Instrumental calibrations

Vincent Piétu IRAM

Why instrumental calibration

- A number of effects will reduce amplitude:
 - This leads to unrecoverable signal-to-noise loss.
 - Needs to be calibrated out in any case.
- Phase information as a dramatic effect on images.
 - Need as good as possible control of the phases.
- Need to setup the system for optimal performances:
 - Receiver alignments.
 - Panel adjustment.
- This can only be obtained by either:
 - Dedicated observing session
 - Long term monitoring
- Most effects need to be correct at the time of observing and cannot be corrected later on.

Outline

- Amplitude:
 - Atmospheric
 - Astronomical observations calibration.
 - WVR calibration.
 - Pointing.
 - Focusing.
- Phase:
 - Delay calibration.
 - Baselines measurements.
 - Cable phase correction.
- Holography.

Atmospheric calibration

$$\begin{array}{lcl} T_{ant} &=& T_{bg} \\ &+& T_{sky} \sim \eta_f (1 - \exp(-\tau_{atm}) T_{atm} \\ &+& T_{spill} \sim (1 - \eta_f - \eta_{loss}) T_{ground} \\ &+& T_{loss} \sim \eta_{loss} T_{cabin} \\ &+& T_{rec} \end{array}$$

- At mm wavelength, we are dominated by the atmosphere.
- 35K < Trec < 100 K
- Taking into account receiver rejection and referring to a perfect antenna outside atmosphere, one gets:

$$T_{sys} = (1+g)\frac{\exp(\tau_{atm})}{\eta_f}T_{ant}$$

• Opacity correction allows to have sources on a scale proportional to their intensities (no more elevation dependent)

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 - Atmosphere and ground temperature: meteo station

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 - Assume linearity of the receiving chain:

$$P_{chop} = K \times (T_{chop} + T_{rec})$$
$$P_{cold} = K \times (T_{cold} + T_{rec})$$

$$T_{rec} = \frac{P_{cold} \times T_{hot} - P_{hot} \times T_{cold}}{P_{hot} - P_{cold}}$$

- NOEMA: we use an ambient temperature load and mirror looking back at the 15K stage of the cryostat.
- ALMA: ambient and hot load (350K).

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 - Measurement on the sky and a load:

$$P_{chop} = K \times (T_{chop} + T_{rec})$$

$$P_{sky} = K \times (\eta_f (1 - \exp(-\tau_{atm}) T_{atm}) + (1 - \eta_f T_{ground}) + T_{rec})$$

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- Optically thin atmosphere (for simplicity, not required):

 $(1 - \exp(-\tau_{atm})) \sim \tau_{atm} \sim \text{Airmass} \times \tau_{zenith}$

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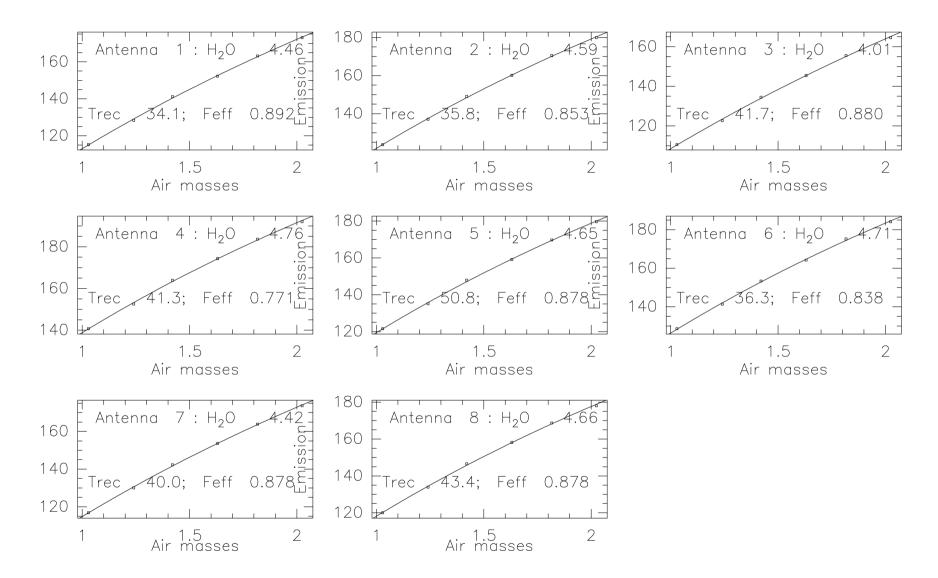
- So we have:

$$(T_{chop} + T_{rec}) \times \frac{P_{sky}}{P_{chop}} - T_{rec} = \eta_f \times \text{Airmass} \times \tau_{zenith} + (1 - \eta_f)T_{ground}$$

IRAM millimeter interferometry summerschool

Skydips





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- Determination of Tsys and Ta* requires knowledge of:
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 - Receiver gain (sideband attenuation): measurement on a quasar

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 - Add an offset to LO1 phase:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \psi_1 & \text{Signal} \\ \hline 0 & V_1 = A_{\text{U}} e^{i\varphi_{\text{U}}} + A_{\text{L}} e^{-i\varphi_{\text{L}}} \\ \pi/2 & V_2 = A_{\text{U}} e^{i(\varphi_{\text{U}} - \pi/2)} + A_{\text{L}} e^{i(-\varphi_{\text{L}} + \pi/2)} \end{array}$$

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- And compute the visibilities in each sideband:

$$A_{\rm U}e^{i\varphi_{\rm U}} = (V_1 + iV_2)/2$$
$$A_{\rm L}e^{-i\varphi_{\rm L}} = (V_1 - iV_2)/2$$

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 - Atmosphere and ground temperature: meteo station
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 - Receiver gain (sideband attenuation): measurement on a quasar
 - Add a frequency offset to LO1 and LO2:

$$\omega_1 = \omega_1^{ref} + \delta\omega$$
$$\omega_2 = \omega_2^{ref} - \delta\omega$$

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$$\omega_1 = \omega_1^{ref} + \delta\omega$$
$$\omega_2 = \omega_2^{ref} - \delta\omega$$

- Fringes will be stopped in the signal SB but rotate in image SB

$$\psi(USB) = \psi_U - \delta\omega\tau_g + \delta\omega\tau_g$$
$$= \psi_U$$

$$\psi(LSB) = -\psi_L + 2\delta\omega\tau_g$$

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- Determination of Tsys and Ta* requires knowledge of:
 - Atmosphere and ground temperature: meteo station
 - Forward efficiency: skydips
 - Receiver temperature: chopper wheel method
 - Receiver gain (sideband attenuation): measurement on a quasar
 - Atmosphere opacity: use of an atmospheric model

Using an atmospheric model

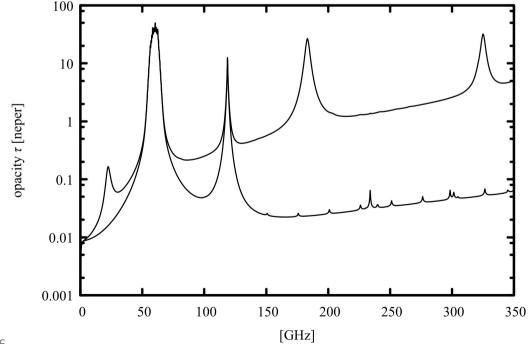
• Use of an atmospheric model. NOEMA and ALMA uses different flavour of the ATM model (J. Cernicharo, J. Pardo). E.g.

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION, VOL. 49, NO. 12, DECEMBER 2001

Atmospheric Transmission at Microwaves (ATM): An Improved Model for Millimeter/Submillimeter Applications

Juan R. Pardo, José Cernicharo, and Eugene Serabyn

- SMA uses am (S. Paine).
- Allow to derive water vapor



1683

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IRAM millime

Atmospheric calibration

- At NOEMA, atmospheric calibration is done with one value per baseband.
- Actually two operations are performed:
 - 1. Data are scaled by Tsys so that they are on a Ta* temperature scale.
 - 2. In addition crosscorrelation spectra are divided by the square-root of the product of the autocorrelation spectra to correct bandpass (amplitude only).
- Data are then stored in a file.
- This can be redone (except 2.) using CLIC\ATMOSPHERE.
- At ALMA, only 2. is done online, and "raw" data are stored in the asdm file. Multiplication by Tsys is done later on.

