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THE DEVELOPMENT OF CCD IMAGE PROCESSING TECHNIQUES AND THEIR APPLICATION TO SURFACE PHOTOMETRY OF NGC 6166

by

J. W. B. Allwright

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment

, of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science

Department of Astronomy

Saint Mary's University

July 1985

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### Abstract

The Development of CCD Image Processing Techniques and Their Application to Surface Photometry

of NGC 6166

by J. W. B. Allwright July 29, 1985

A systematic procedure for processing and reducing CCD-generated images has been developed. It involves removing unwanted objects and blemishes, subtracting the bias offset, removing the thermal background; correcting for areal sensitivity variations, and removing the sky background. This procedure has been applied to images of the cD galaxy NGC 6166 in Abell cluster 2199. Surface brightness profiles in B and R and a (B-R) colour profile have been generated for NGC 6166. Between 15 and 45 kpc the surface brightness profiles agree with the data of Gemler (1976), but beyond 45 kpc our profiles decline rapidly. The (B-R) colour profile shows that the galaxy becomes bluer by 0.03 mag between galactocentric distances of 15 and 33 kpc in agreement with previous observations. These results are tentative, pending improvement of our method of determining, the sky background and examination of the complete set of data.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The term 'CD' galaxy was introduced by Matthews, Morgan, and Schmidt (1964). The 'CD' designation was based on Morgan's (1958) classification-scheme in which a D galaxy. was defined as having an elliptical-like nucleus surrounded by an extensive envelope. The D-like galaxies observed by Matthews, Morgan, and Schmidt had significantly larger and more diffuse envelopes than were typical of D galaxies. These large D galaxies were given the prefix 'c' in analogy with the notation for supergiant stars in the Henry Draper spectroscopic classification scheme. Therefore, 'cD' galaxy reads as, 'supergiant D' galaxy.

cD galaxies are the largest, most luminous, and most massive galaxies known. Their absolute visual magnitudes range from -23 to -26, and their masses are of the order of  $10^{13'}$  M<sub>o</sub> (Jenner 1974). All known cDs are located in clusters of galaxies, and are usually near the cluster's projected centre.

Lists of cD candidates have been compiled by Matthews, Morgan, and Schmidt (1964, 10 galaxies), and Morgan and Lesh (1965, 18 galaxies). Morgan, Kayser, and White (1975) and Albert, White, and Morgan (1977) extended the search to poor clusters (those not listed in Abell's 1958 catalogue), and found a total of 23 possible cDs. Valentijn and Bijleveld (1983) have compiled a list of 104 cD candidates, which includes the earlier lists as well as CDs associated with X-ray sources. Cluster classification schemes which have a distinct class for clusters containing cDs, such as the schemes of Bautz and Morgan (1970) and Rood and Sastry (1971), also generate lists of cD candidates (cf., Leir and van den Bergh 1977, Rood and Sastry 1971).

Photographic surface photometry of cDs (e.g. Oemler 1973, 1976; Thuan and Romanishin 1981; Morbey and Morris 1983; and Valentijn 1983) has shown that these galaxies possess extensive diffuse halos. DeVaucouleurs (1948) and King (1966) laws can be successfully fit to the inner regions of cDs, but the halos tend to be much brighter than the predictions of these models. The luminosity of the halos of cDs correlates strongly with total cluster luminosity, the correlation being stronger for cDs in rich clusters than for those in poor clusters. This is interpreted as evidence that the cluster environment has had some effect on cD formation, especially the halo.

Studies of colour gradients in cDs (Gallagher, Faber, and Burstein 1980; and Valentijn 1983) show that cDs have steeper colour gradients than do normal ellipticals (Strom and Strom 1978a, b, c). In cDs the changes in (B-V) from the nucleus to 50 kpc from the centre range from 0.1 to 0.6 mag, whereas in normal ellipticals it is usually less than 0.1 mag. These gradients need more detailed study so that reliable comparisions can be made with the predictions of cD galaxy formation hypotheses.

Normal galaxies are believed to form by contraction of a protogalactic mass in either a quasi-static or free-fall mode. These modes apply to masses less than  $10^{12} M_{\odot}$ . Therefore, if cDs are indeed of the order of  $10^{13} M_{\odot}$ , then these formation mechanisms are not necessarily applicable (Rees 1985). This would present difficulties for theories which postulate that cDs are the extension of the bright end of the galaxy luminosity function. Three alternative formation mechanisms have been proposed and are discussed briefly below.

The cannibalism (or merger) model (Ostriker and Tremaine 1975; Ostriker and Hausman 1977; and Hausman and Ostriker 1978) proposes that dynamical friction between galaxies causes them to lose kinetic energy and fall to the centre of the cluster potential well. The galaxies merge there and are eventually joined by other cluster members. As the central galaxy grows by accreting its smaller neighbours, it develops an extended diffuse halo and takes on the appearance of A cD. It is predicted that the merger of galaxies will result in a homogenous mixture of stars

with little or no radial colour changes.

The tidal debris model (Richstone 1975, 1976) proposes that collisions between galaxies result in the removal of material from their halos. This material falls to the centre of the cluster and forms a diffuse halo around an existing central galaxy. Since the infalling material is bluer than the existing central galaxy, the resulting cD will have a radial colour gradient.

The cooling intracluster medium (ICM) model (Fabian and Nulsen 1977; Fabian, Nulsen, and Canizares 1982; Cowie and Binney 1977; and Sarazin and O'Connell 1983) suggests that the observed X-ray emission from the central regions of clusters (Jones and Forman 1984; and Stewart et al. 1984) in excess of that expected from models of a hot 10 K ICM is due to the presence of cooling gas in these regions. The pressure of the surrounding hot gas drives the cooler gas inward, resulting in a large-scale mass inflow. The X-ray data suggest mass inflow rates as great as 400 Mo yr 1, which over 10 yr could result in the accumulation of  $4 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$  - equivalent to a galaxy (Stewart el al. 1984). It is proposed that the gas cools sufficiently that fragmentation occurs, resulting in the optical filaments reported by Fabian et al. (1981) and Heckman (1981). Further cooling and fragmentation eventually allows stars to form. The conditions in the filaments are such that the

upper mags cutoff of the initial mass function may be as low as 1 Move resulting in a population of faint red stars (Sarazin and O'Connell 1983). This model predicts that the halo should be roughly 0.2 mag bluer in (U-V) than the inner regions.

cD galaxies are intrinsically very luminous and as such are useful as standard candles in cosmological tests. According to most theories of their origin, they are also useful as probes of dynamical evolution within clusters of galaxies. However, their usefulness is reduced by our understanding of how evolution; affects their limited observable parameters. Studies of the distribution of light in CDs, especially in more than one bandpass, help to determine how cDs evolve. The primary aim of this study was to obtain a better understanding of the radial surface brightness and colour distributions of the cD galaxies in Abell clusters 2199 and 1413 (hereinafter A2199, A1413). It was hoped that these distributions, especially the colour data, could be used to test the models discussed above. This thesis involved 1) the development of a systematic 🍩 procedure for processing and reducing CCD images, and 2) the generation of normalized surface brightness and (B-R) colour profiles for the cD galaxy NGC 6166 in A2199. It should be stressed that the reduction procedure was developed for surface photometry only - not stellar photometry. Problems were encountered in dealing with fluctuations in the sky

background. Delays as a result of these problems did not allow the completion of processing of the Al413 images or 'the calibration field images.

Chapter 2 describes the equipment used, the 'programme galaxies, and the observing procedure, and reviews CCDs, their operation, and the types of images they denerate. Chapter 3 is a discussion of the specific procedure developed here for CCB image processing. Chapter 4 contains a description of the method of generating surface brightness profiles, and a comparison of the results with previous work and theoretical predictions. Chapter 5 summarizes the results and the appendix contains a journal of observations.

## CHAPTER 2

## DATA AQUISITION

2.1 Equipment

The observations described here were obtained on 3/4 and 4/5 May 1984 by Dr. G. - Welch using an RCA CCD camera at the prime focus of the Canada-France-Hawaii (CFH) telescope. The 3.58m (usable diameter) primary mirror has a focal length of 13.53 m. The prime/coude upper end was used with the wide field corrector, giving an f/ratio of 4.20. The scale for this configuration is 13.89 arcsec/mm (Racine and Lelievre 1982).

The detector used was an RCA SID53612 charge-coupled device (CCD) camera. The CCD is a thinned backside illuminated chip with an imaging area of  $512 \times 320$  (= 163,840) picture elements (= pixels). The pixels are 30 $\mu$ m square and are on 30 $\mu$ m centres. The scale given above corresponds to 0.417 arcsec/pixel giving sky coverage of roughly 3.56  $\times$  2.22. The detector's sensitivity as a function of wavelength is given in figure 2.1.

