

Introduction to CASA and Data Structure Emmanuel Momjian





- CASA is the offline data reduction package for ALMA and the (Jansky) VLA
 - data from other telescopes usually work, too, but not primary goal of CASA).
- Import/export data, edit, calibrate, image, analyze.
- Also supports single dish (based on ATNF's ASAP).
- CASA has many tasks and a LOT of tools.



- Easy to write scripts and tasks.
- Lots of documentation, reduction tutorials, helpdesk.
- CASA has some of the most sophisticated algorithms implemented (multi-scale clean, Taylor term expansion for wide bands, W-term projection, OTF mosaicing, etc.)
- It has an active Algorithm Research Group.

- Web site: http://casa.nrao.edu/
- Available for both Linux and Mac OS.
 - Make sure to subscribe to the CASA mailing list for announcements of new releases, workshops, etc...
 (casa-announce), or for critical bugs and code updates (casa-users) at:

<u>http://casa.nrao.edu/</u> → Getting Help → Mailing lists

- Documentation is available at http://casa.nrao.edu/ → 'Documentation'
- Training material is available at http://casaguides.nrao.edu
- For help, use the NRAO help desk at: http://help.nrao.edu
 choose the 'CASA Data Reduction' Department



Outline

- CASA startup
- CASA basic python interface
- Tasks and tools
- The Measurement Set
- Data selection syntax
- Visualization tools
- Make your own task!





CASA Startup

casa ==> The start-up time of CASA may vary depending on whether the shared libraries are cached or not. IPython 5.4.0 -- An enhanced Interactive Python. CASA 5.4.0 -- Common Astronomy Software Applications --> CrashReporter initialized. Enter doc('start') for help getting started with CASA... Using matplotlib backend: TkAgg CASA <**1>**:

Search Message:

Origin

::casa

Message

Priority

2018-09-07 01:39:13 INFO

Log Messages (:/Users/emomjian/casa-20180907-013859.log)

Time

Filter:

Time

CASA Interface

- Uses IPython for its command line interface:
 - Filesystem navigation, shell access
 - Namespace completion (<TAB>)
 - Session logging
 - ipython.log ipython command history
 - casapy.log casa messages
 - Numbered input/output with command history, full searching

Python Pointers

to run a .py script:

```
execfile( '<scriptname>')
  example: execfile( 'ngc5921_demo.py')
```

- indentation matters!
 - be careful when doing cut-and-paste to Python
 - cut a few (4-6) lines at a time
- Python counts from 0 to n-1!
- variables are global when using task interface
- Task names are objects (not variables)



Tasks and tools in CASA

- Tasks high-level functionality, well difined purpose
 - function call or parameter handling interface
 - these are what you should use in tutorial
- Tools complete functionality
 - tool.method calls, used by tasks
 - sometimes shown in tutorial scripts
- Shell commands can be run with a leading exclamation mark !du -hs



- All CASA tasks can be listed by tasklist.
- The tasks are grouped as:

Import/export

Information

Editing

Manipulation

Calibration

Modeling

- Imaging

Analysis

Visualization

Simulation

Single dish

Utility

 AIPS – CASA dictionary is available at https://safe.nrao.edu/wiki/bin/view/Software/CASA-AIPSDictionary

Tasks

To list the tasks: tasklist

Import/export	Information	Editing	Manipulation
exportasdm exportfits exportuvfits importasdm importatca importfits importmiriad importuvfits importvla (importevla) (importgmrt)	imhead imreframe imstat imval listcal listfits listhistory listobs listpartition listvis plotms plotuv vishead visstat visstat2 visstatold (asdmsummary) (listsdm) (makemask)	fixplanets fixvis flagcmd flagdata flagmanager msview plotms	concat conjugatevis cvel fixvis hanningsmooth imhead mstransform oldhanningsmooth oldsplit partition plotms split testconcat uvcontsub virtualconcat vishead (cvel2) (statwt) (uvcontsub3)
Calibration	Modeling	Imaging	Analysis
accum applycal bandpass blcal calstat clearcal delmod fixplanets fluxscale ft gaincal gencal initweights listcal plotants plotbandpass plotcal polcal predictcomp rerefant setjy smoothcal uvmodelfit uvsub wvrgcal	predictcomp setjy uvcontsub uvmodelfit uvsub (uvcontsub3)	clean deconvolve feather ft imcontsub (boxit) (csvclean) (tclean) (tclean2) (widebandpbcor) {mosaic} {widefield}	imcollapse imcontsub imdev imfit imhead imhistory immath immoments impbor imrebin imreframe imregrid imsmooth imstat imsubimage imtrans imval listvis rmfit slsearch specflux specsmooth splattotable (specfit) (spxfit)
Visualization	Simulation	Single dish	Utility
clearplot imview msview plotants plotbandpass plotcal plotms plotprofilemap plotuv viewer (plotweather)	simanalyze simobserve (simalma)	importasap sdbaseline sdcal sdfit sdfixscan sdimaging sdsmooth (sdgaincal)	browsetable caltabconvert clearplot clearstat concat conjugatevis find help par.parameter help taskname imview msview plotms rmtables startup taskhelp tasklist testconcat toolhelp virtualconcat

To see list of tasks with short help: taskhelp

[CASA <2>: taskhelp
----> taskhelp()
Available tasks:

mstransform

msuvbin

```
: Accumulate incremental calibration solutions into a calibration table
accum
applycal
                 : Apply calibrations solutions(s) to data
                 : Summarized description of an ASDM dataset.
asdmsummarv
autoclean
                 : CLEAN an image with automatically-chosen clean regions.
bandpass
                 : Calculates a bandpass calibration solution
blcal
                 : Calculate a baseline-based calibration solution (gain or bandpass)
boxit
                 : Box regions in image above given threshold value.
browsetable
                 : Browse a table (MS, calibration table, image)
calstat
                 : Displays statistical information on a calibration table
                 : Convert old-style caltables into new-style caltables.
caltabconvert
                 : Invert and deconvolve images with selected algorithm
clean
clearcal
                 : Re-initializes the calibration for a visibility data set
clearplot
                 : Clear the matplotlib plotter and all layers
clearstat
                 : Clear all autolock locks
concat
                 : Concatenate several visibility data sets.
conjugatevis
                 : Change the sign of the phases in all visibility columns.
                 : This task does an invert of the visibilities and deconvolve in the image plane.
csvclean
cvel
                 : regrid an MS to a new spectral window / channel structure or frame
cvel2
                 : Regrid an MS or MMS to a new spectral window, channel structure or frame
deconvolve
                 : Image based deconvolver
                 : Deletes model representations in the MS
delmod
                 : Convert a CASA visibility file (MS) into an ALMA or EVLA Science Data Model
exportasdm
exportfits
                 : Convert a CASA image to a FITS file
exportuvfits
                 : Convert a CASA visibility data set to a UVFITS file:
feather
                 : Combine two images using their Fourier transforms
find
                 : Find string in tasks, task names, parameter names:
fixplanets
                 : Changes FIELD and SOURCE table entries based on user-provided direction or POINTING table, optionally fixes the UVW coordin
fixvis
                 : Recalculates (u, v, w) and/or changes Phase Center
flagcmd
                 : Flagging task based on batches of flag-commands
flagdata
                 : All-purpose flagging task based on data-selections and flagging modes/algorithms.
flagmanager
                 : Enable list, save, restore, delete and rename flag version files.
fluxscale
                 : Bootstrap the flux density scale from standard calibrators
ft
                 : Insert a source model a visibility set:
gaincal
                 : Determine temporal gains from calibrator observations
                 : Specify Calibration Values of Various Types
gencal
hanningsmooth
                 : Hanning smooth frequency channel data to remove Gibbs ringing
imcollapse
                 : Collapse image along one axis, aggregating pixel values along that axis.
imcontsub
                 : Estimates and subtracts continuum emission from an image cube
imdev
                 : Create an image that can represent the statistical deviations of the input image.
imfit
                 : Fit one or more elliptical Gaussian components on an image region(s)
imhead
                 : List, get and put image header parameters
                 : Retrieve and modify image history
imhistory
                 : Perform math operations on images
immath
immoments
                 : Compute moments from an image
impbcor
                 : Construct a primary beam corrected image from an image and a primary beam pattern.
                 : Convert ASAP Scantable data into a CASA visibility file (MS)
importasap
importasdm
                 : Convert an ALMA Science Data Model observation into a CASA visibility file (MS)
                 : Import ATCA RPFITS file(s) to a measurement set
importatca
importevla
                 : Convert an Science Data Model observation into a CASA Measurement Set
importfits
                 : Convert an image FITS file into a CASA image
                : Convert a FITS-IDI file to a CASA visibility data set
importfitsidi
importamrt
                 : Convert a UVFITS file to a CASA visibility data set
importmiriad
                 : Convert a Miriad visibility file into a CASA MeasurementSet
importnro
                 : Convert NOSTAR data into a CASA visibility file (MS)
importuvfits
                 : Convert a UVFITS file to a CASA visibility data set
importvla
                 : Import VLA archive file(s) to a measurement set
                 : Construct a position-velocity image by choosing two points in the direction plane.
impv
imrebin
                 : Rebin an image by the specified integer factors
imreframe
                 : Change the frame in which the image reports its spectral values
imregrid
                 : regrid an image onto a template image
imsmooth
                 : Smooth an image or portion of an image
imstat
                 : Displays statistical information from an image or image region
imsubimage
                 : Create a (sub)image from a region of the image
imtrans
                 : Reorder image axes
imval
                 : Get the data value(s) and/or mask value in an image.
imview
                 : View an image
initweights
                 : Initializes weight information in the MS
                 : List antenna gain solutions
listcal
listfits
                 : List the HDU and typical data rows of a fits file:
listhistory
                 : List the processing history of a dataset:
listobs
                 : List the summary of a data set in the logger or in a file
listpartition
                 : List the summary of a multi-MS data set in the logger or in a file
listsdm
                 : Lists observation information present in an SDM directory.
listvis
                 : List measurement set visibilities.
makemask
                 : Makes and manipulates image masks
mosaic
                 : Create a multi-field deconvolved image with selected algorithm
```

Task Interface

parameters are set as global Python variables

```
(set) <param> = <value>
(e.g., vis = 'ngc5921.demo.ms')
```

- using inp, default, saveinputs, tget, tput
- execute

```
<taskname> or go (e.g. clean())
```

