

21cm foreground removal with machine learning

Tianyue Chen

Postdoctoral Researcher

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Swiss SKA Day 2022

HI intensity mapping (IM)

- **Motivation**

Precision cosmology, Dark Energy
Baryon Acoustic Oscillation (BAO)

- **Keywords**

Emission line (e.g., HI)
Large scale structure fluctuations
Unresolved individual galaxies

- **Benefits**

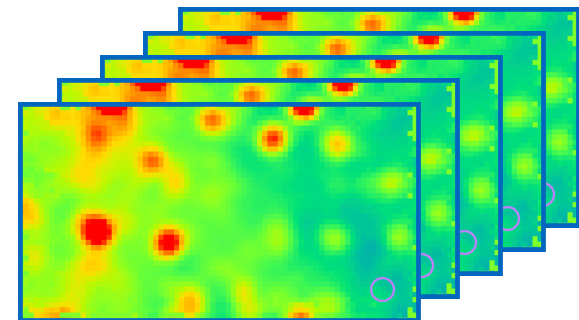
Relatively **cheap** and **efficient**

3D information ---

2D angular size + **1D** redshift (obs. Freq.)

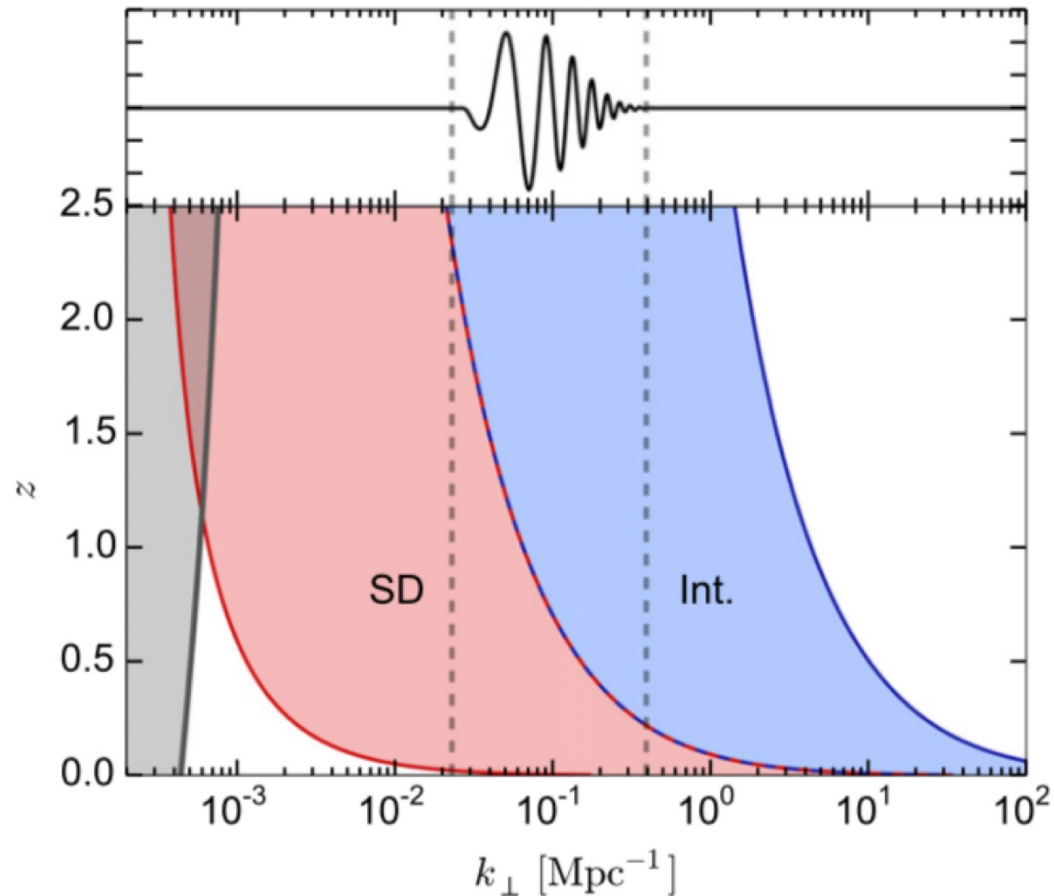


Large beam on the sky (~1 deg)
contains large number of galaxies



HI IM with SKA

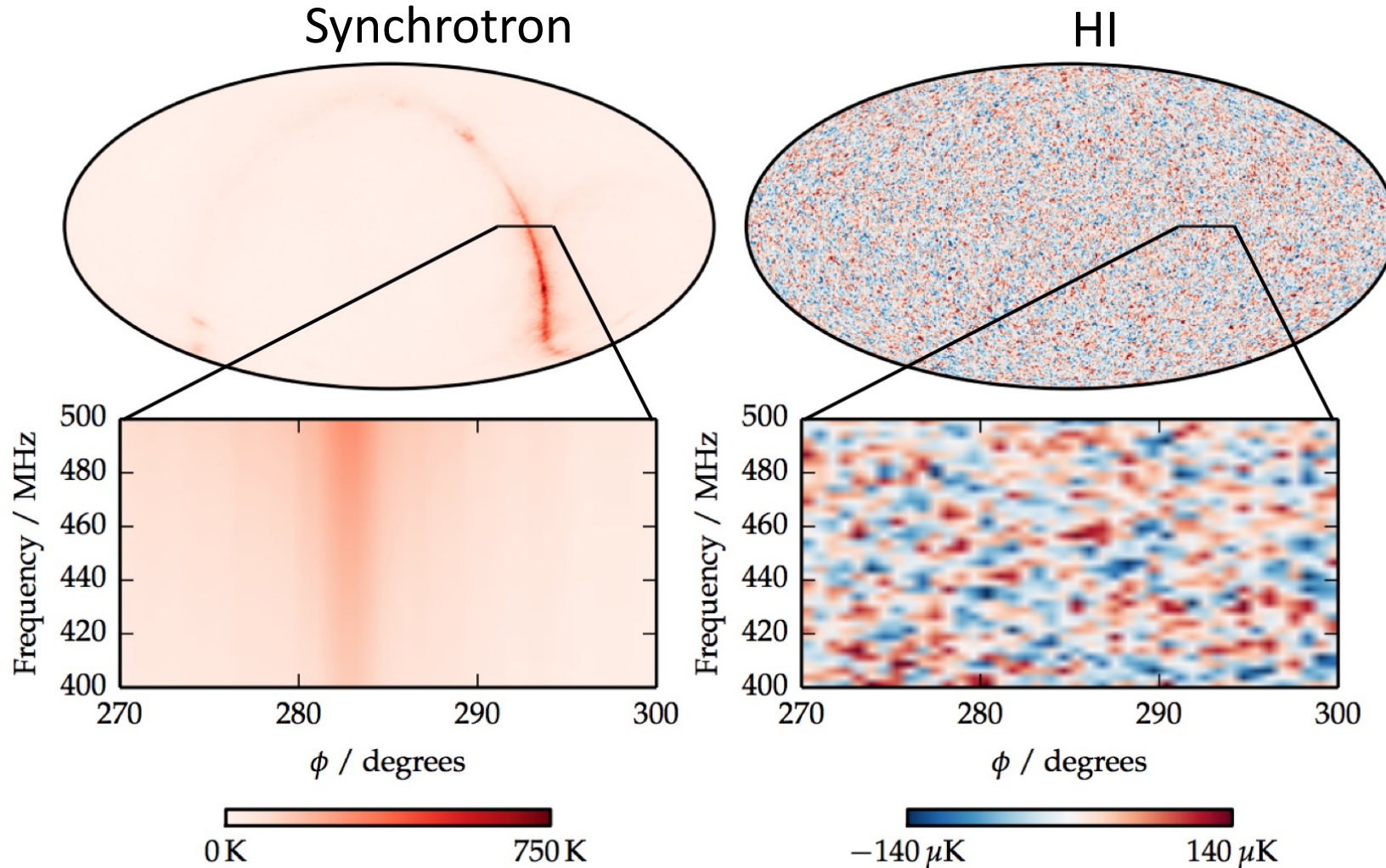
- Interferometer mode – high z (SKA-low)
- Single-dish mode (total power) – low z (SKA-mid)



