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**Detection of Point Sources in Maps of the
Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation
by means of Optimal Filters**

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by

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Prologue

When we observe the sky with the most advanced instruments operating at microwave frequencies, the photons that we see were originated in very different regions in the universe. Most of them come from our own Galaxy (diffuse synchrotron, free-free and dust emission), that can be very bright at some frequencies. Then, some of the photons come from very distant galaxies and clusters of galaxies, and, finally, a fraction will have their origin in the relic radiation of the Big Bang, known as the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation. This radiation was discovered in the second half of the XXth century and, since then, it has become the most important tool to probe the early universe and a definite evidence of the Big Bang. Therefore, it is of great importance to study it in detail, because it is giving us information of the universe when it was only 375.000 years old, that is, approximately 14.000 million years ago. But, this radiation is contaminated by other components previously enumerated, and the separation of the different emissions in a satisfactory way is still an open problem. It is also important to note that not all the contamination comes from outside the Earth. If our experiment is located in the surface of the planet, or even in a high-altitude balloon, our own atmosphere will introduce additional contamination. Regardless of its location on the earth or in the space, the instrument used for the observation will also contribute to the observed signal with a noise.

The purpose of this thesis is to explore different techniques based on linear filters to detect and separate one of the contaminants, the contribution to the observed signal of distant radio and infrared galaxies. These galaxies are known as “extragalactic point sources” because, for the angular resolution of the typical experiments in microwave frequencies, they appear as point-like unresolved objects. In Chapter 2 we will study the performance of a family of matched filters when detecting point sources, where we allow the scale of the filter to be modified and where we introduce a Neyman-Pearson test to define the region of acceptance. In Chapter 3, we will consider a new one-dimensional linear filter, the *Biparametric Scale-Adaptive Filter (BSAF)*, that has two parameters that can be optimised to maximise the number of real detections for a fixed

number of spurious detections, used in conjunction with a Neyman-Pearson test. In Chapter 4, we will extend the BSAF to two dimensions, and compare it with the Mexican Hat Wavelet. In Chapter 5, we will explore a new technique that combines lineal and quadratic fusion of images with linear filters, testing it with realistic simulations of one of the Planck satellite channels. In Chapter 6, we will study in detail the performance of three filters, the Matched filter and two members of the Mexican Hat wavelet in realistic simulations of the nine channels of Planck. To conclude, in Chapter 7, we will use the second member of the Mexican Hat Family to do a non-blind study in the five frequencies of WMAP of a complete sample of 2491 sources observed at 5 GHz, producing a catalogue of 932 objects detected above 3σ and a catalogue of 380 objects observed above 5σ .

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation	1
1.1.1	Introduction	1
1.1.2	Origins of the CMB	2
1.1.3	Anisotropies of the CMB and Power Spectrum	5
1.1.4	Foregrounds Contamination	14
1.1.5	Galactic Components	14
1.1.6	Extragalactic Components	24
1.2	The Component separation problem	28
1.2.1	Techniques for the extraction of point sources	29
1.2.2	Techniques for the extraction of the Thermal SZ	39
1.2.3	Techniques for the extraction of the Kinetic SZ	41
2	Modified Matched Filter	43
2.1	Introduction	43
2.2	Background peaks and compact sources	47
2.2.1	The background	47
2.2.2	The presence of a local source	48
2.3	The detection problem	49
2.3.1	The region of acceptance	49
2.3.2	Spurious sources and real detections	50
2.4	Analytical and Numerical results	51
2.4.1	Point sources	51

2.4.2	The Matched Filter (MF)	51
2.4.3	The family of Matched-type filters (MTF)	52
2.4.4	Uniform distribution of point sources	52
2.4.5	Theoretical results	52
2.5	Numerical simulations: Results	53
2.5.1	The simulations	53
2.5.2	Results	54
2.6	Conclusions	55
3	Biparametric Scale Adaptive Filter: 1D approach	57
3.1	Introduction	58
3.2	Background peaks and compact sources	63
3.2.1	The background	63
3.2.2	The presence of a local source	64
3.3	The detection problem	65
3.3.1	The region of acceptance	65
3.3.2	Spurious sources and real detections	66
3.4	The estimation of the amplitude of the source	67
3.5	Analytical results	68
3.5.1	Filters	68
3.5.2	A priori probability distributions $p(\nu_s)$	73
3.6	Numerical results	74
3.6.1	Uniform distribution	74
3.6.2	Scale-free distribution	79
3.6.3	On the robustness of the filters	86
3.7	Simulations	89
3.7.1	The simulations	89
3.7.2	The estimation of the amplitude of the source	92
3.8	Conclusions	94
3.9	Appendix A	96

