

A photograph of two large radio telescope dishes at night. The dish on the left is illuminated from below, casting a bright glow. The dish on the right is in shadow. The sky is dark with visible stars and some light trails from clouds. The text "Introduction to mm-Interferometry" is overlaid in white.

Introduction to mm- Interferometry

ALMA Day, Apr 29, 2010

Andreani, Arnaboldi, Bacciotti, Beltran, Benedettini, Benvenuti, Bettoni, Brand, Casasola, Caselli, Casu, Cesaroni, Cimatti, Clemens, Codella, Coffey, Comito, Crapsi, Cristiani, Danese, Danziger, de Ruiter, De Zotti, D'Odorico, Felli, Ferrara, Fontani, Franceschini, Frontera, Furuya, Gallerani, Galletta, Galli, Gavazzi, Gentile, Gervasi, Gregorini, Habart, Hunt, Isella, Kawakatu, Leone, Lopez-Sepulcre, Mack, Magliocchetti, Maiolino, Mazzotta, Melchiorri, Molinari, Molendi, Molinari, Moscadelli, Murgia, Nagao, Nagar, Natta, Navarrini, Olmi, Paladino, Palla, Parma, Polletta, Pompei, Porceddu, Prandoni, Salucci, Santangelo, Scappini, Scodeggio, Sironi, Spinelli, Tarchi, Tartari, Testi, Tofani, Trigilio, Umana, Verley, Vig, Vigotti, Viti, Walmsley, Zannoni, Zucconi



have observed with the IRAM array (or hoped to) !

Interferometer Science @ PdB

Science Drivers 2005 >	Allocated Time	Keyword
Galaxies @ high-z : LBG, SMM, ERO, RG	30%	"CSF history"
Nearby Galaxies : Spirals, (U)LIRGs	30%	"dynamics + structure"
YSO : Prestellar Clouds → T-Tauri Stars	30%	"SF + evolution"
Evolved Stars	5%	"mass loss"
Chemistry, Solar System, ...	5%	

VLBI	10 days	
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mm-interferometry ...

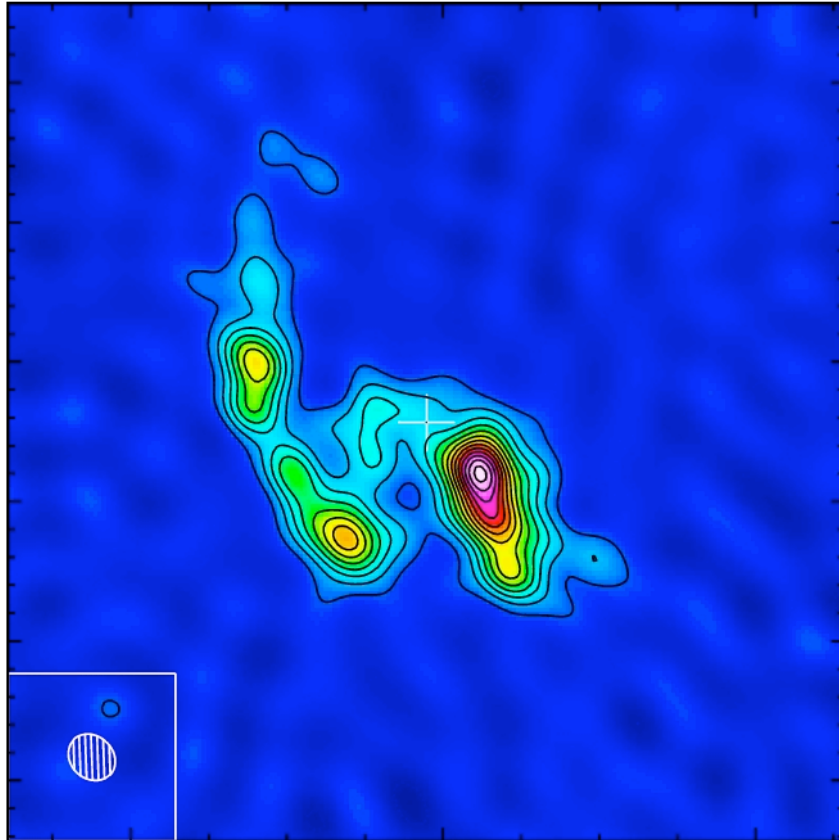


... not anymore in a proof-of-concept stage



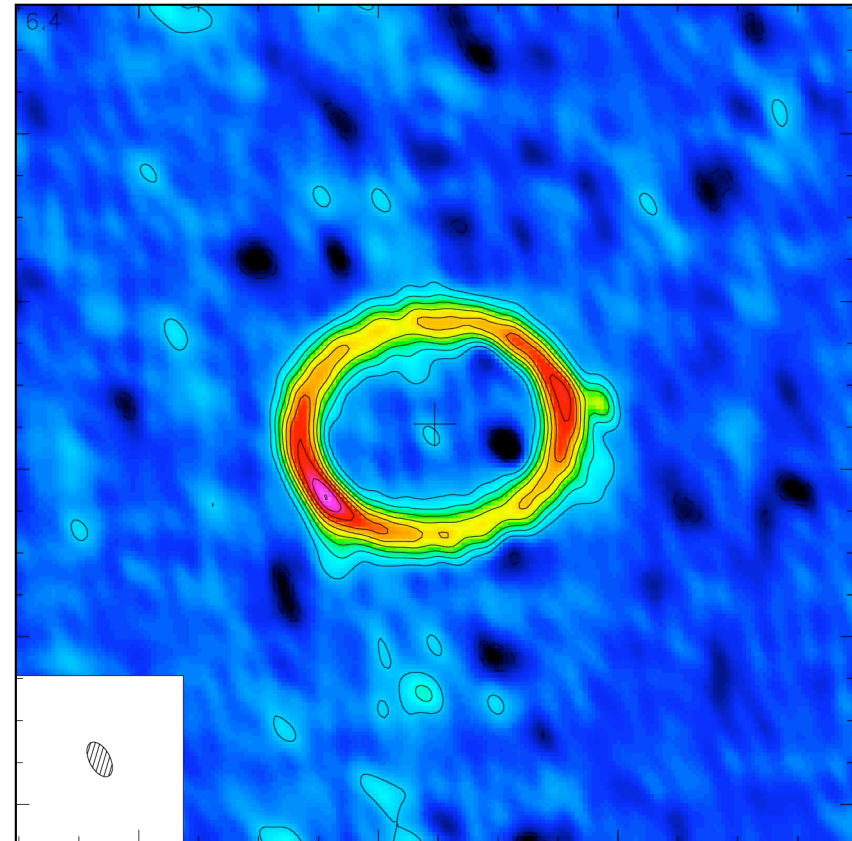
... belongs to mainstream science

IC 342 @ 146 GHz



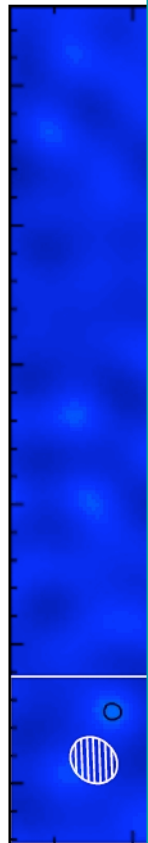
Rodriguez/Schinnerer et al. in prep.

GG Tau @ 267 GHz



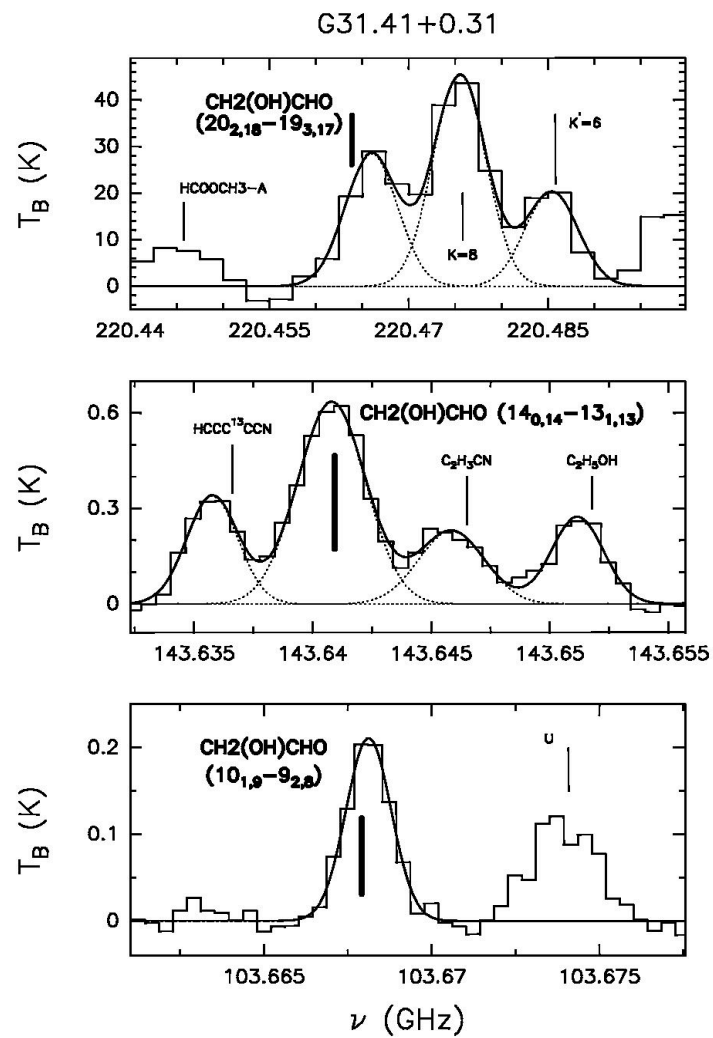
Piétu et al. in prep.

IC 3

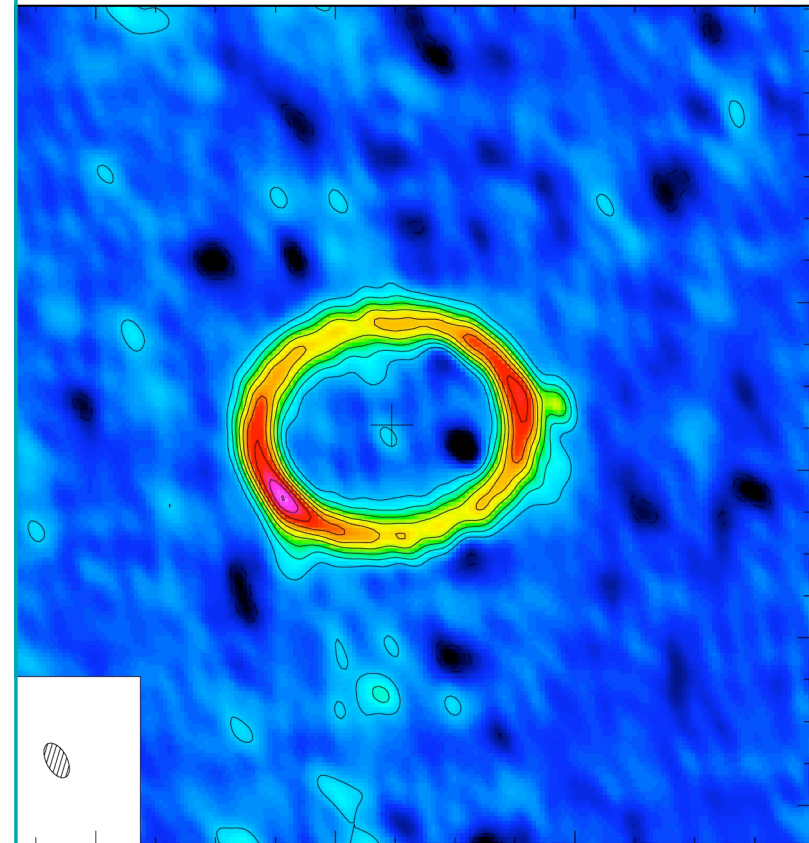


Rodr
prep.

Beltran et al. 2009

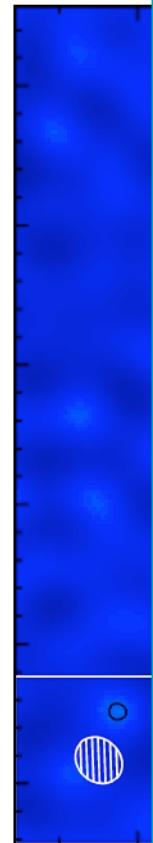


GG Tau @ 267 GHz

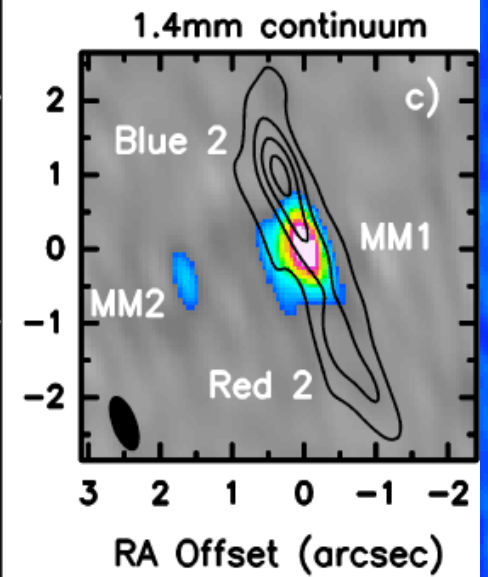
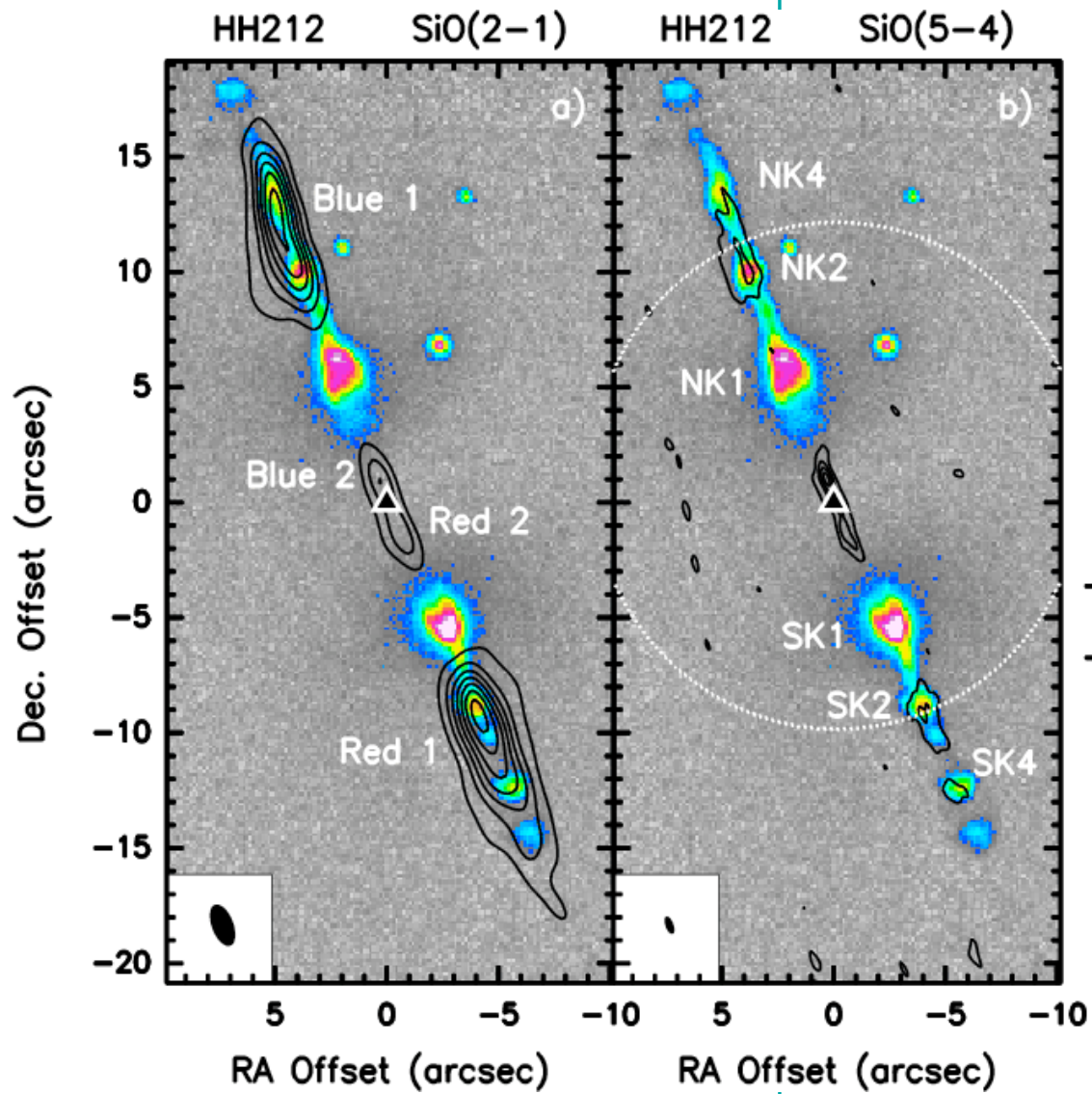


étu et al. in prep.

IC 3

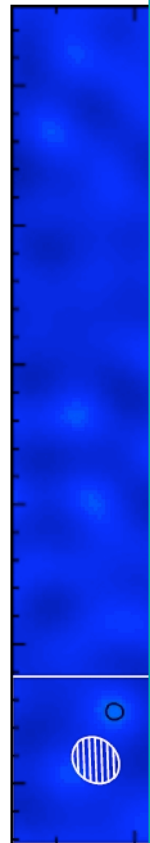


Rodr
prep.

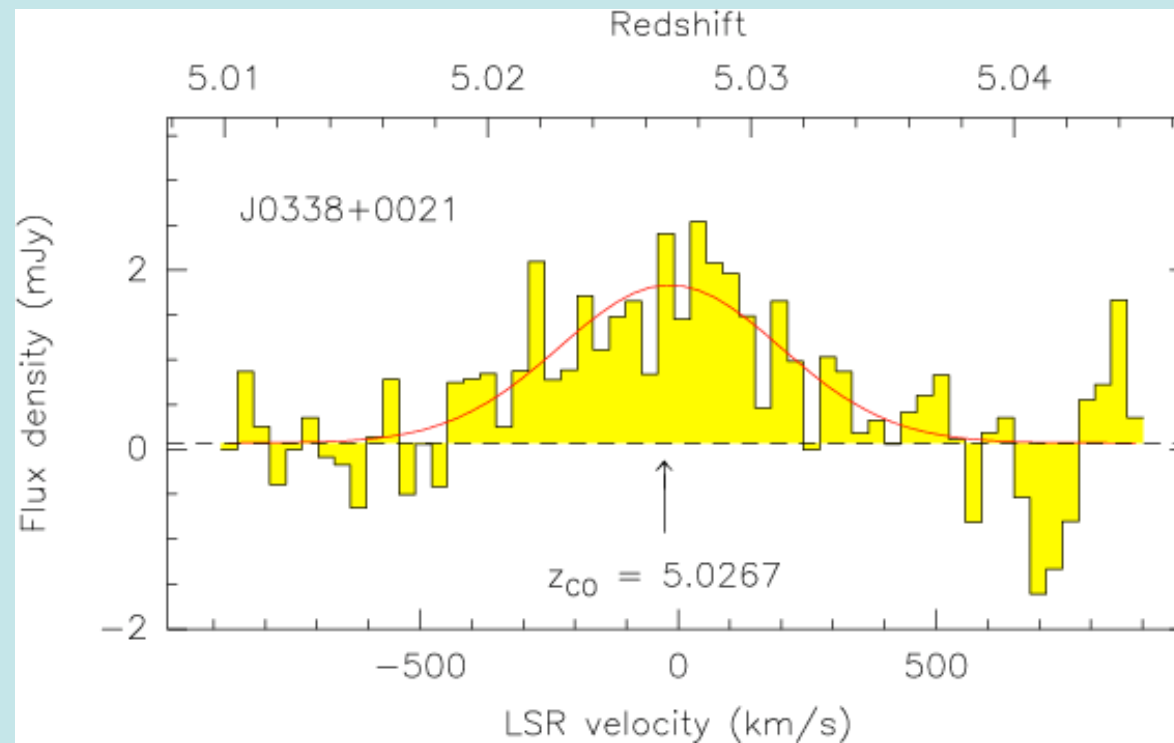
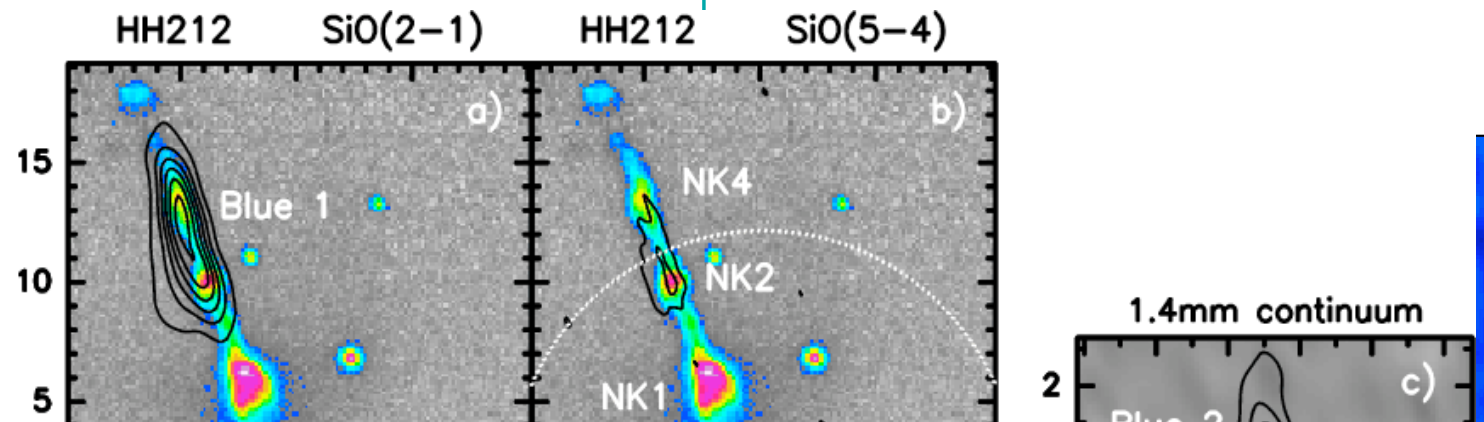


Codella et al. 2007

IC 3



Rodr
prep.



