

Searching for Pulsars with PRESTO

By Scott Ransom
NRAO / UVa

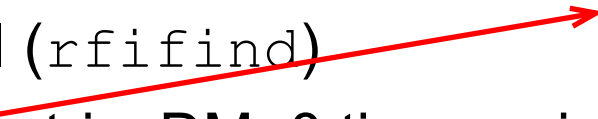
Getting PRESTO

- Homepage:
<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~sransom/presto/>
- PRESTO is freely available from github
<https://github.com/scottransom/presto>
- You are highly encouraged to fork your own copy, study / modify the code, and make bug-fixes, improvements, etc....

For this tutorial...

- You will need a fully working version of PRESTO (including the python extensions)
- If you have questions about a command, just try it out! Typing the command name alone usually gives usage info.
- You need at least 1GB of free disk space
 - Linux users: if you have more than that amount of RAM, I encourage you to do everything in a subdirectory under `/dev/shm`
- Commands will be `> typewriter script`
- The sample dataset that I'll use is here (25MB)
http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~sransom/GBT_Lband_PSR.fil

Outline of a PRESTO Search

- 1) Examine data format (`readfile`)
- 2) Search for RFI (`rfifind`) 
- 3) Make a topocentric, DM=0 time series (`prepdata` and `exploredat`)
- 4) FFT the time series (`realfft`)
- 5) Identify “birdies” to zap in searches (`explorefft` and `accelsearch`)
- 6) Make zaplist (`makezaplist.py`)
- 7) Make De-dispersion plan (`DDplan.py`)
- 8) De-disperse (`prepsubband`)
- 9) Search the data for periodic signals (`accelsearch`)
- 10) Search the data for single pulses (`single_pulse_search.py`)
- 11) Sift through the candidates (`ACCEL_sift.py`)
- 12) Fold the best candidates (`prepfold`)
- 13) Start timing the new pulsar (`prepfold` and `get_TOAs.py`)

Examine the raw data

```
> readfile GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```

```
> readfile GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
Assuming the data is a SIGPROC filterbank file.

1: From the SIGPROC filterbank file 'GBT_Lband_PSR.fil':
    Telescope = GBT
    Source Name = Mystery_PSR
    Obs Date String = 2004-01-06T11:38:09
    MJD start time = 53010.48482638889254
    RA J2000 = 16:43:38.1000
    RA J2000 (deg) = 250.90875
    Dec J2000 = -12:24:58.7000
    Dec J2000 (deg) = -12.4163055555556
    Tracking? = True
    Azimuth (deg) = 0
    Zenith Ang (deg) = 0
    Number of pols = 2 (summed)
    Sample time (us) = 72
    Central freq (MHz) = 1400
    Low channel (MHz) = 1352.5
    High channel (MHz) = 1447.5
    Channel width (MHz) = 1
    Number of channels = 96
    Total Bandwidth (MHz) = 96
    Beam = 1 of 1
    Beam FWHM (deg) = 0.147
    Spectra per subint = 2400
    Spectra per file = 531000
    Time per subint (sec) = 0.1728
    Time per file (sec) = 38.232
    bits per sample = 4
    bytes per spectra = 48
    samples per spectra = 96
    bytes per subint = 115200
    samples per subint = 230400
    zero offset = 0
    Invert the band? = False
    bytes in file header = 365
```

- `readfile` can automatically identify most of the datatypes that PRESTO can handle (in PRESTO v2, though, this is only SIGPROC filterbank and PSRFITs)
- It prints the meta-data about the observation

Search for prominent RFI: 1

```
> rfifind -time 2.0 -o Lband GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```

```
> rfifind -time 2.0 -o Lband GBT_Lband_PSR.fil

      Pulsar Data RFI Finder
      by Scott M. Ransom

Assuming the data are SIGPROC filterbank format...
Reading SIGPROC filterbank data from 1 file:
'GBT_Lband_PSR.fil'

  Number of files = 1
    Num of polns = 2 (summed)
Center freq (MHz) = 1400
  Num of channels = 96
  Sample time (s) = 7.2e-05
  Spectra/subint = 2400
Total points (N) = 531000
  Total time (s) = 38.232
  Clipping sigma = 6.000
Invert the band? = False
  Byteswap? = False
  Remove zeroDM? = False

File  Start Spec  Samples  Padding  Start MJD
-----
1          0    531000      0  53010.48482638889254

Analyzing data sections of length 28800 points (2.0736 sec).
Prime factors are:  2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 5 5

Writing mask data to 'Lband_rfifind.mask'.
Writing RFI data to 'Lband_rfifind.rfi'.
Writing statistics to 'Lband_rfifind.stats'.

Massaging the data ...

Amount Complete = 37%^C
> █
```

- `rfifind` identifies strong narrow-band and/or short duration broadband RFI
- Creates a “mask” (basename determined by “-o”) where RFI is replaced by median values
- PRESTO programs automatically clip strong, transient, DM=0 signals (turn off using `-noclip`) Usually a good thing!
- Typical integration times (`-time`) should be a few seconds
- Modify the resulting mask using “`-nocompute -mask ...`” and the other `rfifind` options

Search for prominent RFI: 2

```
Writing mask data to 'Lband_rfifind.mask'.
Writing RFI data to 'Lband_rfifind.rfi'.
Writing statistics to 'Lband_rfifind.stats'.

Massaging the data ...

Amount Complete = 100%
There are 31 RFI instances.

Total number of intervals in the data: 1824

Number of padded intervals:      96 ( 5.263%)
Number of good intervals:      1487 (81.524%)
Number of bad intervals:       241 (13.213%)

Ten most significant birdies:
#  Sigma    Period(ms)    Freq(Hz)    Number
-----
1  6.83     11.5521       86.5644     147
2  6.71     11.6494       85.841      170
3  6.68     11.6168       86.0822     146
4  6.57     8.76787       114.053     1
5  6.53     11.5844       86.3233     145
6  6.10     11.52         86.8055     135
7  5.96     11.4881       87.0467     107
8  5.89     11.7153       85.3588     21
9  5.88     11.6823       85.5999     23
10 5.65     11.7484       85.1177     24

Ten most numerous birdies:
#  Number    Period(ms)    Freq(Hz)    Sigma
-----
1  493       34.56         28.9352     4.82
2  351       34.8504       28.6941     4.75
3  280       17.28         57.8704     4.85
4  271       17.3523       57.6292     4.80
5  180       17.4252       57.3881     4.68
6  179       17.4987       57.147      4.67
7  170       11.6494       85.841      6.71
8  147       11.5521       86.5644     6.83
9  146       11.6168       86.0822     6.68
10 145       11.5844       86.3233     6.53

Done.
```

