

Low Frequency Astronomy from the Moon

Xuelei Chen

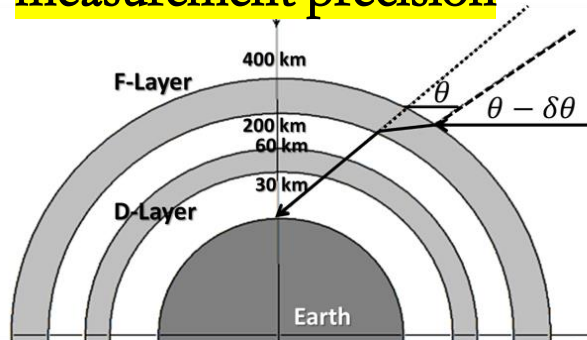
National Astronomical Observatories,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Hangzhou, 2024.07.22



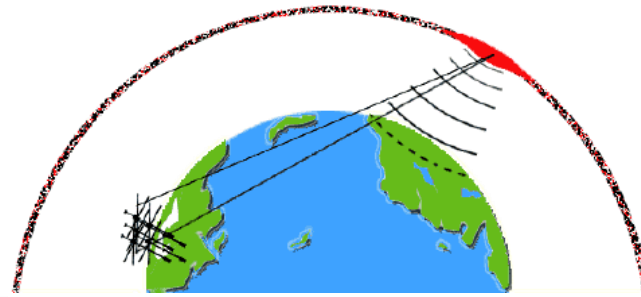
Difficulties of low frequency Ground Observation

Refraction and Absorption affects measurement precision

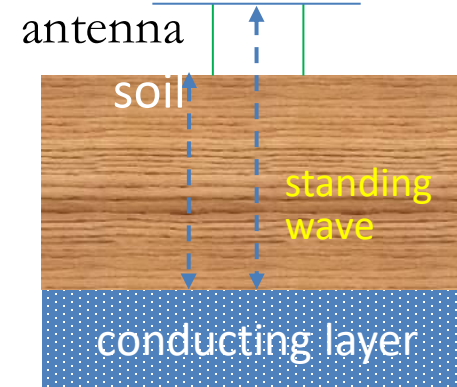


Vedantham & Koopermans (2015) ,
Shen et al. (2021)

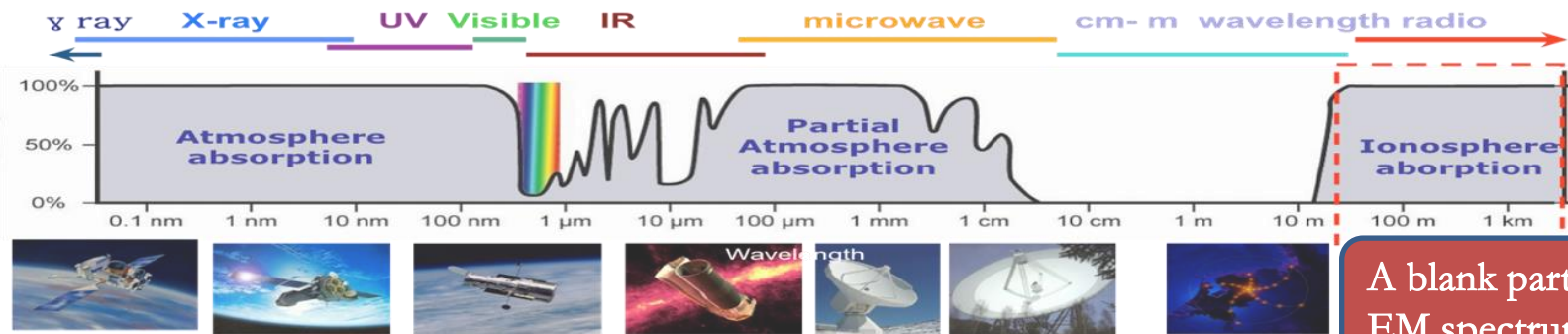
Reflection of RFI



Ground Reflection may generate false signal



Bradley et al. (2019)

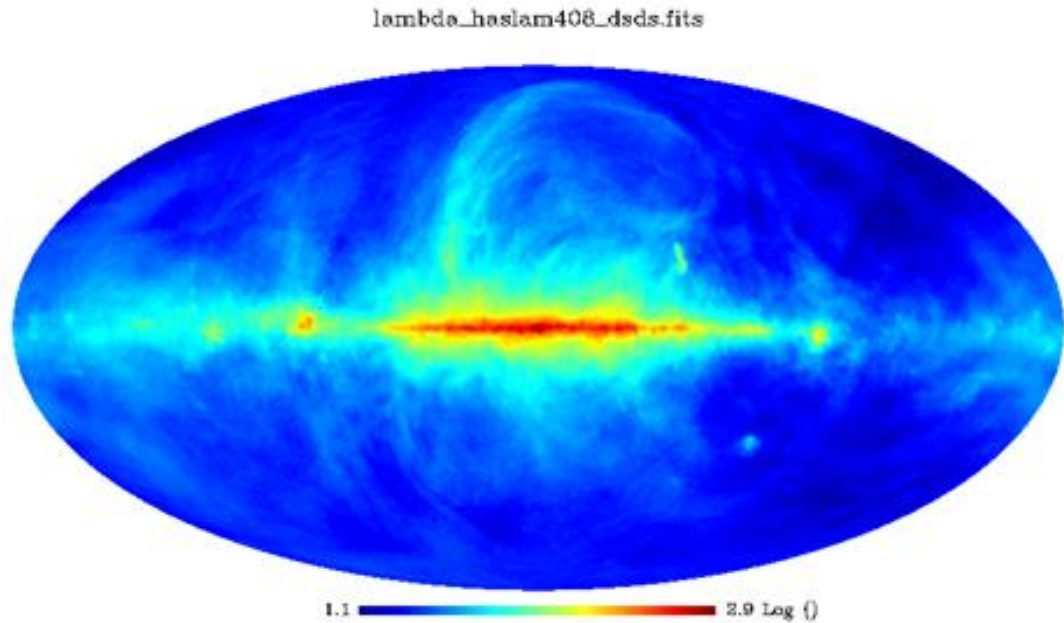


A blank part of EM spectrum

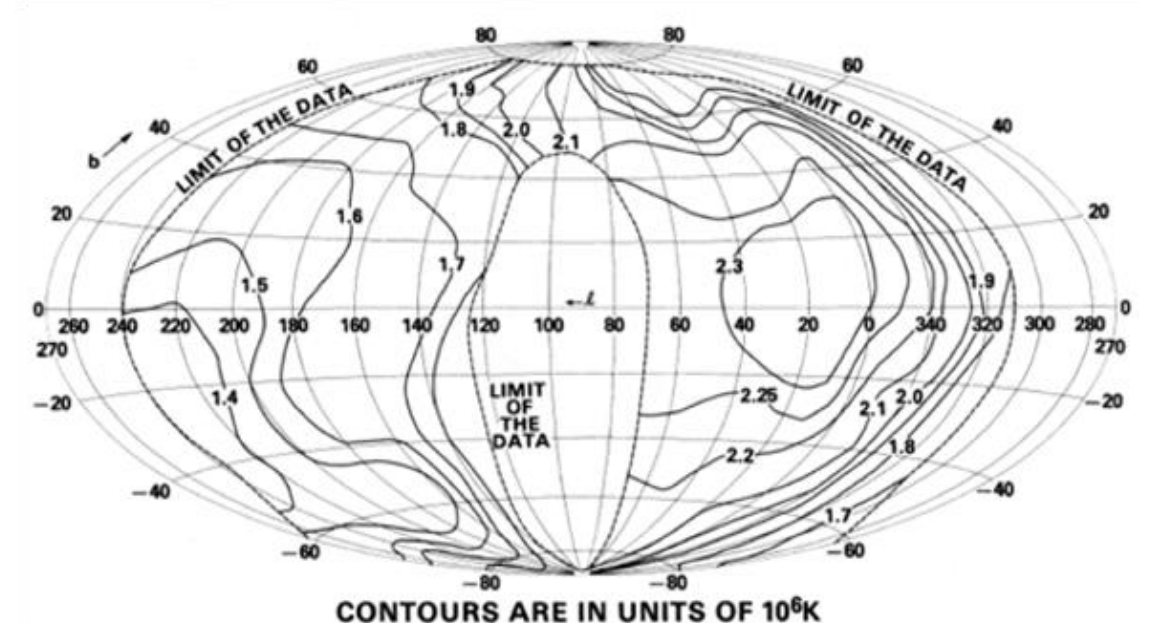
Space--avoid the ionosphere, RFI, ground reflection, and open up the last EM window

Low Frequency Radio – the last blank in EM spectrum

Due to ionosphere absorption, the sky below 30MHz is still largely **unknown**. Compared with other frequencies, the map at this band is very crude

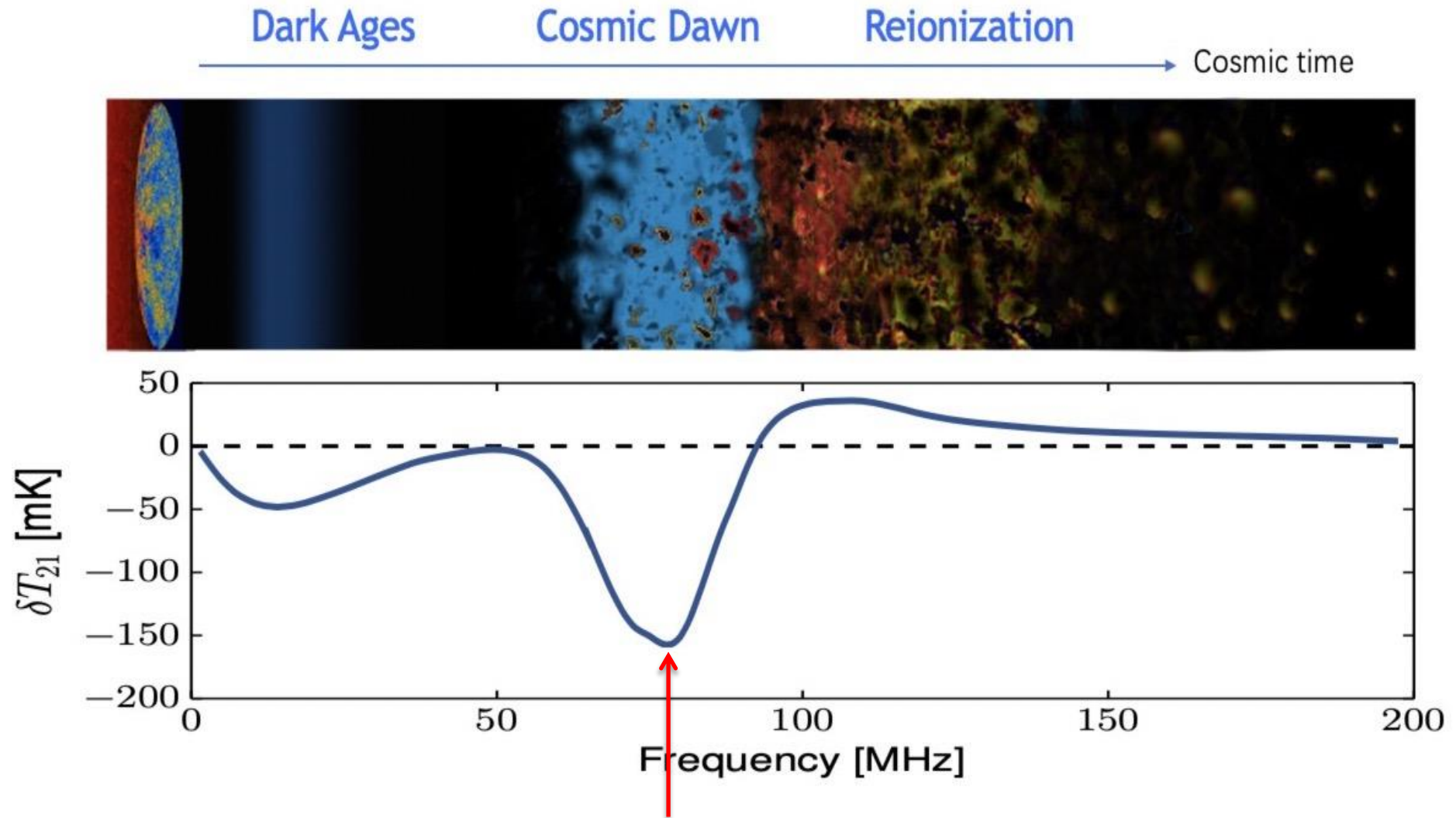


Haslam Map (408 MHz)



RAE-2 map (4.7 MHz)

