

Fast Radio Bursts, and where to find them

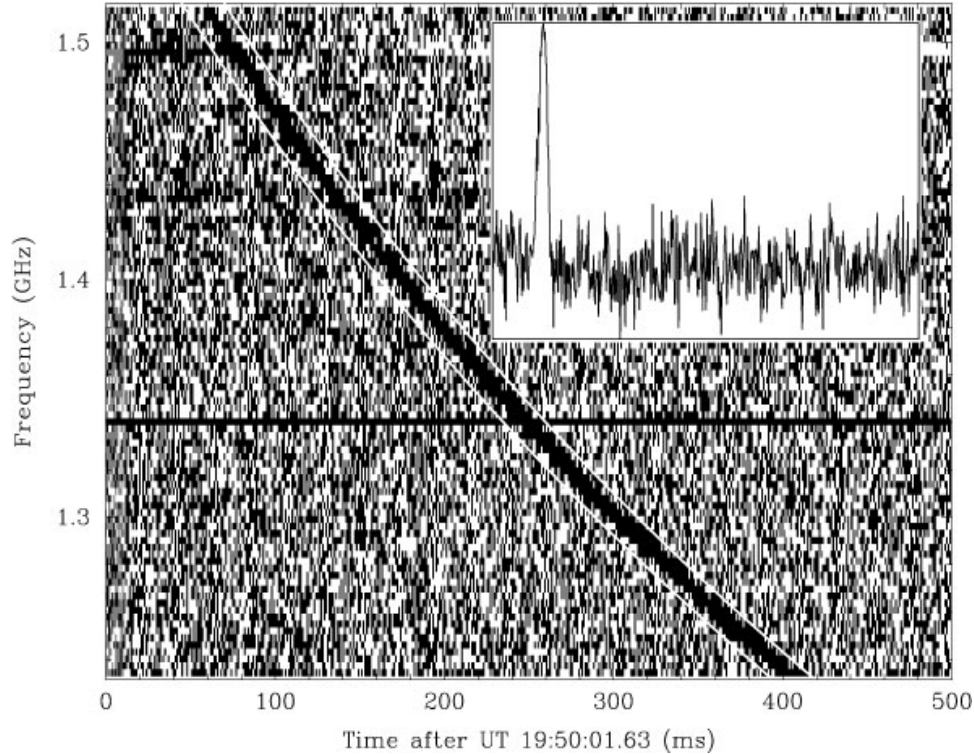
FRBs as probes of cosmic Reionization

Stefan Heimersheim – 3rd year PhD student @ University of Cambridge

In collaboration with Nina Sartorio, Anastasia Fialkov & Duncan Lorimer

What it takes to Measure Reionization with Fast Radio Bursts [[arXiv:2107.14242](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.14242)]

What are Fast Radio Bursts? (FRBs)

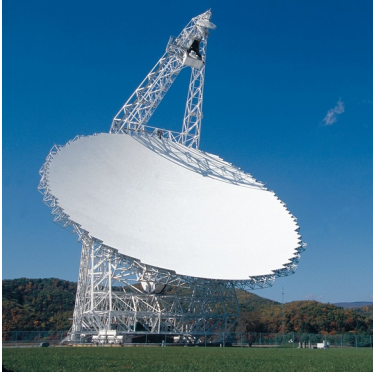


Lorimer et al. 2007 arXiv:0709.4301



Parkes Radio Telescope (CC BY-SA Stephen West)

Current and future telescopes



GBT Photo:
NRAO/AUI/
NSF



FAST Photo:
Absolute
Cosmos



ASKAP: SKA pathfinder, good localization
→ allows follow up redshift measurements.
Photo credit: Ant Schinkel, CSIRO (CC BY-SA)



(Future) SKA Photo credit: SPDO/TDP/DRAO/
Swinburne Astronomy Productions (CC BY)



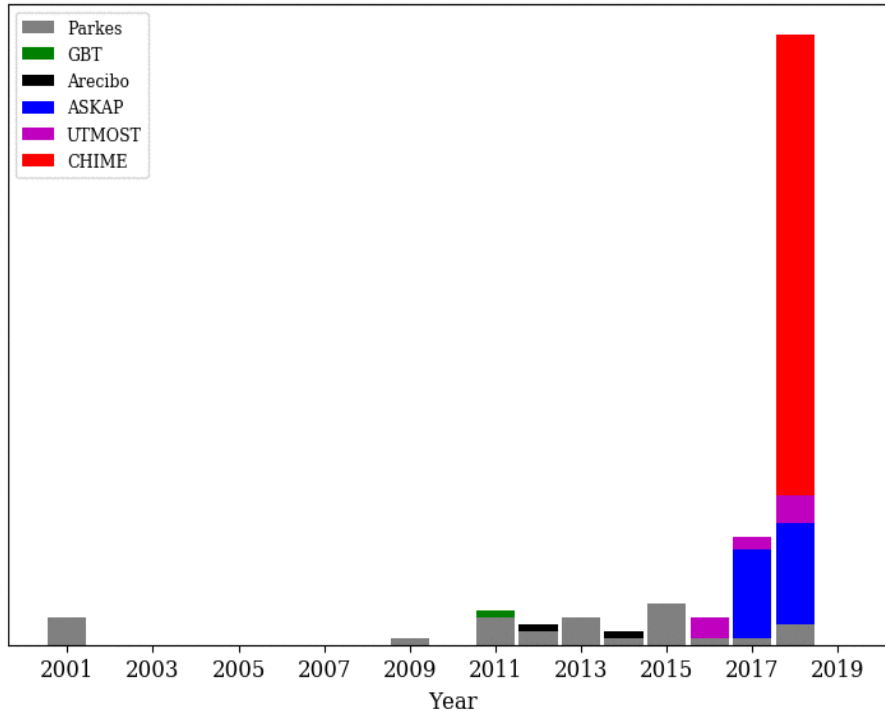
(Past) Arecibo
Photo credit:
Mario Roberto
Durán Ortiz
(CC BY-SA)



CHIME: Canada, HI mapping,
large FOV → very good
for FRBs as well

Photo credit: CHIME

Recent FRB discoveries

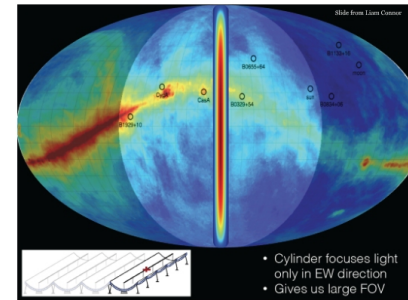


Animation by Cherry Ng, CHIME, Dunlap Institute (github.com/cherryng)

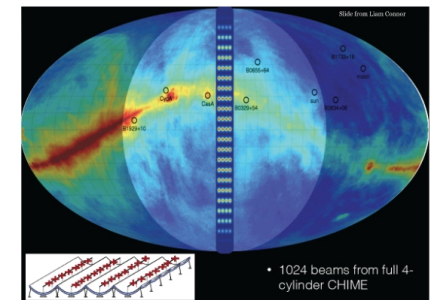


Photo credit: CHIME

CHIME: Canada, HI mapping large field of view → accidental FRB machine.



primary beam




formed beams

Figures: CHIME field of view (Kendrick Smith)

Repeating FRBs

A repeating fast radio burst

[L. G. Spitler](#), [P. Scholz](#), [J. W. T. Hessels](#) , [S. Bogdanov](#), [A. Brazier](#), [F. Camilo](#), [S. Chatterjee](#), [J. M. Cordes](#), [F. Crawford](#), [J. Deneva](#), [R. D. Ferdman](#), [P. C. C. Freire](#), [V. M. Kaspi](#), [P. Lazarus](#), [R. Lynch](#), [E. C. Madsen](#), [M. A. McLaughlin](#), [C. Patel](#), [S. M. Ransom](#), [A. Seymour](#), [I. H. Stairs](#), [B. W. Stappers](#), [J. van Leeuwen](#) & [W. W. Zhu](#)

Nature **531**, 202–205 (2016) | [Cite this article](#)

“The Repeater”
– Arecibo (2016)

A second source of repeating fast radio bursts

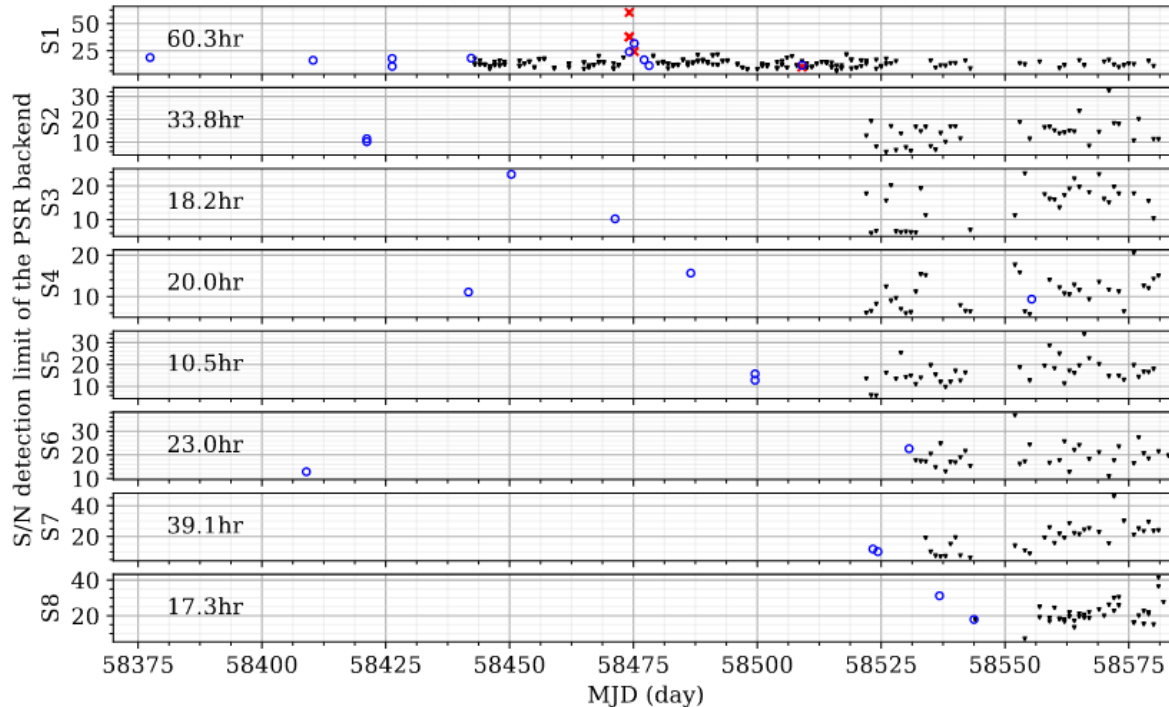
[The CHIME/FRB Collaboration](#)

Nature **566**, 235–238 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

– CHIME (2019)

Repeating FRBs!

CHIME/FRB Discovery of Eight New Repeating Fast Radio Burst Sources



CHIME/FRB Collaboration 2020, arXiv:2001.10275 – 8 new repeaters

- Some FRBs seem to emit repeated bursts
- Are all FRBs to-be-detected “repeaters”?
- Implications for source models?

What is the origin of Fast Radio Bursts?

FRB source & mechanisms still uncertain!

Summary Table

Note: The low frequency radio range is defined to be from ~ 10 MHz to 2 GHz and the high frequency radio range is defined to be from 2 to 20 GHz. The table is too wide to fit on all screens - scroll right to see other columns.

Name	Category	Proprietary	Type	Energy Mechanism	Emission	LF Radio	HF Radio	Microsecond	Yes	DRB	X-ray	Gamma ray	GRB	Neutrino	References	Comments
						Counterpart	Counterpart	Counterpart								
NS-RB Accretion	Accretion	NS-VID	Repeat, MgG reconnection	Curr.	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes, but unlikely detectable	-	-	URL	None
AGN-RB	AGN	AGN-RB Interaction	Repeat Laser	Synch.	Yes	-	-	-	-	Supernova	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	URL	Headlines from preceding GR and from collapse to BH
AGN-SS	AGN	AGN-Strange Star Interaction	Repeat	Electron oscillation	-	Yes	-	-	-	Thermal	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	URL	Headlines from preceding GR and from collapse to BH due from collapse and generated GRB from SS
Jet Collision	AGN	Jet Collision Interaction	Single	Electron scattering	Bremsstr.	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	Possible GRB	Yes	-	URL-URL	Persistent secondary radio emission
Wandering Beam	AGN	Wandering Beam	Repeat	Synch.	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	URL	None
NS to BH (GRB Inducible)	Collapse	NS to BH	Single	MgG reconnection	Curr.	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	URL	None
NS to XRBH	Collapse	NS to XRBH	Single	MgG reconnection	Curr.	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Possible afterglow	Possible GRB	Yes	URL-URL	Possible X-ray afterglow and a shortening GRB caused to NS both prior to the FRB
NS to Quark Star	Collapse	NS to Quark Star	Single	Jet/Quark	Synch.	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	URL	The burst is predicted to be several seconds, explained if the de-dispersion process that stacks 1
SS-Cross	Collapse	Strange Star Cross	Single	MgG reconnection	Curr.	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	URL	None
Atom Cloud and BH	Supernova / Interaction	Collision / Atom Cloud and BH	Repeat Laser	Synch.	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	URL	Observational counterparts could be associated with electron position

Sample of FRB origin theories from <https://frbtheorycat.org> (currently via archive.org)

Plenary 4: Source Models

Plenary 4A: Thu 29/7/2021 @ 12am - 2am UT - Chair: Vikram Ravi
Sergei Popov, Sternberg Astronomical Institute
Plenary 4B: Thu 29/7/2021 @ 12pm - 2pm UT - Chair: Amanda Weltman

ID1: Neutron stars as sources of FRBs: from the Lorimer burst to SGR 1935
Sergei Popov, Sternberg Astronomical Institute
A: Live B: Live

ID27: Accreting X-ray Binaries as FRB Sources
Brian Metzger, Columbia University / Flatiron Institute
A: Live B: Recording

ID44: Periodic activities of repeating fast radio bursts from Be X-ray binary systems
Qiaochu Li, Nanjing University
A: Recording B: Recording

ID49: Dynamical Formation Scenarios for FRB 20200120E in a Globular Cluster
Kyle Kremer, Caltech/Carnegie Observatories
A: Live B: Recording

ID56: Dispersion and Rotation Measures from the Ejecta of Compact Binary Mergers
Zhenyin Zhao, Nanjing University
A: Recording B: Recording

