

Neutral Hydrogen Intensity Mapping

as a cosmological tool



Marta Spinelli
Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur

Hydrogen in cosmic history

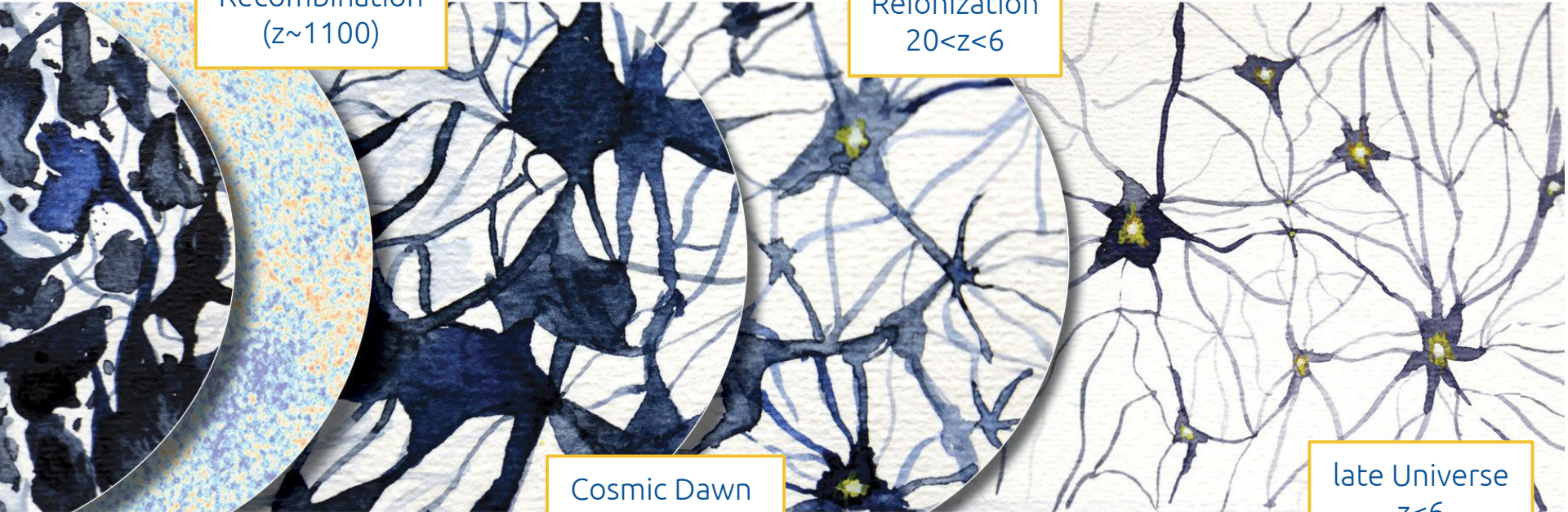
credit: ESA

Recombination
($z \sim 1100$)

Reionization
 $20 < z < 6$

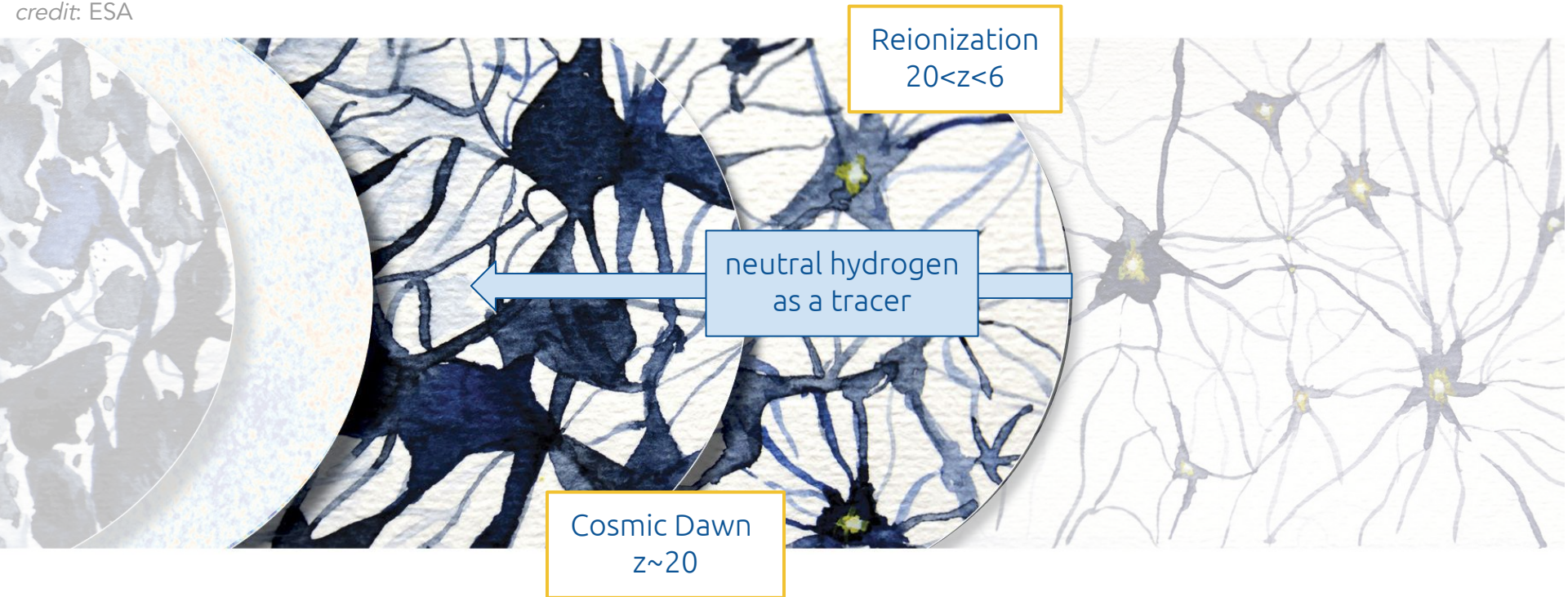
Cosmic Dawn
 $z \sim 20$

late Universe
 $z < 6$



The **high** redshift universe

credit: ESA



The **low** redshift Universe

Large-scale structure

neutral hydrogen
as a tracer

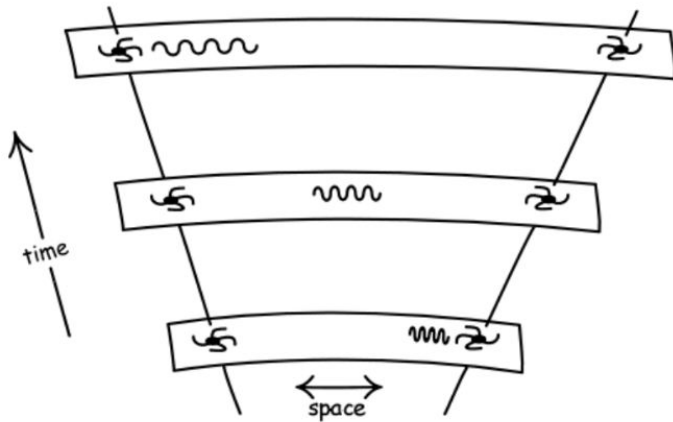
late Universe
 $z < 6$

credit: ESA



Frequency and redshift for the 21cm line

$$z = \frac{(\nu_{\text{emitted}} - \nu_{\text{observed}})}{\nu_{\text{observed}}} \text{ with } \nu_{\text{emitted}} = 1420 \text{ MHz}$$



Examples:

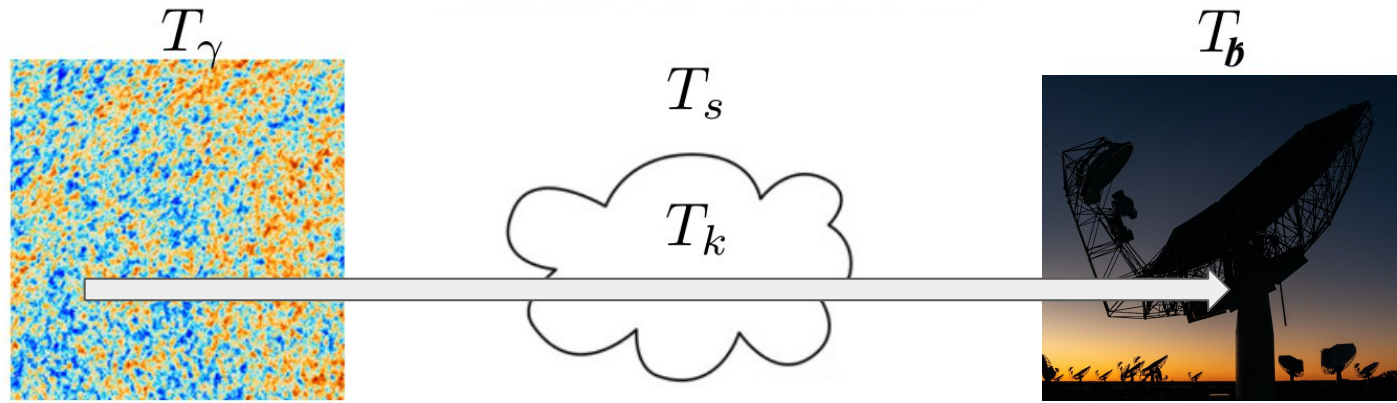
$\nu_{\text{observed}} \sim 900 \text{ MHz}$
corresponds to $z \sim 0.6$: late Universe

$\nu_{\text{observed}} \sim 170 \text{ MHz}$
corresponds to $z \sim 7$: Epoch of Reionization

$\nu_{\text{observed}} \sim 70 \text{ MHz}$
corresponds to $z \sim 20$: Cosmic Dawn

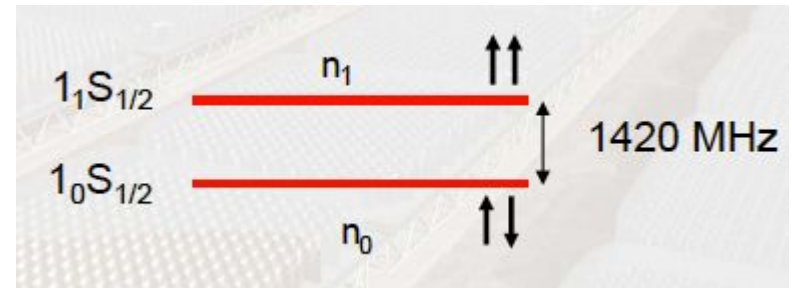
<https://www.pitt.edu/~jdnorton/teaching/>

The 21cm line



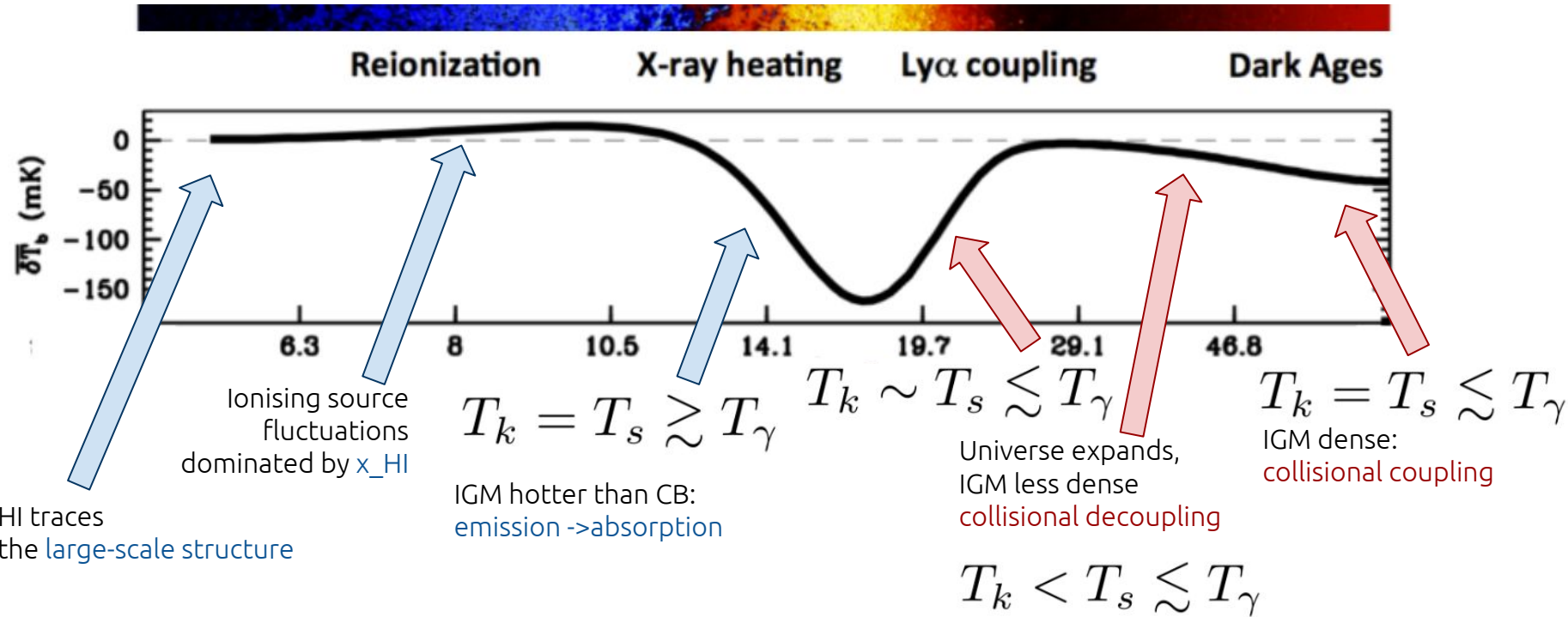
3 fundamental temperatures:

- ❑ T_γ the CMB temperature
- ❑ T_k the gas (IGM) temperature
- ❑ T_s the **spin temperature**: sets the population of the hyperfine level with respect to the ground state

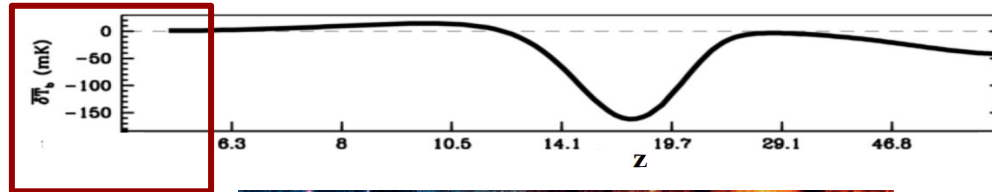


21cm signal as the Universe evolves

$$\delta T_b \propto x_{HI}(1 + \delta)(1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_s}) \text{ mK}$$

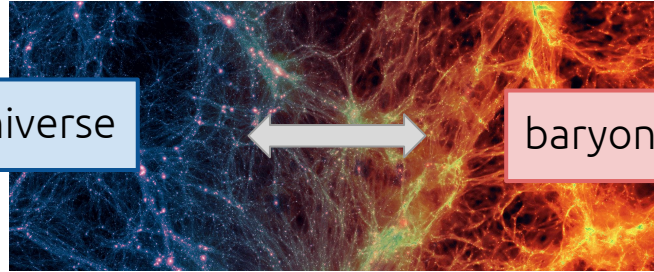


Late-time neutral hydrogen distribution



credit: Illustris

dark Universe



baryons: neutral Hydrogen (HI)

What is the nature of dark matter and dark energy?

how is dark matter distributed on large scales?

how does its distribution evolve with cosmic time?

what is the role of dark energy?

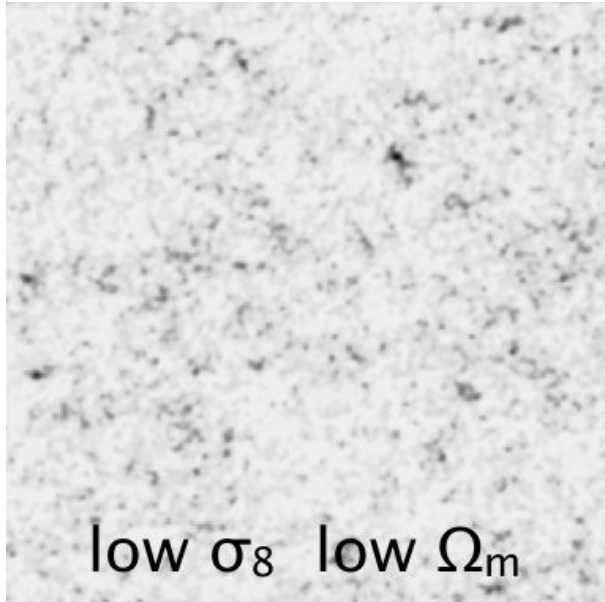
How do baryons trace dark matter?

what is the link between galaxies and dark matter halos?

