

Estimating the magnitude error for the OPD CCD Imager

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This document describes the expressions and the values used in Exposure Time Calculator (ETC) of the CCD Imager installed at Observatório do Pico dos Dias (OPD) .

The relation between the magnitude error, σ_m , and signal to noise ratio, SNR, is given by:

$$\sigma_m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_{WP}}} \frac{1}{SNR}. \quad (1)$$

We adopted the following expression for SNR ([Howell et al., 2006](#)):

$$SNR = \frac{N t_{exp}}{\sqrt{N t_{exp} + 2 n_{pix} [N_s t_{exp} + B N_R^2 + (0.289G)^2]}}, \quad (2)$$

where

- N is the number of source photons per second;
- t_{exp} is the exposure time;
- N_s is the number of sky photons per second per pixel;
- n_{pix} is the number of pixels (after binning) used in the aperture photometry;
- N_R is the readout noise;
- B is related to the binning. Specifically, it represents a $B \times B$ binning. See [this link](#);
- G is the gain.

To calculate n_{pix} , we need to consider the aperture radius to be used in the aperture photometry extraction:

$$n_{pix} = \pi \left(\frac{R_{ap}}{B P_{scale}} \right)^2, \quad (3)$$

where

- R_{ap} is the aperture radius in arcsec;
- P_{scale} is the plate scale in arcsec/pixel without binning. The binning effect is taken into account by the B factor.

The expression to calculate the photon number from the source is presented below as well as the variables.

$$N = f_{calib} f_{area} t_{tel} t_{instr} C Q t_{sky} f_0 \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_{eff}} d_{tel}^2 10^{-0.4m}. \quad (4)$$

- f_{calib} is a factor to correct possible difference between this ETC results and the real measurements. In the present version, it is set as 1.0.
- f_{area} is the fraction of the telescope area that effectively collects photons. The Perkin & Elmer 1.6-m (PE) telescope has $f_{area} = 0.804$. We adopt the same value for the Boller & Chivens 60cm (BC) telescope, but we are not sure about it.
- t_{tel} is the combined reflectance of the telescope mirrors and depends on the wavelength. The ETC assumes the values from Table 1. This table is based on measurements kindly provided by OPD staff (Adriano Coimbra and Saulo Gargaglioni) and taken into account the primary and the secondary mirrors. The values represent the average from maximum and minimum reflectances. The measurements do not cover the U band, so we adopted the same value of the B band.
- t_{filter} is the transmission of the filter. See curve "old" in Figure 1. The values are presented in Table 2.
- t_{instr} is the transmission in the instrument. We adopt $t_{instr} = 0.95$ without focal reducer and $t_{instr} = 0.90$ with the focal reducer.
- C is a constant that takes into account all constants and units conversion. $C = 1.1853 \cdot 10^{10}$.
- Q is the quantum efficiency of the detector.
- t_{sky} is the sky transparenence.
- f_0 is the flux of a zero magnitude source (see below).
- $\Delta\lambda$ is the filter width.
- λ_{eff} is the effective wavelength of the filter.
- d_{tel} is the telescope diameter (in meters).

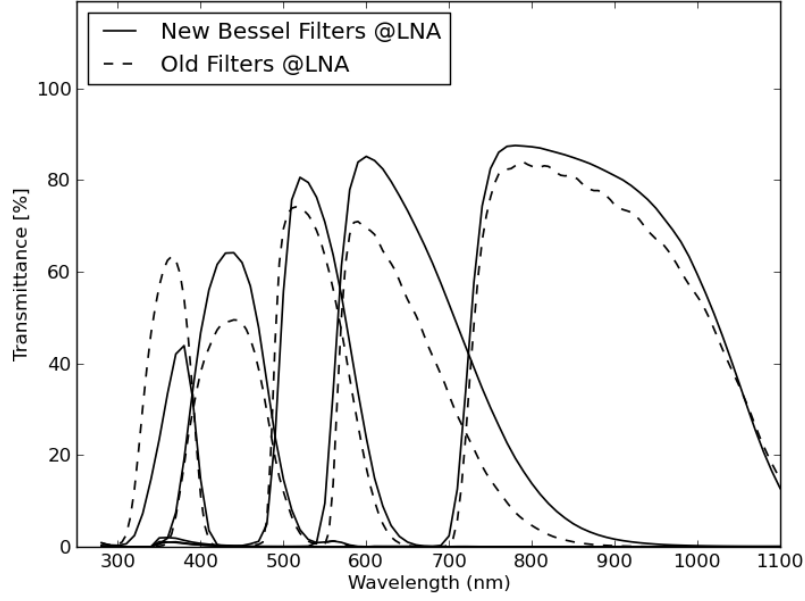


Figure 1: Transmission curves of the filters used at LNA. The ETC uses the "old" filters.

