

Automated Photometry and KBO Occultation Event Detection in the TAOS Project

ZHI-WEI ZHANG¹, WEN-PING CHEN¹

¹*Institute of Astronomy, National Central University, Taiwan*

The Taiwan-America Occultation Survey (TAOS), now with three telescopes fully operational, has been collecting scientific data from the beginning of 2005. We report here the data analysis and occultation event detection algorithms developed for the project. A special photometry pipeline, called Adaptive Aperture Photometry, devised to deal with crowded star fields, contamination by image streaks and image motion, is capable of processing thousands of light curves within the sampling rate of 5 Hz. A rank statistic is used to detect any possible occultation event. So far nearly a billion photometric measurements have been taken, and no occultation events are detected using the current analysis scheme. In 2006, the fourth telescope will be in service which will vastly increase the detection reliability.