



ALMA Data Reduction Training Day, 27 Nov. 2023

Imaging

Ko-Yun (Monica) Huang
ALMA Local Expertise Group (Allegro)



Universiteit
Leiden
Sterrewacht Leiden



Software used in this tutorial

- This tutorial uses **CASA 6.6.0**
- Obtain CASA at casa.nrao.edu
 - CASA 6.6 as “Latest Release”
- CASA documentation & general help available in the CASA Docs: casadocs.readthedocs.io
- **CASA Paper:**
“CASA, the Common Astronomy Software Applications for Radio Astronomy,” the CASA Team
[arXiv: 2210.02276](https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.02276)
- AnalysisUtils package, check Analysis Utils CASA Guide for more information:
[https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Analysis Utilities](https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Analysis_Utilities)

```
CASA <x>: sys.path.append('/lustre2/allegro/lib/jao-mirror/AIV/science/analysis_scripts/')
```

```
CASA <x>: import analysisUtils as au
```

Data used in this tutorial

- TW Hya from the “First Look at Line Imaging CASA 6” guide, N_2H^+ J=4-3
- ALMA Project 2011.0.00340.S, "Searching for H₂D⁺ in the disk of TW Hya v1.5", PI Chunhua Qi

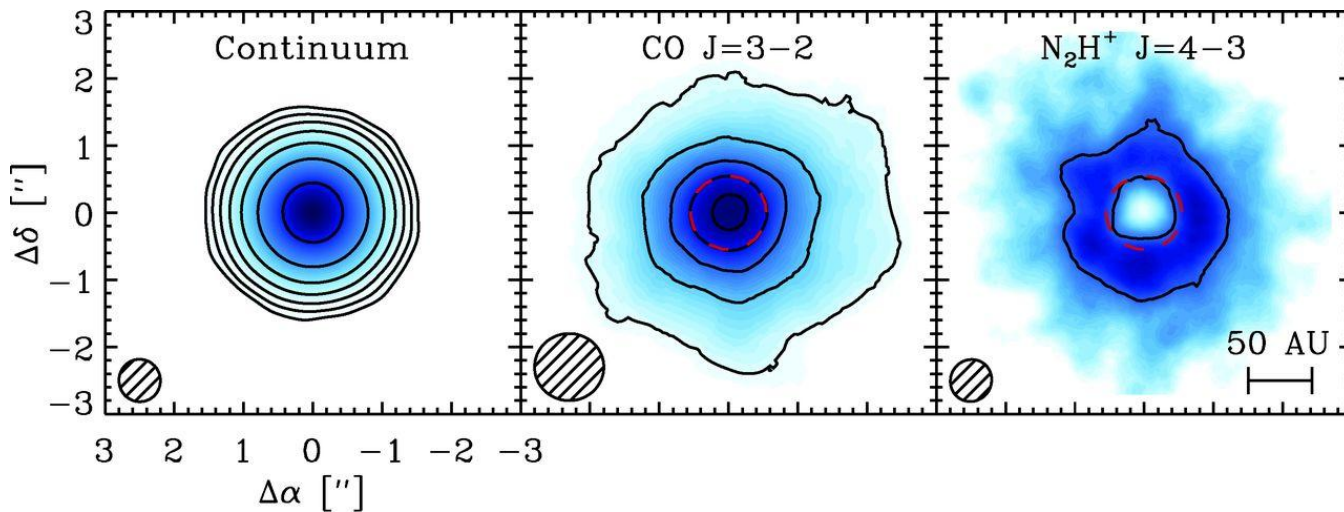


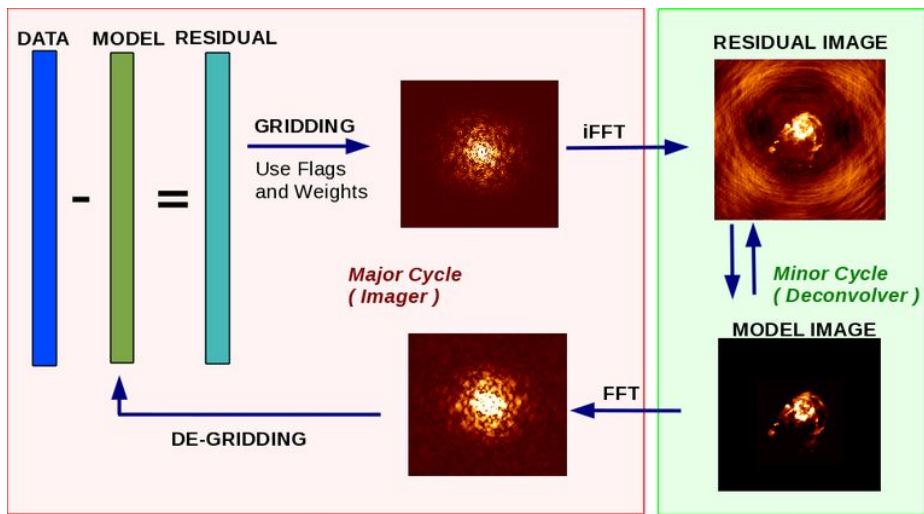
Fig. 1 from Qi et al., 2013, *Science*, 341, 6146, 630



tclean: CASA task for Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
vis                = ''                # Name of input visibility file(s)
selectdata        = True               # Enable data selection parameters
...
specmode          = 'mfs'              # Spectral definition mode
...
gridder           = 'standard'         # Gridding options
...
deconvolver       = 'hogbom'           # Minor cycle algorithm
...
weighting         = 'natural'          # Weighting scheme
...
niter             = 0                  # Maximum number of iterations
...
usemask           = 'user'             # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
...
```

Synthesis Imaging



Major Cycle: *visibility* frame

1. Subtract model from data to generate residual visibilities
2. Grid residual visibilities, iFFT into image frame to produce residual image

Minor Cycle: *image* frame

- Use specified clean algorithm (e.g. Högbom, multiscale, etc.) to generate model of source
- Source model components convolved with PSF and subtracted from residual image

Back to Major Cycle: *visibility* frame

3. FFT model image into *uv* frame, de-grid visibilities



Before you clean: Imaging Preparation

1. Inspect your data
 - a. **Inspect the weblog** - see I-TRAIN #4: ALMA WebLog inspection
 - b. **listobs**: spw & field information
 - c. **plotms**: check uv coverage, check for spectral lines, telluric lines, etc.
2. Prepare your measurement set
 - a. If needed, **split** science source from calibrated measurement set(s)
 - b. If continuum imaging, optional: **split** out continuum-only MS
 - c. If line imaging: uv continuum subtraction with **uvcontsub** if continuum > 3 sigma per channel

Resources:

- ALMAGuides & General Imaging Tutorials: casaguides.nrao.edu
- Video tutorial on imaging: <https://youtu.be/yuLKAfroHu4>



Material preparation & Let's launch CASA!

In YOUR analysis directory (analysis/USERNAME/):

