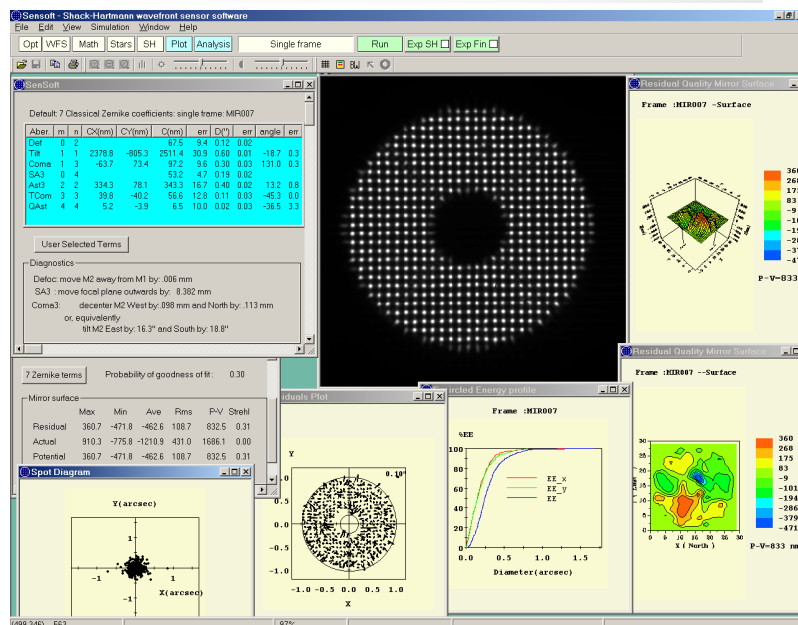


Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor for optimizing telescopes



CONTENTS

0. Key features of Puntino	4
1. Optimize telescope performance with a powerful set of tools.....	5
2. Gain up to 1 mag by fine tuning the telescope.....	5
3. Puntino-Pro: for the professional observatory	7
4. Puntino minisensor	8
5. Puntino OMI	8
6. Features: overview.....	9
7. Complete set of tools.....	9
7.1 Initial setup of telescope with an alignment telescope using the camera-based software package: Alisa.....	9
7.2 Fine alignment and adjustment using PuntinoPro and Sensoft.....	10
7.3 Variation of aberrations with zenith distance and creation of look-up table.....	10
7.4 Use of imaging channel (second camera) for examining telescope pupil.....	10
8. Active optics: Correction of coma and defocus by moving secondary mirror	10
9. Sensoft: not only Zernike coefficients	11
10. Mounting PuntinoPro	13
11. Frequency of SH tests.....	13
12. Sensoft: instrument control and analysis	14
13. Summary of features of PuntinoPro.....	15
14. Technical specifications.....	16
15. Details of features: PuntinoPro and Sensoft.....	17
16. MIMMsoft: for seeing measurement	19
17. Alisa: software for micro-alignment.....	20
18. Simulations: summary of features.....	21
19. Optional features for PuntinoPro and Sensoft	22
20. The wavefront: its measurement	23
21. Examples.....	24
21.1. Telescope alignment.....	25
21.2. Astigmatism and triangular coma.....	26

21.3. Support errors	27
22. Temperature effects	28
23. Measurements in the presence of Dome & mirror seeing	29
24. Output from Sensoft	30
25. Perfect images and their degradation by aberrations	31
25.1. Coma due to collimation error	32
25.2. How important are these aberrations in normal telescopes? Magnitude of coma	33
25.3. The magnitude of coma	34
25.4. Spherical aberration	35
26. Expressions for 7 Annular Zernike terms	36
27. About the firm	37
29. Puntino/SH systems on telescopes	38

o. KEY FEATURES OF PUNTINO

- Uses Annular Zernikes that take into account the central obscuration due to the shadow of the secondary mirror
- It is the only software doing this. Others use Fringe or Standard Zernike polynomials that is not mathematically correct
- No need to use any mask to take care of the shadow due to the spiders
- No need to use any mask to take care of the hole in the pupil due to the shadow of the secondary mirror
- Uses cooled SH camera to allow long exposure times (up to 60 minutes). This is required to integrate out the effect of external seeing and cannot be achieved by summing many short exposure images
- The cooled camera has a mechanical shutter
- PuntinoPro has two channels: one for the SH images (cooled camera) and the other for direct imaging (uncooled camera)
- The direct imaging channel can be used for seeing measurements as well as for examine the out-of-focus image of the telescope pupil
- PuntinoPro has a built-in calibration unit to compensate for temperature changes
- It gives detailed maps of the wavefront that allows the identification of the mirror supports that have not been well-adjusted
- Full diagnostics from the software allows the identification of the best focus
- Full diagnostics from the software allows the correction of misalignment of primary and secondary mirrors

1. OPTIMIZE TELESCOPE PERFORMANCE WITH A POWERFUL SET OF TOOLS

A finely tuned telescope is the key to obtaining deep, high-quality astronomical images.

Puntino, our Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor specially developed for telescopes, is based on our extensive experience of its use at observatories around the world.

It gives you complete analysis of the optics, mechanics, mirror supports, mirror and dome seeing.

Based on the analysis, the software suggests corrective action to be taken, enormously simplifying maintenance work, enabling you to achieve in hours what would normally take longer.

In keeping with our philosophy of providing you with a full set of tools, we also provide a digital camera-based system for alignment telescopes and autocollimators.

2. GAIN UP TO 1 MAG BY FINE TUNING THE TELESCOPE

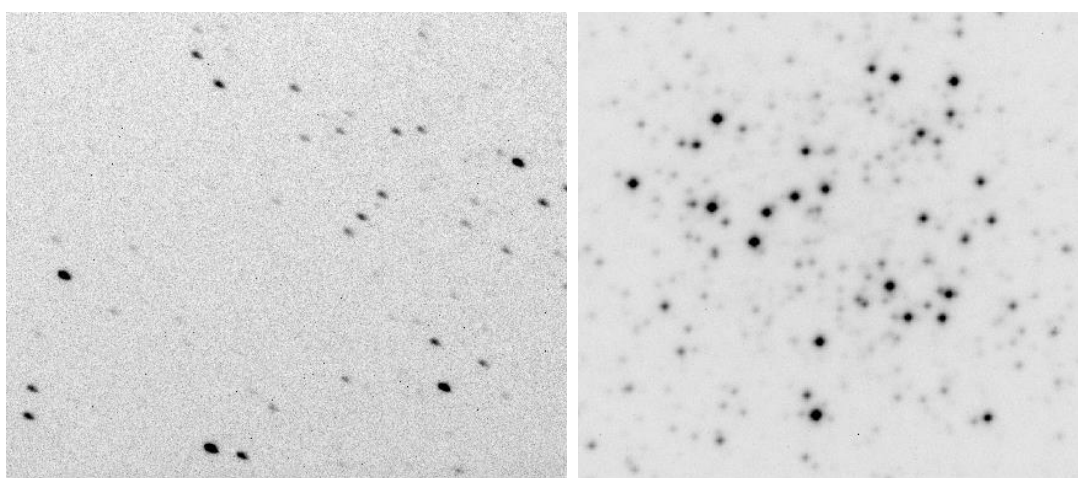
Adjusting a telescope is a delicate and time-consuming process, which, if not done frequently, can lead to images affected by aberrations. This not only results in loss of efficiency (up to 1 magnitude), but can also give rise to images that are non-regular, and hence difficult to analyze.

Moreover, if the focal plane that is being used is not correct, it will result in the image having spherical aberration, which will enlarge the image symmetrically (since it is a symmetric aberration), and it will be mistaken for the effect of seeing.

With the help of PuntinoPro, the telescope can be adjusted quickly. Some examples are shown below.



The pupil of two telescopes (taken with the finder camera of PuntinoPro) which had astigmatism (center and left) and triangular coma (right). The two images at left are intra and extra focal, and show the elongation of the image due to astigmatism, as well as the 90-degree inclination between the two. The image on the right shows the triangular image caused by the wrong adjustment of the three fixed points supporting the primary mirror.

