

ABOUT THE SOCIEDADE ASTRONÔMICA BRASILEIRA AND ITS 36TH ANNUAL MEETING (2011)

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Abstract. We present an overview of the Brazilian Astronomical community and of its available observational facilities. We explain how is organized the Brazilian Astronomical Society (S.A.B.) and present some information on our last annual meeting, held in 2011.

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1 Introduction

The Sociedade Astronômica Brasileira is the association that gathers people working professionally with astronomy and/or related areas.



Fig. 1. Logo of SAB and official website: <http://www.sab-astro.org.br/>

2 The Brazilian community

The Brazilian community comprises about 700 people (~ 350 with permanent positions and ~ 350 with fellowships). There are about 40 centers in Brazil where research in astronomy is performed. In most cases, research centers are hosted in federal and state universities. Research funding is provided by agencies dependent on Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, but almost each state has also its own funding agency. Salaries and day-to-day expenses are mainly provided by Universities.

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3 Observational facilities

Brazilian participation in the CoRoT satellite is three fold: ground software, data-reception station and science teams including pre-launch ground-based observations. Our national optical observatory in Brazil (Laboratório Nacional de Astrofísica) has a 1.6 m Boller and Chivens telescope equipped with cassegrain and Coudé spectrographs, optical and IR cameras, photometers and polarimeters. The observatory is installed at a mountain 1,680 m high in a region not too dry of the southern part of the country. Brazil shares the 4.2 m SOAR telescope (Cerro Pachón, Chile) with NOAO, North Caroline State University and Michigan State University. We have one third of telescope time. SOAR is equipped with an optical imager (SOI, 310-1050 nm), an IR imager (SPARTAN) and a medium-dispersion visible spectrograph (Goodman). Brazil rents about 5% of Gemini telescopes time and about 50 hours per year of CFHT. Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has approved in 2011 an agreement to join ESO. It will be submitted to Parliament approval in the current of 2012. We have a 13.7 m radiotelescope antenna working in 22 - 44 GHz equipped also with a polarimeter (7 GHz) and VLF receiver. We share with Argentina the SST-Solar submillimetric telescope (Casleo, Argentina) and participate on the Pierre Auger UHE observatory (also in Argentina).

4 The Sociedade Astronômica Brasileira

S.A.B board is composed by a President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Secretary and Treasurer plus specialized commissions. The directory meets presentially at least once per semester and organizes an annual meeting. We have commissions for admissions, editing, elections, education and outreach, for the Brazilian Astronomy Olympiad and the Braziliam Astronomy Commission that represents the country before IAU. The Brazilian Astronomy Olympiad is worth mention: those annual competitions exist since 1995 and for 2011 more than 800,000 students between 13 and 17 years old applied. Winners are selected to compete into the international olympiads.

5 The S.A.B. 2011 Annual Meeting

S.A.B meeting have a 3.5 day format with invited conferences, short communications, poster sessions and a General Assembly. In 2011 we had about 330 attendants from 30 institutions that presented 327 contributions: 14 invited conferences, 61 oral presentations and 252 posters. Subjects covering many astronomical themes were presented, *viz.*, astrobiology, astrometry, celestial mechanics, cosmology, extragalactic astronomy, exoplanets, the Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds, astronomical instrumentation, the ISM, plasmas and high energy astrophysics, Relativity and gravitation, solar physics, the Solar System, stars, teaching and history of astronomy. For the invited conferences colleagues from France, Holland, Spain and USA were received. In 2011 a special ESO session was organized, and the Director General and six other colleagues from Garching and Chile presented various scientific and technical aspects of the ESO organization.

We thank SF2A for inviting S.A.B to participate of this meeting as the invited society for 2012 and for inviting me to present S.A.B to the french astronomical community