



**Human beings can never outrun
the winds near the centre of a typhoon!**



Following guidelines laid down by the World Meteorological Organization, tropical cyclones are categorised based on the maximum sustained wind near the centre. Currently, the Hong Kong Observatory categorises tropical cyclones based on their maximum mean wind speed over a 10-minute period and has adopted a six-grade scale since 2009.

Classification of tropical cyclone	Maximum sustained wind near the centre of the cyclone
Tropical depression	below 63 km/h
Tropical storm	63-87 km/h
Severe tropical storm	88-117 km/h
Typhoon	118-149 km/h
Severe typhoon	150-184 km/h
Super typhoon	185 km/h or above

Supermoon

Dickson LAU

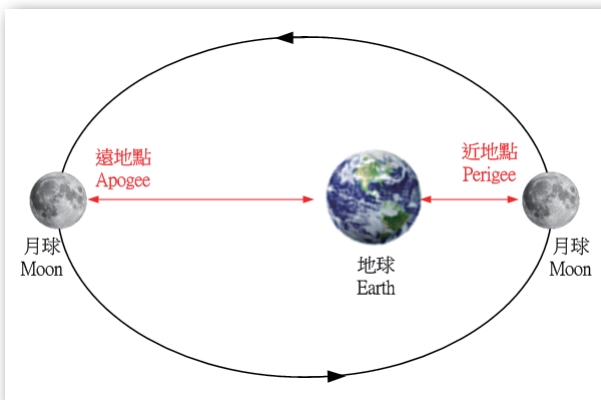


Figure 1: Perigee and apogee of the moon

'Supermoon' is not an astronomical designation, but a layman's term used to describe the larger moon observed during or close to the time of a full moon.

As the moon follows an elliptical orbit around the earth, its distance from the earth varies: the point at which it is closest to the earth is called the perigee, while the point at which it is furthest from the earth is the apogee, and it reaches these points about once a month (Figure1). If a full moon takes place during the perigee, it will appear larger than usual (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Merged photo – the image on the left shows the moon at the perigee; the image on the right shows it at the apogee. (Courtesy of the Hong Kong Space Museum.)