

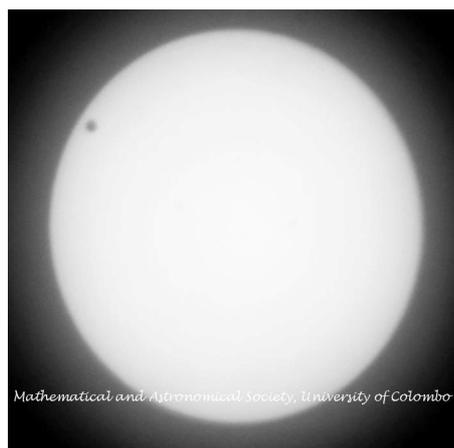
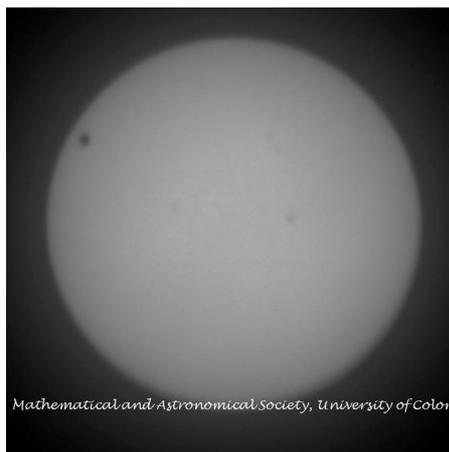
Venus Transit 2012 Full Report

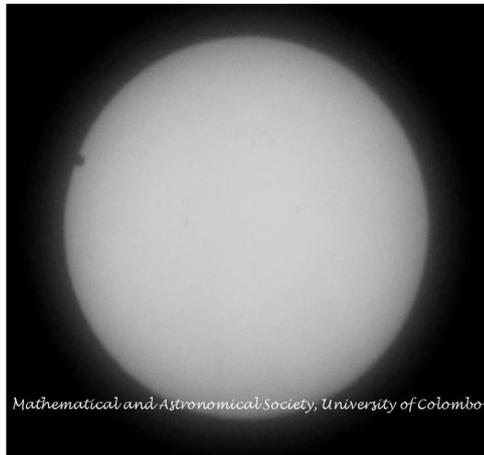
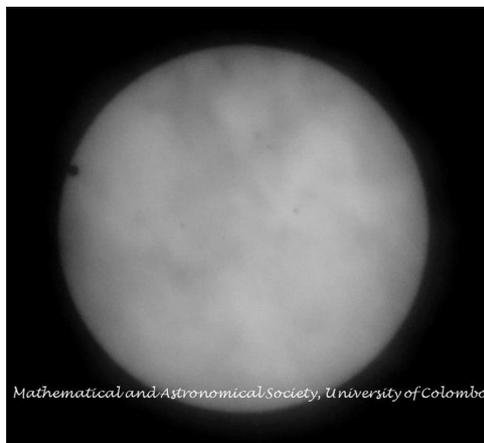
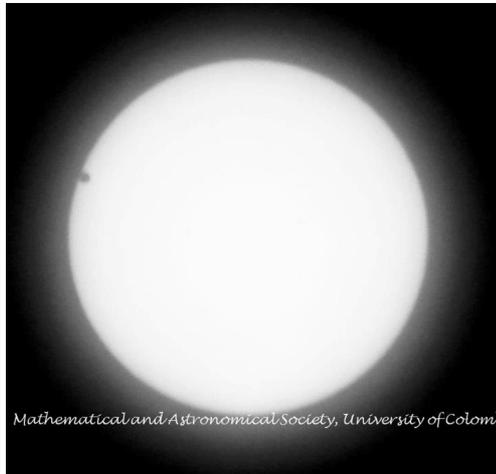
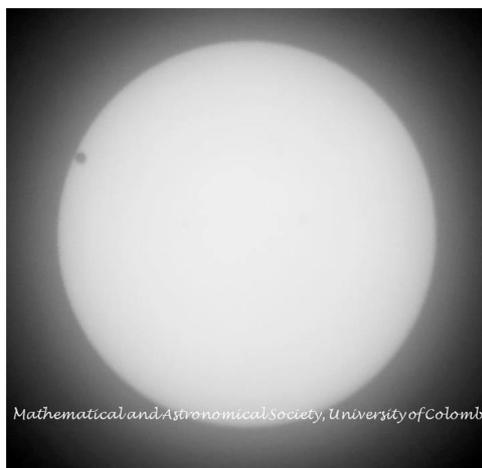
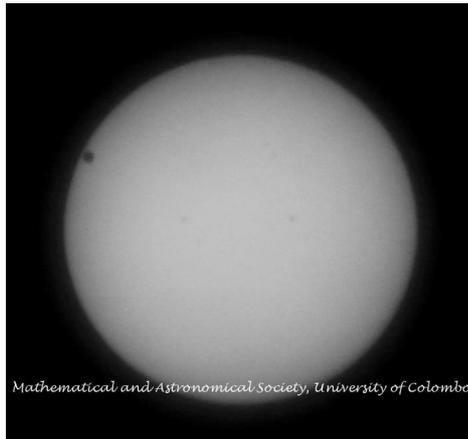
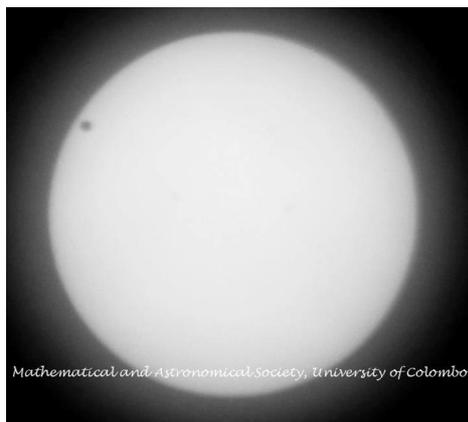
On the morning of 06th of June 2012 Sri Lanka witnessed a rare event of the astronomy calendar, the transit of planet Venus over the solar disk. Provided the difference of the eccentricity and the deviation of the Venus's orbit from those of the Earth, the alignment of these celestial bodies is rare and hence occurs in pairs with a period of 112 years.

