

# Mclean seminar sec.3.2.3-3.3.2

2024/05/17

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## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

### **a lens**

- must have a good surface finish.
- must be transparent.
- must be free from internal flaws.

### **a mirror**

- only needs to have a good surface finish.

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

### a lens

- the effect of surface bump is only  $(n-1)d = 0.5d$  (for  $n = 1.5$ ) in transmission.

### a mirror

- a surface deviation  $d$  is doubled to  $2d$  in the wavefront.

- **mirrors have to be polished better in order not to disturb the wavefront.**
- This is not a limitation today.
  - average bump is smaller than 0.12mm to 85km. (Subaru telescope)

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

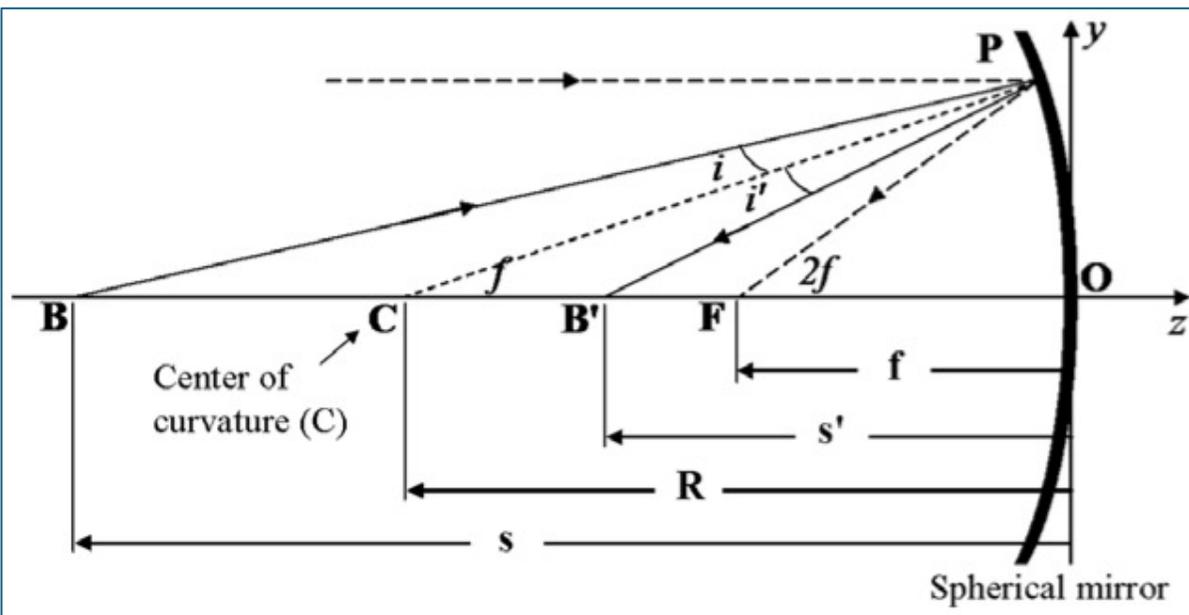
### **a lens**

- suffers chromatic aberration because of the dependence of refractive index on wavelength.
- to reduce this effect, multiple lenses are needed. But that means more light loss.

### **a mirror**

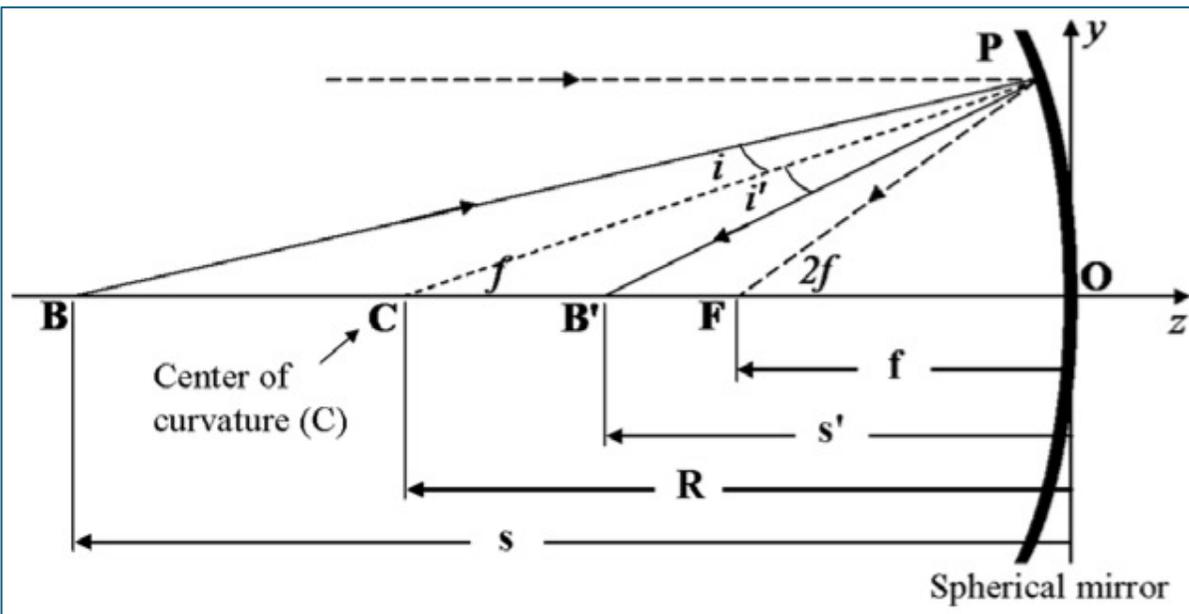
- is achromatic
- some metallic coatings absorb in the UV. (Sec12.1)

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish



- Today, all large astronomical telescopes are “reflectors” and use curved mirrors to achieve light collection and focus.
- spherical aberration exists.
  - the focus points depend on how far away from the center on the mirror the light enters.

# 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish



- At the paraxial focus point the image is blurred.

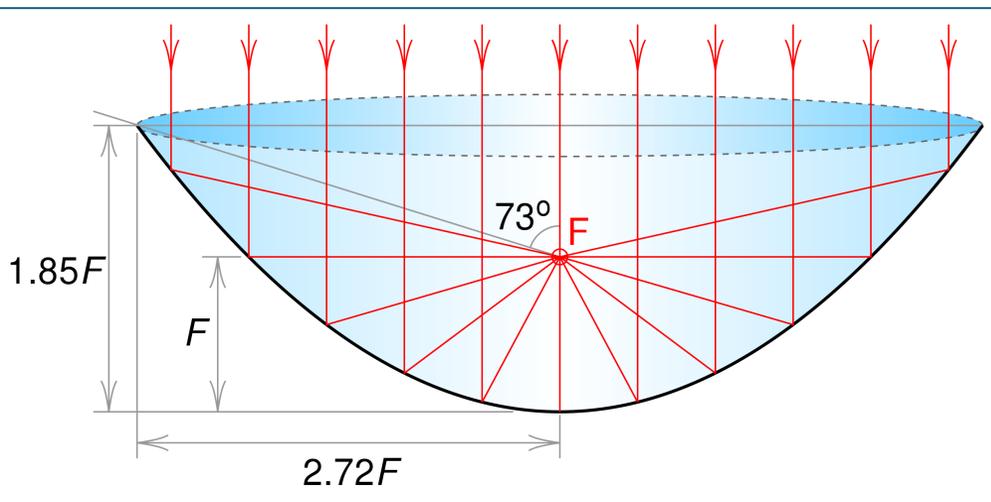
- The diameter of the blur is

$$\beta = \frac{206265}{128F^3} \text{ arcsec} \quad (F = f/D)$$

- $F = 15, \beta = 0.48 \text{ arcsec}$ 
  - comparable with seeing

- $F = 3, \beta = 1 \text{ arcmin}$

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish



(<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%94%BE%E7%89%A9%E9%9D%A2%E9%8F%A1>)

- a **spherical-shaped mirror** is not the correct shape to compensate for the change of angle.
- a **conic section** (ellipse, parabola, hyperbola) will solve this problem.
  - any ray starting at one focus will form a perfect point image at the other. > **“stigmatism”**
- In the case of **the parabola**, rays from that focus are parallel to the axis and all such rays meet at the other focus.