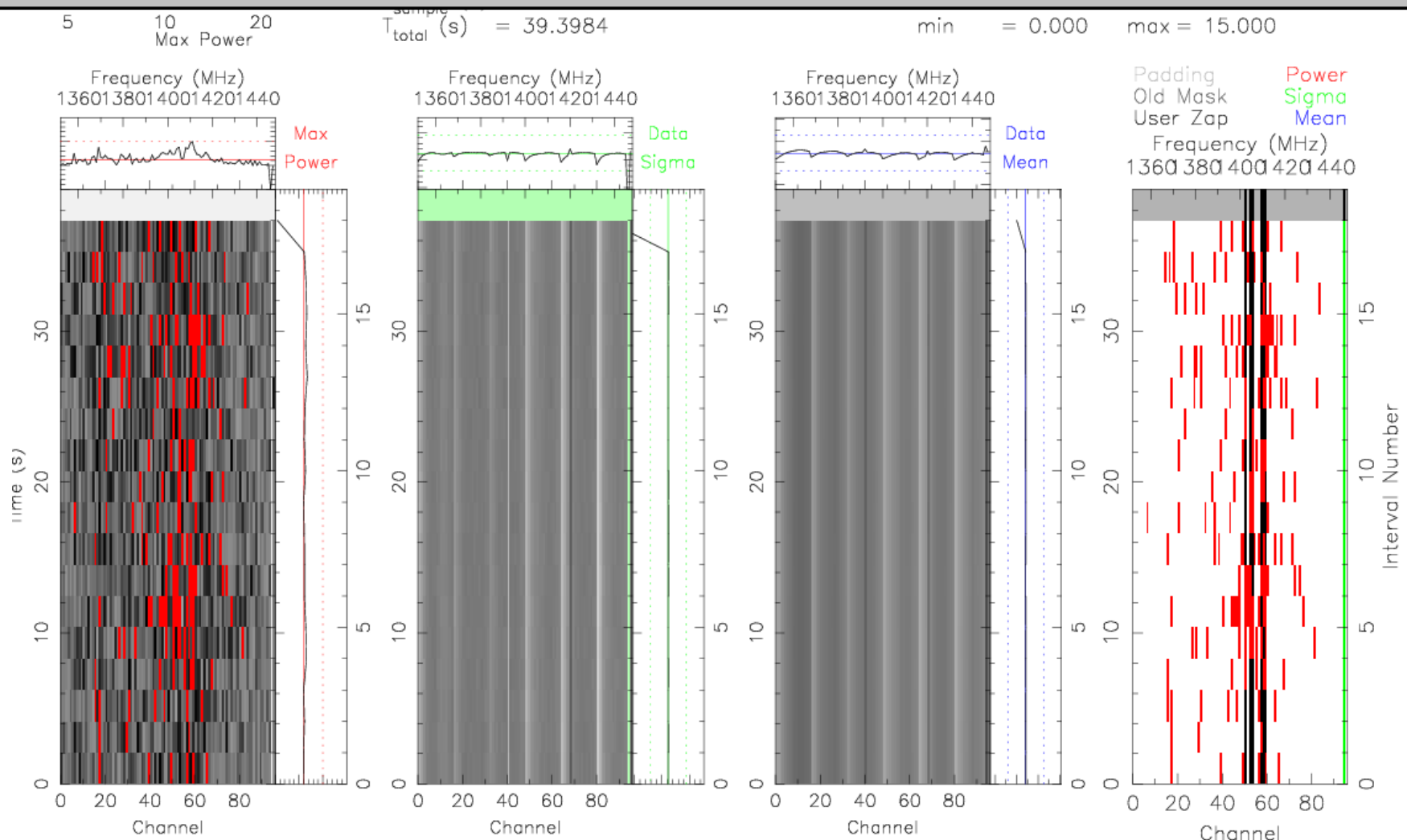
- Check the number of bad intervals. Usually should be less than ~20%
- Most significant and most numbers birdies are listed (to see all, use `-rfixwin`)
- Makes a bunch of output files including “...rfifind.ps” where colors are bad (**red** is periodic RFI, **blue/green** are time-domain statistical issues)
- Re-run with “`-time 1`” or re-compute with “`-nocompute`” in this case

Search for prominent RFI: 3

Lband_RTITina

Object: Mystery PSR Num channels = 96 Pts per int = 28800

**This is not so great... too much color, and randomly arranged!
Usually we see bad channels or bad time intervals.
Random red color probably means we are masking a bit too much data.**

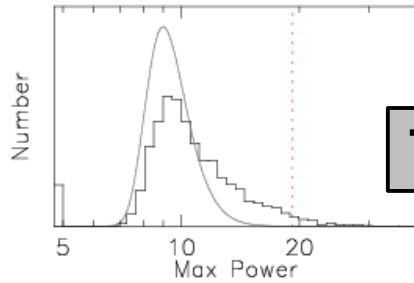


Search for prominent RFI: 4

Lband_rtind

Object: Mystery_PSR
 Telescope: GBT
 Instrument: unset

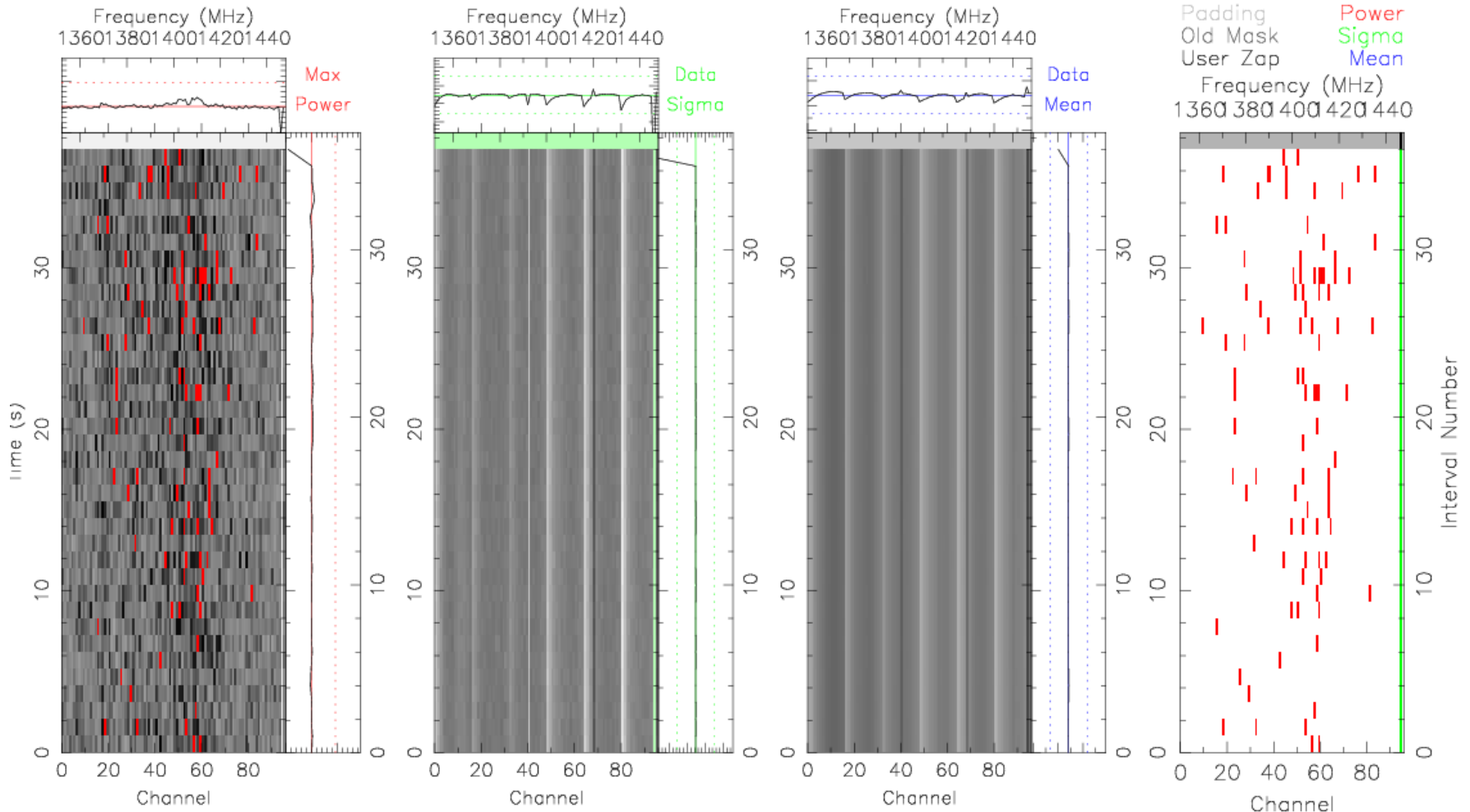
Num channels = 96 Pts per int = 14400
 Num intervals = 37 Time per int = 1.0368
 Power: median = 10.089 σ = 0.87



