

# Long Wavelength Interferometry

1



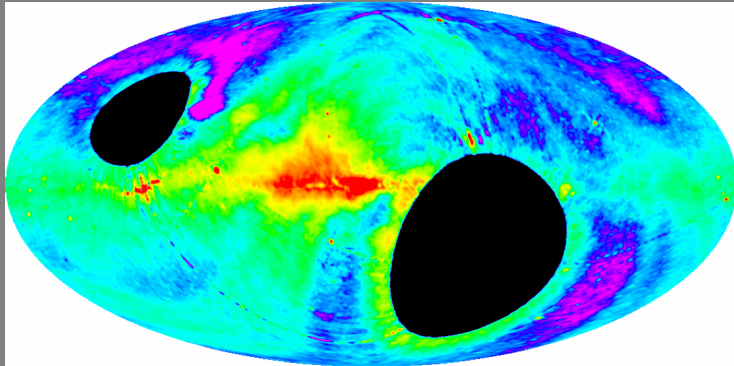
ASTR 423 Radio Astronomy

## Announcements – The Sprint to the Finish

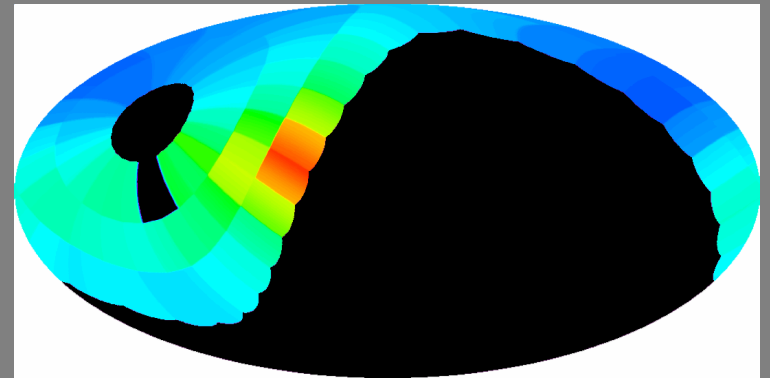
2

- Exam2 average: 87% – good job
- Course evaluations: 15% – not as good, but not too late
- May 3; teams 421 and 422 (VLA projects)
- May 5; teams 423 and 424 (LWA projects)
- Presentations should use slides (powerpoint, keynote, etc.) and aim for 21+10 (talk + Q&A) Everybody in the group needs to take a turn speaking
- May 7 - Written reports due

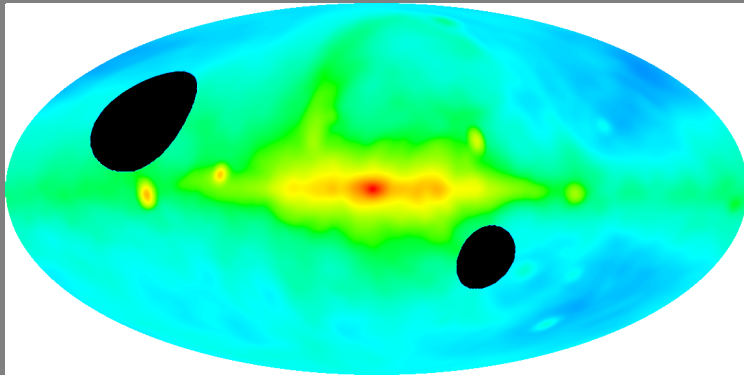
# Science - All-Sky Survey



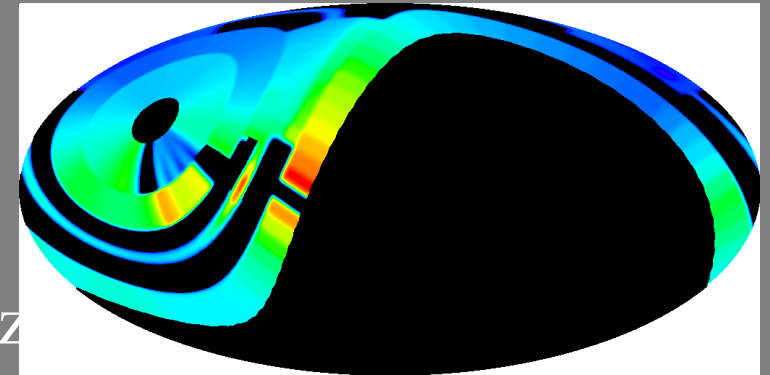
35 MHz  
Dwarakanath et al. 1990



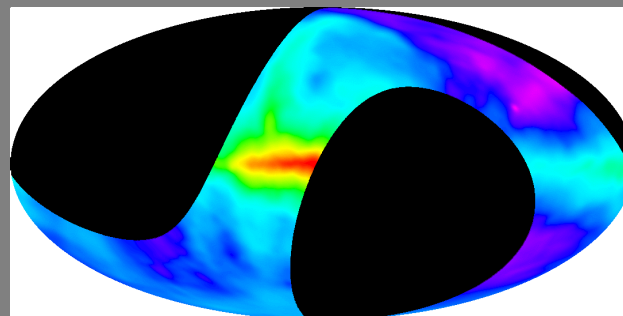
38 MHz  
Turtle et al. 1962



45 MHz  
Alvarez et al. 1997;  
Maeda et al. 1999

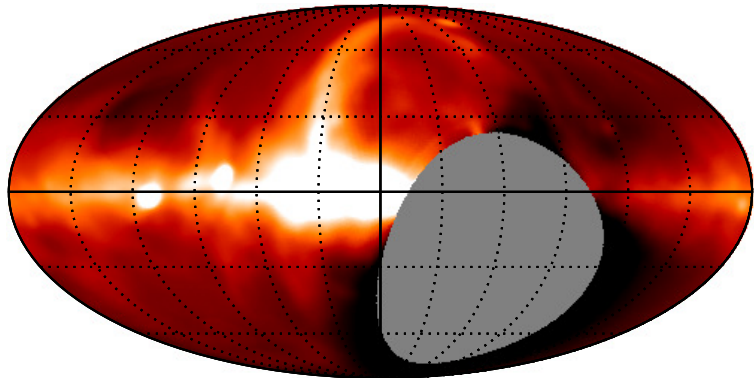


81 MHz  
Bridle 1967



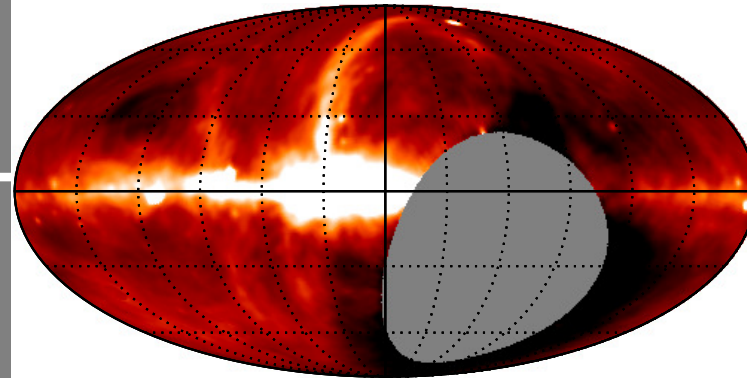
85 MHz  
Landecker & Wielebinski 1970

35 MHz



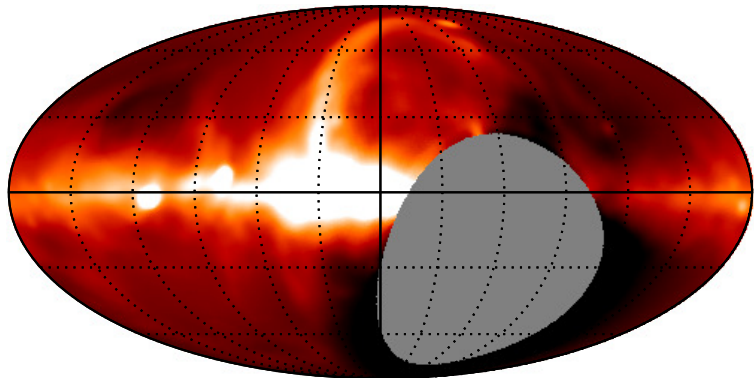
5140 Temperature [K] 31752

70 MHz



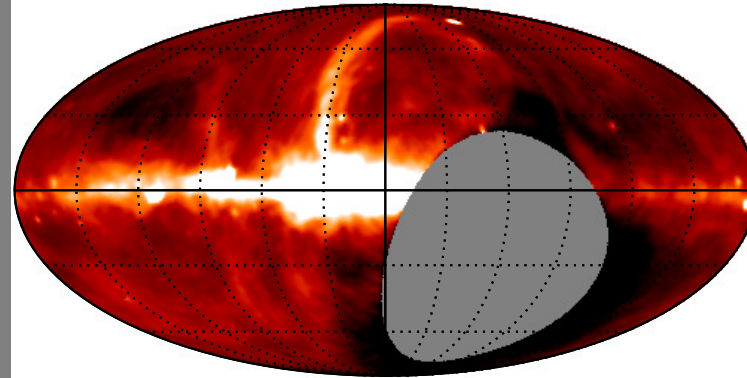
1536 Temperature [K] 5157

38 MHz



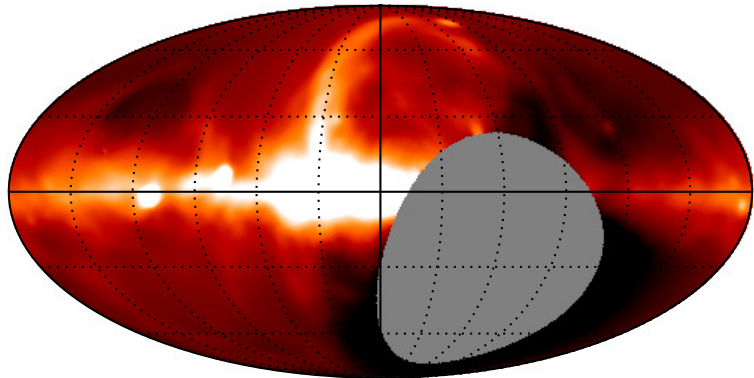
4766 Temperature [K] 25825

74 MHz



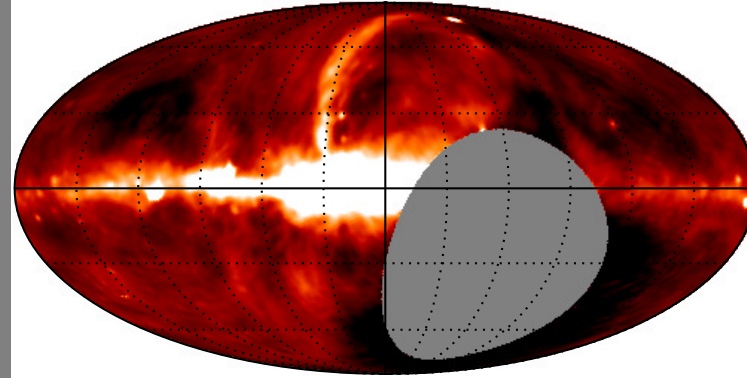
1443 Temperature [K] 4443

40 MHz



4523 Temperature [K] 22226

80 MHz



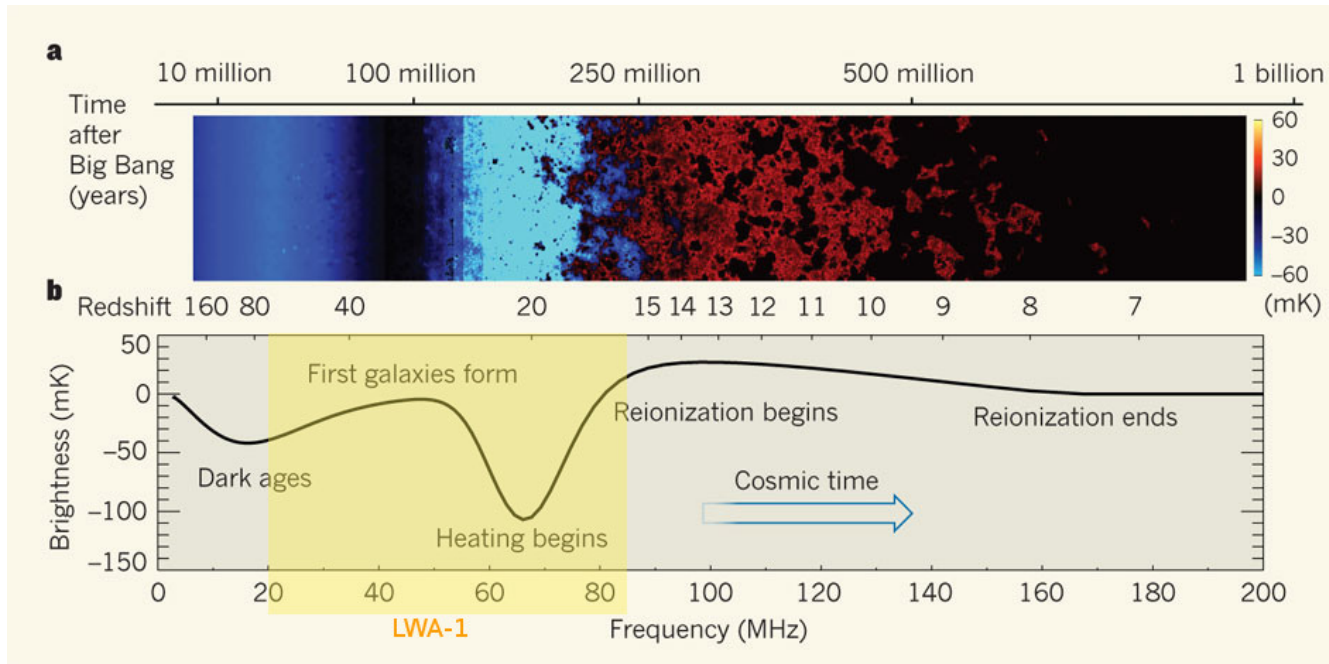
1384 Temperature [K] 3618

The Sky  
35-80 MHz

Dowell et al.  
2017

+ New Low  
Frequency Sky  
Model generator

# Cosmic Dawn



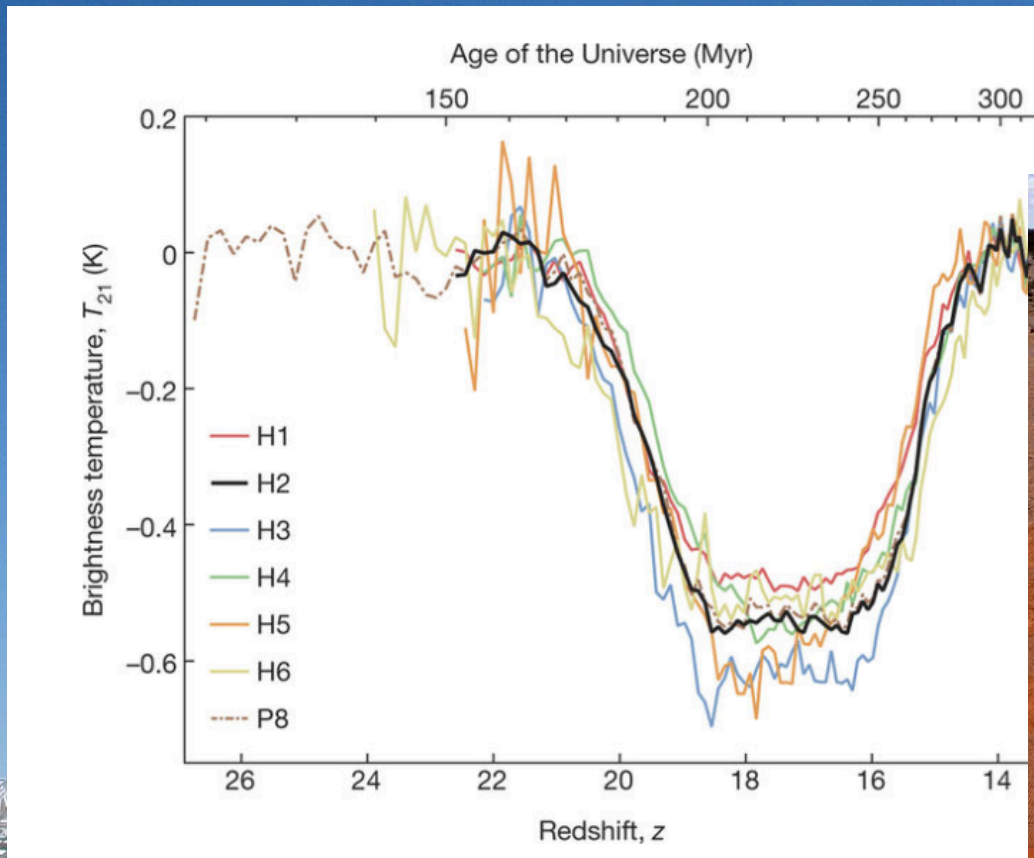
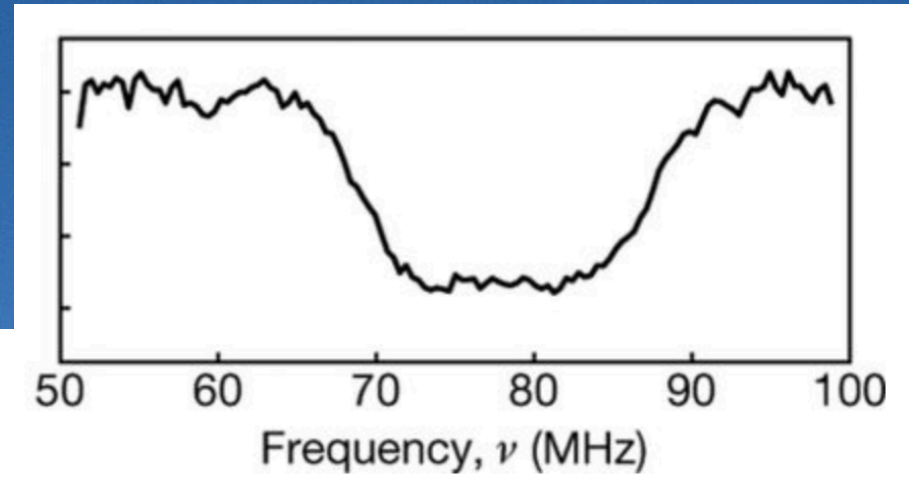
The predicted brightness temperature of the 21cm line from the HI gas is displayed as a function of time, redshift & frequency.

*Figure 1 from Pritchard & Loeb, 2010 Nature 469 772*

The Dark Ages through Cosmic Dawn encompasses the formation of the 1st galaxies & black holes. The LWA offers a window into this era.

# Detection of HI at $z=17$

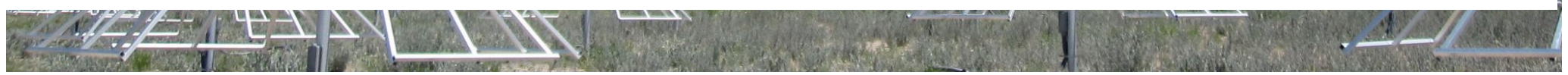
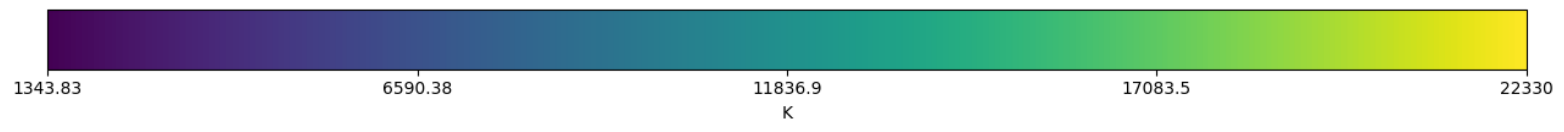
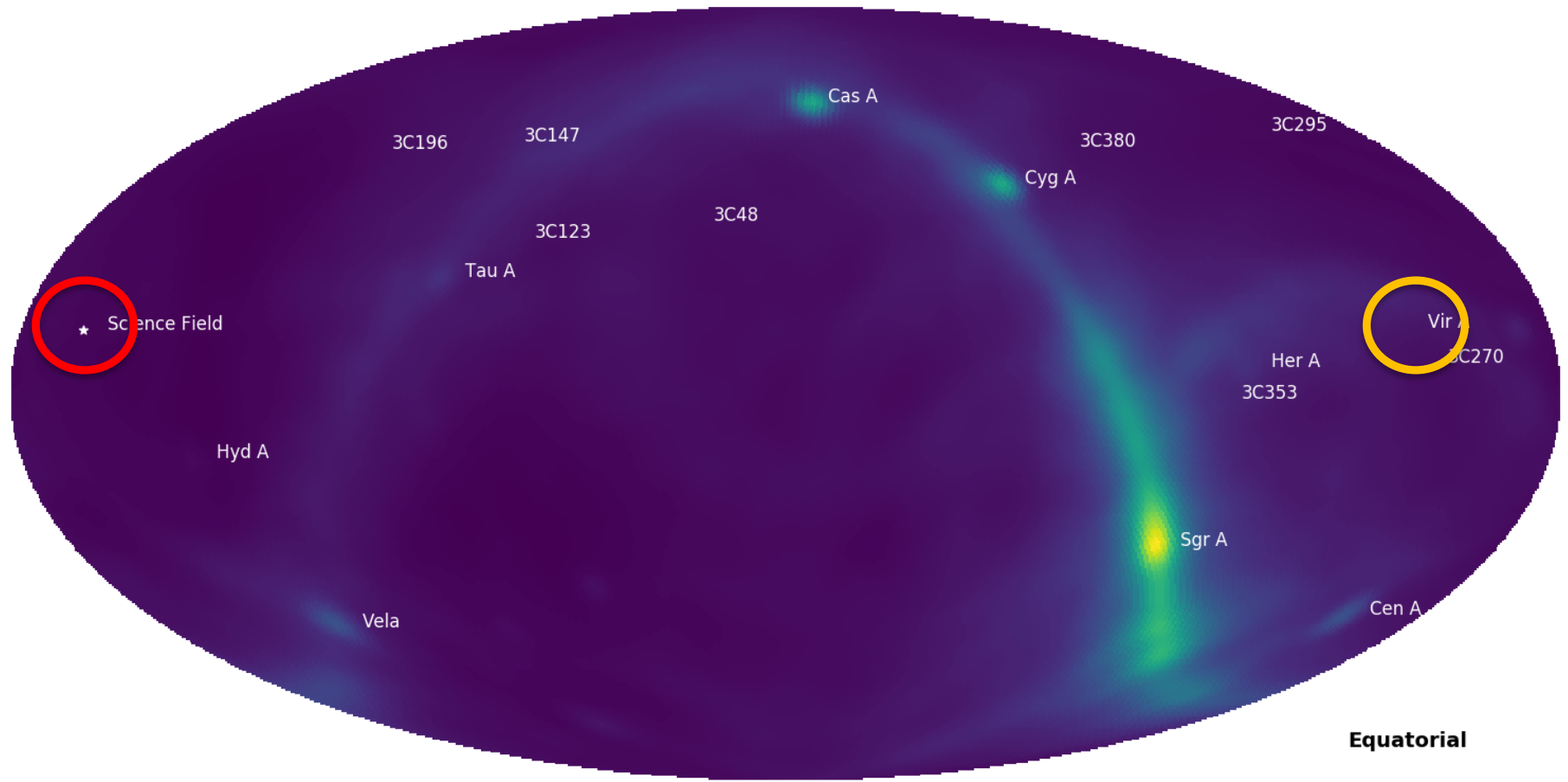
Bowman et al. 2018



EDGES, Australia

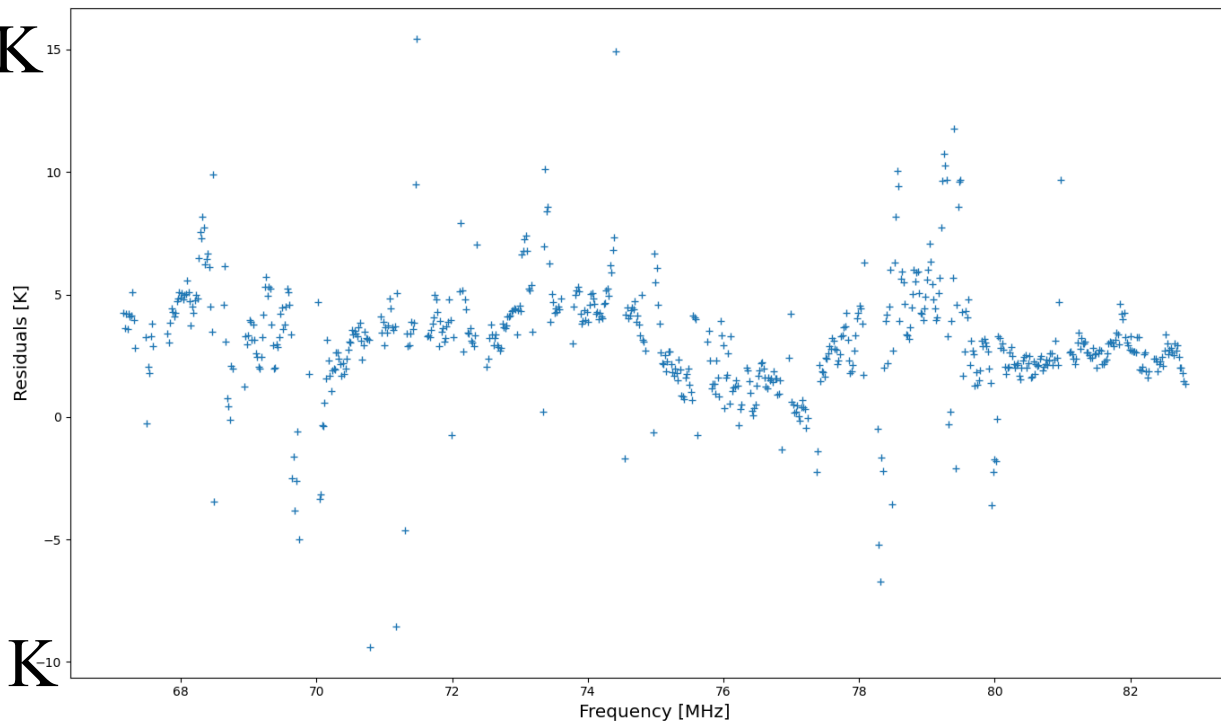
# LWA-SV Efforts

The Sky at 74 MHz



# LWA-SV Efforts

15 K



-10 K

rms  $\sim$  3 K  
5 minute integration

DiLullo et al. 2020  
DiLullo et al, in prep



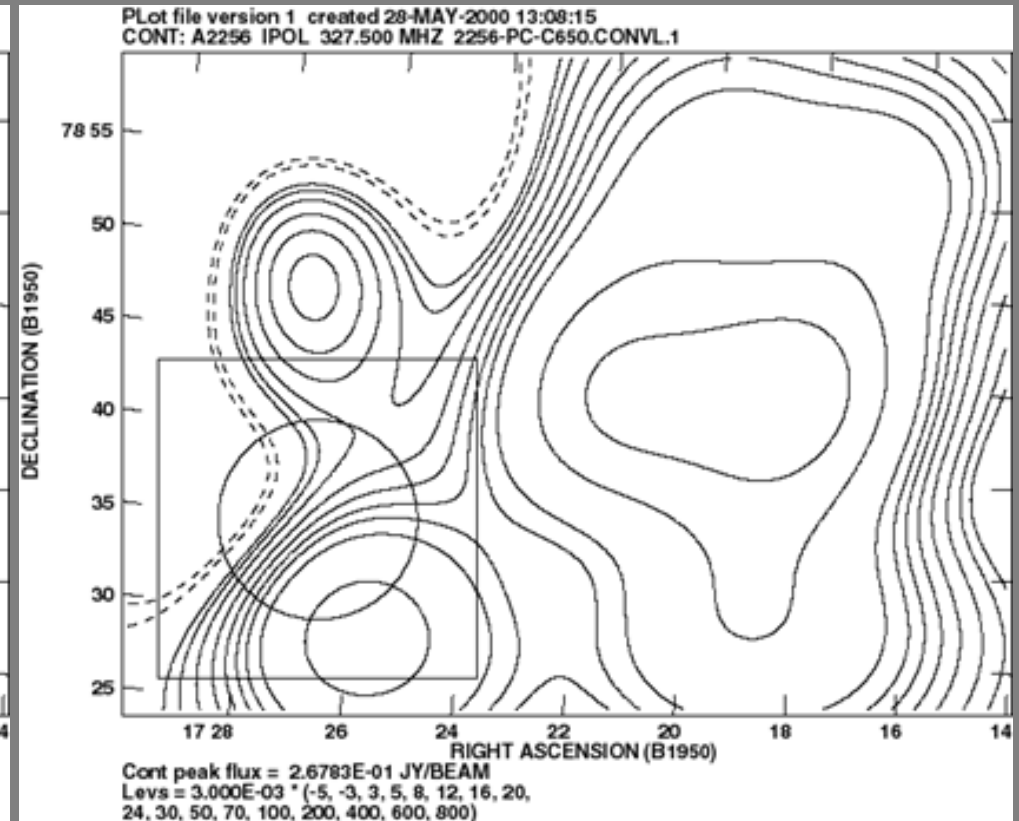
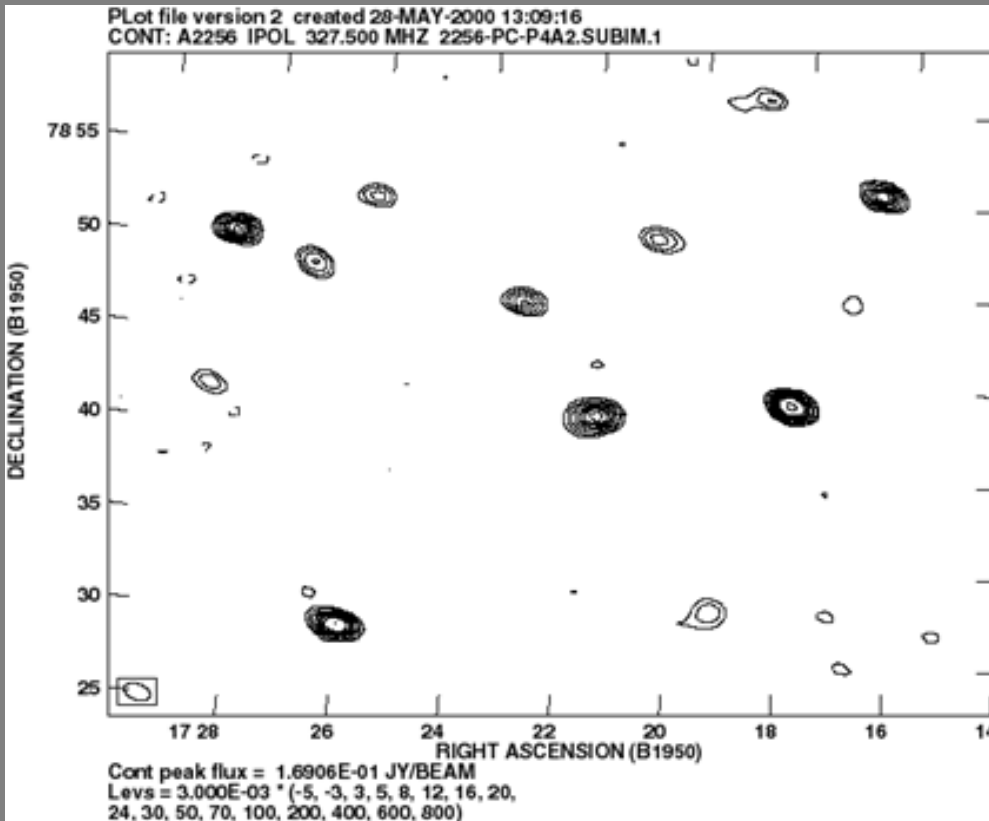


# Confusion

- First radio telescopes operated at long wavelengths with low spatial resolution and very high system temperatures
- Radio astronomy quickly moved to higher frequencies with better spatial resolution and lower system temperatures

$\theta \sim 1'$ , rms  $\sim 3$  mJy/beam

$\theta \sim 10'$ , rms  $\sim 30$  mJy/beam



# Low Frequency In Practice: Not Easy!

10

- Bandwidth smearing

Distortion of sources with distance from phase center

- Interference:

Can be severe below 5 GHz

- Phase coherence through ionosphere

Corruption of coherence of phase on longer baselines

- Finite Isoplanatic Patch Problem:

Calibration changes as a function of position

- Large Fields of View:

Non-coplanar array ( $u, v, & w$ )

Large number of sources requiring deconvolution

Calibrators

- Time-variable primary beam
- Lots of sources - Large Number of elements required

# Large Fields of View (FOV) I

11

Noncoplanar baselines: (*u, v, and w*) - *Cotton, SI ch 17*

- Important if FOV is large compared to resolution
  - => in AIPS multi-facet imaging, each facet with its own  $\theta_{\text{synth}}$
- Essential for all observations below 1 GHz and for high resolution, high dynamic range even at 1.4 GHz
- Requires lots of computing power and disk space
- AIPS: IMAGR (DO3DIMAG=1, NFIELD=N, OVERLAP=2),  
CASA (aka AIPS++): w-projection

Example: VLA B array 74 MHz:

~325 facets

A array requires 10X more:

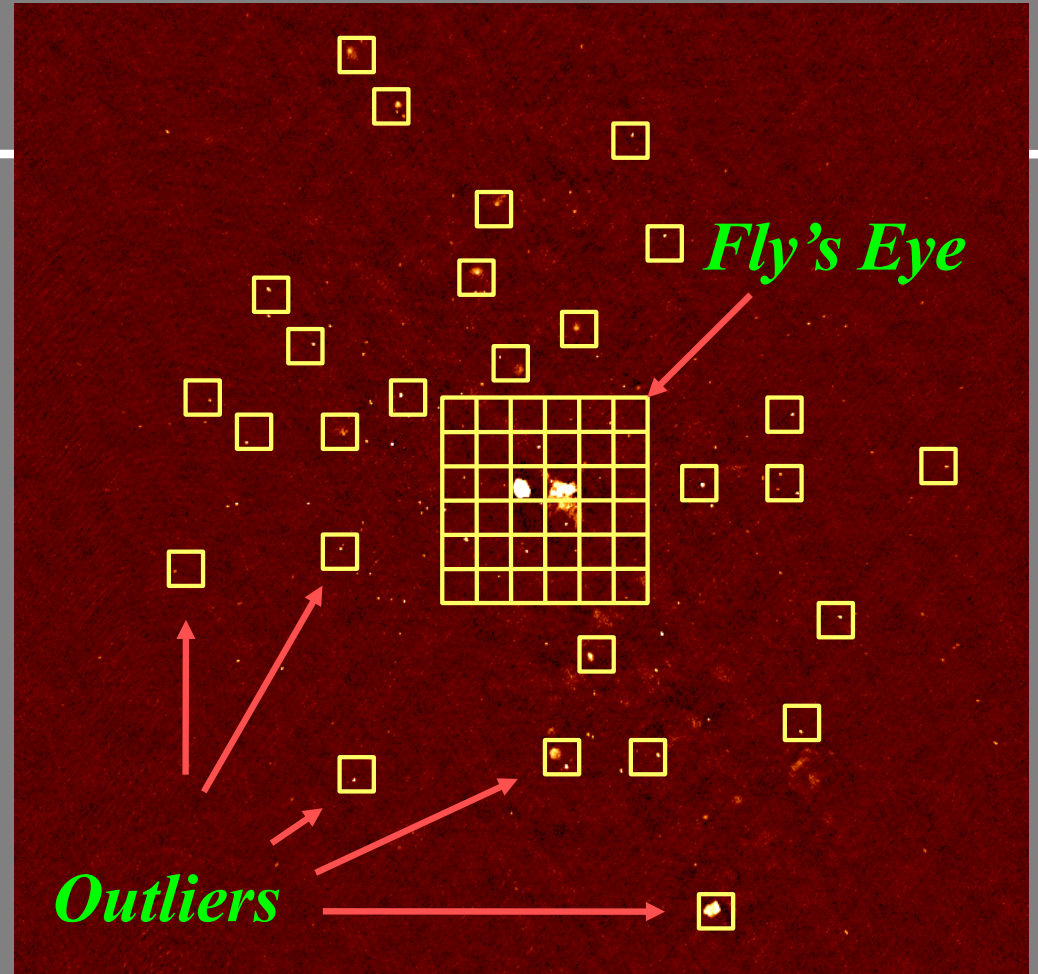
~ 3000 facets

~ $10^8$  pixels

# Targeted Faceting

- enormous processing required to image entire FOV
- reduce processing by targeting facets on selected sources (still large number!)
- overlap a fly's eye of the central region and add individual outliers
- AIPS: SETFC

*~ 4 degrees*  
*A array requires ~10,000 pixels!*



## AIPS Tip:

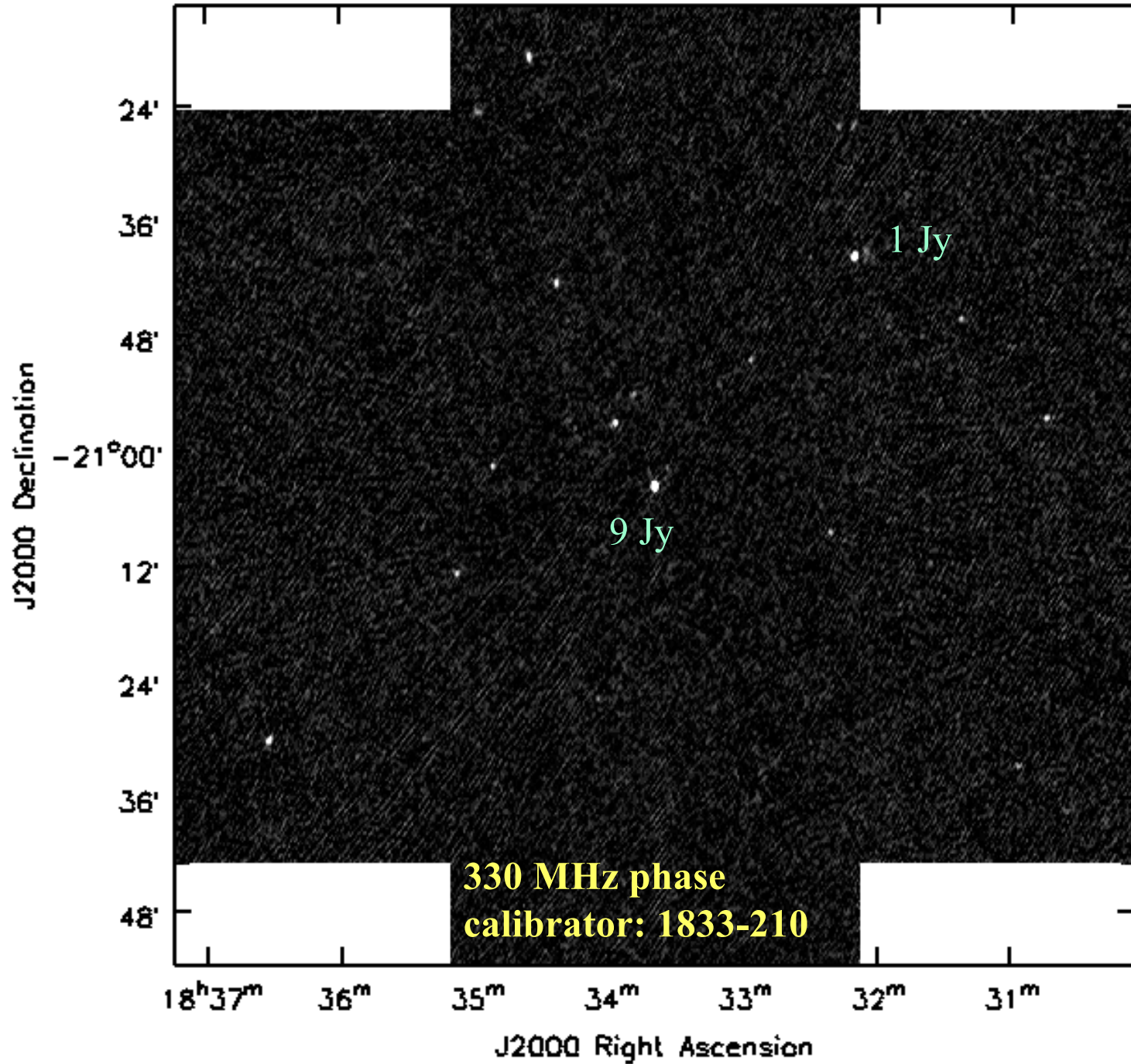
- Experience suggests that cleaning progresses more accurately and efficiently if EVERY facet has a source in it.
- Best not to have extended sources spread over too many facets

=> often must compromise

# Large Fields of View (FOV) II

## Calibration

- A
- ba
- sin
- L
- A
- this
- cal
- M



s a

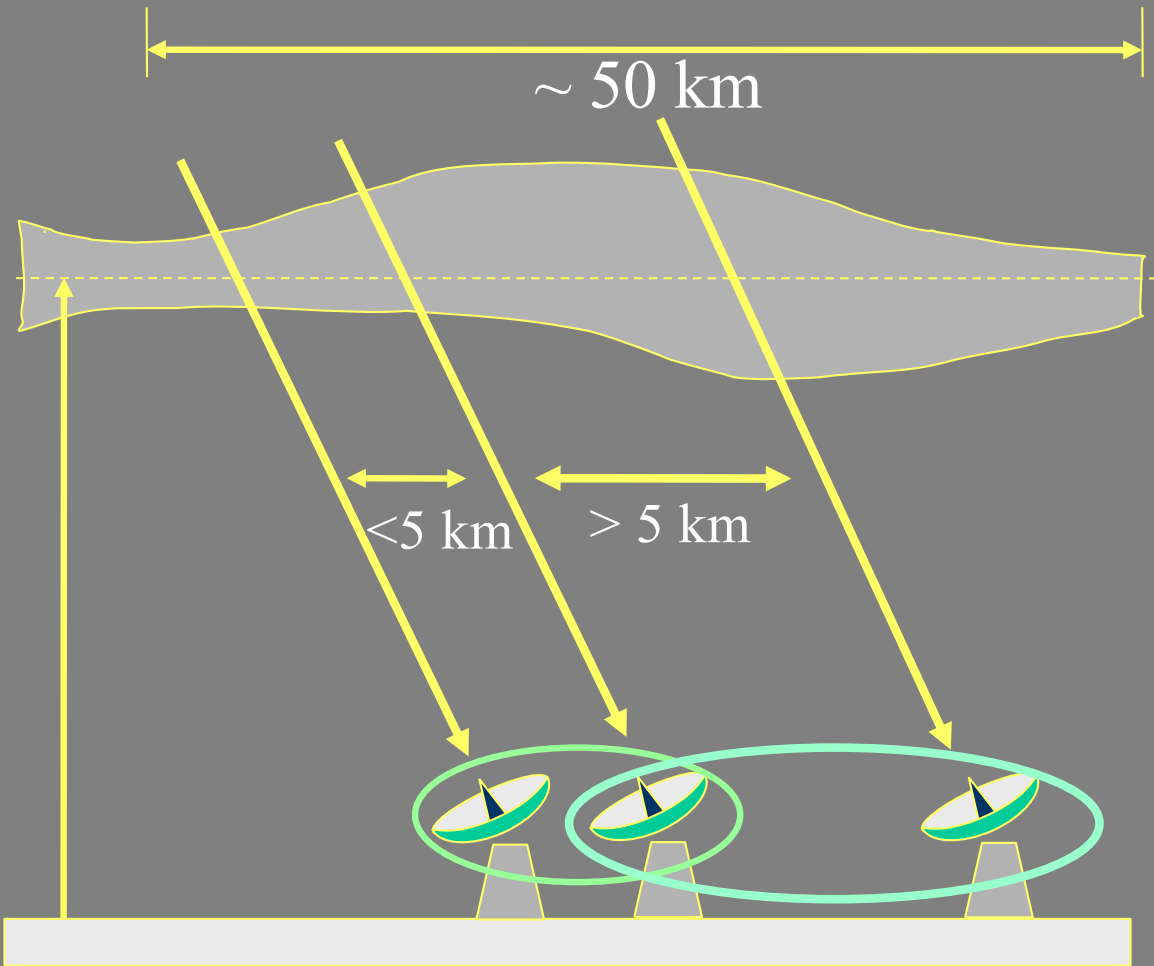
o which

g phase

al

# Ionospheric Structure:

14

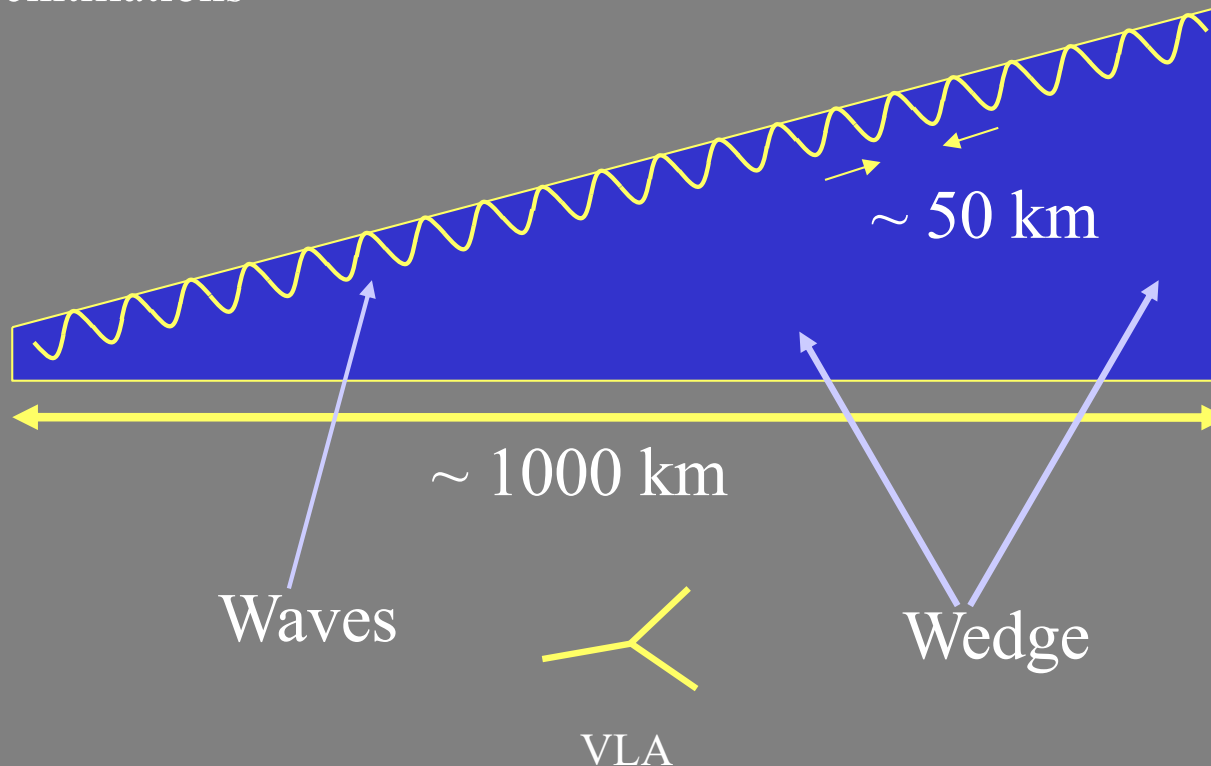


- Waves in the ionosphere introduce rapid phase variations ( $\sim 1^\circ/\text{s}$  on 35 km BL)
- Phase coherence is preserved on  $\text{BL} < 5\text{km}$
- $\text{BL} > 5 \text{ km}$  have limited coherence times
- Historically limited capabilities of low frequency instruments

# Ionospheric Effects

15

Wedge Effects: Faraday rotation, refraction, absorption below  $\sim 5$  MHz (atmospheric cutoff)  
Wave and Turbulence Effects: Rapid phase winding, differential refraction, source distortion, scintillations



Wedge: characterized by  
 $TEC = \int n_e dl \sim 10^{17} \text{ m}^{-2}$

Extra path length adds extra phase

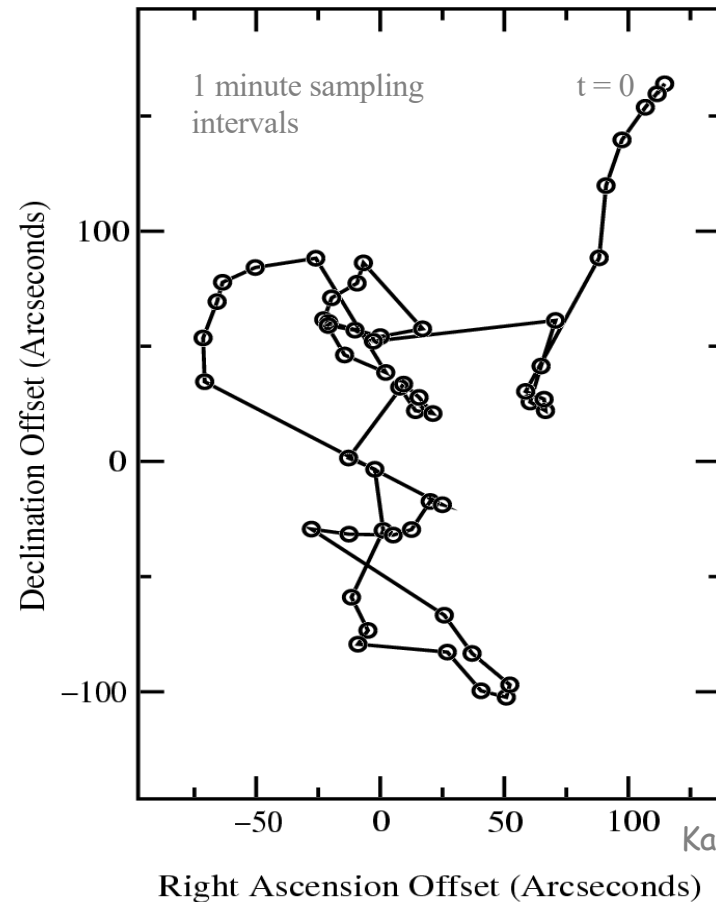
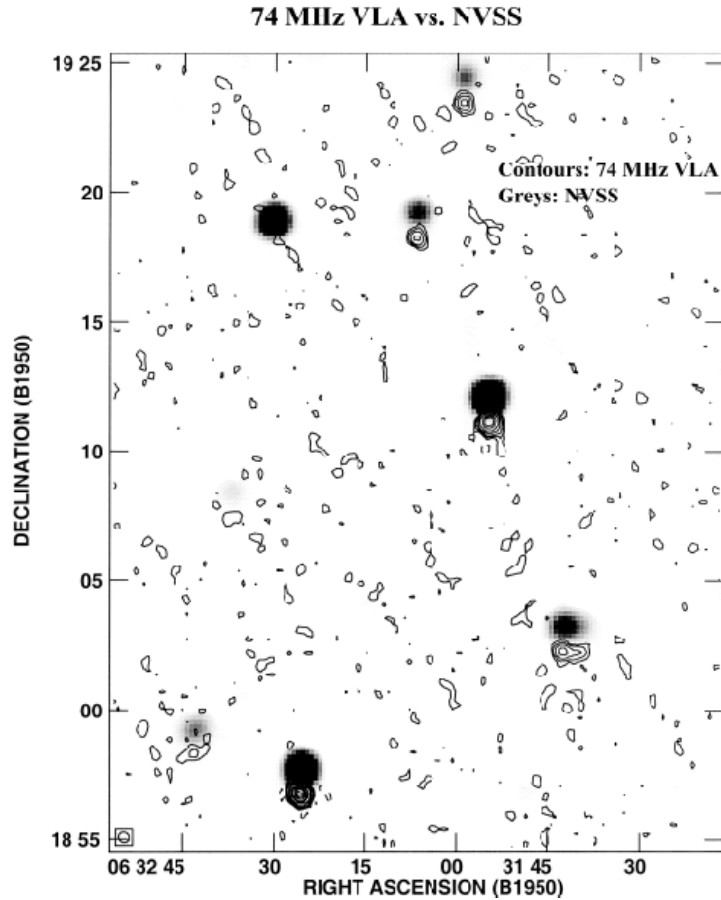
$$\Delta L \propto \lambda^2 * TEC$$

$$\Delta\phi \sim \Delta L/\lambda \sim \lambda * TEC$$

Waves: tiny (<1%) fluctuations superimposed on the wedge

- The wedge introduces thousands of turns of phase at 74 MHz
- Interferometers are particularly sensitive to difference in phase (wave/turbulence component)

# 0th Order Correction: Refractive Wander



Kassim et al. 2007

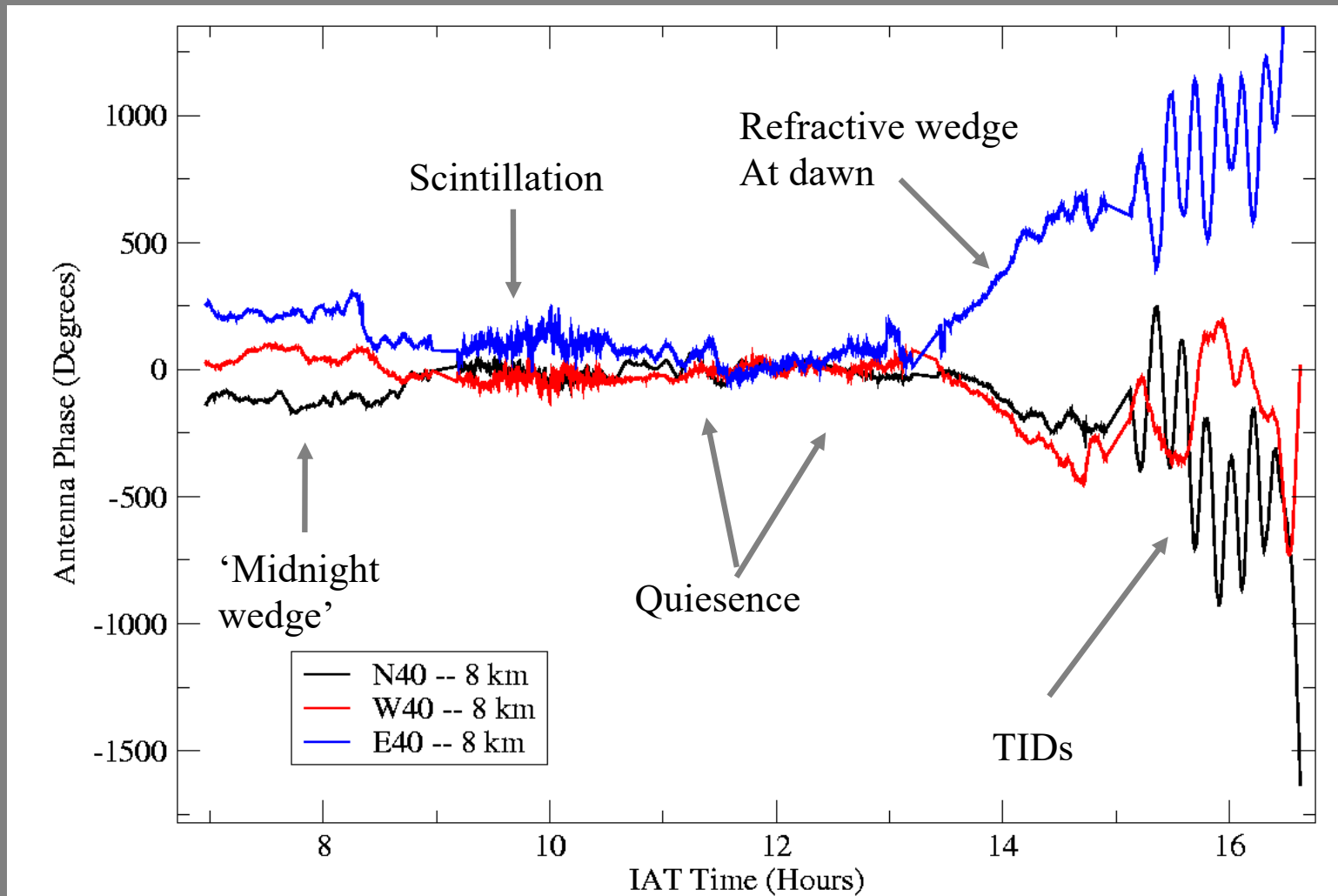
- The large-scale ionospheric refraction shows considerable variability
  - Shown at the left 74MHz referenced to 1400MHz images
- Large Scale Ionospheric Structure -> simple phase shift
- Solution - use known phase centers to shift images to compensate



# Antenna Phase as a Function of Time

17

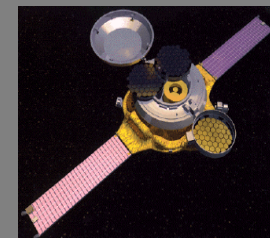
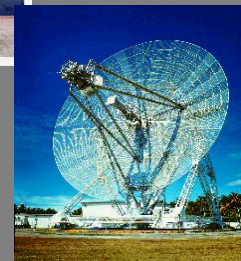
## Phase on three 8-km baselines



A wide range of phenomena were observed over the 12-hour observation  
=> MYTH: Low freq. observing is better at night.  
Often daytime (but not dawn) has the best conditions

# Ionosphere Overview

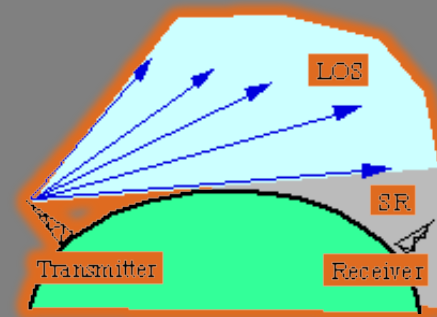
- What is the ionosphere?
  - Partially ionized gas (i.e. a plasma) that envelops the earth and forms the interface between the atmosphere and space:
    - Plasma: quasineutral gas of charged and neutral particles
    - Ionizing source: UV light, x-rays and cosmic rays
- Why do we care about the ionosphere?
  - Many reasons, but for our purposes today, it affects radio wave propagation
- How do we detect the ionosphere?
  - Sounders (i.e. ionosondes)
    - Ground-based
    - Space-based
  - Radar
    - Coherent
    - Incoherent Scatter Radar (ISR)
  - Satellites (GPS, etc.)
  - Rockets
  - Etc.



