

# Workshop – SCUBA-2 Data Reduction

Harriet Parsons, JAC/EAO


To implement the topics covered in this workshop you will need:

- Some raw SCUBA-2 data to play with
- STARLINK software installed on your computer
- Memory available: [www.starlink.ac.uk/docs/sc21.htx/node6.html](http://www.starlink.ac.uk/docs/sc21.htx/node6.html)

<b>Reduction type</b>	<b>Memory</b>
Large maps (PONG)	96 GB
Small maps (DAISY)	32 - 64 GB
850um data only	32 - 64 GB
Blank fields	32 - 64 GB

helpdesk@eaobservatory.org

# Useful webpages/resources include:


 Cornell University  
Library

[fr.arXiv.org](#) > [astro-ph](#) > [arXiv:1301.3652](#)

Astrophysics > Instrumentation and Methods for Astrophysics

**SCUBA-2: iterative map-making with the Sub-Millimetre User Reduction Facility**

Edward L. Chapin, David S. Berry, Andrew G. Gibb, Tim Jenness, Douglas Scott, Remo P. J. Tilanus, Frossie Economou, Wayne S. Holland  
*(Submitted on 16 Jan 2013 (v1), last revised 25 Mar 2013 (this version, v2))*

 Cornell University  
Library

[fr.arXiv.org](#) > [astro-ph](#) > [arXiv:1301.3773](#)

Astrophysics > Instrumentation and Methods for Astrophysics

**SCUBA-2: on-sky calibration using submillimetre standard sources**

Jessica T. Dempsey, Per Friberg, Tim Jenness, Remo P. J. Tilanus, Holly S. Thomas, Wayne S. Holland, Dan Bintley, David S. Berry, Edward Chapin, Antonio Chrysostomou, Gary R. Davis, Andrew G. Gibb, Harriet Parsons, E. Ian Robson  
*(Submitted on 16 Jan 2013)*

[www.jach.hawaii.edu/JCMT/continuum/workshop-feb2013/Basic-map-making.pdf](http://www.jach.hawaii.edu/JCMT/continuum/workshop-feb2013/Basic-map-making.pdf)

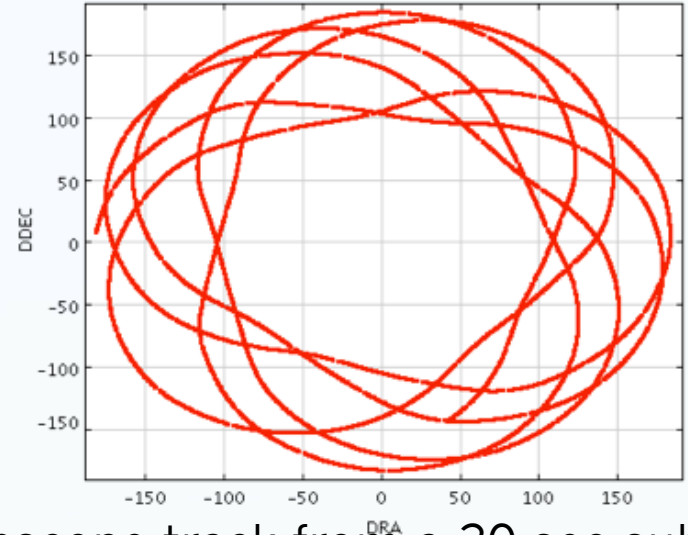
[www.jach.hawaii.edu/JCMT/continuum/workshop-feb2013/Advanced-map-making.pdf](http://www.jach.hawaii.edu/JCMT/continuum/workshop-feb2013/Advanced-map-making.pdf)[www.pipelinesandarchives.blogspot.com/](http://www.pipelinesandarchives.blogspot.com/)

[www.eaobservatory.org/jcmt/instrumentation/continuum/scuba-2/data-reduction/](http://www.eaobservatory.org/jcmt/instrumentation/continuum/scuba-2/data-reduction/)

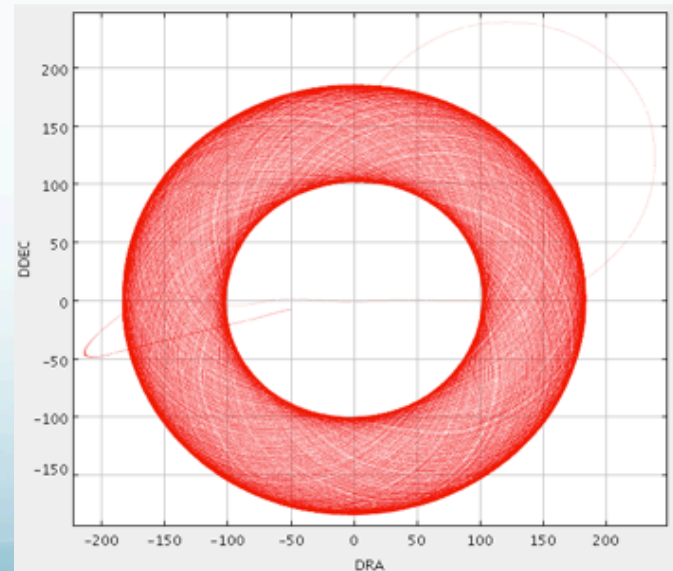
# Observing Modes

- Get away from sky chopping and telescope nodding
- Developed scanning strategies that modulate the sky spatially and temporally
- Cover the same region at different position angles and cross link scans

Constant “velocity” “Daisy” pattern for small fields



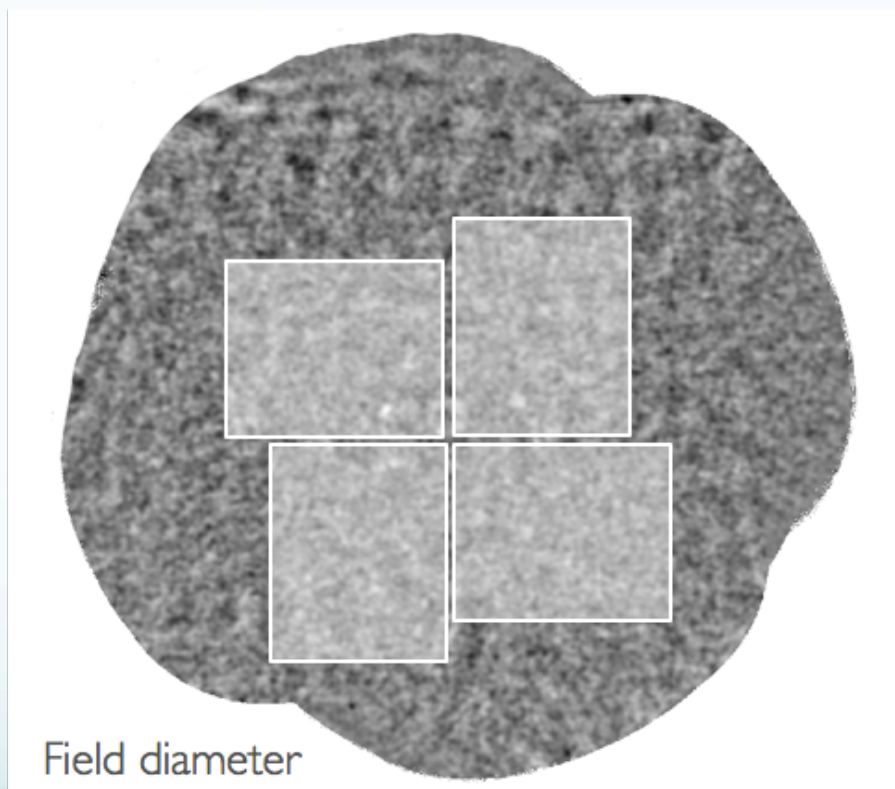
Telescope track from a 30-sec sub-scan



Telescope track from 30-min observation

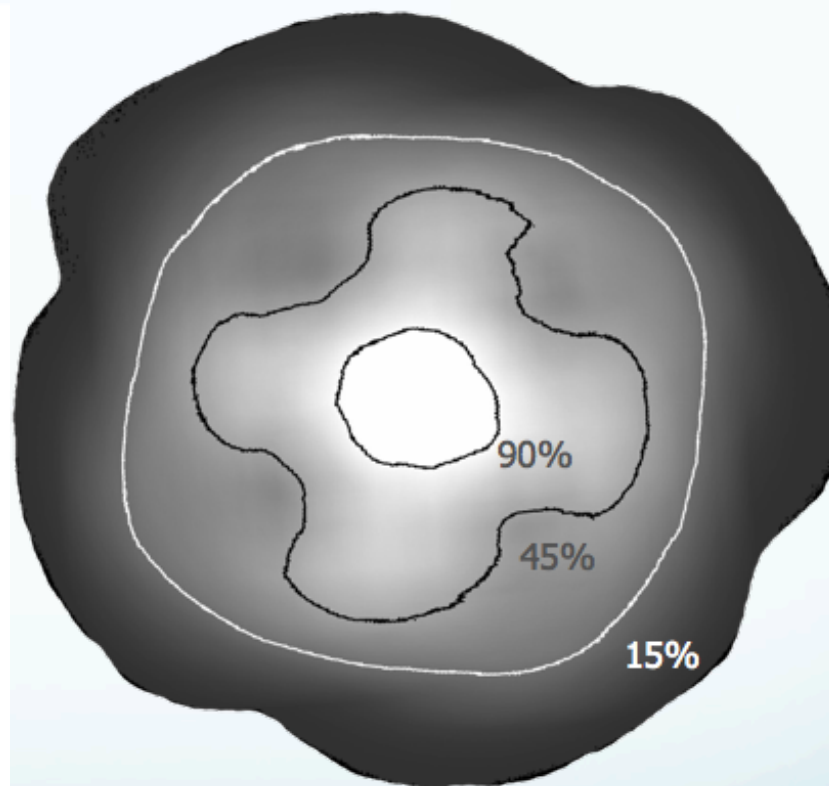
# Field Coverage: Daisy

Maximises the exposure time in the centre of the image, for example:



Field diameter  
~13 arcmin

Image plane



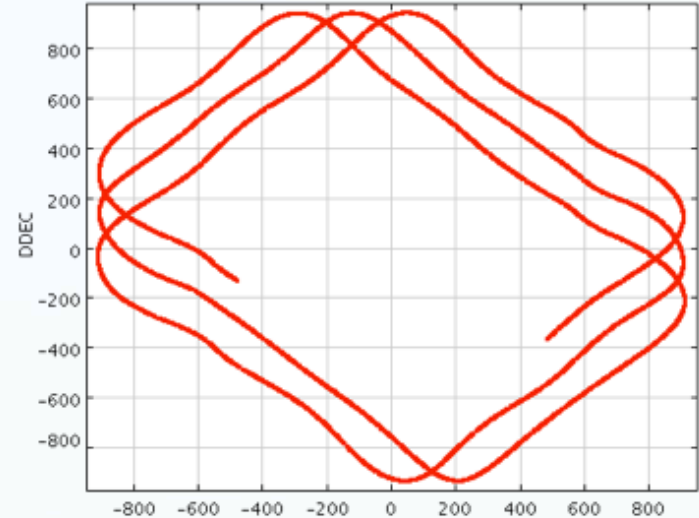
Exposure time

For a Nyquist sampled output map, exposure time in central 3' region  
~0.25 × elapsed time

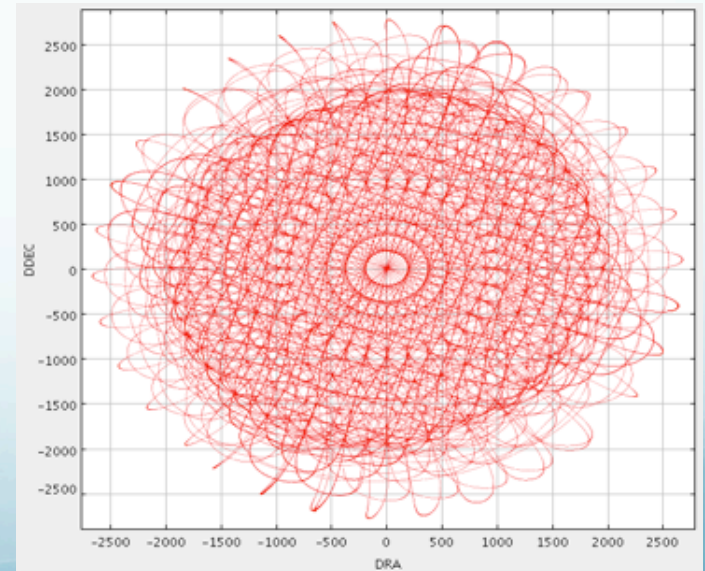
# Observing Modes

- Get away from sky chopping and telescope nodding
- Developed scanning strategies that modulate the sky spatially and temporally
- Cover the same region at different position angles and cross link scans

Rotating “Pong” pattern  
for large fields



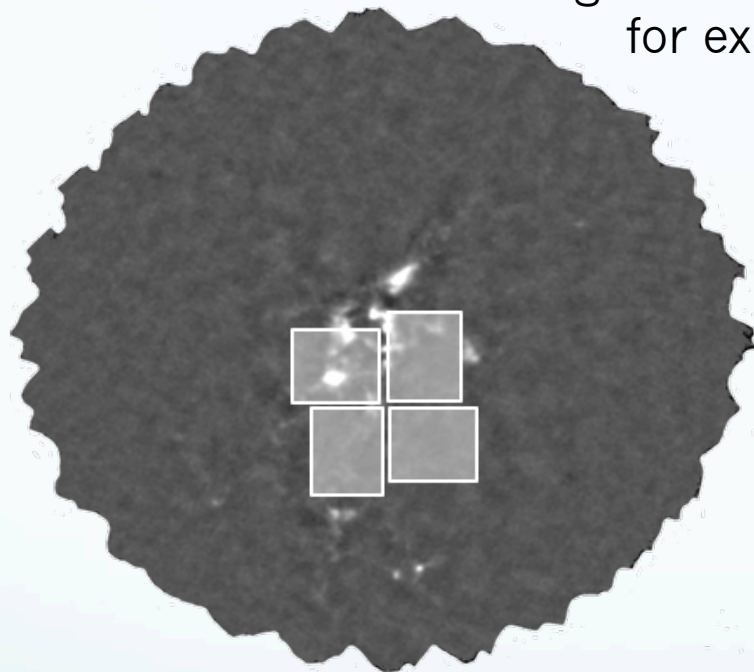
Telescope track from a 30-sec sub-scan



Telescope track from 40-min observation

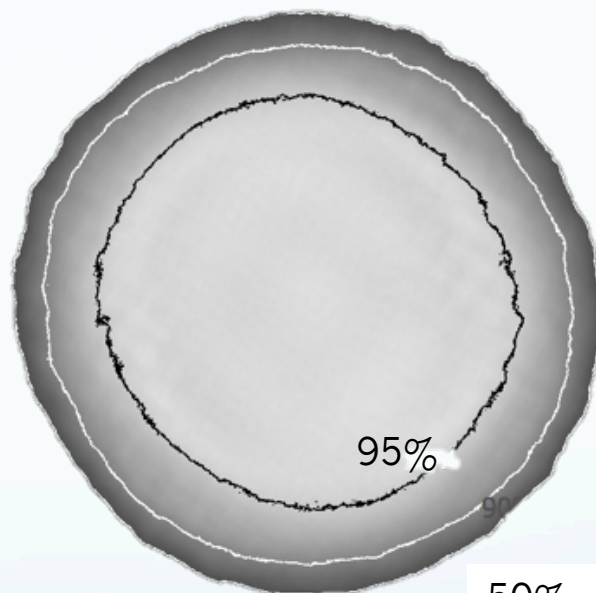
# Field Coverage: Pong

Maximises the field coverage and maintains exposure time uniformity, for example:



