

# Error Recognition and Image Analysis



## Alison Peck

Many thanks to Greg Taylor

with additional contributions from Urvashi Rao, Sanjay Bhatnagar,  
Gustaaf van Moorsel, Justin Linford, Ed Fomalont



Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array

Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array

Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope

Very Long Baseline Array



# This is mostly a review...

This week, we have learned about calibration, imaging, and about things that can go wrong with both.

To recap:

- **Non-imaging analysis** describes how to extract information directly from the  $(u,v)$  data
- **Image analysis** describes the many ways in which useful insight, information and parameters can be extracted from the image.
- **Error recognition** is used to determine defects in the visibility data and/or images during and after the 'best' calibration, editing, etc.

# Issues: Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

## Culprits:

Wireless devices at low frequencies

Television/radio signals

Aircraft, Radar

Car radars

## Problematic regions:

1215 – 1300 MHz mobile comm.

1675 – 1710 MHz mobile comm.

1755 – 1850 MHz mobile comm.

2155 – 2200 MHz mobile comm

4200 – 4220 MHz altimeters

4380 – 4440 MHz altimeters

5925 – 7250 level-probing-radar

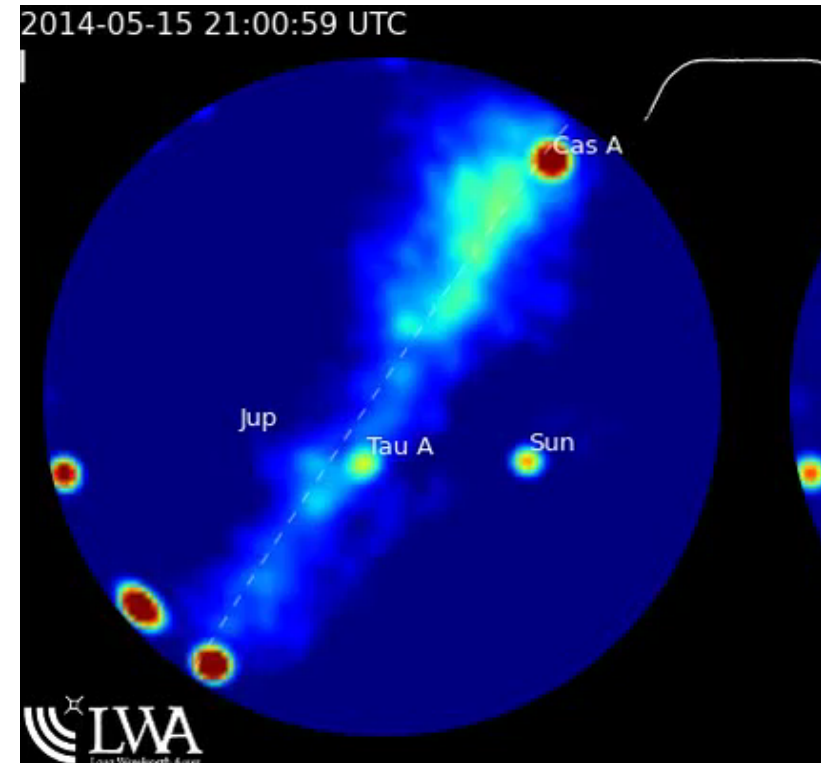
14000 – 14500 air to ground

15400 – 15700 radar

76000 – 77000 automobile radar  
(and harmonics)

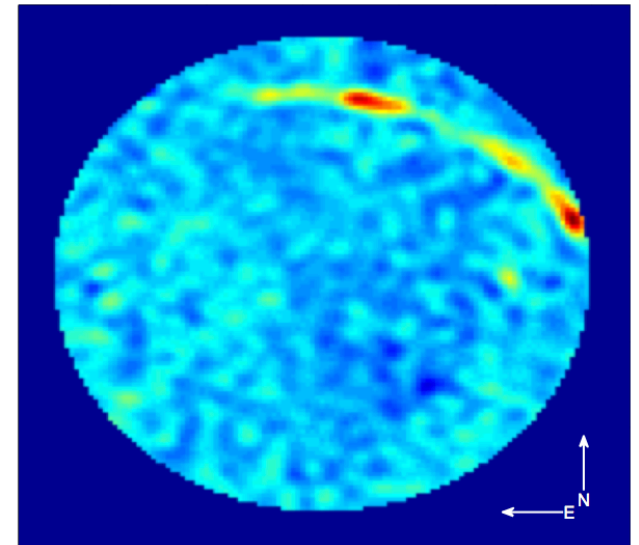
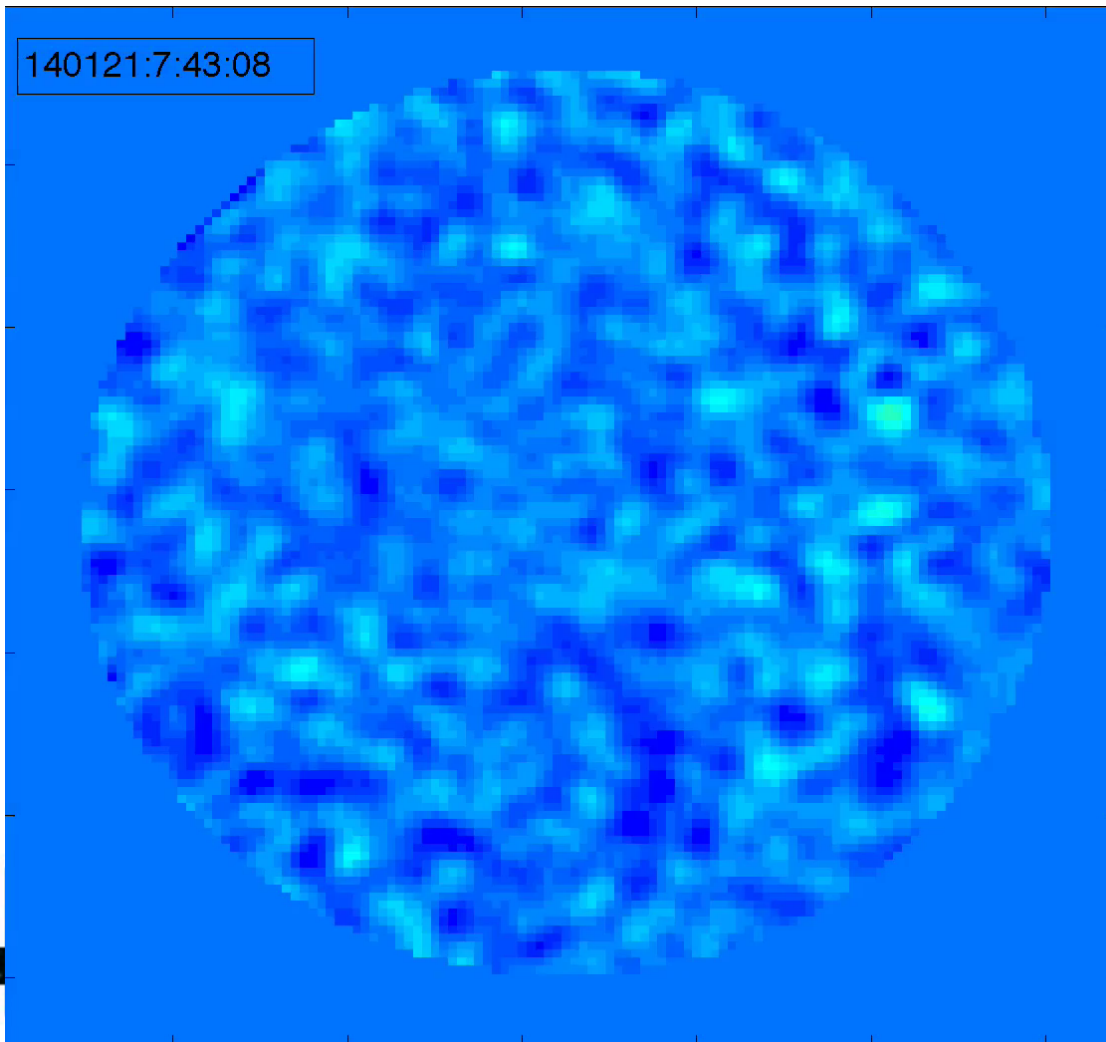
VLA  
VLBA

ALMA



# Fireballs

Discovery of broad-band emission from meteors

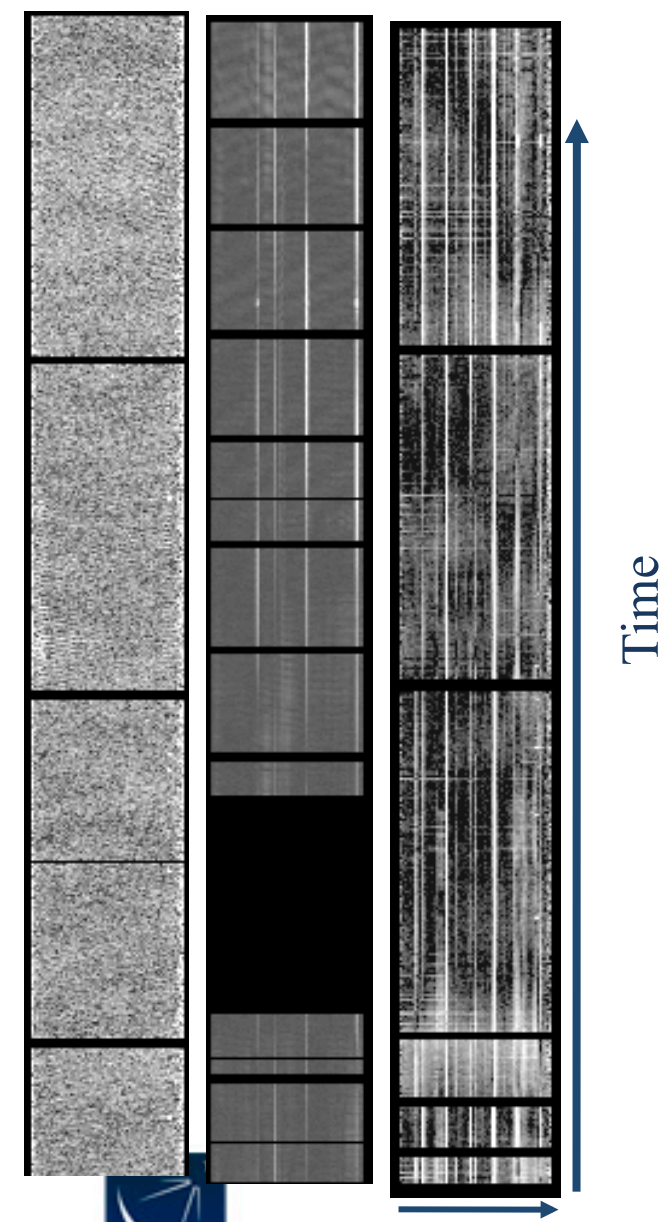


These happen about 1/week  
Peak is  $\sim 3000$  Jy at 40 MHz

Obenberger et al



35 km 12 km 3 km baseline



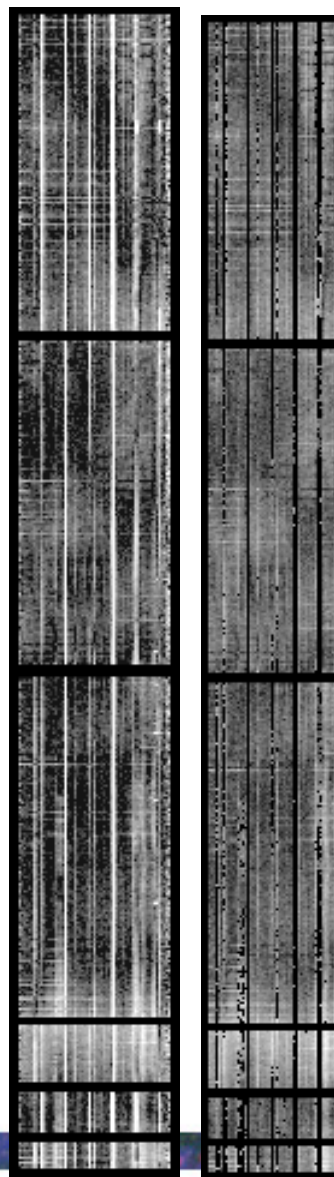
Frequency

AIPS: SPFLG

## RFI Removal

before

after



RFI environment worse on short baselines

Several 'types': narrow band, wandering, wideband, ...

Wideband interference hard for automated routines

Automation is crucial for WIDAR (wide band, lots of data)

# General Procedure

We assume that the data have been edited and calibrated reasonably successfully including self-calibration if necessary.

**So, the first serious display of an image leads one—**

- to inspect again and clean-up the data repeating some or all of the previous reduction steps.
  - removal of one type of problem can reveal next problem!
- once all is well, proceed to image-analysis and obtaining scientific results from the image.



# Image Plane or Data (u,v) Plane Inspection?

## Errors obey Fourier transform relationship

Narrow feature in (u,v) plane  $\leftrightarrow$  wide feature in image plane

Wide feature in (u,v) plane  $\leftrightarrow$  narrow feature in image plane

Note: often easier to spot narrow features

Data (u,v) amplitude errors  $\leftrightarrow$  symmetric image features

Data (u,v) phase errors  $\leftrightarrow$  asymmetric image features

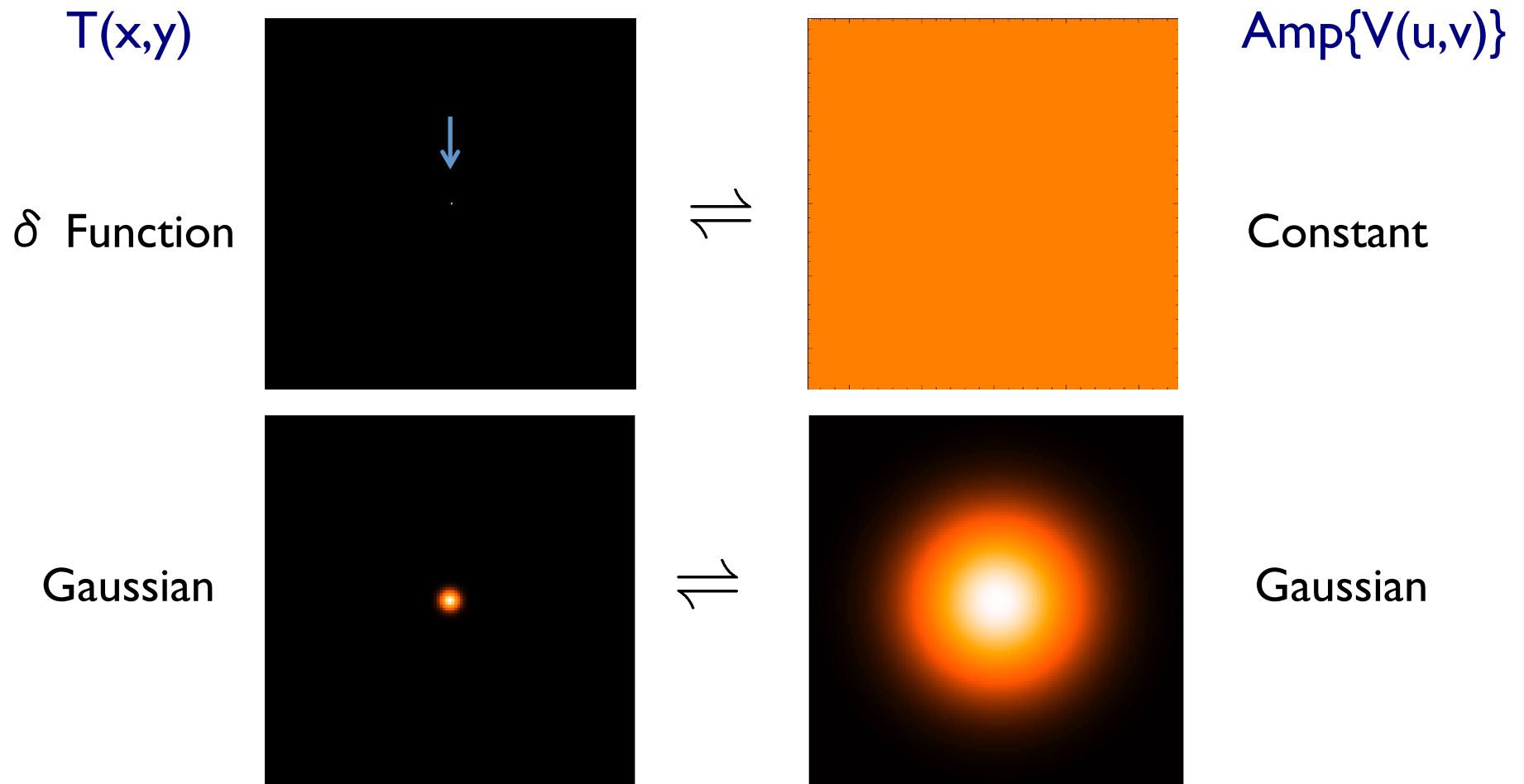
An obvious defect may be hardly visible in the transformed plane

A small, almost invisible defect may become very obvious in the transformed plane

Let's start with the u,v plane

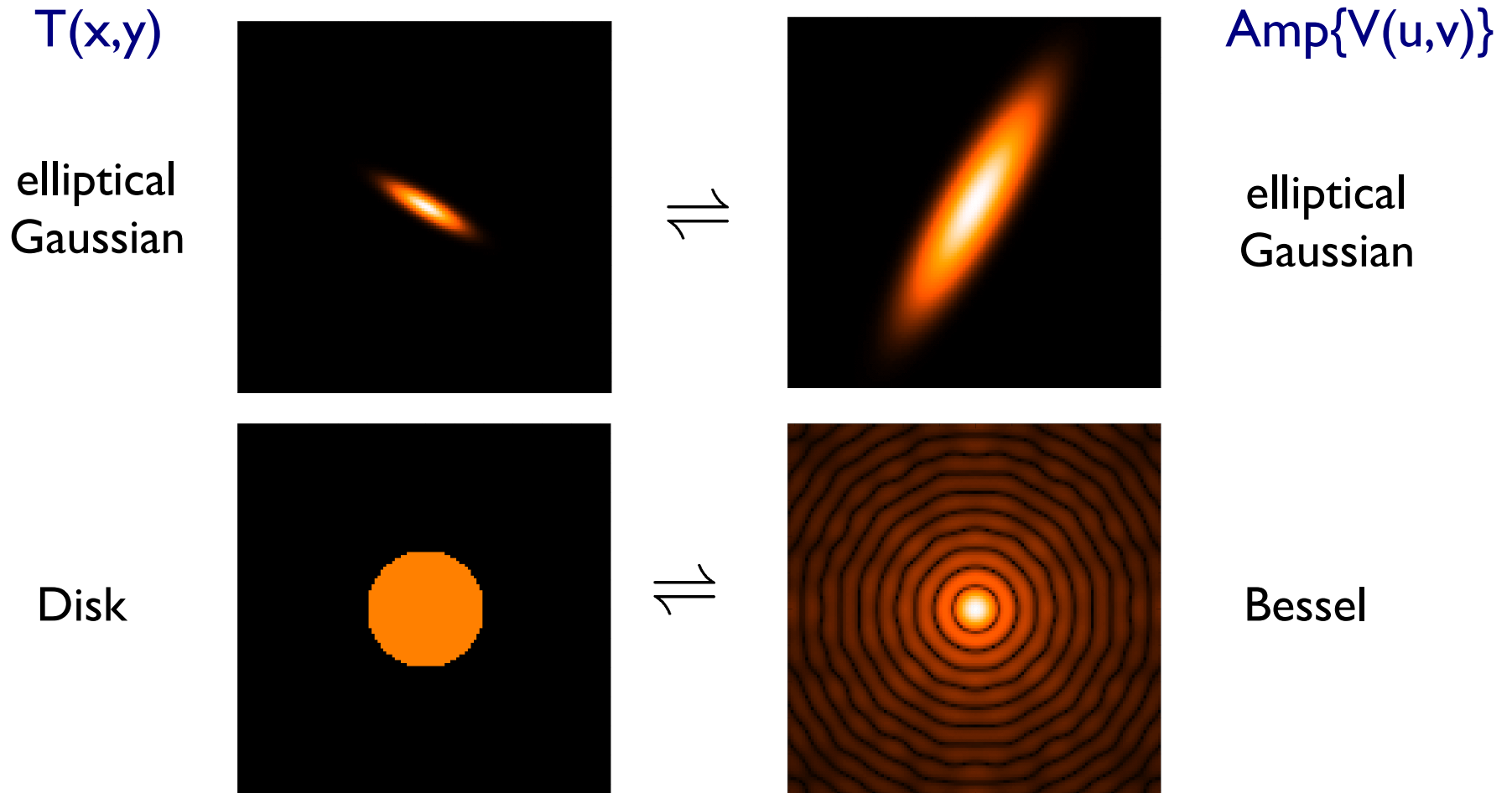


# Some 2D Fourier Transform Pairs



narrow features transform to wide features (and vice-versa)

