Calibration, imaging and mm peculiarities

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http://www.alma.inaf.it/index.php/Courses

Radio telescopes
ERA sections 3.4, 3.5

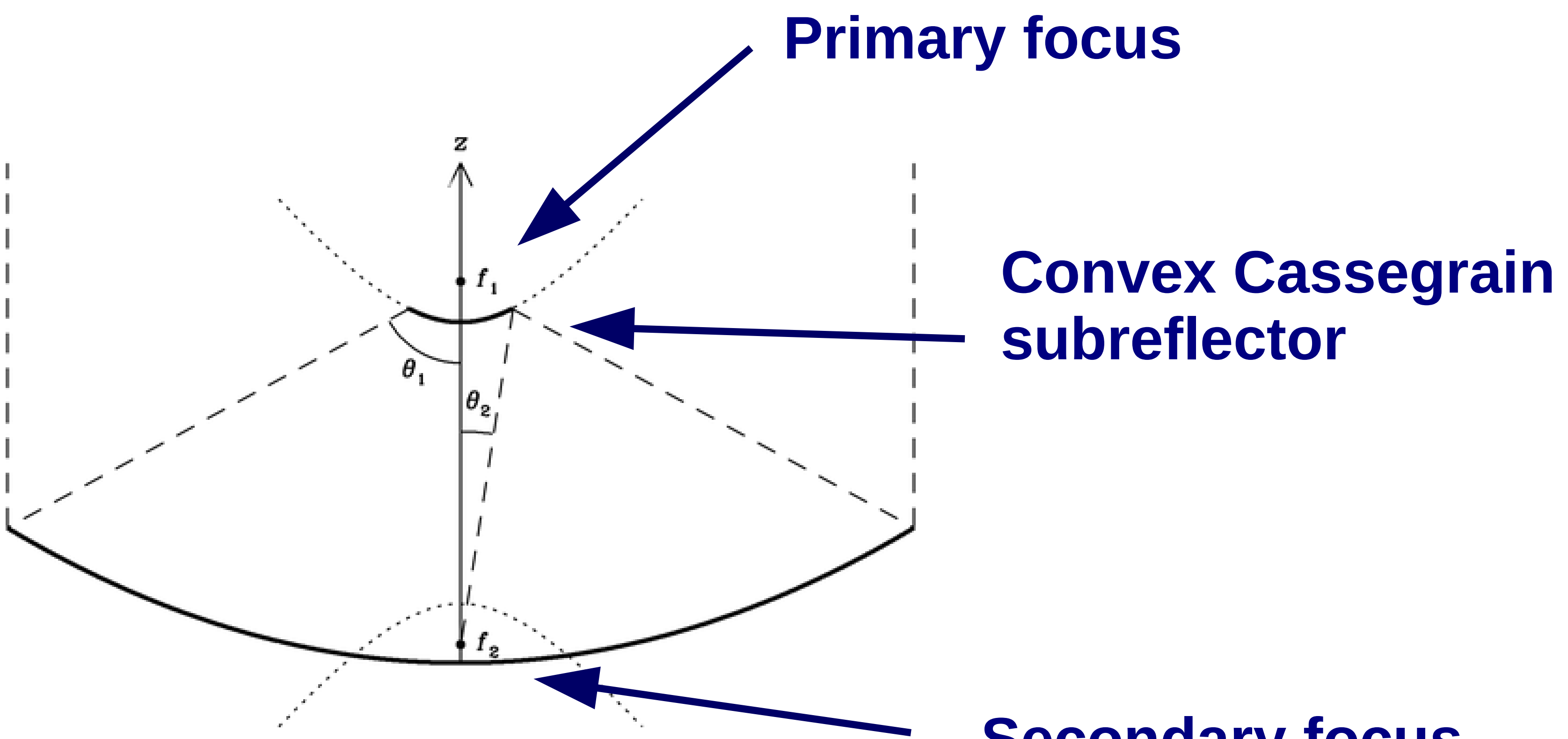
Receivers
ERA sections 3.6.2, 3.6.4, 3.6.5

Calibration

Imaging

mm peculiarities

Radio telescopes



Both ALMA and VLA antennas have a Cassegrain optical configuration.
All (or most of the) receivers are in the Secondary focus

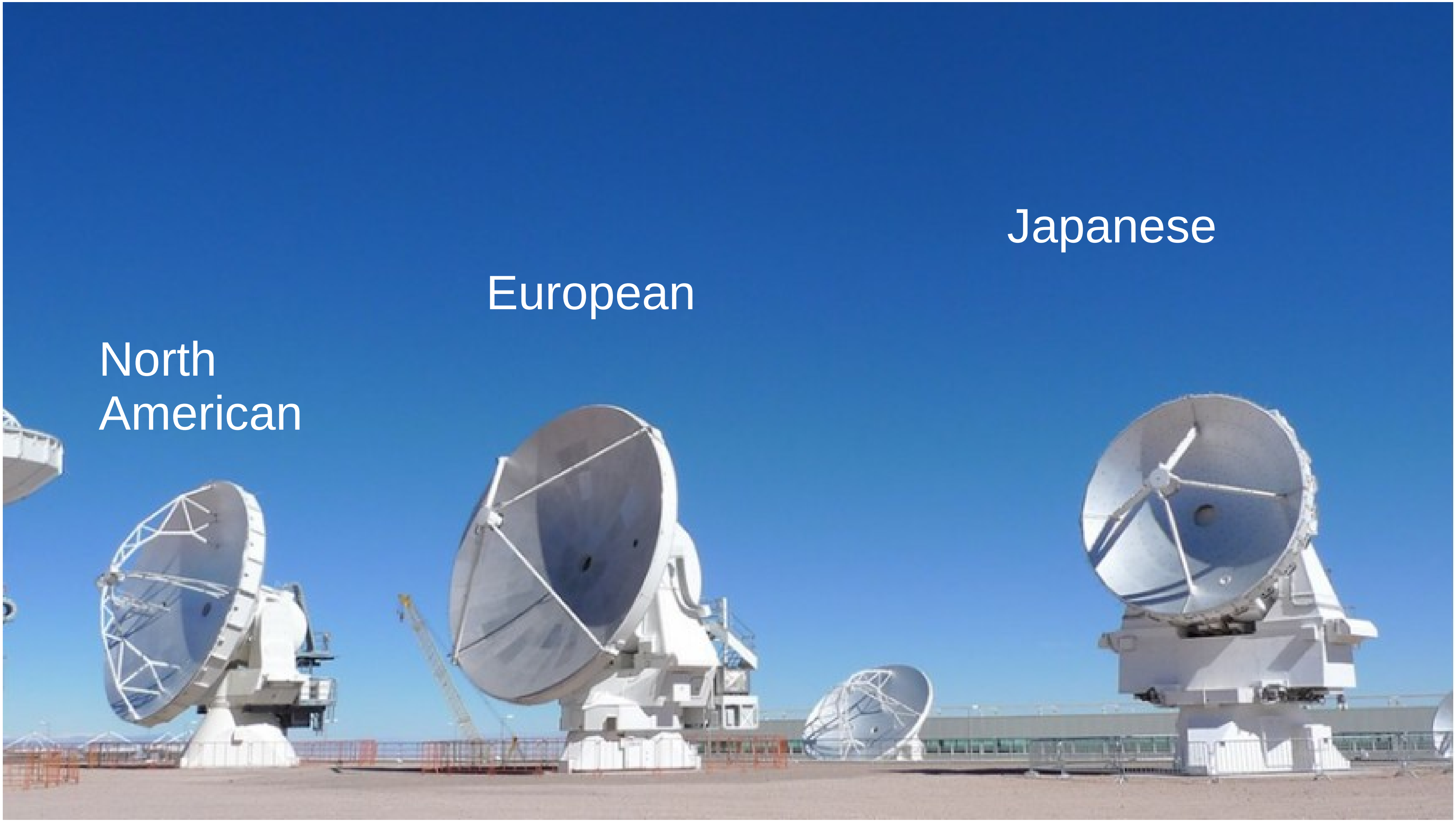
Radio telescopes

VLA subreflector

VLA secondary focus

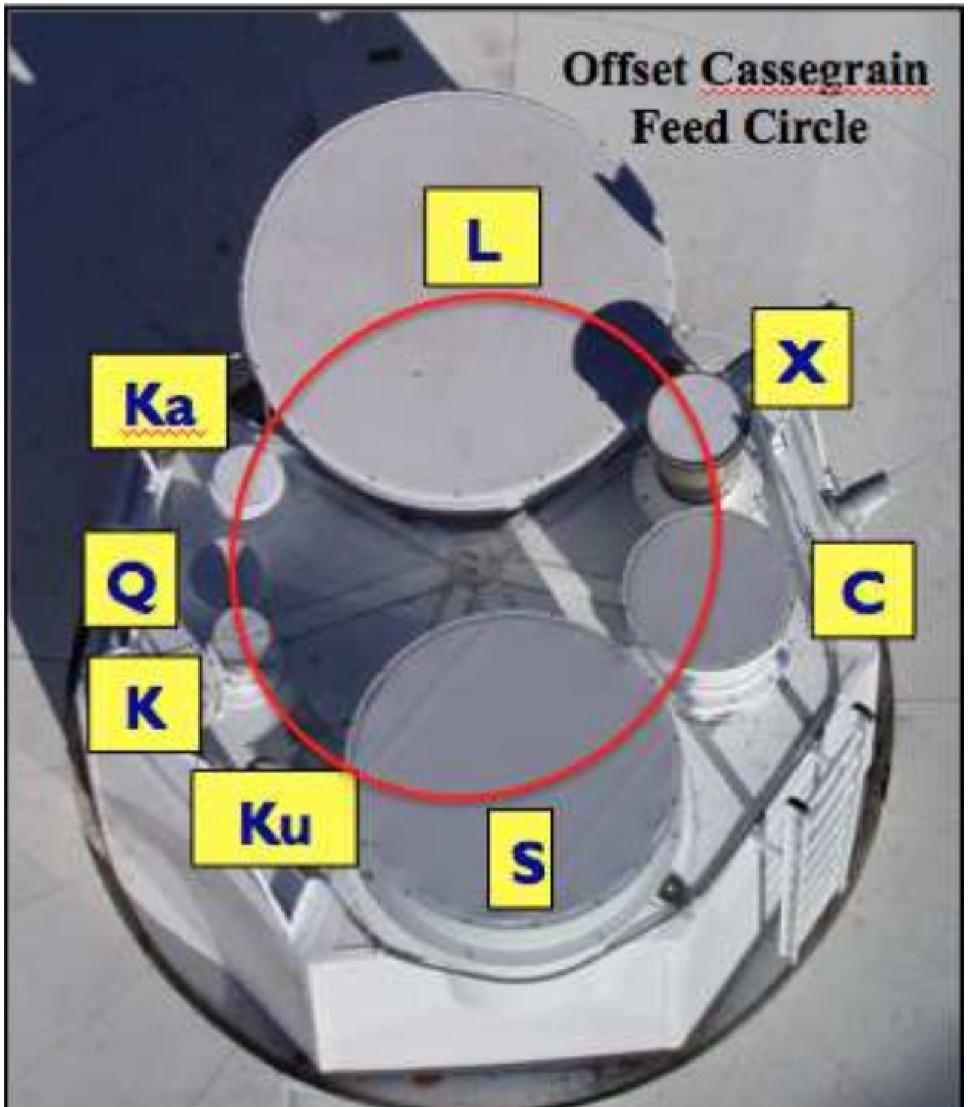
Radio telescopes

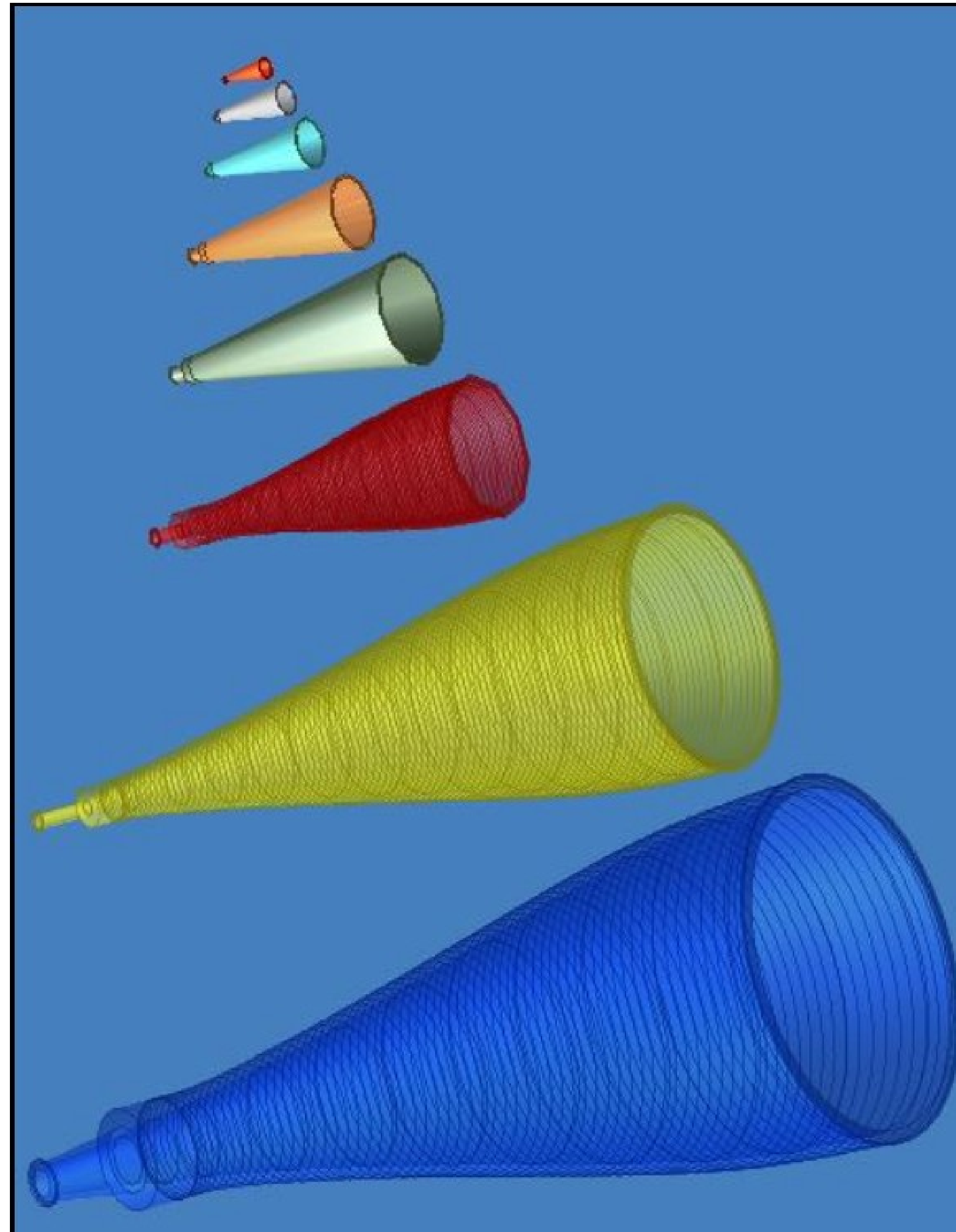
ALMA antennas



Radio telescopes

VLA feed horns
1.4 GHz - 40GHz

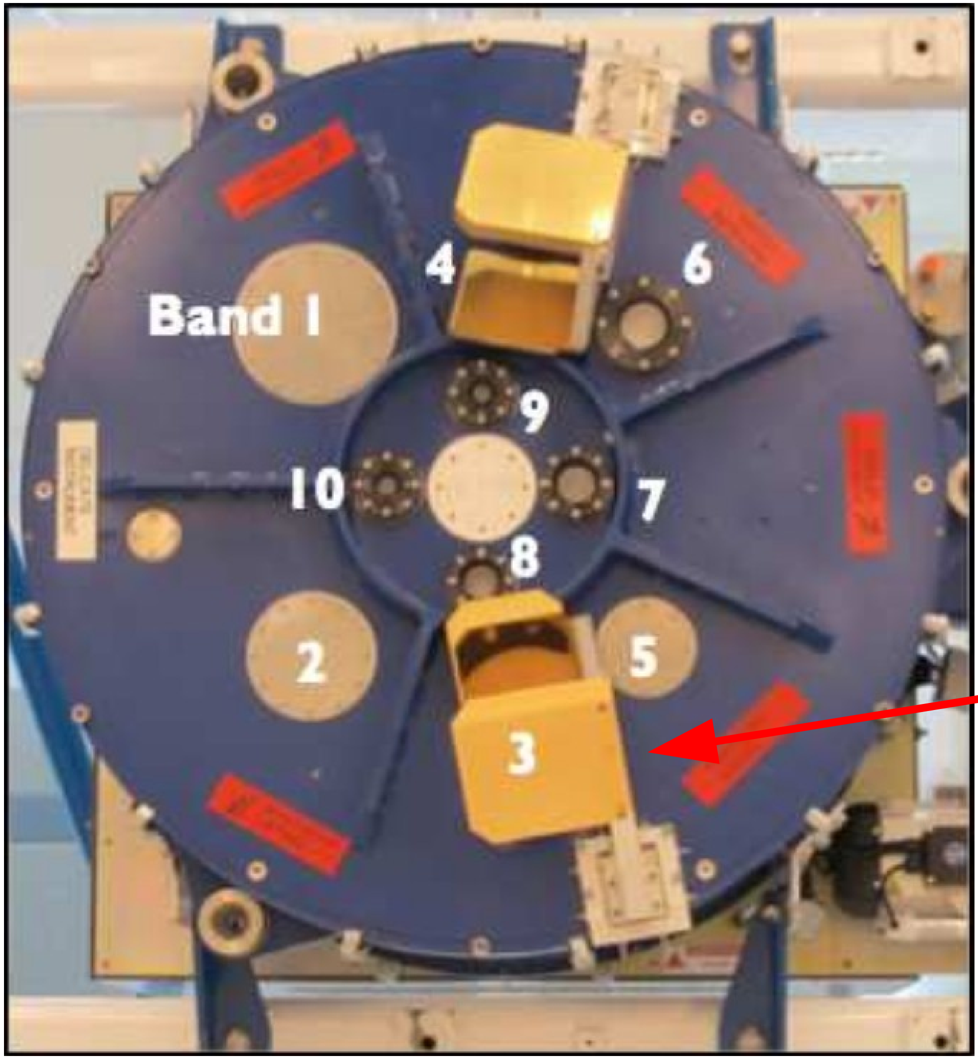




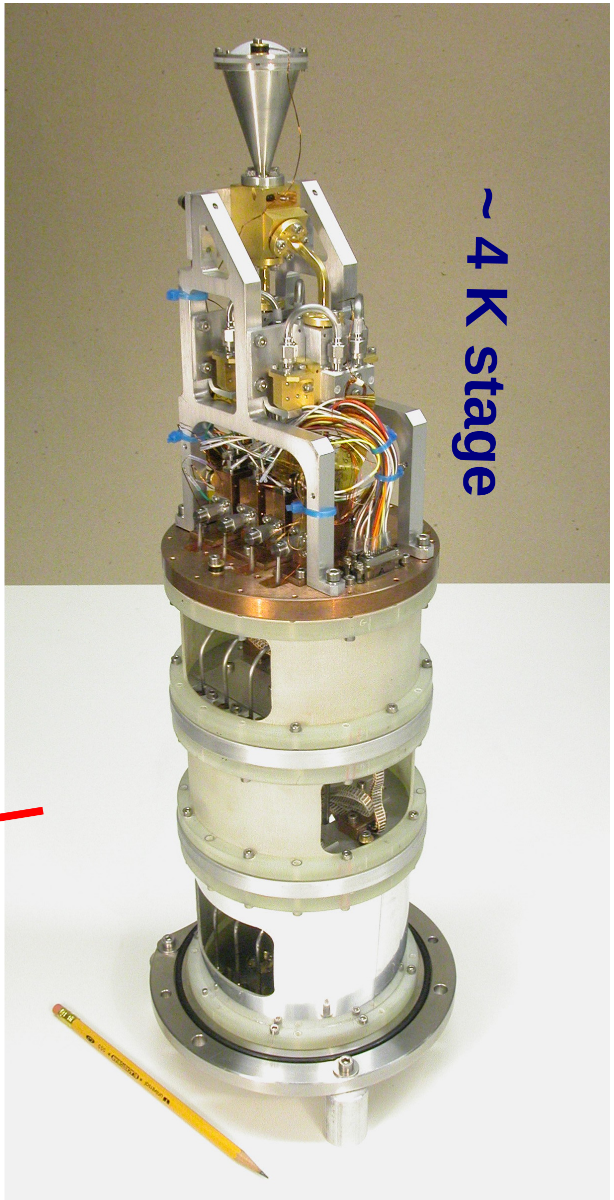
Radio telescopes

ALMA cryostat front view
<1 m in diameter

90 GHz – 900 GHz



ALMA 90 GHz cartridge

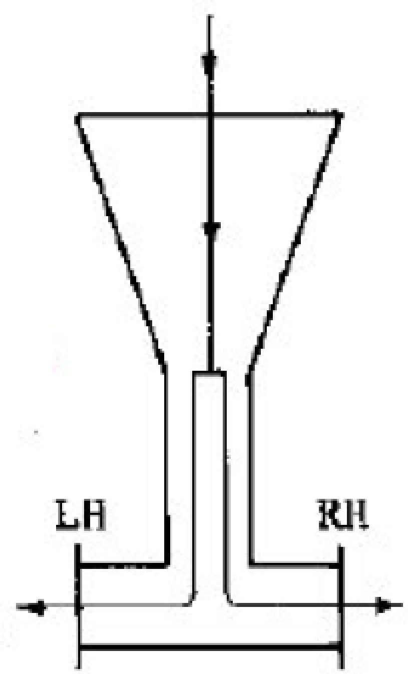


~50 cm

Radio telescopes

To measure all four Stokes parameter of an arbitrary polarized source it is necessary to combine the outputs of two ortogonally polarized feeds.
Circular feeds (VLA) or linear feeds (ALMA).
Usually after the feed horn there is a device (OMT or wire grid) separating the two polarizations.

L (VLA)
X (ALMA)



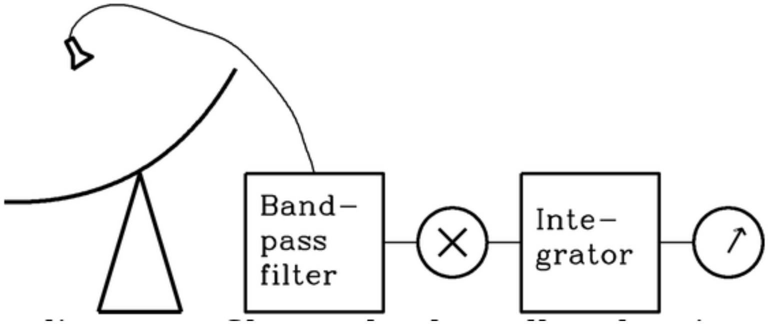
R (VLA)
Y (ALMA)

Receivers

Radiometers

The simplest total-power radiometer measures the time-averaged power of the input noise in a well defined radio frequency range

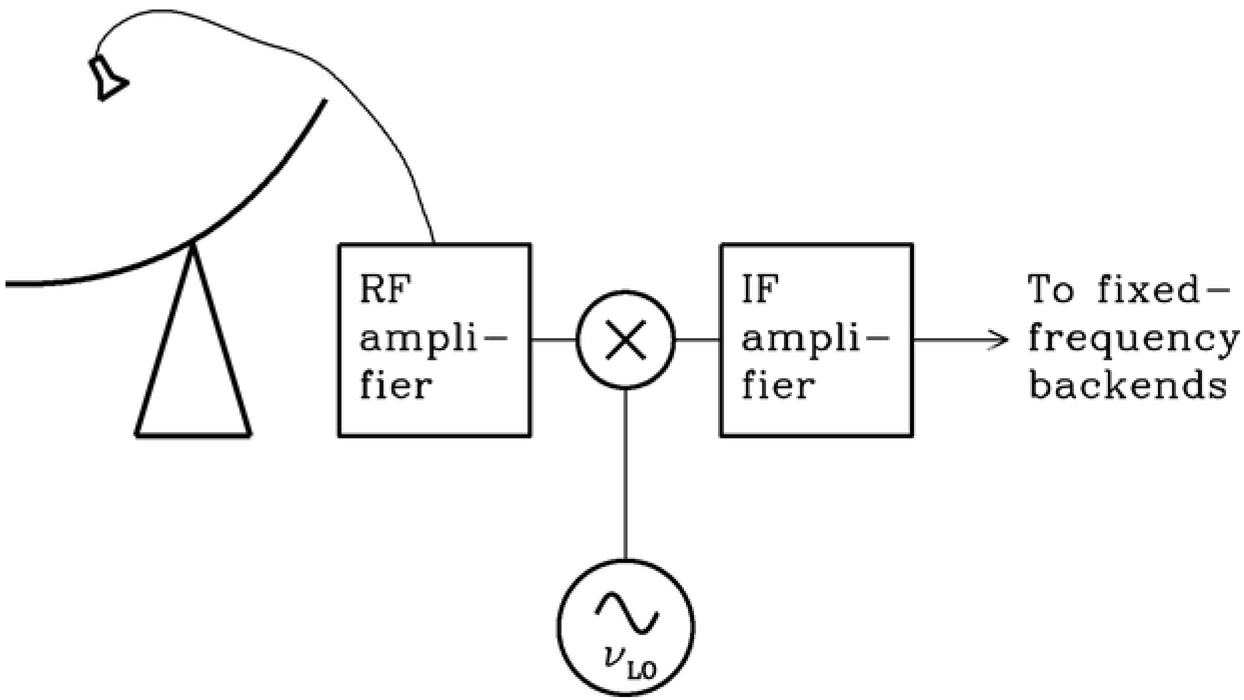
$$\left[\nu_{RF} - \Delta\nu - \nu_{RF} + \Delta\nu\right]$$



Receivers

Superheterodyne Receiers

Nearly all practical receivers are superheterodyne.
The RF amplifier is followed by a mixer that multiplies the RF signal by a sine wave of frequency ν_{LO}
generated by a local oscillator (LO)



Receivers

Superheterodyne Receeiers

The product of two sine waves

$$2\sin(2\pi\nu_{\mathrm{LO}}t)\sin(2\pi\nu_{\mathrm{RF}}t)$$

=

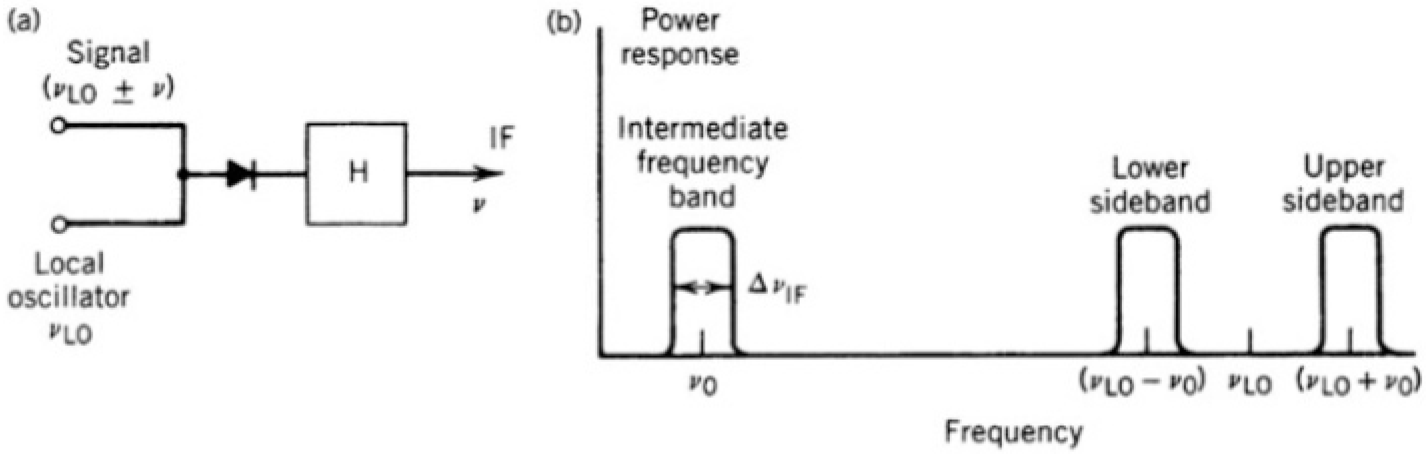
$$\cos\left[2\pi(\nu_{\mathrm{LO}}-\nu_{\mathrm{RF}})t\right]-\cos\left[2\pi(\nu_{\mathrm{LO}}+\nu_{\mathrm{RF}})t\right].$$

Contains the sum and difference frequency components.
The mixer acts as a frequency shifter.

- Shifts the signal to a lower frequency (called **Intermediate Frequency IF**) where it is easier to amplify, transmit, filter, digitize
- Improves tunability over a wide range of frequencies, by adjusting only the LO frequency
- The IF amplifier and back-end devices can all operate over a fixed frequency range

Receivers

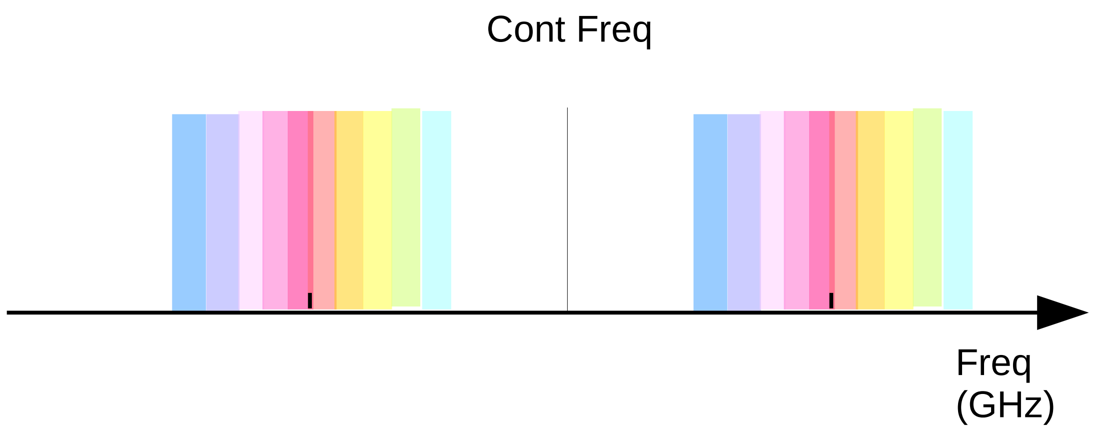
Superheterodyne Receiers



- Signals from within the bands centered at $\nu_{LO} \pm \nu_0$ are converted to the IF band and admitted by the filter.
- These bands are known as **lower and upper sidebands**.
- If only a single sideband is wanted, the other can be removed by suitable filters. In some cases both sidebands are accepted, resulting in a **double-sideband receiver** (many of ALMA's receivers are DSB)

Spectrometers

A spectrometer divides the passband into N adiacent narrow frequency ranges, and simultaneously measures the power in all N channels.



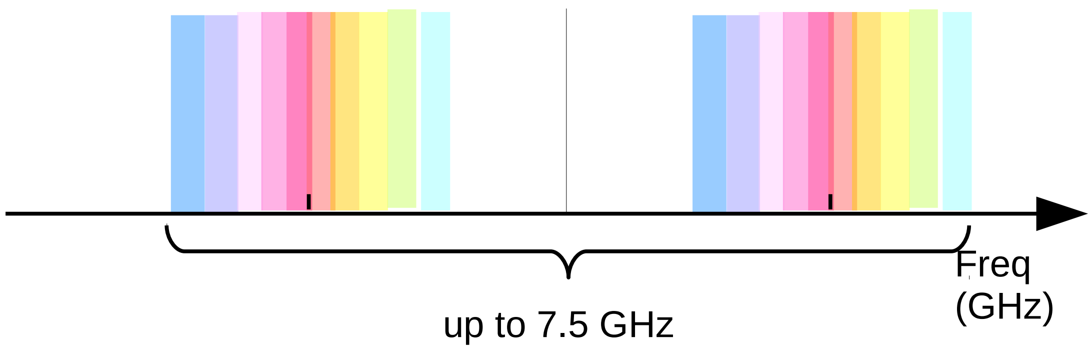
Modern interferometers use large band receivers.
Data are taken in multichannel mode regardless if they are meant for continuum or line observations.

The maximum number of channels in dual polarization mode is
8192 for the VLA
3840 for ALMA

Continuum images

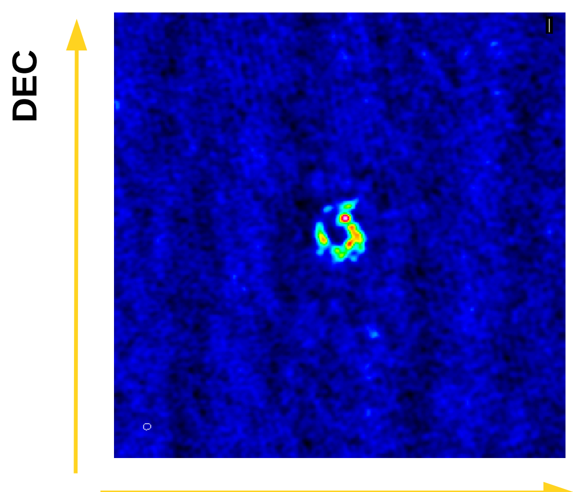
- **Multi-Frequency synthesis (MFS)**
- Wide bandwidths allow higher sensitivity to continuum emission

$$\sigma = \frac{2k}{\eta} \frac{T_{\mathrm{sys}}}{\sqrt{\Delta t \Delta \nu}\sqrt{N_{\mathrm{ant}}(N_{\mathrm{ant}}-1)A}}$$



MFS
combines all channels

the result is a single image



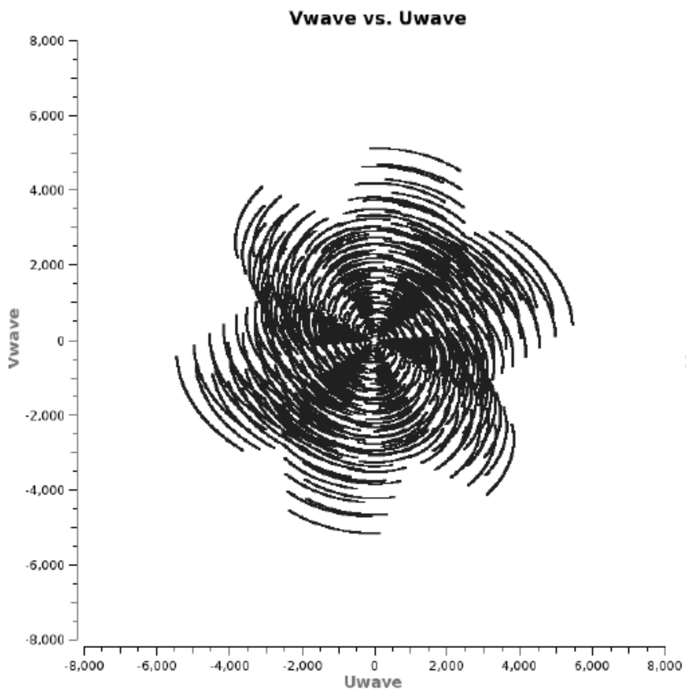
Continuum images

- **Multi-Frequency synthesis (MFS)**

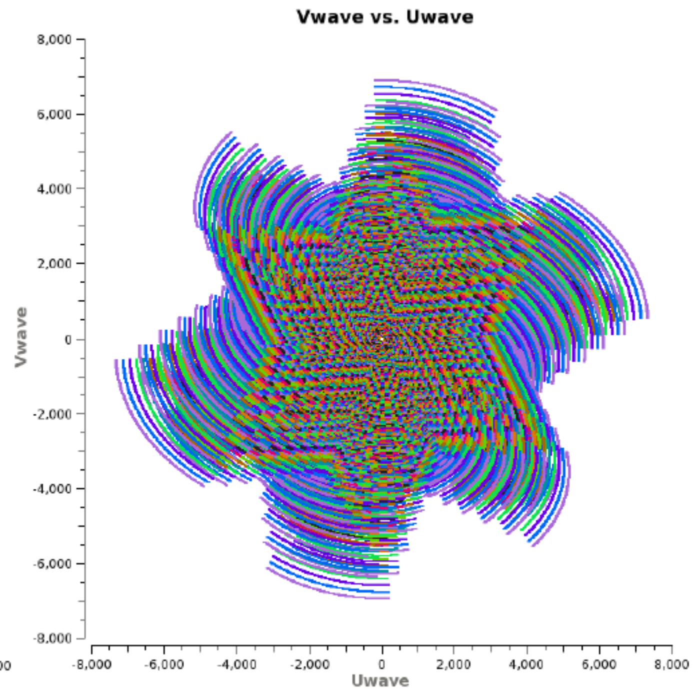
- Wide bandwidths allow higher sensitivity to continuum emission but also **uv coverage is improved**

$$\sigma = \frac{2k}{\eta} \frac{T_{\mathrm{sys}}}{\sqrt{\Delta t \Delta \nu}\sqrt{N_{\mathrm{ant}}(N_{\mathrm{ant}}-1)A}}$$

- Distance in the uv-plane is proportional to b/λ so observing a large range in wavelengths changes points in the uv-plane into lines.