This is after using “-time 1” and it looks slightly better.

$T_{\text{sample}}^{\text{topo}}$ (s) = 7.2×10^{-5}
 T_{total} (s) = 38.3616

Mean: median = 8.350 σ = 1.5
 min = 0.000 max = 15.000



Look for persistent low-level RFI

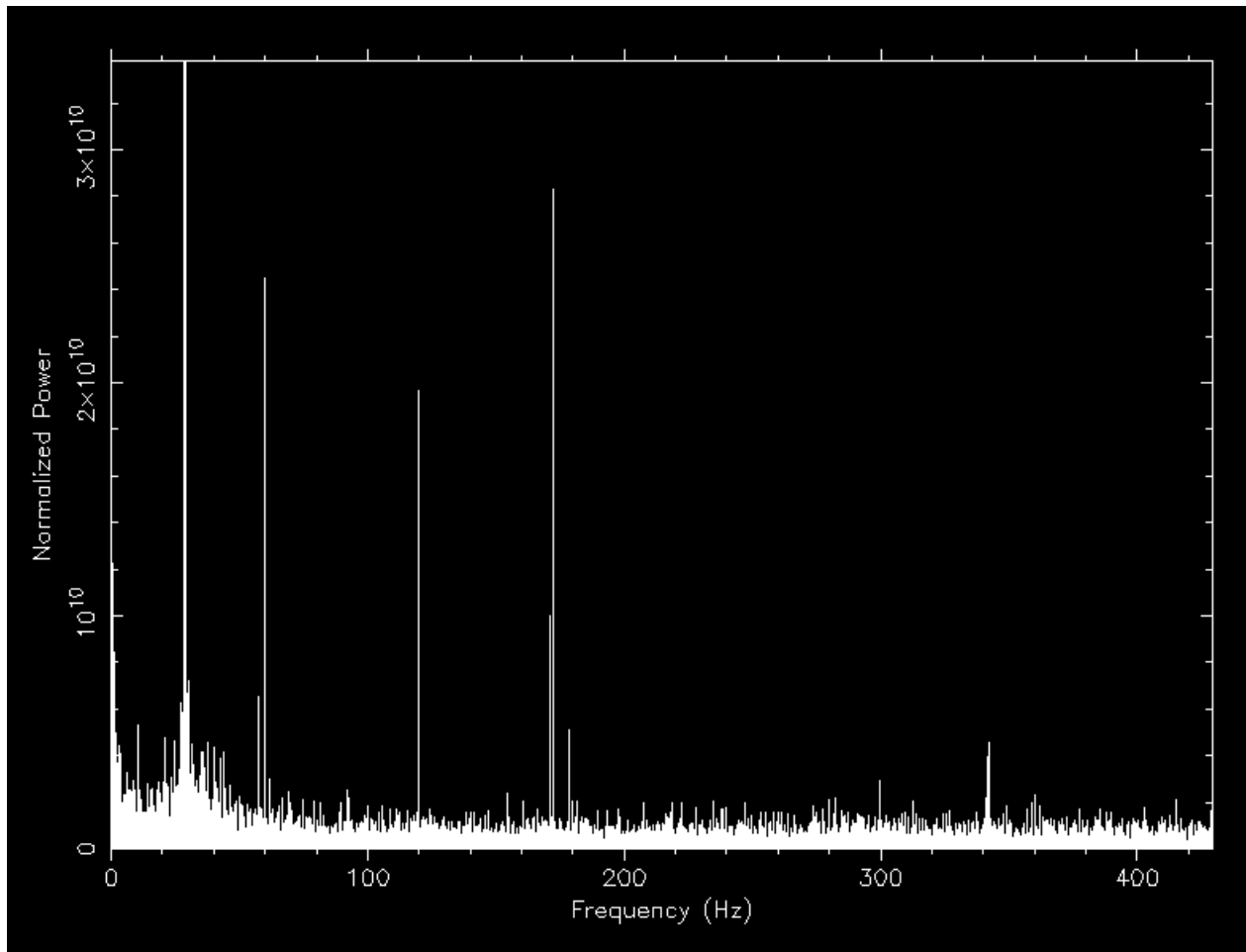
```
> prepdata -nobary -o Lband_topo_DM0.00 \  
  -dm 0.0 -mask Lband_rfifind.mask \  
  -numout 530000 GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```

- prepdata de-disperses a single time-series. The “-nobary” flag tells PRESTO not to barycenter the time series.
- If you need to de-disperse multiple time-series, use `prepsubband`
- Since we will search these data (and FFT them), make sure that the resulting time-series has a “good” (i.e. easily factorable) number of points (`-numout`)

```
Pulsar Data Preparation Routine  
Type conversion, de-dispersion, barycentering.  
by Scott M. Ransom  
  
Assuming the data are SIGPROC filterbank format...  
Reading SIGPROC filterbank data from 1 file:  
'GBT_Lband_PSR.fil'  
  
Number of files = 1  
  Num of polns = 2 (summed)  
Center freq (MHz) = 1400  
Num of channels = 96  
Sample time (s) = 7.2e-05  
Spectra/subint = 2400  
Total points (N) = 531000  
Total time (s) = 38.232  
Clipping sigma = 6.000  
Invert the band? = False  
  Byteswap? = False  
Remove zeroDM? = False  
  
File Start Spec Samples Padding Start MJD  
-----  
1 0 531000 0 53010.48482638889254  
  
Read mask information from 'Lband_rfifind.mask'  
  
Attempting to read the data statistics from 'Lband_rfifind.stats'...  
...succeeded. Set the padding values equal to the mid-80% channel averages.  
Writing output data to 'Lband_topo_DM0.00.dat'.  
Writing information to 'Lband_topo_DM0.00.inf'.  
  
Massaging the data ...  
  
Amount Complete = 100%  
  
Done.  
  