Maiolino et
al. 2007

Interferometer Basics

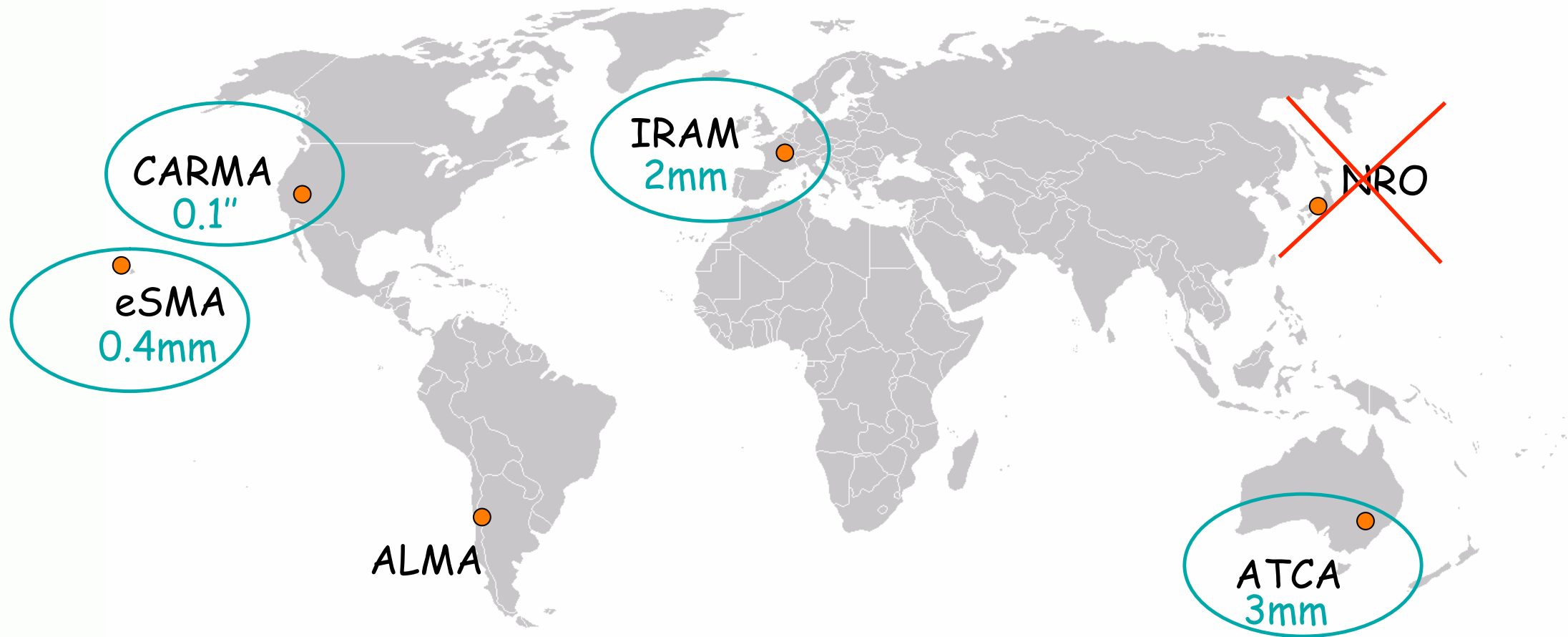
All you need as an observer:

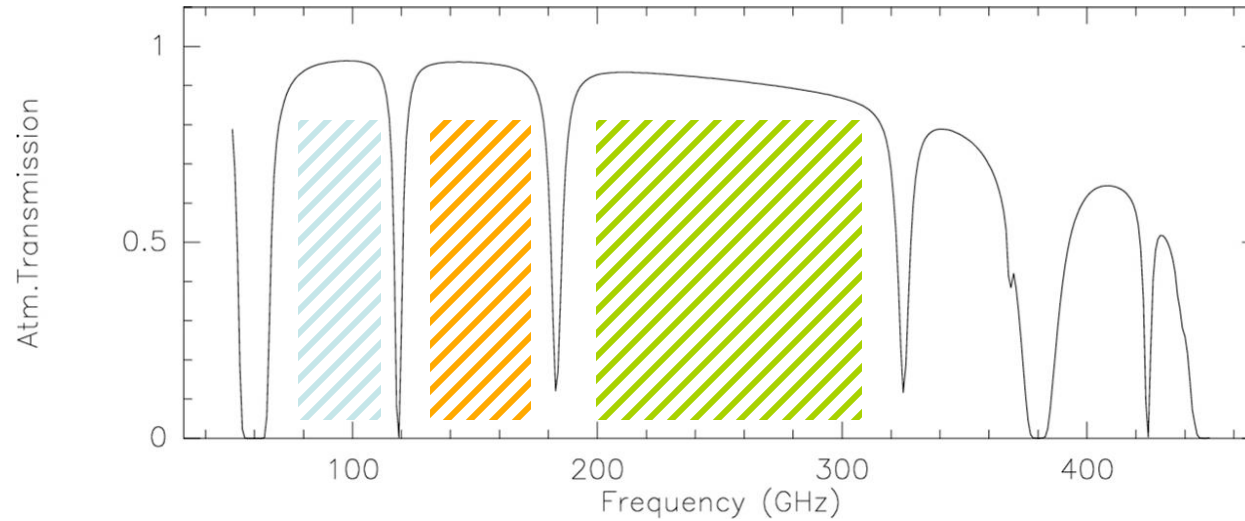
- the appropriate interferometer
- one or more configuration(s)
- the noise equation

(sub)mm-interferometers worldwide



(sub)mm-interferometers worldwide

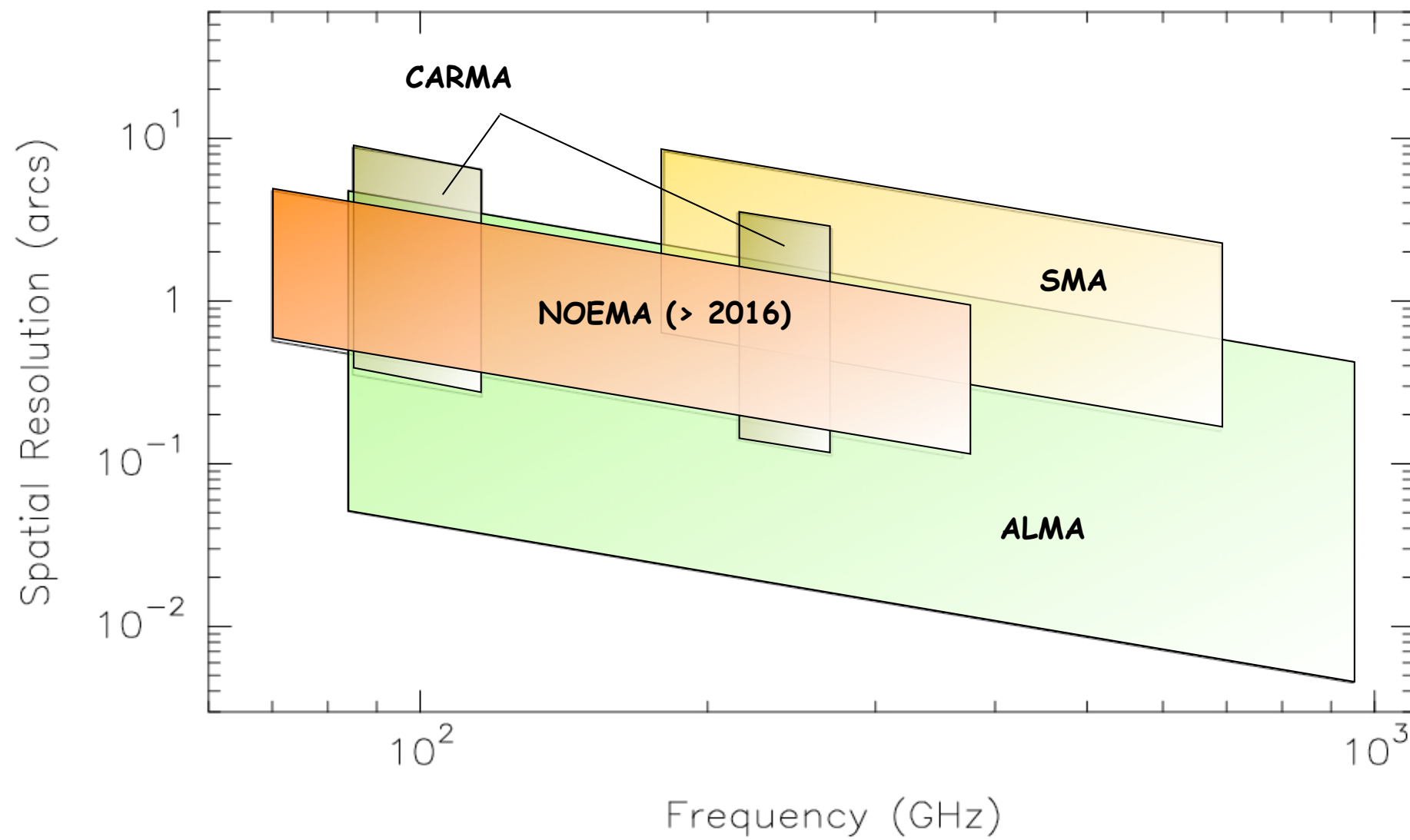




3mm = 100 GHz 2mm = 150 GHz 1mm = 300 GHz

Interferometer	Atmospheric window	Ang.Resolution
ATCA	3mm	1.6"
PdBI	3mm, 2mm, 1mm, 0.8mm	0.25"
eSMA	1mm, 0.8mm, 0.4mm	(0.15")
CARMA	3mm 1mm	(0.1")

Large differences !

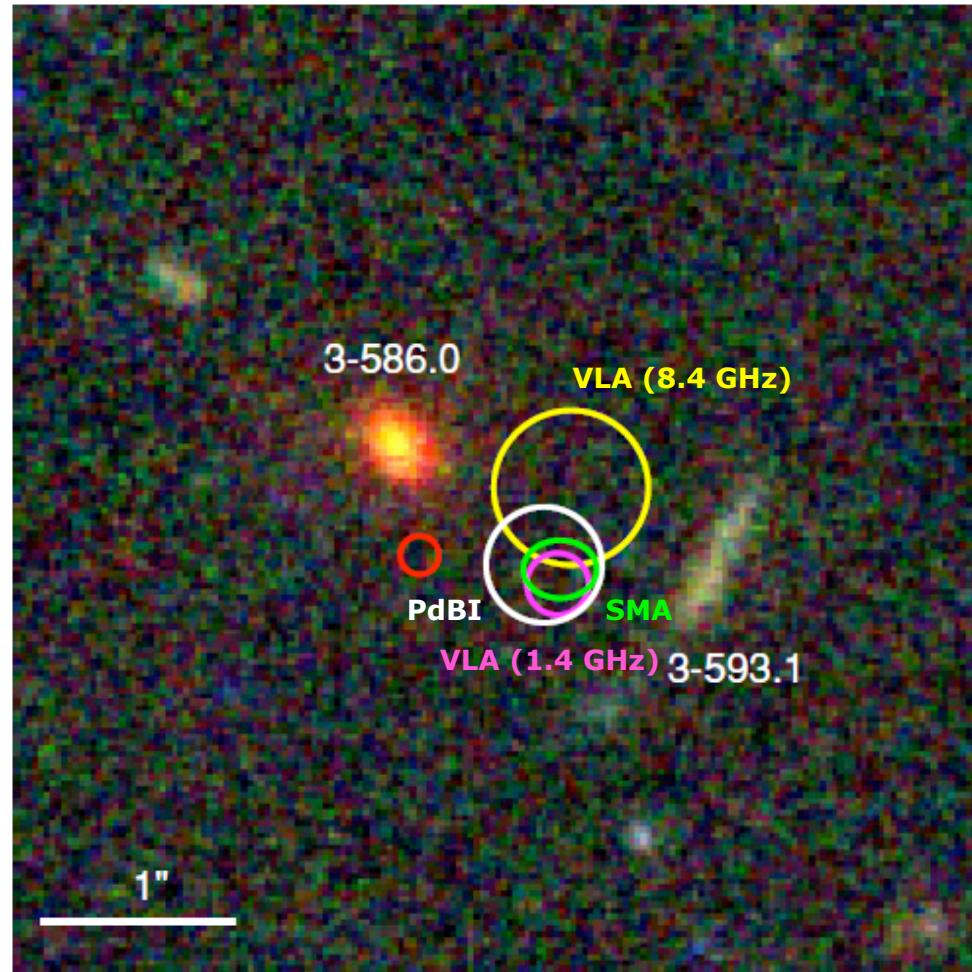


Interferometer Basics

All you need as an observer:

- the appropriate interferometer
- one or more configuration(s)
- the noise equation

HDF850.1 (Cowie et al. 2009)



⇒ mm-astronomy calls for positional accuracy

Single-Dish limitations

1. angular resolution : $\sim 1/D$

Need to

1. increase diameter
2. increase the pointing accuracy
3. keep a high surface quality

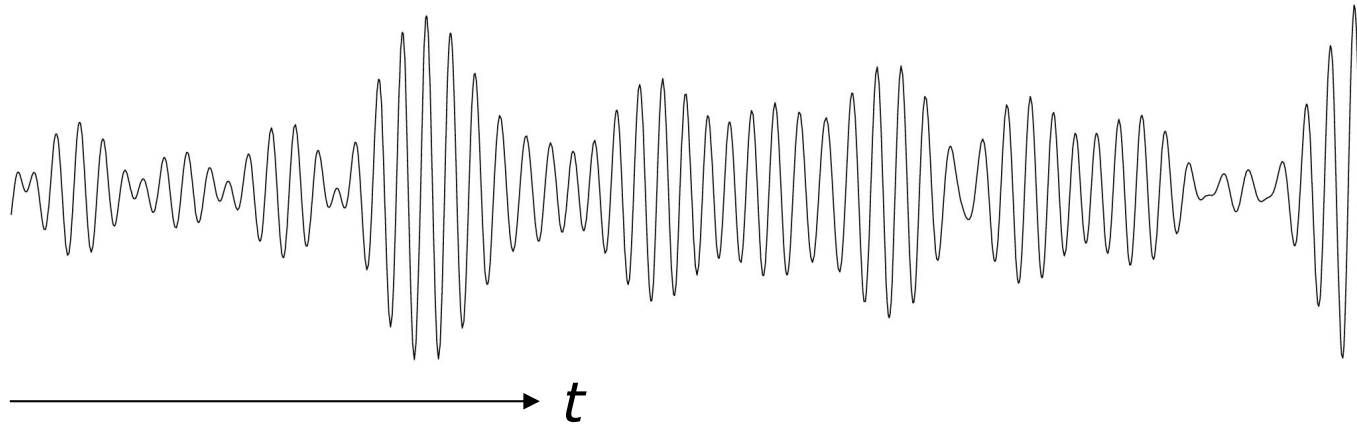


Single-Dish	Angular resolution @ 1mm
CSO 10m	24"
IRAM 30m	9"
LMT 50m	6"



the power of interferometers

Temporal coherence function

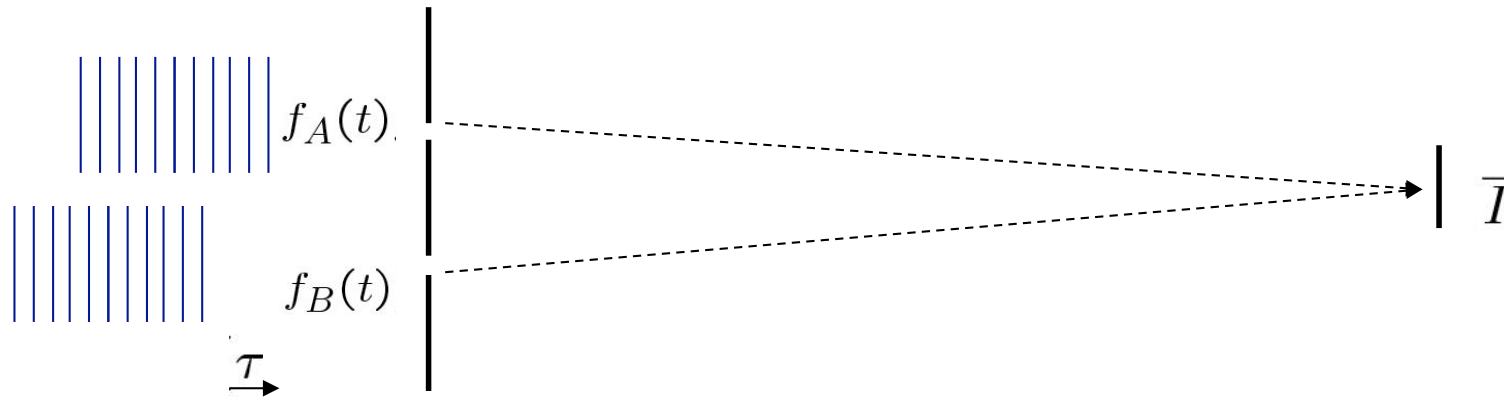


Correlation coefficient:

$$\gamma(\tau) = f(t)f^*(t + \tau) / \overline{|f(t)|^2}$$

$$f(t) = Ae^{i\omega t} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \gamma(\tau) = e^{-i\omega\tau} \quad \Rightarrow \quad |\gamma(\tau)| = 1$$

Temporal coherence



Correlation coefficient:

$$\gamma_{AB} = f_A(t) f_B^*(t + \tau) / (\overline{|f_A(t)|^2} \overline{|f_B(t)|^2})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

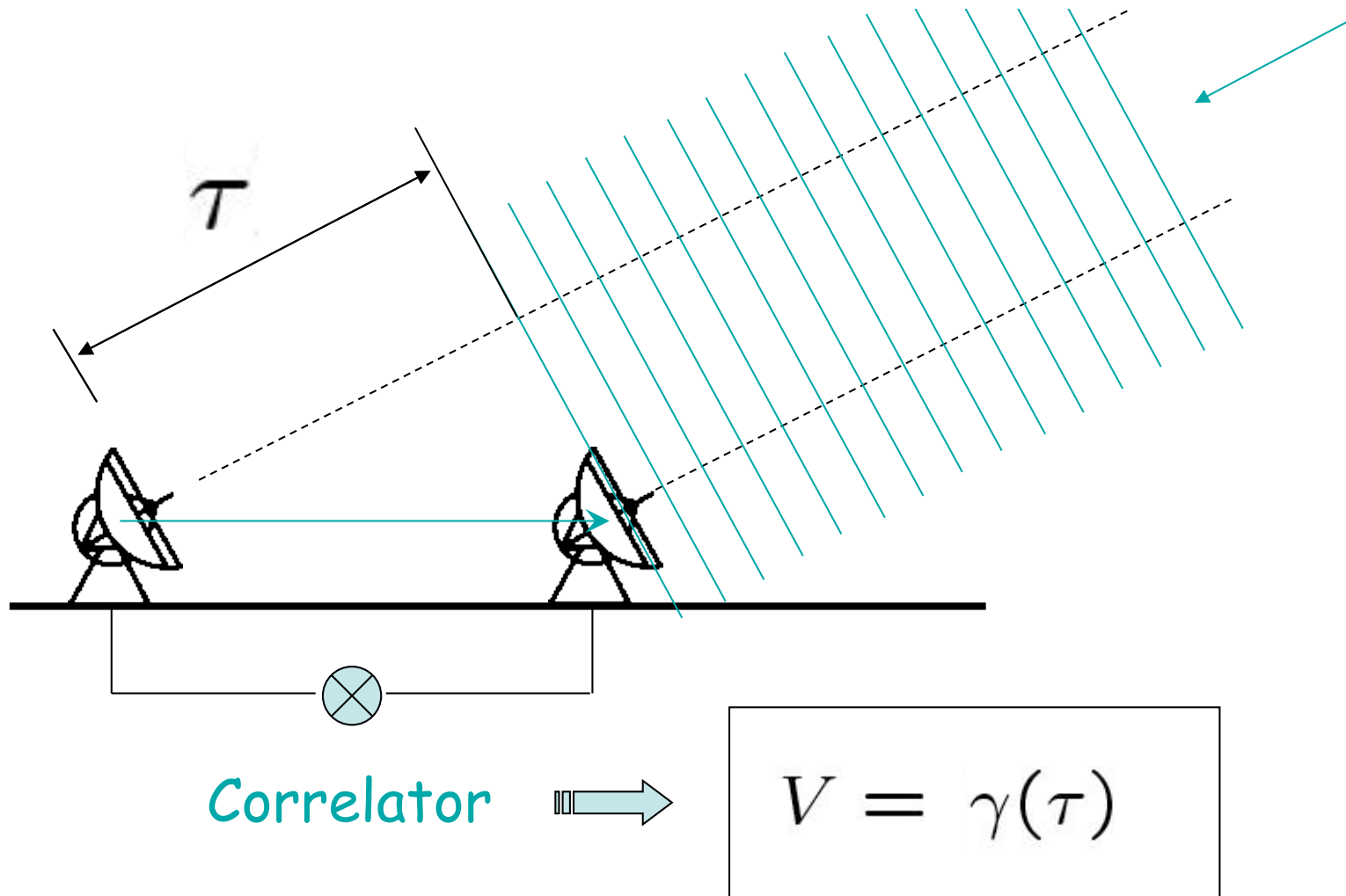
$$V = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}} = 2|\gamma_{AB}|(\bar{I}_A \bar{I}_B)^{\frac{1}{2}} / (\bar{I}_A + \bar{I}_B)$$

