

Deep  COSMOSTAT Days

17/01/2026

 CEA Paris-Saclay, France

**Denoising and Signal  
Restoration for (high-redshift)  
extragalactic data: from  
simulations to observations**



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# Current project: Signal restoration, flux preservation and denoising in spectral cubes

## Challenges with high-redshift IFUs

- **Low SNR:** Weak signals dominated by noise due to large cosmological distances.
- **Instrumental Noise:** Detector artifacts and sky subtraction errors.
- **Convolution Effects:** PSF and beam smearing may distort flux values affecting flux conservation.
- **Denoising Bias:** Aggressive methods may lead to over-smoothing and can suppress real signals

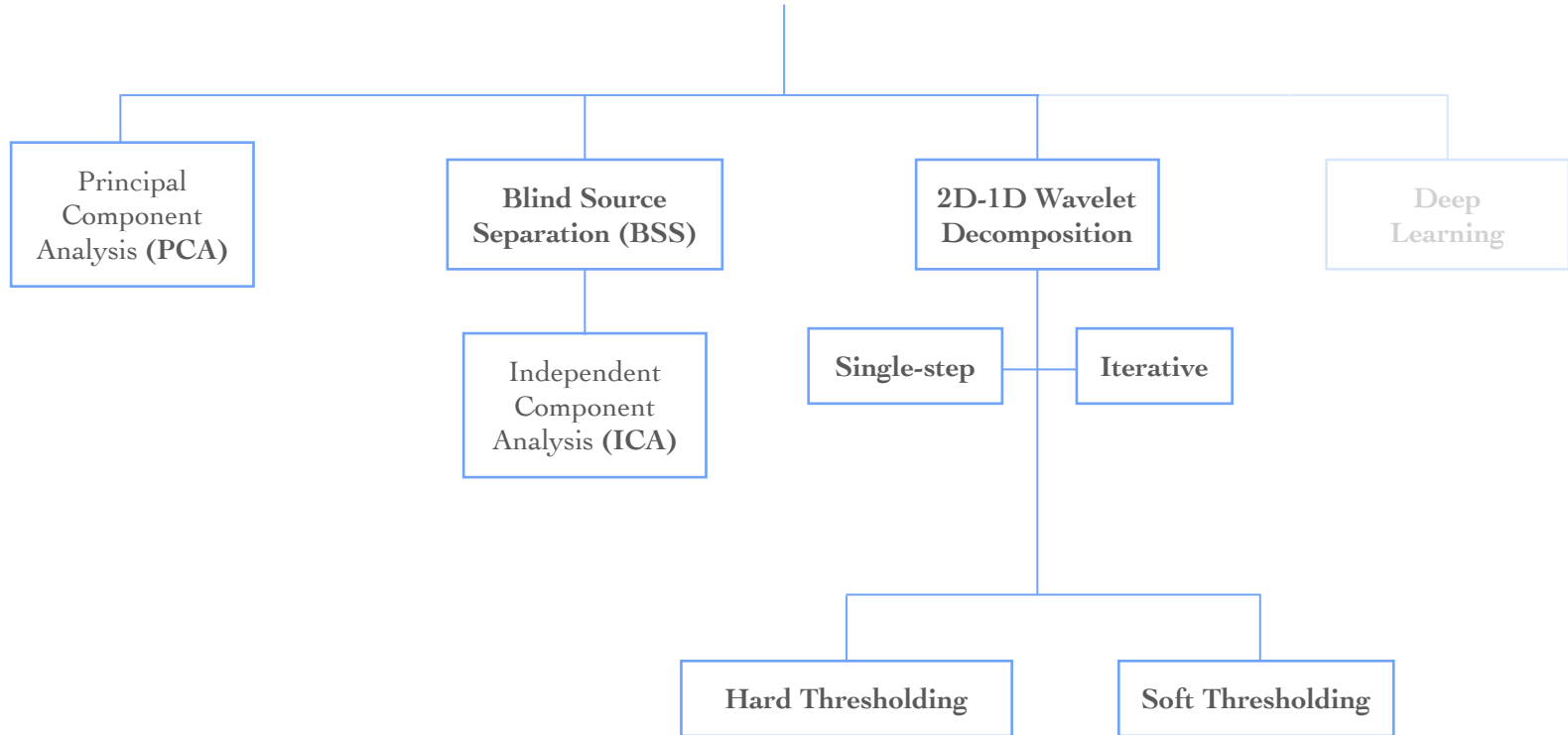
## A I M S

To **analyse and compare denoising methods** for **spectral cubes** across a **broad parameter space**, focusing on:

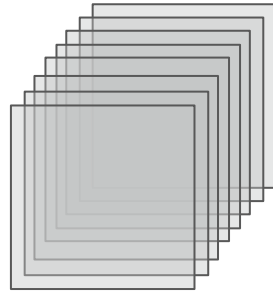
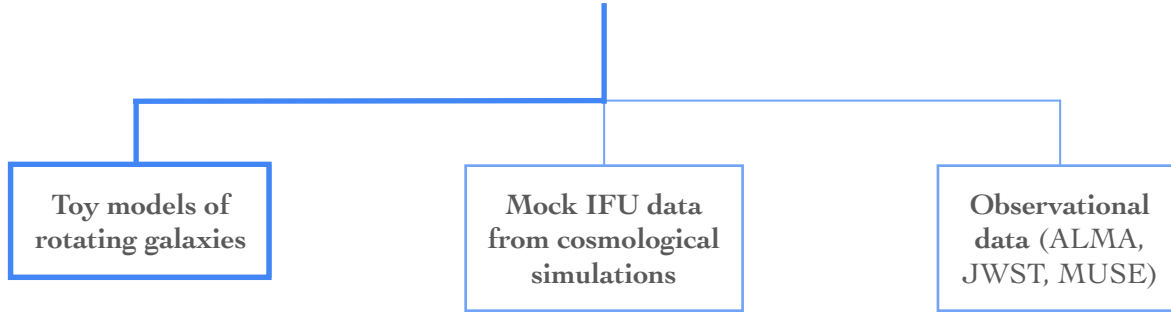
- **Noise characteristics:** Gaussian noise (ALMA), cosmic ray artifacts (JWST), vertical/horizontal stripes (MUSE)
- **Noise levels:** Varying signal-to-noise ratios
- **Spatial resolutions:** Different beam sizes affecting the resolution

And understand how each method performs under different conditions and identify the **optimal approach** for **flux conservation** and **denoising**, for specific datasets and noise characteristics, with application to observational data

# Denoising Methods



# Datasets



## Spectral cubes

multiple spectral observation of the same spatial area, where each  $(x,y)$  spatial point corresponds to a spectrum

## Constructing toy data of rotating galaxies

Step 1: Describing the flux density profile in 3D space

$$F(x, y, z) = F_e \exp \left[ -b_n \left( \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{R_e} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right) \right] \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{|z|}{h_z} \right)$$

Sérsic  
profile

Exponential  
profile

# Constructing toy data of rotating galaxies

Step 1: Describing the flux density profile in 3D space

Sérsic profile

$$F(x, y, z) = F_e \exp \left[ -b_n \left( \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{R_e} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right) \right] \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{|z|}{h_z} \right)$$

Flux density  
at a given  
location in  
3D space

Constant depending  
on  $n$ , ensuring that  
the effective radius  
encloses half of the  
total light

Sérsic index:  
determines  
the shape of  
the profile

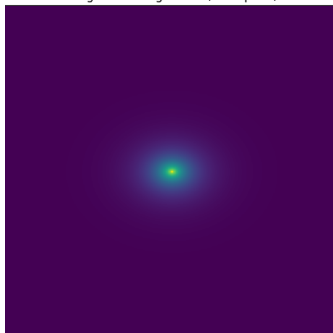
Scale height:  
determines how the  
flux density varies  
above or below the  
galactic mid-plane.

Effective flux density:  
flux contained within  
the half-light radius

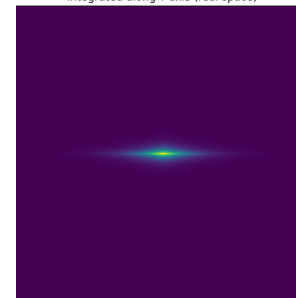
Effective/half-light radius:  
radius at which half of the total  
light of the galaxy is contained

Exponential profile

Integrated along Z axis (real space)



Integrated along Y axis (real space)

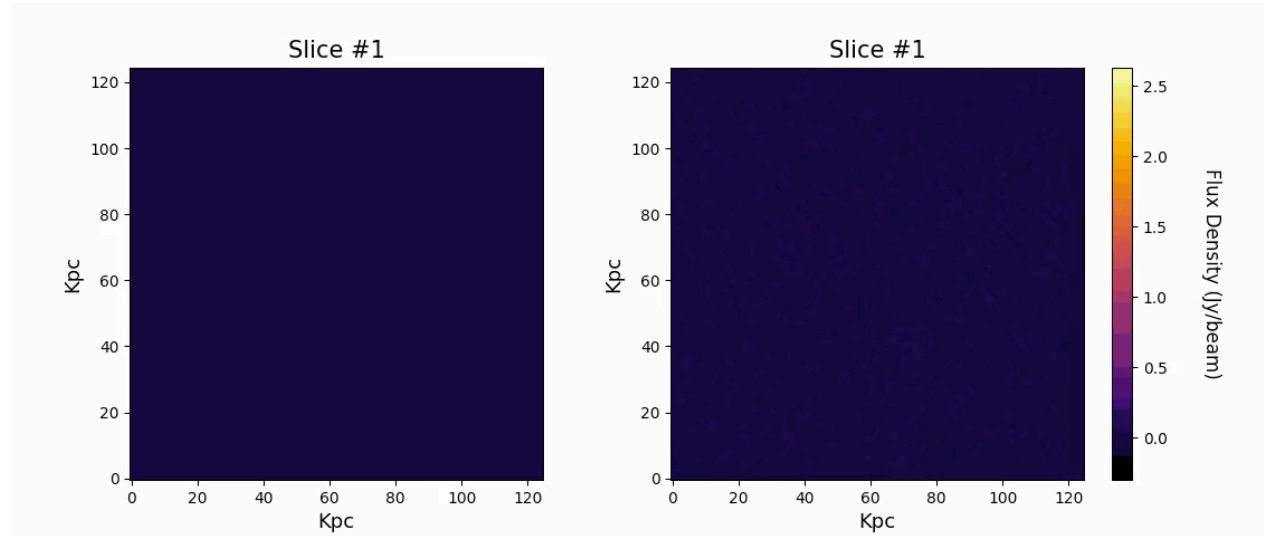


# Constructing toy data of rotating galaxies

- Rotation velocity vectors ( $\mathbf{v}_x, \mathbf{v}_y, \mathbf{v}_z$ ) calculated **in the plane of the disk**

