

March 10, 2011

Call for Observing Proposals: Semester 2011B (Jul. 2011 — Dec. 2011)

Observing proposals for the 188 cm reflector*¹ at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (OAO) are invited*² for the observing season from late July 2011 to late December 2011 (the semester 2011B). **The proposal deadline is 10:00(JST) Apr. 12, 2011.**

How to prepare and submit your proposal

There are three categories of observations, namely, “Normal”, “Project” and “Student”. Foreign observers can apply to only “Normal” observations as principal investigators.

We ask applicants to fill out the application form of three pages and to attach scientific justification. The scientific justification including figures, tables and references should not be more than two pages in length. A template application form and L^AT_EX style file can be downloaded from the English web page of our observatory (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>).

A graduate student can be a PI, but the supervisor or the equivalent who is responsible for the student should come together for observations.

Since observers are requested to perform their observations mostly by themselves, we ask applicants who do not speak Japanese and are not familiar with the telescope and instruments, to have a Japanese collaborator who is familiar with them. When a foreign applicant finds difficulties in finding a Japanese collaborator, please contact the observatory (cfp-consult@oao.nao.ac.jp).

The submission of a proposal should be made via e-mail. Please send both of (1) a T_EX text file of the application form and (2) a PDF file of the scientific justification (within two pages) to proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp as e-mail attachment files. We notify you of receiving your proposal via e-mail (to the e-mail address written in the application form) within two working days. If you do not receive any response from us for more than two working days, please contact us via e-mail (proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp), telephone or fax (see the numbers below).

*1: The 188cm reflector of the Okayama Astrophysical Observatory is operated by National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) as a national facility. The telescope is located at 133° 35' 38" (E), +34° 34' 37" (N) and at an altitude of 372m. The observing sec Z range of the telescope is between 3 and 1. Objects with declination < -35.5° will never be observed.

*2: The applicants need to be completely free to publish the whole observational results.

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Status Report for Common User Observations (July 2011 — December 2011)

Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, NAOJ

As of Mar. 10, 2011

*HIDES (High Dispersion Echelle Spectrograph, observatory instrument):

HIDES is a cross-dispersed echelle spectrograph, placed at the Coude focus of the 188cm reflector. It works at optical wavelengths from 3600Å to 9000Å. The detector is a mosaic of 3 identical CCDs from EEV with 2048x4100 pixels each(#1). Read out noises are about $5e^-$ and the gains are $2.5-3 e^-/ADU$ for the three CCDs. Total read out time is about 40 seconds. Instantaneous wavelength coverages are 3750Å and 2340Å with the Red and Blue cross-disperser gratings, respectively. The maximum spectral resolution ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) of 110,000 is achieved when the slit width is 0.38 arcsec. Details of the mosaic CCD camera can be found at http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~hides/wiki/index.php?Mosaic_CCD_en.

Three optional functions are available for HIDES: iodine cell, image rotator, and offset guider(#2). Observers who plan to use these functions should give a description about the usage in the item 16, (16. Requests Concerning Instruments:) of the application form. Note that the iodine cell and the image rotator cannot be used at the same time. Please feel free to send any questions on HIDES to izumiura@oao.nao.ac.jp.

In addition to the above, we open tentatively the fiber-link system that has been developed at OAO for HIDES as a PI-type instrument on a shared-risk basis in this semester. The optical fiber-link system for HIDES sends the incident light from the object at the Cassegrain focus of the 188cm reflector through an optical fiber to the entrance slit of HIDES. For typical seeing condition observers can expect 1 magnitude better sensitivity with this system than that with the Coude optical train hitherto found (#3). An iodine cell is also available that is prepared for the fiber-link system. However, neither an image rotator nor an offset guider is available. Applicants who wish to use the fiber-link system must consult with the PI, Dr. Eiji Kambe (kambe@oao.nao.ac.jp) about their observing plans prior to the submission of the proposals, at least 1 week earlier to the application deadline. Applications without the PI's consent will be declined automatically. Also, a description about the use of the fiber-link system should be given in the item 16 (16. Requests Concerning Instruments:) of the application form. We also note that any observing time with the fiber-link system will be switched to that with the Coude optical train, if the PI considers it inappropriate to provide the system to the observing for technical reasons at the observing. Those observers are kindly requested to comply with the PI's decision.

#1: The mosaiced CCD camera was developed under a collaboration between Dr. H. Nakaya (NAOJ) and OAO.

#2: The wide-field acquisition scope which has been used since semester 2009B does not have any offset guiding function. The function is available only at the slit viewer.

#3: The mode we open tentatively for the observing in this semester is the one with a spectral resolving power ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) of 50,000. With this mode an improved sensitivity of 1 magnitude can be expected in the wavelength range from 4400 to 7500 Å compared to the one with the Coude optical train hitherto found. However, there are two known limitations by the current system. One is that the highest achievable S/N would be around 1500. The other is that the improving factor in the bluer region is smaller than in the redder region. More information on the fiber-link system will be found in the following URL: <http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~hides/wiki/>.

*ISLE (near-infrared camera and low-dispersion spectrograph, observatory instrument):

ISLE is a near-infrared (1.0–2.5 μ m) imager and spectrograph for the Cassegrain focus (f/18) of the 1.88 m telescope at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/isle/>). The detector is a HAWAII Array (HgCdTe 1K \times 1K), which covers 4.2×4.2 arcmin² field of view with a pixel scale of 0.25 arcsec/pixel. ISLE also provides low to medium resolution ($\Delta\lambda/\lambda = 300-4000$) long-slit (4 arcmin long) spectroscopic capabilities using reflection gratings. Both imaging mode and spectroscopy mode are available in the semester 2011B.