$$\bar{I}_A = \bar{I}_B$$



$$V = |\gamma_{AB}|$$

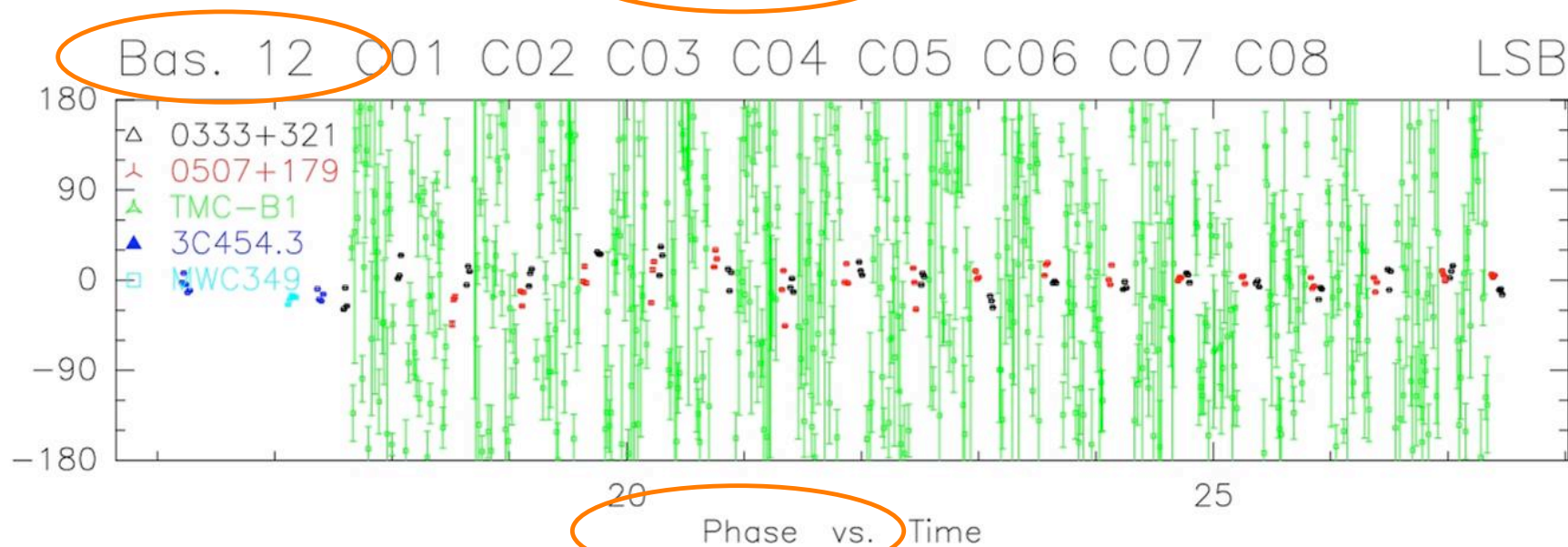
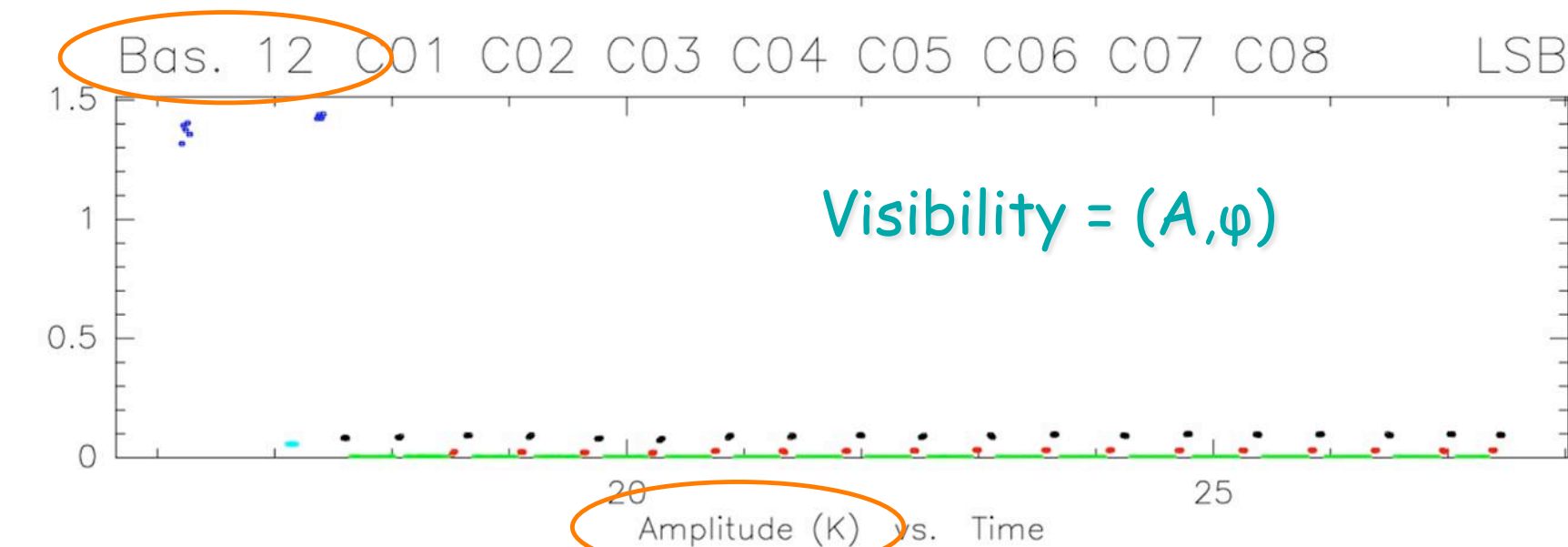
An interferometer
measures the temporal coherence of the
incoming wavefront



RF: Uncal.
Am: Abs.
Ph: Abs.

CLIC - 27-NOV-2009 15:28:54 - neri W12W09E10N17N11E04 6Cq
T003 HCO+(1-0 89.189GHz B1 Q3(20,40,320,320)V Q3(20,40,320,320)H
(56 17 P CORR)-(1057 836 P CORR) 25-NOV-2009 16:12-03:27

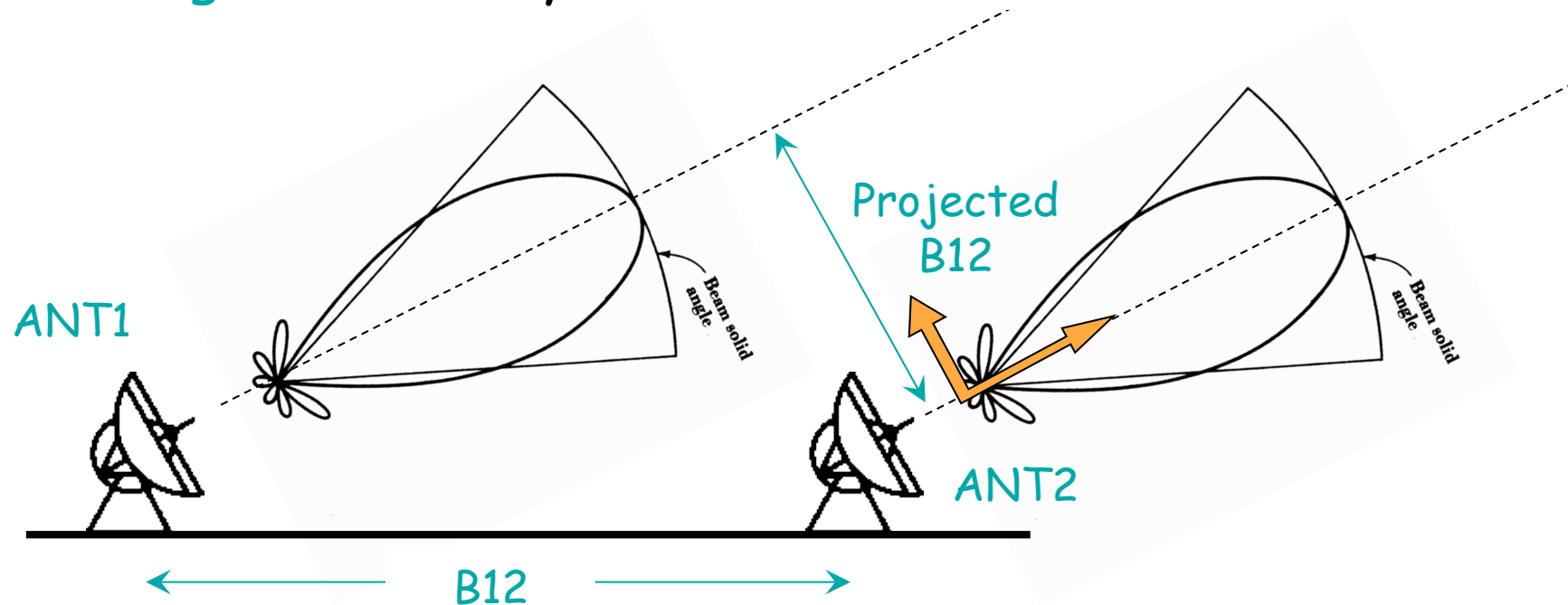
Scan Avg.

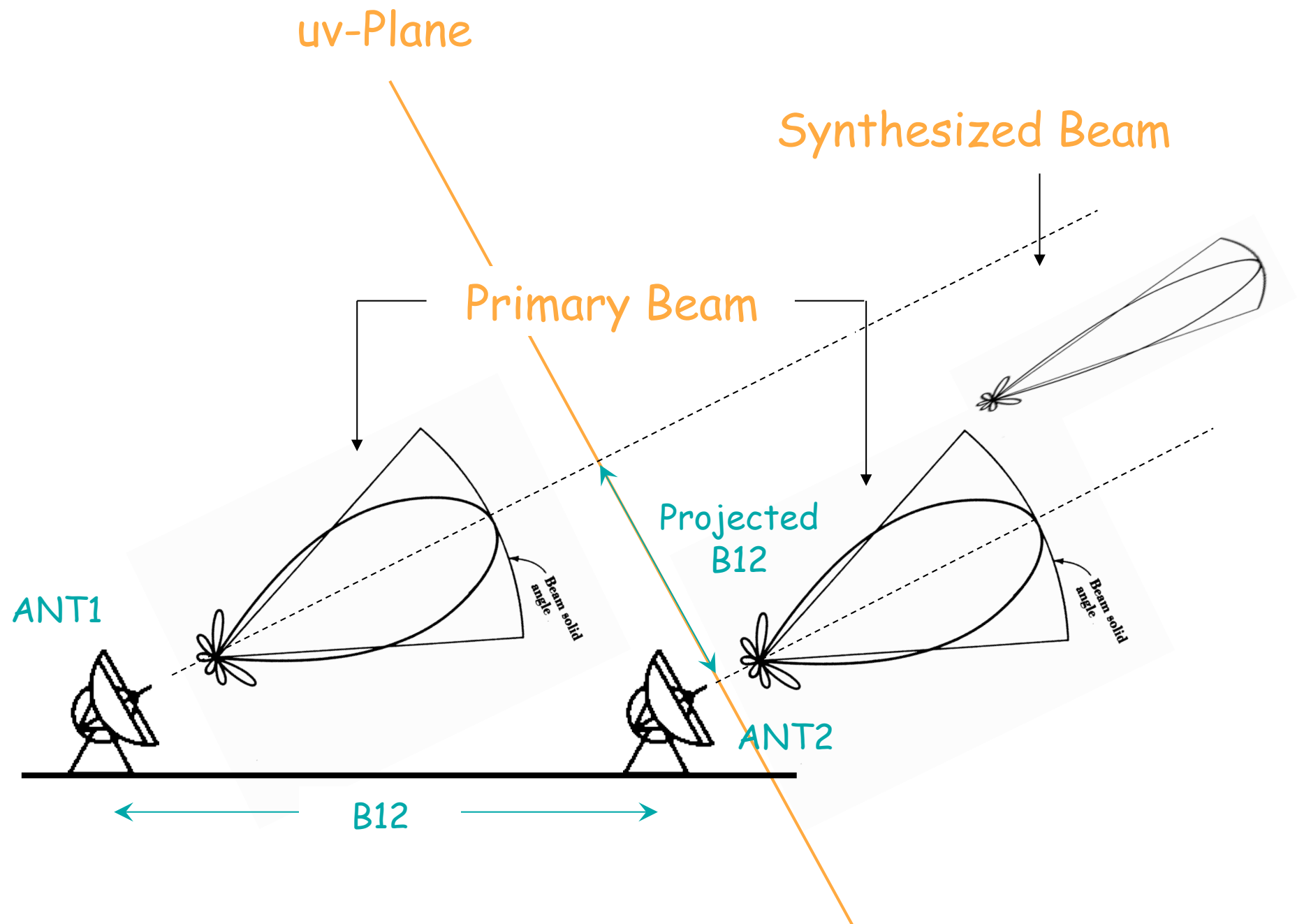


Baseline B_{ij} : distance between two antennas

Projected Baseline B_{ij} : distance between two antennas as seen from the sky

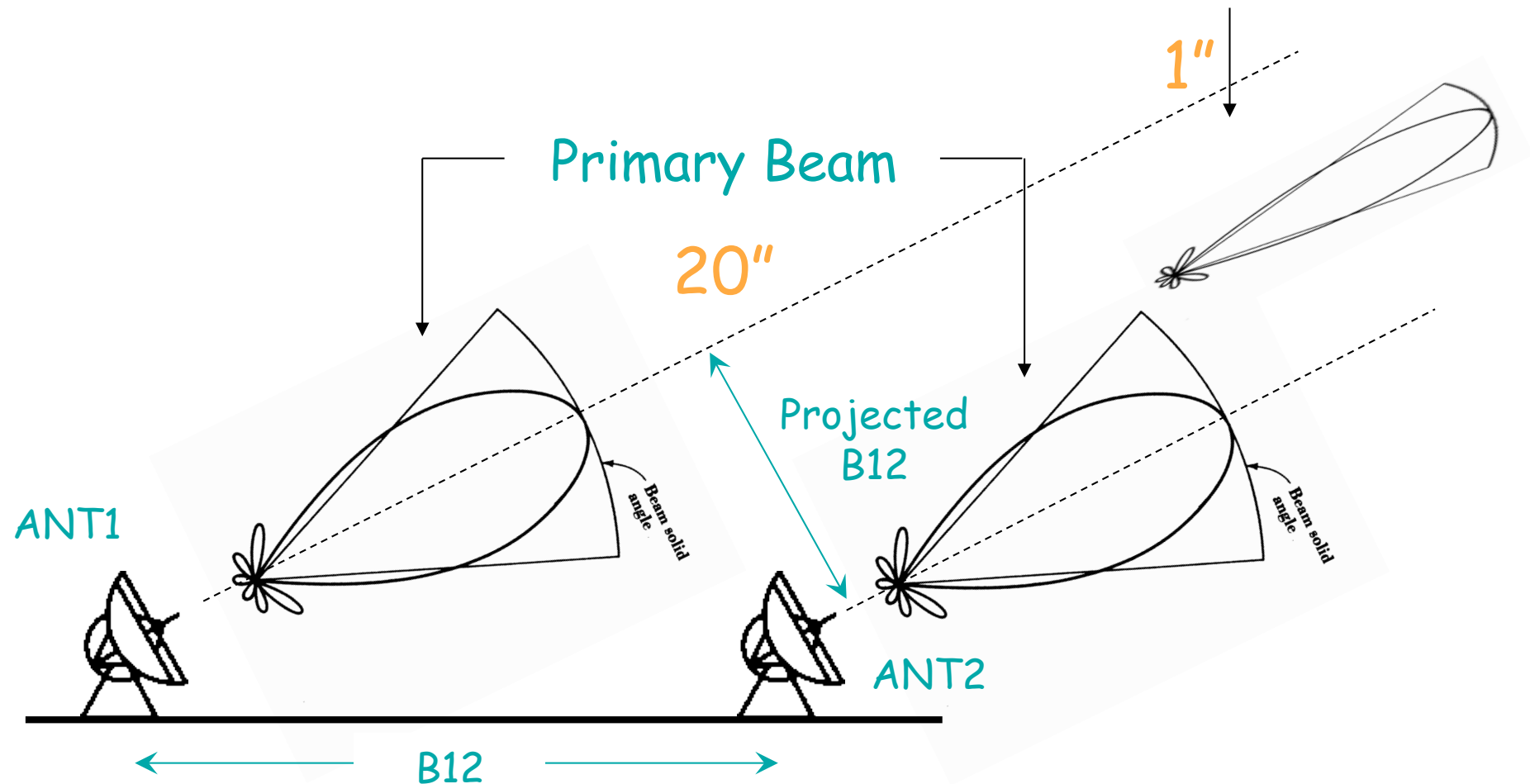
Configuration : layout of the antenna stations





Plateau de Bure @ 1mm

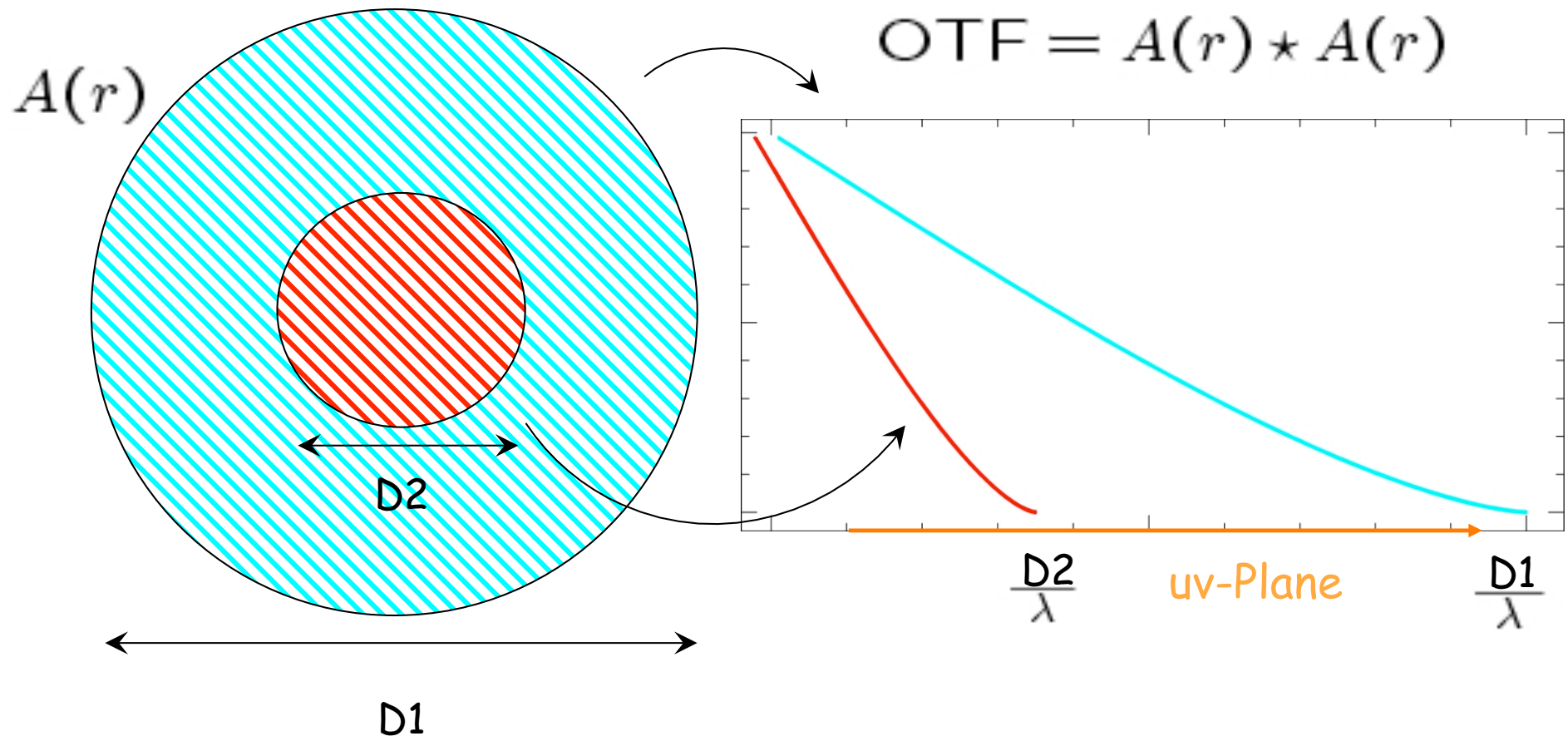
Synthesized Beam

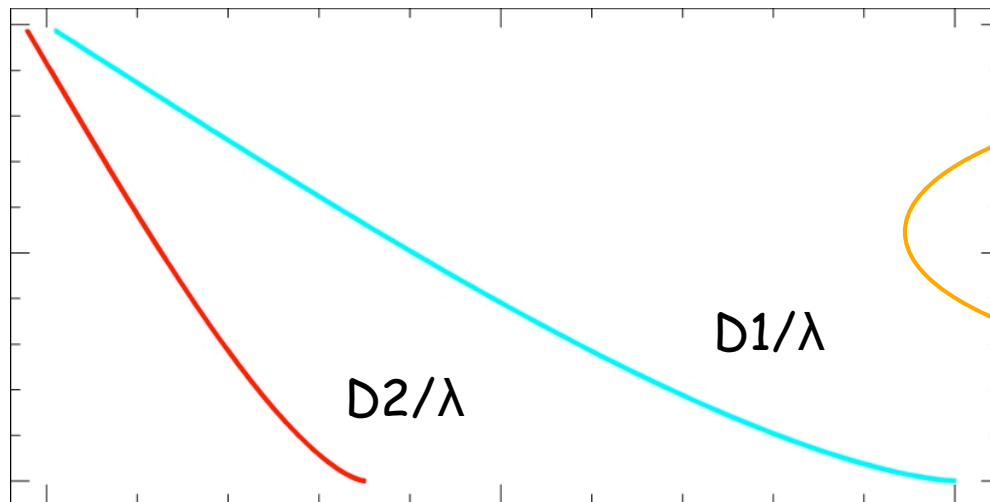


C configuration = 200m

The ideal lens (or antenna)

samples all spatial frequencies up to D/λ - the lower frequencies are favored

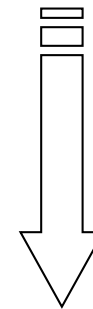




Spatial Frequency (= uv-plane)

