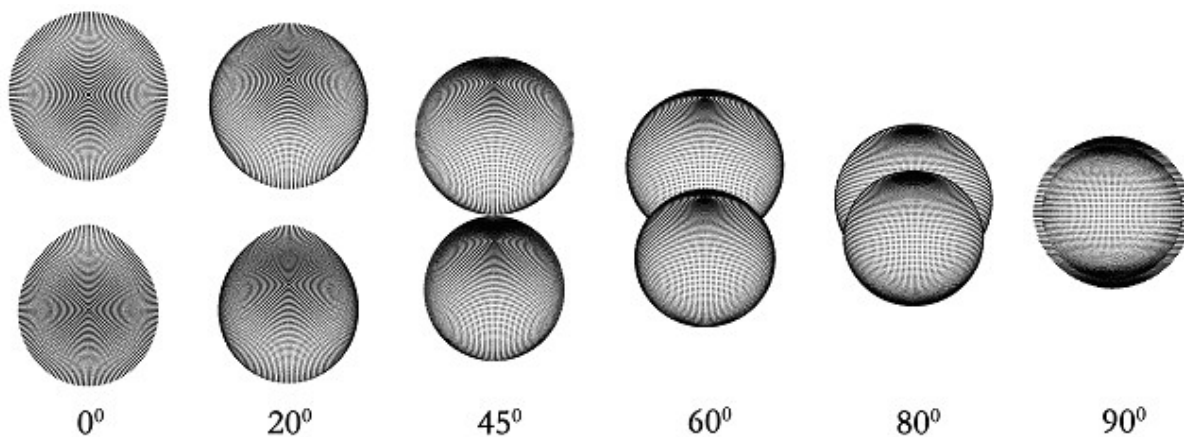




## Inclination

The inclination of a binary is a description of the tilt of its orbital plane in degrees with respect to an Earth observer's line of sight. Therefore, as shown in the figure below, an inclination of  $0^\circ$  corresponds to looking down onto the poles of the stars. An inclination of  $90^\circ$  means that the orbital plane of the two stars lies directly in the Earth observer's line of sight; thus eclipses of some kind are guaranteed. The specific binary displayed is the semi-detached system AI Cru at several inclinations of varying degrees.



AI Cru viewed at different inclination angles