
Table Of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| Preface to the First Edition | xix |
| Preface to the Second Edition | xxv |
| 1 Basic Imaging | 1 |
| 1.1 Light | 1 |
| 1.2 Image Formation | 2 |
| 1.2.1 Pinhole Imaging..... | 2 |
| 1.2.2 Lens Cameras | 4 |
| 1.2.3 Telescopes | 6 |
| 1.3 Detectors | 9 |
| 1.3.1 The Human Retina..... | 9 |
| 1.3.2 Photographic Emulsions..... | 11 |
| 1.3.3 Electronic Detectors | 14 |
| 1.3.4 Linearity, Saturation, and Blooming | 21 |
| 1.4 Sensor Geometry | 21 |
| 1.4.1 Aspect Ratio | 23 |
| 1.4.2 Pixel Count | 24 |
| 1.5 Image Capture | 25 |
| 1.5.1 Angular Field of View of a Detector..... | 25 |
| 1.5.2 Sampling the Image..... | 27 |
| 1.5.3 Angular Size of a Single Pixel..... | 27 |
| 1.5.4 Matching Pixels to the Point-Spread Function..... | 29 |
| 2 Counting Photons..... | 33 |
| 2.1 What Is a Signal? | 33 |
| 2.2 What Is Noise? | 33 |
| 2.3 Signals and Noise | 35 |
| 2.3.1 The Poisson and Gaussian Distributions | 38 |
| 2.3.2 Collecting More Photons by Image Summing | 39 |
| 2.3.3 Measuring Noise..... | 40 |
| 2.3.4 Signals Become More Complicated | 41 |
| 2.3.5 Unwanted Signals and More Sources of Noise | 42 |
| 2.4 Signals and Noise in Images | 43 |
| 2.4.1 Signal and Noise in a Raw Image..... | 44 |
| 2.4.2 Signal and Noise in a Dark Frame..... | 47 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 2.4.3 Signal and Noise in a Dark-Subtracted Image | 47 |
| 2.4.4 The Effect of the Sky Background on Signal and Noise..... | 49 |
| 2.4.5 Signal and Noise in Multiple Averaged Images..... | 51 |
| 2.5 Signal and Noise Effects from Flat-Fielding | 53 |
| 2.6 A Little Sermon on Signals and Noise..... | 55 |
| 3 Digital Image Formats..... | 57 |
| 3.1 File Format Basics..... | 57 |
| 3.2 FITS: The Standard Format in Astronomy | 59 |
| 3.3 Overview of FITS | 59 |
| 3.4 The FITS Header..... | 61 |
| 3.4.1 Mandatory Keywords | 62 |
| 3.4.2 Array Value Keywords..... | 63 |
| 3.4.3 Observation Keywords | 64 |
| 3.4.4 Comment Keywords..... | 65 |
| 3.4.5 Header Value Formats..... | 65 |
| 3.5 The FITS Binary Data Array..... | 66 |
| 3.6 The FITS Trailer..... | 68 |
| 3.7 Nonconforming FITS Files | 68 |
| 3.7.1 Nonconforming Headers | 68 |
| 3.7.2 Nonconforming Data Arrays..... | 68 |
| 3.7.3 Uncoordinated FITS Headers and Data Arrays..... | 69 |
| 3.7.4 Reading Variant FITS Files..... | 69 |
| 3.8 TIFF: The Standard in the Graphic Arts | 70 |
| 3.9 BMP: Images for Windows..... | 72 |
| 3.10 AVI: Interleaved Audio/Video from Webcams | 73 |
| 3.11 JPEG: File Compression for the Internet | 73 |
| 3.12 RAW, NEF, and CRW: Proprietary Raw Images | 75 |
| 4 Imaging Tools..... | 77 |
| 4.1 Sensors and Optics | 77 |
| 4.1.1 Sensor Size and Field of View | 77 |
| 4.1.2 Pixel Size and Resolution..... | 81 |
| 4.1.3 Spectral Sensitivity..... | 83 |
