

# Introduction to Imaging in CASA



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With contributions from Amanda Kepley, Crystal Brogan, David Wilner, Urvashi Rau, and others



# Goals of this talk

- Gain some intuition for interferometric imaging
- Delve into the theory underlying the imaging process.
- Tour of main deconvolution task in CASA: tclean

# From Sky Brightness to Visibility

1. An interferometer measures the interference pattern observed by pairs of apertures
2. The interference pattern is directly related to the source brightness. In particular, for small fields of view, the complex visibility,  $V(u,v)$ , is the 2D Fourier transform of the brightness on the sky,  $T(x,y)$

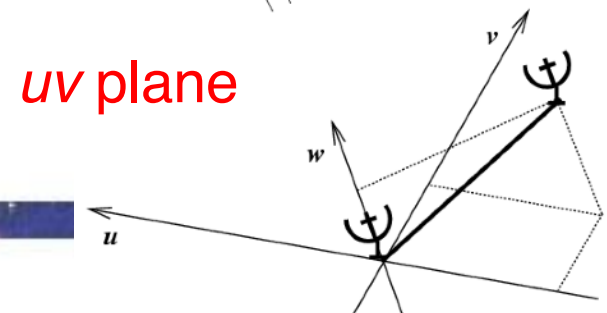
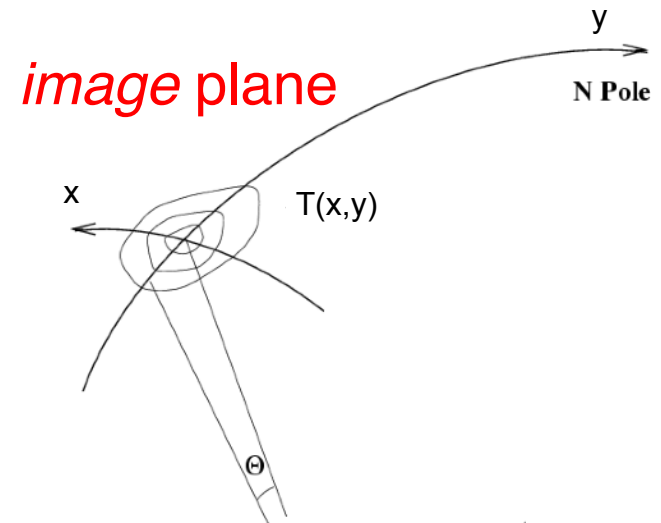
(van Cittert-Zernike theorem)

## Fourier space/domain

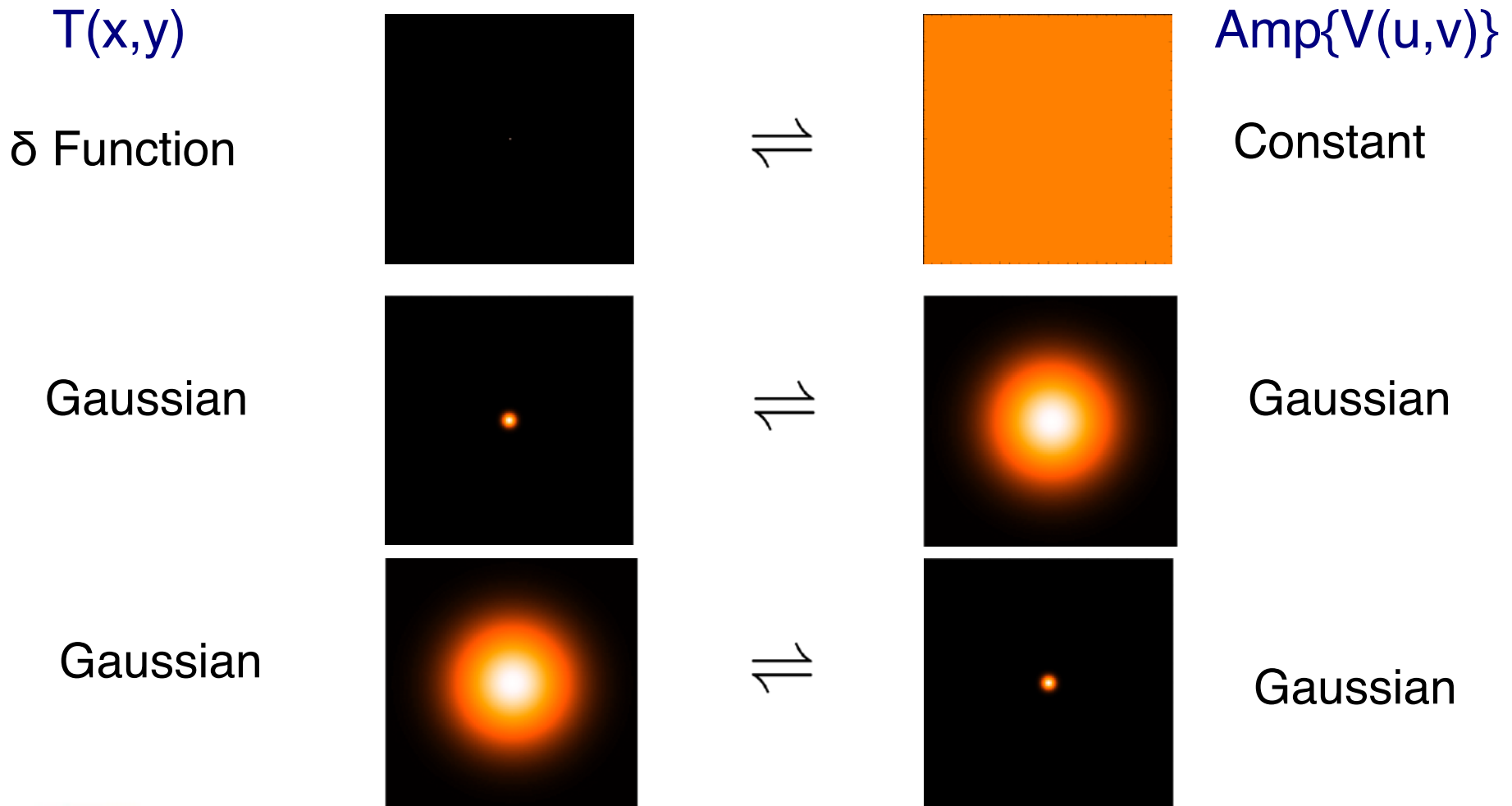
$$V(u, v) = \iint T(x, y) e^{2\pi i(ux+vy)} dx dy$$

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

## Image space/domain



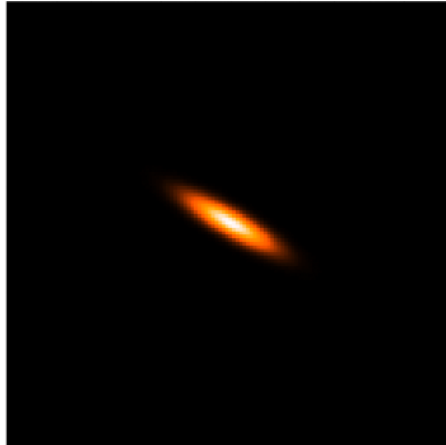
# Some 2D Fourier Transform Pairs



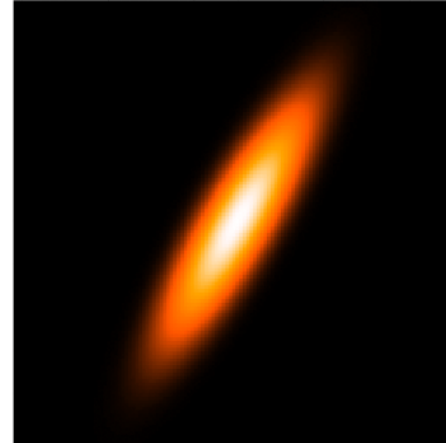
# More 2D Fourier Transform Pairs

$T(x,y)$

elliptical  
Gaussian



$\rightleftarrows$



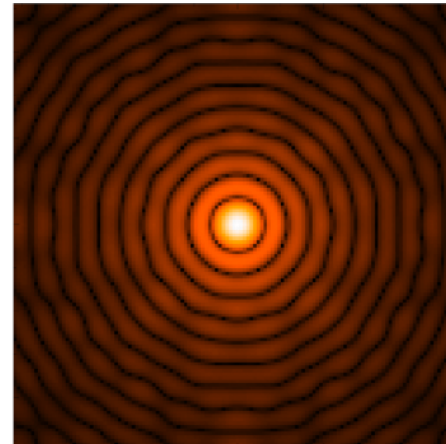
$\text{Amp}\{V(u,v)\}$

elliptical  
Gaussian

Disk



$\rightleftarrows$

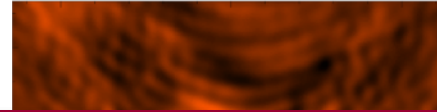
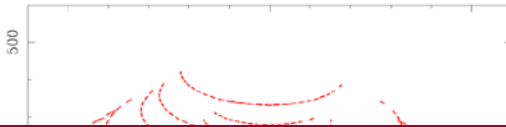


Bessel



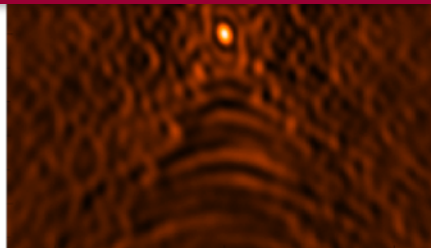
sharp edges result in many high spatial frequencies  
(sinc function, “ringing”, Gibbs phenomenon)

# The observed (AKA dirty) image is the true image convolved with the PSF.

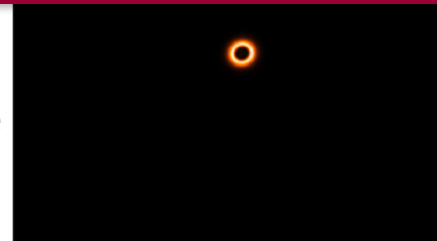


- Fourier transform of sampled visibilities yields the true sky brightness convolved with the point spread function (“dirty beam”).
- You need to deconvolve the PSF from the dirty image to reconstruct the source. A commonly used way to do this is called cleaning.

$D(x,y)$   
(dirty beam or  
psf)



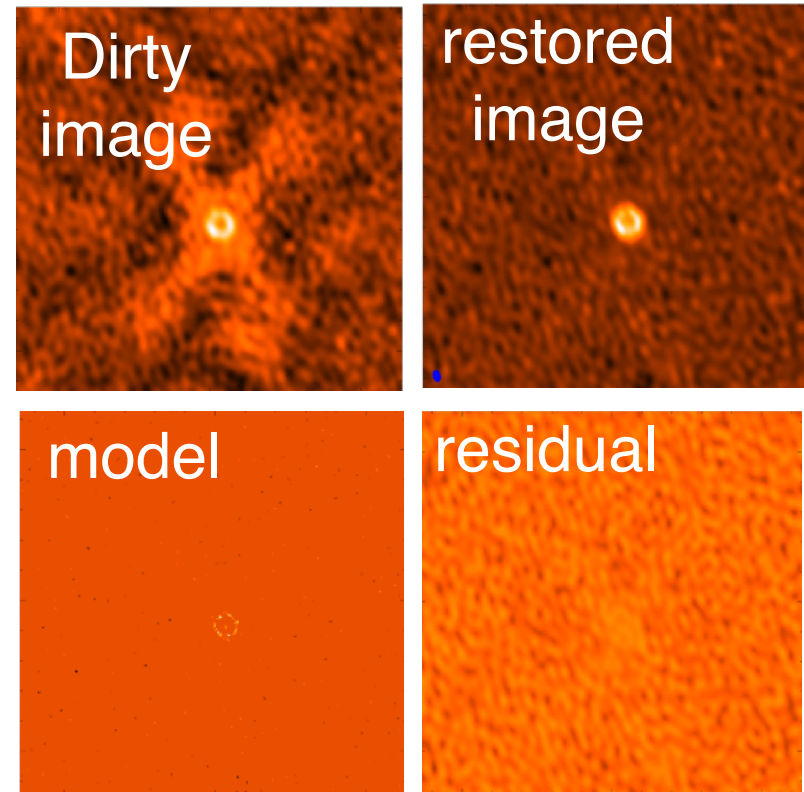
$\otimes$   
Convolve



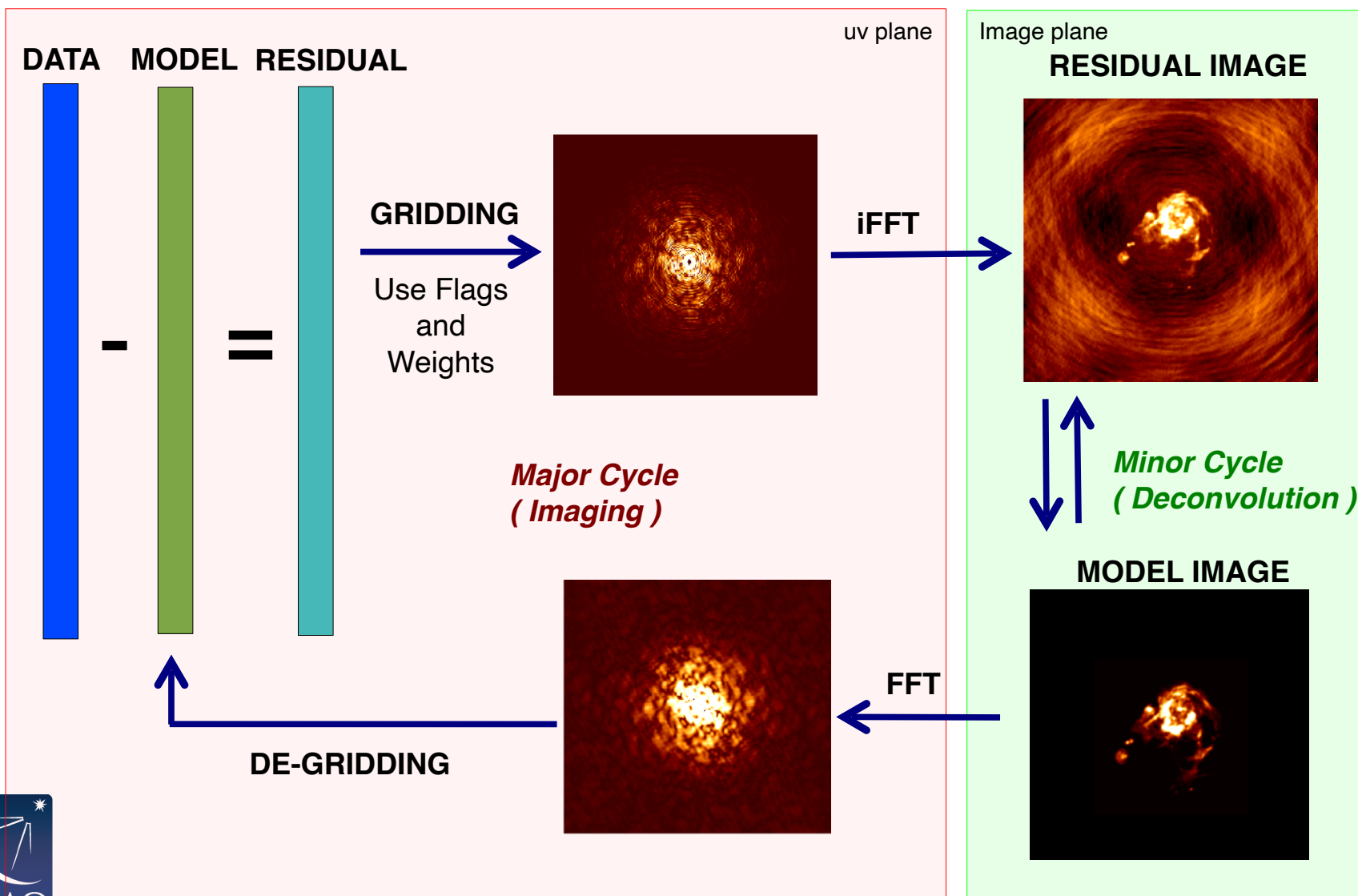
$T(x,y)$   
(True sky  
brightness)

# Clean is the most common deconvolution algorithm.

Build up model of data that you convolve with the dirty beam/PSF and add noise to that you compare with the observed data.

