

LED Dome Flats

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This method can be safely used by a solo observer.

- Suppose you want to obtain dome flats after observing. You will need to close the dome shutters, which should only be done with the mirror cover on. Therefore, stow the telescope, disable drives, close mirror cover, and close dome shutters. Then, open mirror cover, and enable drives.
- The telescope is still in the stowed position, i.e., nominally at Az=180°. With Dome tracking enabled, right click on the Dome azimuth field in TCSglue and introduce an offset of +190°. Wait until the dome stops rotating to its offset position, bringing the screen to the South meridian.
- Slew to RA = lst + 2' (Local Sidereal Time + 2 min, i.e., round lst up and add a minute), Dec = -27°17'55"^{1) 2)} As a result, the telescope will be tracking (through the closed dome) an object which is about to pass through the south meridian at Alt=30°. Wait until the telescope reaches Az=180°, and Disable Drives. Disable Dome Tracking (otherwise the dome keeps oscillating slightly around the required position).

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- After finishing your flats, return dome to home Az=180°: Turn on Dome Tracking, right click on the Dome azimuth field, and eliminate the dome tracking offset. Keep Dome tracking on (you will need it later when you go to the dome).
 - Go to the basement and turn off the oil system for the hydrostatic azimuth bearing.
 - Return to the Control room and release breaks in TCSglue. (The mirror cover being still open, the telescope is well balanced and will not move of its own accord. Better make sure this is the case, though: In TCSglue, release breaks, and observe the behavior of the Altitude value. The Azimuth axis will not budge because the hydrostatic bearing is off.)
 - In the dome, power up the stow pin system. Then move the telescope manually to the stow position, and insert the stow pins.
 - Use your presence in the dome also to home the dome position in the usual manner (manually tweaking the dome's encoder wheel).
 - In the Control room, set the breaks.
 - Before resuming observations, you will need to reboot VATTEL and to turn the hydrostatic bearing back on.
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Flatfield LED GUI

It is an INDI GUI and as such opens in a browser. There ought to be a bookmark. In general, go to vattarchive (or vattarchive.vatt; locally 10.0.1.12). The browser will show you a directory

(/home/mfranz/public_html/) with two directories: flatfield and vattarchive. Open flatfield.

Miscellaneous LED settings and exposure times

4s exposures; 2×2 binning

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|--------------|------|----------|----------------|
| blue LED | 1% | B filter | ~3,000 |
| green LED | 1% | B filter | ~2,000 |
| green LED | 100% | R filter | ~10,700 |
| white LED | 1% | B filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| white LED | 25% | I filter | ~2,600 |
| white LED | 100% | I filter | ~27,000 |
| amber LED | 1% | B filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| amber LED | 10% | I filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| UV LED | 1% | B filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| nothing | | B filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| incandescent | 1% | B filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| incandescent | 1% | I filter | ~1,825 (floor) |
| incandescent | 10% | I filter | ~1,840 |
| incandescent | 100% | I filter | ~3,475 |

We obtained screen flats with B filter (4s exposure, 40% blue LED), V filter (4s exposure, 20% green LED), R filter (8s exposure, 100% white LED), and I filter (60s exposure, 100% white LED + 100% incandescent).

¹⁾

This corresponds to 30° above the horizon: $-(90^\circ - \phi) - 30^\circ = \phi - 60^\circ$, where $\phi = 32^\circ 42' 05''$ is the local latitude.

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Alternative way, using XEPHEM: find a star close to Alt=29.5°, and Az=179°, and slew to its position ("Telescope Go To" in XEPHEM).

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