



# Introduction to CASA

Bjorn Emonts

*National Radio Astronomy Observatory*

*CASA User Community Liaison*

Ryan Raba (*NRAO – CASA Lead*)

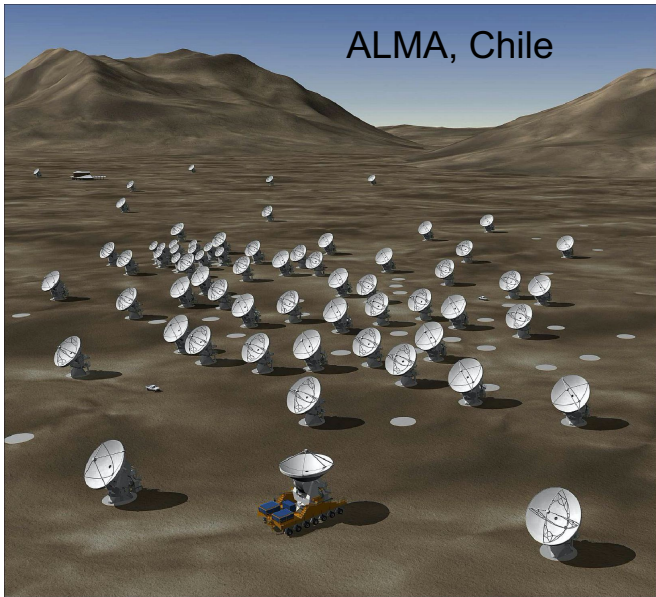


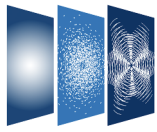
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## Common Astronomy Software Applications for Radio Astronomy

Primary data processing software *Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA)* and *Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Telescope (ALMA)*, but frequently used also for other radio telescopes.





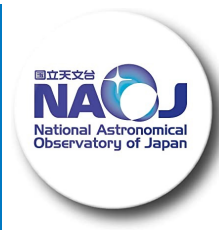
# CASA Team

**Ryan Raba** (NRAO-CV)  
**Urvashi Rao Venkata** (NRAO-SO)

*CASA Lead*  
*Deputy Lead, Lead Scientific development*

**Ben Bean** (NRAO-ALBQ)  
**Sandra Castro** (ESO)  
**Bjorn Emonts** (NRAO-CV)  
**Enrique Garcia** (ESO)  
**Bob Garwood** (NRAO-CV)  
**Kumar Golap** (NRAO-SO)  
**Justo Gonzalez Villalba** (ESO)  
**Pam Harris** (NRAO-SO)  
**Yohei Hayashi** (NAOJ)  
**Josh Hoskins** (NRAO-CV)  
**Wataru Kawasaki** (NAOJ)  
**Jorge Lopez** (NRAO-CV)  
**Josh Marvil** (NRAO-SO)  
**Andrew McNichols** (NRAO-CV)  
**Dave Mehringer** (NRAO-CV)  
**Renaud Miel** (NAOJ)  
**George Moellenbrock** (NRAO-SO)  
**Federico Montesino** (ESO)  
**Takeshi Nakazato** (NAOJ)  
**Dirk Petry** (ESO)  
**Darrell Schiebel** (NRAO-CV)  
**Neal Schweighart** (NRAO-CV)  
**Kazuhiko Shimada** (NAOJ)  
**Jan-Willem Steeb** (NRAO-CV)  
**Ville Suoranta** (NRAO-CV)  
**Tak Tsutsumi** (NRAO-SO)  
**Akeem Wells** (NRAO-CV)  
**Wei Xiong** (NRAO-ALBQ)

*Scientific development, Verification testing*  
*Lead verification testing*  
*User Community Liaison*  
*Infrastructure development*  
*Infrastructure, Verification testing*  
*Scientific development*  
*Scientific development*  
*Data visualization*  
*Scientific development, Single Dish*  
*Scientific development, Infrastructure*  
*Scientific development, Single Dish*  
*Infrastructure, Scientific development*  
*Lead scientific validation*  
*Infrastructure, Scientific development*  
*Scientific development, Verification testing*  
*Scientific development, Single Dish*  
*Scientific development*  
*Infrastructure, Scientific development*  
*Scientific development, Single Dish*  
*Scientific development*  
*Lead Visualization, Infrastructure development*  
*Scientific development, Verification testing*  
*Scientific development, Single Dish*  
*Scientific, Infrastructure development*  
*Infrastructure development*  
*Scientific development, Verification testing*  
*Verification testing*  
*Infrastructure, Scientific development*



**JIVE**

Joint Institute for VLBI  
ERIC

**Ilse van Bemmelen** (JIVE)

*VLBI, Project Scientist, pipeline/user training*

**Mark Kettenis** (JIVE)

*VLBI, development*

**Des Small** (JIVE)

*VLBI, development*

**Arpad Szomoru** (JIVE)

*VLBI, management*

**Marjolein Verkouter** (JIVE)

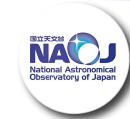
*VLBI, management*

**Aard Keipema** (JIVE)

*VLBI, Jupyter kernel*



**CARTA visualization software team**



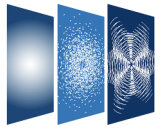
**Pipeline teams**

(ALMA, VLA, Nobeyama)



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# CASA Stakeholders

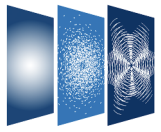
- ALMA Users
- ALMA Pipeline
- VLA Users
- SRDP (Science Ready Data Products, NRAO)
- VLBA/VLBI
- ARDG (Algorithm Research and Development Group, NRAO)
- General Users

## CASA Users Committee

- Feedback CASA capabilities, usability, reliability and performance
- Advise CASA development team from user perspective
- Inform development priorities



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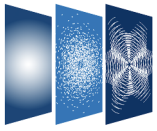


# This Talk

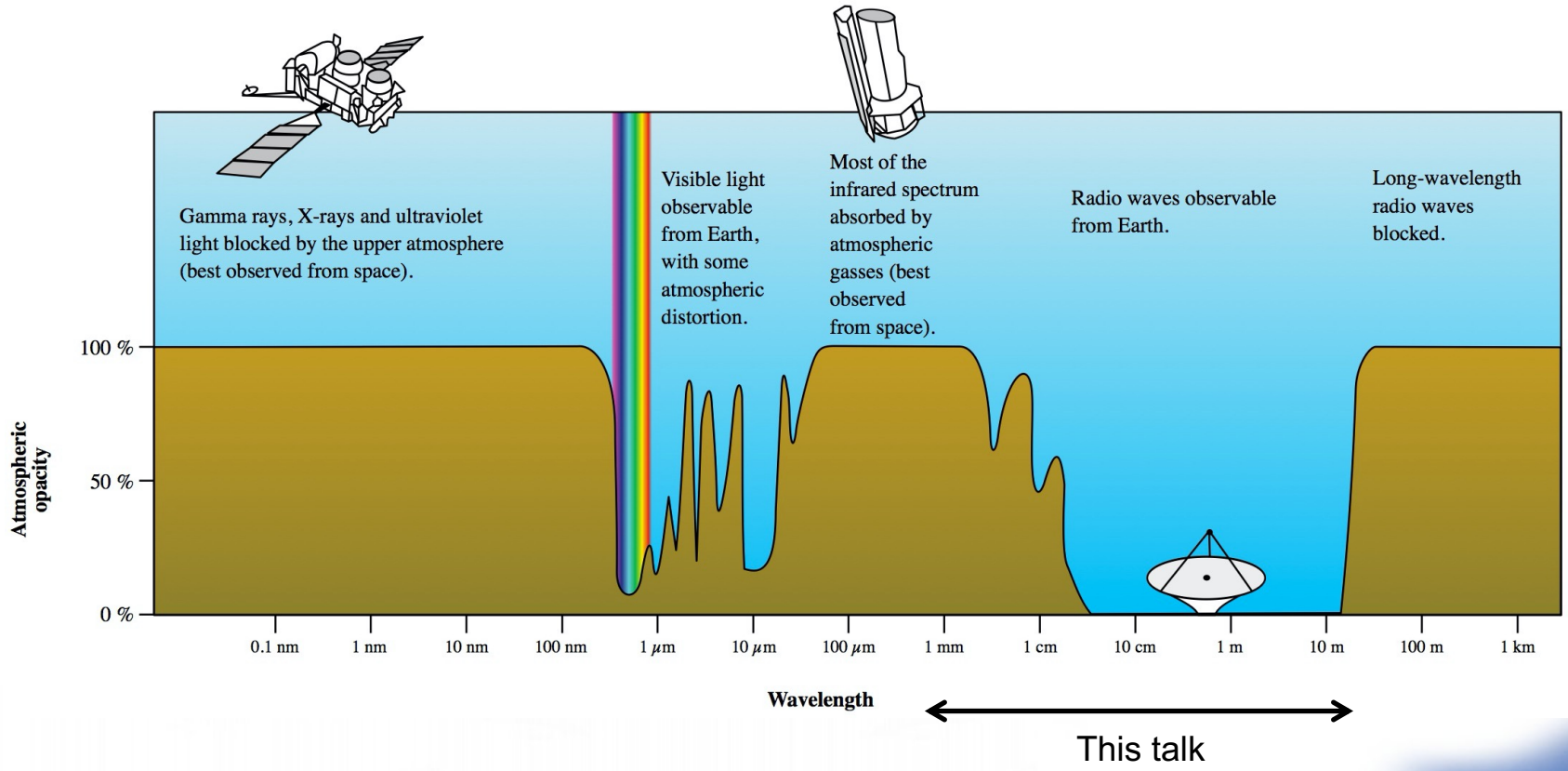
- Radio astronomy
  - Basics of Radio Interferometry
  
- CASA
  - Basics
  - Installation
  - Calibration
  - Imaging
  - Visualization (CARTA)
  - CASA Documentation
  - Resources
  
- Future of radio astronomy
  - CASA Next Generation Infrastructure (CNGI)

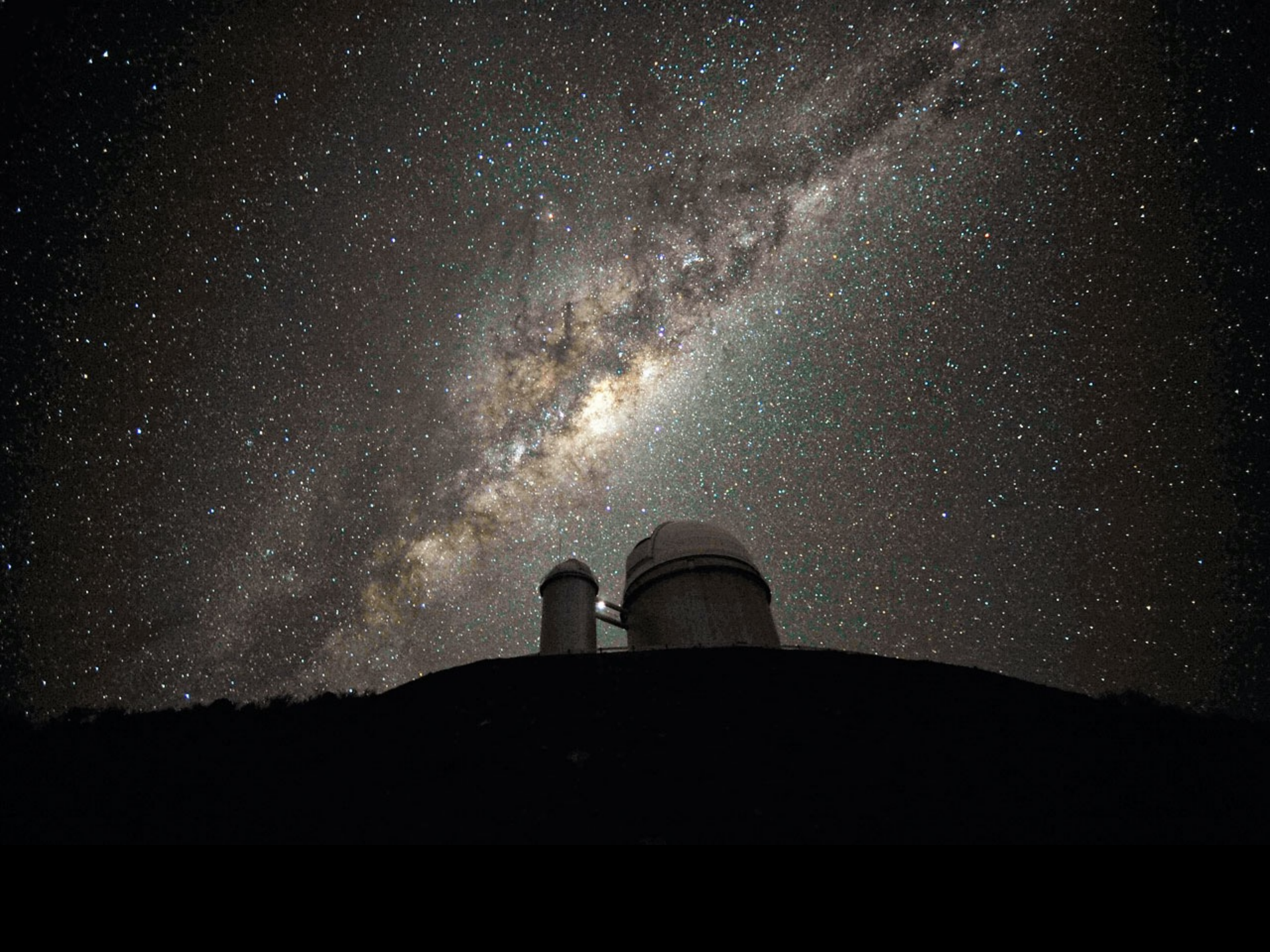


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# Radio astronomy







Credit: I. Feain, T. Cornwell, R. Ekers (CSIRO/ATNF); ATCA middle lobe pointing courtesy R. Morganti (ASTRON); Parkes data courtesy N. Junkes (MPIfR); ATCA & Moon photo: S. Amy, CSIRO

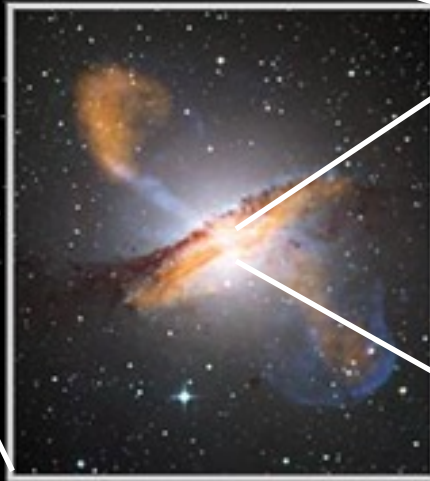


# 2D continuum imaging

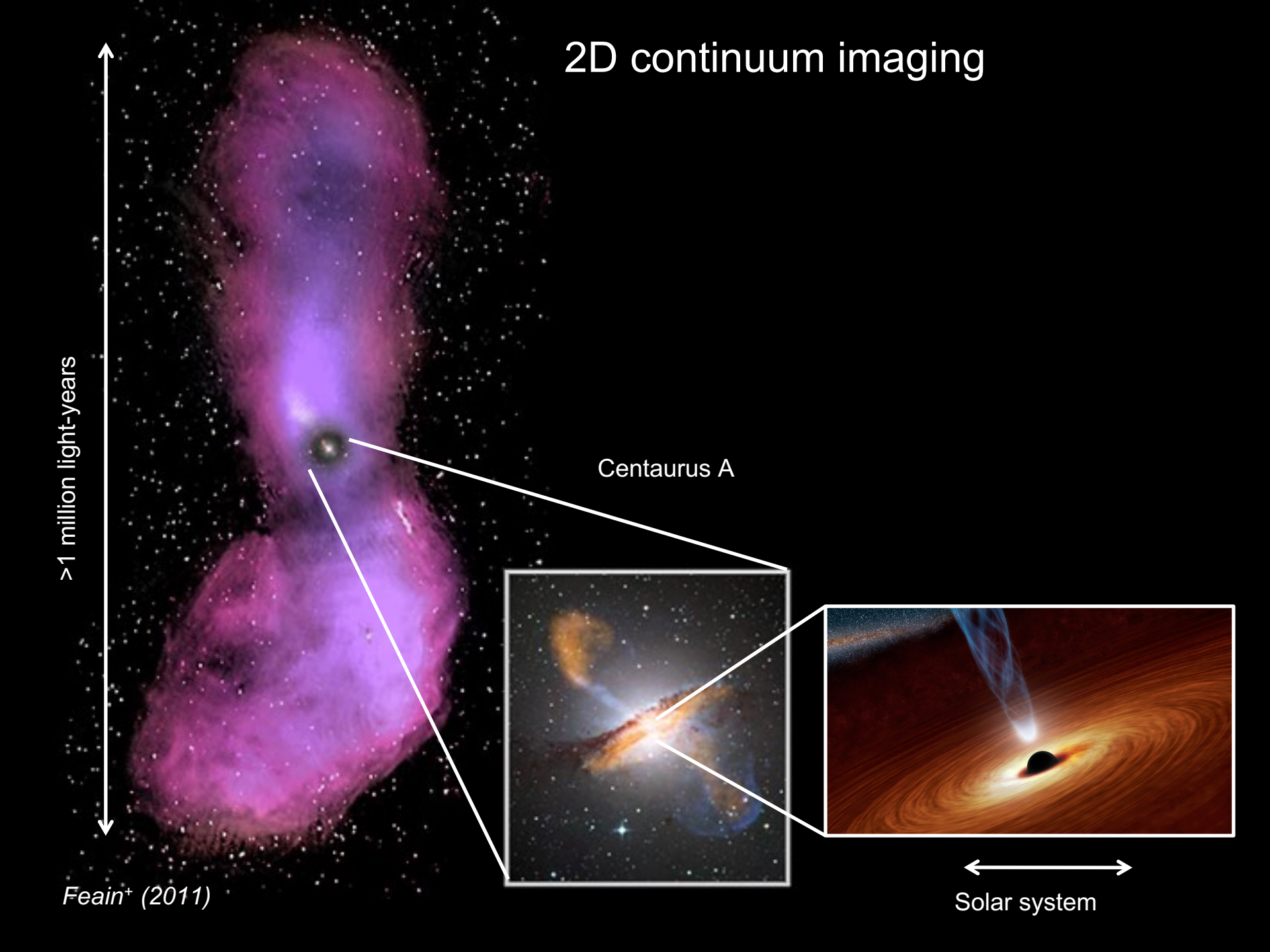
>1 million light-years

Centaurus A

*Fein+* (2011)