Radiometers

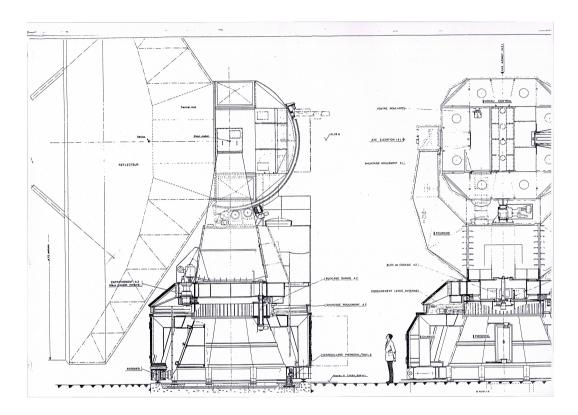
Radiometers calibration

- We just have one usable load.
- Using skydips to compute radiometer receiver temperatures.
- Compute a calibration factor using receiver temperature and observation of the hot load (commuted during the regular astronomical atmospheric calibration).
- Compute the derivative of the optical path with respect to the radiometer brightness temperature.
- Update scaling factors used to compute a phase.
- The correlator software uses these scaling factors and the raw counts to compute a correction (including time averaging if needed).
- The average spectrum is computed with and without correction, and both are kept in the files so that a non-working correction does not harm otherwise good data. Pipeline later chooses which data to use.
- This calibration can be redone using CLIC\WVR.

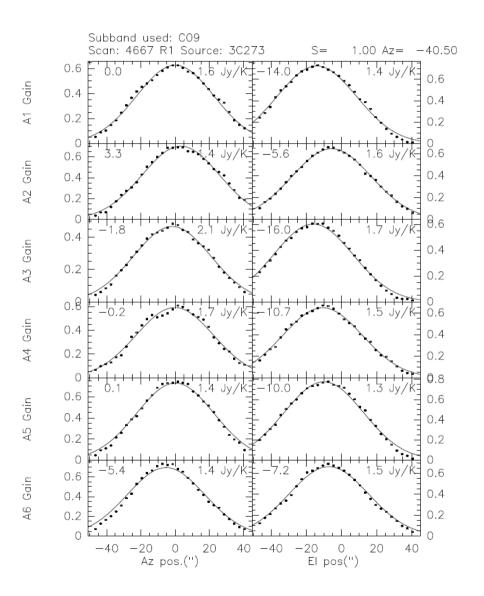
Pointing

Pointing

- With an aperture taper, primary beam is roughly gaussian.
- 10% loss at 0.2 FWHM.
- Knowledge of the beam (including offsets) crucial for large-scale imaging (mosaics, on-the-fly imaging).
- We need to have a sufficiently good pointing. For NOEMA:
 - 0.5" tracking accuracy
 - 2" pointing accuracy
- Unlike in the optical, strong sources are scare, so we cannot use guide stars.



Pointing



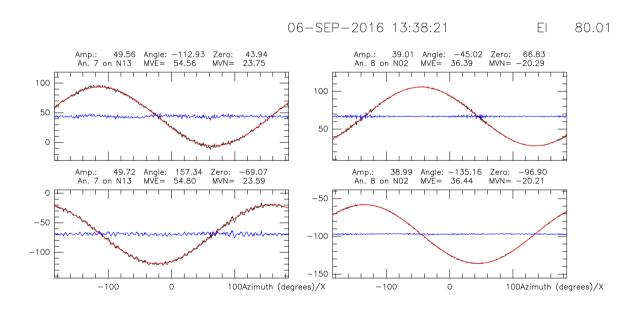
- We slew the antenna over a point source (in azimuth and in elevation), fit a gaussian, and derive corrections which are entered in the system regularly.
- A (really) bad pointing leads to unrecoverable loss of signal-tonoise and tricky to impossible corrections to the amplitude.
- Possible to fit total power (not requiring to have fringes) or amplitude.
- Other pattern are possible (*e.g. ALMA using 5 points pointing*).

NOEMA pointing model

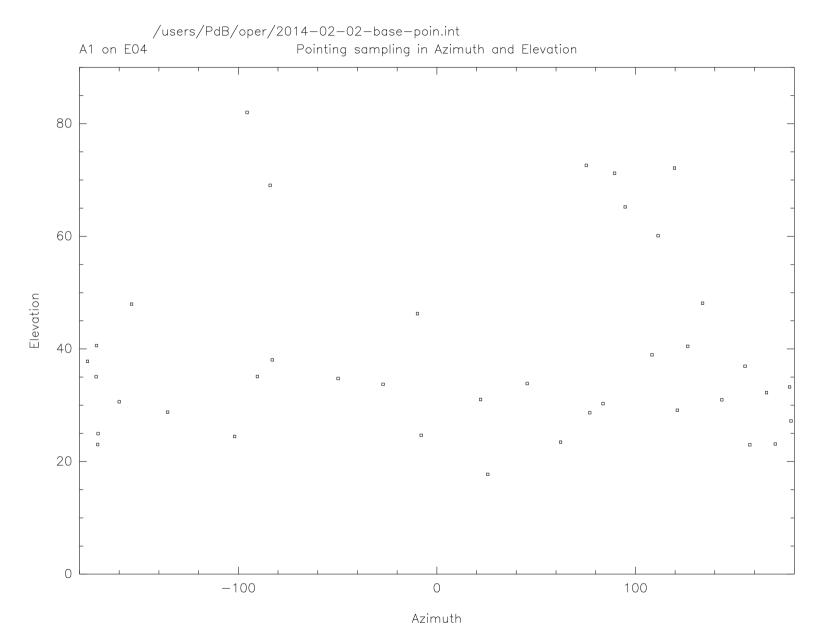
IAZ	azimuth encoder zero				
ING	dX = IAZ*cos(E1)	dY = 0			
IEL	elevation encoder zero				
100	dX = 0	dY = IEL			
COH	telescope azimuth collimation				
	-	dY = -asin(sin(El)/sqrt(1-COH**2))			
	for COH << cos(El), equivalent	-			
	dX = COH	dY = 0,			
COV	telescope vertical collimation	,			
	dX = 0	dY = COV			
MVE	Azimuth axis tilt towards East				
	dX = MVE*cos(Az)*sin(El)	dY = -MVE*sin(Az)			
MVN	Azimuth axis tilt towards North	1			
	dX = -MVN*sin(Az)*sin(El)	dY = -MVN*cos(Az)			
NPE	Elevation axis tilt (axis non p	perpendicularity)			
	dX = -NPE*sin(El)	dY = 0			
	(assuming small NPE and COH in practice.)				
REFO	First order refraction coeffici	ient			
	dX = 0	dY = -REF0/tan(E1)			
REF1					
	dX = 0	dY = -REF1/tan(E1)**3			
ELES	gravity+eccentricity of Elevati				
	dX = 0	dY = ELES*sin(E1)			
ELEC	gravity+eccentricity of Elevati				
	dX = 0	dY = ELEC*cos(E1)			
AZES	eccentricity of Azimuth encoder				
	dX = AZES*sin(Az)*cos(El)				
AZEC	eccentricity of Azimuth encoder				
		dY = 0			
HEL	Homology elevation bending (cos dX = 0				
	a x = 0	dY = -HEL*cos(E1)			

Derive pointing model parameters

- Corrections:
 - dX = IAZ.cos(El) + COH + sin(El) * (MVE*cos(Az)-MVN*sin(Az)-NPE) + cos(El) * (AZES*sin(Az)+AZEC*cos(Az)) dY = IEL+COV - (MVE*sin(Az)+MVN*cos(Az)) + (ELES*sin(El)+(ELEC-HEL)*cos(El)) - REF0/tan(El) - REF1/tan(El)**3 - REF2/tan(El)**5
- Parameters playing the larger role:
 - IAZ, IEL+COV, COH, MVE, MVN, HEL
 - Depending on antenna or antenna+station
 - We use inclinometers to monitor the antenna tilt.
 - Corrected for the local gravity vector (attraction of the Alps).