ID64: Binary comb models for FRB 121102
Tomoki Wada, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics
A: Live B: Recording

Plenary 5: Emission mechanism

Plenary 5A: Thu 29/7/2021 @ 8am - 10am UT - Chair: Di Li
Plenary 5B: Thu 29/7/2021 @ 8pm - 10pm UT - Chair: Maxim Lyutikov

ID59: Fast Radio Burst Breakouts from Magnetar Burst Fireballs
Kunihito Ioka, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University
A: Live B: Recording

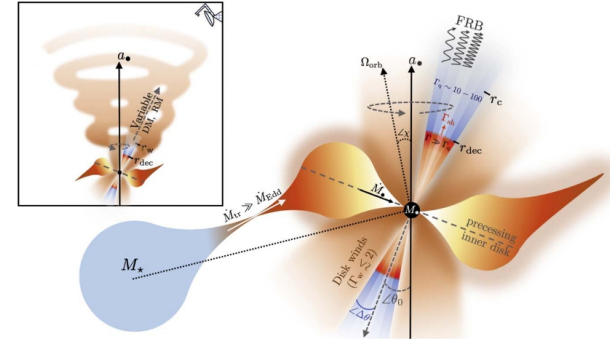
ID68: Plasmod ejection by Alfvén waves and the fast radio bursts from SGR 1935+2154
Yajie Yuan, Flatiron Institute
A: Recording B: Live

ID73: Shock Powered Coherent Radio Precursors of Neutron Star Mergers
Navin Sridhar, Columbia University
A: Live B: Recording

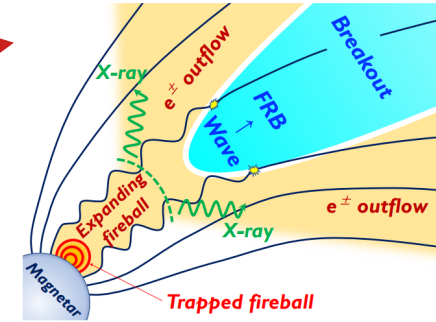
ID94: A coherent curvature radiation explanation of the origin of giant pulses, high-energy counterparts and the connection between giant pulses and FRBs
Alex Cooper, University of Amsterdam
A: Live B: Recording

ID128: The FRB-like emission of the young energetic LMC pulsar, J0540-6919
Marisa Geyer, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
A: Live B: Recording

ID82: Emission Properties of Periodic Fast Radio Bursts from the Motion of Magnetars
Dongzi Li, Caltech
A: Recording B: Recording



arXiv: 2102.06138



arXiv: 2008.01114

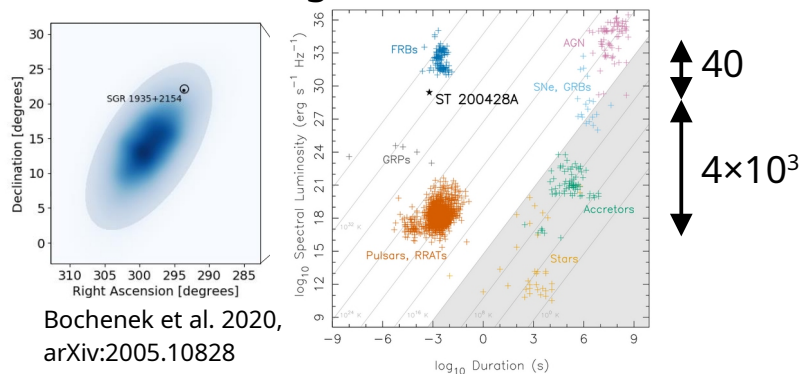
Discussion at FRB 2021:

<https://sites.google.com/view/frb2021/>
(talks on YouTube)

Magnetars as FRB sources?

Most promising currently: **Magnetars**

→ “FRB” from Magnetar SGR 1935+2154



Observed by STARE2 + CHIME (**radio**),
Swift Burst Alert Telescope, INTEGRAL, Konus-WIND, Insight-HXMT (**X-ray**, space)

Soft gamma-ray repeaters (SGRs), already proposed by
e.g. Popov & Postnov 2007 (arXiv:0710.2006), and
recently Metzger et al. 2019 (arXiv:1902.01866)

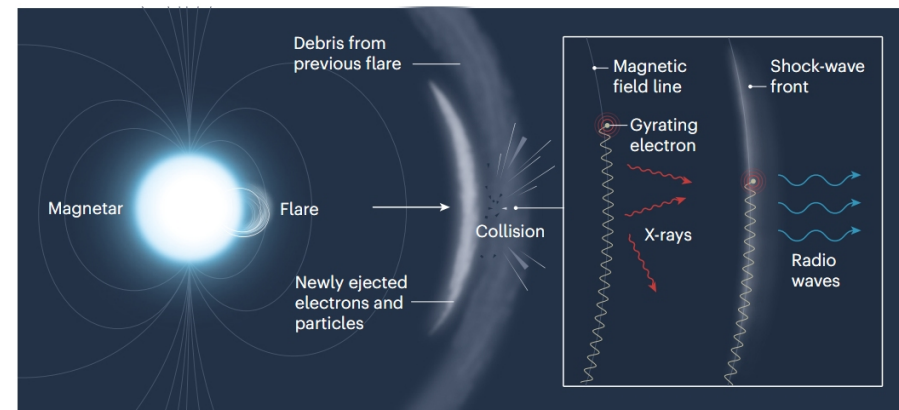


Figure 1 | A potential mechanism for the formation of fast radio bursts. A bright, millisecond-long burst of radio waves, known as a fast radio burst (FRB), has been detected¹⁻³ coming from a highly magnetized stellar remnant (a magnetar) in our Galaxy. The radio waves were accompanied by X-ray emissions⁴⁻⁶. One possible mechanism^{9,10} for the formation of such an FRB is that the magnetar produces a submillisecond-long flare of electrons and other charged particles, which collides with particles that had been emitted from previous flares (note that the collision occurs a great distance away from the magnetar; this distance is not shown to scale). The collision generates an outward-moving shock front, which in turn produces huge magnetic fields. Electrons gyrate around the magnetic field lines, and thereby emit a burst of radio waves. The shock wave also heats the electrons, which causes them to emit X-rays.

Amanda Weltman & Anthony Walters, Nature | Vol 587 | 5 November 2020

Properties of FRBs

FRB Localization (approx)

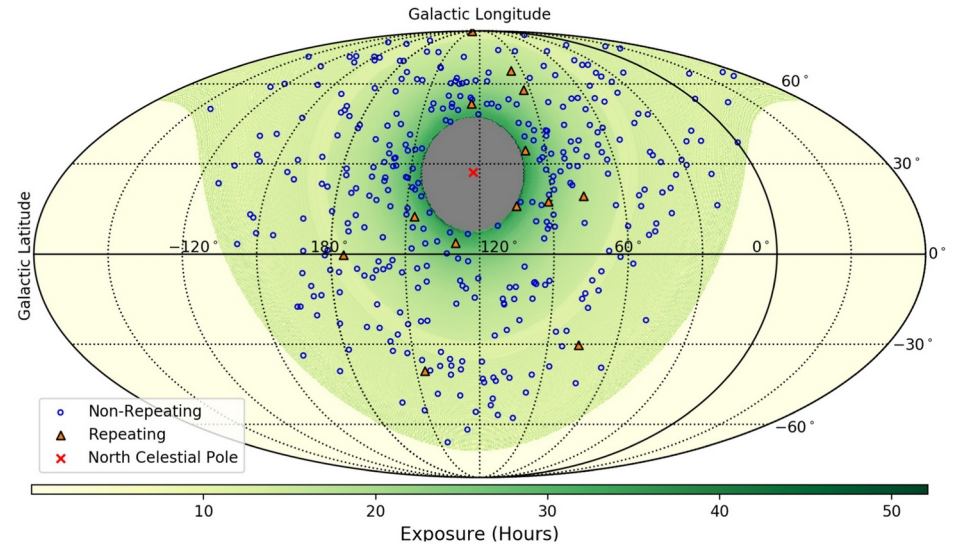
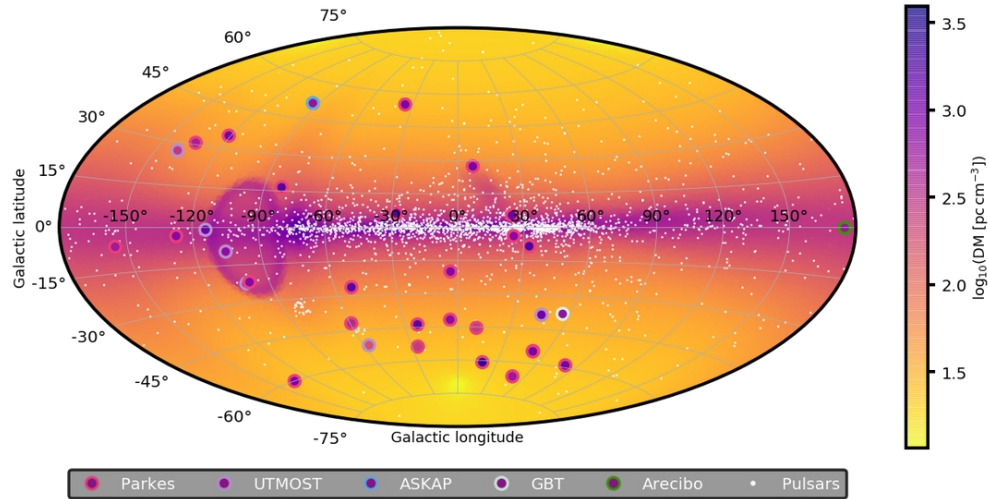


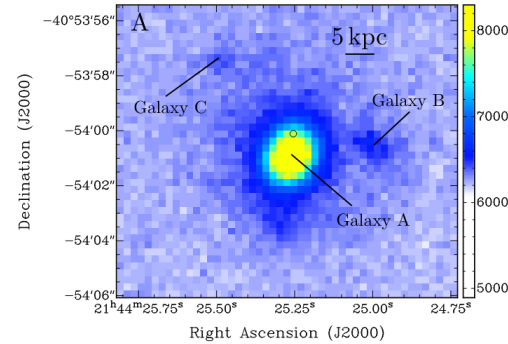
Figure: MeerTRAP, FRB & Pulsar locations
(<https://www.meertrap.org/science-goals/fast-radio-bursts/>)

FRBs in CHIME/FRB Catalog 1 (arXiv:2106.04352)

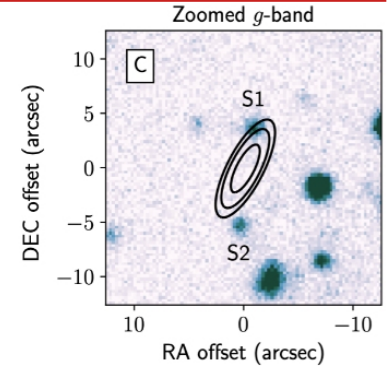
FRB Localization (precise + redshift)

FRB	Telescope	Width	Redshift _{host}
FRB190523	DSA-10	0.42	0.66
FRB190711	ASKAP	6.5	0.522
FRB181112	ASKAP	2.1	0.4755
FRB190611	ASKAP	2	0.378
FRB180924	ASKAP	1.3	0.3214
FRB190102	ASKAP	1.7	0.291
FRB121102	arecibo	3	0.19273
FRB190608	ASKAP	6	0.1178
FRB180916.J0158+65	CHIME/FRB	0.87	0.0337

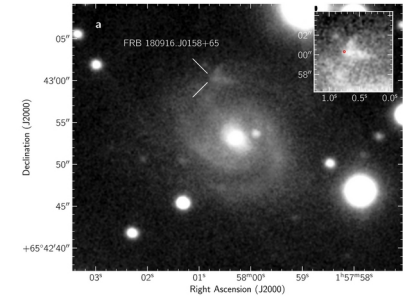
non-repeating



FRB 180924 by ASKAP, follow-up by VLT (arXiv:1906.11476)



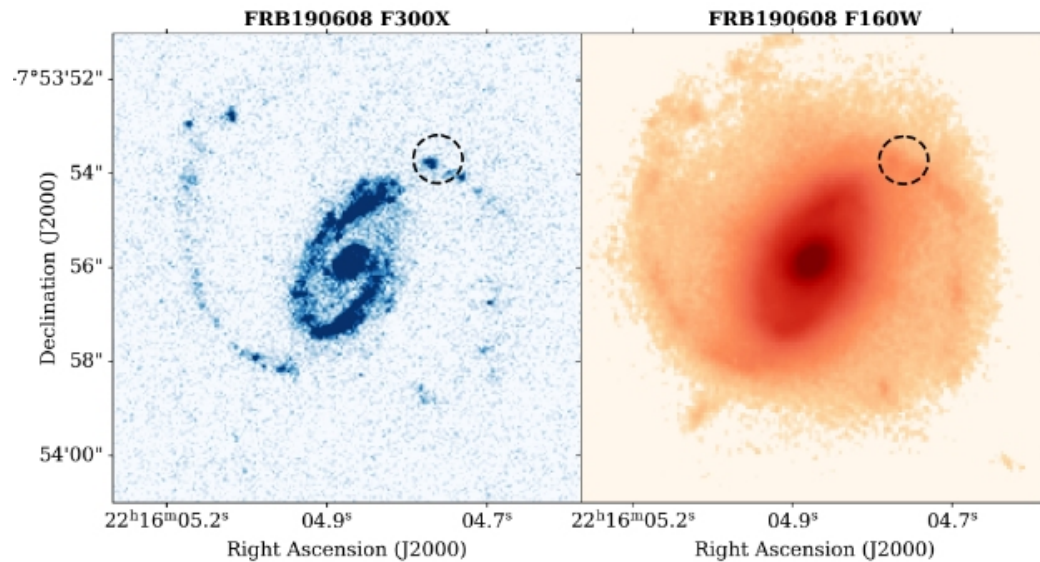
FRB 121102 by DSA-10, follow-up by VLA (arXiv:1701.01098)



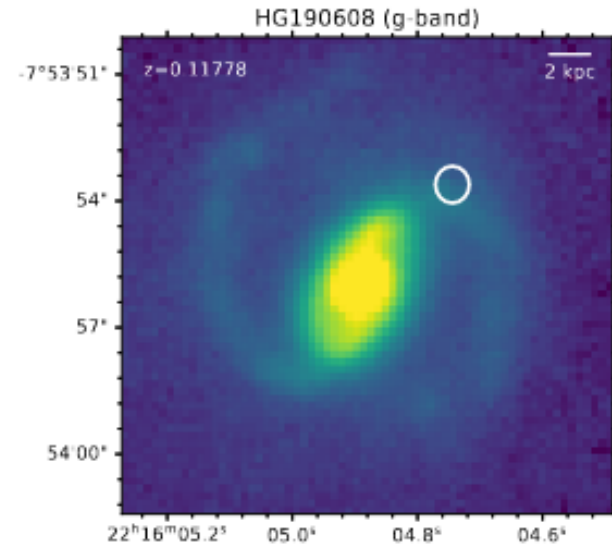
FRB 180916 by CHIME, follow-up with Europ. VLBI Net. (arXiv:2001.02222)

