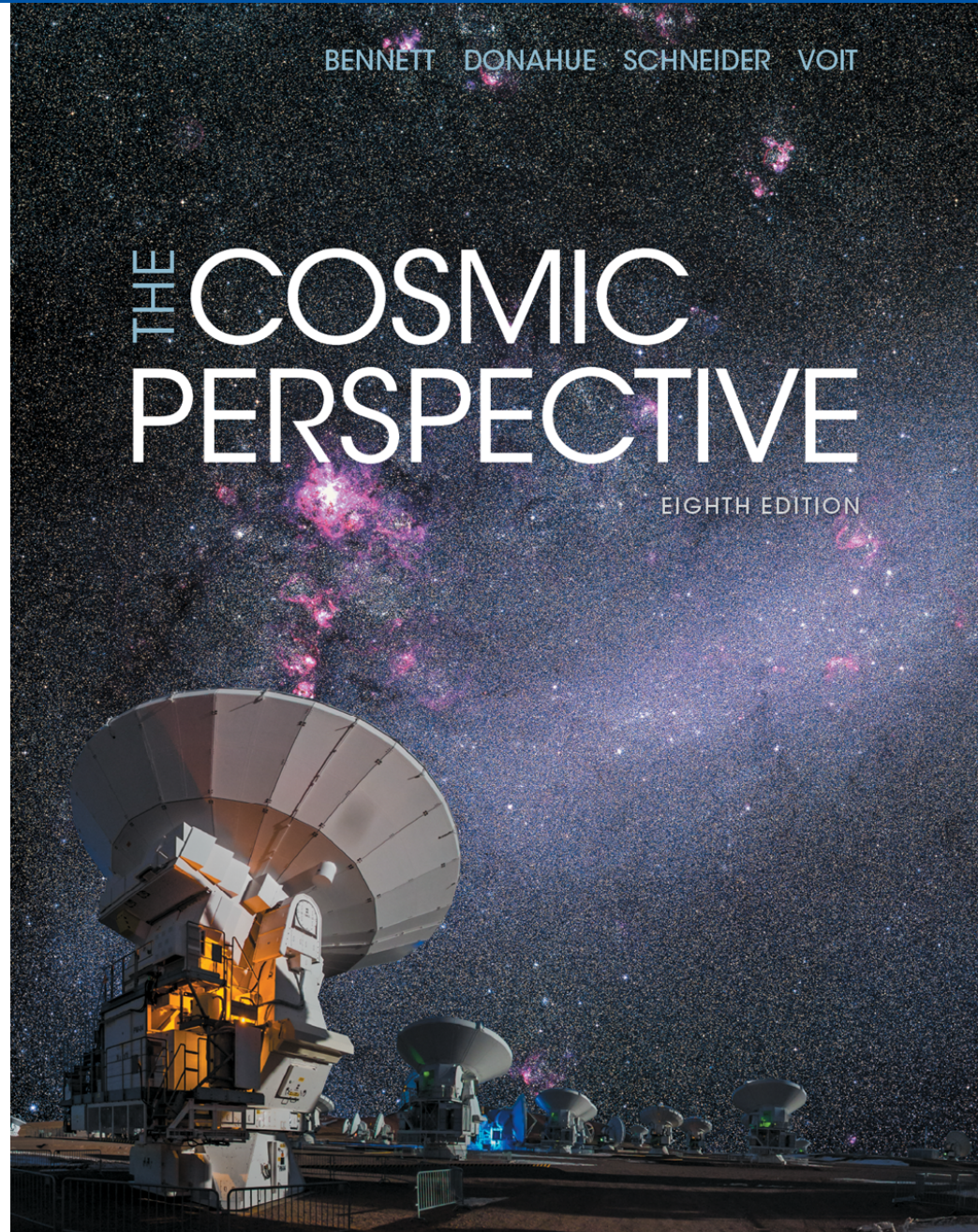


Chapter 6: Telescopes: Portals of Discovery

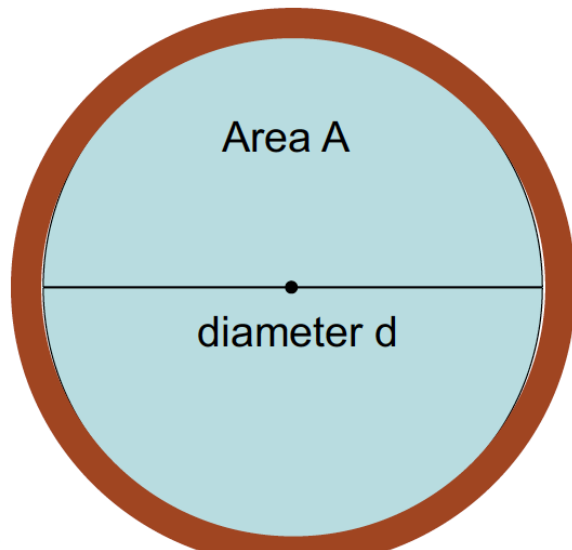


Which are the most important properties of a telescope?

