

# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>Preface .....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Chapter 1 – Overview.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 What are String Telescopes?.....	1
1.2 Stabilizing Columns Using Guy Wires.....	2
1.3 Classifying String Telescope Structures.....	2
1.4 Preparation before You Begin .....	5
1.4.1 Define Your Goals .....	5
1.4.2 Survey Existing Products .....	7
1.4.3 Understand Relevant Engineering and Technologies.....	7
1.5 How to Use This Book .....	8
1.5.1 Selecting a Design .....	8
1.5.2 Essential Construction Methods.....	9
1.5.3 Evaluating Performance .....	9
1.6 Design Tools.....	10
1.7 Construction Tools .....	10
<b>Chapter 2 – Basic Principles of String Telescopes.....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 The Idealized String Telescope .....	13
2.1.1 Vertical Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	13
2.1.2 Horizontal Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	15
2.2 The Idealized Model Meets the Real World.....	17
2.2.1 Vertical Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	17
2.2.2 A Metric for Pre-Stressing Effectiveness.....	20
2.2.3 Horizontal Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	21
2.2.4 Effectiveness of Pre-Stressing Horizontal Planar String Substructure.....	23
2.2.5 Substructure Deflections versus Elevation Angle .....	24
2.3 Summary .....	25

## ii *Table of Contents*

<b>Chapter 3 – String Telescopes with Planar Substructures .....</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1 TOA Using Four Planar String Substructures .....	27
3.1.1 Vertical TOA Subjected to Vertical Load .....	28
3.1.2 Horizontal TOA Subjected to Vertical Load .....	30
3.1.3 TOA Deflection versus Elevation Angle .....	32
3.1.4 Lateral Deflections .....	34
3.1.5 Rotational Deflections of the UOA .....	36
3.1.5.1 Non-Axial Rotation with Vertical TOA .....	36
3.1.5.2 Axial Rotation with Horizontal TOA .....	39
3.1.5.3 Non-Axial Rotation with Horizontal TOA .....	41
3.1.6 Relative Magnitude of Planar String Substructure Deflections ..	43
3.2 TOAs Using Four Pairs of Planar Guy Wires.....	44
3.3 TOA Using Three Planar String Substructures.....	47
3.3.1 TOA Deflection versus Elevation Angle .....	47
3.3.2 Lateral Deflections .....	49
3.3.3 Comparison Between TOAs Using Three or Four Planar String Substructures .....	50
3.4 TOAs Using Three Pairs of Planar Guy Wires.....	51
3.5 TOA Using Three Pairs of Angled Planar Guy Wires .....	52
3.5.1 Deflections Perpendicular to the TOA Axis.....	53
3.5.2 Forces Generated by Angled Pairs of Planar Guy Wires .....	55
3.6 Other Structure Forces .....	56
3.7 Summary .....	60
<b>Chapter 4 – String Telescopes with Non-Planar Substructures.....</b>	<b>61</b>
4.1 Non-Planar Substructures .....	61
4.1.1 Vertical Non-Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	62
4.1.2 Horizontal Non-Planar String Substructure Subjected to Vertical Load .....	63
4.2 TOA Using Four Non-Planar String Substructures .....	65
4.2.1 Vertical TOA Subjected to Vertical Load .....	65
4.2.2 Horizontal TOA Subjected to Vertical Load .....	67
4.2.3 TOA Deflection versus Elevation Angle .....	69
4.2.4 Lateral Deflections .....	70
4.2.5 Rotational Deflections of the UOA .....	72
4.2.5.1 Non-Axial Rotation with Vertical TOA .....	72
4.2.5.2 Axial Rotation with Horizontal TOA .....	75
4.2.5.3 Non-Axial Rotation with Horizontal TOA .....	77
4.2.6 Relative Magnitude of Non-Planar String Substructure Deviations .....	78
4.3 TOA Using Two Non-Planar String Substructures .....	78
4.4 TOAs Using Three Non-Planar String Substructures.....	80
4.4.1 Horizontal TOA Subjected to Vertical Load .....	81
4.4.2 Lateral Deflections .....	82