1.5 GHz

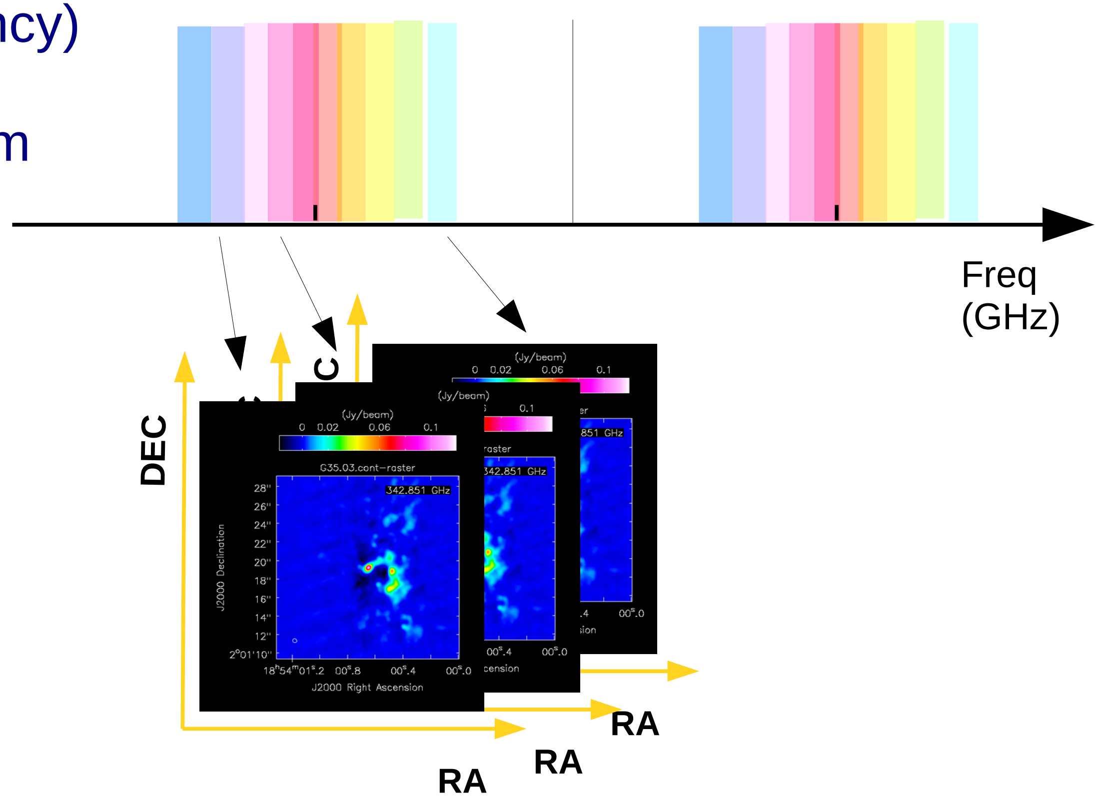


1 – 2 GHz

Spectral line observations

$$\sigma = \frac{2k}{\eta} \frac{T_{\rm sys}}{\sqrt{\Delta t \Delta \nu}\sqrt{N_{\rm ant}(N_{\rm ant}-1)A}}$$

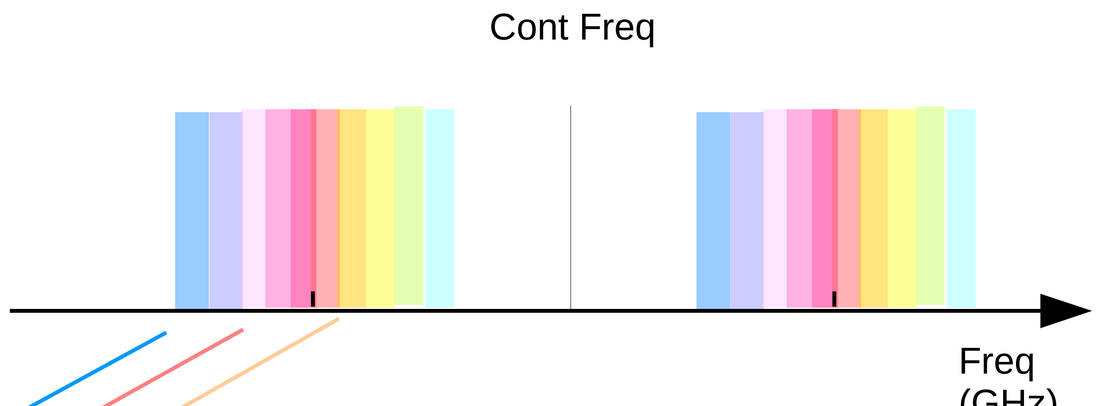
- The imaging process is the same as for a continuum map **but** making an image for each channel (a cube with axes RA, DEC and velocity/frequency)
- The rms is larger than for continuum
- While imaging it is possible to average channels if the full spectral resolution is not needed

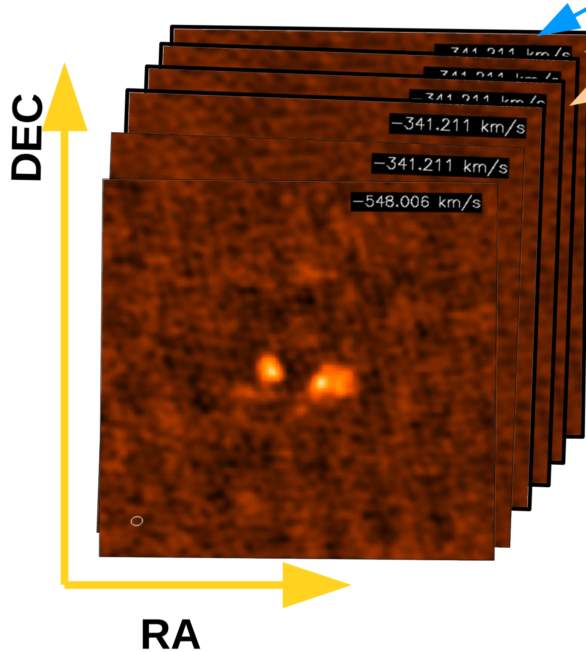


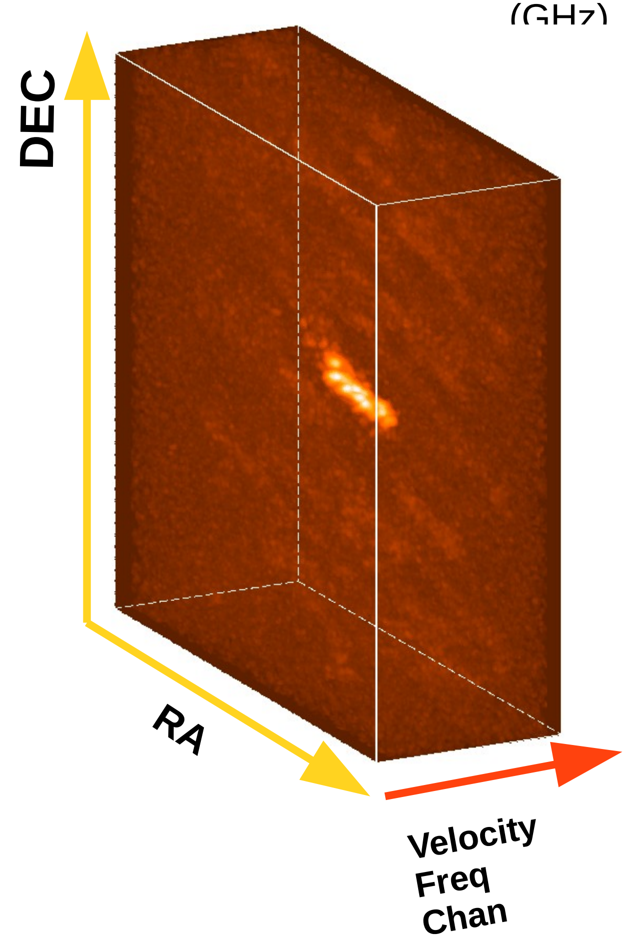
Interferometric data

Spectral line images
are 3-dimensional.

One image from each channel

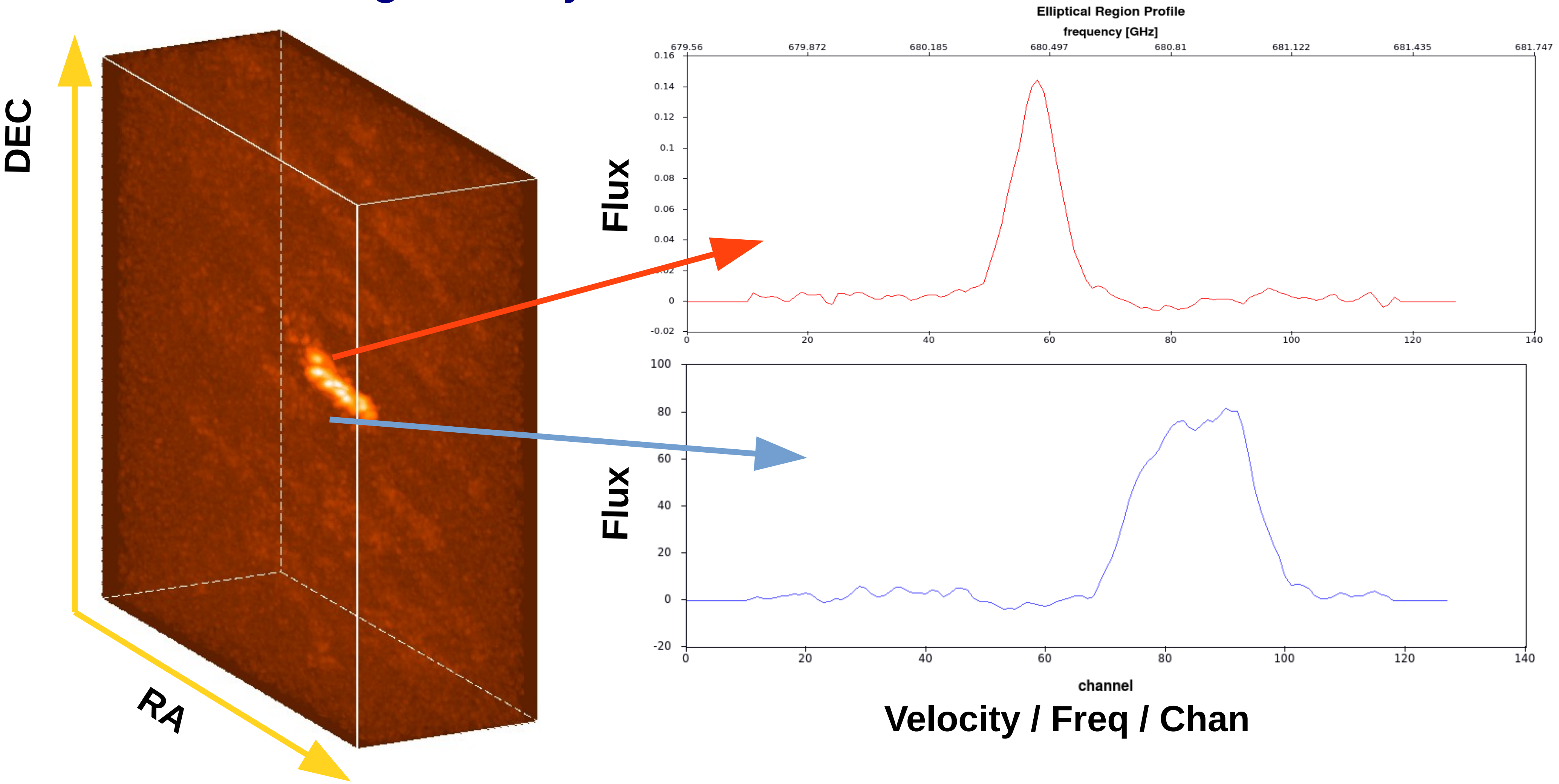






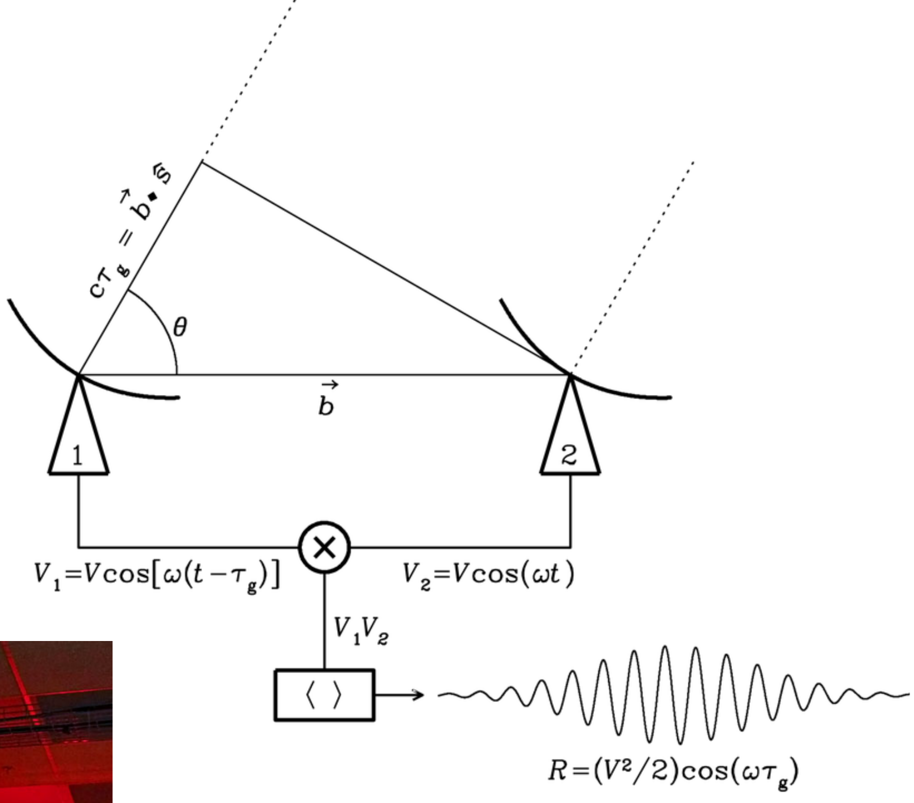
Spectral lines

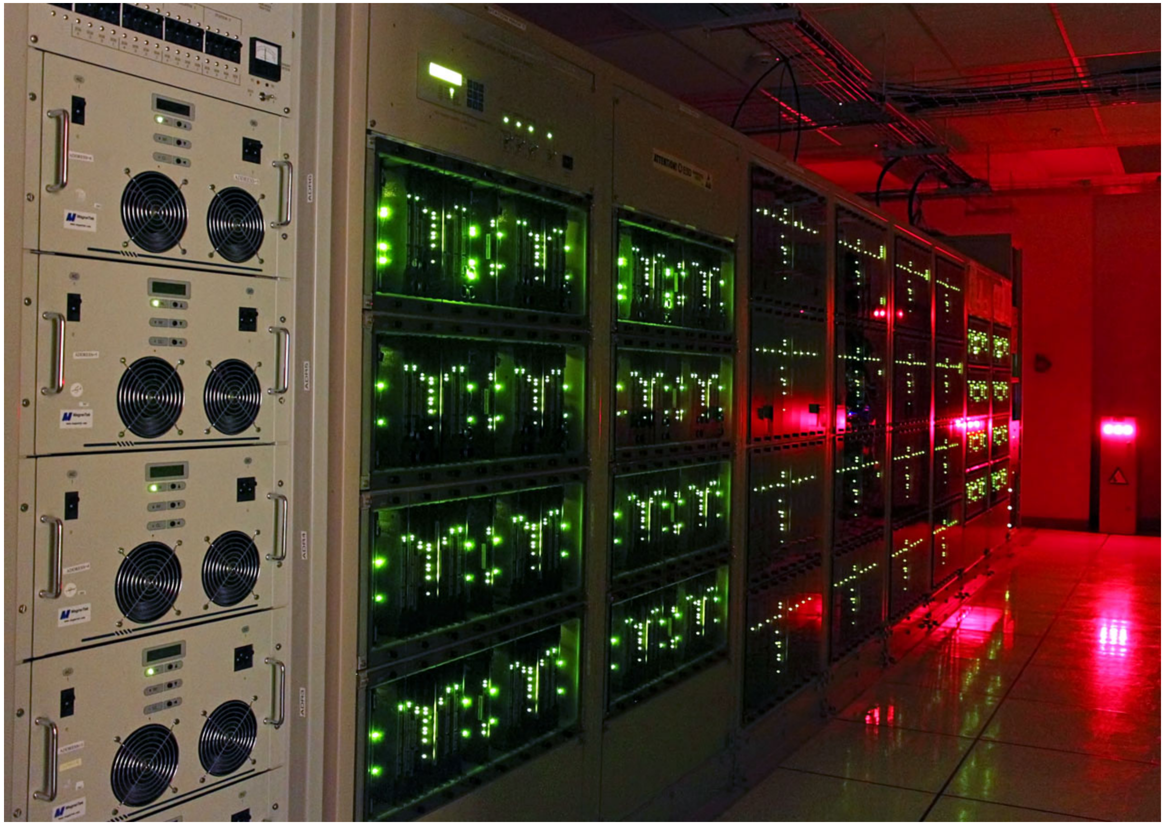
1-D slice along velocity axis



From each pixel one spectrum

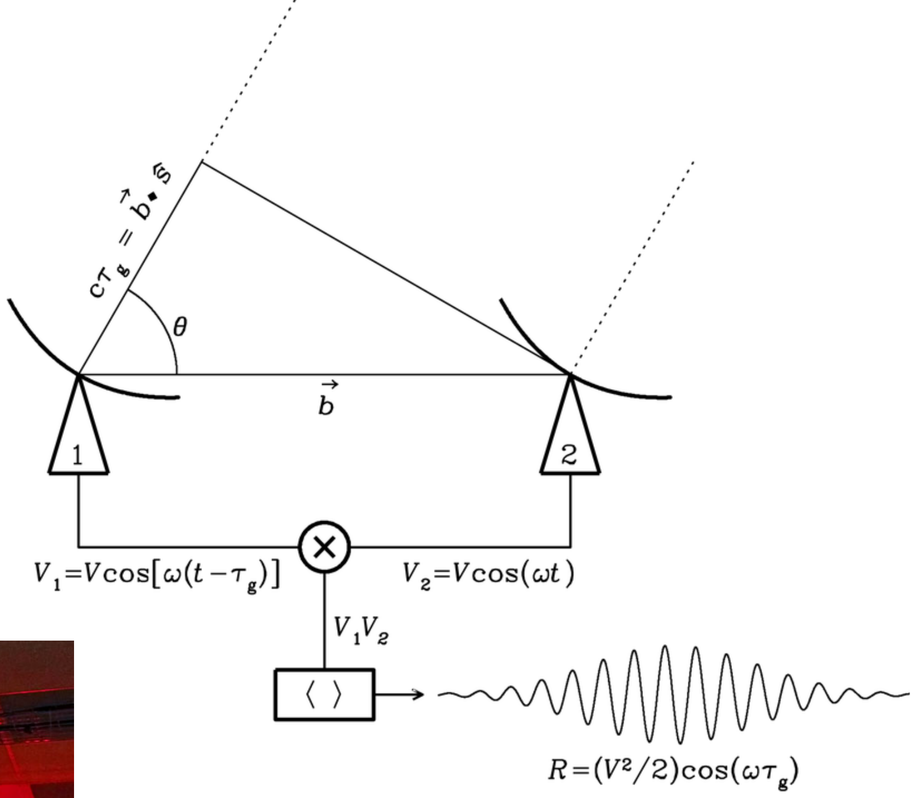
Interferometer correlators

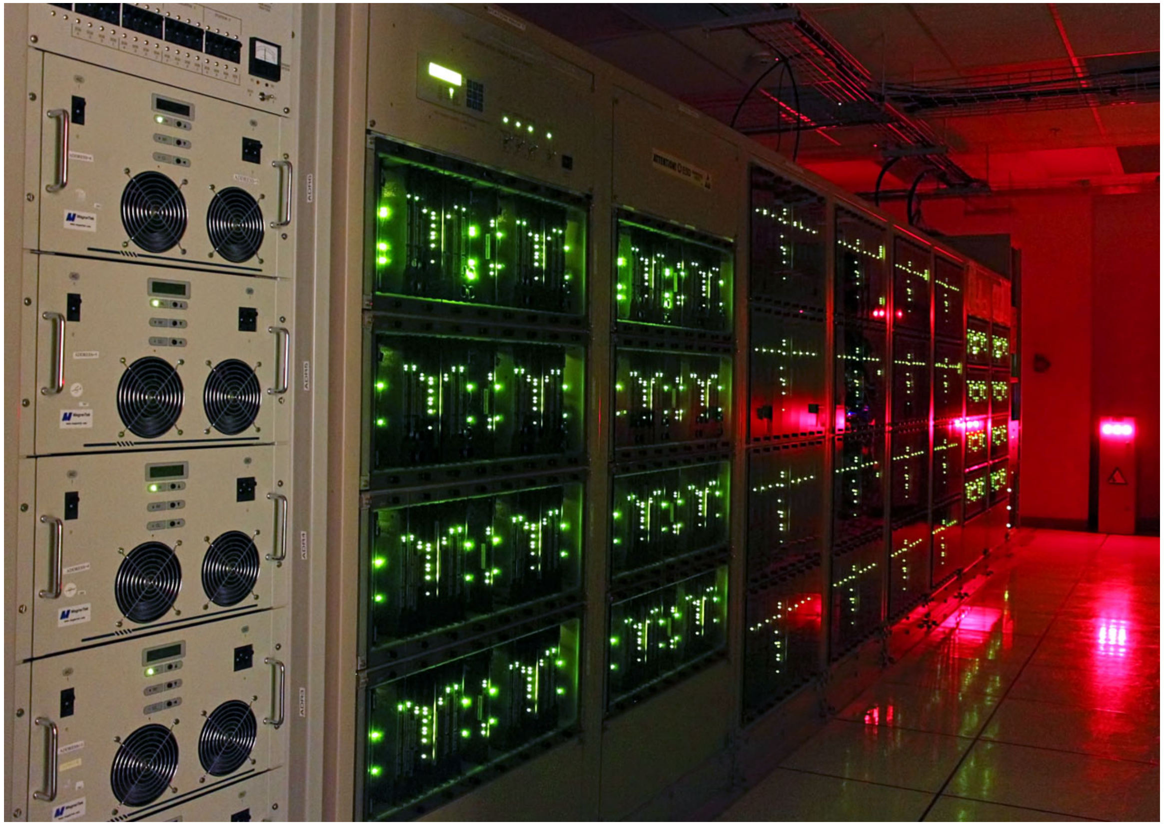




Output?

Interferometer correlators



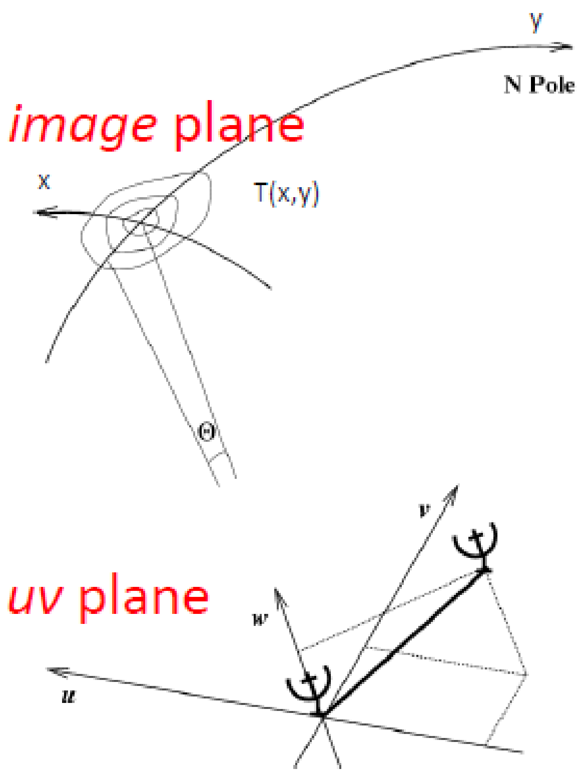


1 visibility

∀ ∀ **baseline**
∀ **time unit**
∀ **Frequency channel**
∀ **Polarization product**

Calibration

In the interferometer the signals from two antennas are cross-correlated
each baseline measures one *visibility* (per int, per chan, per pol)



(van Cittert-Zernike theorem)

Fourier space/domain

$$V(u,v) = \int\int T(x,y) e^{2\pi i(ux+vy)} dxdy$$

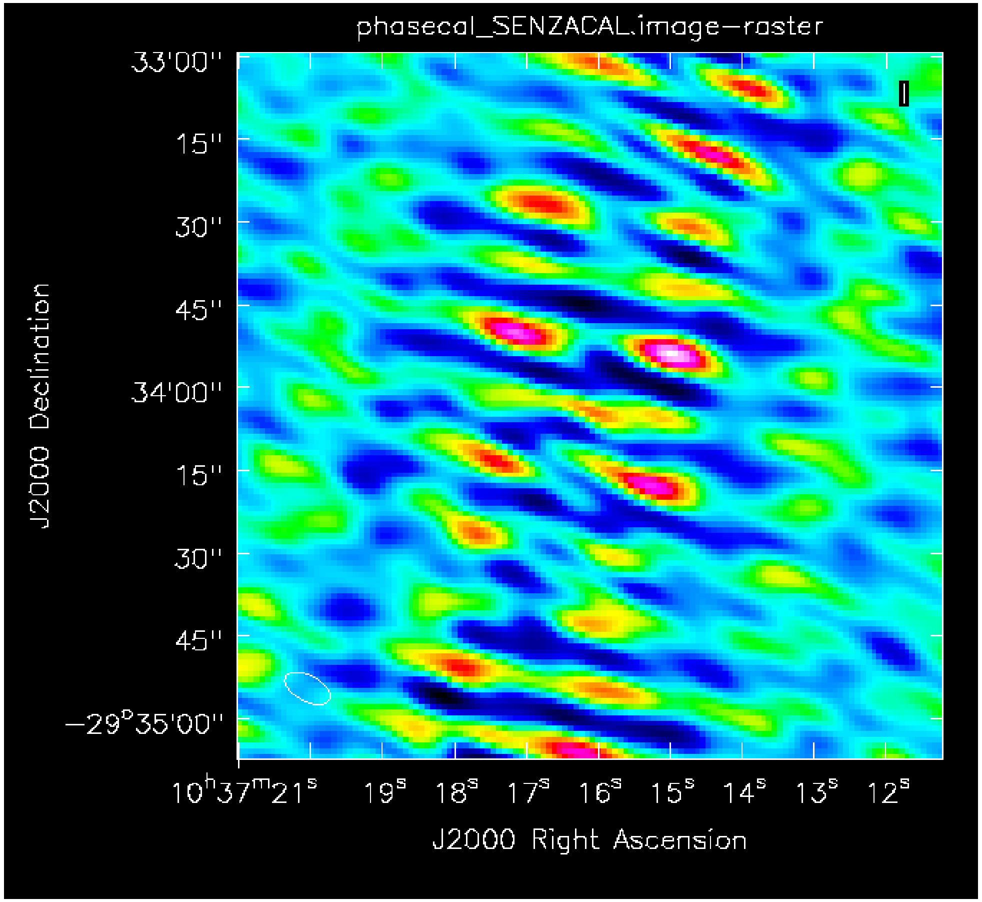
$$T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} dudv$$

Image space/domain

T(x,y) source brightness = I

V(u,v) = FT T(x,y)

If no calibration is applied....



This would be
the image
of 1037-295
the calibrator
of your dataset

deconvolving
V^{ij}_{obs}

The actual source visibilities are corrupted while reaching the receiver by many factors

$$V^{ij}_{obs} = G^{ij} V^{ij}_{real}$$

$$G = K\ B\ J\ D\ E\ P\ T\ F$$

F=ionosphere
T=troposphere
P=parallactic angle (alt-az mounting)
E=antenna voltage pattern
D=polarization leakages
J= electronic gains
B=bandpass response
K=geometric compensation

$$V^{ij}_{obs}(\nu,t) = G^{ij}(\nu,t) \quad V^{ij}_{real}(\nu,t)$$

The calibration is the process to determine the complex gains G^{ij}, with some assumptions

Most of the effects are antenna-based (pointing, focus, atmosphere, receiver noise, receiver bandpass)

$$V^{ij}_{obs} = G^{i} \; G^{j} \; V^{ij}_{real}$$

Temporal dependence and frequency dependence are only lightly coupled so their variations can be determined independently or at least iteratively

$$G^{i}(\nu,t) = B^{i}(\nu) \; J^{i}(t)$$

We need to determine amplitude **a** and phase **θ** of the gains G, or **real** and **Imag** parts

$$A = \sqrt{(\Re^2 + \Im^2)}$$

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{\Im}{\Re}\right)$$

$$A_{obs}^{ij} e^{i\theta_{obs}^{ij}} = A_{real}^{ij} a^i a^j e^{i(\theta_{real}^{ij} + \theta^i + \theta^j)}$$

Phases for interferometers are **not absolute**.
Need to define a reference antenna, whose phase is arbitrarily fixed to 0.
Typically choose an antenna at the center of the array.

To solve the equations we observe sources for which we know the real visibilities: **calibrators**

$$\mathbf{V^{ij}_{obs} = G^{ij} \quad V^{ij}_{model}}$$

$$A^{ij}_{obs}\, e^{i\,\theta^{ij}_{obs}} = A^{ij}_{model}\, a^{i}\, a^{j}\, e^{i\left(\theta^{ij}_{model} + \theta^{i} + \theta^{j}\right)}$$

We choose bright sources when possible, we know $\mathbf{A^{ij}_{model}}$

We observe them at the phase center we know $\boldsymbol{\theta^{ij}_{model}}$

Bandpass calibration

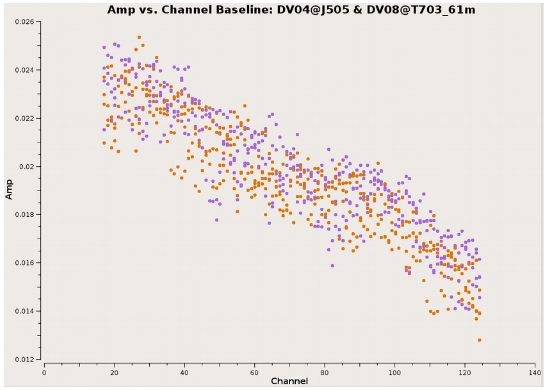
$$G^i(\nu,t) = B^i(\nu)\, J^i(t)$$

- Calibrate for the response in frequency of each antenna ...basically, electronics
- Observations of a bright QSO (typically at the beginning of the observation)
- Amplitude constant within the band
- Observing time long enough to reach high S/N on each channel

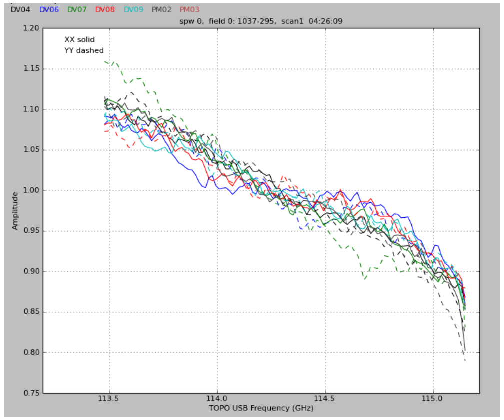
Bandpass calibration

Observing at the **phase center** a source with known model

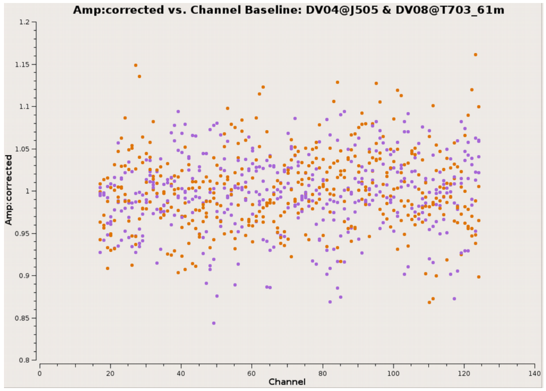
$$A_{mod}(\nu) = 1 \;\; \text{and} \;\; \theta_{mod} = \ldots\ldots$$



$$A^{ij}_{obs} = B^{i} \; B^{j} \; A^{ij}_{mod}$$



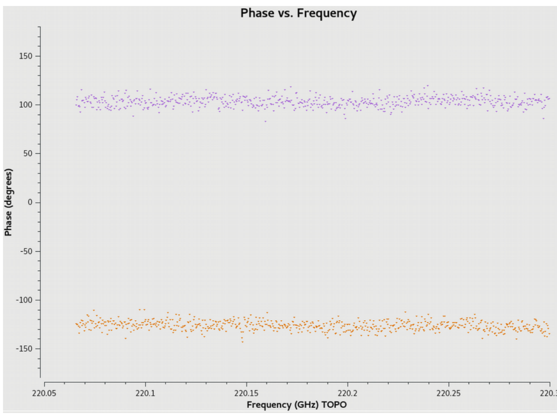
amplitude



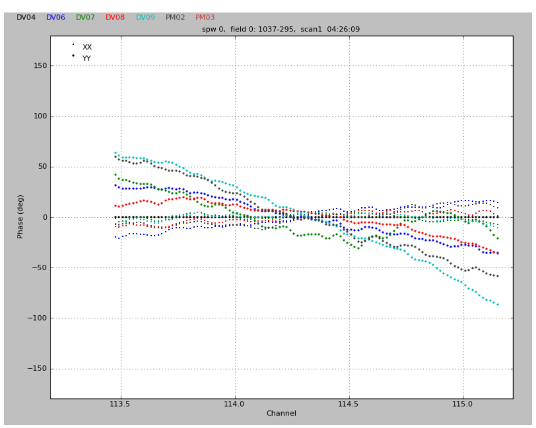
Bandpass calibration

Observing at the **phase center** a source with known model

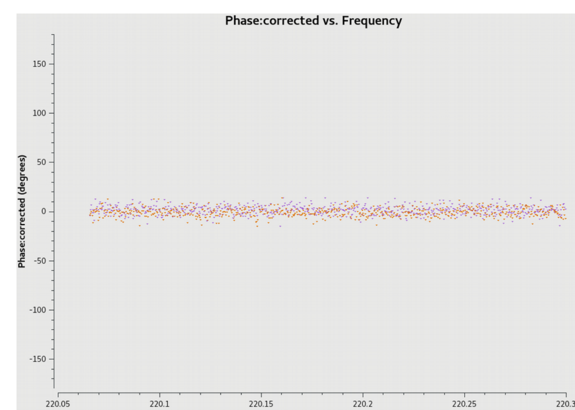
$$A_{mod}(\nu) = 1 \text{ and } \theta_{mod} = \ldots\ldots$$



$$\theta^{ij}_{obs} = \theta^{i} + \theta^{j} + \theta^{ij}_{mod}$$



phase



Gain calibration

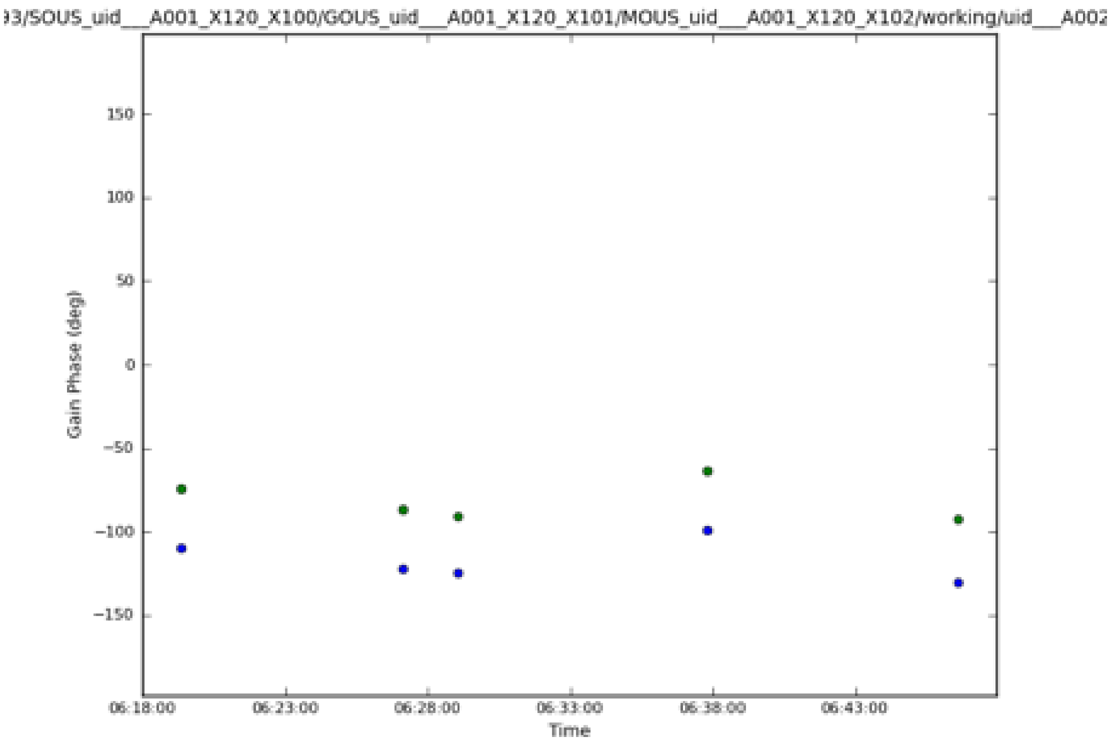
$$G^i(\nu,t) = B^i(\nu)\,J^i(t)$$

- Calibrate for the long time scale dependent response of each antenna
  ...basically, atmosphere
- Observations of a point like source (QSO)
- As close as possible to the target (< 4 deg)