All localized FRBs from <https://www.frbcat.org/>

Follow-up & localization within a galaxy



Mannings et al. 2021 (arXiv:2012.11617)



Bhandari et al. 2020 (arXiv:2005.13160)

Instruments for localizations

Plenary 8: Pinpointing

Plenary 8A: Tue 3/8/2021 @ 8am - 10am UT - Chair: Ben Stappers

Plenary 8B: Tue 3/8/2021 @ 8pm - 10pm UT - Chair: Wenbin Lu

ID62: Localizing FRBs to miliarcseconds with **EVN-PRECISE**

Benito Marcote, Joint Institute for VLBI ERIC (JIVE)

A: Live B: Recording

ID84: Localization of CHIME/FRB repeaters with **VLA/realfast**

Shriharsh Tendulkar, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics

A: Live B: Recording

ID88: The first sub-arcsecond localised FRB with **MeerKAT**

Laura Driessen, Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, University of Manchester

A: Live B: Recording

ID89: The **UTMOST-2D** FRB detection and localisation engine

Adam Deller, Swinburne University of Technology

A: Live B: Recording

ID140: Arcsecond Localization of FRB 20201124A with the **uGMRT**

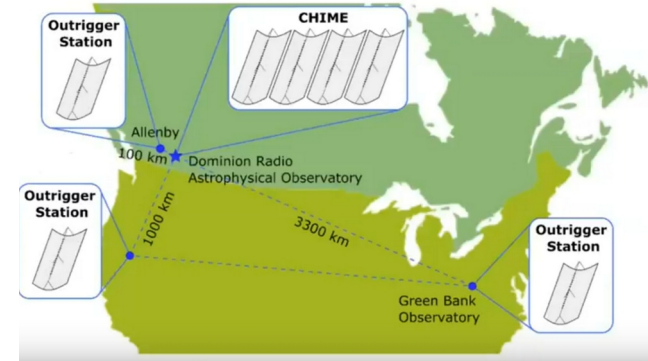
Robert Wharton, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

A: Recording B: Live

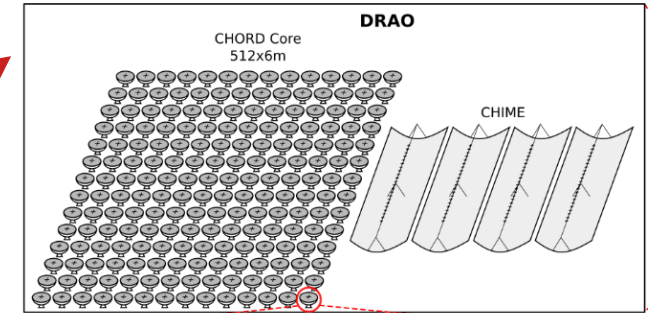
ID108: **CHIME/FRB Outriggers and CHORD**: new instruments for localization of Fast Radio Bursts

Juan Mena-Parra, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A: Recording B: Recording

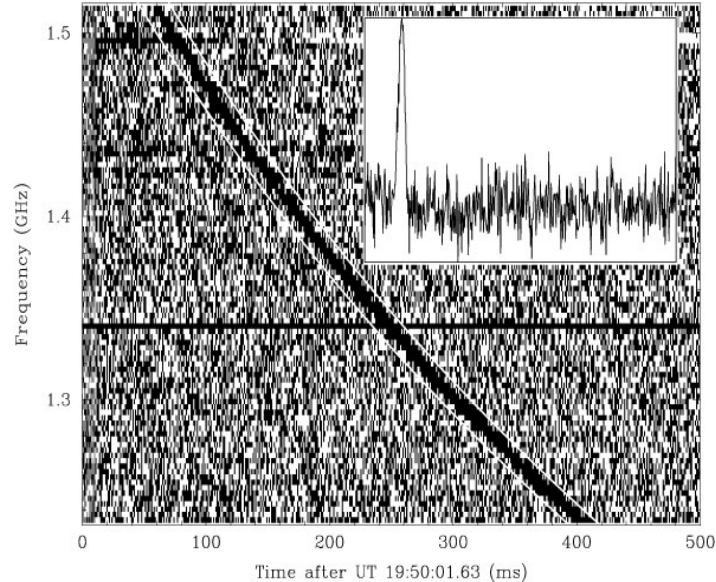
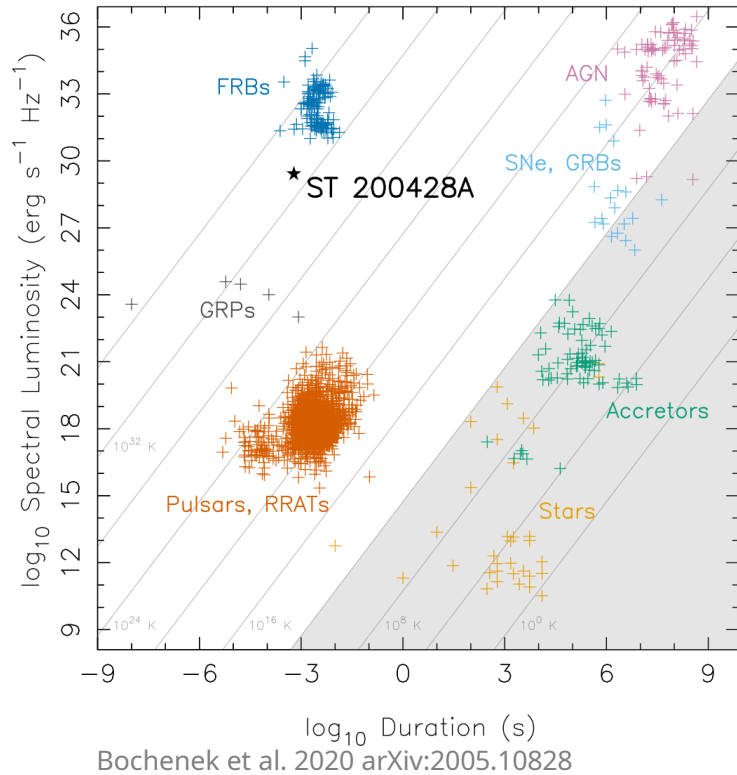


CHIME Outriggers. Juan Mena-Parra, FRB2021 (8A)



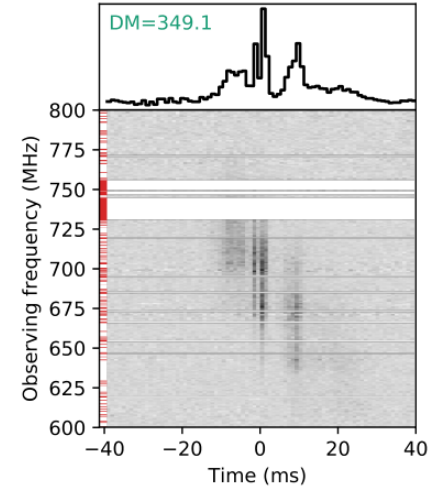
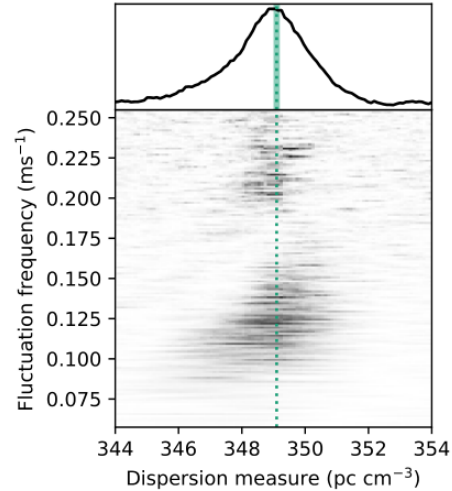
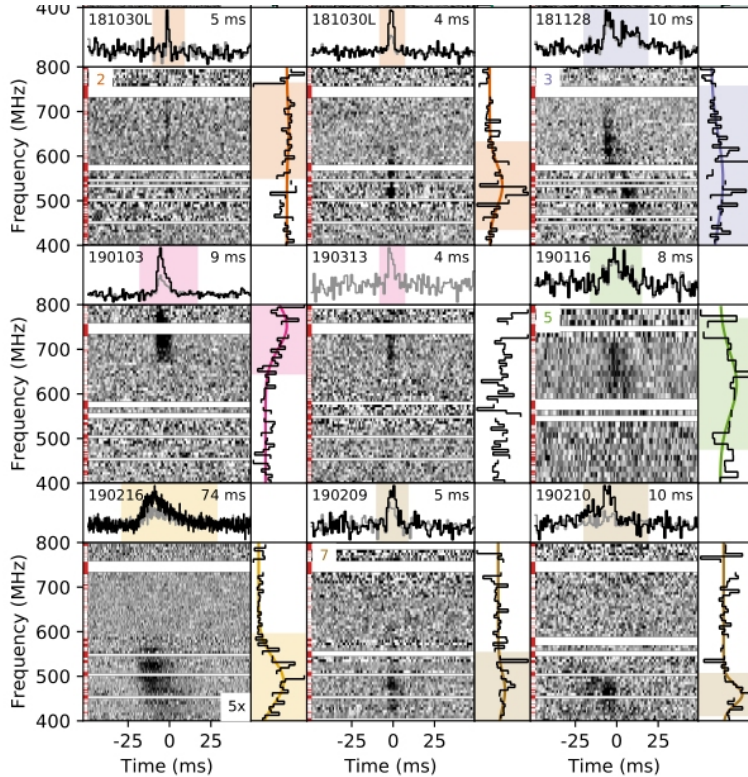
CHORD (Vanderlinde et al. 2020, arXiv:1911.01777)

Typical properties



- Intrinsic width $\sim 1 \text{ ms}$
- Dispersion $\sim \text{seconds}$

Signal shapes



Downward-drifting substructure
("sad trombone")

CHIME/FRB Collaboration, arXiv:1908.03507

Repeaters – A distinct population?

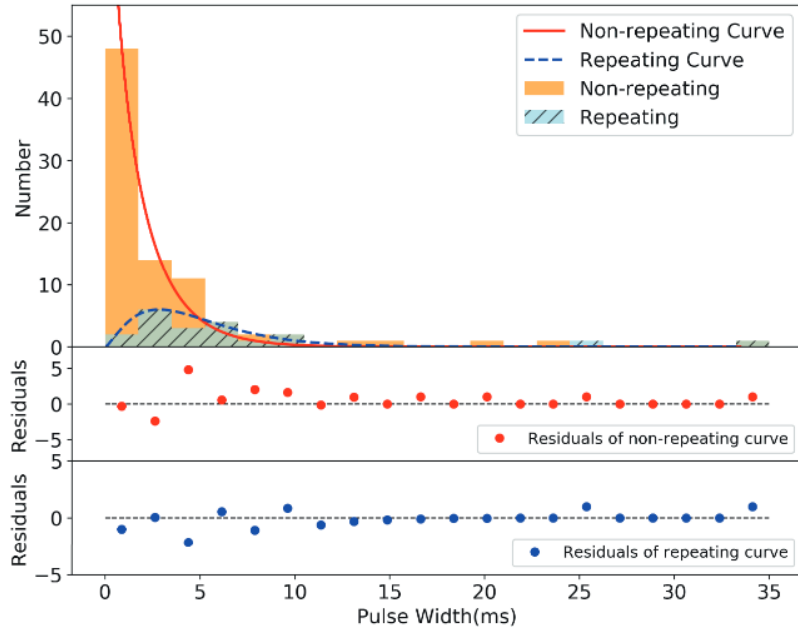


Figure 1. Upper panel: histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs with pulse width < 35 ms. The solid (dashed) line is the

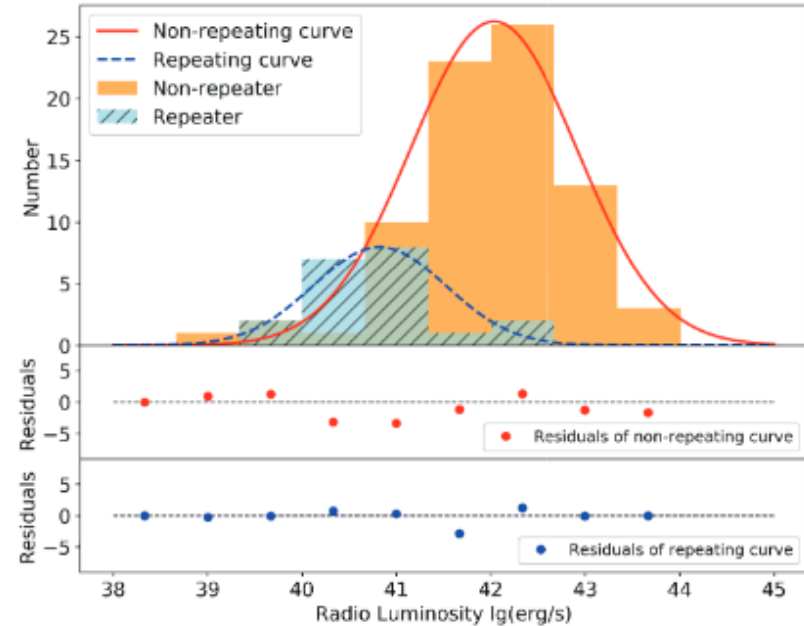
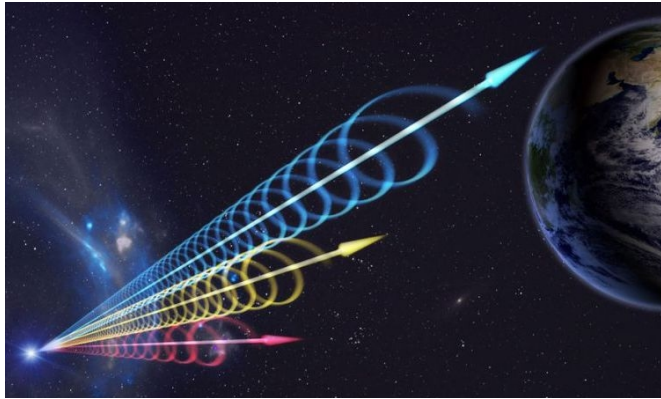