# 2D Fourier Transform Pairs



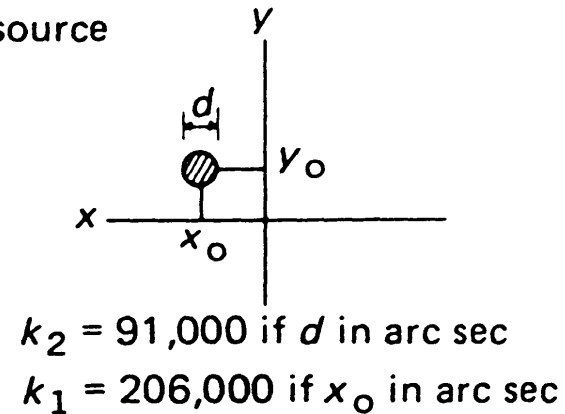
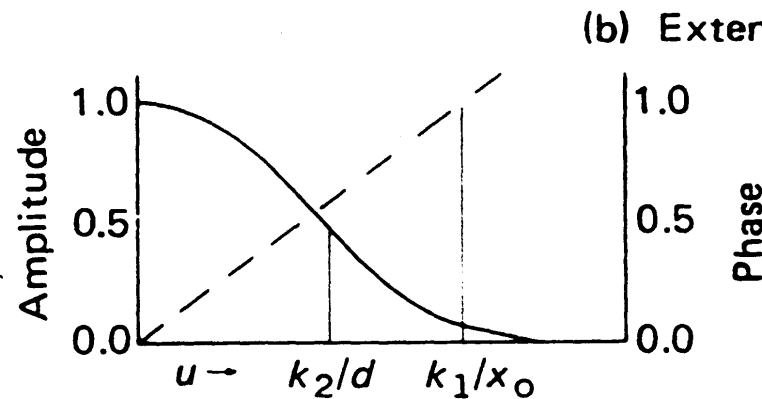
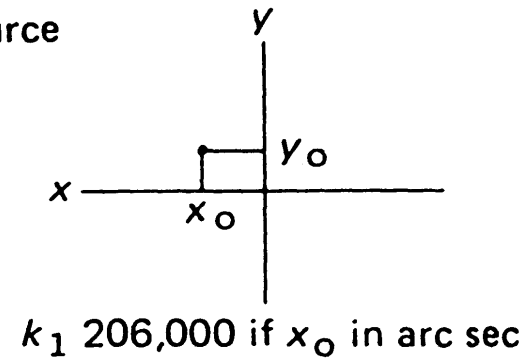
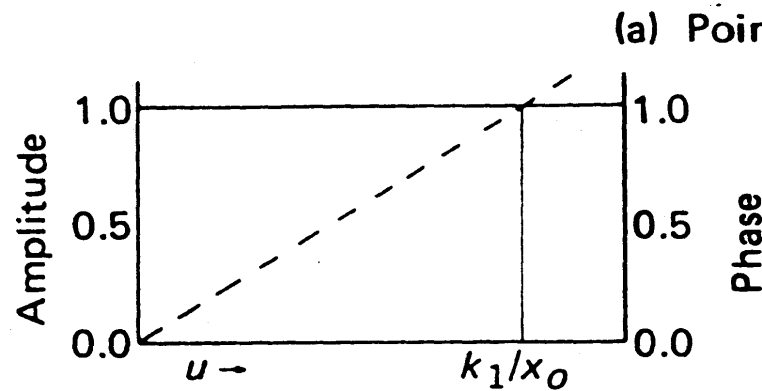
sharp edges result in many high spatial frequencies  
(sinc function, “ringing”, Gibbs phenomenon)



# Visibility $\leftarrow F \rightarrow$ Brightness

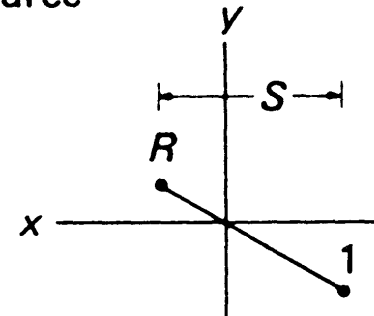
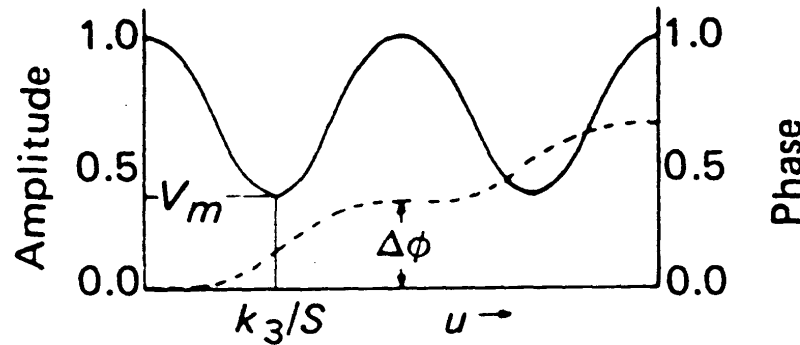
Visibility function

Brightness distribution



# Visibility $\leftarrow F \rightarrow$ Brightness

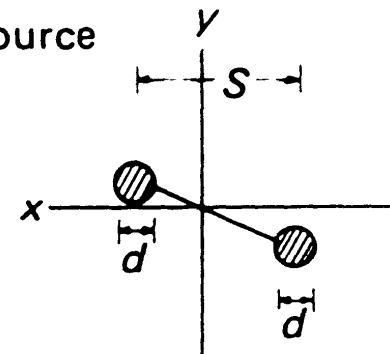
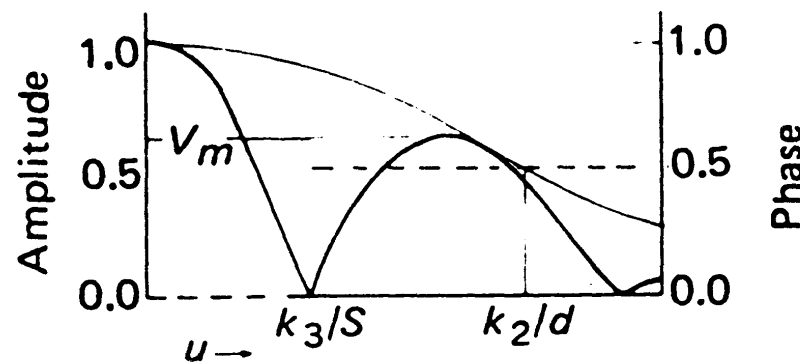
(c) Point double source



$$k_3 = 103,000 \text{ if } S \text{ in arc sec}$$

$$V_m = \frac{R - 1}{R + 1} ; \Delta\phi = \frac{1}{1 + R}$$

(d) Extended double source



$$k_3 = 103,000 \text{ if } S \text{ in arc sec}$$

$$k_2 = 91,000 \text{ if } d \text{ in arc sec}$$

$$V_m \approx \exp \left\{ -3.57 \left( \frac{d}{S} \right)^2 \right\}$$

# Data Displays

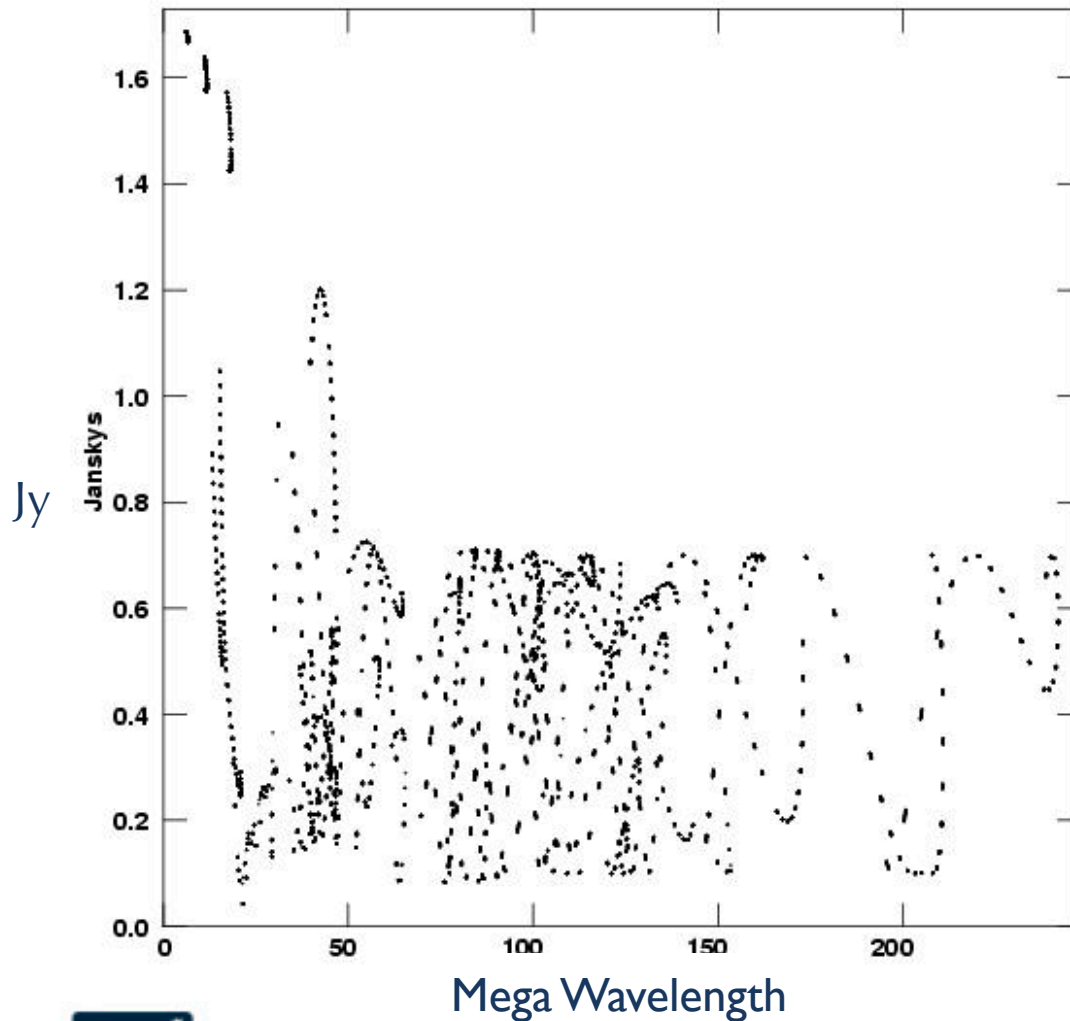
Visibility Amplitude versus  
Projected (u,v) spacing

General trend of data.

Useful for relatively strong  
sources.

Triple source model. Large  
components cause rise at  
short spacings.

Oscillations at longer spacings  
suggest close double.



# Data Displays

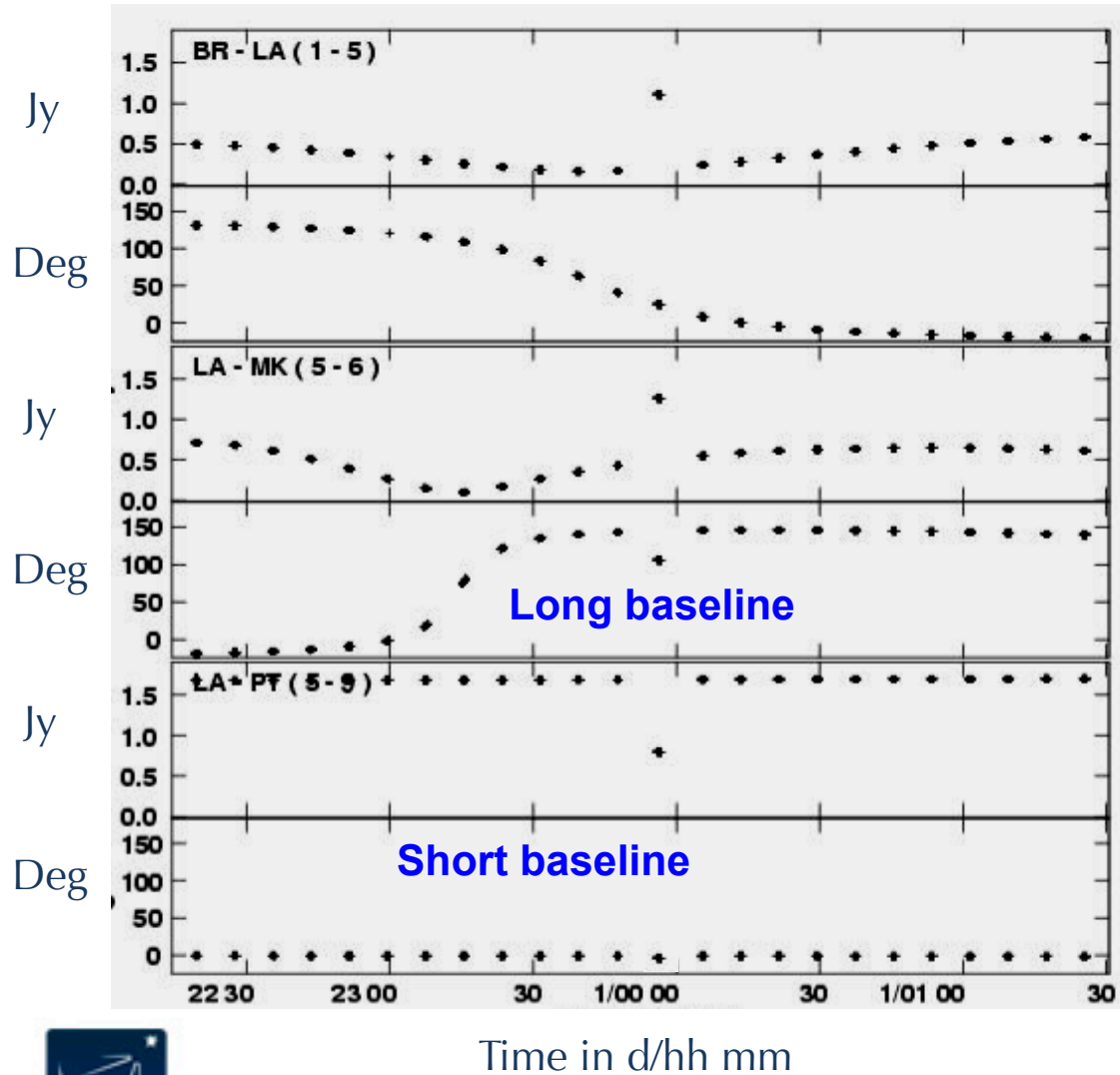
## List of (u,v) Data

Source= J0121+11		Freq= 8.434858511		Sort= TB			1 RR			
Vis #	IAT	Ant	Su	Fq	U(klam)	V(klam)	W(klam)	Amp	Phas	Wt
2191	0/22:35:08.22	5- 6	1	0	94220	23776	100371	0.614	-16	1.0000
3971	0/22:43:43.34	5- 6	1	0	97659	24517	96844	0.508	-13	1.0000
6431	0/23:07:05.15	5- 6	1	0	106307	26661	86632	0.154	17	1.0000
6611	0/23:07:14.98	5- 6	1	0	106364	26677	86557	0.152	17	1.0000
6791	0/23:07:24.81	5- 6	1	0	106421	26692	86483	0.150	18	1.0000
6971	0/23:07:34.64	5- 6	1	0	106477	26708	86408	0.148	19	1.0000
7151	0/23:07:44.47	5- 6	1	0	106534	26724	86333	0.146	19	1.0000
7331	0/23:07:54.30	5- 6	1	0	106591	26739	86259	0.144	20	1.0000
7511	0/23:15:06.84	5- 6	1	0	109027	27438	82930	0.101	74	1.0000
7691	0/23:15:16.67	5- 6	1	0	109081	27454	82854	0.101	75	1.0000
7871	0/23:15:26.50	5- 6	1	0	109135	27470	82777	0.102	77	1.0000
8051	0/23:15:36.33	5- 6	1	0	109189	27486	82701	0.102	78	1.0000
8231	0/23:15:46.16	5- 6	1	0	109243	27502	82624	0.103	79	1.0000
8411	0/23:15:55.99	5- 6	1	0	109297	27518	82547	0.104	81	1.0000
9701	0/23:31:02.36	5- 6	1	0	114020	29035	75322	0.260	134	1.0000
9791	0/23:31:06.29	5- 6	1	0	114040	29042	75290	0.261	134	1.0000
10301	0/23:31:29.88	5- 6	1	0	114156	29082	75098	0.266	134	1.0000
10861	0/23:39:02.08	5- 6	1	0	116320	29863	71379	0.348	139	1.0000
10951	0/23:39:06.01	5- 6	1	0	116339	29870	71346	0.348	139	1.0000
11171	0/23:39:15.84	5- 6	1	0	116384	29887	71264	0.350	139	1.0000

Old School, but sometimes worth-while: e.g., can search on e.g.  $\text{Amp} > 1.0$ , or large weight. Often need precise times in order to flag the data appropriately.



# Data Displays



Visibility amplitude and phase versus time for various baselines

Good for determining the continuity of the data

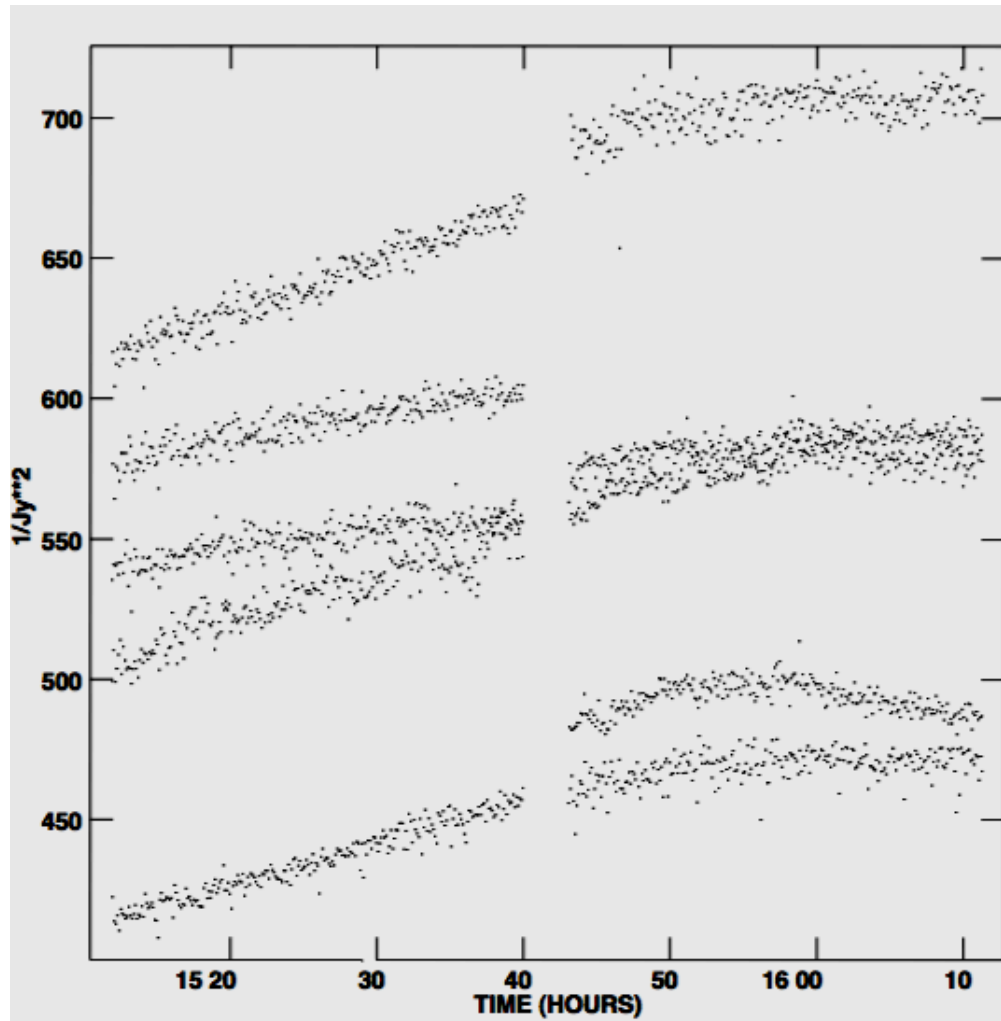
Should be relatively smooth with time

Outliers are obvious



# Data Displays

Weights of antenna 4 with 5,6,7,8,9



All (u,v) data points have a **weight**. The weight depends on the antenna sensitivity, measured during the observations

The amplitude calibration values also modify the weights.