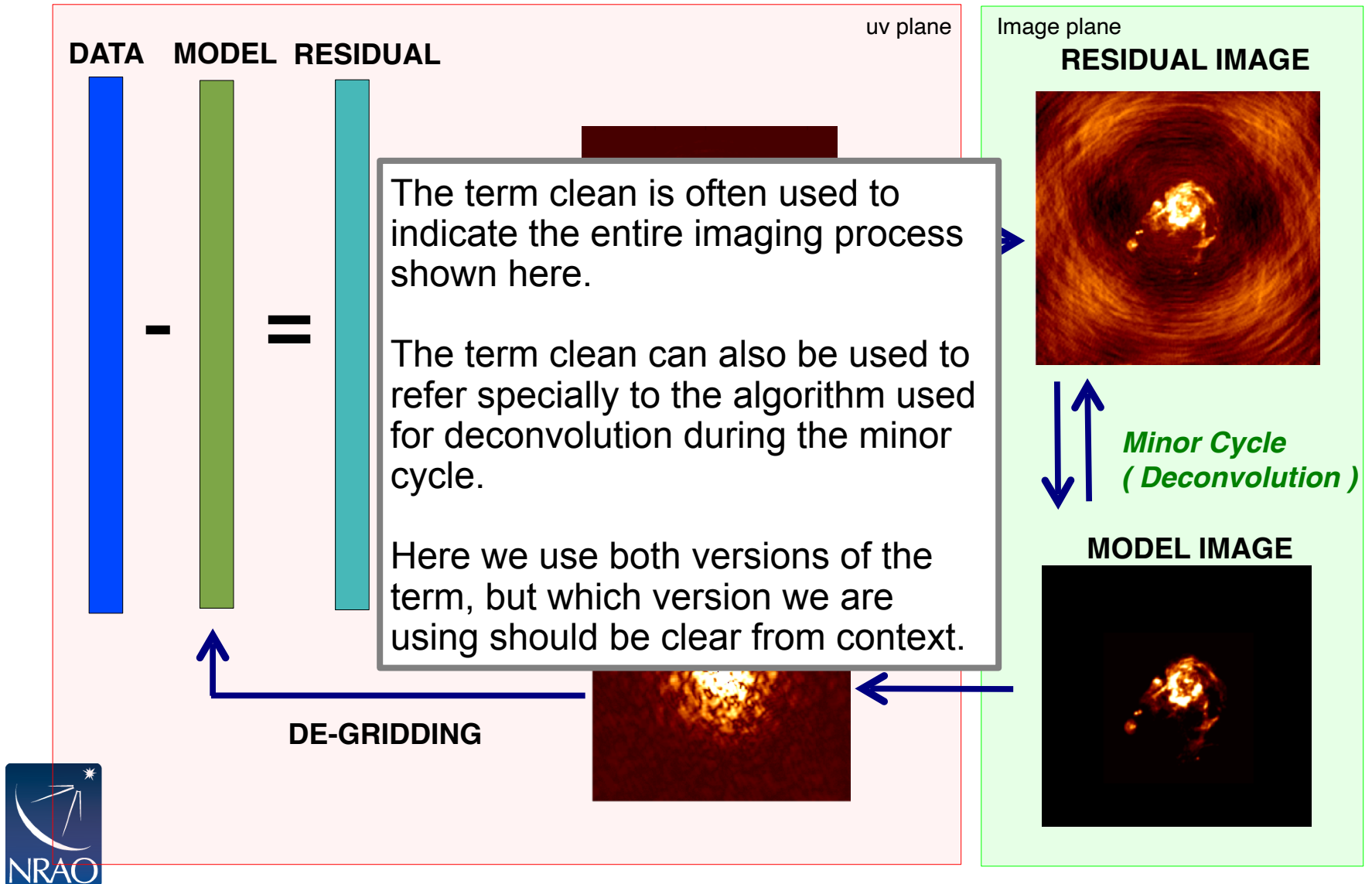


# This is an iterative process where the data is gridded, deconvolved, and de-gridded.

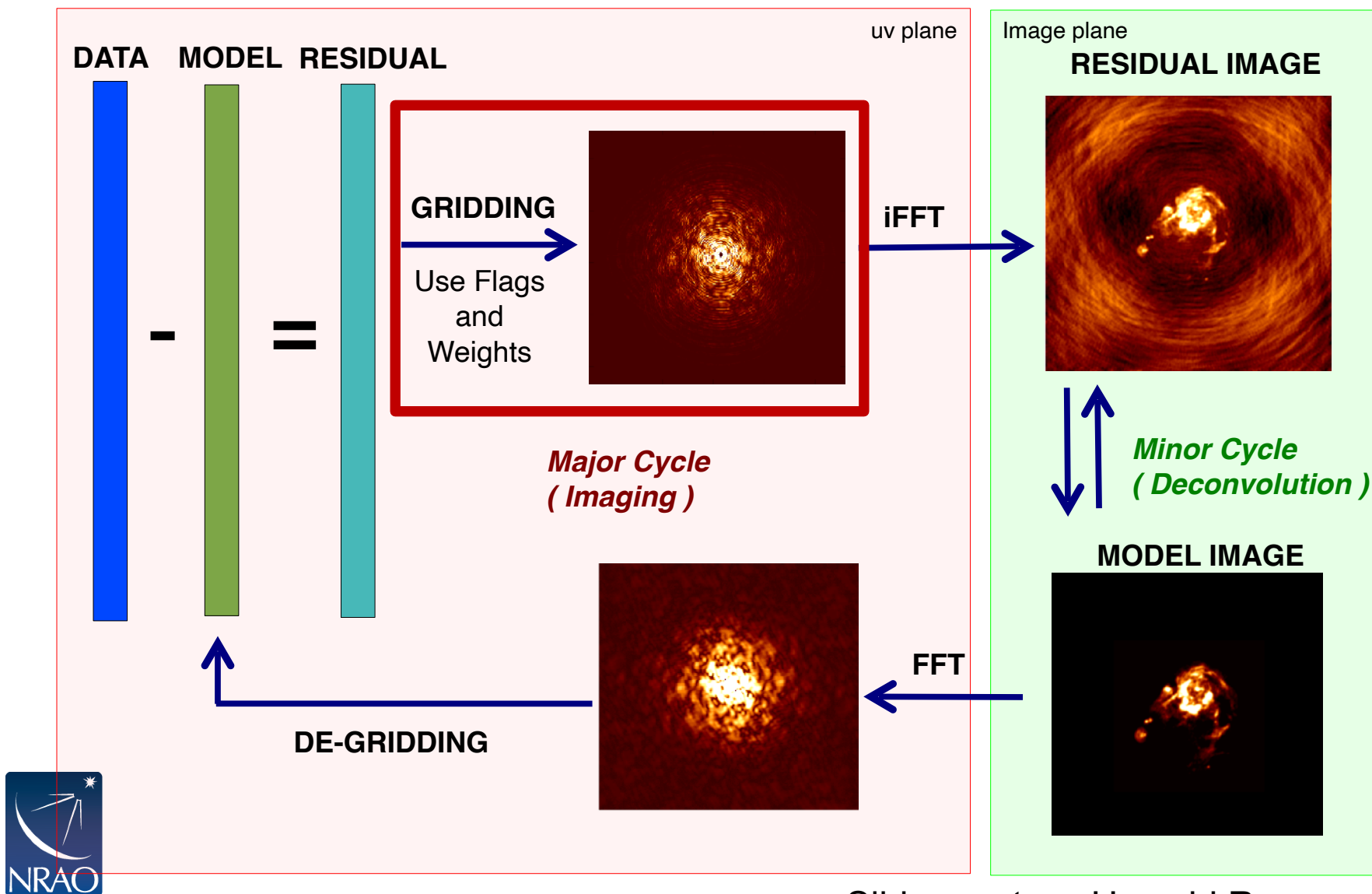




# A note on terminology



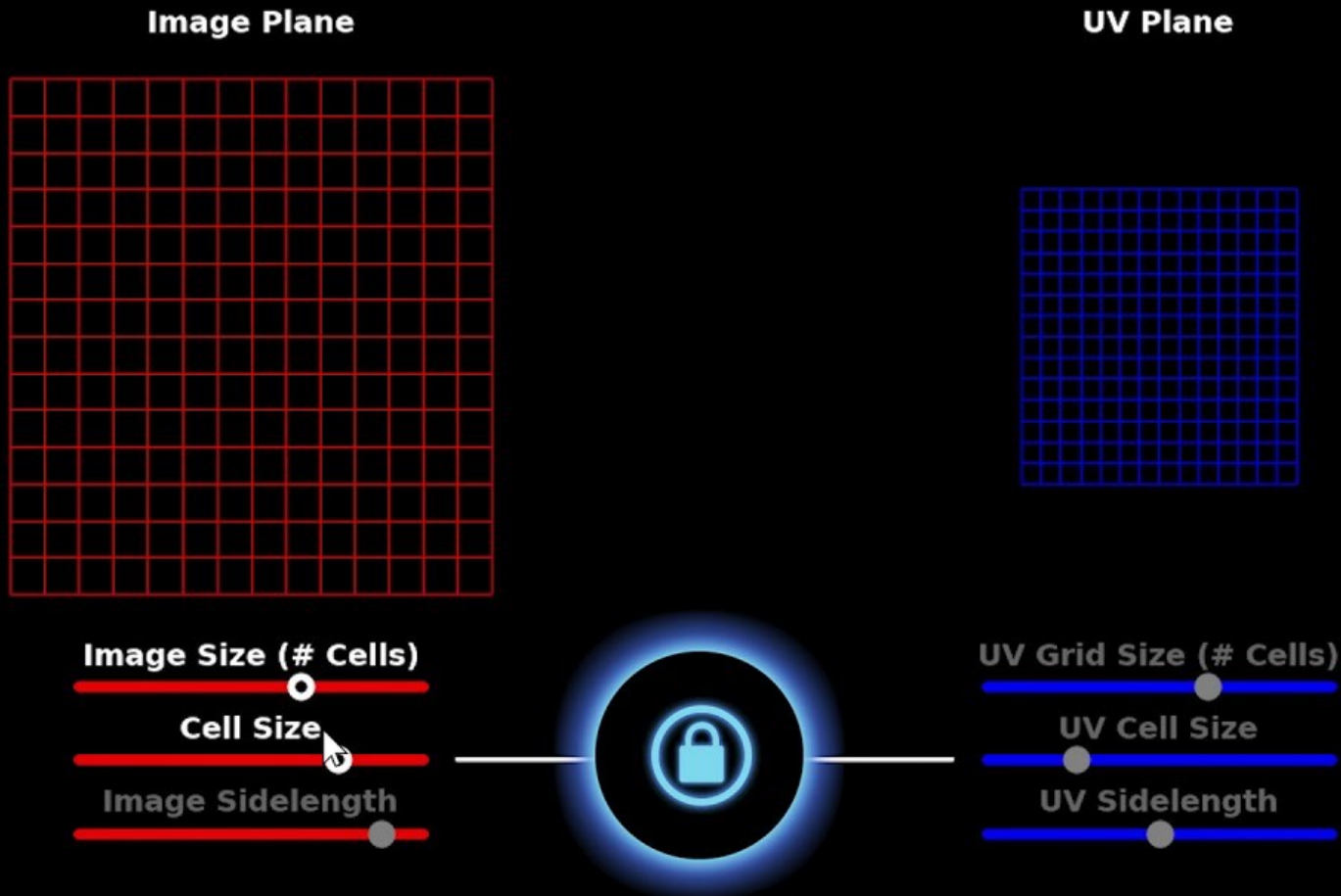
# The gridding step requires pixel and image size as well as weighting scheme.



# Gridding: Pixel and Image Size

Image size  $\propto$  FOV UV plane

FOV image  $\propto$  Cell size UV plane

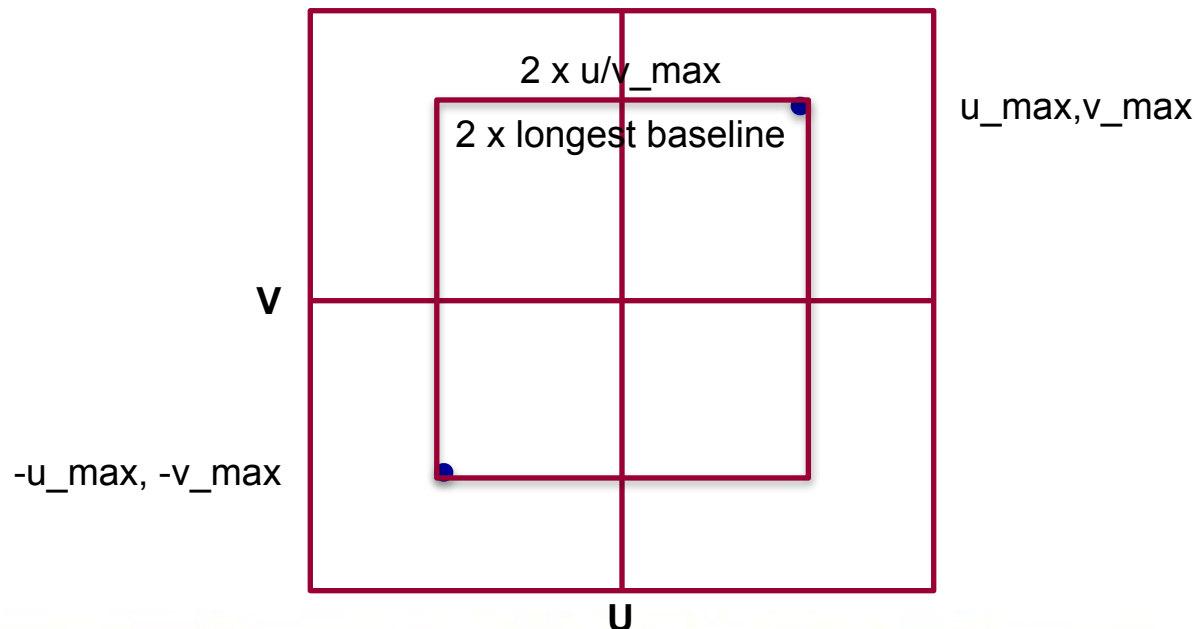


# Gridding: Pixel and Image Size

- pixel size: satisfy sampling theorem for longest baselines

$$\Delta l < \frac{1}{2u_{max}} \quad \Delta m < \frac{1}{2v_{max}}$$

- in practice, 5 to 8 pixels across dirty beam main lobe to aid deconvolution
- Beam size [arcsec] = 206265.0/(longest baseline in wavelengths)