Gain calibration

$$G^i(\nu,t) = B^i(\nu)\, J^i(t)$$

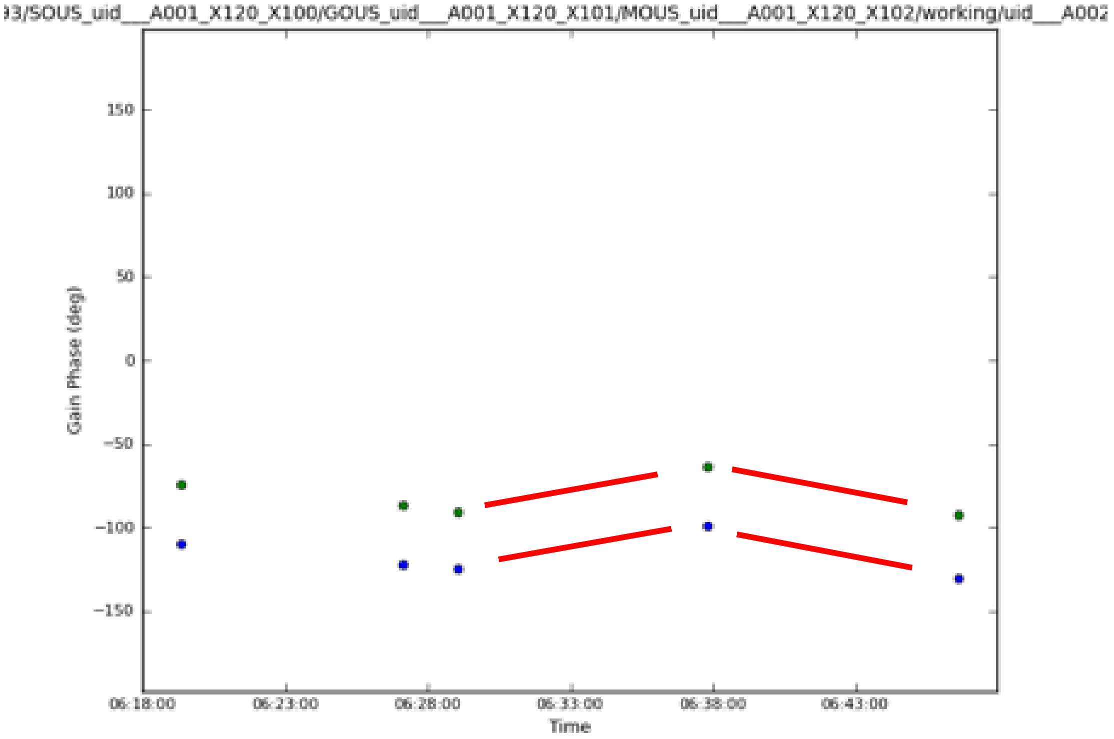
- Observed regularly before and after target scans



Gain calibration

$$G^i(\nu,t) = B^i(\nu)\, J^i(t)$$

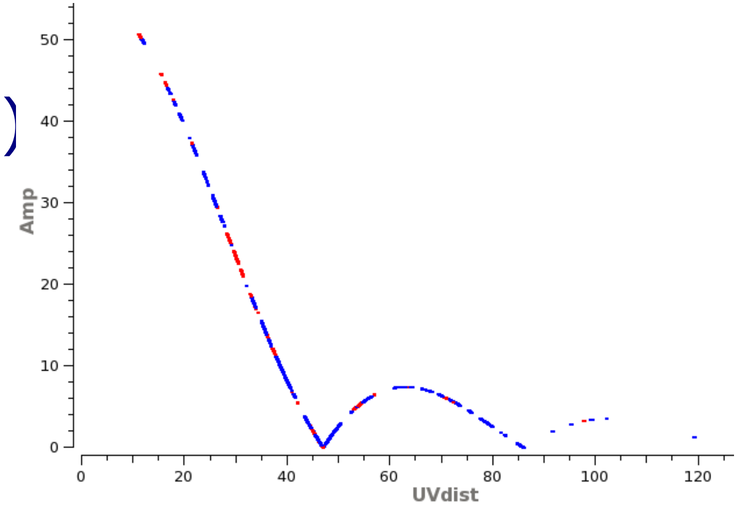
- Observed regularly before and after target scans
- Coherence time
- Solutions applied to the target using a **linear interpolation**



Amplitude calibration

- Define the Jy/K scale
  basically antenna efficiency

- Observations of a non variable object
  (typically at the beginning of the observation)

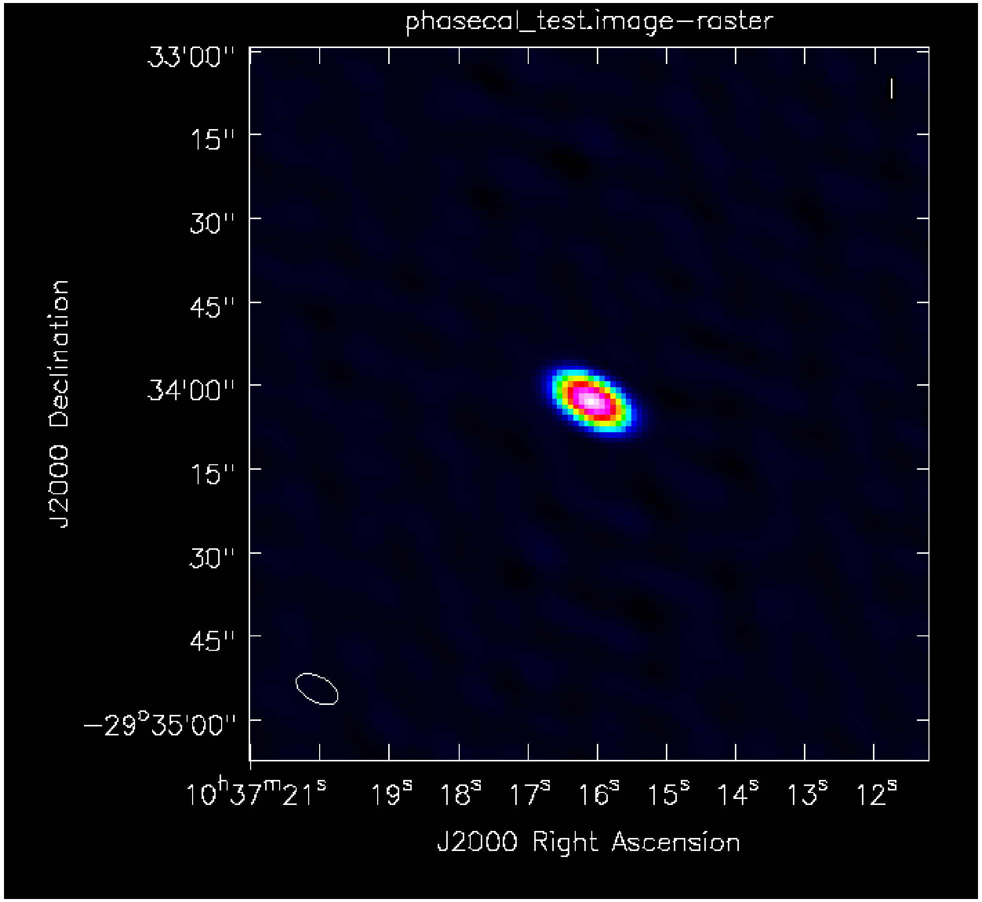


- No matter where in the sky

- The scale is calculated for the flux calibrator and transferred
  to bandpass and phase calibrator

After calibration

deconvolving V^{ij}_{cal}



Imaging

Interferometry basics

In the next two weeks we are going to deal with

visibilities and **uv plane**

To get familiar with them you can play with

- a java applet online:

http://www.narrabri.atnf.csiro.au/astronomy/vri.html

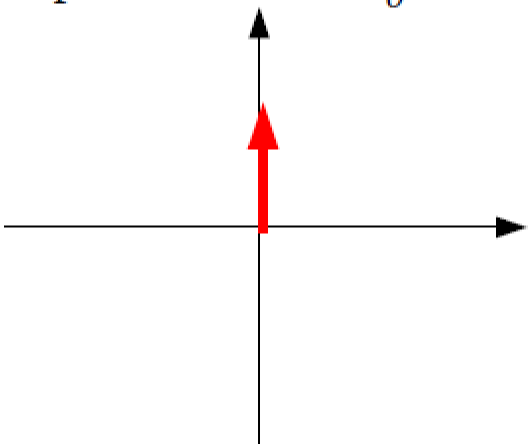
- or a python script written by Ivan Marti-Vidal (nordic ARC node) APSYNSIM

https://launchpad.net/apsynsim

Interferometry basics

1 D

1. The pulse: $\delta\,(x - x_o)$



Dirac function

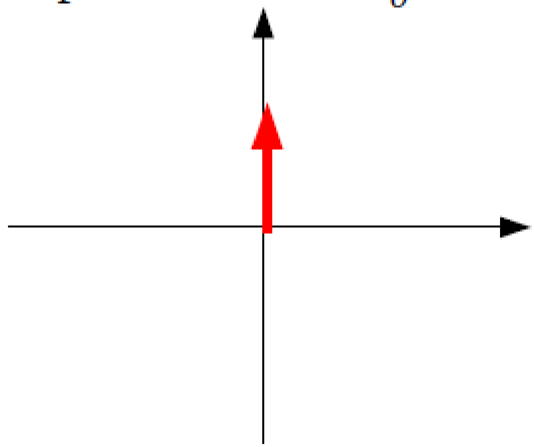
$\mathcal{FT}$?

Fourier Transform

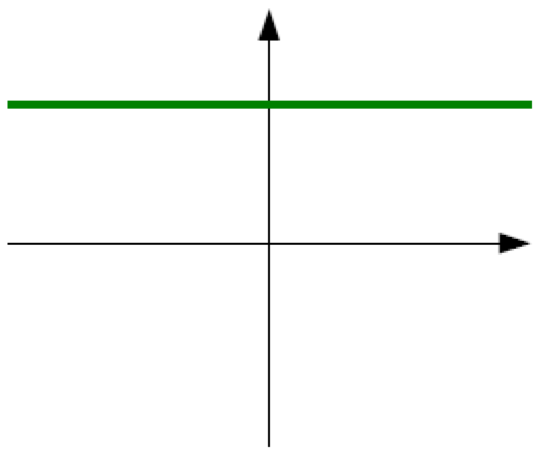
Interferometry basics

1 D

1. The pulse: $\delta(x - x_o)$



Dirac function

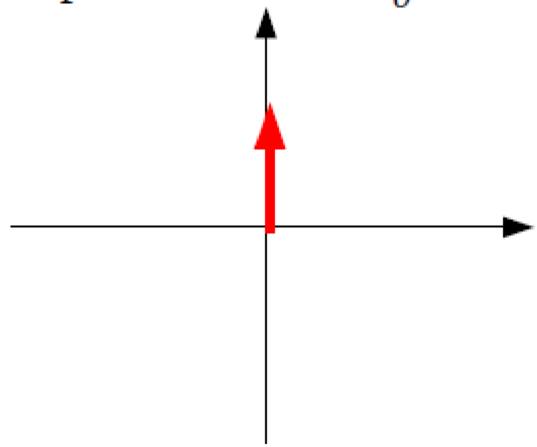


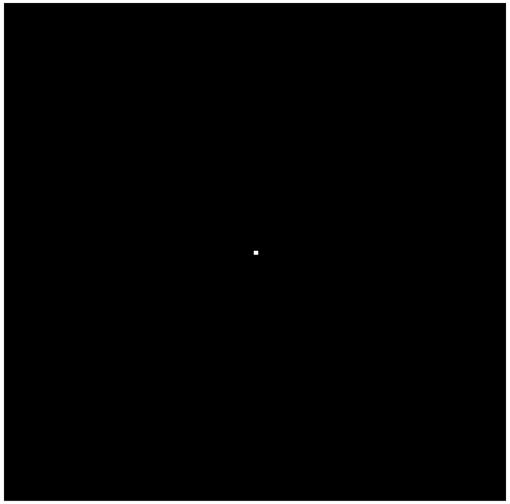
Fourier Transform

Interferometry basics

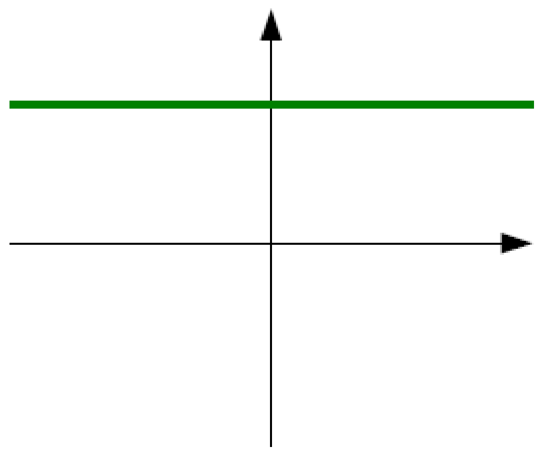
1 D **2 D**

1. The pulse: $\delta(x - x_o)$





Point source in the sky



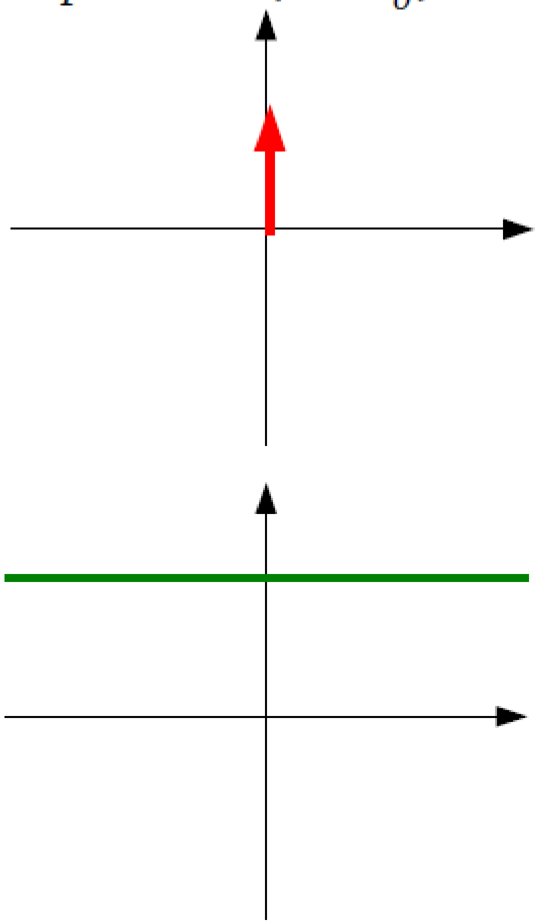
$\mathcal{FT}$?

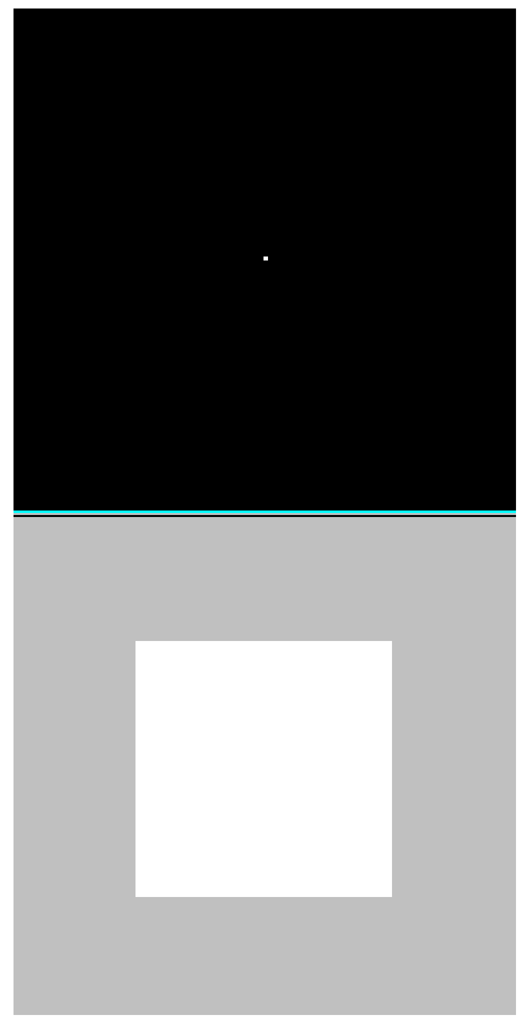
Ideal uv plane

Interferometry basics

1 D | **2 D**

1. The pulse: $\delta\,(x - x_o)$



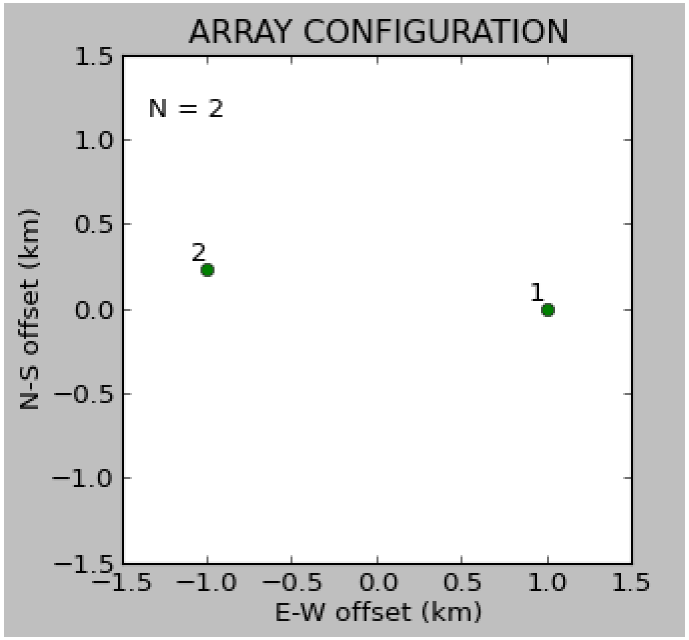


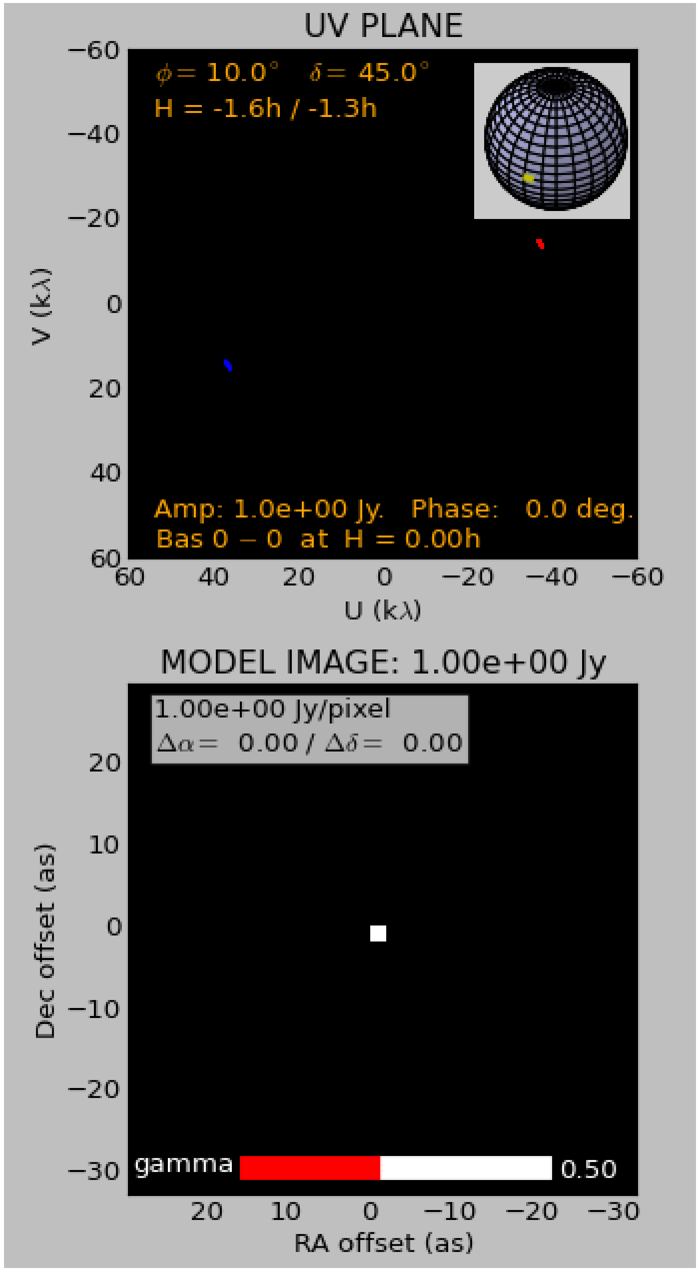
Point source in the sky

Ideal uv plane

Interferometry basics

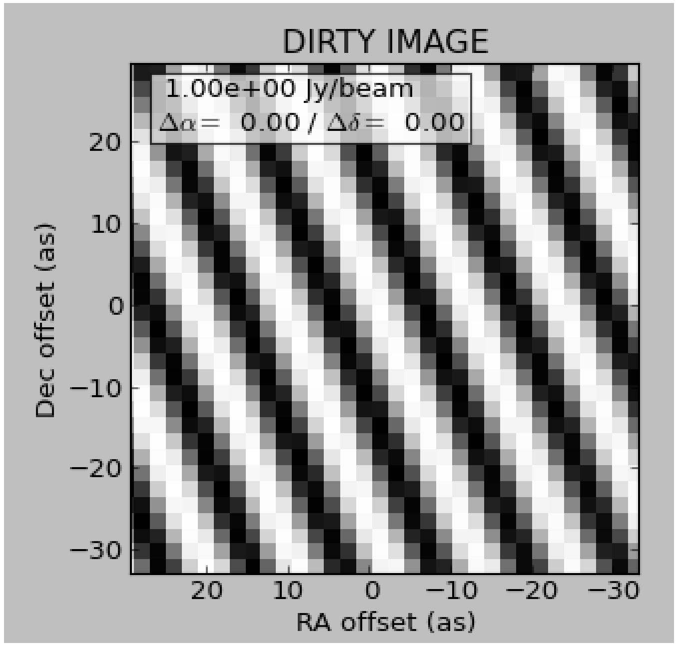
Snapshot observation with two antennas 1 baseline





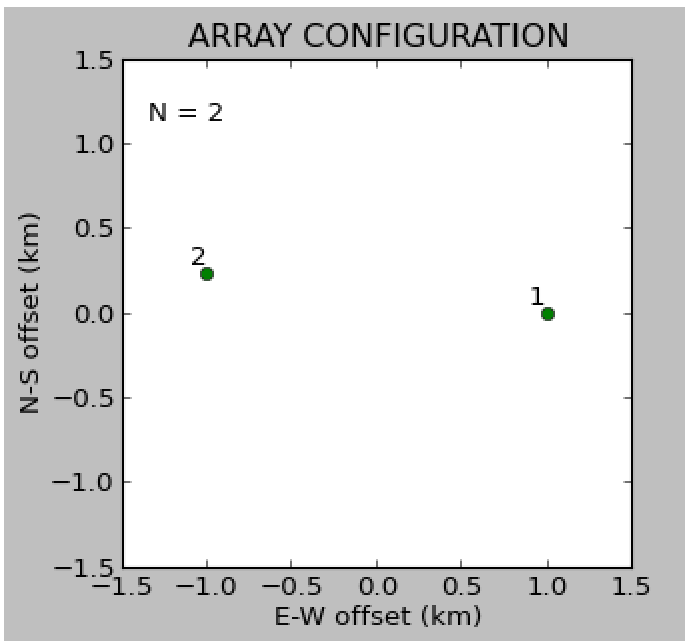
← uv-coverage

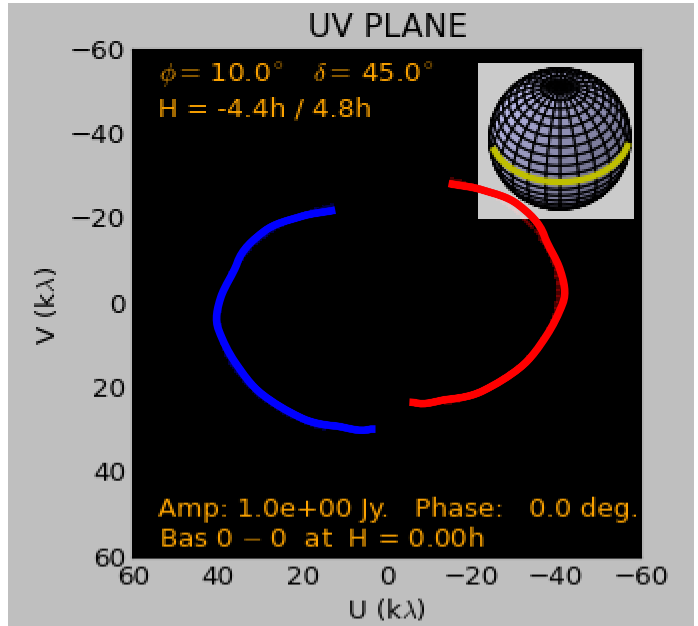
Resulting image



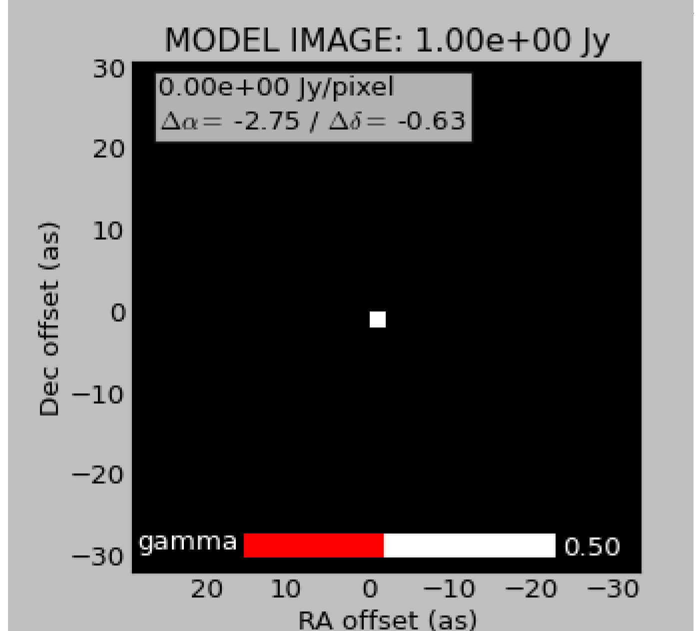
Interferometry basics

8 hrs observation
with two antennas
1 baseline (~2 km)

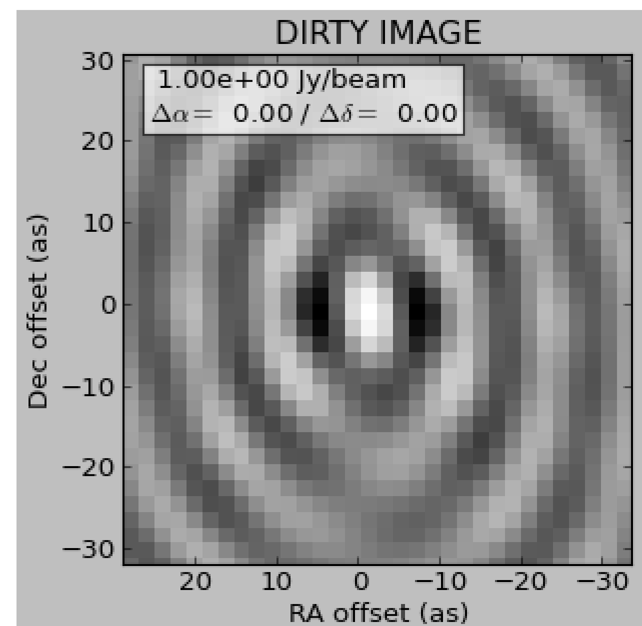




← uv-coverage

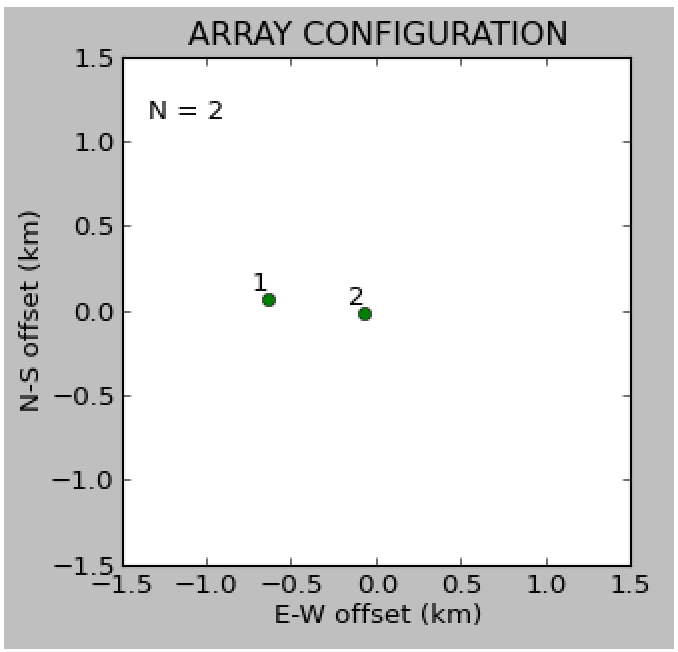


Resulting image

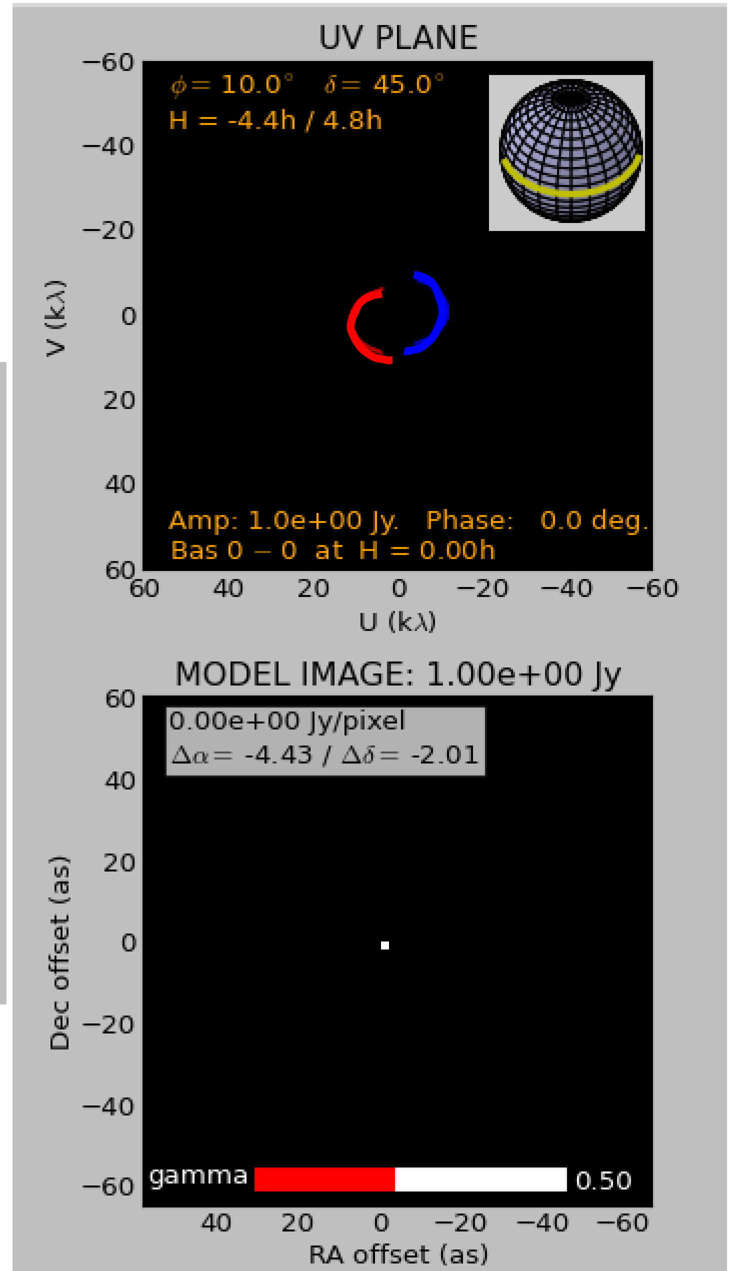


Interferometry basics

8 hrs observation
with two antennas
1 baseline (~800 m)



If antennas are closer?



