

Let's revise my planning.

I have a problem:

- Next week I will be in the US
- End of May, I will be in Spain

Do we manage to squeeze one or two lectures?

Next two thursdays are in the lab (one without me; so you can have fun!)

Ideally there will be more time in the lab.

I would like to use the telescope on campus with you!

Affonso and Matheus are already “captured”.

How do we set up an observing evening?

# AGA0414

# Photometry 2

Prof. Alessandro Ederoclite

# Magnitudes

Need to go from counts to flux!

Magnitude (Vega; the Pogson's equation):

$$\text{mag}_2 - \text{mag}_1 = -2.5 \text{ Log } f_2 / f_1$$

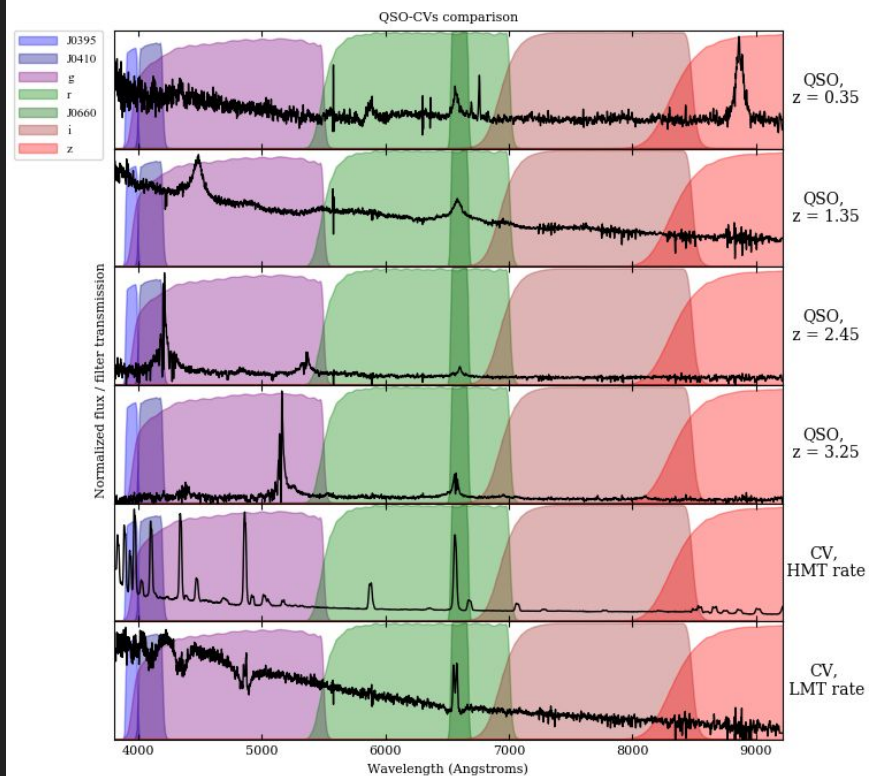
$f_v$  is the “spectral flux density”

Magnitude (AB):

$$\text{Mag} = -2.5 \text{ Log } f_v - 48.6$$

# What's in a magnitude...

Convolution of the filter of an object with a filter.



# (Unfortunate) definition of magnitude

Defined by Ptolemy/Hipparchus: bright stars “first magnitude” and faint stars “sixth magnitude”.

We said that the response of the human eye is logarithmic.

