Chapter 03: Telescopes

Sample Test Questions

- 1. Galileo is credited with designing the first reflector telescope.
- 2. The simplest reflector telescope design is the prime focus reflector.
- 3. Chromatic aberration affects reflector telescopes.
- 4. All optical telescopes will bring the light from a star to a focus.
- 5. A telescope design that uses a lens and no mirrors is a refractor.
- 6. CCD detectors gather light 10-20 times faster than the most sensitive photographic film.
- 7. A Newtonian reflector needs no secondary mirror.
- 8. The Hubble Space Telescope gives us its best resolution with x-rays.
- 9. The Cassegrain reflector needs a primary concave main mirror and a smaller, convex secondary mirror to reflect light back through a hole in the primary.
- 10. Photography with film is still the preferred way of capturing fine detail in the faintest, most distant galaxies.
- 11. The light gathering ability of a telescope is most dependent on the diameter of it's primary objective.
- 12. Mt. Palomar's 200" Hale telescope is the largest reflector now in service.
- 13. A telescope with an 8 inch mirror will collect twice as much light as one with a 4 inch mirror.
- 14. The 400" Keck reflector can see objects 100× fainter than the 40" Yerkes lens.
- 15. Radio telescopes have poor resolution compared to optical scopes, since radio waves have much longer wavelengths than optical ones.
- 16. All modern large optical telescopes are refractors.
- 17. Stars do not twinkle; the instability of the atmosphere causes this effect.
- 18. The opacity of the atmosphere is partially corrected via adaptive optics.
- 19. In the future, adaptive optics will greatly enhance the resolution of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- 20. Optical telescopes are usually used only at night, but radio telescopes can be used day or night.
- 21. The earth's atmosphere is the major factor limiting the resolution of ground-based radio telescopes.
- 22. Optical interferometry is more in use than radio interferometry.

- 23. Radio astronomy can only be done from up in space, due to our ionosphere.
- 24. Like radio and optical astronomy, infrared astronomy is easily done with ground-based telescopes.
- 25. Due to our ozone layer, ultraviolet astronomy is best done above the atmosphere.
- 26. The mirrors for x-ray telescopes are the same shape as those of optical reflectors.
- 27. The Compton GRO was the first telescope used for our exploration of high energy astronomy.
- Galaxies look the same whether viewed in visible or x-ray wavelengths.
- 29. Which type of telescope has the simplest light path?
 - A) prime focus reflector
 - B) achromatic refractor
 - C) Newtonian reflector
 - D) single lens refractor
 - E) Cassegrain reflector
- 30. Which type of telescope did Galileo turn skyward in 1610?
 - A) single lens refractor
 - B) achromatic refractor
 - C) Cassegrain reflector
 - D) Newtonian reflector
 - E) prime focus reflector
- 31. What problem do refractor telescopes have that reflectors don't?
 - A) diffraction limited resolution
 - B) bad seeing
 - C) chromatic aberration
 - D) spherical aberration
 - E) light loss from secondary elements
- 32. The most important advantage of CCDs over film is that
 - A) their images do not have to be developed as film does.
 - B) they record much more light in a given exposure time.
 - C) their images never fade, as film can.
 - D) they record colors better than film can.
 - E) they can cover larger areas of the sky than film can.
- 33. The primary purpose of a telescope is to
 - A) separate light into its component wavelengths
 - B) make distant objects appear nearby
 - C) measure the brightness of stars very accurately
 - D) magnify distant objects
 - E) collect a large amount of light and bring it into focus

