#### Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

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In collaboration with Laura Wolz, Filipe Abdalla, Rafael Carrillo & Yves Wiaux

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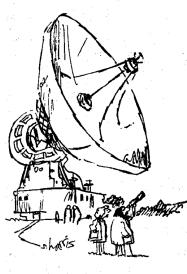








# Radio telescopes are big!



"Just checking."



# Radio telescopes are big!





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#### Radio interferometric telescopes





Jason McEwen Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

Compressive Sensing Interferometric Imaging Telescope Optimisation

# Next-generation of radio interferometry rapidly approaching

- Square Kilometre Array (SKA) construction scheduled to begin 2018.
- Many other pathfinder telescopes under construction, *e.g.* LOFAR, ASKAP, MeerKAT, MWA.
- Broad range of science goals.



Figure: Artist impression of SKA dishes. [Credit: SKA Organisation]



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Compressive Sensing Interferometric Imaging Telescope Optimisation

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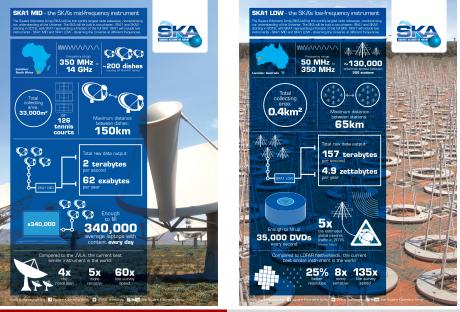
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#### SKA sites



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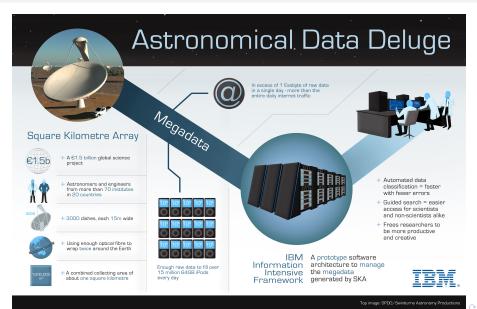
Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

#### SKA timeline

#### High-level SKA Schedule



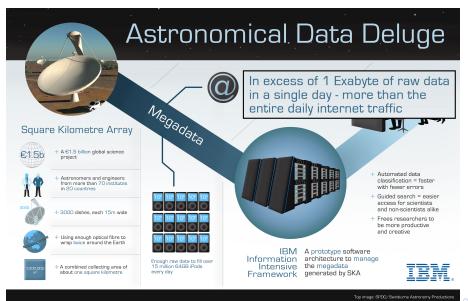
#### The SKA poses a considerable big-data challenge



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Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

## The SKA poses a considerable big-data challenge



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Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

#### Outline

- Compressive sensing
  - Introduction
  - Analysis vs synthesis
  - Bayesian interpretations

Interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

- Imaging
- SARA
- Continuous visibilities
- Optimising telescope configurations
  - Spread spectrum effect
  - Simulations



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"Nothing short of revolutionary."

- National Science Foundation

- Developed by Candes et al. 2006 and Donoho 2006 (and others).
- Although many underlying ideas around for a long time.
- Exploits the sparsity of natural signals.



(a) Emmanuel Candes



(b) David Donoho



- Mystery of JPEG compression.
- $\bullet\,$  Move compression to the acquisition stage  $\rightarrow$  compressive sensing.
- Acquisition versus imaging.



Figure: TIFF (uncompressed) vs JPEG (compressed)



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#### An introduction to compressive sensing Operator description

• Linear operator (linear algebra) representation of signal decomposition:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} \Psi_{i}(t) \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i} \Psi_{i} \alpha_{i} = \begin{pmatrix} | \\ \Psi_{0} \\ | \end{pmatrix} \alpha_{0} + \begin{pmatrix} | \\ \Psi_{1} \\ | \end{pmatrix} \alpha_{1} + \cdots \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{\mathbf{x} = \Psi_{0}}$$

