

Amateur meteor work

Jürgen Rendtel

This review concentrates on projects and selected results from the last 10 to 15 years obtained mainly by optical observing techniques. This time may be regarded as a transition period from visual to video meteor observations. Main topics are analyses of both annual (based on video and visual) and long-term (based on visual data) meteor shower activities. Analysing data obtained by both methods allow to calibrate the results. Special effort has been invested to derive the population index and flux from video data. Camera networks provide us with a nearly full coverage of possible observing periods so that minor or short events are most likely detected and the accuracy of the data is sufficient to analyse observed minor events in detail. Another domain of video network observations is the calculation of orbital data for meteoroid streams. These are involved in the identification of streams and respective entries in the IAU Meteor Data Center. Meteoroid stream fluxes and meteor shower event timings are useful to confirm or adjust model calculations. Video and still imaging are used to obtain detailed meteor spectra and persistent train observations.