

HERA Data Analysis Part II: Calibration and Imaging

Zhilei Xu
MIT

CHAMP Bootcamp
June 10, 2022
University of Pennsylvania

Lesson Overview

1. Calibration (~1.5 hour)

- i. Calibration overview
- ii. HERA calibration exploration

Break (10 min)

2. HERA Imaging (~1 hour)

- i. HERA imaging overview
- ii. HERA imaging with CASA
- iii. HERA imaging with *direct optimal mapping*

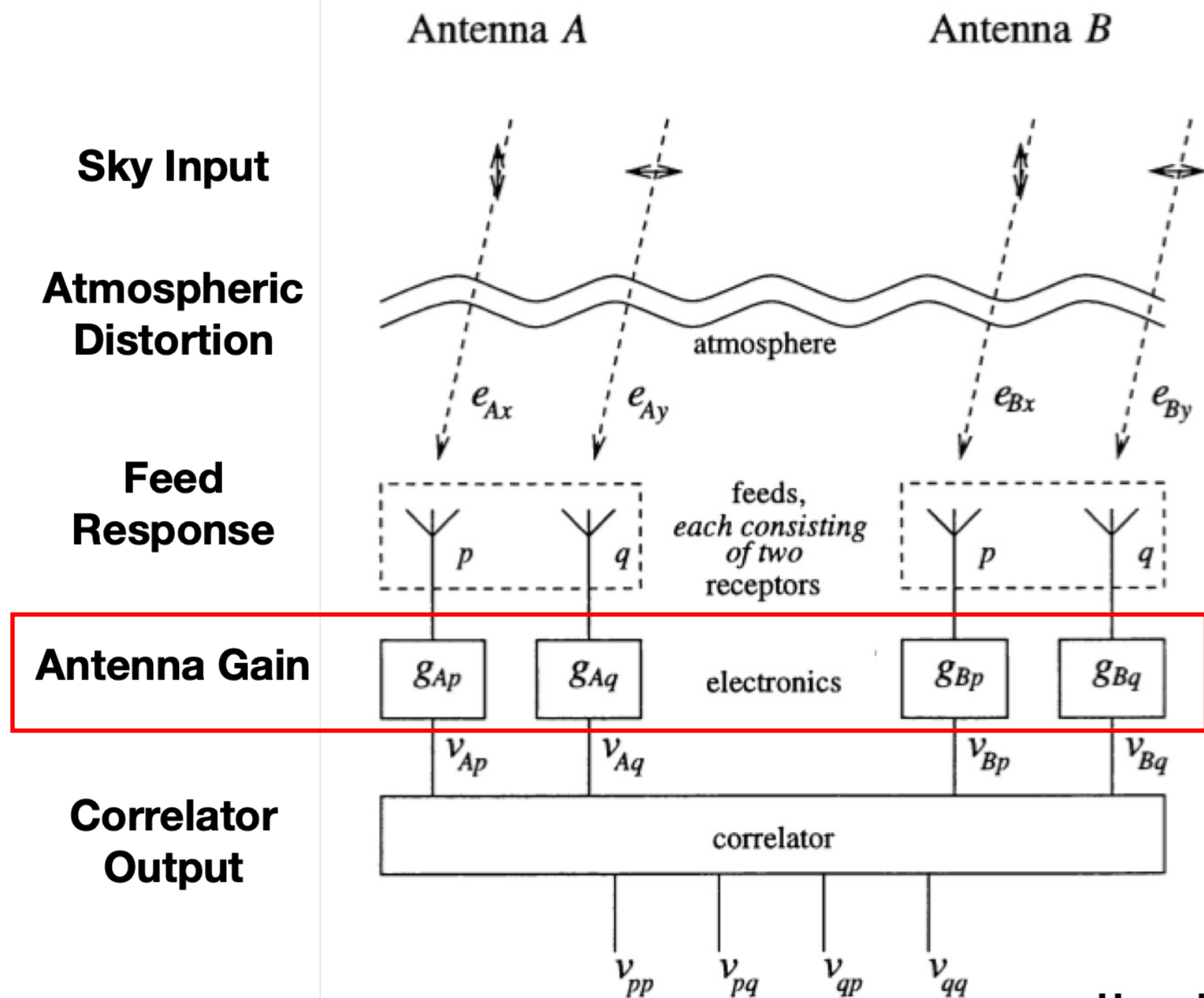
Learning Objectives

- A. Gain a basic understanding of what calibration is, and explore applying calibration to real data
- B. Become familiar with HERA's imaging capability
- C. Learn how to perform basic imaging of HERA data with CASA and direct optimal mapping

What is *calibration*? Know your instrument!