Field diameter  
30 arcmin

Image plane

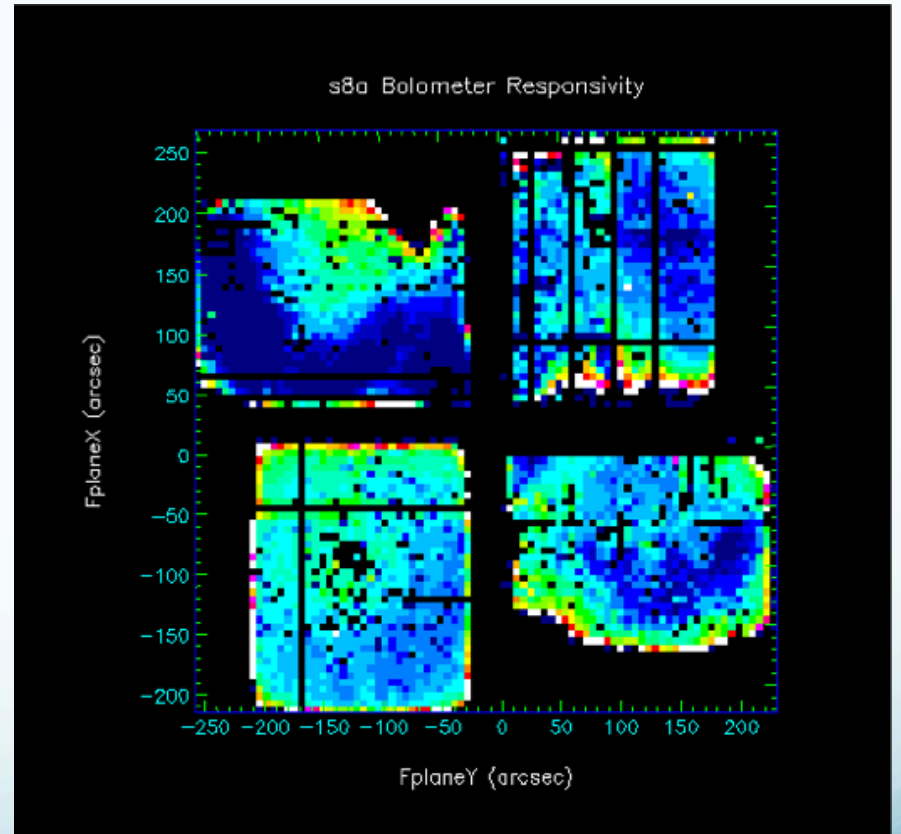
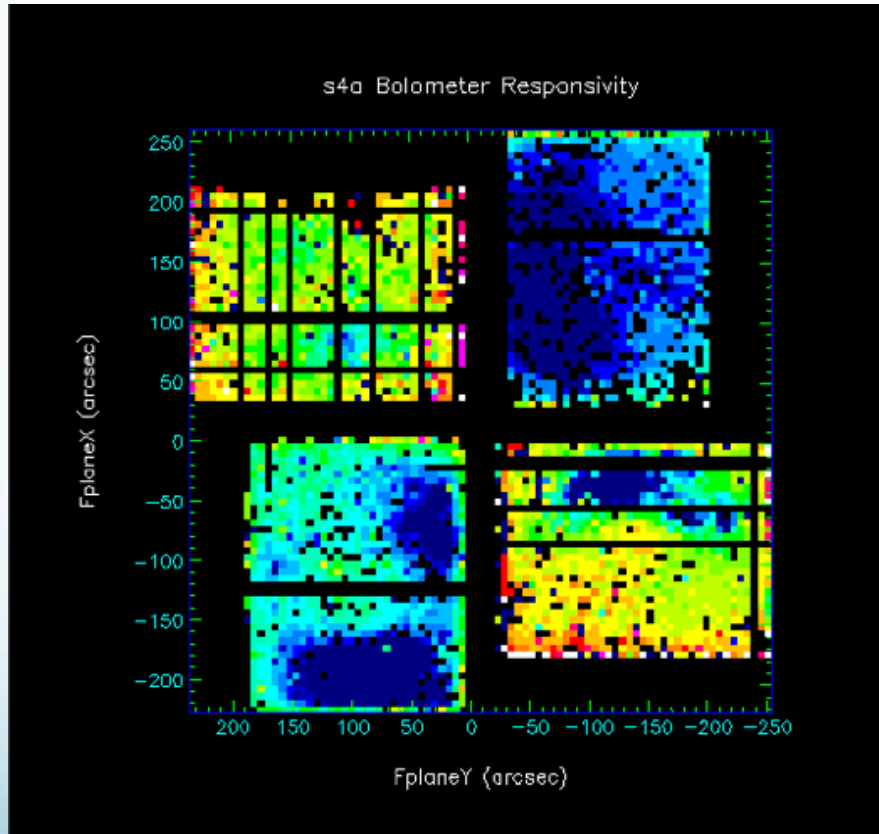


50%

Exposure time

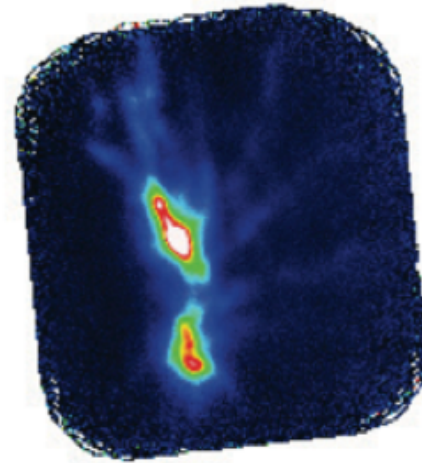
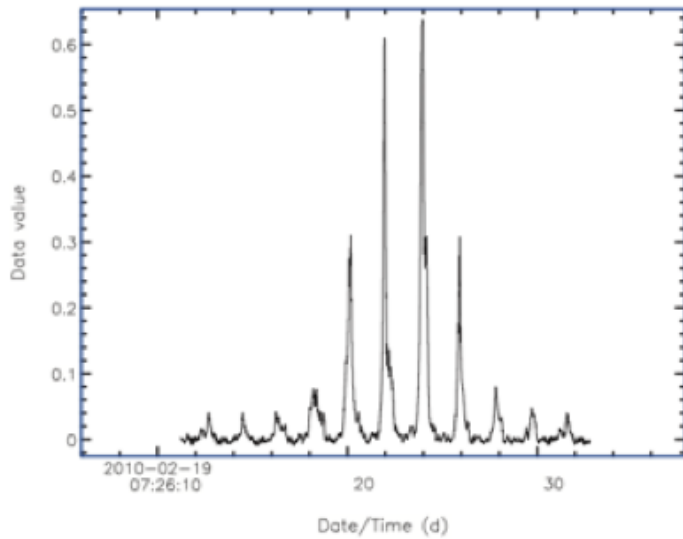
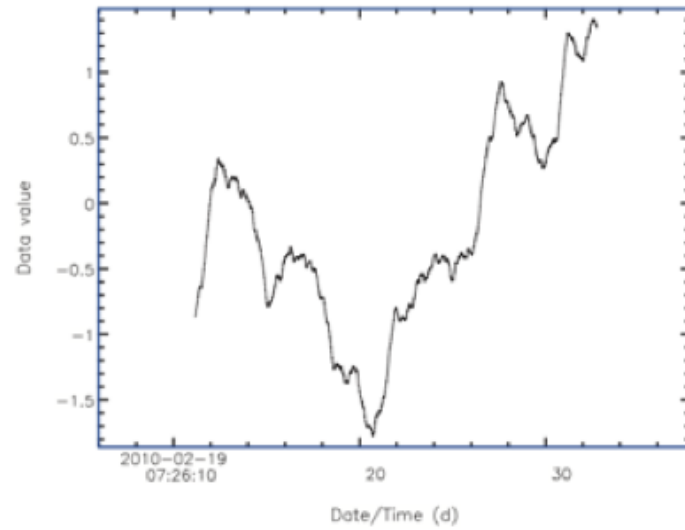
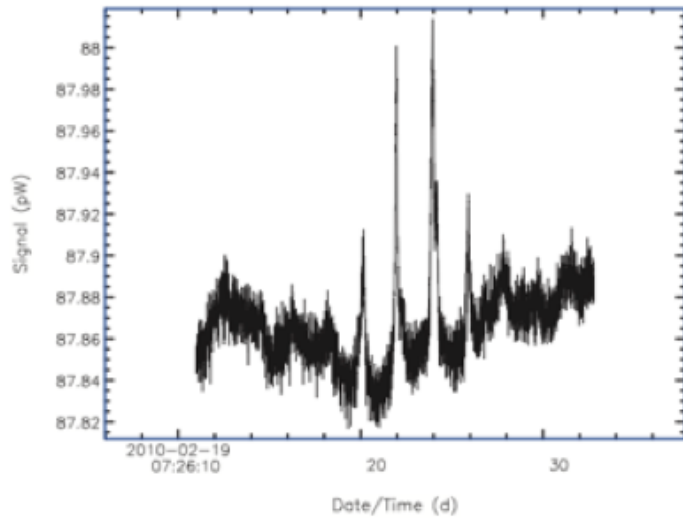
For a Nyquist sampled output map, exposure time in central 3' region  $\sim 0.014 \times$  elapsed time

# Map Making





# Map Making



$$b(t) = f * [ e(t)a(t) + N(t) ]$$

$b(t)$  = bolometer signal

$f$  = responsivity / DAC constant

$e(t)$  = time varying atmospheric extinction

$a(t)$  = astronomical signal

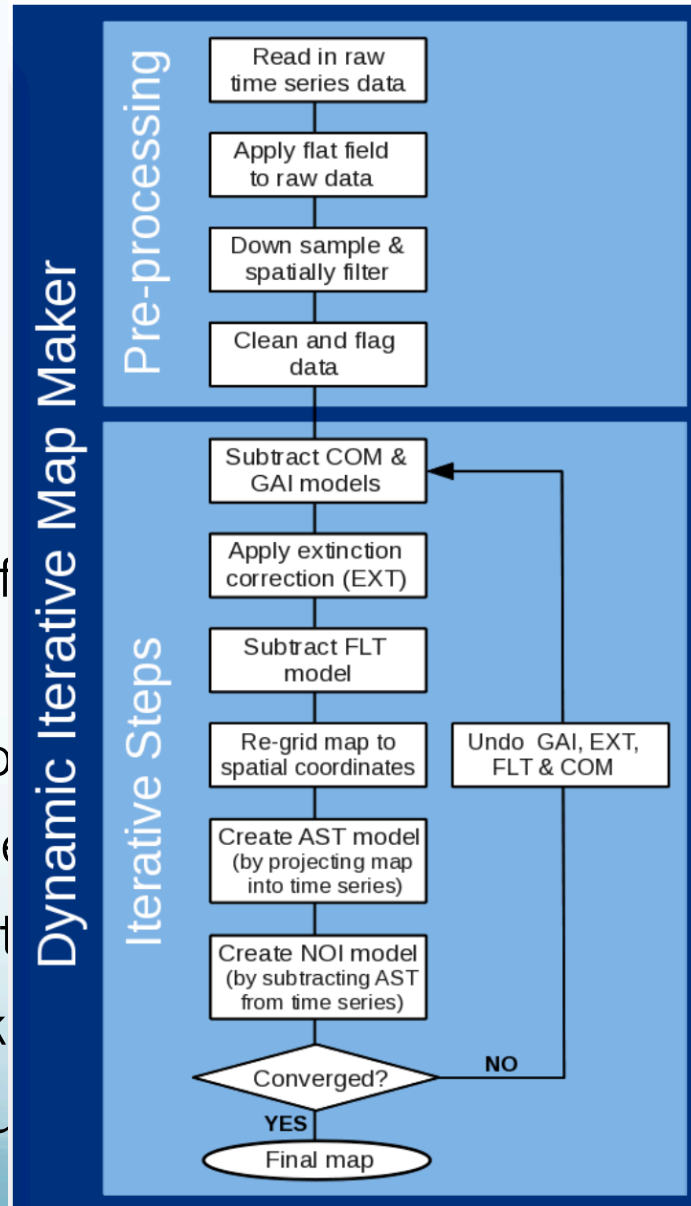
$n(t)$  = noise

- ❑ Divide  $b(t)$  by  $f$  (fixed quantity)
- ❑ Remove most of  $n(t)$  with common-mode subtraction
- ❑ Divide by  $e(t)$  (noisy measurement from WVM)
- ❑ Remove remainder of low- $f$  noise in  $n(t)$  with high-pass filter
- ❑ Regrid what's left over ( $a(t) + \sim$ white noise) to estimate map, and remove back-projected signal from time streams
- ❑ Astronomical sources cause ringing - So iterate!

$$b(t) = f * [ e(t)a(t) + N(t) ]$$

$b(t) =$   
 $f =$   
 $e(t) =$   
 $a(t) =$   
 $n(t) =$

- Divide  $b(t)$  by  $f$  (f)
- Remove most of
- Divide by  $e(t)$  (no
- Remove remainder
- Regrid what's left
- and remove back
- Astronomical sou



inction

traction

1)

high-pass filter

o estimate map,

streams

ate!

# Setting Up

First need to run up the starlink software:

On cshell or tcsh:

```
>> setenv STARLINK_DIR /star-2014A  
>> source $STARLINK_DIR/etc/login  
>> source $STARLINK_DIR/etc/cshrc
```

On bash (or sh like shells):

```
>> export STARLINK_DIR=/star-2014A  
>> source $STARLINK_DIR/etc/profile
```

The command line method of data reduction will then require the following:

```
>> kappa  
>> smurf
```

# Running SCUBA-2 DR

ORAC-DR – the pipeline reduction method

```
>> oracdr_scuba2_850 -cwd
```

```
>> oracdr -file mylist -loop file
```

you may also be asked to specify ORAC\_DATA\_IN:

```
>> setenv ORAC_DATA_IN folder/
```

or (for bash):

```
>> export ORAC_DATA_IN=folder/
```

The map maker is the command line instructions for reducing raw data.

```
>> makemap in=/directory/in*.sdf out=out.lis config=^/stardev/share/  
smurf/dimmconfig.lis
```

# Example – running the pipeline

Let's take a moment to see how we run ORAC-DR on an observation  
taken by SCUBA-2

Exit ORAC-DR

Pause ORAC-DR

SCUBA2\_850: ORAC-DR reducing observation 12

ORAC-DR status log

Setting up display infrastructure (display tools will not be started until necessary)...Done

ORAC-DR Says: Pre-starting mandatory monoliths... Done

Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0001.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0002.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0003.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0004.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0005.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0006.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0007.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0008.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0009.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0010.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0011.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0012.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0013.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0014.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0015.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0016.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0017.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0018.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0019.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0020.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8a/20141006/00012/s8a20141006\_00012\_0021.sdf

#### Warnings

ORAC-DR warning messages

#### Errors

ORAC-DR error messages

#### Results

ORAC-DR results

Exit ORAC-DR

Pause ORAC-DR

SCUBA2\_850: ORAC-DR reducing observation 12

Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0055.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0056.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0057.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0058.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0059.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0060.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0061.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0062.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0063.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0064.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0065.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0066.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0067.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0068.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0069.sdf

Storing: s8a20141006\_00012\_0001

A new group 20141006#12#850 has been created

Sorting Groups

REDUCING: s8a20141006\_00012\_0001

Using recipe REDUCE\_SCAN\_EXTENDED\_SOURCES provided by the frame

Obs #12 Observing mode: scan / Observation duration: 39.0 min

This is an observation of JPS10:t10

MAKEMAP\_CONFIG\_TYPE is bright\_extended

Makemap is using dimmconfig file /stardev/share/smurf/dimmconfig\_bright\_extended.lis

#### Warnings

ORAC-DR warning messages

#### Errors

ORAC-DR error messages

#### Results

ORAC-DR results



Exit ORAC-DR

Pause ORAC-DR

SCUBA2\_850: ORAC-DR reducing observation --

△ Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0066.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0067.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0068.sdf  
Checking for next data file: /jcmtdata/raw/scuba2/s8d/20141006/00012/s8d20141006\_00012\_0069.sdf  
**Storing: s8a20141006\_00012\_0001**  
**A new group 20141006#12#850 has been created**  
Sorting Groups  
**REDUCING: s8a20141006\_00012\_0001**  
Using recipe REDUCE\_SCAN\_EXTENDED\_SOURCES provided by the frame  
Obs #12 Observing mode: scan / Observation duration: 39.0 min  
This is an observation of JPS10:t10  
MAKEMAP\_CONFIG\_TYPE is bright\_extended  
**Makemap is using dimmconfig file /stardev/share/smurf/dimmconfig\_bright\_extended.lis**  
Calling makemap using iterate method  
Calculating output map size... Size within limits, no need to tile.  
Making map from 276 input files - this may take a while... a REALLY long while... please be patient...  
Thank you for waiting: image s20141006\_00012\_850\_fmoss created using 2924 bolometers  
ORAC-DR Says: Calibrating data in mJy/arcsec\*\*2  
Multiplying s20141006\_00012\_850\_fmoss by 2340 mJy/arcsec\*\*2/pW  
s20141006\_00012\_850\_cal to s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced:  
Tagged as reduced product.  
s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced to s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced\_64.png: Created graphic.  
Adding EXIF header to s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced\_64.png.  
s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced to s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced\_256.png: Created graphic.