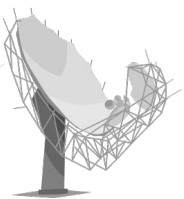
how are HI galaxies distributed in the cosmic web?

how does the total cosmic HI evolve with redshift?

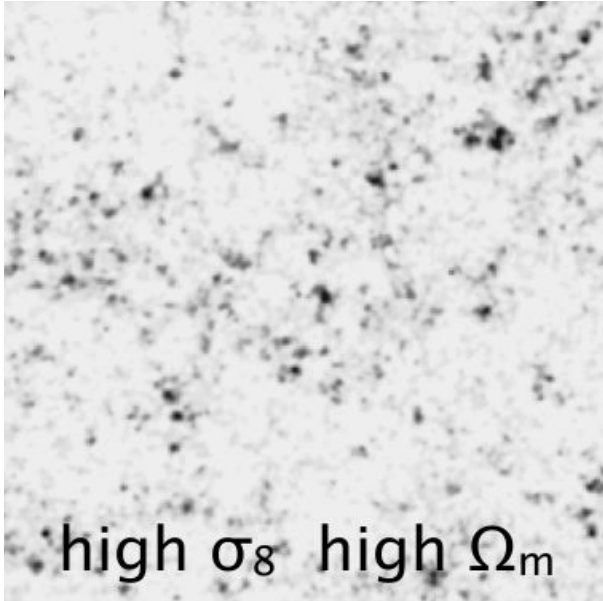
LSS with Neutral Hydrogen



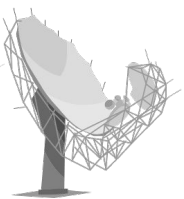
matter clustering contains a wealth of
cosmological information



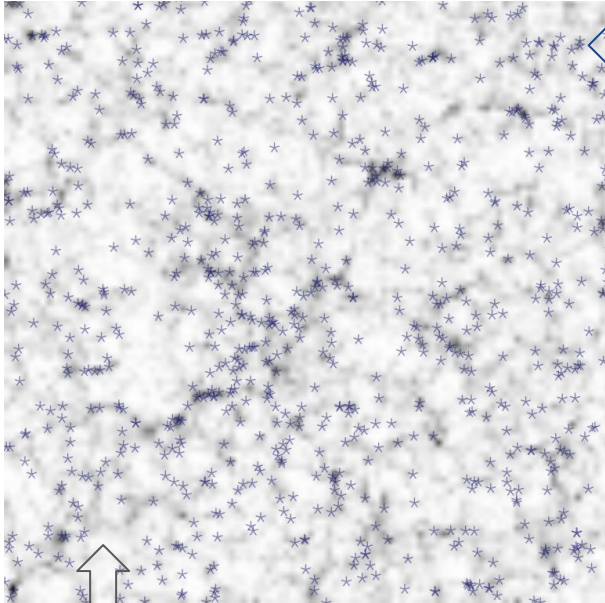
LSS with Neutral Hydrogen



matter clustering contains a wealth of
cosmological information



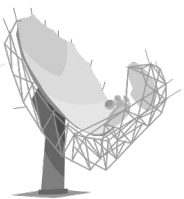
LSS with Neutral Hydrogen



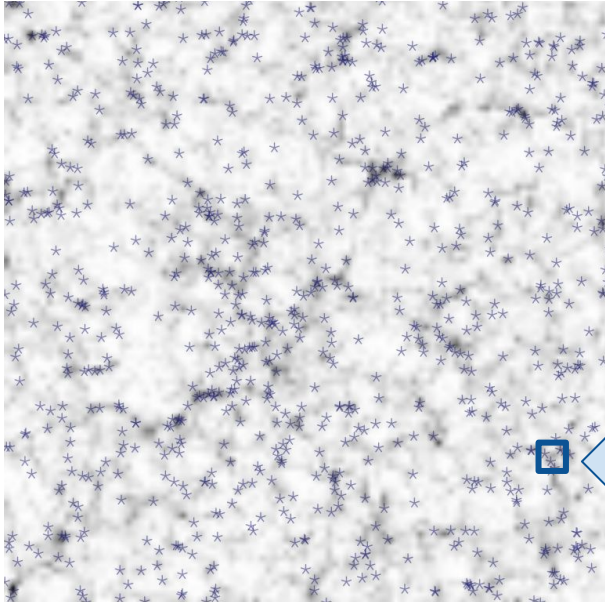
the distribution of **neutral Hydrogen** is a biased tracer of the **matter clustering**

How can we efficiently observe cosmological volumes?

underlying matter distribution



LSS with Neutral Hydrogen

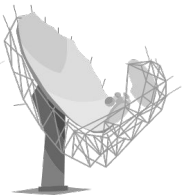


the distribution of **neutral Hydrogen** is a biased tracer of the **matter clustering**

How can we efficiently observe cosmological volumes?

Intensity Mapping:

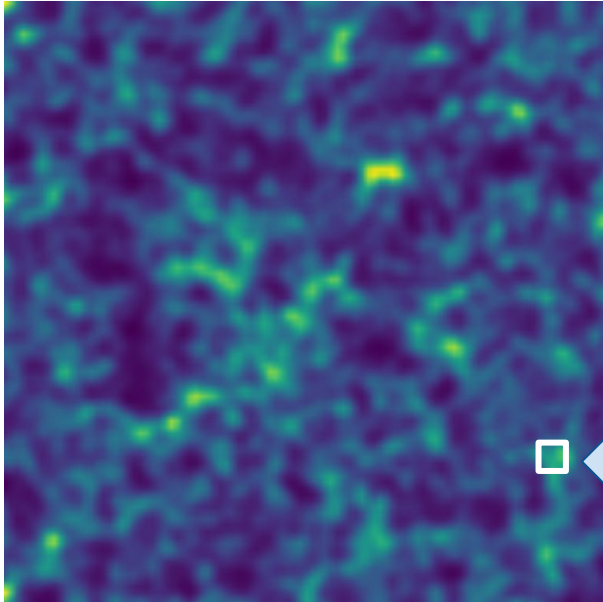
total intensity of the 21cm emission line in a **large pixel** (low spatial resolution)



Intensity Mapping

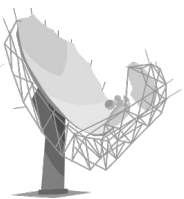
the distribution of **neutral Hydrogen**
is a biased tracer of the **matter clustering**

How can we efficiently observe
cosmological volumes?

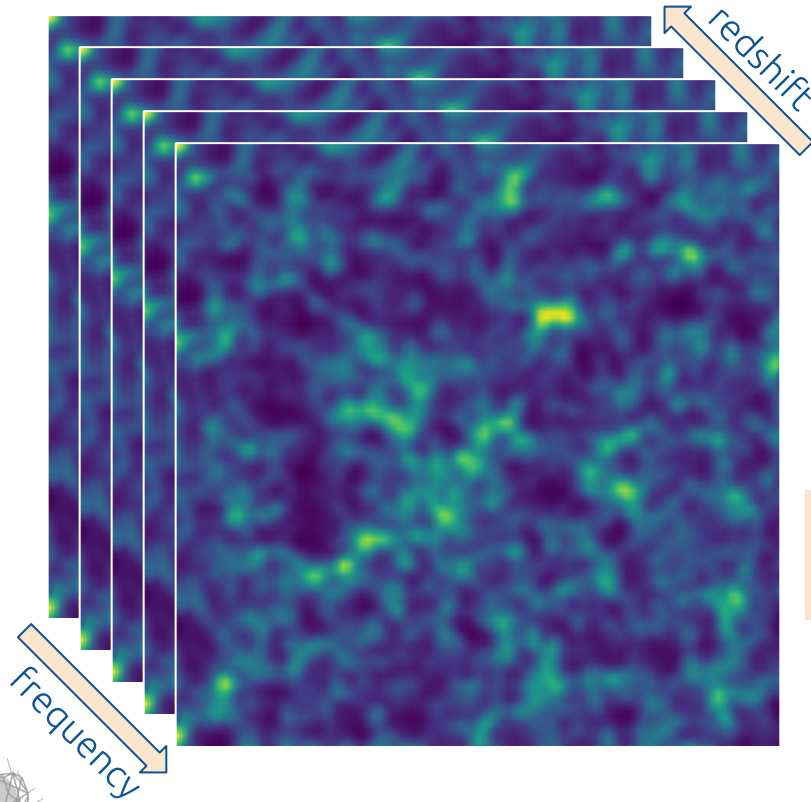


Intensity Mapping:

total intensity of the 21cm emission line
in a **large pixel** (low spatial resolution)



Intensity Mapping

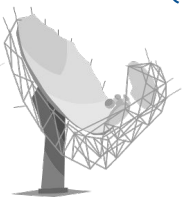


the distribution of **neutral Hydrogen**
is a biased tracer of the **matter clustering**

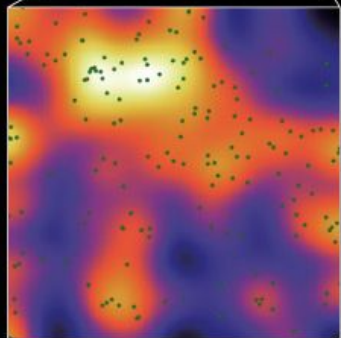
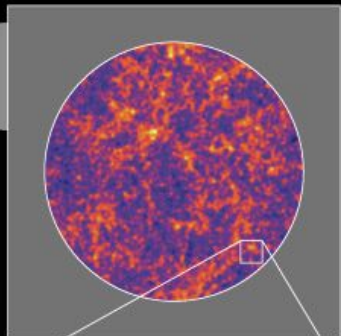
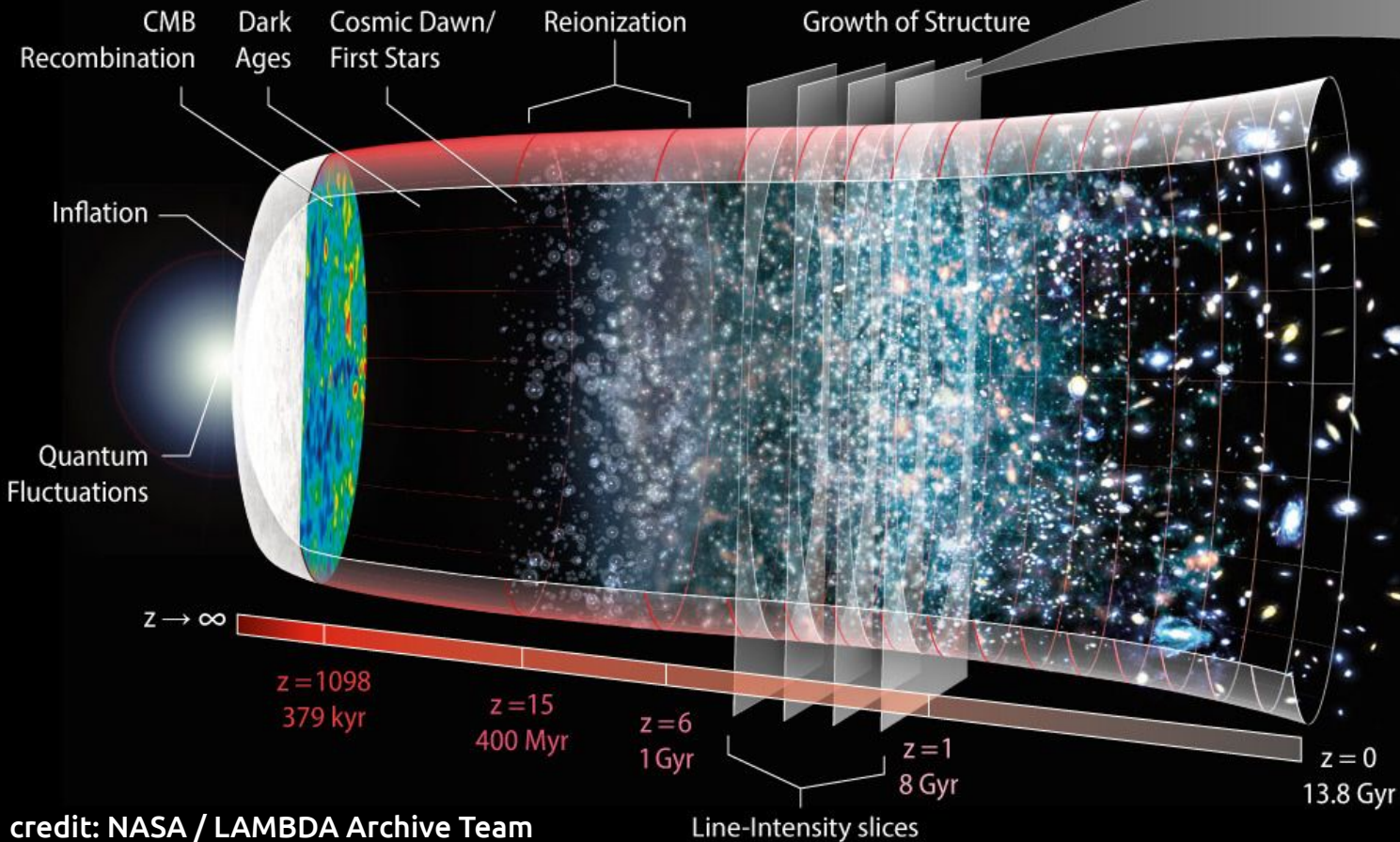
How can we efficiently observe
cosmological volumes?

one-to-one correspondence frequency-redshift
high spectral resolution (tomography)

Key cosmological probe



Tomography

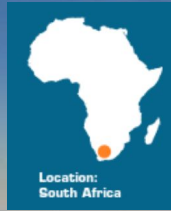


Line-Intensity Mapping simulation with galaxy distributions

credit: NASA / LAMBDA Archive Team

The SKA Observatory

credit: skatelescope.org



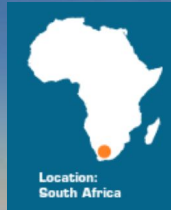
SKA-Mid
350 MHz - 13.5 GHz
21cm: $0 < z < 3$

SKA-Low
50 MHz - 350 MHz
21cm: $3 < z < 30$

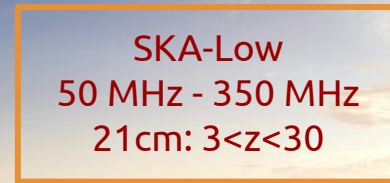


The SKA Observatory

credit: skatelescope.org



SKA-Mid
350 MHz - 13.5 GHz
21cm: $0 < z < 3$



SKA-Low
50 MHz - 350 MHz
21cm: $3 < z < 30$

What is the precise value of the cosmological parameters?

When and how the first stars and galaxies started to form?

What is the nature of dark matter and dark energy?

