POINTING, GAINS, AND SYSTEM TEMPERATURES - I

R. C. Walker NRAO, Socorro, NM

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Pointing equations have been determined for Pie Town, Kitt Peak and Los Alamos at 6cm. Collimation offsets, appropriate for use with these equations, have been determined for most frequencies at Pie Town and all frequencies at Kitt Peak and Los Alamos. For some frequencies, enough data was obtained to determine the pointing equations independently for comparison with 6cm. In most cases, the 6cm equations are good enough for use at all frequencies, at least until we have a deeper understanding of time variability etc. However, at Kitt Peak, the most recent determination at 4cm suggests that a significant change in the azimuth collimation offset has occured. The pointing results for all 3 antennas and plots of the residuals are given in this memo.

The pointing results are analyzed in such a way that gain information is obtained. These results are also presented in this memo. Unless otherwise noted, the results are based on the lab measurements of the cal temperatures. These are also the values used to derive the system temperatures given to users for calibration so the efficiencies etc. are appropriate for the users. However, it is clear from unreasonable efficiencies in some cases, that some of the cals need to be measured on the telescope. Indeed, a few have been already.

The VLBA antennas currently use the same 6 parameter pointing equation cs is used on the VLA. The parameters are: 1) the North Tilt, 2) the West Tilt, 3) the Azimuth Collimation Offset, 4) the Azimuth Encoder Offset, 5) the Sag, and 6) the Elevation Collimation Offset. The parameters now in use are given in Table 1, which is a copy of the file UVAX1:[OPERATOR.SETUPS]OFFSETS.DAT. Parameters 1, 2, 4, and 5 are installed by entering them into the program STA.C. Parameters 3 and 6, the collimation offsets which change with frequency band, are included in observing schedules. A proceedure for updating collimation offsets in SETUP files for the scheduling program SCHED has been established based on the OFFSETS.DAT file.

The figures attached to this memo show the data used to determine the pointing parameters in OFFSETS.DAT. There are two pages of plots for each antenna/frequency, with 8 plots per page. The plots are:

- The measured azimuth offset from the pointing equation in use at the time of the observations plotted against azimuth. For bands other than 6cm, this plot, with an average removed, should show the quality of future pointing.
- 2. The azimuth offset from the best fit pointing equation. For 6cm, this should indicate the quality of future pointing. For other bands, any differences between this plot and the previous one, other than a shift in the average, show possible changes in the pointing equation in time and/or frequency and are cause for concern.
- 3. The measured azimuth offset plotted against elevation.
- 4. The azimuth offset from the best fit pointing equation.
- 5. The measured elevation offset plotted against elevation.
- 6. The elevation offset from the best fit pointing equation.
- 7. The measured elevation offset plotted against elevation.
- 8. The elevation offset from the best fit pointing equation.

- 9. The distribution of measured points in azimuth and elevation. This gives a good impression of the quality of the data set for pointing determination. There should be a good spread in both azimuth and elevation.
- 10. The measured azimuth offset as a function of time. This is shown to help find any temporal effects. So far, I haven't seen any. This plot is not always shown.
- 11. The system temperature as a function of sec(z). In the analysis program, a fit is made for the opacity using the data over a restricted range, usually sec(z) less than 2 (30 deg elevation). Lower elevations are not used because of confusion with spillover. The system temperatures are based on the measurements of the low cal temperature made in the lab before the receiver is installed except for the Pie Town 1.3 cm case where a value measured by Durga Bagri on the antenna with hot loads was used.
- 12. The system temperature plotted against elevation.
- 13. The pointing offset plotted against antenna temperature. The antenna temperature is also based on the lab cal measurement and is a byproduct of the measurement of the pointing offset. This plot should help identify any serious problem with measurements on weaker sources.
- 14. The measured elevation offset plotted against time to look for temporal effects.
- 15. The sensitivity plotted against elevation for the flux calibrators. The flux calibrators are any sources in Baars or any other source for which a flux density was provided. At 1.3 cm, Bagri measured a flux density of 35.3 Jy for 3C84 at the VLA and the sensitivity results are mainly based on that value, although a few 3C274 points are also available. At other frequencies, Baars sources are available in all cases. No corrections for opacity have been made.
- 16. The sensitivity plotted against elevation for all sources. A mean sensitivity is determined from the calibrator measurements and used to derive a flux density for each source, using only measurements made above some limiting elevation (usually 30 deg it is the same limit as used for the opacity fit). This plot shows the ratio, for each observation, between the antenna temperature and the measured flux density. Again, no opacity correction.