The Light in the Dark Ages—21cm line

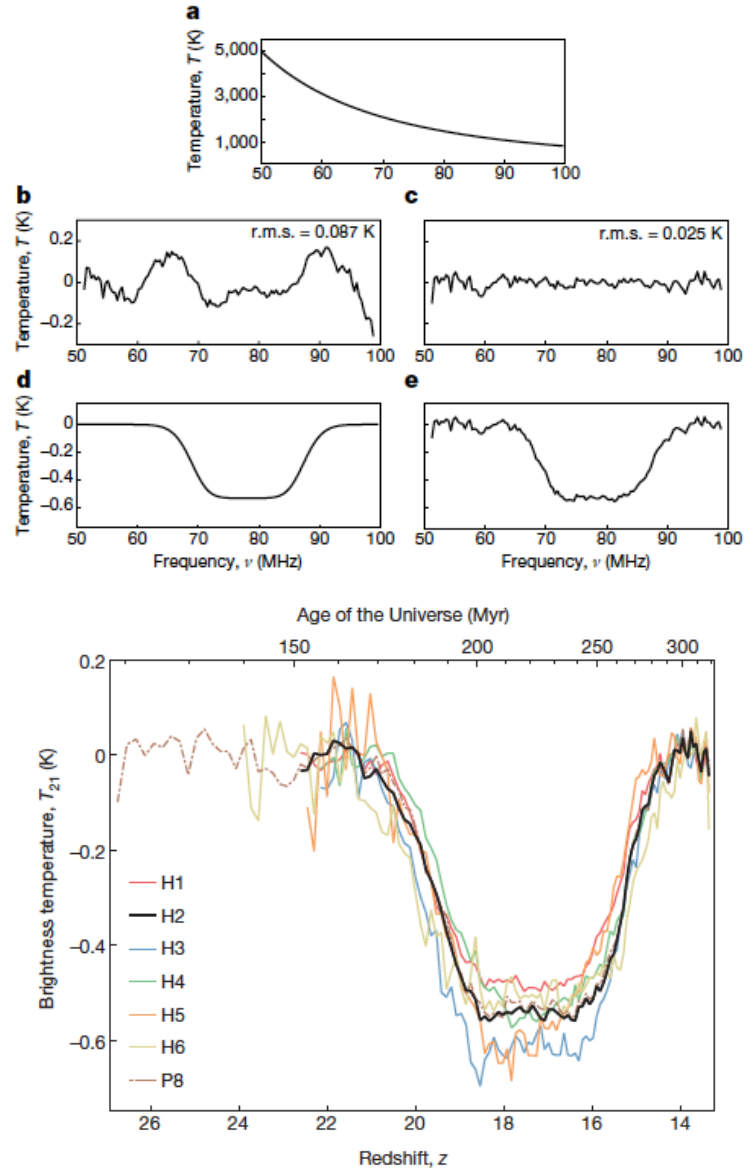


Cosmic Dawn signal
(XC& J. Miralda-Escude 2004, 2008)

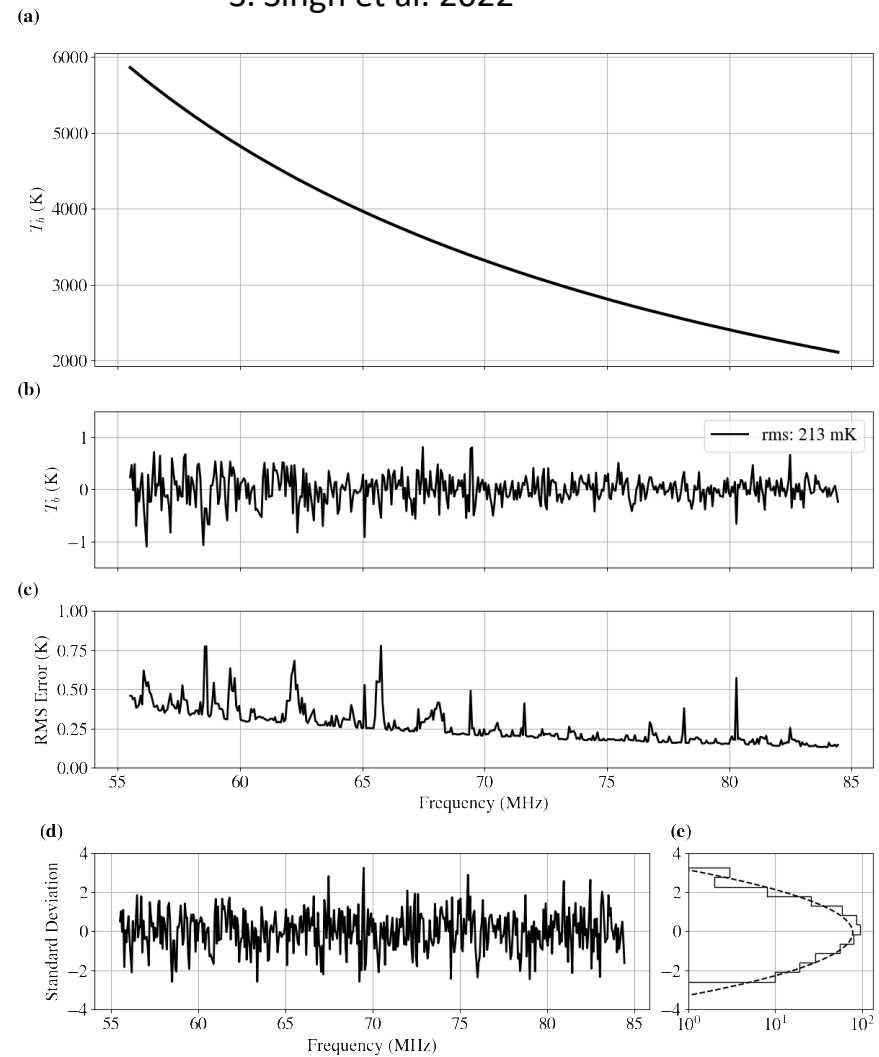
EDGES vs. SARAS Results

J. Bowman et al. 2018

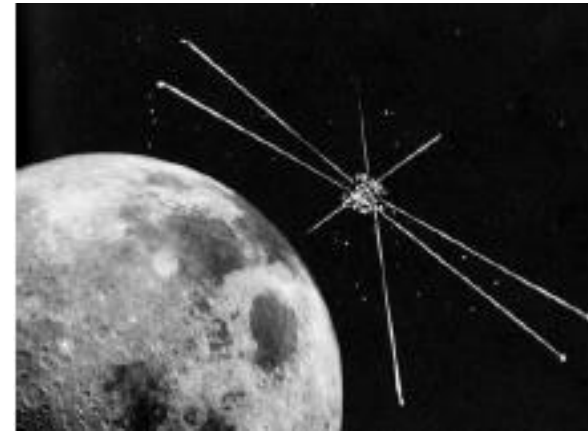
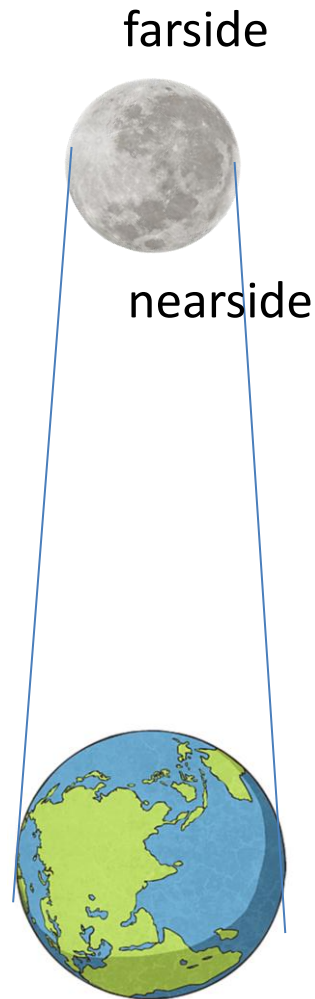
see the talks in the global spectrum session



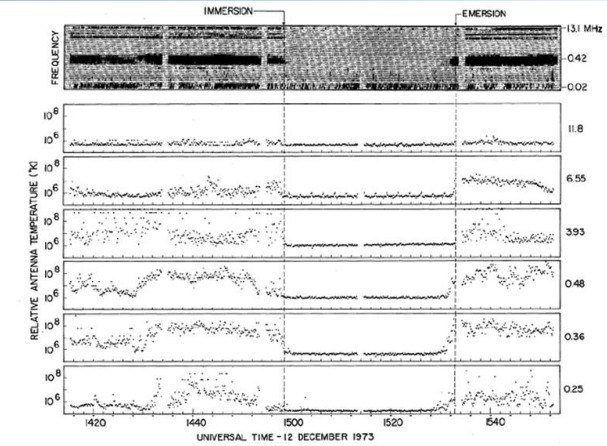
S. Singh et al. 2022



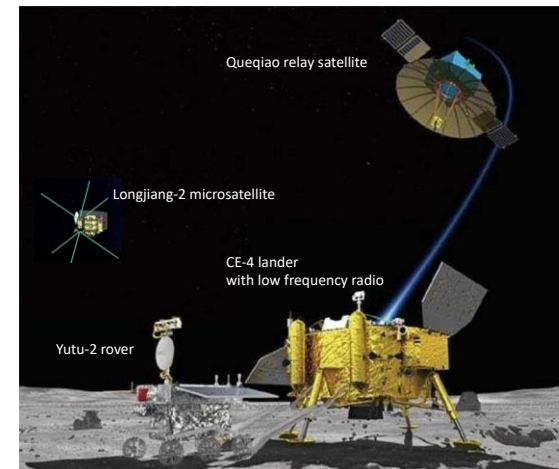
The Moon can shield RFI and provide ideal site



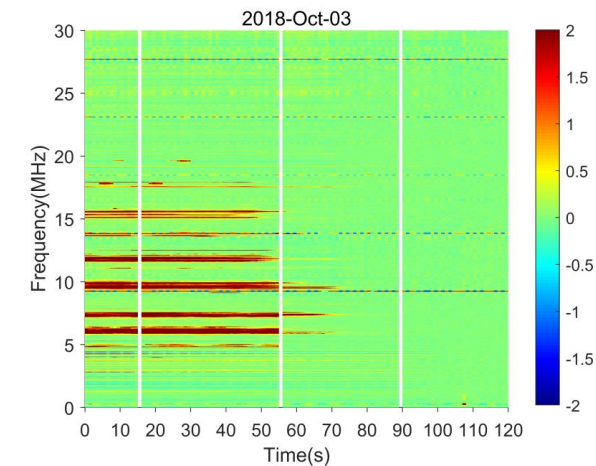
RAE-2 satellite



RAE-2 spectrum



low frequency radio experiments during Chang'e-4 mission



Longjiang-2 spectrum

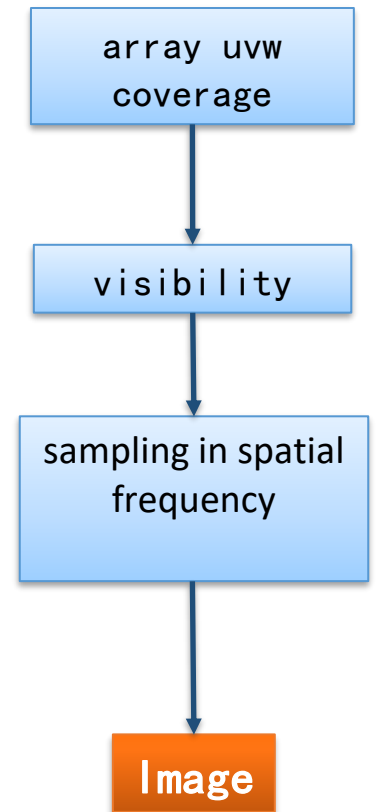
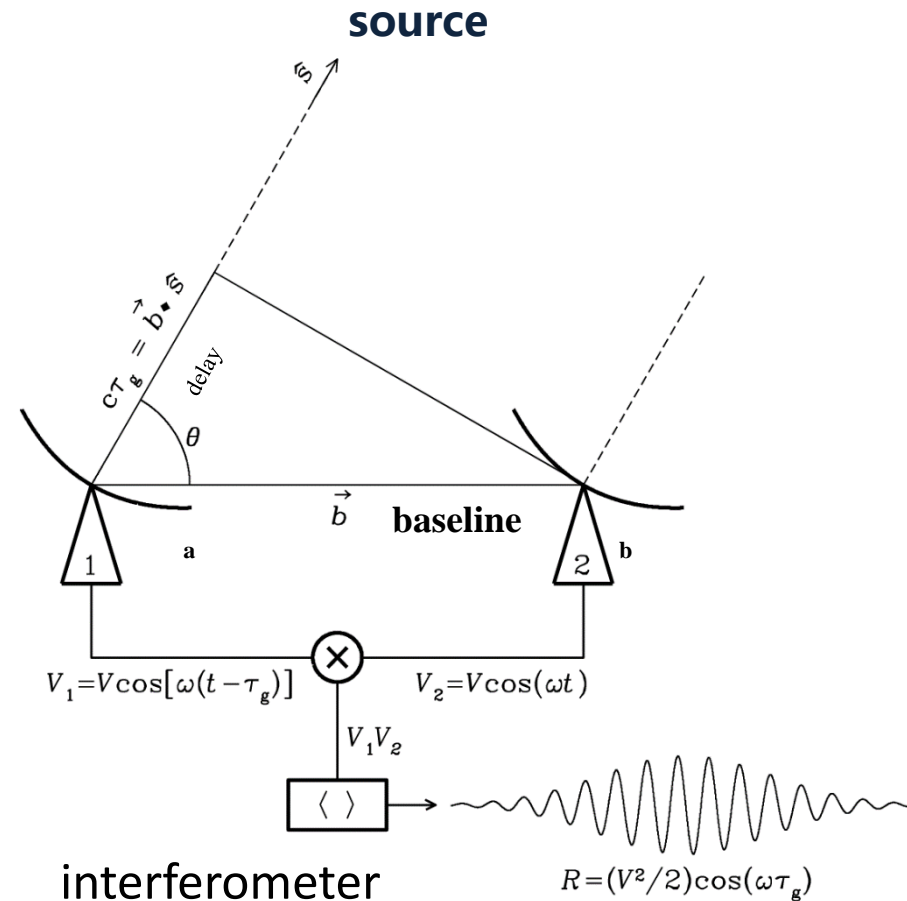
Low frequency needs Interferometer

For the wavelength (10m~300m) of our interest, it is impractical to achieve good angular resolution with single antenna.

