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Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik Mainz, Juli 10, 2012, Annual Meeting DFG Research Unit

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Abell 3667: 20 cm + Rosat X-Ray















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Multi-frequency synthesis

Multi-frequency synthesis (MFS):

Technique of using measurements from several frequencies for aperture synthesis imaging.

(Conway et al. 1990)

Multi-frequency synthesis Spectral structure



Multi-frequency synthesis

uv - coverage

Improved uv-coverage: $u = b/\lambda$

Multi-frequency synthesis

uv - coverage



Multi-frequency synthesis

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Multi-frequency synthesis

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7020 *24 = 168480 datapoints

New Instruments

Broad-Band interferometers:

new generation of radio interferometers provide tremendously increased bandwidth.

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EVLA up to 8 GHz bandwidth

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32 (48) MHz bandwidth per station beam at very low frequencies

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up to 8 GHz bandwidth

32 (48) MHz bandwidth per station beam at very low frequencies

LOFAR

ASKAP

300 MHz bandwidth

Standard Methodology

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Current status:

• Imaging of diffuse fields: CLEAN

Standard Methodology

Current status:

Imaging of diffuse fields: CLEAN and MEM

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 Imaging of diffuse fields: CLEAN and MEM and recently MS-CLEAN (Cornwell ,2008)

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- Diffuse imaging and MFS: MF-MS CLEAN (Rau et al. 2011), implemented in CASA

Standard Methodology

Problems?

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Problems!

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• Expansions of I(l, m, v) \longrightarrow full bandwidth can't be used.

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New Method

Solutions

Our proposal:

- Expansions of I(l, m, v) \longrightarrow full bandwidth can't be used.
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Bayesian Approach New Method Solutions



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Response

$$Rs = S(u, v) \mathcal{FT}\left[B(l, m) I(l, m, v_0) \left(\frac{v}{v_0}\right)^{-\alpha}\right]$$









Signal reconstruction

$$map = \langle s \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(s|d)}$$





- Simultaneously for both signals
- Using interative algorithms



Wiener Filter

$$map = \langle s \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(s|d)} = Dj$$





- Gaussian signal prior
- Gaussian noise
- Gaussian posterior with covariance D
- $j \sim \text{noise weighted data}$

Simulated VLA - observation of a Gaussian signal field



- VLA-A-configuration
- 24 frequencies between 1 4 GHz
- 7020 visibility points per frequency
- Low noise
- No primary beam
- Spectral index assumed to be known
- Spatial correlation structure assumed to be known as well

Simulated observation

Dirty beam at reference frequency



Simulated observation

...and using the full mfs-uv coverage



Simulated observation

Spectral index signal



Simulated observation

Total intensity signal



Simulated observation

Signal reconstruction using all frequencies



Dirty image at reference frequency



Simulated observation

Signal reconstruction using all frequencies



Simulated observation

MS-MF-CLEAN image with CASA



Signal



Dirty image



Simulated observation with low noise and no pimary beam

Signal reconstruction



MF-MS-CLEAN



Signal



Dirty image



Simulated observation with high noise and pimary beam

Signal reconstruction



MF-MS-CLEAN



Outlook

Gaussian signal fields?



(Oppermann et al. 2012)

Faraday all sky map

(Haslam et al. 1982)

408 MHz

Outlook

More realistic signal priors



Outlook

More realistic signal priors



Conclusions



- New, fully Bayesian approach to MFS and imaging of diffuse fields
- Allows to make full use of modern broadband data
- First Results on mock data : WF
- Next step: reconstruction of total intensity and spectral structure simultaneously