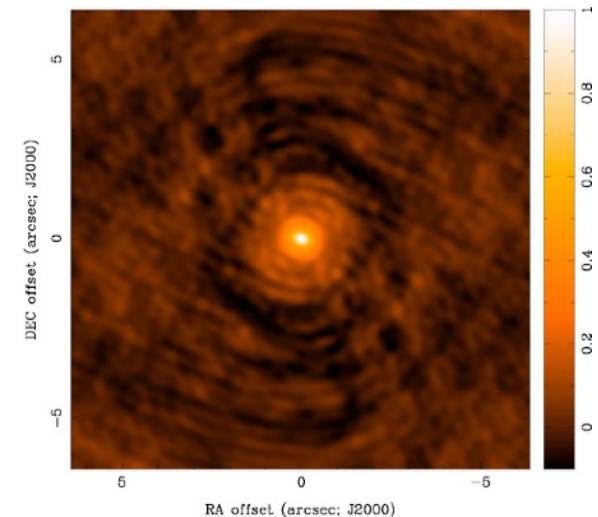
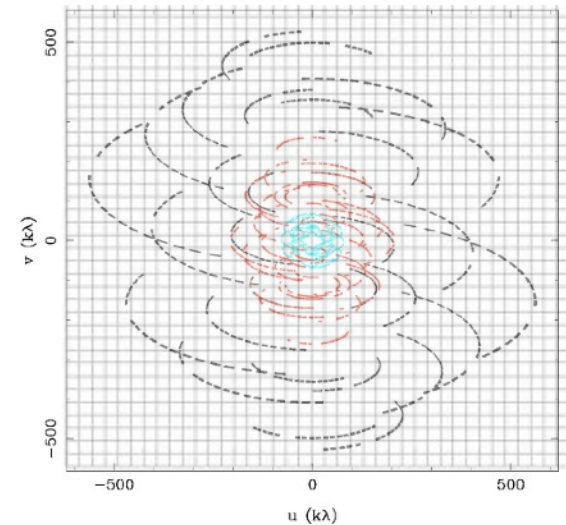


# Gridding: Pixel and Image Size

- image size: natural choice often full primary beam  $A(l,m)$ 
  - For single fields:
    - 12m : FOV[arcsec] =  $6300 / \nu[\text{GHz}]$
    - 7m: FOV[arcsec] =  $10608 / \nu[\text{GHz}]$
    - $\nu[\text{GHz}]$  is the sky frequency.
  - For mosaics:
    - You can get the imsize from the spatial tab of the OT. The parameters "p length" and "q length" to specify the dimensions of the mosaic. If you're imaging a mosaic, pad the imsize substantially to avoid artifacts.

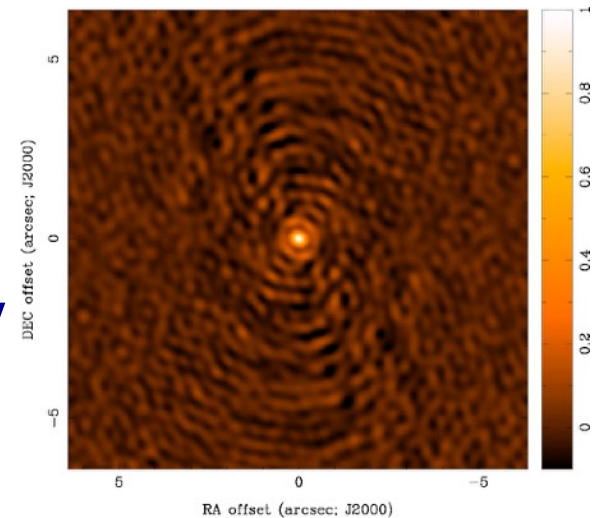
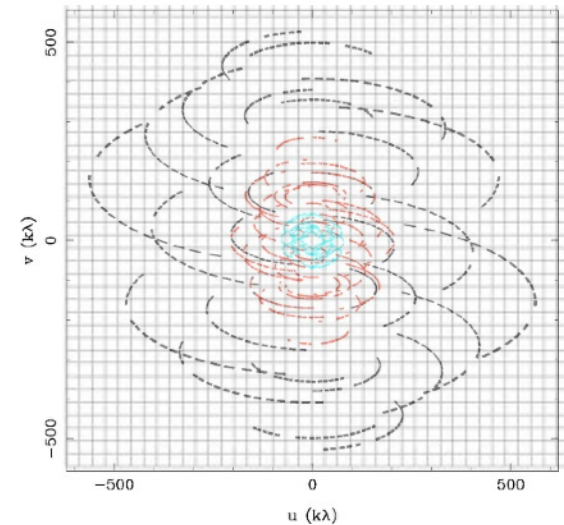
# Gridding: Visibility Weighting

- introduce weighting function  $W(u,v)$ 
  - modifies sampling function
  - $S(u,v) \rightarrow S(u,v)W(u,v)$
  - changes  $s(l,m)$ , the dirty beam
- “natural” weighting
  - $W(u,v) = 1/\sigma^2$  in occupied cells, where  $\sigma^2$  is the noise variance
  - maximizes point source sensitivity
  - lowest rms in image
  - generally gives more weight to short baselines, so the angular resolution is degraded



# Gridding: Visibility Weighting

- “uniform” weighting
  - $W(u,v)$  inversely proportional to local density of  $(u,v)$  samples
  - weight for occupied cell = const
  - fills  $(u,v)$  plane more uniformly and dirty beam sidelobes are lower
  - gives more weight to long baselines, so angular resolution is enhanced
  - downweights some data, so point source sensitivity is degraded
  - can have trouble with sparse  $(u,v)$  coverage: cells with few samples have same weight as cells with many
  - rarely used in practice because of this.



# Gridding: Visibility Weighting

- “robust” (or “Briggs”) weighting
  - variant of uniform weighting that avoids giving too much weight to cells with low natural weight
  - software implementations differ
  - e.g.  $W(u, v) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + S_N^2/S_{thresh}^2}}$

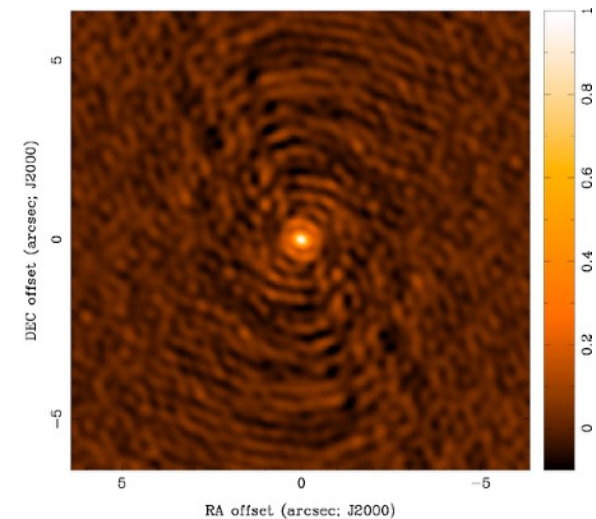
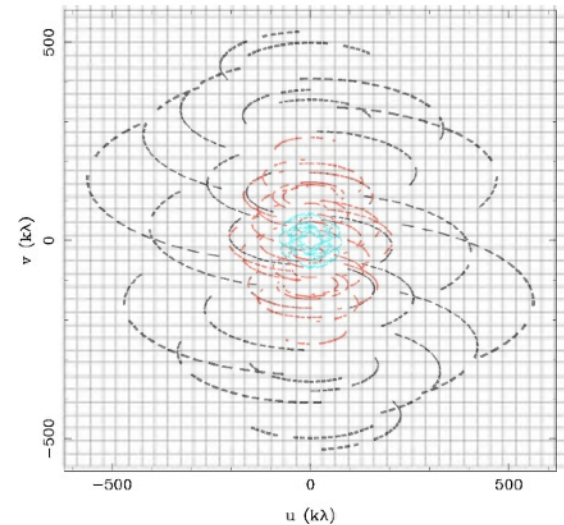
$S_N$  is cell natural weight

$S_{thresh}$  is a threshold

high threshold → natural weight

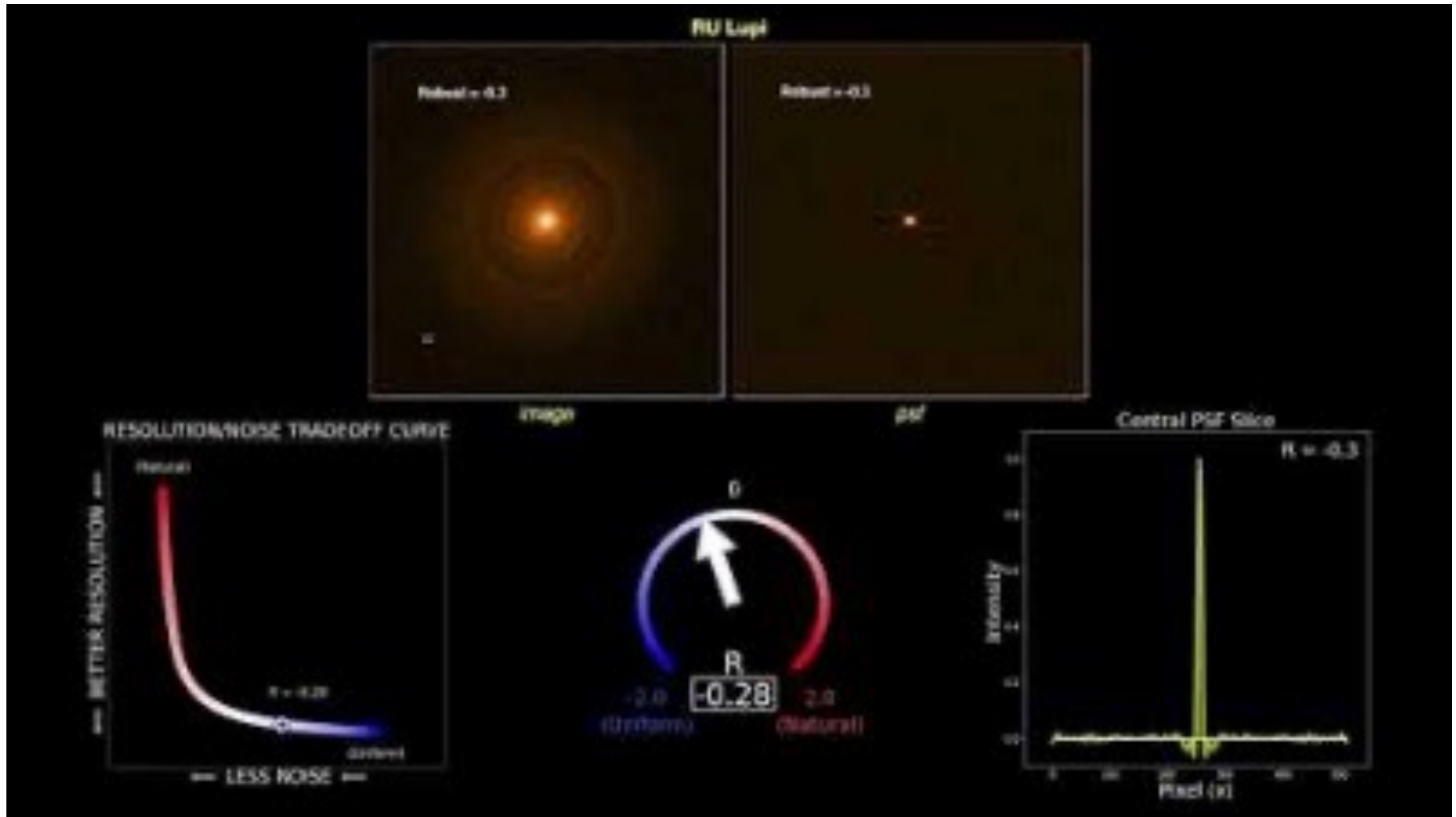
low threshold → uniform weight

- *an adjustable parameter allows for continuous variation between maximum point source sensitivity and resolution*
- **Use of robust < 0.0 not recommended.**





# Weighting Visualization



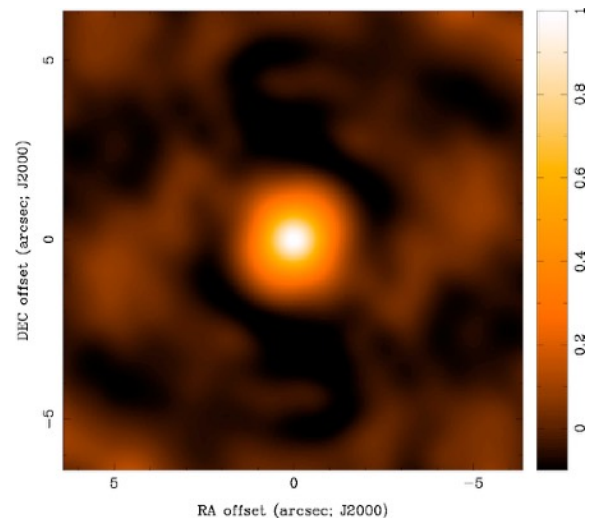
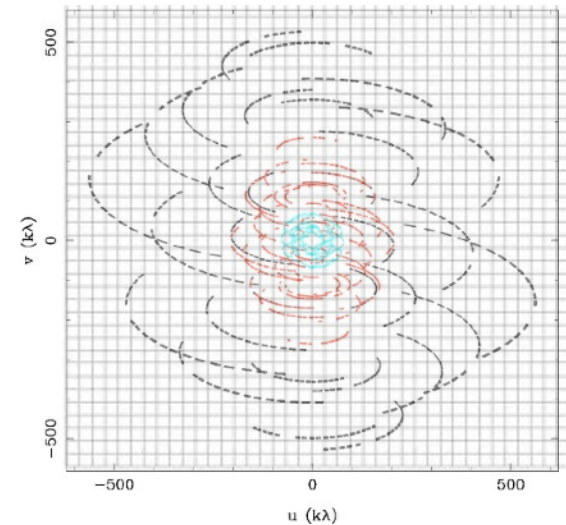
# Gridding: Visibility Weighting

- `uvtaper`
  - apodize  $(u,v)$  sampling by a Gaussian

$$W(u, v) = \exp\left(-\frac{(u^2 + v^2)}{t^2}\right)$$

$t$  = adjustable tapering parameter

- like convolving image by a Gaussian
- gives more weight to short baselines, degrades angular resolution
- downweights data at long baselines, so point source sensitivity degraded
- may improve sensitivity to extended structure sampled by short baselines
- Not a panacea