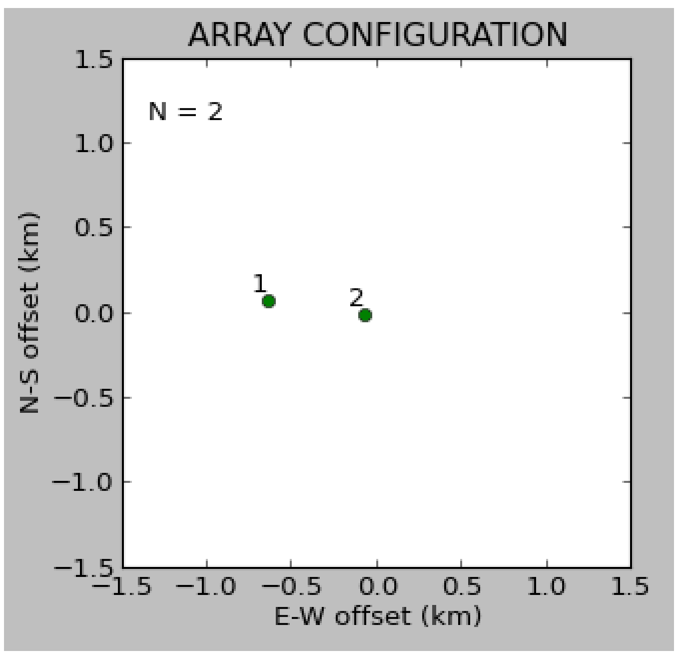
← uv-coverage

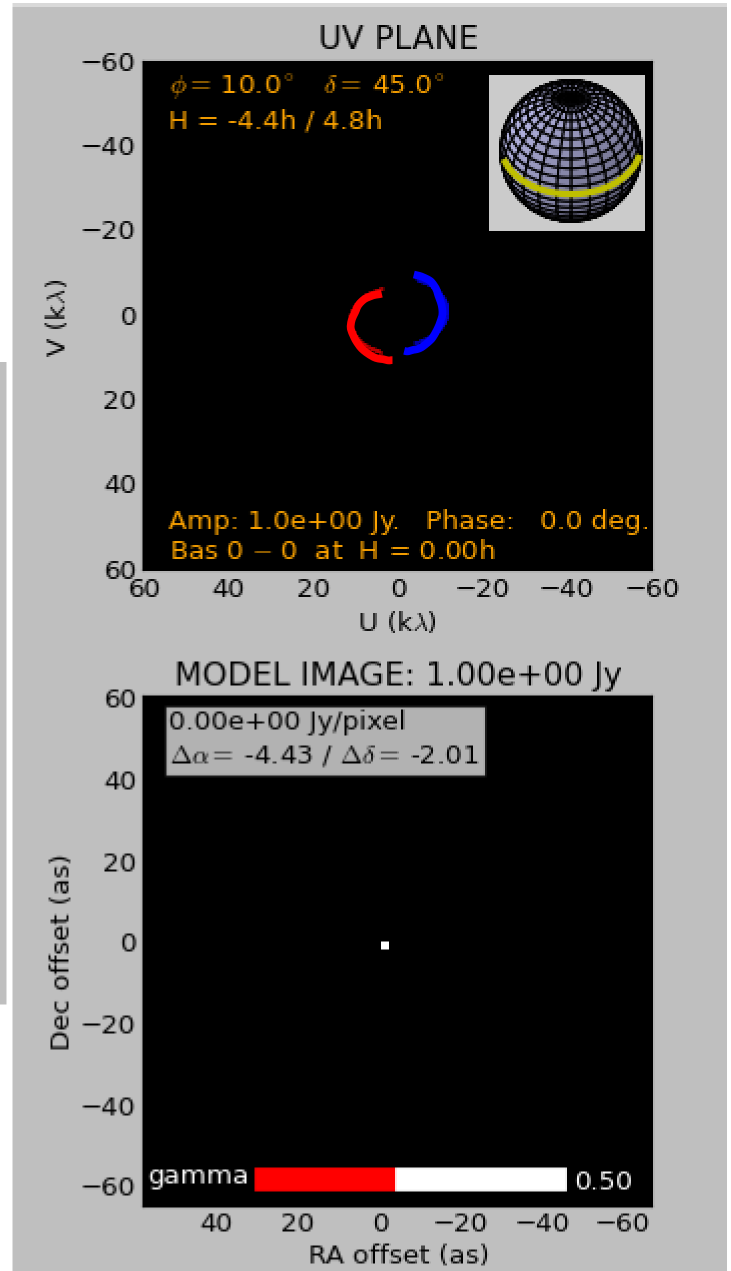
Resulting image

↓

Interferometry basics

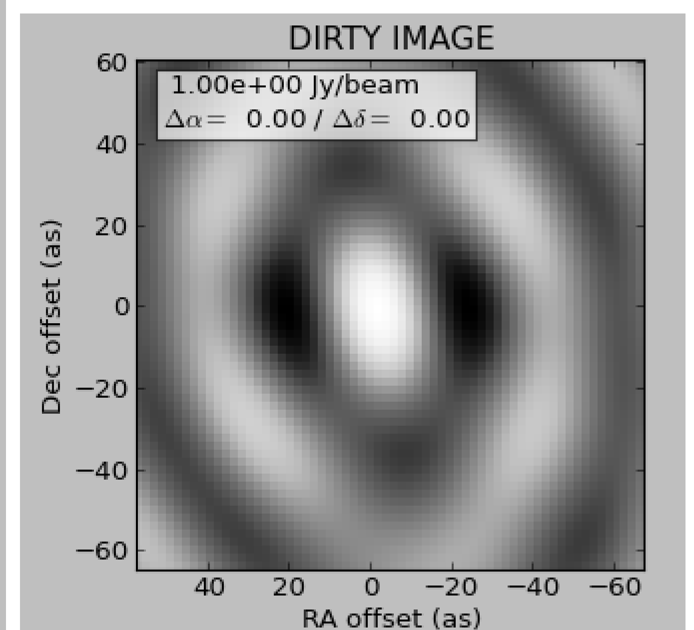
8 hrs observation
with two antennas
1 baseline (~800 m)





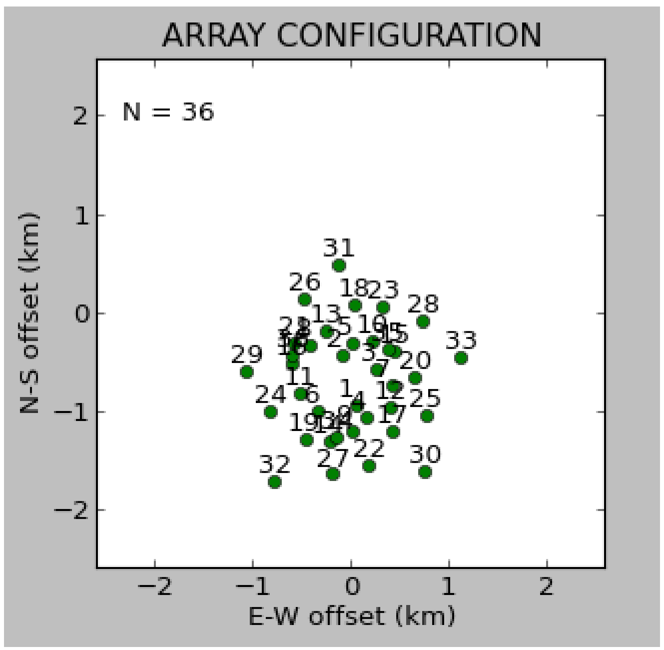
← uv-coverage

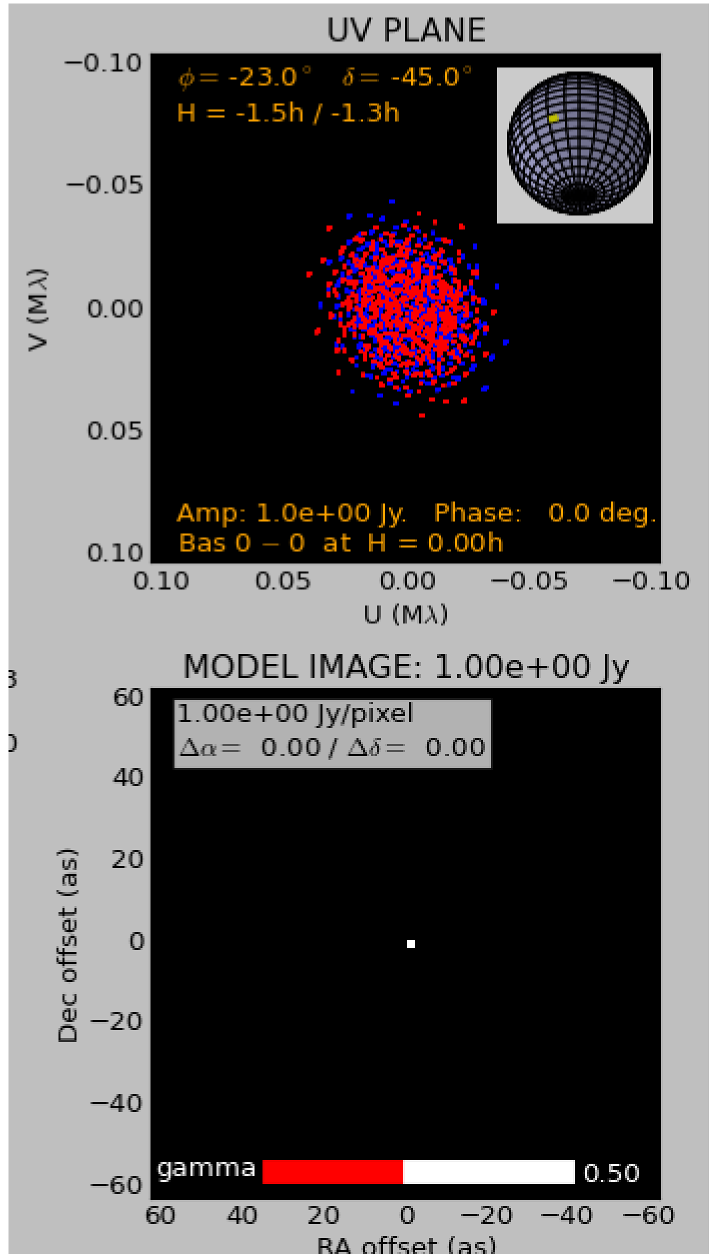
Resulting image



Interferometry basics

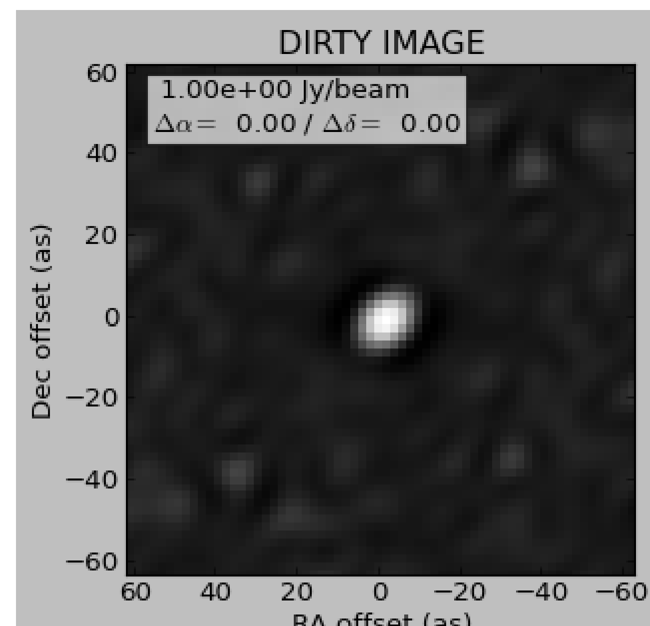
**Snapshot observation
with 36 antennas
1260 baselines**





← uv-coverage

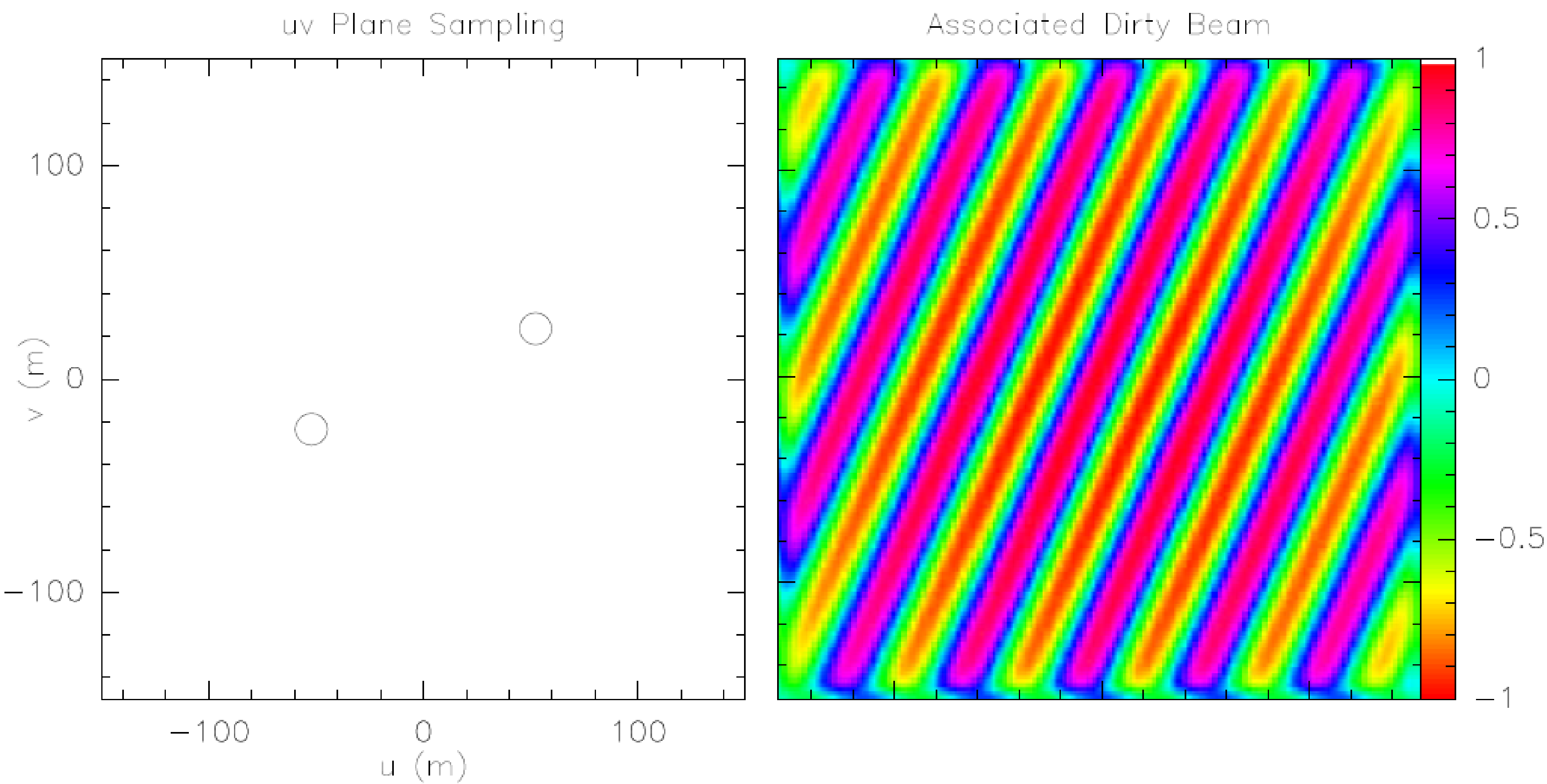
Resulting image



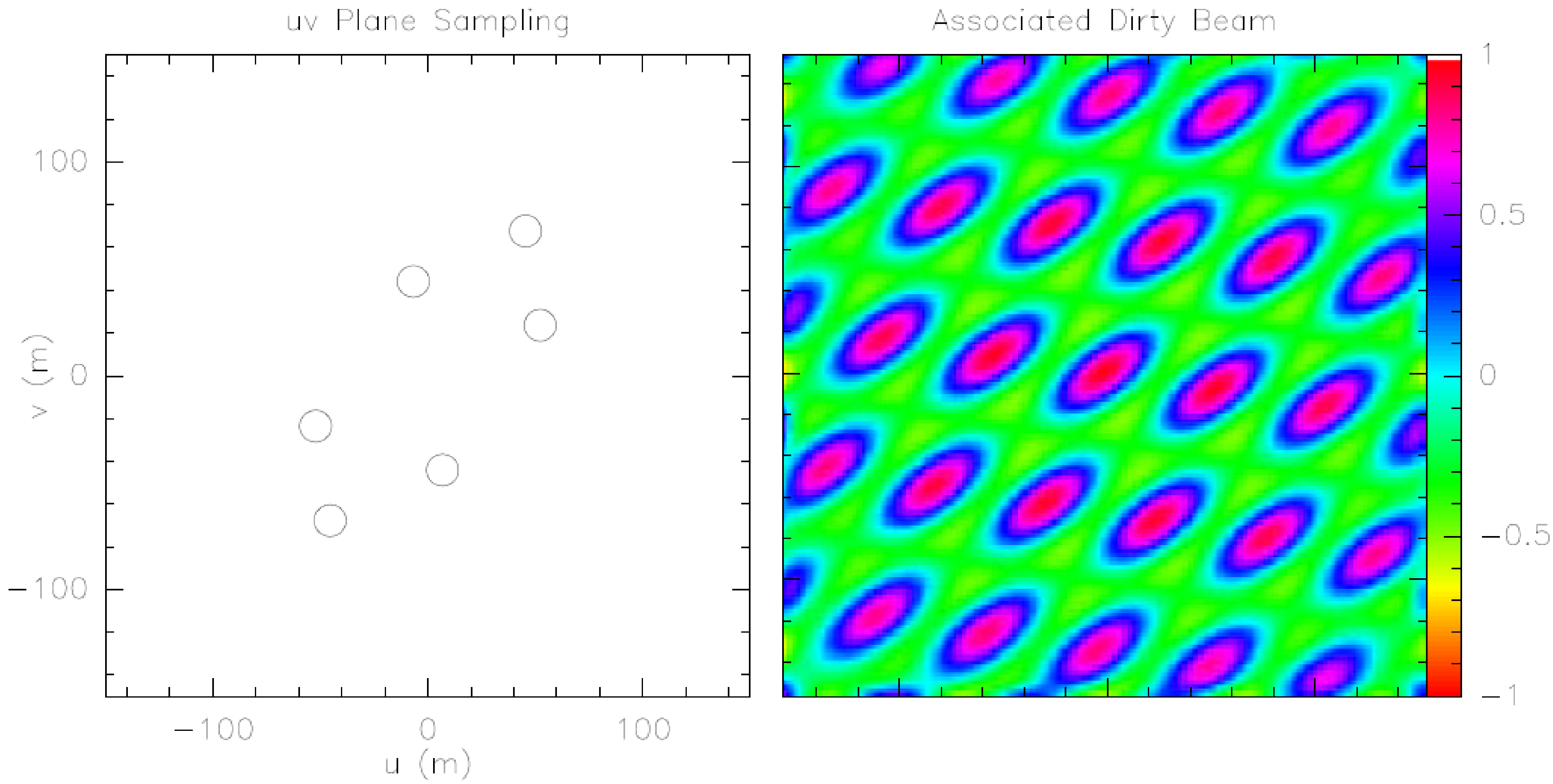
Aperture synthesis
Long observations make the Dirty beam better approximate a gaussian

Slides from IRAM school

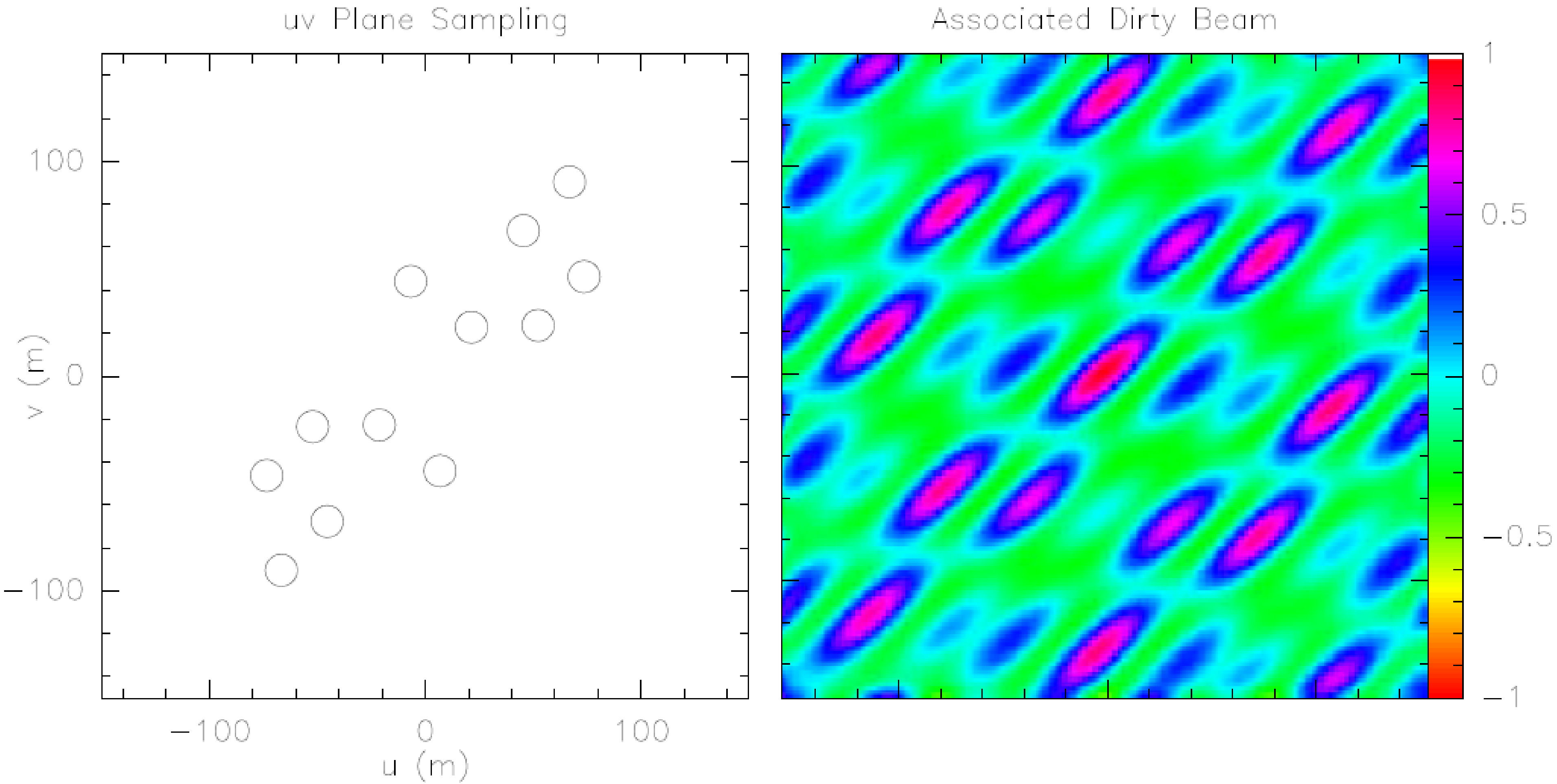
Dirty Beam Shape and Number of Antenna:
2 Antenna



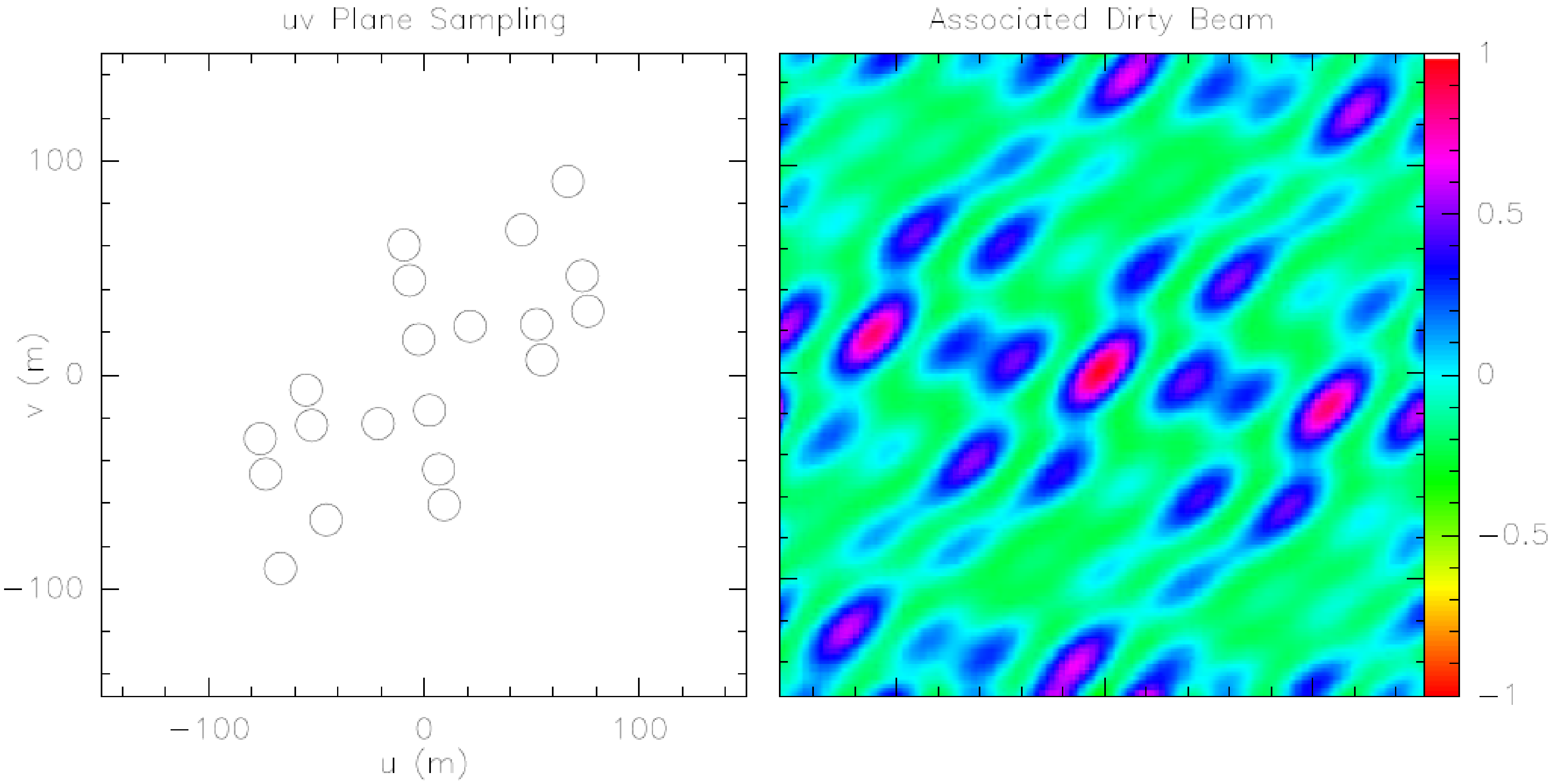
Dirty Beam Shape and Number of Antenna:
3 Antenna



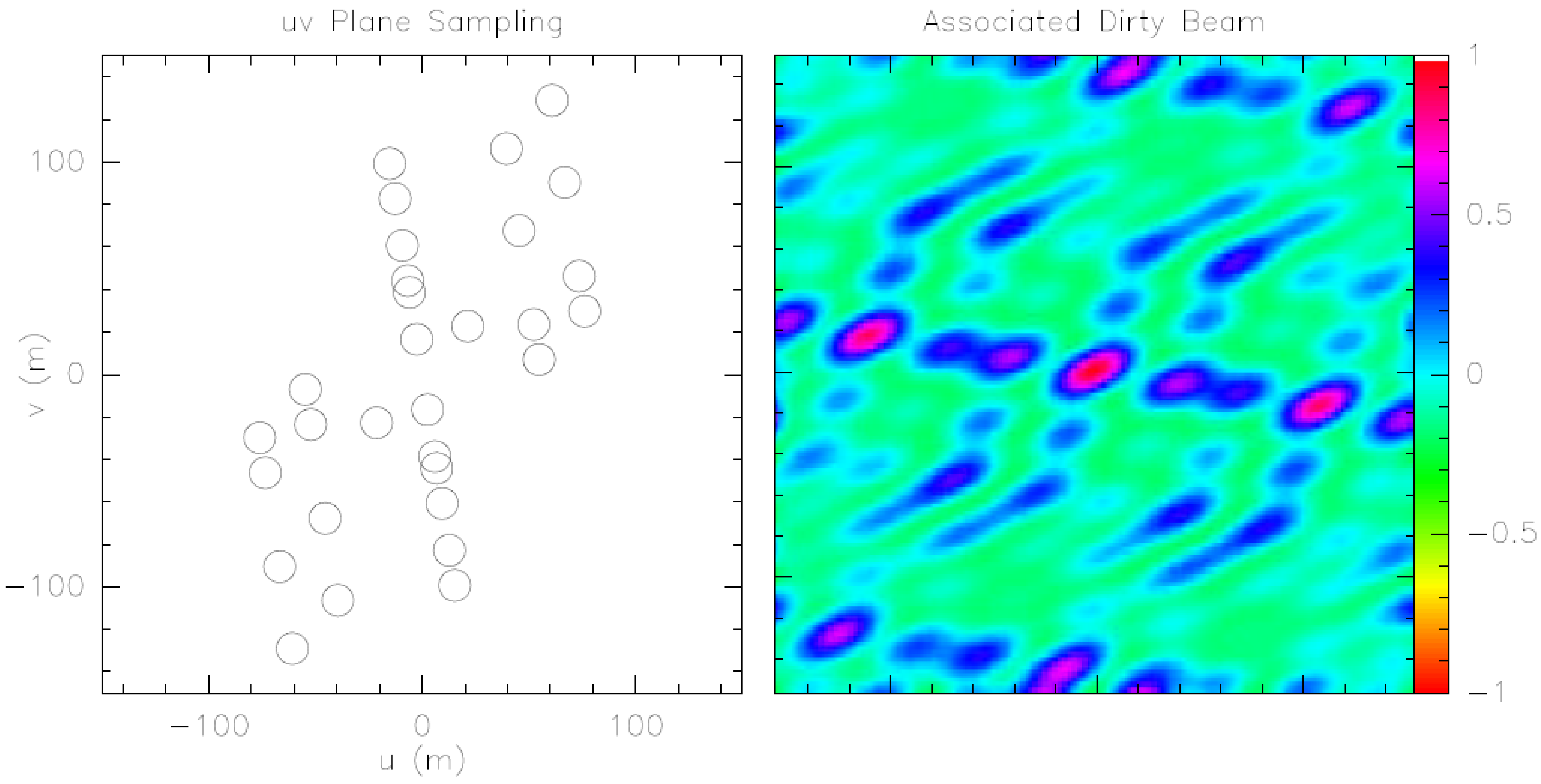
Dirty Beam Shape and Number of Antenna:
4 Antenna



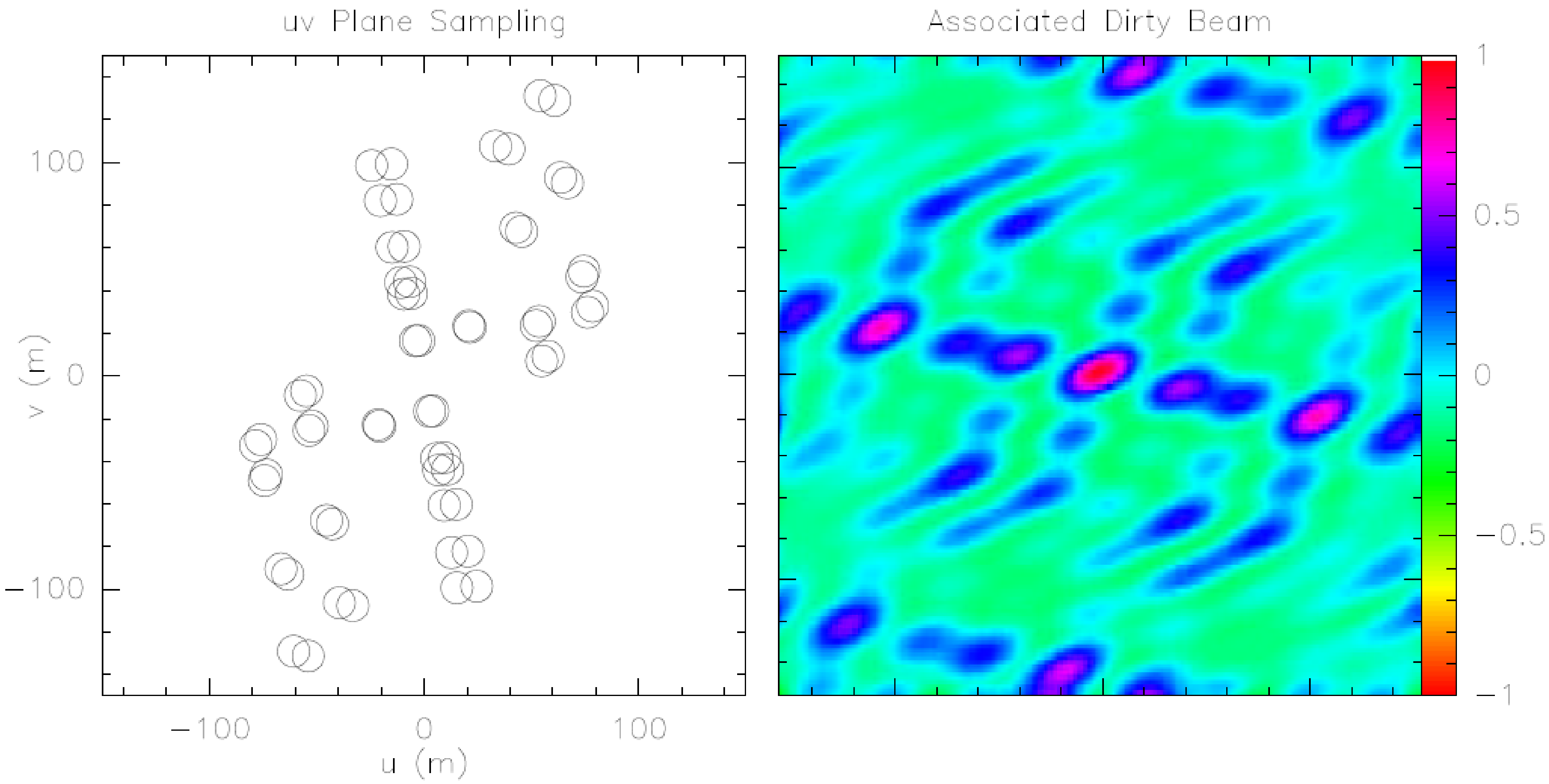
Dirty Beam Shape and Number of Antenna:
5 Antenna



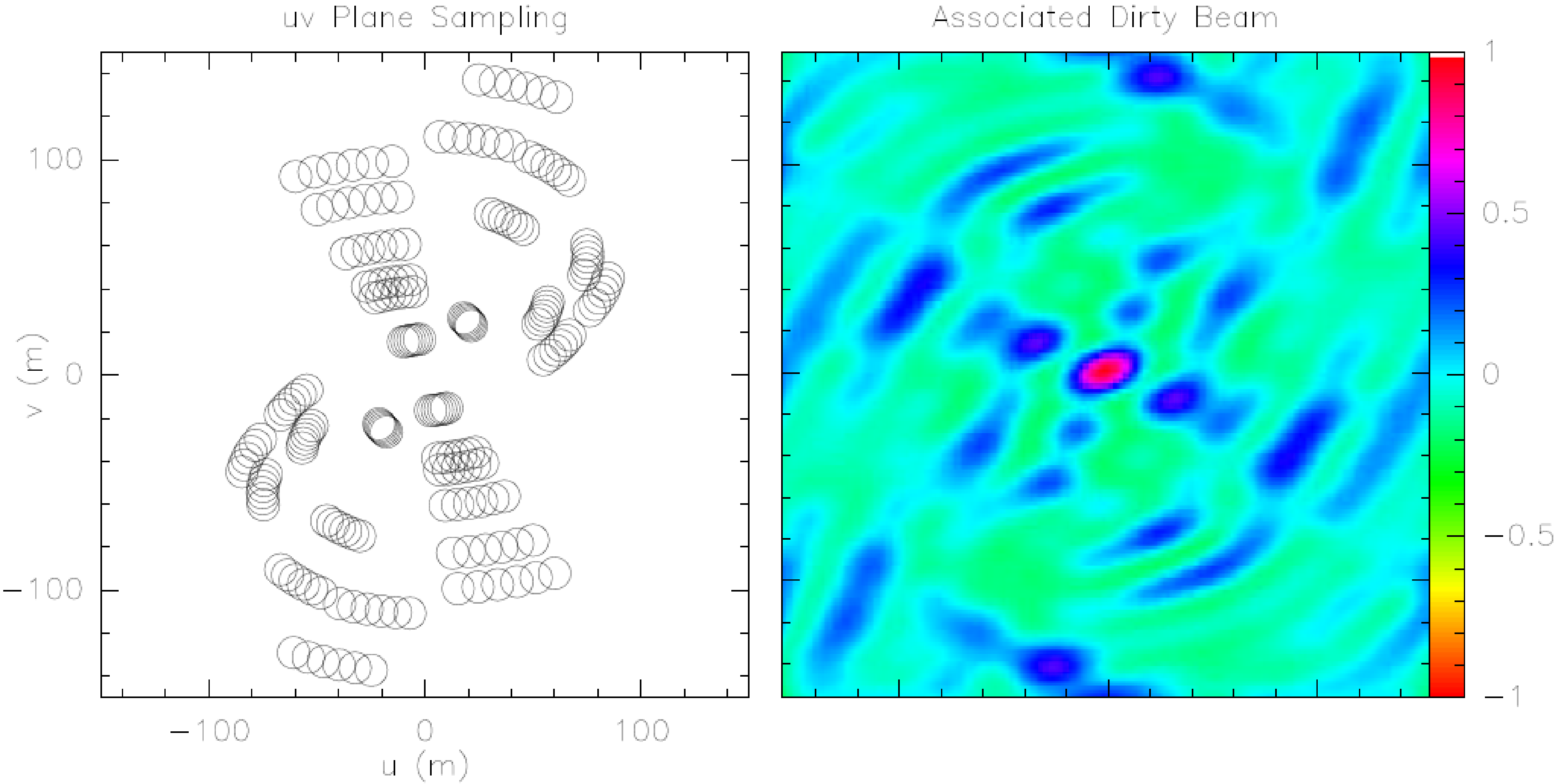
Dirty Beam Shape and Number of Antenna:
6 Antenna



