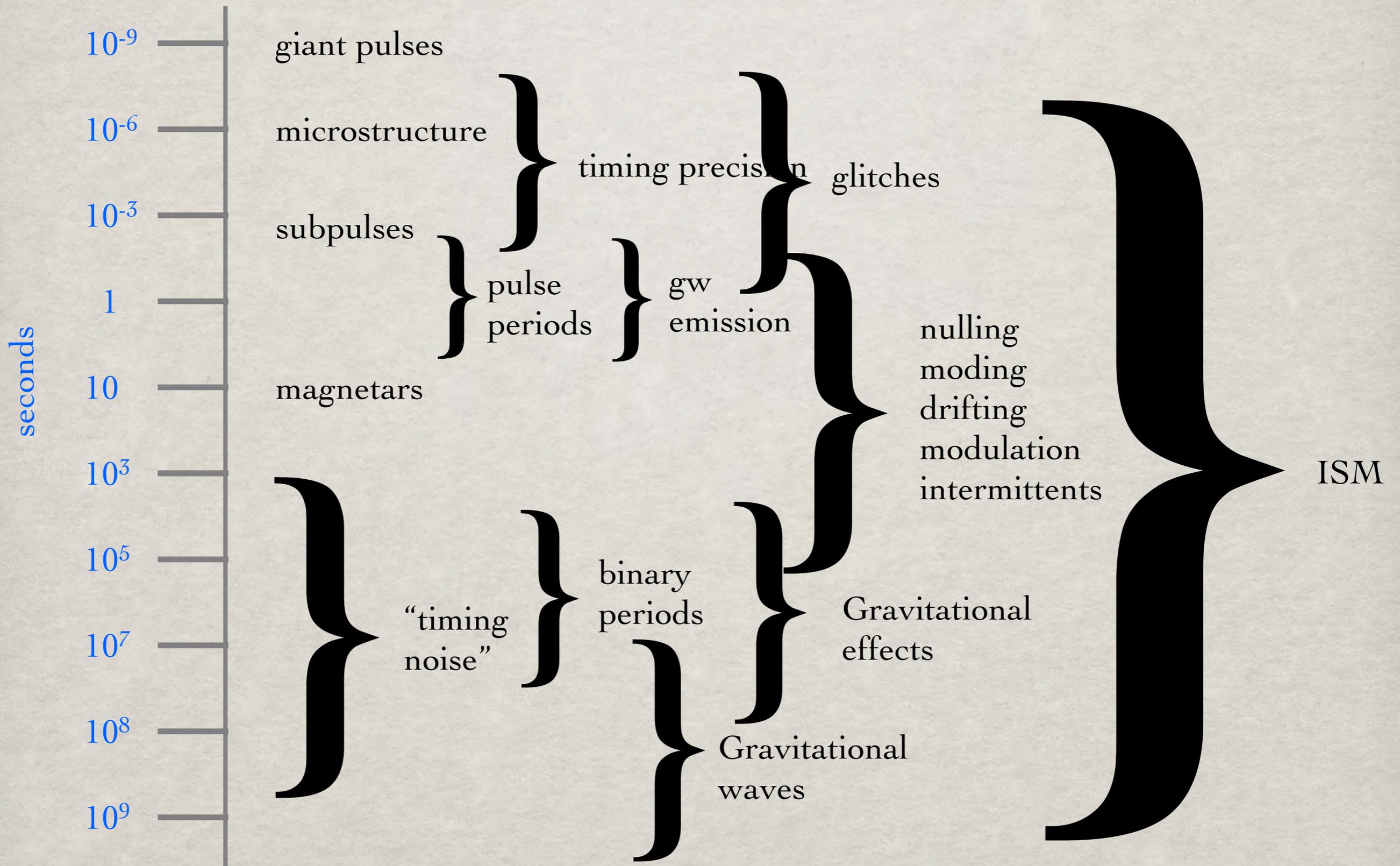


# Recent Pulsar & Fast Transient Developments and SKA Phase 1

Ben Stappers  
University of Manchester

with slides from Hessels, Kramer, Karastergiou, Macquart, Liu, Weber, Law

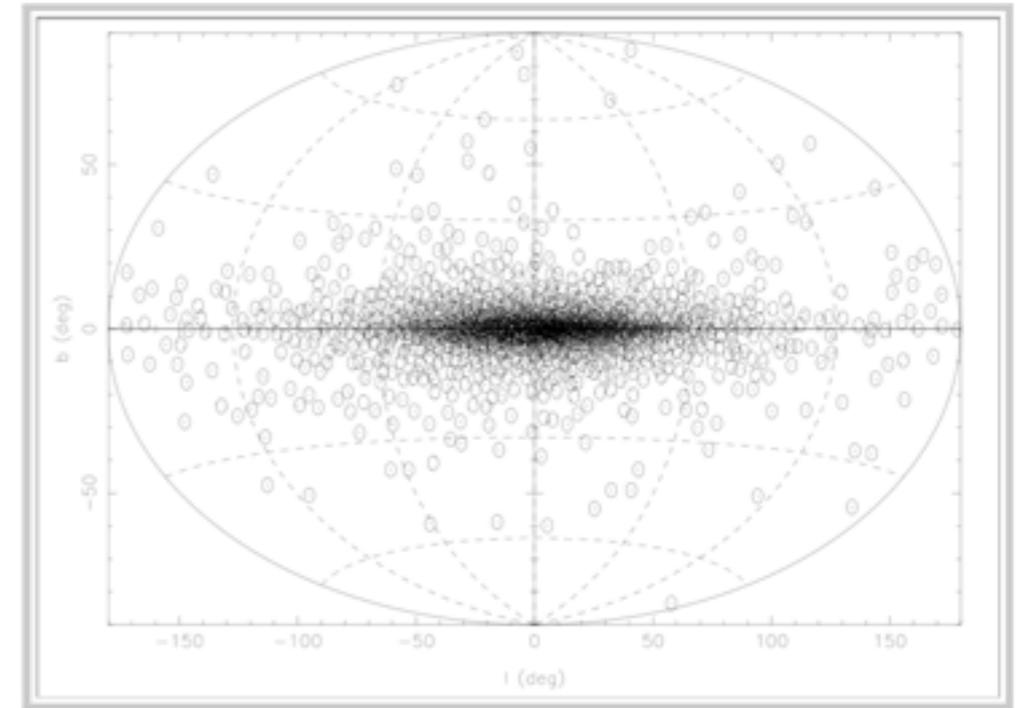
# FROM NANOSECONDS TO YEARS



# Pulsars & SKA

10,000 - 30,000 pulsars

- \* Deep searches to find new and interesting systems
- All-sky for MSPs and other pulsars
- Galactic plane for young pulsars and MSPs
- Galactic center for objects near SMBH
- Globular Clusters and External Galaxies
- \* High Precision/SNR follow up observations
- Timing observations for Gravity studies
- Multiple freq. polarisation obs for emission
- \* VLBI observations
- Parallax/Proper motions i.e. Distances/Velocities
- \* New Phenomena: e.g. RRATs, Intermittent, Bursts



see Smits et al 2009

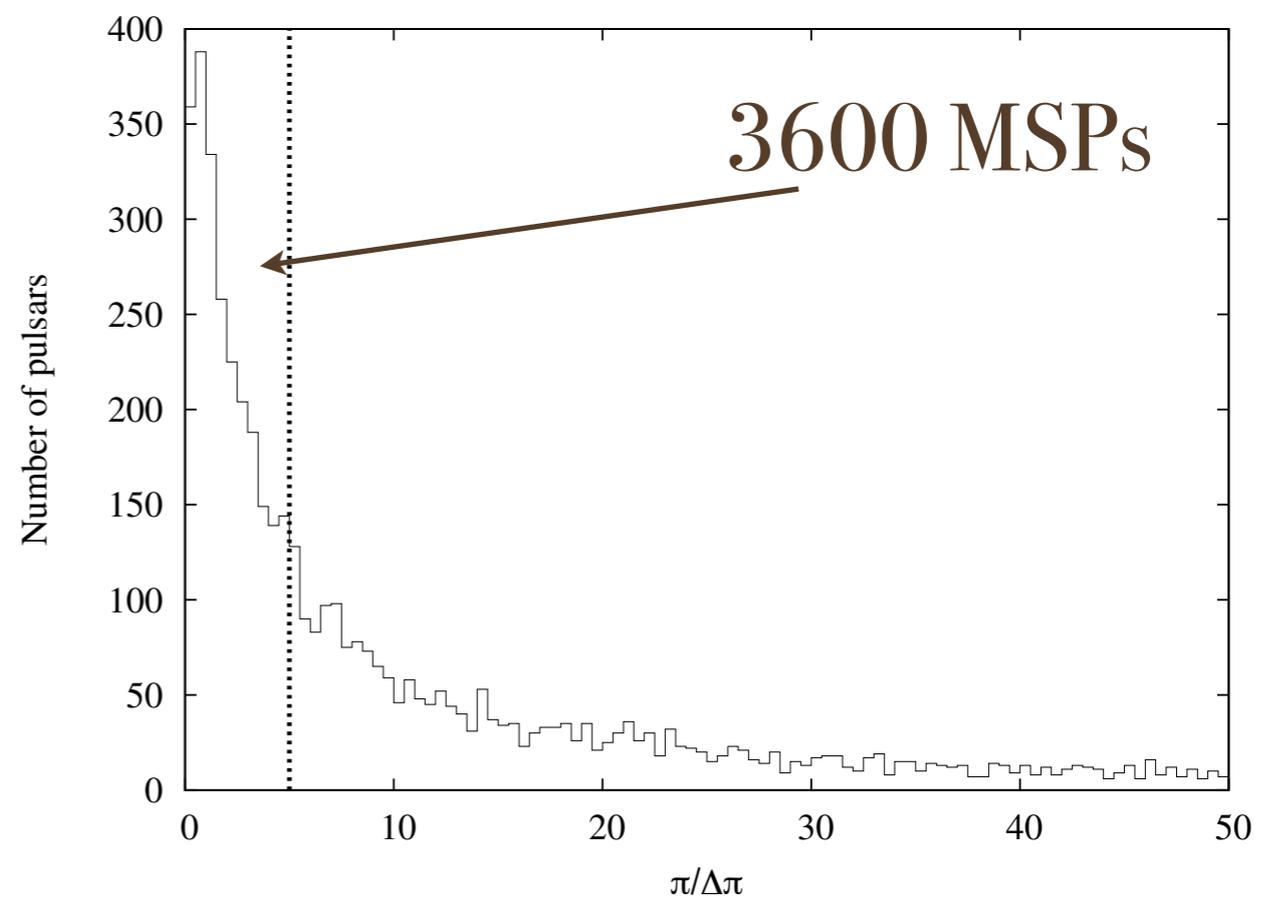
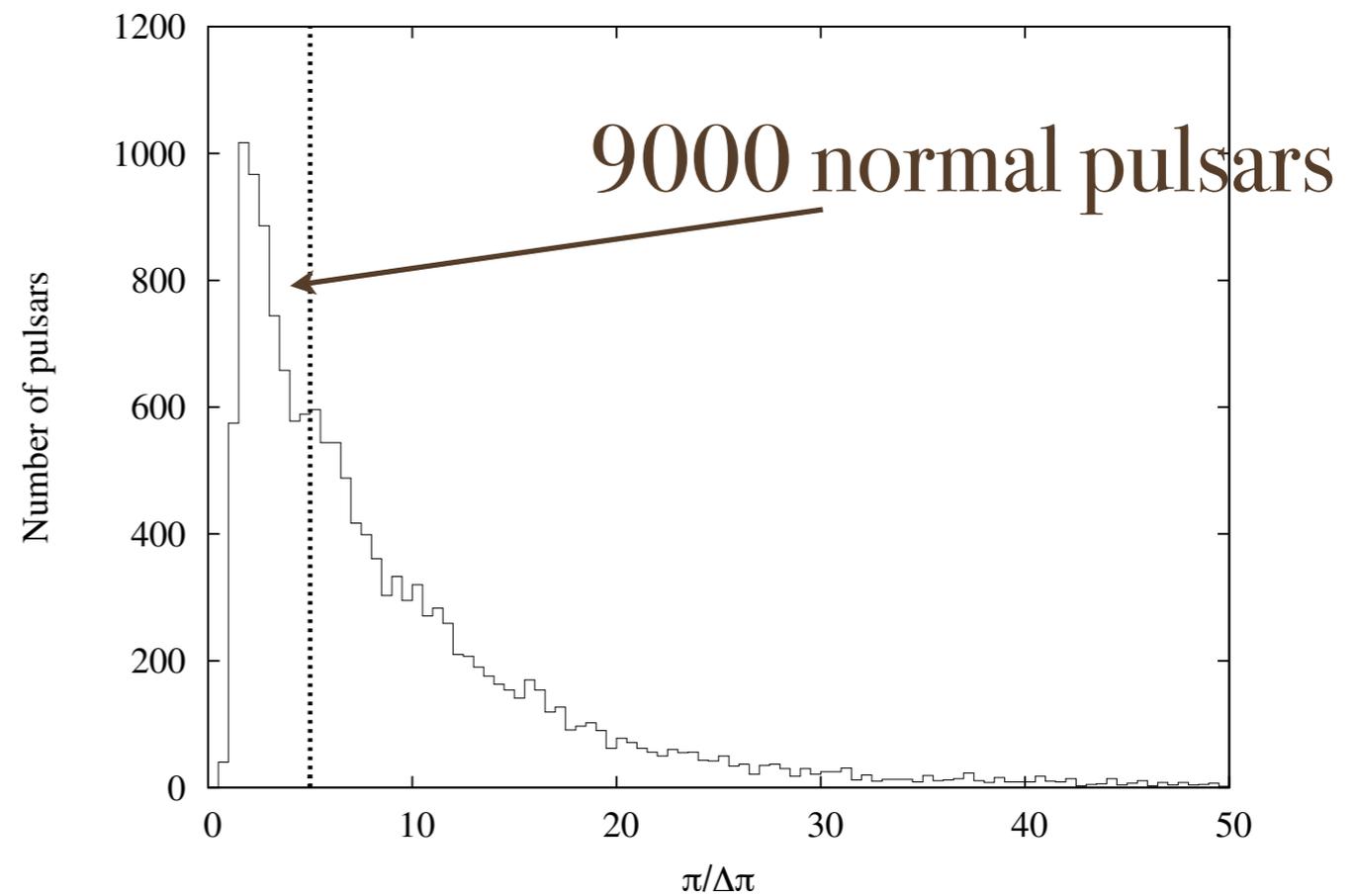
## Gravity Tests

- PFE Antenna Array
- PTA for GW detection
- PSR-BH system
- Measure BH properties
- Supermassive BH in GC
- Testing GR with BHs

# Astrometry

- \* New section in the DRM
- \* Can measure the parallax (to about 20% accuracy) out to distances of 13 & 9 kpc for normal and MSPs respectively
- \* Required input for:
  - \* Models of RM and DM distributions in the Galaxy
  - \* Improved accuracy of WD and NS cooling models
  - \* Precision tests of theories of gravity.

- frequency of 1.4 GHz and a 3 000 km maximum SKA baseline
- assumes gating and dedispersion.



(Smits et al. 2011 & Godfrey et al 2011)

# Astrometry: DRM

Huynh, Lazio et al

**Table 7.1. Scientific Requirements**

Parameter	Value
Positional Accuracy	0.25 mas
Sky coverage	$> 2\pi$ sr

**Table 7.2. Pulsar Astrometry Technical Requirements**

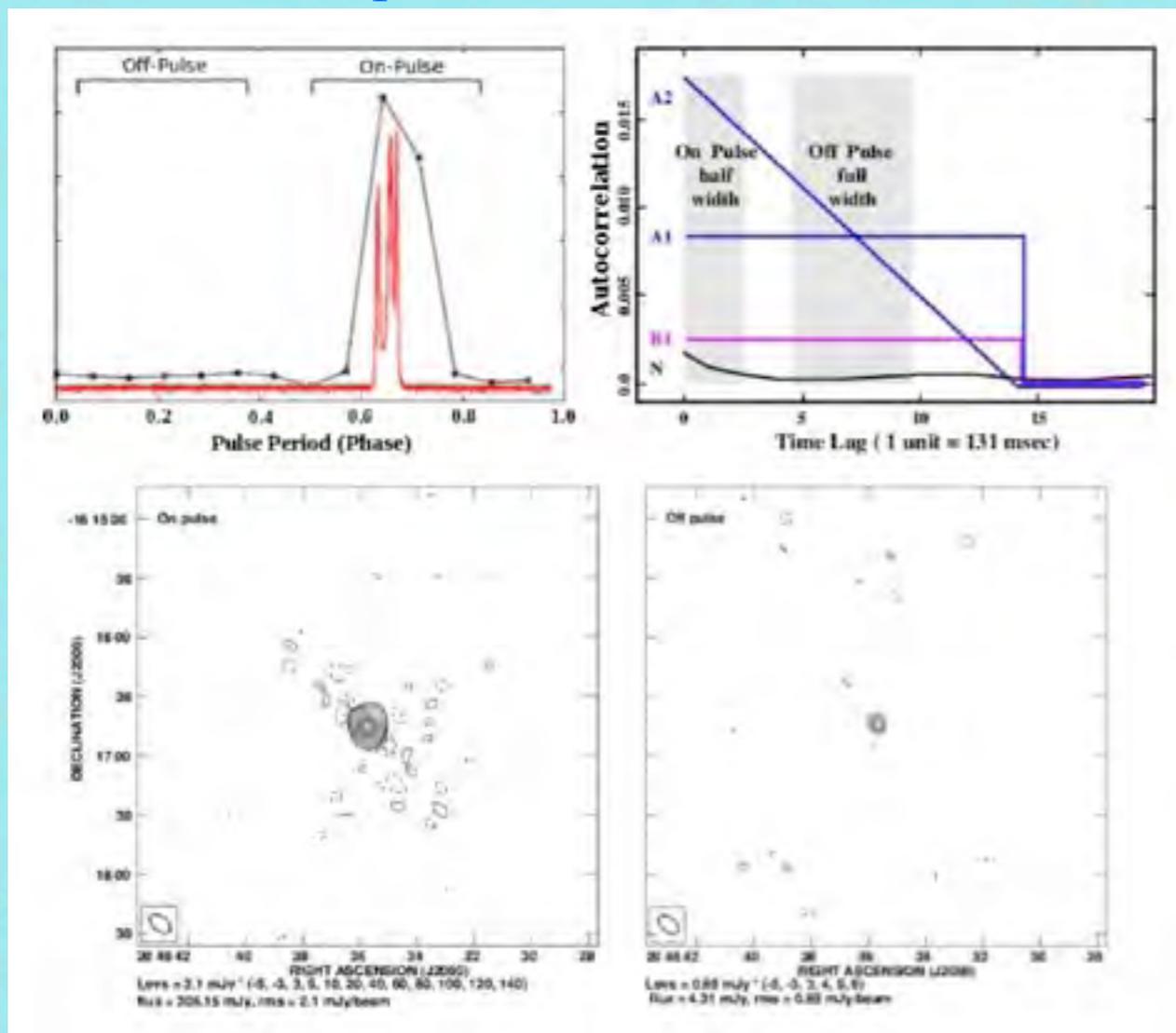
Parameter	Requirement	Comment
Observing Frequency	2 – 3 GHz	High SNR, resolution, ionosphere
Angular Resolution	$< 0.13$ arcsec	Positional accuracy, SNR
Maximum baseline	$> 200$ km	Angular resolution
Accessible Area	$> 0.25$ deg	In-beam calibrators
Pulsar gating	Enable correlator to only record when pulsar is 'on'	Improve SNR of the pulsar

- \*  $S > 0.1$  mJy kpc<sup>2</sup> pulsars at 1 kpc,  $S > 0.4$  mJy kpc<sup>2</sup> pulsars at 2 kpc and  $S > 1$  mJy pulsars at 3 kpc. This would be good enough to get 0.25 mas positional accuracy for a pulsar such as PSR J0737-3039A/B (7 mJy kpc<sup>2</sup>) if it was at 8 kpc and probably parallaxes if it was at 6 kpc (0.12 mas single-epoch positional uncertainty, 0.17 mas parallax signal at 6 kpc).