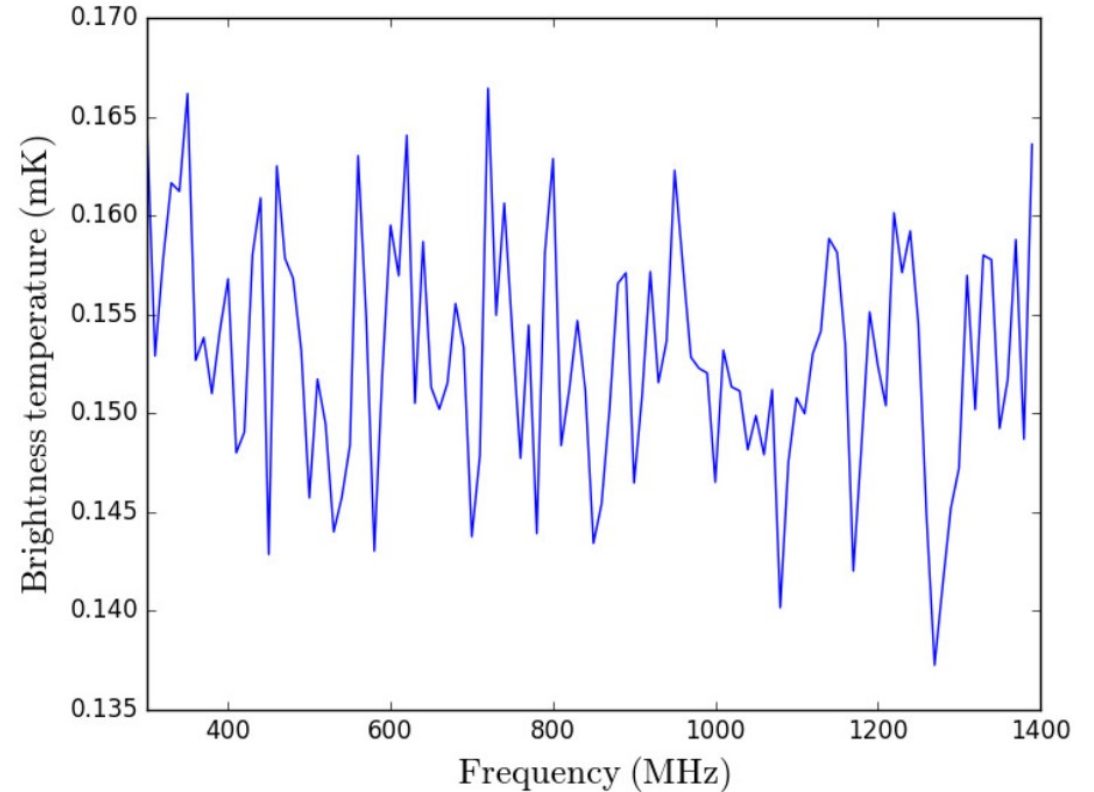
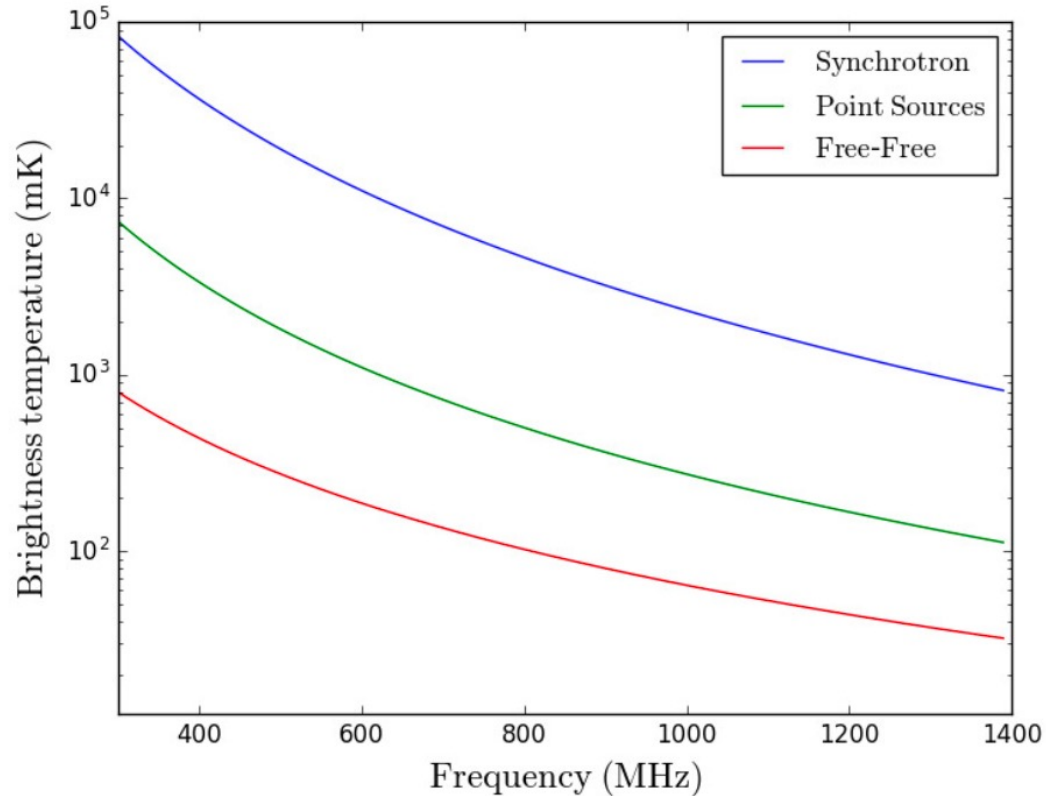
Bull et al (2015)

