

Difference between Reflective and Refractor Telescopes



The Galilean and Newtonian telescopes revolutionized the astronomical world. Here's how they are different from each other.

Newton's Reflector Telescope

Composed of mirrors

A primary mirror reflects light to other mirrors until the rays reach the eyepiece



An inconvenient location of prime focus

Compact Design

Economical and widely used in the 20th century

Currently located at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma in the Canary Islands, Spain



Composed of lenses

The lens refracts light, which reaches the focal point

High magnifying ability but provides a restricted view of the object.

It was long to accumulate the lenses

Expensive and were famous during the 18th and 19th centuries

Galileo's Refractor Telescope



Currently located at Museo Galileo in Italy

References

1. Two Types Of Telescopes; PBS NOVA.
2. Isaac Newton's Reflecting Telescope (replica); Science Museum Group.
3. Optical Telescopes; Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder.