SOAR
and
Brazilian Astronomy

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Why did Brazil become a SOAR partner ?

- Start of operations of OPD in 1980 marks a decisive turning point in Brazilian astronomy
  - For the first
    observing fa
  - Together wi
    these new c

- Consequently, C
  observing time i
  - Quality: acc
    sites than e
  - Quantity: n

Why did Brazil become a SOAR partner ?

- Soluti

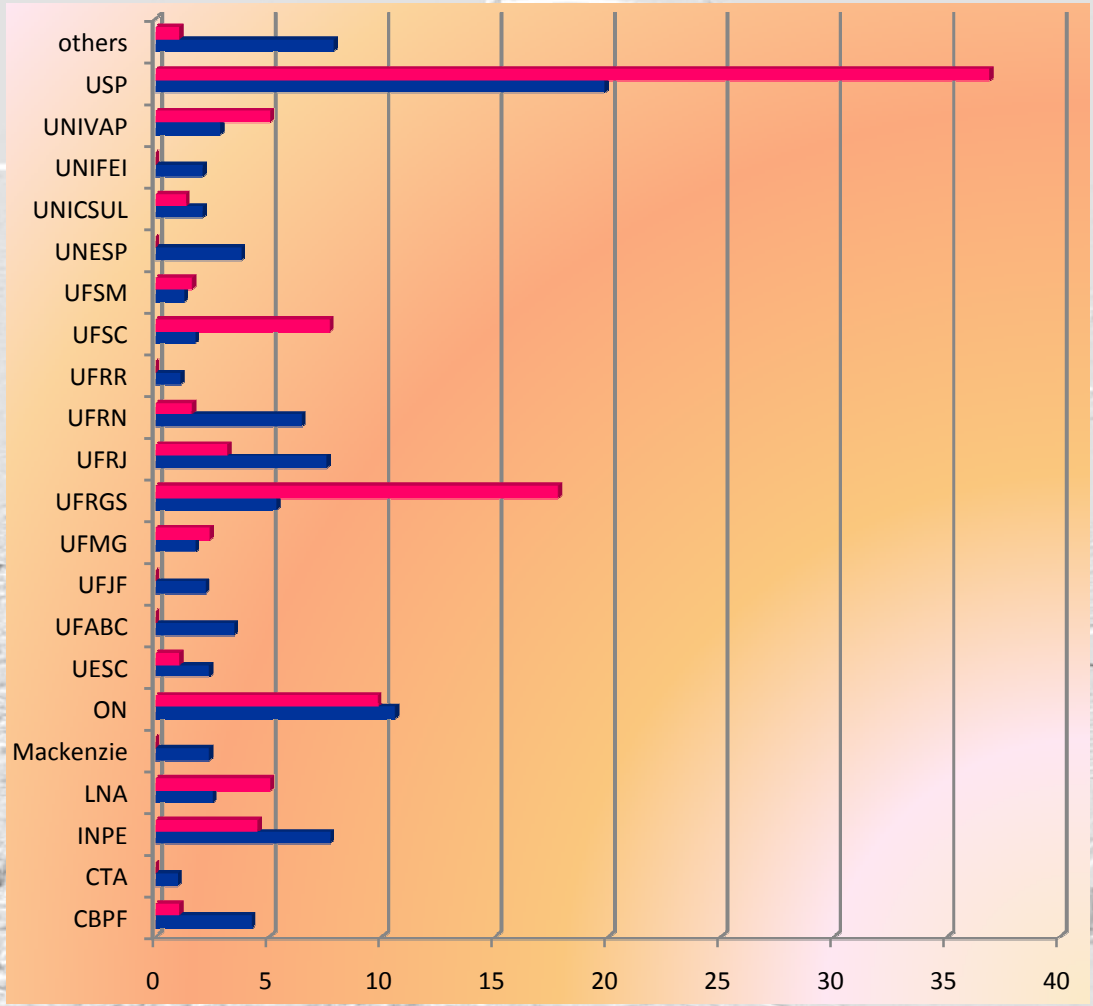
Initial aspirations of Brazil with respect to SOAR