- a) Light-collecting area and angular resolution.
- b) Ability for imaging, spectroscopy and time monitoring.

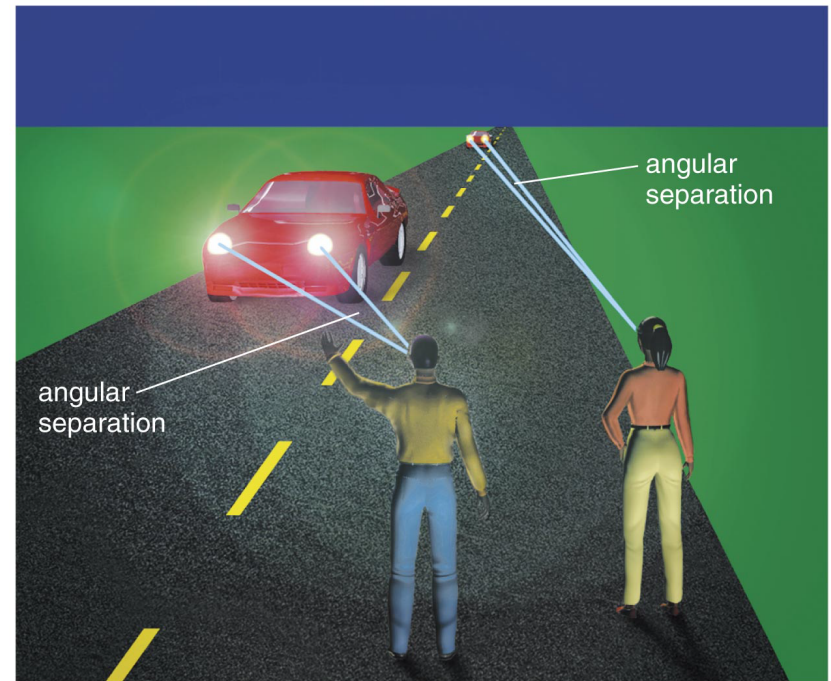
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$$A = \pi (d / 2)^2$$