# Gating & Binning

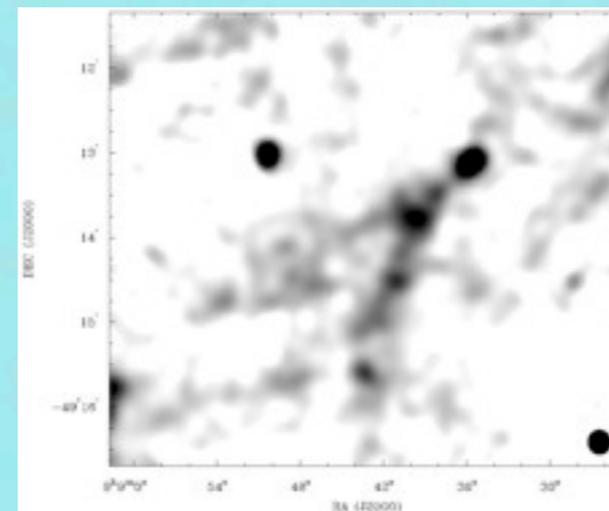
- \* Main science goals are to improve SNR in observations to determine pulsar astrometry and to determine “what lies beneath”.
- \* Gain by  $\sqrt{\text{duty cycle}}$ , but depends on bin size/number

## Off pulse emission / GMRT

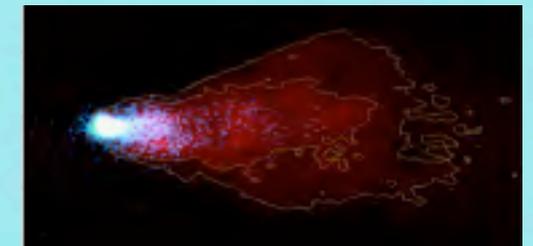


Basu et al 2011

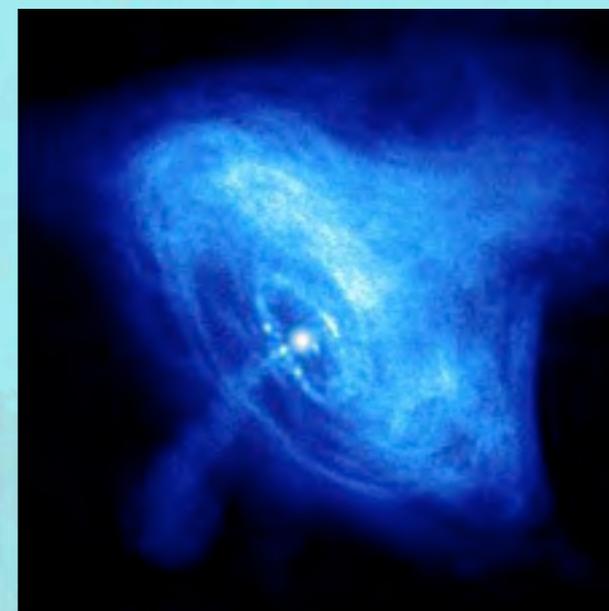
## Nebulae



Stappers et al

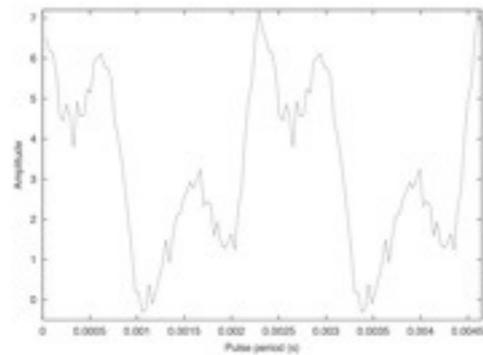


Gaensler et al



- Study the compact form of jets in the radio.
- Relationship with larger structures
- Energetics cf. shocks/winds

# Gating vs Binning



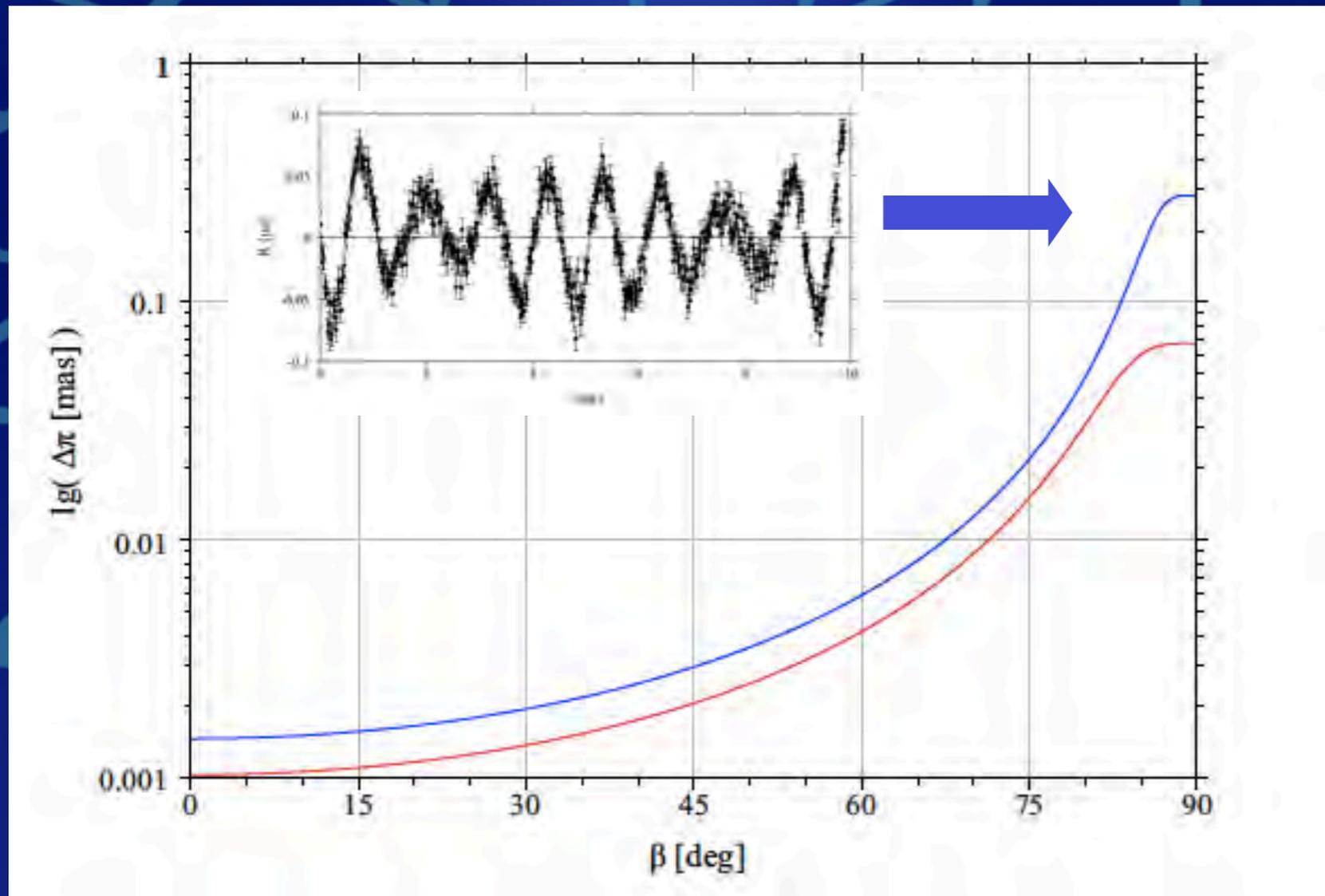
- \* Gating is fine if one is dealing with simple pulse profiles and if the gates are variable in size to make sure to get maximum return from the duty cycle.
- \* However if the pulsar ephemeris is poorly know, as is likely with a newly discovered pulsar then multiple bins gives you more robustness to including only the pulsar
- \* If dispersion delay across the band is significant compared to the pulse period then gating may not work unless the gates can have different phases in different frequency channels
- \* simple two gates do not allow for more detailed study of off-pulse emission nor underlying nebulae
- \* Between 16/32 bins is probably sufficient for most purposes
- \* Is there a possibility of trading correlator capacity, i.e. station inputs or bandwidth/channels such that more bins can be formed? I have some ideas :-)



# SKA Astrometry (Smits et al. 2011)



- Interferometric – applicable to all pulsars (for ~9,000 sources)
- Timing parallax – applicable to millisecond pulsars:  
Here, we measure the curvature of the incoming wave front, resulting in worse precision for higher ecliptic latitude sources!



Assuming 10ns, 5/10 yr:

10 kpc

1000 kpc

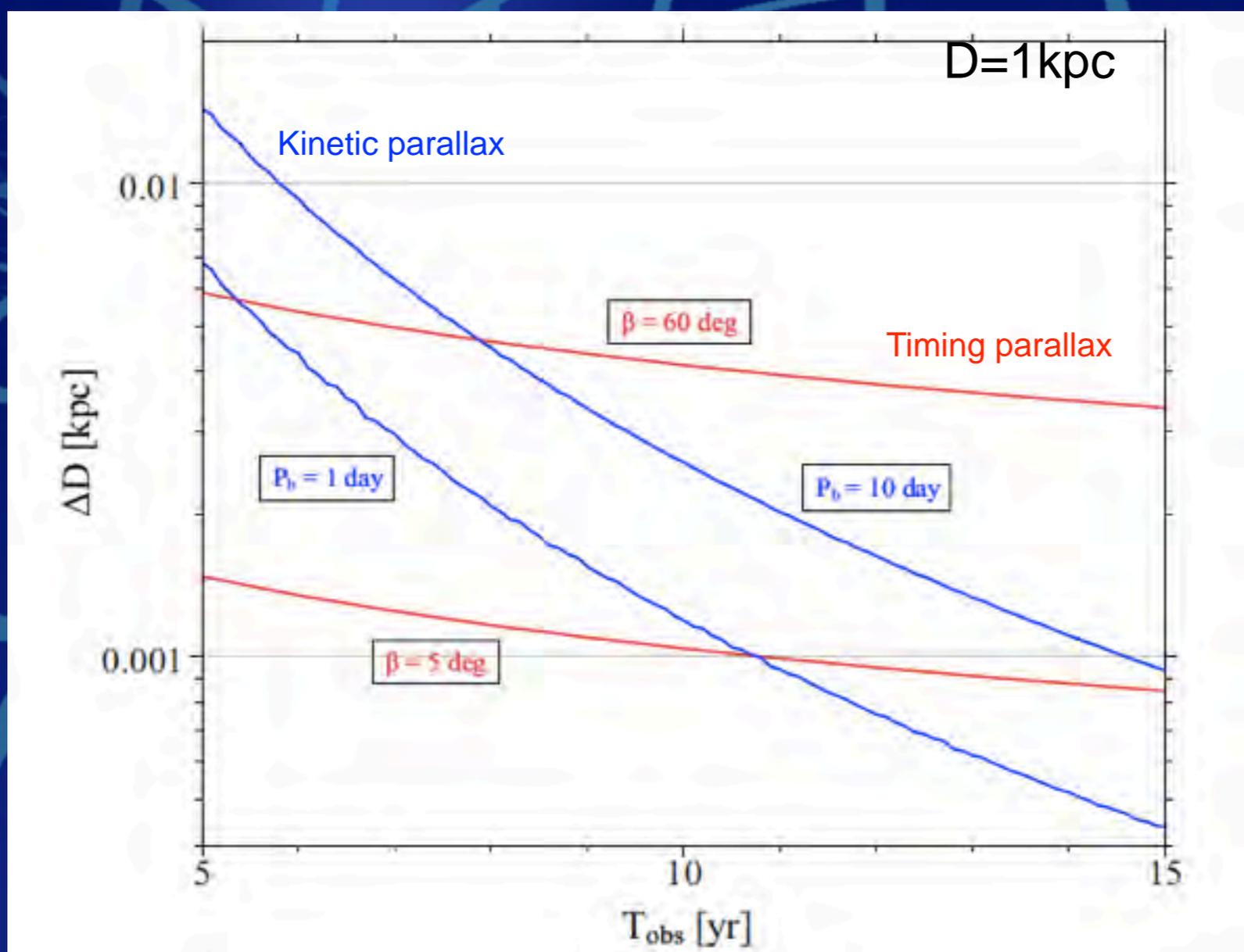


# SKA Astrometry (Smits et al. 2011)



- Interferometric – applicable to all pulsars (for ~9,000 sources)
- Timing parallax – applicable to millisecond pulsars:
- “Kinetic parallax” - for binaries, we can also assume that GR is correct and attribute any deviation from GR solely to secular acceleration:

$$\Delta(dP_b/dt) \rightarrow v_T \rightarrow D$$

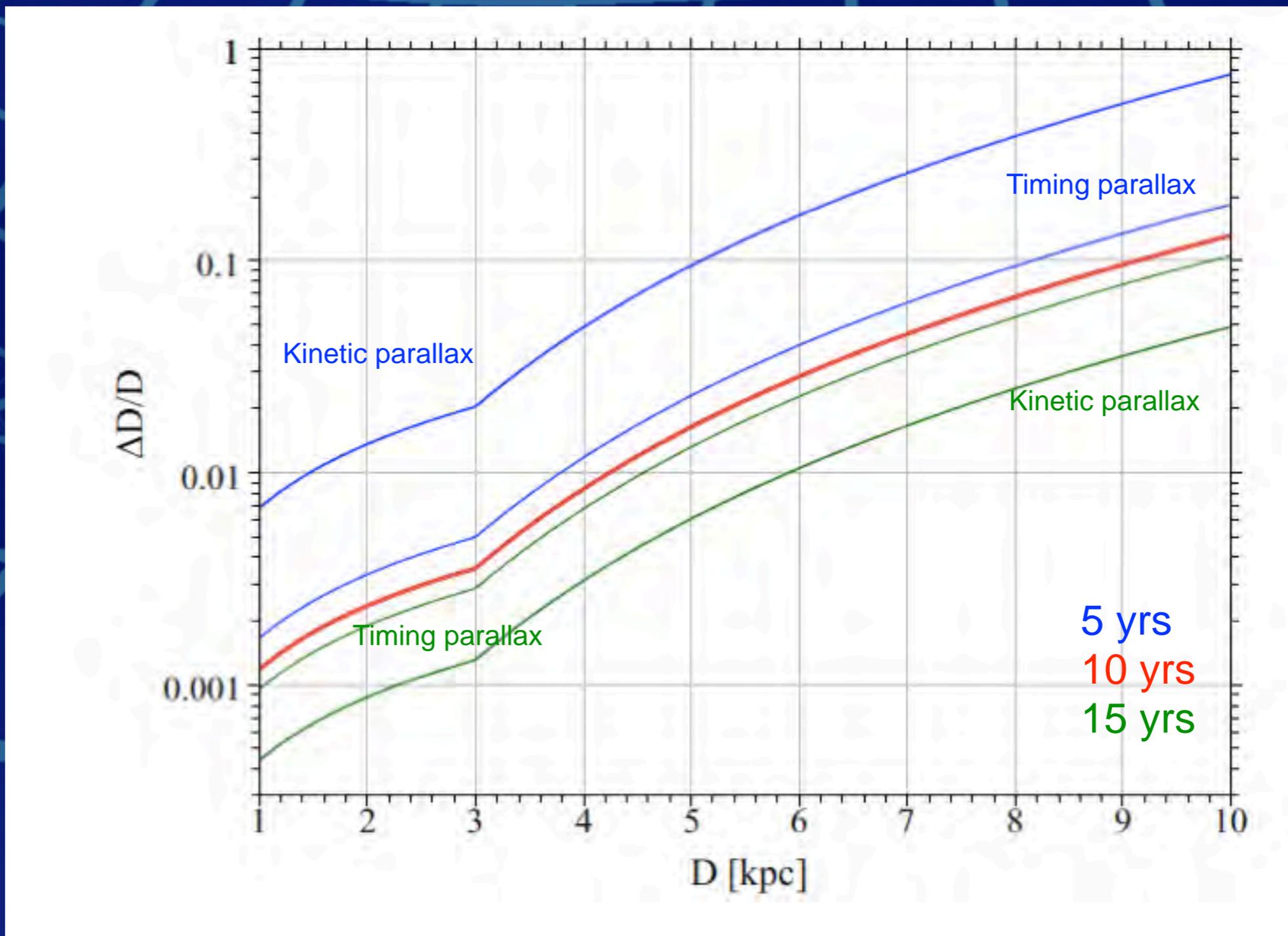




# SKA Astrometry (Smits et al. 2011)



- Flux density and hence timing precision decreases with distance:

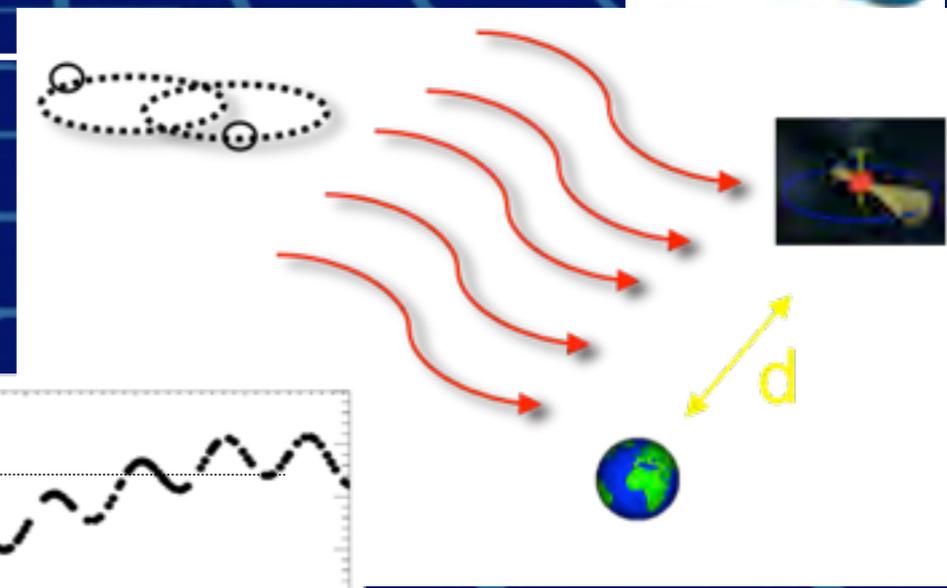


Superb precision for gravity tests! But useful for much more ...!

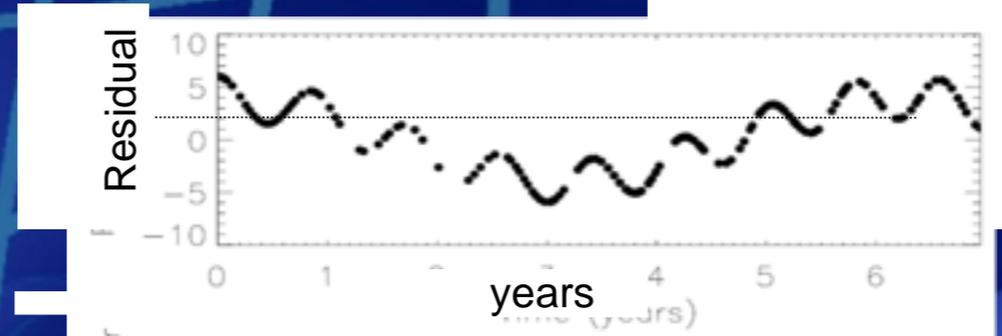


# Single source detection

- Single binary super-massive black hole produces periodic signal
- Signal contains information from two distinct epochs:  $t$  and  $t-d/c$

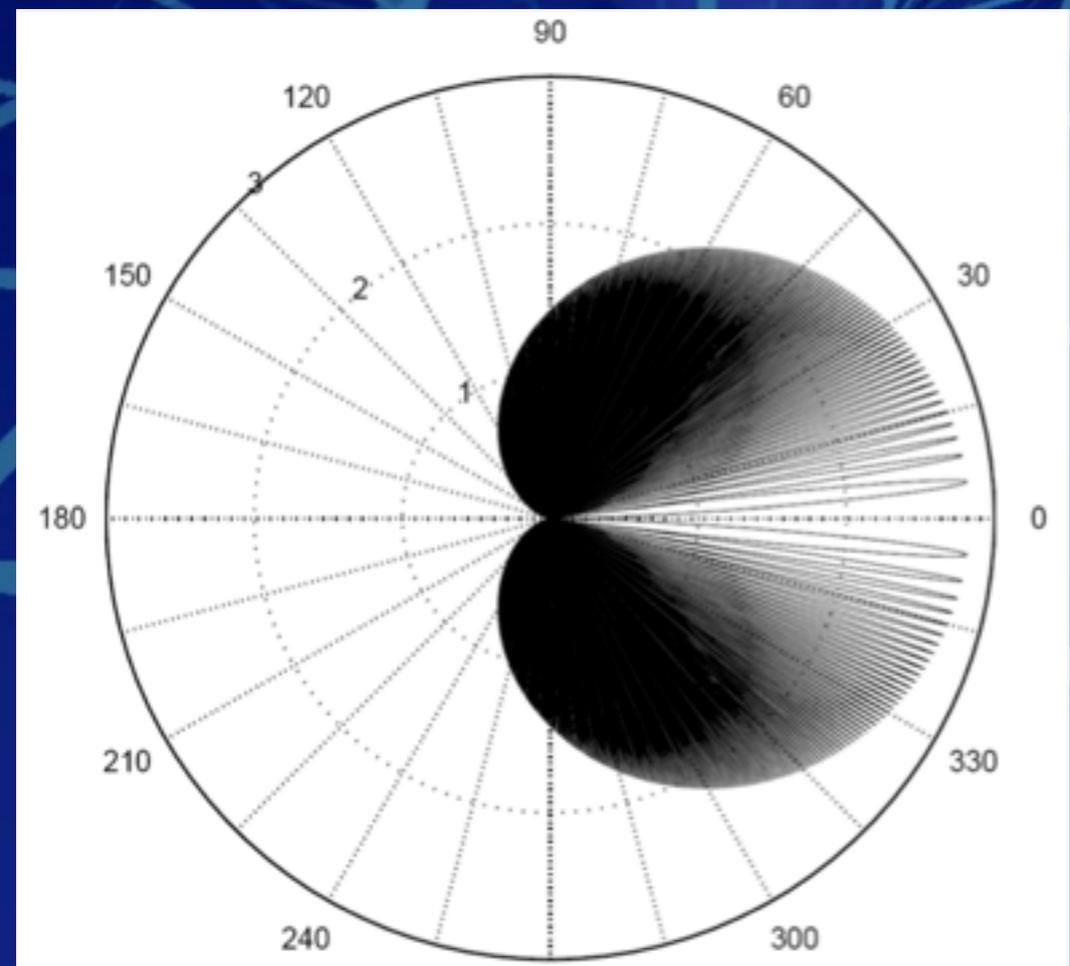


Lee et al. (2011)



- We can pinpoint a single GW source:

Possible by amazing astrometry of SKA!



Response pattern H of a single-pulsar timing response to a single monochromatic GW source.

Position accuracy GW source.

