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## First IRSPEC Spectra

Following a successful first test on the 3.6 m telescope it is now expected that IRSPEC will be available for Visiting Astronomers in Period 38. This instrument is a cooled grating infrared spectrometer capable of achieving a maximum resolving power of  $2.10^3$  with a  $6 \times 6$  arcsecond entrance aperture. It is currently equipped with a 32 element array detector sensitive between  $1 \mu\text{m}$  and  $5 \mu\text{m}$ , and any desired spectral region within this range can be covered by stepping

the grating under computer control. As the test only ended in early December it is too early to provide detailed performance figures here. These will be made available via a formal announcement and/or more extensive article in the *Messenger* before the April proposal deadline. In the meantime however, the two accompanying spectra illustrate the type of spectrum display available on-line at the telescope.

A. MOORWOOD

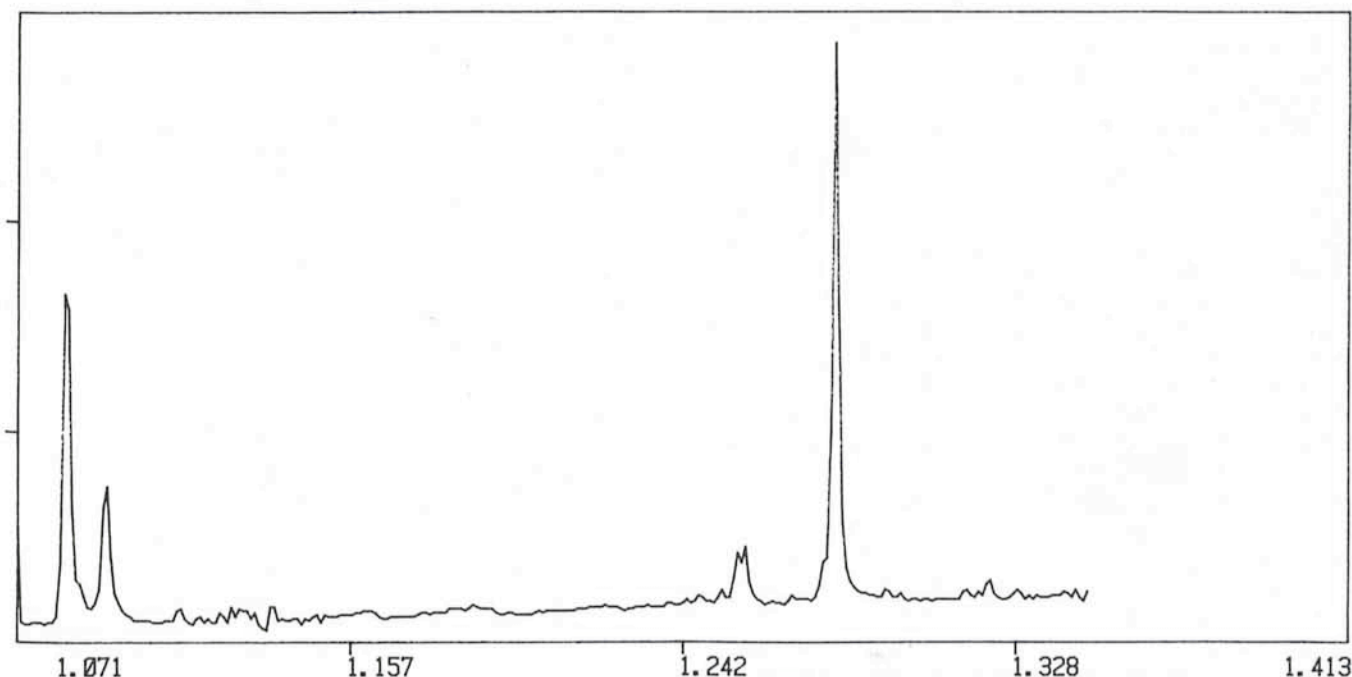


Fig. 1:  $\eta$ Car/standard star. Wavelength scale is in microns. "Noise" around  $1.1 \mu\text{m}$  is due to imperfectly cancelled atmospheric absorption.