

GALAXIES NEAR THE NORTHERN GALACTIC PLANE

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Summary. — A survey on the POSS of the northern galactic plane in the interval $\ell = 33^\circ\text{--}213^\circ$, $b = \pm 2^\circ$ has led to the detection of 207 galaxies, 200 of them being new. Six may possibly be identified with listed radio sources. Infrared photographs were taken of two galaxies, one lying $1^\circ 6$ distant from the Maffei objects, the other in the vicinity of the Rosette nebula ; for the latter a radio flux density of 11 mJy was found at 6 cm.

The galaxies are far from being uniformly distributed : There is a strong preponderance in number towards the galactic anticentre and the objects here tend to lie above the galactic equator. Since each galaxy implies a relatively transparent region, investigations of galactic structure may be fruitful in the areas of these galactic windows.

Key words : Low latitude galaxies — Finding list — Galactic windows.

1. Introduction. — Dedicated searches for galaxies near the galactic plane are few in number and have been restricted to selected areas (e.g. Böhm-Vitense, 1956 ; Fitz-Gerald, 1974 ; Dodd and Brand, 1976). They are severely hampered by the interstellar extinction : Firstly, nearly all of the larger surveys have been based on blue exposures, which are rather unsuitable for work in obscured regions. Secondly, the obscuration changes the appearance of galaxies, thus impairing their identification ; likewise, other types of objects such as small reflection nebulae, dense distant star clusters, etc. can easily be mistaken for extragalactic nebulae at low latitudes. Search conditions can be improved by a very deep photographic survey at a wavelength as long as possible. The Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS) E prints (m_{\lim} for stars = 20.0, $\lambda_{\text{eff}} \sim 6400 \text{ \AA}$) meet these criteria rather well and have therefore been used for my search. Incidentally, the E and O prints have already been utilized for large galaxy surveys in all galactic latitudes, but never down to or near the limiting magnitude (e.g. Vorontsov-Vel'jaminov *et al.*, 1962-1968 ; Nilson, 1973). Thus few galaxies close to the galactic equator are known.

The purpose of the present survey is twofold : (i) Detection of hitherto unknown, relatively transparent regions in the plane of our galaxy. These galactic windows around every galaxy would be important for investigations of the galactic structure, e.g. for a search for distant spiral arm tracers. (ii) A tabulation of new galaxies, including those near the limiting magnitude. This list would facilitate optical identifications of unidentified low latitude sources of possible extragalactic origin.

2. Search procedure. — The region within $\ell = 33^\circ\text{--}213^\circ$, $b = \pm 2^\circ$ was searched on the POSS E prints by the aid of a binocular microscope and using a 16-fold

magnification. Overlapping zones within these boundaries were always included in order to reduce the number of overlooked objects and to estimate the completeness of the survey. The POSS O charts were used for comparison purposes only. Usually, the prints were illuminated from above, but in case of dubious images and extended luminous nebulae, an illumination from below was often of great help. The average, pure search time amounted to about 1 hour per 10 \square° .

Since a number of prints were not yet at my institute's disposal, I carried out part of the survey at other institutes (Landessternwarte Königstuhl, Heidelberg ; Institut für Astronomie, Vienna).

3. Results and discussion. — It is difficult to make clear statements about the completeness of the present survey. The galaxies with a diameter of $\varnothing \geq 1'$ were ostensibly recorded in earlier surveys ; actually, I discovered only 6 extragalactic nebulae with $\varnothing \geq 1'$ on the E prints. On the other hand, stars and galaxies at the limiting magnitude are not distinguishable. In addition, there are several reasons for a necessarily incomplete registration. Two characteristic reasons : Very compact, roundish looking galaxies (or central regions of spirals where the arms are already hidden by obscuration) are hardly discernible from stars. Furthermore, the densely packed star images in the galactic plane will hide several galaxies. Insufficiencies during the search are added. Comparisons of overlapping zones in the rather galaxy-rich anticentre indicate that I seem to have overlooked approximately one quarter of the recognizable galaxies.

In table I the 207 galaxies found within $\ell = 33^\circ\text{--}213^\circ$, $b = \pm 2^\circ$ are listed in order of increasing galactic longitude. *Running Nos* are given in the first column ; when supplied with a letter, it denotes an already known galaxy, with is cited at the end of the table. The

galactic coordinates follow. The subsequent *equatorial coordinates* were measured with an accuracy of about $\pm 1'$ in both α and δ on the POSS prints, whose numbers are given in the next column. From the lower left field corner of the just quoted POSS prints, x and y , the *rectangular coordinates* (in mm) are measured. A + sign in the column denoted with E & O means that the galaxy is visible on the O print too. Finally, the *diameters* of the objects on the E prints are listed. — Classification of the galaxy type seemed to be feasible only in 20 cases : Spiral galaxies are N°s 4, 10, 17, 27, 35, 40, 69, 79, 87, 91, 93, 112, 114, 128, 152, 157, 171, 175, 180 and 182.

The overall distribution of the galaxies is displayed in figure 1. The longitude interval of 180° was divided into 4 segments of each 45° length ; not shown in the figure is the region between $l = 33^\circ$ and 78° , since no galaxies were detected there. In this figure the asymmetrical distribution of the galaxies with longitude is apparent. Up to $l \sim 160^\circ$, only occasionally regions transparent enough so that galaxies can shine through are found. The clustering around $l \sim 87^\circ$ moreover possibly belongs to the new close cluster of galaxies which was reported by Huchra *et al.* (1977). Maffei 1 and 2, the famous nearby systems at $l \sim 136^\circ$, $b \sim -0.5^\circ$ do not define a transparent region in the usual sense, since both are reddened by $A_v \gtrsim 5^m$. Striking is the conglomerate at $l \sim 160^\circ$. Beginning with $l \sim 175^\circ$, an asymmetric latitude distribution is evident : The galaxies tend to lie above the equator, i.e. the main dust obscuration obviously lies to the south of the galactic equator ; possibly, this special dust location continues up to the transparent region in Puppis ($l \sim 250^\circ$), where a comparable arrangement has been found by FitzGerald (1974) and Dodd & Brand (1976). — Generally, clusterings in figure 1 up to a few degrees in diameter do not necessarily define large, *very* transparent areas, but may also represent somewhat less transparent regions through which real galaxy clusters are dimly visible.

In his figure 1, Steinlin (1962) plotted the Lick observatory counts (to $m_{pg} = 18$) within 25° of the old galactic equator. In the same region as that one I surveyed there are five galactic windows, at $l \sim 57^\circ$ ($\varnothing \sim 2^\circ$, south of the galactic equator), 89° (2° , north), 103° (4° , north), 112° (4° , north), and 112° (5° , south). Curiously enough, none of the Lick windows shows up in my figure 1, though the red prints have a fainter limiting magnitude and the interstellar extinction is reduced (a red extinction coefficient of 0.82 compared to 1.34 in the blue, according to the normal interstellar reddening law). However, two small adjacent Lick windows at $l \sim 161^\circ$ and 181° , both commencing at $b \sim +2^\circ$, suit well the galaxy distribution of the present figure 1 near these locations.

3.1 INDIVIDUAL GALAXIES. — Because of their positions, two objects in table I particularly raised my interest : N° 20 is the nearest in angular distance to the Maffei galaxies ; N° 205 is near to the Rosette nebula and rather bright. For both objects a confirmation of their extragalactic nature seemed desirable. Photographs at 0.7μ (R) and 0.9μ (I) were taken with a cooled image tube camera at the 1.2 m telescope on the Calar Alto in Spain ; details of the camera system, which has an S1 cathode and a P11 phosphor, are given by Beetz *et al.* (1974). The limiting magnitudes of the plates for stars are $20^m \pm 0.5^m$ in R , $16.5^m \pm 1^m$ in I .

N° 20, 1.6° distant from the Maffei galaxies, was visible on the POSS E print only, as a very weak object, and could therefore possibly be mistaken for a plate flaw. In figure 2a, b however, its reality and nonstellar nature is confirmed. N° 20 is not coincident with any known radio source.

N° 205 lies only 2° distant to the north from the centre of the Rosette nebula and may be strongly reddened. It was originally noticed during a survey for heavily obscured galaxies (Weinberger *et al.*, 1978). N° 205 looks quite like a distant galaxy in figure 3a, b. Additionally, we carried out radio observations : The radio flux density at 6 cm as observed with the 100 m Effelsberg telescope is $S = 11 \pm 3$ mJy.

A few galaxies of table I are possibly or certainly related to known radio sources, among them the already cited Maffei 2 (N° 21), N° 45 and N° 51.

Furthermore, B2 0537 33 (Colla *et al.*, 1970) = OG 362 (Ehmann *et al.*, 1974) seems to be associated with N° 135 (perhaps N° 134).

BG 0444 + 44 (Fanti *et al.*, 1974) may possibly be N° 49.

Finally, within the positional uncertainties, LHE 132 (Dixon, 1970) coincides with N° 63.

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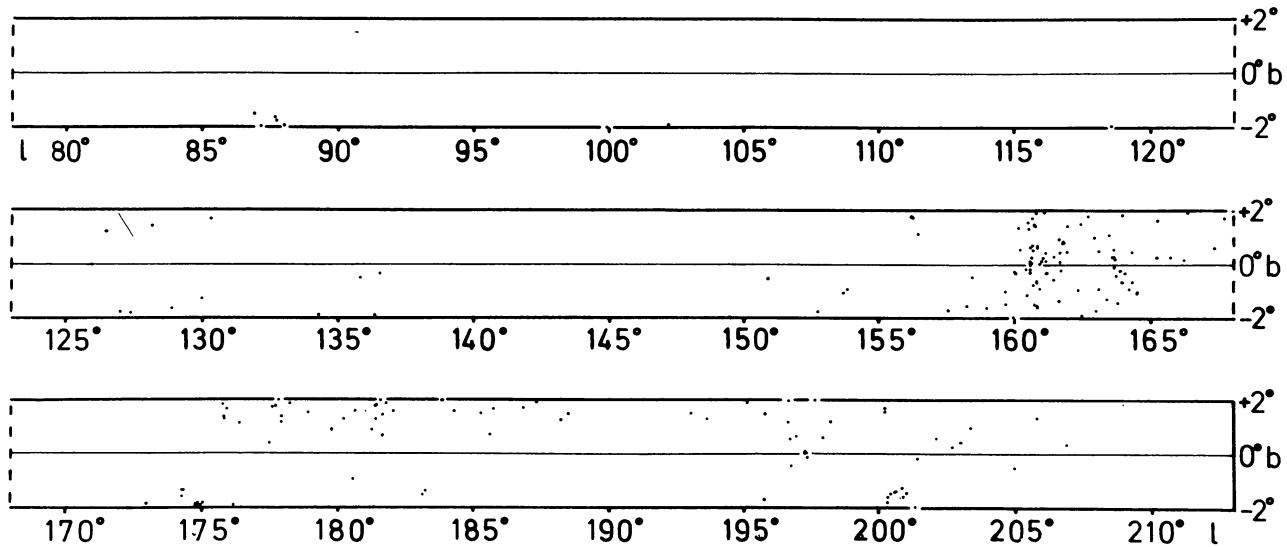
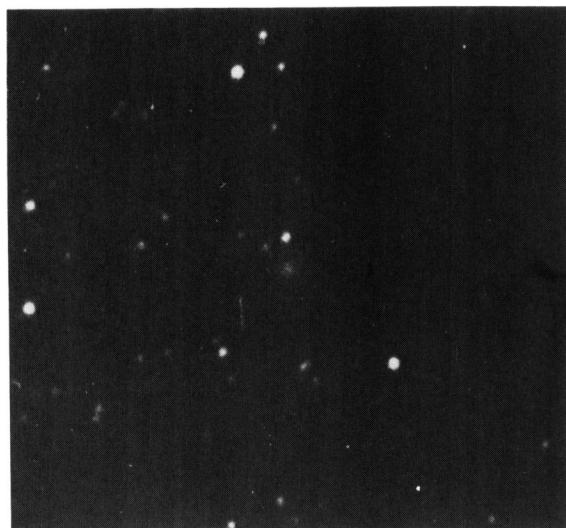
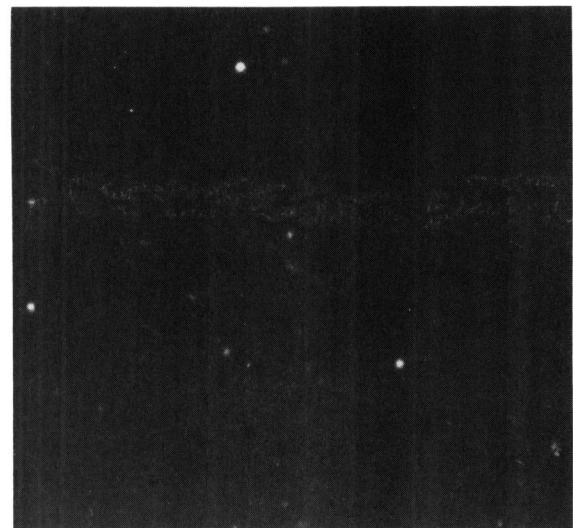


FIGURE 1. — Distribution of 207 galaxies in the northern galactic plane. Since no galaxies were detected in the section $l = 33^\circ\text{--}78^\circ$, it has been omitted.

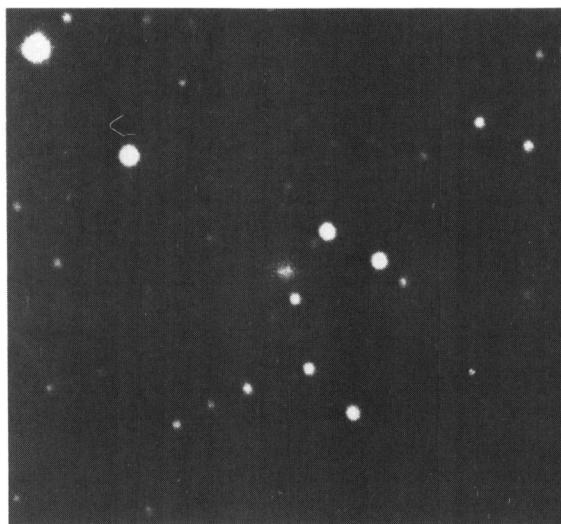


a)



b)

FIGURE 2a, b. — R (2a) and I (2b) photographs of N° 20 (1.2 m telescope, exposure time 45 min). North is at the top, east at left. The pictures cover an area of $147'' \times 138''$.



a)



b)

FIGURE 3a, b. — R (3a) and I (3b) photographs of N° 205 (1.2 m telescope, exposure time 45 min). North is at the top, east at left. The scale is as above.

TABLE I. — *Galaxies on the POSS E prints within $\ell = 33^\circ$ - 213° , $b = \pm 2^\circ$.*