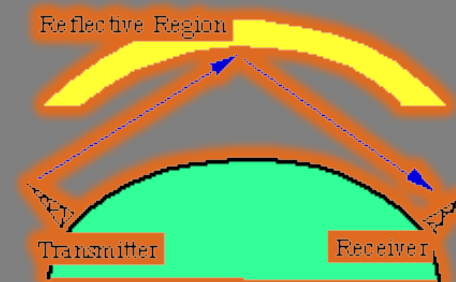
# History

- On December 12, 1901, Marconi received a signal in St. John's Newfoundland that had been sent from Cornwall, England (500 kHz): Nobel Prize in physics in 1909 for using EM radiation for radio communication

- **Problem: EM radiation travels in straight lines and maximum distance determined by Line-of-Sight (LOS). How could Marconi have “heard” the signal?**



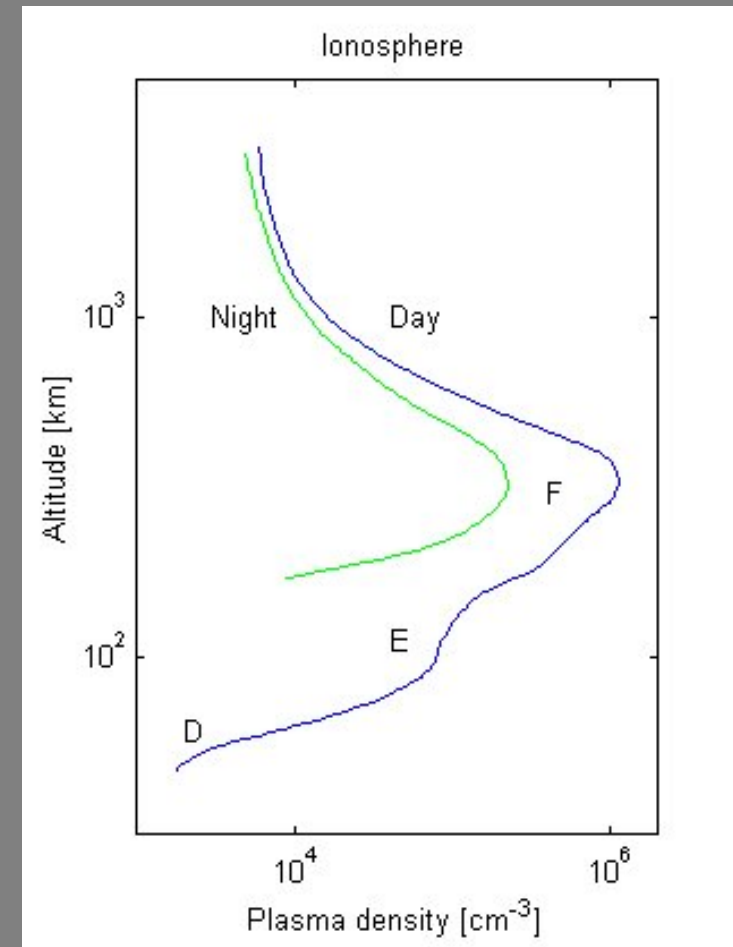
- **Solution: Heaviside and Kennely in 1902 proposed that a conducting layer existed in upper atmosphere that reflects EM signals**



- **In 1924, Appleton developed the ionosonde (ground-based sounding) and proved existence of ionosphere. Awarded Nobel Prize in physics in 1947**

# Ionospheric Layers

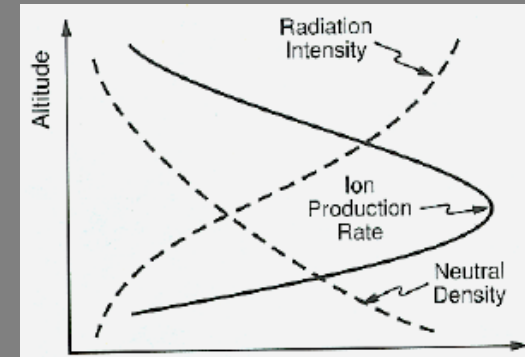
- Ionospheric layers independently produced by absorption of solar radiation by specific constituents of neutral atmosphere
- **D region**
  - 60-90 km, dynamics dominated by neutral atmosphere
  - Ions are  $\text{NO}^+$  produced by radiation at 121.5 nm
- **E region**
  - 90-130 km, peak near 110 km
  - Ions are  $\text{O}_2^+$  and  $\text{NO}^+$  produced by UV radiation in the 100-150 nm range, and solar X-rays in the 1-10 nm range
- **F region ( $F_1$  and  $F_2$ )**
  - Above 130 km (typically caps at 2000 km)
    - $F_1$  peaks near 170 km,  $F_2$  peaks near 250 km
  - Ions are mainly  $\text{O}^+$  from photons in the 17-91 nm range



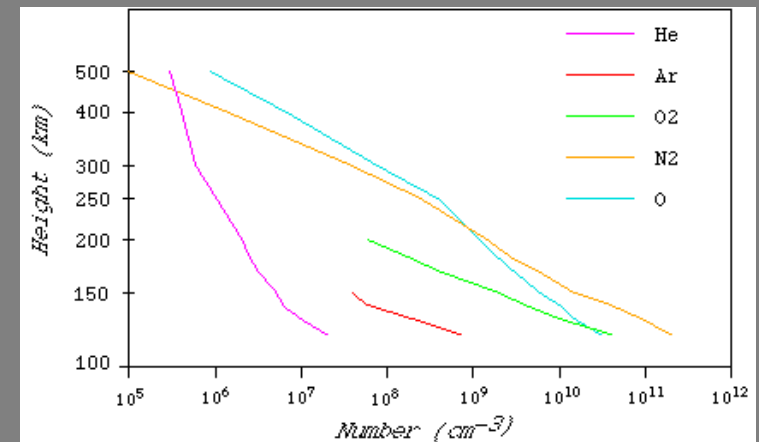
# Ion Production - Photoionization

21

- Ionospheric peaks generated by:
  - Incoming solar radiation intensity increases with height
  - Neutral density decreases with height



- Ionospheric layers generated by solar radiation acting on different compositions of atmosphere with height



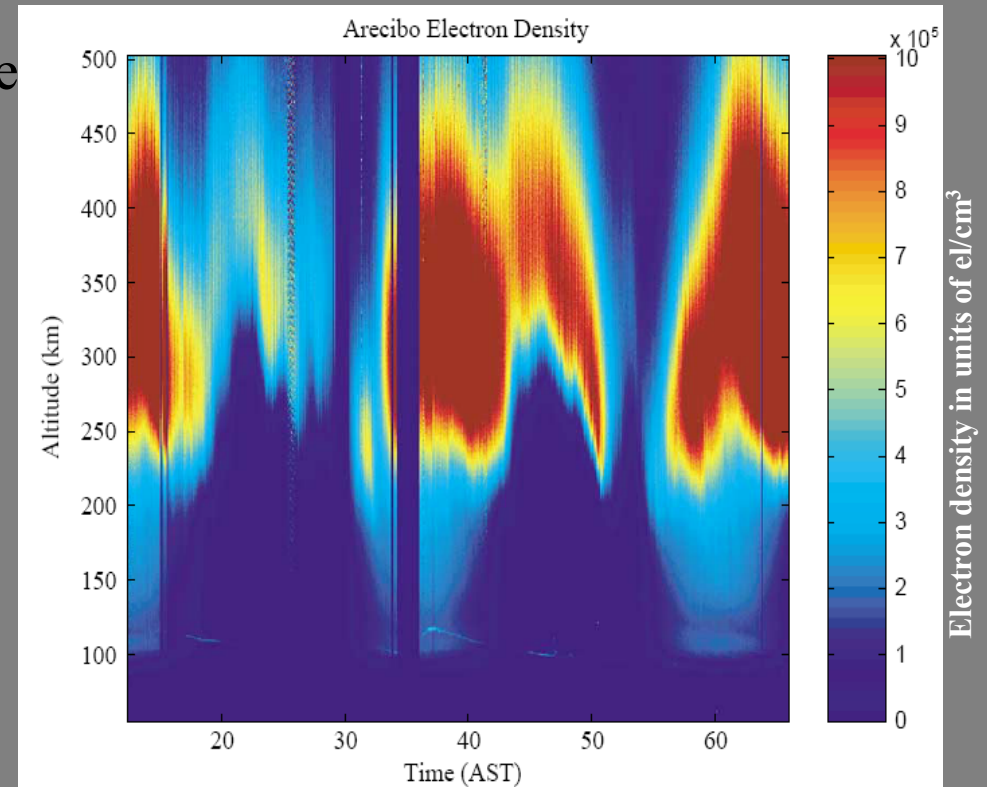
- Chapman theory (developed in 1927) describes ion production as a function of height assuming:
  - Details of photon absorption hidden in a radiative-absorption cross section,  $\sigma$
  - Ion production depends only on amount of radiative energy absorbed

# Density from Ion Loss and Production

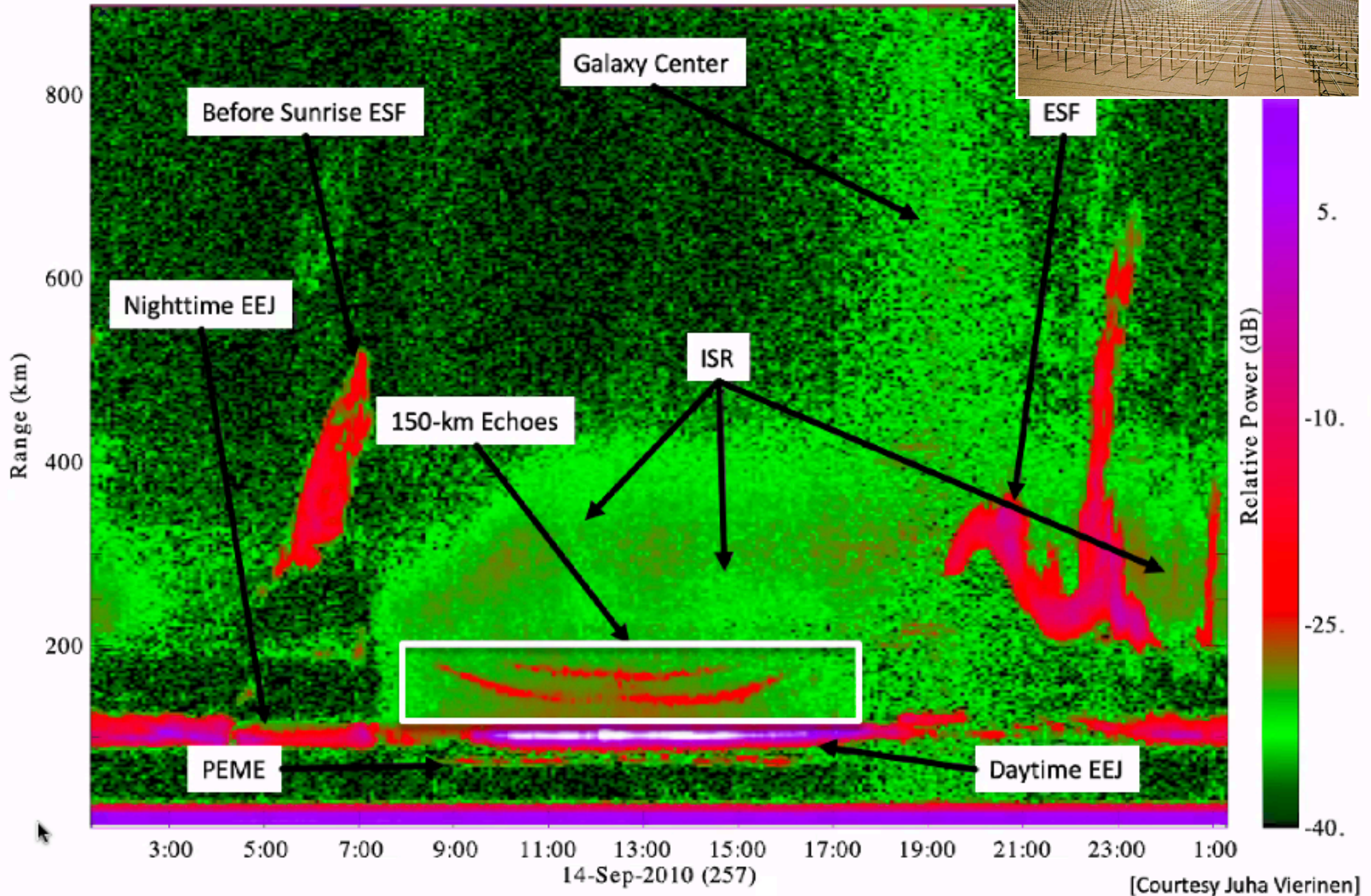
22

## • Ion loss

- Ionospheric electrons disappear by three types of recombination:
  - 1) Radiative:  $e + X^+ \rightarrow X + h\nu$
  - 2) Dissociative:  $e + XY^+ \rightarrow X + Y$
  - 3) Attachment:  $e + Z \rightarrow Z^-$
- Recombination rates depend upon:
- Loss =  $L = \alpha n_e n_i$ , where  $\alpha$  is a recombination coef. determined by empirical and theoretical models



# Incoherent and Coherent Echoes over Jicamarca



# When does a Radio Wave get Reflected by Plasma? 24

- Dispersion relation for EM wave:

$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 + k^2 c^2$$

- If in a vacuum, you get light waves:  $\omega^2 = k^2 c^2$

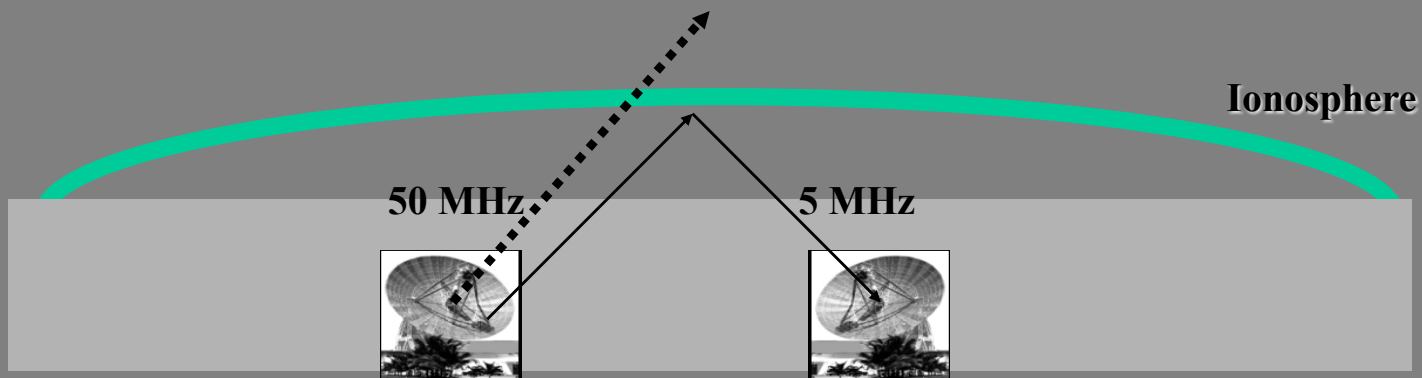
- If  $k \rightarrow 0$ , you have a cutoff:  $\omega^2 = \omega_p^2$

A cutoff point leads to reflection, so this is how you determine what radio frequency you need to transmit through the ionosphere

$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 = \frac{e^2 n_0}{\epsilon_0 m}$$

$$f_{critical} \sim 9 \times 10^{-3} (n^{1/2})$$

where  $n$  = electron density per  $\text{cm}^3$  and  $f_{critical}$  is in MHz.



- Real-world examples

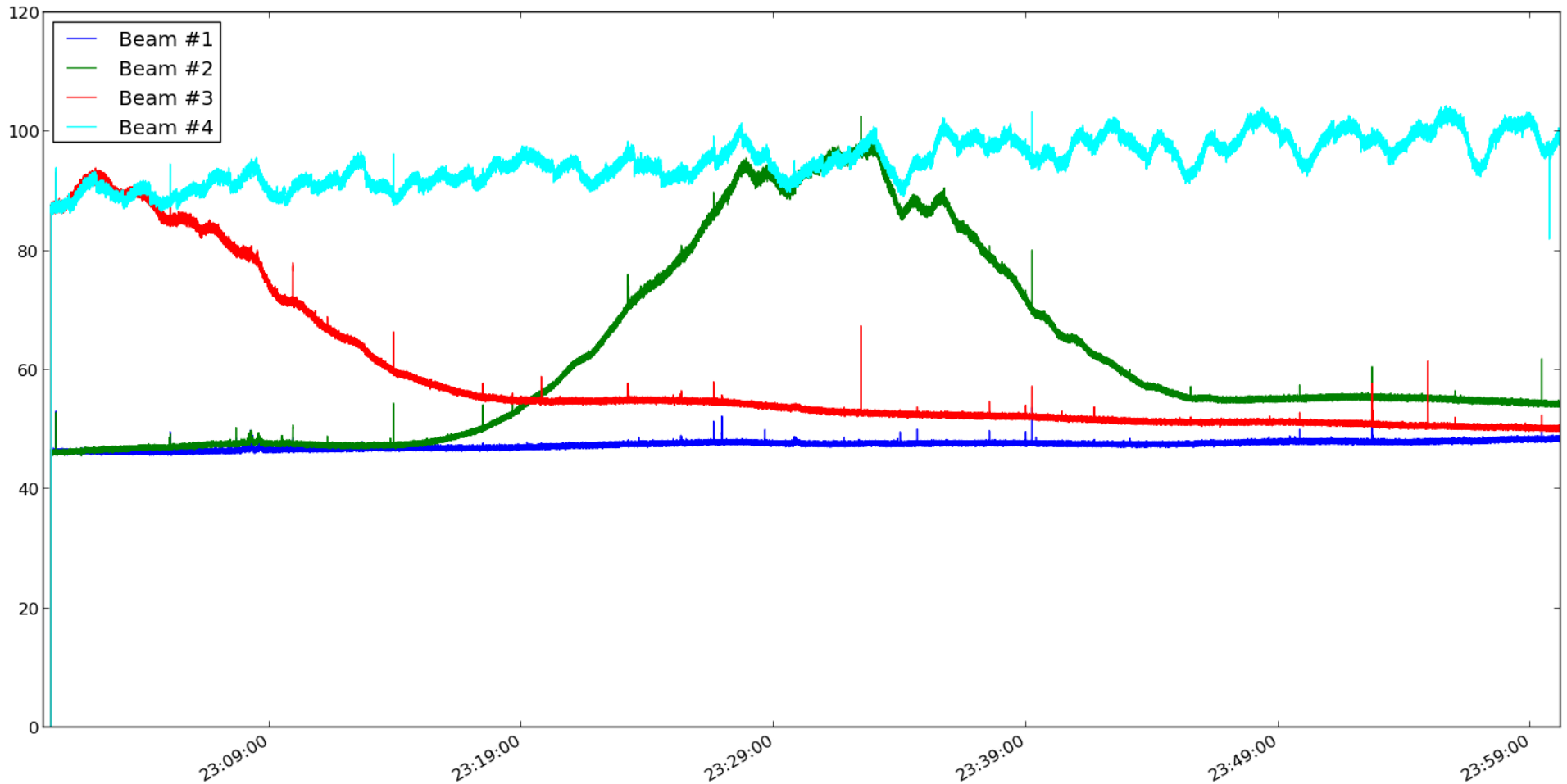
You need a radio frequency of 2 MHz to reflect from the E-region ( $10^5 \text{ el/cm}^3$ )

You need a radio frequency of 9 MHz to reflect from the F-region ( $10^6 \text{ el/cm}^3$ )

But these are gross over-simplifications, as the ionosphere is extremely dynamic and variable!



# Ionospheric Absorption

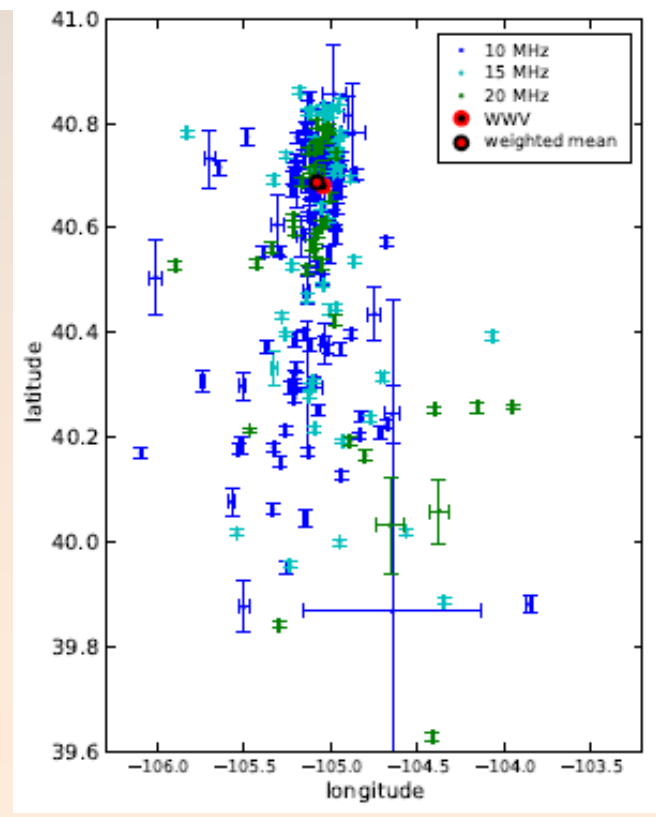
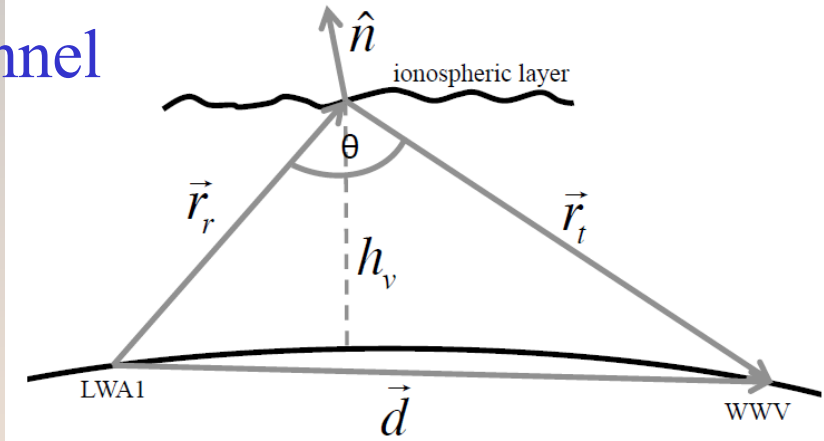
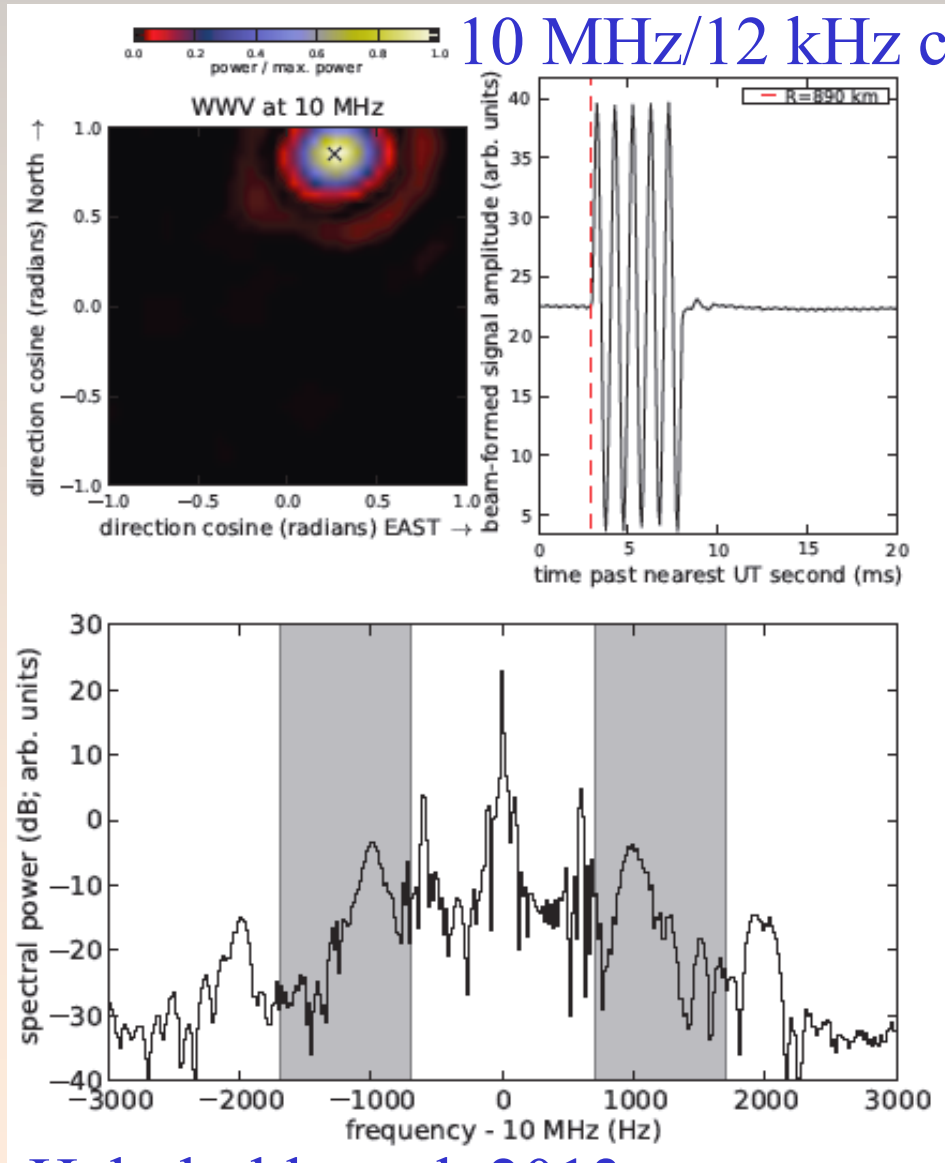


beam 1: off-source, pointed at north celestial pole

beam 2 and 3: fixed points along Cyg A track

beam 4: tracking Cyg A

# Passive Over the Horizon Radar

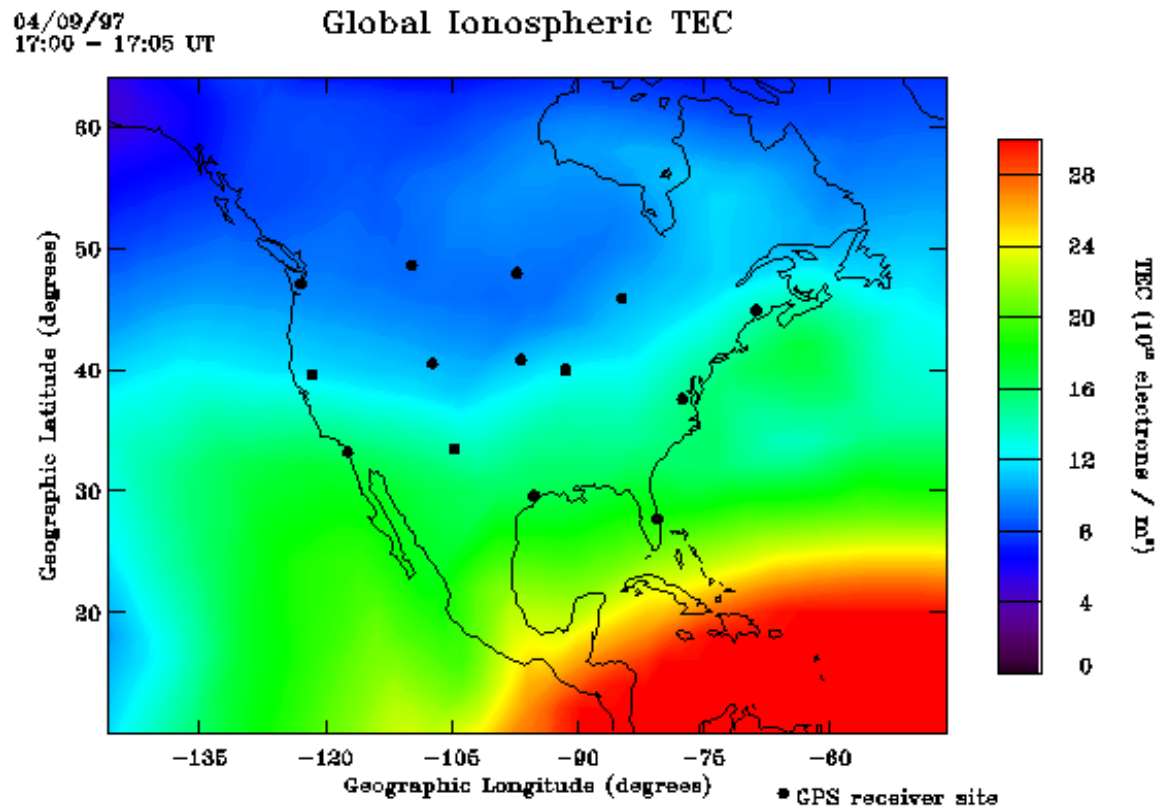


Helmboldt et al. 2013

LWA1 (Schinzel)