| 4.2 Optics for Imaging | 84 |
| 4.3 Auxiliary Optics | 89 |
| 4.3.1 Reducing Focal Length..... | 89 |
| 4.3.2 Increasing Focal Length | 90 |
| 4.3.3 Correcting Field Curvature..... | 91 |
| 4.3.4 Correcting Coma Aberration | 91 |
| 4.4 Finding Celestial Objects | 91 |
| 4.4.1 Flip Mirrors, Finder Scopes, and Go-To Mounts..... | 92 |
| 4.5 Telescope Mountings | 93 |
| 4.5.1 Tracking Sensitivity..... | 94 |
| 4.5.2 Rate Errors and Periodic Errors..... | 94 |
| 4.5.3 Testing and Tuning a Clock Drive | 95 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 4.5.4 Periodic Error Correction (PEC) Drives..... | 97 |
| 4.6 Filters..... | 98 |
| 4.6.1 Filter Types..... | 98 |
| 4.6.2 Filters for H-Alpha and Other Emission Lines..... | 100 |
| 4.6.3 Light Pollution Rejection (LPR) Filters | 100 |
| 4.6.4 Blue-Block and Violet-Block Filters..... | 102 |
| 4.7 Recognizing and Correcting Equipment Problems | 102 |
| 4.7.1 Hot Spots | 103 |
| 4.7.2 Field Flooding | 105 |
| 4.7.3 Vignetting | 106 |
| 4.7.4 Dust Donuts | 107 |
| 4.8 Reaping the Benefits | 111 |
| 5 Imaging Techniques..... | 113 |
| 5.1 Accurate Polar Alignment..... | 113 |
| 5.2 Good Guiding..... | 116 |
| 5.2.1 Off-Axis Guiding..... | 116 |
| 5.2.2 Auxiliary Telescope Guiding | 117 |
| 5.2.3 Software Virtual Guiding | 117 |
| 5.3 Critical Focus | 118 |
| 5.3.1 The Focuser | 119 |
| 5.3.2 Focus Techniques | 119 |
| 5.3.3 Automated Focusing..... | 121 |
| 5.4 Correct Exposure..... | 121 |
| 5.5 Shooting Calibration Frames..... | 123 |
| 5.5.1 Basic, Standard, and Advanced Calibration | 123 |
| 5.5.2 Making Bias Frames..... | 124 |
| 5.5.3 Making Dark Frames | 124 |
| 5.5.4 Making Flat-Field Frames | 125 |
| 5.5.5 Defect Mapping | 128 |
| 5.6 Imaging with Digital SLR Cameras | 128 |
| 5.7 Deep-Sky Imaging | 130 |
| 5.7.1 Strategies for Deep-Sky Imaging | 130 |
| 5.7.1.1 Digital Snapshots | 131 |
| 5.7.1.2 Guided One-Shot Imaging | 132 |
| 5.7.1.3 Guided and Unguided Track-and-Stack Imaging | 132 |
| 5.7.2 Making Good Deep-Sky Images | 134 |
| 5.7.3 Imaging Deep-Sky Targets..... | 135 |
| 5.8 Lunar, Planetary, and Solar Imaging Techniques | 141 |
| 5.8.1 Obtaining Excellent Images | 142 |
| 5.8.2 Focal-Ratio Matching Optics | 143 |
| 5.8.2.1 Field of View | 146 |
| 5.8.3 Recording High-Resolution Images | 146 |
| 5.8.4 Making High-Resolution Images | 147 |
| 5.8.5 Solar System Targets..... | 151 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| 5.9 The Role of “Technique” | 155 |
| 6 Image Calibration | 157 |
| 6.1 What’s in a CCD Image? | 159 |
| 6.1.1 Photon Flux | 159 |
| 6.1.2 Nonuniformity | 161 |
| 6.1.3 Dark Current..... | 162 |
| 6.1.4 Zero-Point Bias..... | 163 |
| 6.1.5 Quantization | 164 |
| 6.1.6 Calibration is Peeling the Image Onion..... | 164 |
| 6.2 Calibration Frames | 165 |
| 6.2.1 Bias Frames | 165 |