Solar system



# 3D image cubes: Gas in the M81 group

Stellar Light Distribution

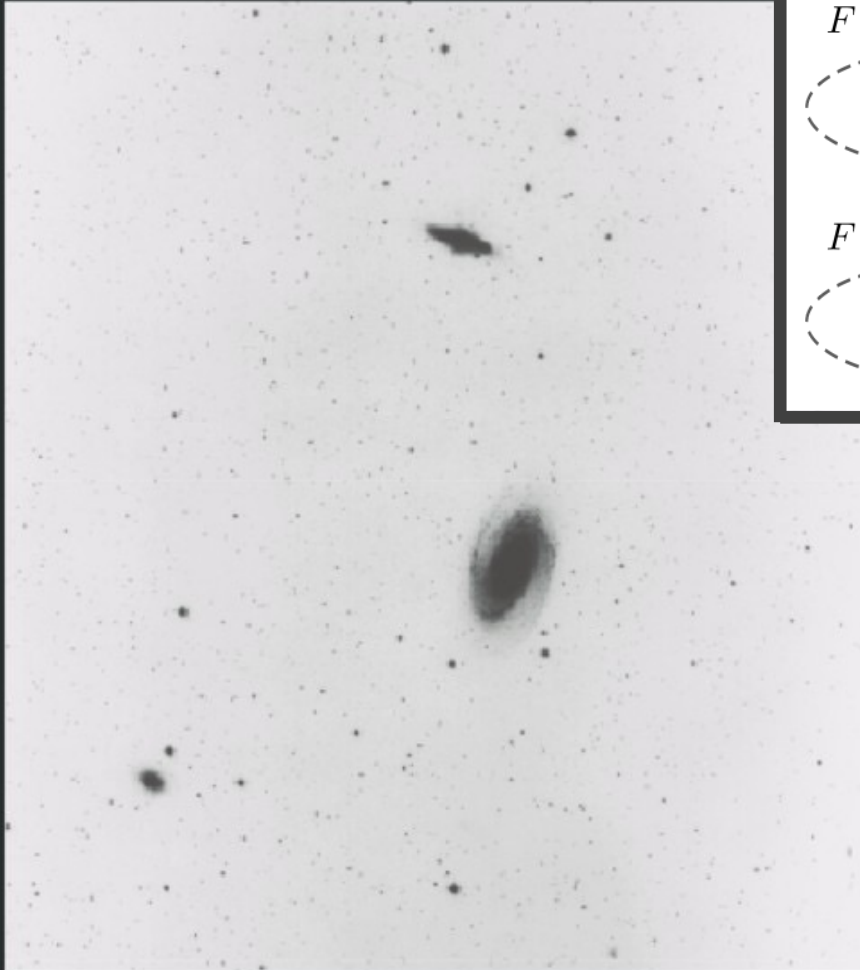


21 cm HI Distribution

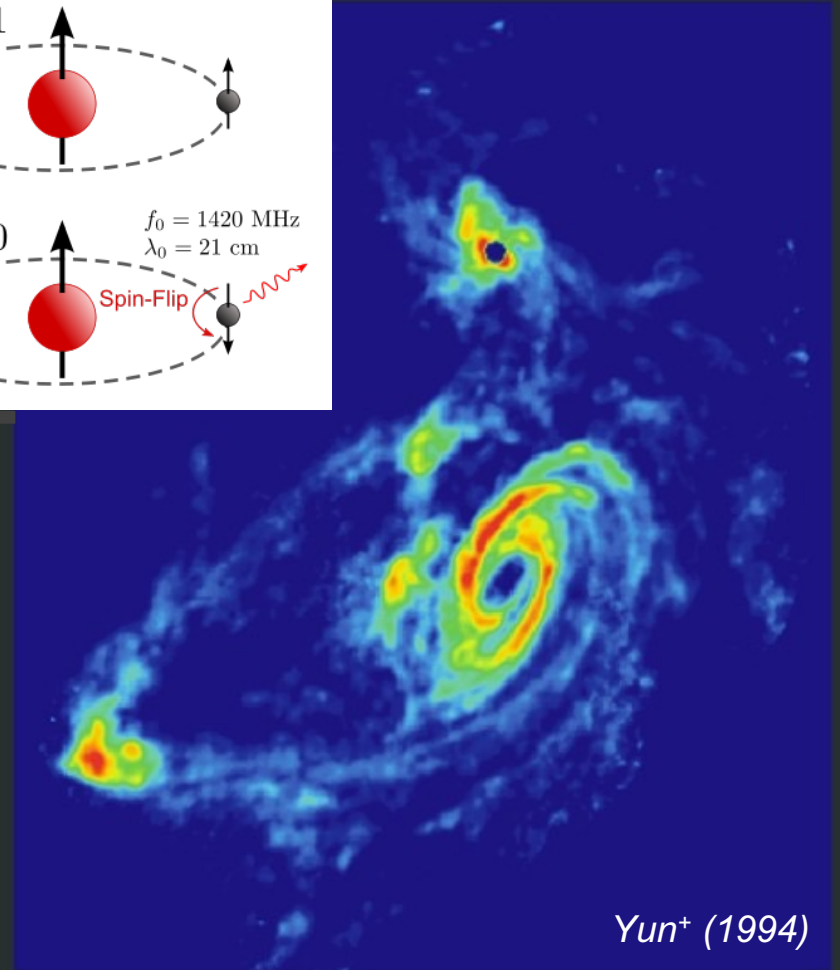
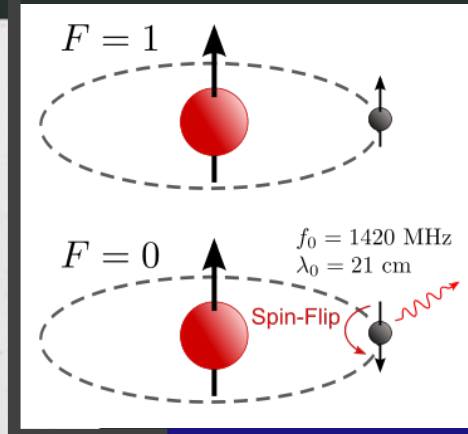


# 3D image cubes: Gas in the M81 group

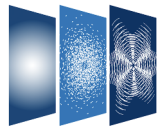
## Stellar Light Distribution



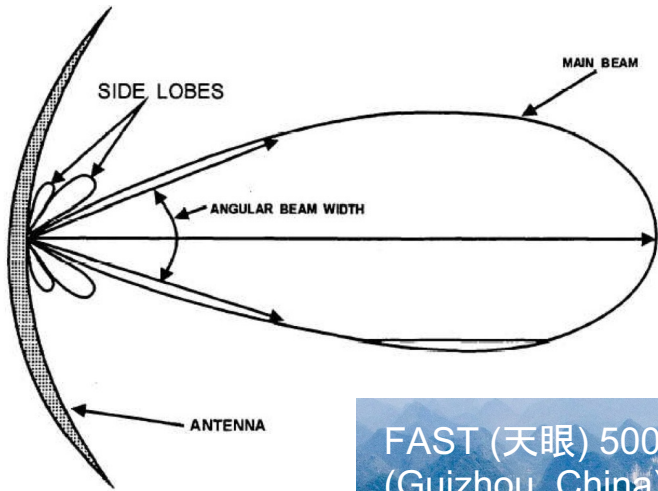
## 21 cm HI Distribution



Yun<sup>+</sup> (1994)

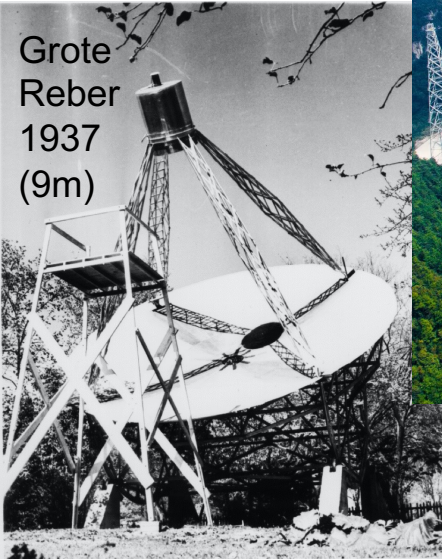


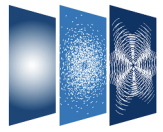
# Single dish telescopes



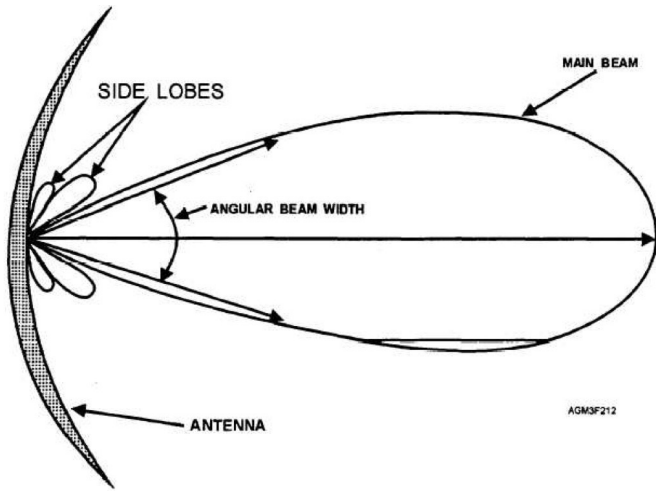
Resolution:  $R \sim \lambda / \text{Dish-size}$

$(\lambda_{\text{radio}} \sim 10^{3-7} \times \lambda_{\text{optical}})$



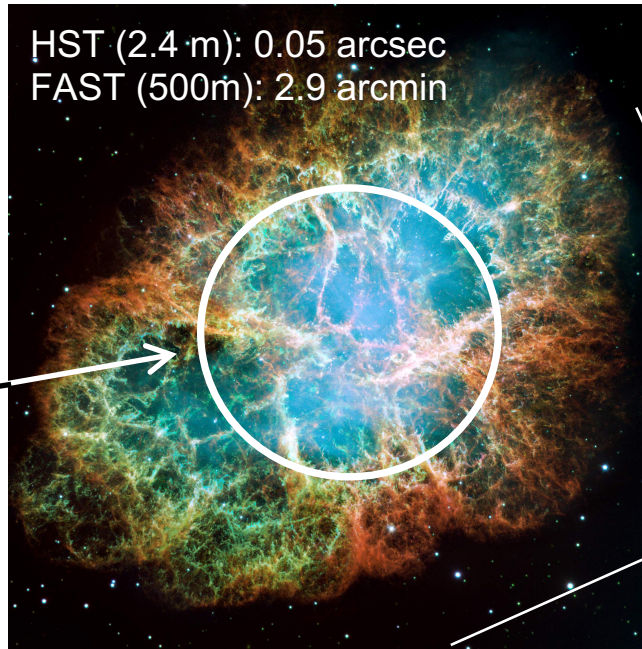


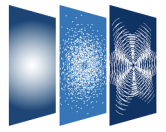
# Single dish telescopes



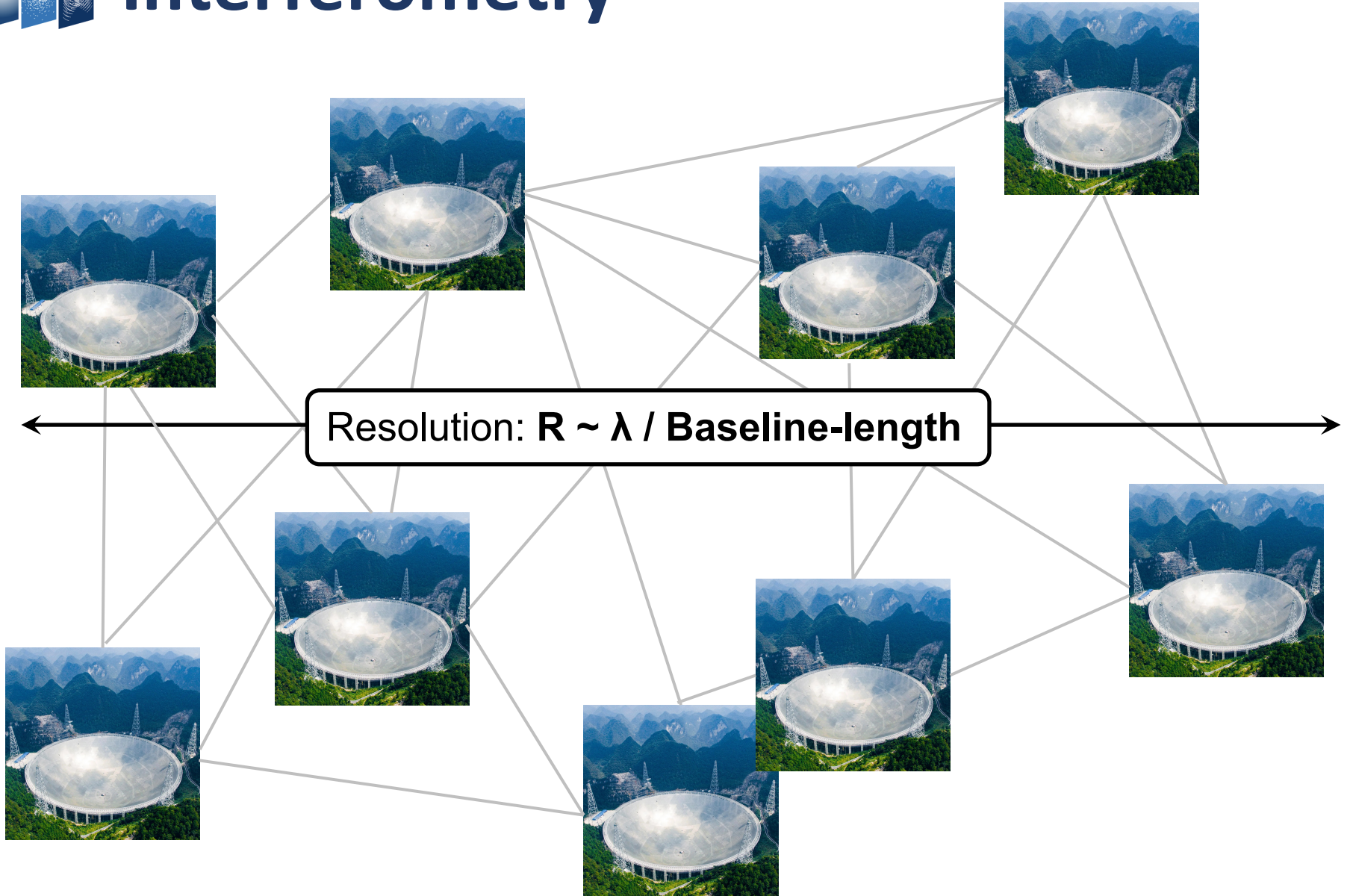
Resolution:  $R \sim \lambda / \text{Dish-size}$

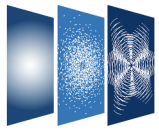
( $\lambda_{\text{radio}} \sim 10^{3-7} \times \lambda_{\text{optical}}$ )



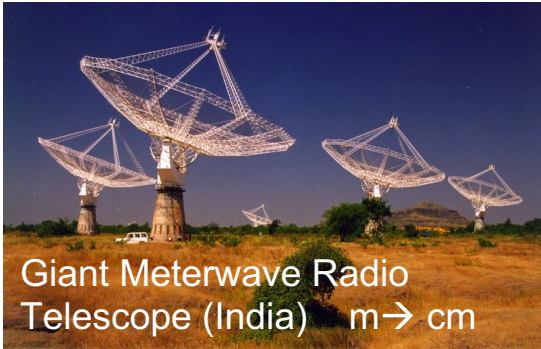


# Interferometry





# Radio interferometers



Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (India) m → cm

*Human-made interference (phones, TV, satellite, etc)*

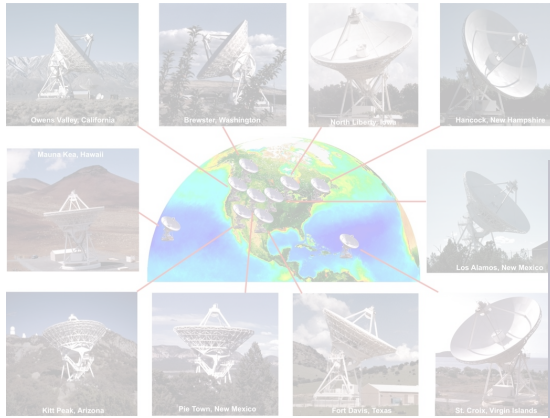


Very Large Array (USA)  
cm → 3 mm



Atacama Large Millimeter Array (Chile)  
3 mm → 300 micron

*Atmosphere/weather (high sites)*

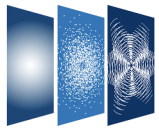


Very Long Baseline Array, VLBA (USA)

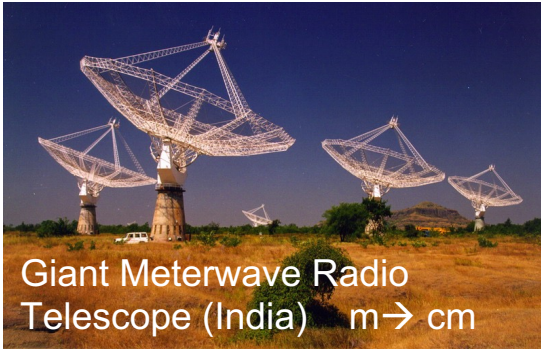
## Global VLBI (Very Long Baseline Interferometry)



Space VLBI ( $D > 20,000$  km!)