weighting function

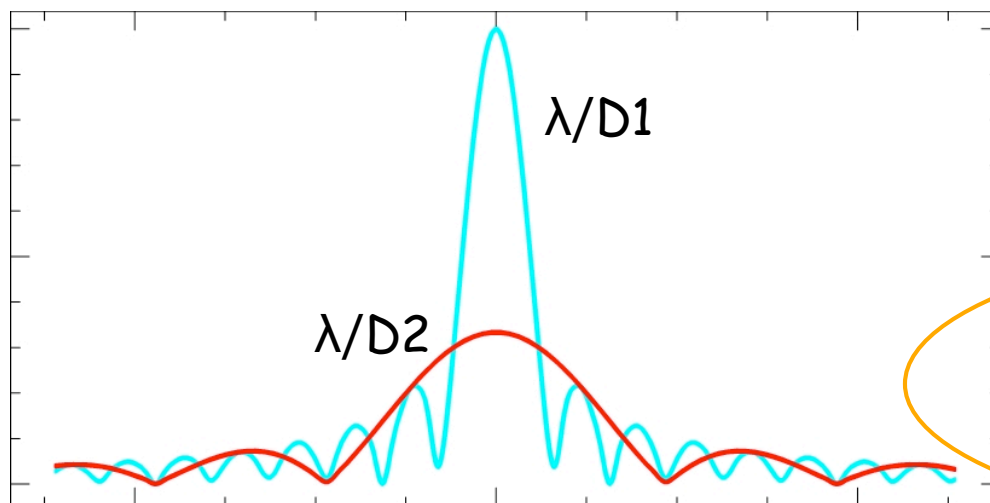
$$OTF = A(r) \star A(r)$$



$$PSF = FFT(OTF)$$

$$= |FFT(A(r))|^2$$

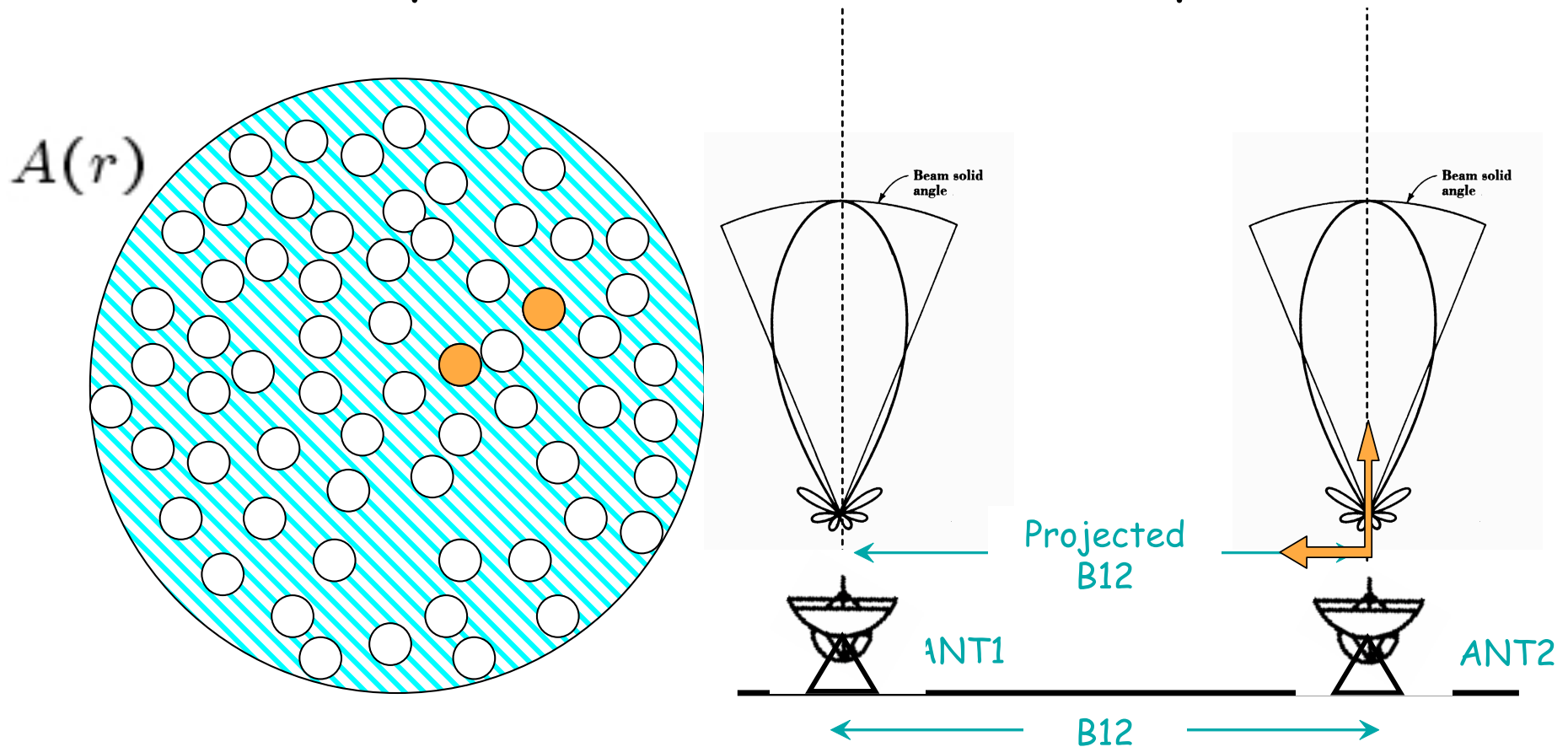
primary beam



Spatial resolution

Interferometry or Aperture Synthesis

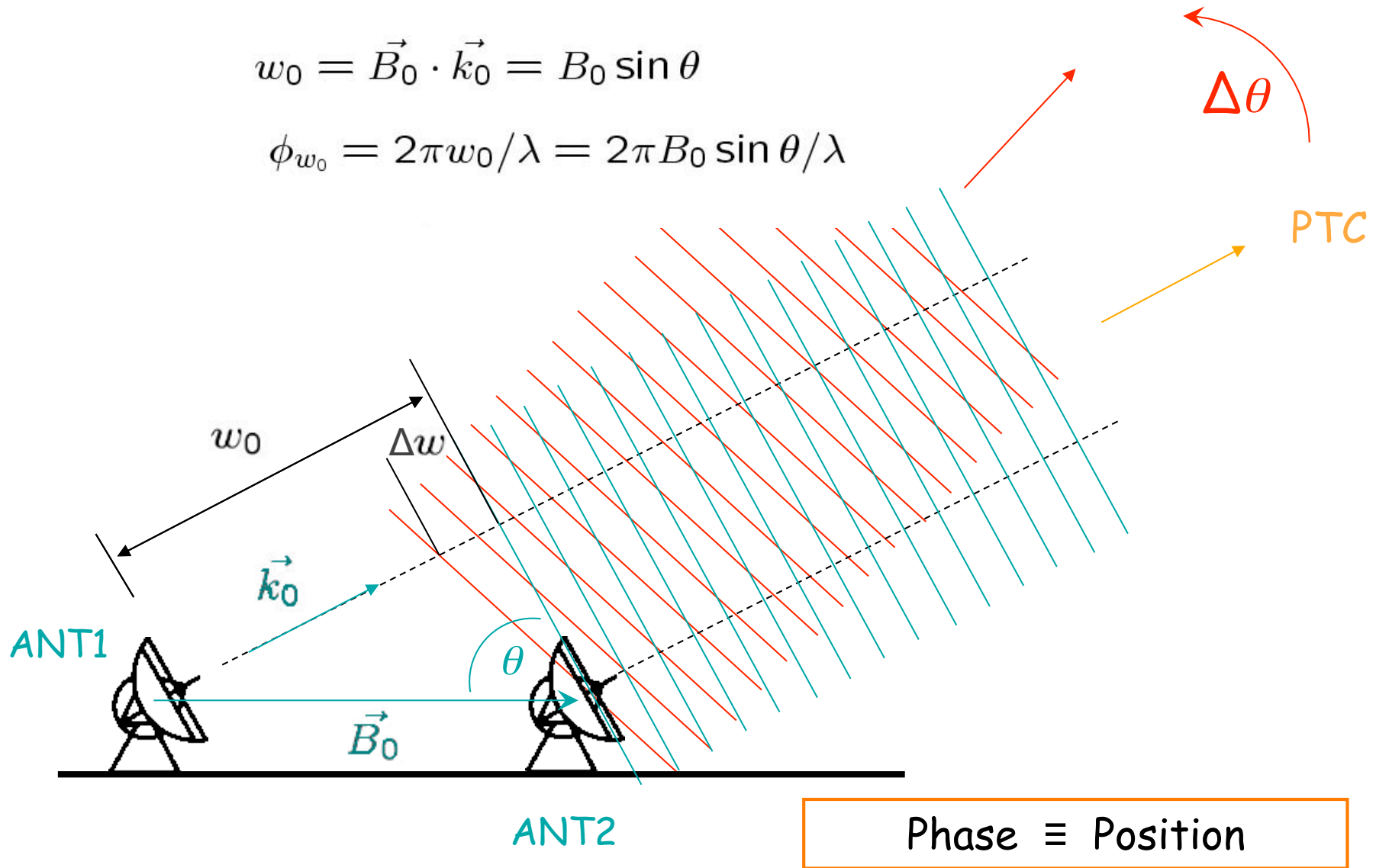
is the technique by which a large telescope is replaced by a number of smaller telescopes



The phase equation

$$w_0 = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_0 = B_0 \sin \theta$$

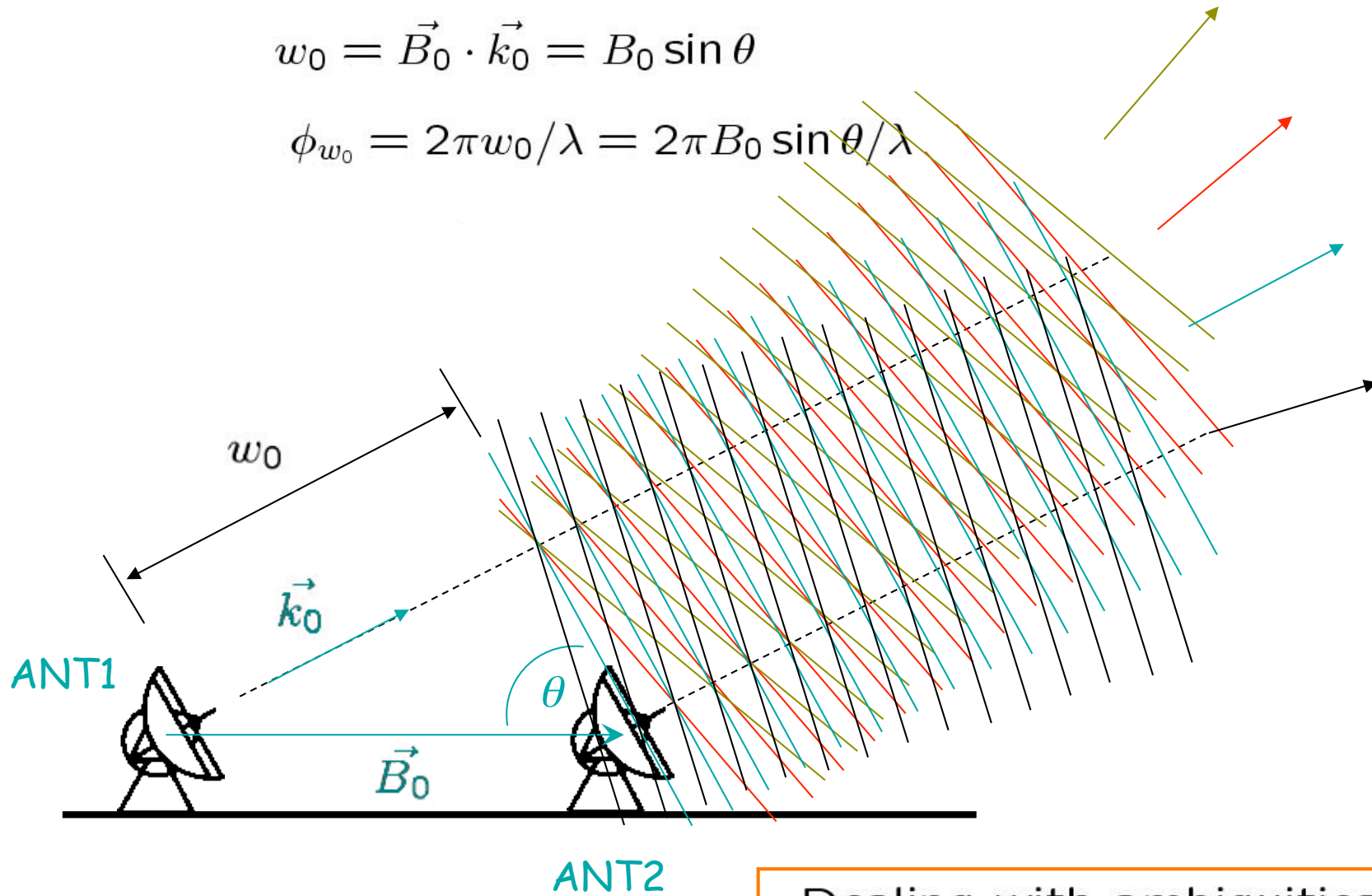
$$\phi_{w_0} = 2\pi w_0 / \lambda = 2\pi B_0 \sin \theta / \lambda$$



The phase equation

$$w_0 = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_0 = B_0 \sin \theta$$

$$\phi_{w_0} = 2\pi w_0 / \lambda = 2\pi B_0 \sin \theta / \lambda$$



Dealing with ambiguities ...

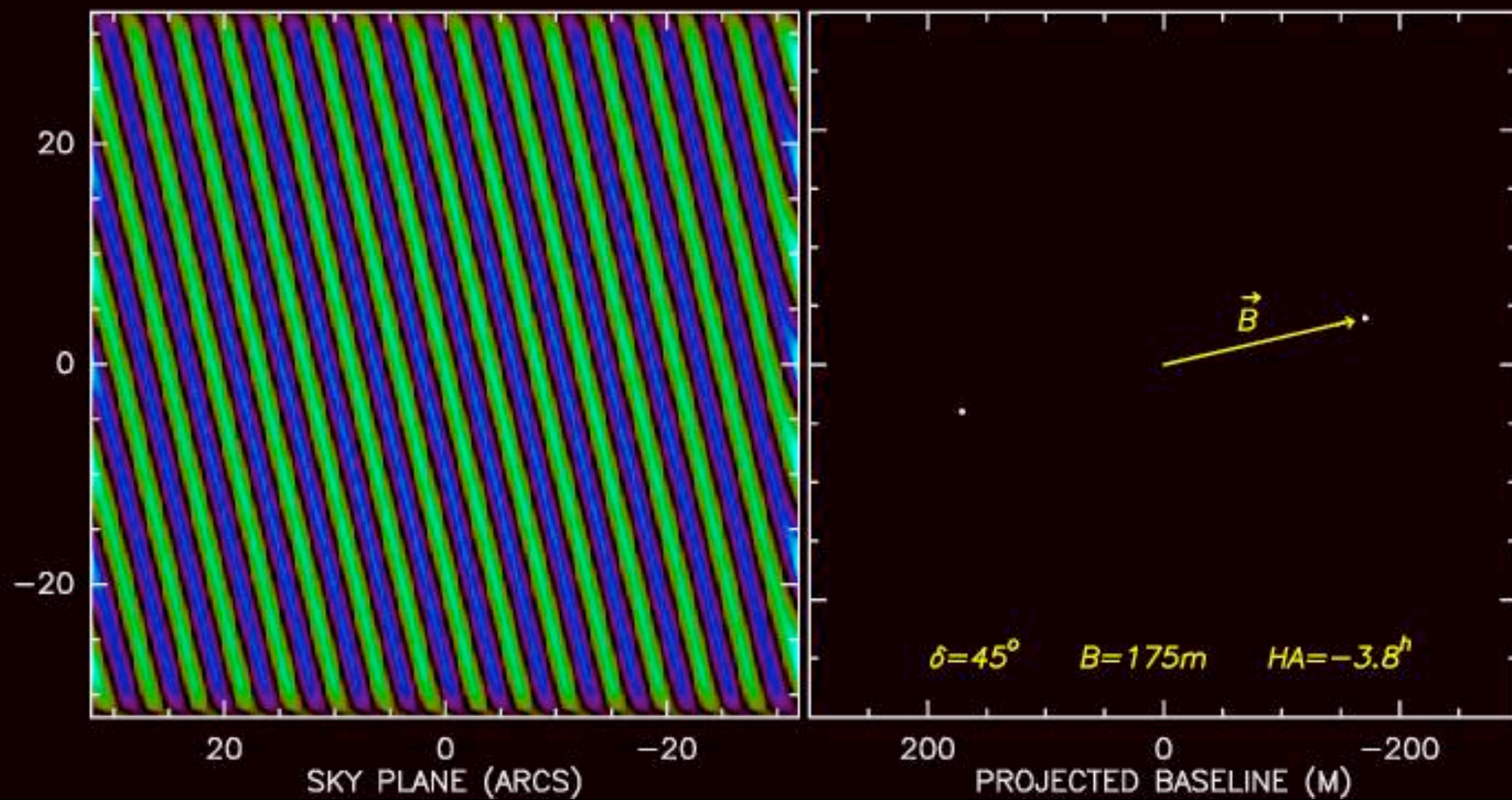
Dealing with $\omega_0 = \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_0$

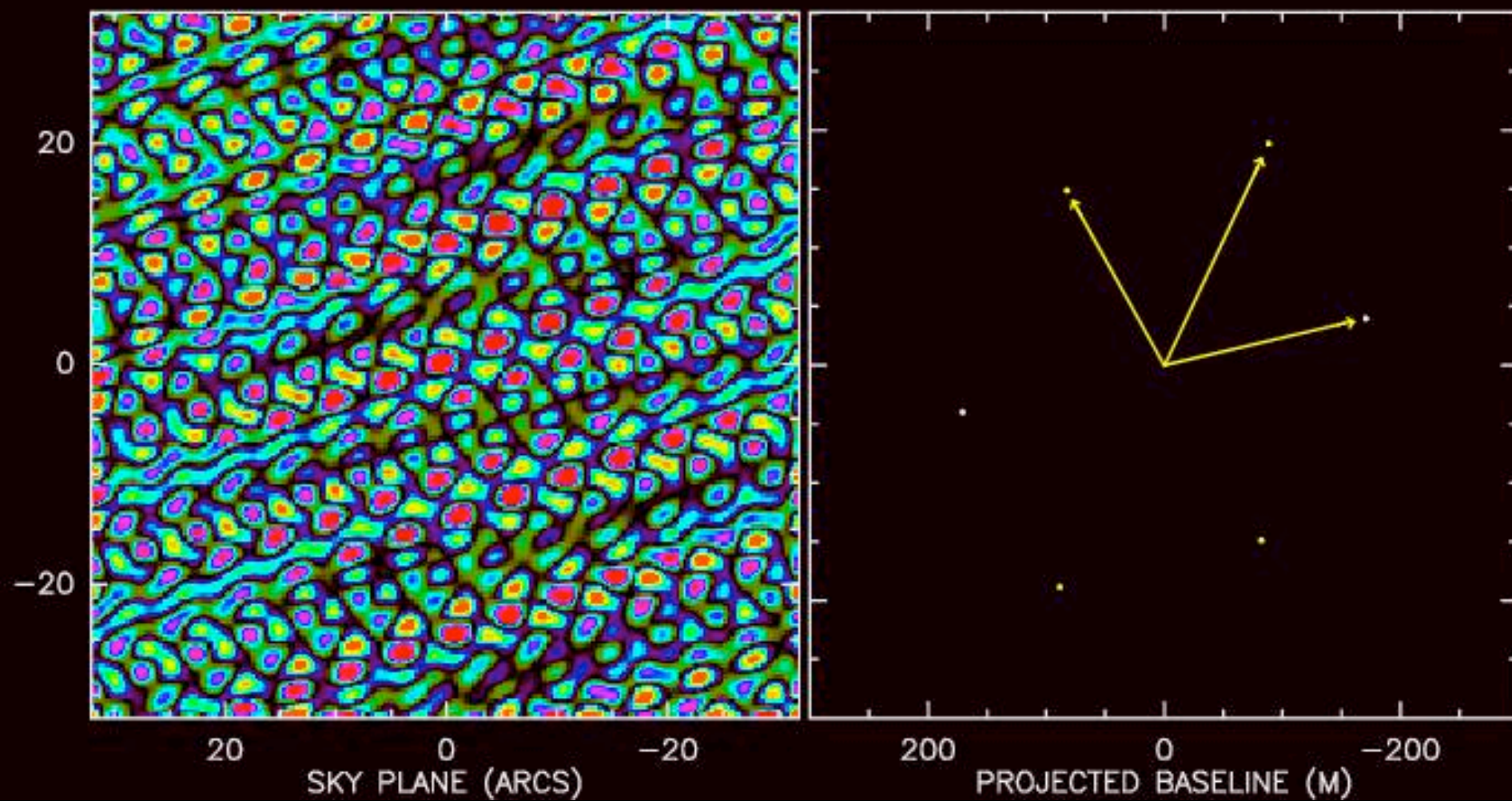
$$\rightarrow 2\pi\omega_0/\lambda = 2\pi B_0 \sin \theta / \lambda = \pm 2\pi N$$

Ex: with $B_0 = 300$ m and $\lambda = 3$ mm, the positional ambiguity on the skyplane becomes:

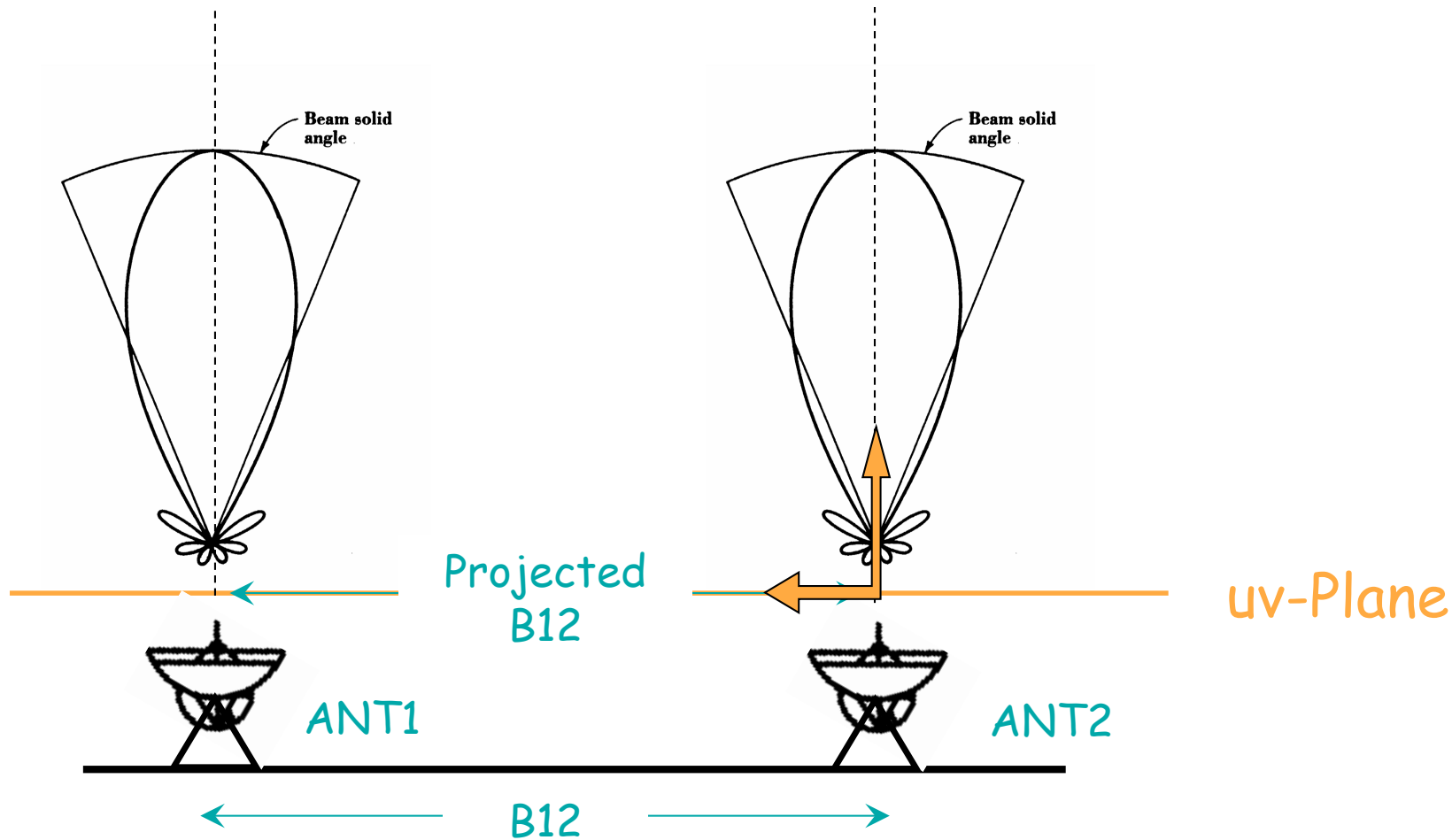
$$\theta_N = \lambda/B_0 \times N = \pm 2'' \times N$$

Ex: a source displaced by a single beam $\theta = \lambda/B_0$ shows an offset of 360° in the signal phase.

