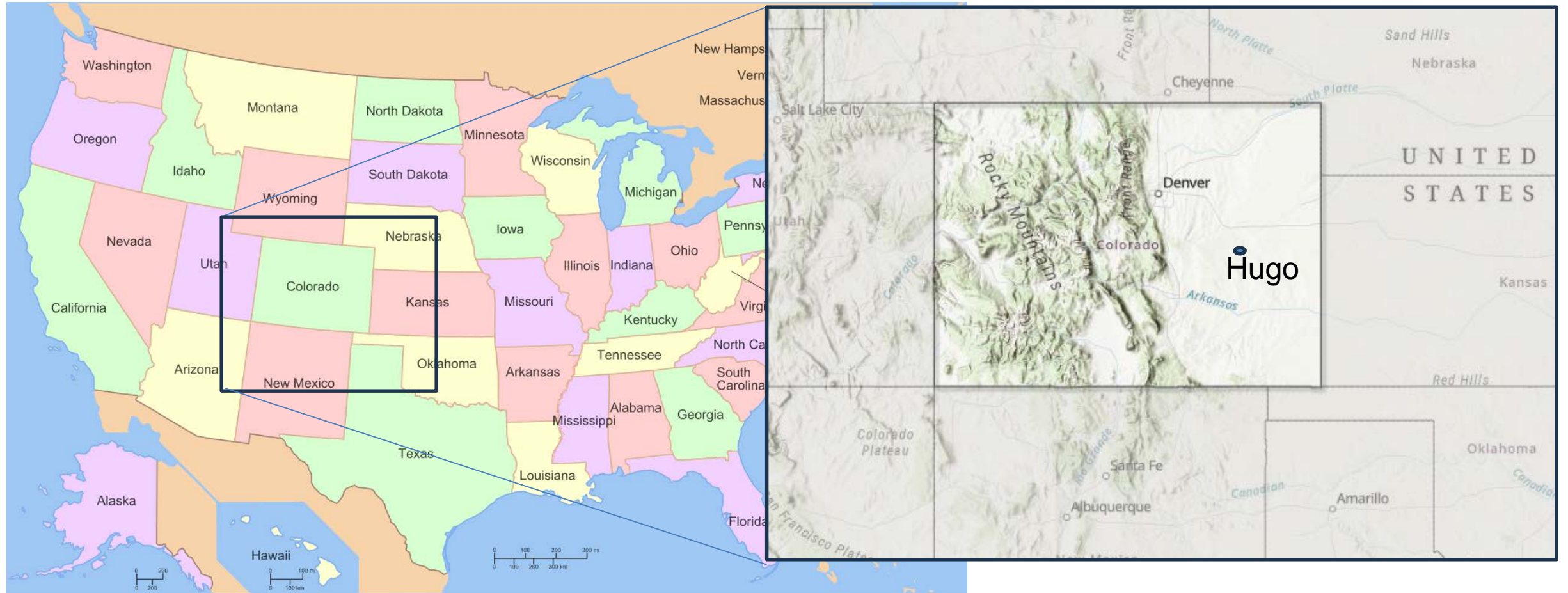

ELF Measurements in Hugo, Colorado Past and Present

ELF Special Seminar May 27, 2026

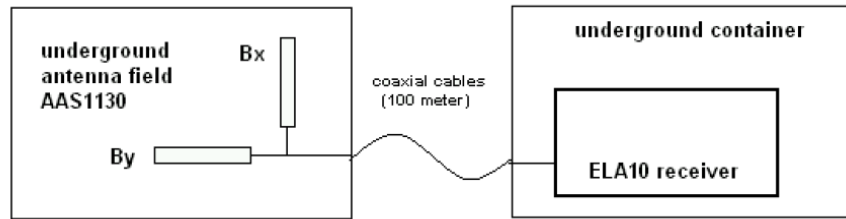
Outline

- Installation of the ELA10 Station in 2015
- Photo Narrative of the Installation of ELA12 in 2026
- Comparison of ELF vs VLF Recordings of Lightning Impulses
- Preliminary Analysis of Hugo vs. Hylaty data

Hugo, Colorado



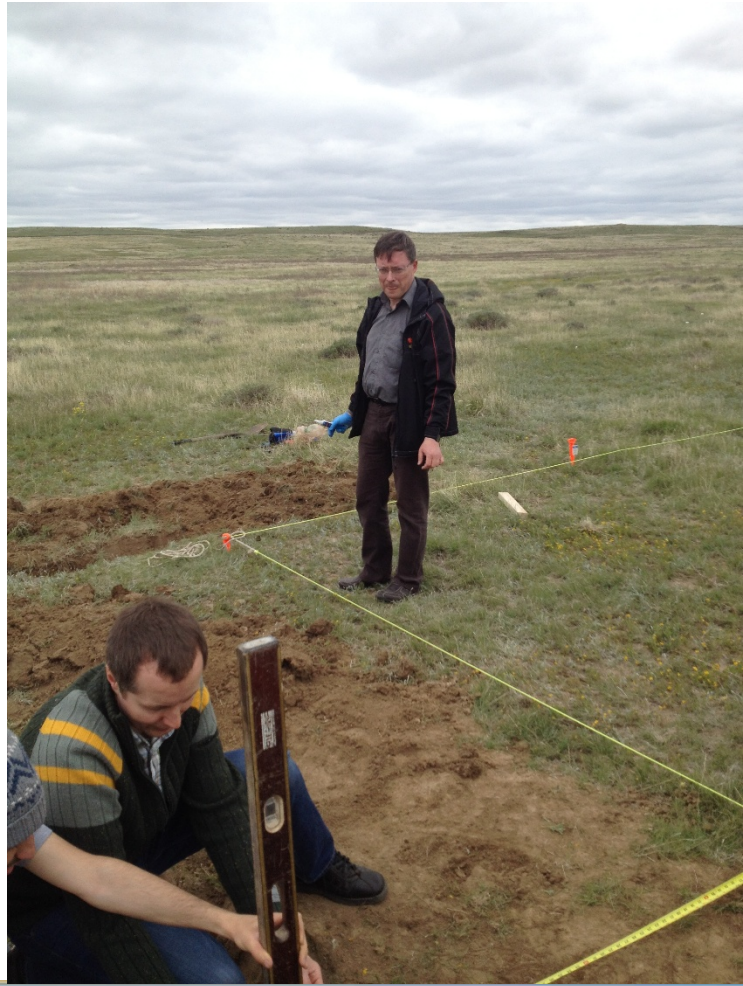
First Installation - May 2015

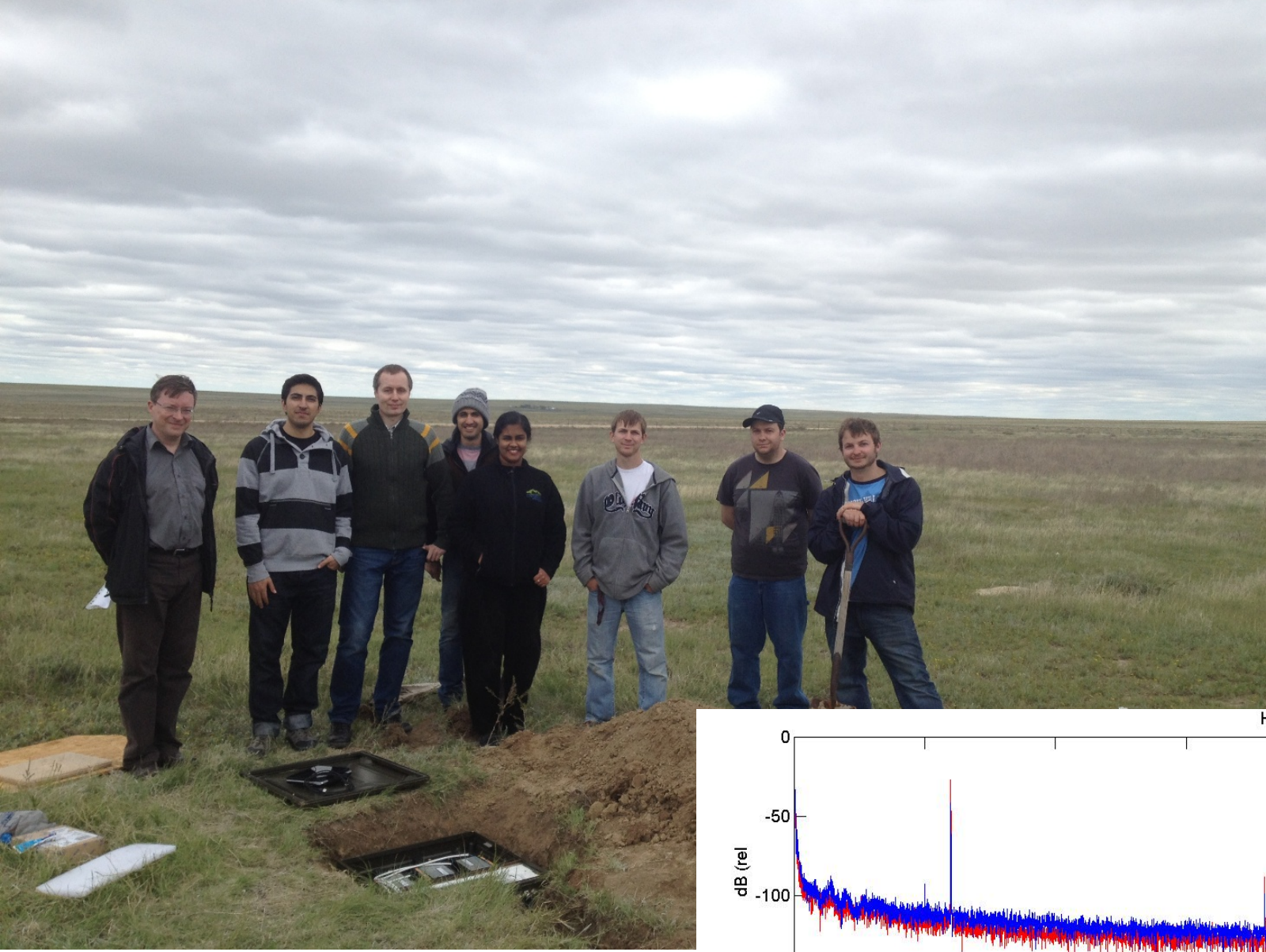


[Kulak et al., 2014]

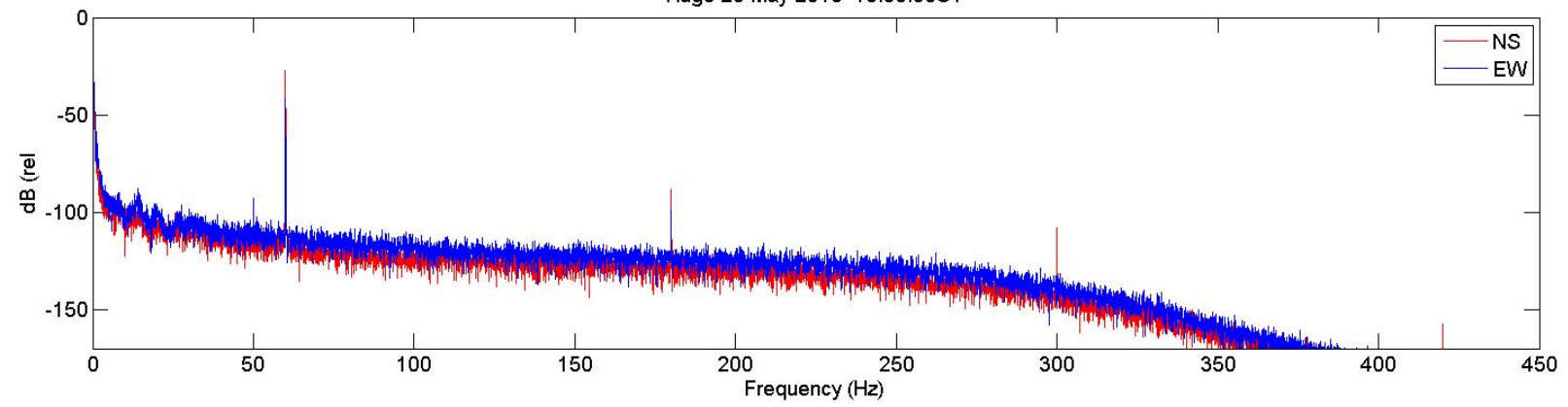


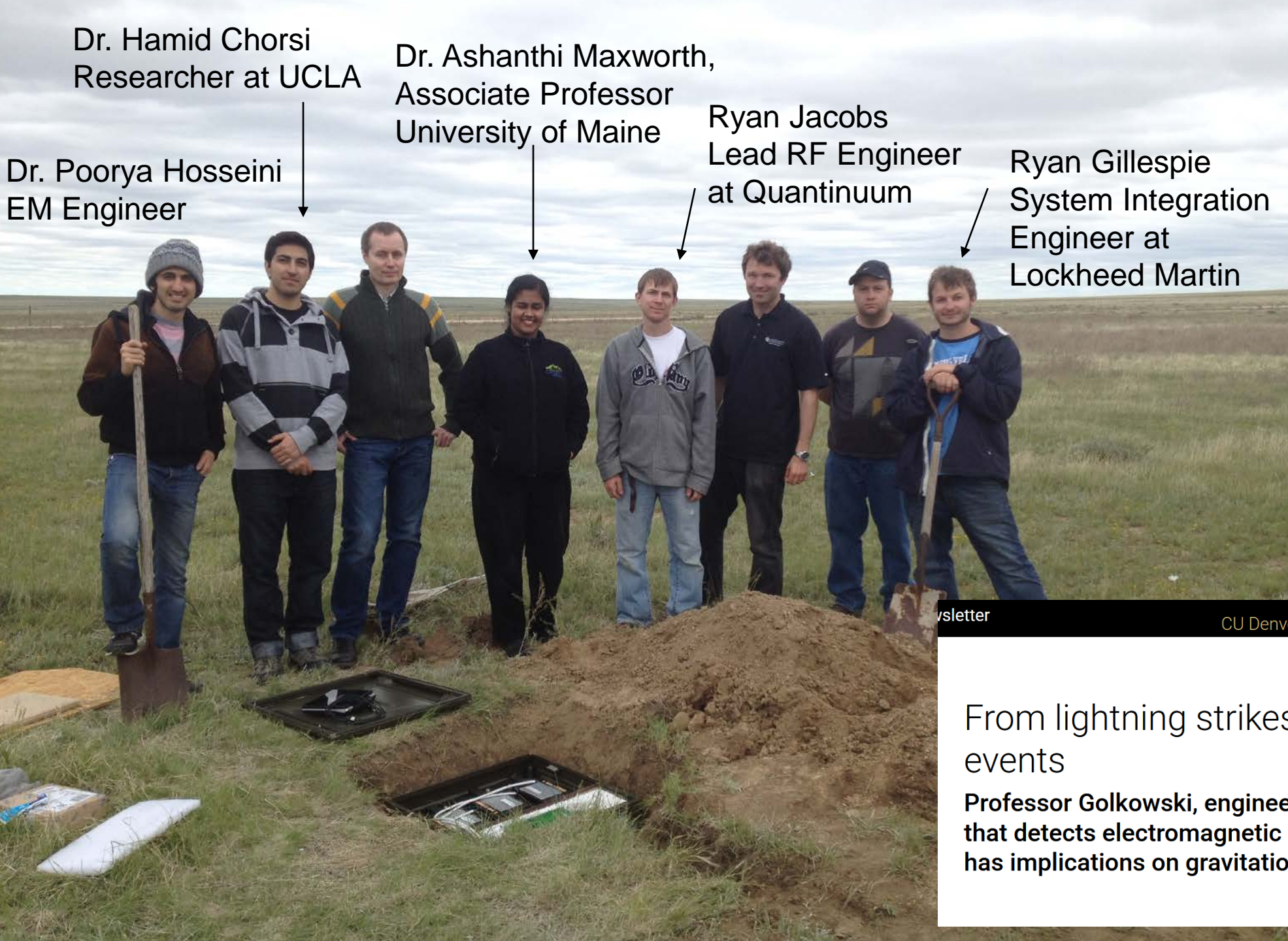
Antenna Placement





Hugo 20-May-2015 13:00:00UT





Dr. Hamid Chorsi
Researcher at UCLA

Dr. Ashanthi Maxworth,
Associate Professor
University of Maine

Ryan Jacobs
Lead RF Engineer
at Quantinuum

Ryan Gillespie
System Integration
Engineer at
Lockheed Martin

Dr. Poorya Hosseini
EM Engineer

What does ELF Receiver Installation Prepare One For?

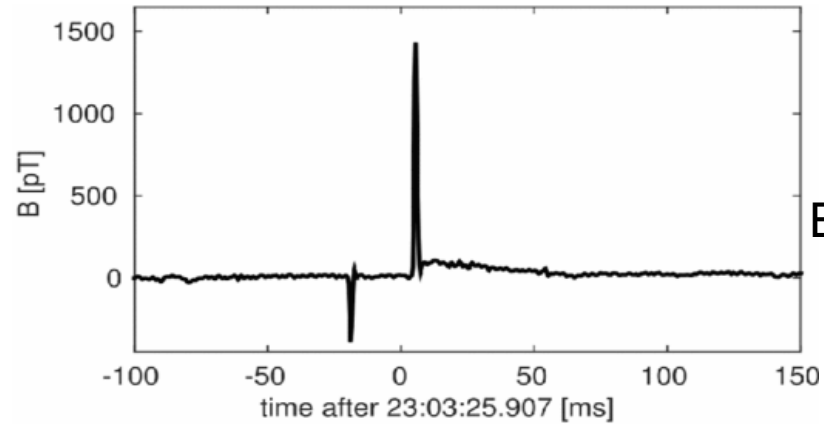
vsletter

CU Denver News

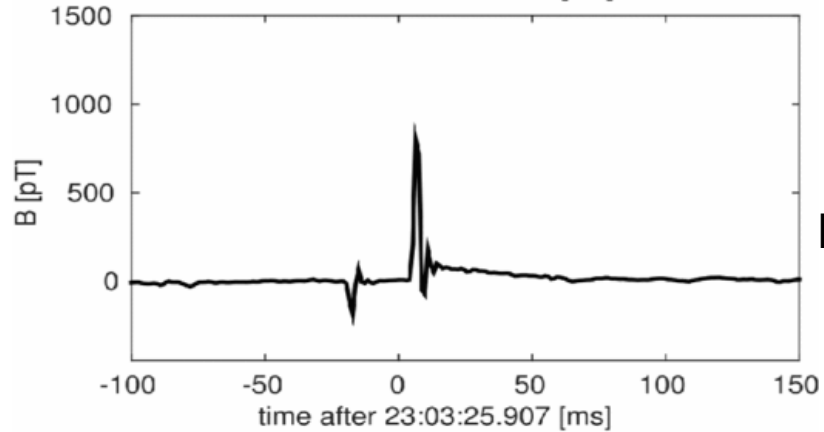
From lightning strikes to cosmic-scale events

Professor Golkowski, engineering students install receiver that detects electromagnetic waves from lightning strikes; has implications on gravitational wave research

ELA10 vs ELA12



ELA12: Bandwidth 900 Hz



ELA10: Bandwidth 300 Hz

Mlynarczyk et al., 2018



HUGO ELF Station Upgrade Process on March 13th 2026









































a ,well-done job' smile of satisfaction on the team's faces sums up the completion of the task
😊



The pictures used in this presentation were taken by: Raahima, Kshama, Alex, Kalyan and Rafał. ©



Comparisons of ELF and VLF Recordings of Lightning Impulses

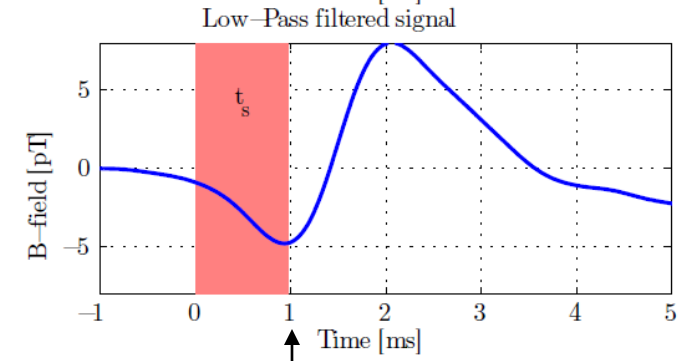
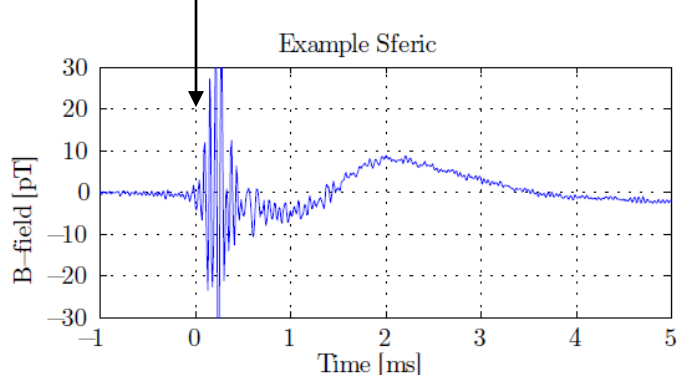
URSI NRSM 2026, Boulder Colorado

Alex Sandersfeld, Mark Golkowski, and Malek
Abusnina
University of Colorado Denver



Propagation Velocity of ELF Transients

VLF propagation (multimode): $v_g \approx 0.993 c$



ELF propagation (TEM mode): $v_g(f, h, \sigma) < c$

$$t_{ELF} = t_{VLF} + t_s$$

Very Simple Formula [Wait, 1960]

$$t_s = 0.09 \left(\frac{\rho}{2h} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0}{\sigma}} + \sqrt{\delta} \right)^2$$

distance (points to ρ) current waveform (points to δ)
reflection height (points to h) Conductivity at reflection height (points to σ)

Propagation time strongly affected by **ionospheric profile parameters.**

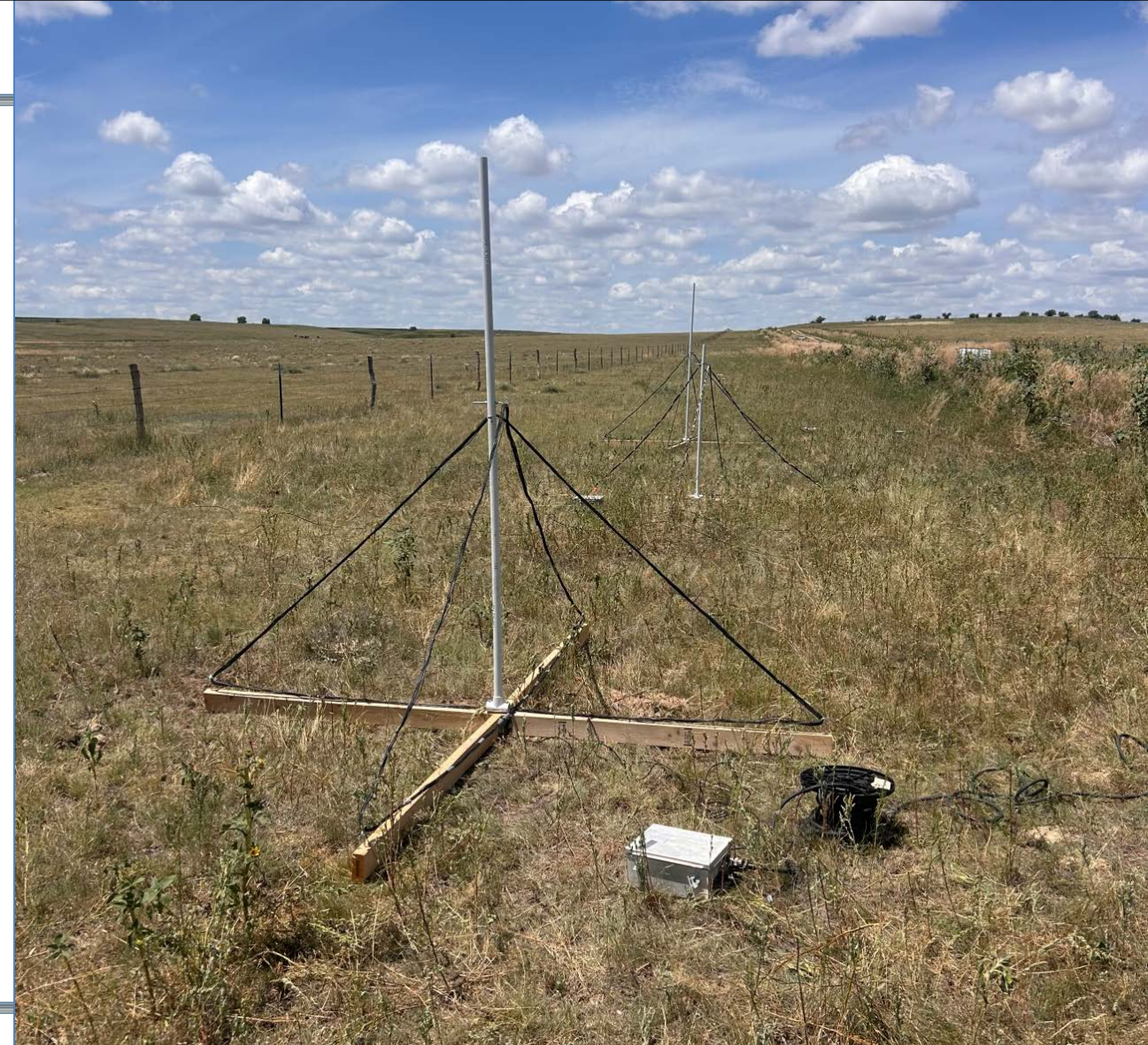


Site & Instruments

Combined VLF and ELF Measurements were taken near Hugo, Colorado, on 24 July 2025, between 1700 to 1900 UTC.

The instruments deployed included a Stanford University-designed VLF AWESOME system [2], a GeorgiaTech-designed VLF system, a SongMeter bioacoustic recorder adapted for VLF measurements [3], and an existing permanently installed ELF receiving site.

All equipment was owned/operated by faculty & students from the University of Colorado Denver.



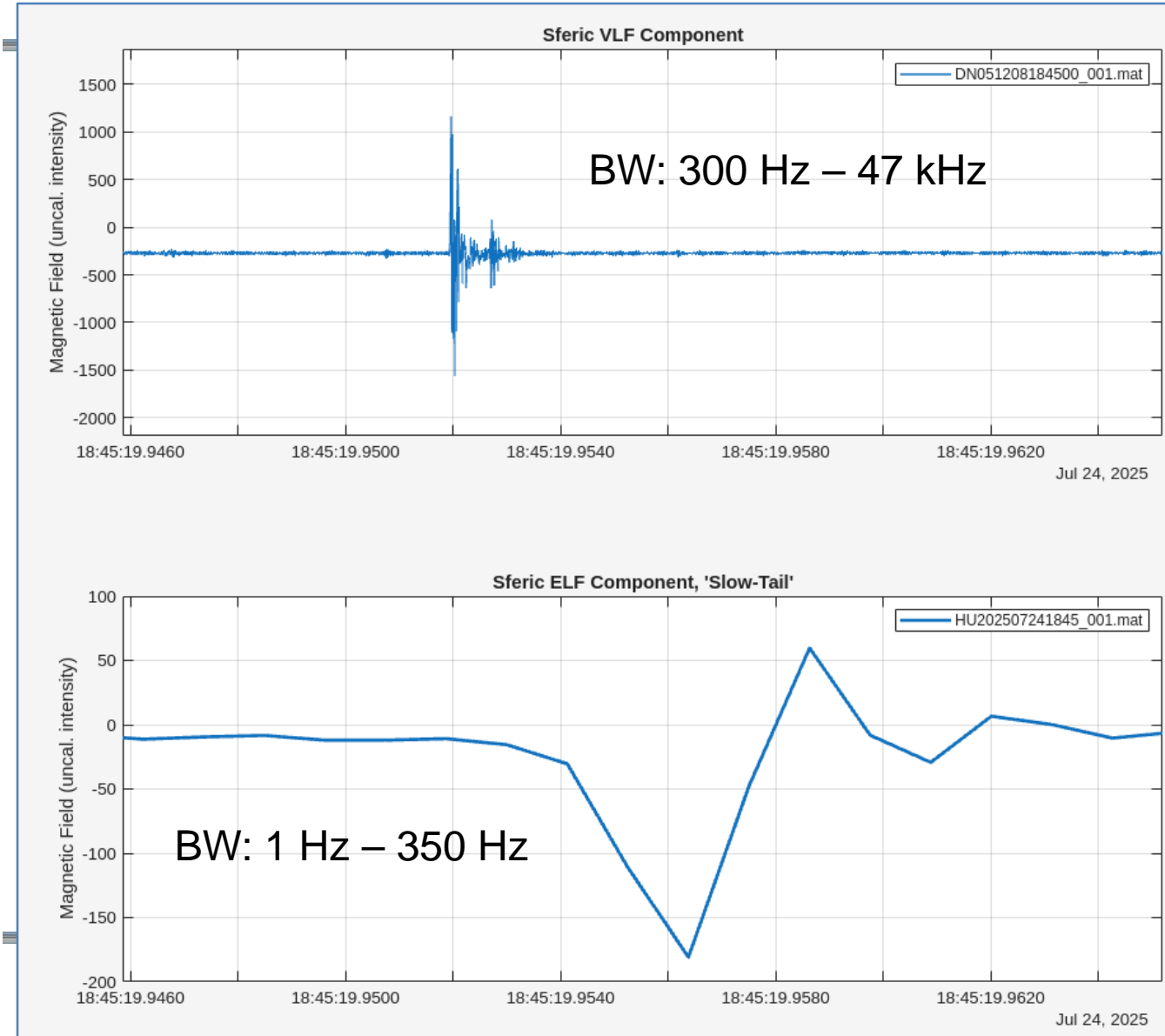


ELF & VLF Sferic Components

The ELF and VLF sferic components have significant differences in their propagation characteristics through the earth-ionosphere wave guide.

The VLF component arrives first, generally exhibiting 3 to 10 rapid oscillations over 0.2 to 2 ms.

The ELF component arrives during or after the VLF component depending on distance and ionospheric conditions along the propagation path from source to receiver, and generally consists of 2 to 5 half-oscillations over 8 to 12 ms.

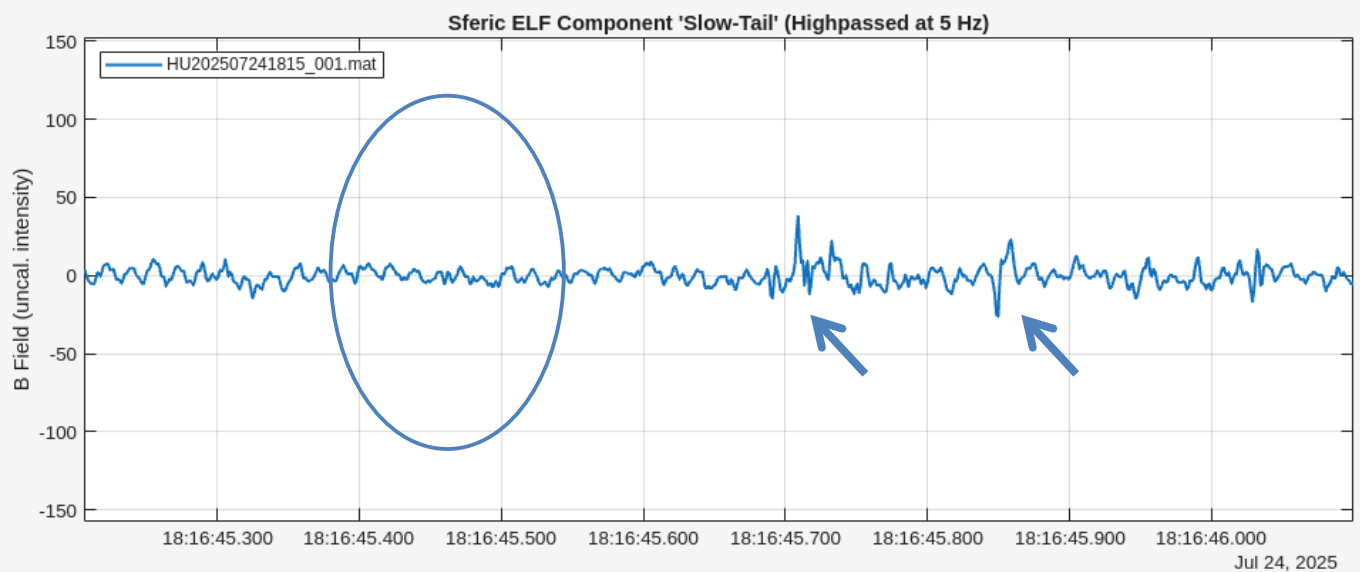
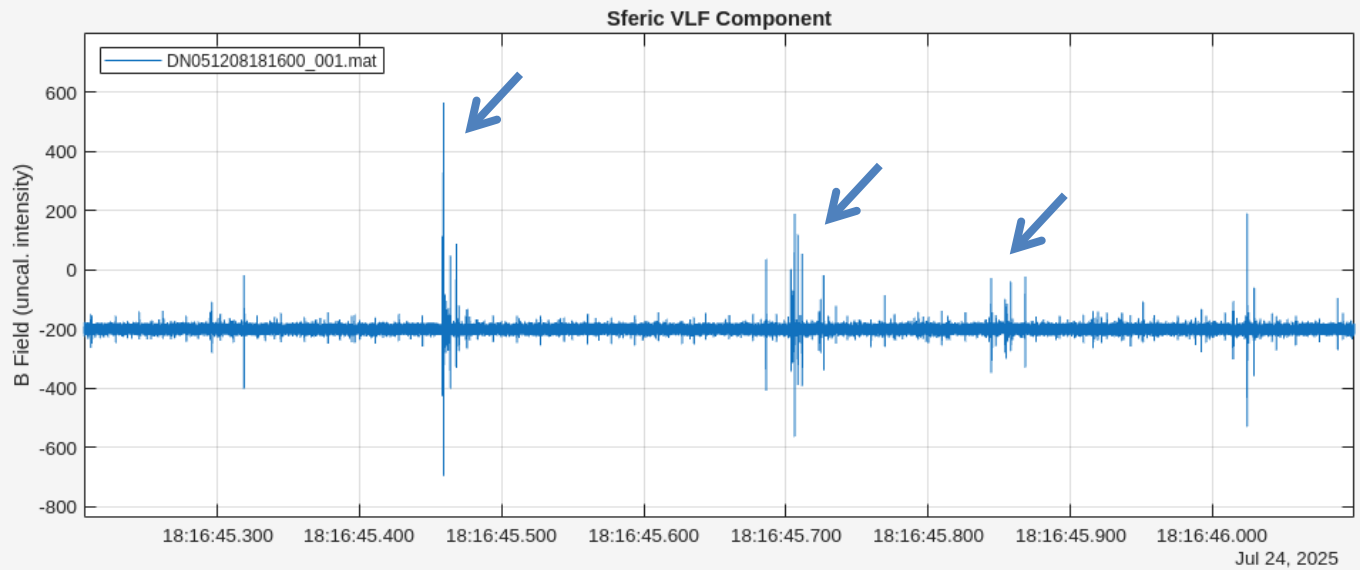




ELF Component Presence

ELF components in sferics are not always observed as their presence and intensity depends the lightning event characteristics and on the ionospheric propagation conditions along the path from source to receiver as mentioned.

