

Source Detection

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Outline

- Aperture Photometry
- “Detection”
- Upper Limits
- Detection algorithms in CIAO
 - celldetect
 - wavdetect
 - vtpdetect

ObsID 13736



0.02

0.059

0.14

0.3

0.61

1.2

2.5

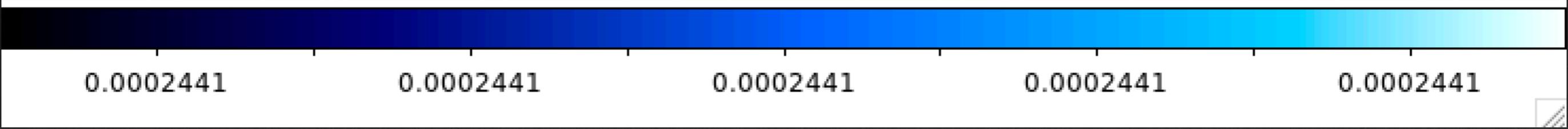
5

10

X-Ray Aperture Photometry

- Collect counts C in a region of area A_S that includes the source
- Collect counts B in a region of area A_B that excludes the source
- net counts = $C - (B/A_B) \cdot A_S$
- Propagate the error on net counts:
- $\sigma^2(\text{net}) = \sigma^2(C) + \sigma^2(B) \cdot (A_S/A_B)^2 \equiv C + B \cdot (A_S/A_B)^2$
- **aprates**: computes the Bayesian solution, $p(s|C, B, A_S, A_B, \text{psf}_A, \text{psf}_B)$

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B=2808 ct $A_B=1200 \text{ arcsec}^2$



C=110 ct
 $A_S=12.6 \text{ arcsec}^2$
net = 80.5 ± 10.5
S/N = 7.7

$\bar{S} = >70.681.5 < 90.4$

$p(\geq 110 | 29.5) \approx 0$
 $p(\geq 53 | 29.5) \approx 3 \times 10^{-5}$

C=53 ct
 $A_S=12.6 \text{ arcsec}^2$
net = 23.5 ± 7.3
S/N = 3.2

$\bar{S} = >16.924.5 < 30.9$



What does detection mean?

- That there is an astrophysically relevant source of emission,
- distinct from a background noise level,
- with a sufficiently low chance of being a false positive.

There is no dispute for strong sources, but you need an objective method of identifying plausible sources

