VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 395

NORTHEAST RADIO OBSERVATORY CORPORATION

HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886 9 October 1984

TO:

VLBA Acquisition and Processor Group

Area Code 617 692-4764

FROM:

Alan E.E. Rogers

SUBJECT: Fringe Processing - Mk III Algorithms

The Mk III fringe processing program "FRNGE" runs on the HP1000 F-Series computer as a "quasi" post processing program. As soon as correlator output is available on disk the fringe program processes the correlator output for each baseline. The program is written in FORTRAN and uses a highly efficient microcoded FFT Subroutine so that the modest computing power of the HP1000 is sufficient to keep pace with the 4-station processor. The program searches for the strongest signal within a specified window in delay and delay rate. Having found the strongest signal it "counter-rotates" the visibility data with the values of delay and delay rate which maximize the correlation amplitude. The values of delay and delay rate are used for astrometric/geodetic analysis while the visibility data are used for hybrid and phase reference mapping. Algorithms are as follows:

1. Normalization.

The correlator outputs are normalized and correction factors applied.

2. Derive Spectrum.

The correlation function for each video channel is transformed from delay lags to video frequency.

3. Fractional Bit Shift Correction.

The fractional bit shift correction is applied for each accumulation period (typically two seconds) over which many "bit shifts" may have occured. (This is a simple calculation and requires only a small amount of computing compared with the FFTs which dominate the CPU.)

4. Sideband Addition.

If data were taken with both sidebands the data from both upper and lower sidebands are combined into one cross-spectrum for each pair of correlated video signals or frequency channel.

5. Derive "Single Band" Delay function.

Each frequency channel is transformed back to delay. This is equivalent to averaging over video frequency for several values of delay. This simplifies the fringe search task for bandwidth synthesis over a wide spanned bandwidth.

6.1 Transform to Fringe Rate.

Each frequency channel is transformed from the time domain to the fringe rate domain. For example a scan of 500 2-second accumulation periods is transformed to 512 fringe rate channels covering -250 milliHertz to +250 milliHertz.

6.2 "Grid" Into the Delay Rate Domain.

The fringe rate axis is converted to a common delay rate axis appropriate for all frequency channels. This step is needed to avoid smearing of the fringes among frequency channels which will have residual fringe rates proportional to the observing frequency. Reversing the order of transformation does not solve this problem. If the data is first transformed to bandwidth synthesized delay or multi-band delay then the delay resolution is sufficient to produce a smearing in delay over the coherent integration interval. If axes are not "regridded" or rescaled a fringe search with 1000 seconds coherent integration would be limited to about ±15 milliHz at 8 GHz for a spanned bandwidth of 300 MHz. The phases are calibrated using phases derived from the coherent averaging of the phase calibration signals over the same coherent integration period.

6.3 Transform to Multiband Delay.

All the frequency channels are transformed to a "multiband" delay function for each value of delay rate.

6.4 Search for the Maximum.

The "pseudo" 3-dimensional array of complex correlation amplitudes as a function of single band delay, multi-band delay and delay rate is searched for a peak magnitude and the values of delay and delay rate which produce the maximum value are saved. Since the multiband and single band delay are not independent quantities the array is really 2-dimensional and the separation into single band or coarse and multiband or fine delay is largely a computational convenience which greatly reduces the size of the FFTs needed to derive the full delay function. For example, a window of +1 microsecond would require a 1024 complex transform to cover a spanned bandwidth of 500 MHz while splitting up the delay allows the same range to be covered with 16 64-point transforms if the minimum spacing between frequency channels is 10 MHz. While the single band and multiband delays are connected they may not be equal unless they are calibrated. single band delay depends mainly on the epoch of the sampling in the formatter. While the multiband delay depends on the local oscillator phases in a system without phase calibration and on the phase calibration phases in a system in which delay calibration pulses are injected into the front-end.

7.1 Computation of Delay and Delay Rate.

In order to accurately determine the delay and delay rate the correlation amplitude is determined for a fine grid of points around the values found by the search procedure. In addition, the data is counter rotated with the best fit values of delay and rate to obtain amplitudes and phases for time segments of the full coherent integration.