- gain a significant amount of observing time
- at a world-class telescope
- to be used for multi-purpose fore-front research in observational optical astronomy
- foster the development of technological capabilities within Brazil
- construct competitive astronomical instrumentation satisfying the demands of the users

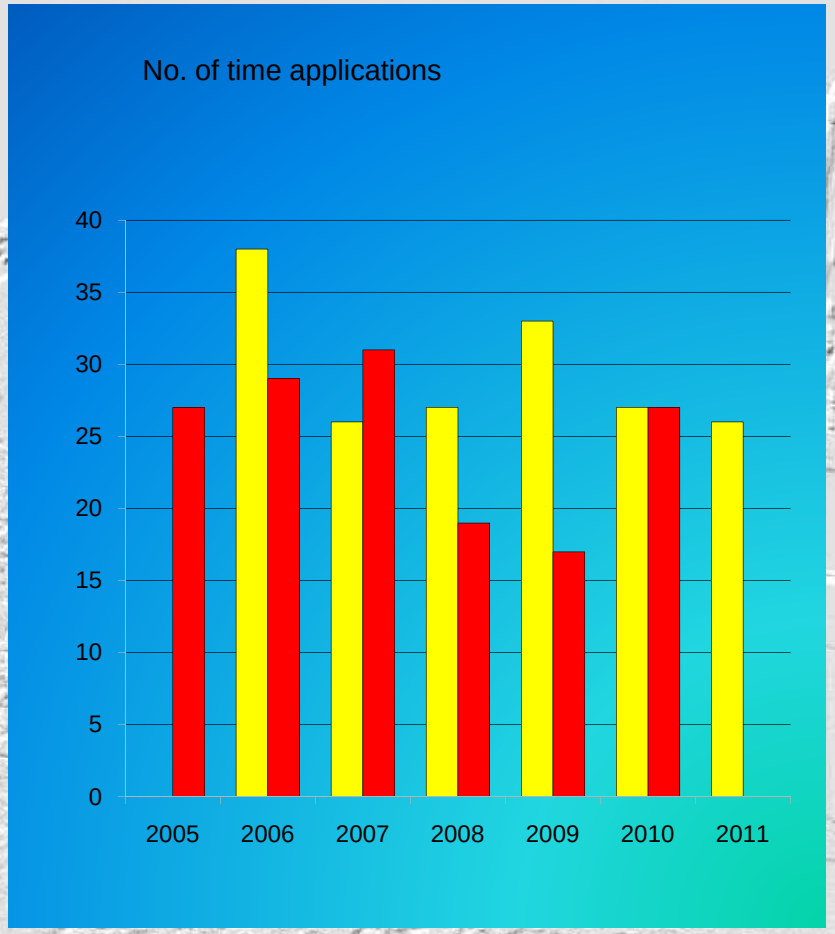
SO

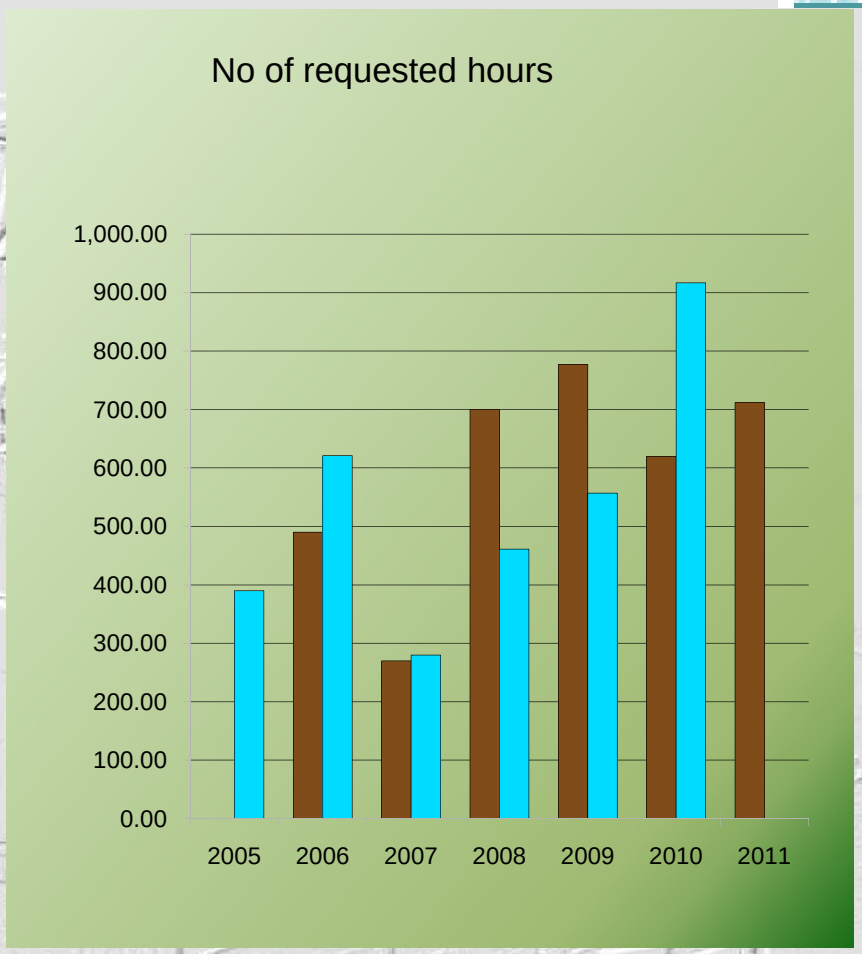
Who uses SOAR in Brazil ?

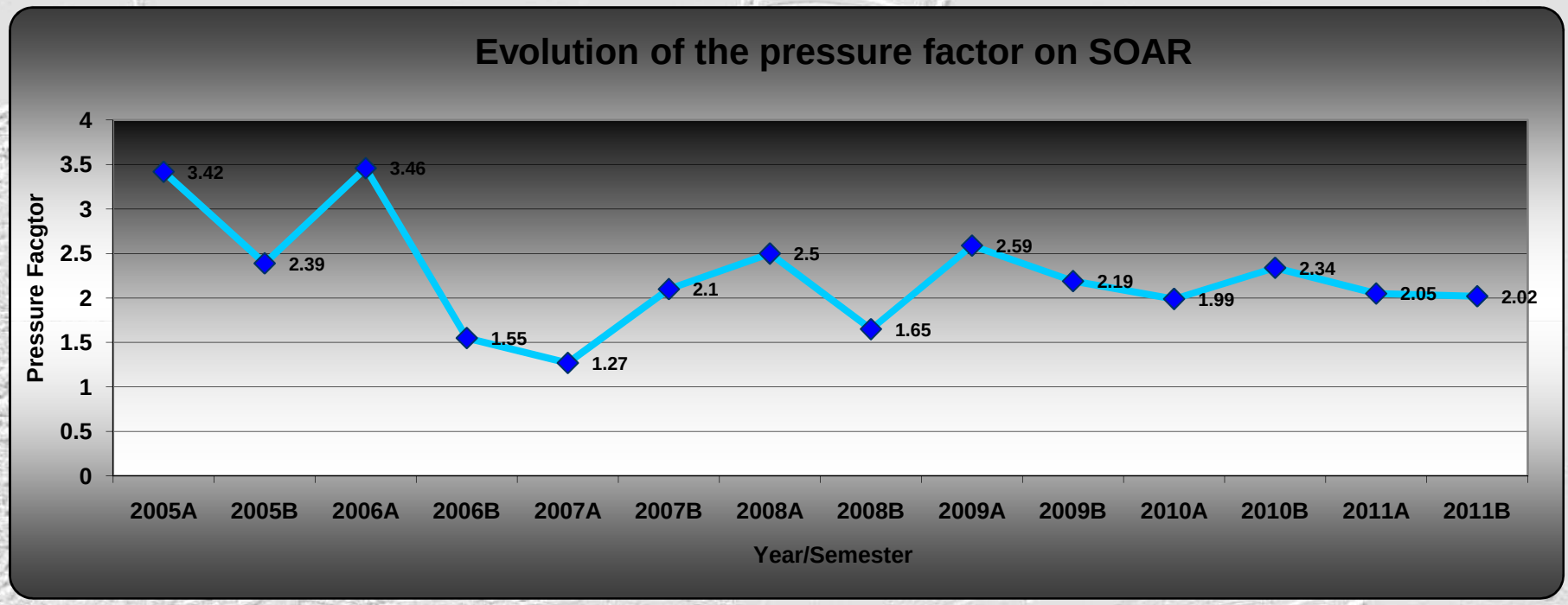
Percentage of astronomers per institution ←→
Percentage of time applications per institution