In addition to the above plots, the analysis program provides 8 more that I have chosen not to show here but have available if anyone wants to see them. They are:

- 1. The measured azimuth offset plotted against time of day to look for diurnal effects. I haven't seen any yet but expect to someday.
- 2. The azimuth offset from the best fit pointing equation plotted against time of day.
- 3. The measured elevation offset plotted against time of day to look for diurnal effects.
- 4. The elevation offset from the best fit pointing equation plotted against time of day.
- 5. The system temperature plotted against time.
- 6. The antenna temperature plotted against time. These last two may be particularily interesting for observations of a single source for an extended period.

- 7. The sensitivity for all sources plotted against elevation. For this plot, the flux density is reduced by the measured opacity. There is a tendency to flatten the curves at low elevations, but it is at the low elevations where the sec(z) law breaks down and I have not put in a more sophisticated model yet. The pronounced droop of the sensitivity at 1.3cm at Pie Town is flattened somewhat, but by no means completely.
- 8. The sensitivity for all sources, not corrected for opacity, plotted against time to look for temporal effects.

Some of the numerical results, other than the actual pointing values, are tabulated in Tables 2 through 7.

Table 2 is a summary of the observations in this memo.

Table 3 is gives the squint (offset between RCP and LCP beams) for each antenna/frequency.

Table 4 gives the beam size (FWHM of a gaussian approximation) for each antenna/frequency/polarization.

Table 5 gives the rms pointing offsets from the prefit average and from the postfit pointing equation. The second value if of greatest interest for 6 cm where the equations in use were determined. The first is of more interest for other frequencies where only the averages (collimation offsets) are to be removed. For frequencies other than 6 cm, the difference between the two shows what might be gained from an improved pointing equation.

Table 6 gives the pointing coefficients of the best fit model for those data sets with enough points to provide a good solution. The 6cm results are those currently in use.

Table 7 gives the sensitivity, efficiency, zenith system temperature and system temperature in Jy for each antenna/frequency/polarization. All of these numbers, except the last, depend on the assumed low cai temperature. For all but one case, the low cal values used are those measured in the lab. For Pie Town at 1.3 cm, values measured with hot load tests on the antenna were also used. System temperatures sent to users are based on the lab cal temperatures, so the sensitivities measured here are correct for calibration. However, as the impossibly high efficiencies in a few cases make clear, the cal values are not always correct.

NOTES:

 The 6 cm Pie Town data show an abnormally large number of points of high pointing residual. There are also a lot of points of low sensitivity, most of which are RCP.

2. At 1.3 cm at Pie Town below about 40 deg. elevation, the gain drops much more than it does at the other antennas and more than can be accounted for by atmosphere.

3. The 4 cm Kitt Peak data suggests that there has been a large change in the azimuth encoder offset since the 6 cm and 1 cm data were taken. New 1 cm data will be taken shortly.