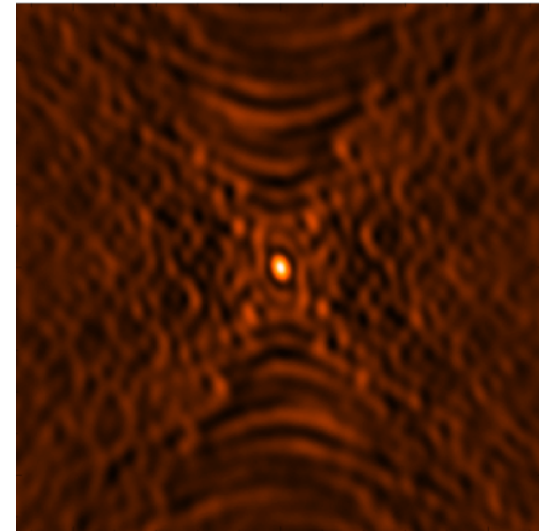
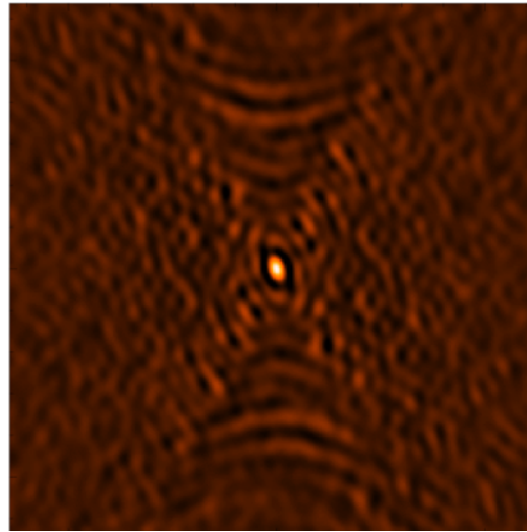
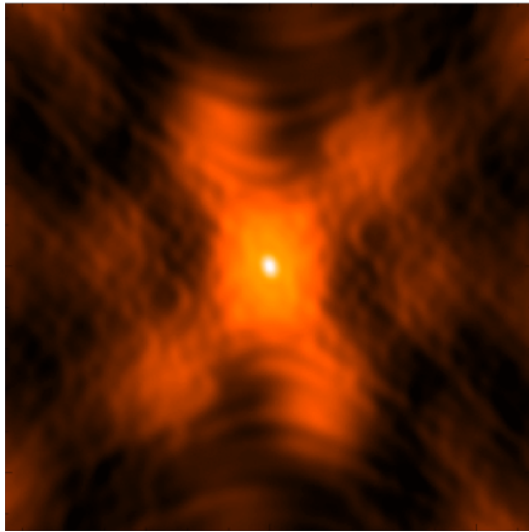


Natural

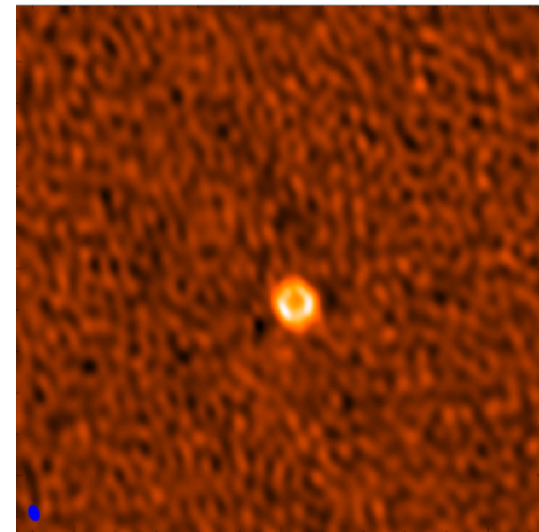
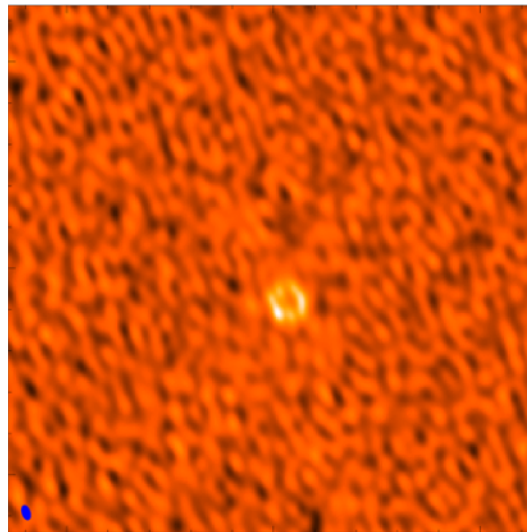
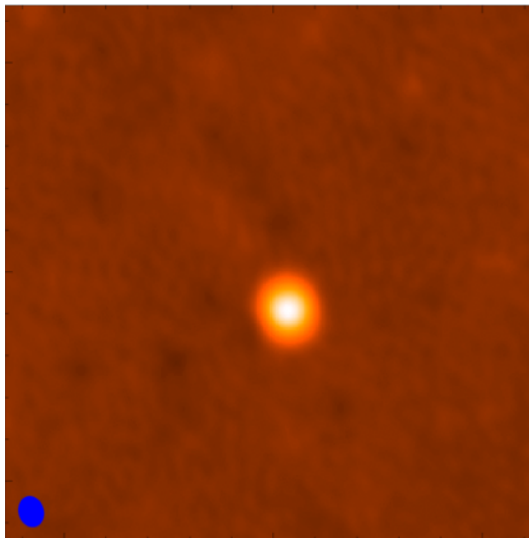
Uniform

Robust=0

Beam



CLEAN  
image



# The weighting you choose depends on your science goals.

- Good first try is robust=0.5. It's a nice balance between resolution and noise.
- Detection experiment or weak extended source: try **natural** (maybe even with a taper)
- Finer detail of strong sources: try **robust**

	Robust/Uniform	Natural	Taper
resolution	higher	medium	lower
sidelobes	lower	higher	depends
point source sensitivity	lower	maximum	lower
extended source sensitivity	lower	medium	higher



# For a video overview of these concepts:



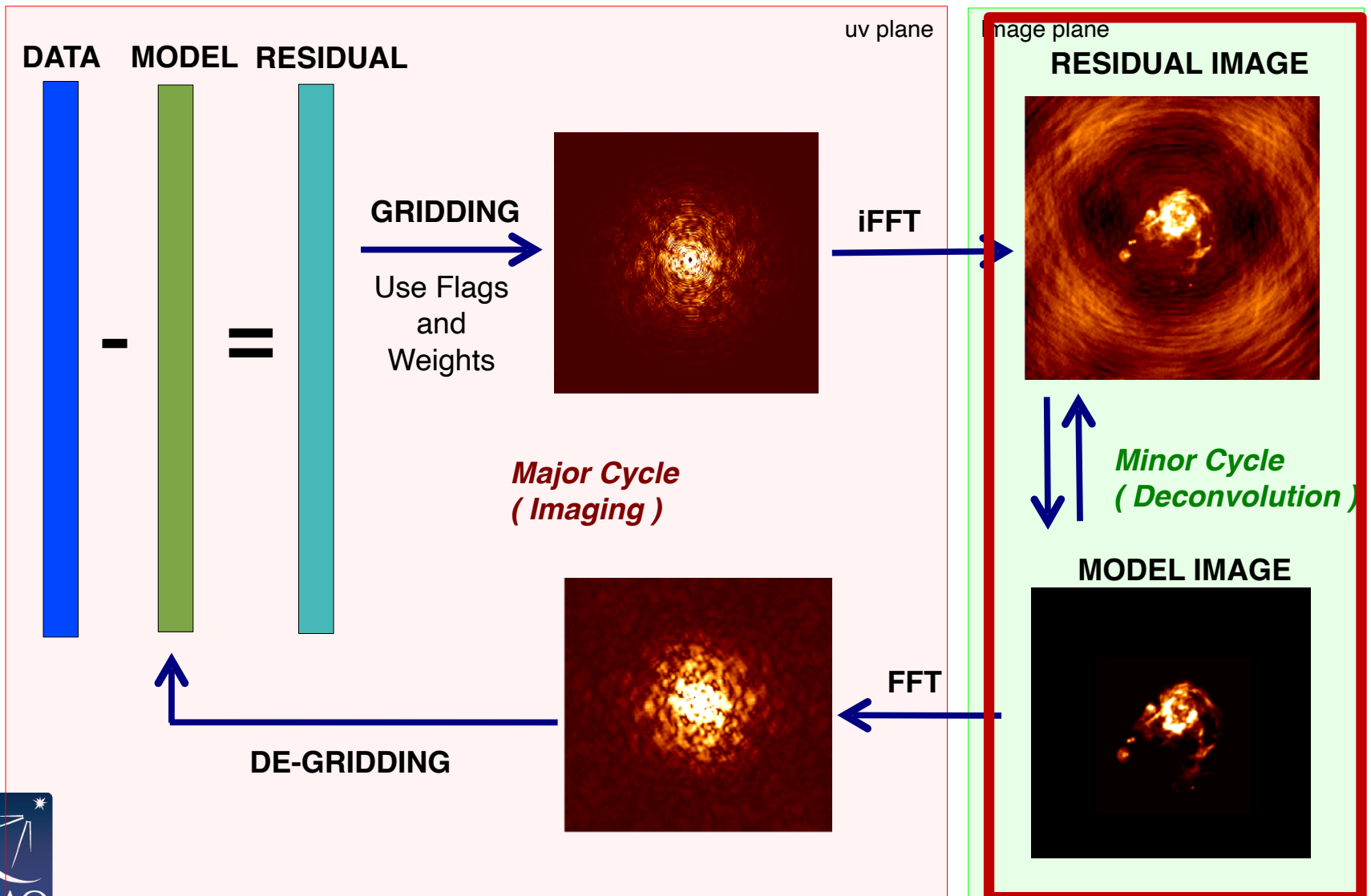
<https://youtu.be/OC3IWpRRtEQ>



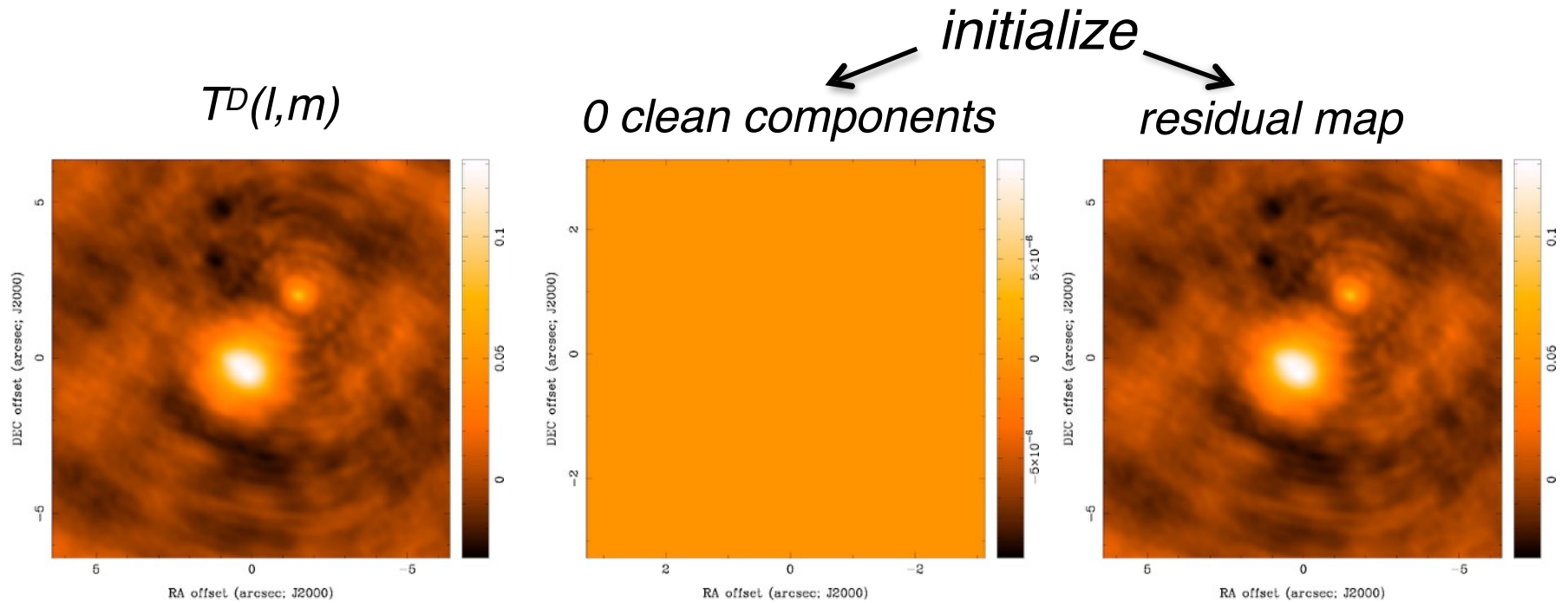
<https://youtu.be/EVY7000zAD4>

- More videos under development!
- **Like and subscribe** to our Youtube channel **ALMA Primer** to get notified when new videos are uploaded.