NO.	ℓ	b	α (1950)	δ (1950)	POSS	x	y	E&O	ϕ E	NO.	ℓ	b	α (1950)	δ (1950)	POSS	x	y	E&O	ϕ E
1	86 ⁰⁸ ₈₈	-1 ⁵² ₂	21 ⁰⁴ ₀₂ ⁰² ₀₈	+46 ⁰⁸ ₄₈ ¹²	1133	165	305	+	0 ²	136	175 ⁰⁸ ₈₉	+1 ⁰⁶ ₂	05 ³⁸ ₃₈ ⁴³ ₀₈	+33 ¹⁶ ₀	1290	211	25	+	0 ¹
2	87.10	-1.98	21 07 03	44 39.1	1133	138	297	+	0.3	137	176.10	-1.91	05 25 16	31 09.7	1455	91	236	+	0.2
3	87.61	-1.64	21 07 40	45 15.8	533	105	6	+	0.2	138	176.23	+1.14	05 37 39	32 42.8	1459	245	321	+	0.1
4	87.68	-1.77	21 08 28	45 13.1	533	98	17	+	0.7	139	177.37	+0.36	05 37 23	31 20.2	1459	249	247	+	0.3
5	87.99	-1.55	21 09 50	45 19.8	588	236	104	+	0.2	140	177.53	+1.69	05 43 06	31 54.0	1459	184	278	+	0.1
6	88.00	-1.99	22 05 50	53 19.8	588	236	104	+	0.2	141	177.65	+1.76	05 43 41	31 50.8	1459	177	275	+	0.2
7	102.25	-1.89	22 18 29	54 32.7	588	136	177	+	0.4	142	177.77	+2.00	05 44 56	31 51.9	1459	163	276	+	0.2
8	116.77	+1.55	23 52 48	63 28.3	555	242	8	+	0.2	143	177.80	+1.37	05 42 28	31 30.4	1459	191	256	+	0.3
9	118.44	+1.26	00 07 59	63 30.0	555	151	8	+	0.2	144	177.83	+1.07	05 42 50	31 47.9	1459	193	249	+	0.1
10	118.48	-1.95	00 12 25	63 19.8	1233	120	161	+	0.8	145	178.15	+1.82	05 45 09	31 26.7	1459	161	233	+	0.1
11	126.27	+1.21	01 18 30	63 37.2	1240	266	340	0.1	146	178.87	+1.50	05 45 36	30 39.9	1459	155	211	+	0.3	
12	126.80	-1.77	01 20 00	60 36.0	1240	266	178	+	0.3	147	179.72	+0.91	05 45 19	29 37.9	1459	159	155	+	0.2
13	127.19	-1.79	01 23 10	60 31.7	1240	246	174	+	0.4	148	180.16	+1.28	05 47 49	29 26.5	1459	130	145	+	0.3
14	128.15	+1.42	01 35 28	63 33.5	1240	165	337	+	0.2	149	180.48	-0.95	05 39 56	28 00.6	1459	222	68	+	0.2
15	128.76	-1.92	01 35 29	60 34.0	1240	164	171	+	0.5	150	180.56	+1.60	05 50 01	29 16.1	1459	104	135	+	0.3
16	130.45	-1.24	01 36 14	60 38.4	1240	100	179	+	0.3	151	181.17	+0.88	05 48 37	28 22.5	1459	120	87	+	0.2
17	130.29	+1.65	01 54 40	63 19.4	597	321	337	+	0.6	152	181.30	+1.76	05 52 23	28 42.8	1459	76	105	+	0.4
18	134.27	-1.90	02 17 32	58 45.4	597	185	85	+	0.3	153	181.33	+1.25	05 52 28	28 25.5	1459	98	90	+	0.1
19 ^a	135.84	-0.57	02 32 36	58 25.8	597	80	124	+	2.8	154	181.36	+1.81	05 52 46	28 00.0	1459	72	103	+	0.2
20	136.27	-1.91	02 31 42	58 01.7	597	85	48	0.2	155	181.56	+1.81	05 53 46	28 00.0	1459	99	99	+	0.3	
21 ^b	136.50	-0.33	02 38 09	59 23.4	597	44	124	+	6.7	156	181.60	+0.67	04 48 50	27 53.8	1459	117	62	+	0.1
22	150.86	-0.59	04 02 18	51 16.1	1253	195	335	+	0.3	157	181.62	+1.42	05 51 48	28 15.7	1459	83	81	+	0.3
23	152.68	-1.75	04 05 56	49 11.3	1253	164	224	+	0.2	158	181.74	+1.86	05 53 49	28 23.0	1459	59	88	+	0.1
24	153.72	-1.05	04 13 28	49 59.6	1253	98	214	0.1	159	182.04	+1.59	05 53 24	27 59.5	1459	63	67	+	0.2	
25	153.79	-0.94	04 14 14	49 45.5	1253	91	216	0.1	160	183.09	-1.50	05 43 59	25 30.2	416	169	250	+	0.3	
26	156.14	+1.08	04 19 39	48 33.9	844	196	300	+	0.4	161	183.21	-1.37	05 44 45	25 28.1	416	159	248	+	0.3
27	156.17	-1.76	04 36 15	49 11.7	848	195	238	+	0.8	162	183.82	+2.00	05 59 02	26 39.3	1278	302	318	+	0.2
28	156.44	+1.16	04 34 32	48 34.6	848	211	195	+	0.2	163	184.25	+1.58	05 53 23	26 04.4	1278	311	287	+	0.2
29	157.57	-1.70	04 26 51	45 48.5	848	284	47	+	0.2	164	185.02	+0.72	06 00 15	25 11.0	1278	289	239	+	0.2