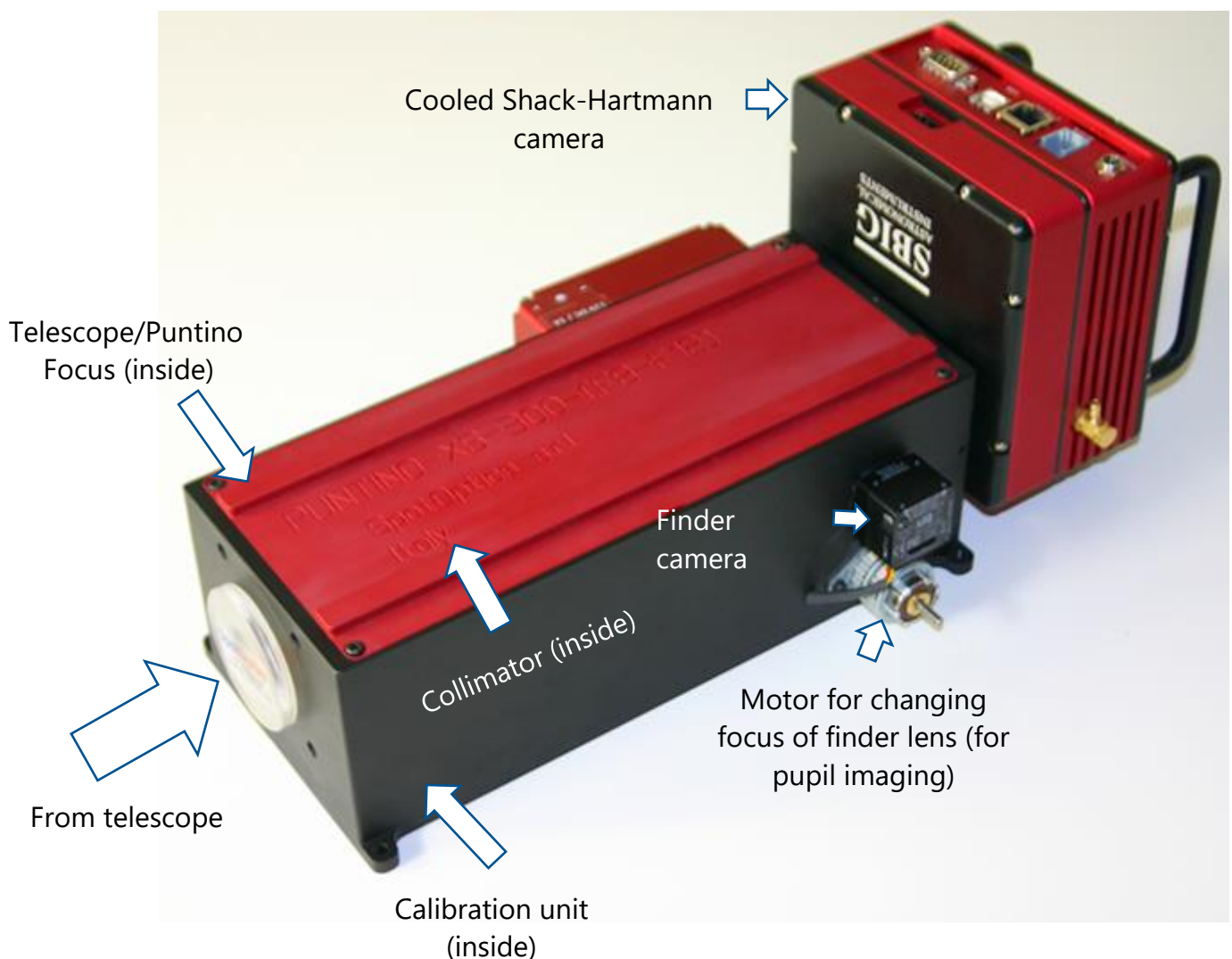


The images from a telescope that has astigmatism (left) that is slightly out of focus. Note the elongation of the images due to astigmatism. The elongation was not caused by telescope tracking errors, as the EW direction is horizontal. The picture at right is of the central part of the cluster M53, after the telescope aberrations were corrected.

Note: The images are of two different fields

3. PUNTINO-PRO: FOR THE PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATORY

- Completely automated standalone unit for testing at the focus of the telescope
- Integrated collimator to match the telescope F/#
- Integrated motorized calibration source with remote control for removing the aberrations of the internal optics of PuntinoPro when the temperature changes during the night (that can be as much as 10°C at some sites).
- Cooled camera for long-exposure Shack-Hartmann images to remove the effects of atmospheric seeing on the spots. Not doing this can seriously affect the telescope aberration measurements
- A fast camera for the star finder. The finder lens is motorized with remote control and out-of-focus pupil images can be taken and used for analysis
- Optional software for seeing measurements with the finder camera
- Advanced hardware and software functions



4. PUNTINO MINISENSOR



- Designed for the small observatory
- Cooled camera for long-exposure Shack-Hartmann images to remove the effects of atmospheric seeing on the spots. Not doing this can seriously affect the telescope aberration measurements
- Calibration is done at the beginning of the night with the supplied point source
- Integrated collimator to match the telescope F/#
- Mounted at the focus of the telescope to be tested

5. PUNTINO OMI



- Parallel light is provided by the client
- Cooled Shack-Hartmann camera
- Calibration is done at the beginning of the night with a parallel light source

6. FEATURES: OVERVIEW

- Measure the aberrations of any optical system (up to 36 terms of the Zernike polynomials).
- Estimate optical quality and Strehl ratio.
- Inspect the wavefront corresponding to any aberration.
- Use the diagnostics given by the program to focus any system. The program gives the magnitude (in mm) *and* the direction for effecting the correction.
- Use the indications given by the software to align the optical system in minutes (instead of hours). The program gives the magnitude and direction to move the optical element for effecting the alignment. It takes the guesswork out of alignment.
- Find out the correct focal plane using the spherical aberration measured by PuntinoPro. The program again gives you the magnitude and direction in which to move the element or the focal plane.
- Use this information in a feedback loop during manufacturing.
- Use it for identifying support errors by shown by the wavefront map after mathematically subtracting the lower order aberrations.
- Identify air turbulence by inspecting the plots of the residuals.
- See *on-line* how the aberrations change during the night.
- Build/refine a sophisticated pointing model for the telescope using the indications given by PuntinoPro of the shift of image in the focal plane of the telescope for different positions in the sky.
- The program can accept temperature measurements provided by the user using a special software module. This provides an important check on the correlation of temperature with any of the aberration coefficients.
- Based on the Shack-Hartmann data, the MTF of the telescope can be computed.

In the next sections, we give an overview of our instruments. A more detailed list of the hardware and software features of PuntinoPro can be found in the section Details of features: PuntinoPro and Sensoft

7. COMPLETE SET OF TOOLS

7.1 INITIAL SETUP OF TELESCOPE WITH AN ALIGNMENT TELESCOPE USING THE CAMERA-BASED SOFTWARE PACKAGE: ALISA

- Identification of the two axes of the telescope (ALT-AZ, or HA-DEC).
- Alignment of primary mirror axis with center of cell.
- Alignment of primary mirror axis with the axis of rotation of telescope.
- Align drive of M2 with optical axis.

- Initial alignment of primary and secondary mirrors axes.

7.2 FINE ALIGNMENT AND ADJUSTMENT USING PUNTINOPRO AND SENSOFT

- Alignment of M1 and M2 axes using the indications given by Sensoft (coma measurement).
- Identification of correct focal plane (minimum spherical aberration) using the diagnostics of Sensoft.
- Optimization of support systems near zenith using the values of astigmatism, triangular coma, quadratic astigmatism and map of the mirror surface after subtraction of lower-order aberrations.
- Optimization of dome and mirror seeing using maps of the residuals over the pupil.

7.3 VARIATION OF ABERRATIONS WITH ZENITH DISTANCE AND CREATION OF LOOK-UP TABLE

- Calibration of aberrations with zenith distance using the in-built star selection section.
- Optimization of support system with zenith distance using the in-built star selection section.
- Check of linearity of the M2 drive using the second camera without mounting the alignment telescope.

7.4 USE OF IMAGING CHANNEL (SECOND CAMERA) FOR EXAMINING TELESCOPE PUPIL.

- Examination of out-of-focus pupil obtained with the second camera moving the imaging channel motor.
- Measurement of combined external seeing, dome and mirror seeing using the second camera.

8. ACTIVE OPTICS: CORRECTION OF COMA AND DEFOCUS BY MOVING SECONDARY MIRROR

- Coma and focus can be corrected by passing the values of the movement computed by Sensoft to the control system of M2 via Ethernet or serial cable
- Active optics: correction of aberrations of primary mirror
- Full active optics on the shape of the primary mirror using the coefficients computed by Sensoft
- The values can be passed to the control system via TCP/IP

9. SENSOFT: NOT ONLY ZERNIKE COEFFICIENTS

Sensoft combines the full control of PuntinoPro (including the cameras), as well as the Shack-Hartmann analysis. It not only gives the Zernike coefficients, but also the diagnostics for adjusting the telescope.

Feature	Details
Designed for easy interpretation of the results	Sensoft not only gives the aberration coefficients of the wavefront in nanometers, but also the corresponding size (in arcseconds) due to the aberrated image in the focal plane, making it easier to interpret the results.
Detailed computations	3 SH loops are computed automatically at every run: one for Actual Quality (only Tilt and Defocus removed), Real Quality (user selected Zernike aberration terms removed), and Potential Quality (first 7 Zernike terms removed). It is thus possible to have a clear idea of the current telescope quality, the potential telescope quality, and information on any single aberration.
Error analysis	The errors of the coefficients and probability of goodness-of-fit are computed.
Correcting defocus	Sensoft gives a very precise measure of the defocus, in terms of the movement of the secondary mirror.
Alignment: using the value of coma to correct it	Based on the telescope parameters, Sensoft gives you the movements of the secondary mirror (decentering or tilt) required for correcting coma - both magnitude and direction.
Measure the conic coefficient	The high dynamic range of the instrument ($\sim 100\lambda$ of spherical aberration) can give the conic coefficient of the (hyperbolic) primary mirror.
Finding the correct focal plane from the measured spherical aberration	At the Cassegrain focus, Sensoft can be used to find the correct focal plane, defined as the plane where spherical aberration is zero. Based on the telescope parameters, it gives you the magnitude and the direction by which the focal plane must be shifted to get zero spherical aberration.
Astigmatism, Triangular coma and Quadratic astigmatism	The presence of these aberrations indicates the presence of support errors. Using the values of these coefficients in conjunction with the surface map of the mirror, mirror supports can be optimized.