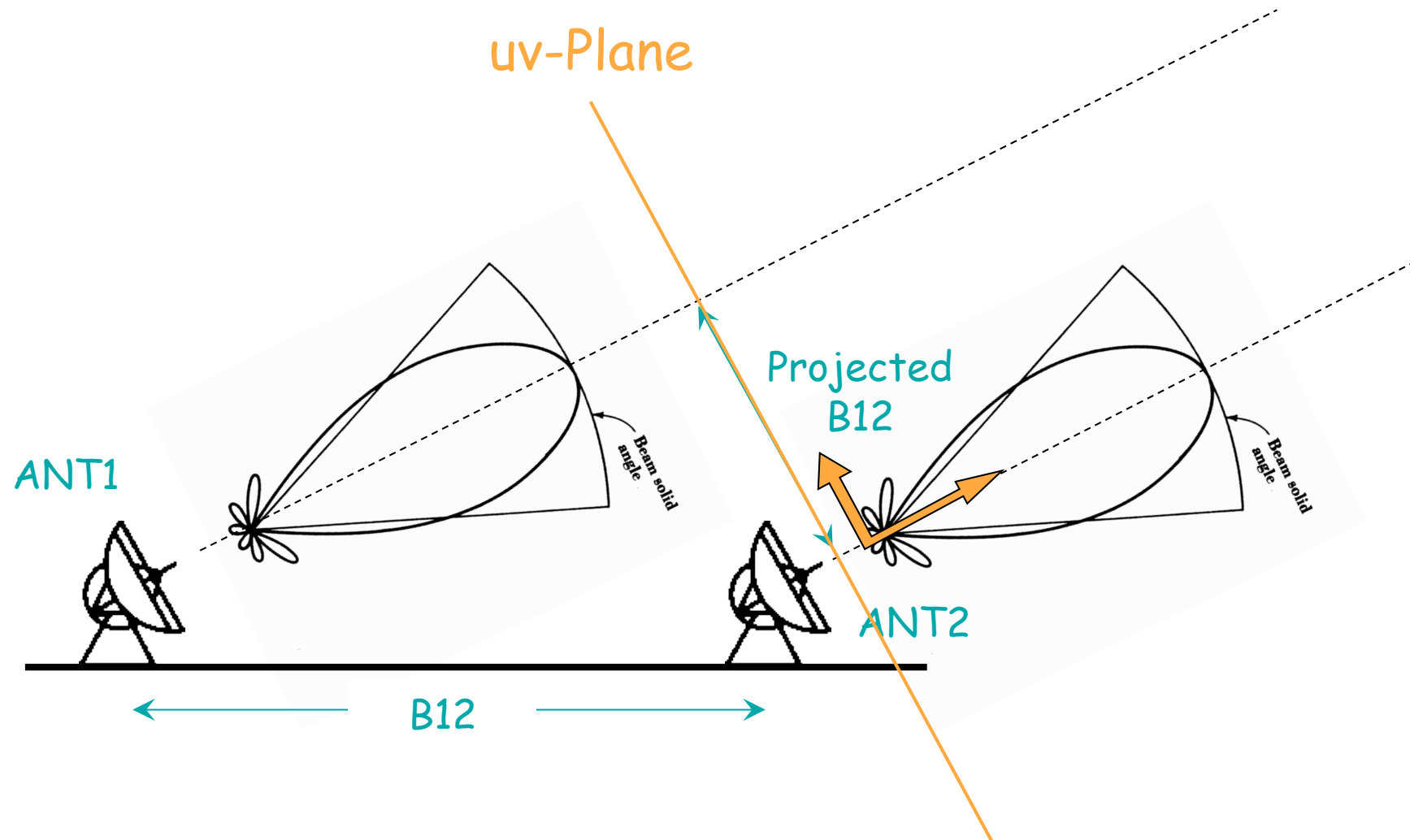




The projected baseline changes with elevation i.e. with source declination and hour-angle

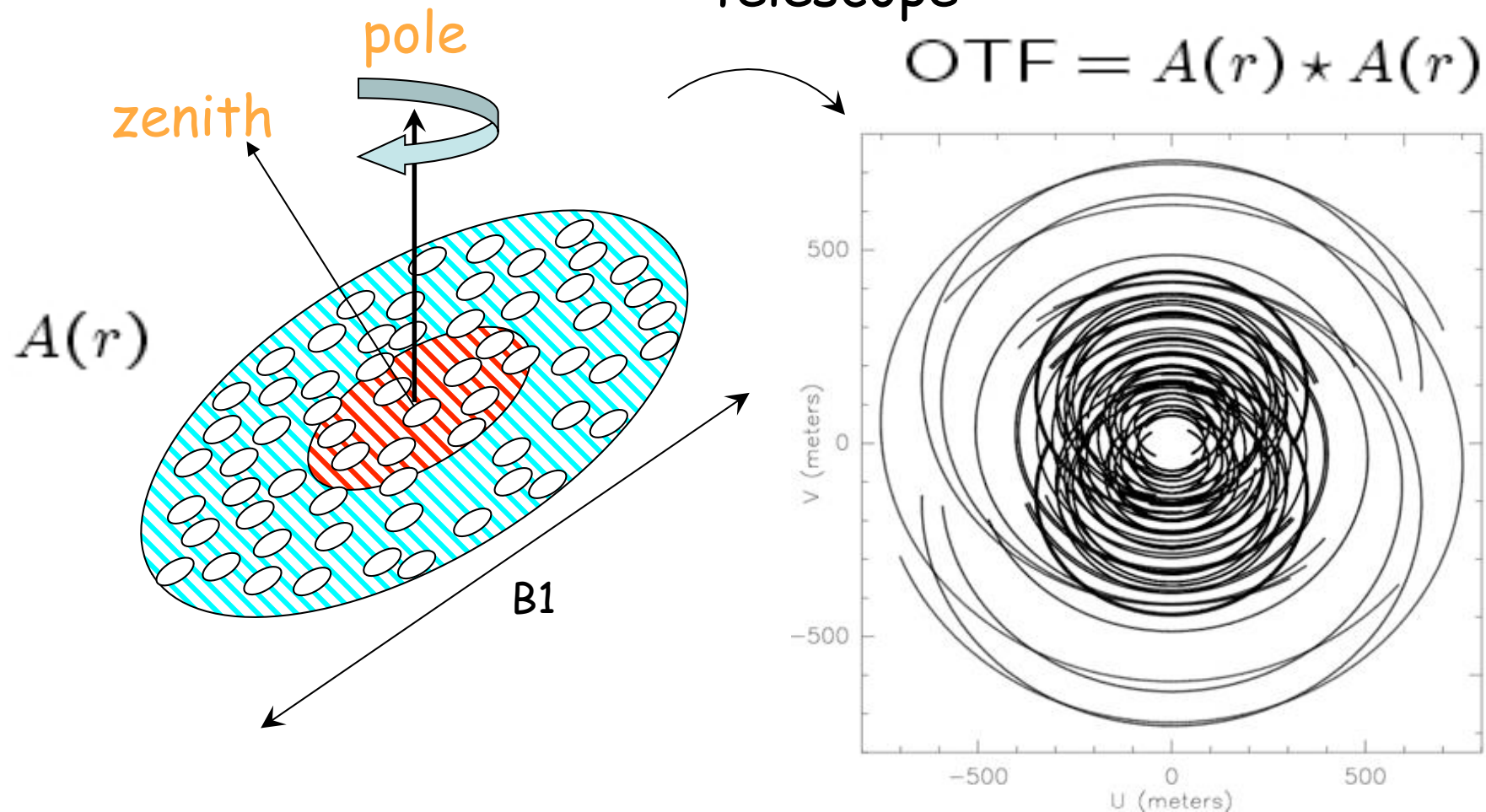


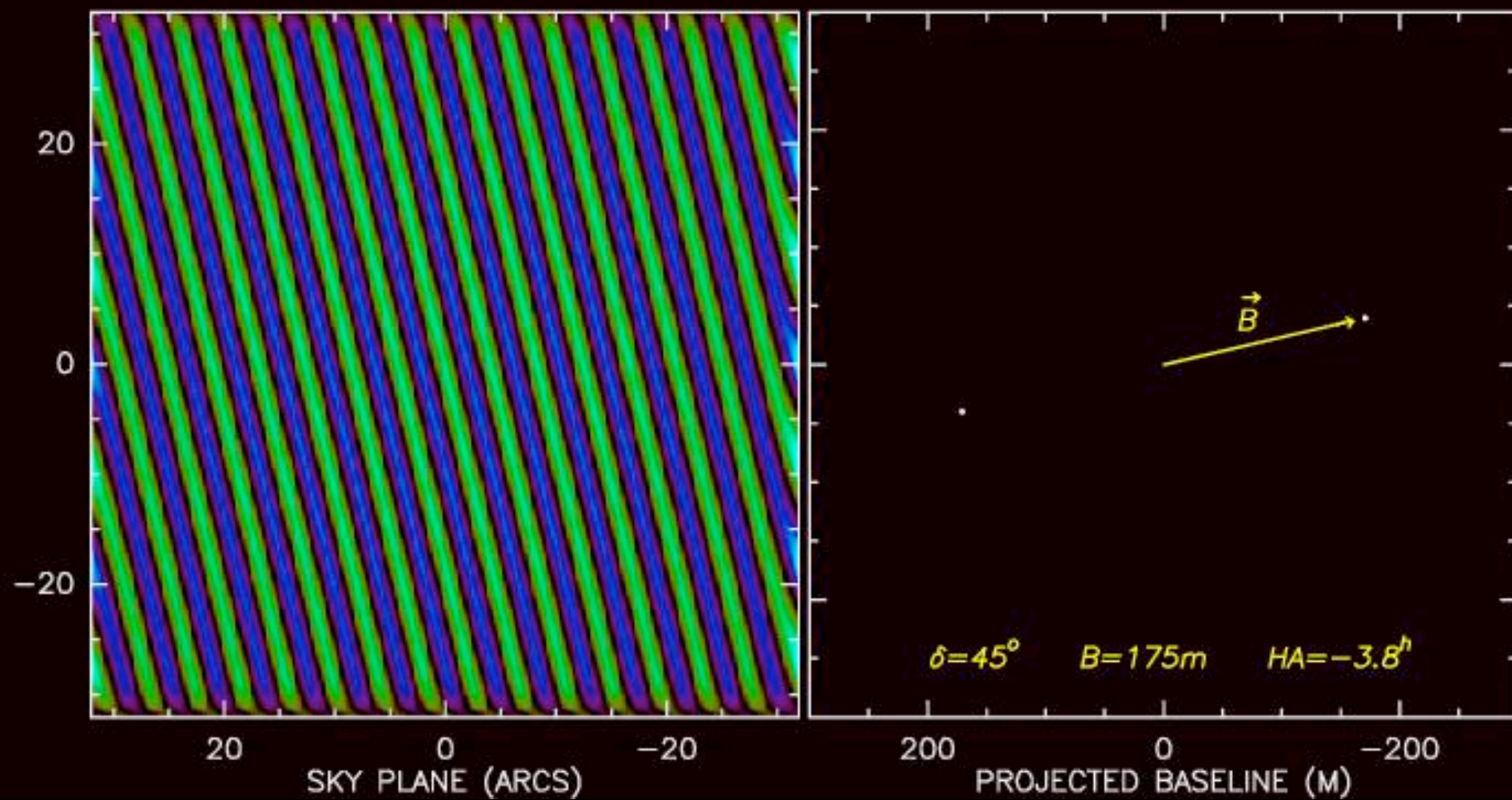
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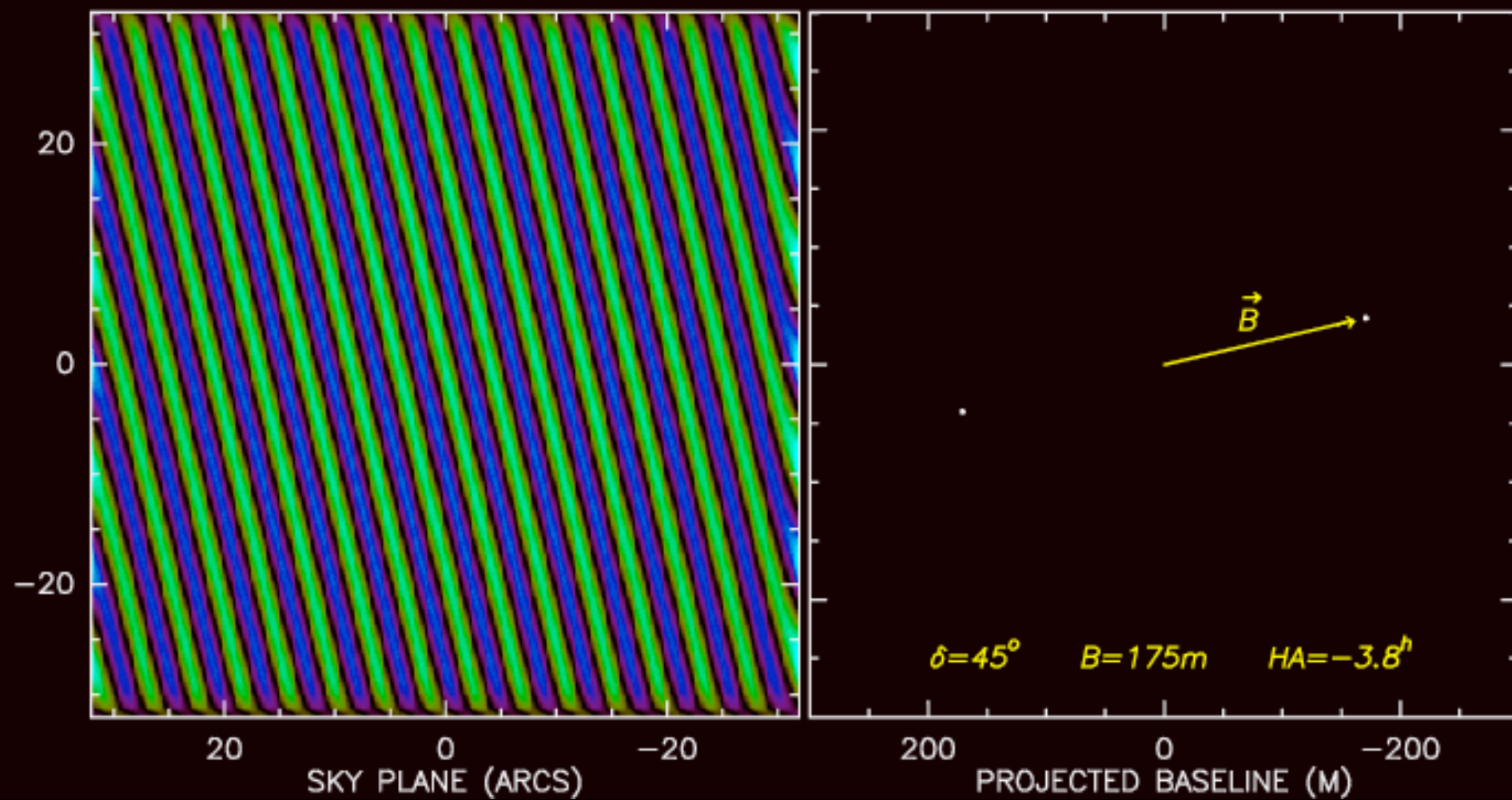


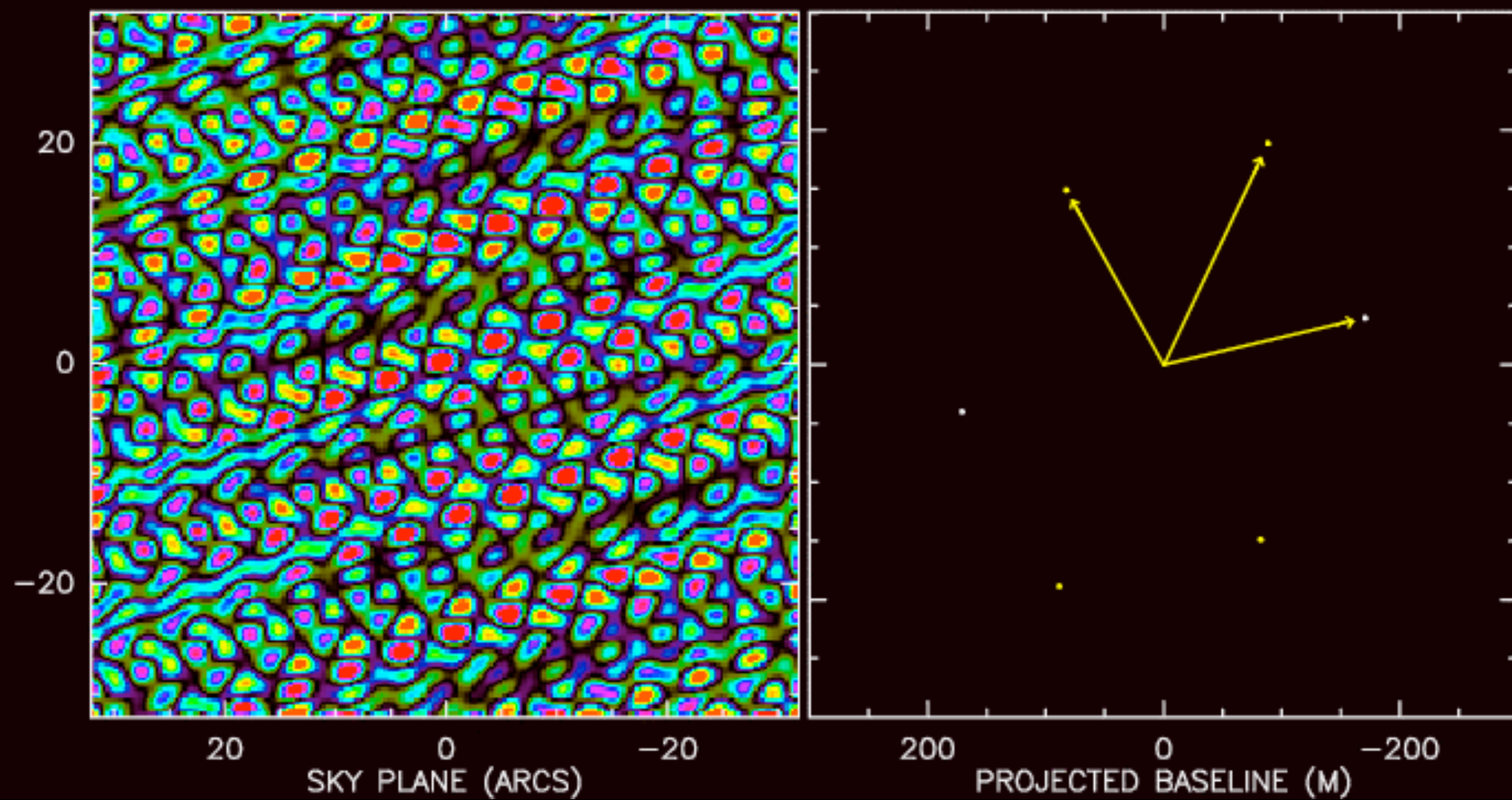
Super-Synthesis or Earth Rotation Synthesis

is the technique by which the elements of an interferometer sweep out the aperture of a large telescope



