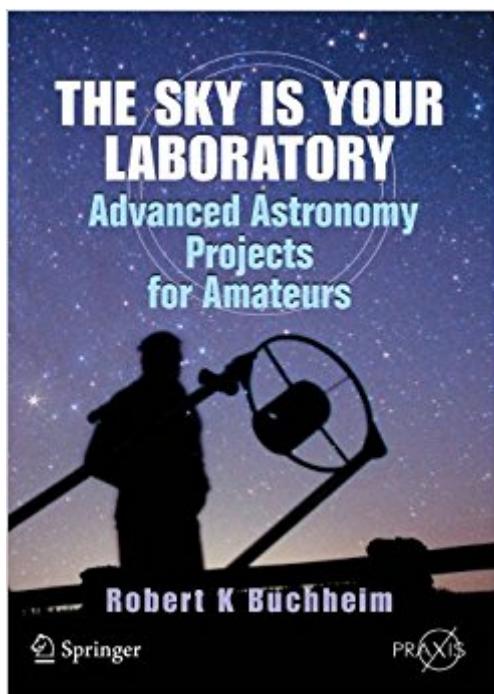


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# The Sky Is Your Laboratory: Advanced Astronomy Projects For Amateurs (Springer Praxis Books)



## **Synopsis**

For the experienced amateur astronomer who is wondering if there is something useful, valuable, and permanent that can be done with his or her observational skills, the answer is, "Yes, there is." This is THE book for the amateur astronomer who is ready to take the next step in his or her astronomical journey. Till now there has been no text that points curious amateur astronomers to the research possibilities open to them. At the 2006 meeting of the Society for Astronomical Sciences, participants agreed that the lack of such a text was a serious gap in the astronomical book market. This book plugs that hole.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a really neat book! It opens up a whole new kind of amateur astronomy; real research projects where you make observations that are useful to professional astronomers. Amateur astronomers can gather new information or make new discoveries, using skills that are common among experienced stargazers, and equipment that is widely available. Here is a step-by-step instruction manual for getting started in these projects, from learning why each project area is important, to the equipment and procedures that are needed, and how to analyze your results. The chapters are organized roughly in order of increasing difficulty of the projects, from simple (naked-eye meteor counting) to complex (extra solar planet searches and supernova discovery). I was particularly pleased that each project includes an explanation of how and where to

submit your results, so that they will be useful to "real" astronomers. I do not think there is any comparable book available. There are plenty of "advanced observing guides", and many "textbooks", but this book fits right in between them. It gives careful description of celestial objects or events, and how and why you should try to see them, so it's sort of an observing guide (although there are not any spectacular photos). It also explains why the observations are important, and gives a meticulous explanation of the data gathering and analysis procedures for each project, so it is sort of a textbook. But it is not stuffy, pedantic tome. The style is friendly, helpful and encouraging. There are some equations, but if you made it through high school algebra they will not give you any trouble (and only some projects require you to use them). There is even a story line! Short tales about challenges, successes, and memorable experiences are scattered throughout the text.

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