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- 34. A major advantage of a Newtonian reflector over a refractor is
 - A) the central hole in the mirror is smaller.
 - B) there are only two lenses to grind.
 - C) the elimination of the secondary mirror.
 - D) the elimination of chromatic aberration.
 - E) its compact size.
- 35. Adding a secondary concave lens of carefully chosen different glass to the primary lens on a refractor allows
 - A) effects of atmospheric turbulence to be reduced.
 - B) more light to be gathered.
 - C) chromatic aberration to be reduced.
 - D) x-rays to be focused.
 - E) greater magnification.
- 36. It is diffraction that limits the ____ of a telescope's objective.
 - A) magnification
 - B) frequencies
 - C) wavelengths
 - D) light grasp
 - E) resolution
- 37. The angular resolution of an 8 inch diameter telescope is ____ greater than that of a 2 inch diameter telescope.
 - A) 2×
 - B) 4×
 - C) 8×
 - D) 9×
 - E) 16×
- 38. The amount of diffraction and thus the resolution of the scope depends upon
 - A) whether the telescope is a reflector or refractor.
 - B) the size and sensitivity of the CCD chip used for imaging.
 - C) the design of the telescope.
 - D) the brightness of the object.
 - E) the wavelength used and the size of the main telescope objective lens or mirror.
- 39. What is the resolution of a telescope?
 - A) its ability to separate light into its component colors for analysis
 - B) its ability to make distant objects appear much closer to us
 - C) its ability to see very faint objects
 - D) its ability to distinguish two adjacent objects close together in the sky
 - E) its ability to focus more than just visible light for imaging
- 40. Compared to a 5 inch prime focus reflector, a 5 inch Newtonian reflector will
 - A) will have more chromatic aberration.
 - B) have the same light gathering power.
 - C) will have a larger hole in the center of its mirror.
 - D) have more light gathering power.
 - E) be easier to build.

- 41. What is the light-gathering power of an 8 inch telescope compared to a 4 inch telescope?
 - A) 2× better
 - B) 4× better
 - C) 8× better
 - D) 16× betterE) 32× better
- 42. Green light has a shorter wavelength than or
 - ange light. In a 5 inch telescope, green light will A) allow dimmer stars to be observed.
 - B) reduce the effects of atmospheric turbulence.
 - C) come to the same exact focus as orange light.
 - D) provide worse angular resolution than orange light.
 - E) provide better angular resolution than orange light.
- 43. What problem does adaptive optics correct?
 - A) defects in the optics of the telescope, such as the original Hubble mirror
 - B) the opacity of the earth's atmosphere to some wavelengths of light
 - C) turbulence in the earth's atmosphere which creates twinkling
 - chromatic aberration due to use of only a single lens objective
 - E) the light pollution of urban areas
- 44. What is true of radio telescopes?
 - A) They have better angular resolution than a reflector.
 - B) They are the smallest, most compact telescopes.
 - C) They can only be used above the atmosphere.
 - D) They are most sensitive to the opacity of the ozone layer.
 - E) They have poorer angular resolution than a refractor.
- 45. The Arecibo radio telescope is laid out like which optical telescope design?
 - A) Cassegrain reflector
 - B) prime focus reflector
 - C) Newtonian reflector
 - D) Coude reflector
 - E) grazing incidence reflector
- 46. In astronomy, an interferometer can be used to
 - A) speed up the processing of CCD images
 - B) yield better seeing conditions with optical telescopes
 - C) improve the angular resolution of radio telescopes
 - D) decrease the effects of light pollution in getting darker sky backgrounds
 - E) increase the sensitivity of infrared telescopes to longer wavelengths

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- 47. Compared to optical telescopes, radio telescopes are built large because
 - A) radio sources are harder to find.
 - B) radio photons don't carry much energy.
 - C) atmospheric turbulance is more of a problem.
 - D) they're less expensive to make than optical telescopes.
 - E) radio waves are absorbed by the atmosphere.
- 48. One advantage of the Hubble Space telescope over ground based ones is that
 - A) it is larger than any Earth-based scopes.
 - B) its adaptive optics controls atmospheric blurring better.
 - C) it can make better observations of the ozone layer.
 - D) in orbit, it can operate close to its diffraction limit at visible wavelengths.
 - E) it can better focus x-ray images.
- 49. The design of modern x-ray telescopes depends on
 - A) grazing incidence optics.
 - B) the Cassegrain design, with mirrors made of lead.
 - C) achromatic lenses to keep the x-rays in focus
 - D) the prime focus design, with mirrors made of iron.
 - E) lenses made of germanium.
- 50. Which of the following is currently supplying high resolution x-ray images from space?
 - A) HEAO-2
 - B) COBE
 - C) Charndra
 - D) ROSAT
 - E) Einstein