```
mkdir imaging
```

```
cd imaging
```

```
cp -r ../../scripts/Imaging_*.py ./
```

Scripts involved in this tutorial:

(a) [Imaging_1_basic.py](#) - setting up all tclean parameter in interactive style

(b) [Imaging_2_basic_scripted.py](#) - scripted version of (a)

(c) [Imaging_3_uvcontsub.py](#) - basic steps to perform continuum subtraction

(d) [Imaging_4_uvtaper_scripted.py](#) - tclean script including tapering specification (uvtaper and the associated parameters)

(you can copy below from the script "[Imaging_1_basic.py](#)")

```
cp -r ../../archive/DRT2023/TW_hydra/sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub/ ./
```

```
nice +10 env -u PYTHONPATH -u LD_LIBRARY_PATH casapy-660
```



tclean: data selection

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
vis = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub'
selectdata = True # Enable data selection parameters
  field = 'TW Hya' # field(s) to select
  spw = '0' # 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)
  ...
```




tclean: get spw & field information from `listobs`

```
CASA <x>: vis = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub'
```

```
CASA <x>: listobs(vis)
```

```
CASA <x>: listobs(vis, listfile='listobs.txt')
```

- View `listobs` output in logger or in file
- Information includes:
 - Observation information (time, field observed, intents)
 - Field information (field IDs, coordinates)
 - Spectral window information (spw IDs, frequencies, bandwidth, spectral resolution)
 - Antenna information (Names, stations, dish diameter, coordinates)

tclean: get spw & field information from listobs

Output:

```
=====
MeasurementSet Name: /yourDirectory/sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub      MS Version 2
=====

Observer: cqi      Project: uid://A002/X327408/X6f
Observation: ALMA
Data records: 53161      Total elapsed time = 4268.11 seconds
Observed from 19-Nov-2012/07:56:23.5 to 19-Nov-2012/09:07:31.6 (UTC)

ObservationID = 0      ArrayID = 0
Date      Timerange (UTC)      Scan      FldId      FieldName      nRows      SpwIds      Average Interval (s)      ScanIntent
19-Nov-2012/07:56:23.5 - 08:02:11.3      12      0      TW Hya      8514      [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
      08:08:09.6 - 08:13:57.3      16      0      TW Hya      10360     [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
      08:19:53.9 - 08:25:41.7      20      0      TW Hya      10321     [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
      08:32:00.5 - 08:37:48.2      24      0      TW Hya      10324     [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
      08:43:45.6 - 08:49:33.4      28      0      TW Hya      9462      [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
      09:05:15.6 - 09:07:31.6      36      0      TW Hya      4180      [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]
(nRows = Total number of rows per scan)

Fields: 1
ID      Code Name      RA      Decl      Epoch      SrcId      nRows
0      none TW Hya      11:01:51.796000 -34.42.17.36600 J2000      0      53161

Spectral Windows: (1 unique spectral windows and 1 unique polarization setups)
SpwID      Name      #Chans      Frame      Ch0 (MHz)      ChanWid (kHz)      TotBW (kHz)      CtrFreq (MHz)      BBC Num      Corrs
0      ALMA_RB_07#BB_2#SW-01#FULL_RES      384      TOPO      372533.086      610.352      234375.0      372649.9688      2      XX YY
```

...

tclean: get spw & field information from listobs

Output:

```
=====  
MeasurementSet Name: /yourDirectory/sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub      MS Version 2  
=====  
Observer: cqi      Project: uid://A002/X327408/X6f  
Observation: ALMA  
Data records: 53161      Total elapsed time = 4268.11 seconds  
Observed from 19-Nov-2012/07:56:23.5 to 19-Nov-2012/09:07:31.6 (UTC)  
  
ObservationID = 0      ArrayID = 0  
Date      Timerange (UTC)      Scan  FldId  FieldName      nRows  SpwIds  Average Interval(s)  ScanIntent  
19-Nov-2012/07:56:23.5 - 08:02:11.3      12    0 TW Hya      8514  [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
08:08:09.6 - 08:13:57.3      16    0 TW Hya      10360 [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
08:19:53.9 - 08:25:41.7      20    0 TW Hya      10321 [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
08:32:00.5 - 08:37:48.2      24    0 TW Hya      10324 [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
08:43:45.6 - 08:49:33.4      28    0 TW Hya      9462  [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
09:05:15.6 - 09:07:31.6      36    0 TW Hya      4180  [0] [6.05] [OBSERVE_TARGET#ON_SOURCE]  
(nRows = Total number of rows per scan)
```

Fields: 1

ID	Code Name	RA	Decl	Epoch	SrcId	nRows
0	none TW Hya	11:01:51.796000	-34.42.17.36600	J2000	0	53161

Spectral Windows: (1 unique spectral windows and 1 unique polarization setups)

SpwID	Name	#Chans	Frame	Ch0 (MHz)	ChanWid (kHz)	TotBW (kHz)	CtrFreq (MHz)	BBC Num	Corrs
0	ALMA_RB_07#BB_2#SW-01#FULL_RES	384	TOPO	372533.086	610.352	234375.0	372649.9688	2	XX YY

...



tclean: data selection

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
vis = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub'  
selectdata = True # Enable data selection parameters  
  field = 'TW Hya' # field(s) to select  
  spw = '0' # 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)  
  ...
```



tclean: image parameters

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
    ...  
datacolumn           = 'data'           # Data column  
imagename            = 'twhya_n2hp43'   # Pre-name of output images  
imsize               = [240,240]        # Number of pixels  
cell                 = '0.1arcsec'       # Cell size  
phasecenter          = 0                 # Phase center of the image  
stokes               = 'I'              # Stokes Planes to make  
projection           = 'SIN'            # Coordinate projection  
startmodel           = ''               # Name of starting model  
    ...
```

tclean: determine cell size

- Rule of thumb: ~5-8 cells across beam

1. Use `plotms`:

```
CASA <x>: plotms(vis = vis,  
                xaxis = 'UVwave',  
                field = 'TW Hya', spw = '0',  
                avgttime = '1e6', avgscan = True)
```