# Deconvolution requires specifying how you want to create and subtract the model.

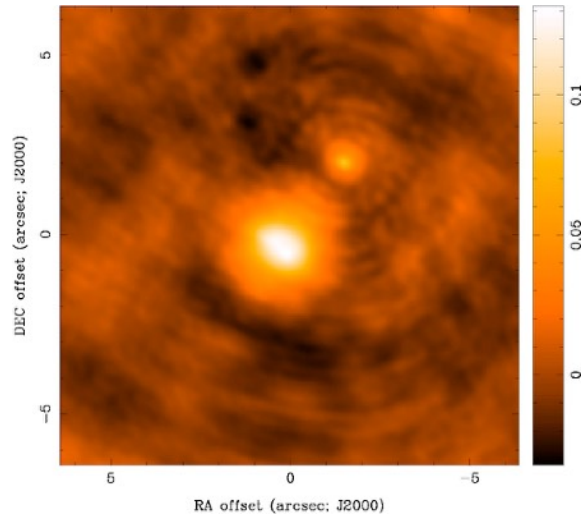


# clean example

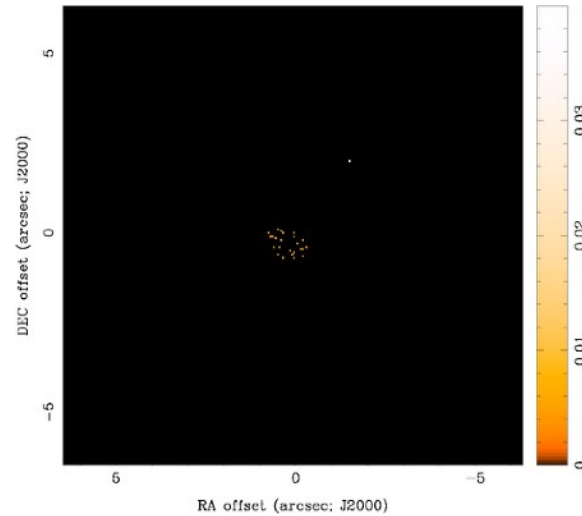


# clean example

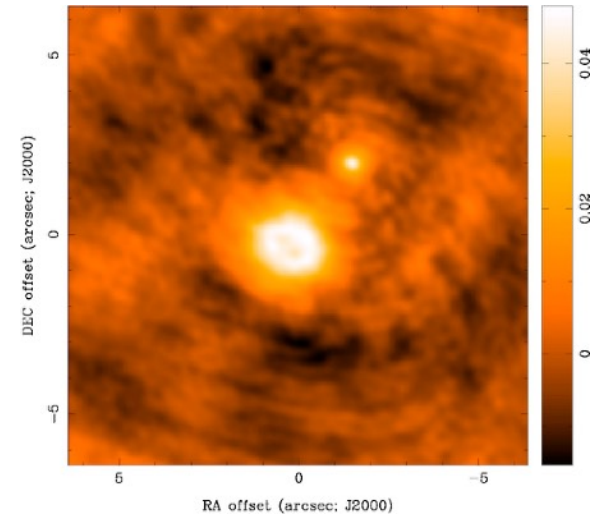
$T^D(l,m)$



30 clean components



residual map



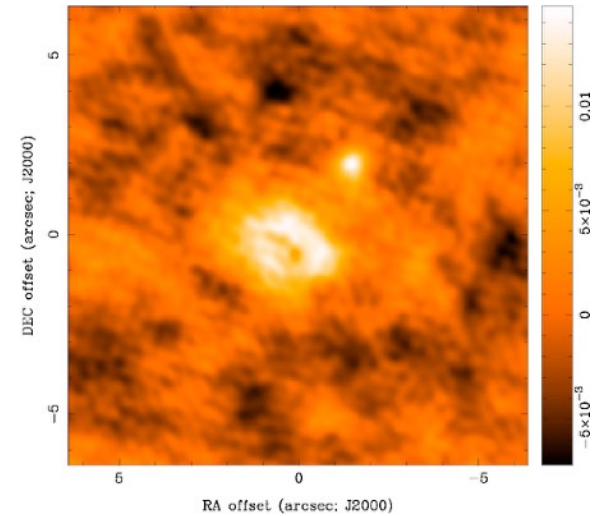
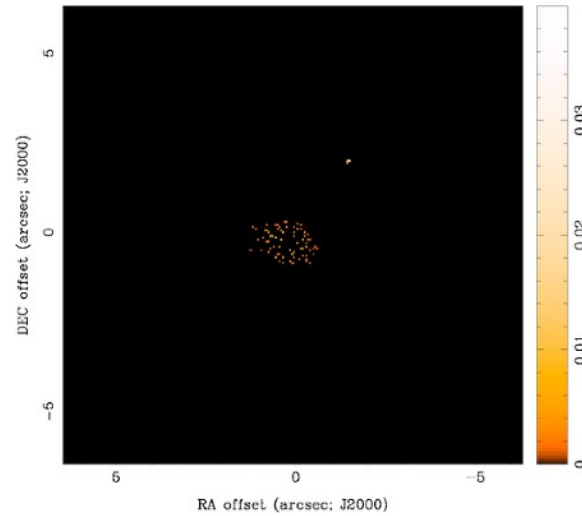
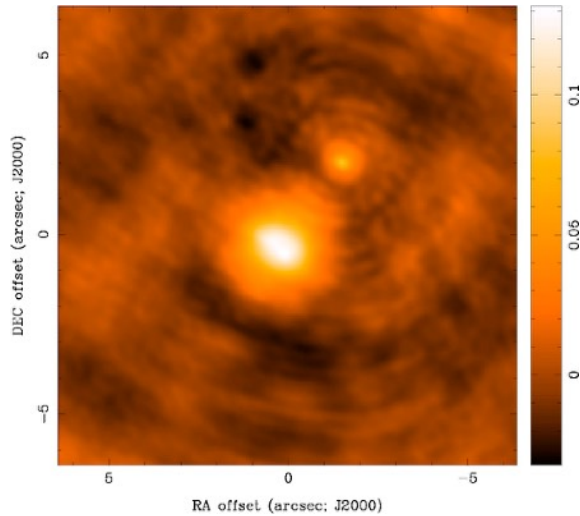


# clean example

$T^D(l,m)$

100 clean components

residual map

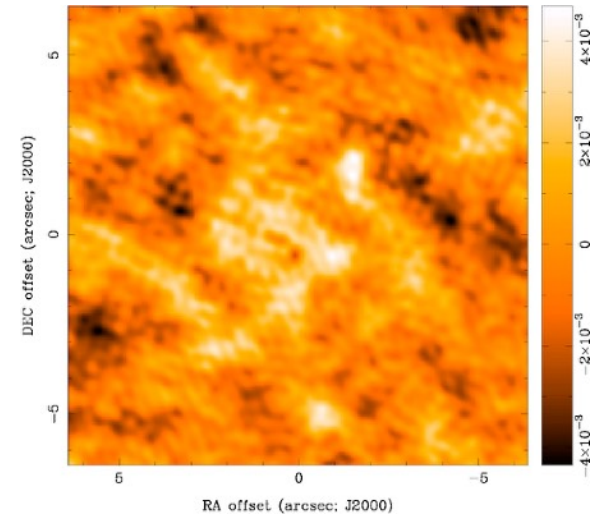
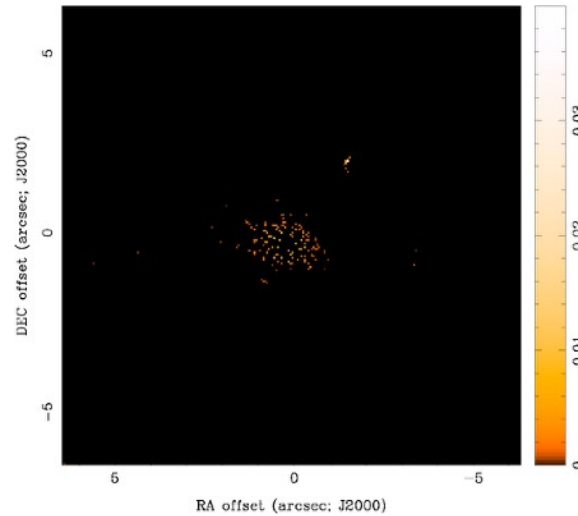
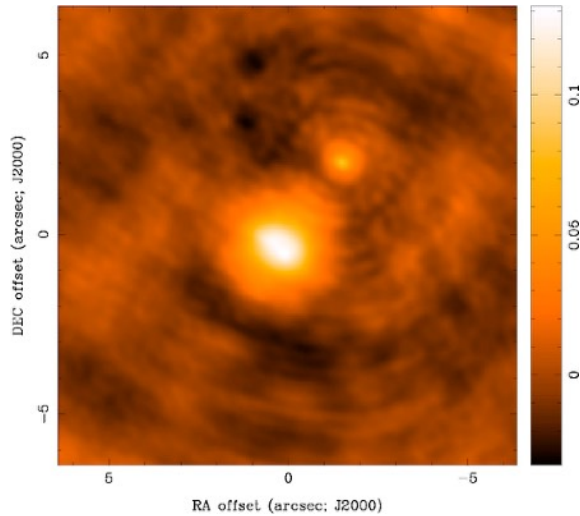


# clean example

$T^D(l,m)$

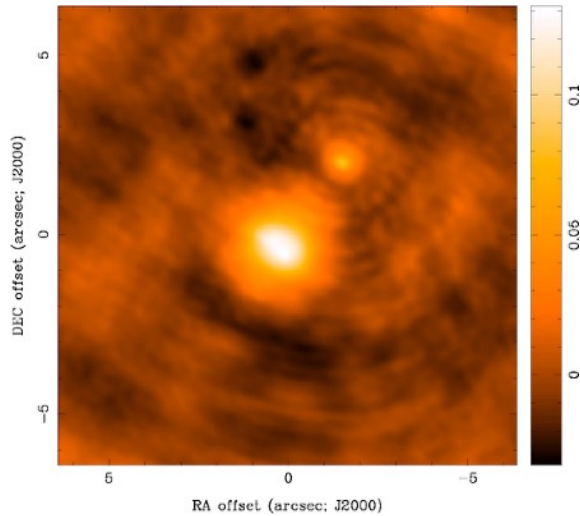
300 clean components

residual map

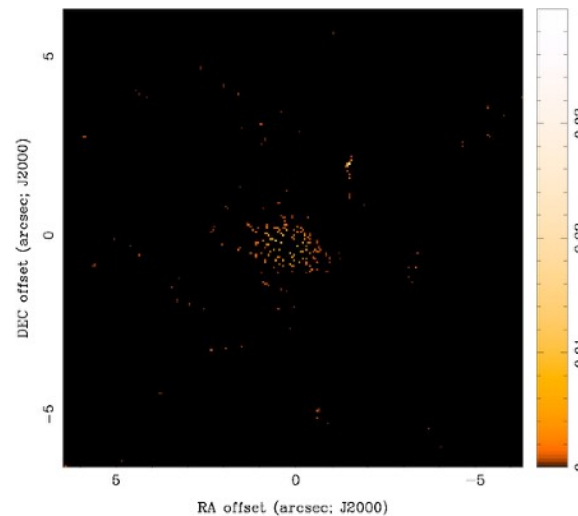


# clean example

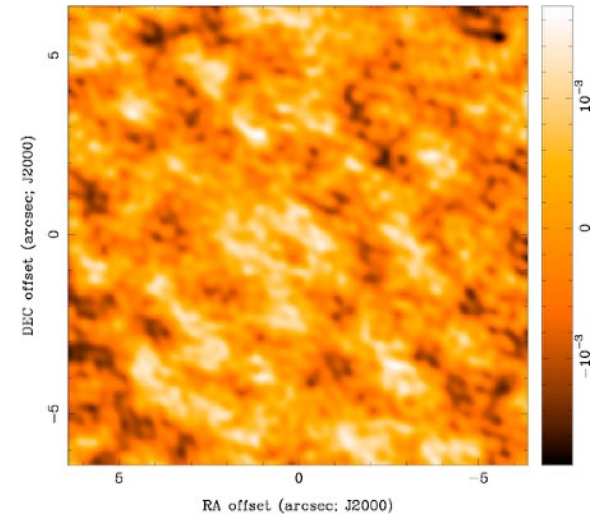
$T^D(l,m)$



583 clean components



residual map

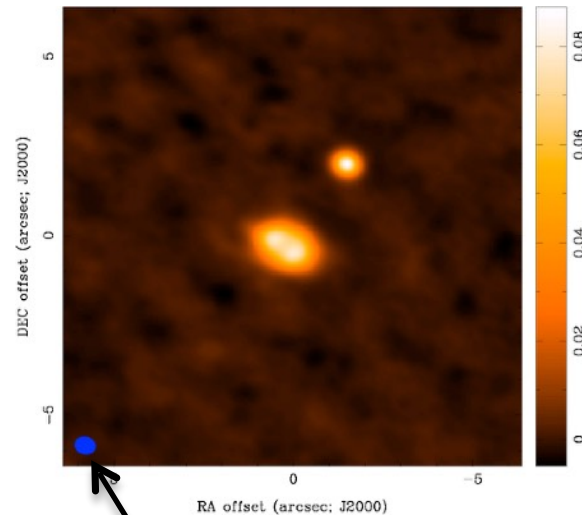
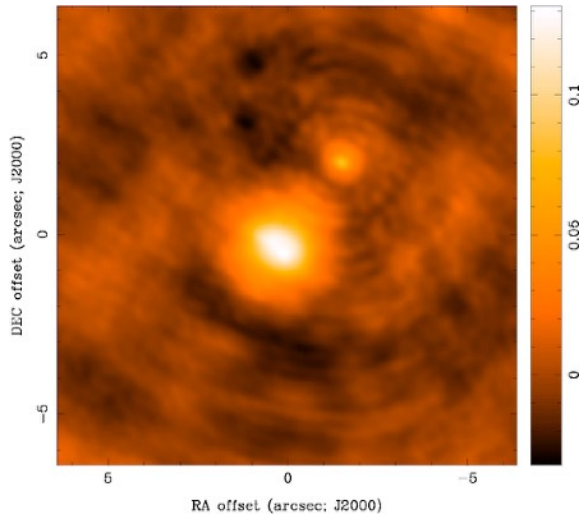


*threshold reached*

# clean example

$T^D(l,m)$

*restored image*



ellipse = clean beam fwhm

*final image depends on*

*imaging parameters (pixel size, visibility weighting scheme, gridding)  
and deconvolution (algorithm, iterations, masks, stopping criteria)*

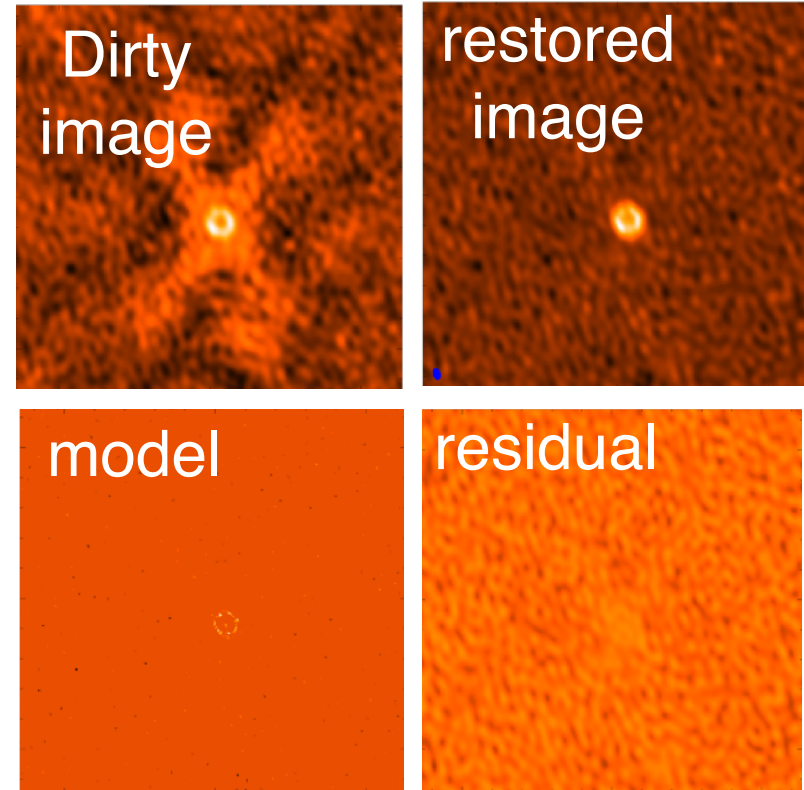
# Clean is the most common deconvolution algorithm.

Sky Model : List of delta-functions

- (1) Construct the observed (dirty) image and PSF
- (2) Search for the location of peak amplitude.
- (3) Add a delta-function of this peak/location to the model
- (4) Subtract the contribution of this component from the dirty image - a scaled/shifted copy of the PSF

Repeat steps (2), (3), (4) until a stopping criterion is reached.