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

- **A single mirror telescope**

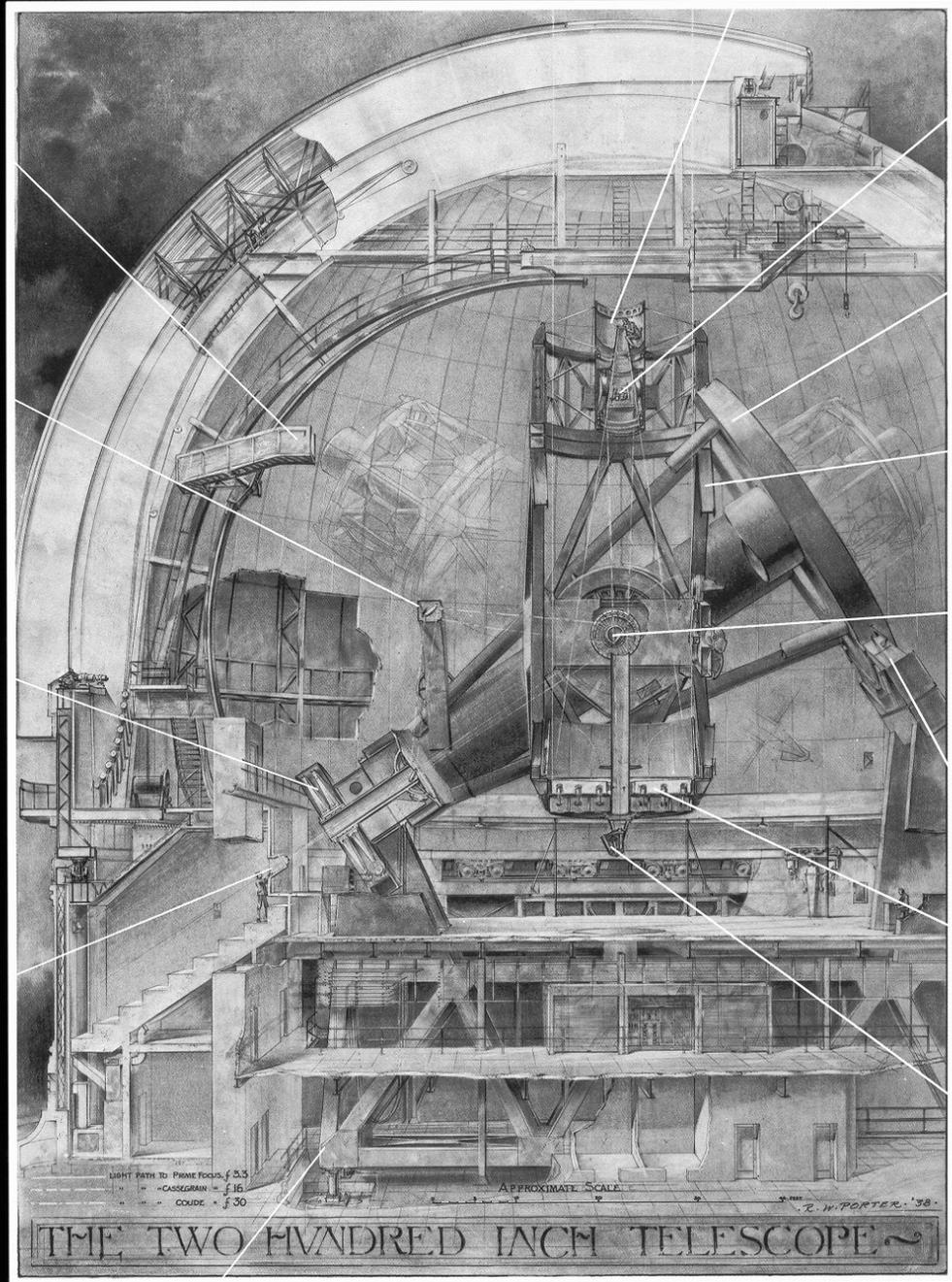
- With some additional optics, many professional telescopes use the “prime” focus of the primary mirror for direct imaging.
- 5m Hale on Mt. Palomar
- Subaru 8.2m Telescope with large CCD camera
  - it needs “corrector” lens system in front of CCD

# 5m Hale on Mt. Palomar



(Palomar/Caltech)

(Palomar/Caltech/Caltech Archives)



