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PHOTOMETRY OF SUPERNOVA 1987A

Observations were commenced at Boyden Observatory of the Supernova 1987A on the 27th February 1987; news of the outburst had reached us that morning via the South African Astronomical Observatory.

The 41cm reflector was used in this work, with an EMI 6256A photomultiplier tube in an uncooled housing and pulse counting electronics.

The brightness of SN1987A and the reasonably low dark count of this tube ensured a good signal to noise ratio, making cooling unnecessary under the normal night ambient conditions at Boyden.

The results of the B and V measurements are tabulated overleaf.

The values indicate that for at least two months following its outburst the brightness in B has increased steadily following a decrease during the first days; for V the increase has been effectively continuous over this period.

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SUPERNOVA 1987A

Julian Date (add 2446000.0)	B	V	Julian Date (add 2446000.0)	B	V
853.441	4.83	4.45	887.313	5.42	3.79
855.333	5.00	4.40	888.219	5.40	3.76
856.292	5.10	4.48	889.260	5.35	3.75
858.417	5.40	4.40	892.344	5.28	3.65
859.326	5.50	4.50	901.313	5.10	3.40
860.344	5.52	4.49	902.240	5.05	3.38
861.347	5.55	4.40	903.382	4.95	3.35
862.351	5.60	4.39	904.354	4.91	3.32
863.375	5.65	4.35	905.240	4.90	3.31
864.361	5.70	4.30	906.250	4.85	3.36
865.403	5.71	4.28	907.375	4.82	3.32
866.365	5.72	4.25	908.382	4.80	3.30
867.389	5.73	4.24	909.323	4.78	3.20
868.368	5.75	4.22	910.354	4.75	3.18
874.375	5.70	4.20	913.222	4.75	3.15
876.326	5.60	4.15	914.229	4.70	3.15
878.364	5.65	4.10	915.271	4.68	3.12
880.368	5.60	4.00	916.358	4.65	3.11
881.365	5.60	4.00	917.302	4.66	3.10
882.347	5.55	3.90	918.281	4.70	3.11
883.330	5.54	3.85	919.354	4.75	3.16
886.368	5.45	3.80	920.292	4.70	3.10