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University of Manchester



UK Research  
and Innovation

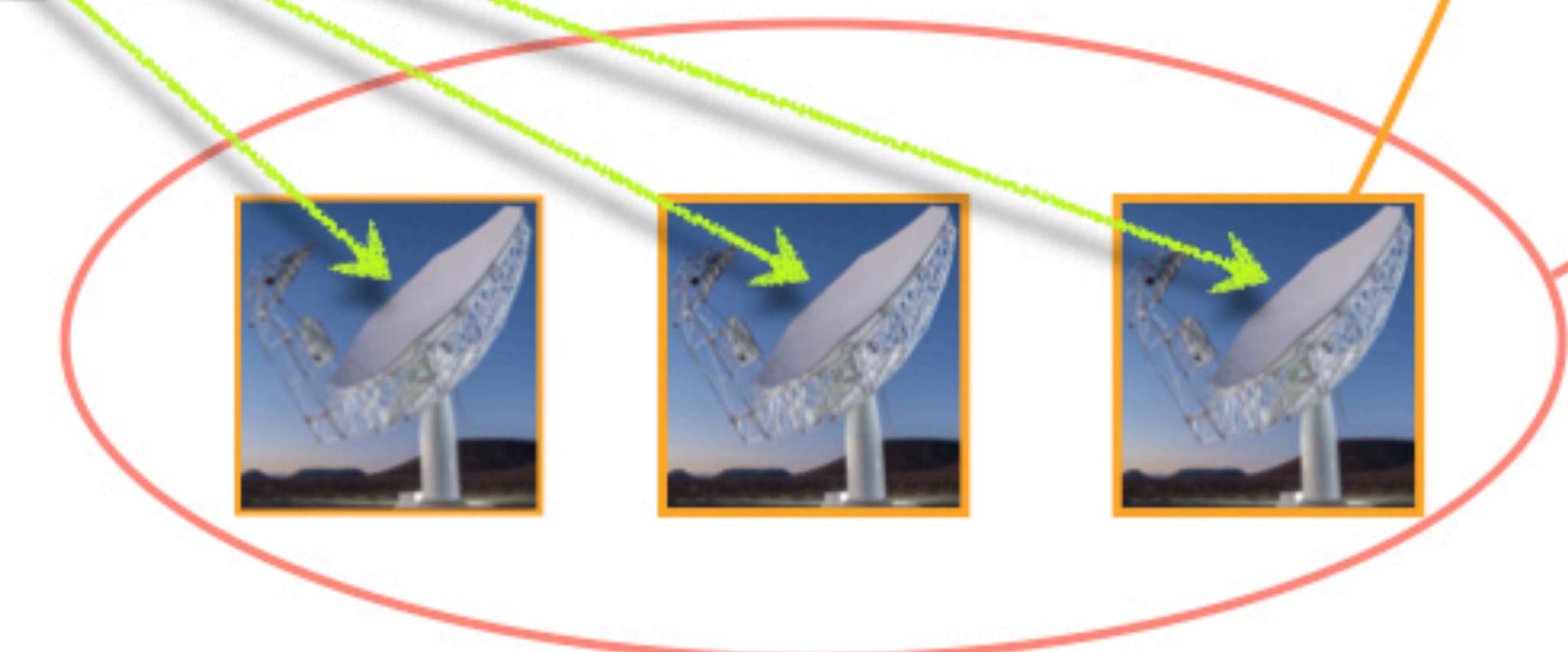
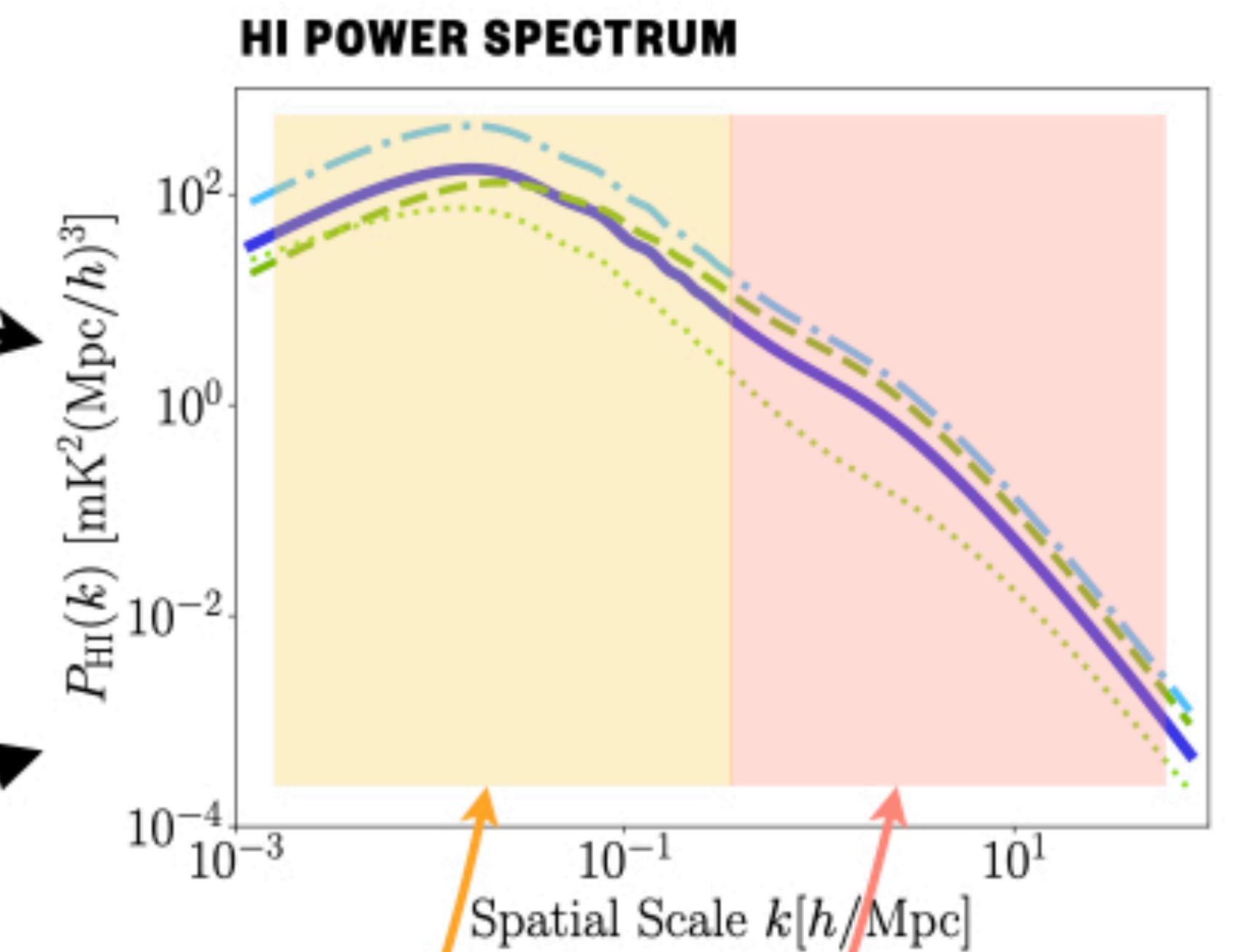
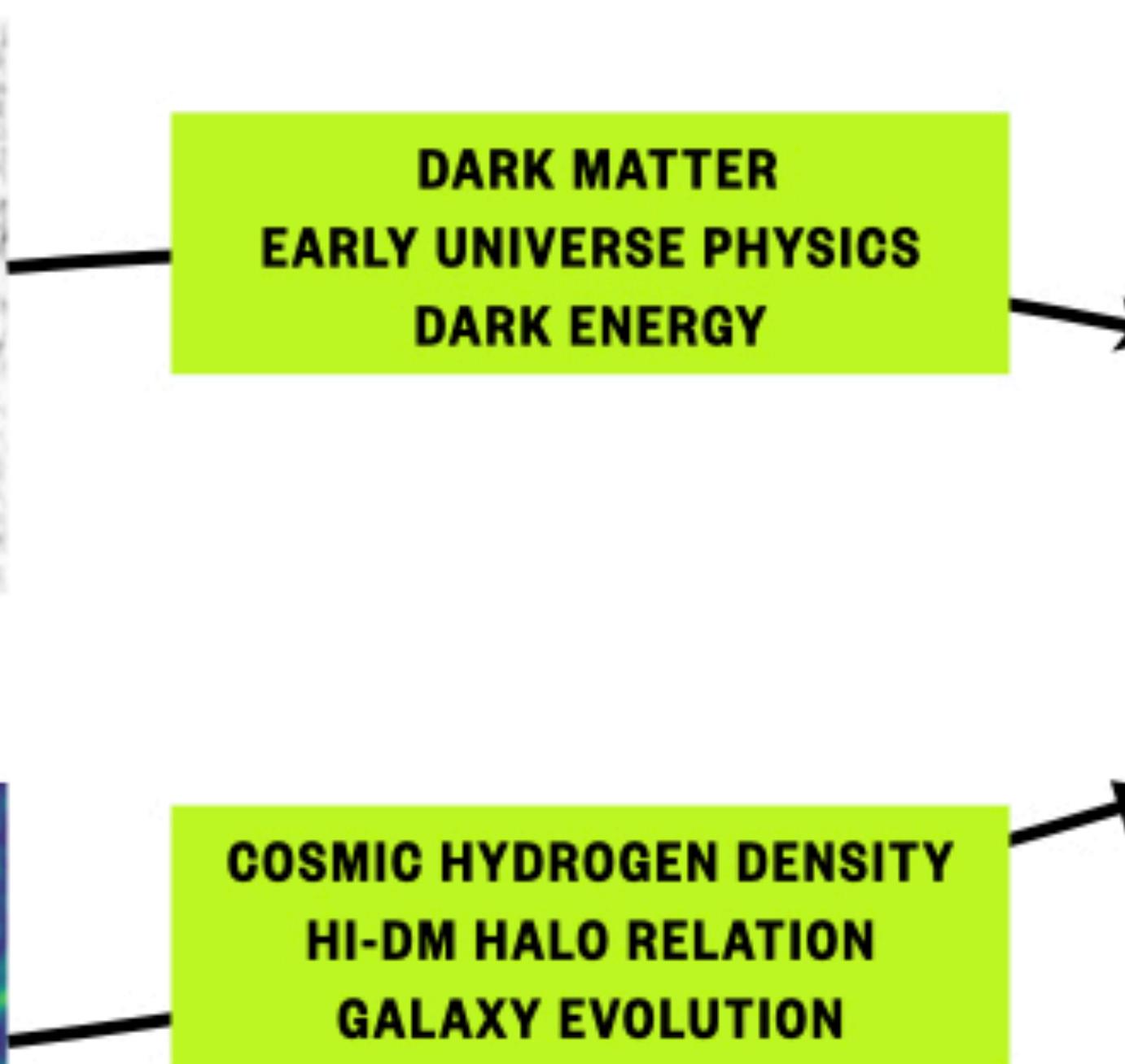
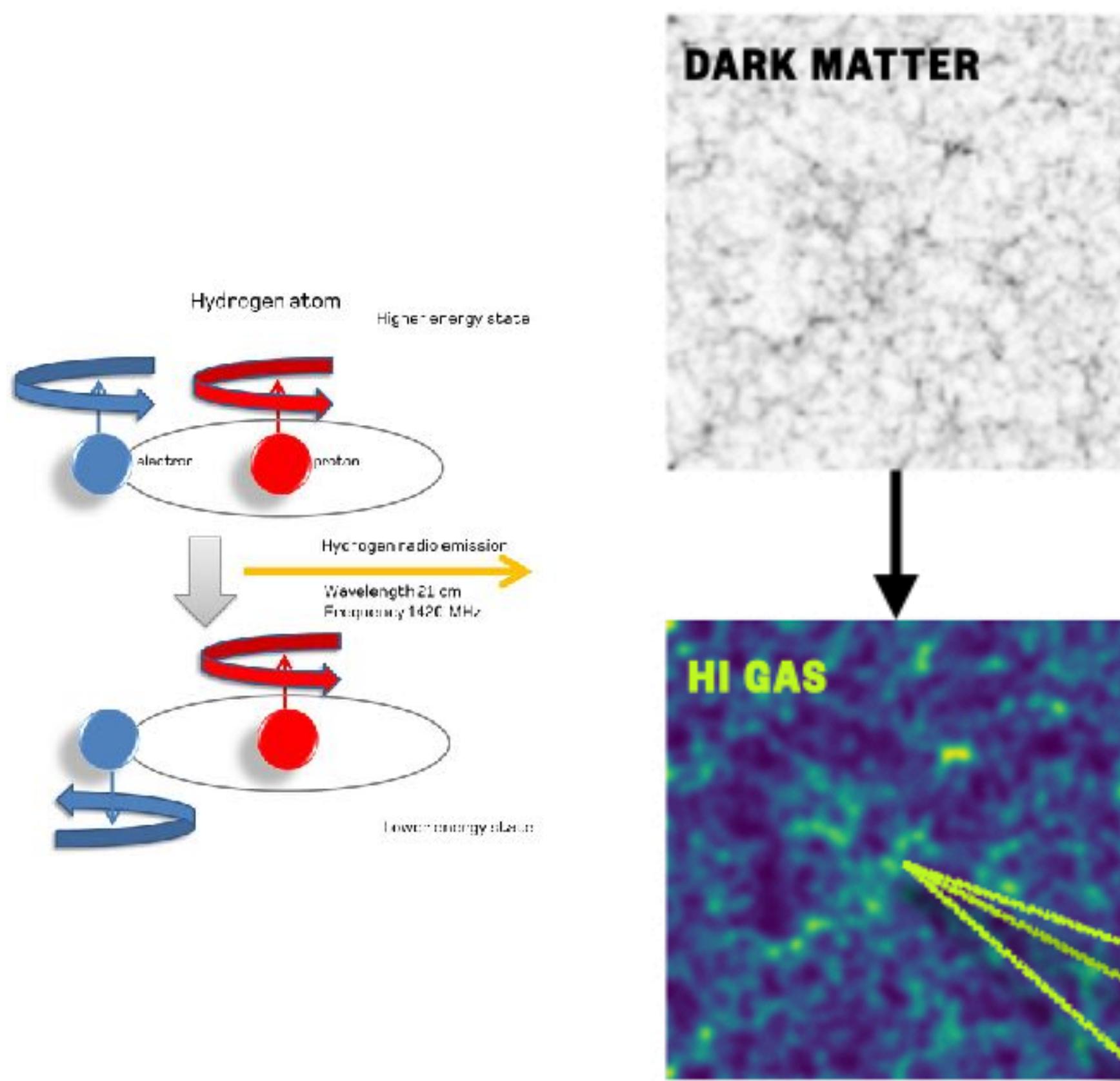