Task Interface

False

Call a task by

>inp <taskname>

if default values are desired, first type

>default <taskname>, followed by inp

parang

```
[CASA <3>: inp gaincal
----> inp(gaincal)
# gaincal :: Determine temporal gains from calibrator observations
                                            Name of input visibility file
caltable
                                           Name of output gain calibration table
field
                                            Select field using field id(s) or field name(s)
                                            Select spectral window/channels
SDW
intent
                                            Select observing intent
selectdata
                            True
                                           Other data selection parameters
     timerange
                                           Select data based on time range
                                            Select data within uvrange (default units meters)
     uvrange
                                            Select data based on antenna/baseline
     antenna
     scan
                                           Scan number range
                               1.1
     observation
                                            Select by observation ID(s)
                                            Optional complex data selection (ignore for now)
     msselect
solint
                                            Solution interval: egs. 'inf', '60s' (see help)
combine
                                            Data axes which to combine for solve (obs, scan, spw, and/or field)
preavg
                             -1.0
                                            Pre-averaging interval (sec) (rarely needed)
refant
                                            Reference antenna name(s)
refantmode
                           'flex'
                                            Reference antenna mode
minblperant
                                            Minimum baselines _per antenna_ required for solve
                              3.0
                                            Reject solutions below this SNR
minsnr
solnorm
                            False
                                            Normalize average solution amplitudes to 1.0 (G, T only)
                              'G'
gaintype
                                            Type of gain solution (G,T,GSPLINE,K,KCROSS)
smodel
                               []
                                            Point source Stokes parameters for source model.
calmode
                             'ap'
                                         # Type of solution: ('ap', 'p', 'a')
append
                            False
                                         # Append solutions to the (existing) table
docallib
                            False
                                            Use callib or traditional cal apply parameters
     gaintable
                               []
                                            Gain calibration table(s) to apply on the fly
     gainfield
                               []
                                            Select a subset of calibrators from gaintable(s)
                                           Temporal interpolation for each gaintable (=linear)
     interp
     spwmap
                                            Spectral windows combinations to form for gaintables(s)
```

Apply parallactic angle correction on the fly

Task Execution

- Two ways to invoke:
 - call from Python as functions with arguments

```
taskname( arg1=val1, arg2=val2, ... ), like clean(vis= 'input.ms', imagename= 'galaxy', selectvis=T, robust=0.5, imsize=[200,200])
```

unspecified parameters will be defaulted

use standard tasking interface.

Parameter Checking

```
[CASA <5>: inp
        -> inp()
# gaincal :: Determine temporal gains from calibrator observations
vis
                                         # Name of input visibility file
                                         # Name of output gain calibration table
caltable
                                           Select field using field id(s) or field name(s)
field
                                            Select spectral window/channels
Spw
intent
                                         # Select observing intent
selectdata
                                         # Other data selection parameters
                            True
                               1.1
     timerange
                                         # Select data based on time range
                                         # Select data within uvrange (default units meters)
     uvrange
                                         # Select data based on antenna/baseline
     antenna
                               1.1
     scan
                                         # Scan number range
                                           Select by observation ID(s)
     observation
                               1.1
                                            Optional complex data selection (ignore for now)
     msselect
solint
                            'inf'
                                                                            60s' (see help)
                                            Solutio
                                                     erroneous
                               1.1
                                                                            olve (obs, scan, spw, and/or field)
combine
                                            Data ax
                                                                             rely needed)
                                            Pre-ave
preavg
                            -1.0
                                            Referer
refant
refantmode
                           'flex'
                                             feren<del>ce ancenna moue</del>
                                           Minimum baselines _per antenna_ required for solve
minblperant
                                            Reject solutions below this SNR
minsnr
                              3.0
solnorm
                           False
                                           Normalize average solution amplitudes to 1.0 (G, T only)
gaintype
                              'G
                                           Type of gain solution (G,T,GSPLINE,K,KCROSS)
smodel
                    =
                                            Point source Stokes parameters for source model.
calmode
                         'noidea'
                                           Type of solution: ('ap', 'p', 'a')
                    =
append
                    =
                           False
                                            Append solutions to the (existing) table
                           False
docallib
                                         # Use callib or traditional cal apply parameters
                               []
                                         # Gain calibration table(s) to apply on the fly
     gaintable
     gainfield
                               []
                                         # Select a subset of calibrators from gaintable(s)
                               []
     interp
                                           Temporal interpolation for each gaintable (=linear)
                                            Spectral windows combinations to form for gaintables(s)
     spwmap
                               []
                                           Apply parallactic angle correction on the fly
                            False
parang
```

Help on Tasks

In-line help for all tasks (help <taskname>)

>help gaincal

Methods defined here:

| __call__(self, vis=None, caltable=None, field=None, spw=None, intent=None, selectdata=None None, refant=None, refantmode=None, minblperant=None, minsnr=None, solnorm=None, gaintype=None table=None, gainfield=None, interp=None, spwmap=None, parang=None)

Determine temporal gains from calibrator observations

Detailed Description:

The complex gains for each antenna/spwid are determined from the data column (raw data), divided by the model column, for the specified fields. The gains can be obtained for a specified solution interval for each spectral window, or by a spline fit to all spectral windows simultaneously.

Previous calibrations (egs. bandpass) should be applied on the fly.

Arguments:

vis: Name of input visibility file
Default Value:

caltable: Name of output gain calibration table
 Default Value:

field: Select field using field id(s) or field name(s)
 Default Value:

spw: Select spectral window/channels
Default Value:

intent: Select observing intent
 Default Value:

selectdata: Other data selection parameters

Default Value: True

timerange: Select data based on time range
Default Value:

uvrange: Select data within uvrange (default units meters)

Default Value:

Tools in CASA

- What if there's no task?
- → use CASA tools (tasks are built upon tools)
- tools are functions/methods
 - call from casapy as <tool>.<method>()
 - default tool objects are pre-constructed
 - e.g. imager (im), calibrater (cb), ms (ms), etc. (see toolhelp)





CASA Tool List

To list the default tools:

>toolhelp

~1000 tools available

```
CASA <7>: toolhelp
      --> toolhelp()
Available tools:
af : Agent flagger utilities
at : Juan Pardo ATM library
 ca : Calibration analysis utilities
 cb : Calibration utilities
 cl : Component list utilities
 cp : Cal solution plotting utilities
 cs : Coordinate system utilities
 cu : Class utilities
 dc : Deconvolver utilities
fi : Fitting utilities
 fn : Functional utilities
 ia : Image analysis utilities
 im : Imaging utilities
 lm: linear mosaic
 me : Measures utilities
 ms : MeasurementSet (MS) utilities
 msmd : MS metadata accessors
mt : MS transformer utilities
ga : Ouanta utilities
 pm : PlotMS utilities
 po : Imagepol utilities
 rg: Region manipulation utilities
 sdms: MeasurementSet (MS) utilities for Single-Dish
 sl : Spectral line import and search
 sm : Simulation utilities
 tb : Table utilities (selection, extraction, etc)
 tp : Table plotting utilities
vp : Voltage pattern/primary beam utilities
pl : pylab functions (e.g., pl.title, etc)
```







The Measurement Set

- The MS is a <u>directory</u> on disk, it consists of a MAIN table and sub-tables.
 - The MAIN table contains the visibility data. It consists of the table.* files.
 - The sub-tables (e.g. FIELD, SOURCE, ANTENNA, etc.)
 contain auxiliary and secondary information.
 - The sub-tables are sub-directories.
- To copy: must use cp -rf to get contents
- Best to remove MS with rmtables('filename')

Example MS

```
CASA <31>: ls day2 TDEM0003 20s full/
              STATE/ table.f18 TSM1 table.f25 TSM1
ANTENNA/
DATA DESCRIPTION/ table.dat table.f19 table.f3
              table.fl
                        table.f2 table.f4
FEED/
           table.f10 table.f20 table.f5
FIELD/
FLAG CMD/ table.f11 table.f21 table.f6
            table.f12 table.f21 TSM0 table.f7
HISTORY/
OBSERVATION/ table.f13 table.f22 table.f8
POINTING/
        table.f14 table.f22 TSM1 table.f9
POLARIZATION/ table.f15
                          table.f23 table.info
PROCESSOR/ table.f16 table.f23 TSM1 table.lock
SORTED TABLE/ table.f17 table.f24 WEATHER/
SOURCE/
       table.f17 TSM1 table.f24 TSM1
SPECTRAL WINDOW/ table.f18
                          table.f25
```

```
CASA <32>: ls day2_TDEM0003_20s_full/ANTENNA/
table.dat table.f0 table.info table.lock
```



Data Selection Syntax

- <u>field</u> string with source name or field ID
 - can use '*' as wildcard, first checks for name, then ID
 - example: field = '1331+305'; field = '3C*'; field = '0,1,4~5'
- <u>spw</u> string with spectral window ID plus channels
 - use ':' as separator of spw from optional channelization
 - example: $spw = '0^2'$; $spw = '1:10^30'$



Selection Syntax

- antenna string with antenna name or ID
 - first check for name, then pad name, then ID
 - example: antenna = '1~5,11'; antenna = 'ea*', '!ea01'
 - For a baseline, use: antenna = 'ea01&ea10'
- <u>timerange</u> string with date/time range
 - specify 'T0~T1', missing parts of T1 default to T0.
 - example: timerange = '2007/10/16/01:00:00~06:30:00'
 - If year, month, day are not specified → defaults to 1st day in the data set.



The MS structure

'Data' column

Raw Data

'Corrected'
Column
Calibrated Data

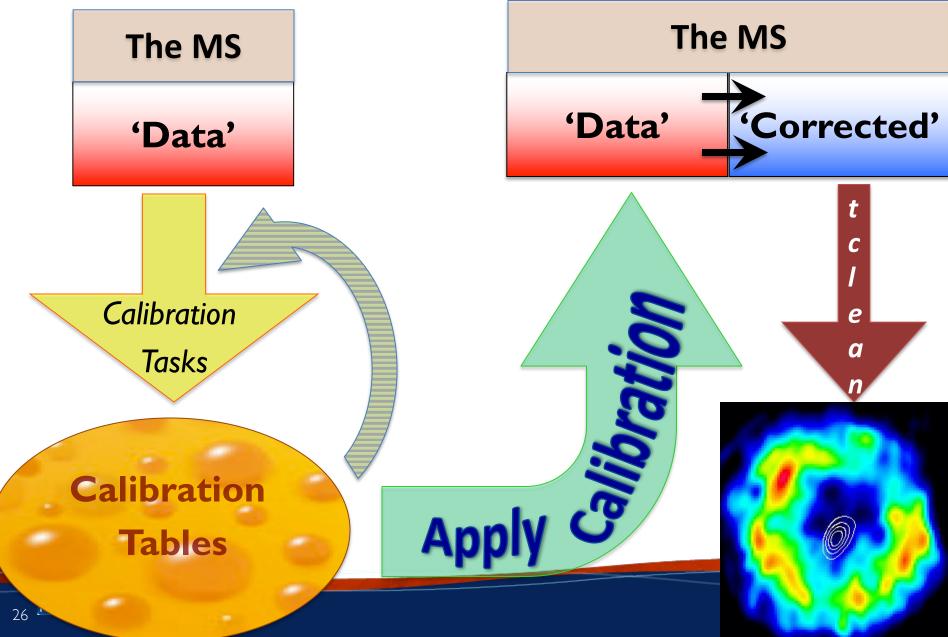
'Model' Column

FT of source model

- When you load your data from the archive, your MS will only have the 'Data' column.
- The other two columns can be created by various means.
- The creation of the other two columns → MS tripling in size.