$$\theta : \frac{\lambda}{D}$$

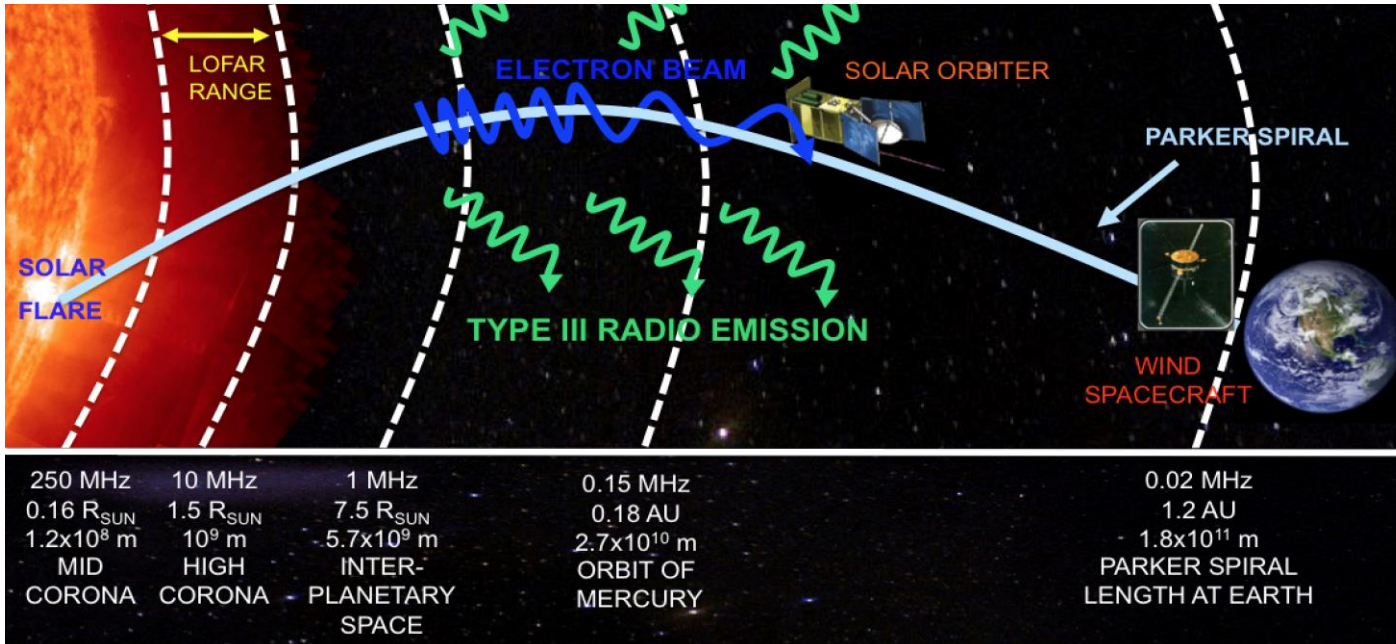
- **Interferometer** produce cross-correlations (visibilities) of electrical signal at different space points, roughly corresponding to **Fourier components of sky intensity**

$$V_{ij} = \int A_{ij}(\hat{k}) T(\hat{k}) e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}_{ij}} d^2\hat{k},$$

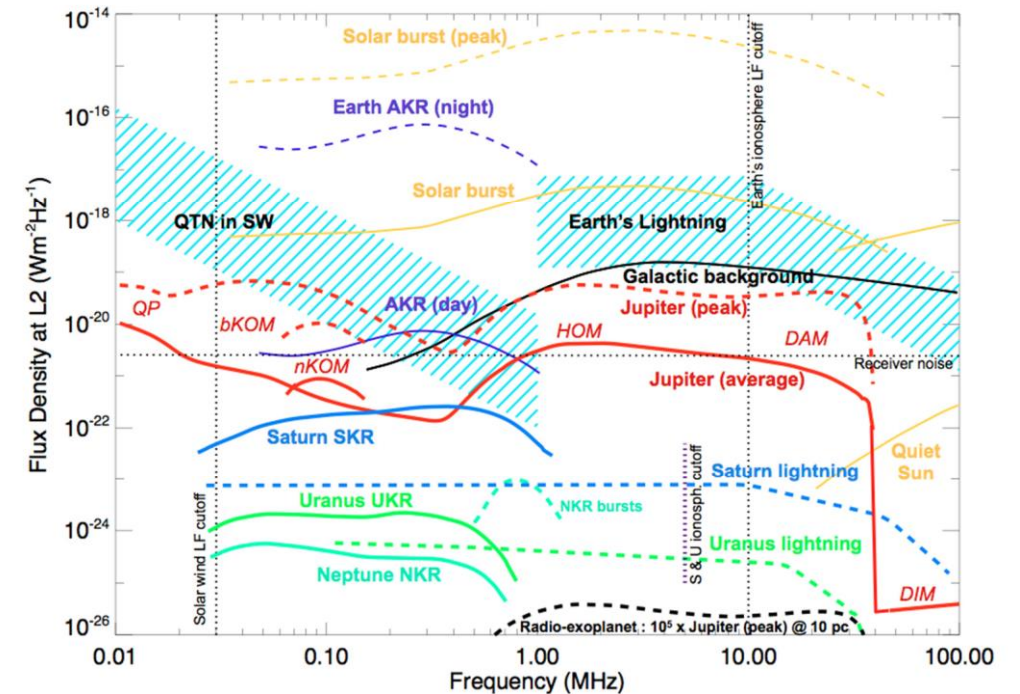


Science Case for low-frequency: Observing the Sun and Planets

- Lower frequency observation traces solar burst emission at larger distance from the Sun
- low frequency emission from giant planets reveal magnetospheric dynamics, solar wind - magnetosphere coupling, and electrodynamic coupling of the magnetosphere with planet's moons.
- A number of spacecrafts carried low frequency detectors

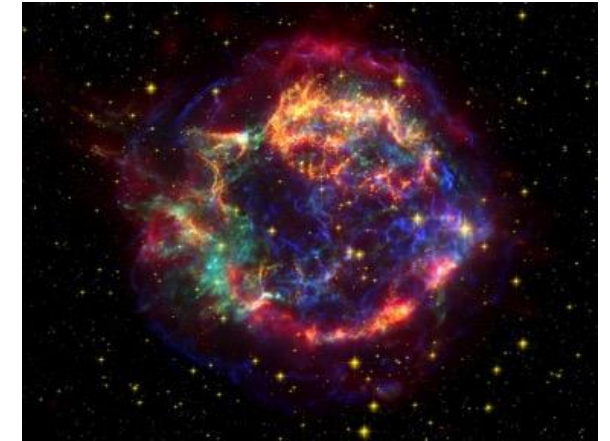
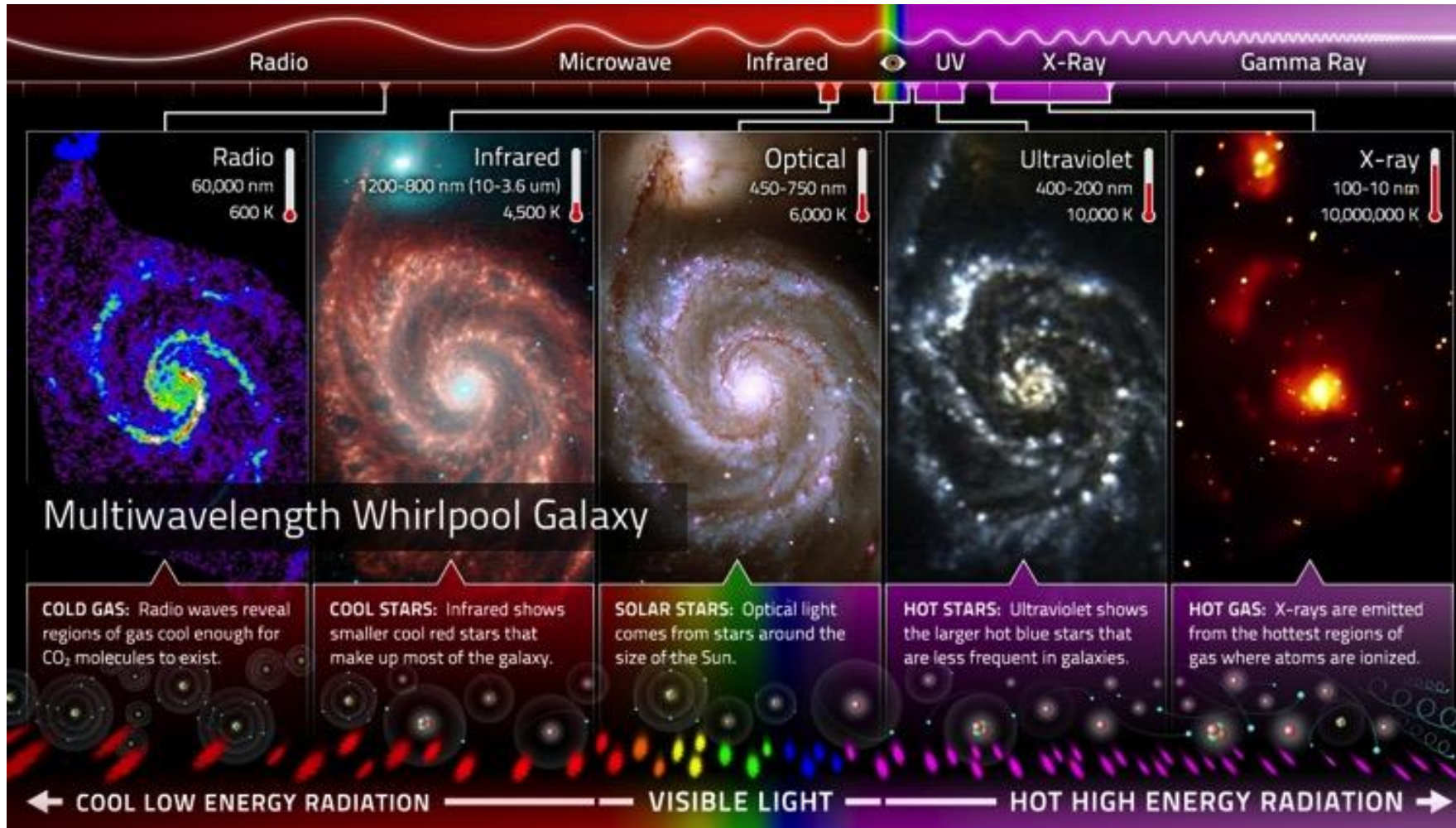


H.A.S. Reid (2015)

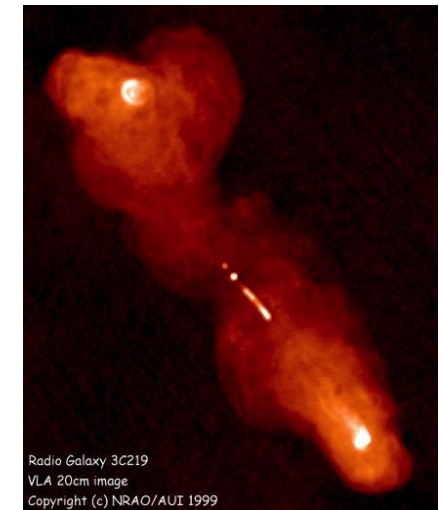


Mimoun et al.(2012)

Science Case: Open Up A New Observational Window



supernova remnants

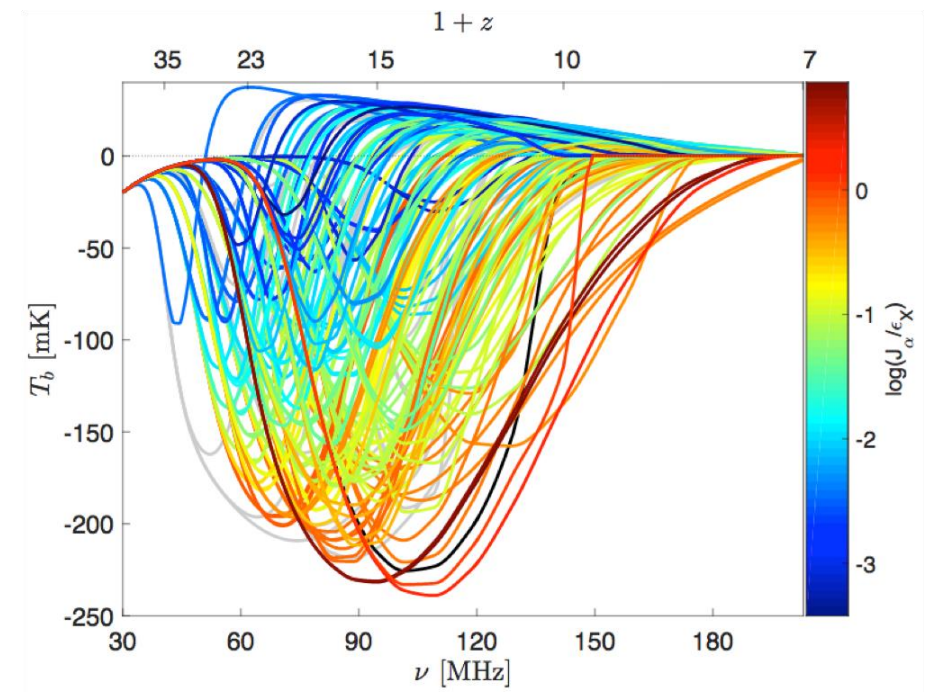
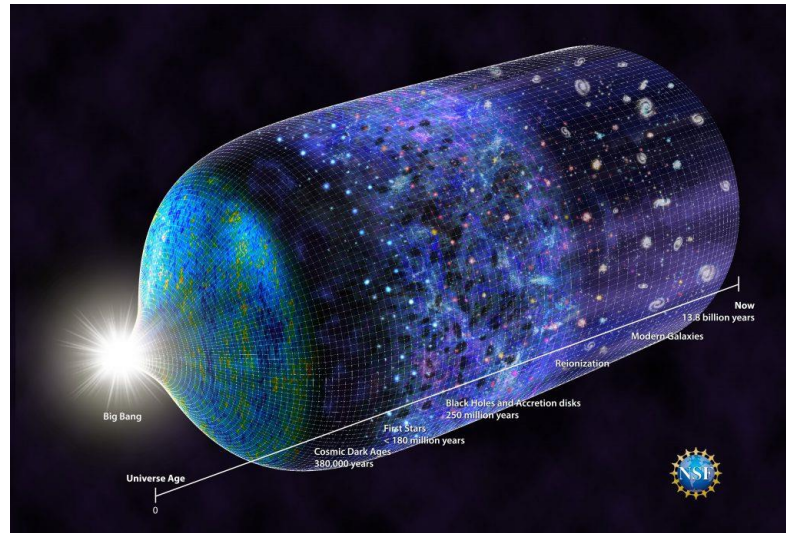


radio galaxies

What new objects will we see in the ultralong wavelength? What secret of the Nature will this observation reveal?