The filters used were Mould's B and R with effective wavelengths and FWHM respectively of 4420 Å, and 1129 Å in B and 6485 Å, and 1267 Å in R (Christian 1984). The filter transmission curves are given in figures 2.2 and 2.3.



Figure 2.1. The response curve for the RCA SID53612 CCD (Christian 1984).

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Figure 2.2. The transmission curve for the B filter (Christian 1984).



Figure 2.3. The transmission curve/for the R filter (Christian 1984).

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# 2.2 Programme

The programme objects consist of NGC 6166 in A2199 and the anonymous cD in A1413. These galaxies are well established as being cDs on the basis of existing surface photometry (Thuan and Romanishin 1981, figure 7). Their surface brightness profiles display large departures from deVaucouleurs laws fit to their inner regions, in the sense that for a given radial distance the galaxy is actually much brighter than predicted by the fit. These departures occur close to the centres of these galaxies, which makes them easier to detect and study. Both galaxies are known to have multiple nuclei: NGC 6166 has 4, and the A1413 CD has at least 2. The presence of multiple nuclei may indicate that mergers have occurred recently. Characteristics such as these make these galaxies excellent examples of the cD phenomenon and prime candidates for study.

Existing photometry will provide a valuable check on our reductions. NGC 6166 and the cD in A1413 have been studied in detail by Oemler (1976). NGC 6166 has also been studied by Ninkowski (1961), Gallagher et.al. (1980), and Murphy et.al. (1983). The surface brightness profiles of Oemler (1976) (as presented in Thuan and Romanishin 1981) and the colour profiles of Gallagher et al. (1980) and Valentijn (1983) will be used for comparison with the results of this study.

## 2.3 Introduction to CCDs

The following is a simplified description of CCDs, based on RCA's design. A CCD consists of a layer of n-type silicon (substrate) in which thin strips of p-type material known as channel stops are embedded. The substrate is covered with an insulating layer of oxide. Electrodes, in the form of thin strips oriented perpendicular to the channel stops, are deposited on the oxide layer. Potential differences are applied to the electrodes to form potential wells in the silicon substrate. A picture element (hereinafter pixel) is formed by two channel stops and a set of three electrodes in which the central electrode is at a higher positive potential relative to the two outer electrodes, thus creating a potential well under the central The channel stops form 320 rows and the electrode. electrodes form 512 pixels per row, therefore the CCD contains  $512 \times 320 = 163,840$  pixels (see figure 2.4).

Electrons in the valence band are raised to the conduction band by the absorption of energy from photons incident on the silicon substrate. In the conduction band the electrons are attracted to the potential well under the central electrode of each pixel. During integration the potentials are fixed and electrons accumulate in the potential wells in direct proportion to the number of photons striking the silicon in their vicinity. Therefore,

each pixel contains information on the intensity of the source at its location. This information is collected by the process of reading-out the chip, which involves increasing the potential of the bounding electrode closest to the output register, and decreasing the potential of the central electrode. The potential well and the electrons it contains are now underneath the bounding electrode. When these changes in potential occur three times the potential wells and electrons move the length of one pixel, and the first column of 320 pixels moves into the output shift register. The output shift register is a column of pixels like any other, but it does not form part of the image area and is only used in the read-out process. It is located to the left of the image area on a displayed image (see figure 2.4). Before the next column is shifted, each pixel of the shift register is transfered to an on-board output pre-amplifier by the same method as outlined above. The electrons stored in each potential well produce an analog signal, which is converted to a digital number by external electronics. This information, in analog-to-digital units, hereinafter ADU, can be manipulated and stored by When all 320 pixels have been read, the next computer. column of the image is shifted into the output shift register and the process is repeated. This continues for 512 columns and results in a set of 163,840 numbers which represent the image.



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Figure 2.4. A schematic diagram of the RCA CCD showing the horizontal and vertical directions as used in the text. Note that in RCA's documentation these directions are interchanged. The horizontal direction corresponds to the direction of electron motion in the image area. The vertical direction corresponds to the direction of electron motion in the output shift register.

The names given to the various types of frames images are: bias frames, wark frames, dome flat-field frames, sky images, and object \images. A bias frame is obtained by reading-out the chip a few times) and then immediately reading it out again without any exposure to light, and with as little time elapsed since the end of the last cleaning as possible. This signal approximately represents the offset introduced by the electronics during read-out. The bias level actually consists of a fixed areal pattern, represented by the bias frame, added to a variable (from frame-to-frame) offset. This variable offset is represented by the mean of an overclocked area which will be described below. All other data frames must have a bias level subtracted (pixel-by-pixel) from them.

A dark frame is an integration (of 900 seconds in this case) without exposure to light. The signal is due to the accumulation of thermal charge in the potential wells. Νo matter how cold the chip is maintained (near -110°C for the present observations) a few electrons will have sufficient to occupy the silicon conduction band. These energy electrons are present whether or not the chip is exposed to light. The contribution of these electrons to the total signal must be removed from other frames. This 18 accomplished by subtracting (pixel-by-pixel) a dark frame scaled to the exposure length of the frame being treated. The scaling is required because the dark signal is a

function of time. This procedure assumes that the temperature of the chip remains sufficiently constant  $(\pm 1 \,^{\circ}C)$  throughout the observing run.

A dome flat-field frame is obtained by a short integration (60 - 90 seconds) of a smooth flat white painted surface on the interior of the dome which is illuminated by a high intensity lamp. It is assumed that the true image is areally uniform (flat) because the source is far out of focus. Therefore, within random error, each pixel receives the same number of photons. If the CCD were perfect, each pixel would output the same signal (within the random error). The dome flat-field is a measure of how the actual sensitivity of the chip varies from pixel to pixel. The method of using dome flat-field frames to partially remove sensitivity variations will be discussed in section 3.5.

The sky images are obtained by exposing the CCD to a relatively empty region of sky. The exposure times are the same as those of the object images in the corresponding filter. In this study the sky fields are between 5' and 30' north or south of the object image fields. Inevitably these empty regions have numerous faint stars and galaxies which must be removed to make the image useful. The purpose of the sky images is two-fold. First, the dome flat-field frames do not remove all the effects of pixel-to-pixel sensitivity variation across the chip. This sensitivity variation is a function of the spectral energy distribution of the source. The high intensity lamp and the sky do not have the same spectral energy distributions, therefore the response of the CCD to the two sources is not the same, and flat-fielding with the dome images will not completely remove the effects of sensitivity variation. The residual sensitivity variation is removed by a second flat-fielding operation using a suitably smoothed mean of the sky images.

Second, these images are also used to determine the sky background level appropriate to object images. An accurate determination is required because the halo brightness level is only a small fraction of the sky level.

Object images are exposures of the objects to be studied and of calibration fields. Integration times for the galaxies are 1200 seconds in B and 900 seconds in R. Each imaging sequence of the cDs consists of two images placed 'end-to-end' (with 1/4 overlap of the images along their long dimension) to cover the galaxy in the radial direction. The calibration fields, containing sequences of standard stars, are those in the globular clusters M92 and NGC 4147 (Christian et al. 1985). Exposures of these

fields range from 60 to 7220 seconds. These images will be used to determine the extinction, and transformation coefficients.

Common to all images is an overclocked area. This area is obtained by continuing the chip read-out after the 512 columns containing the actual image data have been read and stored. On the CFHT CCD, the overclocked area consists of 13 columns of data. The process of obtaining the overclocked area effectively cleans out any 'leftover' electrons which might have spilled out of the potential wells during the readout. The signal in the overclocked area typically shows a sharp decline, over the first 4 columns to a relatively constant level over the last 9 columns. These last 9 columns are used to fix the bias offset for each image by determining the average ADU/pixel value in the region between columns 517 and 525 and fows 2 and 319.

The general procedure followed during an observing session was to obtain a half dozen bias frames and dome flat field frames during twilight. After twilight a few images of a calibration field were taken, followed by the first part of a cD imaging sequence, consisting of: the central field of the galaxy in R, the corresponding sky in R, the same sky field in B, and the central field in B. This was followed by a few calibration field images and/or a few bias

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frames and the second part of a cD imaging sequence. This followed the same format as the first part, except that the field of view was offset within the galaxy as described above. The order of filter usage was not necessarily as specified above. When both galaxies had been imaged a few more calibration field images and bias frames were taken. At the end of the night the CCD camera was set to automatically obtain dark frames by performing repeated 900 second integrations with the shutter closed ... Other dark frames were also obtained during the observing session. A detailed list of the observations is given in the appendix.

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#### CHAPTER 3

IMAGE PROCESSING AND DATA REDUCTION

The images generated by a CCD require a considerable amount of processing to render them useful for quantitative work. For example, surface photometry of diffuse objects may require that star images in the field be removed. The effect of pixel-to-pixel sensitivity variations in the CCD must be removed in order to accurately measure the light distribution in extended objects.