In particular, as ELF components propagate by a quasi-transverse magnetic mode, the altitude of the lowest layer of the ionosphere and the presence of a day-night transition along the propagation path can prevent ELF propagation [1].

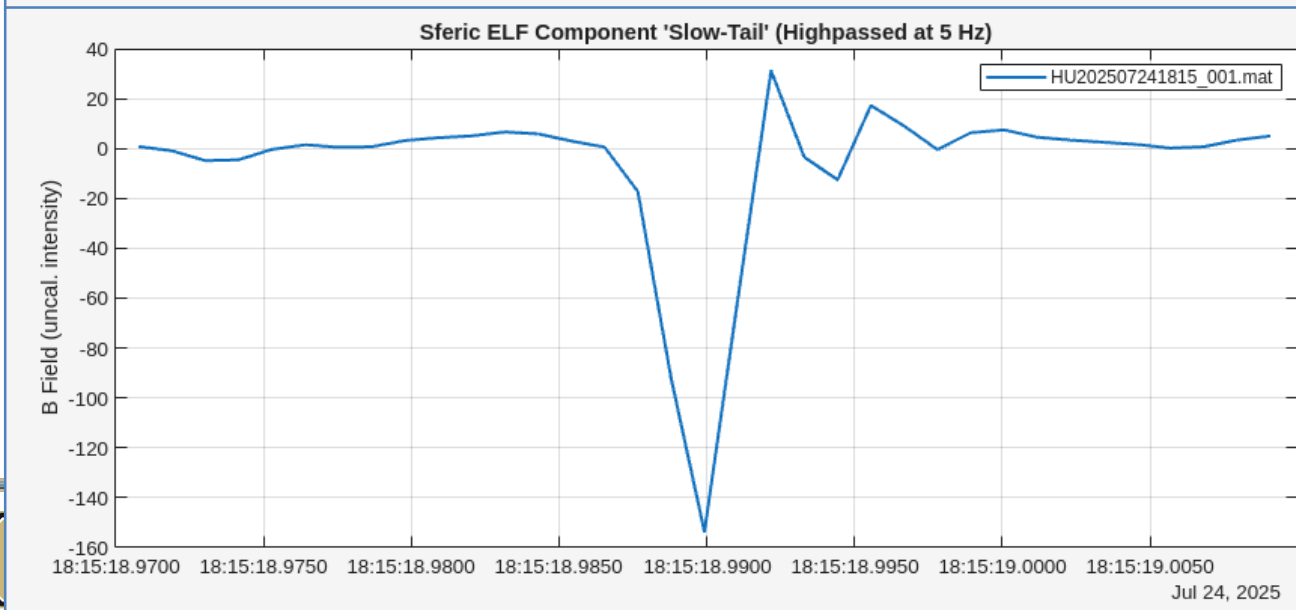
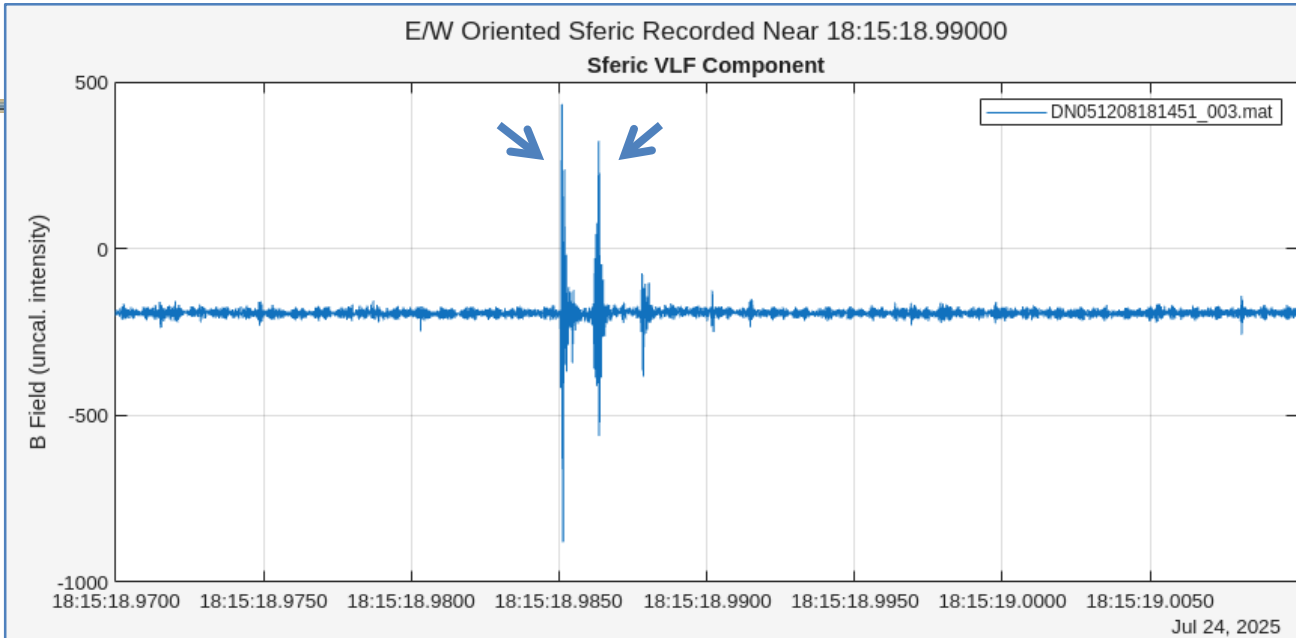




VLF/ELF Overlap

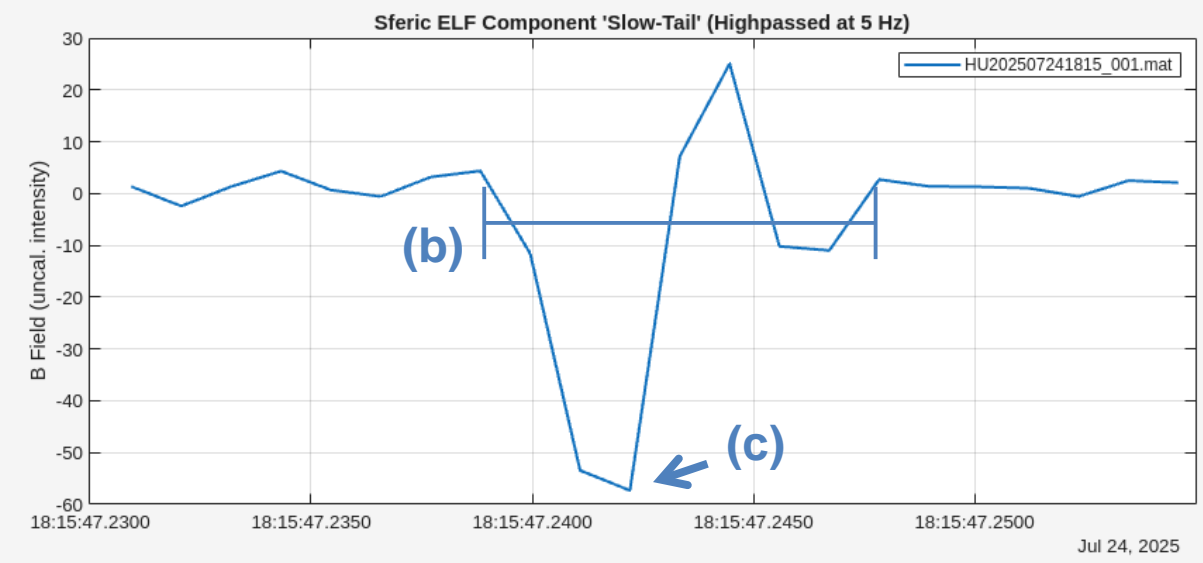
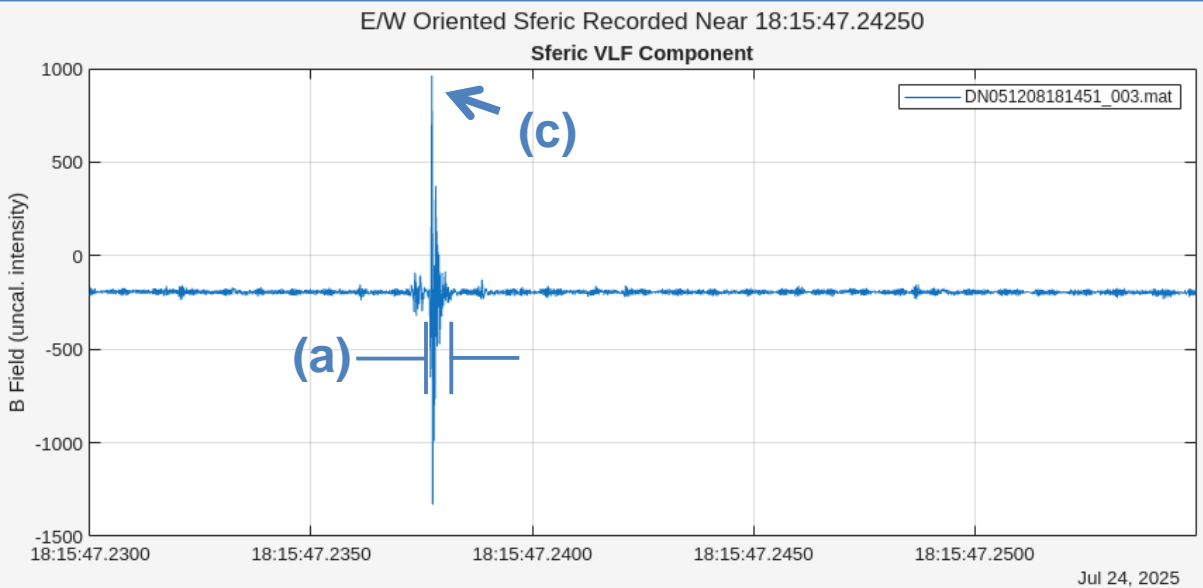
Single ELF components can also be coincident with multiple observed VLF impulses of similar intensity, indicating multiple lightning discharges happening in quick succession. In these cases it's difficult to ascertain accurate statistics for the set of events.

Occurrences such as these are discarded the analysis to follow if the spacing of the VLF impulses are sparse, distinct, and greater than 1 ms. If the time from the beginning of the VLF impulse chain to its end takes less than 1 ms, or the chain is highly dense, the results were included.





VLF/ELF Data Comparison Overview



For the following analysis, start and stop times are recorded for the VLF and ELF components of each sferic 'event' inspected (a, b). All times given are UTC. Sferics not containing both VLF and ELF components were not included in this analysis.

Durations and lag times are calculated. Peak intensities of the magnetic field measured by the instruments are also recorded (c), but as the data is raw digital output and not calibrated to a known physical quantity, this information is not analyzed here.

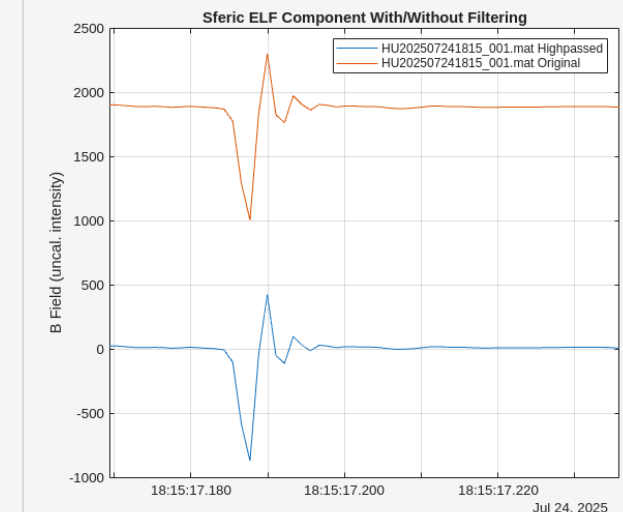
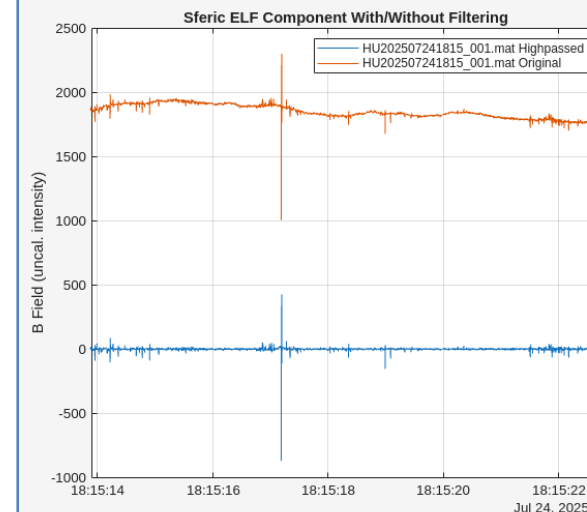
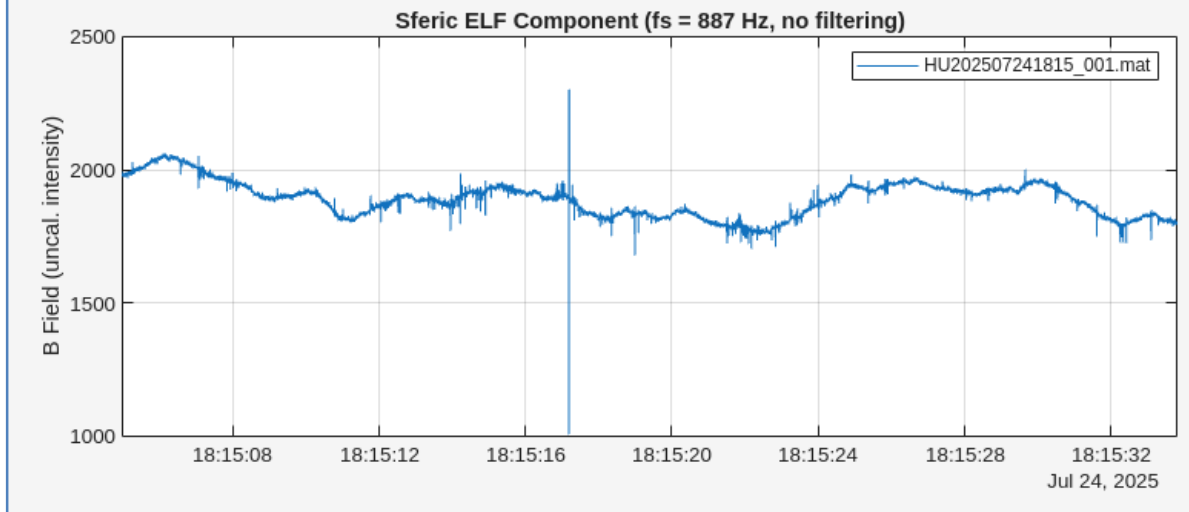
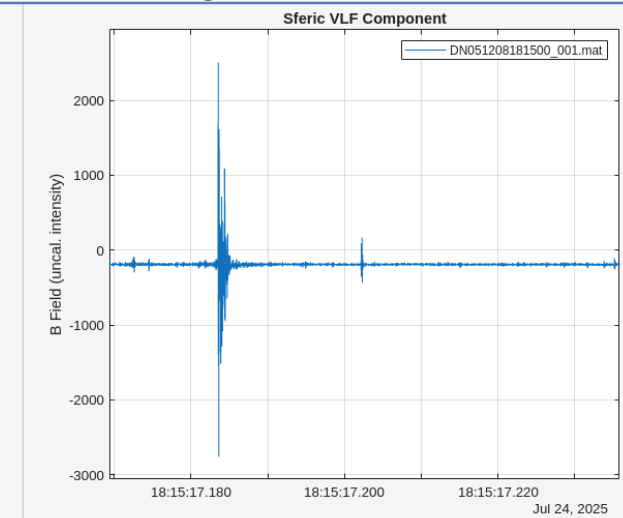
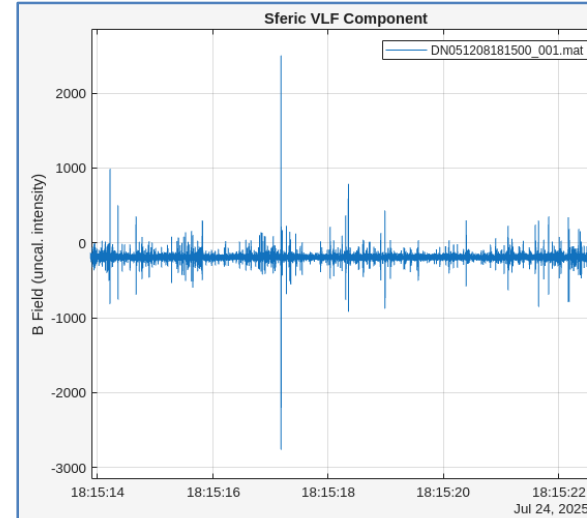
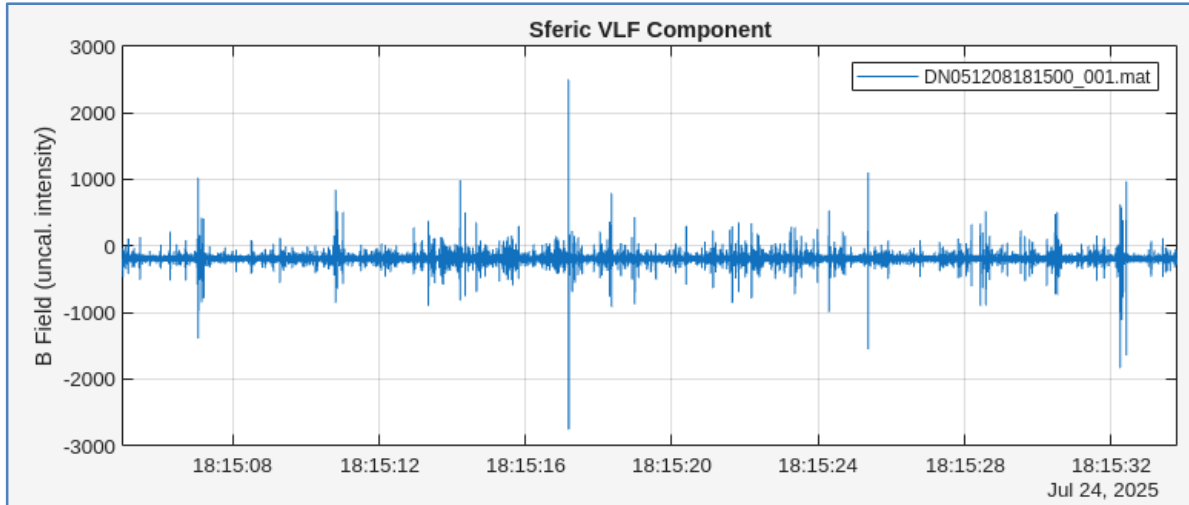
95 sferic events were recorded manually over the course of the field recordings. Instruments used here were the AWESOME VLF receiver and the existing ELF receiver installation. For both instruments data from their East/West oriented antenna was used.



Filtering in Results

As ELF measurements exhibit slow and gradual variation in intensity over long intervals below 5 Hz, all following results shown are high-pass filtered at 5 Hz.

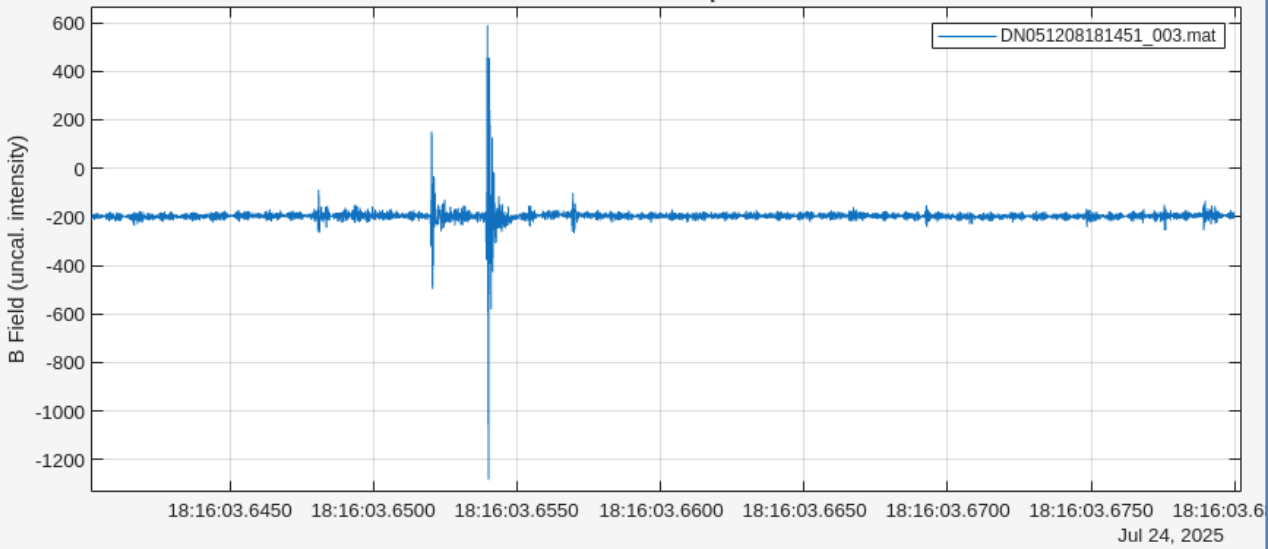
Figure on bottom left are those gradual variations, on right are comparisons of unfiltered/filtered signal measurements.



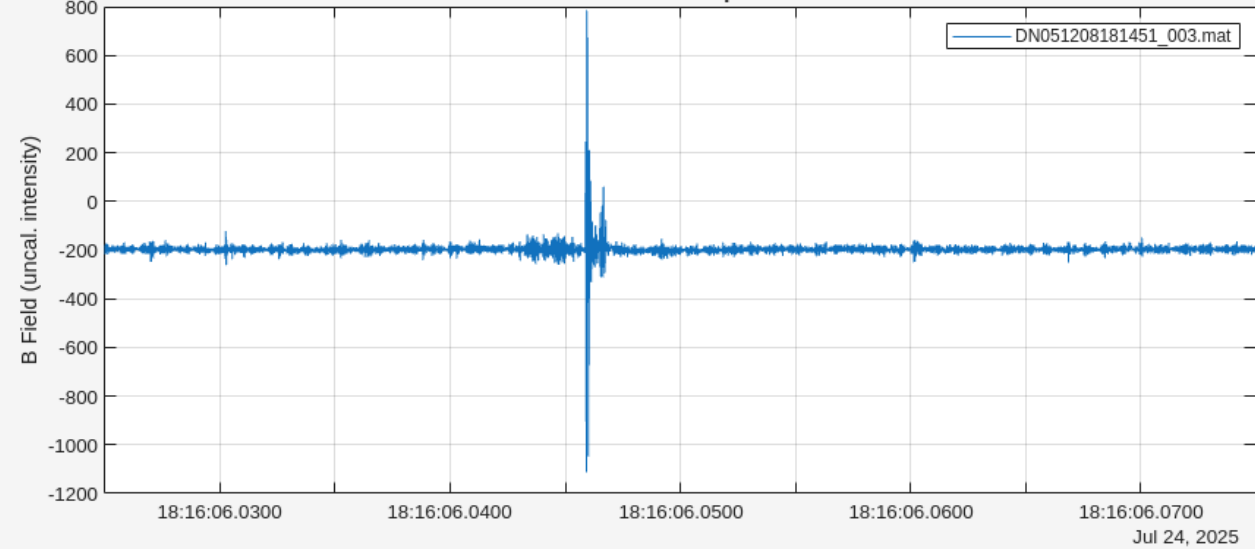


Selected VLF/ELF Sferic Examples

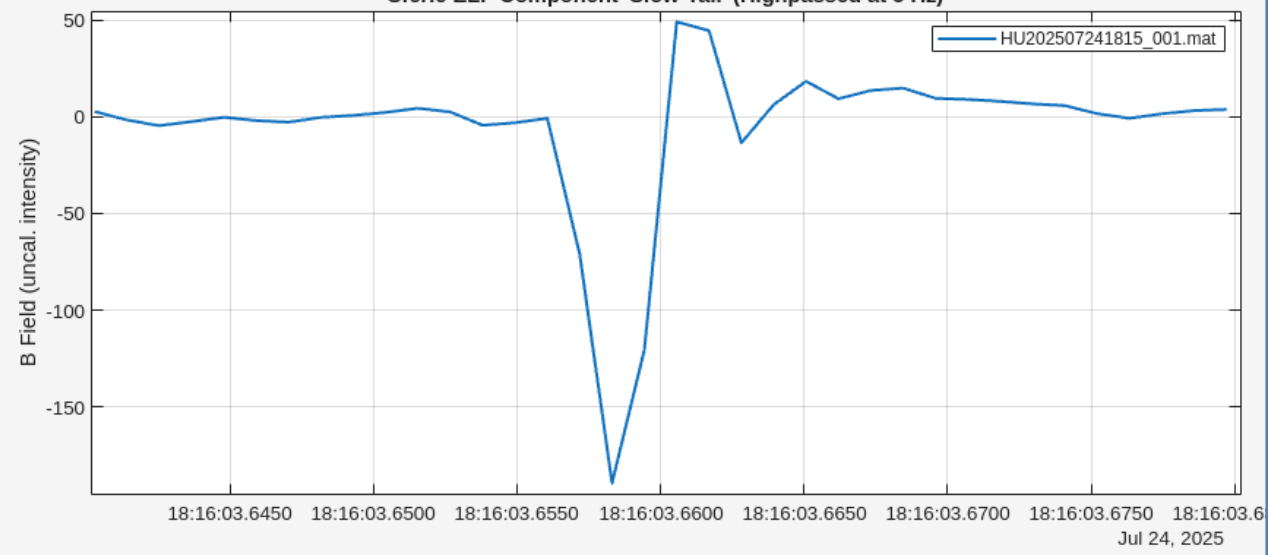
E/W Oriented Sferic Recorded Near 18:16:03.66000
Sferic VLF Component



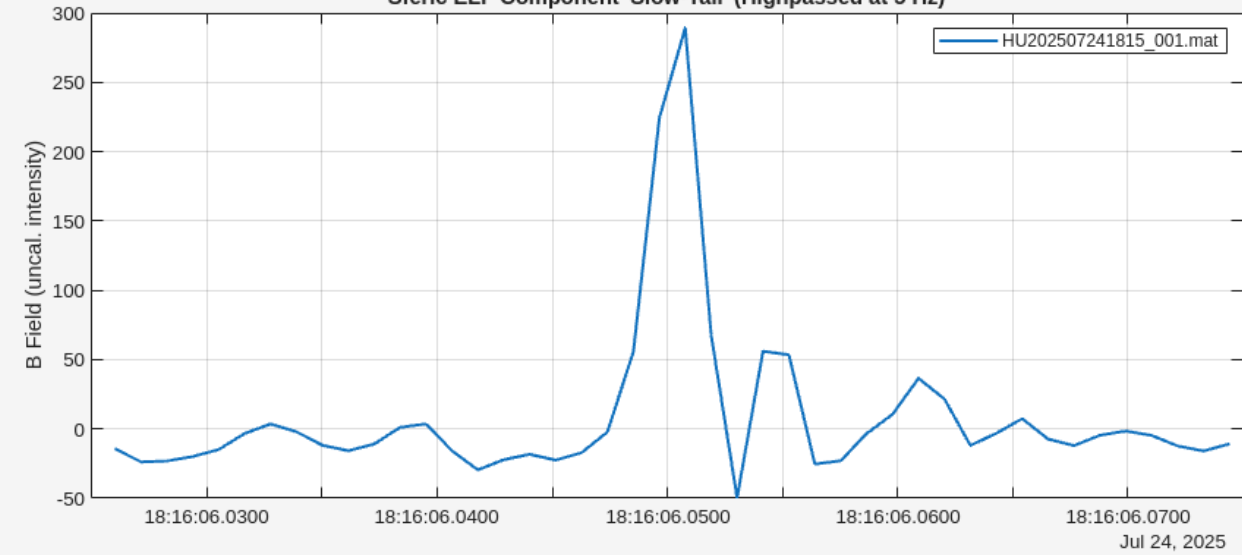
E/W Oriented Sferic Recorded Near 18:16:06.05000
Sferic VLF Component



Sferic ELF Component 'Slow-Tail' (Highpassed at 5 Hz)



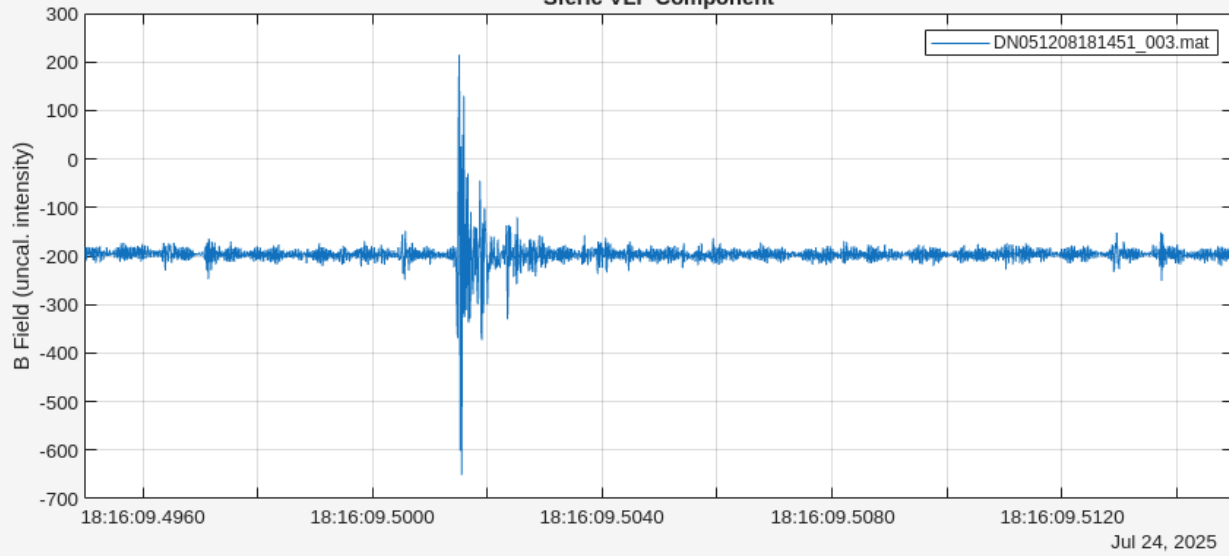
Sferic ELF Component 'Slow-Tail' (Highpassed at 5 Hz)



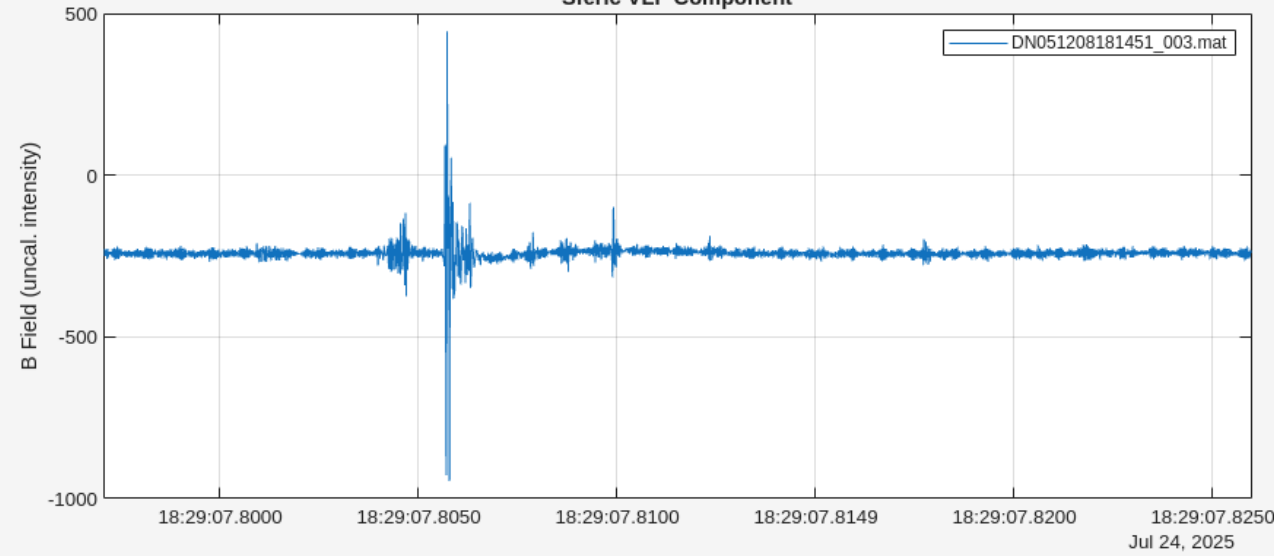


Selected VLF/ELF Sferic Examples

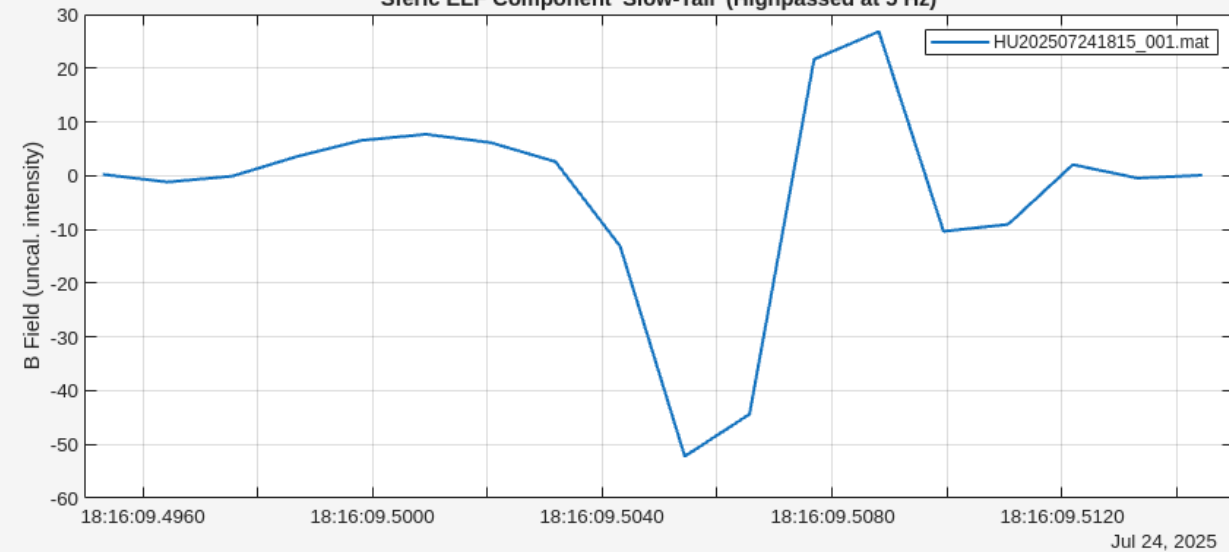
E/W Oriented Sferic Recorded Near 18:16:09.50500
Sferic VLF Component