High-resolution map of the support imprints	A sampling of 40x40 spots or higher on the pupil gives a high-resolution map of the mirror surface after removing the lower order Zernike terms. In conjunction with the measured astigmatism, triangular coma and quadratic astigmatism, mirror supports can be optimized.
Extensive graphs for ease of interpretation	Sensoft is rich in graphs: 37 in the full version.
Averaging to reduce noise due to air effects	The coefficients of multiple SH frames can be averaged to reduce noise due to air turbulence as well as dome seeing effects.
Fast computation loop	The full set of computations takes less than 2 seconds.
Optimization of dome and mirror seeing	A plot of the residuals over the pupil after the Shack-Hartmann analysis can be used to investigate dome and mirror seeing. The pupil image from the second camera can also be used.
Detailed Help	An extensive Help with very detailed explanations of the most basic concepts.

10. MOUNTING PUNTINOPRO

It is desirable to check the state of the telescope every evening before starting observations. It has been designed to allow it to be mounted off-axis, so that the regular observing schedule is not disturbed. It comes equipped with a remote control for the calibration source, which enables the reference frame (for calibrating the instrumental aberrations) to be taken as frequently as required to compensate for temperature and telescope position changes during the night.

Permanent mounting of PuntinoPro off-axis	
Using a flat-mirror	PuntinoPro can be mounted off-axis, and the light from the telescope can be directed to it by flipping in a flat-mirror (which is removed after the tests are done). This enables the test to be done every evening, before observations start.
As part of the guider	Using appropriate optics, PuntinoPro can be made part of the guiding unit of the telescope, and can thus be used even during the night. Since the guider is used off-axis, the off-axis (field) aberrations of the telescope need to be removed. In the case of a classical Cassegrain telescope these are coma and astigmatism, and in the case of a Ritchey-Chretien telescope, only astigmatism. These values depend on the telescope parameters, and can be input into Sensoft, which removes the effect of these aberrations.

11. FREQUENCY OF SH TESTS

Ideally the tests should be done continuously throughout the night. However, if this is not possible, the tests should be done at the beginning of the night.

Frequency of acquisition of calibration reference frames

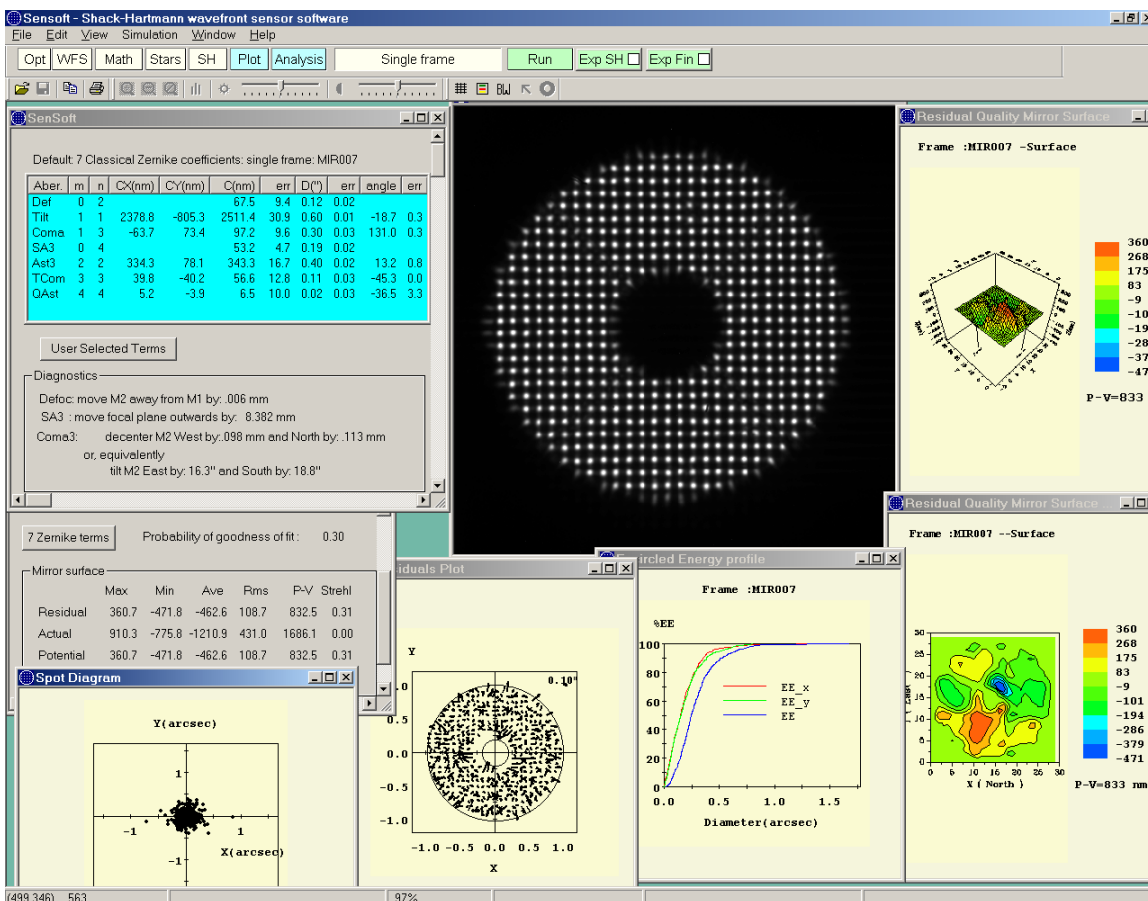
The calibration frame of PuntinoPro should be taken whenever the temperature changes by a few degrees, or when the telescope is moved by a large angular distance.

12. SENSOFT: INSTRUMENT CONTROL AND ANALYSIS

Sensoft integrates the full control of PuntinoPro.

By specifying a few parameters when you run the program for the first time, you are set for the full night. Analysis of the Shack-Hartmann frame is again a matter of one click of the mouse.

You can get a good Shack-Hartmann frame, analyze it, and get the first results in less than a minute.



The graphical user interface of Sensoft, with some of the graphs shown

13. SUMMARY OF FEATURES OF PUNTINOPRO

Hardware
Number of spots: about 40x40 (standard). Higher number available on request.
High sampling over pupil for a more reliable determination of spherical aberration
2 cameras (one for SH images, the other for direct images). The camera for obtaining SH images is a CCD camera and can be selected by the user (e.g. a cooled camera). The camera for direct imaging is a CMOS camera with 1280x1024 pixels of size 5.3 μ .
Remote control of stepper motor from PC for the calibration light source.
Remote control of Direct Imaging stepper motor from PC for focusing and getting out-of-focus pupil.
Shape of instrument: box with 4 M-6 holes on front flange for mounting.
Software: control and analysis
Cameras and motor control integrated into software.
Coefficients of up to 36 Zernike terms (Standard, Fringe and Annular, Seidel) – user selected.
Wavefront (P-V, rms), Strehl Ratio.
Software indication for correcting measured defocus, coma and spherical aberration.
Advanced image analysis.
Intra-focal and extra-focal images recorded with second camera
Measurement accuracy of Zernike in the presence of noise (seeing dependent): ~0.1".
Plots of variation of aberrations during the night.
Star catalog in program for calibration of aberrations with zenith distance.
Optional features for PuntinoPro
On-line control for active optics.
Measurement of total seeing (external, dome and mirror) using the second camera.
Calibration of the linearity of the focusing drive of the secondary mirror.
Simulations: Generation of Zernike wavefronts, Telescope design and diffraction analysis (MTF due to aberrations, ripple, micro ripple, seeing, telescope pointing, pixel size of detector).
Fast (50Hz) tip-tilt corrections.

14. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Type of elements that can be tested	Astronomical telescopes (at Cassegrain, prime and Newtonian focus). Telescopes in the laboratory. Lenses.
Focal ratios covered	f/1.8 to f/300 standard. Faster focal ratios can be tested with special setup.
Focal length and diameter of lenslets	41mm, 0.3mm *
Standard sampling on the pupil	About 40x40
Maximum sampling	Up to 65x65 spots (camera dependent).
Analysis Software	Sensoft.
Precision of Zernike polynomials coefficients (laboratory)	$\lambda/300$.
Precision of Zernike polynomials coefficients (telescope)	0.01"
Precision with which the wavefront is computed	$\lambda/150$ rms
Wavelength range	With standard camera from 0.375 up to 1.1 μ .
Reference source	LED. Remotely controlled.
Distance from flange to instrument focus	54.8mm.
Height of optical axis from base	51.5mm.
Camera for SH	16-bit cooled CCD.
Camera for Finder	8-bit uncooled CMOS, 1280x1024pixels, 5.3 μ pixel size or 14 or 16-bit cooled CCD.
Dimensions (Focal ratio dependent)	9 (Height) x 22 (Length) x 9 (Width) cm.
Power requirement (stepper motor)	12V, 1000mA

***Notes and explanations:**

- Lenslets with different diameters available on request.
- Lenslets with different focal length available on request.