A computer system is used to perform all handling and manipulation of the image data. In this case the system is based on a DEC PDP 11/23 running under the RT-11SJ operating system. A Kennedy Model 9800 tape drive is used for archival storage of data. A DSD 880 31.1 Megabyte winchester hard disk is used for peripheral storage during processing. Display of images is accomplished with a Matrox 8-bit gray scale image display system and a TV monitor.

The image processing procedure consists of removing unwanted\*objects and blemishes (cleaning), removing the bias level introduced by the electronics (bias frame subtraction), removing the thermal background (dark frame subtraction), correcting for areal sensitivity variation (dome and sky flat-fielding), and removing the sky

background. The images form a hierarchy in the sense that processing an image involves the use of all image types which preceed it in the hierarchy. The following is a list of the image types ordered according to the number of operations involved in processing them: bias frames, dark frames, dome flat-fields, sky images, and object images. Bias frames require cleaning and subtraction of the mean of the overclocked area. Dark frames require cleaning, overclock-subtraction, and subtraction of the bias frame. flat-field frames require the same processing as the Dome dark frames, as well as subtraction of a dark frame. Skv images require the same processing as the dome flat-fields, as well as flat-fielding using the dome flat-fields. Object images require the same processing as sky images, as well as sky flat-fielding and subtraction. These operations require the use of a large number of programmes which were written G. Collins, either individually or groups bv in D. M. K. Welch, G. A. Welch, and the author. The reduction procedure took about a year to develop and represents the majority of thestime spent on this thesis. For this reason, and because the procedure is not documented elsewhere, a fairly thorough description will be given. Section 3.1 gives a brief summary of the method of processing an object. image (see also Figure 3.1). Section 3.2 describes the general methods of cleaning, and sections 3.3 through 3.7

describe the treatment of the various types of images. Table 3.1 gives descriptions of the functions of the various programmes. Listings of these programmes are available from Dr. G. A. Welch.

### .3.1 Summary of Image Processing

The following is a summary of the method of processing an object image using the software existing at the time of writing:

- (1) Blemishes and objects larger than the filter to be used should be removed using programme FUZH and any hot rows or columns can be removed using programme CLEAN.
- (2) Smaller blemishes can be removed using programme MEDFR with a filter size of 21 pixels, a discriminant of 20 ADU, and unit weights.
- (3) The average of the overclocked area can be calculated using programme RECTH and subtracted from each pixel of the object image using programme ARITIR. This procedure removes the DC offset introduced by the electronics.
- (4) A bias frame (or ideally a mean of many bias frames collected over the observing run) should be subtracted using programme SUBR. This will remove the fixed pattern of noise introduced by the electronics during read-out.
- (5) An appropriately scaled dark frame (or mean dark frame) should be subtracted using programme SUBR. This will remove the thermal background.

(6) First order sensitivity variations can be removed by flat-fielding with an average dome flat-field using programme FLATR.

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(7) Residual sensitivity variations can be removed by flat-fielding with a cleaned mean sky (possibly smoothed by averaging in blocks using programme BLKAVG)

Cleaning - removal of blemishes and unwanted objects - applies to all images - CLEAN, CLEANH, FUZH, MEDFR Overclocked area - calculation and removal of DC. offset - applies to all images - RECTH, ARITIR Bias subtraction - removal of non-random noise introduced by the electronics applies to all images except bias frames - SUBR, Dark subtraction - removal of thermal background - applies to object, sky, and dome flat fields SUBR Dome flat-fielding - removal of first order sensitivity variations - applies to object and sky images - FLATR Sky flat-fielding - removal of residual sensitivity variations applies to object and sky images - BLRAVG, FLATR

Figure 3.1. A flowchart of the various stages of image processing, including the types of images each stage applies to, and the programmes used at each stage.

### 3.2 Image Cleaning

All CCD images suffer from cosmetic flaws. These may be caused by rows or columns of pixels or single pixels which do not behave 'normally', in that they do not respond to photons in a manner similar to the majority of pixels. Some areas of the chip may be completely 'dead', rendering one or more pixels insensitive to light. In contrast, some areas 'bloom', that is they produce a signal larger than the background with or without exposure to light. In its milder forms this latter problem results in a bright spot (similar in appearance to a stellar image) often called an LED (light emitting diode). In more severe cases it can result in a hot row created by smearing the excess electrons along the row during readout.

Another problem results from cosmic ray events. These produce hot spots or streaks (depending on the angle of incidence) comprising as many as 8-10 pixels. The cosmic rays responsible are probably muons and electrons with energies in the 10 to  $10^3$  MeV range, which deposit some of their energy in the silicon substrate by exciting and ionizing silicon atoms (Leach and Gursky 1979). Cosmic rays are incident at a rate of roughly 0.08 cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, which for a chip 1.47456 cm<sup>2</sup> results in 420 events hr<sup>-1</sup>. The majority of events cause minor blemishes which are lost in the noise. Typically 8-10 cosmic ray blemishes were removed on each image. This type of blemish is found on all images except the bias frames.

Astronomical objects that are not part of the programme need to be removed. These occur only on sky and object images and on average in roughly equal numbers.

A number of programmes were developed to remove these unwanted objects and blemishes. The most straightforward of these was programme CLEAN. This is an interactive programme, which is used to replace a specific area of the image, usually part of a few rows or columns, with either a specified value or a value interpolated in one dimension from the pixels bordering the area. This programme was usually used to remove hot rows in overclocked areas.

Programme CLEANH was developed for the purpose of automatically removing single pixels and small groups of *f* pixels (up to 4-6 pixels) which differ from the local background by more than some discriminant. The discriminant can be a multiple of the standard deviation of the ADU/pixel value in some area of the image, or its value can be specified by the user. The metod is to compare a pixel with its immediately adjacent meighbours. If the absolute value of the pixel differs from the local background by more than the discriminant then it is replaced by the local background value. The local background value is calculated from the previous background and a weighted mean of the surrounding pixels from which the central pixel differed by more than the discriminant. A rapid increase in ADU/pixel values was found in the upper- and lower-most rows of all images. This posed a problem because CLEANH treated these rows as hot and attempted to clean them. The problem was solved by having the programme ignore the upper and lower 10 rows of the image. The first 16 columns presented a similar problem and these were also ignored. The programme can also ignore specified rectangular areas of the image. This option was developed for use on the dark frames.

CLEANH cannot remove blemishes larger than 4-6 pixels square because in these cases the pixels used for comparison are not representative of the local background. Although CLEAN can remove larger blemishes it is restricted to an interpolation in one dimension. The highly interactive programme FUZH was developed to overcome these limitations. The user specifies the parameters of an ellipse to be drawn around the object to be removed. A square box is then drawn the ellipse. A least-squares fit of a around two-dimensional linear function is made to the region between the ellipse and the box, and is used to interpolate over the area contained within the ellipse. The user can graphically check whether the feature has been satisfactorily removed, and if desired store the changes in
a new file. The interpolations appear as obvious modifications on the TV monitor, but it is the lack of random noise in the interpolations which gives the cleaned areas their strikingly smooth appearance.

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FUZH and CLEANH tend to be rather time-consuming (up to hours per image on our system), and CLEANH's method of determining whether a pixel should be cleaned is more complicated than necessary. To speed up the cleaning process we developed programme MEDFR which uses the technique of the weighted median filter (Brownrigg 1984). This programme eventually replaced CLEANH and to a large extent FUZH because it is capable of removing blemishes in a large range of sizes. It is also fully automatic and therefore requires less processing time (~30 minutes). The "method consists of examining a set of 9 pixels at the corners and midpoints of a square, the size of which is an odd integer specified by the user. This set of 9 pixels forms the filter. The programme finds the median value of the 9 pixels and replaces the central pixel with the median if it differs from the median by more than a specified discriminant. The 9 pixels can be weighted when determining the median. This programme can completely remove any blemish smaller than the filter; however, a border around the image of width equal to half the filter size will not be

cleaned. The detailed cleaning procedure for each type of image will be discussed in the appropriate section below.

# 3.3 Bias Frames

As mentioned previously, bias frames are essentially zero second integrations representing the offset level introduced by the electronics during the read-out process. The first step in the treatment of the bias frames was to use programme RECTH (which performs various statistical computations within a specified rectangular area) to determine the typical ADU value of these images, the numbers and types of hot spots, and the size of any large scale gradients. A vertical cut through a typical bias frame showed a rapid drop over the first 100 rows (from 476-456 ADU) and a decrease of 2 ADU from row 101 to 320. This be due to the vertical gradient ís believed to synchronization of the read-out of the output shift register with the ambient 60 Hz frequency. There was no noticable overall horizontal gradient. The overclocked area showed none of the hot rows or gradients found in other images.

A number of bias frames were examined to obtain some idea of the typical signal to be found in these images. Typical values range from 453 to 457 ADU/pixel. The frames were examined using the byte selection option of programme DISH (used to display images on a. TV monitor) to locate extremely hot pixels ( $\pm$  32000 ADU).