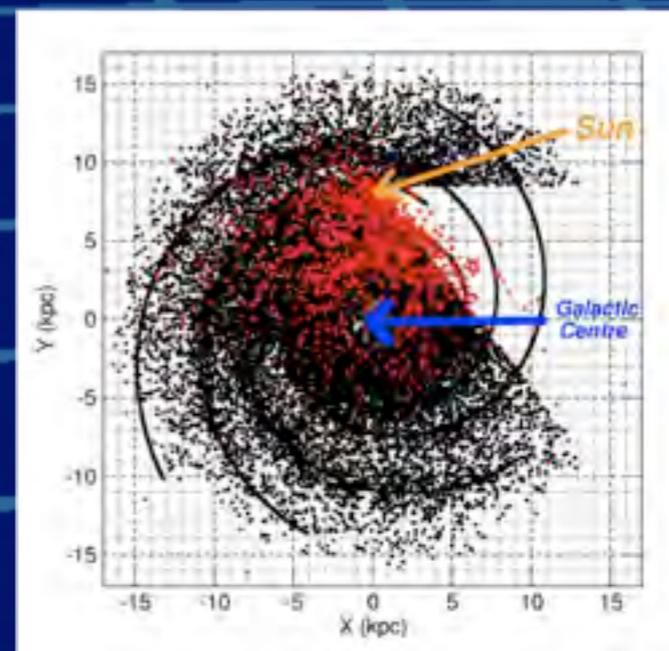
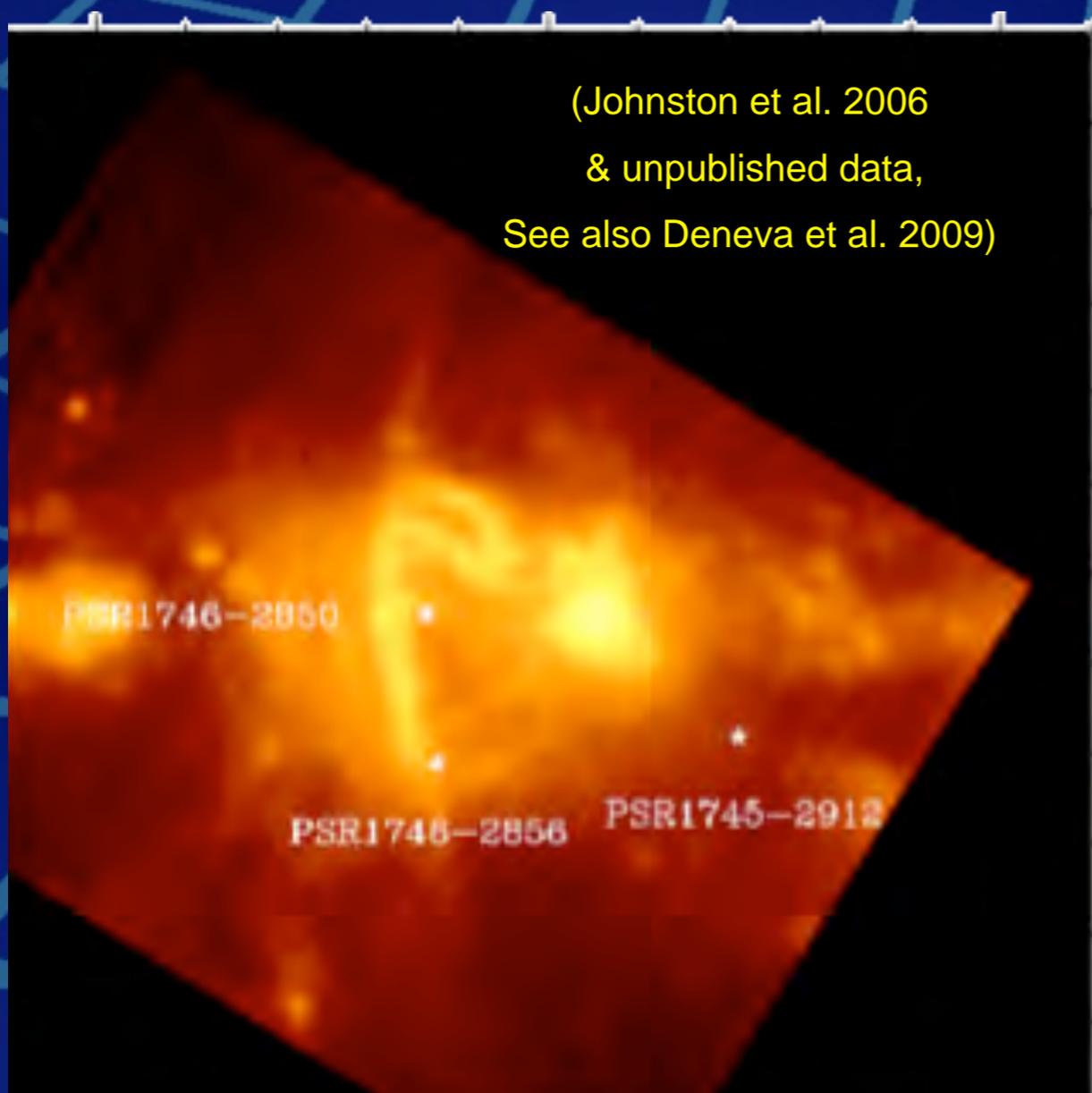
1'



# Galactic census with the SKA



With the SKA'S collecting area and increase in survey speed:



- ~30,000 normal pulsars
- ~2,000 millisecond psrs
- ~100 rel binaries
- first pulsars in Galactic Centre
- first extragalactic pulsars

Once pulsar in GC found, the experiment will be simple...



# Property measurements of Sgr A\*



- Hamiltonian of a rotating black hole:  $H=H_N+H_{PN1}+H_{SO}+H_Q+\dots$

- Independent measurements of the black hole mass ( $m$ ), spin ( $\chi$ ) and quadrupole moment ( $q$ ) will lead to a test of the cosmic censorship conjecture ( $\chi \leq 1$ , Penrose, 1979) and the no-hair theorem ( $q = -\chi^2$ , Hansen, 1974).

- The mass of Sgr A\* can be obtained by measuring the pulsar signal delays induced by the relativistic orbital motion of the pulsar (Lorimer & Kramer 2005).

- Relativistic advance of pericenter:

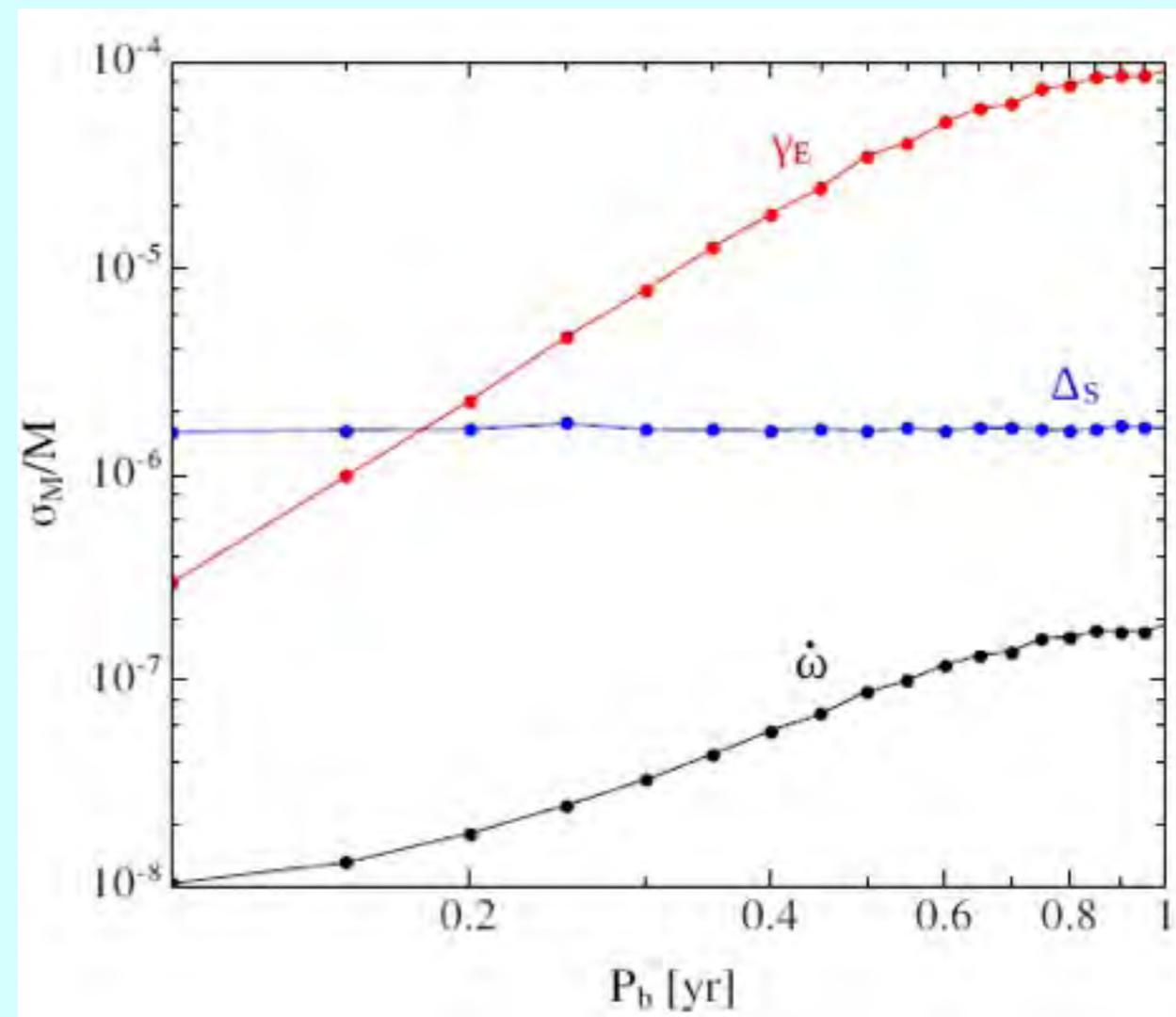
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\omega} &\simeq \frac{3}{1-e^2} \left(\frac{2\pi}{P_b}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{c^3}\right)^{2/3} \\ &\simeq (0.269 \text{ deg/yr}) \frac{1}{1-e^2} \left(\frac{P_b}{1 \text{ yr}}\right)^{-5/3} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{4 \times 10^6 M_\odot}\right)^{2/3}\end{aligned}$$

- Einstein delay:

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_E &\simeq 2e \left(\frac{P_b}{2\pi}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{c^3}\right)^{2/3} \\ &\simeq (2500 \text{ s}) e \left(\frac{P_b}{1 \text{ yr}}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{4 \times 10^6 M_\odot}\right)^{2/3}\end{aligned}$$

- Shapiro delay:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_s &\simeq \frac{2GM_{\text{BH}}}{c^3} \ln\left(\frac{1+e\cos\varphi}{1-\sin i \sin(\omega+\varphi)}\right) \\ &\simeq (39.4 \text{ s}) \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{4 \times 10^6 M_\odot}\right) \ln\left(\frac{1+e\cos\varphi}{1-\sin i \sin(\omega+\varphi)}\right)\end{aligned}$$

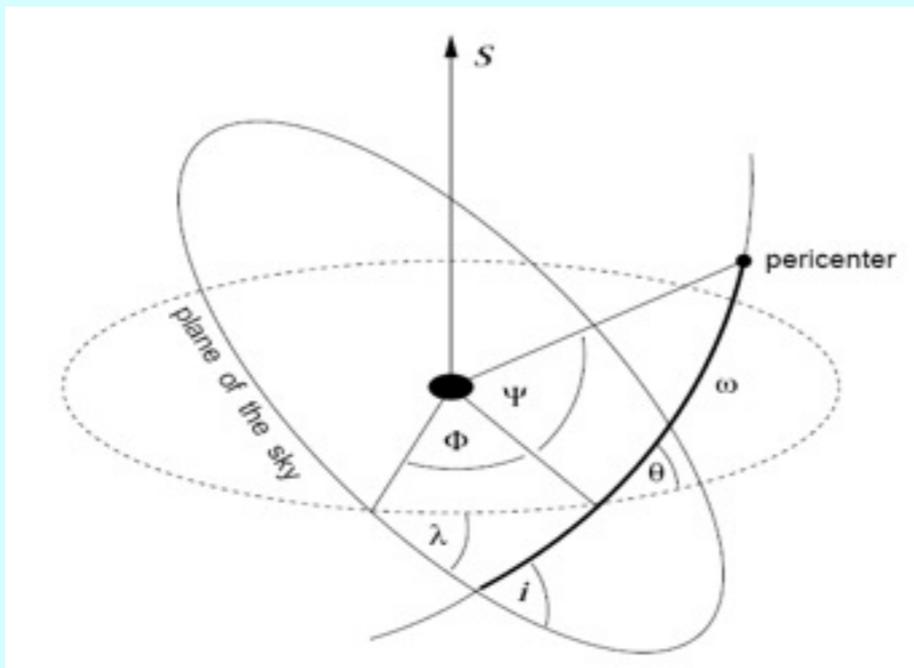


Liu et al. 2011, submitted

- The spin contribution will induce a precession of the pulsar orbit, which can be measured by pulsar timing and used to determine the spin of Sgr A\*.

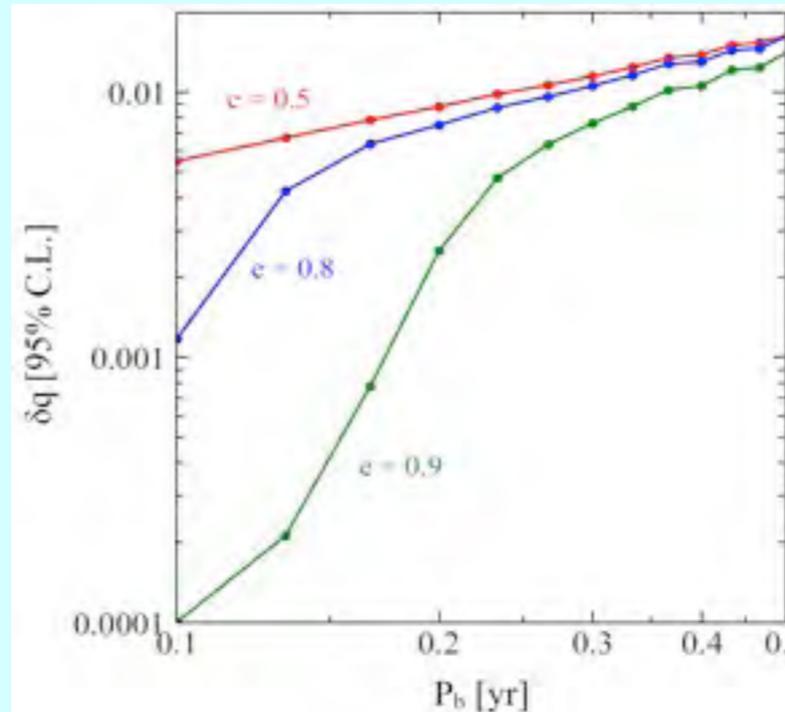
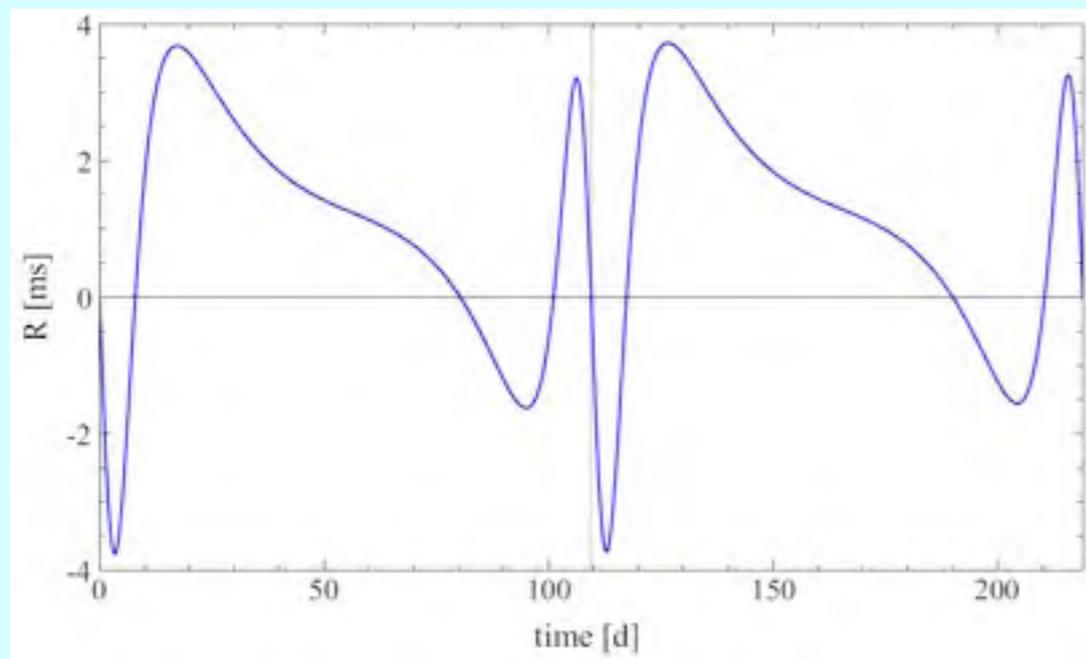
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\Phi} &= \Omega_{LT} \\ \dot{\Psi} &= -3\Omega_{LT} \cos\theta\end{aligned}$$

(Barker & O'Connell, 1975)



$\chi$	$e$	$P_b$ (yr)	$\theta_s$ ( $^\circ$ )	$\hat{\sigma}$
0.2	0.1	0.3	20 $^\circ$	4.7% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	NM
			20 $^\circ$	0.36% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	0.92% ( $\ddot{\omega}_s$ )
	0.9	0.3	20 $^\circ$	0.07% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	0.18% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			20 $^\circ$	<0.01% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	<0.01% ( $\ddot{\omega}_s$ )
1.0	0.1	0.3	20 $^\circ$	0.14% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	1.1% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			20 $^\circ$	0.01% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	0.04% ( $\ddot{\omega}_s$ )
	0.9	0.3	20 $^\circ$	<0.01% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	0.01% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			20 $^\circ$	<0.01% ( $\ddot{x}_s$ )
			70 $^\circ$	<0.01% ( $\ddot{\omega}_s$ )

- The quadrupole moment contribution will cause a periodic perturbation of the pulsar orbit, which can be modelled in pulsar timing and used to determine the Sgr A\* quadrupole.



(Liu, 2011, PhD thesis)

5-year SKA pulsar timing of 0.1 ms precision may achieve a test of the no-hair theorem with ~1%!

(Liu et al. 2011, submitted)

# Pulse phase jitter and its influence

Phenomenon of pulse phase jitter and its measurement on J0437-4715  
(Jenet et al. 1998, ApJ; Liu et al. 2011 submitted):

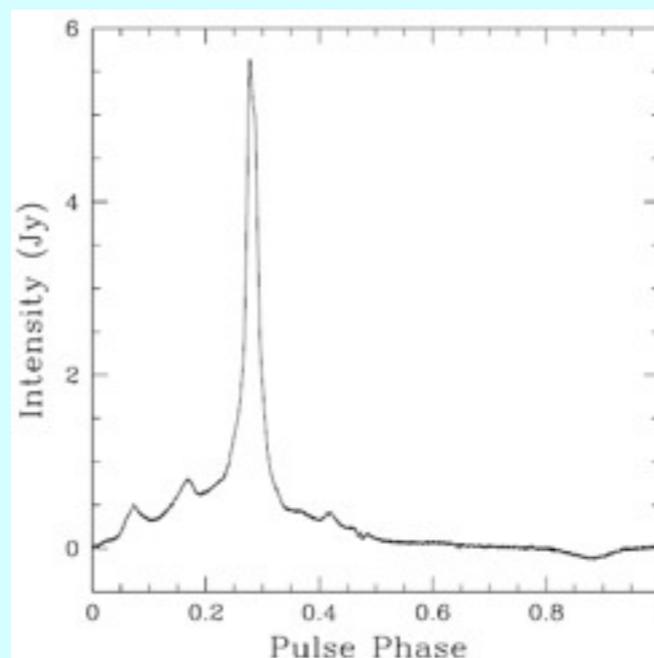
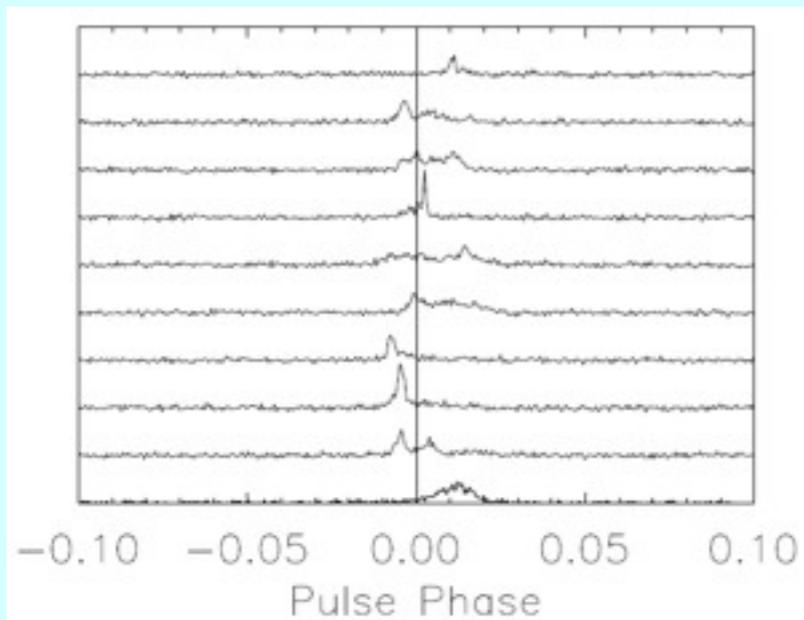


Table 3. Results of jitter parameter  $f_J$  measurements and K-S tests of all PSR J0437-4715 datasets from two 48-MHz sub-bands. The parameters  $f$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  represent the central frequency and the p-value of K-S test, respectively.

