

Telescope progress

Naturally most of the efforts this past semester were concentrated on the commissioning of the coudé focus and spectrograph reported elsewhere in this issue. However, several additional important results have also been achieved.

Observations were stopped completely in July for the installation of instrumentation cables at the prime and coudé focii. The cables for the remote control of the coudé mirror turrets were also installed. The contractor, Summit Electric of Vancouver, B.C., Canada, completed the work on time and observations were resumed as scheduled in early August.

Since the beginning of observations, we had been plagued with primary mirror deformations and instabilities. Some difficulties were easily traced to freezing and leaks in the back support pneumatic system, but the remaining problems were difficult to analyze without removing the mirror from its cell. This was done during the September engineering run. It was found that the pressure regulator had to be readjusted and that the preload of two of the axial defining pads had been set incorrectly. Knife-edge tests following reassembly showed that all problems had been eliminated and an almost perfect mirror figure was obtained.

The computerized telescope control system was tested in September and November under the direction of James Wolfe, software engineer, previously with the Project Office and now on loan from the National Research Council of Canada. Most bugs have now been ironed out and present plans call for it to be put into operation early in 1981. At first, the computer system will allow faster and more convenient pointing with the inclusion of astronomical correction. Gradually other features will be added

such as instrumental pointing corrections, automatic dome control, automatic trailing and scanning, etc.

Plans for the next few months include the remote control of the coudé mirrors, the assembly and testing of the infrared upper end and the fabrication and installation of a completely new focusing system for the prime focus. The new design will greatly facilitate the exchange of prime focus modules (coudé/direct focus and wide field corrector) as well as being more convenient to use by the observers.

Commissioning program

The primary and coudé focii are now in operation. The commissioning of the remaining two focii is scheduled as follows:

F/36 Infrared Focus: Fall 1981
F/8 Cassegrain: Spring 1982.

The following instruments are now available to visiting observers:

- prime focus wide field corrector
- prime focus camera
- prime focus guiding head ("bonnette")
- Racine wedge
- f/7.4 coudé spectrograph
- 1872 Reticon.

The main instruments still to be commissioned are as follows:

- Prime Focus U.V. Corrector: February 1981
- ITT image tube: February 1981
- Grens/grism: March 1981
- CCD camera (prime focus): Fall 1981
- Cassegrain guiding head: Fall 1981
- I.R. Photometer: Fall 1981
- Fourier Transform Spectrometer: Fall 1981
- Spectrograph no. 1: 1982
- Spectrograph no. 2: 1982

Requests for observing time

Observing time on the CFH telescope is allocated twice a year. Available time for the first semester of 1981 has already been allocated.

Requests for observing time for the second semester of 1981 should be submitted before March 1, 1981.

Application forms and technical data on the telescope and instruments can be obtained from the following associated organizations:

For Canadian astronomers:

National Research Council
(Attention Dr. J.L. Locke)
Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics
Room 2003
100 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0R6

For French astronomers:

Monsieur le Directeur de l'Institut
National d'Astronomie et de
Géophysique
77, avenue Denfert-Rochereau
75014 Paris
France

For Hawaiian astronomers:

Prof. J.T. Jefferies
Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawaii
2680 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
U.S.A.

For any supplementary informations write to the headquarters of the Corporation at the address shown at the end of this bulletin.