1 Cleaning SOFIN Loral CCD

In November 2002, the surface of the Loral CCD chip was cleaned with a special brush to remove 'post-production' peaces of dust and dirt. The cleaning procedure does not introduce any scratches on the surface of the chip. The dewar entrance inner window was cleaned as well. The pictures below are the master flat fields obtained with the slit decker opened to its maximum. Each image is a sum of 50 individual exposures. The images are normalized to a smoothing spline fit in each CCD column.

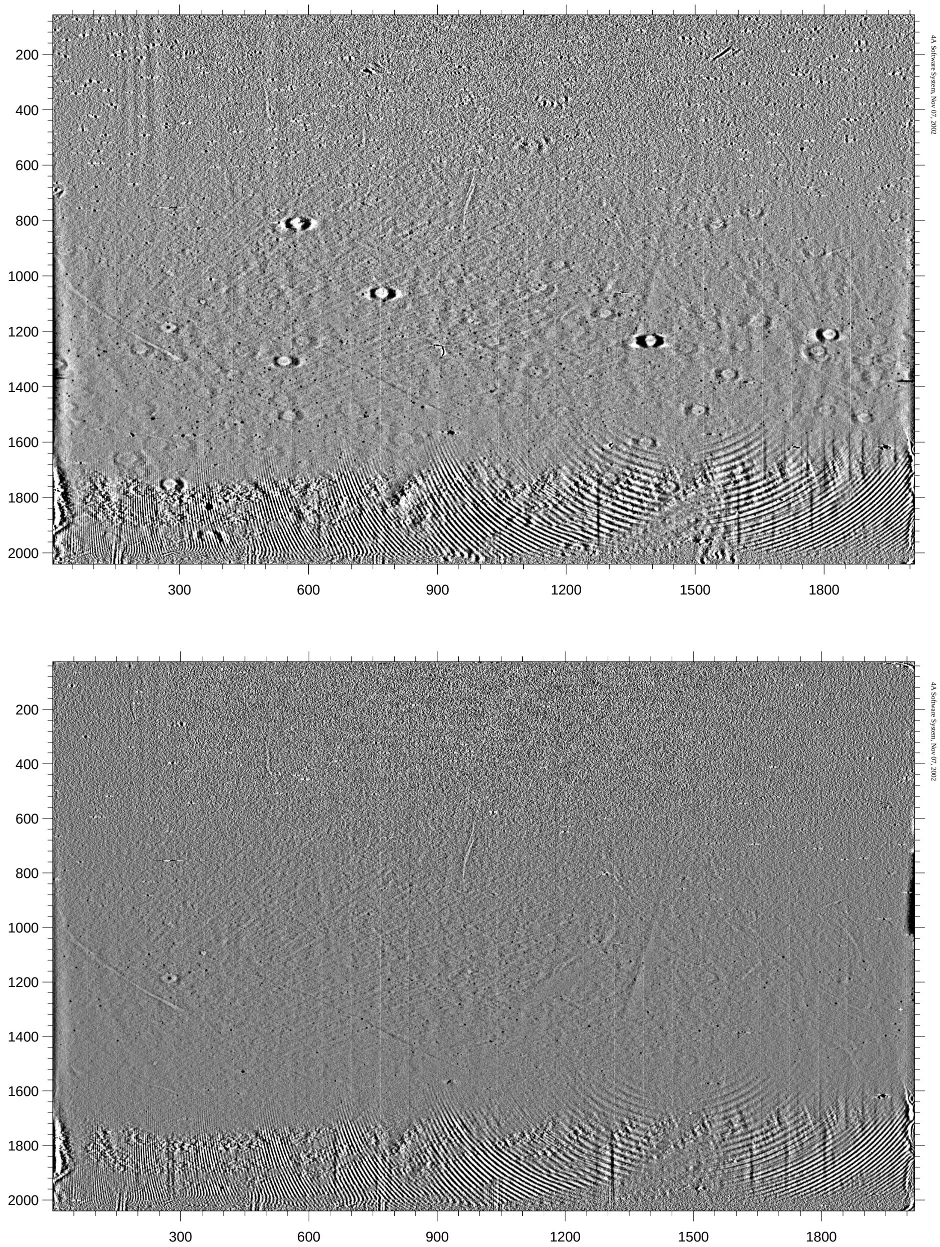

Figure 1: The full CCD image before and after the cleaning. The fringing pattern in the red part of the spectrum is seen at the bottom of the images.

