

# TCSng Commands

This is the most comprehensive list to date of the TCSng requests and commands.

## Requests

ALL Bulk information

Args: N/A

Returns: [MOT] [RA] [DEC] [HA] [UT] [ALT] [AZ] [SECZ] [Epoch]

MOT = (see MOTION)

RA(Right Assention) = HH:MM:SS.ss

DEC(Declination) = +DD:MM:SS.ss

HA(Hour Angle) = HH:MM:SS

UT(Universal Time) = HH:MM:SS

ALT(Elevation) = XXX.xx

AZ(Azmouth) = XXX.xx

SECZ(airmass) = XX.xx

EPOCH = EEEE.e

AZ Azimuth

Args: N/A

Returns: [ddd.dd]

BEAM Chop/Nod info for chopping secondary

Args: N/A

Returns: ???

CORRECTIONS String describing what corrections and rates are enabled/disabled

Args: N/A

Returns: MPNARFp+tob

M=Proper Motion

P=Precession

N=Nutation

A=Aberration

R=Refraction

F=Flexure

p=Parallax

+ =pointing model used... can change to a,b,c,d?

t=Sidereal

o=Object

b=Bias

If disabled, character will be replaced by "\_"

DATE date based on UT

Args: N/A

Returns: [MM/DD/YYYY]

DEC Declination  
Args: N/A  
Returns [ddmmss.ss]

DISABLE Output state  
Args: N/A  
Returns: 1 for disabled, 0 for enabled

DISEPOCH Current Epoch  
Args: N/A  
Returns: XXXX.x

EL Elevation  
Args: N/A  
Returns: [ddd.dd]

EQ Equinox  
Args: N/A  
Returns: XXXXX.x

HA Hour Angle  
Args: N/A  
Returns: [dd:mm:ss]

JD Julian Date  
Args: N/A  
Returns: [JJJJJJJ.j]

FLEXFILE Path and file name of current flex map Added by Scott  
12/2012  
Args: N/A  
Returns: [PATH/][pctcs\_.tp]

LIMITPROF Horizon limit profile as a function of azimuth Added by  
Scott 12/2012  
The first (and last) value given is the horizon limit  
at 0 degrees azimuth  
each subsequent value is a horizon limit at increments  
of 15 degrees of azimuth  
so the 2nd value is the limit at 15 degrees azimuth,  
the third is the horizon limit  
at 30 degrees azimuth etc.  
Args: N/A  
Returns [hh] [hh] [hh] [hh] ... (25 in all)

LIMIT limit status bits (ACCORDING TO JAVA GUI)  
Args: N/A  
Returns: this returns an 8 bit integer whose bits represent the  
following

```

bit0(LSB) = RA
bit1 = DEC
bit2 = Derotator
bit3 = Hardware Horizon
bit4 = Software Horizon
bit5 = Focus Upper
bit6 = Focus Lower
a 1 indicates limit active, 0 indicates limit not active

```

LIMIT limit status bits (ACCORDING TO ERIC CHRISTIENSEN)

Args: N/A

Returns: this returns an 8 bit integer whose bits represent the following

```

bit0(LSB) = RA/HA limit
bit1 = DEC limit
bit2 = derot.
bit3 = hor. hard limit
bit4 = hor. soft limit
bit5 = focus lo limit?
bit6 = focus hi limit?
a 1 indicates limit active, 0 indicates limit not active

```

LIMITINHIBIT limit inhibit status

args N/A

Returns: 0 if limits are active and 1 if limits are inactive

## SOFTLIMITS

[S1 and S2 limits are defined here](#)

```

SOFTLIMITS Software limit status
args N/A
Returns : 6 bit software limit status
bit 0 = RA S2
bit 1 = RA S1
bit 2 = DEC S2
bit 3 = DEC S1
bit 4 = Horizon S2
bit 5 = Horizon S1
[[tcs:limit_logic|Limit Logic in TCS]]

```

MOTION Motion status bits

Args: N/A

Returns: this returns an 8 bit integer whose bits represent the following

```

bit0(LSB) = RA/AZ
bit1 = DEC/EL
bit2 = FOC

```

```
bit3      =    DOME
bit4-8    =    undefined
a 1 indicates axis in motion, 0 indicates no motion
```

