



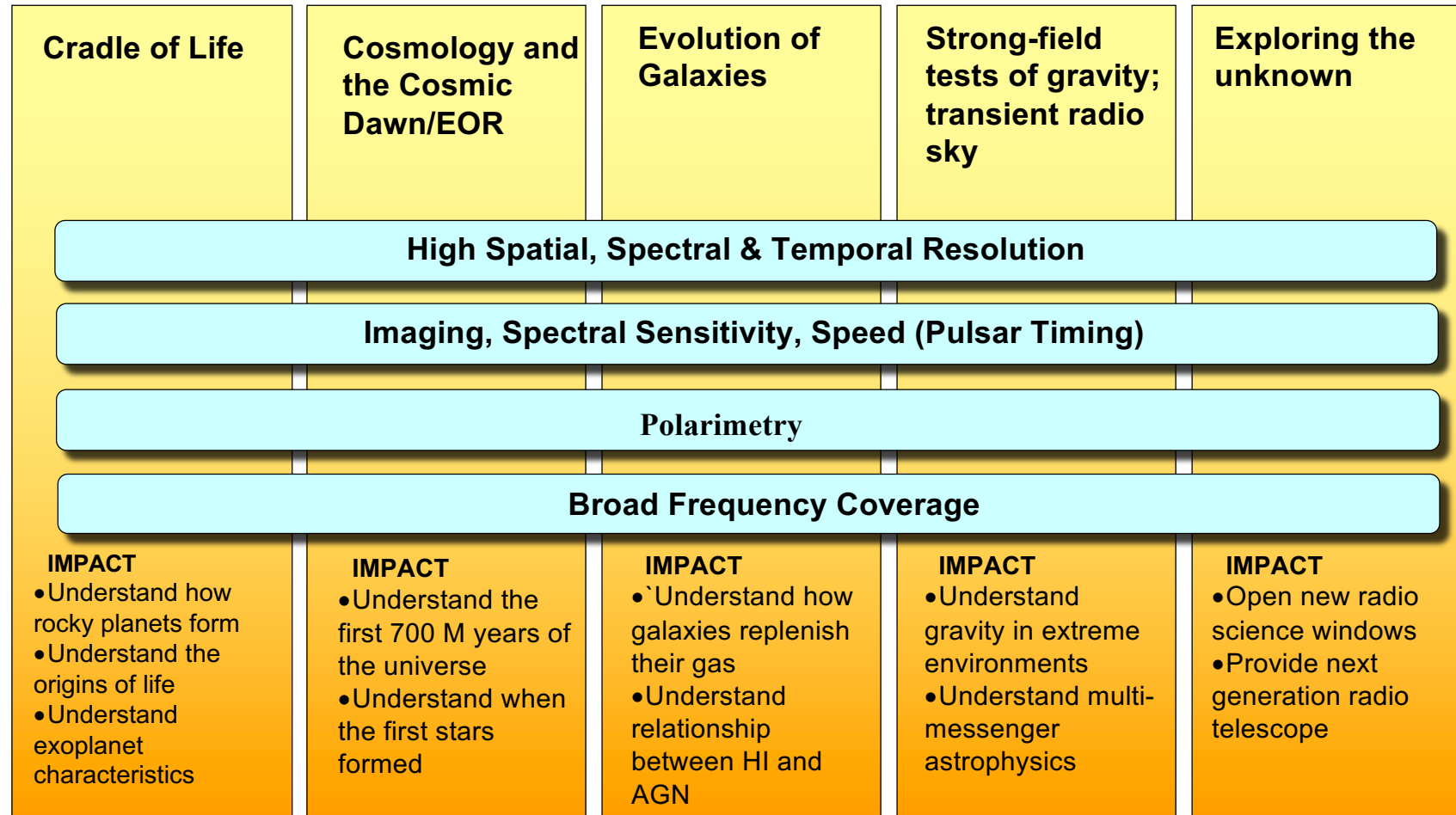
one observatory  
two telescopes  
three continents

# Science with the SKA Observatory

Dr Anna Bonaldi, Senior Scientist  
SKA Swiss days, 3/9/24



# Science drivers and requirements

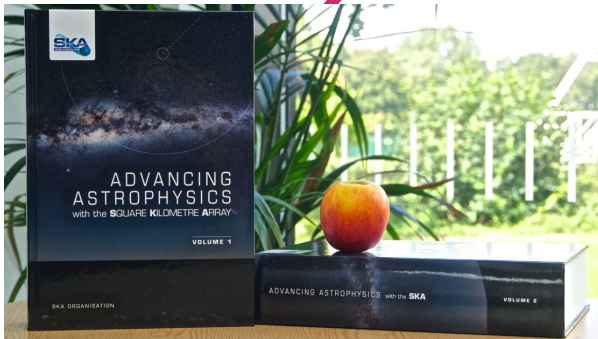




# Update to the 2015 science book

- Evolution of science cases and priorities
- Larger set of SWGs
- Mature set of telescope specifications, accessible through tools (e.g. sensitivity calculator) as well as documentation

## 2015 science book



9 -13 June, 2014  
Giardini Naxos, Italy



## 2025 science book



# Update to the 2015 science book

How do I get involved?