Prime Focus Cage  
600 Inches  $f/3.3$

Prime Focus  
Elevator

2nd Flat  
in 5-Mirror  
Coudé System

Right Ascension  
Drive

Coudé Focus  
6000 Inches  $f/30$

Coudé and  
Cassegrain  
Mirrors

North Polar  
Axis Horseshoe  
Bearing

Main Telescope  
Tube

Declination Axis

North Oil Pad  
Bearings

200 Inch Mirror

Cassegrain Focus  
3200 Inches  $f/16$

Supporting  
Base Frame

RIGHT PATH TO PRIME FOCUS,  $f/3.3$   
CASSEGRAIN,  $f/16$   
COUDÉ,  $f/30$

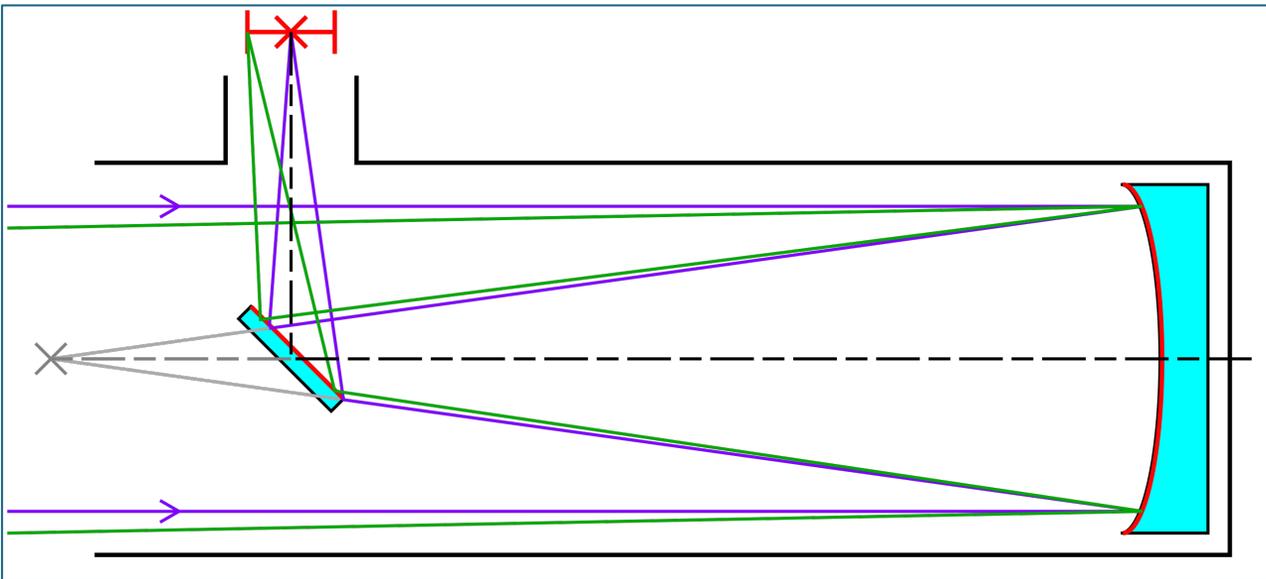
APPROXIMATE SCALE

R. W. PORTER, '38

THE TWO HUNDRED INCH TELESCOPE

# 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

Newtonian design

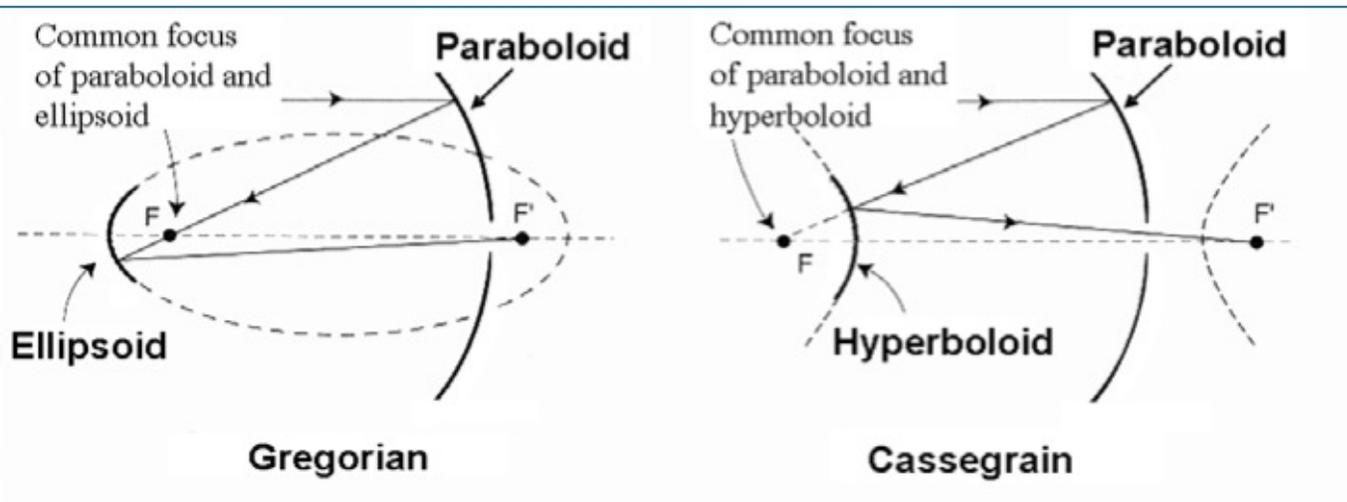


([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newtonian\\_telescope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newtonian_telescope))

- **two-mirror telescopes**

- the “secondary” mirror can have a variety of surface shapes.
- the plane mirror is at  $45^\circ$  to deflect the beam through a right angle and out the side of the tube.
- the secondary mirror can be also perpendicular to the beam to send it back to the primary.

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish



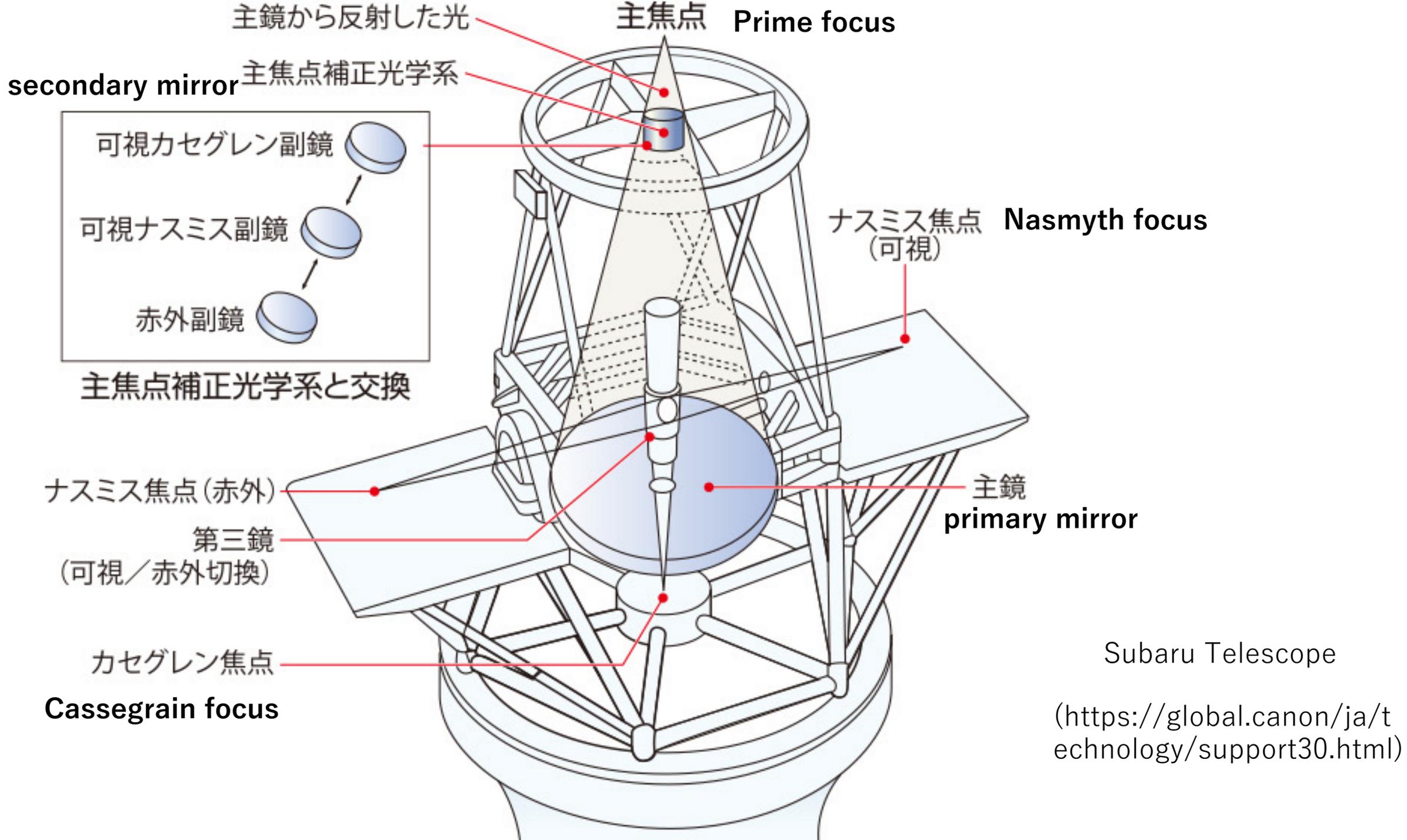
- Many large reflecting telescopes are of the Cassegrain design and contain a central hole in the primary mirror.
- Image quality is limited by the off-axis effect called “coma” in which images become more and more comet-like with small tails.
- Gregorian has more field curvature than the classical Cassegrain.

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

- **Ritchey-Chrétien (or RC) design**
  - both the primary and secondary mirrors are hyperbolic surfaces.
  - Invented by American astronomer George Willis Ritchey (1864-1945) and French astronomer Henri Chrétien (1879-1956)
  - eliminates the effect of coma and thus gives good performance over a larger FoV.
- **Ritchey-Chrétien design telescope**
  - 0.5m Ritchey-Chrétien Telescope(or RCT) first built in 1927
  - 2.54m Hooker Telescope
  - Palomar 5.08m Telescope
  - twin 10 m Keck Telescopes
  - four 8.2 m VLTs
  - twin 8 m Gemini telescopes
  - 8.2 m Subaru
  - 10.4 m GTC
  - The Hubble Space Telescope

## 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

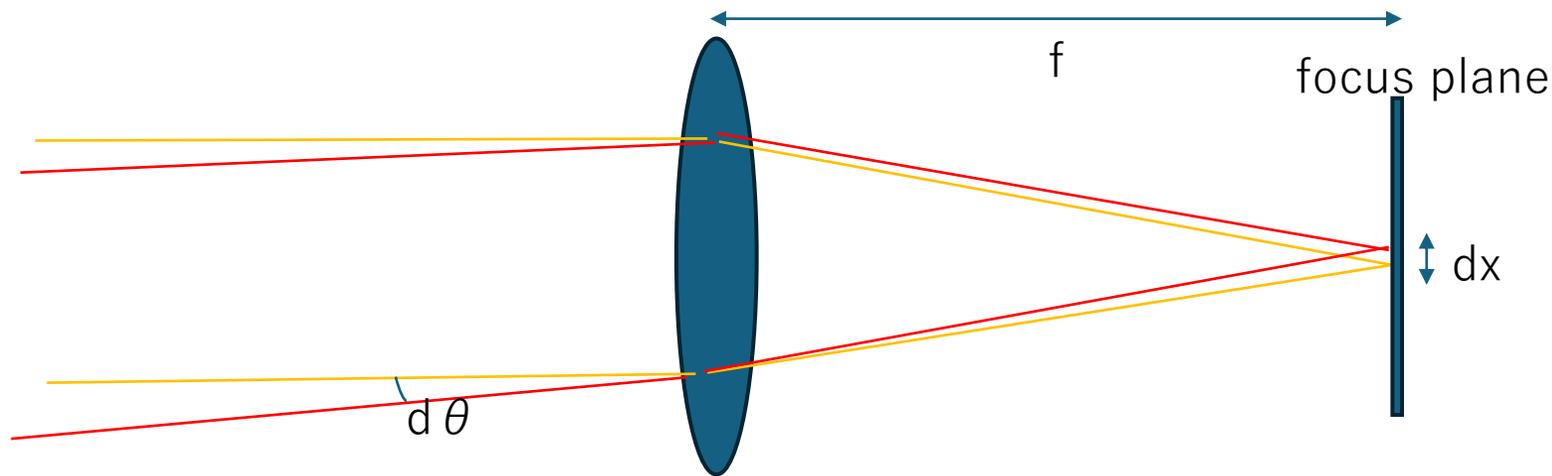
- **a third or “tertiary” mirror** can be located to direct the light along an axis of rotation of the telescope.
  - it is used in order to make the final focus unmovable, independent of where the telescope is pointing.
- For an equatorial mount : **coudé focus**
  - a change of secondary mirror is required with the coudé arrangement.
  - that leads a very focal length.
- For altitude-azimuth mounts : **Nasmyth focus**
  - it does not require a change of secondary mirror.
  - the image scale is the same as at the Cassegrain focus.



