

An idea for new project for the Arab
Astronomers

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Background..

- My research field is integrated spectra of stellar clusters ([ADS](#)). I spend the summer with my collaborators at Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.
- There, I met Dr. Stella Kafka, director of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO).
- She showed the map of AAVSO observers and members..



AAVSO Members and Observers



Variable Stars

- Variable stars are stars that change in brightness.
- The study of variable stars gives information on how stars are **formed, live and die** and what **changes occur internally and externally** as they evolve as well as **the environments surrounding** them, including **planets and other companions**.



Can we contribute to changing this map?

- The unaided eye is sufficient for bright stars, while for fainter stars you a telescope is needed.
- Observers send their data to Headquarter, where they are checked processed and added to the AAVSO international Database.
- Members and observers have a unique opportunity to present and exchange ideas at the AAVSO meetings and publish in peer-review journals.



Planning ahead:

- We are working on translating the observer manual to Arabic.
- In my astrophysics course next semester this will be the research project for my students.
- We have a large number of observers in the different countries. I propose starting a group in the Arab countries for this observing program.