#### Warnings

△ ORAC-DR warning messages

#### Errors

△ ORAC-DR error messages

#### Results

△ ORAC-DR results

Exit ORAC-DR

Pause ORAC-DR

SCUBA2\_850: ORAC-DR reducing observation --

Adding EXIF header to gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced\_64.png.  
gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced to gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced\_256.png: Created graphic.  
Adding EXIF header to gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced\_256.png.  
gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced to gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced\_1024.png: Created graphic.  
Adding EXIF header to gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced\_1024.png.  
Calculating NEFDs for current Group map...  
Calculating S/N image... Trimming image to specified map size  
Trimming gs20141006\_12\_850\_snr...  
Finding sources...  
**Found 86 clumps above a threshold of 5.0 sigma**  
Removing temporary files...  
Checking s20141006\_00012\_850\_fm... **Removing**  
Checking s20141006\_00012\_850\_cal... **Removing**  
Checking s20141006\_00012\_850\_reduced... **Keeping extension**  
Checking gs20141006\_12\_850\_mos... **Removing**  
Checking gs20141006\_12\_850\_reduced... **Keeping extension**  
Checking gs20141006\_12\_850\_snr... **Removing**  
Checking gs20141006\_12\_850\_crop... **Removing**  
Checking gs20141006\_12\_850\_clmp... **Removing**  
Recipe took 1487.818 seconds to evaluate and execute.  
  
**Pipeline processing complete**  
**Processed one recipe which completed successfully**

#### Warnings

ORAC-DR warning messages

#### Errors

ORAC-DR error messages

#### Results

ORAC-DR results



# Running the map maker

## - Ready made configuration files

*Dimmconfig = Dynamic Iterative Map Maker configuration file.*

*This is where you tell the map maker what to do!*

- **dimconfig\_blank\_field.lis** – for blank fields – such as cosmological fields
- **dimconfig\_bright\_compact.lis** – for bright compact sources – such as calibrator sources used at the JCMT. Masks out the central bright region of a map (i.e. Central 60”) to improve the background and get a better fit to the peak.
- **dimconfig\_bright\_extended.lis** – for bright “extended” objects – such as galactic emission regions
- **dimconfig\_jsa\_generic.lis** – used to reduce all data made public through the JCMT Science Archive. Good results although would recommend a more bespoke file depending on the intention for your data.

```
>> oracdr -loop file -files mylist -recpars mypars.ini REDUCE_SCAN
```

with mypars.ini containing:

```
[REDUCE_SCAN]  
CALUNITS = BEAM
```

If we wish to run with a different dimmconfig file than is automatically used we can add:

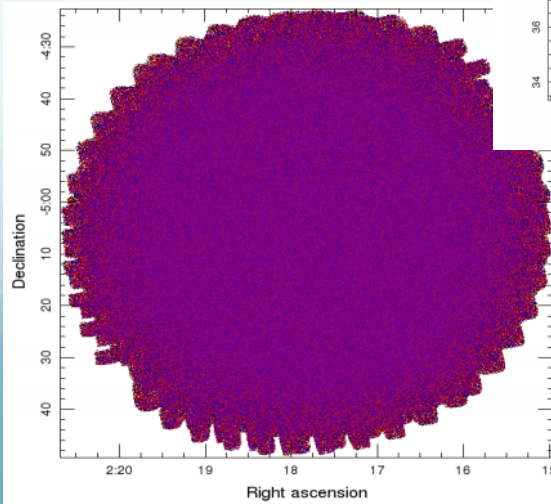
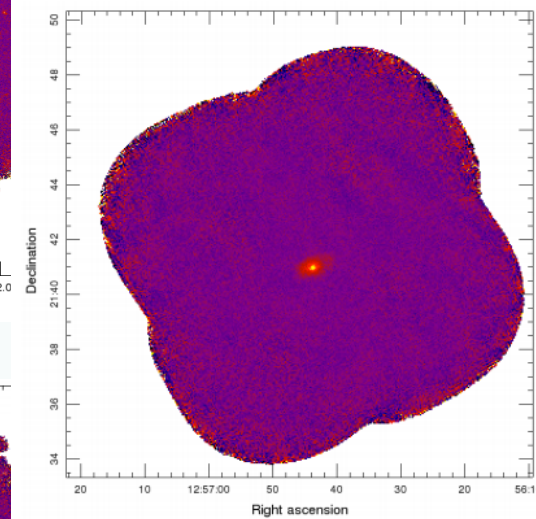
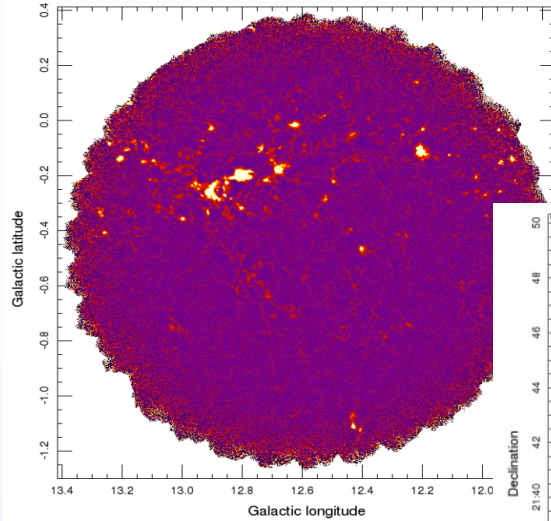
```
[REDUCE_SCAN]  
MAKEMAP_CONFIG = dimmconfig_blank_field.lis  
CALUNITS = BEAM
```

this will search STARLINK's default files to find dimmconfig\_blank\_field.lis.

# Example – different configuration files

Let's take a moment to run the SCUBA-2 reduction pipeline using a different configuration file:

# Running the Pipeline: example outputs



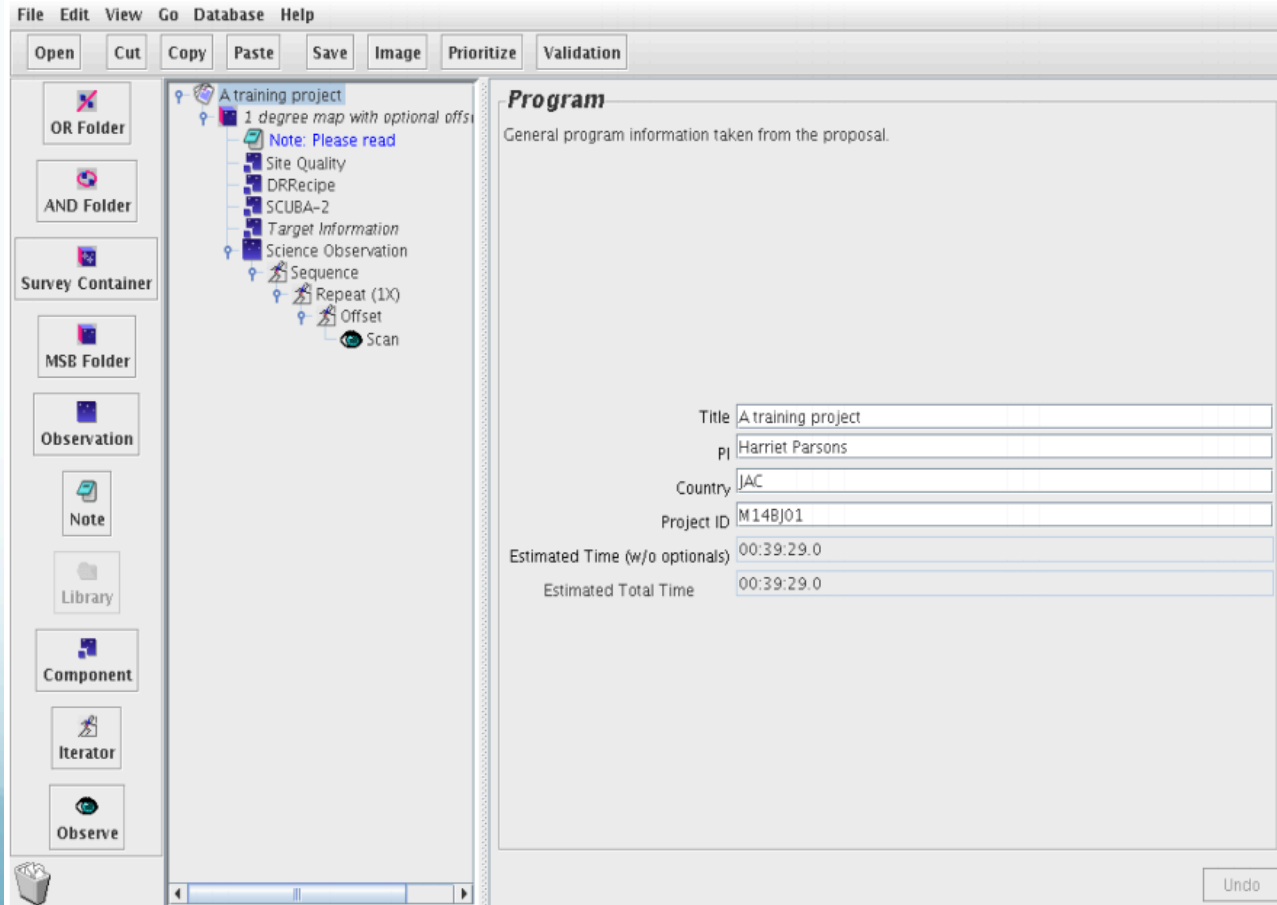
1. A busy field in the Galactic Plane (JPS)

2. A Nearby Galaxy (NGLS)

3. A cosmological field (CLS)

# Reminder: DR in relation to the JCMT OT

This is where several of the points I have been talking tie together. If you recall prior to this point we used the OT to produce msb's for a specific object of choice.



The screenshot displays a software interface with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Go, Database, Help) and a toolbar (Open, Cut, Copy, Paste, Save, Image, Prioritize, Validation). The left sidebar contains icons for OR Folder, AND Folder, Survey Container, MSB Folder, Observation, Note, Library, Component, Iterator, and Observe. The central pane shows a tree view for 'A training project' with sub-items: '1 degree map with optional offs...', 'Note: Please read', 'Site Quality', 'DRRecipe', 'SCUBA-2', 'Target Information', 'Science Observation', 'Sequence', 'Repeat (1X)', 'Offset', and 'Scan'. The right pane, titled 'Program', contains the text 'General program information taken from the proposal.' and a form with the following fields:

Title	A training project
PI	Harriet Parsons
Country	JAC
Project ID	M148J01
Estimated Time (w/o optionals)	00:39:29.0
Estimated Total Time	00:39:29.0

An 'Undo' button is located at the bottom right of the interface.



File Edit View Go Database Help

Open Cut Copy Paste Save Image Prioritize Validation

OR Folder

AND Folder

Survey Container

MSB Folder

Observation

Note

Library

Component

A training project

- 1 degree map of l=10 tile 10 (1)
  - Note: Please read
  - Site Quality
  - DRRecipe
  - SCUBA-2
  - Target Information
  - Science Observation
  - Sequence
    - Repeat (1X)
    - Offset
    - Scan

### DR Recipe

Enter the Data Reduction recipe to be used

Observation Type    Recipe Name

Scan   

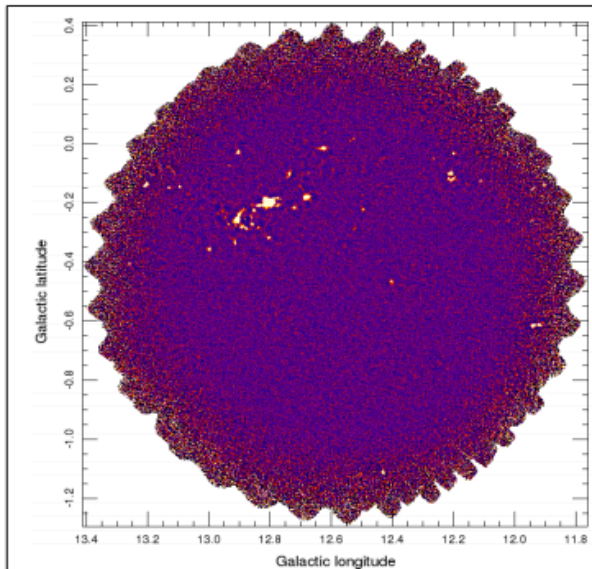
Jiggle   

Stare   

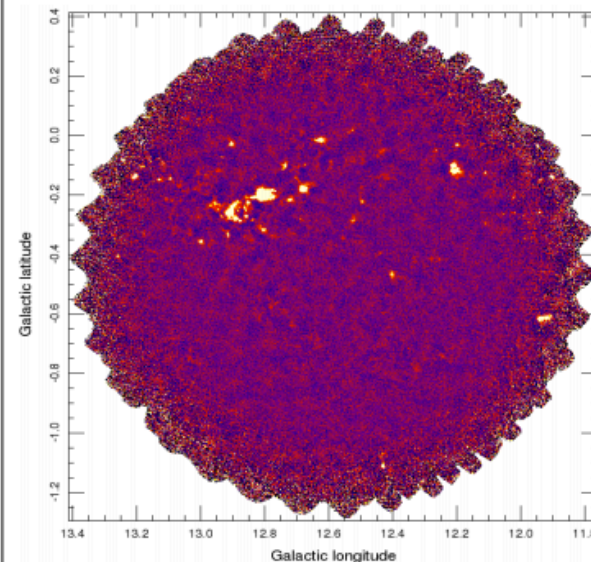
Pointing   

Focus   

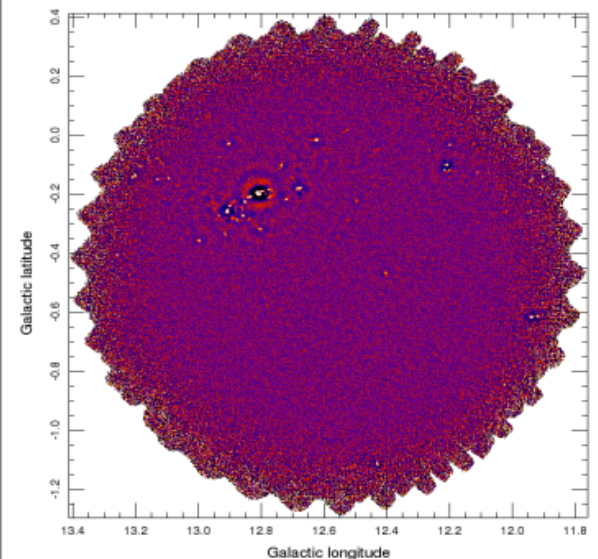
Recipe Name	Description
REDUCE_SCAN	Basic scan reduction for SCUBA-2
REDUCE_SCAN_EXTENDED_SOURCES	Scan map processing optimized for extended sour...
REDUCE_SCAN_FAINT_POINT_SOURCES	Scan map processing optimized for faint point sour...
REDUCE_FTS_SCAN	Basic recipe for FTS-2 observations.
REDUCE_FTS_ZPD	Procedure for FTS-2 ZPD calibration.



