

A visualization of the cosmic web, showing a complex network of dark matter filaments and galaxy clusters. The filaments are represented by a dense web of thin, dark lines, while the galaxy clusters are shown as bright, yellowish-orange points of light. The background is a dark, textured grey.

# COSMOLOGY WITH NEUTRAL HYDROGEN INTENSITY MAPPING

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Higgs Centre & Institute for Astronomy





# RESOURCES

[www.github.com/IntensityTools](https://www.github.com/IntensityTools)

**Lectures** Public  
Relevant lecture notes and presentations  
☆ 0 📄 GPL-3.0 🍴 0 🔄 0 📎 0 Updated 20 hours ago

**MultipoleExpansion** Public  
Multipole expansion for HI intensity mapping experiments  
📄 Jupyter Notebook ☆ 5 📄 GPL-3.0 🍴 1 🔄 0 📎 0 Updated on Jan 10, 2022

**gpr4im** Public  
Using GPR as a foreground removal technique for single-dish 21cm intensity mapping.  
📄 Jupyter Notebook ☆ 0 📄 MIT 🍴 4 🔄 0 📎 0 Updated on May 28, 2021

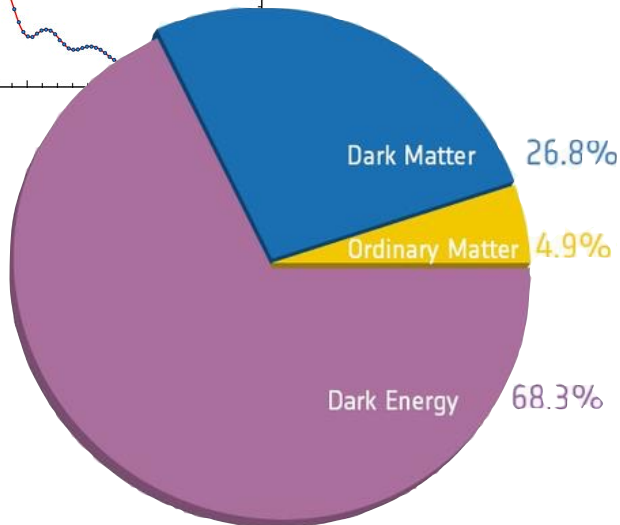
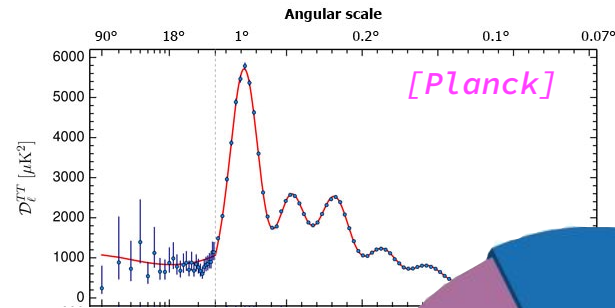
**IM-Fish** Public  
Fisher Matrix codes for IM and cross-correlations  
📄 Jupyter Notebook ☆ 1 📄 GPL-3.0 🍴 2 🔄 0 📎 0 Updated on Feb 25, 2019

**IM-Inflation** Public  
Fisher Matrix codes for cosmological and inflationary parameters.  
📄 Jupyter Notebook ☆ 0 📄 GPL-3.0 🍴 1 🔄 0 📎 0 Updated on Mar 13, 2017

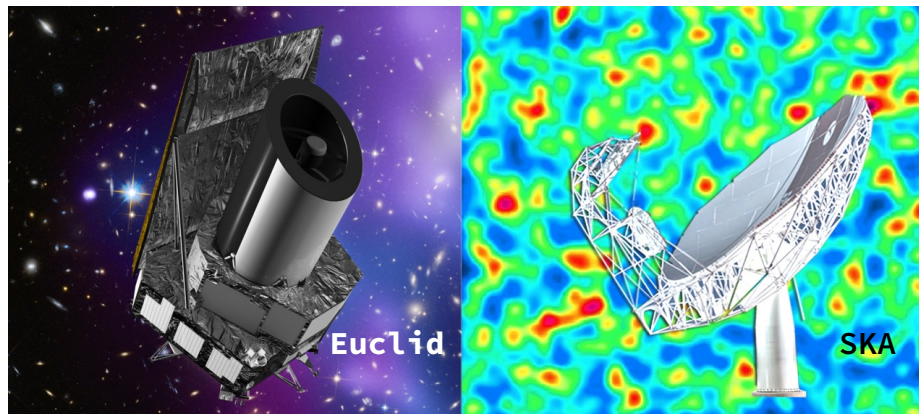
**Contributors:** Steven Cunnington, Paula Soares, Catherine Watkinson, AP



# NEW FRONTIERS IN OBSERVATIONAL COSMOLOGY

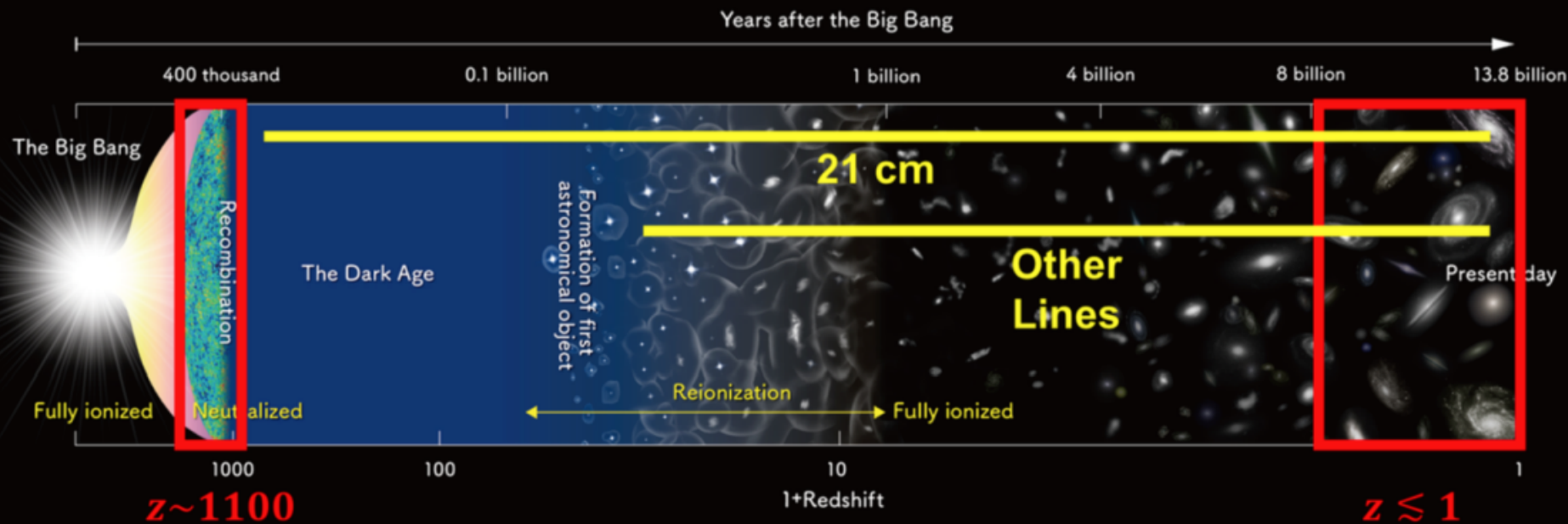
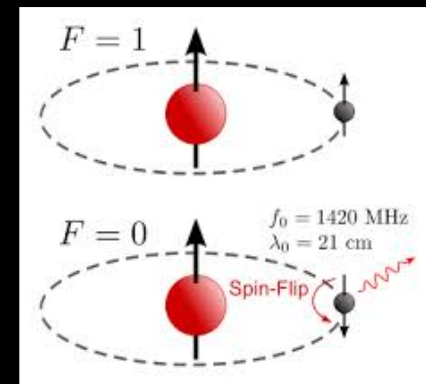


- ◆ 95% of our Universe is very strange - new physics!
- ◆ Use **large scale structure surveys**, multiple wavelengths, and multiple probes
- ◆ Invest in pathfinders
- ◆ Exploit synergies





# A NEW OBSERVATIONAL WINDOW: 21CM LINE

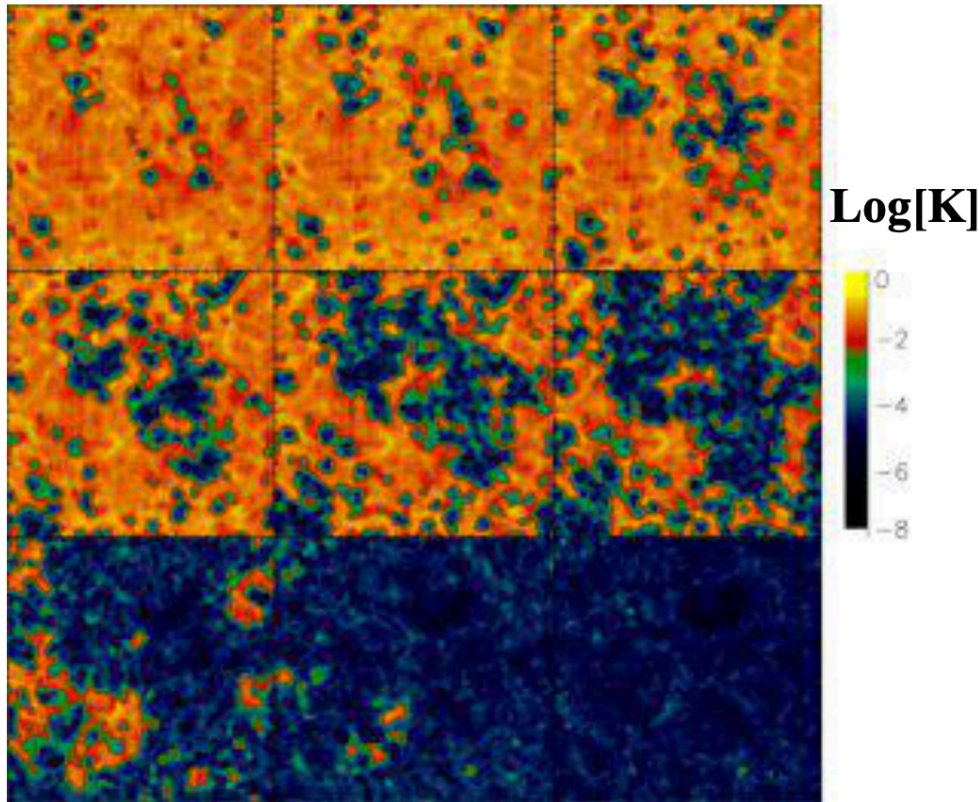




# NEW FRONTIERS IN OBSERVATIONAL COSMOLOGY

Ciardi & Madau 2003

**$z=13.5$**



**$z=8$**

$$f_{\text{obs}} = \frac{1420}{1+z} \text{ MHz}$$

- Brightness temperature field
- $T(\theta, \phi, z) \rightarrow$  3D mapping of structure
- Like CMB but extended in 3D
- Many statistically independent frequency (redshift) slices
- Ideal for tomography
- Redshift directly given by observing frequency:

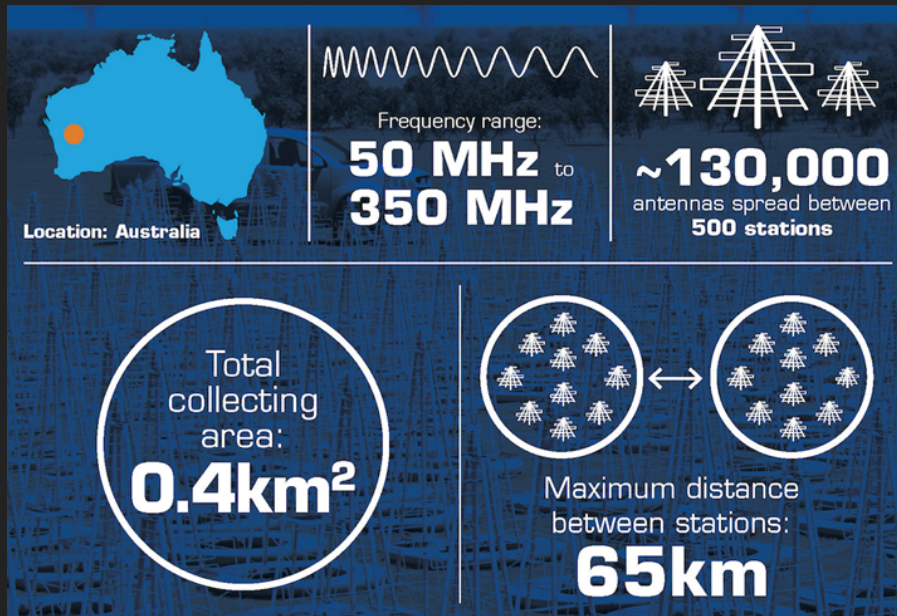
$$f = 157 \text{ MHz} \rightarrow z = 8$$

$$f = 473 \text{ MHz} \rightarrow z = 2$$



# SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) - FIRST LIGHT: 2028

## SKA - LOW (Australia)



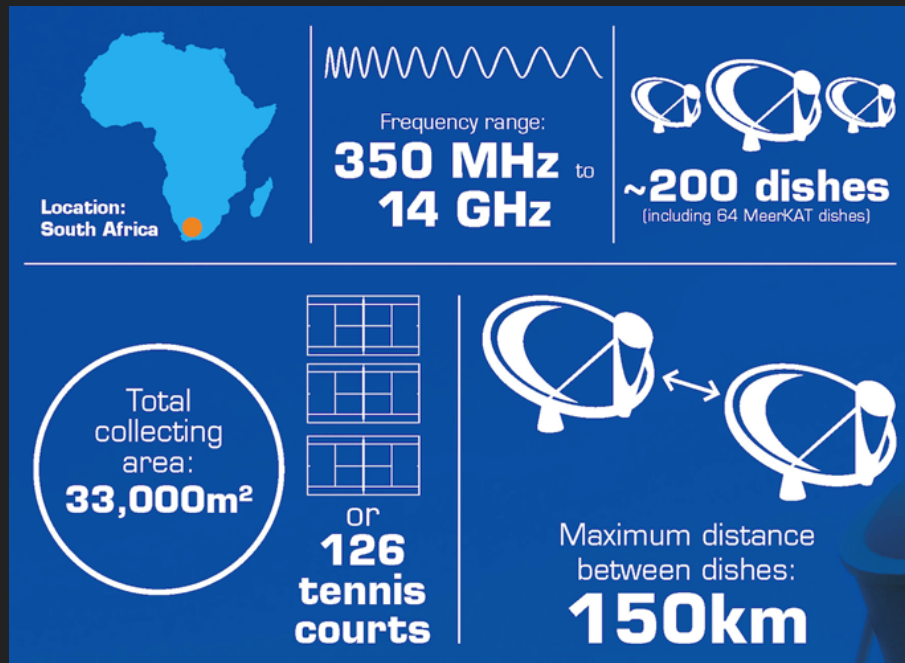
- ▶ Redshift range:  $3 < z < 25$
- ▶ Epoch of Reionization and Cosmic Dawn





# SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) - FIRST LIGHT: 2028

## SKA - MID (South Africa)



- ▶ Redshift range:  $0 < z < 3$
- ▶ Late Universe, can complement optical surveys





## SKA Science Drivers – the history of the universe

Testing General Relativity  
(Strong Regime, Gravitational Waves)

Cosmic Dawn  
(First Stars and Galaxies)

Cradle of Life  
(Planets, Molecules, SETI)

Galaxy Evolution  
(Normal Galaxies  $z \sim 2-3$ )

Cosmic Magnetism  
(Origin, Evolution)

Cosmology  
(Dark Energy, Large Scale Structure)

