

Photometry on a Budget

In the era of large telescopes and ambitious, multi-billion dollar projects such as the Thirty Meter Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope, is it still possible to make a valuable contribution to astronomy using more modest instruments? I will present a case study of two such missions which were initiated in the Great White North: the Microvariability and Oscillations of STars space telescope (MOST), and the BRiGht Target Explorer Constellation (BRITE). Both of these missions acquire photometric data which helps us better understand the stars upon which we gaze in the night sky. I will also explain in greater detail how these missions can help us uncover the mysteries hiding at the surface of the most massive stars in our galaxy. Finally, I will review some recent results and discuss the future of these instruments.



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Friday, January 29, 2016

OPS, Room 140

4:00—5:00pm

Light refreshments will be served