CENTRE FOR ASTROPHYSICS

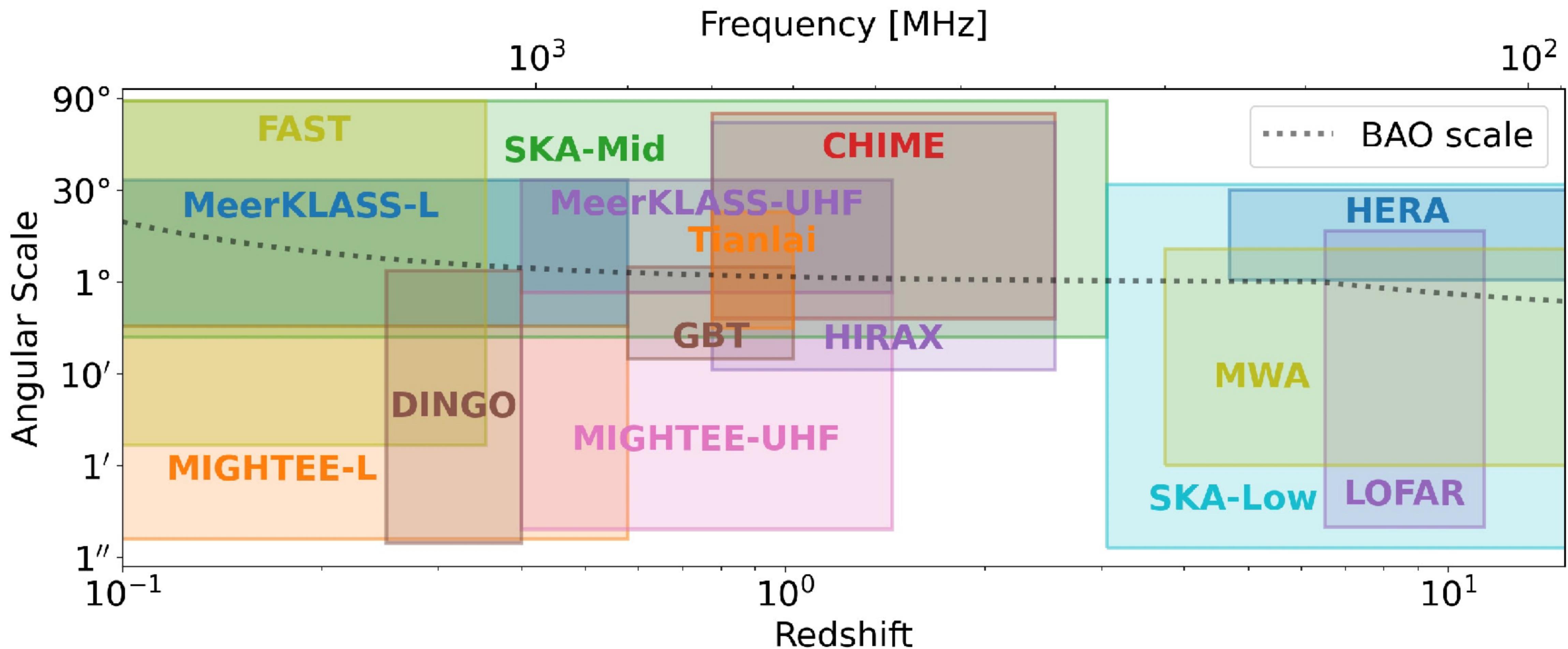
## PRECURSORS & PATHFINDERS PAVING THE WAY FOR THE SKA



# Low-redshift HI intensity mapping with single dish telescopes

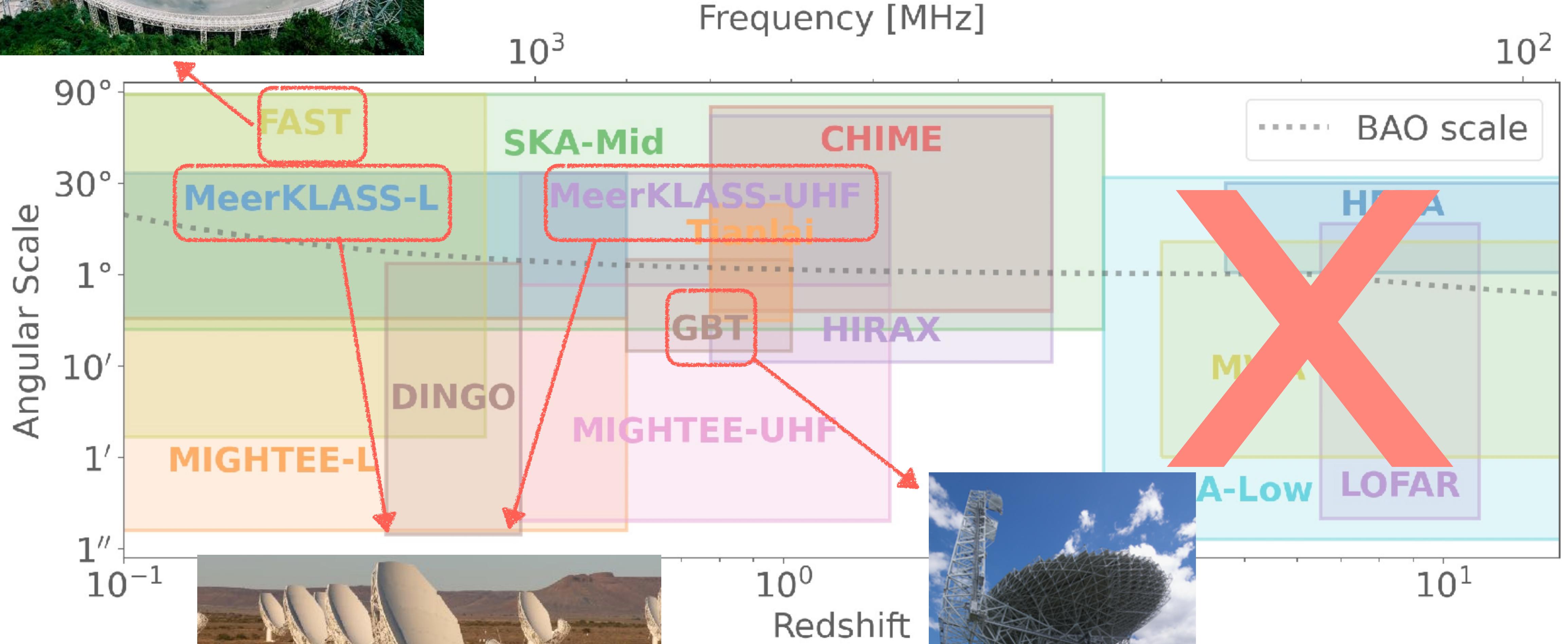


# Experiments



CAUTION: HIGHLY BIASED TOWARDS MEERKAT/SKA

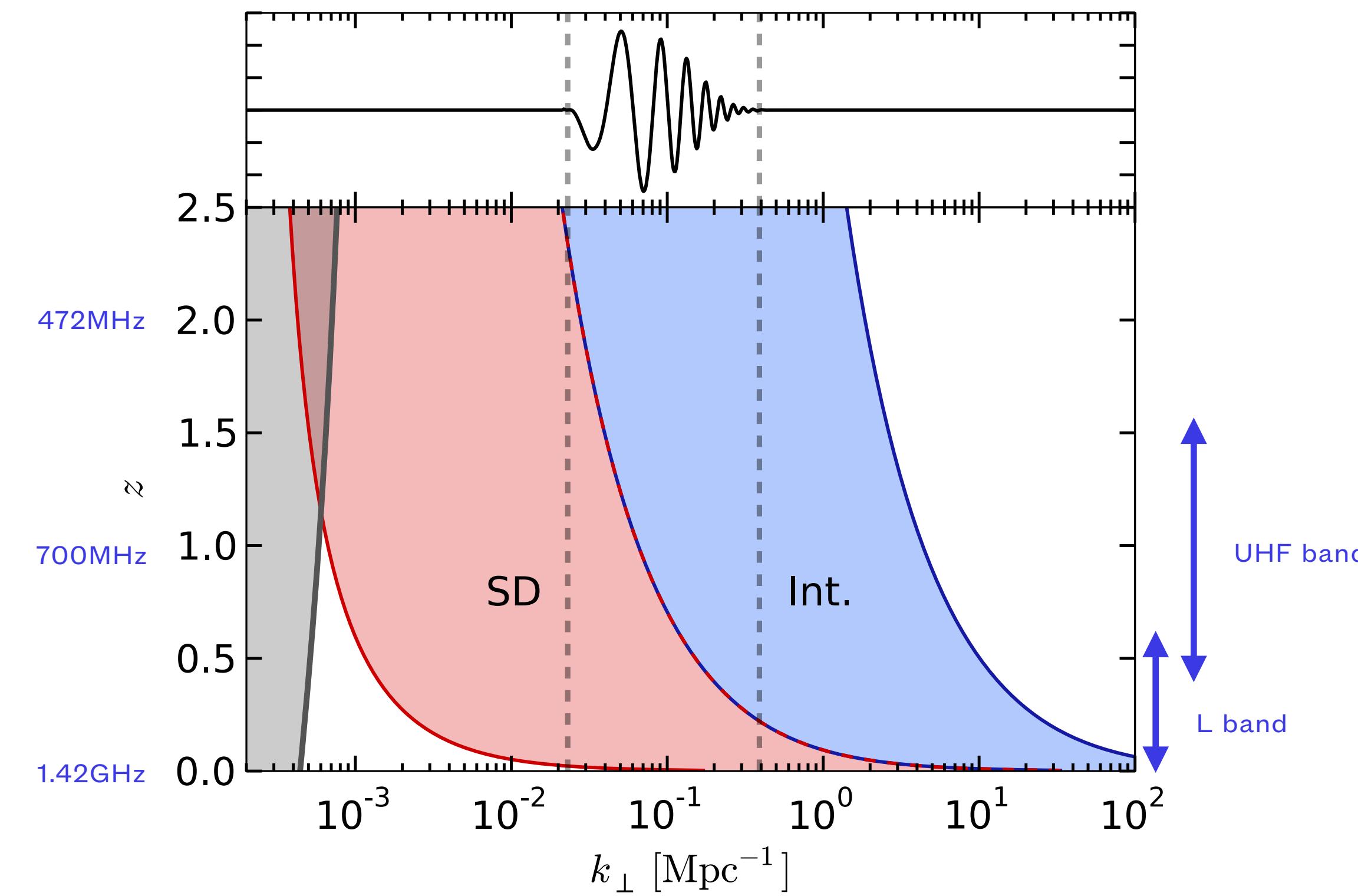
SOURCE: ZHAOTING CHEN



SOURCE: ZHAOTING CHEN

# Single Dish Intensity Mapping

- **Low angular resolution** between of order of degree (SKA) or to arcmin (FAST)
- **Foregrounds contaminate** the small line-of-sight modes
- Foregrounds usually removed via blind decomposition method in image space
- **High frequency resolution** means high resolution in line-sight-modes
- Ability to resolve BAO scales is redshift dependent!



SOURCE: PHIL BULL

# Science Case

## Dark Energy and Dark Matter via

- Baryon Acoustic Scale detection
- Large-scale clustering via Power Spectrum
- Higher-order clustering statistics
- Redshift Space Distortions
- Non-Gaussianity via Ultra-Large Scales
- Synergies with other surveys

## Unique strengths

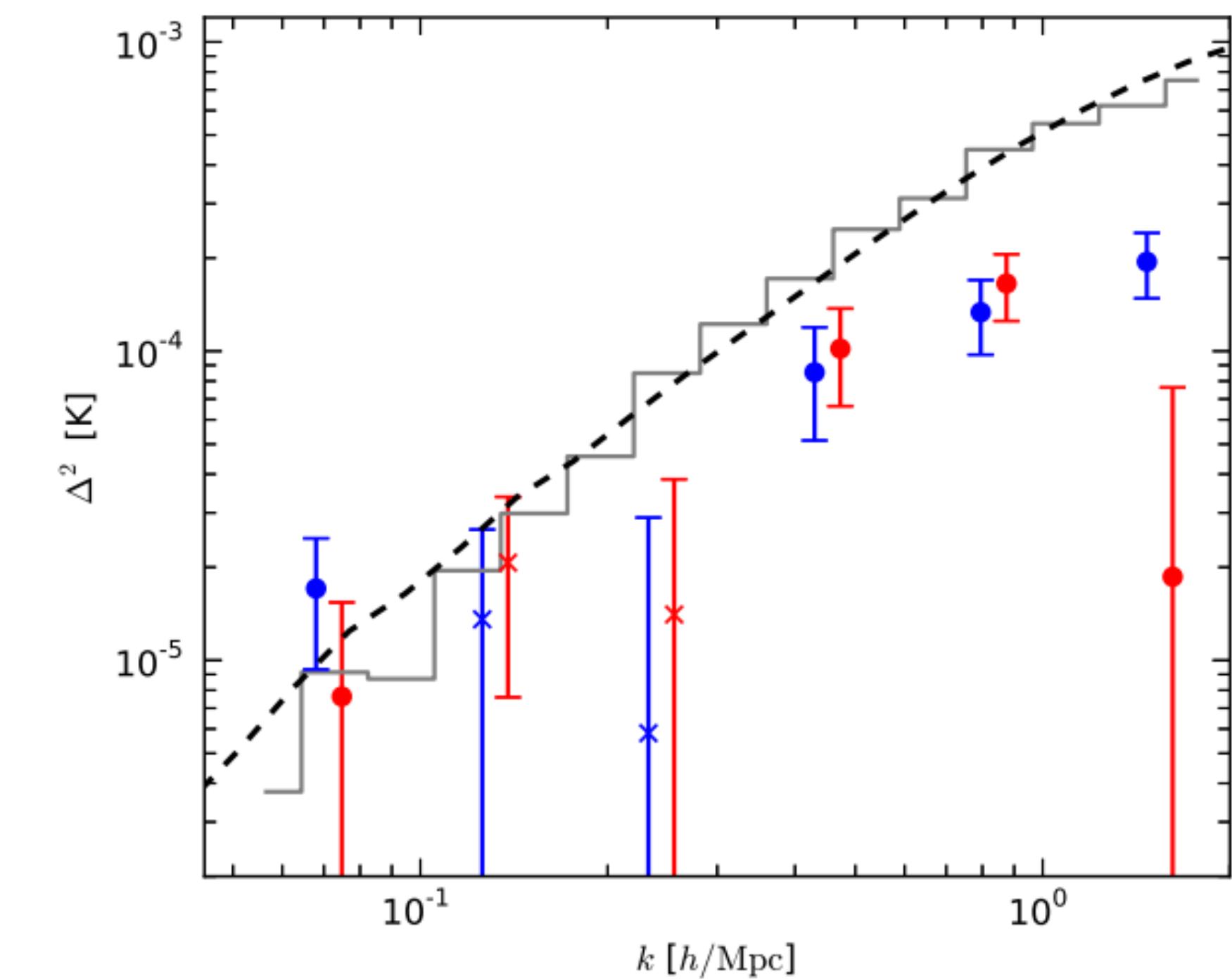
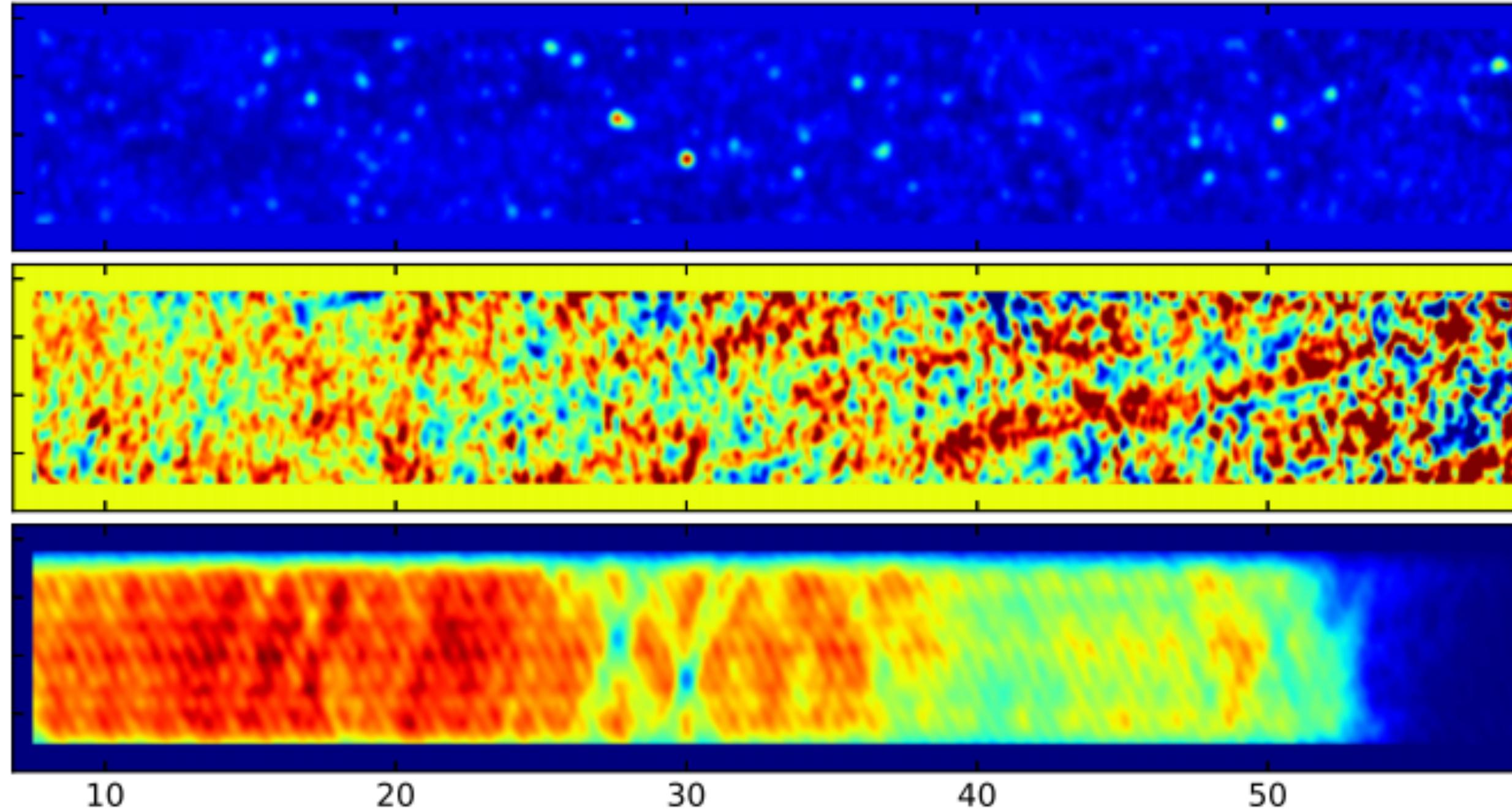
- *H I gas as new tracer*
- Continuous redshift coverage
- High redshift resolution
- Fast cover of large sky areas
- Synergies can beat errors

