



While the Science Symposium deals with current research results and technological advances of the 6.5-meter MMT, data collected by the previous telescope contributed to nearly 1,000 scientific papers.

4.5-meter Multiple Mirror Telescope Science Sampler (1979-1998)

A sample of the dozens of research projects using the original MMT is listed below. Please note that the astronomer listed is usually only one of the team of scientists participating in that particular experiment.

Quasar survey -- (Now former) MMT Observatory director Craig B. Foltz was one of a seven-member international team producing the most comprehensive survey of these enigmatic objects ever undertaken. (Now at NSF, 703-292-4909)

Supernova Remnants -- Center for Astrophysics astronomer Robert P. Kirshner explores exploding stars and their remains to better understand their role in stellar evolution and how they can be used to determine the age of the universe. 617-495-7519

Pluto and Charon -- University of Arizona astronomers George H. and Marcia J. Rieke used the infrared research capability of the MMT during a rare eclipse of Pluto's moon Charon by the planet and unexpectedly discovered water ice on Charon. 520-621-2832

Milky Way Galaxy -- As a result of measuring the motion of stars in our own galaxy, CfA astronomer David W. Latham and team are proposing new ways of thinking about the structure and early evolution of our galaxy. This research also evaluates how much "invisible matter" the Milky Way may contain. 617-495-7215 or Robert P. Stefanik, 617-496-7541.

New type of star -- Using the MMT for fast photometry, former UA astronomer John T. McGraw discovered a new type of very hot white dwarf star. Unlike other stars, this dwarf is burning its nuclear fuel so rapidly that astronomers expect to see evolutionary changes in the star in tens of years, rather than millions. (Now at University of New Mexico, 505-277-2705)

Century Survey -- CfA astronomer John P. Huchra is measuring the position of 2,500 galaxies to aid in understanding the large-scale structure of the universe, that is -- why are galaxies not distributed evenly throughout the universe? 617-495-7375

Non-stellar companions to other stars -- Combining infrared and high-resolution speckle techniques on the MMT, UA astronomer Donald W. McCarthy searches for non-stellar material orbiting other stars. 520-621-4079

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