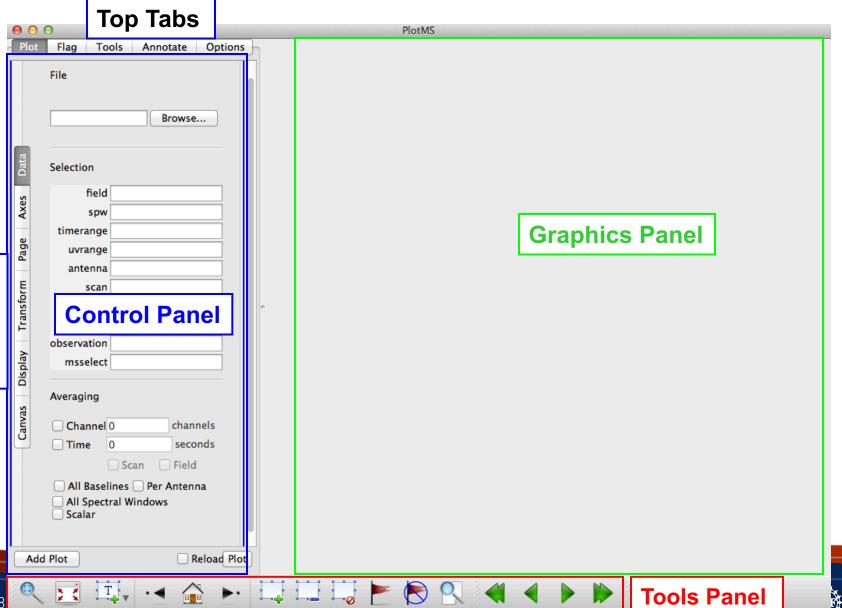
Calibration & Imaging Flow



Visualization Tools

- Visibilities: plotms, msview
- Images: viewer, imview
- Calibration tables: plotcal (or plotms)
- Any table values: browsetable
- Single dish: sdplot
- Plot anything: use python's matplotlib

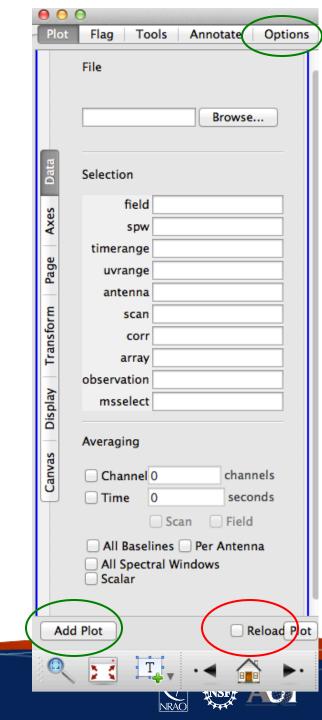
Data Review: plotms (unix command line casaplotms)



Control Panel: Data

Check the 'Reload' box if the MS has been modified through another task.

Use the 'Options' to divide the screen into multiple panels, and 'Add plot' to be able make plots of multiple data sets (or one data set but using different axes) onto the graphics panel.





MS Ids and other meta info:

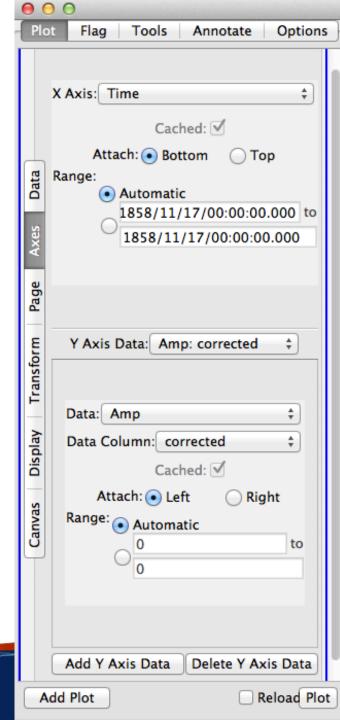
```
'scan' (number)
'field' (index)
'time',
'interval'='timeint'='timeinterval'='time interval'
'spw' (index)
'chan'='channel' (index)
'freq'='frequency' (GHz)
'vel'='velocity' (km/s)
'corr'='correlation' (index)
'ant1'='antenna1' (index)
'ant2'='antenna2' (index)
'baseline' (a baseline index)
'row' (absoute row Id from the MS)
```

Visibility values, flags:

```
'amp'='amplitude'
'phase' (deg)
'real'
'imag'='imaginary'
'wt'='weight'
'flag'
```