## H I Science

# Challenges

- **Receiver Noise** amplitude comparable to signal  
Isotropic, 1/f noise can be removed, manageable in power spectrum space  
(Harper+2017, Li+2020)
- **Instrumental errors** calibration uncertainties, receiver effects, standing waves, beam sidelobes, pointing errors, polarization leakage  
Simulations of instrument response  
(Wang+2020, Cunningham+2020, Matshawule+2020, SKA Foreground challenge Spinelli+2022)
- **RFI** contaminates in spatial and frequency space  
Go to the desert, stay away from satellites (Harper+2019, Engelbrecht+24)
- **Foreground contaminations** Galactic emission and extra-Galactic point sources  
Avoidance and removal strategies  
(Wolz+2014, Alonso+2015, Carucci+2020, Soares+2021, Irfan&Bull21)

# Parkes telescope detection

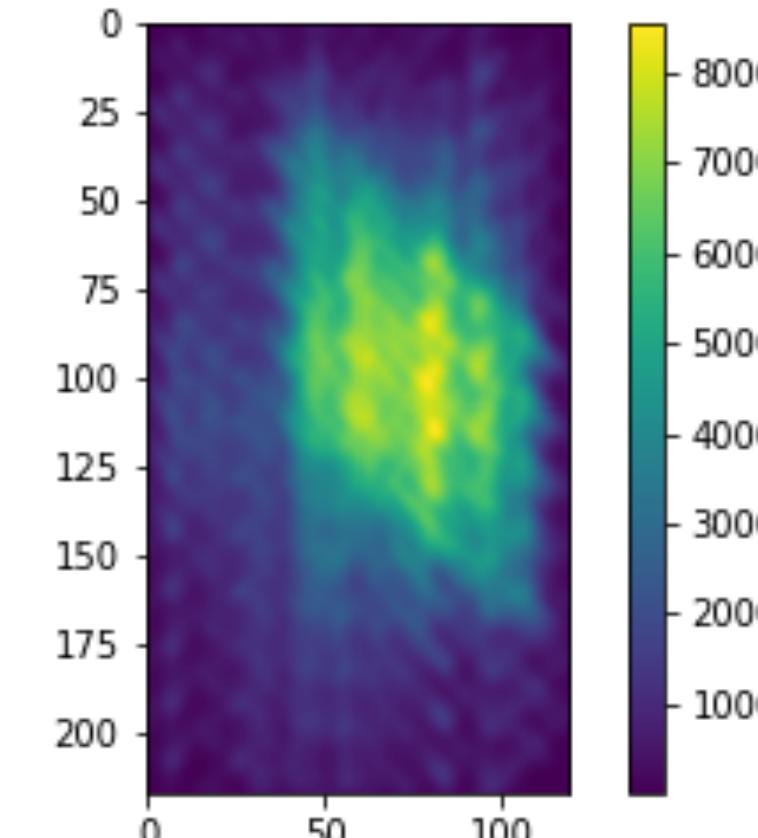
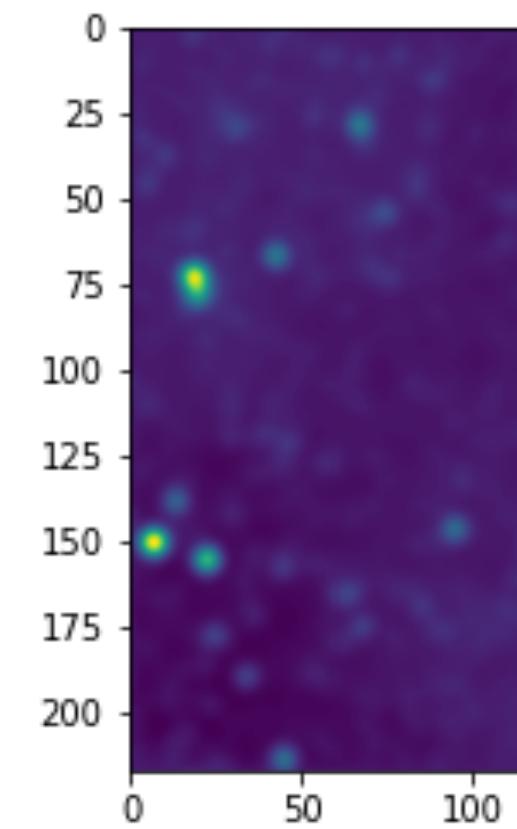


**1,300sqdeg -  $0.057 < z < 0.098$  - 152hrs with 13beams**

# Green Bank Telescope Data

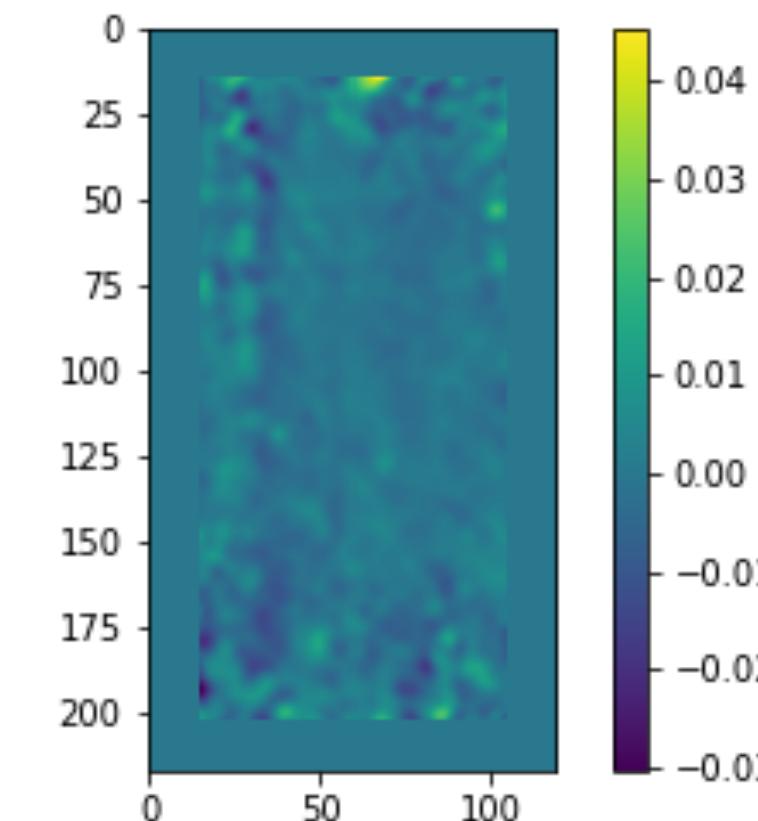
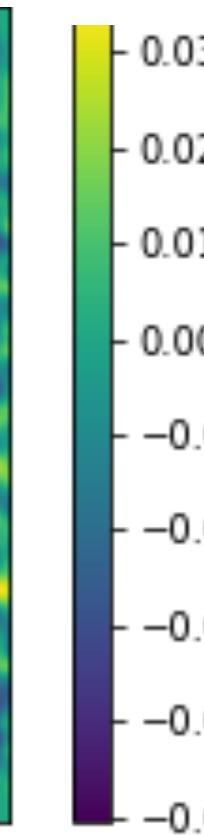
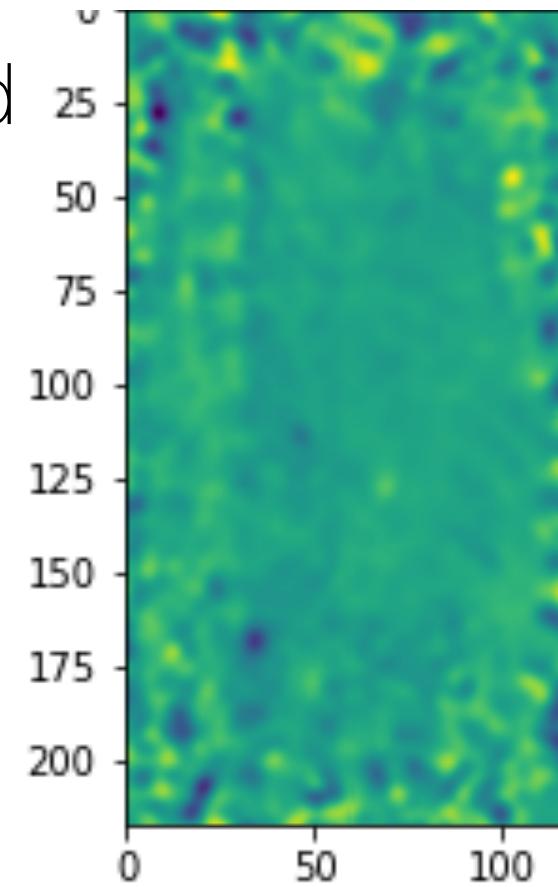


