





The Faulkes Telescope (and other) **Project(s) Fraser Lewis Faulkes Telescope Project National Schools' Observatory Liverpool** John Moores University The Open University discover

GLOBAL ONLINE SCIENCE LABS

ΔR







Robotic telescopes allow us to obtain images from (several) distant good quality sites <u>Only 3 * 2-metre telescopes that do this for education</u>



The Faulkes Telescope

FTN

ALTER LANSING

Haleakala, Maui

GLOBAL TELESCOPE NETWORK





2.0m 1.0m 0.4m

Liverpool Telescope, La Palma





















Gaia Transient Follow-up



gaia.ac.uk http://gsaweb.ast.cam.ac.uk/alerts/alertsindex

Getting to know Gala

CCDs Signalling Launch **Orbit Location** Scientific Instruments Precision **Power Systems**



Gaia in one minute

Watch cartoon

How do we benefit from

Spotting a Supernova



Background Material

Gaia Science Alerts

The detection of transient astronomical objects in real-time

Not all stars emit light with a constant brightness and radiation output, many of them **change in brightness very suddenly** and often unexpectedly, over a variety of timescales. We call these objects **transients**.

Every day, the Gaia team announces several **science alerts** which indicate new discoveries of transient objects. The discoveries themselves are made in Cambridge University at the data processing centre at the Institute of Astronomy. Here, they lead the UK's involvement within the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (DPAC).

As most transients – and indeed stars – that Gaia sees are so far away from us and appear so faint, we are unable to see them with the naked eye alone. Gaia is mapping one billion stars, whereas fewer than ten thousand stars are bright enough to be seen with just the naked eye – and most of those only with very dark sky conditions!) However, these objects can be seen from the ground by harnessing the power of **robotic telescopes** such as the Faulkes Telescopes. Gaia's science alerts (GSA) provide accessible data that **schools** and amateurs can use to make their own follow-up observations to confirm these transient objects and gather more information about their **properties and characteristics**.

http://resources.faulkes-telescope.com/course/view.php?id=144

ASASSN-15oz (~250 images in 4 filters over 7 telescopes on 5 sites)

















Difference in magnitude

Hubble Diagram



Eastbury Community Sch a lesson in how to plot a the Royal Astronomical S



Eastbury Community School students in action.

Megan Greet (Head of physics), Jamie Paton (teac School were delighted to be invited to the Royal / that teenagers really can carry out genuine scienti



Eastbury Physics @EastburyPhysics



Us giving presentation @RoyalAstroSoc on supernovae found in data from #GaiaMission provided by @ResearchInSch



Research in Schools, led by Becky Parker, Eastbury were selected as the pilot school to analyse data from the Gaia project. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the enrichment work being

Stop Press

In conjunction with PI Andy Newsam (NSO, LJMU) we have been successful in UKRI bid to develop a pilot project in Citizen Science

"Developing opportunities for in-depth citizen science using robotic telescopes"

Our intention is to develop these resources based on Gaia supernovae (especially Type !a) as imaged by Faulkes Telescopes/LCO/Liverpool Telescope

What Is Citizen Science ?

Best and most successful example is Galaxy Zoo

https://www.zooniverse.org/

However, Galaxy Zoo relies on thousands of users and perhaps does not offer lots of opportunities for them to analyse and learn

So our approach will be to work with fewer users (perhaps tens) but provide them with the chance to learn and contribute

What Will Our Users Do

Photometry of Archive Datasets ~ 30 Type Ia Sne

Use of Excel

Upload their finished light-curves

Use the Gaia Alerts stream to suggest and observe new targets

Learn about supernovae

Learn about the expansion of the Universe

Learn about Gaia !

Difficulties

Remit of Citizen Science is to do as much as or as little as you choose

So we must make this modular

And each module must encourage the user to find out more

What Next

This is a pilot project so if we are successful, we may be able to chase more funding

Would our users be interested in other Gaia targets ?

Can we feed this forward to LSST, etc. ?

PLEASE HELP ! If you have teachers or schools that you believe would be interested, please let me know ?!