# Radio interferometers



Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (India) m → cm

*Human-made interference (phones, TV, satellite, etc)*

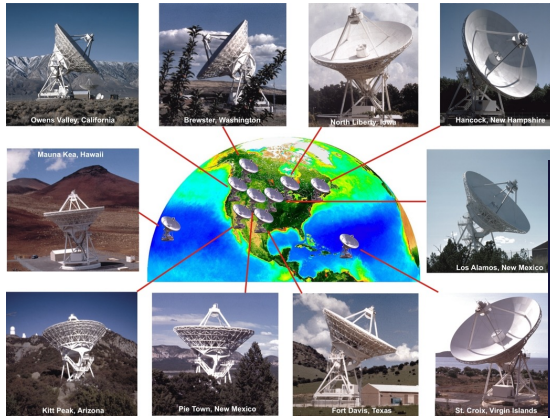


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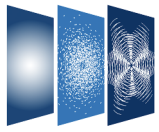
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# Radio interferometers

Atacama Large Millimeter Array (Chile)



(high sites)

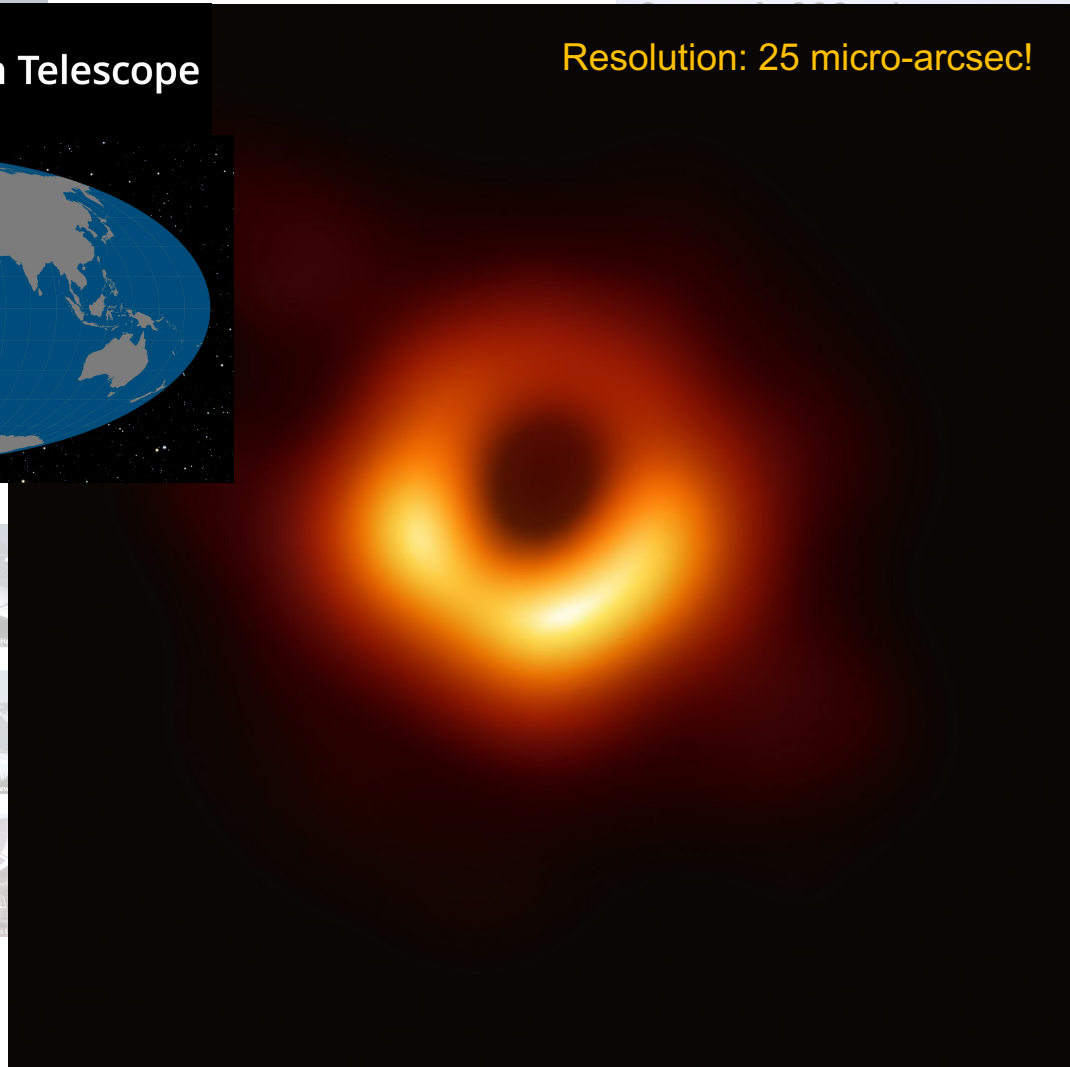
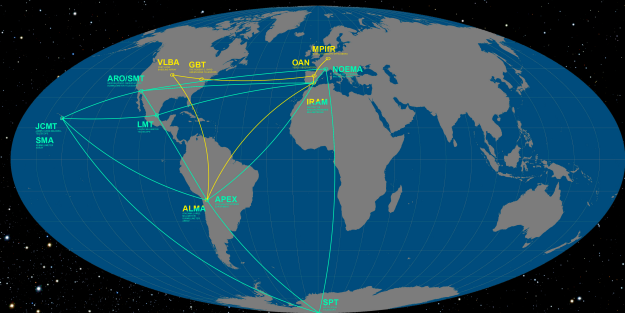


>20.000 km!)

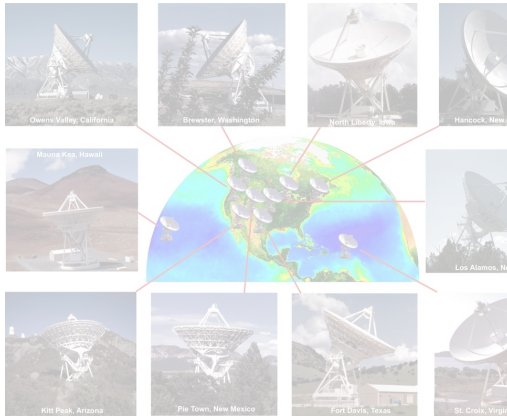


## Event Horizon Telescope

Resolution: 25 micro-arcsec!



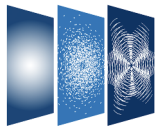
Gia  
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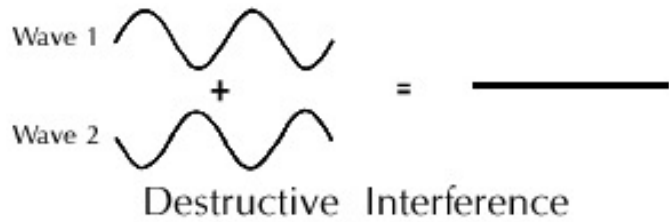
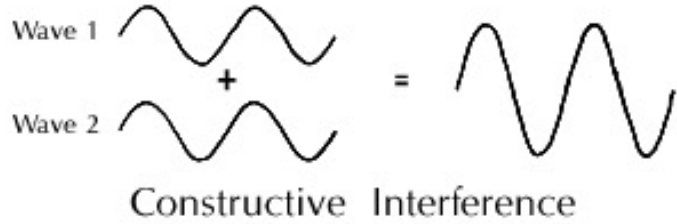
Very Long Baseline Array, VLBA (USA)



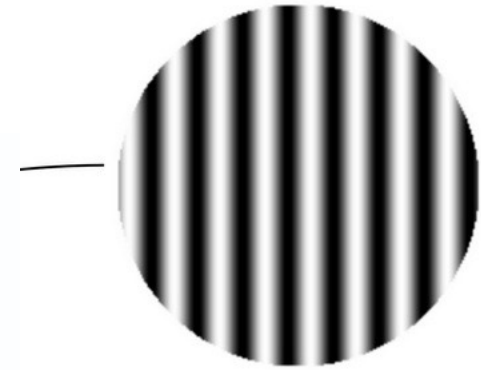
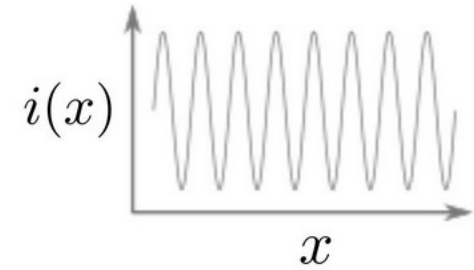
Credit: EHT Collaboration



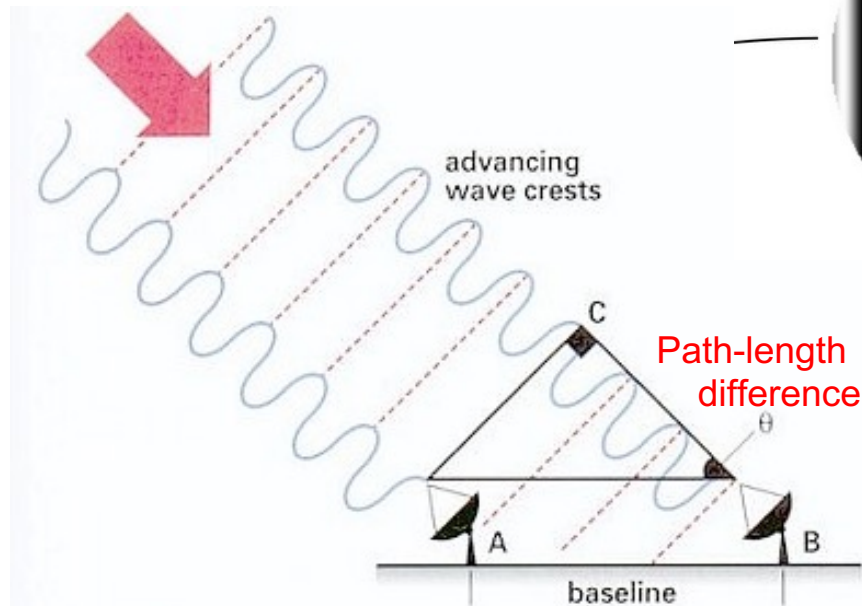
# Interferometry

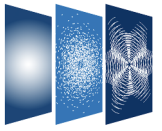


Track point-source on the sky:

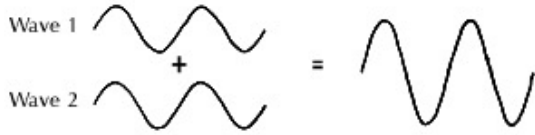


Resolution:  $R \sim \lambda / B$

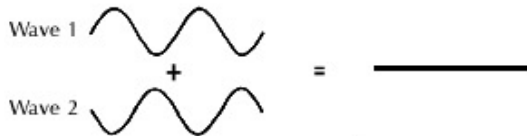




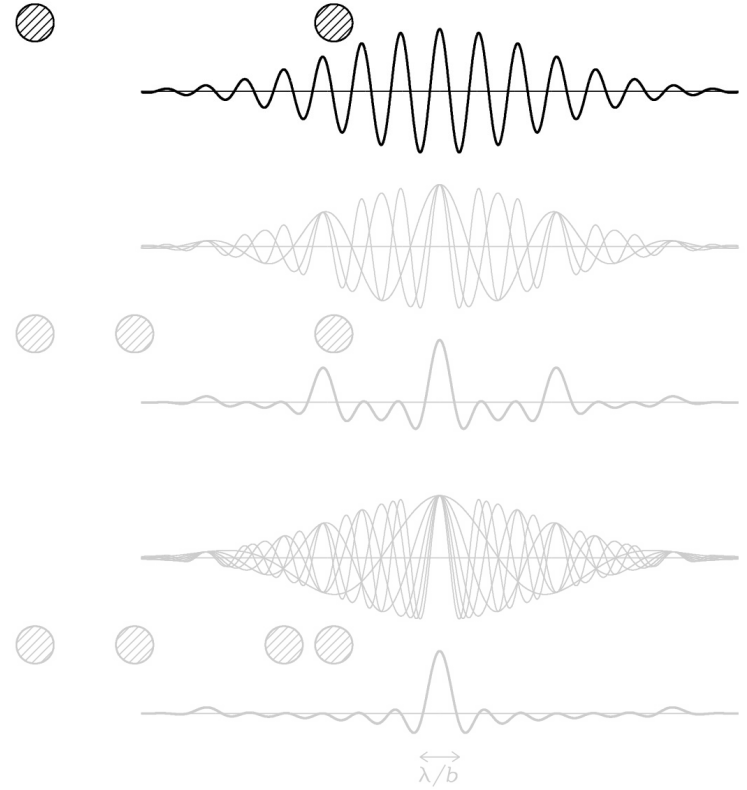
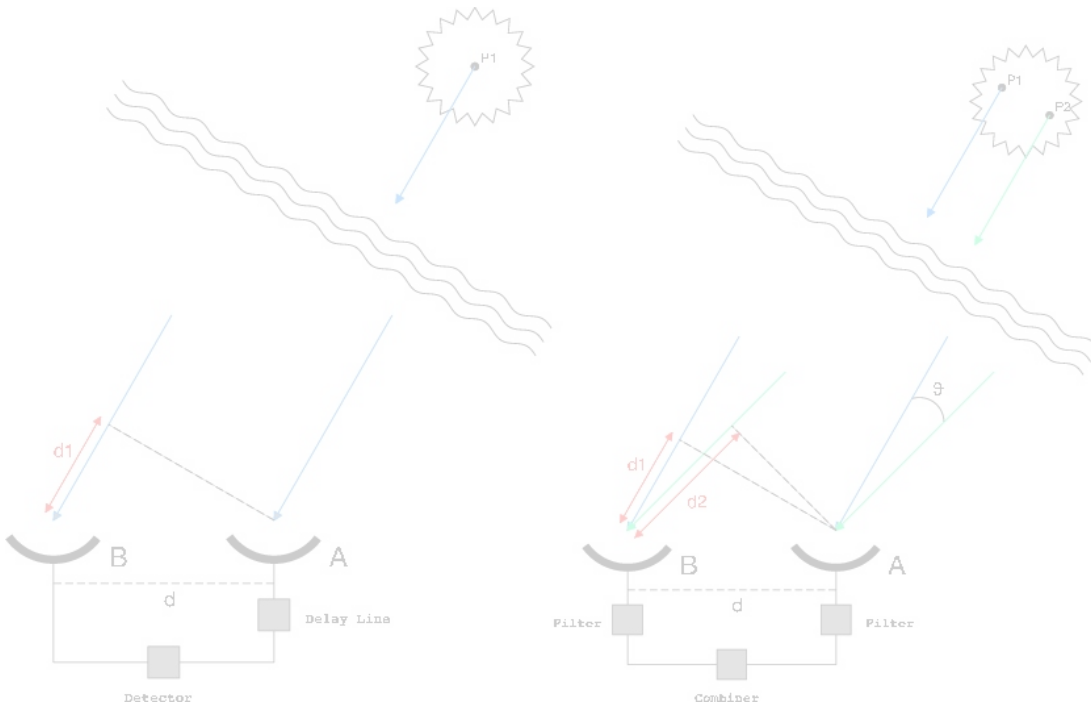
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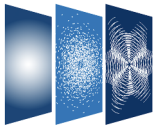
Constructive Interference



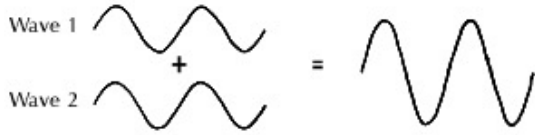
Destructive Interference



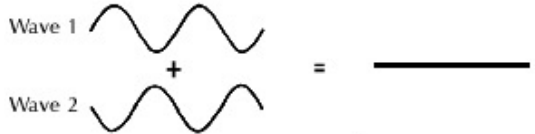
- Primary beam response single antenna (bandwidth)
- Add N antennas, i.e.  $N(N-1)/2$  baselines
- Add complex source structure
- Scan through earth rotation