# 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

- **plate scale**

- it measures the number of seconds of arc on the sky corresponding to 1mm at the focus of the telescope.
- the longer the focal length ( $f$ ), the smaller the number of seconds of arc per millimeter and the greater the magnification.



$$dx = f \tan d\theta$$

$$dx \approx f d\theta$$

$$\text{plate scale} ("/\text{mm}) = \frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{206265}{f} \text{ arcsec}$$

# 3.2.3 Reflecting telescopes; the parabolic dish

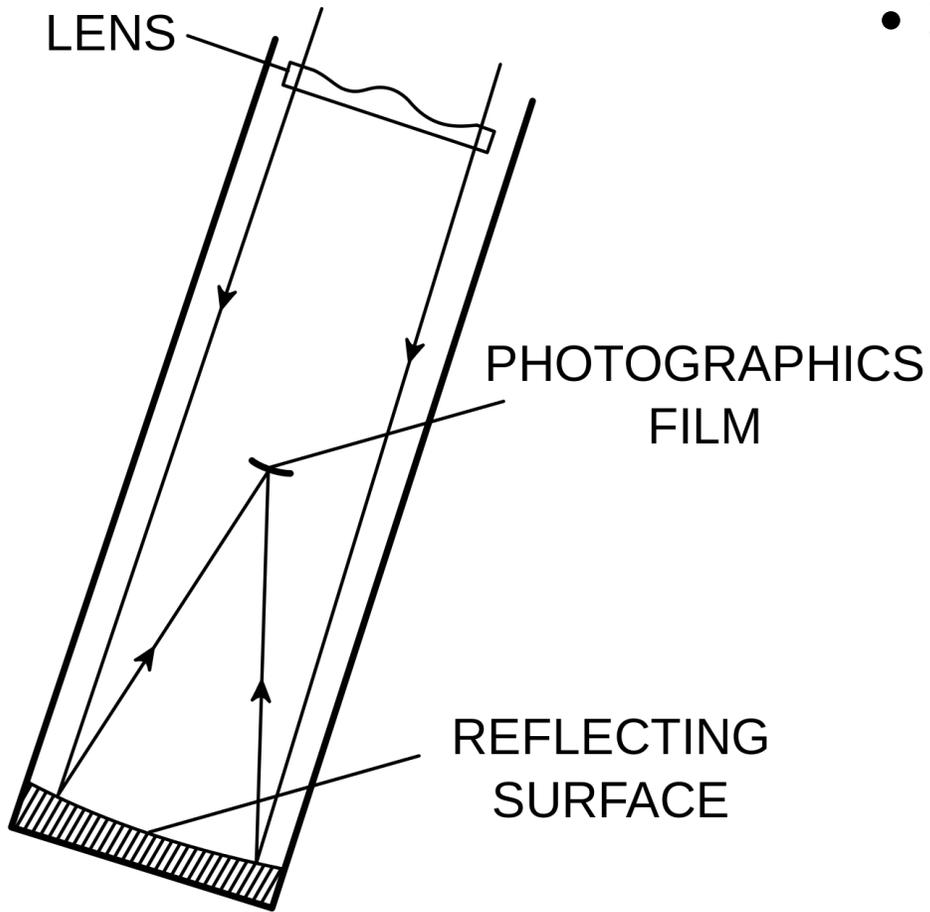
- **plate scale example**

- $f = 10\text{m}$
- $20.6265''/\text{mm}$
- $0.206''/\text{pix}$ , if the pixel scale of CCD is  $0.01\text{mm}$
- $\sim 4.85$  pixels per arcsecond
- in case of the prime focus, the shortest  $f$ , and plate scale is largest.

- **f number ( $F = f/D$ )**

- small focal ratios (like  $f/1$ ) mean large angles and more light and hence, a photographic exposure would take less time, it would be “faster”.
- the shorter the telescope for a given diameter.
  - the smaller the dome or enclosure is.
  - modern telescopes tend to employ very fast primary mirrors to minimize the size and expense of the dome.

## 3.2.4 Correctors and hybrid telescopes



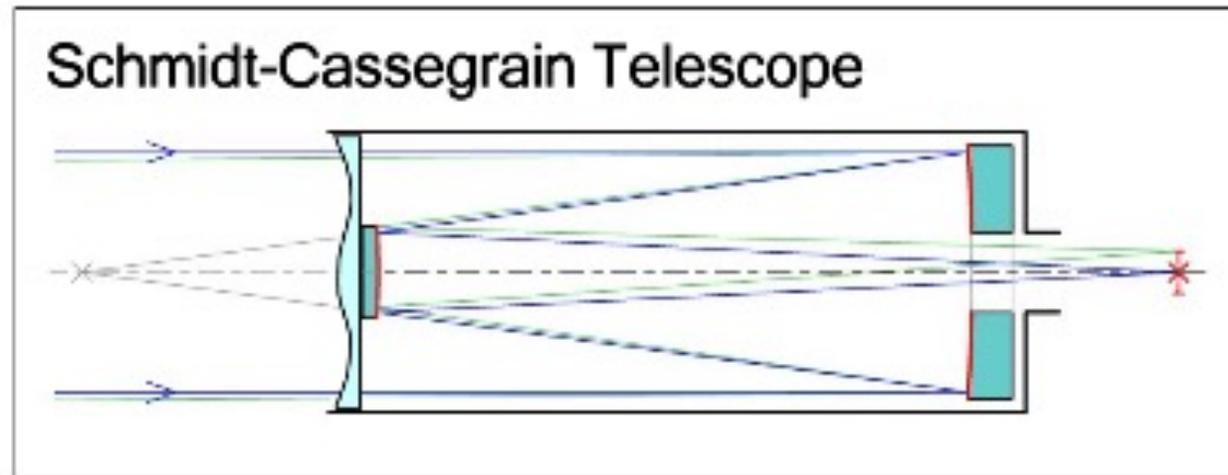
- Schmidt telescope
  - a primary mirror has **a spherical surface**.
  - A thin refracting “**corrector plate**” with a complex shape is placed at the entrance tube of the telescope to **correct the spherical aberration** of the spherical primary mirror.
  - In this case, the focal surface is significantly curved and lies inside the telescope tube between the corrector plate and the primary mirror.
  - The corrector lens limits the size of Schmidt telescope, the largest is 1.34m

(<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/シュミット望遠鏡>)

## 3.2.4 Correctors and hybrid telescopes

- Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope
- Maksutov-Cassegrain telescope
  - The Maksutov is similar except that the corrector plate is replaced with a more easily polished spherical correcting lens and the secondary mirror is an aluminized reflective patch on the inner surface of the lens.

鏡筒



for small telescopes  
ranging from 10-  
35cm

## 3.2.5 Telescope mounts

- Because the rotation of the Earth on its axis causes the daily rising and setting of the stars, all telescopes require **a means to continually update the direction in which they are pointing.**
- The sidereal rate is 15.041 arcsec/second
- The main problem
  - alignment of the rotation axes
  - mechanical flexure of the telescope structure
  - cyclic errors in the gear trains
  - atmospheric refraction (which depends on wavelength, pressure, and temperature)
- These effects are removed or minimized by a computer model of the telescope derived from hundreds of pointing measurements spread over the sky.