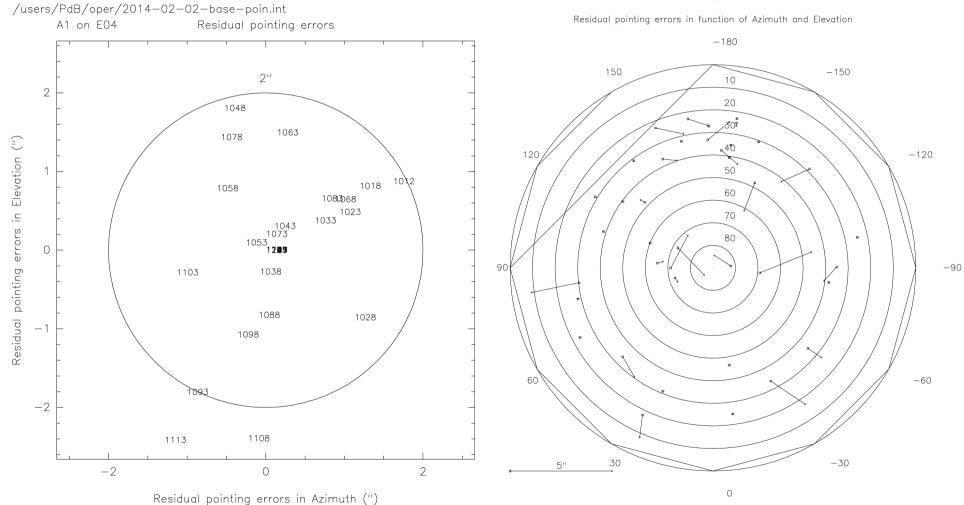


Do pointing all-over the sky



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Derive pointing model parameters

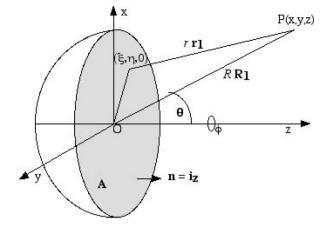


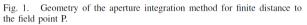
A1 on E04

Focus

Focus

- An error in the positioning of the subreflector causes an unrecoverable loss of signal-to-noise and/or pointing errors and/or primary beam deformations (e.g. Coma with asymetric sidelobes).
- Homological design need to have a focus model as well: variation of focus position as a function of elevation (X, Z directions).
- Thermal variation of focus (sunset, sunrise)
- NOEMA make focus measurement (Z only) every hour or so.
- ALMA makes XYZ focus and tabulates focus value as a function of elevation and temperature and applies it.





Coma, IRAM 15 m, λ = 3 mm

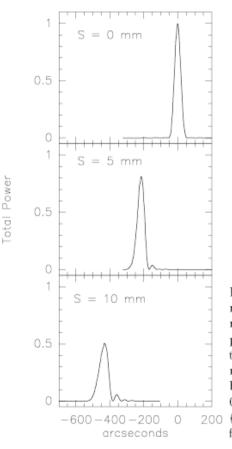
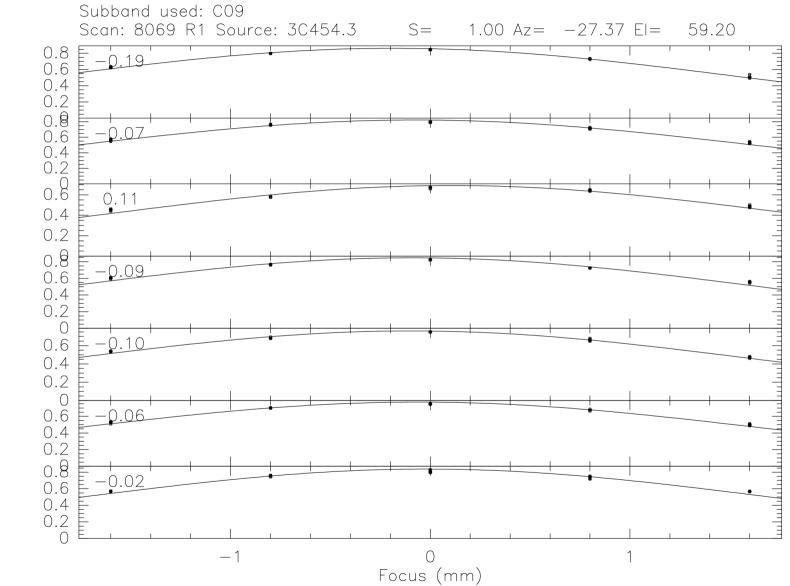


Figure 1.8: Illustration of a comatic beam (scanned in the direction of the coma) especially produced on the IRAM 15-m telescope. The shift of the subreflector is indicated by S. The beam pattern is perfect at S = 0. Note the shift of the beam 200 (pointing error) when the subreflector is shifted.

NOEMA focus measurement



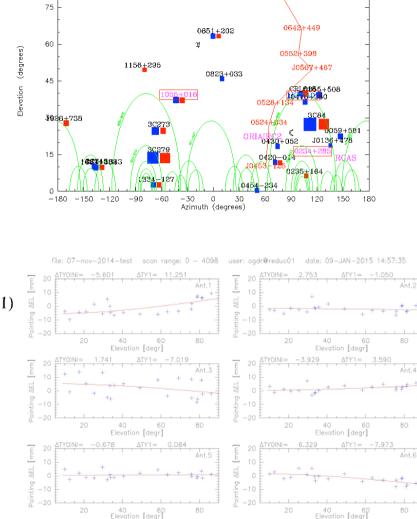
Gain Gain A2 Gain A1 Gain A4 Gain A3 Gain A5 Gain A6 84 8

Focus model

- Dependance on elevation only: observe a "strip" at a given azimuth.
- We do not (yet) directly measure X and Y focus.
- But a lateral defocus give a pointing error:

defocus component	symbol	pointing error	0 -180 -150 -120 -90 -60 -30 0 Azimuth (dec	30 60 90 120 13 grees)
translation primary	y_p	$-K_p(y_p / f)$		
rotation primary	ε	$(1+K_p)\epsilon$	file: 07-nov-2014-test scan range: 0 - 4098	user: ogdr@reduc01 date: 09–J
translation secondary	y_s	$(y_s / f) (K_p - K_s / M)$	Ε 20 ΔΤΥΟΙΝΙ= -5.601 ΔΤΥ1= 11.251 Ant.1	E 20 ATYDINI= 2.753
rotation secondary (vertex)	α	$-\alpha (2c/f)(K_p+K_s)/(M+1)$		
rotation secondary (focus)	lpha	$-\alpha (2 c/f) (\dot{K_s}/M)$		
translation feed (in sec. focus)	y_f	$(y_f / f) (K_s / M)$	20 40 60 80 Elevation [degr]	20 40 Elevation
	- 5		$\begin{bmatrix} 20 & \Delta TYOINI = 1.741 & \Delta TY1 = -7.019 \\ 10 & + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + $	20 <u>ATYOINI= -3.929</u> 10 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

 Knowing the beam deviation factor (BDF) Kp, we can derive the lateral shift we are interested in.