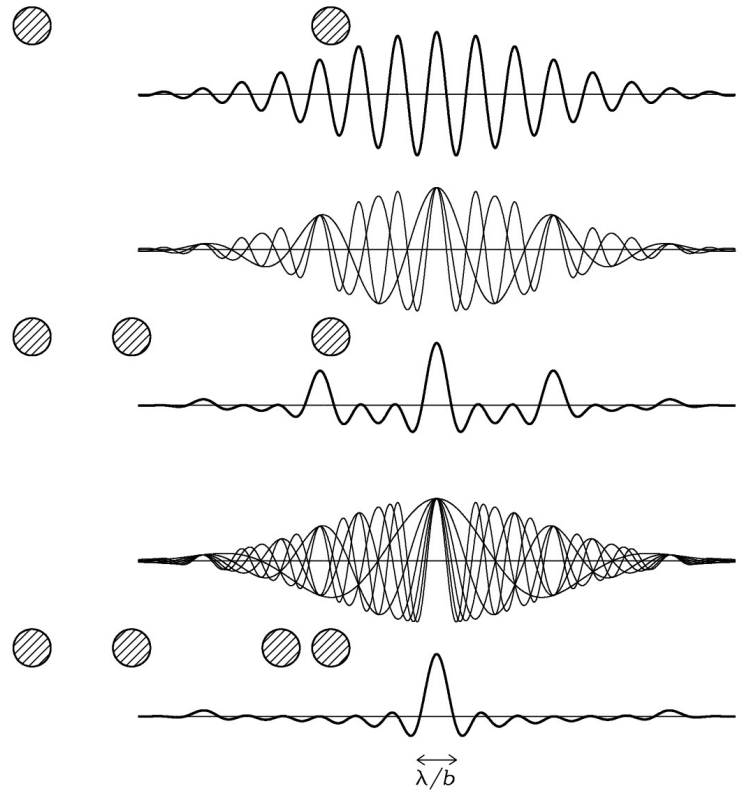
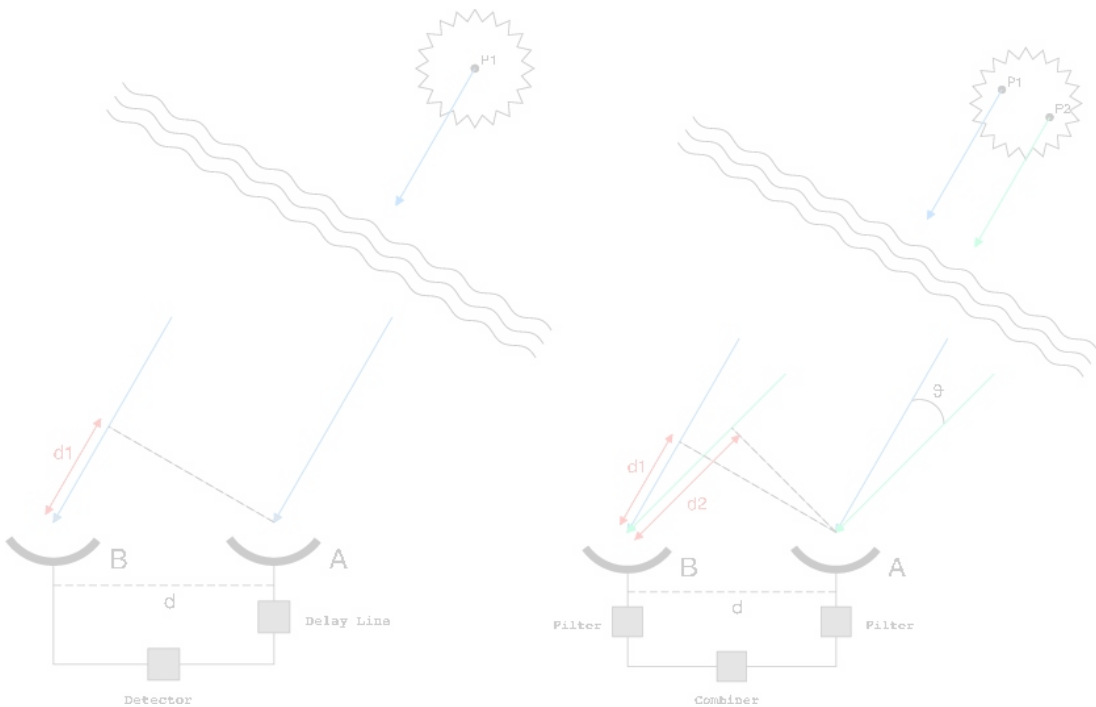
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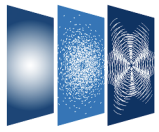
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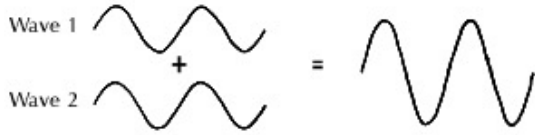
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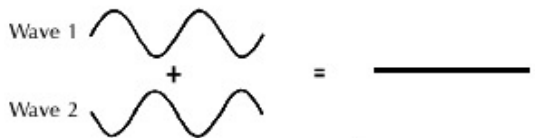
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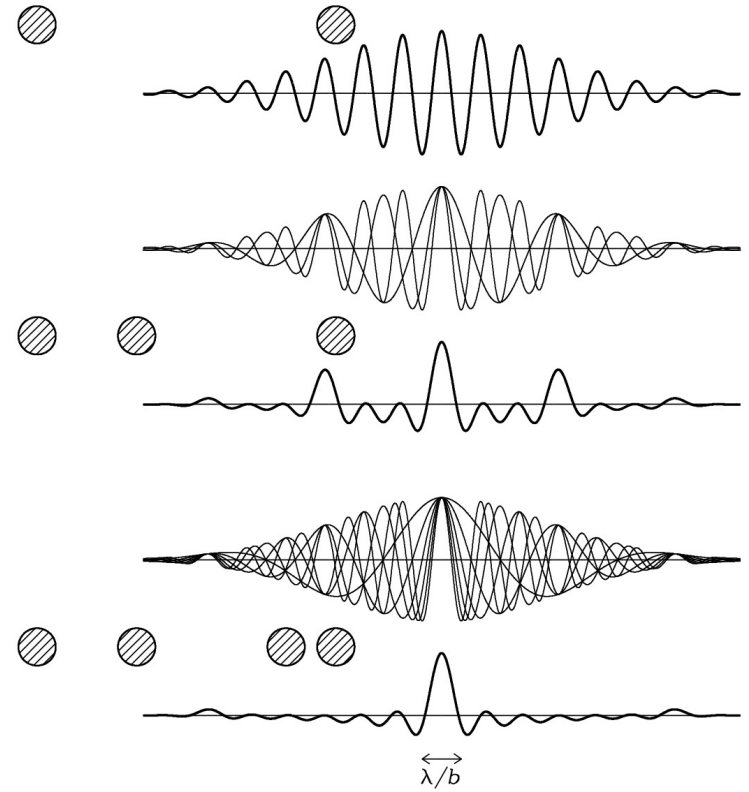
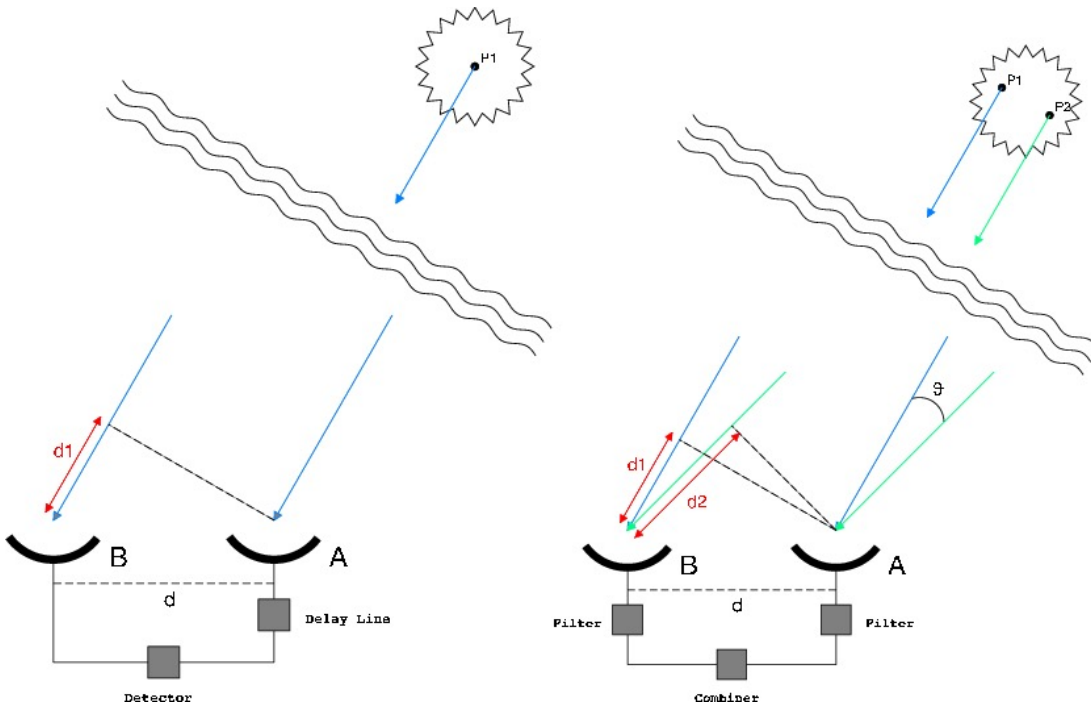
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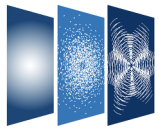
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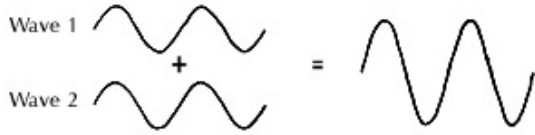
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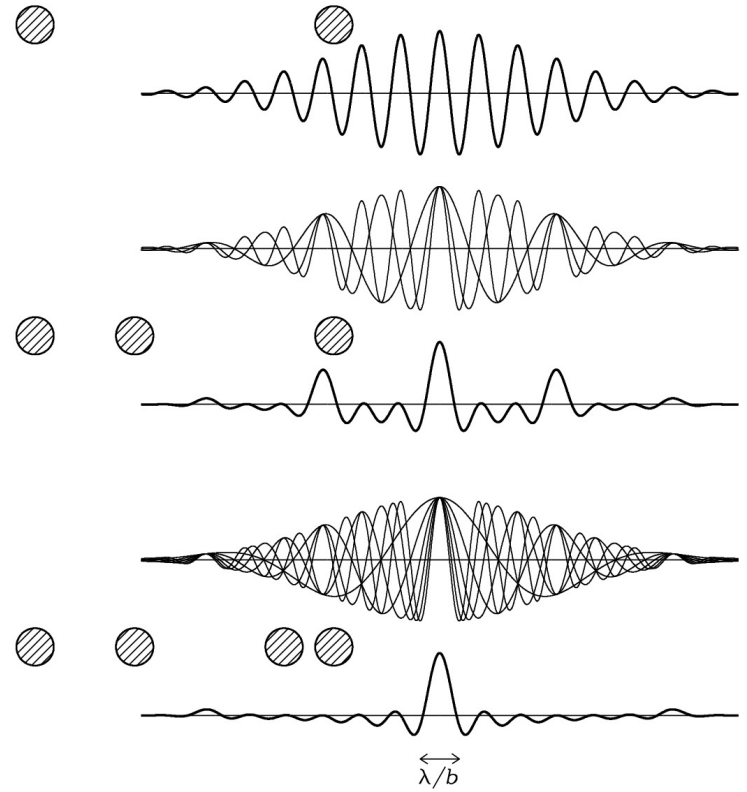
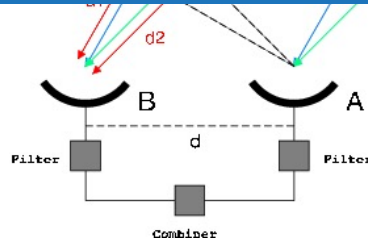
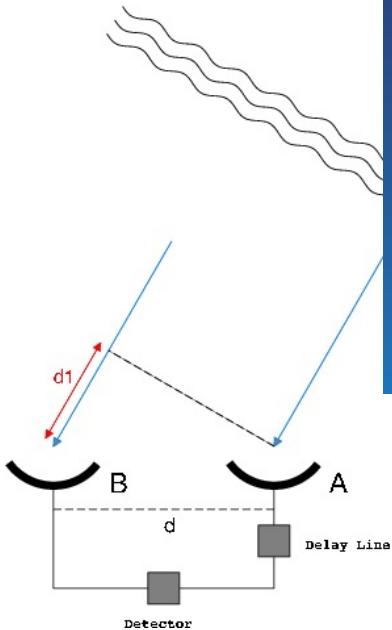
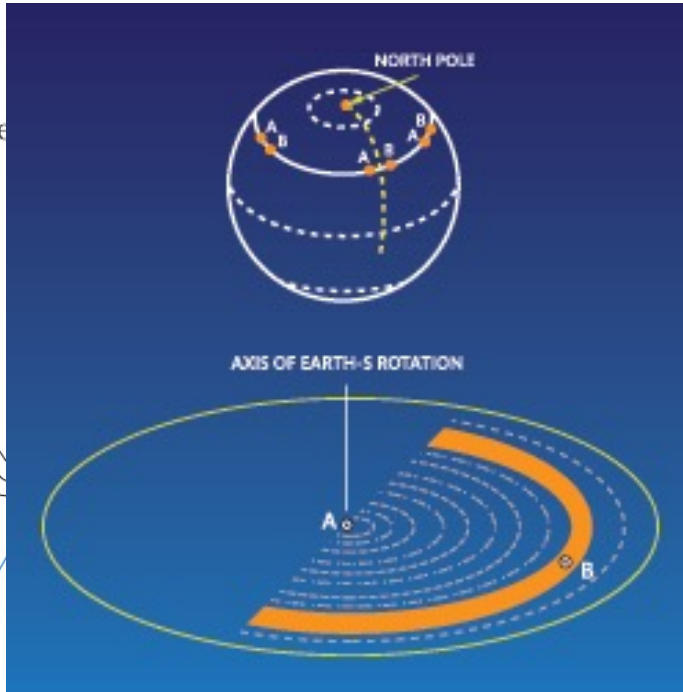
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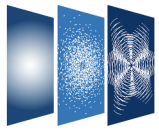
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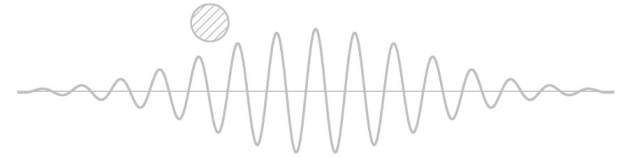
Destructive Interference



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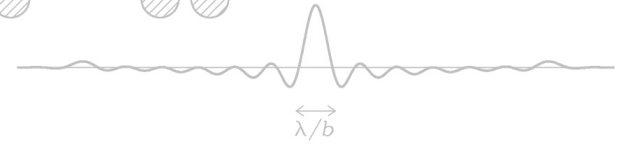
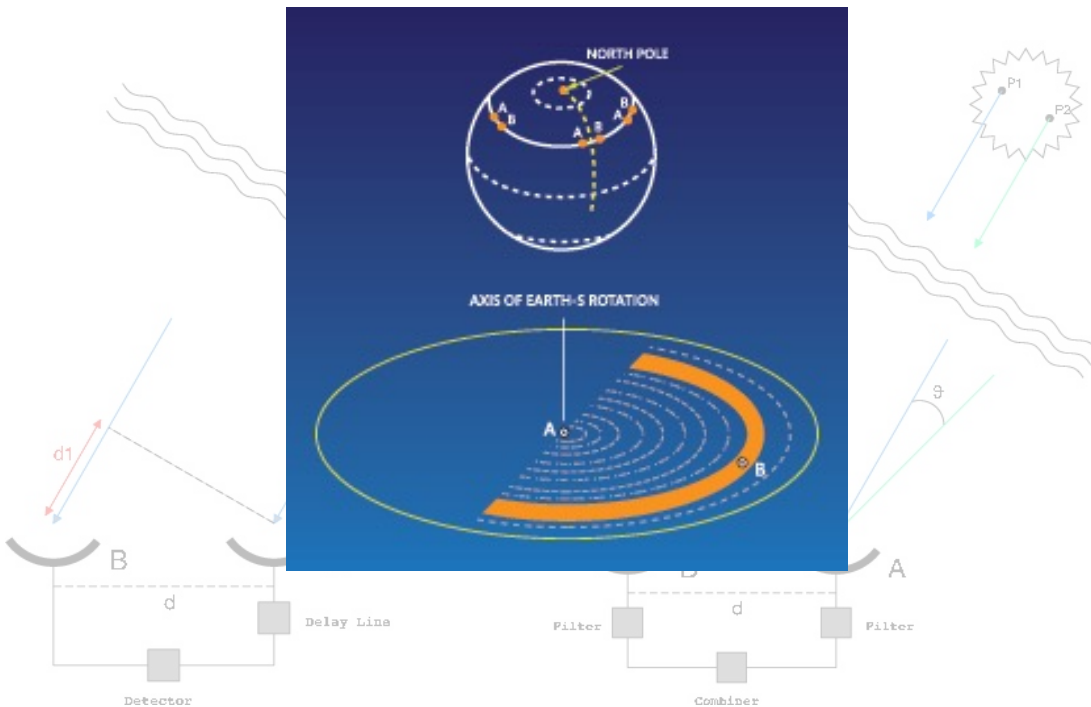


# Interferometry

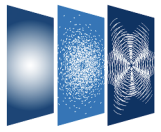


“Visibility”: interferometer response per antenna pair  $(i, j)$ ,  $\Delta t$ ,  $\Delta f$ , polarization  
 → Fourier Transform of the sky brightness distribution.  
 → “complex”, with *amplitude*, *phase* information:  $V(u, v) = a_r e^{i\phi_r}$

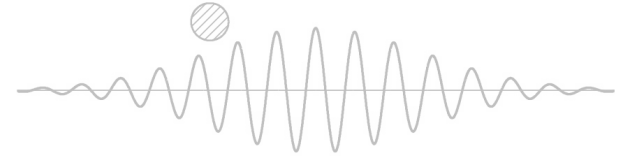
→ Source *brightness, structure*



- Primary beam response single antenna (bandwidth)
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# Interferometry



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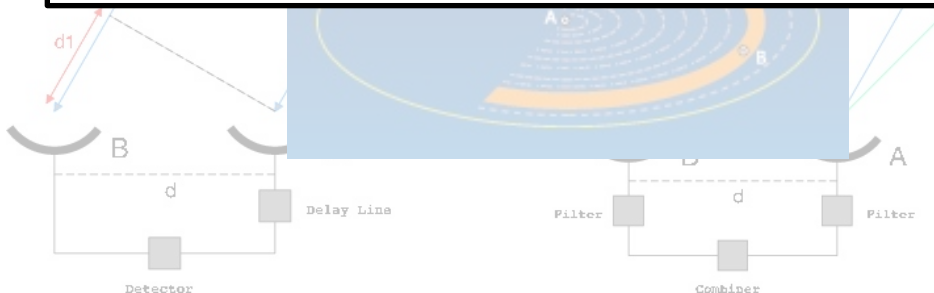
→ Source *brightness, structure*

- Large data sets!

*Example:  $N(N-1)$  baselines,  $\Delta t \sim 3s$  over 12h, 2000  $\Delta f$  channels, 4 polarizations, ....*

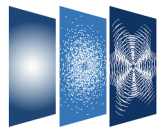
- Discrete sampling (“broken mirror”) → missing information  
*Iteratively reconstruct* model of sky

**Computationally expensive!**



- Add complex source structure
- Scan through earth rotation





# CASA Basics

## Single Dish & Interferometry

Casacore → original AIPS++ libraries, stable and nearly static platform

CASA → Implemented in C++, accessible through IPython

- **Tools:** basic C++ functions linked to Python interface that perform basic operations on data
- **Tasks:** bundle tools or Python functionality that perform well-defined step in data processing → user friendly, parameter input
- **GUIs:** Graphical User Interfaces to visualize and examine data/images
- **External:** Repository Measures Tables (*Earth Orientation Parameters, reference frames, ephemeris data, beam models, simulator configuration files, etc*). Minimal repo in CASA, update manually for more accuracy

Scripting & Pipelines (*ALMA calibration & imaging, VLA calibration, VLA Sky Survey*)



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Import/export

Information

Manipulation

Calibration

Imaging

Analysis

Single Dish

Simulations

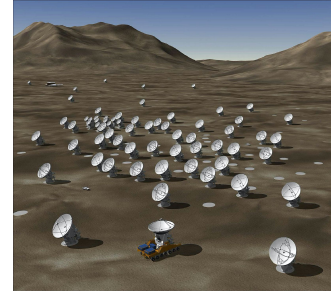


Import/export  
Information  
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Calibration  
Imaging  
Analysis

Single Dish  
Simulations

### (A)SDM, (ALMA) Science Data Model:

- Observing data: data from correlator (visibilities)
- Metadata: data that describes observations (source info, spectral setup, etc.)
- Auxiliary data: monitoring data observations (weather, pointing, etc.)



### CASA MeasurementSet (MS):

Data directory with tables and subtables

- DATA column → data
- MODEL\_DATA column → expected model values
- CORRECTED\_DATA column → calibrated data
- Other optional columns: FLAG, SIGMA, WEIGHTS, etc.