Figure 3. Histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs for radio luminosity expressed logarithmically. The solid line is the

Figures from Cui et al. 2021 (arXiv:2011.01339)

Cosmology with FRBs

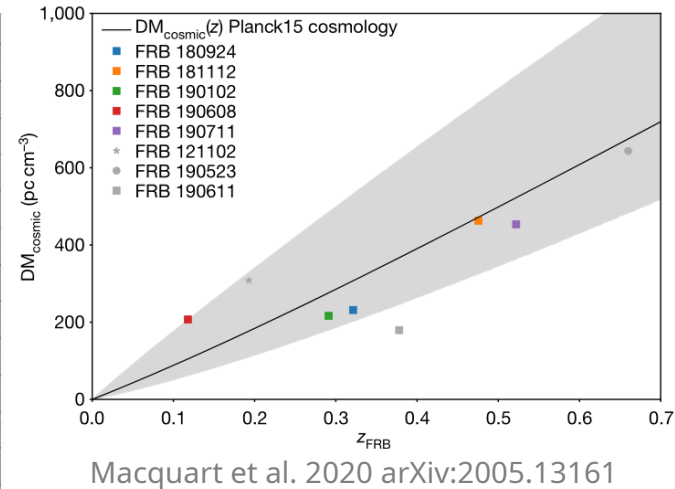
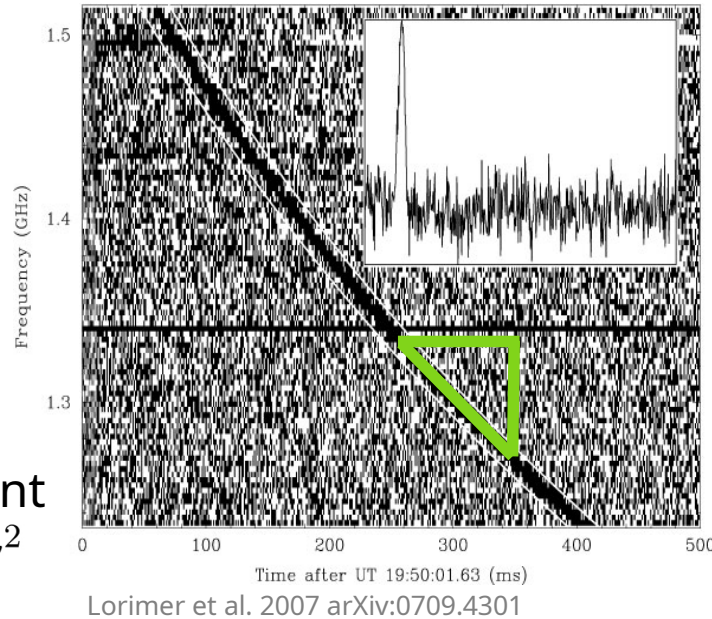
The FRB Dispersion Measure



Jingchuan Yu, Beijing Planetarium

- Velocity frequency-dependent
→ Arrival times shifted $\propto 1/\nu^2$
- Dispersion slope $\Delta\nu/\Delta t$

$$DM = \int \frac{n_e}{1+z} dl$$



DM ↔ Redshift z

Dispersion Measure Contributions

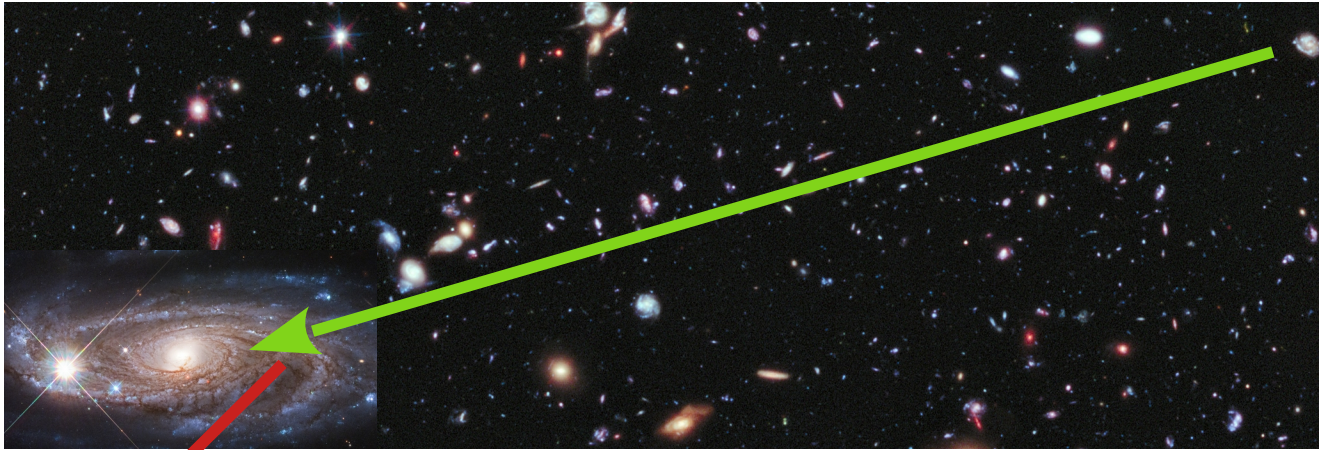
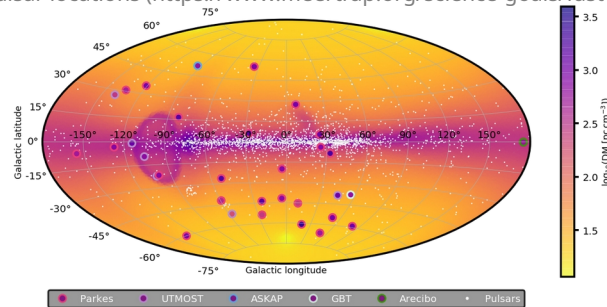


Image: BG - NASA; FG - ESA; B. Holwerda; Illingworth, Oesch, Bouwens and the HUDF09 Team
Figure: MeerTRAP, FRB & Pulsar locations (<https://www.meertrap.org/science-goals/fast-radio-bursts/>)

Milky Way – from 10
to 3000 pc/cm^3 but
known from model:



Dispersion Measure Contributions

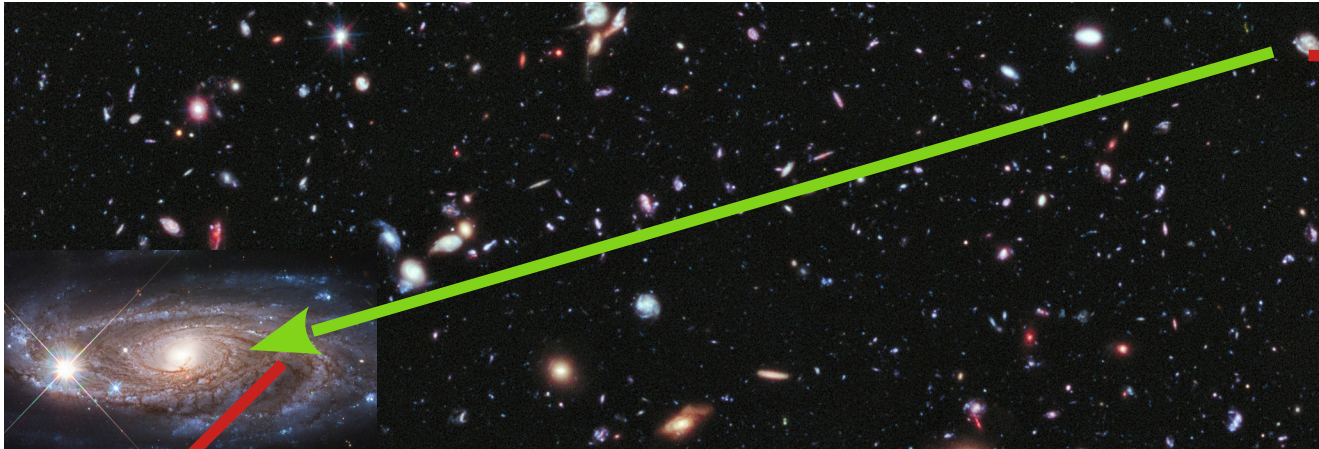
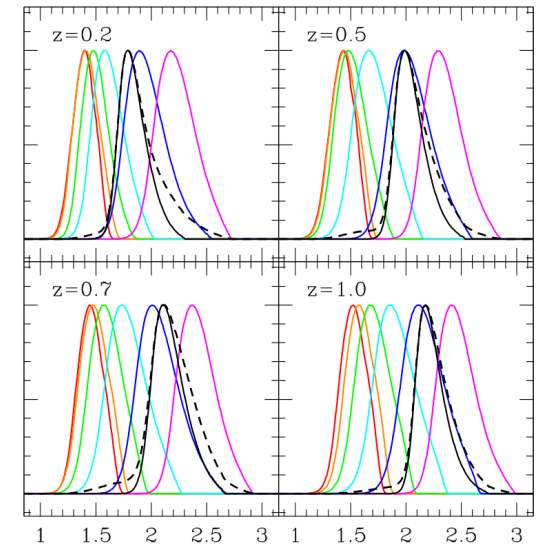


Image: BG - NASA; FG - ESA; B. Holwerda; Illingworth, Oesch, Bouwens and the HUDF09 Team
Figure: MeerTRAP, FRB & Pulsar locations (<https://www.meertrap.org/science-goals/fast-radio-bursts/>)

Milky Way – from 10 to 3000 pc/cm³ but known from model:

Host galaxy – unknown
~ 200 +/- 100 pc/cm³



Jarozynski 2020
arXiv:2008.04634
 $\lg(\text{DM}_{\text{host}}/(1+z))$

Dispersion Measure Contributions

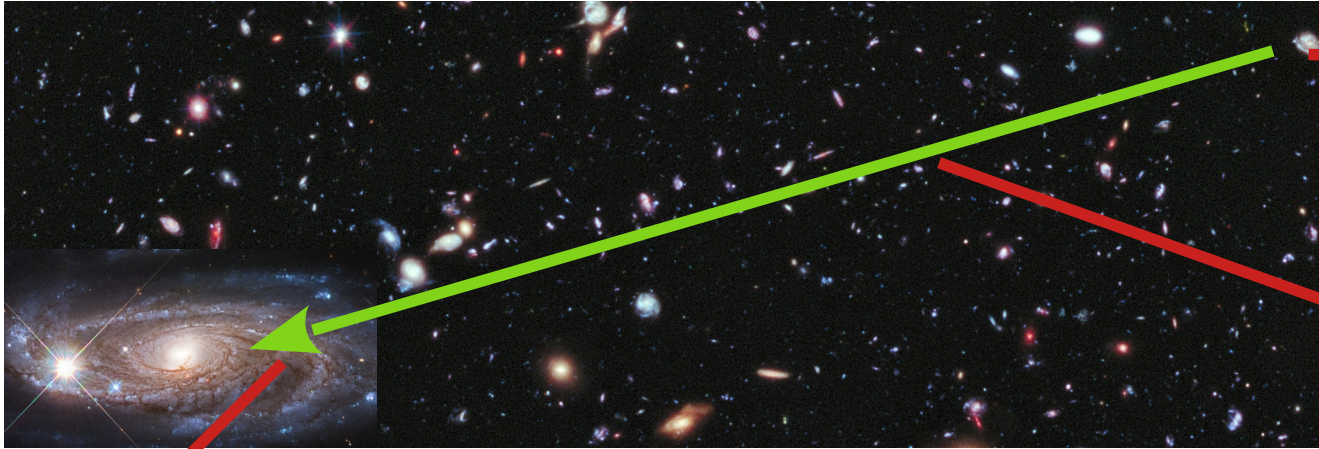


Image: BG - NASA; FG - ESA; B. Holwerda; Illingworth, Oesch, Bouwens and the HUDF09 Team
Figure: MeerTRAP, FRB & Pulsar locations (<https://www.meertrap.org/science-goals/fast-radio-bursts/>)

Milky Way – from 10 to 3000 pc/cm³ but known from model:

Host galaxy – unknown
~ 200 +/- 100 pc/cm³

Intergalactic medium – depending on the distance, and ionization of the IGM along the line of sight

$$DM(z)^{\text{IGM}} = \int_{\text{earth}}^{\text{source}} \frac{n_e^{\text{IGM}}(z)}{(1+z)} dl$$

~ 4000 - 6000 pc/cm³ ± 5-9%
(for z=5 to 15)

Cosmology with FRBs

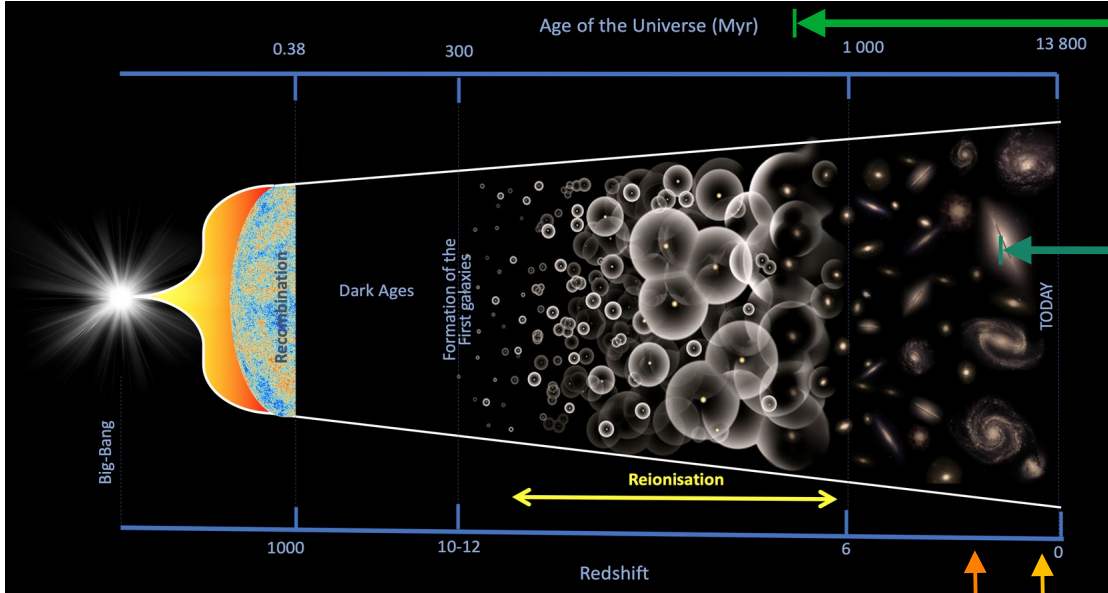
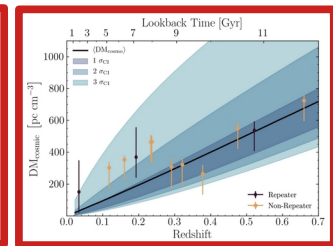
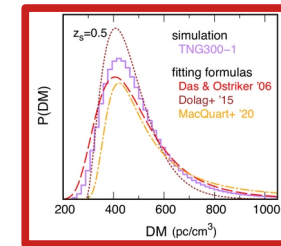
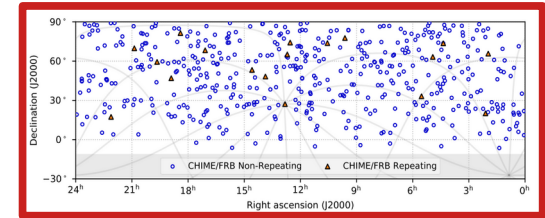
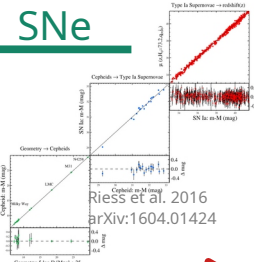