OBS: 05:54:28.500 44:38:02.000 UTC: 02-JAN-2015 01:51:00.00

LST: 09:00:11.5245

 0814 ± 425

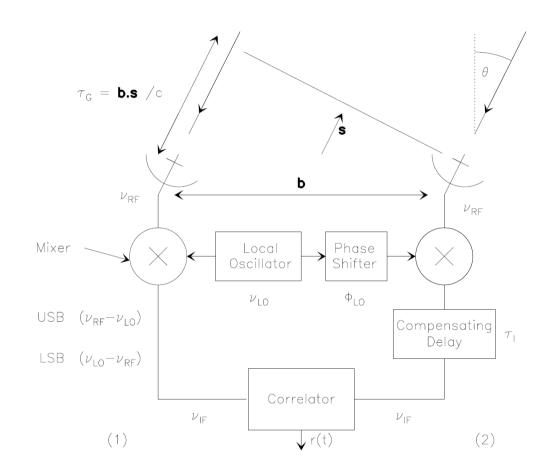
Delay

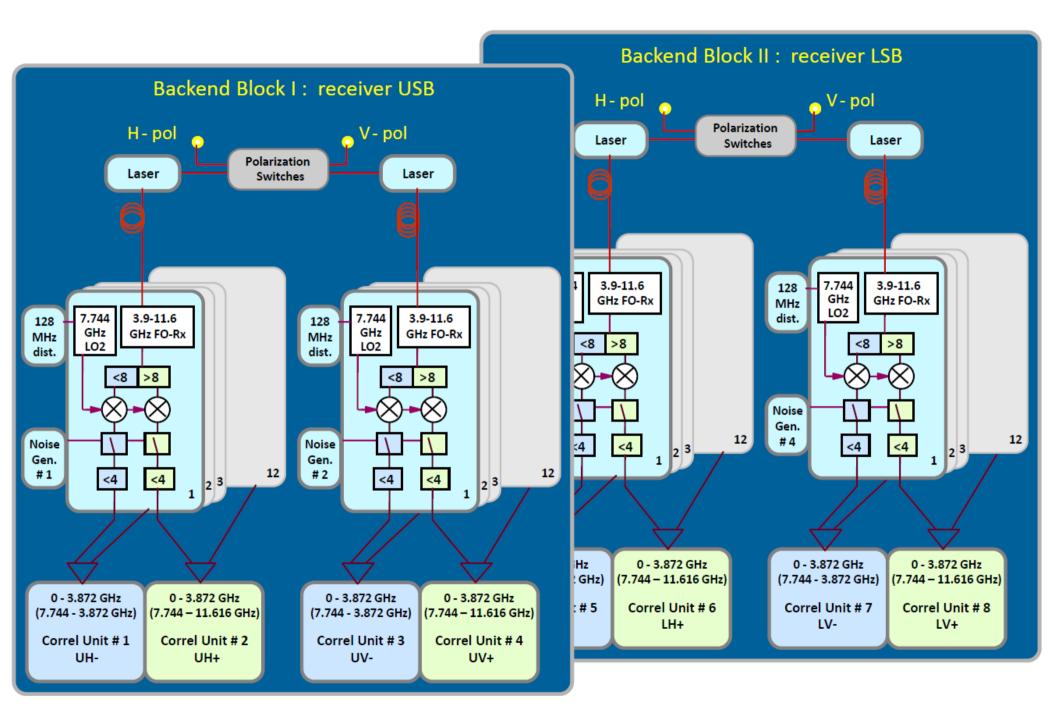
Delay calibration

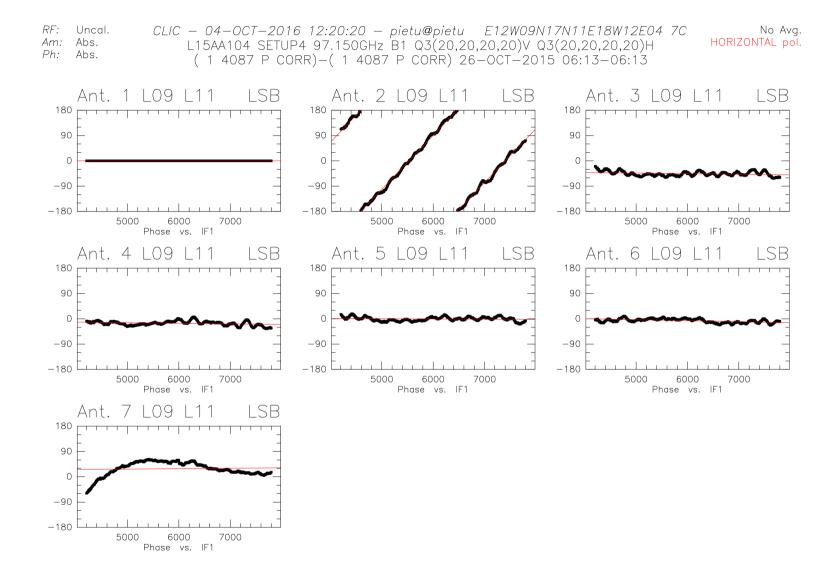
• An uncorrected (constant) delay introduce a phase slope as a function of frequency:

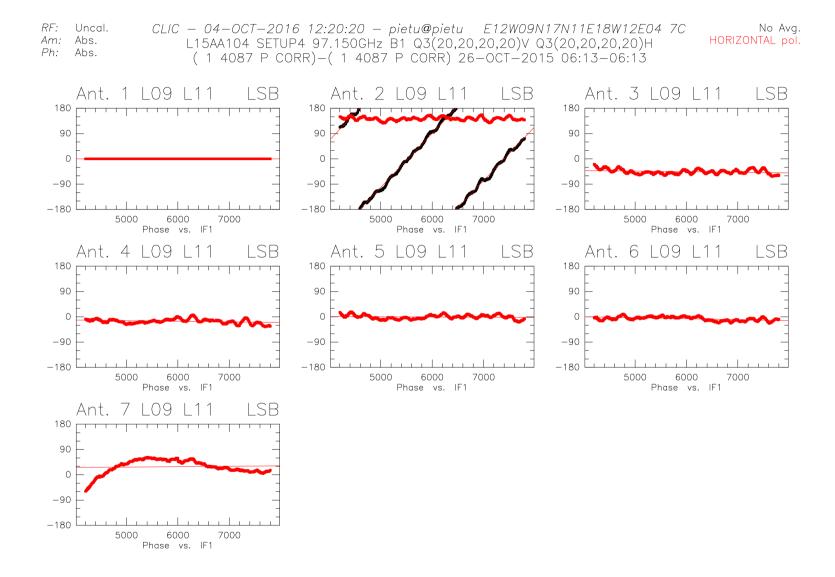
 $\Phi(\nu_{IF}) = \pm 2\pi\nu_{IF}\Delta\tau$

- Geometrical delay can be computed with accurate baselines, positions and timing.
- However, despite good engineering, small instrumental delays, depending on the instrumental setup remain.
- Part is done online, using a noise source, allowing to coherently add all the spectral windows connected to it.









Delay measurement

- Measured delay are added to the known instrumental delay (length of fiber optics) and to the geometrical delay and corrected for in the correlator/correlator software.
- Correlator has a given time resolution (inverse of the sampling frequency), allowing only to correct delays down to that resolution. Fine delays are corrected in software.
- Having corrected delays allows averaging of spectra needed to get the continuum sensitivity required for calibration.
- Can however be corrected offfline using

CLIC\MODIFY DELAY

• At ALMA, this is done automatically on phase calibrator (INTENT=CALIBRATE_DELAY). Use of a much more complex delay server (have to take into account propagation time to the antenna, dry component due to possible altitude difference between stations, etc.)

Baseline

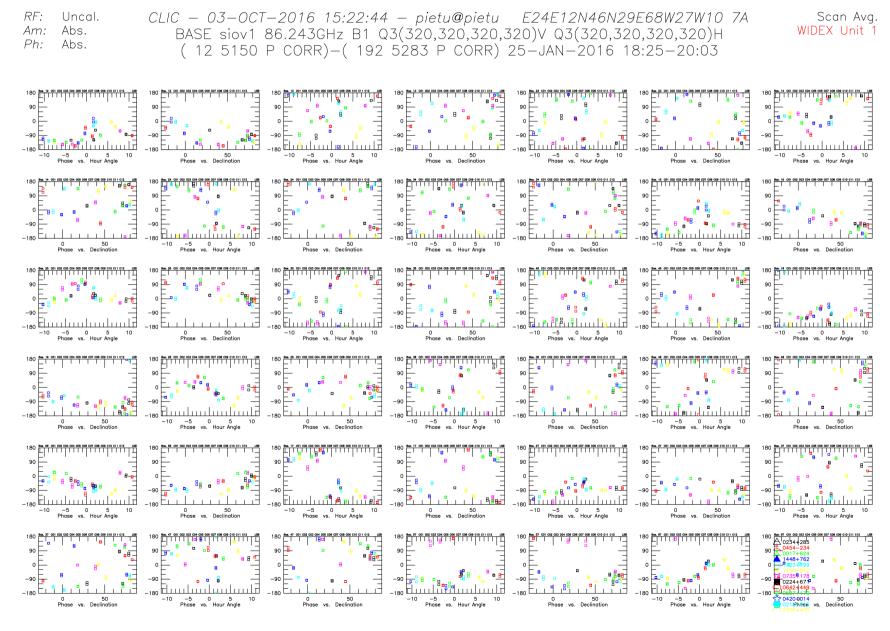
Measuring phases

• Measured phase are:

$$\begin{split} \phi_{ij}^{g} &= \phi_{ij}^{s} + \phi_{ij}^{a} = 2\pi \, w = \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \underbrace{(X_{ij}, Y_{ij}, Z_{ij})}_{b} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos H \cos \delta \\ -\sin H \cos \delta \\ \sin \delta \end{pmatrix}}_{s} + \phi_{ij}^{a} \\ &\longrightarrow \quad \Delta \phi_{ijk}^{g} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left(\Delta b_{ij} \cdot s_{k} + \underbrace{b_{ij} \cdot \Delta s_{k}}_{\simeq 0} \right) + \Delta \phi_{ijk}^{a} \end{split}$$

