

## THE HIPPARCOS CATALOGUE CONTENTS

M.A.C. Perryman

Astrophysics Division, ESTEC, 2200AG Noordwijk, The Netherlands

### ABSTRACT

The principal observational characteristics of the Hipparcos Catalogue, and a summary of its main astrometric and photometric properties, are presented. The catalogue is a materialisation of the ICRS reference system, coinciding with its principal axes at the level of  $\pm 0.6$  mas, and with individual proper motions consistent with an inertial system at the level of  $\pm 0.25$  mas/yr. The 118 218 constituent stars provide a mean sky density of  $\sim 3$  stars deg $^{-2}$ . Stars whose space motions were well described by the standard model of five astrometric parameters have these values, their standard errors, correlation coefficients, and other solution details, provided. More ‘complex’ systems are characterised in one of five parts of the Double and Multiple Systems Annex. The catalogue includes a variety of accurate and homogeneous photometric information for each star, including the Johnson V magnitude, B–V and V–I colour indices, and accurate multi-epoch broad-band photometric data suitable for variability studies. Flags indicate connection to annexes, notes, and references. The catalogue is available in printed and machine-readable forms.

Key words: Hipparcos; space astrometry.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Details of the Hipparcos observations, and their reductions, have been presented in the literature on previous occasions, with the most complete and definitive treatment contained within the published Hipparcos Catalogue itself (ESA 1997). This contribution is presented as a description of the contents of the Hipparcos Catalogue: summarising what information is presented in the catalogue and, briefly, its origin.

Accompanying contributions deal with the detailed astrometric properties of the Hipparcos Catalogue (Mignard), details of the connection of the Hipparcos Catalogue to an extragalactic reference frame (Kovalevsky), details of the Hipparcos Double and Multiple Systems Annex (Lindgren), The Hipparcos Photometry and Variability Annexes (van Leeuwen), the detailed contents of the Tycho Catalogue (Høg), de-

tails of the solar system objects observed by Hipparcos and Tycho (Hestroffer), and the details of the ASCII CD-ROMs and access software (Schrijver).

The satellite observations yielded a system of measurements from which, for each star observed, the barycentric coordinate direction ( $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ ), the parallax ( $\pi$ ), and the object’s proper motion ( $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$ ,  $\mu_\delta$ ) could be solved for in what was effectively a least-squares reduction of the global observations. The astrometric parameters as well as their standard errors and correlation coefficients were derived in the process. A summary of the principal observational characteristics of the catalogue is given in Table 1.

The adopted catalogue epoch is J1991.25, close to the mean central epoch of the observations for each star. The provision of the correlation coefficients for each astrometric solution allows the standard errors of transformed quantities to be determined at an arbitrary epoch, including the epoch at which the standard error is minimised for each individual star.

The details of the connection of the observations to the extragalactic reference frame have been presented by Kovalevsky et al. (1997). The resulting Hipparcos Reference Frame is a materialisation of the International Celestial Reference System (ICRS), which replaces the FK5 system as the practical definition of celestial coordinates in the optical region. The construction of the ICRS (Folkner et al. 1994; Arias et al. 1995) ensures that no discontinuity larger than the uncertainty of the FK5 system occurs in the transition from FK5 (mean equinox and equator J2000) to ICRS. Thus, from the viewpoint of optical astrometry, the Hipparcos Catalogue can be regarded as an extension and improvement of the J2000(FK5) system, retaining approximately the global orientation of that system but without its regional errors.

Since the number of independent geometrical observations per object was large (typically of order 30) compared with the number of unknowns for the standard model (5 astrometric unknowns per star) astrometric solutions not complying with this simple ‘five-parameter’ model, could be expanded to take into account the effects of double or multiple stars, or non-linear photocentric motions ascribed to unresolved ‘astrometric binaries’.

A somewhat larger number of actual observations per object, of order 110, provided accurate and homogeneous photometric information for each star, from which mean magnitudes, variability amplitudes, and





Table 1. Principal observational characteristics of the Hipparcos Catalogue. Reference system quantities apply about all three axes. The limiting magnitude is dependent on galactic latitude and spectral type.

