

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

6: Measuring Cosmic Distances

Chapter 6 explores the various ways in which humanity has learned to measure the distances to the stars and beyond. Examples of several geometrical methods, the standard rulers, and standard candles are presented. The chapter concludes with a summary of the Cosmic Distance Ladder, which puts together of all the measuring techniques to bridge our understanding of distance in the Universe.

[6.0: Measuring Cosmic Distances Introduction](#)

[6.1: Geometrical Methods](#)

[6.2: Standard Ruler](#)

[6.3: Standard Candle](#)

[6.4: The Cosmic Distance Ladder](#)

[6.5: Wrapping It Up 6 - The Supernova of 1885](#)

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Thumbnail: This beautiful image shows a giant cluster of stars called Messier 80, located about 28,000 light-years from Earth. Such crowded groups, which astronomers call globular clusters, contain hundreds of thousands of stars, including some of the RR Lyrae variables discussed in this chapter. Especially obvious in this picture are the bright red giants, which are stars similar to the Sun in mass that are nearing the ends of their lives. (credit: modification of work by The Hubble Heritage Team (AURA/ STScI/ NASA)).

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