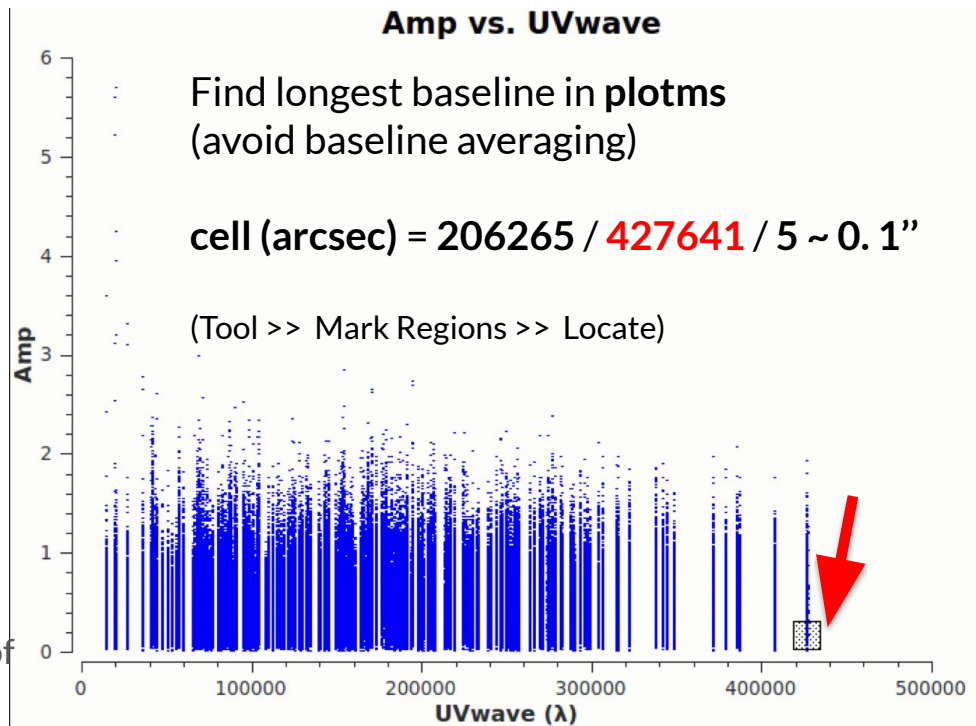
Calculate: cell (arcsec) = 206265 /
(longest baseline in wavelengths) /
(# pixels across beam)

Use averaging in `plotms`, esp. for large datasets!

2. Use `AnalysisUtils` - does not account for projection of
baselines:

```
CASA <x>: au.pickCellSize(vis)
```

```
Out[x]: 0.12
```



tclean: determine imsize

Rules of thumb:

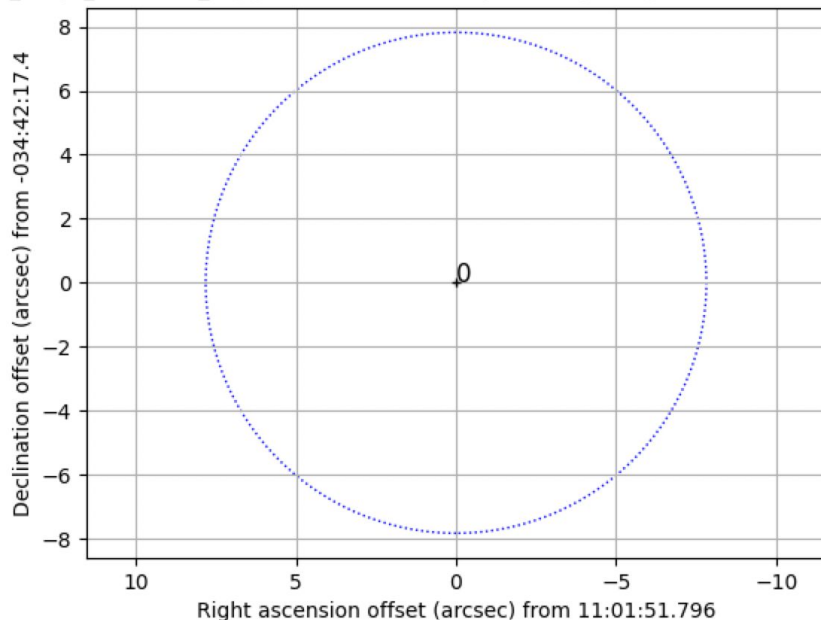
- image > PB extent (especially non-point sources)
- Select symmetrical values
- Round up to nearest 10 or 100 pixels
- CASA will tell (in logger) if it doesn't like choice
- HPBW Primary Beam (FOV) = $1.02 \lambda / D$

1. Get imsize in pixels (note cell size):

```
CASA <x>: au.pickCellSize(vis,imsize=True)
Out[x]: [0.12, [200, 200], 0]
```

2. Plot mosaic:

```
CASA <x>: au.plotmosaic(vis,
    sourceid='TW Hya',
    coord='rel',
    figfile='twhya_pointings_rel.png')
```





tclean: image parameters

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
vis                = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub'
selectdata        = True
  field            = 'TW Hya'          # field(s) to select
  spw              = '0'              # 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        = 'data'          # Data column to image(data,corrected)
imagename         = 'twhya_n2hp43'  # Pre-name of output images
imsize            = [240,240]       # Number of pixels
cell              = '0.1arcsec'     # Cell size
phasecenter       = 0                # Phase center of the image
stokes            = 'I'              # Stokes Planes to make
projection        = 'SIN'           # Coordinate projection
startmodel        = ''              # Name of starting model image
  ...
```


Spectral Mode

The spectral mode determines whether all channels are:

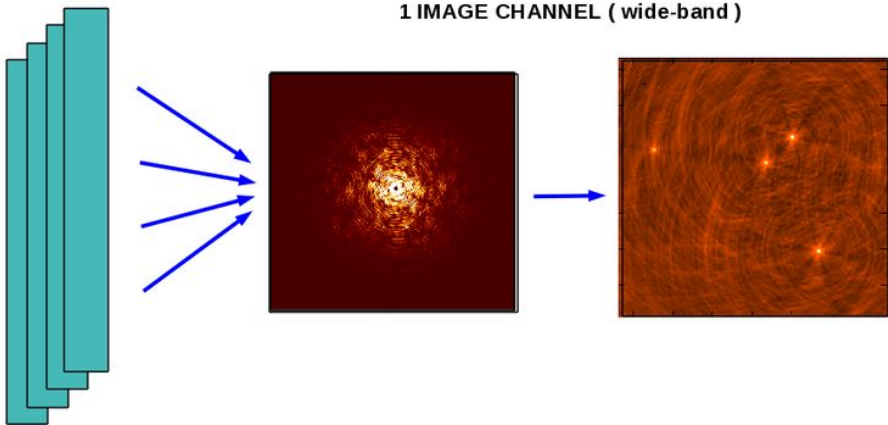
I. synthesized into a single image using **specmode = 'mfs'** (multi-frequency synthesis), i.e. continuum imaging

or

II. imaged separately using **specmode = 'cube'**, i.e. spectral line imaging

N DATA CHANNELS

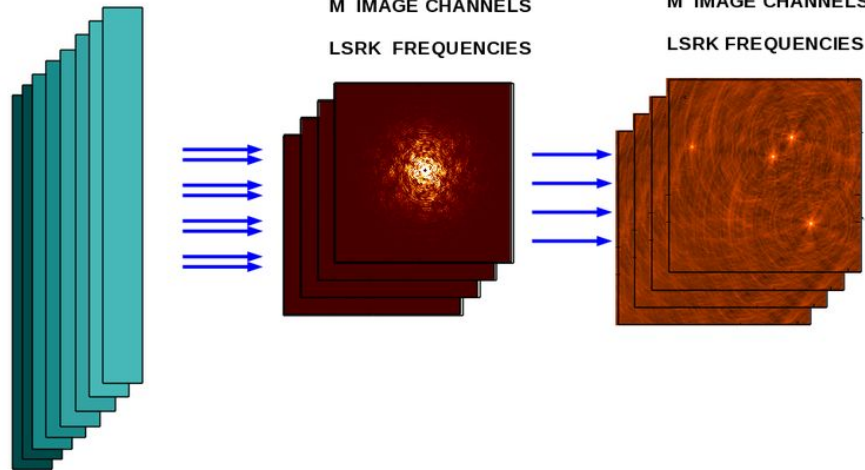
1 IMAGE CHANNEL (wide-band)



N DATA CHANNELS

M IMAGE CHANNELS
LSRK FREQUENCIES

M IMAGE CHANNELS
LSRK FREQUENCIES





Spectral Modes

For this tutorial, we use:

```
CASA <x>: specmode = 'cube'
```

- `nchan`, `start`, and `width` can be in terms of channel number, frequency, or velocity

```
CASA <x>: nchan = 30
```

```
CASA <x>: start = 230
```

```
CASA <x>: width = 1
```

- for $z < 0.2$, can use rest frequency of line (look up with e.g. Splatalogue)

```
CASA <x>: restfreq = '372.67250900GHz' # N2H+ J=4-3
```

- Set velocity parameters:

```
CASA <x>: outframe = 'lsrk' # LSR as a kinematical (radio) definition
```

```
CASA <x>: veltype = 'radio' # produces channels of fixed velocity width
```

- See CASA Docs for more options and precise definitions



Spectral Modes

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
...
```

```
specmode      = 'cube'           # Spectral definition mode (mfs...  
nchan         = 30                # Number of channels...  
start        = 230               # First channel (e.g. start=3...  
width        = 1                 # Channel width (e.g. width=2...  
outframe     = 'lsrk'           # Spectral reference frame...  
veltype      = 'radio'          # Velocity type (radio...  
restfreq     = '372.67250900GHz' # List of rest frequencies  
interpolation = 'linear'        # Spectral interpolation...  
perchanweightdensity = True     # whether to calculate weight...
```

```
...
```

Gridder

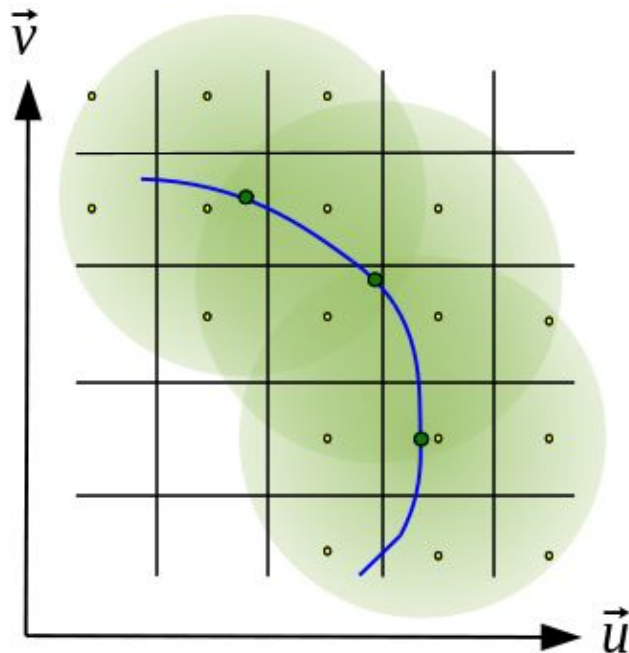
The gridder resamples imaging weights and weighted visibilities onto a uniform uv grid

Recommended:

- `gridder = 'standard'`
 - operations applied in image-domain to correct for direction-dependent effects
 - use for single pointings
- `gridder = 'mosaic'`
 - direction-dependent, time-variable and baseline-dependent corrections during gridding in the visibility-domain
 - use for mosaics

For this tutorial:

`CASA <x>: gridder = 'standard'`

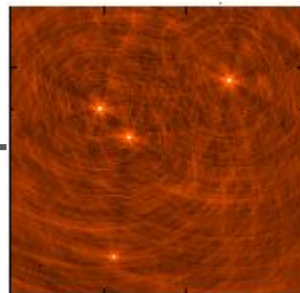


Minor-cycle clean algorithms

tclean subparameter: `deconvolver`

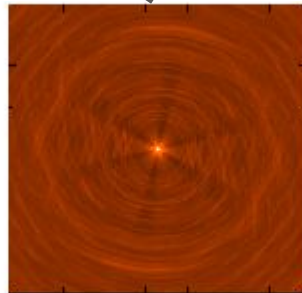
'Dirty map' of source brightness distribution is convolved with telescope PSF or 'dirty beam'

Assumption: sources in radio sky can be modeled by multiple point sources and/or Gaussians



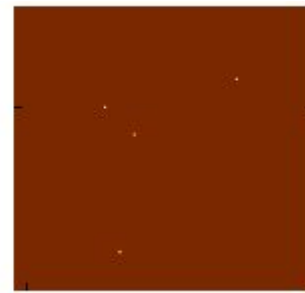
Dirty map

=



Dirty beam

*



Model

Clean uses an iterative method to deconvolve dirty beam from dirty source brightness distribution



Minor-cycle clean algorithms

Recommended:

- **deconvolver = 'hogbom'** : adapted version of Hogbom Clean [Hogbom, 1974]
 - assumes point source model of source brightness distribution
→ most appropriate for fields of isolated point sources
 - compute intensive
- **deconvolver = 'clark'** (or **'clarkstokes'**) : adapted version of Clark Clean [Clark, 1980]
 - also assumes point source model of source brightness distribution
 - uses smaller patch of PSF in residual image updates → faster than Hogbom
- **deconvolver = 'multiscale'** (or **'mtmfs'**) : MultiScale Clean [Cornwell, 2008]
 - scale-sensitive clean, can specify multiple scales
 - assuming sources extended, tapered 'paraboloids'
 - **scales = []** : list of scales (in pixels)
 - use scales up to the smaller of the largest extent of the emission
 - recommended to include a point source scale (pixel size 0)
 - **smallscalebias = 0.0** : value from -1 (biases towards larger scales) to 1 (biases towards smaller scales)

For this tutorial:

```
CASA <x>: deconvolver = 'multiscale'  
CASA <x>: scales = [0,5,10]
```

Weighting Schemes

Visibility weights alter the synthesised beam and dynamic range of output image

weighting = 'natural'

- visibilities are weighted by data weights
- lower rms noise, lower resolution

weighting = 'uniform'