Pogson (1856)

$$\text{mag}_1 - \text{mag}_2 = -2.5 \log(f_1/f_2)$$

$$\Delta\text{mag} = 5 \rightarrow f_1/f_2 = 100$$

# First, it was Vega

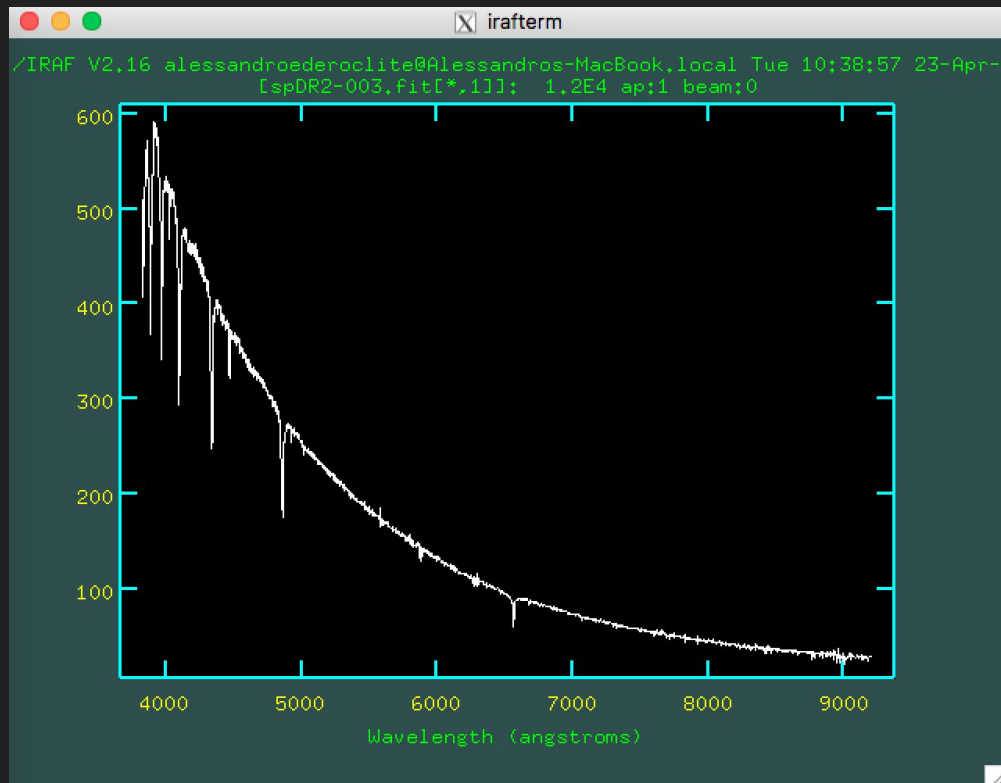
By definition:

- $U-B = 0$
- $B-V = 0$

By the way, Vega, by definition, had  $V=0.0$

For any A0 star.

Turns out, that Vega has  $V=0.03$



# Then we started using flux

Optical astronomers use  $f_\lambda$  [ergs cm<sup>-1</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>]

Radio astronomers use  $f_\nu$  [ergs cm<sup>-1</sup> Hz<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>]

Luckily:  $f_\nu = (\lambda^2 / c) f_\lambda$

Oke (1974) and Oke & Gunn (1983) defined

$$\text{mag}_{AB} = -2.5 \text{Log } f_\nu - 48.6$$

Useful because it relates to a physical quantity. Hard because  $f_\nu$  strictly relates to its source and its filter.



# Caveat! SDSS

The magnitudes in the SDSS catalogue are inverse hyperbolic sine magnitudes!

<https://www.sdss.org/dr12/algorithms/magnitudes/#asinh>

$$m = -2.5/\ln(10) * [\operatorname{asinh}((f/f_0)/(2b)) + \ln(b)]$$

Asinh Softening Parameters

Filter	$b$	Zero-flux Magnitude [ $m(f/f_0 = 0)$ ]	$m(f/f_0 = 10b)$
<i>u</i>	$1.4 \times 10^{-10}$	24.63	22.12
<i>g</i>	$0.9 \times 10^{-10}$	25.11	22.60
<i>r</i>	$1.2 \times 10^{-10}$	24.80	22.29
<i>i</i>	$1.8 \times 10^{-10}$	24.36	21.85
<i>z</i>	$7.4 \times 10^{-10}$	22.83	20.32

## Excercise:

Show how asinh magnitudes differ from AB magnitudes in a range between 18 and 24.