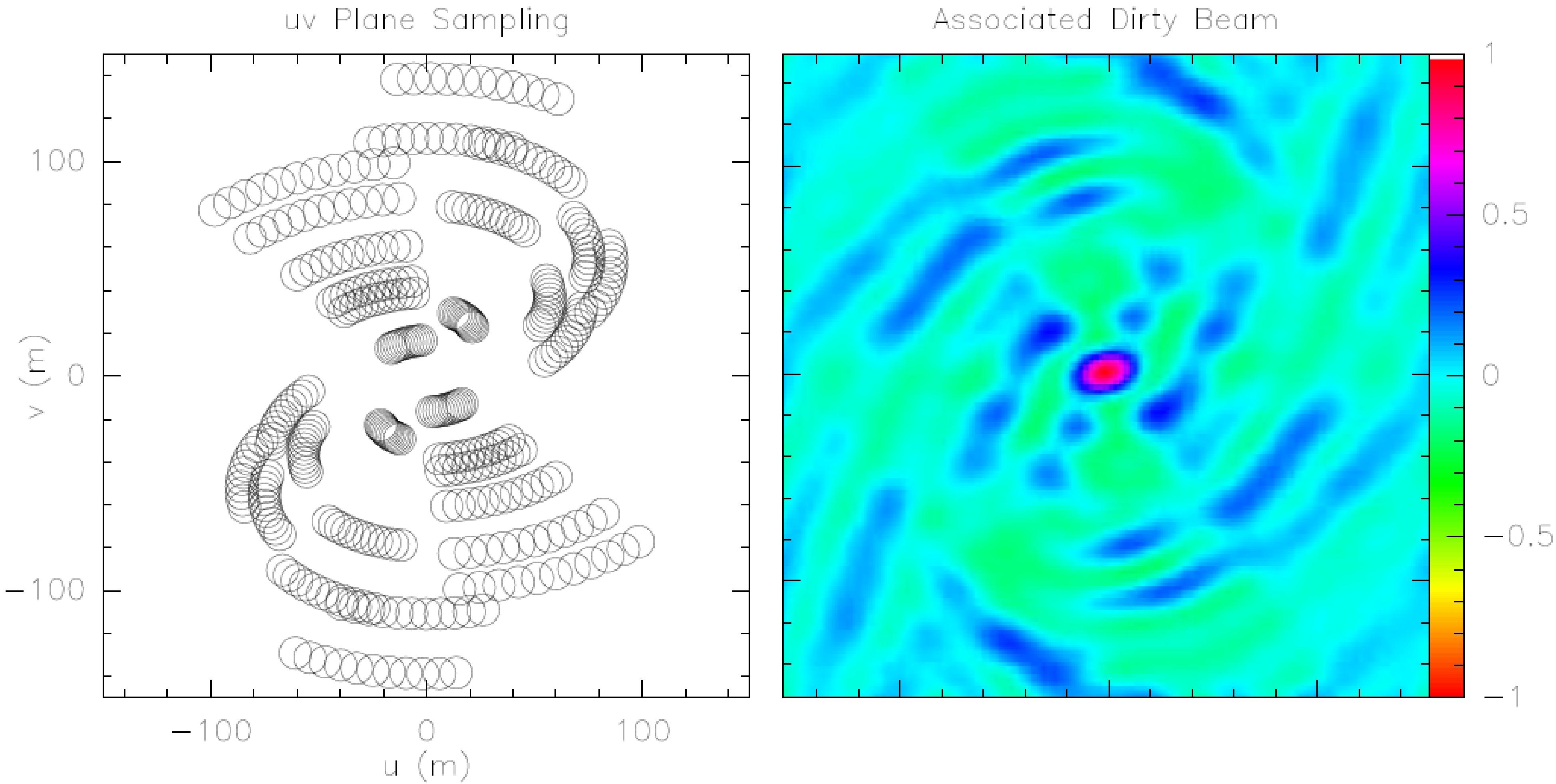
Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



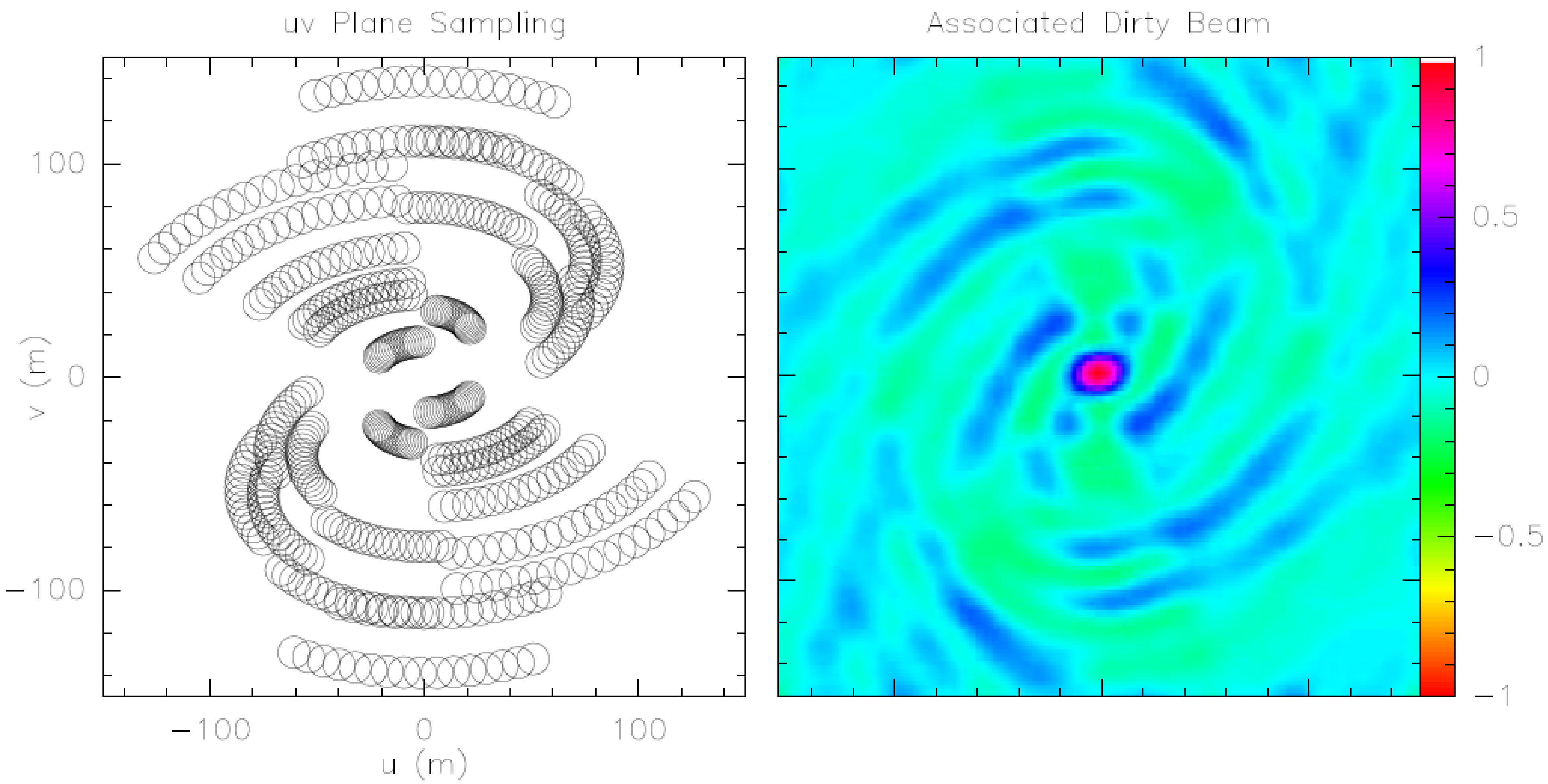
Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis

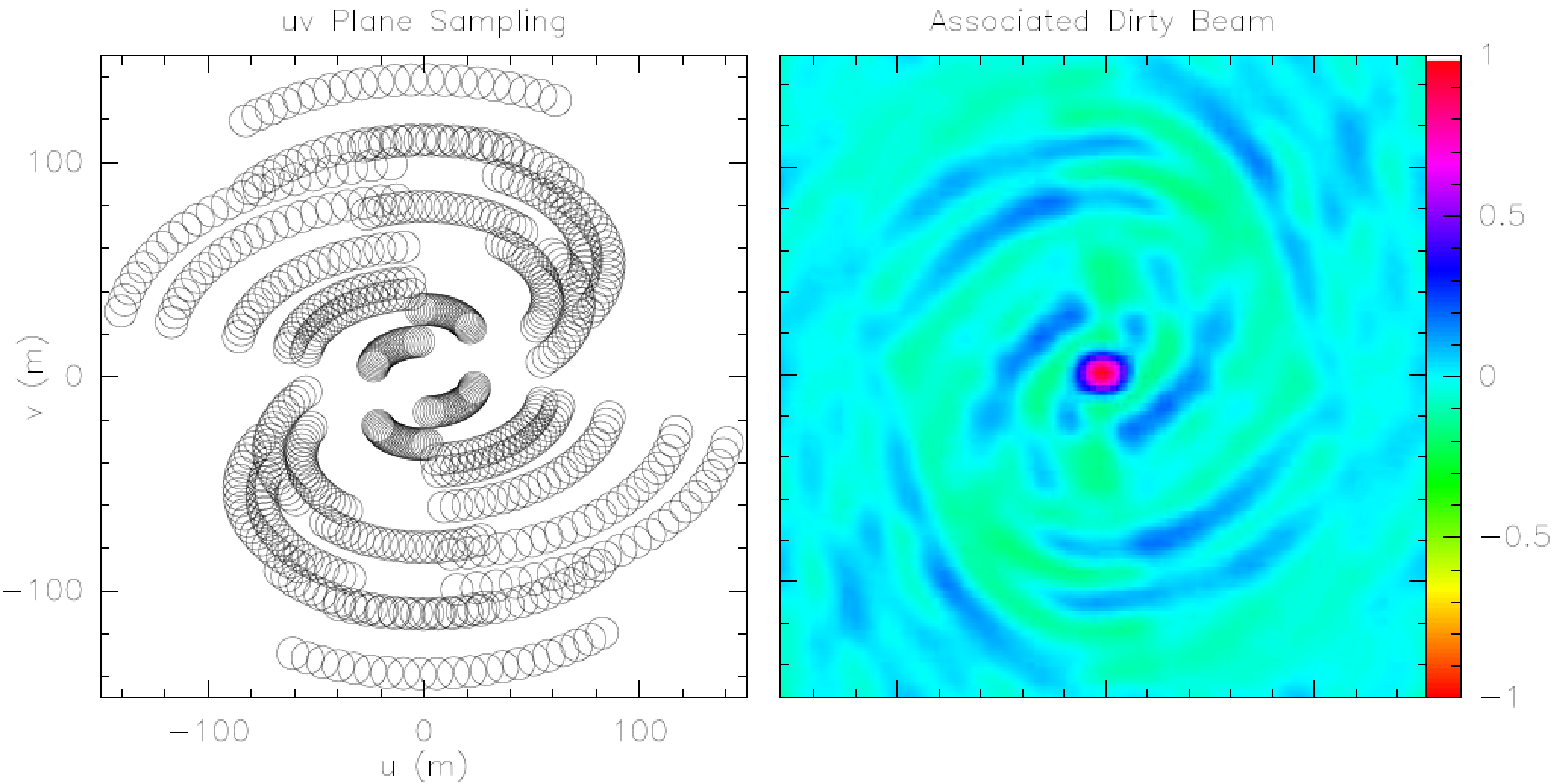


Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis

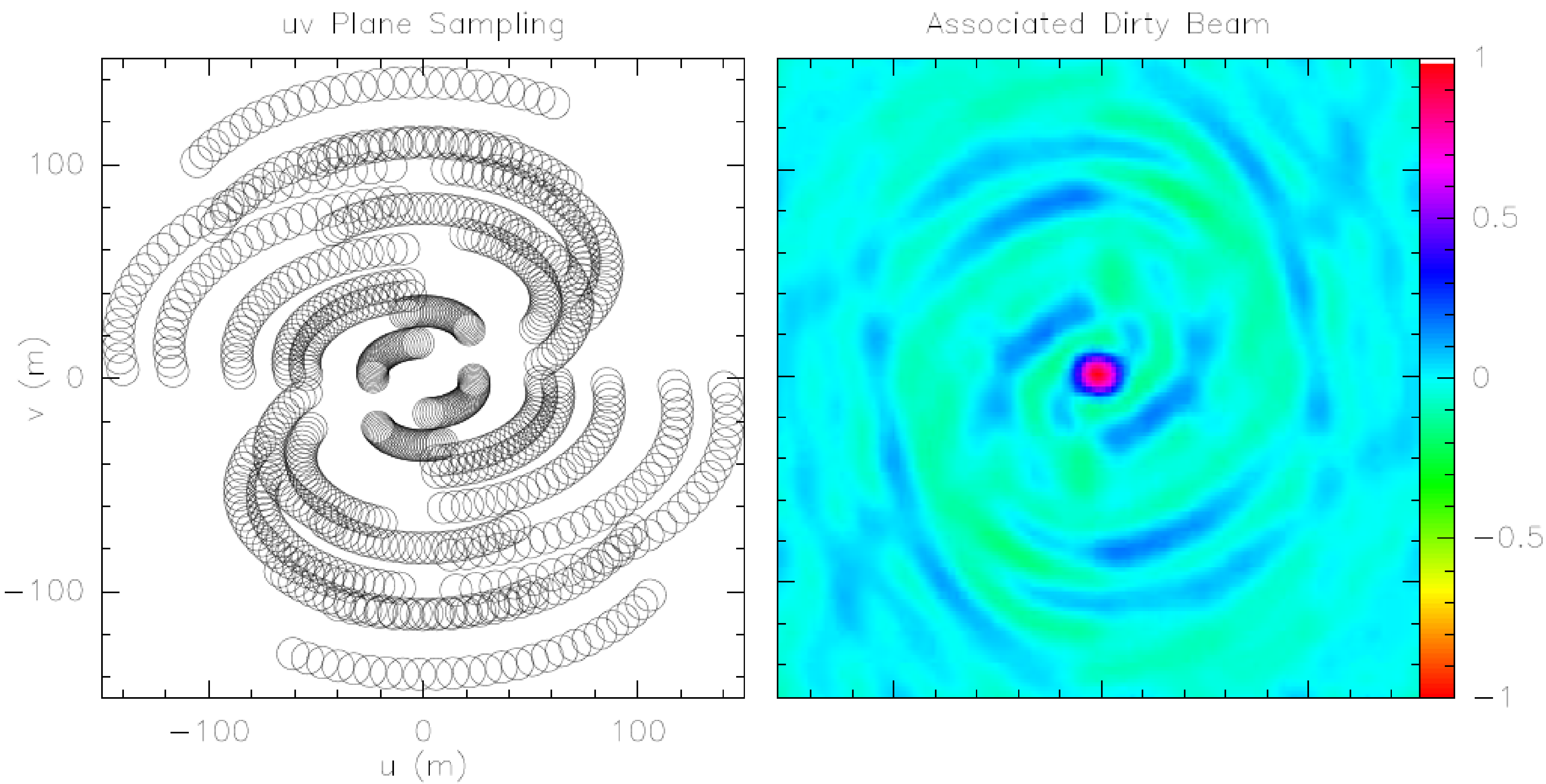


J. Pety lecture at 8th IRAM Millimeter Interferometry School

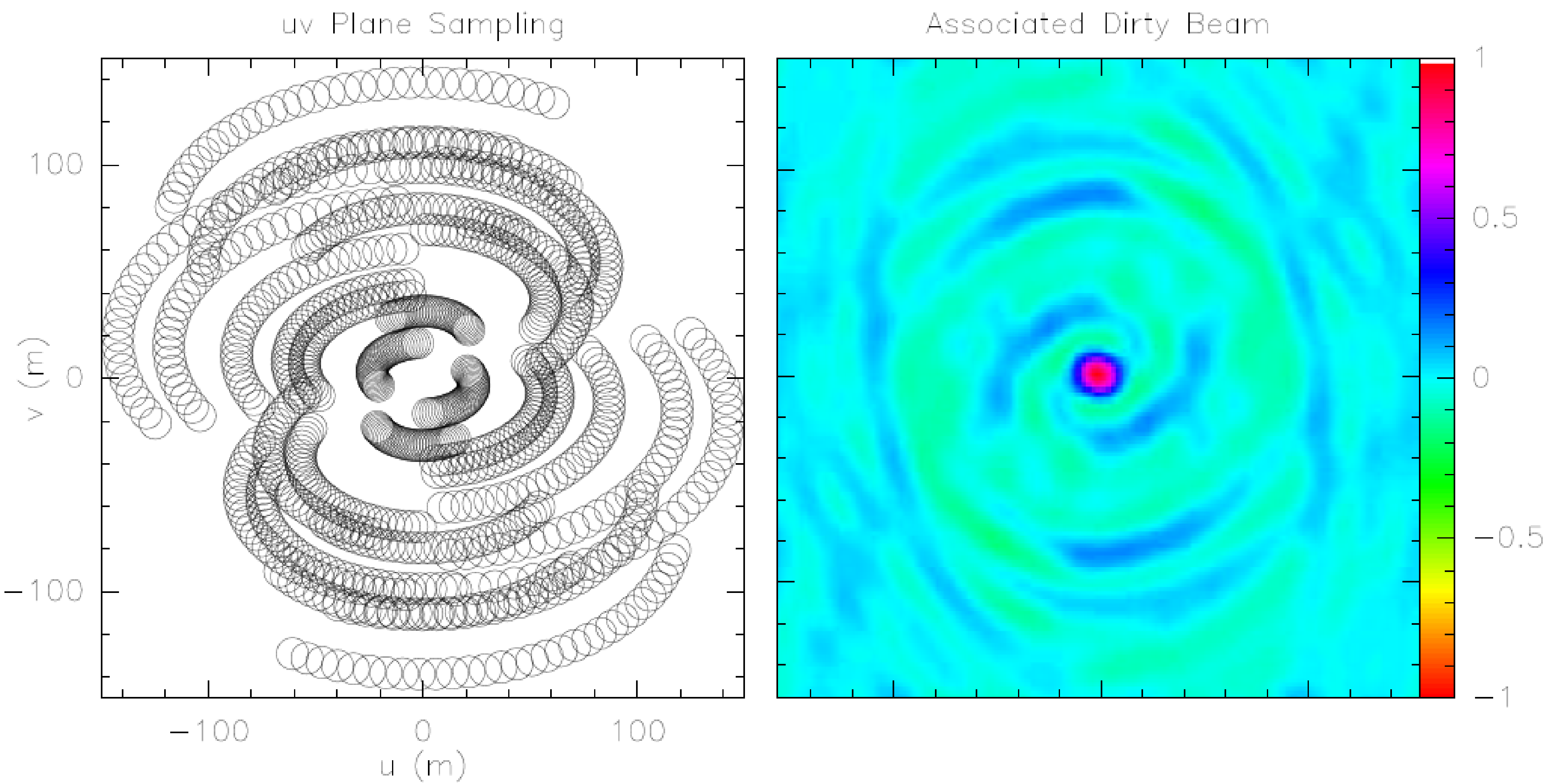
Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



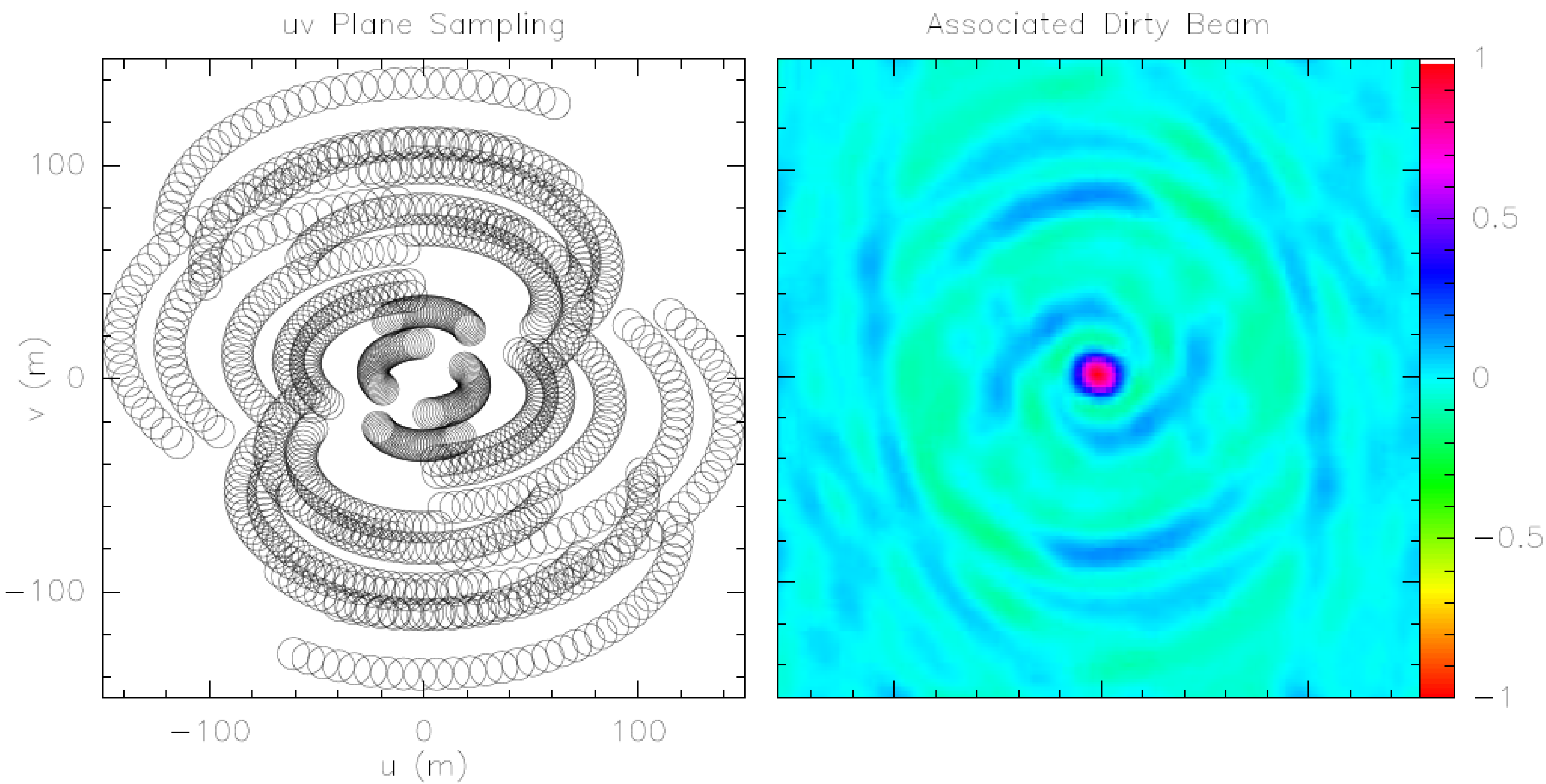
Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



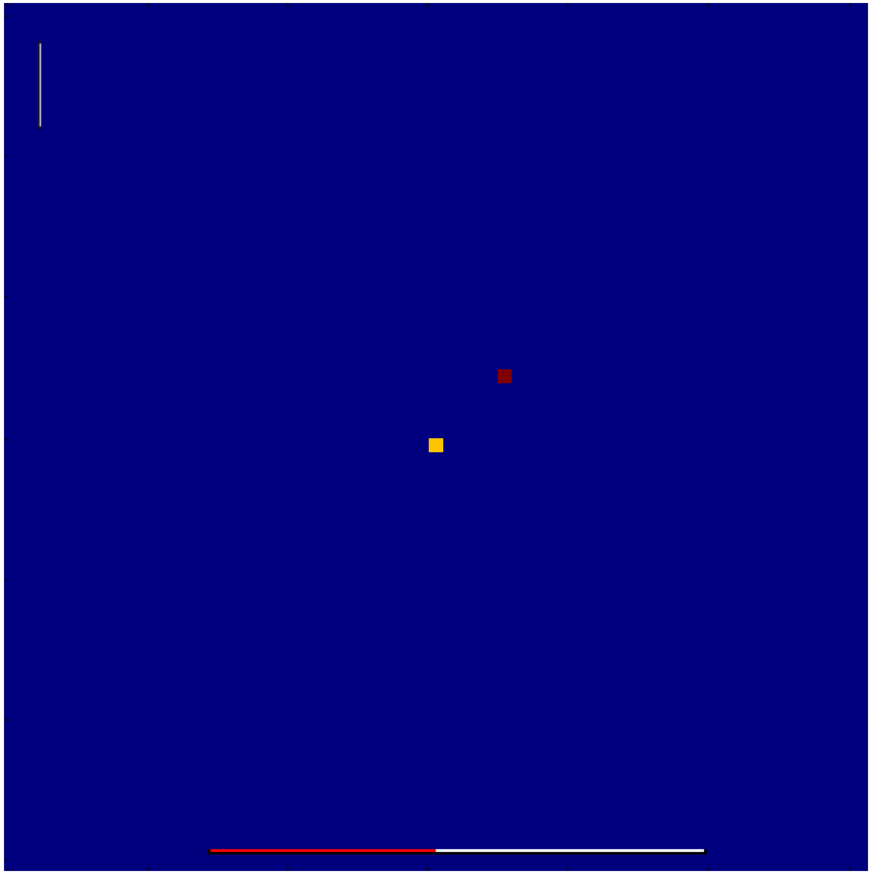
Dirty Beam Shape and Super Synthesis



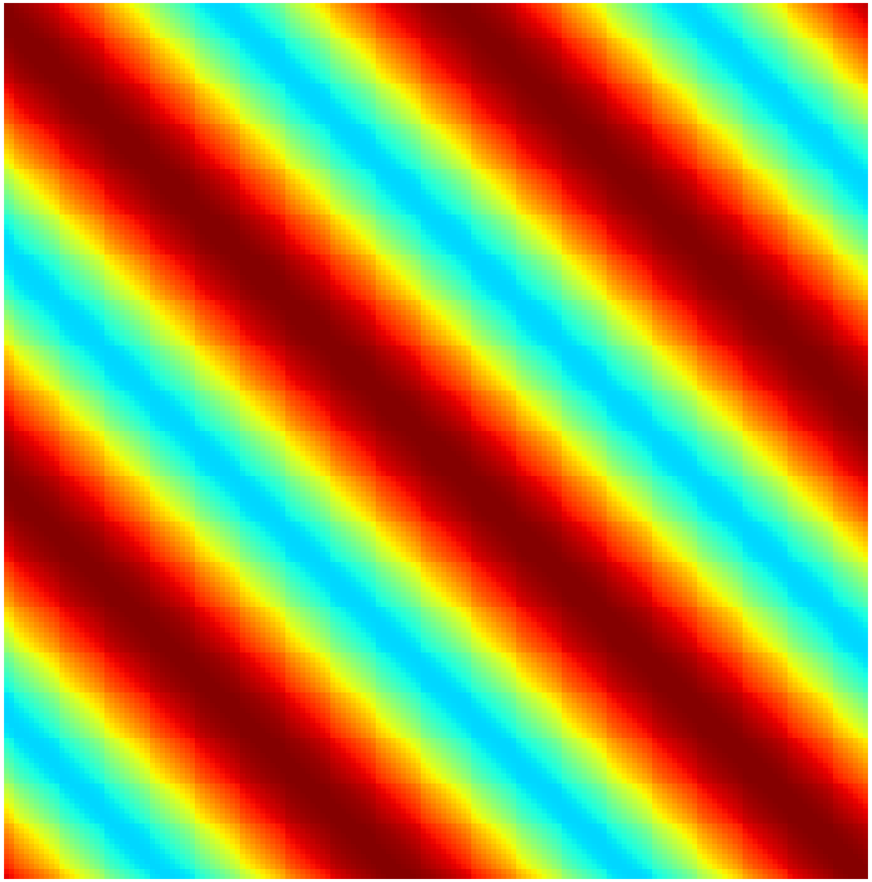
We need to get $T(x,y) = \int \int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

Consider a two point-like sources as target to observe

I (x, y)



V (u, v)

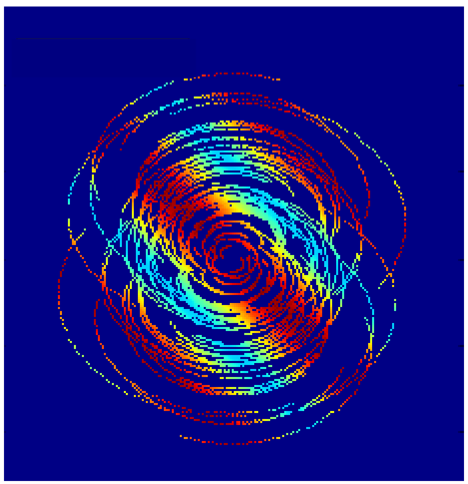


We need to get $T(x,y) = \int \int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

But

we actually sample the Fourier domain at discrete points

$V_{cal}(u,v) \quad = \quad S(u,v) \quad . \quad V_{true}(u,v)$



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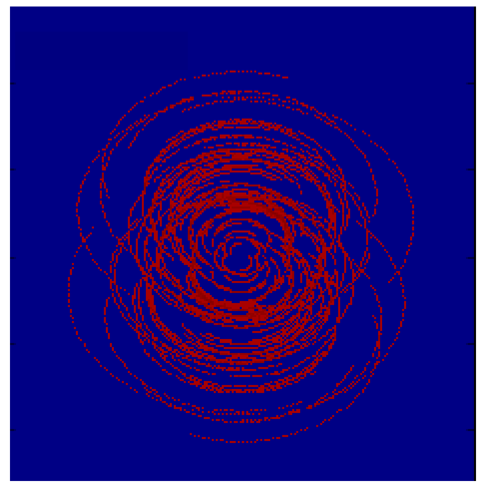

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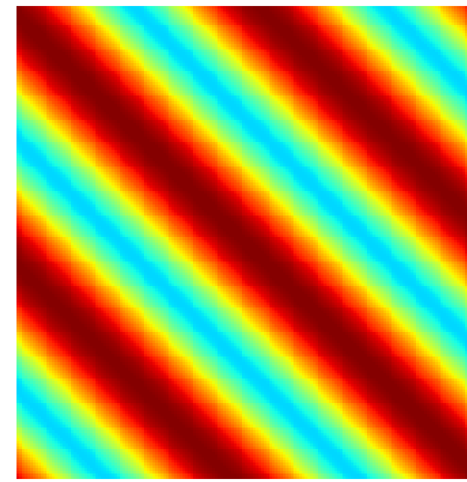


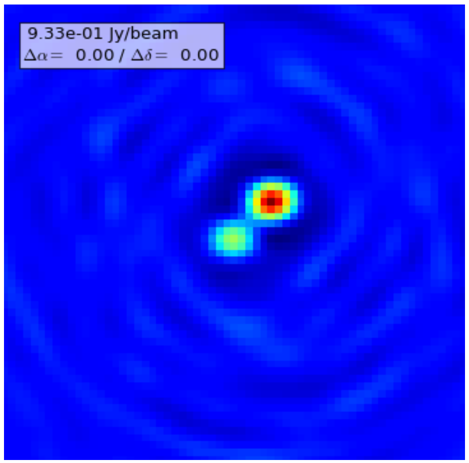
where S(u,v) is the sampling function
S= 1 at points where visibilities are measured
and S = 0 elsewhere

V_{true} is the 2 point-like sources ideal Fourier transform (example from APSYNSIM)

We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

Applying the convolution theorem:

$$FT^{-1}(V_{cal}) = FT^{-1}(S) \otimes FT^{-1}(V_{True})$$



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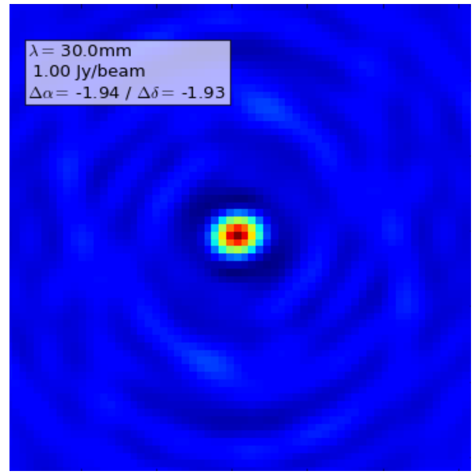
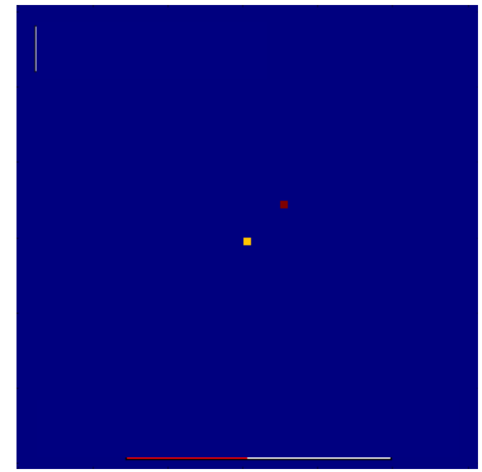


⊗



The Fourier transform FT of the sampled visibilities gives the true sky brightness convolved with the Fourier transform of the sampling function (called **dirty beam**).