15. DETAILS OF FEATURES: PUNTINOPRO AND SENSOFT

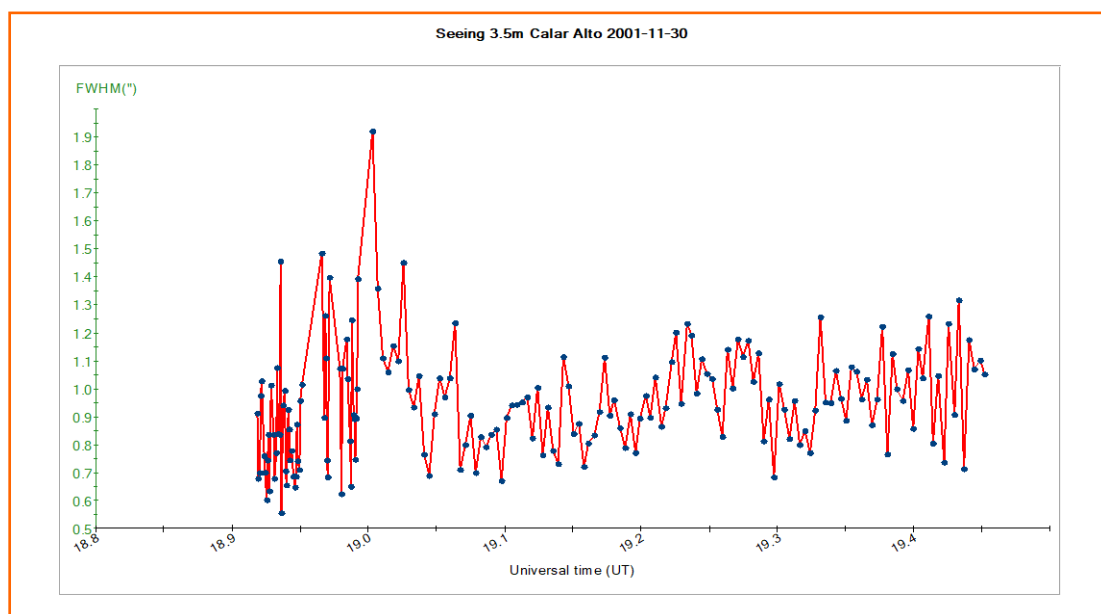
Test setup
Telescope at Cassegrain focus
Telescope at Newtonian
Single lens
Multiple component lens
Calibration for correcting aberrations
Calibration for correcting aberrations measured by Puntino: empirical, from ray-tracing or analytic
Wavefront sensor configuration
Shack-Hartmann CCD selection and setup - acquisition, automatic dark subtraction, binning, and temperature control where applicable.
Specification of orientation of SH CCD frame – used in defining directions for the correction of coma. Also, for defining directions on wavefront map.
Finder camera selection and setup and acquisition. Automatic dark subtraction, binning, temperature control where applicable.
Other CCDs on request (where possible)
Remote control of reference light source
Remote control of direct image camera focusing
Stepper motor movement
Image analysis
Display of frames, save in TIFF/FITS format, contrast enhancement, brightness enhancement, zoom
Image arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of frames)
SH analysis
Computation of Zernike coefficients, wavefronts & Strehl ratio
Selection of mirror or wavefront surface for computation
Automatic threshold for computation of centroids
Selection of annulus on pupil
Diameter containing 80% and 50% Encircled Energy values
Rms values of the residuals
Rejection of spots based on ellipticity
Selection of Seidel, Standard, Fringe or Annular Zernike terms to fit to data

Fit up to 70 terms to the data for Seidel, Standard, Fringe or Annular Zernikes
Selection of extra Zernike terms for least squares fit
Average values computed from multiple SH frames
Computation of displacement of optical axis of Puntino with respect to that of the telescope
Plots for checking the ellipticity, S/N ratio and flux distribution of spots over the pupil.
MTF, PSF and EE computed from the SH analysis
Plots: MTF as a function of normalized frequency or lines/mm, PSF and EE as a function of angular or dimensionless radius

16. MIMMSOFT: FOR SEEING MEASUREMENT

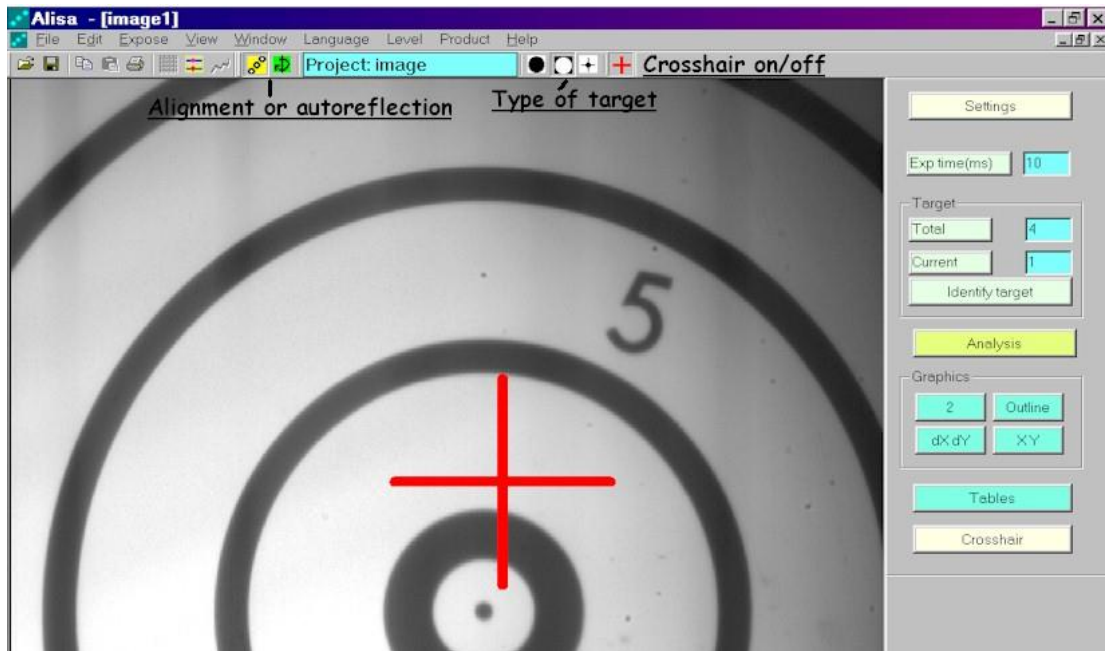
MIMMSOFT is a software package for measuring astronomical seeing. Its highlights are:

- Can be used to measure seeing using a single aperture (like at the focus of a large telescope so that windshake is not a problem) or with a DIMM (dual image motion monitor)
- Can be used with the finder camera of Puntino, the Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor made by SpotOptics s.r.l. for testing telescopes. Thus, in combination with the detailed information on the aberrations obtained from Shack-Hartmann analysis, a complete picture of the telescope performance can be obtained, which includes the effect of dome and mirror seeing
- Measures and displays, in real-time, the measured value of the FWHM (the seeing), σ (the 2D variance of the image motion), or r_0 (Fried's parameter)
- The data can be saved and retrieved and plotted later
- Up to 1000 frames can be used for computing the value of r_0
- A minimum exposure time of 0.01ms can be used (with bright stars, of course), leading to a very large bandpass of 1MHz for the computation of Scintillation Index
- Automatic optimization of exposure time for precise centroiding
- MIMMSOFT is a stand-alone package as well as an optional package in Sensoft



17. ALISA: SOFTWARE FOR MICRO-ALIGNMENT

In line with our philosophy of providing you with a complete solution, we also offer the Alisa software and camera for use with an alignment telescope and autocollimator. This can be used for initial alignment and setup of the telescope, and helps reduce the tedium of alignment by substituting the eyepiece by a digital camera: the image of the target is obtained and analyzed by software.