• Linear operator (linear algebra) representation of measurement:

$$y_i = \langle x, \Phi_j \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} -\Phi_0 & -\\ -\Phi_1 & -\\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{\mathbf{y} = \Phi \mathbf{x}}$$

• Putting it together:



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#### An introduction to compressive sensing Operator description

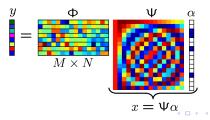
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 $= \Phi x = \Phi \Psi \alpha$ 

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Putting it together:





 $\Psi \mathbf{a}$ 

Ill-posed inverse problem:

$$y = \Phi x + n = \Phi \Psi \alpha + n$$

• Solve by imposing a regularising prior that the signal to be recovered is sparse in  $\Psi$ , *i.e.* solve the following  $\ell_0$  optimisation problem:

$$oldsymbol{lpha}^{\star} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{oldsymbol{lpha}} \| oldsymbol{lpha} \|_{0} \, \, ext{such that} \, \, \| oldsymbol{y} - \Phi \Psi oldsymbol{lpha} \|_{2} \leq \epsilon$$

where the signal is synthesising by  $x^* = \Psi \alpha^*$ .

• Recall norms given by:

 $\|lpha\|_0=$  no. non-zero elements  $\|lpha\|_1=\sum_i |lpha_i| \quad \|lpha\|_2=\left(\sum_i |lpha_i|^2
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- Solving this problem is difficult (combinatorial).
- Instead, solve the  $\ell_1$  optimisation problem (convex):

 $\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\star} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \|\boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_{1}$  such that  $\|\boldsymbol{y} - \Phi \Psi \boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_{2} \leq \epsilon$ 



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#### An introduction to compressive sensing Union of subspaces

• Space of sparse vectors given by the union of subspaces aligned with the coordinate axes.

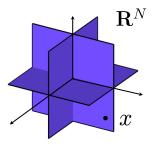


Figure: Space of the sparse vectors [Credit: Baraniuk]



#### An introduction to compressive sensing Restricted isometry property (RIP)

- Solutions of  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_1$  problems often the same.
- Restricted isometry property (RIP):

 $(1 - \delta_{2K}) \| \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2 \|_2^2 \le \| \Theta \mathbf{x}_1 - \Theta \mathbf{x}_2 \|_2^2 \le (1 + \delta_{2K}) \| \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2 \|_2^2,$ 

for *K*-sparse  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , where  $\Theta = \Phi \Psi$ .

Measurement must preserve geometry of sets of sparse vectors.



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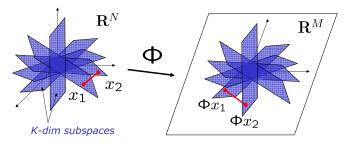




Figure: Measurement must preserve geometry of sets of sparse vectors. [Credit: Baraniuk]

# An introduction to compressive sensing Intuition

- Solutions of  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_1$  problems often the same.
- Geometry of  $\ell_0$ ,  $\ell_2$  and  $\ell_1$  problems.

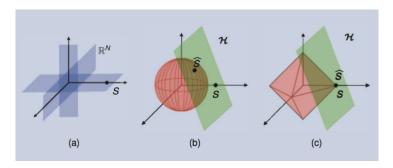


Figure: Geometry of (a)  $\ell_0$  (b)  $\ell_2$  and (c)  $\ell_1$  problems. [Credit: Baraniuk (2007)]



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#### An introduction to compressive sensing Coherence

- In the absence of noise, compressed sensing is exact!
- Number of measurements required to achieve exact reconstruction is given by

 $M \ge c\mu^2 K \log N$ 

where *K* is the sparsity and *N* the dimensionality.

• The coherence between the measurement and sparsity basis is given by

$$\mu = \sqrt{N} \, \max_{i,j} |\langle \Psi_i, \Phi_j 
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#### Robust to noise.

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Robust to noise.