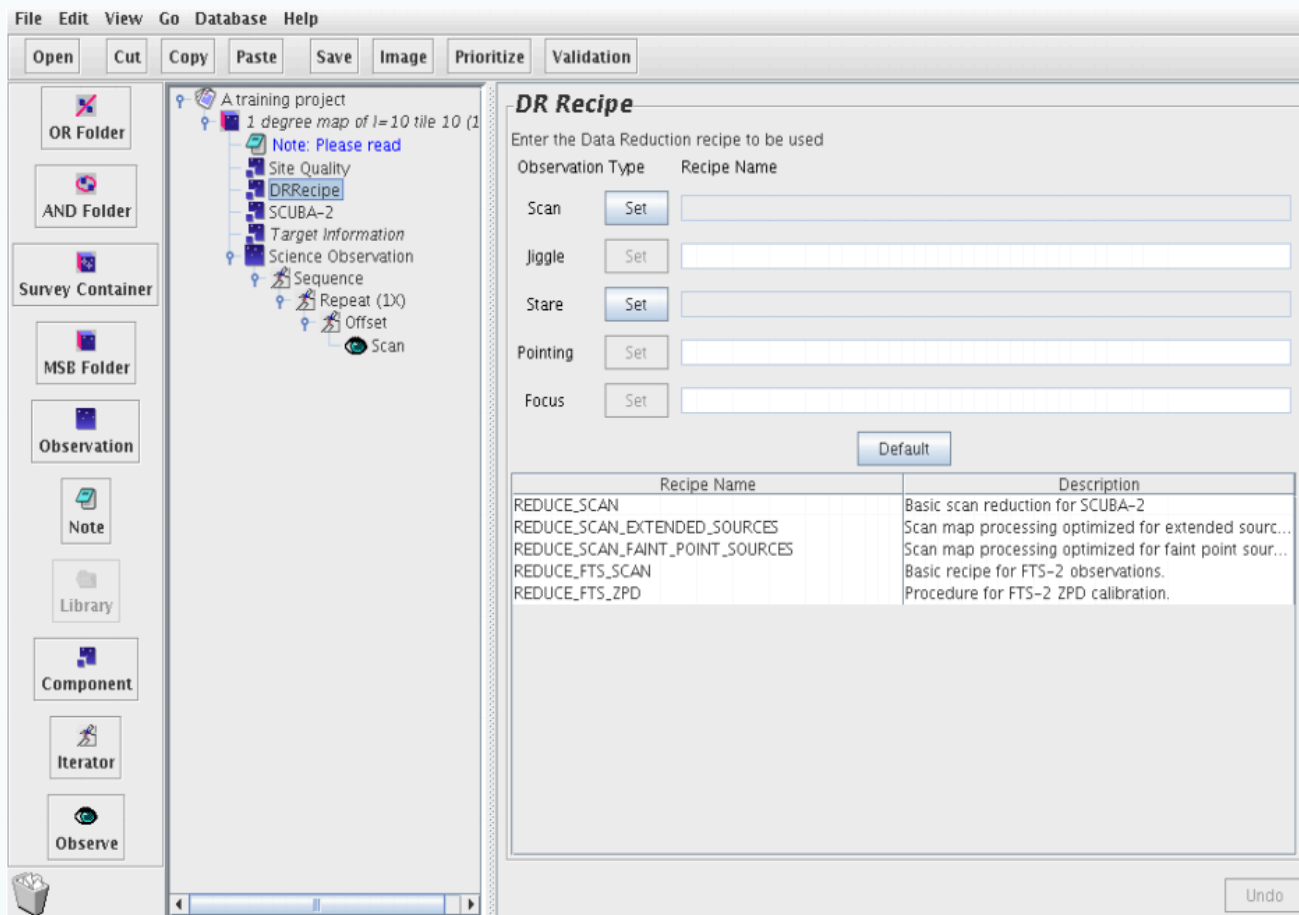
[REDUCE\_SCAN]  
dimconfig\_jsa\_generic.lis



[REDUCE\_SCAN\_EXTENDED\_SOURCES]  
dimconfig\_bright\_extended.lis



[REDUCE\_SCAN\_FAINT\_POINT\_SOURCES]  
dimconfig\_blank\_field.lis



Any point in the process you might come up with additional/ alternative configuration parameters for the reduction pipeline. Tell your FOP and these can be implemented from that point onwards (and we can do a re-reduction of data that has already been taken).

*Let us do the work for you!*



**mydimconfig.lis**

`^/star-2014A/share/smurf/dimconfig_bright_extended.lis  
numiter=-200`

Update mypars.ini file to read:

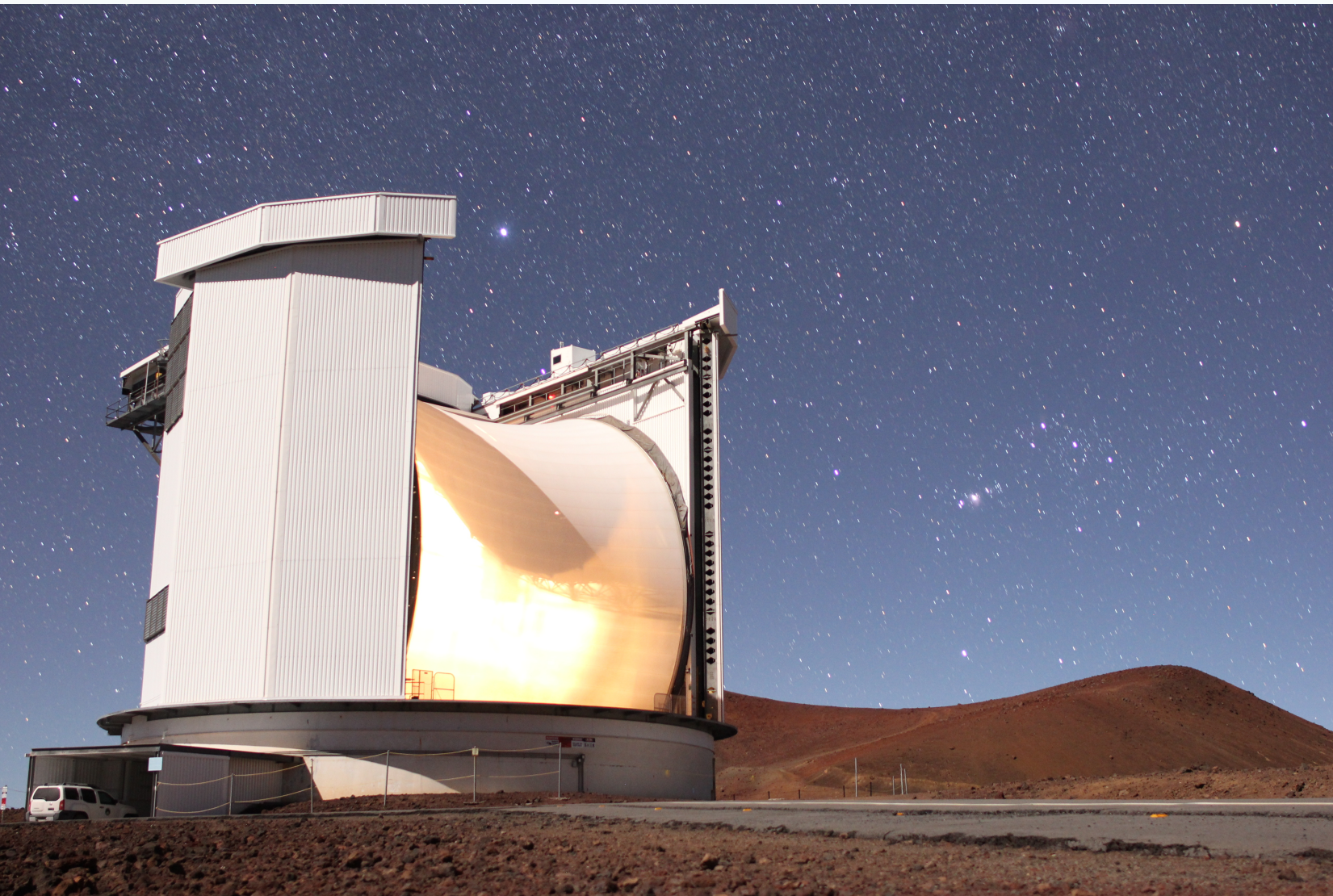
```
[REDUCE_SCAN]  
MAKEMAP_CONFIG = mydimmconfig.lis  
CALUNITS = BEAM
```

```
>> oracdr -loop file -files mylist -recpars mypars.ini REDUCE_SCAN
```

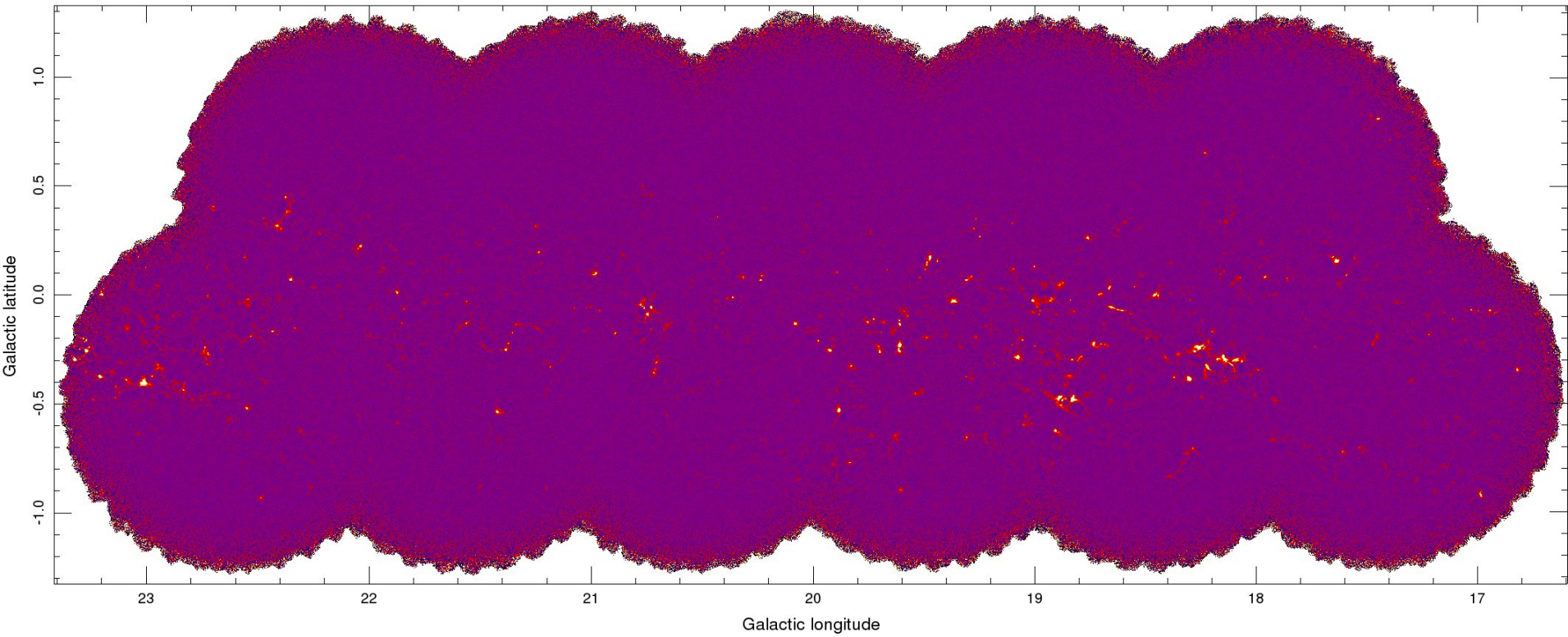


- **dimmconfig\_fix\_blobs.lis** – for problematic fields where blobs of fake emission have appeared - simply add this to your configuration file.
- **dimmconfig\_fix\_convergence.lis** – for fields with convergence issues - simply add this to your configuration file to remove low level changes that prevent the map from converging.





# JPS Reduction of the Galactic Plane:



# My *current* bespoke Galactic Plane reduction

```
^dimmconfig_bright_extended.lis
^dimmconfig_fix_blobs.lis
numiter = -100
maptol = 0.01
flt.filt_largescale_last = 100
```

```
dimmconfig_bright_extended.lis:
```

```
^dimmconfig.lis
numiter=-40
flt.filt_edge_largescale=480
ast.zero_snr = 3
ast.zero_snrlo = 2

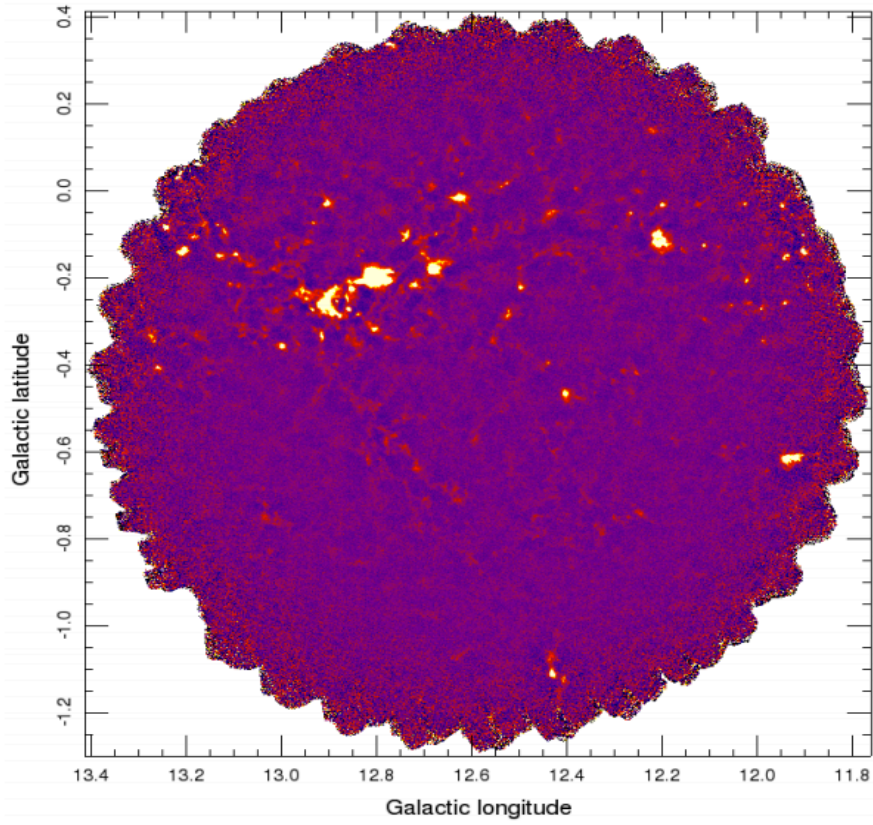
ast.skip = 5
flt.zero_snr = 5
flt.zero_snrlo = 3
```

```
dimmconfig_fix_blobs.lis:
```