Simple statistics of the output data:  
  Data points written: 530000  
  Maximum value of data: 909.05  
  Minimum value of data: 674.91  
  Data average value: 785.54  
  Data standard deviation: 23.12  
  
> █
```

Explore and FFT the time-series

```
> exploredat Lband_topo_DM0.00.dat  
> realfft Lband_topo_DM0.00.dat  
> explorefft Lband_topo_DM0.00.fft
```



- `exploredat` and `explorefft` allow you to interactively view a time-series or its power spectrum (for finding RFI)
- changing the power normalization (key 'n') in `explorefft` is often very helpful
- `realfft` requires that the time-series is easily factorable (and at least has 1 factor of '2'). Check using "factor".

Find the periodic interference

```
> accelsearch -numharm 4 -zmax 0 \
  Lband_topo_DM0.00.dat
```

Cand	Sigma	Summed Power	Coherent Power	Num Harm	Period (ms)	Frequency (Hz)	FFT 'r' (bin)	Freq Deriv (Hz/s)	FFT 'z' (bins)	Accel (m/s^2)	Notes
1	40.44	840.68	5691.97	2	34.770(8)	28.760(7)	1097.50(25)	0.0000(7)	0.0(1.0)	0.0(7.2)x10^3	
2	18.25	195.52	671.15	4	16.6692(9)	59.991(3)	2289.25(13)	0.0000(3)	0.00(50)	0.0(1.7)x10^3	
3	8.24	58.52	54.88	4	5.8484(1)	170.987(3)	6524.88(13)	0.0000(3)	0.00(50)	0.0(6.0)x10^2	
4	5.28	36.74	64.46	4	5.6024(1)	178.495(3)	6811.38(13)	0.0000(3)	0.00(50)	0.0(5.8)x10^2	

Cand	Harm	Sigma	Power / Loc Pow	Raw Power	FFT 'r' (bin)	Pred 'r' (bin)	FFT 'z' (bins)	Pred 'z' (bins)	Phase (rad)	Centroid (0-1)	Purity <p> = 1
1	1	100.4	5.05(10)x10^3	855	1097.4198(54)	1097.50	-0.022(42)	0.00	2.487(10)	0.5010(29)	1.0085(44)
	2	5.84	19.8(6.3)	21.7	2194.840(89)	2195.00	-0.04(69)	0.00	5.15(16)	0.484(46)	0.990(72)
2	1	12.02	76(12)	47.6	2289.254(43)	2289.25	0.25(33)	0.00	5.409(81)	0.466(23)	1.030(35)
	2	21.43	234(22)	146	4578.509(25)	4578.50	0.50(20)	0.00	5.400(46)	0.513(13)	1.005(21)
	3	4.09	10.7(4.6)	11.9	6867.76(12)	6867.75	0.75(87)	0.00	3.73(22)	0.510(62)	1.031(94)
3	4	3.23	7.4(3.8)	6.35	9157.02(15)	9157.00	1.0(1.2)	0.00	2.04(26)	0.419(75)	0.95(12)
	1	6.98	27.3(7.4)	26.7	6524.715(77)	6524.88	-0.93(61)	0.00	1.94(14)	0.489(39)	0.974(62)
	2	3.67	9.0(4.2)	10.7	13049.43(16)	13049.75	-1.9(1.6)	0.00	4.09(24)	0.344(68)	0.80(13)
	3	2.57	5.3(3.3)	5.98	19574.14(35)	19574.62	-2.8(5.5)	0.00	4.66(31)	0.297(89)	0.49(28)
4	4	2.84	6.1(3.5)	12.4	26098.86(21)	26099.50	-3.7(2.2)	0.00	5.13(29)	0.345(83)	0.74(17)
	1	6.47	23.7(6.9)	17.7	6811.388(86)	6811.38	-0.34(72)	0.00	4.98(15)	0.410(42)	0.929(70)
	2	2.86	6.2(3.5)	4.7	13622.78(16)	13622.75	-0.7(1.3)	0.00	3.87(28)	0.412(82)	0.97(13)
	3	2.58	5.3(3.3)	4.44	20434.16(23)	20434.12	-1.0(2.5)	0.00	4.48(31)	0.523(89)	0.72(19)
4	2.94	6.4(3.6)	7.12	27245.55(15)	27245.50	-1.4(1.2)	0.00	0.32(28)	0.410(81)	1.00(12)	

- We “trick” `accelsearch` into finding periodic interference (it found 4 candidates, with several harmonics in each)
- That information will be used to create a “birds” file
- “.inf” file is human readable ASCII (it is also found in the ACCEL file).

Make a “birds” file

- What the heck is a “birds” file?
 - “birds” are pulsar astronomer jargon for periodic interference that shows up in our power spectra. We usually “zap” them by zeroing them out before we search the power spectrum.
- In PRESTO, a .birds file is a simple ASCII text file with 5 columns
 - The fundamental frequency of the periodic interference in Hz
 - The width of the interference in Hz (power lines RFI at 50 or 60 Hz is often quite wide, but some interference is only a single FFT bin wide)
 - The number of harmonics of the fundamental to zap, and then 0/1 (no/yes) for whether the width of the harmonics should grow with harmonic number and whether the freqs are barycentric or not (e.g. the ATNF database freq for a strong pulsar in the data is barycentric)
 - A row starting with a “#” is a comment
 - Here is an example .birds file:

```
> cat Lband.birds
#Freq      Width    #harm    grow?    bary?
1.2        0.02     5         0         0
25.0       0.01     20        0         0
60.0       0.1      5         1         0
100.0      0.02     24        0         0
>
```

Make a “birds” file

- Use `explorefft` and the `*ACCEL_0` files to identify the main periodic signals. Since these are `DM=0`, they are *almost* certainly RFI.
- Edit the `.birds` file with a text editor
- Given the results of our earlier `accelsearch` run, here is an example (where I examined the signals with `explorefft` to check their widths):

```
> cat Lband.birds
#Freq    Width  #harm  grow?  bary?
28.760   0.1    2      0      0
60.0     0.05   2      1      0
>
```

- **Notes:**
 - Don't stress out too much over getting a perfect `.birds` file (especially about high frequency not-too-strong signals – they will be smeared out at high DMs). You mainly want to get the really strong stuff, with Fourier powers more than 50 or so.
 - Usually I make a `.birds` file only for a certain type of data (like once for a whole project where the data are all the same) or for really important single pointings.

Convert the “birds” file to a zaplist

- Make an associated “.inf” file for the “.birds” file
 - > `cp Lband_rfifind.inf Lband.inf`
- Now convert all of the “birds” and harmonics into individual freqs/widths
 - > `makezaplist.py Lband.birds`
- The resulting “Lband.zaplist” is ASCII and can be edited by hand
- It can also be loaded into `explorefft` so you can see if you are zapping everything you need (see the `explorefft help screen`)
- Apply the zaplist using “zapbirds”:
 - > `zapbirds -zap -zapfile Lband.zaplist \`
`Lband_topo_DM0.00.fft`
- Zapping barycentric time-series requires “-baryv” to convert topocentric RFI freqs to barycentric. Get that by running `prepdata` or `prepfold` on raw data (you can ctrl-c to stop them). As an example:
 - > `prepdata -o tmp GBT_Lband_PSR.fil | grep Average`
`Average topocentric velocity (c) = -5.697334e-05`

Determining a De-Dispersion Plan