Exoplanet transits



A graph to show the variance in luminosity of the star CoRot-2 during the transit of CoRoT-2b

JD 2456098.9800 2456099.0000 2456099.0200 2456099.0400 2456099.0600 2456099.0800 2456099.1000 2456099.1200 2456099.1400



CoRot 2b: David Hardy & Thomas Ham (Cardiff schools), July 2012

Asteroid rotation





NEWS SOUTH EAST WALES

Home World UK England N. Ireland Scotland Wales Business Politics Health Education

Wales Politics North West North East Mid South West South East

30 August 2011 Last updated at 19:31

B B C Mobile

Asteroid spotter Hannah hopes for her Discovery News. ... saw a dust devil spin on Mars. name in the stars



Student Hannah Blyth was on a month-long work placement

A sixth-former who went on work experience to study astronomy and discovered two new asteroids is hoping to have one named after her.



A News Sport Entertainment Business Money Travel Lifestyle Opinion Video Breaking News Sydney/NSW National World Weird Classmate Tribules Galleries Photo Sales Weather: Sidney 11°C - 24°C . Sunny

Breaking News

Asteroid Hannahblyth named after British teen who spotted it during internship

From: NeusCore August 31, 2011 9 04AM

🖒 Reconverd 👘 Send 🔳 2 people recommend the

A BRITISH teenager spoke of her delig discovered during a northern summer

Hannah Blyth, 16, was working alongside ast Wales when she spotted the chunk of rock th million miles (480 million km) from Earth

Faulkes Telescope on the Hawalian Island of

Her discovery was confirmed by experts from

Tags > finits 22 new asteroids

News Sport Weather IPI

111 Share f

Aug. 2011

i lan Ofisii

She had been given the task of painstakingly. US teen Hannah Blyth finds 22 new asteroids, hopes to have one named after her

Student Hannah Biyth was on a month-long work placement. Image showing Hannah Biyth's selected discoveries. A and Jupiter and are difficult to spot against th sinh-former who went on work experience to study astronomy and discovered two new asteroids is hoping to have one named after her. Hannah Diyfh was using a remote controlled telescope to stare into the night sky when she helped apol 22 new askerolds between Mars and Jupiter. Fellow stargazers tope one will be named 'Hannahblyth' after and one that did of Personal Product Residence.

Chengdu Teda Skio-Europe MPS Construction

The Smut themed park cry in the words



Student's asteroid find the equivalent of seeing a dark grey building in black space 482 million km away



Hannah Blyth, 18, was using a a remote controlled telescope at the University of Glamorgan's Faulkes Telescope Project when she spotted the new asteroids more than 300 million miles away.



Mutual Events of Uranian Moons

A. Christou (Armagh Observatory),M. Hidas (LCO, UC Santa Barbara),F.Lewis (FT)





XTE J1118+480

392 408 421 431 440 449 456 463 470

A nearby and 'easy-to measure' black hole !

Black Holes In My School (BHIMS; Rosa Doran, NUCLIO, Portugal)



TWO BRIGHT MINI-OUTBURSTS END THE 12–YEAR LONG ACTIVITY OF THE BLACK HOLE CANDIDATE SWIFT J1753.5–0127

G.-B. ZHANG^{1,2,3,4}, F. BERNARDINI^{4,5,6}, D.M. RUSSELL⁴, J.D. GELFAND^{4,7}, J.-P. LASOTA^{8,9}, A. AL QASIM^{4,10}, A. ALMANNAEI⁴, A.W. SHAW¹¹, F. LEWIS^{12,13}, J.A. TOMSICK¹⁴, R.M. PLOTKIN¹⁵, P.A. CHARLES¹⁶, J.C.A. MILLER-JONES¹⁵, D. MAITRA¹⁷, J. HOMAN^{18,19}, P. KOBEL²⁰, D. PEREZ²⁰, AND R. DORAN²¹ ¹Yunnan Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Kunming 650216, P.R. China; Email: zhangguobao@ynao.ac.cn ²Kev Laboratory for the Structure and Evolution of Celestial Objects, CAS, Kunming 650216, P.R. China ³Center for Astronomical Mega-Science, CAS, Beijing, 100012, P. R. China ⁴New York University Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 129188, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates ⁵INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, via Frascati 33, I-00040 Monteporzio Catone, Roma, Italy ⁶INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte, Salita Moiariello 16, I-80131 Napoli, Italy ⁷Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, New York University, Meyer Hall of Physics, 4 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003, USA ⁸Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, CNRS et Sorbonne Université, UMR 7095, 98bis Bd Arago, 75014 Paris, France ⁹Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center, Polish Academy of Sciences, Bartycka 18, 00-716 Warsaw, Poland ¹⁰Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College London, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6NT, UK ¹¹Department of Physics, University of Alberta, CCIS 4-181, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1, Canada ¹²Faulkes Telescope Project, School of Physics, and Astronomy, Cardiff University, The Parade, Cardiff, CF24 3AA, Wales, UK ¹³Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, 146 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L3 5RF, UK ¹⁴Space Sciences Laboratory, 7 Gauss Way, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-7450, USA ¹⁵International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research-Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth. WA 6845, Australia ¹⁶Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK ¹⁷Department of Physics and Astronomy, Wheaton College, Norton, MA 02766, USA ¹⁸Eureka Scientific, Inc., 2452 Delmer Street, Oakland, CA 94602, USA ¹⁹SRON, Netherlands Institute for Space Research, Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht, The Netherlands ²⁰Gymnase du Bugnon-Sévelin, Avenue de Sévelin 44, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland and ²¹NUCLIO - Núcleo Interactivo de Astronomia, Largo dos Topázios, 48, 3 Frt, PT2785-817 S. D. Rana, Portugal Draft version August 1, 2018

