

Aristarchus calculation of the "size" of the sun

Post by "Cassius" of April 21, 2026 at 8:26 AM

The full video may explain this but if someone doesn't want to watch that [Wikipedia says](#) that Aristarchus' calculations led him to conclude that the sun was 18-20 times larger than the moon. It's not clear to me whether he had a size for the moon or whether he stopped at the relative size.

Quote

Aristarchus also reasoned that as the [angular size](#) of the Sun and the Moon were the same, but the distance to the Sun was between 18 and 20 times further than the Moon, the Sun must therefore be 18-20 times larger.