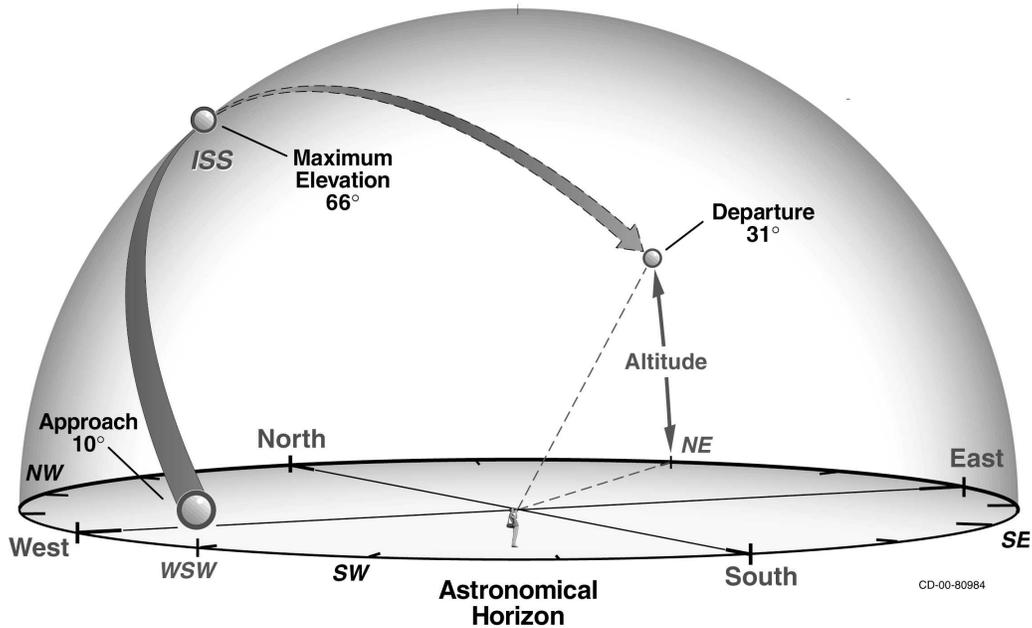


Viewing the Station From Your Backyard

Depending on your location on the Earth's surface, the spacecraft's position in orbit and the time of day, you may be able to see the International Space Station (ISS) as it orbits about 250 statute miles above the Earth. The station will be seen as a steady (not blinking) white pinpoint of light moving slowly across the sky.



The Flight Dynamics Officers in NASA's Mission Control Center use computers to predict when and where the station will be visible to people on the ground. The NASA Human Spaceflight web page provides sighting opportunities by either a graphical display or a text-based listing by city. Both can be accessed from: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/>

A typical text-based listing appears as follows:

SATELLITE	LOCAL DATE/TIME	DURATION (MIN)	MAX ELEV (DEG)	APPROACH (DEG-DIR)	DEPARTURE (DEG-DIR)
ISS	Tue Nov 14/06:22 AM	4	65	10 above WSW	31 above NE

The left column is the satellite, in this case the International Space Station (ISS). The next column is the local date and the local time. The third column gives the duration, or the length of time in minutes, the spacecraft is expected to be visible, assuming a clear sky. The fourth column gives the maximum elevation the vehicle will achieve above the horizon. (90 degrees is directly overhead). The last two columns tell the directions and elevations at which the spacecraft will appear and disappear.

This typical sighting opportunity is illustrated in the figure above.



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