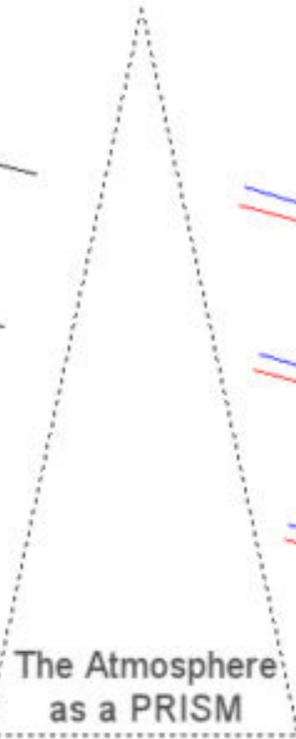
## 3.2.5 Telescope mounts

- For the correction of the wavelength dependence in the refractive index of air
- **ADC (Atmospheric Dispersion Compensator)**
  - a pair of counter-rotating matched, compound prisms composed of two materials with different dispersive properties.
  - The pair are arranged to give zero angular deviation at a selected wavelength, and their relative rotation provides the required color compensation.

Star position elevated  
by dispersion with  
elevation dependent  
on the colour



Original star position



The Atmosphere  
as a PRISM

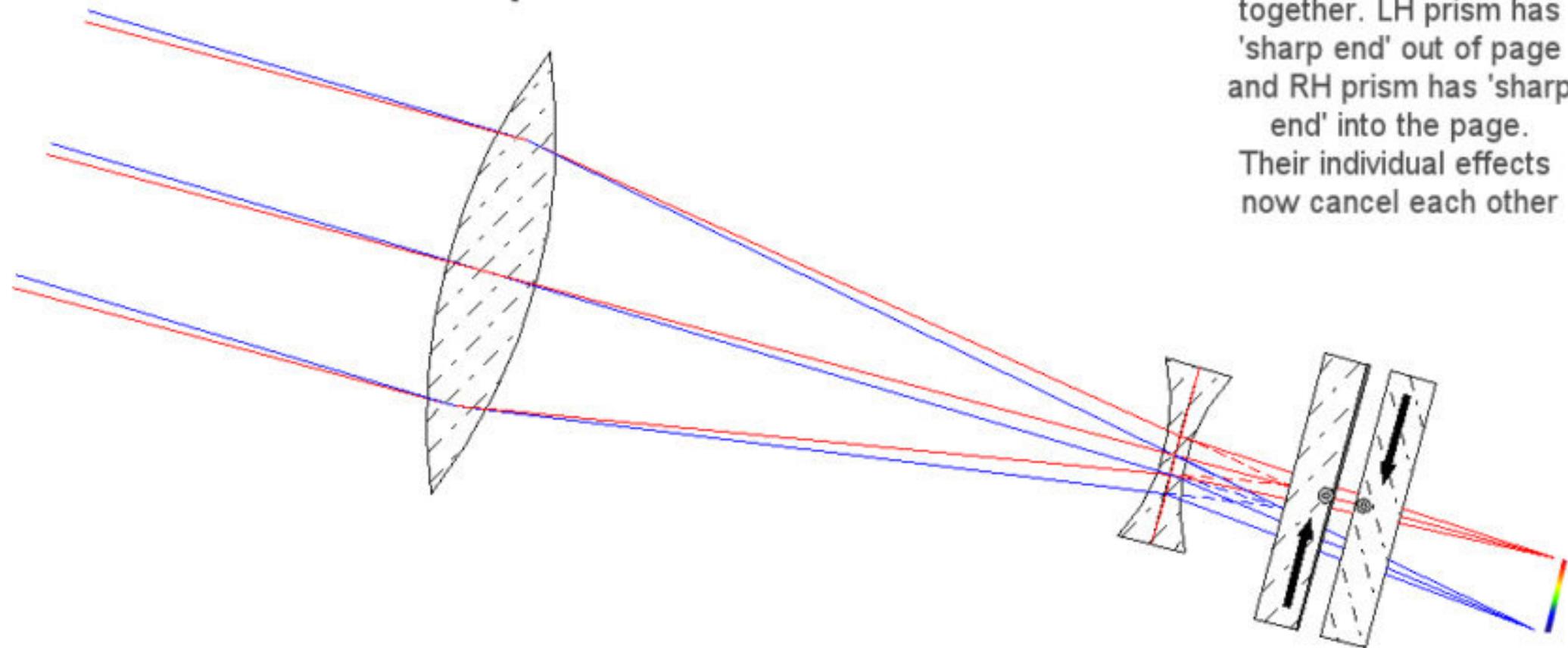
Light bent by atmosphere  
with degree of bending  
being colour dependent  
-this is dispersion

Telescope

Light of star is  
thin vertically  
spread spectrum  
at focus of scope

## Telescope with Barlow lens and ADC

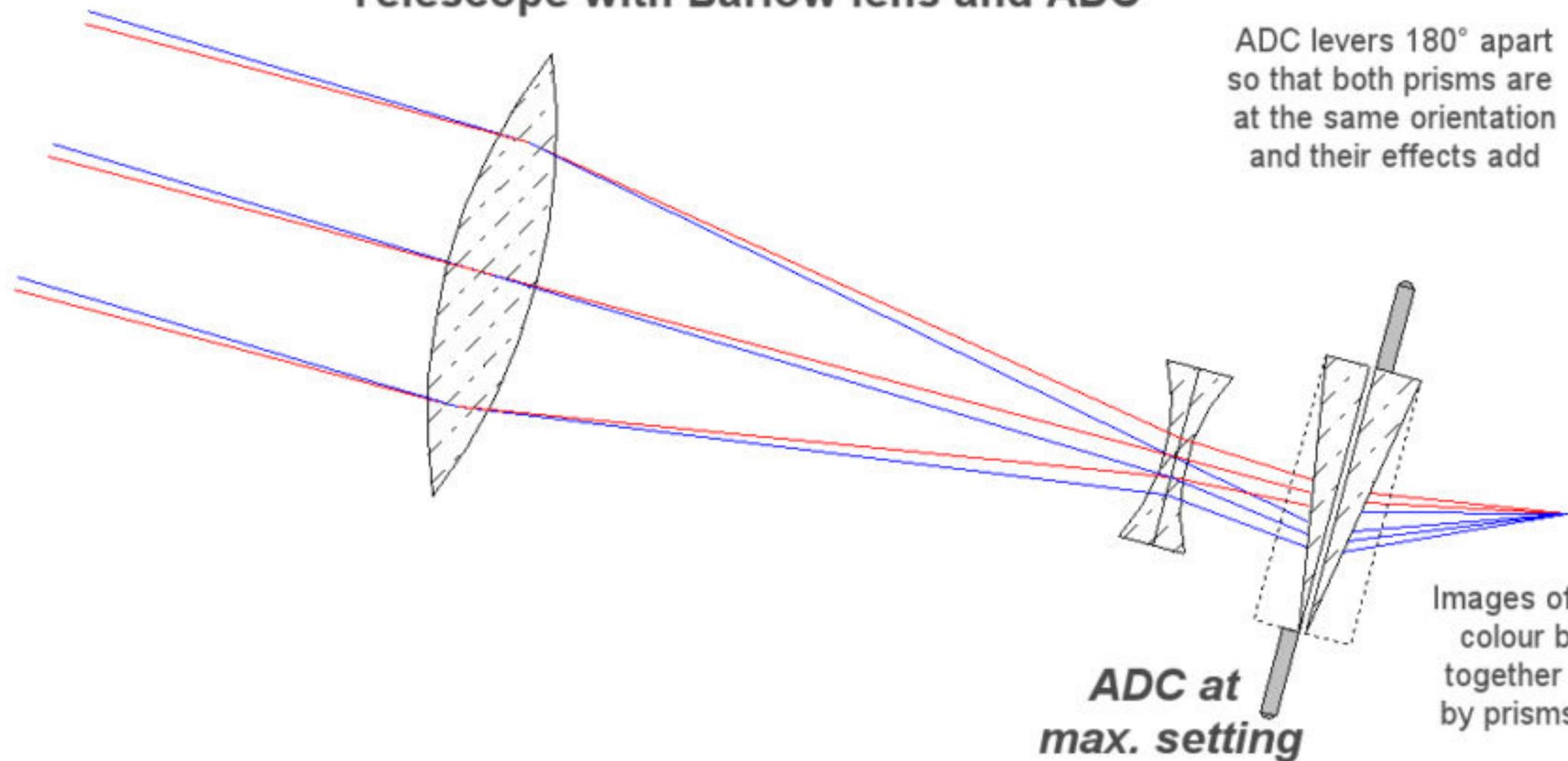
ADC levers now moved together. LH prism has 'sharp end' out of page and RH prism has 'sharp end' into the page. Their individual effects now cancel each other