Import/export  
 Information  
 Manipulation  
 Calibration  
 Imaging  
 Analysis

Single Dish  
 Simulations

Log Messages (~/Users/bemonts/casa-20220125-211413.log)

Search Message:  Filter: Time

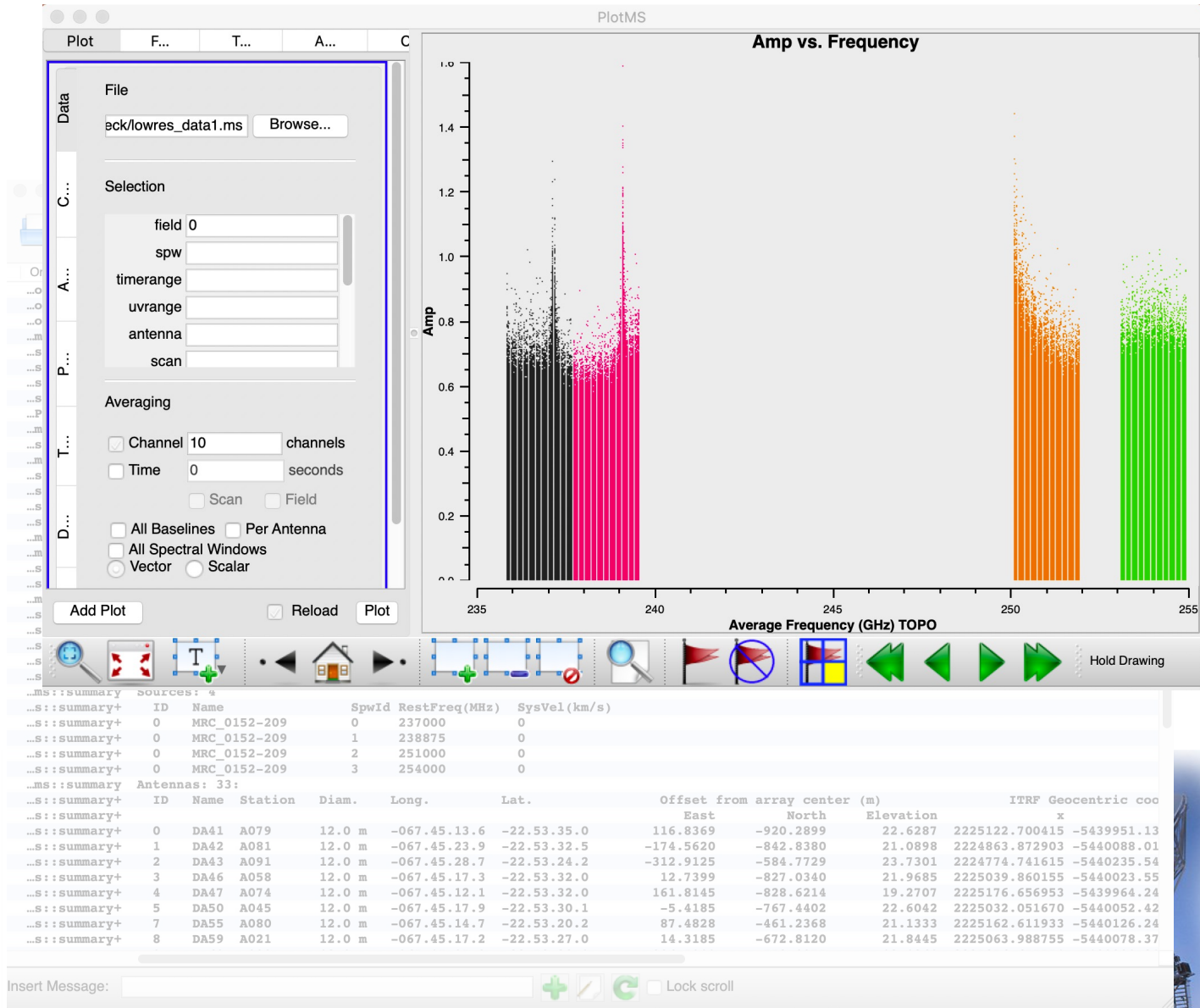
```

...obs:::casa #####
...obs:::casa ##### Begin Task: listobs #####
...obs:::casa listobs( vis='lowres_data1.ms/', selectdata=True, spw='', field='', antenna='', uvrange='', timerange='', correlation='', scan='
...ms::summary
...s::summary+ MeasurementSet Name: /Users/bemonts/Documents/CASA_testing/Pcheck/lowres_data1.ms MS Version 2
...s::summary+
...s::summary+ Observer: debreuck Project: uid://A001/X10e/X46b
...s::summary+ Observation: ALMA
...Properties
...Computing scan and subscan properties...
...ms::summary Data records: 62532 Total elapsed time = 547.776 seconds
...s::summary+ Observed from 21-Jul-2014/11:29:55.7 to 21-Jul-2014/11:39:03.5 (UTC)
...ms::summary
...s::summary+ ObservationID = 0 ArrayID = 0
...s::summary+ Date Timerange (UTC) Scan FldId FieldName nRows SpwIds Average Interval(s) ScanIntent
...s::summary+ 21-Jul-2014/11:29:55.7 - 11:31:55.2 12 0 MRC_0152-209 37929 [0,1,2,3] [6.05, 6.05, 6.05, 6.05] [OBSERVE_T
...s::summary+ 11:37:41.8 - 11:39:03.5 16 0 MRC_0152-209 24603 [0,1,2,3] [6.05, 6.05, 6.05, 6.05] [OBSERVE_T
...ms::summary (nRows = Total number of rows per scan)
...s::summary+
...ms::summary+ Fields: 1
...s::summary+ ID Code Name RA Decl Epoch SrcId nRows
...s::summary+ 0 none MRC_0152-209 01:54:55.760000 -20.40.26.30000 J2000 0 62532
...ms::summary Spectral Windows: (4 unique spectral windows and 1 unique polarization setups)
...s::summary+ SpwID Name #Chans Frame Ch0(MHz) ChanWid(kHz) TotBW(kHz) CtrFreq(MHz) BBC Num Corrs
...s::summary+ 0 ALMA_RB_06#BB_1#SW-01#FULL_RES 480 TOPO 237696.437 -3906.250 1875000.0 236760.8901 1 XX YY
...s::summary+ 1 ALMA_RB_06#BB_2#SW-01#FULL_RES 480 TOPO 239571.523 -3906.250 1875000.0 238635.9764 2 XX YY
...s::summary+ 2 ALMA_RB_06#BB_3#SW-01#FULL_RES 480 TOPO 250080.999 3906.250 1875000.0 251016.5458 3 XX YY
...s::summary+ 3 ALMA_RB_06#BB_4#SW-01#FULL_RES 480 TOPO 253076.137 3906.250 1875000.0 254011.6836 4 XX YY
...ms::summary Sources: 4
...s::summary+ ID Name SpwID RestFreq(MHz) SysVel (km/s)
...s::summary+ 0 MRC_0152-209 0 237000 0
...s::summary+ 1 MRC_0152-209 1 238875 0
...s::summary+ 2 MRC_0152-209 2 251000 0
...s::summary+ 3 MRC_0152-209 3 254000 0
...ms::summary Antennas: 33:
...s::summary+ ID Name Station Diam. Long. Lat. Offset from array center (m) ITRF Geocentric coo
...s::summary+ East North Elevation x
...s::summary+ 0 DA41 A079 12.0 m -067.45.13.6 -22.53.35.0 116.8369 -920.2899 22.6287 2225122.700415 -5439951.13
...s::summary+ 1 DA42 A081 12.0 m -067.45.23.9 -22.53.32.5 -174.5620 -842.8380 21.0898 2224863.872903 -5440088.01
...s::summary+ 2 DA43 A091 12.0 m -067.45.28.7 -22.53.24.2 -312.9125 -584.7729 23.7301 2224774.741615 -5440235.54
...s::summary+ 3 DA46 A058 12.0 m -067.45.17.3 -22.53.32.0 12.7399 -827.0340 21.9685 2225039.860155 -5440023.55
...s::summary+ 4 DA47 A074 12.0 m -067.45.12.1 -22.53.32.0 161.8145 -828.6214 19.2707 2225176.656953 -5439964.24
...s::summary+ 5 DA50 A045 12.0 m -067.45.17.9 -22.53.30.1 -5.4185 -767.4402 22.6042 2225032.051670 -5440052.42
...s::summary+ 7 DA55 A080 12.0 m -067.45.14.7 -22.53.20.2 87.4828 -461.2368 21.1333 2225162.611933 -5440126.24
...s::summary+ 8 DA59 A021 12.0 m -067.45.17.2 -22.53.27.0 14.3185 -672.8120 21.8445 2225063.988755 -5440078.37
  
```

Insert Message:      Lock scroll

Import/export  
**Information**  
 Manipulation  
 Calibration  
 Imaging  
 Analysis

Single Dish  
 Simulations



Import/export

Information

**Manipulation**

Calibration

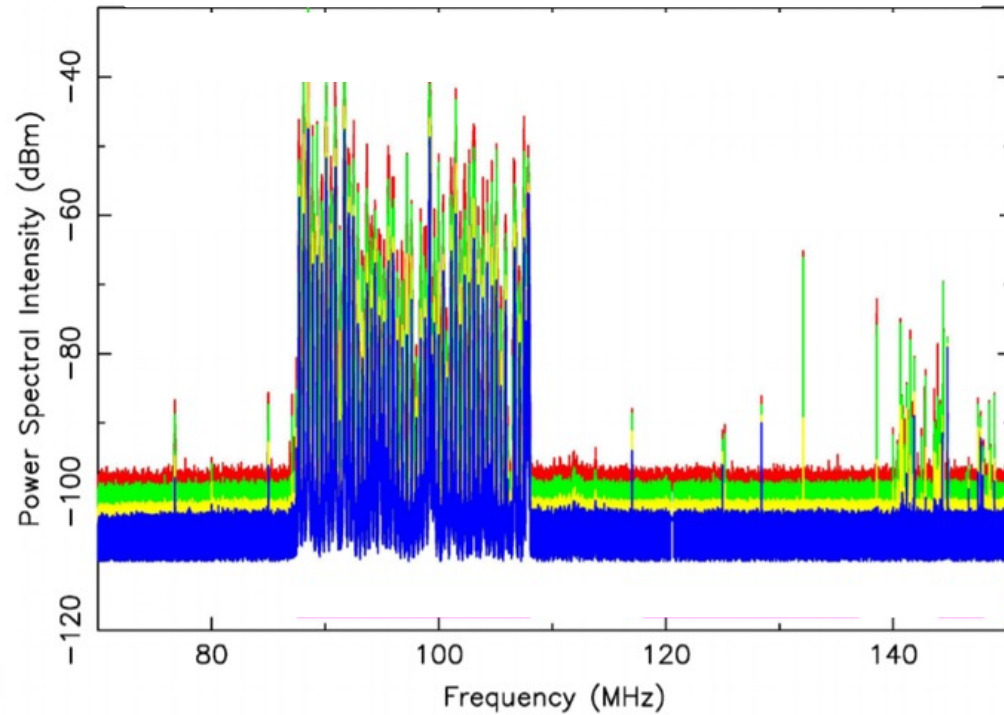
Imaging

Analysis

Single Dish

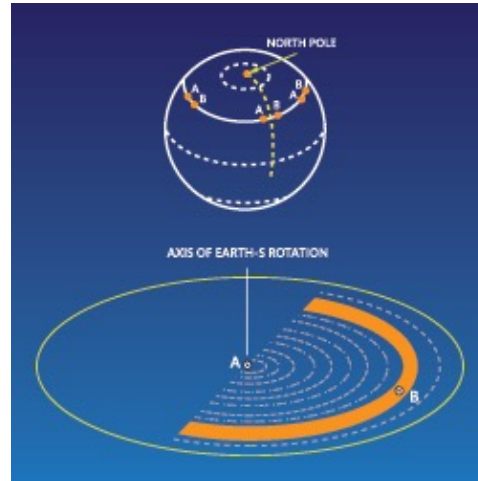
Simulations

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) → Flag!



Import/export  
 Information  
 Manipulation  
**Calibration**  
 Imaging  
 Analysis

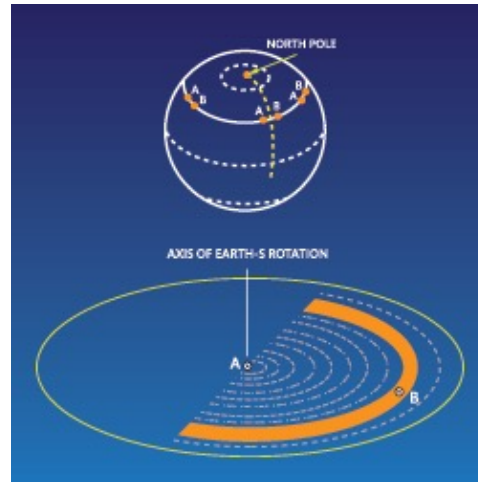
Single Dish  
 Simulations



$$\vec{V}_{ij} = J_{ij} \vec{V}_{ij}^{IDEAL}$$



Import/export  
 Information  
 Manipulation  
**Calibration**  
 Imaging  
 Analysis  
  
 Single Dish  
 Simulations



$$\vec{V}_{ij} = J_{ij} \vec{V}_{ij}^{IDEAL}$$

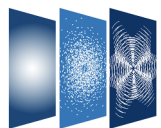
$$\vec{V}_{ij} = M_{ij} B_{ij} G_{ij} D_{ij} E_{ij} P_{ij} T_{ij} \vec{V}_{ij}^{IDEAL}$$

↓ Troposphere  
 ↓ Parallax rotation  
 ↓ Optical components tel.  
 ↓ Leakage  
 ↓ Time dependent gains  
 ↓ Frequency dep. gains (bandpass)

Baseline-based correlator (non-closing) errors

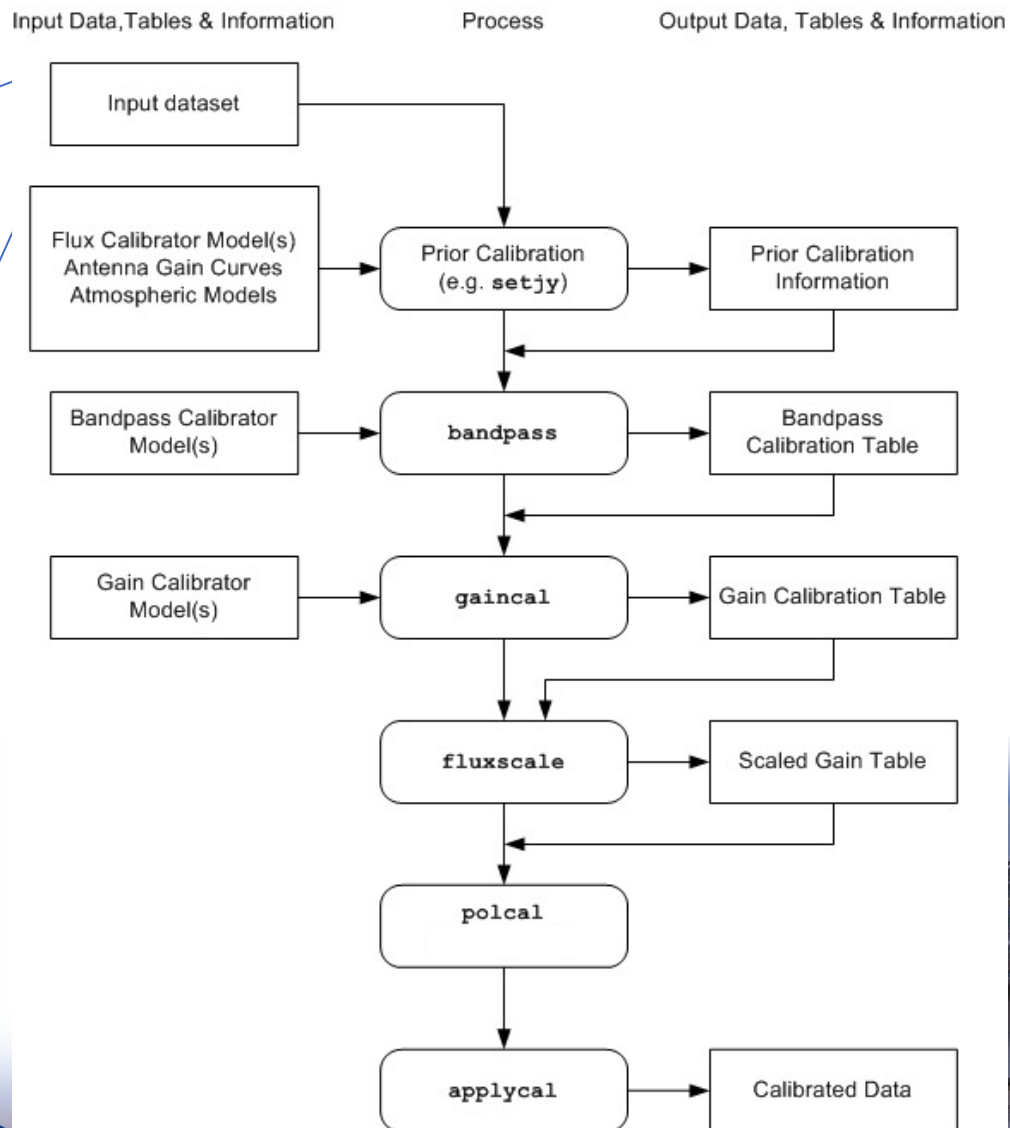
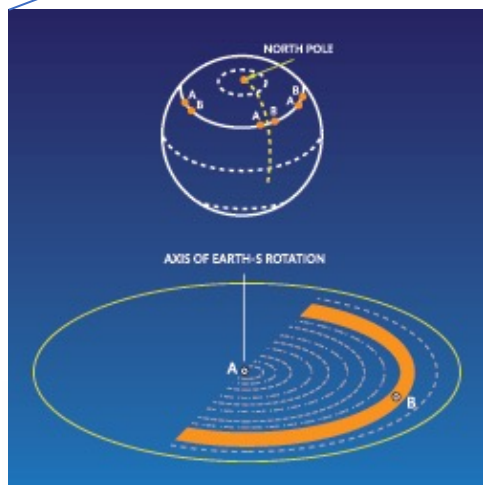


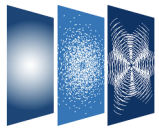




# Calibration in CASA

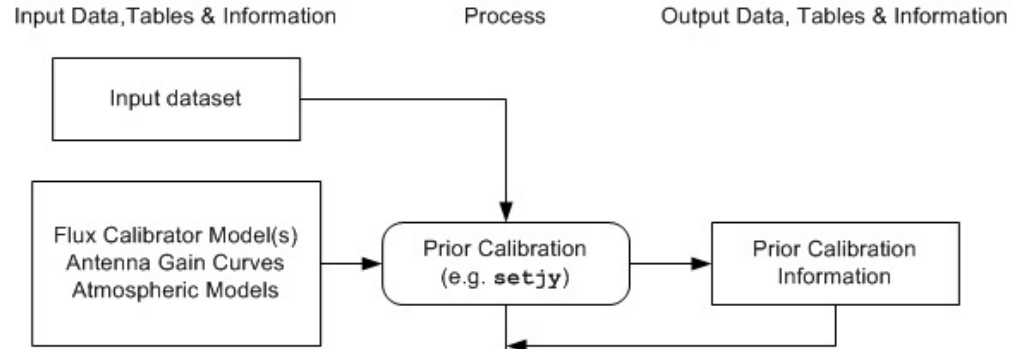
$$\vec{V}_{ij} = J_{ij} \vec{V}_{ij}^{IDEAL}$$