```
> DDplan.py -d 500.0 -n 96 -b 96 -t 0.000072 \  
-f 1400.0 -s 32 -r 0.5
```

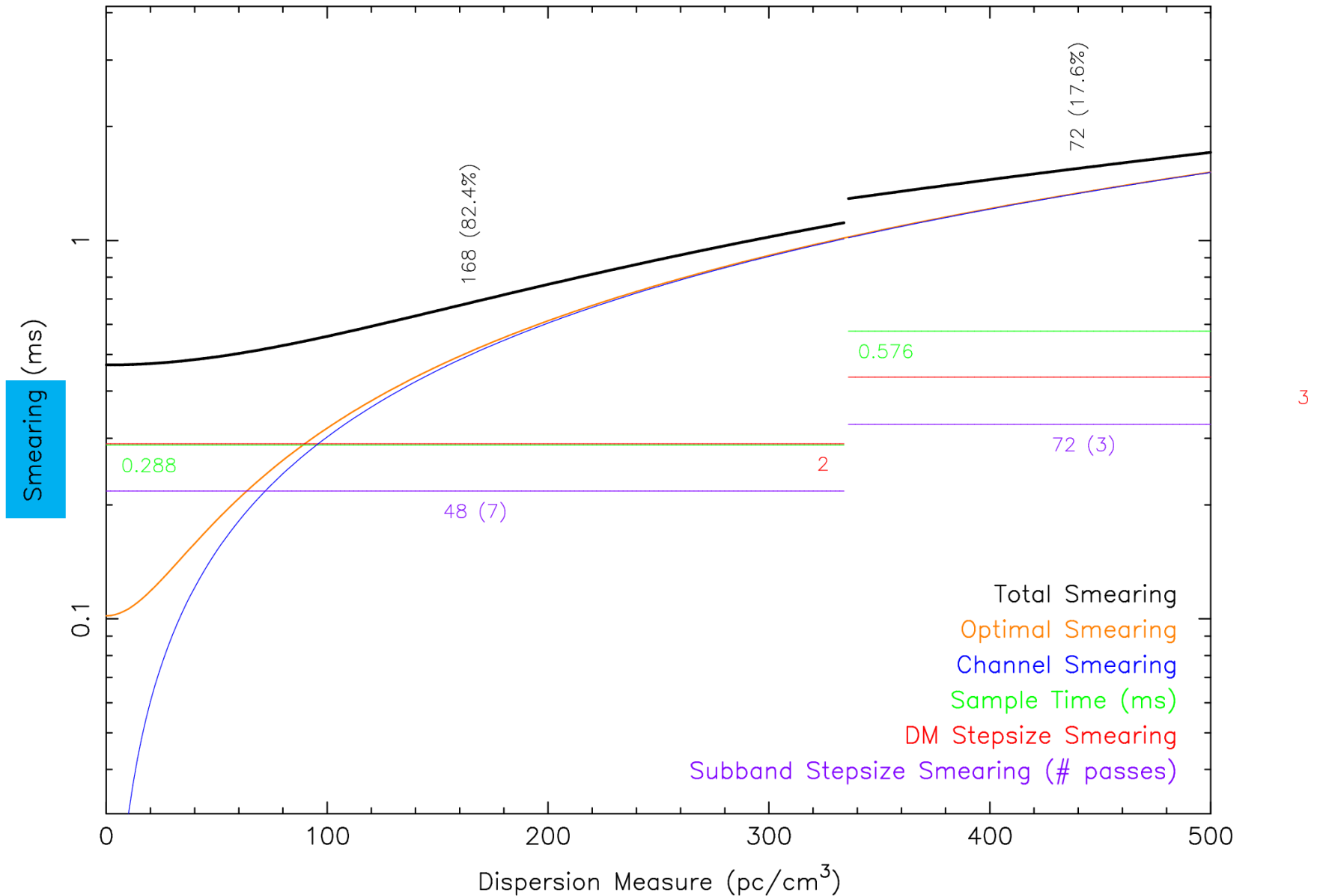
```
>  
>  
> DDplan.py -d 500.0 -n 96 -b 96 -t 0.000072 -f 1400.0 -s 32 -r 0.5  
  
Minimum total smearing      : 0.102 ms  
-----  
Minimum channel smearing   : 1.51e-05 ms  
Minimum smearing across BW : 0.00145 ms  
Minimum sample time        : 0.072 ms  
  
Setting the new 'best' resolution to : 0.5 ms  
Note: ok_smearing > dt (i.e. data is higher resolution than needed)  
New dt is 4 x 0.072 ms = 0.288 ms  
Best guess for optimal initial dDM is 1.984  
  
Low DM   High DM   dDM   DownSamp  dsubDM   #DMs  DMs/call  calls  WorkFract  
0.000    336.000  2.00   4         48.00    168   24        7     0.8235  
336.000  552.000  3.00   8         72.00    72    24        3     0.1765
```

“-r” reduces the effective time resolution to speed up search

- `DDplan.py` determines near-optimal ways to de-disperse your data to maintain sensitivity to fast pulsars yet save CPU and I/O time
- Assumes using `prepsubband` to do multiple-passes through the data using “subband” de-dispersion
- Specify command line information from `readfile`

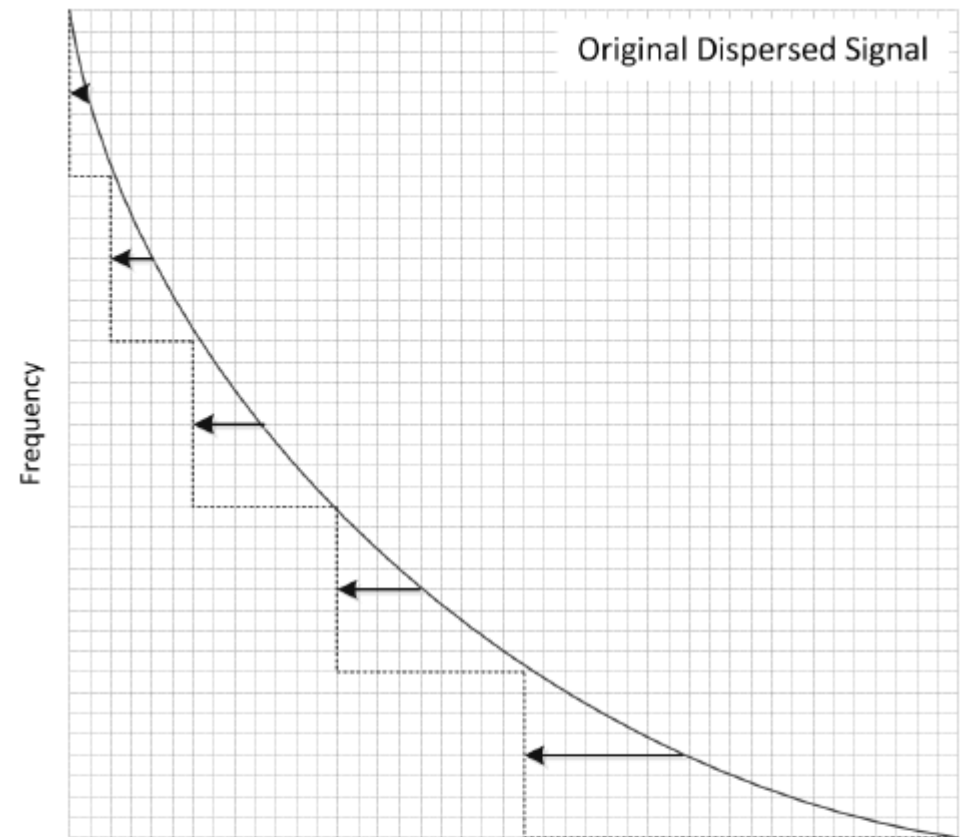
Determining a De-Dispersion Plan

$f_{\text{ctr}} = 1400 \text{ MHz}$ $dt = 72 \mu\text{s}$ $\text{BW} = 96 \text{ MHz}$ $N_{\text{chan}} = 96$ $N_{\text{sub}} = 32$

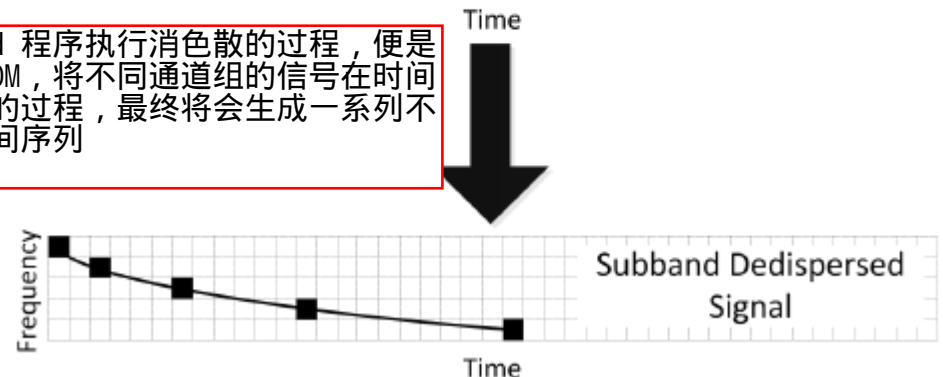


Subband De-Dispersion 1

- Incoherent de-dispersion requires you to shift the arrival times of each input channel for a particular DM
- This can be made much quicker by partially shifting groups of channels (subbands) to some nominal DM
- The resulting subband dataset can then be de-dispersed around neighboring DMs with many fewer calculations
- In PRESTO, we do this subband de-dispersion with `prepsubband` and `mpiprepsubband`



prepsubband 程序执行消色散的过程，便是根据特定的DM，将不同通道组的信号在时间上进行移动的过程，最终将会生成一系列不同 DM 的时间序列



Subband De-Dispersion 2

nsub 控制将频率通道均分的组数，
即子带宽数目

dmstep用于设置该次消色散的DM步长；numdms是该次批量消色散的执行次数