Dataset (MJD)	$f$ (MHz)	$f_J$	$\mathcal{P}$
53576	1341	$0.067 \pm 0.004$	0.89
	1450	$0.067 \pm 0.004$	0.93
53621	1341	$0.067 \pm 0.004$	0.98
	1405	$0.066 \pm 0.004$	0.62
53964	1341	$0.066 \pm 0.004$	0.88
	1405	$0.065 \pm 0.004$	0.92
54095	1341	$0.069 \pm 0.006$	0.90
	1405	$0.073 \pm 0.006$	0.92
54222	1341	$0.069 \pm 0.007$	0.52
	1405	$0.067 \pm 0.007$	0.77
54226	1341	$0.068 \pm 0.005$	0.20
	1405	$0.066 \pm 0.006$	0.64

Influence of pulse phase jitter on TOA precision (Cordes & Shannon 2010):

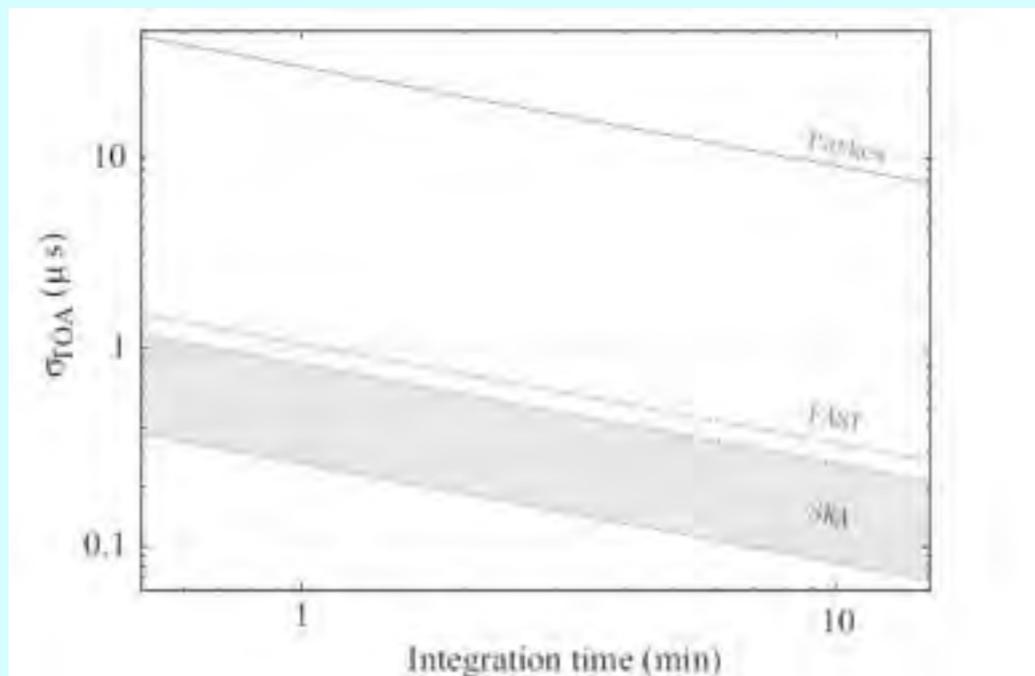


Figure 12. Expected MSP TOA precision versus integration time for different instruments. Only radiometer noise and pulse jitter are accounted for as influences on the measurement precision.

$$\sigma_{\text{total}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{rn}}^2 + \sigma_J^2 + \sigma_{\text{scint}}^2 + \sigma_0^2,$$

MSP ( 3.0 mJy at 1.4 GHz, 5.0 ms,  
5% pulse width)

+

SKA (10-min integrations, 50 MHz  
bandwidth)

=

TOA precision of 80-230 ns  
(Liu et al. 2011, MNRAS)

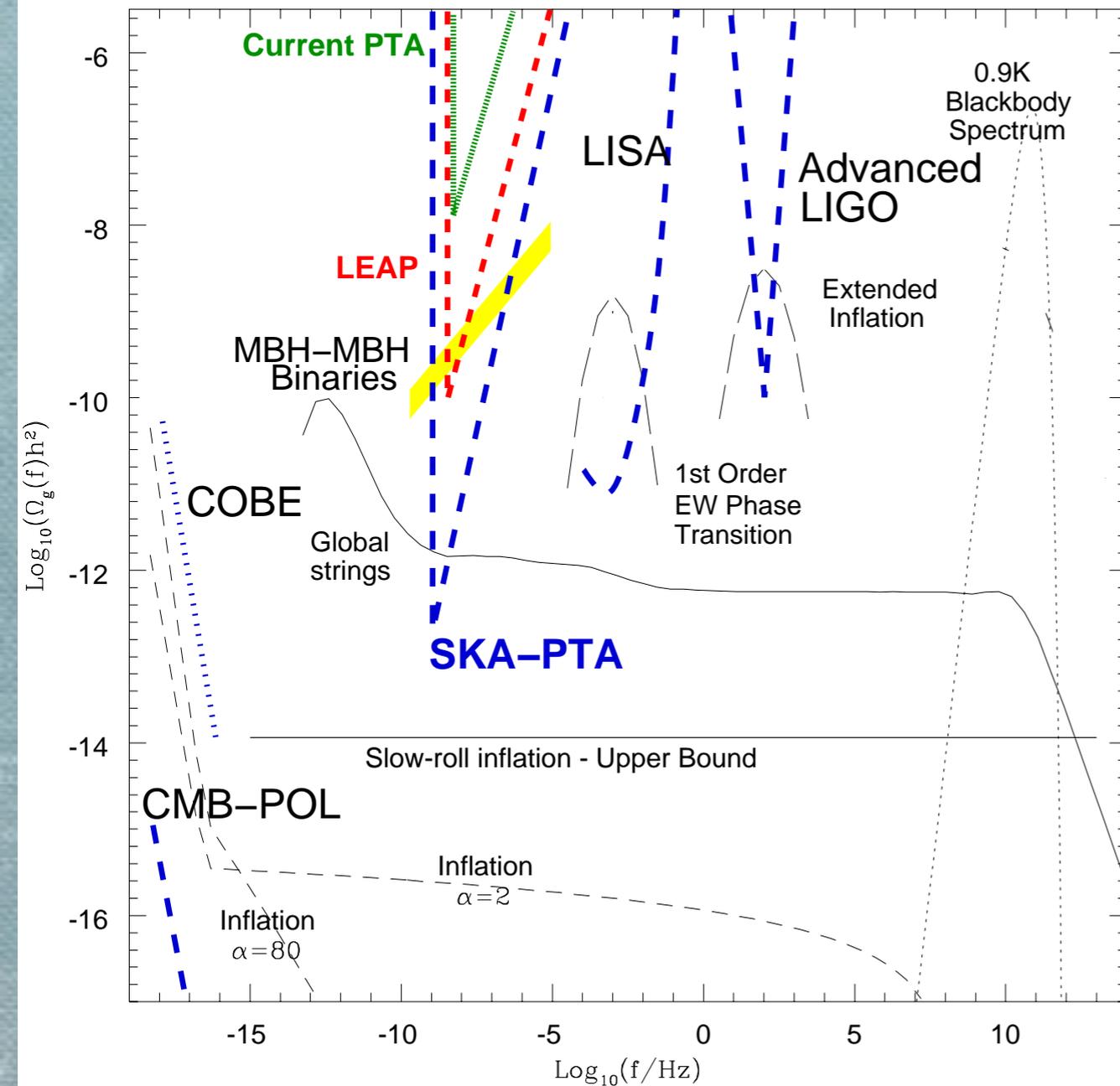
# WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A PTA?

- Often quoted parameters are a detection are:

---

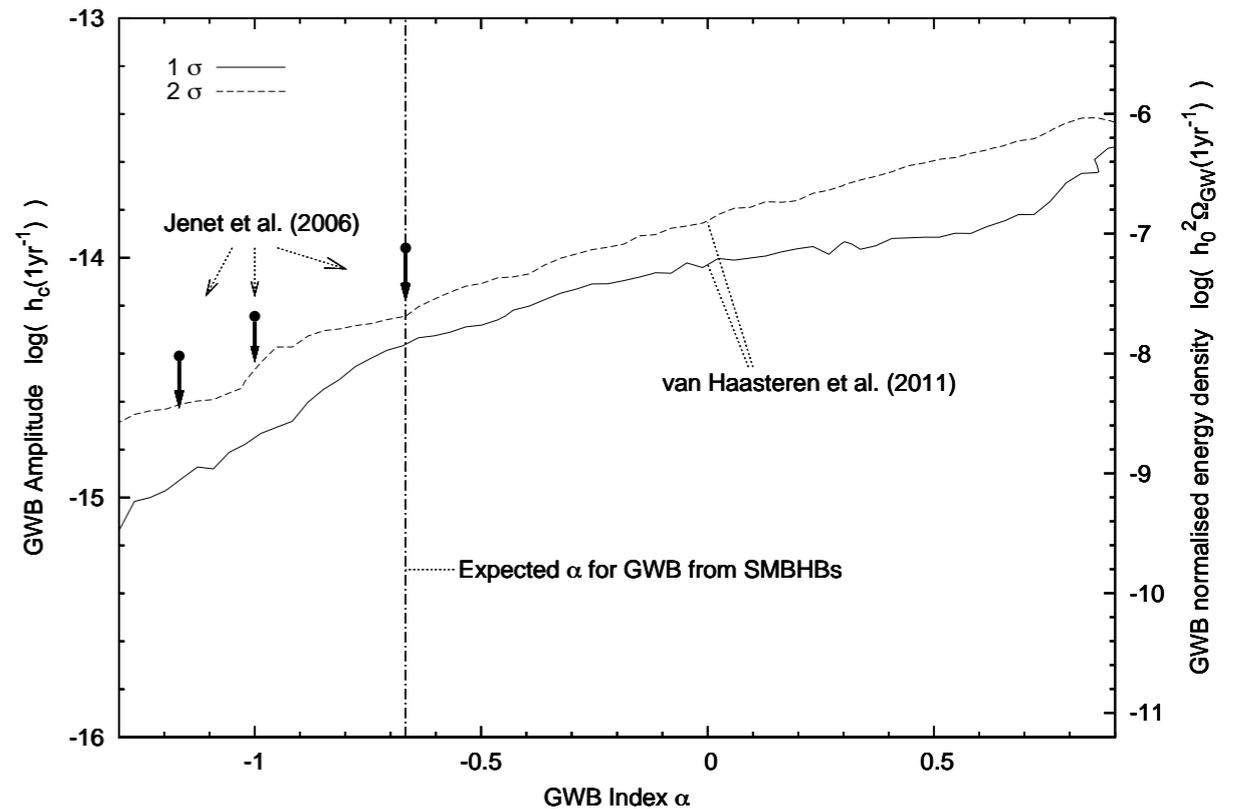
  - 20 - 25 Millisecond Pulsars
  - Timed to a precision of  $<100$  ns
  - For a period of  $> 5$  years
- Some deviations about that and different weighting
  - More MSPs will definitely be useful!
- Need to have longer baselines, better timing (10 ns) to:
  - Study spectral shape in detail
  - Limit mass of graviton
  - Study polarisation, etc....

# nanoHertz GWs - Pulsars



$$h_c(f) = A(f/\text{yr}^{-1})^\alpha$$

Joint GWB ( $\alpha, h_c$ ) distribution

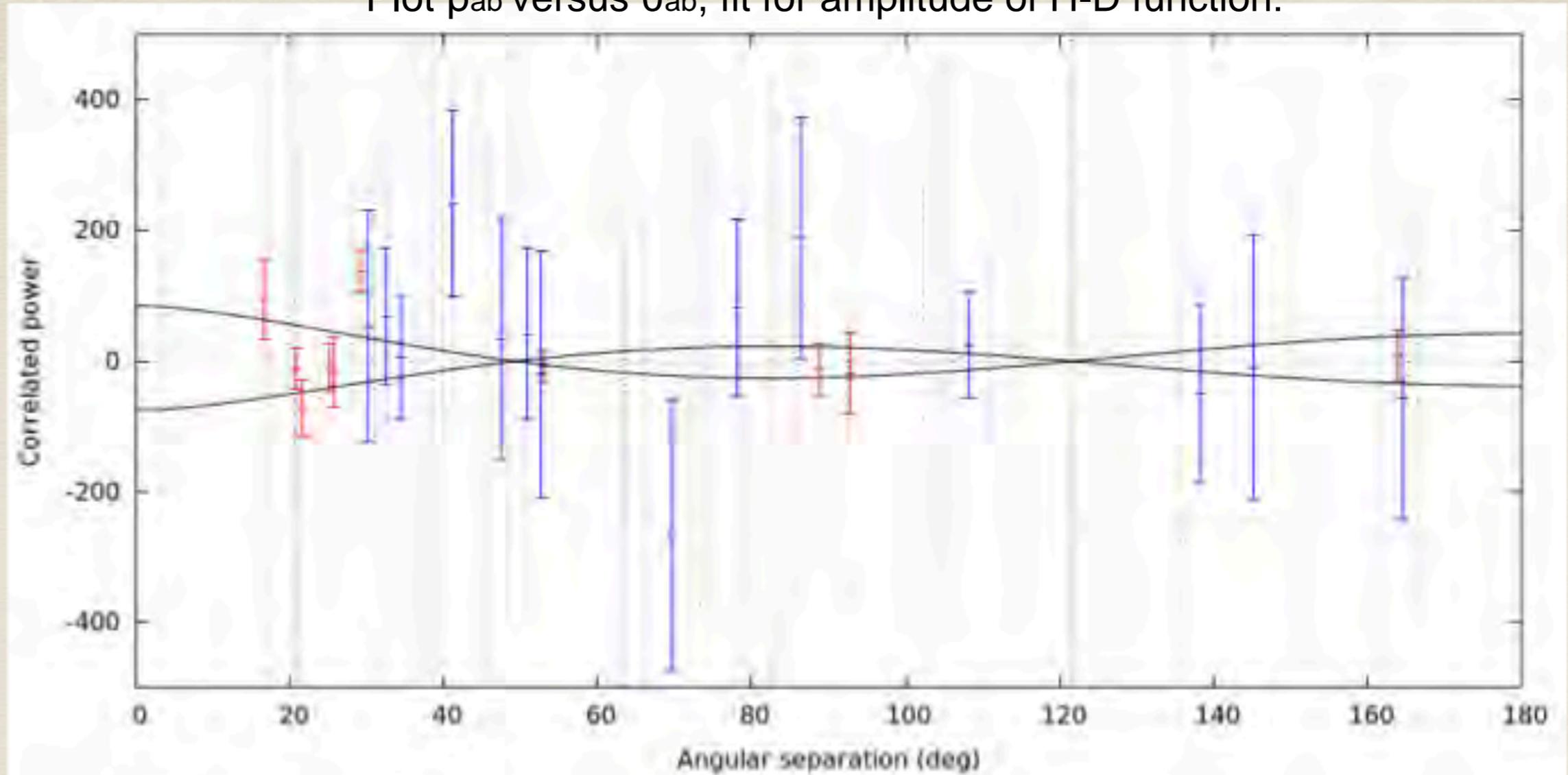


For the case  $\alpha = -2/3$ , which is expected if the GWB is produced by supermassive black-hole binaries, we obtain a 95% confidence upper limit on  $A$  of  $6 \times 10^{-15}$ , which is 1.8 times lower than the 95% confidence GWB limit obtained by the Parkes PTA in 2006.

van Haasteren et al 2011

# 5-year NANOGrav GW cross-correlation analysis

Plot  $\rho_{ab}$  versus  $\theta_{ab}$ , fit for amplitude of H-D function:



Y-axis values are  $A^2$  times  $10^{30}$  (i.e., relative to a  $h_c(\text{yr}^{-1}) = 10^{-15}$  spectrum)

Computed using methods from Demorest (2007):

Assumes/optimized for -2/3 power law GW spectrum.

Current work: Inject/characterize simulated GW signals.

Similar limit to that set by the EPTA but still finalising

Demorest et al 2011

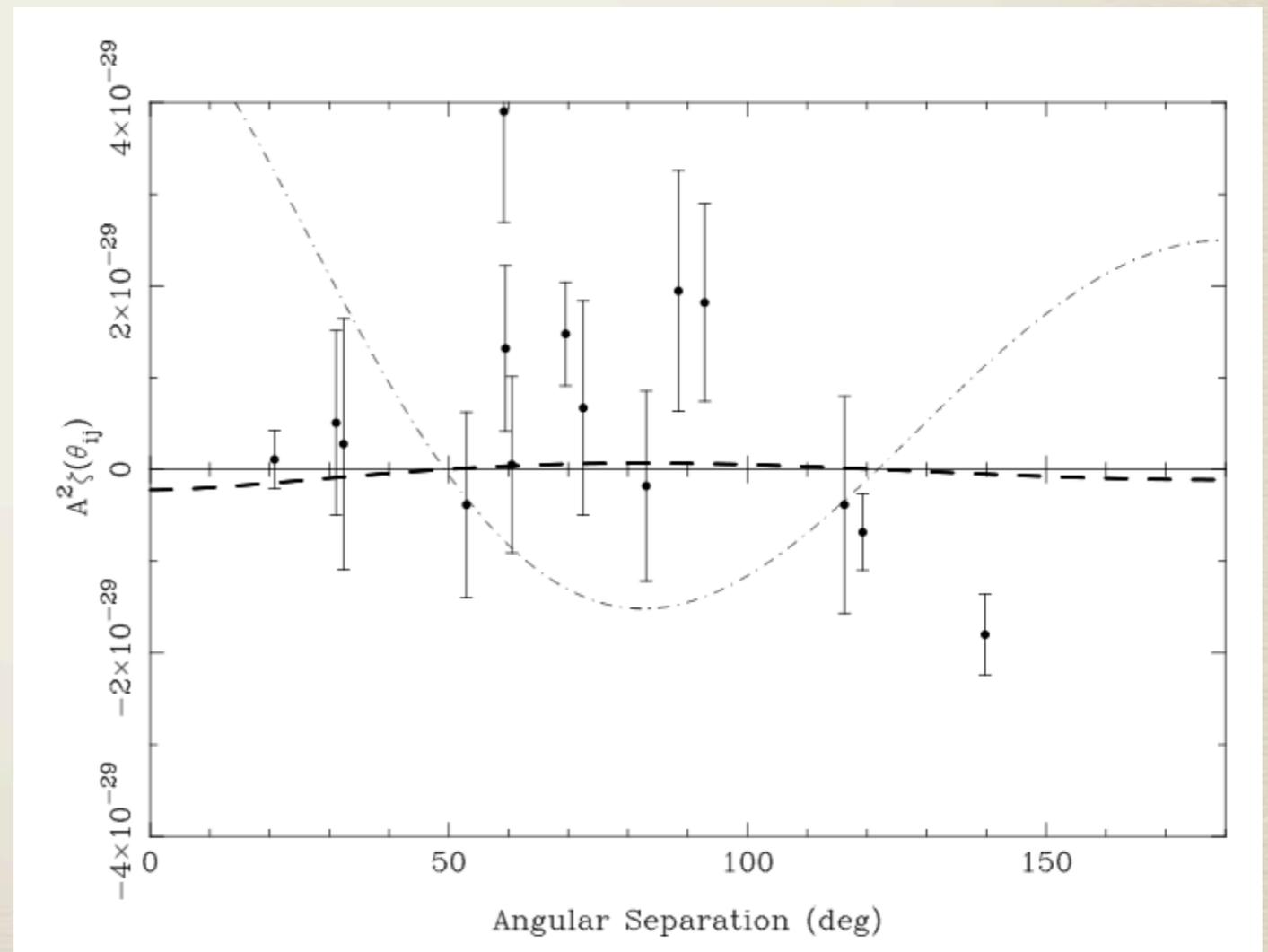
# PPTA

- Verbiest et al. Parkes + Kapsi et al. Arecibo data sets analysed
- 20 pulsars with data spans of up to 23 yr (most 12 – 14 yr s)
- Overlapping data spans for each pulsar-pair analysed

For GWB from SMBHB  $a = -2/3$

$$h_c = A (f/f_{1\text{yr}})^\alpha$$

- Correlation amplitude estimated in Fourier domain using weighted average of spectral components
- Effect of timing fits calibrated by injecting GW signals into data (**Jumps are bad!**)
- Weighted fit of HD curve fitted to resulting amplitudes
- Best-fit value for  $A^2 = -4.5 \times 10^{-30}$  BUT
- **Consistent with no GW at 76% confidence**
- Need IPTA, longer data spans!
- Method not optimal for setting a limit on GW amplitude



(Yardley et al. 2011)

# HOW TO IMPROVE?

Currently happening:

- Discover/add more pulsars (>100 MSPs in last 2 years!)
- Better instrumentation - everywhere
  - e.g. Increased BW, coherent dedispersion
  - EPTA limit based on predominantly old data
- Improved data analysis (more GW signals; ISM, polarisation)
- Collaborating! --- International Pulsar Timing Array.

Near future:

- Increase observing time on current telescopes.
- Receiver upgrades -- very wide bandwidths (300 - 3000 MHz)
- LOFAR -- ISM analysis / pulse shape variations.

More collecting area (larger telescopes).