Data

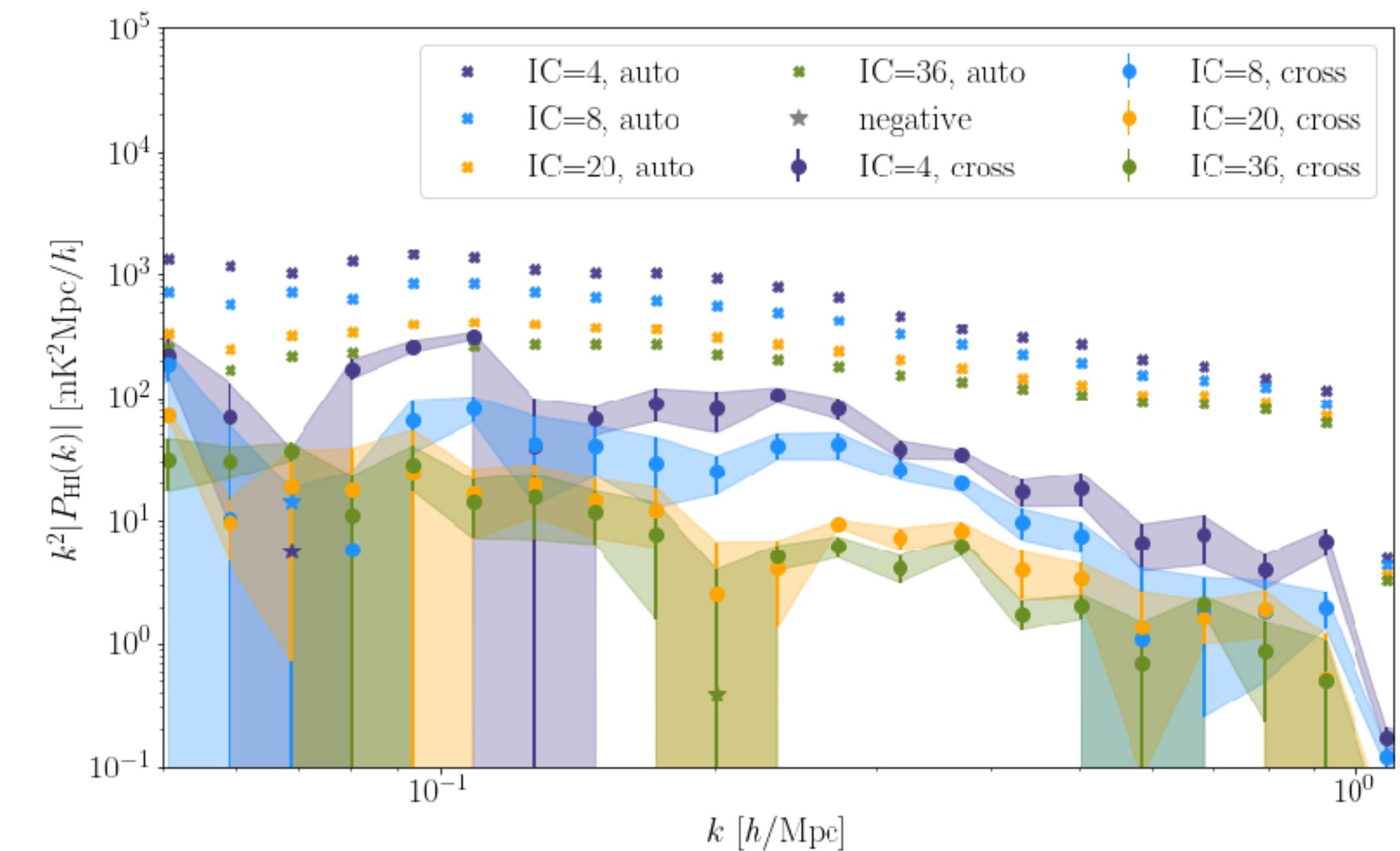


Inverse noise

Cleaned



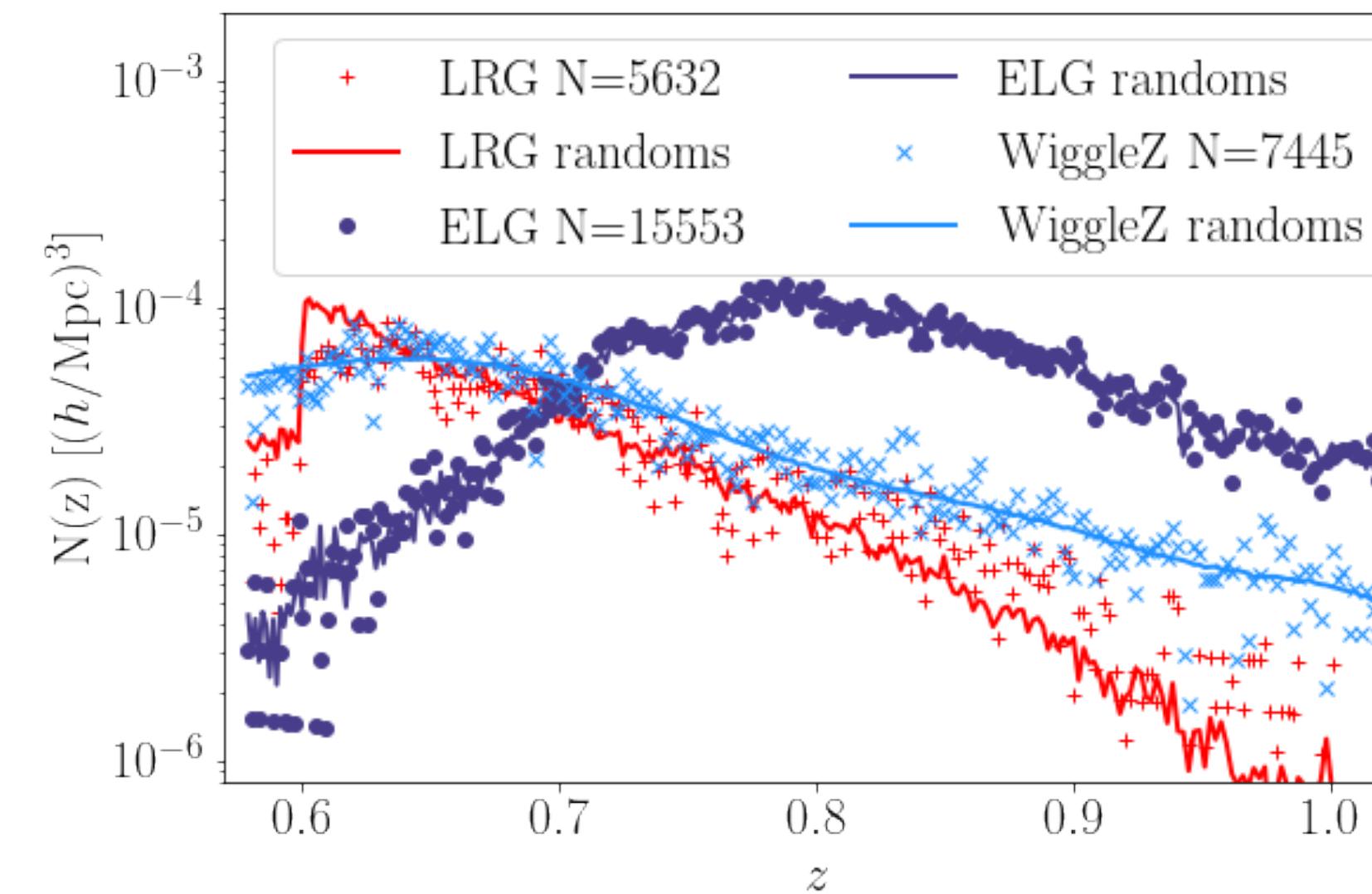
Cleaned



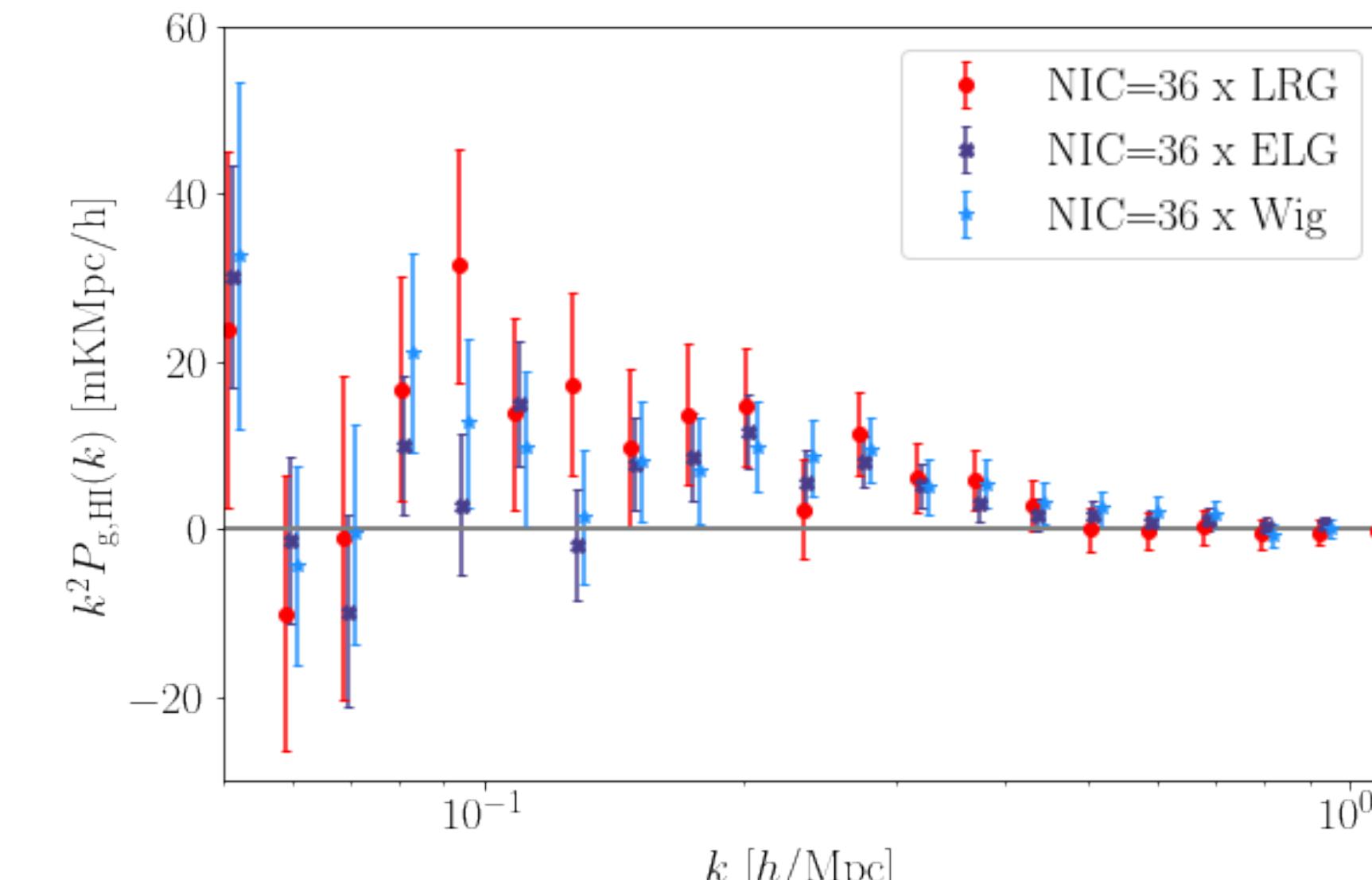
**100sqdeg - 0.6<z<1.0 - 100hrs**

Masui+2013, Switzer+2013, Wolz+22 2102.04946

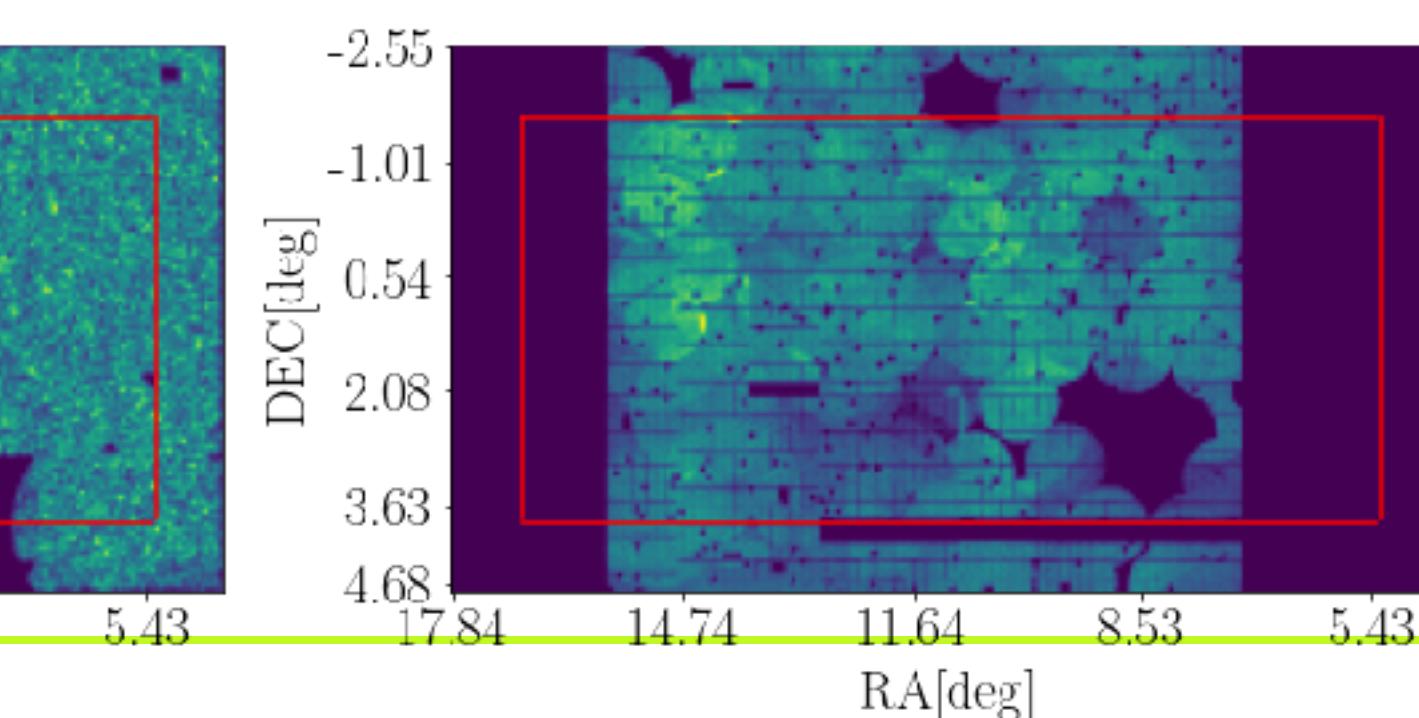
# GBT cross galaxy detections



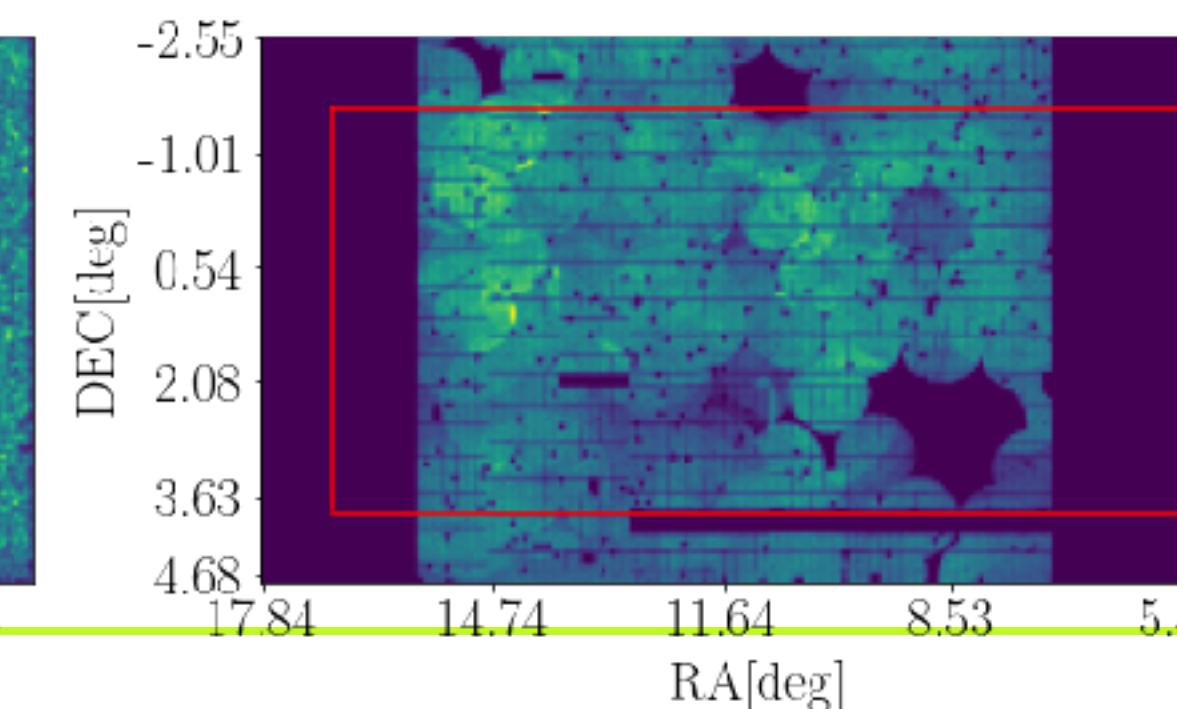
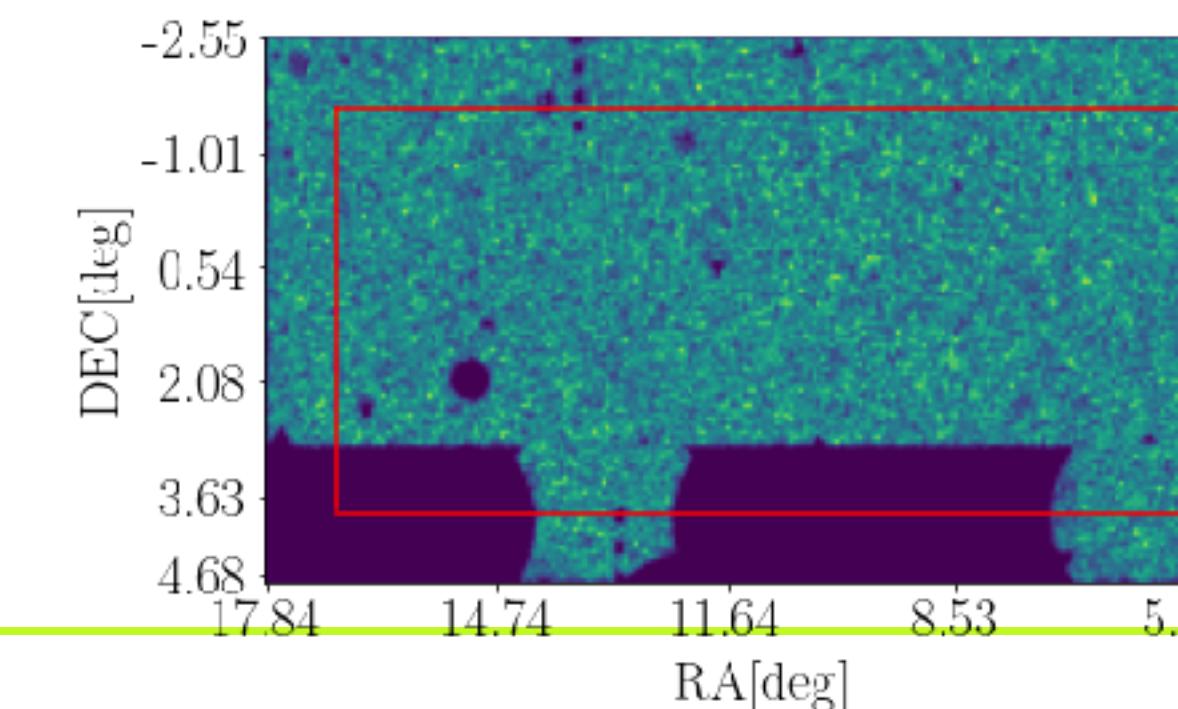
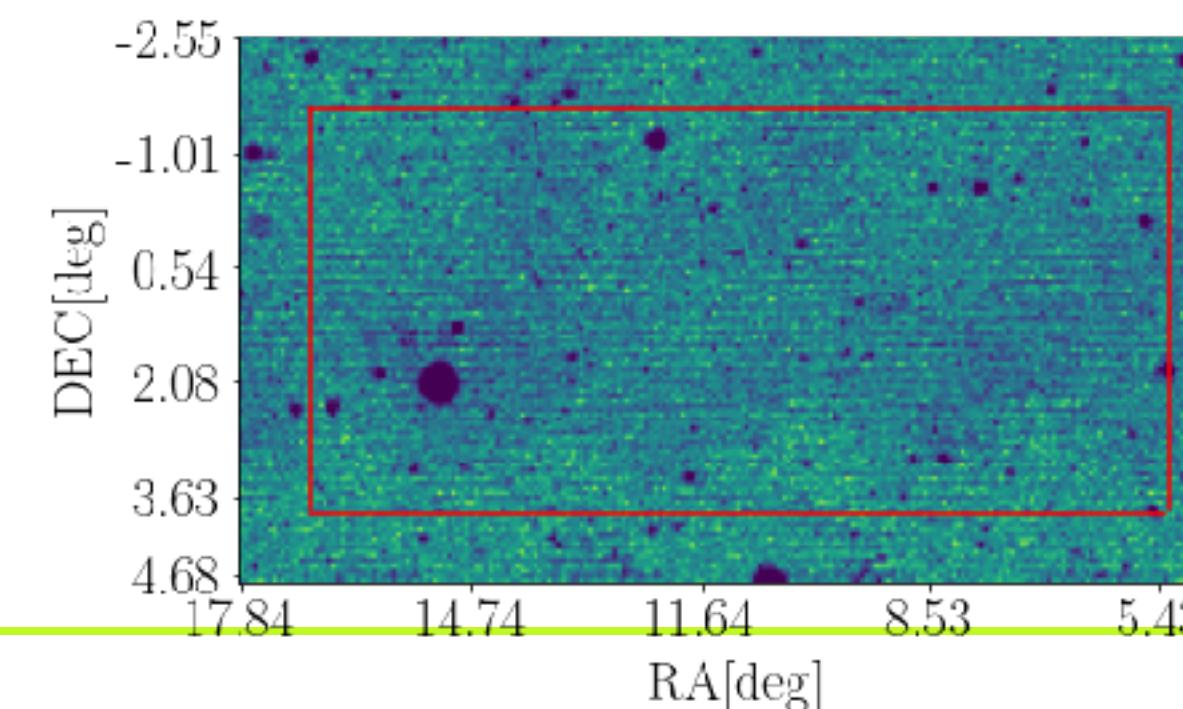
**ELG**



