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Astronomy before the telescope

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 17:00 (20 minutes)

To study the historical galactic Supernovae it is necessary the knowledge of the observations made with the naked eye. Within 2' of theoretical angular accuracy in daytime and 1' in nighttime, the astronomical observations made before Tycho were conducted artistically, depending on the skills, the techniques available and the inspiration of the astronomers.

Galileo Galilei stands in between the two periods, having contributed to the (Super)Nova of Kepler of 1604 with visual observations and discussions. Five years later, in 1609, Galileo started the glorious season of discoveries at the telescope.

We will discuss on 1) Relative and absolute stellar positions 2) Timing accuracy 3) Low contrast observations: Comets and Aurorae 4) The nature of written accounts 5) Unwritten testimonies (archaeoastronomy).

With these items we prepare an examen on a) Historical Galactic Supernovae written accounts.

b) Solar activity in the ancient times (Aurorae and Sunspots reports).

c) Lunar features identifications.

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