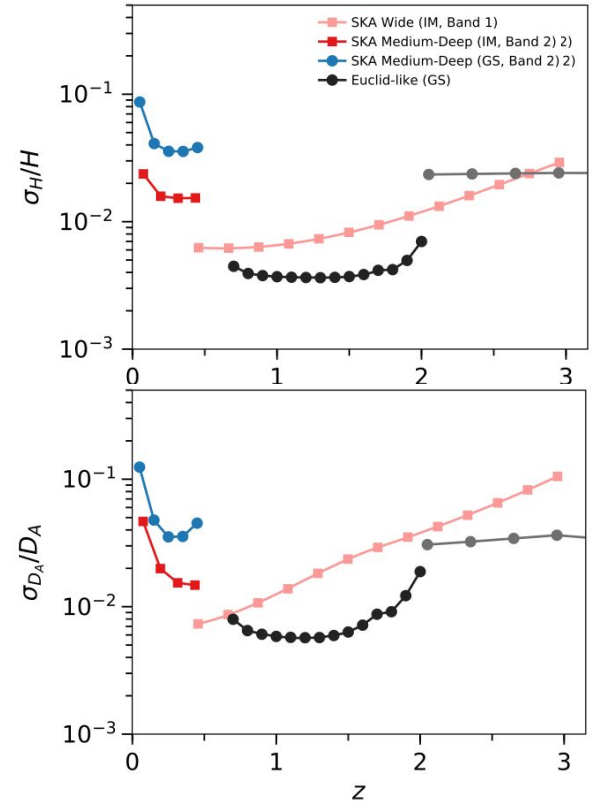
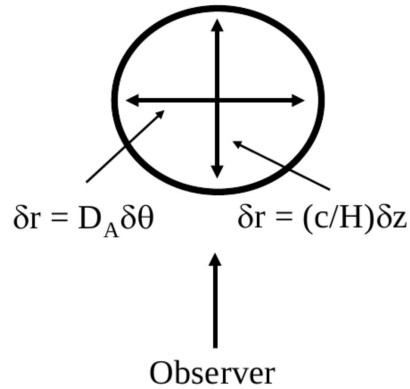
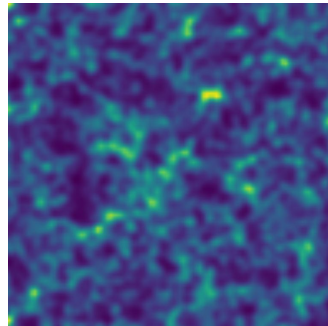
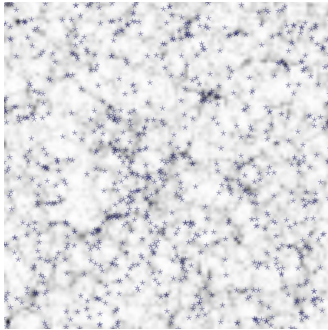
post-reionization

Epoch of Reionization

Cosmic Dawn

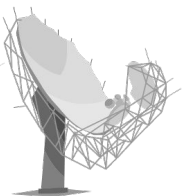
BAO at different redshift

HI galaxies (GS) at low redshift



SKA Red Book (2020)

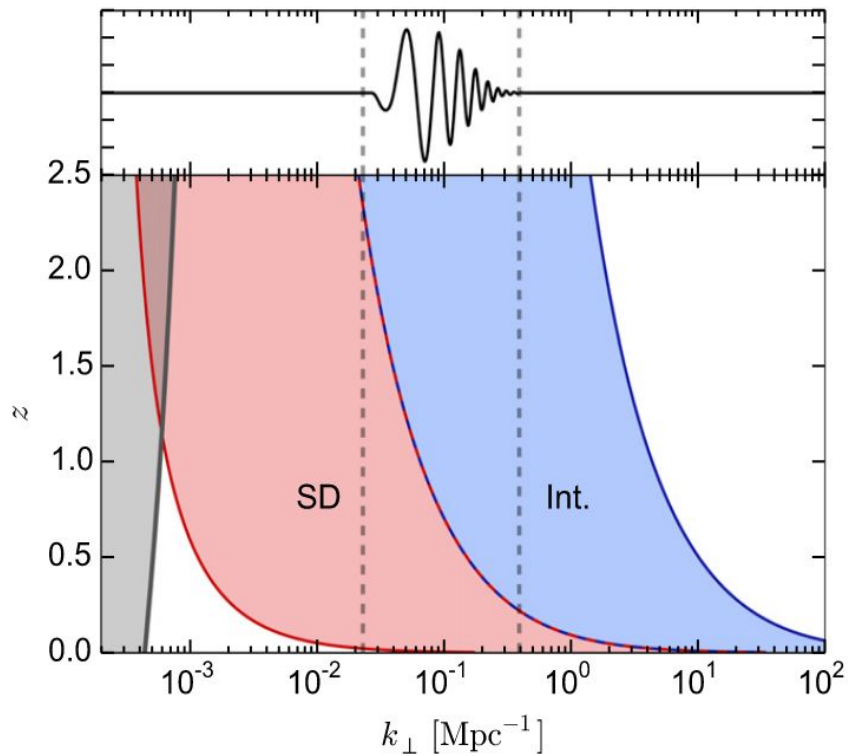
HI distribution (IM) at higher redshift



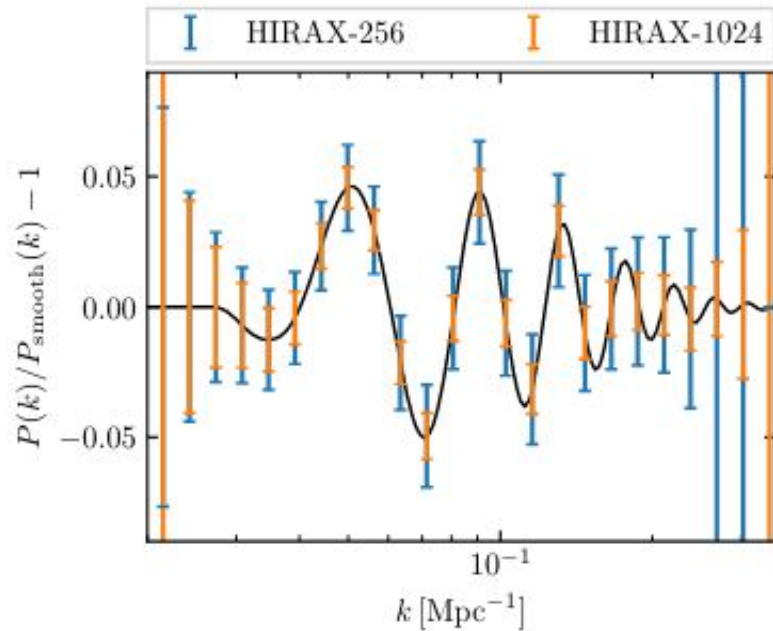
Beside the SKAO



Single Dish vs interferometry



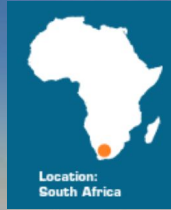
Bull et al. 2015



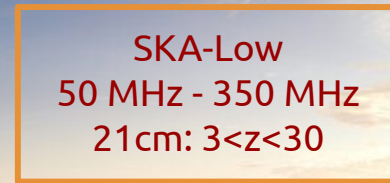
Crichton et al. 2021

The SKA Observatory

credit: skatelescope.org



SKA-Mid
350 MHz - 13.5 GHz
21cm: $0 < z < 3$



SKA-Low
50 MHz - 350 MHz
21cm: $3 < z < 30$



MeerKAT
64 antennas
21cm: $0 < z < 1.5$



The Radio Sky

credit: skatelescope.org



The Radio Sky

credit: skatelescope.org

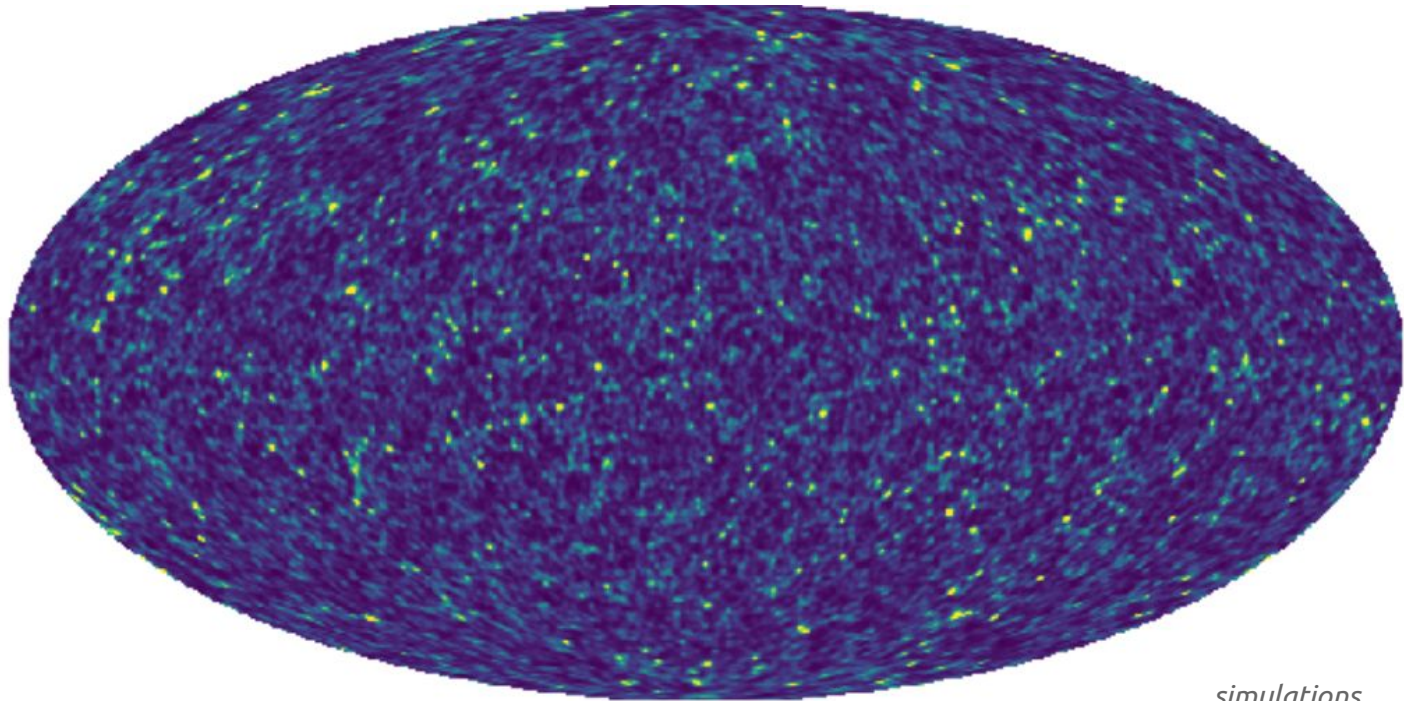
atomic and molecular transitions from various celestial objects

Synchrotron radiation due to electrons with relativistic velocities gyrate and radiate in the presence of magnetic fields.

Free-Free radiation produced by the deceleration of (typically) an electron when deflected by the presence of hot gas

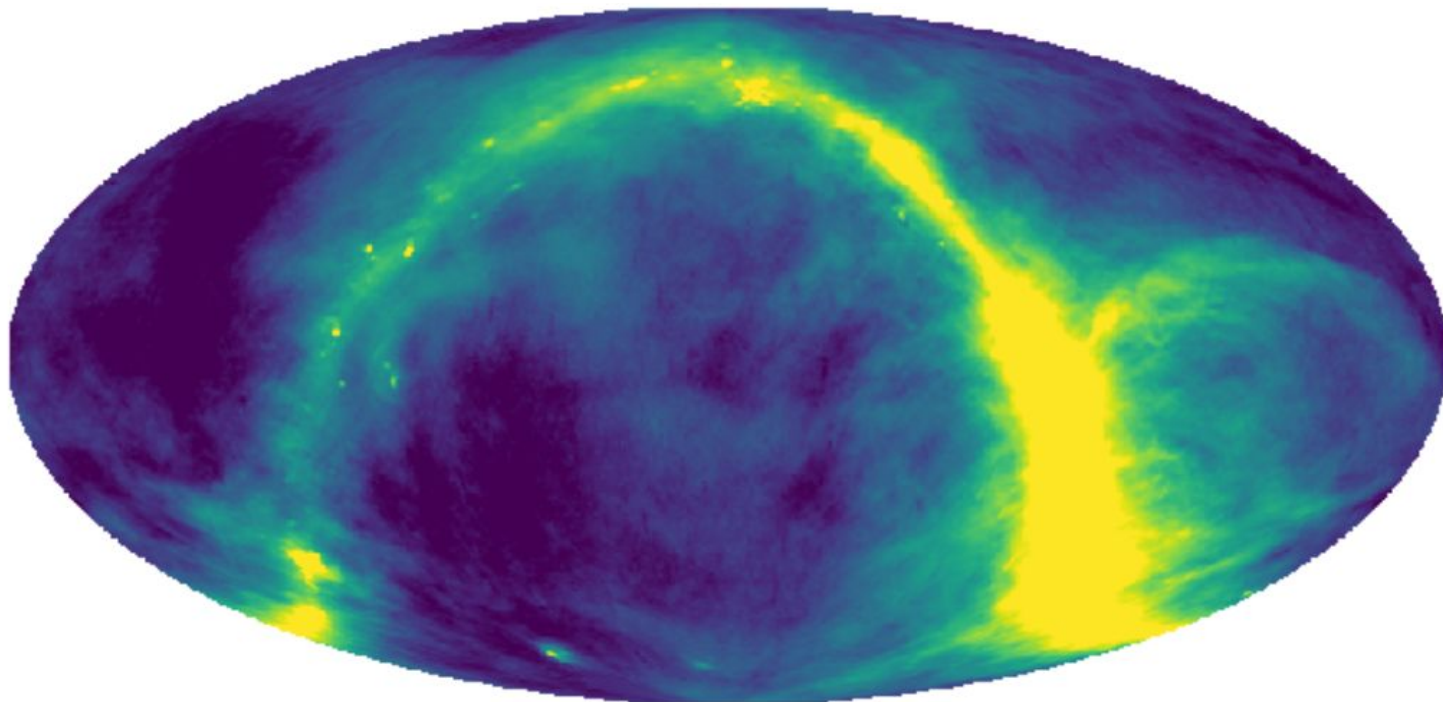
...