# Ionospheric GPS Data

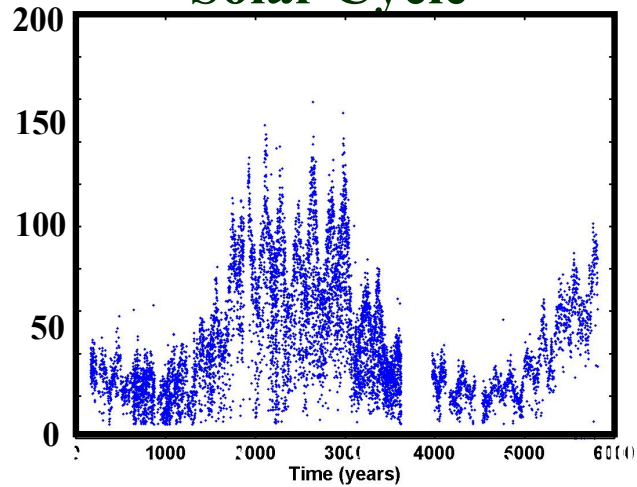
- Recall that GPS satellites can “probe” ionosphere by transmitting at two different frequencies simultaneously
  - Total Electron Content (TEC) is integrated density along line of sight:  $TEC = \int_0^s n_e ds$



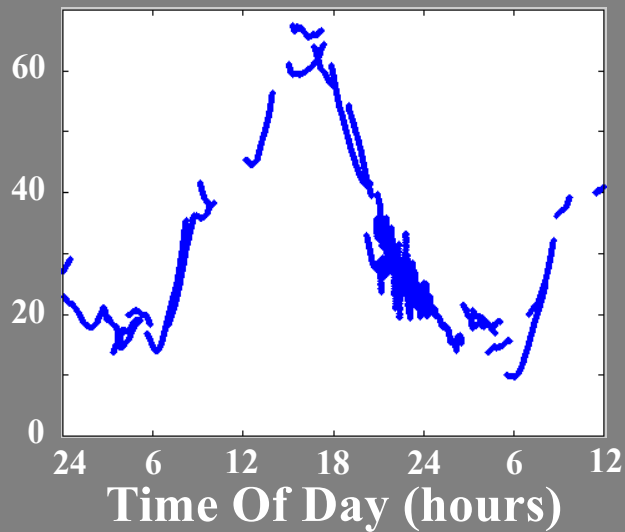
# Ionospheric Variability - Time

Vertical TEC

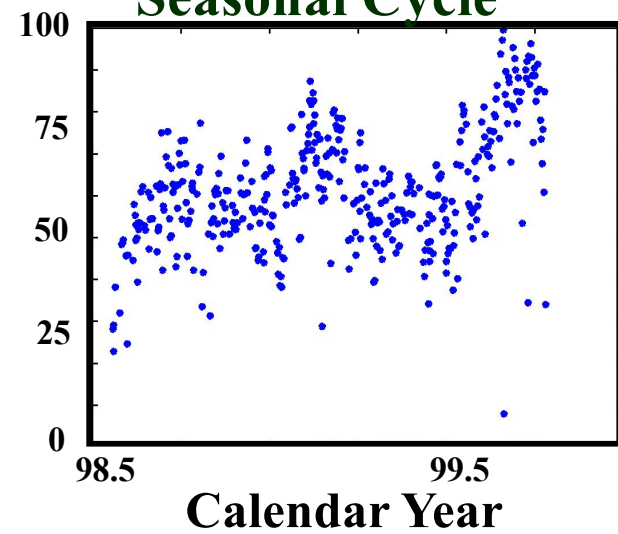
### Solar Cycle



### Diurnal Variation



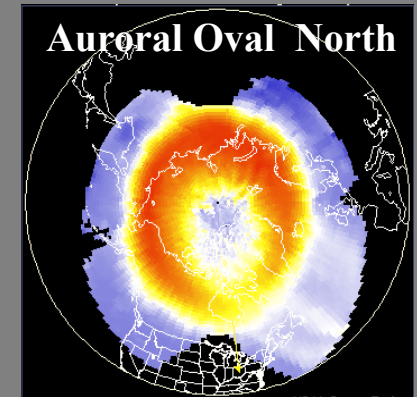
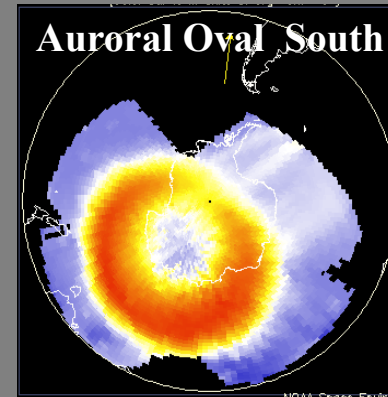
### Seasonal Cycle



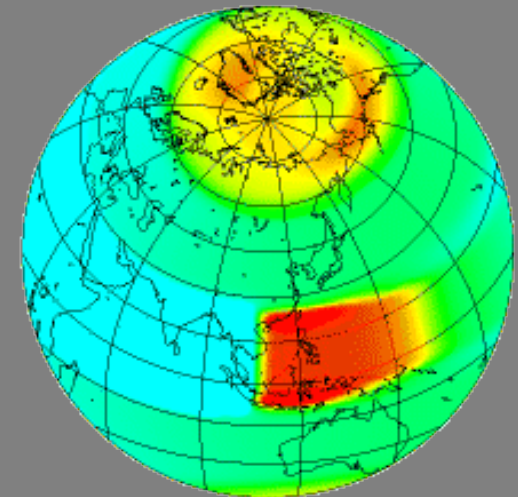
# Ionospheric Variability - Location

29

- **Auroral**
  - Field lines coupled to magnetosphere
  - $B_z$  field perpendicular to Earth



- **Equatorial**
  - $B_x$  field parallel to Earth
    - $E_z \rightarrow$  zonal drifts (large)
    - $E_y \rightarrow$  vertical drifts (small but important)



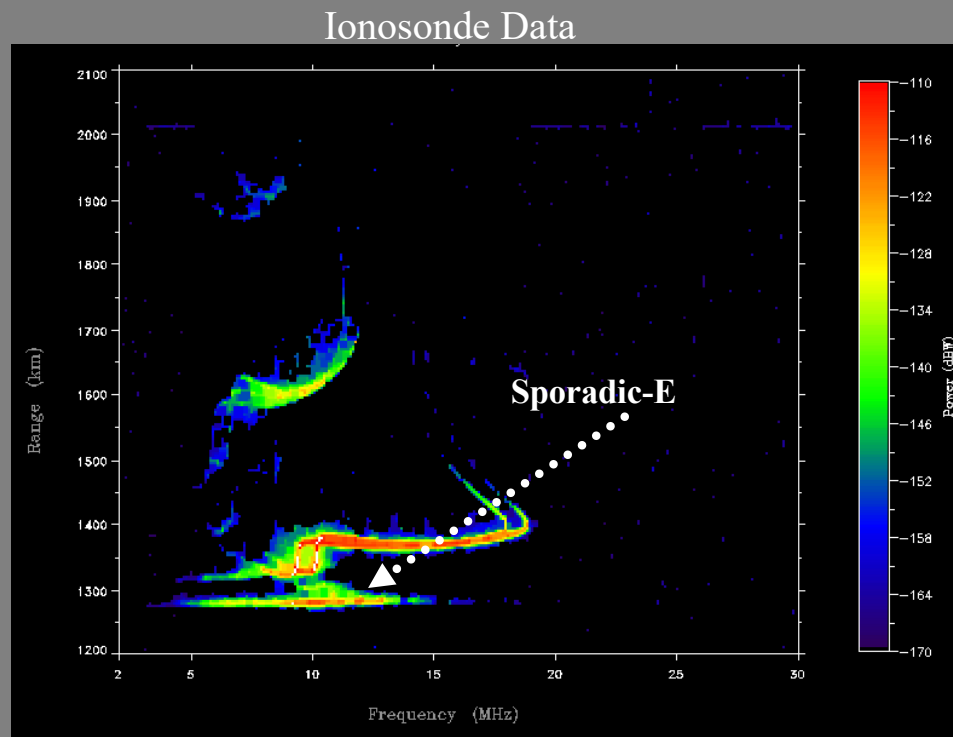
- **Mid-Latitudes**
  - Buffer between low- and high-latitude processes (both E fields and neutral winds penetrate here, as well as equatorial plasma streams)

Copyright 1996, Northwest Research Associates, Inc.

# Current Research - Sporadic-E

30

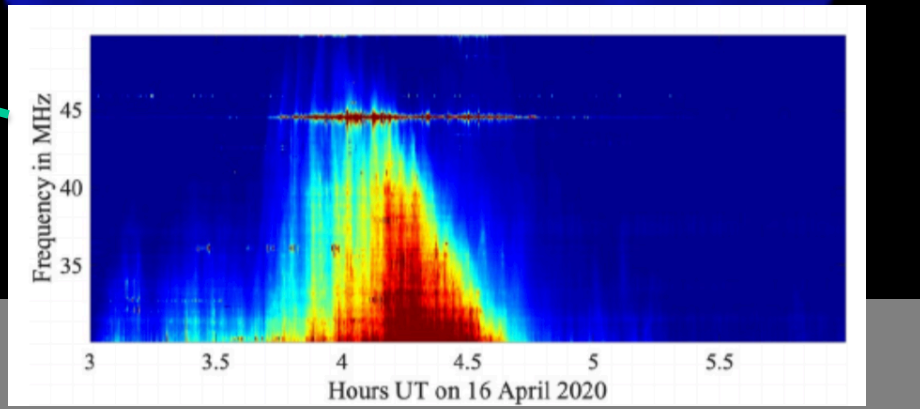
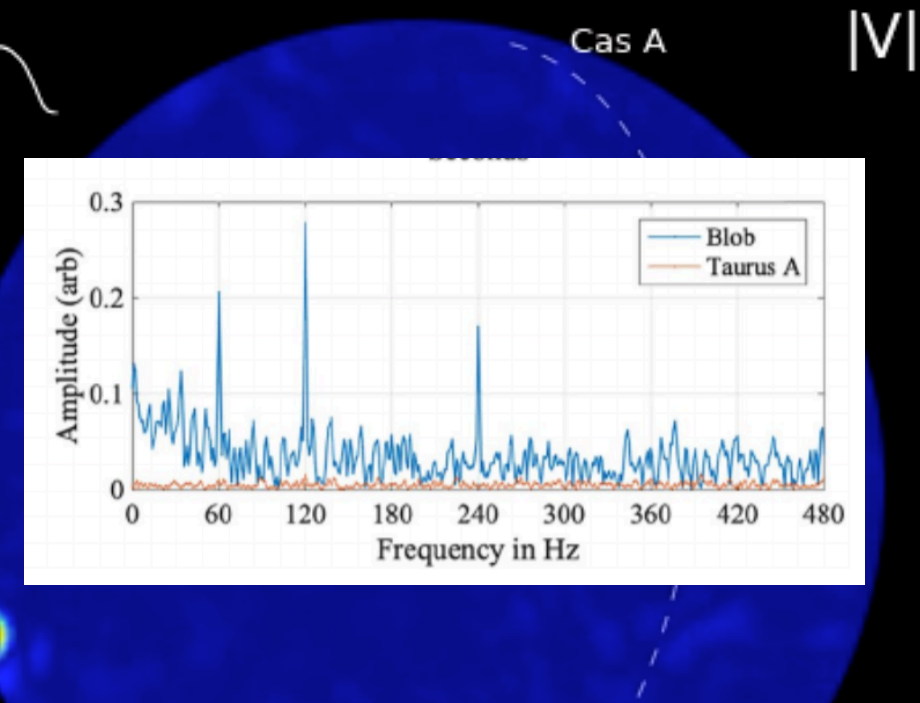
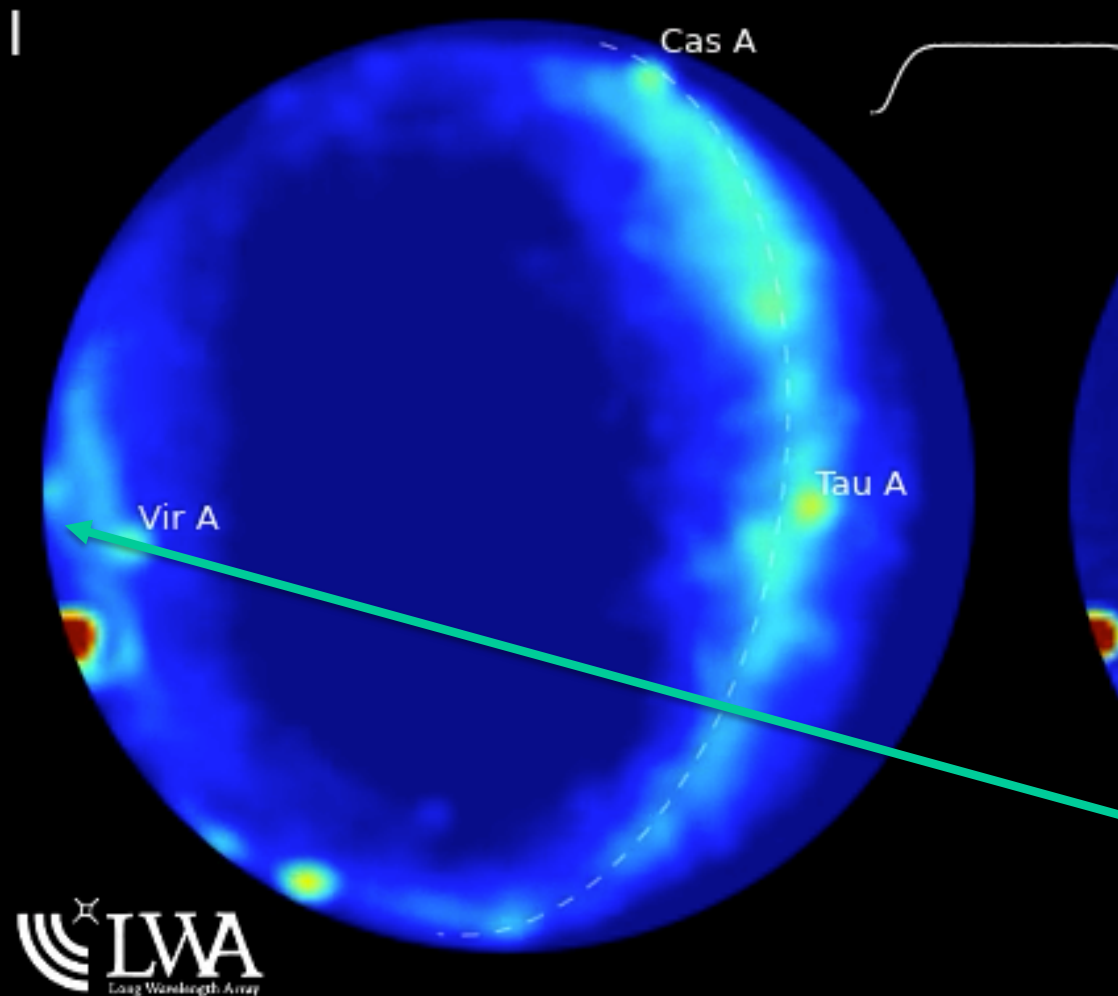
- **Sporadic-E**: dense layer of ionization in E-region that can reflect radio frequencies up to 225 MHz
  - Why is it most prevalent in summer?
  - What causes intermediate sporadic-E?
  - What causes long-lived intense sporadic-E layer? (heavy metals deposited by meteoroids?)



# Sporadic E

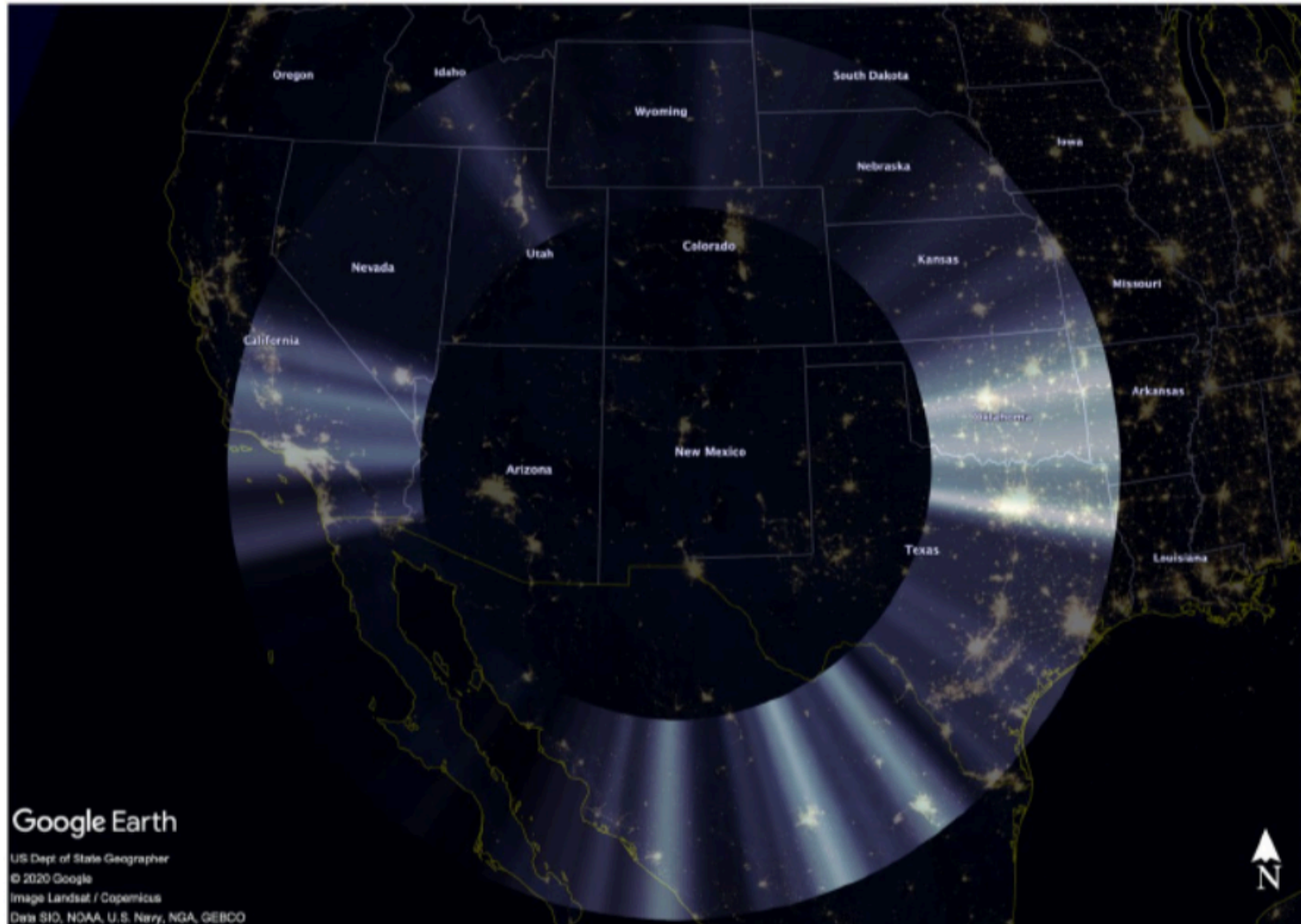
2020-04-16 02:13:05 UTC

38.05 MHz



# Sporadic E

32

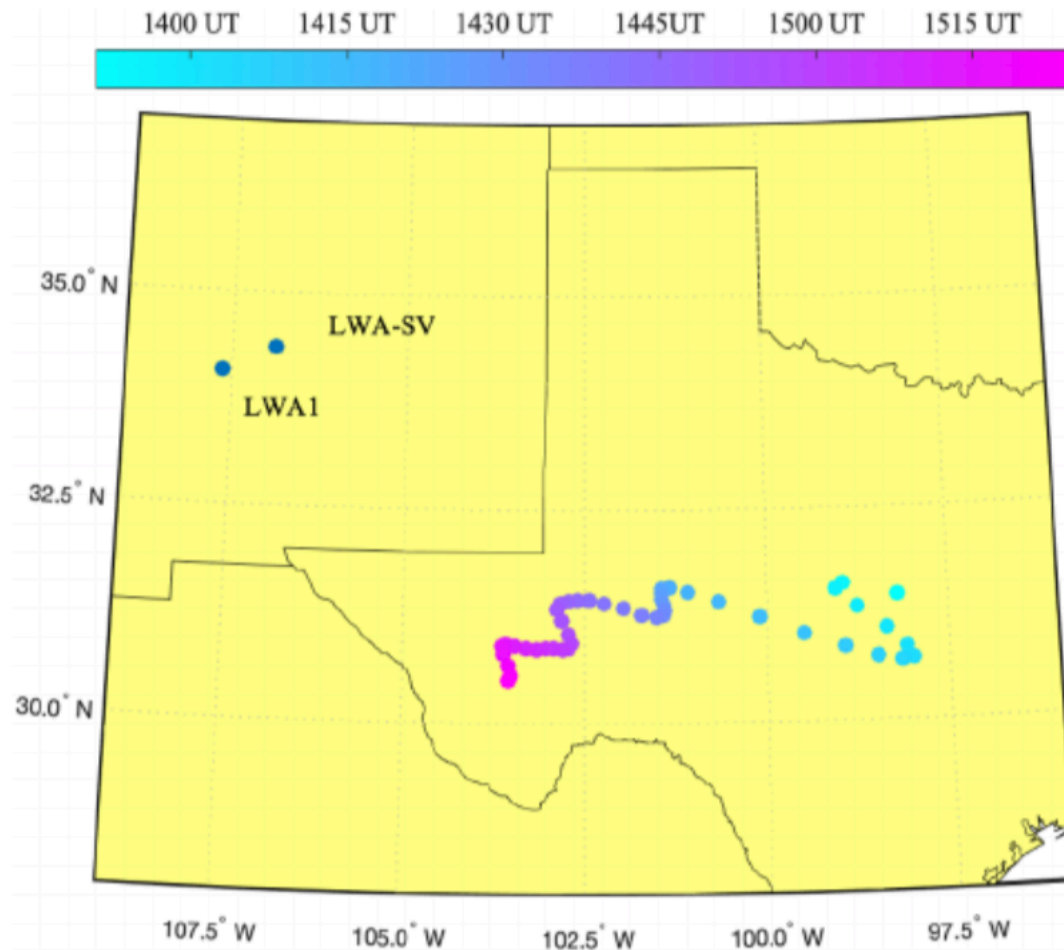


Obenberger et al. 2021



# Sporadic E

33

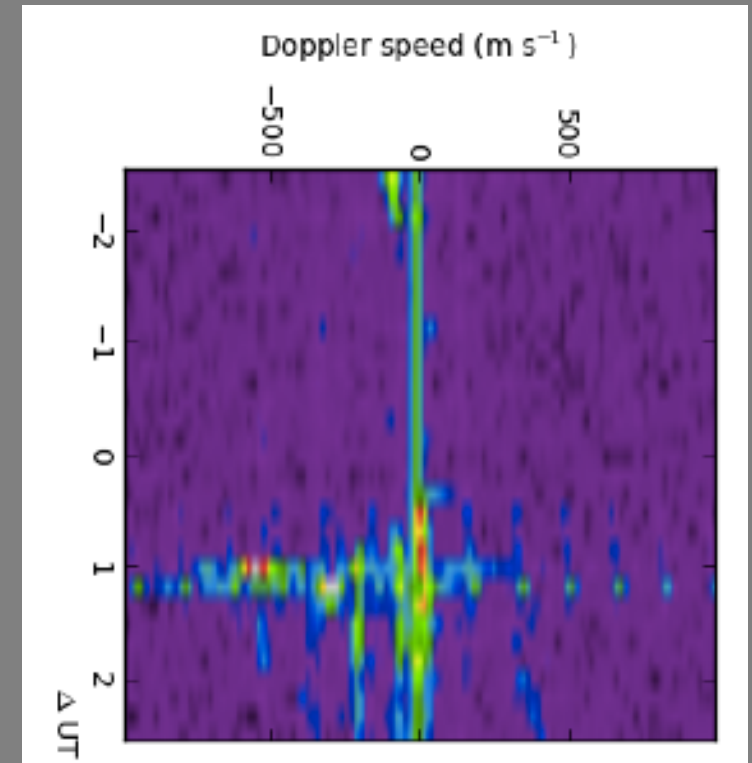
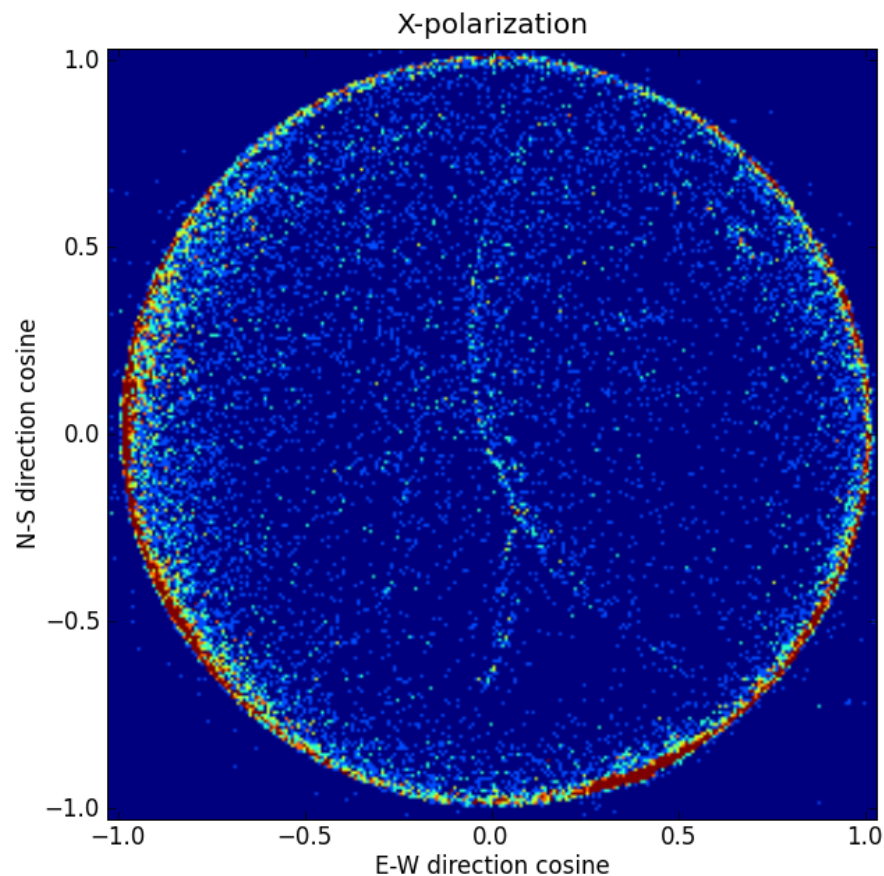