Programme CLEANH was used to remove these hot pixels using a discriminant of 10 times the standard deviation determined in the 51×51 pixel box defined by columns 200 and 250, and rows 150 and 200. The standard deviation typically found was between  $\pm 3.1$  and  $\pm 3.4$  ADU; therefore, the discriminant was between 31 and 34 ADU. Typically 1 or 2 extremely hot pixels were found per image.

A mean value for the overclocked areas was determined using programme RECTH with a rectangle defined by columns 513 and 525, and rows 2 and 319. The upper- and lower-most single rows were excluded because they were abnormally high. The mean determined within this rectangle was subtracted from each pixel of the frame. This was done separately for each bias frame using programme ARITIR. These frames will be referred to as overclock-subtracted frames.

Once all the bias frames from both nights were overclock-subtracted they were combined using programme AVR to produce a mean bias frame (file: B001CM). The average signal of the mean bias frame was -0.35 ADU. This mean bias frame is assumed to represent an underlying areal structure common to all images. Added to this structure is the variable offset represented by the mean of the overclocked area of each image. The offset is variable in the sense that it is unique for each image.

# 3.4 Dark Frames

The dark frames, are 15 minute integrations without exposure to light," and represent the thermal charge accumulated during an integration of equal length. The most striking aspect of these frames is the appearance of bright spots at the same locations in all the frames. These are the LEDs referred to previously. They are caused by the diffusion of electrons from the valence band into the potential wells in the conduction band. The accumulation of electrons in these areas mimics the effect of photons incident on the areas during integration.

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At the suggestion of Kormendy (1984) we did not /remove the LEDs in the dark frames, since they ought to be removed from other frames when the mean dark frame was subtracted. To do this we needed to locate the bright spots common to the 29 usable dark frames. Programmes HUNIH and PIXH were written for this purpose. HUNTH uses CLEANH's detection code, but instead of replacing the detected hot pixels it merely stores their coordinates in /a file. PIXH then searches the files created by HUNTH (one file per frame) to locate pixel coordinates which are common to all frames. Only those pixels which are bright in all frames are defined as LEDs. A discriminant of 15 ADU, which is approximately 5 times the standard deviation of the noise, was used in A total of 60 pixels, forming 16 groups of 1 to 30 HUNTH.

pixels, were found to be common to all 29 dark frames.

A rectangle was placed around each group of bright pixels and CLEANH was modified so that it would not operate inside the boundaries of the specified rectangles. CLEANH was run on all dark frames using ARCHL.DAT with a discriminant of 15 ADU and the upper and lower 10 rows skipped. Typically 180-220 bright pixels were found per image.

Examination of the overclocked areas of the dark frames showed) a decline over the first 4 columns typically (513-516), from the image area value of ~459 ADU/pixel to the typical overclocked area value of ~454 ADU/pixel. In determining the average of the overclocked area the first four columns were avoided by using a rectangle defined by columns 517 to 525 and rows 2 to 319 (hereinafter called the standard rectangle). The mean generated from within this rectangle was subtracted from each pixel the of corresponding image generating an overclock-subtracted dark frame. The set of 29 overclock-subtracted dark frames from was combined to produced both nights a mean overclock-subtracted dark frame.

Areal variation of the bias level was removed by subtracting the mean bias frame from the mean overclock-subtracted dark frame using programme SUBR (which subtracts two images pixel-by-pixel). This produced the

mean bias- and- "overclock-subtracted dark frame" (file; D001CB).

The accumulation of thermal charge is assumed to be a linear function of time, so that dark frames corresponding to different integration times can be constructed from the mean dark frame simply by multiplying by the ratio of the integration times. For example, the mean dark frame for B object images which have integration times of 1200 seconds, would be equal to the original mean dark frame (D001CB) multiplied by (1200/900).

### 3.5 Dome Flat-Field Frames

The dome flat-field frames are exposures of 60 seconds (in R) or 90 seconds (in B) of a white screen attached to the inside of the dome. The only remarkable thing about them is their high signal, typically of the order of  $10^4$ ADU/pixel.

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The dome flat-fields were processed with CLEANH using a discriminant of 1500 ADU (= $50 \sigma$  to  $300 \sigma$ ) and with the upper and lower 10 rows skipped. Examination of the overclocked area showed visual evidence of hot rows. In most images these were found at rows 130, 237, 238, and 239. The mean and standard deviation in the standard rectangle were calculated after each row (or set of rows) was removed by interpolating in the vertical direction using CLEAN. When the mean changed by less than 0.10. ADU/pixel, no further modifications were made. The mean of the overclocked area was subtracted as usual from the corresponding frame.

The overclock-subtracted dome flat-fields (12 per bandpass) were averaged in each bandpass. The mean bias was subtracted from each of frame the mean overclock-subtracted 'dome flat-fields. The mean dark frame was scaled down by the appropriate factors, 60/900 = 0.06667for R, and  $90/900 \neq 0.1000$  for B, and the scaled mean dark subtracted from frames were the blasandoverclock-subtracted dome flat-fields producing a mean bias-



27.001

#### 3.6 Sky Images

The sky images are integrations (900 seconds in R and 1200 seconds in B) of 'blank' areas of sky. These images are of course not truly vacant, but contain many faint stars and galaxies. The R images display interference fringes, since the chip acts as a thin film for wavelengths in the R The fringes are believed to be due to a number of bandpass. strong night sky emission lines in this region, in particular, neutral oxygen at 6300 Å and 6364 Å (see figure. 3.1). These electromagnetic waves interfere constructively and destructively, according to the thickness of the chip at a given point, producing an interference pattern by the same mechanism which produces Newton's rings. By comparing different sky images, it could be seen qualitatively that. the shape of the interference fringe pattern was not variable, although the intensity did vary slightly. The amplitude of the fringes above the local background is estimated to be less than 1%. No attempt was made to remove the fringes.

Two of the sky images were checked for large scale gradients by sampling 40  $\times$  40 pixel squares at various locations. Over the whole image, a less than 2% change in the background was found horizontally, and the shape was consistent between images with a peak in the middle and a drop to both sides. A top to bottom decrease of less than



Figure 3.2. The spectrum of the night sky at Mauna Kea (Racine and Lelievre 1982)

4% was found. These gradients are probably due to large scale sensitivity variations, which are removed by the flat-fielding process described below.

At this stage some method of removing large unwanted objects (ie., stars and galaxies) was required. FUZH was developed for this purpose. The initial plan was to use FUZH to remove as many of the larger objects as possible andthen use CLEANH to remove the smaller blemishes. The number of blemishes removed using FUZH sometimes ran as high as 60, requiring up to 4 hours of work. Fortunately, only 6 (of sky images were cleaned this way before programme MEDFR 13) was developed. MEDFR is capable of removing blemishes as large as the filter, thereby eliminating many of the smaller blemishes which previously had to be removed using FUZH. The typical filter size used was 21 X 21 pixels. This size was choosen so as to minimize the size of the unfiltered border, and to avoid the distortion of the halo gradient which would have resulted from the use of a larger filter. sky images were recleaned, using FUZH to remove A11 blemishes larger than 21 pixels square (typically 10 blemishes and 0.5 to 1 hour of work per image), followed by MEDFR to remove the smaller blemishes.

The overclocked areas showed no hot rows, but the ramp over the first 4 columns was present. The standard rectangle was used to determine the mean of the overclocked area of each image, and this was subtracted from the corresponding image. An average overclock-subtracted sky image was calculated for each bandpass (6 in R and 7 in B), and the mean bias frame was subtracted from each of these.

Recall that when cleaning the dark frames (using CLEANH and FUZH) the LEDs were excluded from treatment. MEDFR is not capable of excluding specified portions of an image. It therefore removes the LEDs. If unfiltered dark frames (with LEDs) were subtracted from filtered images (without LEDs), the result would be negative numbers at the location of the LEDs. This problem was solved by filtering the mean dark frame using the same filter size, discriminant, and weights as were used in filtering the sky images. The filtered mean dark frame, with appropriate scaling, was then subtracted from the bias- and- overclock-subtracted. mean sky flat-fields.

Programme FLATR was used to correct the mean dark- andbias-corrected sky images for areal non-uniformity of response (flat-fielded) using the mean dome flat-fields. The flat-fielding process consists of dividing the ADU count of each pixel of the image to be corrected by the ADU count of the corresponding pixel of a normalized flat-field frame. The flat-field is normalized by dividing each of its pixels by the average ADU count of the flat-field frame (Leach et.al. 1980). This may be expressed as,  $\mathbf{I}_{i}^{\prime} = \mathbf{I}_{i} / \{ \mathbf{F}_{i} / \langle \mathbf{F} \rangle \}$ (3.1)

where,  $I_i$  is the ith pixel of the corrected image,  $I_i$  is the corresponding pixel in the uncorrected image,

Fi is the corresponding pixel in the flat-field

frame, and  $\langle F \rangle = (1/N) \sum_{i}^{N} F_{i}$  is the average of the flat-field frame.