Hydrogen on cosmological scales



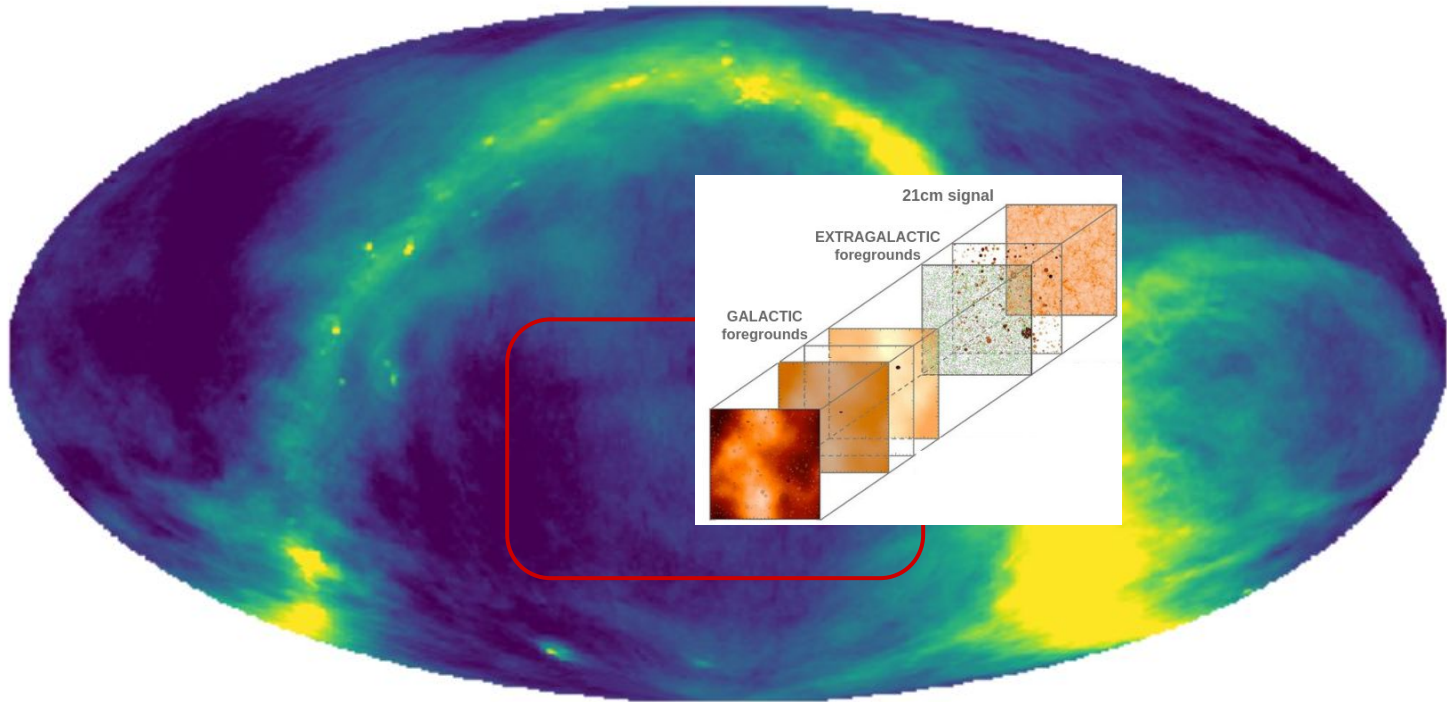
simulations
MS et al. 2021,2022

The challenge of foregrounds



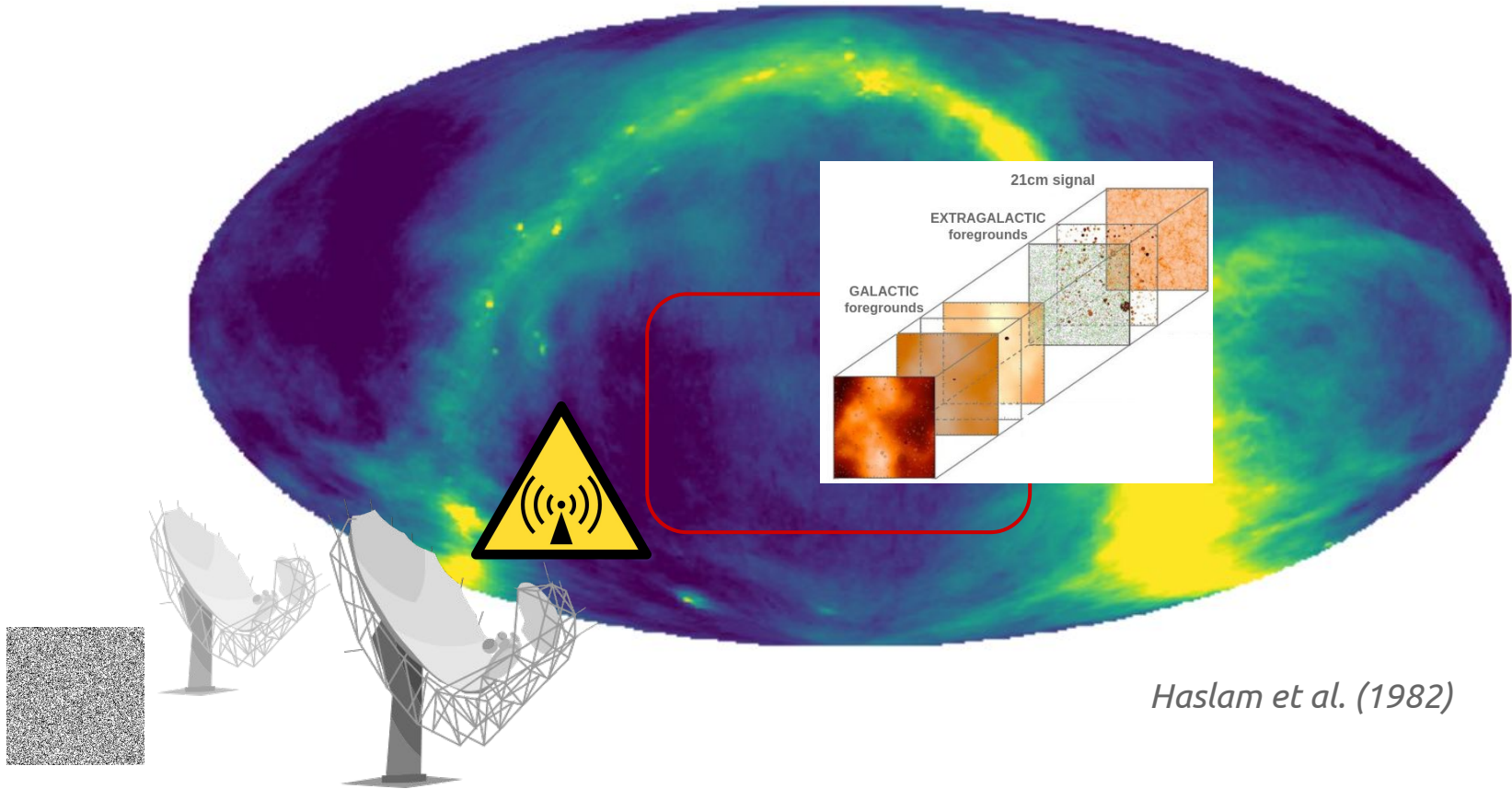
Haslam et al. (1982)

The challenge of foregrounds



Haslam et al. (1982)

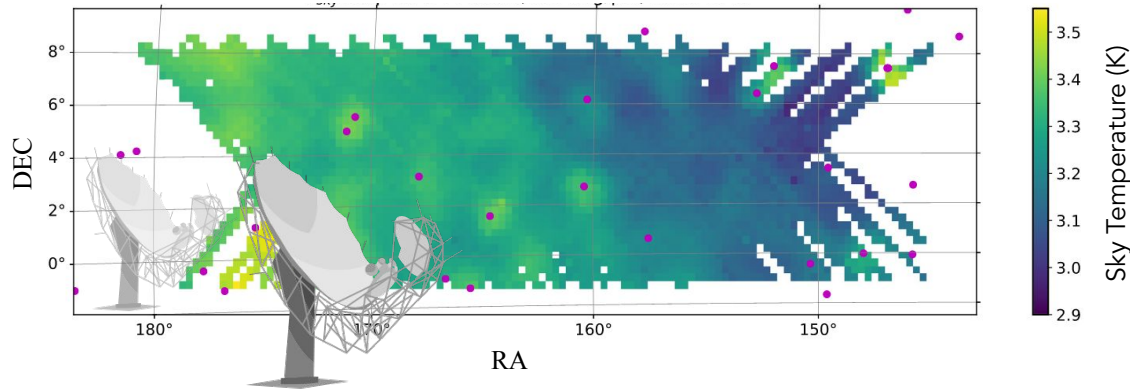
The challenge of foregrounds



Haslam et al. (1982)

Intensity Mapping Observations

MeerKLASS: cosmological survey with MeerKAT 64 antennas



First calibrated sky map!

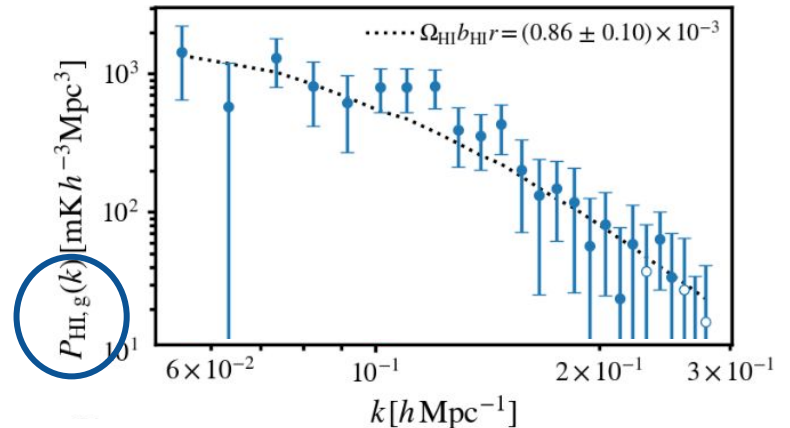
Wang et al. 2021 [including Spinelli]

complex analysis pipeline

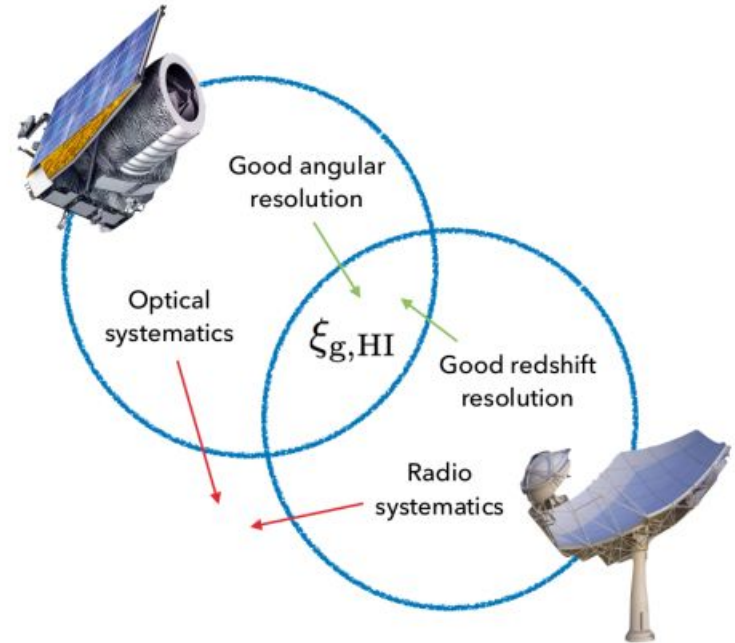
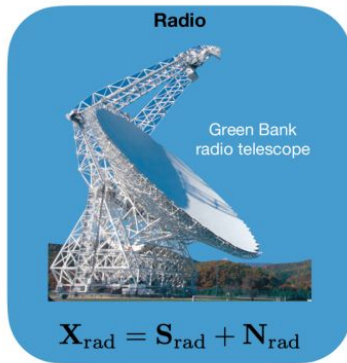
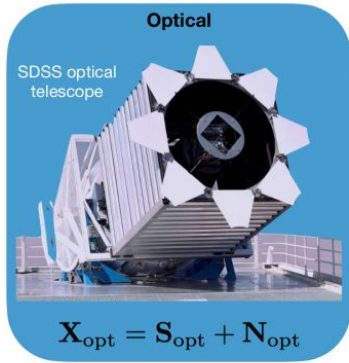
Need for RFI flagging, foreground cleaning, etc.

21cm signal detection achieved at redshift 0.4
in **cross-correlation with galaxy surveys**

Cunnington et al. 2022 + upcoming 2021 papers



Mitigating systematics with cross-correlation



Auto Correlation:

$$\langle \mathbf{X}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{X}_{\text{opt}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \rangle + 2 \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \rangle$$

uncorrelated

$$\langle \mathbf{X}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{X}_{\text{opt}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \rangle$$

signal you want

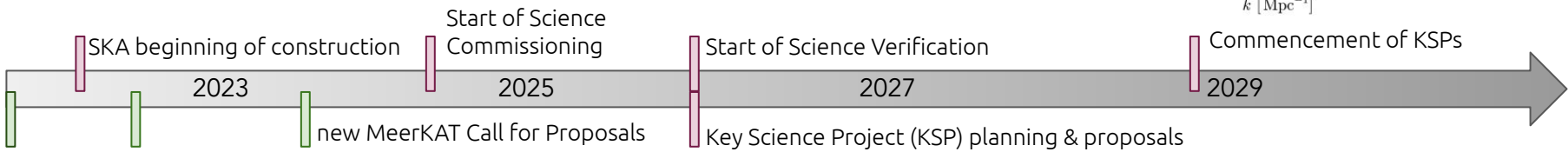
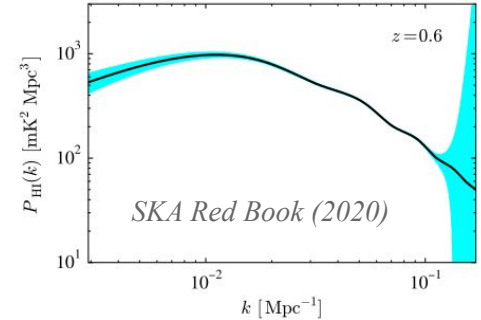
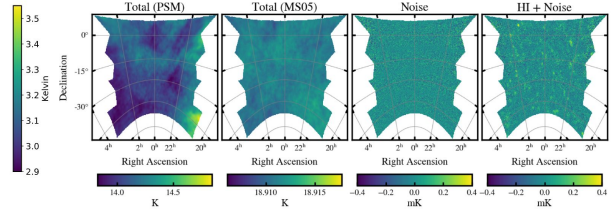
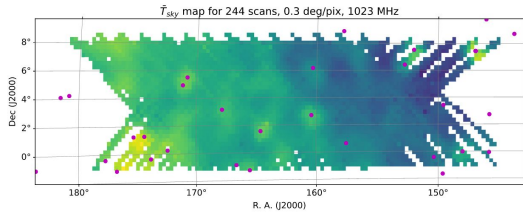
noise you don't want

Cross Correlation:

$$\langle \mathbf{X}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{X}_{\text{rad}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{S}_{\text{rad}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{rad}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{S}_{\text{rad}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{N}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{N}_{\text{rad}} \rangle$$

courtesy of Steve Cunnington

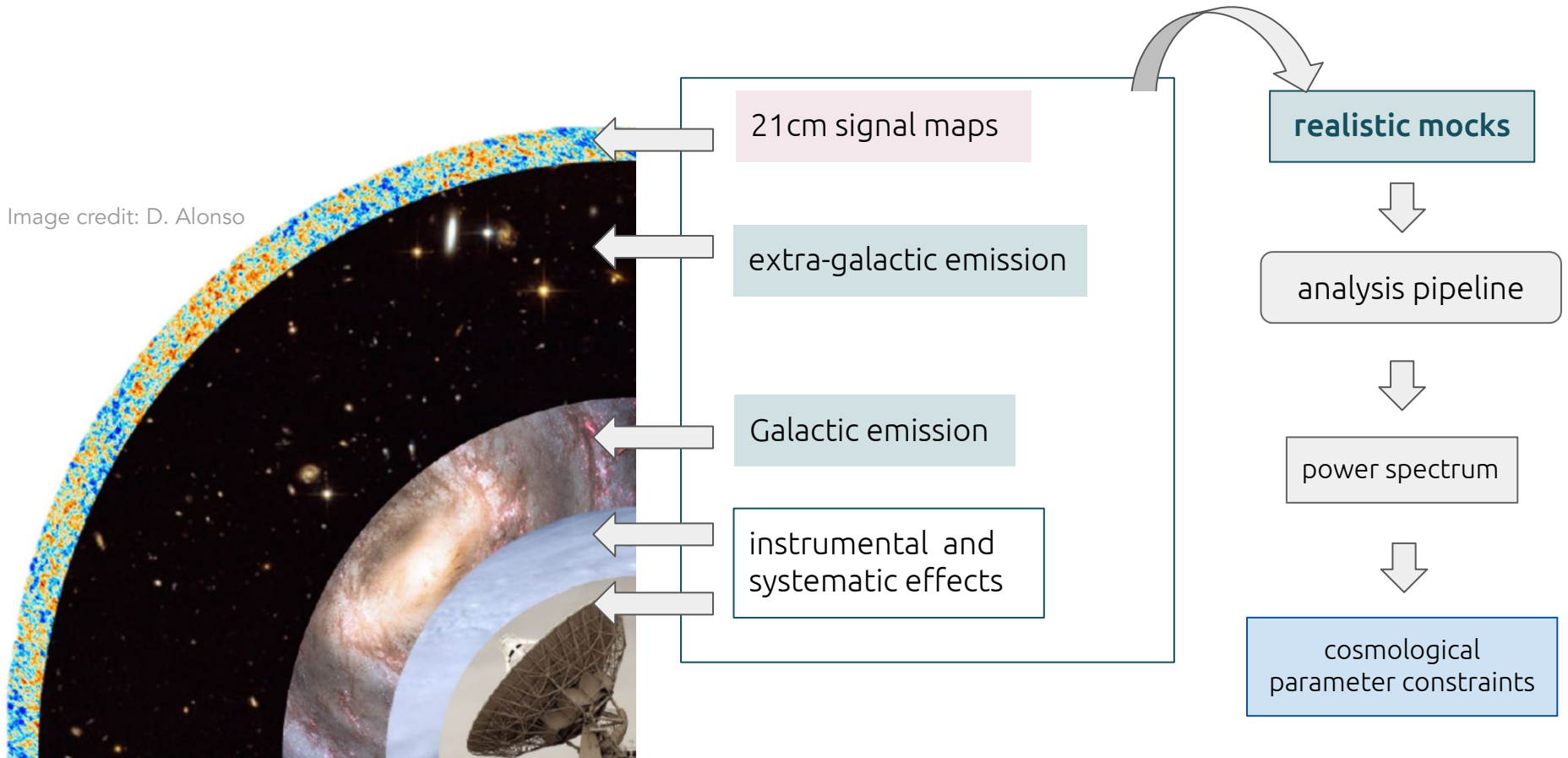
The SKA (Cosmology) timeline



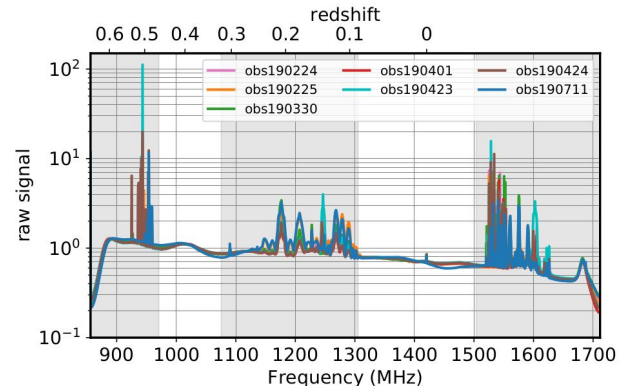
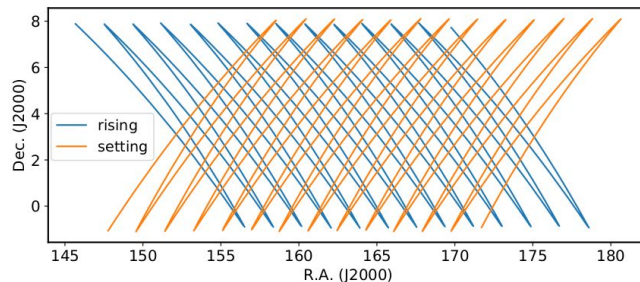
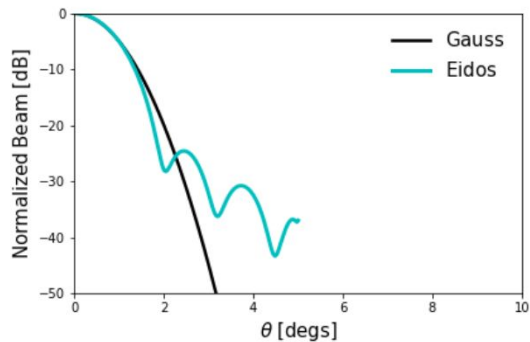
MeerKAT telescope time for MeerKLASS