Schools in research publications

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Part of this work is based on observations made at the European Southern Observatory, Chile. We thank the ESO Director General for a generous allocation of Director's Discretionary Time (DDT 281.D-5060, 281.D-5061). The Faulkes Telescope Project is an educational and research arm of the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network (LCOGTN). We thank the staff and students of Glenlola Collegiate, South Downs Planetarium, Oundle School, Dartford Grammar School and Portsmouth Grammar School for performing some of the Faulkes Telescope observations. Thanks to C. Izzo and S. Bagnulo for advice on applying the skyline correction to our spectra. This research made use of NASA's Astrophysics Data System, and the SIMBAD database, operated at CDS, Strasbourg, France. We thank J. A. Orosz for use of the ELC code. We acknowledge the use of MOLLY and DOPPLER software packages developed by T. R. Marsh, University of Warwick. X-ray quick-look results provided by the ASM/RXTE team.

We thank Ricardo Schmidt and Marco Bonati of CTIO for building the Dark Energy Camera CCD system and Juan Estrada and the entire CCD production effort at Fermilab for creating the CCD detector. Fermilab is operated by the Fermi Research Alliance, LLC under contract no. DE-AC02-07CH11359 with the United States Department of Energy.

PE and PJC acknowledge support from Science Foundation Ireland. FL would like to acknowledge support from the Dill Faulkes Educational Trust.

Elebert et al. 2009 MNRAS

Acknowledgements. FL would like to acknowledge support from the Dill Faulkes Educational Trust. DMR acknowledges support from a Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) VENI Fellowship. The Faulkes Telescope Project is an educational and research arm of the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT). RXTE/ASM results are provided by the RXTE/ASM teams at MIT and at the RXTE SOF and GOF at NASA's GSFC. The Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope is operated by the ASTRON (Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy) with support from the Netherlands Foundation for Scientific Research (NWO). PGJ acknowledges support from a VIDI grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. DS acknowledges a STFC Advanced Fellowship. The Peters Automated Infrared Imaging Telescope (PAIRITEL) is operated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) and was made possible by a grant from the Harvard University Milton Fund, the camera loan from the University of Virginia, and the continued support of the SAO and UC Berkeley. We thank the staff and students of Paulet High School (Burton-on-Trent, England), The Kingsley School (Learnington Spa, England), Czacki High School (Warsaw, Poland), St. Brigid's School (Denbigh, Wales) and St David's Catholic College (Cardiff, Wales) for contributing to the Faulkes LMXB Observing Program and Schools' Initiative (FLOPSI) and Alison Tripp for scheduling these observations. We thank the anonymous referee for their comments and swift reply.