Exploration of the Unknown

**Extremely broad range of science!**



# MEERKAT (SKA'S PATHFINDER) - OPERATIONAL !

- ▶ 64 dishes, will become part of SKA-MID
- ▶  $0.2 < z < 0.58$  (L-band)
- ▶  $0.4 < z < 1.45$  (UHF-band)

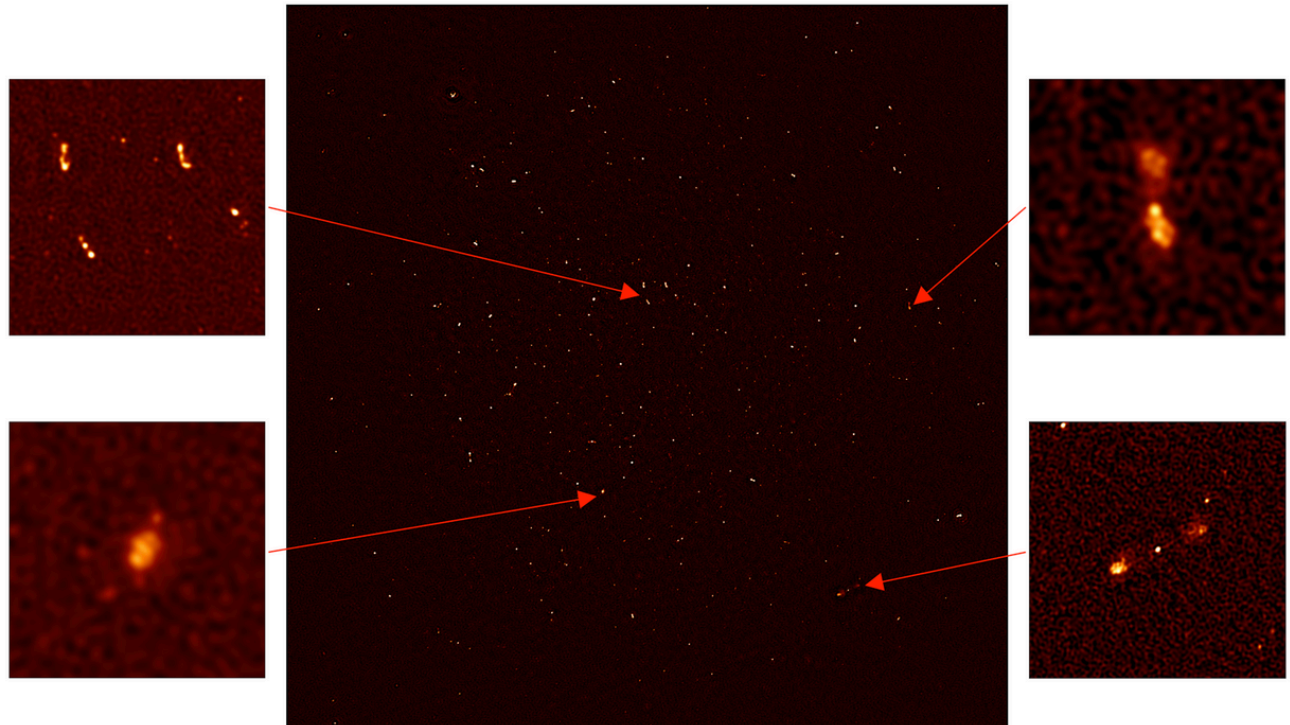




# MEERKAT'S FIRST LIGHT



**At only a quarter of its eventual capacity, the MeerKat radio telescope captures 1,300 galaxies in tiny corner of universe where only 70 were known before**



▲ A montage of the MeerKat radio telescope's First Light image with four zoomed-in insets – the two panels to the right show distant galaxies with massive black holes at their centres; at lower left is a galaxy approximately 200m light years away where hydrogen gas is being used up to form stars in large numbers. Photograph: MeerKat/SKA South Africa

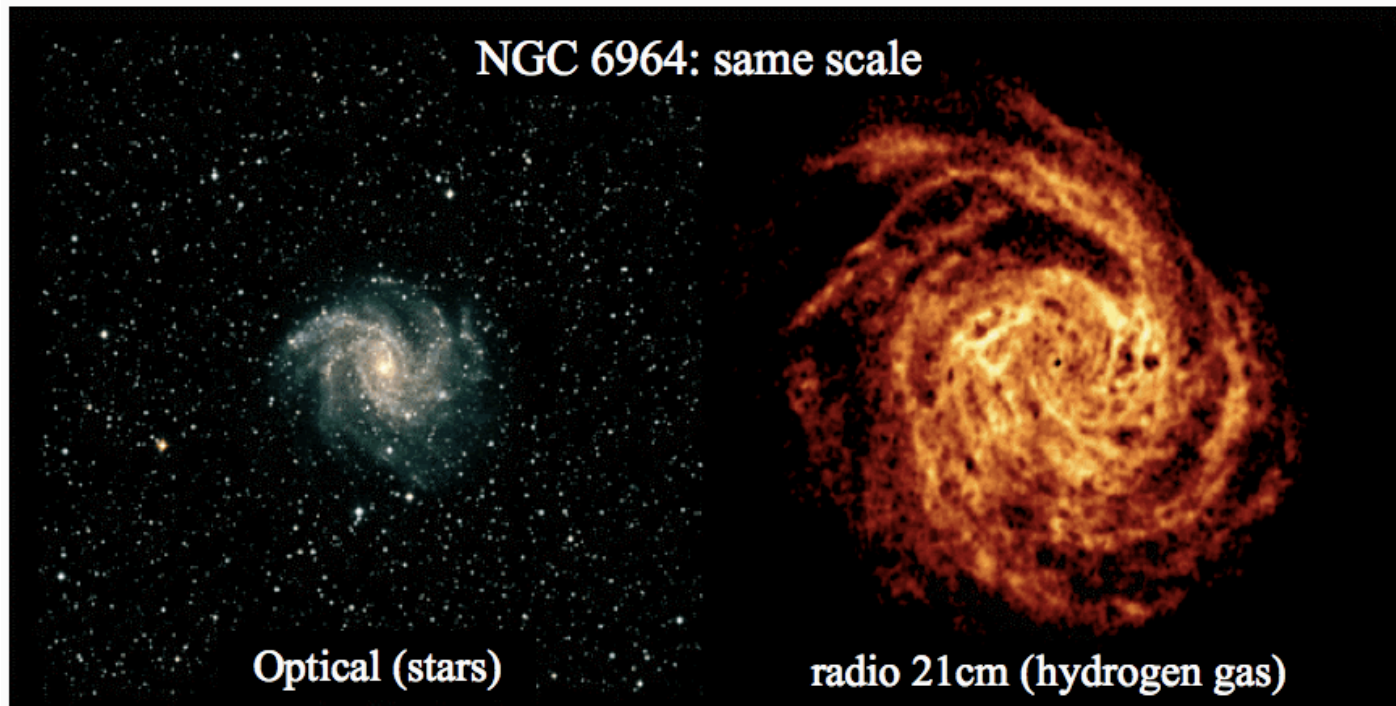
**The Guardian, 17 July 2016**

**Big data era is here: MeerKAT's digitisers generate 5 GB/sec**



# RADIO VS OPTICAL: GALAXIES

- HI in galaxies more extended than the stellar light distribution
- HI disk much larger than the stellar disk

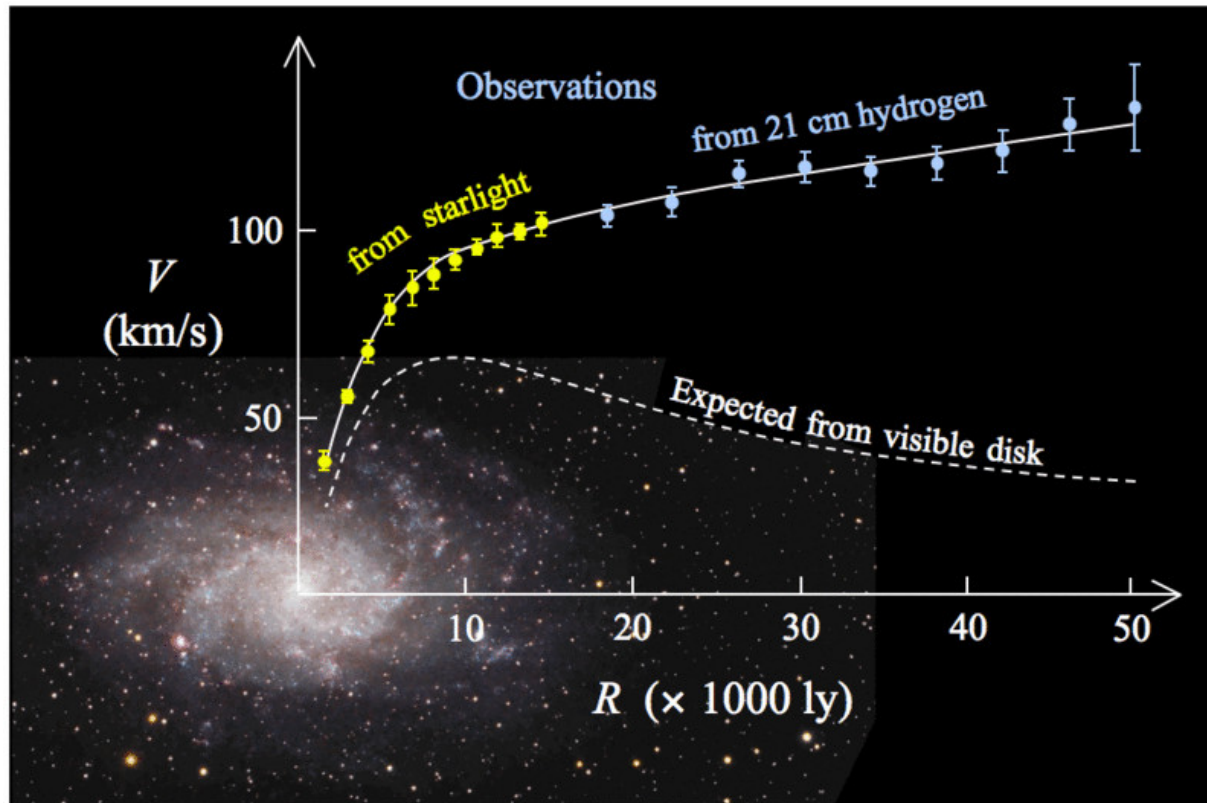


Boomsma et al. 2007



# RADIO VS OPTICAL: GALAXIES

- Velocities (stars or gas) are used to calculate rotation curves and trace the total mass distribution to very large radii



see e.g. Corbelli and Salucci 2000



# INTERFEROMETRY IN A NUTSHELL

- In the early days of radio astronomy, single dishes were the norm ...
- Resolution  $\theta_B = \lambda / D_{\text{dish}}$
- For precision astronomy we need **sub-arcsecond resolution**



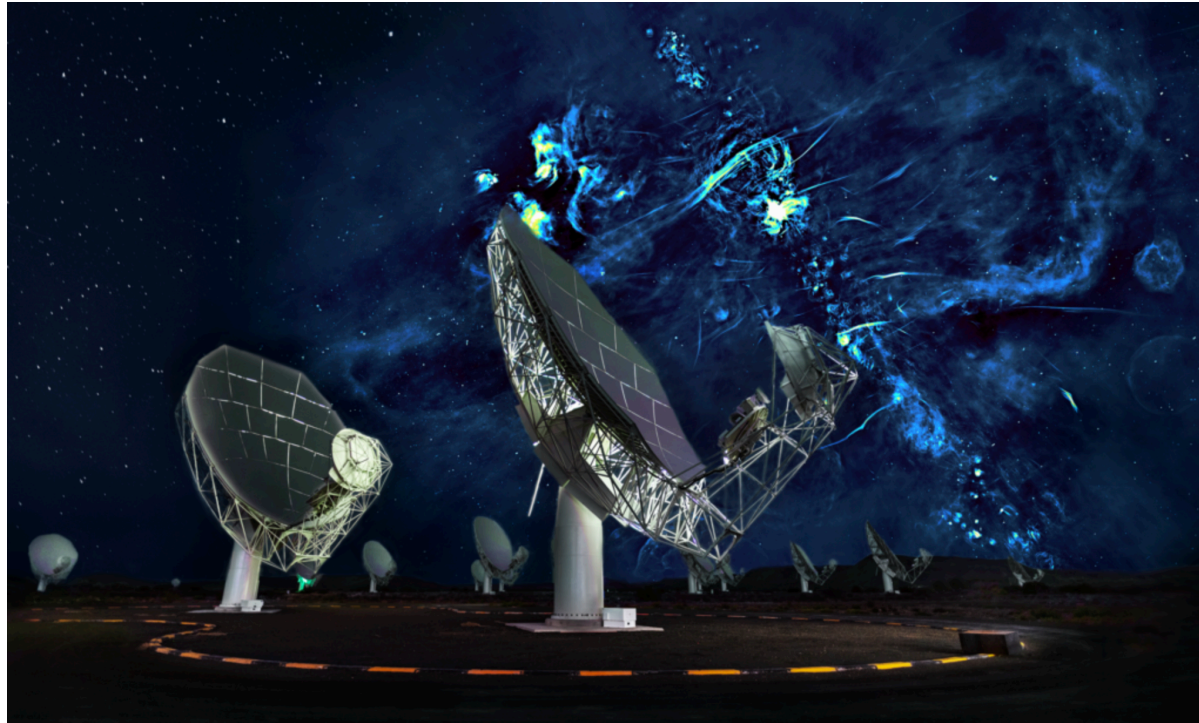
- But with a single dish, at about  $D_{\text{dish}} = 100 \text{ m}$ , we're done - and that's nowhere near enough for precision astronomy ...

<https://public.nrao.edu/telescopes/radio-telescopes/>



# INTERFEROMETRY IN A NUTSHELL

- We cannot build or operate a single radio dish of 1 square kilometre collecting area
- **Idea:** combine the views of a group of dishes/ antennae spread over a large area
- Operate them together as a single, gigantic telescope!