18. SIMULATIONS: SUMMARY OF FEATURES

1. Generation of Zernike wavefronts
Parameters
Seidel, Fringe, Standard or Annular Zernikes polynomials
Selection of term or terms to add (coefficient and angle)
Selection of kind of noise to add: Gaussian or Random
Average of several frames
Number of spots (up to 100)
Optical parameters: optical element and Shack-Hartmann grid
Plots
Combined frame, Encircled Energy profile, Residuals, Spot diagram, Wavefront contour and 3D plot
2. Telescope design based on analytic theory
Parameters
Cassegrain or Gregorian (Ritchey-Chretien, Classical or Dall-Kirkham)
Plots
Field aberrations: Coma, Astigmatism, Sag, Defocus, Distortion
Despace aberrations: Coma due to misalignment, Spherical aberration due to wrong focal plane
3. Diffraction analysis: computations based on analytic theory
Parameters
Aberrations: defocus and spherical aberration
Pixel size of detector
Ripple on optical surface
Micro ripple on optical surface
Pointing accuracy of telescope
Atmospheric seeing
Plots
MTF as a function of normalized frequency or lines/mm, PSF and EE as a function of angular or dimensionless radius

19. OPTIONAL FEATURES FOR PUNTINOPRO AND SENSOFT

Calibration of linearity of M2 drive
On-line control for active optics
Values for the movement of M2 for correction coma and defocus passed to the M2 motor control (on the same PC or another PC - via serial port or Ethernet)
Values of Zernike coefficients passed to active optics control loop via Ethernet
Tip-tilt measurements at a frequency of 50Hz using a fast-readout
Seeing
Computation of r_0 , seeing and scintillation index using the finder CCD
Plots: r_0 , seeing and scintillation index as a function of time

20. THE WAVEFRONT: ITS MEASUREMENT

Wavefront W=	A1 x Focus
	+ A2 x Tilt
	+ A3 x Coma
	+ A4 x Spherical aberration
	+ A5 x Astigmatism
	+ A6 x Triangular coma
	+ A7 x Quadratic astigmatism
	+ An..x Higher order Zernike aberrations
	+ Noise (air effects)

Sensoft measures the derivative of the aberrated wavefront W , and estimates the values of the coefficients (A_0 , A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , A_4 , A_5 , A_6 , and A_n ..) of the aberrations (Zernike coefficients).

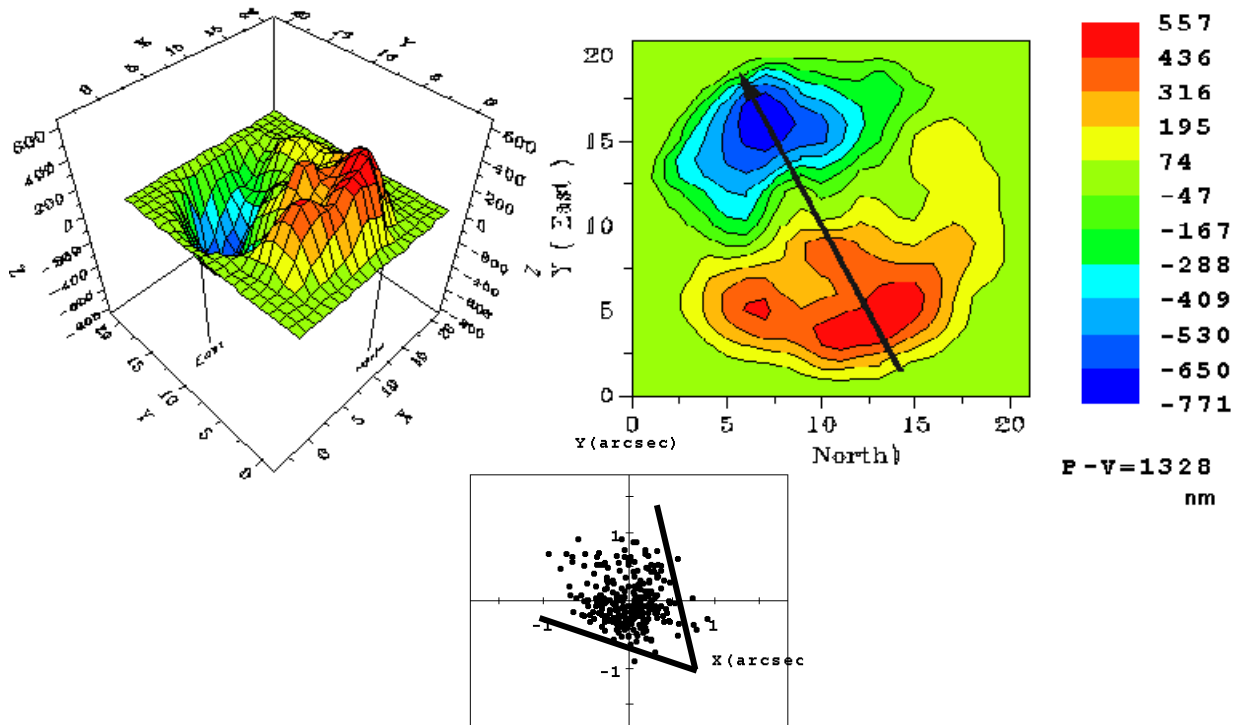
The form of the various aberration terms is given later separately. Sensoft can fit up to 36 terms (70 terms in X, Y notation).

21. EXAMPLES

The next few pages show examples of:

- Alignment of the telescope mirrors by measuring and correcting coma.
- Astigmatism and Triangular Coma: indicators of support problems.
- Identifying individual supports of optical mirrors that have problems.
- Check if the dome and mirror seeing (astronomical telescopes) or air-currents (laboratory/workshop) are optimized.
- Maintaining the optimal setup by monitoring the aberrations on-line.
- Results given by Sensoft.

21.1. TELESCOPE ALIGNMENT



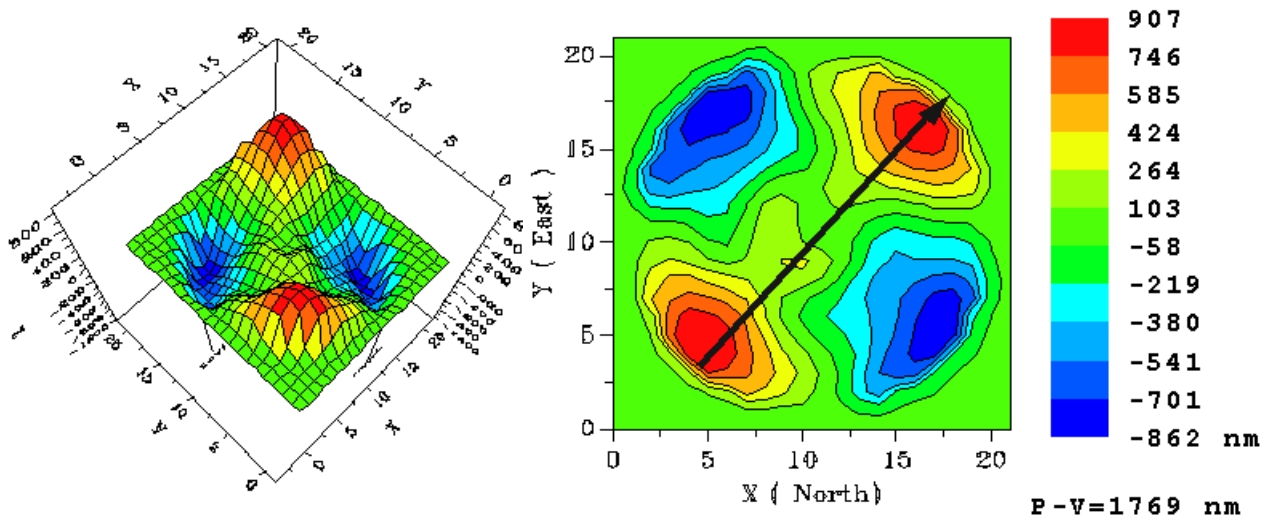
The wavefront and the spot diagram for coma of a 1.5m telescope as measured by Puntino. The lines define the cone of the comatic image. The size of the comatic given by Sensoft is 1.1", with an angle of 116 degrees. The spot diagram is affected by the presence of higher order aberrations.

Using a calibration based on the telescope parameters, Sensoft gives you the movements of the secondary mirror (decentering or tilt) required for correcting it - both in magnitude and direction. The alignment can be achieved in a few iterations; the precision being limited only by the mechanics of the telescope. If the exact parameters of the telescope are not known, approximate parameters can be used. In any case, the correct alignment is achieved when the measured coma is zero. Once this is done, this empirical calibration can be used subsequently.

The following is an example of the output given by Sensoft with the indications to correct the measured coma. These values can be used for a manual adjustment of the telescope, or if the secondary mirror is actively controlled, can be passed to the control system:

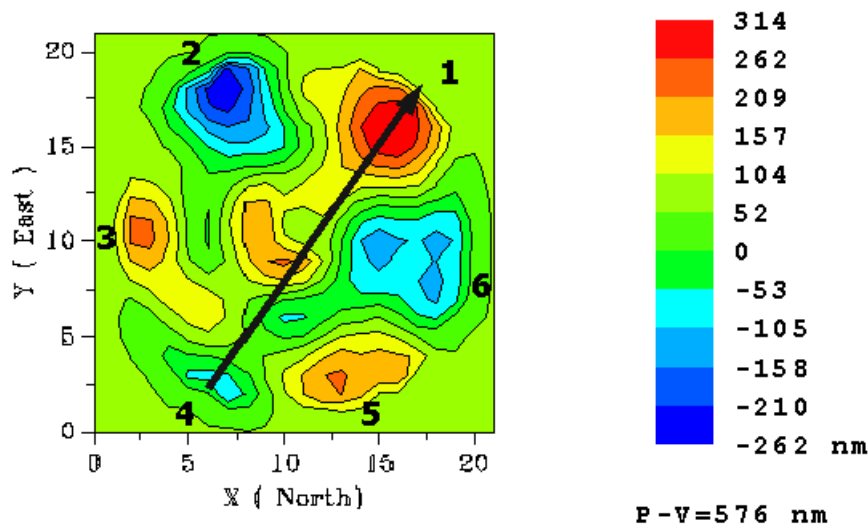
- ❑ Decenter: M2 West by: 1.389 mm and North by: 3.145 mm
Or, equivalently
- ❑ Tilt: M2 East by: 100.6" and South by: 227.7".