> Lewis et al. 2010 A&A

Faulkes Telescope Monitoring of LMXBs

- → We are monitoring about 50 LMXBs with the two 2-m Faulkes Telescopes since 2005–2007 (Lewis et al. 2008) – about half are regularly detected in quiescence
- → Fully robotic, queue scheduled. Typically use V, R, i' filters, sometimes g', r', i', y or z'
- → Cadence: about once a week or so, can increase frequency if necessary (e.g. outbursts)
- → Tracking the X-ray variations of XRBs in quiescence is generally not possible, so optical monitoring provides the best means to measure mass accretion rate variability between outbursts



Long term optical monitoring of V404 Cyg

Lightcurve for V404 Cyg: 2009 - 2015



X-ray Binary New Early Warning System (XB-NEWS)

We received a grant to develop a pipeline that automatically:

- Interrogates the LCO data archive several times per day (can do e.g. once/hour or less – minimum is 1 min)
- 2. Downloads all data of our target list, and calibration files
- 3. Flux calibrates the data, checks for flat reduction errors
- 4. Produces light curves in near real-time and puts them online
- 5. Alerts us when a new outburst is happening (or other interesting activity)
- 6. Reduces all our 13 years of data
- 7. Make the pipeline publicly available (github) with a user manual

We will then be able to alert the community of a new outburst at the very early stages (via an ATel) and trigger multi-wavelength observations

- The grant funds a Researcher at NYUAD: Dan Bramich (Oct 2017 Sep 2019)
- We expect the first XB-NEWS announcements in the next few months
- Current status: astrometry done (using GAIA positions), photometry via source extractor (aperture and PSF) done, flux calibration done in most filters using ATLAS-REFCAT2 catalogue (which includes PanSTARRS DR1; got y-band separately) and APASS BVgriz allsky catalogue, alerts and webpages in progress, fixing some issues

Stay tuned for XB-NEWS alerts!

≡ [N] UAE

S EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNMENT

HEALTH

TRANSPORT

COURTS EDUCAT

SHARE

5

Ð

in

D

Thabet Al

Sadeem

ended up

Qaissieh and

his team at Al

Observatory

taking >4000

images for us

Article in "The

in 2018-19

National"

Emirati astronomer collaborates with NYUAD on black holes research

HERITAGE

SCIENCE

LIAF IN SPACE

► Thabet AI Qaissieh built an observatory as a hobby and is now working with one of the most prestigious universities in the world



Emirati astronomer Thabet Al Qaissieh built Al Sadeem Observatory at his family's farm in Al Wathba. Antonie Robertson / The National

An Emirati amateur astronomer who built an observatory on his family's farm is collaborating with NYU Abu Dhabi on research into black holes.

Images taken at Thabet Al Qaissieh's Al Sadeem observatory in Al Wathba are helping to verify if a new system discovered in March contains a black hole.

The "black hole candidate" is about the size of Abu Dhabi, one of the brightest discovered in years and is about 10,000 light years from Earth. That's close in astronomical terms, although too far to affect Earth. But this research could help if one day a black hole turns up next door.

David Russell, an assistant professor of physics at NYUAD, is leading the university's research team.

"When this system developed and became really bright, we thought let's observe this with a telescope. I contacted Sadeem... and we started getting fantastic data," he said.

According to Prof Russell, it's 90 per cent certain that the system is a black hole, but more research is needed. Other telescopes around the world are also being used.

"It feels surreal," Mr Al Qaissieh said of the joint effort with NYUAD. "We are working with top-notch scientists to study objects beyond my wildest imagination. If all goes well, it could be something we contribute to space discovery."



EDITOR'S PICKS



Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi unveils one of Middle East's biggest defence groups Government



Middle East 'must spend billions' to confront climate change Environment



How Iraqi conflict altered art Art



The Debt Panel: 'I maxed out my credit card after leaving the UAE. What happens now?' Money



Natacha Atlas shakes off her 'belly-dancing' image with new music Music



Clusters Background Open Clusters CMD A Guide to Photometry Conclusions Home - The Colour Magnitude Diagram (CMD)

The Colour Magnitude Diagram (CMD)

The Colour Magnitude Diagram (or CMD) is a plot of observational data (see Figure 1) which shows how a population of stars can be plotted in terms of their brightness (or luminosity) and colour (or surface temperature): The fact that we are able to interpret a star's colour as a measure of its temperature is based on the idea that stars can be considered as black-body sources, enabling us to use Wien's Law. It is this temperature which we can use to plot the star's spectral type on the x-axis.

