

P 87**Access to the Bruce Catalogue of the Landessternwarte**M. Darr

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The Bruce telescope of the Landessternwarte, Koenigstuhl, Heidelberg has been in use now for over 90 years. Since 1900 more than 9600 photographic plates have been taken, covering about 5000 different areas in the sky. With the existing plates one has the possibility to examine long term brightness or morphological variations of variable objects. As using the old log-book is much too tedious while searching some specific plates, a new computer catalogue has been made available, which is very easy to handle.

Instrument and Plates

The Bruce telescope is a twin astrograph with an aperture of 2×40 cm and a focal length of 2 m (scale:~ 100"/mm). Most of the plates are 24×30 cm in size with a field of 6×8 degrees. The limiting magnitude is $m_{pg} \leq 16.5$.

Catalogue

The old log-book entry contains the following information : plate number, date of observation, universal time of exposure, exposure time, hour angle, plate center, plate format, kind of developing, comments. For each plate, the computer catalogue contains the plate number, date of observation, the equatorial plate center coordinates for the equinox 1950, plate size, other relevant technical data, and, if necessary, a comment.

Program

A FORTRAN program has been written to read the computer catalogue, a C program will follow. The program runs on a HP9000 715/75 under UNIX and on a VAXSTATION 3200 under VMS. The catalogue is an ASCII file. As input data the user has to provide the coordinates of an object and the corresponding equinox. Then the stored information on all plates, which contain the object, will be listed in an output file.

References

A computer readable catalogue, G. Gaida, J. Krautter and H. Zekl 1979, Astron. Astrophys. Suppl. 37, 465-466