| 6.2.1.1 Using a Single Bias Value | 167 |
| 6.2.1.2 Bias with Drift-Subtraction..... | 168 |
| 6.2.1.3 When to Make a Master Bias Frame | 169 |
| 6.2.2 Dark Frames | 170 |
| 6.2.2.1 “Image-Times-Five” Rule for Dark Frames | 171 |
| 6.2.2.2 Thermal Frames | 173 |
| 6.2.2.3 Standard and Scalable Dark Frames | 175 |
| 6.2.2.4 Dark Frame Matching..... | 176 |
| 6.2.2.5 Changing CCD Temperature | 177 |
| 6.2.2.6 When to Use a Single Dark Value..... | 177 |
| 6.2.2.7 Cosmic Ray Events..... | 177 |
| 6.2.2.8 Electroluminescence | 178 |
| 6.2.2.9 How to Make Master Dark Frames | 179 |
| 6.2.3 Flat Frames | 180 |
| 6.2.3.1 Four Types of Flat-Field Frames | 183 |
| 6.2.3.2 How to Shoot Light-Box and Dome Flats | 184 |
| 6.2.3.3 How to Shoot Twilight Flats..... | 185 |
| 6.2.3.4 How to Shoot Sky Flats | 186 |
| 6.3 Methods of Calibration | 187 |
| 6.3.1 Basic Image Calibration | 187 |
| 6.3.2 Standard Image Calibration | 188 |
| 6.3.3 Advanced Image Calibration..... | 190 |
| 6.4 The Calibrated Image..... | 192 |
| 6.4.1 Photons, Dark Current, and Readout Noise..... | 193 |
| 6.4.2 Noise from Calibration | 195 |
| 6.4.3 Image Stacking | 197 |
| 6.4.4 How to Spot Calibration Errors..... | 199 |
| 6.4.4.1 Bias Drift | 199 |
| 6.4.4.2 Changing CCD Temperature | 200 |
| 6.4.4.3 Changing Optical Configuration..... | 201 |
| 6.5 Defect Mapping and Correction..... | 203 |
| 7 Image Analysis | 205 |
| 7.1 Pixel Measurements | 205 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 7.1.1 Pixel Coordinates..... | 206 |
| 7.1.2 Pixel Value | 207 |
| 7.2 Whole-Image Analysis..... | 208 |
| 7.2.1 Image Statistics..... | 208 |
| 7.2.1.1 Minimum Pixel Value..... | 208 |
| 7.2.1.2 Maximum Pixel Value..... | 208 |
| 7.2.1.3 Mean Pixel Value | 209 |
| 7.2.1.4 Median Pixel Value | 209 |
| 7.2.1.5 Standard Deviation | 209 |
| 7.2.1.6 Low-Point and High-Point Pixel Values | 210 |
| 7.3 The Image Histogram..... | 210 |
| 7.4 Image Feature Analysis..... | 212 |
| 7.4.1 Pixel Statistics | 212 |
| 7.4.1.1 Defining a Region of Interest | 212 |
| 7.4.1.2 Minimum Pixel Value..... | 213 |
| 7.4.1.3 Maximum Pixel Value..... | 214 |
| 7.4.1.4 Mean Pixel Value | 214 |
| 7.4.1.5 Variance..... | 214 |
| 7.4.1.6 Standard Deviation | 214 |
| 7.4.1.7 Signal-to-Noise Ratio | 215 |
| 7.4.1.8 Median Pixel Value | 216 |
| 7.4.1.9 Mean of Median Half..... | 216 |
| 7.5 Determining a Centroid..... | 216 |
| 7.6 Distance on a CCD Image..... | 219 |
| 7.7 Image Profiles | 220 |
| 7.8 Astrometry..... | 221 |
| 7.9 Photometry | 221 |
| 7.9.1 Defining the Star Image..... | 221 |
| 7.9.2 Photometric Image Profile..... | 224 |
| 7.10 Spectroscopy | 225 |
| 8 Measuring CCD Performance | 227 |
| 8.1 Goals in CCD Testing | 227 |
| 8.2 Basic CCD Testing..... | 229 |
| 8.2.1 How to Make Basic CCD Test Images..... | 229 |
| 8.2.2 Basic Test Analysis | 230 |