- SWG chairs are inviting proposals for intended contributions
- Answer to the call of your chairs, contribute to chapter list definition and the articles themselves!
- Expression of interest to contribute to a chapter **by 30<sup>th</sup> September**

- Expression of interest to contribute to a chapter **by 30<sup>th</sup> September**
- Submission of title and short abstract
- Indicate relevant SWG (if applicable)
- Option to ask to join relevant SWG
- SWG chairs/SKAO will review your request (check for duplication, etc.) and confirm

More details available at <https://www.skao.int/en/science-users/557/advancing-astrophysics-ii-preparing-science-skao>

For all enquiries about the new SKAO science book please contact us at [advancingastrophysicsii@skao.int](mailto:advancingastrophysicsii@skao.int)




# 2025 conference and book dates

- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept: deadline for expression of interest
- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct - 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: advanced chapter drafts submission
- Jan 2025: registration open for the conference
- Feb-March: selection of talks/posters for the 2025 science meeting from the draft chapters
- Mid-March: speaker notification
- March-May 2025: science meeting registration
- 16-20 June 2025: science meeting
- Final chapter submission and peer review after the meeting

More details available at <https://www.skao.int/en/science-users/557/advancing-astrophysics-ii-preparing-science-skao>

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## Advancing Astrophysics II

→ Updating the SKAO Science Book



## SKA Telescope Specifications

→ Technical descriptions of the SKA-Low and SKA-Mid telescope capabilities



## Scientific Timeline

→ SKA science timeline, including milestones for science verification, shared-risk observing, and early operations, along with array capabilities



## Science Working Groups

→ Our science community is organised in science working groups



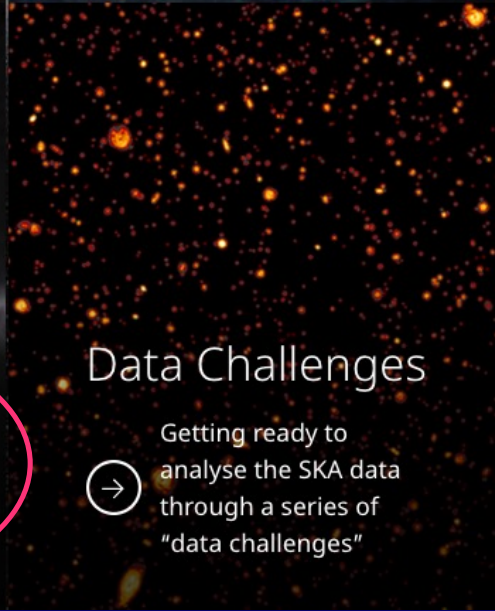
## Science Meetings

→ Details of forthcoming and past science events with an SKA focus



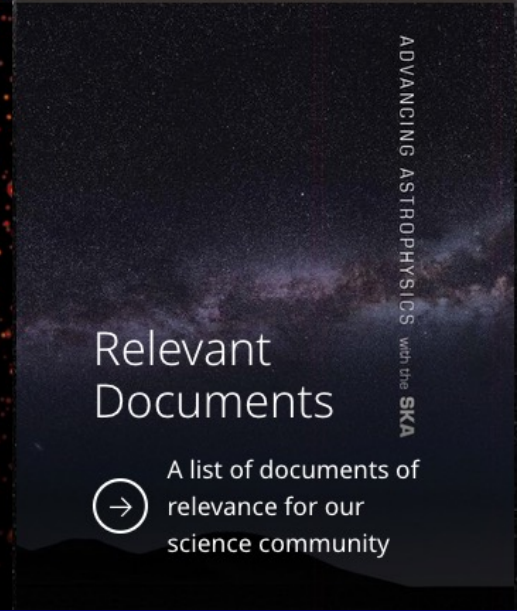
## SKA Tools

→ List of tools and calculators for the science users



## Data Challenges

→ Getting ready to analyse the SKA data through a series of "data challenges"





## Relevant Documents

→ A list of documents of relevance for our science community

# SKA Mid sensitivity calculator

**SKAO** Sensitivity Calculator

**MID** **LOW**

Advanced: OFF  ON  

Subarray Configuration * AA4	Number of SKA antennas 133	Number of MeerKAT antennas 64
Right Ascension * 13:25:27.60	Declination * -43:01:09.00	Elevation * 45 degrees
Observing Band * Band 2 (0.95 - 1.67 GHz)	Weather (Precipitable Water Vapour) * 10 mm	

Shared MeerKAT and SKA1 frequency range





# SKA Mid sensitivity calculator

## Continuum

Supplied * Integration Time ▼	Integration Time * 600 s ▼
Central Frequency * 1.31	GHz ▼
Continuum Bandwidth * 0.72	GHz ▼
Number of sub-bands (Optional) Enter value... ⌵	
Spectral Resolution 13.44 kHz (3.1 km/s)	
Spectral Averaging * 1 ▼	Effective resolution 13.44 kHz (3.1 km/s)
Image Weighting * Uniform ▼	Tapering * No tapering ▼

