

RICA - Radio Imaging Combination Analyzer

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ABSTRACT

1. INTRODUCTION

In radio synthesis imaging a common problem arising from interferometry is the lack of zero-spacing data. Without this data, images lack total power information. Single dish radio telescopes retain this total power information but lack the angular resolution capabilities of radio interferometers. To solve this problem, astronomers combine the interferometry data with the total power data. This report seeks to characterize the effectiveness of different combination methods.

There are four methods of combination that were tested. The first is CASA's *feather* task. This takes the total power image and gets the Fourier components of the total power image. These components are then added to the interferometer data. The addition is weighted such that the total power components have all of the weight near the zero-spacing and taper off so that at around a third of the max UV distance the interferometer has all the weighting. This smooth combination helps to avoid weird artifacting from either component of the combination.

The next method is using the total power image as the starting model in CASA's *tclean* task. In the Cotton-Schwab CLEAN algorithm (CSCLEAN), each major-cycle begins with a blank model image and constructs an image on it by using minor-cycle iterations. By using a starting model, this model is no longer blank, but is passed as a parameter. By using the total power image as the starting model, we can hope to retain the total power information through the CLEAN algorithm.

Another modification to the Cotton-Schwab cycle in order to combine images is by doing a modified joint deconvolution. In each major Cotton-Schwab cycle, the constructed model is convolved with the residual image and

The last method of combination we use is *tp2vis*, which takes the total power image and spoofs a measurement set. The way *tp2vis* accomplishes this is by taking Fourier data from the total power image and sparsely sampling the Fourier data at close spacings. This data can be used with the interferometer data in a joint deconvolution in *tclean*. This should help fill the close-spacing gap created by the interferometer data and subsequently help increase total power information.

2. METHODS

3. RESULTS

4. CONCLUSION

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