| 8.2.2.1 Step 1: Mean and Standard Deviation in the Bias | 230 |
| 8.2.2.2 Step 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Flats | 231 |
| 8.2.2.3 Step 3: Measure the Dark Current | 231 |
| 8.2.2.4 Step 4: Compute the Conversion Factor | 232 |
| 8.2.2.5 Step 5: Compute the Readout Noise..... | 232 |
| 8.2.2.6 Step 6: Compute the Dark Current | 232 |
| 8.2.3 What Results to Expect | 233 |
| 8.3 Advanced CCD Testing | 234 |
| 8.3.1 Constructing a Low-Light Level Source | 234 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| 8.3.2 Setting the Low-Level Light Source for Use | 238 |
| 8.3.3 How to Make Advanced CCD Test Images | 239 |
| 8.3.3.1 Make the Bias Frame Set..... | 239 |
| 8.3.3.2 Make the Skim Frame Set..... | 239 |
| 8.3.3.3 Make the Flat Frame Set..... | 240 |
| 8.3.3.4 Make the Dark Frame Set..... | 240 |
| 8.3.4 Analyzing the Advanced Test Image Set | 241 |
| 8.3.4.1 Check the Bias Frames for Noise and Interference | 241 |
| 8.3.4.2 Charge Skimming Check..... | 243 |
| 8.3.4.3 Plotting the Transfer Curve | 244 |
| 8.3.4.4 Checking the Linearity of the CCD..... | 247 |
| 8.3.4.5 Determining the Dark Current..... | 247 |
| 8.3.4.6 Check the Uniformity of the CCD..... | 248 |
| 9 Astrometry | 249 |
| 9.1 Astrometric Catalogs and Coordinates..... | 249 |
| 9.1.1 The Astrometric Dilemma..... | 250 |
| 9.1.2 Astrometric Catalogs and Reference Frames | 251 |
| 9.2 Astrometric Theory | 252 |
| 9.2.1 Standard Coordinates..... | 253 |
| 9.2.2 Plate Coordinates..... | 254 |
| 9.2.3 Improved Plate Constants..... | 257 |
| 9.2.4 Solving for Position..... | 257 |
| 9.3 Practical Astrometry..... | 258 |
| 9.3.1 CCD Images for Astrometry | 258 |
| 9.3.2 Scanned Photographs for Astrometry..... | 260 |
| 9.3.3 Making Astrometric Measurements | 263 |
| 9.4 Applied Astrometry..... | 264 |
| 9.4.1 Astrometry of Newly-Discovered Objects | 264 |
| 9.4.2 Astrometry of Asteroids and Comets | 265 |
| 9.4.3 Using Astrometry to Identify Objects | 266 |
| 9.4.4 Image Scale and Orientation | 266 |
| 9.4.5 Astrometry in Education..... | 267 |
| 10 Photometry | 271 |
| 10.1 Magnitudes: How Bright Is This Star?..... | 271 |
| 10.1.1 Magnitudes Are Comparisons | 272 |
| 10.1.2 Aperture Photometry | 272 |
| 10.1.2.1 Summing the Star's Light..... | 273 |
| 10.1.2.2 Subtracting Sky Background | 274 |
| 10.1.2.3 Raw Instrumental Magnitude | 275 |
| 10.1.2.4 Statistical Uncertainty..... | 276 |
| 10.2 Putting Photometry to Work | 278 |
| 10.3 Photometric Systems..... | 279 |
| 10.3.1 Atmospheric Extinction..... | 286 |
| 10.3.2 Transformation to the UBV(RI) System | 290 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 10.4 Photometric Observing..... | 291 |
| 10.4.1 Preparing to Observe | 292 |
| 10.4.2 Differential Photometry..... | 293 |
| 10.4.3 All-Sky Photometry..... | 296 |
| 10.4.4 “Do-What-You-Can” Photometry | 298 |