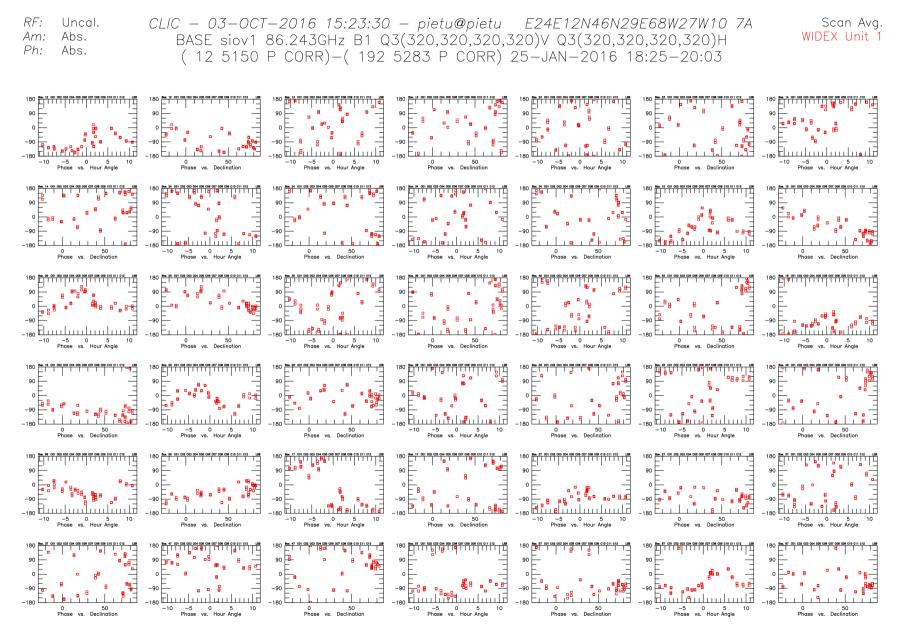
- Observing sources distributed in hour-angle and declination, with a stable atmospheric phase allow to derive positions (wrt an reference position).
- We need of course to know accurately the position of the observed sources.
- At ALMA, possibility to fit differential delays between sources.

Measuring baselines

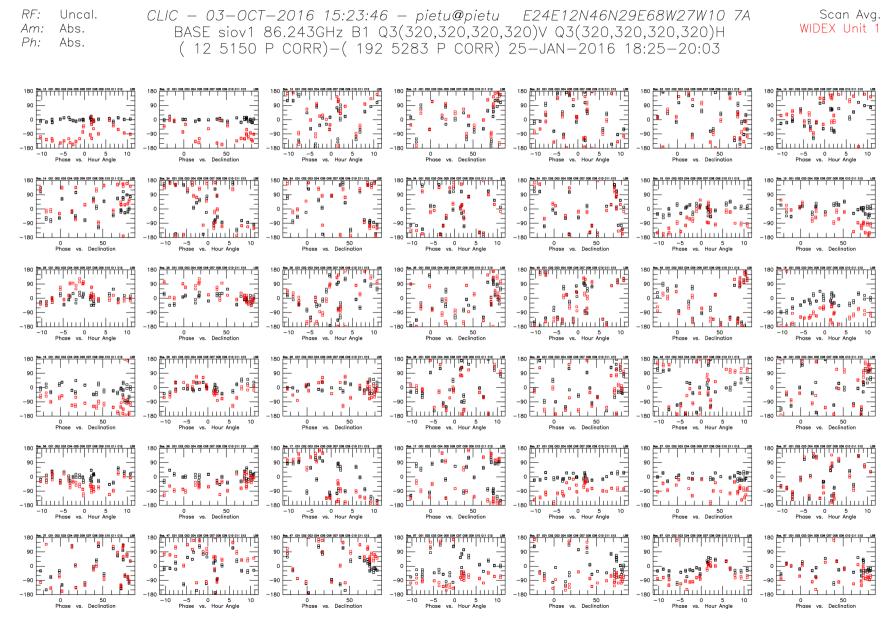


02 October 2018





After baseline fit



Baseline measurements

- Usually done after configuration change.
- Needs
 - accurate source positions.
 - Excellent weather conditions.
- Can be redone offline using:

CLIC\MODIFY ANTENNA

or

CLIC\MODIFY BASELINE

• Position can also be updated offline with:

CLIC\MODIFY POSITION

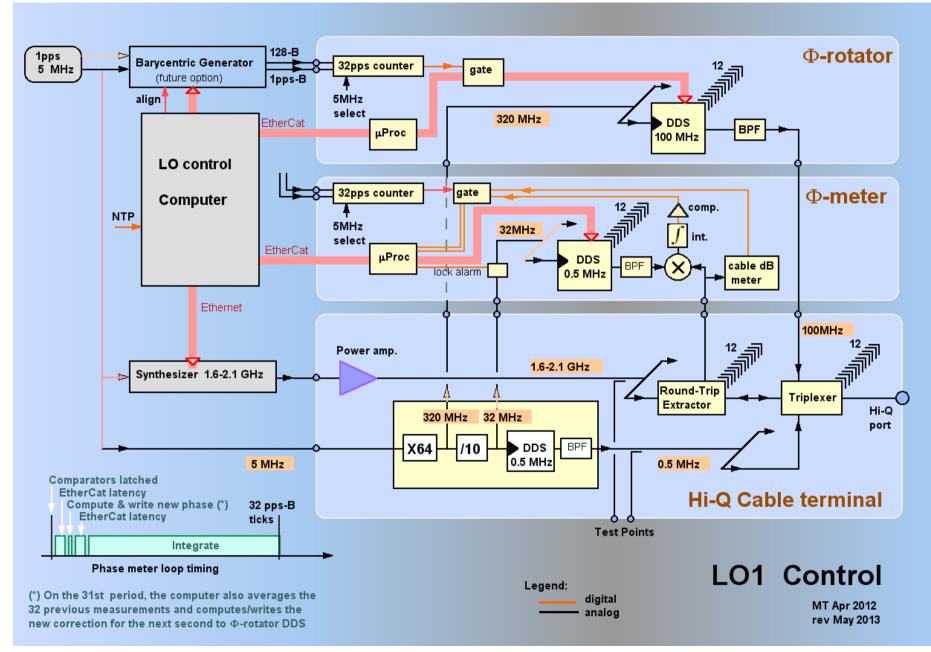
(e.g. To correct for the position of a phase calibrator).

Cable phase

Need to control cable phase

- At NOEMA, reference signal are transported through an HiQ cable. LO1 reference frequency is transported in the 1.6-2.1 GHz range. This frequency is hence multiplied by a factor 50-150, depending on the frequency band.
- For 1km cable, with a linear expansion coefficient of 1e-5, a 1K gradient lengthen the cable by 10mm, or 10 turns at 1mm !
- We monitor the length of the cable by sending forth the reference frequency plus 500 kHz, and back the reference frequency, the difference of these being compared to a reference 500 kHz oscillator.
- Data are corrected in real-time in the correlator software for this "cable phase".
- At ALMA, reference is from photonics LO, and cable phase is corrected physically in the LLC (line-length corrector) by mechanically stretching a fiber optic.

LO1 control



• Far-field approximation (Fraunhofer region):

$$f(u,v) = \frac{i}{\lambda} \frac{e^{-ikR}}{R} \int F(\xi,\eta) \exp\{-ik(\xi u + \eta v)\} d\xi d\eta$$
$$F(\xi,\eta) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{e^{ikR}}{R} \int f(u,v) \exp\{ik(u\xi + v\eta)\} du dv$$

• Near-field approximation (Fresnel region):

$$\begin{split} f(u,v) &= \frac{i}{\lambda} \frac{e^{ikR}}{R} \int F(\xi,\eta) \\ &\exp\left\{ik\left[-(u\xi + v\eta) + \frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{2R}\right]\right\} d\xi d\eta \end{split}$$

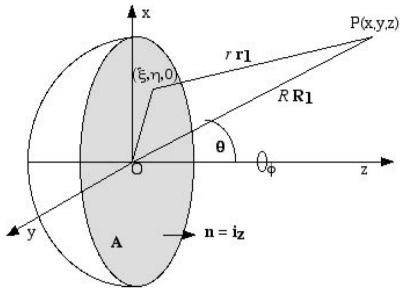


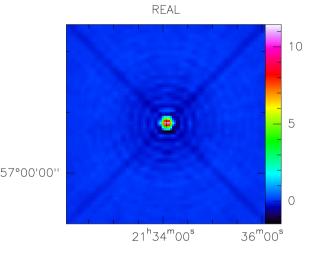
Fig. 1. Geometry of the aperture integration method for finite distance to the field point P.