$$v = v_0 \times 1.022 \times \left(\frac{R}{R_0}\right)^{0.0803}$$

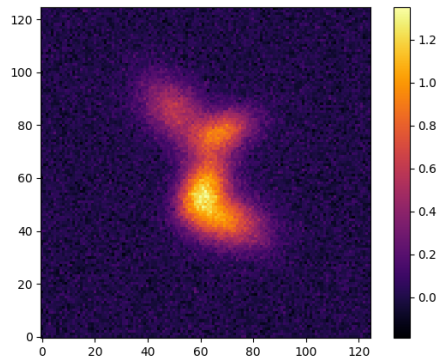
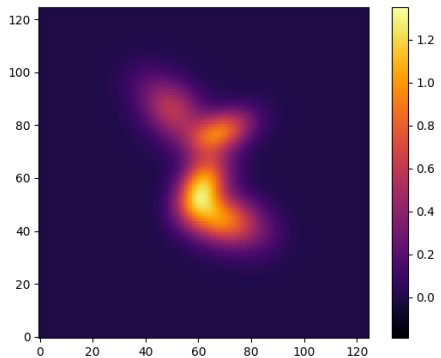
- The entire system is rotated and **Z axis is chosen as the line of sight**
- $\mathbf{n}_z$  2D projections are made along line of sight based on  $\mathbf{v}_z$  bins
- **Gaussian noise** is overlaid onto the cube



Noise-free  
(ground truth)

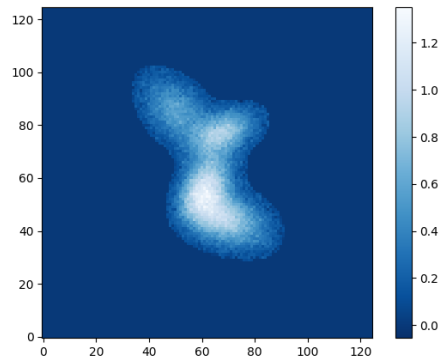
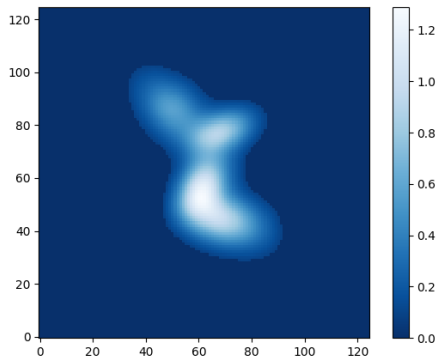
Noisy data  
(input)

## Identifying emission regions



Slice #10 of the clean and noisy toy cube and flux emission regions (masked)

Masks constructed using **astrodendro**, which identifies regions with strong emission in the whole cube

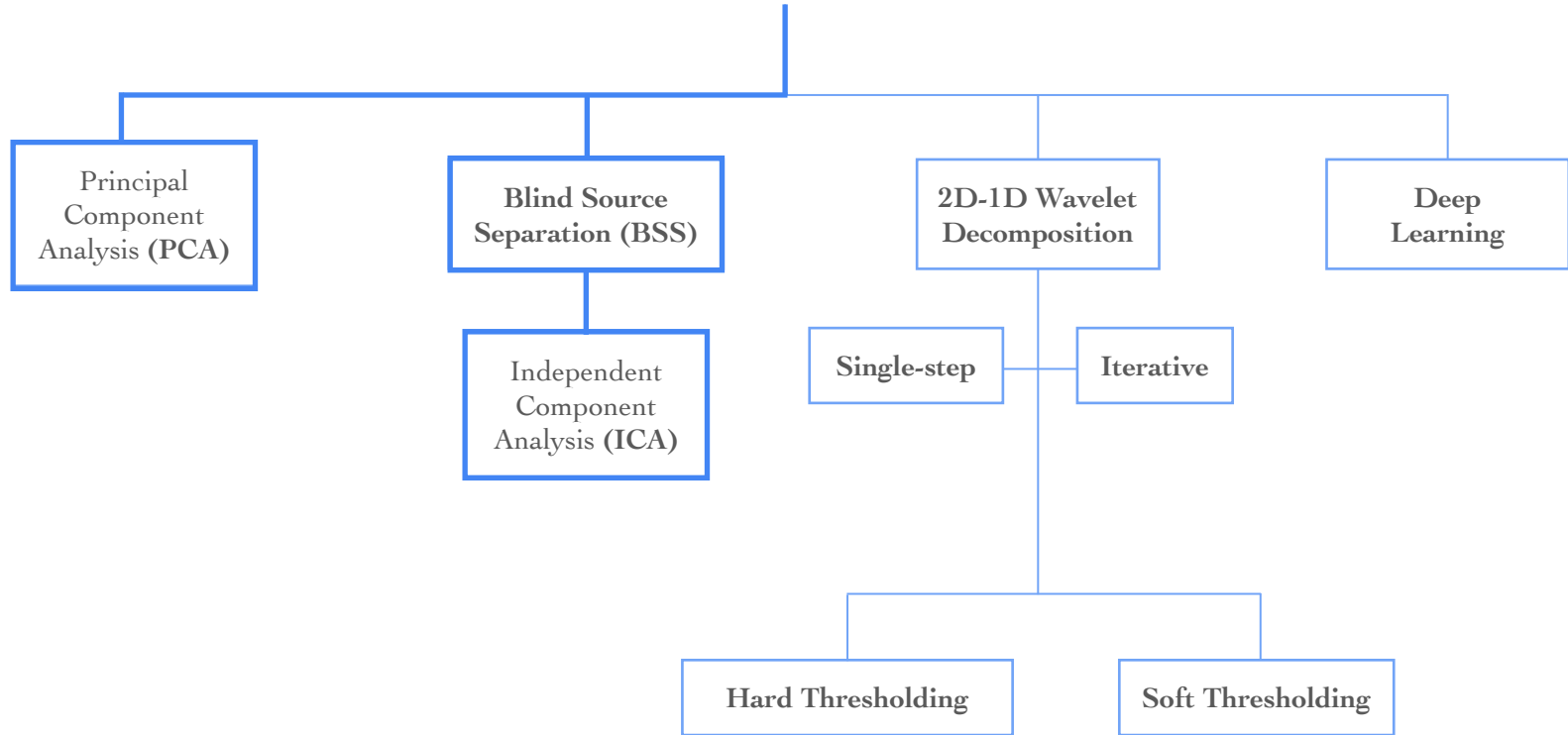


I N I T I A L

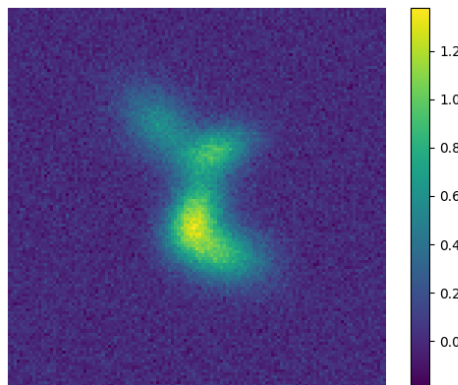
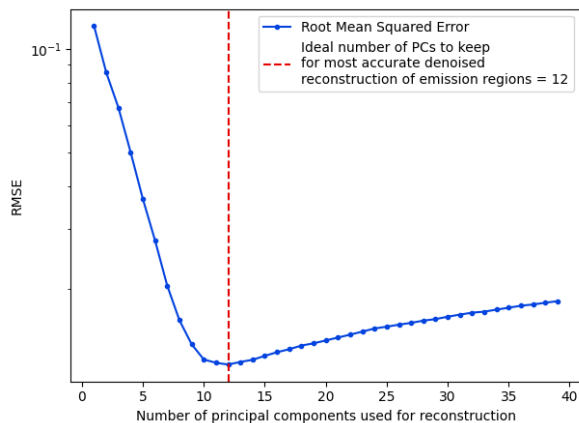
Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$



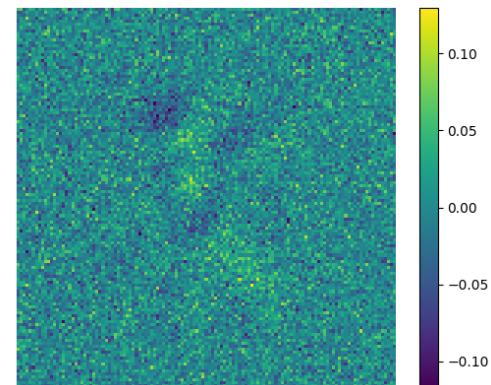
# Denoising Methods



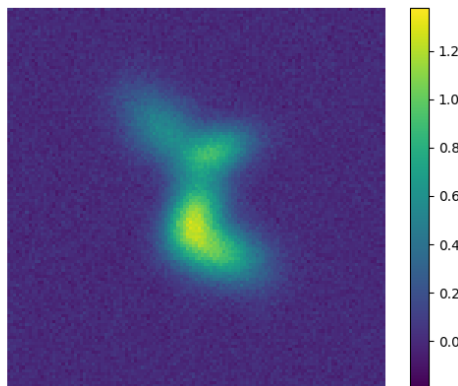
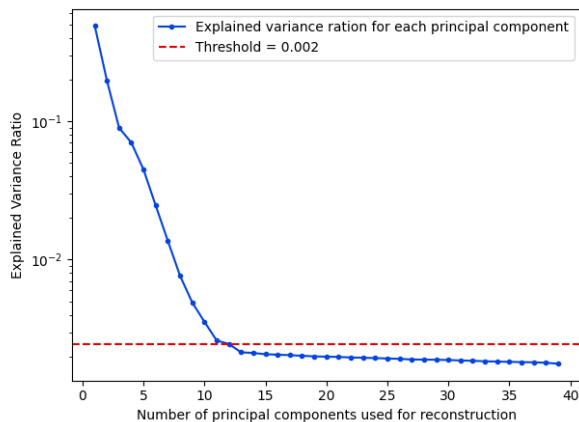
# PCA based denoising



