

DIVISION IX: OPTICAL AND INFRARED TECHNIQUES *(TECHNIQUES OPTIQUES ET INFRAROUGES)*

PRESIDENT: A.U. Landolt

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Commission 9: Instrumentation and Techniques

Commission 25: Stellar Photometry and Polarimetry

Commission 30: Radial Velocities

The current period of history of astronomy is bringing to the astronomical community a most fantastic array of new telescopes and instrumentation. That combination, together with older proven equipment and techniques, makes possible ever broadening methods of exploring the cosmos from our solar system to the outer reaches of the known universe.

The Commissions in Division IX are involved with designing, testing and calibrating the new telescopes and their associated equipment. The calibrating tasks can be and are being met via use of proven procedures. Calibrating efforts must never end, but indeed are being compromised by the lessening availability of much of the equipment, particularly smaller telescopes, needed for such tasks. The astronomical community is placing itself in a situation similar to many consumers who pay by credit, putting off the time when the costs must be paid.

Observational astronomers working in the areas covered by Commissions 25 and 30 contribute, whether from on Earth or in orbit, to the deluge of data awaiting analysis. Therefore while we applaud the beauty of the instrumentation, we plea for adequate support for analysis of the resulting data.

In addition to activities reported by the three Commissions in the following pages, the Division sponsors a Working Group on Optical/Infrared Interferometry. Its activities, also reported in the following pages, may be followed at <http://olbin.jpl.nasa.gov/iau/>.

A. U. Landolt

President of the Division