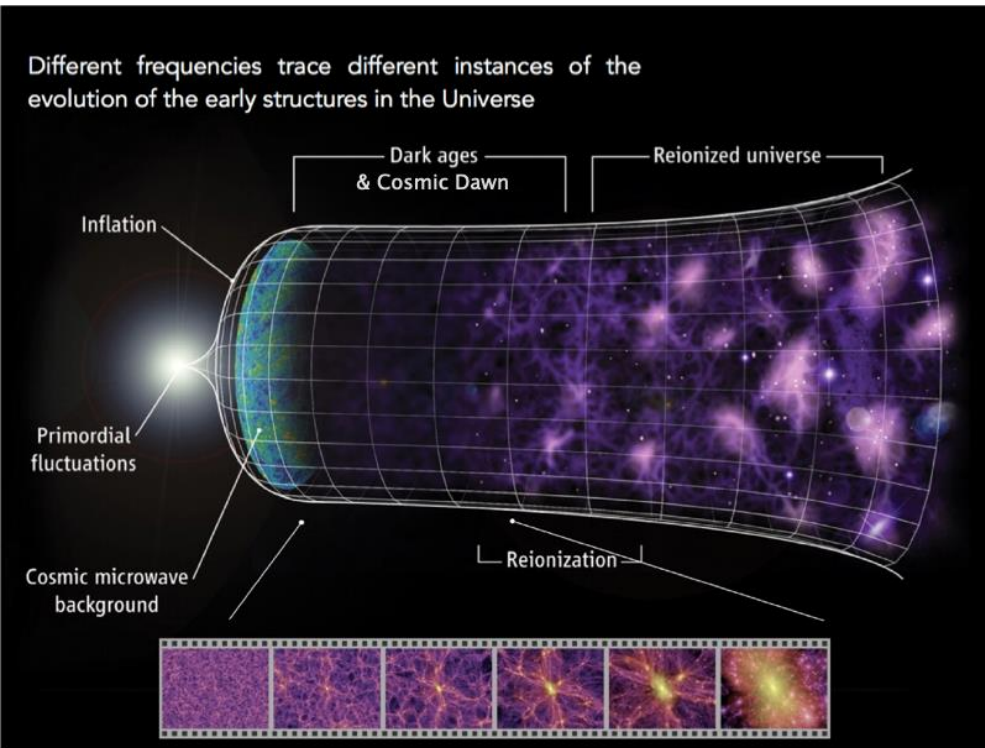
Science Case of low frequency: Dark ages and Cosmic Dawn

- The 21cm global spectrum could be measured with single antenna and probe cosmic dawn and dark ages
- In a lunar orbit global spectrum, ionosphere & external RFI can all be avoided, and ground reflection will not producing features at the relevant delay space



Cohen et al. (2018)

Lunar-based Ultralong wavelength Astronomy



Observing 21cm fluctuations in the dark age requires **extremely high sensitivity and large receiving area**. Before that is realized, we need to first observe the 21cm global spectrum, and make some less demanding astronomical observations at ultralong wavelength.

CoDEX Mission	Dark Ages $z=30$, Power Spectra	Dark Ages $z=30$, Tomography	Dark Ages $z=50$, Power Spectra	Dark Ages $z=50$, Tomography
CoDEX (1 km ²) M-class	S/N~10 for $k\sim 0.01-0.1$	S/N~5 for $k=0.01$	S/N<1	S/N<1
CoDEX (10 km ²) L-class	S/N~10-100 for $k\sim 0.01-1.0$	S/N~10-100 for $k\sim 0.01-0.1$	S/N>10 for $k\sim 0.01-1$	S/N>10 for $k\sim 0.01$
CoDEX (100 km ²) L-class	S/N~100-1000 for $k\sim 0.01-1.0$	S/N~10-1000 for $k\sim 0.01-0.4$	S/N>100 for $k\sim 0.01-1$	S/N~10-100 for $k\sim 0.01-0.1$

Low Frequency Radio—Project Ideas

Lunar Orbit:

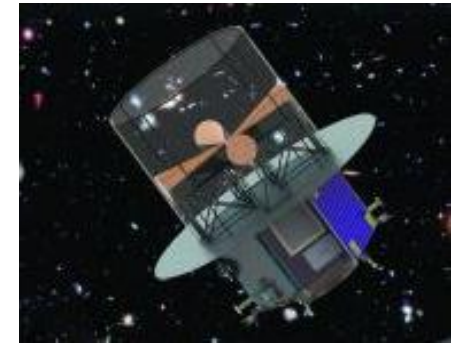
Engineeringly simpler, no need to land, and can use solar power

- single satellite: Dare/Dapper (USA), Pratush/SEAM (India), CosmoCube (UK)
- satellite array: DSL (China), MOIRE (Europe)

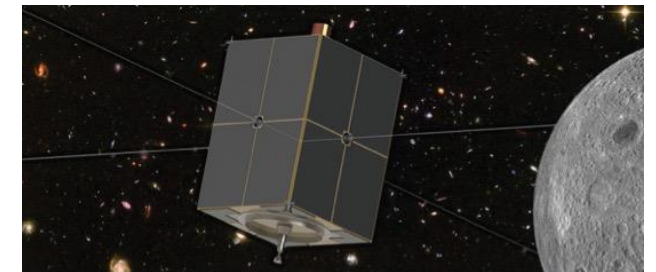
Lunar Surface:

Engineeringly more complex, but have stable platform

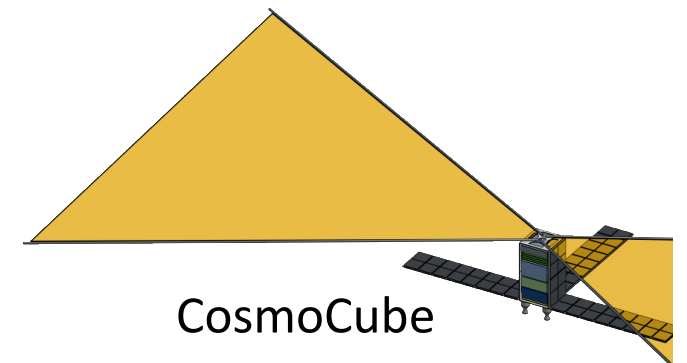
- small scale experiment: LuSee (USA)
- Farside: ALO (Europe), FARSIDE/FARVIEW (Europe), LARAF (China), LCRT (USA)



DARE



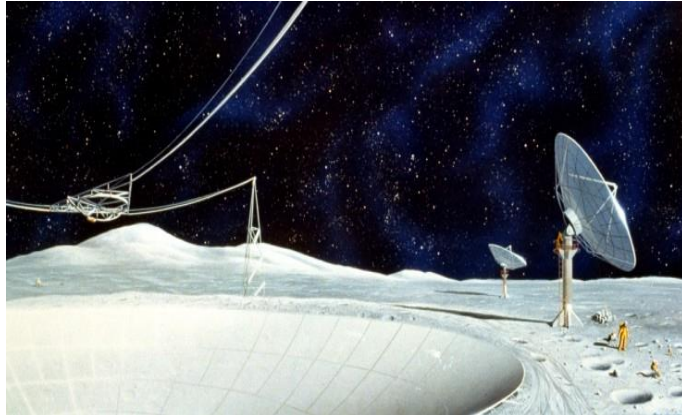
DAPPER



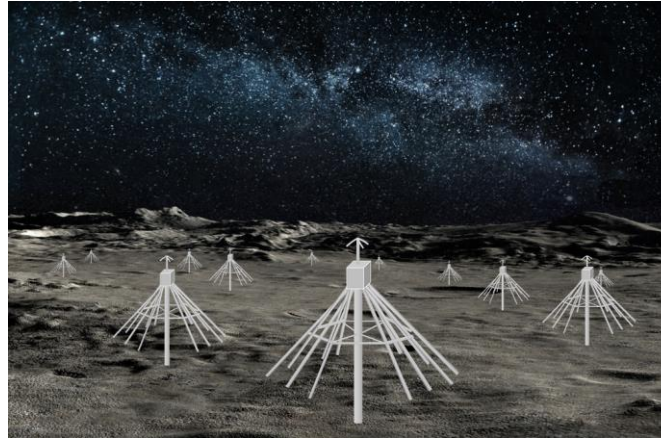
CosmoCube

Low Frequency Radio--antennas

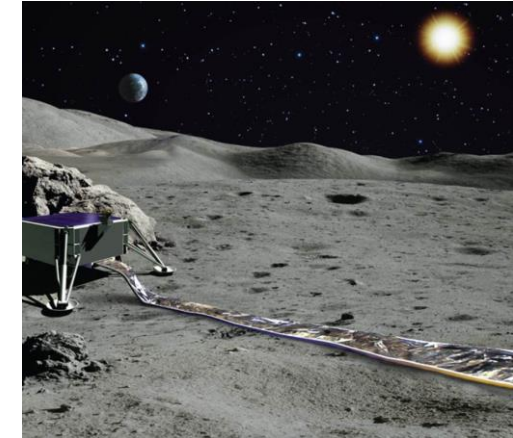
To minimize the weight to be carried, may need new antenna designs



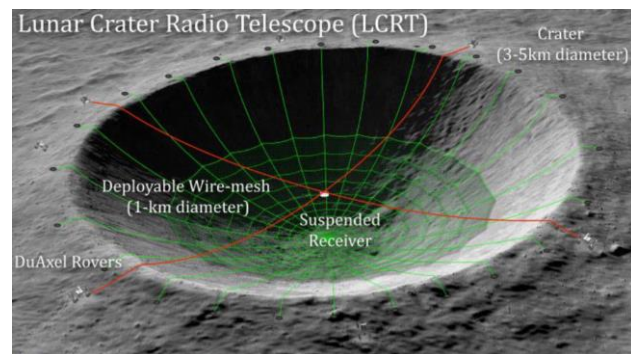
dish antenna (all frequencies)



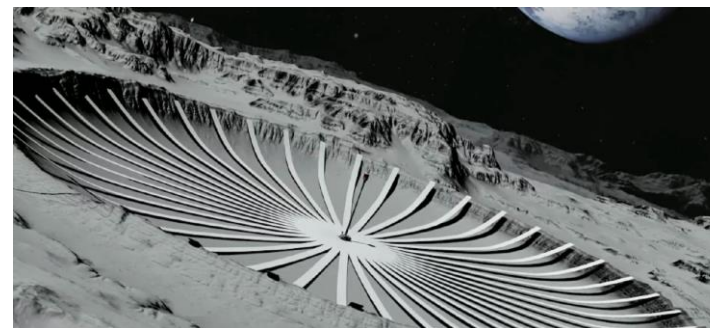
dipole antenna (low frequency)



membrane antenna
(lunar low frequency)



S. Bandyopadhy (2021)



Prof. Huilong Zheng (private communication)

Maybe even antenna manufactured *in site* (e.g. FarView project, Polidan et al. 2024)

But: the membrane antenna remains to be tested

a piece of polyimide-based membrane test sample on ground

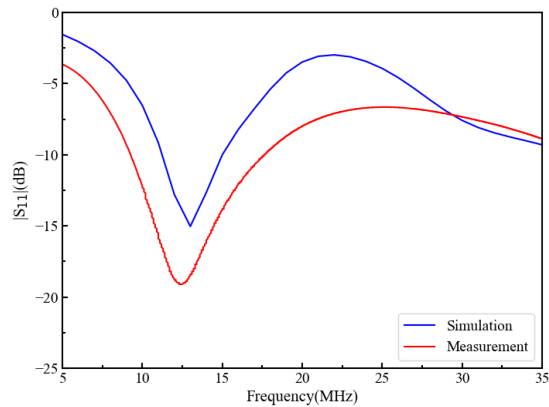
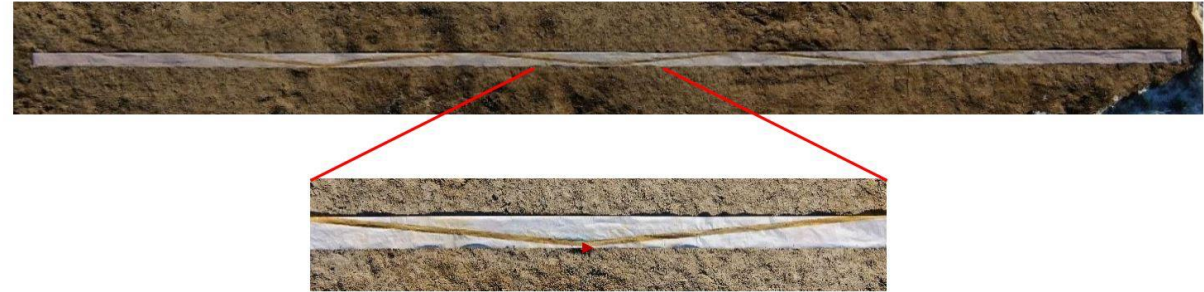
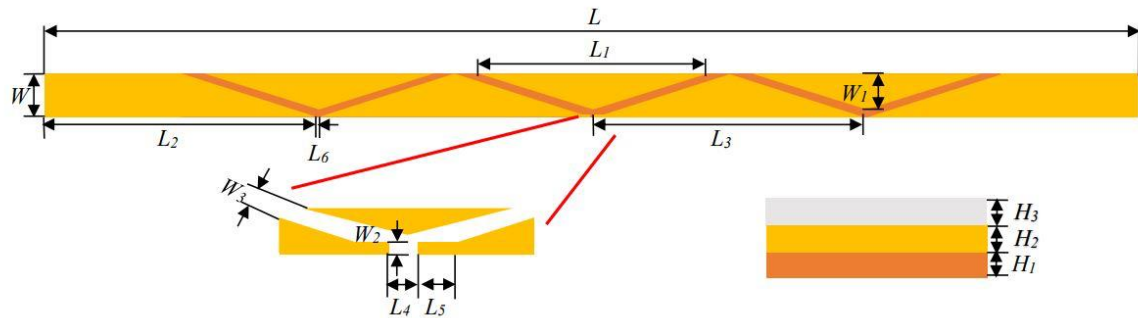
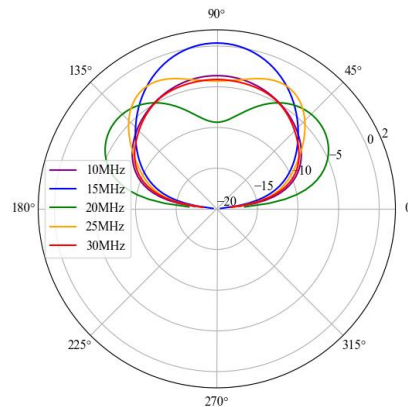
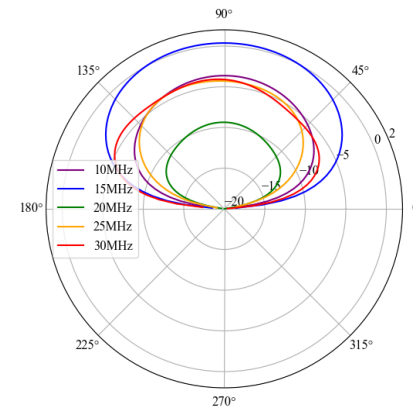


