

Exoplanet Observing Using AstroImageJ

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AstroImageJ (AIJ)

- All-in-one freeware developed and maintained by Dr. Karen Collins
- Can be used for image calibration, differential photometry, exoplanet transit modeling
- Latest version can be found at:
<http://www.astro.louisville.edu/software/astroimagej/>
- A step-by-step guide to using AIJ for exoplanet observing can be found in “A Practical Guide to Exoplanet Observing” at:
<http://astrodennis.com>

AIJ Pipeline

Raw Bias, Dark, Flat Files

Raw Science Images

DP

(CCD Data Processing Function)

- Create master bias, dark, flat calibration files
- Calibrate Science images and optionally add FITS fields (e.g., BJD_TDB)

pipelineout_files

cont'd

AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)

pipelineout_files



Image Analysis

- Determine FWHM and initial Aperture/ Annulus radii using Alt-Left Click on target star
- Align images if necessary using Align Stack tool
- Eliminate “bad images”
- Select appropriate comp stars



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AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)

```
graph TD; A[Multi-Aperture Photometry] --> B["• Aperture settings:  
✓ Aperture/Annulus radii  
✓ CCD gain, readout noise, dark current  
✓ Saturation and linearity warning levels  
• Place apertures  
• When photometry completed, save Measurements table"]; B --> C[cont'd];
```

Multi-Aperture Photometry

- Aperture settings:
 - ✓ Aperture/Annulus radii
 - ✓ CCD gain, readout noise, dark current
 - ✓ Saturation and linearity warning levels
- Place apertures
- When photometry completed, save Measurements table

cont'd

Important AIJ Terms

- T1: refers to target star
- Ci: refers to comparison star
- Source-Sky_xx: ADU counts in the aperture for star xx after the sky background is taken out (e.g., Source-Sky_C2)
- tot_C_cnts: the sum of the Source-Sky counts for all the comparison stars
- rel_flux_T1: the relative flux of target star T1
= Source-Sky_T1/tot_C_cnts
- rel_flux_Ci: the relative flux of comp star Ci
= Source-Sky_Ci/total cnts of all other C stars

AIJ Plotting

- Uses a plot configuration file with an extension of .plotcfg
- A sample plot configuration file, Measurements_Template.plotcfg, can be downloaded from <http://astrodennis.com>

AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)

```
graph TD; A[AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)] --> B[Multi-plot Main Screen]; B --> C[• Select BJD_TDB timebase in Default X-data  
• Fill-in Title and Subtitle  
• Fill-in Left and Right values for Fit and Normalize Regions (i.e., predicted ingress/egress times); copy them to V. Marker 1 and V. Marker 2  
• Select Auto X Range and click on arrow  
• If a meridian flip occurred during transit, click on Show and enter Flip Time]; C --> D[cont'd]
```

Multi-plot Main Screen

- Select BJD_TDB timebase in Default X-data
- Fill-in Title and Subtitle
- Fill-in Left and Right values for Fit and Normalize Regions (i.e., predicted ingress/egress times); copy them to V. Marker 1 and V. Marker 2
- Select Auto X Range and click on arrow
- If a meridian flip occurred during transit, click on Show and enter Flip Time

cont'd

AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)

```
graph TD; A[AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)] --> B[Multi-plot Y Data Screen]; B --> C[cont'd];
```

Multi-plot Y Data Screen

- Plot AIRMASS vs. tot_C_cnts: will show changes in sky transparency
- Plot Source-Sky counts for target and comp stars: will show those with too much scatter
- Plot rel_flux of comp stars: will show those that might be variable; deselect those that are variable using the Multi-plot Reference Star Settings screen
- Plot rel_flux of target and its transit fit

cont'd

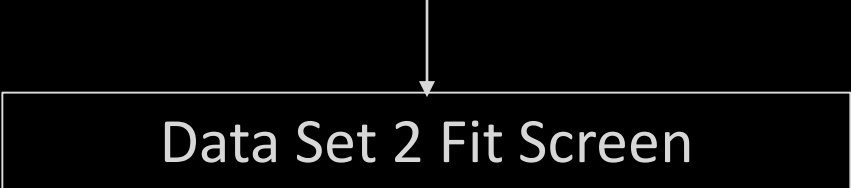
AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)

Data Set 2 Fit Screen

- Enter predicted period
- Enter target star radius (R^*)
- Enter predicted inclination (don't lock it)
- Enter limb darkening coefficients (u_1 and u_2) and lock them

cont'd

AIJ Pipeline (cont'd)



Data Set 2 Fit Screen

- If a meridian flip occurred during transit, select Meridian Flip as a detrend parameter
- Set detrend parameters (at most 3) that result in a reduction in BIC by more than 5 (start with AIRMASS)
- Sequentially deselect comp stars until a minimum RMS is obtained
- See “A Practical Guide to Exoplanet Observing” for further optimization guidelines and how to create a dataset for input to external programs