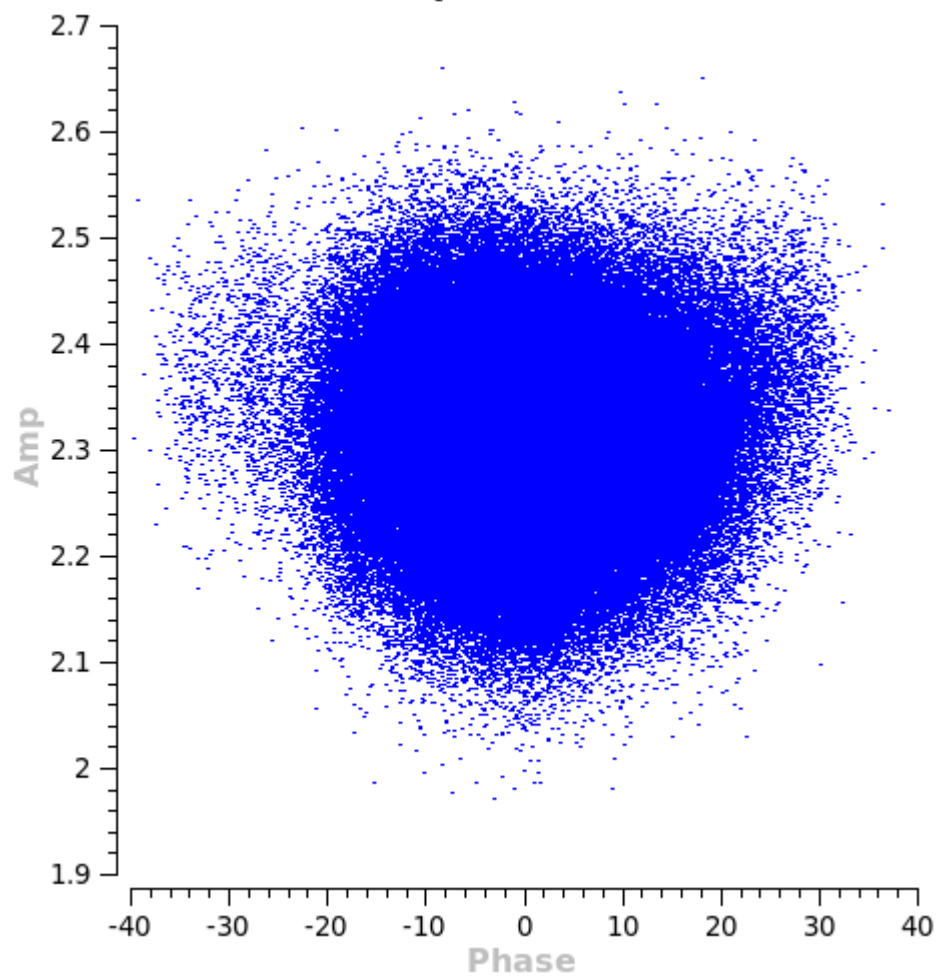
Occasionally the weight of the points become very large, often caused by subtle software bugs.

A large discrepant weight causes the same image artifacts as a large discrepant visibility value.

Check weights to make sure they are reasonable.

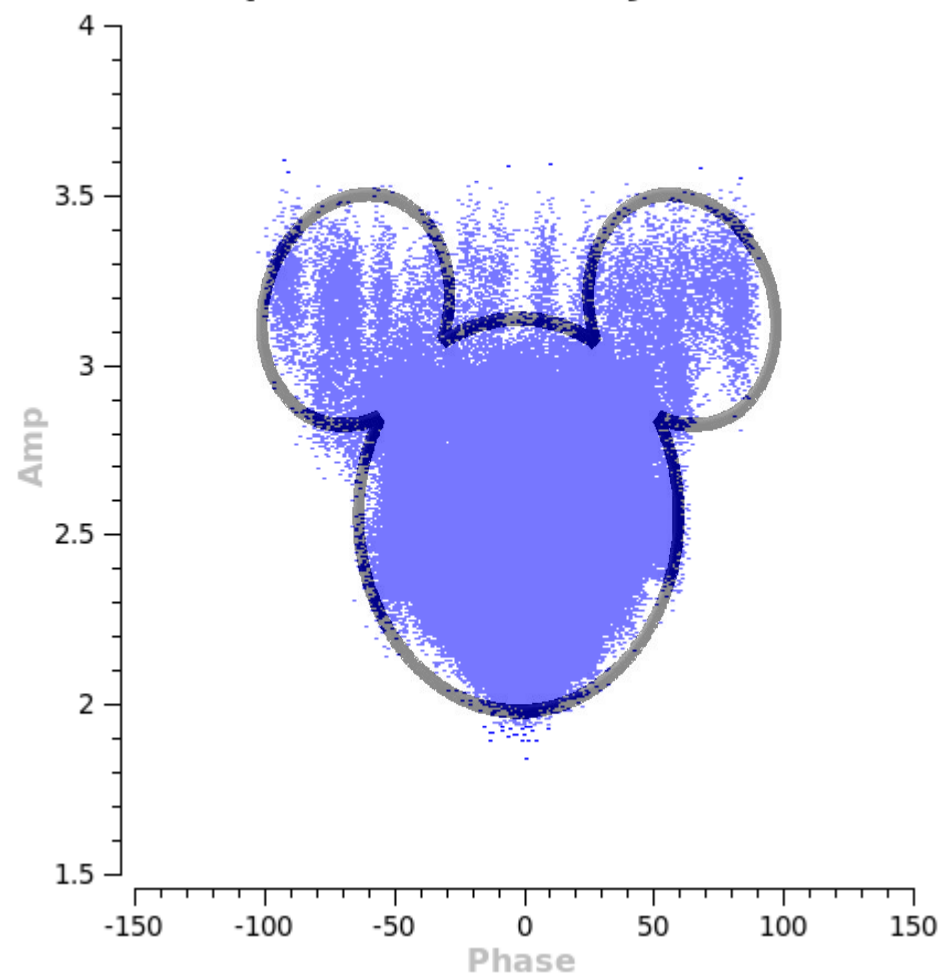
# Data Displays – Amplitude vs Phase

**Amp vs. Phase**



Good

**Amp vs. Phase Field: J0136+4751**



Bad

# Finding Errors

## ---Obvious outlier data (u,v) points:

100 bad points in 100,000 data points gives an 0.1% image error

(unless the bad data points are 1 million Jy)

LOOK at u,v DATA to find **gross** problem (you'd be hard pressed to find it in the image plane other than a slight increase in noise)

## ---Persistent small data errors:

e.g. a 5% antenna gain calibration error is difficult to see

in (u,v) data (not an obvious outlier), but will produce a

1% effect in image with specific characteristics (more later).

USE IMAGE to discover problem

## ---Non-Data Problems:

Data ok, but algorithms chosen aren't up to the task.



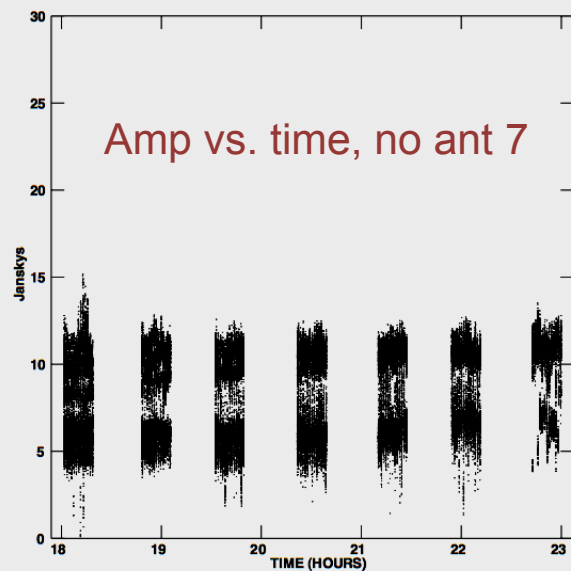
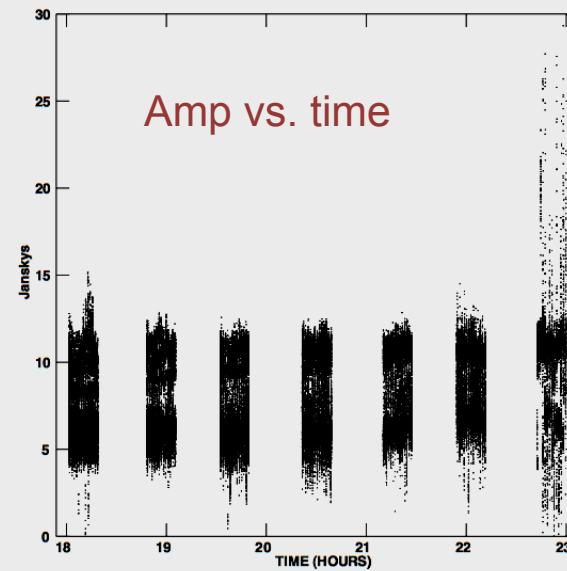
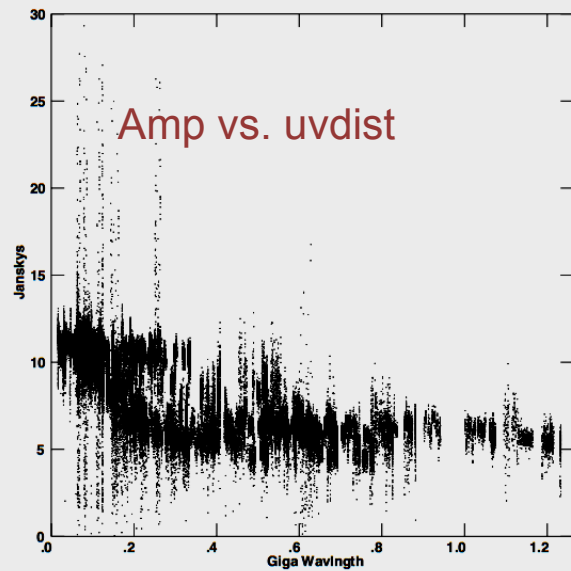
# Error Recognition in the (u,v) Plane

Editing obvious errors in the (u,v) plane

- Mostly consistency checks assume that the visibility cannot change much over a small change in (u,v) spacing
- Also, look at gain and phase solution tables from calibration processes. These values should be relatively stable.

More details in the “white book” - Ekers, Lecture 15, p321

# Visibility Amplitude Plots



Amp vs. uvdist shows outliers

Amp vs. time shows outliers in last scan

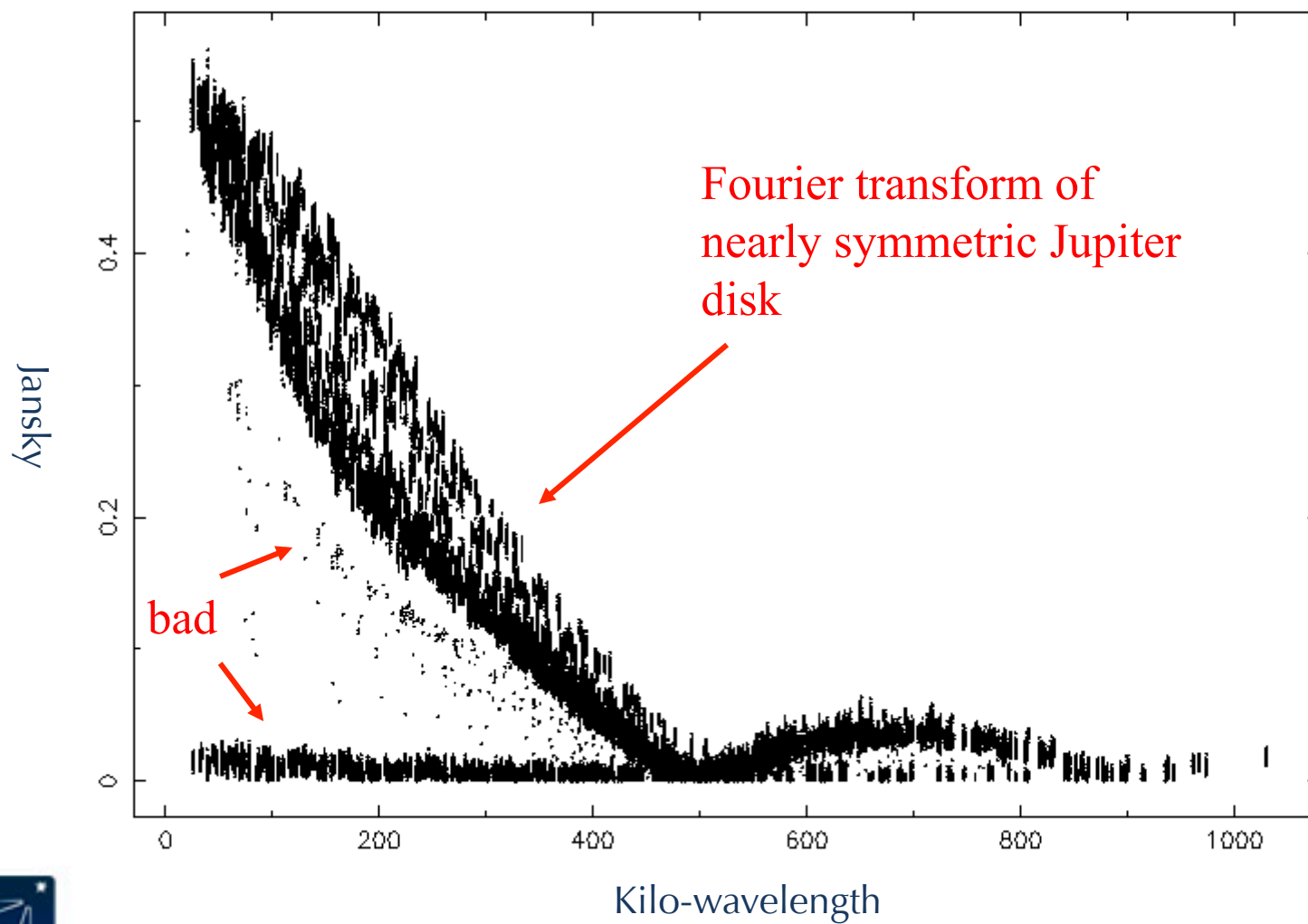
Amp vs. time without ant 7 shows good data

(3C279 VLBA data at 43 GHz)

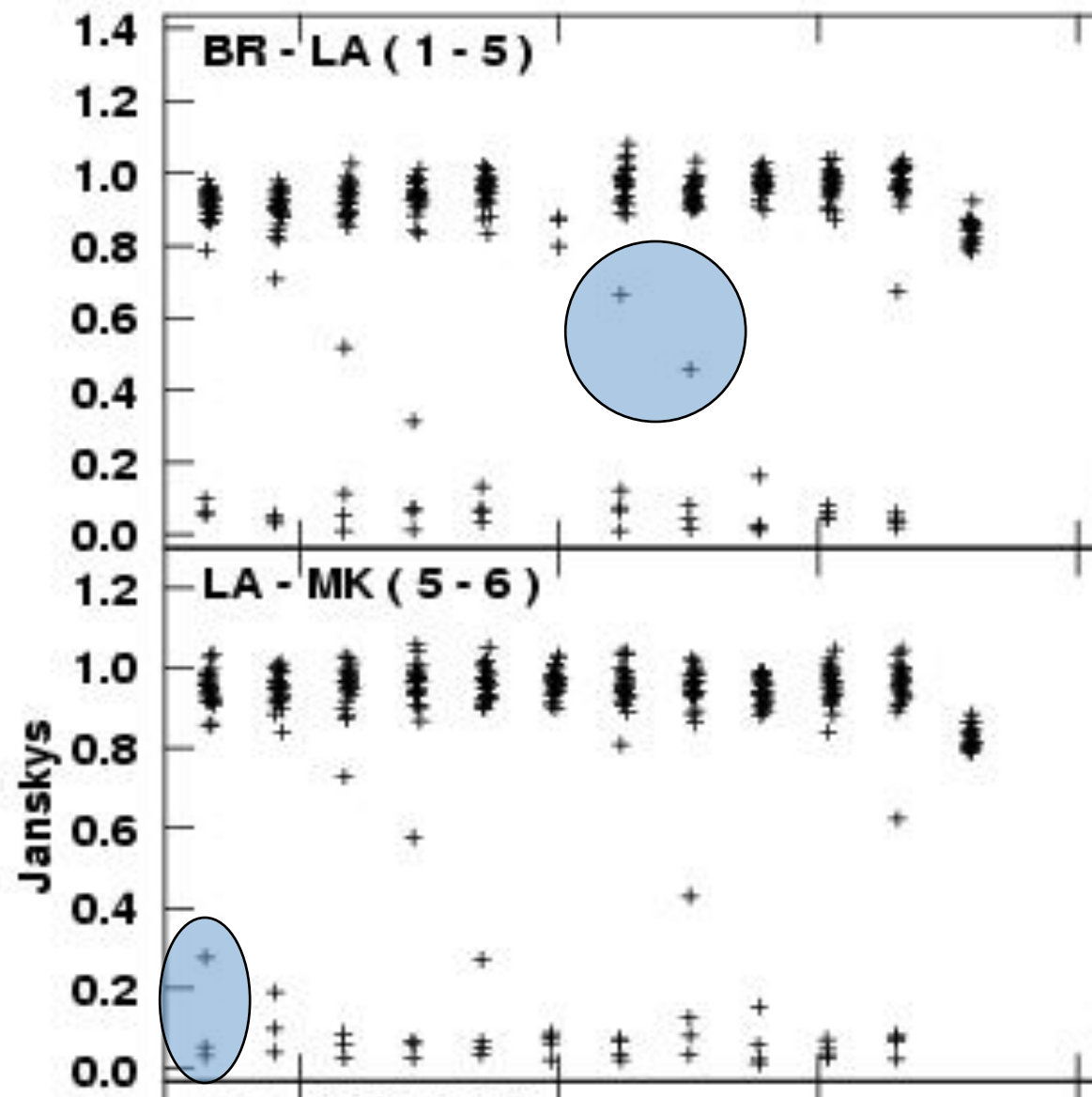




# Example Edit – plotms



# Drop-outs at Scan Beginnings



Often the first few points of a scan are low. E.g. antenna not on source.

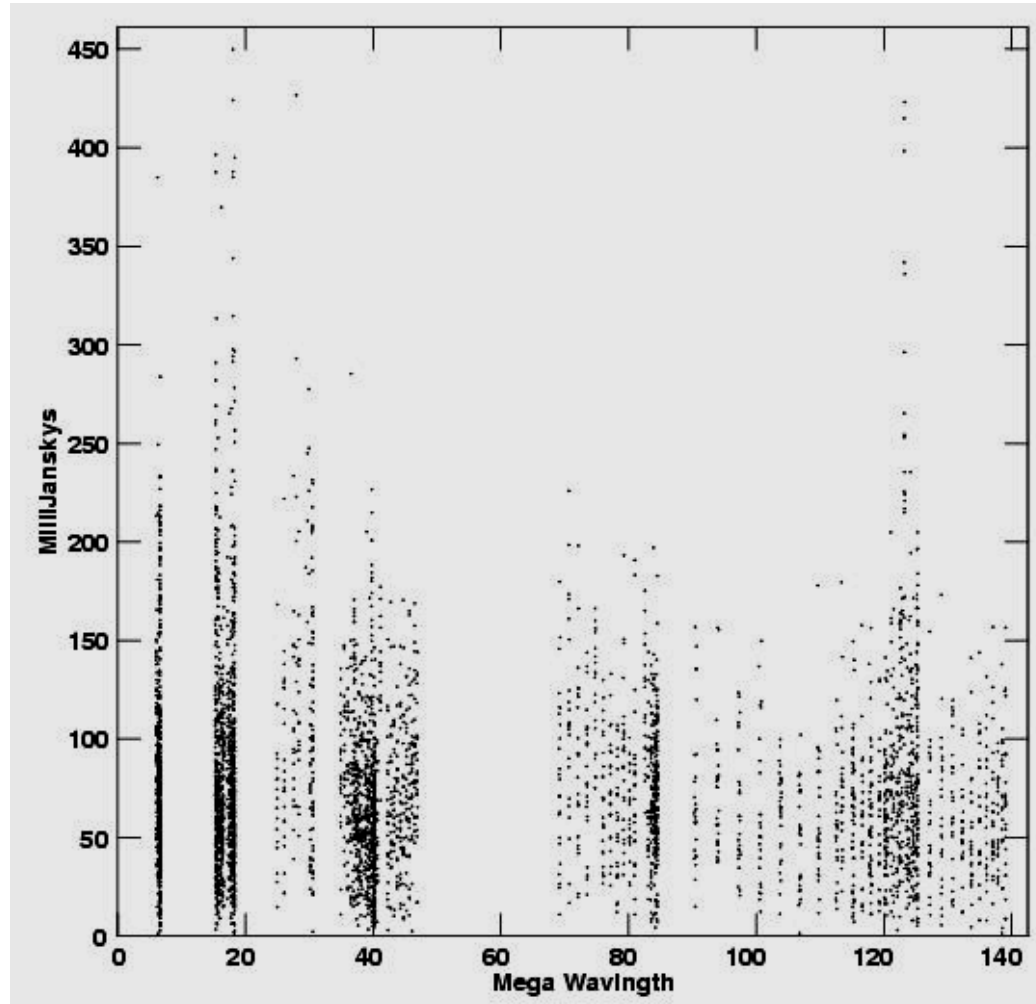
Software can remove these points (aips, casa 'quack')

**Flag extension:**

Should flag all sources in the same manner even though you cannot see dropout for weak sources



# Editing Noise-dominated Sources



No source structure  
information is detected.  
Noise dominated.

