

PyMovie version history

version 1.1.1

- Removed the log scaling checkbox. Log scaling rarely used and the image control is an adequate and flexible tool for image clipping and scaling to better see stars in an image
- Added an Edit Aperture tool that pops up a list of all aperture with their properties and provides a central place to modify same. This will make it easier to deal with stacked (overlapping) apertures.
- Added a default mask radius setting for each aperture rather than the one-size-fits-all of prior versions to better support the use of multiple sampling aperture/masks.
- Changed status bar display when mouse is hovered over an aperture to simply show a list of any apertures that are under the cursor (again in support of stacked/overlapping apertures). Previously all the special properties of the topmost aperture were output to the status bar. That was not helpful when apertures were stacked on top of each other. Now the Edit Aperture list lets one see all the properties of all the apertures, so it's more important to be able to locate apertures via mouse hover, hence this change.

version 1.1.0

- Added a check on the validity of RA Dec strings on a program path that was missed in 1.0.9.

version 1.0.9

- Tests the validity of RA Dec strings at the point of entry --- shows errors in textOut panel.
- Returns the aperture jogging capability that was inadvertently suppressed in 1.0.8 by the new right-click-for-help system

version 1.0.8

- Made splitter settings 'sticky' so that user choices as to how much gui real estate to give to buttons versus image and textOut versus Thumbnails is preserved between sessions.
- Fixed the tooltip/help info re UCAC4 format to say XXX-XXXXXX (had been XXX-XXXX)

version 1.0.6

- Polished the right-click help system. Now the help dialog box can be sized and placed by the user and it will be reused (as it was in the original hover-for-help system) for subsequent right-click-for-help events. The user is encouraged to position and size the help dialog box to suit his preferences and to not worry if it gets hidden because a new right-click-for-help will pop it right back up at the previous size and position.

This help system is much easier to use to quickly explore the help available for each gui control.

version 1.0.4

- Hover is now properly disabled so that help only appears with a right-click

version 1.0.3

- Changed the 'help' system from a 'hover to get help' to a right-click to get help.

version 1.0.2

- Fixed conversion of color image to grayscale image for avis: now processes YUV color space correctly.

version 1.0.0

- Added documentation: PyMovie-doc.pdf
- Pushed source code to git-hub for the first time
- Updated Windows PyMovie.bat file to require the user to press the Enter key to close the script. This keeps the prompt window open so that if anything went wrong, the diagnostic messages will remain visible. This file is created in <C:\Anaconda3> the first time PyMovie is run. However, we do not over-write an existing PyMovie.bat file, so if you want the updated file, then you must remove PyMovie.bat from <C:\Anaconda3> to force the re-creation of that file from the copy that comes with the package.

version 0.9.9

- made the gui font size 'OS aware' to try to make the Windows PyMovie gui look as good as the MacOS version. If you run on MacOS, you get a font size of 13 pts. That changes to 8 pts if you run on Windows

version 0.9.8

- modified the setup.py file so that scikit-image $\geq 0.15.0$ will be automatically installed by pip if it is not already present in the Anaconda installation when PyMovie is installed.
- Added messages to the user that appear if the redact lines and/or num frames boxes associated with the Generate "finder" image button are left empty.

version 0.9.6

- added the ability (when working in the context of an AVI-WCS folder) to generate a "finder" image formed by registering and summing several hundred frames. An aperture placed on this image remains when the user switches to the avi. The user then adds a 'tracker' aperture, adjusts its threshold, and runs the analysis.
- to facilitate the use of 'finder' images (produced by stacking images), when a static aperture is added, its threshold is set very high so that it will be forced to use a default mask. An aperture that uses a default mask will not move on its own. So switching from the 'finder' image to the avi can be done without concern that your careful placement will change when the avi comes up.
- added crosshairs to all apertures, a nice visual aid, particularly in zoomed mode.

version 0.9.3

- the calculations for manual WCS calibration have definitely been 'fixed' .
- Miscellaneous small changes to GUI: labels on edit boxes for redact lines and plate scale; clear the Vizier response as soon as a change is made in UCAC4 box.