4.4.3 Effectiveness of Pre-Stressing Horizontal TOA.....	83
4.4.4 Deflection Comparison of TOAs Using Three and Four Non-Planar String Substructures.....	83
4.4.5 TOA Using Three Modified Non-Planar String Substructures ..	84
4.4.6 TOA Using Three Alternative Non-Planar String Substructures ..	87
4.4.6.1 Horizontal TOA Subjected to Vertical Load.....	88
4.4.6.2 Lateral Deflections.....	89
4.4.6.3 Effectiveness of Pre-Stressing Horizontal TOA .....	90
4.5 Radial Forces .....	90
4.6 Summary.....	93
<b>Chapter 5 – Selection and Testing of Guy Wires.....</b>	<b>95</b>
5.1 Guy Wire Candidates .....	95
5.1.1 Steel Wire Rope .....	95
5.1.1.1 Cable Stretch .....	97
5.1.1.2 Selection Criteria and Availability.....	99
5.1.1.3 Sample Selection and Preparation .....	100
5.1.2 High Modulus Polymers.....	101
5.1.2.1 Stretch, Stress Relaxation, and Creep .....	103
5.1.2.2 Selection Criteria and Availability.....	104
5.1.2.3 Fiber Ropes .....	107
5.1.2.4 Sample Selection and Preparation .....	108
5.2 Test Systems .....	111
5.2.1 Test System 1 — Applied Stress .....	112
5.2.1.1 Determining Elongation.....	115
5.2.1.2 Corrections — Wall Flexure .....	119
5.2.1.3 Corrections — Thermal Expansion .....	120
5.2.1.4 Determining the Coefficient of Thermal Expansion ..	124
5.2.2 Test System 2 — Applied Strain .....	124
5.2.2.1 Determining Elongation.....	128
5.2.2.2 Corrections — Support Structure Flexure .....	129
5.2.2.3 Corrections — Thermal Expansion .....	133
5.2.2.4 Determining the Coefficient of Thermal Expansion ..	134
5.3 Experimental Results .....	134
5.3.1 Wire Rope.....	134
5.3.1.1 Elongation — Applied Stress.....	134
5.3.1.2 Elongation — Applied Strain.....	137
5.3.1.3 Stress Relaxation/Creep .....	138
5.3.1.4 Thermal Expansion — Applied Stress.....	139
5.3.2 High Modulus Polymers.....	141
5.3.2.1 Elongation — Applied Stress.....	142
5.3.2.2 Elongation — Applied Strain.....	146
5.3.2.3 Thermal Expansion — Applied Stress.....	149
5.3.2.4 Thermal Expansion — Applied Strain.....	151
5.4 Summary .....	154

**iv Table of Contents**

5.4.1 Steel Wire Rope .....	155
5.4.2 Bowstring Yarn .....	156
5.4.3 12-Strand Fiber Rope .....	157
5.4.4 Conclusions and Recommendations.....	157
<b>Chapter 6 – Testing of String Telescope Structures .....</b>	<b>159</b>
6.1 Test Fixture and Method.....	159
6.2 Results - Agreement between Experiment and Theory .....	166
6.2.1 Example 1 — TOA Using Four Non-Planar String Substructures .....	166
6.2.2 Example 2 — TOA Using Two Non-Planar String Substructures .....	167
6.2.3 Example 3 — TOA Using Three Non-Planar String Substructures .....	169
6.2.4 Example 4 — TOA Using Three Modified Non-Planar String Substructures.....	171
6.2.5 Example 5 — TOA Using Three Alternative Non-Planar String Substructures.....	173
6.2.6 Example 6 — TOA Using Three Angled Planar Guy Wire Pairs.....	175
6.3 Summary.....	177
<b>Chapter 7 – Design Guidelines.....</b>	<b>179</b>
7.1 TOA Stiffness .....	179
7.1.1 Criteria for Structure Deflection.....	180
7.1.2 Static Stiffness .....	181
7.1.3 Dynamic Stiffness .....	182
7.2 Comparison between Planar and Non-Planar Substructures .....	184
7.3 Comparison among Non-Planar Substructures.....	187
7.4 Requirements for Pre-stressing TOAs .....	191
7.4.1 Configuration Geometry.....	191
7.4.2 Guy Wire Stiffness versus Stress .....	193
7.4.3 Strut Resistance to Buckling .....	194
7.4.4 Temperature Dependence .....	195
7.4.5 Stressing Structures Using Springs .....	196
7.5 Connection Practices.....	197
7.6 Structure Vibrations .....	198
7.6.1 Guy Wire Vibration .....	198
7.6.2 Strut Vibration .....	199
7.6.3 TOA Vibration .....	199
7.6.4 Comparisons .....	200
<b>Chapter 8 – 10-inch f/5 String Telescope .....</b>	<b>203</b>
8.1 Introduction and Goals .....	203
8.1.1 Design Scope .....	203
8.1.2 Goals and Specifications .....	203

