

SIERRA COLLEGE OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY LABORATORY EXERCISE		
NUMBER I.D.	TITLE: <u>Windows of Opportunity - Planispheres</u>	
DATE-	PRINT NAME/S AND INITIAL BELOW:	GROUP <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
DAY-		
LOCATION		

OBJECTIVE:

- To use a Planisphere and Seasonal Star Chart with the SC001 star map, enabling the prediction of celestial events for the purpose of planning a session of real sky observations.
- To compare the accuracy of the Planisphere (an *analog* computer) with a digital computer using "TheSKY" software program.
- To compare the Horizon Coordinates (Altitude and Azimuth) from a Seasonal Star Chart with values from "TheSKY"
- To make a finder chart utilizing "The SKY" software.

PROCEDURE:

- After explanation of the use of the planisphere, answer the questions below. For objects not identified on the planisphere, first locate them on the SC001 star chart. Then locate their approximate location on the planisphere using adjacent constellations and stars. Compare planisphere and "TheSKY" solutions for questions 1- 5.
- On the Seasonal Starchart handout, carefully plot the positions of **five (5)** celestial objects above the horizon tonight, in good viewing position at 8PM PST. Also plot the position of the moon and any planets that are above the horizon at 8 PM. Note the Sidereal time at 8PM tonight and write it in under the template.
- Complete table "A" by entering the Altitude and Azimuth from the Seasonal Star Chart and the altitude and azimuth from "TheSKY" program.
- Make a finder chart facing south at 8 PM using "TheSKY" software. Instructor will explain.

OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS: DATE FOR ALL CALCULATIONS =

Note: Instructor will direct you to which object to use.

1. What time will Aldebaran (or **Altair**) set?

Planisphere=	
TheSKY =	

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