

Dear editor,

We appreciate the opportunity to revise and resubmit our paper, MS 24774. First, we wish to address concerns regarding the paper's potential appeal and intended target audience. A primary aim of this paper is to show that the construction of a high quality observatory is within reach of small institutions. Because an observatory significantly impacts the learning of physics and astronomy, we believe that the paper will be of interest to those who wish to enhance their programs by building their own. As noted by the editor, the paper is intended for publication in the astronomy and space science theme issue, where it will reach its intended target audience.

Several changes were made to the manuscript in response to reviewer comments. We reworked the entire document to address issues with grammar, clarity, and structure. We revised the introduction, adding language to address the apparent paradox of building a remotely accessible observatory on campus. We revised the discussion about the pier to address confusing language regarding the source of oscillations. We included an image of the Orion Nebula to illustrate the imaging capabilities of the instrument. We significantly reworked the section on software, adding a block diagram to clarify the software system design. While we agree that a pedagogical paper detailing laboratory curriculum would be of broad general interest, we chose not to expand the curriculum section as this paper focuses on the design and construction of the observatory. A paper providing curricular details will be published at a later date.

Sincerely,

Gerry Ruch and Marty Johnston