All you can do is quack and  
remove outlier points above  
 $\sim 3\sigma$ . Precise level not  
important as long as large  
outliers are removed.

# Image Displays

	Pixel values																																											
	235								245								255								265								275											
287	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
285	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
283	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
281	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
277	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
273	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
269	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
267	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
263	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
257	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
255	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
249	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
247	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
241	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
239	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
233	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0</	

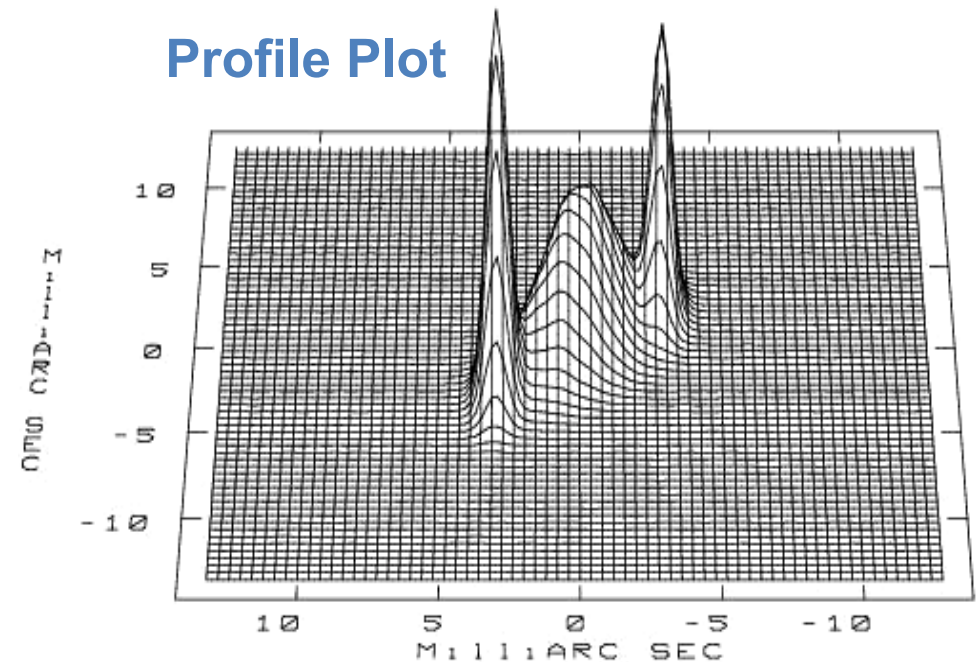
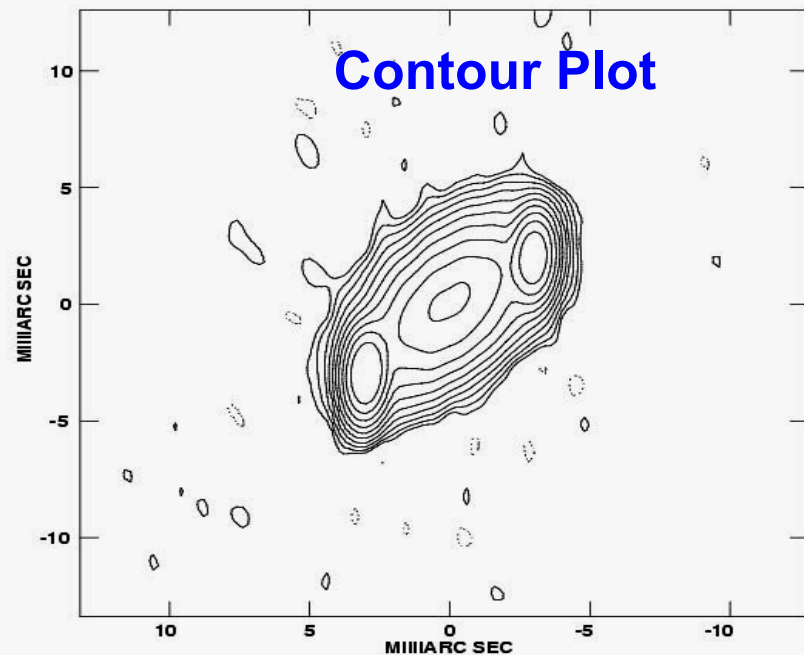
Digital image

Numbers are  
proportional to  
the intensity

Old School



# Image Displays



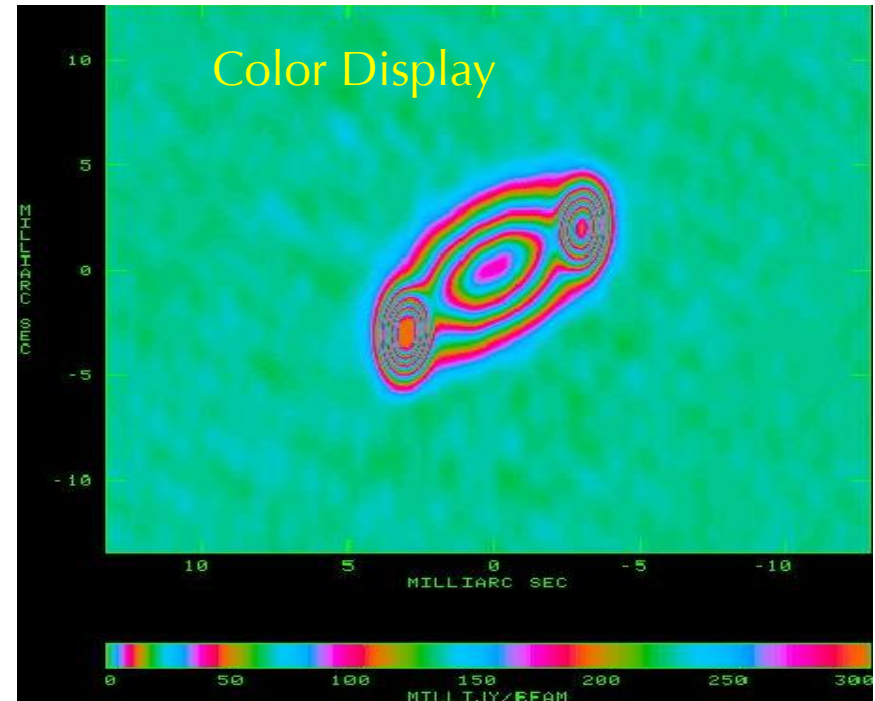
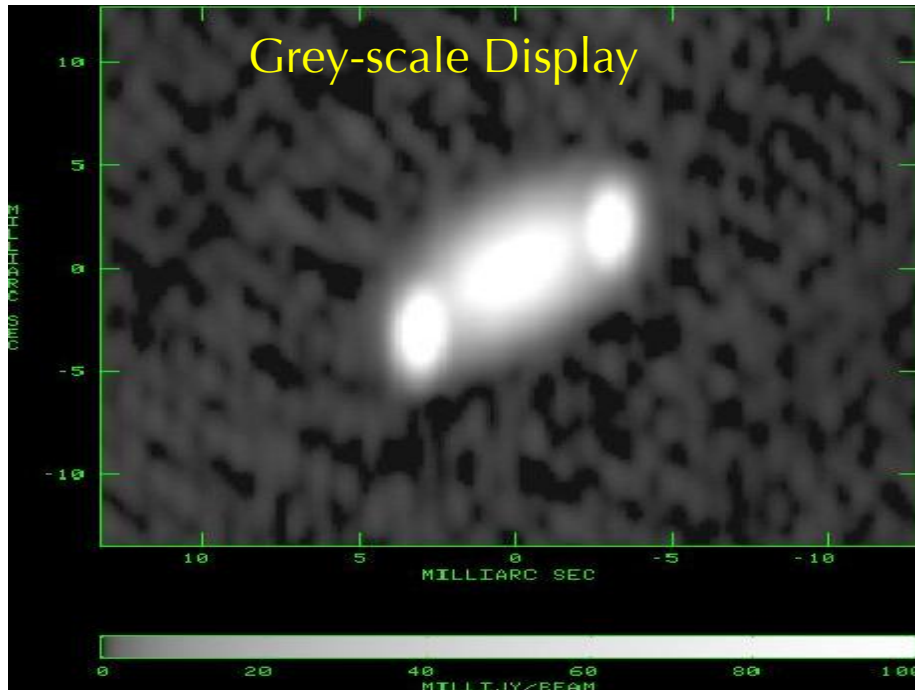
**These plots are easy to reproduce and print**

Contour plots give good representation of faint emission.

Profile plots give a good representation of the bright emission



# Image Displays



**TV-based displays are most useful and interactive:**

Grey-scale shows faint structure, but not good for high dynamic range and somewhat unbiased view of source

Color displays more flexible; e.g. pseudo contours

# Error Recognition in the Image Plane

Some Questions to ask:

Noise properties of image:

Is the rms noise about that expected from integration time?

Is the rms noise much larger near bright sources?

Are there non-random noise components (faint waves and ripples

Funny looking structure:

Non-physical features; stripes, rings, symmetric or anti-symmetric

Negative features well-below  $4\sigma$  noise

Does the image have characteristics that look like the dirty beam?

Image-making parameters:

Is the image big enough to cover all significant emission?

Is cell size too large or too small?  $\sim 4$  points per beam okay

Is the resolution too high to detect most of the emission?



# Obvious Image Problems

VLBA observations of SgrA\* at 43 GHz

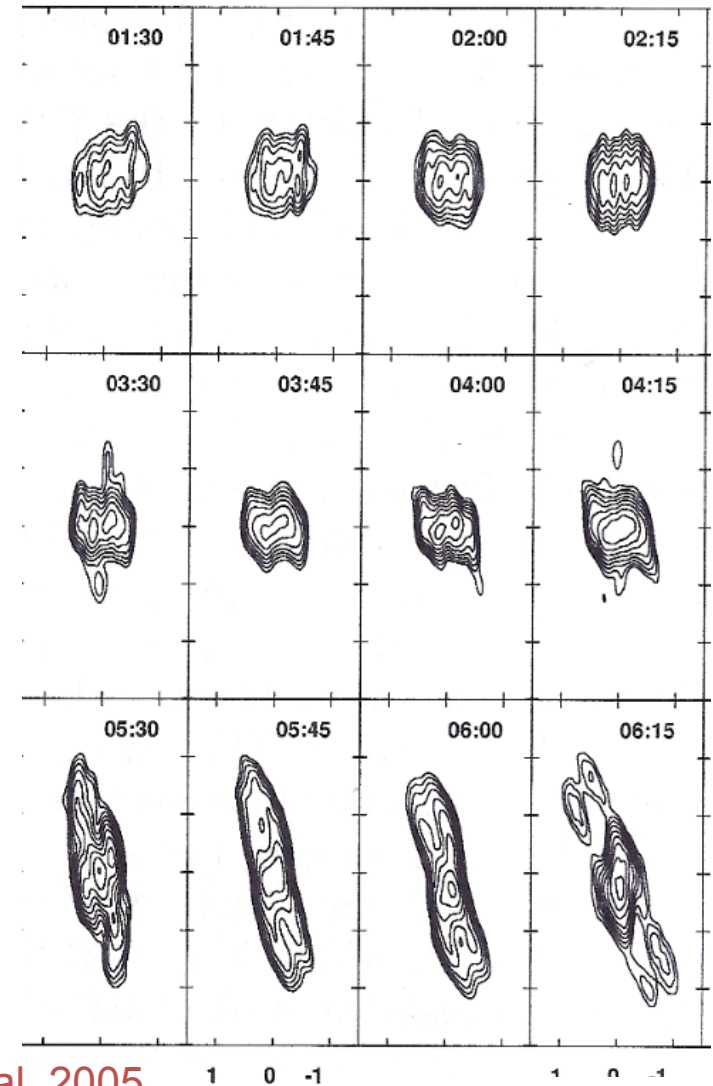
This can't be right. Either SgrA\* has  
bidirectional jets that nobody else  
has ever seen or...

Clear signs of problems:

Image rms > expected rms

Unnatural features in the image

How can the problems be found and  
corrected?



Miyoshi et al. 2005

milliarcsec



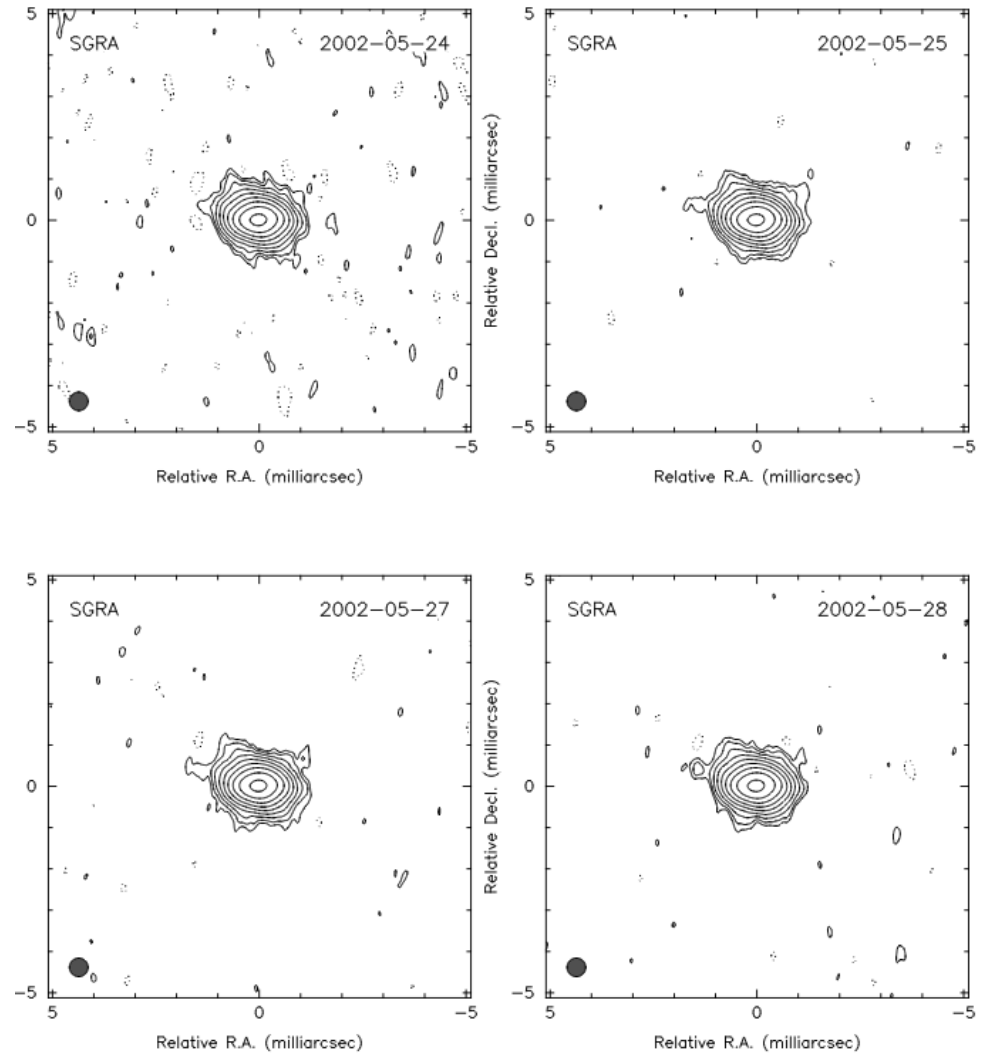
# High Quality Images

## Reality

With care we can obtain good images.

## What were defects?

Two antennas had ~30% calibration errors at low elevations.

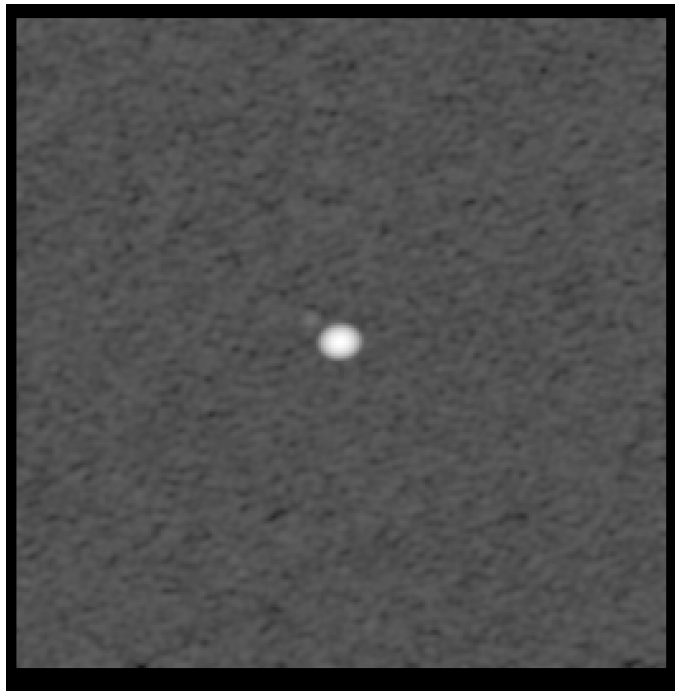


milliarcsec

# EXAMPLE I: Data bad over a short period of time

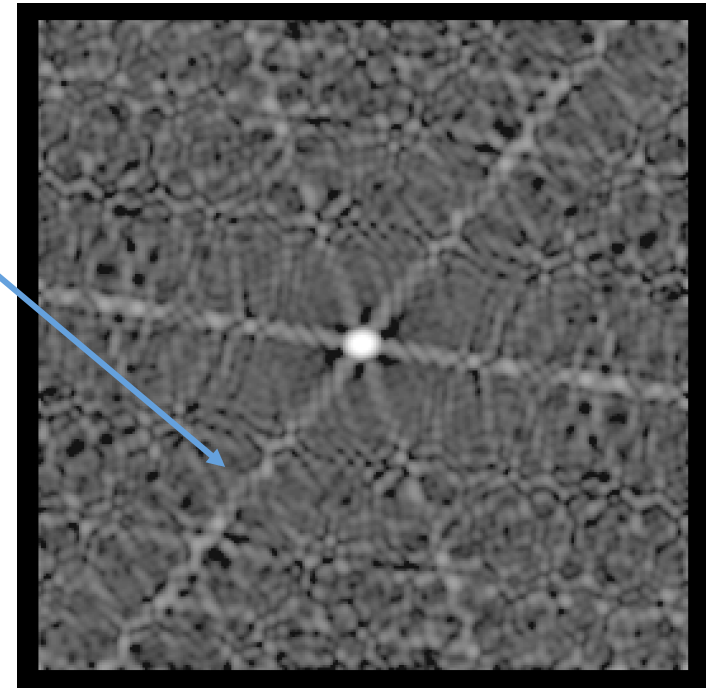
Results for a point source using VLA. 13 x 5min observation over 10 hr.  
Images shown after editing, calibration and deconvolution.

no errors:  
max 3.24 Jy  
rms 0.11 mJy



6-fold symmetric  
pattern due to  
VLA "Y".  
Image has  
properties of dirty  
beam.