```
> prepsubband -nsub 32 -lodm 0.0 -dmstep 2.0 -numdms  
24 -numout 132500 -downsamp 4 -mask  
Lband_rfifind.mask -o Lband GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```

- That command comes from the first call of the first plan line:

Low DM	High DM	dDM	DownSamp	dsubDM	#DMs	DMs/call	calls	WorkFract
0.000	336.000	2.00	4	48.00	168	24	7	0.8235
336.000	552.000	3.00	8	72.00	72	24	3	0.1765

- Run `prepsubband` as many times as there are “calls” in the plan
- Accepted file formats to run `prepsubband` on are SIGPROC filterbank (“.fil”) and PSRFITS (“.sf” or “.fits”)
- If you have a parallel computer (and very long observations), you can use the fully parallel program `mpiprepsubband` to have one machine read the data, broadcast it to many other CPUs and then each CPU effectively makes a “call”
- The `dedisp.py` script in `$PRESTO/python` can help you automate this process (and generates subbands as well, which can be used to fold candidates and see the DM-curve much faster than by folding raw data). When the file has been edited, do: `python dedisp.py`

Prepare for Searching the Data

- First we'll clean up this directory but putting the subband files in their own directory and getting rid of the temporary topocentric files
 - > mkdir subbands
 - > mv *.sub* subbands/
 - > rm -f Lband*topo*
- Use `xargs` (awesome Unix command) to fft and zap the *.dat files
 - > ls *.dat | xargs -n 1 realfft
 - > ls *.fft | xargs -n 1 zapbirds -zap \
-zapfile Lband.zaplist -baryv -5.69733e-05
- Remember that we can get the barycentric value (i.e. average topocentric velocity) by running a fake `prepdata` or `prepfold` command on the raw data:
 - > prepdata -o tmp GBT_Lband_PSR.fil | grep Average
- Now we are ready to run `accelsearch` on the *.fft files
- If your time series are short (like these), you can use `accelsearch` to do its own FFTing and zapping by calling it on the “.dat” file. See the `-zaplist` and `-baryv` options for `accelsearch`.

Searching for Periodic Signals

```
> accelsearch -zmax 0 Lband_DM0.00.fft
```

- `Accelsearch` conducts Fourier-domain acceleration (or not, if `zmax=0`) searches for periodic signals using Fourier interpolation and harmonic summing of 1, 2, 4, 8 and/or 16.
- “zmax” is the max number of Fourier bins the highest harmonic for a particular search (i.e. fundamental or 1st harm. for a 1 harm. search, 8th harm. for a 8 harm. search) can linearly drift in the power spectrum (i.e. due to orbital motion). Sub-harmonics drift proportionally less (i.e. if 2nd harmonic drifts 10 bins, the fundamental will drift 5).
- The time that the searches take doubles for each additional level of harmonic summing, and is linearly proportional to `zmax`.
- For MSPs, 8 harmonics is almost always enough. And `zmax < 200` or so (beyond that non-linear acceleration start to creep in).
- You can use `xargs: ls *.fft | xargs -n 1 accelsearch ...`
- For this tutorial data, which is short, you might want to use “`-flo 8`” so that the rednoise at the very lowest freq bins aren’t detected

Sifting the periodic candidates

> `python ACCEL_sift.py > candb.txt`

- `ACCEL_sift.py` is in `$PRESTO/python` and can be edited and tweaked on an observation specific basis
- It uses several heuristics to reject bad candidates that are unlikely to be pulsars. And it combines multiple detections of the same candidate signals over various DMs (and harmonics as well).
- The output is a human-readable ranked list of the best candidates
- ASCII “plots” in the `cands.txt` file allow you to see rough signal-to-noise versus DM (if there is a peak at $DM \neq 0$, that is good)
- The format for the “candidate” is the `candfile:candnum` (as you would use them with `prepfold`)
- You can also look through the ACCEL files themselves. The ones ending in numbers are human readable (use `less -S`). Summaries of the candidates are at top and details of their harmonics at bottom.
- For large single ACCEL files, you can use `quick_prune_cands.py`

Folding Pulsar Candidates

```
> prepfold -accelcand 2 -accelfile \  
Lband_DM62.00_ACCEL_0.cand Lband_DM62.00.dat
```

