

Questions, Comments and Answers following the presentation

Calibrations at the Magellan telescopes – plan and issues

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Ramsay: *Is there a limit on the time available to your visiting observers for their day time calibrations? Is information on times+other statistics available?*

Usually the observers can have access to the telescope after 1:30PM for day time calibrations. Thus, most of the engineering and trouble-shooting work in the dome takes place in the morning, between 8:30AM - 12:30PM. In cases when emergencies occur, or additional time is necessary for providing the astronomer with an operational system, we coordinate with the observer in order to optimise the use of telescope time for both parties. If the observer does not manage to take necessary calibrations because of urgent maintenance, the observatory offers to obtain them on their behalf as soon as possible.

There is no available information on times and there are no statistics.

Roth:

1. *Does the Magellan calibration screen include the effect of the M2 shadow?*
 2. *Some 6-7 years ago we supported IMACS-IFU data reduction with an adapted version of the Postdam P3D pipeline that led to several papers. I was wondering what is the current status of the IMACS-IFU ?*
1. There is no shadow effect because the M2 has a gregorian mounting and the calibration screen is in the pupil.
 2. IMACS-IFU is offered for observations and, in average, it is used once per semester. The main problem the observers face has to do with the data reduction procedure. Using the P3D pipeline, it has been possible to reduce f/4 data that led to some publications. However, for data obtained with the wider field f/2 camera, reduction is more difficult. Currently, a new data reduction pipeline, based on python+IRAF, is under development by a group in Padova in collaboration with Francesco Di Mille.

Pasquini: *Was the calibration unit in the pupil planned with the telescope or added later on?*

Yes, it was planned with the telescopes and it is possible to have different configurations, adapted to the particular needs of the instruments on each telescope. For example, the calibration unit on Baade only includes the flat field unit and the quartz/arc lamps; while the calibration unit on Clay, in addition to the Baade configuration, also includes the MCal unit, used for calibrations by M2FS.

Both calibration units are under constant development and update to accommodate PI requests and particular instrument needs.

***Rutten:** Does the observatory instill on the visiting observers a certain calibration plan as to guarantee uniformity of calibration?*

Although we do include in each instrument manual suggested calibration plans, the observers are solely responsible for the calibrations deemed necessary for their projects. The observatory does not keep track of user calibrations. During engineering, the observatory does run its own calibrations for monitoring the status and performance of the instruments. The plan for this kind of observations is more or less uniform and the data obtained could be made available to observers if requested.