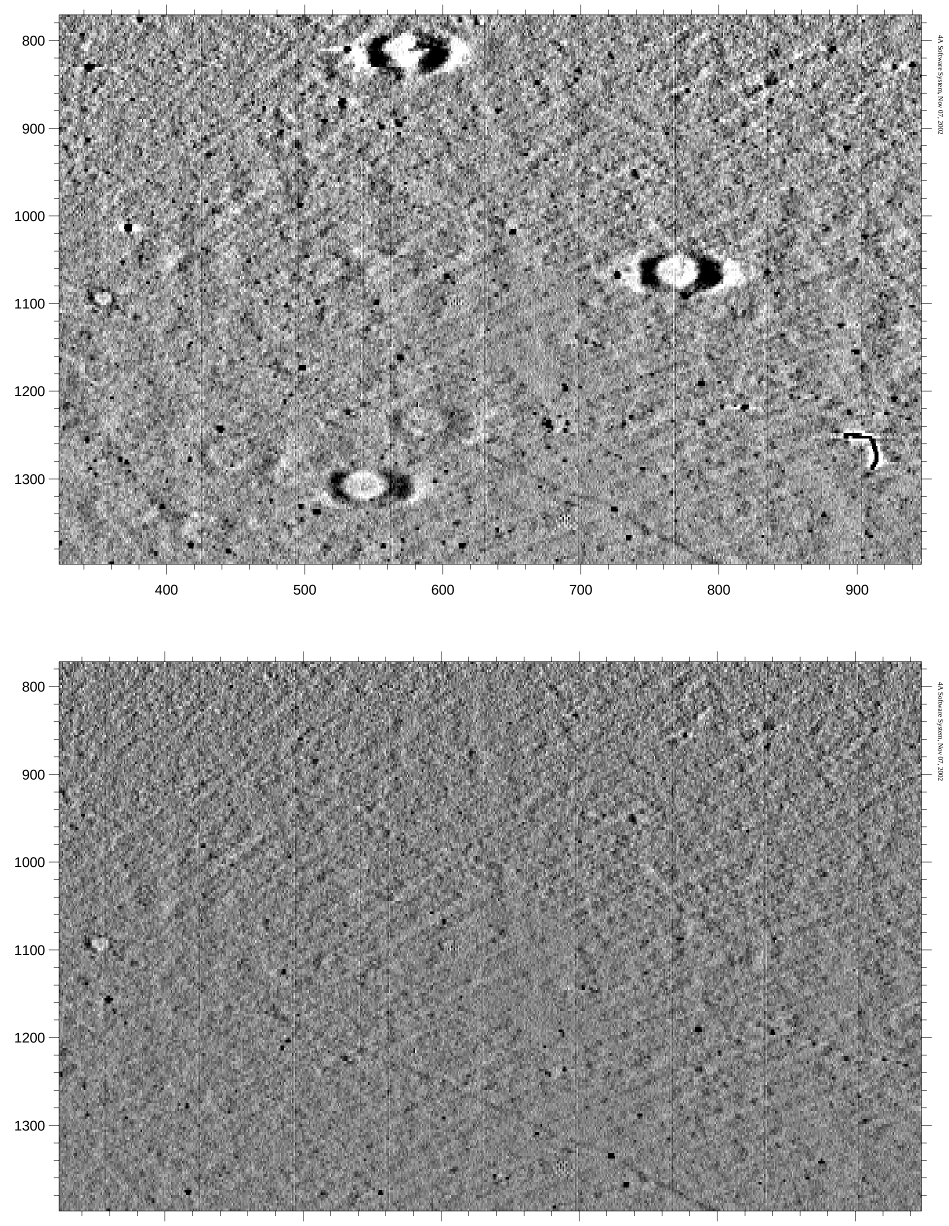

Figure 2: A smaller part of the image showing the changes in more details. The smallest pieces of the dust have not been removed this time.