## Results

Weighted continuum sensitivity  
49.62  $\mu$ Jy/beam (14.04)†  
Continuum confusion noise  
0.00 Jy/beam  
Total continuum sensitivity  
49.62  $\mu$ Jy/beam  
Continuum synthesized beam-size  
0.194" x 0.181"  
Continuum surface-brightness sensitivity  
1007.90 K

Weighted spectral sensitivity  
5.60 mJy/beam (6.84)‡  
Spectral confusion noise  
0.00 Jy/beam  
Total spectral sensitivity  
5.60 mJy/beam  
Spectral synthesized beam-size  
0.325" x 0.297"  
Spectral surface-brightness sensitivity  
41230.08 K

† Weighting correction factor (30% bandwidth)

‡ Weighting correction factor (single channel)



# SKA Low sensitivity calculator

## Continuum

Integration Time \*

1

hours

Central Frequency \*

200

MHz

Continuum Bandwidth \*

300

MHz

Image Weighting \*

Uniform

## Results

Weighted continuum sensitivity

82.48  $\mu$ Jy/beam (15.18)<sup>†</sup>

Continuum confusion noise

1.04  $\mu$ Jy/beam

Total continuum sensitivity

82.49  $\mu$ Jy/beam

Continuum synthesized beam-size

3.9" x 3.0"

Continuum surface-brightness sensitivity

214.38 K

<sup>†</sup> Weighting correction factor (30% bandwidth)



# SKAO Construction timeline



# Science Data Challenges: What are we trying to achieve ?

- Prepare Science Community
  - Science extraction from SKA Observatory Data Products (ODPs)
  - Stimulate advance of state-of-the-art data analysis techniques that are relevant for SKAO
  - Promote reproducibility and analysis pipeline sharing
- Provide test cases for SRCNet development
  - Test increasingly realistic data transfer, user access and customised user processing
- Constrain SDP Pipeline development
  - Identify gaps in sky, telescope and error models
  - Determine necessary calibration quality and identify any other factors that might inhibit science extraction from ODPs



# Reproducibility awards/badges – SDC2 onwards



## Reproducibility

*Is the pipeline:*

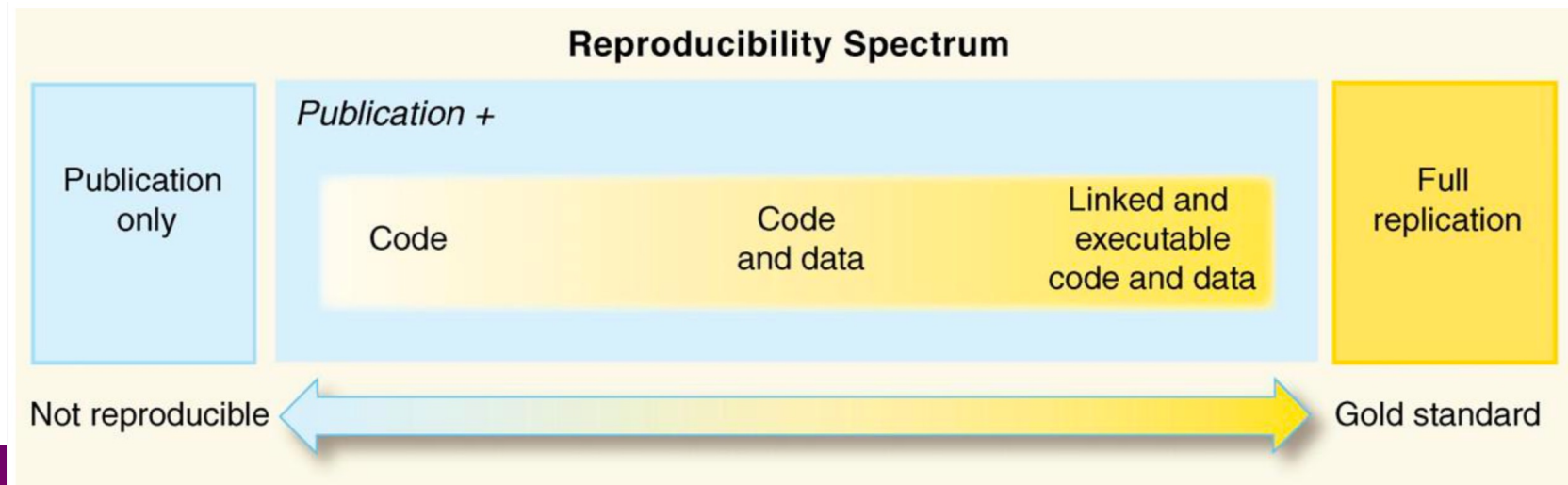
- Well-documented
- Easy to install
- Easy to use

- Teams are evaluated on the reproducibility of their results
- Separate evaluation from the main challenge score

## Reusability:

*Does the pipeline:*

- Use an open licence
- Have findable code
- Use code standards
- Use built-in tests

