

Name: _____

Date: _____

Indoor Laboratory: The Dreyer Description Code

Introduction

In 1888, J.L.E. Dreyer published the New General Catalogue (NGC). The catalog was the first attempt to document all of the known star clusters, galaxies and nebula of the period. The process of collecting all of the known information and logged observations of objects was an incredible undertaking. The current NGC catalog contains 7,840 objects. As with any catalog of this size, there are errors from the original publication or objects are missing a description. Some of this is due to the faint magnitude of the object that keeps it out of the visual observing range of small telescopes. The NGC/IC Project is an attempt to correct this by calling for amateur and professional astronomers alike to log the NGC objects they observe.

NGC/IC Project - <http://ngcicproject.observers.org>

Procedure

You will create a Dreyer description for 3 NGC objects. Although some of the codes are subjective, the description itself is uniform in the way it is applied. This maintains consistency between descriptions created for the same object. All 3 objects are observable through an 8 inch telescope under dark skies.

To use the code, add the abbreviations that make your observational description. Use commas to separate points much as you would a list in writing.

Example



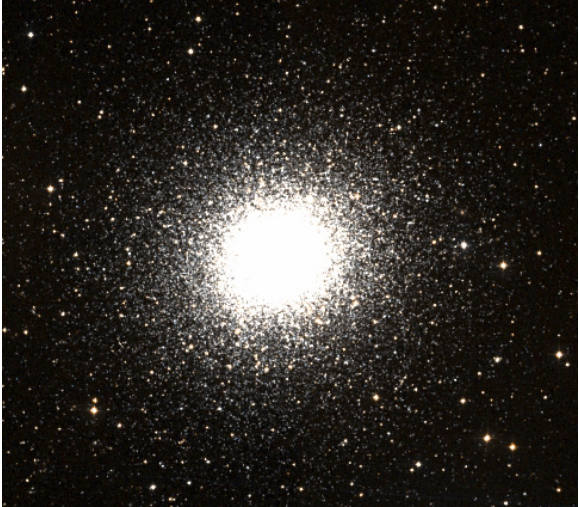
NGC 2863 - Galaxy

Dreyer Description:

cF, S, E, be 2 st 12, 16

Translated:

considerably faint, small, elliptical, between
two stars of magnitude 12 and 16



NGC 6205 - Globular Cluster

Dreyer Description:

Translated:



NGC 6888 - Emission Nebula

Dreyer Description:

Translated:



NGC 4549 - Galaxy

Dreyer Description:

Translated:

Dreyer Description Codes

Ab.....about	n.....north
alm.....almost	neb.....nebula
am.....among	nf.....north following
app.....appended	np.....north preceding
att.....attached	nr.....near
b.....brighter	N.....Nucleus, or to a Nucleus
be.....between	p.....pretty (before F,B,L,S)
biN.....binuclear	p.....preceding
bn.....brightest towards the north side	pg.....pretty gradually
bs.....brightest towards the south side	pm.....pretty much
bp.....brightest towards the preceding side	ps.....pretty suddenly
bf.....brightest towards the following side	P.....poor
B.....bright	quad.....quadrilateral
c.....considerably	quar.....quartile
ch.....chevelure	r.....resolvable (mottled not resolved)
co.....coarse, coarsely	rr.....partially resolved, some stars seen
com.....cometic	rrr.....well resolved, clearly consisting of stars
cont.....in contact	R.....round
C.....compressed	RR.....exactly round
C.G.H.....Cape of Good Hope	Ri.....rich
Cl.....cluster	s.....suddenly
d.....diameter	s.....south
def.....defined	sp.....south preceding
dif.....diffused	sf.....south following
diffic.....difficult	sc.....scattered
dist.....distance or distant	st.....stars
D.....double	sev.....several
e.....extremely, excessively	susp.....suspected
ee.....most extremely	sh.....shaped
er.....easily resolvable	stell.....stellar
exc.....eccentric	S.....small
E.....extended, elongated, elliptical	sm.....smaller
f.....following	triN.....tri-nuclear
F.....faint	trap.....trapezium
g.....gradually	v.....very
gr.....group	vv.....very, very
i.....irregular	var.....variable
inv.....involved, involving	*.....a star: *10, a star of 10th magnitude
iF.....irregular figure	**.....double star
l.....little, long	***.....triple star
L.....large	!.....remarkable
m.....much	!!.....very remarkable
mm.....mixed magnitudes	!!!.....a magnificent or interesting object
mn.....milky nebulosity	st 9.....stars from the 9th magnitude downwards
M.....middle, or in the middle	st 9 13.....stars from the 9th to 13th magnitude