



Photometric Observations of Novae and Symbiotic Stars

Authors

[Authors and affiliations](#)

G. Sostero

Chapter

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Abstract

The Stazione Astronomica di Remanzacco (St.A.R.) is a public Observatory managed by an Italian amateur astronomical society named *Associazione Friulana di Astronomia e Meteorologia* (A.F.A.M.). This Observatory is located in the North-East part of Italy, close to the city of Udine. Beside the cultural happenings among the schools, AFAM established a fruitful collaboration with some professional astronomers, mainly concerned on the photometric monitoring of Novae and Symbiotic Stars. To reach this goal the St.A.R. makes available the following equipment: 1) A photoelectric photometer coupled to a 0.45m Newton-Cassegrain telescope. The phototube is the well experienced 1P21, while the filter set is the same UBV combination developed by Johnson. The data handling/storing is provided on line by mean of an A/D converter plus 80486/66MHz PC. In this configuration the normal limiting magnitude is $B=12$, keeping the RMS lower than 0.02 magn. 2) A couple of Tessar astrographs, 300mm F:4 and 600mm F:6, mainly employed for B, V and R photographic photometry. The limiting magnitude for R band is close to 12 and 15, respectively. 3) A 185/2775mm lens doublet telescope, useful for variable stars field quick inspection and estimation. The Variable Star Section of AFAM is composed by 8 members who have developed by themselves a data acquisition system and a reduction package specifically dedicated.