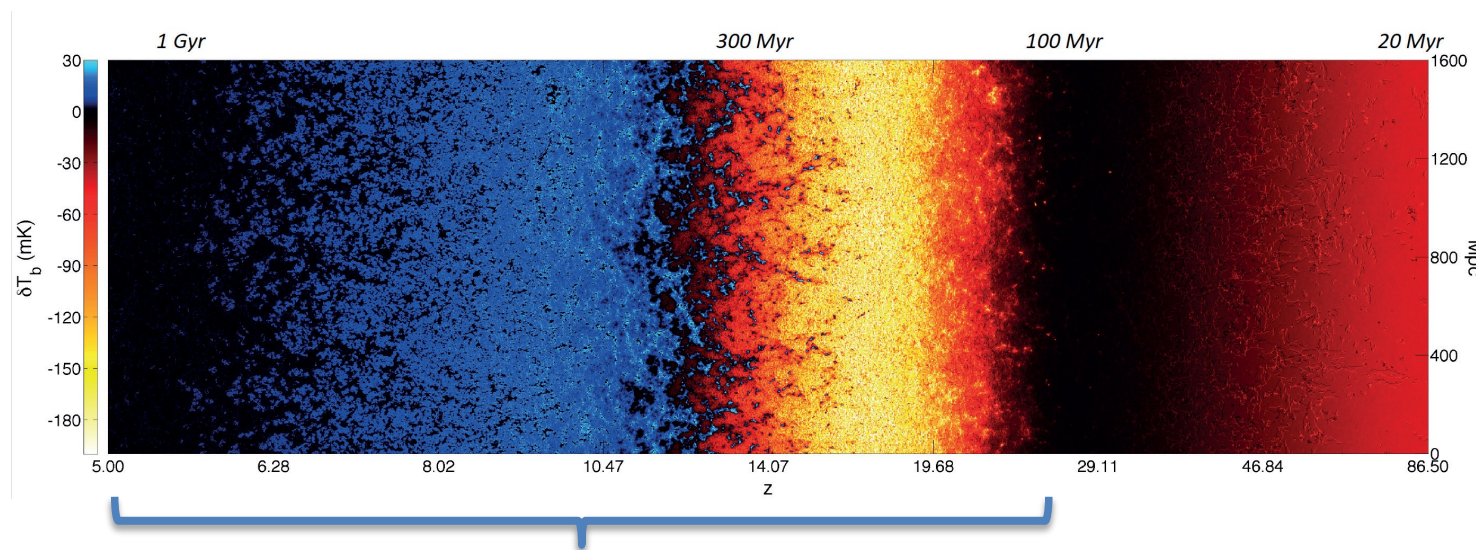


# Science Data Challenge 3

2023+

## Cosmic Dawn and Epoch of reionization

Exploring the formation of the first stars and galaxies in the Universe



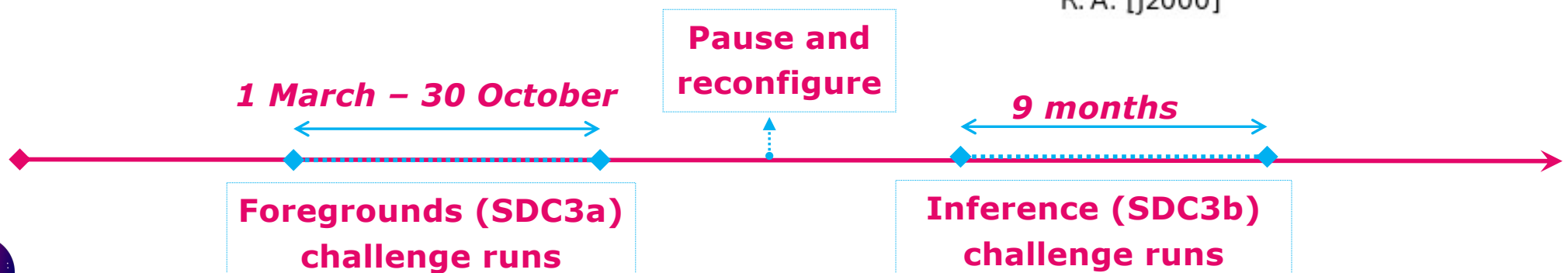
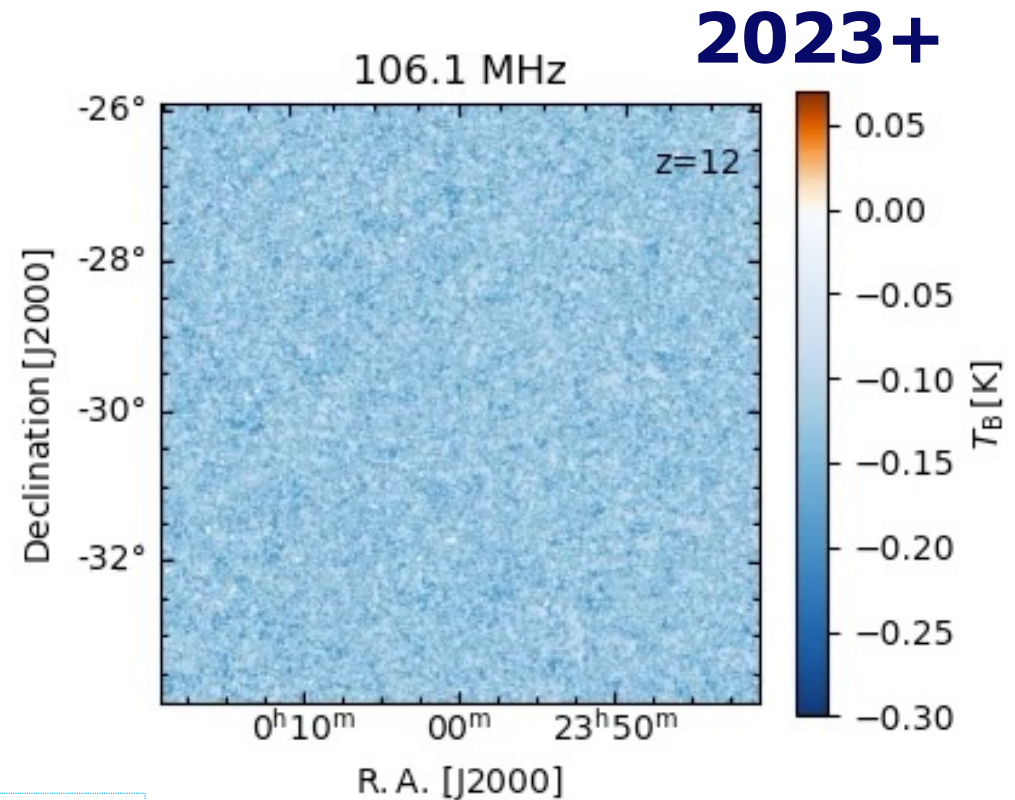
230-50 MHz, SKA Low



