PHYS 178 – Assignment 4

Due: Monday 8 September 2008

This assignment contributes 2% to your final grade. Please write brief answers directly on the sheet in the spaces provided (and on the back if necessary). The assignment should be turned into the PHYS 178 assignment box on level 2 of E7B, just outside the doorway to E7A.

1. How is the composition of the giant planets inferred?

2. Why is the composition of the gas giants different from the terrestrial planets?

3. Why is the vertical seperation between the different cloud layers on Jupiter smaller than than for the other giant planets?

4. What is the Great Red Spot?

5. Why does the atmosphere of Uranus appear to be almost featureless?