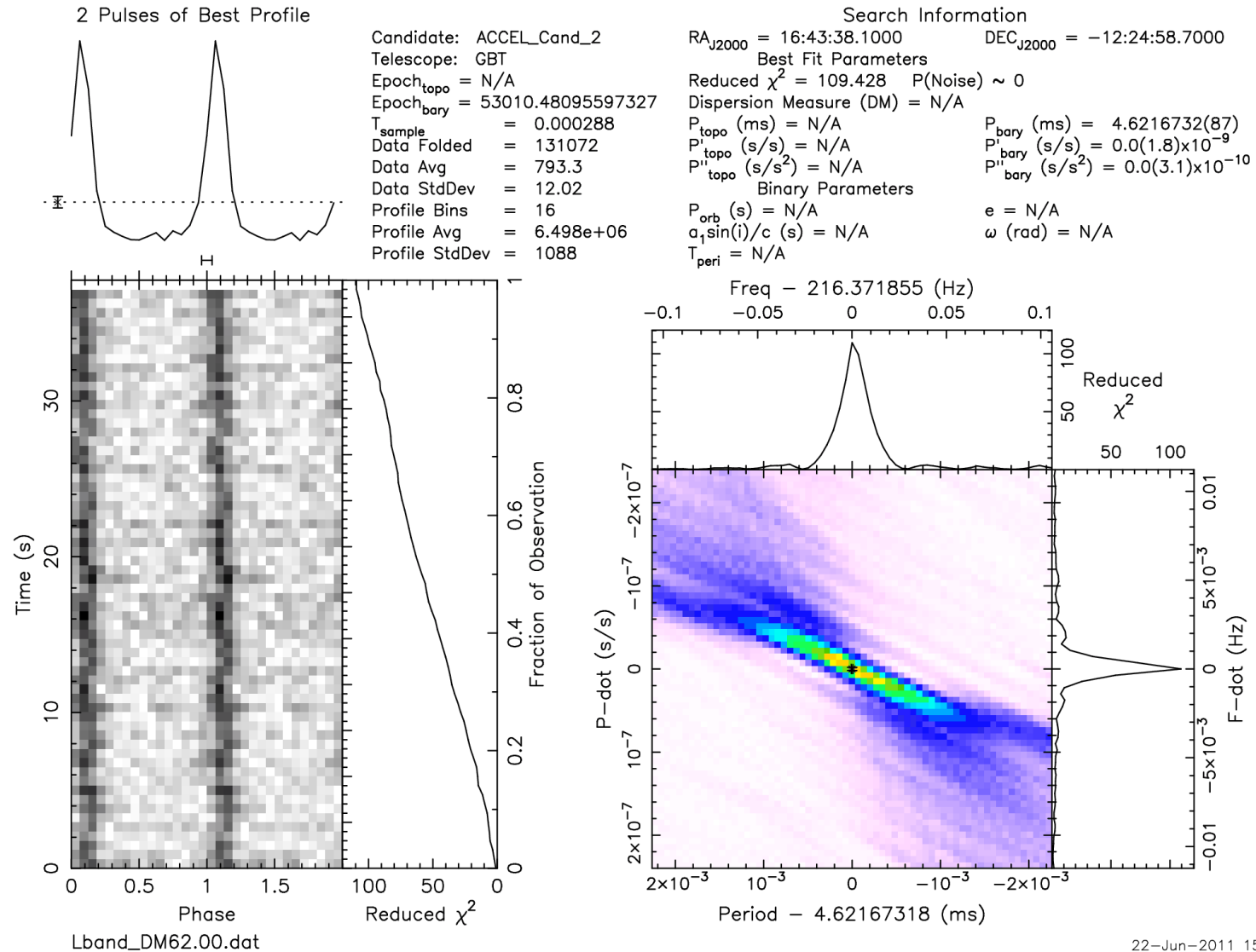
- `prepfold` can fold time-series (*.dat files), subbands (*.sub?? files), or rawdata files. Many ways to specify period (`-p`) / freq (`-f`) etc.
- Folding time-series is very fast and is useful to decide which candidates to fold the raw data
- When you fold subbands and/or the raw data, make sure that you specify the DM (and choose the set of subbands with closest DM).
- For modern raw data, using 64 or more subbands (`-nsub`) is a good idea for folding (to see narrow band RFI and scintillation better)
- If RFI is bad, can zap it using `show_pfd` or re-fold using `-mask`

```
> prepfold -dm 62.0 -accelcand 2 -accelfile \  
Lband_DM62.00_ACCEL_0.cand \  
subbands/Lband_DM72.00.sub??
```

```
> prepfold -n 64 -nsub 96 -p 0.004621638 -dm 62.0 \  
GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```

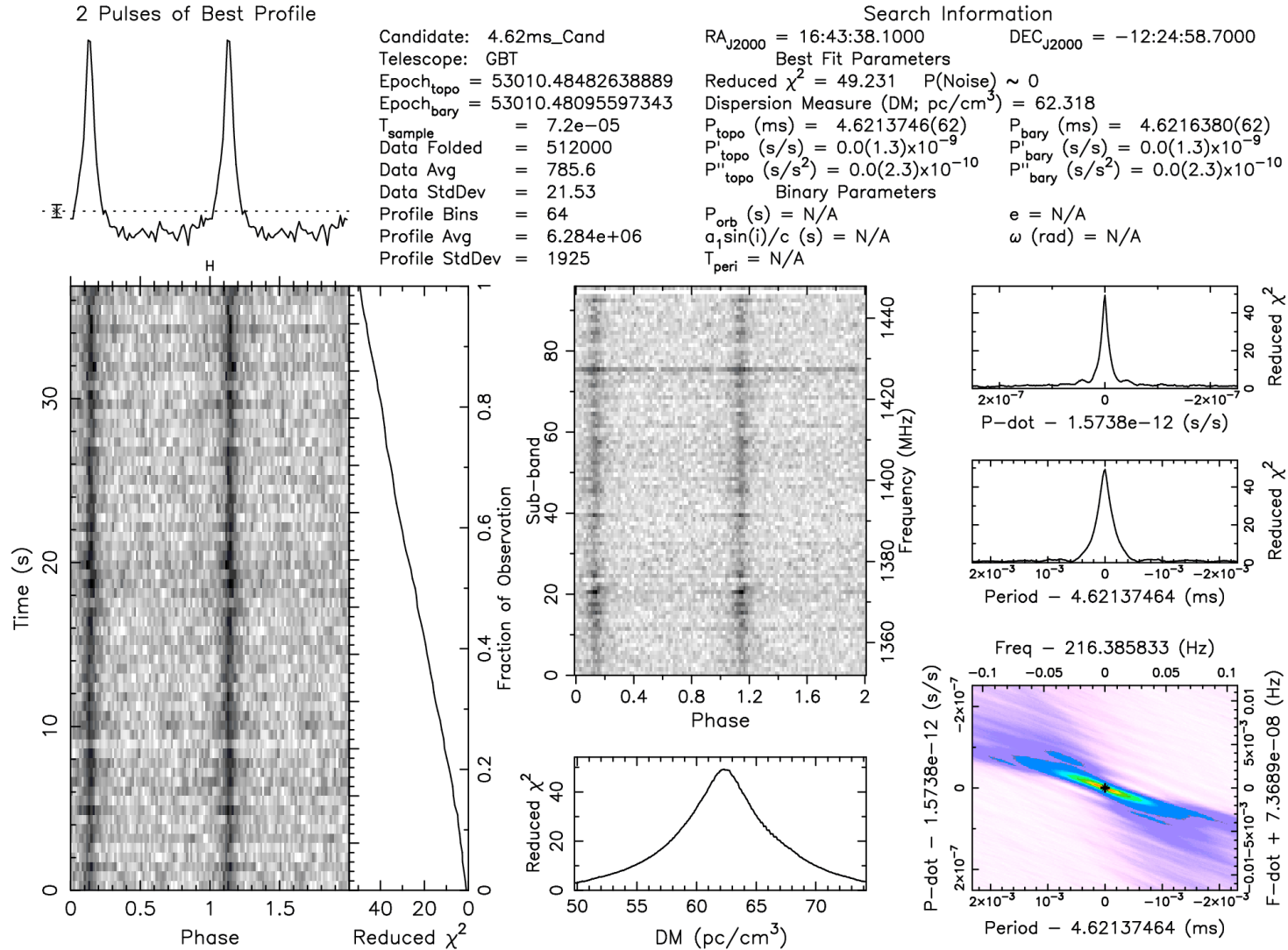
Pulsar! (timeseries)