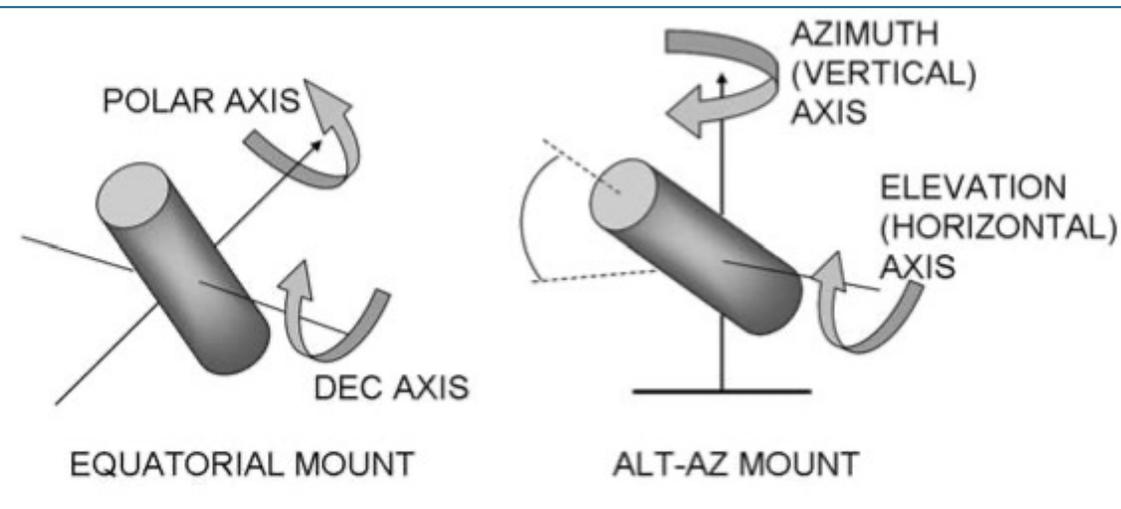
***ADC at null  
(zero setting)***

Images of different colours unaffected by passage through ADC -uncorrected and still spread into spectrum

## Telescope with Barlow lens and ADC



# 3.2.5 Telescope mounts



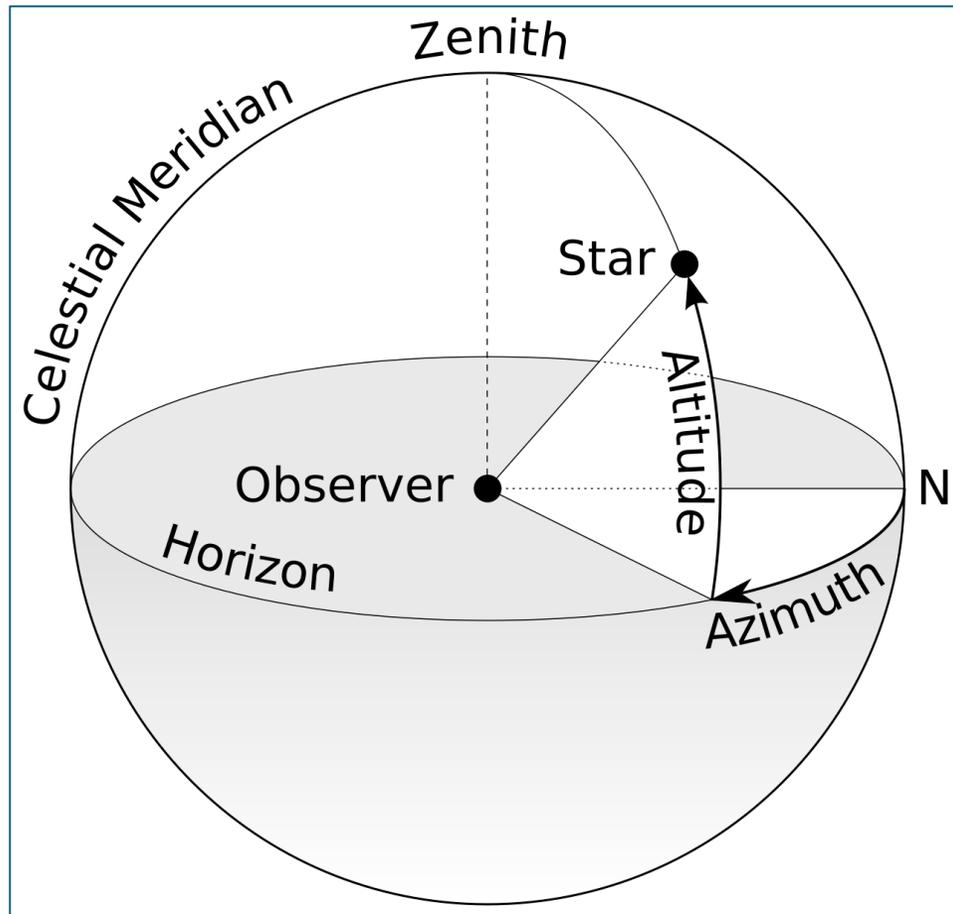
- **Equatorial mount**

- **the polar axis** : turned continuously to track the star along the earth axis
- **the declination axis** : moves at the right angles to the first
- the image at the telescope focus maintains the same orientation at all times.

- **Altitude-Azimuth mount**

- **Azimuth axis**
- **Elevation axis**
- the rate of rotation varies with the position of the object in the sky.
- the image at the focus rotates with time; this is called **field rotation**.

# 3.2.5 Telescope mounts



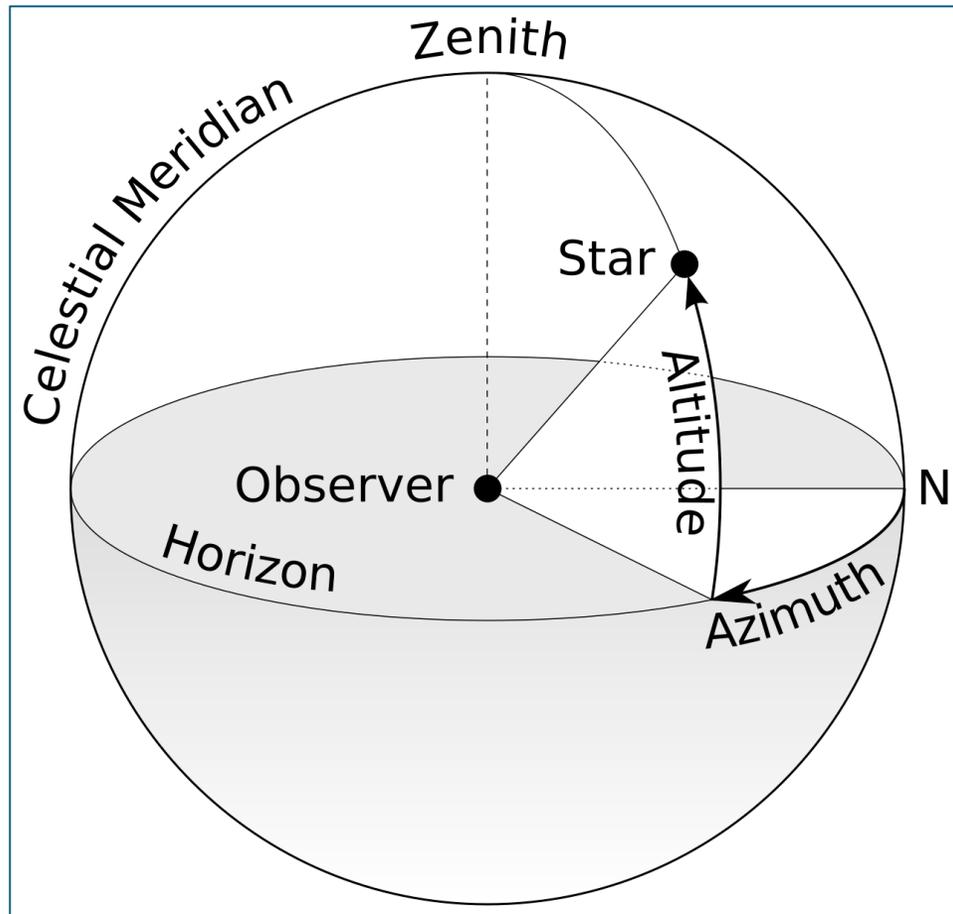
## • Altitude-Azimuth mount

- field rotation

$$\omega = \Omega \cos A \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin z}$$