Image credit: Nicolas Laporte

Furthest reionization:

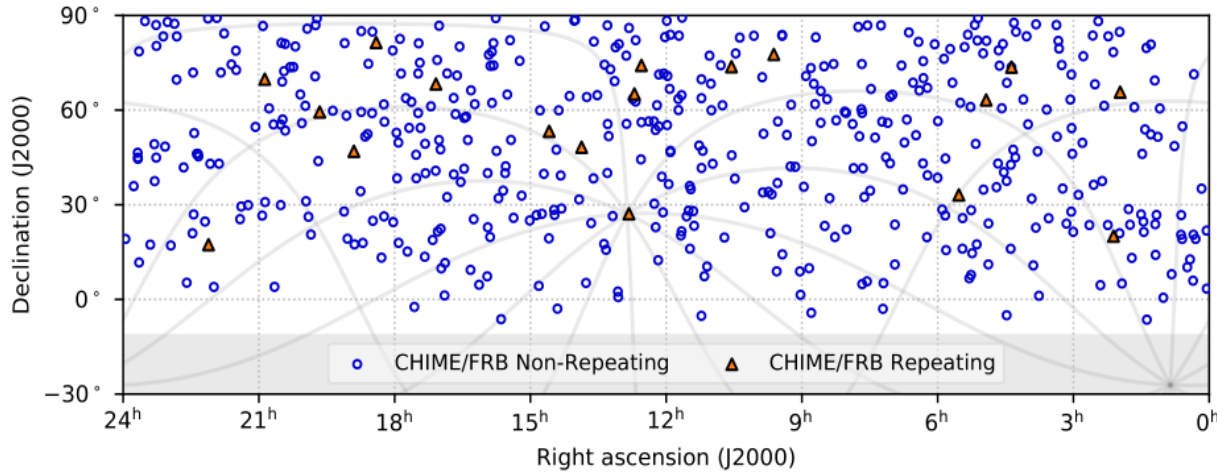
- Quasars $z < 7.7$
- Galaxies $z < 8$



Possible range of FRB sources

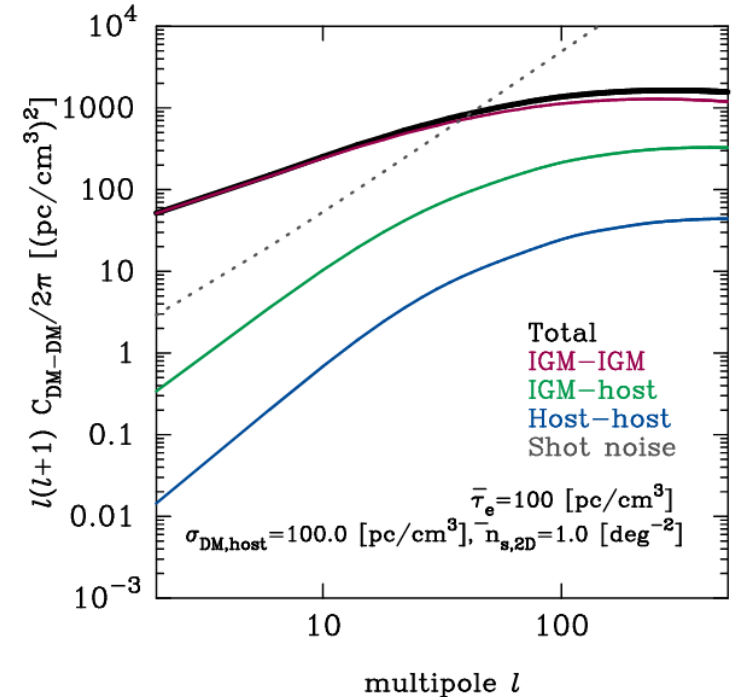
Localized FRBs
Farthest FRBs today

FRB (angular) clustering



FRBs in CHIME/FRB Catalog 1 (arXiv:2106.04352)

- Location (approximate, or accurate from interferometry)
- Redshift (approximate from DM, or accurate from follow-up)



Shirasaki et al. 2017 (arXiv:1702.07085)
see also Dai & Xia 2021 (arXiv:2004.11276)

FRB DM statistics

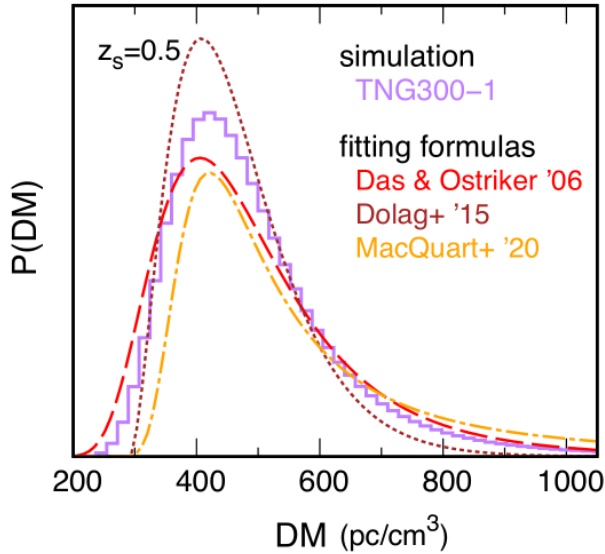


Figure 10. Comparison of probability distributions of the DM at $z_s = 0.5$.

Takahashi et al. 2020
arXiv:2010.01560

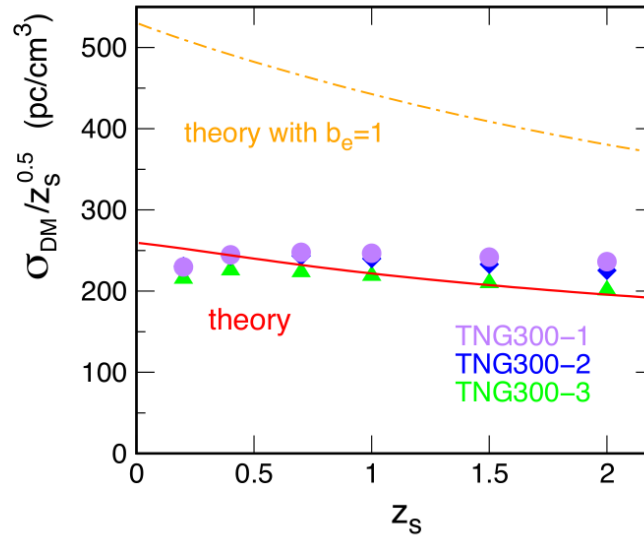
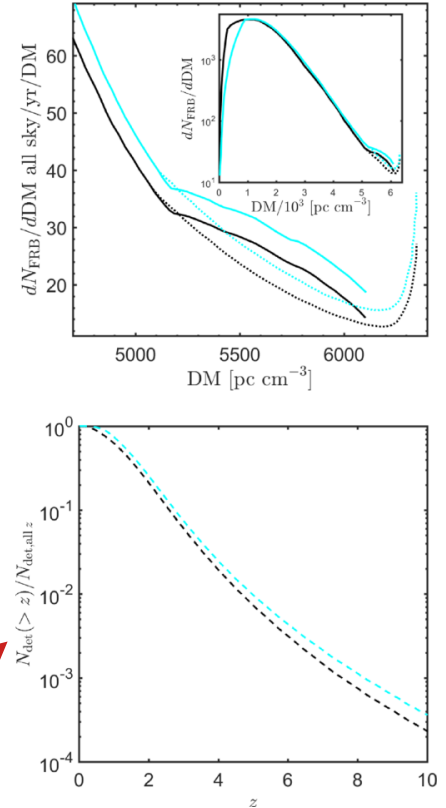
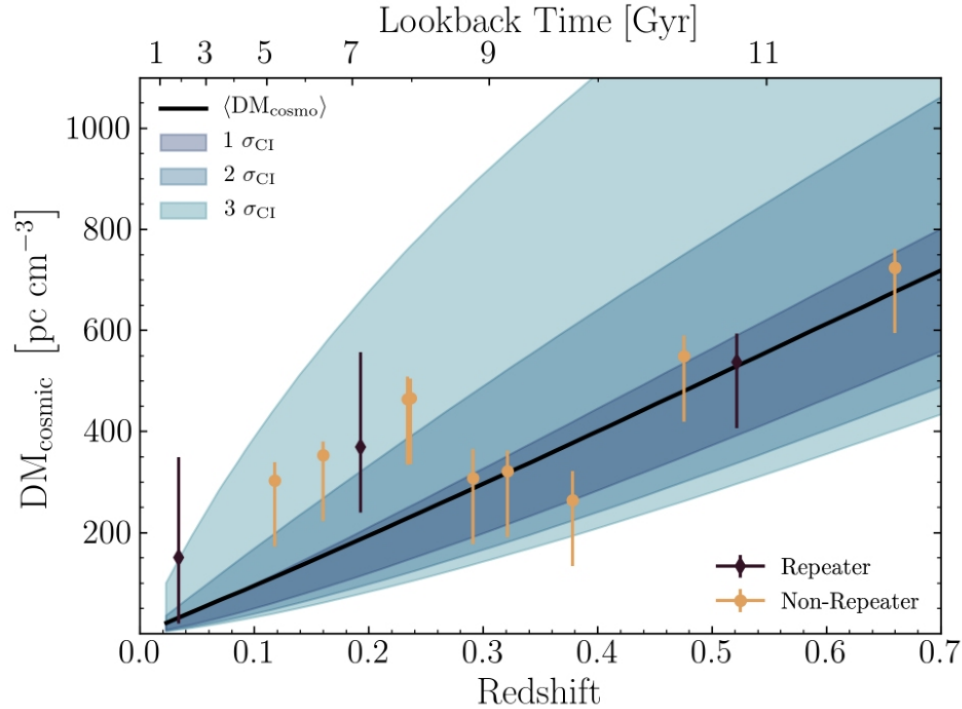


Figure 8. Standard deviation of the DM as a function of z_s . The purple, blue and green symbols are the TNG300-1, -2 and -3 results. The solid red curve denotes the analytical prediction given in Eq. (16). The dash-dotted orange curve is the same as the solid one, but assuming that the free electrons exactly trace the dark matter (i.e., $b_e = 1$).

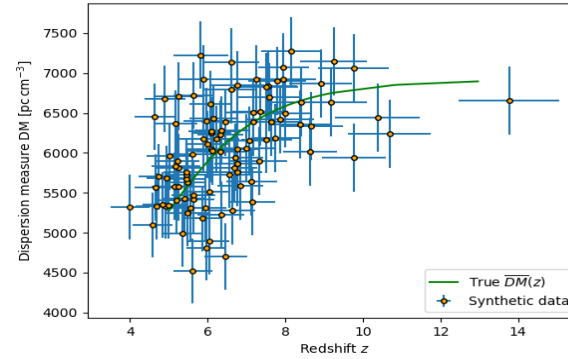
Beniamini et al. 2021
arXiv:2011.11643



FRB DM(z) relation



Batten et al. 2020, arXiv:2011.14547



$$DM = \int_0^z \frac{f_{\text{IGM}} \bar{n}_e(z)}{H(z)(1+z)^2} dz$$

Astrophysics

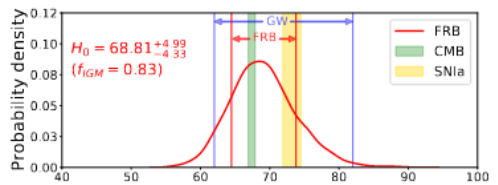
Background Cosmology

Reionization

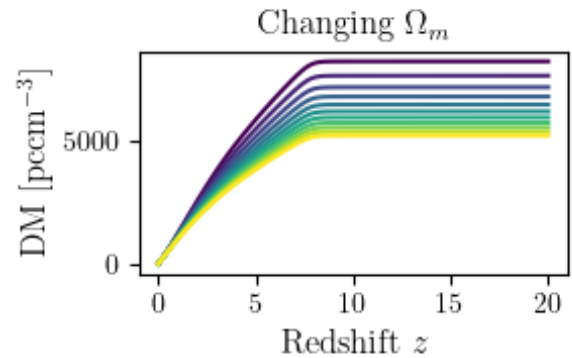
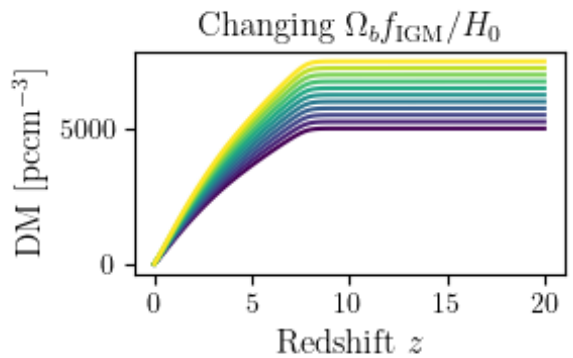
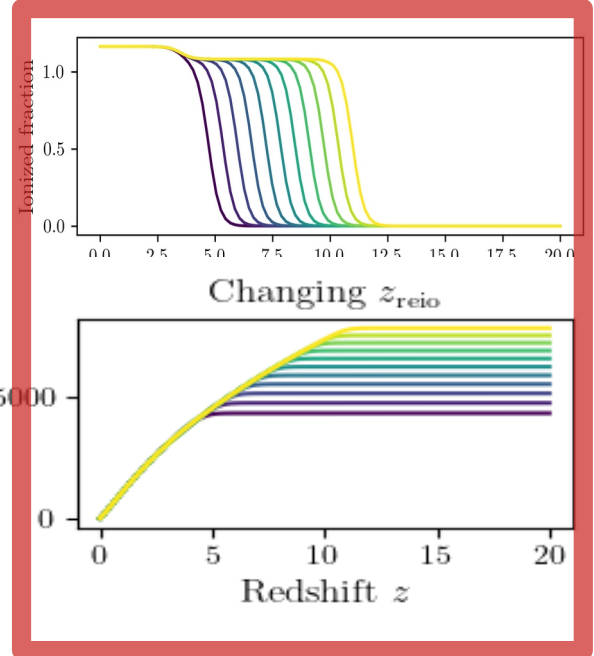
Effects on DM(z)

$$\overline{\text{DM}}^{\text{IGM}}(z) = \int_0^z c \underbrace{\frac{\Omega_b}{H(z)}}_{\text{Cosmology}} \underbrace{\frac{\bar{n}_e(z')/\Omega_b}{(1+z')^2}}_{\text{Ionization}} dz'$$