Baars et al. 2007

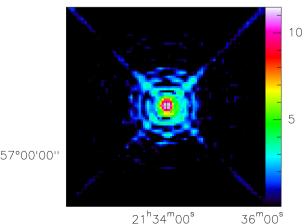
- A Fourier transform relationship between the far-field pattern and the complex aperture field distribution (and almost in the near-field case).
- Far field:

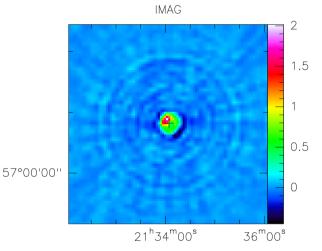
$$D_{ff} > 2d^2/\lambda$$

- We scan a source with one antenna while keeping a reference antenna pointing at the source.
- We grid the data, we (Fast)-Fourier transform back them.





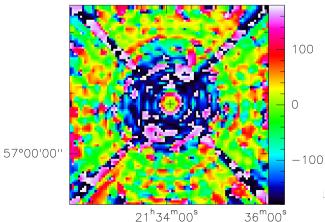


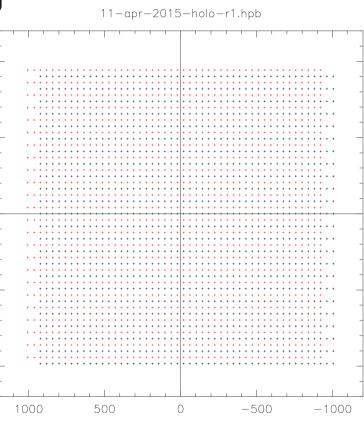


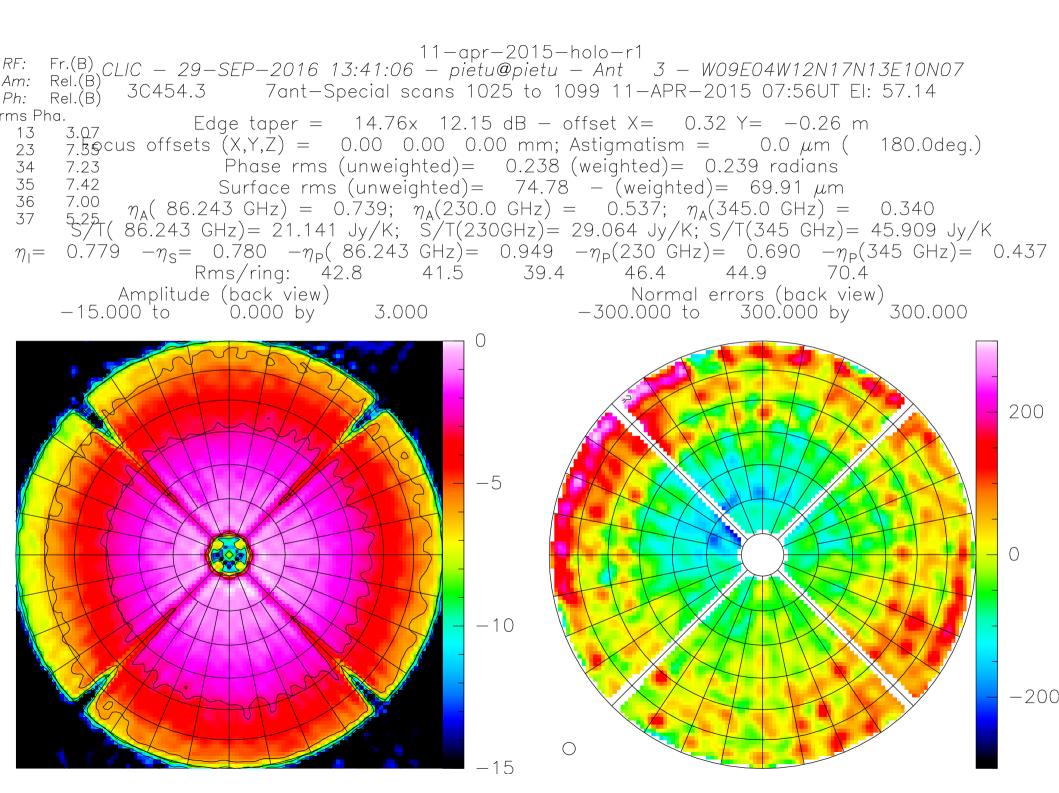
1000

lool









Effect of defocusing

• An axial defocus induces the following pathlength error:

$$\delta p_z = \delta z \left\{ 1 - \frac{1 - \frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{4f^2} + \frac{\delta f}{f}}{\sqrt{\frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{4f^2} + \left(1 - \frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{4f^2} + \frac{\delta f}{f}\right)^2}} \right\}$$

• An transverse offset will produce:

$$\delta p_x = \delta x \frac{\xi}{f} \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\delta f}{f}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{f^2} + \left(1 - \frac{\xi^2 + \eta^2}{4f^2} + \frac{\delta f}{f}\right)^2}} \right\}$$

