

Long Term Observing Projects

I. Supernovae Search

This project is intended to be conducted in small groups (two people). The objective of this project is to systematically observe and photograph a number of galaxies over the course of the semester using the Tzec Maun Observatory robotic telescopes in the hope of recording a supernova. If a supernova is discovered it will be reported to Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams.

II. Near Earth Asteroid Observations

This project is intended to be conducted in small groups (two people). The objective of this project is to observe, record, measure and report the positions of a number of near Earth asteroids using predicted positions and brightness data from the IAU Minor Planet Center and Tzec Maun Observatory robotic telescopes. Some of the early classroom exercises are designed to give students who attempt this activity sufficient background material. In order to do this project you will need to reserve a number of one hour observing sessions on the Tzec Maun telescopes, photographing the star fields where the selected asteroids are predicted to be found. Once the observations have been made the asteroids need to be identified and their positions and brightness' measured using Astrometrica (<http://www.astrometrica.at>). Finally, if the positions have been properly measured they will be reported to the IAU Minor Planet Center.