The algorithms are now repeated in somewhat more detail and a sample FRNGE output is given (this level of FRNGE printout is normally only used for diagnostic purposes):

```
FMGR FILE "FRMGE::84
                                                                                                                                                                                                      .
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               MEXT REC .
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        BATE - 1984.278 - THUR #4 OCT. 1984 AT 15:##:38
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 PAGE 00 2
                                                            d has units of half the sample interval [note that the delay function is a complex function and is NOT the same as \{Ros(k)-SISN^*(*RS),n(k)\}] SEANC-fringe search routine

1. FFT-to fringe rate domain -using at most 14 \frac{1}{2}24-point FFTs t-tags.

P(L,d)=SUN-B(t,d)\exp(-2^p)^*(-1/(L-D/2-1)^*(t-1)/LB)
         6#
61
      .23456789#123456787#123456785#12345
                                                     ## Table ## Bit.diamp(-2°P]*|**[i-LD/2-i]*(i-1)*/LD)

## Table ## 
         86
       90
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
                                                                               n*nmex
Bik,L,d)=SUN Bin,L,d)exp(-2*P]*1*F$(n)*(h-#/2-11/H)
n=1
                                                                                                                                                      \label{eq:final-final} FS(n) = \{f(n) - f(1)\}/\{\{1srgest\ common\ denominator\ in\ the\ specing\ between\ frequencies\}
                                                      where k=fine delay in units of

1/(largest common spacing)=N) microseconds

Benumber of points in FFT required to cover all spacings

1.0. 2/(maximum value of FS(n)) minimum value of FS(n))

4. SEARC finds values of h,L and d which maximize the magnitude of B(k,L,d)

where (in a full range search)

A runs from L to N (k=N/2=1 = contral index)

L = 1 | LA(=512 maximum)

d = 1 | 15

[HTR-interpolation routine to find interpolated values of k,L and d

1. Calculate multi-band delay function at single points by direct rotation

menmax tetmax

B(T,R,d)=SUN B(n,z,d)=VROT(T,R,d,n,t)

n=1 t=1

VROT(T,R,d,t)=map(-2=P)=(*(f(n)=R=(DT*(t-1)=E(n))=A(n))

-(f(n)=f(1))=T*(d'-d)=B/B))

where Redelay rate in microsec per sec

T=multi-band delay in microsec

E(n)=Epech of Apriori calculations relative to time of

1st semple (t=1)

- vec sign Apriori calculated for a time maritim time time of the list sample

d'*(interpolated single band delay index
                                                                                                                                                           where kefine delay in units of
90
99
188
181
182
183
184
186
186
187
 189
```

\$=01 for upper sideband
\$=-1 for lower sideband
\$=-2 for lower sideband
\$=8 17 both sidebands are added

2. A parabola is fit through 1 points (using the magnitude of B)
where the central point is the current
best estimate of T,R and d and the other two points are equally spaced
on aither side of the central point.

To estimate the delay rate R the spacing between points is
initially:

To me

1/(LA+f(1)+BT) (f.e.-spacing between delay rate points in SEARC)

and to estimate delay T the spacing between points in SEARC)

in SEARC)

To estimate the single band delay the spacing between points is half the sample interval.

If INTR estimates R.T and then d in two iterations and then a 3rd iteration is performed in which the spacing between points for R and T is reduced by a factor of Z.

BOTES:

a) Constrained FRNGE processing

If there are fringes on 2 baselines of a triangle but none on the third to determine the rate, single and multi-band delays for the third baseline and RE-FRMGE with constraints in FRMGE parameter file. (A program called TRGEM can be used to generate the FRMGE parameter file.)

b) Constrained FRNGE processing in the presence of severe atmospheric phase fluctuations

If there are fringes on 2 baselines of a triangle but none or week fringes on the third determine the approximate rate, single and multi-band delays for the third baseline and RE-FRMGE. Then run FRMGK on FRMGE output to generate segmented compiles outputs. A program called AFPMS will then perform the following operation from the FRMGX "A" file output:

AMP (BC) exp (P(BC)=(AMP(BC,t)exp ((P(BC,t)-P(AC,t)+P(AB,t)))

AMP(BC) and P(BC) are optimal estimates of the amplitude and phase (closure phase) on the third baseline. The segments should be made short enough to minimize loss due to atmospheric phase fluctuations. AMP(BC) should be corrected for phase noise loss on baselines 1 and 2 according to the loss factor theorem (see attached memo).

c) Global FRMGE search on 3 baselines simultaneously

FRRGE data with expected single band delay luse calibrator data to determine) then run FRRGE on each of the 3 baselines (using adjacent calibrator, scans for reference). Map size should be chosen large amough to accessible both position uncertainties and clock rate uncertainties (translated into RA and BEC). Run FRRGE to add together the 3 baselines either inscherently or coherently. A coherent addition is appropriate if there is no constraint on the closure phase. A significant peak in the map will indicate the presence of fringes. Clock rate errors will produce an apparent position error while clock closure is constrained.

d) Slabel FRRGE search on independent baselines

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Same as in ci but add together all independent baselines from as easy scans as desired.

