



Figure 2: (a) An echelle spectrum of the Seyfert galaxy NGC 3783 centred at λ 5500 Å, obtained with CASPEC and the front illuminated TEK 512 CCD. The orders in the lower part of the frame show the broad H β and the [OIII] emission lines. The Galactic absorption lines of Na I are seen close to the corresponding emission from the night sky in the fourth order from the top. Average of two 1-hour exposures cleaned of the radiation events.

(b) The profile of the λ 4959 Å emission line of [OIII] from one order of the echelle spectrum of the galaxy. X coordinates are the CCD pixels, corresponding to 0.14 Å. The resolution is 0.25 Å.

ence in the control programme of the instruments. Notable advantages with respect to the previous system come from the use of electronic components of improved quality, such as the on-chip amplifiers and high speed 16-bit converters, shorter read-out time and a simplified procedure in the set-up of different CCD types.

The new system operated without problems from the first night of installation. When used with the ESO CCD #3 on CASPEC, it resulted in an improvement of the read-out noise of about 20 % (present value: 35 e⁻), a not negligible advantage in the observations of faint objects. The implementation of this new system has freed a CCD control

camera that most likely will be installed at the ESO 1.52-m spectrograph by the middle of this year.

In the same test period, we have also used a front-illuminated TEK 512 M-11 CCD on CASPEC. It has 512 × 512 square pixels 27 μ m in size or the largest collecting areas ever as it goes for CCDs at La Silla. The chip had been coated in the detector laboratory at ESO Garching to enhance the UV-blue sensitivity. The quantum efficiency measured after the coating is shown in Figure 1. In this CCD the low noise on-chip amplifier was damaged and we had to switch to the C-amplifier and the C-output shift register. This is probably the cause of a read-out noise of 30 e⁻/pix, a value definitely higher than one would expect. Given this value and the relatively low quantum efficiency, this particular device is not better than the CCDs now in operation at La Silla and for the time being is not offered to visitors. Cosmetic and charge transfer efficiency however are quite good (see Fig. 2) and would make this device quite useful on some ESO instruments if operating with a r.o.n. of the order of 10 e⁻. The radiation event frequency is 1.4 events/minute, cm² or a factor of four lower than in RCA CCDs.

S. D'Odorico

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Europe:

FRANÇOIS, Patrick (F), Fellow
MEURS, Evert (NL), Fellow
RICHICHI, Andrea (I), Student

Chile:

BOOTH, Roy (GB), Associate

Departures

Europe:

SCHARRER, Rebekka (D), Laboratory
Technician (Photography)

New Staff Association Committee in Garching

Elections for the renewal of the Staff Association Committee were held in Garching in January. As a result Fons Maaswinkel, Lothar Noethe and Gianni Raffi were elected.

Many thanks to Anton van Dijsseldonk and Claus Madsen, who terminated their duty, while L. Noethe is the chairman of the newly appointed Committee.

The present Staff Association Committee in La Silla is composed of Gaetano Andreoni, John van den Brenk (chairman) and Michel Maugis.