IM challenges - foregrounds

- Foreground \gg HI



Component separation

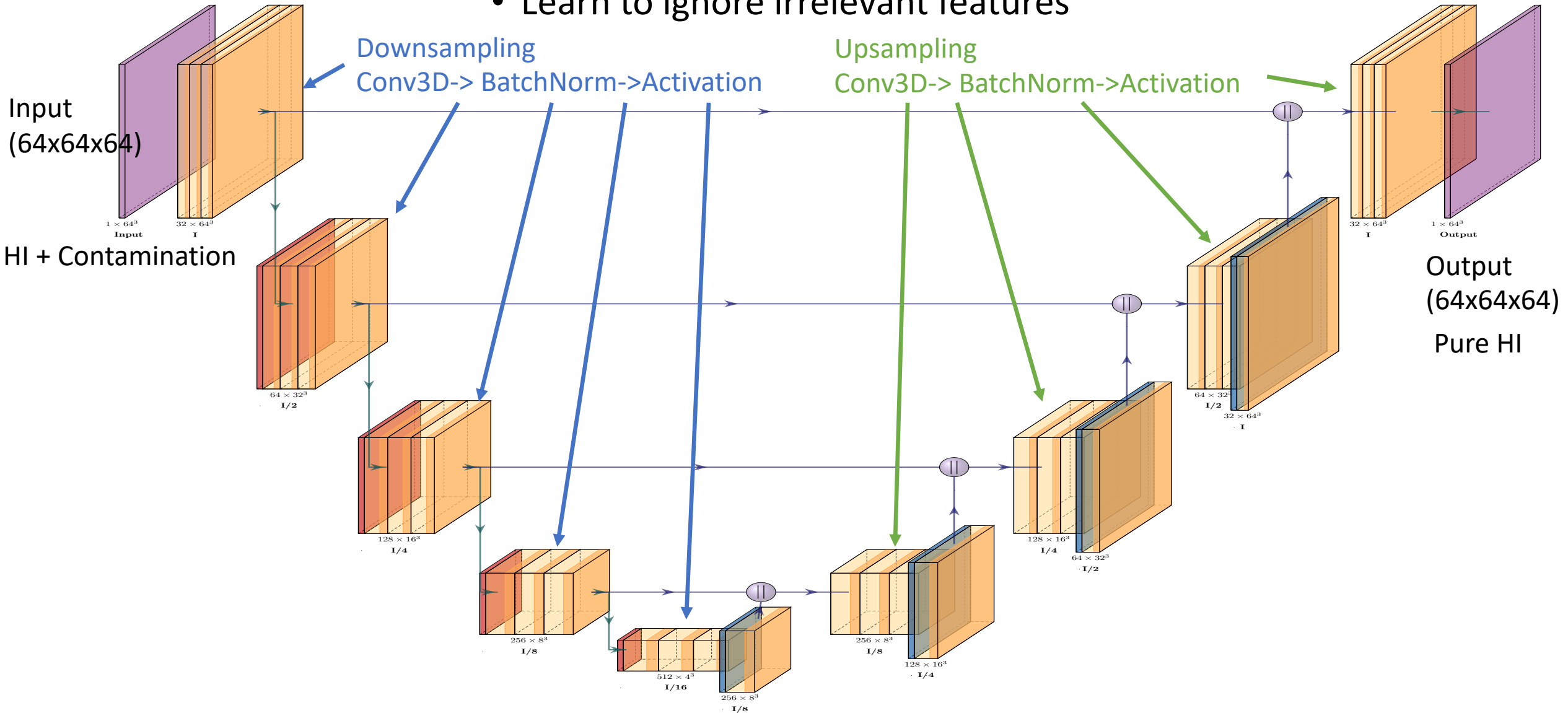


- Traditional approach:
 - Rely on spectral smoothness
 - Sensitive to systematics
 - Signal loss

- Can we design a machine learning algorithm?