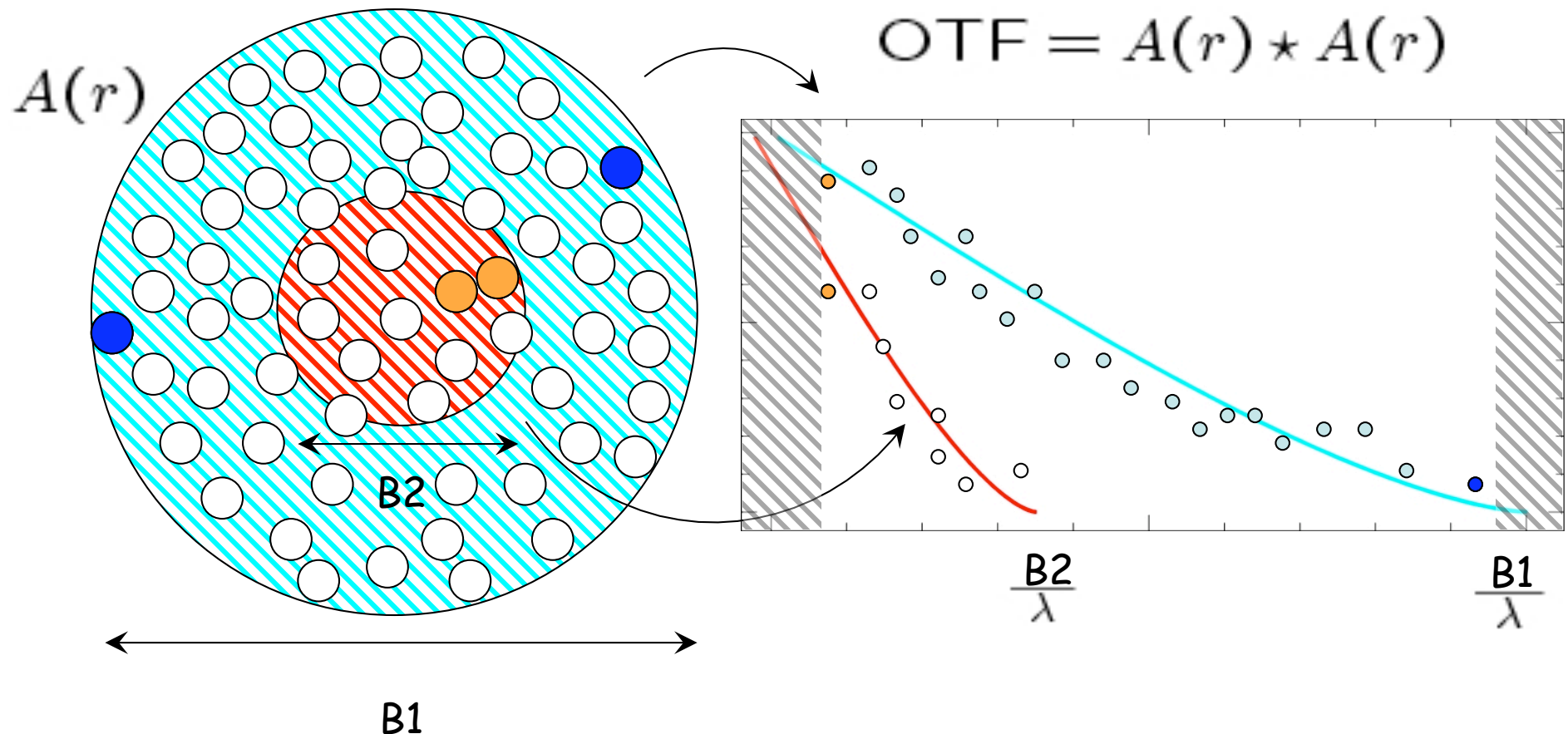


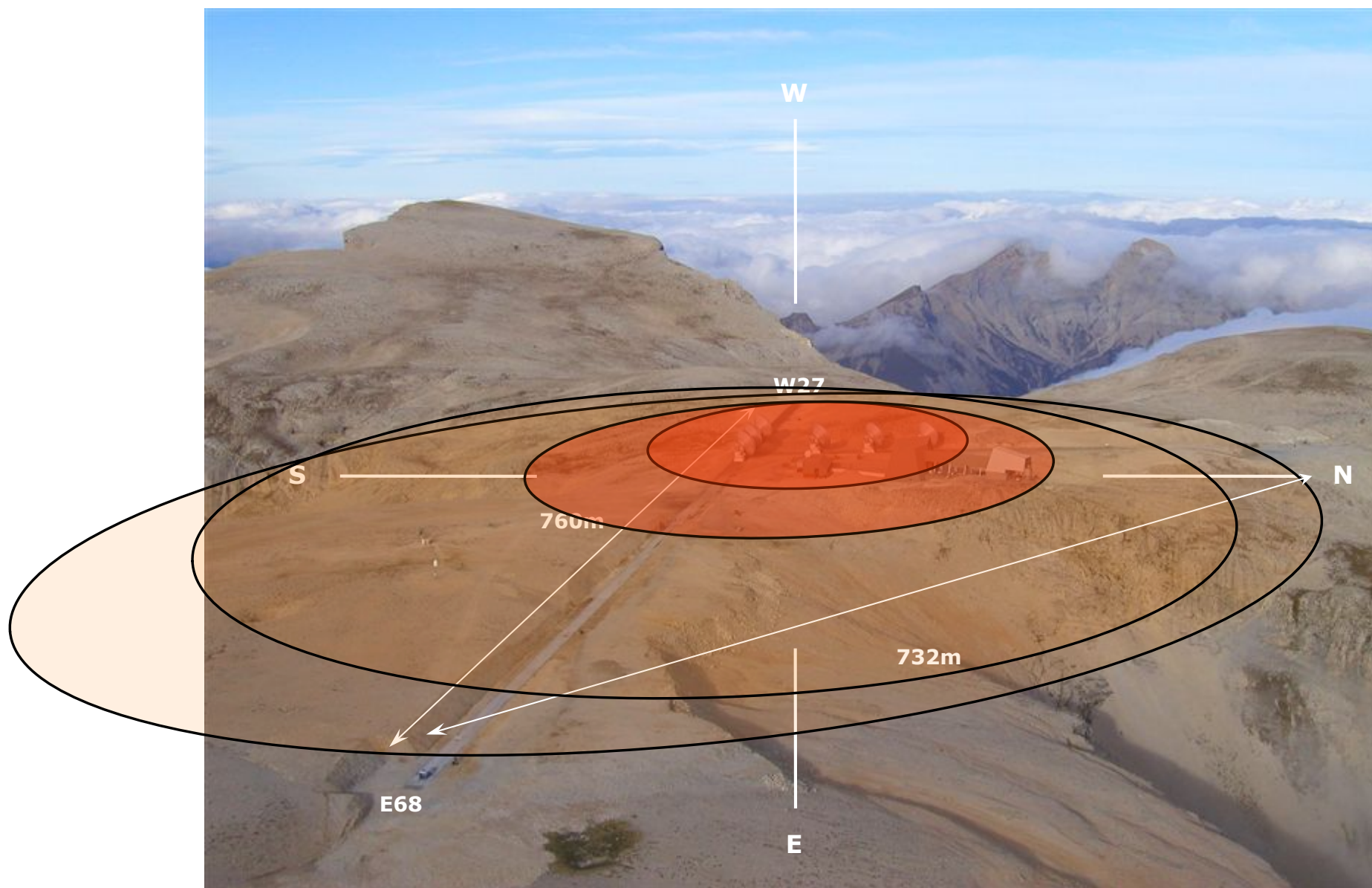




Interferometry or Aperture Synthesis

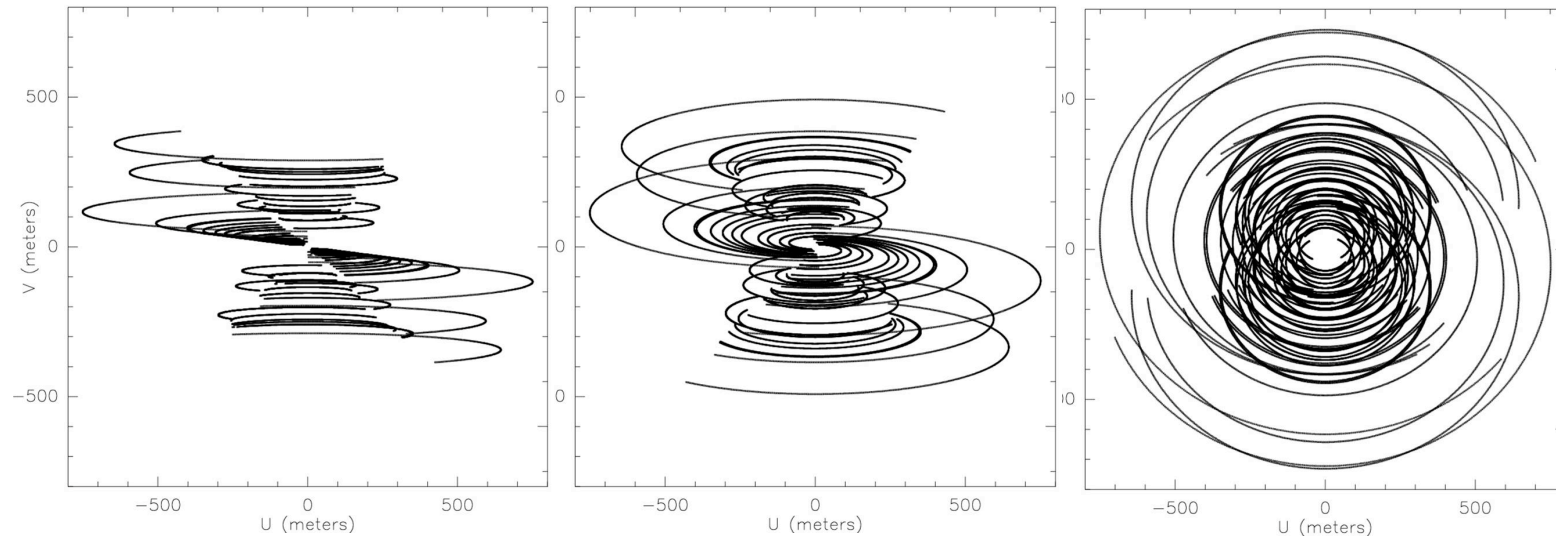
is the technique by which a large telescope is replaced by a number of smaller telescopes





PdBI's AB configurations @ 230 GHz

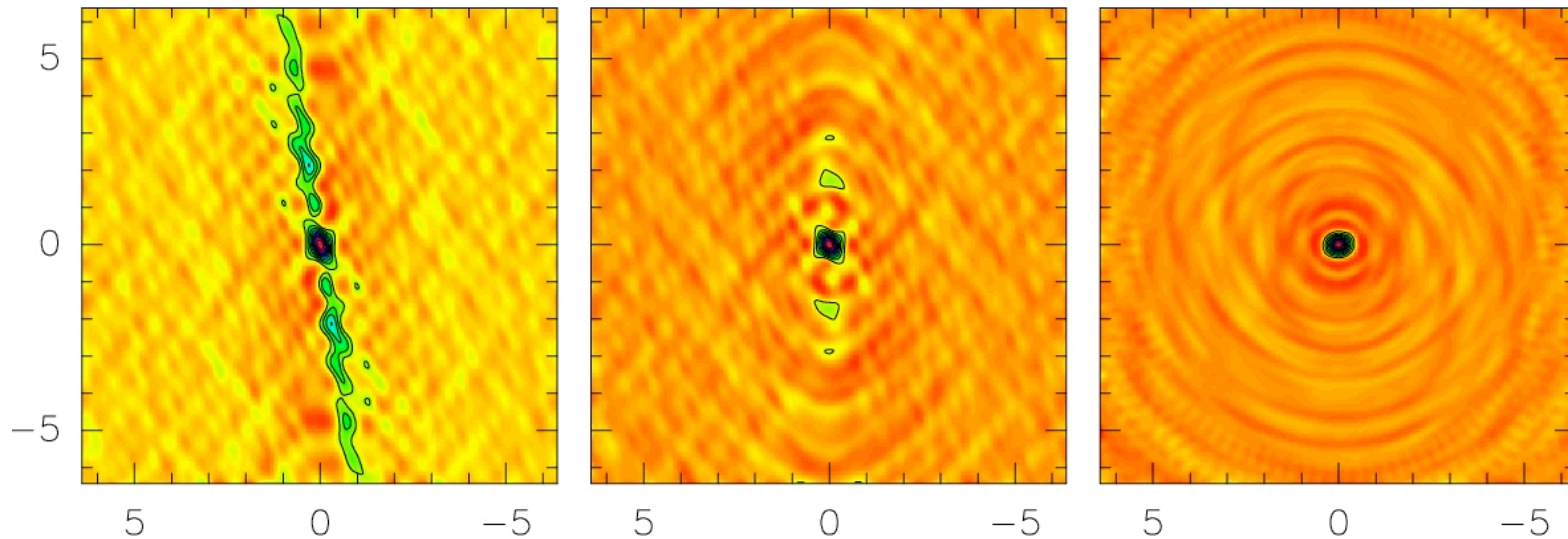
Three Examples



	Orion @ -5°	W51N @ 14°	S140 @ 63°
Δt	8 hrs	9 hrs	10 hrs

PdBI's AB configurations @ 230 GHz

Three Examples



	Orion @ -5°	W51N @ 14°	S140 @ 63°
Δt	8 hrs	9 hrs	10 hrs
D	400 pc	8300 pc	910 pc
"	$0.70'' \times 0.41''$	$0.51'' \times 0.45''$	$0.47'' \times 0.40''$

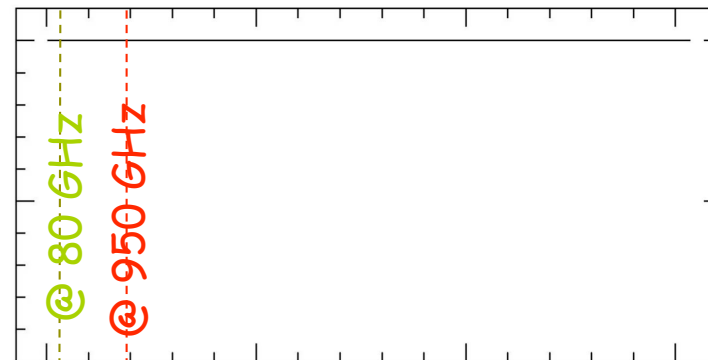
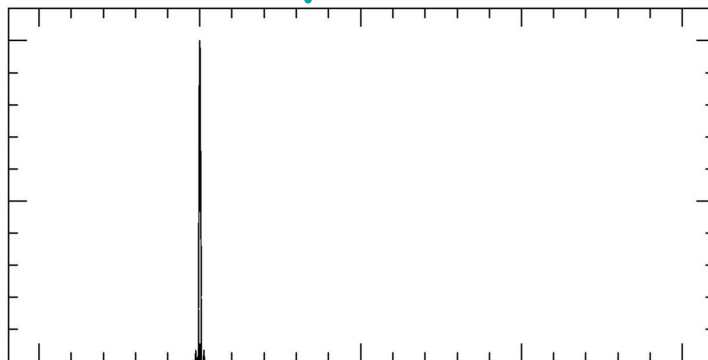


select the appropriate observatory!

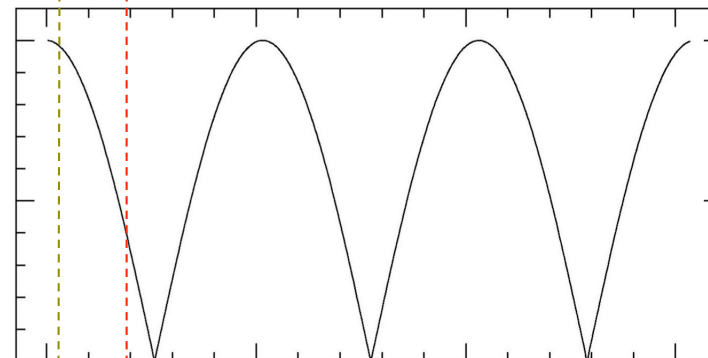
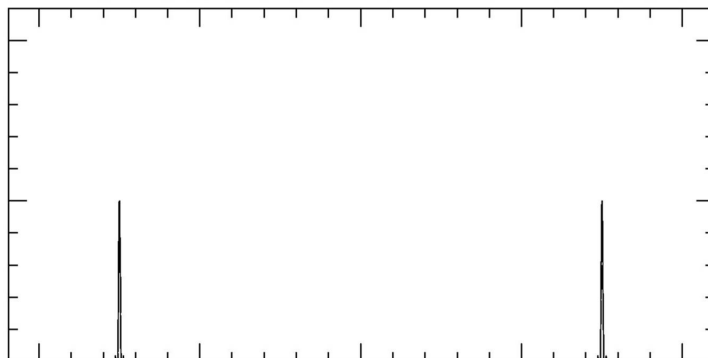
Sky Plane

uv-Plane

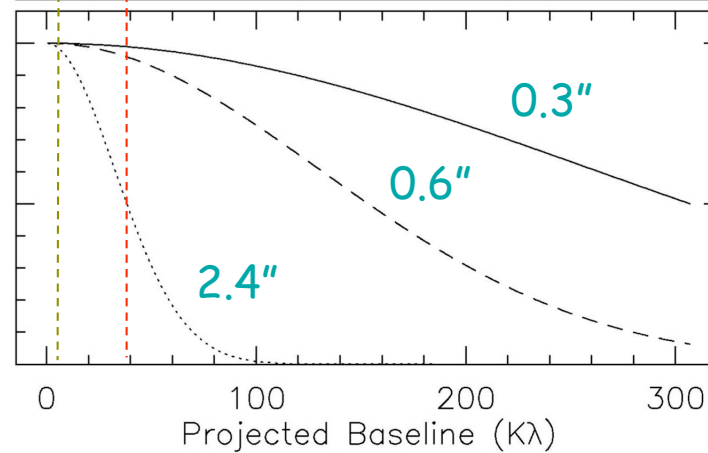
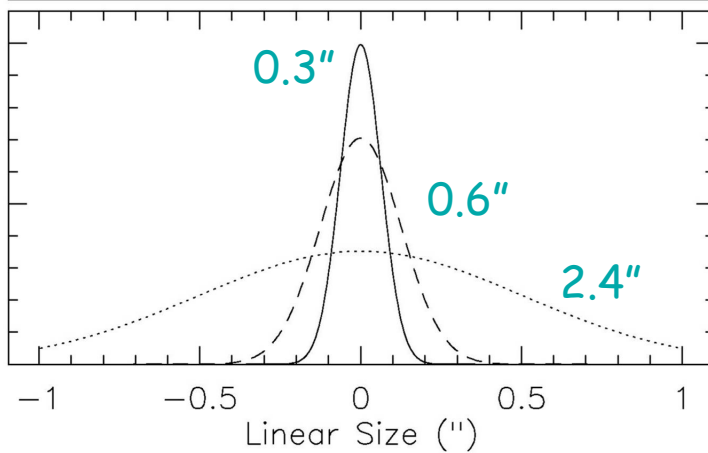
POINT
SOURCE



BINARY
SOURCE



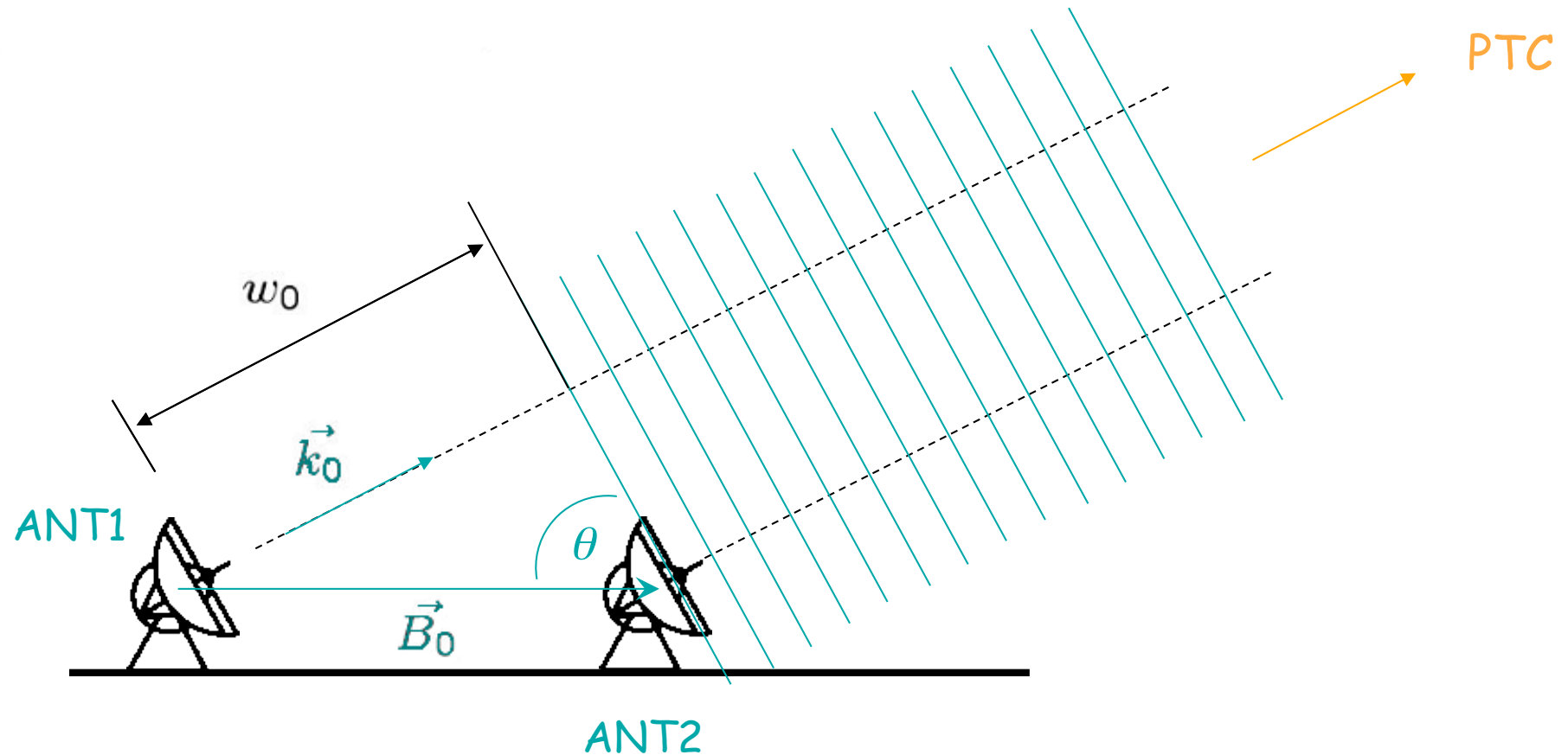
GAUSSIAN
SOURCE



The phase equation

$$w_0 = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_0 = B_0 \sin \theta$$

$$\phi_{w_0} = 2\pi w_0 / \lambda = 2\pi B_0 \sin \theta / \lambda$$



$$\rightarrow \phi_{w_0} = 2\pi (B_x \cos H \cos \delta - B_y \sin H \cos \delta + B_z \sin \delta) / \lambda$$

$$\Delta\phi^{ij} = 2\pi/\lambda \cdot$$

$$[\Delta\alpha \cdot (B_x^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_y^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta) +$$

$$\Delta\delta \cdot (B_y^{ij} \sin H \sin \delta - B_x^{ij} \cos H \sin \delta + B_z^{ij} \cos \delta) +$$

$$(B_x^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta - B_y^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_z^{ij} \sin \delta) +$$