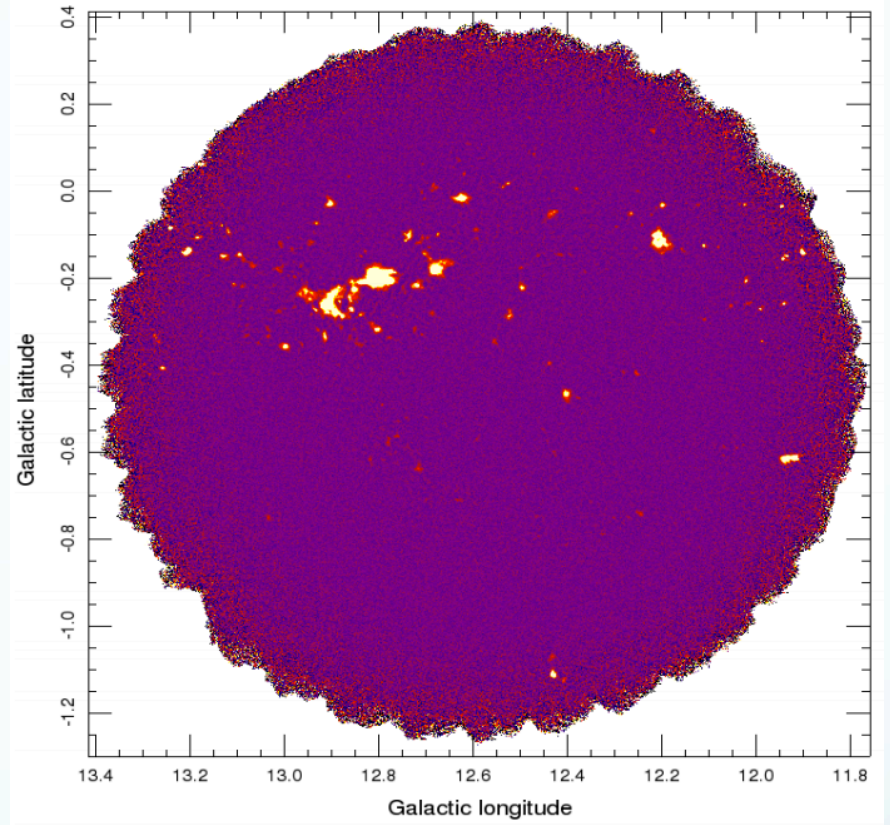
```
flt.ring_box1=0.5
flt.filt_order=4
com.sig_limit=5
```



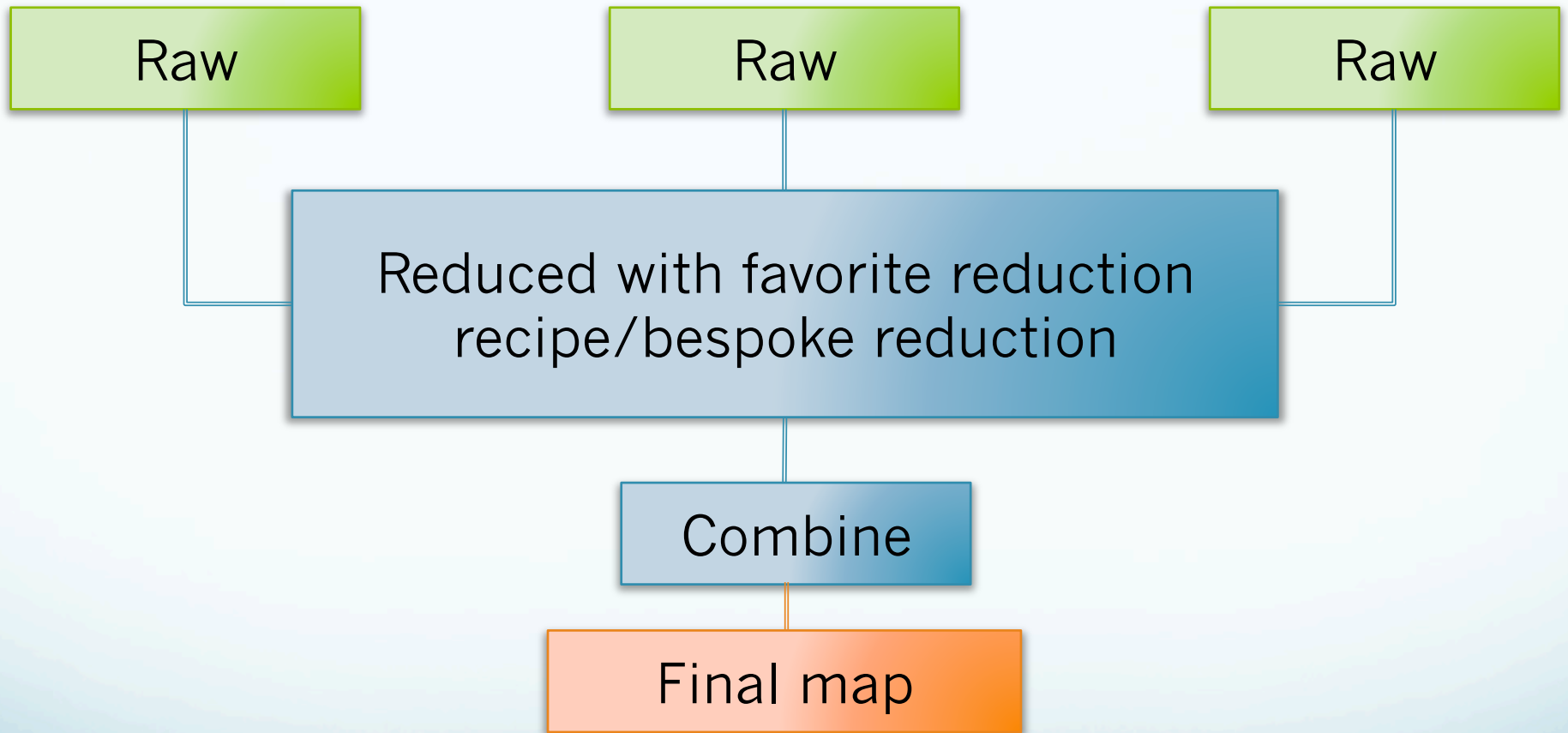
Bright Extended



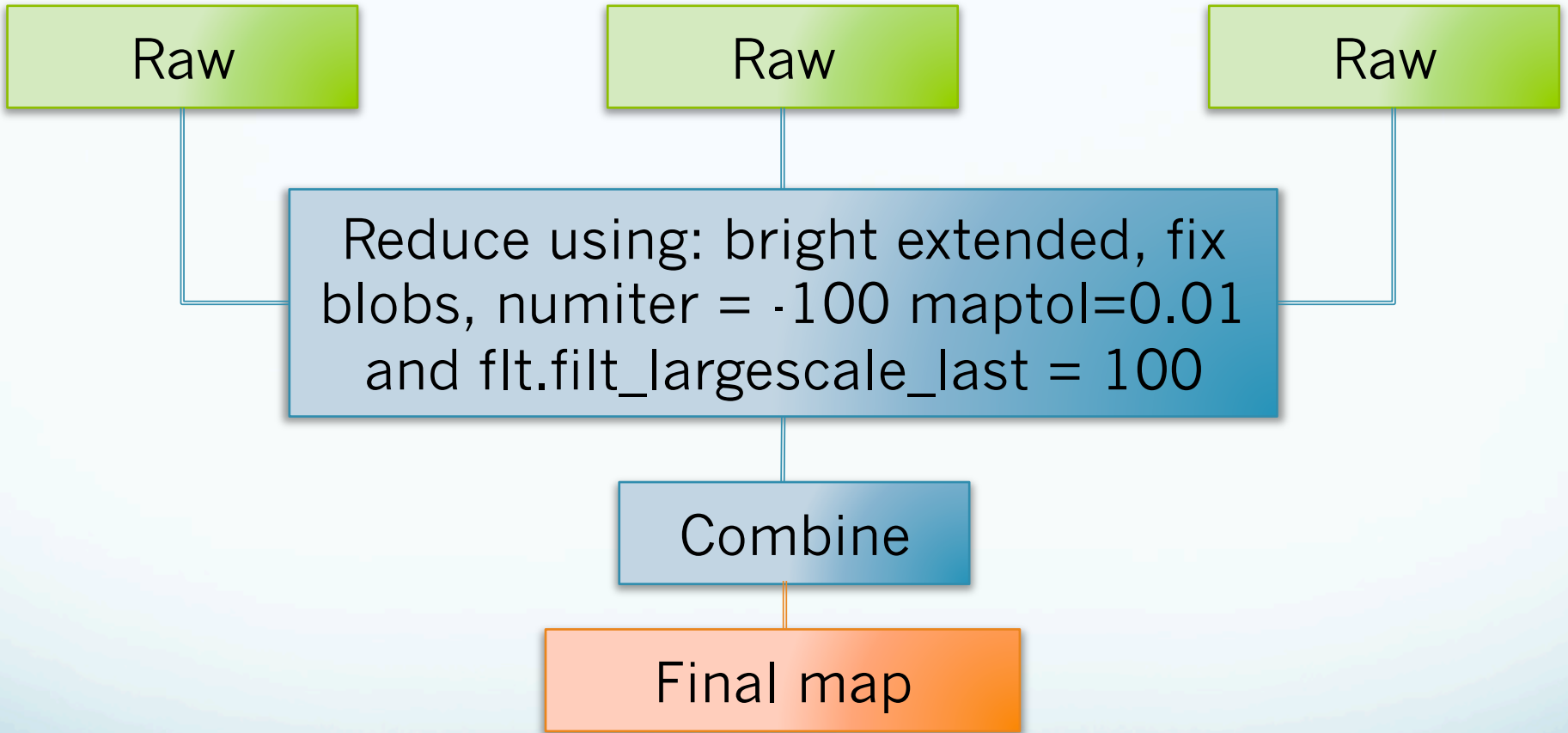
Bright Extended + additions



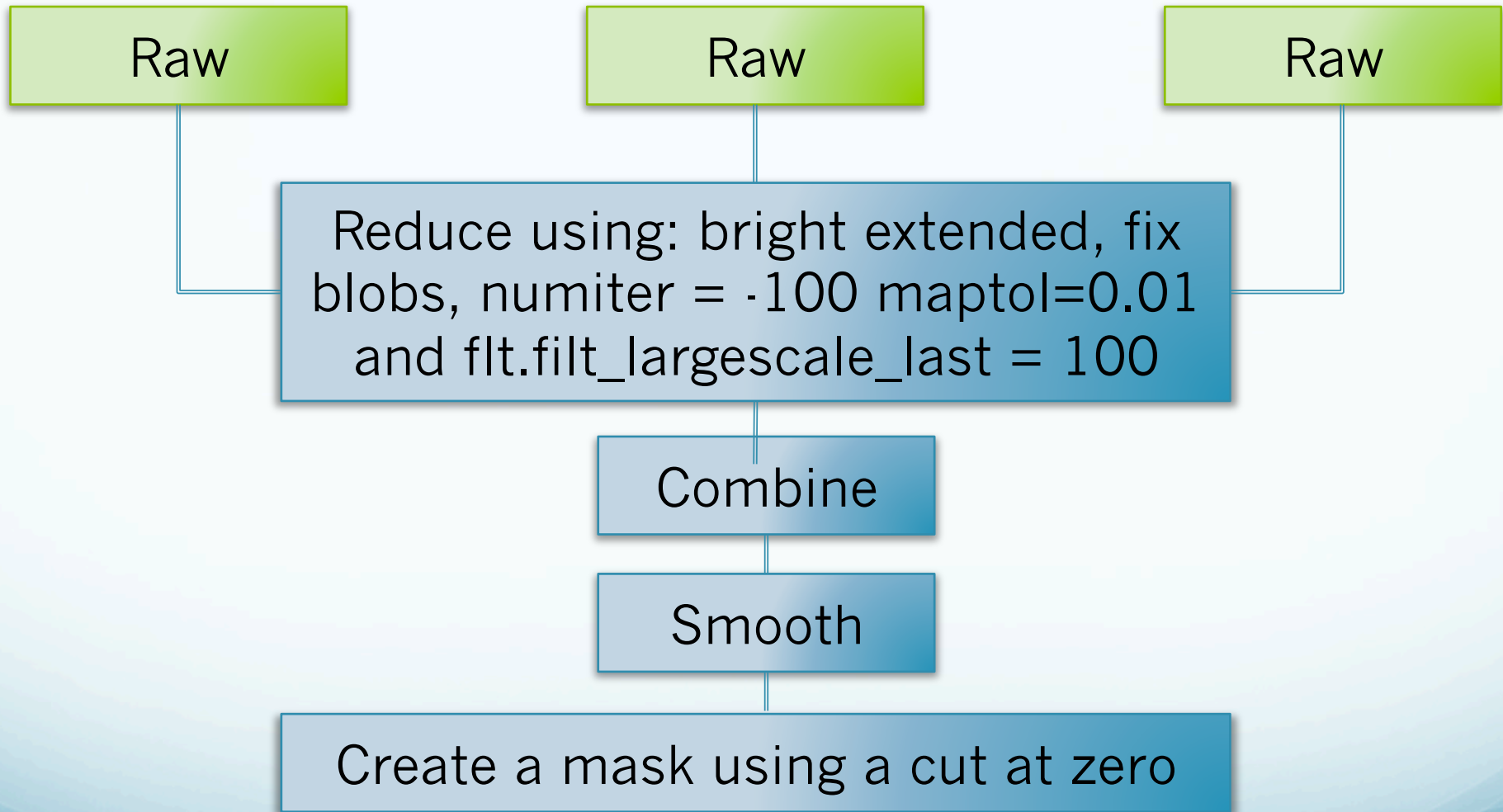
# Typical SCUBA-2 multi observation reduction



# My current “first pass” reduction

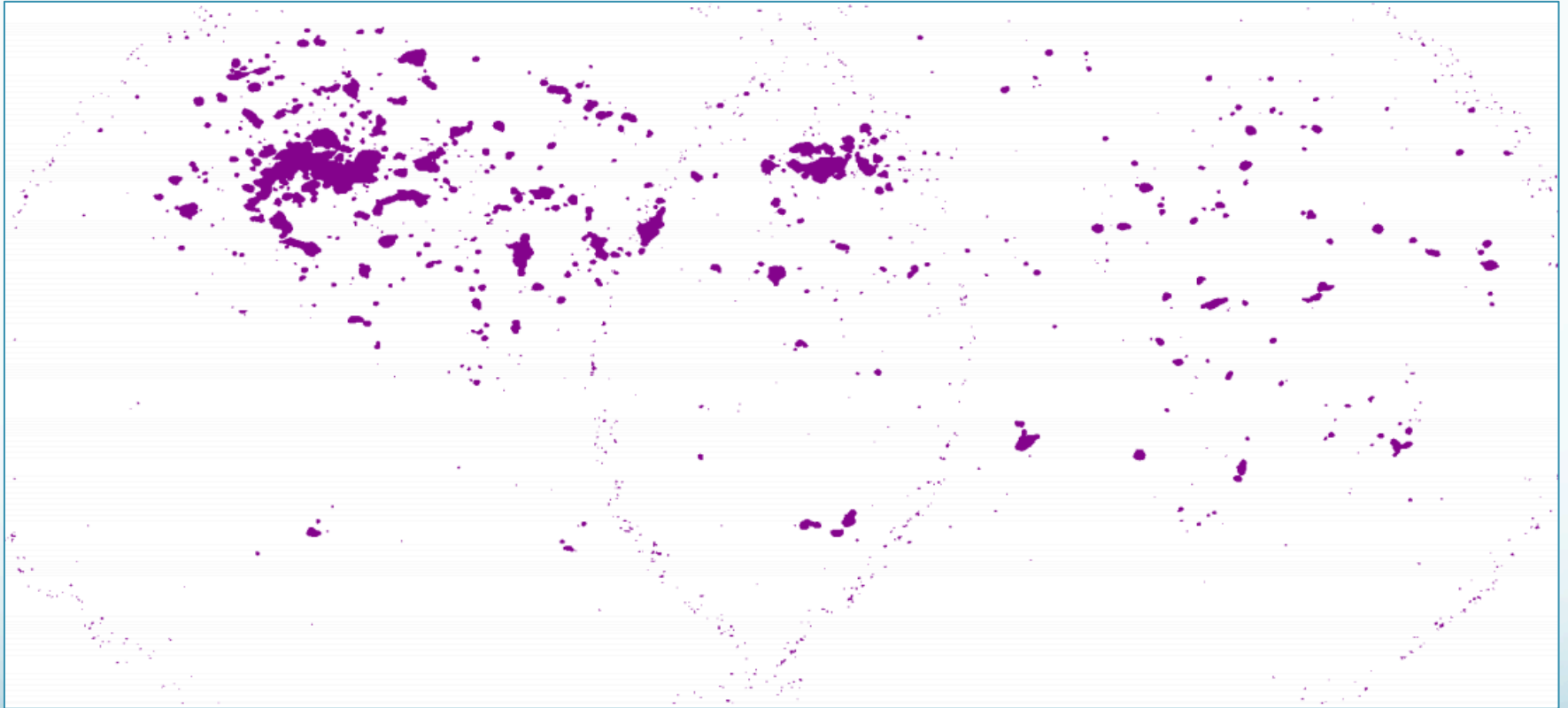


# Creating an external mask

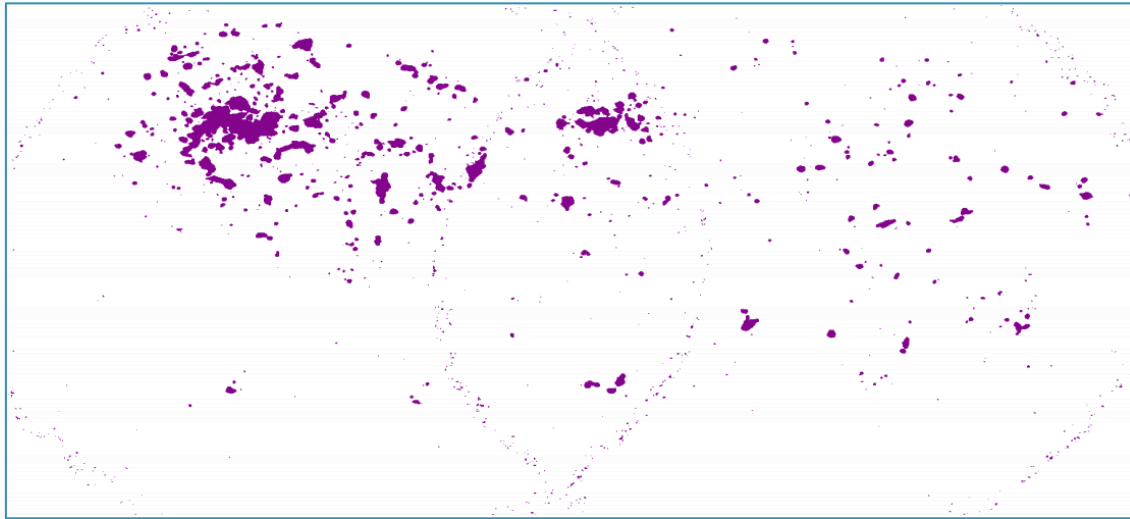


Pro: i) you can combine information from multiple observations which provides additional information for the second round of data reduction

