

WORKSHOP 2020 2-6 NOVEMBER 2020

LECTURE 2: PLOT TOOLS IN CASA

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Plot tools in CASA

- ☑ Why plotting?
- ☑ plotms
- viewer
- ☑ plotcal
- ☑ Other tools...



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Why plotting is important?





Why plotting is important?

- Best approach to check how your data look like, and how it is being calibrated.
- Calibration of radio data (specially VLBI) still requires an important fraction of manual supervision.
- Most of the plotting stages will be done during *data reduction*, not during *data analysis*.
- ${oxdot}$ Only way to make sure that the data reduction goes in the right direction.







Why plotting is important?

- You will know better your data.
- $\ensuremath{ extsf{M}}$ Is the easiest way to identify bad data.
 - Times where an antenna stopped recording properly.
 - \blacksquare Times where an antenna was still moving towards the source.
 - ☑ Radio frequency interference (RFI).
 - De-correlation of the signal due to external elements.
 - A long etc.
- Always check the solutions after running a calibration step.
 Do they make sense?
- ${f egin{array}{cccc} \hline {f O} \end{array}}$ Only then, continue to the next step.



How look at the data?

We also need to know what to expect...





- Actual (visibility) data or calibration solutions.
- Antenna- or baseline-based data.
- Multi-dimensional data: baselines, source, times, frequencies (subbands, channels), polarizations,...





Wait for:

EVN Calibration Basics

Lecture 4 tomorrow at 8:30 UTC (me).

Typical data problems

Lecture 6 tomorrow at 13:30 UTC (Ivan Martí-Vidal).





What should we expect?

Typical considerations on VLBI data:

- Homogeneous (VLBA) vs inhomogeneous (EVN) arrays.
 Significantly different sensitivities.
 Most automatic flagging tasks do not work!
- ☑ Short VS long baselines.

Source fluxes may vary with length and orientation. Most of them are resolved to some extend!



plotms

Both from inside the CASA prompt: plotms(vis="n14c3.ms", xaxis="u", yaxis="v", coloraxis='field')

Or outside (for CASA 5.7-): casaplotms vis="n14c3.ms", xaxis="u", yaxis="v", coloraxis='field'









plotms

plotms?

plotms(vis="n14c3.ms", xaxis="u",yaxis="v", coloraxis='field') default(plotms) vis="n14c3.ms" xaxis="u" yaxis="v" coloraxis='field'

inp plotms()





(u,v) plane

How are you filling the (u,v) plane?

- Maximum (uv) distance:Resolution of the final image
- Minimum (uv) distance:
 Larger angular scales you are sensitive to.
- Recovered angular scales on the final image



plotms(vis="ms-dataset", xaxis="u", yaxis="v", field='target')







plotms(

- vis="n14c3.ms",
- xaxis="frequency",
- yaxis="amp",
- field='1848+283',
- avgtime='3600',
- # Will only average within scans unless additionally told to average scans too
- antenna='EF&*', # All baselines to EF
- correlation='RR,LL',
- coloraxis='antenna2'



After bandpass calibration:

ydatacolumn='corrected'



































viewer

Both from inside the CASA prompt: viewer(vis="n14c3.ms")

Or outside: casaviewer vis="n14c3.ms"

Not only for images!





 viewer is often used only to show images (after CLEANing)

viewer(vis="n14c3.ms.first_1848.image")

 $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ Can also be used to show visibilities.

It allows an extra dimension compared to *plotms*.











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Baseline (m) x10⁶

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flagging options

show flagged regions...

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Plotcal

Only in CASA 5.7-





- Each calibration CASA task will create a calibration table (external file).
- $\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\mathnormal{M}}}$ Before applying it to the actual data, it is











Plotcal

- You want to have:
 - Shortest possible solutions to track the variations.
 - Long enough to have enough signal-to-noise.



Credit: J. McKean ERIS 2017



Outside CASA...

Because there is life outside



CASA
Jplotter (jiveplot)

https://github.com/haavee/jiveplot

- ☑ Used internally at JIVE during the processing of an EVN observation.
- Quick visualizations of MS files.
 jplotter

ms n14c3.ms

bl Ef* # baselines to Ef

- fq */p #FreQuencies (all subbands, parallel pols)
- pt amptime # amplitude VS time plot
- pl # do the plot

save n14c3-plot.ps # multi-page file.

N20C2 amplitude+phase versus channel data: n20c2.ms [DATA] unique: 12:06:00.00/sess220.0512/J0854+2006 jops@LOCALHOST 2020-07-21T12.31:08 Pol=RL.LL.LR.RR:Nsub=8;; page: 2/2 [Vector avg/ed 0/12h05m30.00s->12h06m30.00s] 5×10 N20C2 amplitude+phase versus time data: n20c2.ms [DATA] unique: CH*/sess220.C512 jops@LOCALHOST_2020-07-21T12.31:21 Pol=LL.RR:Nsub=4::Ch=6:56; page: 2/4 [Vectoraveraged channels 6:56]



https://sourceforge.net/projects/aoflagger/

- ☑ Great Flagger program doing baseline-based statistics.
- Optimal performance for fine RFI (both in time or frequency).



CARTA

Cube Analysis and Rendering Tool for Astronomy, is a next generation image visualization and analysis tool designed for ALMA, VLA, and SKA pathfinders.

DOWNLOAD

https://cartavis.github.io

Possible future replacement for DS9, kvis (or casaviewer)





Thanks to our sponsors











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