End-to-end Simulations

Image credit: D. Alonso



Getting to know the instrument



Need a realistic beam modeling
side-lobes, frequency evolution,
more accurate deconvolution

Matshwule et al. 2021,
MS et al. 2022

Scanning strategy

non homogeneous noise,
need for real space convolution,
polarization leakage

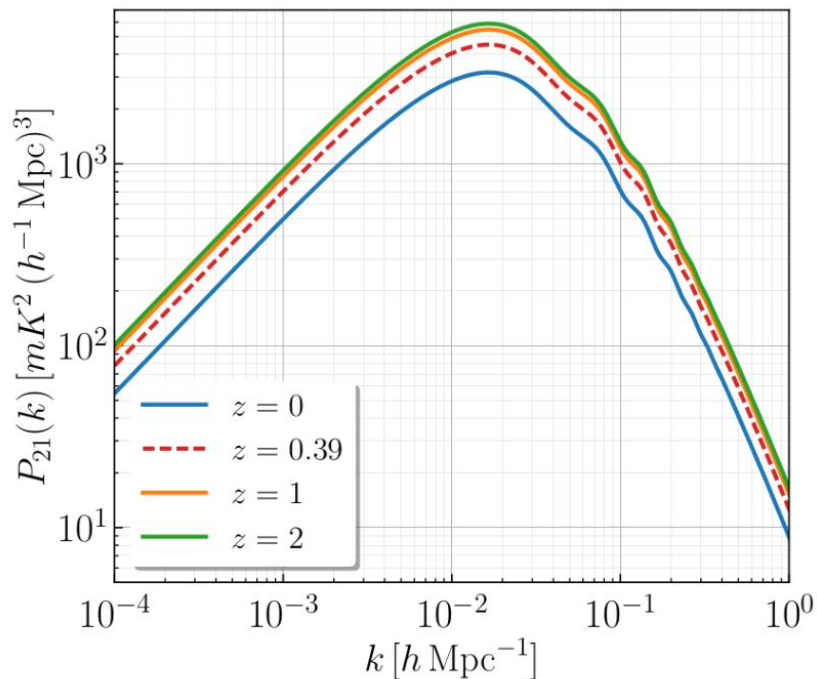
Harper et al. 2018
MS, Matshawule et al. (in prep)

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

impact on cleaning,
impact on signal interpretation

Harper et al. 2018
Engelbrecht et al. 2024

Theoretical 21cm (linear) Power Spectrum



We model it as¹

$$P_{21}(z, k, \mu) = \bar{T}_b^2(z) \left[b_{\text{HI}}(z) + f(z) \mu^2 \right]^2 P_m(z, k)$$

where

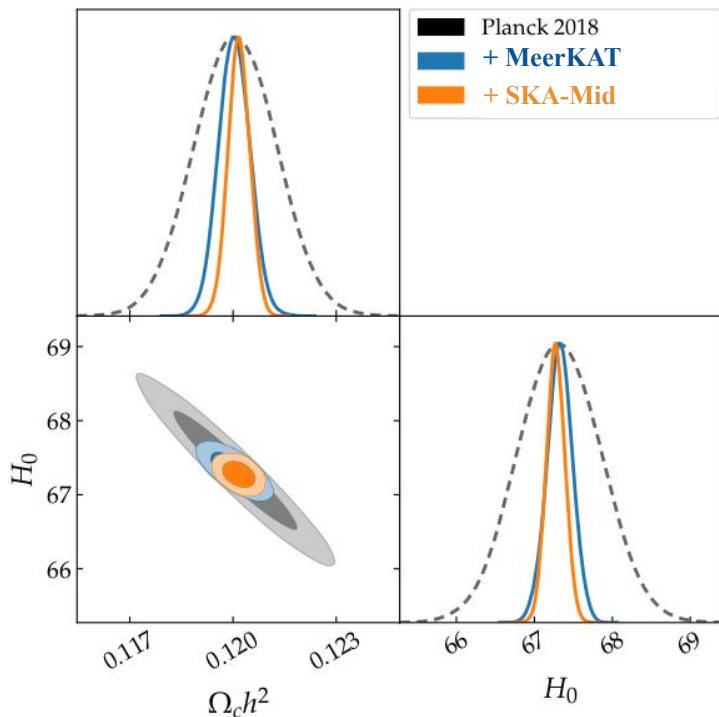
- $\bar{T}_b^2(z)$ is the mean brightness temperature
- $b_{\text{HI}}(z)$ is the HI bias
- $f(z)$ is the growth rate
- $\mu = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{z}$
- $P_m(z, k)$ is the matter power spectrum

✓ in good agreement with hydrodynamical simulations results (Villaescusa-Navarro et al. 2018)

¹ Kaiser (1987), Bacon et al. (2019)

SKAO forecasts

Berti, MS et al. 2022, 2023



$$P_{21}(z, k, \mu) = \bar{T}_b^2(z) \left[b_{\text{HI}}(z) + f(z) \mu^2 \right]^2 P_m(z, k)$$

$$P_\ell(z, k) = \frac{(2\ell + 1)}{2} \bar{T}_b^2(z) P_m(z, k) \int_{-1}^1 d\mu \mathcal{L}_\ell(\mu) \left[b_{\text{HI}}(z) + f(z) \mu^2 \right]^2$$

MeerKAT

Gaussian beam (λ/D)
 realistic noise level
 2400h, 2000deg² in L-band
 ($z_{\text{eff}} \sim 0.39$)

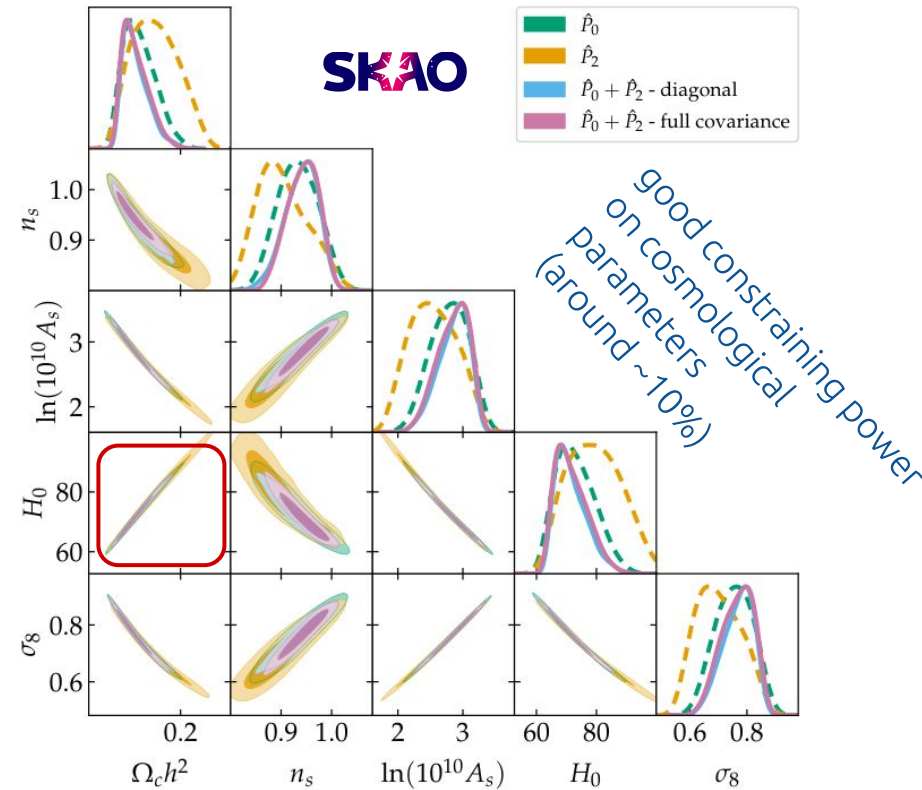
SKA-MID

tomography up to $z \sim 3$
 20000 deg², 10.000h
 multipole expansion (P0+P2)

P21 breaks parameter degeneracies

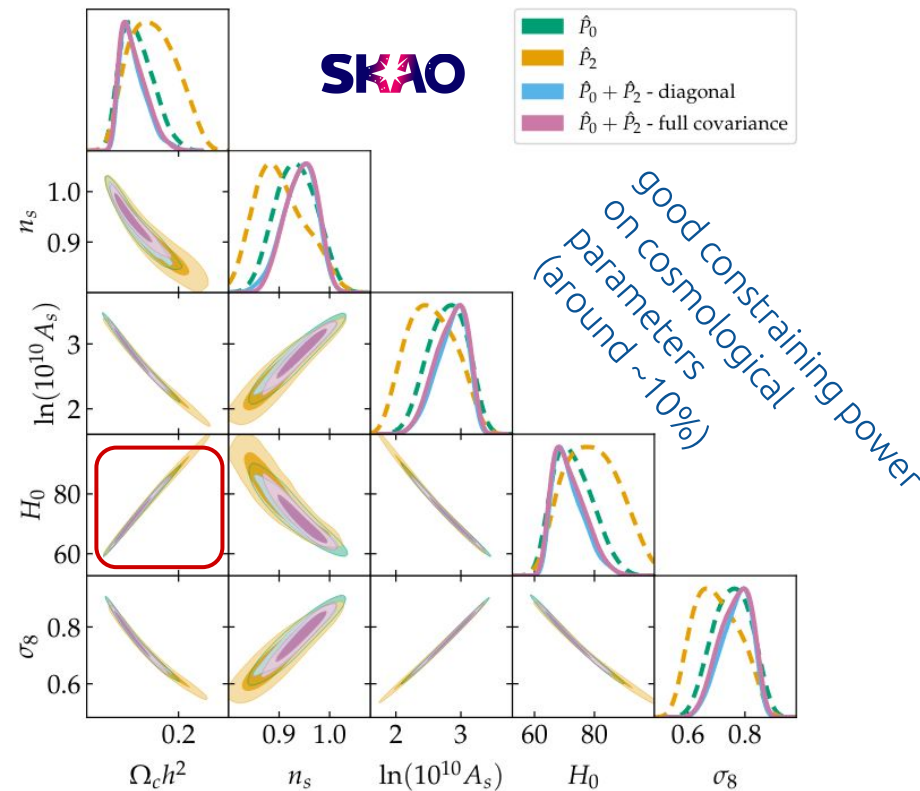
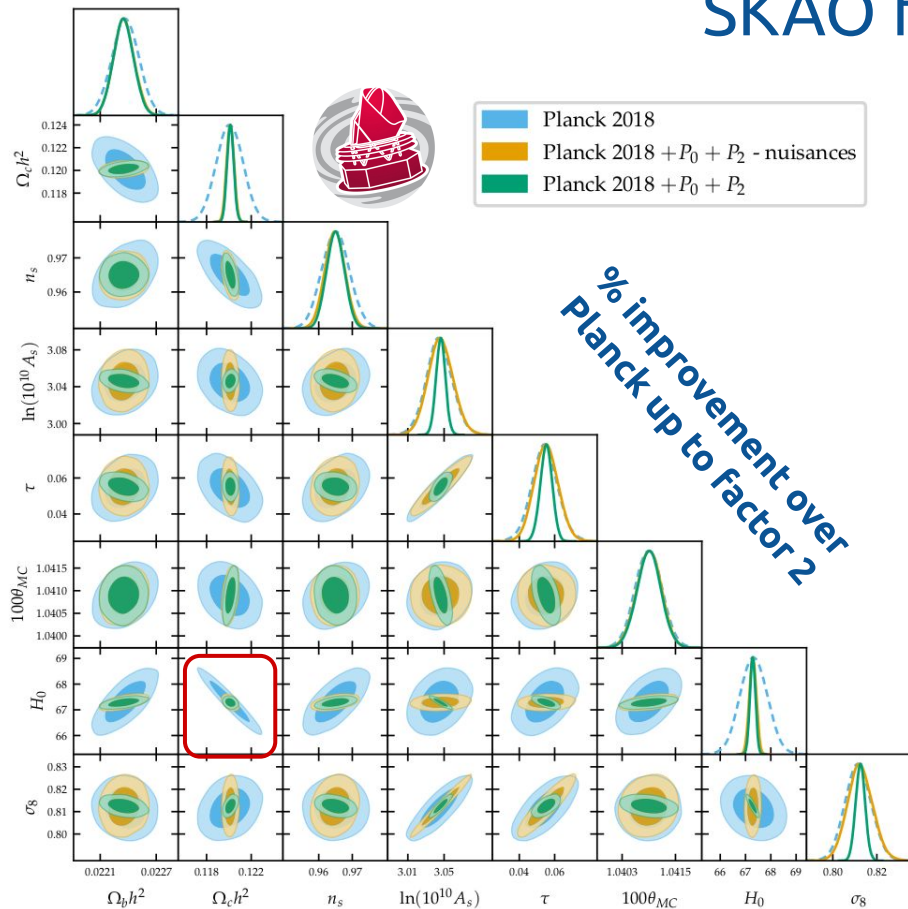
SKAO forecasts

Berti, MS, Viel 2023a

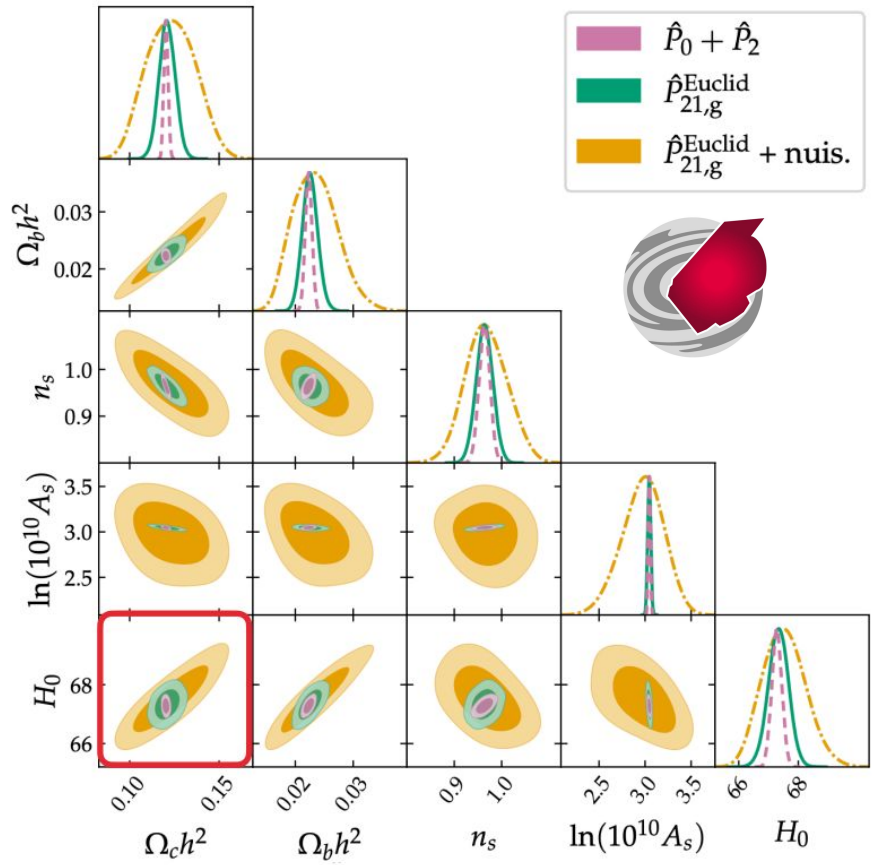


SKAO forecasts

Berti, MS, Viel 2023a



SKAO forecasts: cross-correlation



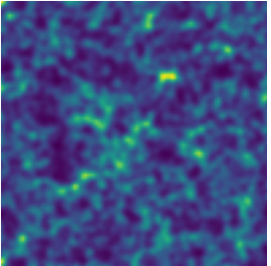
Power spectrum multipoles - $0 < z < 3$

Parameter	$\hat{P}_0 + \hat{P}_2$	$\hat{P}_{21,g}^{\text{DESI}}$	$\hat{P}_{21,g}^{\text{DESI}} + \text{nuis.}$	$\hat{P}_{21,g}^{\text{Euclid}}$	$\hat{P}_{21,g}^{\text{Euclid}} + \text{nuis.}$
$\Omega_b h^2$	2.59%	6.43%	23.11%	5.78%	16.99%
$\Omega_c h^2$	0.99%	3.81%	16.63%	3.75%	11.87%
n_s	1.19%	2.43%	6.79%	1.82%	4.59%
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	0.37%	0.78%	8.08%	0.54%	7.62%
$100\theta_{MC}$	0.17%	0.39%	0.75%	0.30%	0.62%
H_0	0.25%	0.69%	1.96%	0.49%	1.07%
σ_8	0.29%	0.40%	9.41%	0.58%	10.03%

SKAOxEuclid and **SKAOxDESI**
comparable constraining power

Broader constraints assuming no knowledge on HI bias (nuisances)

HI x GW

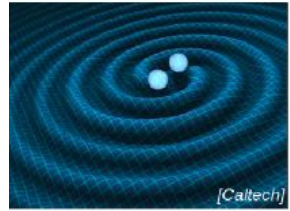


HI allows us to perform very fine tomography

21 cm line IM - SKAO

High z uncertainty without EM counterparts

GW resolved signals from BHBH mergers - Einstein Telescope

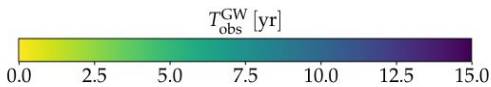


- i) Can we calibrate the redshift distribution of GW events by looking at GW x IM?
- ii) Can we use GW x IM to investigate Dark Energy?
- iii) Can we use GW x IM to detect imprints from a population of merging Primordial Black Hole binaries?

