

Catalogue of the Rozhen Observatory Schmidt Telescope

The analysis of the computer-readable version of the catalogue of the Potsdam donated 50/70/172 cm Schmidt telescope at the Rozhen Observatory of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is presented. Specialized novel software for personal computers was used.

During the period 1979-1992 a total of 6437 plates (196 of them taken with an objective prism) were received with the effective observational time of 2865 hours.

The observational programmes are in correspondence with the telescope characteristics and concern search for comets and asteroids, patrol observations of flare stars in stellar aggregates, research of variable and double stars in stellar clusters, photometry of near galaxies, research of nova-like objects, etc.

The computer readable form of the catalogue is included in the wide-field plate database, created in Sofia.

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Pulkovo Astronomical Database for Personal Computers

Personal computers have become more and more popular at the Pulkovo Observatory. Today there are more than 40 PC IBM type computers. For this reason the formation of the Astronomical Data Bank and network for the personal computers at Pulkovo is very real.

According to the main outlook of the Observatory we plan to form the Data Bank from the following basic components:

1. modern star fundamental and reference catalogues;
2. some special astrophysical catalogues;
3. the data for astronomical computations;
4. ephemerides for planets and the Sun and some special stellar objects.

The local Observatory's network will combine the computers in a united system which will permit the use of all facilities belonging to different laboratories. For example, it will be possible to have only one laser printer for the needs of all astronomers, etc.

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Solar System Surveys

Asteroid and Comet Surveys

The use of wide-field photographic instruments in the discovery of asteroids and comets is reviewed, from the early applications in the late nineteenth century to the present. The particular role of sky patrols is discussed. Some thoughts are given concerning the changes new technologies are likely to bring to this activity in the future.

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