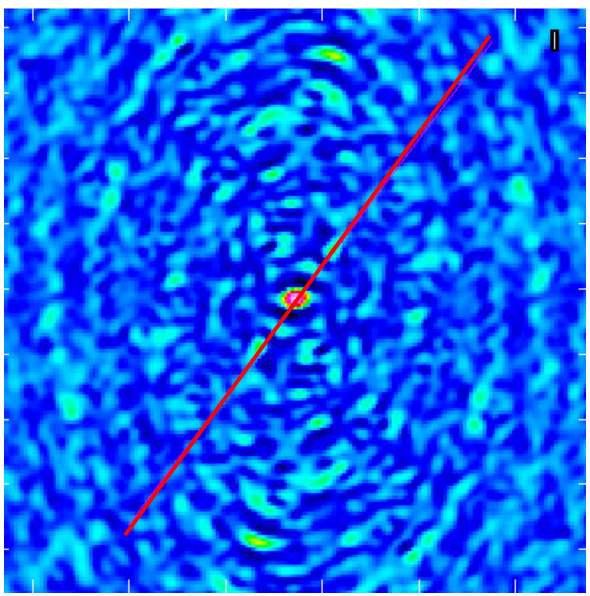
$$I^D(x,y) = B_{dirty}(x,y) \otimes I(x,y)$$

To get a useful image from interferometric data we need to Fourier transform sampled visibilities, and **deconvolve for the dirty beam** → **clean**

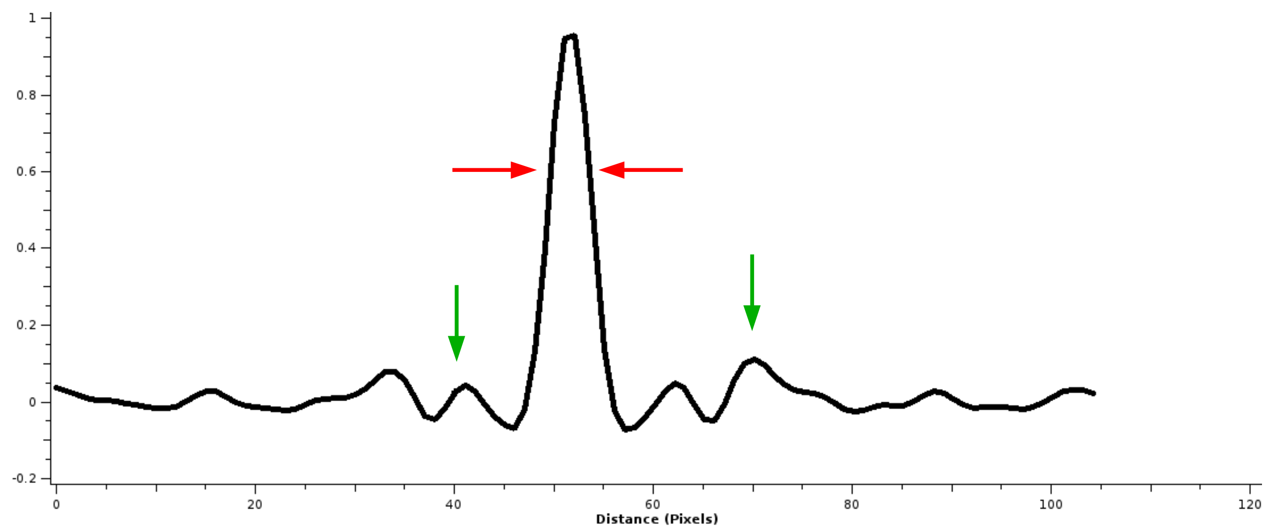
Imperfect reconstruction of the sky

- **Incomplete sampling of uv plane → sidelobes**

$B_{dirty}(x, y)$



- Central maximum has width $1/(u_{max})$ in x and $1/(v_{max})$ in y
- Has ripples (sidelobes) due to gaps in uv coverage



deconvolution → sidelobes removal

We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

Need to choose:

Image pixel size (cellsize)

Make the cell size small enough for Nyquist sample of the longest baseline

($\Delta x < 1 / 2 \; u_{max}$; $\Delta y < 1 / 2 \; v_{max}$)

Usually 1/4 or 1/5 of the synthesized beam to easy deconvolution

Image size (imsize)

The natural resolution in the uv plane samples the primary beam

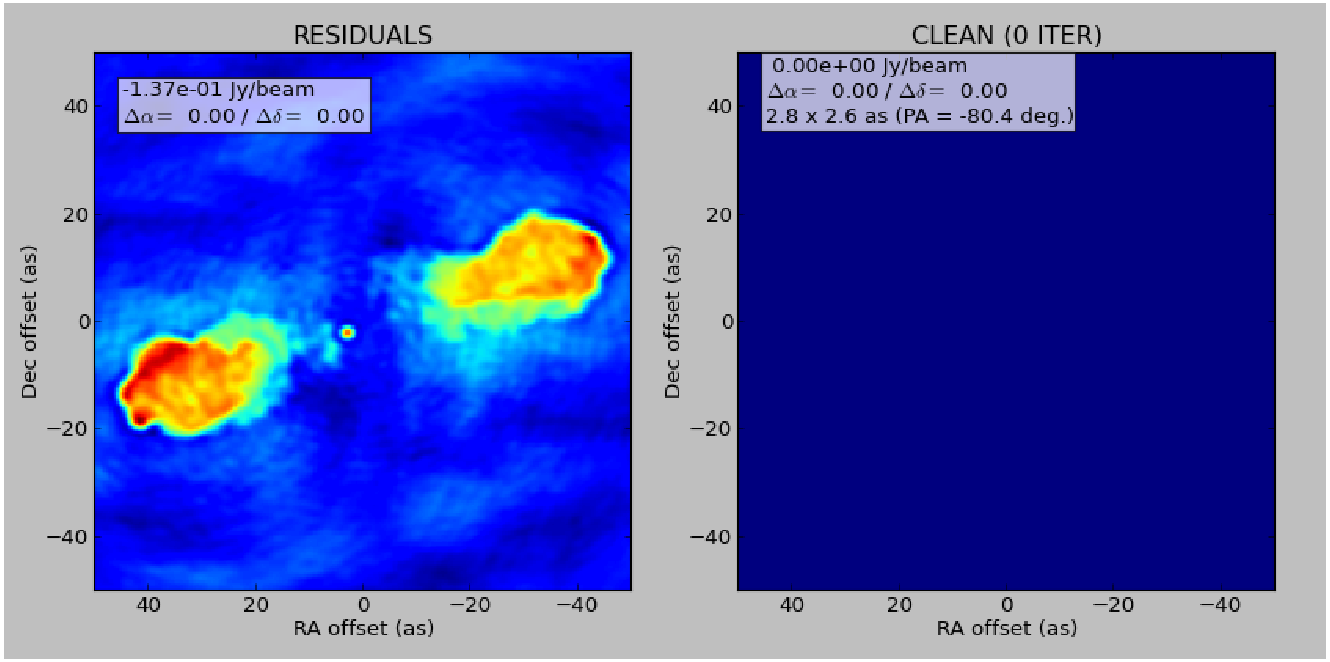
At least twice the field of view for the Nyquist sampling

Larger if there are bright sources in the sidelobes of the primary beam (they would be aliased in the image)

Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN
Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

1) Initializes the residual map to the dirty map and the Clean component list to an empty value

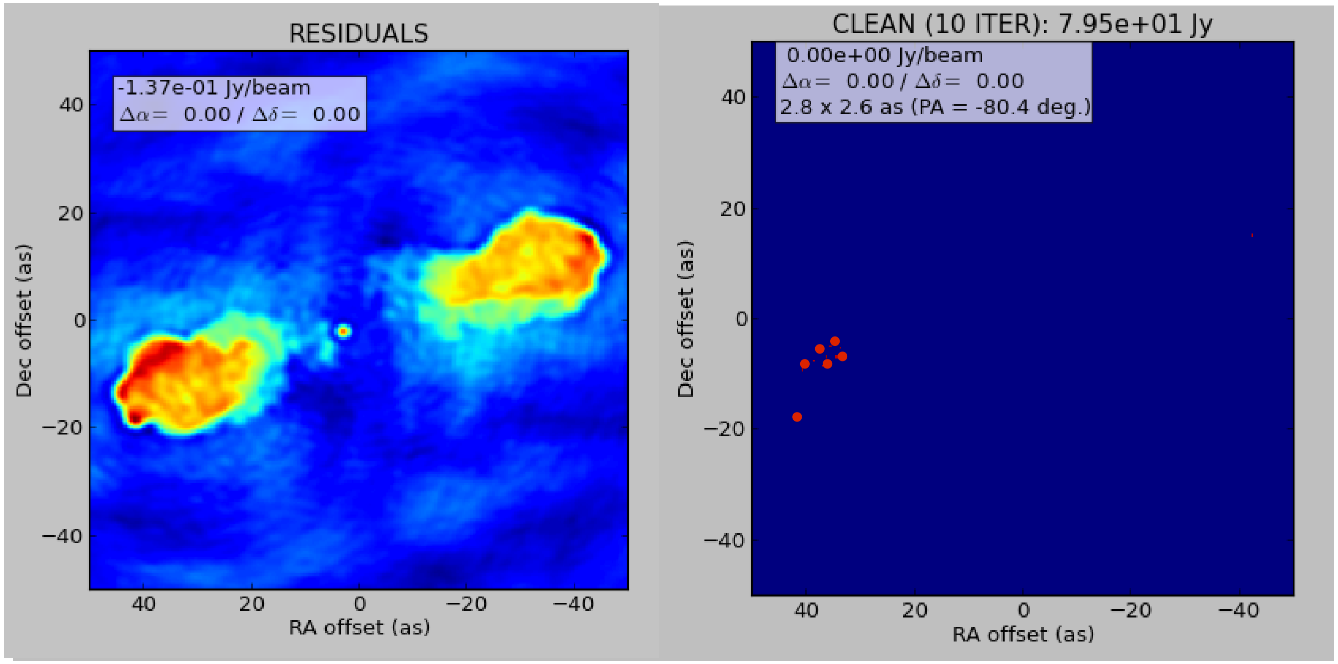


Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

2) Identifies the pixel with the peak of intensity (I_{max})in the residual map and adds to the clean component list a fraction of $I_{max} = \boldsymbol{\gamma} \mathbf{I_{max}}$



Loop gain

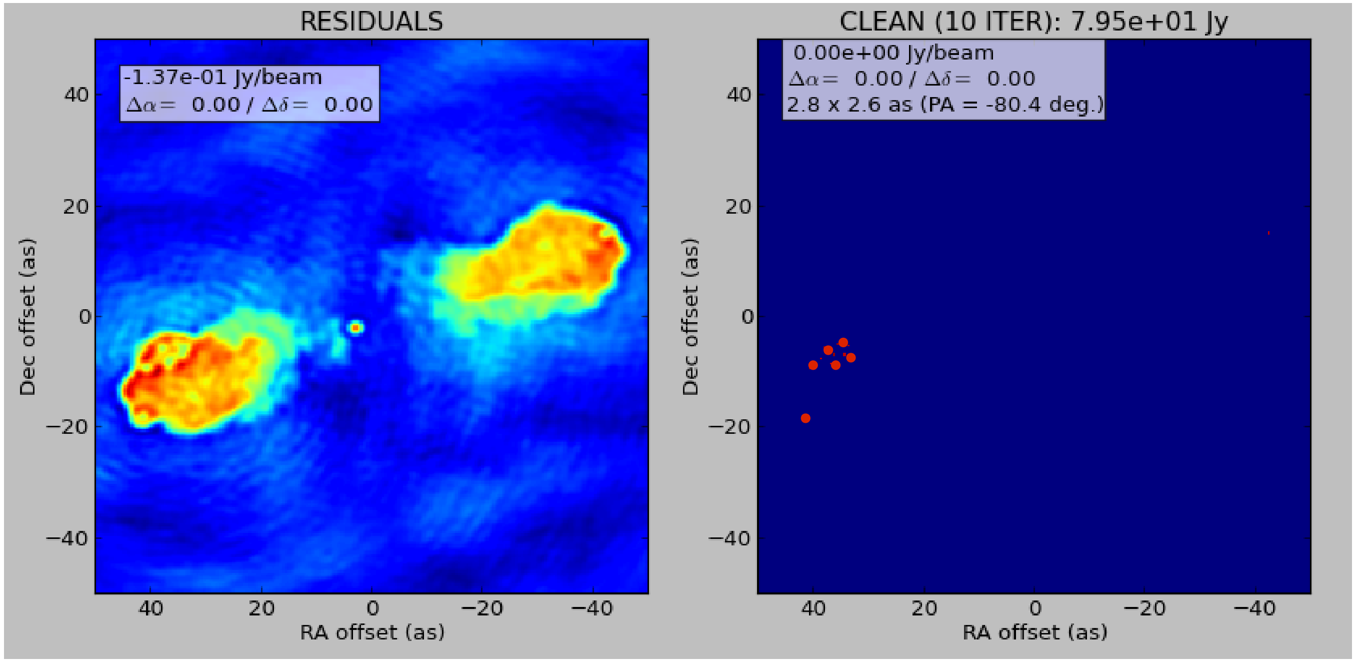
typically
$\boldsymbol{\gamma \sim 0.1 - 0.3}$

Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

3) Subtracts over the whole map a dirty beam pattern, including the full sidelobes, centered on the position of the peaks saved in the clean component list, and normalized to the γI_{max} at the beam center.

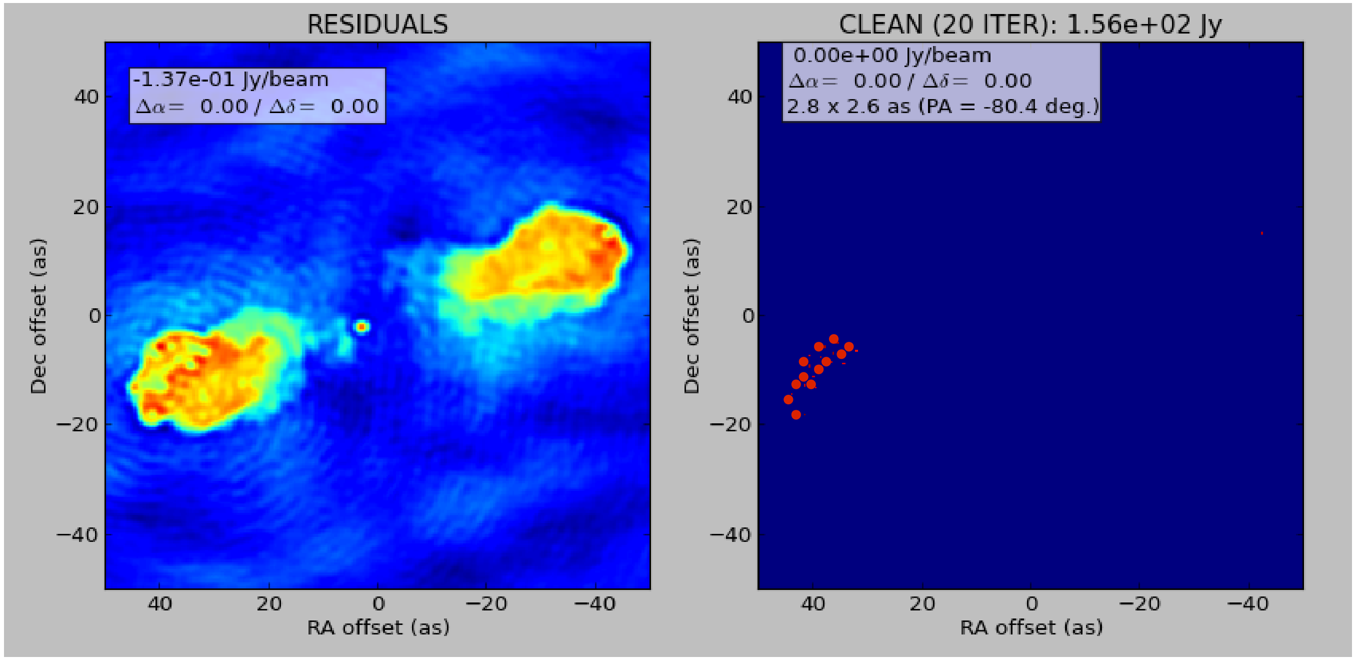


Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

4) Iterates until stopping creteria are reached



Stopping criteria

$|I_{max}|$ < multiple of the rms (when rms limited)

$|I_{max}|$ < fraction of the brightest source flux (when dynamic range limited)

Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

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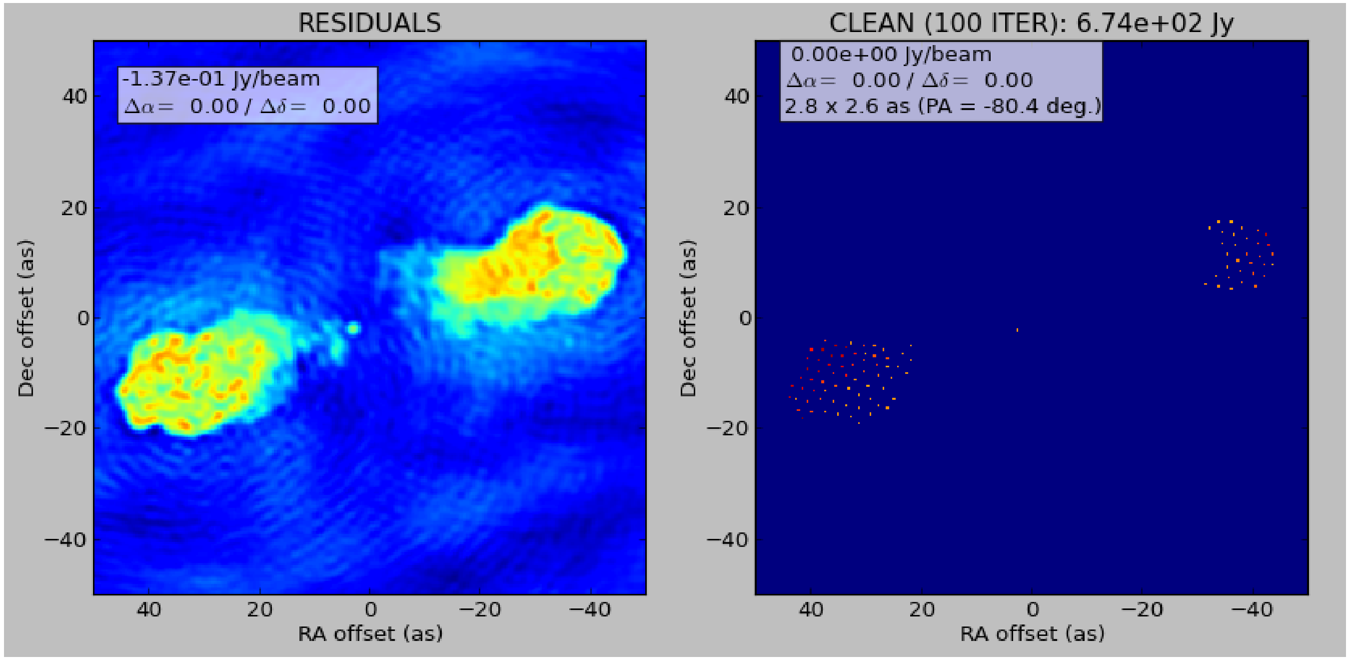

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Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, Cotton-Schwab 1984

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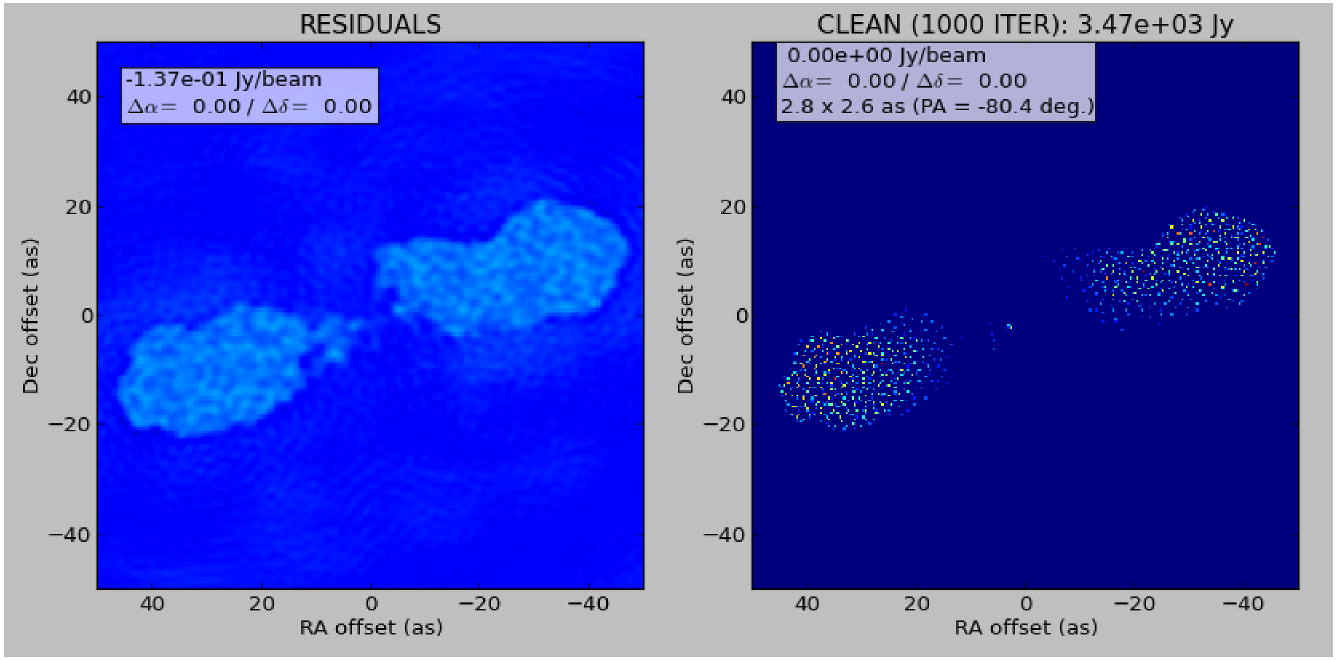

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Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

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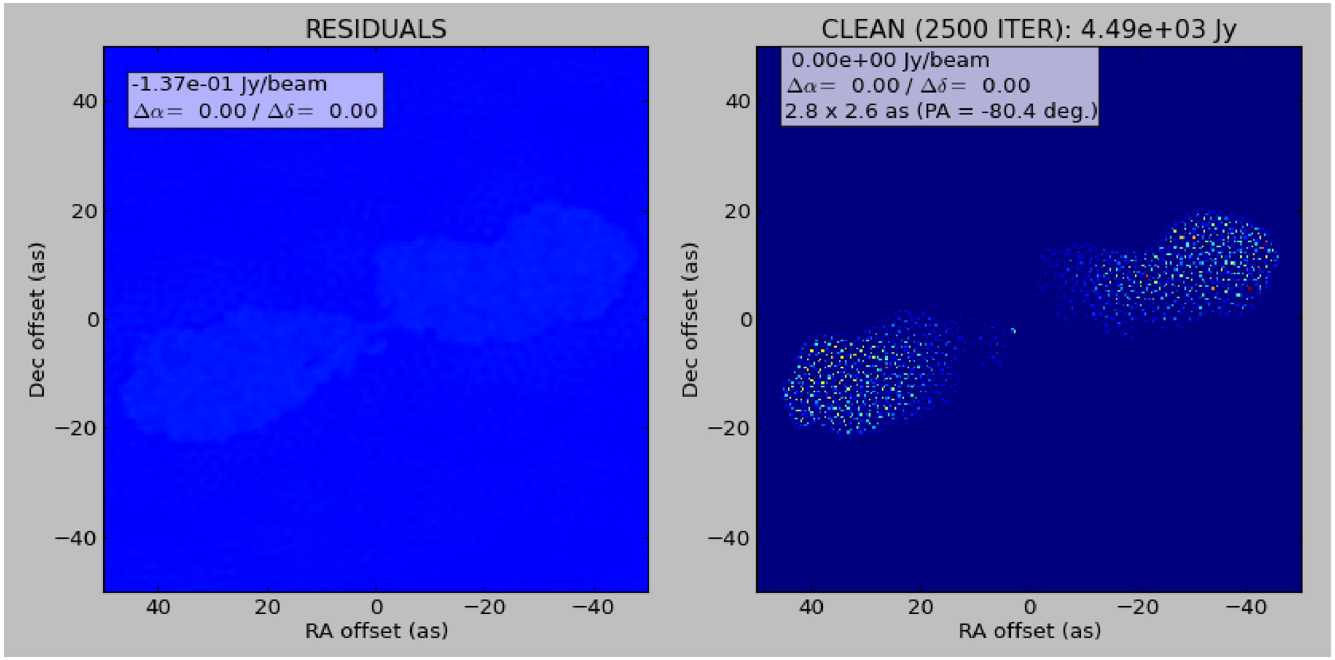


Stopping criteria

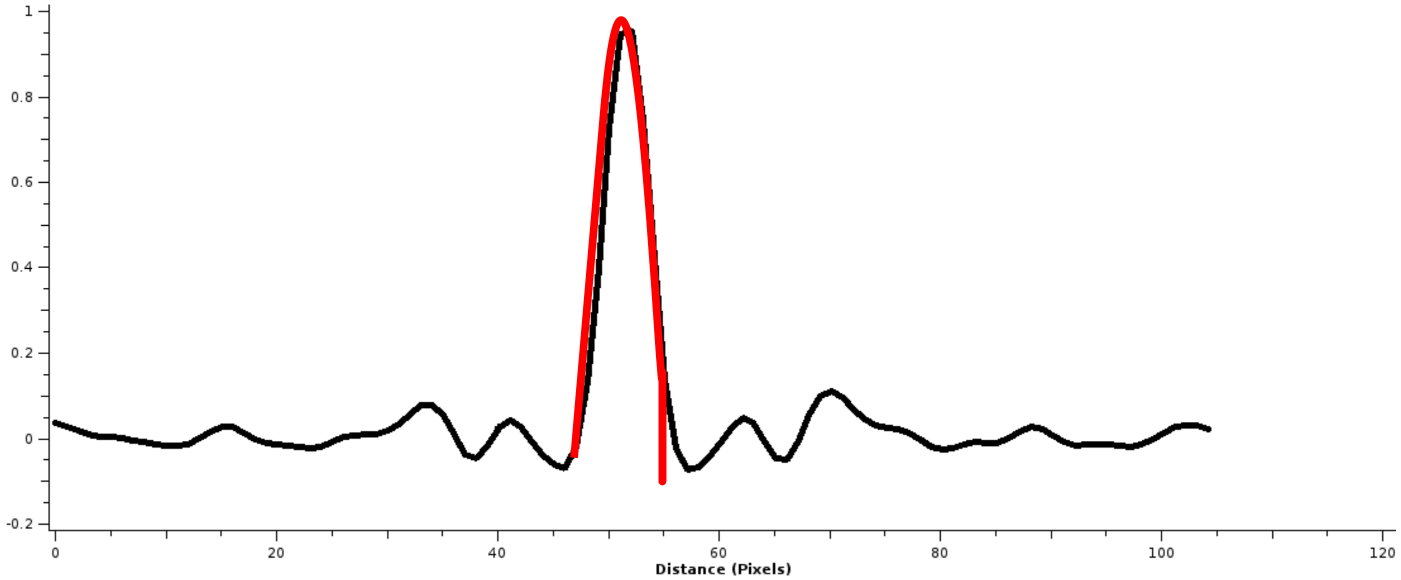
$|I_{max}|$ < multiple of the rms (when rms limited)

$|I_{max}|$ < fraction of the brightest source flux (when dynamic range limited)

Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN
Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

5) Multipies the clean components by **the clean beam**
an elliptical gaussian fitting the central region of the dirty beam
→ **restoring**

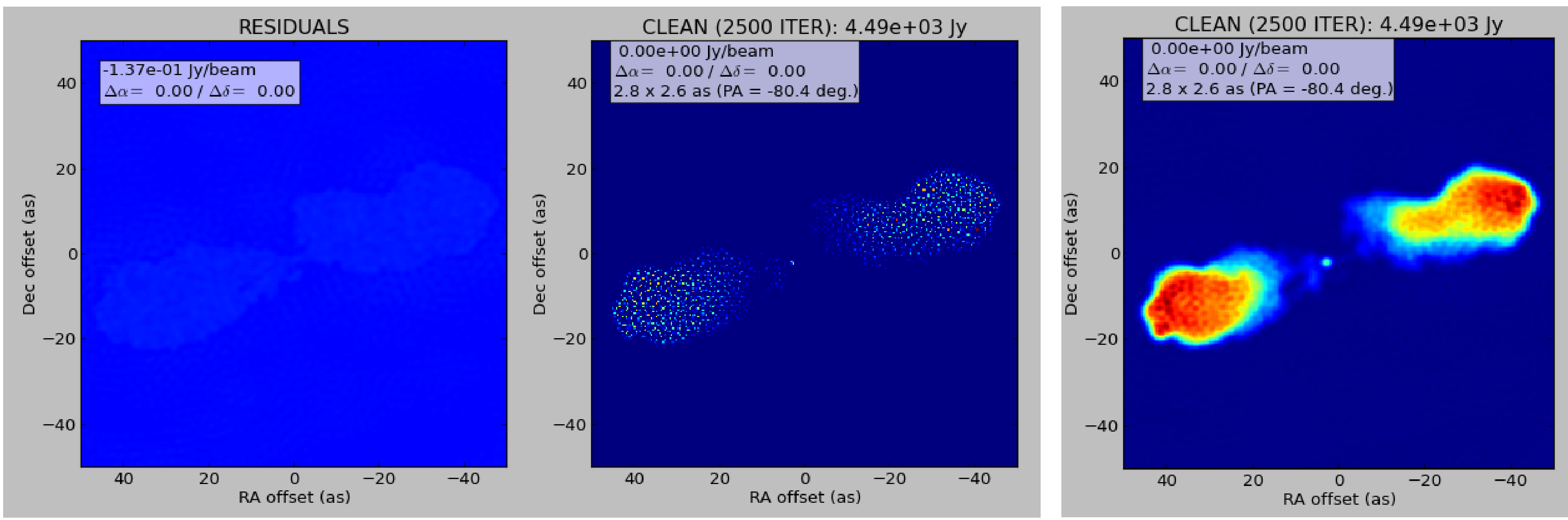


Deconvolution - Classic CLEAN

Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, **Cotton-Schwab 1984**

Basic assumption: each source is a collection of point sources

5) Multiplies the clean components by the clean beam (**restore**) and add it back to the residual



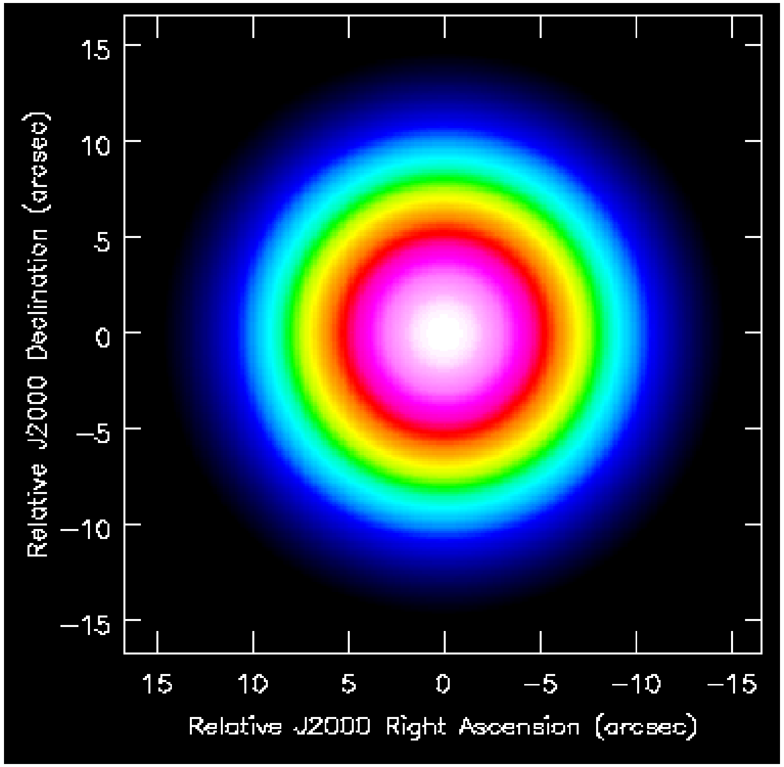
Resulting image pixel have units of Jy per clean beam

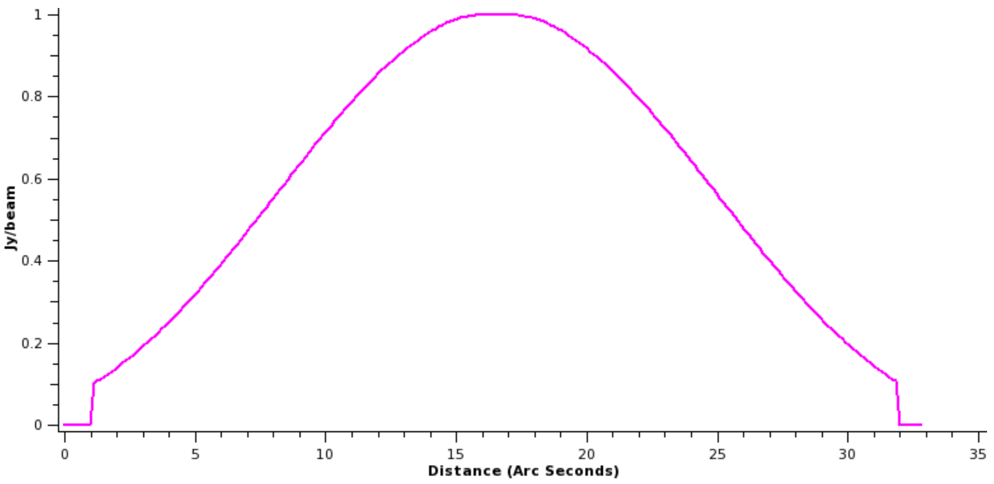
We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v)e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)}dudv$

But

Interferometer elements are sensible to direction of arrival of the radiation

- **Primary beam effect** → $T(x,y) = A(x,y)\ T'(x,y)$





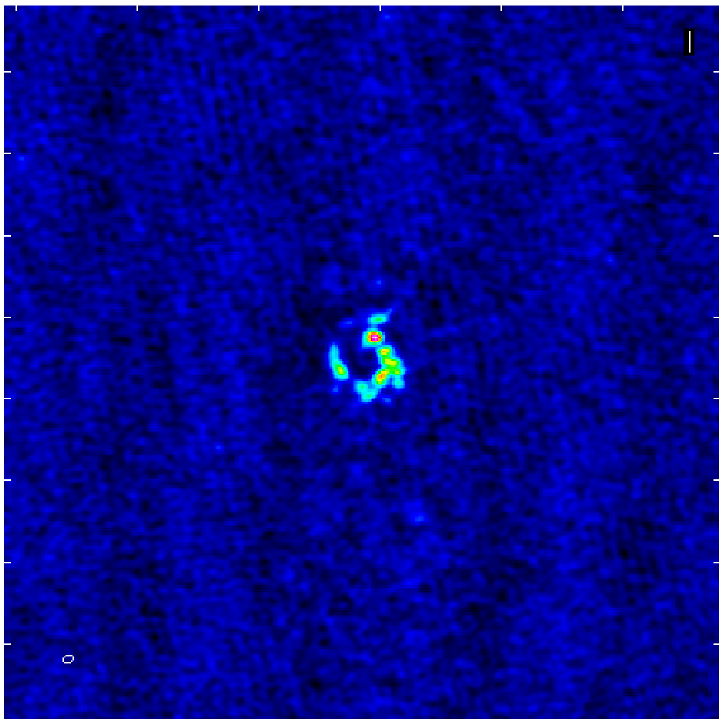
The response of the antennas in the array must be corrected for during imaging to get accurate intensities for source outside the core of the beam.

We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v)e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)}dudv$

But

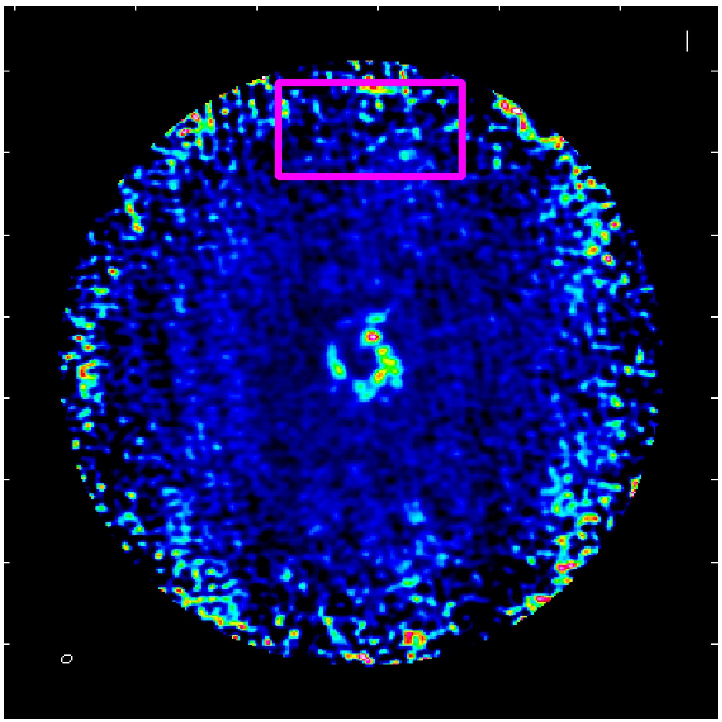
- **Primary beam effect** → $T(x,y) = A(x,y)\,T'(x,y)$

$T(x,y)$



rms 8e-4

$T'(x,y)$

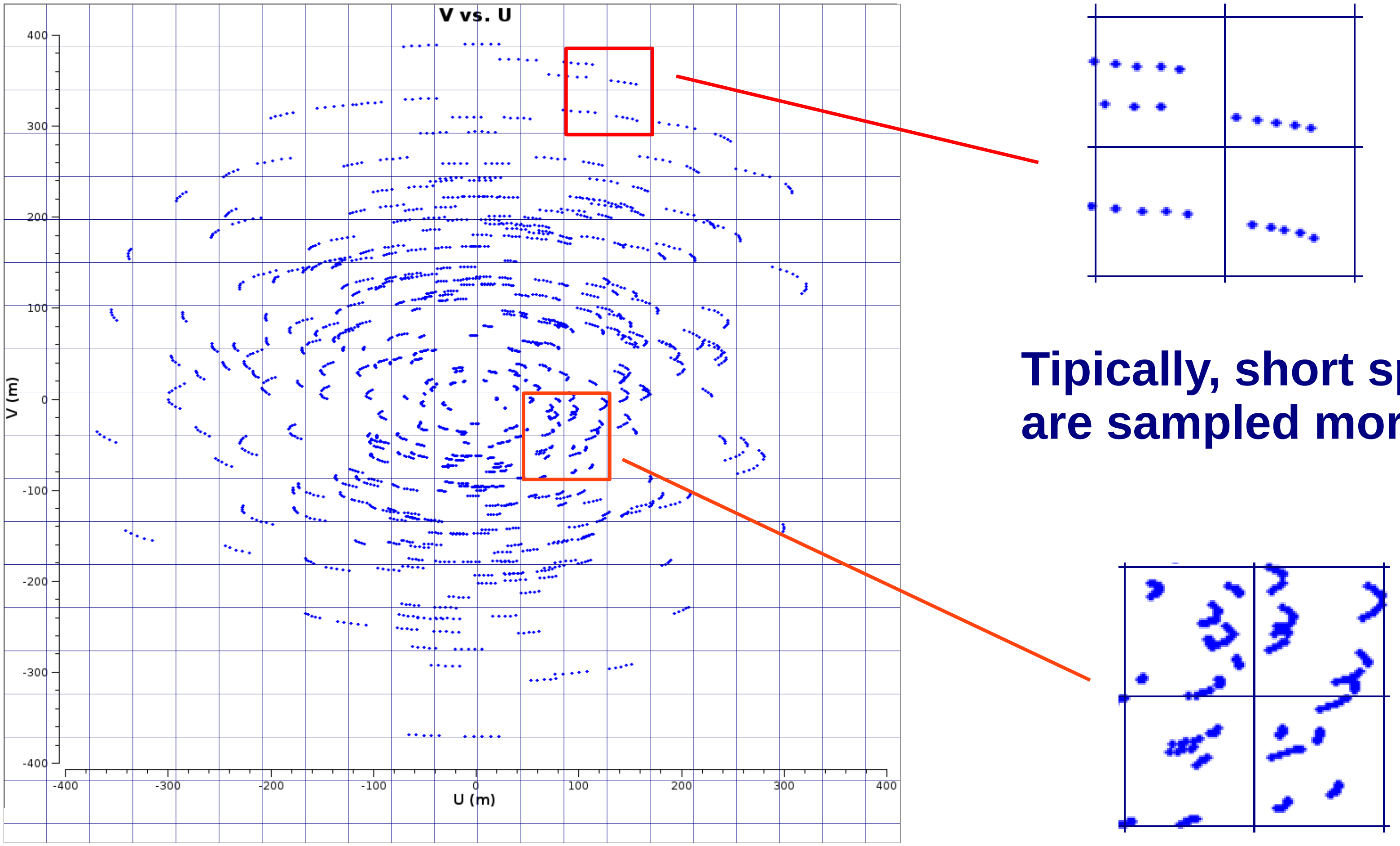


rms 3e-3

But
measured visibilities actually contain noise
and some uv ranges are sampled more than others

$$\sigma(u,v) \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{T_{sys\,1} T_{sys\,2}}}$$