**LRG**

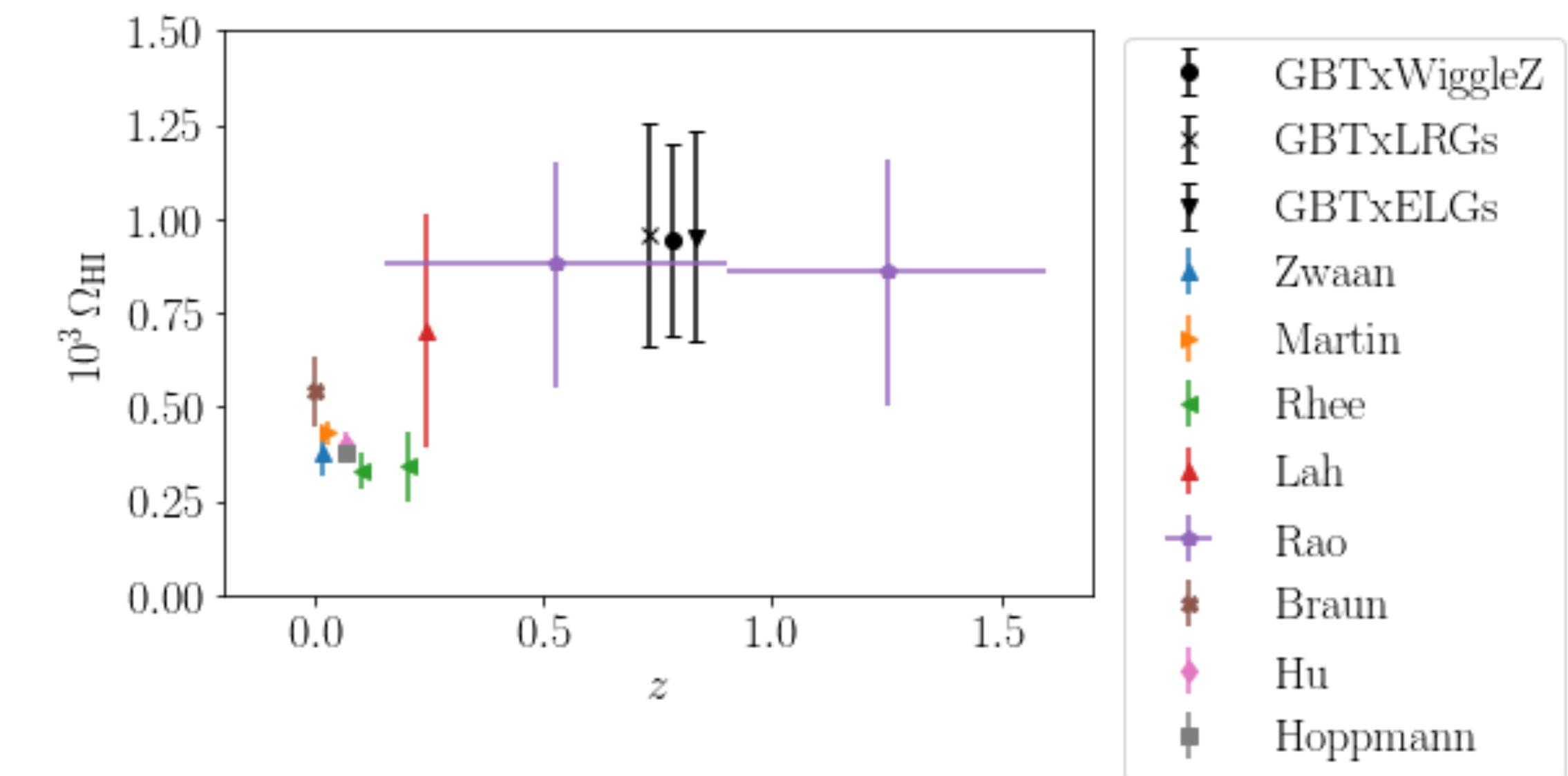


**WiggleZ**

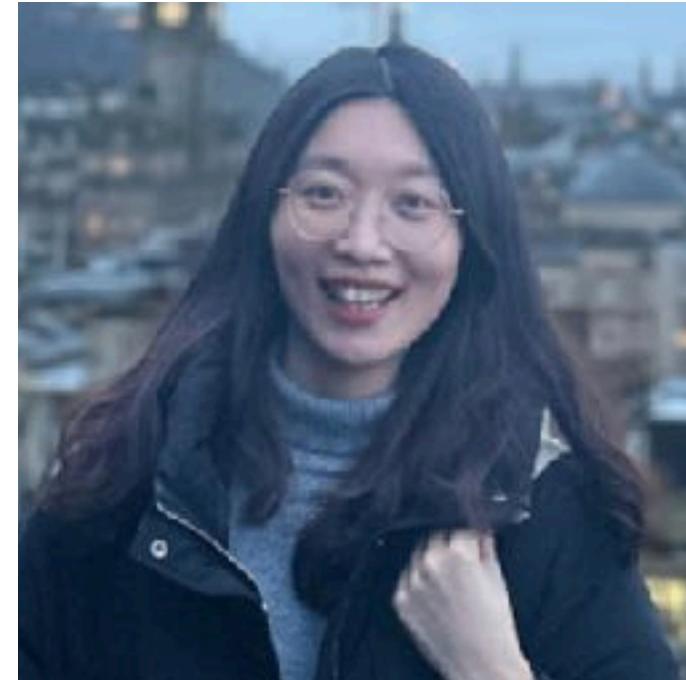


# Constrain HI density via $\Omega_{\text{HI}} b_{\text{HI}} r_{\text{HI-gal}}$

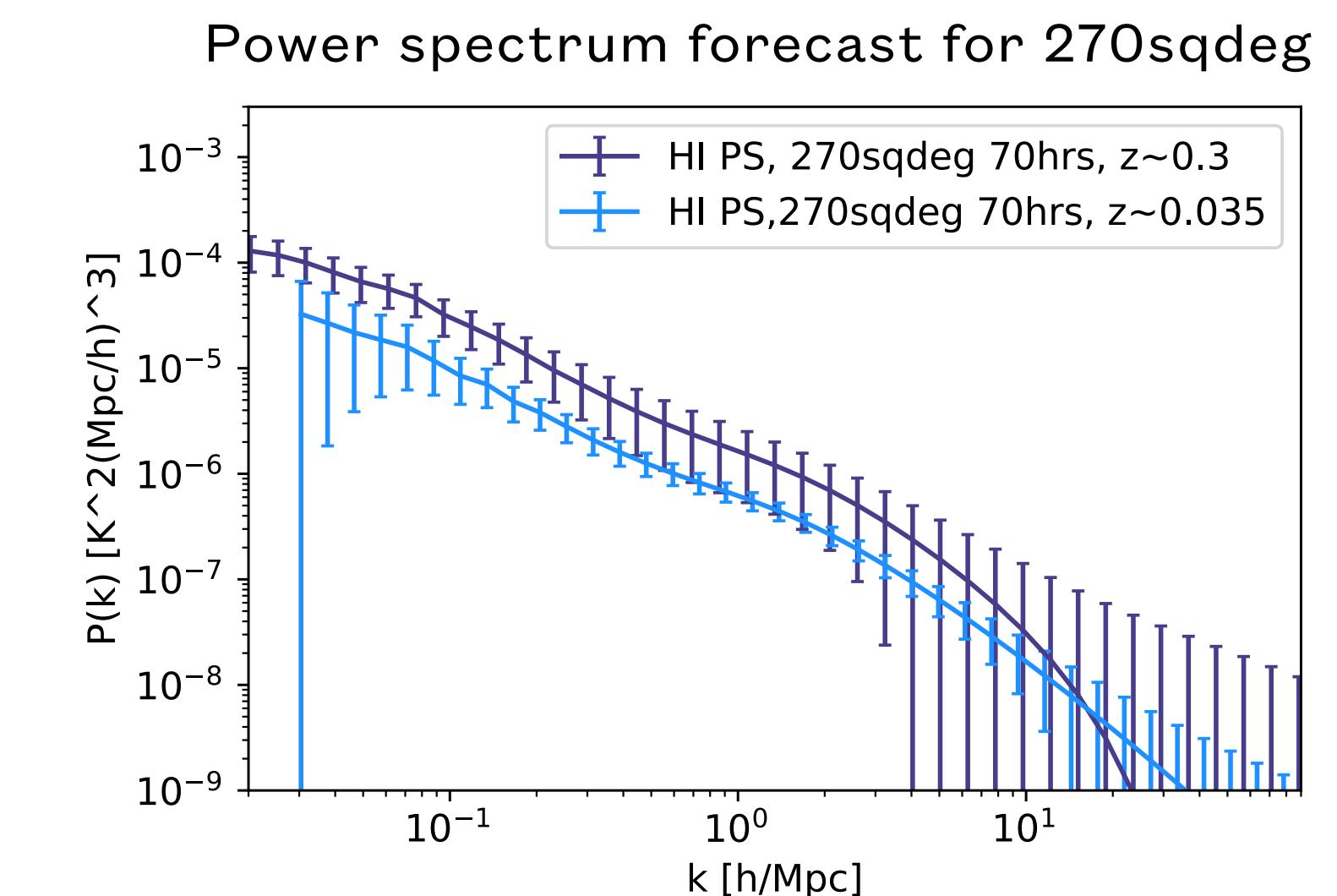
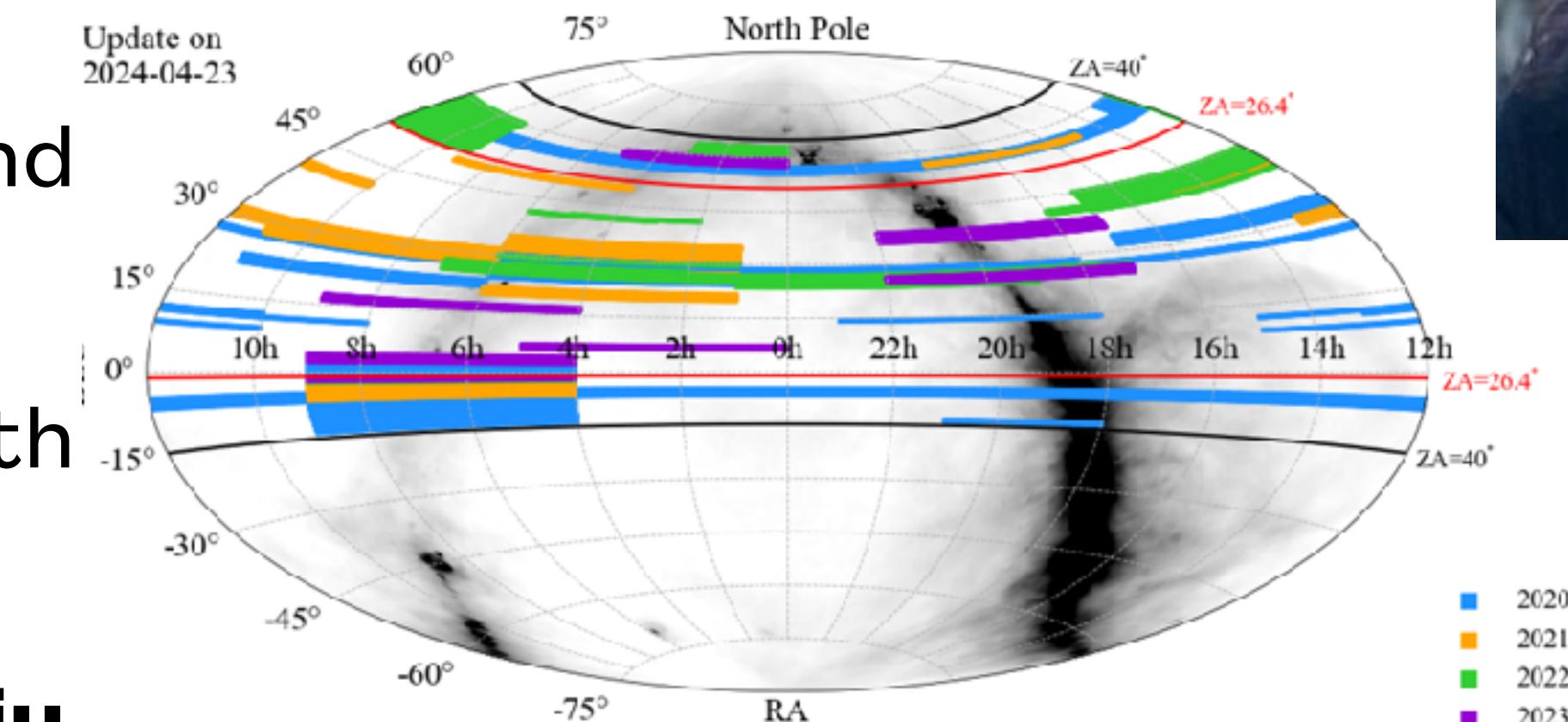
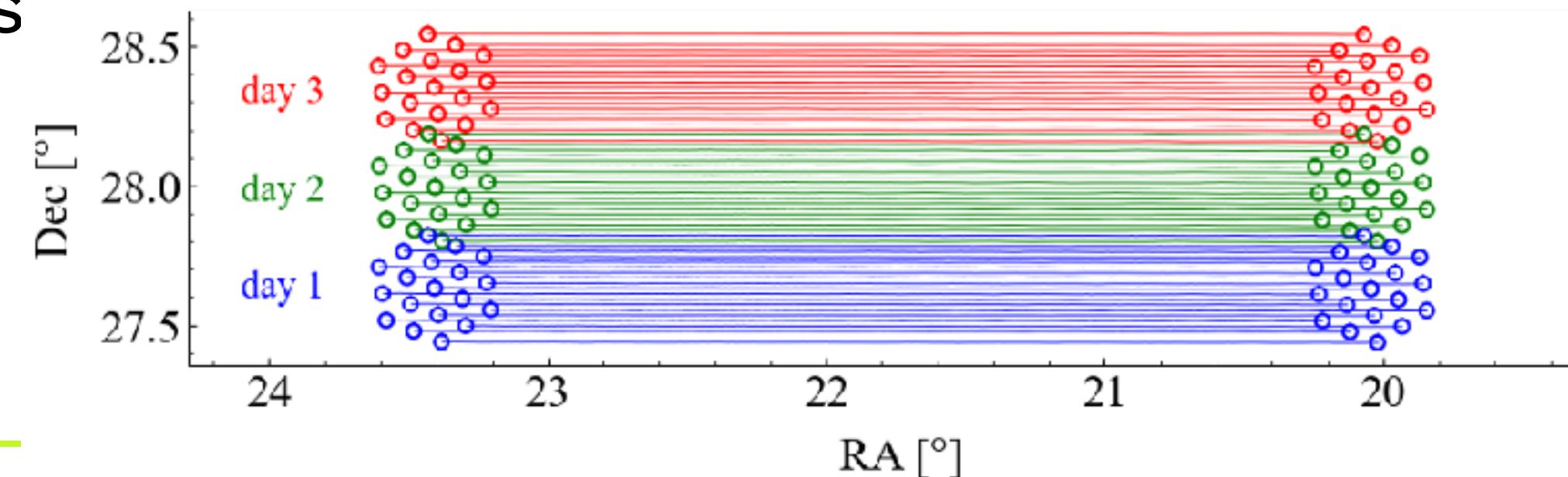
	GBTxWiggleZ	GBTxELGs	GBTxLRGs	$k_{\text{eff}} [h/\text{Mpc}]$
<b>Case I [<math>k &lt; 0.8 h/\text{Mpc}</math>]</b>				
NIC=20:	$0.35 \pm 0.09$	$0.20 \pm 0.06$	$0.12 \pm 0.06$	-
NIC=36:	$0.38 \pm 0.08 (4.4\sigma)$	$0.26 \pm 0.06 (4.5\sigma)$	$0.16 \pm 0.06 (2.9\sigma)$	0.48
<b>Case II [<math>k &lt; 0.45 h/\text{Mpc}</math>]</b>				
NIC=20:	$0.53 \pm 0.12$	$0.36 \pm 0.09$	$0.28 \pm 0.09$	-
NIC=36:	$0.58 \pm 0.09 (4.8\sigma)$	$0.40 \pm 0.09 (4.9\sigma)$	$0.35 \pm 0.08 (4.4\sigma)$	0.31
<b>Case III [<math>k &lt; 0.35 h/\text{Mpc}</math>]</b>				
NIC=20:	$0.58 \pm 0.17$	$0.48 \pm 0.12$	$0.38 \pm 0.12$	-
NIC=36:	$0.70 \pm 0.12 (4.4\sigma)$	$0.55 \pm 0.11 (5\sigma)$	$0.45 \pm 0.10 (4.2\sigma)$	0.24