The Mathematical & Astronomical Society (MAS) of University of Colombo had made arrangements for the coverage of this last Venus transit of the century for us, earthlings. MAS had 2 teams deployed at 2 locations in the island for the observation of this rare astronomical phenomenon, next of which is to happen in 2117. There was a team located at the University premises in capital Colombo while another team, was on an expedition at Trincomalee in the eastern coast of the island together with Professor Chandana Jayarathne.

As usual Spode's law in astronomy came into effect at both the locations, as the team in Trincomalee had few layers of clouds across the horizon for almost a couple of hours after the dawn whereas it was rainy in the early morning in Colombo and clouds persisted more than half the observable time of the transit. Nevertheless waiting paid off finally and it was possible to play with telescopes, cameras and lenses.

MAS also offered a live broadcast through internet during the transit with live feeds from telescopes mounted in Trincomalee and Colombo along with an educational discussion as the Venus was traversing though the Solar disk. Despite the clouds and other technical difficulties MAS members managed make quality images of the Venus transit, especially with the contact 3 and 4.





Picture Credit: Kasun Munasinghe & Kasun Fernando of MAS

Additionally there were outreach activities, especially in Trincomalee for students of the schools in the vicinity and there were extending queues of students flocking together at the observation site, located close to the Uppuweli beach in Trincomalee. Safe observational techniques were used during this course and students were made aware of the transit and its significance.



Members of MAS preparing themselves, setting up the telescopes



The MAS team, busy at work for the live streaming/ webcast of the Transit of Venus



Curious students, observing the transit, not missing out their life time chance



Teachers and parents, observing the transit of Venus with proper safety!



Extending queues of students flocking at the observation site , it's an opportunity not to miss !!