Obenberger et al. 2021

# Current Research - Meteors

34

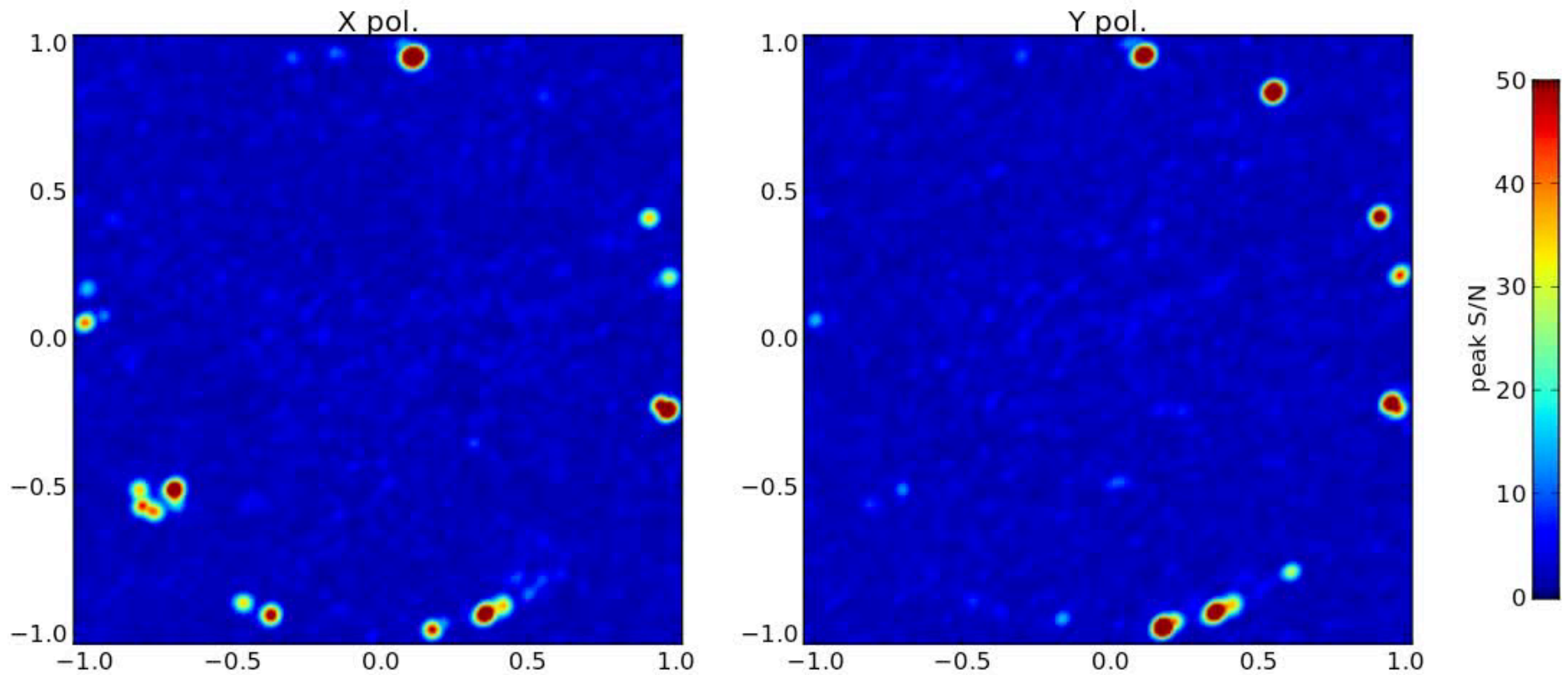
- **Meteor:** Strong ionization (up to 4 orders of magnitude greater than background ionosphere!) formed in the E-region by meteoroid ablation
- More than 100 billion meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere daily (tons)
- Mapping the wind profile via meteor trails (Helmbolt et al. 2014)



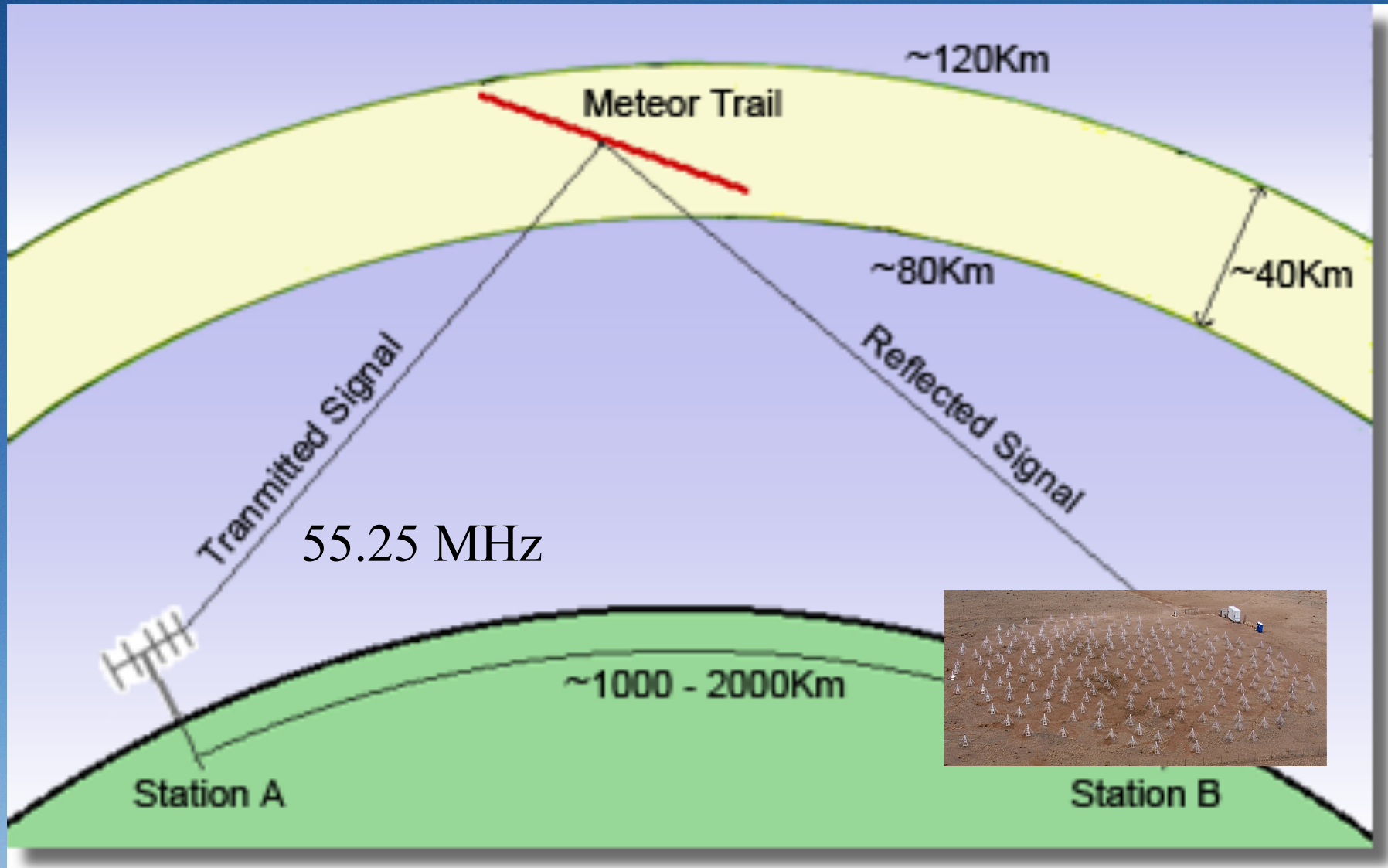
~10,000 events/hr

# Meteors – by reflection

2014-06-18 02:59:54



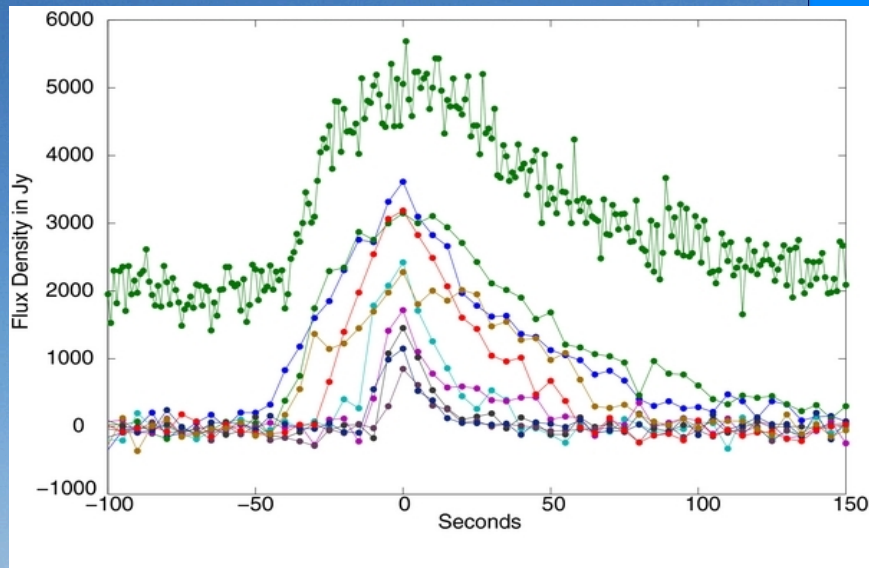
# Meteors – by reflection



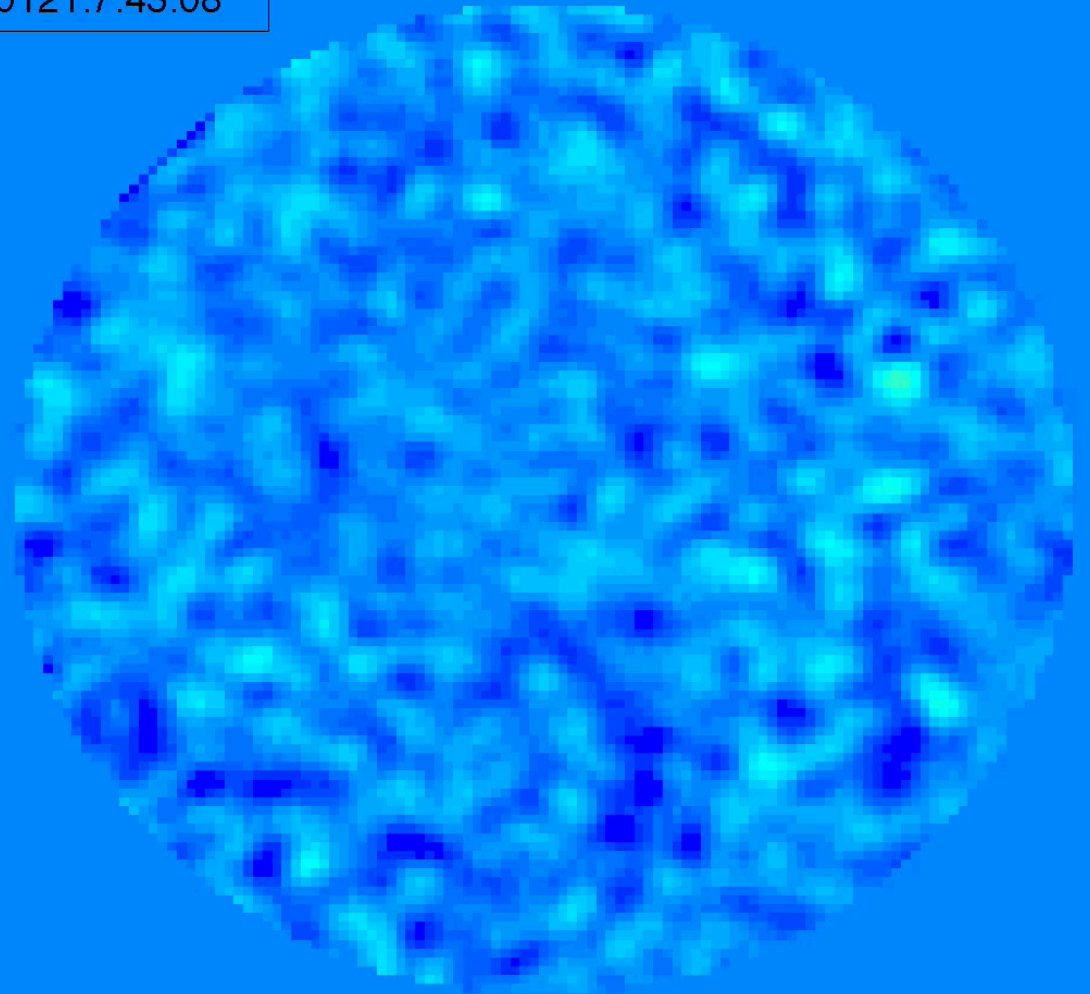
# Great Balls of Fire!

Obenberger et al. 2014, 2016

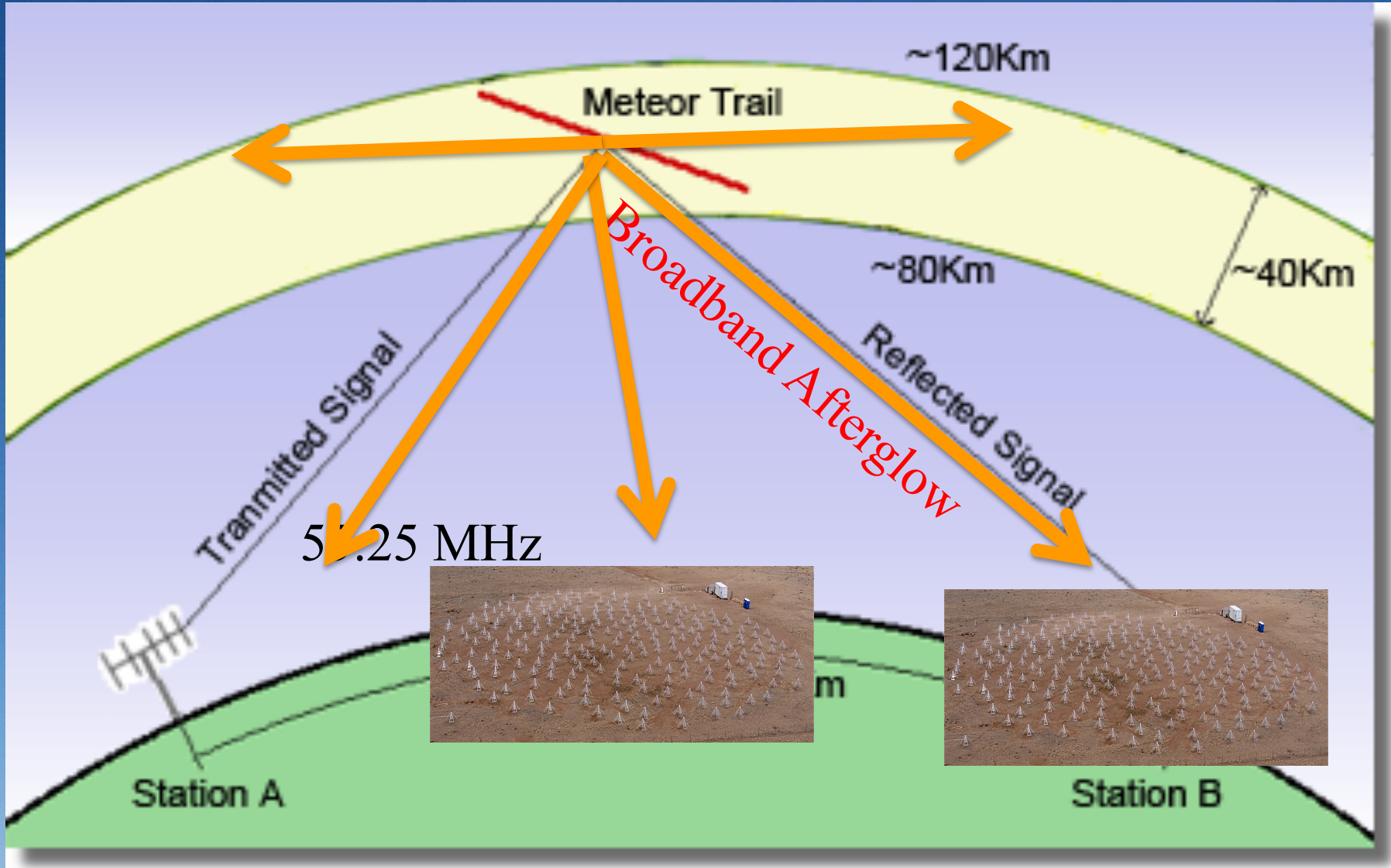
Light curves of the brightest transients



140121:7:43:08



# Meteors – by Emission

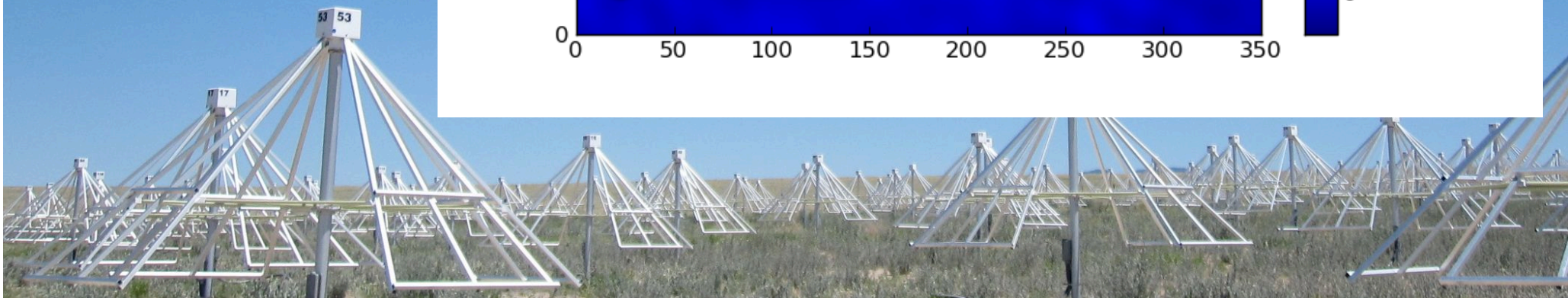
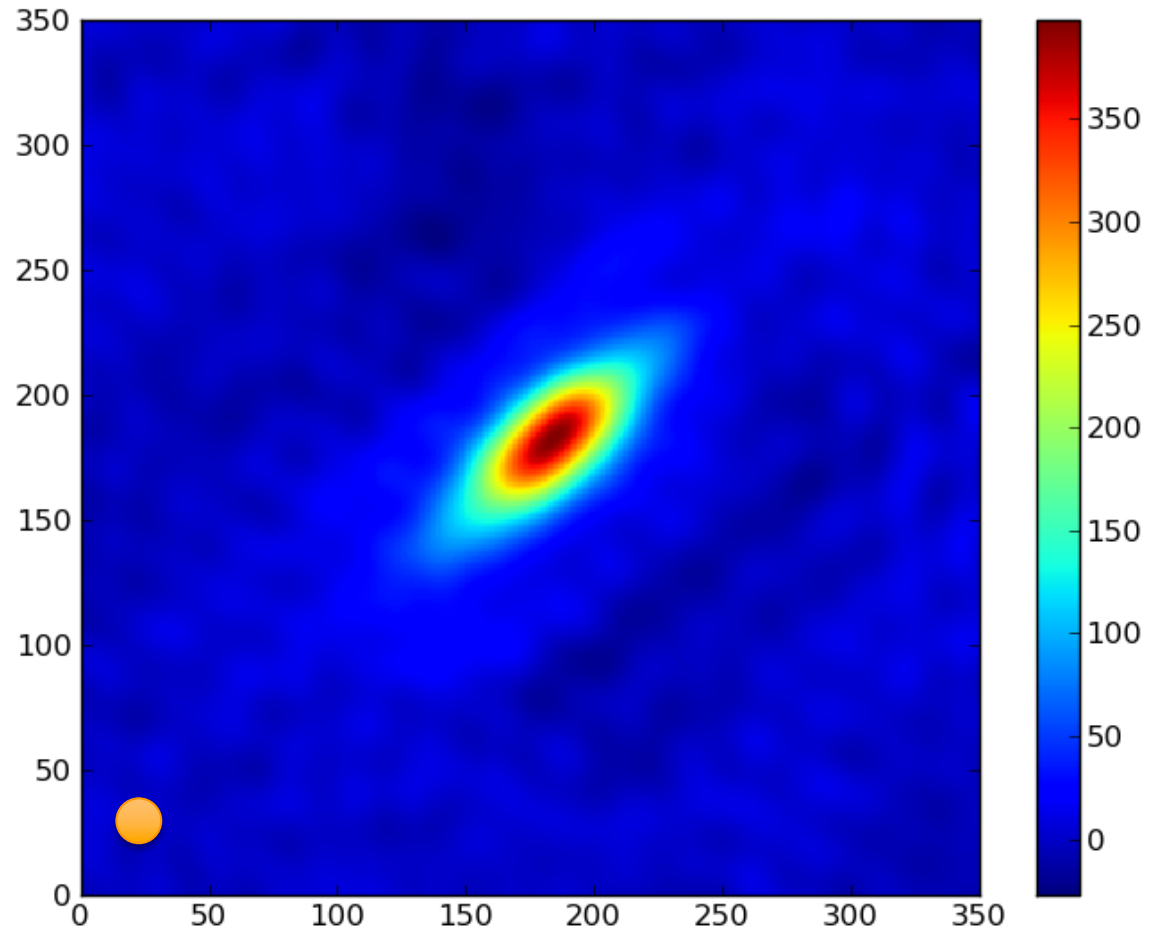


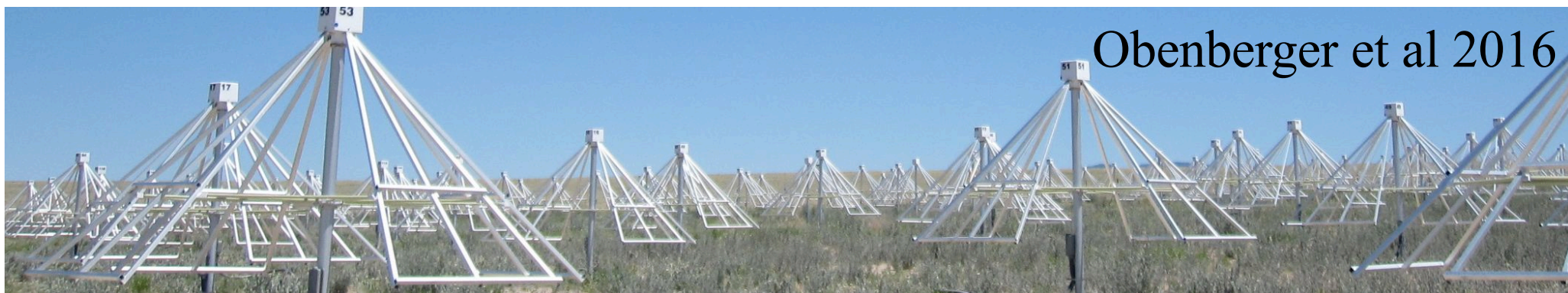
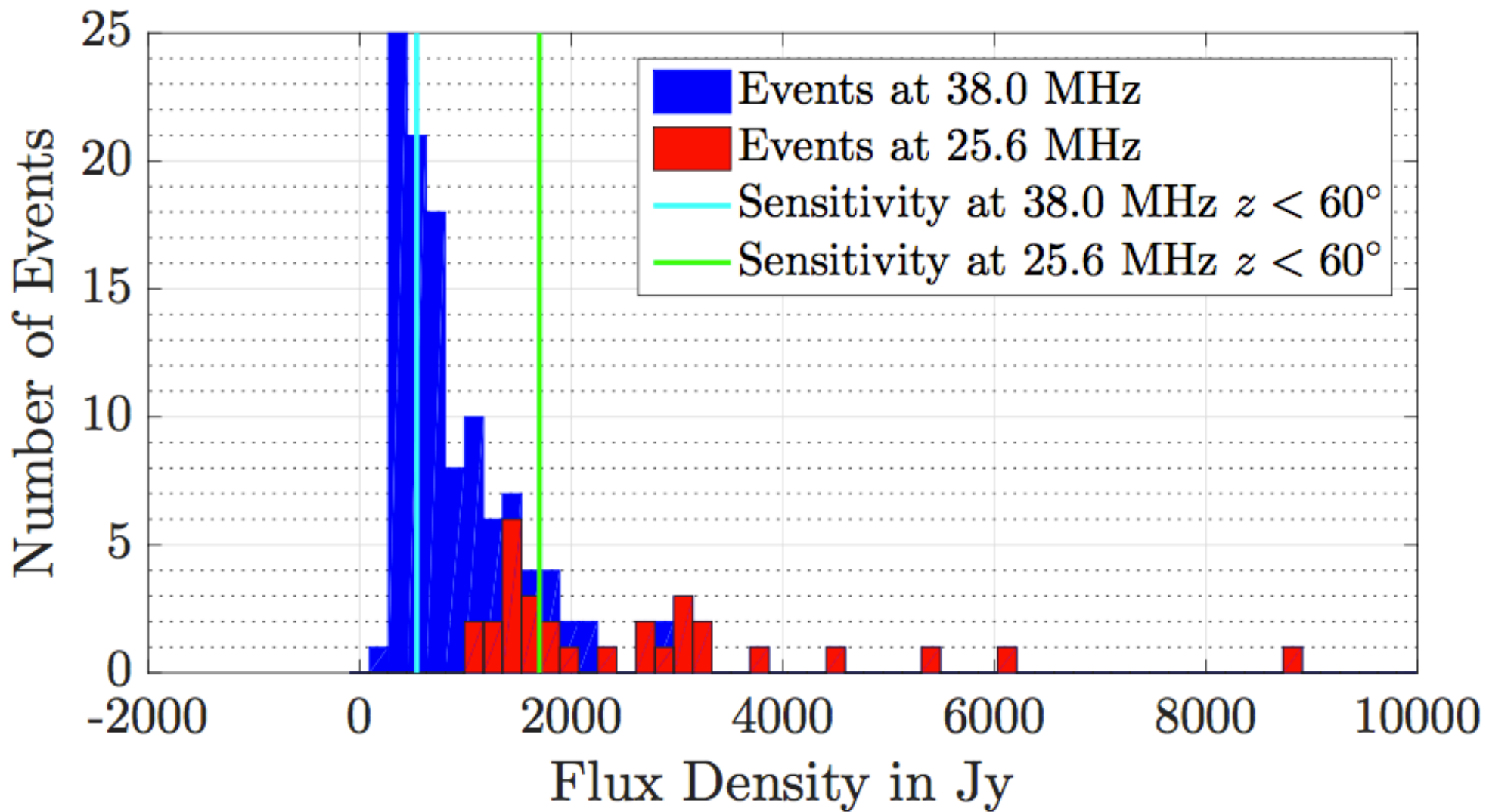
# Great Balls of Fire!