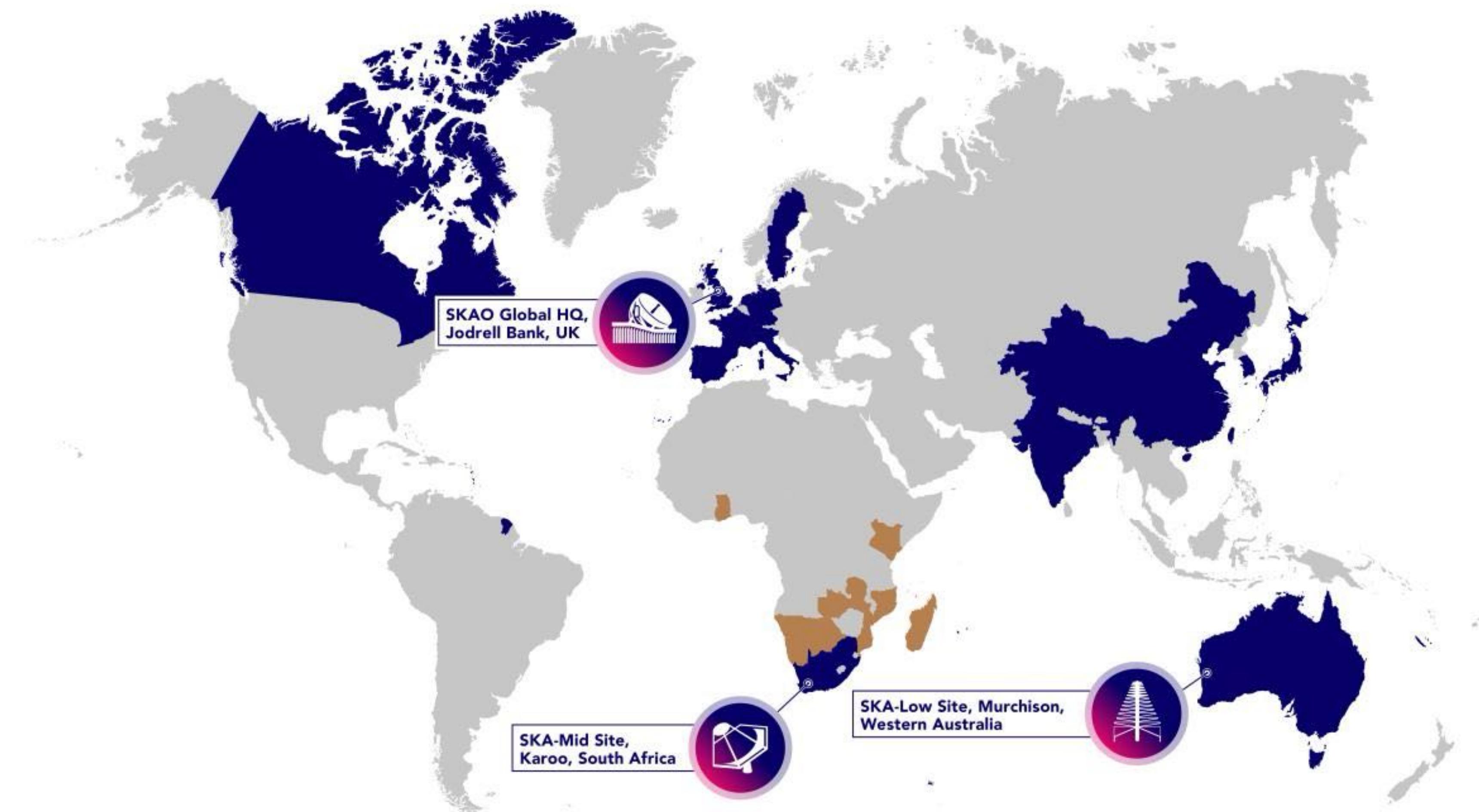
# FAST HI Intensity Mapping



- FAST HI IM Pilot (Yichao Li incl LW+23) with L-band 19 beam receiver: 28hrs data over 60sq deg
- CRAFTS survey (commensal transient survey) with high-temporal resolution
- CRAFTS HI IM efforts lead by PhD student **Wenxiu Yang**, National Astronomical Observatory of China/ visiting Manchester
- Calibration pipeline development and map quality tests



# MeerKAT and the SKA

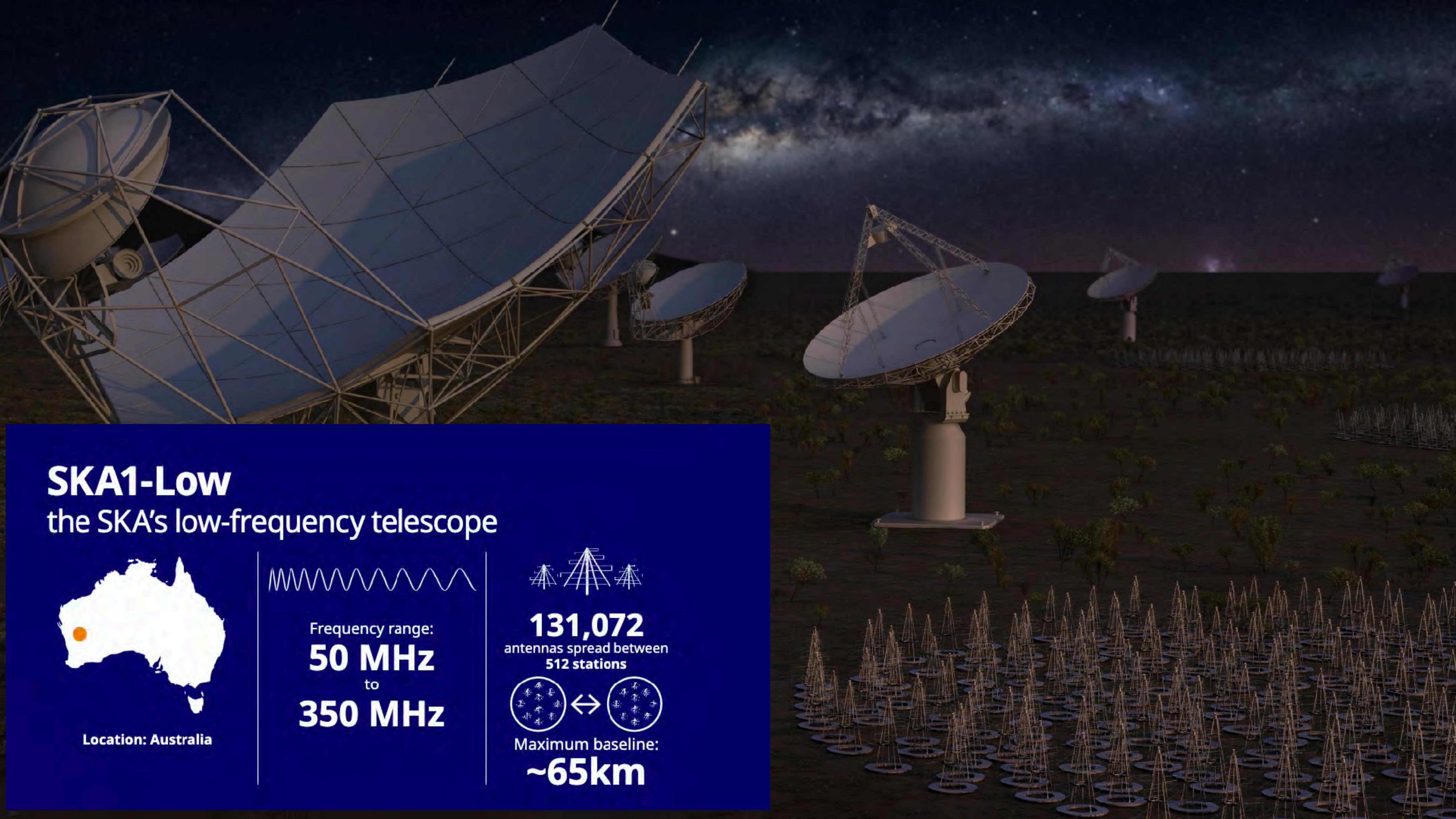


■ SKAO Partnership - includes SKAO Member States\* and SKAO Observers (as of June 2022)



■ African Partner Countries





# SKA1-Low

## the SKA's low-frequency telescope



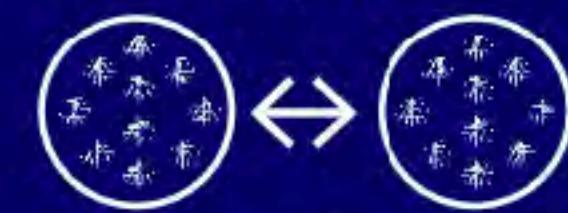
Location: Australia



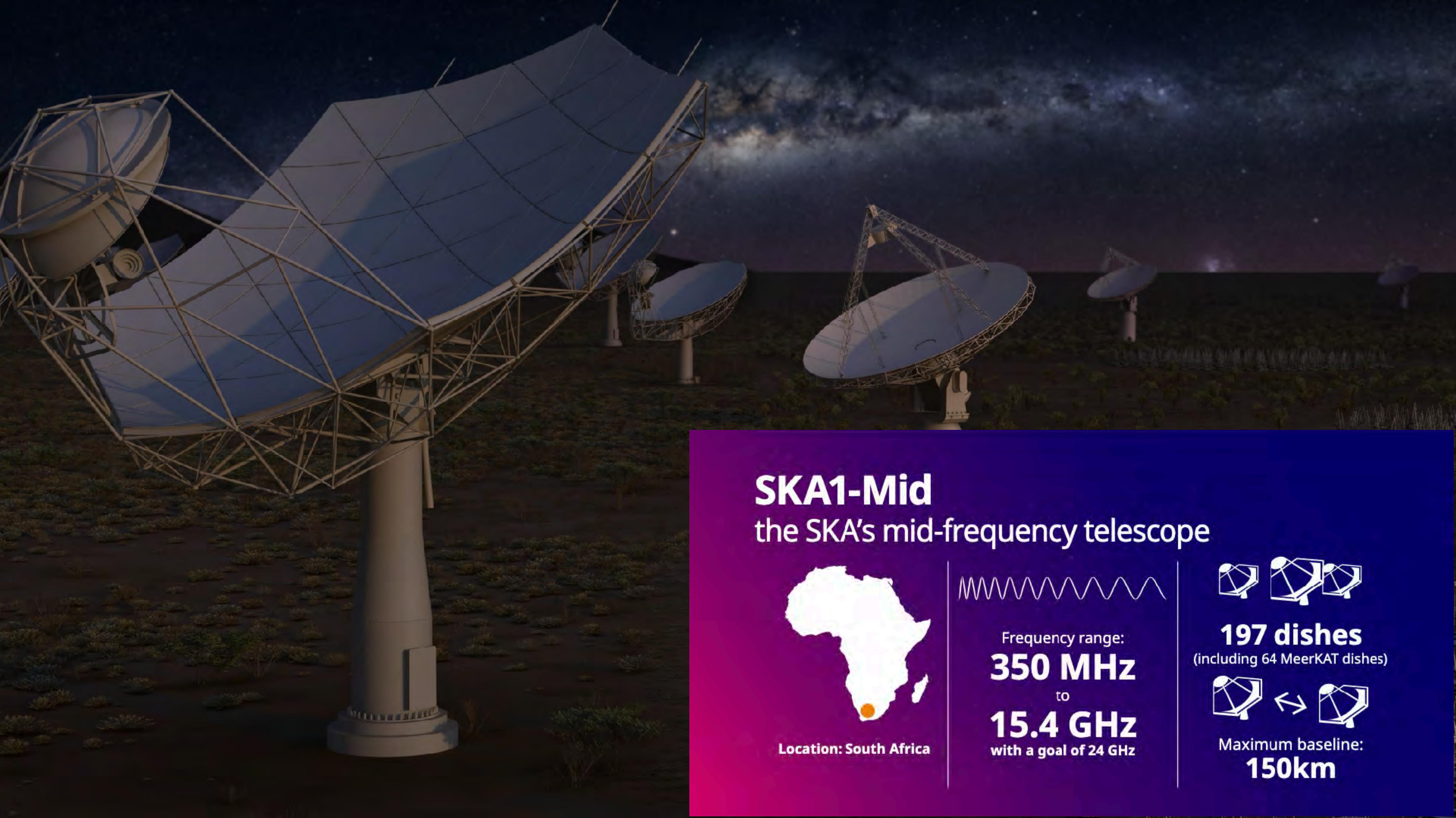
Frequency range:  
**50 MHz**  
to  
**350 MHz**



**131,072**  
antennas spread between  
512 stations



Maximum baseline:  
**~65km**

A photograph of the SKA1-Mid telescope array at night. The foreground shows several large white dish antennas mounted on tall metal towers, arranged in a grid pattern across a dark, grassy field. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous stars and a faint, glowing band of the Milky Way.