- short term: LEAP
- medium term: SKA pathfinders
- longer term: SKA<sub>1</sub> and then SKA

# Lots of new work on transients...

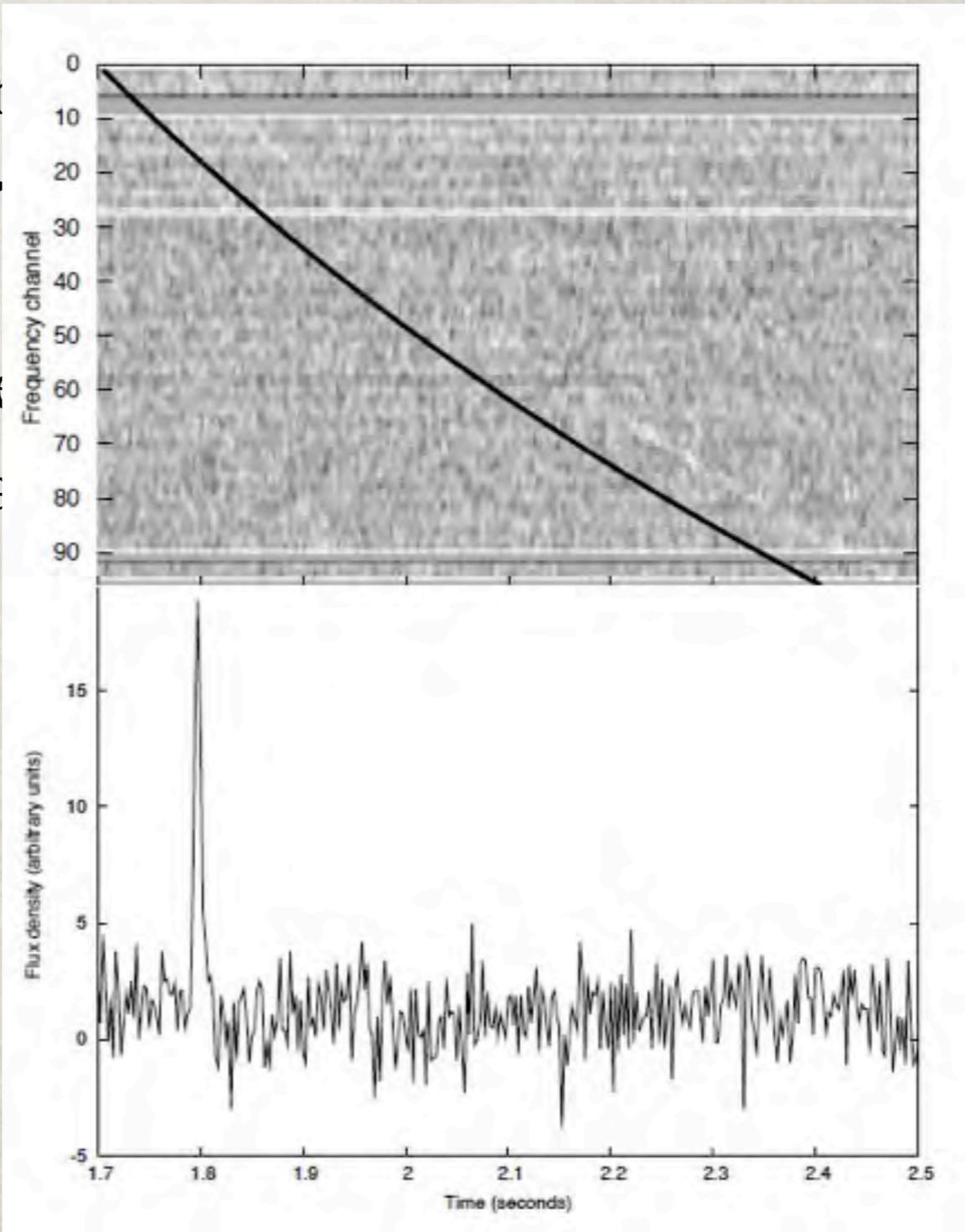
- \* Multimoment radio transient detection - Spitler et al 2011
- \* The chirpolator and the chimageator - Bannister and Cornwall 2011
- \* Real-time, fast radio transient searches with GPU de-dispersion - Magro et al 2011
- \* Searching for Fast Radio Transients with SKA Phase 1 - Clarke & Colgate 2011
- \* Detection Rates for Surveys for Fast Transients with Next Generation Radio Arrays - Macquart 2011
- \* Observing pulsars and fast transients with LOFAR - Stappers et al 2011
- \* The Allen Telescope Array Fly's Eye Survey for Fast Radio Transients - Siemion et al 2011
- \* ++++++ (apologies if I missed anyone's recent work!).

# A SECOND LB?

☀ Searched the PMPS & searched well beyond the Galaxy for

☀ 19 new discoveries (single e  
-> one in particular is also a  
-> a second LB?

☀  $DM = 745 \text{ cm}^{-3}\text{pc}$   
 $W = 7 \text{ ms}$   
 $gl = 25.4^\circ, gb = -4.0^\circ$   
 $DM_{\text{extra}} = 222 \text{ cm}^{-3}\text{pc}$



# A SECOND LB?

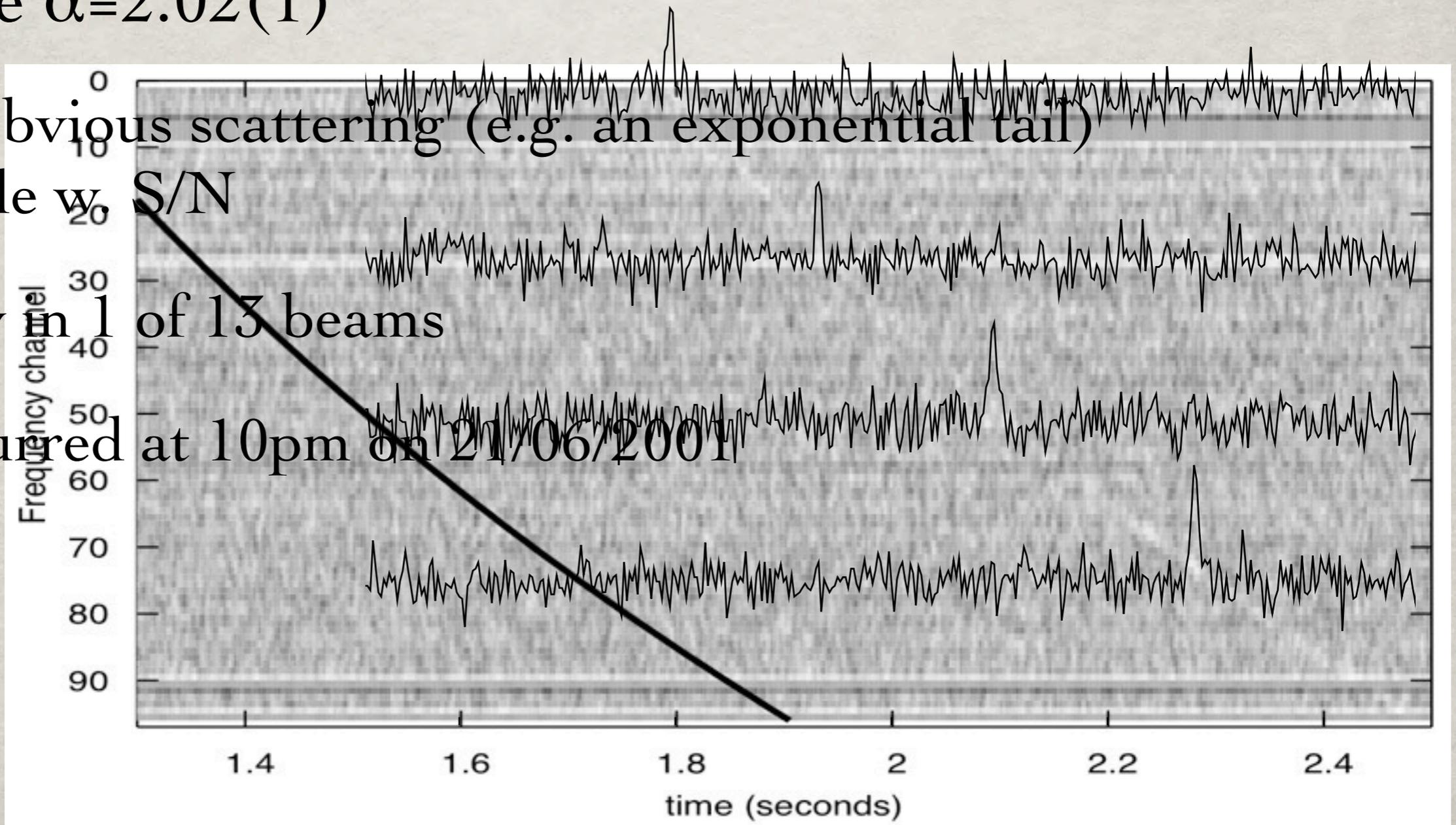
- Time delay has freq. dependence of  $f^{-\alpha}$  where  $\alpha=2.02(1)$

- No obvious scattering (e.g. an exponential tail)

visible w/ S/N

- Only in 1 of 13 beams

- Occurred at 10pm on 21/06/2001



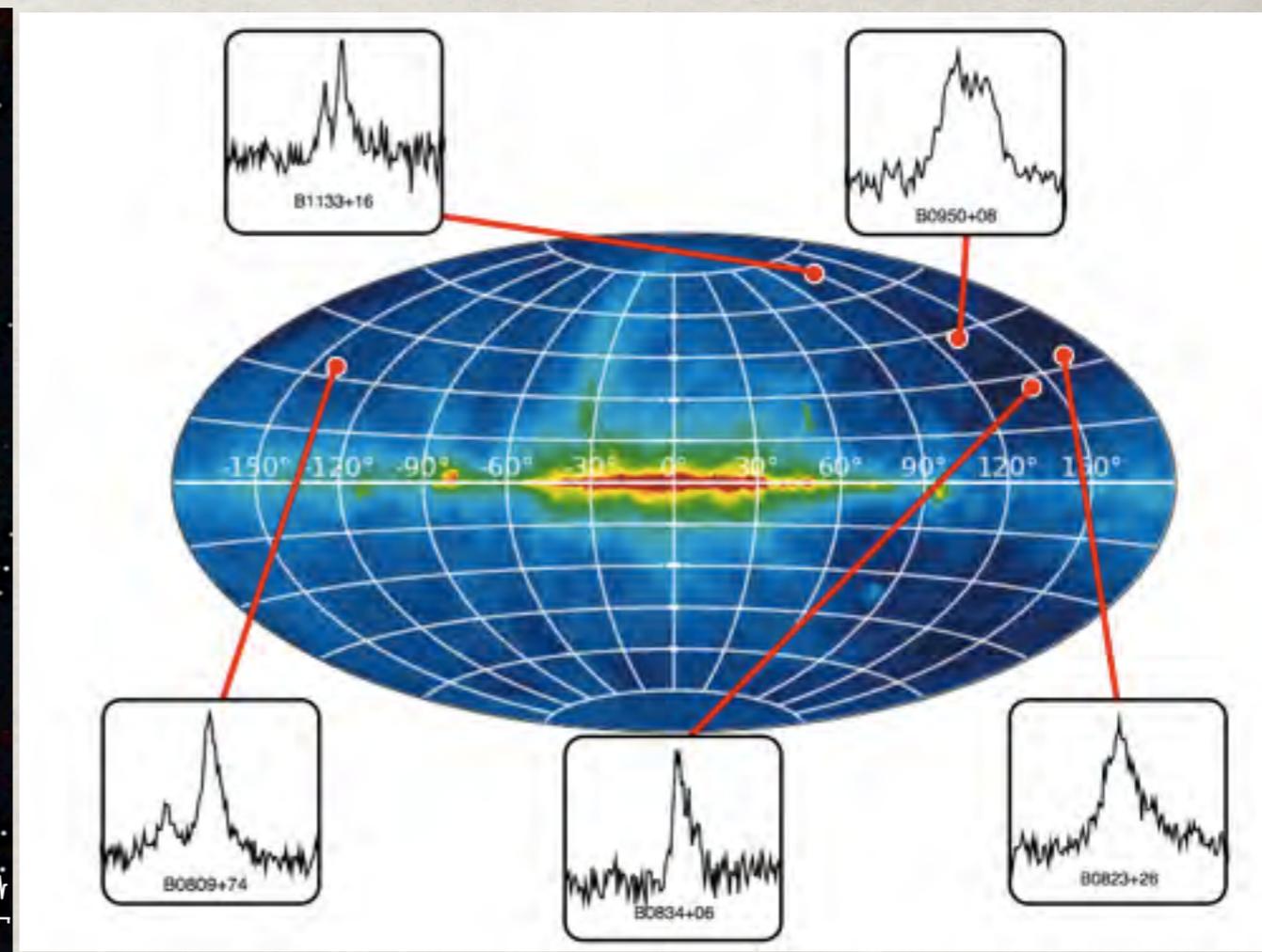
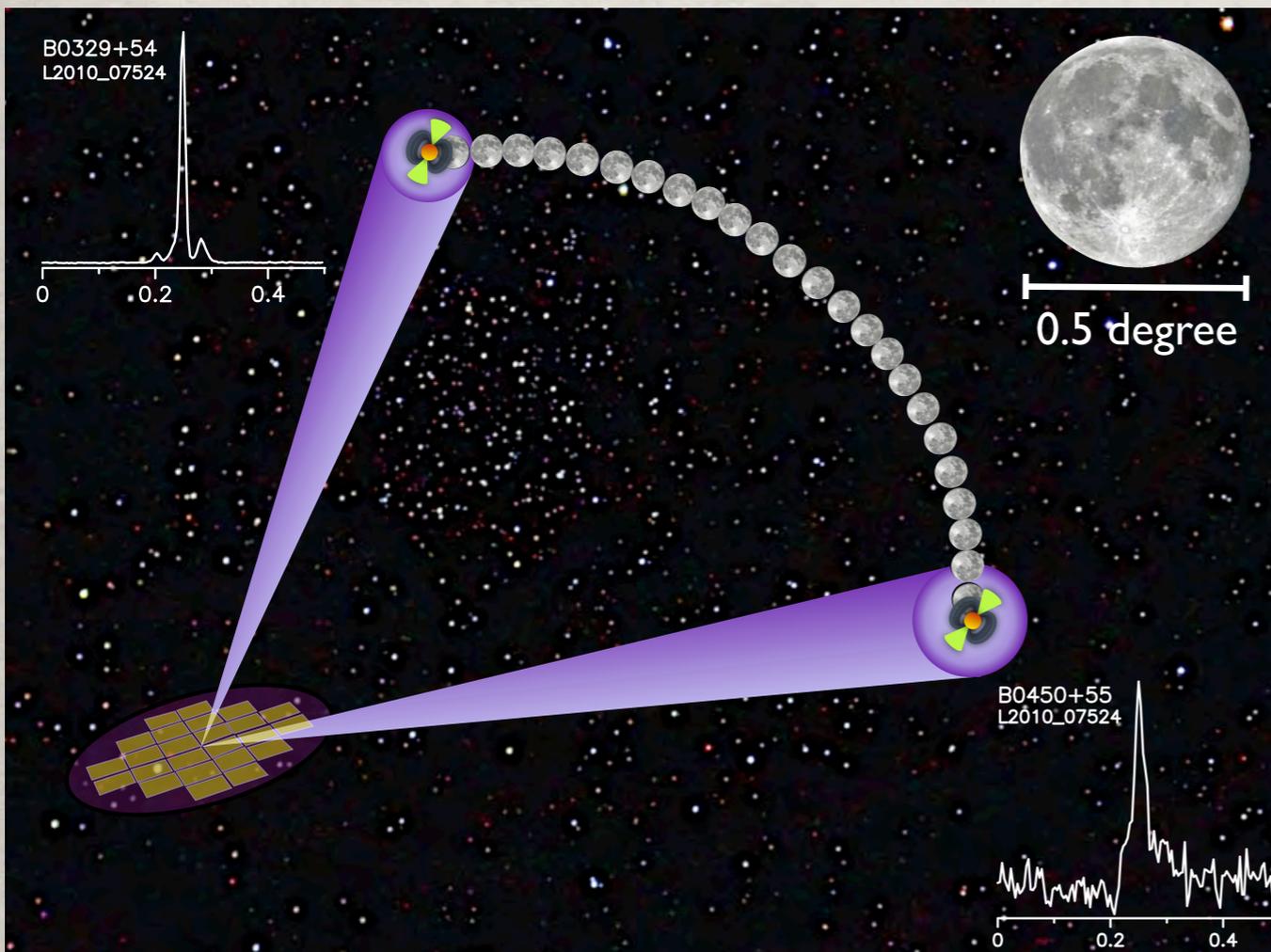
# How to proceed?

- ✱ Make sure they don't repeat (done for both known burts) --> extreme in any sense.
- ✱ Find many more to understand the Luminosity distribution ---> Requires wide area survey capabilities.
- ✱ This should be possible with next generation telescopes.
- ✱ Try and find them in real time and then do multi-wavelength follow up including GWs as some source classes should generate GWs.

# WIDE FOV & MULTI-BEAMING

HBA

LBA



Hessels, Hassall, Stappers &  
PWG

# Beam-formed modes ...there are many possible.

Mode	Description	Data Rate	FoV (sq. deg.)	Res. (deg.)	Sens. (norm.)
Incoherent (par. imaging)	Stations added without proper phase correction.	2-250 GB/hr	2.5	2	6.0
Tied-array	Stations added with proper phase correction.			0.03	36.0
Single Station	For point source imaging, requires high SNR.		12.5	2	1.0
Superstation	Interesting balance of sensitivity and FoV.	Up to 23TB/hr	9.0	0.2	12.0
Fly's Eye	Maximize total FoV for bright transient survey.	Up to 8TB/hr	450	2	1.0

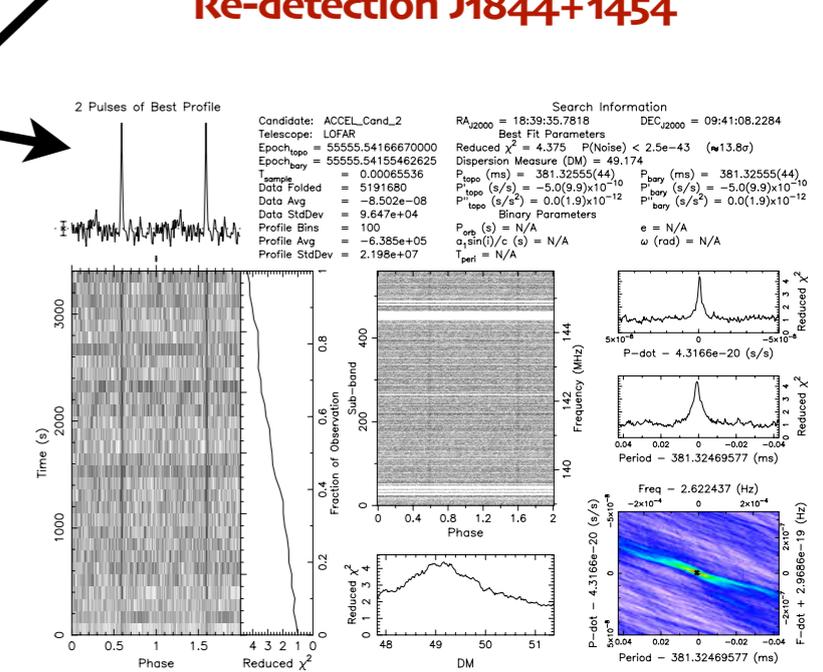
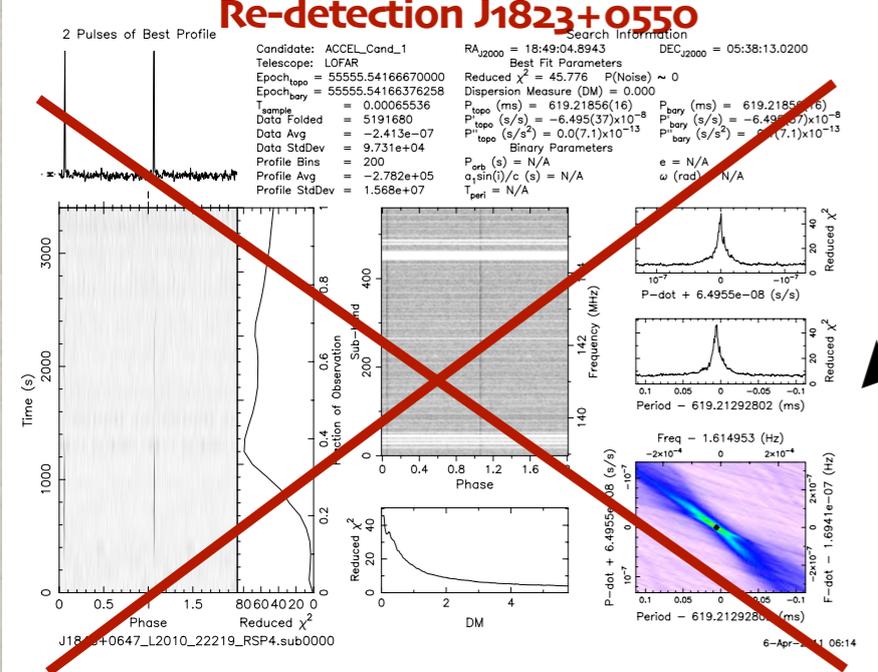
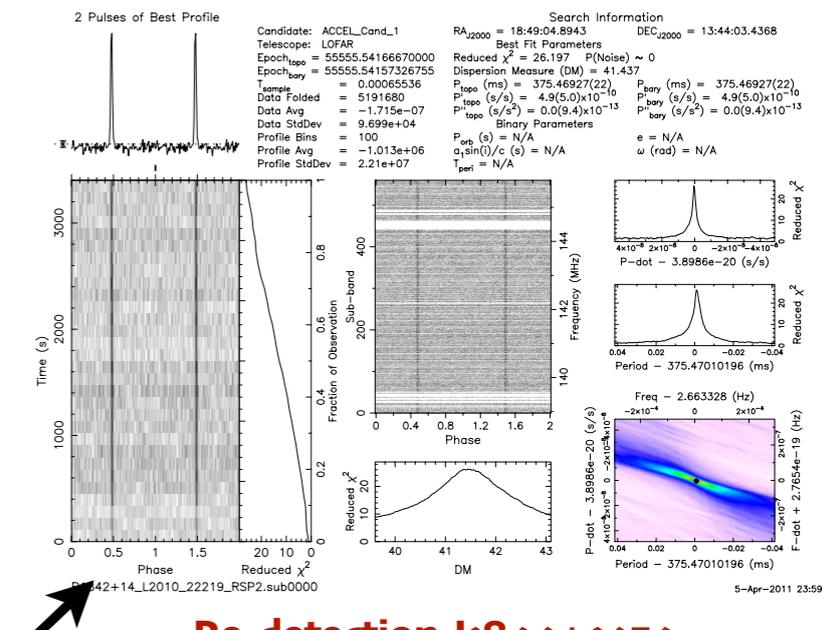
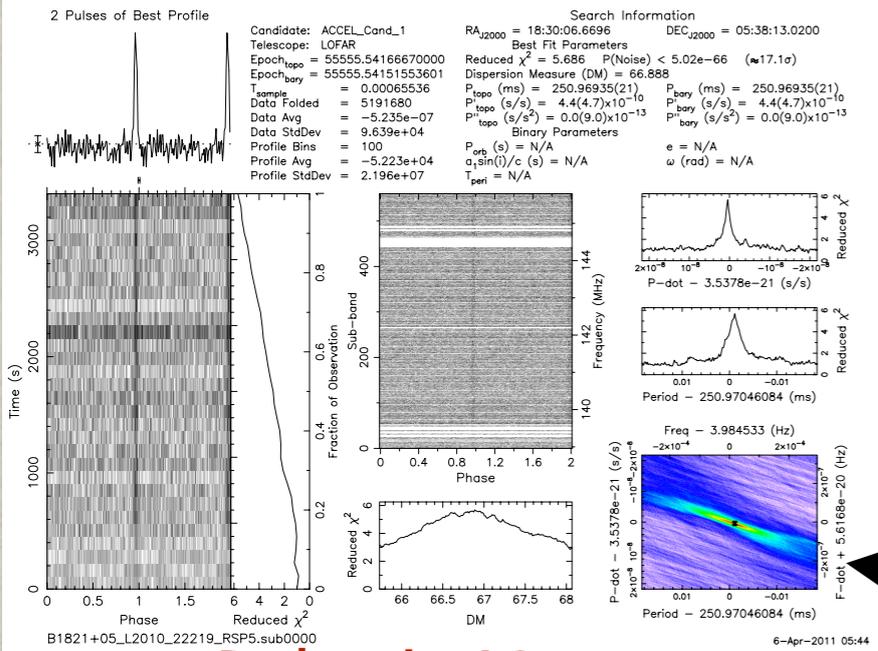
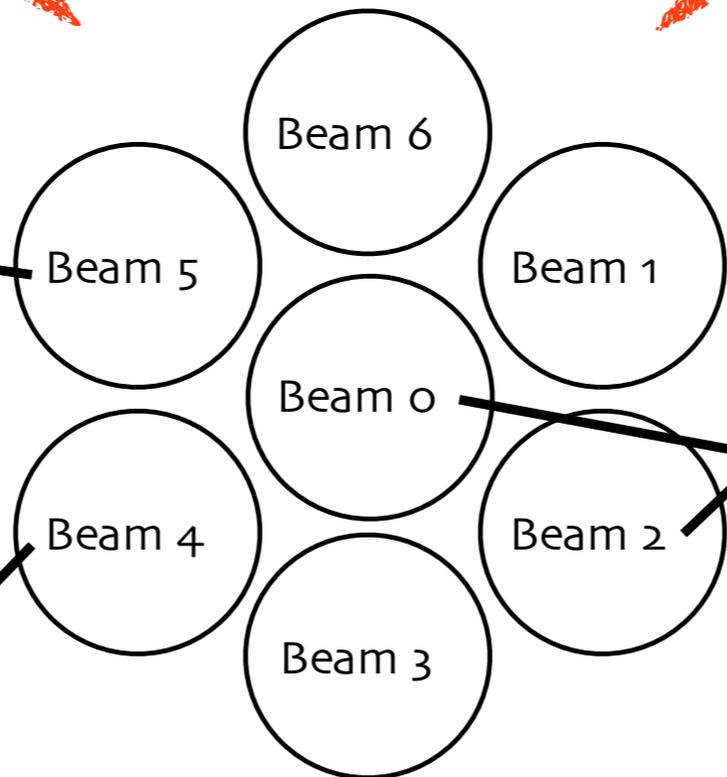
Flexible to match different science goals!

