

STELLAR ACTIVITY

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ABSTRACT. We have been monitoring the CaII H and K emission in late-type giant stars using the Mt Wilson 60-inch telescope. It is a continuation of work that Olin Wilson began almost 20 years ago. As a result not only have starspot cycles been detected (equivalent to the solar sunspot cycle), but rotation periods have now been measured.

The most recent interesting result is the detection of the rotation of red giant stars. Also, differential rotation is starting to show up, that is there is more than one period in the data at the same time.

At this symposium we are trying to emphasize three major advantages of this type of work for smaller telescopes and institutions : (1) regular access to the telescope (we have made 100,000 observations over the last 19 years), (2) there are not large amounts of data to reduce (two points in the spectrum of a star) and (3) the method uses a simple instrument and detector.