- $\omega$  : the field rotation rate (rad/second)
- $\Omega$  : the sidereal rate ( $7.2925 \times 10^{-5}$  radians/s )
- $\phi$ : the latitude of the telescope
- $A$  : azimuth (方位角)
- $z$  : zenith distance

# 3.2.5 Telescope mounts



## • Altitude-Azimuth mount

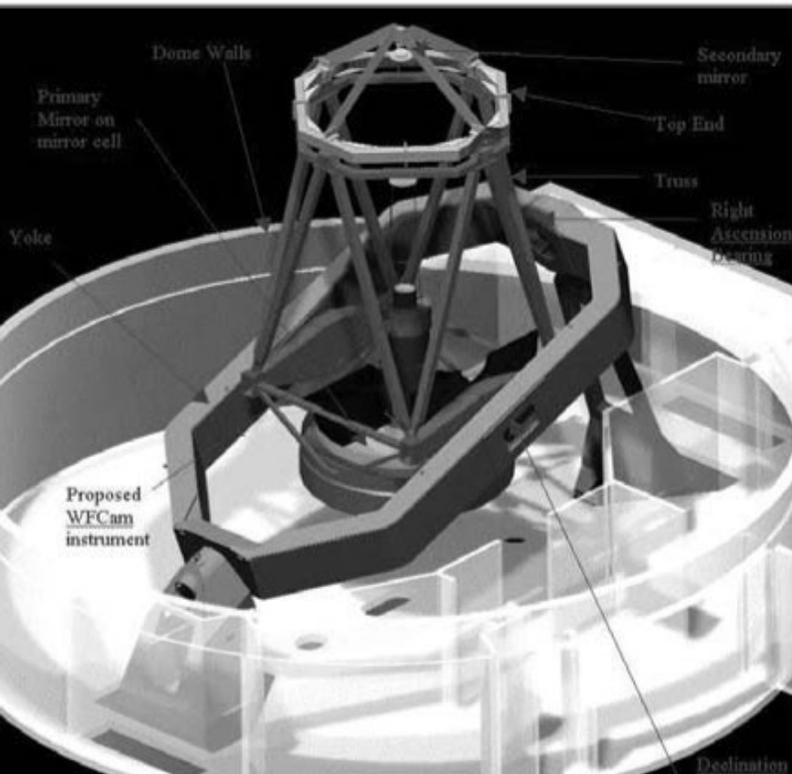
- field rotation

$$\omega = \Omega \cos A \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin z}$$

- $z$  gets close to  $0^\circ$ ,  $\omega$  becomes extremely large.
- > the dead zone of a few degrees near the zenith
- Field rotation can be compensated by counter-rotating the entire instrument at available rate, or rotating an optical compensator such as a K-mirror.

# 3.2.5 Telescope mounts

- **Altitude-Azimuth mount**
  - Despite these complications most modern telescopes are built this way because **it aids the mechanical design and reduces the total weight and load on the bearings.**



left : an equatorial mount telescope, the English yoke of the 3.8 m U.K. Infrared Telescope (UKIRT)  
right: an altitude-azimuth, the 3.5 m WIYN (Wisconsin-Indiana-Yale and NOAO) telescope

## 3.2.5 Telescope mounts

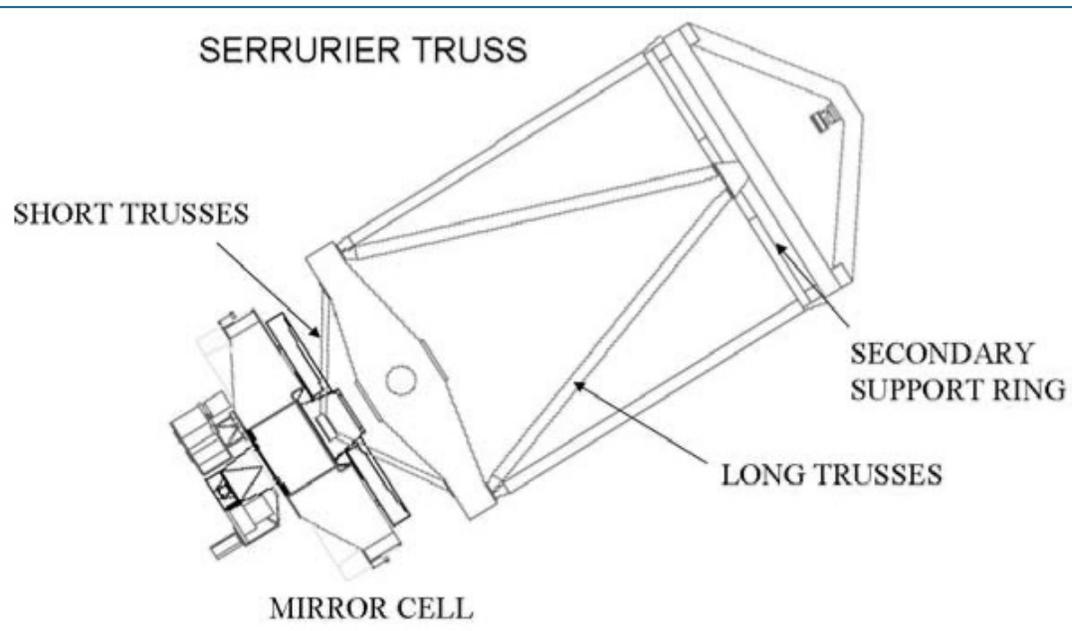


- **Transit telescope**

- the telescope is fixed to point only in the plane of the north-south meridian line.
- it can select any point from zenith to horizon, and the stars are allowed to drift across the field of view
- Flagstaff Astrometric Scanning Transit Telescope (FASTT) at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Arizona

([https://web.archive.org/web/20081101052950/http://www.nofs.navy.mil/about\\_NOFS/telescopes/fastt.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20081101052950/http://www.nofs.navy.mil/about_NOFS/telescopes/fastt.html))

# 3.2.5 Telescope mounts



(the 3.8m UKIRT)

- **The best way to support the mirrors of the telescope**
  - an open steel framework known as a truss, which is a structure with one or more triangular units constructed with straight slender members whose ends are connected at joints.
- **the Serrurier truss**
  - developed by engineer Mark U. Serrurier (c. 1905-1988) in 1935
  - Two sets of opposing trusses support the primary and secondary mirrors before and after the declination (or elevation) pivot axis.
  - Each truss has an equal amount of flexure (bending under its own weight) such that the primary and secondary mirrors move, but **remain in planes parallel to each other and therefore maintain their collimation** (alignment of their optical axes).

# 3.3 Automated Telescopes and Remote Sensing

- **3.3.1 Remote sensing**
- **3.3.2 Automated imaging telescope**
- 3.3.3 Survey Telescope

## 3.3.1 Remote sensing

- Global high-speed telecommunications means that remote observing at ground-based telescopes, in a manner analogous to remote observing using space facilities, is now practical.
- The first demonstration is Royal Observatory Edinburgh (U.K.) in the early 1980s
  - using satellite telephone links, the U.K. Infrared Telescope in Hawaii and an infrared photometer were controlled and data returned to Edinburgh.
  - the data rate was very slow.
- From then, remote sensing technology has been advanced.
  - partly because the rate of growth of digital communications technology has kept up with the bit rate from imaging technology.
  - astronomers in California can operate instruments on the Keck telescopes in Hawaii from one of several remote observing sites.