- Many new developments (e.g. analysis vs synthesis, structured sparsity).
- Typically sparsity assumption is justified by analysing example signals in terms of atoms of the dictionary.
- But this is different to synthesising signals from atoms.
- Suggests an analysis-based framework (Elad et al. 2007, Nam et al. 2012):

$$x^{\star} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{x} \|\Omega x\|_{1} \text{ such that } \|y - \Phi x\|_{2} \leq \epsilon$$
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analysis

• Contrast with synthesis-based approach:

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synthesis

• For orthogonal bases  $\Omega = \Psi^{\dagger}$  and the two approaches are identical.



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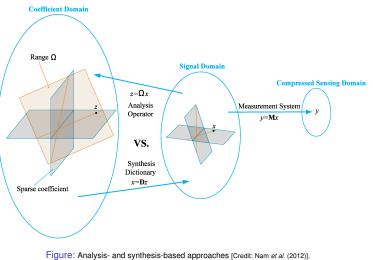
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synthesis

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#### • Synthesis-based approach is more general, while analysis-based approach more restrictive.

- The more restrictive analysis-based approach may make it more robust to noise.
- The greater descriptive power of the synthesis-based approach may provide better signal representations (too descriptive?).



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One Bayesian interpretation of the synthesis-based approach

• Consider the inverse problem:

 $y = \Phi \Psi \alpha + n$ .

• Assume Gaussian noise, yielding the likelihood:

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{y} \mid \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \propto \exp\left(\|\mathbf{y} - \Phi \Psi \boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_2^2 / (2\sigma^2)\right).$$

Consider the Laplacian prior:

 $P(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) \propto \exp\left(-\beta \|\boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_{1}\right).$ 

• The maximum *a-posteriori* (MAP) estimate (with  $\lambda = 2\beta\sigma^2$ ) is

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synthesis

- One possible Bayesian interpretation!
- Signal may be  $\ell_0$ -sparse, then solving  $\ell_1$  problem finds the correct  $\ell_0$ -sparse solution



One Bayesian interpretation of the synthesis-based approach

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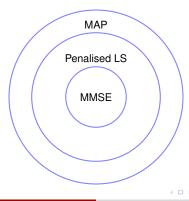
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Other Bayesian interpretations of the synthesis-based approach

- Other Bayesian interpretations are also possible (Gribonval 2011).
- Minimum mean square error (MMSE) estimators
  - $\subset$  synthesis-based estimators with appropriate penalty function,
    - i.e. penalised least-squares (LS)
  - ⊂ MAP estimators





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One Bayesian interpretation of the analysis-based approach

• For the analysis-based approach, the MAP estimate is then

$$\mathbf{x}^{\star}_{\text{MAP-Analysis}} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}) = \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - \Phi \mathbf{x}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\Omega \mathbf{x}\|_{1}.$$

analysis

- Identical to the synthesis-based approach if  $\Omega = \Psi^{\dagger}$  .
- But for redundant dictionaries, the analysis-based MAP estimate is

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{MAP-Analysis}}^{*} = \Omega^{\dagger} \cdot \underset{\boldsymbol{\gamma} \in \text{column space } \Omega}{\arg \min} \|\mathbf{y} - \Phi \Omega^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{\gamma}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\gamma}\|_{1} \,.$$
analysis

- Analysis-based approach more restrictive than synthesis-based.
- Similar ideas promoted by Maisinger & Hobson (2004) in a Bayesian framework for wavelet MEM (maximum entropy method).



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## Outline

- Compressive sensing
  - Introduction
  - Analysis vs synthesis
  - Bayesian interpretations

Interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

- Imaging
- SARA
- Continuous visibilities
- Optimising telescope configurations
  - Spread spectrum effect
  - Simulations



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### Radio interferometric inverse problem

• The complex visibility measured by an interferometer is given by

$$y(\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{w}) = \int_{D^2} A(\boldsymbol{l}) \, x(\boldsymbol{l}) \, C(\|\boldsymbol{l}\|_2) \, \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}2\pi\boldsymbol{u}\cdot\boldsymbol{l}} \, \frac{\mathrm{d}^2\boldsymbol{l}}{n(\boldsymbol{l})}$$

visibilities

where the *w*-modulation  $C(||l||_2)$  is given by

$$C(\|\boldsymbol{l}\|_2) \equiv e^{i2\pi w \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \|\boldsymbol{l}\|^2}\right)}.$$
  
w-modulation

• Various assumptions are often made regarding the size of the field-of-view:

• Small-field with 
$$\left[ H_{1}^{(0)}, \cos(2\lambda) \right] \Rightarrow \left[ C(|H_{1}|_{2}) \approx 1 \right]$$
  
• Small-field with  $\left[ H_{1}^{(0)}, \cos(2\lambda) \right] \Rightarrow \left[ C(|H_{1}|_{2}) \approx 2^{n+1} H_{1}^{(0)} \right]$   
• Wide-field  $\Rightarrow \left[ C(|H_{1}|_{2}) - 2^{n+1} (1 - \sqrt{1 - 1} H_{1}^{(0)}) \right] = 2^{n+1} (1 - \sqrt{1 - 1} H_{1}^{(0)}) = 2^{n+1} (1 - \sqrt{1 - 1} H_{1}$ 

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$$||I||^2 w \ll 1 \Rightarrow C(||I||_2) \simeq 1$$
  
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## Radio interferometric inverse problem

• Consider the ill-posed inverse problem of radio interferometric imaging:

 $y = \Phi x + n ,$ 

where y are the measured visibilities,  $\Phi$  is the linear measurement operator, x is the underlying image and n is instrumental noise.

- Measurement operator  $\Phi = MFCA$  may incorporate
  - primary beam A of the telescope;
  - w-modulation modulation C;
  - Fourier transform F;
  - masking M which encodes the incomplete measurements taken by the interferometer.



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Interferometric imaging: recover an image from noisy and incomplete Fourier measurements.



# Interferometric imaging with compressed sensing

Solve the interferometric imaging problem

 $y = \Phi x + n$  with  $\Phi = \mathbf{M} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{A}$ ,

by applying a prior on sparsity of the signal in a sparsifying dictionary  $\Psi$ .





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• Basis Pursuit (BP) denoising problem

 $\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\star} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}{\arg\min} \|\boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_{1} \text{ such that } \|\boldsymbol{y} - \Phi \Psi \boldsymbol{\alpha}\|_{2} \leq \epsilon,$ 

where the image is synthesised by  $x^{\star} = \Psi \alpha^{\star}$ .

• Total Variation (TV) denoising problem

 $x^* = \underset{x}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \|x\|_{\mathrm{TV}} \text{ such that } \|y - \Phi x\|_2 \le \epsilon$ 



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- Sparsity averaging reweighted analysis (SARA) for RI imaging (Carrillo, McEwen & Wiaux 2012)
- Consider a dictionary composed of a concatenation of orthonormal bases, i.e.

$$\Psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}} [\Psi_1, \Psi_2, \dots, \Psi_q],$$

thus  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  with D = qN.

- We consider the following bases: Dirac (*i.e.* pixel basis); Haar wavelets (promotes gradient sparsity); Daubechies wavelet bases two to eight.
  - $\Rightarrow$  concatenation of 9 bases
- Promote average sparsity by solving the reweighted  $\ell_1$  analysis problem:

 $\min_{\bar{\boldsymbol{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^N} \| \boldsymbol{W} \Psi^T \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} \|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \| \boldsymbol{y} - \Phi \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} \|_2 \le \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} \ge 0 \ ,$ 

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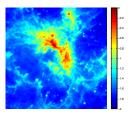
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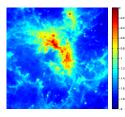




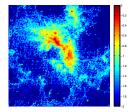
(a) Original



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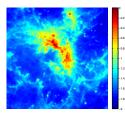
(a) Original



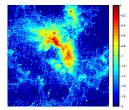
(b) "CLEAN" (SNR=16.67 dB)



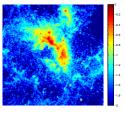
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(a) Original