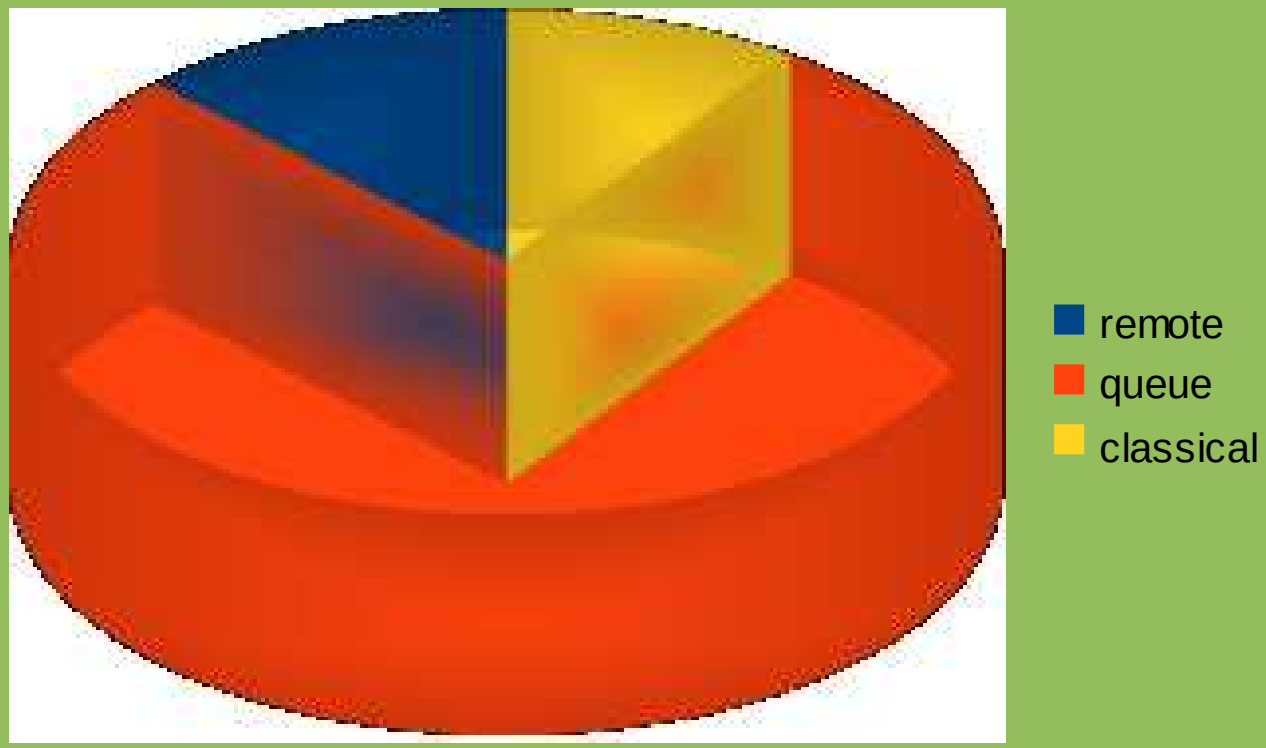
What is the magnitude of the demand for SOAR ?