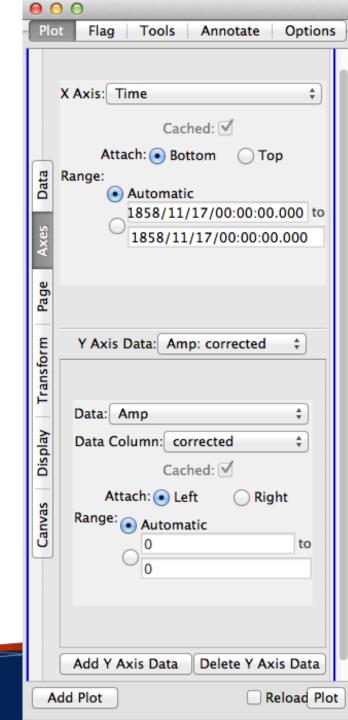
'flagrow'





```
Observational geometry:
         'uvdist' (meters)
         'uvwave'='uvdistl'='uvdist_l' (wavelengths, per
    channel)
         'u' (meters)
         'v' (meters)
         'w' (meters)
         'azimuth' (at array reference; degrees)
         'elevation' (at array reference; degrees)
         'hourang'='hourangle' (at array reference; hours)
         'parang'='parangle'='parallacticangle' (at array
    reference; degrees)
Antenna-based (only works vs. data Ids):
         'ant'='antenna'
         'ant-azimuth'
         'ant-elevation'
         'ant-parang'='ant-parangle'
```





Page: to iterate on

Scan

Field

Spw

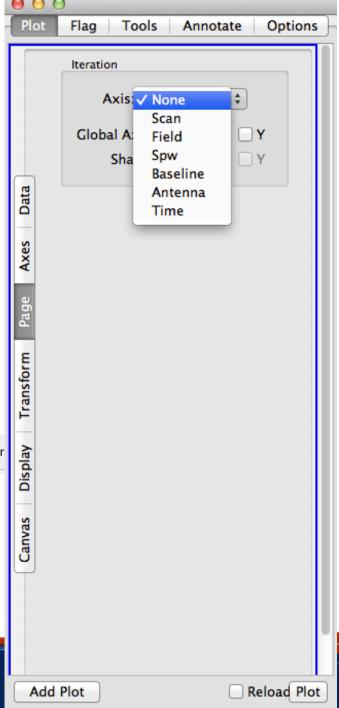
Baseline

Antenna

Time

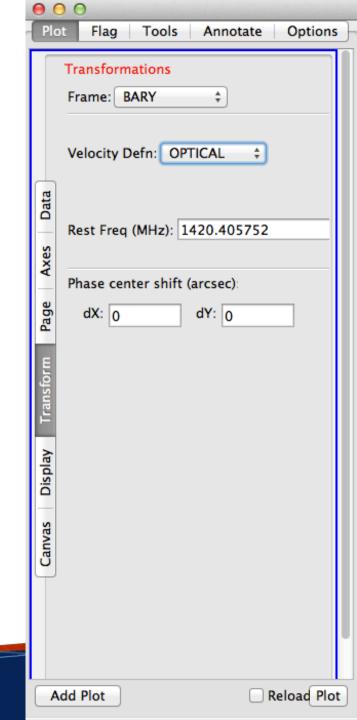






Transformations

Frame: TOPO, GEO, BARY, LSRK, LSRD, etc..



Display

Colorize by:

Scan

Field

Spw

Antenna1

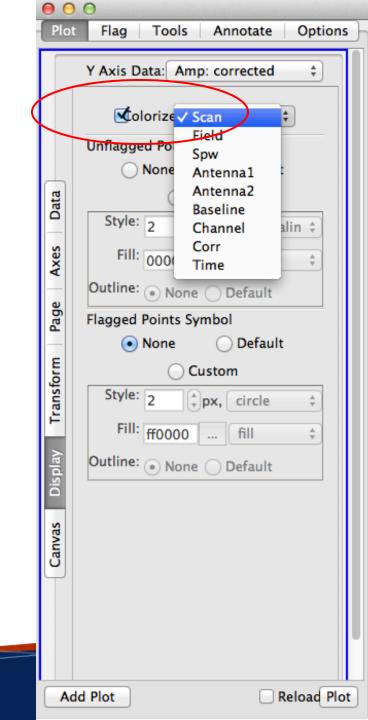
Antenna2

Baseline

Channel

Correlation

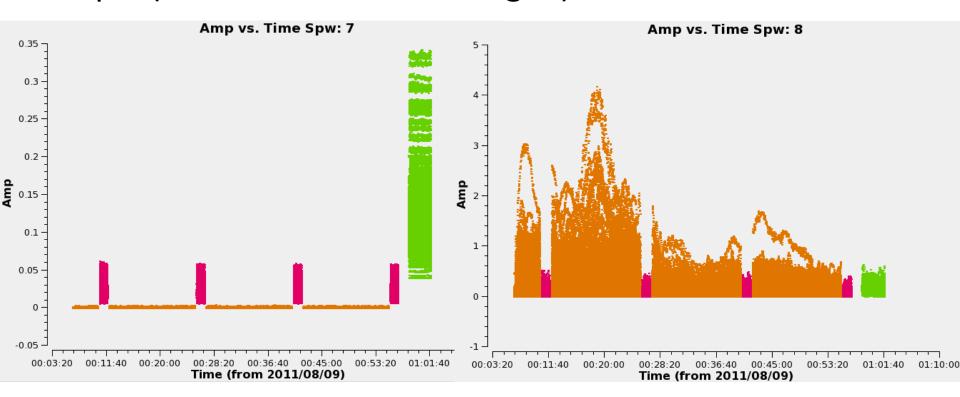
Time





Example: x-axis: time, y-axis: amp

iter: spw (with all channels averaged)

