

(1) The new Hubble Space Telescope will have a mirror of 2.4 m diameter. Using it, with no air in the way, how far away could you read a license plate?

The angular resolving power at a wavelength of  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  will be approximately  $\lambda / d$ , or  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  rad. Resolution of 1 cm at the object ought to be adequate. If so, you could read the license number at a distance of 50 km. (Of course, you would need a suitable eyepiece.)