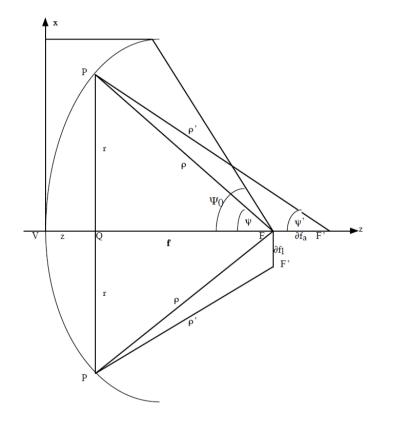
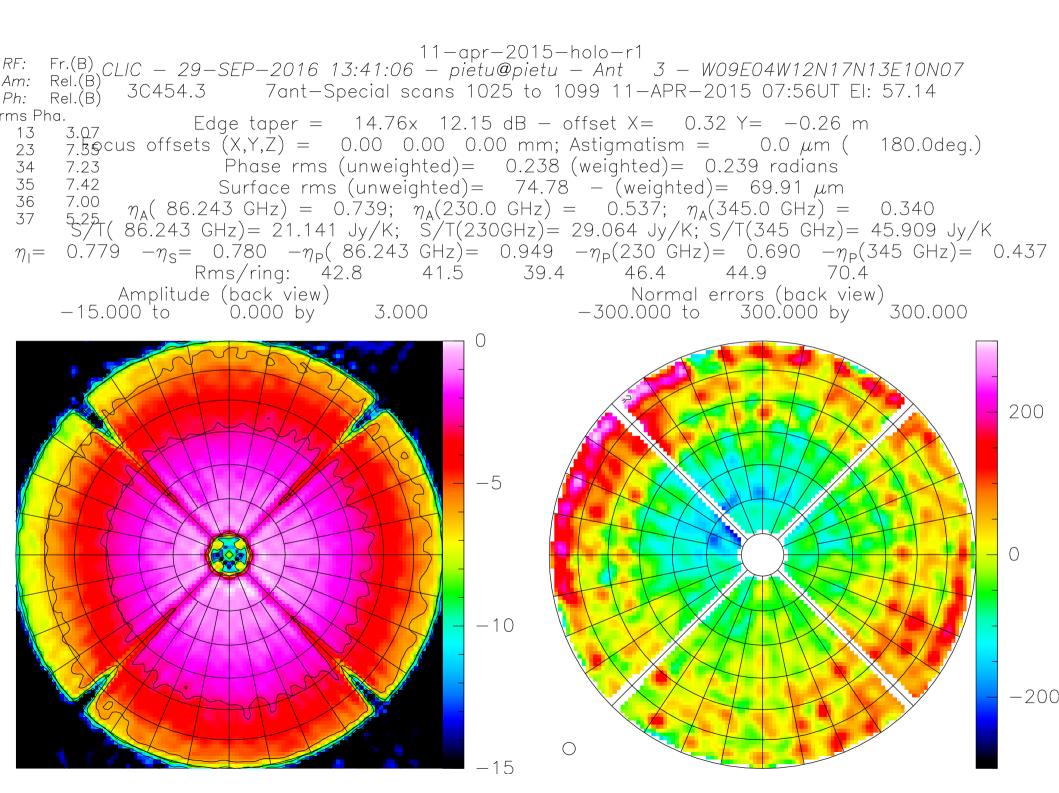
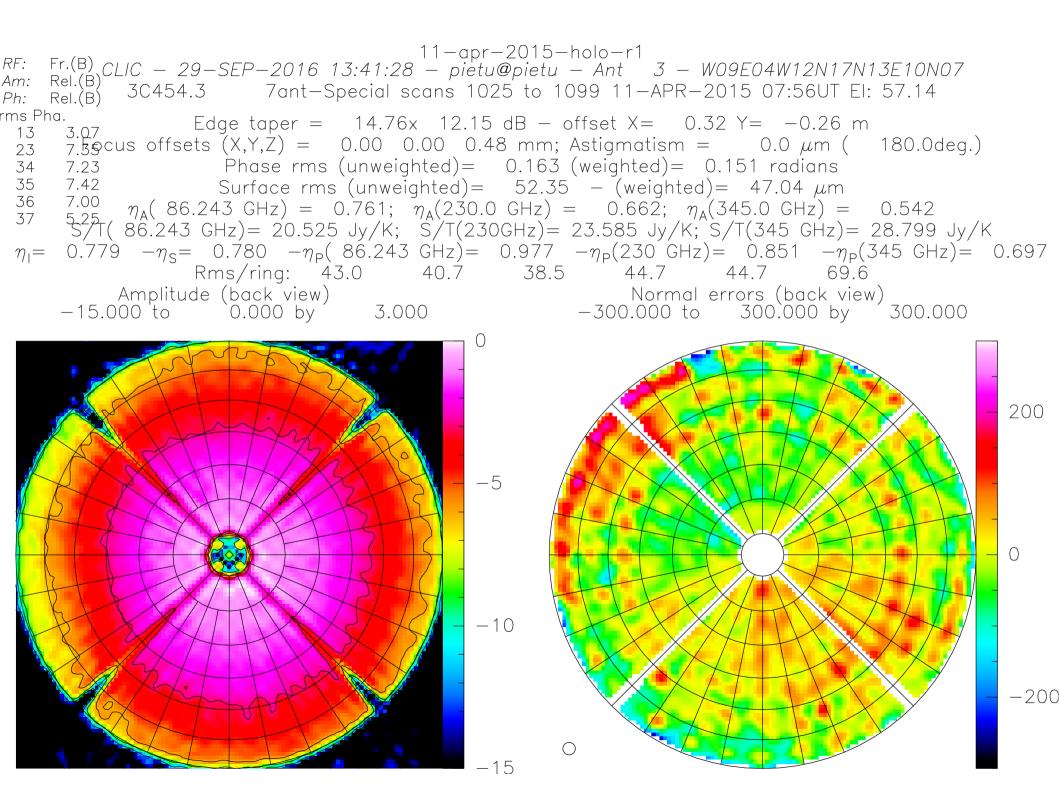
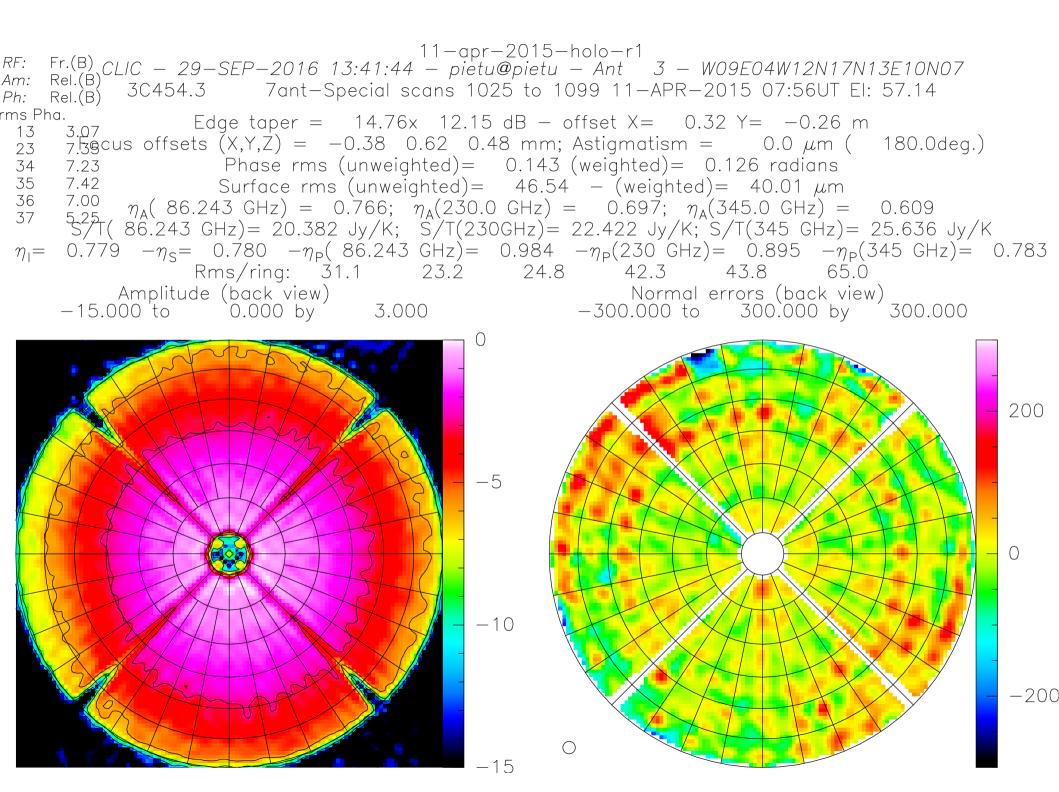


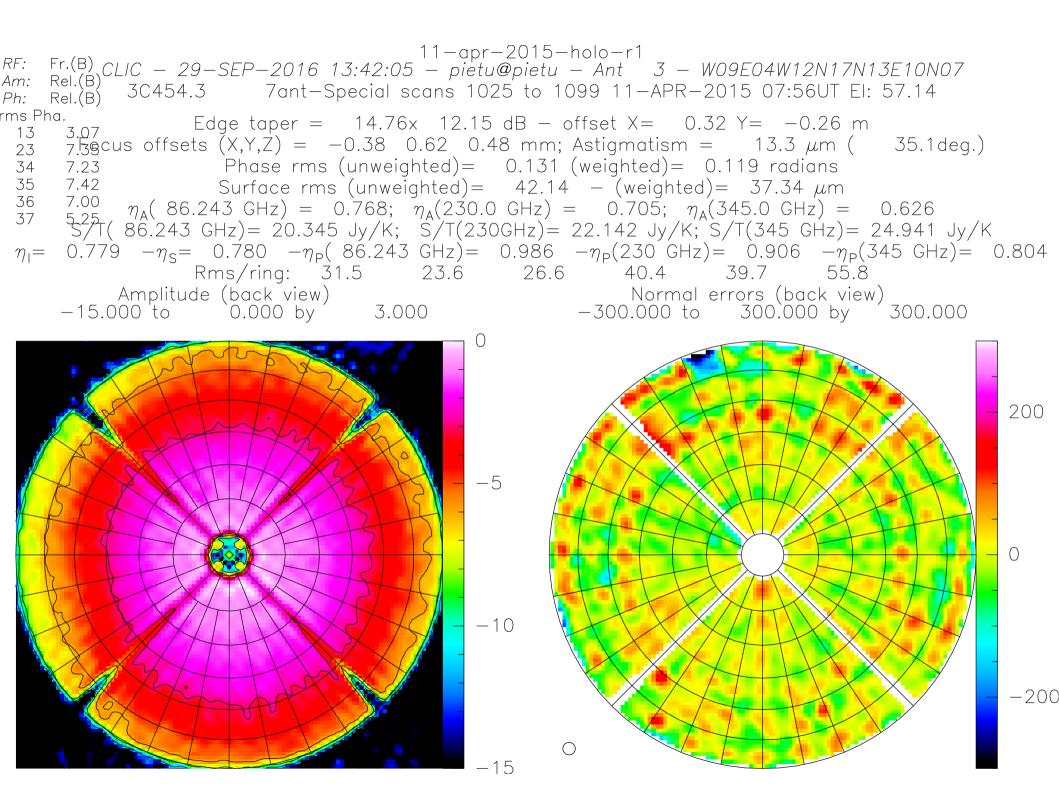
Fig. 2. The geometry of axial (upper half) and lateral (lower half) displacement of the feed from the focus of a parabola.

