

Spectroscopy Section Report 2019

Within the Spectroscopy Section, regarding direct contact and interest, activity is low. Through the various promotional activities of the Section Director, much interest is shown in the subject, and a few people have stepped into the world of spectroscopy, at entry level, with the standard blazed grating.

As far as high resolution slit spectroscopy work is concerned, the Section Director is only aware of himself being active in this area (at amateur level). Through the year, two talks were offered at the West Rand Astronomy Club and at the ASSA Pretoria Centre. Spectroscopy was also promoted at the annual ScopeX Event in 2018.

Through the initiative of the ASSA Symposium, in 2018, linking Amateurs and Professionals, compliments of organiser Case Rijdsdijk, and guest speaker Stella Kafka, Director of AAVSO, AAVSO has introduced Spectroscopy in their Observational Sections. Spectra on specific stars can now be submitted directly into a dedicated data base for professionals to access as and when needed. Official launch was at the beginning of 2019. To date, June 2019, 181 spectra have been submitted from 7 active observers around the globe. The Section Director himself has contributed 73 spectra, which has attracted 179 downloads thus far. The continued objective of the Section is to promote amateur spectroscopy and provide support to those who need to improve on their skills or get involved with the various activities linking amateurs and professionals.

Section Director

Percy Jacobs

ASSA Pretoria Centre