3.10	Appendix B	96
4	Biparametric Scale Adaptive Filter: 2D approach	99
4.1	Introduction	100
4.2	Peak statistics	103
4.2.1	Background	103
4.2.2	Background plus point source	104
4.3	The detection problem	105
4.3.1	The region of acceptance	105
4.3.2	Spurious sources and real detections	107
4.4	The filters	107
4.4.1	The Matched Filter (MF)	108
4.4.2	The Scale-Adaptive Filter (SAF)	109
4.4.3	The Mexican Hat Wavelet (MH)	110
4.4.4	The Biparametric Scale-Adaptive Filter (BSAF)	111
4.5	Analytical results	111
4.5.1	<i>A priori</i> probability distribution	112
4.5.2	Results for white noise	112
4.6	Conclusions	115
4.7	Appendix	117
5	Linear and Quadratic Fusion of Images	119
5.1	Introduction	119
5.2	Linear and quadratic fusion	121
5.2.1	Linear Fusion	121
5.2.2	Quadratic Fusion	122
5.3	The Mexican Hat Wavelet Family	124
5.3.1	The MHW as a filter	124
5.3.2	The MHWF and the undecimated multiscale method	125
5.4	Detection of point sources	126

5.4.1	White Noise	126
5.4.2	The 44 GHz Planck Channel	130
5.5	Conclusions	132
6	Planck simulations: flat patch approximation	133
6.1	Introduction	134
6.2	Methodology	138
6.2.1	The Matched Filter (MF)	139
6.2.2	The Mexican Hat Wavelet Family	140
6.3	Simulations	143
6.4	Results and discussion	146
6.5	Further details on the detection of point sources	149
6.5.1	Confused/blended extragalactic point sources	149
6.5.2	Other compact sources	151
6.5.3	Systematics	152
6.5.4	Extension to the sphere	153
6.6	Conclusions	155
7	WMAP and the 5 GHz catalog of point sources	171
7.1	Introduction	172
7.2	The 5 GHz catalogue	174
7.3	Methodology	176
7.3.1	From the sphere to flat patches: rotation & projection	177
7.3.2	Filters	178
7.3.3	Position, flux and error estimation	180
7.3.4	Bayesian correction to the fluxes	182
7.4	The New Extragalactic WMAP Point Source (NEWPS) catalogue	182
7.4.1	Comparison between MHW2 and MF	182
7.4.2	$NEWPS_{3\sigma}$	184
7.4.3	$NEWPS_{5\sigma}$: A robust subsample	185

7.5	Results and discussion	185
7.5.1	<i>NEWPS</i> _{5σ} versus WMAP sources	185
7.5.2	Source number counts	188
7.6	Conclusions	188
	Appendix A: Linear filters in two dimensions	190
	Appendix B: Derivation of the Bayesian correction formulae	190
	The Eddington bias	190
	Bayesian slope determination and flux correction	190
	Appendix C: <i>NEWPS</i> ₅ source catalogue	192
8	Conclusions	203
A	Resumen en Castellano	211
A.1	La Radiación del Fondo C3smico de Microondas (RFCM)	211
A.1.1	Or3genes de la RFCM	211
A.1.2	Anisotrop3as de la RFCM	213
A.1.3	Contaminantes de la RFCM	217
A.1.4	Componentes Gal3cticos de la contaminaci3n	218
A.1.5	Componentes Extragal3cticas	219
A.2	El problema de la separaci3n de componentes	221
A.2.1	T3cnicas para la extracci3n de fuentes puntuales	222
A.2.2	Filtros Adaptados	223
A.2.3	Ond3culas: La familia de ond3culas de sombrero mejicano	223
A.2.4	T3cnicas para la detecci3n de SZ t3rmico	226
A.2.5	T3cnicas para la detecci3n de SZ cinem3tico	227
A.3	Resumen de los Cap3tulos	229
A.4	Conclusiones	232

