existing ground station facilities with switch, converters and new software (OPS/SERVER) in order to support the available uplink and downlink channels being mapped to TCP/IP gateways required by SATCS. Currently, the CRS development is customizing the SATCS for the kernel functions of protoMIRAX command and telemetry processing. Design-patterns, component-based libraries and metadata are widely used in the SATCS in order to extend the frameworks to address the Packet Utilization Standard (PUS) for ground-balloon communication, in compliance with the services provided by the data handling computer onboard the protoMIRAX balloon.

[1] Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, CP 515, S. J. Campos, SP, CEP 12201-970, Brazil (fatima.mattiello@inpe.br).

[2] Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Vicuña Mackenna 4860, Santiago, Chile.

NEW ALGORITHM FOR CENTROIDING IN ELONGATED SPOTS FOR SHACK-HARTMANN WAVEFRONT SENSORS USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

A. T. Mello[1], A. Kanaan[1], and D. Guzmán[2]

To recover the resolution lost in a ground-based telescopes due to the atmospheric turbulence, it is necessary to use a technique known as Adaptive Optics (AO). The next generation of telescopes will have primary mirrors of more than 30 meter in diameter and will require AO systems from the ground up (Nelson et al. 2006). There are a number of challenges to implement an AO system at these scales. One of these challenges is the accurate measurement of the aberrated wavefronts using a laser guide star and a Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor. Due to the diameter of the telescope and the use of the sodium layer in the upper atmosphere as photon return for the laser guide stars, the image of the guide star will appear elongated in the wavefront sensor. Typical centroiding algorithms such as Center of Gravity do not perform well under these conditions (Thomas et al. 2008). We present a new technique based on artificial neural networks for measuring the spot position with better accuracy than existing methods. Simulation results confirms that the new algorithm incurs in smaller errors with respect to other centroiding techniques in use.

[1] Dept. of Physics, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Campus Universitário Reitor João David Ferreira Lima, Florianópolis, Brazil.

COMPUTING DIFFERENTIAL REFRACTION AT ALL HELIOLATITUDES AND ZENITHAL DISTANCES: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

C. Sigismondi[1,2] and S.s Boscardin[2]

Ptolemy (about 150 AC) modeled atmospheric refraction influencing Al Farghani (831), Alhazen (1020), Sacrobosco (1256) and Witelo (1278): the Sun was supposed bigger at horizon like a coin appears under water in a curved bottle. The correct work of Ibn Sahl (984) remained forgotten.

Tycho measured the refraction on the 1572 supernova at various altitudes. Harriot, Kepler, Snell and Descartes found independently the refraction law after 1600. A modern formulation of vertical (0.5" zenithal to 35' at horizon) and horizontal (0.5" at all altitudes) differential refraction of solar diameter appears in Du Séjour (1786). Laplace's formula (1805) computes the vertical deformation of the solar disk, while the horizontal reduction of 0.5" is proportional to the chord's length. Dicke (1967) measured the solar oblateness to determine dynamical constraints to alternative theories of General Relativity. The Astrolabe of Rio de Janeiro measured in 1998-2009 the solar diameter at all heliolatitudes, by timing solar transits across fixed altitude circles: an equatorial excess larger than RHESSI (2008) and SDS (1992-2011) data remains after refraction's corrections. Meridian transits series measured at Rome Campidoglio (1877-1937) and Greenwich (1850-1940) behave as Rio data: the scatters between annual averages were larger than statistical dispersions of each value (Gething, 1955). Anomalous refractions measured with Rio Heliometer (2013) are low frequency seeing (0.01 Hz) acting to scales of the solar diameter (32'): they affect transits measurements with random perturbations hundreds times larger than the expected values calculated from the timing accuracy. These perturbations enlarge the differences between averages values binned either in time or heliolatitude: they are larger than statistical dispersions, suggesting a wider binning. The "adiabatic" approach of Rio Heliometer with high frequency measurements "freezes" the slow seeing image motion component.

[1] International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics, Rome.
[2] Observatório Nacional, Rio de Janeiro. (sigismondi@icra.it).

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