

How to set the picomotor speeds

W. J. Tango

5 March 2007

1. Introduction

Whenever the picomotor controller is power-cycled it loses the current settings for the motor speeds. Since the default speeds are much faster than we normally use they have to be reset whenever there is a power failure, etc. A utility is now available that does this automatically.

2. “picoset”

To set the motor speeds, log on to `arthur` as `observer` and run the command `picoset` (it can be run from any directory). This will reset the motor speeds.

3. How to change the default speeds

Run the command
`sudoedit pico_defaults`

This will allow you to edit the file that contains the default settings. The file is pretty much self-explanatory. Note that lines beginning with `#` are comments. If a motor speed is set to zero it will be ignored. This is the case for most of the “C” motors, since only a few are actually used.

4. Error messages

If `wobble2` or `CAMCON` is running the picomotor driver will be busy and `picoset` will generate an error message. Moral: do not run `picoset` when the tip-tilt controller is active.

Other errors may occur; before reporting a fault make sure that you are logged on as `observer`. If you use “`su`” to temporarily log on as `observer` make sure you use the `-l` option; i.e., run the command

```
su -l observer
```

If you don’t do this you will not have all of `observer`’s privileges.