Status of the PSF Reconstruction Work Package for MICADO@ELT

Andrea Grazian\textsuperscript{a}, Matteo Simioni\textsuperscript{a}, Carmelo Arcidiacono\textsuperscript{a}, Jani Achren\textsuperscript{b}, Yann Clenet\textsuperscript{c}, Yixian Cao\textsuperscript{d}, Richard Davies\textsuperscript{d}, Marco Gullieuszik\textsuperscript{a}, Tapio Helin\textsuperscript{e}, Daniel Jodlbauer\textsuperscript{f,g}, Hanindyo Kuncarayakti\textsuperscript{h,i}, Miska Le Louarn\textsuperscript{j}, Seppo Mattila\textsuperscript{b}, Fernando Pedichini\textsuperscript{k}, Roberto Piazzesi\textsuperscript{k}, Elisa Portaluri\textsuperscript{l,a}, Aleksi Salo\textsuperscript{e}, Gijs Verdoes Kleijn\textsuperscript{m}, Benedetta Vulcani\textsuperscript{a}, Roland Wagner\textsuperscript{f,g}, Steven Williams\textsuperscript{h,i}, Anita Zanella\textsuperscript{a}, and Werner W. Zeilinger\textsuperscript{n}

\textsuperscript{a}INAF Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Vicolo dell’Osservatorio 5, I-35122, Padova, Italy
\textsuperscript{b}Incident Angle Oy, Capsiankatu 4 A 29, FI-20320 Turku, Finland
\textsuperscript{c}LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, Section de Meudon 5, place Jules Janssen, F-92195 Meudon Cedex, France
\textsuperscript{d}MPE - Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik Giessenbachstrasse 1, D-85748 Garching bei Muenchen, Germany
\textsuperscript{e}LUT University, P.O.Box 20, FI-53851, Lappeenranta, Finland
\textsuperscript{f}Industrial Mathematics Institute, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Altenberger Strasse 69, 4040 Linz, Austria
\textsuperscript{g}RICAM - Johann Radon Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics, Altenberger Strasse 69, 4040 Linz, Austria
\textsuperscript{h}Tuorla Observatory, Department of Physics and Astronomy, FI-20014, University of Turku, Finland
\textsuperscript{i}Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO (FINCA), Quantum, Vesilinnantie 5, University of Turku, FI-20014 Turku, Finland
\textsuperscript{j}European Southern Observatory, Karl Schwarzschild Strasse 2, D-85748 Garching bei Muenchen, Germany
\textsuperscript{k}INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Via Frascati 33, I-00078, Monte Porzio Catone, Italy
\textsuperscript{l}INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico d’Abruzzo, Via Mentore Maggini, I-64100 Teramo, Italy
\textsuperscript{m}University of Groningen, PO Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
\textsuperscript{n}Department of Astrophysics, University of Vienna, Tuerkenschanzstrasse 17, A-1180, Wien, Austria

ABSTRACT

MICADO is a workhorse instrument for the ESO ELT, allowing first light capability for diffraction limited imaging and long-slit spectroscopy at near-infrared wavelengths. The PSF Reconstruction (PSF-R) Team of MICADO is currently implementing, for the first time within all ESO telescopes, a software service devoted to the blind reconstruction of the PSF. This tool will work independently of the science data, using adaptive optics telemetry data, both for Single Conjugate (SCAO) and Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics (MCAO) allowed by the MORFEO module. The PSF-R service will support the state-of-the-art post-processing scientific analysis of the MICADO imaging and spectroscopic data. We provide here an update of the status of the PSF-R service
tool of MICADO, after successfully fulfilling the Final Design Review phase, and discuss recent results obtained on simulated and real data gathered on instruments similar to MICADO.

Keywords: PSF Reconstruction, MICADO, ELT, Telemetry data, WFS

1. INTRODUCTION

MICADO (Multi-Adaptive Optics Imaging Camera for Deep Observations) is the first light instrument of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) and it will be a workhorse facility for Adaptive Optics (AO) diffraction limited imaging and long-slit spectroscopy at near-infrared wavelengths. We provide here an update of the status of the point spread function reconstruction (PSF-R) service tool of MICADO, after successfully fulfilling the Final Design Review (FDR) phase, and discuss recent PSF-R results obtained on simulated and real data gathered on instruments similar to MICADO.

A first-generation ELT instrument, MICADO will take high resolution images of the Universe at near-infrared wavelengths. This makes MICADO the ideal instrument for identifying exoplanets, but also for resolving individual stars in local galaxies (up to Virgo and Fornax), the star forming clumps in high-redshift galaxies, including the dynamics of dense stellar systems, and investigating the mysterious center of the Milky Way. The optimal scientific exploitation of MICADO implies the detailed knowledge of the PSF of each acquired science image or spectrum. The PSF-R service will support the state-of-the-art post-processing scientific analysis of the MICADO imaging and spectroscopic data, but it will not be available for coronographic observations. Indeed, the knowledge of the reconstructed PSF is essential in order to evaluate the quality of the observed astronomical data. Additional to quality evaluation, the reconstructed PSF can be used for further improving the reduction of images and spectra in the post processing phase.

