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Organized network for supporting the amateur–scientist co-operation in Finland

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PROAM network is a working group of Ursa Astronomical Association [1] for supporting Finnish amateur astronomers participating to co-operation projects between professional and amateur astronomers. The network relays the information on projects, maintains professional contacts and arranges training on technical skills for research work.

Background

Finnish Observatory Network [2] was originally founded for co-operation between the observatories of Finnish amateur astronomical associations and private amateurs who were interested in professional–amateur astronomy. Its goals were to help amateurs and associations in communication between professional and amateur astronomers and to share know-how in construction and equipping of observatories.

Results and Main Interest

During the last ten years the teams and members of the network (figure 1) have participated in several professional research projects, eg.

- photometry of exoplanet transits [3] (figure 4)
- asteroid search and monitoring
- photometry of asteroids [7] [9]
- mutual phenomena of Galilean satellites [4] (figure 5)
- comet monitoring campaigns [5]
- supernova search and monitoring [8]
- photometry of variable stars [6]
- photometry of GRB optical afterglows [10]

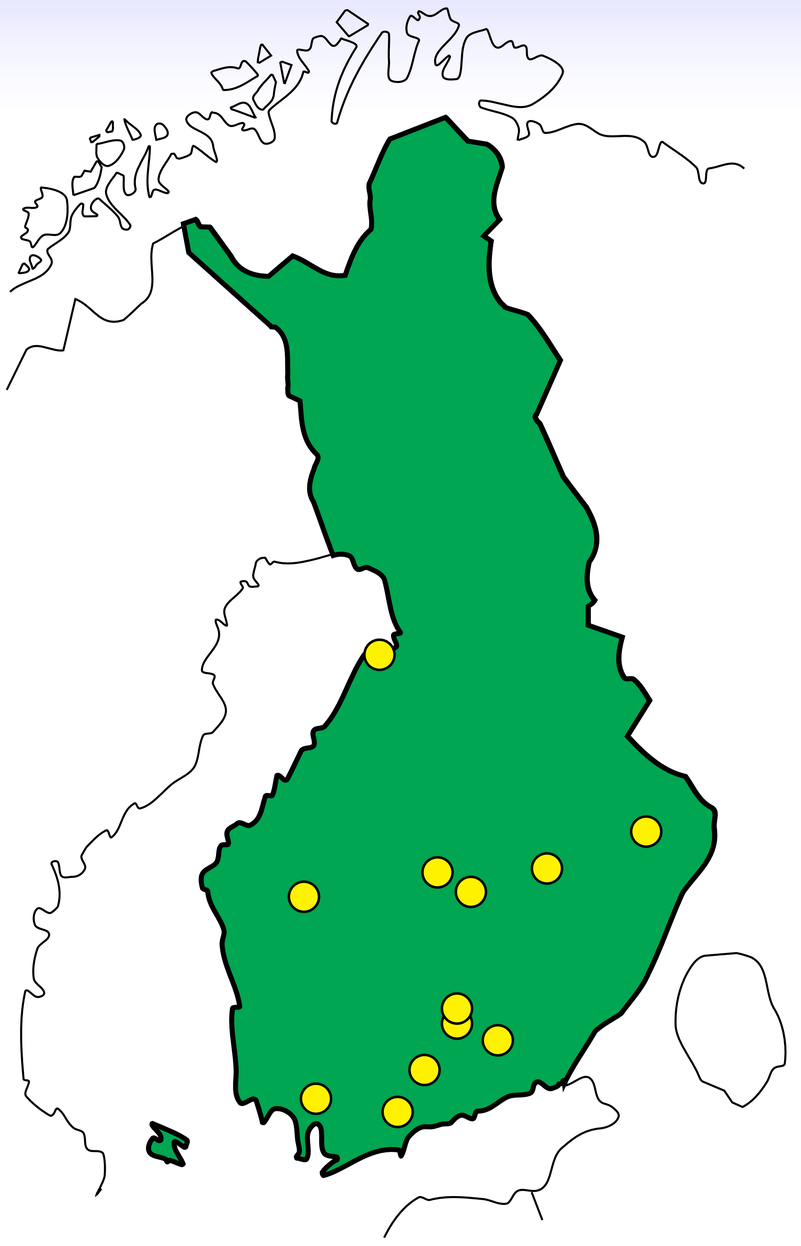

Figure 1: The map presenting the teams and members of the Finnish Observatory Network in Finland.

