

Optical positions of radio stars. I.

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Abstract. — The optical positions of 31 radio stars obtained from the observations with the photoelectric astrolabe at Yunnan Observatory are presented in this paper. These are all the stars in the astrometric catalogue of radio stars observable by our astrolabe.

Key words: astrometry — radio continuum: stars

1. Introduction

After being automated and equipped with a photon counter, the photoelectric astrolabe of Yunnan Observatory can automatically be operated to observe stars and the stars as faint as those of magnitude 11.0. The objects which can be observed with the instrument have been selected into the program from the astrometric catalogue of radio stars (Walter et al. 1990) in order to contribute to the link of the optical reference frame to the VLBI reference frame based on extragalactic objects. During one year of observations the optical positions of 31 radio stars are obtained from two transits each. The internal mean errors of the right ascensions and declinations are $\pm 0^{\circ}.0037$ and $\pm 0^{\prime}.065$, respectively.

2. Observations and reductions

The observational and reduction procedure is the same one described in Hu Hui et al. (1994). Similarly, the same method described in the paper is adopted to calculate the differences YPA-CAT (where CAT stands for the positions in FK5 or CMC, and CMC stands for Carlsberg Meridian Catalogue), and the differences YPA-RSS (where RSS stands for the radio positions given in the astrometric catalogue of radio stars). The results indicate that the YPA's external accuracy is very good.

3. Explanation of Table 1

The resulting optical positions for the 31 radio stars are presented in Table 1.

Column 1: the number in the astrometric catalogue of radio stars.

Column 2: the number of FK5 or CMC, where the one that is larger than 1000 is that of the CMC.

Column 3: observed mean visual magnitude.

Columns 4 and 6: right ascension and declination for equator and equinox J2000.0 and epoch of observation.

Columns 5 and 7: mean errors of right ascension and declination.

Columns 8 and 9: the number of the observed transits in east and west, respectively.

Column 10: mean epoch of observations minus 1900.00.

Column 11: the root-mean-square error.

Columns 12 and 13: differences YPA-CAT in right ascension and declination, respectively. Definition of Da: $Da = [\alpha(\text{YPA}) - \alpha(\text{CAT})] \cos \delta$. The units of Da and Db are $0^{\prime}.01$.

Columns 14 and 15: the differences YPA-RSS in right ascension and declination, respectively. The units of Da and Db are $0^{\prime}.01$.

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