Evolution of the pressure factor on SOAR
Pressure Facgtor
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
3.42
2.39
3.46
1.55
1.27
2.1
2.5
1.65
2.59
2.19
1.99
2.34
2.05
2.02
2005A
2005B
2006A
2006B
2007A
2007B
2008A
2008B
2009A
2009B
2010A
2010B
2011A
2011B
Year/Semester

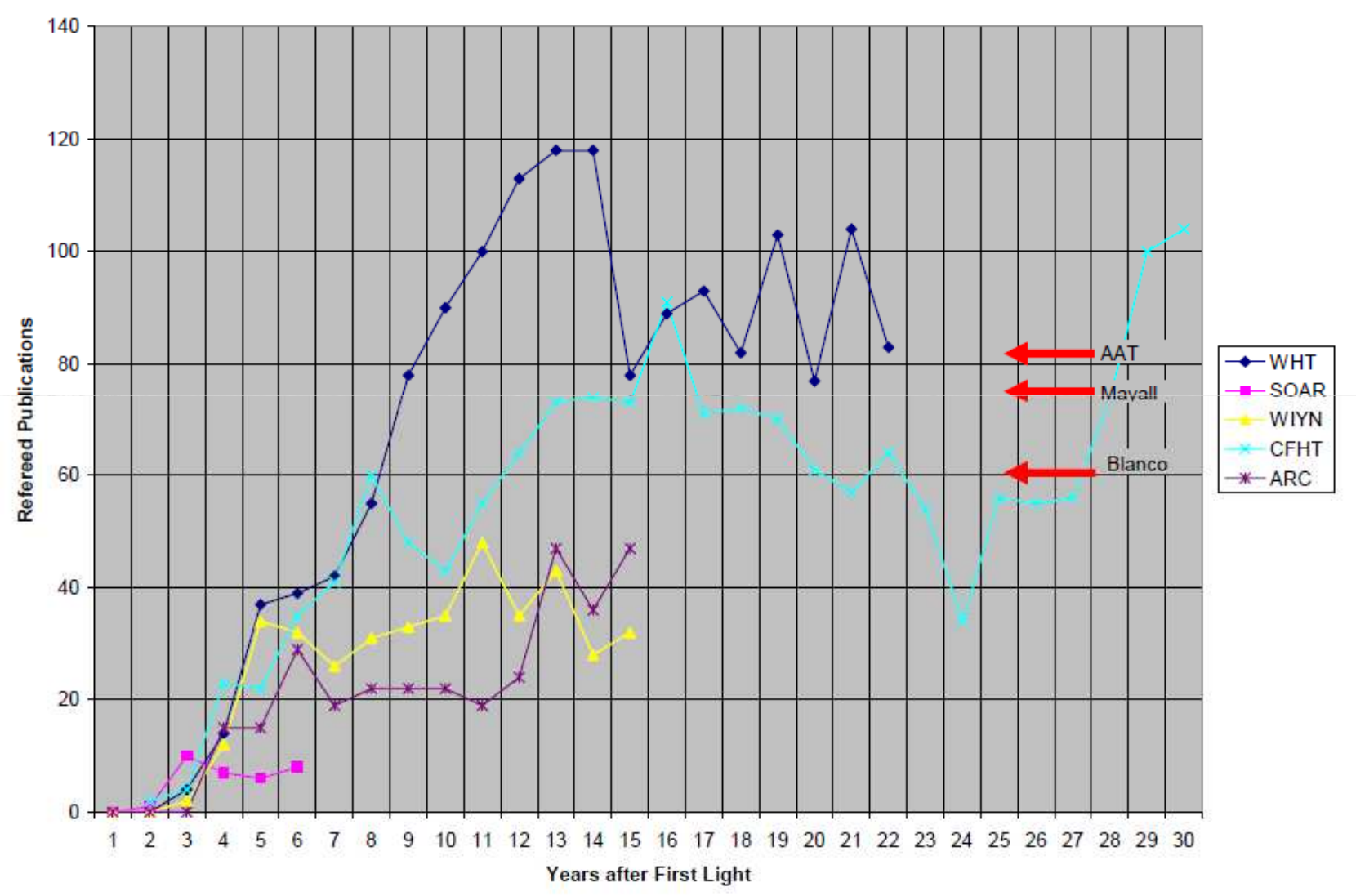
Distribution of observing modes



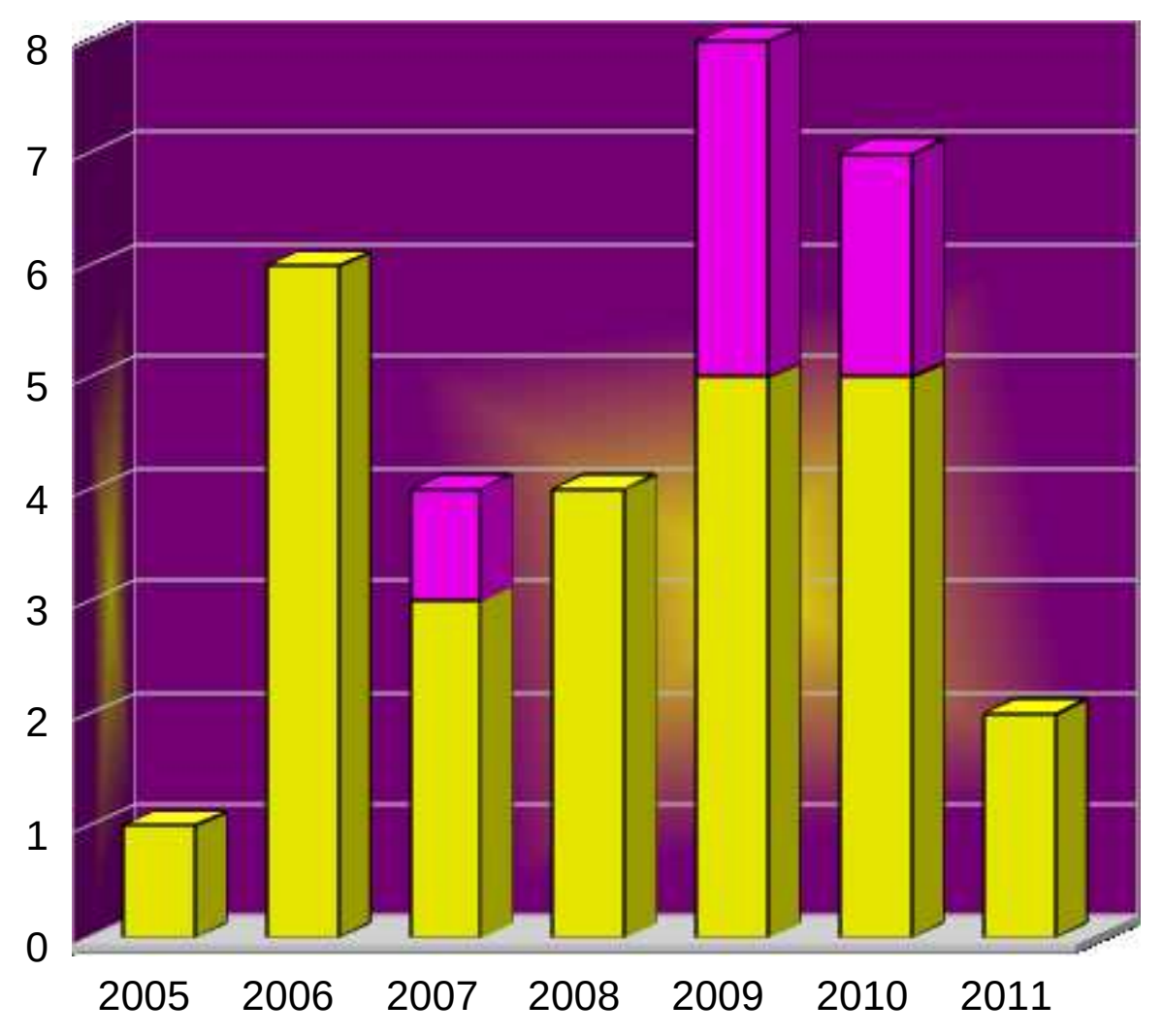
User satisfaction

- Main conclusions from feedback received from Brazilian SOAR users:
  - Users are moderately satisfied with the performance of SOAR, but there are issues
