Theory (and practice) of interferometric data processing

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"Black boxes"

- Interferometry inherently more complicated
- Reduction in the radio dominated by a few packages
- ESO made interferometry available to the community in service mode
- Demand that software packages allow analysis of intermediate results

Overview

- Fringe detection and estimators
- Detector bias and noise
- Challenges of atmospheric turbulence
- Wave front filtering in the NIR
- Back ground compensation in the MIR
- Calibration and error estimates
- Interferometric imaging

A reminder: what is interference?

- Interference is the addition (superposition) of electric fields in electromagnetic waves such as visible light or radio waves, resulting in a new wave pattern
- Interference can be constructive or destructive depending on the relative phase offset between the two waves
- Detectors integrate the intensity of light, i.e. the squared field amplitude
- If the waves are mutually coherent during the integration, low recorded intensity results from destructive interference and high intensity from constructive interference.



Stellar interferometer

Van Cittert – Zernike Theorem:

The complex degree of coherence measured by an interferometer baseline is equal to a single spatial frequency of the Fourier transform of the object brightness distribution.



Figure 2.1: Idealized Interferometer.

Aperture Synthesis

Earth's rotation changes a baselines orientation and projected length relative to the source.

Thus, with a multielement interferometer, an aperture much larger than that of a single telescope can be synthesized.



Bunction mapvis,map,u,v

; Compute the visibility for a map at a single coordinate u and v[lambda]. ; Map positions are in mas, map.x corresponds to RA and increases towards ; East, i.e. left. ; RAD=180/!pi MAS=1/3600000.d0 ; arg=2*!pi*(u*map.x+v*map.y)*MAS/RAD ; return.total(map.i*complex(cos(arg),sin(arg))) ; end 1,1 Top

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 - Michelson, Fizeau
 - temporal, spatial
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Beam combiner designs

"Fizeau" (Image plane) "Michelson" (Pupil plane)





Interference patterns



2-dimensional



1-dim. (fringes)

Fringe detection

11

~m~/~

350

300



Image: 130/1000 (VLTI siderostats, March2004)

Poly-chromatic fringes



Definition of Complex Visibility



Fringe tracking and centering





• It is indeed a 4-point DFT !

$$V^{2} = \frac{8\pi^{2}}{n^{2} \left(1 - \cos\frac{2\pi}{n}\right)} \frac{\langle X^{2} + Y^{2} - N \rangle}{\langle N - D \rangle^{2}}$$

V or V^2 ?

$$V^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{2} \frac{X^2 + Y^2}{N^2}.$$

The bin counts A through D obey Poisson statistics (photon starved regime). For the Poisson process, we have E(X) = np and $D(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 = np$. Therefore,

$$E(X^{2} + Y^{2}) = E(X^{2}) + E(Y^{2})$$
(10)

$$= E((C - A)^{2}) + E(Y^{2})$$
(11)

$$= E(C^{2} - 2CA + A^{2}) + E(Y^{2})$$
(12)

$$= E(C^{2}) - 2E(CA) + E(A^{2}) + E(Y^{2})$$
(13)
$$= \overline{C}^{2} - \overline{C} - \overline{C} + \overline{C}^{2} - \overline{C} + \overline{C}$$

$$= C^{2} + C - 2CA + A^{2} + A + E(Y^{2})$$
(14)
$$= (\overline{C} - \overline{A})^{2} + (\overline{D} - \overline{B})^{2} + \overline{A} + \overline{B} + \overline{C} + \overline{D}$$
(15)
$$= \overline{X}^{2} + \overline{Y}^{2} + \overline{N}.$$
(16)

We have made use of the fact that for the variance of a Poisson process x, $var(x) \equiv E(x^2) - E(x)^2 = \overline{x}$. To obtain an unbiased estimator for the squared visibility V^2 we have to compute

$$V^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{2} \frac{\langle X^2 + Y^2 - N \rangle}{\langle N - D \rangle^2},$$

Some V² Statistics



 V^2

N (total of 8 bins)



Scan

Spectrum $B(\sigma)$

Intensity vs. x opd in μm

 $\sigma = 1/\lambda =$ wavenumber (cm⁻¹)

K band : 4000 - 5000 cm⁻¹

x and σ are conjugate variables through the Fourier Transform

Overview

- Fringe detection and estimators
- Detector bias and noise
 - Poisson statistics
 - Read noise
 - Cosmetic corrections
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Photo Multiplier Tubes

- Low efficiency
- Delicate
- Poisson noise
- Were used on Mark III, not used anymore



Avalanche photo diodes

- High quantum efficiency
- No dark current
- After-pulsing
- Dead-time
- No array detectors



Incoherent observations, fringe signal caused by after-pulsing.

