



Vera C. Rubin Observatory  
Data Management

# Characterization Metric Report: Science Pipelines Version 28.0.0

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**DRAFT**



## Abstract

This brief report describes measurements of data quality metrics that were carried out for release v28.0.0 of the LSST Science Pipelines. The report for the previous version can be found in [DMTR-431].

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## Change Record

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# Characterization Metric Report: Science Pipelines Version 28.0.0

In this report, we characterize the performance of the Rubin Observatory Science Pipelines Version 28.0.0. We illustrate the performance via metrics that are measured on the HSC-RC2 dataset. RC2 consists of 3 tracts of data taken from the HSC-SSP survey, and selected to provide a means of testing various “pathological” cases (e.g., difficult astrometric solutions, extremely good seeing that does not provide a well-sampled PSF, difficult fields for deblending, and large galaxies, among others). These three tracts each contain between 112–149 visits split between the HSC-G, HSC-R, HSC-I, HSC-Z, and HSC-Y (*grizy*) filters.

Between `w_2024_16` (the source for pipelines version 27) and `w_2024_42` (v28 source), most major changes in the science pipelines have been in supporting packages and not to algorithms that dramatically affected the Data Release processing metrics. As of v28, the streak-detection algorithm introduced in v21 operates on image differences instead of direct images. This algorithm masks pixels affected by streaks (e.g., satellites or other trailed sources of non-astrophysical origin). Previously, streaks were only removed during coaddition.

Additional new features in this release include:

- The use of “compensated tophats” to measure fluxes used in photometric calibration (DM-38632), which are applied in `CalibrateImageTask` (DM-44908).
- The default signal-to-noise cut for PSF star selection was increased from 20 to 50 (DM-44130).
- Interpolation of bad pixels is now done via a Gaussian Process algorithm (DM-44305).

Photometry and astrometry metrics reported here were calculated using the `analysis_tools` package, which is part of the standard pipeline distribution. The `analysis_tools` package builds on and supersedes `faro` (DMTN-211), which has been used for the past few years. The calculation of most metrics reported in this Report is unchanged between the two packages, though minor differences in how selection criteria are applied, or how catalog matching is done, between `analysis_tools` and `faro` could result in small differences in the resulting metrics. We are actively working on a revised definition of the residual ellipticity correlation metrics TE1 and TE2, to be implemented in `analysis_tools`. Because this work is still in progress,

the ellipticity metrics reported here are calculated by `faro` in the same manner as previous versions of the Characterization Metric Report.

The metric calculation pipelines from `analysis_tools` were run on the three RC2 tracts to derive the photometry and astrometry metrics, and `faro` to calculate the shape metrics that are reported here. We exclude the two astrometry metrics (AM3 and AF3) that concern residuals on 200-arcminute scales, since the individual tracts of RC2 do not span large enough spatial scales to enable these measurements.

For comparison, we provide the [SRD](#) required “design” value of each Key Performance Metric (KPM) as defined in the Science Requirements Document [LPM-17]. For the ellipticity correlation metrics, there are specifications only for *r* and *i* bands. The *ugzy*-band measurements are of interest primarily for historical tracking.

Some KPMs (e.g., PF1, AF1, AF2) involve thresholds that are different for “design”, “minimum”, and “stretch” specifications. Metrics in this report are all compared to the “design” thresholds. The assessment of these KPMs would be different if evaluated against different thresholds.

## 1 Summary of performance metrics

As noted previously, we now report metrics calculated by the `analysis_tools` package, which improves upon the `faro` tools we had been previously using for calculation of data quality metrics. The plots in this Report include metrics from both `analysis_tools` and `faro` for historical continuity, but future data processing campaigns will not run the `faro` tasks. One significant change is evident when comparing the outputs of the two frameworks on the v26 dataset: in Figure 1, PF1 is much smaller as measured by `analysis_tools` than from `faro`. This is expected, as we discovered an error in the calculation that was fixed when porting the PF1 metric from `faro` to `analysis_tools` (see Jira ticket DM-39332 for details). The previous version had been calculating the outlier fraction relative to a fixed value of 15 mmag, while the metric is intended to be the fraction of outliers *more than 15 mmag from the median* photometric repeatability. The changes on DM-39332 have brought the PF1 metric’s calculation in line with the description in the DMSR, resulting in a value that is well beneath the design threshold for PF1.

