

## Asteroid polarimetry

R. Gil-Hutton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CASLEO - CONICET, Av. España sur 1512, J5402DSP, San Juan, Argentina

The discovery of the polarization of moonlight by Arago in 1811 was the first step in the polarization studies of atmosphereless bodies. In the last 20 years, the optical polarimetry of Solar System bodies has had a fast development due to the availability of new equipment, and the efforts of several research groups to study different objects and to increase the database of polarimetric observations. These efforts led to the discovery of objects with anomalous polarimetric properties and the polarimetric characterization of many taxonomic types. Since several theoretical aspects of the polarimetric phenomena will be addressed in other talks, I will present here the recent achievements in asteroid polarimetry from the observational point of view and the role of polarimetry in the overall scenario of asteroid science.