IR array detectors

- Array, or single pixel
- Cosmetic corrections may be required
 - bad pixels
 - dark current
 - flat field (i.e. relative pixel gain map)
- Read-noise issue exacerbated due to fast read-out
- Not as fast

- <u>1. Additive noise</u>
- Ideal interferogram: $P(s_0, B, \delta) = I_{total} \{1 + \text{Re} [V \exp[-ik\delta]]\}$

With photon and detector noise:

$$P_n(s_0, B, \delta) = P(s_0, B, \delta) + n_{det} + n_{ph}$$
$$P_n(s_0, B, \delta) = \sqrt{P(s_0, B, \delta)}$$

With instrument and sky background noise:

$$\begin{cases} P_{n,b}(s_0, B, \delta) = P(s_0, B, \delta) + n_{det} + n_{ph} + Back(t) + n_{Back(t)} \\ rms(n_{Back(t)}) = \sqrt{Back(t)} \end{cases}$$

• <u>1. Additive noise</u>

 $P_{n,b}(s_0, B, \delta) = P(s_0, B, \delta) + n_{det}$ n_{ph} Back(t) $(n_{Back(t)})$ Removable with the chopping Pure random noise

Pure random noise Only averages down to zero Removable with the chopping technique (residuals will remain)

- <u>2. Multiplicative noise</u>
- Ideal interferogram: $P(s_0, B, \delta) = I_{total} \{1 + \text{Re} [V \exp[-ik\delta]]\}$

Interferogram with unbalanced beams:

$$P(s_0, B, \delta) = P_A + P_B + 2\sqrt{P_A P_B} \times \text{Re} \left[V \exp[-ik\delta]\right]$$

Fringe contrast (phase unchanged):

$$C = \frac{2\sqrt{P_A P_B}}{P_A + P_B} \times |V|$$
$$P_A = 2P_B \implies C = 0.94 \times V$$

- <u>2. Multiplicative noise</u>
- Interferogram with turbulence:

 $P(s_0, B, \delta) = P_A + P_B + 2\sqrt{P_A P_B} \times e^{-\sigma_{\varphi}^2} \times \text{Re} \left[V \exp[-ik\delta - i\varphi_p(t)]\right]$

• $e^{-\sigma_{\varphi}^2}$ is the coherent energy, σ_{φ}^2 is the phase variance over the pupil

Instantaneous fringe contrast:

$$C = \frac{2\sqrt{P_A P_B}}{P_A + P_B} \times e^{-\sigma_{\varphi}^2} \times |V|$$

This is a real catastrophy when the turbulence is not stable which unfortunately is the case in real life

Overview

- Fringe detection and estimators
- Detector bias and noise
- Challenges of atmospheric turbulence
 - The need for fringe tracking and coherent integration
 - Application to baseline bootstrapping
 - Reduces visibility bias and calibrates baseline phases
- Wave front filtering in the NIR
- Back ground compensation in the MIR
- Calibration and error estimates
- Interferometric imaging

Photon-starved interferometry



Shao et al. 1988; Tango & Twiss 1980



Group delay phase



Phases for coherent integration



Complex visibility



Coherent integration time



Bootstrapping



see: Armstrong et al. 1998

Group delay closure



Limb darkened disk



Closure phase


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- Fringe detection and estimators
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- Wave front filtering in the NIR – VINCI and AMBER
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VINCI (K-band interferometry)



 $I_{1} = \kappa_{1,A} P_{A} + \kappa_{1,B} P_{B}$ $I_{2} = \kappa_{2,A} P_{A} + \kappa_{2,B} P_{B}.$

Interferometric signal (VINCI)



Signal calibration (VINCI)



AMBER instrument



AMBER fringes







Data reduction overview

- Spatially coded fringes
 - cosmetic corrections needed
 - coding calibration needed
- spectrally dispersed
 - wavelength calibration

camera readout noise, bad pixels, flat, etc...