Noisy input



Residual

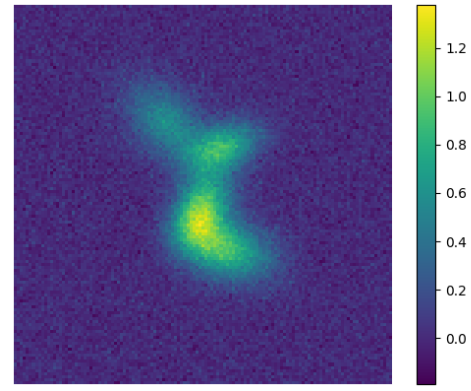
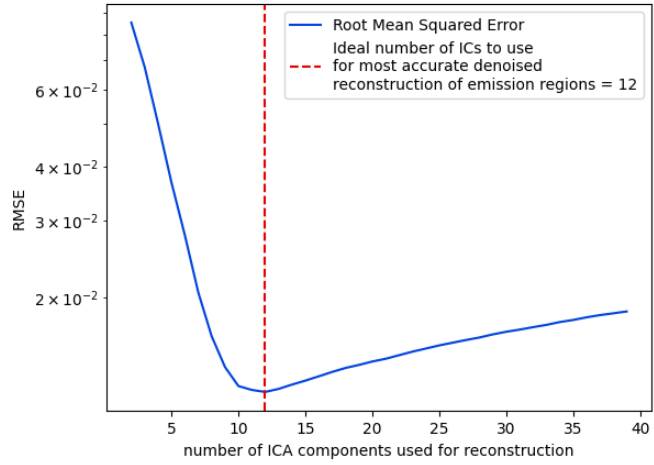


PCA denoised

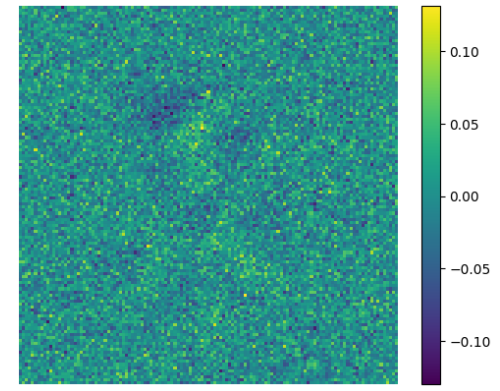
INITIAL  
Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

Noise std. deviation:  $3.016e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.216e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.417e-02$

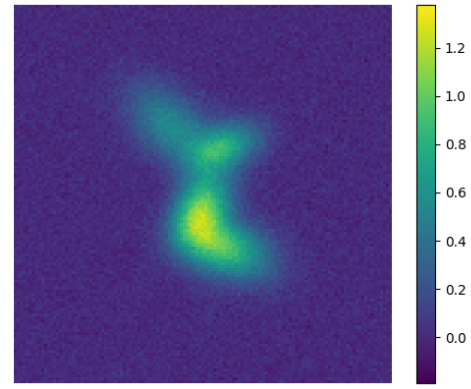
# BSS/ICA based denoising



Noisy input



Residual

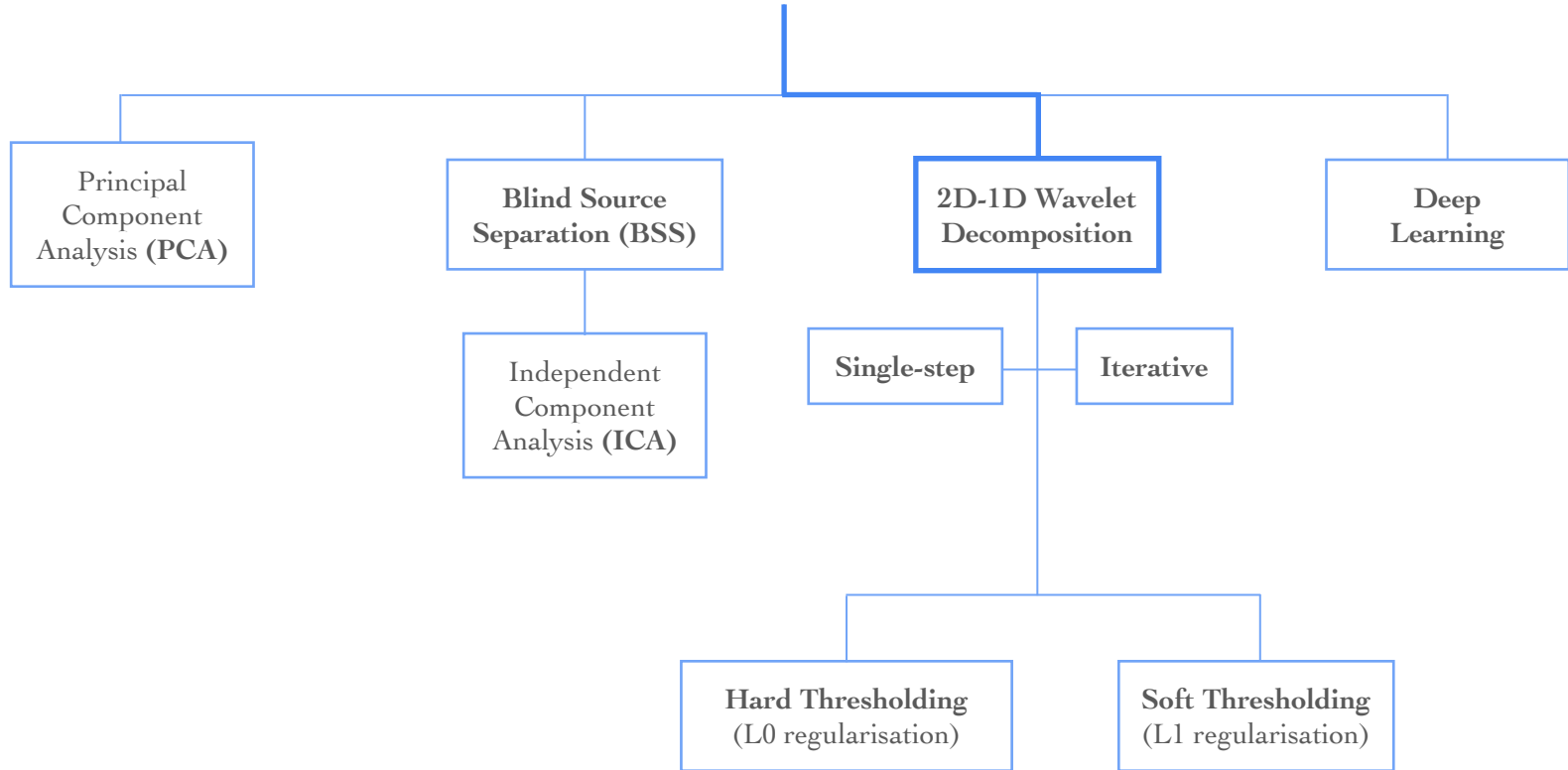


ICA denoised

INITIAL  
Noise std. deviation: 5.088e-02  
Emission RMSE: 1.854e-02  
Average flux: 5.418e-02

Noise std. deviation: 3.012e-02  
Emission RMSE: 1.212e-02  
Average flux: 5.420e-02

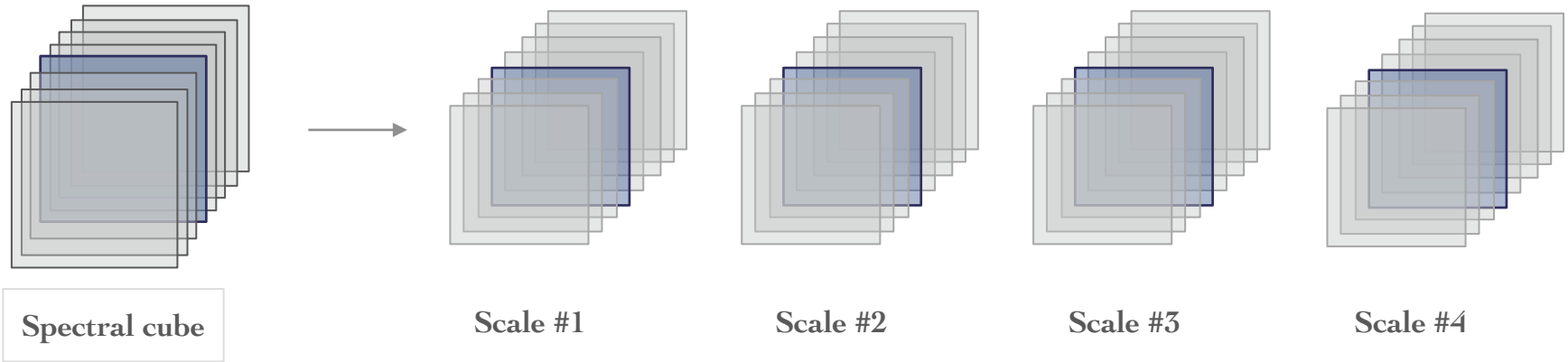
# Denoising Methods



# 2D-1D wavelet decomposition

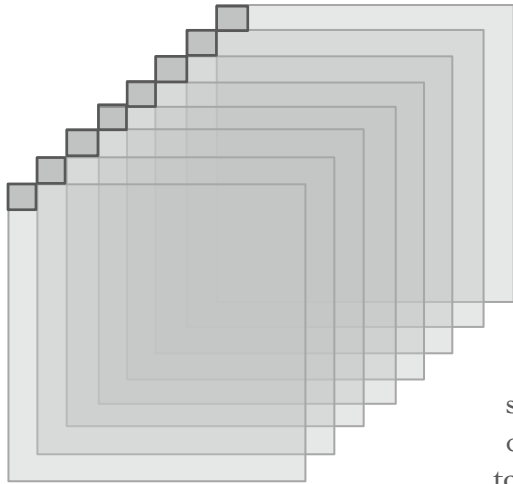
Each spectral slice...