21.2. ASTIGMATISM AND TRIANGULAR COMA

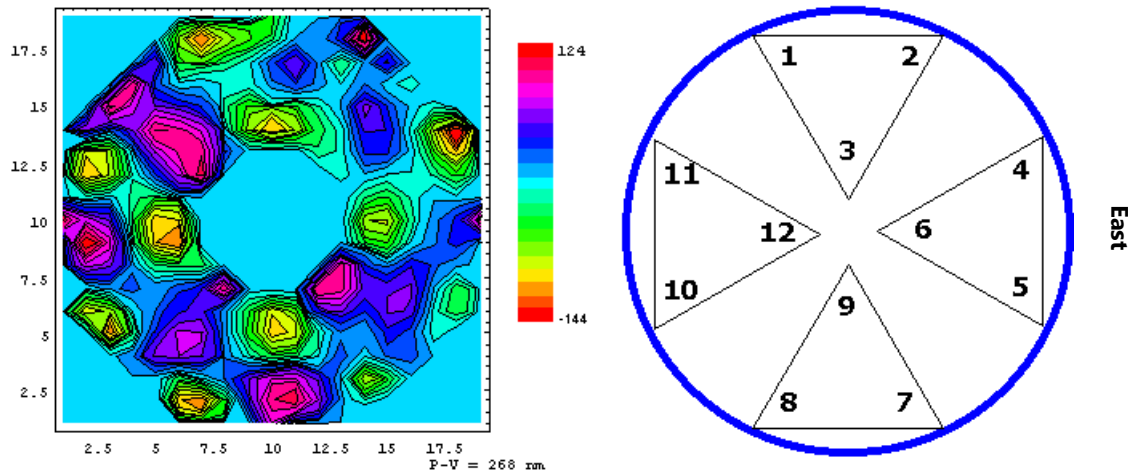


Astigmatism can arise as a field aberration or due to the shape of the mirror (in which case its shape and magnitude is constant over the field). A mirror can take an astigmatic shape during polishing, and/or due to the wrong forces applied by the mirror mounting system. The above figure shows the wavefront of the 1.5m telescope as measured by Puntino, for astigmatism alone. It had an orientation of 45 degrees, and was caused by the support errors.

The following figure shows the presence of triangular coma, again caused by support errors.



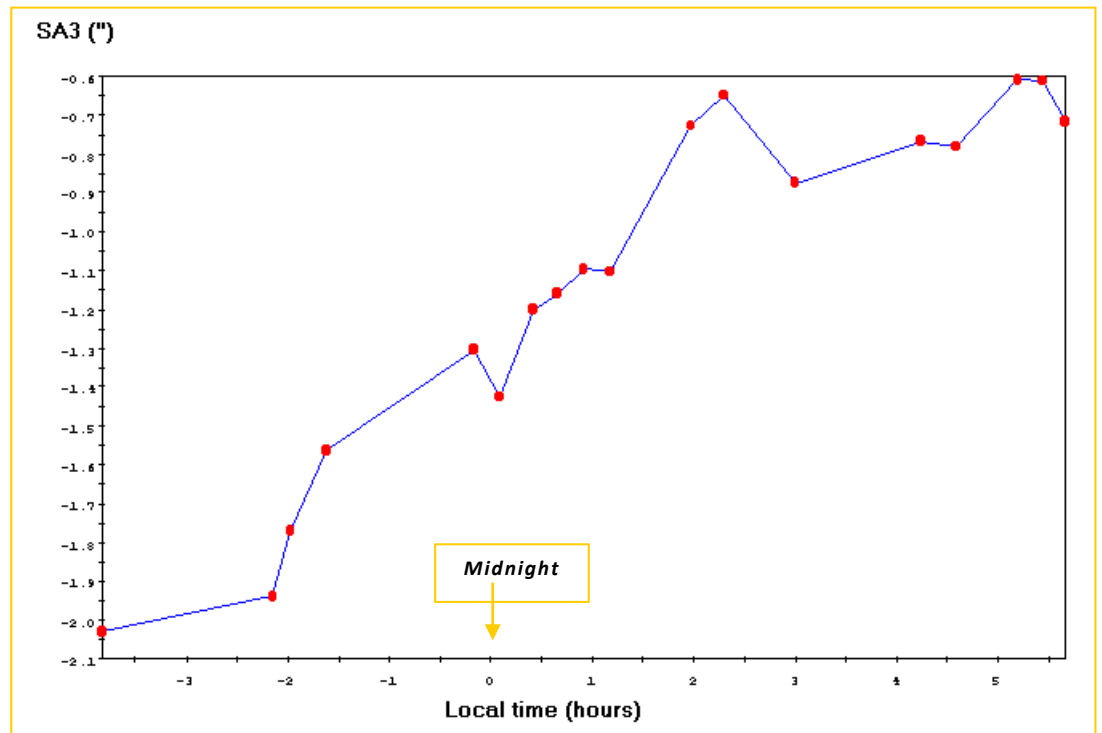
21.3. SUPPORT ERRORS



The wavefront plot at left was obtained by mathematically subtracting out the lower order aberrations measured by Puntino/Sensofit. It shows the presence of support problems in the 1.5m mirror (which is particularly thin: it had an aspect ratio (diameter/thickness) of 45). On the right is the map with the distribution of the supports. The imprint of the supports is clearly seen in the figure at left.

It is the presence of these support errors that gives rise to the large amount of astigmatism as well as triangular coma shown above. Knowing the shape of the wavefront (high and low) and considering the orientation information, the supports can be adjusted quickly.

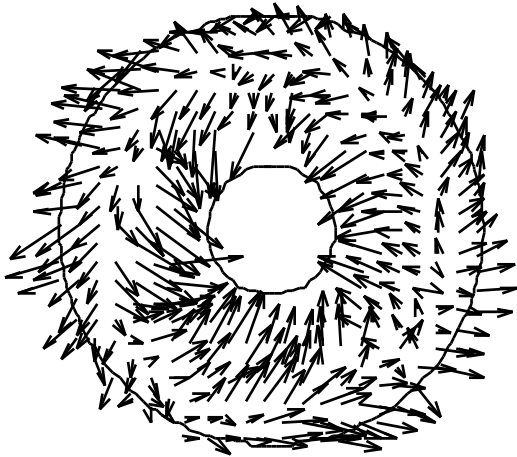
22. TEMPERATURE EFFECTS



The above plot shows the variation of spherical aberration during the night: it changed from about $-2.1''$ to $-0.6''$ (the diameter of the image due to spherical aberration alone). This was due to the change of dome temperature, causing a change in the shape of the mirror.

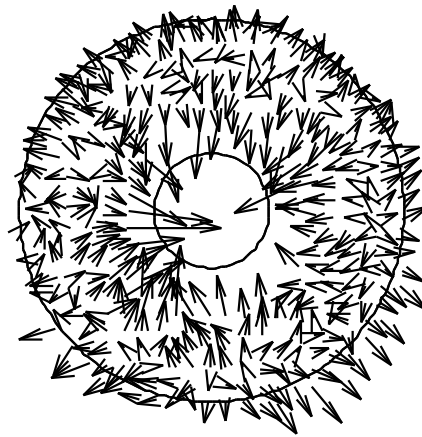
Plots like these are available from PuntinoPro/Sensoft for the 7 basic aberrations. This is a powerful diagnostic tool for analyzing and optimizing the performance of a telescope.

23. MEASUREMENTS IN THE PRESENCE OF DOME & MIRROR SEEING



A plot of the residuals at the points where the mirror wavefront is sampled by the SH grid for a 1.2m telescope. The residuals at left have been plotted after the mathematical removal of two Zernike terms: defocus and tilt. At right, the plots after the removal of 7 Zernike terms. In both cases, it is evident that hot air on the mirror was funneling up, causing a vortex on the mirror, as the hot air wrapped itself around the baffle of the primary mirror.

The coefficient of SA in this case was 83.8 ± 4.7 nm, or equivalently, $0.89 \pm 0.05''$.



Here the telescope was pointing in a different direction, with a strong wind blowing into the dome. This clearly had the effect of blowing away the hot air on the mirror. The coefficient of SA in this case was 73.7 ± 4.7 nm, or $0.78 \pm 0.05''$, like the case at left, showing that it is possible to obtain reliable estimates for the aberration coefficients despite the present of air effects.

