SURFACE PHOTOMETRY WITH THE SPACE TELESCOPE

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Abstract :

The Space Telescope will be an extraordinary and versatile observatory. Its complement of scientific instruments will allow far reaching observations to be made with a precision which will have no equal in optical astronomy.

The extended wavelength range in the ultraviolet, the high spatial resolution, the large dynamic range and the high signal to noise achievable will make the cameras on board the Space Telescope unique tools to carry out precise surface photometry of a wide range of objects.

This paper describes the key characteristics of the Space Telescope and its scientific instruments with particular emphasis on its possible applications to surface photometry.