- 1. Bad Pixels -> "Bad Pixel Map" File
- BIAS depends on the illumination of the camera and EXPOSURE TIME -> "Dark" Files
- 3. Relative pixel-to-pixel gain -> "Flat Field Map" File

• spatially coded ... the P2VM: 5 (2T) or 9 (3T) files

Shutter 1	Shutter 2	Shutter 3	Delaying plate	file Name	figure
Close	Close	Close	No Delay	AMBER_3TSTD_CAL_0001.fits	and a second secon
Open	Close	Close	No Delay	AMBER_3TSTD_CAL_0002.fits	source for the formula of the formu
Close	Open	Close	No Delay	AMBER_3TSTD_CAL_0003.fits	Provide a second
Open	Open	Close	No Delay	AMBER_3TSTD_CAL_0004.fits	Ramon Name International Action Name Name Name Name Name Name Name Name
Open	Open	Close	1/2 Delayed	AMBER_3TSTD_CAL_0005.fits	Prove and the second se

Figure 3. Complete calibration sequence for 2 telescopes

Shutters and P2VM calibration files

Step	Shutter 1	Shutter 2	Shutter 3	Phase γ_0	DPR key
1	Open	Closed	Closed	NO	2P2V, 3P2V
2	Closed	Open	Closed	NO	2P2V, 3P2V
3	Open	Open	Closed	NO	2P2V, 3P2V
_4	Open	Open	Closed	YES	2P2V, 3P2V
5	Closed	Closed	Open	NO	3P2V
6	Open	Closed	Open	NO	3P2V
7	Open	Closed	Open	YES	3P2V
8	Closed	Open	Open	NO	3P2V
9	Closed	Open	Open	YES	3P2V

Pixel to visibility matrix

Carrier waves

$$c_k^{ij} = C_B^{ij} \frac{\sqrt{a_k^i a_k^j}}{\sqrt{\sum_k a_k^i a_k^j}} \cos(2\pi\alpha_k f^{ij} + \phi_s^{ij} + \Phi_B^{ij})$$
$$d_k^{ij} = C_B^{ij} \frac{\sqrt{a_k^i a_k^j}}{\sqrt{\sum_k a_k^i a_k^j}} \sin(2\pi\alpha_k f^{ij} + \phi_s^{ij} + \Phi_B^{ij})$$

Complex correlation

$$R^{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{k} a_{k}^{i} a_{k}^{j}} \operatorname{Re}\left[F_{c}^{ij}\right], \quad I^{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{k} a_{k}^{i} a_{k}^{j}} \operatorname{Im}\left[F_{c}^{ij}\right]$$

DC corr. pixels

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ | \\ m_{N_{pix}} \end{pmatrix} = \overbrace{\begin{pmatrix} .. & c_1^{ij} & .. & .. & d_1^{ij} & .. \\ | & .. & c_{N_{pix}}^{ij} & .. & .. & d_{N_{pix}}^{ij} & .. \end{pmatrix}}^{N_b} \begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ R^{ij} \\ \vdots \\ I^{ij} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{V2PM} \begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ R^{ij} \\ \vdots \\ I^{ij} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

P2VM frames



Fringe fitting and estimation

 $[\widetilde{R}^{ij}, \widetilde{I}^{ij}] = \text{P2VM}[m_k]$

where

 $P2VM = [V2PM^{T}C_{M}^{-1}V2PM]^{-1}V2PM^{T}C_{M}^{-1}$ $\frac{|\widetilde{V^{ij}|^{2}}}{V_{c}^{ij^{2}}} = \frac{\langle R^{ij^{2}} + I^{ij^{2}} \rangle - \text{Bias}\{R^{ij^{2}} + I^{ij^{2}}\}}{4 \langle P^{i}P^{j} \rangle \sum_{k} v_{k}^{i} v_{k}^{j}}$