Focus of this work



$H_0, \Omega_b, \Omega_m, w(z)$
 Wu et al. 2021
 Hagstotz et al. 2021
 Macquart et al. 2020
 E.g. Zhou et al. 2014 (forecast)



DM [pc cm⁻³]

Cosmic reionization

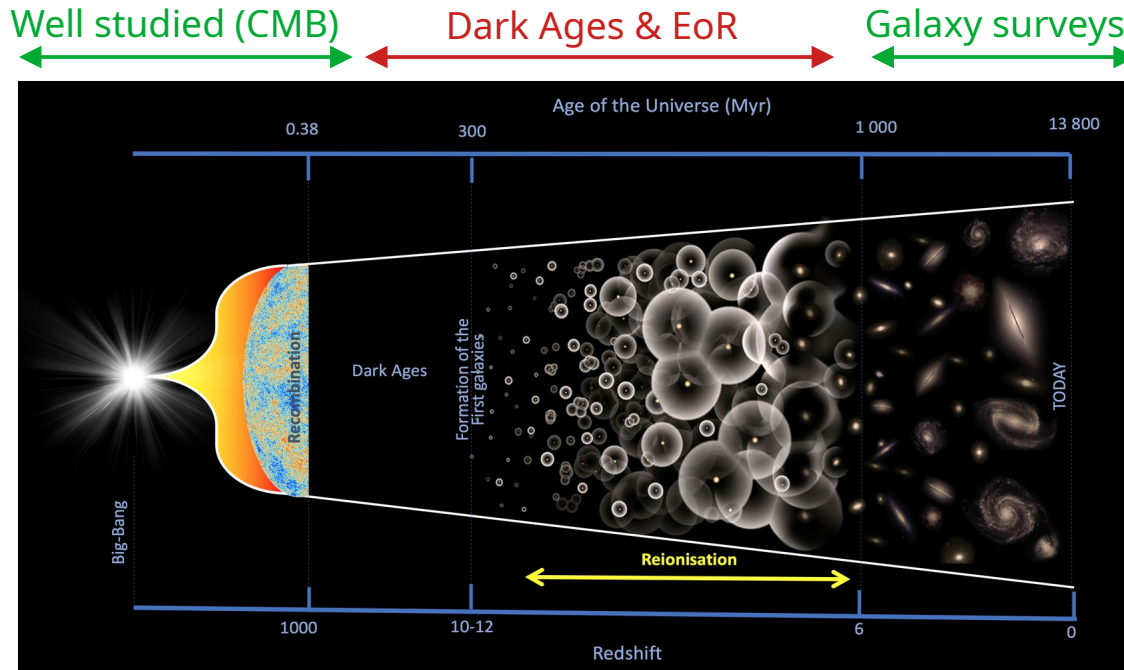


Image credit: Nicolas Laporte

Cosmological standard model
(Planck analysis incl. BAO):

$$\ln A_s \pm 0.5\%$$

$$n_s \pm 0.4\%$$

$$\Omega_m h^2 \pm 0.6\%$$

$$\Omega_b h^2 \pm 0.6\%$$

$$H_0 \pm 0.6\%^*$$

$$\tau \pm 12\%$$

Cosmic reionization

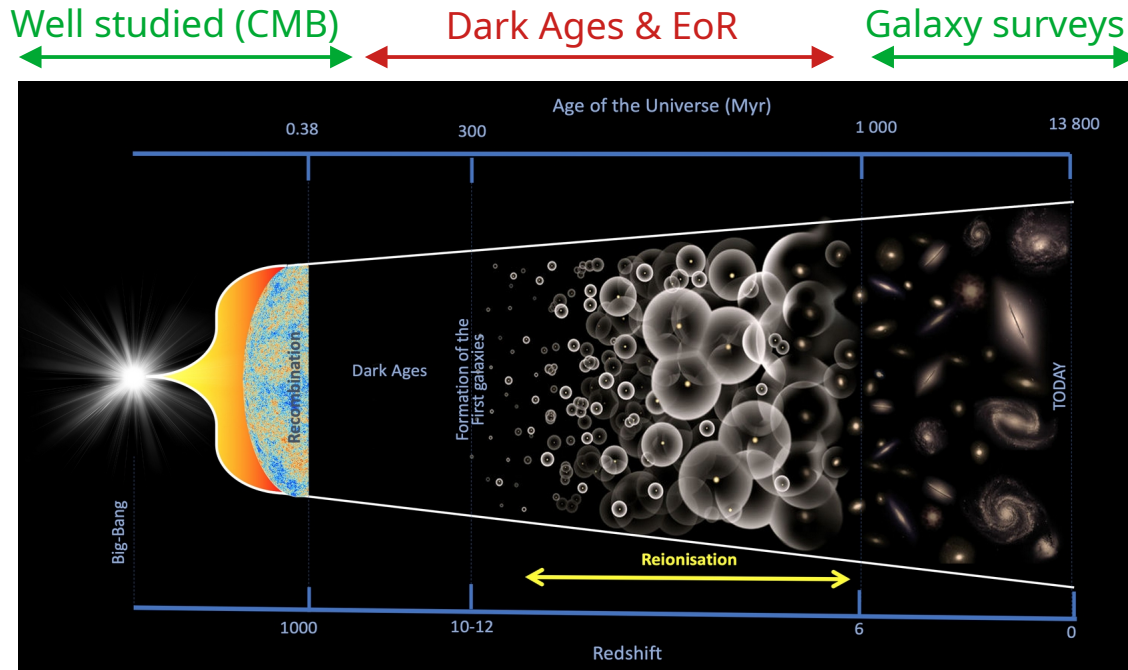
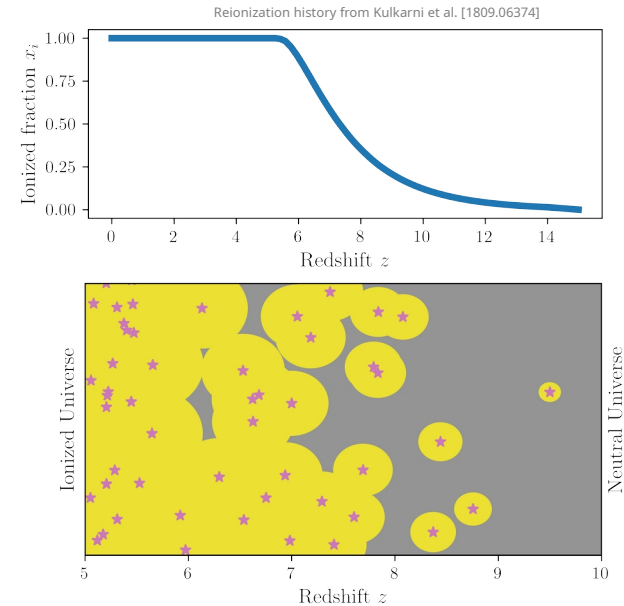
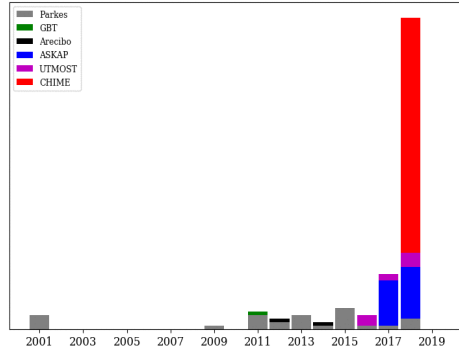


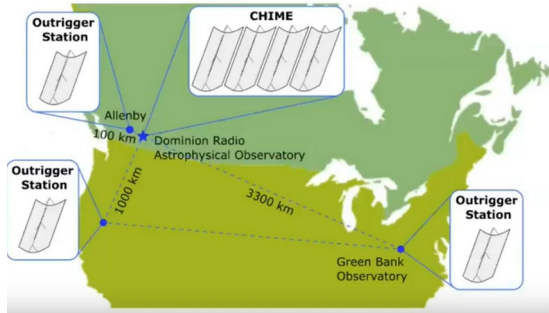
Image credit: Nicolas Laporte



Reminder: We will have many FRBs in the future!

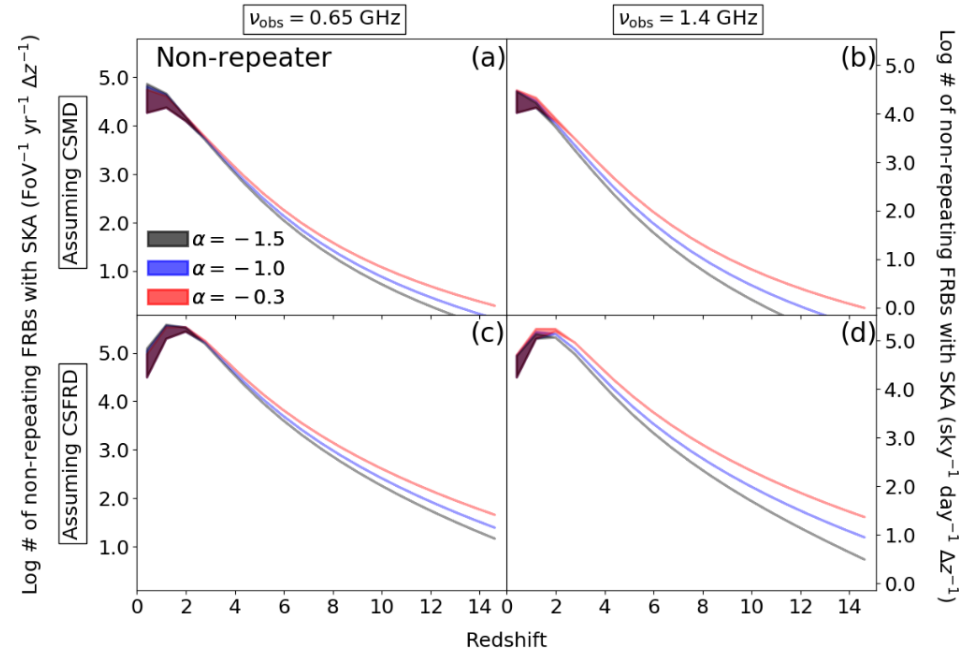


Animation by Cherry Ng, CHIME, Dunlap Institute (github.com/cherryng)



CHIME Outriggers. Juan Mena-Parra, FRB2021 (8A)

FRBs to be detected with the SKA

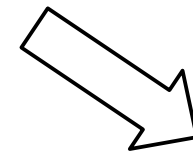
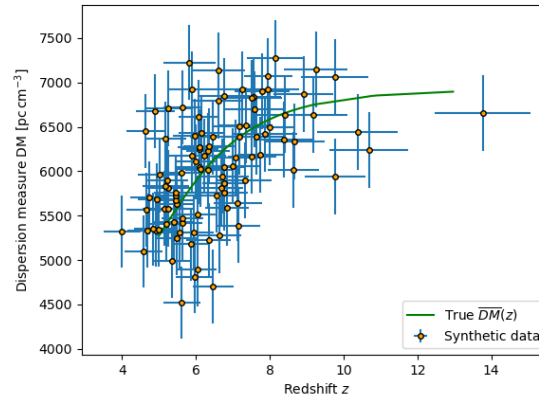
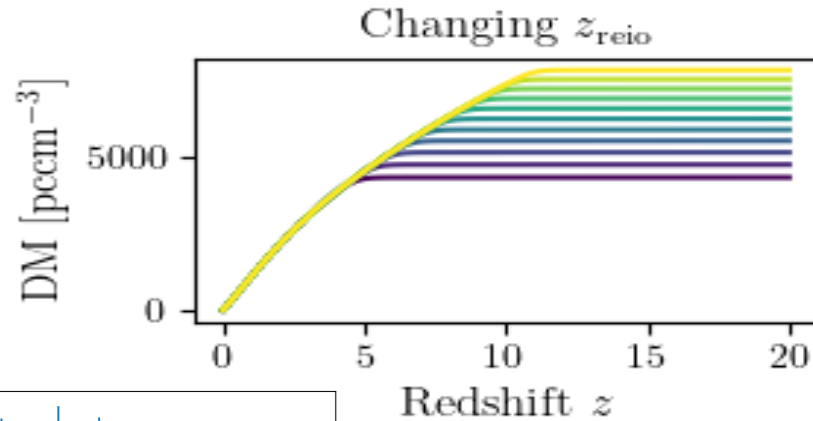
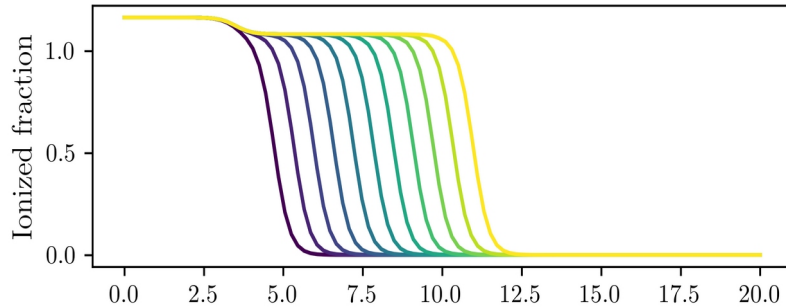


Hashimoto et al. 2021, arXiv:2008.00007

Forecast for FRBs/sky/day:
 10^4 at $z > 2$,
 10^2 at $z > 6$,
 10 at $z > 10$
 (rates still uncertain and assumption dependent though)