- Necessary for all instruments
- Endless effort, depending on scientific requirements
- Serves two purposes
 - Data → physical properties
 - Improve the instruments
- Specific to an interferometer, like HERA





Measurement Equation

Ideal Scenario

$$V_{ij}^{\text{model}} = I \cdot e^{-2\pi i \vec{b} \cdot \hat{s} / \lambda}$$

Practical Scenario

$$V_{ij}^{\text{measured}} = g_i g_j^* \cdot I \cdot e^{-2\pi i \vec{b} \cdot \hat{s} / \lambda}$$



$$V_{ij}^{\text{measured}} = g_i g_j^* V_{ij}^{\text{model}}$$

Antenna-Based Calibration Equation

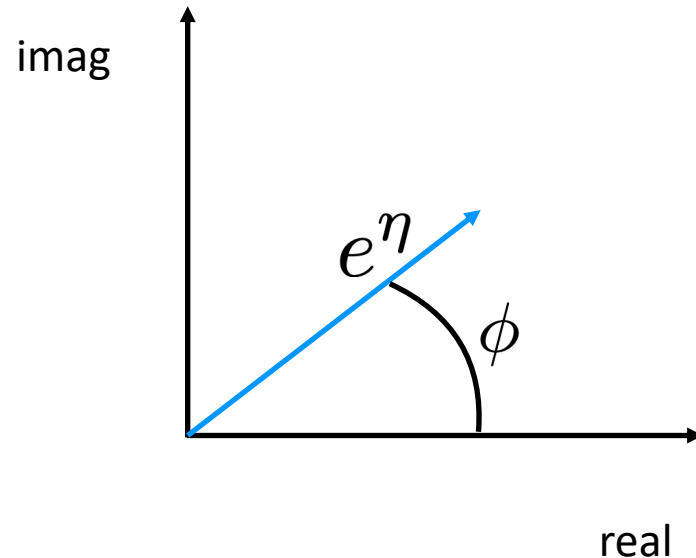
Breaking down Antenna Gains

Antenna gain is a complex quantity, defined by an amplitude and phase

$$g_j = e^{\eta_j + i\phi_j}$$

η_j = amplitude

ϕ_j = phase



Gains are also in principle **time and frequency** dependent:

$$g_j(t, \nu) = e^{\eta_j(t, \nu) + i\phi_j(t, \nu)}$$

Solving for Gains

Given your measurements and your model,
setup a system of equations!

We won't go into the details of **how** to solve
this system of equations, but if you are curious
ask me after class!