<https://www.sarao.ac.za/gallery/meerkat/>



# RADIO ARRAYS: TWO MODES OF OPERATION

## Single-dish mode

- The auto-correlation signal from one or more dishes
  - observe targets “point by point” , no detail
- Smallest scale the array can probe is set by the dish resolution (beam)
- **Single dish mode can probe large volumes — ultra-large scales on the sky**



## Interferometric mode

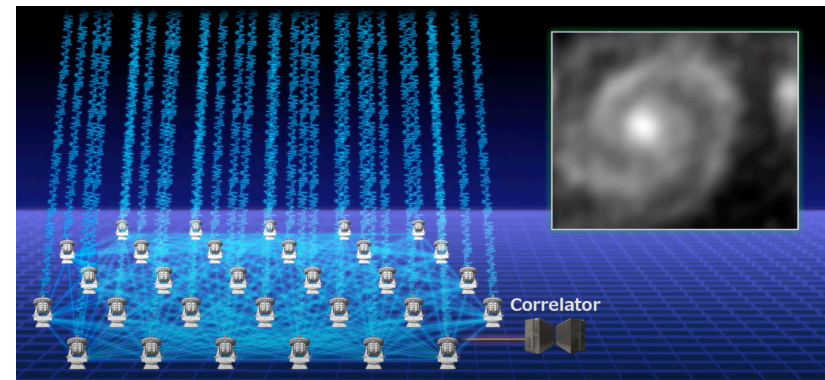
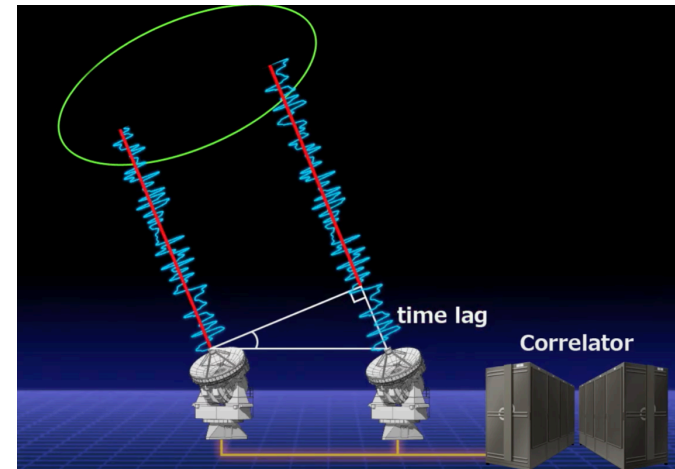
- The cross-correlation signal from two or more dishes
- Smallest scale the array can probe is set by the maximum baseline
  - **can achieve very high angular resolution**
- Can probe large volumes if (a) extremely compact array of very small dishes (b) “purpose-built” geometry **SKA has neither**





# INTERFEROMETRY IN A NUTSHELL

- Signals slightly out of sync
- **Correlating the signals we can determine the position of the source very precisely**
- Correlator finds the point of overlap
- Multiple antennae (dishes) needed for resolving astrophysical objects



ALMA video

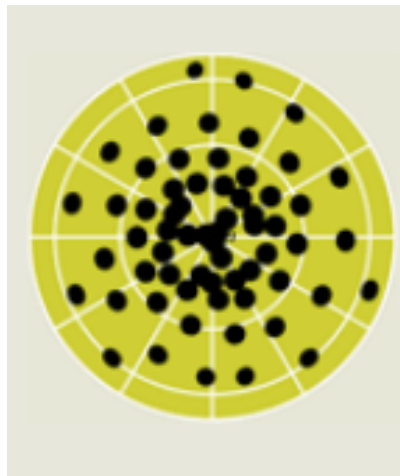


# APERTURE SYNTHESIS

- 2 dishes/antennas will give you one point on the sky
- Dozens of antennas give lots of points, one for each pairing of antennas.

**Image by ALMA**

**Exoplanetary system forming**

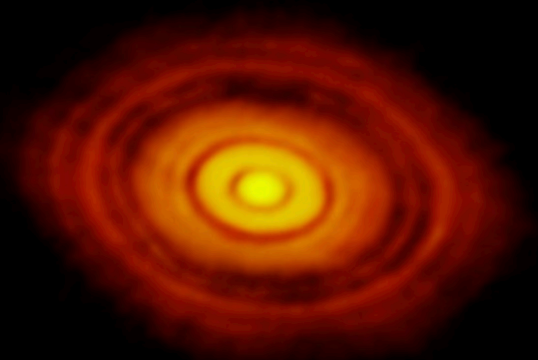




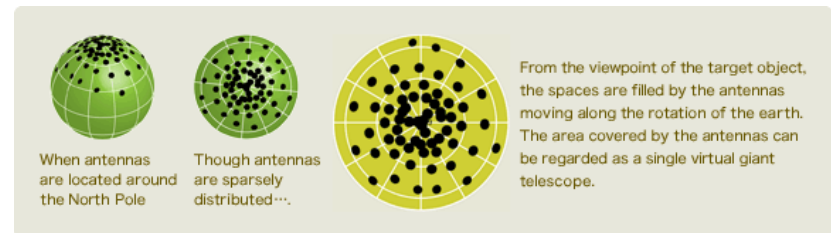
# APERTURE SYNTHESIS

- 2 dishes/antennas will give you one point in the sky
- Dozens of antennas give lots of points, one for each pairing of antennas.
- Earth's rotation helps fill in the gaps (Earth Aperture Synthesis)
- The results are spectacular!

## Image by ALMA



## Exoplanetary system forming



\*The actual ALMA antenna location differs from the figure above. The figure is a conceptual illustration to explain the principle of the "aperture synthesis" technique (interferometric imaging method) in a very simple way.

<https://briankoberlein.com/2015/10/14/how-does-interferometry-work/>



EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR RESULTS!



*Credit: Event Horizon Telescope collaboration et al.*



# WHAT ABOUT COSMOLOGY?

Waiting for SKA Phase 2 ...

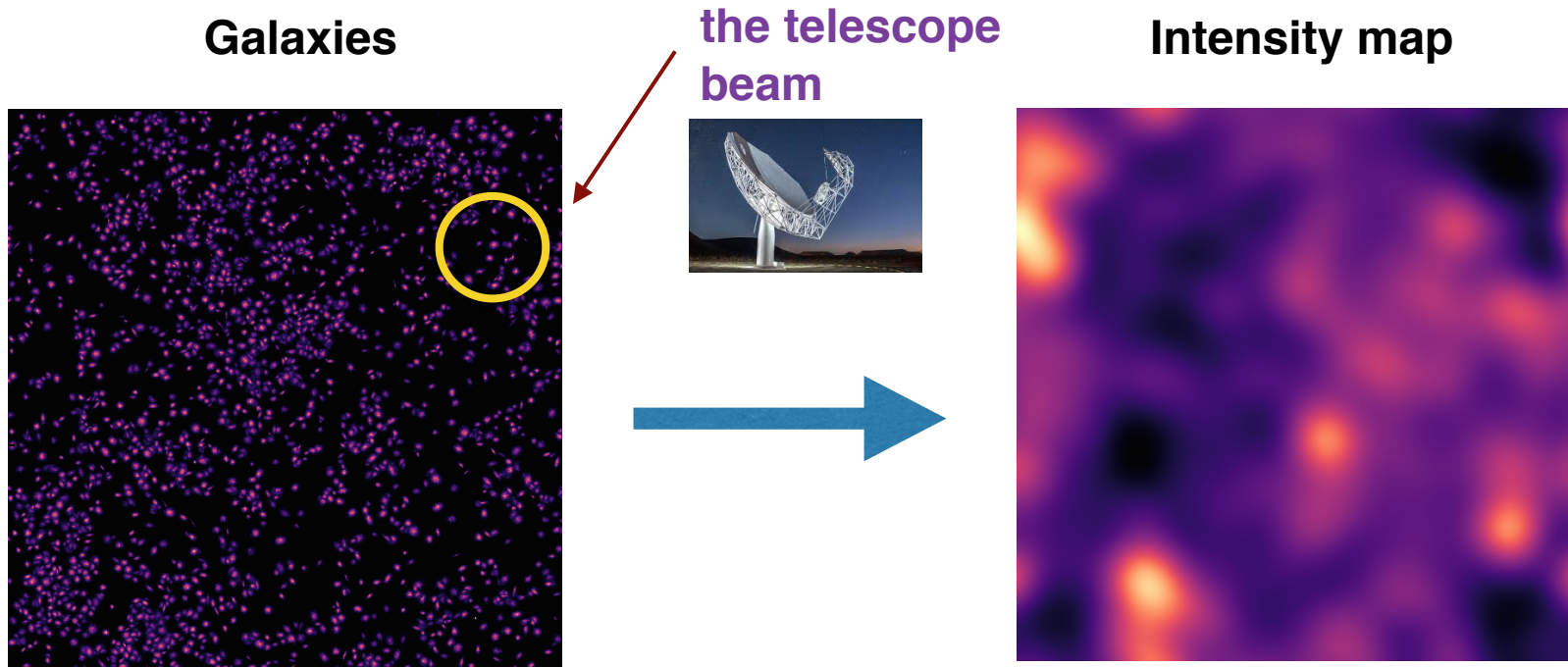
- What about cosmology with a multi-dish array?
- Detecting millions of galaxies in the radio is very difficult
- We would need the **full SKA Phase 2, performing a billion galaxy survey in the radio**, to be competitive with optical
- Can we do something sooner? **Yes! With HI intensity mapping.**





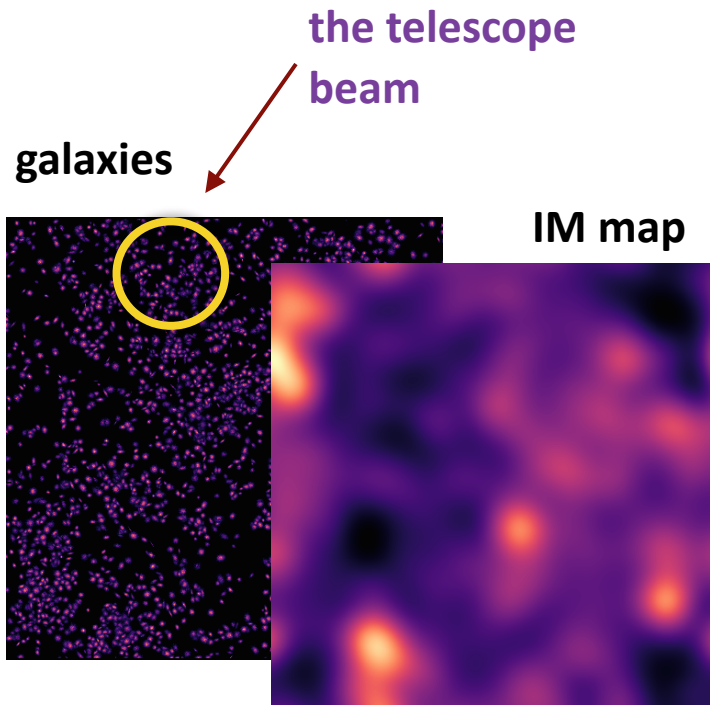
# RADIO PRECISION COSMOLOGY: THE INTENSITY MAPPING METHOD

*[Chang et al 2008, Peterson et al 2009, Seo et al 2010, ...]*





# RADIO PRECISION COSMOLOGY: THE INTENSITY MAPPING METHOD



*[Simulations by S. Cunningham]*

- Detecting HI (neutral hydrogen) galaxies via their 21cm emission line is very expensive
- But cosmological information is on large scales
- Get intensity map of the HI 21cm emission line - like CMB but 3D!
- **Excellent redshift resolution**
- **Signal of the order 0.1 mK – foregrounds larger by 3-4 orders of magnitude**

**21cm IM surveys:** GBT, CHIME, HIRAX, MeerKAT, SKA!

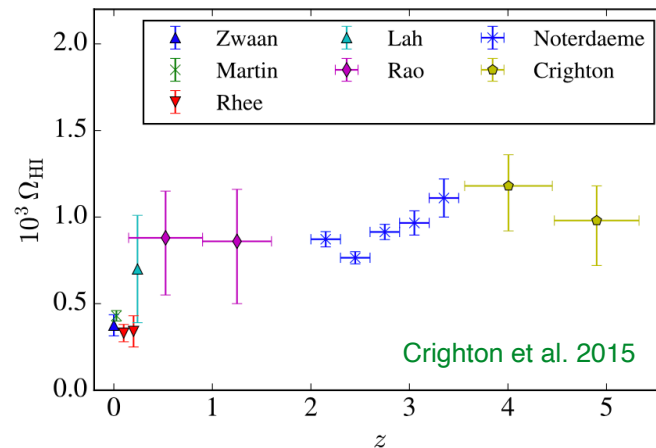
**GOALS:** Probe HI evolution, dark energy, gravity, inflation, ...



# CHARACTERISING THE POST-REIONIZATION HI SIGNAL

$$\bar{T}_{\text{obs}}(z) = 44\mu\text{K} \left( \frac{\Omega_{\text{HI}}(z)h}{2.45 \times 10^{-4}} \right) \frac{(1+z)^2}{E(z)},$$

$$T_{\text{obs}} \propto \Omega_{\text{HI}}$$



Battye, AP et al. 2013



# CHARACTERISING THE INSTRUMENTAL NOISE

The pixel thermal noise is given by

$$\sigma_{\text{pix}} = \frac{T_{\text{sys}}}{\sqrt{\Delta f t_{\text{total}} (\Omega_{\text{pix}} / \Omega_{\text{tot}}) N_{\text{dishes}} N_{\text{beams}}}}$$

The diagram shows the equation for pixel thermal noise. Red arrows point from the following labels to the corresponding variables in the equation:

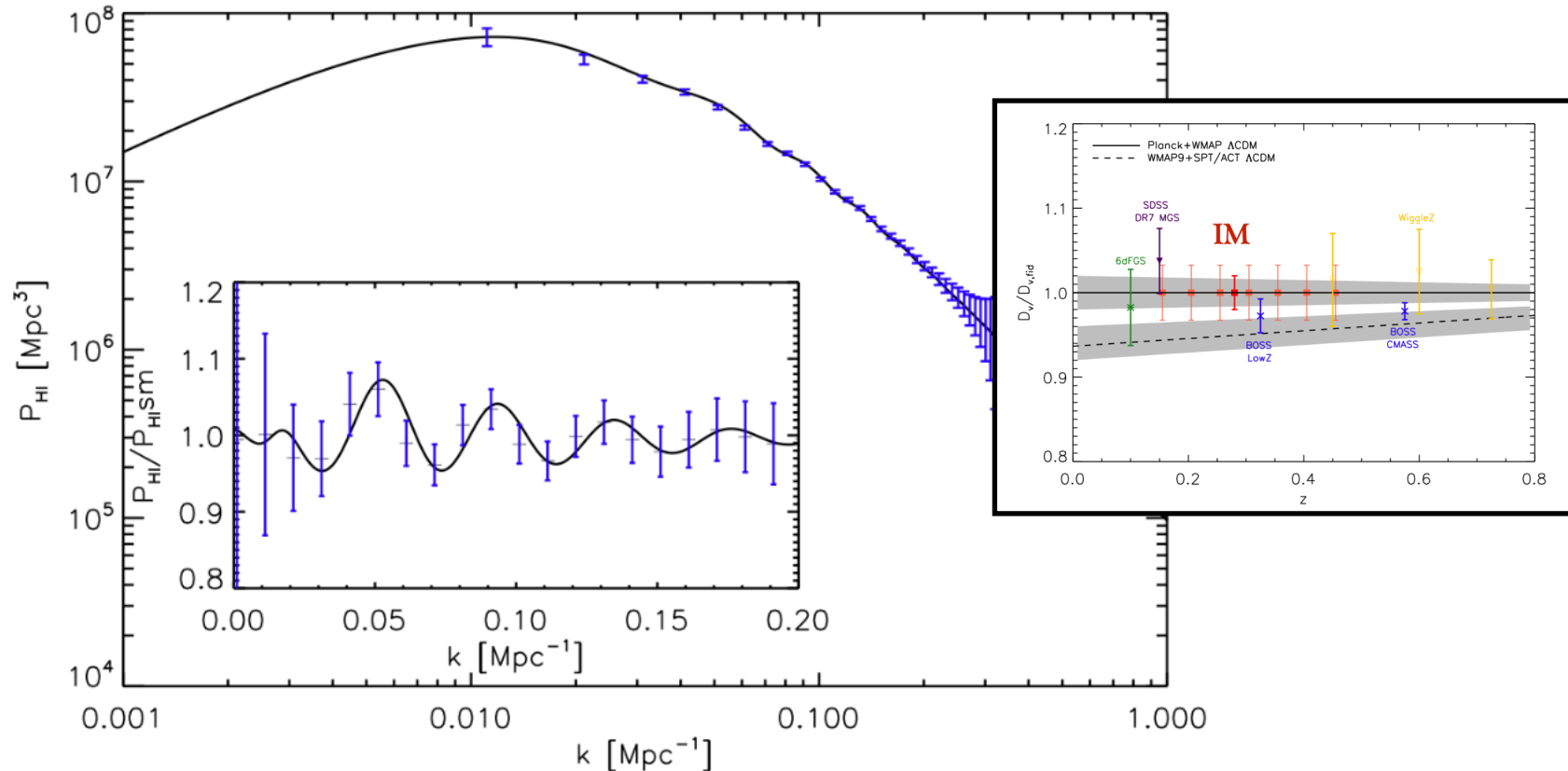
- channel width** points to  $\Delta f$
- observing time** points to  $t_{\text{total}}$
- pixel/survey (total) area** points to  $(\Omega_{\text{pix}} / \Omega_{\text{tot}})$
- receiver temperature** points to  $T_{\text{sys}}$