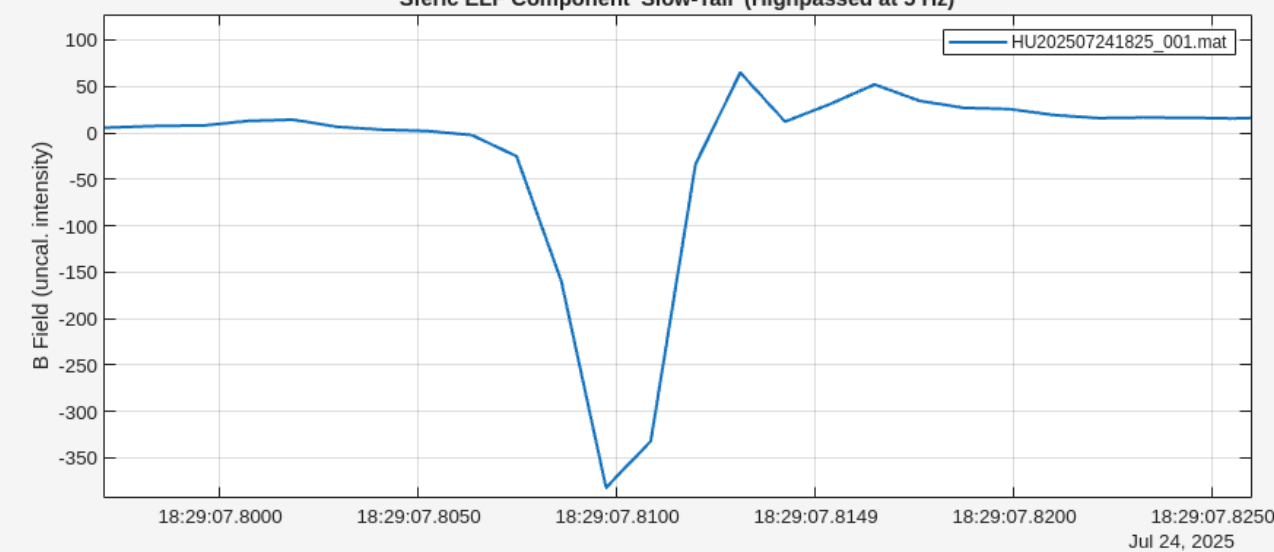
E/W Oriented Sferic Recorded Near 18:27:30.00000
Sferic VLF Component



Sferic ELF Component 'Slow-Tail' (Highpassed at 5 Hz)



Sferic ELF Component 'Slow-Tail' (Highpassed at 5 Hz)



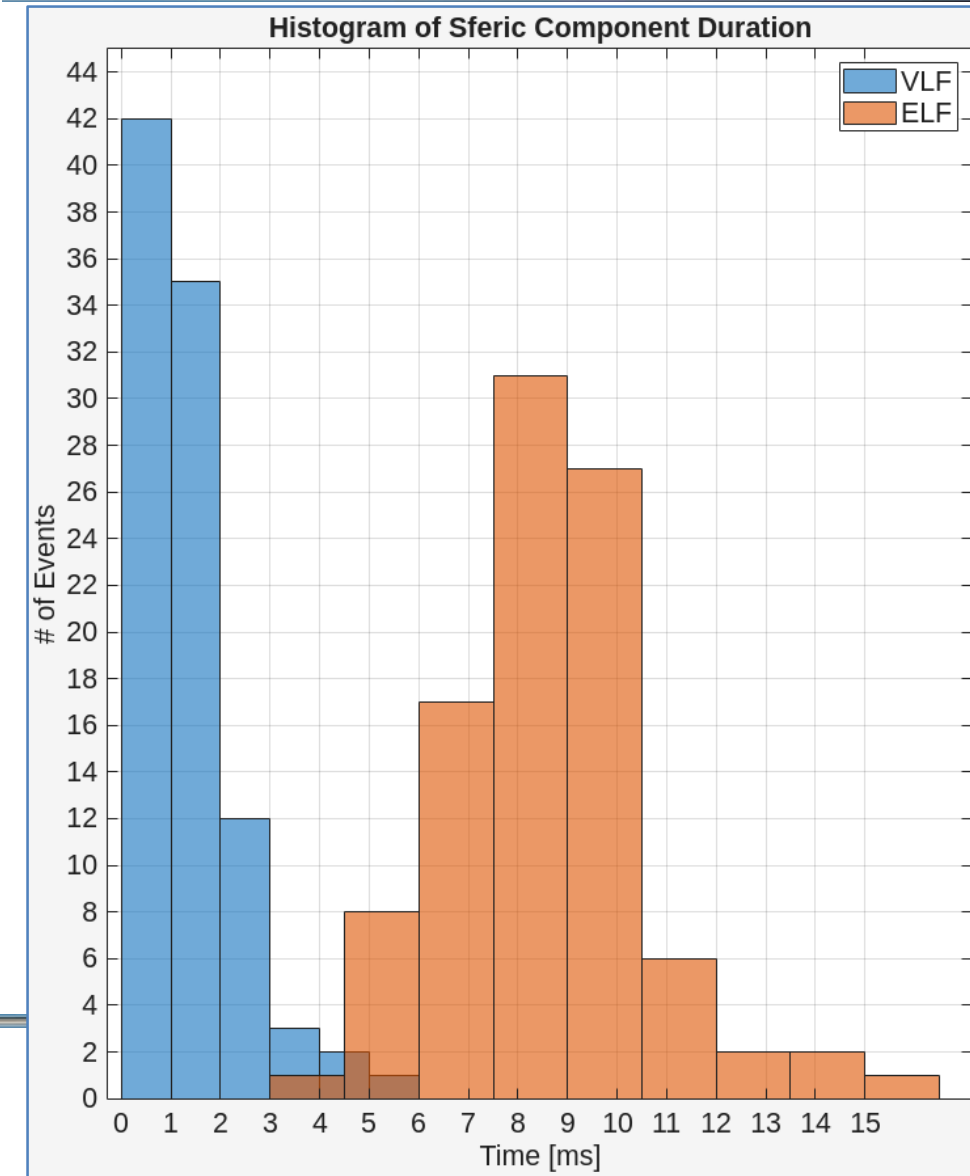
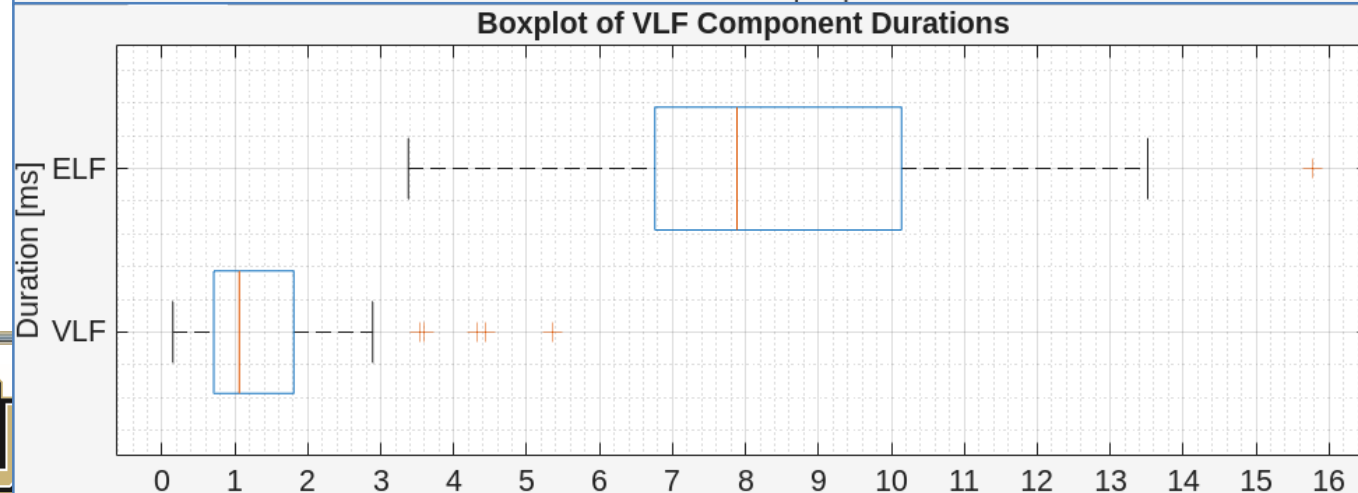
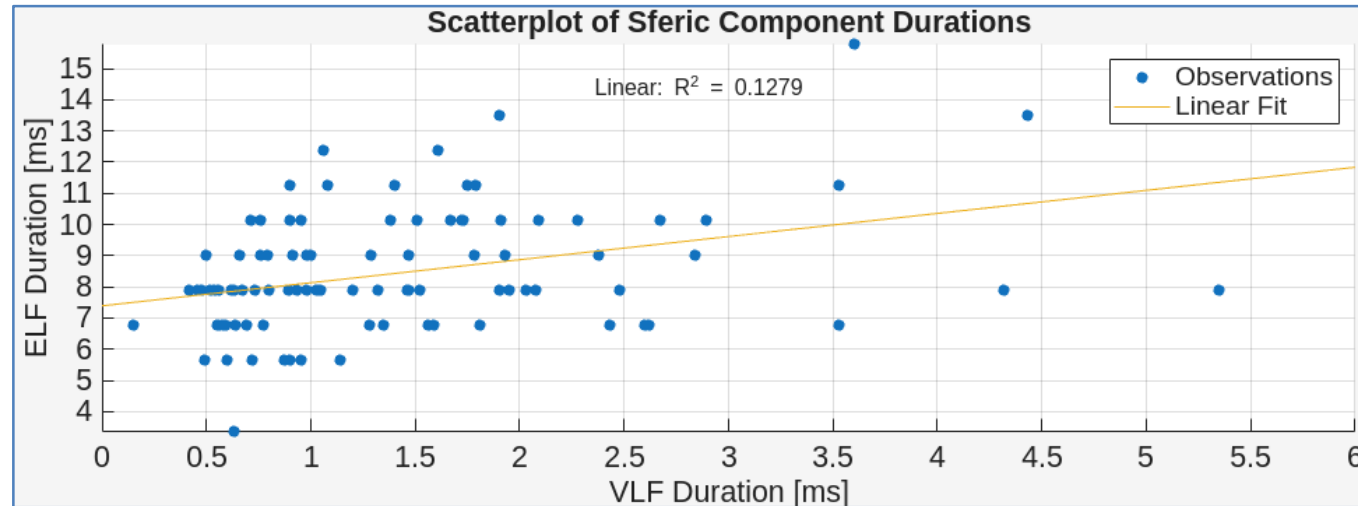


Recorded VLF/ELF Statistics - Component Duration

This is the length of the individual components for each sferic.

50% of VLF sferic components persisted between 0.8 & 1.9 ms, and having a median duration of 1.1 ms.

50% of ELF components persisted between 6.8 & 10.1 ms with a median of 7.88 ms.



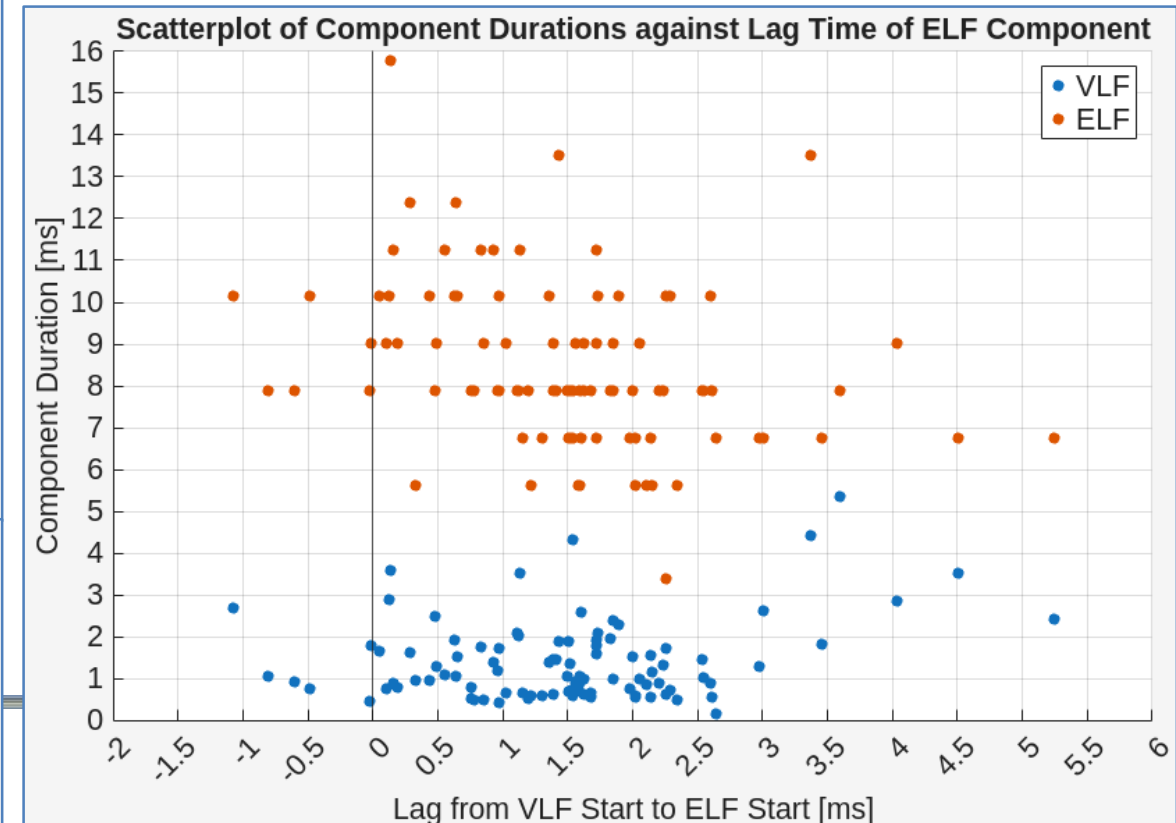
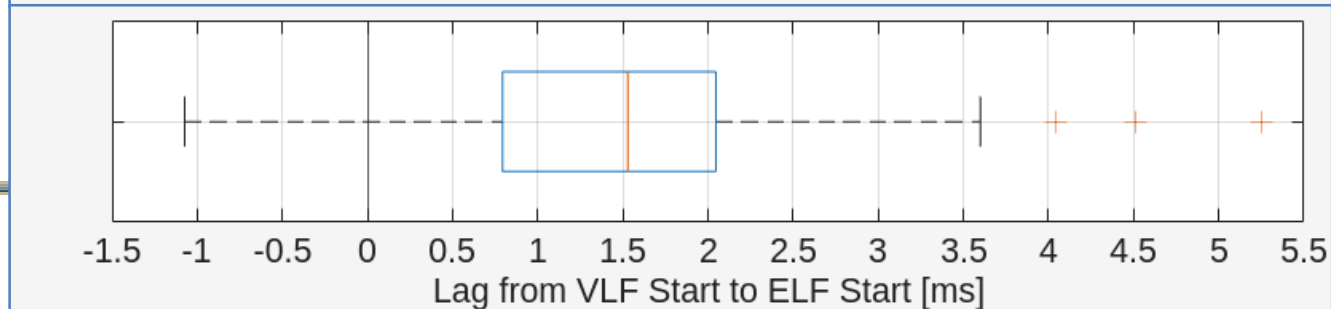
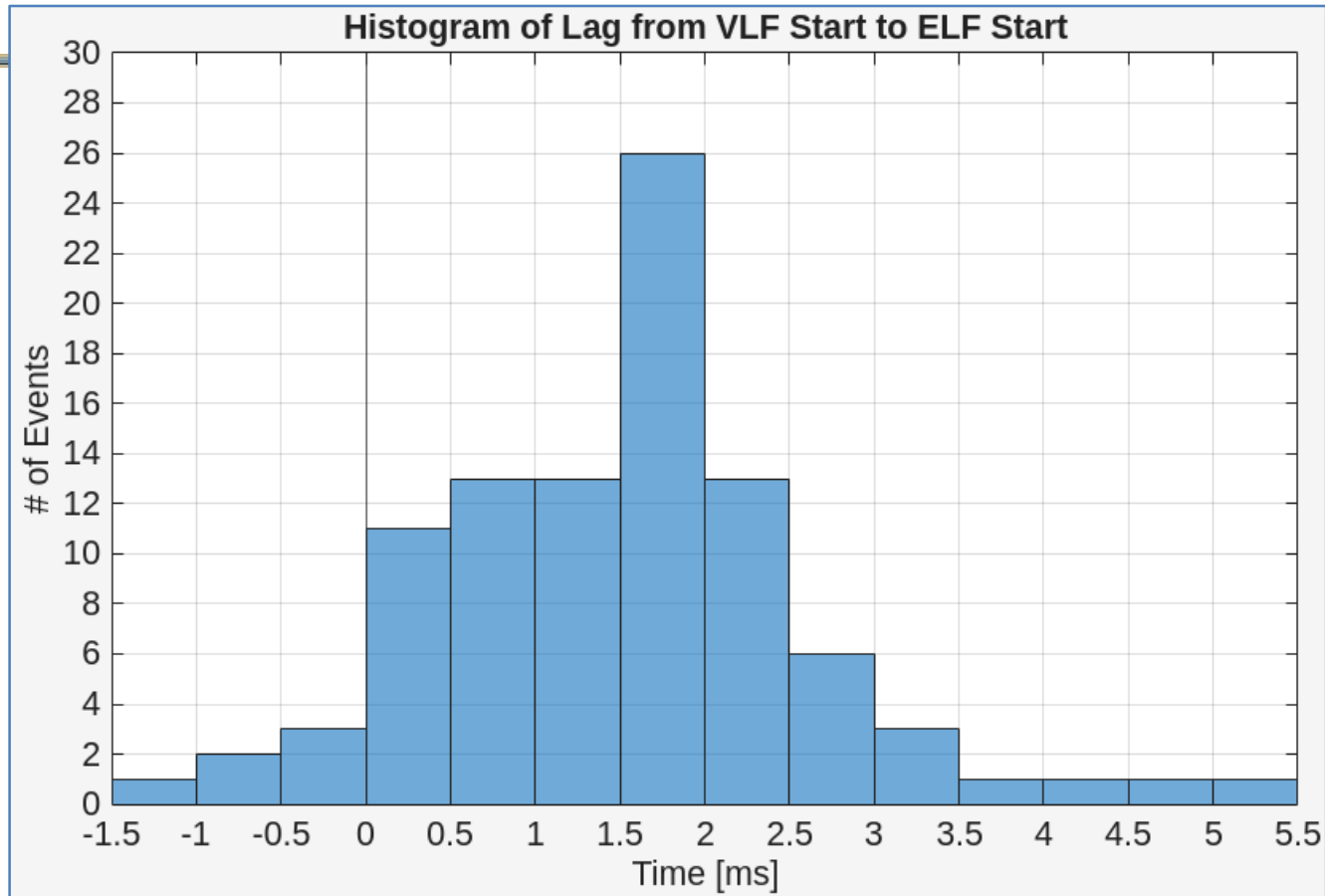


Recorded VLF/ELF Statistics - VLF to ELF Delay

This is the measured delay from the beginning of the spheric in the VLF band to the beginning of the ELF slow-tail.

50% of all ELF components appeared between 0.84 to 2.05 ms from the appearance of the VLF component.

Some few data points (~6%) indicated ELF components appearing before the VLF component, these are likely to be a result of errors in data point gathering.

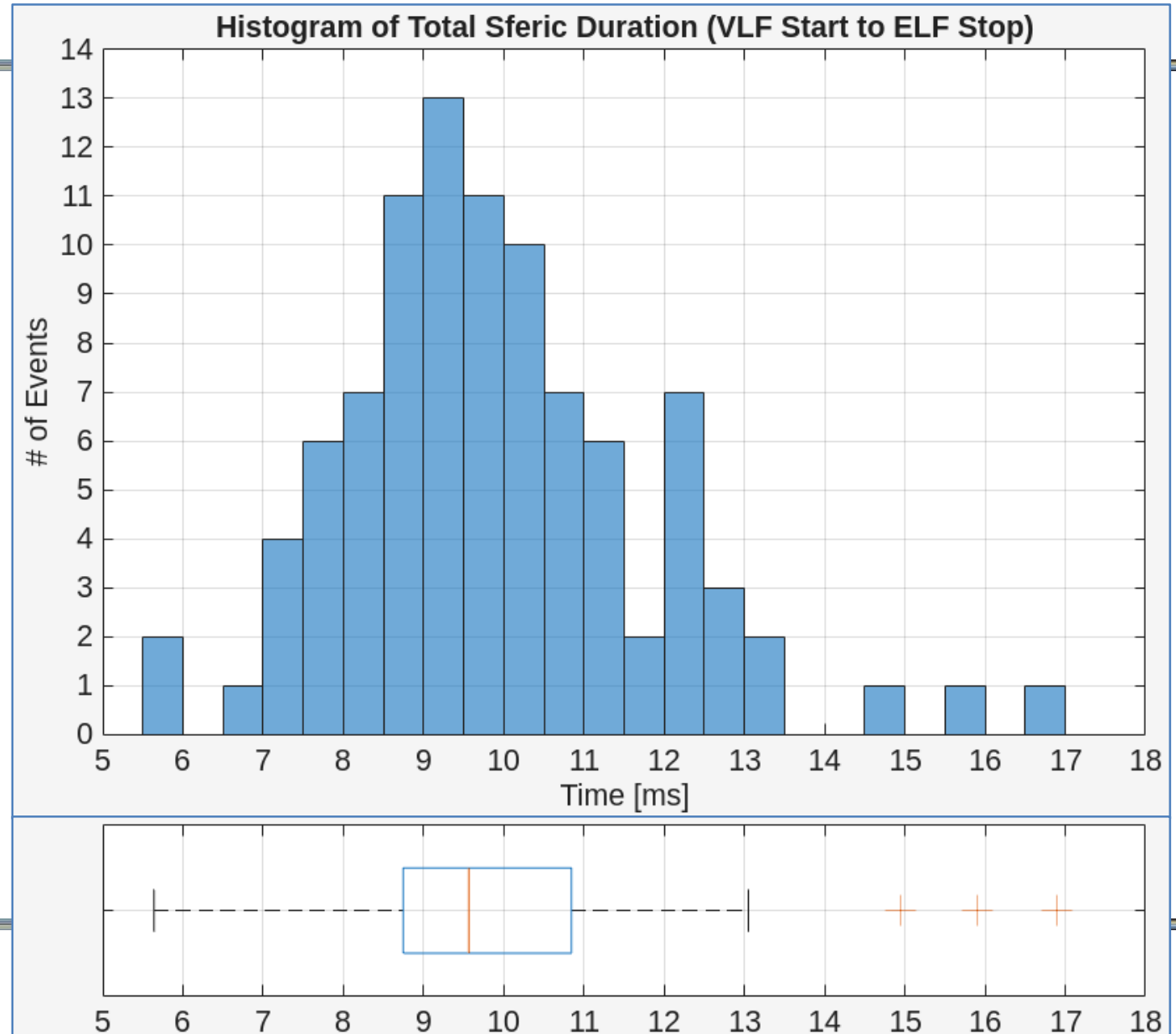




Recorded VLF/ELF Statistics - Total Sferic Duration

This is the total length of the sferic from it's first impulse seen in VLF to the end of the ELF slow-tail.

50% of the recorded sferic events lasted in total between 8.74 & 10.84 ms, with a median of 9.56 ms.



Hugo

April 24, 2026

4 azimuth slides with decreasing amplitude+

last slide for high amplitude impulses

[F] Set Colour

100.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

07:22:30
-136.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

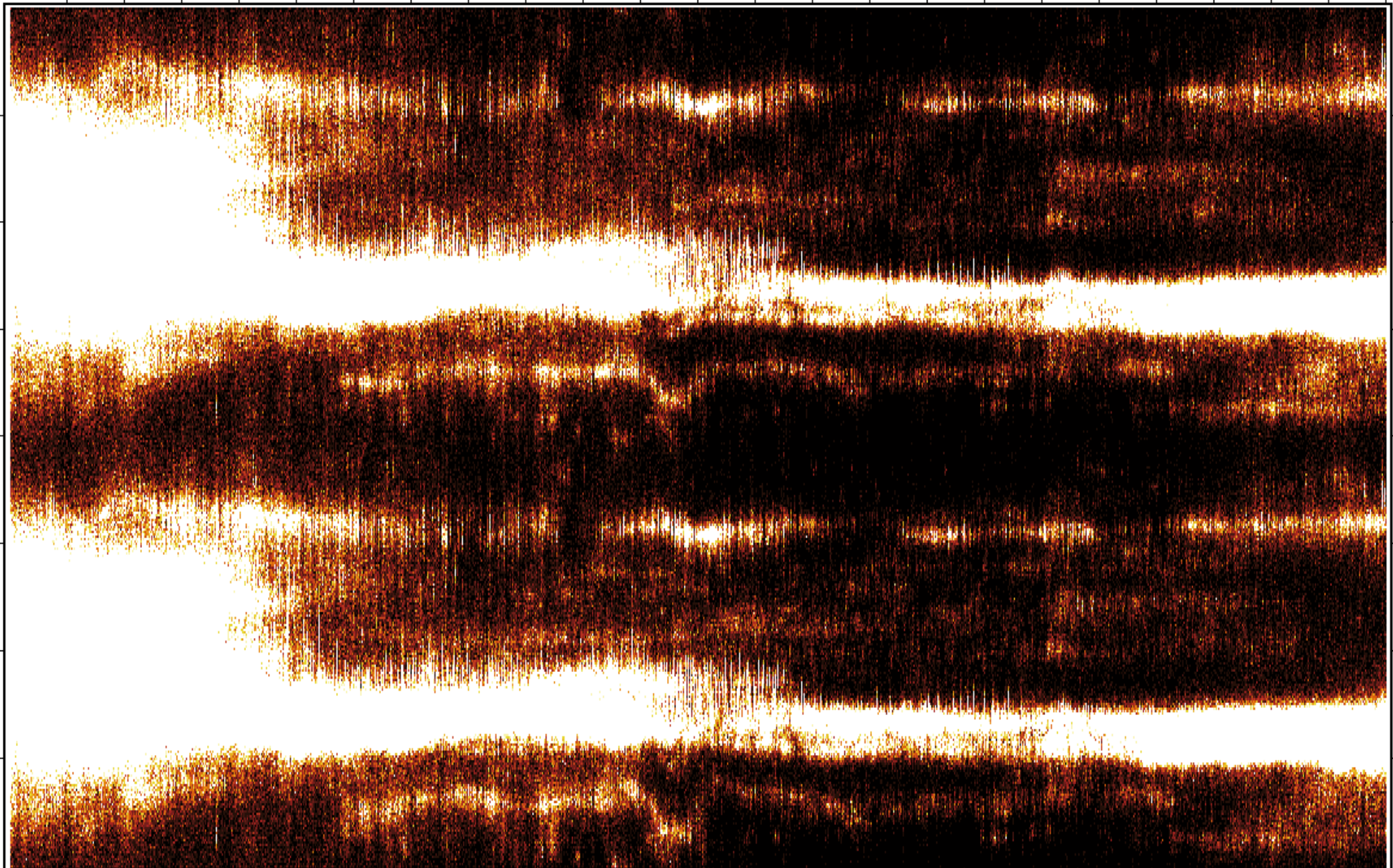
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

30.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:03:45
148.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

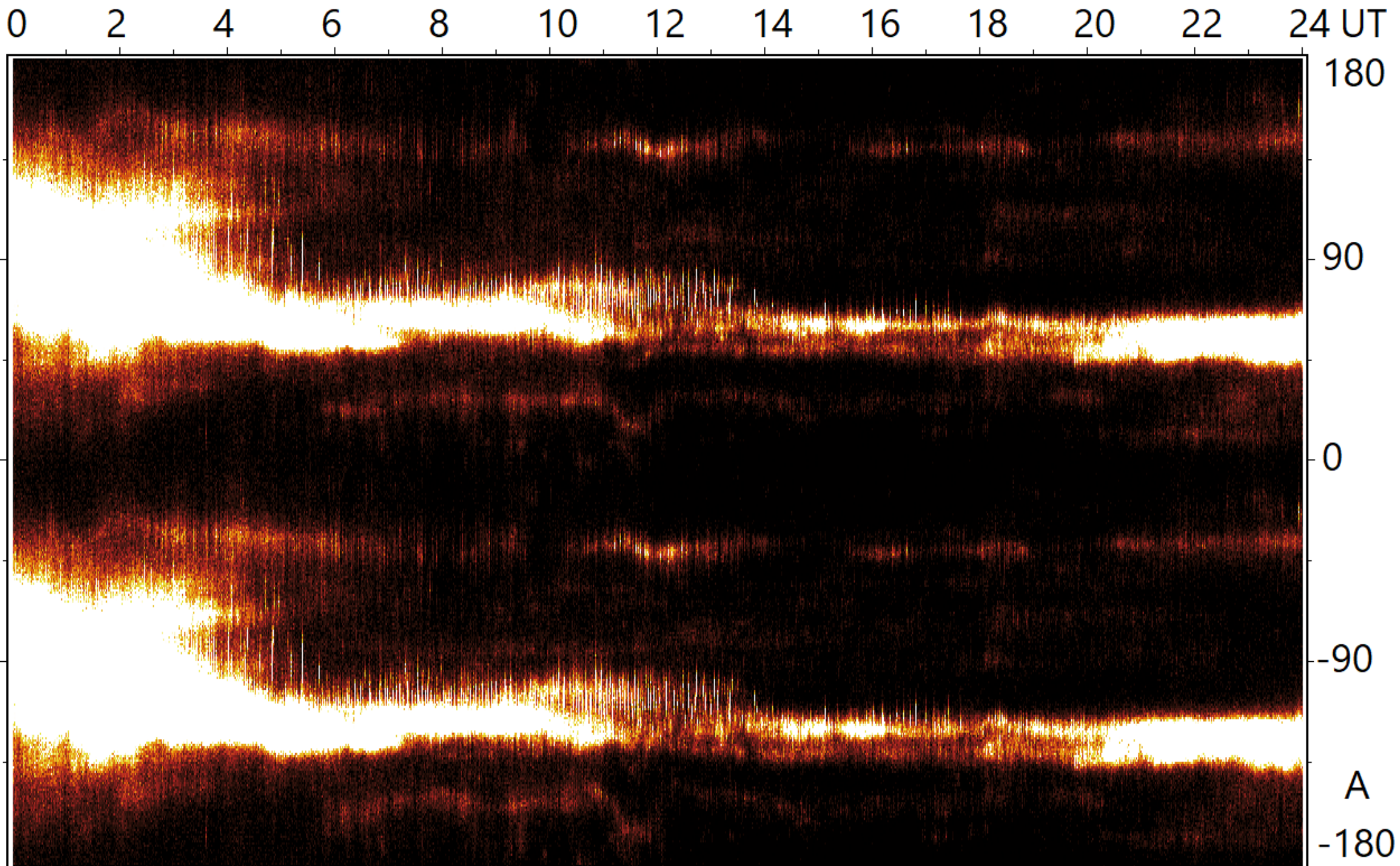
Add v.scale

Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File



[-] Set Colour

10.00

30.00

Top scale

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r < 500.00

00:08:45
-66.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

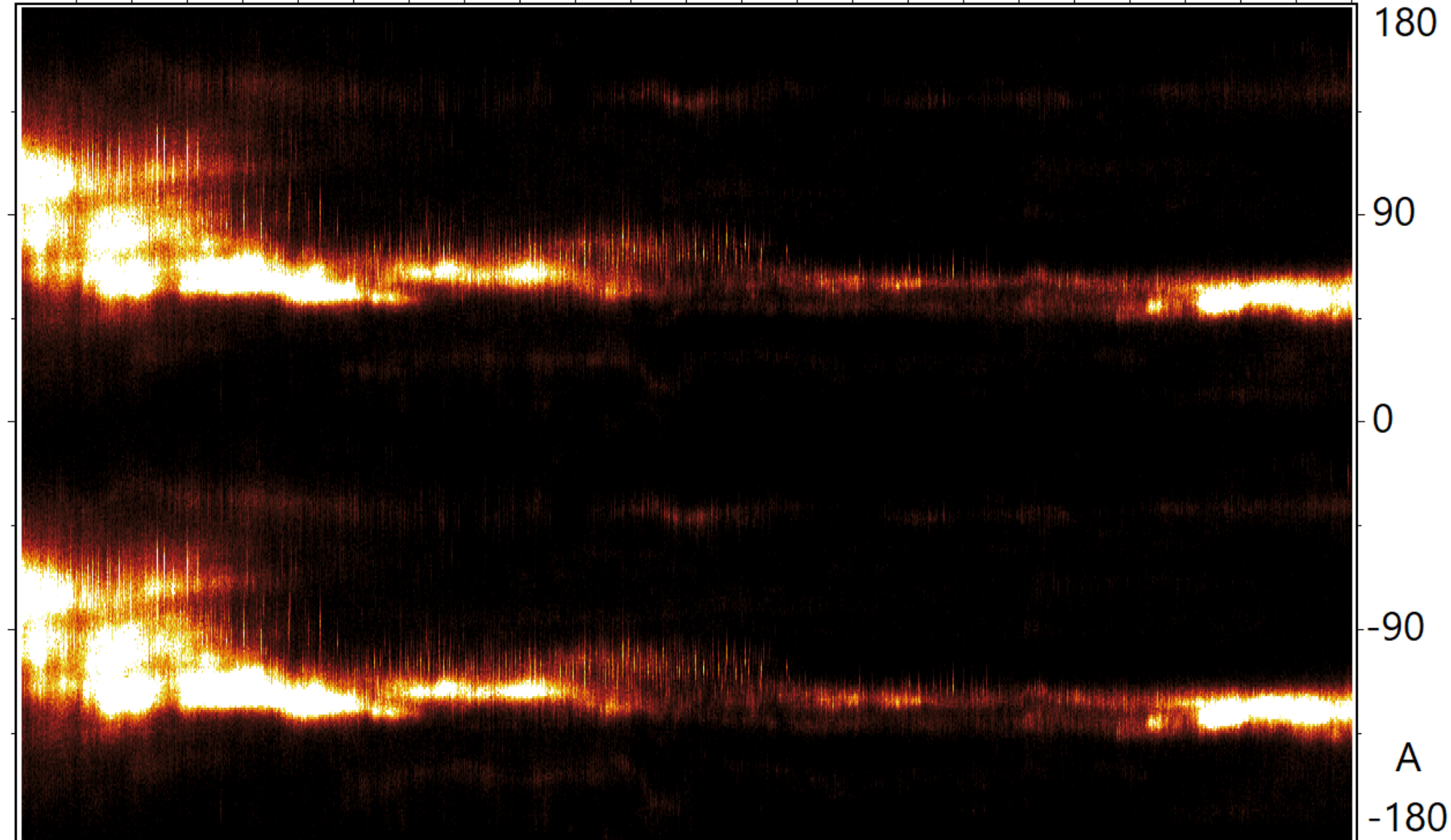
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



[-] Set Colour

5.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:00:00
-50.0 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