Varghese et al. in prep  
Using OVRO-LWA

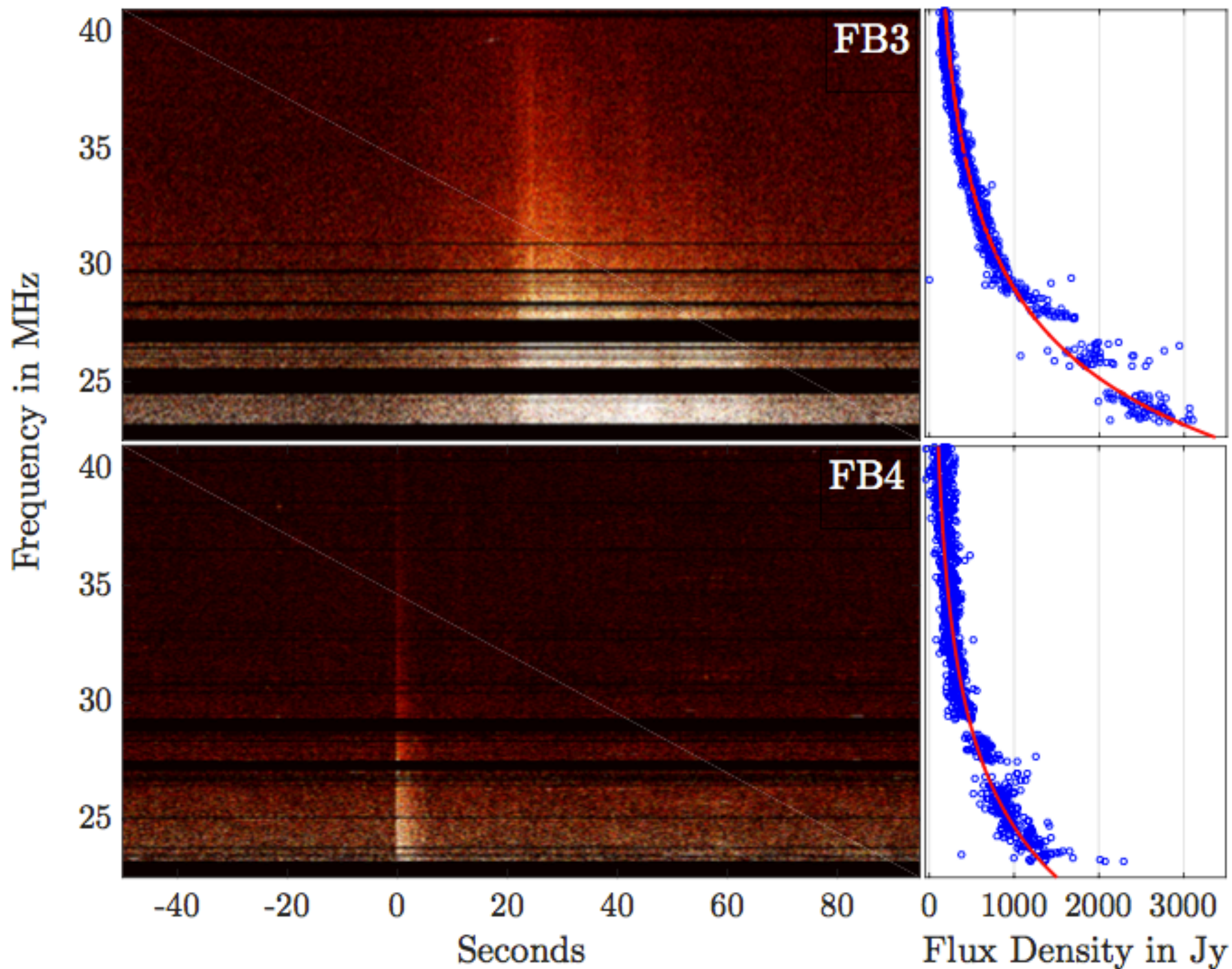
Resolution 20'

~0.6 km at 100 km  
elevation









# Fireballs – Persistent Trains

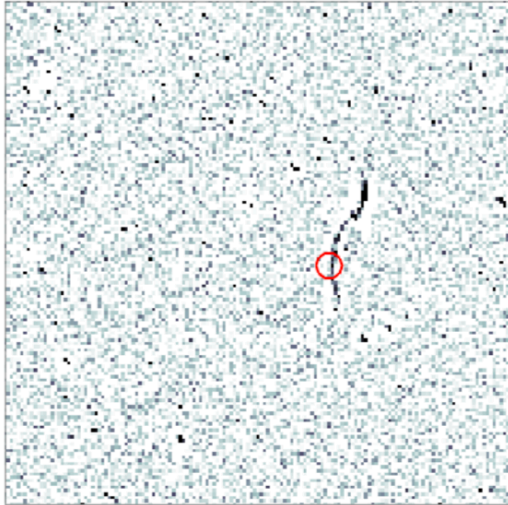


# Fireballs – Persistent Trains

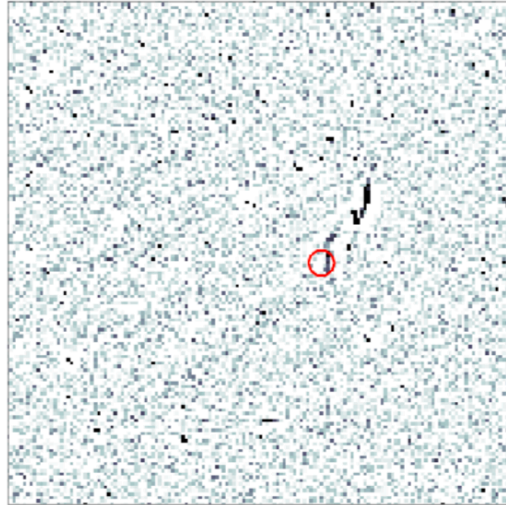


# Fireballs – Persistent Trains

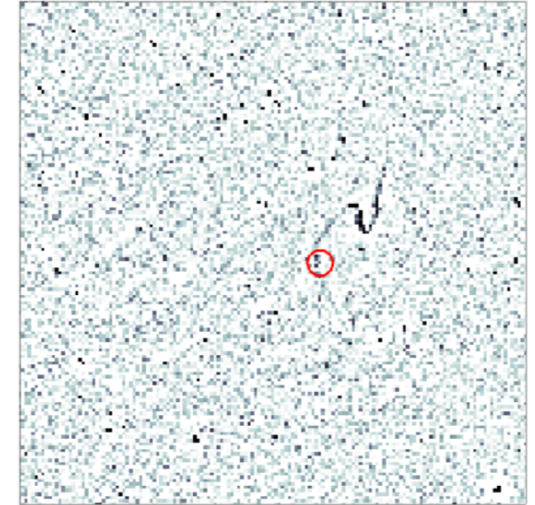
**t = 10 s**



**t = 20 s**

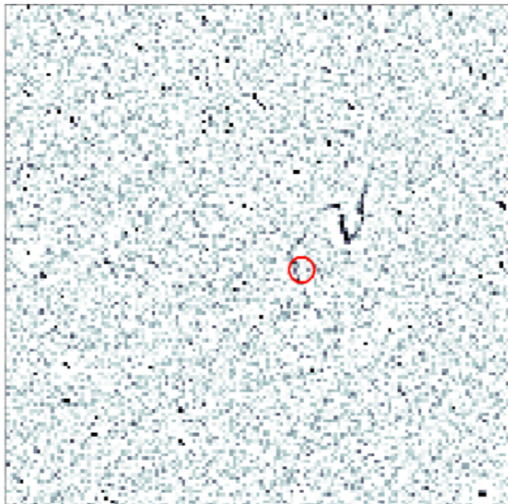


**t = 30 s**

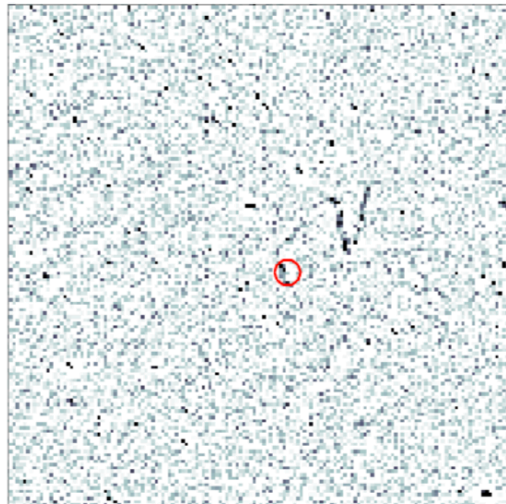


Obenberger et al. 2020

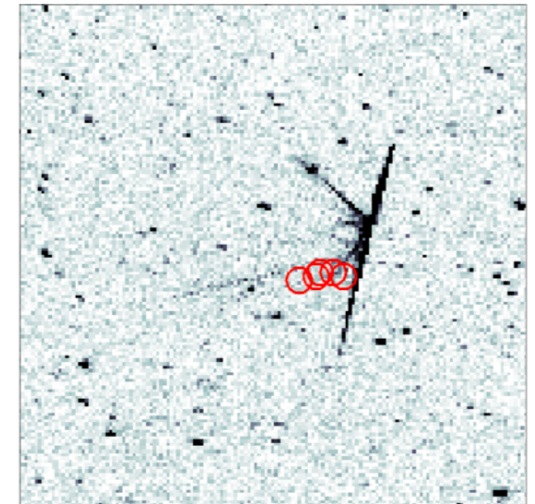
**t = 40 s**

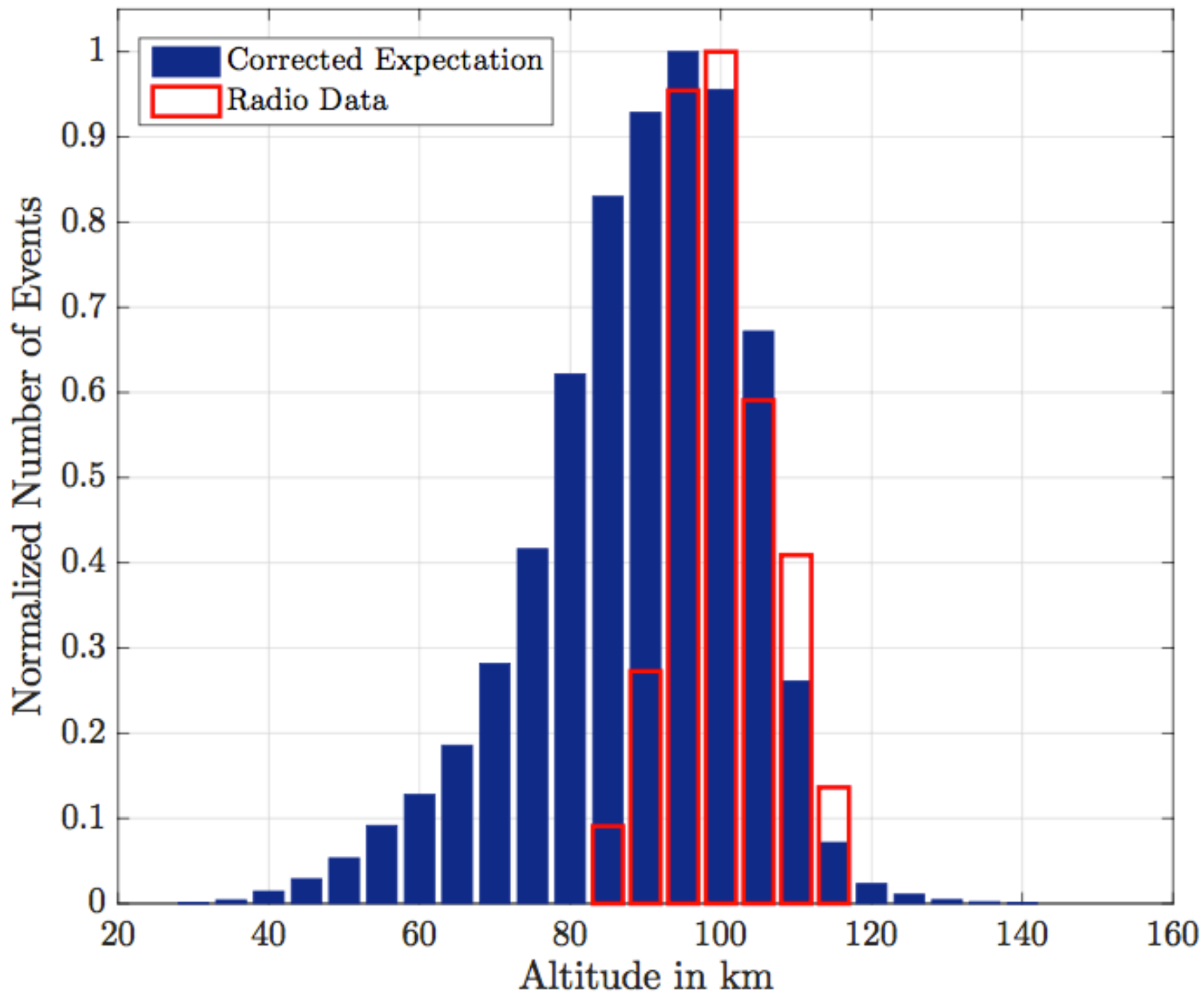


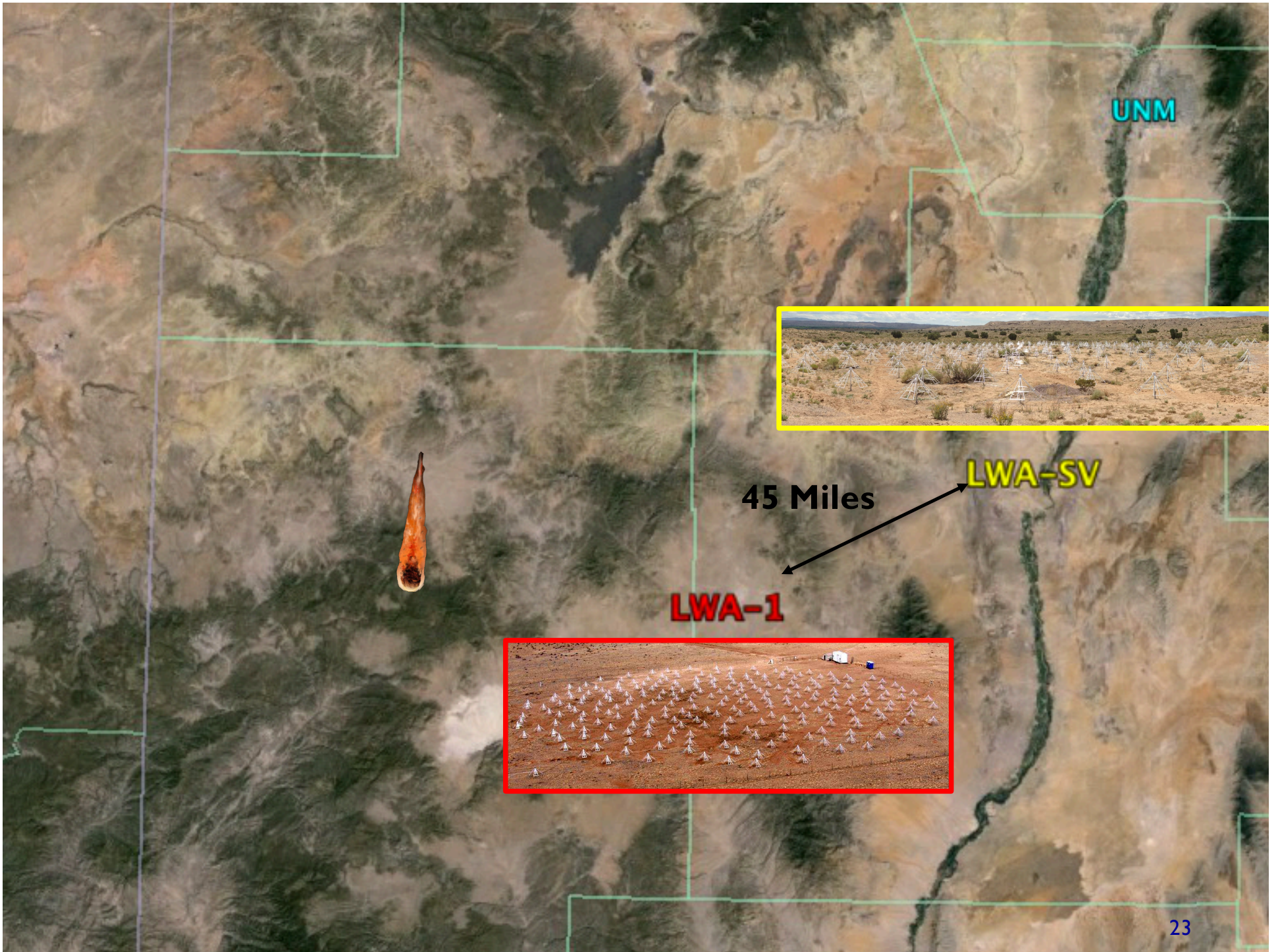
**t = 50 s**

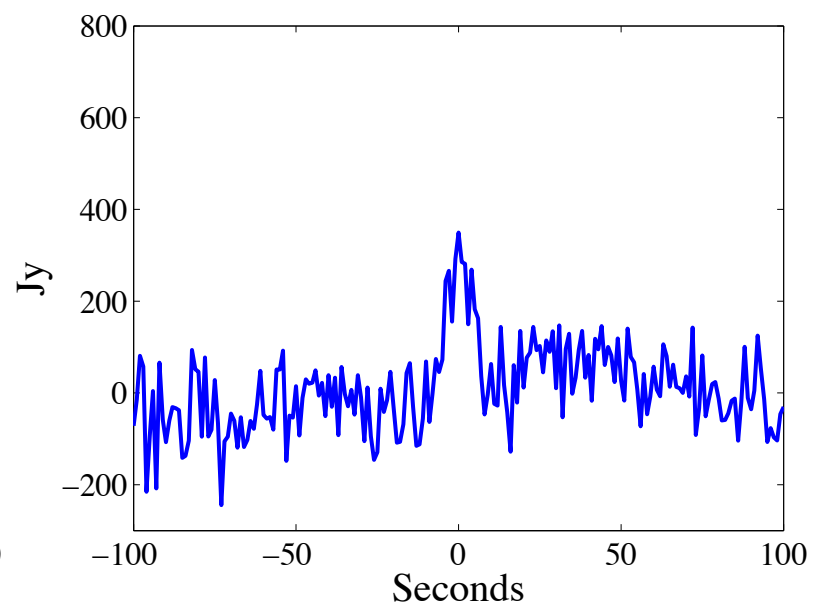
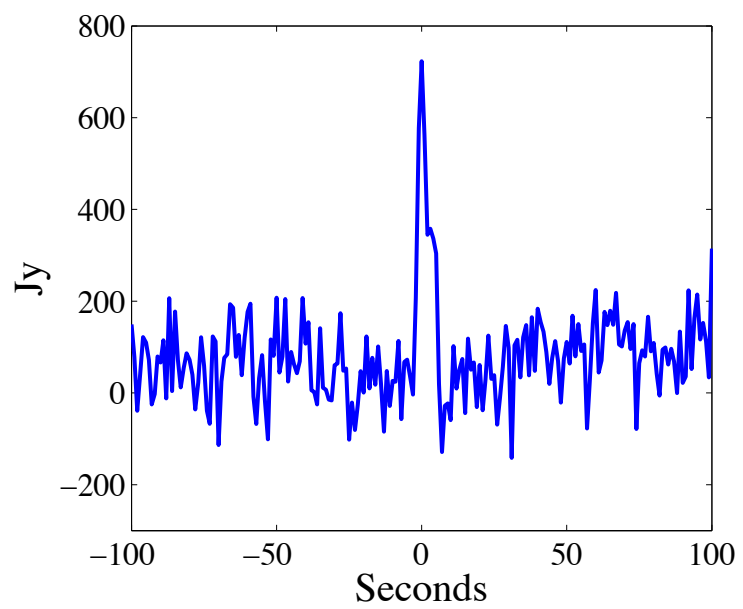
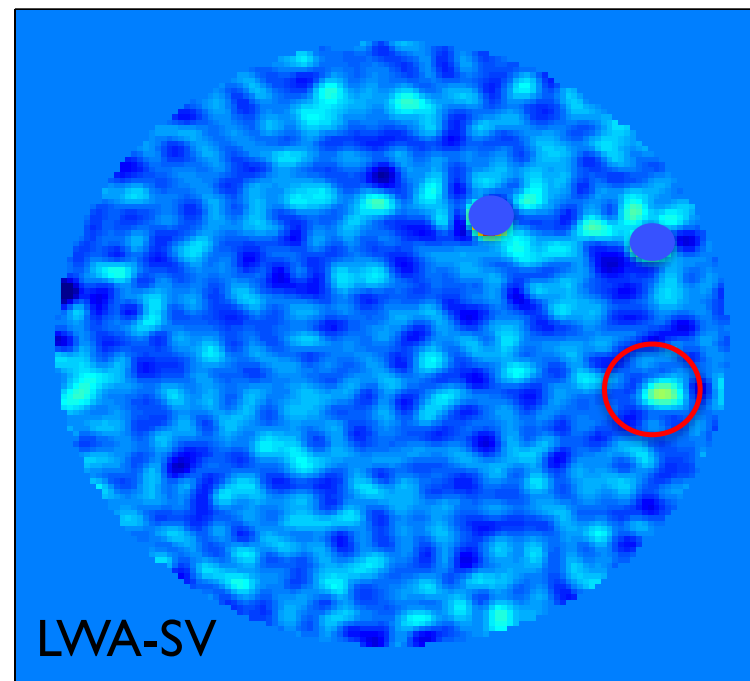
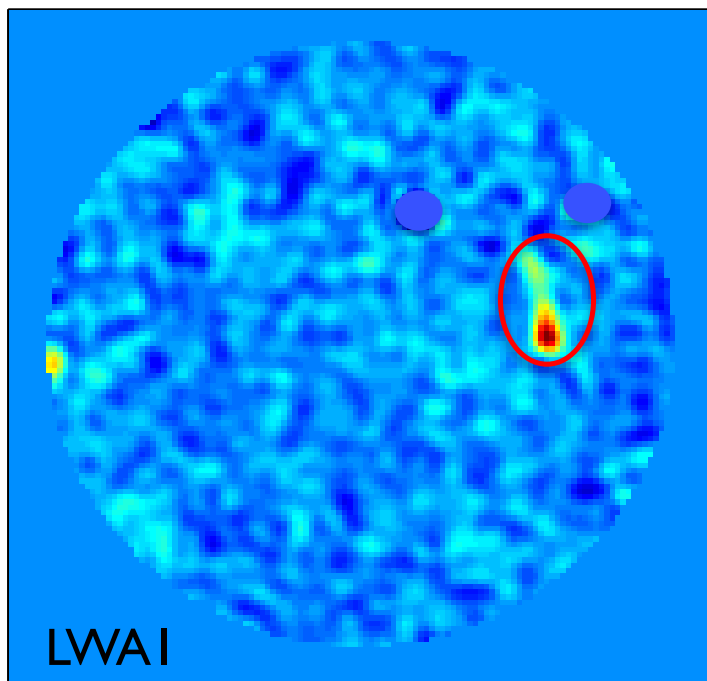