As noted in the previous section, most of the changes between versions 27 and 28 of the

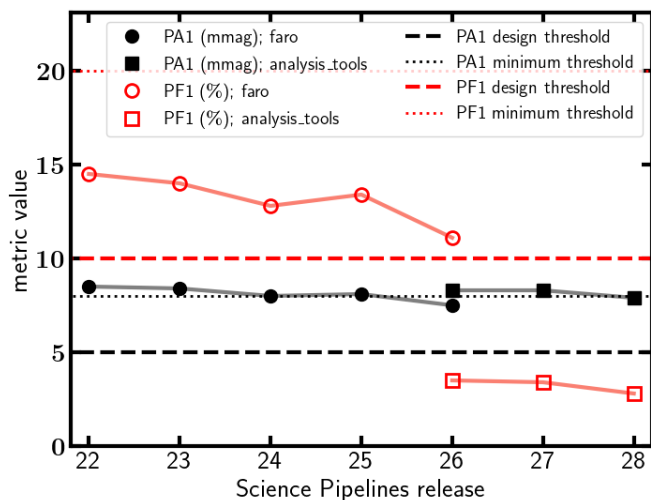


FIGURE 1: Photometry metrics PA1 (photometric repeatability) and PF1 (percentage of measurements exceeding the outlier threshold) measured in the  $r$ -band. The figure shows the values of these metrics as measured with `faro` in versions 22-26 of the LSST Science Pipelines as circles, compared against the SRD requirements (for both the “design” and “minimum” thresholds). The measurements from `analysis_tools` in versions 26-28 of the Science Pipelines are shown as squares. The measured values of both metrics show only minor changes between the two most recent releases (v27 and v28). The algorithm to calculate PA1 is unchanged between `faro` and `analysis_tools` (though because of differences in software architecture, it is expected that we would see minor differences in their outputs), and the metric differs by only a small offset between the two versions calculated in v26. However, while porting the PF1 metric to `analysis_tools`, we discovered an error in the method of calculation (see the text for details). Fixing this error reduced the value of PF1 significantly.

pipelines are minor, so the data quality metrics should also be similar. Indeed, the photometry metrics (Section 2) show slight improvements, and the astrometry metrics (Section 3) are virtually unchanged. The ellipticity correlation metrics (Section 4) show only a small difference between Release 27 and 28 for TE1 (median ellipticity residual correlations at 1 arcminute scales) and TE2 (5-arcminute scales).

## 2 Photometric Performance

These photometric performance metrics are defined in LSS-REQ-0093 (LSE-29) and Table 14 of LPM-17. Values in this table represent the mean of the results reported by `analysis_tools` for the three tracts in RC2.

Any entries left blank are those for which we do not have data in the given filter for that dataset.

Metric	Unit	SRD Re-requirement - Design	Release 27 Value (RC2)	Release 28 Value (RC2)	Comments
PA1: <i>u</i>	mmag	$\leq 7.5$	—	—	No data
PA1: <i>g</i>	mmag	$\leq 5.0$	7.9	7.8	
PA1: <i>r</i>	mmag	$\leq 5.0$	8.3	7.9	
PA1: <i>i</i>	mmag	$\leq 5.0$	8.7	8.1	
PA1: <i>z</i>	mmag	$\leq 7.5$	6.7	6.5	
PA1: <i>y</i>	mmag	$\leq 7.5$	7.3	6.9	
PF1: <i>u</i>	%	$\leq 20$	—	—	No data
PF1: <i>g</i>	%	$\leq 20$	4.4	4.2	
PF1: <i>r</i>	%	$\leq 10$	3.4	2.8	
PF1: <i>i</i>	%	$\leq 10$	2.8	1.9	
PF1: <i>z</i>	%	$\leq 20$	1.6	1.1	
PF1: <i>y</i>	%	$\leq 10$	2.2	1.7	

### 3 Astrometric Performance

The following metrics are defined following LSR-REQ-0094 [LSE-29] and Table 18 of LPM-17. Values in this table represent the mean of the results reported by `analysis_tools` for the three tracts in RC2.

Any entries left blank are those for which we do not have data in the given filter for that dataset.

Metric	Unit	SRD Re-requirement - Design	Release 27 Value (RC2)	Release 28 Value (RC2)	Comments
AM1: <i>u</i>	mas	$\leq 10$	—	—	No data
AM1: <i>g</i>	mas	$\leq 10$	5.2	5.2	
AM1: <i>r</i>	mas	$\leq 10$	4.6	4.6	
AM1: <i>i</i>	mas	$\leq 10$	4.1	4.1	