8.2 Design . . . . .	205
8.2.1 Overview of the Completed Telescope . . . . .	205
8.2.2 Calculating Deflections . . . . .	207
8.2.3 Strut and Guy Wire Substructures . . . . .	209
8.2.4 Optical Design . . . . .	212
8.2.4.1 Primary Mirror . . . . .	212
8.2.4.2 Primary Mirror Support . . . . .	213
8.2.4.3 Telescope Optical Assembly . . . . .	218
8.2.5 Eyepiece Height and Location . . . . .	219
8.2.6 Balancing the TOA — Horizontal . . . . .	221
8.2.7 Altitude Bearings . . . . .	223
8.2.8 Balancing the TOA — Vertical . . . . .	223
8.2.9 Altazimuth Assembly (Rocker Box) . . . . .	224
8.3 Telescope Construction . . . . .	226
8.3.1 Upper Optical Assembly . . . . .	227
8.3.1.1 Drum Shell . . . . .	227
8.3.1.2 Bottom End Ring . . . . .	227
8.3.1.3 Focuser and Finder Reinforcements . . . . .	230
8.3.1.4 Hole for Focuser Drawtube . . . . .	230
8.3.1.5 UOA Connection Brackets . . . . .	231
8.3.2 Primary Mirror Cell . . . . .	232
8.3.2.1 Triangular Frame . . . . .	232
8.3.2.2 Mirror Cell Assembly . . . . .	233
8.3.2.3 Gluing the Cell to the Primary Mirror . . . . .	235
8.3.3 Lower Optical Assembly — Mirror Box . . . . .	236
8.3.3.1 Mirror Box Top and Bottom Panels . . . . .	236
8.3.3.2 Mirror Box Sides . . . . .	238
8.3.3.3 Assembling the Mirror Box Panels . . . . .	238
8.3.3.4 Outside Corner Brackets . . . . .	240
8.3.3.5 Top Corner Plates . . . . .	240
8.3.3.6 Checking Fit . . . . .	242
8.3.3.7 Mirror Box Cover . . . . .	242
8.3.3.8 Installing the Primary Mirror . . . . .	242
8.3.4 Struts . . . . .	243
8.3.5 Guy Wires . . . . .	244
8.3.6 Assembling the TOA . . . . .	244
8.3.7 Altitude Bearings . . . . .	245
8.3.8 Rocker Box . . . . .	251
8.3.8.1 Vertical Panels . . . . .	251
8.3.8.2 Bottom Panel . . . . .	252
8.3.8.3 Assembling the Rocker Box . . . . .	253
8.3.8.4 Teflon Pads . . . . .	254
8.3.8.5 The Ground Board . . . . .	254
8.3.9 Finishing . . . . .	256

vi *Table of Contents*

8.4 Comments and Suggestions .....	257
8.4.1 Use .....	257
8.4.2 Personal Satisfaction, Ergonomics, Convenience .....	259
8.4.3 Transport and Storage.....	260
8.4.4 Construction .....	260
<b>Chapter 9 – 12.5-inch <i>f/4</i> String Telescope.....</b>	<b>263</b>
9.1 Introduction and Goals .....	263
9.1.1 Design Scope .....	263
9.1.2 Goals and Specifications .....	263
9.1.3 Airline Travel Requirements .....	265
9.2 Design .....	267
9.2.1 Overview of the Completed Telescope .....	267
9.2.2 Calculating Deflections .....	272
9.2.3 Strut and Guy Wire Substructures .....	274
9.2.4 Optical Design .....	276
9.2.4.1 Primary Mirror .....	276
9.2.4.2 Primary Mirror Support .....	276
9.2.4.3 Telescope Optical Assembly .....	280
9.2.5 Eyepiece Height and Location .....	282
9.2.6 Balancing the TOA – Horizontal .....	283
9.2.7 Altitude Bearings .....	283
9.2.8 Balancing the TOA – Vertical .....	284
9.2.9 Altazimuth Assembly (Rocker Box) .....	285
9.3 Telescope Construction.....	287
9.3.1 Lower Optical Assembly .....	288
9.3.1.1 Top and Bottom Rings .....	288
9.3.1.2 LOA Sides .....	291
9.3.1.3 Assembling the LOA – Phase I .....	292
9.3.1.4 Assembling the LOA – Phase II .....	294
9.3.2 LOA Mounting Brackets .....	298
9.3.3 Primary Mirror Cell .....	300
9.3.3.1 Triangular Frame .....	300
9.3.3.2 Rocker bars .....	304
9.3.3.3 Mirror Cell Assembly .....	305
9.3.3.4 Gluing the Cell to the Primary Mirror .....	306
9.3.3.5 LOA Cover .....	307
9.3.3.6 Installing the Primary Mirror .....	308
9.3.4 Guy Wires .....	308
9.3.5 Struts .....	308
9.3.6 Upper Optical Assembly .....	310
9.3.6.1 Tube Reinforcements .....	310
9.3.6.2 Mounting the Focuser .....	313
9.3.6.3 Bottom End Ring .....	313
9.3.6.4 UOA Mounting Brackets .....	315