... but we measure counts on a CCD!

$\gamma \rightarrow e^- \rightarrow \text{counts}$

All these relations are linear!

$$\text{mag}_1 - \text{mag}_2 = -2.5 \log ( \text{counts}_1 / \text{counts}_2 )$$

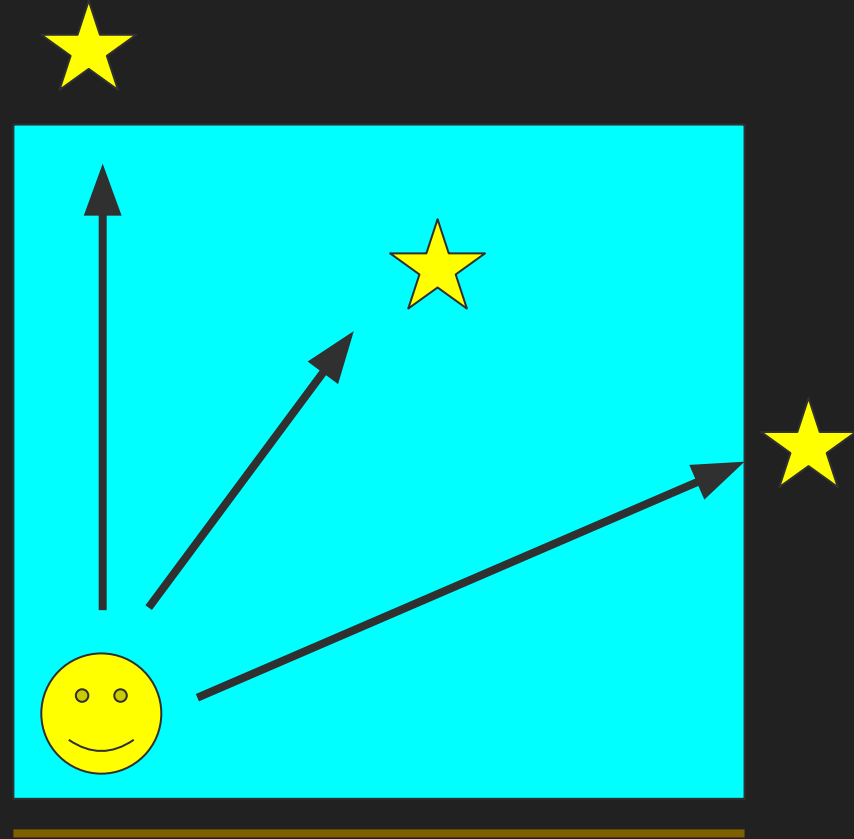
(note that it should be  $\text{counts}_i / \text{exposure time}$  but it cancels out)

# The role of the atmosphere

The further from zenith, the more atmosphere is between the observer and the star.

Airmass  $Z = \sec$

$k$  is the “extinction coefficient” of the atmosphere. It measures the extinction (in units of magnitudes) per unit of airmass.



# Bouguer's Law

I measure a star of known brightness at different airmass:

$$\text{mag}_0 = \text{mag}_z + k * \text{sec } Z$$

THIS DEPENDS ON FILTER!

How does this affect different wavelengths?

