The two representations of the light curve are thus based on statistically independent data. Their shape and the occurrence of some repeating features is striking. Especially the dip near maximum, not explicitly mentioned by Pedersen et al., is well represented in their phase diagram.

Apart from these slow variations two bursts were detected. In Figure 3a and b their position is indicated by arrows. The burst light curves with high time resolution are superposed for comparison in Figure 5. The scales are the same in both cases, but the zeropoints were shifted to separate UBVRI. The data were smoothed by a recursive low-pass filter. Burst 1, observed during the first night, is less intense and has a slower onset than burst 2, which has a rise time of less than two seconds. This limits the extension of the visible emitting area to about $6 \times 10^{10}$ cm. In colour B (highest count-rates) a double-peak structure is shown for burst 2 with a separation of about 3 seconds. Similar features were found by Sztajno et al. 1985 in the X-ray band. The colours of the optical bursts are consistent with a very hot source. Cooling effects during descent are indi-

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Two New Slide Sets From ESO

ESO announces the publication of two new slide sets, available from July 1, 1987:

- Objects in the Southern Sky
- Supernova 1987 A in the Large Magellanic Cloud

Both sets include 20 high-quality $5 \times 5$ cm slides, accompanied by a comprehensive, explanatory text and presented in a folder with a beautiful cover. The first set contains spectacular colour views of selected objects in the southern sky, as photographed with ESO telescopes during the recent years. The second set in which some slides are in colour and others in black-and-white, summarizes the most important observations of the brightest supernova since 353 years. Apart from images of the LMC field before and after the explosion, it also includes selected spectra and other observational results from La Silla.

The sets, which are also useful for educational purposes, may be obtained by sending 35,- DM, which is the equivalent of the cost price, incl. postage, to:

ESO Information and Photographic Service
Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2
D-8046 Garching bei München
Federal Republic of Germany

Do not forget to indicate your name and accurate address. Please note that the delivery time may be a few weeks.

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Figure 5: The two observed bursts superposed to demonstrate similarities and differences (1 point = 320 msec). Burst 1, observed during the first night is less intense and has a slower onset than burst 2. The curves were smoothed (FWHM = 50 points) in order to reduce the noise.