Fringe SNR



$$\mathrm{SNR}^{2}(t) = \frac{1}{N_{b}} \frac{1}{N_{l}} \sum_{b}^{N_{b}} \sum_{l}^{N_{l}} \left[\left(\frac{R^{b^{2}}(l,t)}{\sigma_{R^{b}}^{2}} - 1 \right) + \left(\frac{I^{b^{2}}(l,t)}{\sigma_{I^{b}}^{2}} - 1 \right) \right]$$

NPOI fringe SNR



Summary

- For AMBER, a lot still to be done
 - e.g. LR visibility reduction due to piston
 - multi-stage frame selection
- FINITO will stabilize AMBER visibilities – longer integration times, full read-out
- Not discussed: internal dispersion and differential phase issues
 - important for astrometry

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 MIDI data reduction
- Calibration and error estimates
- Interferometric imaging

MIDI Observation

- Fringe data (delay modulation on)
 - HIGH_SENS (no chopping)
 - SCI_PHOT (chopping)
- Photometry (chopping on)
 - shutter A open
 - shutter B open

HIGH-SENS Principles (1a)

 Observe fringes without chopping; the difference between the interferometric channels will be (almost) free of background fluctuations. This is because the background is highly correlated between the two channels, unlike VINCI where PA and PB differ due to the different fiber injection efficiencies as a function of time.

HIGH-SENS Principles (1b)



HIGH-SENS Principles (1c)

- The quality of the initial background cancellation depends on the splitting ratios
- A high-pass filter needs to be used to remove residual background fluctuations

$$\begin{split} P_B &= \alpha P_A \\ I_1 &= \kappa_{1,A} P_A + \alpha \kappa_{1,B} P_A = P_A(\kappa_{1,A} + \alpha \kappa_{1,B}) \\ I_2 &= P_A(\kappa_{2,A} + \alpha \kappa_{2,B}) \\ I_1 - I_2 &= P_A[\kappa_{1,A} - \kappa_{2,A} + \alpha(\kappa_{1,B} - \kappa_{2,B})] \end{split}$$

HIGH-SENS Principles (2)

• Separate photometry with shutters A and B and chopping will measure spectra in the two interferometric channels





HIGH-SENS Principles (3)

Max. and min. field amplitudes: $A_A + A_B = A_A - A_B$ Max. and min. intensities:

 $I^{\max} = A_{\rm A}^2 + 2A_{\rm A}A_{\rm B} + A_{\rm B}^2$ $I^{\min} = A_{\rm A}^2 - 2A_{\rm A}A_{\rm B} + A_{\rm B}^2$

Visibility amplitude: $V = (I^{\text{max}} - I^{\text{min}})/(I^{\text{max}} + I^{\text{min}})$

yields:
$$V^{\text{max}} = 2\sqrt{I_{\text{A}}I_{\text{B}}}/(I_{\text{A}} + I_{\text{B}})$$

Interferogram in one MIDI channel: $I_1 = I_{A,1} + I_{B,1} + (1/2)(I_1^{max} - I_1^{min})V\sin(2\pi OPD/\lambda)$ Subtracting the two channels: $2V\sqrt{I_{A,1}I_{B,1}} + 2V\sqrt{I_{A,1}I_{B,1}}$

Mask definition



SCI_PHOT Principles (1a)

- Photometry taken simultaneously with the fringe data, but kappa matrix (i.e. splitting ratios) must be used to determine normalization
- Kappa matrix can be determined from A and B photometry (needs only to be done once per night)

 $\kappa_{1,A} = I_1/(I_1 + I_2), \ \kappa_{2,A} = I_2/(I_1 + I_2)$

• Similar to VINCI, but background correction is different

SCI_PHOT Principles (1b)



SCI_PHOT Principles (1c)

• Kappa matrix needs to be determined once per night to derive splitting ratios





Calibrator visibility (TF)

1.2 1.0

0.8

0.4

0.2

0.0

0.8 VisSq c 9.0

0.4

0.2

0.0

8

8

VisSq c 0.0

Pt Pt



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Global calibration



Mark III: Mozurkewich et al. 1991

Dependence of MIDI V² on seeing



MIDI

Calibrator selection

- Close to science target
- Measured immediately before and/or after
- Small known diameter
- Similar brightness as science target

Principle of calibration



- 1 Observation set = 1 set-up
 - same night
 - same detector parameters (frame rate, number of frames, ...)
 - same filter...