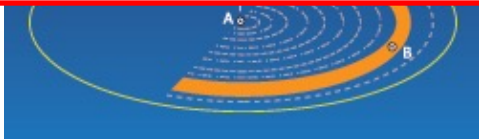
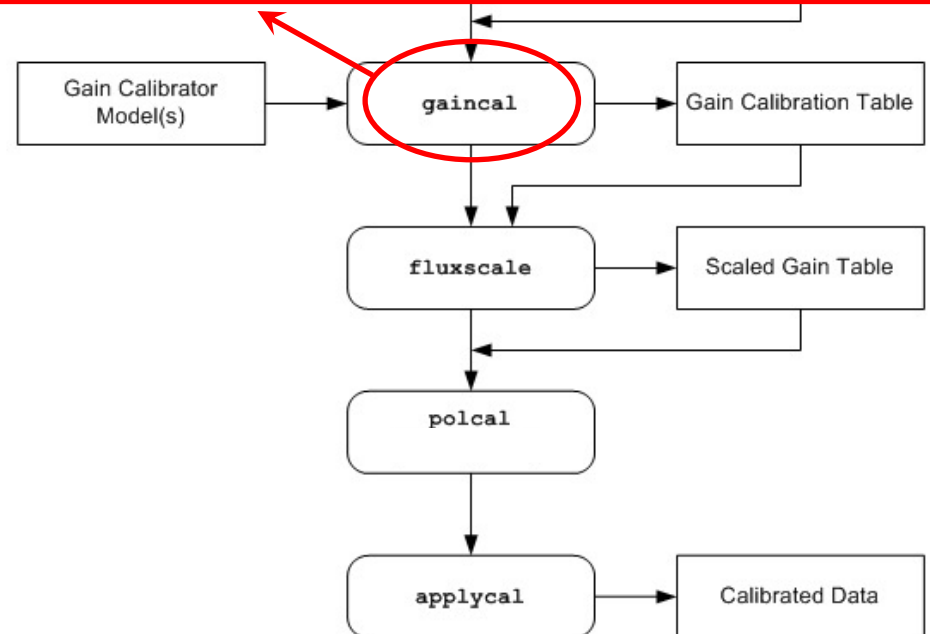
# Calibration in CASA

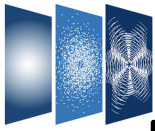
$$\vec{V}_{ij} = J_{ij} \vec{V}_{ij}^{IDEAL}$$



```
CASA <31>: gaincal(vis='lowres_data1.ms', spw='1:10~110', refant'4', calmode='p')
```

- Command line
- Scripting
- Jupyter Notebook





# Calibration in CASA

```

[CASA <33>: inp
# gaincal -- Determine temporal gains from calibrator observations
vis                = 'lowres_data1.ms/'      # Name of input visibility file
caltable           = ''                     # Name of output gain calibration table
field              = ''                     # Select field using field id(s) or field name(s)
spw                = '1:10~110'            # Select spectral window/channels
intent             = ''                     # Select observing intent
selectdata         = True                   # Other data selection parameters
  timerange        = ''                     # Select data based on time range
  uvrange          = ''                     # Select data by baseline length.
  antenna          = ''                     # Select data based on antenna/baseline
  scan             = ''                     # Scan number range
  observation       = ''                     # Select by observation ID(s)
  msselect         = ''                     # Optional complex data selection (ignore for now)
solint             = 'inf'                  # Solution interval
combine            = ''                     # Data axes which to combine for solve (obs, scan, spw, and/or
# field)
preavg             = -1.0                   # Pre-averaging interval (sec) (rarely needed)
refant             = '4'                    # Reference antenna name(s)
refantmode         = 'flex'                 # Reference antenna mode
minblperant        = 4                     # Minimum baselines _per antenna_ required for solve
minsnr             = 3.0                   # Reject solutions below this SNR
solnorm            = False                  # Normalize (squared) solution amplitudes (G, T only)
gaintype           = 'G'                   # Type of gain solution (G,T,GSPLINE,K,KCROSS)
smodel             = []                    # Point source Stokes parameters for source model.
calmode            = 'p'                   # Type of solution" ('ap', 'p', 'a')
solmode            = ''                     # Robust solving mode: ('', 'L1', 'R','L1R')
rmsthresh          = []                    # RMS Threshold sequence (for solmode='R' or 'L1R'; see help)
corrdepflags       = False                  # Respect correlation-dependent flags
append             = False                  # Append solutions to the (existing) table
docallib           = False                  # Use callib or traditional cal apply parameters
  gaintable        = []                     # Gain calibration table(s) to apply on the fly
  gainfield        = []                     # Select a subset of calibrators from gaintable(s)
  interp           = []                     # Interpolation parameters for each gaintable, as a list
  spwmap           = []                     # Spectral window mappings to form for gaintable(s)
parang             = False                  # Apply parallactic angle correction

```

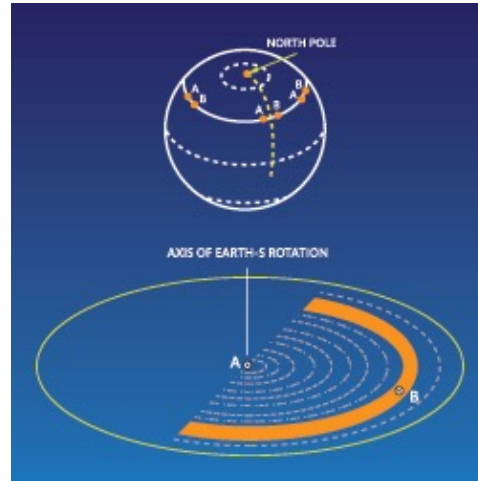
CASA <34>: go

$\vec{V}_{ij}$

CASA <

Import/export  
 Information  
 Manipulation  
 Calibration  
**Imaging**  
 Analysis

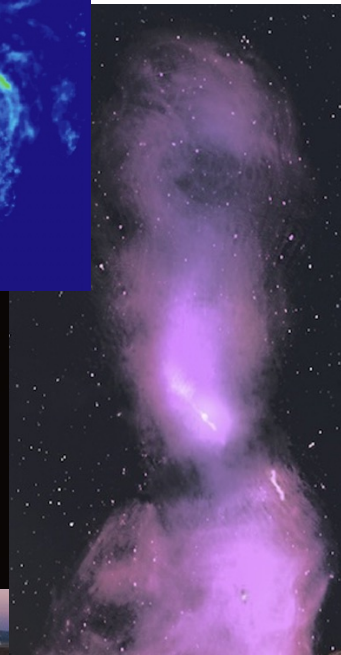
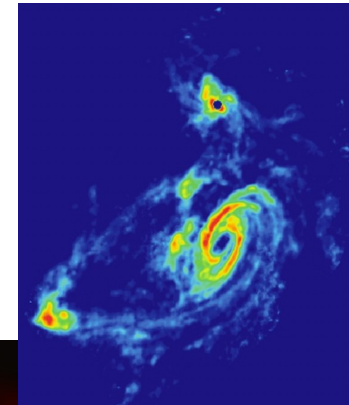
Single Dish  
 Simulations

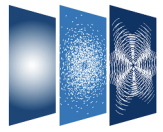


$$\vec{V}_{ij} IDEAL$$

- Gridding data
- Weighting data
- Fourier transform
- Deconvolution
- Restoration

2D continuum images  
 3D image cubes





# Imaging in CASA

Tclean: powerful imaging task

- Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)
- Gridding (incl. advanced imaging modes: mosaic, AW-project, etc)
- Deconvolution & Restoration
- Primary beam correction
- Data weighting



国立天文台

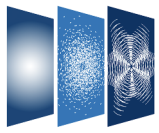


ASTRON



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# Imaging in CASA

## Tclean: powerful imaging task

- Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)
- Gridding (incl. advanced imaging modes: mosaic, AW-project, etc)
- Deconvolution & Restoration
- Primary beam correction
- Data weighting

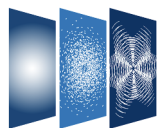
```
[CASA <40>: inp
# tclean -- Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction
vis = '' # Name of input visibility file(s)
selectdata = True # Enable data selection parameters
  field = '' # field(s) to select
  spw = '' # spw(s)/channels to select
  timerange = '' # Range of time to select from data
  uvrange = '' # Select data within uvrange
  antenna = '' # Select data based on antenna/baseline
  scan = '' # Scan number range
  observation = '' # Observation ID range
  intent = '' # Scan Intent(s)
datacolumn = 'corrected' # Data column to image(data,corrected)
imagename = '' # Pre-name of output images
imsize = [100] # Number of pixels
cell = [] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode (mfs,cube,cub
  reffreq = '' # Reference frequency
gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
  vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
  pblimit = 0.2 # PB gain level at which to cut off norm
deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,mu
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
  restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default i
  pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output rest
outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image definition
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme (natural,uniform,brig
  briggsbwtaper[experimental])
  uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-plan
niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution: use
  mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or regio
  pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask
fastnoise = True # True: use the faster (old) noise calcul
  calculations
restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False :
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities (no
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
  psfcutoff = 0.35 # All pixels in the main lobe of the PSF
  beam (the Clean beam).
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

CASA <41>: []
```



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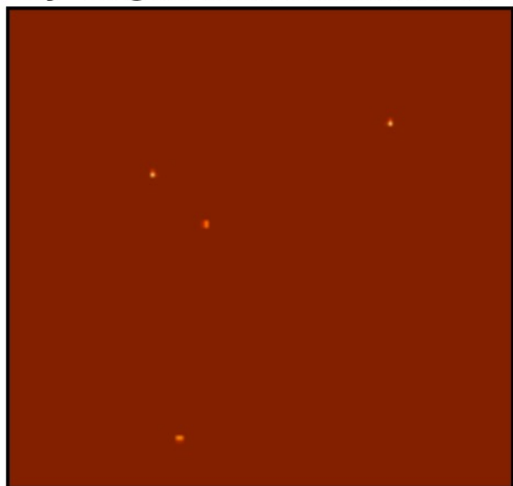


# Imaging in CASA

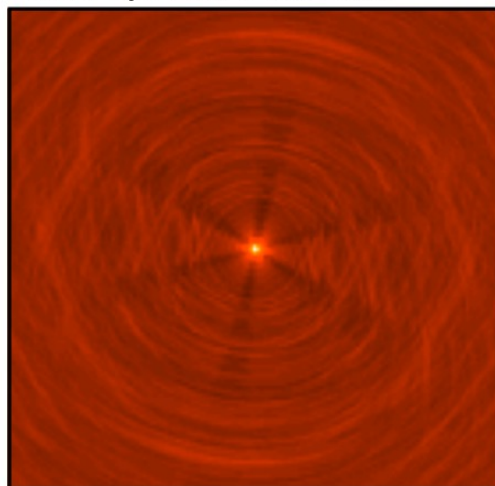
## Deconvolution



Sky Brightness Distribution



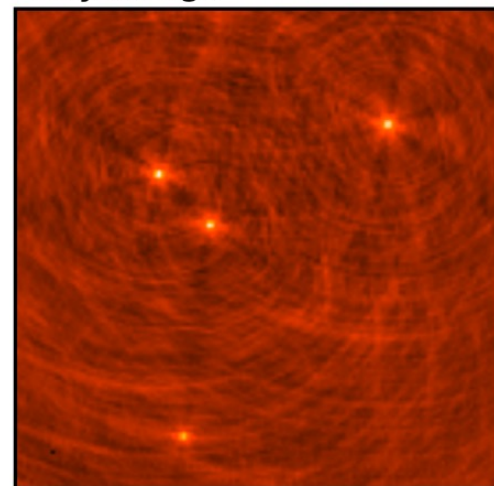
Point Spread Function



\*

=

Dirty Image

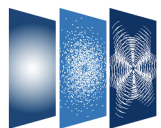


Convolution of sky brightness distribution and instrumental PSF results in 'dirty' image

↓  
**Deconvolution in tclean**

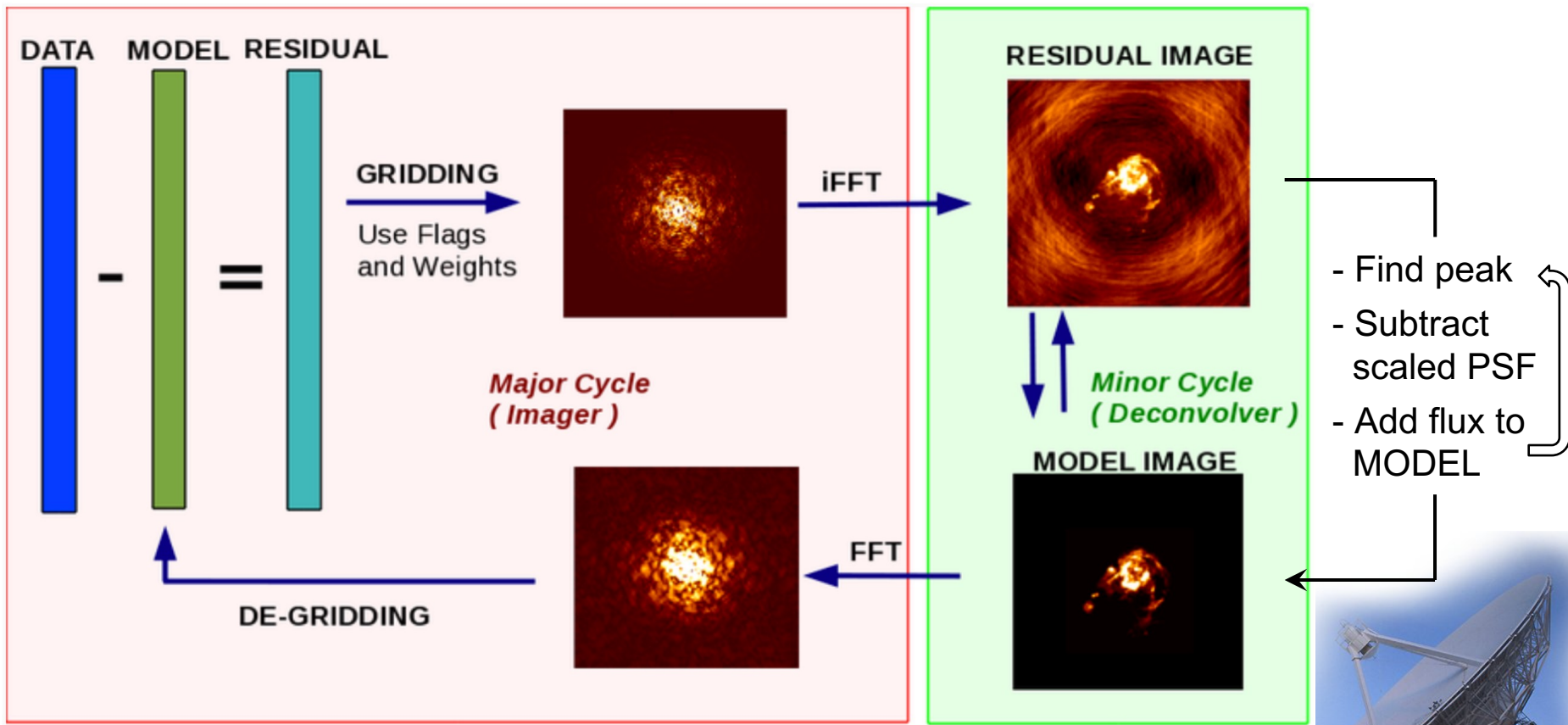
↓  
Reconstruct sky model by iteratively deconvolving the dirty image using the PSF





# Imaging in CASA

Tclean: powerful imaging task

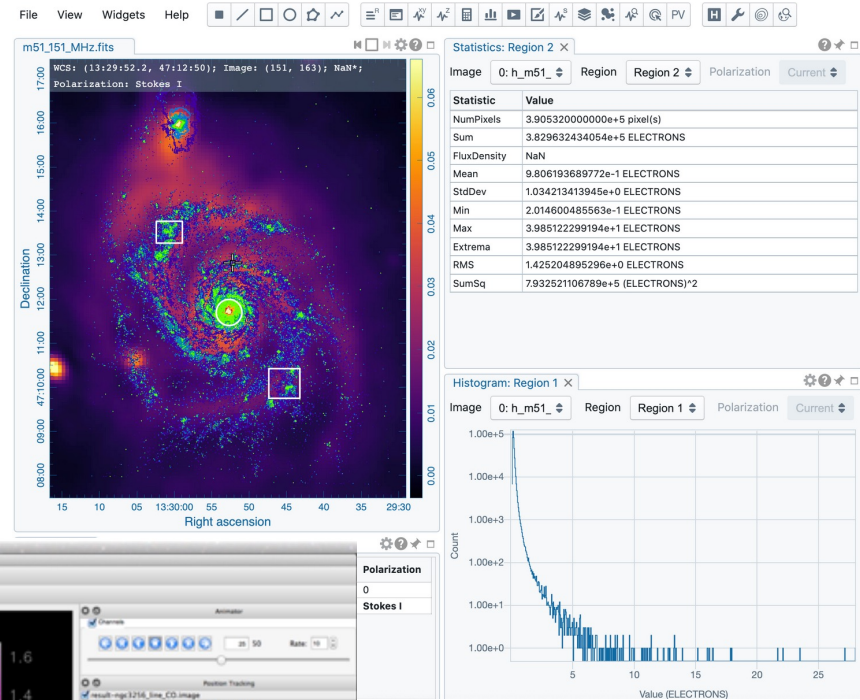




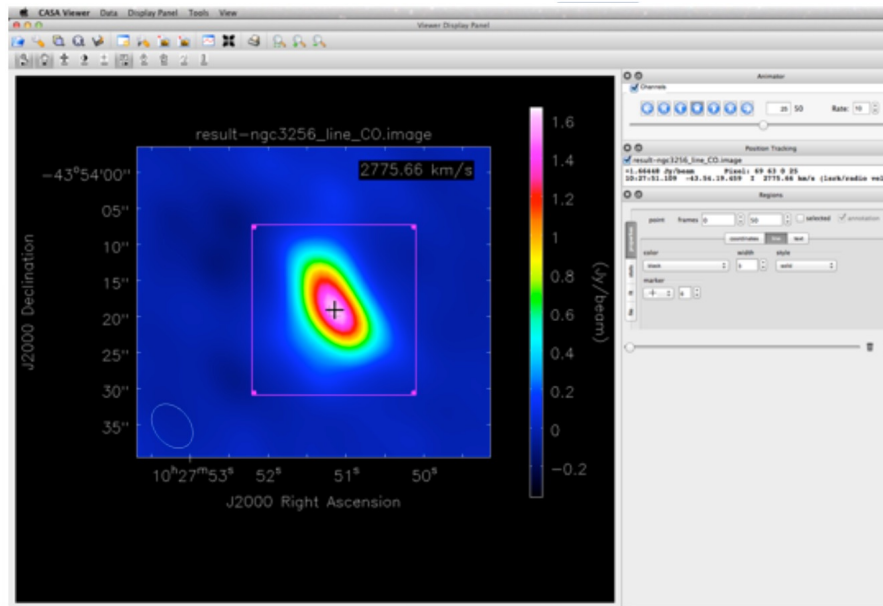
Import/export  
 Information  
 Manipulation  
 Calibration  
 Imaging  
**Analysis/  
 Visualization**

