

Abstracts of Poster Papers

Abstracts of poster papers relevant to this section of the Special Session are presented below.

Robotic Telescopes: A Link between Astronomically Developed and Astronomically Developing Countries

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Astronomers in developing countries are often confronted with multiple problems of access to good equipment and access to good astronomical sites. While there is no substitute for personal experience of using good equipment at a good site, access to robotic telescopes can address these problems of access to some extent. This paper explores the possibilities for at least moderately experienced observational astronomers in developing countries to conduct observing programmes using remote robotic telescopes at good astronomical sites.

The Four College Automated Photoelectric Telescope

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For the past decade, astronomers from The Citadel, The College of Charleston, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Villanova University have operated in Southern Arizona a 0.75-m automated telescope to obtain differential Strömgren uvby, Johnson BV, and Cousins RI photometry of a wide variety of stars. Each school averages the equivalent of about 40 nights/year of high quality photometry at a cost less than using observers. By mixing our programs we obtained observations of certain important stars on nearly every clear night they can be observed. Usually we request a star be observed only once per night. Still continuous coverage can be obtained. The stars are given priorities and scheduled using ATIS. The telescope selects targets from the groups with the highest priority by choosing the one closest to the western edge of the observing window. Some data has been analyzed by undergraduate and graduate students. We use internet to send requests for observations and to retrieve data. We believe our experiences are germane to others interested in automated photometric telescopes. We are open to the possibility of collaborations with other astronomers who are obtaining photometric and spectroscopic data. (Co-authors are: L. Boyd, R.J. Dukes Jr, E.F. Guinan, G.M. McCook and D.M. Pyper, all of the U.S.A..)