## SKA1-Mid

the SKA's mid-frequency telescope



Location: South Africa



Frequency range:

**350 MHz**

to

**15.4 GHz**

with a goal of 24 GHz



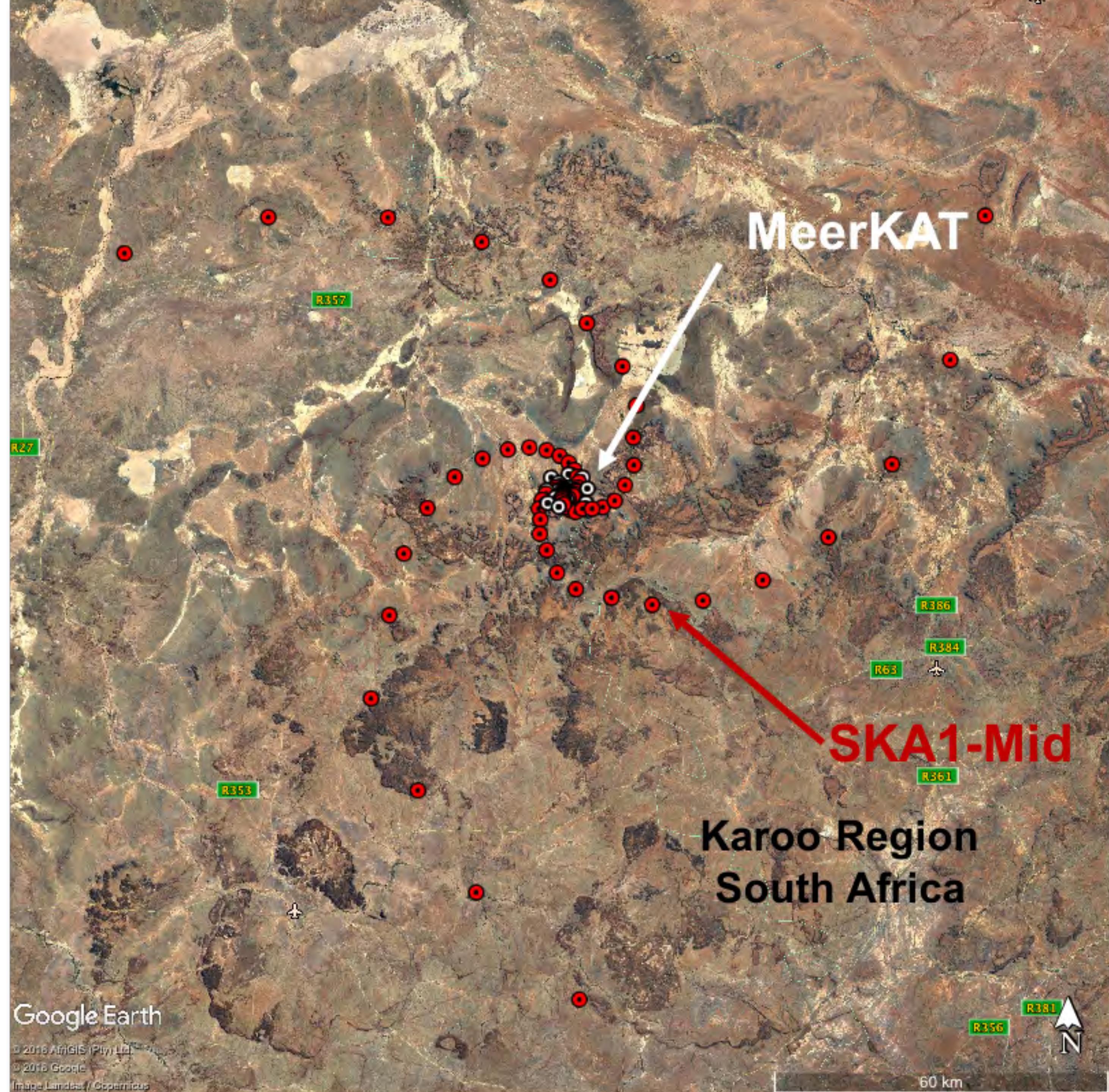
**197 dishes**

(including 64 MeerKAT dishes)



Maximum baseline:

**150km**





Number of antennas	64 (offset Gregorian)
Dish diameter (nominal)	13.5 m
Minimum baseline	29 m
Maximum baseline	7700 m
Array phase centre	30° 42' 39.8" South, 21° 26' 38.0" East, 1086.6 m Elevation
Frequency range (UHF)	580 - 1015 MHz [544 to 1088 MHz digitised]
Frequency range (L-band)	900 - 1670 MHz [856 to 1712 MHz digitised]

# From MeerKAT to SKA-MID

- SKAO plans a **staged delivery via array assemblies**
- MeerKAT has 64 13.5m dishes with maximum of 7.7km baseline (irrelevant for single dish...)
- There will be 20 more 15m so-called MeerKAT+dishes
- SKAO adds 64 15m dishes in the first stage, to form AA\* in 2028
- SKA1 will include further ~50 dishes; timeline tba
- *MeerKAT has a third of dishes compared to SKA1-Mid*

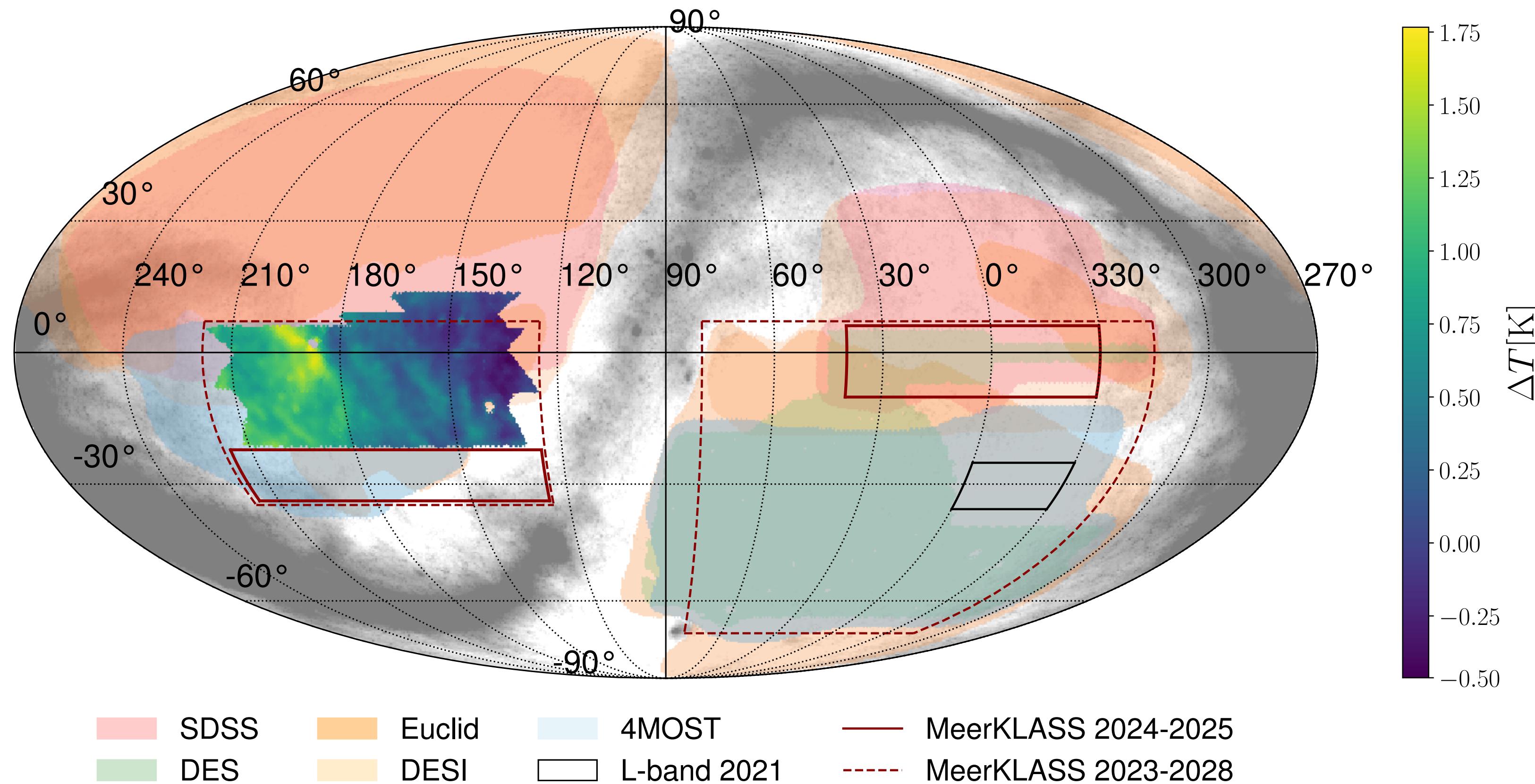
Milestones	Mid (end-date)
AA0.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 Mid dishes</li><li>• 6 Low stations</li></ul>	2025 May
AA1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 Mid dishes</li><li>• 18 Low stations</li></ul>	2026 Apr
AA2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 64 Mid dishes</li><li>• 64 Low stations</li></ul>	2027 Mar
AA* (staged delivery plan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 144 Mid dishes</li><li>• 307 Low stations</li></ul>	2027 Dec
Operations Readiness Review	2028 Apr

# MeerKLASS - MeerKAT Large Area Synoptic Survey



PI M. SANTOS; WP LEADERS: CALIBRATION - J. WANG, W. HU, POWER SPECTRUM - S. CUNNINGTON, I. CARUCCI, SIMULATIONS - Z. FONSECA, M. SPINELLI

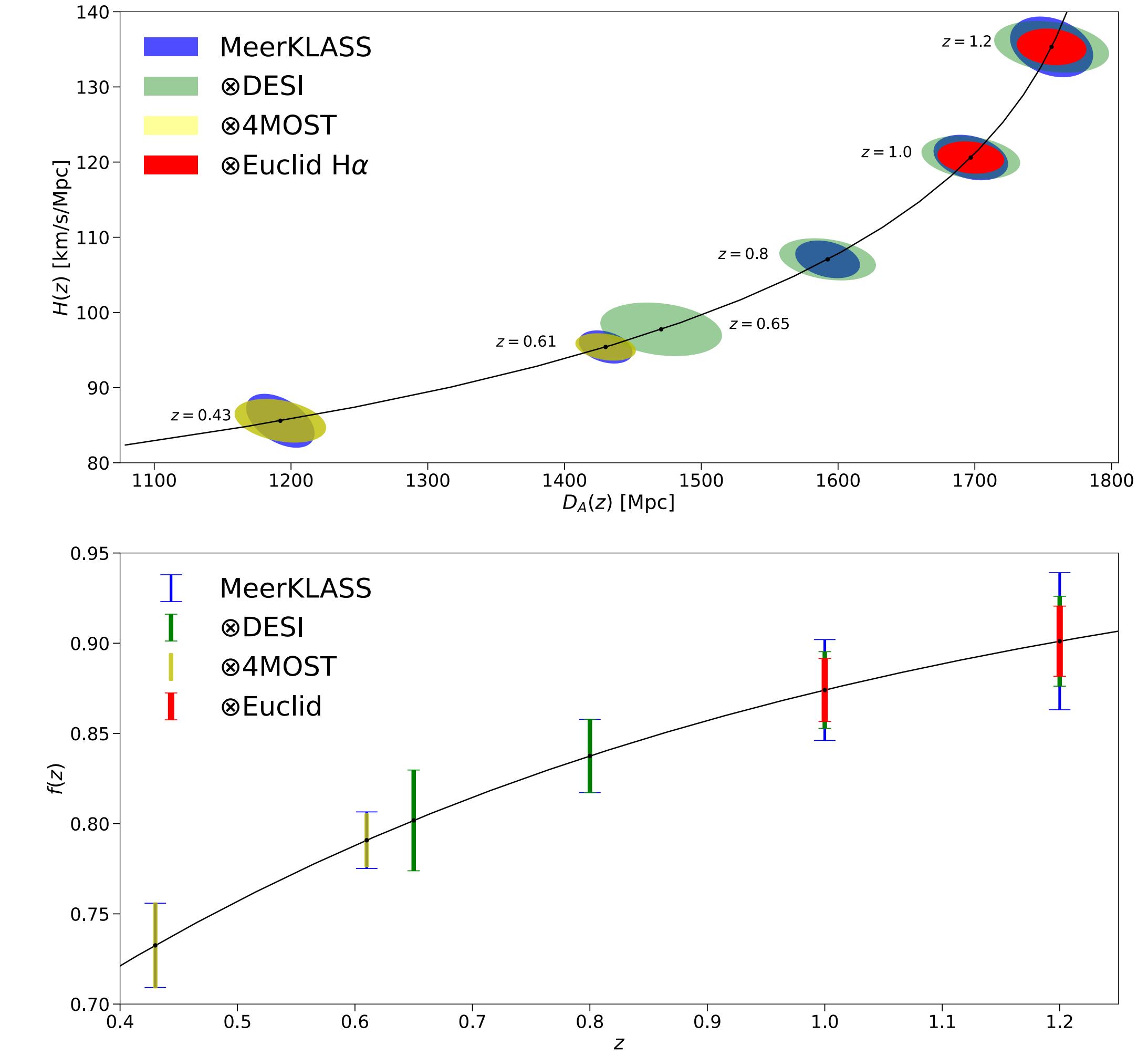
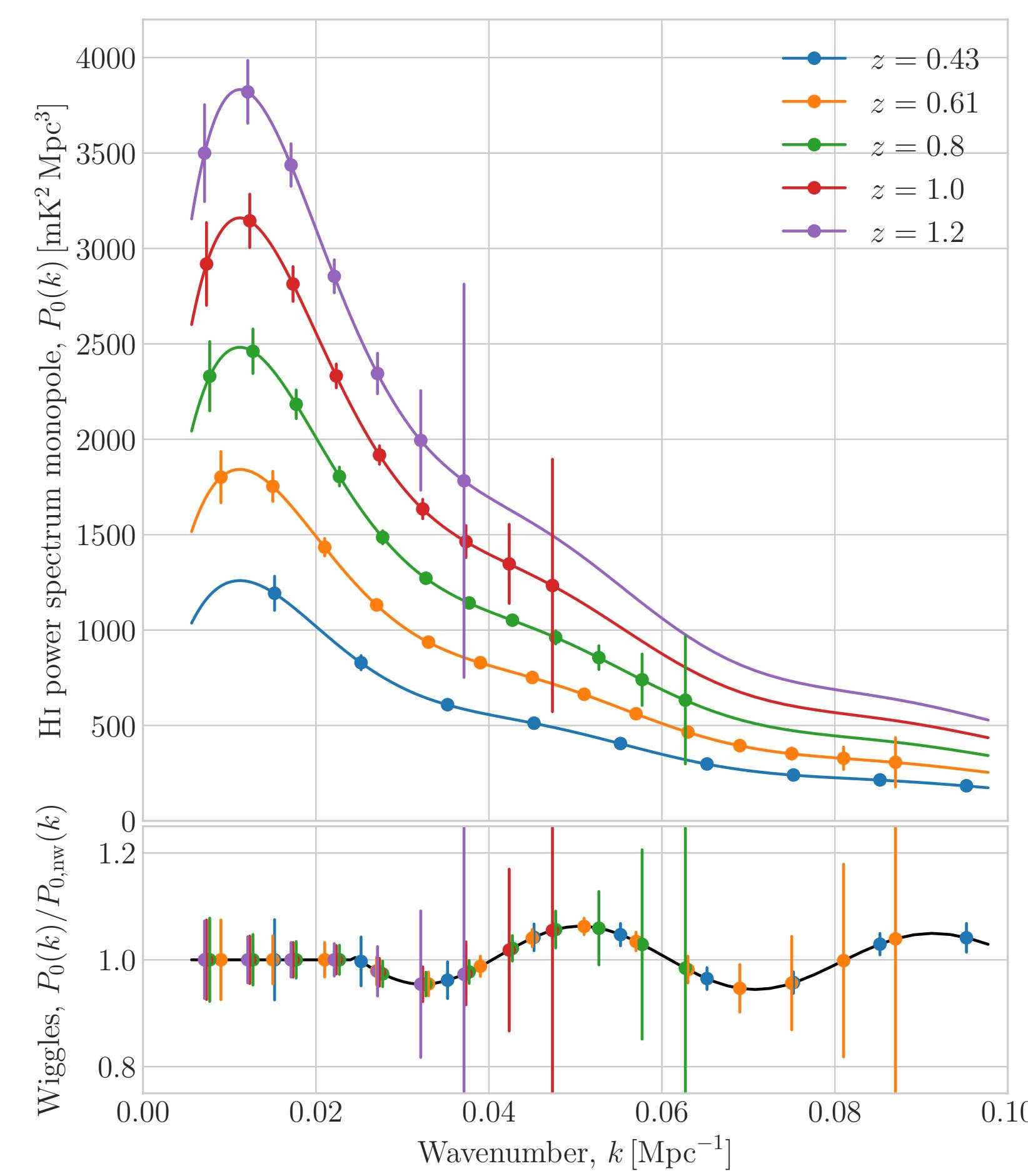
# MeerKLASS - MeerKAT Large Area Synoptic Survey