How to we currently measure Reionization from FRBs

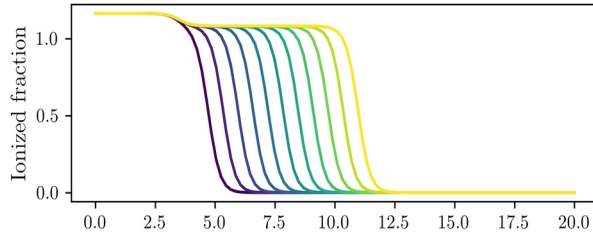
Common *tanh* parameterization:



Reionization history $x_i(z)$
Optical depth τ

How to we currently measure Reionization from FRBs

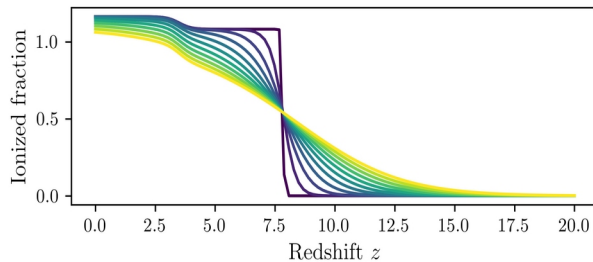
Common *tanh* parameterization:



Planck 2018 results

VI. Cosmological parameters

SEVEN-YEAR WILKINSON MICROWAVE ANISOTROPY
PROBE (WMAP*) OBSERVATIONS: COSMOLOGICAL
INTERPRETATION

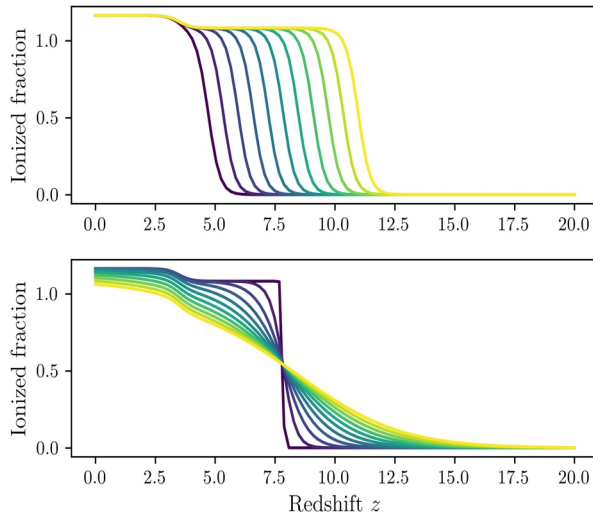


Results from EDGES High-band. I. Constraints on
Phenomenological Models for the Global 21 cm Signal

**Reconstruction of Reionization History
through Dispersion Measure of Fast Radio
Bursts**

How to we currently measure Reionization from FRBs

Common *tanh* parameterization:



Planck 2018 results

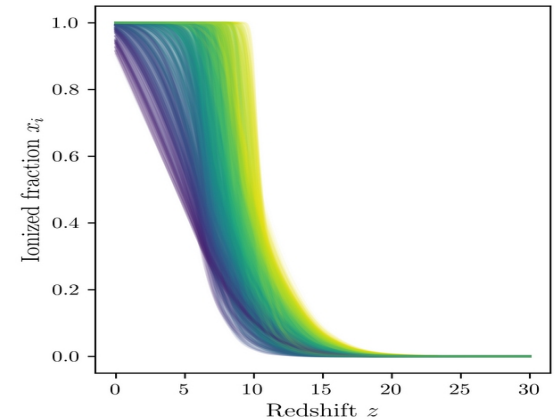
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**Reconstruction of Reionization History
through Dispersion Measure of Fast Radio
Bursts**

Reionization simulations
(Fialkov et al.):



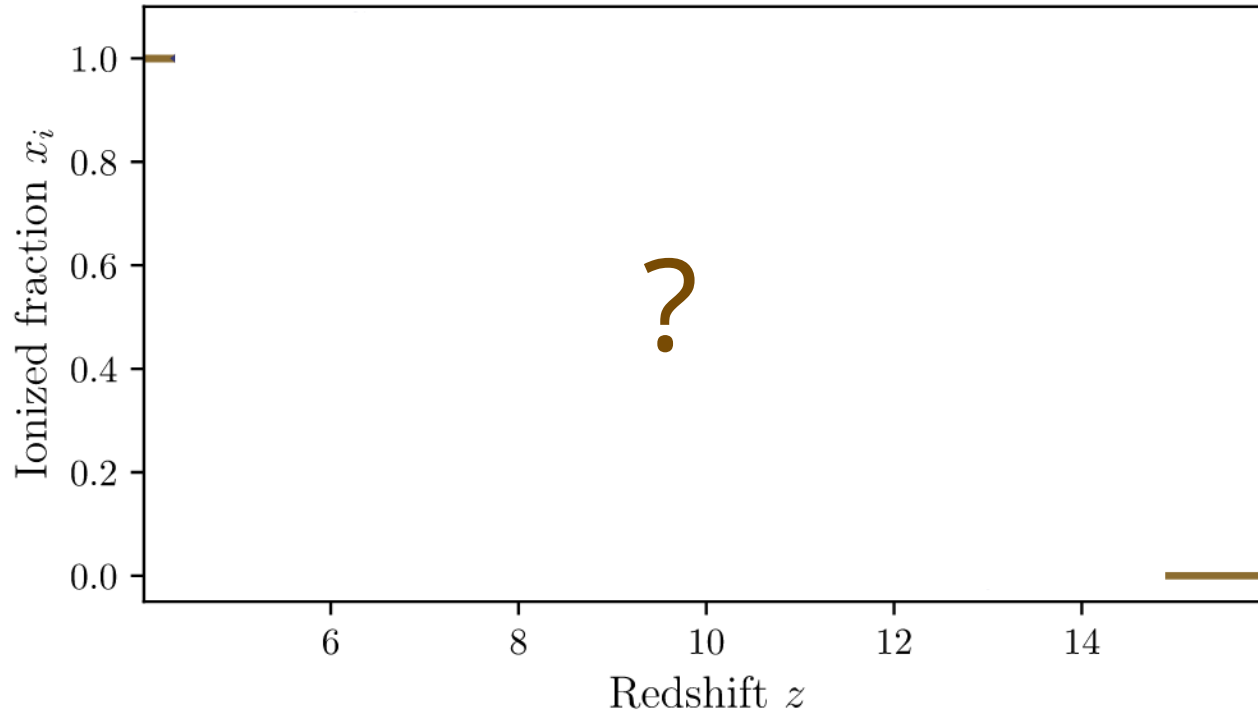
Problem: Assuming a model \rightarrow Wrong result if model \neq reality

E.g. the standard *tanh* step function reionization underestimates τ by 10%

$\tau_{\text{tanh}} = 0.052 \pm 0.002$ for $\tau_{\text{true}} = 0.057$ (1,000 FRBs)

Need a new approach - model-independent!

How to “free-form” parameterize a function?

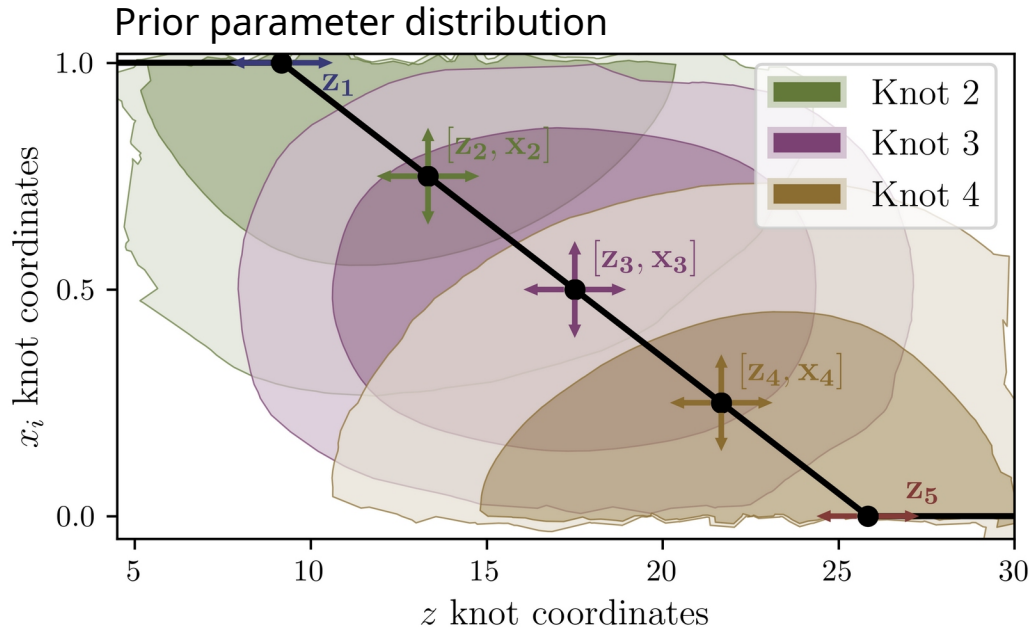


What we can assume:

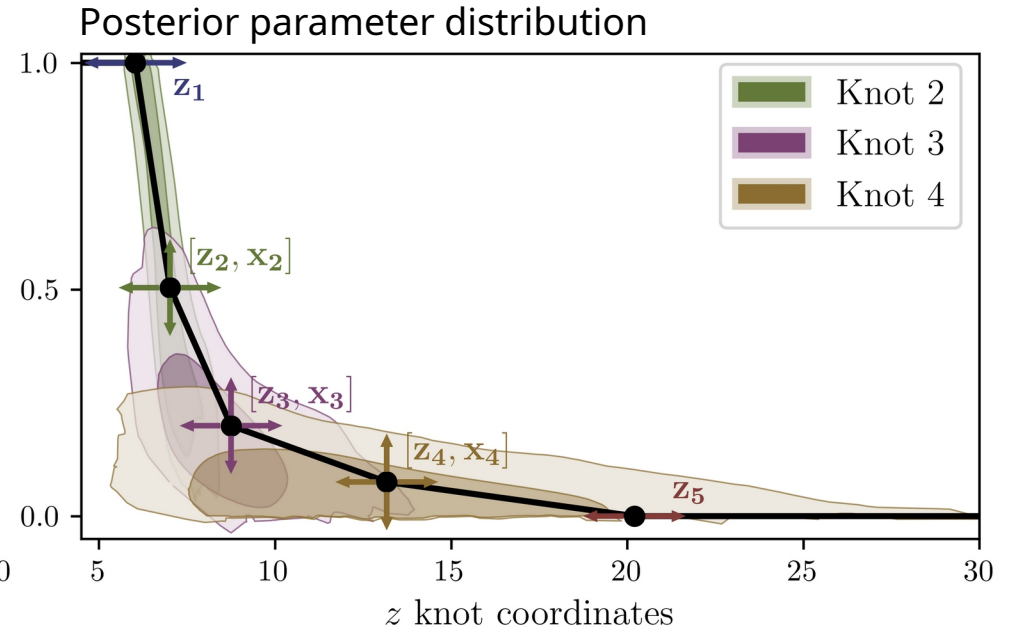
→ Function from $x=1$ at low z
to $x=0$ at high z