$$V_{ij}^{\text{measured}} = g_i g_j^* V_{ij}^{\text{model}}$$



antenna 1



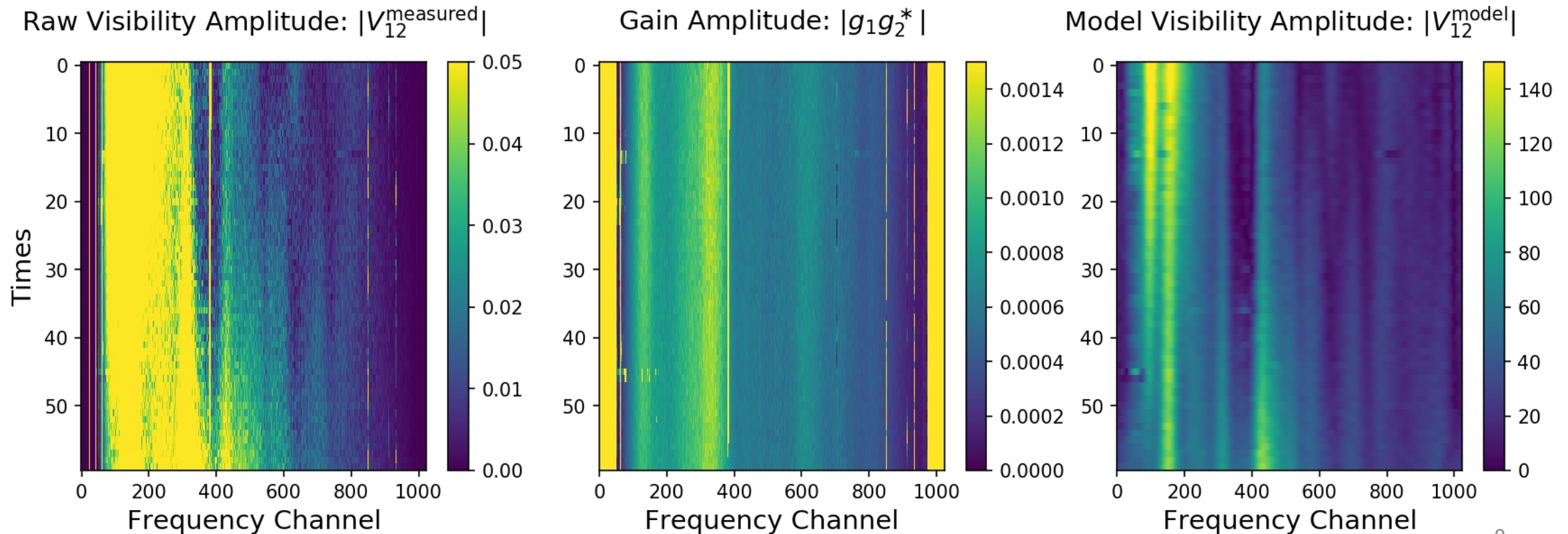
antenna 2



antenna 3

Applying Application

$$V_{ij}^{\text{updated}} = V_{ij}^{\text{measured}} / (g_i g_j^*)$$

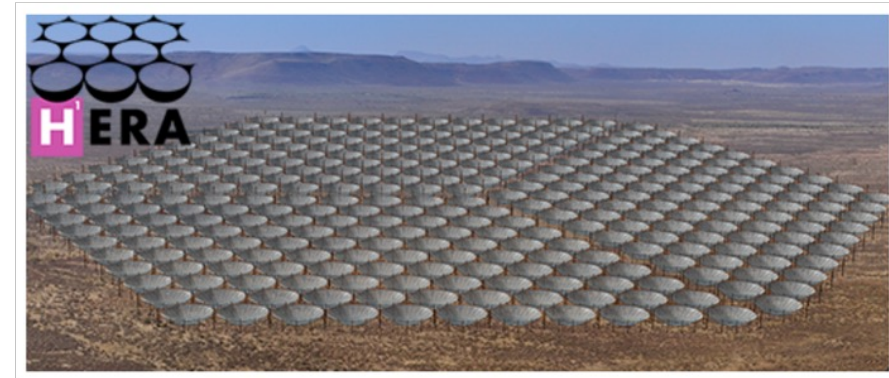


HERA Calibration Exploration
Time...

2. HERA Imaging Specs

Design Spec

Performance



Frequency Coverage:

100 - 200 MHz
[50 - 250 MHz]

Redshift Coverage:

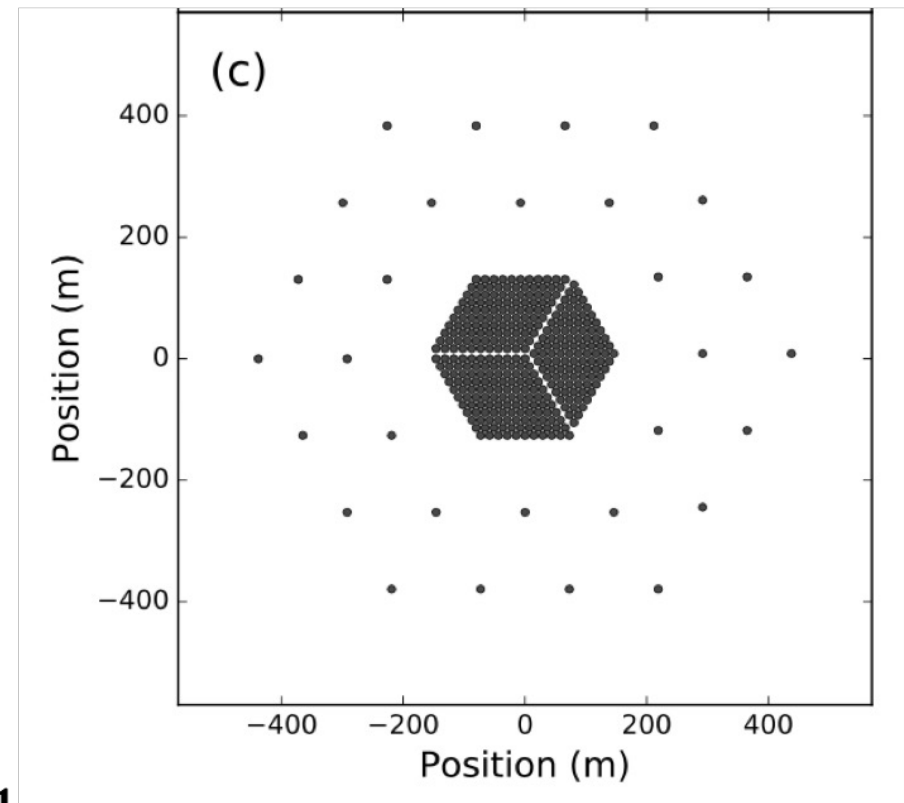
$6 < z < 13$
[$5 < z < 27$]

Longest Baseline:

Core: 292 m
Outrigger: 876 m

Angular Resolution:

Core: 25 arcmin
Outrigger: 11 arcmin



DeBoer et al. 2016

$$z = 1.42 \times 10^9 / \nu - 1$$
$$\theta = \lambda / D$$

Dillon et al. 2016

3. HERA Imaging