- MeerKAT has 64 dishes (no multi-beam system)
- It has a receiver temperature of about 30 K
- A channel width of 50 kHz
- The area and observing time are determined from the survey strategy (can be optimised for different science goals)



# NEUTRAL HYDROGEN INTENSITY MAPPING POWER SPECTRUM

- Measuring BAOs with a single-dish telescope
- $z=0.3$ , 40 arcmin resolution, 5000 sq. deg, 1 year observations



Battye, AP et al. 2013

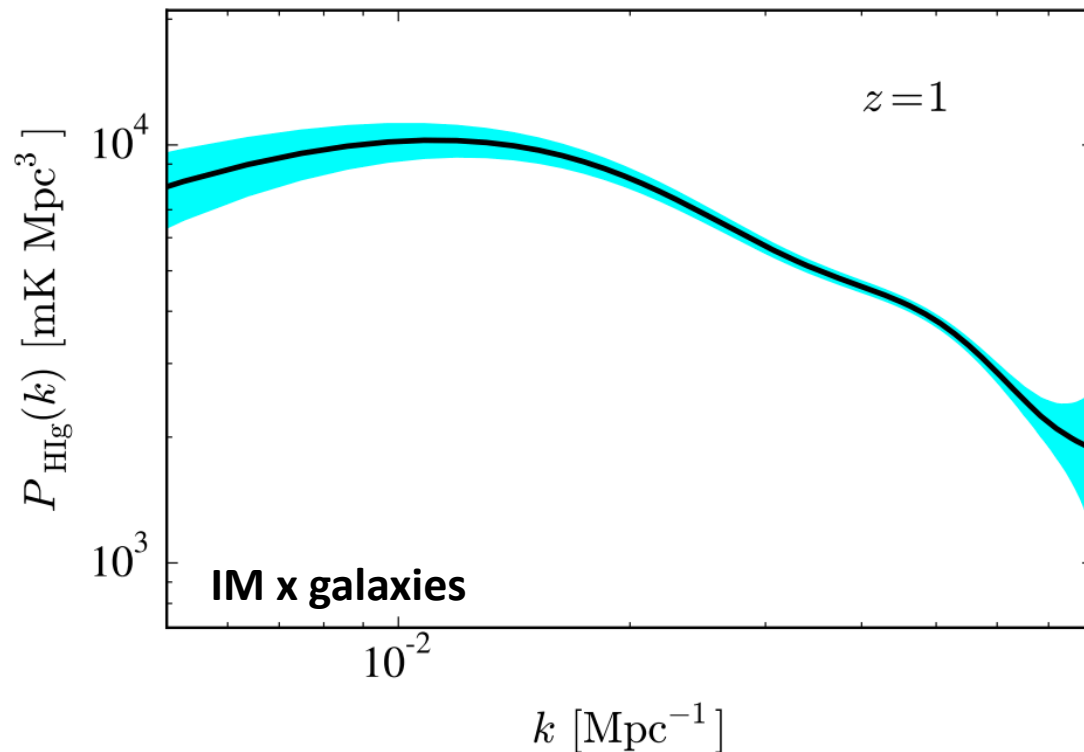


# NEUTRAL HYDROGEN INTENSITY MAPPING POWER SPECTRUM

- With intensity mapping we can constrain HI and cosmological parameters

$$P_{\text{HI}} \propto \Omega_{\text{HI}}^2 b_{\text{HI}}^2 P_{\text{m}} \quad P_{\text{HI,g}} \propto \Omega_{\text{HI}} b_{\text{HI}} b_{\text{g}}(r) P_{\text{m}}$$

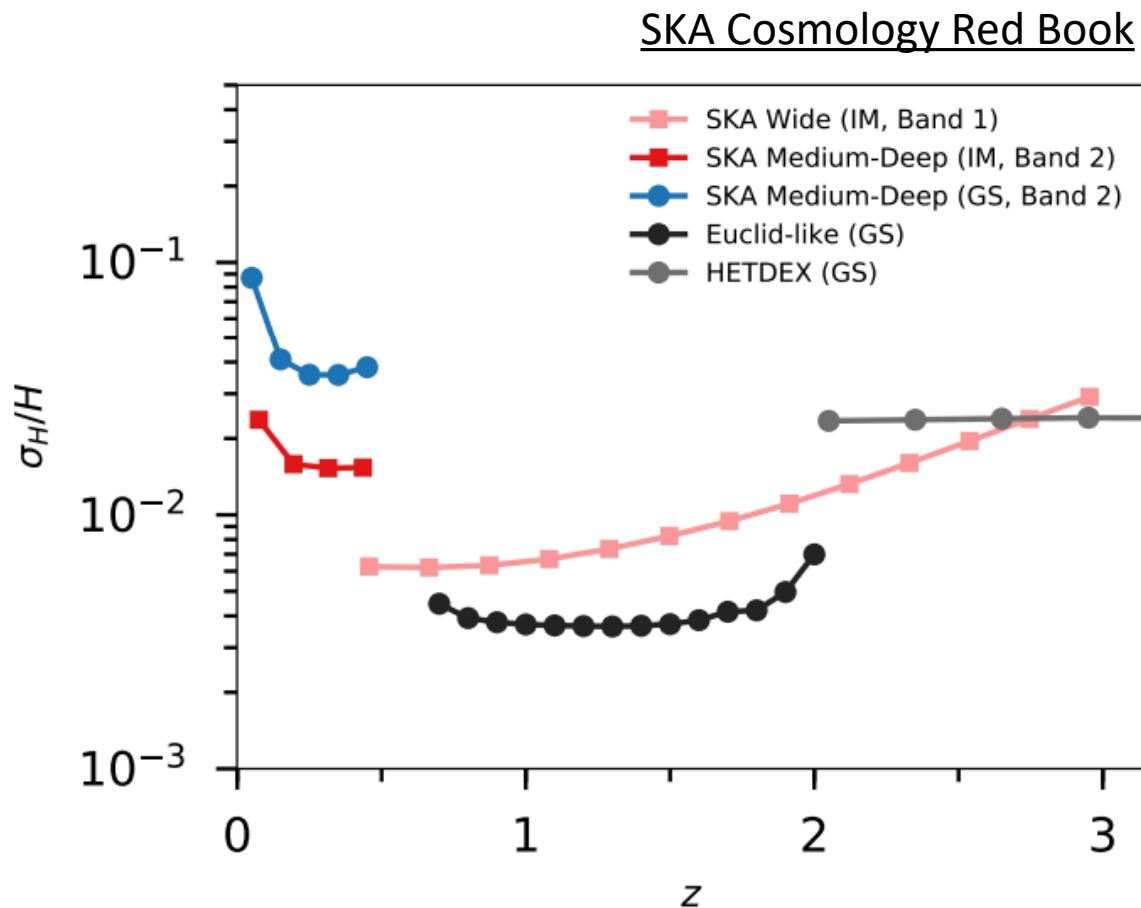
- The **r coefficient** tells us about the HI content of different galaxy samples, for example the different HI content of ELGs vs LRGs.





# SKA INTENSITY MAPPING FORECASTS

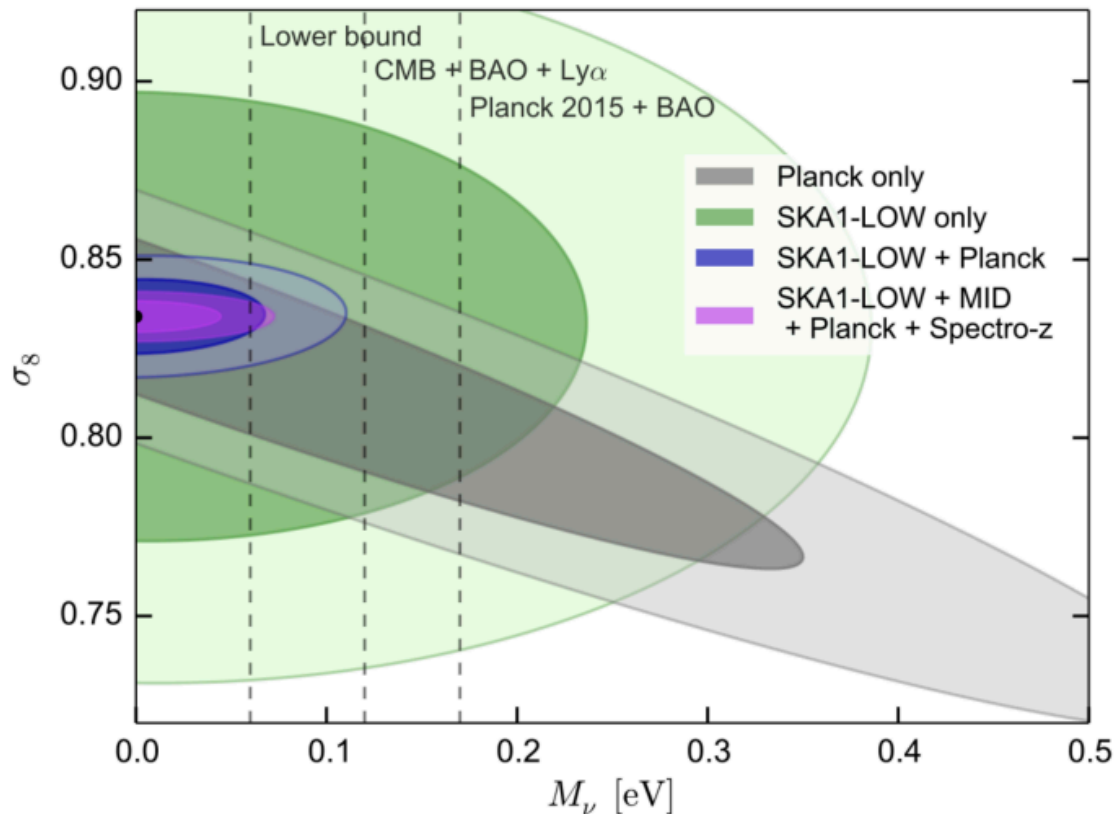
- Competitive with Stage-IV optical (Euclid, DESI)
- Can get to much higher redshifts





# SKA INTENSITY MAPPING FORECASTS

- Competitive with Stage-IV optical (Euclid, DESI)
- Can get to much higher redshifts





# RADIO TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

## Phased Array Feeds (PAFs):

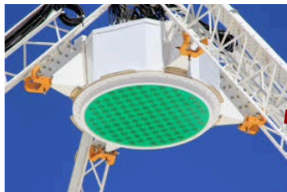
In “single-dish” mode they greatly increase the signal-to-noise ratio.

They allow extremely rapid imaging!

Applications outside physics (e.g. medical imaging)

$$P_N \propto \frac{1}{N_d \cancel{N_b} t_{\text{tot}}}$$

<https://www.skatelescope.org/news/askap-paf-system-award/>



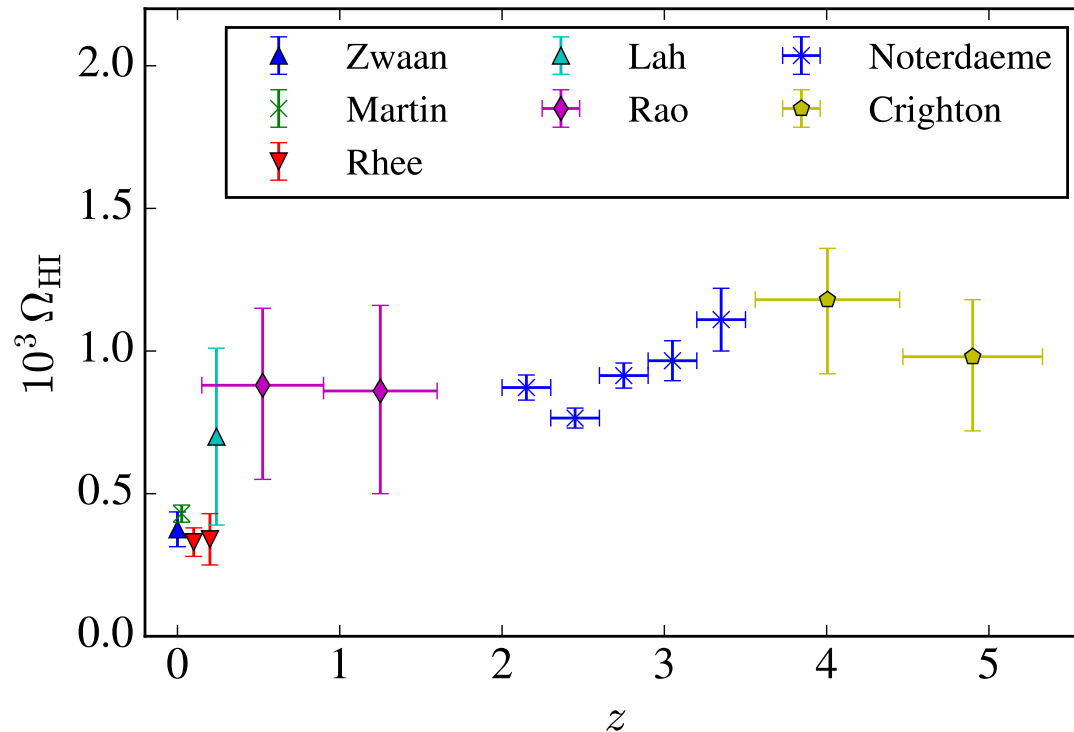
Already installed and operational in ASKAP, the SKA's Australian precursor [see Wolz, Blake and Wyithe 2017 for intensity mapping applications]





# OPTICAL AND RADIO SYNERGIES

- Neutral hydrogen (HI) evolution is currently quite poorly constrained...
- Important for astrophysics and cosmology alike!