...is decomposed into  $n_{2d}$  scales



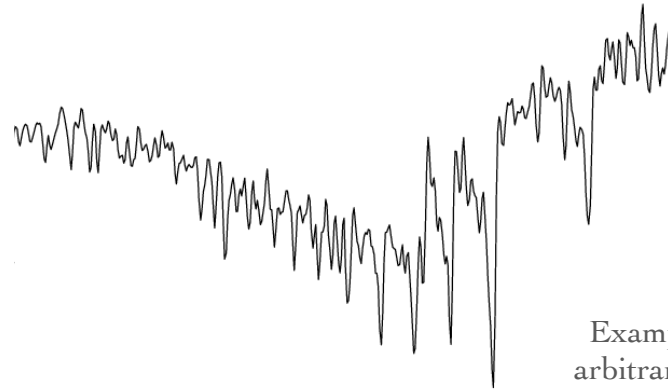
**2D decomposition:** Starlet transform on each spectral slice : undecimated and non orthogonal (dimensions of each slice are preserved)

# 2D-1D wavelet decomposition



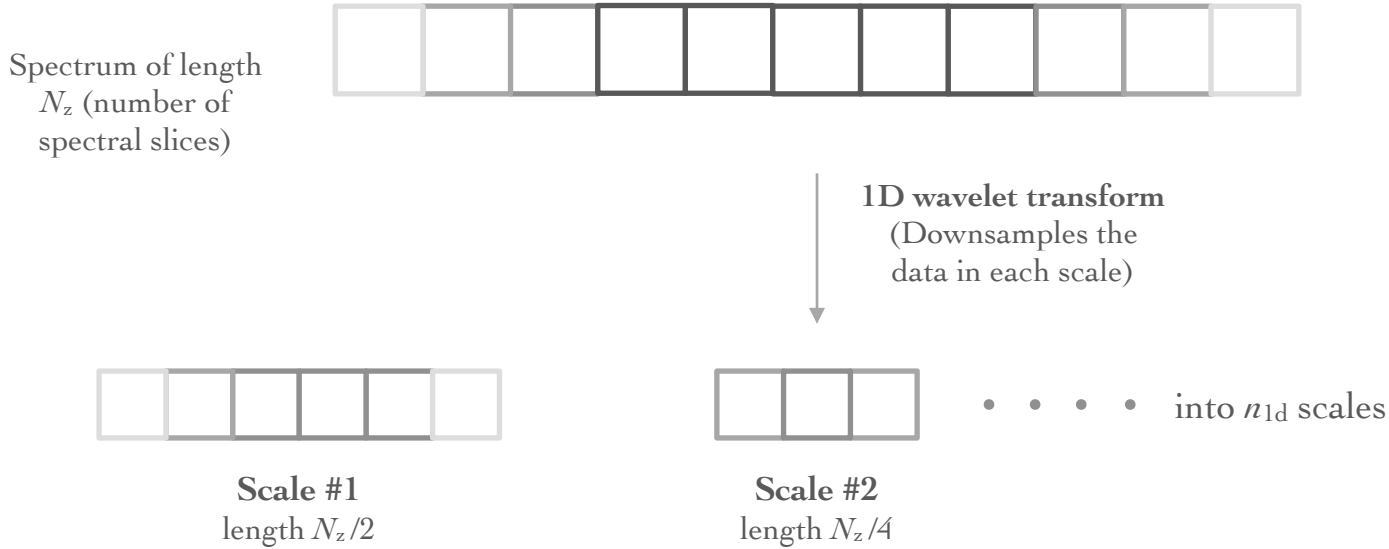
Each  $(x,y)$   
spatial point  
corresponds  
to a spectrum.

Cube at one  
2D scale



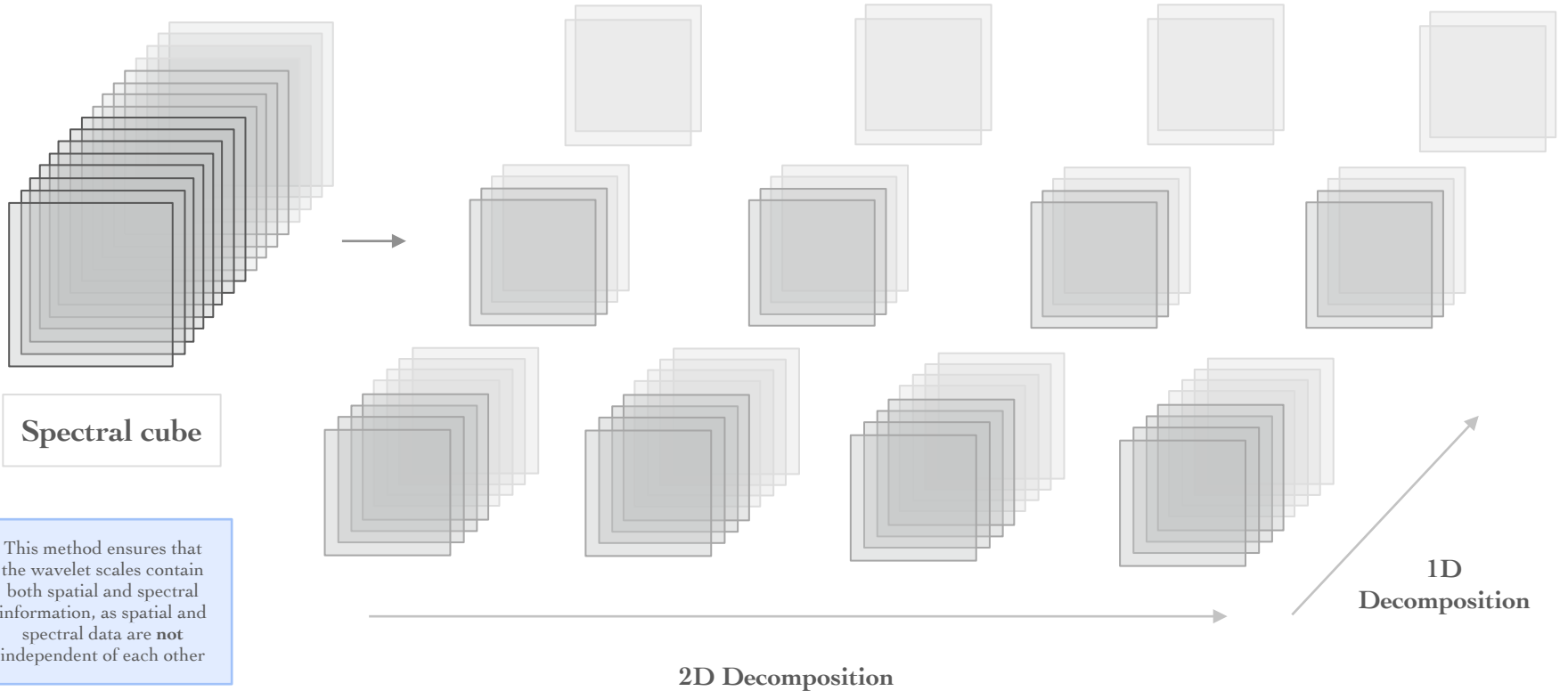
Example of an  
arbitrary spectra  
corresponding  
to a 1D array  
for one spaxel

# 2D-1D wavelet decomposition



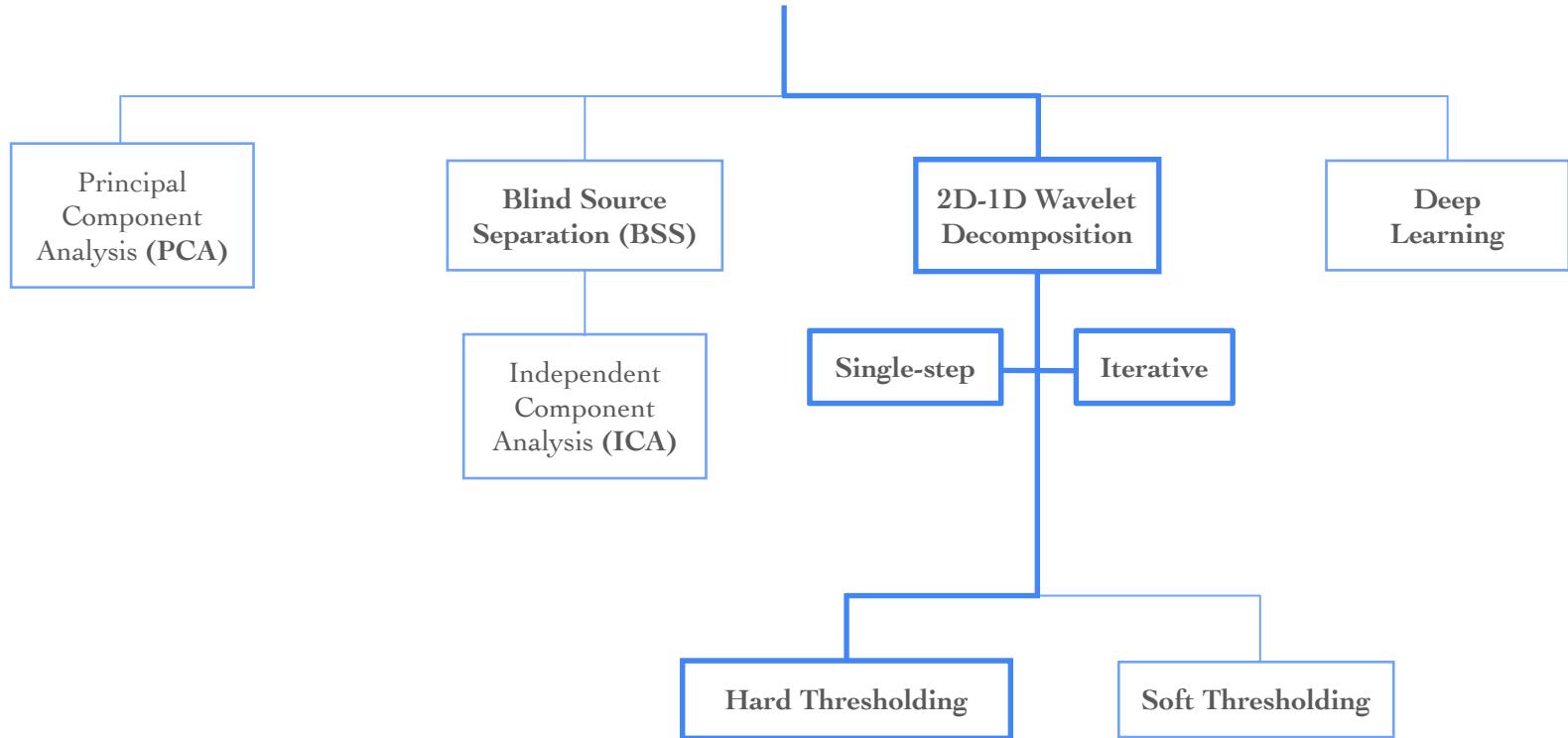
**1D decomposition:** The spectra associated with each spaxel is decomposed with a 1D wavelet transform