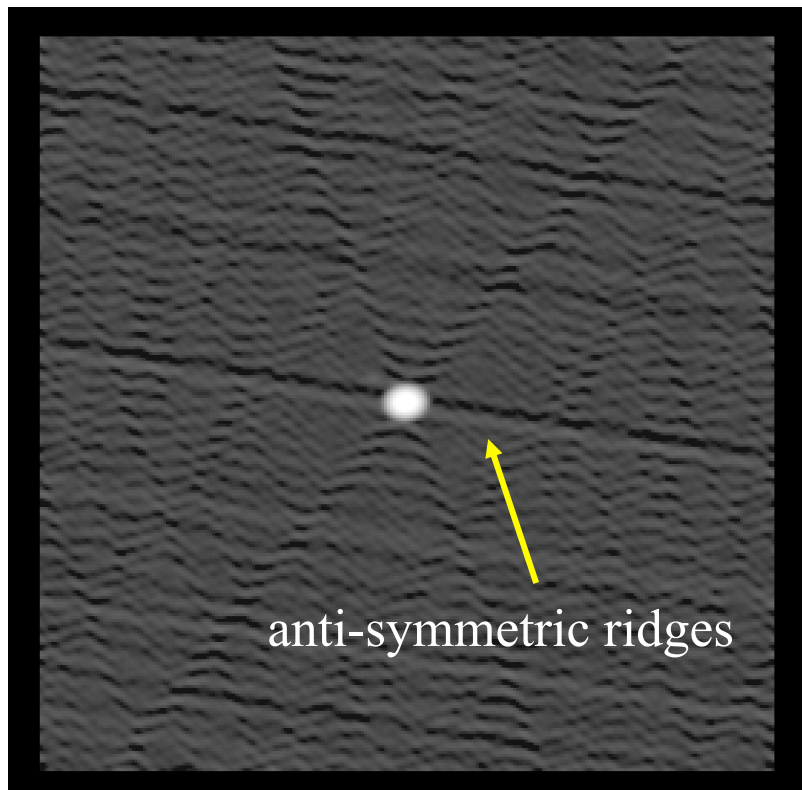
10% amp error for all  
antennas for 1 time period  
rms 2.0 mJy



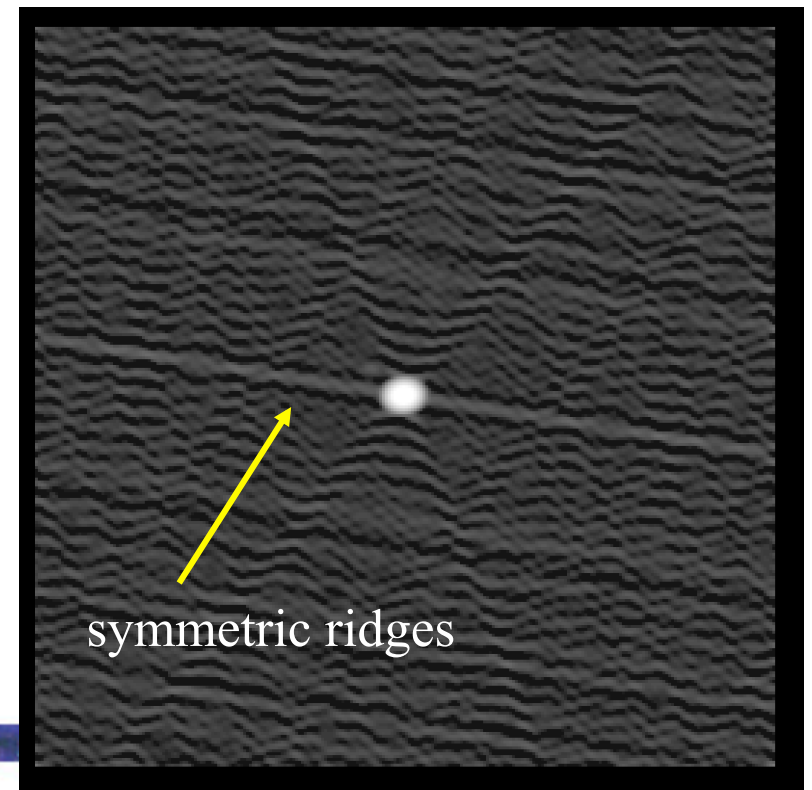
## EXAMPLE 2: Short burst of bad data

Typical effect from one bad antenna

10 deg phase error for  
one antenna at one time  
rms 0.49 mJy



20% amplitude error for  
one antenna at one time  
rms 0.56 mJy (self-

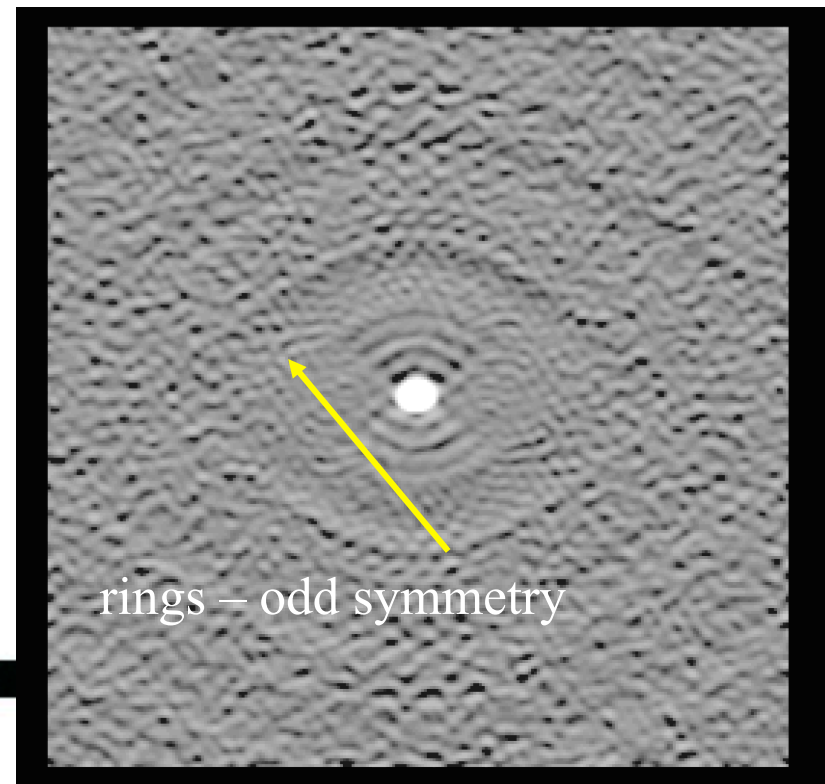




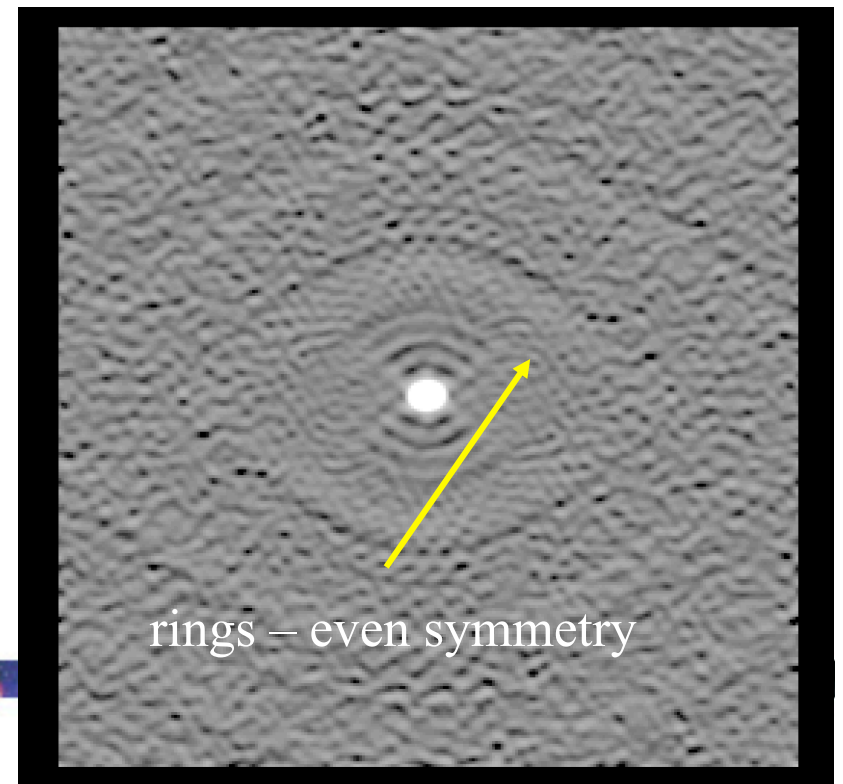
## EXAMPLE 3: Persistent errors over most of observations

NOTE: 10 deg phase error to 20% amplitude error  
cause similar sized artifacts

10 deg phase error for  
one antenna all times  
rms 2.0 mJy



20% amp error for one  
antenna all times  
rms 2.3 mJy



## EXAMPLE 4: Spurious Correlator Offset Signals

Occasionally correlators produce ghost signals or cross talk signals  
Occurred during change-over from VLA to EVLA system

Symptom: Garbage near phase center, dribbling out into image

Image with correlator offsets

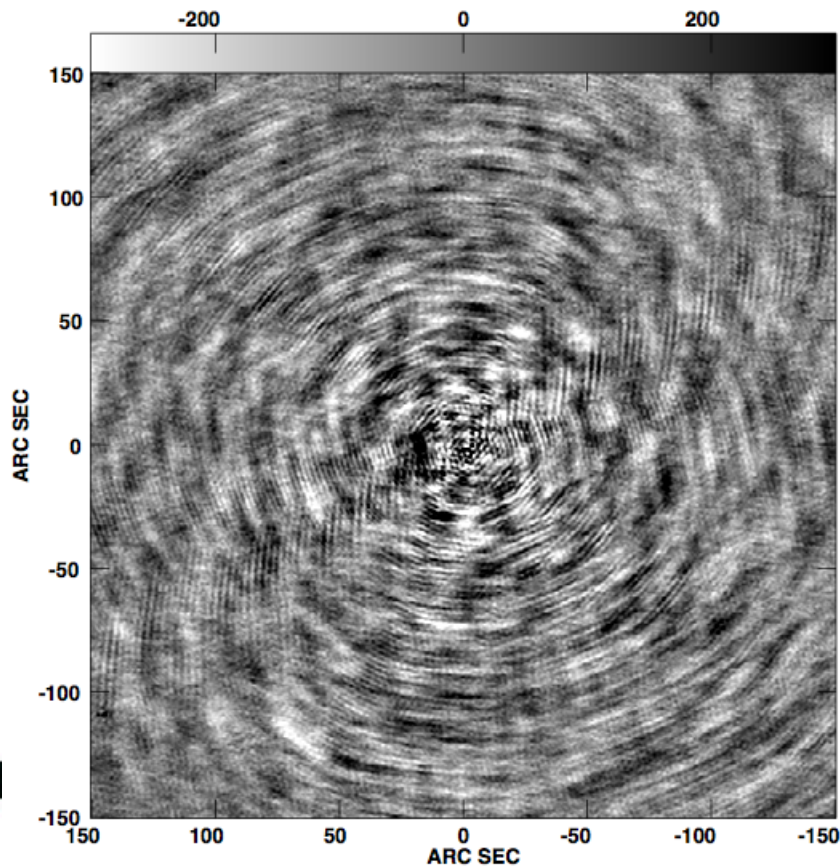
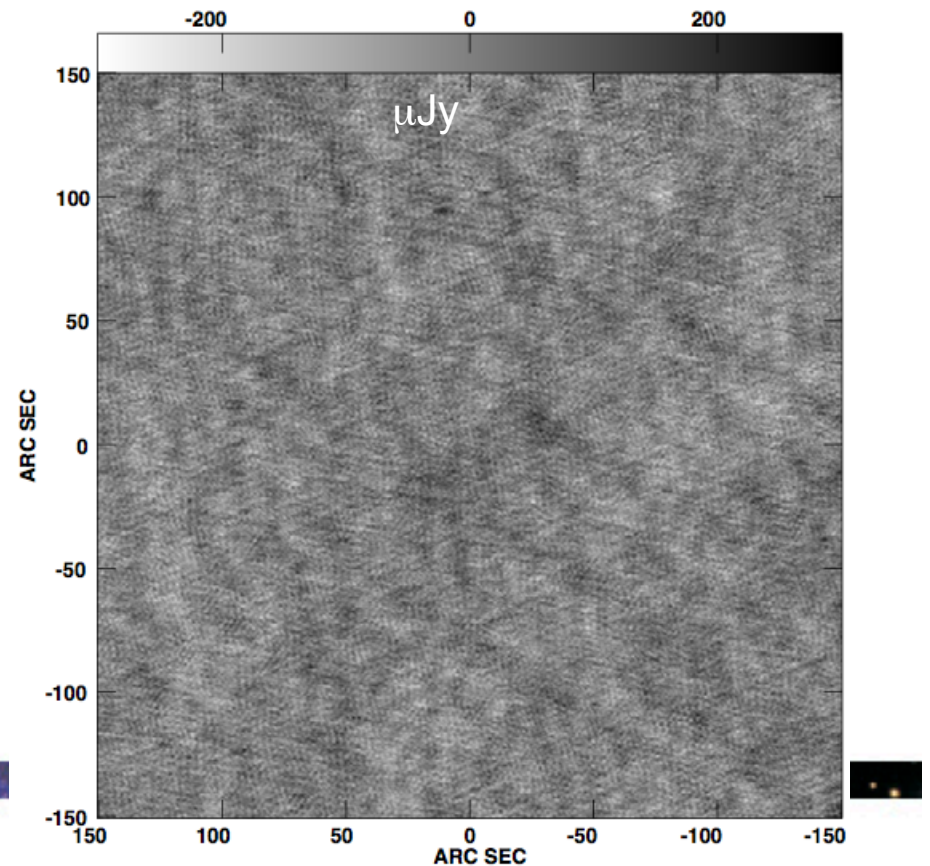
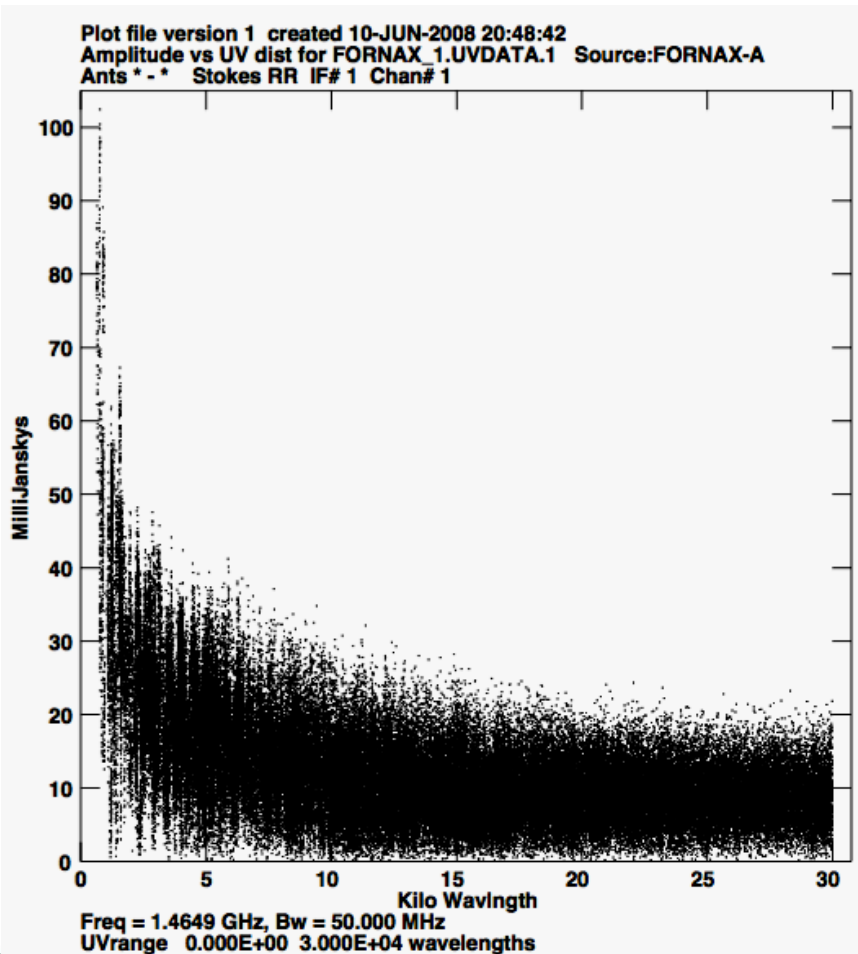


Image after correction of offsets



# Deconvolution Errors

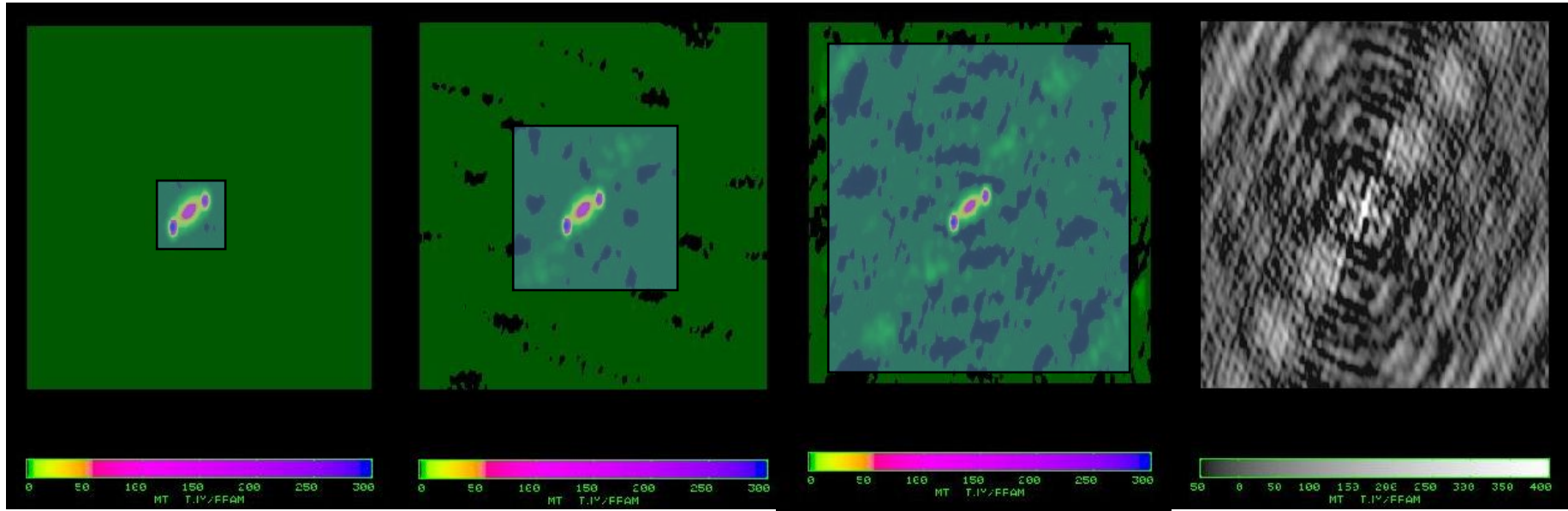
Even if the data are perfect, image errors and uncertainties will occur because the (u,v) coverage is not adequate to map the source structure.