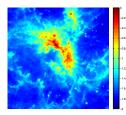


(b) "CLEAN" (SNR=16.67 dB)

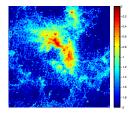


(c) "MS-CLEAN" (SNR=17.87 dB)

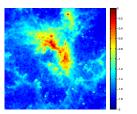




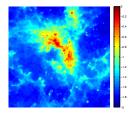
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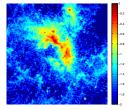
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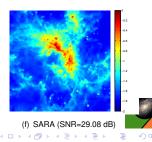
(d) BPDb8 (SNR=24.53 dB)



(e) TV (SNR=26.47 dB)



(c) "MS-CLEAN" (SNR=17.87 dB)



Radio interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

Jason McEwen

#### SARA for radio interferometric imaging Results on simulations

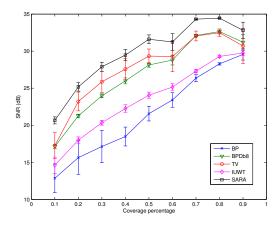


Figure: Reconstruction fidelity vs visibility coverage.



#### Imaging SARA Continuous Visibilities

## Supporting continuous visibilities Algorithm

• Ideally we would like to model the continuous Fourier transform operator

$$\Phi = \mathbf{F}^{c}$$
.

#### But this is impracticably slow!

- Incorporated gridding into our CS interferometric imaging framework (Carrillo et al. 2013).
- Model with measurement operator

$$\Phi = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{Z},$$

where we incorporate:

- convolutional gridding operator G;
- fast Fourier transform F;
- normalisation operator D to undo the convolution gridding;
- zero-padding operator Z to upsample the discrete visibility space.



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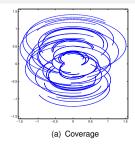
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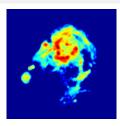
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#### Supporting continuous visibilities Results on simulations



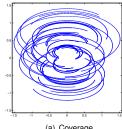


(b) M31 (ground truth)

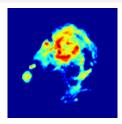


Figure: Reconstructed images from continuous visibilities.

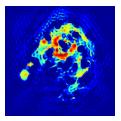
#### Supporting continuous visibilities Results on simulations



(a) Coverage



(b) M31 (ground truth)

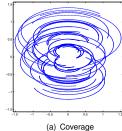


(c) "CLEAN" (SNR= 8.2dB)

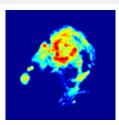


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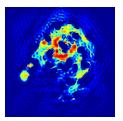
#### Supporting continuous visibilities Results on simulations



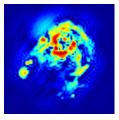




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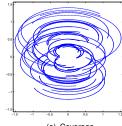
(d) "MS-CLEAN" (SNR= 11.1dB)



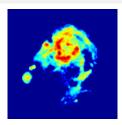
Figure: Reconstructed images from continuous visibilities.

Imaging SARA Continuous Visibilities

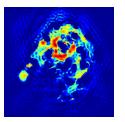
#### Supporting continuous visibilities Results on simulations



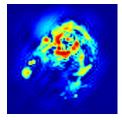
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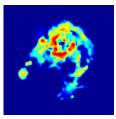


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(c) "CLEAN" (SNR= 8.2dB)





(e) SARA (SNR= 13.4dB)



= 8.2dB) (d) "MS-CLEAN" (SNR= 11.1dB) (e) SAR Figure: Reconstructed images from continuous visibilities.

# Outline

- Compressive sensing
  - Introduction
  - Analysis vs synthesis
  - Bayesian interpretations

Interferometric imaging with compressive sensing

- Imaging
- SARA
- Continuous visibilities
- Optimising telescope configurations
  - Spread spectrum effect
  - Simulations



## Optimising telescope configurations Spread spectrum effect

- Use theory of compressive sensing to optimise telescope configurations.
- Non-coplanar baselines and wide fields  $\rightarrow$  *w*-modulation  $\rightarrow$  spread spectrum effect  $\rightarrow$  improves reconstruction quality (first considered by Wiaux *et al.* 2009b).
- The w-modulation operator C has elements defined by

$$C(l,m) \equiv \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} 2\pi w \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - l^2 - m^2}\right)} \simeq \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} \pi w \| \boldsymbol{l} \|^2} \quad \text{for} \quad \| \boldsymbol{l} \|^4 \; w \ll 1$$

giving rise to to a linear chirp.



