

## GD358 Campaign – Observing Instructions

DAMP 3\* May 2010

<http://darc.physics.udel.edu/wet/damp03/phptools/index.php>

### 1. Purpose and Plan

We have three possible targets for this run in May: GD358, PG1325+101 and WDJ1524-0030. The southern observatories can concentrate on PG1325 while the rest can observe GD358.

Since we have fewer telescopes, there will be no manned, formal headquarters. Instead, all instructions will come through email and the web page. Below are the basic observing instructions, including information on the number of flats and darks to take. Please note our naming convention to help expedite the reduction of the data.

### 2. Taking Observations

- **Naming Convention:** If possible name your runs according to the **UT date** when you begin the time series and the star you observe. For example if you are Mount Cuba Observatory (mcao) observing GD358 on 2010-05-15 (UTC) name the run “mcao100515-gd358” and thus each CCD image will be mcao100515-gd358.0001.fits etc. The flats could then be mcao100515-flat.0001.fits and biases mcao100515-bias.0001.fits etc.
- **Calibrations:** Please Take Flats, Darks and Bias Frames every night you take data.
  - ◆ Bias Frames: Take 20 bias frames.
  - ◆ Dark Frames: Take 20 dark frames at the exposure time you use for the data and Flats. Or even better, take longer exposure times (like 5, 1 minute darks).
  - ◆ Flat Frames: Take 30 dome flats through your filter. Or take as many sky flats through the filter as you can manage if you know your CCD is better characterized by sky flats.
- **Filter:** If you have a BG40 or S8612 filter, use that filter for GD358. For PG1325 use a B filter if possible. Amplitudes are crucial, so we need to know what filter every one has. **Please make a note of the filter (or lack thereof) name in your log and if possible in the header of your fits files.**
- **Exposure time:** GD358 and PG1325 are a bright stars. Use a 5-15 second exposure time. You should get 200-600 counts above the sky level at the center of the focused star.
- **Finder Chart:** The finder chart for GD358 and PG1325 can be found on the web site. Do try to get a bright comparison stars noted in the frame when possible. If you cannot get the reference star we specify, you may need to increase your exposure time so the dimmer reference stars have a significant number of counts above the sky level.

- **Time Check:** Please check the clock that is recording the time in your headers against a standard clock every night. You may use the Internet clock found at <http://nist.time.gov/timezone.cgi?UTC/s/0/java>. Even if you cannot change your clock, do this sanity check for us and note that you performed a time check in the log and also if there was any discrepancy.
- **Log:** Keep a text log each night. We suggest a name like mcao100515-log. In this log please give the star name, date and time, observer names, filter name, basic weather conditions, number of images on each target, and any information that will help reduce the data. Please include this file when you upload your data.
- **Night Report:** We have created a web form so you can immediately let us know that you got data or were clouded out. Go to  
**<http://darc.physics.udel.edu/wet/damp03/phptools/addfield.php>**  
Please fill it out every night you try to observe. It automatically updates a web table so you can immediately inform the entire collaboration that you have obtained data.

### 3. Upload Data

Data should be uploaded to [darc@daedalus.physics.udel.edu](mailto:darc@daedalus.physics.udel.edu):[/data/incoming/damp3/](http://darc.physics.udel.edu/data/incoming/damp3/) with ssh or ftp. Please place your data in the directory for your observatory. Either put each night in its own directory or create a tar file for each night of observation. The password will be provided directly to the observer. Data can be uploaded at the end of your run if you prefer. We do ask that you fill out the night report after you have taken data each night so we know data is coming.

- ??Directory or zipping instructions??

### 4. Contact Information.

- Susan Thompson : [sthomp@udel.edu](mailto:sthomp@udel.edu)
- Judi Provencal : [jlprov@udel.edu](mailto:jlprov@udel.edu)
- James Dalessio: [dalessio@udel.edu](mailto:dalessio@udel.edu)