30	158.27	-1.59	04 30 00	45 22.8	848	255	24	0.6	165	185.36	+1.56	06 05 58	25 50.5	1278	313	240	+	0.1	
31	158.44	-0.48	04 35 24	46 00.3	848	204	58	+	0.4	166	185.71	+1.04	06 01 50	24 50.5	1278	270	221	+	0.1
32	158.94	-1.58	04 32 40	44 53.8	644	209	318	+	0.3	167	186.84	+1.72	06 04 35	23 53.8	1278	237	170	+	0.2
33	159.58	-0.98	04 37 41	44 50.3	644	161	315	0.4	168	187.28	+1.90	06 06 11	23 35.8	1278	218	154	+	0.2	
34 ^c	159.62	-1.40	04 36 02	44 30.9	644	177	297	+	0.2	169	188.18	+1.26	06 05 42	22 30.0	1278	224	95	+	0.2
35 ^c	159.92	-1.93	04 34 52	43 56.4	644	188	267	+	1.1	170	188.44	+1.45	06 05 55	22 20.0	1278	209	88	+	0.1
36	160.02	-0.50	04 36 19	44 56.5	644	117	321	+	0.3	171	192.97	+1.52	06 16 31	18 26.2	1494	35	200	+	0.8
37	160.25	-0.27	04 42 21	44 56.5	644	171	321	+	0.3	172	193.60	+1.27	06 15 51	17 45.5	1494	31	164	+	0.2
38	160.10	+1.37	04 49 41	45 57.8	848	71	57	+	0.4	173	195.08	+1.92	06 22 11	16 46.0	1470	266	112	+	0.1
39	160.17	+0.58	04 46 29	45 24.3	848	100	26	+	0.2	174	195.72	+1.50	06 21 54	16 00.4	1470	270	71	+	0.3
40	160.24	-0.11	04 43 46	45 54.3	644	104	319	+	0.6	175	195.72	+1.49	06 21 53	15 59.7	1470	270	71	+	0.1
41	160.24	-0.85	04 40 39	44 25.1	644	133	293	+	0.1	176	196.74	+1.04	06 10 21	15 42.5	1470	106	311	+	0.2
42	160.33	+1.58	04 51 27	45 55.2	848	54	52	+	0.2	177	196.55	+1.18	06 22 21	15 07.4	1470	245	24	+	0.1
43	160.37	+0.04	04 44 52	45 54.3	644	93	320	+	0.3	178	196.56	-0.04	06 17 56	14 32.0	1502	9	261	+	0.1
44 ^d	160.41	+1.33	04 40 39	44 55.7	644	87	321	+	0.3	179	196.65	+0.57	06 21 19	14 44.6	445	288	326	+	0.3
45 ^d	160.42	+0.14	04 45 30	44 55.7	644	45	321	+	0.3	180	196.68	-0.42	06 14 48	14 14.8	1502	24	299	+	0.6
46	160.65	+0.65	04 47 51	45 51.9	644	66	338	0.2	181	196.93	^b 0.65 ₃	06 21.3	1445	279	315	+ 0.6			
47	160.46	+0.08	04 45 24	44 51.5	644	88	317	+	0.3	182	197.18	+0.02	06 19 22	14 01.0	445	301	287	+	0.7
48	160.48	+0.08	04 45 30	44 50.6	644	87	316	+	0.6	183	197.22	+0.06	06 19 36	13 59.9	445	298	286	+	0.3
49	160.48	-0.14	04 44 32	44 42.1	644	96	309	+	0.3	184	197.25	+0.04	06 19 33	13 57.8	445	299	284	+	0.2
50	160.48	-0.22	04 44 10	44 39.3	644	99	306	0.2	185	197.28	-0.13	06 19 00	13 41.1	445	300	285	+	0.1	
51 ^e	160.51	+0.30	04 46 32	44 57.5	848	99	2	+	0.2	186	197.55	+0.26	06 21 17	14 37.0	445	198	219	+	0.2
52	160.52	-1.47	04 47 52	44 52.4	644	62	246	0.3	187	197.86	+0.61	06 22 49	13 41.9	445	256	270	+	0.2	
53	160.53	-1.23	04 48 39	44 51.1	644	40	246	+	0.3	188	198.11	+1.19	06 25 24	13 44.8	445	223	273	+	0.1
54	160.62	-0.76	04 42 24	44 11.3	644	116	281	+	0.2	189	200.15	+1.68	06 31 07	12 10.4	445	184	+	0.8	
55	160.66	-1.40	04 39 52	43 44.2	644	140	256	0.3	190	201.20	+0.57	06 20 19	12 04.0	445	276	70	+	0.3	
56	160.70	+1.49	04 52 24	45 34.6	848	45	36	+	0.1	191	201.27	-1.64	06 19 23	10 30.5	445	303	99	+	0.3
57	160.70	+0.54	04 46 16	44 58.5	644	61	320	0.3	192	201.28	-1.77	06 18 54	10 26.4	445	309	95	+	0.3	
58	160.72	-0.66	04 41 23	44 11.2	644	108	281	+	0.3	193	200.40	-1.49	06 20 09	10 27.7	445	293	96	+	0.1
59	160.74	+0.94	04																