10,000 sq deg with 1,300hr effective time in UHF band

**SOURCE: MEERKLASS PROPOSAL,  
CREDIT: M. SPINELLI, W. HU & OTHERS**

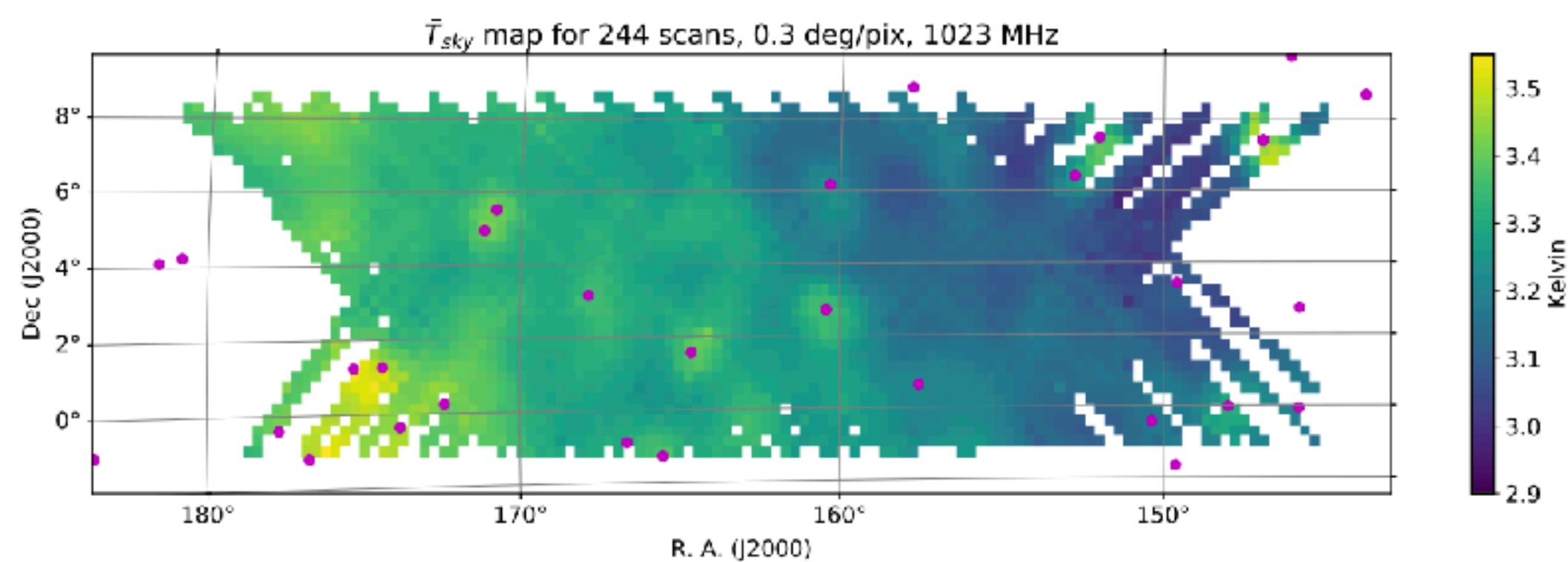
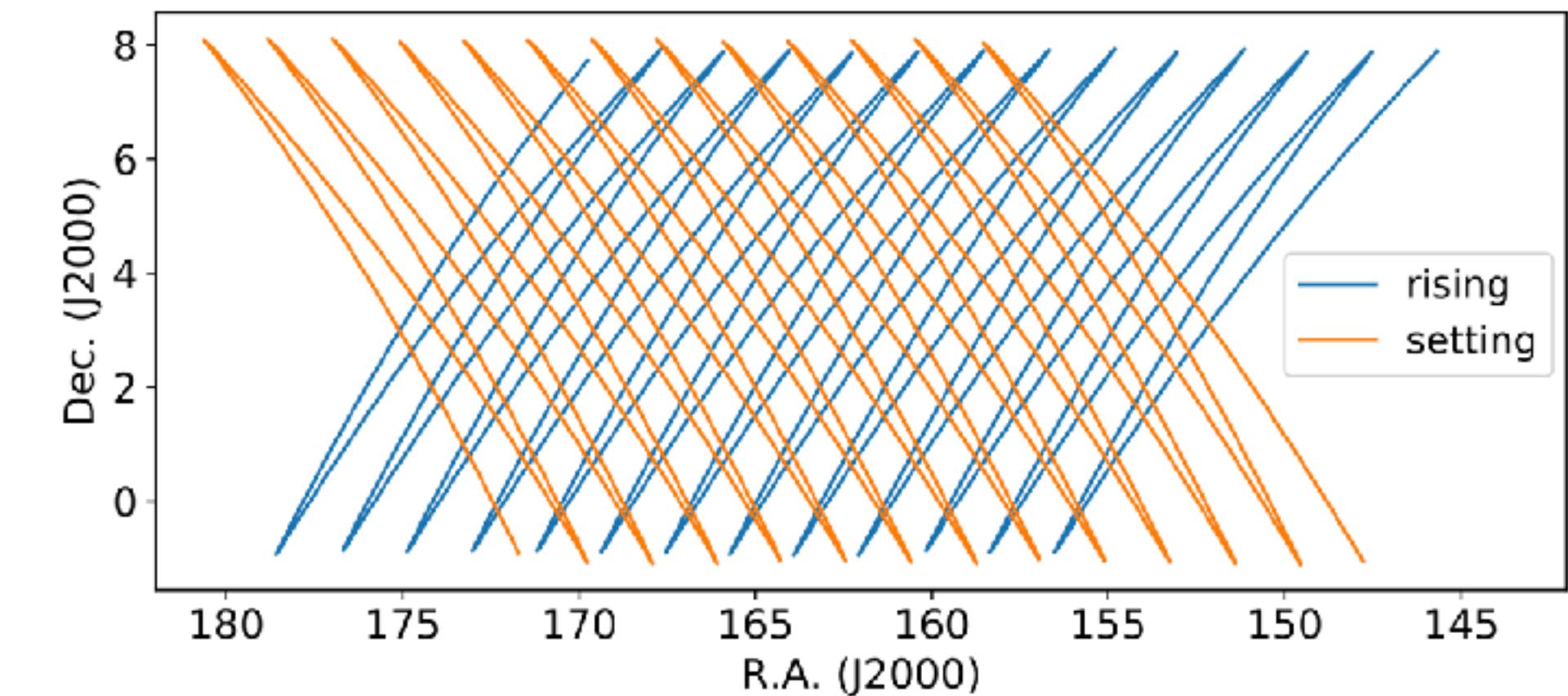
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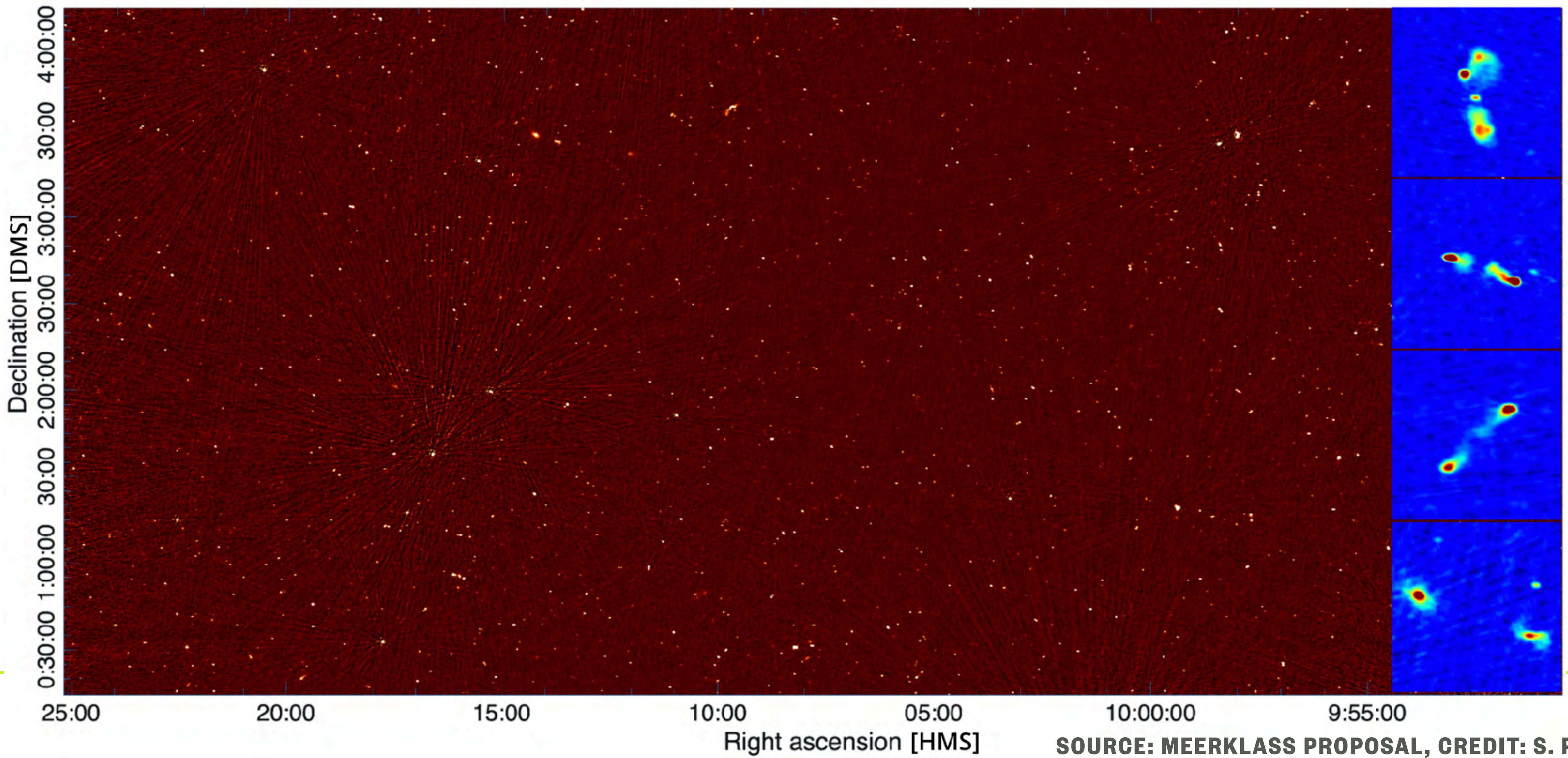
SOURCE: MEERKLASS PROPOSAL,  
CREDIT: Z. FONSECA, S. CAMERA

# MeerKlass - Single Dish

- Each patch is about **300sqdeg with 1.5hrs** on-target
- Azimuth scans at constant elevation (5arcmin/s for L-band) with 2s integration
- Repeated scans per block for both rising and setting
- Successful calibration pipeline, see **Jingying Wang's talk**
- Many optimisation efforts for data analysis, see **Isabella Carucci's talk**
- 2 cross-correlation detections in L-band with galaxy samples so far, see **Steve Cunningham's talk**



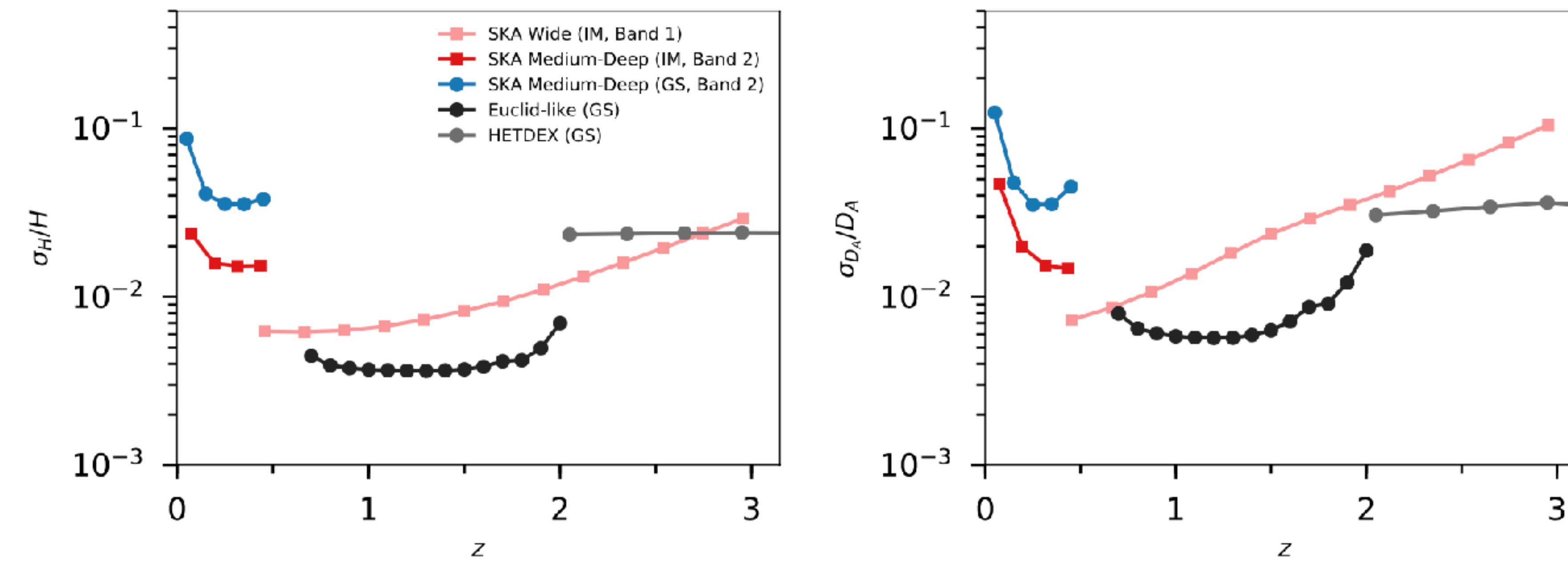
# MeerKlass - OTF Continuum



# SKA Cosmology surveys

- a ) Medium-Deep Survey of 5,000 deg<sup>2</sup> at 0.95-1.4 GHz for
  - HI galaxy redshift survey with 3.5 million objects
  - Weak Lensing shape measurements with ~50 million objects
  - Continuum galaxy survey with ~60 million objects
- b ) Wide Survey of 20,000 deg<sup>2</sup> at 0.35-1.05 GHz for
  - Continuum galaxy survey with ~100 million objects
  - HI intensity maps for 0.35<z<3
- c ) Deep Survey 100 deg<sup>2</sup> at 200-350 MHz for
  - HI intensity maps for 3<z<6

# SKA HI Intensity Mapping



Note: SKA-MID has lower frequency coverage than MeerKAT  $f > 300$

SKA-Low can observe for  $f < 300\text{MHz}$ : important for continuous mapping!

# Questions moving forward

- Transition from pilot to survey era: are our pipelines scalable? Are our estimators appropriate?
- Beam models: are they good enough for precision cosmology?
- Low-level RFI: how can we deal with (increasing amount of) contaminations?
- Can we overlap between independent surveys to detect auto-power with high significance?
- For MeerKAT & SKA-MID: how do we measure the scales between single dish and interferometry?
- For SKA-Mid and -LOW: how do we consistently map transition at  $z=3$ ?
- **MeerKAT produces lots of data every day, get involved!**