

USE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY AS SUPPORT FOR
LARGE-TELESCOPE AND SATELLITE PROGRAMMES

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With a 60-cm telescope at an outstanding site, it is possible to co-ordinate observations with larger telescopes and with satellites to provide monitoring of interesting objects. The University of Toronto Southern Observatory at Las Campanas, Chile, has been involved in several such programmes, in support of large telescopes at Tololo, La Silla, and Mauna Kea, in addition to the I.U.E., EXOSAT, and other satellites.

The telescope is well-equipped with UBV, RI, and JHK photometers, (with other filters such as DDO and four-colour in addition), a magnetically-focussed, fibre-optic image tube for use as a direct camera, a very fast classification spectrograph (with or without an image tube), and an echelle spectrograph with Reticon detector.

We have instituted a programme of service observing, which has been very successful. For a very modest fee, prospective users can buy the services of a resident observer for a few nights or parts of nights, which makes co-operation easy.

I.U.E. and EXOSAT observers have applied for service observing time to monitor their stars in the visible, either spectroscopically or photometrically. One good example is the flare-star programme on EXOSAT. This type of project seems to be on the increase, especially since the U. of T. telescope is one of the few still available with both good equipment and an experienced observer.

DISCUSSION

Gaustad: This morning (see Latham) the philosophy was expressed that small telescopes should be dedicated to and optimised for 1 or 2 projects. With the variety of instrumentation you described, your philosophy is clearly different. Would you please elucidate that philosophy?

Garrison: We operate the observatory as a national facility, allotment of time is on scientific merit. We don't provide all the instrumentation (i.e. no CCD). We provide a set of basic equipment in very good condition for specific projects (e.g. our MK spectrograph is the fastest anywhere).

Sullivan: Do you have an under- or over-subscription problem? Chile is a long way from Toronto!

Garrison: During Milky Way time we are oversubscribed by 1.5 - 2 times. During galactic pole season we are under-subscribed but fill out the schedule with observatory programs undertaken by the resident observer. The telescope is utilized about 85% of the time. We solved the travel problem because we have an endowment fund which can only be used for graduate student travel.