Crighton et al. 2015

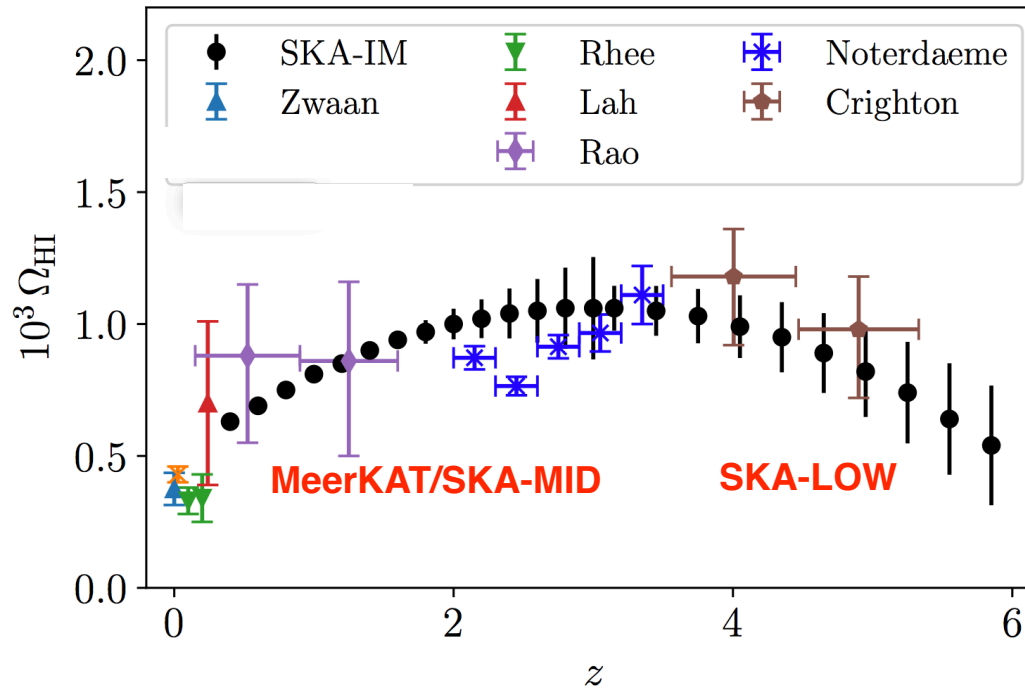


# GALAXY EVOLUTION

- Can greatly improve HI constraints with intensity mapping
- Cross-correlation with optical surveys helps with systematics and allows for studying the HI content of different galaxy samples

$$P_{\text{HI}} \propto \Omega_{\text{HI}}^2 b_{\text{HI}}^2 P_{\text{m}}$$

$$P_{\text{HI,g}} \propto \Omega_{\text{HI}} b_{\text{HI}} b_g r P_{\text{m}}$$

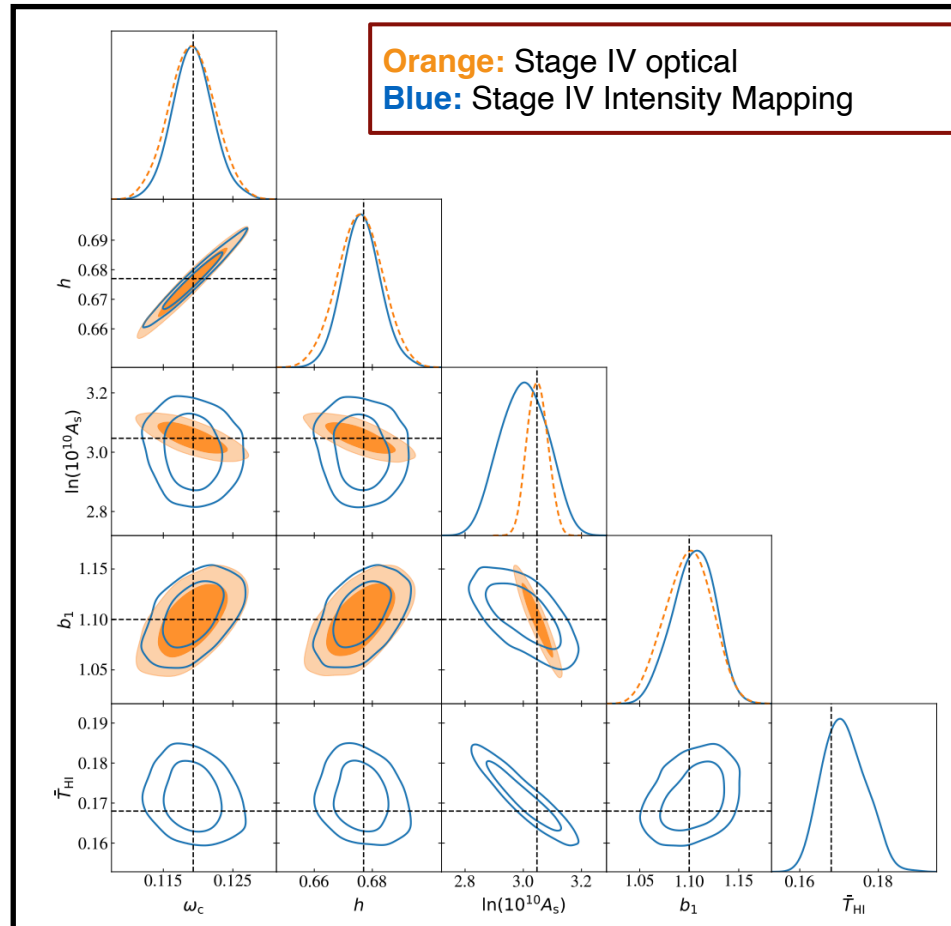


[Pourtsidou et al. 2017, SKA cosmology Red Book 2020]



# EFTOFLSS FOR INTENSITY MAPPING

- Can be **competitive with optical galaxy surveys**
- Can go to high- $z$  where optical are shot-noise limited
- **Major observational challenges (calibration, foregrounds ...) should be addressed**

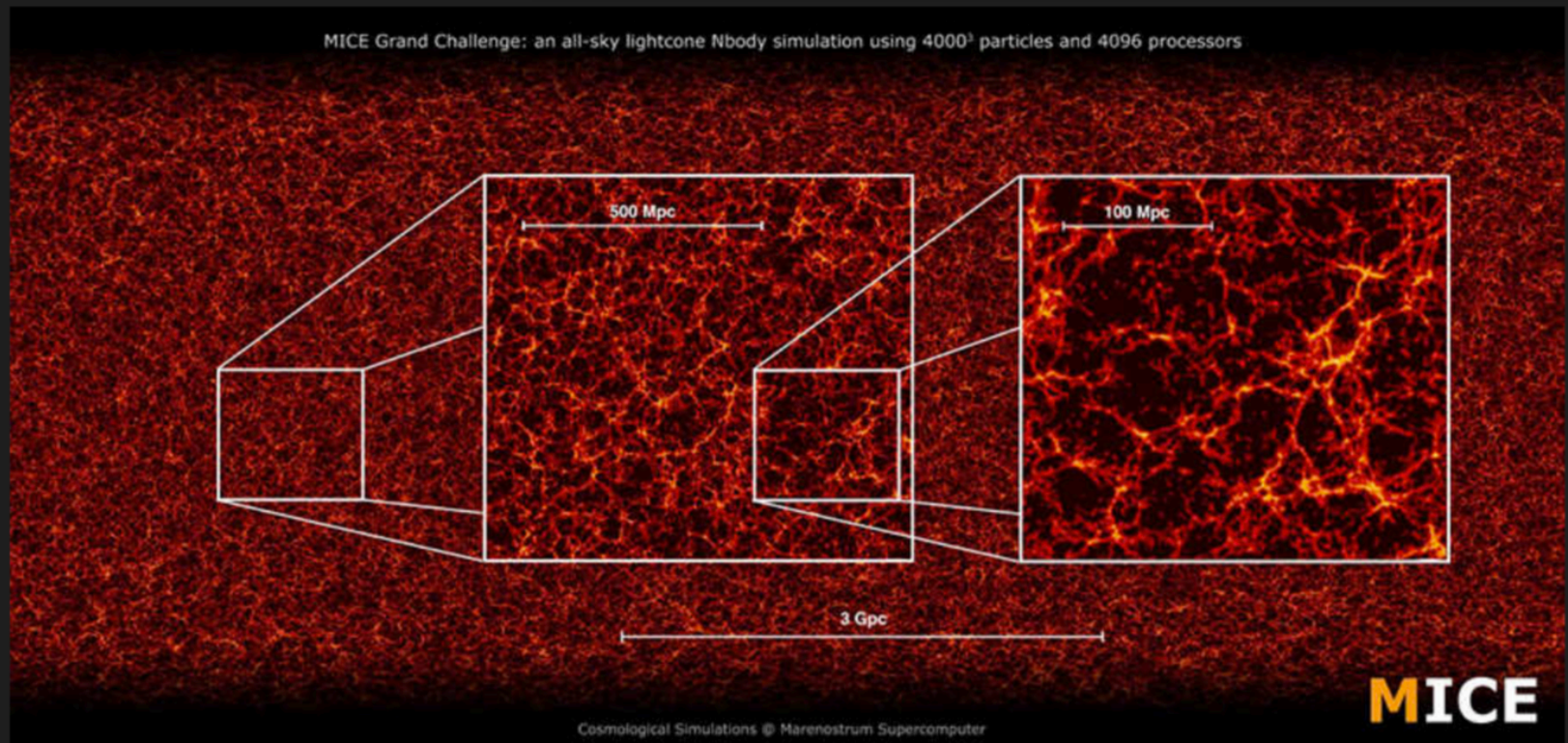




# SIMULATING 21CM OBSERVATIONS

**MICEcat v2**

MICE catalogue by Castander, Carretero, Fosalba



MICE catalogue:

- ▶  $0.0 < z < 1.4$
- ▶ 5000sq degrees
- ▶ 500million galaxies



## BUILDING 21CM INTENSITY MAPS

- ▶ Use central galaxies and their halo mass to derive a HI mass:

$$M_{\text{HI}} = 2N_1 M \left[ \left( \frac{M}{M_1} \right)^{-b_1} + \left( \frac{M}{M_1} \right)^{y_1} \right]^{-1}$$

Padmanabhan &  
Kulkarni (2017)

- ▶ Convert HI mass field into HI intensity and then a brightness temperature  $T_{\text{HI}}$  for each voxel.

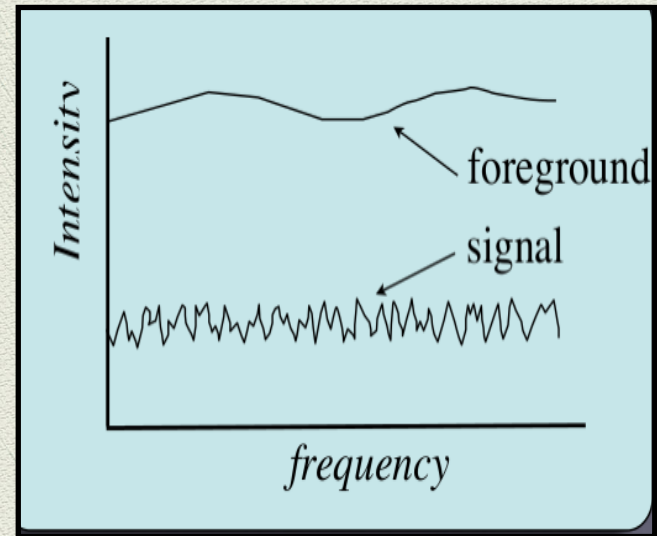


# THE FOREGROUND CONTAMINATION PROBLEM

## Difficulties

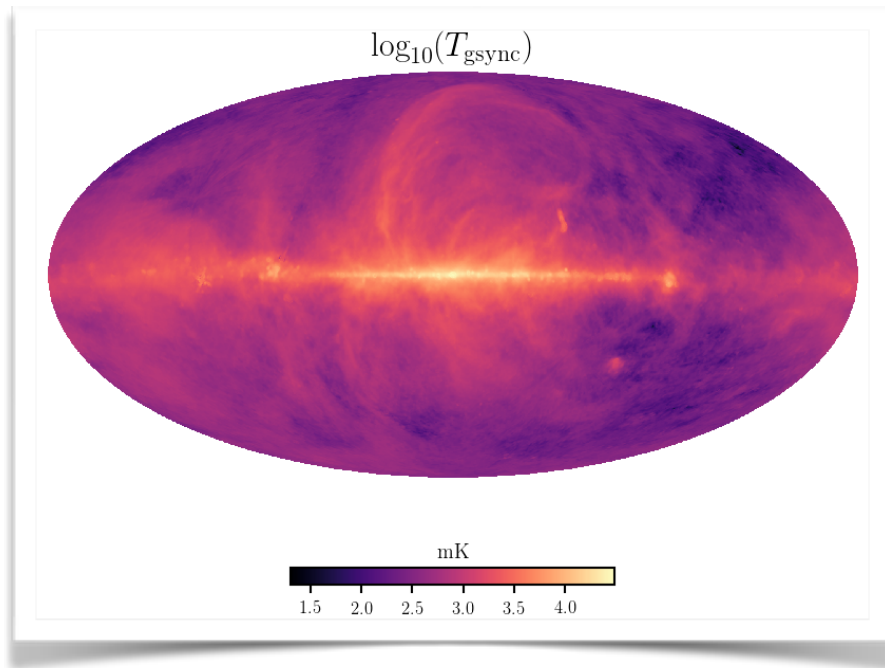
- ◆ 21cm signal is very weak
- ◆ Foregrounds are a big problem!

- (i) **Galactic synchrotron** - relativistic cosmic ray electrons accelerated by the galactic magnetic field
- (ii) **Extra-galactic point sources** - objects beyond our own galaxy emitting signals close to 21cm signal
- (iii) **Extra-galactic free-free emission** - free electrons scattering off ions without being captured and remaining free after the interaction
- (iv) **Galactic free-free emission** - as above but within our own galaxy





# SIMULATING 21cm FOREGROUNDS

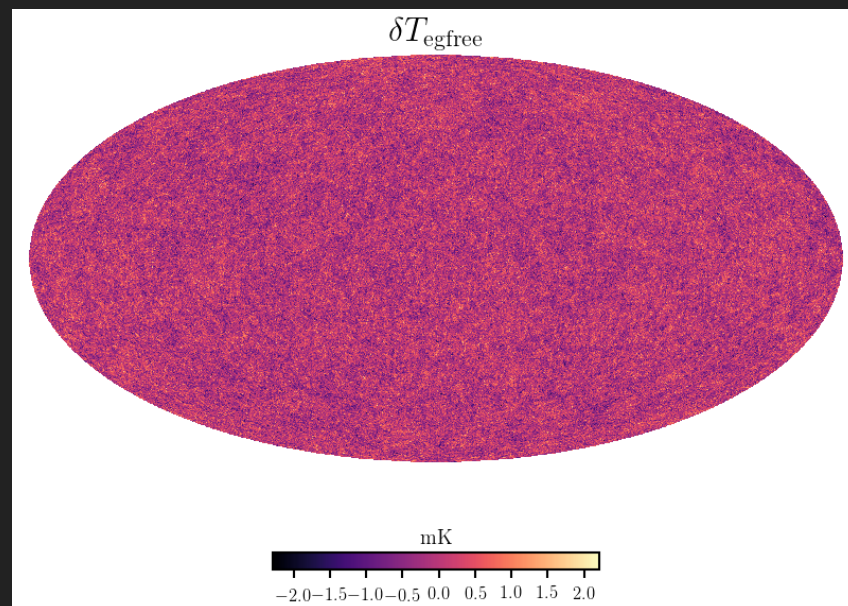
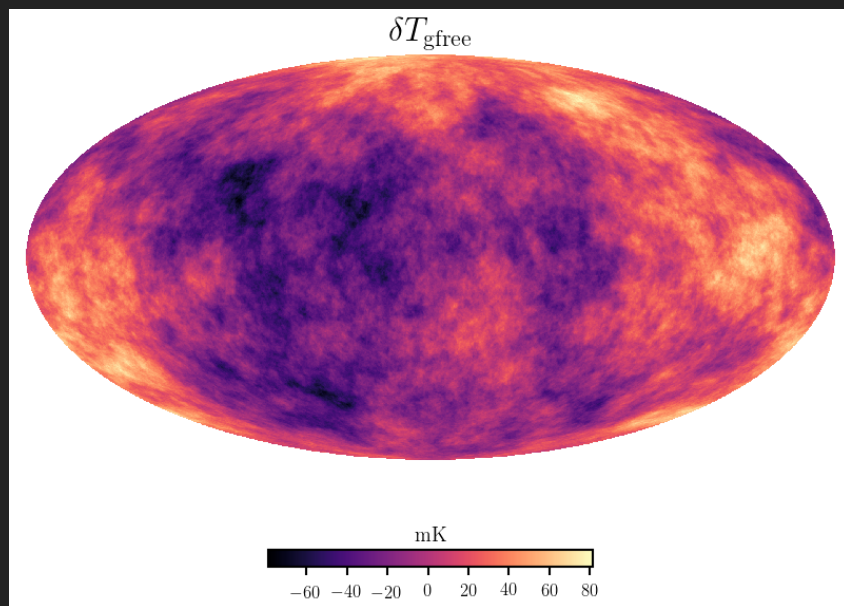
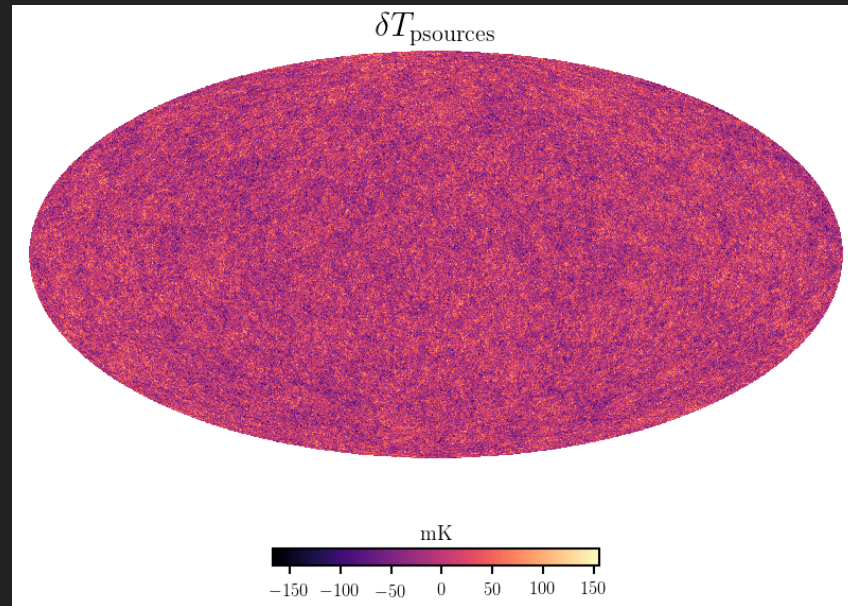
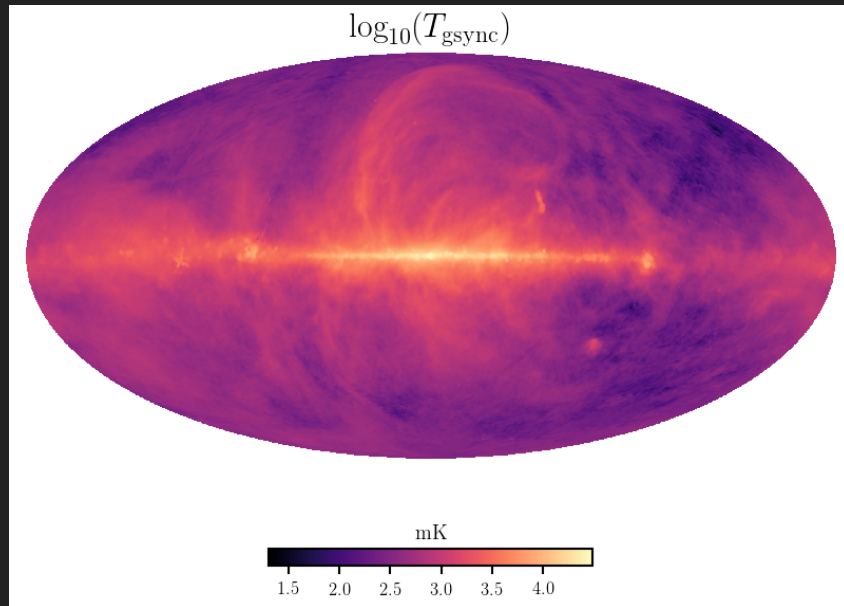