Tracer	GW (ET)	IM (SKAO)
z range	[0.5-3.5]	
N_{bins}	3	30
Δz	1.0	0.1

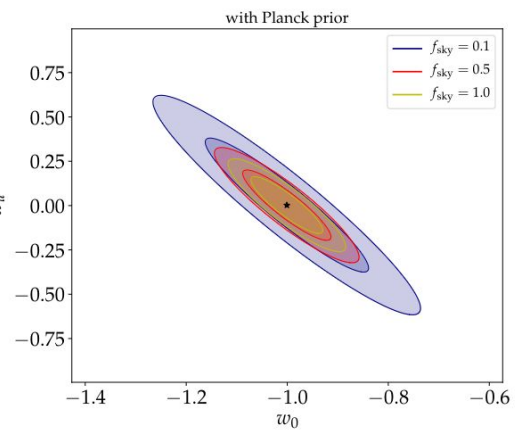
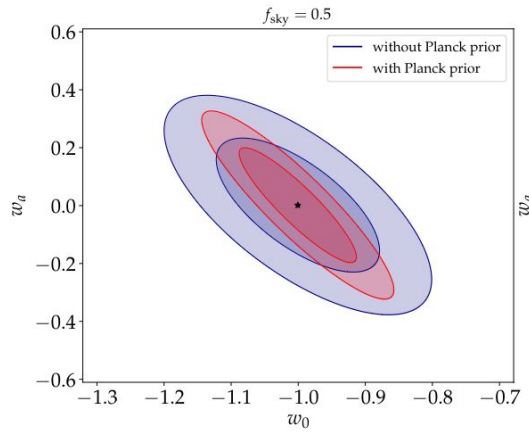
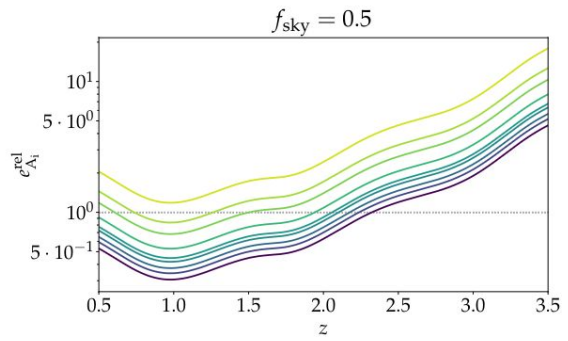
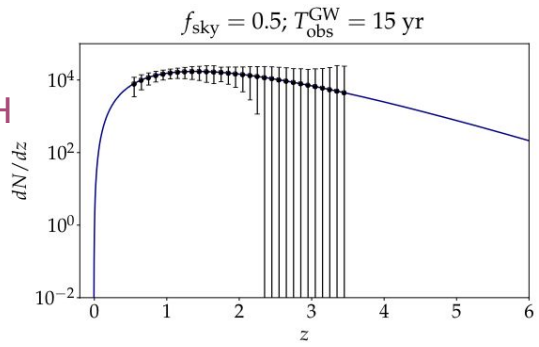
Multi CLASS: Bellomo et al. (2020), Bernal et al.(2020)
Fisher Forecasts

HI x GW



Clustering based Redshift estimation for BHBH
 e.g. Alonso et al 2017 (Photo-z vs spectro-z)

assuming both HI and GW trace the LSS



Dynamical Dark Energy

Constraints in agreement with IM only experiments [e.g. Bull+(2015)]

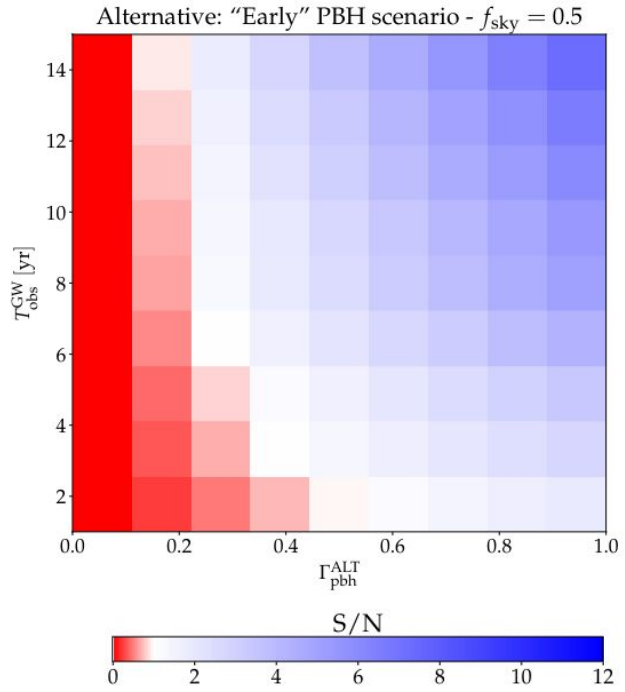
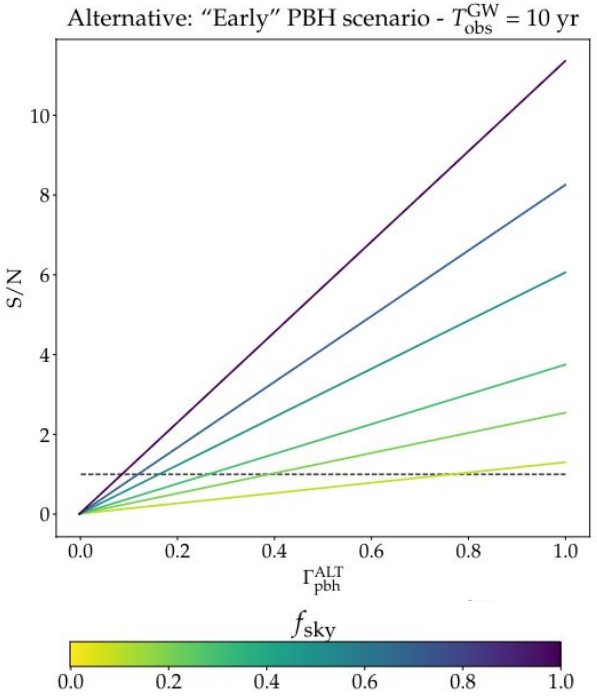
Cross-correlation GW x IM can help in overcoming systematics

HI x GW

Astrophysical scenario: massive, highly star-forming halos → bias GW > 1

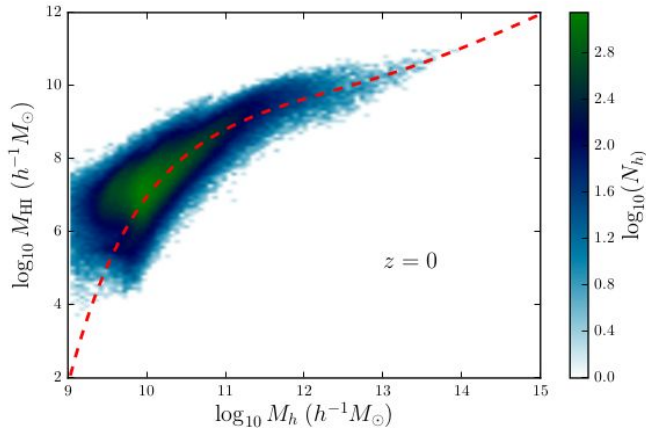
“Early” primordial scenario: PBHs binaries form in the early universe → PBHs binaries good DM tracers → bias GW ~1

Fiducial: ASTROPHYSICAL ($\Gamma_{\text{pbh}}^{\text{FID}} = 0.0$)



error on bGW small enough to distinguish between different scenarios

HI simulations



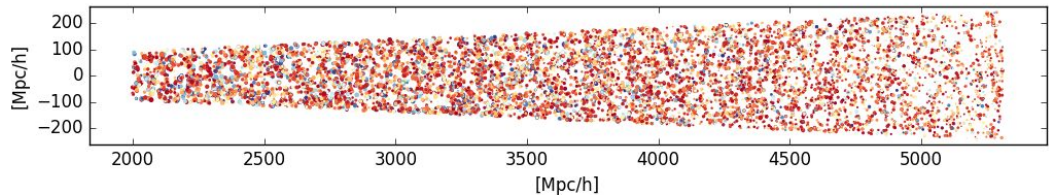
GAEA **light-cone construction**
essential also for cross-correlation
studies with **galaxy surveys**
code: Anna Zoldan

Semi-analytical model GAEA: explicit treatment of cold gas partition in atomic (HI) and molecular (H₂) (Xie et al. 2017)

fast intensity map generation

21cm line properties from **semi-analytical models**, Halo Occupation Distribution methods on fast halo catalogues (HIP-POP)

Spinelli et al. 2020, 2022



Conclusions

21cm Cosmology still have to prove its full potential
but offers an incredible window into the evolution of the Universe

Intensity Mapping surveys are taking data (and new instrument are planned)

Detection in cross-correlation: e.g. MeerKLASS x galaxy survey (7.7σ)


Analysing new data: effort in understanding the instrument
and developing better analysis pipelines

Keep improving the simulations:
both signal, foregrounds and
instrumental effects

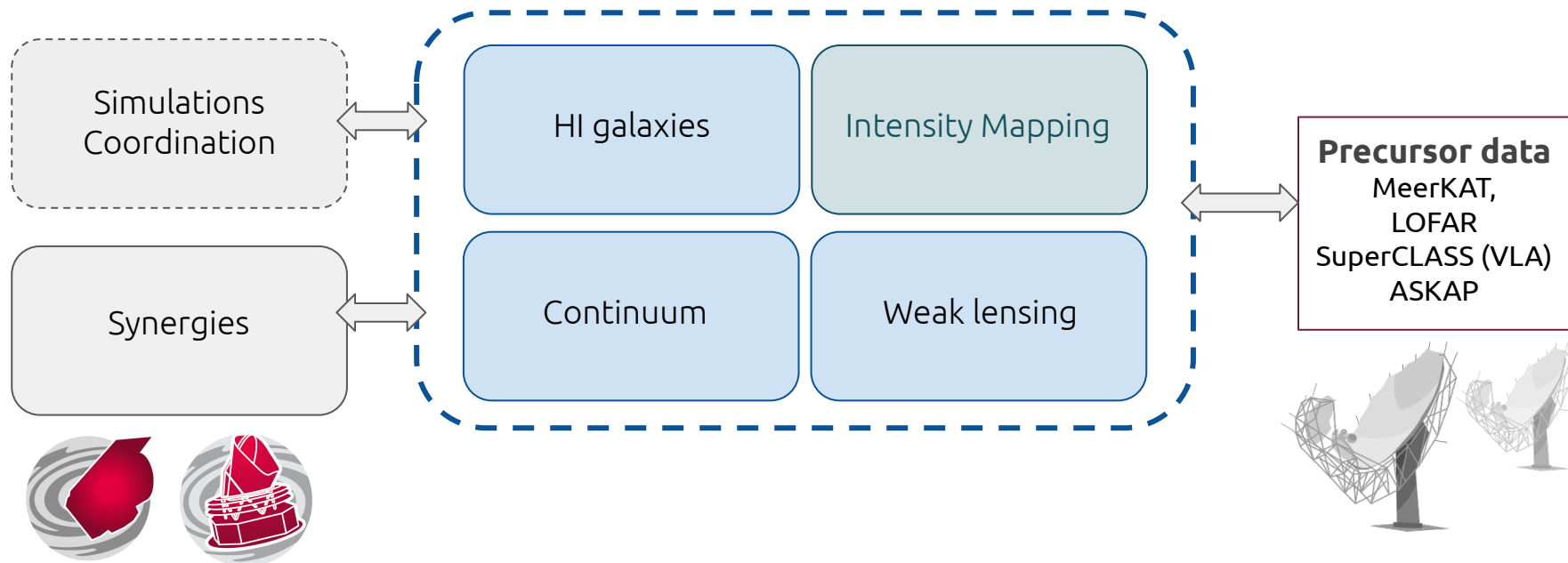
Prepare for the SKAO era and its contribution to the knowledge of large-scale structures

Research Paper

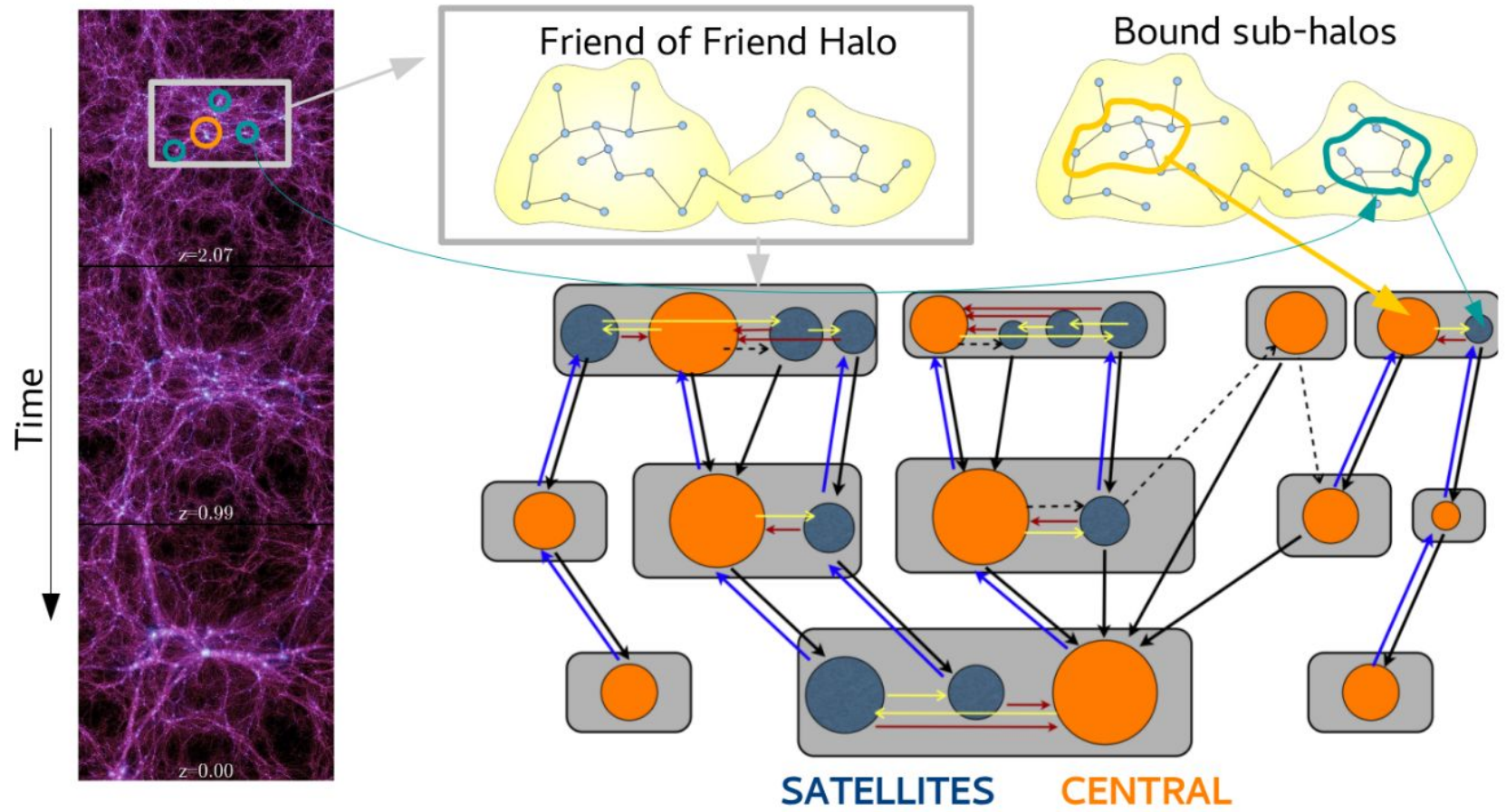
Cosmology with Phase 1 of the Square Kilometre Array Red Book 2018: Technical specifications and performance forecasts