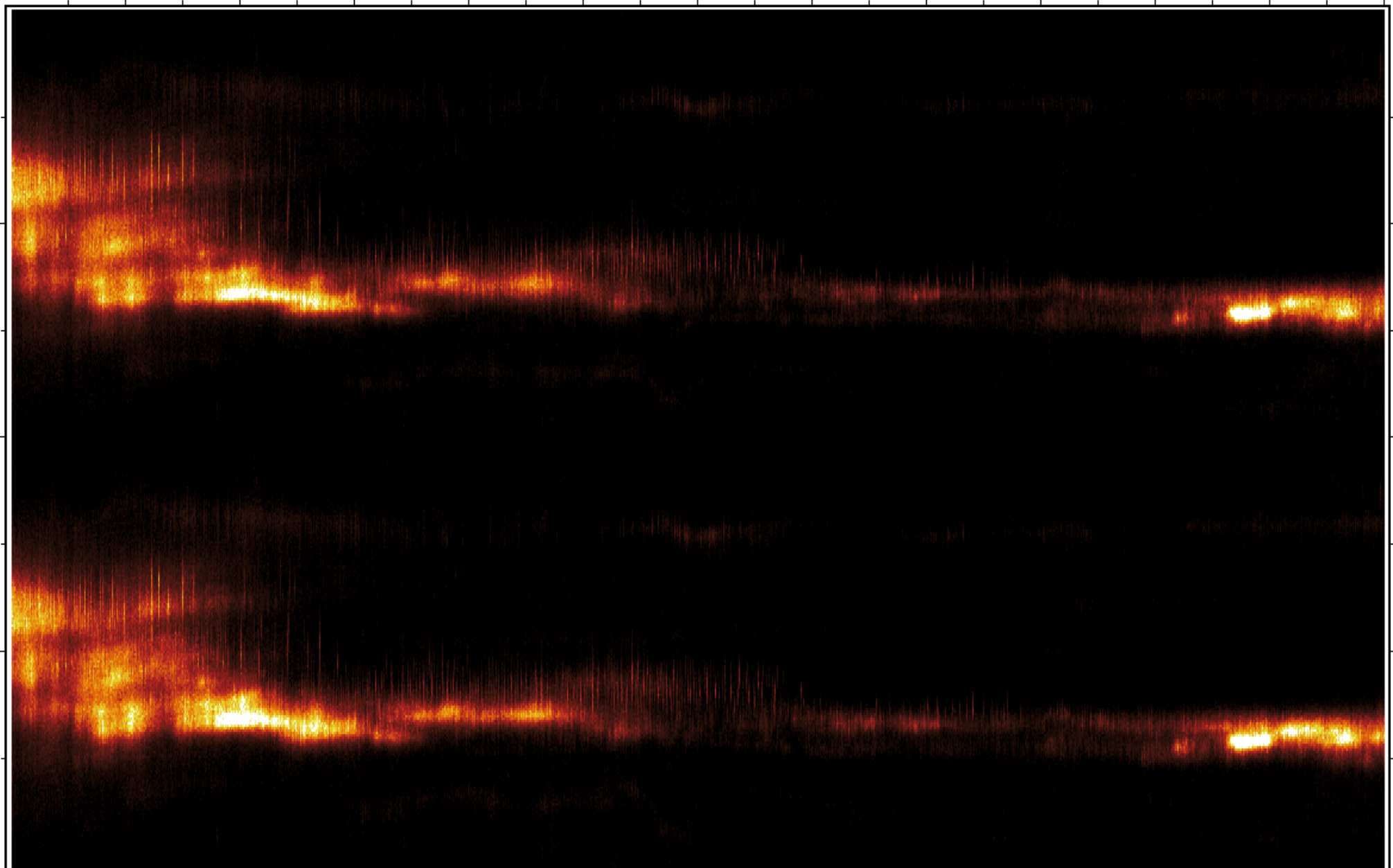
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

80.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 2

r > 500.00

r < 5000.00

00:11:15
-37.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

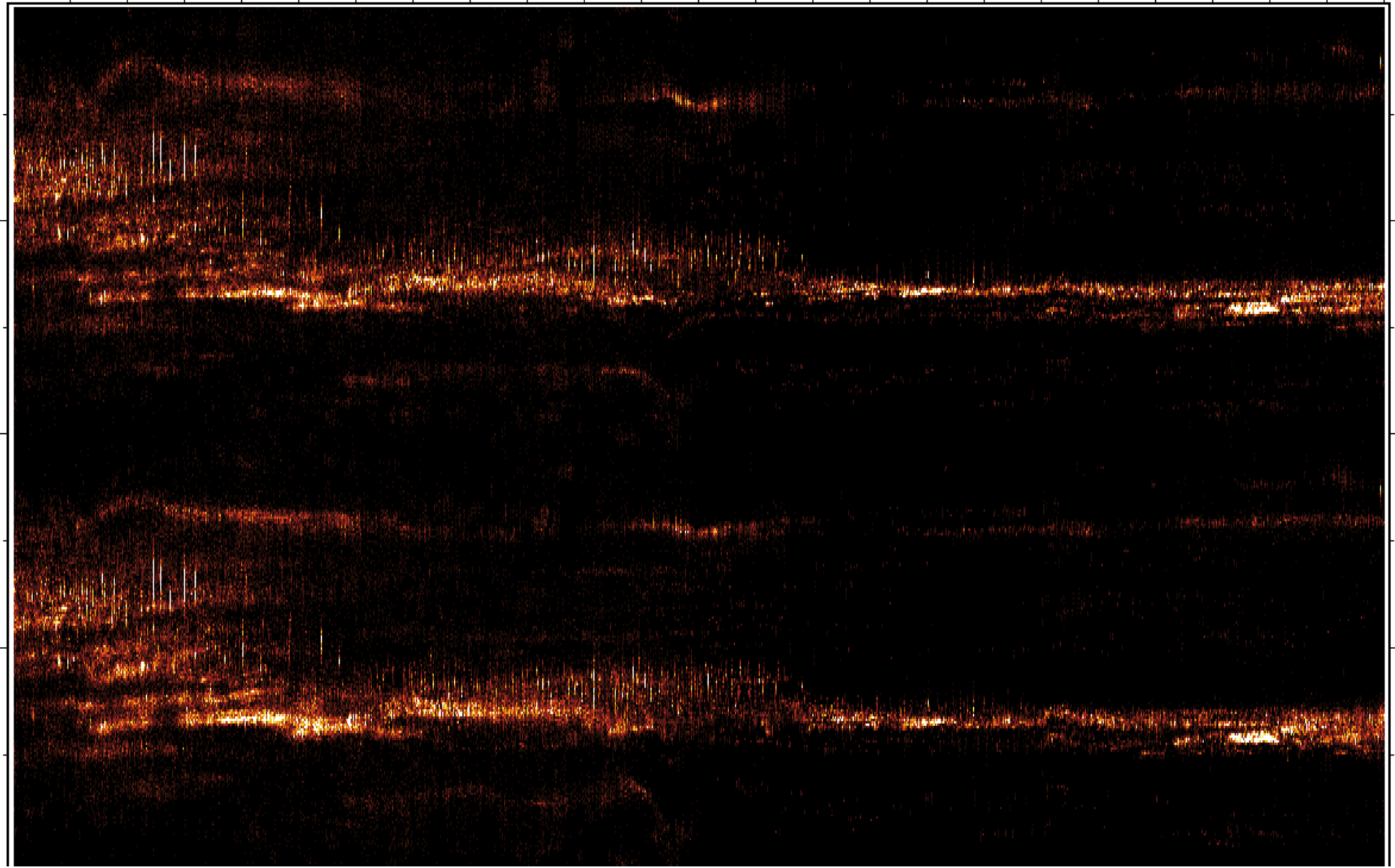
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

Hylaty

April 24, 2026

azimuth slides

Are there solar flares after 8 and 18 ?

[-] Set Colour

100.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

04:52:30
-164.5 deg

Start

Filter 50Hz

F 50-450Hz

Add v.scale

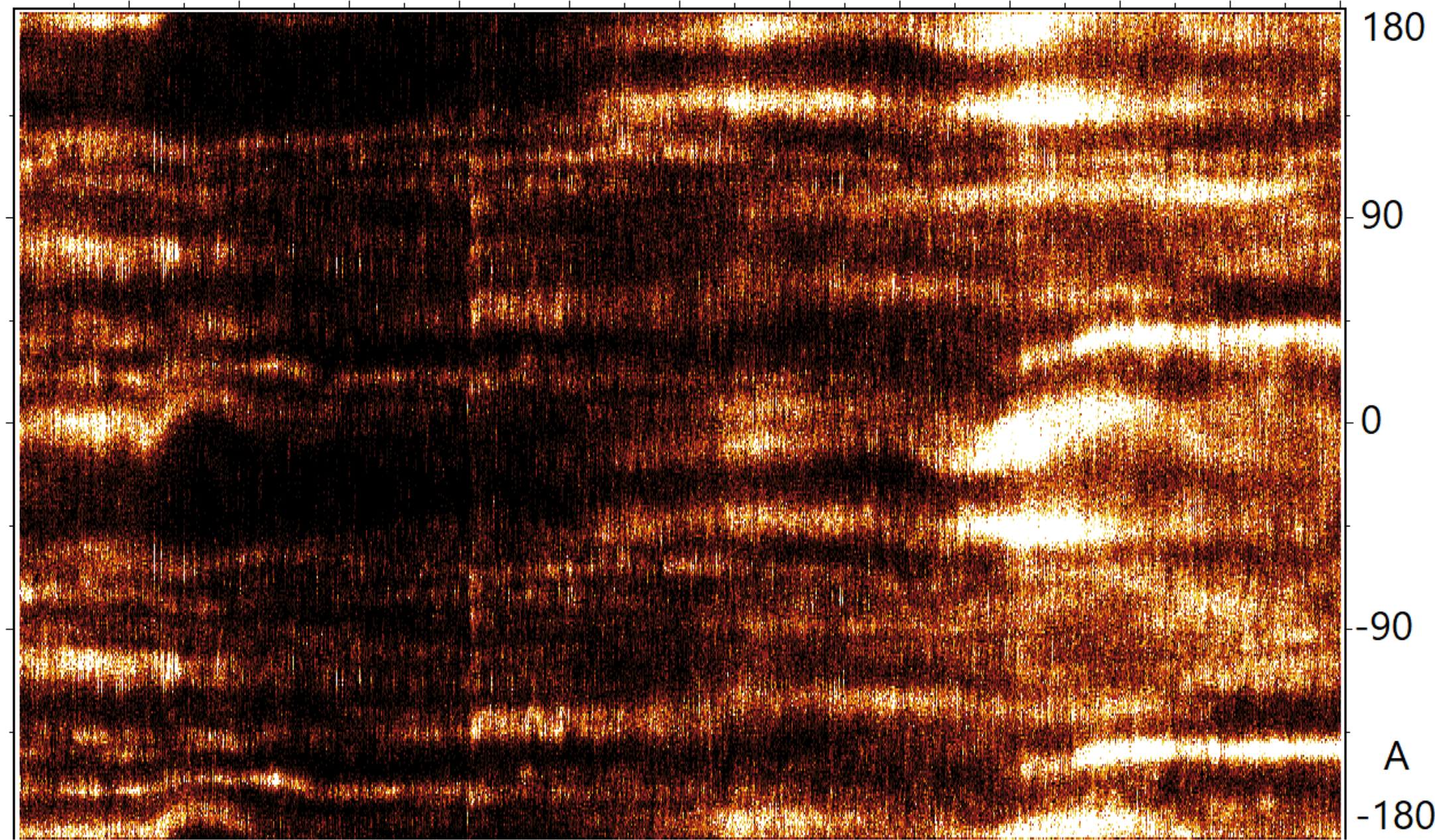
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

500.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 2

r > 500.00

r < 5000.00

04:30:00
-163.5 deg

Start

Filter 50Hz

F 50-450Hz

Add v.scale

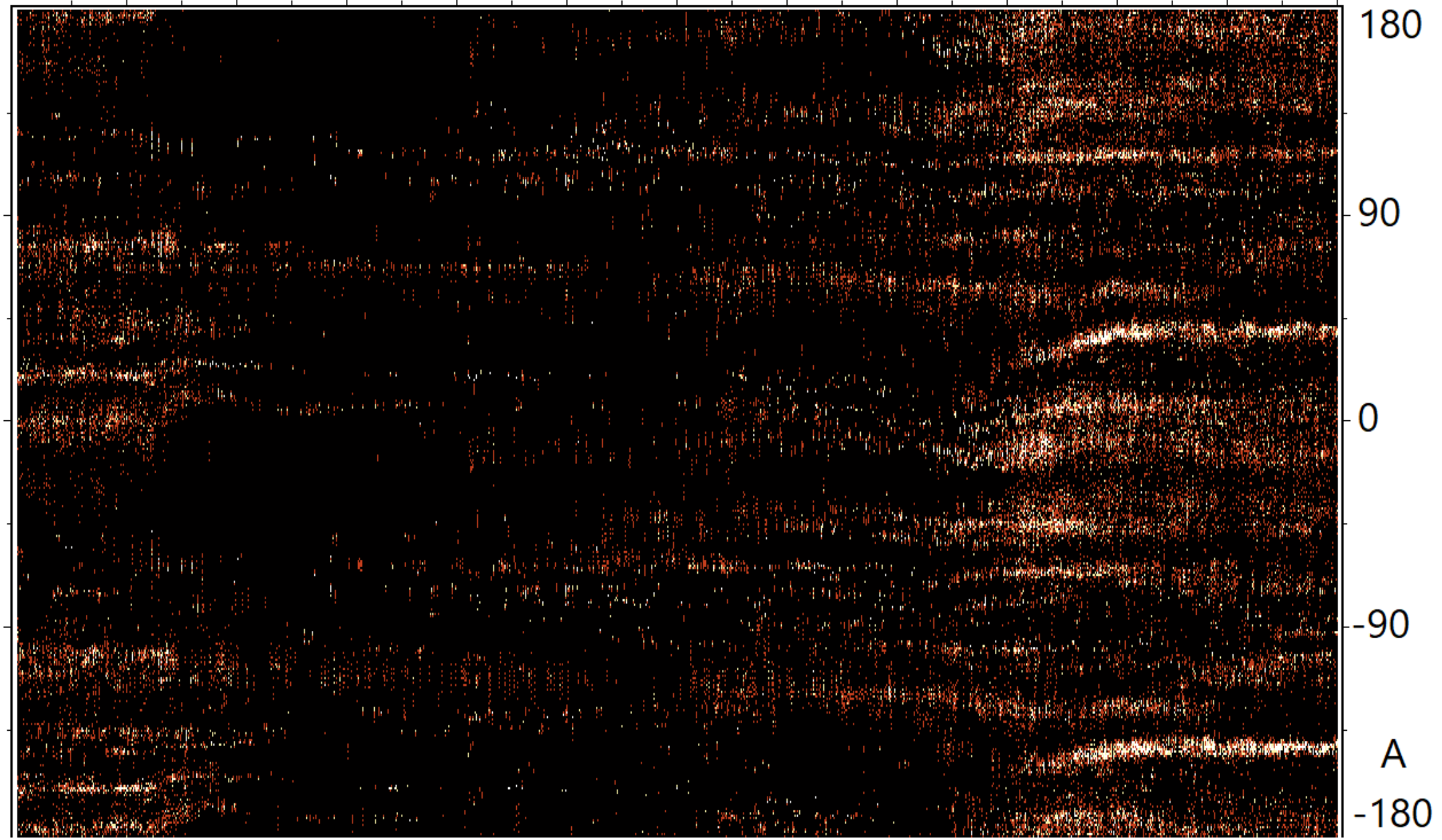
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

Hugo

April 25, 2026

5 azimuth slides with decreasing amplitude+

2 last slides for high amplitude impulses

[-] Set Colour

100.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

01:33:45
-112.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

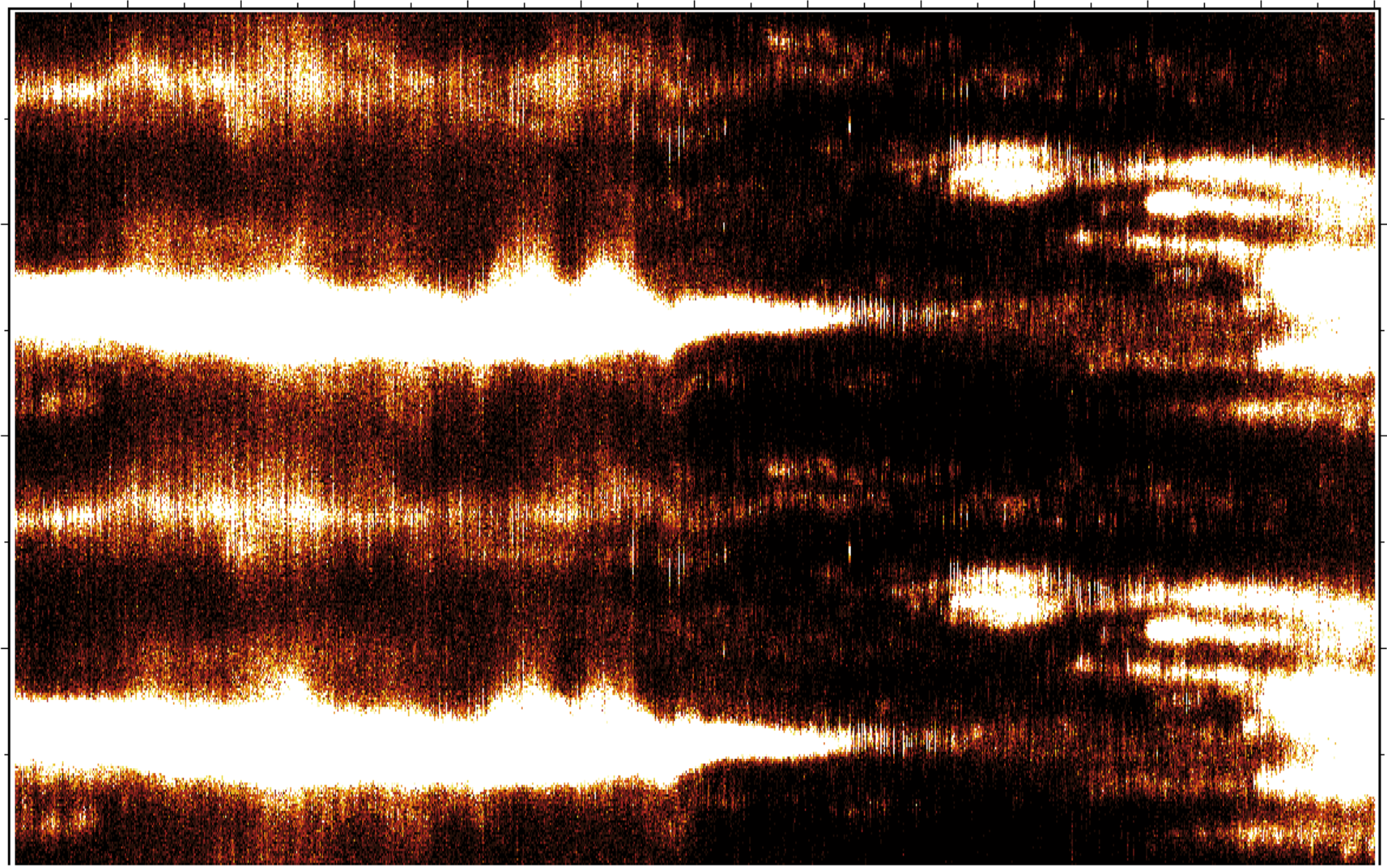
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

50.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:00:00
12.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

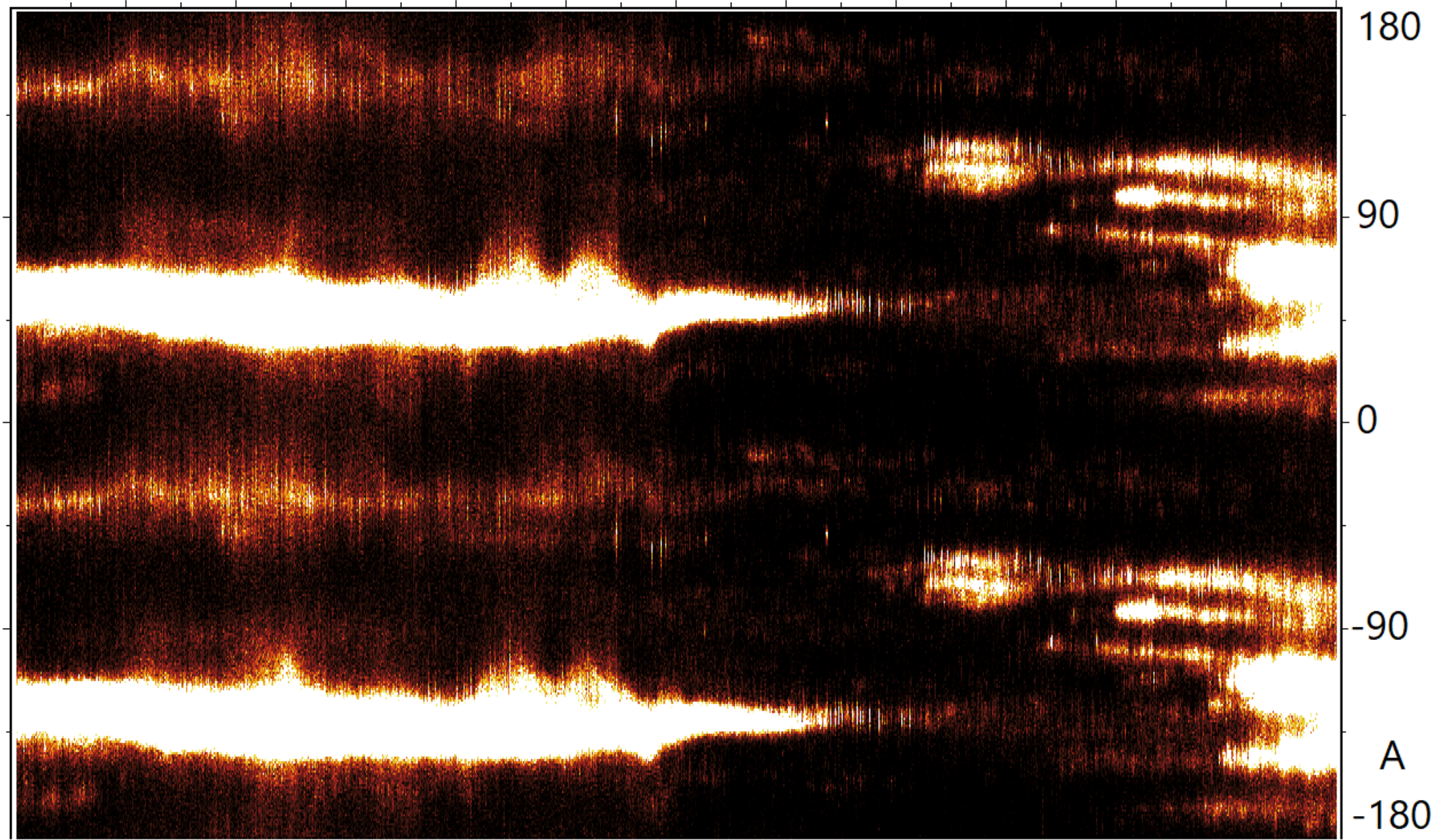
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

30.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:43:45
32.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

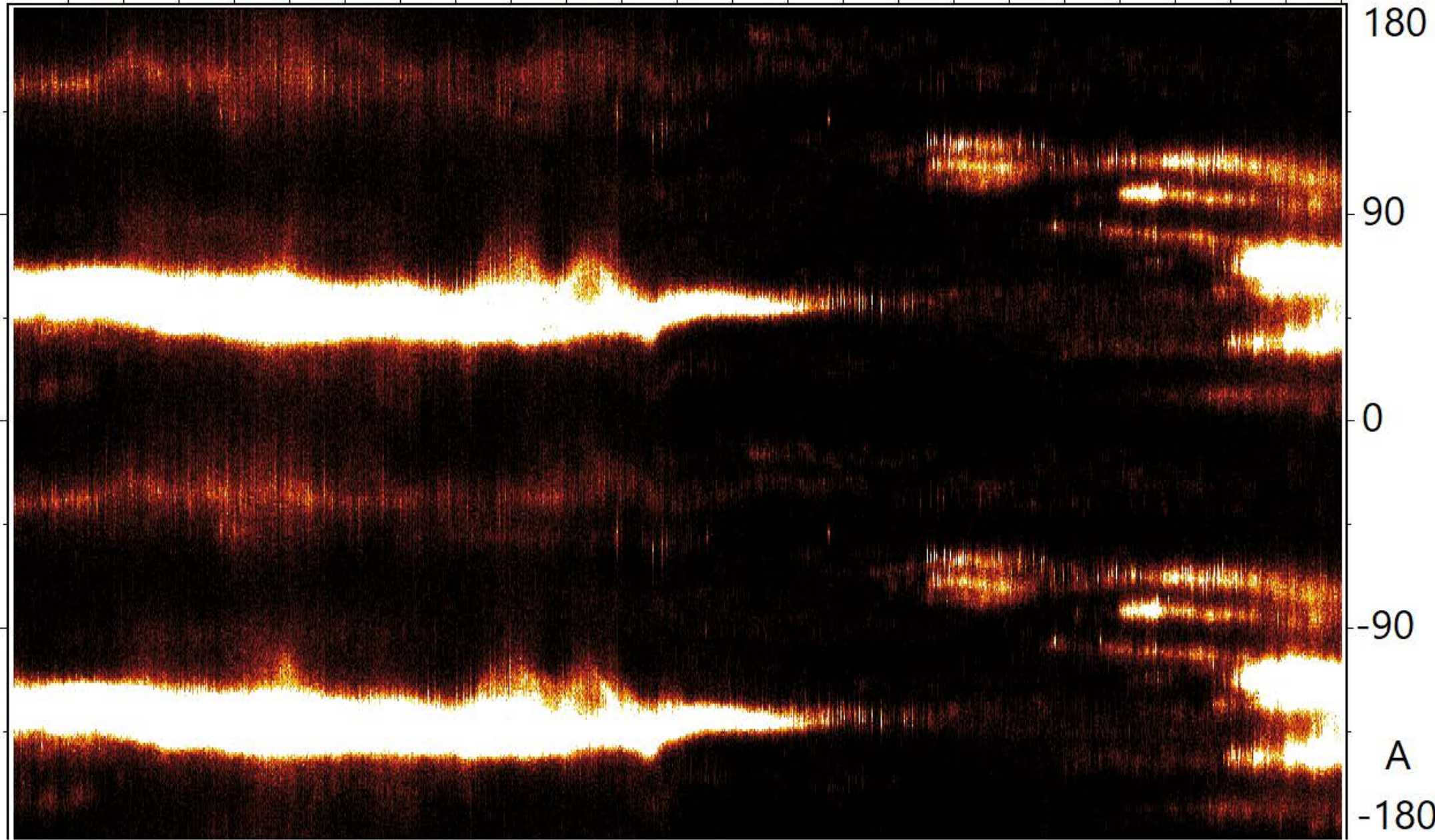
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

10.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

01:22:30
23.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

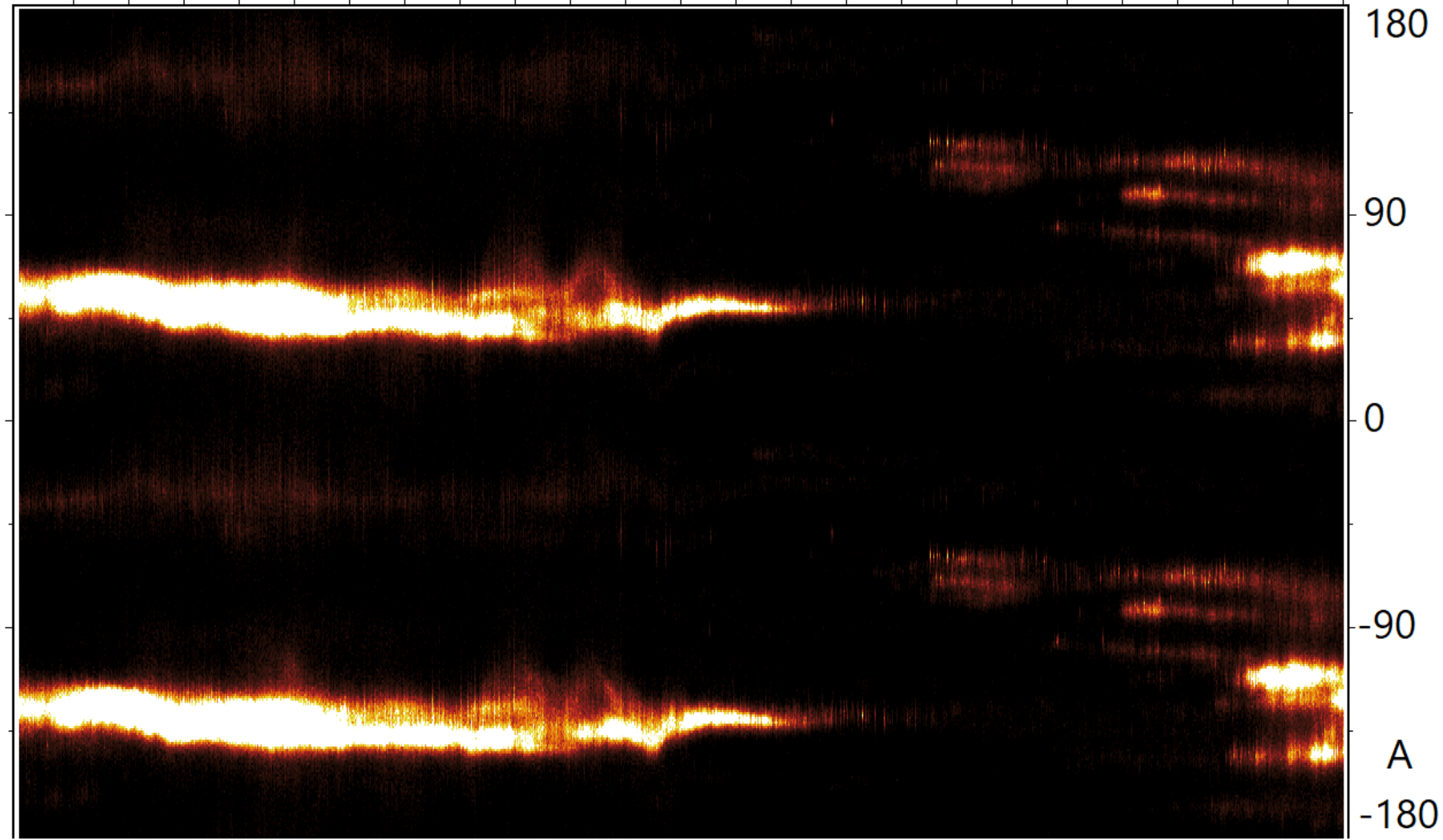
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



[-] Set Colour

5.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:02:30
77.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

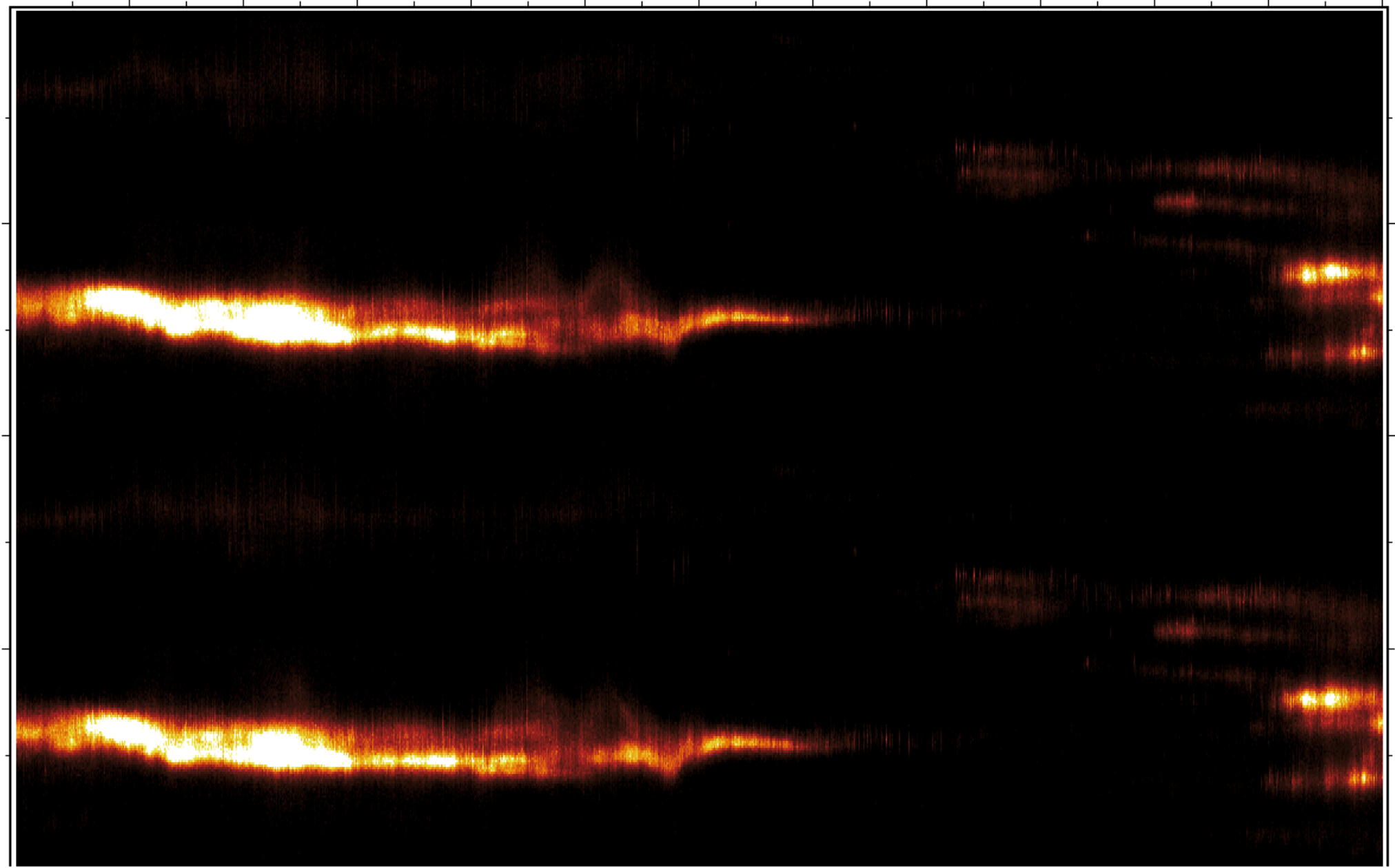
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