 - Effectively remove FG
 - Robust against systematics
 - Handle large dataset

U-net for IM

- One type of artificial neural network
- Learn to ignore irrelevant features



Sky models

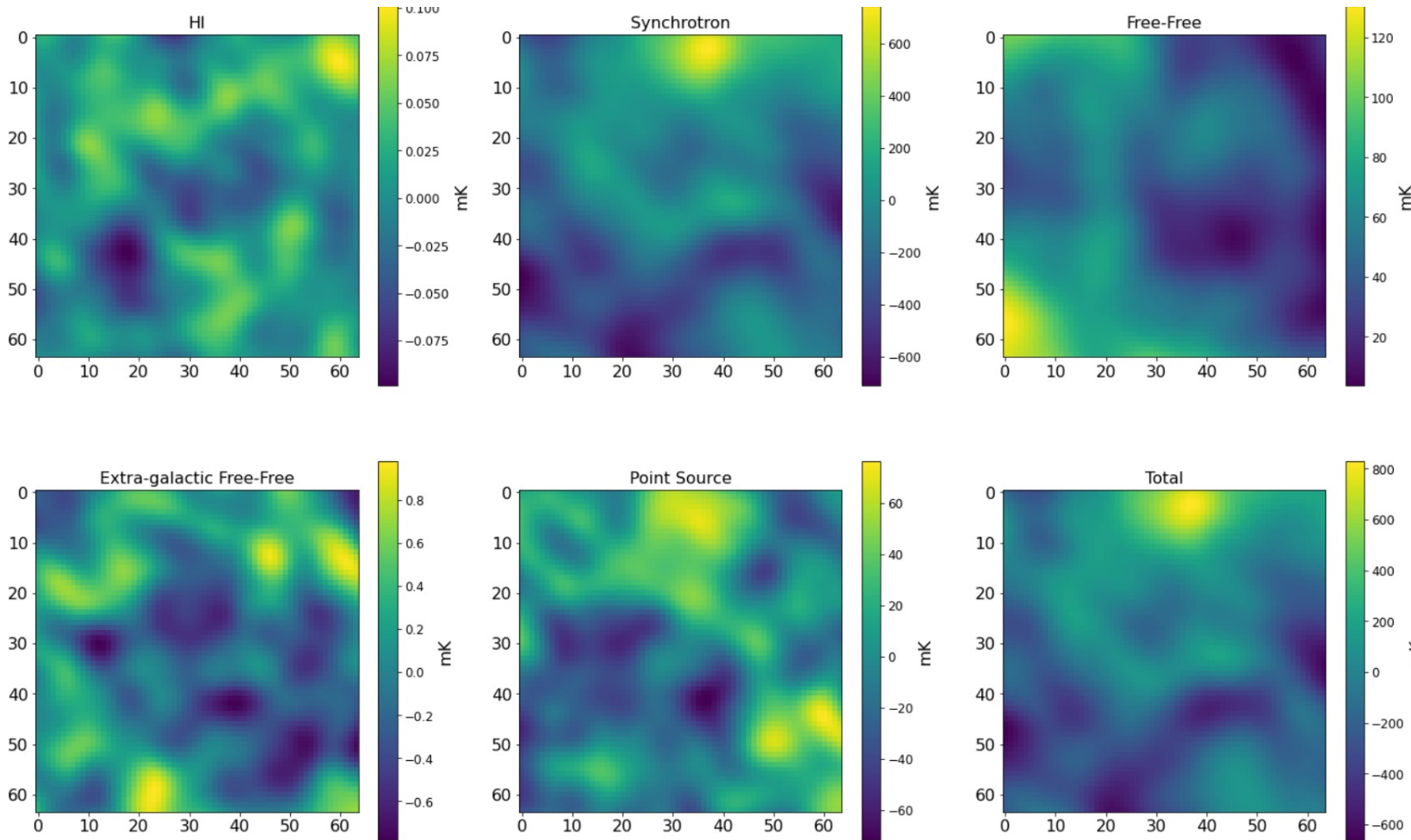
Foreground: (Santos et al. 2005)