# 2D-1D wavelet decomposition

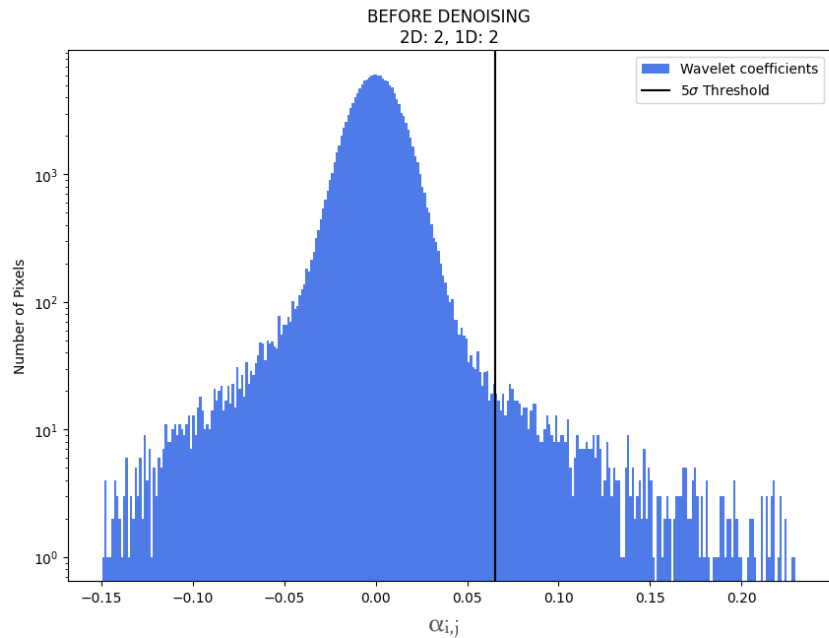




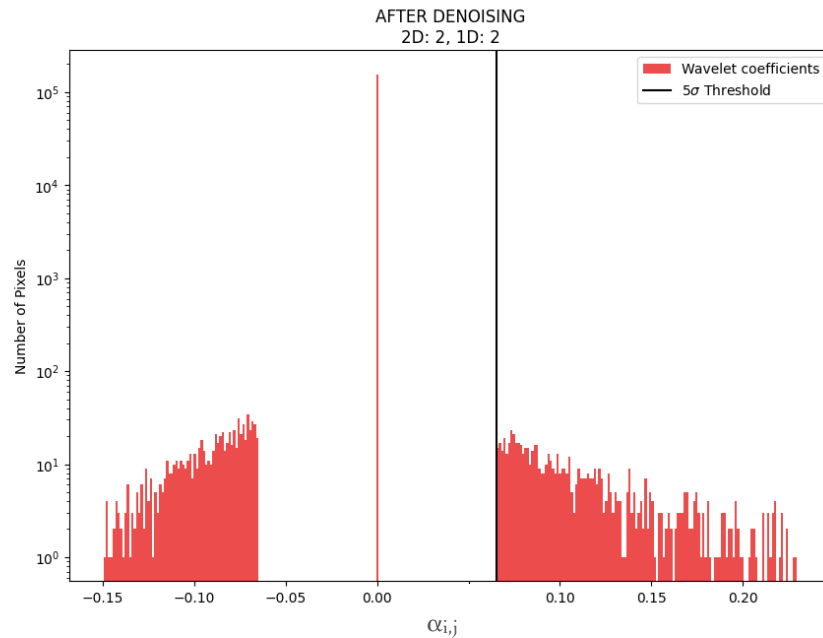
# Denoising Methods



# Single-step Hard Thresholding



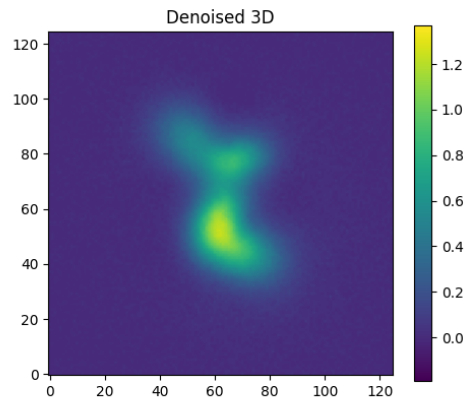
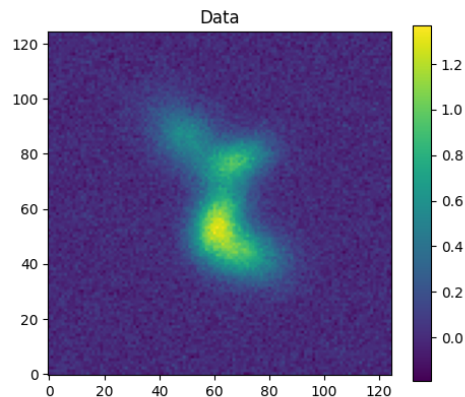
Distribution of wavelet coefficients in one (2D, 1D) scale



After thresholding at  $5\sigma$  using

$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{hard}}(\alpha, \lambda) = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{if } |\alpha| \geq \lambda \\ 0, & \text{if } |\alpha| < \lambda \end{cases}$$

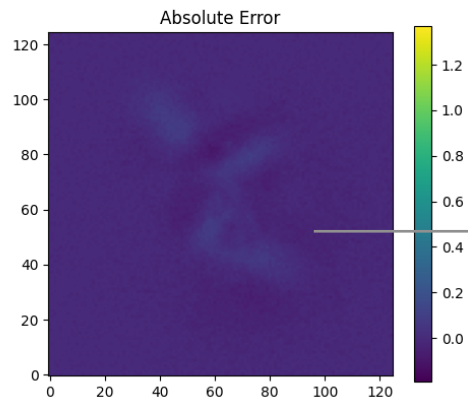
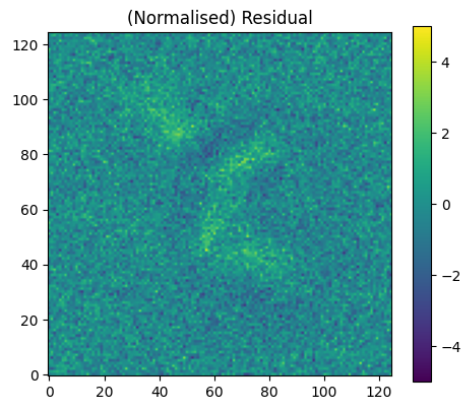
# Single-step Hard Thresholding



I N I T I A L

Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

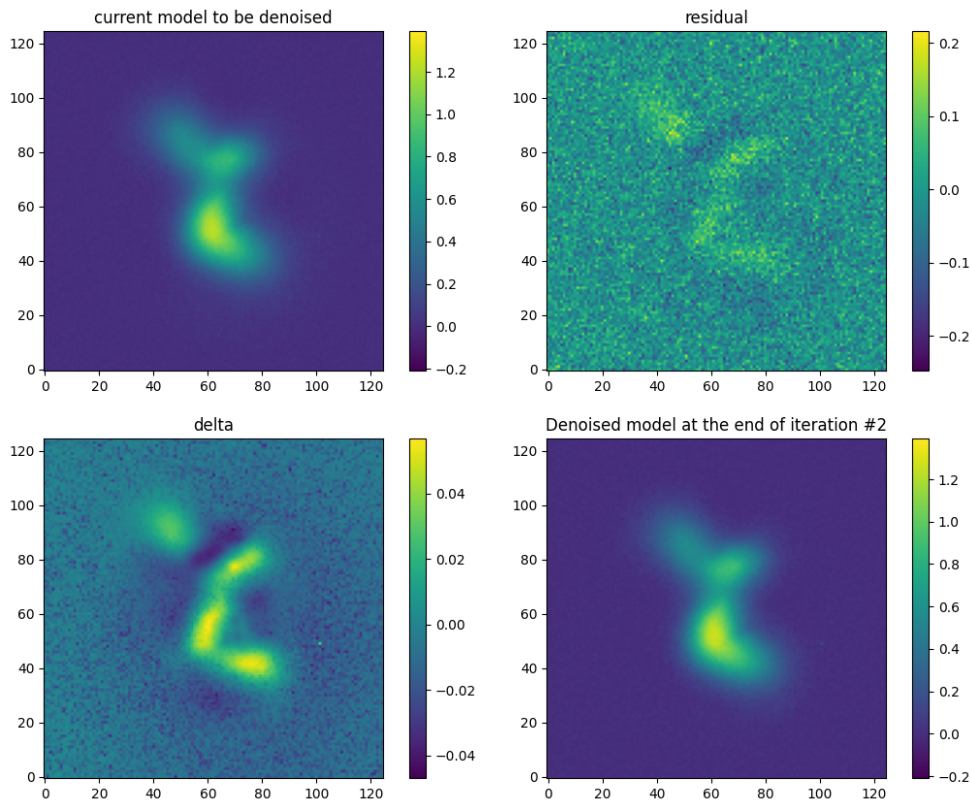
Noise std. deviation:  $2.000e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.253e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.368e-02$



Un-obtained  
signal in the  
residual!

Signal extraction can  
be further refined!