Table 1. OFFSETS.DAT

```
STA.C Version 2.4
  File version 1.0 RCWalker Initial file, Sep 18, 1989.
1
  Some versions not recorded.
  File version 1.1 RCWalker Los Alamos pointing updated Nov. 8, 1989.
1
  File version 1.2 RCWalker Los Alamos K band col offsets. Nov. 9, 1989
1
Ł
 File version 1.3
                    RCWalker PT 4cm, PT 1cm, KP 1cm, LA 18cm, LA 1cm updated.
                         Nov. 15, 1989.
  File version 1.4 RCWalker PT 4cm/13cm updated. 13cm set to same value.
Ł
I File version 1.5 RCWalker KP 4cm - warnings about bad pointing.
1
1 Pointing equations - values from STA.C
L
  Pie Town well determined at 6 cm Sept. 11-12, 1989.
1
        Later reanalysis (Nov 14) suggests small changes, but STA.C not updated.
L
            Ntilt = -0.02
1
            Wtilt = 0.37
                                   (add 0.45 to long)
1
            Az Enc = 180d40'15"
t
            Sag
                   = -1.77
1
1
    Better collimation offsets needed at 90cm, 13cm, 4cm/13cm, and 2cm.
             azcolim = 0.0 elcolim = 0.0 ! Not determined - large beam.
PT 90cm
PT
   20cm
             azcolim = -0.3 elcolim = -0.6 | Measured Oct 13-24, 1989
                             elcolim = -1.0 | Set same as 4cm/13cm.
PT
   13cm
             azcolim = 1.7
PT
   6cm
             azcolim = 0.28 elcolim = -1.22 ! Measured Sep 11-12, 1989.
PT
              azcolim = 0.54 elcolim = -0.61 ! Measured Nov. 14, 1989
    4cm
            azcolim = 1.71 elcolim = -1.0 ! Poor measurement Oct 6, 1989.
PT
    4cm/13cm
             azcolim = 0.75 elcolim = -0.71 ! Measured Sep. 13-14, 1989.
PT
   3cm
PT
   2cm
             azcolim = 0.75 elcolim = 0.18 ! Shifted from old eqn.
PT 1.3cm
             azcolim = 0.64 elcolim = -0.86 | Measured Sep 13-18, 1989.
   Kitt Peak well determined at 6cm Sept. 11-12, 1989.
1
    Nov 14 reanalysis with editing suggests small changes but not installed.
L
             Ntilt = 0.24
ŧ
             Wtilt = 0.23
                                    (add 0.27 to long)
Ł
             Az Enc = 179d59'25"
1
                   = -1.31
1
             Sag
I.
    4cm collimation offsets poor - clocks ok. Pointing equation has changed
1
    between Sept runs and Nov 4 cm runs. Something is wrong!
1
KP
              azcolim = -2.0 elcolim = 2.5
                                            I Measured Oct. 24, 1989.
   20cm
              azcolim = 0.42 elcolim = 1.64 ! Measured Sep. 11-12, 1989.
KP
   6cm
KP 4cm
              azcolim = 0.5
                             elcolim = 2.1
                                             1 Measured Nov. 18, 1989.
              azcolim = 0.58 elcolim = 1.96 | Measured Sep. 13-18, 1989.
KP
   1.3cm
.
   Decent determination at 6 cm on Nov. 7–8, 1989 - Paul Johnson operating.
1
             Ntilt = 0.20
             Wtilt = 0.03
                                    (add 0.04 to long)
             Az Enc = 179d42'53"
Sag
                    = -1.49
1
.
LA 20cm
              azcolim =-0.02 elcolim = -6.15 ! Measured Nov 14-15, 1989
              azcolim = 1.03 elcolim = -3.96 ! Measured Nov. 7-8, 1989.
LA 6cm
              azcolim = 0.52 elcolim = -3.86 ! Measured Nov. 14, 1989.
LA 1.3cm
```