The structure of this paper is the following: in Section 2 we describe the methodology adopted for the PSF reconstruction of AO-assisted diffraction limited instruments, e.g. MICADO. The first results obtained by the MICADO PSF-R Team have been highlighted in Section 3. The size of telemetry data required by the PSF-R Service every day is discussed in Section 4, while conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

2. METHOD

Different methods are available to obtain the PSF of AO-assisted diffraction limited instruments: pure PSF Reconstruction (PSF-R), Hybrid, Calibrated, Empirical, Adaptive methods. All these methods have been described in detail in. MICADO will adopt as baseline the pure (blind) reconstruction of the PSF method, relying only on telemetry data, without accessing the focal plane data (i.e. the scientific frames).

The motivations behind the choice of the Pure (or blind) PSF-R method rely on different strategic points. For 35-40% of the extragalactic targets, a MICADO science frame will be void of point sources suitable for standard PSF characterization (e.g. with empirical or semi-empirical methods). Extragalactic deep fields are selected for having as few stars as possible. In general, it is unlikely to have interesting or well studied extragalactic targets in fields with many stars per square arcmin. Extragalactic fields usually have no bright stars suitable to build reliable empirical PSF model, nor reliable empirical PSF at the position of each galaxy or rare objects (e.g. high-z/lensed targets).

In case of crowded fields, it is difficult to recover the shape of the PSF, especially on the wings, due to contamination from neighboring stars. For these reasons, the Pure PSF-R approach is required when extended targets cover most of the FoV.

The point spread function reconstruction (PSF-R) Application is a deliverable of the MICADO project. The PSF-R Team of MICADO is currently implementing, for the first time within all ESO telescopes, a software service devoted to the pure (blind) reconstruction of the PSF. This tool will work independently of the science data in the focal plane, only using adaptive optics telemetry data of the MICADO camera and spectrograph, both for Single Conjugate (SCAO) and Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics (MCAO) allowed by the MORFEO module, in post-processing analysis.

The PSF-R application will provide the reconstructed PSFs through an archive querying system, using the Wave Front Sensor telemetry data that MICADO will generate and save synchronously to each associated
science frame. The PSF-R Application of MICADO is designed to work without accessing to the science data themselves, differently from other PSF-R techniques that instead use the science data themselves to optimize the parameters used during the reconstruction phase [4, e.g.]. This allows the pure PSF-R tool to be the most generally applicable, especially in the extra-galactic cases where empty fields, devoid of bright stars, are routinely observed.

The PSF-R Team will build up the software tools and architecture needed to develop and test the PSF-R Service for MICADO, when the instrument will be mounted on the bench, at the Preliminary Acceptance in Europe (PAE) and later on at the ELT site in Cerro Armazones for the Final Acceptance.

The pure PSF-R method has been described in detail in,2,5,6 and

3. RESULTS

The pure PSF-R algorithms of MICADO have been tested using COMPASS8 simulated data with a bright star (15th magnitude), a Shack-Hartmann Wave Front Sensor (SH WFS) and the ELT M4 geometry. Strehl ratio (SR), FWHM, and encircled energy (EE) of the simulated star are recovered by the pure PSF-R software at the 1-2% level (Fig. 1). Fig. 1 shows the radial profile of the simulated (blue) and reconstructed (orange) PSF.

![Figure 1. The radial profile of the simulated (blue) and reconstructed (orange) PSF. Accuracies of 1-2% have been reached in Strehl ratio, FWHM, and EE.](image)

| Metric | Input Value | Reconstructed Value | Difference (%) |
|--------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Strehl | 0.4121      | 0.4089              | 0.8%           |
| FWHM   | 11.46 mas   | 11.58 mas           | 1%             |
| EE(5px)| 50.32%      | 49.28%              | 2%             |

Real data from the SOUL9 Adaptive Optic module of the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) have been used in order to check that the SCAO Critical Algorithms of the MICADO PSF-R Service can successfully process also real data from other instruments. The first results show that the PSF-R algorithms are able to recover the Strehl ratio (SR), FWHM and encircled energy profiles within a few (\(\sim 1 - 7\%\)) percent level.2 Based on this tests, we can confirm that the MICADO PSF-R Application has reached at present a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) corresponding to TRL=7. Further details on the PSF reconstruction of LBT/SOUL+LUCI data can be found in this proceeding (Simioni et al. 2022).

