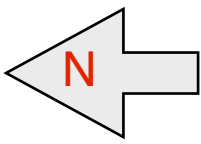
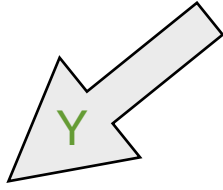


Bortle
9
Class

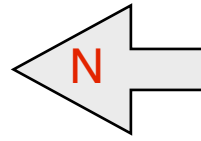


Can you barely see M31?

Bortle
8
Class



Bortle
7
Class



Can you see all seven of the main stars of Ursa Minor?



The Bortle Dark-Sky Scale

The Bortle Dark-Sky Scale is a nine-level numeric scale that measures the night sky's brightness at a particular location.

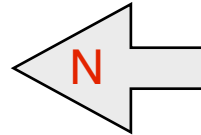
It quantifies the astronomical observability of celestial objects and the interference caused by light pollution and skyglow.

John E. Bortle created the scale and published it in the February 2001 edition of Sky & Telescope magazine to help amateur astronomers compare the darkness of observing sites.

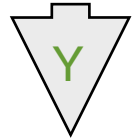
The scale ranges from Class 1, the darkest skies available on Earth, through Class 9, inner-city skies.

The colors in each box roughly correspond to the World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness and are provided as a guide only.

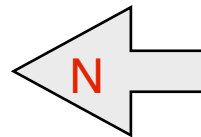
Bortle
6
Class



Can you see the Milky Way overhead?



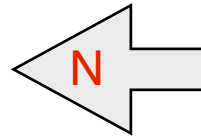
Bortle
5
Class



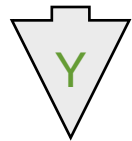
Can you see Zodiacal light on the very best nights in spring / autumn?



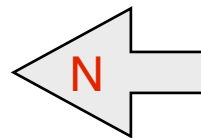
Bortle
4
Class



Can you barely see M33, with averted vision?



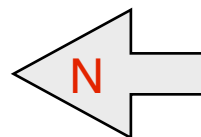
Bortle
3
Class



Can you see M4, M5, M15 or M22 distinctly?



Bortle
2
Class



Is M33 easily seen, and does the Milky Way show detailed structure?



Is M33 seen with direct vision? Do the Sagittarius and Scorpius regions of the Milky Way cast a shadow?



Astronomical Objects Mentioned

- M31, the Andromeda Galaxy
- M33, the Triangulum Galaxy
- M4, a globular cluster in Scorpius
- M5, a globular cluster in Serpens
- M15, a globular cluster in Pegasus
- M22, a globular cluster in Sagittarius

Bortle
1
Class