Fig. 10: The measured $|S_{11}|$ on the ground

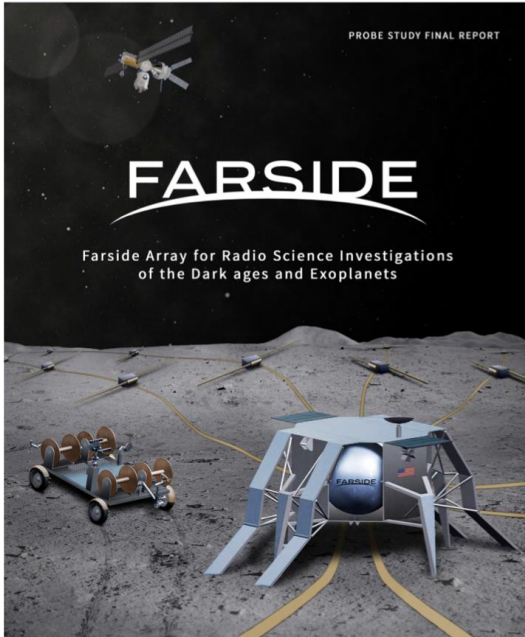
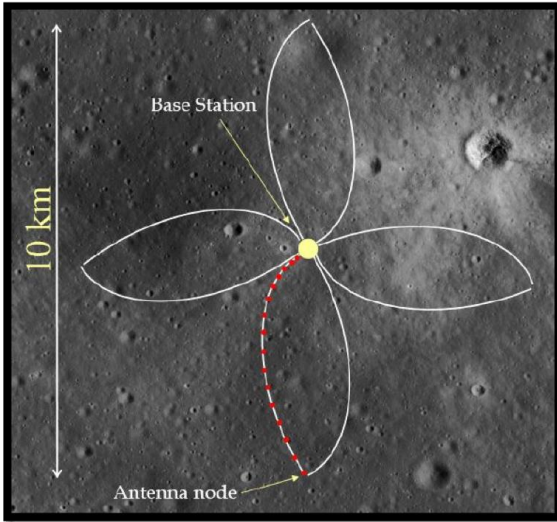
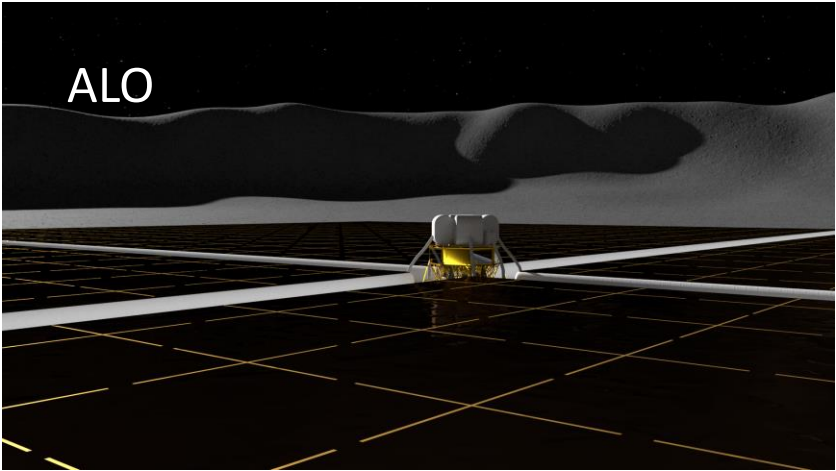


E-plane

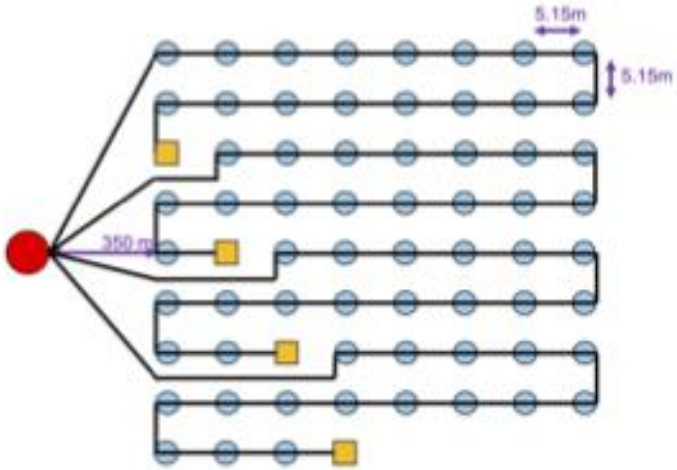


H-plane

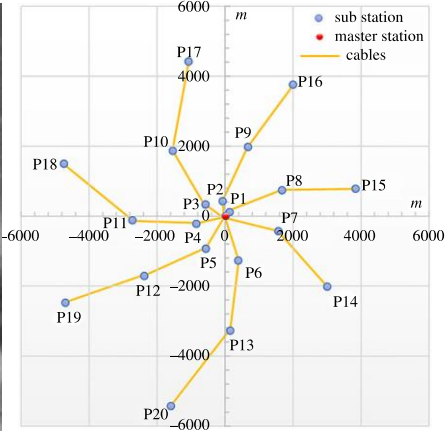
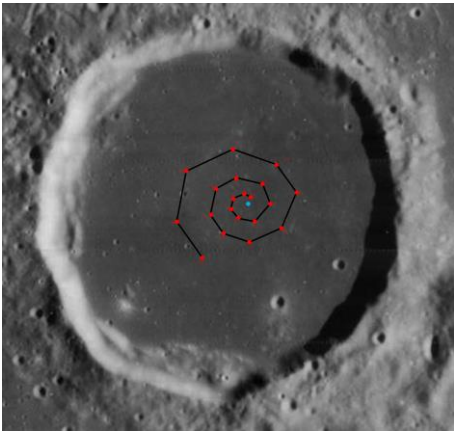
Lunar Surface Arrays



J. O. Burns et al. (2023)



M. Klein-Woit (2023)



LARAF (Chen et al. 2023)

lunar orbit array (DSL--Hongmeng)

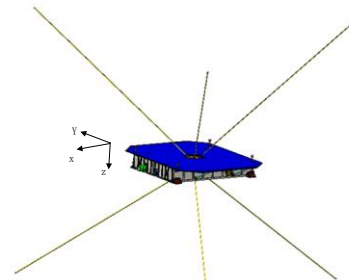
- lunar satellite: **engineeringly simpler, no need for landing & deployment**
- Lunar orbit period is about 2 hours, can use **solar power**
- Observe in the far side of the Moon, and transmit data back in the front side
- Launched by one rocket, all flying on the same orbit, **easy to maintain and communicate**



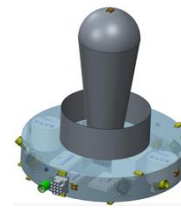
DSL:
1 mother satellite (communication & data processing)
+ 8 daughter satellite (0.1-30 MHz interferometry & global spectrum)
+ 1 daughter satellite (30-120 MHz global spectrum)



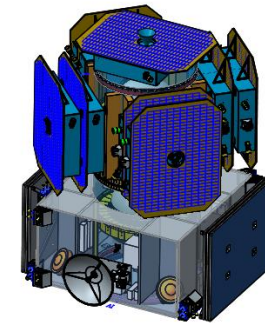
mother satellite



8 x low freq.
daughter

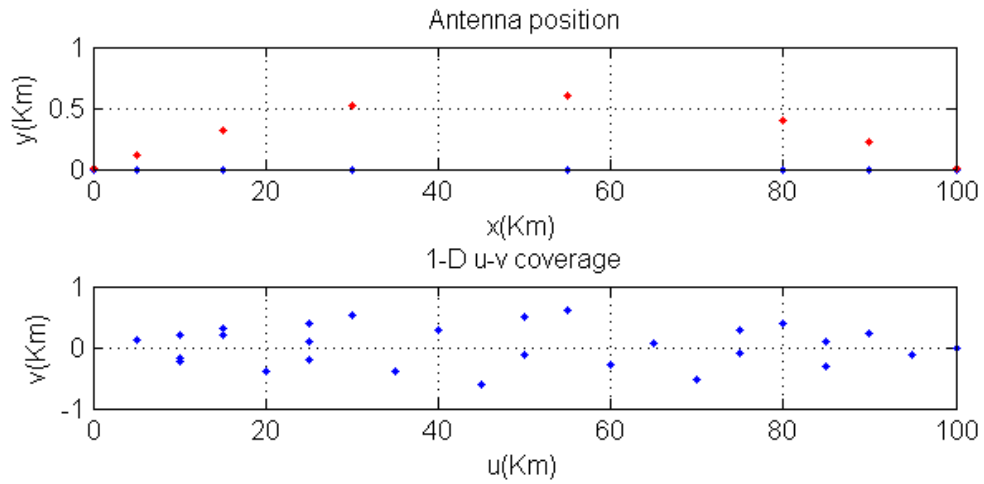


1 x high freq.
daughter



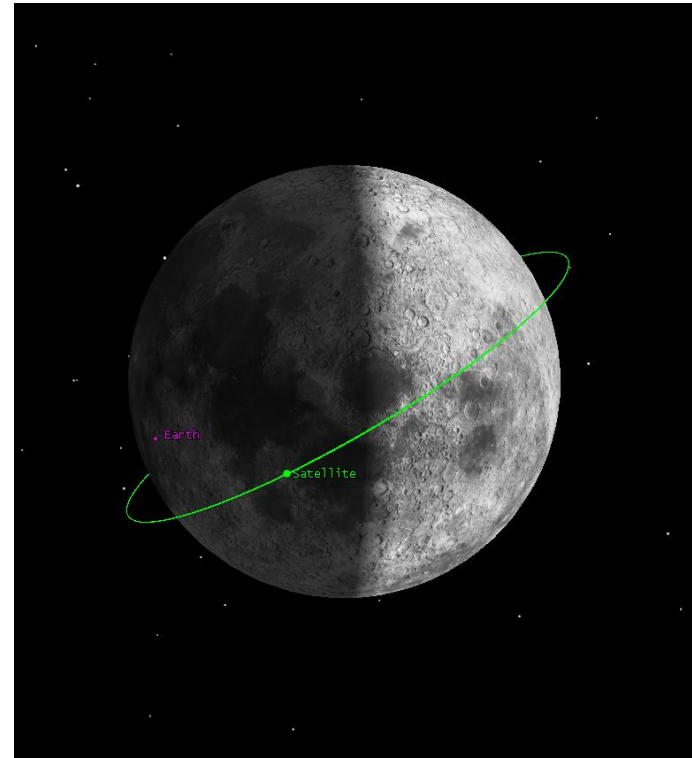
mother-daughter
combo at launch

Collecting Baselines



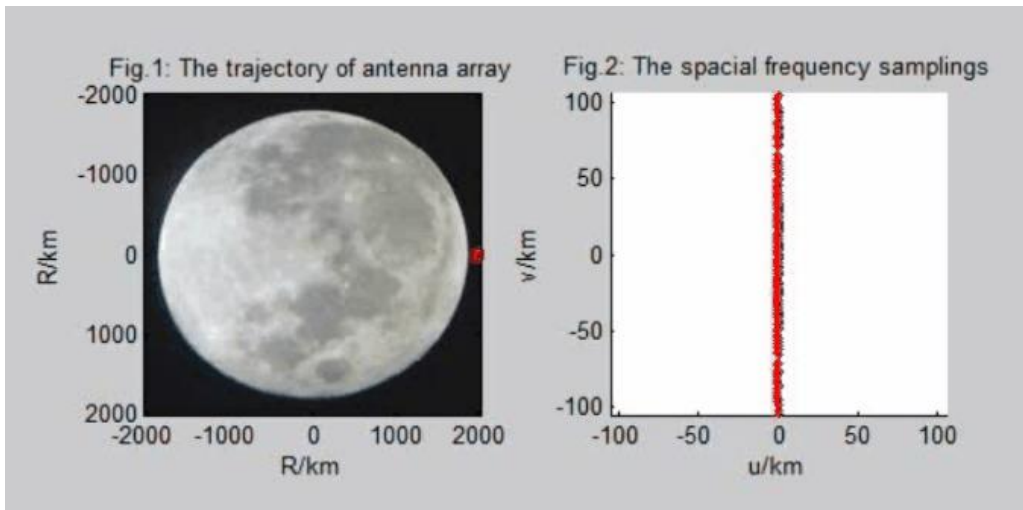
instantaneous position & baseline for 8 units