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e) Phase reference mapping

Run FRMGR on FRMGE output for all scans and all baselines with appropriate coordinate offsets and map width. Run FRMGT on the FRMGR output to construct the "dirty" phase reference map. A cloen map can be generated by running any standard mapping package on the "offset" complex amplitudes from FRMGT. Region being mapped must be within one single-band delay beamwidth of the reference or FRMGE must be forced to run with appropriate single-band delay. The reason is that the FRMGE output contains complex amplitudes for all frequency channels but for a only one value of single-band delay.

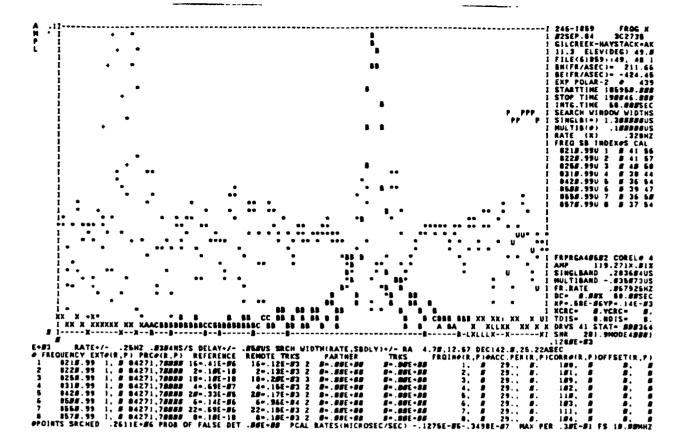
f) 'Export' interfaces

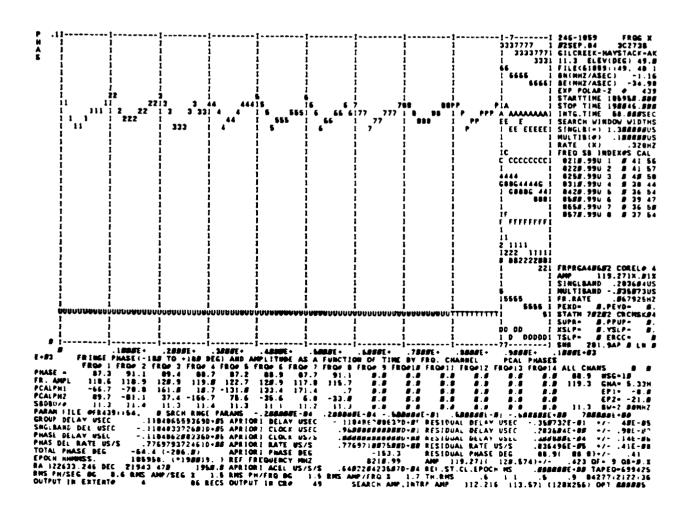
For geodesy/astrometry the best interface is via the GSFC CBP detabase generator which runs directly on the FRNGE output files. The mormal astronomy interface is via FRNGE which generates visibility data for a selectable coherent integration period from the FRNGE output files. One sinuts coherent integration in normally selected and the data from all frequency channels are normally coherently added. For mapping which requires a field of view greater than the size of the multiband dalay beam the visibilities from each frequency channel can be used separately. The visibility phases from the FRNGE output are normally selected to be residual to the COREL apriori values which close so that the FRNGE/FRNGE process just filters the visibilities and SLOBAL fringe fitting can be done in the AIPS peckage provided the fringes were strong enough to determine delay and rate filters or adequately precise control windows must be derived from calibrator sources.

Additional notes:

- 1) Without constraints FRRCE searches through a range of delay and delay rate for a maximum magnitude. Statistics of magnitude is Rayleigh and a "significant" detection depends on number of delay-rate beases searched (see probability of false detection of FRRCE principal type of searched for high confidence. If FRRCE is run in a contrained mode it rotates the COREL output with specified delay and rate 1.e. it determines the complex amplitude within a specified delay-rate beam.
- 2) FRBGT forms a "dirty" map in which each point has gaussian statistics so that significant detections can be made at SMR's below 7. however if a very large region is searched it should be realized that SMR $_{\sim}$ 3 will be seen every 188 points. On the other hand there is an SMR $_{\sim}$ 2 at the expected point in a map will only be a false detection 12 of the time.
- 3) Transfer files exist to facilitate many of the special FRECE, FRECK, FRECK, FRECK operations:

