

● A short guide to ESO-Garching for Visiting Astronomers tries to set pointers to possible answers for most of the practical questions which Visiting Astronomers may foreseeably have. It is automatically sent to every new visitor prior to his/her travel to Garching.

● The *Remote Control User Guide* describes the design and performance of the RC system. It assumes that the reader is already familiar with the instrument to be used. For the time being, ESO's policy is to offer RC observations only to observers who have already obtained some experience on La Silla with comparable equipment although this is in no way necessitated by the functionality of the RC system. The document is mailed to new users at the time when they are informed that Remote Control observations will be offered to them.

● User guides for remotely controllable La Silla instruments (see Sect. 7).

● The *Local Guide for New VAX/VMS Users* tries to get people started who on the ESO VAX computers wish to use functions of the VMS operating system that are not covered by MIDAS.

● Similarly, three documents (i) *Introduction to Portable MIDAS*, (ii) *Getting started with UNIX*, and (iii) *Introduction to the X11 Window System* have been prepared in order to provide the necessary ancillary information to users of the Portable MIDAS on one of the workstations with the UNIX operating system. (The first of the three documents is of course useful with any installation of the Portable MIDAS.)

● Updates to the *MIDAS User Guide* are released twice a year by the ESO Image Processing Group. Appendix D of Vol. A also describes the peripheral devices that are available to MIDAS users in Garching. Sending the full two-volume user guide to Visiting Astronomers who will reduce only one type of data is not a very efficient use of our resources. We are, therefore, studying how best to compile instrument-specific MIDAS documentation kits.

● A cookbook which only describes how to operate the MIDAS Echelle Package and the relevant devices (the first version pertains only to the VAX) is in preparation.

● Copies of the *IHAP* manual are available on request. A new (and presumably also the last) edition is in preparation.

● The *Atlas of the Thorium-Argon Spectrum for the ESO Echelle Spectrograph in the  $\lambda\lambda$  3400–9000 Å Region* (ESO Scientific Report No. 6) is useful not only for CASPEC but also for ECHELEC data and CES spectra. An identification of the He-Ar spectrum at low resolution is given in an appendix of the IHAP manual.

## First Announcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESO/ST-ECF

# Data Analysis Workshop

ESO, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2

D-8046 Garching, FRG

April 24–26, 1990

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 send in the corresponding participation and accommodation forms well before the deadline.

The topic for the 1990 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 5–10 minutes duration can be presented. The last day is reserved for general user meetings for MIDAS and ST-ECF.

The tentative agenda is:

### Analysis of Spectral Data

April 24: 14:00–18:00: Standard Spectra

April 25: 09:00–12:30: Long Slit Spectra

14:00–17:30: Echelle Spectra

April 26: 09:00–12:00: MIDAS users' meeting

12:00–12:30: European FITS Committee

14:00–17:30: ST-ECF users' meeting

We especially welcome contributions on algorithms and techniques for: extraction of spectral data, analysis of line profiles, estimates of the continuum, rebinning and instrumental response. 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) P. Benvenuti

D. Baade S. D'Odorico

M. Rosa J. Wampler

Contact address: Ms. Susan Lively, Image Processing Group, European Southern Observatory, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, D-8046 Garching, FRG.

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● The user guide for the *Measuring Machine Facility* (MMF) will soon have to be re-written when the central HP computer has been replaced by a *Stellar* machine. It is applicable anyway only to the PDS as the Grant machine has been taken out of service and the Optronics has already undergone some changes (cf. below). New users of the MMF will automatically receive this manual and the one of the measuring machine concerned (see below).

● The user guide for the PDS probably is one of the oldest ones in the organization that continue to be valid.

● Of the manual for the Optronics machine, only a draft version is available at the moment. In this machine, the

photo-multiplier tube has been replaced by a linear multi-channel Reticon array in order to enable faster scans of larger fields.

● The *Optopus* user guide not only describes this instrument and its operation but it also details how to prepare the input data required for the drilling of the star plates. Some modifications of this chapter will become necessary once the software has been ported to the MIDAS environment. New users of *Optopus* will receive this manual automatically prior to their visit to Garching.

● STARCAT will eventually hold all observations obtained with ESO telescopes or the Hubble Space telescope. Currently, a fair number of all kinds of