The extreme rise of visibility at the short spacings makes it impossible to image the extended structure. You are better off imaging the source with a cutoff below about 2 kilo-wavelengths

Get shorter spacing or single-dish data

# Cleaning Window Sensitivity



Tight Box

One small clean  
box

Middle Box

One clean box  
around all emission

Big Box

Clean entire  
inner map quarter

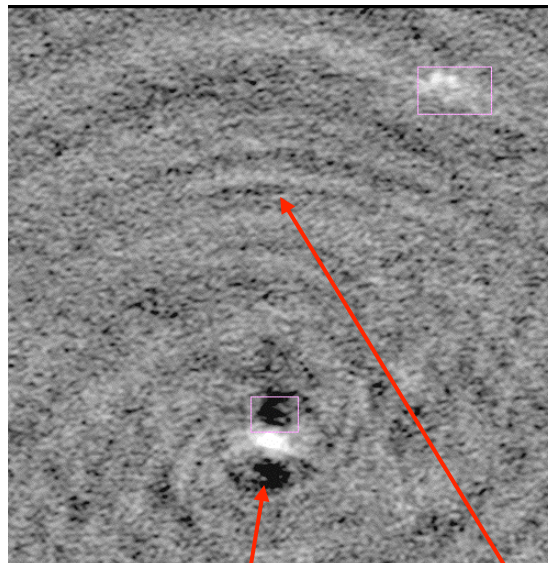
Dirty Beam

*Make box as small as possible to avoid  
cleaning noise interacting with sidelobes*



# How Deep to Clean?

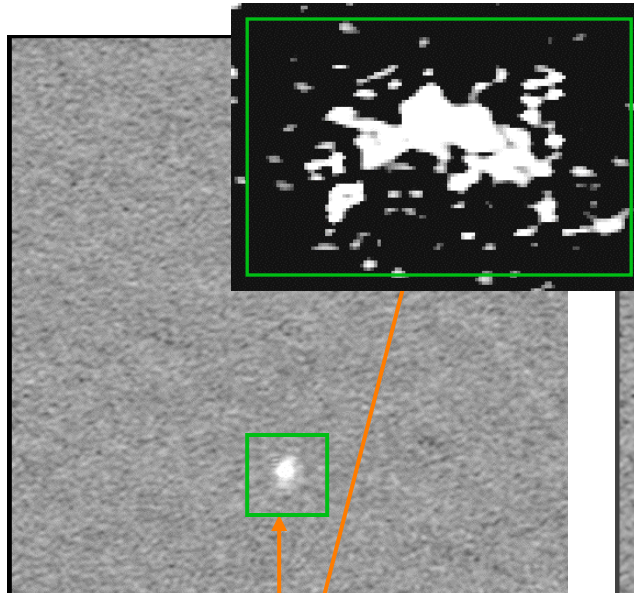
Under-cleaned



Emission from second source sits atop a negative "bowl"

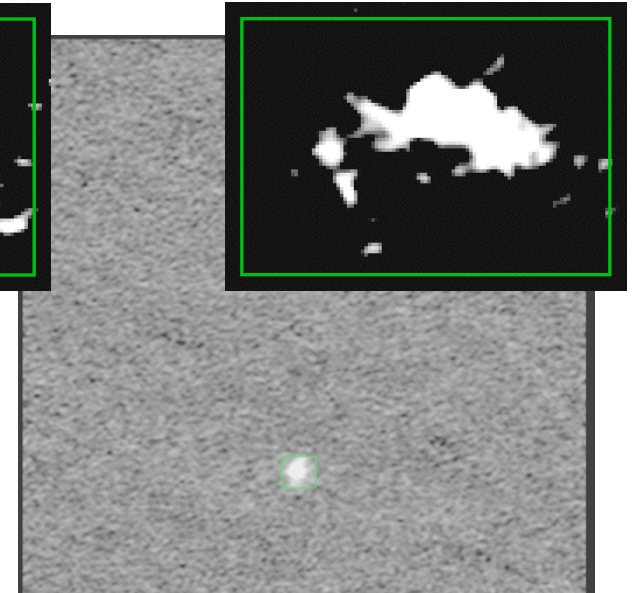
Residual sidelobes dominate the noise

Over-cleaned



Regions within clean boxes appear "mottled"

Properly cleaned

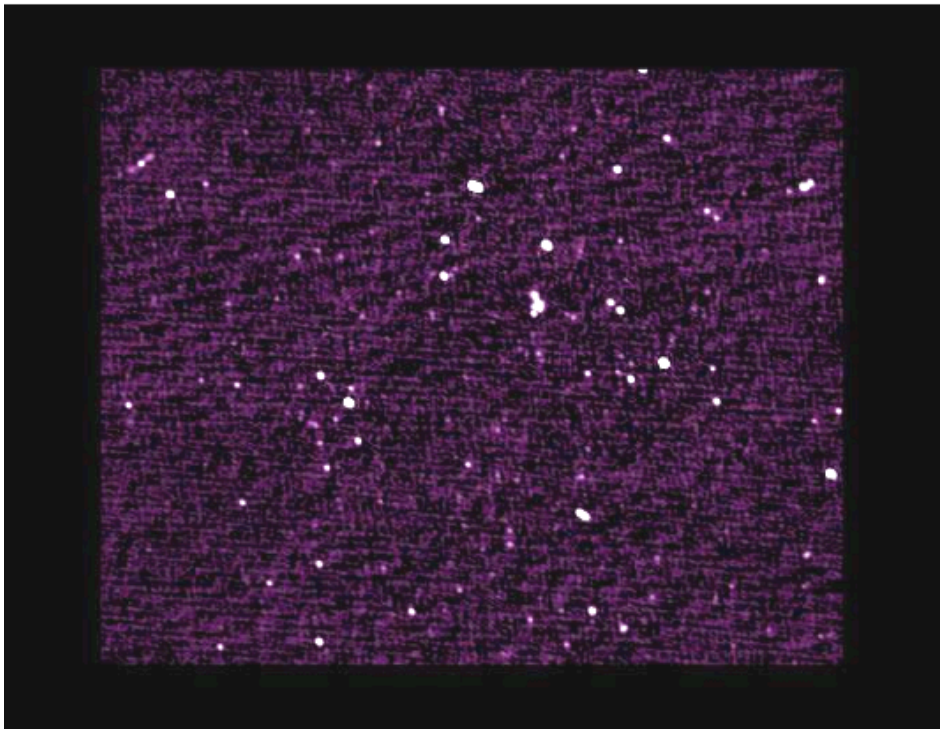


Background is thermal noise-dominated; no "bowls" around sources.

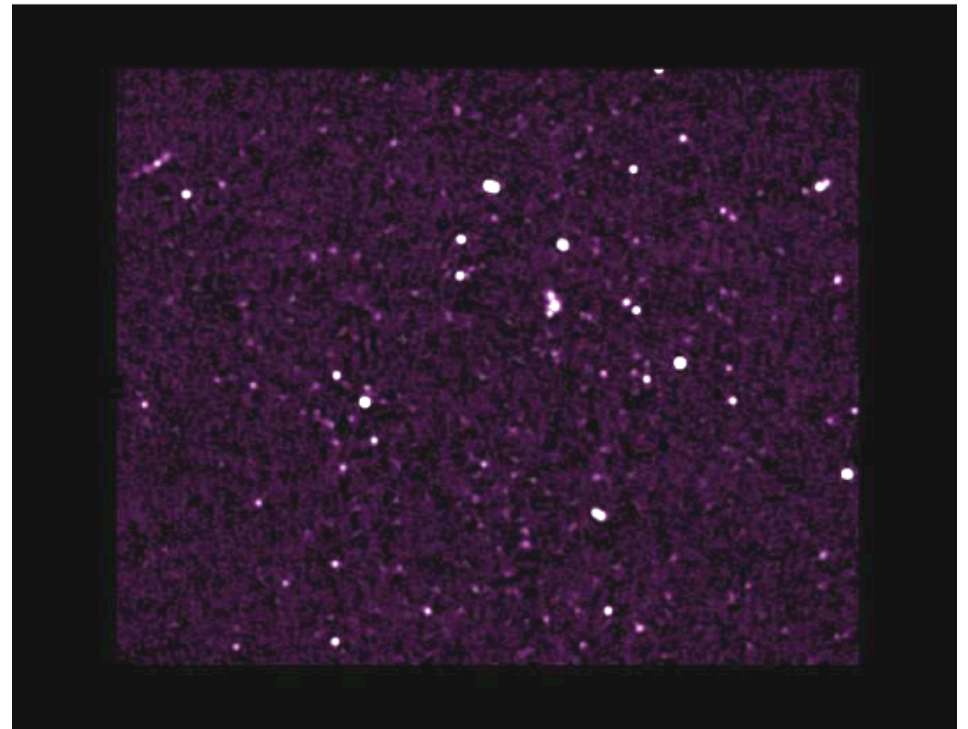
# Improvement of Image

Removal of low level ripple improves detectability of faint sources

Before editing

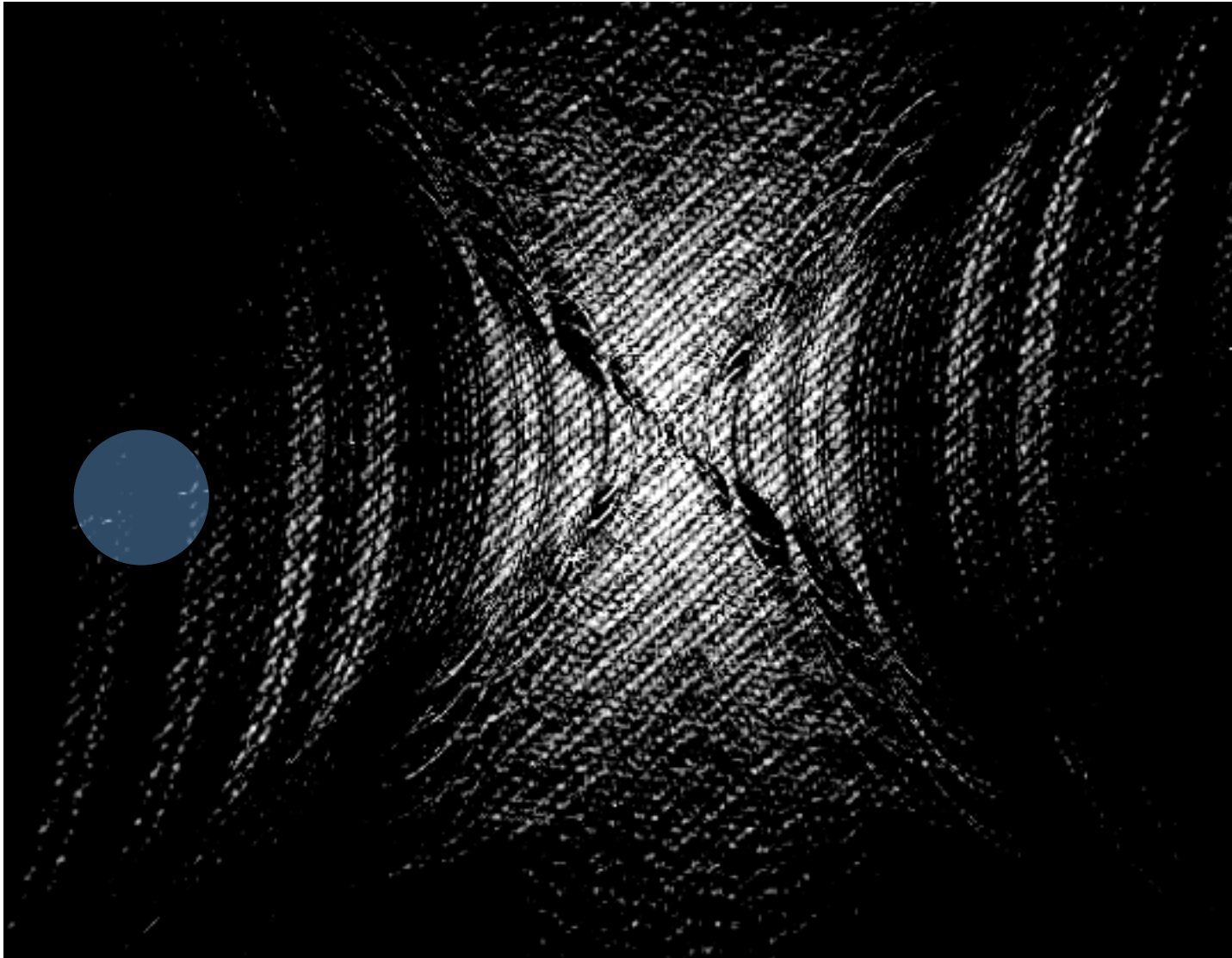


After editing





## Fourier Transform Dirty Image

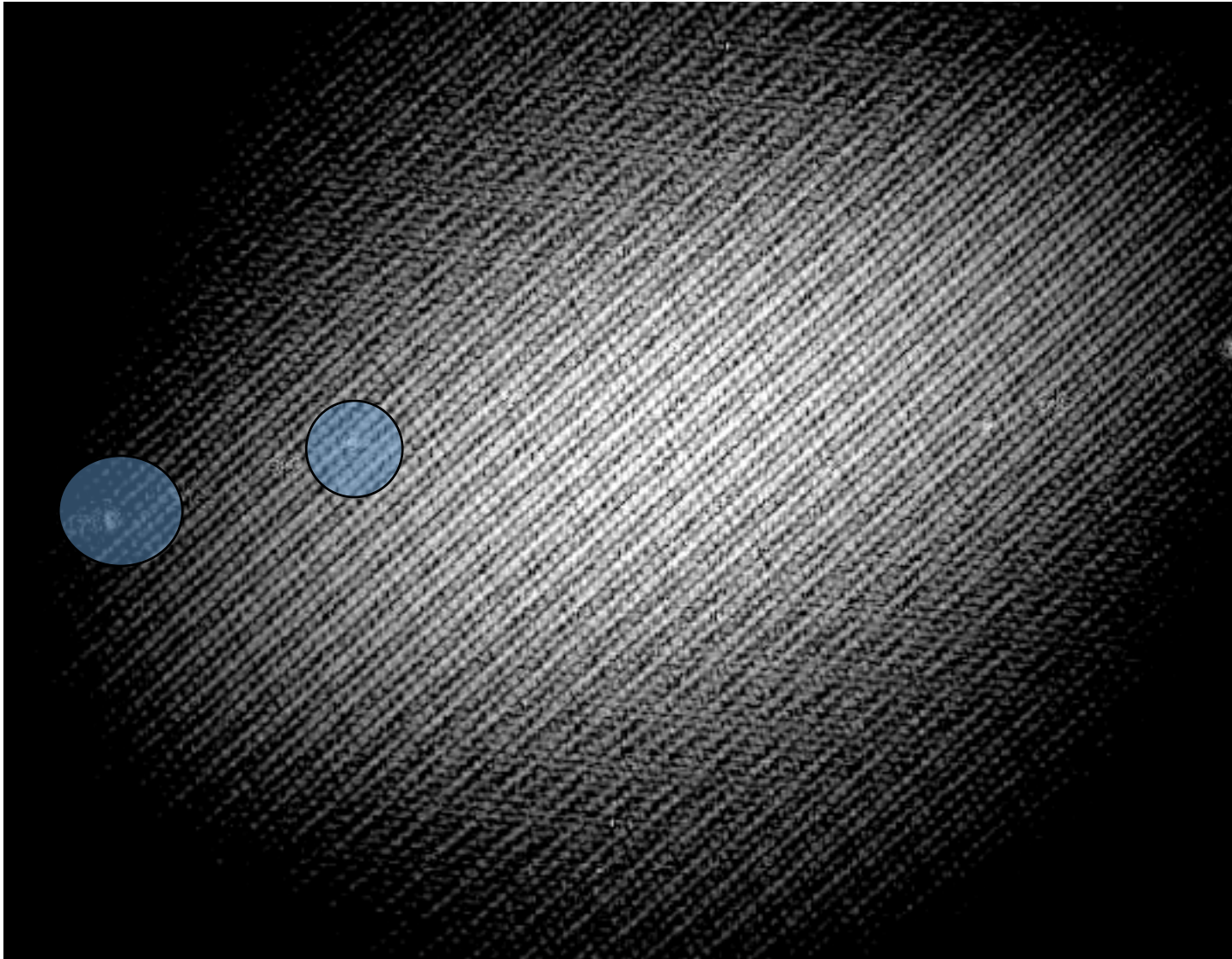


Shows the (u,v)  
data as gridded  
just before imaging

Diagonal lines  
caused by structure  
in field

A few odd points are  
not very noticeable

## Fourier Transform Clean Image

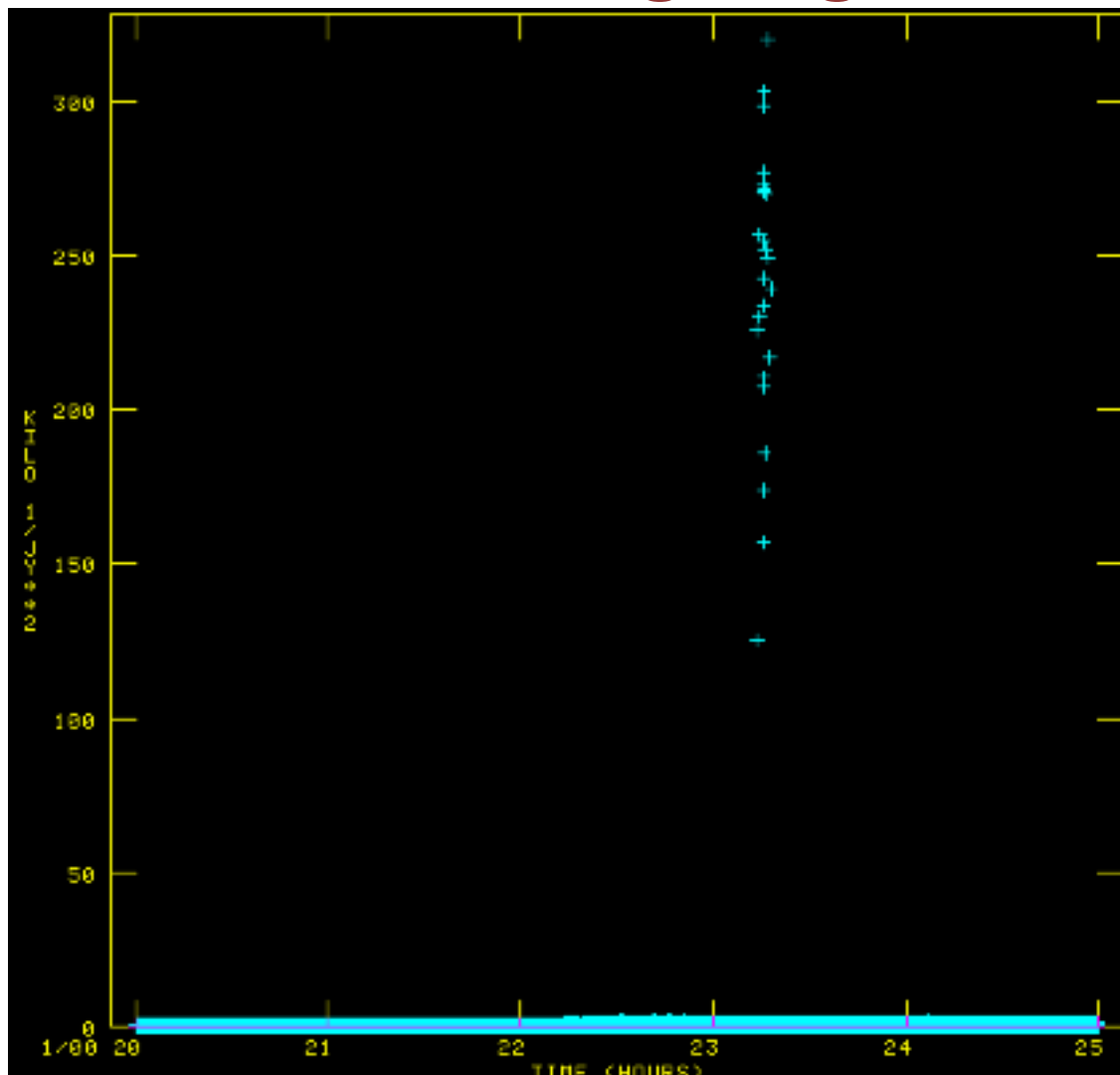


Shows the  $(u,v)$  data from clean image.

Diagonal lines still present. Notice that clean does an interpolation in the  $u,v$  plane between  $u,v$  tracks.

The odd points are smeared, but still present. These produce the low level ripples.

## Bad weighting of a few (u,v) points



After a long search through the data, about 30 points out of 300,000 points were found to have too high of a weight by a factor of 100.