$$C_\ell(\nu) = A \left( \frac{\ell_{\text{ref}}}{\ell} \right)^\beta \left( \frac{\nu_{\text{ref}}}{\nu} \right)^{2\alpha}$$

Foreground	A	$\beta$	$\alpha$
Galactic synchrotron	700	2.4	2.80
Point sources	57	1.1	2.07
Galactic free-free	0.088	3.0	2.15
Extra-galactic free-free	0.014	1.0	2.10



# 21CM FOREGROUNDS

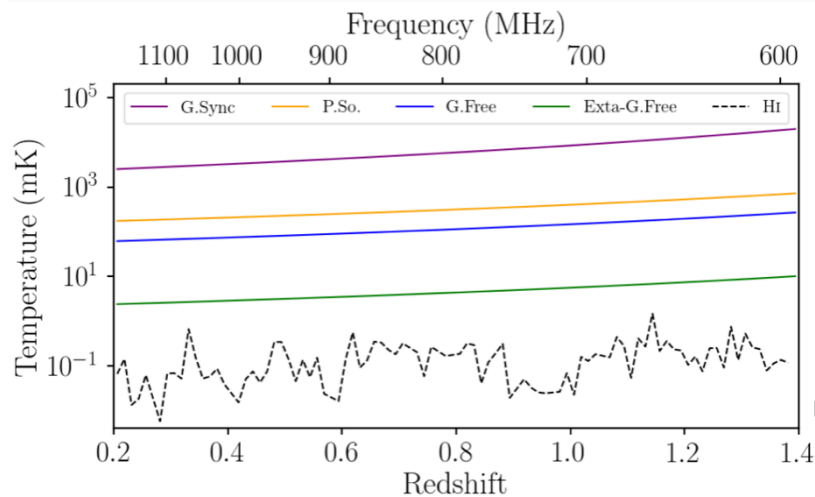




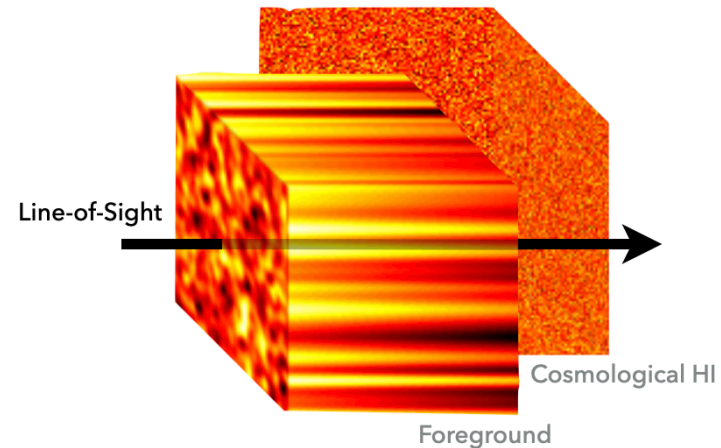
# THE FOREGROUND CONTAMINATION PROBLEM

## Foregrounds are spectrally smooth

### Idealised simulation demo:



- We utilise smooth foreground spectra to distinguish them from cosmological signal

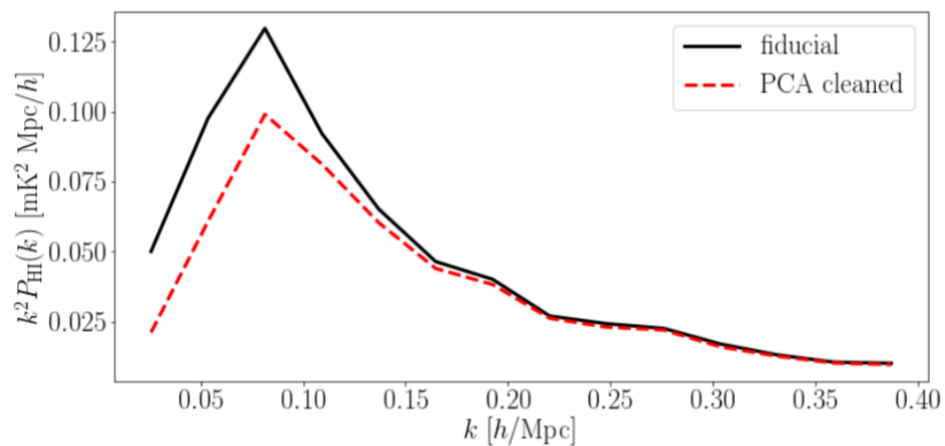
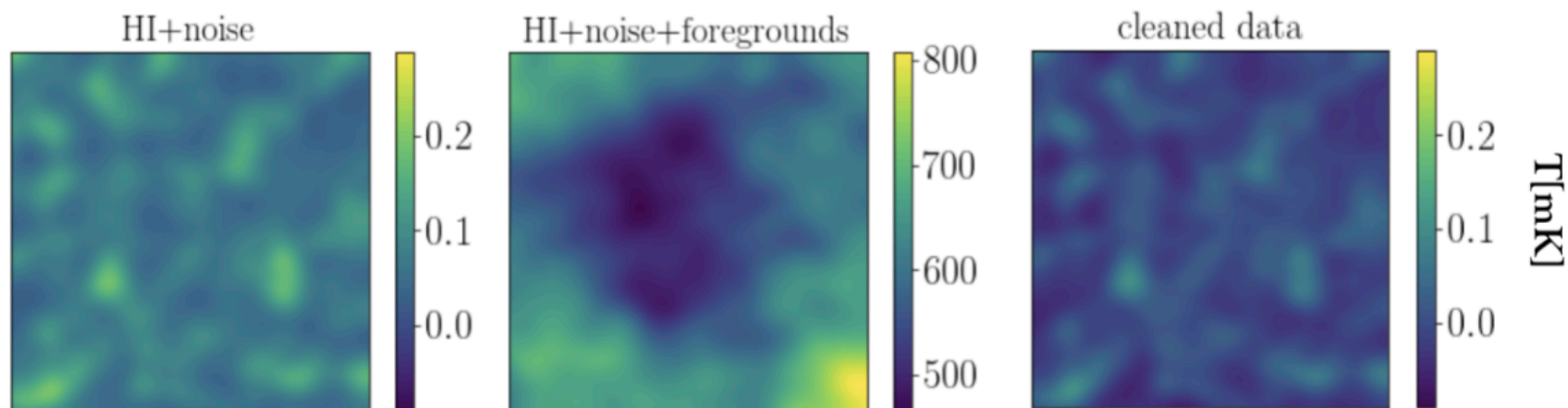


From S.Cunnington+19 [arXiv:1904.01479]

<https://github.com/IntensityTools/gpr4im> [Soares et al. 2020]



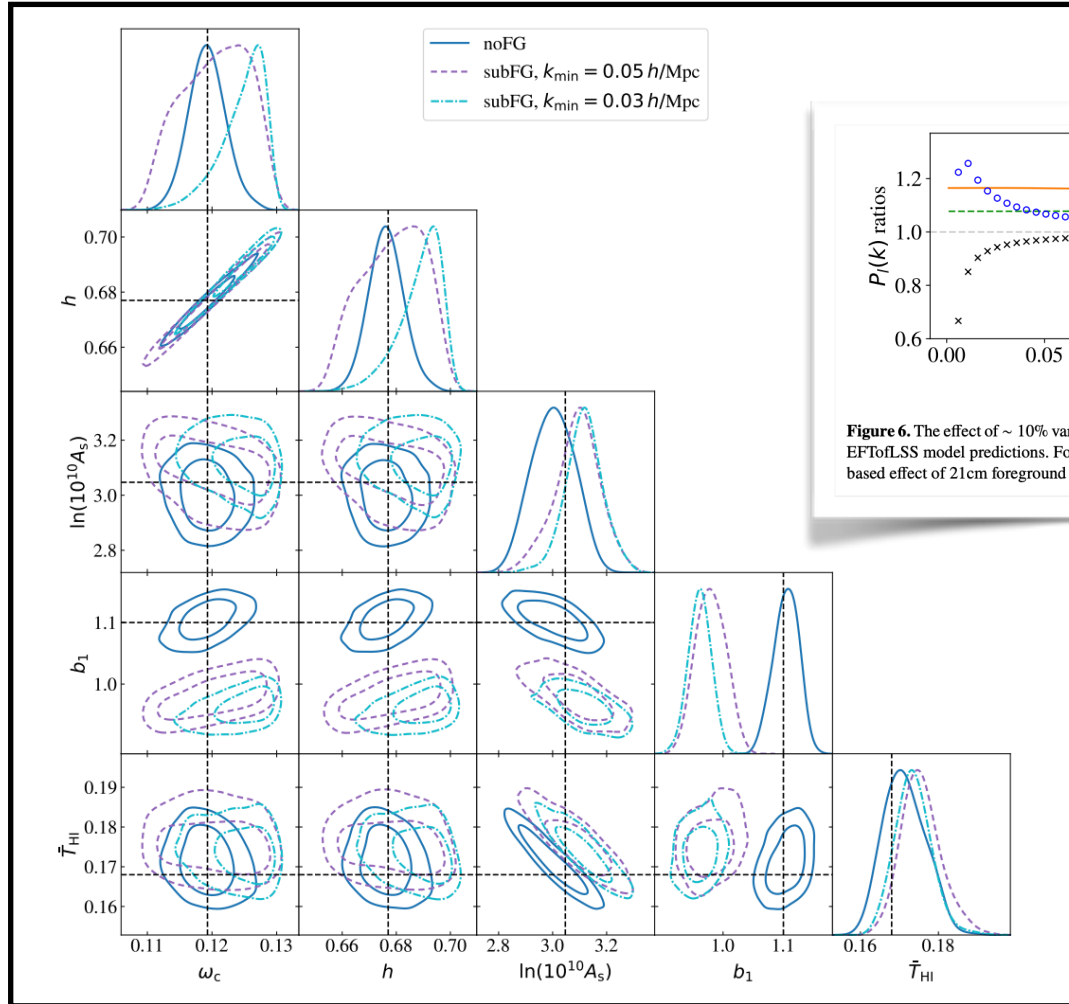
## 21CM FOREGROUNDS CLEANING: SIGNAL LOSS EFFECT





# EFTofLSS FOR INTENSITY MAPPING CONTINUED ...

- Including foreground removal effects



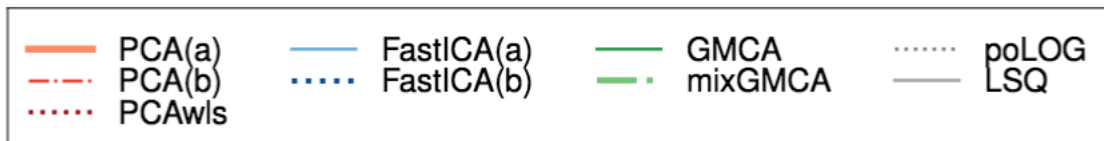
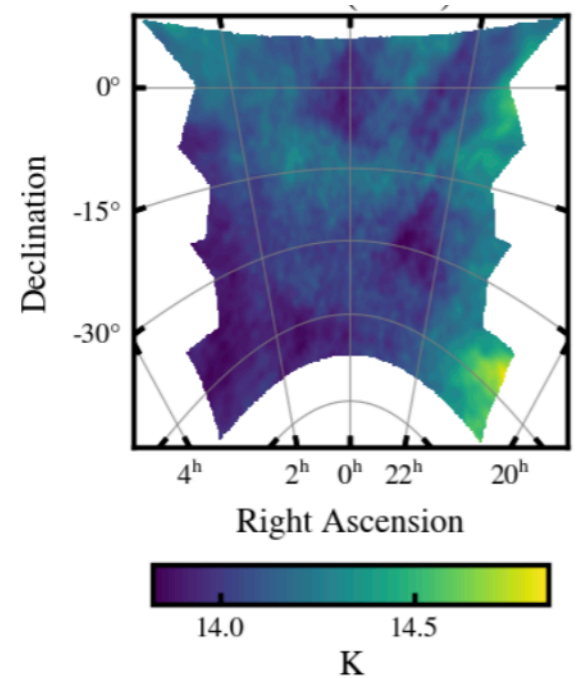
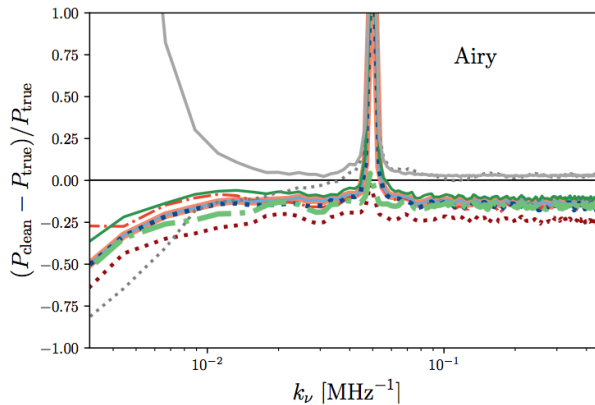
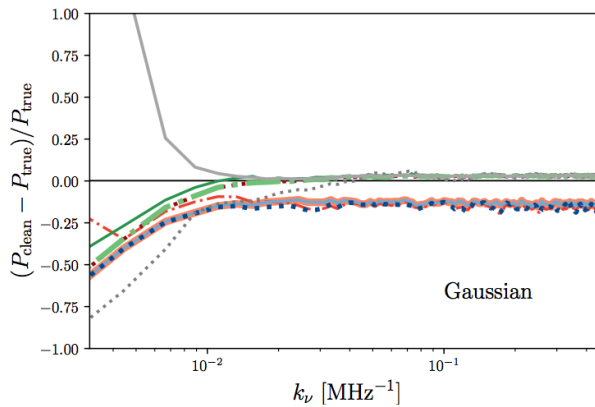
**Figure 6.** The effect of  $\sim 10\%$  variations of the 4 parameters of interest on the EFTofLSS model predictions. For comparison, we also plot the simulations-based effect of 21 cm foreground removal.