80.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 2

r > 500.00

r < 5000.00

03:25:00
-34.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

Add v.scale

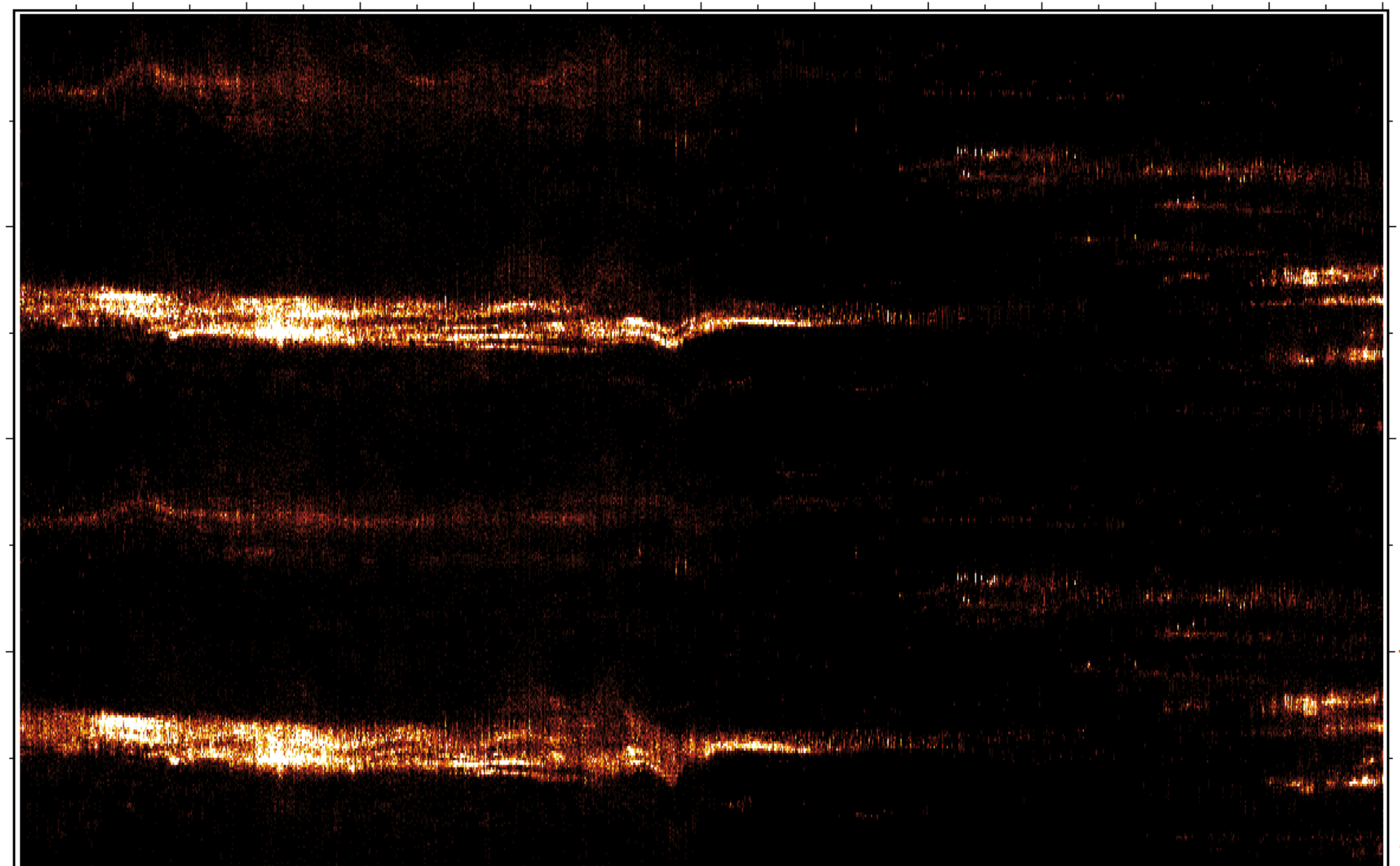
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[-] Set Colour

180.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 3

r > 500.00

r < 5000.00

00:00:00
-87.5 deg

Start

Filter 60Hz

F 60-540Hz

Filter 50Hz

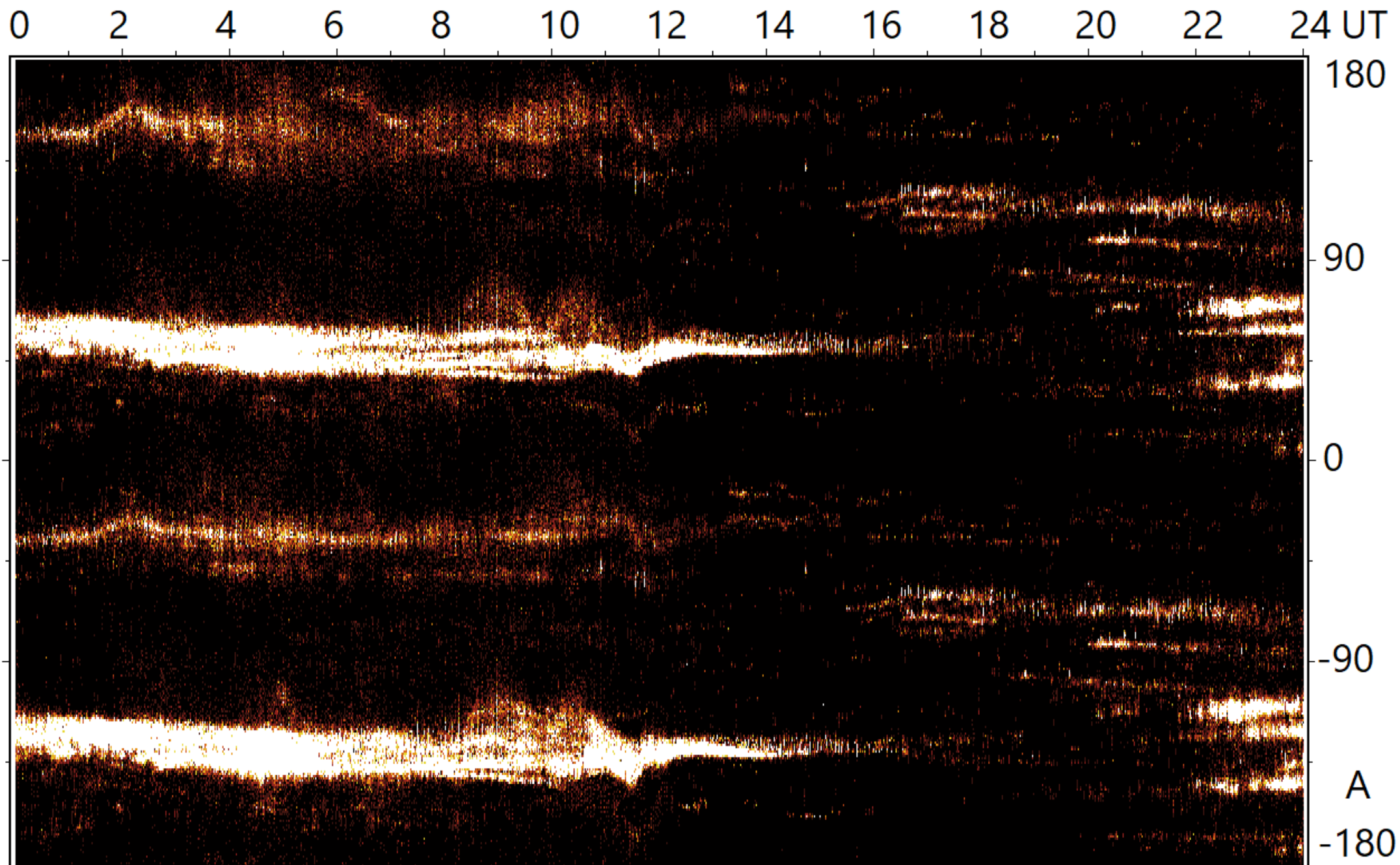
Add v.scale

Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File



Hylaty

April 25, 2026

azimuth slides, medium and high amplitude

[F] Set Colour

100.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 1

r > 50.00

r < 500.00

00:03:45
6.0 deg

Start

Filter 50Hz

F 50-450Hz

Add v.scale

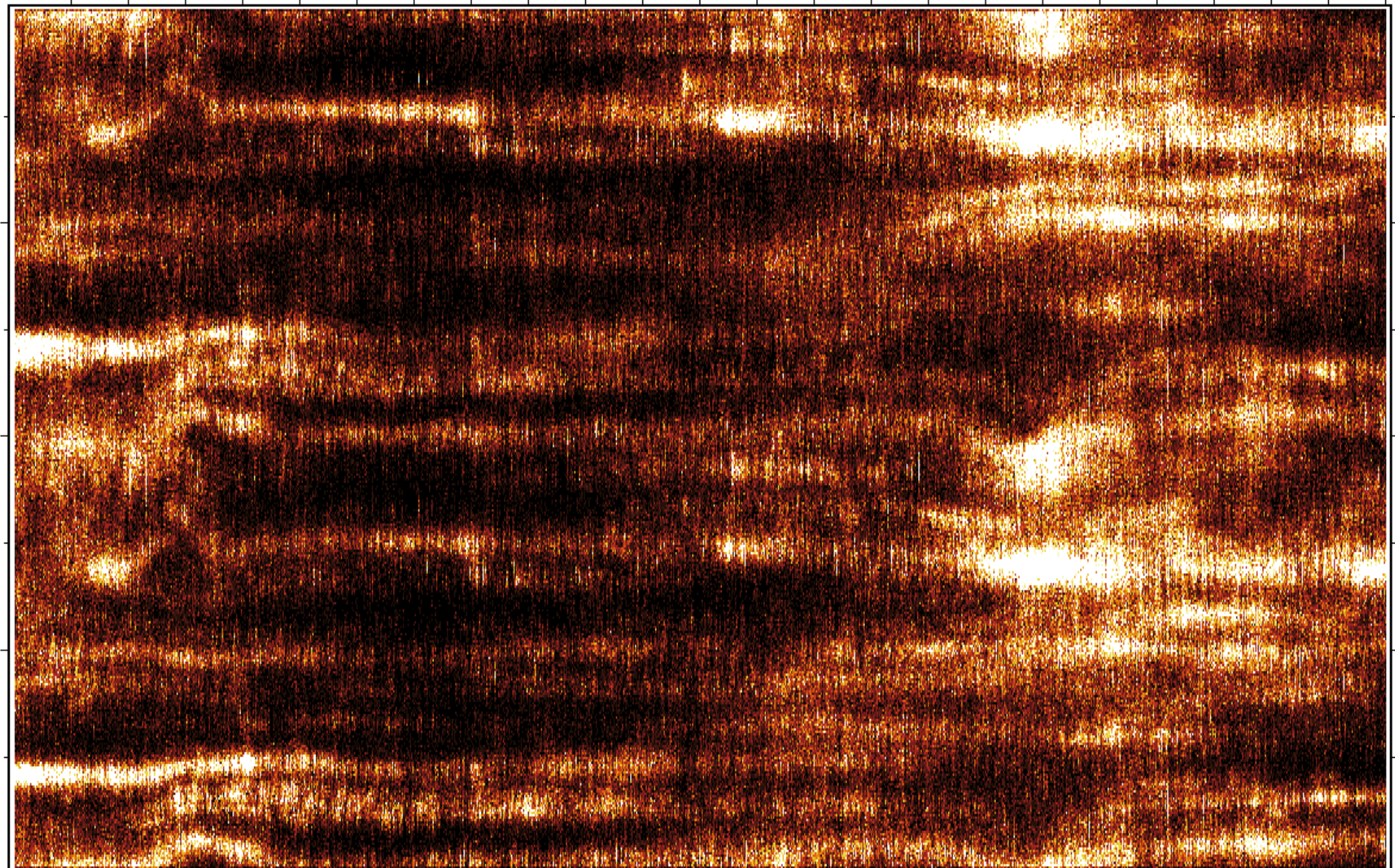
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

[] Set Colour

600.00

30.00

Top scale

n = 2

r > 500.00

r < 5000.00

00:07:30
138.5 deg

Start

Filter 50Hz

F 50-450Hz

Add v.scale

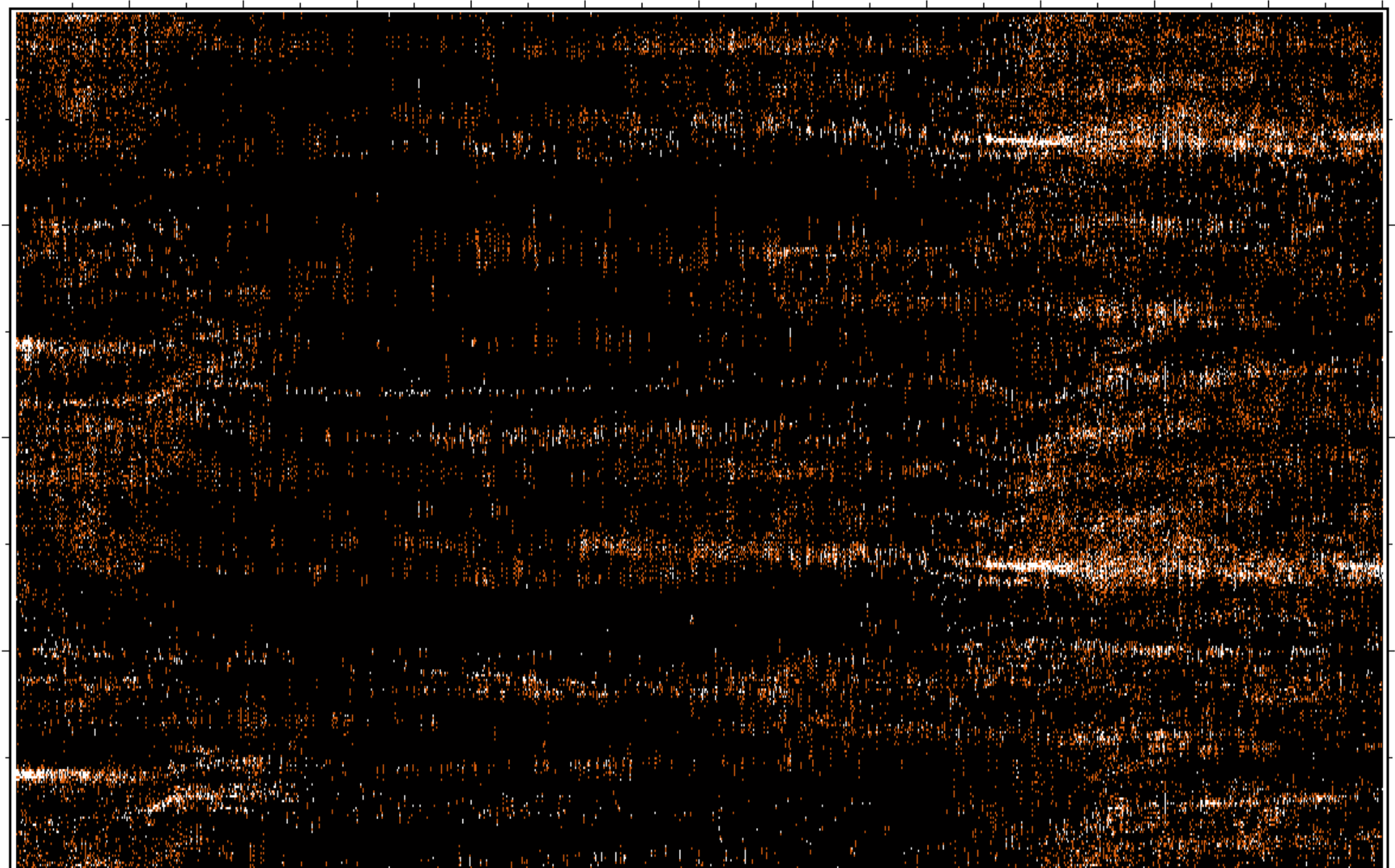
Save Path

288 files

Save Azim File

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



180

90

0

-90

A

-180

Hugo

dynamic spectra

24 and 25 Apr.

[-] Set Colour

350.0

2500

Antenna
 NS
 EW

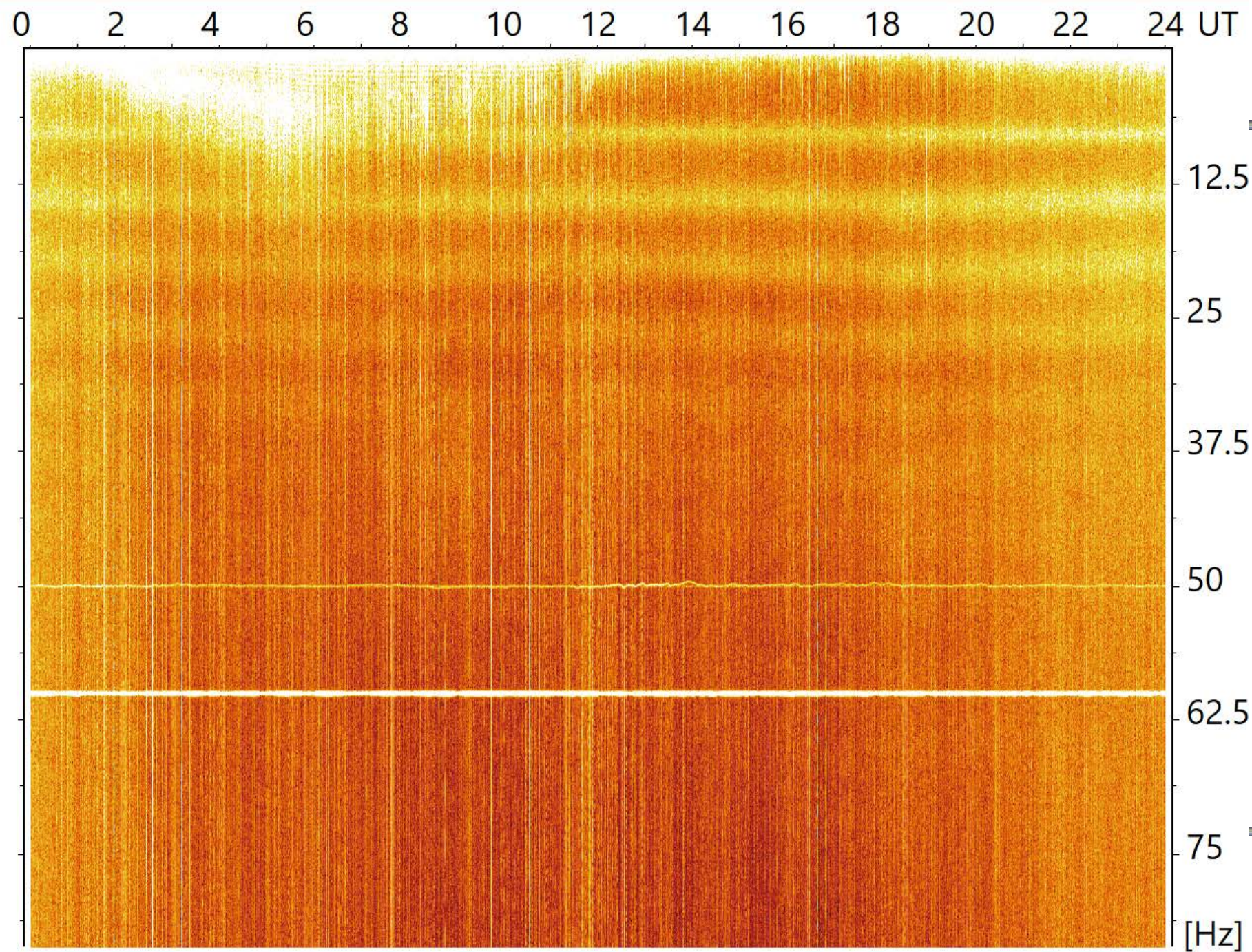
Band
 82Hz
 165Hz
 330Hz
 660Hz
 1320Hz

Black top scale
 log10
 Filter LP[10]
 FIR HP 3Hz
 Hann Window

288 files

0-1:0-2:0-30
61.32 Hz

Save to BMP File



[-] Set Colour

280.0

2000

Antenna

- NS
- EW

Band

- 82Hz
- 165Hz
- 330Hz
- 660Hz
- 1320Hz

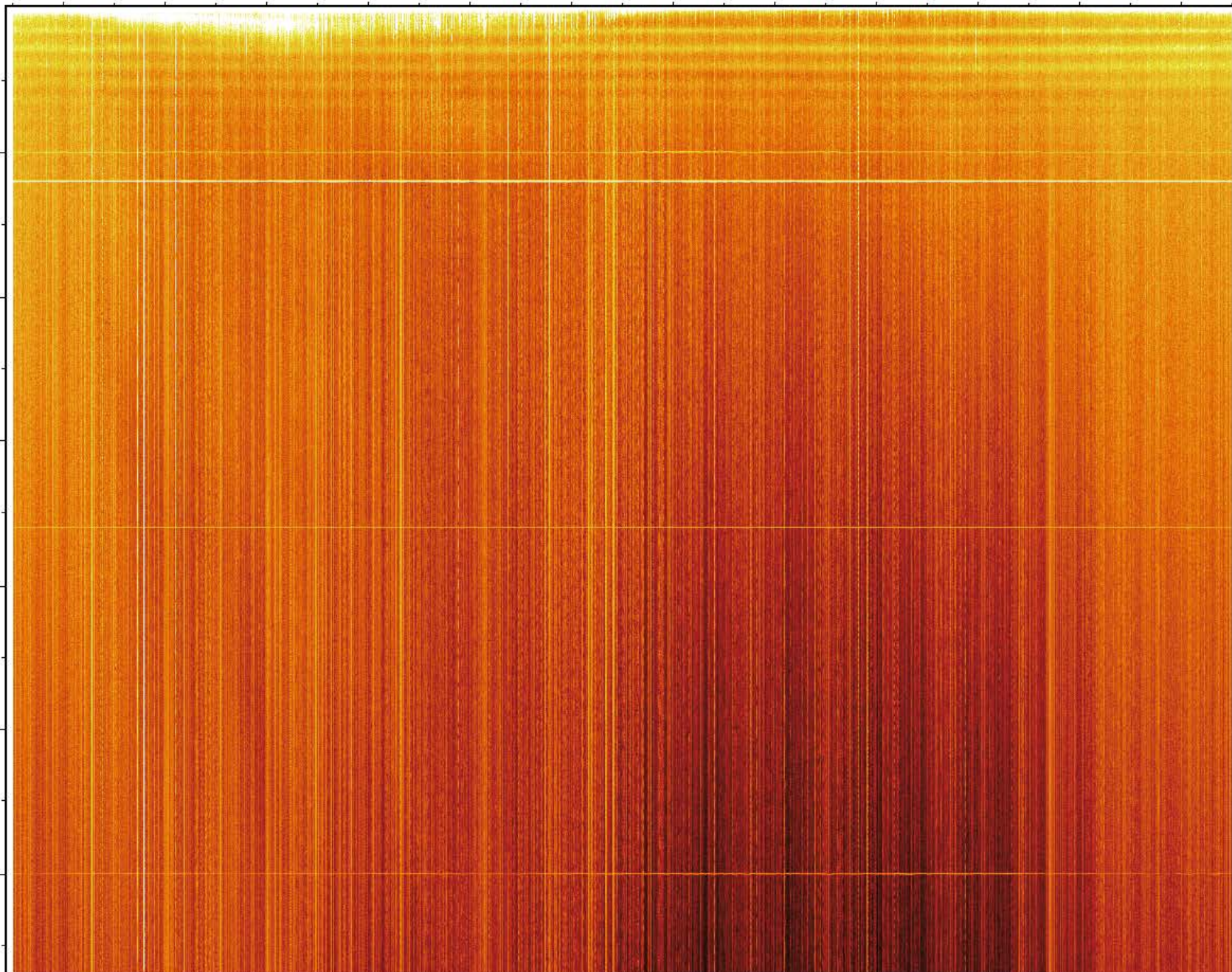
- Black top scale
- log10
- Filter LP[10]
- FIR HP 3Hz
- Hann Window

288 files

0-1:0-1:0-15
30.70 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



50

100

150

200

250

300

[Hz]



Un
De

[F] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna
 NS
 EW

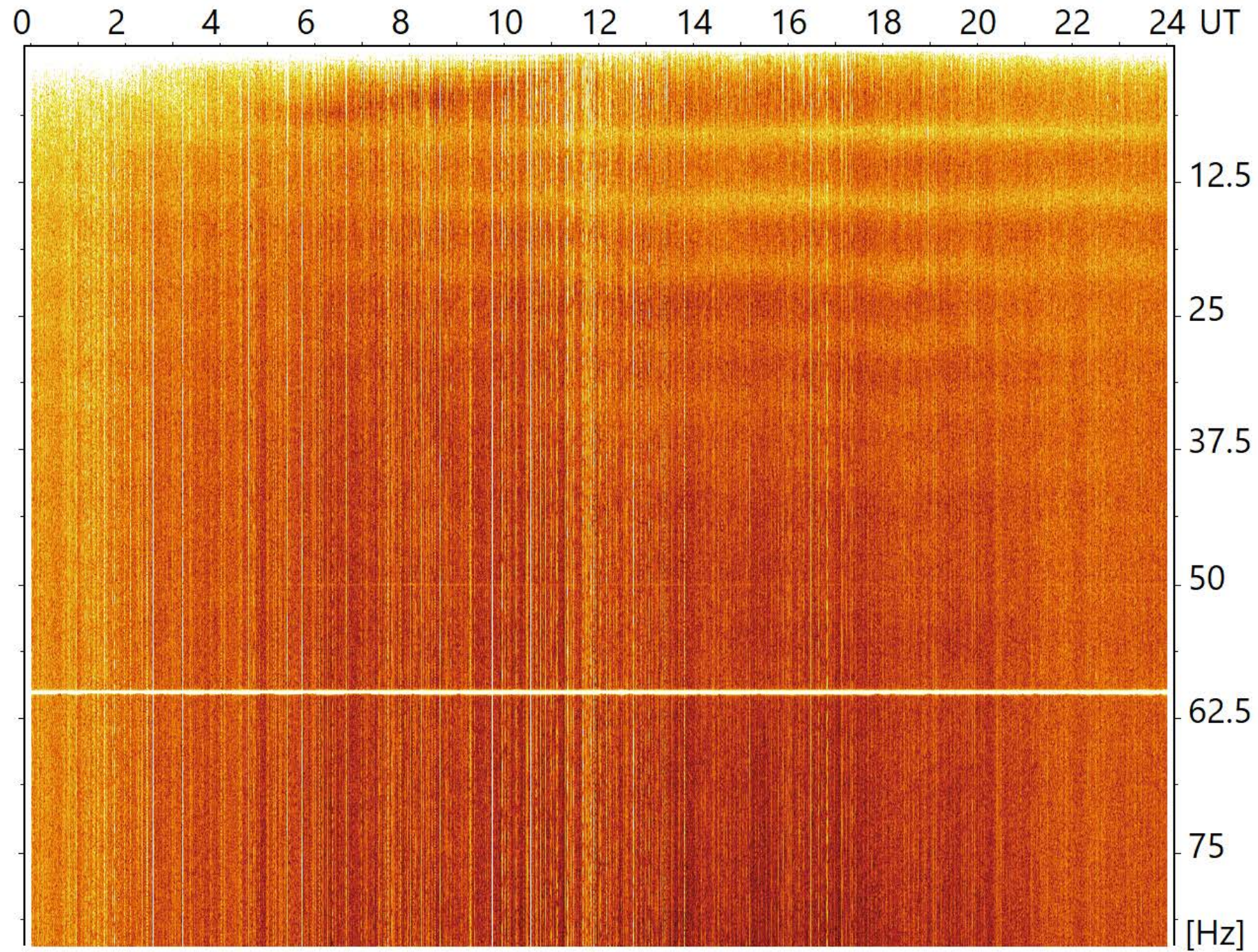
Band
 82Hz
 165Hz
 330Hz
 660Hz
 1320Hz

Black top scale
 log10
 Filter LP[10]
 FIR HP 3Hz
 Hann Window

288 files

0-1:0-1:0-15
3.86 Hz

Save to BMP File



[-] Set Colour

280.0

2000

Antenna

NS

EW

Band

82Hz

165Hz

330Hz

660Hz

1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

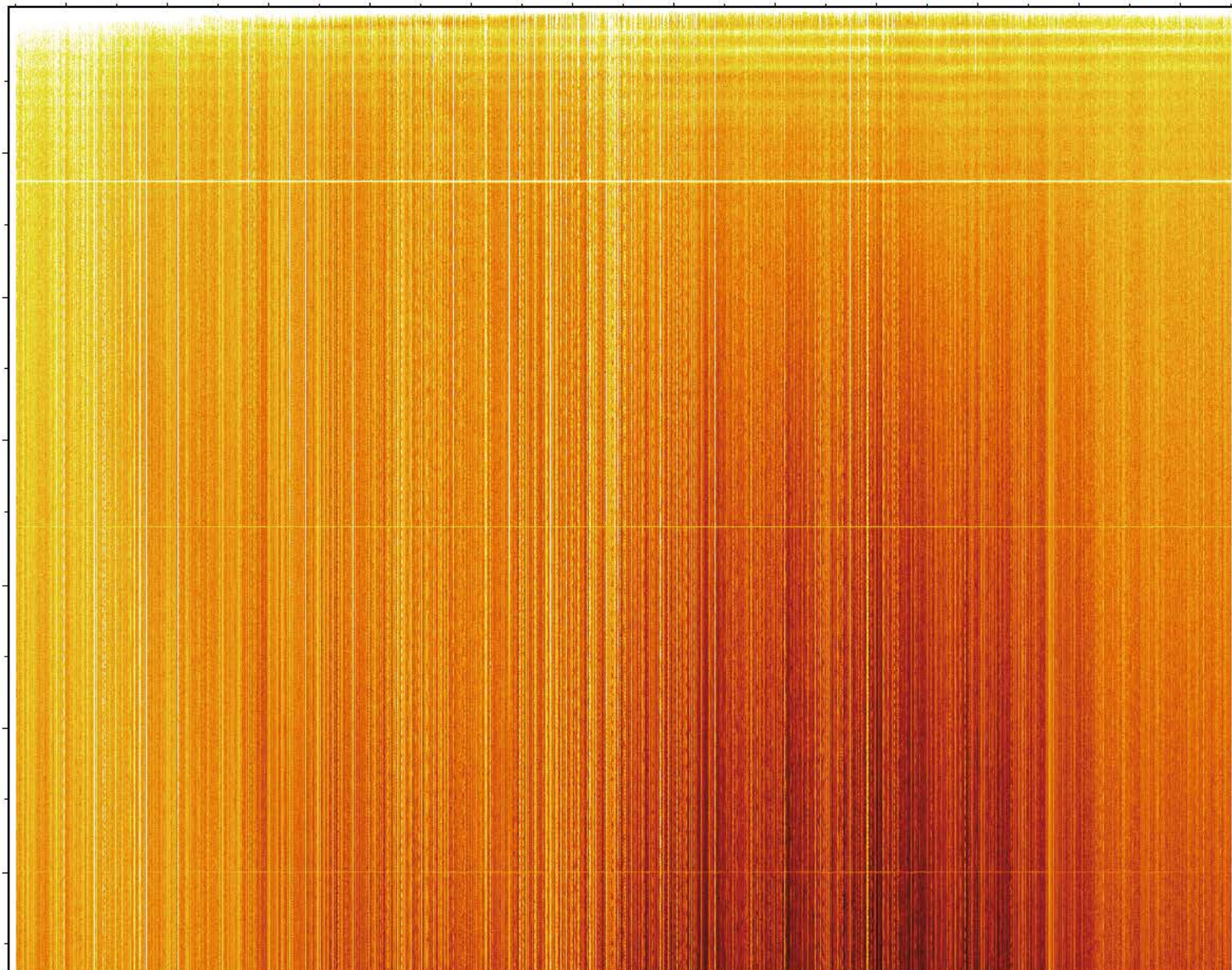
288 files

0-1:0-2:0-30

33.63 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



50

100

150

200

250

300

[Hz]



Un
De

[-] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna

- NS
- EW

Band

- 82Hz
- 165Hz
- 330Hz
- 660Hz
- 1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

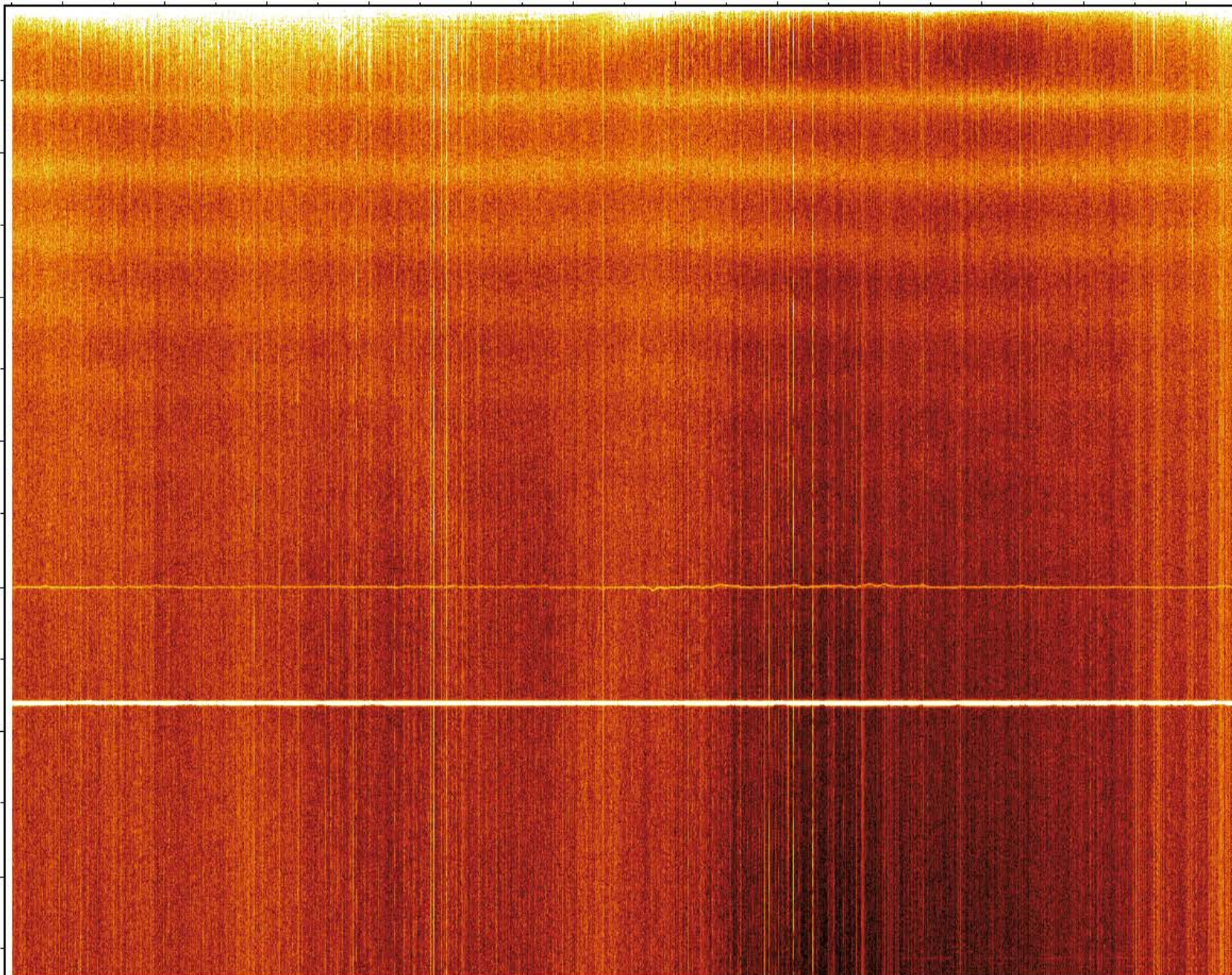
288 files

00:0-57:0-30

3.76 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



12.5

25

37.5

50

62.5

75

[Hz]



Un
De

[F] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna

- NS
- EW

Band

- 82Hz
- 165Hz
- 330Hz
- 660Hz
- 1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

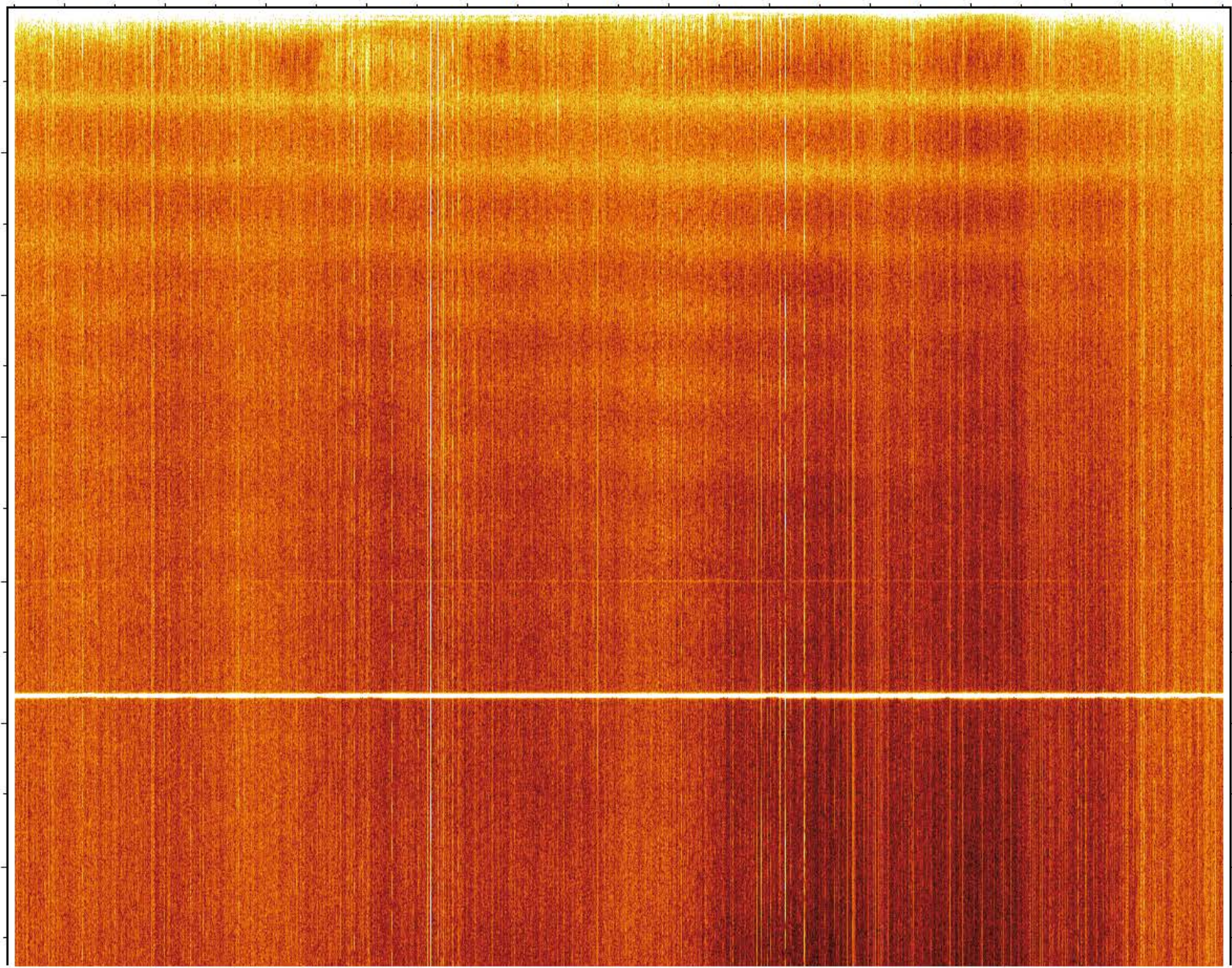
288 files

0-1:0-1:0-15

6.89 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



12.5

25

37.5

50

62.5

75

[Hz]

Hylaty

dynamic spectra

24 and 25 Apr.