# Science Data Challenge 3

*Epoch of reionization*

- SDC3a "**Foregrounds**" (SDC3a; SWG Coordinators: C. Trott, V. Jelic)
  - **Foreground removal** exercise
  - SDC3a started 1 March 2023, closed 30 Oct 2023
- SDC3b "**Inference**" (SDC3b; SWG Coordinators: A. Mesinger, G. Mellema)
  - Extraction of **cosmological parameters**
  - SDC3b ongoing



Michele Bianco

Tianyue Chen



Shreyam P. Krishna



Rohit Sharma



Sambit K. Giri

Hatem Ghorbel

Massimo de Santis



Philipp Denzel



Chris Finlay

Viraj Nistane

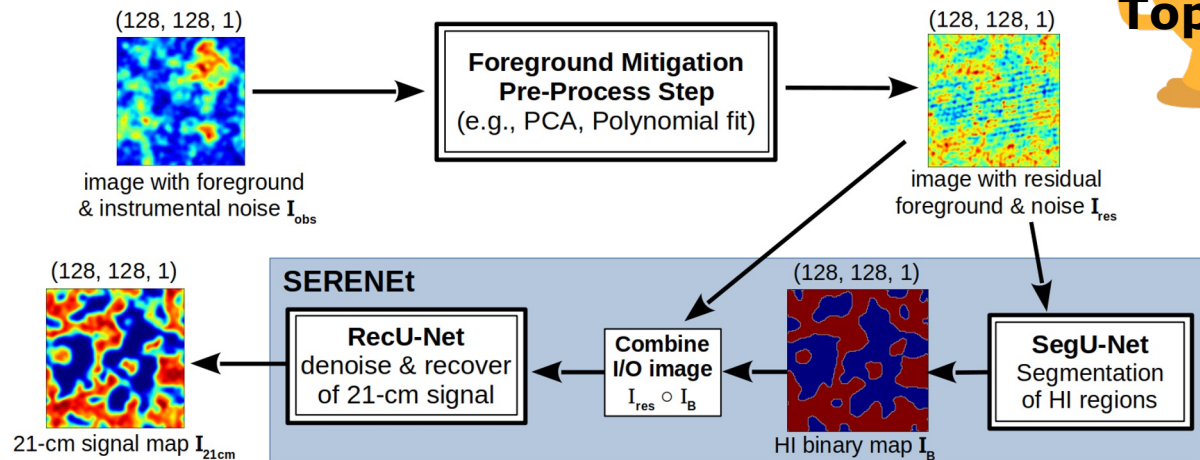


Preview results:

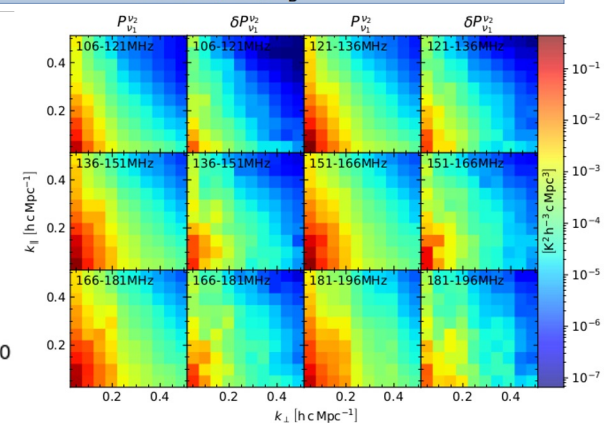
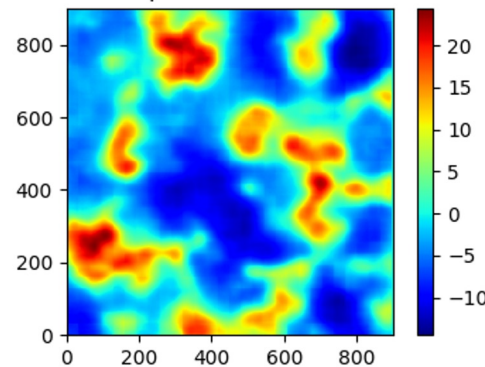
Paper on arXiv from ~Sept 2024

<https://github.com/micbia/serenet>

## SEGmentation and REcover NETWORK (SERENET) for EoR 21-cm interferometry observations



RecU-Net prediction:  $R^2=90.25\%$

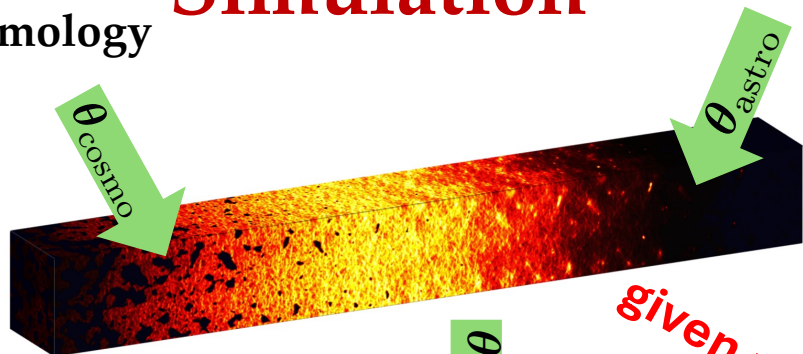




**GIVEN**  
Cosmology

# Simulation

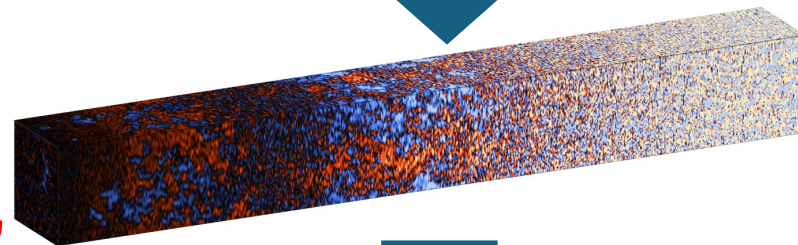
Astrophysics



Park+2019  
 $T_s \gg T_{\text{cmb}}$

# Observation

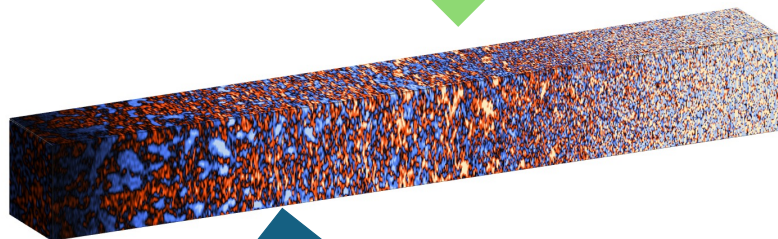
Cleaning  
(backward  
modeling)



given noise PS (tbc)

$\theta_{\text{telescope}}$

Telescope  
simulator



Compression

Compression

**sim 2D PS**

Likelihood (analytic / LFI)

**data 2D PS**

*the first step in bringing together the  
global 21cm interpretation  
community*

*slide courtesy of A. Mesinger*

**$P(x_{\text{HI}}(z) | \text{data 2D PS})$**

# Science Data Challenge 3b: EoR Inference

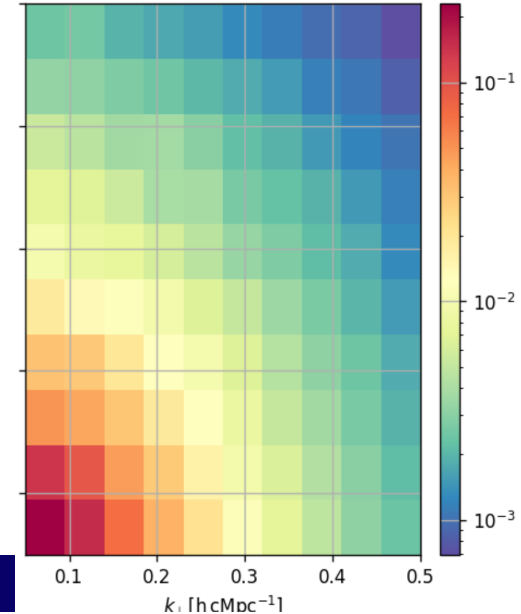
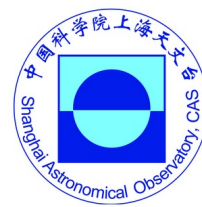
- The challenge:
  - Infer the reionization properties of the Universe from power spectra of the hydrogen-21cm signal from the Epoch of Reionisation corresponding to different redshift ranges.
  - Submission will consist of inferred reionization fraction of the Universe for all the redshifts for which power spectra have been provided, and the associated uncertainty.
- Computation support
  - SDC3 receives generous support from our international HPC partner facilities, who will provide computational resources to teams for processing the challenge data.



