

Lab 1 -Galaxies

The Milky Way, our home galaxy is just one of at least 100 billion galaxies in the observable universe. These massive collections of 100s of billions of stars each, come in various sizes and shapes, and lie sometimes within our local group, or among clusters and superclusters of galaxies. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxy_group

Galaxies are divided into different types including elliptical, spiral, and irregular galaxies. <http://www.astro.cornell.edu/academics/courses/astro201/galaxies/types.htm>

From our Milky Way, some galaxies appear face on, such as spiral galaxy M51. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whirlpool_Galaxy Others appear at a slight angle, like M65. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_65 And some galaxies are seen almost edge on, like NGC 4565. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NGC_4565

Galaxy targets can be found in TheSky6 on the observatory computers, or WikiSky website. <http://www.wikisky.org> When choosing targets, refer to the field of view (FOV) information for our various telescope / camera setups, listed on pages 6 and 7. This will indicate how a particular target will appear with each telescope. Another excellent source for FOV information is New CCD Astronomy, CCD Calculator available as a free download. <http://www.newastro.com>

Image 2-3 galaxies during semester as possible, detailing the type, location, angular size, viewing angle, distance, magnitude, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_magnitude and other details gathered from your research and imaging.