

# Absolute Flux Calibration

Melanie Krips

by Arancha Castro-Carrizo



I. Primary/Secondary Flux Calibrators

II. Practical Tips to Calibrate the Fluxes of your Sources



#### What do we want in a flux calibrator?

- strong (>1 Jy) emission at mm wavelengths
- compact (<< 1") emission at mm wavelengths
- emission should not be variable in time
- preferentially with long LST range (i.e., high declination source)
- no or only little sun-avoidance
- preferentially well known properties (such as SED, size)

- 1. Quasars
- 2. Planets
- 3. Solar Bodies(Satellites, Asteroids, Dwarf Planets)
- 4. Radio Stars
- 5. Antenna Efficiencies?

#### Flux Calibrators

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#### Absolute Flux Calibration

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# $\begin{array}{c} \text{Millimetrique} \\ \text{Source: 3CB4} \\ \text{So$







#### Flux Calibrators: Quasars



Source: 3C454



#### Absolute Flux Calibration

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#### Flux Calibrators: Quasars







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• Pro:

most of the solar planets have strong mm-emission and reasonably well derived flux models

#### • Contra:

- 1.) Fluxes not completely constant
- 2.) They start to be resolved ( $\geq$  3") already at 3mm
- 3.) Some of them have broad molecular line absorption (e.g., Mars, Jupiter, Saturn)
- 4.) Not always visible, i.e., more constraints due to sunavoidance, short LST ranges











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#### Flux Calibrators: Satellites



- They are quite compact (hence better for extended configurations and/or higher frequencies than planets) and still sufficiently bright (>500mJy@3mm)
- Already regularly used at the SMA: Titan, Ganymede, Callisto
- Contra:
  - Titan also shows broad molecular lines
  - they are not always useable especially when they are too close to their 'mother'-planet (or each other); one needs at least 3xPB
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- bright and relatively small solar bodies
- Contra:

- Fluxes not (yet) well determined; some of them known to vary quite significantly within a day

- irregular shapes





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#### Number of radio bright stars:

- MWC349 (binary star)
- CRL618 (PPN)
- W3OH (HII region)
- NGC7072 (young PN)
- NGC7538 (Hll region)
- K3-50A (HII-region)
- .....



#### Pardo et al. (2009)





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Nakashima et al. (2010)





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# Flux Calibrators: Radio Stars



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# Flux Calibrators: MWC349

- binary stellar system: MWC349A (Be) & MWC349B (B0 type III)
- the two stars are separated by 2.4"±0.1" and possibly interact
- MWC349A the brightest radio continuum star
- radio continuum produced by "ionised bipolai flow that photoevaporates from the surface of a neutral Keplerian disk"
- size of flow decreases with frequency
- strong but highly variable hydrogen maser emission (RRLs) from the near-edge-on disk (~0.065"=80AU@1.2kpc)
- at declination of >40deg
   visible for ~13h per
   day









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# Flux Calibrators: MWC349

#### Tafoya et al. (2004) 40 29 20.6 20.5 20.4 DECLINATION (B1950) 20.3 20.2 20.1 20.0 grey scale – 1.3cm contours – 7 mm 19,9 20 30 56.87 56.86 56.85 56.84 56.83 56.82 RIGHT ASCENSION (B1950)

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### <u>Some facts:</u>



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# Flux Calibrators: MWC349



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## How to calibrate a calibrator?



## How to calibrate a calibrator?



## Flux of MWC348: SED





## Flux of MWC348: SED





# Flux of MWC348: Time variability?







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# Size of MWC348



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# Size of MWC348



## Primary Flux Calibrators



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## "By-product" of calibration





# Antenna Efficiencies: Interferometrically



































Checklist:

- Antenna Shadowing
- Pointing/Focus Problems
- Tracking Problems
- Do phases of different spectral windows overlap?
- Noisy data
- Has Flux Calibrator Lines?
- Is Flux Calibrator Extended?
- Check Elevation of your source
- Check whether source is polarised (only important when using NC with one polarisation)
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## Practical Tips: Shadowing





## Practical Tips: Shadowing





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### Practical Tips: Pointing/Focus



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### Practical Tips : Pointing/Focus



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### Practical Tips : Pointing/Focus