| 10.5 <i>Desiderata</i> for Photometry..... | 299 |
| 10.6 Don’t Be Afraid to Try! | 301 |
| 11 Spectroscopy | 303 |
| 11.1 What is Spectroscopy? | 303 |
| 11.2 Spectra and Spectrographs | 304 |
| 11.2.1 Prisms and Gratings..... | 304 |
| 11.2.2 Practical Spectrographs | 305 |
| 11.2.3 The Objective Prism Spectrograph..... | 305 |
| 11.2.4 The Grating-Prism Spectrograph..... | 307 |
| 11.2.5 The Slit Spectrograph | 309 |
| 11.2.6 The Fiber-Fed Spectrograph..... | 310 |
| 11.3 Properties of Spectrum Images | 311 |
| 11.4 Extracting a Spectrum from an Image..... | 313 |
| 11.4.1 Spectra from Objective Prism Images | 314 |
| 11.4.2 Spectra from Slit Spectrographs..... | 316 |
| 11.4.3 Spectra from Fiber-Fed Spectrographs..... | 318 |
| 11.5 Spectrum Calibration and Analysis..... | 319 |
| 12 Geometric Transforms | 321 |
| 12.1 Translation..... | 321 |
| 12.2 Rotation | 325 |
| 12.3 Scaling..... | 328 |
| 12.4 Practical Translation, Rotation, and Scaling..... | 329 |
| 12.5 Flipping and Flopping..... | 331 |
| 12.6 Cropping and Floating..... | 332 |
| 12.7 Resampling..... | 334 |
| 13 Point Operations | 337 |
| 13.1 Point Operations: An Overview | 337 |
| 13.2 Remapping Pixel Values | 339 |
| 13.2.1 Isolating the Range..... | 340 |
| 13.2.2 Transfer Functions..... | 343 |
| 13.2.2.1 Linear Transfer Function | 347 |
| 13.2.2.2 Gamma Transfer Function..... | 349 |
| 13.2.2.3 The Logarithmic Transfer Function..... | 350 |
| 13.2.2.4 The Gammalog Transfer Function..... | 351 |
| 13.2.2.5 The Negative Transfer Function..... | 352 |
| 13.2.2.6 The Sawtooth and Quantize Transfer Functions | 353 |
| 13.3 Direct Specification of the Transfer Function..... | 353 |
| 13.4 Direct Endpoint Specification | 355 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| 13.4.1 Stretch Scaling..... | 356 |
| 13.4.2 Nonlinear Stretch Scaling..... | 357 |
| 13.5 Histogram Endpoint Specification | 357 |
| 13.6 Histogram Specification..... | 358 |
| 13.6.1 Histogram Equalization | 362 |
| 13.6.2 Gaussian Histogram Shaping | 362 |
| 13.6.3 Exponential Histogram Shaping..... | 363 |
| 14 Linear Operators | 365 |
| 14.1 Convolution in One Dimension | 365 |
| 14.1.1 One-Dimensional Examples..... | 369 |
| 14.1.2 Multiple Convolutions with One-Dimensional Kernels..... | 371 |
| 14.2 Convolution in Two Dimensions | 372 |
| 14.2.1 Convolution using Kernels..... | 373 |
| 14.2.2 Properties of the Convolution Kernel..... | 375 |
| 14.2.3 Kernels as Spatial Filters | 377 |
| 14.2.3.1 Smoothing Kernels (Low-Pass Filters)..... | 378 |
| 14.2.3.2 Sharpening Kernels (High-Pass Filters) | 381 |
| 14.2.4 Edge-Detection and Gradient Kernels..... | 385 |
| 14.2.4.1 Bas-Relief Operators | 385 |
| 14.2.4.2 Sobel, Kirsch, and Prewitt Operators | 386 |
| 14.2.4.3 Line-Detection Operators | 387 |