Metric	Unit	SRD Re- quirement - Design	Release 27 Value (RC2)	Release 28 Value (RC2)	Comments
AM1: <i>z</i>	mas	≤ 10	5.2	5.1	
AM1: <i>y</i>	mas	≤ 10	6.9	6.9	
AF1: <i>u</i>	%	≤ 10	—	—	No data
AF1: <i>g</i>	%	≤ 10	0.9	0.9	
AF1: <i>r</i>	%	≤ 10	0.8	0.8	
AF1: <i>i</i>	%	≤ 10	0.6	0.6	
AF1: <i>z</i>	%	≤ 10	0.6	0.6	
AF1: <i>y</i>	%	≤ 10	2.9	2.9	
AD1: <i>u</i>	mas	≤ 20	—	—	No data
AD1: <i>g</i>	mas	≤ 20	9.7	9.7	
AD1: <i>r</i>	mas	≤ 20	9.2	9.2	
AD1: <i>i</i>	mas	≤ 20	7.9	7.9	
AD1: <i>z</i>	mas	≤ 20	9.7	9.6	
AD1: <i>y</i>	mas	≤ 20	12.6	12.6	
AM2: <i>u</i>	mas	≤ 10	—	—	No data
AM2: <i>g</i>	mas	≤ 10	5.3	5.3	
AM2: <i>r</i>	mas	≤ 10	4.6	4.6	
AM2: <i>i</i>	mas	≤ 10	4.0	4.0	
AM2: <i>z</i>	mas	≤ 10	5.2	5.2	
AM2: <i>y</i>	mas	≤ 10	7.1	7.1	
AF2: <i>u</i>	%	≤ 10	—	—	No data
AF2: <i>g</i>	%	≤ 10	0.9	0.9	
AF2: <i>r</i>	%	≤ 10	0.8	0.8	
AF2: <i>i</i>	%	≤ 10	0.6	0.6	
AF2: <i>z</i>	%	≤ 10	0.7	0.7	
AF2: <i>y</i>	%	≤ 10	3.3	3.2	
AD2: <i>u</i>	mas	≤ 20	—	—	No data
AD2: <i>g</i>	mas	≤ 20	10.0	10.0	
AD2: <i>r</i>	mas	≤ 20	9.3	9.3	
AD2: <i>i</i>	mas	≤ 20	7.9	7.9	
AD2: <i>z</i>	mas	≤ 20	9.9	9.9	
AD2: <i>y</i>	mas	≤ 20	12.9	12.9	

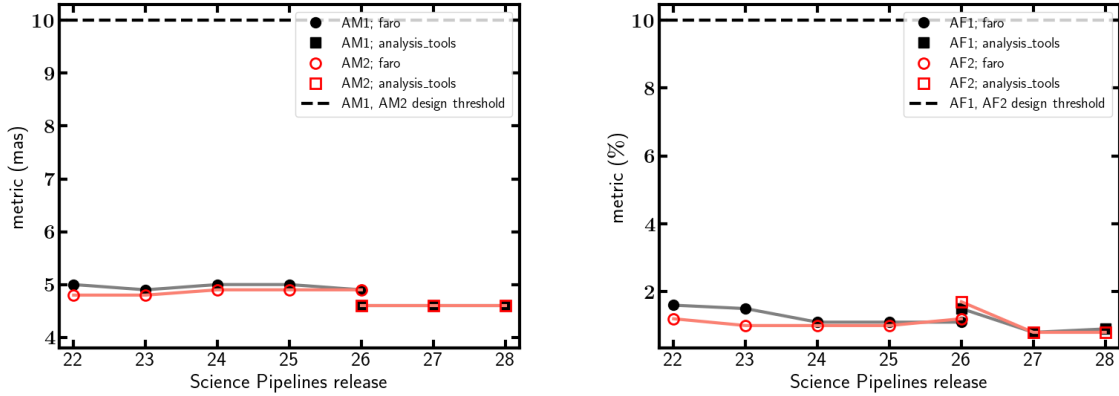


FIGURE 2: Astrometry metrics measured on  $r$ -band images compared over the past few major pipelines releases. The figure shows the values of these metrics as measured with `faro` in versions 22-26 of the LSST Science Pipelines as circles. The measurements from `analysis_tools` in versions 26-28 of the Science Pipelines are shown as squares. *Left*: Median astrometric measurement error on 5-arcminute scales (AM1) and 20-arcminute scales (AM2), compared against the SRD requirements (for the “design” thresholds; note that the thresholds for AM1 and AM2 are the same, and thus indistinguishable on the figure). *Right*: Fraction of astrometric measurements exceeding the outlier threshold on 5-arcminute (AF1) and 20-arcminute (AF2) scales, compared against the SRD requirements (for the “design” thresholds; note that the thresholds for AF1 and AF2 are the same, and thus indistinguishable on the figure). The measured values of the astrometric scatter metrics AM1 and AM2 were virtually unchanged between pipelines version 27 and v28, as were the outlier fractions AF1 and AF2.

