

*Using the Planisphere*

## USING THE BRIGHT STAR ATLAS

First: number the pages in the star atlas, as there are some unlabeled pages that have important information on them. Page one is on the right after opening the book; there should be 32 pages.

Constellations are listed on the back cover. On this cover, written on the maps of the sky are the map numbers appropriate for the constellation. For instance, Leo is found on map 5, pages 22-23 and Andromeda is on maps 1 and 3 (pages 14-15 and 18-19 respectively).

I've found little use for pages 1-6, since they contain information that the planisphere provides more easily. But if you go outside the planisphere's latitude range, read the cover and you can use the atlas as your planisphere.

Descriptions of various astronomical objects are found on pages 7-8.

The Greek alphabet is found on page 8.

Lists of various types of objects are found on pages 9-12.

Constellation names, pronunciations, brief descriptions, abbreviations, etc. are on page 13. ← you will probably need to use this page in future labs.

Pages 14-32 contain the star maps.

Note on the left side of the map are lists of various objects visible on the accompanying map, including the name(s), coordinates, magnitude (brightness), and other miscellany. On the bottom right of each right page are a few bright stars on that page, many of which you will need to know by name if they are visible during the semester. On page 18 (map 3) are detailed views of the Pleiades and Orion nebula.

Note that on page 20 (i.e. map 4), there is an error in the Bright Stars box: Sirius is  $-16$  declination, not  $-6$ . Let me know if you find any other errors or if you can think of any other information you think should be on this handout.