Stars get “redder” with increasing airmass

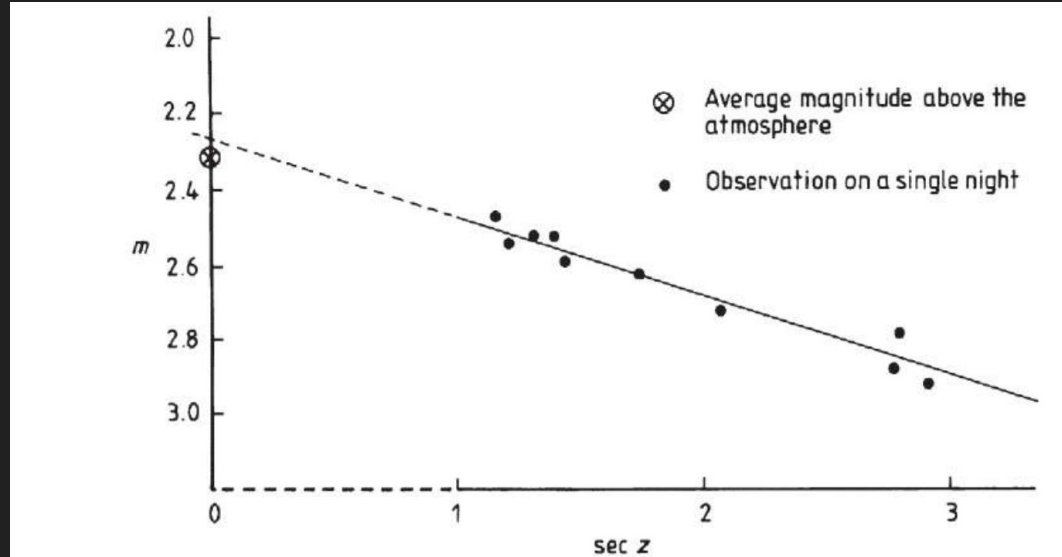


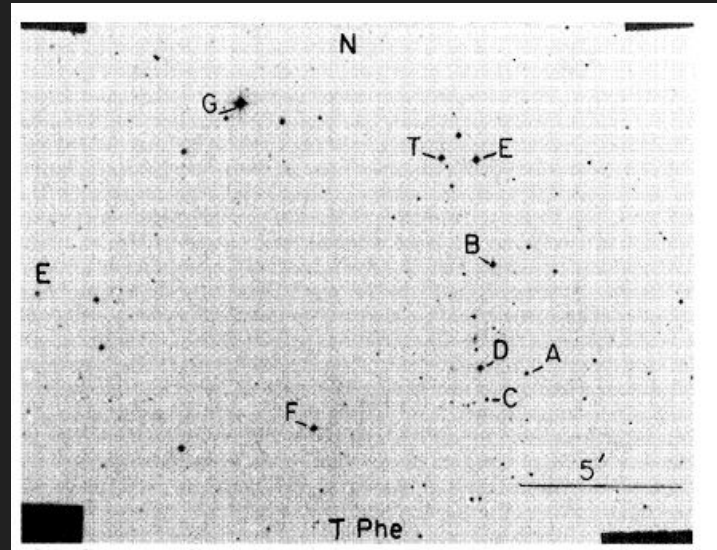
Figure 3.2.5. Schematic variation in magnitude of a standard star with zenith distance  
© Kitchin

# Landolt's Fields

In fact, usually we measure a whole field of stars. The main standard fields have been identified by Arlo Landolt

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlo\\_U.\\_Landolt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlo_U._Landolt)

An astronomer is really famous once his papers are not cited but taken for granted as basic astronomical knowledge.



# Colour terms

The Bouger's Law gives you the zeropoint and the extinction coefficient for your filter.

Yet, you still have to get the colour-terms:

$$(U\ B\ V\ R\ I)_{\text{calibrated}} = C (U\ B\ V\ R\ I)_{\text{instrumental}} + \text{Zeropoints}$$

Where "C" is a matrix

Normally you do not have to take care of all the elements

# Absolute Magnitude vs. Apparent Magnitude

The magnitudes we observe are “apparent” ones.