one orbit cycle



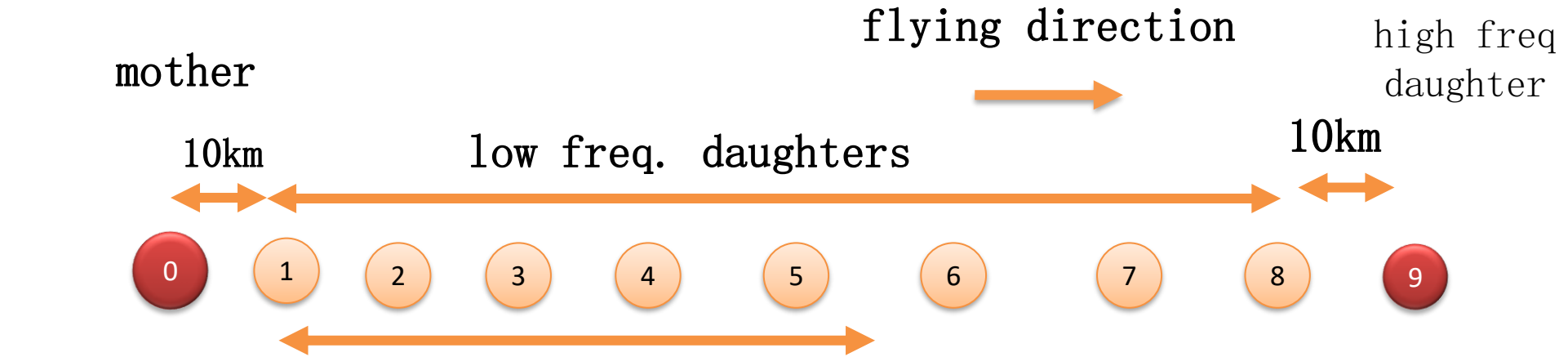
orbital plane precession

300km altitude, 30 degree inclination is chosen



Improving baseline distribution: breathing motion

to improve uvw coverage:



initial position	<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	<i>S8</i>			
compress	<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	<i>S8</i>			
extend	<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	<i>S8</i>			
compress				<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	<i>S8</i>
extend	<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	<i>S8</i>			

Equal propellant; consumption for all daughter satellites

Requirements and Parameters Summary

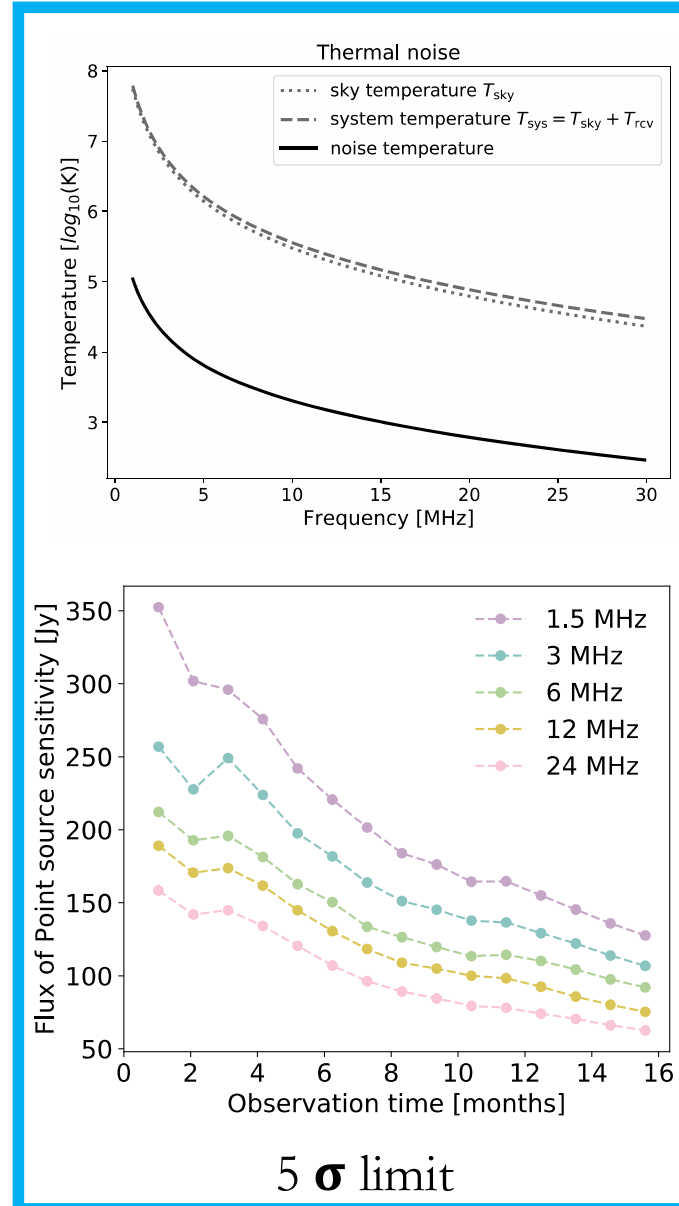
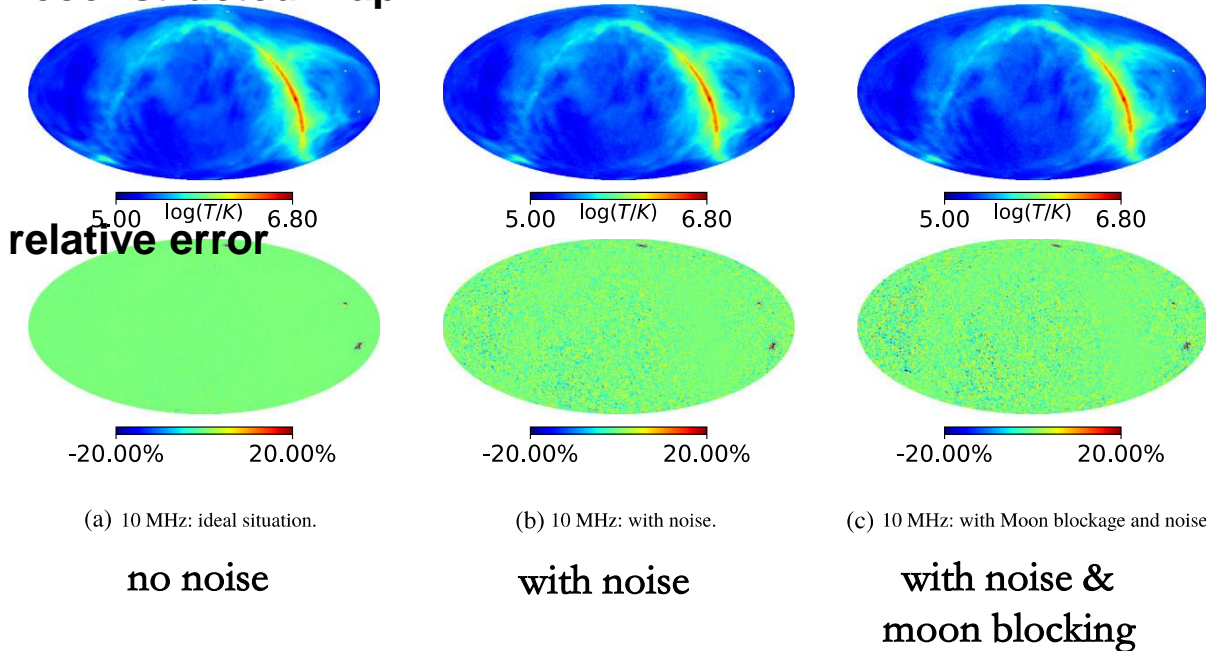
Science	Observable	Measurement	Parameter	Payload
cosmic dawn and dark ages	21cm global spectrum (high precision 30-120 MHz, good precision 0.1-30 MHz)	30MHz–120MHz single antenna measurement	frequency band: 30-120MHz	1 daughter satellite
			sensitivity: <0.1K@80MHz (1MHz channel, 10 min integral)	
			spectral resolution: <100kHz	
			Antenna Beam non-chromatic: no sidelobe	
High Resolution whole sky survey, open up last window in EM spectrum	1-30MHz whole sky map and source catalogue	multi-satellite interferometry taken with daughter satellites, data communication and processing on mother satellite, Position determination by ranging and angular measurement. Downlink to Ground	band: 0.1-30MHz	8 daughter satellites with interferometric spectrometer, inter-sat communication, ranging and synchronization, star sensor; 1 mother satellite for communication system, correlator, calibration source
			spatial resolution: <0.18° @1MHz, 0.012° @30MHz	
			antenna: 3 polarization	
			Tsys: < 120% Tsky (1-30MHz)	
			gain stability < 0.02dB/°C	
			Amplitude Error: 0.5dB	
			Phase error: 50°	
			baselines: 100m–100km	
			ranging error: ≤1m	
			angular error: ≤2"	
clock synchronization error: 3.3ns				
communication range: 10km-120km				
solar and planet ultralong wave radiation	monitoring of continuum spectrum for solar radio burst and planetary radio	Time Allocation or Event triggering	frequency band: 0.1-30MHz	
			dynamic range: 60dB	
			time resolution : second	
			spectral resolution: ≥8192	

Noise & Sensitivities

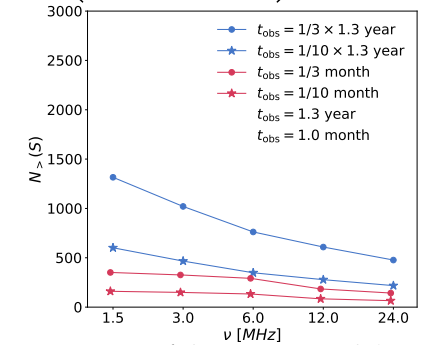
$$T_{\text{sys}} = T_{\text{rcv}} + T_{\text{sky}}.$$

$$T_{\text{rcv}} = 6.61 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{\lambda}{10 \text{ m}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{2.5 \text{ m}}{l_{\text{eff}}} \right)^2 \text{ K}.$$

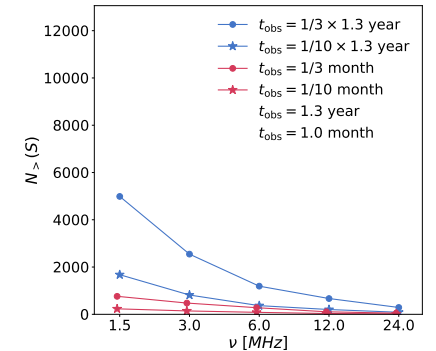
reconstructed map



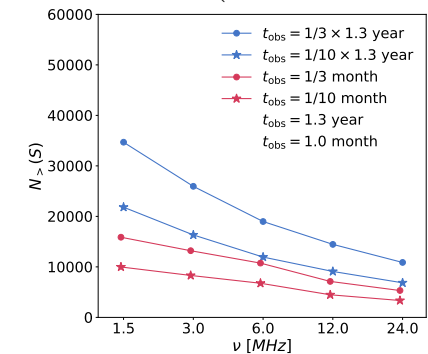
Detectable source
(5σ , 8kHz)



VLSS model (Jester & Falck 2009)



GLEAM model (Franzen et al. 2019)



SSM model (Huang et al. 2019)

Subtle Issues

- **Doppler Effect: affect phase**

rotation around Sun: 30 km/s

rotation around Earth: 1 km/s

rotation around Moon: 1.7 km/s

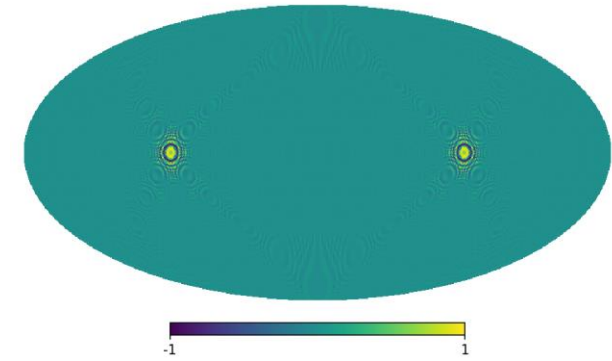
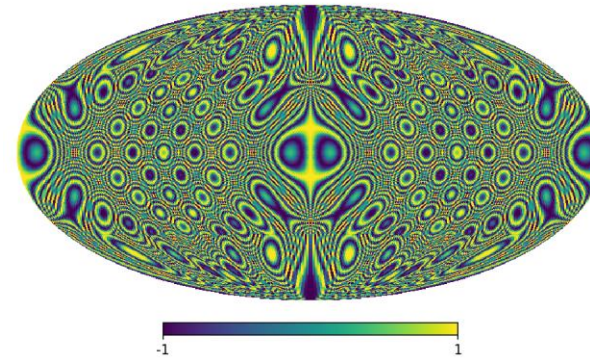
Direction-dependent correction needs to be applied while doing reconstruction

$$\begin{aligned} V_{ab}(t, \nu) &= \int d^2 \hat{\mathbf{k}} B_{ab}(\nu, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) I(\nu', \mathbf{k}') e^{-i \mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ab}} \\ &\approx \int d^2 \hat{\mathbf{k}} B_{ab}(\nu, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) I[\nu(1 - \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}), \mathbf{k}/(1 + \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})] \\ &\quad \times e^{-i(1 - \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ab})}. \\ &\approx \int d^2 \hat{\mathbf{k}} B(\nu, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) I[\nu, \hat{\mathbf{k}}] e^{-i(1 - \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ab})}. \end{aligned}$$