List of Figures

1.1	WMAP 3rd-year full sky map of the Cosmic Microwave Background.	2
1.2	CMB frequency spectrum obtained with COBE's FIRAS instrument.	4
1.3	Comparison of the WMAP power spectrum with other experiments.	6
1.4	Angular power spectrum of the CMB	9
1.5	Frequency dependence of the thermal and kinetic SZ.	13
1.6	Frequency dependence of the Galactic emissions and CMB.	15
1.7	Synchrotron emission from the Planck Reference sky model.	17
1.8	WMAP third year derived synchrotron template.	18
1.9	Total H_α intensity map obtained by WHAM.	20
1.10	Emission from the interstellar medium in the southern hemisphere.	21
1.11	Full sky H_α map corrected for dust using the 100μ maps.	21
1.12	WMAP third year derived free-free template.	22
1.13	Thermal dust emission map at 857 GHz.	23
1.14	Source number counts predicted by Toffolatti and De Zotti at 33 GHz.	26
1.15	Number counts from the $NEWPS_{5\sigma}$ catalogue.	27
1.16	Full-sky simulation of point sources at 30 GHz.	27
1.17	SZ clusters simulated for Planck at 70 GHz.	28
1.18	Comparison of filters in Fourier domain.	31
1.19	Ringling effects produced by the Matched Filter.	35
1.20	Normalized Mexican Hat Wavelet in real space.	37
1.21	Performance of the MHW.	38
2.1	Expected number density of detections between MTF and the MF.	53

2.2	Number density of detections for the case $R = 3, n_b^* = 0.05$	55
3.1	Value of $n_b(\nu, \kappa)/n_b$ for $\rho = 0.7$	64
3.2	Comparison of SAF, MF, MH and BSAF for $\gamma = 0$ and $\gamma = 1$	69
3.3	Uniform distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 0$	75
3.4	Uniform distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 0.5$	76
3.5	Uniform distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 1.5$	77
3.6	Uniform distribution. Relative difference in the number of detections.	80
3.7	Scale-free distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 0$	82
3.8	Scale-free distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 0.5$	83
3.9	Scale-free distribution. Number density of detections for $\gamma = 1.5$	84
3.10	Scale-free distribution. Relative difference in the number of detections.	85
3.11	Filter performance when γ parameter of the background is poorly known.	88
3.12	Expected number of detections for the BSAF and the MF.	91
3.13	Real vs estimated source amplitudes. Uniform distribution with cut-off.	93
4.1	Residuals map of a 12.8×12.8 square degrees sky patch at 30 GHz.	102
4.2	Expected number density of detections. Case 1: $R = 1.5, n_b^* = 0.01$	113
4.3	Expected number density of detections. Case 2: $R = 2, n_b^* = 0.01$	114
5.1	Scheme of the fusion process.	127
6.1	Comparison of filters in Fourier space at the Planck LFI frequencies.	141
6.2	Comparison of filters in Fourier space at the Planck HFI frequencies.	142
6.3	Simulation at 70 GHz, before and after filtering.	145
6.4	Comparison of relevant quantities at 30 GHz.	157
6.5	Comparison of relevant quantities at 44 GHz.	158
6.6	Comparison of relevant quantities at 70 GHz.	158
6.7	Comparison of relevant quantities at 100 GHz.	159
6.8	Comparison of relevant quantities at 143 GHz.	160
6.9	Comparison of relevant quantities at 217 GHz.	161
6.10	Comparison of relevant quantities at 353 GHz.	162

6.11	Comparison of relevant quantities at 545 GHz.	163
6.12	Comparison of relevant quantities at 857 GHz.	164
6.13	Number of real vs. spurious detections for Planck LFI frequencies.	165
6.14	Number of real vs. spurious detections for Planck HFI frequencies.	166
6.15	Average error in the estimated flux density.	167
6.16	Average error in the estimated flux density.	168
6.17	Average distance between the center of the real and simulated source.	169
6.18	Average distance between the center of the real and simulated source.	170
7.1	Sky coverage of 5 GHz surveys in equatorial coordinates	175
7.2	Sky distribution of EPS in Galactic coordinates	176
7.3	Bright source filtered with the MHW2 and the MF	178
7.4	5 vs 23 GHz WMAP flux densities of missed sources	183
7.5	Comparison of $NEWPS_{3\sigma}$ with WMAP	183
7.6	Number counts multiplied by $S^{5/2}$	186

List of Tables

3.1	Uniform distribution. Number of detections for MF and BSAF.	78
3.2	Scale-free distribution. Number of detections for MF and BSAF.	86
4.1	Number density of detections n^* for the BSAF and the standard MF. . .	115
5.1	5σ detections for white noise + PS	129
5.2	4σ detections for white noise + PS.	129
5.3	5σ detections for white noise + PS + CMB + foregrounds.	131
5.4	4σ detections for white noise + PS + CMB + foregrounds.	131
6.1	Instrument performance goals of Planck.	147
6.2	Results of the comparison of the three filters for the Planck frequencies. .	150
7.1	Summary of the large-area surveys of point sources used in this work. .	174
7.2	Summary of the results.	186
7.3	Detection statistics	187
7.4	Missed sources	193
7.5	<i>NEWPS</i> _{5σ} source catalogue	194