# LOFAR PILOT PULSAR SURVEY (LPPS)

All sky survey with 7 HBA Station Beams summed **Coenen & PWG**

incoherently

15 degrees



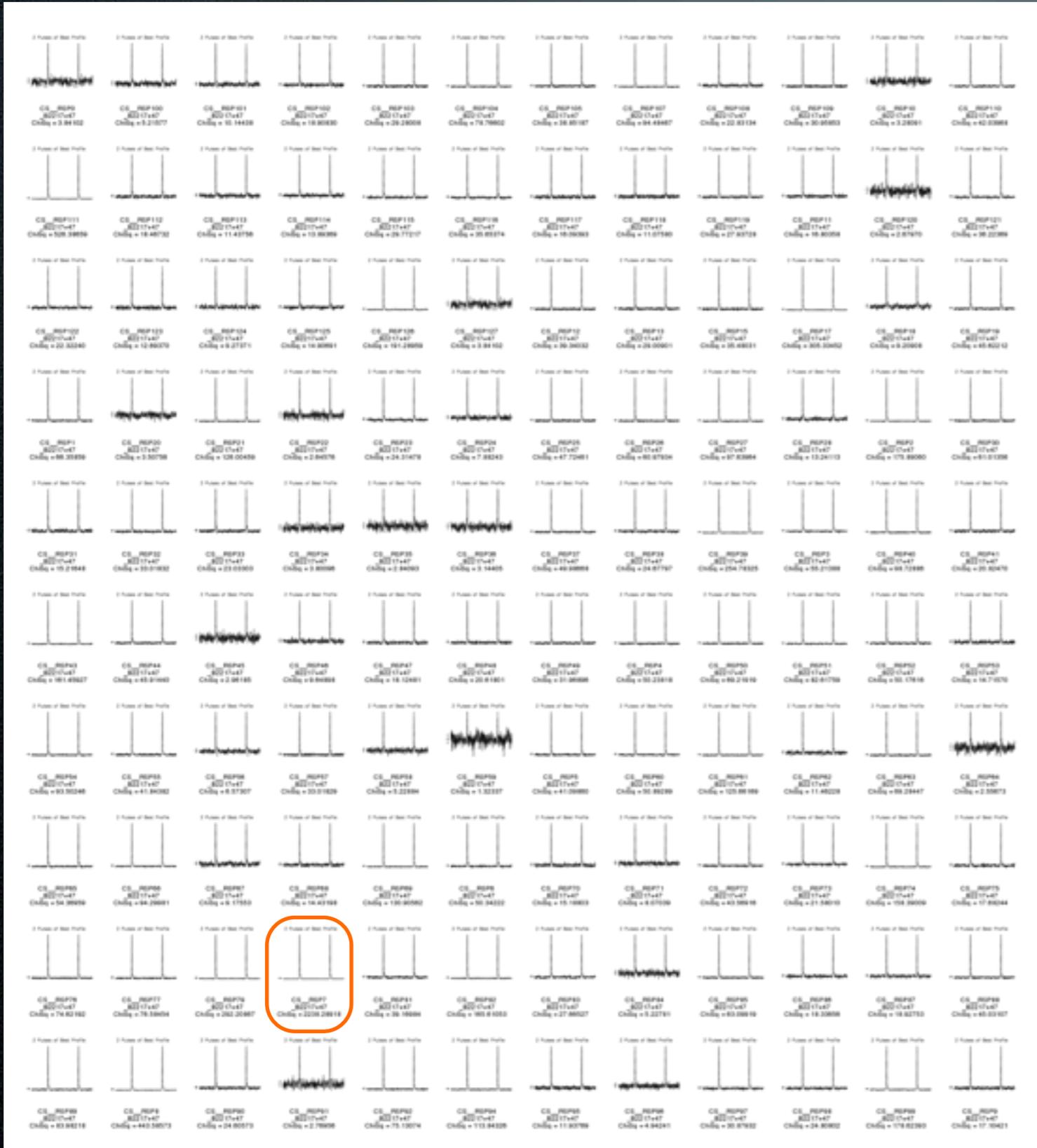
LPPS pointings contains 7 beams

RFI (DM = 0 cm<sup>-3</sup> pc)

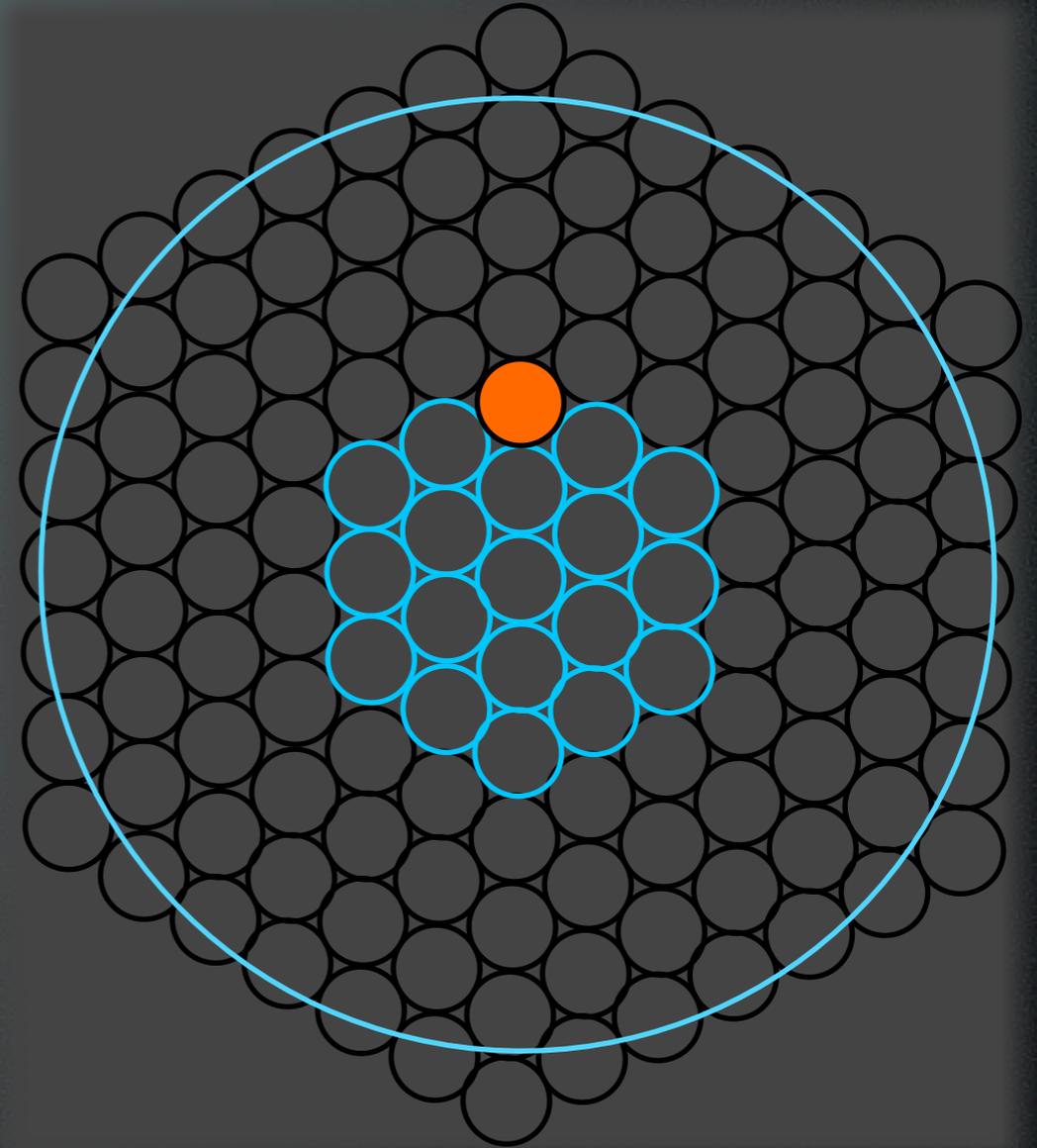
~400 7-beam pointings > -35 deg DEC

Re-detection J1841+0912

# LOFAR 127-beam Tied-Array!!



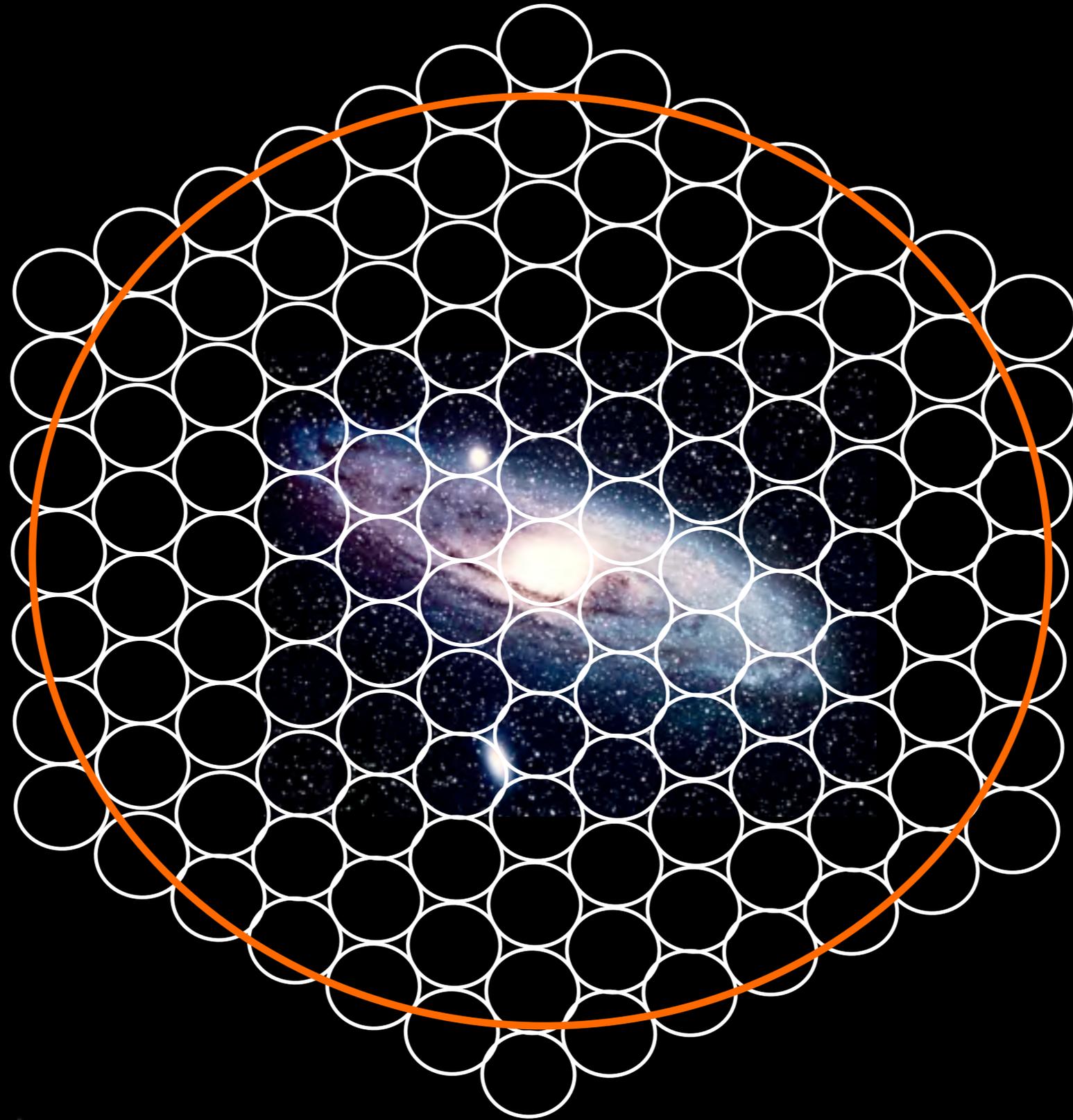
Shifted 1 deg south



Pulsar is 10x brighter in the correct beam (beam 7)!

Credit: Alexov & Hessels

# Andromeda



Credit: Hessels



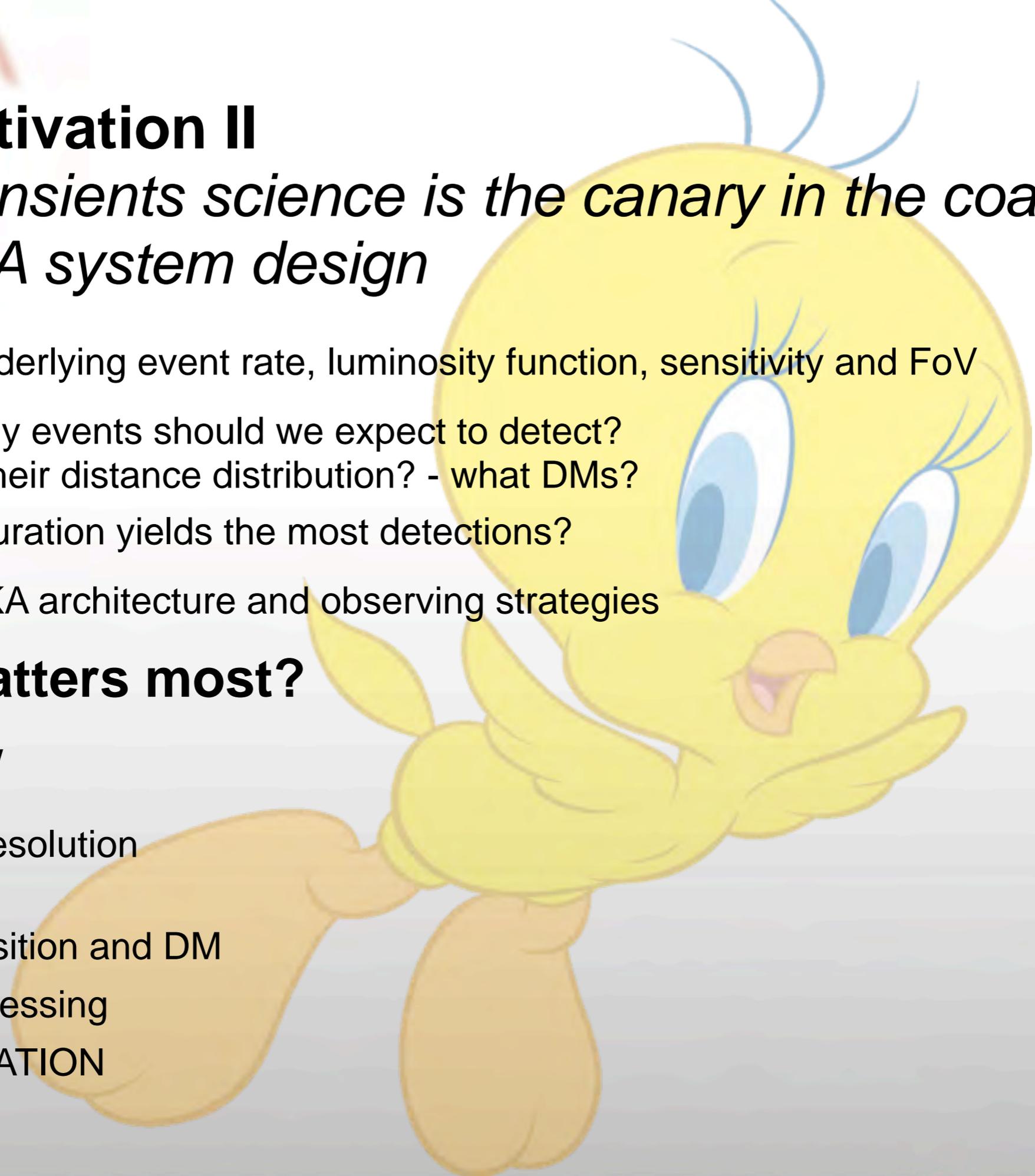
## Motivation II

# *Transients science is the canary in the coal mine of SKA system design*

- Given an underlying event rate, luminosity function, sensitivity and FoV
  - how many events should we expect to detect?
  - what is their distance distribution? - what DMs?
- What configuration yields the most detections?
- Influence SKA architecture and observing strategies