**Maximum Pixel**







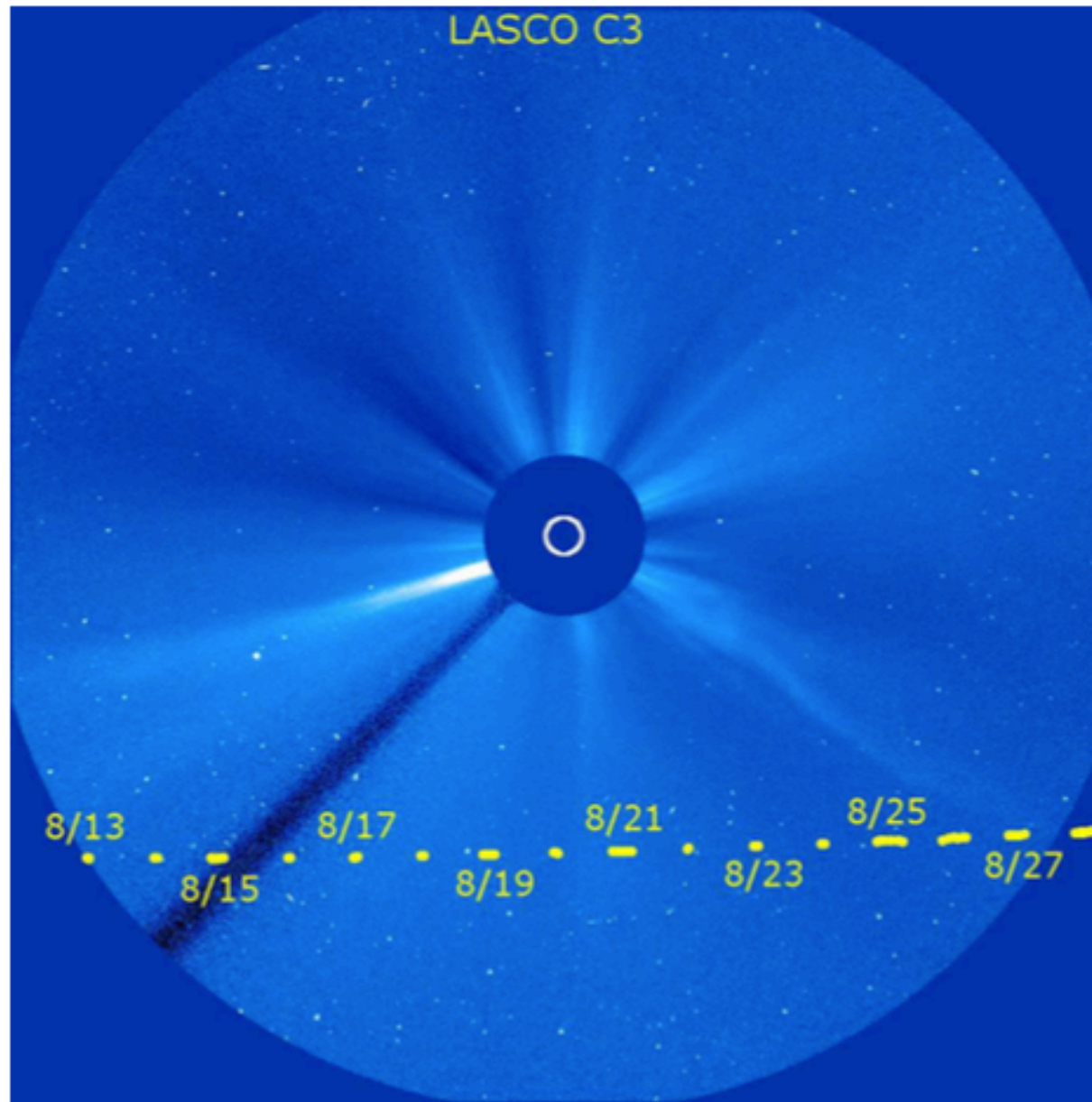


# Coronal Mass Ejection



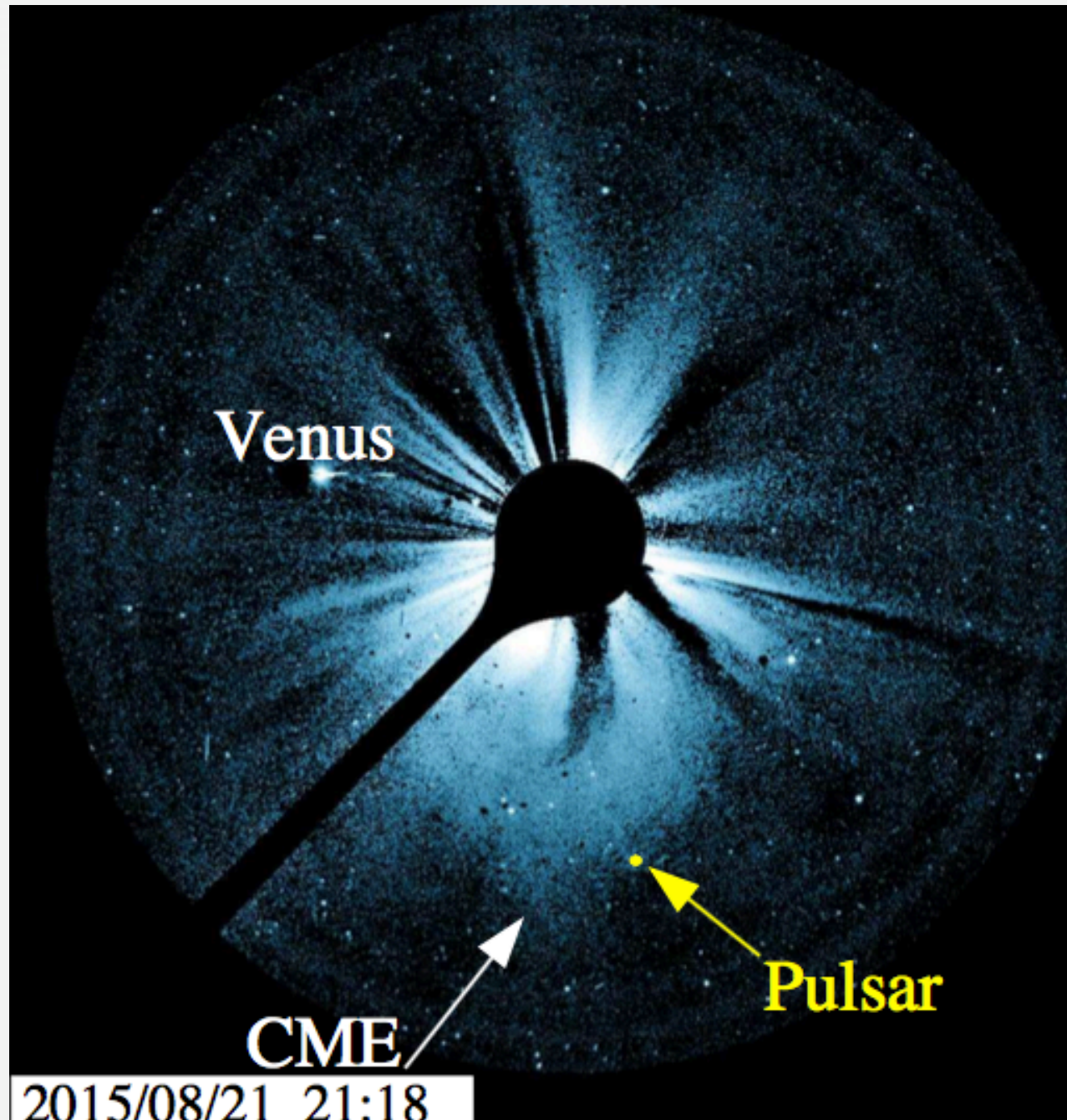


# Catching a Coronal Mass Ejection

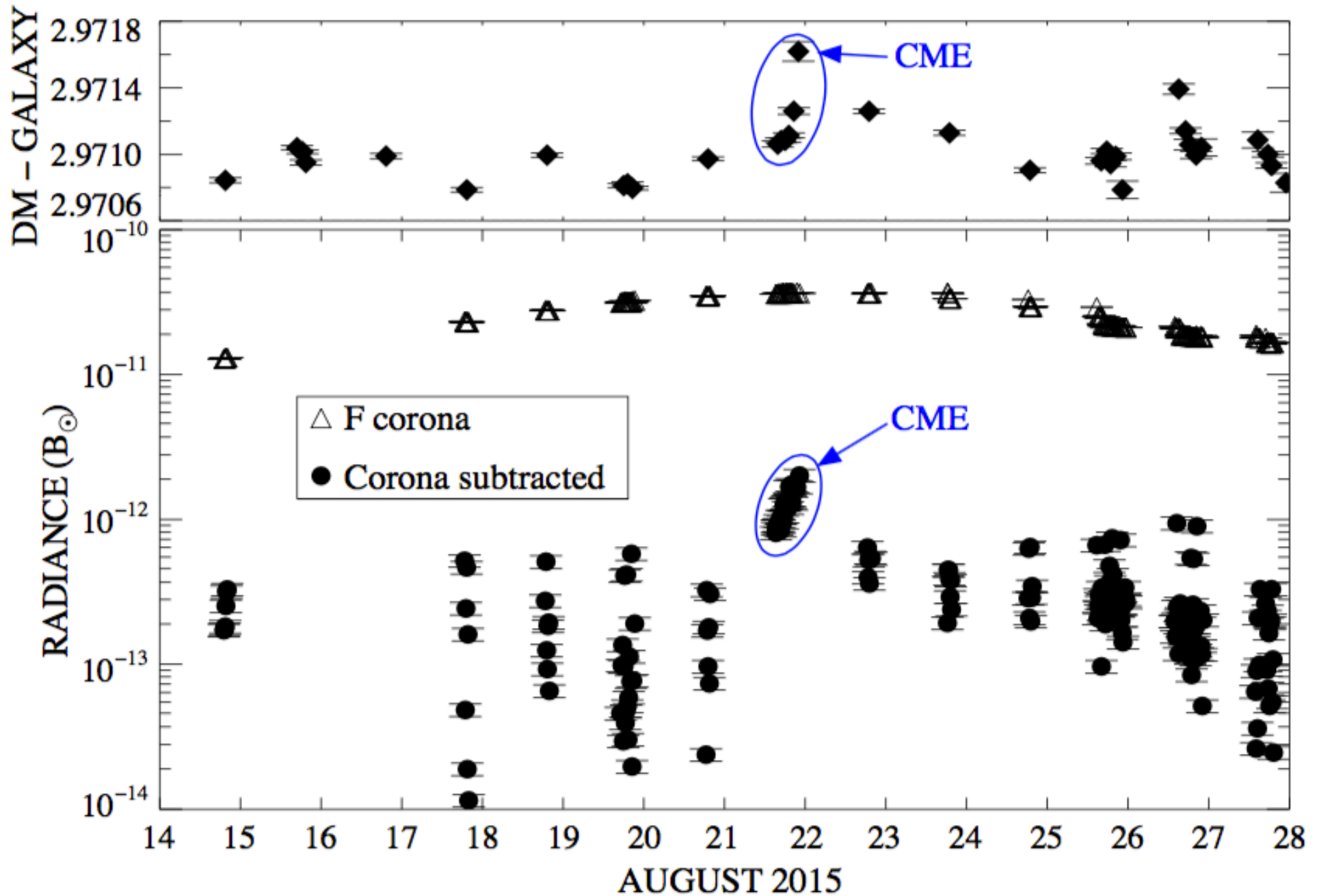


Howard et al 2016

# Catching a Coronal Mass Ejection



# Catching a Coronal Mass Ejection



# Current Low Frequency Interferometers: UTR 52



➤ Ukrainian T-shaped  
Radio telescope

➤ 2040 array elements

➤ 8-40 MHz tunable

At 17 MHz

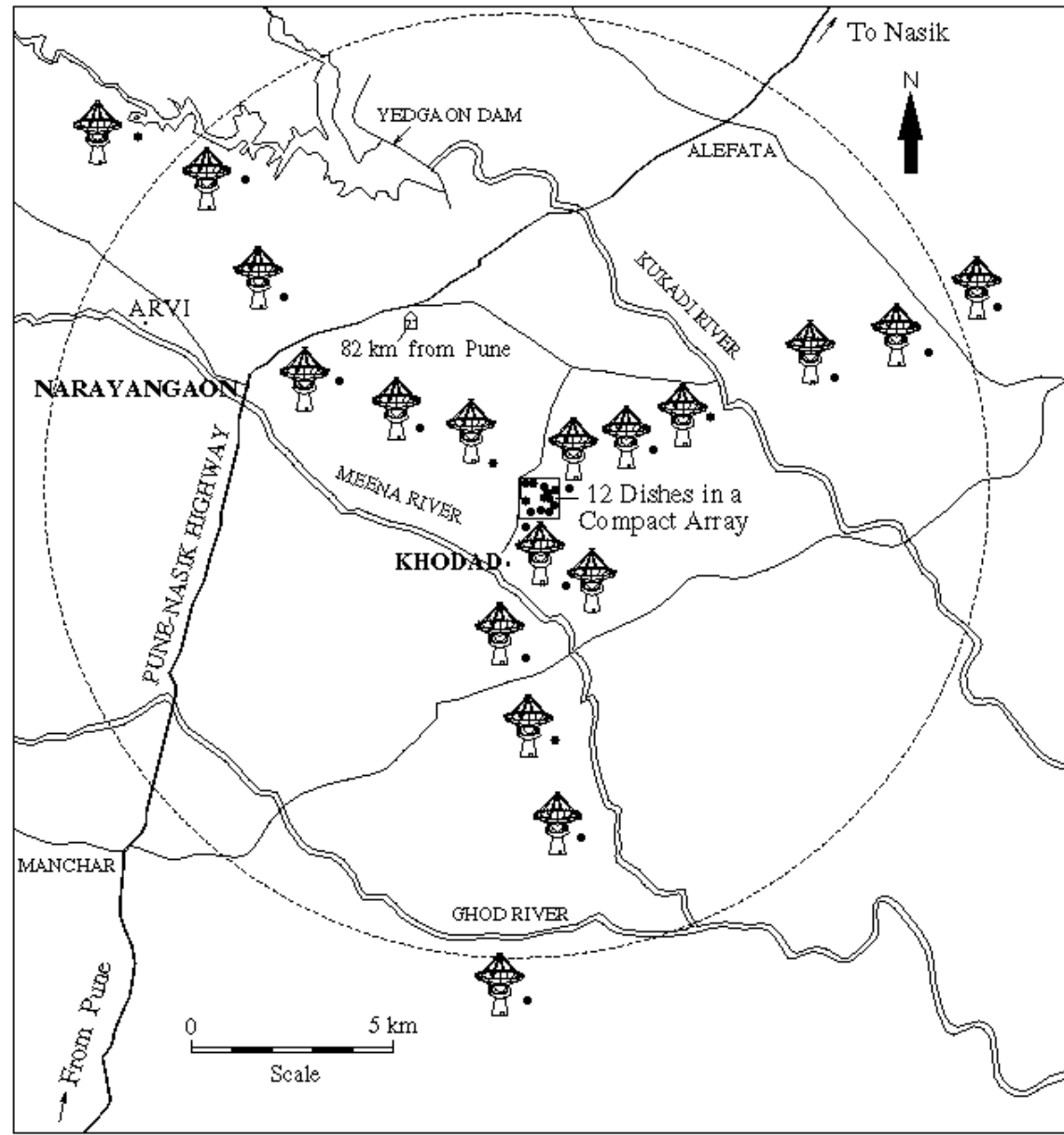
res  $\sim 0.6^\circ$

Area  $\sim 0.15 \text{ km}^2$

# Current Location of Prime Focus Feeds: GMRT



## PRIME FOCUS FEEDS



Receivers:

$I_z = 190\text{cm}$

$3.8^\circ$  (res  $\sim 20''$ )

$I_z = 128\text{cm}$

$2.5^\circ$  (res  $\sim 12''$ )

$I_z = 90\text{cm}$

$1.8^\circ$  (res  $\sim 9''$ )

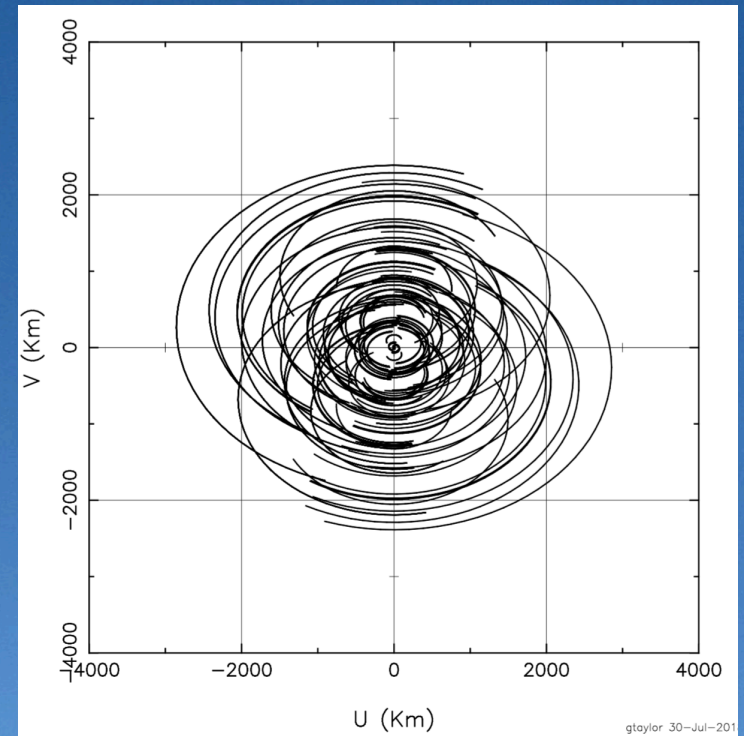
$I_z = 50\text{cm}$

$0.9^\circ$  (res  $\sim 5''$ )

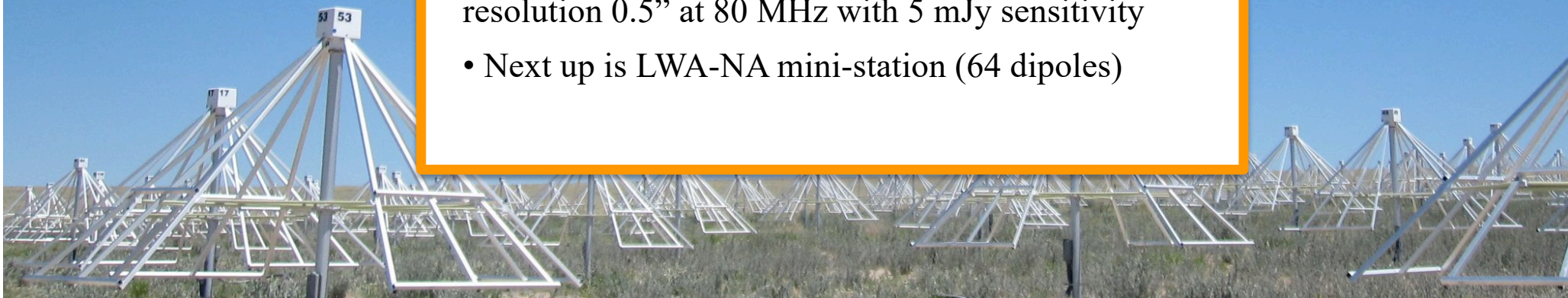
# LWA1



# LWA Swarm Concept



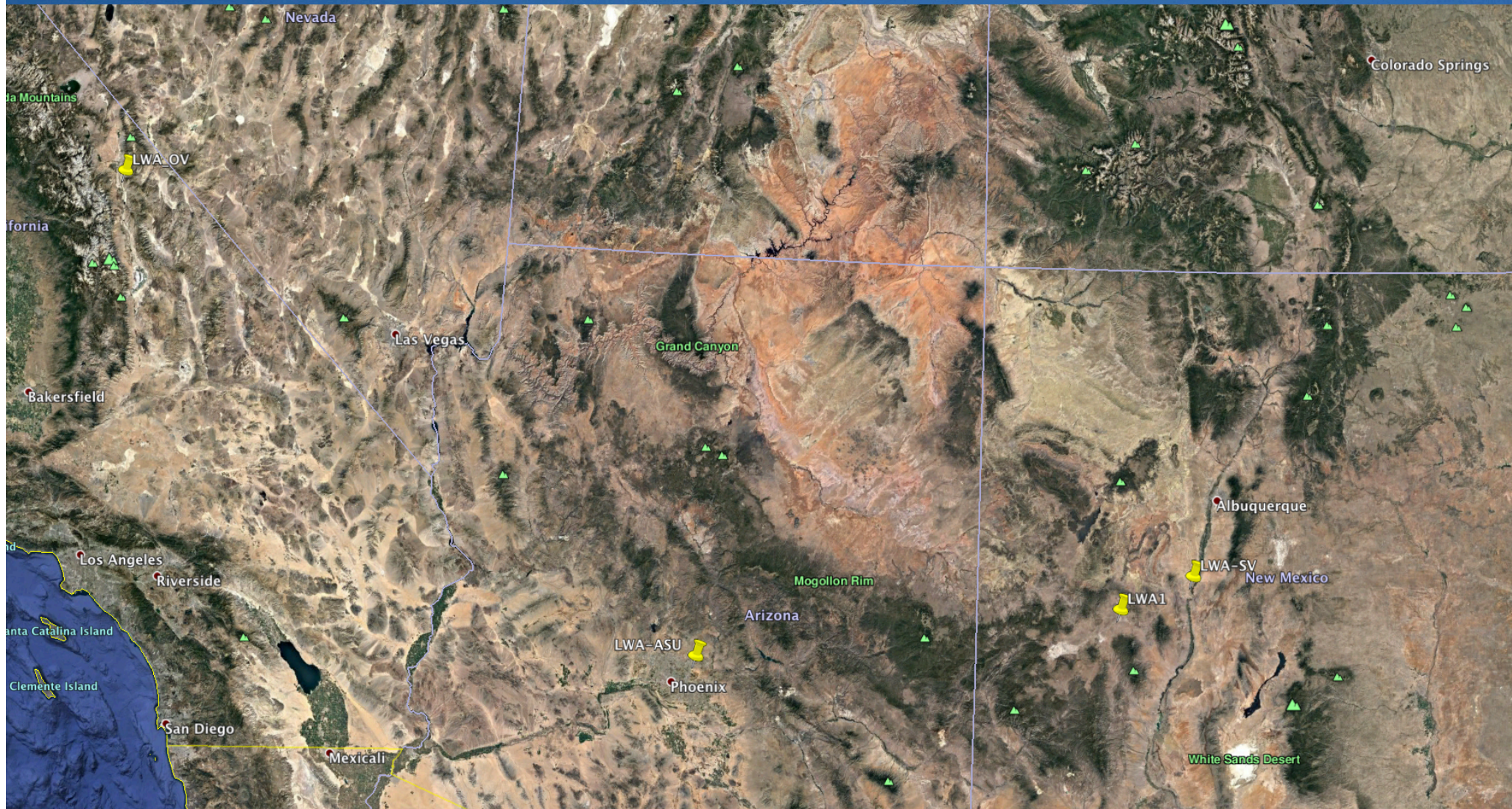
- Goal of 3 existing full stations (●) plus ~10 LWA mini stations (●), baselines up to 2500 km for resolution 0.5'' at 80 MHz with 5 mJy sensitivity
- Next up is LWA-NA mini-station (64 dipoles)



# LWA-ASU station

700 km ASU-OVRO

400 km ASU-LWA1



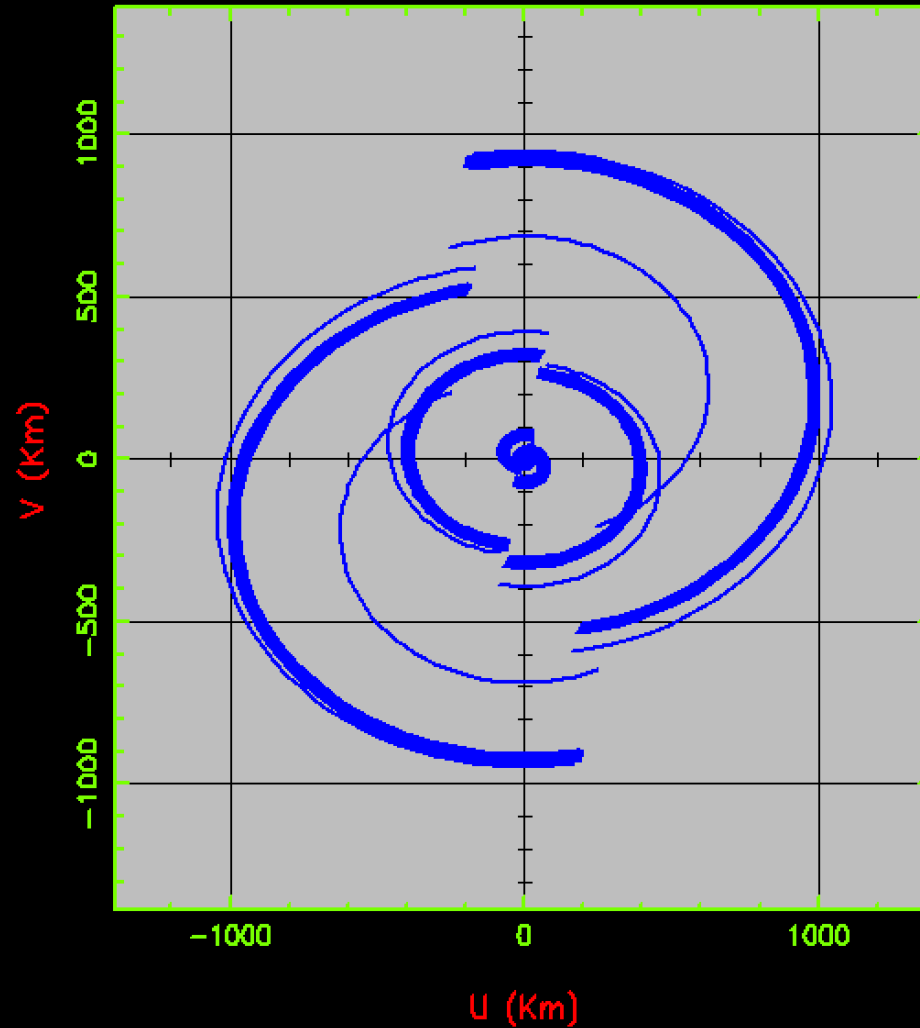


# LWA-ASU station

UV Coverage for svout

VLA13	VLA13
VLA14	VLA14
VLA15	VLA15
VLA16	VLA16
VLA17	VLA17
VLA18	VLA18
VLA19	VLA19
VLA20	VLA20
VLA21	VLA21
VLA22	VLA22
VLA23	VLA23
VLA24	VLA24
VLA25	VLA25
VLA26	VLA26
VLA28	VLA28
VLA13	
VLA14	
VLA15	
VLA16	
VLA17	
VLA18	
VLA19	
VLA20	
VLA21	
VLA22	
VLA23	
VLA24	
VLA25	
VLA26	
VLA28	

J0136+4751

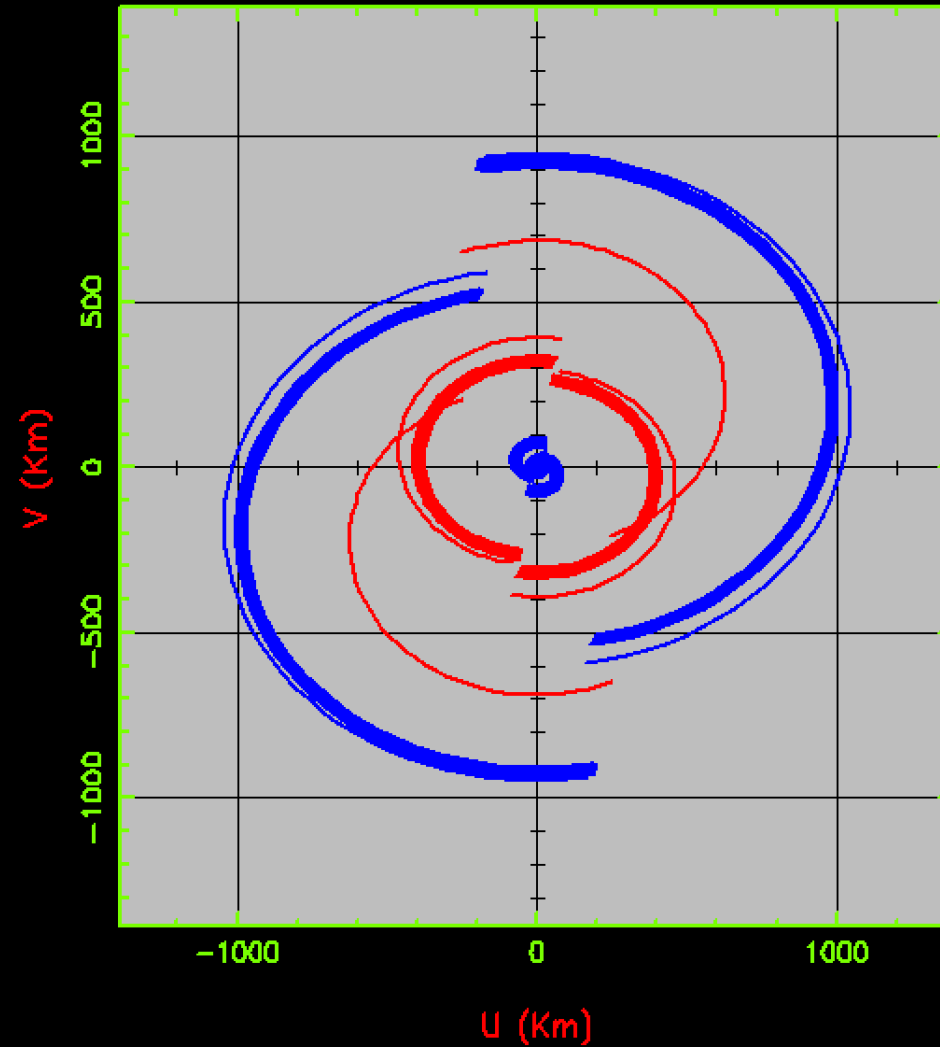


# LWA-ASU station

UV Coverage for svout

VLA13	VLA13
VLA14	VLA14
VLA15	VLA15
VLA16	VLA16
VLA17	VLA17
VLA18	VLA18
VLA19	VLA19
VLA20	VLA20
VLA21	VLA21
VLA22	VLA22
VLA23	VLA23
VLA24	VLA24
VLA25	VLA25
VLA26	VLA26
VLA28	VLA28

J0136+4751



# LWA Science

## Astrophysics

- **Cosmology**  
Observing cosmic dawn through redshift 30 absorption of the 21 cm line. High redshift radio galaxies, containing the earliest black holes
- **Acceleration, Propagation & Turbulence in the ISM**  
Origin, spectrum & distribution of Galactic cosmic rays, Supernova remnants & Galactic evolution, Pulsars and their environments
- **Solar Science & Space Weather**  
Jupiter, **Radio heliography of solar bursts** & coronal mass ejections, Solar magnetic fields
- **Exploration of the Transient Universe**  
New coherent sources, GRB prompt emission, poorly explored parameters space ...
- **Meteors**  
Self-emission and reflections of man-made signals

## Iono- & Atmospheric Physics

- **Unprecedented continuous spatial & temporal imaging of the ionosphere**
- **Test and improve global ionospheric models**
- **High-time-resolution Imaging of Lightning**

## Cosmic Ray Physics

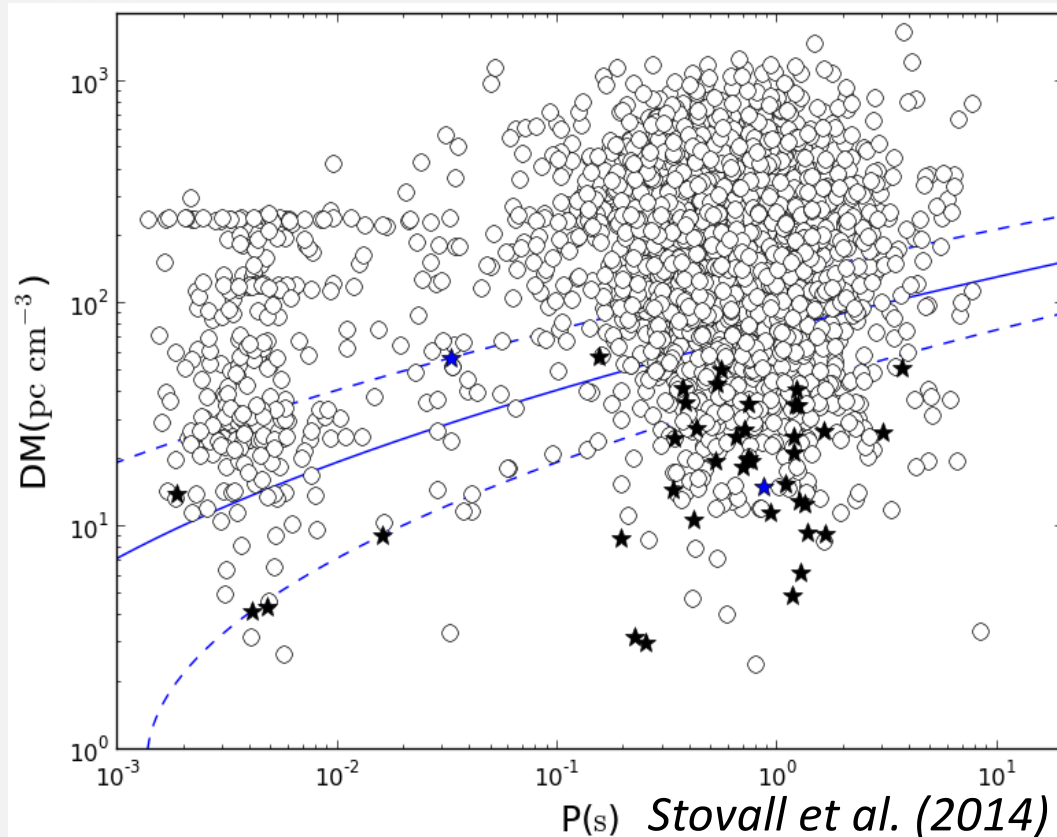
### Your ideas?

All of LWA1 time is open skies.  
Your observing proposals are  
welcome!