That this is in fact a correction for non-uniformity of response can be seen as follows. If we assume the chip images a uniform source, then the normalized flat-field gives for each pixel the factor by which it differs from the mean response of all pixels on the chip. If, for example, some pixel's normalized value is less than 1, then it has not responded as strongly as the 'mean pixel'. If the same pixel responds similarly during an image exposure then its ADU count will be lower than that of the 'mean pixel'. The correct ADU count is obtained by dividing by the normalized pixel, thereby increasing its ADU count so that it appears to have the same response as the 'mean pixel'.

The process of flat-fielding with the dome flat-fields does not completely remove all sensitivity variations, because the chip responds differently to the different spectral energy distributions of the high intensity lamp and the sky. Following Kormendy (1984) we used modified mean

sky images to perform a second flat-fielding operation. The process of modifying the mean sky images involves dividing the image into 16 X 15 pixel rectangles and replacing the individual pixels with their average value over the rectangle (programme BLKAVG). This procedure has the disadvantage of smoothing out any real small-scale variations, but increases the overall signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in the resulting image. This was desirable because of low exposure level of typical sky images. The the individual sky images were then flat-fielded with the appropriate smoothed mean sky flat-field, reducing the large scale variation to less than 1%.

The individual sky images were intended to be used to represent the sky background in the object images. However, direct subtraction of a treated individual sky image would significantly decrease the S/N of the resulting net object image. To avoid this we decided to model the sky with a two-dimensional second order polynomial (using programme POLYFT). It was assumed that the variation of the sky brightness over the chip was not sufficiently rapid to warrant a higher order polynomial.

## 3.7 Object Images

The object images in this study are  $900^{\circ}$  and  $1200^{\circ}$ integrations (in R and B respectively) of the galaxies being studied, and  $60^{\circ}$  and  $120^{\circ}$  integrations of the photometric calibration fields. These images suffer the same problems as the sky images (ie., interference fringes in R and a liberal sprinkling of stars and galaxies over the field) and were cleaned in basically the same manner. FUZH was used to remove the larger objects, and in some cases it was necessary to interpolate (vertically) over the hot rows 237 to 239. The overclocked area was cleaned and the mean ADU value within the standard rectangle determined in the usual manner.

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These images were also filtered, but the filter severely distorted the bright cores of the programme galaxies. The distortion of the inner regions (less than 20 kpc from the centre in the case of NGC 6166) was obvious from visual inspection. In the case of NGC 6166, filtering resulted in the coalescence of the multiple nuclei and in the appearance of jet-like' structures radiating from the centre. A check of the average ADU/pixel value in a 10  $\times$  10 pixel box showed that the difference between the filtered and unfiltered images was about 0.27% at 21 kpc from the centre of NGC 6166. To convince ourselves that the filtering had not affected the halo gradient, we took horizontal and vertical profiles through an image created by subtracting the filtered and unfiltered (but otherwise fully processed) versions of the same image. The profiles showed random scatter about zero, indicating that the filtering process had not distorted the large scale gradients outside the core.

The individual images were bias- and- dark-corrected, mean dome flat-fielded, and mean sky flat-fielded as usual. The final step involved the removal of the sky background. The first attempt at this involved subtracting the polynomial fit to the sky image which was closest both spatially and temporally to the object image. This was initially attempted, with apparent success, on R and B NGC 6166 (object:A332Y4; sky:C333Y4, images of object:A336Y4; sky:C335Y4). However, when the procedure was applied to a B image of the cD in A1413 (object:A322Y4; sky:C321Y4) it resulted in negative numbers over most of the Apparently the sky background was significantly image. variable ( $\sim 5$  to 6% of the sky) during and/or between these When this procedure was applied to a second R exposures. image of NGC 6166 (object:A130Y4; sky:C131Y4), the same problem occurred. The initial success with the other NGC. 6166 images appears to have been fortuitous. The possibility that the sky background varied significantly during those integrations must be considered. Reduction of

the calibration field images will provide a clear measure of the photometric quality of the sky.

Preliminary investigations of the type to be described section 4.1 indicated that the sky level may have been 1n reached on the images of the centre of NGC 6166. This provided another way of estimating the sky background. We calculated the average ADU (count in a) rectangle placed in the upper right corner (435,500,235,310 = 5016 pixels) of the treated (but not sky-subtracted) object image and in the same place on the polynomial representing the corresponding sky image, (This area was choosen for the following reasons, The orientation of the galaxy on the images was such that the upper-right corner was the area farthest from the centre the galaxy. Also, there was no apparent gradient due to of the galaxy's halo in this area. The 'shape' of the sky, as represented by the polynomial, was assumed to remain constant and the polynomial was scaled by multiplying by the ratio of the two sky values. The scaling factors were: for C131Y4 0.9438, C333Y4; 1,1010, C335Y4; 1.0588. The scaled polynomials were, subtracted from the corresponding object images.

TABLE 3.1. Image Processing Programmes: Names, Authors, and Functions

Name (Author )	Function
CLEAN (1,4m)	Replaces a small area of an image using a specified value or a value interpolated from the pixels bordering the area.
CLEANH (1,2m,4m)	Replaces hot pixels with a local background value.
HUNTH (2)	Creates a file containing the coordinates of hot pixels (using same detection technique as CLEANH).
PIXH (2)	Compares files created by HUNTH and finds coordinates common to all files.
FUZH (2,3,4)	Removes large blemishes by two-dimensional interpolation.
MEDFR (2,3)	Removes blemishes using the median filter technique.
RECTR (3)	Performs statistics (mean, standard deviation, histograms, etc) in a rectangular area of an image.
DISH (3)	Displays an image, produced by an RCA CCD.
ARITIR (4)	Performs an arithmetic operation on each pixel of an integer number image, producing a real number image.
AVR. (3)	Computes the average of up to ten images.
SUBR (3)	Computes the difference of two images (pixel-by-pixel).
FLATR (3)	Flat-fields an image.
BLKAVG (4)	Heavily smoot an image by averaging in blocks.
POLYFT (4)	Computes the coefficients of a second order, two-dimensional polynomial fit to an image and constructs a corresponding image file.
CONH (1)	Identifies pixels of similar brightness, and is ususally used to locate isophotes.

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## TABLE 3.1. (Continued)

Name(Author)	Function
SBPROF (4)	Delineates isophotes, allows ellipses to be fit to them by eye, and determines the average ADU/pixel value under the ellipses.
ELAVG1 (4)	Calculates the average ADU/pixel value under a single ellipse.
ELAVG2 (4) 🚡	Calculates the average ADU/pixel value between two ellipses if both ellipses lie completely in the image area.
ELAVG3 (4) \	Calculates the average ADU/pixel value between two ellipses if one or both ellipses intersect the edge of the image.
Author notation: 1	= G. Collins
2 3 4	= G. A. Welch = D. M. K. Welch = J. W. B. Allwright
` <b>m</b>	beside a number means the author modified the programme only.

CHAPTER 4

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In section 4.1 the methods used in generating the surface brightness profiles by fitting ellipses to the approximate isophotes will be discussed, along with the method of normalizing the profiles. Section 4.2 contains a discussion and comparison of these profiles with previous work. Section 4.3 outlines plans for improving the reduction procedure.

# 4.1 Surface Brightness and Colour Profiles

Generating a surface brightness profile from the processed object images involves three steps; 1) the identification of pixels with ADU values within a given range (i.e., isophote generation), 2) fitting ellipses to isophotes by visual inspection, and 3) determining the mean surface brightness at the radial distance from the centre of the galaxy represented by the ellipse. This method assumes that elliptical isophotes are appropriate for cD galaxies on the basis that they are used satisfactorily in modelling the light distribution of elliptical galaxies. Note that this process uses image coordinates in units of pixels; the conversion to physical coordinates is made after the profile

#### has been generated.

A more objective method of fitting ellipses using numerical methods has been developed by Young et al. (1979) and modified by Kent (1983). This method will be applied to our data in the future.

The initial attempts, at finding isophotes, or regions of similar brightness, used programme CONH. This programme essentially delineates an isophote by locating pixels which have an ADU count larger than a specified level; and which have at least one neighbour with a lower ADU count. This resulted in thin isophotes with fairly sharp edges in regions of rapidly changing ADU, but in broad isophotes with poorly defined edges in areas where the gradient was small.

The problem of ill-defined isophotes was partially solved by creating programme ISOPHT. This programme is a modification of CONH which allows the user to specify the range of ADU values used in defining the contour. This allows greater flexibility in generating isophotes. For example, when a particular ADU range generates too 'fuzzy' an isophote, a narrower range can be specified to sharpen: it.