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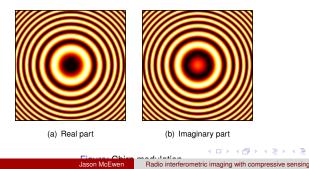
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### Recap compressive sensing preliminaries Sparsity and coherence

- What drives the quality of compressive sensing reconstruction?
- Number of measurements required to achieve exact reconstruction is given by

 $M \ge c\mu^2 K \log N$ ,

where *K* is the sparsity and *N* the dimensionality.

• The coherence between the measurement and sparsity basis is given by

$$\mu = \sqrt{N} \max_{i,j} |\langle \Psi_i, \Phi_j 
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Spread Spectrum Simulations

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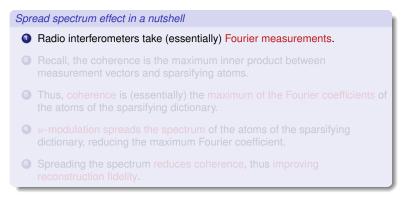
$$\begin{array}{c} \mu = \sqrt{N} \max_{i,j} |\langle \Psi_i, \Phi_j \rangle| \\ y \\ \Psi \\ M \times N \\ M \times N \\ x = \Psi \alpha \end{array}$$



Spre	Spread spectrum effect in a nutshell		
	Radio interferometers take (essentially) Fourier measurements.		
	Recall, the coherence is the maximum inner product between measurement vectors and sparsifying atoms.		
	Thus, coherence is (essentially) the maximum of the Fourier coefficients of the atoms of the sparsifying dictionary.		
	<i>w</i> -modulation spreads the spectrum of the atoms of the sparsifying dictionary, reducing the maximum Fourier coefficient.		
6	Spreading the spectrum reduces coherence, thus improving reconstruction fidelity.		

- Consistent with findings of Carozzi et al. (2013) from information theoretic approach.
- Studied for constant *w* (for simplicity) by Wiaux *et al.* (2009b).
- Studied for varying *w* (with realistic images and various sparse representations) by Wolz *et al.* (2013).





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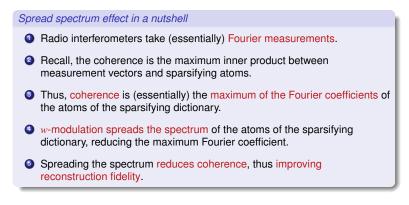
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• Apply the *w*-projection algorithm (Cornwell *et al.* 2008) to shift the *w*-modulation through the Fourier transform:

$$\Phi = \mathbf{M} \, \mathbf{F} \, \mathbf{C} \, \mathbf{A} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Phi = \hat{\mathbf{C}} \, \mathbf{F} \, \mathbf{A}$$

- Naively, expressing the application of the *w*-modulation in this manner is computationally less efficient that the original formulation but it has two important advantages.
- Different *w* for each (u, v), while still exploiting FFT.
- Many of the elements of  $\hat{\mathbf{C}}$  will be close to zero.
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- Perform simulations to assess the effectiveness of the spread spectrum effect in the presence of varying *w*.
- Consider idealised simulations with uniformly random visibility sampling.

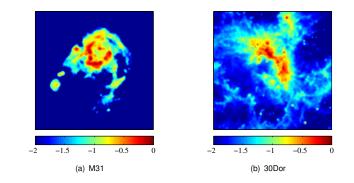
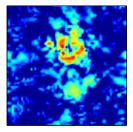


Figure: Ground truth images in logarithmic scale.