## 3.3.1 Remote sensing

- **Remote “eaves-dropping” observing**
  - distant participants can take part in the observing session by viewing computer displays of the instrument status in real time and giving advice by means of a video-link.
  - The actual observing is performed by **a qualified team-member on site.**
- **“service” observing**
  - those proposing the experiment are not expected to send a representative, nor are they expected to eaves-drop.
  - The observations are carried out by a qualified staff scientist and the data are transferred to a digital storage medium in a standard form and then mailed to the team.

# 3.3.1 Remote sensing

- **The next step in remote sensing is “queue scheduling”**
  - in a manner similar to radio telescopes.
- **Examples**
  - poor seeing
    - > spectroscopy for relatively bright objects
  - excellent seeing and dark Moon
    - > a faint object spectrograph or imager
  - marked improvement in the dryness of the night
    - > use a long-wavelength infrared instrument.
- There is the issue of rapid response to supernovae or GRB.

## 3.3.2 Automated imaging telescopes

- There are now a number of sites where **computers and weather-monitoring equipment make the decision to open the observatory and begin a pre-programmed set of observations.**
- Progress in this area began with projects like GNAT (Global Network of Automated Telescopes) in the early 1990s (Crawford and Craine, 1994; Craine et al., 2007).
- Now, however, CCDs have led to Automated Imaging Telescopes (AITs). GNAT, a non-profit organization, is adopting the Moving Object and Transient Event Search System (MOTESS) of robotic imaging telescopes and deploying dozens of them around the world.

## 3.3.2 Automated imaging telescopes

- “MicroObservatory”
  - pioneered in the 1990s by a group at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
  - consists of a network of **five automated telescopes** with CCD cameras **that can be controlled over the Internet**
- Users are responsible for taking their own images by pointing and focusing the robotic telescopes, determining exposure times, and selecting filters.
- Each telescope is ~1m (40 inches) high and portable (135lb), employing the Maksutov design, with a 15.2 cm (6-inch) spherical primary mirror and a 13.3 cm (5.25-inch) corrector.

# MicroObservatory

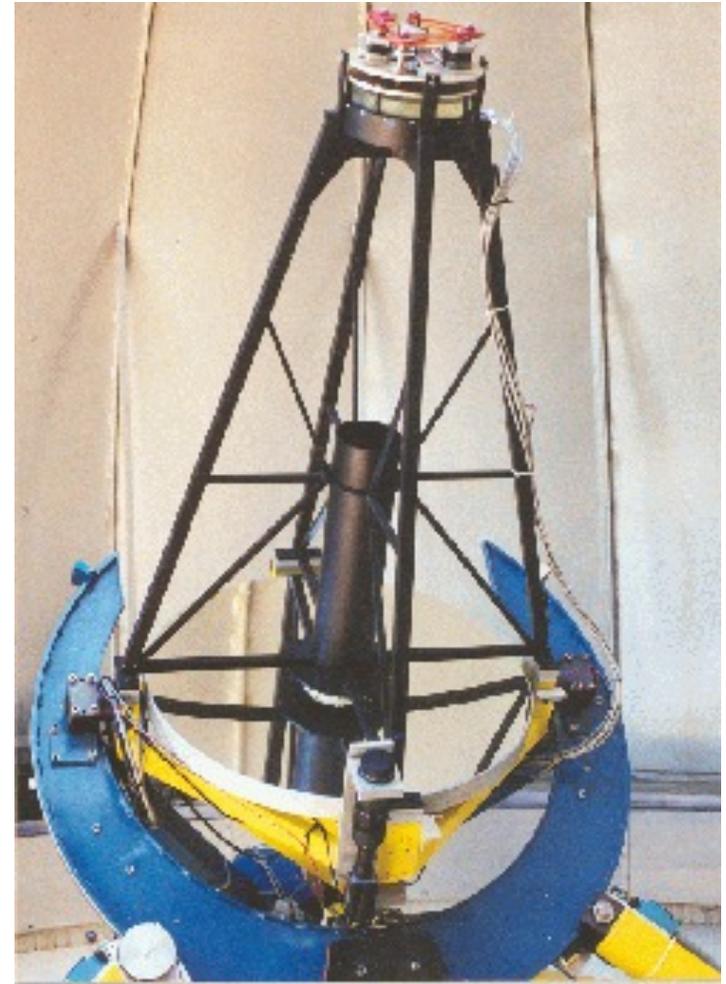
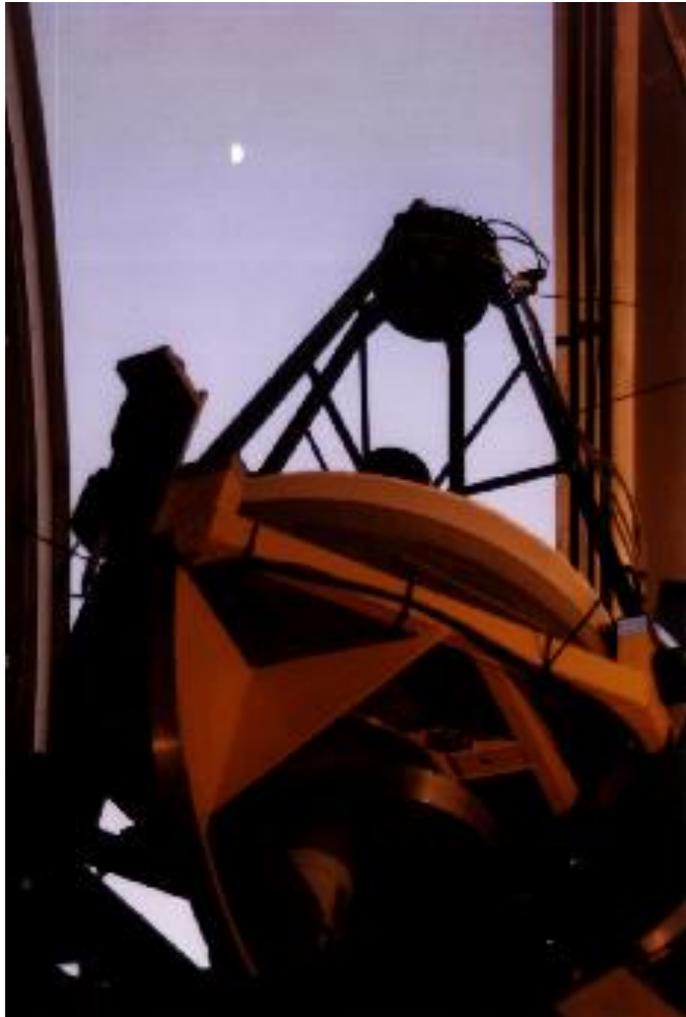


(<https://mo-www.cfa.harvard.edu/MicroObservatory/>)

## 3.3.2 Automated imaging telescopes

- **The Berkeley Automatic Imaging Telescope**
  - pioneered by Richmond, Treffers, and Filippenko in 1993
  - was upgraded and moved to the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton
  - known as the **Katzman Automatic Imaging Telescope (KAIT)**
- 0.75 m (30-inch) fully robotic telescope
- has found about 50% of all the known nearby supernovae (about 700) in the past decade.
- has contributed to optical follow-up of gamma-ray bursts

# KAIT



(<https://w.astro.berkeley.edu/bait/kait.html>)

## 3.3.2 Automated imaging telescopes



- The Liverpool Telescope(LT)
  - a fully robotic astronomical telescope of larger size, operational in 2003
  - a 2 m RC reflector on an alt-az mount housed in a clam shell enclosure on the summit of Roque de los Muchachos on the Canary Island of La Palma
  - Founded by British astronomer Mike Bode
  - owned and operated by the Astrophysics Research Institute of Liverpool John Moores University,
  - designed and built by Telescope Technologies Limited, a spin-off company of the university.
  - an optical CCD camera with a 4.6 arcmin field of view
  - using a 2Kx2K chip from e2v technologies.

## 3.3.2 Automated imaging telescopes



- The Liverpool Telescope(LT)
  - This relatively large telescope is **truly robotic in that it is fully autonomous**, using its control system to assess weather conditions, problems, and best observing strategies.
- Two other robotic telescopes linked with the Liverpool Telescope in a global network for free educational access are those of the Faulkes Telescope Project: one telescope is in Hawaii and the other in Australia.