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## Practical Tips: Tracking



First Look











#### Motivation \_ 🗆 X Standard calibration package for NGR SELECT AUTOFLAG PHCOR RF PHASE FLUX AMPL. PRINT Use previous settings ? 🗹 Yes File File name myfile.hpb Se First and last scan 0 10000 Ι- $\nabla$ Re RECEIVER BAND = 1 Se A Help X Close Go Se I-LISTE, [9149] Source # 10001149 JU UUSELVALIUIS Т I-LISTE,[9149] Source # 2 30 Observations 1611+343 1538+149, at 5.1 degrees from the source 1611+343, at 15.8 degrees from the source The calibrators recommended for phase and amplitude calibration are: 1538+149 1611+343 1538+149 is found to be polarized at 90.2xsigma Averaged polarization mode is selected for the amplitude calibration You can change it with "let do avpol no" before the amplitude calibration 1611+343 is found to be polarized at 72.5xsigma Averaged polarization mode is selected for the amplitude calibration You can change it with "let do avpol no" before the amplitude calibration LSB tuning for receiver 1 \* CLIC> Shell

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Motivation	X Flux Receiver 1	m
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🗙 Standard calibration package for NGR	Frequency 90.8 GHz	
SELECT AUTOFLAG PHCOR RE PHASE FLUX	Efficiencies: 22.16 23.45 21.91 20.59 21.42 21.65	
	Scan list ( 8019 9101	
Use previous settings ? 🔽 Yes		
	Fixed flux?	
Se File name myfile.hpb		
I- First and last scan 0 10000	Flux in File: 1072	
	$\nabla$ Calibrator 3C345	
Re RECEIVER BAND = 1	Input Flux? 3 171	
Kan the second s	Fixed flux?	
	Solved Flux: 3.171	
I-LISTE,[9149] Source # 2 1611+343 30 Observations	Flux in File: 3.171	
1538+149, at 5.1 degrees from the source	Source MWC349, Model Flux 1.13 Jy	
The calibrators recommended for phase and amplitude calibration are:	Input Flux? 0.908	
1538+149 1611+343	Fixed flux? 🗆 No	
1538+149 is found to be polarized at 90.2xsigma	Solved Flux: 0.908	
Averaged polarization mode is selected for the amplitude calibration	Flux in File: 0.908	
You can change it with "let do_avpot no" before the amplitude calibr	✓ Calibrator 1538+149	
1611+343 is found to be polarized at 72.5xsigma	Input Flux? 0.688	
Averaged polarization mode is selected for the amplitude calibration You can change it with "let do avool no" before the amplitude calibr	Fixed flux? 🗌 No	
······································	Solved Flux: 0.688	
LSB tuning for receiver 1	Flux in File: 0.688	
	✓ Calibrator 1611+343	
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Motivation	
	SOLVE GET RESULT STORE PLOT >> NEXT tut de oastronomie métrique
🗙 Standard calibration package for NGR	Frequency 90.8 GHz
	Efficiencies: 22.16 23.45 21.91 20.59 21.42 21.65
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Se	Input Flux? 3.171
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I-LISTE, [9149] Source # 2 1611+343 30 Observations	Flux in File: 3.171
1611+343, at 15.8 degrees from the source	▼ Source MWC349, Model Flux 1.13 Jy
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LSB tuning for receiver 1	Flux in File: 0.688
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Motivation	X Fim Poceiver 1	<b>i</b> ram
X Standard calibration package for NGR	SOLVE GET RESULT STORE PLOT >> NEXT SOLVE 0.8 GHZ SOLVE SIMPLY	stitut de idioastronomie illimétrique
SELECT AUTOFLAG PHCOR RF PHASE FLUX	Scap Het ? 8619 9161	
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I - First and last scan 0 10000	Solved Flux: 1.072 Flux in File: 1.072	
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Se Belp	Input Flux? 3.171	=
Se         Se           I-LISTE, [9149] Source # 1         ISSE+149         Source # 2           I-LISTE [9149] Source # 2         1611+343         30 Observations	Solved Flux: 3.171	
1538+149, at 5.1 degrees from the source 1611+343. at 15.8 degrees from the source	Flux in File: 3.171 Source MWC349, Model Flux 1.13 Jy	
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Averaged polarization mode is selected for the amplitude calibratio You can change it with "let do_avpol no" before the amplitude calib	Flux in File: 0.908	
