

A standard format for measurements of skyglow

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Abstract. A standard format for recording skyglow measurements is needed to allow for effective data exchange. A proposal for such a format was discussed at the IAU Symposium.

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1. Overview

The development of the International Year of Astronomy Lightmeter and Sky Quality Meter have resulted in a great increase in the number of locations worldwide for which skyglow is periodically or constantly observed (Biggs *et al.* 2012, Kyba *et al.* 2011, Kyba *et al.* 2012, Lolkema *et al.* 2011, Müller *et al.* 2011). Exchanging such data would benefit all researchers, particularly for validating skyglow models such as those of Aubé & Kocifaj (2012) and Falchi & Cinzano (2012). Unfortunately, sharing such data has been hampered by the different data formats used.

At the IAU Symposium, a proposal for a standard format was discussed. Following the meeting, the format was officially adopted by the light at night research community during the 12th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky, and was announced in Kyba & Lolkema (2012). The final definition of the format is archived by the International Dark Sky Association at <http://www.darksky.org/measurements>.

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