[] Set Colour

330.0

2500

Antenna

NS

EW

Band

82Hz

165Hz

330Hz

660Hz

1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

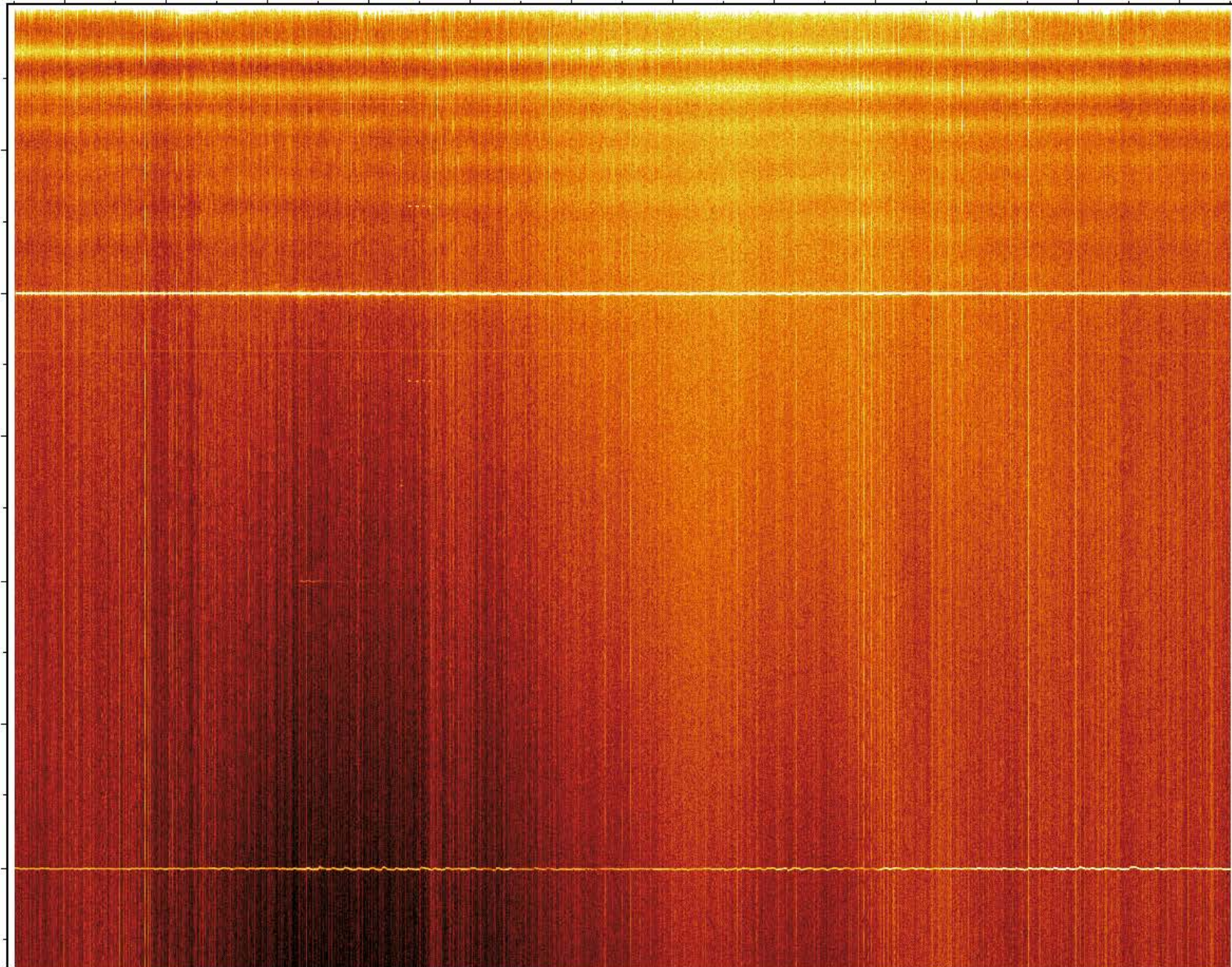
288 files

01:03:45

19.02 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



25

50

75

100

125

150

[Hz]

[-] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna

NS

EW

Band

82Hz

165Hz

330Hz

660Hz

1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

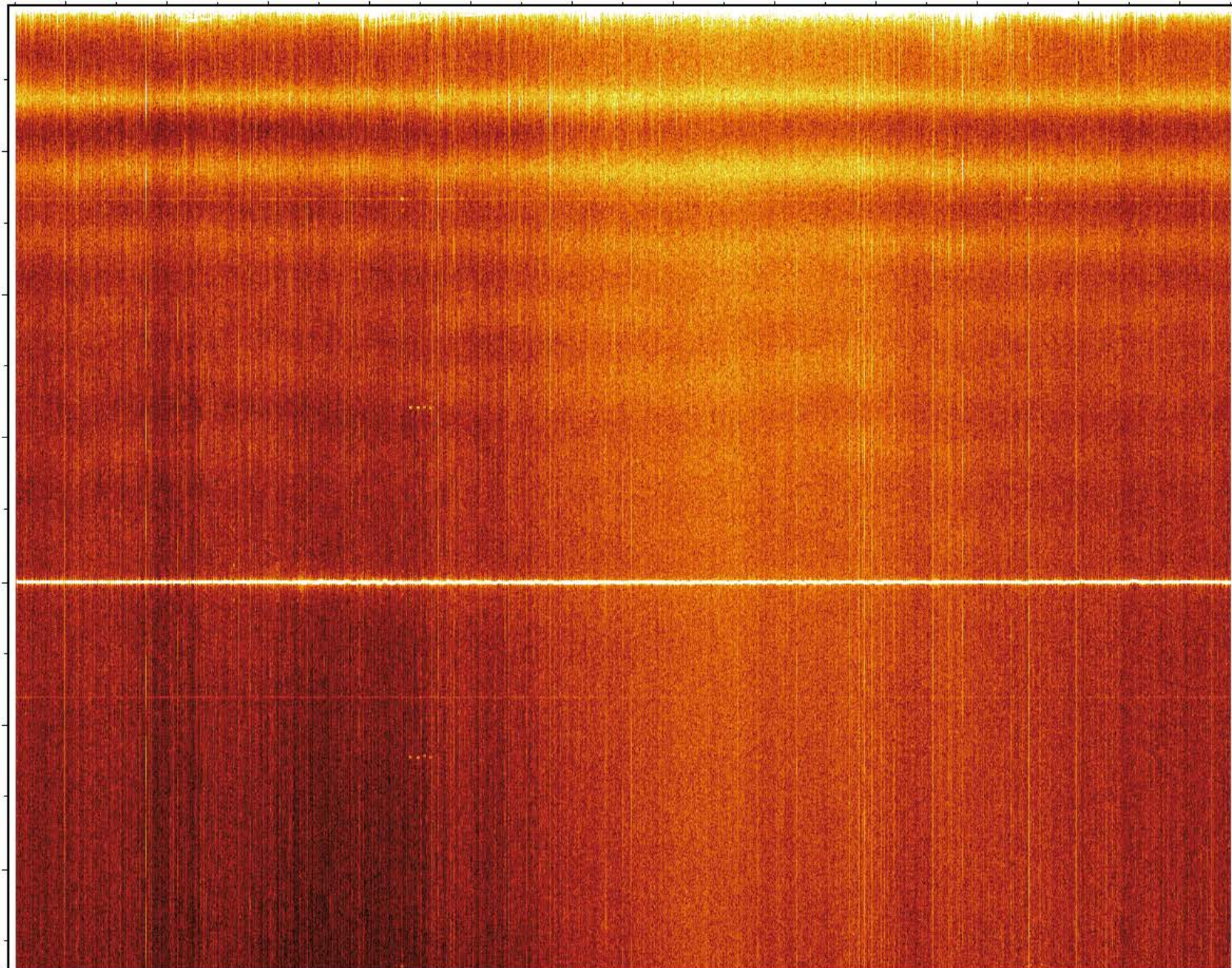
288 files

01:15:00

9.46 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



12.5

25

37.5

50

62.5

75

[Hz]



Uni
Der

[-] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna
 NS
 EW

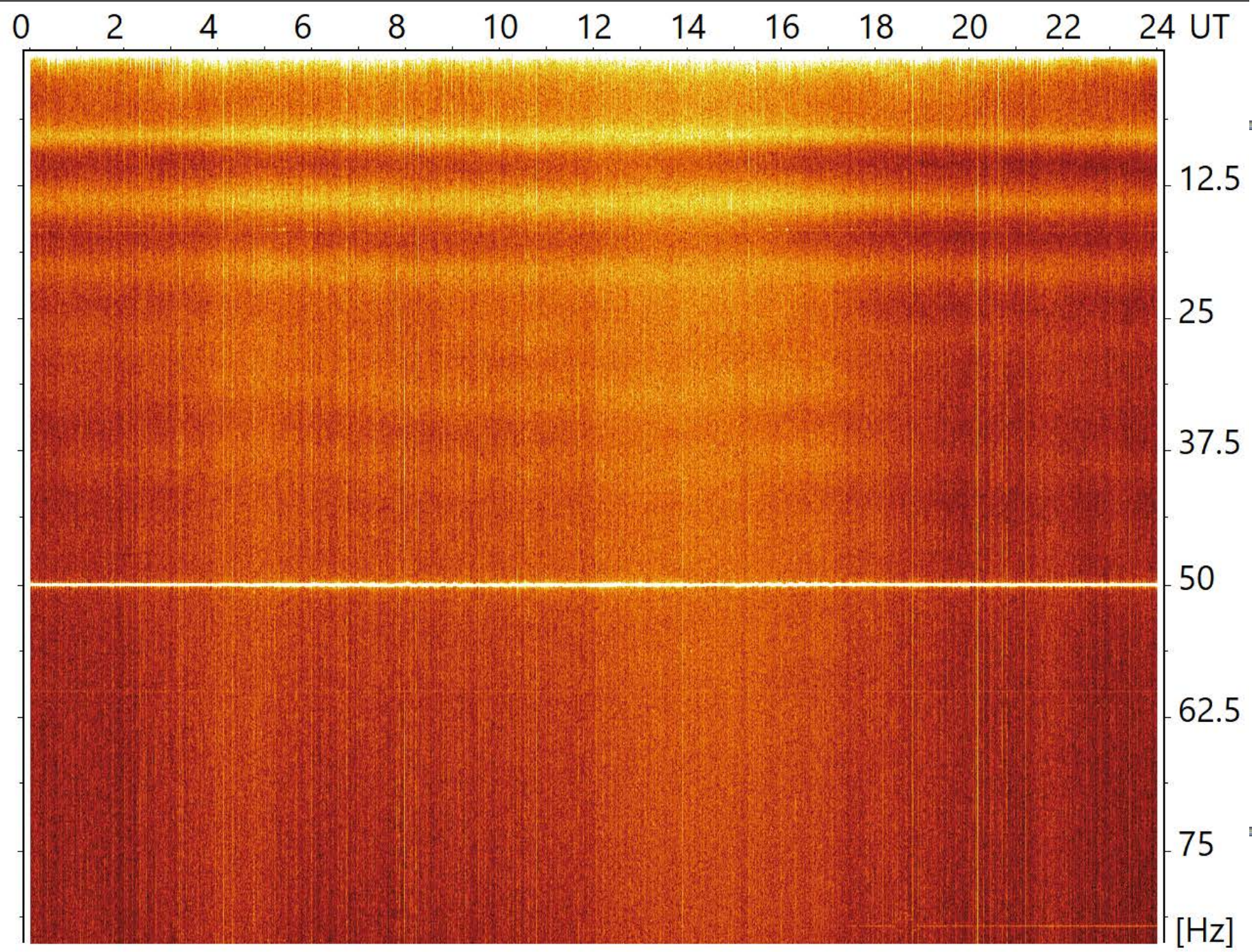
Band
 82Hz
 165Hz
 330Hz
 660Hz
 1320Hz

Black top scale
 log10
 Filter LP[10]
 FIR HP 3Hz
 Hann Window

288 files

00:0-48:0-45
1.29 Hz

Save to BMP File



[-] Set Colour

350.0

2700

Antenna

NS

EW

Band

82Hz

165Hz

330Hz

660Hz

1320Hz

Black top scale

log10

Filter LP[10]

FIR HP 3Hz

Hann Window

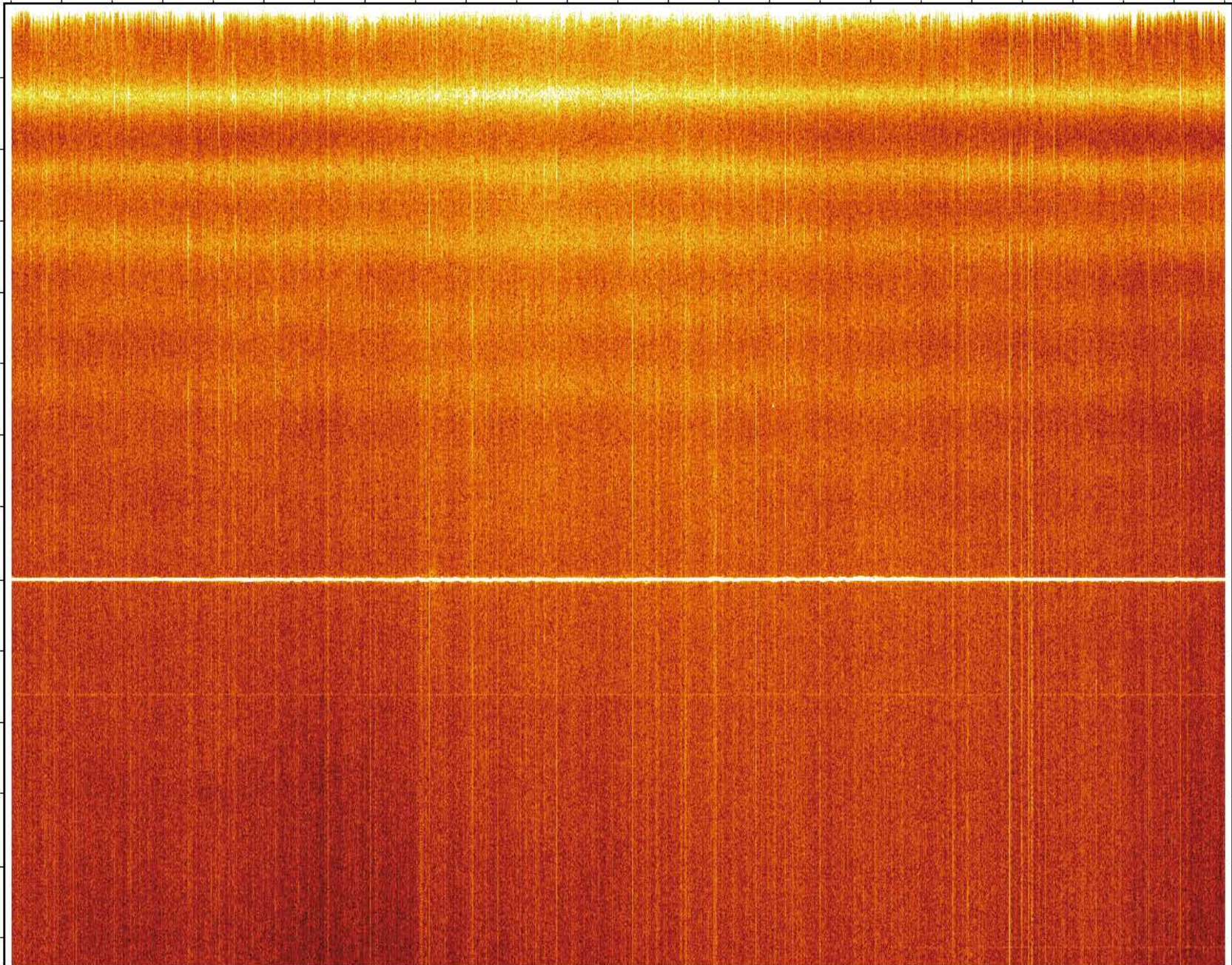
288 files

00:51:15

19.46 Hz

Save to BMP File

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 UT



12.5

25

37.5

50

62.5

75

[Hz]

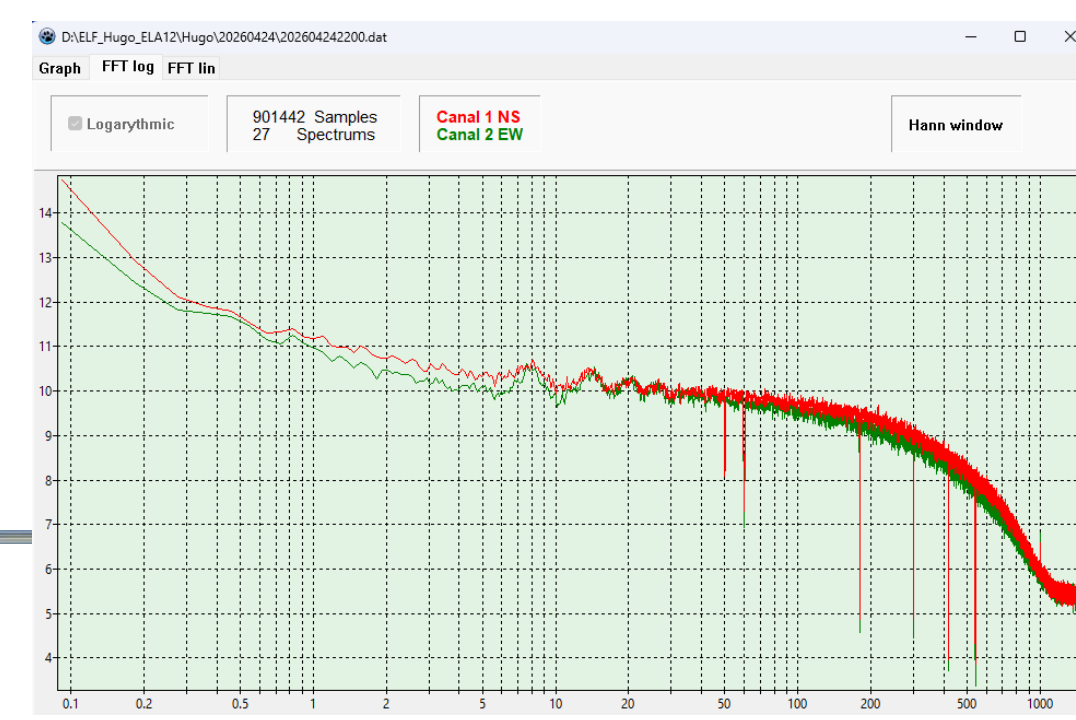
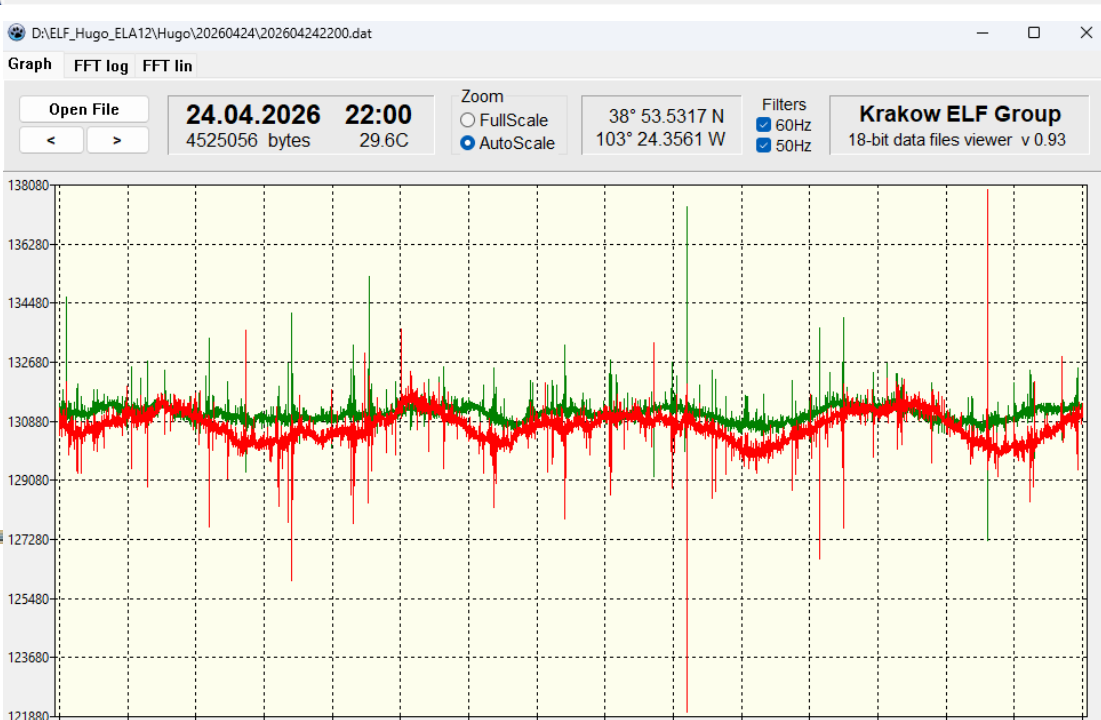
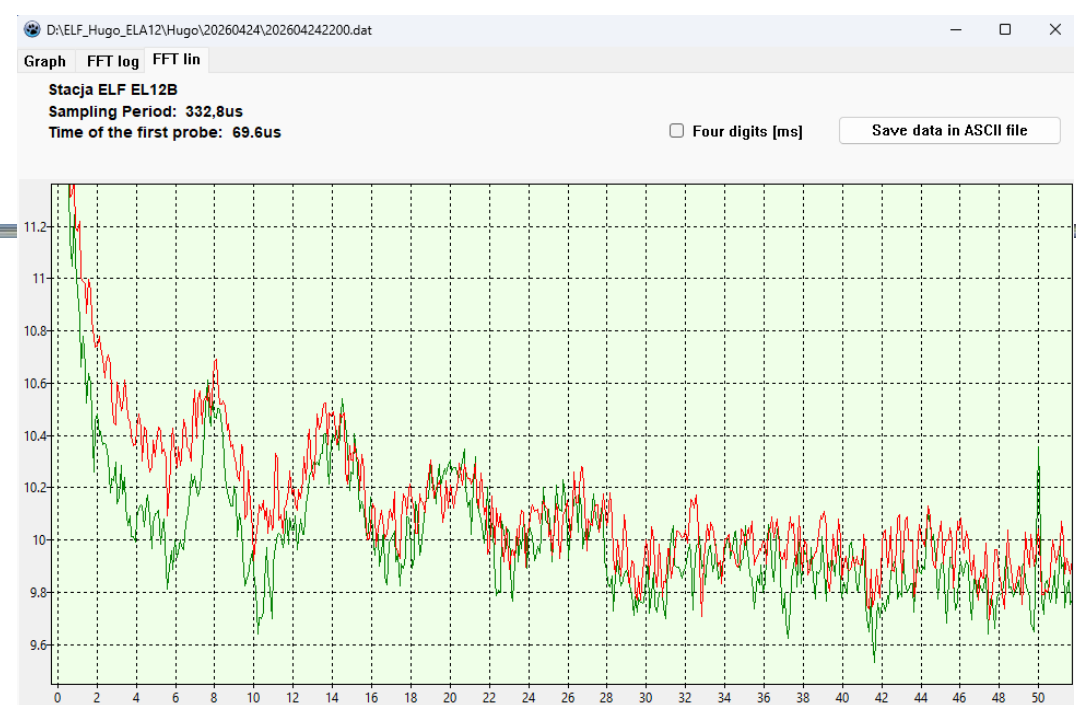
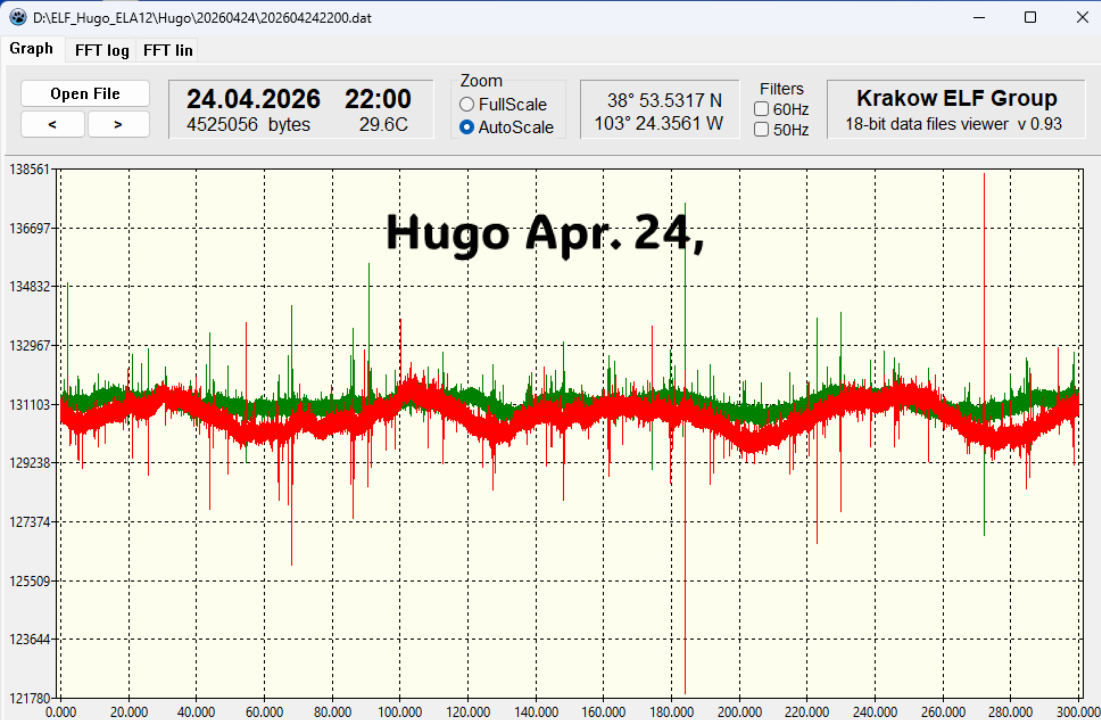


Uni
Der

Hugo and Hylaty

5 minute data and spectra

filtering 50 or 60 Hz



D:\ELF_Hugo_ELA12\Hugo\20260424\202604242200.dat

Graph FFT log FFT lin

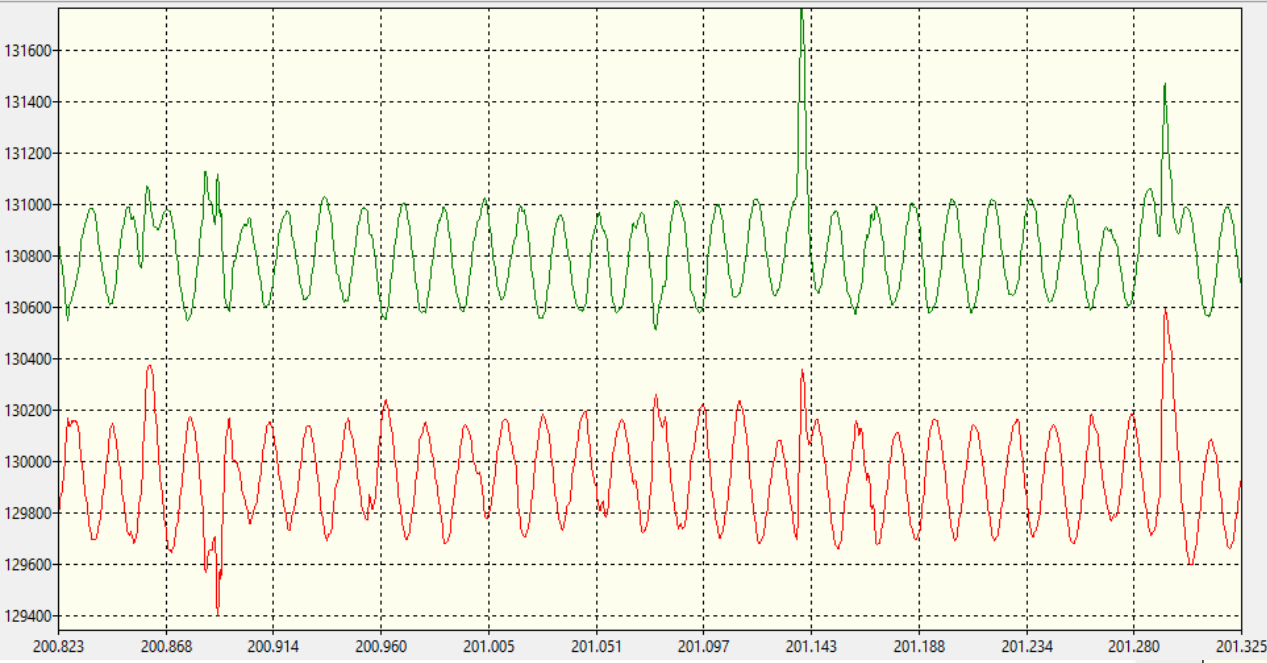
Open File **24.04.2026 22:00**
4525056 bytes 29.6C

Zoom
 FullScale
 AutoScale

Filters
 60Hz
 50Hz

Krakov ELF Group
18-bit data files viewer v 0.93

38° 53.5317 N
103° 24.3561 W



Hugo Apr. 24,

_ELA12\Hugo\20260424\202604242200.dat

log FFT lin

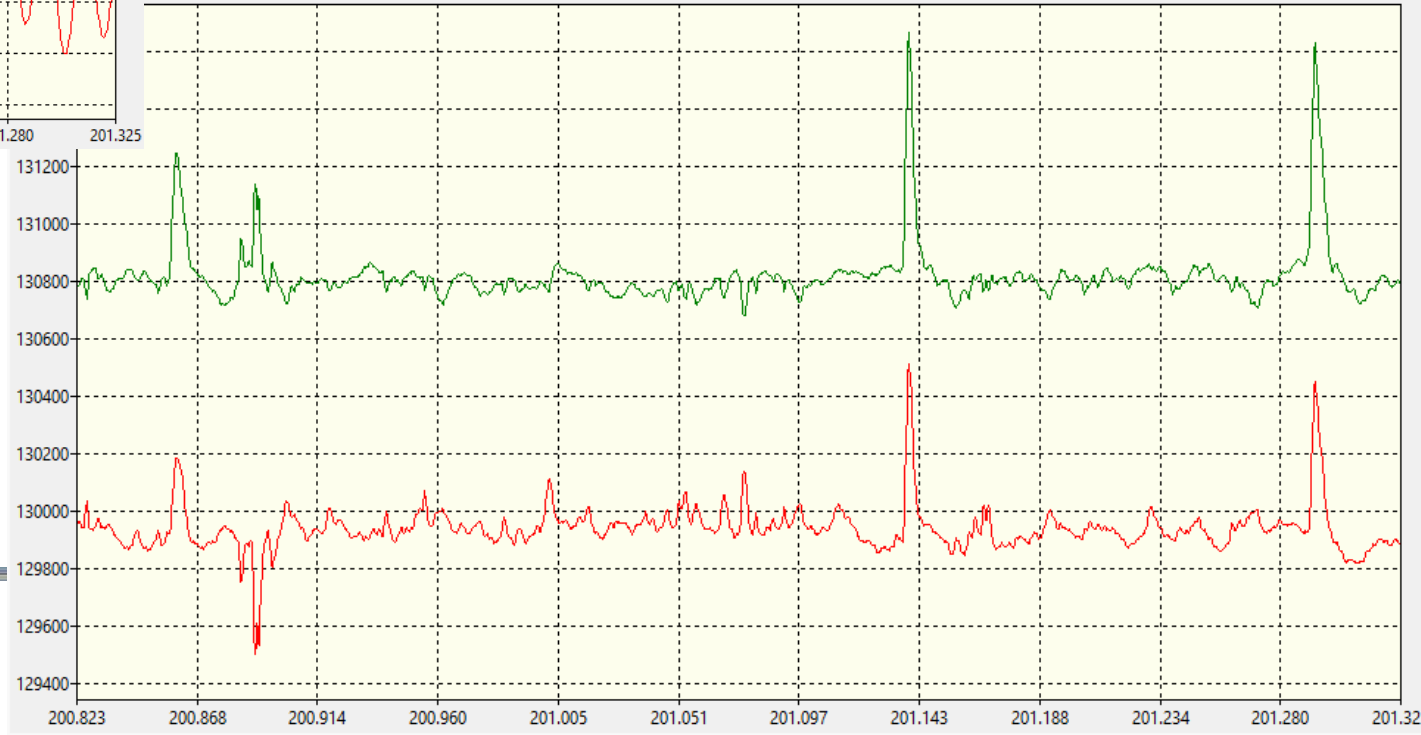
le **24.04.2026 22:00**
> 4525056 bytes 29.6C