Single Dish  
 Simulations

The new: CARTA (ASIAA, IDIA, NRAO, Alberta)



The old: CASA Viewer

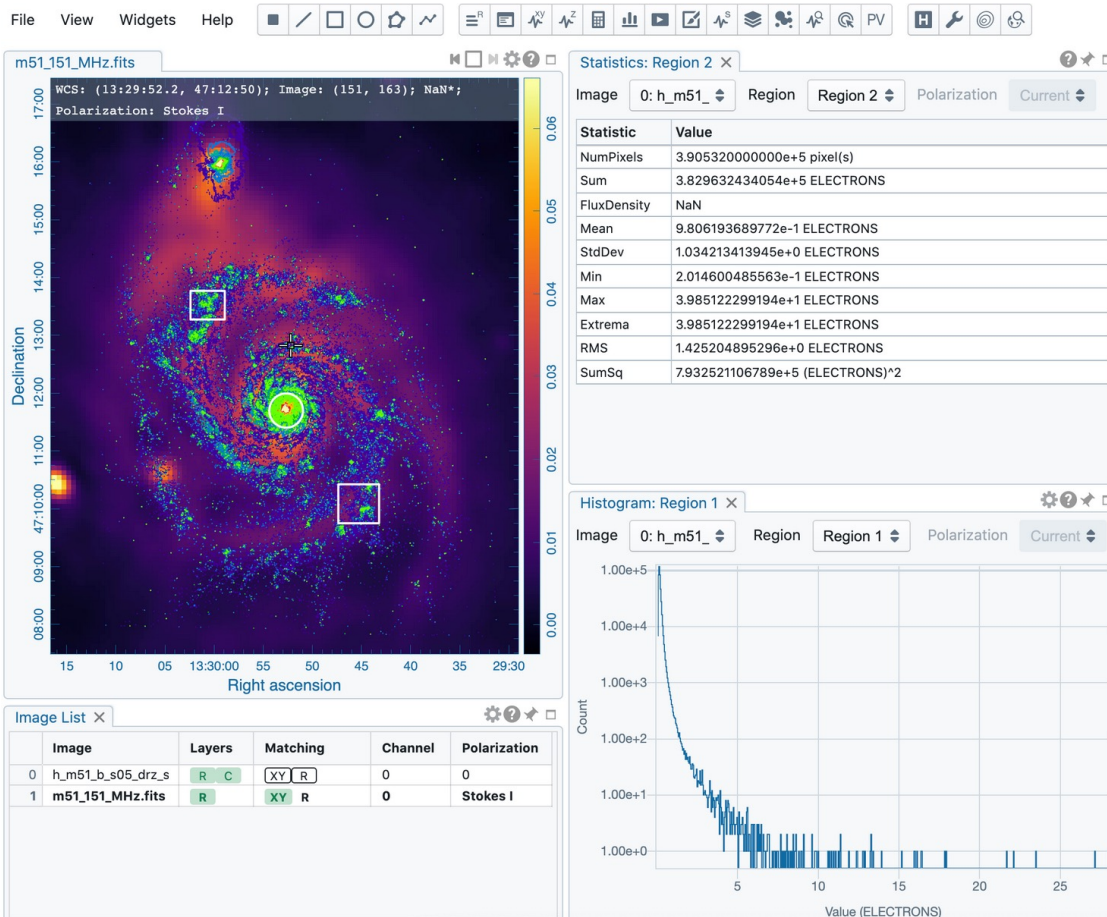




# Visualization

Students, start using this!

## CARTA: Cube Analysis and Rendering Tool for Astronomy



Next-generation radio telescopes  
 → quick with large data volumes  
 (ALMA, VLA, SKA pathfinders)

<https://cartavis.org>

External software:



ASIAA (Taiwan)  
 IDIA (South Africa)  
 NRAO (USA)  
 Univ. Alberta (Canada)



Import/export

Information

Manipulation

Calibration

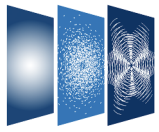
Imaging

Analysis

Single Dish

Simulations





# CASA download & installation

Website (casa.nrao.edu)

Monolithic (all-inclusive 'plug-and-play')

Pip-wheel (Pythonic, Jupyter Notebooks, Google Colab)

Pipelines (ALMA, VLA)

Compatibility Operating Systems

Parallel processing

(Message Passing Interface, MPI)



New release every ~2 months!

Latest version: **CASA 6.4**

The [Release Notes](#) and [Known Issues](#) of the 6.4 release are available

CASA 6.4 is based on Python 3, and available either as a downloadable tar-file distribution with Python environment included, or as a modular version that can be installed with [pip-wheels](#).

Manual processing can be done with any CASA version, but ALMA and VLA pipelines may differ and are not always included, so download the correct CASA version for pipeline use.

	 <b>Linux</b> (RedHat 6, 7, 8)	 <b>Mac</b> (OS 11, OSX 10.14, 10.15)
<b>General Use</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.6)	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.6) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.6)
<b>ALMA Pipeline</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)
<b>VLA Pipeline</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)

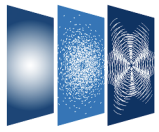
The above CASA versions can also be downloaded from our [NAOJ CASA mirror site](#) and [NAOJ CASA-pipeline mirror site](#), or via [Google Drive](#).

## CASA 6: pip-wheel installation

CASA 6 can optionally be installed through modular pip-wheels, with the flexibility to build CASA tools and tasks into a customized Python environment. Instructions on how to install the pip-wheel version of CASA 6 can be found in CASA Docs: [CASA 6 Installation and Usage](#)

The modular pip-wheel version is not yet used in production by ALMA and VLA, and does not include any pipelines.





# CASA download & installation

Website (casa.nrao.edu)

Monolithic (all-inclusive ‘plug-and-play’)

Pip-wheel (Pythonic, Jupyter Notebooks, Google Colab)

Pipelines (ALMA, VLA)

Compatibility Operating Systems

Parallel processing



(Message Passing Interface, MPI)

## Latest version: CASA 6.4

The [Release Notes](#) and [Known Issues](#) of the 6.4 release are available in [CASA Docs](#)

CASA 6.4 is based on Python 3, and available either as a downloadable tar-file distribution with Python environment included, or as a modular version that can be installed with [pip-wheels](#).

*Manual processing can be done with any CASA version, but ALMA and VLA pipelines may differ and are not always included, so download the correct CASA version for pipeline use.*

	 <b>Linux</b> (RedHat 6, 7, 8)	 <b>Mac</b> (OS 11, OSX 10.14, 10.15)
<b>General Use</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.6)	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.6) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.6)
<b>ALMA Pipeline</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)
<b>VLA Pipeline</b> (Notes)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)

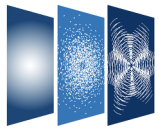
 The above CASA versions can also be downloaded from our [NAOJ CASA mirror site](#) and [NAOJ CASA-pipeline mirror site](#), or via [Google Drive](#).

## CASA 6: pip-wheel installation

CASA 6 can optionally be installed through modular pip-wheels, with the flexibility to build CASA tools and tasks into a customized Python environment. Instructions on how to install the pip-wheel version of CASA 6 can be found in CASA Docs: [CASA 6 Installation and Usage](#)

The modular pip-wheel version is not yet used in production by ALMA and VLA, and does not include any pipelines.





# CASA download & installation

Website ([casa.nrao.edu](http://casa.nrao.edu))

Monolithic (all-inclusive ‘plug-and-play’)

Pip-wheel (Pythonic, Jupyter Notebooks, Google Colab)

Pipelines (ALMA, VLA)

Compatibility Operating Systems

Parallel processing



(Message Passing Interface, MPI)

## Latest version: CASA 6.4

The [Release Notes](#) and [Known Issues](#) of the 6.4 release are available in [CASA Docs](#)

CASA 6.4 is based on Python 3, and available either as a downloadable tar-file distribution with Python environment included, or as a modular version that can be installed with [pip-wheels](#).

*Manual processing can be done with any CASA version, but ALMA and VLA pipelines may differ and are not always included, so download the correct CASA version for pipeline use.*

	 <b>Linux</b> (RedHat 6, 7, 8)	 <b>Mac</b> (OS 11, OSX 10.14, 10.15)
<b>General Use</b> ( <a href="#">Notes</a> )	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (RH7/8 - Py 3.6)	<a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (OS11 - Py 3.6) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.8) <a href="#">CASA 6.4.0</a> (10.15 - Py 3.6)
<b>ALMA Pipeline</b> ( <a href="#">Notes</a> )	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)
<b>VLA Pipeline</b> ( <a href="#">Notes</a> )	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (RH6/7)	<a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.15) <a href="#">CASA 6.2.1</a> (10.14)

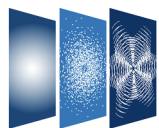
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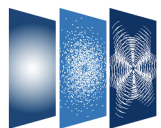
(*Message Passing Interface, MPI*)

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RHEL 7	5.8	>=6.1		>=6.4
RHEL 8				>=6.4
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Ubuntu 20.04		>=6.2		>=6.4
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Mac OS 11 ARM		TBD		TBD

## Modular CASA

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RHEL 7		>=6.0	>=6.2	>=6.2
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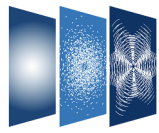
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## Common Astronomy Software Applications

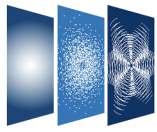
**CASA**, the *Common Astronomy Software Applications*, is the primary data processing software for the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array ([ALMA](#)) and Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array ([VLA](#)), and is often used also for other radio telescopes.

### 6.4.0 Release

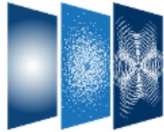
CASA 6.4.0 can now be ([downloaded](#)) for general use. CASA 6.4.0 is available either as a downloadable tar-file, or through pip-wheel installation, which gives flexibility to integrate CASA into a customized Python environment.

### Highlights:

- **OS Support:** CASA now supports RedHat 8, and Mac OS with Python 3.8, for both monolithic and modular versions. Note the Linux tarballs with different Python versions will extract to the same directory name.
- **plotcal/plotms:** Funtionality for plotcal has been migrated to plotms, and plotcal was deprecated.
- **plotms:** calibration table averaging with channel selection is now supported.
- **fringefit:** memory usage of fringefit has been reduced, allowing larger datasets to be processed.
- **imhead:** updated to display microsecond precision.
- **caltables:** the storage of frequency meta information in caltables improved, making certain frequency-dependent calibration solutions more accurate.
- **sdintimaging:** now adds information to the history of produced images
- **T+dT timerange selection** improved in accuracy.



# CASA Docs (casadocs.readthedocs.io)



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v: **stable** ▾

Versions

latest **stable** v6.4.0 v6.3.0

v6.2.1 v6.2.0

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## Common Astronomy Software Applications

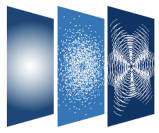
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# CASA Docs ([casadocs.readthedocs.io](https://casadocs.readthedocs.io))



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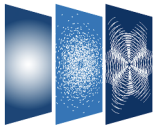
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## Known Issues

### Summary Most Important Issues

- The task **clean** is no longer being actively maintained; instead, **tclean** is now the recommended task for imaging.
- **CASA 6 startup** may fail on some **Mac OS** where users have set up a file system that is *case-sensitive*.
- There are generic problems putting multiple MSs into **tclean** that have mismatches in their shape.
- Wideband and widefield imaging in **tclean** are only partially validated - please use at own risk and read [wideband](#) and [widefield](#) documentation.
- In **tclean**, *uvtaper* does not work with *natural* weighting.
- When imaging large mosaics with *mosweight* in **tclean**, an error “*too many open files*” may occur that may require to increase the limit for open files.
- **stwt** may fail when the correlator integration time changes within an MS and **stwt** is run with *timebin* set to an integer value.
- CASA is not using *LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH* anymore but *CASALD\_LIBRARY\_PATH* to avoid confusion.
- **cvel** is calculating the velocity incorrectly for ephemeris objects. We recommend to use **mstransform** or its offspring **cvel2**, although the latter should be used with care as it is not fully commissioned yet.
- **fixvis** uses the small angle approximation and may be incorrect for large phase shifts. Use the new task **phaseshift** instead, or use **tclean** for phase center shifts during imaging when applicable.
- With parallel calibration on MMS files, **fixvis** does not write out the the new MMS specified in *outputvis* correctly, hence **fixvis** solutions are not applied when writing to a new MMS.
- In **fringefit**, calibration tables created with CASA 5.5 and before cannot be used with CASA 5.6 and later.
- In **tclean**, defining image cubes in optical velocity in some cases is known not to work.
- In **tclean**, using the mosaic gridded with the default *nchan=-1* is in some cases known to produce errors.
- Ionospheric TEC corrections are currently validated in CASA only for VLA data.
- *ephemeris* objects are not correctly supported by *virtual model columns*.
- In **tclean**, the combination of *specmode='cube'* and *gridded="awproject"* has not been commissioned for use and may result in errors.



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v: stable

## Monolithic Distribution

### On Linux:

1. Download the .tar file and place it in a work directory (e.g. ~/casa)
2. From a Linux terminal window, expand the file:

```
$ tar -xvf casa-xyz.tar.xz
```

3. Start CASA

```
$ ./casa-xyz/bin/casa
```

4. The one caveat is that CASA on Linux currently will not run if the Security-Enhanced Linux option of the linux operating system is set to enforcing. For the non-root install to work, SELinux must be set to disabled or permissive (in `/etc/selinux/config`) or you must run (as root):

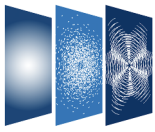
```
setsebool -P allow_execheap=1
```

Otherwise, you will encounter errors like:

```
error while loading shared libraries: /opt/casa/casa-20.0.5653-001/lib/liblapack.so.3.1.1: cannot r
```

### On Macintosh:

1. Download the .dmg disk image file
2. Double click on the disk image file (if your browser does not automatically open it).
3. Drag the CASA application to the *Applications* folder of your hard disk.
4. Eject the CASA disk image.
5. Double click the CASA application to run it for the first time. If the OS does not allow you to install apps from non-Apple sources, please Change the settings in “System Preferences-> Security & Privacy -> General” and “Allow applications downloaded from: Mac App store and identified developers”.
6. Optional: Create symbolic links to the CASA version and its executables (Administrator privileges are



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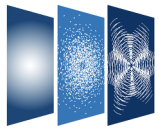
v: stable

## Full Monolithic Distribution

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## API

External Interface definition of CASA. This section is verified prior to each release

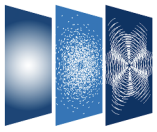
- [casatasks](#)
- [casatools](#)
- [casashell](#)
- [casadata](#)
- [casalith](#)
- [configuration](#)

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Built with [Sphinx](#) using a [theme](#) provided by [Read the Docs](#).



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- Imaging
- Single Dish

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- cvel
- cvel2
- fixplanets
- fixvis
- hanningsmooth
- mstransform
- msuvbin
- oldstatwt
- partition
- phaseshift**
- rmtables
- split

## phaseshift

```
phaseshift(vis, outputvis="", keepmms=True, field="", spw="", scan="", intent="", array="", observation="", datacolumn='all', phasecenter="") \[source\]
```

Rotate a Measurement Set to a new phase-center

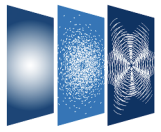
[\[Description\]](#) [\[Examples\]](#) [\[Development\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)

### Parameters

- **vis** (string) - Name of input visibility file
- **outputvis** (string="") - Name of output visibility file
- **keepmms** (bool=True) - Create a Multi-MS as the output if the input is a Multi-MS.
- **field** (string="") - Select field using field id(s) or field name(s)
- **spw** (string="") - Select spectral window/channels
- **scan** (string="") - Scan number range
- **intent** (string="") - Select observing intent
- **array** (string="") - Select (sub)array(s) by array ID number.
- **observation** (string="") - Select by observation ID(s)
- **datacolumn** (string='all') - Which data column(s) to process
- **phasecenter** (string="") - Direction coordinates of the desired center. MUST BE SPECIFIED

### Description

This task changes the phase center of an MS by modifying the *UVW* coordinates and the specified data column(s) (via the **datacolumn** parameter) of the input MS and creating an output MS with these changes. The *PHASE\_DIR* column of the *FIELD* subtable of the new MS is updated with the new phase center. Many MS selection parameters are supported (see [Visibility Data Selections](#) for details).



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CASA 6.2 Notebook Demo

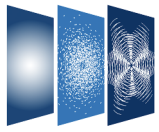
PlotMS with Jupyter Notebooks and X11

## Community Examples

A collection of community provided scripts covering various CASA tutorials, examples, demonstrations, tips, tricks and general best practices.

- [CASA 6.2 Notebook Demo](#)
  - [Description](#)
  - [Installation](#)
  - [Getting Started](#)
  - [tclean Example](#)
  - [View Images with Astropy](#)
  - [View Images with CARTA](#)
- [PlotMS with Jupyter Notebooks and X11](#)
  - [Description](#)
  - [Setup Virtual Frame Buffer](#)
  - [Get Data](#)
  - [Plot Data](#)
  - [Display the Exported Raster Image](#)
- [Simulation in CASA](#)
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  - [Make an empty MS with the desired uvw/scan/field/ddid setup](#)
  - [Make a True Sky Model \(component list and/or image\)](#)
  - [Simulate visibilities from the sky model into the DATA column of the MS](#)
  - [Add Noise and other errors to the simulated visibilities](#)
  - [A few Imaging and Calibration examples](#)





# CASA resources

- CASA Docs → official CASA documentation  
<https://casadocs.readthedocs.io>
- CASA Website → official CASA website (downloads)  
<https://casa.nrao.edu>
- CASA Guides → data reduction strategies (telescope-specific)  
<https://casaguides.nrao.edu>
- NRAO/ALMA Helpdesks → VLA / ALMA data reduction questions.  
<https://help.nrao.edu> ; <https://help.almascience.org>  
*(coming soon: CASA Bug Report & Feature Request system)*
- casa-announce → announcements, releases
- CASA Newsletter → 2x per year
- casa-feedback@nrao.edu → general feedback

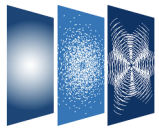
First resources!

ALMA / VLA teams

Subscribe!  
([casa.nrao.edu](https://casa.nrao.edu))



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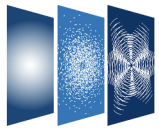
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- CASA Newsletter → 2x per year
- casa-feedback@nrao.edu → general feedback

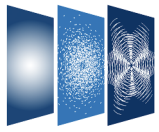
First resources!