$$C_\ell(\nu_i, \nu_j) = A \left(\frac{1000}{\ell} \right)^\beta \left(\frac{\nu_{\text{ref}}^2}{\nu_i \nu_j} \right)^\alpha I_\ell^{ij}$$

HI: (Battye et al. 2013)

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

$$C_\ell = \frac{H_0 b_{\text{HI}}^2}{c} \int dz E(z) \left[\frac{\bar{T}_{\text{obs}}(z) D(z)}{r(z)} \right]^2 P_{\text{cdm}} \left(\frac{\ell + 0.5}{r} \right)$$



Full sky maps (healpix)

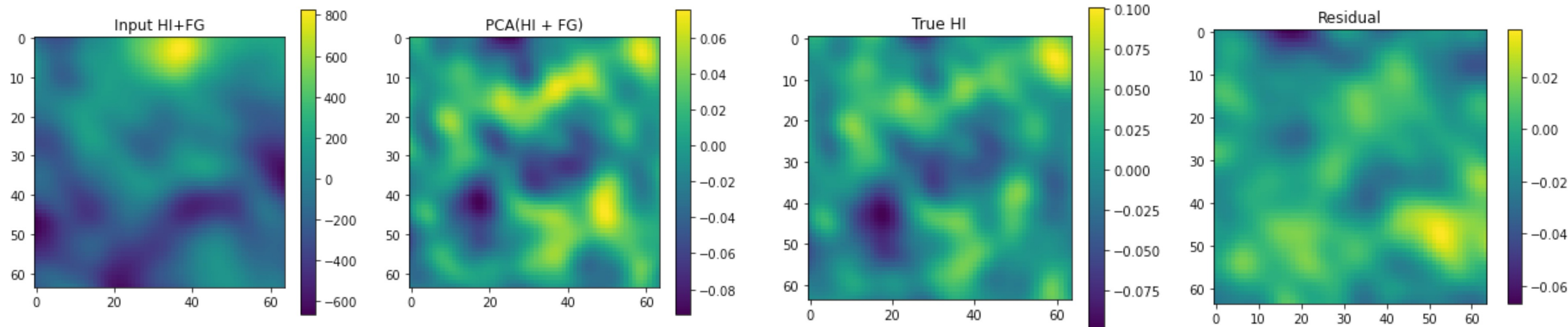
SKA-mid single-dish beam

192 equal-size patches

(64x64x64)