version 0.9.2

- the calculations for manual WCS calibration have been 'fixed' (we hope).
- added the ability to specify a plate scale to use for the manual WCS calibration. Any value entered in the box to the right of the Manual WCS calibration button will be used as the plate scale. But be sure to leave this box empty if you want the maths behind manual WCS calibration to estimate the plate scale from the calibration points provided; this is the normal expected use.

version 0.9.0

- same as 0.8.9 but added astroquery as a required package. This is used to make Vizier calls but is not a standard part of an Anaconda installation.

version 0.8.9

- this version adds manual WCS calibration. It is not yet very accurate likely due to the assumption that the RA Dec coordinate system covers a small enough area that the curvature of RA/Dec grid lines could be ignored --- this may not be a good assumption. Currently a target aperture may be placed 2 to 4 pixels from the correct location (per nova.astrometry.net WCS calibration).
- Added the ability to get UCAC4 star coordinates through Vizier. This is in support of manual WCS calibration. If the star chart has UCAC4 annotations, it makes it much easier to do the manual WCS calibration process.

version 0.8.8

- analysis can now be run in reverse by setting the current-frame higher than the stop-at-frame. When such settings are used, running an analysis will process frames from current-frame down to stop-at-frame + 1. Then, if you set current-frame to 0 and run the analysis, frames 0 up to and including the stop-at-frame will be processed. Both the plotting routines and the csv write routine will reorder the data based on frame number so the section of data that has frame numbers counting down will be restored to its normal ordering. This somewhat unusual capability makes it easier to deal with a video recording that has but a single star (no companion that can be used for tracking) that is occulted strongly enough that it is only visible (and so can self-track) before D and after R. In this case, the R side can be better handled by running the analysis in reverse.

version 0.8.7

- WCS calibration through nova.astrometry.net now works for both AVI-WCS folders and FITS folders.

version 0.8.5

- adds an option for WCS calibration when AVI-WCS folder is used to hold observation video (or a link to one) through an on-connection to nova.astrometry.net

version 0.8.4

- removed the self.pointed_at_aperture = None statement in removeAperture method. Just trying stuff.

version 0.8.3

- still working on avoiding crashes while deleting apertures under win7. Added manual disconnect of slot/signals for the aperture before deleting it.

version 0.8.2

- another variation on deleting apertures, this time without the aperture.deleteLater() call.

version 0.8.1

- another attempt to squash the win7 crash-on-delete-then-run bug.

version 0.8.0

- added self.pointed_at_aperture = None when an aperture is deleted. This is a possible cause of referring to an aperture that has been deleted and thus causing a memory violation exception. Crossing our fingers on this one that it finally solves the win7 crash-sometimes-when-aperture-is-deleted problem.

version 0.7.9

- in another attempt to find a solution to the occasional crash that a beta tester has experienced when deleting an aperture, I changed from the use of removeItem(aperture) to aperture.deleteLater(). There was some chatter on the internet that this is a better/safer procedure.

version 0.7.8

- restored the automatic green property for a newly added aperture.

version 0.7.7

- fixes the 'jumping mask' problem that appears when 'use yellow mask as default' is in use.

version 0.7.4

- added code to ensure that when the yellow aperture mask is being used as the default mask that it is evaluated first whenever there is a frame change.

version 0.7.3

- returned the option of simply opening an avi file --- use the Open AVI file button.
- Now there is a new button labelled Select AVI/WCS folder for when the user wants to utilize the WCS calibration capability of PyMovie. They will need to create a folder specifically for that purpose. In that folder they will need to place either the avi file to be processed or a shortcut (Windows) or alias (Mac) to that file (so the user does not have to relocate his avi just to satisfy PyMovie). This folder will hold star position and wcs calibration data unique to frame 0 of the avi. As before, this folder will be the default location for csv files and (in the future) png dumps of lightcurve plots.

version 0.6.9

- changed to requiring the use of a folder per observation. In that folder must be exactly one avi and related information such as a little file that gives the target coordinates in Ra and DEC. It also holds the WCS calibration data (if the user has asked/created one) that is used to place a target aperture 'blind' on frame 0. This folder will be the default location for csv files and (in the future) png dumps of lightcurve plots.
- finally found bug that was causing confusing thumbnail updates. Should be better now.