Figure 2: Hankasalmi observatory on winter. Photo: Arto Oksanen.

Figure 3: Taurus Hill Observatory on summer. Photo: Jari Juutilainen.

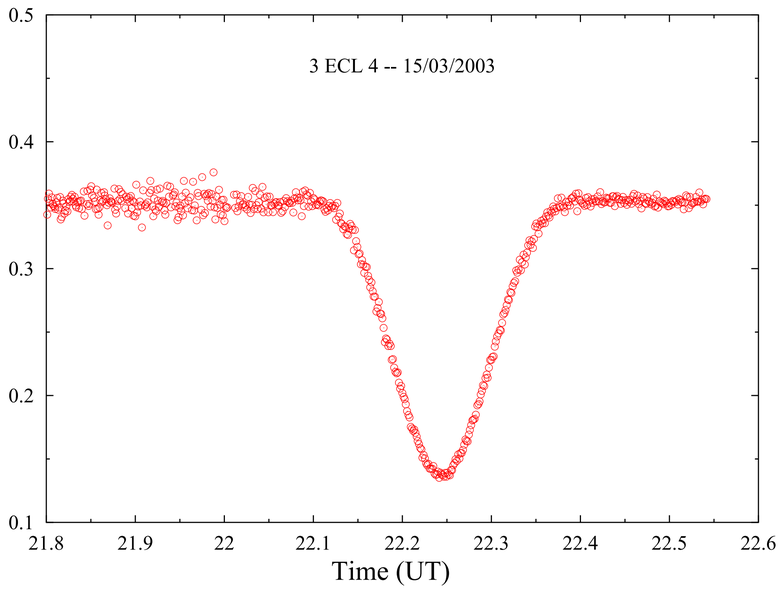

Figure 5: PHEMU03 [4] Campaign observations in Nyrola Observatory with 16-inch Meade LX200 and SBIG ST8XE CCD camera by A. Oksanen: Ganymede eclipsing Callisto on 15 Mar 2003.

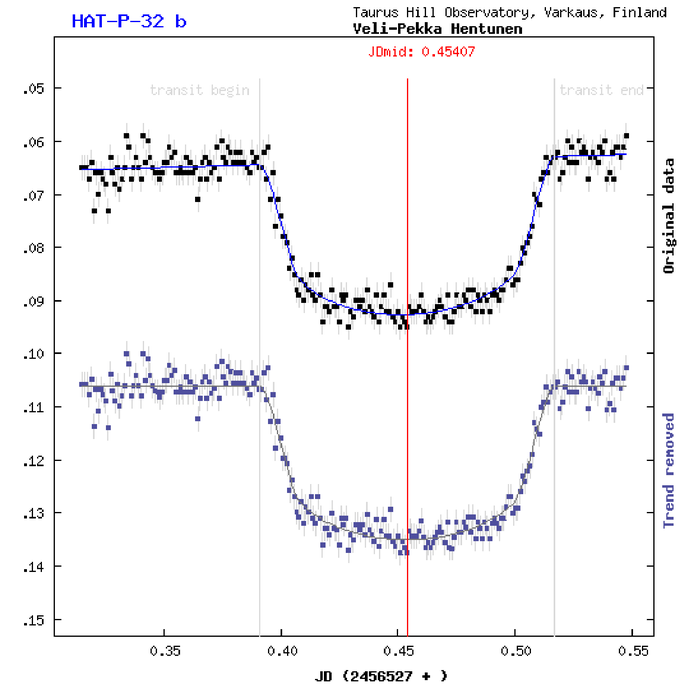

Figure 4: HAT-P-32 b observed at THO 22.8.2013 by V.-P. Hentunen.

Goals of the PROAM Network

The main goals of Finnish PROAM network are:

1. Relay information on professional research projects, campaigns and observational requests where amateur contribution is needed
2. Be a contacting channel between professional astronomers and Finnish amateur astronomers
3. Help and train the network members in research skills, eg. photometry and data processing

The network have own web pages [2] and use e-mail and other electronical channels for communication.

Present Network

Recently the scope of the network is focused more on private amateurs interested in scientific work in professional-amateur projects, and the working group is renamed as Finnish PROAM network. The interest to scientific work among Finnish amateur astronomers is rising. There are plenty of high quality instruments and observatories in Finland. There is obvious need for information and support on research work.

References

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