

Figure 2: Interorder separation (in mm) vs. order number for CASPEC + short camera + 31.6 lines/mm echelle and RED cross disperser.

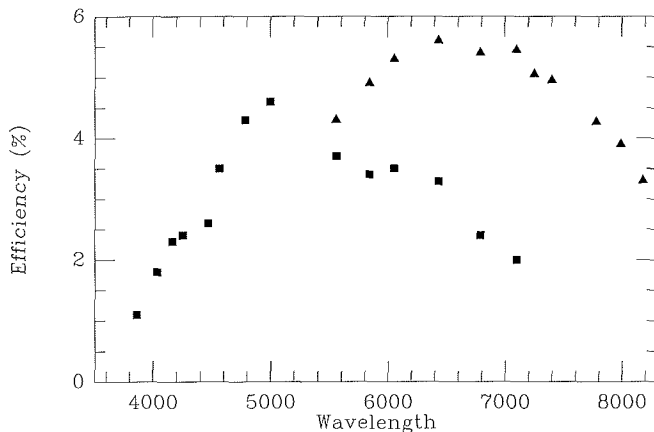


Figure 3: Overall efficiency curve including 3.6-m telescope + CASPEC (short camera and 31.6 lines/mm echelle) + CCD 16; filled triangles: RED cross disperser; filled squares: BLUE cross disperser.

and the results are also given in Figure 3 (filled squares). The dramatic improvement due to the use of the RED cross disperser is easily recognizable.

We note that the efficiency curve of CASPEC and the BLUE cross disperser is higher than that given in Pasquini and Gilliotte (1991); this is due to two factors:

- (1) The CCD was UV flooded.
- (2) The procedure previously used tended to underestimate the efficiency at blue wavelengths.

3. Practical Hints

A few comments are necessary regarding the practical use of this new configuration:

- (1) There is no order overlap at wavelengths longer than ~ 815 nm.
- (2) A colour filter (CASPEC colour filter 2 or 1, according to the chosen spectral range) must be used in order to avoid second-order contamination, both in the calibration spectra and in the scientific exposures.

- (3) If requested, the RED cross disperser will be mounted and it can be considered officially offered, but potential users should note that the *change of cross disperser in the course of the night is not allowed.*

References

Pasquini, L., Gilliotte, A. 1991: *The Messenger*, **65**, 50.

News About Imaging Filters

A. GILLIOTTE, J. MELNICK and J. MENDEZ, ESO-La Silla

ESO is actually offering different sets of image quality filters which can be used on all imaging instruments at La Silla. Filter sets exist in different copies, of which only one is reserved at one instrument. A basic filter set includes the Bessel (U, B, V, R, I), Gunn (g, r, i, z) and four interferential (H α , H α r, SII, OIII) filters. Other filters are also available with a lower number of copies; they can be used only on one imaging instrument. Filters have now an external diameter of 60 mm and a maximum thickness of 10 mm. They are mounted on a metallic ring for easy manipulation. ESO offers around 200 image quality filters.

Since November 1991, a new image quality filter list is available at La Silla. Access of data can be obtained directly with the help of a new programme developed here under MIDAS.

Filter parameters and curves can be obtained with simple softkey menus. The programme is accessible with Sun stations under MIDAS with the com-

mand SET/CONTEXT FILTERS. Filter list, search, plot, overplot are also possible with laser hardcopy facilities.

All available image quality filters have been measured according to two sets of parameters. The first concerns the spectral performances as central and peak wavelengths, the full width at half maximum bandwidths, the peak transmission and the eventual red-leak. Quality performance is also indicated in terms of eventual image deformations as elongation, blurr effect and the even-

tual presence of ghost images. Ghost images can be disturbing even with a relative intensity difference of 10^4 with the main image.

All filters will soon be checked again, especially concerning the red-leak blocking performances with the help of a new powerful spectrophotometer recently purchased.

The image quality filter database will be constantly updated with the new filters or with eventual filter removing after damages.

MIDAS Memo

ESO Image Processing Group

Most information concerning MIDAS is now published in the *ESO-MIDAS Courier* which was introduced in 1991 as a newsletter for the MIDAS users

community. The MIDAS Memo is therefore no longer required and will be discontinued as a regular column. The Image Processing Group will still announce new major developments in the *Messenger* but it will happen only when called for e.g. at major new releases of MIDAS.