PAD String describing hardware paddle button states

Args: N/A

Returns: any combination of the following characters

N = North

S = South

E = East

W = West

D = Drift (if not present, assume Guide)

A character is present if switch active, otherwise switch inactive

PADDRIFT Hardware paddle drift rate arcsec/sec

Args: N/A

Returns: -XXXXXXXXX.xxx

PADGUIDE Hardware paddle guide rate arcsec/sec

Args: N/A

Returns: -XXXXXXXXX.xxx

RA Right Ascension

Args: N/A

Returns: [ddmmss.ss]

SECZ Air Mass

Args: N/A

Returns: [XXXXX.XX]

ST Sidereal Time

Args: N/A

Returns: [hh:mm:ss]

TIME Universal Time

Args: N/A

Returns: [HH:MM:SS]

VERIFY Verify that an RA/DEC position is within telescope limits

Args: [RA] [DEC] [Epoch]

RA=HH:MM:SS.ss

DEC=DD:MM:SS.ss

Epoch=EEEE.eeee

Returns: 1 if coordinate is within limits

XALL "Extended ALL"

Args: N/A

Returns: [FOC] [DOME] [IIS] [PA] [UTD] [JD]

FOC(focus pos) = +XXXXXX

```

DOME(Dome Position) = -180 (always this value...)
IIS(???) = -224.4 (always this value...)
PA(Paralactic Angle) = -145.7 (always this value...)
UTD(UT Date) = MM/DD/YYYY
JD(Julian Date) = XXXXXXXX.x

```

#### XDEC "Extended DEC"

Args: N/A

Returns: [COM] [NEXT] [REF] [OFF] [WOB] [DIFF] [BIAS] [GUIDE] [DRIFT]

```

COM(Commanded Position) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
NEXT(Next Position) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
REF(Reference Position) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
OFF(Offset Position) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
WOB(Wobble) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
DIFF(Difference) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
BIAS(Bias Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
GUIDE(Guide Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
DRIFT(Drift Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx

```

#### XRA "Extended RA"

Args: N/A

Returns: [COM] [NEXT] [REF] [OFF] [WOB] [DIFF] [BIAS] [GUIDE] [DRIFT]

```

COM(Commanded Position) = HH:MM:SS.ss
NEXT(Next Position) = HH:MM:SS.ss
REF(Reference Position) = HH:MM:SS.ss
OFF(Offset Position) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
WOB(Wobble) = +HH:MM:SS.ss
DIFF(Difference) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
BIAS(Bias Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
GUIDE(Guide Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx
DRIFT(Drift Rate) = +XXXXXXXXXX.xxx

```

## Satellite Requests

GETSATELAZ Satellite horizontal coordinates

Args: N/A

returns [EL] [AZ]

GETSATECI Satellite Earth Centered Inertial Cartesian coords

Args: N.A

Returns: [X] [Y] [Z]

GETSATECEF Satellite Earth Centered Earth Fixed Cartesian coords

Args: N.A

Returns: [X] [Y] [Z]

## undefined Request

TEST1 ??? >> probably useless but is currently in the command set

Args: ???

Returns: ???

INDEX ???  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

PP ???  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SRVFRQ ???  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

## Dome Request

DOME Dome control information  
Args: "PARAM" returns dome setup parameters, all other strings return control info  
Returns:  
Parameters: [CPD] [SD] [W] [SDW] [NU] [RHO] [PHI] [LOOK] [HOLD]  
CPD(Counts Per Degree) = XXX.xxxxxxx  
SD(Stow Degrees)= XXX.xxxxxxx  
W(Dome Width) = XXX.xxxxxxx  
SDW(Stow Dome Width)= XXX.xxxxxxx  
NU = XXX.xxxxxxx  
RHO = XXX.xxxxxxx  
PHI = XXX.xxxxxxx  
LOOK(Lookahead) = XX  
HOLD(Hold Dome) = XX  
Control Info: [DEL] [MOD] [INIT] [TELAZ] [AZ] [HOME]  
DEL(Delta Position) = +XXX.XXXXXXX  
MOD(Mode) = XX  
INIT(Initialized) = XX  
TELAZ(Telescope Azmouth) = +XXX.XXXXXXX  
AZ(Dome Azmouth) = +XXX.XXXXXXX  
HOME(Home Position) = +XXX.XXXXXXX