24. OUTPUT FROM SENSOFT

ANNULAR ZERNIKES COEFFICIENTS AND THEIR ANGLES					
Aberration	c_x (nm)	c_y(nm)	Cf(nm)	D(")	Angle(θ)°
Def 0 2			1±16	.01±.06	
Tilt 1 1	2056±40	1190±38	2375±54	1.31± .03	30±1
Coma 1 3	-66±9	150±10	164±13	1.15± .09	113±2
SA3 0 4			-33±7	-.26± .05	
Ast3 2 2	228±19	250±19	338±20	.91 ±.06	47±0
TCom 3 3	67±13	97±13	118±16	.55 ±.07	55±1
QAst 4 4	18±10	8±10	20±11	.14 ±.08	25±3
WAVEFRONT (in nm)					
Max	Min	Peak-Valley	Rms	Strehl ratio	
311	-289	599	109	.31	
Probability of goodness-of-fit: 1.000					

ORIENTATION OF CCD FRAME (used for direction calibration)

+X	-X	+Y	-Y
West	East	South	North

Shift of optical axis of instrument

3.543 mm West	.061 mm South
------------------	---------------

DIAGNOSTICS (for correcting three of the measured aberrations)

Aberration	Action	Movement
Defocus	Move M2 away from M1	0.000 mm
Spherical (SA3)	Move focal plane outwards	143.205 mm
Coma	decenter M2	1.389mm (WEST) 3.145mm (NORTH)
	or equivalently	
	tilt M2	100.6" (EAST) 227.7" (SOUTH)

Sensoft comes with a very detailed on-line Help

25. PERFECT IMAGES AND THEIR DEGRADATION BY ABERRATIONS

The two kinds of aberrations: same form but different origins

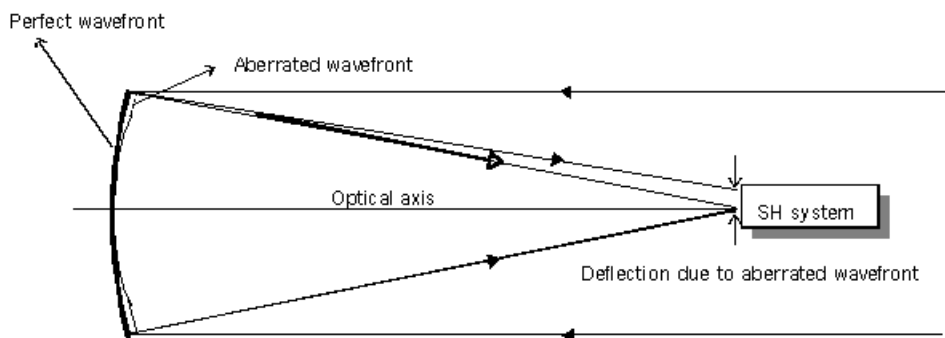
Aberrations (from the Latin aberrare, to deviate) cause the image to spread, leading to loss of resolution and telescope efficiency.

Aberrations like coma, astigmatism and spherical aberration are well known. These aberrations can arise due to two reasons:

Field aberrations that vary with field angle: An optical system which forms perfect images for objects on the optical axis will not do so for off-axis objects. These are called field aberrations, and vary according to some power of the angle of the incident ray with respect to the optical axis. For a particular optical system, their magnitude depends on the optical design.

Aberrations whose magnitude is constant over the field: It might seem surprising that aberrations can also be present for on-axis images. These aberrations have the same form as the classical off-axis aberrations, except that they do not depend on the field-angle.

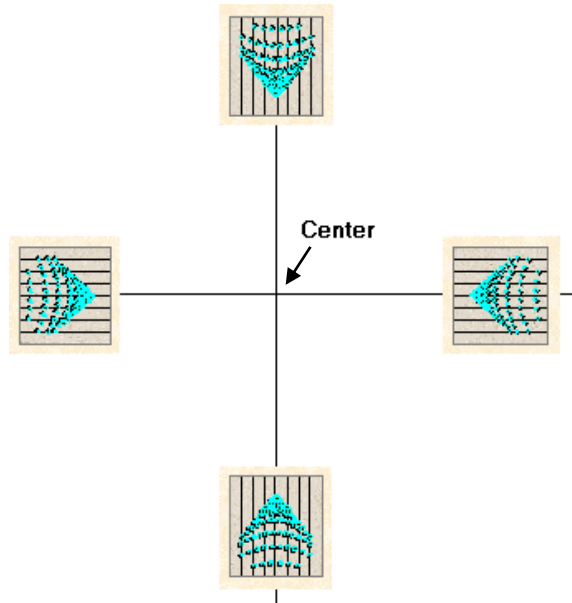
An aberrated wavefront and the corresponding displacement in the focal plane



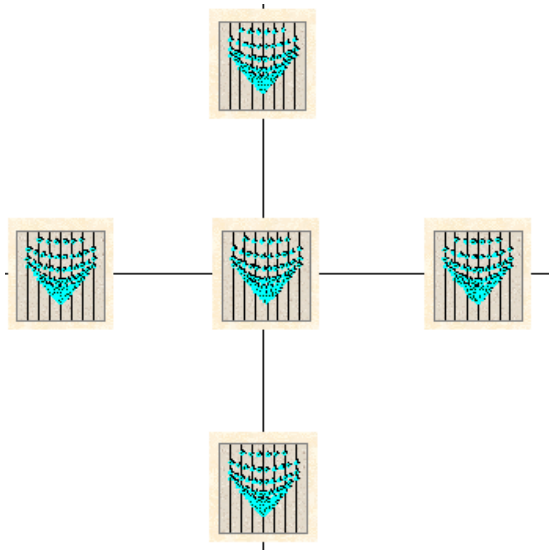
The aberrations are measured in the transferred pupil: a collimator placed after the focus makes the light parallel. A lenslet array placed at the position of the pupil forms images (spots) from individual points (zones) of the wavefront on a detector. If the wavefront were unaberrated, one would obtain a perfect matrix of spots. In the presence of aberrations, individual spots are deviated: one measures these deviations, and after fitting a mathematical function to these deviations (in terms of the Zernike polynomials), the coefficients of the aberrations are obtained.

25.1. COMA DUE TO COLLIMATION ERROR

Coma as a *field aberration* is inherent in the optical design. For example, a classical Cassegrain telescope (in which the primary mirror is parabolic, and the secondary mirror is hyperbolic) will have field coma, while a Ritchey-Chretien telescope (both primary and secondary mirrors are hyperbolic) will not. Note that the comatic images point to the center of the field.

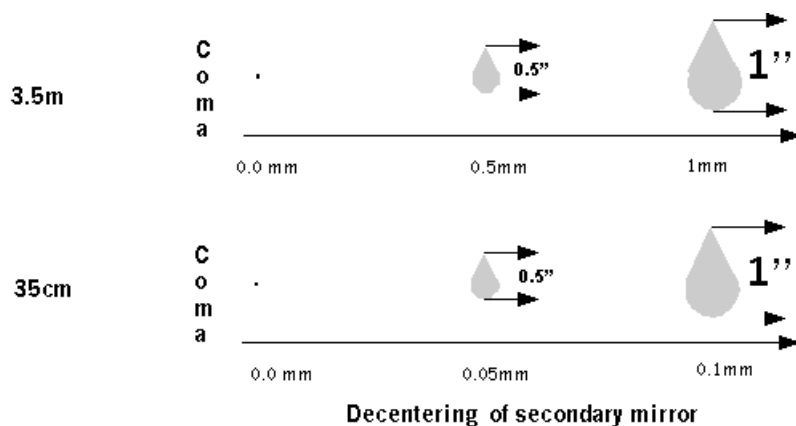


Coma due to misalignment (also called collimation error) originates in a two-mirror (or lens) system, when the primary and secondary mirrors are not aligned (one mirror tilted or decentered with respect to the other). In this case, comatic images of the same size, and pointing in the same direction, are formed all over the field, *including the center of the field*. While field coma is inherent in the optical design, coma due to misalignment can be removed if it can be measured. This is what is achieved with Puntino.



25.2. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THESE ABERRATIONS IN NORMAL TELESCOPES? MAGNITUDE OF COMA

We give the magnitude of coma for two typical f/11 telescopes of diameter 3.5m and 35cm. The aberrations are more for fast primary mirrors.



As a rule of the thumb, a standard f/10 telescope will have a 1" comatic image for 1mm of decentering. On the other hand, an f/2 telescope (the other optical parameters being the same) will require a much tighter tolerance: a 1" comatic image is obtained due to a misalignment of only $1/(10/2)^2 = 0.04\text{mm}$ (40 microns)! (See section on formulae.)

25.3. THE MAGNITUDE OF COMA

The equation below shows how the length of the comatic image due to misalignment depends on the parameters of a two-mirror telescope:

$$\frac{l}{f} \frac{3(m-1)^3}{32F^2} \left[K_2 - \left(\frac{m+1}{m-1} \right) \right]$$

Here l is the linear misalignment between the primary and secondary mirrors, m the magnification (f_{tel}/f_1) of the telescope, F the focal ratio of the telescope, and K_2 the conic coefficient of the secondary mirror. The value of coma is in radians.