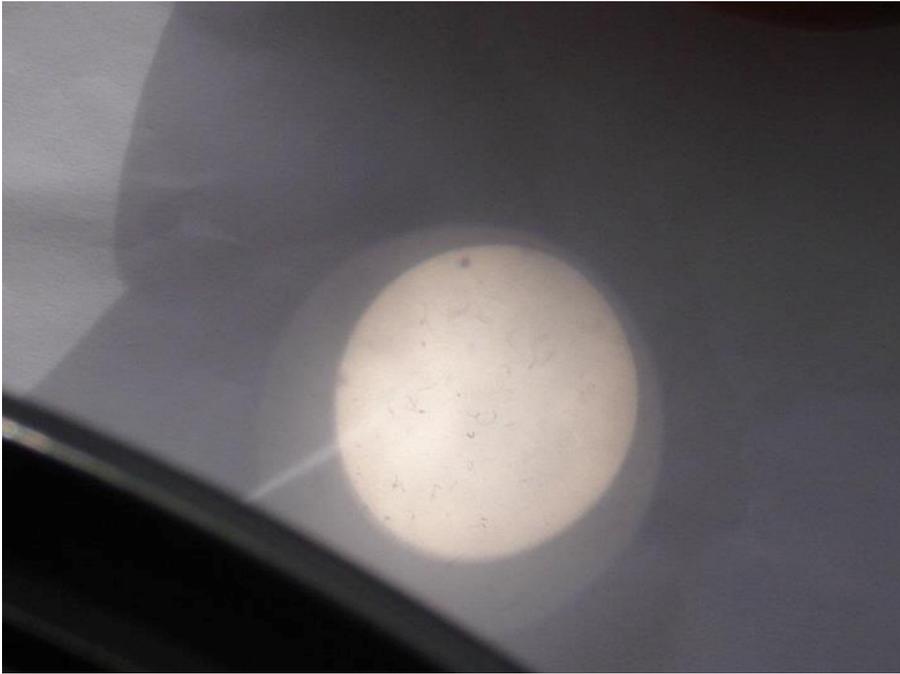
Professor Chandana Jayarathne, during the outreach activity of Venus Transit



Pubudini Jayawardhana of Mathematical & Astronomical Society, explaining to the media about the importance of observing and recording a Venus Transit

Picture Credit : Prasanna Deshapriya of MAS

Meantime in Colombo, there was also a public outreach activity, allowing just anyone interested, not to miss this life time chance of observing the Venus while it was on transit over the Sun. As the clouds faded away in Colombo at the later stages of the transit, it was seen that a considerable multitude, comprising University students & public gathering for safer observation of the transit of the Venus.



See the tiny dot on the projection?



Observers flocking together to see the transit as clouds start to vanish from Colombo skies



More and more public and students gathering for the observation



At technical workstation for the live broadcast of Venus transit program



The team of MAS at operated from University of Colombo

Photo Credit: Muditha Bandara Rathnayaka of MAS

Some of he recorded streaming is available at <http://uocmas.info/venus-transit-2012-june-live-webcast-by-mas-fostv/>

The team of MAS operated from Trincomalee is as follows.

1. Professor Chandana Jayarathne
2. Prasanna Deshapriya
3. Kasun Munasinghe
4. Asiri Anuradha Senevirathna
5. Prabath Wijerathne
6. Pubudini Jayawardhana
7. Kasun Fernando
8. Chandimal Nikagolle
9. Manoj Priyashanka
10. Saman Aravinda
11. Thilini Dilhara
12. Dilantha Sampath
13. Rasali Wijesuriya
14. Hasitha Eranda
15. Hiran Dissanayake
16. Sumudu Katugampola
17. Ashan Vitharana
18. Ashan Ariyawansa



The members of MAS operated from Trincomalee for the Venus Transit, posing with Professor Chandana Jayarathne

The team of MAS operated from University of Colombo is as follows.

1. Chethya Vidanapathirana
2. Muditha Bandara Rathnayaka
3. Chamika Gunathilaka
4. Nuwanthika Fernando
5. Chamika Gunathilake

The Mathematical & Astronomical Society wishes to thank its staff adviser Professor Chandana Jayarathne, lecturer Hiran Jayaweera, assistant lecturer Monika Madhavi, academic assistants Buddhika Priyasad, Amal Nishantha & Asiri Anuradha Senevirathna of the University of Colombo, the members and alumni of MAS, the principal and staff of Sri Nalanda Maha Vidyalaya, China Bay, Trincomalee, director of Eastern educational zone and all others who helped to make this event a success.

Author:

[Prasanna Deshapriya](#)

President

Mathematical & Astronomical Society

University of Colombo

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An online version of this report is available at <http://uocmas.info/venus-transit-2012-full-report/>