$$\pi = 3.14159\dots$$



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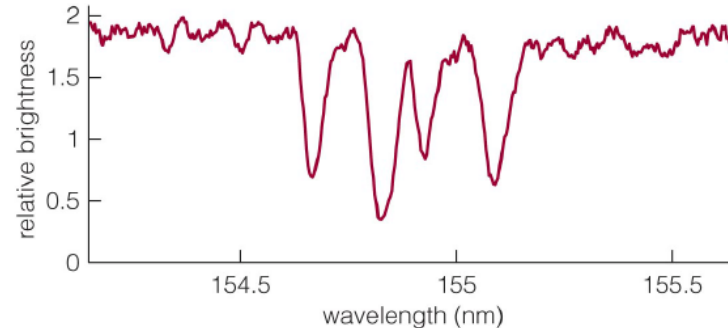
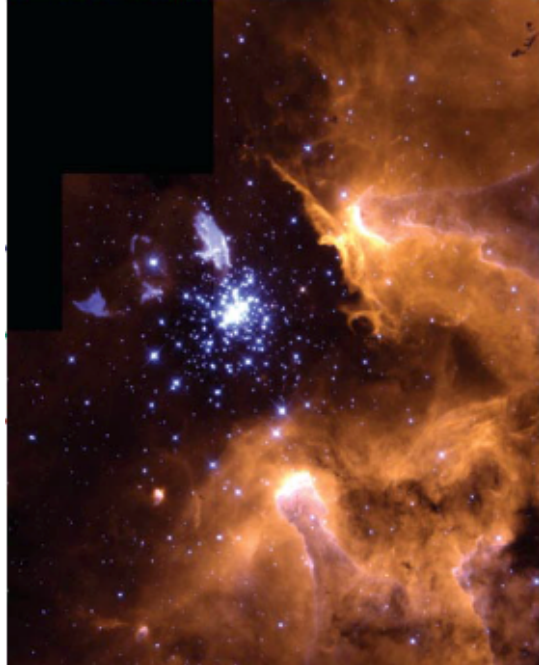
Which are the most important functions of telescopes?

- a) To collect light and to have a good angular resolution.
- b) Imaging, spectroscopy and time resolution.

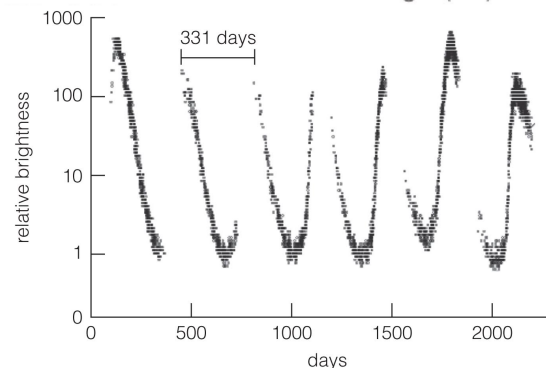
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a) To collect light and to have a good angular resolution.

b) Imaging, spectroscopy and time resolution.



Spectrum:
Intensity (relative
brightness) vs.
wavelength



Time monitoring:
Intensity (relative
brightness) vs. time

A lens forms an image in

- a) a reflecting telescope.
- b) a refracting telescope.
- c) your eye.
- d) A and C
- e) B and C

A lens forms an image in

- a) a reflecting telescope.
- b) a refracting telescope.
- c) your eye.
- d) A and C
- e) B and C**

A mirror forms an image in

- a) a reflecting telescope.
- b) a refracting telescope.
- c) your eye.
- d) A and C
- e) B and C

A mirror forms an image in

- a) a reflecting telescope.**
- b) a refracting telescope.
- c) your eye.
- d) A and C
- e) B and C

What are the primary reasons for making telescopes larger?

- a) making things look larger
- b) seeing smaller details
- c) collecting more light to make faint objects look brighter
- d) A and B
- e) B and C

What are the primary reasons for making telescopes larger?

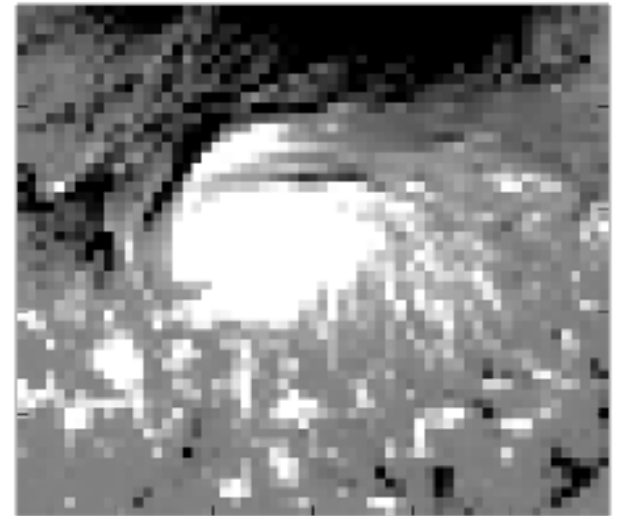
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What does *better angular resolution* mean?

