

## POLARIMETRIC OBSERVATIONS OF COMET KOHOUTEK

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### ABSTRACT

Measurements of the linear polarization of the coma of Comet Kohoutek were made in the visual. Included are pre-and post-perihelion observations from three observatories. Polarization was considerably higher in the red than the blue. The emission was more highly polarized than the continuum – a circumstance not previously reported for any comet, to my knowledge. Linear polarization increased in magnitude with decreasing aperture ratio. The electric vector was rigidly perpendicular to the scattering plane for all measurements. No circular polarization was detected at the .06% level for one night's observation.