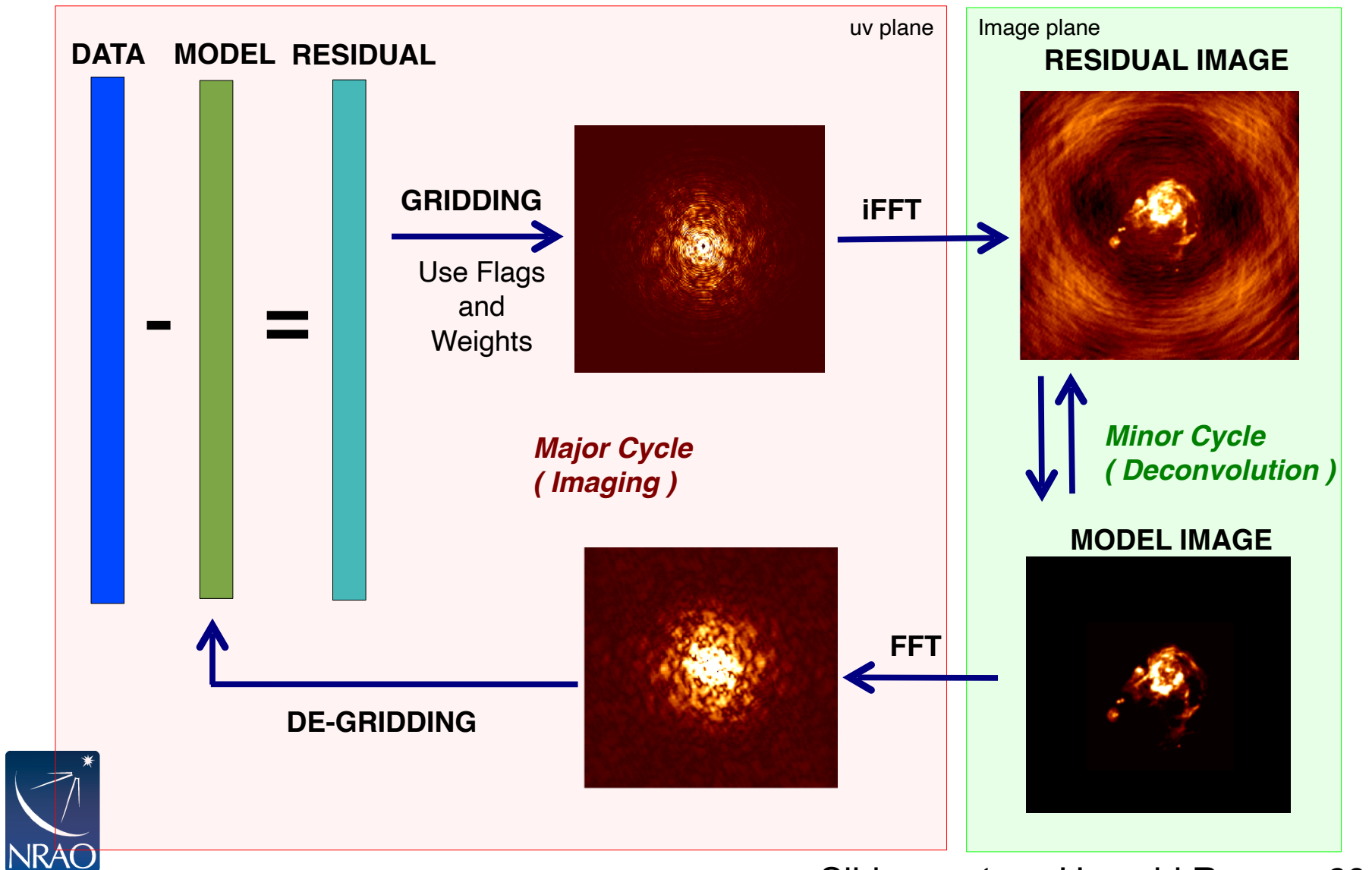
- (5) Restore : Smooth the model with a 'clean beam' and add residuals



**Choices:** what and how much PSF to subtract and when to stop



# How do we do all this in practice?



# The main imaging task in CASA is **tclean**.

- Tclean is a refactored version of the original clean task
  - *The original clean task is deprecated and SHOULD NOT BE USED.*
- Tclean task
  - takes the calibrated visibilities
  - grids them on the UV-plane
  - performs the FFT to a dirty image
  - deconvolves the image
  - restores the image from clean table and residual
- Major syntax and usage changes from clean → tclean is summarized here: [https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/TCLEAN\\_and\\_ALMA](https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/TCLEAN_and_ALMA)



# TCLEAN in CASA:

There can be an intimidating number of parameters!



Start simple and make it more complicated as you need to.



```
CASA <6>: inp tclean
-----> inp(tclean)
# 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)
imagenam = '' # Pre-name of output images
imsize = [100] # Number of pixels
cell = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
# (mfs,cube,cubedata)
reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
# widefield, mosaic, awproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
# normalizations

deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
# ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
# is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
# restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
# definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
# (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
# plane

niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
# (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
# thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
# region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
# : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
# (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

CASA <7>:
```



# TCLEAN in CASA

vis = ms file (can be multiple ms'es)

imagename = whatever you want



```
CASA <6>: inp tclean
-----> inp(tclean)
# tclean :: Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction
vis = '' # Name of input visibility file(s)
selectdata = True # Enable data selection parameters
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  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 = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
  phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
  stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
  projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
  startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
  specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
  # (mfs,cube,cubedata)
  reffreq = '' # Reference frequency
gridder = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
  # widefield, mosaic, awproject)
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  # (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel
CASA <7>:
```

# TCLEAN in CASA

imsize = size of image  
in pixels = typically  
primary beam (i.e.,  
FOV)

cell = size of pixels in  
angular units =  
typically 5-8 pixels  
across synthesized  
beam (resolution)



```
CASA <6>: inp tclean
-----> inp(tclean)
# 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 = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
  (mfs,cube,cubedata)
  reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridder = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
  widefield, mosaic, awproject)
  vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
  pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
  normalizations

deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
  ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
  restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
  is the PSF main lobe
  pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
  restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
  definitions

weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
  (natural,uniform,briggs)
  uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
  plane

niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
  (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
  thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
  mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
  # region file(s) or region string(s) )
  pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
  # : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
  (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

CASA <7>:
```

# Key tclean parameters

The **specmode** parameter controls whether you image the continuum or line emission.

The **gridded** option is used to specify what sort of gridding you will be doing (standard, mosaic, widefield, wproject, or awproject). The first two are most common with ALMA. The rest more common with the VLA.

The **deconvolver** options gives you access to different deconvolution options (hogbom, clark, mtmfs, multiscale, clarkstokes)



```
[CASA <23>: inp
-----> 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 = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)

star model = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
# (mfs,cube,cubedata)
reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridded = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
# widefield, mosaic, awproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
# normalizations

deconvolver = 'mtmfs' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
# ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
scales = [] # List of scale sizes (in pixels) for
# multi-scale algorithms
nterms = 2 # Number of Taylor coefficients in the
# spectral model

restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
# is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
# restored image

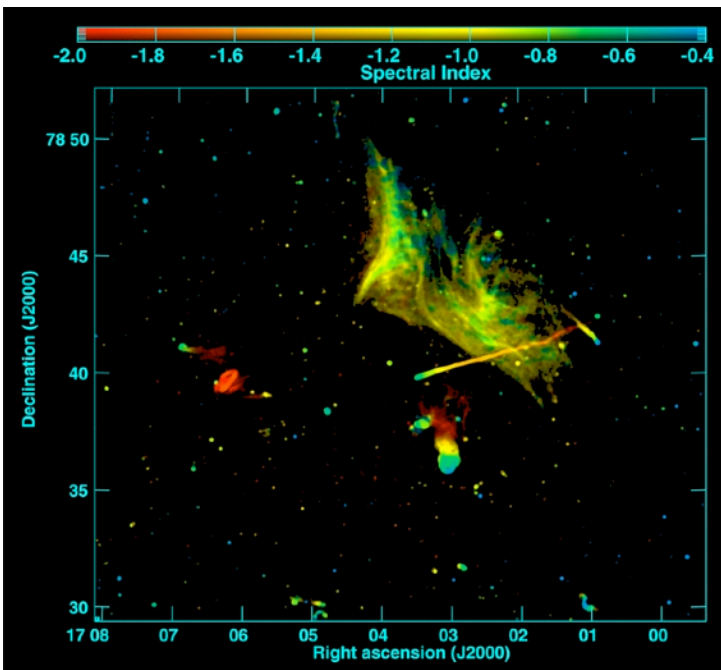
outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
# definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
# (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
# plane

niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
# (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
# thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
# region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

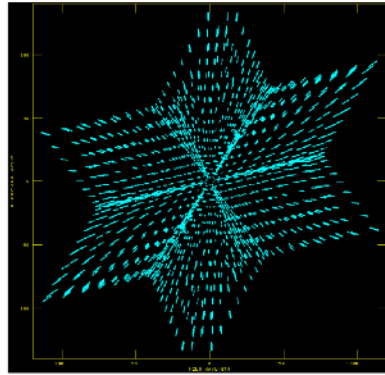
restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
# : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
# (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel
```

# Specmode options: Continuum Imaging

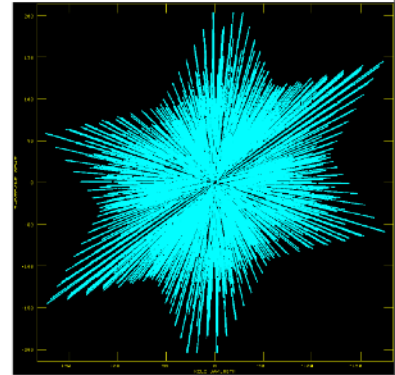
- specmode='mfs' if narrow bandwidth
- add deconvolver='mtmfs' if you have a fractional bandwidth for the aggregate continuum greater than 10% to use multi-term multi-frequency synthesis.
  - Only in ALMA Band 3 and the lower end of Band 4 can have fractional bandwidths of greater than 10% and only when both sidebands are employed.
  - nterm=2 compute spectral index, 3 for curvature etc.
  - tt0 average intensity, tt1  $\alpha \cdot tt0$ , alpha images output
  - takes at least nterms longer (image size dependent)



Abell 2256; Owen et al. (2014)



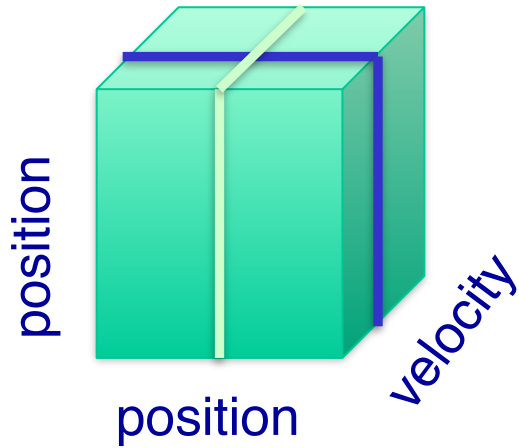
Narrow BW



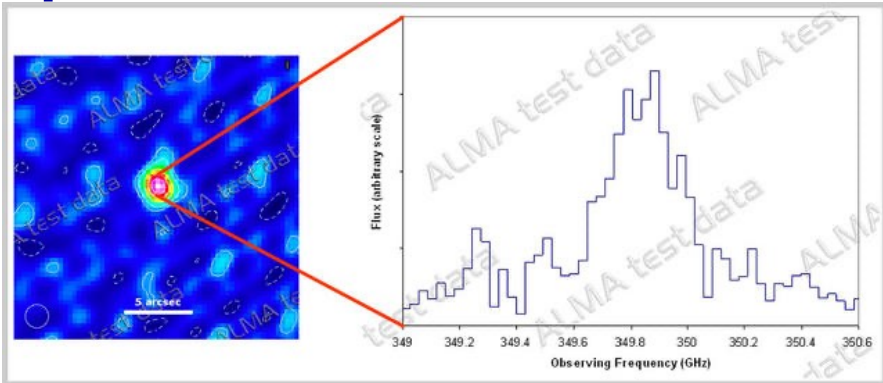
wide BW  
(better uv-coverage)



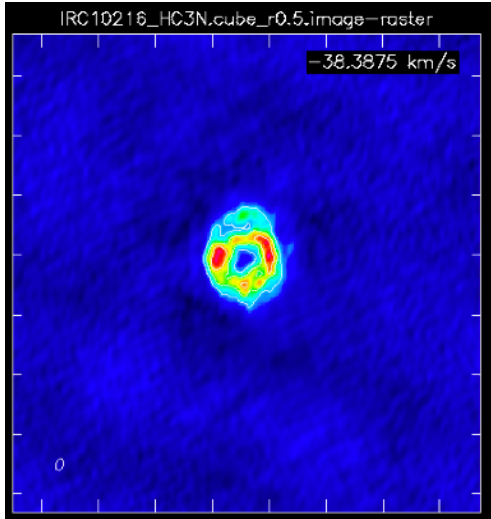
# Specmode options: Imaging spectral lines



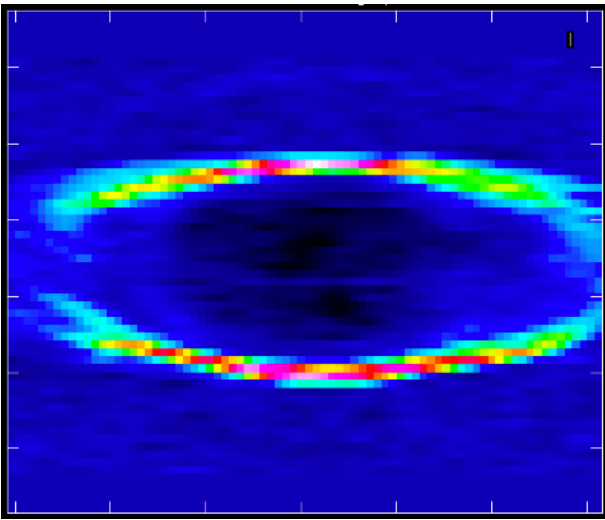
## Spectrum



## Channel map



## Position-velocity map



Fixed velocity, polarization, etc.

One fixed position, polarization, etc.

# Specmode options: Imaging spectral lines

## specmode='cube'

- Set the dimensions of the cube
- Set Rest frequency
- Set Velocity Frame (LSRK, BARY, ...)
- Set Doppler definition (optical/radio)
- <CASA 6.2: If imaging large cubes, set chanchunks=-1. Default (1) tries to put entire cube in memory, which can fail for large cubes.
- >=CASA 6.2: chanchunks parameter has no effect
- perchanweightdensity = True weights each channel independently to give flat noise and beams (CASA >=6.2)
- weighting='briggsbw taper' will give similar beams between cube and mfs. (CASA >=6.2)