- **Aliasing Effect (Moire pattern)**

- **Reflections from the Moon**

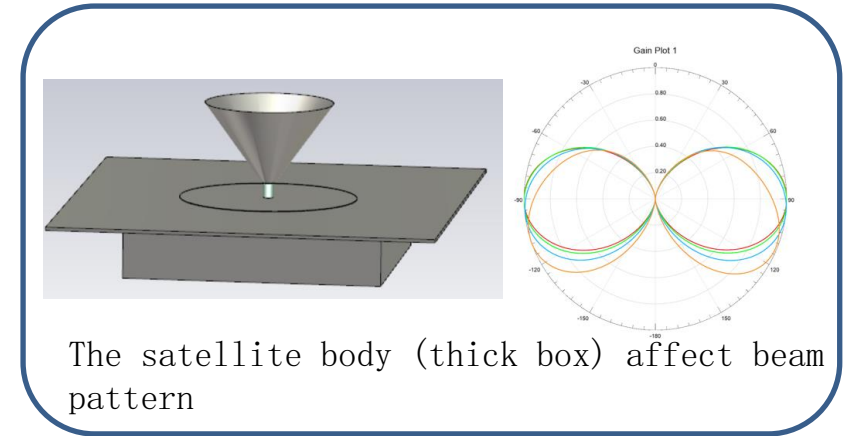
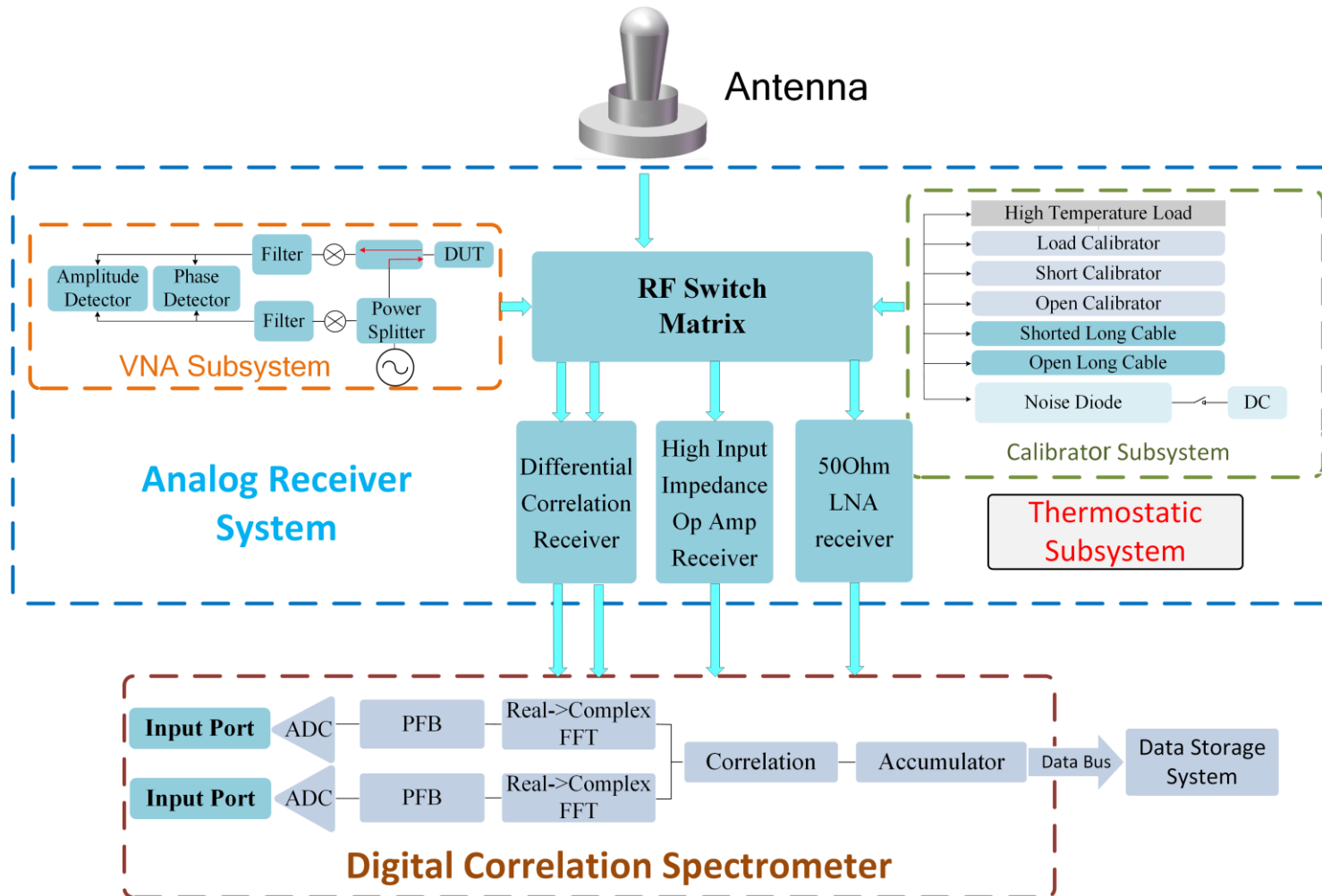
- **Impact of Variable Sources**



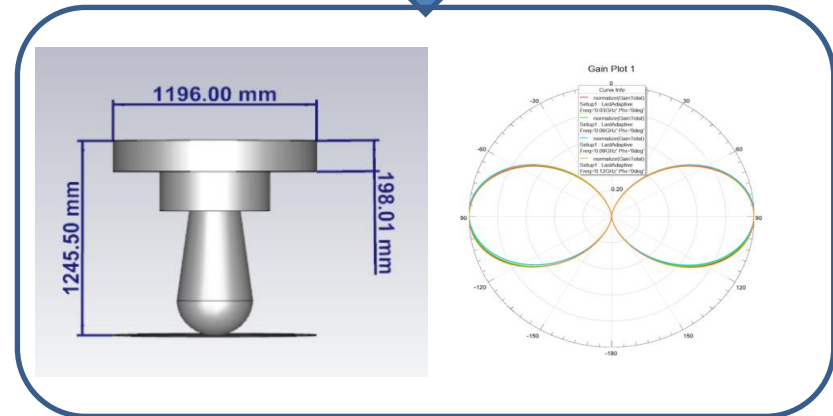
Global Spectrum Measurement (HF)

see Fengquan Wu's talk

design the antenna as the satellite



The satellite body (thick box) affect beam pattern



Simulation & Error propagation analysis

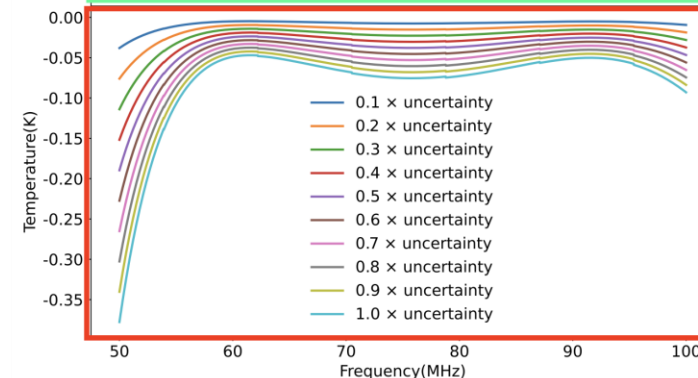
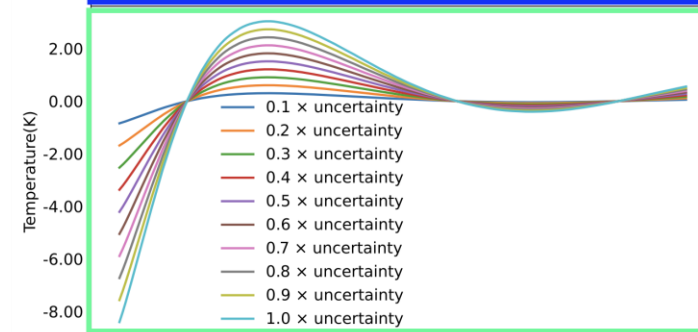
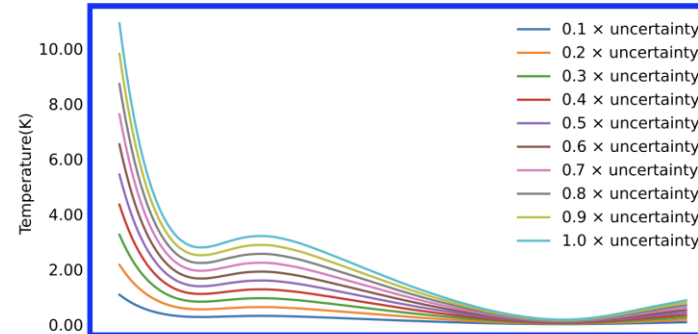
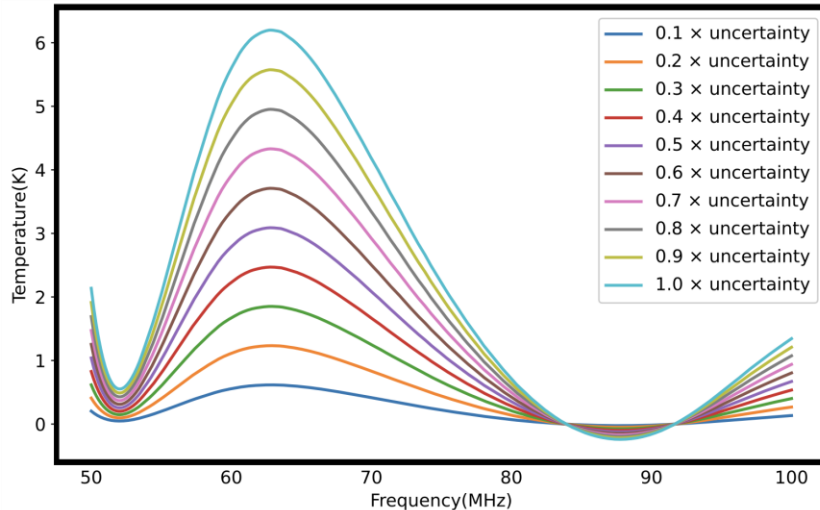
We use the error parameters given by VNA manufactures (e.g. Keysight) to estimate the error

$$T_{\text{sky}} = \frac{T_{\text{ant}} - T_0}{(1 - |\Gamma_{\text{ant}}|^2) |F_{\text{ant}}|^2} - \frac{T_u |\Gamma_{\text{ant}}|^2}{1 - |\Gamma_{\text{ant}}|^2} - \frac{(T_c \cos(\phi) + T_s \sin(\phi)) |\Gamma_{\text{ant}}|}{(1 - |\Gamma_{\text{ant}}|^2) |F_{\text{ant}}|} \quad F_{\text{ant}} = \frac{(1 - |\Gamma_{\text{rec}}|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{1 - \Gamma_{\text{ant}} \Gamma_{\text{rec}}}$$

$$\delta T_{\text{sky}} = \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{ant}}} \delta \Gamma_{\text{ant}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}} \delta \Gamma_{\text{rec}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{open}}} \delta \Gamma_{\text{open}}$$

$$\frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{open}}} = \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_u} \frac{\partial T_u}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{open}}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_c} \frac{\partial T_c}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{open}}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_s} \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{open}}}$$

$$\frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}} = \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}}\Big|_{\text{direct}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_u} \frac{\partial T_u}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_c} \frac{\partial T_c}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_s} \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}} + \frac{\partial T_{\text{sky}}}{\partial T_0} \frac{\partial T_0}{\partial \Gamma_{\text{rec}}}$$