An example of an external mask:



“Classical method” – Take data > SNR > thresh at 3 sigma > smooth image > make another thresh/cut to the image.



```
>> makesnr in=file.sdf out=file_snr minvar=0.0
```

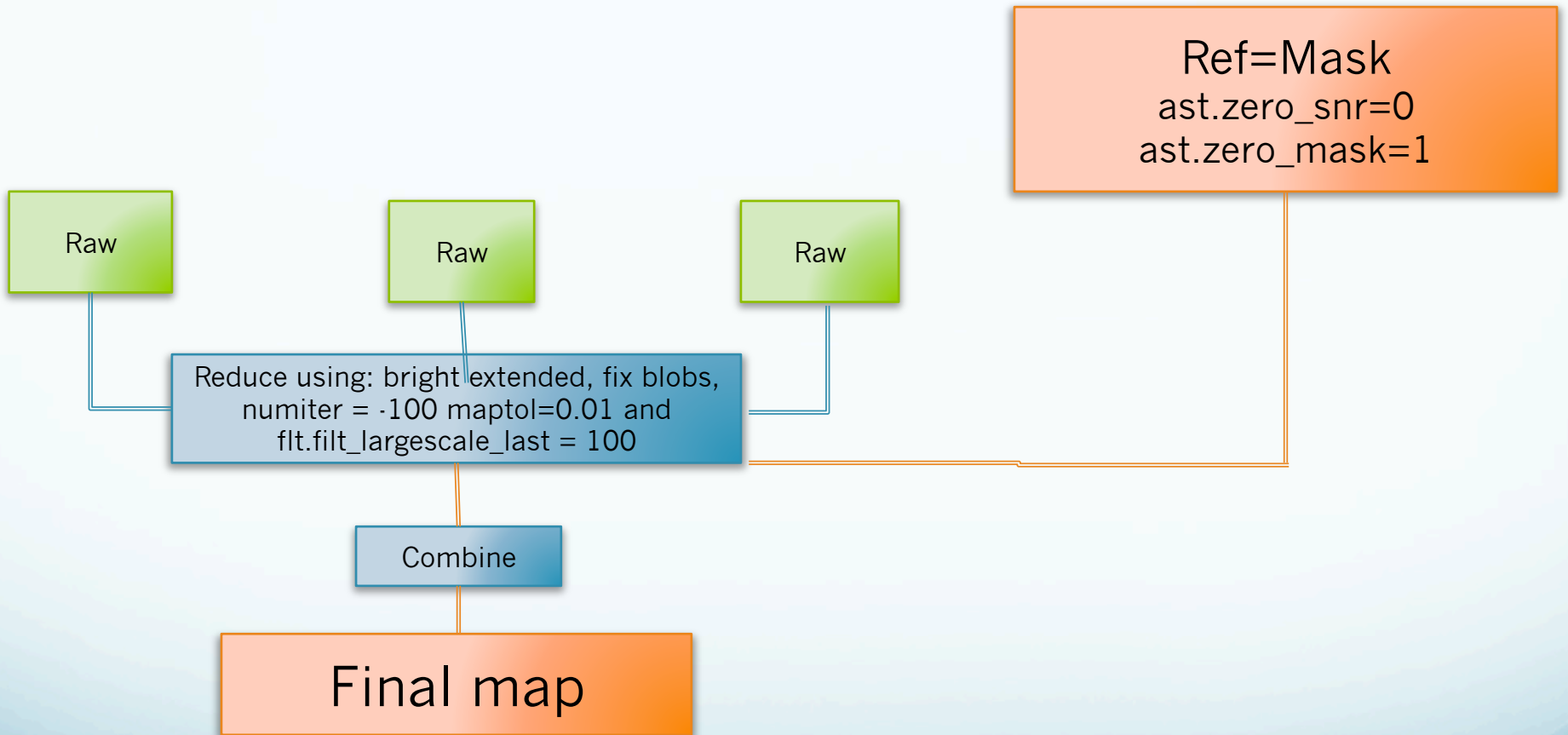
```
>> thresh in=file_snr.sdf out=file_cut.sdf thrhi=3 thrlo=3 newhi=1 newlo=0
```

```
>> gausmooth fwhm=5 in=file.sdf out=file_sm.sdf
```

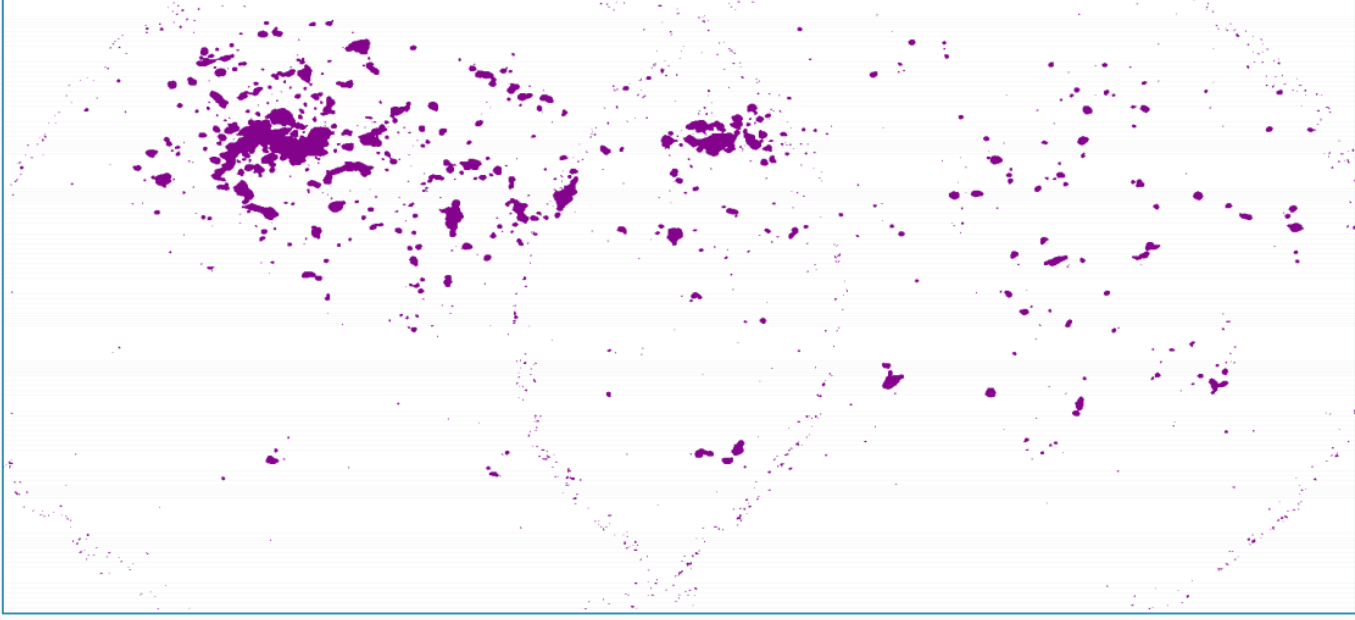
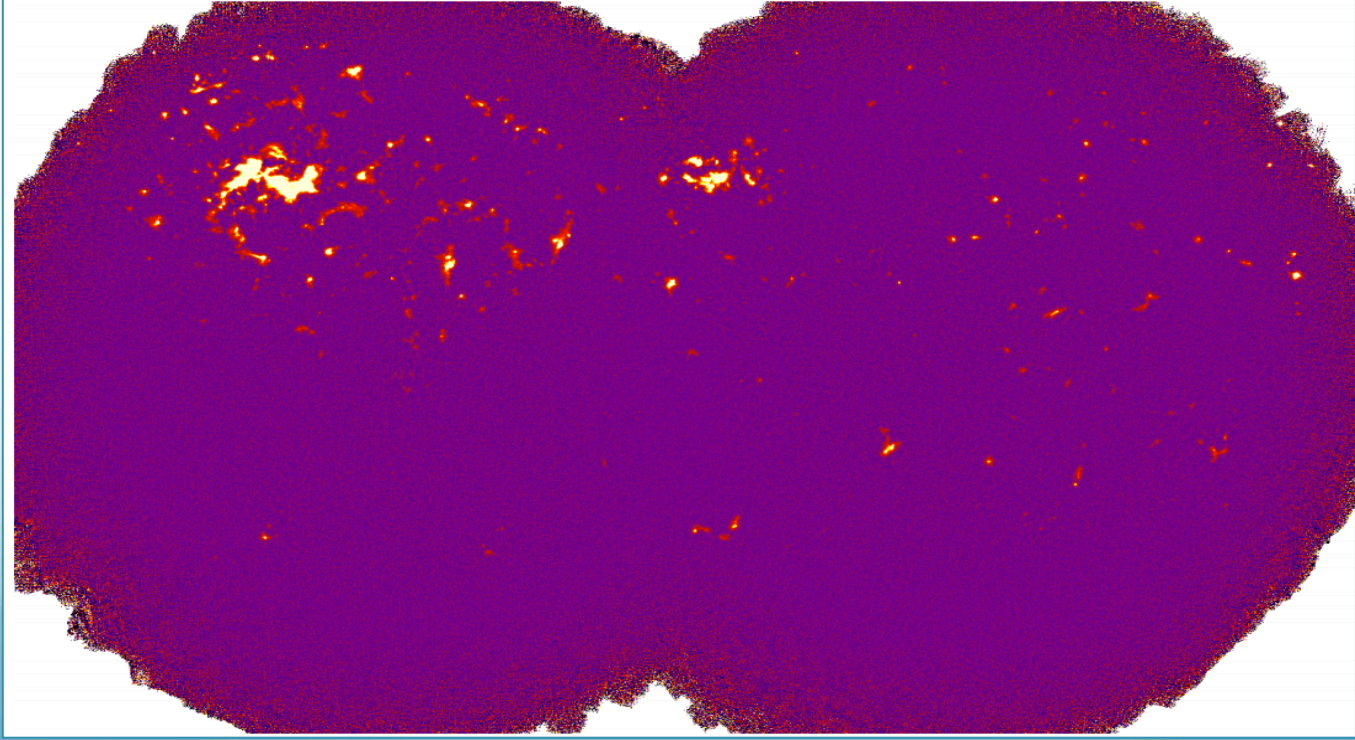
```
>> thresh in=file_sm.sdf out=mask.sdf thrhi=3 thrlo=3 newhi=1 newlo=bad
```

```
>> in=/directory/in*.sdf out=out.sdf config=^/stardev/share/smurf/  
dimmconfig_external.lis ref=mask.sdf
```

# Using the external mask

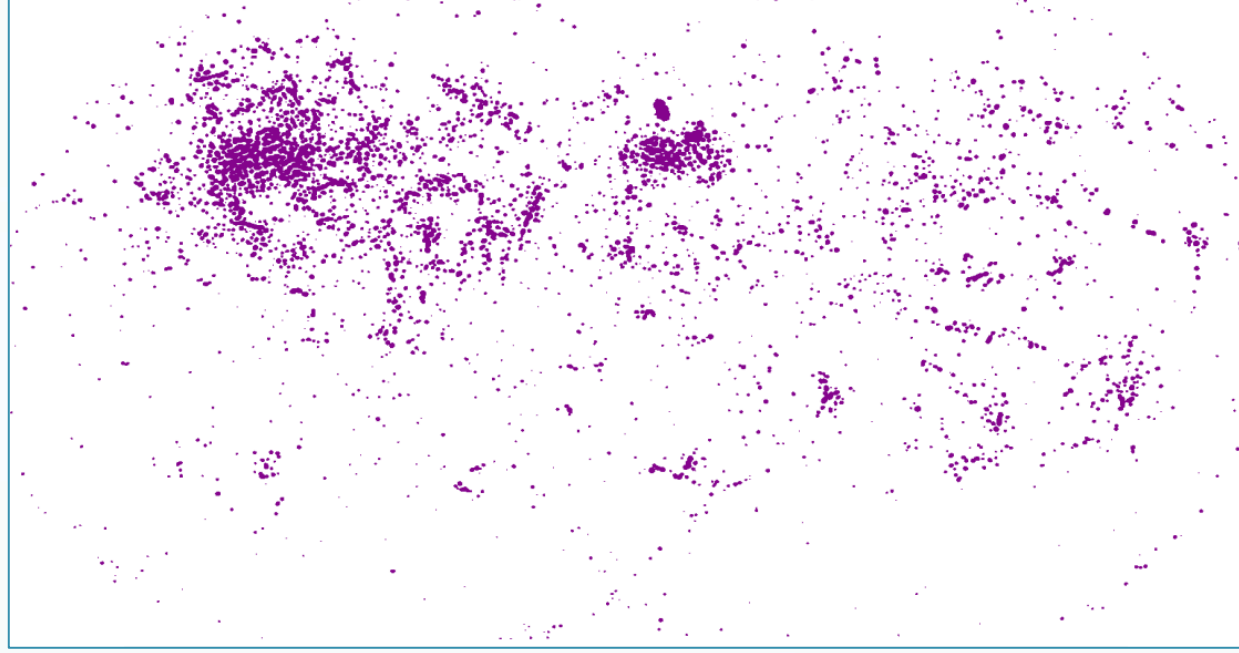
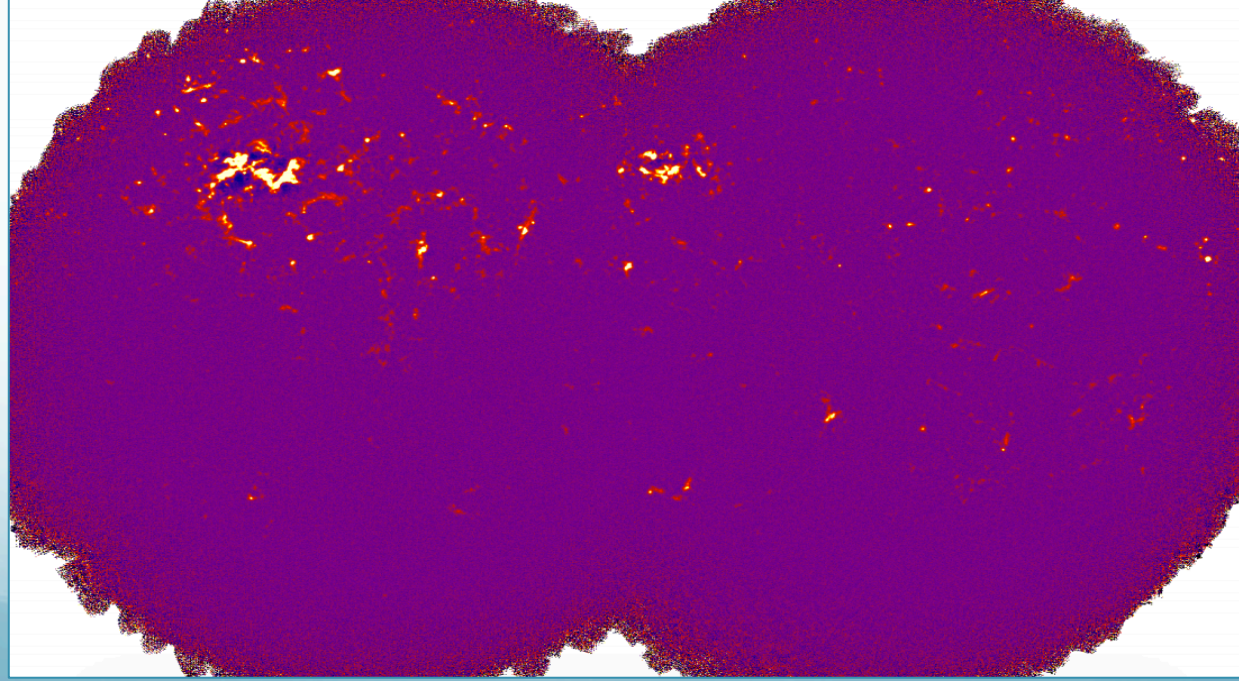