tclean will calculate the Doppler corrections for you! No need to realign beforehand. If needed, **cvel2** will do it for you, e.g. when self-calibrating.



```

CASA 400: inp tclean
-----> inp(tclean)
# tclean :: Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction
vis = '' # Name of input visibility file(s)
# Enable data selection parameters
selectdata = True
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)
imagenam = '' # Pre-name of output images
imsize = [100] # Number of pixels
cell = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'cube' # Spectral definition mode
# (mfs,cube,cubedata)
nchan = 100 # Number of channels in the output
# image
start = '100km/s' # First channel (e.g. start=3,start='1.
# 1GHz',start='15343km/s')
width = '10km/s' # Channel width (e.g. width=2,width='0.
# 1MHz',width='10km/s')
outframe = 'lsrk' # Spectral reference frame in which to
# interpret 'start' and 'width'
veltype = 'radio' # Velocity type (radio, z, ratio, beta,
# gamma, optical)
restfreq = [] # List of rest frequencies
interpolation = 'linear' # Spectral interpolation
# (nearest,linear,cubic)
chanchunks = -1 # Number of channel chunks

gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
# widefield, mosaic, aproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
# normalizations

deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
# ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
# is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
# restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
# definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
# (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
# plane

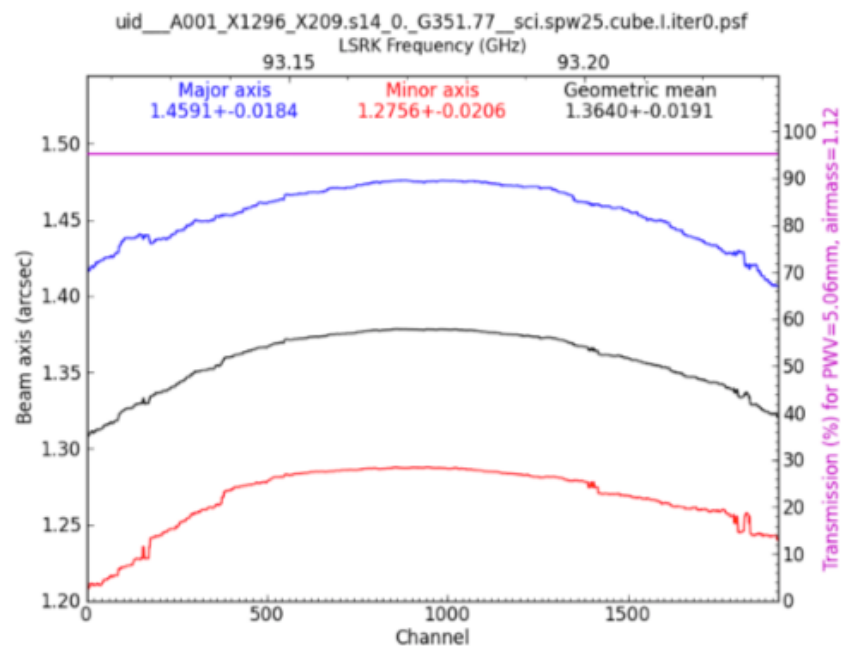
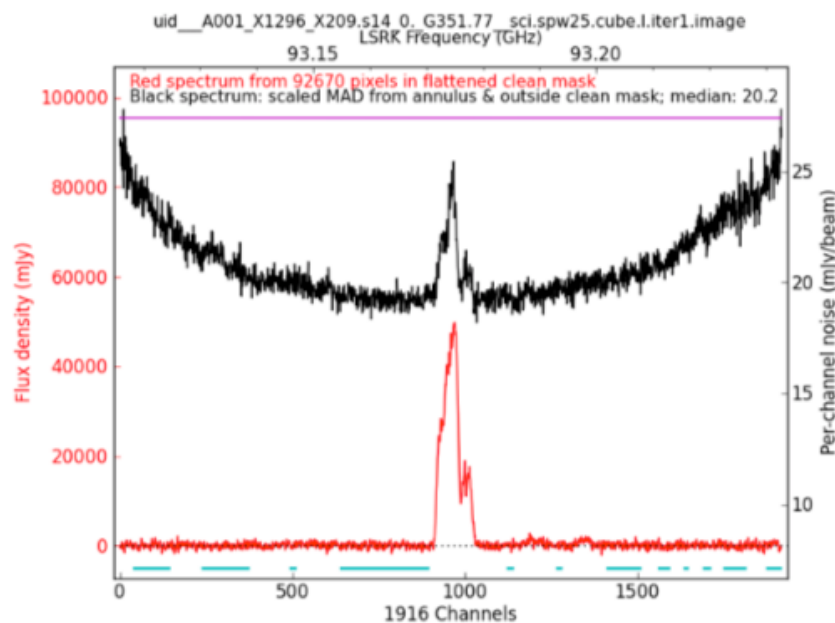
niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
# (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
# thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
# region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
# : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
# (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

```

# Perchanweightdensity=False

Introduces curvature in the noise spectrum and beams with frequency.

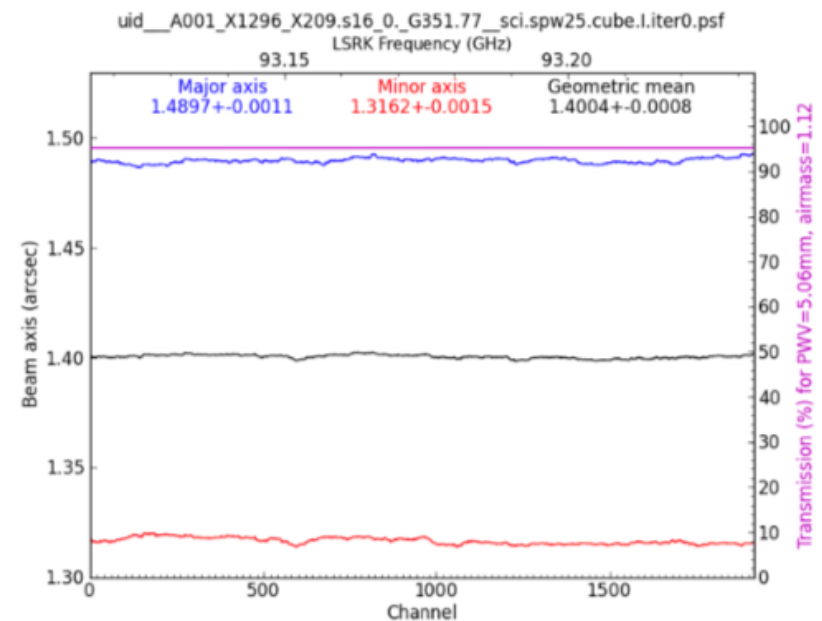
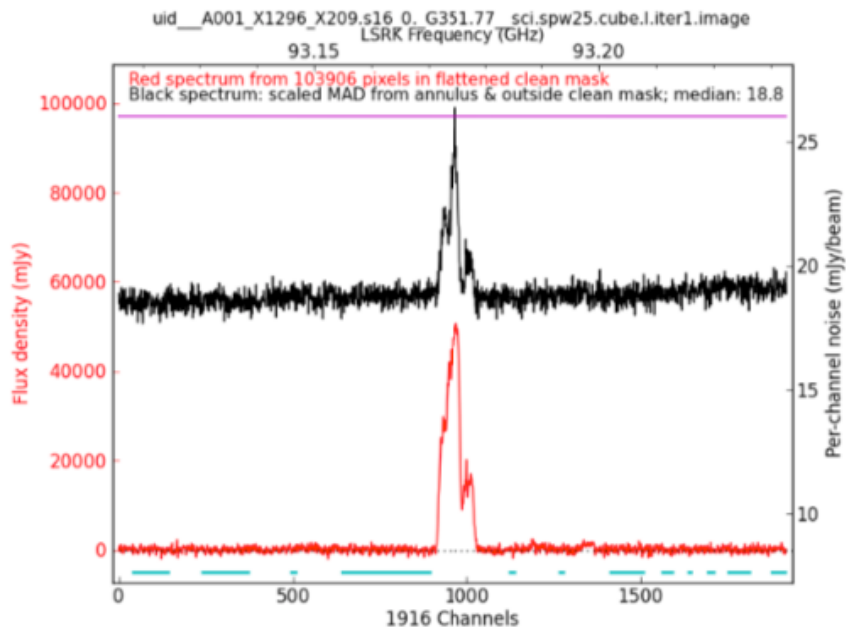


The former is particularly impactful when identifying lines either in the pipeline (findcont and associated heuristics) or using the data for analysis.



# Perchanweightdensity=True

Noise spectrum and beams are flat with frequency



But gives cube beams that are larger than mfs beams!





# Deconvolver options: PSF sampling choices

- **deconvolver='hogbom'**
  - Subtracts shifted and scaled full PSF from residual image
  - More accurate but can be computationally expensive.
- **deconvolver='clark'**
  - Subtracts small patch of shifted and scaled PSF from residual image
  - Does the major cycle more often to compensate for the above
  - Potentially less accurate, but also less computationally expensive.
- **deconvolver='clarkstokes'**
  - Does the thing as clark, but doing each polarization product separately.



```

CASA <21>: inp
-----> 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 = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
  (mfs,cube,cubedata)
reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
  widefield, mosaic, aproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
  normalizations

deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
  ultiscate,mcmis,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
  restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
  is the PSF main lobe
  pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
  restored image
outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
  definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
  (natural,uniform,briggs)
  uv-taper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
  plane

niter = 1 # Maximum number of iterations
  gain = 0.1 # Loop gain
  threshold = 0.0 # Stopping threshold
  cycleniter = -1 # Maximum number of minor-cycle
  iterations
  cyclefactor = 1.0 # Scaling on PSF sidelobe level to
  compute the minor-cycle stopping
  threshold.
  minpsffraction = 0.05 # PSF fraction that marks the max depth
  of cleaning in the minor cycle
  maxpsffraction = 0.8 # PSF fraction that marks the minimum
  depth of cleaning in the minor cycle
  interactive = False # Modify masks and parameters at
  runtime

usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
  (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
  thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
  mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
  region file(s) or region string(s) )
  pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
  : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
  (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

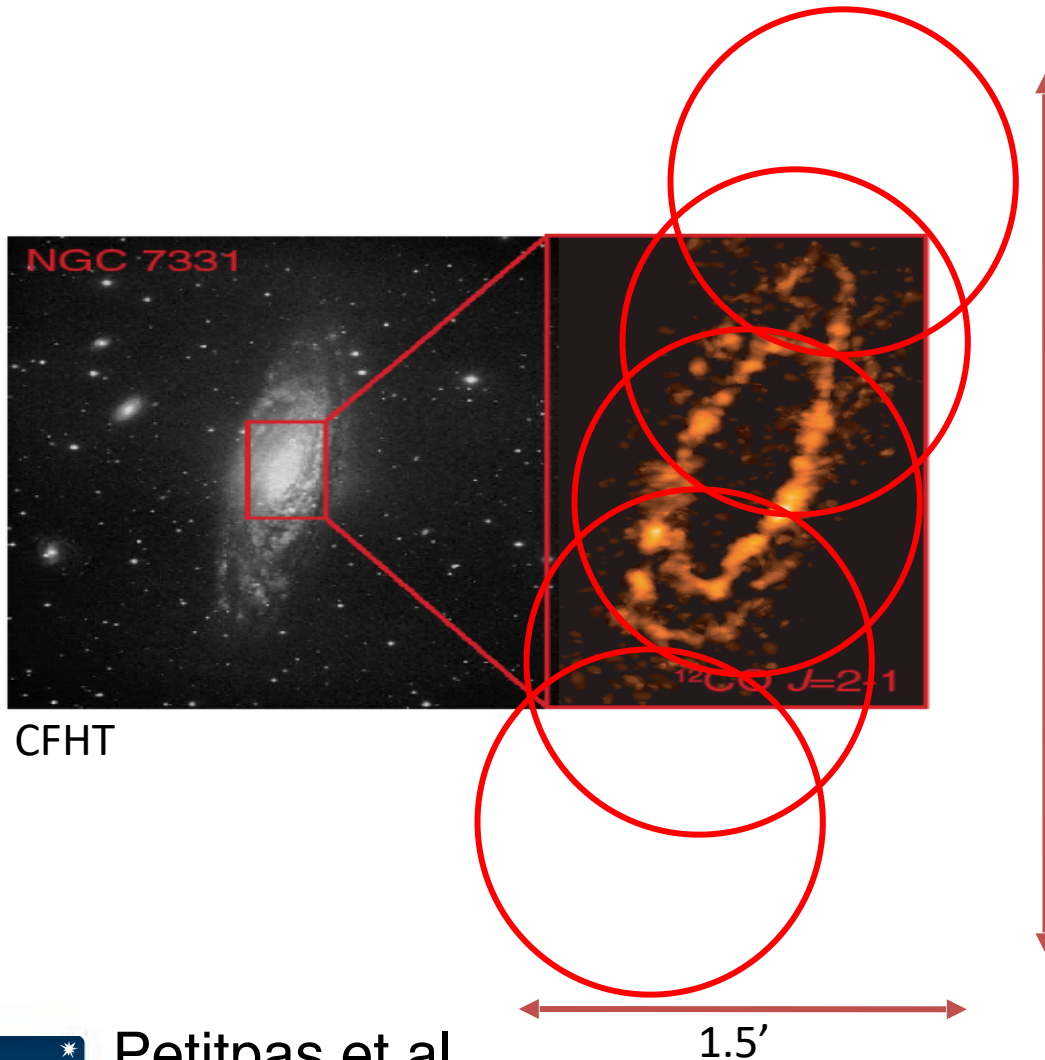
CASA <22>:
  
```

# Imaging spectral lines: continuum subtraction

- Generally would like to subtract continuum emission prior to imaging line data.
  - We will see how to identify line-free channels in hands-on session.
- Current best practice is to use `uvcontsub` to do the subtraction in uv plane.

```
CASA <11>: inp
-----> inp()
# uvcontsub :: Continuum fitting and subtraction in the uv plane
vis          = 'ngc3256_co.ms'  # Name of input MS. Output goes to vis + ".contsub"
field        = ''              # Select field(s) using id(s) or name(s)
fitspw       = '0;20~53;71~120' # Spectral window;channel selection for fitting the continuum
combine      = ''              # Data axes to combine for the continuum estimation (none, or spw and/or scan)
solint       = 'int'           # Continuum fit timescale (int recommended!)
fitorder     = 0               # Polynomial order for the fits
spw          = ''              # Spectral window selection for output
want_cont    = False          # Create vis + ".cont" to hold the continuum estimate.
async       = False           # If true the taskname must be started using uvcontsub(...)
```

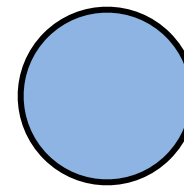
# Gridder options: mosaics



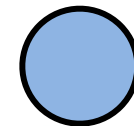
Mosaics are common with ALMA particularly at high frequencies

Example: SMA 1.3 mm observations: 5 pointings

- Primary beam  $\sim 1'$
- Resolution  $\sim 3''$



ALMA 1.3mm PB

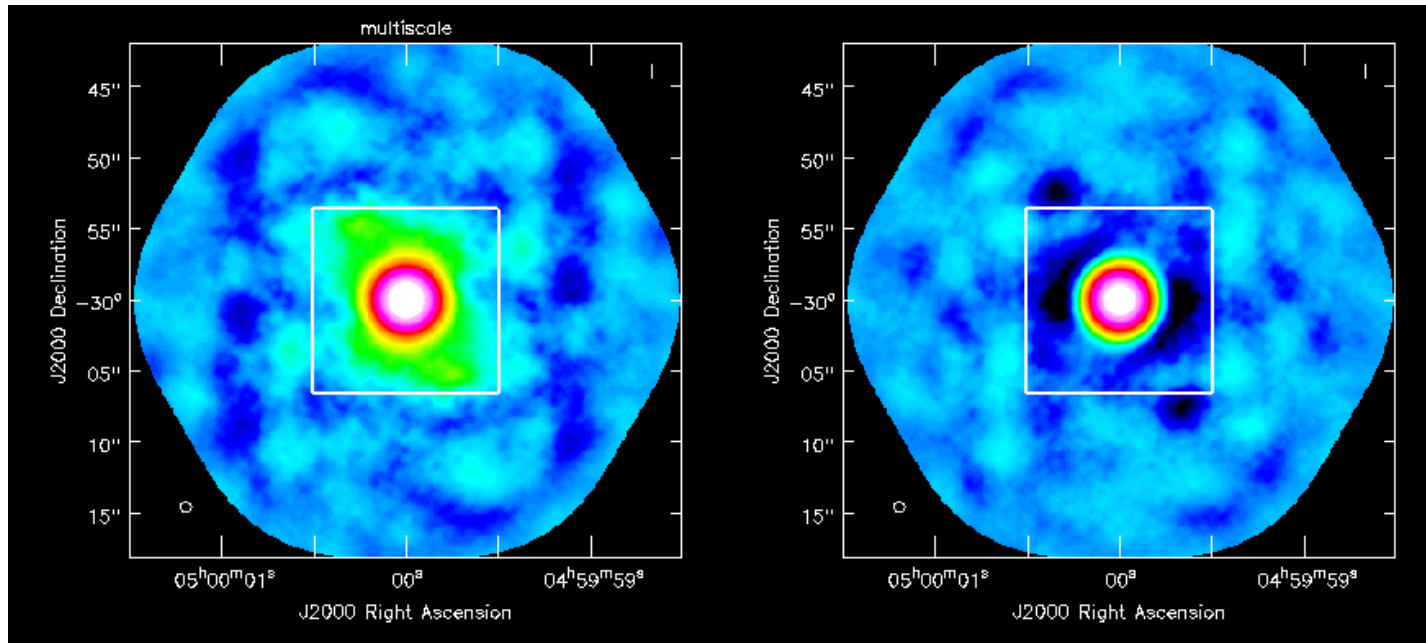


ALMA 0.85mm PB

# Deconvolver options: Multi-scale CLEAN

multi-scale

“classic” scale



Instead of using delta functions like hogbom or clark, one can use extended clean components to better match emission scales (multiscales, typically paraboloids)

Suggested scale parameter choice : point source, the second the size of the synthesized beam and the third 3-5 times the synthesized beam, etc.