\* The next step involved fitting ellipses to the isophotes using the ellipse drawing routines (ELLS2I, ELL2, and ELSAVI). These programmes allow the parameters of an ellipse to be adjusted while the ellipse is visually fit to the isophote generated by ISOPHT.

At this point SBPROF was written for the purpose of combining the tasks described above and thereby reducing SBPROF first checks each pixel processing time. to determine if its ADU count lies within the range specified. If so, its location is stored in the output file which is then displayed on a TV monitor. An ellipse is then fit by eye to the resulting isophote. The ADU values of pixels in the object image corresponding to those forming the ellipse are then combined to derive a mean ADU/pixel value along the The programme can also calculate the mean: ellipse. ADU/pixel value within an annulus defined bv two non-intersecting ellipses (ELAVG1, ELAVG2, and ELAVG3). This option, which sacrifices radial resolution, is used to increase the S/N in regions of low signal.

SBPROF was used to derive surface brightness profiles from three images of NGC 6166, one in B (A332Y4) and two in R (A336Y4, A130Y4). The R image A336Y4 was analysed first. The isophote generating option was used to find pixels in the range 499 - 501 ADU. This was the largest ADU value used because at larger values the distortion due to

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filtering was greater than 1%. A single ellipse was fit to. the resulting isophote, and the average under the ellipse determined. This process continued for isophotes separated by 50 ADU out to the 199 - 201 isophote, and at 20 ADU intervals thereafter out to the 99 - 101 ADU isophote. Annuli were used to generate the remainder of the profile. The coordinates of the centres of all the annuli were taken as the average of the coordinates of the previous 12 ellipses. The coordinates of the centres of the ellipses  $\pm$  3 pixels of their average. The ellipticity were within and position angle of the outermost ellipse was used for all annuli. The first six annuli were each 5 pixels wide and separated by 10 pixels. The remaining 11 annuli varied from 8 to 20 pixels wide.

The B surface brightness was determined from image A332SS using the same set of ellipses and annuli. Before this could be done the B and R images needed to be registered so that the coordinates of the ellipses and annuli referred to the same areas of the galaxy on both images. This was done by comparing the location of the peaks in the brightness distribution of two stars common to both images and in diagonally opposite corners of the images. As expected, this showed that the images differed only by a translation in both directions. The same technique of registration was used on the second red image,

which served as a check on the systematic errors.

The results described so far are given in Table 4.1. Column (1) contains: for the first 12 entries, the semi-major axis in pixels of the best-fitting ellipse, and for the remaining 17 entries, the semi-major axes of the inner boundary of the annulus. Column (2) is the geometric mean of the semi-major and semi-minor axes of the best-fitting ellipse ( $\sqrt{ab}$ ) to the power 0.25. For annuli, the axes of the ellipse midway between the inner and outer borders is used. This gives r which is used for ease of comparison with previous work and is calculated from the following:

$$4 = \left\{ 0.417 \ (R/2) \sqrt{1 - e} \ (187000/206265) \right\}$$
(4.1)

where 0.417 arcsec/pixel is the scale of the image, R is the major axis in pixels, e is the ellipticity, and 187,000 kpc is the distance to NGC 6166 (Thuan and Romanishin 1981). The factor  $(R/2)\sqrt{1-e} = \sqrt{ab}$  is derived from the definition of ellipticity, (b/a) = 1-e, and the fact that a = (R/2). Columns (3) and (4) contain the instrumental surface brightness as functions of r in B and R respectively. These are calculated as follows:

$$\mu = -2.5 \log \{ 0.417^2 \ I \} + c' , \qquad (4.2)$$

where I is the surface brightness in ADU/pixel in the B or R

TABLE	4.1.	Brigh	umental b tness and	(A332¥4) a (b-r) Colo	nd r (A33 ur Profil	6Y4, Al30Y4 es of NGC 6	) Surface . 166:
a.	   (k	r <sup>1/4</sup>   pc) <sup>1/4</sup>	$\mu_{\mathbf{k}}$   (mag/ $\square$ )  ( $\lambda_{332} \vee A$ )	/ <sup>2</sup> r   (mag/⊡)  (A336¥4)	$\frac{\mu_{\rm L} - \mu_{\rm r}}{(\rm mag/} \square)$	$  \mu_r^c  $ $  (mag/ \square) $ $  (\lambda) = 0 \forall A > 1$	$\mu_{\rm b} - \mu_{\rm r}$ (mag/ $\mathbb{P}$ )
(1)	(	2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	a	07100.	7 70474	0 50000	0 00407	<b>b</b> caroa	0.04350
50	1.	01310	-7 63443	-8.39836	0.804.02	-0.03/93	0.04333
54	2.	04834	-7 50379	-8 31577	0 81198	-8.35776	0.85397
57	2.	08299	-7.38554	-8.19355	0.80801	-8.23686	0.85132
64	2.	14368	-7.18102	-7.98104	0.80002	-8.02677	0.84575
72	2.	20357	-6.96942	-7.76253	0.79311	-7,82224	0.85282
86	2.	29513	-6.68622	-7.46899	0.78277	-7.53477	0.84855
88	2.	30018	-6.67921	-7.45633	0.77712	-7.52571	0.84650
. 97	2.	34368	-6.54917	-7.32443	0.77526	-7.39599	0.84682
100		39149	-6.40416	-/.1/514	0.//098	-/.24532	0.84126
1.20	2.	45702	-6.20007	-6.97371	0.77364	-7.04645	0.84638
132	. 2.	51602	-6.03057	-6.74783	0.71726	-6.86760	0.83703
140	2.	56445	-5.88983	-6.55829	0.66846	-6.71869	0.82886
154	2.	62712	-5.67722	-6.32594	0.64872		•
170	2.	68951	-5.42155	-6.09708	0,67553	-6.26588	0.84433
186	2	74964	-5 19121	-5 86675	0 67554	-6 07849	0 88728
200	2	79920	-4.93811	-5.69780	0.75969	-5.87225	0.93414
215	2.	84954	-4.70861	-5.49552	0.78691	-5.67924	0.97113
230	2.	90199	-4.42392	-5.20410 <sup>.</sup>	0.77718	-5.46820	1.04428
240	2.	93544	-4.26789	-5.02322	0.75533	-5.33651	1.06862
250	2.	96489	-4.11011	-4.86590	0.75579	-5.18063	1.07052
260	2.	99629	-3.93419	-4.69692	0.76273	-5.05618	1.12199
272	3.	03218	-3.57157	-4.44409	0.87252	-4.86522	1.29365
286	: 3.	06947	-3.26149	-4.16440	0.90291	-4.64914	1.38765
300	3.	10669	-3.18216	-3.91280	0.73064	-4.58055	1.39839
315	3.	14384	-2.41862	-3.63788	1.21926	-4.26252	1.84390
330	3.	17973	-1.99699	-3.37272	1.37573	-4.19390	2.19691
345	3.	21443	-1.45296	-3.00393	1.55097	-3.97906	2.52610
360	3.	25355	-0.92717	-2.51500	1.58783	-3.80894	2.88177

band as calculated by SBPROF,  $(0.417)^{-2} = 5.7508$ pixels/(arcsec)<sup>2</sup> is the areal scale of the image, and c' is an additive constant to be determined below. Column (5) is the difference of columns (3) and (4), giving the instrumental colour (b-r). Column (6) is the instrumental surface brightness in R from the second image (Al30Y4; superscript `c') and column (7) is the difference of columns (3) and (6).

Some method of normalizing our measurements was needed in order to compare our results with other work. Time did not permit processing the calibration fields, which would otherwise have been used to transform our measurements to the standard system. Instead, we normalized our. photometry to existing photometry at one radial point of the galaxy in order to obtain the additive constant in equation (4.2).