It is clear from the equation that coma is higher for:

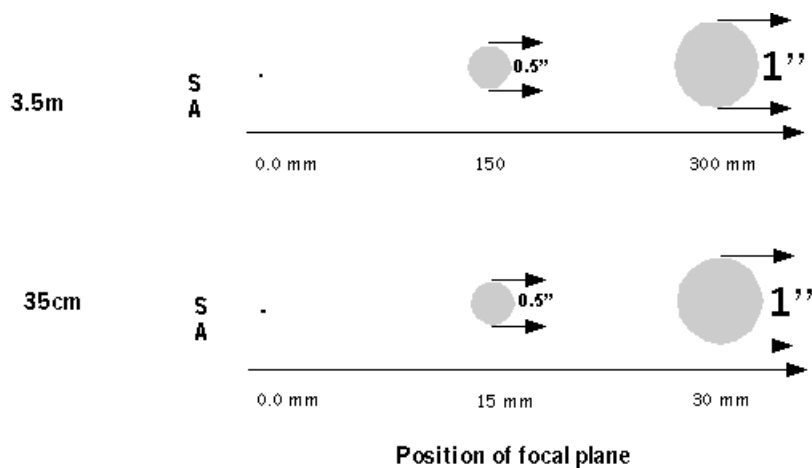
- Faster telescopes (i.e. smaller F-ratios F).
- Telescopes with larger magnification m .
- Telescopes with shorter focal length f .

As a rule of the thumb, a standard f/10 telescope will have a 1" comatic image for 1mm of decentering. On the other hand, an f/2 telescope (the other optical parameters being the same) will require a much tighter tolerance: a 1" comatic image is obtained due to a misalignment of only $1/(10/2)^2 = 0.04\text{mm}$ (40 microns)!

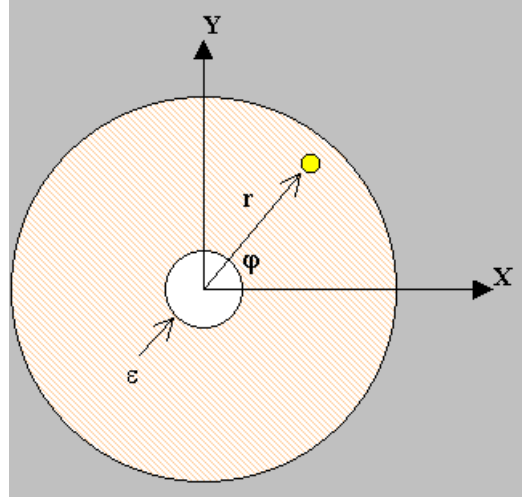
25.4. SPHERICAL ABERRATION

Spherical aberration can occur even if there is no defect in the optical design, if the focal plane is not at the correct position. Even if the optical design and the focal plane are correct, due to temperature changes, the shape of the primary and secondary mirrors change at different rates, leading to spherical aberration.

It is a common to think that the focal plane of a telescope can be simply can be changed by refocusing to accommodate different instruments. However, the refocused the image suffers from spherical aberration.



26. EXPRESSIONS FOR 7 ANNULAR ZERNIKE TERMS



r is the radius of the normalized pupil, ϕ the azimuthal angle, and the ϕ_n 's the zero point of the orientation of the aberration. ε is the normalized radius of the pupil.

NAME	CLASSICAL ANNULAR ZERNIKE POLYNOMIALS	SEIDEL POLYNOMIALS
Tilt	$2 \frac{r \cos(\varphi + \varphi_0)}{(1 + \varepsilon^2)^{1/2}}$	$r \cos(\varphi + \varphi_0)$
Defocus	$\sqrt{3} \frac{2r^2 - (1 + \varepsilon^2)}{(1 - \varepsilon^2)}$	r^2
Coma	$\sqrt{8} \frac{[3(1 + \varepsilon^2)r^3 - 2(1 + \varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4)r] \cos(\varphi + \varphi_1)}{(1 - \varepsilon^2)[(1 + \varepsilon^2)(1 + 4\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4)]^{1/2}}$	$r^3 \cos(\varphi + \varphi_1)$
3 rd order Spherical Aberration	$\sqrt{5} \frac{6r^4 - 6(1 + \varepsilon^2)r^2 + (1 + \varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4)}{(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2}$	r^4
5 th order Spherical aberration	$\sqrt{7} \frac{20r^6 - 30(1 + \varepsilon^2)r^4 + 12(1 + 3\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4)r^2 - (1 + 9\varepsilon^2 + 9\varepsilon^4 + \varepsilon^6)}{(1 - \varepsilon^2)^3}$	r^6
Astigmatism	$\sqrt{6} \frac{r^2 \cos(2\varphi + \varphi_2)}{(1 + \varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4)^{1/2}}$	$r^2 \cos(2\varphi + \varphi_2)$
Triangular coma	$\sqrt{8} \frac{r^3 \cos(3\varphi + \varphi_3)}{(1 + \varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4 + \varepsilon^6)^{1/2}}$	$r^3 \cos(3\varphi + \varphi_3)$
Quadratic Astigmatism	$\sqrt{10} \frac{r^4 \cos(4\varphi + \varphi_4)}{(1 + \varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^4 + \varepsilon^6 + \varepsilon^8)^{1/2}}$	$r^4 \cos(4\varphi + \varphi_4)$

27. ABOUT THE FIRM

SpotOptics was founded in 1996. We offer complete solutions in the field of optics and software, covering any phase from the design of optics and software analysis to the fully developed end-user product.

We have about extensive experience in the field of optical design and software analysis and development. Our main product is the wavefront sensor based on the Shack-Hartmann principle. Our Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensors give the optical quality of a large sample of different optical surfaces: from the astronomical telescopes with diameters of several meters, to the DVD lenses and mobile phone camera lenses.

The use of our instruments is made very simple because of the advanced compact optical design and the degree of automation. The control software allows the full control of the instrument, and our Shack-Hartmann analysis software gives you accurate quality of the optical element under test.

Finally, a detailed diagnostics suggests how the optical quality can be improved. All the results from the software are available in a few seconds.

Our first Shack-Hartmann sensor was developed for the test of mirrors of astronomical telescopes. Our Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor for astronomy PuntinoPro is now operative on several telescopes in Italy, Spain, India and USA. We have been consultants for several observatories and firms (including Zeiss) for the alignment and quality control of telescopes.

While Puntino has been developed specially for astronomical telescopes, Optino/Opal/Lentino are Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensors designed and realized for the optical test in the laboratory and in the production environment and can test a large variety of optical elements both in transmission and reflection. Laserino is the sensor designed and realized for the test of lasers. We can test laser at practically any wavelength from UV to 10.6λ (LWIR, CO₂).

Finally, we have developed a series of sensors for testing optical elements both on-axis and off-axis. Sfera can test small lenses like mobile phone or automotive lenses, Stella can test large lenses like telecentric lenses and 5Star can test objective lenses like zoom lenses mounted on digital cameras

We have developed further products in the field of optical alignment and in the medical field. For further details on our products, please visit: www.spotoptics.com.

29. PUNTINO/SH SYSTEMS ON TELESCOPES

	<i>Astronomical Telescope</i>	<i>Where</i>
1.	3.5m TNG primary mirror at Zeiss	Oberkochen (Germany)
2.	1.82m Asiago	Cima Ekar (Italy)
3.	1.5m Loiano	Loiano (Italy)
4.	1.2m Crete	Crete (Greece)
5.	2.5m Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT)	La Palma, Canary Islands
6.	1.5m Sanchez*	Tenerife, Canary Islands
7.	1.5m TT1 of the Observatory of Napoli*	Potenza (Italy)
8.	1.2m Yerkes Observatory	Williams Bay, USA
9.	0.75m Yerkes Observatory	Williams Bay, USA
10.	1m San Diego	San Diego (USA)
11.	3.5m Apache Point Observatory*	New Mexico, USA
12.	1m Apache Point Observatory	New Mexico, USA
13.	1m University of Virginia*	Charlottesville (USA)
14.	2.5m VBT*	Bangalore (India)
15.	1m Zeiss	Bangalore (India)
16.	2m EOST	Tucson, (USA)
17.	2m HIROT*	Hanle, Himalayas (India)
18.	2m MAGNUM*	Maui, Hawaii (USA)
19.	3.5m Calar Alto	Almeria (Spain)
20.	2.3m Aristarchos telescope	Athens, (Greece)
21.	1m Catania Telescope*	Catania (Italy)
22.	Multi Mirror Telescope (MMT)*	Tucson, (USA)
23.	Mount Abu 1.2m IR telescope*	Mount Abu, Rajasthan (India)
24.	Las Cumbres Observatory, Faulkes 2m telescope*	Maui, Hawaii (USA)
25.	Las Cumbres Observatory*	Australia
26.	Aries telescopes*	Devasthal Observatory, Nainital (India)
27.	Vista 4.1m telescope*	Paranal Observatory (Chile)
28.	TTL *	Telescope Technology Limited (UK)
29.	Kottamia 1.88m telescope*	Kottamia (Egypth)
30.	New Mexico State University telescopes*	NMSU (USA)
31.	1.24m telescope*	Tasmania (Australia)
32.	Shanghai 2.5m telescope*	SHAO Shanghai (China)
33.	Chengdu telescope*	Chengdu (China)
34.	Yunnan Lijian 2.4m telescope*	Phoenix Hill, Kunming, Yunnan (China)
35.	Officina Stellare*	Officina Stellare S.p.A. (Italy)

***Installed**



The software people for optics

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