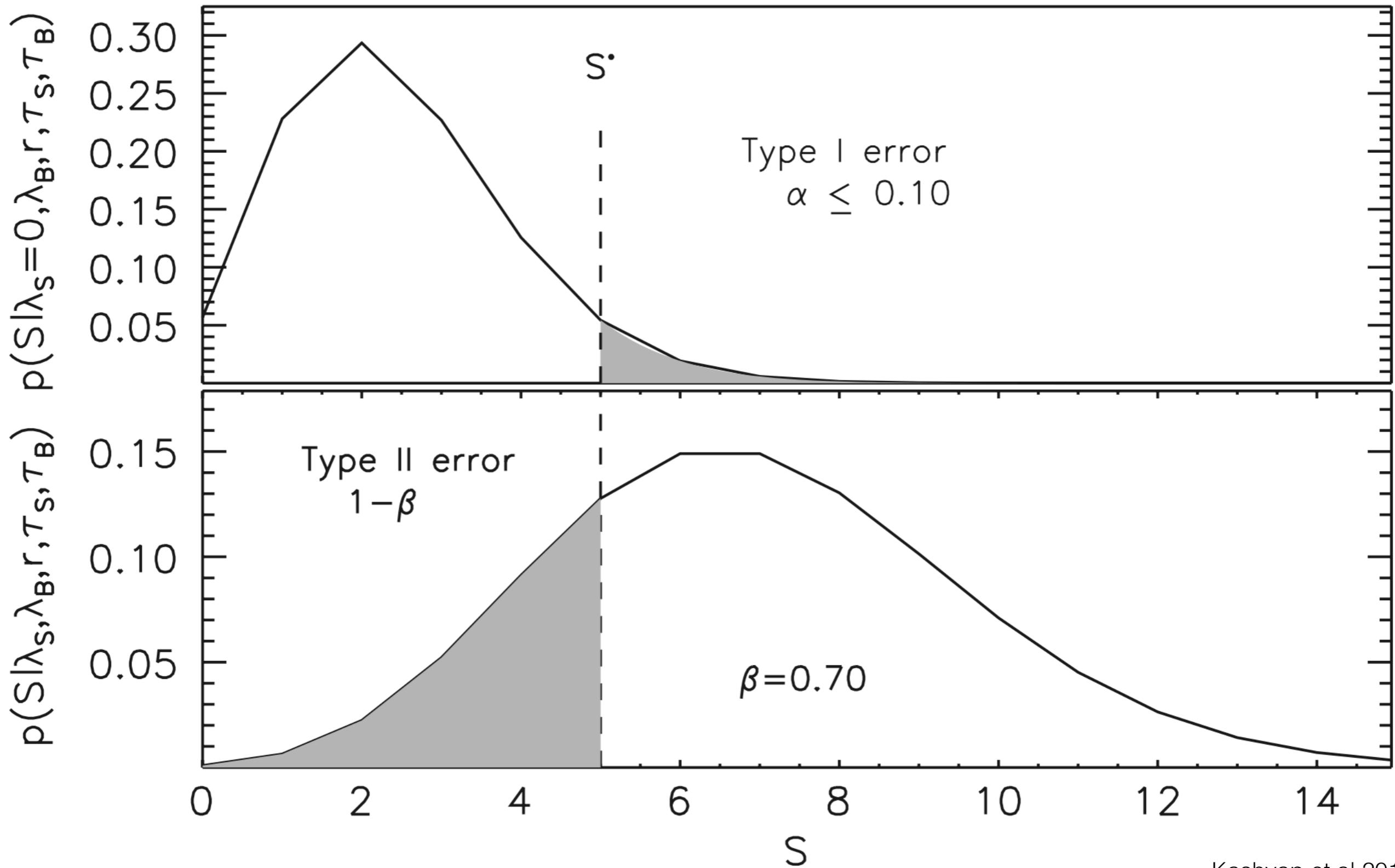
Chandra Detect Manual:

http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/download/doc/detect_manual/

Upper Limits

- Surprisingly difficult to say what it is and how to calculate it, though everyone *knows* what it is
- The largest intensity that a source can have without being detected, OR the smallest intensity that a source can have and still be detected.
- Notice reliance on detection, which is defined based on measured counts, and intensity, which is an intrinsic property of the source and comes with a probability distribution

8. Type I and Type II Errors



Upper Limits

- First set the detection (aka false positive) threshold α , and the false negative threshold β , which says how much you are willing to tolerate missing the detection
- Quote the value of the intrinsic brightness for which the probability distribution exceeds β above α

Detection Algorithms in CIAO

- **celldetect**: sliding cell with built in background subtractor, uses S/N as threshold criterion
- **wavdetect**: Mexican Hat wavelet correlations, uses background fluctuations to set local thresholds
- **vtpdetect**: Voronoi Tessellation of event locations, uses distribution of areas as a way to identify possible sources, and percolates to include nearby cells that are above a background

celldetect

http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/download/doc/detect_manual/cell_theory.html#SECTION00920000000000000000

$$C = \alpha S + B$$

$$S = \frac{C(b^2 - d^2)d^{-2} - Q}{\alpha b^2 d^{-2} - \beta}$$

$$T = \beta S + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)^2 B.$$

$$\sigma_S^2 = \frac{\sigma_C^2 (b^2 - d^2)^2 d^{-4} + \sigma_Q^2}{(\alpha b^2 d^{-2} - \beta)^2}$$