version 0.6.8

- tightened up the spacing between GUI elements to provide more vertical space for text box
- changed labelling of mask threshold spinner

version 0.6.7

- rearrange items on GUI to allow for large Clear plot data button
- added 'hooks' for experimenting with WCS/astrometry.net
- fixed issue where Thumbnail One was not always synchronized with Thumbnail Two (probably)
- made thumbnail display policy the same whether stepping through or running an analysis

version 0.6.6

- new policy: all newly created apertures default to having auto-display enabled.
- to control which of a group of apertures, all with auto-display ON, has its thumbnail dynamically updated during an analysis run, a property was added to make a specifically chosen aperture be the source for Thumbnail One. There will be either one or no apertures with this property set, enforced by the program. Should there already be an aperture with this property set and you choose a different aperture as the Thumbnail One source, the earlier aperture automatically has this property unset.
- added a warning when a user had been using a RegiStax star locator bitmap and failed to set at least one yellow tracking aperture in the aperture constellation before trying to open the avi or fits file for the observation. Failing to do this will cause the carefully set relative positions of the apertures to be lost as the observation video is read and the apertures all try to 'snap' to 'better' positions, something that is prevented if there is a yellow aperture in the set which locks the apertures together in a rigid constellation.

version 0.6.4

- with the success of 'dynamic' aperture display, we have adopted a policy when creating an aperture of setting all its special properties (jogging and auto-display) OFF and NOT touching the properties of any already-in-place apertures. In the previous version, adding an aperture caused all special properties in existing apertures to be cleared (quietly --- this adds to confusion --- didn't I just set that?) and the new aperture came preset with jogging and auto-display ON. In this version, it is up to the user to set the special properties and they will never be quietly changed.

version 0.6.3

- added 'dynamic' aperture display. If the mouse cursor is placed over/in an aperture, its stats and thumbnail are displayed, regardless of its auto-display setting. This is active during an analysis as well so that any aperture can be examined/viewed during a 'run' simply by pointing at it.

version 0.6.2

- changed the mask for a white aperture to have a black border. This is visually clearer as to what is going and avoids the 'complaints' from within the pyqtgraph histogram widget when all pixels have the same value
- added a 3D display (rotatable and zoomable by left and right mouse drag) for the Thumbnail One image.

version 0.4.8

- now, if you put your cursor on an aperture, the name and major properties of the aperture appear in the status bar in the very bottom left corner of the GUI

version 0.4.6

- added the name of aperture to its context menu --- appears at the top of the right-click menu
- added ability to use arrow keys to jog apertures. Each aperture has a flag to enable it to respond to an arrow key, so apertures could be manually jogged as a group should that be useful. When an aperture is added, it is born 'joggable' and with 'auto-display'
- Eliminated the 'green' mode for an aperture. Now each aperture can request that its stats be printed at each frame change. There is only one thumbnail display however so only the last aperture in a group that gets printed will have its thumbnail displayed.
- Added cross hairs to thumbnail One to aid in manual positioning of apertures.

version 0.4.5

- removed debug printout from Demo Robust
- added auto-naming to no-snap aperture creation (just overlooked it earlier)
- ThumbNailOne no longer uses log scaling. Instead, it uses whatever scaling is in force for the frame image.

version 0.4.4

- added button to read a bmp file, assumed to be a star locator. Any apertures positioned on this image will be preserved when the avi file is opened.

version 0.4.3

- made it unnecessary to close the image range control for level changes to be reflected in subsequent frame changes

version 0.4.2

- the 'no snap' aperture was actually 'snapping' --- that's been fixed
- added a demonstration plot to let the user see visually what the robust mean and std calculations are doing.