<u> </u>						
Antenna	Freq. Bond	Freq. MHz	Dates 1989	Number	of point: high el.	s. Comments
Pie Town	18cm	1655	Oct. 13-24	533	419	Good
	6cm	4998	Sep. 11-12	467	311	Good
	4cm	8418	Nov. 14	148	144	No Dichroic
	4cm	8418	Oct. 6	17	12	With Dichroic (Poor)
	3cm	10658	Sep. 13-14	24	24	Ok
	1 cm	22235	Sep. 13-18	347	248	Good
Kitt Peak	18cm	1655	Oct. 25	35	33	Fair — should improve.
	6cm	4998	Sep. 11-12	436	298	Good
	4cm	8418	Oct30-Nov19	644	465	Good but pointing changed!
	1 cm	22235	Sep. 13-18	361	306	Good
Los Alamos	18cm	1655	Nov. 14-15	109	84	Gains ok (mainly Cyg A)
					Point	ting not so good.
	6cm	4998	Nov. 7-8	131	90	Good
	1 cm	22235	Nov. 14	145	66	Good

Table 2. OBSERVATION SUMMARY

Table 3. SQUINT (RCP-LCP)

Antenna	Frequency Band	El Squint (arcmin)	Az Squint (arcmin)	Notes
Pie Town	18cm	-0.52	1.50	
	6cm	-0.14	0.46	
	4cm	0.20	-0.18	No Dichroic
	4cm	0.07	-0.31	With Dichroic
	3cm	0.21	-0.08	
	1 cm	0.02	0.10	
Kitt Peak	18cm	0.20	-1.15	
	6cm	-0.08	0.45	
	4cm	0.21	-0.16	
	1 cm	0.04	0.08	
Los Alamos	s 18cm	-0.57	-1.58	
	6cm	-0.13	0.44	
	1 cm	0.02	0.10	

What is going on at L band?

Antenna	Frequency Band	El (RCP) (arcmin)	Ei (LCP) (arcmin)	Az (RCP) (arcmin)	EL (LCP) (arcmin)	Notes
Pie Town	18cm	25.8	25.8	25.9	25.9	
	6cm	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	
	4cm	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	No Dichroic
	4cm	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.4	With Dichroid
	3cm	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	
	1cm	1.90	1.89	1.88	1.87	
Kitt Peak	18cm	25.2	25.4	25.1	25.1	
	6cm	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	
	4cm	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
	1 cm	1.90	1.89	1.92	1.91	
Los Alamos	s 18cm	25.4	25.5	25.0	25.3	
	6cm	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	
	1 cm	1.84	1.83	1.86	1.84	

Table 4. BEAM SIZE (FWHM)

		RMS	POINTING			
Antenna	Frequency	Prefit		Postfit		Notes
	Band	EI	Az	EI	Az	
		(")	(")	(")	(")	
Pie Town	18cm	19.8	19.4	18.2	12.6	
	6cm	14.9	15.1	12.8	14.0	
	4cm	6.9	5.6	5.3	3.6	No Dichroic (Why so good?)
	4cm	20.6	7.6	15.0	6.3	With Dichroic (little data)
	3cm	9.0	11.4	9.2	7.9	
	1 cm	10.1	8.1	9.1	7.5	
Kitt Peak	18cm	41.1	44.0	40.3	44.2	Mostly a weak source.
	6cm	12.9	16.4	9.9	13.0	-
	4cm	9.4	21.2	9.3	9.6	Pointing changed1?
	1 cm	11.6	9.1	7.6	8.5	• • •
Los Alamos	s 18cm	24.4	23.9	21.9	23.9	
	6cm	33.2	62.8	13.8	10.2	Bad apriori equation.
	1 cm	10.5	13.0	8.4	11.5	-

	Table 5.	
RMS	POINTING OFFSET	\$

Note: Pointing equations were determined at 6cm — apriori at 6cm was not too good so deviation from average could be large. The postfit RMS is the best indicator of future pointing. At other frequencies, only collimation offsets, which equal the average offets, were determined so the prefit RMS is the best indicator of future pointing.