Steps

• Derive the *expected visibility of the calibrator:*

$$V_{\exp}(S) = \left| \frac{2J_1(\pi \theta_{UD}S)}{\pi \theta_{UD}S} \right|$$

- Derive the *instantaneous transfer function* for each channel: $T_i^2(t_1) = \frac{\mu_i^2}{V^2(S)}$
- Calibrate the visibility of the science target

$$V^2 = \frac{\mu^2}{T^2(\tau)}$$

Uncertainty estimates

- Error bars often based on RMS of samples in an average
- Theoretical error estimates often too small
- Systematic errors due to bias or low SNR
Final μ^2 estimate and error bar

• Squared coherence factors are computed for each scan in each interferometric channel



$$\begin{array}{c} \mu_{+}^{2} \pm \sigma(\mu_{+}^{2}) \\ \mu_{-}^{2} \pm \sigma(\mu_{-}^{2}) \end{array} \Rightarrow \qquad \mu^{2} \pm \sigma(\mu^{2}) \end{array}$$

• They define a statistics (histogramm) from which a standard deviation is derived

Propagation of errors

- Sources of errors (1σ error bars):
- - errors on coherence factors (detector noise, photon noise, piston noise)
- - errors on the diameter of calibrators
- <u>Propagation of errors:</u>
 - The final estimate of the squared visibility is the product and ratio of hopefully gaussian random variables.

Propagation of errors

- <u>1st method to propagate errors</u>: $V^2 = \frac{\mu^2}{\mu_c^2} \times V_c^2$
 - make an expansion of the V^2 estimator if error bars are small

$$dV^{2} = \frac{V^{2}}{\mu^{2}} \times d\mu^{2} + \frac{V^{2}}{V_{c}^{2}} \times dV_{c}^{2} - \frac{V^{2}}{\mu_{c}^{2}} \times d\mu_{c}^{2}$$

- and sum the weighted variances of the errors $\sigma^{2}(V^{2}) \approx \left(\frac{V^{2}}{\mu^{2}}\right)^{2} \times \sigma^{2}(\mu^{2}) + \left(\frac{V^{2}}{V_{c}^{2}}\right)^{2} \times \sigma^{2}(V_{c}^{2}) + \left(\frac{V^{2}}{\mu_{c}^{2}}\right)^{2} \times \sigma^{2}(\mu_{c}^{2})$ $\land \quad only \ valid \ if \ errors \ are \ small$

Propagation of errors

• 2nd method to propagate errors:

$$V^2 = \frac{\mu^2}{\mu_c^2} \times V_c^2$$

$$\mu^{2} = 0.400 \pm 0.010$$

$$\mu^{2}_{c} = 0.600 \pm 0.010$$

$$V^{2}_{c} = 0.980 \pm 0.001$$

$$\Rightarrow V^{2} = 0.654 \pm 0.020$$



- simulate the random variable and compute the variance of the simulated statistical distribution Analytical method $\Rightarrow V^2 = 0.653 \pm 0.020$

Final uncertainties

- Use designated calibrator
- Estimate (conservatively) calibration error from all calibrator measurements in same night
- Report to ESO/USD any bad calibrators

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Self-cal and CLEAN

DMAP = dirty map $DMAP = FFT(V_{obs})$

RMAP = residual map

CMAP = clean map $V_{mod} = DFT(CMAP)$

FMAP = final mapFMAP = RMAP + CMAP







Difference mapping



Imaging composite spectrum binaries





(Pearl/OYSTER)

Interferometric field of view (I)





12 Persei observed on Oct 9, 2001 with the CHARA Array, K'-band, 330m baseline, separation 40 marcsec

Mark 3 (Oct 8, 1992)

Interferometric field of view (II)



Photometric field of view

