

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

4: Measuring Time in the Sky

Time is one of the slipperiest concepts in all of science. Everyone feels that they know what time is, but when we try to measure it, we quickly run into difficulties. For early scientists and astronomers, the sky itself served as the first clock and calendar.

The sky above us is constantly changing and full of wonderful objects that never stop moving! As scientists and astronomers, one of our first tasks is to be able to say when and where something interesting happened. The ability to locate things in time and space, both in an absolute sense, and in relation to one another, is a fundamental skill. In this unit, we will explore measuring the Earth-Moon system with time, and then move on to show how science can accommodate different ideas and explanations for the same observations! Only experiments can tell us which model is correct!

[4.1: The Earth Clock](#)

[4.2: Moonrise and Moonset](#)

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