Cut at  $3\sigma$

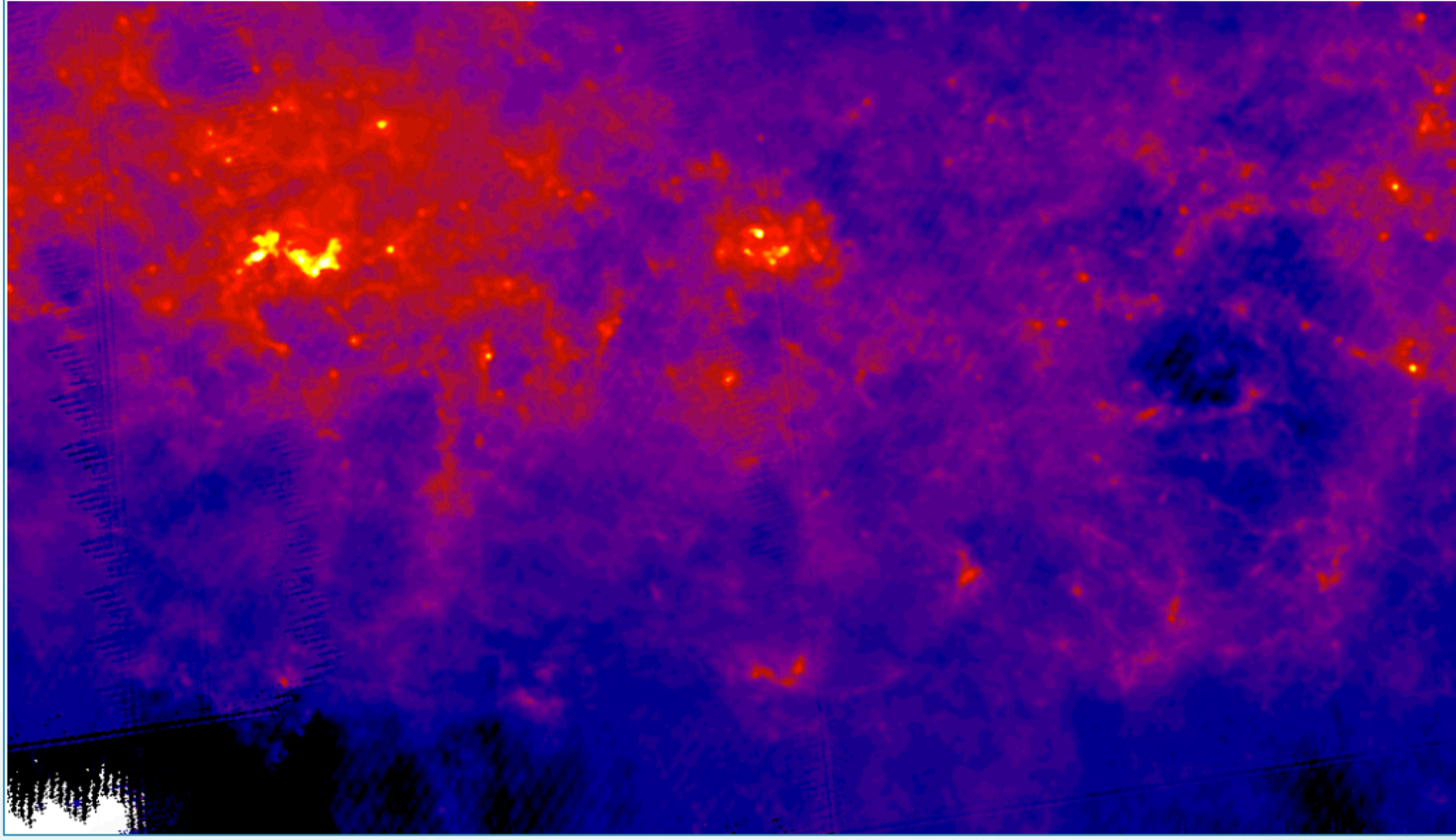




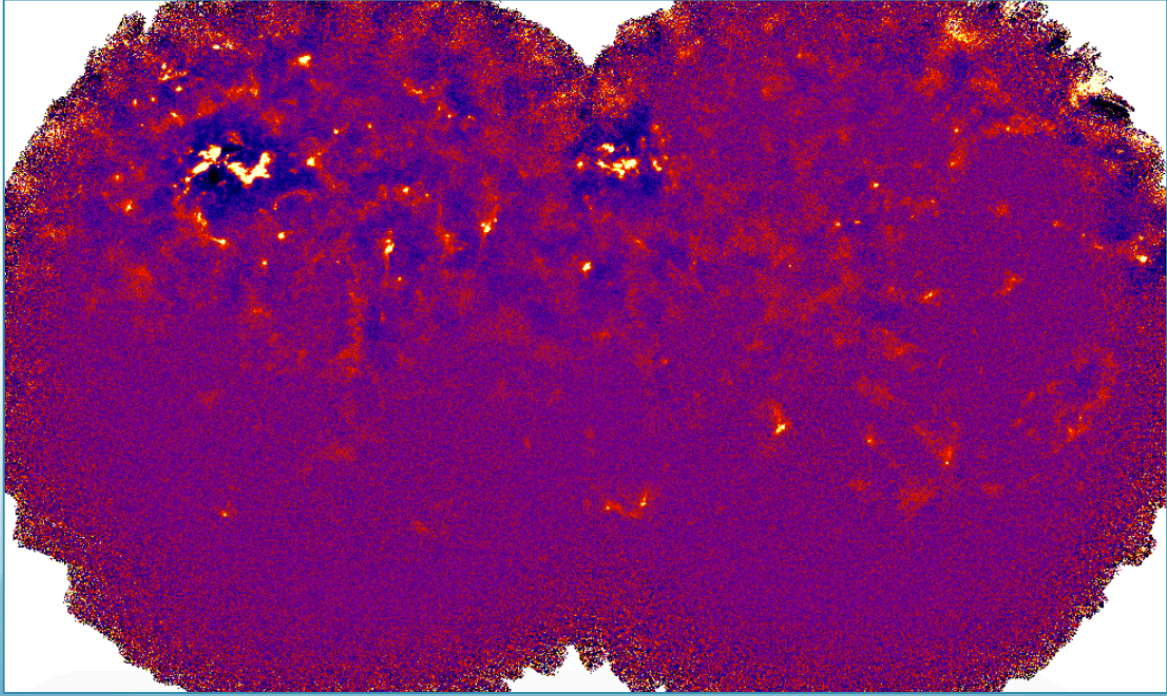
Match filter then cut at 3 sigma

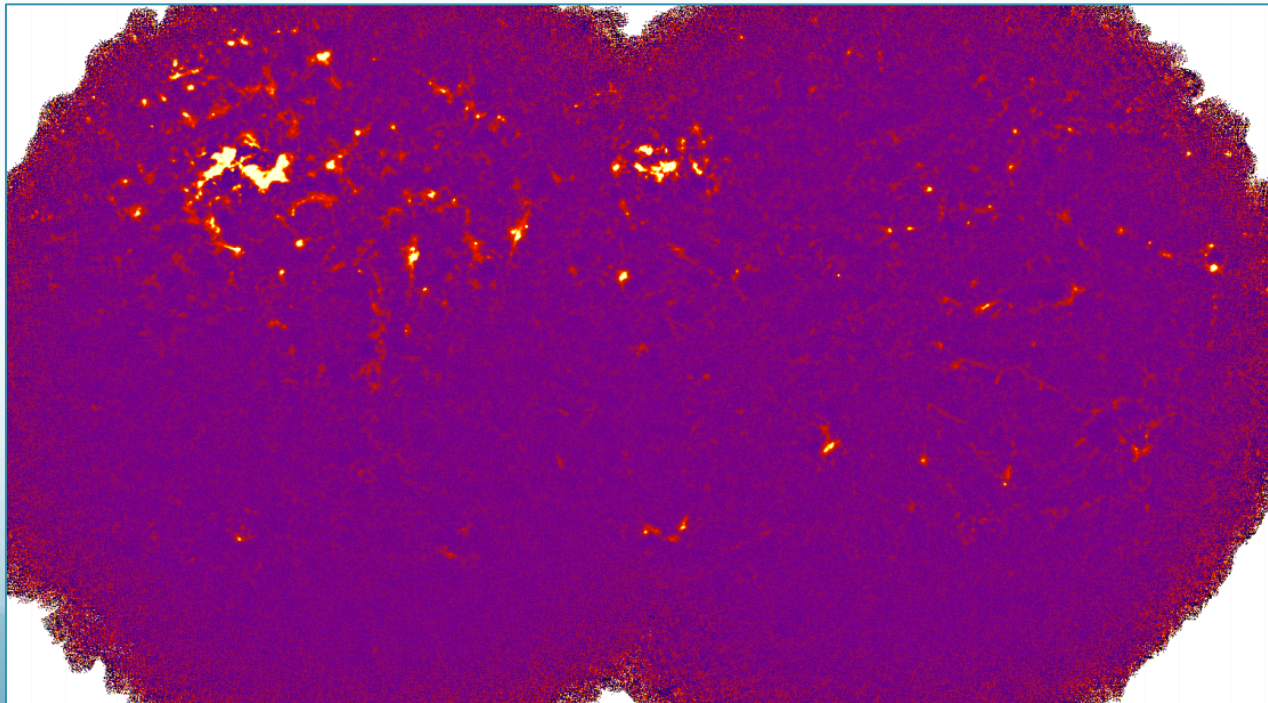
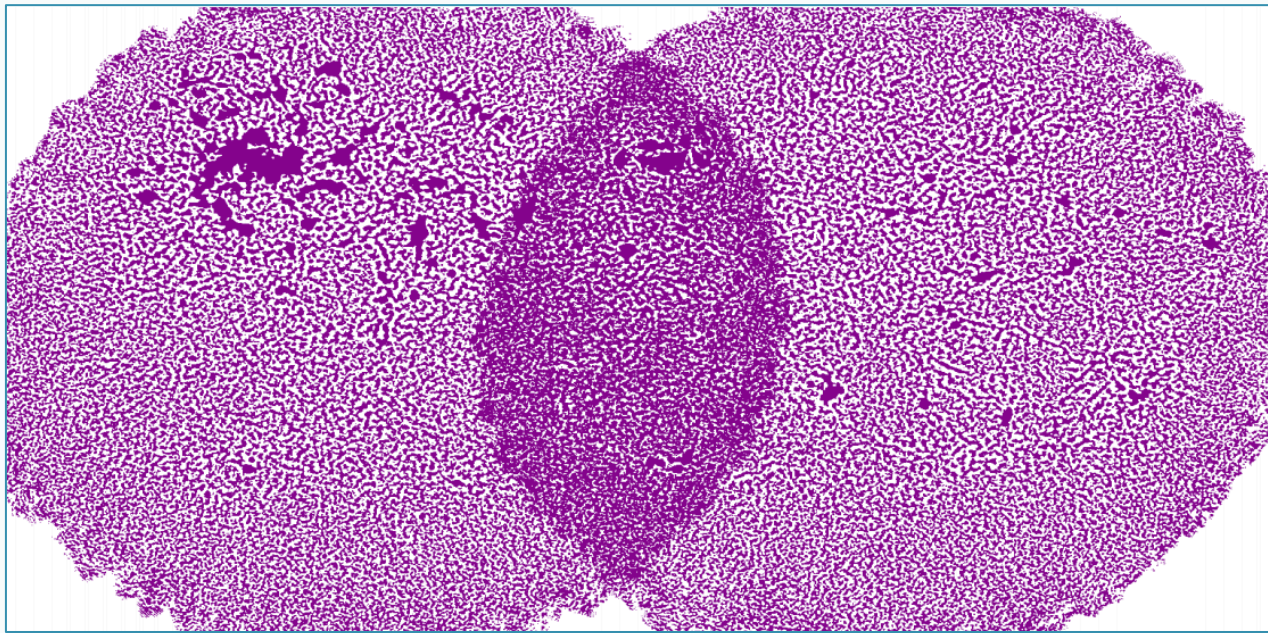