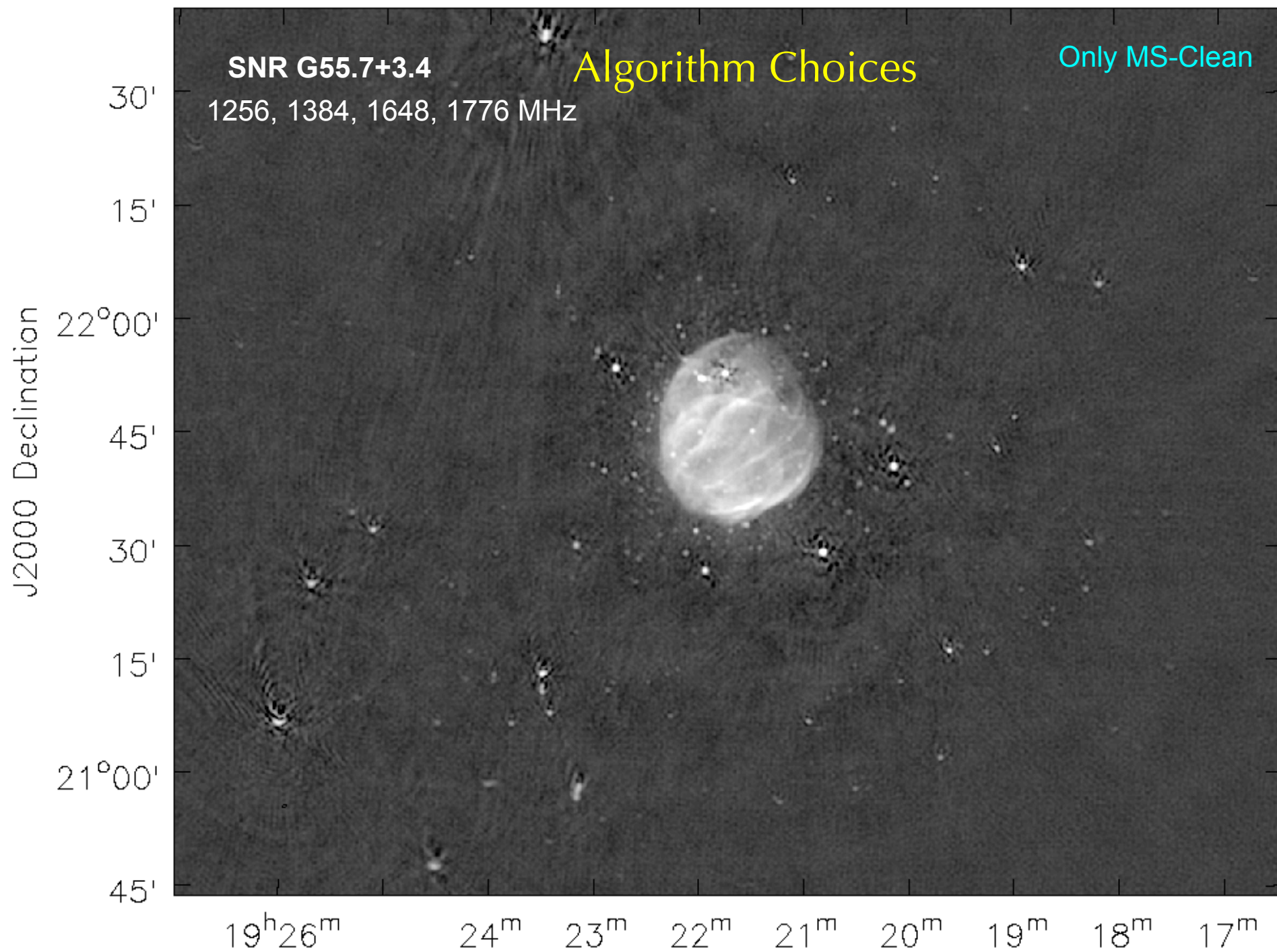
Effect is <1% in image.

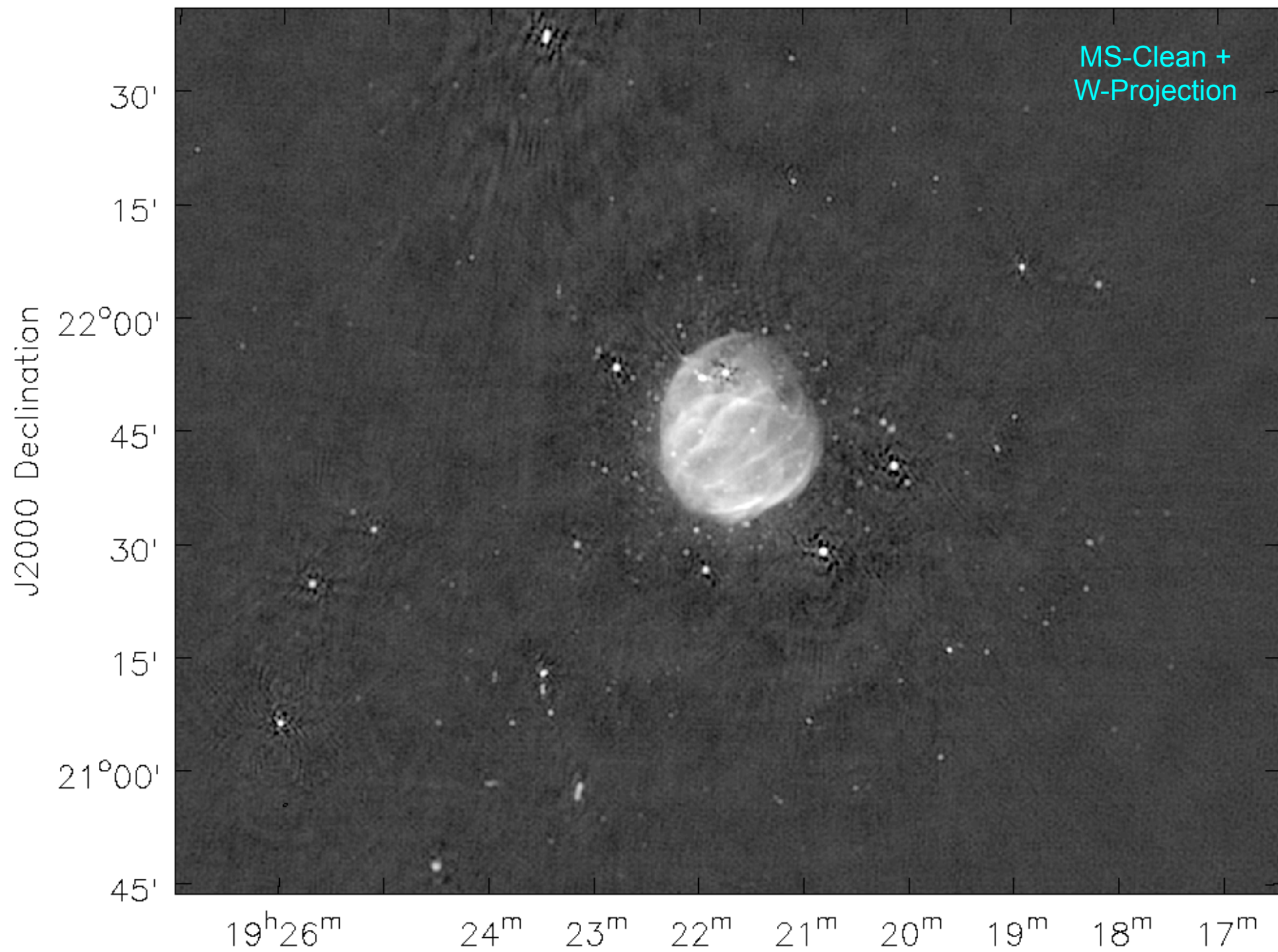
Cause??

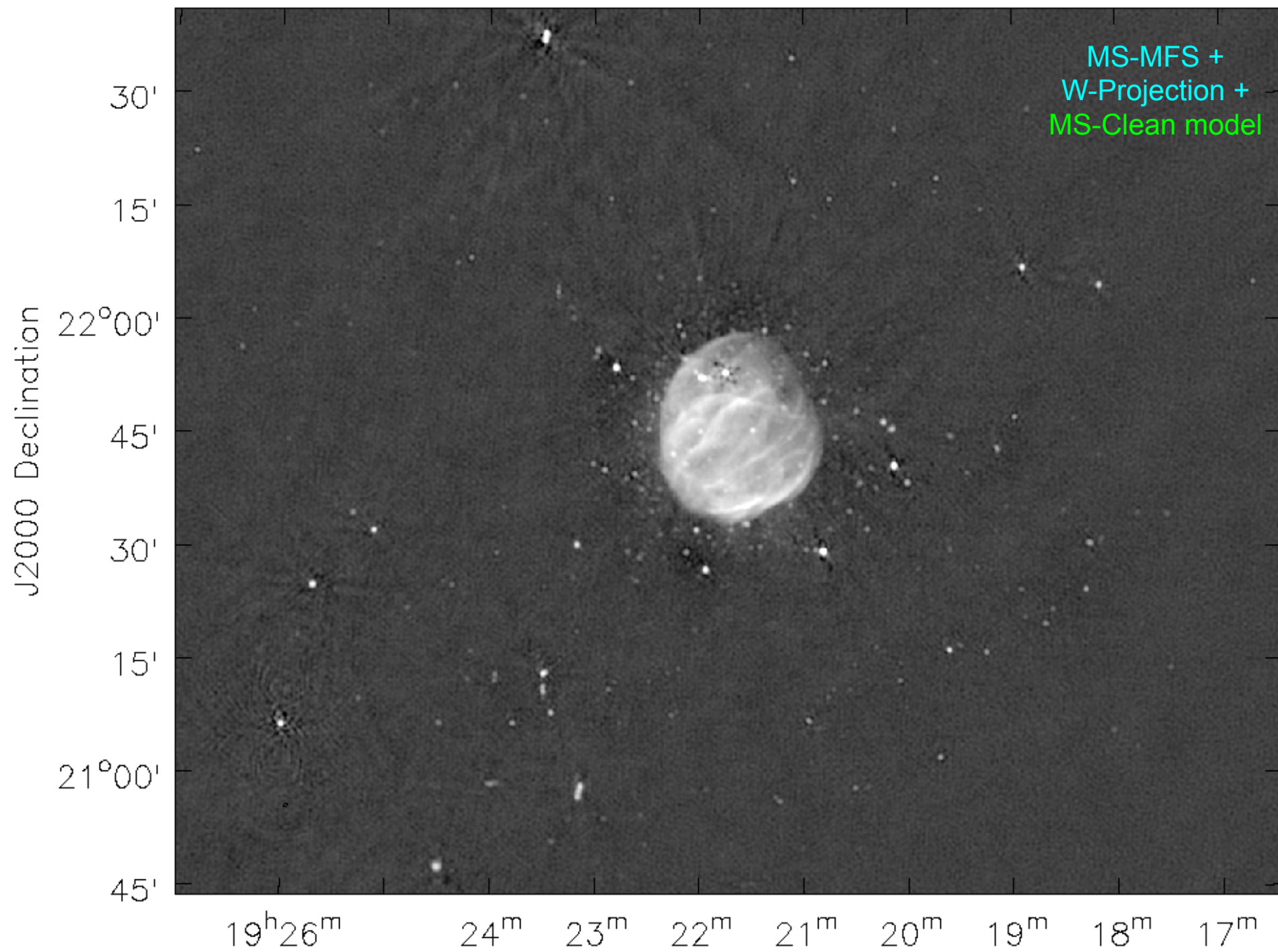
Sometimes in applying calibration produced an incorrect weight in the data. Not present in the original data.

These problems can sneak up on you. Beware.











# SUMMARY OF ERROR RECOGNITION

**Source structure should be 'reasonable', the rms image noise as expected, and the background featureless. If not,**

## **(u,v) data**

Look for outliers in (u,v) data using several plotting methods.

Check calibration gains and phases for instabilities.

Look at residual data (u,v data - clean components)

## **IMAGE plane**

Do defects resemble the dirty beam?

Are defect properties related to possible data errors?

Are defects related to possible deconvolution problems?

Are other corrections/calibrations needed?

Does the field-of-view encompass all emission?



# IMAGE ANALYSIS

- **Input: Well-calibrated datasets producing high quality images**
- **Output: Parameterization and interpretation of image or a set of images**

This is very open-ended

Depends on source emission complexity

Depends on the scientific goals

Examples and ideas are given.

Many software packages besides CASA

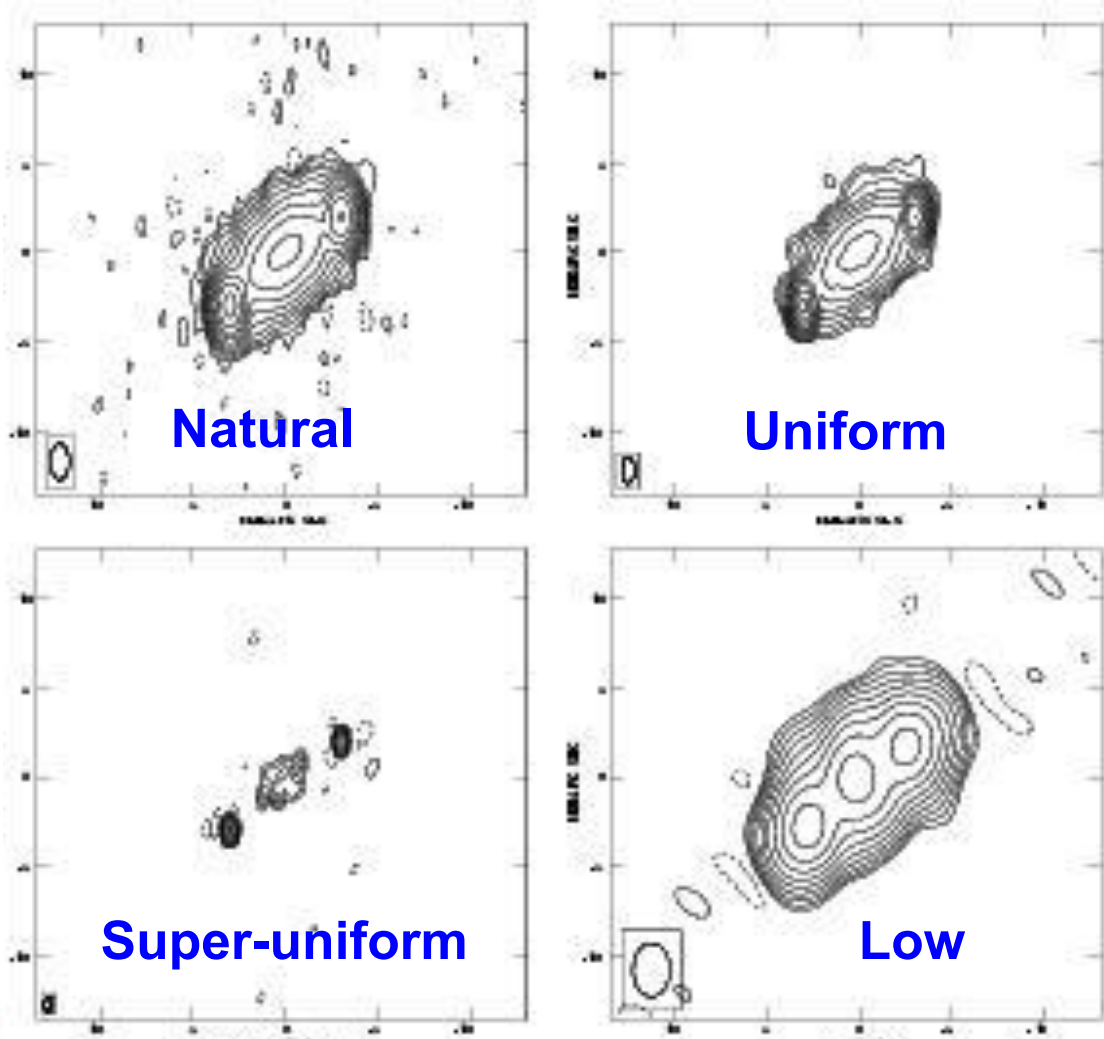
(e.g.. AIPS, IDL, DS-9) are available, depending on needs.



# IMAGE ANALYSIS OUTLINE

- Desired Resolution of radio source.
- Parameter Estimation of Discrete Components
- Image Comparisons
- Positional Registration

# Image at Several Resolutions



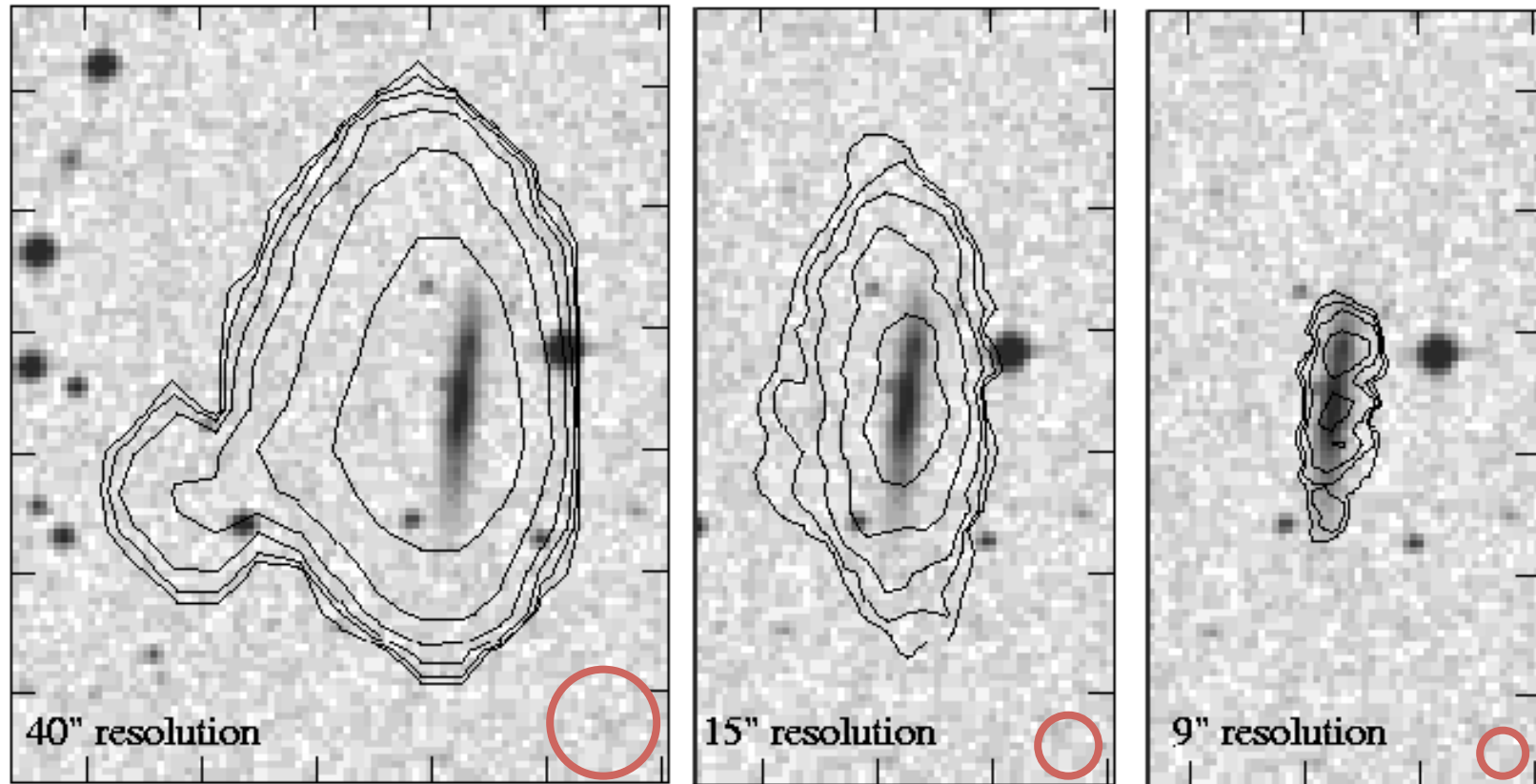
Different aspect of source structure can be seen at various resolutions, shown by the ellipse in the lower left corner of each box.