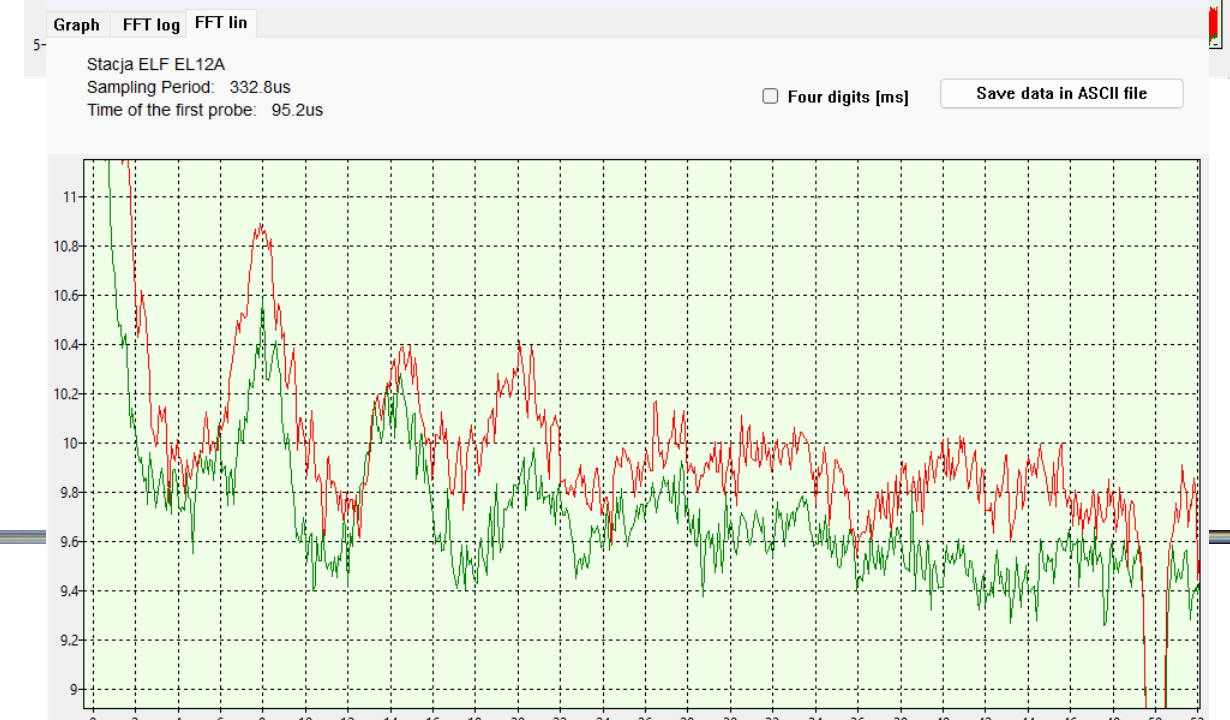
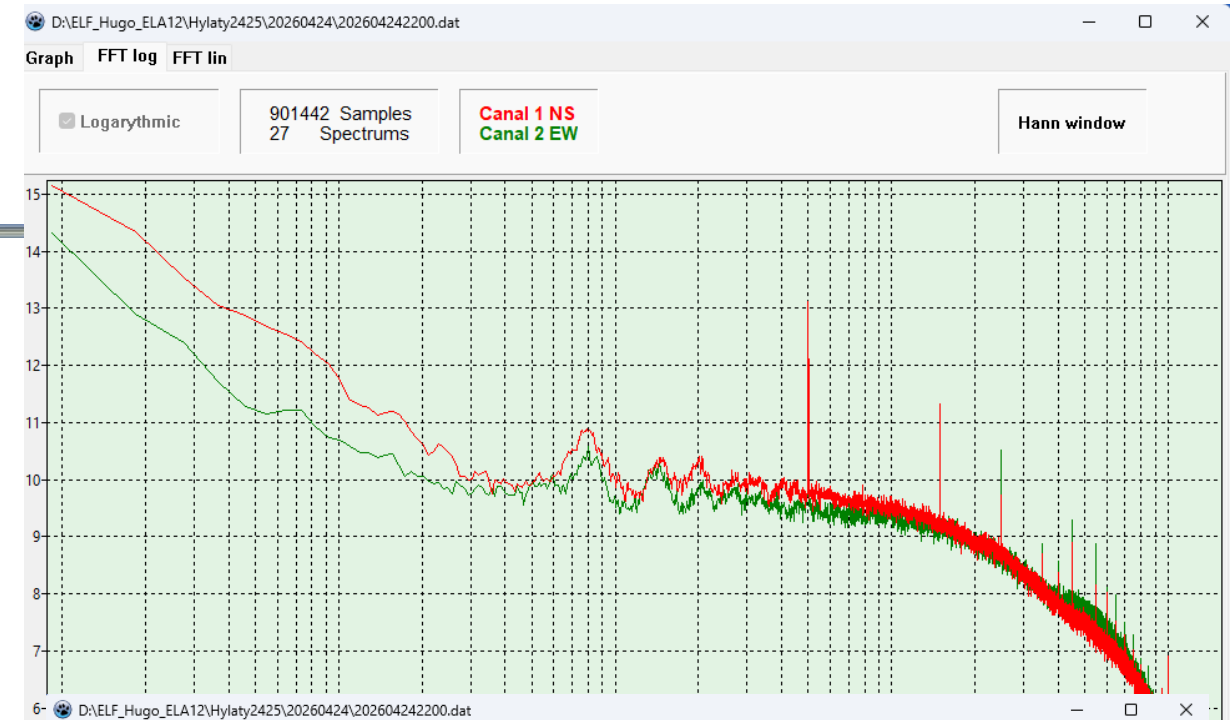
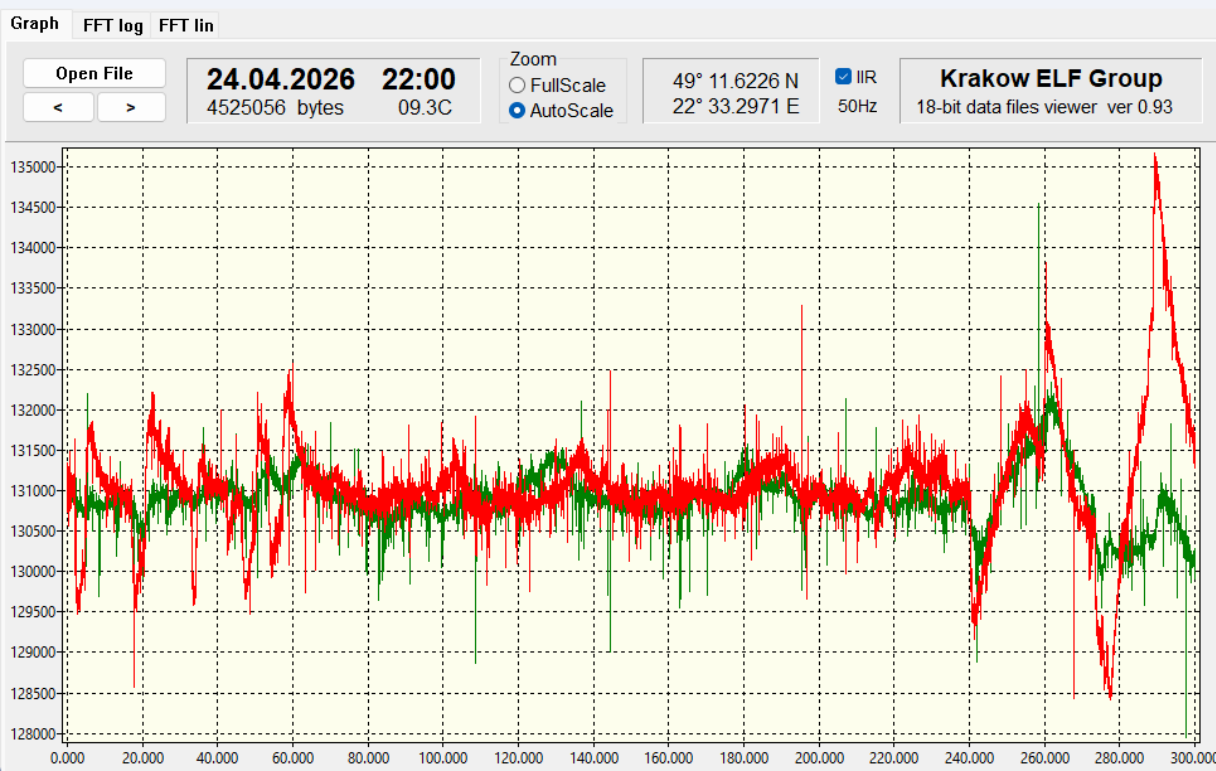
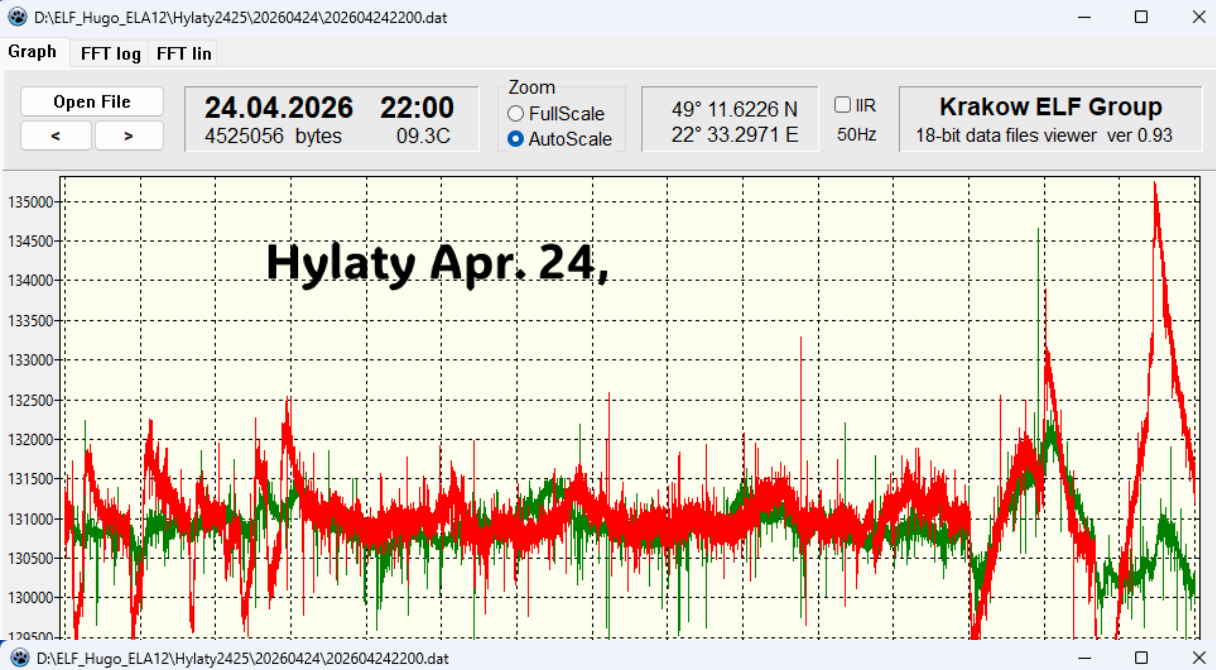
Zoom
 FullScale
 AutoScale

Filters
 60Hz
 50Hz

Krakov ELF Group
18-bit data files viewer v 0.93

38° 53.5317 N
103° 24.3561 W





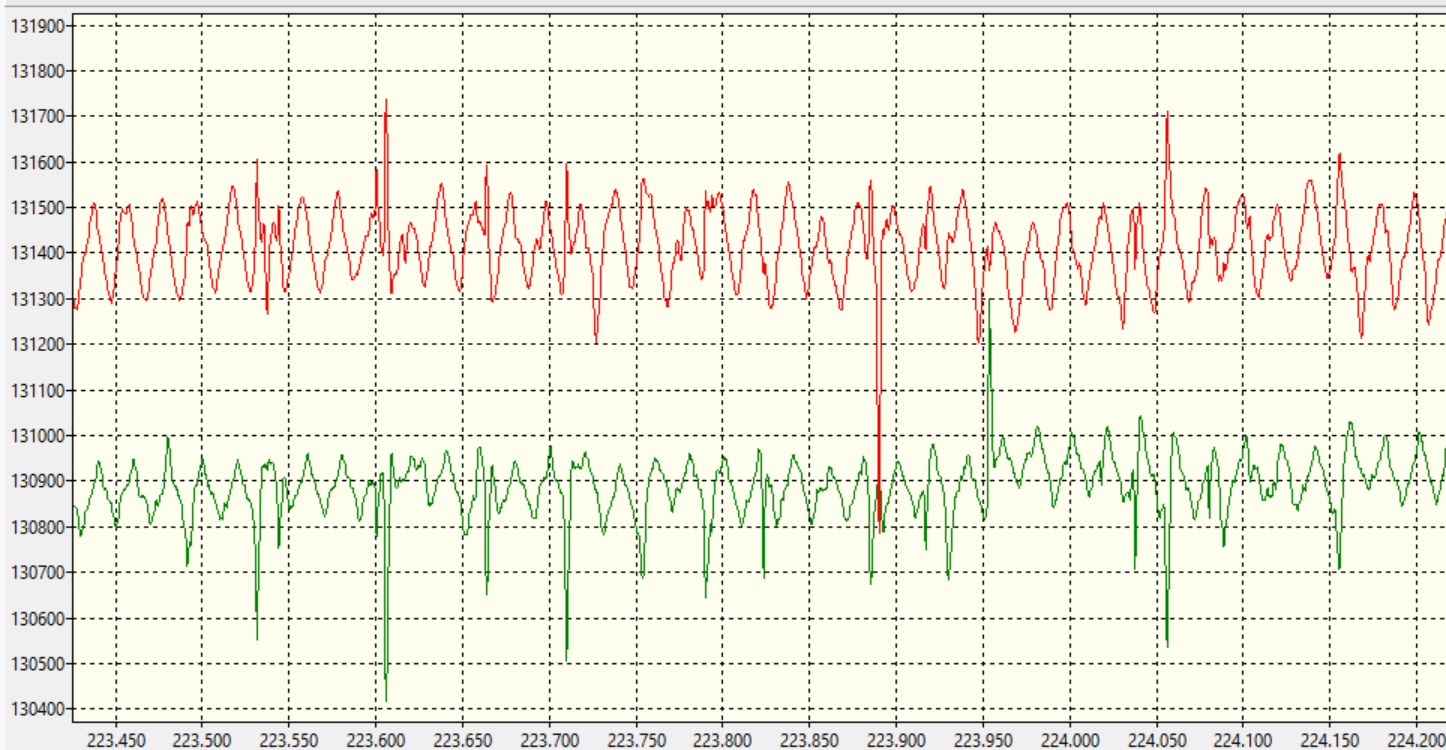
Open File **24.04.2026 22:00**
4525056 bytes 09.3C

Zoom
 FullScale
 AutoScale

49° 11.6226 N
22° 33.2971 E

IIR
50Hz

Krakov ELF Group
18-bit data files viewer ver 0.93



Hylaty Apr. 24,

20260424\202604242200.dat

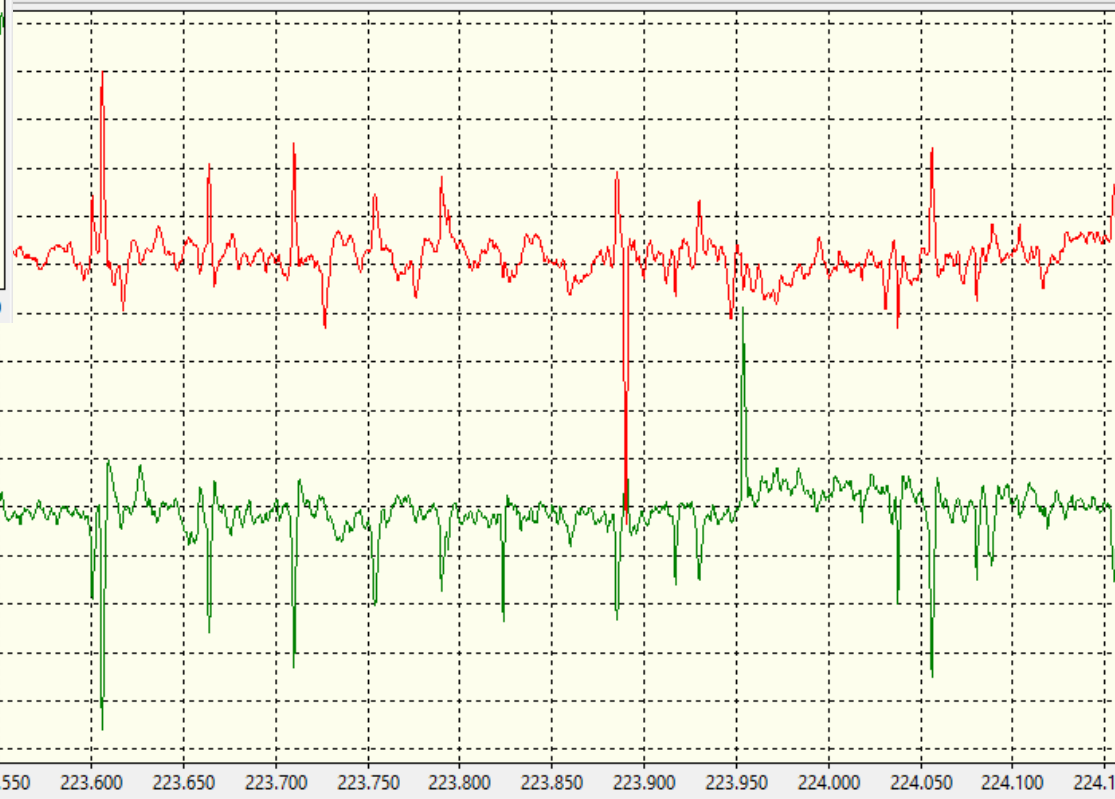
24.2026 22:00
056 bytes 09.3C

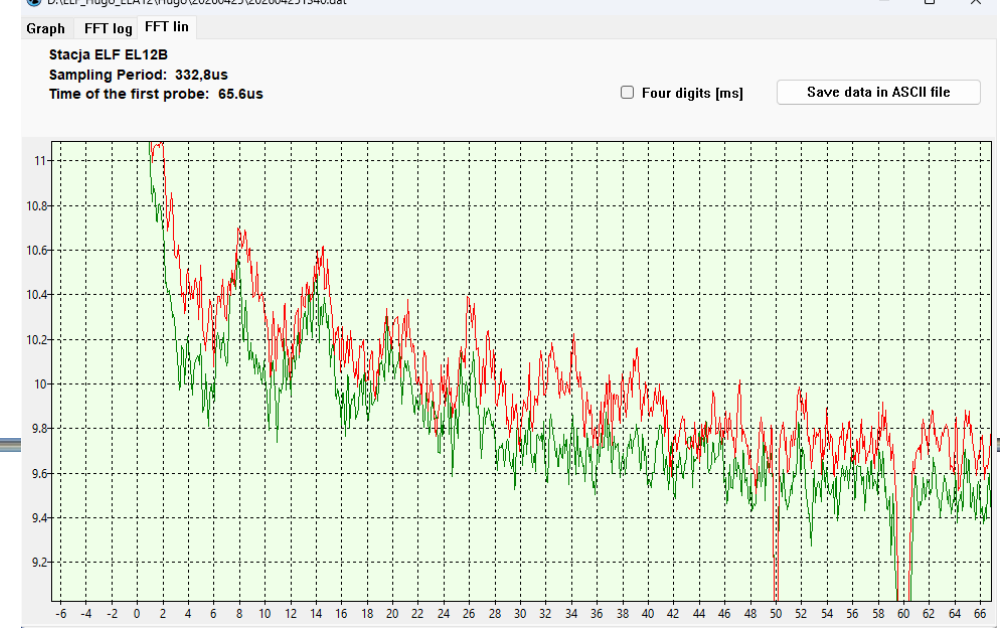
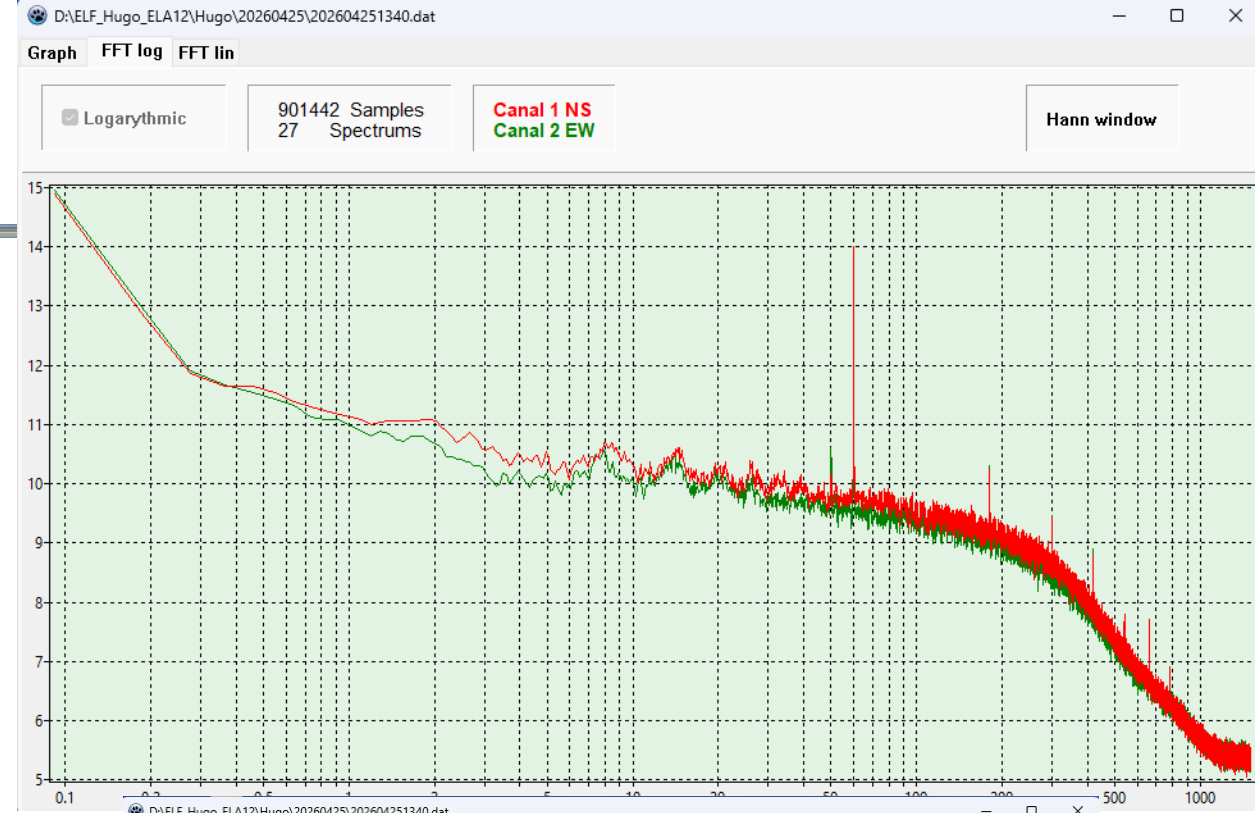
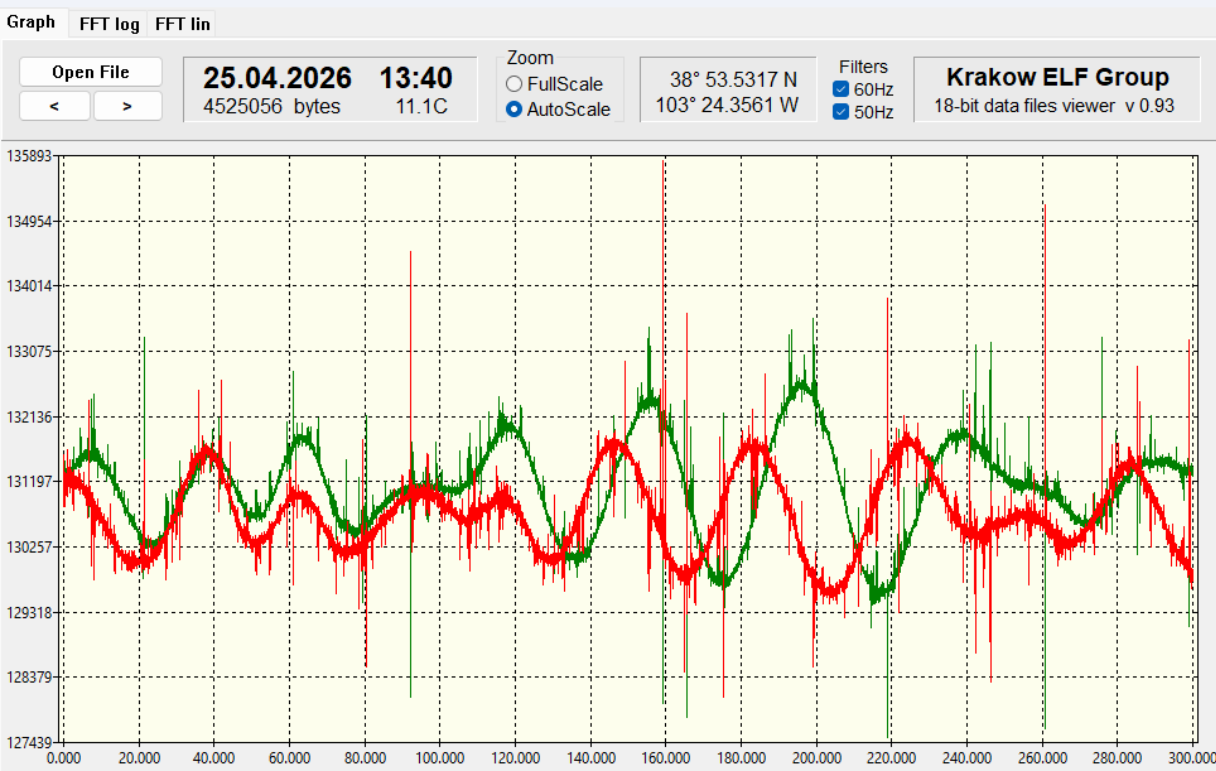
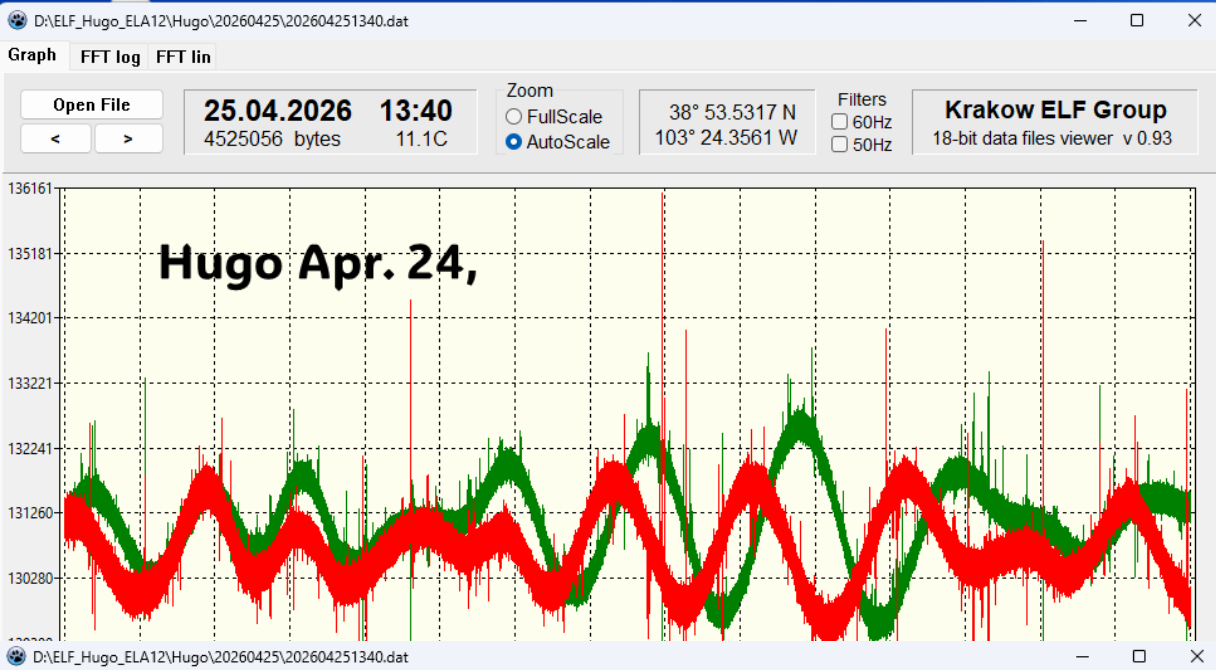
Zoom
 FullScale
 AutoScale

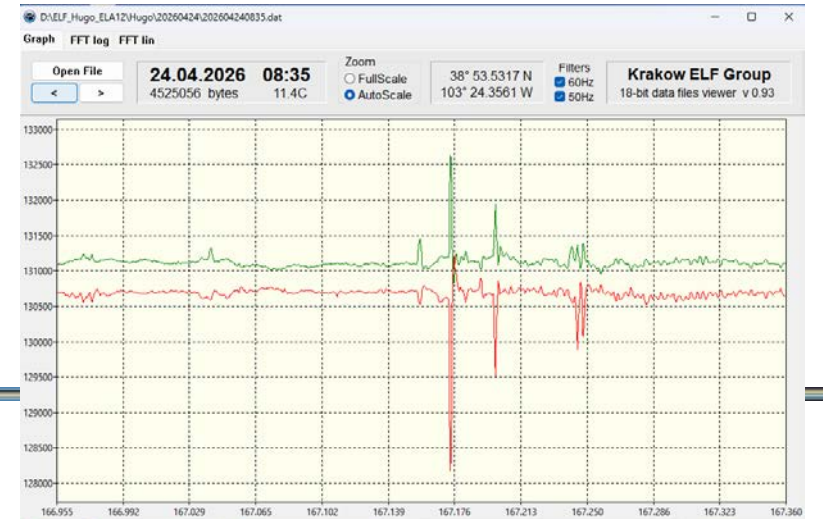
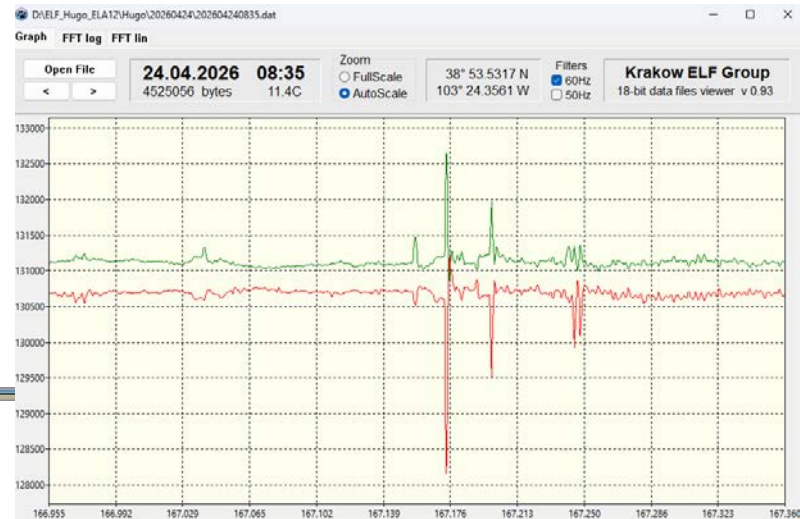
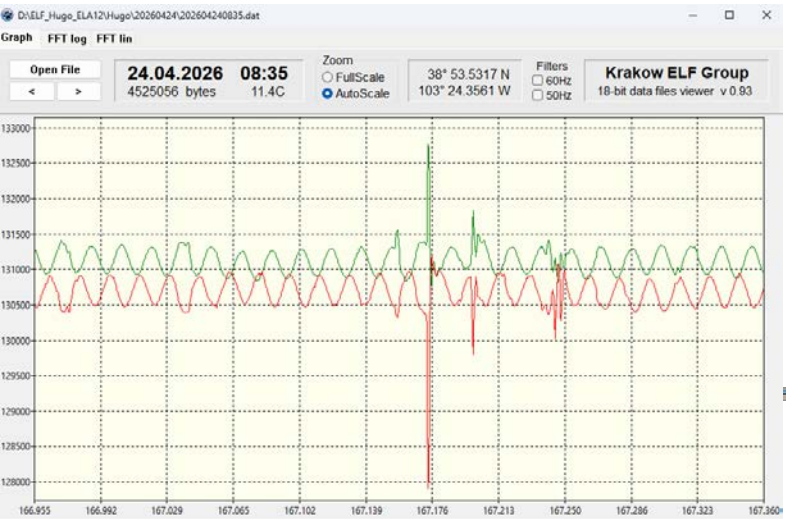
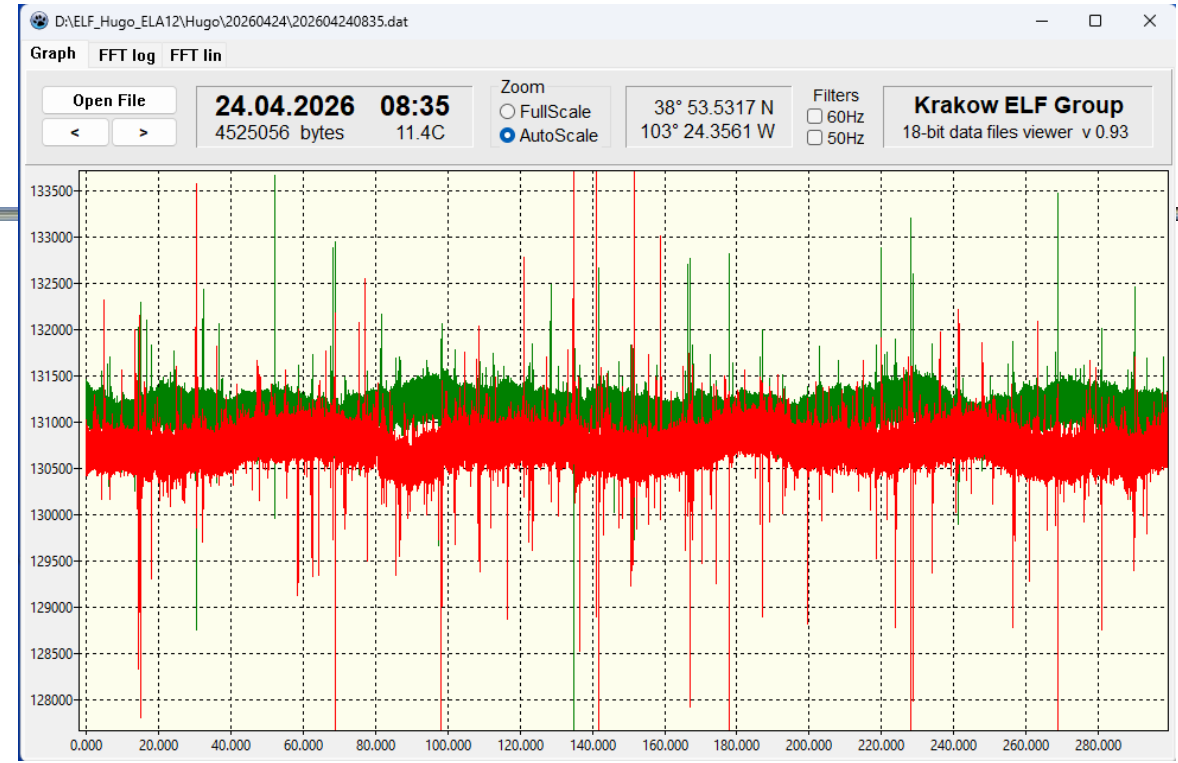
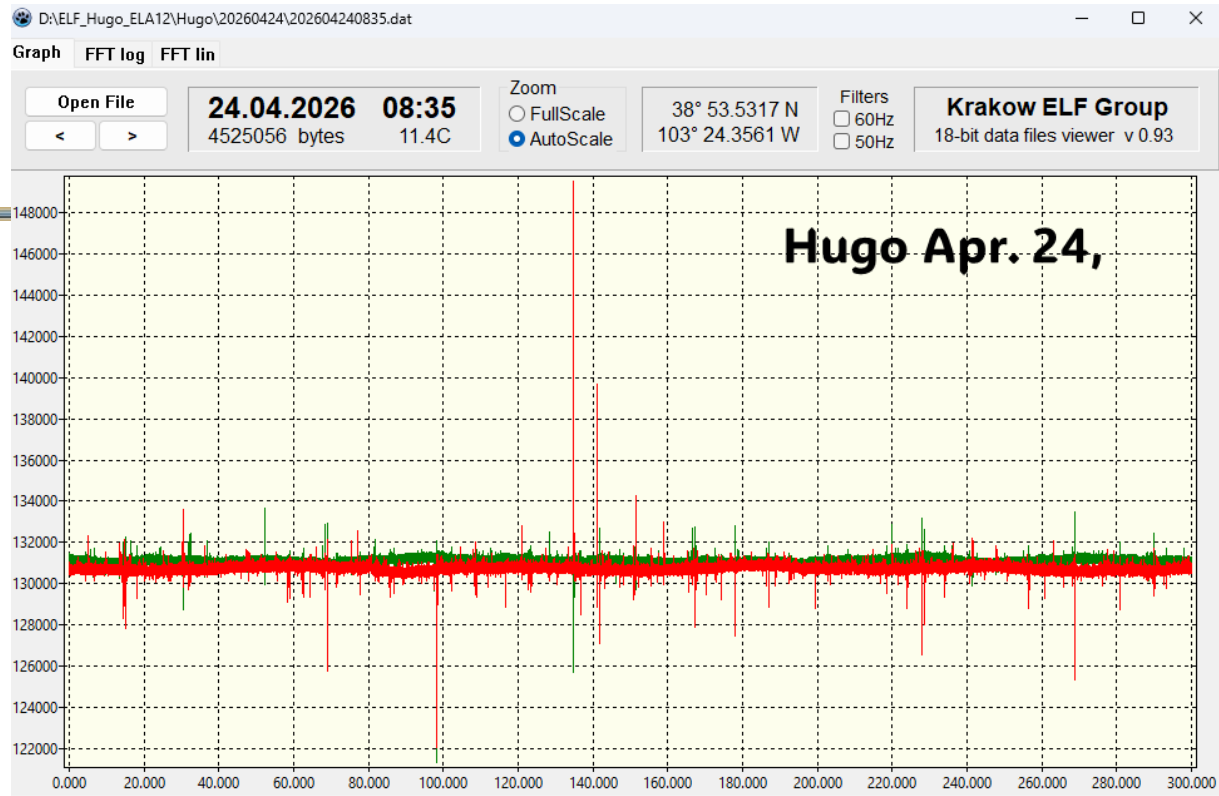
49° 11.6226 N
22° 33.2971 E