ASTRON

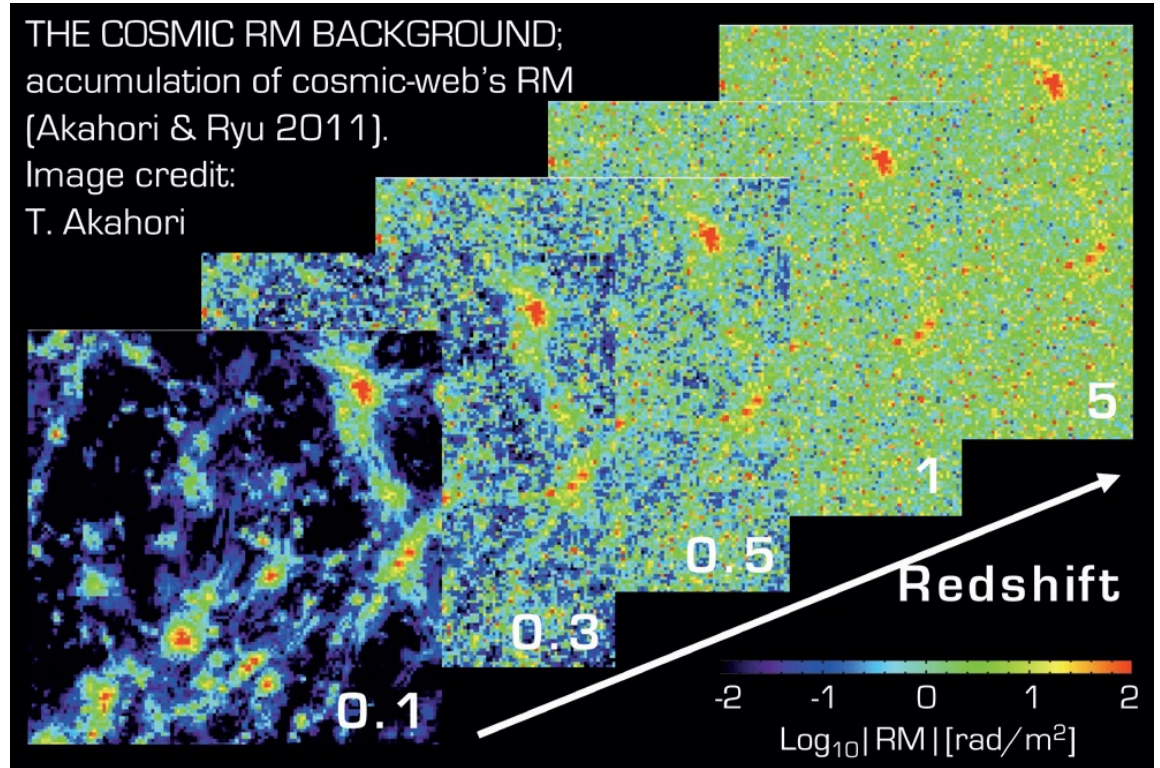
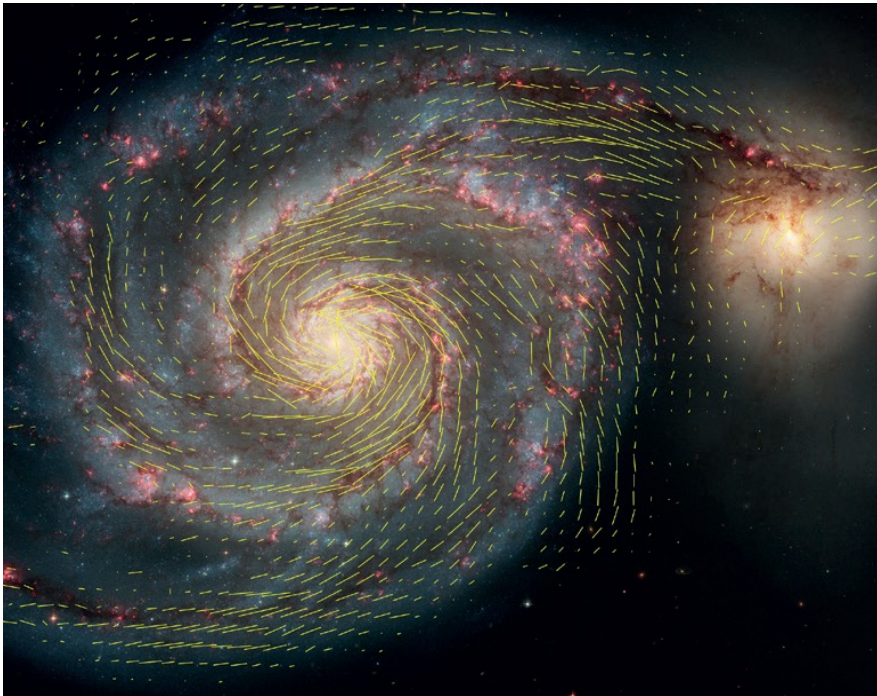