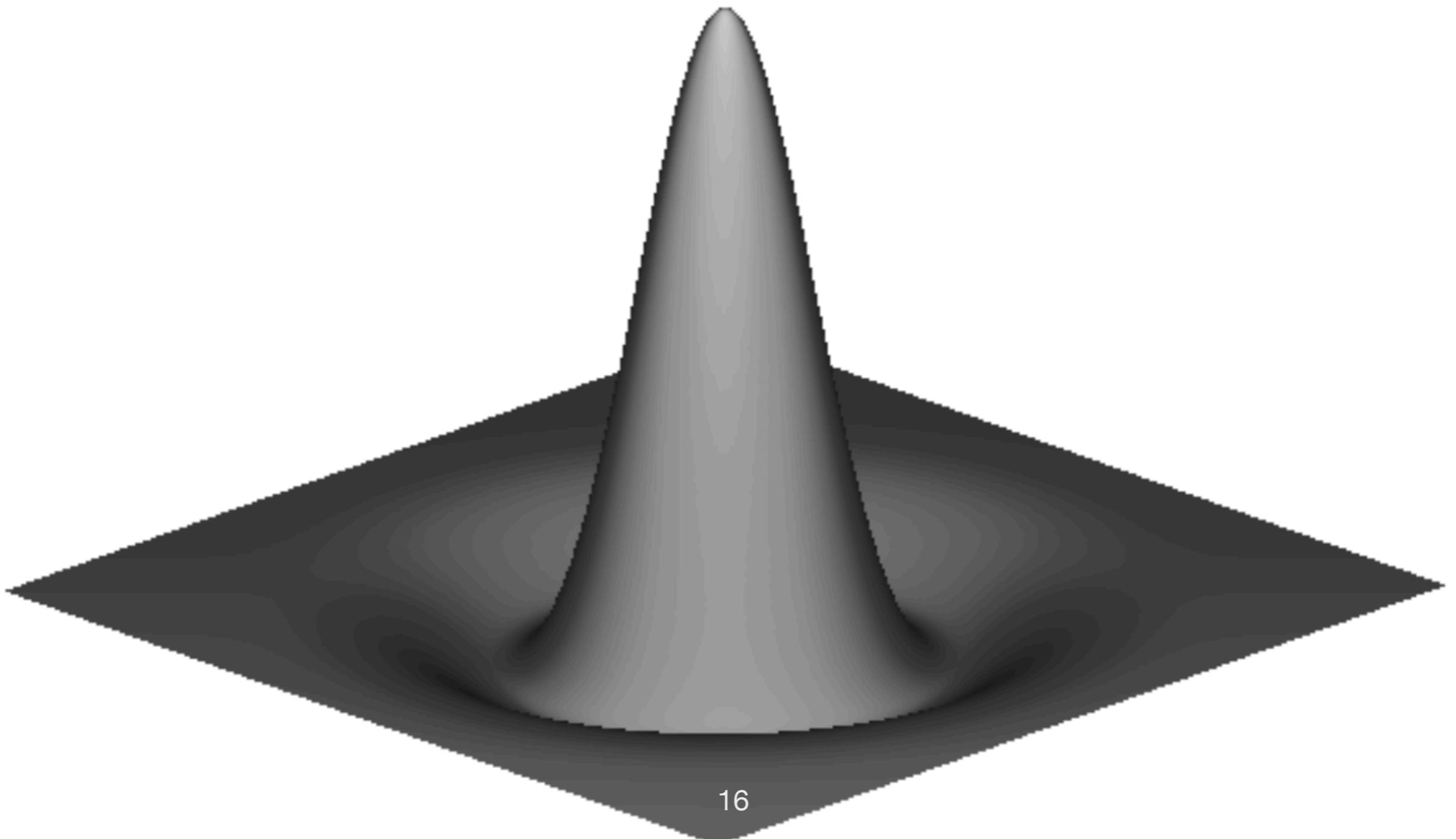
$$S/N = \frac{S}{\sigma_S} = \frac{C(b^2 - d^2)d^{-2} - Q}{\sqrt{\sigma_C^2 (b^2 - d^2)^2 d^{-4} + \sigma_Q^2}}$$

$$\sigma_N = 1 + \sqrt{N + 0.75}$$

wavdetect

Correlate image with Mexican Hat wavelet

$$W\left(\frac{x}{\sigma_x}, \frac{y}{\sigma_y}\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} \left[2 - \frac{x^2}{\sigma_x^2} - \frac{y^2}{\sigma_y^2} \right] \times e^{-(x^2/2\sigma_x^2) - (y^2/2\sigma_y^2)}$$