# WHAT WE REALLY NEED: END-TO-END SIMULATIONS

## SKAO H<sub>I</sub> Intensity Mapping: Blind Foreground Subtraction Challenge

Marta Spinelli,<sup>1,2,3</sup>★ Isabella P. Carucci,<sup>4,5,6</sup>† Steven Cunnington,<sup>7</sup> Stuart E. Harper,<sup>8</sup> Melis O. Irfan,<sup>3,7</sup>  
José Fonseca,<sup>7,3,9,10</sup> Alkistis Pourtsidou,<sup>7,3</sup> Laura Wolz<sup>8</sup>





# INTENSITY MAPPING: CURRENTLY OPERATING TELESCOPES

First detection in x-cross with optical



North, whole sky,  $0.8 < z < 2.5$



MeerKAT



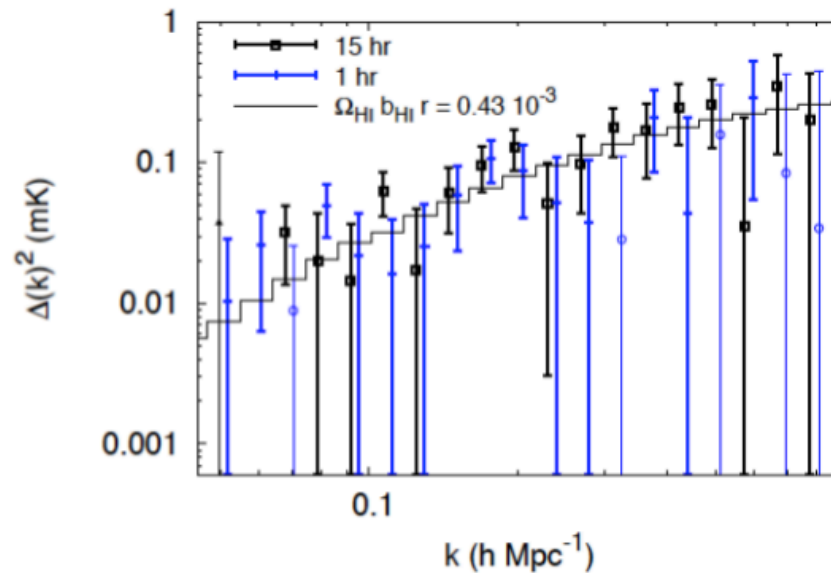
Survey at  $0 < z < 1.4$



# THE IMPORTANCE OF CROSS-CORRELATIONS

- Systematic effects are a big challenge for 21cm intensity mapping
- [GBT x WiggleZ 2013](#) showed that cross-correlating with optical can mitigate this!  
**Systematics drop out in cross-correlation.**
- [2dF x Parkes 2018](#) detection, [GBT x eBOSS](#) detections last year
- [MeerKAT x WiggleZ](#) this year!

$$\langle \delta T_{\text{HI}} \delta_g \rangle$$



Masui, et al., ApJ 2012,  
Chang et al., Nature 2010

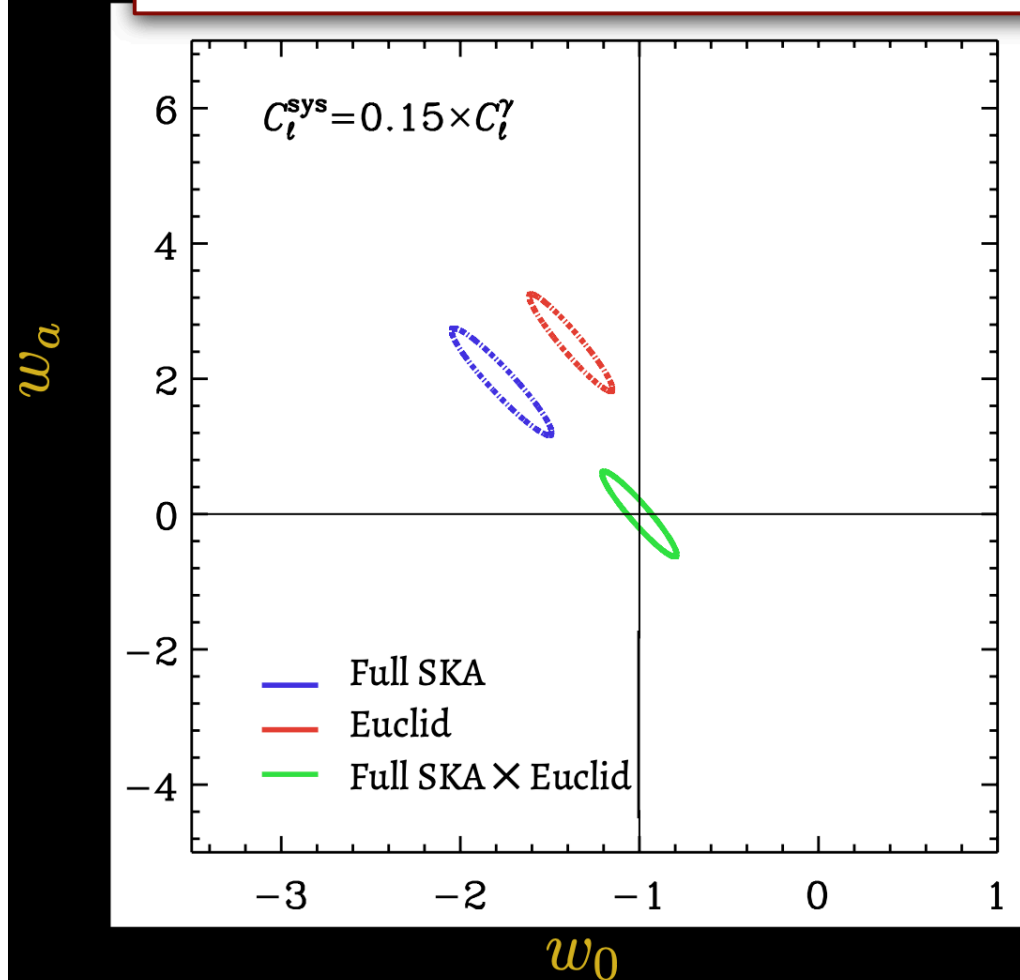
$$\Omega_{\text{HI}} b_{\text{HI}} r = [0.43 \pm 0.07(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.04(\text{sys.})] \times 10^{-3}$$



# LESS IS MORE

Less systematics to worry about: **the cosmic shear case**

[Camera, Harrison, Bonaldi & Brown 2016]



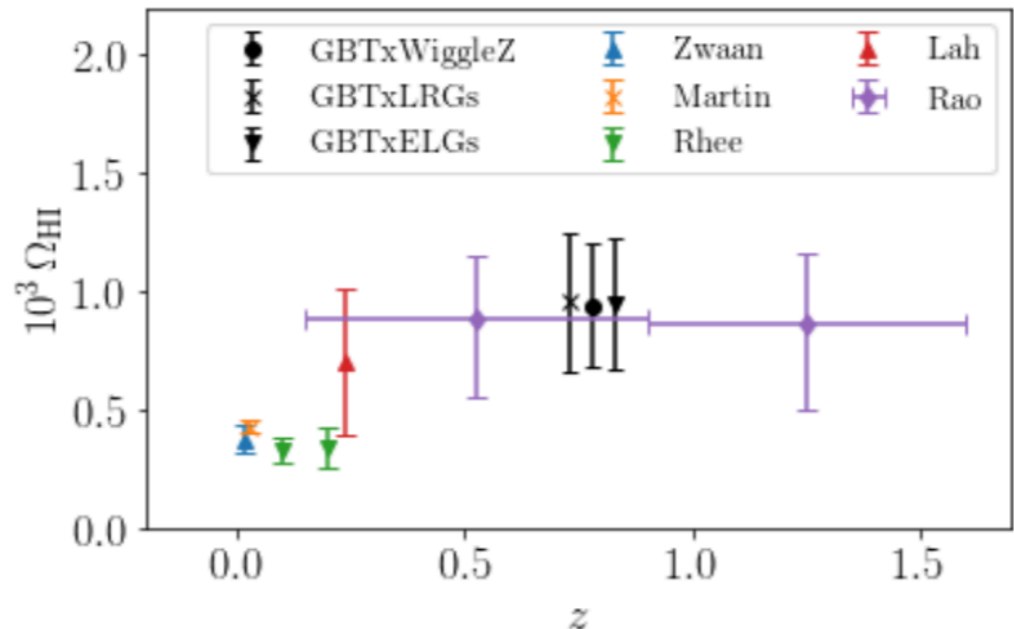
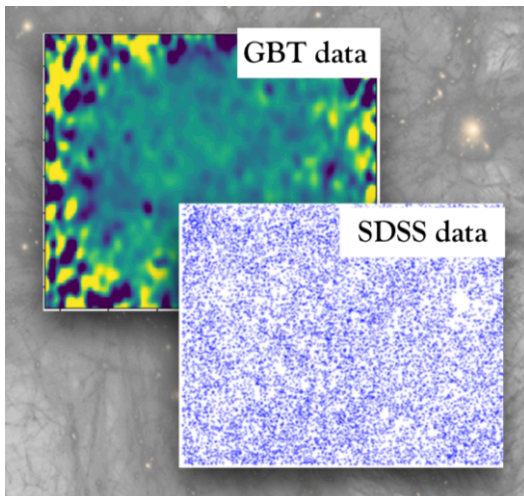


# CROSS-CORRELATION DATA ANALYSIS

## H I constraints from the cross-correlation of eBOSS galaxies and Green Bank Telescope intensity maps

Laura Wolz<sup>1\*</sup>, Alkistis Pourtsidou<sup>2</sup>, Kiyoshi W. Masui<sup>3,4</sup>, Tzu-Ching Chang<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Julian E. Bautista<sup>8,9</sup>, Eva-Maria Müller<sup>10</sup>, Santiago Avila<sup>11,12</sup>, David Bacon<sup>9</sup>, Will J. Percival<sup>13,14,15</sup>, Steven Cunningham<sup>2</sup>, Chris Anderson<sup>16</sup>, Xuelei Chen<sup>17</sup>, Jean-Paul Kneib<sup>18</sup>, Yi-Chao Li<sup>19</sup>, Yu-Wei Liao<sup>7</sup>, Ue-Li Pen<sup>20</sup>, Jeffrey B. Peterson<sup>21</sup>, Graziano Rossi<sup>22</sup>, Donald P. Schneider<sup>23,24</sup>, Jaswant Yadav<sup>25</sup>, Gong-Bo Zhao<sup>17,9</sup>

- Green Bank Telescope intensity mapping data at  $0.6 < z < 1$
- eBOSS ELGs and LRGs samples (and reanalysed the WiggleZ sample)
- Area overlap: 100 square degrees

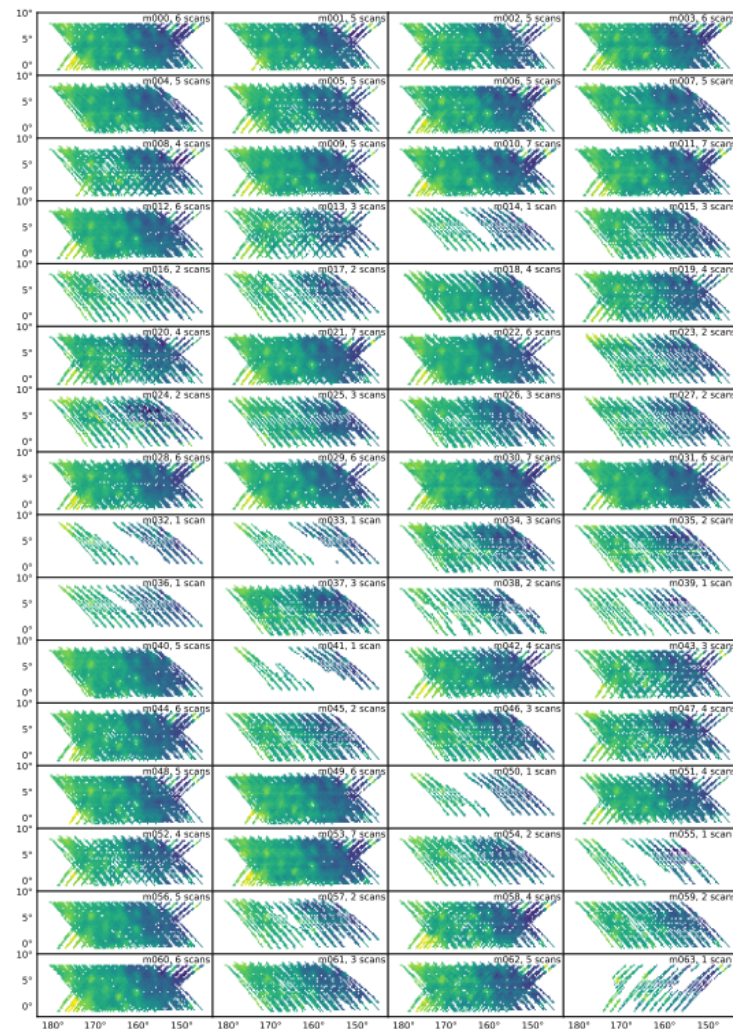
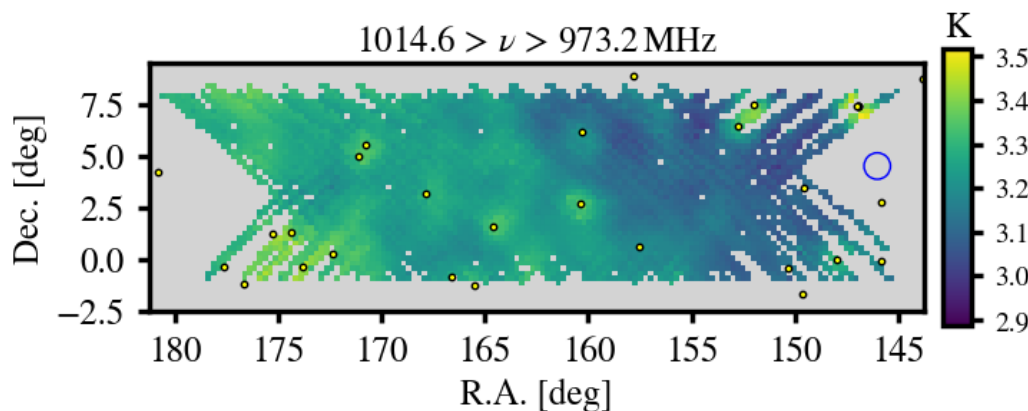




