PLANETARY AERONOMY WITH LARGE TELESCOPES

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OUTLINE

Why big telescopes?

What does a 10-meter telescope buy you for

terrestrial studies?

Sky Spectra - Parasitic Aeronomy

Challenges

Venus Studies

Terrestrial Studies

WHAT DOES A 10-METER TELESCOPE BUY YOU FOR TERRESTRIAL STUDIES?

The data exist, and are generated every night, at all major observatories

The data are available - meet an astronomer

Large modern echelle spectrometers provide:

- a. Broad spectral coverage
- b. High optical resolution
- c. High sensitivity (CCD detection)
- d. Data mining operation mode

Telescopes can be viewed as survey instruments

Follow up with other systems

An observatory has multiple instruments High/low resolution -UV/vis/IR A dedicated observatory? Good idea for planets, sky spectra are sufficient for Terra

SKY SPECTRA- PARASITIC AERONOMY

How an astronomer takes data

Capabilities of big telescopes

Keck I, HIRES spectrometerWavelength coverage300-1000 nmSimultaneous spectral range200-300 nmResolution40,000+Usual integration time50 minutes

CHALLENGES

Data-gathering vs data-taking

Fixed position of observatory

Pointing controlled by astronomer

Need to understand how the data has been treated

You can't always get what you want

CONCLUSIONS

- Terrestrial sky spectra are an existing asset for aeronomers
- There is global coverage at mid- to low-latitudes
- As survey vehicles, sky spectra are unsurpassed
- Broad spectral range provides the Big Picture
- Optical resolution provides the Little Picture
- Aeronomy community must find ways to use such instruments for planetary work

SPECTRA OF THE O₂($a^1 \Delta g \cdot X^3 \Sigma \overline{g}$) IR ATMOSPHERIC 0-0 BAND IN THE VENUS NIGHTGLOW (CFHT, 1991) [Crisp et al., 1996]

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OXYGEN GREEN LINE SPECTRA FROM KECK/HIRES, VENUS AND TERRESTRIAL











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