assume errors on these magnitudes of $\sim$0.03 for ratings of 1 and 2, and $\sim$0.1 for ratings of 3 and 4.

The probability that the differential magnitudes for a given QSO are consistent with a constant flux is defined as P. The base ten logarithms of these probabilities, log(P), are given in columns 4 and 11. Due to the problem of applying a conventional χ^2 statistic to non-normal error distributions, these numbers should *not* be considered as a literal probability, but rather as a general measure of the significance of the observed time variability. In order to determine a cutoff between a detection or non-detection of time variability these numbers should be compared to the probabilities of the star light curves presented in figure 7-10. Based on this, we consider any QSO to have *probable* detected variability if $\log(P) \lesssim -3$.

The number of epochs (NE) (*i.e.* observing runs) for which there exists data is shown in columns 5 and 12. The number of epochs and the maximum timespan (in years) between epochs (ΔT, shown in column 6) are important since they will affect whether a QSO has detected variability, since the timespan for variability in optically selected QSOs is typically 1 to 2 years (*cf.* Cristiani *et al.* 1990 and Giallongo *et al.* 1991), which is close to the maximum timespan of our project.

Column 7 shows the weighted-root-mean-square (RMS) of all (Lick) epochs and columns 8 and 13 show the maximum deviation (Δmag) between any two epochs in magnitudes. The RMS is probably affected by the non-uniformity of the sampling over time since we expect that month-to-month magnitudes are more correlated than year-to-year magnitudes. The maximum deviations are probably affected by the maximum timespan (ΔT) and the the possibility of spurious data points.

The median errors (ME) in the differential magnitude are given in column 9 and 14. This shows the typical precision for each object which is generally correlated with the brightness of the QSO. There is also a bias towards particularly interesting QSOs; for example, CSO 203 (which has shown BAL variability) has a somewhat lower median error than other QSOs of comparable magnitude.