

AstraLux: Considerations on Data Storage

Lucky imaging techniques generate lots of raw data. AstraLux system manages data in real time, using a structure of directories distributed among the AstraLux computers. Those spaces are to be emptied and re-used each night. So, as stated in *AstraLux User's Guide* and in the checklists, you are supposed to move, save and store your daily data. Please, take into account that the Calar Alto archiving and FTP system will only save, store and distribute the output products from the standard pipeline. If this is enough for you, then you may not be interested in keeping the bulk of raw data cubes.

But if you are interested in keeping the raw, original data cubes, then you should follow the indications provided in the *AstraLux User's Guide* and in the checklists, to move your data, on a daily basis, from AstraLux work directories to **your own storage media**. To be able to do this, you should provide such media, in the form of external USB drive(s).

You should count on an amount of 2 GB per data cube, and each individual observation may produce several cubes. A safe number would be considering some 300 GB (giga bytes) per night (often it will be less than this), and you should provide external USB drive(s) with enough free space for your entire observing run. If your observations are to be performed in service mode, then you should send the drive(s) in advance to the Observatory, to be returned to you, with the data, when the observing run will finish. If you are coming to perform the observations in visitor mode, then you may bring the disk(s) with you. But, in all cases, please, consider the convenience of testing disk compatibility and performance before hand: it may make sense sending the drive(s) in advance, even for visitor-mode observations, to check all these details.

Another option for visitor mode observations is to transfer the data to your own laptop or computer (provided it has enough free space) via FTP on a daily basis.

In any case and under any observing mode (service or visitor), you are responsible for providing the means to daily save and store your raw data cubes.