MODERN OPTICAL TELESCOPES

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During a quarter of century the total area of mirrors of all astronomical telescopes working in the optical range of wavelengths has increased by almost ten times. The modern instruments allow getting more detailed images of objects than their predecessors; in particular, the “atmospheric barrier” of the image quality has been overcome. Why the so fast progress became possible? How are the new telescopes made? What projects will be realized in the coming years? Just these questions are discussed in the book. The historical continuity is traced of ideas determining development of the telescope making.

The book is intended for students and graduates specializing in astronomy, specialists in adjacent fields and a wide circle of the people interested in natural sciences.

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