Lessons Learned

And have we learned a lot! Mostly the hard way.

 In the Settings Tab, Select English and then <u>Restart</u> ISIS to get English.

- 1. For those with SCT open observatory or setup at least 2-3 hours prior to imaging. You will loose focus quickly if SCT continues to cool rapidly after establishing initial focus.
- 2. Double, triple check the spacer length from your Atik 460 EX to the Lhires III.
- Total camera backspace = 54.85mm 13.5mm backspace for Atik 460 = 41.35 mm +/- 2 mm



Light where on the slit goes where on the spectra?



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- Must check the orientation of your Atik 460 spectra camera. It's round, so no natural orientation.
- The spectra image must be level.
- <u>AND</u>
- The spectra image must be oriented correctly and this can fool you.
- Blue is on the Left & Red on the Right.
- You must check specifically for this.
- Turn micrometer clockwise (in) and calibration lines move to the Right.

- How to focus the collimation mirror on the Lhires III
- Use ISIS to measure the FWHM on your calibration lines.

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- Simbad Astronomical Database
- Simbad.Harvard.edu/simbad/
- Invaluable resource for star names, alternate names, and attribute information

 If you change your wavelength range, you must get/use a new response target with that same range.

- How to make it easier to confirm you are looking at your target star with the Sky X?
- 1. Slew to target star.
- 2. Click "Closed Loop Slew". Your "auto guider camera" will take an image and do an image link (plate solve), and move the telescope to almost exactly center the star in the image. The auto guider camera will again take an image to show you the final centered star position.
- 3. Now try to match the star pattern in your image with the star pattern on the SkyX star field screen.

- Sometimes that will be easy to do, but sometimes not because the Sky X planetarium view may be rotated compared to the camera image.
- 4. A way to greatly simplify this is to now click on the photo dropdown tab in the upper left hand corner of your image. In the drop down menu choose "To Image Link", and then click under the "Search" tab on "Find Astrometric Solution" for you camera image. The planetarium field of view will rotate to exactly match the orientation of your camera image. It's magic! This makes comparing the two fields very

easy

Initially using the calibration light, you may see evidence for Hydrogen.

