

Total Lunar Eclipse, 3-4 March 2007

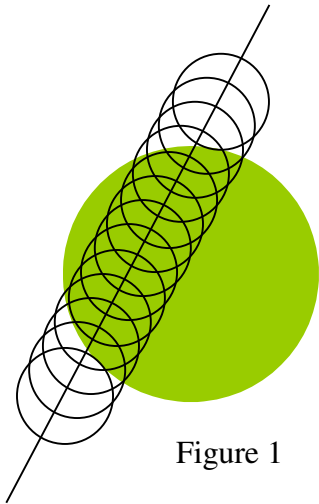


Figure 1

The shadow (shown green) of the Earth moved steadily over the surface of the moon over a period of nearly 4 hours (about 220 minutes). A non-rotating observer would have seen the shadow move in a straight line as shown in Figure 1 (there are thirteen “snapshots” shown at 18-minute intervals). But we are observing from the Earth rotating 360° in 24 hours, *i.e.* about 55° in 220 minutes, or 4.5° between each snapshot. Figure 2 below shows each “snapshot” progressively rotated by 4.5° . This explains why the shadow appears to leave from the “side” as shown in Figure 3. These images roughly match those given in New Scientist Last Word, 7 April 2007 – but the exact orientation depends on the location of the observer.

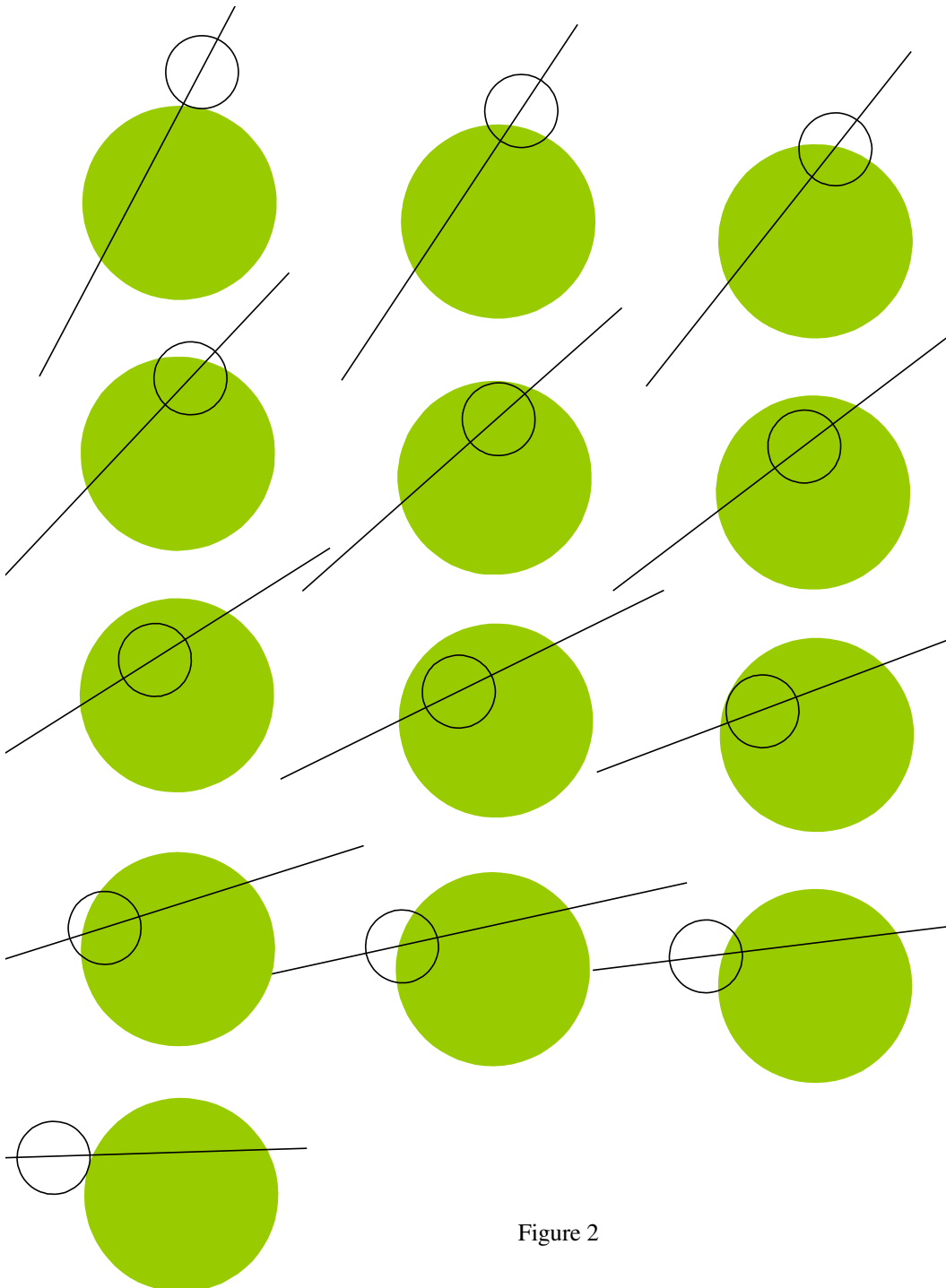


Figure 2

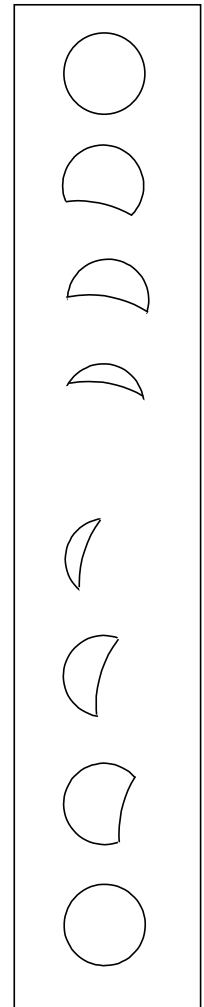


Figure 3