CORRECTING THE POINTING OF THE DURHAM MARK 6 CHERENKOV TELESCOPE

K.-M. Aye (1), P. M. Chadwick (1), M. K. Daniel (1), K. Lyons (1), T. J. L. McComb (1), J. M. McKenny (1), S. J. Nolan (1), K. J. Orford (1), J. L. Osborne (1) and S. M. Rayner (1)

(1) Department of Physics, Science Laboratories, University of Durham, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK..

k.j.orford@durham.ac.uk/Fax: +44 191 3747190

The pointing of the Mark 6 telescope operated by Durham University in Narrabri was corrected by using a CCD camera to monitor positions of stars in the telescope's field of view. The star field was automatically identified by pattern recognition and the combination of an accurate pointing position of regular CCD frames with an accurate time enabled the 14-bit axis encoders to be calibrated on a minute by minute basis. The algorithms used were based upon those used in military radar and are described, together with the pointing results achieved.