



Sixth circular of 1st GeCAA 2020

Dear members of IOAA, colleagues, friends

This is the sixth circular of the 1st GeCAA (Global e-Competition in Astronomy & Astrophysics), the online auxiliary competition which was proposed by the IOAA to provide students to compete in 2020 on an international stage.

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Important dates

03.10 - ZOOM lecture by Erin Kara (starts 13:00 UTC)

10.10 - Initial deadline for submitting grading results

14.10 - Students can see their own marks - 24 h for filing appeals (**date changed to avoid collision with team competition**)

14.10 - end of team competition

15.10 - last date for appeals (**date changed to avoid collision with team competition**)

23.10 - results, end of competition podcast

Team Competition

For Team Competition students have been assigned to team consisting 6 or 7 members and received 2 tasks which they must solve 2 problems as well as they can. For Team competition the following rules are applied:

- Students are encouraged to set up their own communication channels best suited for their needs.
 - In case students fail to do that themselves, LOC can help to set up an e-mail list.
- All roles within team and member responsibilities must be decided inside the team.
- The solution for both problems must be submitted separately as a 2 single pdf file and can be done by any member of the team. Final solution report must contain names of all team members on the first page.
 - Submitted file must use naming conversion
TEAMNAME_gecaaTeamCompetition_EXnr.pdf
- All textual sections of submission must be written in English.
- Team competition is done in open book format and in case students feel the need to obtain new skills for mastering the tasks they are encouraged to do so.
- Submission must be done to the e-mail gecaa.help@gmail.com with the subject line "Team competition submission "TEAMNAME"

Grading

Theory and data round will be graded by international jury members. Observational round is graded by Estonian local grading team. We have assigned few international jury members for team competition.

Observational round

Estonian LOC apologizes for the technical error which happened during the observation round that should have made Questions 1.3 (Point on chart -- where the student was asked to point Sun position on chart) and question 3.1 "All Sky" dysfunctional for the competition. While we became aware of the first issue and disabled it completely from grading, we were unaware of

the bug we unintentionally introduced to our system 1 h before the competition, that made the question dysfunctional in most if not all systems. Since the question was the most point awarding of the observational round and many students managed to submit solutions on images, we are analysing how and using which kind of grading schema would be the most fair to use. We'll introduce our proposal first to the academic committee and then to all team leaders, after we have detailed analysis of the situation.

International graders

Deadline for submitting initial grades for all students is 10.10.2020

Starting from next week we are submitting you all newsletter on conflicting grades, on which you are encouraged to either review or discuss with the second grader for consensus on fair marks for the problem. In case the conflict cannot be resolved it will be settled by an academic committee member of respective round head referee. Every grader should be able to see only students' work they are grading. In case you are able to see less or more contact LOC.

The initial briefing lecture can be reviewed at:

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZCtWJXZ8pTRDlwd1vJrli6JGb5uDbMasxG7>

We will use the e-mail noreply@gecaa.ee to write you with any additional instructions.

All team leaders who have not yet obtained access (there is at least one team leader who had not submitted an e-mail address at all) to competition.gecaa.ee contact gecaa.help@gmail.com as soon as possible.

We will provide you access to additional resources, jupyter notebooks for some problems etc via direct e-mail.

On 03.10 we'll organize a ZOOM session to review all changes to grading schema and answer all questions.

In case you are having issues with the grading schema contact the head referee:

- **Taavet Kalda** - taavet.kalda@gmail.com - for theory
- **Nikita Poljakov** - nikita.poljakov99@gmail.com - for data

NB! We are still mapping all the students notes sent to e-mail and try to provide you a complete ordered list of students submissions as soon as possible. Where possible we try to insert students' submission to respective attachments at the respective problem. We will also try to change the attachment links in case the student has uploaded wrong image to any problem. We will daily update you with the changes. In case students you are grading have any detected changes we kindly ask you to review the students' grades again.

In the unexpected case when you are sure that you are unable to grade your assigned students contact the LOC. We have a small team of additional referees ready who can come to your assistance in case time becomes critical.

Student appeals

Instructions on appeal process will be provided no later than 10.10.2020

Additional webinars

Most likely we are offering additional webinars and non-competitive activities during the GeCAA, details on those will be provided as soon as the events have been confirmed.

Proctoring of sessions

Any team leader can ask for review access of sessions proctored by Estonian proctors. This is done to encourage maximum openness and minimize the chance for cheating. Please write if you wish to review the video or the session protocol (or both) for any sessions.