# Iterative Hard Thresholding



In subsequent iterations, **wavelet thresholding is applied on the residual** of the current iteration's input with the noisy data

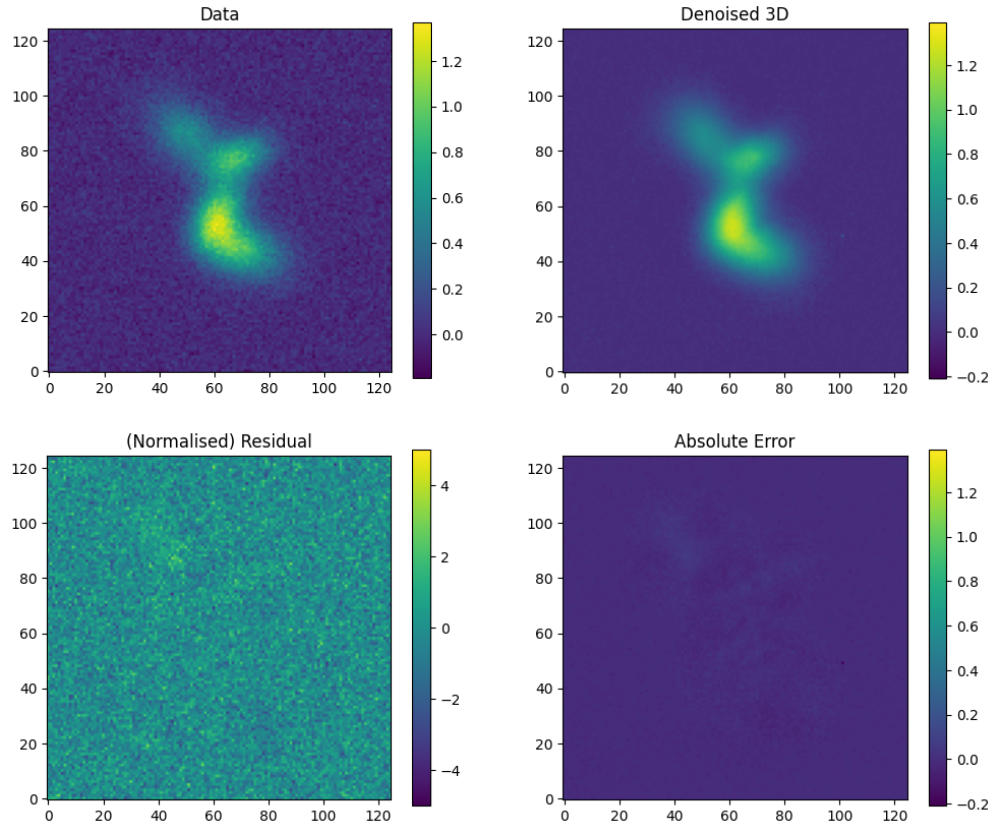
The **previously undetected signal from the residual is added onto the initial denoised data**, thus improving flux conservation and SNR improvement

I N I T I A L

Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

Noise std. deviation:  $1.666e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $8.276e-03$   
Average flux:  $5.368e-02$

# Iterative Hard Thresholding



After **3 iterations**, final result:

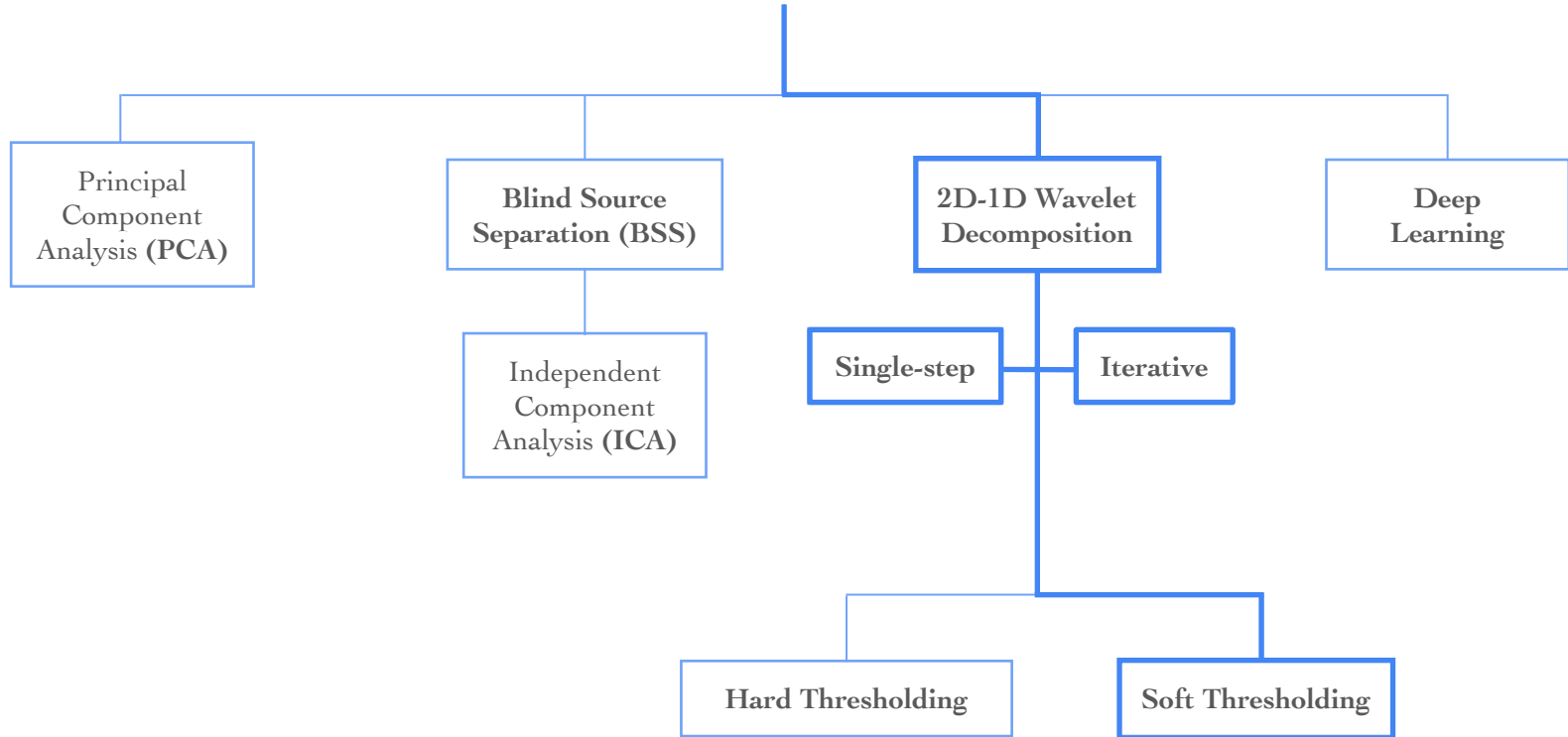
I N I T I A L

Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

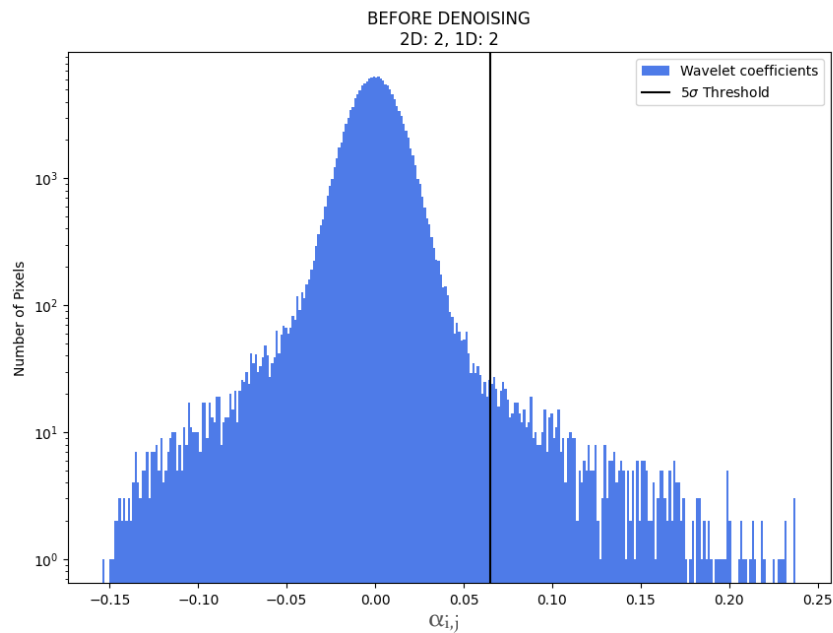
Noise std. deviation:  $1.624e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $7.827e-03$   
Average flux:  $5.411e-02$

Flux is conserved well, the noise level and emission RMSE are noticeably lower than PCA/ICA or single-step wavelet case

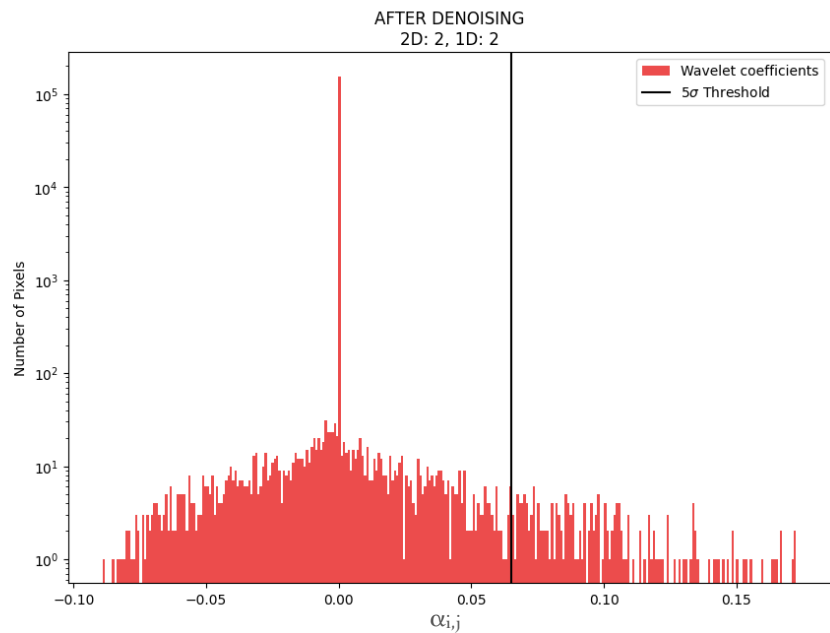
# Denoising Methods



# Single-step Hard Thresholding

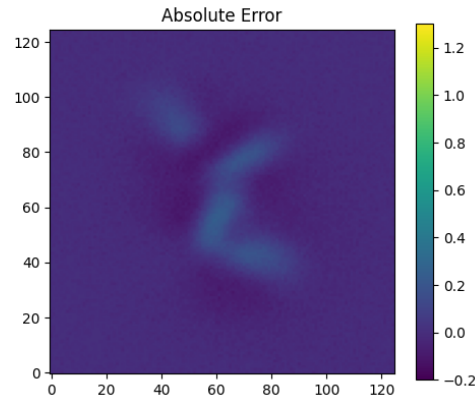
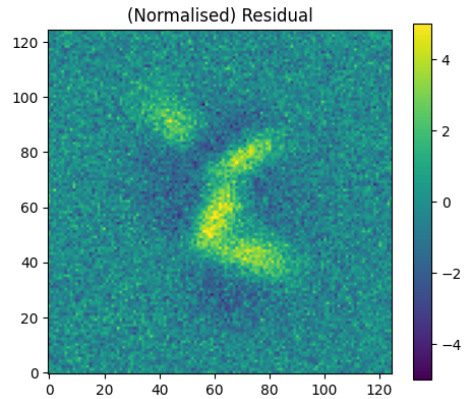
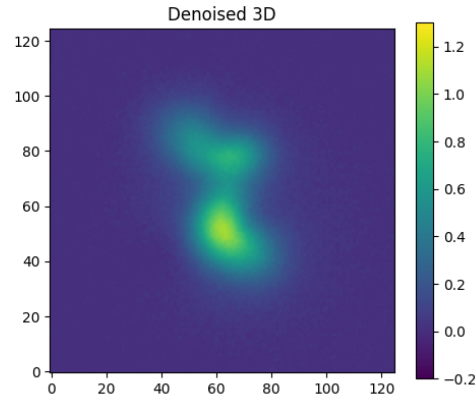
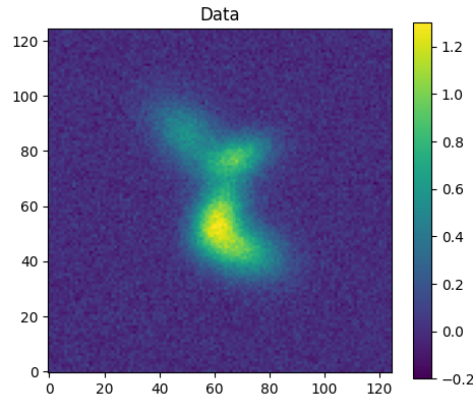