IIR
50Hz

Krakov ELF Gro
18-bit data files viewer ve







Graph FFT log FFT lin

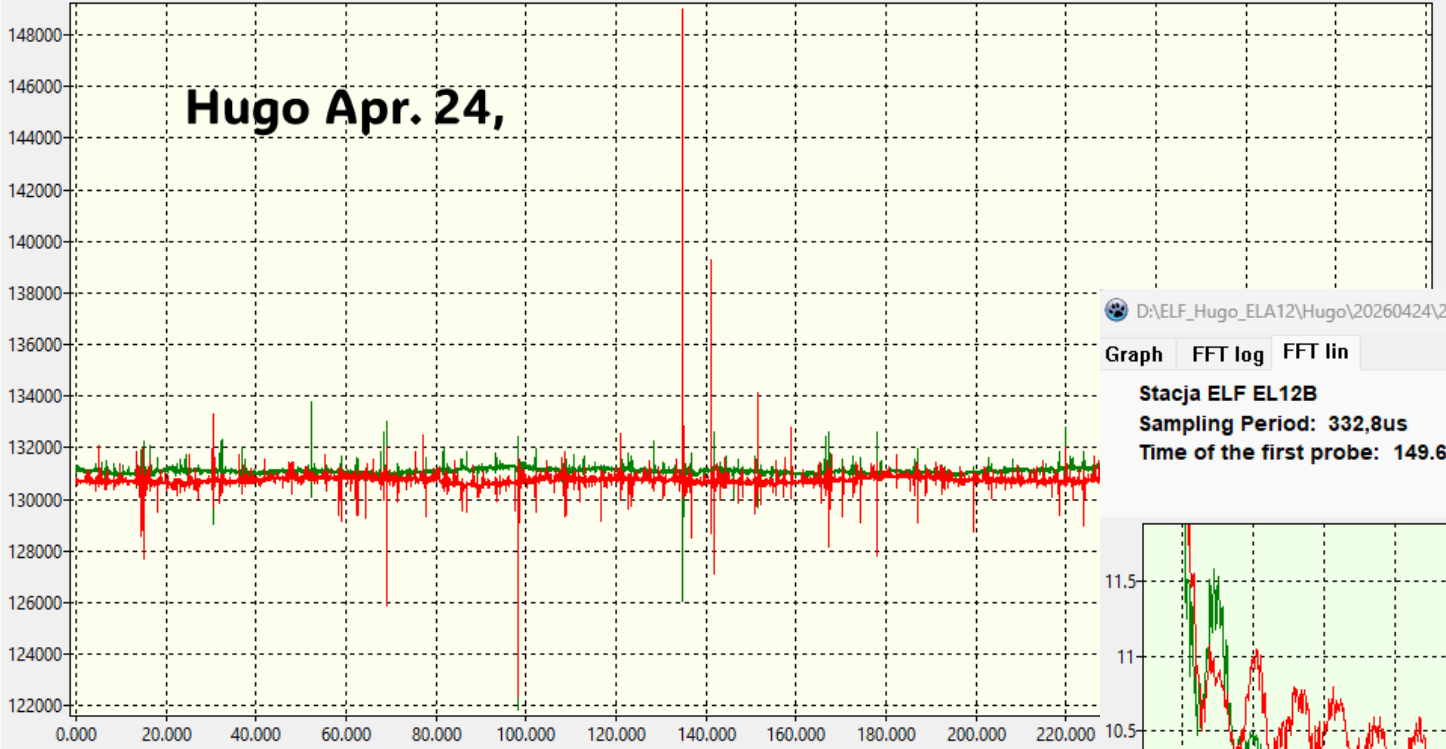
Open File **24.04.2026 08:35**
4525056 bytes 11.4C

Zoom
 FullScale
 AutoScale

38° 53.5317 N
103° 24.3561 W

Filters
 60Hz
 50Hz

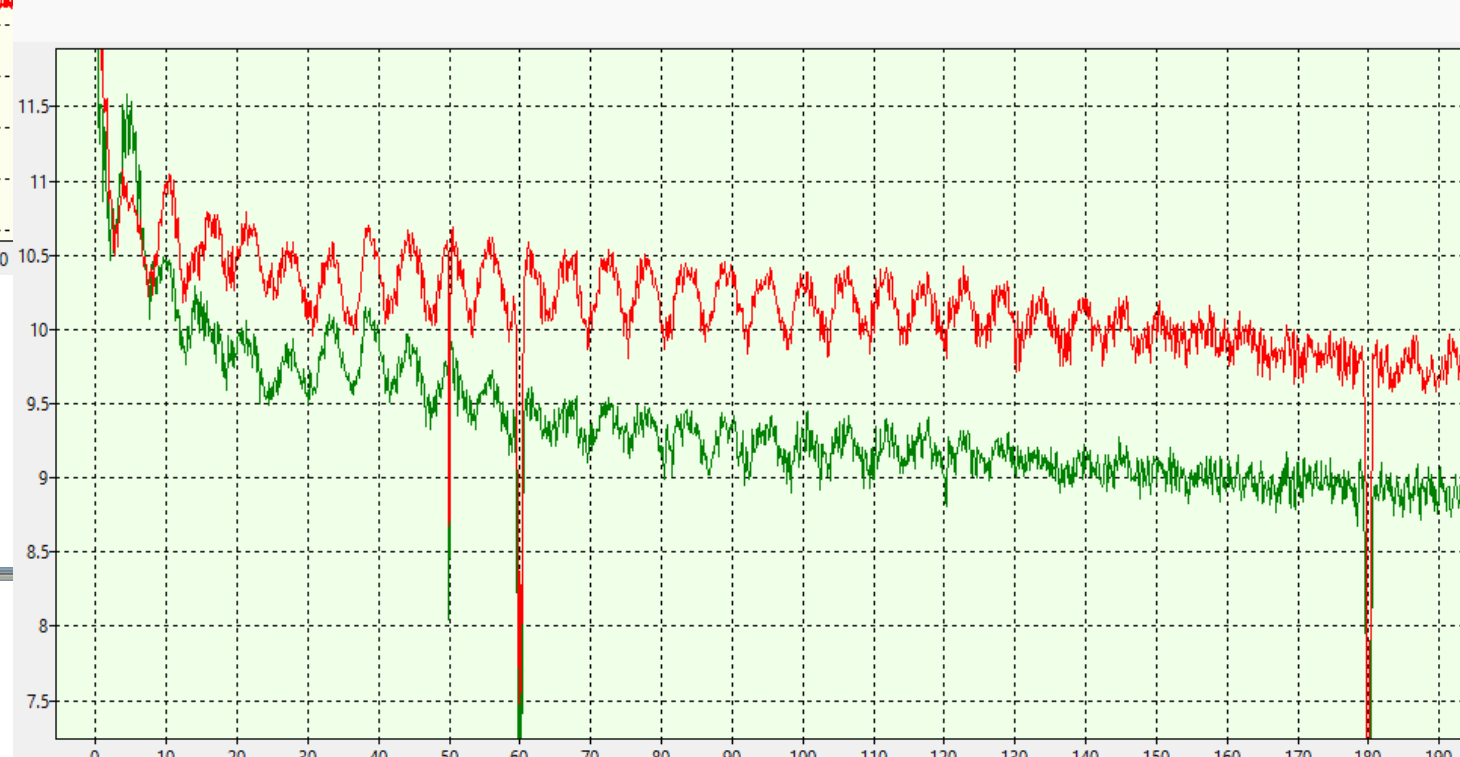
Krakov ELF Group
18-bit data files viewer v 0.93



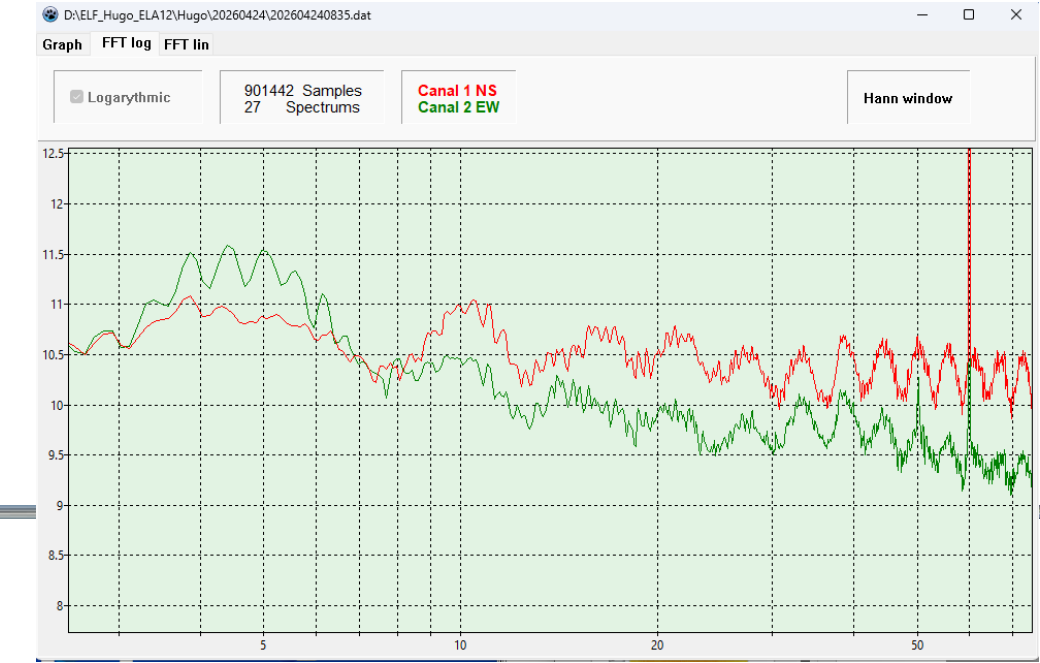
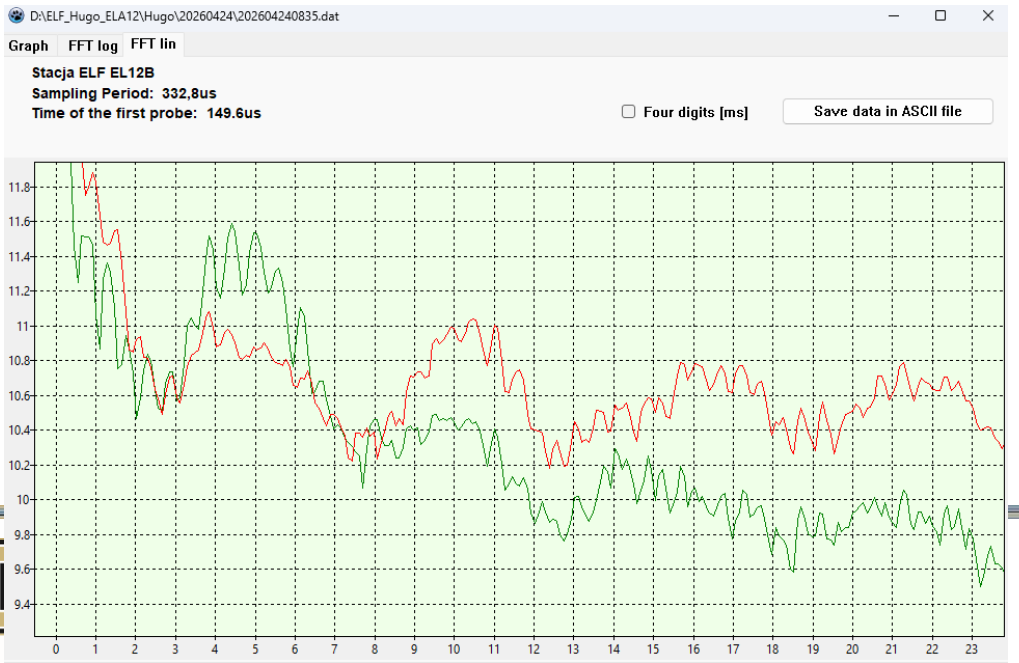
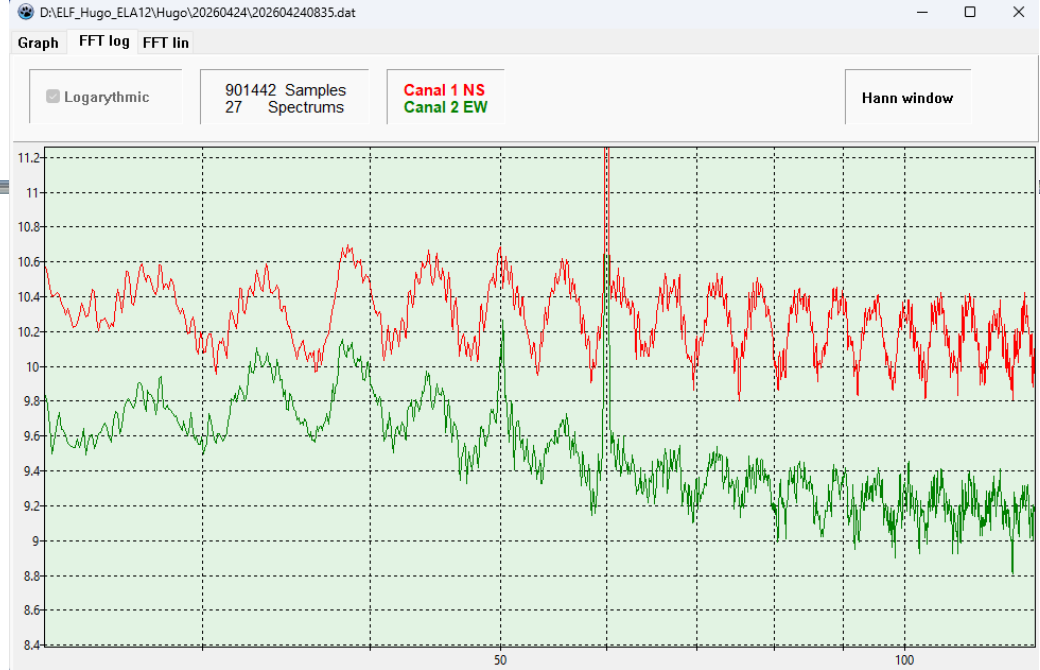
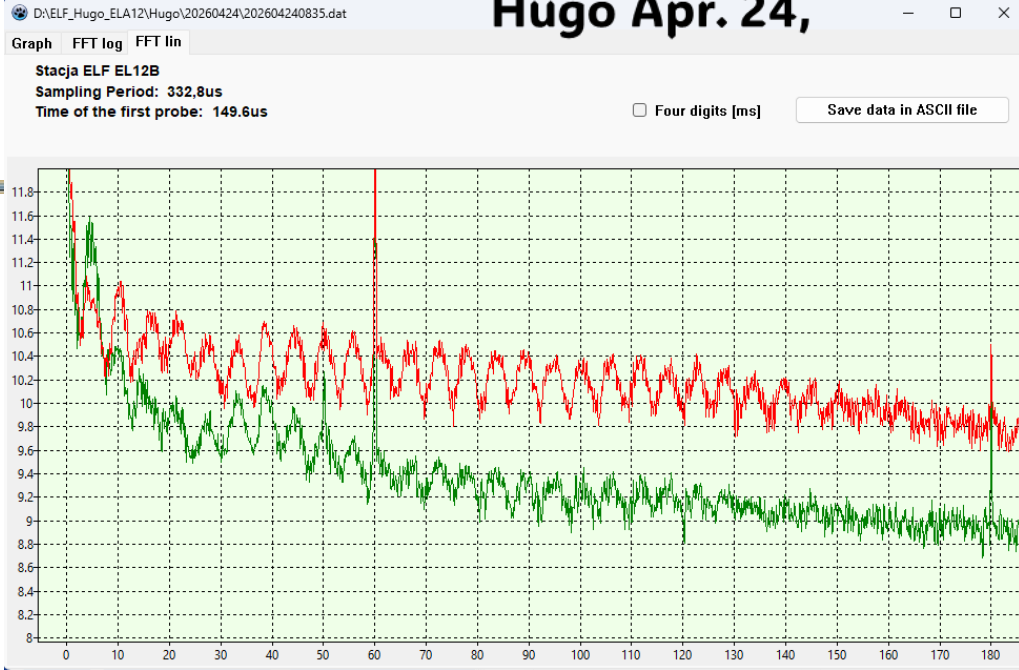
Graph FFT log FFT lin

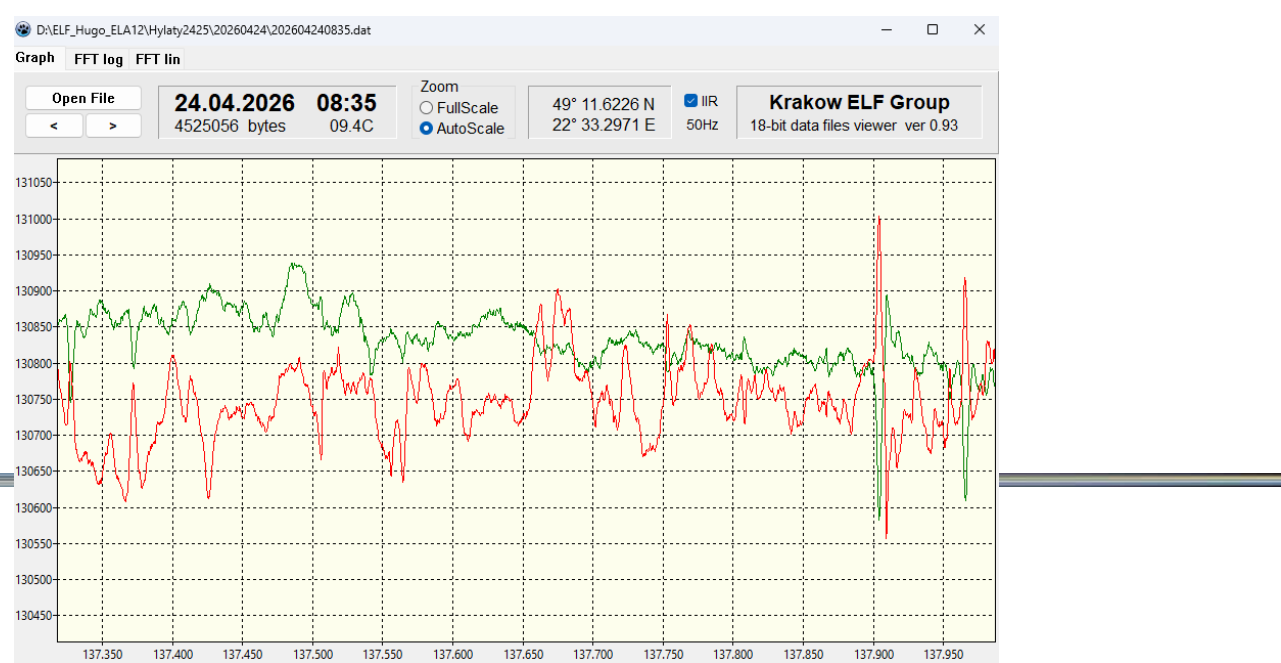
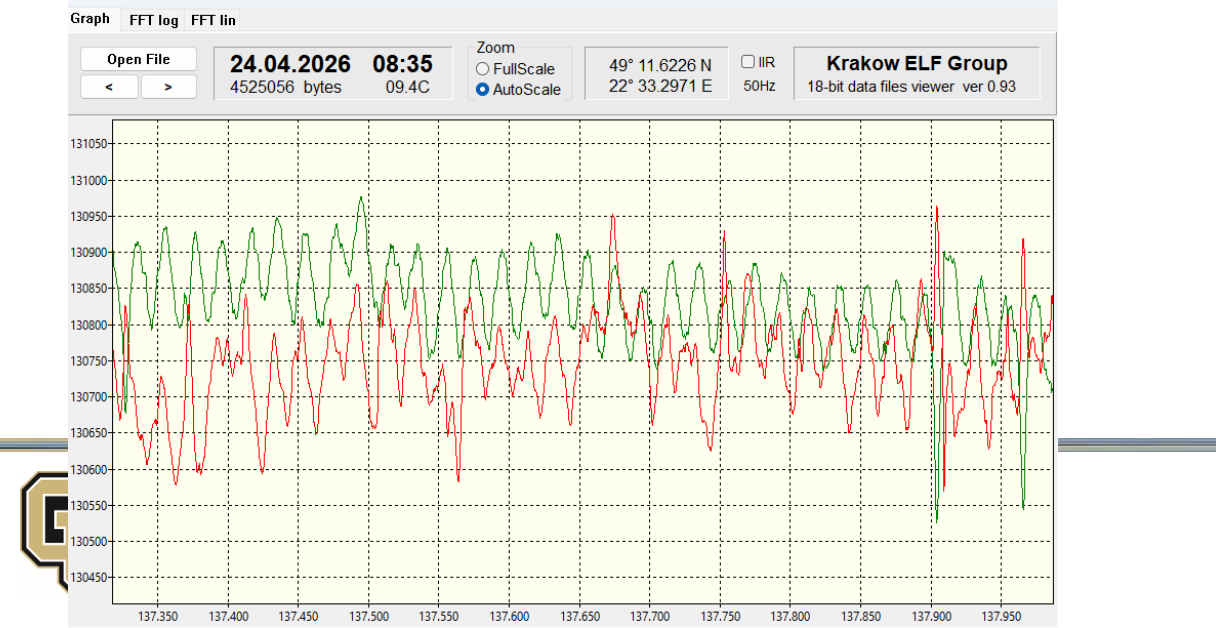
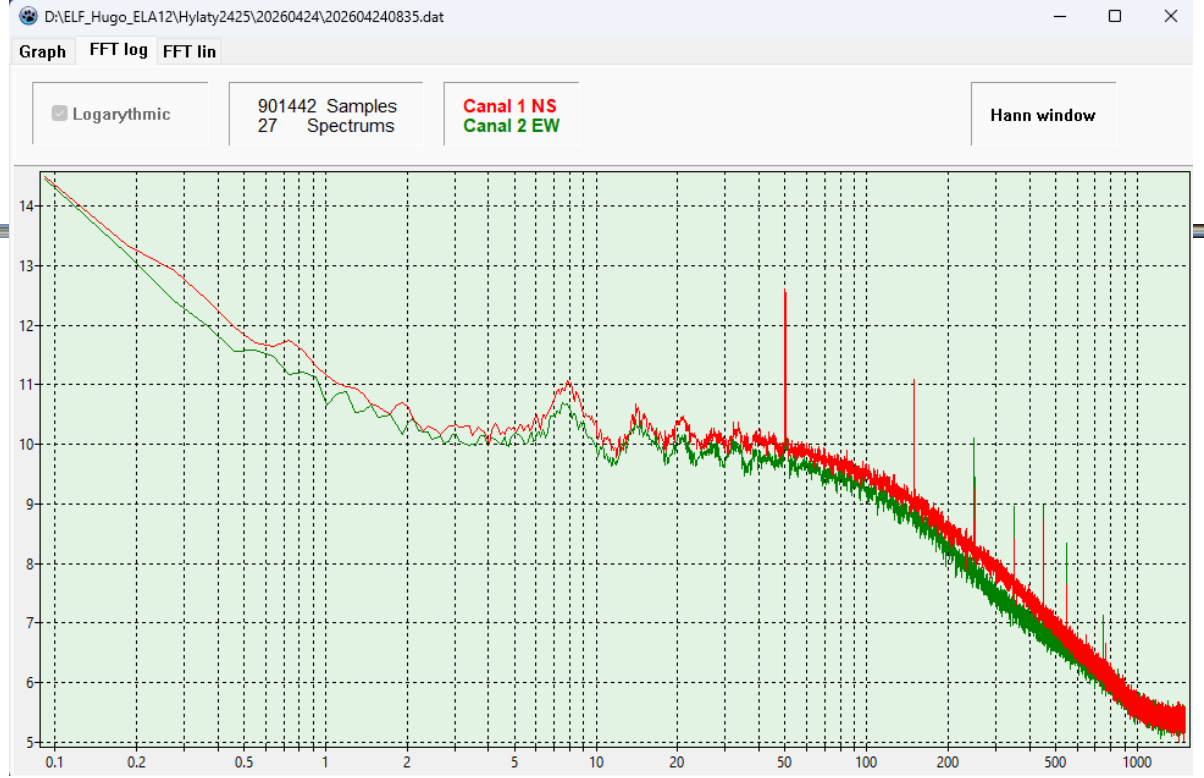
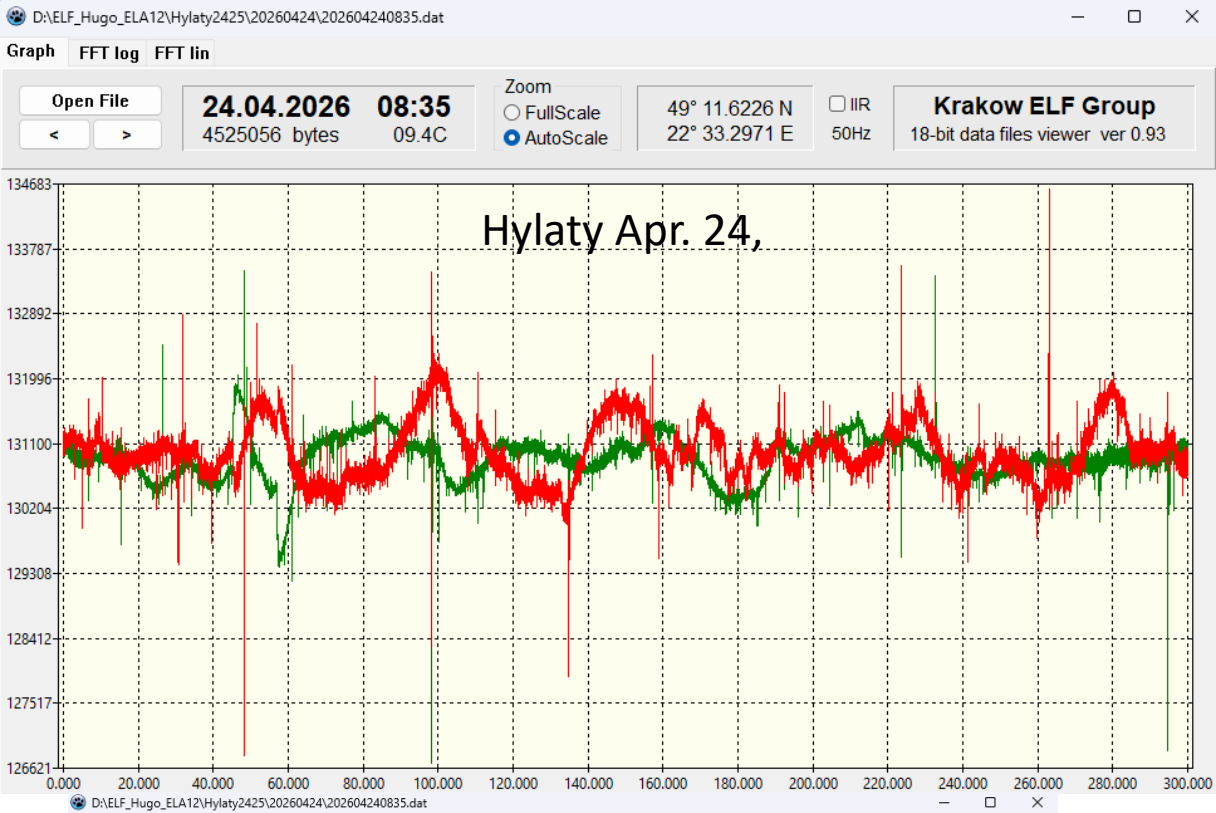
Stacja ELF EL12B
Sampling Period: 332,8us
Time of the first probe: 149.6us

Four digits [ms]



Hugo Apr. 24,

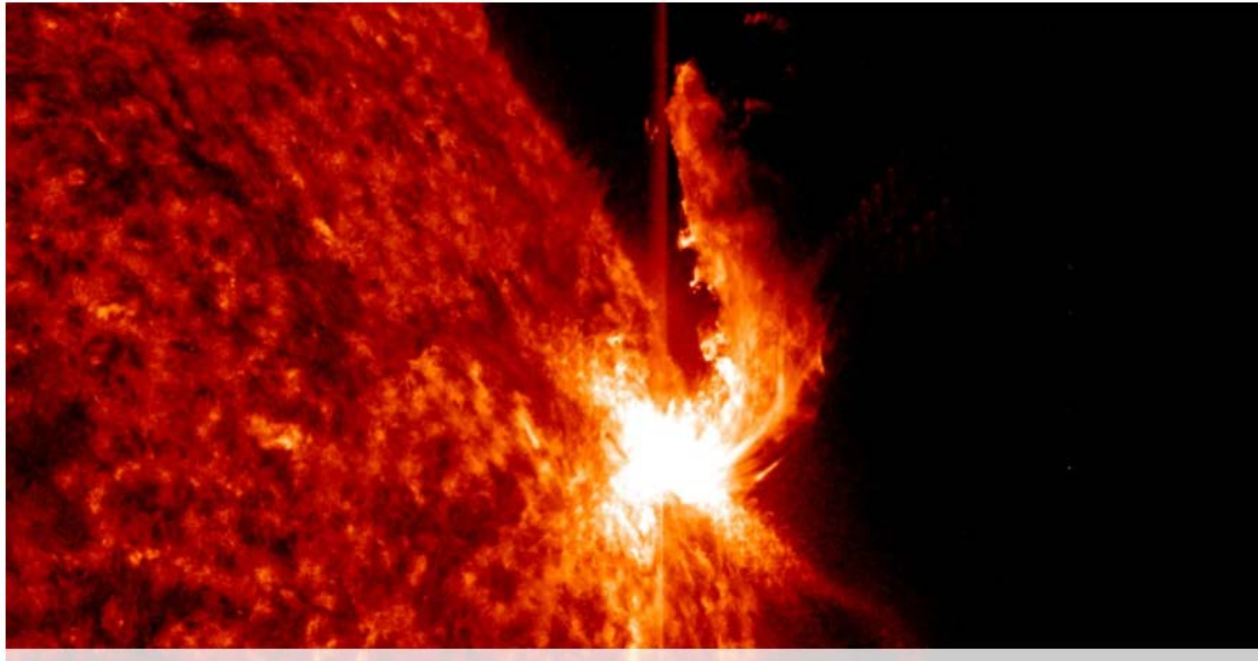




X2.5

An **X2.5 solar flare** erupted from Active Region 4419 at 08:13 UTC on April 24, 2026, marking the second X-class event within hours after an earlier X2.4 flare at 01:07 UTC. The event started at 08:01 UTC and ended at 08:18 UTC. A large coronal mass ejection (CME) was produced.

An X2.5 solar flare erupted from Active Region 4419 at 08:13 UTC on April 24, 2026, marking the second X-class event within hours after an earlier X2.4 flare at 01:07 UTC. The event started at 08:01 UTC and ended at 08:18 UTC. A large coronal mass ejection (CME) was produced.



X-ray Solar Flares

6-hr max: **M6** 1815 UT Apr24

24-hr: **X2** 0814 UT Apr24

