MIDAS. For example, one can now sort and search in catalogues. Also, the usage of ASCII file catalogues is now possible.

Finally, the DELETE/GRAPHICS and DELETE/DISPLAY commands can now delete individual graphic and display windows.

2. Configuration Control

Soon after the 91MAY was frozen for release, MIDAS software at ESO Headquarters was put under the Source Code Control System (SCCS). The MIDAS Group has decided to take this step mainly for three reasons:

- to improve the coordination of software development, in particular for the core and application parts of the system;
- to maintain records of changes in the system during the release cycle;
- to be able to regenerate old versions of MIDAS from the running system using the tools the SCCS system provides.

At ESO, the SCCS control has been implemented for two of the three running MIDAS versions: i.e. the development system (test), and the internal release (new). Starting with the 91NOV release, also this version (that is sent to the user community) will be controlled by SCCS. The SCCS system allows control write access to the source files, and monitor changes made to those files. Under SCCS, only one user can update a file at the time, and records of all changes are stored in a history file. All source code as well as e.g. documentation and help files are affected by the SCCS control.

With the implementation of the control system, day-to-day development of the ESO-MIDAS software can be controlled better and will guarantee a further increase in the stability of the MIDAS software.

First Announcement of the

4th ESO/ST-ECF Data Analysis Workshop

ESO, Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2
D-W 8046 Garching, Germany

May 13–15, 1992

The aim of the Workshop is to provide a forum for discussions of astronomical software techniques and algorithms. It is held annually during the spring (April/May) and centres on a different astronomical area each time. Due to available space, participation will be limited to 80 people. Last year it was necessary to reject some people and we therefore recommend that you register well before the deadline (Feb. 28, 1992) either through mail or E-mail.

The topic for the 1992 Data Analysis Workshop is the analysis of spectral data. The scientific section of the meeting will consist of three sessions each starting with a main talk after which papers of approximately 10 minutes duration can be presented. The last day is reserved for general user meetings for MIDAS. The tentative agenda is:

Analysis of Spectral Data

May 13:	14.00–18.00:	Optical and UV spectra
May 14:	09.00–12.30:	IR spectra
	14.00–17.00:	Multi-Object spectra
	17.00–18.00:	European FITS Committee
May 15:	09.00–12.30:	MIDAS users meeting
	14.00–15.00:	European FITS Committee

We especially welcome contributions on algorithms and techniques for identification, decomposition and profile analysis of lines, and calibration of spectra observed with two dimensional detectors. We encourage people to present their work in these areas even if it is only ideas. After each introductory talk, we will have a more informal discussion where such contributions can be made. We also plan to have a poster session where people can present short contributions. Proceedings of the scientific sessions will be published.

The scientific organizing committee includes: P. Grosbøl (Chairman), D. Baade, P. Benvenuti, S. D'Odorico, M. Rosa, J. Wampler

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3. MIDAS at the IAU General Assembly

At the XXIst General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), held in Buenos Aires from July 23 to August 1, ESO was represented with a stand at the exhibition room in the Conference Centre. The main part of the exhibition was dedicated to the Very Large Telescope (VLT), now under construction in Europe and Chile. In collaboration with the ESO Information Service, the MIDAS Group used the GA event to present the MIDAS project to the astronomical community. Demonstrations of MIDAS, using a SONY News lap-top computer were scheduled at regular intervals, and a documentation set was displayed. Many visitors of the exhibition showed their interest in MIDAS and signed up to receive further information.

4. ESO-MIDAS User Agreement

During the distribution of the 91MAY release of MIDAS, some problems identifying the various requests were encountered. To avoid delays in the distribution of future releases, we kindly ask you to quote your ESO-MIDAS User Agreement number on all correspondence regarding MIDAS distribution and documentation. If you are not sure about your user agreement number, please contact Resy de Ruijscher at ESO-IPG.

5. Central Computer Facilities at ESO

As announced in the previous Messenger (No. 64, June 1991), the central computers at ESO Headquarters, two VAX 8600 systems running the VAX/VMS operating system, will be replaced. After extensive benchmarking and negotiations with several candidate vendors, ESO has purchased two Solbourne 5E/802i machines, 40 MHz SPARC technology, running the UNIX operating system. The machines were purchased from Kontron, Eching near Munich.

In the course of September the machines will be made operational, whereas at the same time the mainte-