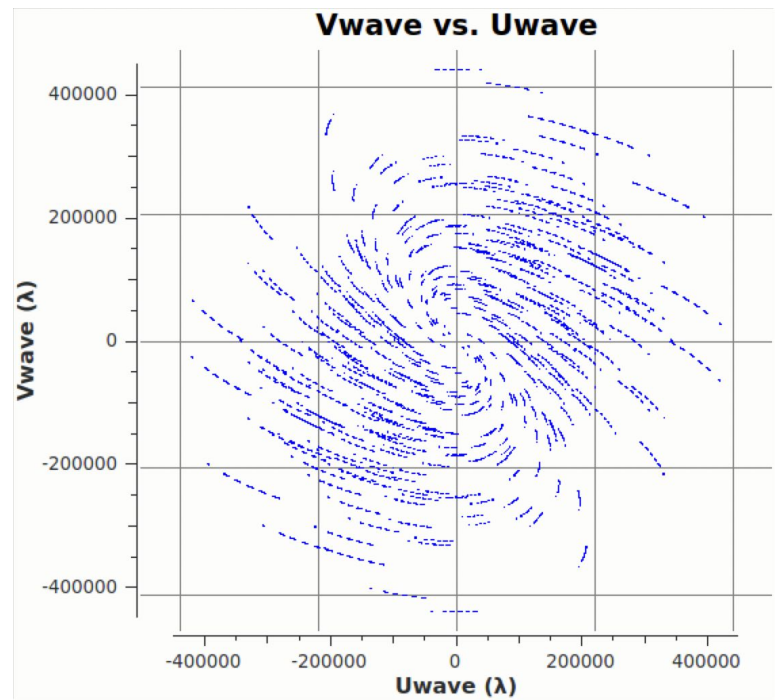
- Visibilities in same uv cell are weighted 'uniformly'
- reduces sidelobes, higher rms noise

weighting = 'briggs'

- Compromise between natural & uniform
- **robust** parameter can be adjusted from -2 (uniform-like) to 2 (natural-like)

uvtaper = []

- Applies a Gaussian taper in addition to the weighting scheme
- Only outertaper → can clip inner uv data using **uvrange**
- Should use with **natural** or **briggs** with **robust = 2**





Natural

Robust 0.7

Uniform

Tapered Uniform

Bm : 5.6 arcsec
0.1 sidelobe

Bm : 4.0 arcsec
0.05 sidelobe

Bm : 3.2 arcsec
+0.03,-0.08 sidelobe

Bm : 8.0arcsec
0.01 sidelobe

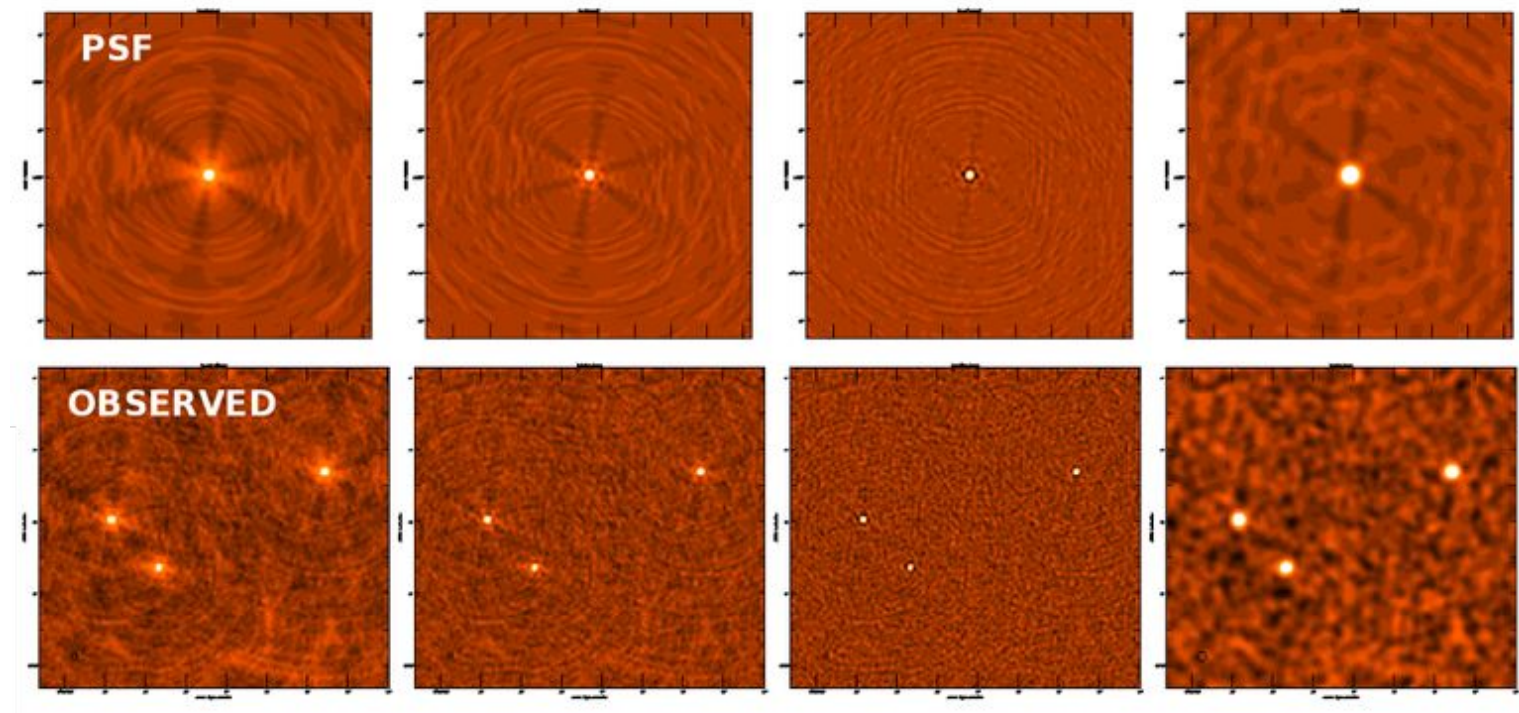


Figure from CASA Docs



Weighting Schemes

For this tutorial we will use:

```
CASA <x>: weighting = 'briggs'
```

```
CASA <x>: robust = 0.5
```

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options...
  vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
  pblimit = 0.2 # PB gain level...
deconvolver = 'multiscale' # Minor cycle algorithm...
  scales = [0, 5, 10] # List of scale sizes (in pixels)
  smallscalebias = 0.0 # Biases the scale...
  ...
weighting = 'briggs' # Weighting scheme
  robust = 0.5 # Robustness parameter
  npixels = 0 # Number of pixels to determine uv-cell
  uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-plane
  ...
```

Masks for Deconvolution

Masks are used to restrict the regions over which clean components are found

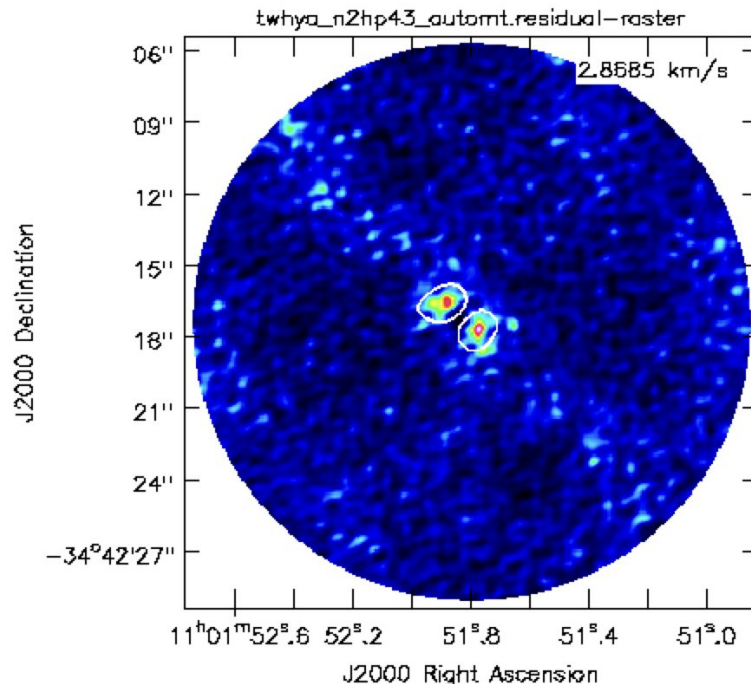
`usemask = 'user'`

- this option can be selected to define regions by hand in the GUI when using `interactive = True`
- Alternatively, the `mask` subparameter can be specified as an image file, a region file, or a region string

`usemask = 'auto-multithresh'`

- Available in CASA versions 5.1 and later
- Makes masking spectral line emission easier and faster
- “AUTO-MULTITHRESH: A General Purpose Automasking Algorithm”
Kepley et al., 2020 PASP 132 024505
- Automasking Guide:

casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Automasking_Guide





Masks for Deconvolution

For this tutorial we will use:

```
CASA <x>: usemask = 'auto-multithresh'
```

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
...
usemask = 'auto-multithresh' # Type of mask(s)
pbmask = 0.2 # primary beam mask
sidelobethreshold = 2.0 # sidelobethreshold * ...
noisethreshold = 4.25 # noisethreshold * ...
lownoisethreshold = 1.5 # lownoisethreshold * ...
negativethreshold = 0.0 # negativethreshold * ...
smoothfactor = 1.0
minbeamfrac = 0.3 # minimum beam fraction ...
cutthreshold = 0.01
growiterations = 75
dogrowprune = True
minpercentchange = -1.0
verbose = False
...
```

1. Set initial source mask

Input parameters:

- `noisethreshold`
- `sidelobethreshold`

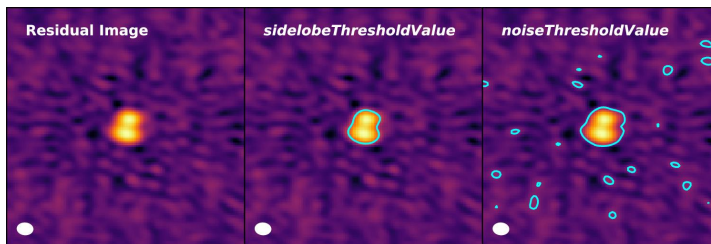


Fig. 2, Kepley+2020

- Automasking picks largest of the two thresholds
- In this example: $\text{sidelobeThresholdValue} > \text{noiseThresholdValue}$

2. Prune regions

Input parameters:

- `minbeamfrac`

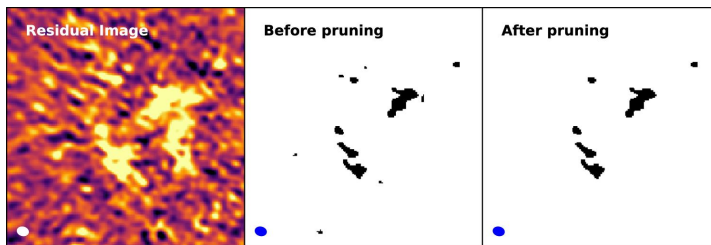


Fig. 3, Kepley+2020

- Regions smaller than the minimum beam fraction are pruned

3. Expand initial,pruned mask

Input parameters:

- `lownoisethreshold`

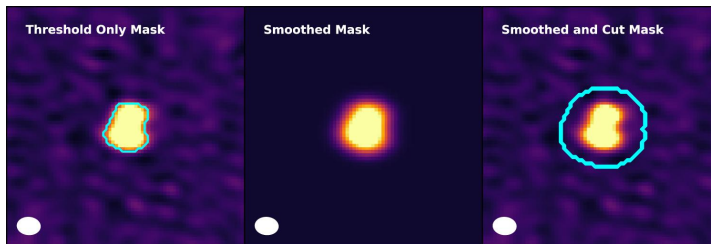


Fig. 4, Kepley+2020

- Mask is extended to include low signal-to-noise emission



usemask = 'auto-multithresh'

- Behavior of automasking depends on *uv* coverage
- Table of parameter values available on Automasking Guide: casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Automasking_Guide
- Can check 75th percentile baselines, *b75*, using AnalysisUtils
CASA <x>: au.getBaselineStats(vis)
- *b75* = 197.4m, corresponding to 12m (short)
- Meant to be used as a guide, adjust as necessary

Array	<i>sidelobethreshold</i>	<i>noisethreshold</i>	<i>minbeamfrac</i>	<i>lownoisethreshold</i>	<i>negativethreshold</i>
12m (short) <i>b75</i> <300m	2.0	4.25	0.3	1.5	0.0 (continuum)/15.0 (line)
12m (long) <i>b75</i> >300m	3.0	5.0	0.3	1.5	0.0 (continuum)/7.0 (line)
7m (continuum/line)	1.25	5.0	0.1	2.0	0.0
12m + 7m combined TENTATIVE	2.0	4.25	0.3	1.5	0.0



usemask = 'auto-multithresh'

CASA <x>: inp tclean

```
...
usemask = 'auto-multithresh' # Type of mask(s)
pbmask = 0.2 # primary beam mask
sidelobethreshold = 2.0 # sidelobethreshold *...
noisethreshold = 4.25 # noisethreshold * ...
lownoisethreshold = 1.5 # lownoisethreshold * ...
negativethreshold = 0.0 # negativethreshold * ...
smoothfactor = 1.0
minbeamfrac = 0.3 # minimum beam fraction ...
cutthreshold = 0.01
growiterations = 75
dogrowprune = True
minpercentchange = -1.0
verbose = False
...
```

Setting clean stopping thresholds

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
...
```

```
niter           = 100000           # Maximum number of iterations
gain            = 0.1              # Loop gain
threshold       = ''              # Stopping threshold
nsigma          = 2.0             # rms-based threshold stopping
cycleniter      = -1              # Max minor-cycle iterations
cyclefactor     = 1.0             # Scaling on PSF sidelobe...
minpsffraction  = 0.05           # PSF fraction max depth...
maxpsffraction  = 0.8            # PSF fraction min depth...
interactive      = True           # Modify masks and parameters...
```

```
...
```



Summary of tclean inputs

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
```

```
vis = 'sis14 twhya calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub'
```

```
selectdata = True
  field = 'TW Hya'
  spw = '0'
  ...
datacolumn = 'data'
imagename = 'twhya_n2hp43'
imsize = [240,240]
cell = '0.1arcsec'
phasecenter = 0
  ...
specmode = 'cube'
  nchan = 30
  start = 230
  width = 1
  outframe = 'lsrk'
  restfreq = '372.67250900GHz'
  ...
```

```
gridder = 'standard'
deconvolver = 'multiscale'
  scales = [0, 5, 10]
  ...
weighting = 'briggs'
  robust = 0.5
  ...
usemask = 'auto-multithresh'
  sidelobethreshold = 2.0
  noisethreshold = 4.25
  ...
niter = 100000
  nsigma = 2.0
  interactive = True
  ...
```




Summary of tclean inputs (scripted ver.)