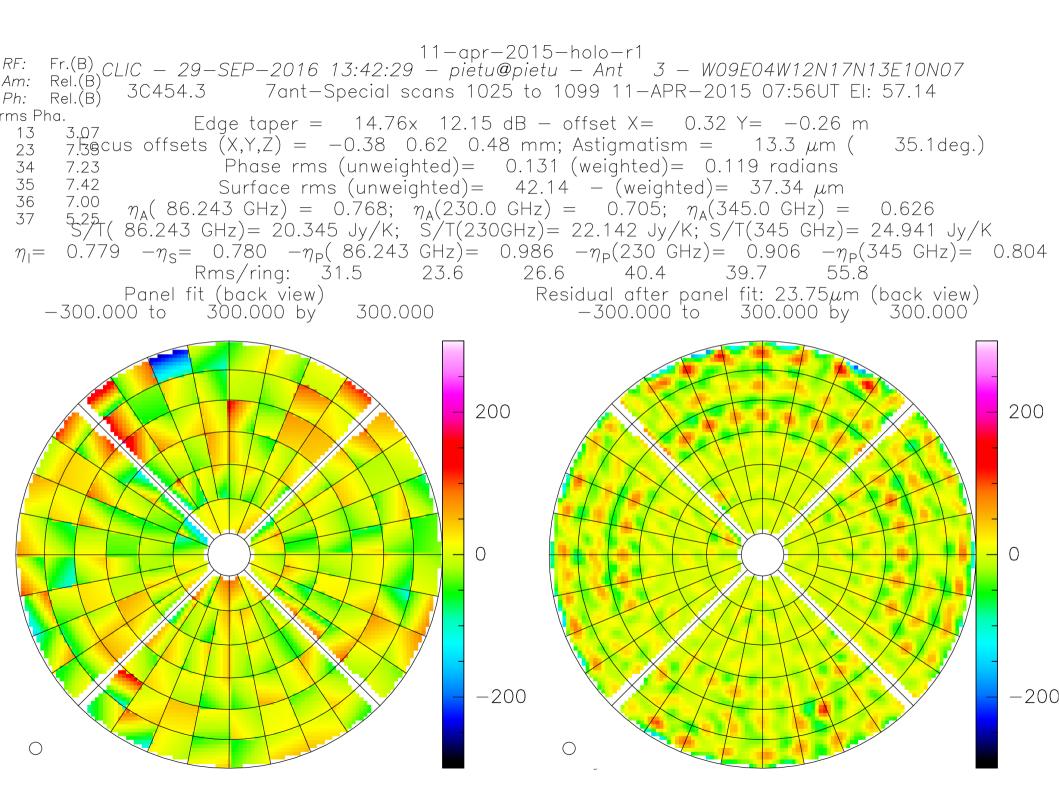
Baars et al. 2007







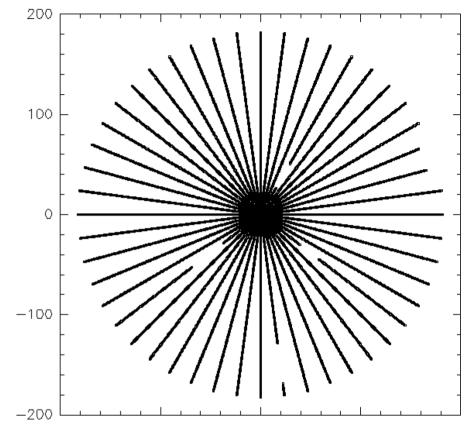




- After Fourier transform:
 - Transform the amplitude in dB
 - Fit a parabola to the amplitude:
 - Measure feed taper
 - Receiver alignement
 - Fit the phases for:
 - Constant phase
 - Phase slope (constant pointing error)
 - x,y,z focus
 - Astigmatism
 - Panels
- This allow to compute aperture efficiency and illumination efficiency.

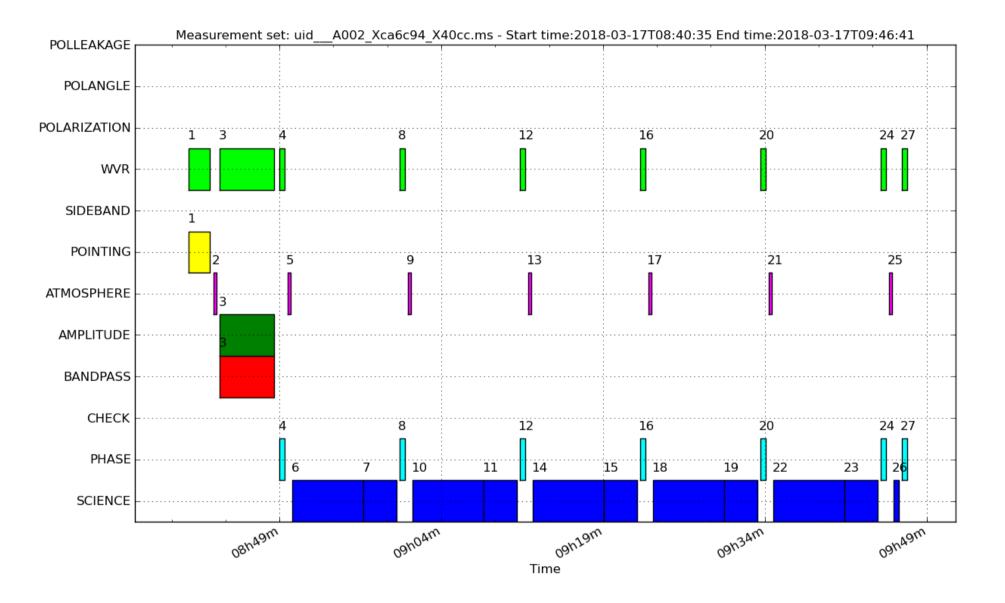
Other pattern: ALMA

- On can do a radial scanning.
 - Does not need inter-scan
 boresight measurements
 - Give more weight to the central part (large scales in the aperture)
 - Ideal for beam shape measurement, focus measurement etc.
- Was tested and is used at ALMA.

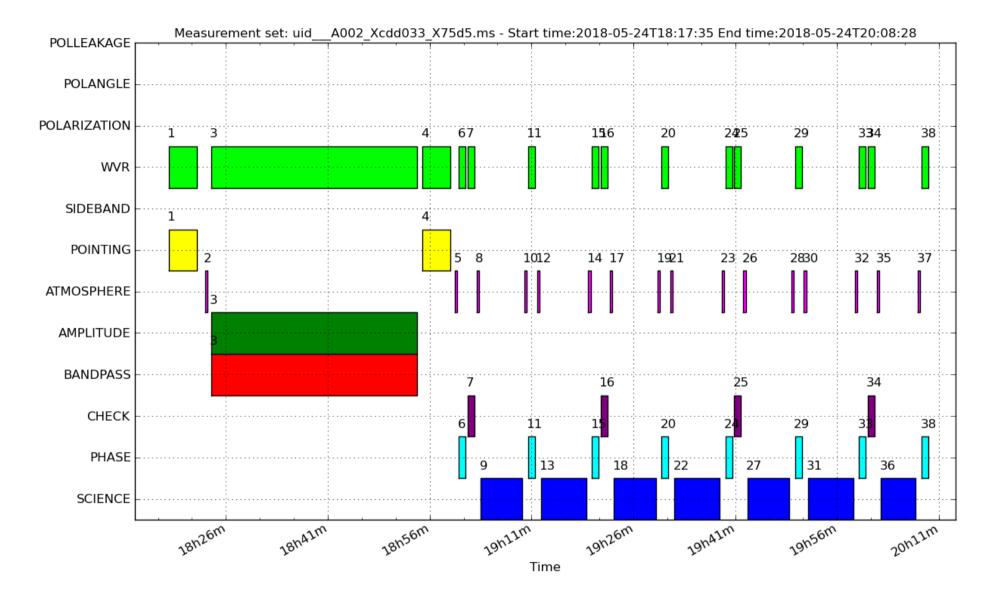


Robert Lucas presentation

Summary



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Summary

- NOEMA: observed in "tracks", lasting a few hours.
- ALMA: observed in Scheduling Blocks (SB) lasting one hour maximum.

Calibration	Can be corrected	NOEMA	ALMA
Pointing	No	Every 1/2h	Once/twice per SB
Focusing	No	Every 1h	Dedicated calibration
Delay	Yes	Once per track	Every calibrator
Baseline	Yes	Once per config	Min once per config
Cable phase	No	Always	Always
WVR phase corr.	No but can discard	Always	Offline
Holography	No	When needed	When needed
Atm. calibration	Yes	Every source change	Every source change