ALMA / VLA teams

Subscribe!  
([casa.nrao.edu](https://casa.nrao.edu))



JIVE  
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# CASA resources

- CASA Docs → official CASA documentation  
<https://casadocs.readthedocs.io>
- CASA Website → official CASA website (downloads)  
<https://casa.nrao.edu>
- CASA Guides → data reduction strategies (telescope-specific)  
<https://casaguides.nrao.edu>
- NRAO/ALMA Helpdesks → VLA / ALMA data reduction questions.  
<https://help.nrao.edu> ; <https://help.almascience.org>  
*(coming soon: CASA Bug Report & Feature Request system)*
- casa-announce → announcements, releases
- CASA Newsletter → 2x per year
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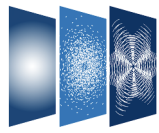
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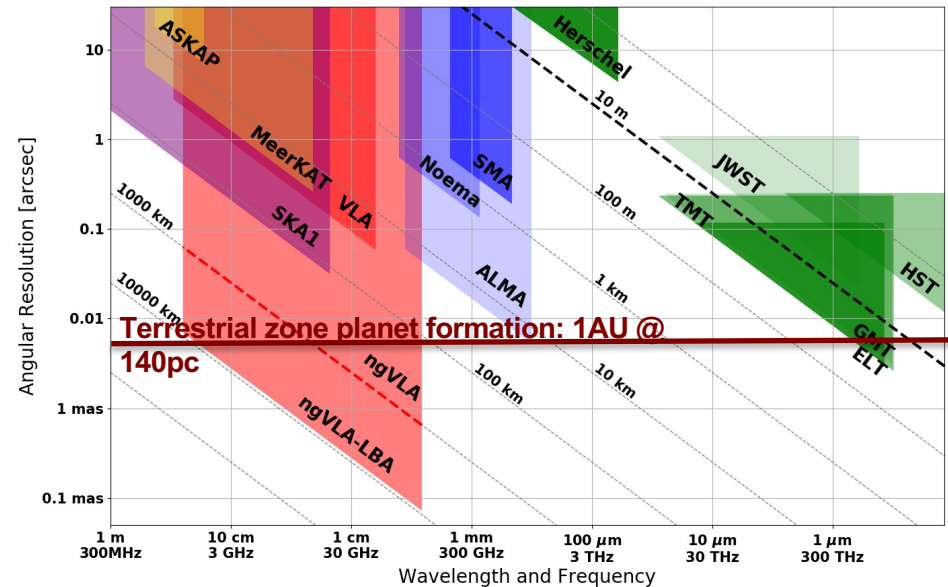
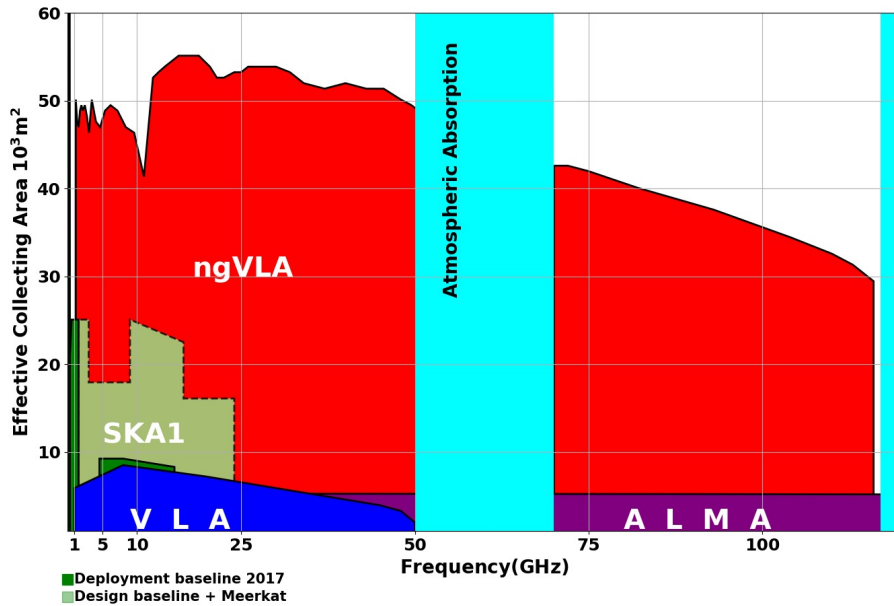


# Future of radio astronomy



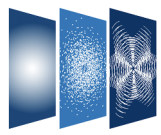
## Next-generation VLA

- 1.2 – 116 GHz (SKA ← ngVLA → ALMA)
- 244 antennas x 18m diameter (+ 19 x 6m)
- Maximum baseline ~9000 km (0.5-50 milli-arcsec), dense core



Murphy et al. 2019 – Science with a next-generation VLA

*(terrestrial planet formation, star formation, molecular gas across Universe)*

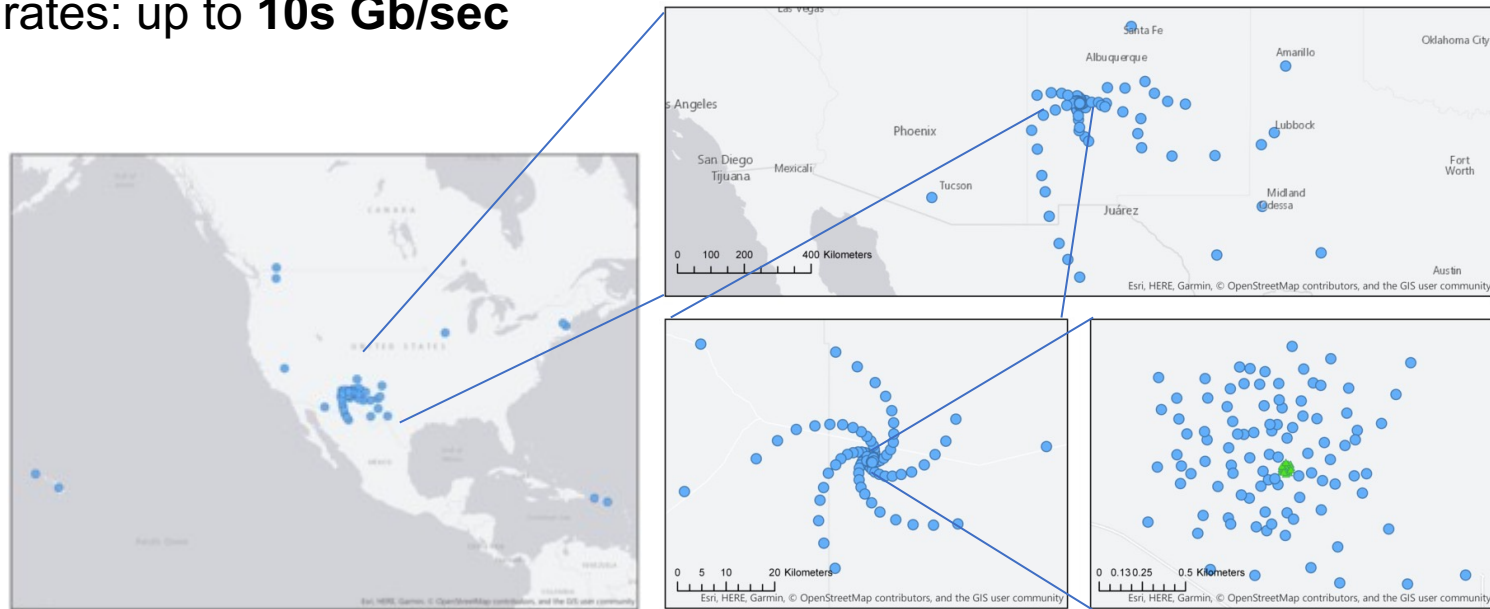


# Future of radio astronomy



## Next-generation VLA

- 1.2 – 116 GHz (SKA  $\leftarrow$  ngVLA  $\rightarrow$  ALMA)
- 244 antennas x 18m diameter (+ 19 x 6m)
- Maximum baseline  $\sim$ 9000 km (0.5-50 milli-arcsec), dense core
- Data rates: up to **10s Gb/sec**

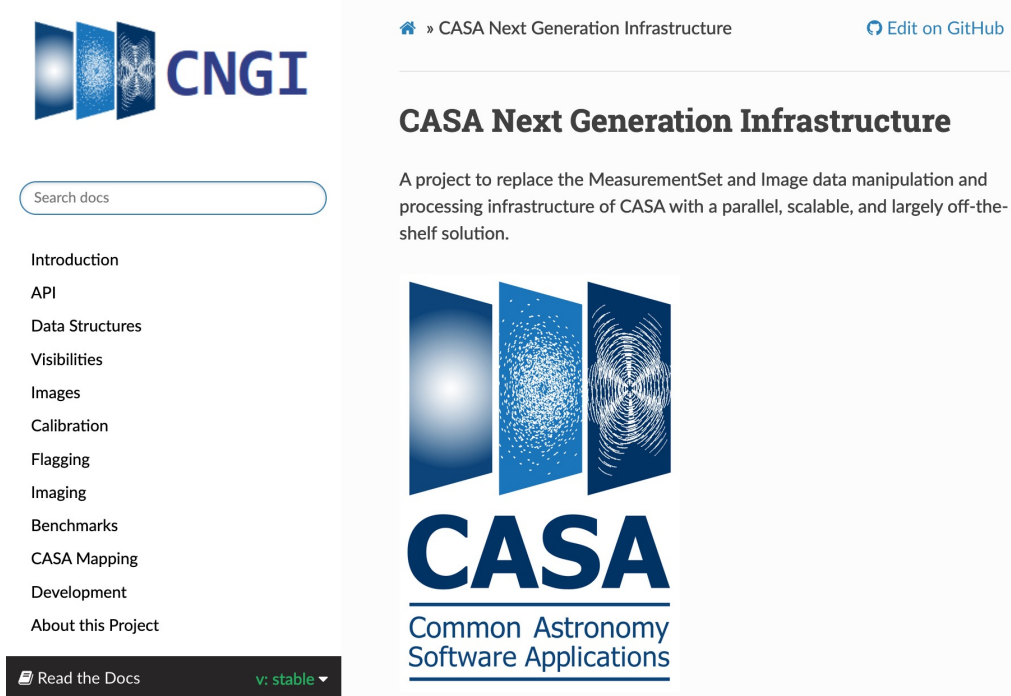


Note: Square Kilometre Array  $\rightarrow$  data rates of global internet traffic


# CASA Next Generation Infrastructure

## CASA Next Generation Infrastructure (CNGI)

- Infrastructure for next-generation CASA software to meet growing demands of radio telescopes
- New data structures for MeasurementSet and Image contents → built in Python, atop popular technology stack (*numpy*, *dask*, *xarray*)
- Prototyping completed in 2021 and made available as a demonstration package to the community → <https://cngi-prototype.readthedocs.io/en/stable/>



The screenshot shows the documentation page for CASA Next Generation Infrastructure (CNGI). The page features the CNGI logo at the top left, a search bar, and a navigation menu with the following items: Introduction, API, Data Structures, Visibilities, Images, Calibration, Flagging, Imaging, Benchmarks, CASA Mapping, Development, and About this Project. The main content area is titled "CASA Next Generation Infrastructure" and includes a brief description: "A project to replace the MeasurementSet and Image data manipulation and processing infrastructure of CASA with a parallel, scalable, and largely off-the-shelf solution." Below the text is the CASA logo and the text "Common Astronomy Software Applications". At the bottom, there is a "Read the Docs" button and a version selector set to "v. stable".

 CNGI

Search docs

Introduction  
API  
Data Structures  
Visibilities  
Images  
Calibration  
Flagging  
Imaging  
Benchmarks  
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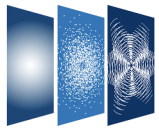
» CASA Next Generation Infrastructure [Edit on GitHub](#)

### CASA Next Generation Infrastructure

A project to replace the MeasurementSet and Image data manipulation and processing infrastructure of CASA with a parallel, scalable, and largely off-the-shelf solution.



**CASA**  
Common Astronomy  
Software Applications



# CNGI Demonstration Package Highlights

*Credit: Jan-Willem Steeb, Ryan Raba, Andrew McNichols*

<https://cngi-prototype.readthedocs.io/en/stable/>

## 1. Visibility Data Structure and Image Data Structures

- Implemented as Xarray Datasets (XDS)
- N-dimensional data variables with named dimensions, coordinate values, and free form attributes
- Natively parallelized through Dask
- Attached to on-disk storage (in Zarr format), not actually loaded in memory

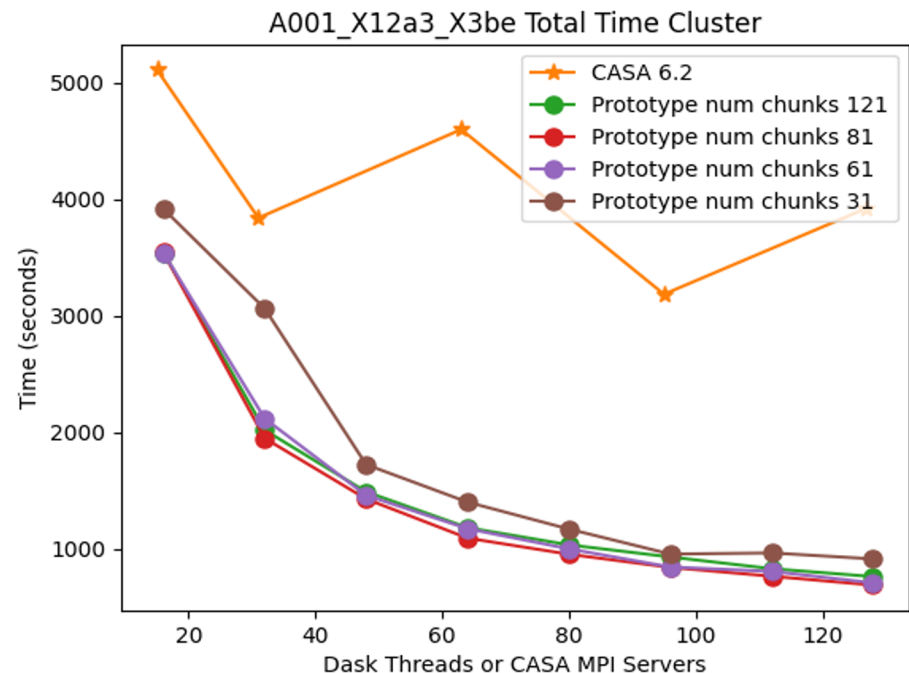
## 2. Base set of selection, manipulation, and mathematics developed (natively parallel)

## 3. Standard and Mosaic Gridders

- Written in Python
- Numerically equivalent output to CASA6
- Greater potential for scalability

## 4. Benchmarking

- Four ALMA (30 GB - 300 GB) and one CHILES (2.5 TB) dataset.
- ALMA benchmark completed on a node and cluster (2 to 128 cores)
- 2-4x (or more) speedup, same hardware
- CHILES benchmark achieved 6.7x speedup on 8 node cluster
- Speedup due to CASA not supporting parallel writes





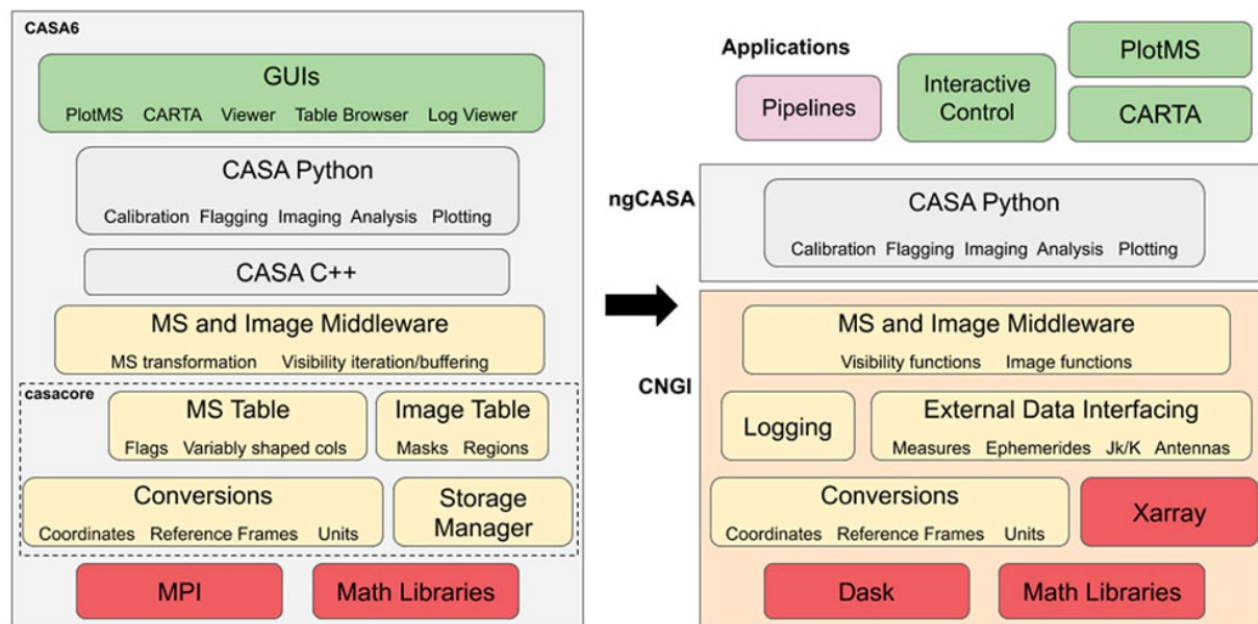
# CASA Next Generation Infrastructure

## CASA Next Generation Infrastructure (CNGI)

- Infrastructure for next-generation CASA software to meet growing demands of radio telescopes
- New data structures for MeasurementSet and Image contents → built in Python, atop popular technology stack (*numpy*, *dask*, *xarray*)
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## Next-generation CASA (ngCASA)

- design and develop scientific package on top CNGI, aligned with ngVLA requirements and performance (but also serving ALMA and VLA)





# Conclusions

- CASA is versatile and leading radio data processing software
- Publicly available - downloadable as all-inclusive tarfile, or pip-wheel installation ([casa.nrao.edu](http://casa.nrao.edu))
- Supports large number of use-cases (*manual processing, scripting, pipelines, Notebooks*)
- CASA Docs primary resource for users ([casadocs.readthedocs.io](http://casadocs.readthedocs.io))
- Stable software package, ongoing efforts next-generation CASA  
→ *bright future for radio astronomy!*

***Thank you!***

谢谢

*We welcome feedback: [casa-feedback@nrao.edu](mailto:casa-feedback@nrao.edu)*