CLOSE transfer file for proceedure b)
THEER generates transfer files for running FRNGR
on FMGR file "FRNGE after reading 232 records with approx 128 1250 chars





```
1000 1 155 1000 100
                                                      EXPLANATION OF FRRGE PRINTOUT:

PLOTE: Superimposed plote of:

11 fringe rate spectrum-plot symbols 123456783ABCDEFC give singleband delay indicates a residual single band delay of -4 lags(-1 microsec et 2MHZ) by indicates a residual single band delay of -8.5 lags

5 indicates a residual single band delay of -8.5 lags

K indicates a residual single band delay of 3.5 lags

K indicates a residual single band delay of 3.5 lags

X indicates a residual single band delay of 3.5 lags

X indicates a residual single band delay of 3.5 lags

X indicates a residual single band delay of 3.5 lags

X indicates a residual single band delay of 4.5 lags

Flot full scale amplitude given in units of 8.81 correlation

23 Single band delay resolution plot symbols of or - when outside search

Flot terris at 1 point from left edge and runs for 15 points

33 Multi-band delay resolution plot symbols of residual delay

43 All points in 3-dimensional search that have SMR greater than 4 sigme

Flot symbols 123456789ABCDEFC

which indicate the single-band delay as in the fringe rate spectrum

plot.The delay rate of each point is plotted on the same scale as the

fringe rate spectrum. The multi-band delay of each point is not indicated

and while the amplitude of sech point is zeled in units of 8.812 the

points are ROT interpolated and can be as much as 35% low in amplitude.

Points in this plot are plotted on a character replacement basis: that

is if 2 points fall on the same point on the page the second point is

plotted. However search points have priority and are not replaced by

pointe from any of the other plots.

3 Plot superimporate than issue of COREL and FRMSC models, and has been corrected for phase tall phase for each frequency

Plot symbols 123465789WXYZ indicating phase and frequency

Plot symbols 123465799WXYZ indicating phase and frequency

Flot symbols 124465799WXYZ indicating phase and frequency

Frequency states that both eldebends are equally represented

Scales phase -186 deg to *186 deg amplitude full scale-ISX full p
                                                            EXPLANATION OF FRACE PRINTOUT.
INFO ON SIDE OF PLOTS
                                                                  RUR - day of year - hour hour min min FROS -frequency group 2-letter name DATE SOURCE
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```
REFERENCE STATION - RENOTE STATION - 2-letter baseline code
elevation of reference station deg ELEVIDEO elevation of remote station
file ADMS (fringe output intents & baseline number
file ADMS (fringe output intents) file output intents of file output intents of several part of the several 
                           FIGR FILE "FRHGP::N3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       BEXT REC .
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| 123456789#123456789#123456789#123456789#123456789#
| 123456789#123456789#123456789#123456789#1
181
182
183
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118
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INFO BELOW PLOT #1
                                                                                        RATE-/- half scale plot width(4 inches on paper) in Hertz and handsec/set DELAY-/- half scale width of sultiband delay resolution plot in microsec SRCH WIDTH(RATE, SBDLY)-/- half widths of region in the sky covered by the search windows used: width in RA due the rate window, due to single band delay then dec width due to rate window, due to single band delay then dec width due to rate window, due to single band delay in units of seconds of erc. FROF Fringe frequency number FREQUENCY frequency in HMZ EXTO(R.P.) file extende from which fringe found data for reference/partner sideband PRCO(R.P.) correlation processing dates Year(18-1988) DAYO for reference/partner REFRERICE trackOpparity error rate for remote station ,Oslip syncs accepted error rate-18E-28 indicates zero error rate error rate-18E-28 indicates zero error rate error rate-18E-28 indicates zero error rate for payenthy for reference/partner sideband (TrackOpparity error rate for payenthy incomes to trackOpparity error rate for payenthy incomes from the first for payenthy for the first for payenthy for extense for the first for payenthy for extense for efference/partner sideband (TrackOpparity error rate for payenthy for extense for efference/partner sideband (TrackOpparity error rate for payenthy from the first for each module in lags errolated station periods processed through fringe reference/partner PASCAL FRIR,P) of seculation periods processed through fringe reference/partner PASCAL RATES(MICROSEC/SEC) phasecal drift rates for reference, remote station. MAX PER parity error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy from the first payenthy error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy for the first payenthy error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy error rate above which data is discarded from the first payenthy error rate for payenthy error rate for payenthy err
     123
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     142
     146