## 4 Ellipticity Correlations

The following metrics are defined following LSR-REQ-0097 [LSE-29] and Table 27 of LPM-17. Values in this table represent the mean of the results reported by `faro` for the three tracts in RC2.

Any entries left blank are those for which we do not have data in the given filter for that dataset.

Metric	Unit	SRD Requirement – Design	Release 27 Value (RC2)	Release 28 Value (RC2)	Comments
TE1: $u$	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	—	—	No data
TE1: $g$	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$	
TE1: $r$	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$	

Metric	Unit	SRD Requirement - Design	Release 27 Value (RC2)	Release 28 Value (RC2)	Comments
TE1: <i>i</i>	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-5}$	
TE1: <i>z</i>	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-5}$	
TE1: <i>y</i>	—	$\leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.5 \times 10^{-5}$	
TE2: <i>u</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	—	—	No data
TE2: <i>g</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.6 \times 10^{-7}$	
TE2: <i>r</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	
TE2: <i>i</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.7 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.5 \times 10^{-7}$	
TE2: <i>z</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.1 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.6 \times 10^{-7}$	
TE2: <i>y</i>	—	$\leq 1 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	

## 5 Computational Performance

Computational performance metrics were not measured for this release.

### A References

- [1] **[DMTR-431]**, Carlin, J., 2024, Characterization Metric Report: Science Pipelines Version 27.0.0, URL <https://dmtr-431.lsst.io/>, Vera C. Rubin Observatory Data Management Test Report DMTR-431
- [2] **[LSE-29]**, Claver, C.F., The LSST Systems Engineering Integrated Project Team, 2017, LSST System Requirements (LSR), URL <https://ls.st/LSE-29>, Vera C. Rubin Observatory LSE-29
- [3] **[DMTN-211]**, Guy, L.P., 2022, Faro: A framework for measuring the scientific performance of petascale Rubin Observatory data products, URL <https://dmtn-211.lsst.io/>, Vera C. Rubin Observatory Data Management Technical Note DMTN-211
- [4] **[LPM-17]**, Ivezić, Ž., The LSST Science Collaboration, 2018, LSST Science Requirements

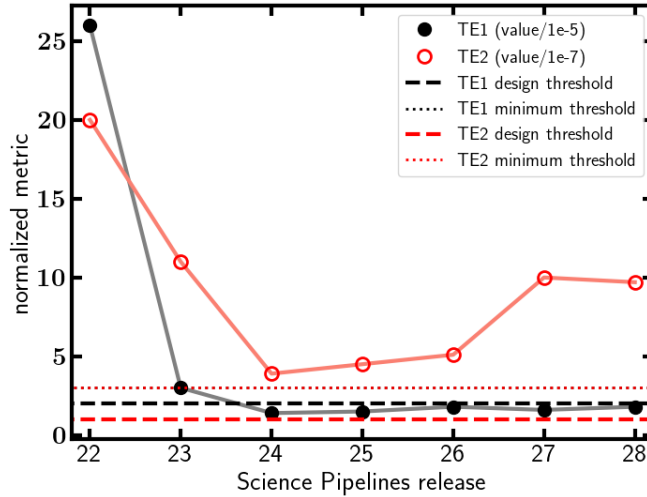


FIGURE 3: Median ellipticity residual correlations at 1-arcminute (TE1; normalized by a factor of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ ) and 5-arcminute (TE2; normalized by  $1 \times 10^{-7}$ ) scales, as measured on *r*-band images, compared over the past few major pipelines releases. Measurements are compared against the SRD requirements (for both the “design” and “minimum” thresholds; note that the normalized minimum thresholds for TE1 and TE2 are the same, and thus indistinguishable on the figure). TE1 and TE2 show only small changes between v27 and v28. At present, we don’t believe TE1 and TE2 are adequately capturing changes to our PSFs, so we are actively working on a revised definition of those metrics to be implemented in ‘analysis\_tools’.

Document, URL <https://ls.st/LPM-17>,  
 Vera C. Rubin Observatory LPM-17

## B Acronyms

Acronym	Description
DM	Data Management
DMSR	DM System Requirements; LSE-61
DMTN	DM Technical Note
DMTR	DM Test Report
HSC	Hyper Suprime-Cam
KPM	Key Performance Metric
LPM	LSST Project Management (Document Handle)
LSE	LSST Systems Engineering (Document Handle)
LSR	LSST System Requirements; LSE-29

LSS	Large Scale Structure
LSST	Legacy Survey of Space and Time (formerly Large Synoptic Survey Telescope)
PSF	Point Spread Function
SRD	LSST Science Requirements; LPM-17
SSP	Solar System Processing

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