  - Room for improvement exists
  - SOAR is addressing the issues
- Nevertheless, the initial problems of SOAR might have frustrated part of the potential users:
  - Late start of normal science operations
  - Late arrival of a significant part of the first generation instruments
  - Initial problems with some of the first generation instruments

Comparison of publication rates of 4m-class telescopes



Brazilian SOAR publications: refereed journals + thesis



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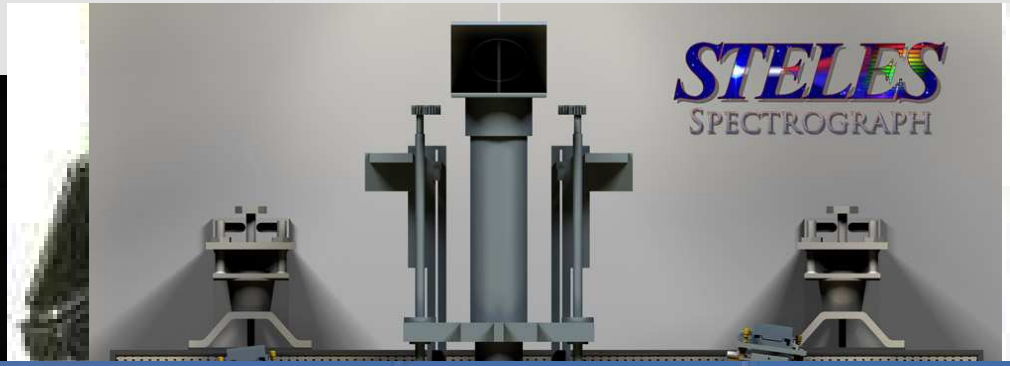