                                                                                      PHASE- phase in deg for each frequency followed by phase for all freqs.

MSG- number of segments used by FRHGE to calculate quality code
FR.AMF1 fringe amplitudes for each frequency in units of #.#IX
GMA* greenwich hour angle for source in decimal hours
PCALPH1 phasecal phases in degrees for reference station
Ell= time of first accumulation processed through fringe in sec minus epoch
EP2* apoch minus average time or center of the run
PGALPH2 phasecal phases in degrees for remote station

36# degrees indicates that a manual phase cal has been used
whome value is in PCALPH1

SBDBOM# single band delay box # for independent search in each frequency
at the fringe rate determined for the coherent addition of all
frequencies. These numbers are only meaningful in the case of
fringes strong enough to be detected in each frequency independently
BW= band width of each recorded track in MHZ
PARAM FILE parameter file used to set up the fringe search parameters
MAMM, pointer number

SRCH RRGE PARAMS search parameters residual delay rate start, delay rate stop
in microsec/mec, multiband delay start, stop in microsec, single
band delay start, stop in microsec
GROUP DELAY USEC Group delay in microsec ambiguity selected closest
to APRIORI delay (set equal to SNGLBAND DEL if only one freq. present)
SNGLBAND DEL USEC Single band delay determined from the coherent addition
of all frequency channels

PHASE DELAY USEC Phase delay expressed in microsec ambiguity selected closest
to APRIORI delay
PMAS DEL RATE US/S phase delay rate after correction for phasecal, rates
TOTAL PHASE DEG total observed phase at EPOCH given below
phase is positive when wavefront arrives at remote station late
  148
149
150
150
  153
154
155
156
157
     158
     164
     169
17#
  174
175
176
                                                                                   this definition holds regardless of sideband and is consistent with the definition of delay

EPOCH NHMMSS. epoch for observables number in parenthesis is central epoch computed by FRMEE for accested data — delay, rate and phase for this epoch are in eutput file but not on printout (if there if an "" in front of this time FRMEE was with the option MOT to call VDELY and mean epoch numbers will not be in output)

phase in parenthesis is total phase for an epoch given by the time a wavefront passes the reference station and arrives at the center of the earth at EPOCH. Thus the epochs are defined by a particular wavefront — the same for all baselines — and not by universal time at the reference station.

RESIDUAL PHASE DEG phase residual to the COMEL model at EPOCH corrected for phase call phases — to uncall phasewardle phase corrected to an EPOCH at which the vave front reaches the center of the earth.

AMP correlation amplitude in units of 1888 Number in parenthesis is the residual phase corrected to an EPOCH at which the vave front reaches the center of the earth.

AMP correlation amplitude in units of 1888 Number in parenthesis is the incoherent sum of fringe amplitudes for each segment corrected for the theoretical noise is—reduced by the factor is/1/(2*lesgent SMR)**2)

Of quality factor of the run.#* no fringes 3*poor.9*ngood i.e. higher numbers indicate better quality

Of quality factor starts at 3 and is reduced by:

1 point if RMS AMP/SEC >28.88% and theoretical RMS (11.46 the factor is further reduced by:

2 points if RMS PM/SEC >28.88% and theoretical RMS (18.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.88% and theoretical RMS (19.88% in point if RMS AMP/SEC >29.8
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                                 FMGR FILE ""FRNGP:: M3
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  178
  186
     188
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196
199
2##
     281
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284
285
286
287
288
  215
  215
  218
  219
  228
                                                                                             epoch

B= no phasecal or manually entered phasecal values

E= single band delay residual too large CAUTION

fringe amplitude may be more than 52 low

F= no data found- dumny FRREE output

OF=S= probebiltly of false detection greater than 1.SE-4

i.e. MO FRREES (i.e. SMM below approx. 7)

OF=1= one or more phase cal signals less than 12

OF=2= one or more channels have amplitude less than half
the strength of the Coherent average and SMM.GT.2S

OB= r.m.s. variation between channels in amount of data accepted in S

TAFEO=6 character tape quality code

Char irref.tape error rate exponent i.e. S=1.SESS 9=1.SE=9

Char 4=rem tape error rate exponent i.e. S=1.SESS 9=1.SE=9

Char 2=ref.tape slip sync rate i.e. S=1.SESS 9=12

Char 5=rem.tape slip sync rate i.e. S=1.SESS 9=12
222
224
226
226
226
227
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PAGE OF E FREE FILE "FREEP:: H3 " BEXT REC 00 296 DATE - 1984.277 - WED. 83 OCT. 1984 AT 28:15:12

296 source position or baselines can result in approx. 1 deg. 297 error at 22GHz.
EOF on FMCR file "FRMCP after reading 297 records with approx 16944, chars

Closure phase=phase("(AB)")-phase("(AC)")-phase("(BC)")

phases are earth center epoch phases which are in
parentheses in printout.

Note that this method of obtaining closure phase uses Apiort
(information to move the epoch and a 1 arcsecond error in