PCA Pre-processing

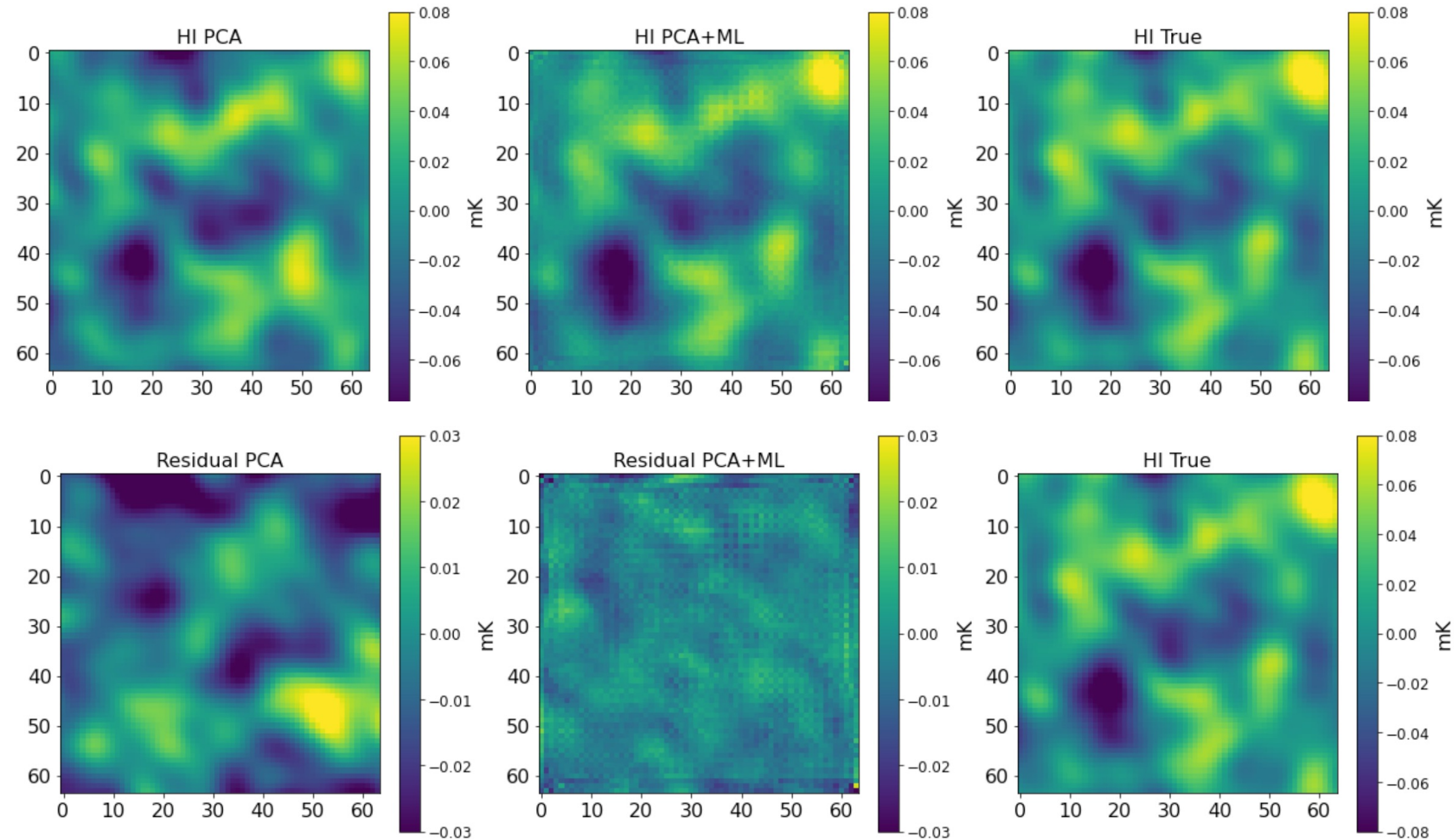
- Network can't handle large dynamic range
- Apply PCA to pre-process the data (mode = 2)
- Use ML for fine tuning