9.3.6.5 Baffles .....	316
9.3.7 Intermediate Ring.....	318
9.3.8 Assembling the TOA .....	319
9.3.9 Altitude Bearings .....	320
9.3.10 Rocker Box.....	325
9.3.10.1 Left and Right Side Panels.....	325
9.3.10.2 Front and Rear Panels .....	327
9.3.10.3 Bottom Panel .....	328
9.3.10.4 Assembling the Rocker Box .....	328
9.3.10.5 Teflon Pads .....	331
9.3.10.6 The Ground Board .....	332
9.3.11 Finishing.....	333
9.4 Comments and Suggestions .....	333
9.4.1 Use .....	334
9.4.2 Personal Satisfaction, Ergonomics, Convenience .....	335
9.4.3 Transport and Storage.....	335
9.4.4 Construction .....	336
<b>Appendix A – Recording and Analyzing Vibration Data .....</b>	<b>337</b>
A.1 Introduction .....	337
A.2 The Slam Stick.....	337
A.3 Vibration Analysis .....	338
A.3.1 Basic Model of Structural Vibration.....	339
A.3.2 Vibrating Systems in Telescopes.....	340
A.3.3 Accelerometer Sensitivity versus Frequency .....	342
A.3.4 The Fourier Transform .....	342
A.4 Test System and Protocol.....	345
A.4.1 Configuring the Slam Stick .....	346
A.4.2 Mounting the Slam Stick to a Telescope.....	346
A.4.3 Refractor on Altazimuth Mount .....	348
A.4.4 Applying the Impulse .....	348
A.5 Results .....	349
A.5.1 Mount Response to Horizontal Impulse .....	350
A.5.2 Mount Response to Vertical Impulse .....	350
A.5.3 Effectiveness of Vibration Damping Pads.....	352
A.6 Summary .....	358
<b>Appendix B – Vibrations in 10-inch f/5 String Telescope .....</b>	<b>361</b>
B.1 Vibrations in String Telescopes .....	361
B.1.1 Configuring the Slam Stick .....	361
B.1.2 Mounting the Slam Stick to the Telescope .....	362
B.2 Vibrations of Individual Struts .....	362
B.3 Vibrations of the Secondary Mirror Mount .....	364
B.4 Vibrations of Individual Guy Wires.....	366
B.5 Guy Wire Tension versus Temperature .....	370

B.6 Full Structure Tests .....	370
B.6.1 Telescope Vibrations Measured at Secondary Mirror Mount ..	371
B.6.2 Telescope Vibrations Measured at Focuser.....	372
B.6.2.1 Vibrations of TOA Oriented Vertically .....	375
B.6.2.2 Vibrations of TOA versus Elevation Angle .....	375
B.6.2.3 Orientation of Ground Board .....	376
B.6.2.4 Altitude Bearing Brace .....	378
B.7 Summary .....	380
<b>Appendix C – Fabrication of Continuous Loop Strings .....</b>	<b>383</b>
C.1 Guy Wires Versus Bowstrings.....	383
C.2 Basic Skills.....	383
C.3 String Jigs.....	384
C.4 Winding the Yarn.....	388
C.5 Serving Tools and Materials .....	389
C.6 Loop Serving .....	390
C.6.1 Beginning the Loop Serving .....	391
C.6.2 Filling the Serving .....	392
C.6.3 The Whip End .....	393
C.6.4 Serving the Second Loop.....	396
C.6.5 Twist .....	397
C.6.6 Closing Loop Ends.....	398
C.7 Center Serving .....	399
C.8 Waxes.....	399
C.9 Comments and Suggestions .....	400
<b>Appendix D – Vibrations in 12½-inch f/4 String Telescope .....</b>	<b>403</b>
D.1 Vibrations in String Telescopes .....	403
D.1.1 Configuring the Slam Stick .....	403
D.1.2 Mounting the Slam Stick to the Telescope .....	404
D.2 Vibrations of Individual Guy Wires.....	405
D.3 Vibrations of Individual Struts.....	407
D.4 Vibrations of the Secondary Mirror Mount.....	408
D.5 Full Structure Tests .....	411
D.5.1 Telescope Vibrations Measured at Focuser.....	411
D.5.1.1 Vibrations of TOA versus Elevation Angle .....	412
D.5.1.2 Ground Board Orientation and Altitude Bearing Brace.....	414
D.5.2 Telescope Vibrations Measured at Secondary Mirror Mount ..	414
D.5.3 Observations at the Eyepiece .....	415
D.6 Summary .....	417
<b>Index.....</b>	<b>419</b>