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Book Review: Observing Variable Stars, Novae, and Supernovae

T. D. Oswalt

Florida Institute of Technology, oswaltt1@erau.edu

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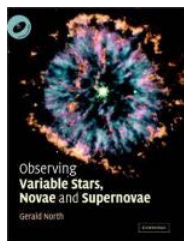
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Observing variable stars, novae, and supernovae



[North, Gerald](#). by Gerald North with Nick James Cambridge, 2004

230p, 0521820472 \$45.00

LC Call Number: [QB835](#)

Variable stars are a fascinating part of astronomy. This is an area where amateur observers traditionally make strong contributions to science. Amateur astronomer North's book is a mostly nonmathematical introduction to the field, aimed at the serious amateur. It is not very technical or comprehensive compared to others on the market, but it gives a good overview of essentials such as telescopes, detectors, observing techniques, charts, and references. North does not focus only on the observational side; he provides several good descriptive chapters on stellar structure and evolution that help the reader understand how stars come to be variable in light output. Another high point is the accompanying CD-ROM provided by amateur Nick James, who must have compiled his entire personal collection of finding charts, light curves, and some images for this project. The book will not be the only reference a beginning variable observer will need, but it is a good primer.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower- and upper-division undergraduates; two-year technical program students.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Two-Year Technical Program Students

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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