

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn835

Number of telescopes: 3

Number of organisers: 15

Number of attendees: 16500

Event photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/89938313@N00/sets/72157622792763114/>

Event Report:

In Brasilia (Brazil) the CAsB (Brasilia Astronomy Club) as a PLAN-B to galilean nights promoted a "virtual Jupiter observation" during the "National Week of Science and Technology" exposition, between 19 and 25/10/2009.

During the exposition we provided 2 telescopes simulating 2 distinct Jupiter observations, the first is a big newtonian telescope simulating a view of Jupiter with a 400x magnification, and the other one is a small modified refractor simulating the Galileo's view of Jupiter, 400 years ago.

A modified eyepiece and a backlight illuminated picture provide a "almost realistic indoor" view of Jupiter planet.

During 7 days a lot o schools, families, curious and others people visited the exposition, located in the exposition, mounted in the center of the city. The final estimated public in all event is 150.000 people (view report in Portuguese - Official website - <http://semanact.mct.gov.br/index.php/content/view/3148.html>).

To estimate the total simulation observations we divide the biggest telescope used time during the occurrence of lines, estimating a use of 13 seconds per visitor. See table below:

Day..... Estimated public

Monday..... 2220 people
Tuesday..... 2220 people
Wednesday..... 2460 people
Thursday..... 2220 people
Friday..... 2220 people
Saturday..... 2400 people
Sunday..... 2760 people
Grand total ---- 16500 people

This is the estimated total of people than effectively looked the Jupiter simulation in the biggest telescope. We estimate a 50 to 60% more people looked the exposition without look the simulator in the bigger telescope.

We programmed 4 real observations of Jupiter but the weather only allowed for 3.

The estimated public of these observation is:

21/10 - Cloudy - 44 people
23/10 - Cloudy with moon - 150 people
24/10 - Cloudy with moon and Jupiter - Approx 1500 people.