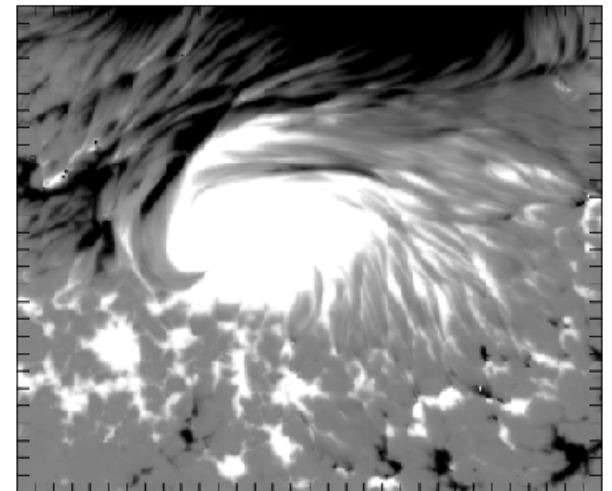
- a) things look larger
- b) things look smaller
- c) you can see finer details
- d) you can see fainter objects
- e) none of the above

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Solar magnetogram image;
lower angular resolution



Same target; higher angular
resolution

What advantages come from putting a telescope in space?

- a) all wavelengths can be seen, even those that don't penetrate Earth's atmosphere
- b) images may be sharper, without moving air to blur them
- c) you are closer to the stars, for a better view
- d) all of the above
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The largest optical telescopes are designed to have

- a) high magnification, large collecting area, and high angular resolution.
- b) high magnification, large collecting area, and low angular resolution.
- c) low magnification, large collecting area, and low angular resolution.
- d) large collecting area and high angular resolution-the magnification is of secondary importance.
- e) large collecting area and low angular resolution-the magnification is of secondary importance.

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- e) large collecting area and low angular resolution-the magnification is of secondary importance.

Why higher magnification is not necessarily of high importance

The Andromeda galaxy



A given magnification



Higher magnification

Full view of the galaxy is lost with higher magnification

The Orion Nebula



A given magnification



Higher magnification

The image with higher magnification appears dimmer, missing some of the structure

New technologies will soon allow astronomers to use X-ray telescopes on Earth's surface.

- a) Yes, from the highest mountain tops such as Mauna Kea, Hawaii.
- b) Yes, but the resolution will be lower than from space.
- c) No, X-rays cannot be focused because of the blurring effect of the atmosphere.
- d) No, X-rays are absorbed by the atmosphere and don't reach Earth's surface.

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Thanks to interferometry, a properly spaced set of 10-meter radio telescopes can achieve the angular resolution of a single, 100-kilometer radio telescope.

- a) Yes, but with much lower sensitivity than a single, 100-kilometer telescope.
- b) Yes, and the resulting interferometer will have exactly the same properties as a single, 100-kilometer telescope.
- c) No, interferometry only works over much smaller distances.
- d) No, the blurring effects of Earth's atmosphere limit the achievable angular resolution.

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Telescope sensitivity



Lower sensitivity



Higher sensitivity

Higher sensitivity means picking up fainter structure, along with background information

Which of the following is NOT an instrument typically attached to the focal plane of a large, research-grade telescope?

- a) An eyepiece lens.
- b) A camera.
- c) A spectrograph.

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