| 14.2.4.4 The Laplacian Operator | 388 |
| 14.3 Convolution by Unsharp Mask | 388 |
| 14.4 Generated Kernels for Unsharp Masking..... | 390 |
| 14.4.1 The Boxcar Unsharp Mask..... | 390 |
| 14.4.2 The Triangular Unsharp Mask..... | 391 |
| 14.4.3 The Gaussian Unsharp Mask..... | 392 |
| 14.4.4 The Power-Law Unsharp Mask..... | 394 |
| 14.4.5 Other Unsharp Masks | 394 |
| 15 Non-Linear Operators | 397 |
| 15.1 Rank Operators..... | 398 |
| 15.1.1 Minimum and Maximum..... | 398 |
| 15.1.2 The Median Operator | 399 |
| 15.1.3 The Rank-Order Operator..... | 401 |
| 15.1.4 The Multiplicative Rank Processes | 403 |
| 15.2 Non-Linear Enhancement Operators..... | 405 |
| 15.2.1 The Extreme Value Operator..... | 406 |
| 15.2.2 Local Adaptive Sharpening | 408 |
| 15.3 Noise Filters | 411 |
| 15.4 Morphological Operators | 413 |
| 15.4.1 Isophote Lines | 413 |
| 15.4.2 Frei and Chen Operators..... | 415 |
| 15.4.3 The Skeleton Operator..... | 418 |
| 15.4.4 Dilation, Erosion, Opening, and Closing Operators..... | 419 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 15.5 The Topographic Operator | 419 |
| 15.6 Digital Development | 422 |
| 16 Image Operations | 425 |
| 16.1 Image Math | 425 |
| 16.1.1 Addition | 425 |
| 16.1.2 Subtraction | 426 |
| 16.1.3 Multiplication | 428 |
| 16.1.4 Division | 429 |
| 16.1.5 Absolute Difference | 429 |
| 16.1.6 Merge | 430 |
| 16.1.7 Average | 432 |
| 16.2 Image Ranking | 433 |
| 16.2.1 Median Ranking | 433 |
| 16.2.2 Minimum Ranking | 435 |
| 16.2.3 Maximum Ranking | 435 |
| 16.3 Calibrating Images | 436 |
| 16.3.1 Dark Subtraction | 436 |
| 16.3.2 Flat-Fielding | 438 |
| 16.3.3 Basic Calibration | 440 |
| 16.3.4 Standard Calibration | 441 |
| 16.3.5 Advanced Calibration | 441 |
| 16.4 Image Registration | 442 |
| 16.4.1 Registration with Translation Only | 443 |
| 16.4.2 Registration with Translation, Rotation, and Scaling | 444 |
| 16.5 Blinking Images | 447 |
| 16.6 Track-and-Stack Image Summing and Averaging | 447 |
| 17 Images in Frequency Space | 453 |
| 17.1 Exploring Frequency Space | 453 |
| 17.1.1 Spatial Frequency | 453 |
| 17.1.2 The Frequency Spectrum | 454 |
| 17.1.3 Sinusoid Basics | 455 |
| 17.2 Fourier Theory | 456 |
| 17.2.1 Periodic Functions: The Fourier Series | 456 |
| 17.2.2 Nonperiodic Functions: The Fourier Integral | 458 |
| 17.2.3 Properties of the Fourier Transform | 462 |
| 17.2.4 Convolution via Fourier Transform | 464 |
| 17.2.5 Parseval's Theorem | 466 |
| 17.2.6 The Discrete Fourier Series | 466 |
| 17.2.7 The Fast Fourier Transform | 469 |
| 17.3 Image Processing using the Fourier Transform | 470 |
| 17.3.1 Butterworth Spatial Frequency Filters | 472 |
| 17.3.2 Feature Masking in Frequency Space | 474 |
| 17.3.3 Feature Enhancement in Frequency Space | 475 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| 18 Wavelets | 477 |