- **Gridded visibilities are** → $V(u,v) = W(u,v)\, V'(u,v)$



Tipically, short spacing
are sampled more than long

We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

Natural weighting $W(u,v) = 1/\sigma^2(u,v)$

σ is the noise variance of the visibilities

Uniform weighting $W(u,v) = 1/\delta_s(u,v)$

δ_s is the density of (u,v) points in a symmetric region of the uv plane

Unfortunately, in reality, the weighting which produces the best resolution **(uniform)** will often utilize the data very irregularly resulting in poor sensitivity → compromises

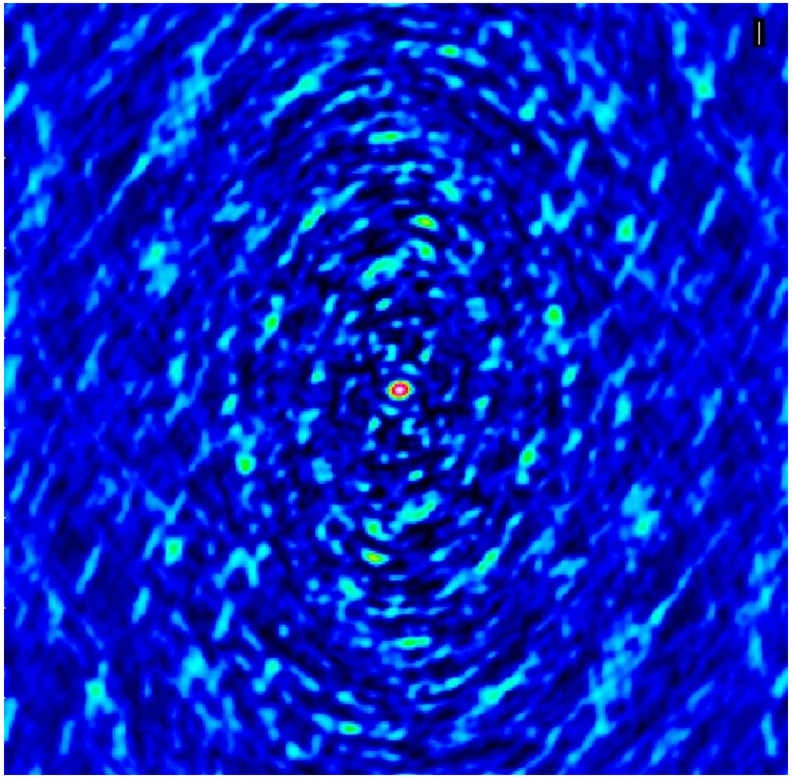
Briggs weighting
combines inverse density and noise weighting.
An adjustable parameter "robust " allows for continuous variation between natural (robust=+2) to uniform (robust=-2)

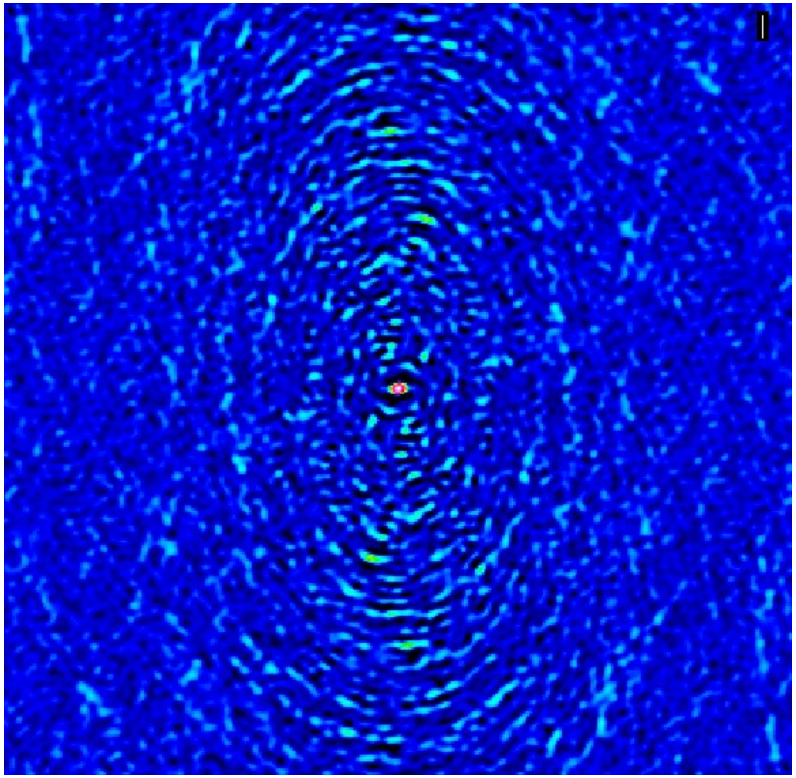
We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v)e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)}dudv$

✯ Weighting effects on the Dirty beam

Natural
0.29'' x 0.23''
Best sensitivity

Uniform
0.24''x0.17''
Best angular resolution



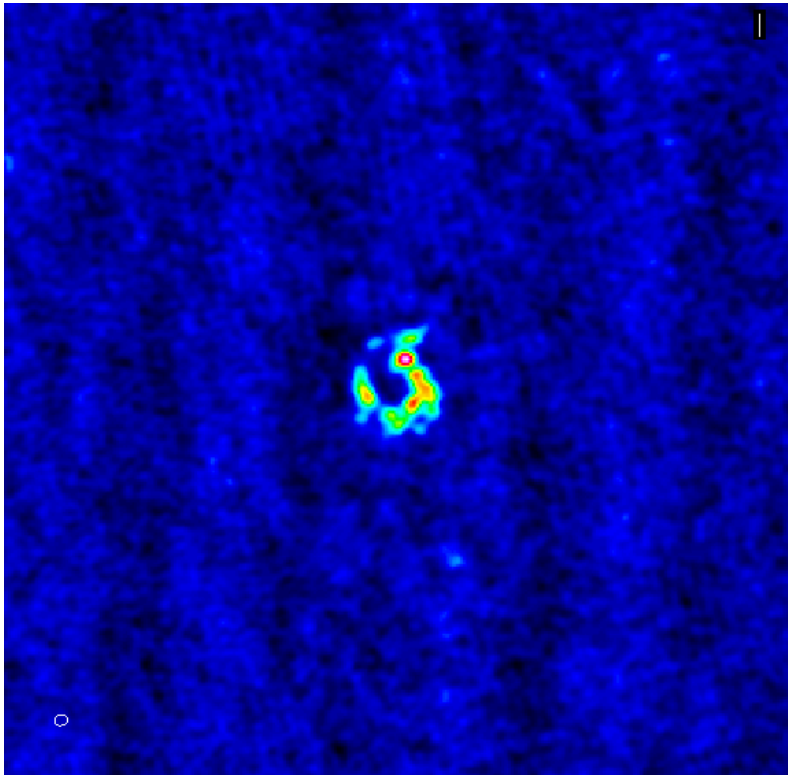


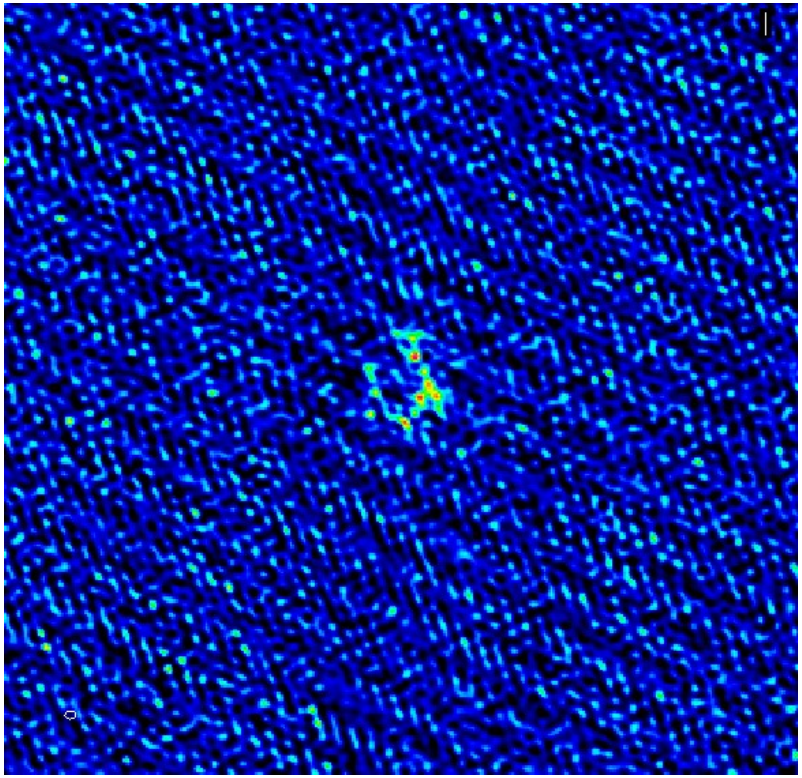
We need to get $T(x,y) = \int\int V(u,v) e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} du dv$

Weighting effects on the image

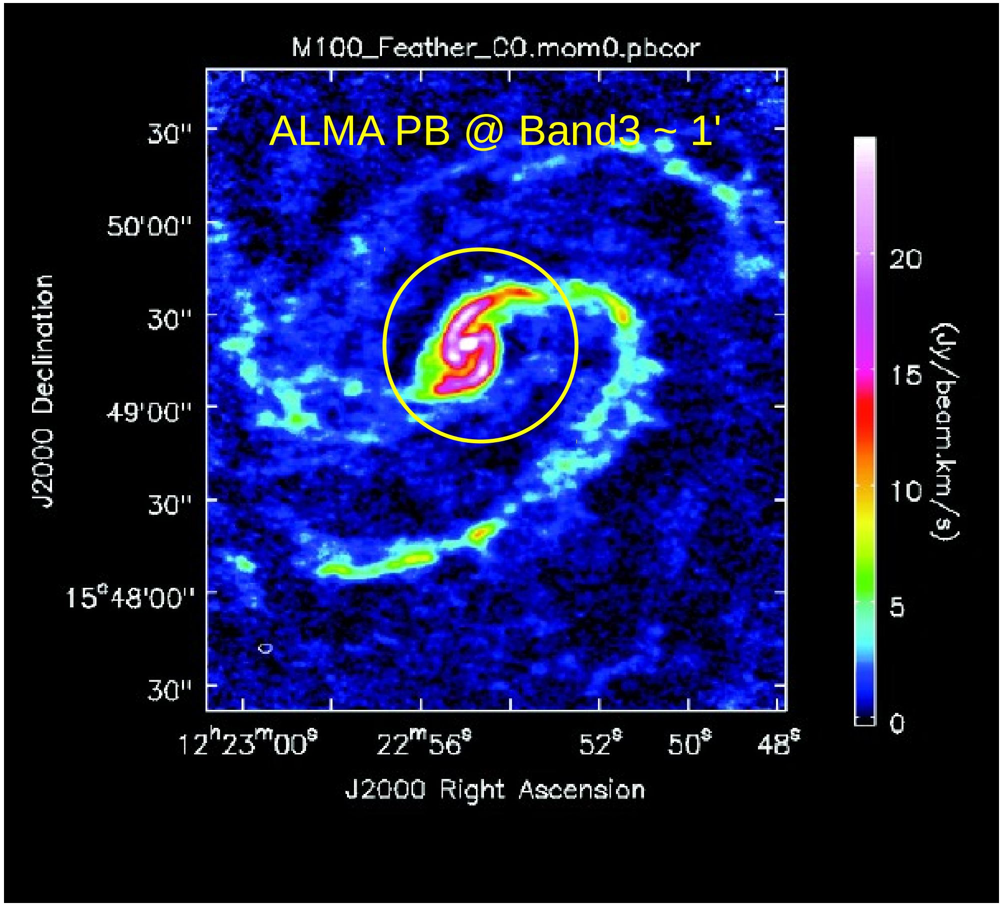
Natural
res = 0.29'' x 0.23''
rms = 0.8 mJy/beam

Uniform
res = 0.24''x0.17''
rms = 3 mJy/beam



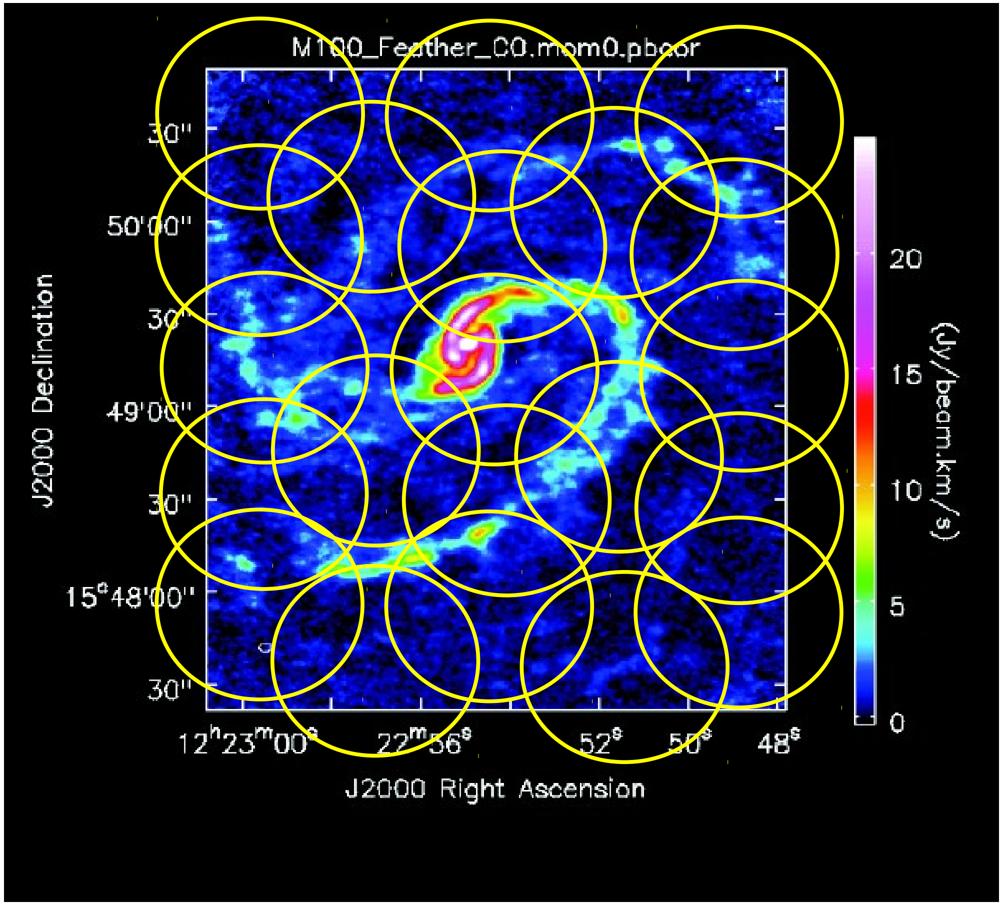


If the region of interest is larger than the primary beam



If the region of interest is larger than the primary beam

need to mosaic many interferometric pointings



Clean is basically the same →
need to specify the central pointing (phasecenter)
the image size = full mosaic area
and the mode 'mosaic' (imagermode and ftmachine)

Peculiarities @ mm

With increasing frequency:

- **No external human interferences in the data**

- **No ionospheric effect**

- Tropospheric effects: absorption and delay of signal
  - → stronger weather dependency
  - → T_{sys} dominated by atmospheric noise

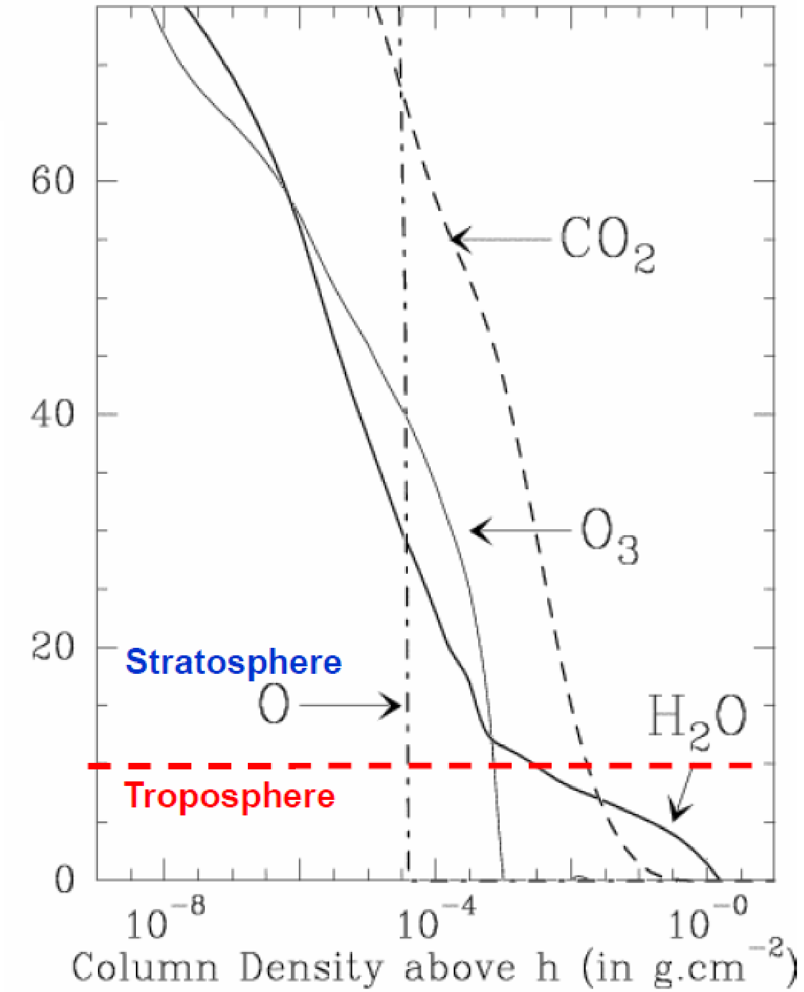
- Time variability of quasars increases
  - → which flux calibrators?

Peculiarities @ mm

The role of the troposphere

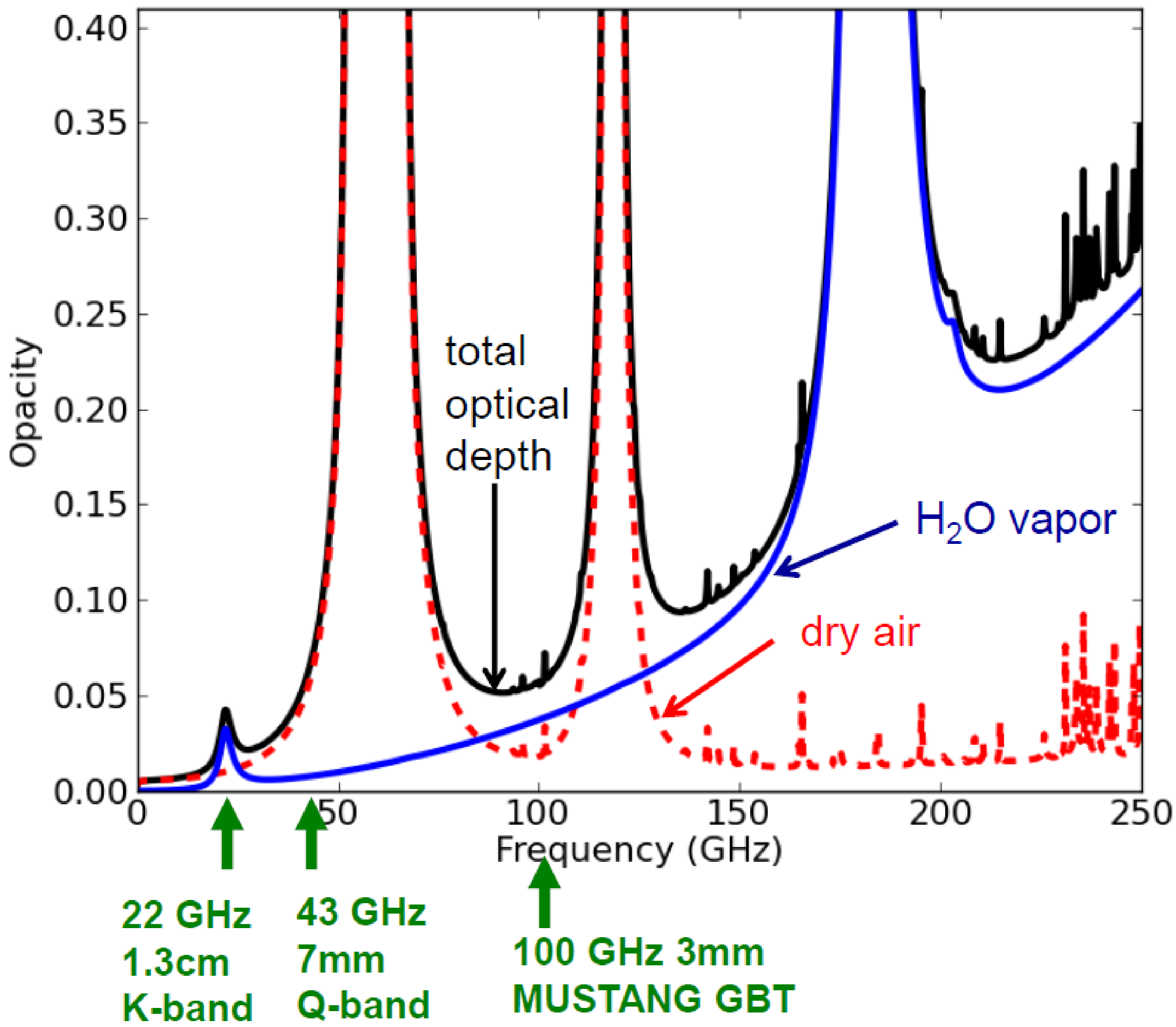
- H_2O (mostly vapor)
- "Hydrosols" (water droplets in clouds and fog)
- "Dry" constituents: O_2, O_3, CO_2, Ne, He, Ar, Kr, CH_4, N_2, H_2
- clouds & convection = time variation

Column density as function of altitude



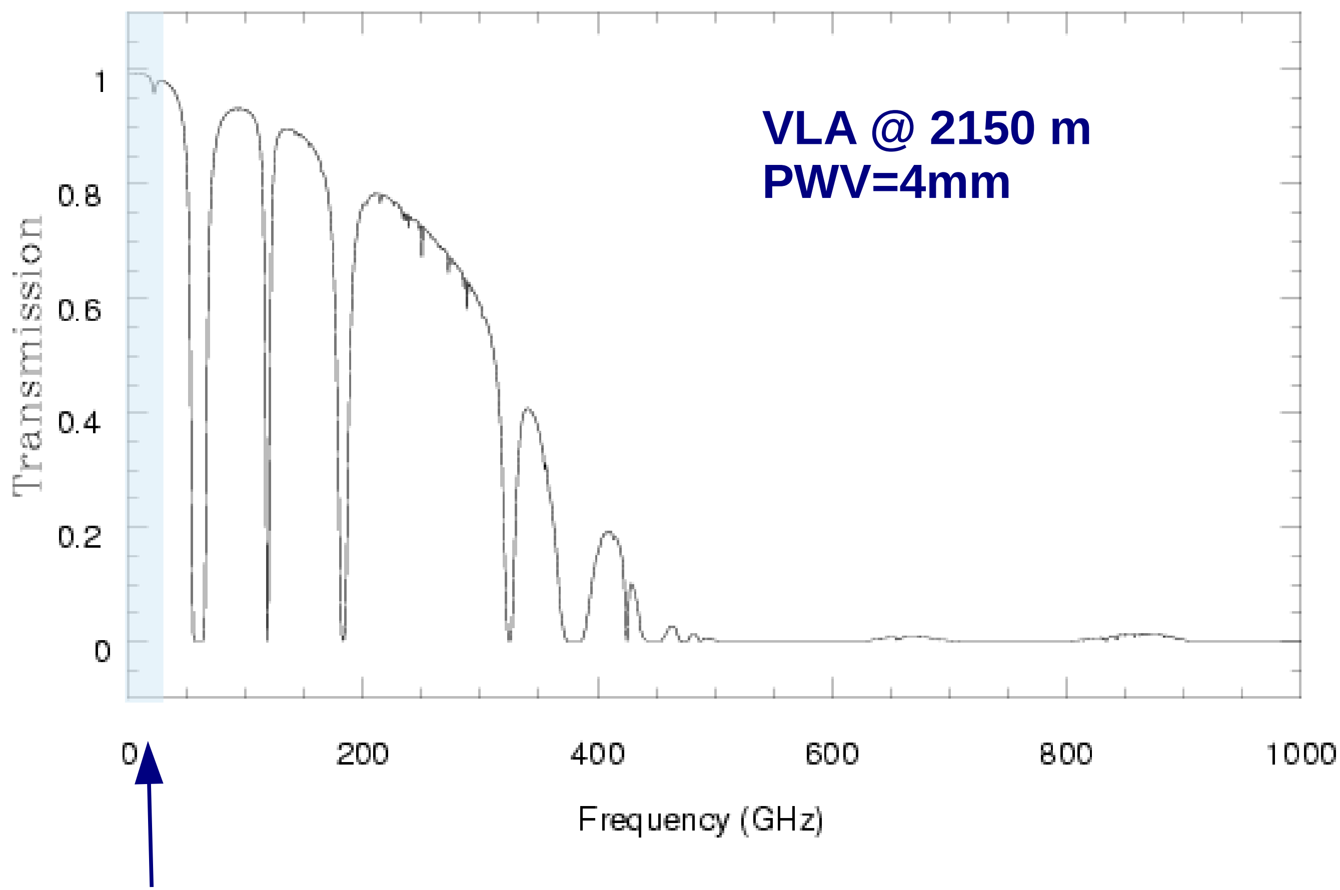
Peculiarities @ mm

Optical depth as function of frequency



Peculiarities @ mm

Tropospheric opacity depends on altitude

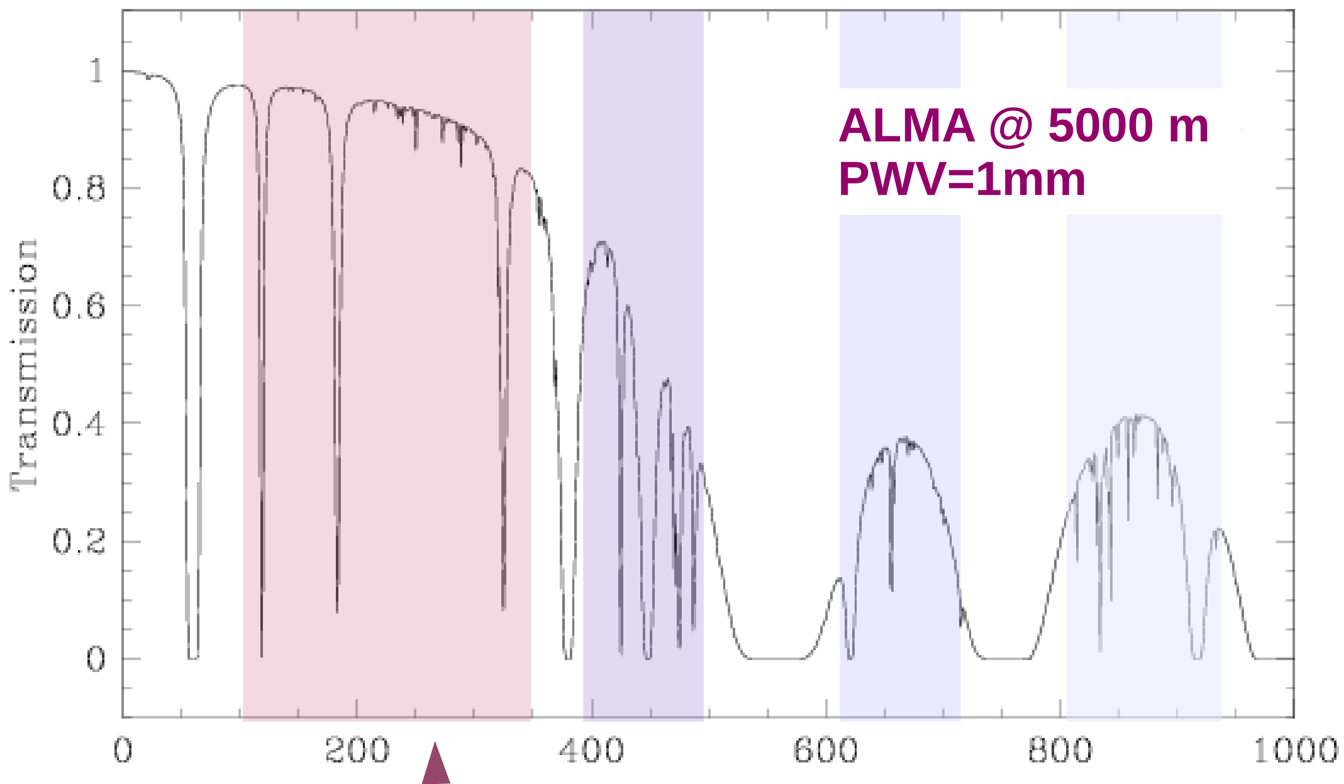


VLA bands

Atmospheric transmission not a problem @ $\lambda >$ cm

Peculiarities @ mm

Tropospheric opacity depends on altitude

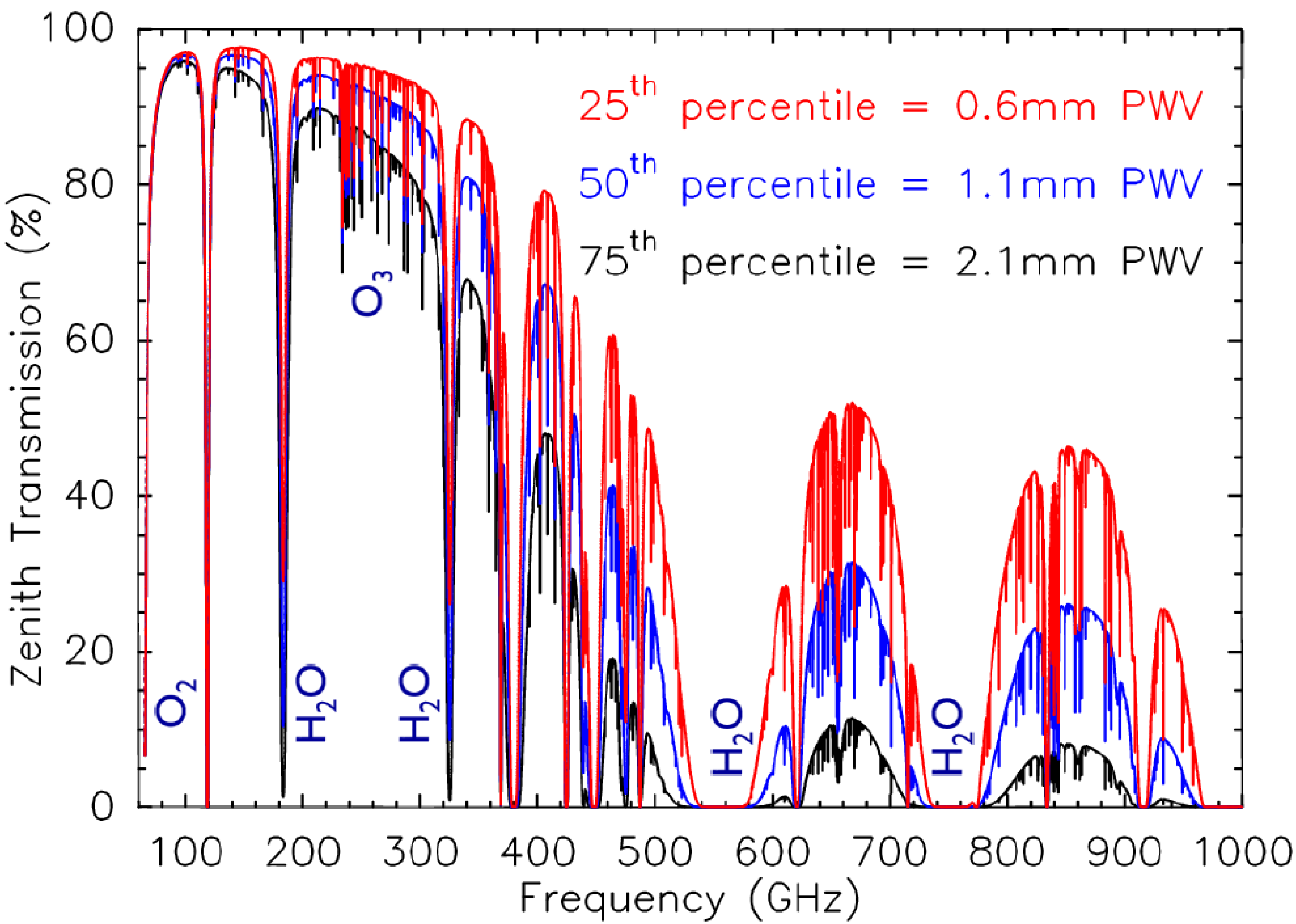


Difference due to the scale height of water vapor

ALMA bands

Peculiarities @ mm

PWV= Precipitable Water Vapour



Peculiarities @ mm

e.g. to observe a 1 Jy source with a 10 m radiotelescope we have to measure $T_A \sim 0.04$ K against $T_{sys} \sim 100$ K

$$T_{sys} \sim T_{atm} (1- e^{\tau}) + T_{rx}$$

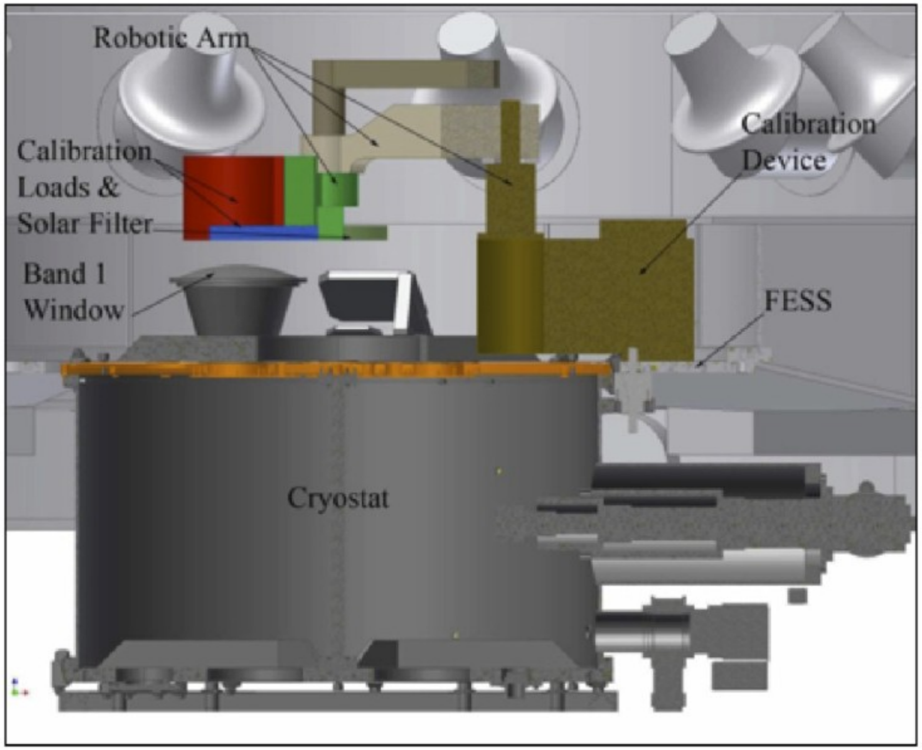
At lower frequencies T_{rx} is dominant

At higher frequencies (mm/submm) the noise associated with the atmosphere T_{atm} is dominant, and acts like a blackbody emitter, attenuating the astronomical signal

Peculiarities @ mm

System noise temperature

ALMA front end are equipped with an Amplitude Calibration Device (ACD)

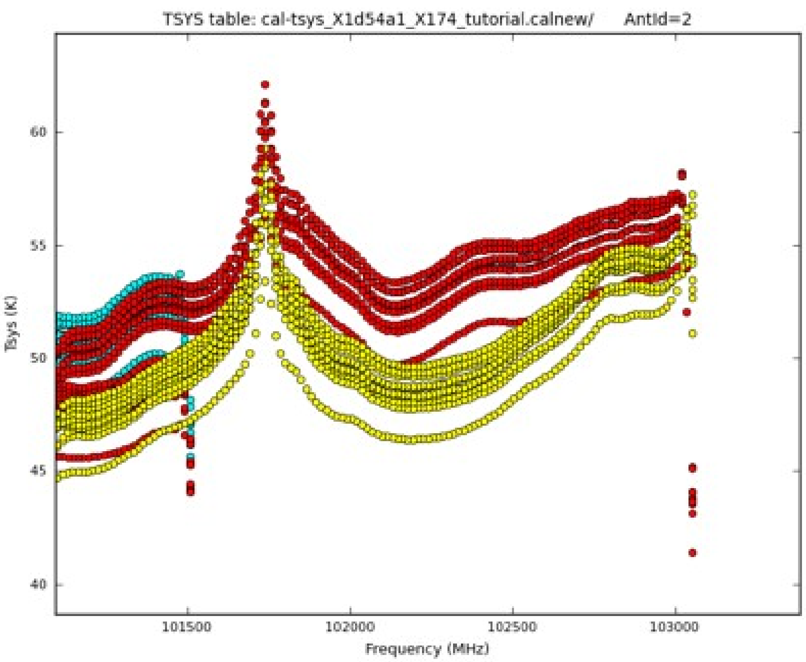


→ To measure T_{sys} and T_{rx} stored in tables

Every scan could have a Tsys measurement, but <400 GHz relatively constant ~10min.
Tsys spectra are applied off-line to the correlated data.

