

AAVSO Data Usage Guidelines

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The AAVSO provides free access to a growing collection of data contributed by a global community of professional astronomers, amateur astronomers, and student researchers. These data support scientific research, education, and public outreach.

We request that all users of AAVSO data abide by the guidelines specified below. Proper acknowledgement supports the visibility of contributing observers, helps AAVSO track scientific impact, and reinforces AAVSO's role in supporting amateur astronomers.

If you find these data useful in your publications, we also encourage you to [consider donating to support AAVSO's programs and services](#).

General Expectations

Users of AAVSO data should:

- Acknowledge the contributions of individual observers or discovery teams. When AAVSO data are critical to your research, please include the relevant observers as co-authors. To contact them, email aavso@aavso.org with the observer codes and we'll connect you.
- Recognize the use of AAVSO data, products, or services in the acknowledgement section of their publications. Recommended language can be found in the table below.
- Include the "AAVSO" facility keywords when submitting manuscripts to journals that support structured keywords (e.g. AAS journals). Recommended keywords can be found in the table below.
- Use formal citation formats appropriate to the publication venue when referencing unpublished or custom-access data.

In addition, the AAVSO requests that you:

- Notify AAVSO Headquarters of any publication using AAVSO data by emailing aavso@aavso.org. Sharing these citations allows us to highlight your work and demonstrate the scientific value of those who contribute.

Please refer to the sections below for database-specific acknowledgment guidance, including suggested wording and citation examples.

Recommended Acknowledgements

The AAVSO recommends researchers use the following acknowledgement, citations, and facility keywords when referring to AAVSO data products in their papers:

AAVSO Facility Keywords			
Database	Acknowledgement Text	Citation (ADS link)	AAS Facility Keyword
AAVSO International Database (AID)	We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the AAVSO observer community, whose [photometric, spectroscopic, solar, exoplanet] data and metadata resources were used in this study and made available through the AAVSO's scientific archives.	None	AAVSO (AID)
AAVSO American Sunspot Number Observations Database		None	AAVSO (Solar)
AAVSO Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance (SID) database		None	AAVSO (SID)
AAVSO Variable Star Index (VSX)		Watson, C. L., Henden, A. A., and Price, A., " The International Variable Star Index (VSX) ", <i>Society for Astronomical Sciences Annual Symposium</i> , vol. 25, p. 47, 2006.	AAVSO (VSX)
AAVSO Spectroscopy Database (AVSpec)		None	AAVSO (AVSpec)
AAVSO Exoplanet Database (ExoDB)		None	AAVSO (ExoDB)
AAVSO Observing Campaigns		None	AAVSO (Campaign)
AAVSO Observing Campaigns		None	AAVSO (Alert)

AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey (APASS)	This research was made possible through the use of the AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey (APASS), funded by the Robert Martin Ayers Sciences Fund and NSF AST-1412587.	Henden, A. A., Levine, S., Terrell, D., Welch, D. L., Munari, U., and Kloppenborg, B. K., " APASS Data Release 10 ", vol. 232, Art. no. 223.06, 2018.	AAVSO (APASS)
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