

and speed are only indicative. The "forward" speed indicates the time for a fast forward positioning on a file and depends on the size of the files being skipped. CD-ROM was included for comparison only since it is a read only medium. Drives for writing CD-ROMs are becoming available but are still rather expensive as shown in the table.

Weighing the different factors, the DDS/DAT tape cartridge seems to be the better choice. A main point is the very good operational experience with DDS/DAT tapes used during the last two years for transferring data from the NTT to the ESO archive in Garching. It has reasonable storage properties and is supported by multiple independent manufacturers. The lower price for

drives and a relative fast positioning on files are also important factors.

Thus, the DDS/DAT tape format is adopted as the new standard for export of data from La Silla. Hardware compression is not used since a common standard has not been defined for this

medium. It will still be possible for users to request their data on 1/2" tapes but by default DDS/DAT tapes are provided. The Exabyte format is also available but users who want their data on this medium must perform the copying themselves.

Media	Capacity	Density		Cost		Speed	
		Gb	Mb/g	Mb/cm ³	media	drive	rate
1/2"	0.2	0.2	0.1	1	12	0.8	92
MO-disk	0.6	3.1	2.8	7	4	1.4	1
CD-ROM	0.6	5.7	3.3	1	(20)	0.4	1
QIC	1.0	3.7	2.7	3	1	1.0	380:
DDS/DAT	2.0	47.6	27.8	1	3	0.5	10
Exabyte	5.0	64.9	35.8	1	4	0.5	15

ESO/OHP Workshop on Dwarf Galaxies

From September 6-9, 1993, more than 90 astronomers from all over the world met at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence (OHP) for a workshop on "Dwarf Galaxies" jointly organized by ESO and OHP.

Dwarf galaxies are inconspicuous, faint and small stellar systems which, until recently, have largely been neglected. The much rarer giant spirals and ellipticals, more visible, attract more attention. This is mirrored by the fact that there have been only two meetings on this subject before, one in 1980, organized by ESO in Geneva, and one in 1985 in Paris, organized by the Institut d'Astrophysique.

Today, dwarf galaxies are recognized as prime laboratories for the study of some of the most burning issues of astronomy, such as structure formation, galaxy evolution, star formation, and dark matter. The number of workers in the field is growing very rapidly. The response to the announcement of the present workshop was accordingly large. This clearly shows the need for more meetings on this subject.

Talks and posters about every aspect of dwarf galaxies were presented. There have been a number of hot topics, such as the question of dark matter in the local dwarf spheroidals, the big holes in the HI component of dwarf irregulars,

the possible discontinuity between normal and dwarf ellipticals, and star formation.

Although there was clearly an atmosphere of unanimity about the subject, it was amusing to see that there is apparently not yet a consensus as to the definition of what a dwarf galaxy is. But there is nothing wrong with this. A physical definition of the subject would imply an understanding of the physical nature of dwarf galaxies. While we are still far from this goal, the workshop has brought us a good deal closer. . . .

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