

nance of both VAXes will be minimized. It is anticipated that the VAXes will be disconnected in the month of November. Visitors who intend to use ESO's central computing facilities for data reduction and analysis are advised to contact the Visiting Astronomers Section or the Image Processing Group of ESO.

### 6. MIDAS Hot-Line Service

The following MIDAS support services can be used to obtain help quickly when problems arise:

- EARN: MIDAS@DGAESO51.bitnet
- SPAN: ESO::MIDAS
- EUNET: midas@eso.uucp
- Internet: midas@eso.org
- FAX.: +49-89-3202362, attn.: MIDAS HOT-LINE
- Tlx.: 528 282 22 eso d, attn.: MIDAS HOT-LINE
- Tel.: +49-89-32006-456

Users are also invited to send us any suggestions or comments. Although we do provide a telephone service we ask users to use it in urgent cases only. To make it easier for us to process the requests properly we ask you, when possible, to submit requests in written form either through electronic networks, telefax or telex.

More information about MIDAS can be found in the ESO-MIDAS Courier which is the biannual newsletter on MIDAS related matters issued by the Image Processing Group and edited by Rein Warmels.

### News About Automatic Photometry

With reference to the earlier article in this journal (Sterken and Manfroid, *The Messenger* 63, p. 80, March 1991) about automatic photometry at La Silla, it now appears that, after a technical intervention in 1990, the r.m.s. deviations measured at the Danish 50-cm telescope (SAT) have returned to the level measured before the automation. The figure shows the standard deviations in u, v, b and y (0.001 mag) of the mean magnitude differences between standard stars (pairs for which more than 6 observations in each observing run were available). Observing runs 1 to 8 (August 1986) are in the manual mode and the later observations are in the automatic mode. Note the low level of the latest runs.

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