# Arbitrary Herschel Spire 500 mask

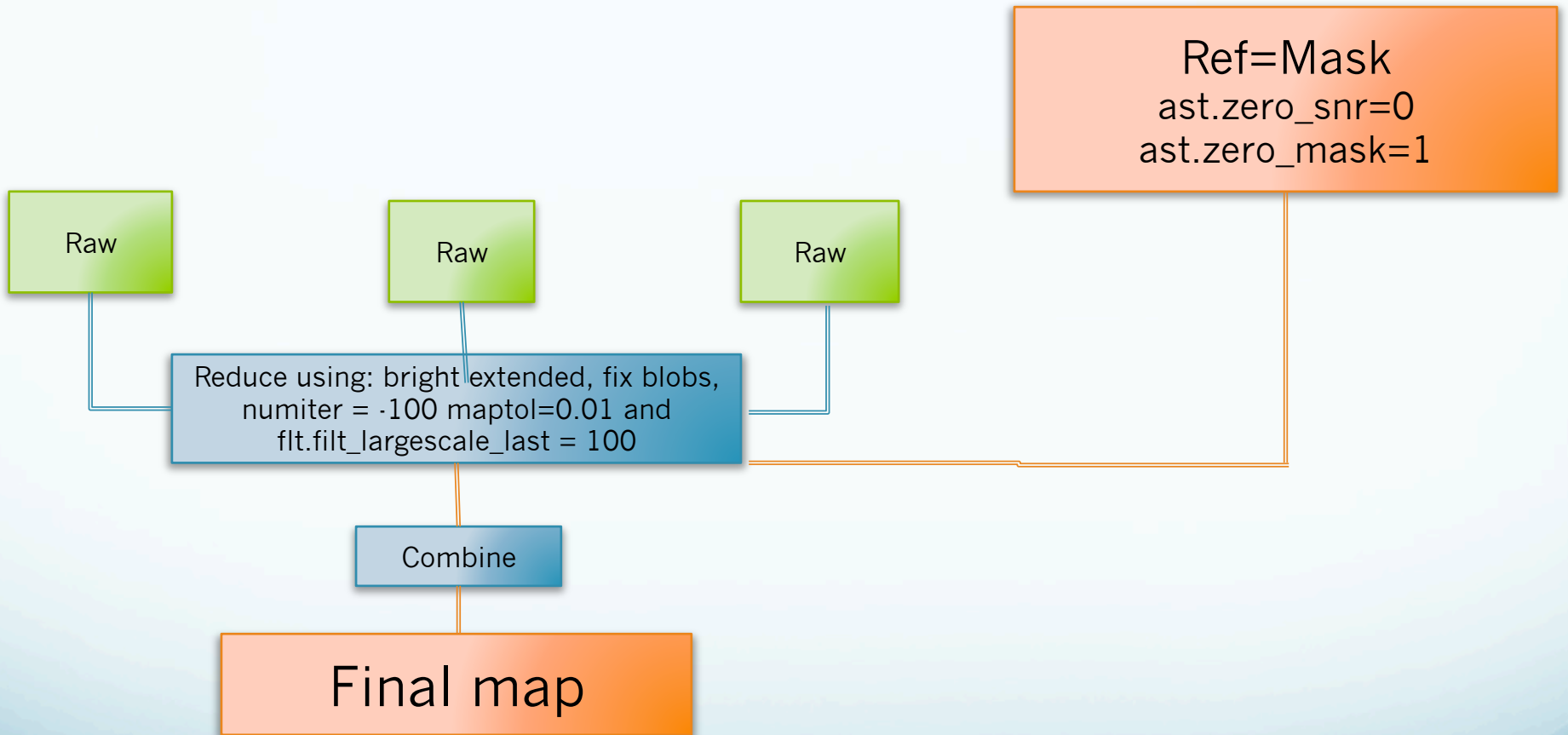


# Arbitrary Herschel Spire 500 mask





# Using the external mask



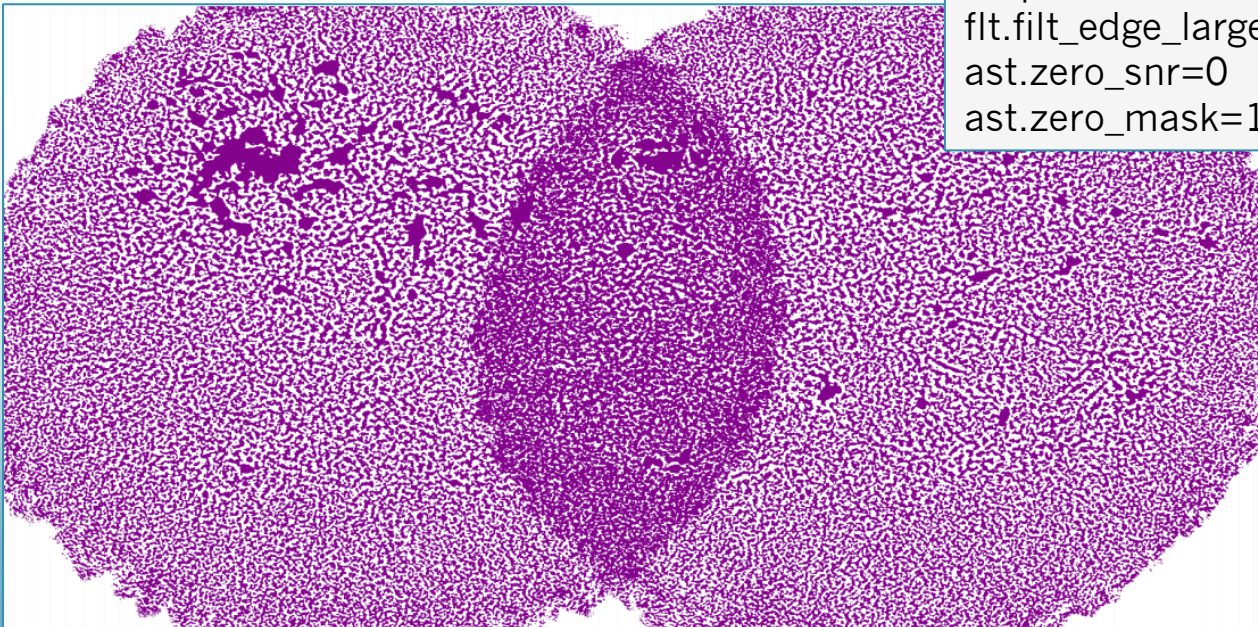
Start with a field that has been reduced by an appropriate method. For the “zero masking” ...

```
>> gausmooth fwhm=5 in=file.sdf out=file_sm.sdf
```

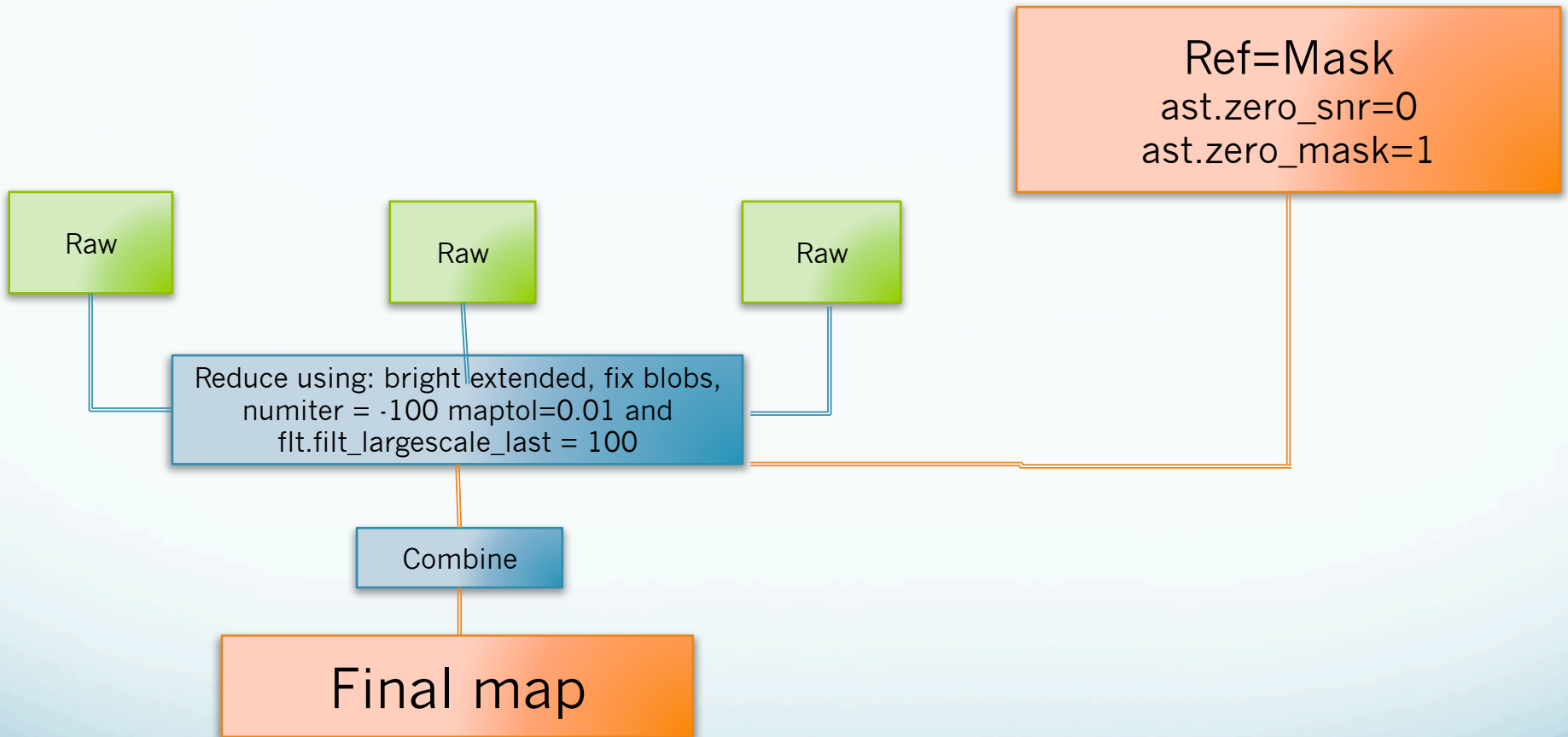
```
>> thresh in=file_sm.sdf out=mask.sdf thrhi=0 thrlo=0 newhi=1 newlo=bad
```

```
>> in=/directory/in*.sdf out=out.sdf config=^/stardev/share/smurf/  
dimmconfig_external.lis ref=mask.sdf
```

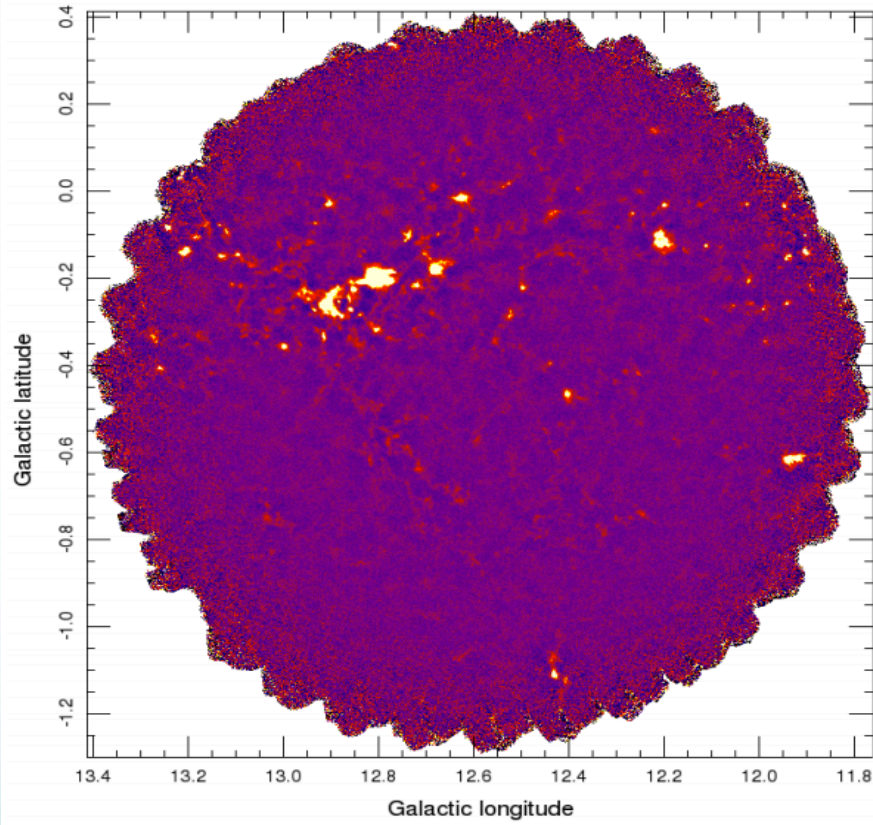
```
^dimmconfig_bright_extended.lis  
numiter=-100  
maptol=0.01  
flt.filt_edge_largescale_last=100  
ast.zero_snr=0  
ast.zero_mask=1
```



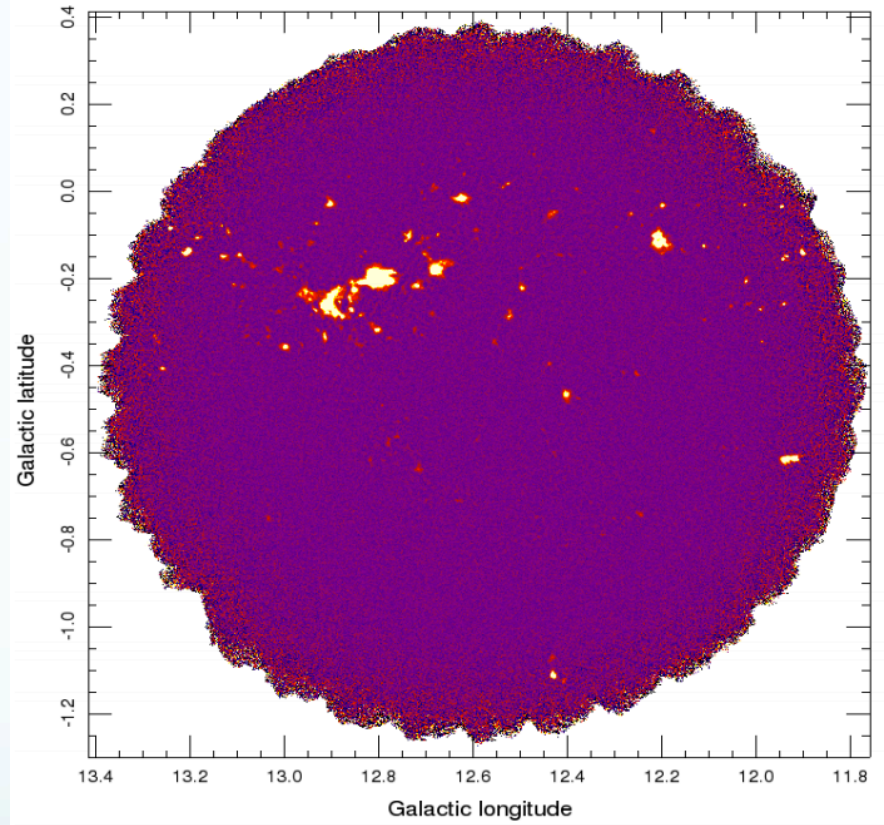
# Using the external mask



Bright Extended

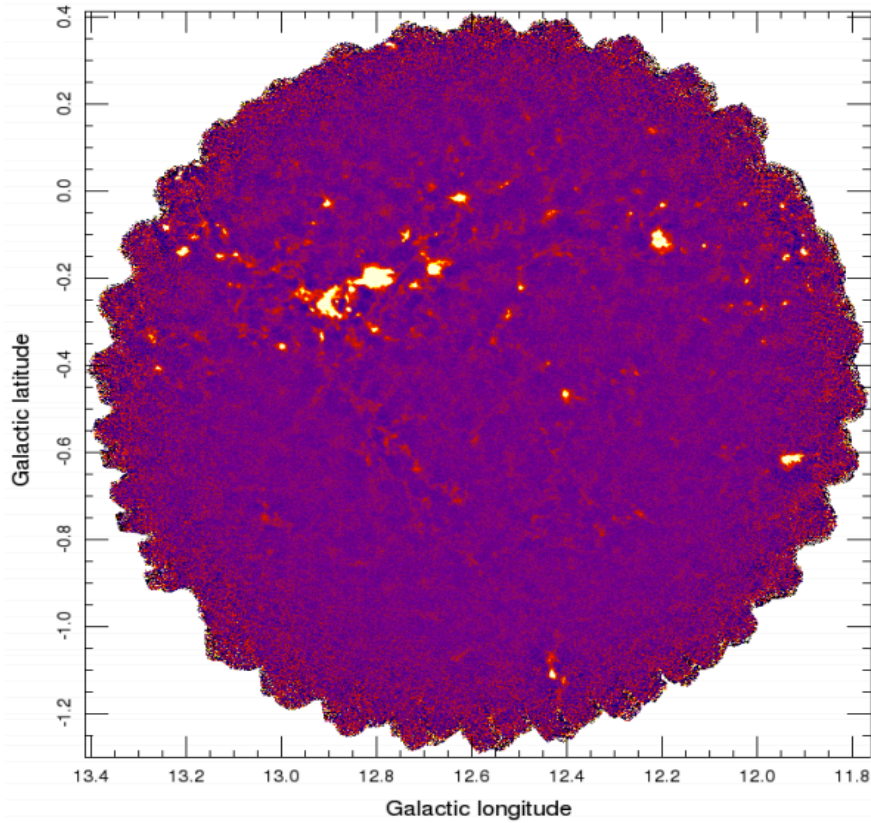


Bright Extended + additions





Bright Extended



Bright Extended + additions  
& external masking

