Problem 1: CCD Image Processing (60 points)

As an exercise of image processing, this problem involves use of a simple calculator and tabular data (table 1.1) which contains the pixel values of an image during the given exposure time. This image, which is a part of a larger CCD image, was taken by a small CCD camera, installed on an amateur telescope and using a *V* band filter. Figure 1.1 shows this 50×50 pixels image that contains 5 stars.

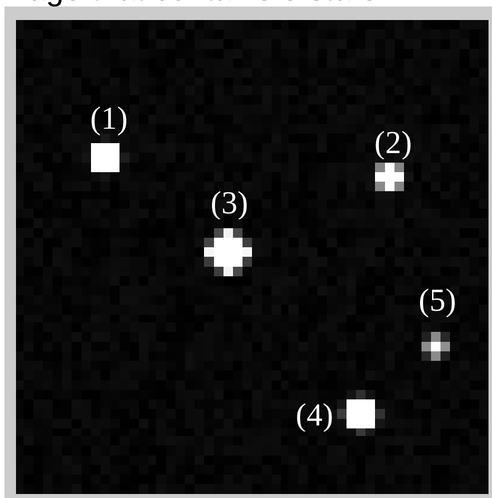

Figure 1.1

In table 1.1 the first row and column indicates the pixels' x and y coordinates. Table 1.2 gives the telescope and the image specifications.

Table 1.2

Telescope focal length	$1.20\ m$
CCD pixel size	$25 \times 25\ \mu m$
Exposure time	$450\ s$
Telescope zenith angle	25°
Average extinction coefficient in V band	0.3 mag/airmass

The observer identified stars 1, 3 and 4 by comparing this image with standard star catalogues. Table 1.3 shows stars true magnitudes (m_t) as given in the catalogue.

Table 1.3

Star	m_t
1	9.03
3	6.22

4	8.02

a. Using the available data, determine the instrumental magnitudes of the stars in the image. Assume the dark current is negligible and the image is flat fielded. For simplicity you can use a square aperture.
Hint: The instrumental magnitude is calculated using the difference between the measured flux from the star in the aperture and the flux from an equivalent area of dark sky.

b. The instrumental magnitude of a star in a CCD image is related to true magnitude as

$$m_I = m_t + KX - Zmag$$

where K is extinction, X is airmass, m_I and m_t are respectively instrumental and true magnitude of star and $Zmag$ is zero point constant. Calculate the zero point constant $(Zmag)$ for identified stars. Calculate average zero point constant $(Zmag)$.
Hint: Zero point constant is the constant reducing extinction-free magnitudes to the true magnitude.

c. Calculate true magnitudes of stars 2 and 5.

d. Calculate CCD pixel scale for the CCD camera in units of arcsec.

e. Calculate average brightness of dark sky in magnitude per square arcsec (m_{sky}).

f. Use a suitable plot to estimate astronomical seeing in arcsec.

Problem 2: Venus

An observer in Deh-Namak (you will be taking the observational part of the exam in this region tonight) has observed Venus for seven months, started from September 2008 and continued until March 2009. During the observation, a research CCD camera and an image processing software were used to take high resolution images and to extract high precision data. Table 2.1 shows the collected data during the observation.

Table 2.1 description:

Column 1	Date of observation.
Column 2	Earth-Sun distance in astronomical unit (AU) for observation date and time. This value is taken from high precision tables.
Column 3	Phase of Venus, Percent of Venus disk illuminated by the Sun as observed from the Earth.
Column 4	Elongation of Venus, the angular distance between center of the Sun and center of Venus in degrees as observed from the Earth.

a) Using given data in table 2.1, calculate the Sun-Venus-Earth angle $(\angle SVE)$. This is angular separation between the Sun and the Earth as seen from Venus. Write $\angle SVE$ angle in column 2 of Table 2.2 in your answer sheet for the all observing dates.
Hint: Remember that the line between light and shadow, in the phases, is an ellipse arc.

b) Calculate Sun – Venus distance in AU and write it down in column 3 of table 2.2 for all observation dates.

c) Plot Sun – Venus distance versus observing date.

d) Find perihelion $(r_{v,min})$ and aphelion $(r_{v,max})$ distances of Venus from the Sun.

e) Calculate semi-major axis (a) of the Venus orbit.

f) Calculate eccentricity (e) of Venus orbit.

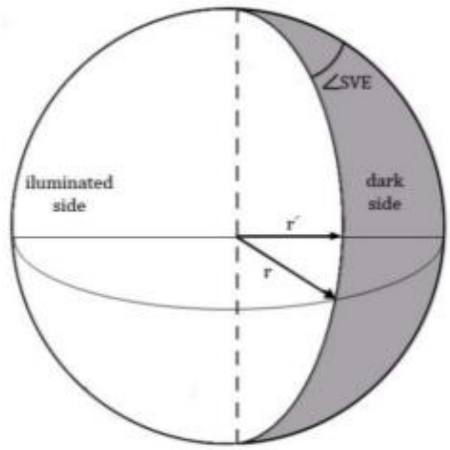

Table 2.1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Date	Earth - Sun Distance (AU)	Phase (%)	Elongation (SEV) (°)
20/9/2008	1.0043	88.4	27.56
10/10/2008	0.9986	84.0	32.29
20/10/2008	0.9957	81.6	34.53
30/10/2008	0.9931	79.0	36.69
9/11/2008	0.9905	76.3	38.71
19/11/2008	0.9883	73.4	40.62
29/11/2008	0.9864	70.2	42.38
19/12/2008	0.9839	63.1	45.29
29/12/2008	0.9834	59.0	46.32
18/1/2009	0.9838	49.5	47.09
7/2/2009	0.9863	37.2	44.79
17/2/2009	0.9881	29.6	41.59
27/2/2009	0.9904	20.9	36.16
19/3/2009	0.9956	3.8	16.08