## What matters most?

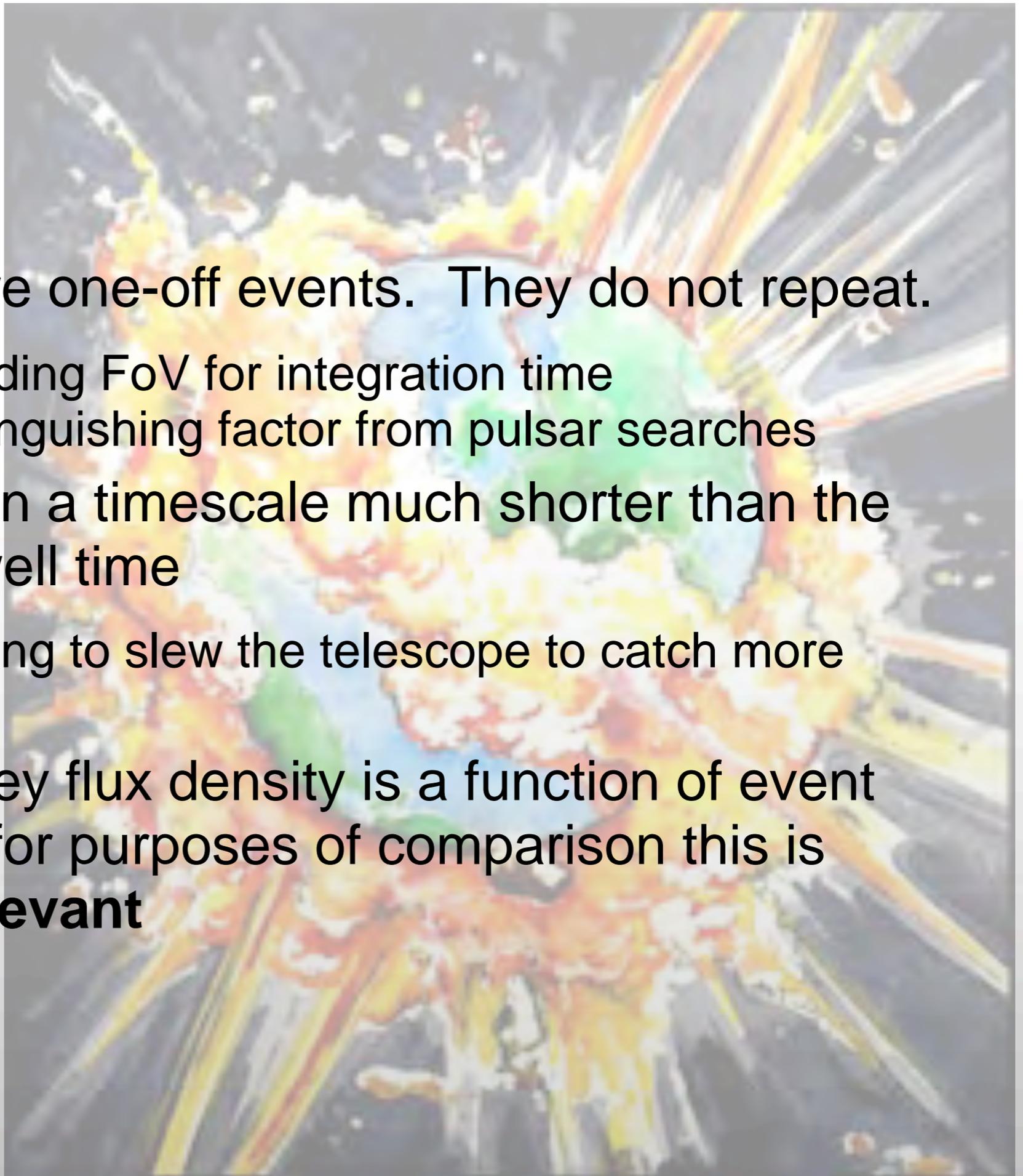
- Field of view
- Sensitivity
- Temporal Resolution
- Buffer
  - refine position and DM
  - post processing
  - VERIFICATION





## Key Points

- Transients are one-off events. They do not repeat.
  - No point trading FoV for integration time
  - Crucial distinguishing factor from pulsar searches
- They occur on a timescale much shorter than the telescope dwell time
  - No point trying to slew the telescope to catch more events
- Limiting survey flux density is a function of event duration but for purposes of comparison this is (mainly) **irrelevant**

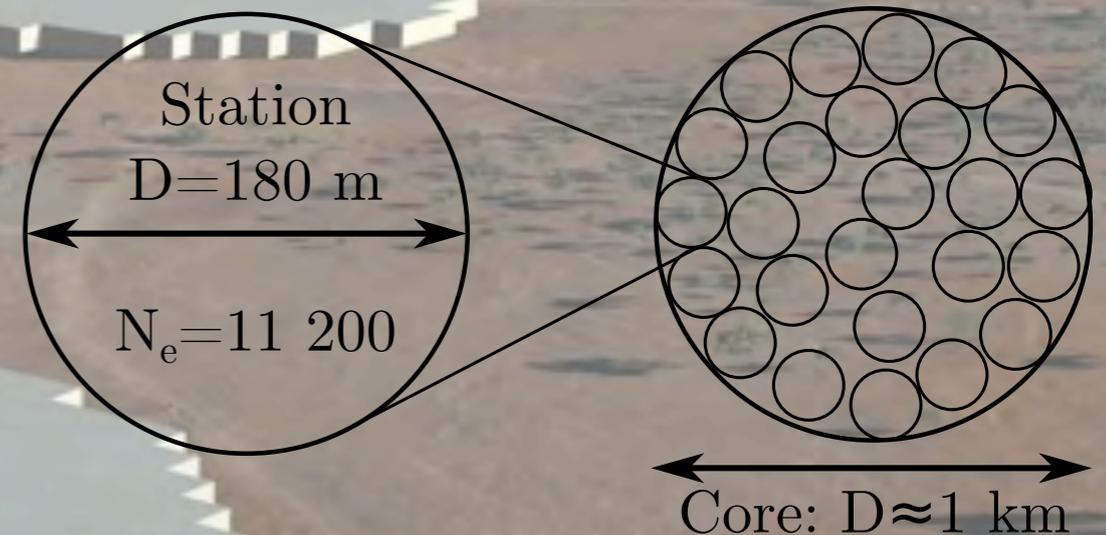




# Maximising bang for buck

see Colegate & Clarke, PASA 2011

- We consider the AA-lo layout of Memo 130 (Dewdney et al. 2010)
- Diameter 180 m, 50 stations, 11200 elems/station
  - 25 stations at ( $r < 0.5$  km)
  - 10 stations ( $0.5 < r < 2.5$  km)
  - 15 stations ( $2.5 < r < 100$  km)
- 70 - 450 MHz
- Dense-sparse transition at 115 MHz
- $T_{\text{sys}} = 150\text{K} + T_{\text{sky}} \dots T_{\text{sky}} = 60 \lambda^{2.55} \text{ K}$





## Sub-Conclusions

- Detection rate scales as  $\Omega S_0^{-3/2+\delta}$  where  $\delta=0$  for an extragalactic survey and any sensitivity-limited survey in which temporal broadening is unimportant
  - In the Galaxy, both interstellar scattering and the finite extent of the Galaxy force  $0 \leq \delta \leq 3/2$
- If the event rate is constant over the sky, a fly's-eye survey detects  $N^{1/4}$  more events than a collimated incoherent survey
- If there are large variations in the event rate as a function of sky position, conduct a collimated incoherent survey on the high event rate region instead of a fly's-eye survey over both high and low event rate regions when

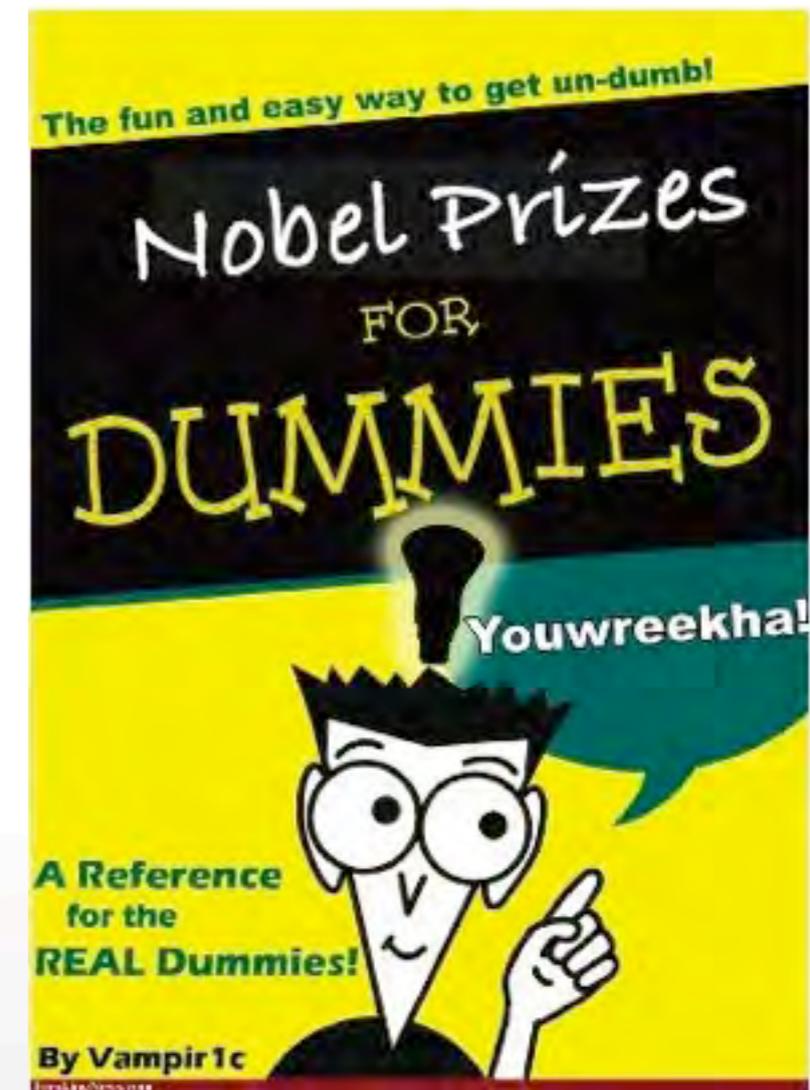
$$f^{\delta/2-3/4} > 1 + \frac{1-f}{\eta f} \quad f = \frac{\Omega_1}{N\Omega_t}$$

- $N f$  is the ratio of the solid angle covered by the high event rate region (angle  $\Omega_1$ ) to the array element FoV, and  $\eta > 1$  is the ratio of the high to the low event rate per solid angle.



## Conclusions

- Galactic surveys can be either sensitivity- or volume-limited or a combination of both
  - ISS acts as fast transients detection barrier & makes detection rate highly position dependent
- Optimization of survey strategy influences detection rate by orders of magnitude
  - Flexibility is the key to maximizing discovery
    - Tied-array sub-optimal if survey is volume-bound
    - Fly's eye yields better rate than incoherent collimated, but requires more processing
- Cannot rely on imaging end products
  - Access to raw data is the way to win Nobel prizes



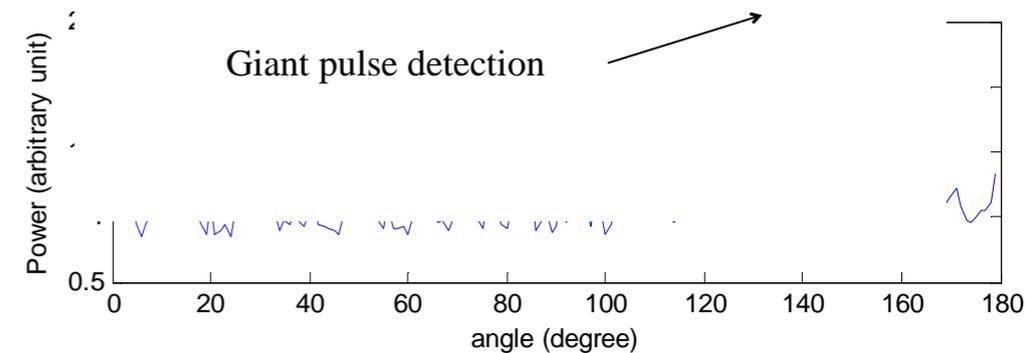
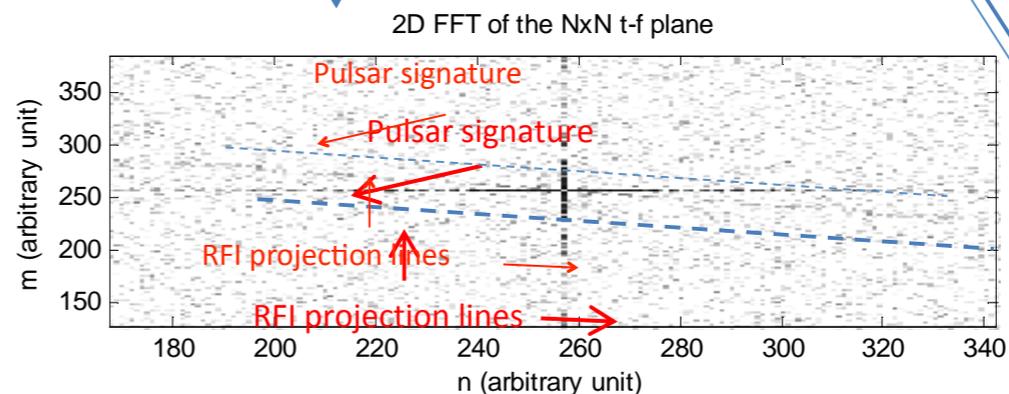
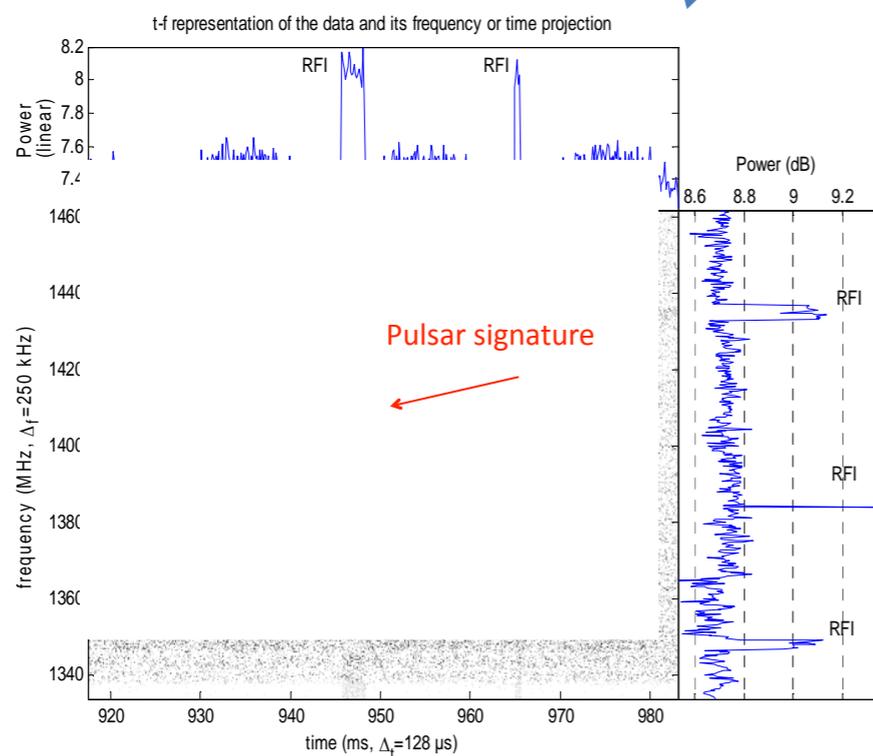
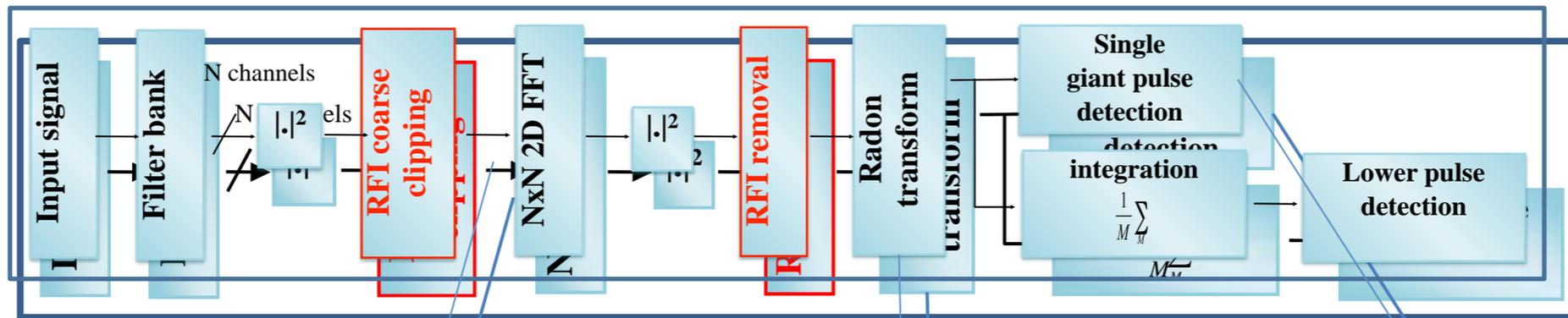
# Blind Detection of Giant Pulses

***D. Ait-Allal\*, R. Weber\*,\*\*, C. Dumez-Viou\*, I.Cognard\*\*\*, G.Theureau\*,\*\*\****

*\*Observatoire de Paris – Station de radioastronomie de Nançay, F-18330 Nançay, France  
{dalal.ait\_allal, cedric.dumez-viou, gilles.theureau}@obs-nancay.fr*

*\*\*Laboratoire PRISME, Université d'Orléans, Site Galilée, 12 rue de Blois, 45067 Orléans cedex 2, France  
rodolphe.weber@univ-orleans.fr*

*\*\*\*Laboratoire de Physique et Chimie de l'Environnement et de l'Espace, UMR 6115 CNRS  
F-45071 Orléans Cedex 02, France, icognard@cnrs-orleans.fr*





*Drawback :*

- Less sensitive than classical de-dispersion procedures

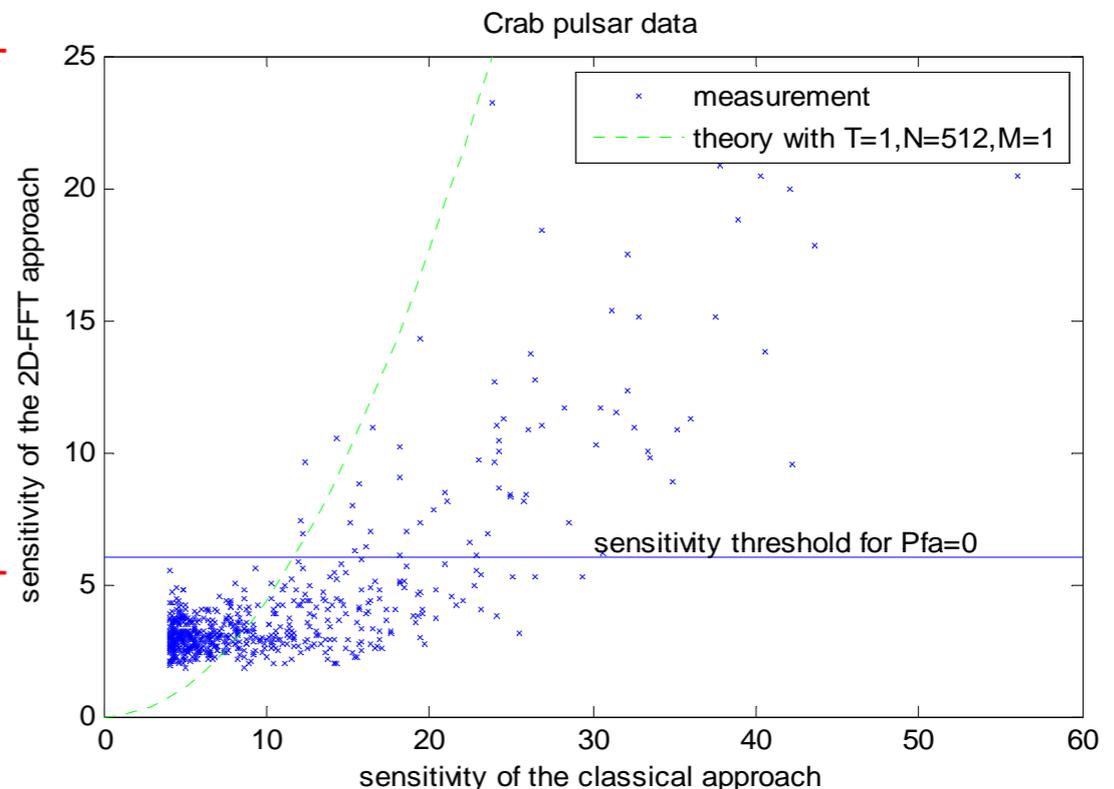
$$Sensitivity = T \cdot SNR^2 \cdot \sqrt{NM}$$

SNR signal to noise ratio  
 T = pulse width  
 N X N size of the T-F plane  
 M number of T-F planes

*Advantages:*

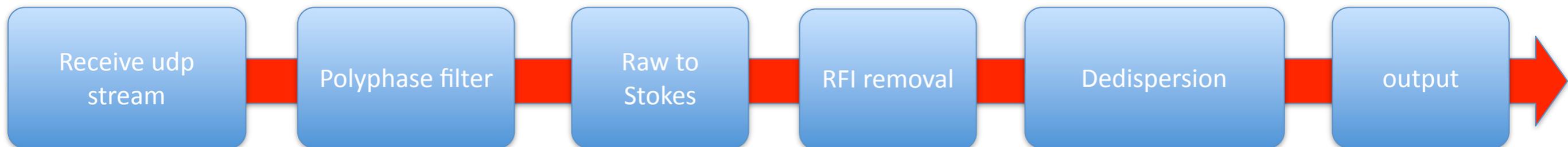
- simple implementation (real time)
- blind (no need to know the pulsar period nor the pulsar DM)