# MEERKAT DATA ANALYSIS

## Pilot survey data:

- 10.5 hours of data from six nights of observations
- Overlapping with the WiggleZ11hr field ( $\sim 200 \text{ deg}^2$ )
- We use data in range 973-1015 MHz ( $0.40 < z < 0.46$ )



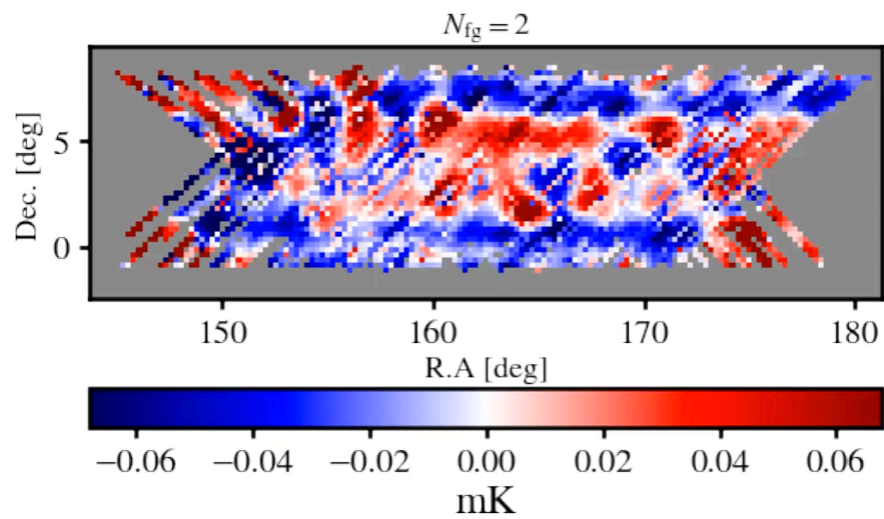
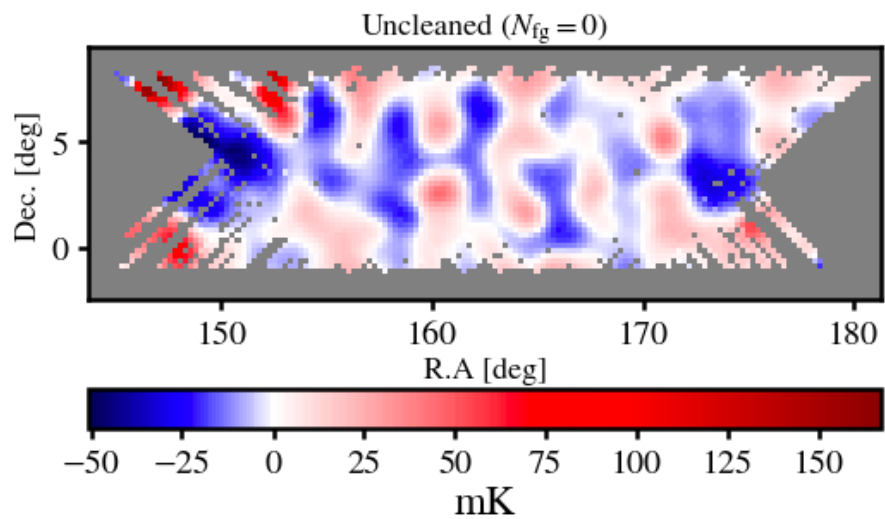
J.Wang et al. 2021

**Huge problem: we lose a lot of data due to RFI**



# MEERKAT DATA ANALYSIS

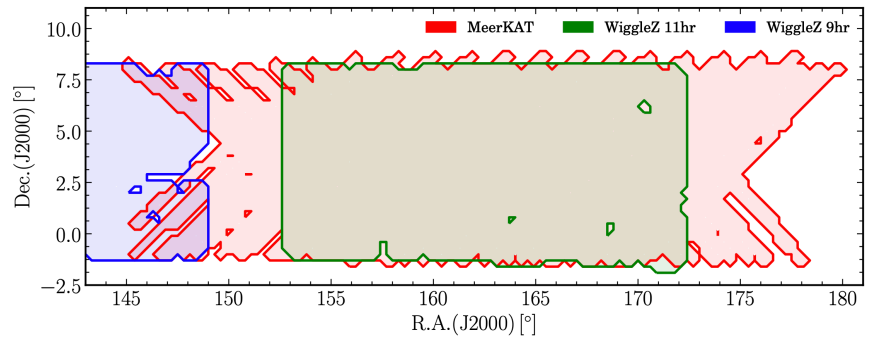
## Principal Component Analysis foreground cleaning



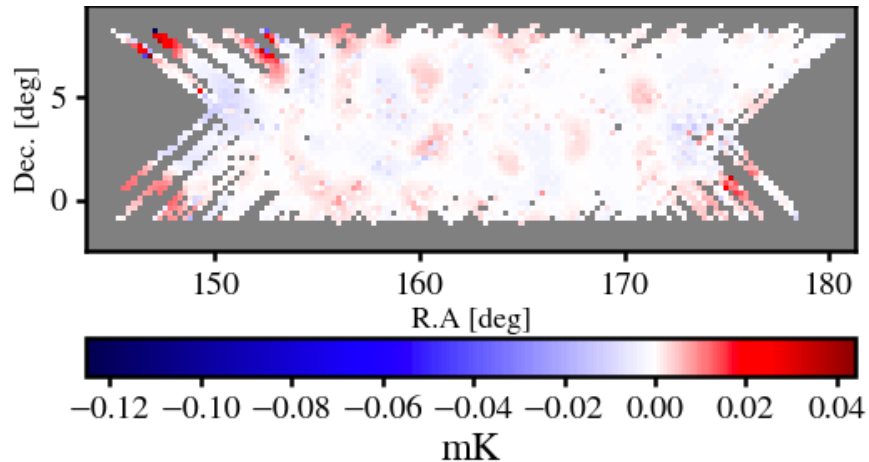


# MEERKAT X WIGGLEZ DATA ANALYSIS

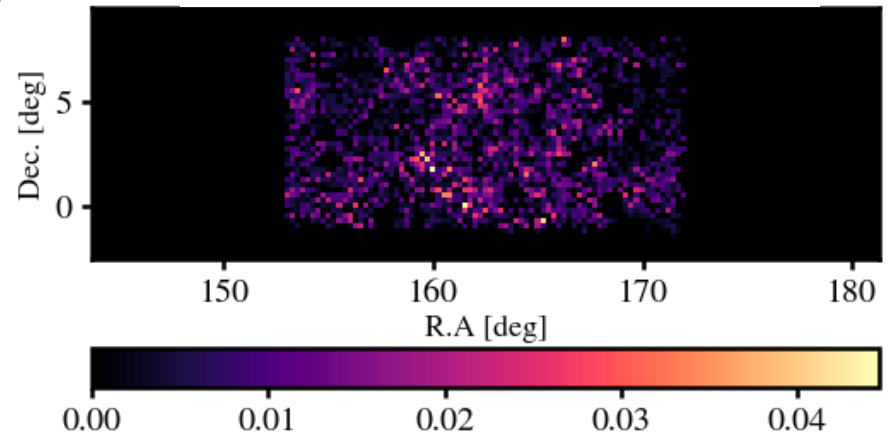
MeerKAT pilot observations on  
WiggleZ 11hr field



Final foreground cleaned MeerKAT HI intensity map



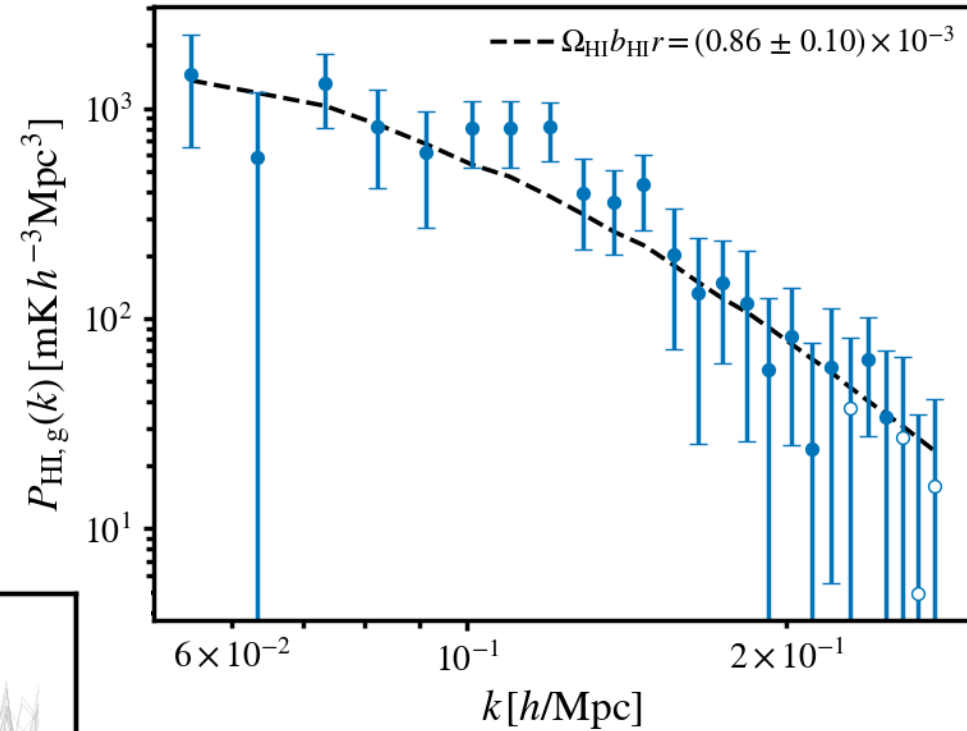
WiggleZ Dark Energy Survey galaxies



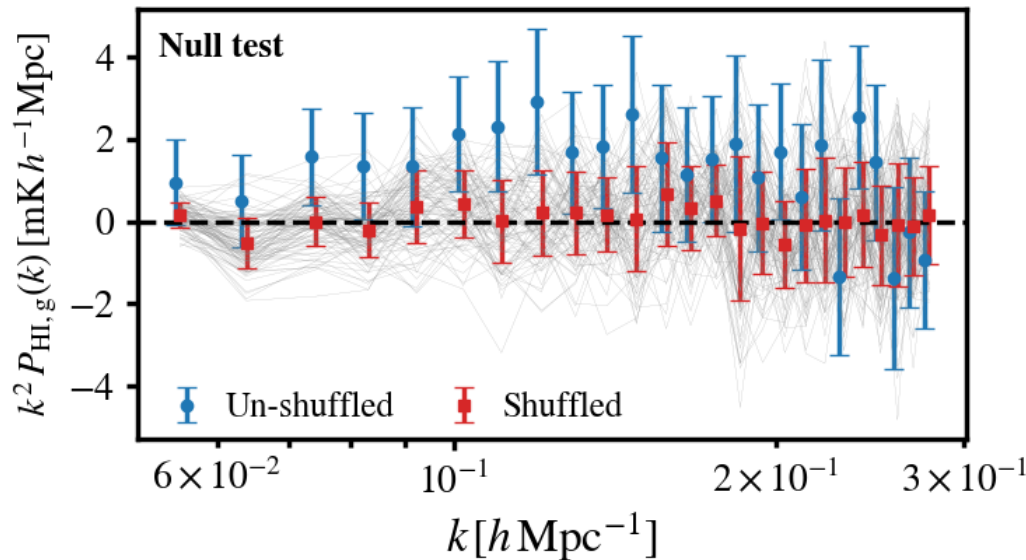


# MEERKAT X WIGGLEZ DATA ANALYSIS

- Positive correlation ( $7.7\sigma$ ) between galaxy survey and array of dishes in single-dish mode
- The first detection of its kind
- Important milestone for Cosmology with SKA intensity mapping

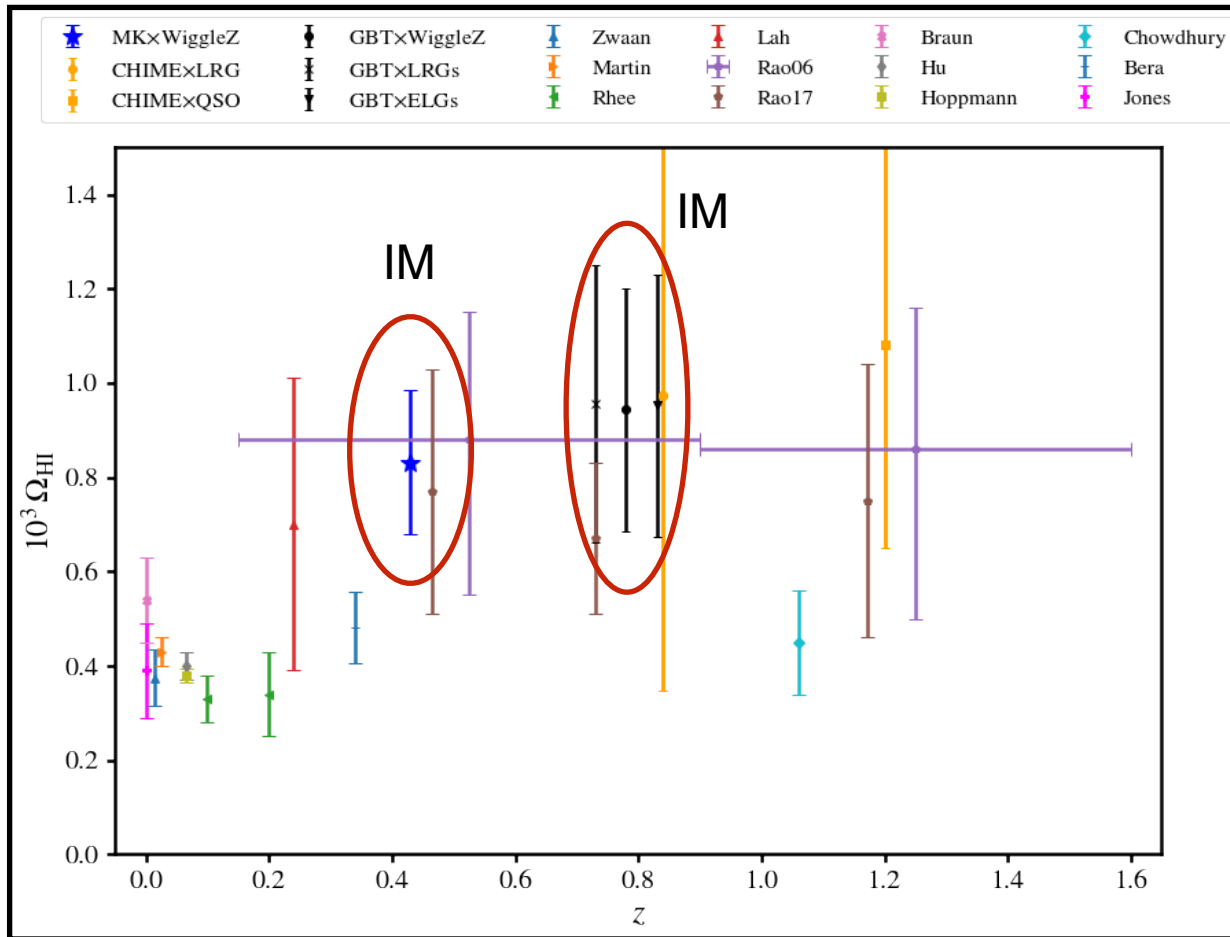


Cunnington, Li+22





# MEERKAT X WIGGLEZ DATA ANALYSIS



Cunnington, Li+22





*Thank  
you!*