Gallagher et al. (1980; Table 1) give the extinction and K-corrected colours,  $(B-V)_o = 0.97$  and  $(V-R)_o = 0.79$  at  $R_{eq} = 22$  kpc, where  $R_{eq}$  is assumed to be the same as the geometric radius ( $\sqrt{ab}$ ). Thuan and Romanishin (1981, figure 7) find  $\mu_V = 22.40$  mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> at the same radial distance. Assuming that the isophotes and isochromes have the same shapes, and disregarding the possible aperture smearing effects discussed by Valentijn (1983), the blue surface brightness at this distance is approximately,

$$\mu_{\ell} = (B - V)_{o} + \mu_{V} = 0.97 + 22.40 = 23.37 \text{ mag}/\square . \quad (4.3)$$

By interpolation between the entries for a = 64 and 72 pixels in column (3) of Table 4.1,  $\mu_b = -7.11049$ . The correction to be added to the entries in column (3) is the difference of  $\mu_g$  and  $\mu_b$ ; ie.,

$$c' = \mu_{g} - \mu_{b} = 30.48 \text{ mag/}$$
 (4.4)

For the colour at  $R_{eq} = 22$  kpc we find from Gallagher et al.,

$$\left(\mu_{\rm B} - \mu_{\rm R}\right)_{\rm c} = \left({\rm B} - {\rm R}\right)_{\rm c} = \left({\rm B} - {\rm V}\right)_{\rm c} + \left({\rm V} - {\rm R}\right)_{\rm c} = 1.76 \text{ mag/} \square_{\rm c} \quad (4.5)$$

while according to Table 4.1 column(5),  $\mu_b - \mu_r = 0.79772$ . The correction to be added to the entries in column (5) is therefore,

$$c'' = (\mu_{B} - \mu_{R})_{c_{f}} - (\mu_{b} - \mu_{r}) = 0.96 \text{ mag/} \square$$
 (4.6)

The entries in column (4) are normalized by adding c' - c''. The same procedure is applied in normalizing column(6) of Table 4.1. These profiles are tabulated in Table 4.2. Column (1) is the same as column (2) of Table 4.1, column (2) is the normalized B surface brightness as a function of  $r^{1/4}$ , column (3) is the same for R; column (4) is the normalized (B-R) profile, column (9), is the R profile of the second red image (Al30Y4), and column (6) is the difference of columns (3) and (5). For  $r^{1/4} < 2.6$  (kpc)<sup>1/4</sup> the difference is  $\lesssim 11$  %. For greater galactocentric distances, the difference gets progressively larger. Column (7) is the normalized colour profile derived from the second red image.

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	$  r^{1/4}  $	$\mu_{e}$	MR 1	He-Hay	$\mu_{e}$	Us -MR	No-Ma 1
•	$ (kpc^4) $	(mag/ 🗉 )	(mag/ 💷 )	(mag/[_)]	(mag/ 🖅 )	(mag/ []))	(mag/ [])
	i · I	(A332Y4)	(A336¥4)		(A130Y4)		
I	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
-			9				·
	1 0700		00.01000	1 76600			
	1.9720	22.68566	20.91936	1.76630	20.93018	-0.01082	1.75548
	2.0131	22.8455/	21.0/366	1.77191	21.08081	-0.00/15	1.76476
	2.0483	22.9/041	21.20195	1.77420			1.76586
	2.0030	23.03440	21.52417	1 76920	21.33123		1.75764
	2.1437	23.23030	21.0000	1.702,50	41.04194	-0.00400	1.473764
	2.2036	23.51058	21.75519	1.75539	21.74587	0.00241	1.76471
	2.2951	23.79378	22.04873	1.74505	22.03834	0.01539	1.76044
٠.	2.3002	23.80079	22.06139	1.73940	22.04240	0.01899	1.75839
	2.3437	23.93083	22.19329	1.73754	22.17212	0.02117	1.75871
	2.3915	24.07584	22.34258	1.73326	22.32279	0.01979	1.75305
			-				·
•	2.4570	24.27993	22.54401	1.73592	22.52166	0.02501	1.75827
•	2.5160	24.44943	22.76989	1.67954	22.70051	0.06938	1.74892
ŗ	2.5645	24.59017	22.95943	1.63074	22.84942	0.11001	1.74075
	2.6271	24.80188	23.19178	1.61010			
	2.6895	25.05845	23.42064	1.63781	23.30223	0.11841	1.75622
	2.7400	25 20070		1 6 3 7 6 9		0 10175	1 20017
	2.7496	25.288/9	43.6509/	1.03/02	23.48962	0.10135	1.79917
	2 9/05	23.34109	43.01774 74 07770	1.74137	23.09300	0.12400	1.04002
	2 9020	25.77139	24.02220	1 73946	23.00007	0.13232	1 95317
	2 9354	26 21211	24.01002	1 71761	24.03331	* 0 26290	1 98051
	4,5054	20.21211	24.12130	1.71/01	24.23100	0.20200	1.00001
	2.9649	26.36989	24.65182	1.71807	24.38748	0.26434	1.98241
	2.9963	26.54581	24.82080	1.72501	24.51193	0.30858	2.03388
	3.0322	26.90843	25.07363	1.83480	24,70289	0.37074	2.17953
	3.0695	27.21851	25.35332	1,86519	24.91897	0.43435	2.29954
,	3.1067	27.29784	25.60492	1.69292	24.98756	0.61736	2.31028
•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				•	
	3.1438	28.06138	25.87984	2.18154	25.30559	0.57425	2.75579
÷	3.1797	28,48301	26.14500	2.33801	25,37421	0,77079	3.10880
	3.2144	29.02/04	26.513/9	2.51325	25.58905	0.93474	3.43799
	3.2530	27.00283	27.00272	7.220TT	25./5917	L. 74322	3./9366

TABLE 4.2. Normalized B (A332Y4) and R (A336Y4, A130Y4) Surface Brightness and (B-R) Colour Profiles of NGC 6166.

### 4.2 Discussion

The normalized B and R surface brightness profiles are presented in figures 4.1 and 4.2, respectively. Included in these plots are Oemler's V-band data as given in Thuan and Romanishin (1981 figure 7). These data. and the deVaucouleurs law fit by Thuan and Romanishin (1981), have been normalized by adding  $(B-V)_{a} = 0.97$  in B and subtracting (V-R) = 0.79 in R (Gallagher et al. 1980). In both cases our profiles seem to agree with Oemler's out to roughly = 2.6  $(\text{kpc})^{\prime 4}$ , or  $r \sim 45$  kpc. Farther from the centre our profiles depart radically from Oemler's. The rapid decline exibited by our surface brightness profiles for r > 45 kpc is probably caused by our method of determining the sky background. Our assumption that the sky has been reached in the upper-right corner of the object images has probably resulted in the subtraction of not only sky light but, some of the galaxy's light as well. To test this we determined the semi-major axis of the first annulus to intersect the region used to scale the sky. The intensity of the galaxy at the corresponding distance, as given by 0emler's profile, was subtracted from each of Oemler's data points. The resulting profile is given by the solid squares in figure It follows our observed profile guite closely. This 4.1. indicates that our method of determining the sky background has probably produced the rapid decline in our profiles.



Figure 4.1. The 'B surface brightness profile of NGC 6166 from A332Y4 (•), . normalized at the point indicated by the arrow, to  $Oemler's V-band photometry(<math>\Box$ ). The solid line is a deVaucouleur law fit by Thuan and Romanishin (1981) to Oemler's data. The solid squares represent some of Oemler's data reduced by the intensity given by the asterisk. For clarity, Oemler's data have been shifted down vertically by 0.97 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.

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Figure 4.2. The R surface brightness profile of NGC 6166 from A336Y4 ( $\bullet$ ) and A130Y4 (O) normalized as in Figure 4.1. The squares and the solid line are as in Figure 4.1 except that they have been shifted up vertically by 0.79 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.

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Figure 4.3. The differences between the various observed surface brightness profiles and the devaucouleurs law given in Figures 4.1 and 4.2. Open circles are for R (A336Y4), solid circles for R (A130Y4), triangles for B (A332Y4), and squares are for Oemler's V-band data.

The profile from the second red image (Al30Y4) is plotted as the open circles (()) in Figure 4.2, where it differs from the A336Y4 profile by more than 10%. As can be seen from Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2 the profiles from the two red images are in fairly good agreement (ie., 0.10 mag difference) for  $r^{1/4} < 2.6$ . For  $r^{1/4} > 2.6$  the difference becomes progressively greater.

In order to more clearly show the detailed structure of the profiles for  $r^{\prime 4}$  (3.0 the differences between the various profiles and the deVaucouleurs law are plotted in figure 4.3. On this scale the departure of our profiles for  $r^{4} > 2.6$  from the trend shown by 0emler's data is more The brends displayed by each profile continue for obvious.  $r^{4}$  > 3.0. Our profiles tend to be much smoother than Oemler's, indicating that our observations are less noisy. This plot also shows that the deVaucouleurs law published by Thuan and Romanishin (1981) does .not. fit the observed profiles very well. According to Oemler's profile the halo begins at  $\sim r^{\prime 4} = 2.6$ . Our profiles indicate that it begins closer to the centre of the galaxy at  $-r^{4}=2.35$ . However, part of this difference could be due to the normalization of our observations.