version 0.4.1

- made the changes in image display through use of the image range control 'sticky' so that any changes made apply to all images going forward
- changed the number of pixels plot to use lines only (no circles at the data points) and show the negative values (from a default aperture) as positive. It's easier to look at and the data plot above clearly identifies data points that were obtained using a default mask. The redundancy was not needed or useful

version 0.4.0

- added an image range control to give user complete control over image 'stretching'. This is a visual effect only as an aid to identifying stars --- it does not affect any underlying data values.
- Added an 'invert images' checkbox to make it easy to switch between avi and fits files with their differing convention of the image origin (fits: lower left corner; avi: upper left corner)

version 0.3.9

- added fast navigate buttons to speed going forward and backward through images
- now the text box gets cleared when a new image file is successfully opened
- changed the way apertures are deleted in support of chasing a pesky sporadic crash when apertures are deleted
- add a spinbox to allow the user to select the plot symbol size --- it's set by a spinbox that is 'sticky'
- some rearranging of GUI elements
- changed label on threshold box to help user understand better what a value in this box means
- added a legend to the composite lightcurve plot to identify the curves

version 0.3.8

- added a try/except block around aperture delete code to see if we can track down crashes that are occurring sporadically under Win 7 OS (but not Mac or Win 10)

version 0.3.6

- made the log scale image checkbox 'sticky' so that PyMovie can 'adapt' to your preferred image view.
- removed white apertures from the aperture constellation during tracking so that it/they will remain fixed on the image wherever you originally placed it/them.

version 0.3.5

- fixed double yellow tracking that was accidentally broken by a change introduced in 0.3.4

version 0.3.4

- added timestamp printout when running fits files with DATE-OBS in fits metadata
- initialized timestamp correctly

version 0.3.3

- added timestamp extraction from 'fits files under the assumption that they came from a QHY-174M-GPS. This completes PyMovie for users of the QHY-174 that record in int16 fits files.

version 0.3.2

- added the option of a 'white' aperture to be used when flash-tags have been recorded in the video. The special thing about a white aperture is that all the pixels in the aperture are summed (without background subtraction) and output as the 'signal' for that aperture.

version 0.3.1

- field processing of avi files now operational

version 0.3.0

- fixed tracking during wind shake (accidentally broken in 0.2.9)
- now we enable/disable controls that are specific to avi versus fits file processing
- added printout of frames per second read from avi files
- added ability to view both fields of an avi frame
- added update of default mask when aperture size is changed to solve the mask/thumbnail shape mismatch exception from occurring
- added aperture constellation tracking during manual (frame spinbox) changing of frame. It was confusing to have aperture constellation tracking only active during a 'run'

version 0.2.9

- added the printing of the FOURCC codec ID extracted from avi files that could be opened. This may have diagnostic value in some case where an unusual codec was employed. PyMovie handles Lagarith compressed files without issue and without the need for the user to separately find and install a Lagarith codec.
- Added the controls for dealing with field level avi stuff --- no code behind the controls yet
- found a way to do random access reading of an avi file so it is no longer necessary to read the entire file into memory!! (which has been a real problem)

version 0.2.8

- generalized the display of FITS metadata to show the header data (metadata) from the current frame rather than just frame 0
- rearranged the columns in the csv file so that all signals appear starting in the column following time stamp data. R-OTE and PyOTE can read this file format.

version 0.2.7

- changed the snap-to-blob function to require user to place cursor on/near star of interest. Previously, snap-to-blob snapped to the brightest star in the entire aperture UNLESS there was already a yellow aperture defined. This seemed overly complicated, hard to explain, and causes the behavior to be sometimes mysterious, particularly if one forgets whether or not there is a yellow aperture. Requiring cursor placement within 6 pixels of the star-of-interest at all times is easier to get used to and allows a dim star that has bright neighbors to be easily singled out.
- The aperture name dialog now pops up whenever an aperture is created. This save mouse clicks and encourages good practices.
- The title on the Number of pixels plot has been expanded to clarify the meaning of negative mask pixel counts.
- Removed Inc threshold and Dec threshold menu items from the aperture specific context menu. The Inc and Dec functions are more clearly handled by the spinbox on the main GUI window.

version 0.2.6

- added PyMovie-info.pdf to the distribution (to make the About button work)
- added opencv-python to the required packages list so that Anaconda installations that lack this package (known as cv2) will have it automatically added
- increased the allowed distance of computed masks from aperture center from 4 pixels to 6 pixels (this

- only comes into effect when there is a yellow aperture present
- set thresh = 0 when aperture is created rather than None to deal with cases where an aperture is added where there is no image

version 0.2.5

- Initial Beta release – no timestamp OCR – functional for lightcurve extraction