The Algol Cam: Applied Astronomy Using DSLR Cameras

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Oral Presentation Abstract:

With the refinement in optical technology as of the past few decades, commercial grade cameras have taken a step forward in capabilities. This advancement is the basis for the Algol Cam, a makeshift telescope prototype with a 15° x 10° field of view and the capability to see stars down to 15th magnitude. Combined with Phidgets motors and software programs with functions such as star field analysis and data reduction, the telescope can run surveys for extended periods of time, download photos to a database and compress the data into light curves all automatically. The implications of this project range from numerous astronomy projects to educational and class-based learning tools.

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