The Final design Review (FDR) of the PSF-R software tool for MICADO has been successfully accomplished in July 2021. This review has been mainly focused on the development plan, the data flow, the telemetry data rate, the end-to-end workflow, and the development of the critical algorithms for PSF-R. No critical item has been emerged during the FDR, indicating that the maturity level reached by the MICADO PSF-R software is adequate for that milestone.

The scientific evaluation of the PSF-R tools is currently on-going for extragalactic cases (e.g. galaxy morphology, clumps), as detailed in this proceeding (Simioni et al. 2022). We have also developed tools and a pipeline to evaluate how uncertainties on the reconstructed PSF translate into uncertainties on scientific measurements (and viceversa). In the future, the scientific evaluation of the PSF-R products will be expanded to other science cases.
4. TELEMETRY DATA RATES

The pure PSF-R software of MICADO relies only on WFS telemetry data, saved at the highest temporal frequency, in order to better reproduce the sudden variation of the atmospheric conditions.

The telemetry data rate of MICADO WFS is 4.2 Terabyte per night, assuming 9 hours of observation, 100% of open shutter time, control, and interactive matrices saved at a frequency of 0.2 Hz. The telemetry data rate is instead 2.1Tb per night, assuming 70% open shutter time plus control and interactive matrices saved at 0.1 Hz. The expected data rate for telemetry is comparable or even less than the scientific data rate. This amount of data rate is not a problem considering the planned ESO/ELT infrastructure. Fig. 2 summarizes the expected data rates in the SCAO case for the PSF-R Service of MICADO. Preliminary calculations for the MCAO mode of MICADO indicate that the expected data rate for MCAO is slightly lower than in SCAO mode.

| Data item                                      | Array Size per Frame (byte) | Frame Rate (Hz) | number format | bytes per number | data rate (Mbyte/s) |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| PUP_VIEWS_RAW                                 | 151000000                  | 0.0031          | flt32         | 4                | 1.80                |
| M4_PHASE_DIVERSITY_SKY_RAW                    | 151000000                  | 0.0031          | flt32         | 4                | 1.80                |
| MICA_FOC_RAW                                  | 151000000                  | 0.0031          | flt32         | 4                | 1.80                |
| PYR_WFS_NORMALIZED_SLOPES_TAB                 | 24000                      | 500             | flt32         | 4                | 45.8                |
| DM_COMMANDS_SCAO_TAB                          | 4098                       | 500             | flt32         | 4                | 7.8                 |
| INTERACTION_MATRIX_SCAO_TAB                   | 49152000                   | 0.2             | flt32         | 4                | 37.5                |
| PYR_WFS_BUFFER_TAB                            | 49152000                   | 0.2             | flt32         | 4                | 37.5                |
| PYR_WFS_MODULATION_TAB                       | 1                          | 0.008           | flt32         | 4                | 3.1 x 10^{-8}       |
| PYR_WFS_NCPA_OFFSET_TAB                      | 12000                      | 0.2             | flt32         | 4                | 0.01                |
| PYR_WFS_MODAL_OPTIMIZATION_TAB                | 4096                       | 0.2             | flt32         | 4                | 0.003               |
| PYR_WFS_MISREGISTRATION_TAB                  | 40000                      | 1.0             | flt32         | 4                | 0.15                |
| ELT_TELEMETRY_TAB                             | 40000                      | 0.4             | flt32         | 4                | 0.06                |
| CN2_PROFILE_TAB                               | 40000                      | 0.4             | flt32         | 4                | 0.06                |
| AO_CONFIGURATION_TAB                          | 100000                     | 0.008           | flt32         | 4                | 0.003               |
| TOTAL RATE (Tbyte in 9 hr)                    | 4.15                       |                 |               |                  | 134.286             |

Figure 2. The expected data rates for the SCAO option of the PSF-R Service of MICADO.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The present status of the PSF-R software tools of MICADO has been summarised in this paper. In particular, a number of achievements have been reached by the MICADO PSF-R team:

- Accuracies of 1-7% have been reached both with simulated PSFs and with real LBT SOUL+LUCI data, as described in.  
- A TRL=7 has been reached by the MICADO PSF-R Service tools.
- There’s no issue for the ESO Raw Science Archive to transfer and store all the WFS telemetry data produced by MICADO.
- No critical issue has been emerged during the FDR review, indicating that the maturity level of the PSF-R tools is adequate for that milestone.
• No showstopper for PSF-R has been currently identified, and the PSF-R Service is ready to meet the First Light of MICADO at ELT in 2027.

The PSF-R software is a data intensive tool, since it requires powerful computers and lot of disk space for storage. In the future, the development of smart and efficient algorithms is required in order to reduce the loading factor on the science users of ELT.

Further details on the PSF-R service for MICADO can be found in this proceeding (Arcidiacono et al. 2022; Simioni et al. 2022).

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