

# HOW TO CREATE DYNAMIC SPECTRA AND DE-DISPERSED TIME SERIES (DTS) FROM BLINK PIPELINE IMAGES

(last updated 2025-08-26)

- **Testing in :** 20250825\_BLINK\_option\_for\_create\_dynaspec.odt
- We assume that FITS files created by the blink pipeline are in the directory images/ and their names look like:  
start\_time\_**1508442485**\_int\_**00**\_coarse\_**109**\_fine\_ch**00**\_image\_real.fits

The meaning of the numbers in FITS file name as follows:

- **1508442485** - unixtime second
- int\_**00** - 00 is the time integration within 1-second
- **109** - coarse channel
- ch**00** - fine channel within coarse channel

- So in general FITS file names are :

start\_time\_**UNIXTIME**\_int\_**TIMESTEP**\_coarse\_**COARSECHANNEL**\_fine\_ch**FINE CHANNEL**\_image\_real.fits

◦

- **Commands on Setonix to**

- cd images/ # go to directory with the images here images/
- salloc --mem 64g --time 02:00:00 --nodes=1 # request interactive session on CPU node
- module use /software/projects/pawsey1154/msok/setonix/2025.08/modules/zen3/gcc/14.2.0
- module load frb-search/main # load relevant module
- Download METAFITS file with metadata for specific observation (obsID = 1192477696):
  - wget http://ws.mwatelescope.org/metadata/fits?obs\_id=1192477696 -O 1192477696.metafits

- Execute create\_dynaspec program with the following parameters :

```
create_dynaspec -p "(377,896)" -o 1192477696 -S 1508442485 -f start_time_%d_int_%02d_coarse_%03d_fine_ch%02d_image_real.fits -v 10 -N 10 -X 0.02 -I 1 -C 109 -T ./ -t 500 -d dynamic_spectrum -P > outout 2>&1
```

- where :

- -p "(377,896)" : specifies which pixel to create dynamic spectrum for
- -o 1192477696 : observation ID (obsID)
- -S 1508442485 : first second from where to create dynamic spectrum (here 1<sup>st</sup> second of the observation)
- -f start\_time\_%d\_int\_%02d\_coarse\_%03d\_fine\_ch%02d\_image\_real.fits :  
template for the FITS files names as explained above
- -v 10 : high level of verbosity / debugging (set to 0 to make the program less "talkative")
- -N 10 : number of fine channels per coarse channel (here for processing 120 kHz images -> 10 fine channels per coarse channel of 1.28 MHz)
- -X 0.02 : time resolution of images in seconds
- -I 1 : images from the MWA telescope

- -C 109 : first coarse channel
  - -T ./ : not important
  - -t 500 : total number of timesteps, which is the total size of the dynamic spectrum (i.e. number of seconds \* number of images per second). Here 50 images/second \* 10 seconds = 500
  - -d dynamic\_spectrum/ : name of output directory
  - -P : specifies that these are images from BLINK pipeline
- **OUTPUT :**
    - **Dynamic spectrum is saved to FITS named with pixel coordinates :**
      - cd dynamic\_spectrum/
      - ls -al 0377\_0896.fits
      - ds9 0377\_0896.fits &
- - **Example bash script is provided in :**
    - frb\_search/scripts/dynamic\_spectra/blink\_dynamic\_spectrum.sh
    -
  - **De-dispersion and de-dispersed time series (DTS) :**
    - Go to directory with the dynamic spectrum :
      - cd dynamic\_spectrum/
      - ls -al 0377\_0896.fits
      - ds9 0377\_0896.fits &
      - Download METAFITS file with metadata for specific observation (obsID = 1192477696) or copy from directory above :
        - wget http://ws.mwatelescope.org/metadata/fits?obs\_id=1192477696 -O 1192477696.metafits
    - dynaspec\_search 0377\_0896.fits 0377\_0896\_series.fits -o 1192477696 -l 50 -m 65 -s 0.1 -n 7 -S 1 -A -T -C 0.120 -I 1 -B 138.94 -E 109 -P 0
    - where parameters are :
      - 0377\_0896.fits - input dynamic spectrum FITS file
      - 0377\_0896\_series.fits - output de-dispersed time series (2D flux density vs. start time vs. trial DM)
      - -o 119247769 : Observation ID (GPS time)
      - -l 50 : start DM
      - -m 65 : end DM
      - -s 0.1 : DM step
      - -n 7 : threshold in sigmas for finding peaks
      - -S 1 : 1 - search for peaks, 0 - do not search
      - -A : get metadata from METAFITS file
      - -T : use global threshold (the same for entire DTS), without -T uses local threshold (based local sigma)
      - -C 0.120 : channel width, here 120 kHz
      - -I 1 : Telescope type (1-MWA [default], 2 - EDA2/AAVS2, 0 - unknown)
      - -B 138.94 : centre of the first frequency channel here  $109 \times 1.28 - 0.64 + 0.12/2 = 138.94$  MHz
      - -E 109 : first coarse channel

- -P 0 : calculate dispersion sweeps starting before the start of dynamic spectrum. They are noisy and not worth using. Hence, disabled here [default = 1 -> enabled].

- 

-