Measurement period	1989.85–1993.21
Catalogue epoch	J1991.25
Reference system	ICRS
coincidence with ICRS	$\pm 0.6$ mas
deviation from inertial	$\pm 0.25$ mas/yr
Number of entries	118 218
with associated astrometry	117 955
with associated photometry	118 204
Mean sky density	$\sim 3$ stars $\text{deg}^{-2}$
Limiting magnitude	$V \sim 12.4$
Magnitude completeness	$V = 7.3 - 9.0$

Fields H12–13. The Hipparcos proper motion, at epoch J1991.25, in milliarcsec per year, both components expressed in great-circle measure.

Fields H14–18. The standard errors of the five primary astrometric parameters: position, parallax, and proper motion components, respectively.

Fields H19–28. The correlation coefficients between the five astrometric parameters.

Fields H29–30. Statistical indicators of the quality of the astrometric solution: percentage of data rejected from the final astrometric model, and resulting (gaussianised) goodness-of-fit, respectively.

#### 4.2. Fields H31–70 (Right-Hand Pages)

Field H31. This is a repeat of the HIP identifier, as Field 1, appropriate for the printed catalogue where the information for each entry spans two printed pages. Field T31 (the corresponding field of the Tycho Catalogue) gives the cross-identification between HIP and TYC for Tycho Catalogue entries.

Fields H32–36. Photometry from Tycho Catalogue: mean magnitudes, corrected for ‘censored’ data. Entries without Tycho photometry are blank.

Fields H37–39. Johnson B–V colour index, from Tycho photometry (transformed using spectral type) or from ground if Tycho photometry was unavailable or imprecise. Values do not necessarily correspond to B–V for the same entry in the Tycho Catalogue.

Fields H40–43. Cousins’ V–I colour index and related information, from various sources.

Fields H44–48. Median Hipparcos magnitude in the broad-band  $H_p$  system, derived from the Hipparcos Epoch Photometry Annex.

Fields H49–52. Magnitudes at maximum and minimum luminosity (in  $H_p$ ) derived from the 5th and 95th percentiles of the epoch photometry. Period (truncated precision) and type of variability are given for identified variables.

Fields H53–54. 1–2 in Field H53 points to tabular data for periodic and unsolved variables giving fur-

ther details of the variability, variable star name, period and epoch, references to literature, etc. A–C in Field H54 points to the light curves (Volume 12 of the printed catalogue).

Fields H55–57. CCDM number assigned to double or multiple systems. Also given are the origin of the CCDM identifier, and the number of catalogue entries with the same CCDM number.

Fields H58–61. Classification of the double or multiple star solution, and pointers to relevant sections of the Double and Multiple Systems Annex.

Fields H62–67. Summary of the astrometric and photometric parameters of a double system, when the Hipparcos observations resolve the system into precisely two components.

Fields H68–70. Flags indicating ‘survey’ star, identification chart, or note on the entry: the note flag may point to notes at the end of Volumes 5–9, or for double and multiple systems (Volume 10) or for variables (Volume 11).

#### 4.3. Fields H71–77

The machine-readable version of the catalogue includes seven additional fields not in the printed catalogue (Fields H71–77) providing cross-identifications to the HD and DM Catalogues, and the spectral type and source of the spectral type, all of these being compiled from SIMBAD or other sources.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Hipparcos Catalogue is the primary result of the Hipparcos space astrometry mission, undertaken by the European Space Agency, with the scientific aspects undertaken by nearly two hundred scientists within the NDAC, FAST, TDAC and INCA Consortia. The efforts of the many individuals and organisations participating in the Hipparcos project over many years have been an essential component of the project’s successful completion. This summary of the Hipparcos Catalogue contents is compiled from material included in Volume 1 of the published catalogue, and correspondingly represents the final products of the NDAC and FAST Consortia, led by L. Lindegren and J. Kovalevsky respectively.

## REFERENCES

- Arias, E.F., Charlot, P., Feissel, M. Lestrade, J.-F., 1995, *A&A*, 303, 604  
 ESA, 1997, The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues, SP-1200  
 Folkner, W.M., Charlot, P., Finger, M.H., et al., 1994, *A&A*, 287, 279  
 Kovalevsky, J., Lindegren, L., Perryman, M.A.C., et al., 1997, *A&A*, in press  
 van Leeuwen, F., et al., 1997, *A&A*, in press  
 Lindegren, L., et al., 1997, *A&A*, in press