| 18.1 The Wavelet Transform | 477 |
| 18.1.1 The Wavelet Function | 479 |
| 18.1.2 Properties of the À Trouis Wavelet Transform | 479 |
| 18.1.3 Spatial Filtering with the Wavelet Transform | 482 |
| 18.1.4 Spatial Filtering with Star Images | 485 |
| 18.2 Wavelet Noise Filters | 485 |
| 18.2.1 When Is an Image Feature Significant?..... | 486 |
| 18.2.2 Transforming Poisson Noise to a Gaussian Deviate | 488 |
| 18.2.3 Measuring Noise in Images | 489 |
| 18.2.4 Rejecting Noise and Retaining Significant Features | 490 |
| 18.2.5 The Solution: An Iterative Wavelet Noise Filter..... | 491 |
| 18.3 Wavelet K-Sigma Filtering | 494 |
| 18.4 Using Wavelets | 496 |
| 19 Deconvolution | 499 |
| 19.1 The Inverse Convolution Problem | 500 |
| 19.2 Image Estimation by Iteration | 501 |
| 19.3 Van Cittert Image Estimation..... | 506 |
| 19.4 Richardson-Lucy Image Estimation..... | 507 |
| 19.5 Using Deconvolution with Astronomical Images | 509 |
| 20 Building Color Images | 513 |
| 20.1 Human Color Vision | 514 |
| 20.1.1 The Trichromatic Basis of Color Vision | 514 |
| 20.1.2 Luminance and Chrominance..... | 514 |
| 20.1.3 Reproducing Color | 516 |
| 20.2 Celestial Light | 516 |
| 20.2.1 Starlight and Continuous Spectra | 519 |
| 20.2.2 Nebulae and Emission Spectra..... | 521 |
| 20.2.3 The Challenge of Celestial Color Imaging..... | 522 |
| 20.3 Red/Green/Blue Tri-Color Imaging..... | 523 |
| 20.3.1 Step 1: Capture Filtered Images | 525 |
| 20.3.2 Step 2: Correct the Filtered Images | 528 |
| 20.3.2.1 Subtract the Skylight Background | 528 |
| 20.3.2.2 Color Balance with G2V Stars | 531 |
| 20.3.3 Create the Color Image..... | 534 |
| 20.3.4 Summary: White-Balance Using G2V Stars | 535 |
| 20.4 Using Field Stars for White Balance..... | 536 |
| 20.4.1 Summary: White-Balance Using Field Stars..... | 537 |
| 20.5 Color Images from Filter-Matrix Cameras..... | 537 |
| 20.6 Color Space: Geometric Interpretations of Color | 539 |
| 20.6.1 RGB Color Space | 539 |
| 20.6.2 HSL Color Space..... | 541 |
| 20.6.3 Lab Color Space | 544 |
| 20.7 Luminance/RGB (LRGB) Color Imaging..... | 545 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 20.7.1 Creating an Artificial Luminance Image..... | 547 |
| 20.7.2 Enhancing the Luminance Image | 547 |
| 20.7.3 Creating LRGB Images | 547 |
| 20.8 Practical RGB and LRGB Color Imaging..... | 549 |
| 20.8.1 Selecting Filters..... | 549 |
| 20.8.2 Shooting RGB and LRGB Images | 550 |
| 20.8.3 Trade-offs: RGB versus LRGB..... | 552 |
| 20.9 LLRGB (Multi-Luminance) Imaging | 552 |
| 20.10 Extended-Range and Narrowband Color | 553 |
| 20.11 Color Imaging with CMY Filters..... | 554 |
| 20.11.1 Selecting CMY Filters..... | 555 |
| 20.11.2 CMY versus RGB Imaging | 555 |
| 20.12 The Subjective Side of Color Images..... | 555 |
| 21 Processing Color Images | 557 |
| 21.1 Properties of Color Images..... | 557 |