# LWA1 Pulsar Detections

J0030+0451	B1133+16
B0031-07	B1237+25
J0034-0534	J1327+34
B0138+59	B1508+55
J0203+70	B1540-06
B0320+39	B1541+09
B0329+54	B1604-00
B0355+54	B1612+07
B0450+55	B1642-03
B0525+21	B1706-16
B0531+21*	B1749-28
B0628-28	B1822-09
B0655+64	B1839+56
B0809+74	B1842+14
B0818-13	B1919+21
B0823+26	B1929+10
B0834+06	B2020+28
B0919+06	B2110+27
B0943+10	J2145-0750
B0950+08	B2217+47
B1112+50	J2324-05

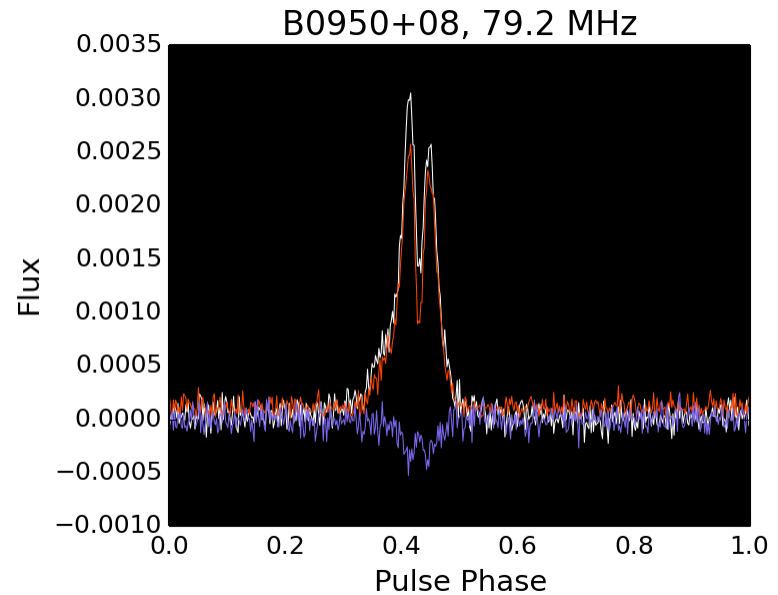
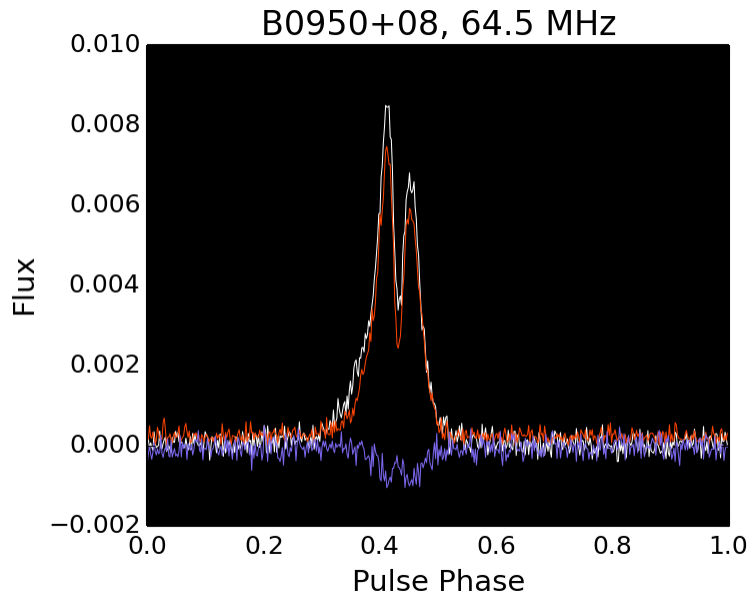
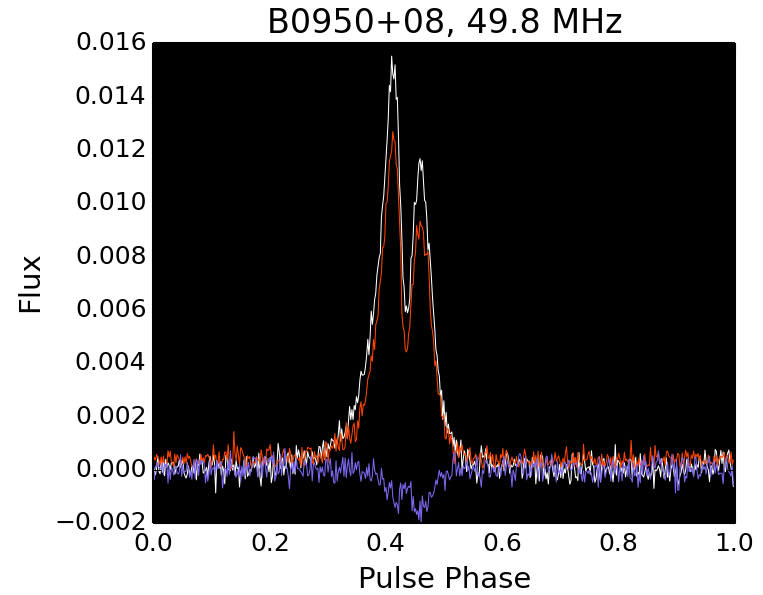
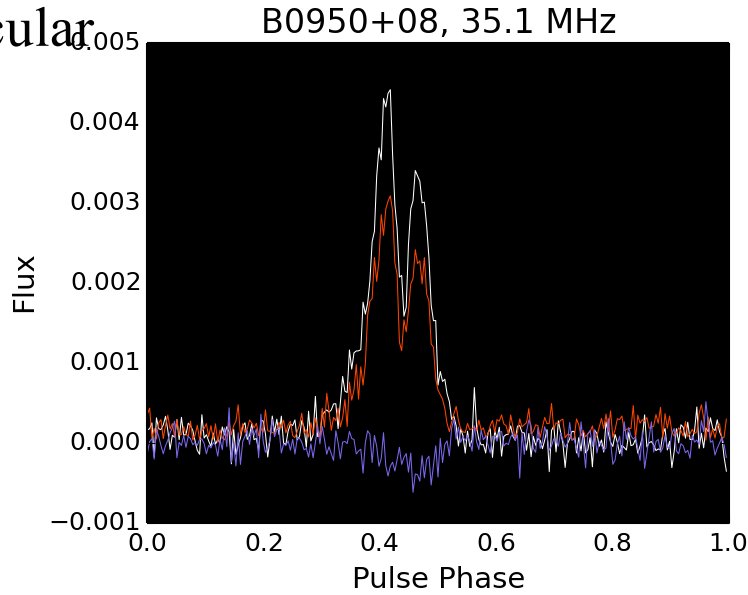
- 102 Pulsars detected (58 through pulsations, 2 through single pulses)
- 7 MSPs detected
- Periods from 1.9ms to 3.7s



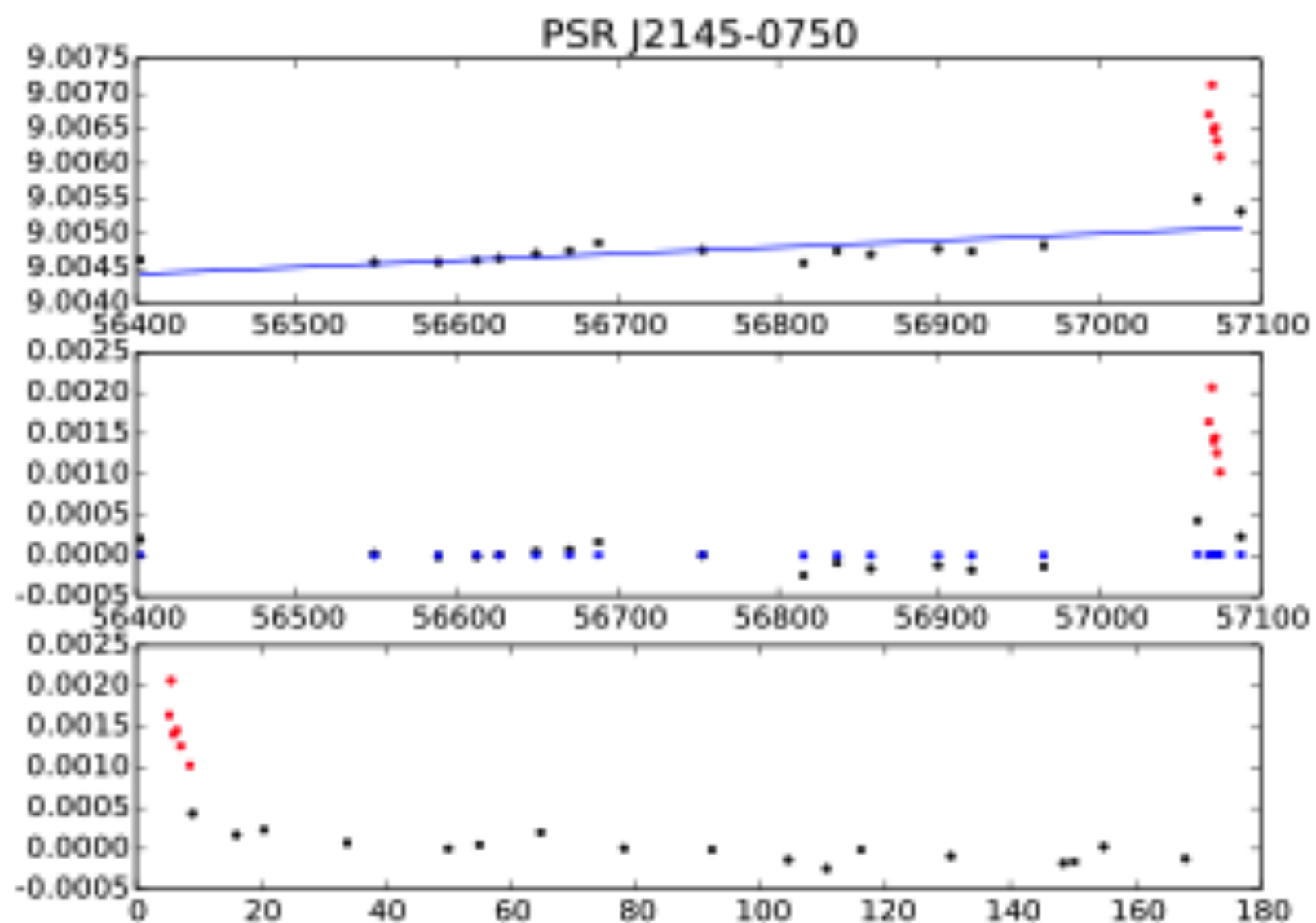
White=Total  
Red=Linear  
Blue=Circular

# Polarized Pulse Profiles

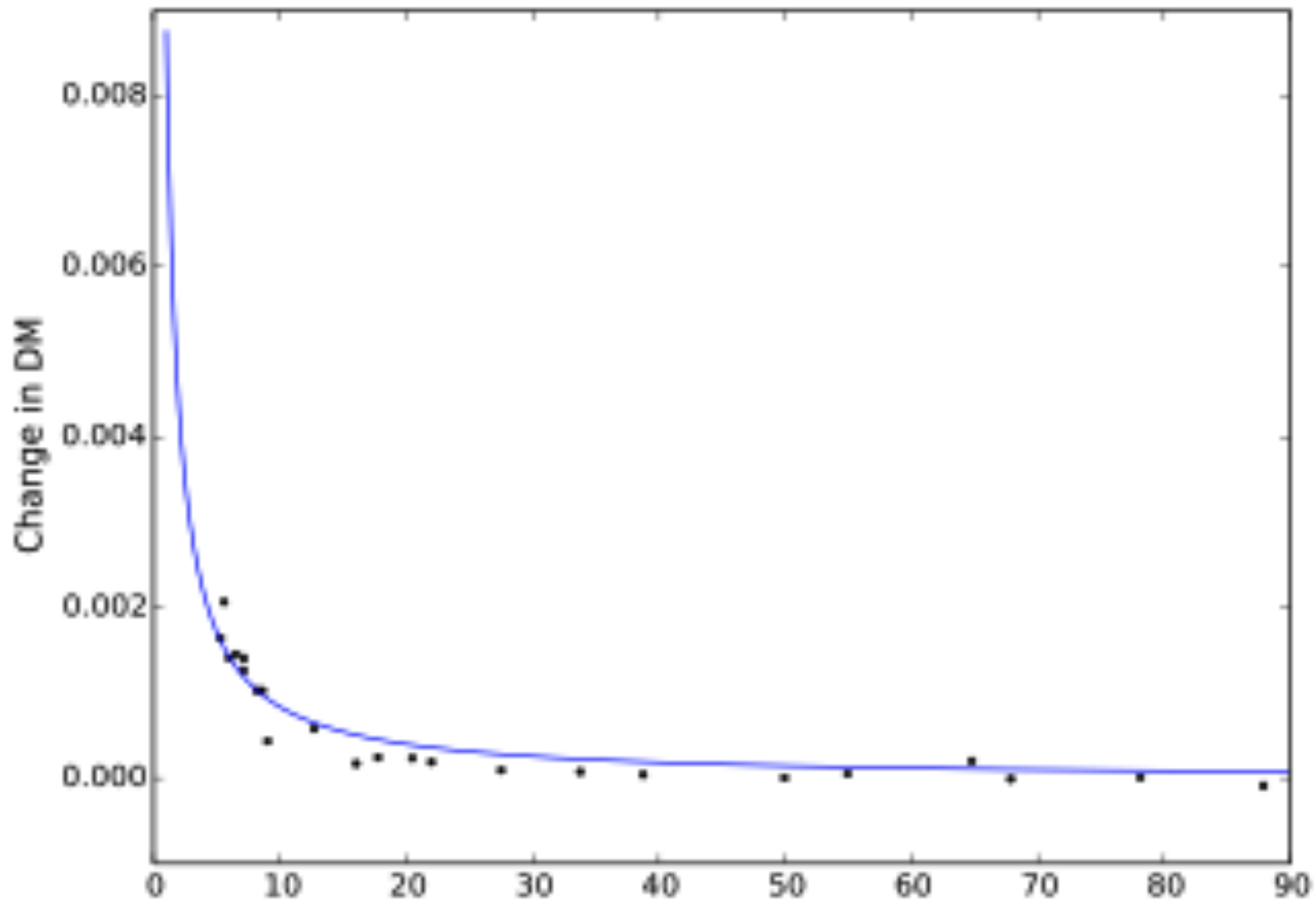
Dike et al.  
2021



# DM Variations



# Solar System Electron Density



# Rotation Measure Fitting

PSR B0950+08

$$RM_{\text{Meas}} = 2.36(4)$$

$$RM_{\text{F}} = 1.2(1)$$

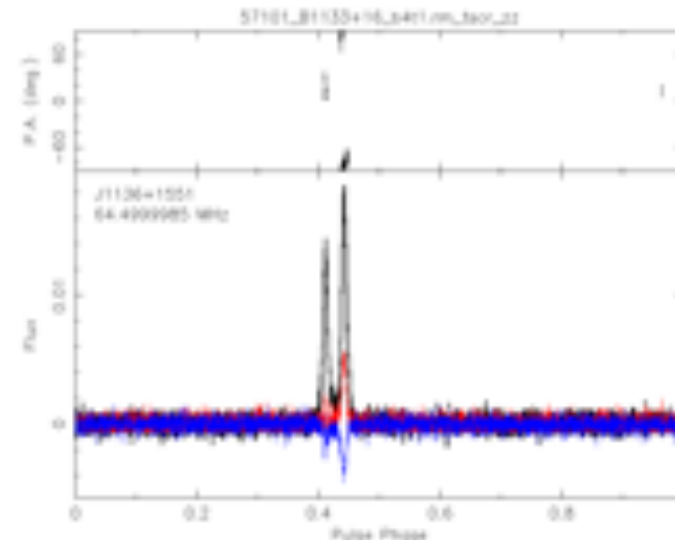
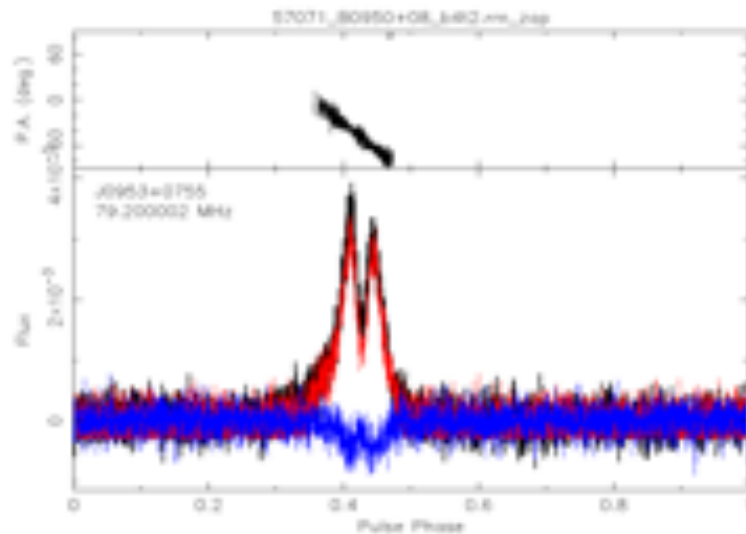
$$RM_{\text{of}} = 1.2(2)$$

PSR B1133+16

$$RM_{\text{Meas}} = 4.61(1)$$

$$RM_{\text{F}} = 0.84(4)$$

$$RM_{\text{of}} = 3.77(5)$$





# Rotating Radio Transients (RRATs)

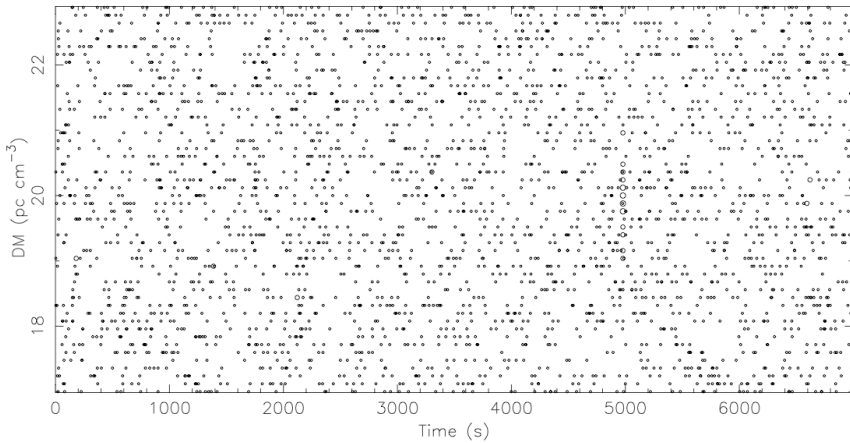
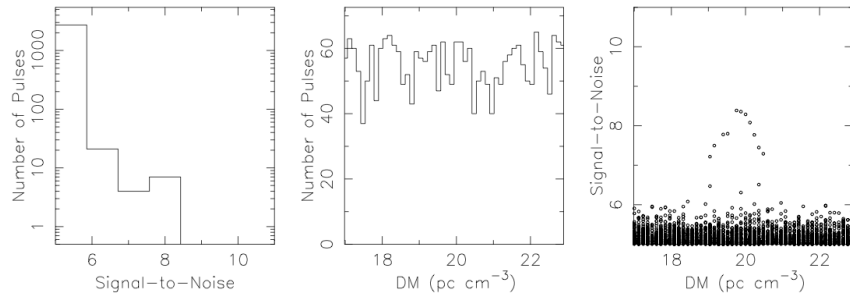
## J0203+70

Single pulse results for 'J0203+70'

Source: J0203+70  
Telescope: LWA  
Instrument: DRX

RA (J2000): 02:03:00.0000  
DEC (J2000): 70:23:00.0000  
MJD<sub>bary</sub>: 56582.270608784478

N samples: 33473720  
Sampling time: 208.98  $\mu$ s  
Freq<sub>ctr</sub>: 64.0 MHz



rmiller 13-Dec-2013 00:05

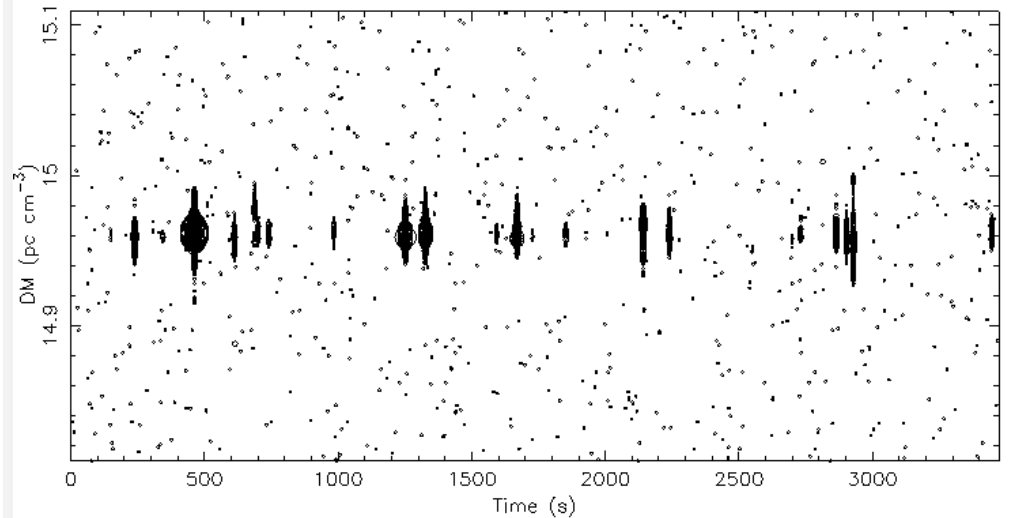
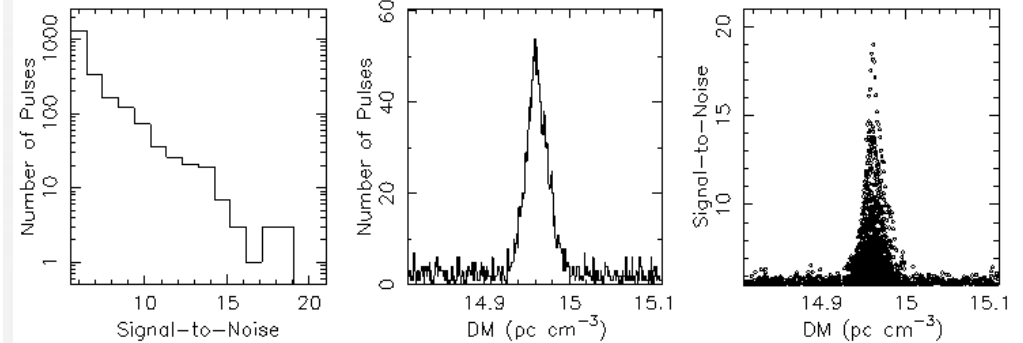
## J2324-05

Single pulse results for 'drx\_56863\_J2324-05'

Source: J2324-05  
Telescope: LWA  
Instrument: DRX

RA (J2000): 23:24:22.2000  
DEC (J2000): -05:07:36.0000  
MJD<sub>bary</sub>: 56863.417410655777

N samples: 16614570  
Sampling time: 208.98  $\mu$ s  
Freq<sub>ctr</sub>: 57.1 MHz

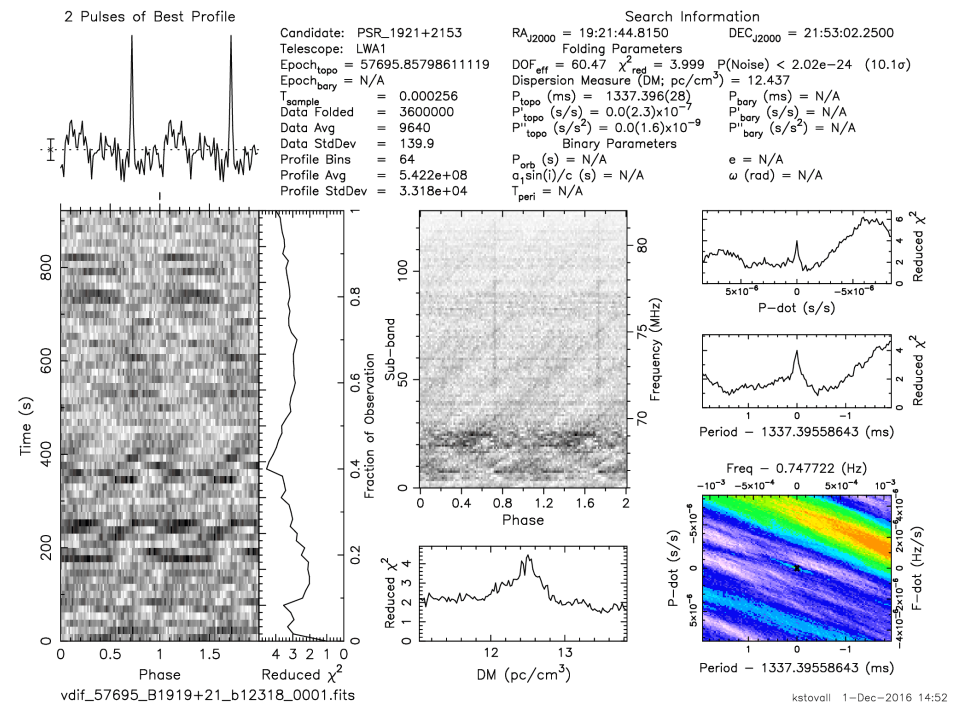
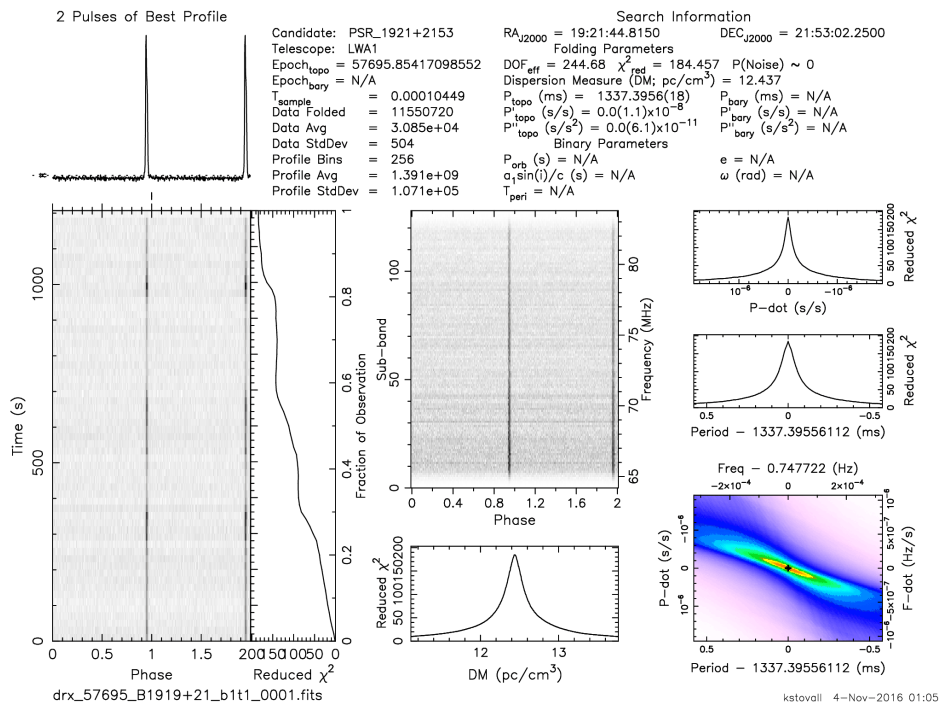


kstovall 7-Aug-2014 09:54

3 detected so far, search is ongoing

# PSR B1919+21

- Test observation on Nov 03<sup>rd</sup> 2016, 20 min
- 12 antennas (A config.) + LWA1
- 16 MHz bandwidth/4 bit



LWA1 256 dipoles

vs.

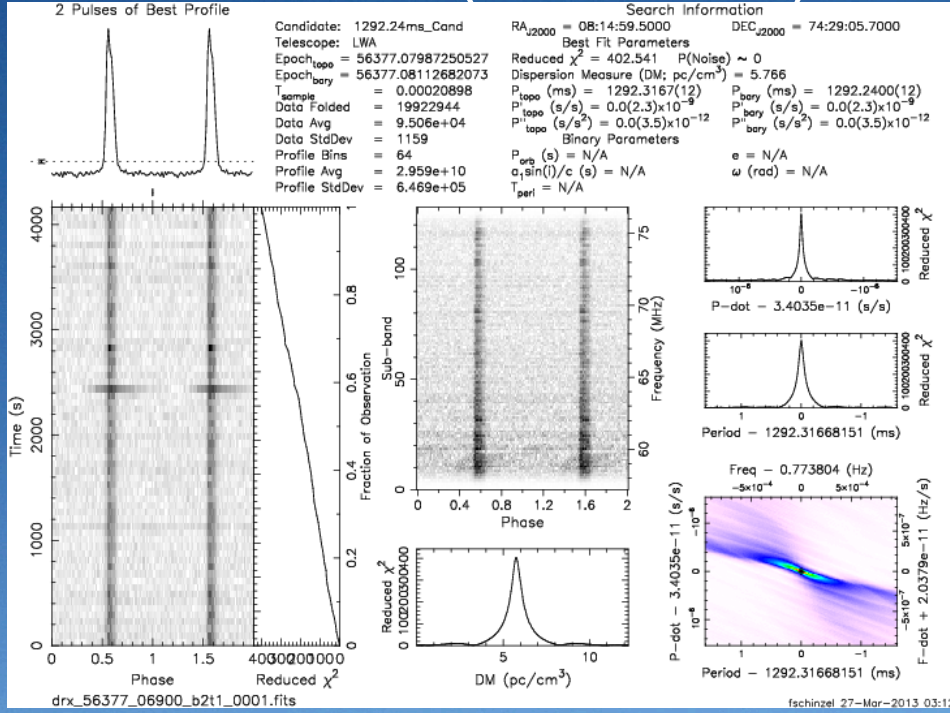
VLA ant18, a 25m dish with MJP



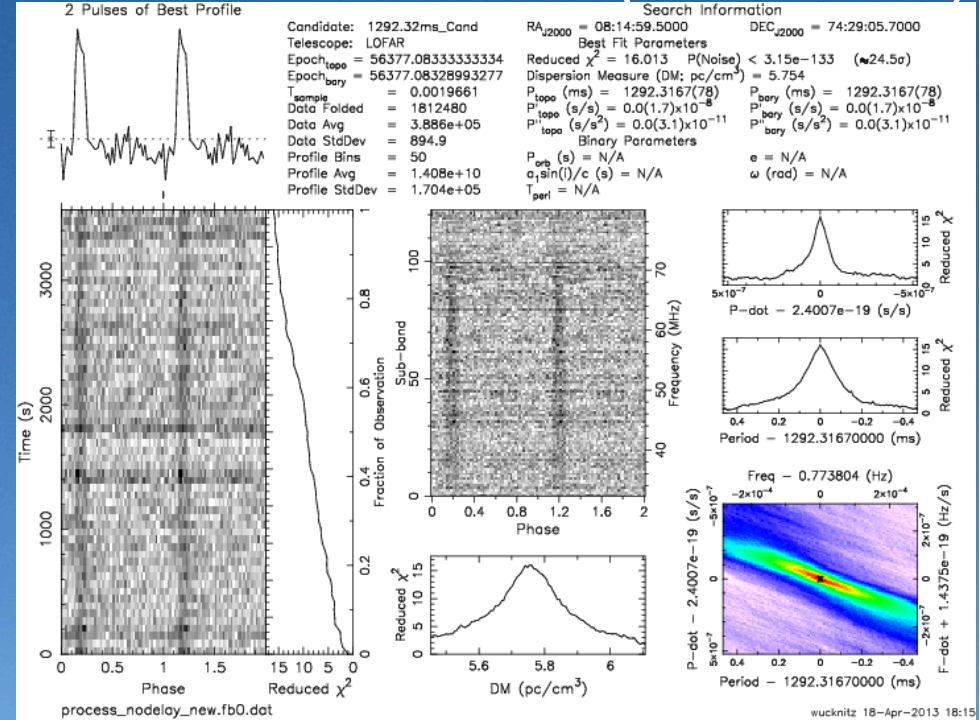
# Using Pulsars to compare sensitivity

## LWAI Compared to LOFAR Int'l Station

### LWAI (59-75 MHz)



### LOFAR SE607 (36-75 MHz)



256 dipoles

vs

96 dipoles

PSR B0809+74 (Wucknitz, Schinzel, McKay, Carozzi)

