Occultation observation method with USB CMOS camera

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2021. Feb. 14 JOIN(Japan Occultation Information Network) Hiroyuki Watanabe

Introduction

- In July 2019, as part of the Destiny+ plan by JAXA and Chiba Institute of Technology, there was a campaign to observe stellar eclipse by 3200 Phaethon, and JOIN also called for cooperation.
- The expected size of Phaethon was about 5 km, the maximum extinction time was 0.5 seconds, and the target star was so faint as 11.2 mag, so the condition seemed to be much worse than the conventional asteroid occultation observation target.
- Until then, when observing the 11th magnitude star class, the exposure time was 0.12 to 0.24 seconds with an analog CCD camera, so if the dimming time is 0.5 seconds, only 2 to 4 frames can be taken, and it is necessary to specify the time. Was expected to be tough.
- In order to increase the temporal resolution, it was necessary to use a high-sensitivity camera for short-time exposure and shooting at a high frame rate, so we decided to consider using a CMOS camera for planetary shooting.
- The CMOS camera for planetary photography is supposed to be captured using a PC, and the time stamp is a method of recording the system time of the PC in a frame by software.
- Since the system time of the PC is not accurate, it is necessary to correct the time using GPS outdoors.
- Recently, a cheap GPS module that can be connected via USB and free software that uses it to correct the time on the PC have appeared, and by combining these, the time on the PC can be adjusted within +/- 0.3 seconds relative to UTC.
- However, not only the time correction of the PC, but the time to receive the data from the CMOS camera and give the time changes depending on the capture size and the number of bits, so it is not possible to record the exact time.
- Before the analog time inserter was introduced, in order to correctly record and correct the shooting time, the GPS PPS signal was emitted by the LED or the PPS beep sound was emitted, and it was shot and recorded before and after shooting.
- The method of simultaneously recording the beep sound is recorded on a different audio track from the photometric image, so it can be recorded and corrected even during photometry, but it is necessary to have software that confirms the image and audio track at the same time. But, It is difficult to accurately obtain the rise time.
- On the other hand, since LED firing can be handled with the same software as photometry, it can be corrected
 accurately, but it was not possible to optically record the LED firing at the same time as the target star during
 observation.
- A method using OAG (Off-Axis Guider) was proposed in the material presented by Aart Olsen at the 2017 IOTA Annual Meeting, but no concrete one was found.
- This time, using this as a hint, we investigate the projection of PPS-LED firing onto a CMOS chip using OAG, and report practical results.
- In addition, I will introduce the new version that Limovie author Kazuhisa Miyashita added the function to correct the dimming time by using the PPS-LED firing to accurately record the time stamp that was recorded in UTC.

Occultation observation system with USB CMOS camera



USB GPS module for PC time correction

For identification of observation location and PC time correction within UTC +/- 0.3 seconds by USB GPS



amazon _{© Japan}

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All - gps module neo-6m

Cheap GPS modules use only PPS output because the sentence output timing is unstable. Powered by USB mobile battery



Ximimark NEO-7M UBLOX GPS Satellite Positioning Module with SMA Antenna Interface for Arduino STM32 C51 Replace NEO-6M 3.3V/5V Power Supply 1Pcs Brand: Ximimark

Price: \$12.39 + No Import Fees Deposit & \$7.13 Shipping to Japan Details

• Get 51 Arduino STM32 microcontroller routine.

10 ratings

- with a USB interface, you can watch the computer positioning effect directly phone line.
- with the passive ceramic antenna and passive antenna amplifier, make better use of the individual effects.
- with SMA interface can be directly connected to an active antenna SMA.
- TTL level, compatible with 3.3V/5V systems.
- > See more product details

New (2) from \$12.39

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GPS PPS LED firing unit



PPS projection unit

A method in which the prism of the ZWO OAG is inverted and the light of the PPS-emitting LED is projected onto the camera.

=>No expensive parts other than OAG are required. Only plastic plate to fix LED is required. The point is to place the LED at a position about 4mm off the center of the hole.

=>At this position, good band-like light is obtained at the edge of the image.



PPS projection unit

Structure of PPS projection unit



When using a normal off-axis guider

When used as a PPS projection unit 8

Projected light The shape of the projected light depending on the position of the LED Off Axis Guider LED CMOS chip

PPS projection unit

-PPS emission is projected on the right end in a band shape without affecting the observation => Time correction during observation is possible.



GPS-PC time correction software example and SharpCap settings



SharpCap setting

SharpCap time stamp and time correction image by Limovie

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There is a difference between the PC time and UTC, and there are delays and fluctuations in PC processing. Time that eliminates fluctuation and includes only delay time

Limovie0.9.99.5A5b Asteroid occultation analysis procedure (Including PPS flash correction)

Feb 14, 2021 Rev. 02

http://astro-limovie.info/limovie/program/limovie09995A5b.zip

Points to consider when shooting

- 1. For PPS flash, shoot before and after shooting in the same file with the same exposure time as shooting. However, Gain can be changed.
- 2. Select the exposure time from the table below and use it to correct the PPS LED flash.
- Table: Relationship between shooting exposure time (msec) and slope of Sharp Cap Timing Analysis (P.19) graph

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http://astro-limovie.info/limovie/program/CaSEDLEP101.zip

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