| 21.2 Calibrate to Remove Dark Current and Vignetting..... | 564 |
| 21.2.1 Calibrating Bayer-Array Color Images | 564 |
| 21.2.2 Calibration for Digital Cameras | 565 |
| 21.3 Stacking to Enhance Signal-To-Noise Ratio..... | 567 |
| 21.4 Making Great Images with a Digital Camera..... | 570 |
| 21.5 Color Images in Color Spaces..... | 572 |
| 21.5.1 RGB Color Space | 572 |
| 21.5.2 HSL Color Space..... | 574 |
| 21.5.3 Lab Color Space | 575 |
| 21.6 Color in Color Images | 576 |
| 21.6.1 White Balance | 576 |
| 21.7 Luminance Enhancement of Color Images | 577 |
| Appendix A Glossary..... | 581 |
| Appendix B Resources..... | 597 |
| B.1 CCD Imaging..... | 597 |
| B.1.1 CCD Imaging Books..... | 597 |
| B.2 Astronomical Optics | 599 |
| B.2.1 Telescope Design..... | 599 |
| B.2.2 Telescopes and Vision | 599 |
| B.3 Astrometry | 600 |
| B.3.1 Astrometry Books and Articles..... | 600 |
| B.3.2 Astrometry Software..... | 601 |
| B.3.3 Astrometry Reference Catalogs | 601 |
| B.4 Photometry | 601 |
| B.4.1 Photometry Books and Articles | 601 |
| B.4.2 Photometric Data: Extinction Stars and Standard Stars..... | 602 |
| B.4.3 Photometry Organizations | 603 |
| B.4.4 Photometric Filters..... | 603 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| B.4.5 Photometry Software | 603 |
| B.5 Spectroscopy | 604 |
| B.5.1 Spectroscopy Books and Articles | 604 |
| B.5.2 Spectroscopic Catalogs | 604 |
| B.6 Image Processing | 605 |
| B.6.1 Image Processing Books: General | 605 |
| B.6.2 Image Processing: Science Applications | 605 |
| B.6.3 Image Processing: Image Restoration | 606 |
| B.6.4 Image Processing and the Fourier Transform | 607 |
| B.6.5 Image Processing and Wavelets | 607 |
| B.6.6 Image Processing Algorithms | 608 |
| B.6.7 Image Processing Software | 608 |
| B.7 Color Imaging | 611 |
| B.7.1 Color Imaging Books | 611 |
| Appendix C Tutorials | 613 |
| C.1 Basic Skills | 615 |
| C.2 Calibration | 621 |
| C.3 Image Evaluation | 626 |
| C.4 Astrometry | 631 |
| C.5 Photometry | 635 |
| C.5.1 Single-Star Photometry | 636 |
| C.5.2 Single-Image Photometry | 637 |
| C.5.3 Multiple-Image Photometry | 639 |
| C.6 Spectroscopy | 642 |
| C.7 Image Enhancement | 644 |
| C.7.1 Brightness Scaling | 645 |
| C.7.2 Histogram Shaping | 647 |
| C.7.3 Convolution Filtering | 649 |
| C.7.4 Unsharp Masking | 650 |
| C.7.5 Deconvolution | 651 |
| C.7.6 Wavelet Spatial Filtering | 653 |
| C.7.7 Morphological Processing | 654 |
| C.8 Fast Fourier Transform | 655 |
| C.9 Multiple Image Processing | 659 |
| C.9.1 Track and Stack | 659 |
| C.9.2 Multi-Image Processing | 663 |
| C.9.3 Multi-Image Alignment | 663 |
| C.10 Image Registration and Blinking | 664 |
| C.11 Deep-Sky Images | 665 |
| C.12 Planetary Images | 670 |
| C.13 Color Images | 672 |
| C.14 Conclusion | 674 |
| Index | 677 |