EDITORIAL NOTE

The Journal of Astronomical Data (JAD) publishes original astronomical research data in machine-readable form. To this end, JAD publishes observational data as well as data from theoretical research, reduction software and computer code, complete descriptions of new instruments, Ph.D. thesises with extensive data tables, data catalogues, graphs, conference proceedings, even regular articles accompanied by the data on which they are based.

Papers on all aspects of astronomy and astrophysics are welcome: observational, theoretical and instrumental. There is no bias towards the technique used to obtain the data: results from space experiments as well as ground-based data (whatever electromagnetic wavelength range) are acceptable. Historical data (ancient data bases or re-worked catalogues) are just as welcome as recently-acquired data.

Papers submitted to JAD must report original data not previously published (except in the form of an abstract or preliminary note or as part of a lecture, review or thesis) and not under consideration for publication elsewhere. An exception to this condition is made in the case when useful data scattered over a number of previous publications are brought together for the first time and their publication is deemed important by the Editors. However, data which are already available in machine-readable form from established data banks are not acceptable.

Papers should clearly describe:

- the scientific rationale or astrophysical background and motive why the data were collected
- a complete description of the data-collecting process (observing method, specifications of the detector, calibration and standardisation)
- an assessment of the accuracy of the published data
- (optionally) a short presentation of some of the results (such as light curves or radial-velocity curves)

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