(Script file [Imaging_2_basic_scripted.py](#))

```
tclean(vis='sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub',
       field = 'TW Hya',
       spw = '0',
       datacolumn = 'data',
       imagename = 'twhya_n2hp43_interactive',
       cell = '0.1arcsec',
       imsize = [240,240],
       phasecenter = 0,
       specmode = 'cube',
       start = 230,
       nchan = 30,
       width = 1,
       restfreq = '372.67250900GHz',
       outframe = 'lsrk',
       veltype = 'radio',
       gridder = 'standard',
       ...
       deconvolver = 'multiscale',
       scales = [0,5,10],
       smallscalebias = 0.0,
       weighting = 'briggs',
       robust = 0.5,
       usemask = 'auto-multithresh',
       sidelobethreshold = 2.0,
       noisethreshold = 4.25,
       minbeamfrac = 0.3,
       lownoisethreshold = 1.5,
       negativethreshold = 0.,
       niter=100000,
       threshold = '',
       nsigma = 2.,
       pblimit = 0.2,
       pbmask = 0.2,
       interactive = True)
```

Running tclean

Run tclean:

CASA <x>: go

Inspect each channel:



Create / adjust masks using:



Use green clockwise arrow to continue cleaning & return interactive GUI



Use blue arrow to finish cleaning non-interactively



Use red button to terminate tclean



Viewer Display Panel (v6) (on helada.strw.leidenuniv.nl)

Data Display Panel Tools View Help

max cycleniter iterations left threshold cycletreshold

100 100000 0.044000jy 0.042060jy

Display Animators

Channels

Images

Cursors

twhya_n2hp43_automt.residual-raster

Pixel: 138 240 0 14

11:01:51.876 -34.42.10.133 I 2.8685 km/s (lsrk/radio velocity)

twhya_n2hp43_automt.mask

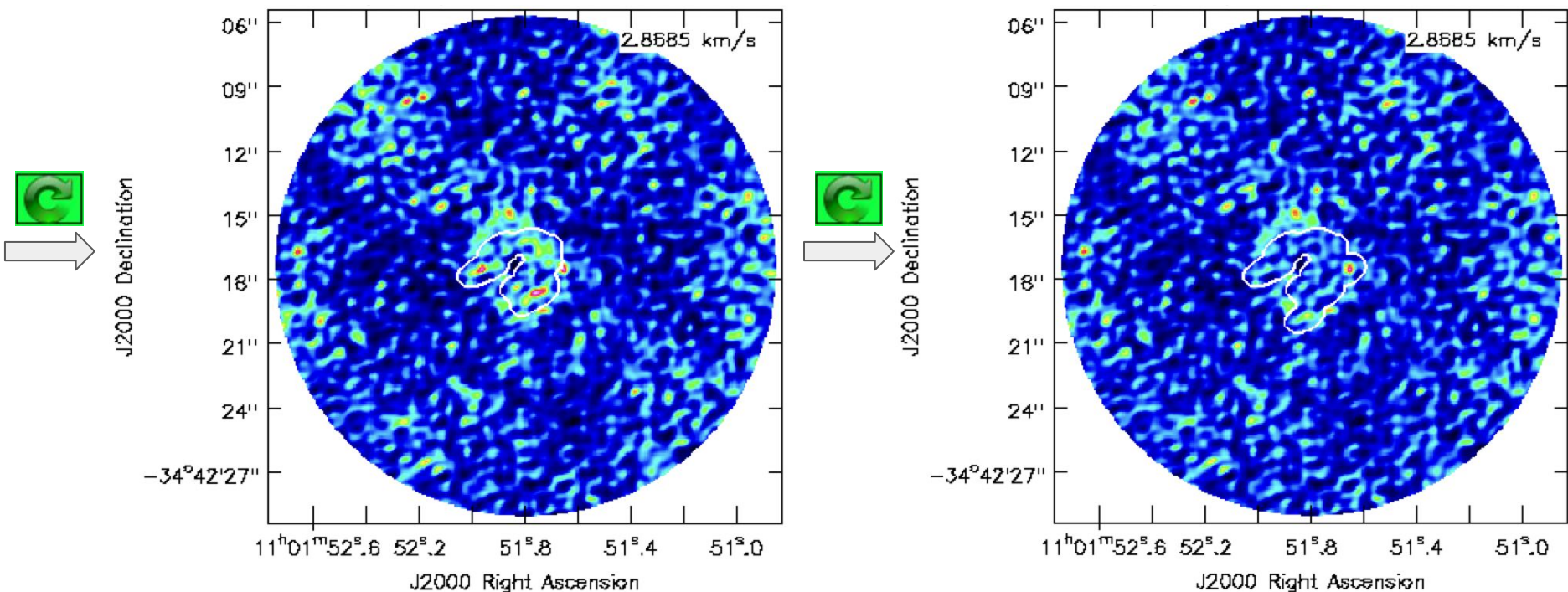
Pixel: 138 240 0 14

11:01:51.876 -34.42.10.133 I 2.8685 km/s (lsrk/radio velocity)

Contours: 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8

Running tclean

As cleaning progresses, source emission \rightarrow residuals



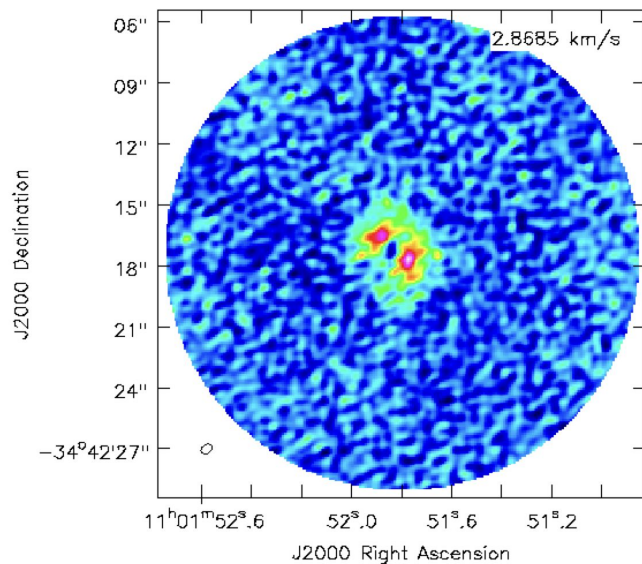
Inspect output files

Output image extensions:

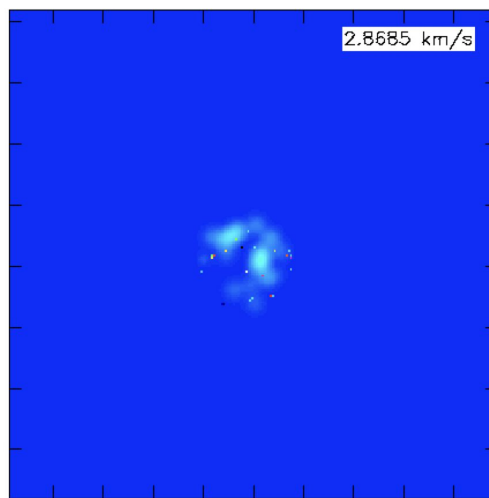
`.image`, `.mask`, `.model`,
`.pb`, `.psf`, `.residual`,
`.sumwt`
+others for different imaging setups