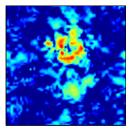




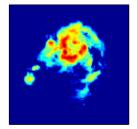
(a)  $w_d = 0 \rightarrow SNR = 5 dB$ 

Figure: Reconstructed images of M31 for 10% coverage.





(a)  $w_d = 0 \rightarrow SNR = 5 dB$ 



(c)  $w_d = 1 \rightarrow SNR = 19 dB$ 

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Figure: Reconstructed images of M31 for 10% coverage.



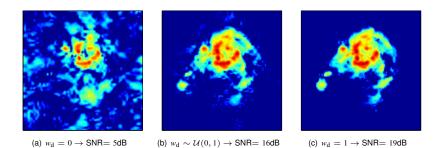
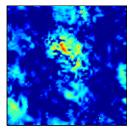


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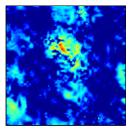


(a)  $w_d = 0 \rightarrow SNR = 2dB$ 

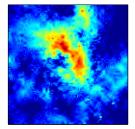
Figure: Reconstructed images of 30Dor for 10% coverage.



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(a)  $w_d = 0 \rightarrow SNR = 2dB$ 



(c)  $w_d = 1 \rightarrow SNR = 15 dB$ 

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Figure: Reconstructed images of 30Dor for 10% coverage.



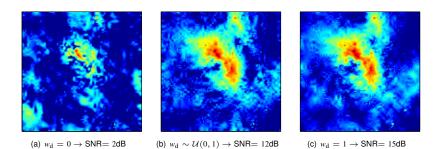
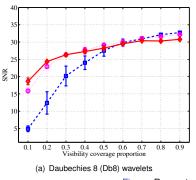


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#### Figure: Reconstruction fidelity for M31.

Improvement in reconstruction fidelity due to the spread spectrum effect for varying *w* is almost as large as the case of constant maximum *w*.



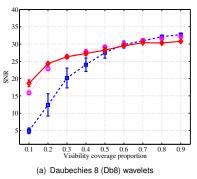


Figure: Reconstruction fidelity for M31.

Improvement in reconstruction fidelity due to the spread spectrum effect for varying w is almost as large as the case of constant maximum w.

As expected, for the case where coherence is already optimal, there is little improvement.



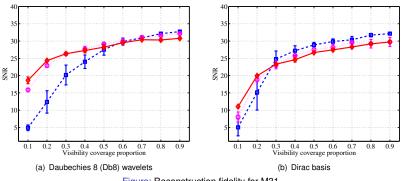
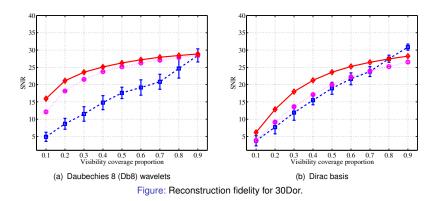


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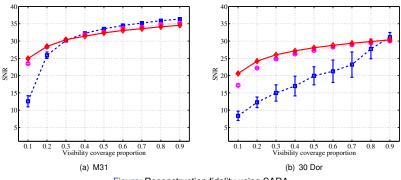
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### Public codes

#### SOPT code



# http://basp-group.github.io/sopt/

Sparse OPTimisation Carrillo, McEwen, Wiaux

SOPT is an open-source code that provides functionality to perform sparse optimisation using state-of-the-art convex optimisation algorithms.

#### **PURIFY code**

#### http://basp-group.github.io/purify/



*Next-generation radio interferometric imaging* Carrillo, McEwen, Wiaux

PURIFY is an open-source code that provides functionality to perform radio interferometric imaging, leveraging recent developments in the field of compressive sensing and convex optimisation.



- Effectiveness of compressive sensing for radio interferometric imaging demonstrated.
- Theory of compressive sensing can be used to optimise telescope configuration.
- Exploit state-of-the-art convex optimisation algorithms that support parallelisation.

Apply to observations made by real interferometric telescopes.

Develop fast convex optimisation algorithms that are parallelised and distributed to scale to big-data.



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