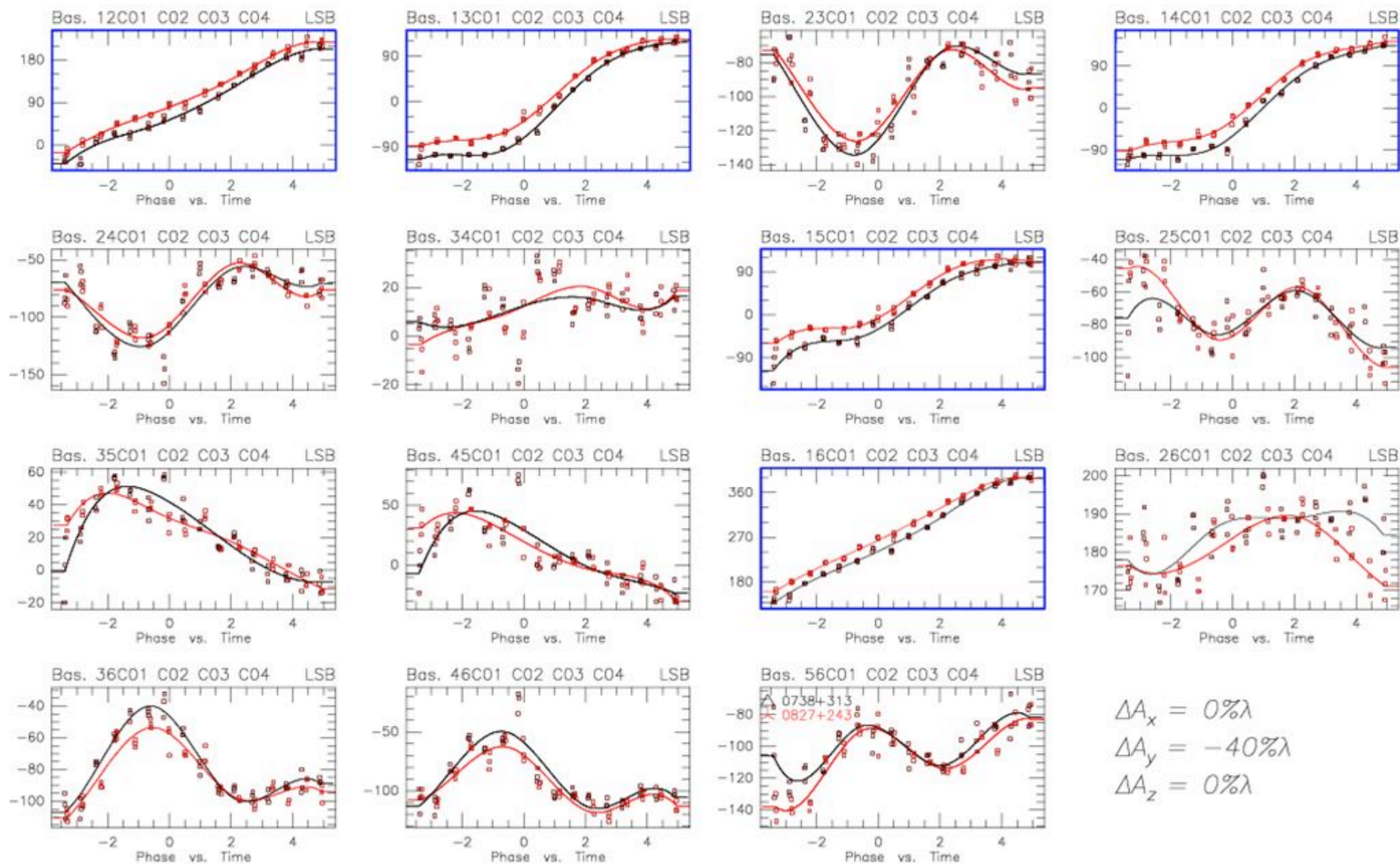
$$(A^i - A^j) \cos E]$$

where A is the offset between the azimuth and elevation axis of an antenna.

In practice, an LSQ-analysis is used to derive the unknowns (B_x, B_y, B_z) from the measurements of the many observed $\Delta\phi^{ij}$ at 10 – 15 different hour angles H and declinations δ .

RF: Fr.(A) CLIC - 25-SEP-2002 14:40:31 - neri N07N29E04W12E23N17
 Am: Rel.(A) 100 8052 L058 0827+243 P CORR CO(3-2) 6ant-Special 08-JAN-2002 20:36 -4.3
 Ph: Abs. Atm. 788 8629 L058 0738+313 P CORR CO(3-2) 6ant-Special 09-JAN-2002 04:57 4.9

Scan Avg
 Vect.Avg



$$\Delta A_x = 0\% \lambda$$

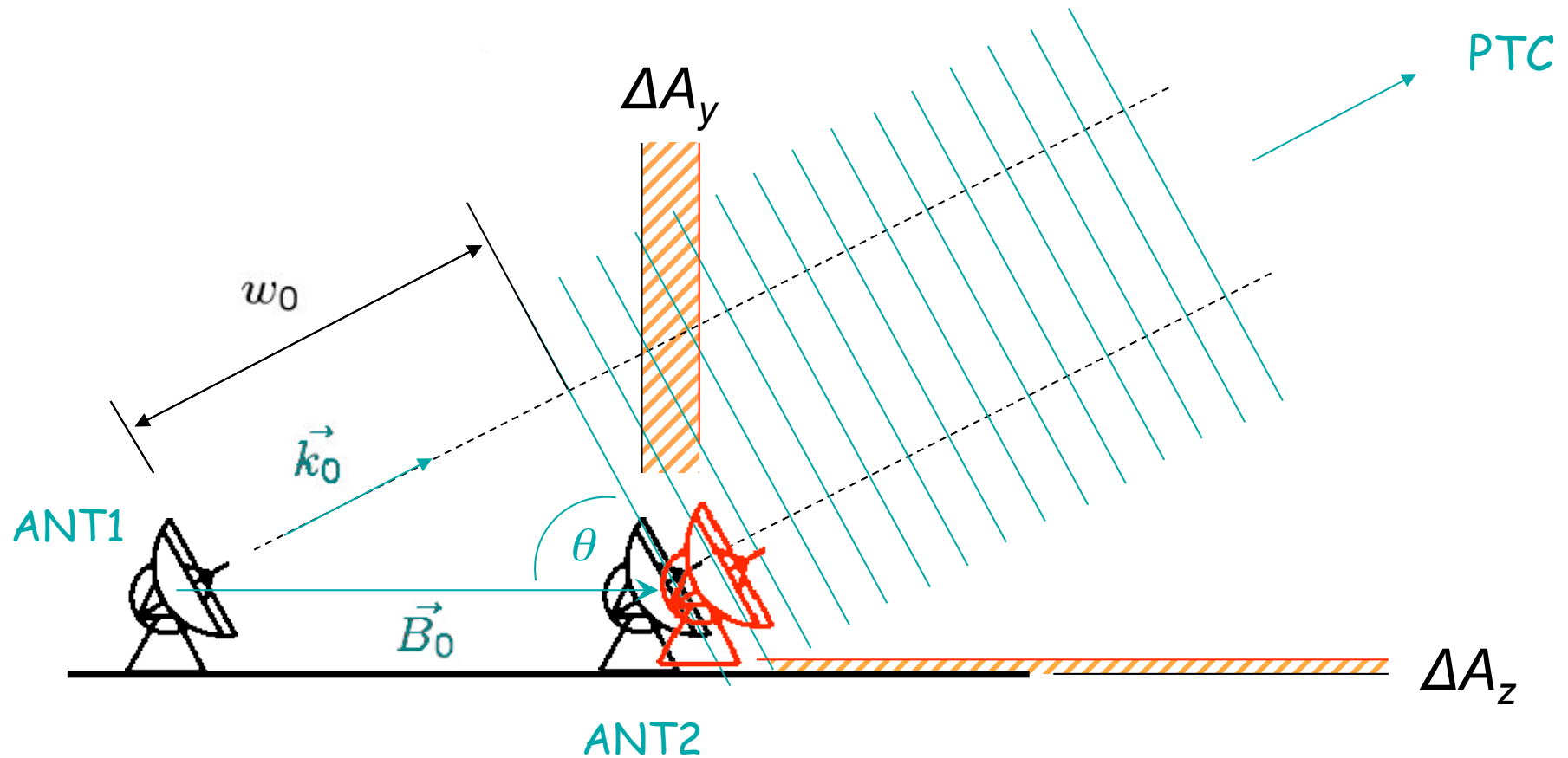
$$\Delta A_y = -40\% \lambda$$

$$\Delta A_z = 0\% \lambda$$

The phase equation

$$w_0 = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_0 = B_0 \sin \theta \simeq B_0 \cdot \theta$$

$$\phi_{w_0} = 2\pi w_0 / \lambda = 2\pi B_0 \sin \theta / \lambda$$



$$\Delta\phi^{ij} = 2\pi/\lambda \cdot$$

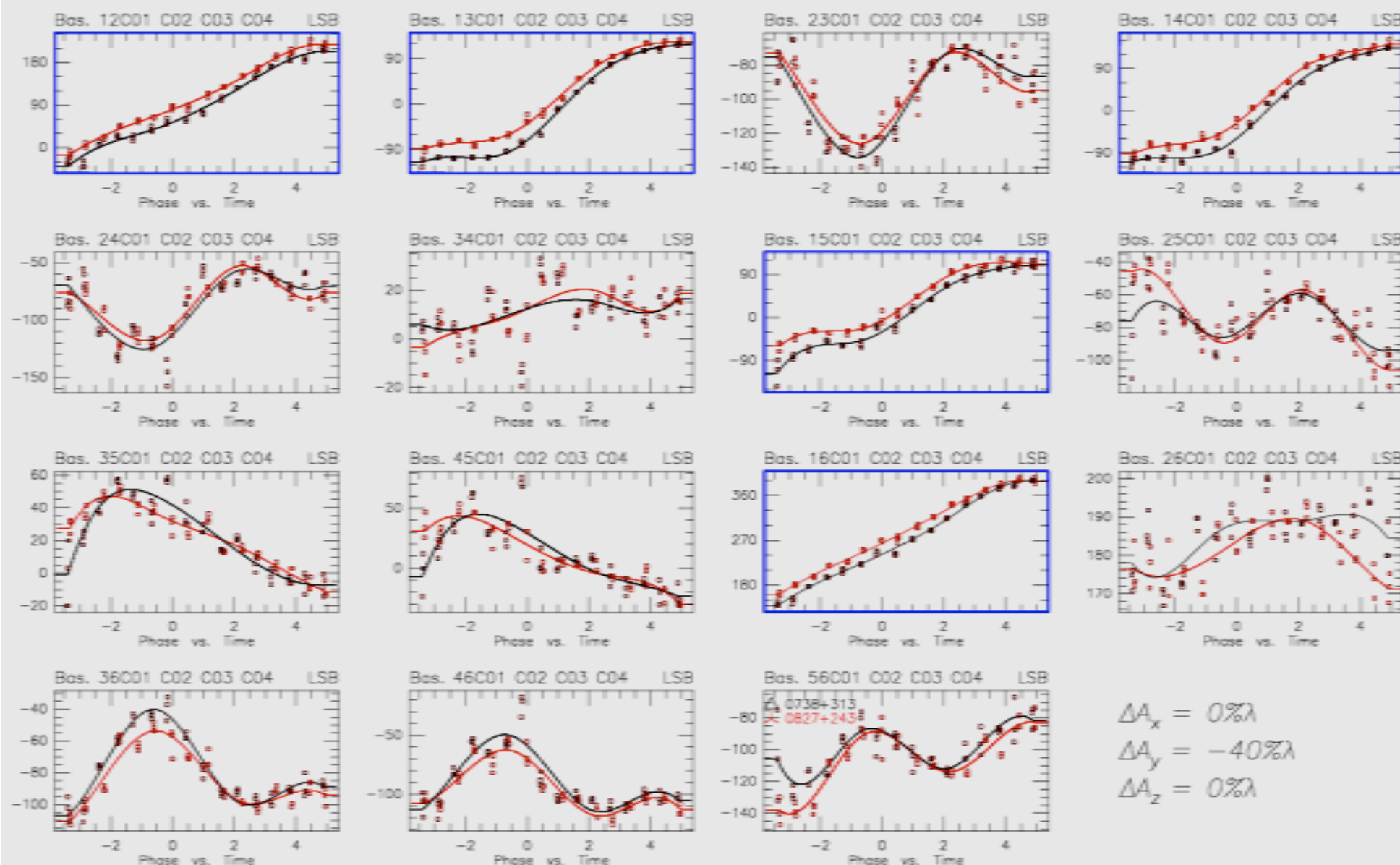
$$\begin{aligned} & \cancel{[\Delta\alpha \cdot (B_x^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_y^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{\Delta\delta \cdot (B_y^{ij} \sin H \sin \delta - B_x^{ij} \cos H \sin \delta + B_z^{ij} \cos \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{(B_x^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta - B_y^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_z^{ij} \sin \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{(A^i - A^j) \cos EI}] } \end{aligned}$$

where A is the offset between the azimuth and elevation axis of an antenna.

In practice, an LSQ-analysis is used to derive the unknowns (B_x, B_y, B_z) from the measurements of the many observed $\Delta\phi^{ij}$ at 10 – 15 different hour angles H and declinations δ .

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Scan Avg
 Vect.Avg



$$\Delta\phi^{ij} = 2\pi/\lambda \cdot$$

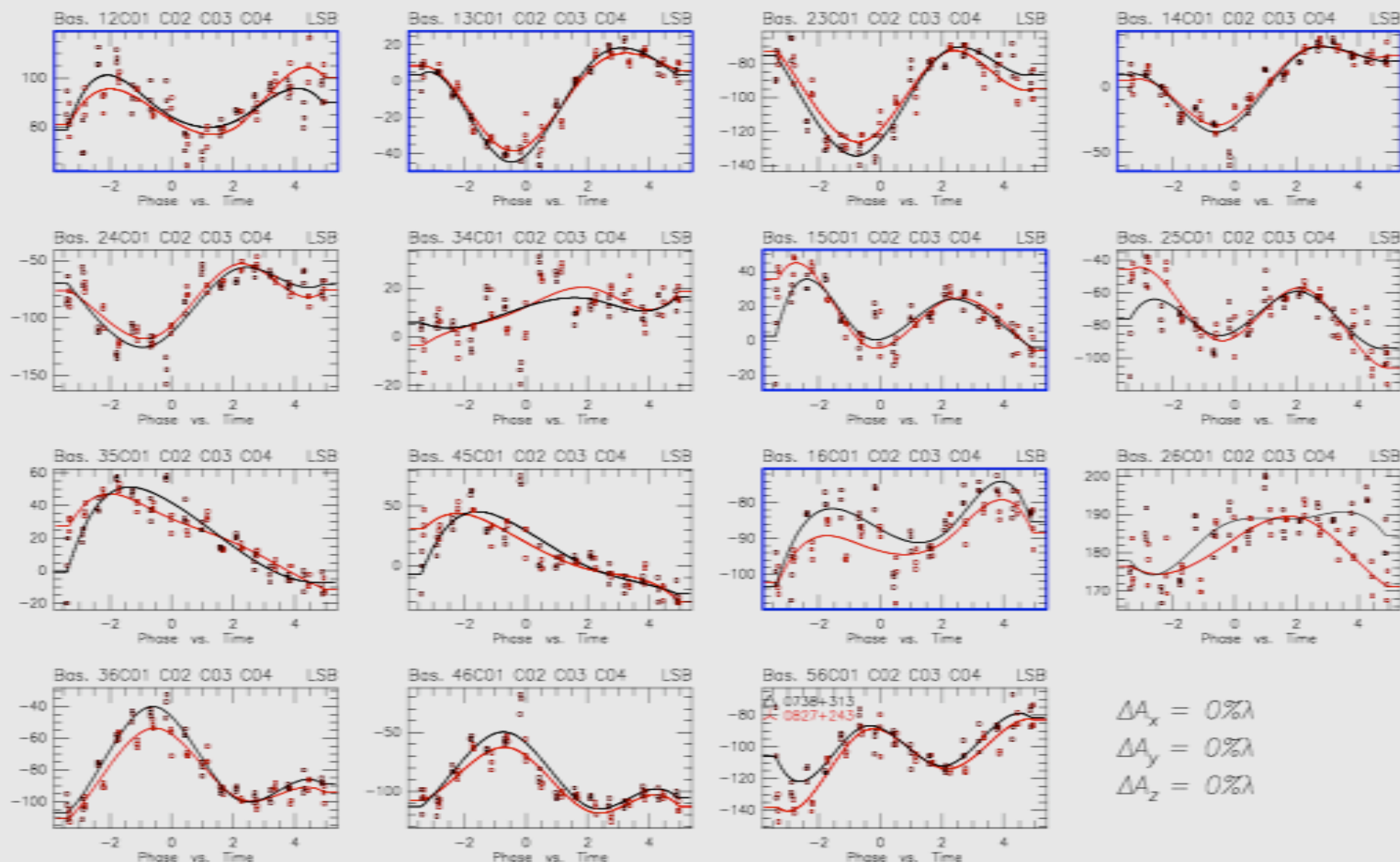
$$\begin{aligned} & \cancel{[\Delta\alpha \cdot (B_x^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_y^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{\Delta\delta \cdot (B_y^{ij} \sin H \sin \delta - B_x^{ij} \cos H \sin \delta + B_z^{ij} \cos \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{(B_x^{ij} \cos H \cos \delta - B_y^{ij} \sin H \cos \delta + B_z^{ij} \sin \delta) +} \\ & \cancel{(A^i - A^j) \cos E}] } \end{aligned}$$

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In practice, an LSQ-analysis is used to derive the unknowns (B_x, B_y, B_z) from the measurements of the many observed $\Delta\phi^{ij}$ at 10 – 15 different hour angles H and declinations δ .

RF: Fr.(A) CLIC - 25-SEP-2002 14:28:52 - neri N07N29E04W12E23N17
 Am: Rel.(A) 100 8052 L058 0827+243 P CORR CO(3-2) 6ant-Special 08-JAN-2002 20:36 -4.3
 Ph: Abs. Atm. 788 8629 L058 0738+313 P CORR CO(3-2) 6ant-Special 09-JAN-2002 04:57 4.9

Scan Avg
 Vect.Avg



Sources of phase errors

- Limited accuracy of baseline measurements
- Limited stability of an antenna station
- Thermal load on the antenna structure
- Atmosphere
- Time and delay errors
- Precision in the calibrators absolute position

PdBI – Sources of uncertainty

TELESCOPE	$\Delta\theta$	Calibration
Axes Non-Intersection	$\leq 0.20''$	Yes
AzEl Bearings	$\leq 0.15''$	Yes
OBSERVATION		
Focus Offset	$\leq 0.15''$	Partially
Calibrator Distance	$\leq 8 \cdot 10^{-2} \theta_B$	No
Atmospheric Seeing	$\leq 6 \cdot 10^{-2} \theta_B$	No
Pointing Offset	$\leq 2 \cdot 10^{-2} \theta_B$	Partially

PdBI – Other sources of uncertainty

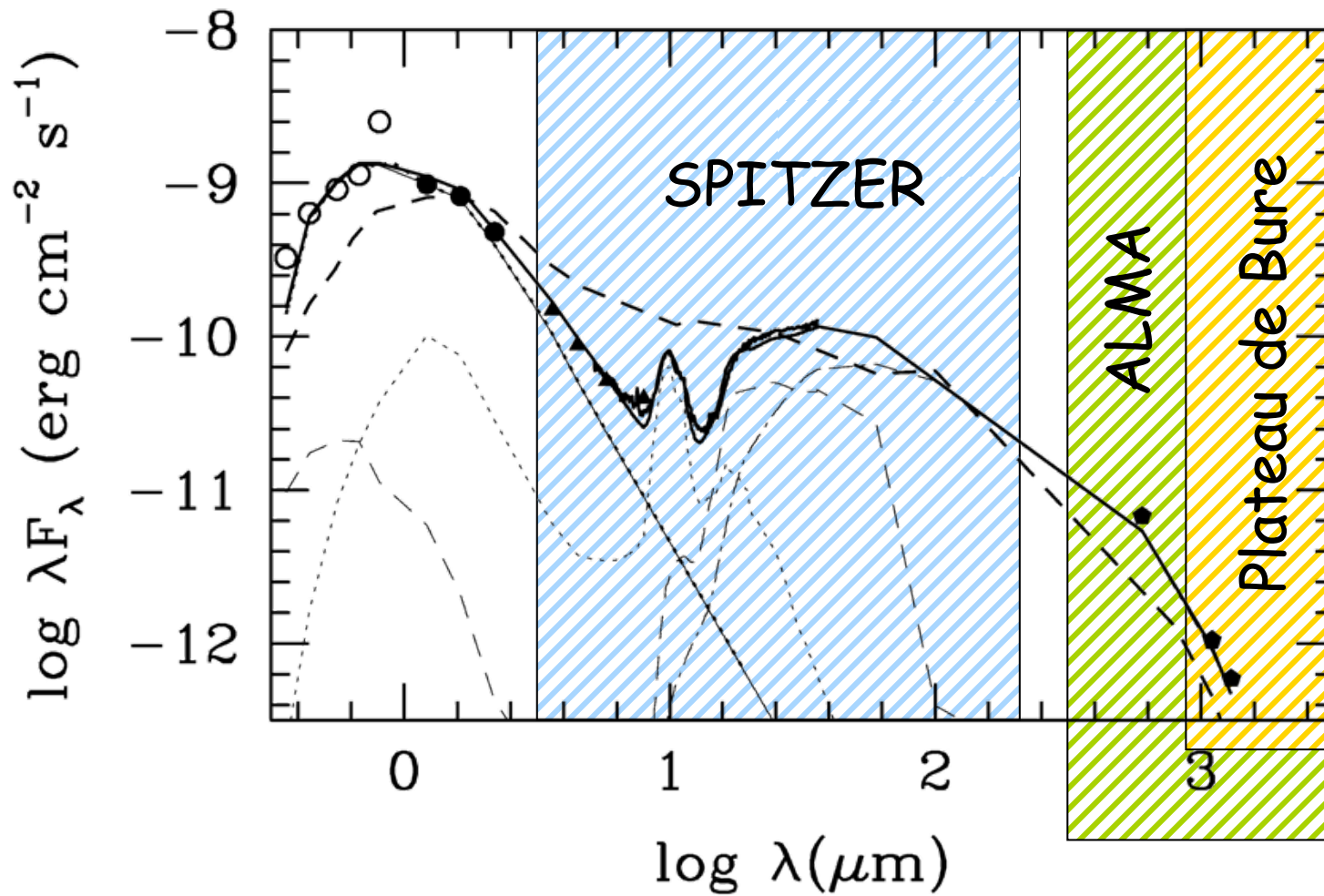
OBJECT	$\Delta\theta$	Calibration
Source Intensity	$\leq 10^{-1} \theta_B$	No
Calibrator Position	$\leq 0.02''$	No
MISCELLANEOUS		
Bandwidth smearing	$\leq 0.08''$	No
Visibility averaging	$\leq 0.06''$	No
Gravitational lensing	$\leq 0.02''$	No
Primary beam correction	$\leq 0.02''$	No

Interferometer Basics

All you need as an observer:

- the appropriate interferometer
- one or more configuration(s)
- the noise equation

GM Aur (Hughes et al. 2009)

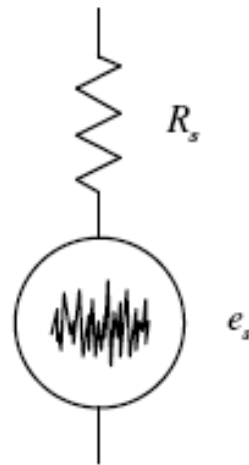


➡ mm-astronomy calls for sensitivity

Noise Power

The output power of a ...