```
> prepfold -accelcand 2 -accelfile \
Lband_DM62.00_ACCEL_0.cand Lband_DM62.00.dat
```



Pulsar! (raw data)

```
> prepfold -n 64 -nsub 96 -p 0.004621638 -dm 62.0 \
GBT_Lband_PSR.fil
```



Searching for Transient Bursts

```
> single_pulse_search.py *.dat
```

- `single_pulse_search.py` conducts matched-filtering single-pulse searches using “boxcar” templates.
- `--fast` can make things about a factor of 2 faster, but only use it if the data are well-behaved (relatively constant power levels)
- If there are very strong pulses in your data, they can look like RFI. For those cases, turn off bad-block finding (`--nobadblocks`)
- Generates `*.singlepulse` files that are ASCII and a single-pulse plot
- Can regenerate a plot using (for instance)

```
> single_pulse_search.py *DM1??.*?.singlepulse
```

- Can choose start and end times as well (`--start` and `--end`)

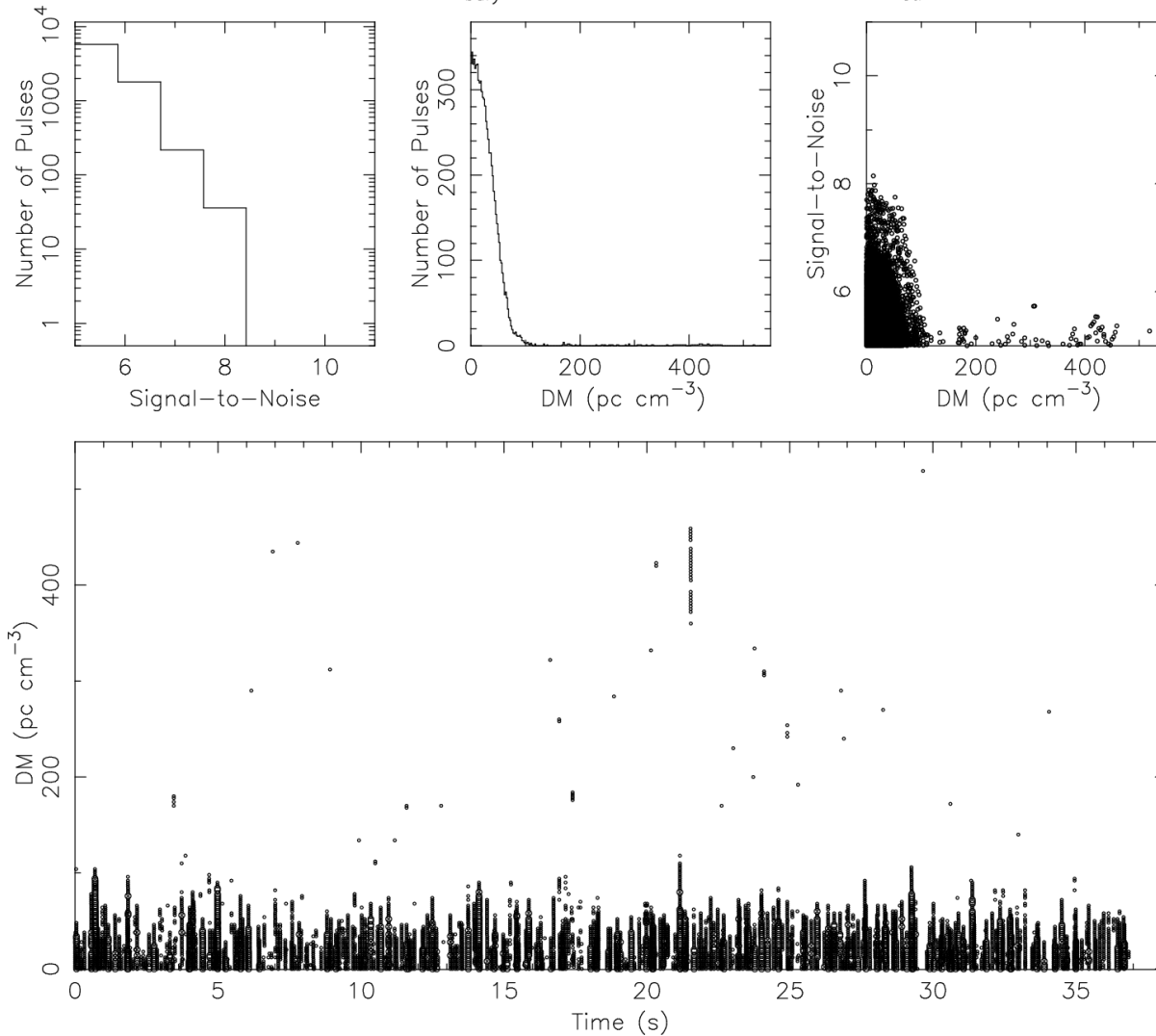
Searching for Transient Bursts

Single pulse results for 'Lband'

Source: MysteryPSR
Telescope: GBT
Instrument: BCPM1

RA (J2000): 16:43:38.1000
DEC (J2000): -12:24:58.7000
MJD_{bary}: 53010.480955148028

N samples: 132500
Sampling time: 288.00 μ s
Freq_{ctr}: 1400.0 MHz



Making TOAs from the discovery obs

- `get_TOAs.py` needs to be run on a prepfold file of either a topocentric time series or a fold of raw data. The fold must have been made either using a parfile (use `-timing`) or with the (`-nosearch`) option.
- The must be either a single gaussian (`-g FWHM`), an ASCII profile (i.e. a `bestprof` file from `prepfold`) or a multi-gaussian-template (derived using `pygaussfit.py`: “`-g template.gaussian`”)
- `-n` is the number of TOAs (and must factor the number of parts (`-npart`) from the `prepfold` file
- `-s` is the number of subband TOAs to generate (1 is default)

```
> get_TOAs.py -g 0.1 -n 20 newpulsar.pfd
```

Now try it from scratch...

- There is another sample data set (with mystery pulsar) here:

http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~sransom/Parkes_70cm_PSR.fits

- Command history for this tutorial can be found here:

http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~sransom/GBT_Lband_PSR_cmd_history.txt

- Let me know if you have any problems or suggestions!

Scott Ransom <sransom@nrao.edu>