

Re: Is there some website that will allow me to plot star maps with labelled magnitudes?

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- *From:* canopus56 <[canopus56@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:canopus56@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 19 Sep 2007 14:33:41 -0700
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On Sep 19, 11:52 am, alliso...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

I am interested in observing some of the many Hamburg Quasar Survey cataclysmic variables for which no AAVSO chart (or any other, as best as I can tell) has been created. Is there some place on the internet where I can create such charts? I would need a limiting magnitude down to about 15.0 or so.

Normally, this is done with a generic laptop planetarium program that has the LEONES and abbreviated USNO B2.0 catalogues installed, or with speciality photometry software like MPO Canopus. The reduced USNO catalogue (on three CDs) generally has to be obtained through an advanced imaging amateur in your local club. Alternatively, follow the AAVSO yahoo newsgroup. Typically for breaking news objects, a quick photometry list will be posted by a member of the AAVSO newsgroup list.

Using Simbad's Aladin applet, you can generate an image and table of stars in a selected region, but not an image over-plotted with magnitudes.

<http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/simbad/sim-fid>

Enter the object name or coordinates in the Simbad query screen.

```
V* V455 And  
23 34 01.55 +39 21 42.9
```

When the object information is displayed, load the full Aladin Java Applet. If the applet cannot find the object name, there is a box to paste in the coordinates – see the "Position" box. For V455 And, you will have to paste in the coordinates.

Once the Aladin image and object map layer displays, simply left-click drag a box region around the object of interest. In the lower table box, the applet will display red, green and blue photometry information on all the objects in the selected region.

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The "Save" button exports a fits image of the display and a text table of all the objects in the region of interest in the display.

The number of objects in the display can be narrowed considerably to the relevant magnitude by first applying a magnitude filter. The option sequence – "filter" button, "advanced filter" option, "predefined filters" pull down, and "magnitude cut" – will allow you to set a magnitude cut limit of 13 to 15 mags in the red band.

If you do not get enough stars using a mag 13 cut-off, use the 1/4 Zoom option to get a bigger field of view.

To generate a clean display it may be necessary to delete old magnitude cut layers. Right click a layer on the right-hand side of the Aladin display. Select "delete" to remove it.

The filter button options also appears to have a facility to plot magnitudes next to the reduced set of stars on the image. I have not been able to make that option work.

The AAVSO also has a beta test chart generator. It produces the charts using coordinates, but I have not been able to get it to produce a photometry table of stars.

<http://www.aavso.org/observing/charts/vsp/>

– Canopus56

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