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***Restoration of astronomical images at thermal
infrared wavelenghts***

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Ground-based astronomical observations at thermal infrared wavelengths (around 10-20 microns) face the problem of extracting the weak astronomical signal from the large background due to atmosphere and telescope emission. To this purpose the acquisition technique known as "chopping and nodding" is used. The resulting image can be modeled as the second difference of the image of the target and is affected by large negative counterparts of the sources. In this paper we propose a constrained iterative method for the restoration of the original image and we test its performance by means of numerical simulations.