- Training: 154 patches
- Validation: 38 patches
- Test: 10 patches

Map results

- Training: 154 patches
- Validation: 38 patches
- Test: 10 patches

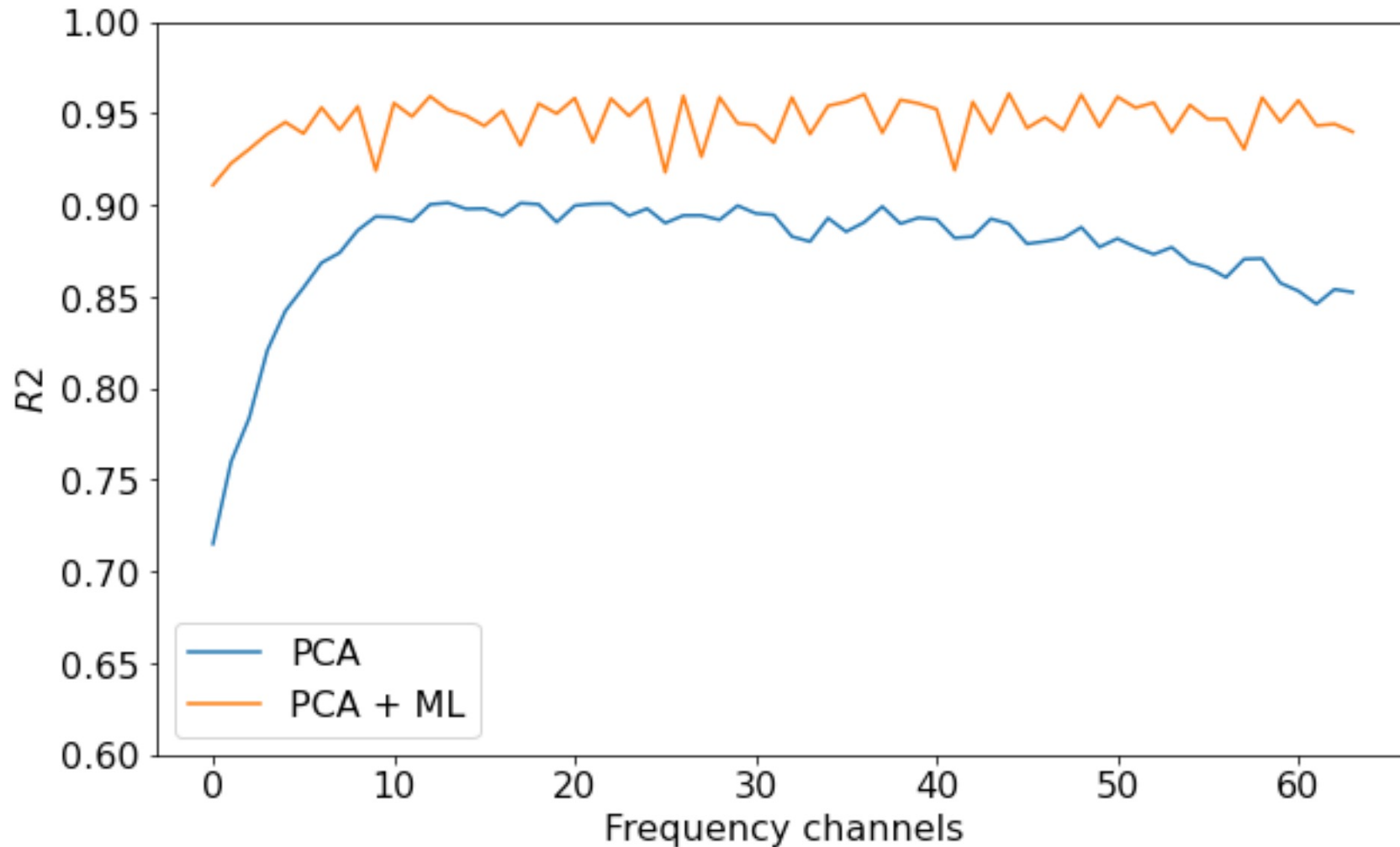


R² Score

Coefficient of determination

Evaluate the performance of the ML model

Accuracy measurement of predictions v.s. target



Conclusions

- The U-net outperforms PCA alone
 - Reduced map residual
 - Better R2 score
- Next step:
 - Introduce systematics
 - ML robust against systematics?