- Inspect all output files to make sure things look correct:
 - Inspect the clean components of the model
 - Check residuals to see if there is any “uncleaned” emission

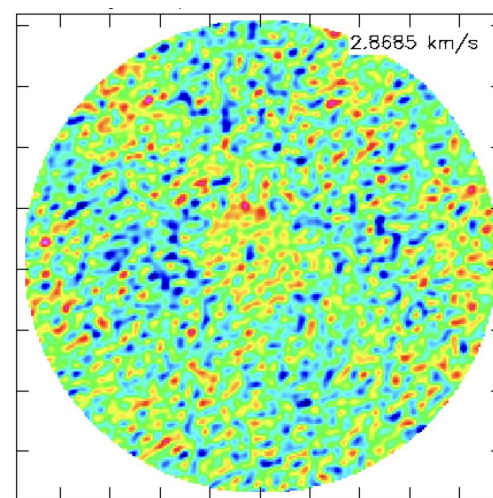
Image, channel 14



Model



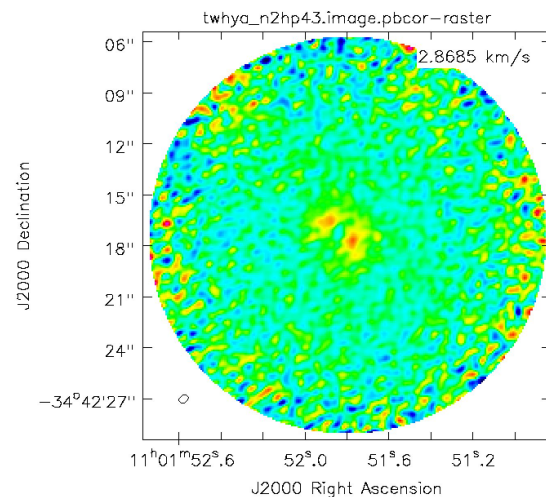
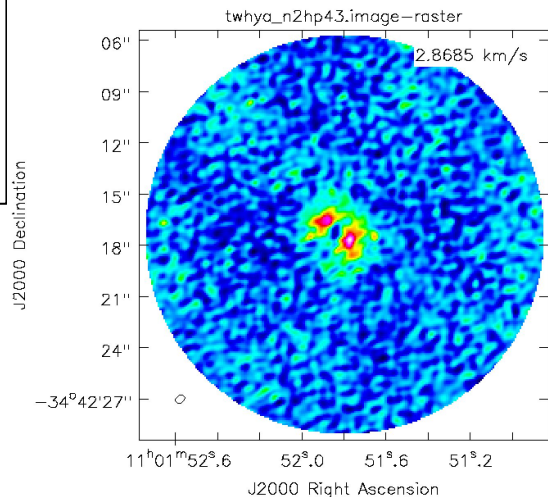
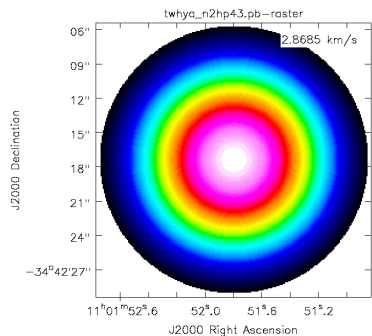
Residual



Additional bits: Primary beam correction (**pbcor=True**)

Output image extensions:

.image, **.mask**, **.model**,
.pb, **.psf**, **.residual**,
.sumwt
.pbcor





Additional bits: Continuum subtraction

(Script file [Imaging_3_uvcontsub.py](#))

```
listobs(vis='sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms')
plotms(vis='sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms',
        xaxis='channel',
        yaxis='amp',
        field='5',
        avgspw=False,
        avgtime='1e9',
        avgscan=True,
        avgbaseline=True,
        showgui = True)

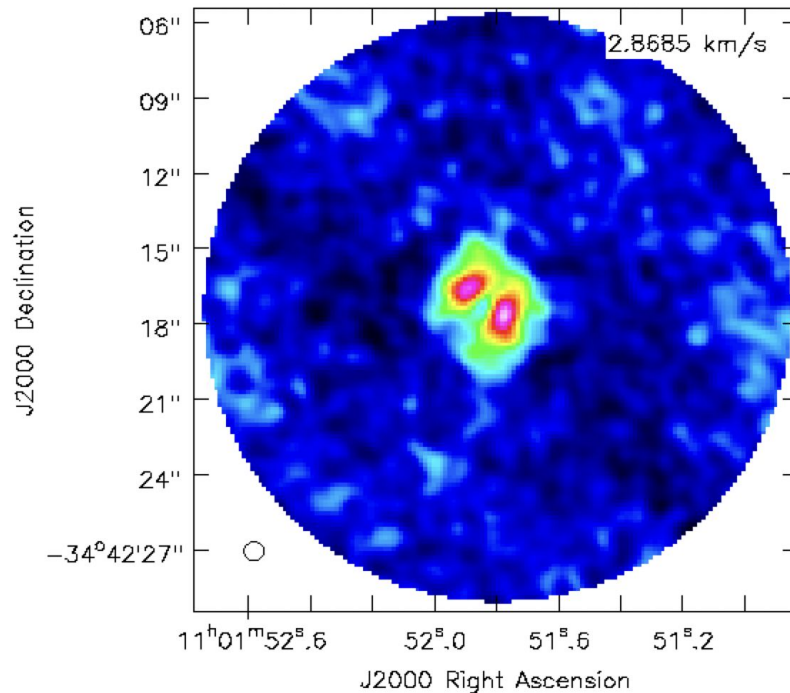
uvcontsub(vis = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms',
          outputvis = 'sis14_twhya_calibrated_flagged.ms.contsub',
          field = '5',
          fitspec = '0:0~230;281~383',
          fitorder = 0)
```

Additional example: tapering

(Script file [Imaging_4_uvtaper_scripted.py](#))

- Create new image with larger synthesized beam:
~0.4x0.6'' to ~0.8''
- Estimate uvtaper with CASA tool:
`ia.beamforconvolvedsize`

```
CASA <x>: inp tclean
...
imasename      = 'twhya_n2hp43_taper'
cell           = '0.16arcsec'
imsize        = [150,150]
...
weighting      = 'briggs'
robust         = 2
uvtaper        = ['0.67arcsec',
                  '0.54arcsec',
                  '32.16deg']
...
```





Additional bits: parameter customization

`weighting` = `'natural'`

lower rms noise, lower resolution

= `'uniform'`

reduces sidelobes, higher rms noise

= `'briggs'`

`robust` parameter can be adjusted from -2 (uniform-like) to 2 (natural-like): **0.5** in our original setup

`usemask` = `'auto-multithresh'`

= `'user'`



Happy cleaning!