**SAME DATA USED FOR ALL IMAGES**

For example,  
Outer components are small from SU resolution  
There is no extended emission from low resolution

# Imaging and Deconvolution of Spectral Line Data:

*Type of weighting in imaging*



**Smoothed**

**Robust= +1**

**Robust= -1**

HI contours overlaid on optical images of an edge-on galaxy

# Parameter Estimation

Parameters associated with discrete components

- Fitting in the image
  - Assume source components are Gaussian-shaped
  - Deep cleaning restores image intensity with Gaussian-beam
  - True size \* Beam size = Image size, if Gaussian-shaped. Hence, estimate of true size is relatively simple.
- Fitting in (u,v) plane (aka model-fitting)
  - Better estimates of parameters for simple sources
  - May be possible even when imaging is not
  - Can fit to more source models (e.g. Gaussian, ring, disk)
- Error estimates of parameters
  - Simple ad-hoc error estimates
  - Estimates from fitting programs
  - Monte Carlo simulations if model-fitting





# IMAGE FITTING

## Component 2-Gaussian

Peak intensity = 0.104 +/- 0.005 JY/BEAM  
 Integral intensity= 0.998 +/- 9.47 JANSKYS  
 X-position = 255.986 +/- 0.0029 pixels  
 Y-position = 257.033 +/- 0.0032 pixels  
 Major ax 19.99 +/- 0.02 pixels  
 Minor ax 9.98 +/- 0.03 pixels  
 Pos ang 135.3 +/- 0.1 deg

## Component 1-Gaussian

Peak intensity = 0.300 +/- 0.005 JY/BEAM  
 Integral intensity= 0.302 +/- 0.008 JANSKYS  
 X-position = 270.991 +/- 0.001 pixels  
 Y-position = 267.018 +/- 0.001 pixels  
 Major ax 0.53 +/- 0.01 pixels  
 Minor ax 0.00 +/- 0.05 pixels  
 Pos ang 21.6 +/- 1.1 deg

## Component 3-Gaussian

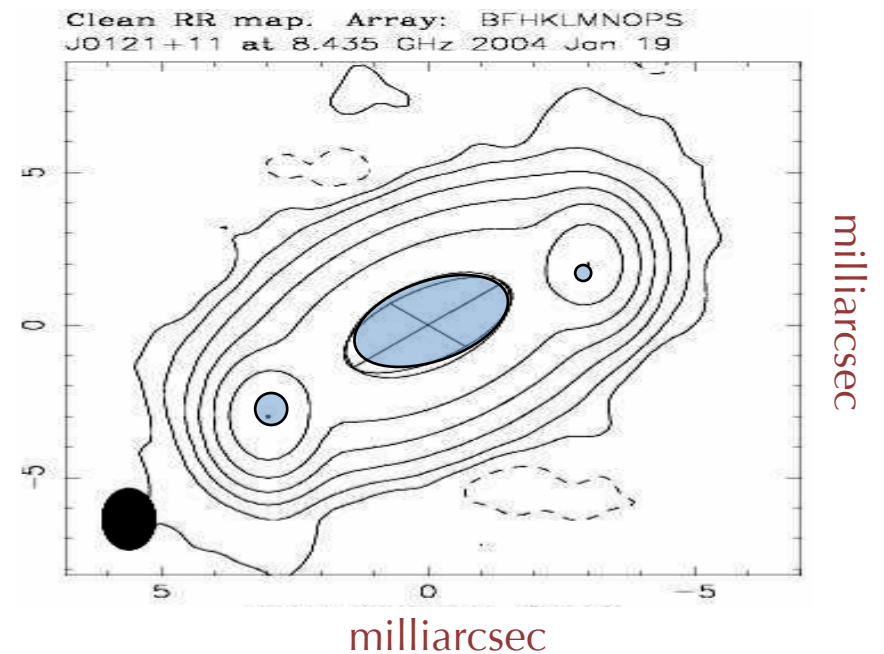
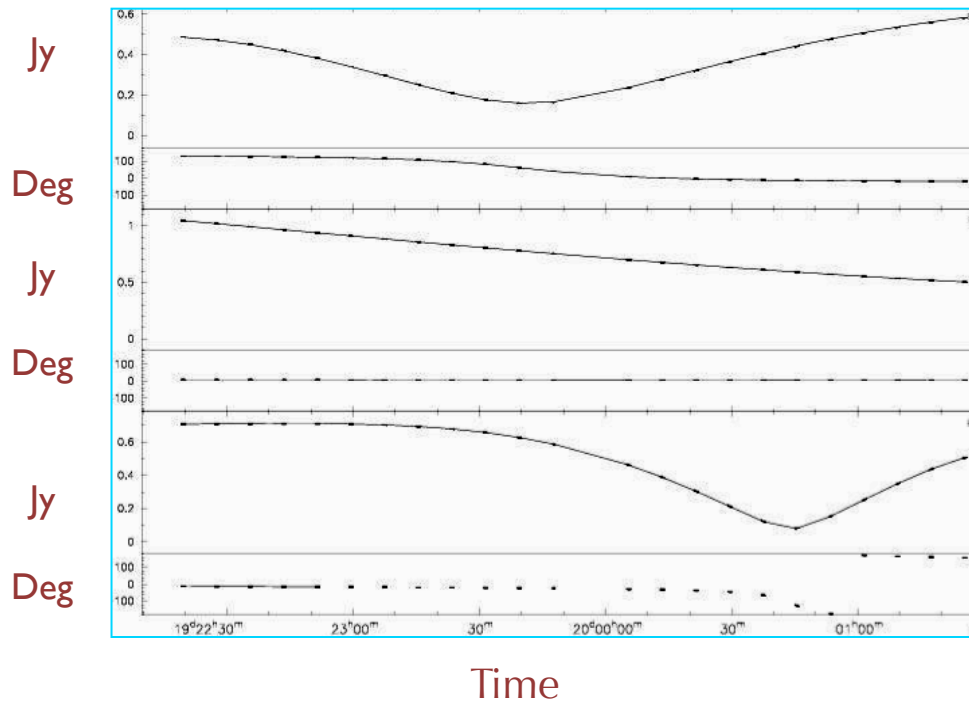
Peak intensity = 0.393 +/- 0.004 JY/BEAM  
 Integral intensity= 0.403 +/- 0.008 JANSKYS  
 X-position = 241.007 +/- 0.001 pixels  
 Y-position = 241.988 +/- 0.001 pixels  
 Major ax 1.54 +/- 0.01 pixels  
 Minor ax 0.21 +/- 0.01 pixels  
 Pos ang 3.6 +/- 0.2 deg

AIPS task: JMFIT

Casa tool: imfit



# (u,v) DATA FITTING



DIFMAP has particular clear (u,v) fitting algorithm

Fit model directly to (u,v) data

Compare model to data

Contour display of image

Ellipses show true component size. (SNR dependent resolution)

# COMPONENT ERROR ESTIMATES

$P$  = Component Peak Flux Density

$\sigma$  = Image rms noise

$P/\sigma$  = signal/noise =  $S$

$B$  = Synthesized beam size

$\theta_i$  = Component image size

$\Delta P$  = Peak error =  $\sigma$

$\Delta X$  = Position error =  $B / 2S$

$\Delta \theta_i$  = Component image size error =  $B / 2S$

$\theta_t$  = True component size =  $(\theta_i^2 - B^2)^{1/2}$

$\Delta \theta_t$  = Minimum component size =  $B / S^{1/2}$

*eg.  $S=100$  means can determine size of  $B/10$*



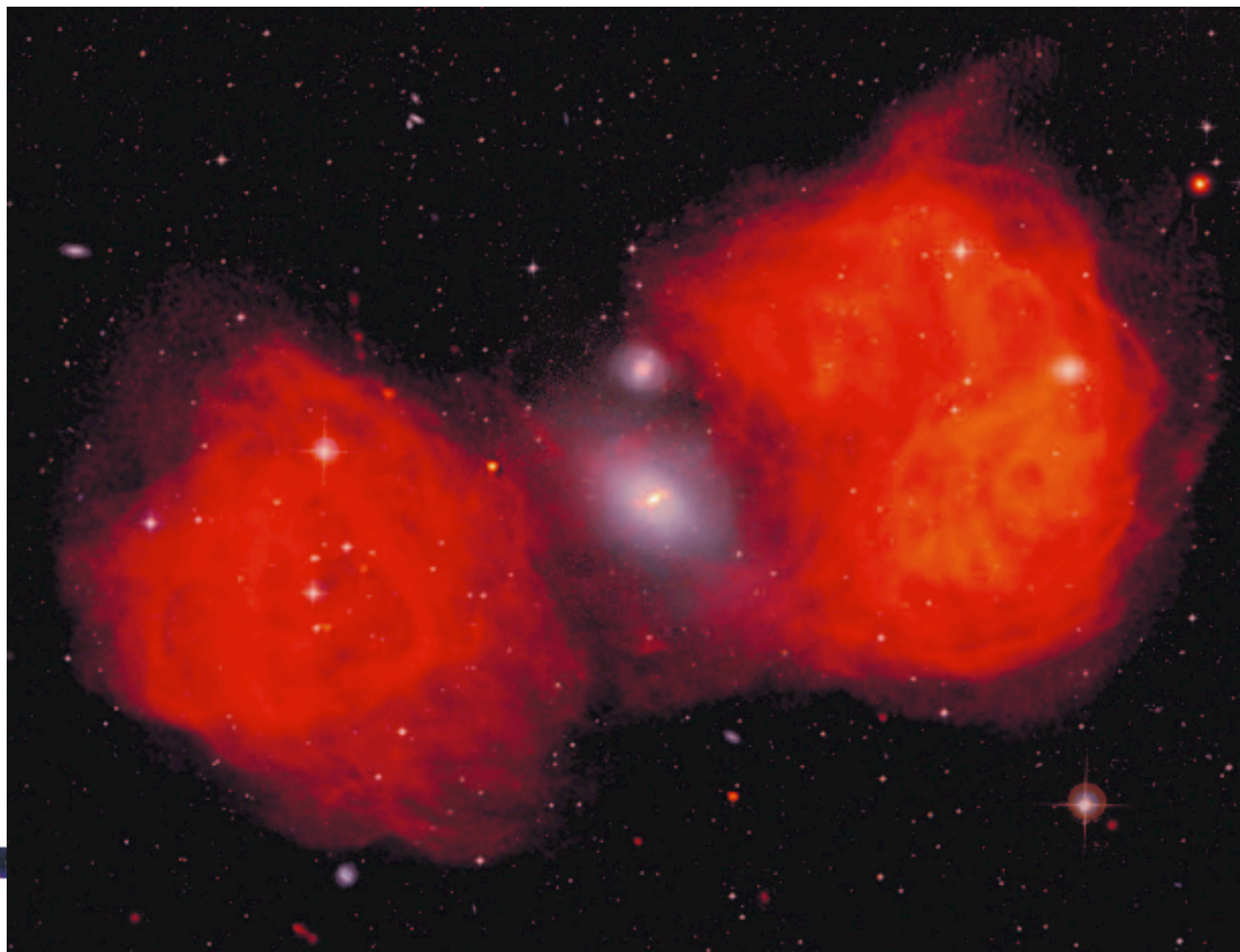
# Comparison and Combination of Images of Many Types

## FORNAX-A Radio/Optical field

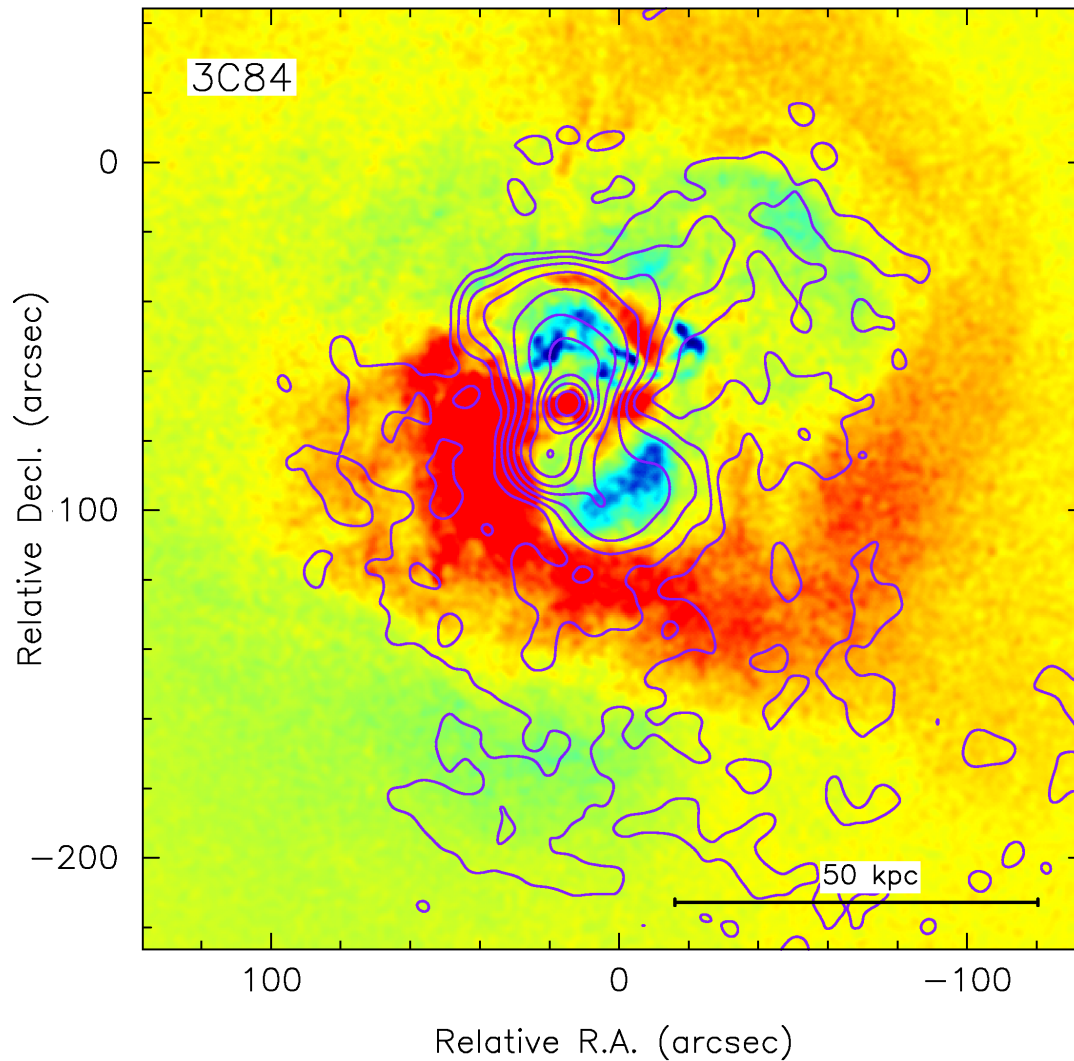
Radio is red  
Faint radio core  
in center of  
NGC1316

Optical in  
blue-white

Frame size is  
60' x 40'



# COMPARISON OF RADIO/X-RAY IMAGES



Contours of radio intensity at  
1.4 GHz

Color intensity represents X-ray  
intensity smoothed to radio  
resolution

-20

-10

0

10



# IMAGE REGISTRATION AND ACCURACY

- Separation Accuracy of Components on One Image due to residual phase errors, regardless of signal/noise:

Limited to 1% of resolution

Position errors of 1:10000 for wide fields, i.e. 0.1" over 1.4 GHz PB

- Images at Different Frequencies:

Multi-frequency. Use same calibrator for all frequencies.

Watch out at frequencies  $< 2$  GHz when ionosphere can produce displacement. Minimize calibrator-target separation

- Images at Different Times (different configuration):

Use same calibrator for all observations. Daily troposphere changes can produce position changes up to 25% of the resolution.

- Radio versus non-Radio Images:

Header-information of non-radio images often much less accurate than for radio. For accuracy  $< 1''$ , often have to align using coincident objects.



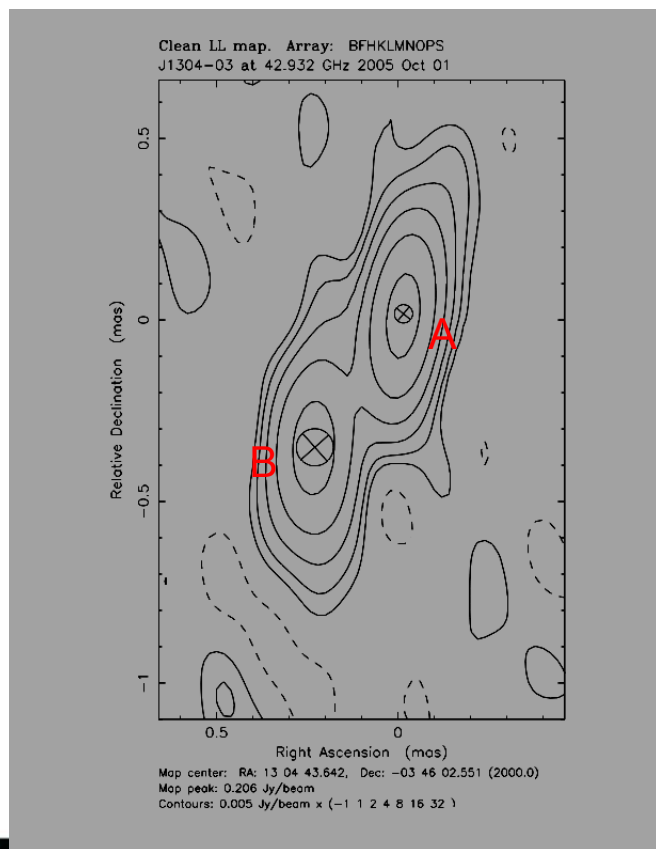
# Radio Source Alignment at Different Frequencies

Self-calibration at each frequency aligns maximum at (0,0) point

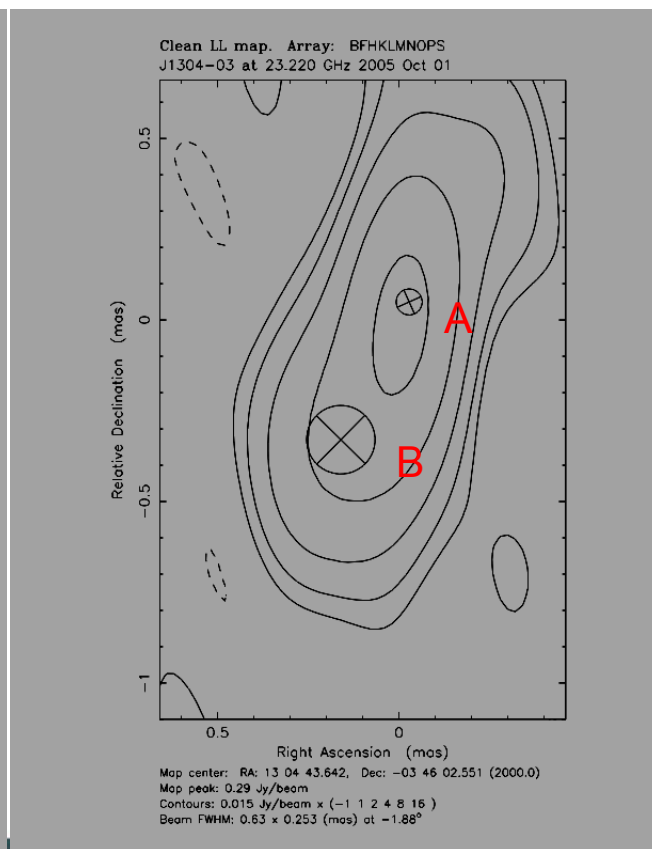
Frequency-dependent structure causes relative position of maximum to change

Fitting of image with components can often lead to proper registration

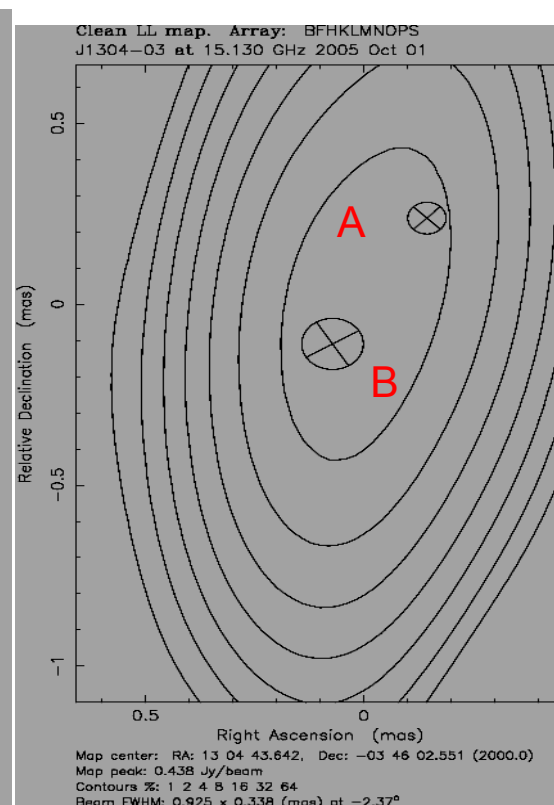
43 GHz: res = 0.3 mas



23 GHz: res = 0.6 mas



15 GHz: res = 0.8 mas



# ANALYSIS: Summary

- Analyze and display data in several ways
  - Adjust resolution to illuminate desired interpretation, analysis
- Parameter fitting useful, but be careful of error estimates
  - Fitting in  $u,v$  plane and/or image plane
- Registration of a field at different frequencies or wave-bands can be subtle.
  - Whenever possible use the same calibrator
  - May be able to align using 'known' counterparts

# Further Reading

- <http://www.nrao.edu/whatisra/>
- [www.nrao.edu](http://www.nrao.edu)
- 2010 Lecture on Non-Imaging Analysis
- Synthesis Imaging in Radio Astronomy, ASP Vol 180, eds Taylor, Carilli & Perley
- Numerical Recipes, Press et al. 1992