The (B-R) colour profiles derived from the two red images are given in figure 4.4. For clarity the data for 4 3.0 (kpc)<sup>44</sup> are not plotted. The Al30Y4 data (•) show that the colour of the galaxy becomes bluer by  $\sim 0.03$  mag. for 2.0  $\langle r^{4}/2.6 \rangle$ , and then reddens rapidly for  $r^{4}/2.6$ . The A336Y4 data (O) show that the colour becomes bluer by ~0.04 mag for 2.0 <  $r^{4}$  < 2.4, then drops sharply by  $\sim 0.125$  mag between  $r^{'4} = 2.4$  and 2.6. This is followed by a steep reddening trend similar to the A130Y4 data. To model the effect of our treatment of the sky on the colour profiles we calculated the magnitude difference between Oemler's profile (figure 4.1 []) and Oemler's profile. modified as described above (figure 4.1 | **)**. These differences represent the effect of subtracting galaxy light in addition to the light of the sky. The differences were plotted as a function of distance and a smooth curve was fit by eye to the points. The curve was normalized to (B-R) = 1.77 at  $r^{\uparrow} = 2.0$ , and plotted as the solid triangles in figure 4.4. This profile shows what would be obtained if all the error introduced by our method of determining the sky level entered in the B bandpass: The actual curve cannot be any steeper than shown because the error in the R bandpass is in the same sense as in the B bandpass, and therefore reduces the steepness of the curve. This result, shows, however, that the overall magnitude and sense of the observed colour gradient could result from our method of


Figure 4.4. The B-R colour profiles for NGC 6166 from the blue image A332Y4 and the red images, A336Y4 (O), and A130Y4( $\bullet$ ). The triangles represent the model discussed in the text.

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determining the sky level. On the other hand, the model cannot reproduce the complicated structure of the observed profiles, for example, the ~0.01 mag bump at  $r^{\frac{1}{4}} = 2.05$ . This kind of structure may in fact be real, thus justifying comparison of these profiles with other work.

The arithmetic average of the two (B-R) colour profiles is plotted in figure 4.5. The error bars represent the difference between the two profiles. Also plotted are colour profiles taken from Gallagher et al. (1980) and. Valentijn (1983). Gallagher et al. give a (B-V) colour profile of NGC 6166, and Valentijn gives the average (B-V) values of a sample of 6 cDs (not including NGC 6166) at galactocentric distances of 50 and 80 kpc. The (B-V) values were crudely transformed to (B-R) using the relationship between (B-V) and (V-R) for giant stars given by Johnson (1966). This relation was normalized to the (B-V) vs. (V-R) data for elliptical galaxies from Gallagher et al. (1980, Table 1), by subtracting 0.15 mag in (B-V). In the #nner region of our average profile (2.0  $< r^{\prime\prime4} < 2.45$ ) the colour becomes bluer by 0.03 mag. This change is similar to the overall trend displayed by the data of Gallagher et al. The change in colour over the inner region is larger than the typical error in the same region. The trend displayed in the inner regions confirms the general conclusion of previous observational studies, and the prediction of the

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Figure 4.5. The average of the two colour profiles in Figure 4.4 is given by the smooth curve. The error bars represent the difference between the profiles. The normalized data of Gallagher et al. (1980) are given by the squares, and that of Valentijn (1983) by the triangles.

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tidal debris and the cooling intracluster medium models, that cD galaxies become bluer at larger galactocentric distances.

The sharp drop to bluer colours between  $r^{1/4} = 2.45$  and 2.55, and the subsequent rapid reddening, may be artifacts of our method of determining the sky level. However, it is interesting to note that if the rapid drop between  $r^{1/4} = 2.45$  and 2.55 were extended it would give colours similar to Valentijn's. At this time we cannot infer anything further about the region beyond  $r^{1/4} = 2.45$ .

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4.3 Future Improvements in Data Reduction

Future efforts will concentrate on developing a method of determining the sky background corrections. Three possibilities are given below.

We have examined only a small subset of the data obtained at the CFHT. Therefore, we will first process the complete data set using the original technique of subtracting an unscaled polynomial fit to a sky image.

Alternatively, we could determine the sky level on the short exposures of the central regions of the galaxies (eg., All0Y4), and force the profiles obtained from the short exposures to fit those obtained from the long exposures. The sky background on the halo images would be fixed by forcing the halo and central image profiles to agree in the region where the images overlap. There may, however, be a problem with a low signal-to-noise ratio in the short exposures.

If the halo images have not reached the outer halo then it may be possible to approximate the sky background using a suitable portion of the halo images. The sky background on the central images can then be fixed by forcing the profiles generated by the central and halo images to agree in the region where the two images overlap. Another improvement will involve developing a more objective method of fitting ellipses to isophotes (Young et al. 1979 and Kent 1983). This will hopefully determine the run of ellipticity and position angle of the isophotes. Also, the calibration images will be used to determine the extinction and transformation coefficients.

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CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY

B and R CCD images of NGC6166 in A2199 and the anonymous cD galaxy in Al413 have been obtained using the CFH 3.6m telescope. A systematic procedure for the processing of CCD images has been developed: It involves subtracting the bias level introduced by the electronics, subtracting the thermal background, removing unwanted objects and blemishes, and correcting for areal sensitivity variations across the CCD.

Surface brightness profiles in B and R for NGC 6166 were obtained by determining the average ADU/pixel values in concentric elliptical annuli, and were normalized using the photometry of Gallagher et al.(1980), and of Oemler (1976) as presented by Thuan and Romanishin (1981). Our profiles agree with Oemler's out to  $\sim 45$  kpc from the centre. Beyond this point our profiles drop rapidly compared to Oemler's. The sky background was found to vary significantly. The method used to determine the sky level probably produced the rapid decline displayed by our profiles.

The (B-R) colour profile becomes bluer by 0.03 mag between galactocentric distances of roughly 16 and 33 kpc. Beyond 33 kpc the profile shows a sharp dip to the blue

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followed by a rapid reddening. Some of these trends, in particular the rapid reddening, may be caused by our method of determining the sky level. The 0.03 mag decline between 16 and 33 kpc is qualitatively consistent. with the observations of Gallagher et al. (1980) and with the predictions of both the tidal debris and cooling ICM models of cD galaxy formation. However, these results are tentative, pending examination and reduction of the complete data set.

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# APPENDIX Journal of Observations

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C10214	05 20		00	R	09 59 42		•
-C104Y4	05 36	Dome	90	B	10 02 50	0	•
B105Y4	05 39	Bias		-	10 06 04		
B106Y4	05 40	Bias	30		10 07 26		
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ALUCI4	07 76	N4147	- 60	ם ק	11 40 47	12 09.1	10 37.0
A110914	07 43	A1413	60	R	12 10 49	11 54.3	23 29.7
A111Y4	07 52	A1413	-60	R	12 19 47	11 54.2	23 29.8
A112Y4	07 58	A1413	600	·R	12 25 20	11 54.2	23 29:8
C113¥4	08 20	A1413s1	900	. <b>R</b> .	12 47 52	11 53.0	23 49.8
B114¥4 B115¥4	08 39 08 41	Blas Bias	1		13 07 12 13 08 18		
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A117Y4	08 49	A1413h	900	R	13 16 51	11 54.0	23 29.8
C118Y4	09 13	A1413s2	900	• R	13 40 25	11 54.2	23 01.8
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A12174	10 25	A1413b	1200	B	14 53 02	11 54.0	23 29.8
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B126Y4	11 24	Bias	•		15 52.38		•
B127Y4	11 26	Bias		_	15 54 14		
A128Y4	12 07	N6166	60	R	16 35 52	16 28.0	39 35.2
A129Y4	12 35	N6166	60	R	17 03 38		39 35.2
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C308¥4	05 33	Dome	60	R	10	04 27		
C309Y4	05 36	Dome	90-	В	10	07-37	1	
C3TOX4	05 39	Dome	90	В	10	10 19	<b>r</b>	
C311Y4	05 42	Dome	90	В	10	13 15		•
C312Y4	05 45	Dome	10	. В	10	16 15		
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A31474	06 34	N4147	<b>6</b> 0	B	.11	05 34	12 09.2	18 37.0
A315Y4	06 42	N4147	120	В	11	13 00	12 09.2	18 37.0
A316Y4	06 47	N4147	120	R	11	18 11	12 09.2	18 37,0
A317Y4	06 57	A1413	60	R	11	28 12	11 54.4	23 29.8
A318¥4	07 01	A1413	120	R	11	32 25	. 11 54.2	23 29.7
A319¥4	07 07.	A1413	900	R	11	38 01	11 54.2	23 29.7
A920¥4	07 26	A1413s1	900.	R	11	57.27	11 53.0	23 49.8
A321¥4	07 43	A1413s1	1200	В	12	14 16	11 53.0	23 49.7
* A322Y4	08 07	A1413	1200	B	12	39 05	11 54.2	23 29.8
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A329¥4	09 28	M92	60	В 🖫	13	59 56	17 16.4	43 04.4
A330Y4	09 34	N6166	1200	В,	14	05 58	16 28.0	39 35.3
A331Y4	10 01	N6166	120	`B	14	33 22	15 28.0	39,35.7
A332Y4	10 05	N6166 .	1200	В	14	36 55	16 28.0	39 35.7
1C333¥4	10 28	N6166s1	1200	B	14	59 37	16 28.0	39 20,7
C335¥4	10 49	N6166s1	900	R	15	21 06	16 28.0	39 20.6
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