Distribution of wavelet coefficients in one (2D, 1D) scale



After thresholding at  $5\sigma$  using  
 $\mathcal{T}_{\text{soft}}(\alpha, \lambda) = \text{sign}(\alpha) \cdot \max(|\alpha| - \lambda, 0)$

# Single-step Soft Thresholding



I N I T I A L

Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

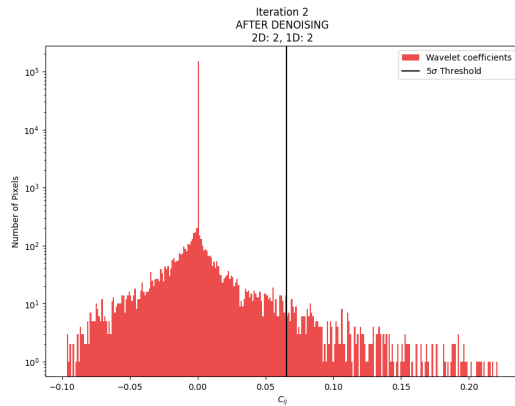
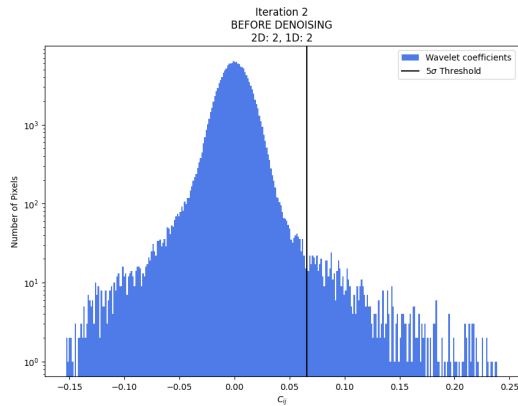
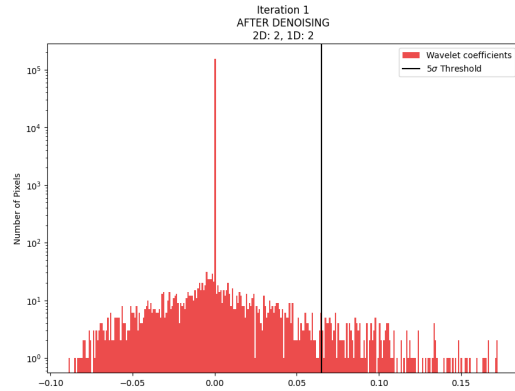
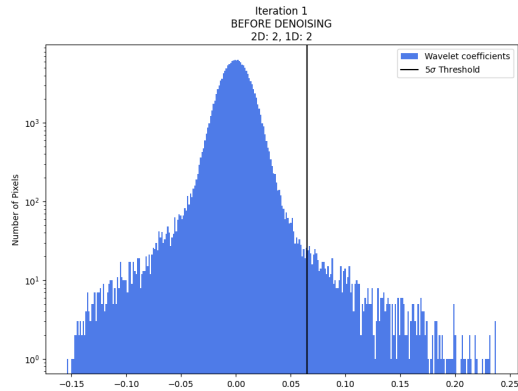
Noise std. deviation:  $2.943e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $3.042e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.157e-02$

Flux is not conserved well and significant signal residuals due to bias induced by shrinking all wavelet coefficients smoothly

Attempting to iteratively refine



# Iterative Soft Thresholding



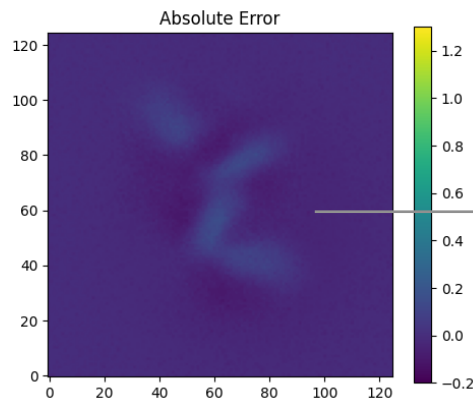
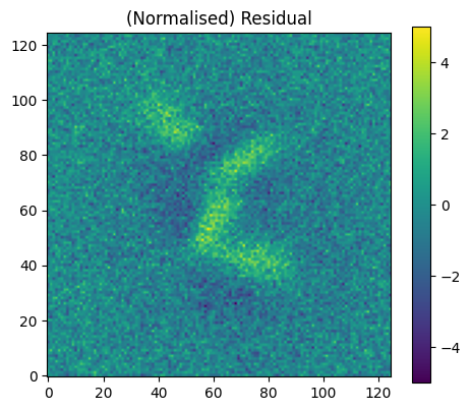
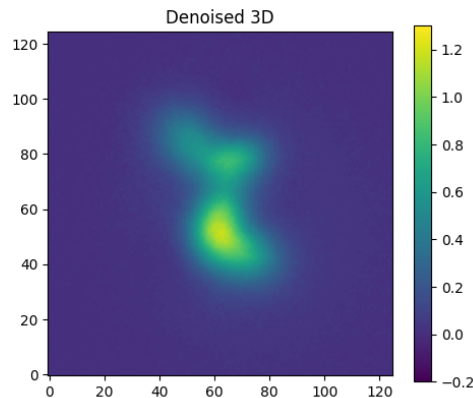
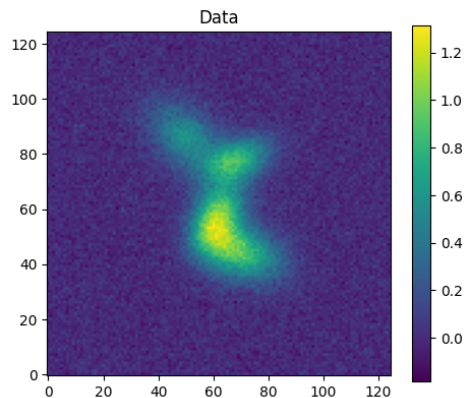
In subsequent iterations, **weights are calculated** as a function of the closeness of the coefficient magnitudes of the previous iteration to the threshold value

$$w_{ij} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(10|\alpha_{ij} - \lambda|^2\right)}$$

Re-weighted thresholding is applied in the next iteration after a gradient step, which pushes the data closer to the input

**Coefficients that are closer to the threshold are thresholded more aggressively** (higher  $w$ ) and shrunk more towards 0 and the remaining coefficients are shrunk less

# Iterative Soft Thresholding



I N I T I A L

Noise std. deviation:  $5.088e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $1.854e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.418e-02$

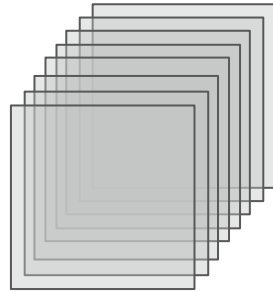
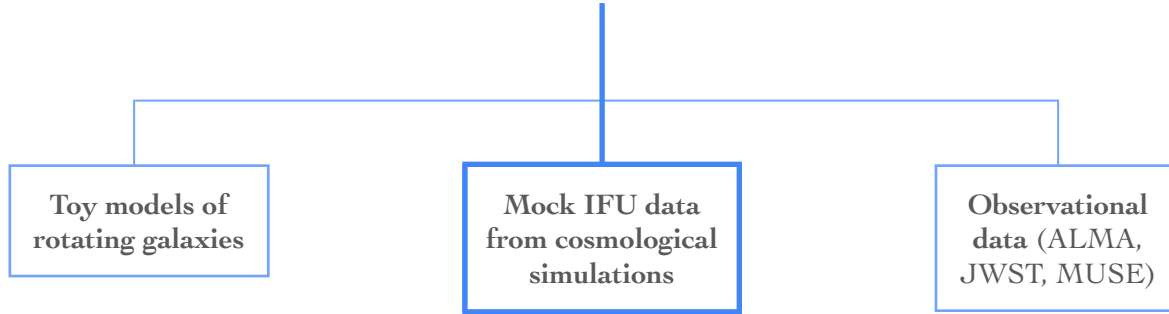
Noise std. deviation:  $2.943e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $3.042e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.157e-02$

Noise std. deviation:  $2.796e-02$   
Emission RMSE:  $2.330e-02$   
Average flux:  $5.252e-02$

**Flux is still not conserved very well** as there are significant residuals and RMSE is still large, however the reweighing method slightly improves the reconstruction