ISLE is fully open for common-use observations from 2011B. Applicants are no longer requested

to ask for permission by K. Yanagisawa, P.I. of the instrument. All questions related to observations and proposal preparation should be addressed to yanagi@oao.nao.ac.jp.

***KOOLS(Kyoto-Okayama Optical Low-dispersion Spectrograph, PI-type instrument):**

KOOLS offers two basic observing modes, namely, imaging and long-slit spectroscopy, in optical wavelength for the OAO 188cm telescope. From 2008A the instrument has been open to common use as a PI-type instrument on a shared-risk basis. Applicants who want to use the instrument should contact Dr. I. Iwata (ikuru.iwata@nao.ac.jp) prior to the submission of the proposal, at least one week earlier to the deadline. His admittance is mandatory for the proposal submission; any proposal without his admittance will be declined. Specifications of the instrument and results of past test observations are available on the instrument web page (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~kools/>).

***HBS (low-dispersion spectro-polarimeter, PI-type instrument):**

HBS is a grating-dispersed spectro-polarimeter (Kawabata et al.1999, PASP, 111, 898) equipped with a commercially available CCD camera, used at the Cassegrain focus of the 188cm reflector. It works at 3600Å–9000Å. A specific reduction software for the polarimetric data has been developed by the HBS instrument group. HBS is available for common user observations as a PI-type instrument. Namely, if you would like to make observations with HBS, you first need to contact the PI of HBS, Dr. Akira Okazaki (okazaki@edu.gunma-u.ac.jp), prior to the submission of your proposal (at least one week earlier to the deadline), to make sure you can get supports from the HBS instrument group at the observations. Their admittance is mandatory for the proposal submission. Any proposals without their admittance are unacceptable.

Please also see the home page of the observatory for more details of the 188cm reflector and the instruments (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>).

Notes on the OAO Proposal Application Form

The OAO observing proposal application form is based on L^AT_EX. Please see the observatory web page (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>) for general information on open use observations. A proposal which does not follow the guidelines below may not be considered. If you encounter problems, please contact cfp-consult@oao.nao.ac.jp.

General Instructions:

- Download both (1) style file (oaoprop11a.sty) and (2) template L^AT_EXfile (template.tex) from the observatory web page .
- Three pages of cover sheet and maximum two pages of scientific justification (including figures, tables and the reference list) are required for normal program.
- Check if all things in your application form fall within the form. Font size must be larger than 10 pt.
- Do not include figures or tables from page 1 to 4.
- Send both of (1) a T_EX text file of the application form and (2) a PDF file of the scientific justification (within two pages) to proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp as e-mail attachment files. We will notify you of receiving your proposal via e-mail (to the e-mail address written in the application form) within two working days. If you don't receive any response from the observatory for more than two working days after the submission, please contact the observatory (via either e-mail, fax or phone).
- The subject of the e-mail and the files should be named using the family name of PI and the semester, e.g., `einstein_2011b.tex`, `einstein_2011b_sj.pdf`, subject: `einstein_2011b`. When you submit two or more proposals, the names of the files should be like `einstein_2011b_1`, `einstein_2011b_2`, and so on.
- Proposals are reviewed by Time Allocation Committee (TAC) of the observatory (which consists of about six Japanese astronomers outside of the observatory and a few observatory staff members), based on assessment by anonymous referees.
important: Write the title of your observing program at the beginning of the SJ. On the other hand, because the **names of PIs are concealed from the referees**, you **should not write the PI's name in the Scientific Justification(SJ)**. You may cite publications by PI or CoIs in the SJ, if required.
- In SJ you may include colored figures and tables if necessary. Figures and tables must be clear and be easy to read for everyone: check whether numbers and axis labels are clear and large enough. Also, please check the application form and SJ can be correctly printable.

Instructions for filling out the application form:

- **1. Category:** Specify "N"(normal) which is the only category allowed for foreign investigators.
- **2. Principal Investigator:** Write "Yes" if your proposed observation is planned to be a part of your thesis.
- **5. Collaborators:** Write all of your co-investigators' names, institutions and positions.
- **6. Past Observations:** List previous use of the OAO 188cm telescope, if any.
- **8. Supervisor:** If PI is a graduate student, the supervisor should fill out entries in section 8. Also, if the program is accepted, the supervisor must visit observatory along with PI.
- **12. List of Objects:** If you have 13 or more target objects, please attach a separate target list along with the scientific justification.

- **14. Preferred Dates:** Please indicate your preferred dates for observations. Three parentheses in each month indicate first, second and last parts of the month, respectively. 'U's indicate those periods are unavailable.

Example. Early October and late November are preferred:

```
\PreferredDatesA{\submonth{U}{U}{--}} %Jul
{\submonth{--}{--}{--}} % Aug
{\submonth{--}{U}{--}} % Sep
{\submonth{X}{--}{--}} % Oct
{\submonth{--}{--}{X}} % Nov
{\submonth{--}{--}{--}} % Dec
```

Indicate whether you accept shared night observation using Yes / No.

- **15. Requests concerning scheduling:** Enter your requests for scheduling, including moon phases.
- **16. Requests concerning instruments:** If your observation plan needs special instrument setting, describe details of the setting and the items to be prepared before the observation dates. If you need special assistance of the observatory staff, please contact the observatory in advance.
- **17. Technical Description:** Describe clearly the technical feasibility (on observations and data analyses) of your proposed plan.