1611+343 is found to be polarized at 72.5xsigma	Calibrator 1538+149	
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LSB tuning for receiver 1	Solved Flux: 0.688 Flux in File: 0.688	
CLIC> []	✓ Calibrator 1611+343	•
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Motivation	X Flam Paceiver 1	<u> </u>
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1538+149 1611+343		
Source MWC349, Model Flux 1.13 Jy		
No calibrator is considered for flux calibration, fixing the str	ongest	
No calibrator is considered for flux calibration, fixing the str	ongest 49	
No calibrator is considered for flux calibration, fixing the str	ongest	
No calibrator is considered for flux calibration, fixing the str	ongest	
The flux of 1611+343 is fixed to 2.185 Jy Phases are Degrees Continuous 10	<b>▲</b> <b>↓</b> 43	
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Motivation	X Plan Paceiver 1	ram
X Standard calibration package for NGR	SOLVE GT RESULT STORE PLOT SOLVE 0.8 GHz SOLVE SIMPLY	>> NEXT illimétrique
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Use previous settings ? 🗹 Yes	Input Flux? 1.072	
😰 krips@bure6b:~/project/w04c - Shell - Konsole	•	
Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help	2	
I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] 1611+343 Aver. 2.1850 +0001 I-CLIC_MASK,[9161] Masked - no flags	2	
Flux and efficiency result for receiver 1 at 90.8 GHz:	<u>י</u> ן ס	=
in file solve flux	1	
J1310+323 read: 1.07 Jy found: 1.07 Jy	1	
3C345 read: 3.17 Jy found: 3.17 Jy	, Model Flux 1.13 Jy	
1538+149 read: 0.69 Jy found: 0.69 Jy	18	
1611+343 read: 2.19 Jy fixed: 2.19 Jy	o	
Antenna 1 (A1) 22.2 Jv/K (0.99)	18	
Antenna 2 (A2) 23.4 Jy/K (0.93)	18	
Antenna 3 (A3) 21.9 Jy/K ( 1.00)	149	
Antenna 5 (A5) 21.4 Jy/K (1.02)	8	
Antenna 6 (A6) 21.7 Jy/K ( 1.01)		
Phases are Degrees Continuous 10	199 B	
I-CLIC_MASK,[8636] Masked - Ant 1: SHADOW, Ant 2: SHADOW, Ant 3: SHADOW	W, Ant 4:	
SHADOW, Ant 5: SHADOW, Ant 6: SHADOW Plot type is BARS	343	
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Motivation	
X Standard calibration package for NGR	SOLVE GT RESULT STORE PLOT >> NEXT stitut de dioastronom SOLVE 0.8 GHz SOLVE SIMPLY \$5 21.91 20.59 21.42 21.65
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<ul> <li>krips@bure6b:~/project/w04c - Shell - Konsole</li> <li>Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help</li> </ul>	- <b>·</b> × o 2
I-LISTE,[8620] Source # 1 J1310+323 1 Observations I-LISTE,[8620] Source # 2 3C345 4 Observations I-LISTE,[8620] Source # 3 MWC349 3 Observations I-LISTE,[8620] Source # 4 1538+149 36 Observations I-LISTE,[8620] Source # 5 1611+343 36 Observations I-SOLVE_FLUX,[8620] Average fluxes will use the best 3 antennas	▲ 2 1 0 1 1
Amplitudes are absoluteAmplitude Calibration is antenna-basedAmplitudes are divided by assumed calibrator fluxAmplitudes are expressed in kelvinsI-SCALING,[8637] MWC349has known structureI-SCALING,[8638] MWC349has known structureI-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Reference sources:I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] 1611+343Flux = 2.1850 Jy	1 , Model Flux 1.13 Jy 18 0 18
I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Average efficiencies: I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 1 22.165 +- 0.003 Jy/K ( 0.99) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 2 23.452 +- 0.003 Jy/K ( 0.93) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 3 21.911 +- 0.003 Jy/K ( 1.00) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 4 20.588 +- 0.002 Jy/K ( 1.06) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 5 21.419 +- 0.003 Jy/K ( 1.02) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Ant. 6 21.648 +- 0.003 Jy/K ( 1.01) I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] Sources, Fluxes and errors : I-SOLVE_FLUX,[9161] J1310+323 Ant 1 1.3902 +0016	8         149         8         0         8         8         8         8         343
Shell	Go X Close



### **Practical Tips**

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# Questions?