An apparently faint star may just be a very far away bright star (or...? ;-)

We define “absolute magnitude” the magnitude of a star as if it was at a standard distance of 10 parsecs.

$$M = m + 5 \log d[\text{pc}] + 5$$

This is an incomplete version of an absolute magnitude!

$$\text{Distance modulus: } M - m = 5 \log (d/10\text{pc})$$

# Parallax

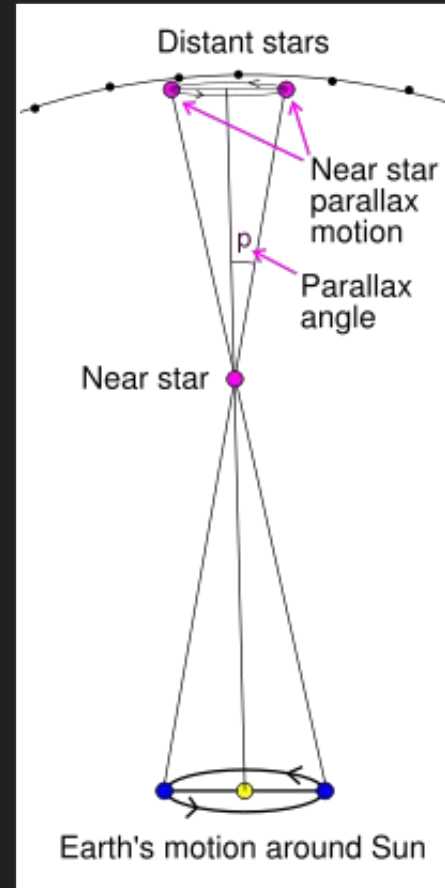
$$\pi = 1 \text{ arcsec}$$

corresponds to

206265 astronomical units

1 parsec

$$d[\text{pc}] = 1 / \pi(\text{arcsec})$$





# Interstellar extinction

The universe is full of gas and dust.

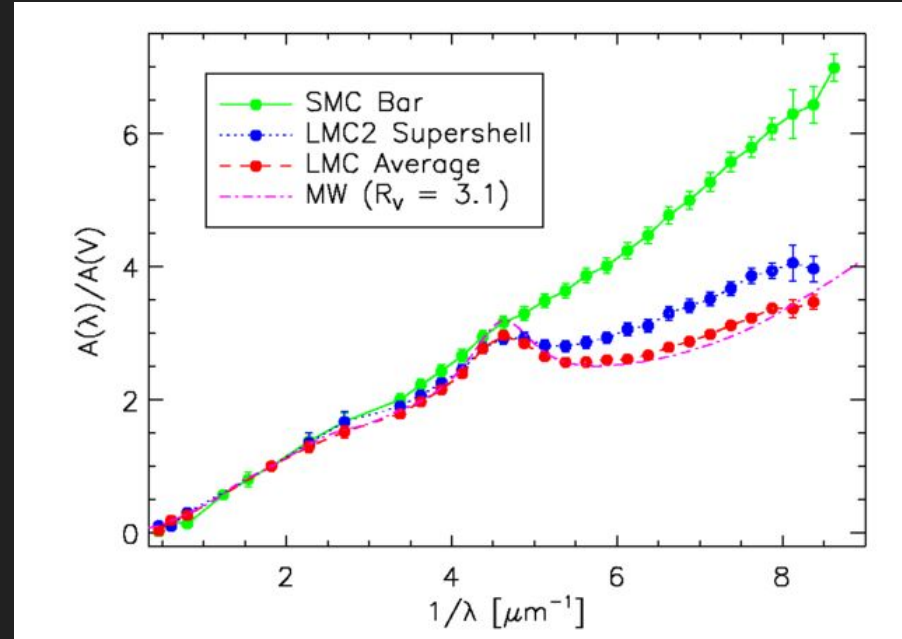
How does this gas and dust affect starlight?

Light gets absorbed and reddened!

$$R_V = A_V / E_{B-V}$$

The complete expression of “absolute magnitude” is:

$$M = m + 5 \log d[\text{pc}] + 5 + A_V$$



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction\\_\(astronomy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction_(astronomy))

See you on Thursday in the IT lab