The future of SOAR from the Brazi

The Brazilian astronomical comm e
committed to the future of SOAR

This is clearly reflected in the **Rec** of the
recent **National Plan for Astrono** y of
Science and Technology:

Maintain the existing observa ni) and
increase its efficiency, prov (in
particular, human resources) to level of
quality an

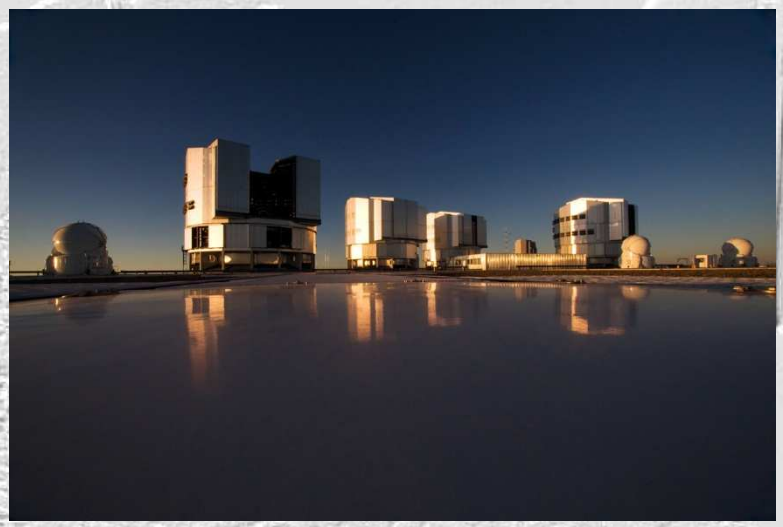
SOAR in the age of Brazilian ESO membership

or

Is Brazilian ESO membership a thread to the continued commitment of Brazil to SOAR?