Square Kilometre Array Cosmology Science Working Group: David J. Bacon¹, Richard A. Battye² , Philip Bull³, Stefano Camera^{2,4,5,6}, Pedro G. Ferreira⁷, Ian Harrison^{2,7}, David Parkinson⁸, Alkistis Pourtsidou³, Mário G. Santos^{9,10,11}, Laura Wolz¹², Filipe Abdalla^{13,14}, Yashar Akrami^{15,16}, David Alonso⁷, Sambatra Andrianomena^{9,10,17}, Mario Ballardini^{9,18}, José Luis Bernal^{19,20}, Daniele Bertacca^{21,22}, Carlos A. P. Bengaly⁹, Anna Bonaldi²³, Camille Bonvin²⁴, Michael L. Brown², Emma Chapman²⁵, Song Chen⁹, Xuele Chen²⁶, Steven Cunnington¹, Tamara M. Davis²⁷, Clive Dickinson², José Fonseca^{9,22}, Keith Grainge², Stuart Harper², Matt J. Jarvis^{7,9}, Roy Maartens^{1,9}, Natasha Maddox²⁸, Hamsa Padmanabhan²⁹, Jonathan R. Pritchard²⁵, Alvisé Raccaelli¹⁹, Marzia Rivi^{13,18}, Sambit Roychowdhury², Martin Sahlén³⁰, Dominik J. Schwarz³¹, Thilo M. Siewert³¹, Matteo Viel³², Francisco Villaescusa-Navarro³³, Yidong Xu²⁶, Daisuke Yamauchi³⁴ and Joe Zuntz³⁵

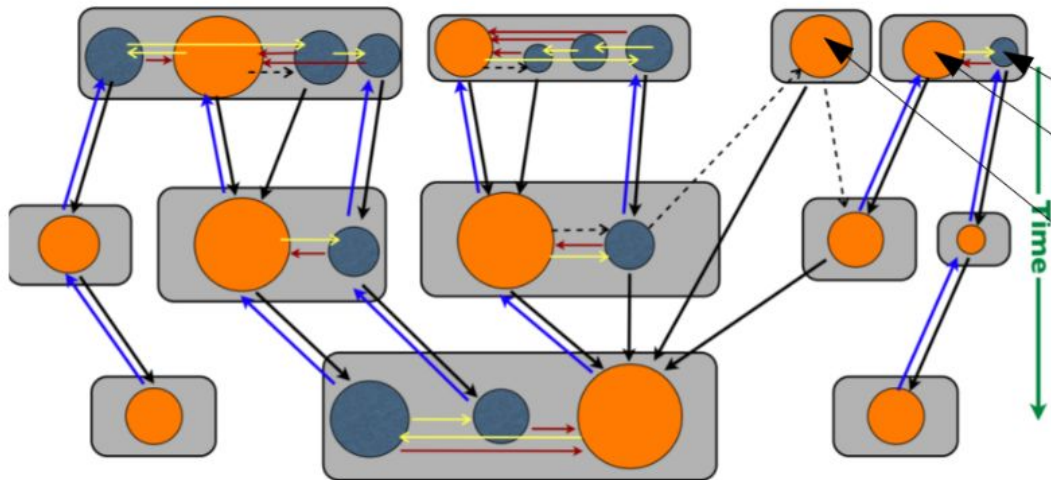
SKA Cosmology Science Working Group



N-body DM simulation



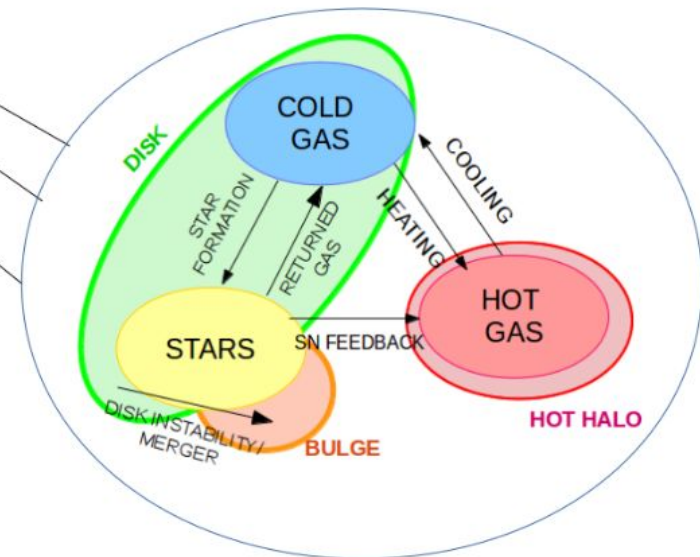
N-body DM simulation: Millennium Simulation (Springel et al. 2005)



Sub-halo properties:

- M_{200} ;
- Spin;
- Rotational velocity;

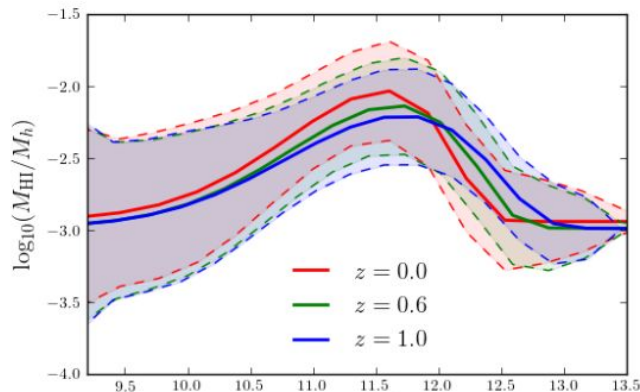
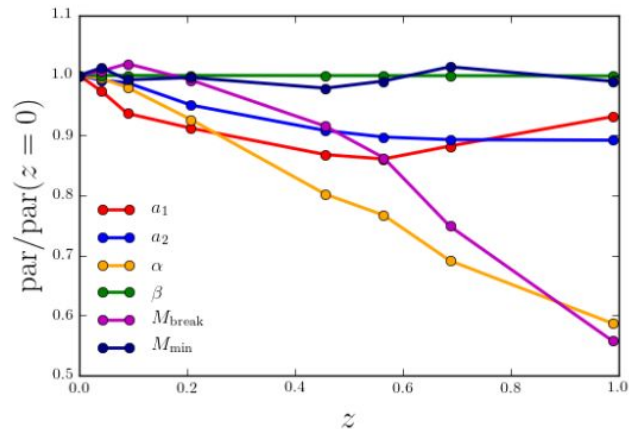
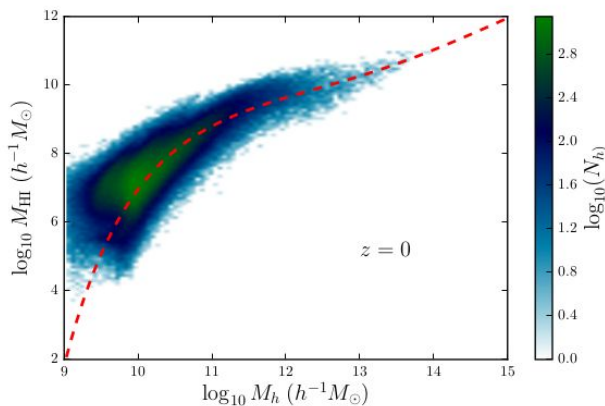
Semi-analytic model



Hi-Probe POPulator (HiP-POP)

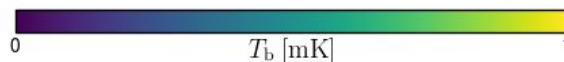
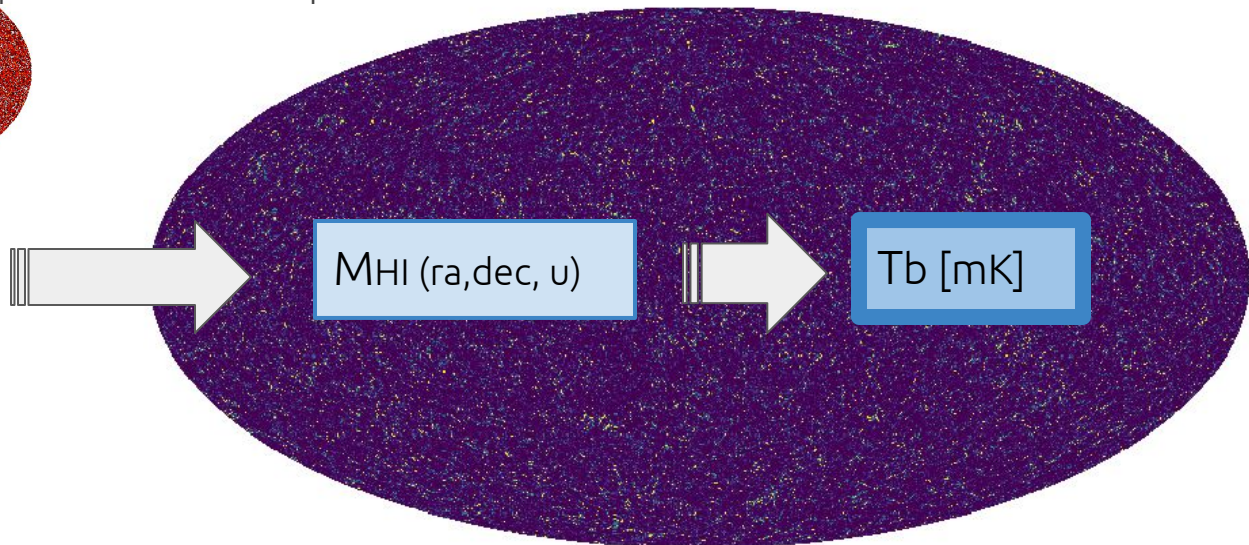
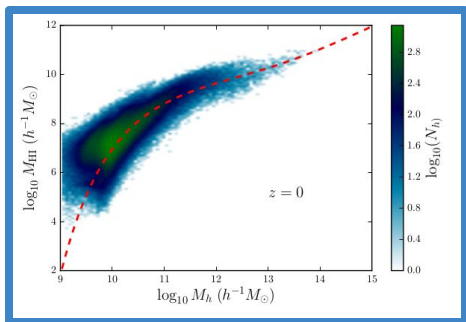
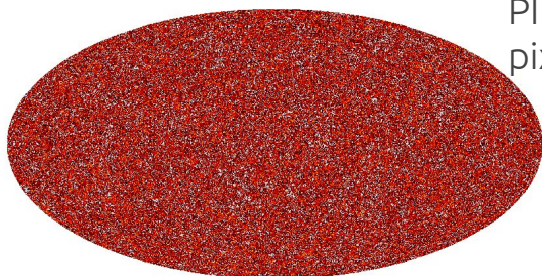
$$M_{\text{HI}}(M_h) = M_h \left[a_1 \left(\frac{M_h}{10^{10}} \right)^\beta e^{-\left(\frac{M_h}{M_{\text{break}}} \right)^\alpha} + a_2 \right] e^{-\left(\frac{M_{\text{min}}}{M_h} \right)^\gamma}$$

Fit the MHI-Mhalo relation at various GAEA snapshots and find a redshift trend



Hi-Probe POPulator (HiP-POP)

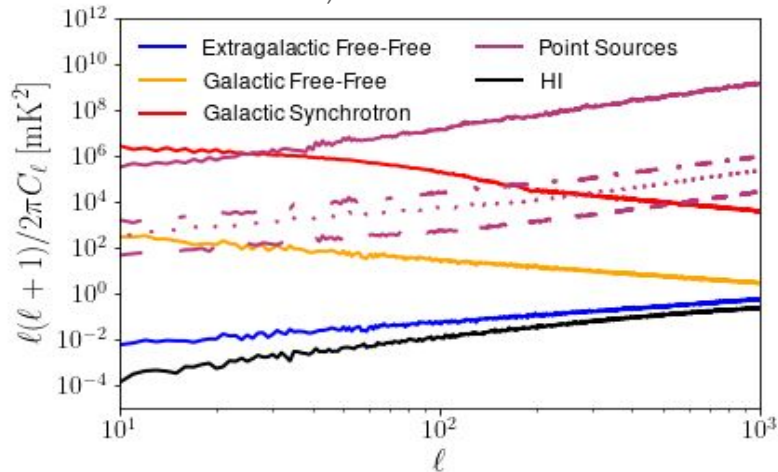
PINOCCHIO full sky light-cone
pixelized with Healpix



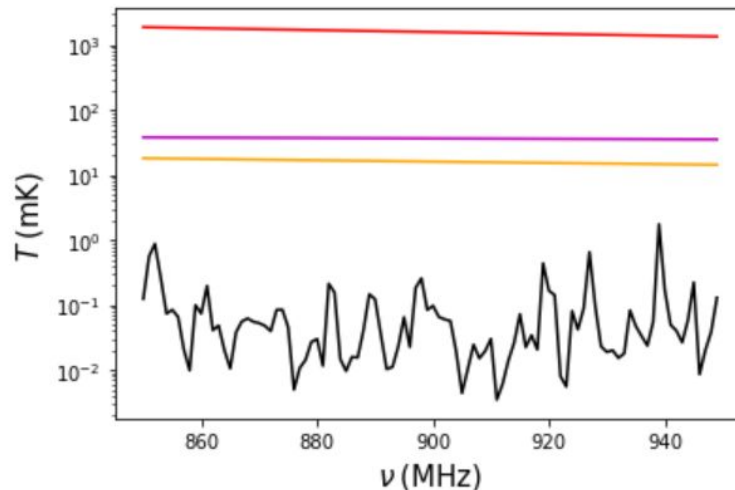
Too big halos “spread” with NFW in nearby pixels

Properties of the foregrounds

Matshawule, MS et al. 2021



- ❑ foregrounds are orders of magnitude **stronger** than the 21cm signal
- ❑ they are **smooth in frequency** (highly correlated)

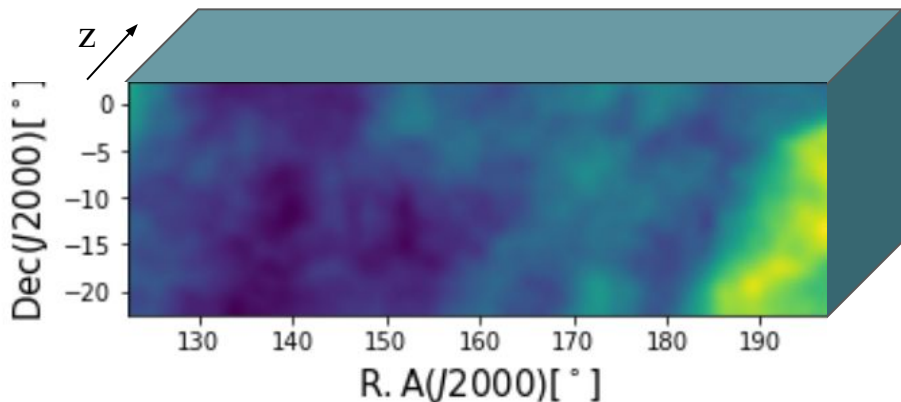


Questions:

- ❑ Can the **properties** of the foregrounds be used to separate them from the 21cm signal?
- ❑ Even if we add some **realism** to our simulations? (foregrounds, beam response, noise, RFI,..)

A cleaning example

Mock observation "cube"



Simulation includes:

- ❑ 100 channels around redshift 0.5
- ❑ Foreground contamination:
Synchrotron, Free-free, point sources
- ❑ Gaussian beam
- ❑ White noise

How many sources?