## Focus Request

FOCSPEED Focus Speed  
Args: N/A  
Returns: ["FAST" or "SLOW"]

FOCUS Focus position  
Args: N/A

Returns: +XXXXX

## Commands

**ABERRATE** Aberration corrections enable/disable  
Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**BIAS** Bias enable/disable  
Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**BIASDEC** DEC bias rate in arcseconds/second  
Args: [XXXXX.XX]  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**BIASRA** RA biasrate in arcsseconds/second  
Args: [XXXXX.XX]  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**CANCEL** Cancel current move  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**CLEARDIFF** Clear RA and DEC difference value  
Args: N/A  
Returns: N/A

**DISABLE** disable motion output  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**DISEPOCH** Set Epoch  
Args: XXXX.x  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**DECLARE** Initialize current position  
Args: "INITNEXT" to initialize "NEXT" position as current position  
"INITCOM" to initialize "COMMANDED" position as current position  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**ELAZ** Move to position in Elevation and Azmouth  
Args: [EE.EE] [AAA.AA]  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

**ENABLE** enable motion output  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FLEX Flexure corrections enable/disable  
Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

LIMIT Limit override >> USE WITH EXTREME CAUTION!!!!  
Args: "INHIBIT" will override limits, all other strings will enable limits  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOVNEXT Move to NEXT position  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOVOFF move to OFFSET position  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOVRADEC Move to RA-DEC position  
Args: RA DEC EPOCH RAPM DECPM  
RA = HH:MM:SS.ss  
DEC = +DD:MM:SS.ss  
EPOCH = EEEE.eeee  
RAPM(RA Proper Motion) = XXXXX.xxx  
DECPM(DEC Proper Motion) = XXXXX.xxx  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOVSTOW Move to stow position  
Args: N/A  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOVWOB MOVWOB beam  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

NEXTPOS Set NEXT position  
Args: RA DEC EPOCH RAPM DECPM  
RA = HH:MM:SS.ss  
DEC = +DD:MM:SS.ss  
EPOCH = EEEE.eeee  
RAPM(RA Proper Motion) = XXXXX.xxx  
DECPM(DEC Proper Motion) = XXXXX.xxx  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

NUTAT Nutation corrections enable/disable  
Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PAD Software paddle command [Direction] [rate] or PAD XX for termination  
This function is not recommended for use near the



horizon limits!

Args: [Direction] [rate]

DIRECTION = NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, NE, NW, SE, SW

RATE = XXXXXX.xx (arcsecs/sec)

any string not described in DIRECTION will terminate paddle

this terminate string must be sent at the end of each

movement

when the button is released.

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PADDLE Paddle enable/disable

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PADDRIFT Paddle Drift rate in arcseconds/second

Args: [XXXXX.XX]

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PADGUIDE Paddle Guide rate in arcseconds/second

Args: [XXXXX.XX]

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PARALLAX Parallax corrections enable/disable

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PARAM ???

Args: ???

Returns: ???

PRECES Precession corrections enable/disable

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PROPMO Proper motion corrections enable/disable

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

REFPOS REFerence POSition (tod)

Args: ???

Returns: ???

REFRAC Refraction corrections enable/disable

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

STEPDEC Move Declination XXXXX.XX arcseconds

Args: [XXXXX.XX]

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

STEPRA Move Right Assention XXXXX.XX arcseconds  
Args: [XXXXX.XX]  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

TRACK Enable/Disable sidereal tracking  
Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

WOBBLE WOBBLE -HH:MM:SS.ss -DD:MM:SS.ss  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

## Catalogs Command

ABELL ABELL Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FK5 FK5 Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

IC IC Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

NGC NGC Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

OKESTONE Okestone Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PPM PPM Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

SAO SAO Catalog Object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

YBSC YBSC Catalog Object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX  
Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