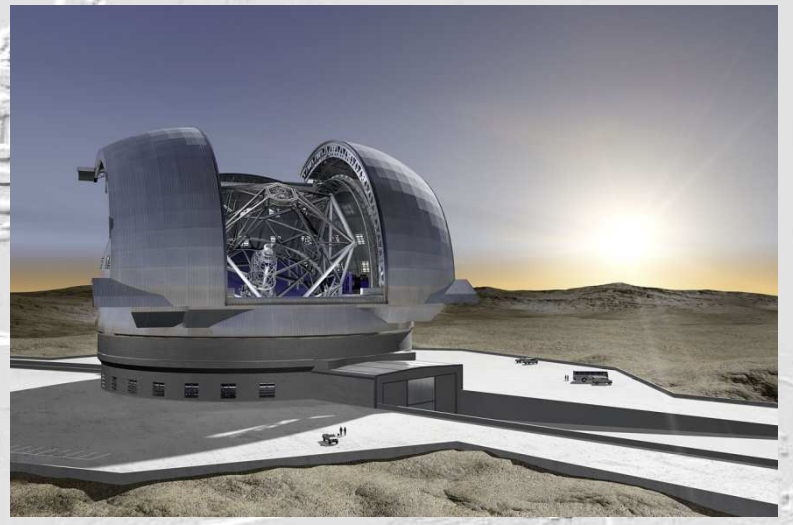
Can SOAR compete with this telescope?

NO



Can SOAR compete with this telescope?

NO



Does SOAR have to compete with these telescopes?

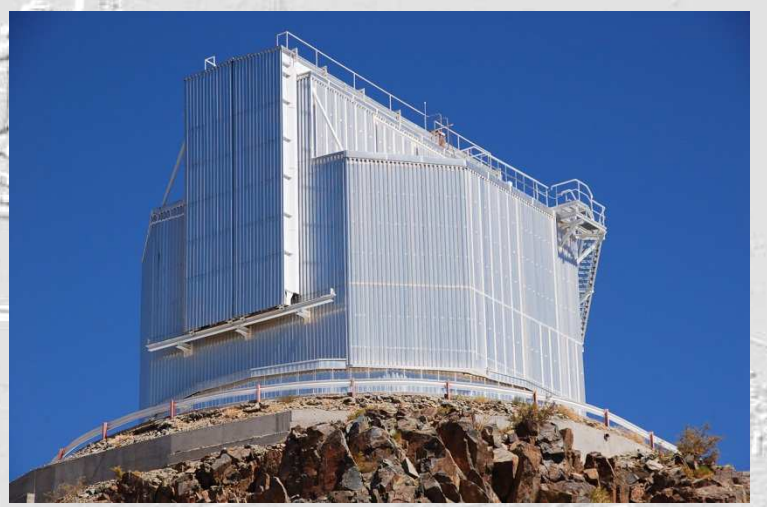
NO !

SOAR in the age of Brazilian ESO membership
or
Is Brazilian ESO membership a thread to the continued commitment of Brazil to SOAR?

Can SOAR compete with this telescope?

The ESO 3.6-m telescope is dedicated to extra-solar planet search (using HARPS)
→ Not in competition with SOAR

Can SOAR compete with this telescope?



The NNT has optical characteristics complementary to SOAR; instrumentation partly overlaps
→ Modest competition with SOAR