- m is the source magnitude.

The expression to calculate the photon number from the sky (per second and per pixel) is:

$$N_{sky} = f_{calib} f_{area} t_{tel} t_{instr} C Q t_{sky} f_0 d_{tel}^2 \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_{eff}} (B P_{scale})^2 10^{-0.4m_{sky}}, \quad (5)$$

where

- m_{sky} is the sky magnitude (in mag arcsec²);
- and the remaining variables are the same from the previous equations.

Table 1: Telescopes reflectance.

Filter	PE telescope	BC telescope
U	0.81	0.71
B	0.81	0.71
V	0.80	0.78
R	0.78	0.75
I	0.67	0.65

Table 2: Filters properties.

Filter	λ_{eff} (nm)	$\Delta\lambda$ (nm)	f_0 ($10^{-23} \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{Hz}^{-1}$)	t_{filter}
U	366.3	65	1.81	0.65
B	436.1	89	4.26	0.50
V	544.8	84	3.64	0.75
R	640.7	158	3.08	0.70
I	798.0	154	2.55	0.82

To characterize the UBVRI bands, we adopt λ_{eff} , $\Delta\lambda$, and f_0 presented in Table 2 from Bessell (1979, 2005).

The user can choose the CCD and its operation mode from the many options available at OPD with one click. From this choice, the ETC picks up the correct value of G , N_R , and P_{scale} . The last also takes into account whether the focal reducer is used or not. The value of Q is selected considering the chosen CCD and filter.

Table 3 shows the sky magnitude for OPD from Dias et al. (2010)¹. This paper presents an average value of the sky magnitudes in each band, but it does not present them as a function of the Moon phase. In order to take into account the Moon phase, we consider three values for m_{sky} : new Moon, quarter and full Moon. We consider that Dias et al. (2010)'s values correspond to quarter Moon. The difference for other Moon-s phase are from Walker (1987): these values can also be found in <https://www.noao.edu/noao/noaonews/mar94/art20.html>. We assume quarter Moon as 7 days from New Moon and Full, as 14. We consider that m_{sky} is not a function of the object and the Moon.

Table 3: Adopted sky magnitude used in ETC from Dias et al. (2010) and Walker (1987). See text for details.

Filter	m_{sky}		
	New Moon	Quarter Moon	Full Moon
U	20.2	18.1	15.2
B	20.9	19.8	17.7
V	20.5	20.1	18.7
R	20.7	20.4	19.7
I	20.3	20.1	19.6

The sky transparence can be calculate by the following expression:

$$t_{sky} = 10^{-0.4k\chi}, \quad (6)$$

where k is the extinction coefficient and χ is the air mass.

¹<https://sab-astro.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Paper5.pdf>

Table 4: Variation of m_{sky} with Moon’s phases from Walker (1987).

Days from new Moon	U	B	V	R	I
3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0
7	-2.1	-1.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2
10	-3.5	-2	-1.1	-0.6	-0.4
14	-5	-3.2	-1.8	-1	-0.7

Dias et al. (2010) also provide the OPD extinction coefficients for some nights. We select the minimum and maximum values (k_{min} and k_{max} , respectively) for each filter and calculate the average value, k_{ave} (see Table 5). These three values are used to calculate the sky transparency for photometric, good and regular conditions, respectively. This sky quality is an user choice. The air mass is also an input from the user.

Table 5: Sky transparency from Dias et al. (2010).

Filter	k_{min}	k_{ave}	k_{max}
U	0.344	0.5135	0.683
B	0.195	0.277	0.359
V	0.113	0.1655	0.218
R	0.03	0.0975	0.165
I	0.01	0.0665	0.123

References

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