The first work in this area was conducted, in 1911, by the Danish astronomer Ejnar Hertzsprung, who produced a graph of stars' magnitudes against their colours. Independently in 1913, the American Henry Russell, showed that there did appear to be some sort of relationship between a star's luminosity and its temperature, and that stars fell into distinct groups. Such a plot is now known as a Hertzsprung-Russell (or H-R) diagram. These theoretical diagrams have since been reproduced for stellar populations such as open and globular dusters and even for galaxies.

If all stars were alike, all those with the same kaninosity would have equal temperature and we might expect hotter stars to always be brighter than cooler ones. The diagram below suggests that stars populate specific areas of the CMD. In fact, Figure 1 goes even further and overlays a set of lines denoting where stars of equal radii lie.



Annual search and a search and a search the

There appear to be four distinct areas where the stars lie.

- A diagonal band of stars running from bright, blue stars to faint, red stars, known as the main sequence
- A horizontal strip of extremely bright stars with a range of colours from blue to red (denoting a range of remperatures from hot to cool), known as supergiants
- A grouping of redistars lying above (so brighter than) and to the right of the main sequence, known as red

Inquiry-based 'teacher-free' activity for students to learn about open clusters and HR diagrams as well as photometry (and all the nasty maths)

Can choose any one of 28 datasets or take their own observations with FT/LCO

https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/discover/projects/ exoplanets/main



Set labels

Planetary Mass (Mjup)

<u>https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/discover/projects/clusters/main</u>

first two of seven IBSE (guided) activities

Open Clusters Exoplanets Variable Stars Supernovae Compact Objects (black holes and neutron stars) Asteroids Computer Simulations

National Schools Observatory



Established (2004) to provide schools in the UK and Ireland with access to the Liverpool Telescope through a guided observing system, together with astronomy related content, news and learning activities.

NSO Projects and Activities (no password)

Activities

Edit Grant

Here we have a selection of astronomy-related activities that combine elements of science, maths and ICT. The **projects** are collaborative ventures, with students from different schools working together to achieve the same goal, such as determining the path of an asteroid. **Workshops**, on the other hand, are self-contained lessons that can be downloaded and presented to individuals or groups.

For more detailed information, please select the appropriate link:

	S. E.	edexcel	Z	A	
NSO Projects	NSO Workshops	NSO Workshops GCSE Astronomy		Maths and ICT	
Name	Description		Age	Time	
Moonsaic : 1 - 5	Assemble some mosaics of the Moon at different phases		7-14	1 hour	
Hunting for Asteroids	Detect and calculate the velocity of nearby asteroids		7-16	1 hour	
Lunar Craters	Investigate cratering on the surface of the Moon		7-16	1 hour	
Quiz Corner	A few quizzes to test your knowledge of astronomy		11-16	15 mins	
3-Colour Imaging	Learn about creating 3-colour images using LTImage		11-18	1 hour	
Gravity Workshop	See how the effect of gravity changes on different planets		14-19	1 hour	
Galaxy Classification	Identify the different types of galaxy in the Universe		14-19	1 hour	
Sunspots Workshop	Look for patterns in surface activity on the Sun		14-19	1 hour	
Seeing Workshop	Investigate why stars twinkle and why it's a problem		14-19	1 hour	
Tides Workshop	Discover what causes the tides in Earth's oceans		14-19	1 hour	



OpenScience Observatories at the Observatorio del Teide

DATE

from September 2016

COAST



telescope.org telescope@open.ac.uk

What is "Down to Earth"?

A STEM project based around the science of asteroids, comets, meteorites and impacts

Inquiry-based science education (in several languages)

Multi-disciplinary (astronomy, geography, geology, physics, maths, IT) and suitable for many age groups

Extremely Relevant !

Chelyabinsk meteor, 15/02/13



Loan Boxes

Dinosaur fossils

Ammonites

Meteorites











Impact values Value Parameter Crater depth 1,211 m Crater width 107,844 m Ejecta thickness 81.46 m Break-up altitude 87,701 m Wind velocity 3,073 m/s Richter magnitude 10 Sound pulse amplitude 143 dB New York •

Click the map to place the crater ...



Some of Other (FT) Projects

VR/AR material via RAL, Gaia, ISS



Please talk to me or e-mail me your ideas fraser.lewis@faulkes-telescope.com FAULKES TELESCOPE http://faulkes-telescope.com http://resources.faulkes-telescope.com http://education.down2earth.eu http://www.schoolsobservatory.org.uk/ @QuarknetCymru @faulkestel