ZWICKY ZWICKY Catalog object XXXXXXXX  
Args: XXXXXXXX

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

## Planets Command

MERCURY Track Mercury

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

VENUS Track Venus

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MARS Track Mars

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

JUPITER Track Jupiter

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

SATURN Track Saturn

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

URANUS Track Uranus

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

NEPTUNE Track Neptune

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PLUTO Track Pluto

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

MOON Track Moon

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

SUN Track Sun

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

DOME Command dome control

Args: This command takes one argument at a time from the following

AUTO Autodome enable

Args: ON = autodome on, any other = autodome off

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

INIT Initialize dome

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

STOW Stow dome

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

LOOKAHEAD Lookahead enable

Args: positive nonzero number=enable, any other = disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PARAM Set Dome Parameters

Args: [CPD] [SD] [W] [SDW] [NU] [RHO] [PHI] [LOOK] [HOLD]

CPD(Counts Per Degree) = XXX.xxxxxxx

SD(Stow Degrees)= XXX.xxxxxxx

W(Dome Width) = XXX.xxxxxxx

SDW(Stow Dome Width)= XXX.xxxxxxx

NU = XXX.xxxxxxx

RHO = XXX.xxxxxxx

PHI = XXX.xxxxxxx

LOOK(Lookahead) = XX

HOLD(Hold Dome) = XX

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

PADDLE Control Paddle buttons

Args: RIGHT = move right, LEFT = move left, any other= stop

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCUS move to absolute focus value XXXXXXX

Args: XXXXXXX

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

RELFOCUS relative move focus value XXXXXXX

Args: XXXXXXX

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCZERO Zero current focus position

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCSTOP focus paddle stop

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCUP focus paddle up

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCDN focus paddle down

Args: N/A

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

FOCSPEED Set focus speed

Args: "FAST" sets to fast, all other strings set speed slow

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

### Periodic Error Correction Request

PECSTAT Current PEC operation status

Args: N/A

Returns: [PEC\_Condition] [PEC\_Count] [PEC\_Index] [PEC\_Mode]

PECPR0G Current PEC programming status

Args: N/A

Returns: [Percent\_Done] [PEC\_Correction]

### Command

PECFILE Attempt to create a PEC file.

Args: ???

Returns: ???

PEC Turn on PEC

Args: "ON" = enable, any other string will disable

Returns: "OK" or "FAILED"

### Servo Request

CON ??? >> SERVO STUFF... NOT FOR NORMAL USE

Args: ???

Returns: ???

SAMDATA ??? >> SERVO STUFF... NOT FOR NORMAL USE

Args: ???

Returns: ???

SAMDONE ??? >> SERVO STUFF... NOT FOR NORMAL USE

Args: ???

Returns: ???

SERVO ??? >> SERVO STUFF... NOT FOR NORMAL USE

Args: ???

Returns: ???

### Command

WCON axis, gd gp gi dmax vmax groot >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SERVO ??? >> AXIS SERVO SAMPLING... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

GD axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

GP axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

GPI axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

DMAX axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

VMAX axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

PERMAX axis, value >> SERVO CONST... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SAMPLE axis, interval, total samples >> AXIS SERVO SAMPLING... DO NOT  
MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

DUMPSAM axis >> AXIS SERVO SAMPLING... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SAMSTART ??? >> AXIS SERVO SAMPLING... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SAMABORT ??? >> AXIS SERVO SAMPLING... DO NOT MODIFY  
Args: ???  
Returns: ???

SYSSAVE ???  
 Args: ???  
 Returns: ???

YSKILL Kills TCS process after disabling stopping all telescope motion.  
 Args: N/A  
 Returns: OK or Failure  
 SYSRESET Restarts TCS process after disbling the telescope Added  
 by Scott 12/2012

Telescope should be stowed before doing this.  
 Args: [TIME] [DD/MM/YY] [HH:MM:SS]  
 If no arguments are used the TCS simply restarts as if you had restarted the TCS computer. If for some reason the time is bad on the TCS computer you can add the TIME argument followed by the date and time in UT and TCS will use this and not the computer time for astrometry.  
 Returns OK or Failure

TLE Gives TCS a new TLE for tracking Earth Satellites  
 Args: Follows this format exactly:  
 [[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-line\\_element\\_set](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-line_element_set)]]  
 SATTRACK Tracks the current satellite TLE with the telescope.  
 Args: N/A

NEXTEVENT Gives you rise or set time in hours of coordinates set using the NEXTPOS command.  
 Args N.A  
 Returns: Rise/Set (0/1) state and time in decimal hours.

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