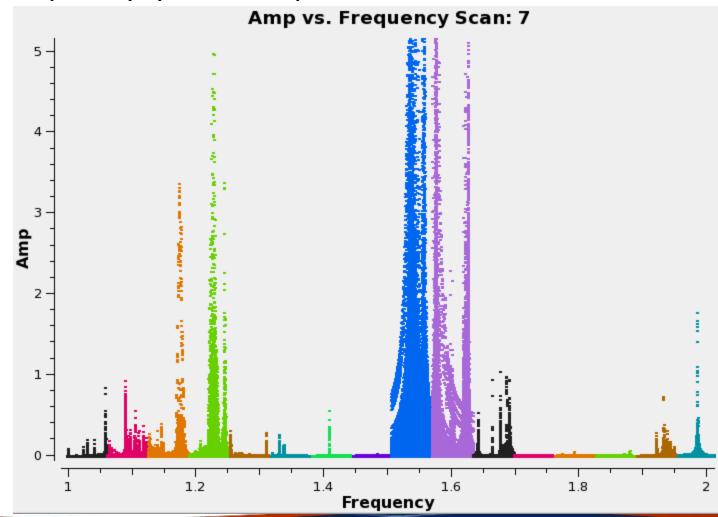






Example: x-axis: frequency, y-axis: amp

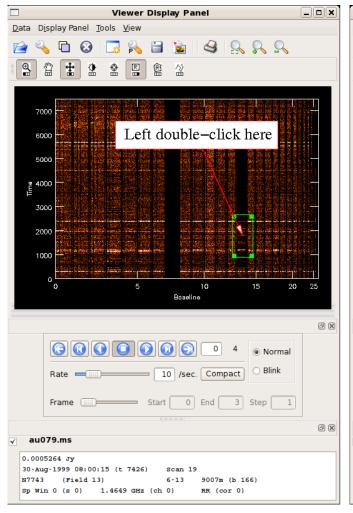
iteration: scan







Data review: msview



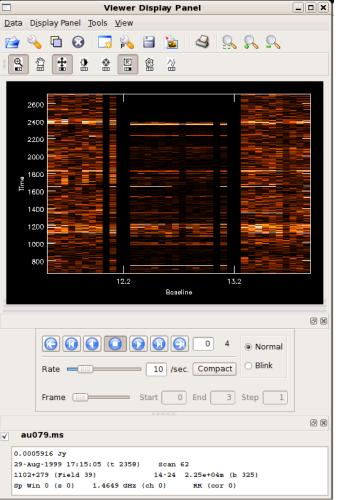






Image Viewer: viewer

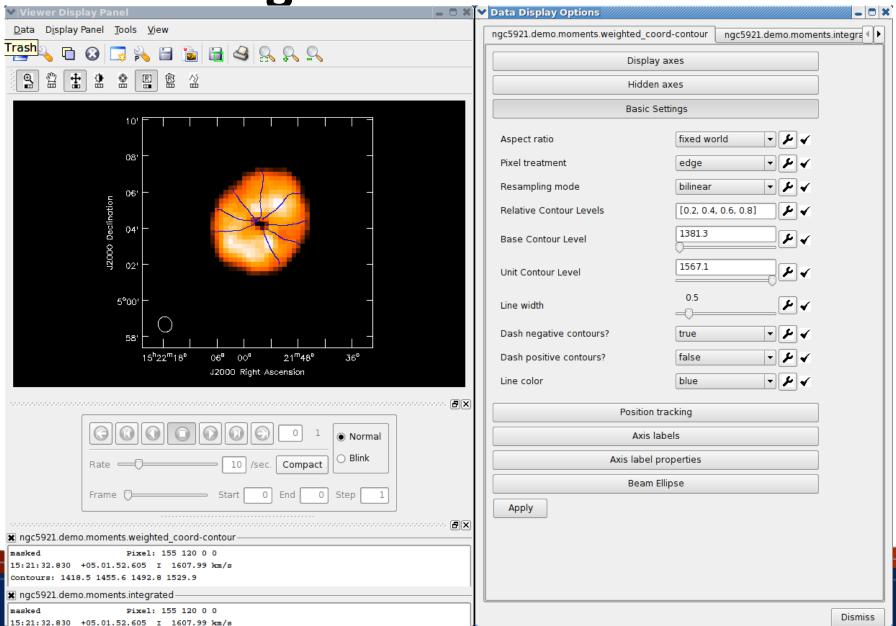
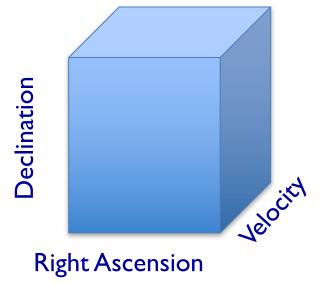
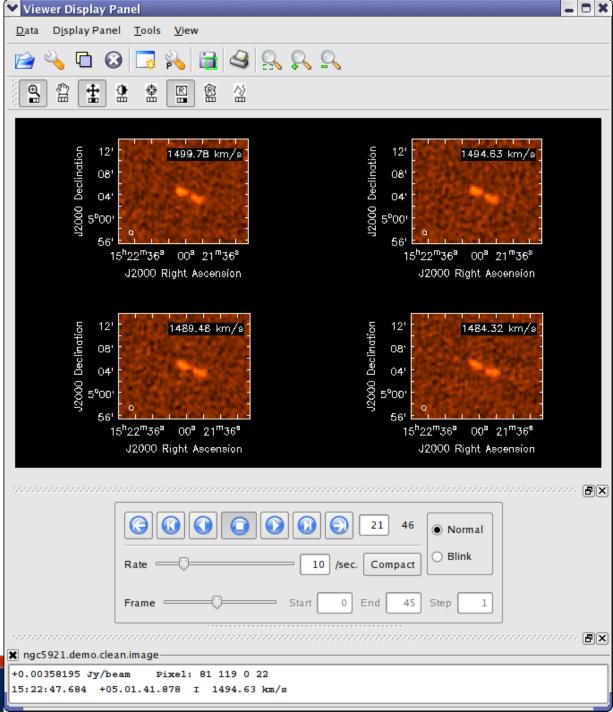
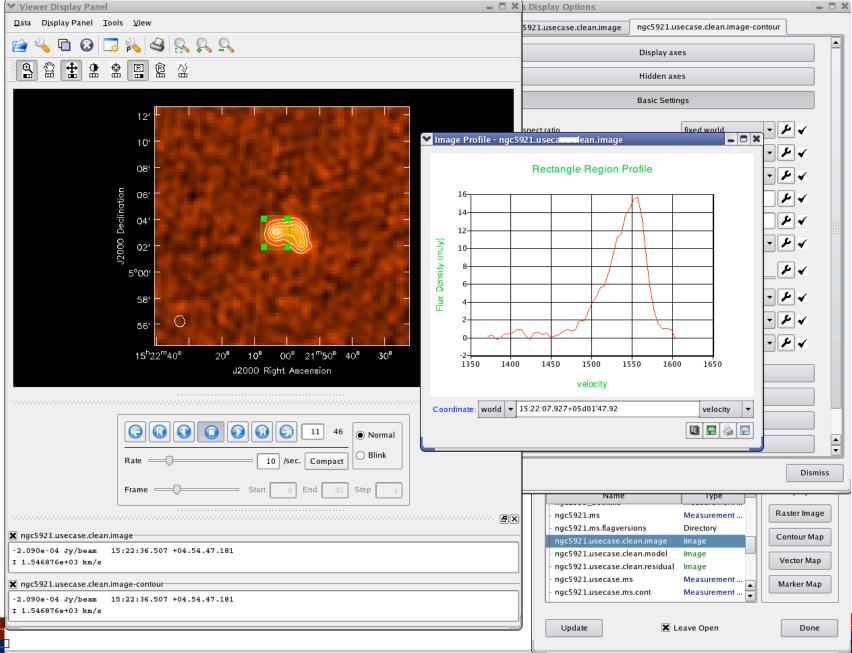