... Resistor :



$$P_N = kT \Delta \nu$$

... Receiving System :

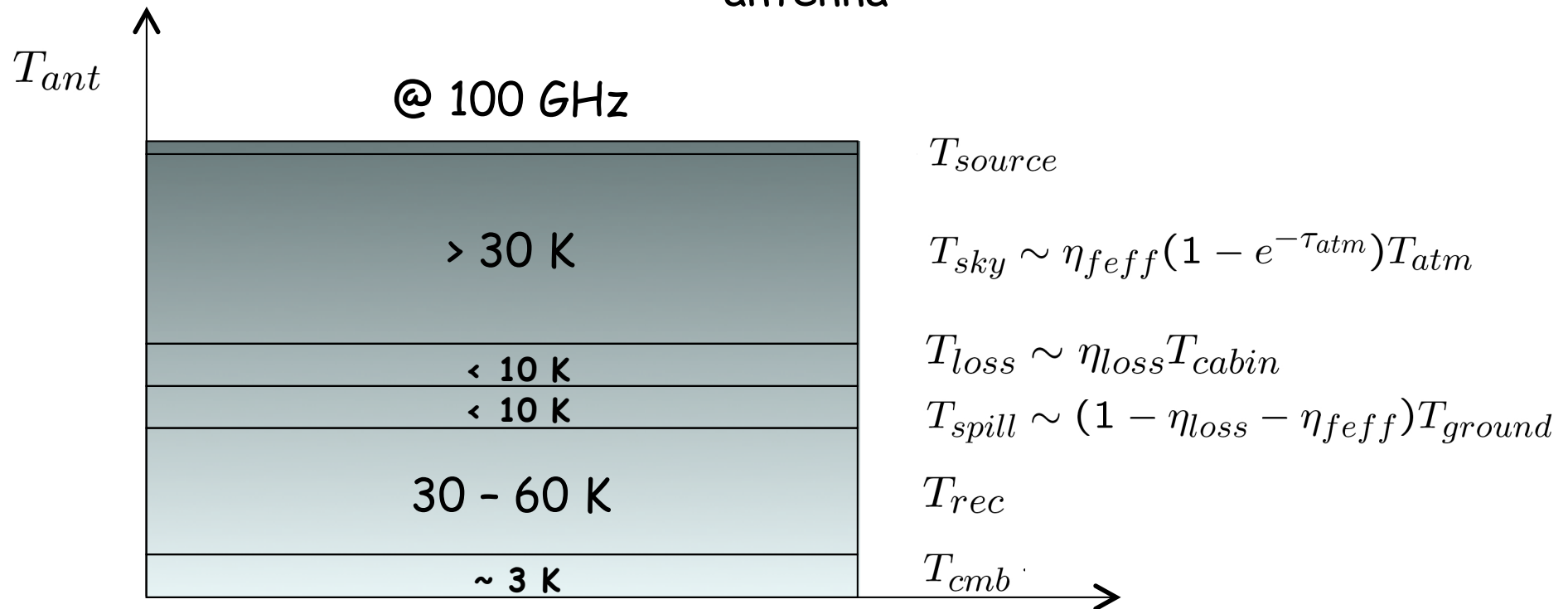
$$P_N = kT_{ant} \Delta \nu$$

Antenna System Temperature



Antenna System Temperature

is the temperature of the equivalent blackbody observed by the antenna



$$T_{ant} = T_{cmb} + T_{sky} + T_{spill} + T_{loss} + T_{rec}$$

We refer the

System Temperature

Noise Power →

$$T_{sys} = \frac{e^{\tau_{atm}}}{\eta_{feff}} T_{ant}$$

and the

Antenna Temperature

Astronomical
Signal →

$$\begin{aligned} T_A^* &= \frac{e^{\tau_{atm}}}{\eta_{feff}} T_{source} \\ &= \frac{\eta_A A}{2k} S \end{aligned}$$

to an ideal antenna located outside the atmosphere.

The Noise Equations

Sensitivity of a single-dish antenna:

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \frac{T_{SYS}}{\sqrt{\Delta\nu \Delta t}}$$

Sensitivity on a single baseline:

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \frac{T_{SYS}}{\sqrt{2\Delta\nu \Delta t}}$$

$\sqrt{2}$ better than a single antenna in total power

$\sqrt{2}$ worse than a single antenna with the same collecting area

Single-Dish limitations:

2. sensitivity : $\sim 1/D^2$

Need to

1. increase collecting area
2. increase the pointing accuracy
3. keep a high surface quality



Single-Dish	Collecting area
CSO 10m	80 m ²
IRAM 30m	710 m ²
LMT 50m	1960 m ²
SRT 64m	3200 m ²



Telescope	Collecting area
SMA	150 m ²
IRAM Array	1060 m ²
LMT	1960 m ²
NOEMA	2100 m ²
ALMA 50	5700 m ²

The Interferometer Noise Equation

The reality is often a bit more complex ...

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \times \frac{\langle T_{SYS} \rangle}{\eta_C \eta_J \eta_P \sqrt{N(N-1) \Delta \nu \Delta t}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_P}}$$

Single Dish Efficiency (Jy/K)

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \times \frac{\langle T_{SYS} \rangle}{\eta_C \eta_J \eta_P \sqrt{N(N-1) \Delta \nu \Delta t}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_P}}$$

Antenna

Correlator

Local Oscillators

$$\eta_A = \eta_{\text{Blocage}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Spillover}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Receiver}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Ruze}}$$

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Interferometric Efficiency (Jy/K)

ATMOSPHERE (SITE)

Seeing

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \times \frac{\langle T_{SYS} \rangle}{\eta_C \eta_J \eta_P \sqrt{N(N-1) \Delta \nu \Delta t}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_P}}$$

Antenna

Correlator

Local Oscillators

$$\eta_A = \eta_{\text{Blocage}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Spillover}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Receiver}} \cdot \eta_{\text{Ruze}}$$

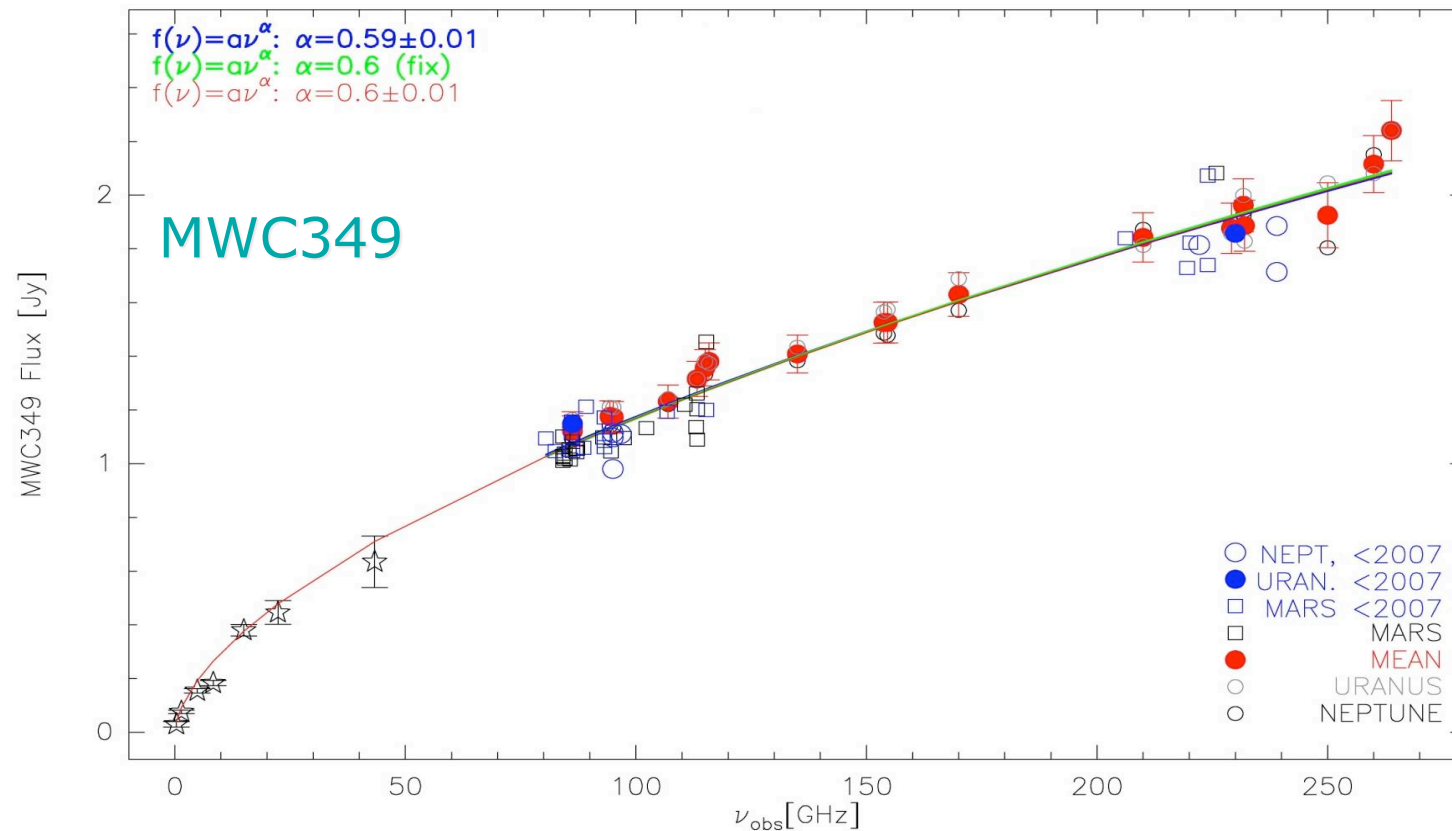
INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Interferometric efficiencies for the PdBI

- $22 \times \sigma_T$ [Jy] @ 3mm Calibration precision $\leq 10\%$
- $26 \times \sigma_T$ [Jy] @ 2mm Calibration precision $\leq 15\%$
- $35 \times \sigma_T$ [Jy] @ 1mm Calibration precision $\leq 20\%$

Calibration precision is limited by knowledge on reference calibrators (planets, source polarization, variability, etc.), instrumental drifts, atmospheric variability, etc.

Best calibrator available in the Northern Sky



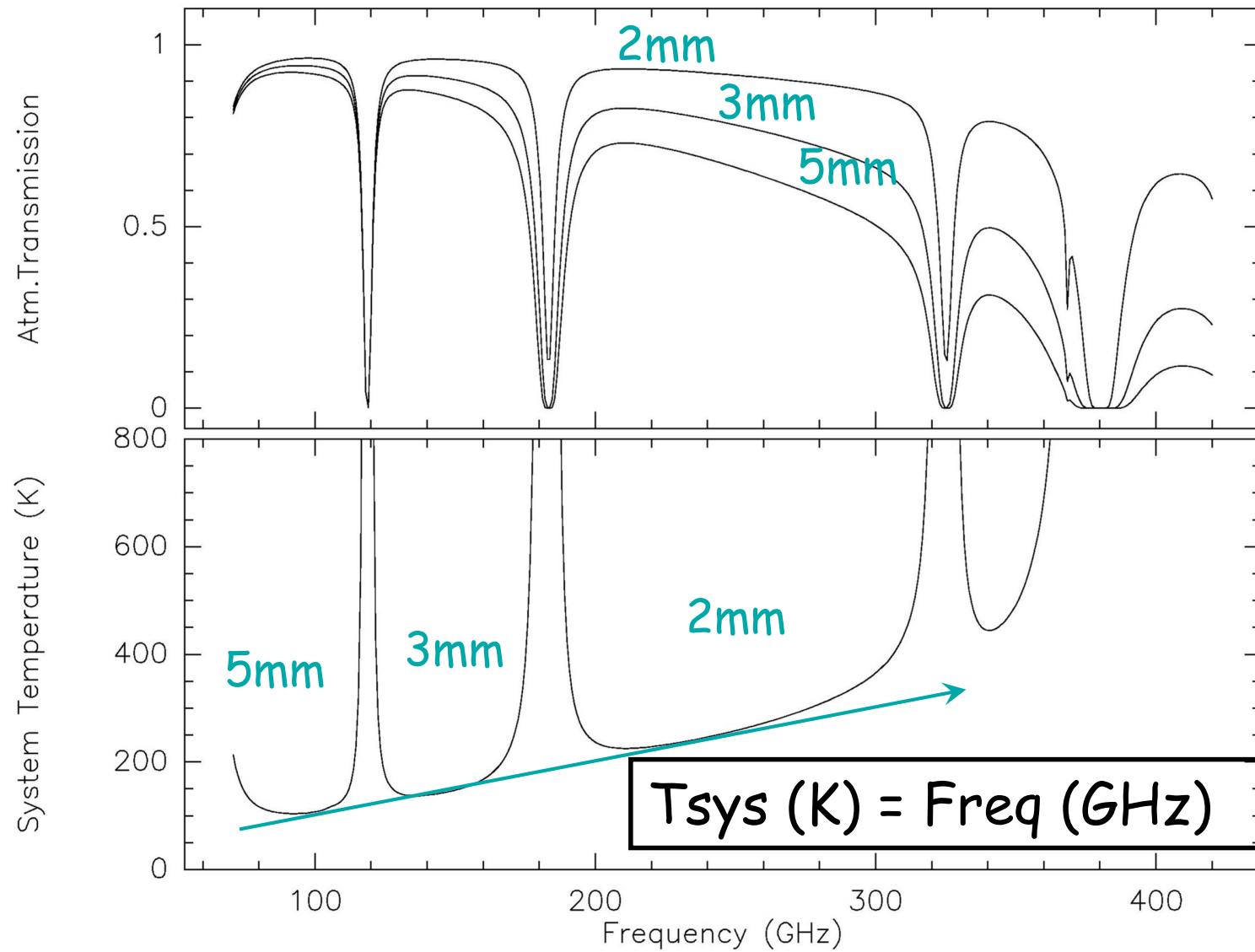
Calibration Precision ~ 5%!

The point source sensitivity

$$\sigma_S = \frac{2k}{\eta_A A} \times \frac{\langle T_{\text{SYS}} \rangle}{\eta_C \eta_J \eta_P \sqrt{N(N-1) \Delta\nu \Delta t}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_P}}$$

A	Collecting Area of a Single Antenna (177 m ²)
η_A	Aperture Efficiency (0.70 @ 3mm; 0.45 @ 1mm)
η_C	Correlator Efficiency (0.88)
η_J	Instrumental Jitter $\exp(-\sigma_J^2/2) \simeq 0.95$
η_P	Atmospheric Decorrelation $\exp(-\sigma_P^2/2) \leq 0.95$
N_P	Linear Polarizations (1 - 2)
T_{SYS}	System Temperature (K)
$\Delta\nu$	Spectral Bandwidth (39 kHz - 3600 MHz)
Δt	Integration Time On-Source (sec)

Pardo et al. 2007



Point Source Sensitivity

One baseline, two antennas:

$$\sigma_S \simeq \frac{2k}{\eta_a A} \times \frac{\langle T_{SYS} \rangle}{\sqrt{2\Delta\nu\Delta t}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_P}}$$

$$\text{Ex @ 100GHz : } \sigma_S \simeq 22 \times \frac{100}{\sqrt{2 \times 3600 \times 10^6 \times 1}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \simeq 19 \text{ mJy}$$

The PdBI array:

$$\text{Ex @ 100GHz : } \sigma_S \simeq 22 \times \frac{100}{\sqrt{30 \times 3600 \times 10^6 \times 1}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \simeq 4.7 \text{ mJy}$$

Extended Source Sensitivity

Brightness noise equation:

$$\sigma_{T_b} = \left(\frac{\theta_p}{\theta_s}\right)^2 \frac{T_{SYS}}{\eta \sqrt{N(N-1) \Delta \nu \Delta t}} \quad \eta = 0.5$$

Uses the flux density to brightness conversion factor

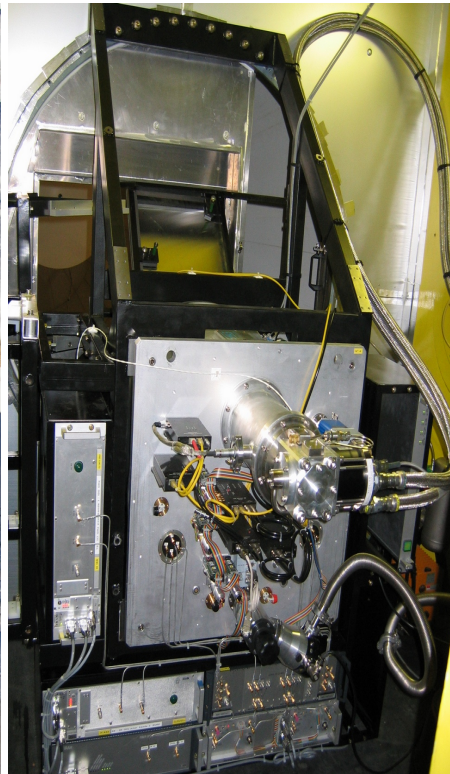
Only for sources just filling the synthesized beam i.e. the sensitivity estimate is based on the 'beam dilution' approximation

Cannot be extrapolated easily to more extended targets
e.g. missing flux problem

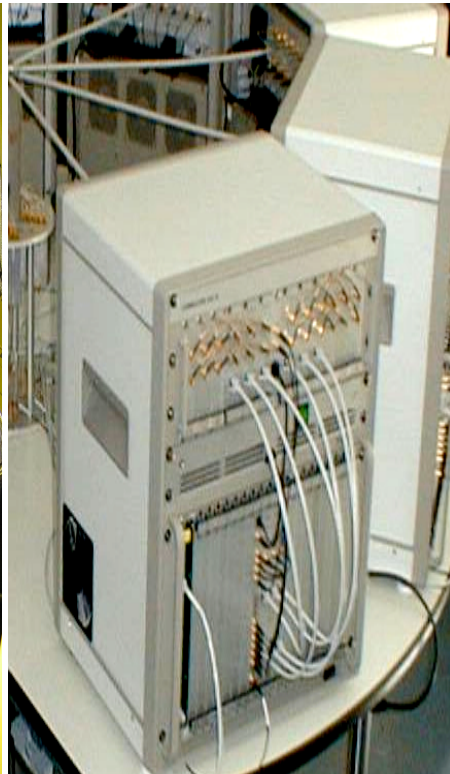
PdBI : recent and future milestones



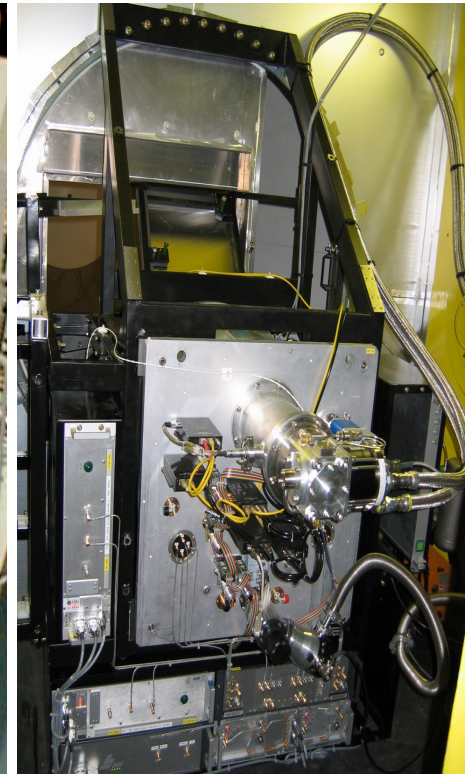
Track Extensions
W05/06



New 3mm and 1mm
bands W06/07
2mm band W07/08



WideX 2 x 4 GHz
W09/10



0.8mm band
W10/11

NOEMA 2011 > 2016



- is well-matched to science interests and pressure
- French ALMA time = <6%, <1% for the 3-1mm windows
- need to complement ALMA @ 3-1mm \Rightarrow within a sensitivity of 2-3
- doubles ALMA time for the IRAM community
- covers the northern sky (1/3 of the full sky)
- ensures expertise within IRAM partner organizations