Selecting scales that are close to the size of your source can lead to poor modeling and divergence in clean.

# Deconvolver options: Multi-scale CLEAN

deconvolver='multiscale'

- **only do multiscale**
- line or narrow bandwidth continuum

deconvolver='mtmfs'

- **multiscale+multi-terms**
- wide-fractional bandwidth continuum
- For both need to set scales
  - Note that scales is in **pixels**
  - If beam is 5 pixels across, then scales=[0,5,15] is a pretty good choice.



```

# 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 = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
                    # (mfs,cube,cubedata)
                    # Reference frequency
reffreq = ''

gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
                    # widefield, mosaic, awproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
                    # normalizations

deconvolver = 'multiscale' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
                    # ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
scales = [] # List of scale sizes (in pixels) for
                    # multi-scale algorithms
smallscalebias = 0.6 # A bias towards smaller scale sizes

restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
                    # is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
                    # restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
                    # definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
                    # (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
                    # plane

niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
                    # (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
                    # thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
                    # region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
                    # : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
                    # (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcres = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel

CASA <51>:

```

# Restoration options: Primary beam correction

## **pbcor=True**

- Correct the output image for the primary beam (i.e., the beam pattern of the telescope)
- You want to measure things from a primary beam corrected image because it includes the response of the telescope.
- The noise will no longer be flat across the image.

For multi-term mfs primary beam corrections (i.e., nterms=2) use the **widebandpbcor** task instead.



```

:: Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction
datacolumn = 'corrected' # Data column to image(data,corrected)
imagename  = ''          # Pre-name of output images
imsize     = [100]       # Number of pixels
cell       = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = ''        # Phase center of the image
stokes     = 'I'        # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN'      # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = ''        # Name of starting model image
specmode   = 'mfs'      # Spectral definition mode
                    # (mfs,cube,cubedata)
                    # Reference frequency
reffreq    = ''
gridding   = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
                    # widefield, mosaic, awproject)
vptable    = ''        # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit    = 0.2       # >PB gain level at which to cut off
                    # normalizations
deconvolver = 'multiscale' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
                    # ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
scales     = []        # List of scale sizes (in pixels) for
                    # multi-scale algorithms
smallscalebias = 0.6  # A bias towards smaller scale sizes

restoration = True     # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = []    # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
                    # is the PSF main lobe
pbcor       = False    # Apply PB correction on the output
                    # restored image

outlierfile = ''      # Name of outlier file
                    # definitions
weighting   = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
                    # (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper     = []      # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
                    # plane
niter       = 0       # Maximum number of iterations
usemask     = 'user'  # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
                    # (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
                    # thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask        = ''      # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
                    # region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask      = 0.0     # primary beam mask

restart     = True     # True : Re-use existing images. False
                    # : Increment imagename
savemodel   = 'none'  # Options to save model visibilities
                    # (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcrs     = True     # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf    = True     # Calculate PSF
parallel    = False    # Run major cycles in parallel

CASA <51>:

```

# Stopping parameters

- Setting `niter>0` exposes stopping parameters
- `tclean` stops when it completes the maximum number of iterations or when residuals go below the threshold level, whatever comes first.
  - Set `niter` to a large, but not too large, number
    - 1000 is a decent starting point
    - The more complex your image is the larger `niter` you will need
  - `threshold='3mJy'`
    - Usually some multiple of your noise level (1-3 sigma)
- `Interactive=True`
  - Allows you interactive control of `tclean` through the viewer
  - Choice of `niter` and `threshold` can be controlled through viewer
- Other parameters largely for power users
  - Gain can be useful for cases with extended emission (although see multi-scale clean)
  - `cyclefactor`, `cycleniter`,



```

# CASA <21>: inp
-----> inp()
# tclean :: Radio Interferometric Image Reconstruction
vis = '' # Name of input visibility file(s)
# Enable data selection parameters
selectdata = True # field(s) to select
field = '' # spw(s)/channels to select
spw = '' # Range of time to select from data
timerange = '' # Select data within uvrange
uvrange = '' # Select data based on antenna/baseline
antenna = '' # Scan number range
scan = '' # Observation ID range
observation = '' # Scan Intent(s)
intent = ''

datacolumn = 'corrected' # Data column to image(data,corrected)
imagename = '' # Pre-name of output images
imsize = [100] # Number of pixels
cell = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
(mfs,cube,cubedata)
reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridding = 'standard' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
# widefield, mosaic, aproject)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
# normalizations

deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
# ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
# is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
# restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
# definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
(natural,uniform,briggs)
# uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
# plane

niter = 1 # Maximum number of iterations
gain = 0.1 # Loop gain
threshold = 0.0 # Stopping threshold
cycleniter = -1 # Maximum number of minor-cycle
# iterations
cyclefactor = 1.0 # Scaling on PSF sidelobe level to
# compute the minor-cycle stopping
# threshold.
minpsffraction = 0.05 # PSF fraction that marks the max depth
# of cleaning in the minor cycle
maxpsffraction = 0.8 # PSF fraction that marks the minimum
# depth of cleaning in the minor cycle
interactive = False # Modify masks and parameters at
# runtime

usemask = 'user' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
# (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
# thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
mask = '' # Mask (a list of image name(s) or
# region file(s) or region string(s) )
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
# : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
# (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcrs = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel
    
```

# Running TCLEAN interactively

- residual image in viewer
- define a mask with defining a mouse button on shape type
- define the same mask for all channels
- or iterate through the channels with the tape deck and define separate masks

The screenshot shows the 'Viewer Display Panel' interface. At the top is a toolbar with various icons. Below it is a control panel with fields for 'iterations' (100), 'cycles' (1), and 'threshold' (0.1 mJy). There are 'Add' and 'Erase' buttons, and radio buttons for 'This Channel' (selected) and 'All Channels'. To the right are 'This Polarization' and 'All Polarizations' options, and a 'Next Action' section with a red 'X' button and a green refresh button. The main display area shows a residual image with a blue circular pattern. Below the image is a control panel with navigation buttons (back, forward, home, etc.), a 'Rate' slider set to 10 /sec, and a 'Frame' slider with 'Start' at 0, 'End' at 0, and 'Step' at 1. At the bottom, there is a status panel with two entries: 'foo.residual' and 'foo.mask-contour', both showing pixel coordinates (184 21 0 0) and velocity information (0 km/s).





# Running TCLEAN interactively

Stop cleaning

Continue for next major cycle and display residual

Exit interactive mode, but continue cleaning.

Dangerous if control parameters not set sensibly!!  
**Using Ctrl+C can corrupt your ms.**

The screenshot shows the 'Viewer Display Panel' of the TCLEAN software. At the top, there is a toolbar with various icons. Below the toolbar is a control panel with a green background. It contains three input fields: 'iterations' (100), 'cycles' (1), and 'threshold' (0.1 mJy). To the right of these fields are buttons for 'Add', 'Erase', 'This Channel', 'All Channels', 'This Polarization', and 'All Polarizations'. Further right are three buttons: a red 'X' button, a green play button, and a green circular arrow button. A blue box highlights the 'iterations', 'cycles', and 'threshold' fields. A blue arrow points from the 'iterations' field to a text box that says 'Change control parameters'. Another blue arrow points from the green play button to the text 'Continue for next major cycle and display residual'. A third blue arrow points from the green circular arrow button to the text 'Exit interactive mode, but continue cleaning.'. Below the control panel is a large plot area showing a residual plot with a blue circular pattern. At the bottom of the window, there is a terminal window showing the following output:

```
foo.residual
+0.0404961      Pixel: 184 21 0 0
17:20:00.457  -35.00.12.341  I  0 km/s (lsrk/radio velocity)

foo.mask-contour
+0      Pixel: 184 21 0 0
17:20:00.457  -35.00.12.341  I  0 km/s (lsrk/radio velocity)
Contours: -0.6 -0.2 0.2 0.6
```

# Output of TCLEAN

Minimally:

- `my_image.pb` Primary beam model
- **`my_image.image`** Cleaned and restored image (Jy/clean beam)
- `my_image.mask` Clean “boxes”
- `my_image.model` Clean components (Jy/pixel)
- `my_image.psf` Dirty beam
- `my_image.residual` Residual (Jy/dirty beam)
- `my_image.sumwt` Sum of weights

Wide-field imaging, multi-term, and parallel imaging will produce additional products.

Together images can be used in subsequent tclean runs if necessary. It's good practice not to delete subsets of images.



# Advanced usage: automasking

- **usemask='auto-multithresh'**
- Used by the ALMA Pipeline starting in Cycle 5. Also available to users as a tclean option.
- Default parameters generally good for ALMA 12m data
- General purpose algorithm so works for ALMA, VLA, ATCA, etc.
- casaguide: [https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Automasking\\_Guide](https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/Automasking_Guide)
- Paper: [Kepley et al. 2020, PASP, 132, 1008, 02405](#)



```
CASA <SB>: inp
-----> 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)
imagenam = '' # Pre-name of output images
imsize = [100] # Number of pixels
cell = ['1arcsec'] # Cell size
phasecenter = '' # Phase center of the image
stokes = 'I' # Stokes Planes to make
projection = 'SIN' # Coordinate projection (SIN, HPX)
startmodel = '' # Name of starting model image
specmode = 'mfs' # Spectral definition mode
# (mfs,cube,cubedata)
reffreq = '' # Reference frequency

gridding = 'mosaic' # Gridding options (standard, wproject,
# widefield, mosaic, awproject)
normtype = 'flatnoise' # Normalization type (flatnoise,
# flatsky)
vptable = '' # Name of Voltage Pattern table
pblimit = 0.2 # >PB gain level at which to cut off
# normalizations
conjbeams = False # Use conjugate frequency for wideband
# A-terms

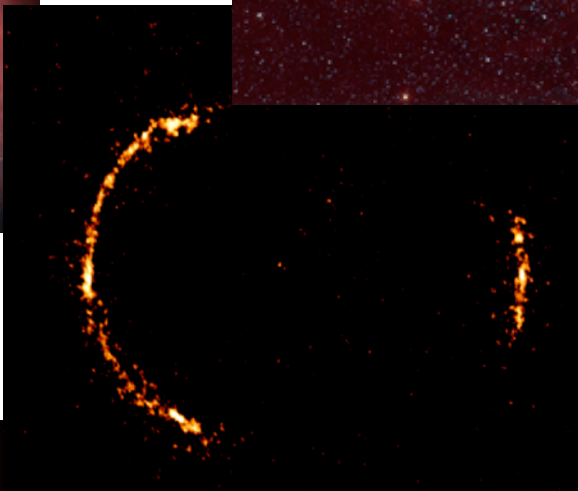
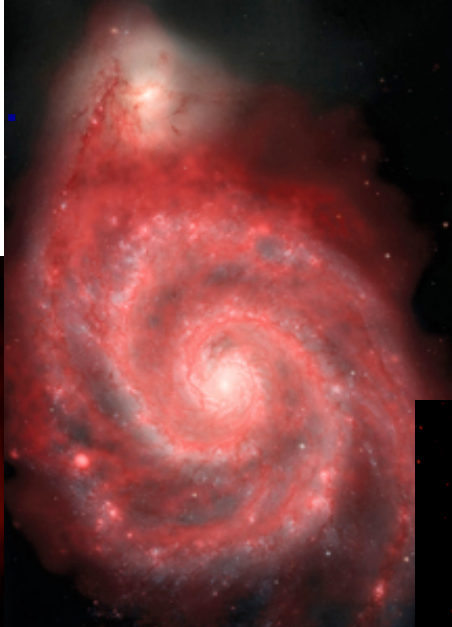
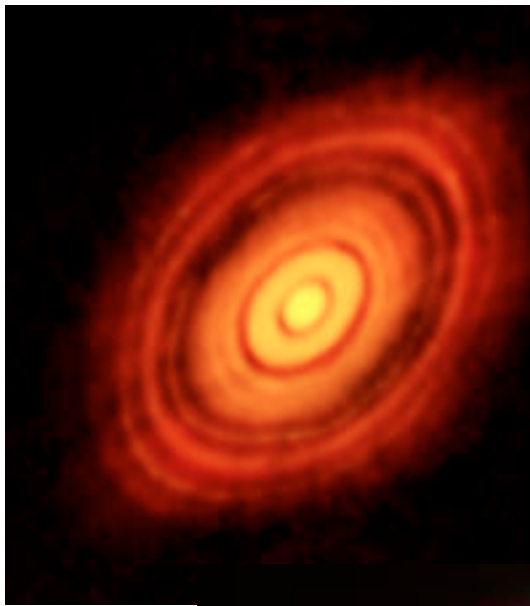
deconvolver = 'hogbom' # Minor cycle algorithm (hogbom,clark,m
# ultiscale,mtmfs,mem,clarkstokes)
restoration = True # Do restoration steps (or not)
restoringbeam = [] # Restoring beam shape to use. Default
# is the PSF main lobe
pbcor = False # Apply PB correction on the output
# restored image

outlierfile = '' # Name of outlier-field image
# definitions
weighting = 'natural' # Weighting scheme
# (natural,uniform,briggs)
uvtaper = [] # uv-taper on outer baselines in uv-
# plane

niter = 0 # Maximum number of iterations
usemask = 'auto-multithresh' # Type of mask(s) for deconvolution
# (user, pb, auto-thresh, auto-
# thresh2, or auto-multithresh)
pbmask = 0.0 # primary beam mask
sidelobethreshold = 3.0 # sidelobethreshold * the max sidelobe
# level
noisethreshold = 5.0 # noisethreshold * rms in residual
# image
lownoisethreshold = 1.5 # lownoisethreshold * rms in residual
# image
negativethreshold = 0.0 # negativethreshold * rms in residual
# image
smoothfactor = 1.0 # smoothing factor in a unit of the
# beam
minbeamfrac = 0.3 # minimum beam fraction for pruning
cutthreshold = 0.01 # threshold to cut the smoothed mask to
# create a final mask
growiterations = 75 # number of binary dilation iterations
# for growing the mask

restart = True # True : Re-use existing images. False
# : Increment imagename
savemodel = 'none' # Options to save model visibilities
# (none, virtual, modelcolumn)
calcrs = True # Calculate initial residual image
calcpsf = True # Calculate PSF
parallel = False # Run major cycles in parallel
```

... some CASA images...





## More Detailed Help - CASA Guides:

<https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php?title=ALMAGuides>





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