Assuming correlated data in units of % correlation multiplication by Tsys will change the unit to Kelvin

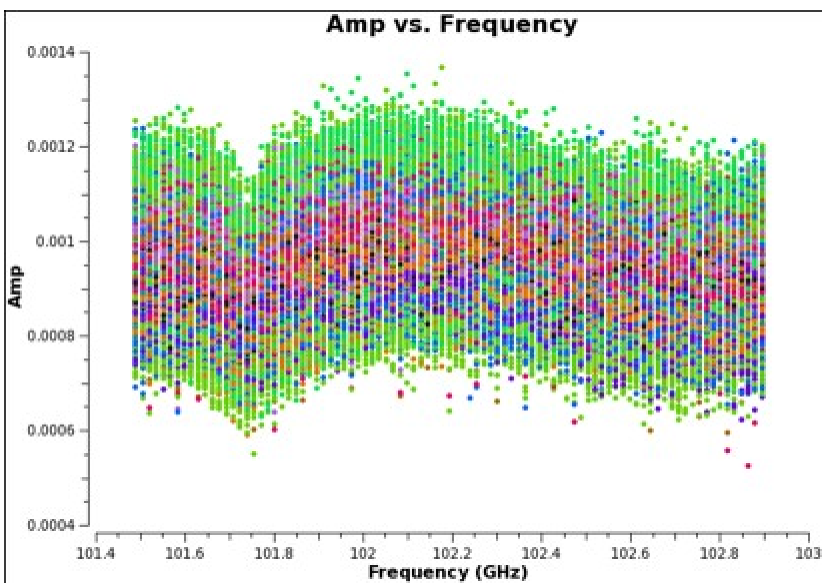
Peculiarities @ mm



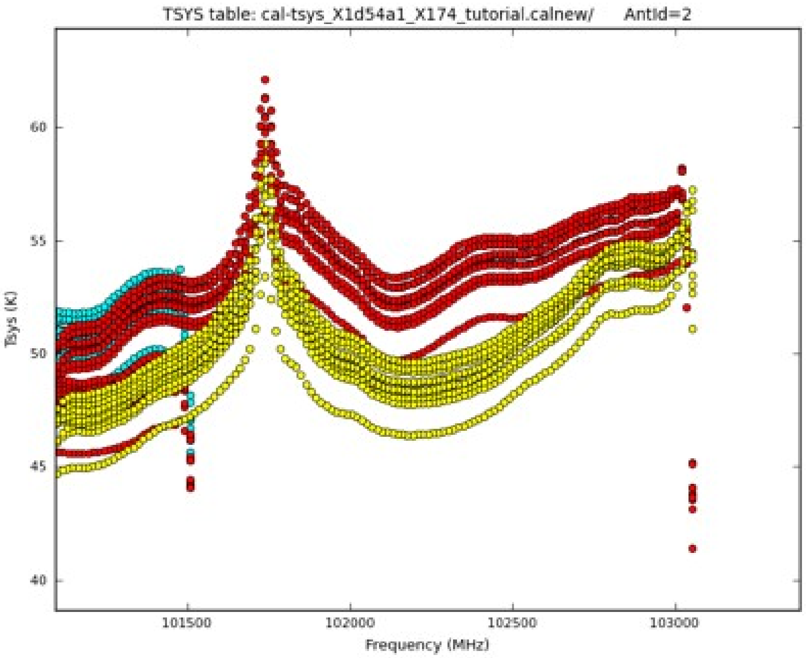
Tsys calibration

Spectral Tsys
band 3 (~100 GHz)

Before



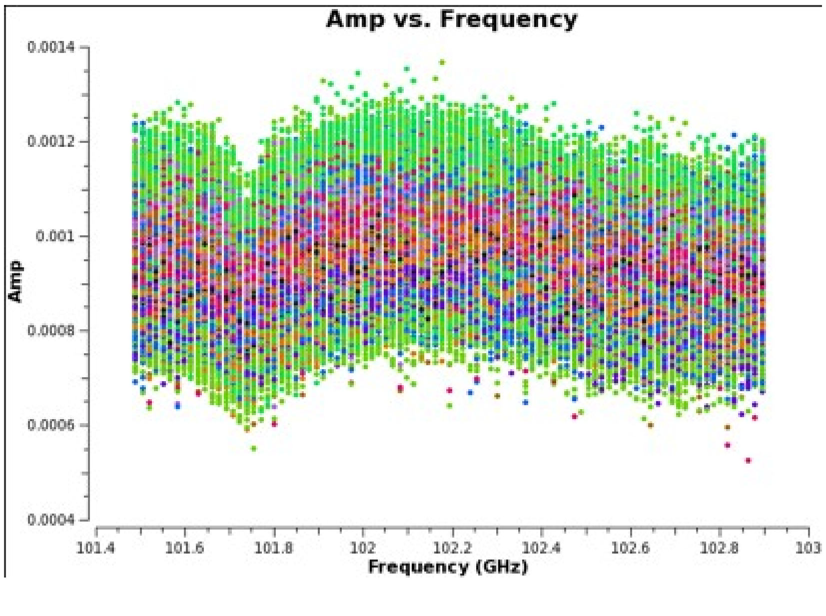
Peculiarities @ mm



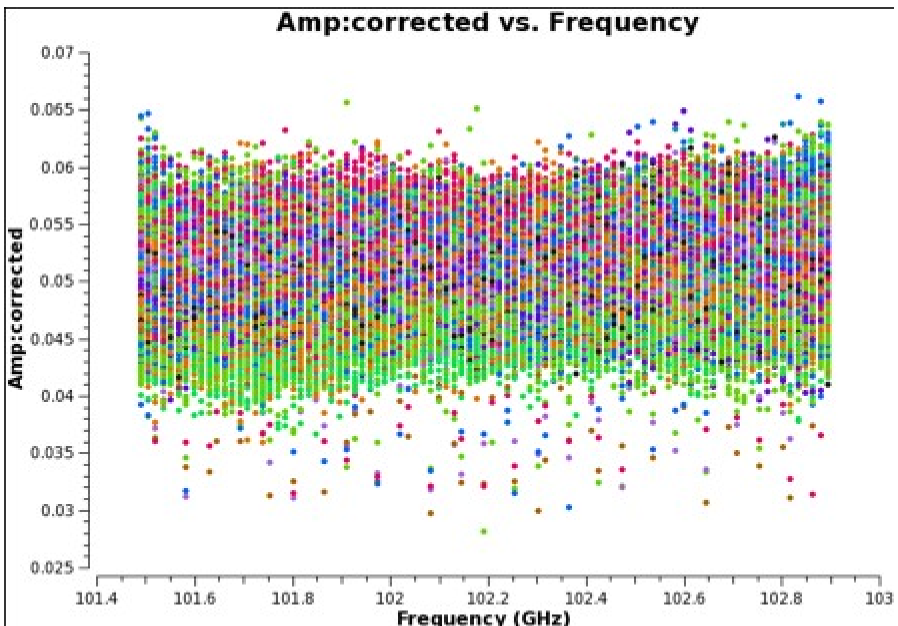
Tsys calibration

Spectral Tsys
band 3 (~100 GHz)

Before



After



Peculiarities @ mm

Mean effect of atmosphere on Phase

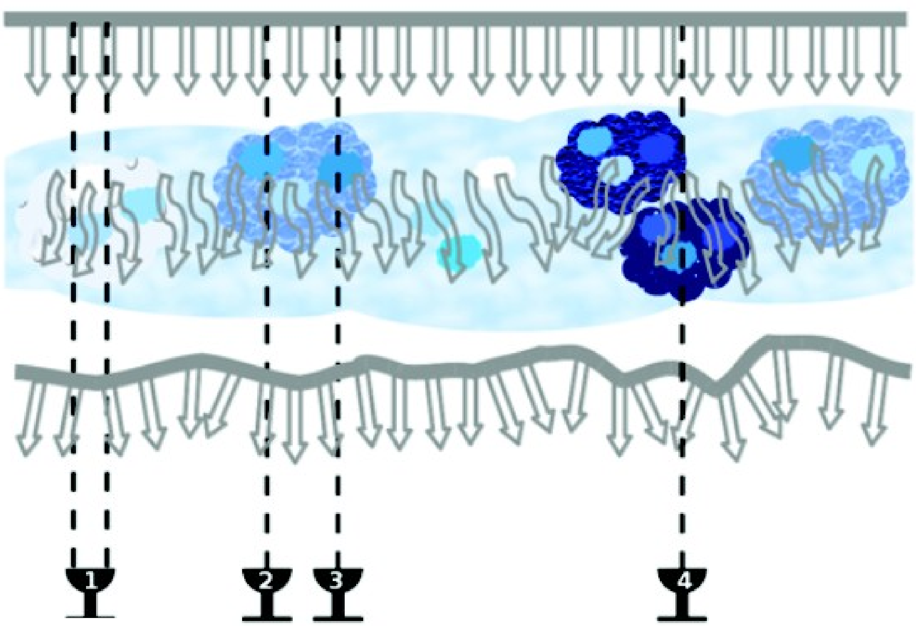
Variations in precipitable water vapor (PWV) cause phase fluctuations, worse at higher frequencies, resulting in:

- Phase shift due to refractive index $n \neq 1$
- Low coherence (loss of sensitivity)

Patches of air with different pwv (and hence index of refraction) affect the incoming wave front differently.

Antenna 1, 2, 3 see slightly different disturbances

Sky above antenna 4 varies independently



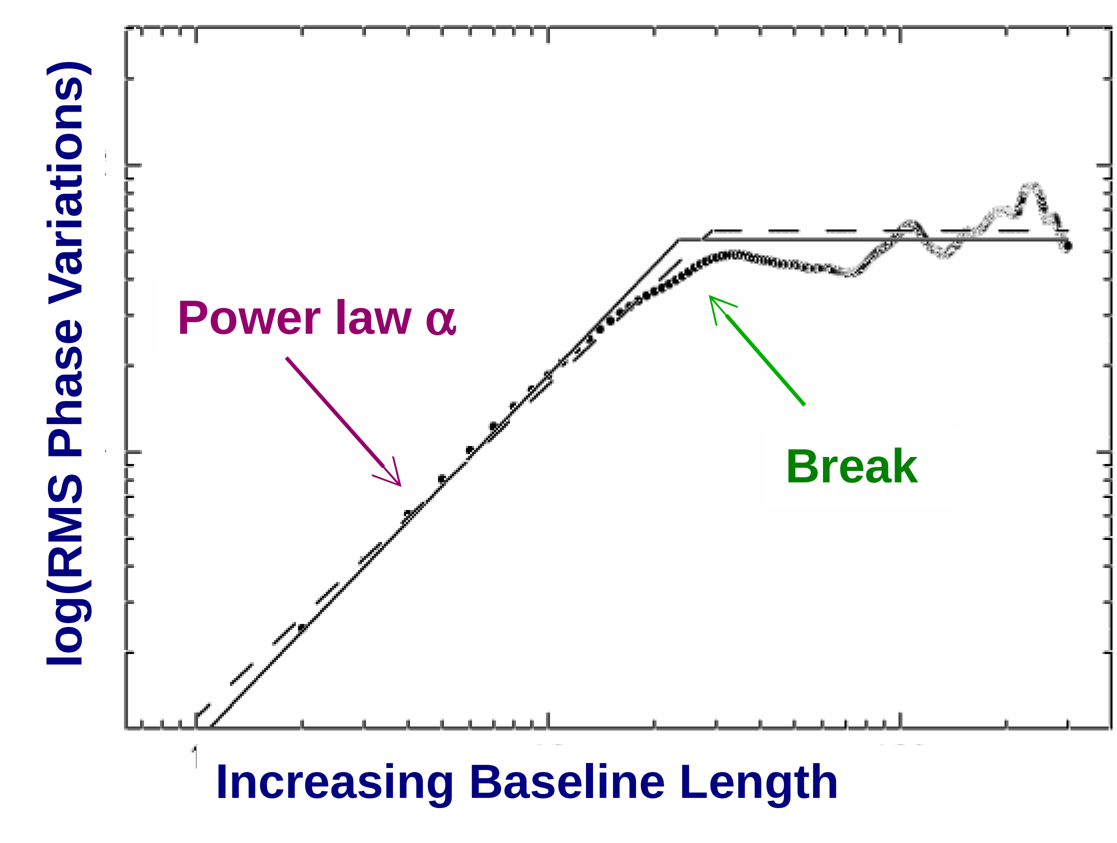
The phase change experienced by an e.m. wave can be related to pwv

$$\varphi_e \approx \frac{12.6\pi}{\lambda} \cdot pwv$$

Hogg, Guiraud, & Decker, 1981

Peculiarities @ mm

Atmospheric phase fluctuations



Phase noise

Kolmogorov turbulence theory

$$\varphi_{rms} = \frac{K\, b^{\alpha}}{\lambda}$$

b=baseline length (km)
α = 1/3 to 5/6 (thin or thick atmosphere)
λ = wavelength (mm)
K constant (~100 for ALMA)

The break is typically @ baseline lengths few hundred meters to few km (scale of the turbulent layers)

Break and maximum are weather and wavelength dependent

Peculiarities @ mm

Atmospheric phase fluctuations → decorrelation

We lose integrated flux because visibility vectors partly cancel out

$$\langle V \rangle = V_o \langle e^{i\varphi} \rangle = V_o e^{-(\varphi_{rms}^2)/2}$$

φ_{rms} = 1 radian → <V> = 0.60 V_0

In summary
Fluctuations in the line-of-sight pwv of an antenna
cause phase variations of the order of ~30 deg / sec at 90 GHz,
and scales linearly with frequency....

$$\varphi_e \approx \frac{12.6\pi}{\lambda} \cdot pwv$$

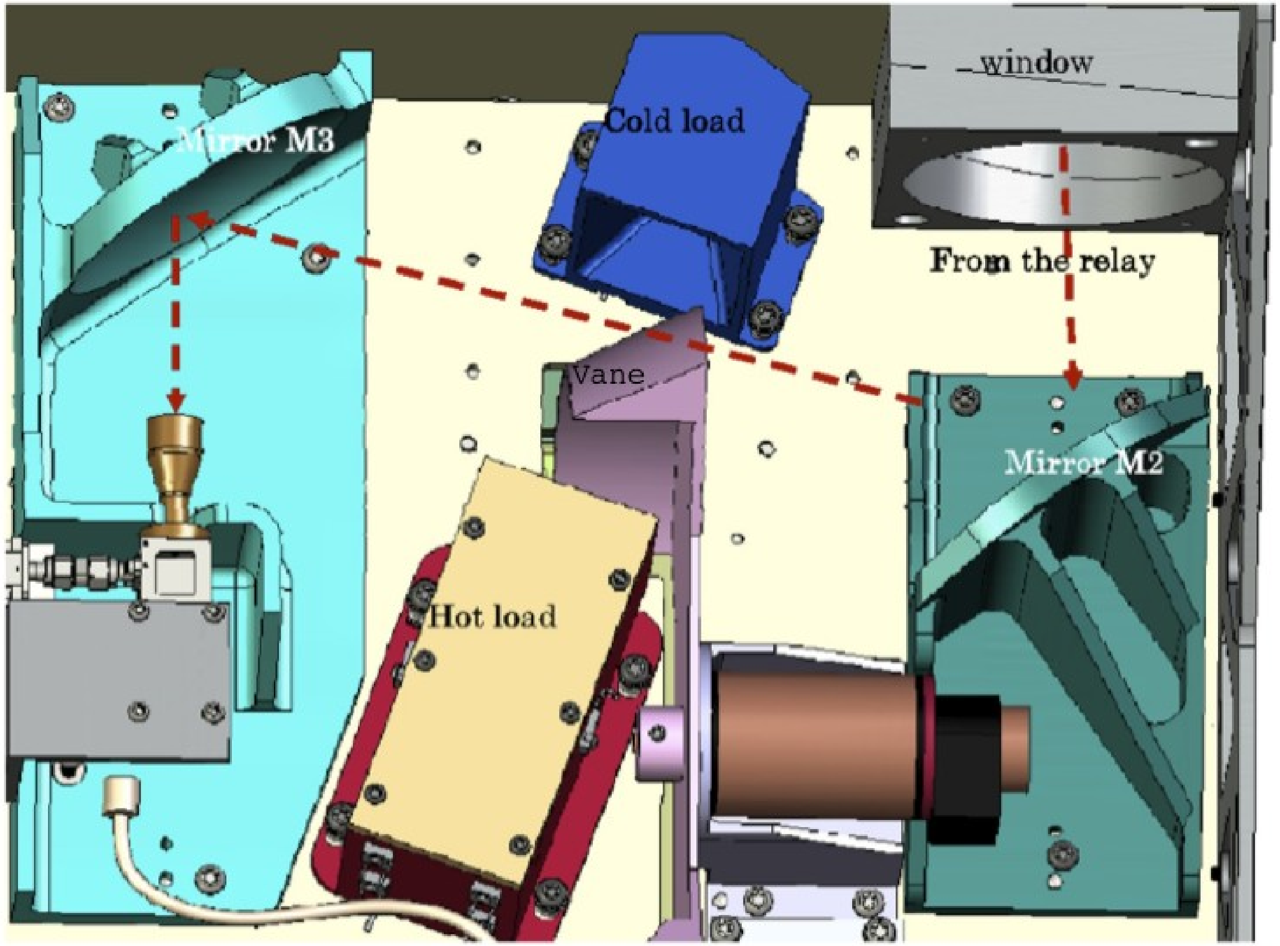
and the phase noise is worse at longer baselines...

$$\varphi_{rms} = \frac{K b^{\alpha}}{\lambda}$$

Peculiarities @ mm

WVR correction

Each ALMA 12 m antenna has a water **vapour radiometer**



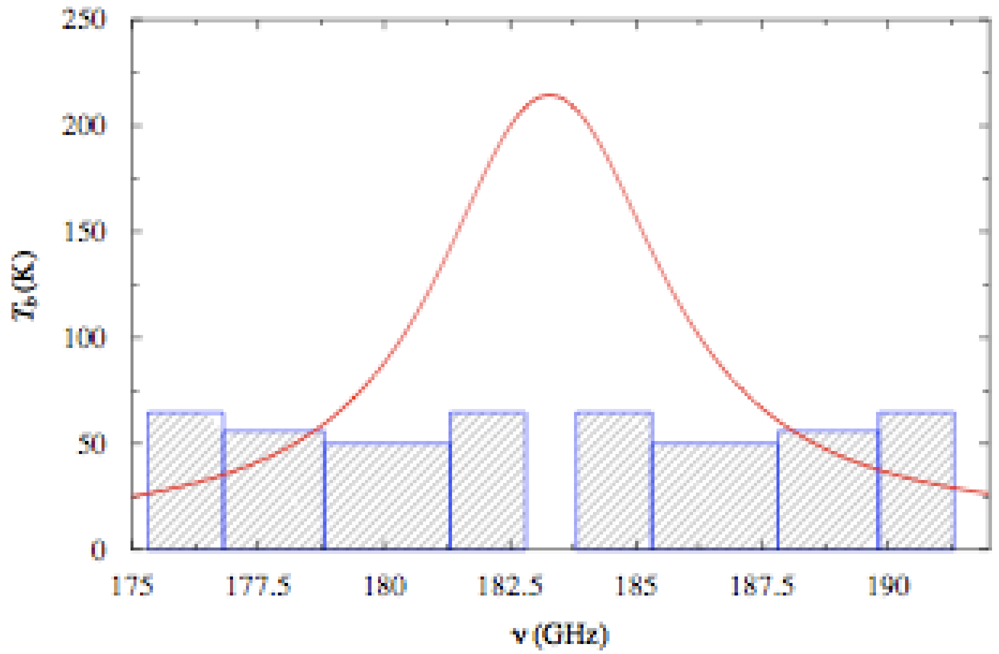
Peculiarities @ mm

WVR correction

Each ALMA 12 m antenna has a water **vapour radiometer**

Four “channels” flanking the peak of the 183 GHz water line

Data taken every second



Peculiarities @ mm

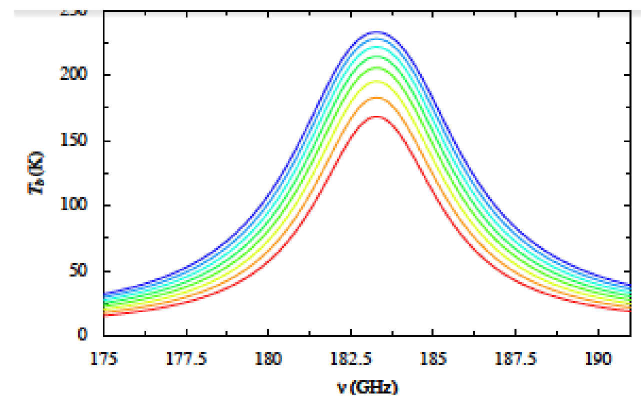
WVR correction

Each ALMA 12 m antenna has a water **vapour radiometer**

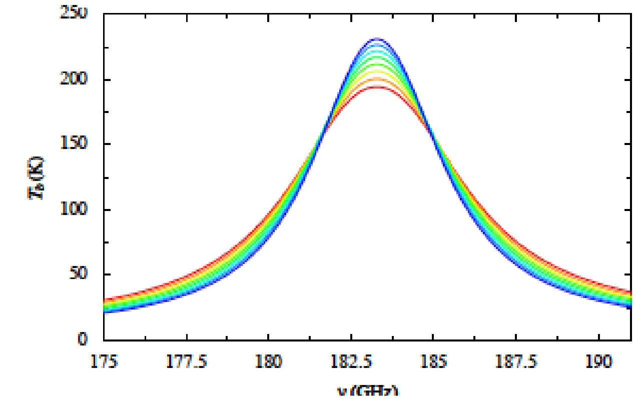
Four “channels” flanking the peak of the 183 GHz water line

Data taken every second

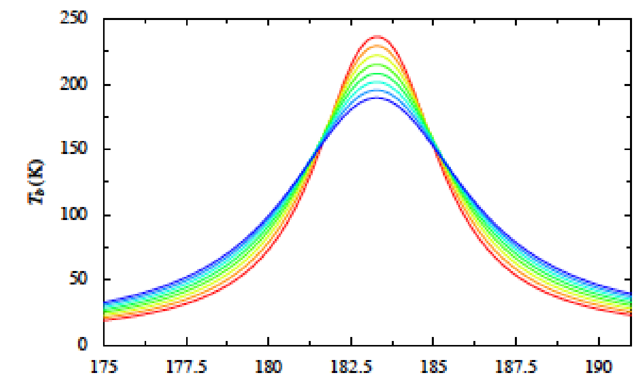
Convert 183 GHZ brightness to PWV (wvrgcal):
model PWV, temperature and pressure
compare to the observed “spectrum”
compute the correction:



PWV from 0.6 to 1.3 mm



Temperature 230-300 K

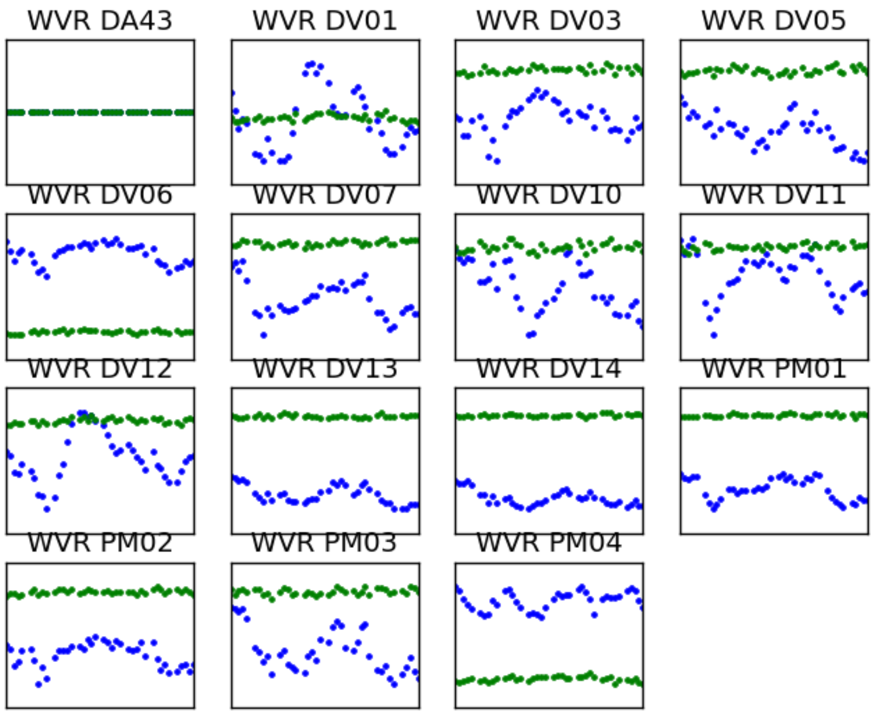


Pressure 400-750 mBar

Peculiarities @ mm

WVR correction

Band 6 (230 GHz)

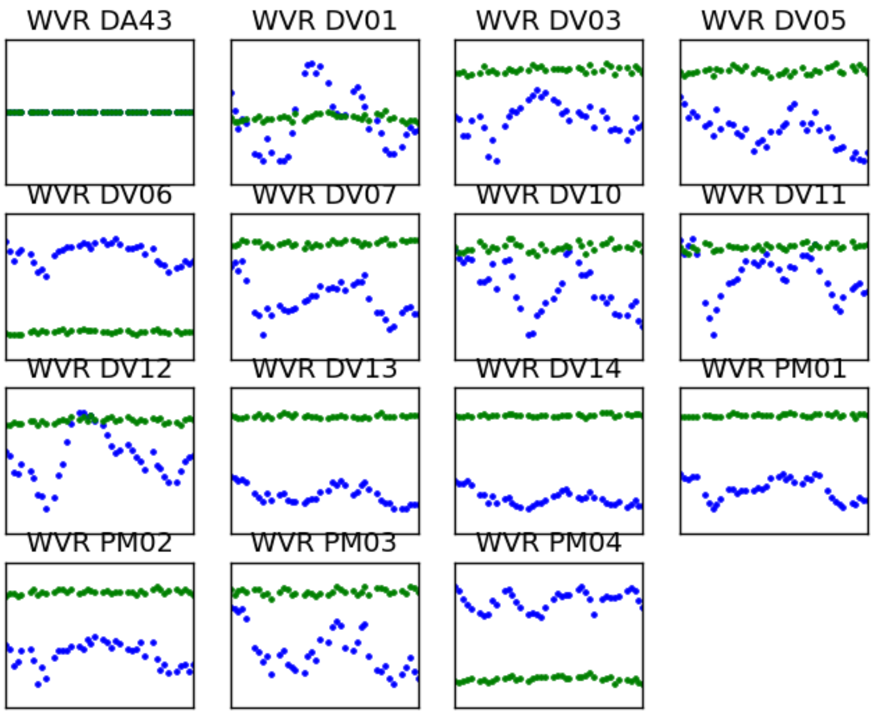


Raw phases & WVR corrected phases

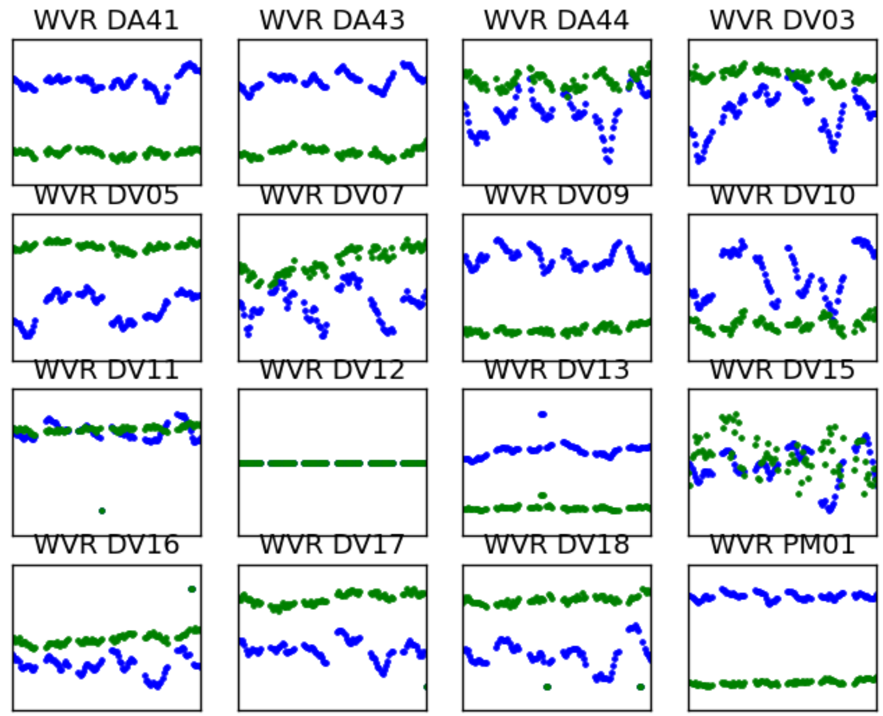
Peculiarities @ mm

WVR correction

Band 6 (230 GHz)



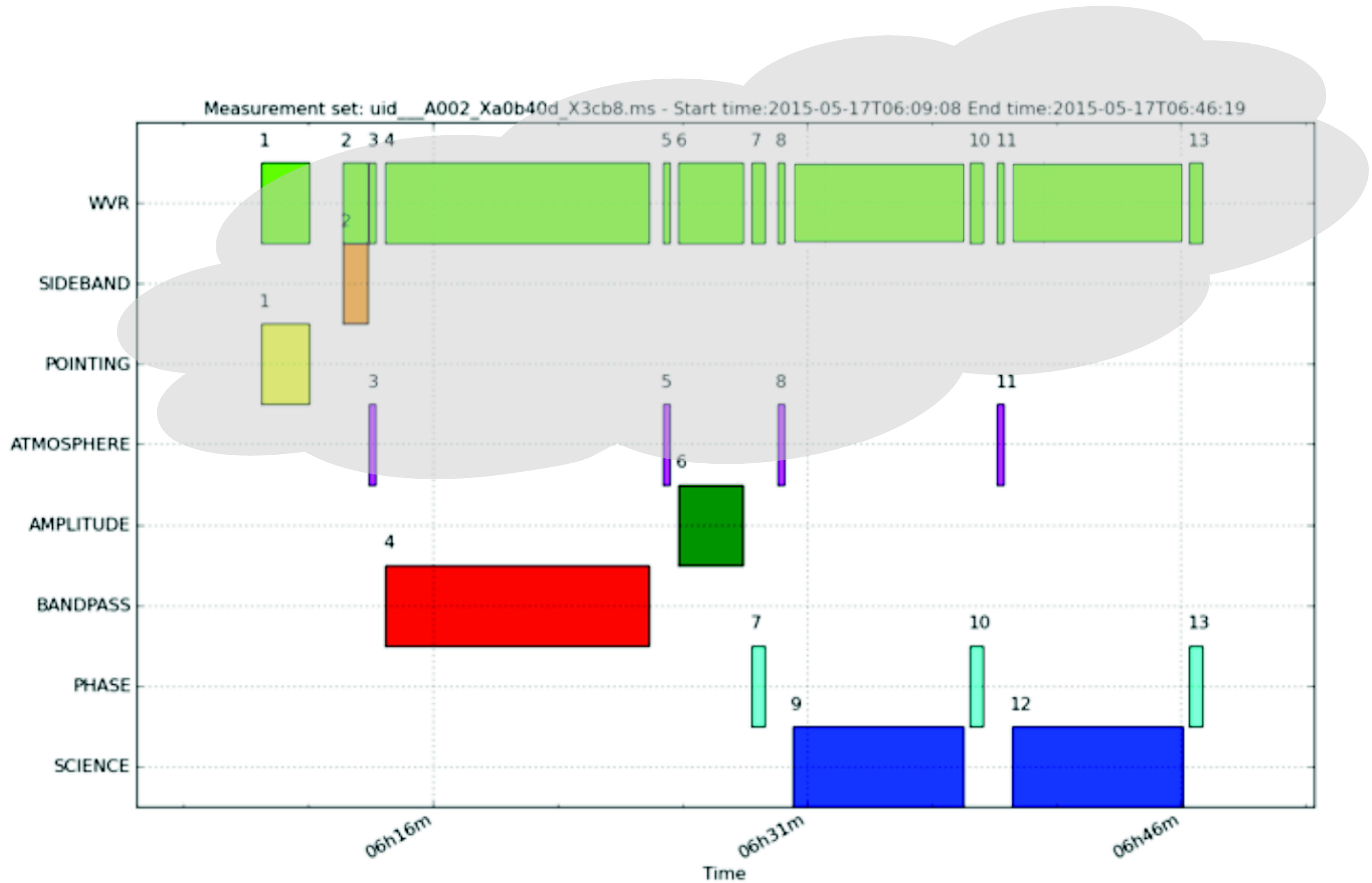
Band 7 (340 GHz)



Raw phases & WVR corrected phases

Calibration in ALMA:

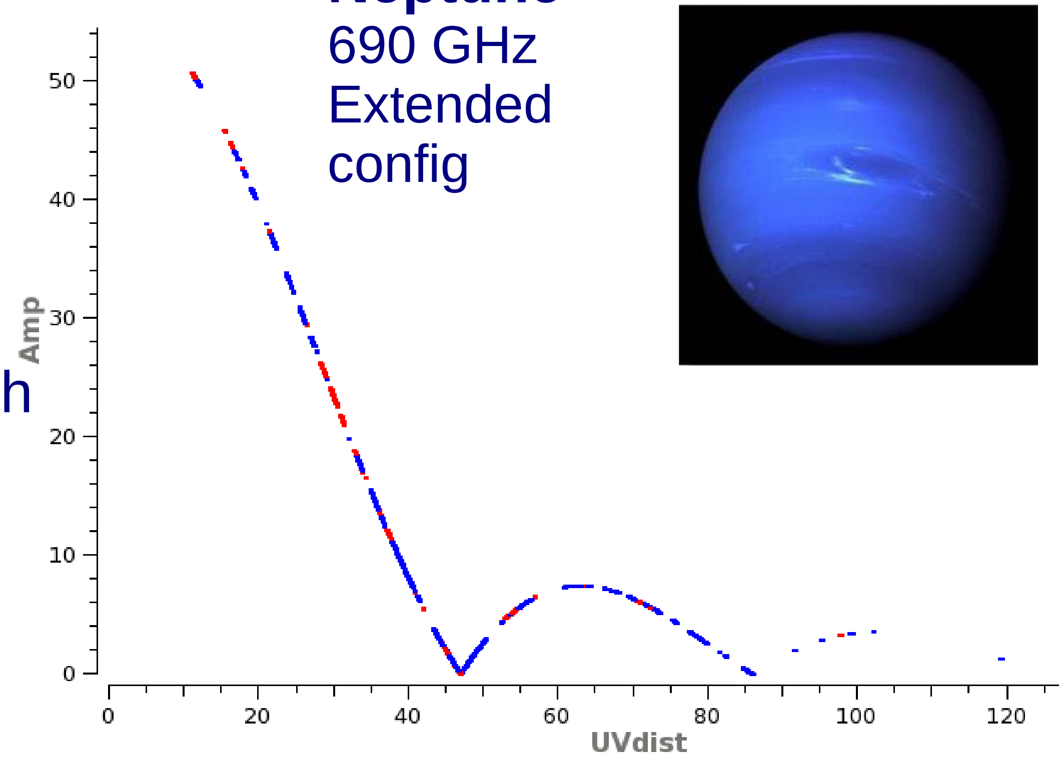
Tsys and wvr calibration are done “a priori” without observations of dedicated calibrators bservations.



Peculiarities @ mm

Flux calibrators
Used to be a problem

Neptune
690 GHz
Extended
config



- Quasars are strongly time-variable and good models did not exist at high frequencies

- Solar System bodies were used as primary flux calibrators (Neptune, Jovian moons, Titan, Ceres) but with many challenges:
  - all are resolved on long baselines
  - brightness varies with distance from Sun and Earth
  - line emission present → need models

Other possibilities: asteroids,
red giant stars...

NOW: Monitoring of point-like quasars!!!