wavdetect

Local background component estimated from negative annulus

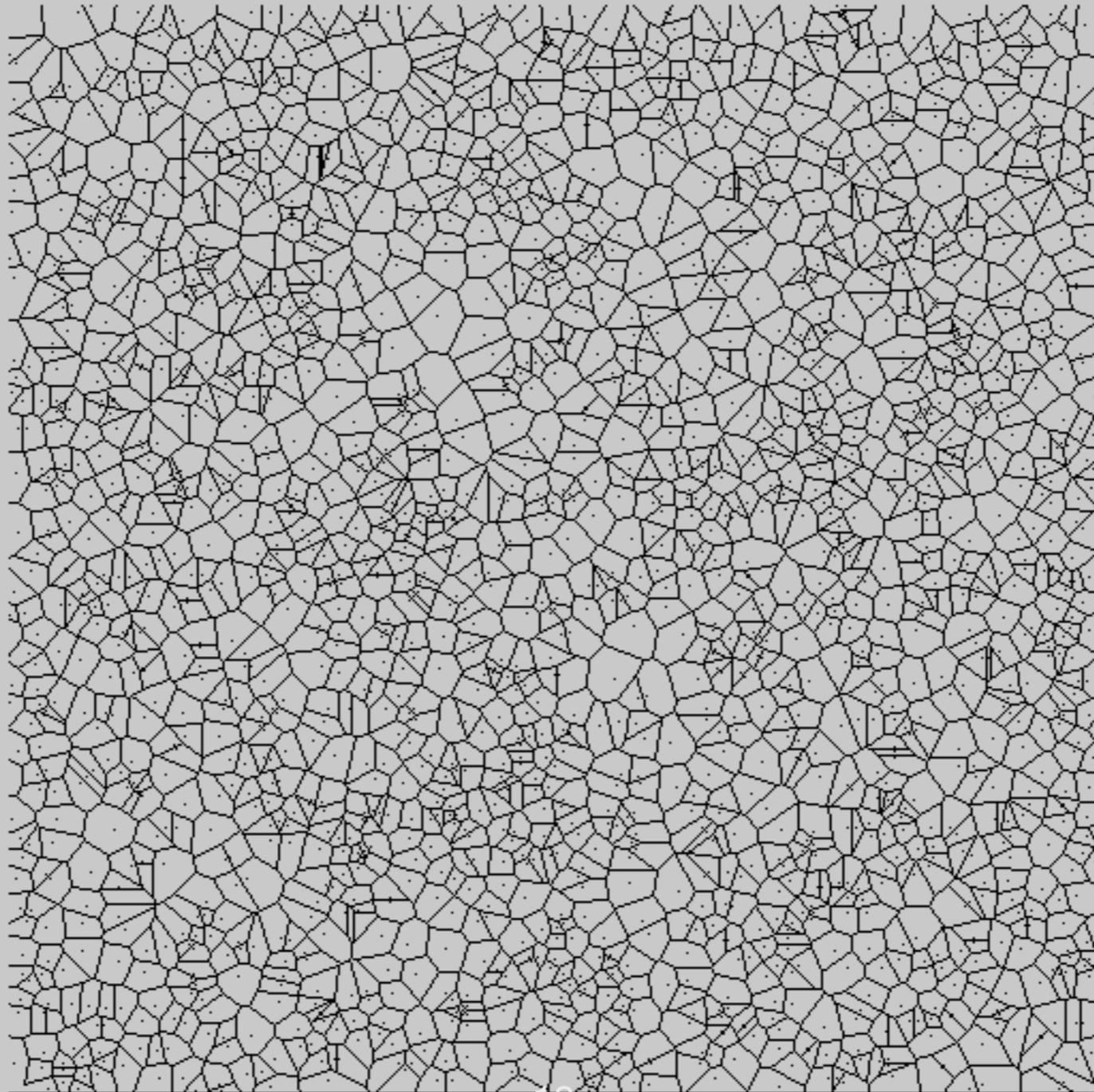
Threshold applied in correlation space based on simulations

Threshold set to expect 1 false source in image

Sources detected separately at different scales,
and merged using `wrecon`

vtpdetect

Construct Voronoi tessalations, then percolate to add nearest neighbors



Summary of CIAO detect

- **celldetect**: conceptually simple, low false positive rates, but also high false negative rates, good measurement of brightness
- **wavdetect**: works very well for point sources, sources can be at many scales, but does not provide a reliable measure of source intensity (use **srcflux**)
- **vtpdetect**: works well for diffuse extended sources, does not handle large changes in exposure maps, computationally expensive