**Further improvements are needed**

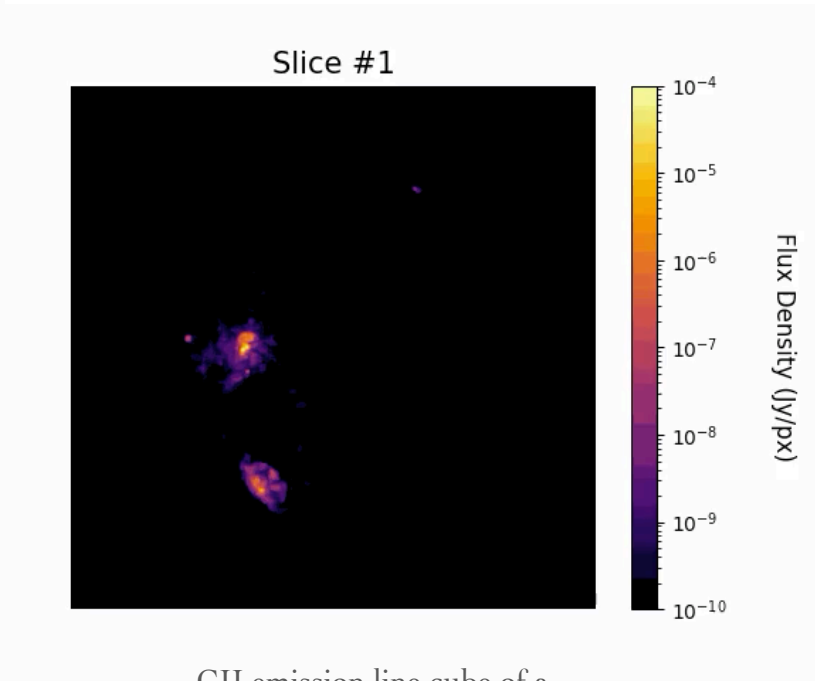
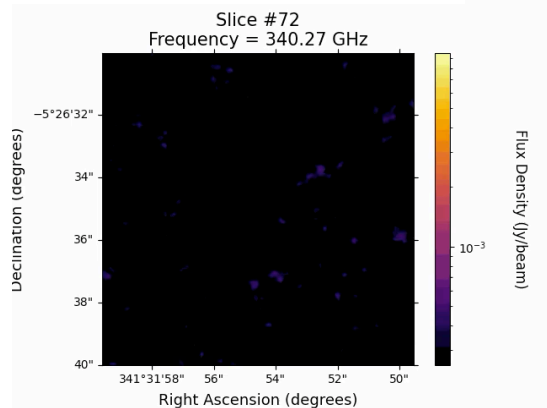
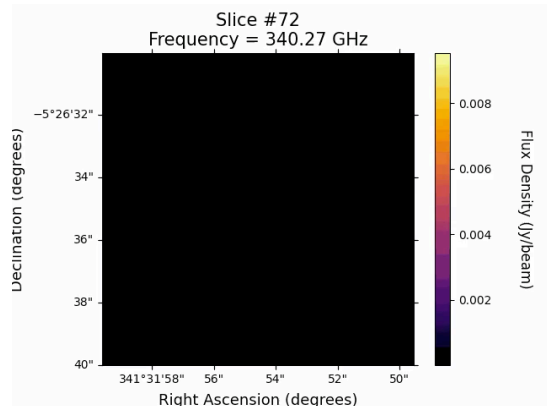
# Datasets



## Spectral cubes

multiple spectral observation of the same spatial area, where each  $(x,y)$  spatial point corresponds to a spectrum

# Pre-processing mock IFU cubes from FIRE

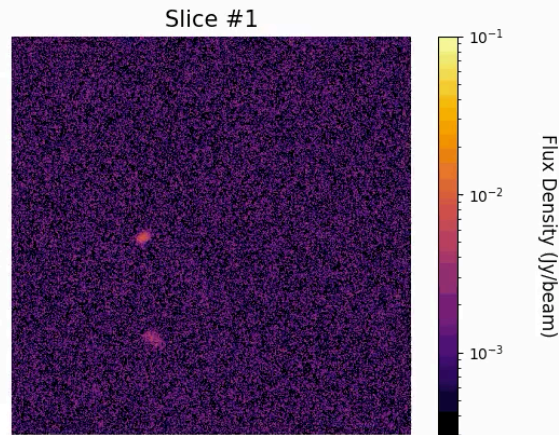
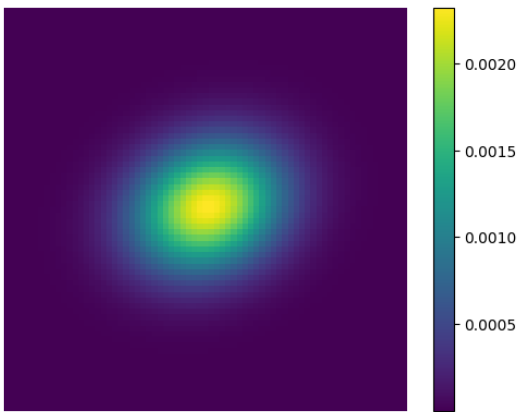
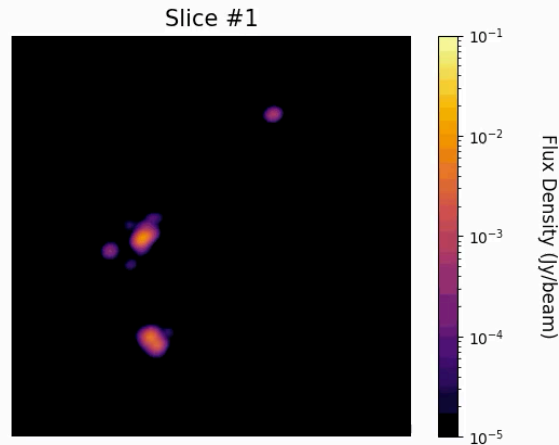
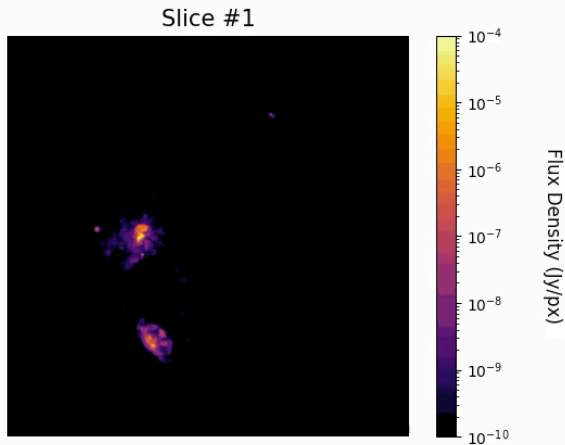


CII emission line cube of a highly-resolved multiple merger system from FIRE simulations

W2246-like system

A multiple-merger system was discovered in the FIRE simulations - simulated at redshift 4.5, central galaxy with multiple satellites and visible bridges and streams of gas

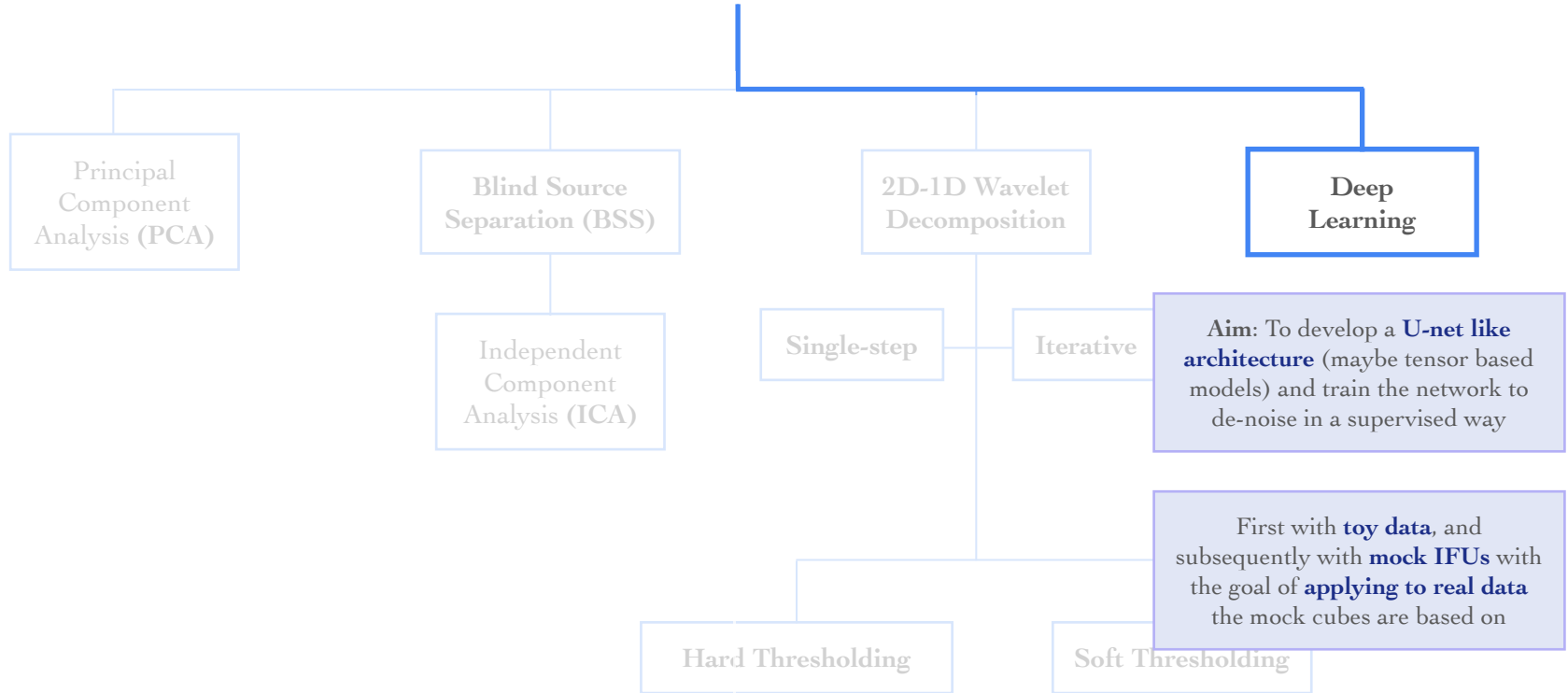
**Aim:** To pre-process the raw, highly resolved mock IFU cube and convolve it with an appropriate beam to make the cube as close as possible to real observations (ALMA)



The resolved cube is convolved with an **ALMA-like PSF** (approximated from observational cube of W2246), and **Gaussian noise is overlaid** on the cube with manually chosen SNR

Same trends observed as in the results with the toy data

# Denoising Methods



# Future/Ongoing Work

Refining the re-weighting step  
of iterative soft thresholding

Deep learning denoising application  
on toy data and mock IFU cubes

Application of these methods to different  
noise characteristics (JWST, MUSE)

Generating statistics for the methods for  
different resolutions and initial SNRs

Testing different method performances  
on real W2246 observations from  
ALMA, MUSE and JWST

Next project on high-redshift galaxy  
property estimation using spectral data  
from (de-noised) mock and real cubes

# Thank you for your time!