CSIC



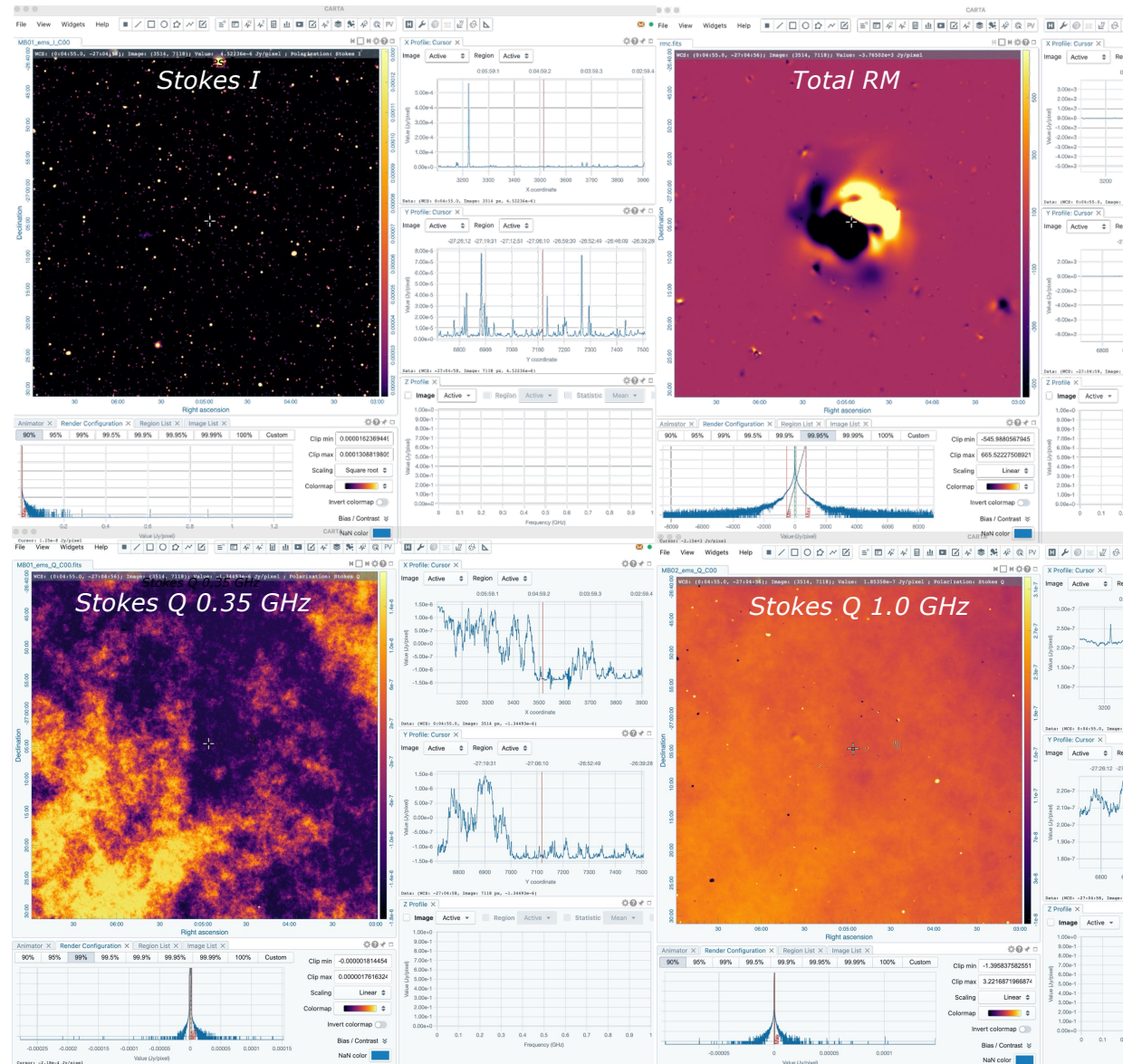
# SDC4: Cosmic magnetism

We can measure the magnetic fields in galaxies and clusters



# SDC4: Magnetism

- Developed in collaboration with Magnetism SWG (Akahori, Vernstrom, Vacca, ...)
- Source finding and characterization in polarization. SKA Mid and Low.
- Full Stokes compact plus diffuse sky model with IGM, ISM, and ionosphere propagation
- Thermal noise equivalent few 1000 h
- Telescope and Error Models



*We recognise and acknowledge the indigenous peoples and cultures that have traditionally lived on the lands on which our facilities are located.*

**SKAO**

[www.skao.int](http://www.skao.int)