Antenna	Freq. Band	W Tilt (')	N TIIt (')	Az Col (')	. Az Enc.	Sag (*)	El Col. (')	Comment
Pie Town	6cm	0.38	-0.02	0.26	180440'17"	-1.74	-1.24	
	4cm	0.35	-0.10	0.67	180d39*59"	-1.65	-0.66	No Dichroic
	1 cm	0.31	-0.05	0.69	180d40'10"	-1.56	-0.99	
	18cm	0.20	-0.33	-0.50	180d40'30"	-1.26	-0.68	Big Beam
Kitt Peak	6cm	0.23	0.22	0.45	179d59'23"	-1.35	1.68	
	1 cm	0.24	0.08	0.55	179d59'29"	-1.11	1.92	
	4cm	0.14	0.14	1.12	179d58'08"	-1.50	2.25	Later date
Los Alamos	6cm	0.03	0.20	1.03	179d42'53"	-1.49	-3.96	
	1 cm	-0.10	0.03	0.54	179d42'50"	-1.64	-3.86	

Table 6. POINTING COEFFICIENTS

The collimation offsets are expected to be different between frequencies.

There are high correlations between the az collimation offset and the az encoder offset and between the el collimation offset and the sag.

Antenna	Freq. Band	Pol	Tsys (K)	Tatm (K)	Sens. (K/Jy)	Eff. (%)	Tsys (Jy)	Notes
Pie Town	90cm 50cm	New ditt	data neo o	eded.				
Pie Town	18cm	RCP LCP	30 28	1.1-2.5 0.8-2.6	0.104 0.099	58 56	288 283	
Pie Town	13cm	RCP	31		0.102	58	301	With Dichroic Old data (Jul 7 89
Pie Town	6cm	rcp LCP	39 43	2.6 2.8	0.123 0.132	69 74	317 325	
Pie Town	4cm	RCP LCP	40 36	2.4 2.2	0.129 0.122	73 69	310 295	No Dichroic
Pie Town	4cm	RCP	43		0.117	66	370	Old data (Jul 7 89 With Dichroic
Pie Town	3cm	RCP LCP	60 57	5.7 5.2	0.123 0.122	69 68	488 467	FET
Pie Town	2cm	No d	ata					
Pie Town	1 cm	RCP LCP	69-82 68-81	23–25 23–26	0.116 0.117	65 66	590-710 580-690) Bagri Cals) (see note)
Kitt Peak	18cm	RCP LCP	31 34	3.9 4.0	0.103 0.104	58 59	301 327	Tatm high.
Kitt Peak	6c m	RCP LCP	42 45	2.7 2.8	0.133 0.133	75 75	316 338	
Kitt Peak	4cm	RCP LCP	32 34	1.7-2.8 2.1-3.0	0.121 0.122	68 69	264 279	
Kitt Peak	1 cm	RCP LCP	98–104 97–103	10–15 11–16	0.107 0.114	60 64	920-970 850-900)
Los Alamos	18cm	RCP LCP	27 31	0.9 1.7	0.079 0.103	44 58	341 301	Cal wrong?
Los Alamos	6cm	RCP LCP	42 38	3.1 2.9	0.147 0.142	83 80	286 268	Cal wrong.
Los Alamos	1 cm	RCP LCP	138 150	11 12	0.132 0.141	74 79	1045 1063	Cal wrong.

Table 7. ZENITH SENSITIVITY, SYSTEM TEMPERATURE

Only data at higher elevations used (usually above 30 degrees). Opacity corrections have been made.

A range of value indicates that the atmosphere was different on different days and seperate determinations were made.

For Pie Town 1cm, the Bagri Tcal's are RCP 13.90, LCP 15.75. The lab measurements (used for user Tsys's) are RCP 16.3, LCP 17.0



















POINTING OFFSET VS ANTENNA TEMP









POINTING OFFSET VS ANTENNA TEMP







?

298



0

80

Elevation (deg) D 40 60

3

0

3

Tsys (K) 40 45

S

1

-100



Tant / Assumed Flux (Calibrators)





sec(zo)

4

5

6

3

2



Tant / Measured Flux (All Sources)





298.1

298.15

298.2

298.05















DISTRIBUTION OF POINTS

POINTING OFFSET VS ANTENNA TEMP