**Can be use as piggy-back blind detector of strong pulses (Giant pulse, RRATS, unknow strong transients...)?**

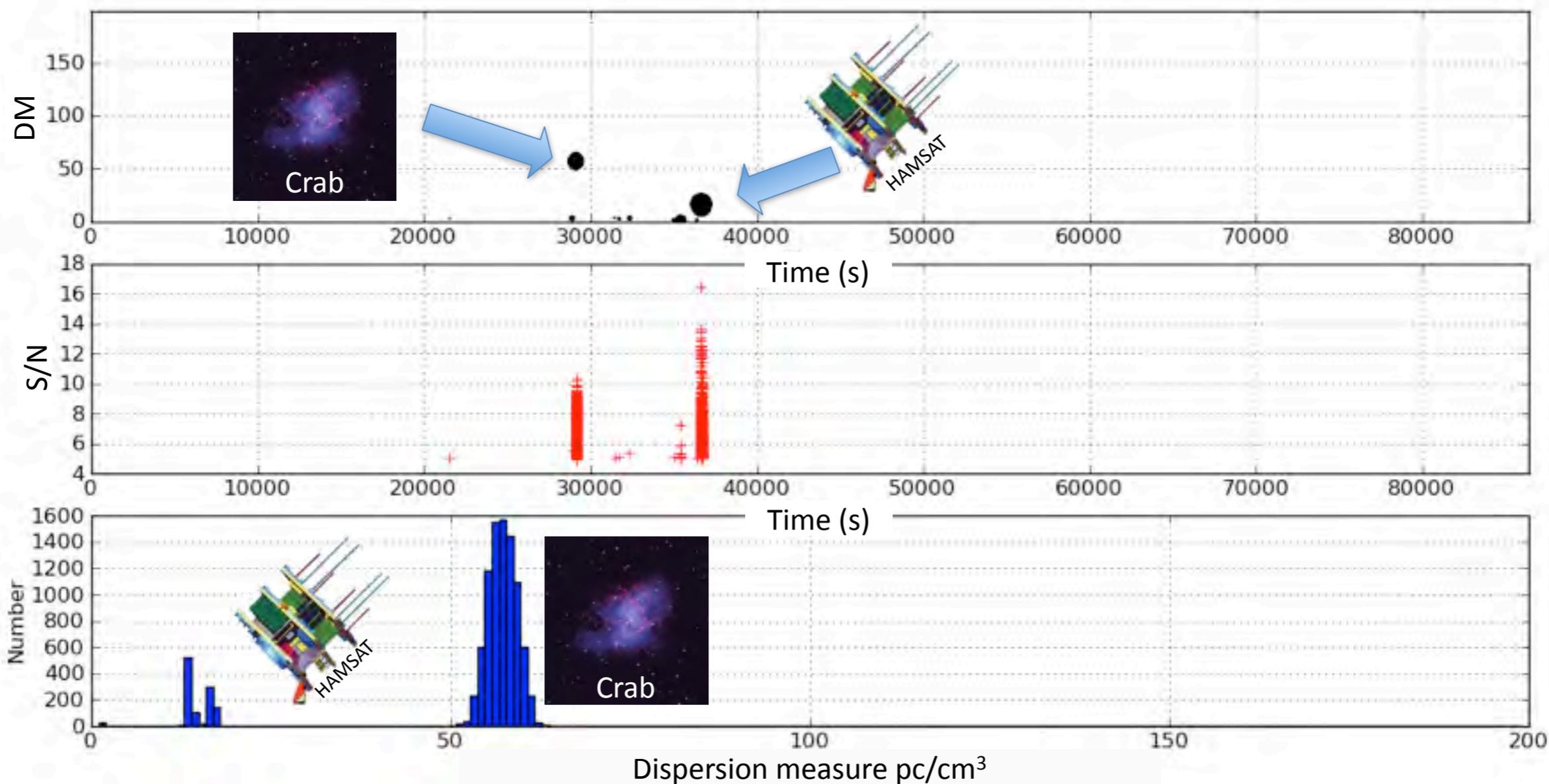




- Real-time searches for Individual Radio Pulses
- Dedispersion over 4000 DMs per beam in real time with GPUs
- Pilot survey 1: 6-8 beams tracking circumpolar targets
- Pilot survey 2: 6 beams fixed on the meridian from 8° to 28° dec



Pipeline diagnostic plot from Pilot survey 2 – daily summary from one of six beams



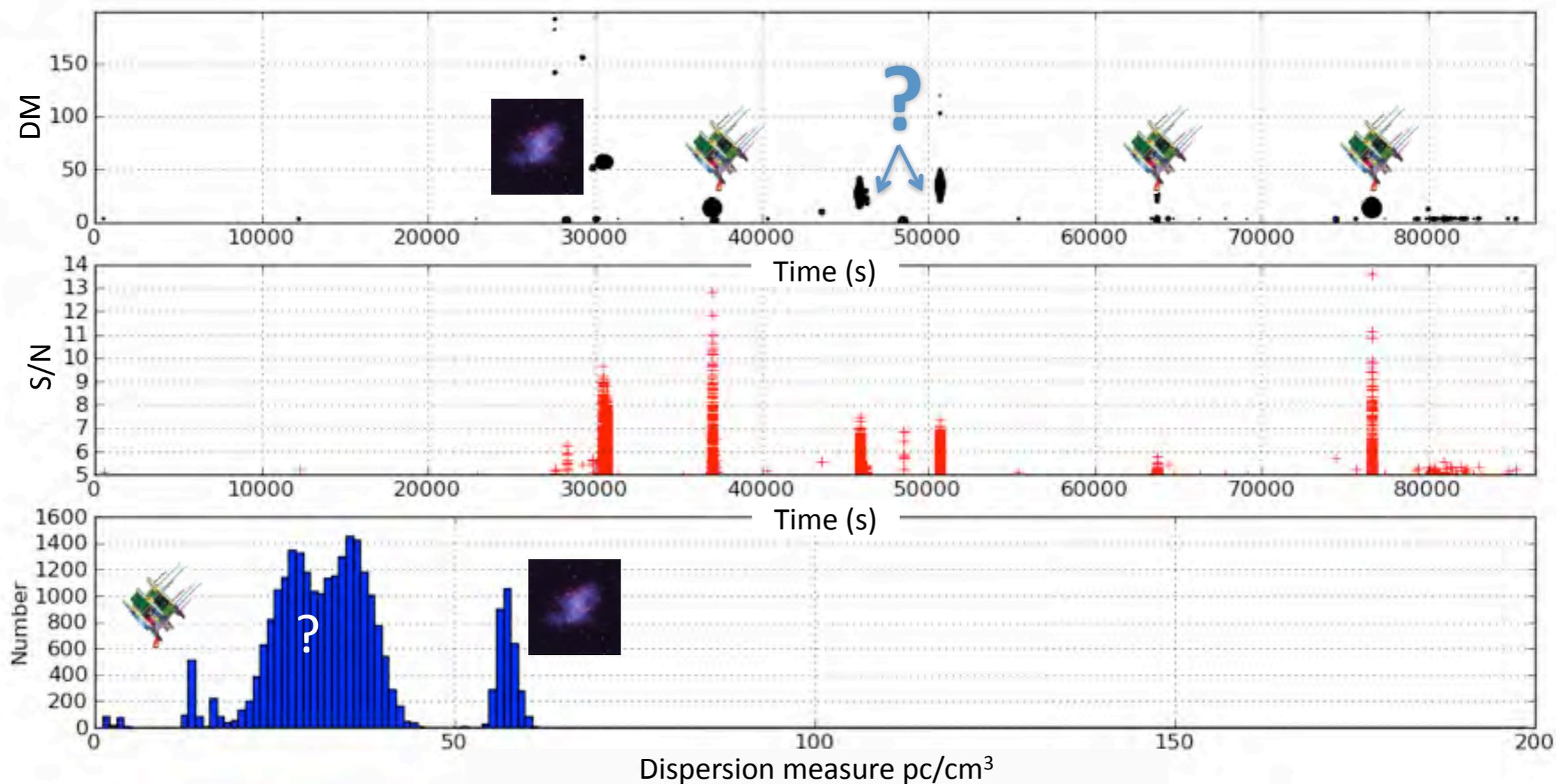
Aris Karastergiou (aris@astro.ox.ac.uk)



- Performed on 800 mbps streams
- Each node has: 12 Xeon CPU cores + 1 NVIDIA M2050 (or GTX)
- DM processing is  $\sim 10x$  better than real time
- RFI rejection performing well in very contaminated environment

Detecting known sources of dispersed pulses including pulsars and frequency swept radio emitters (HAMSAT).

Anticoincidence experiments with Effelsberg + Nancay will reveal nature of enigmatic detections



# Uniboard: Pulsars

- Working on giving the pulsar flavour to the board
  - Coherent Dedispersion
  - Folding
  - Incoherent dedispersion of multiple DMs
  - Searching (partial/full)
- Will be tightly linked with the RFI modules
- Will be modular so may be linked to beamformed modes being developed by other partners.

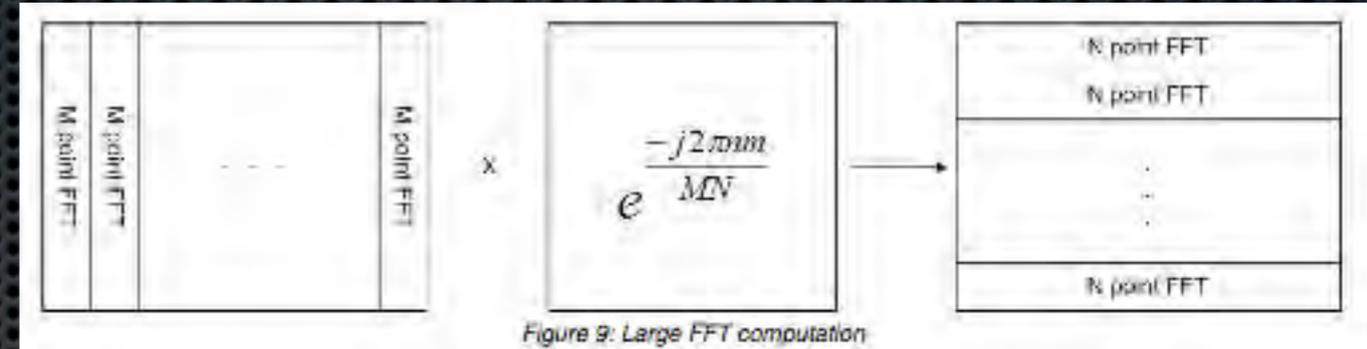
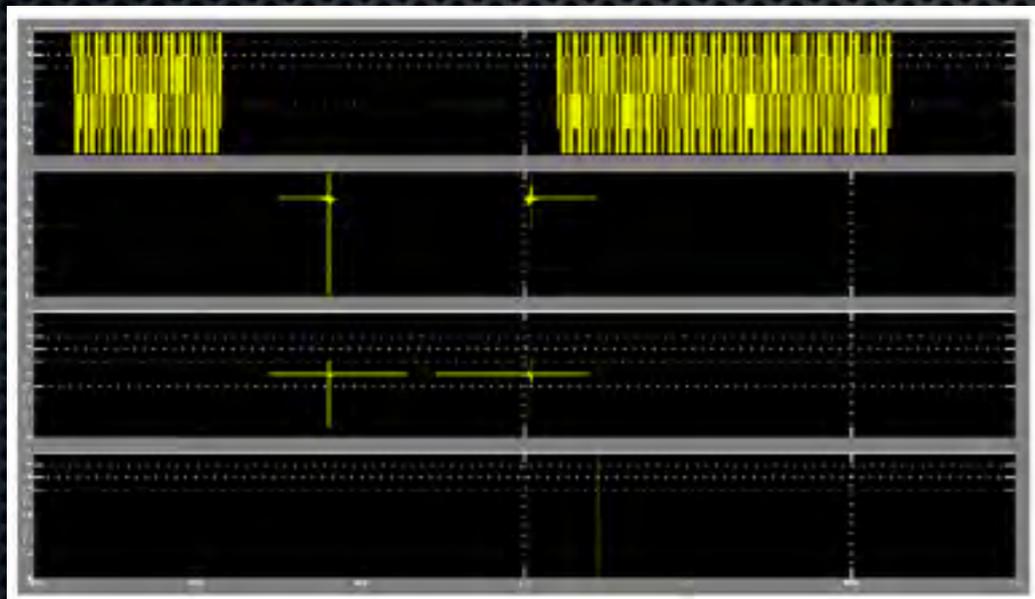


Figure 9: Large FFT computation



Coherent Dedispersion

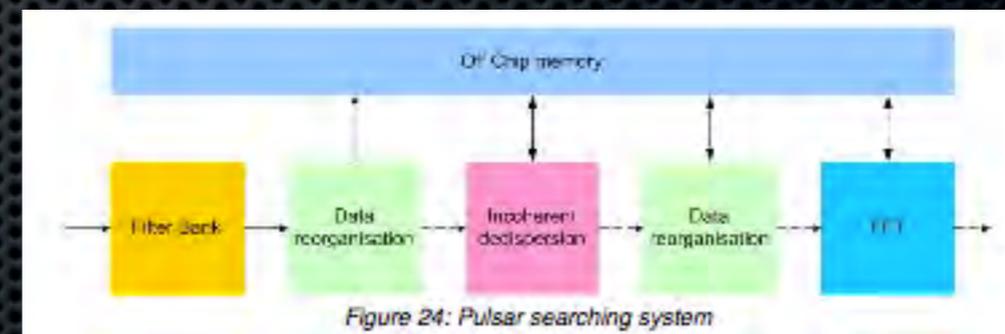
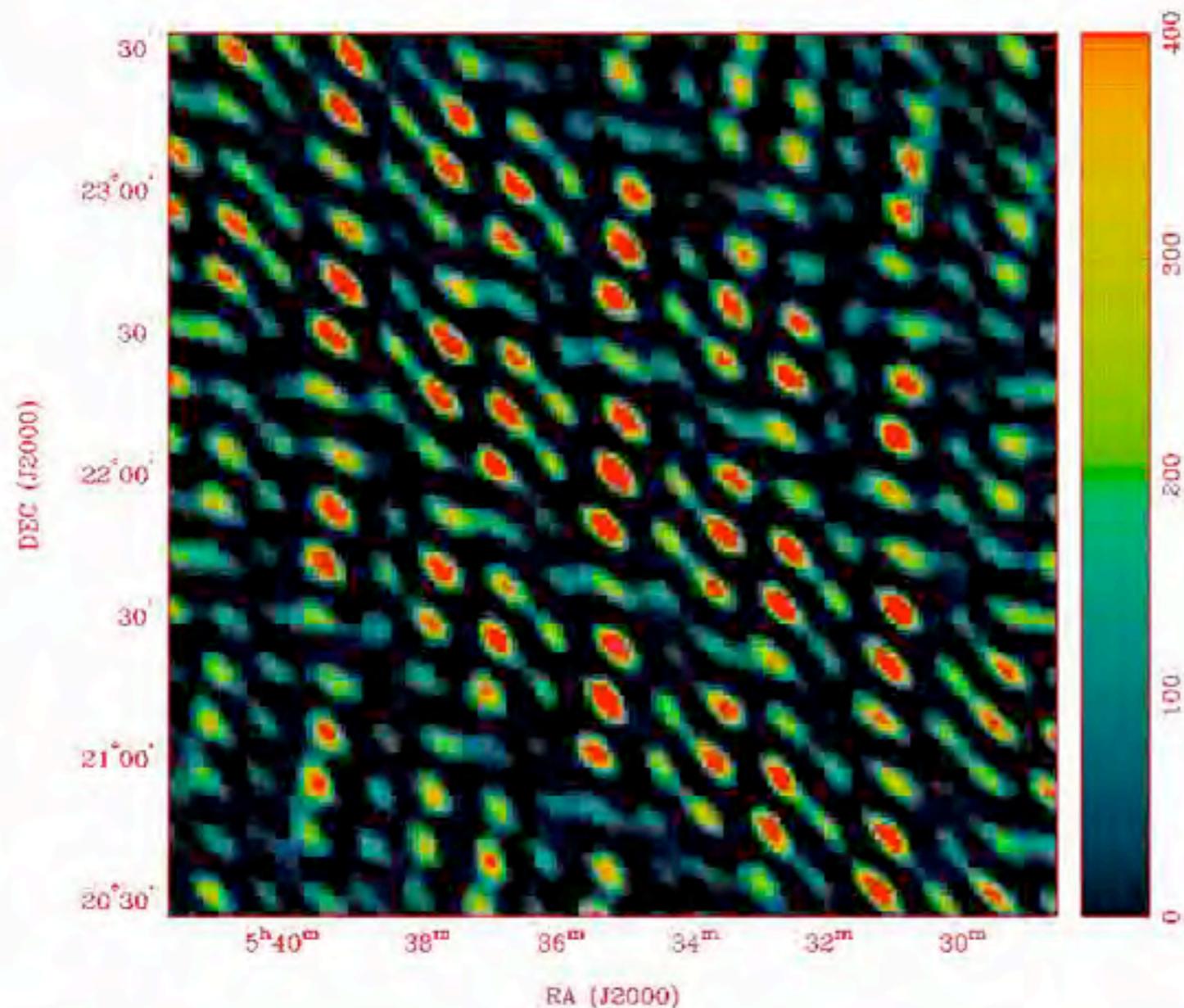


Figure 24: Pulsar searching system

# “FAST IMAGING”

- CORRELATORS SYNTHESIZE THOUSANDS OF BEAMS!
- INTERFEROMETERS CAN:
  - LOCALIZE EVENTS
  - REJECT INTERFERENCE
  - CALIBRATE EASILY
- CONCEPTUALLY SIMPLE,  
TECHNICALLY CHALLENGING

# IMAGING A PULSE



- POCKET CORRELATOR AT ATA (8 ANTS, 1 MS)

- VISIBILITIES ALLOW COHERENT BACKGROUND SUBTRACTION

- USED TO CONSTRAIN PULSE RATE IN M31 (LAW ET AL. 2011)

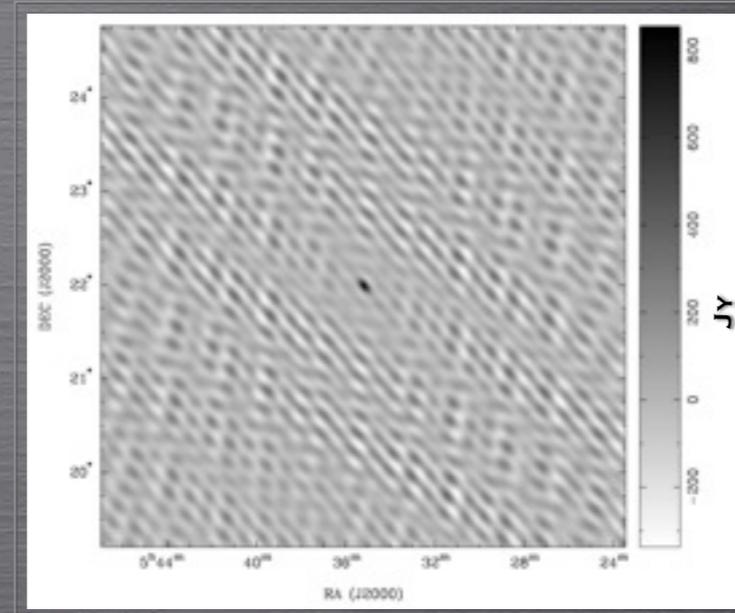
MOVIE OF CRAB PULSE (1/40TH TRUE TIME)

ALSO RECENTLY TRIALLED ON KAT-7 ON VELA

CASEY LAW

# NEW DIMENSION, NEW ALGORITHMS

IMAGING



$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

MODEL FITTING

STATISTICAL

$$V_i = I e^{-j2\pi(u_i l + v_i m + \phi_i)}$$

# SKA Phase I -- WP2

## GR/GW Through timing dishes / Survey and efficient timing of slow pulsars with AALow

Freq | BW | l,b lim | #PSR | #MSP | T\_surv | Data | #ops  
 (GHz) |(MHz)| (deg) | | | (days) |(exa) |(peta)

```
-----
1.4 | 500 | all sky | 6400 | 700 | 2000 | 17000 | 4.3
1.4 | 500 | 45, 5 | 3000 | 190 | 50 | 500 | 4.3
1.4 | 500 | 90, 10 | 5200 | 450 | 200 | 2000 | 4.3
0.4 [1]| 100 | all sky | 8000 | 1300 | 250 | 9000 | 16.6
0.4 [3]| 100 | all sky | 13300 | 2400 | 250 | 9000 | 16.6
0.4 [1]| 100 | 90, 10 | 6000 | 700 | 25 | 1000 | 16.6
0.4 [3]| 100 | 90, 10 | 10700 | 1400 | 25 | 1000 | 16.6
```

[1,2,3] corresponds to Aeff of 25000, 50000, 75000

Simulations of all sky-survey at 400 MHz (100 MHz BW) and Galactic plane survey ( $|l| < 90$ ,  $|b| < 10$ ) at 1.4 GHz (500 MHz BW) combined:

Type | #PSR | #MSP

```
-----
[1] | 9300 | 1400
[2] | 12000 | 2000
[3] | 14000 | 2500
```

[1,2,3] corresponds to Aeff of 25000, 50000, 75000

Smits, Stappers, Kramer, Karastergiou

# Phase 1 Survey Use Case

- One of the key goals of the SKA in both phase 1 and 2 will be to perform an all sky survey for new pulsars, especially MSPs, and fast radio transients.
- In Phase 1 there *might* be two different frequency ranges and technologies.
  - AAs for < 450 MHz and Dishes around L-band
- Our simulations show that the AAs can perform an all-sky survey most efficiently
- For the plane the dishes allow us to reach deeper, but presently survey speed too slow for all sky



## NON-IMAGING PROCESSING USE CASES

Document number ..... WP2-040.030.010-TD-002  
Revision ..... A  
Author ..... B.Stappers  
Date ..... 2010-09-06  
Status ..... Draft

Area to be surveyed	36,000 square degrees
Survey Duration	200 days
Integration/Pointing	600 s
Number of Stations	35
Diameter of Stations	180 m
Size of Core	5,000 m
Central Frequency	400 MHz
Bandwidth	50-100 MHz
Sampling Time	64 us

# Conclusion

- \* Lots of development going on in both hardware, software, simulation and technique development going.
- \* The (fast) transient case is growing rapidly and is being implemented at many precursors
- \* We are honing the requirements for SKA Phase 1 which definitely includes a strong case for the upper half of SKA-low (searching) and the dishes for follow up work.
- \* Aperture Arrays in the mid-range are ideal for searching and lower precision timing in the full SKA
- \* We should not consider the f-word as being a swear word never to be spoken, it must be at least discussed.
- \* It is absolutely vital to continue and improve the dialogue with the engineering communities.
- \* There is much more going on than I can possibly summarise here....
- \* No chance to mention ASKAP (COAST, VAST, CRAFT) nor MeerKAT (Timing, TRAPUM, Thunderkat)
- \* It highlights the vibrancy of the pulsar and transient community.