N_{fg} need to be estimated/guessed

$$T = As + n + c$$

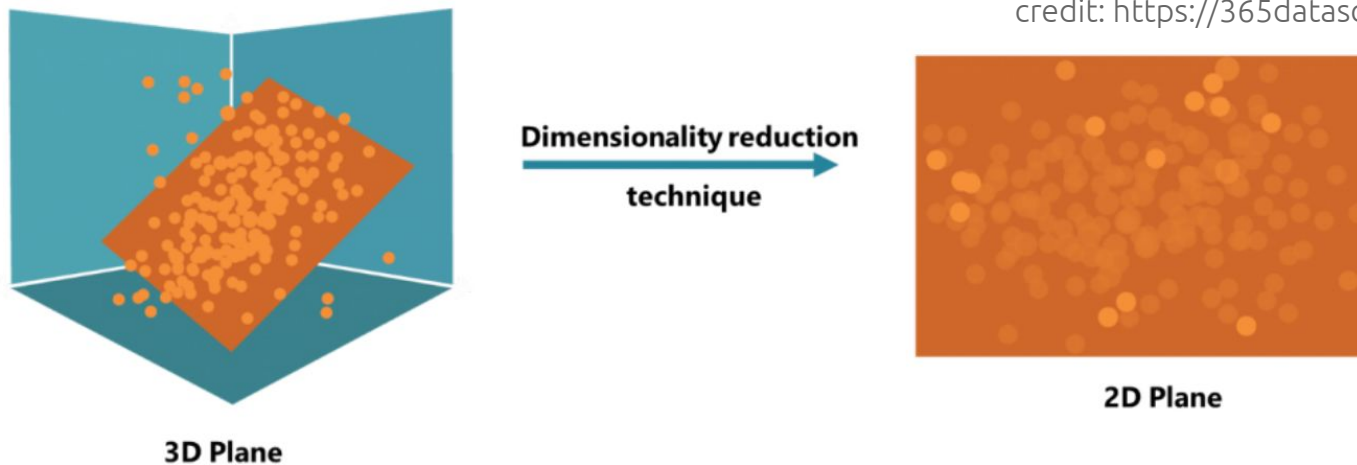
A mixing matrix of the foreground sources

noise

Cosmological signal

Principal Component Analysis

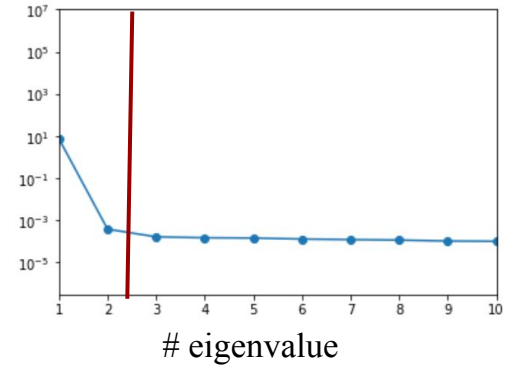
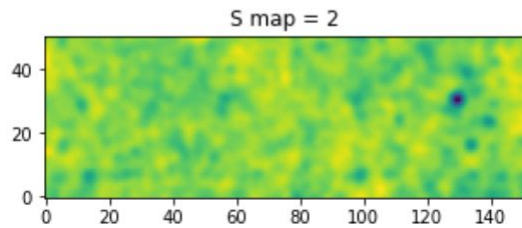
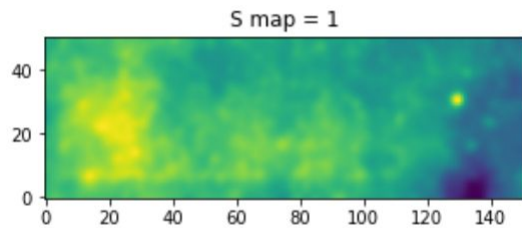
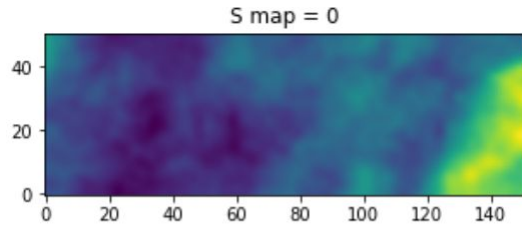
credit: <https://365datascience.com/>



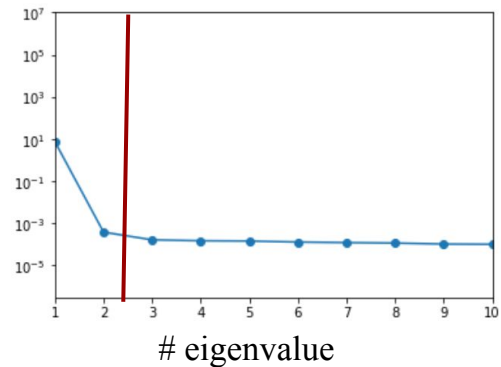
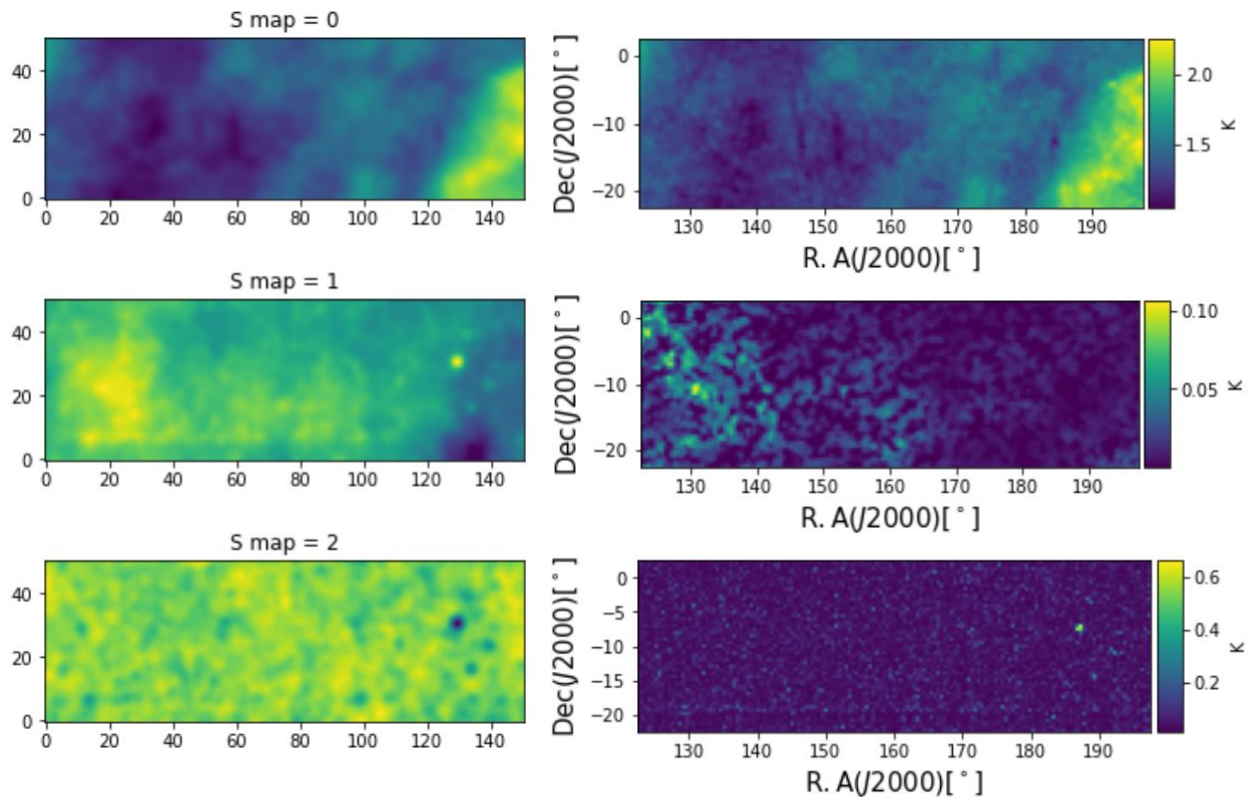
For our Intensity Mapping case:

- from data-”cube” ($N_\nu \times N_{\hat{n}}$) one construct
$$C_{ij} = \frac{1}{N_{\hat{n}}} \sum_{p=1}^{N_{\hat{n}}} T(\nu_i, \hat{n}_p) T(\nu_j, \hat{n}_p)$$
- compute eigenvectors and assume foregrounds can be described by the most important of them (N_{fg}).

A cleaning example



A cleaning example

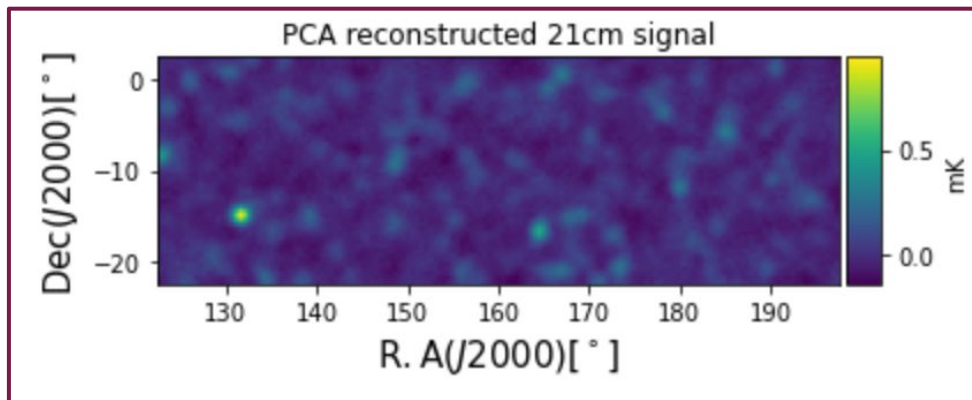
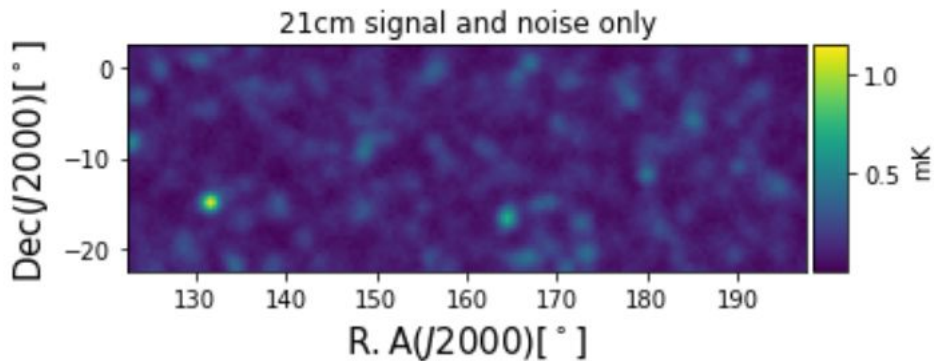


A cleaning example

$$\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{T} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}$$



A mixing matrix
including only the first
Nfg components



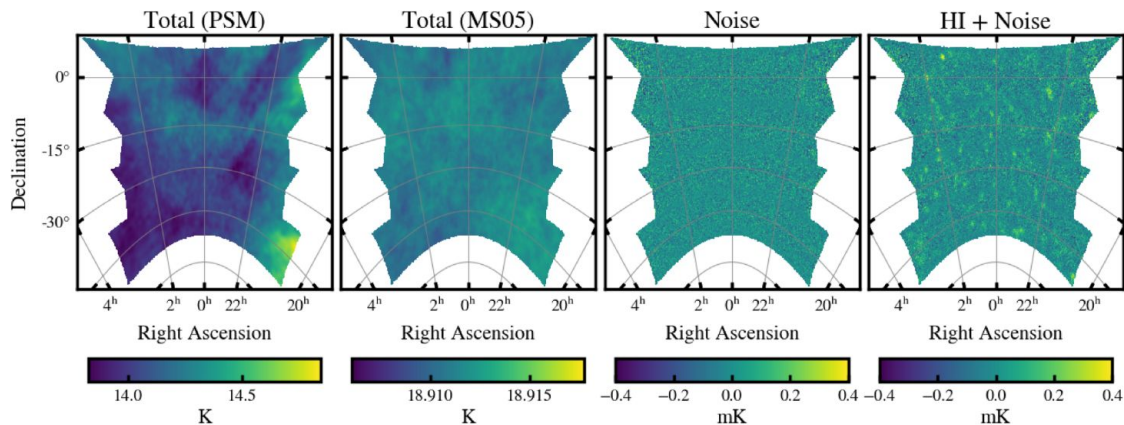
Foreground subtraction challenge

(subset) of the SKA Cosmo IM Focus Group

Project setup:

- ❑ various foreground models and realistic HI maps
- ❑ instrumental modeling MeerKAT-like and SKAO-like
- ❑ 9 different foreground removal methods (PCA, FastICA, ...)

Isabella Carucci, Steve Cunnington, Ze Fonseca, Stuart Harper, Mel Irfan, Alkistis Pourtsidou, Marta Spinelli, Laura Wolz



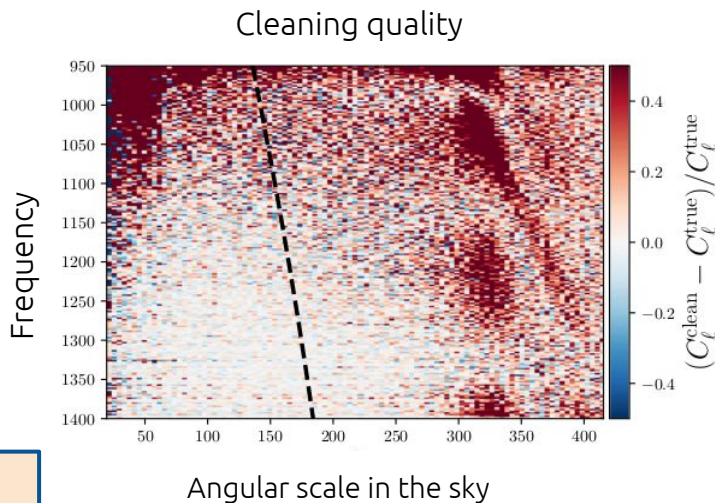
Blind challenge to discover weaknesses and strengths of the various methods

given IM “data”,
would your favorite method extract the cosmological signal?

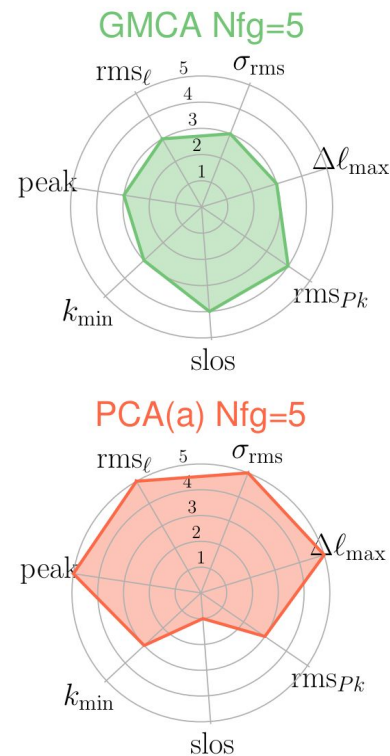
Foreground subtraction challenge

- How much can **instrument/foregrounds coupling** impact the signal reconstruction?
- definition of statistics and metrics to evaluate the relative performances

Realistic instrumental effects inevitably **complicate** the foreground cleaning

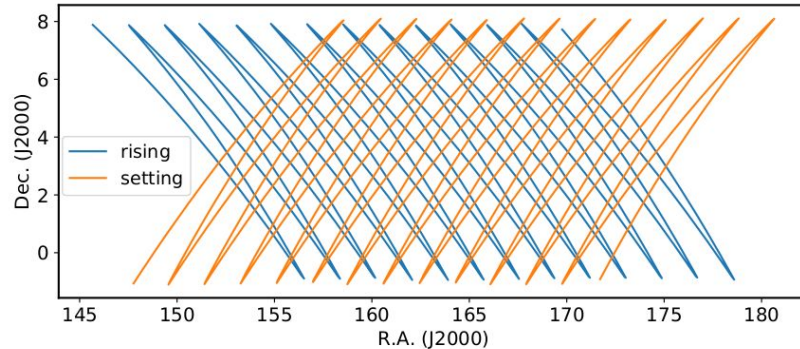


MS et al. 2022



Intensity Mapping with MeerKAT

Santos et al. 2017, Wang et al. 2021



Antennas	All 64 MeerKAT dishes
Observation mode	Single-dish
Frequency range	0.856-1.712 GHz
Frequency resolution	0.2 MHz
Time resolution	2s
Exposure time	1.5hr x 7 scans
Target field	WiggleZ 11hr field ($10^\circ \times 30^\circ$)