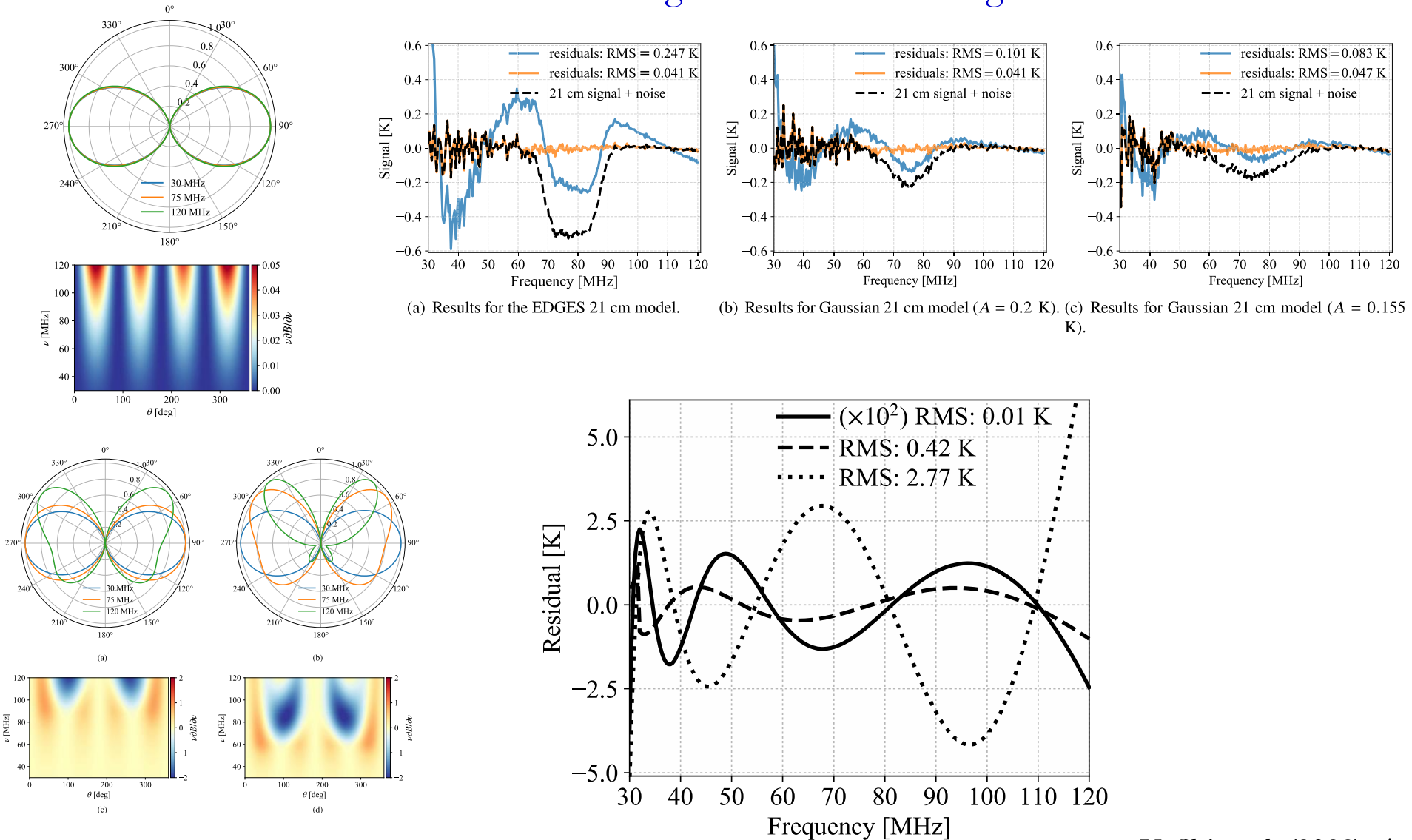


Calibration Error in 21-centimeter Global Spectrum Experiments

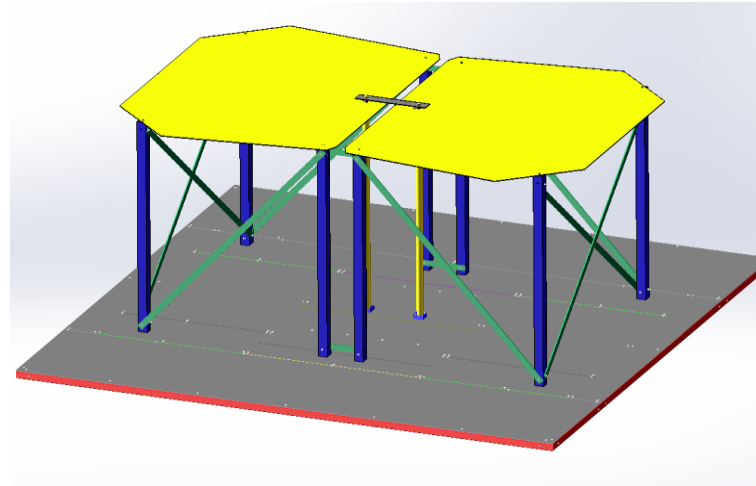
Shijie Sun et.al. Universe
2024, 10(6), 236

Antenna Chromaticity

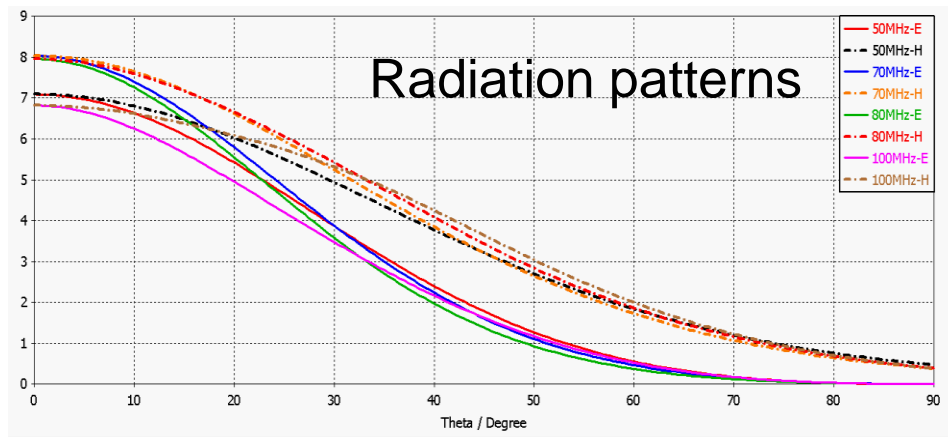
Fitting with a smooth foreground model



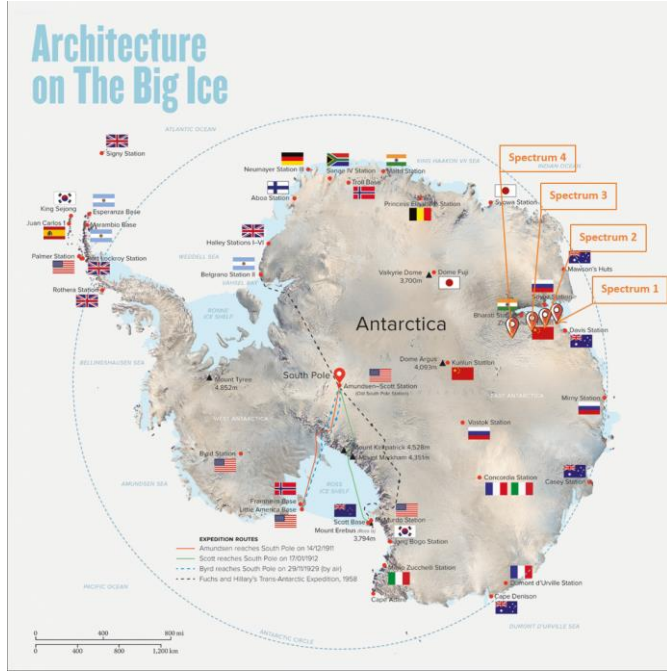
Field Tests



EDGES type, with hexagonal antenna



Antarctica Experiment

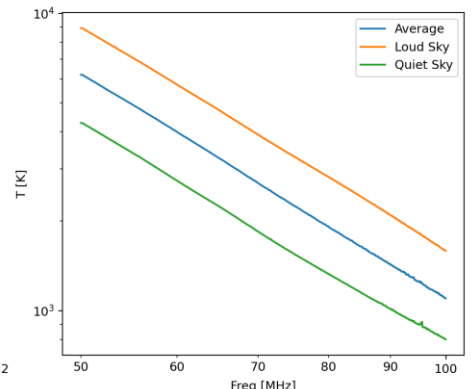
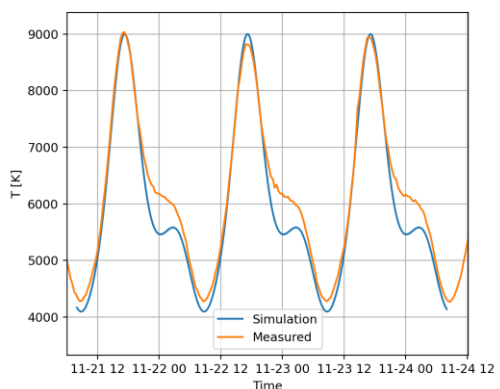
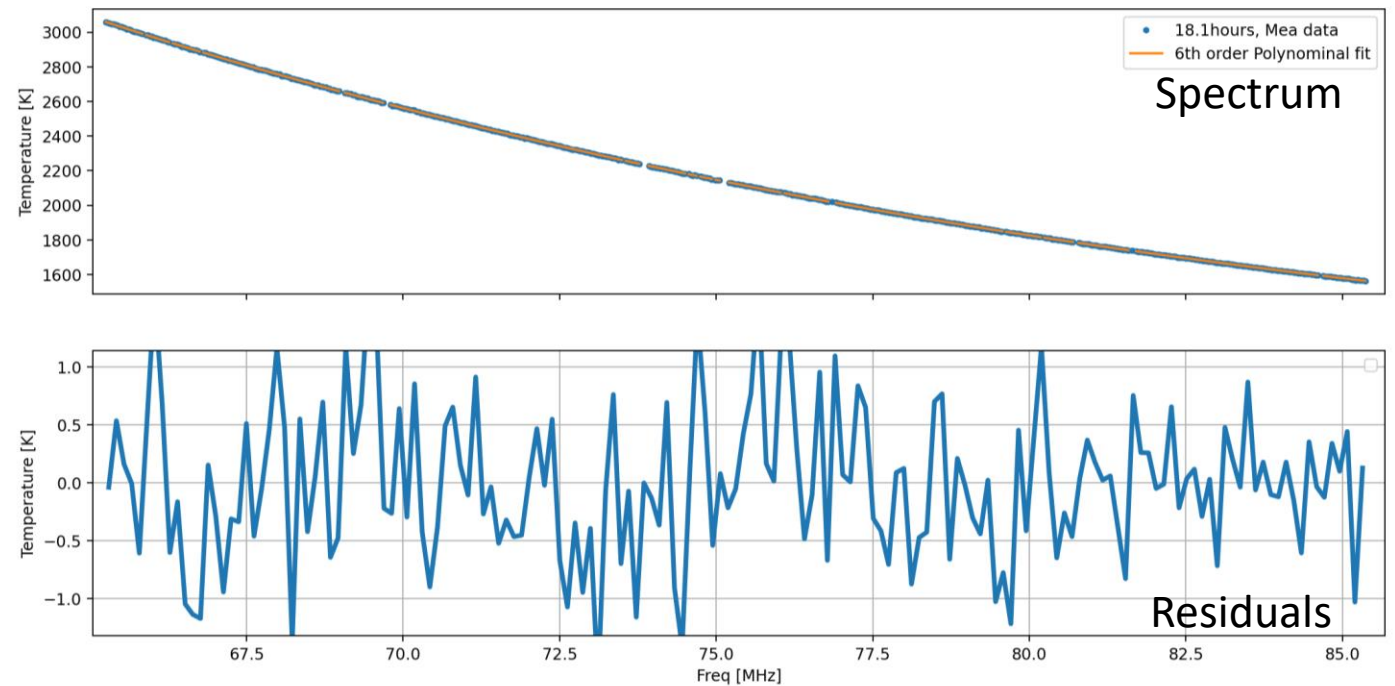
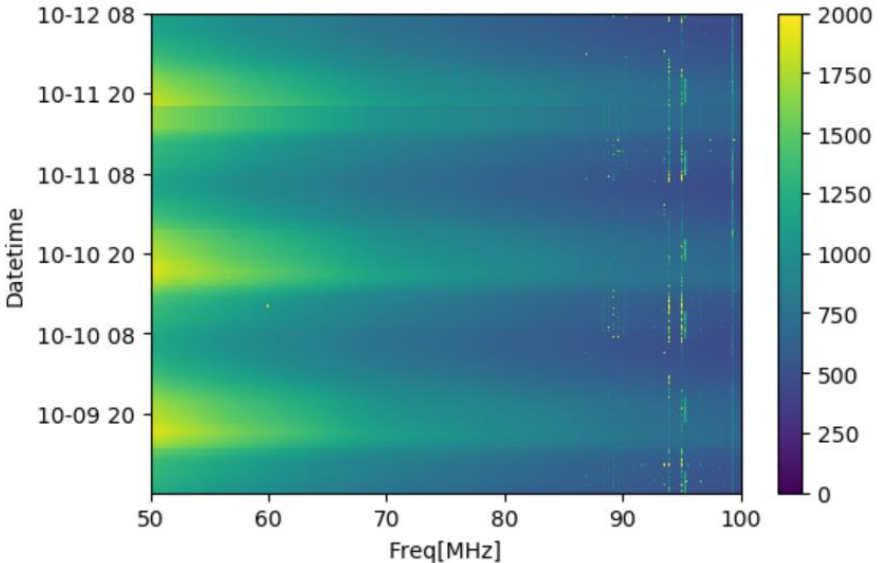


Shijie Sun with the solar panels



Field Test Result

Sky average spectrum (18 hr, RFI removed)



DSL Project Status

Chief Scientist: Xuelei Chen (NAOC)

Chief Engineer (payload): Jingye Yan (NSSC)

Satellite Platform: Xiaofeng Zhang (IAMC)

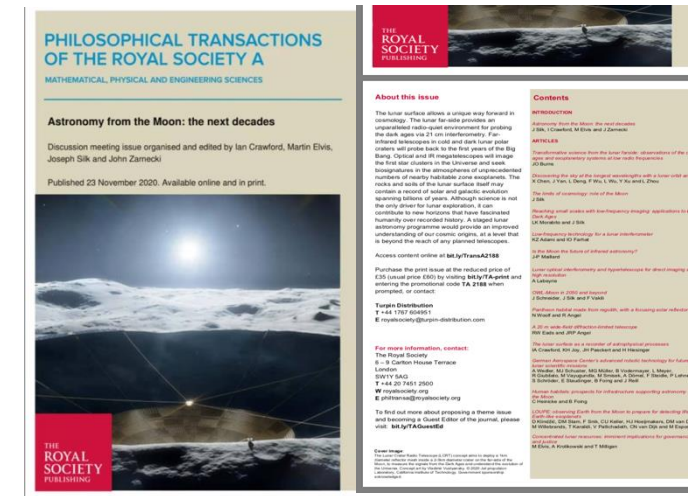
- **First proposed in 2015 as a China-Europe joint project**

- **Intensive Study (2018-2020) successfully completed**

- **Aiming for a mission launch in 2027**



X. Chen et al. arxiv:1907.10853



Chen et al., arxiv:2007.15794

Summary

first step
experiments with
 $10^0 \sim 10^1$ antennas

2020-2030

array with 10^2 antennas
to make astrophysical
observations

2030-2040

array with $10^3 \sim 10^4$
antennas on the farside,
detect primordial
fluctuations

2040-2050