Image Viewer

- Displaying cubes
- Movies
- Channel maps

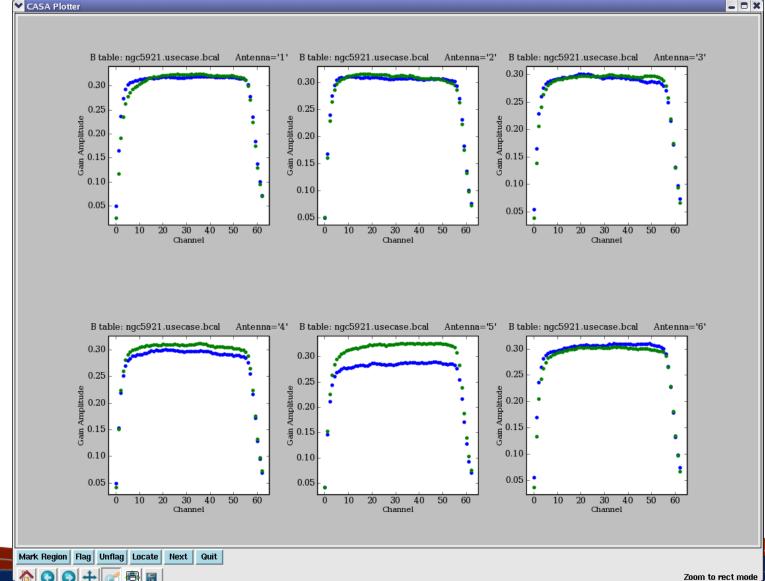




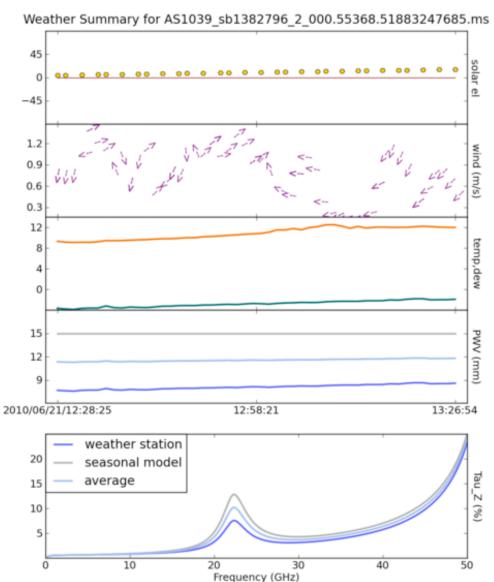




Review calibration tables: plotcal



Anything - matplotlib



Buildmytasks

- Using Python, you can write your own scripts!
- Such scripts can be converted to tasks.
- If you wish, you can share them with the community (e.g., through NRAO).
- Contributed scripts are currently available at:

https://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php/UST2





www.nrao.edu science.nrao.edu public.nrao.edu

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.