→ Monotonously decreasing with z

FlexKnot parameterization

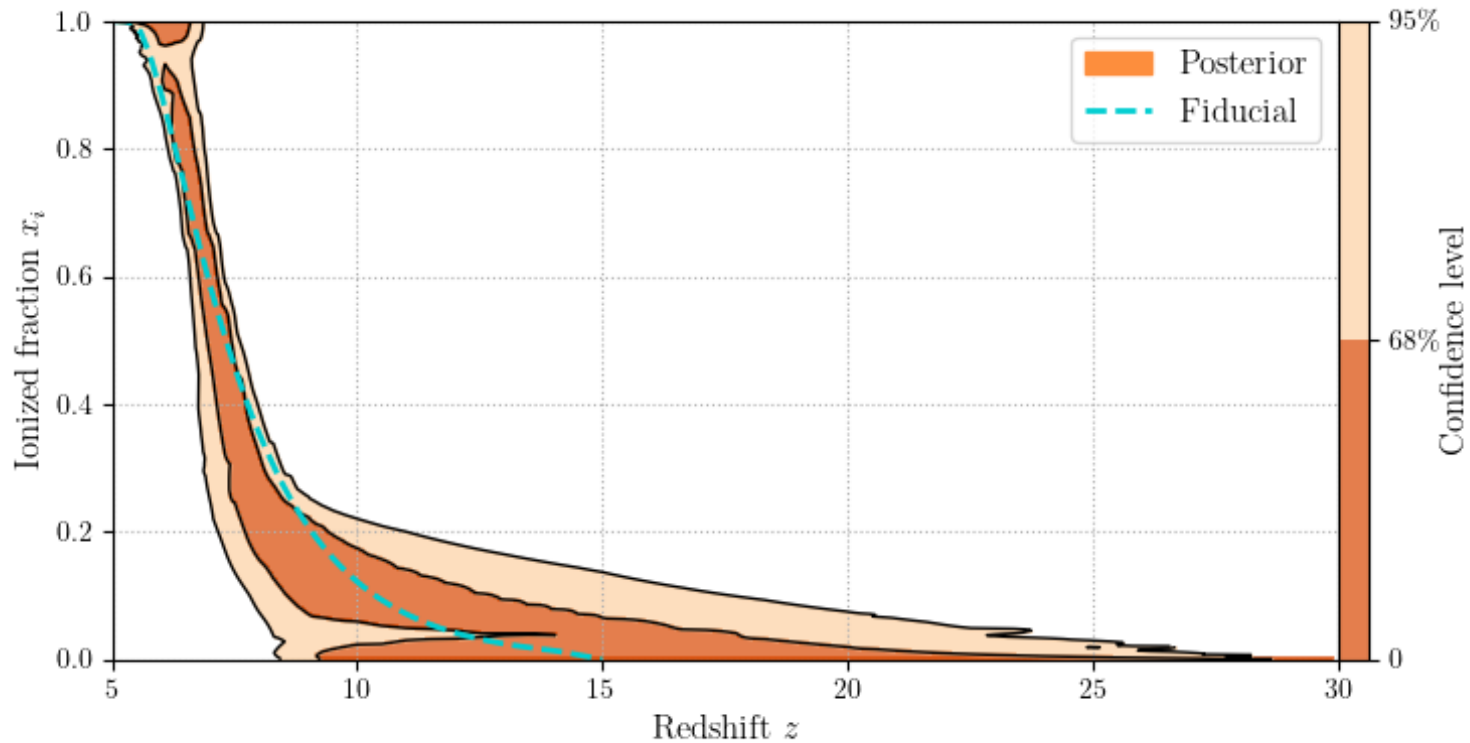


Coordinates (x,z) of interpolation knots as parameters

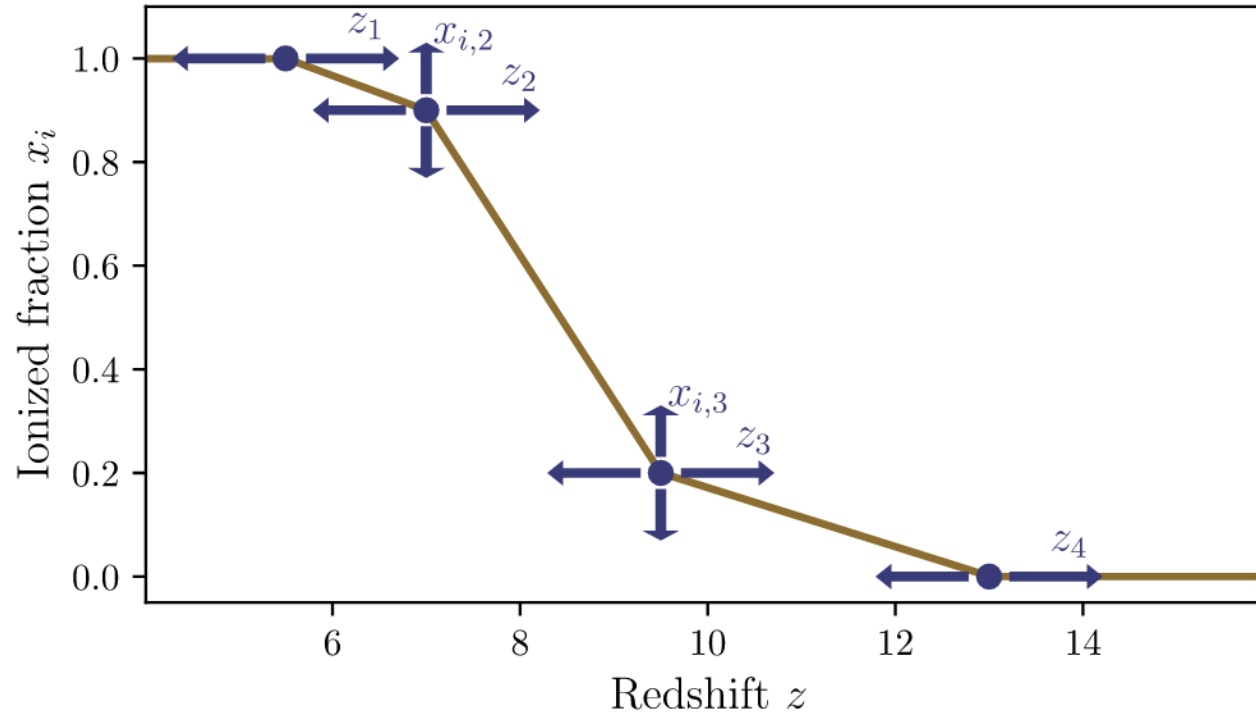


Basically, knots can move around and adjust to the data

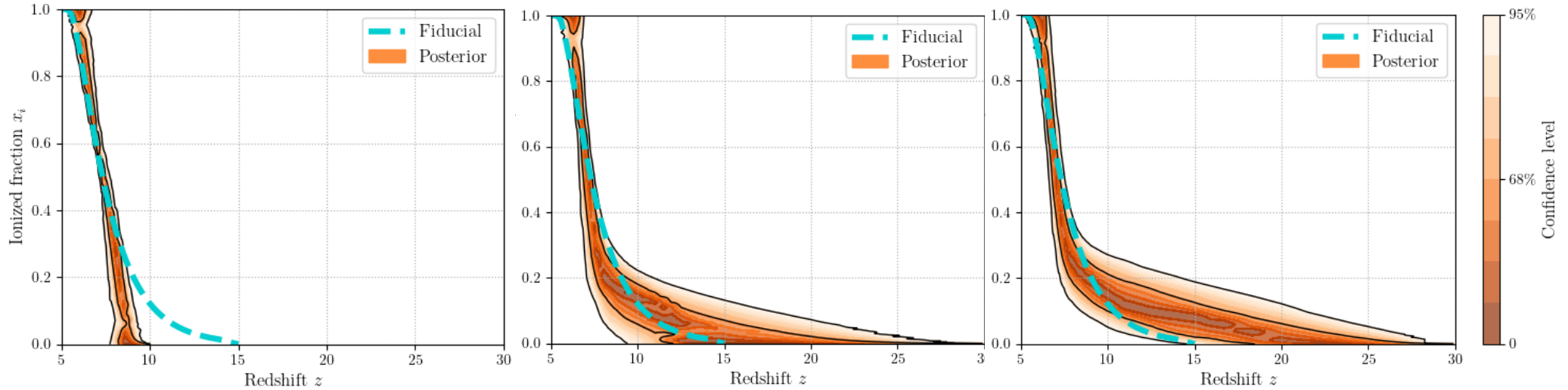
FlexKnot Reionization history



FlexKnot – How many knots do we need?



FlexKnot – How many knots do we need?



Only start + end knot:

too simple?

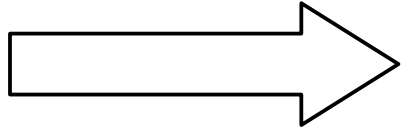
Add +2 more knots:

fits well?

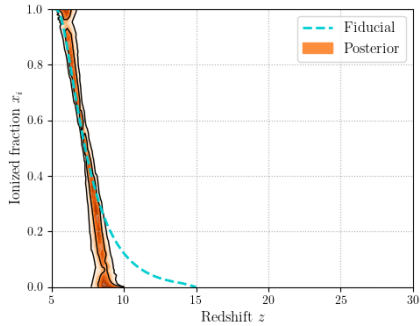
Add +9 additional knots:

too many params?

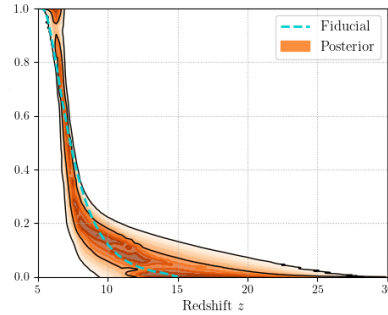
FlexKnot – How many knots do we need?



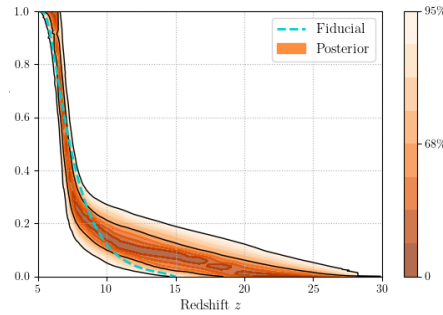
Marginalize over number of knots (\rightarrow Evidence)



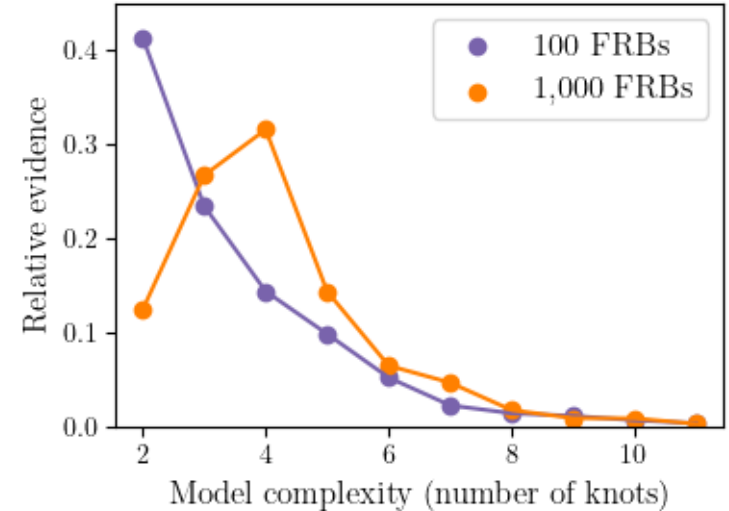
Only start + end knot:
too simple
Evidence $Z = 0.4$



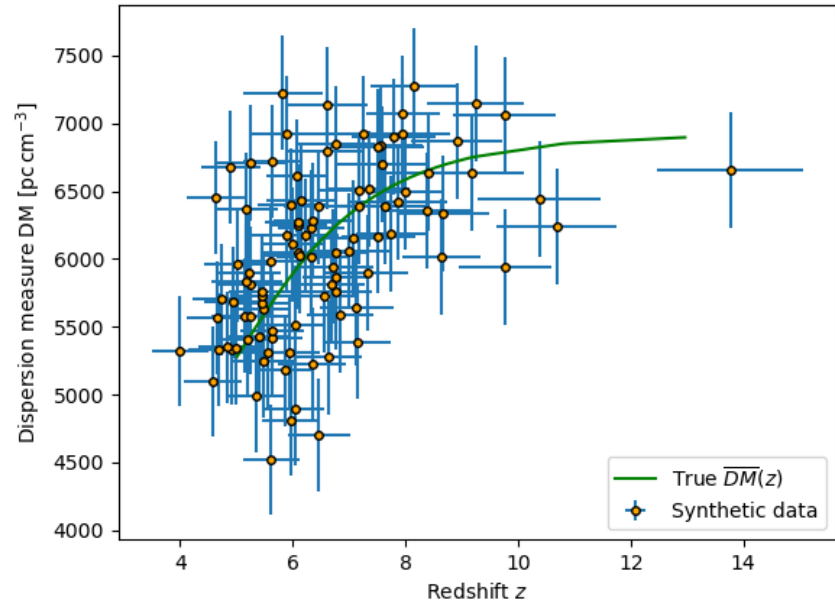
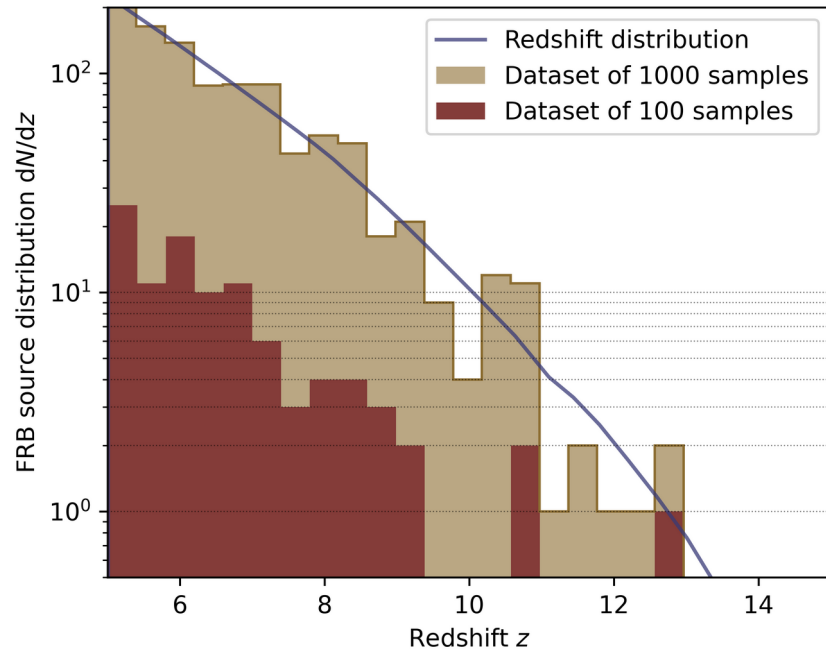
Add +2 more knots:
fits well
Evidence $Z = 1$



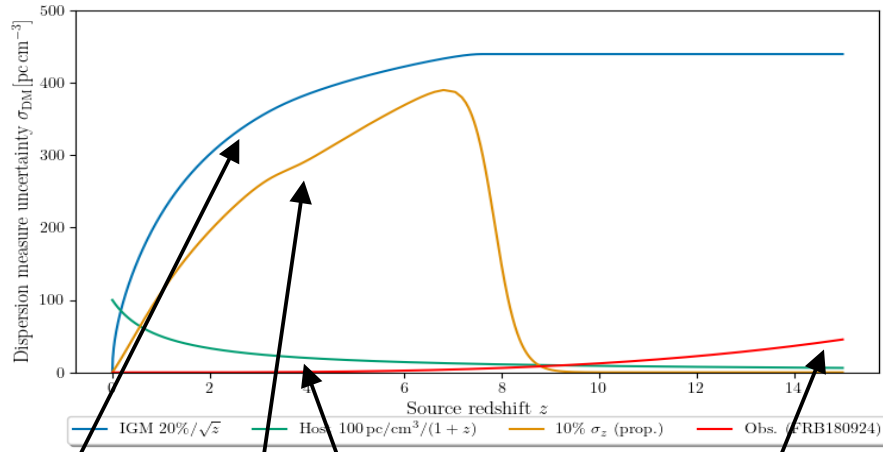
Add +9 additional knots:
too many params
Evidence $Z = 0.01$



Concrete forecasts!



Measurement uncertainties

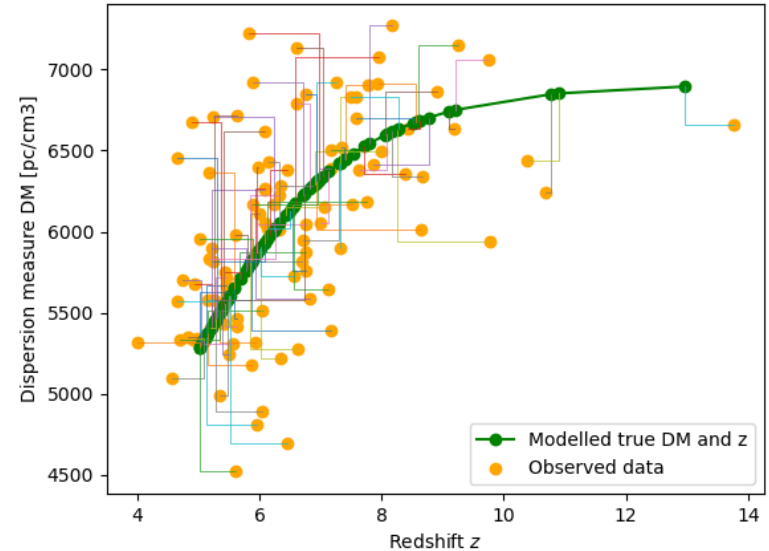


Main uncertainty:
IGM
inhomogeneity

Redshift error
(DM-equivalent)

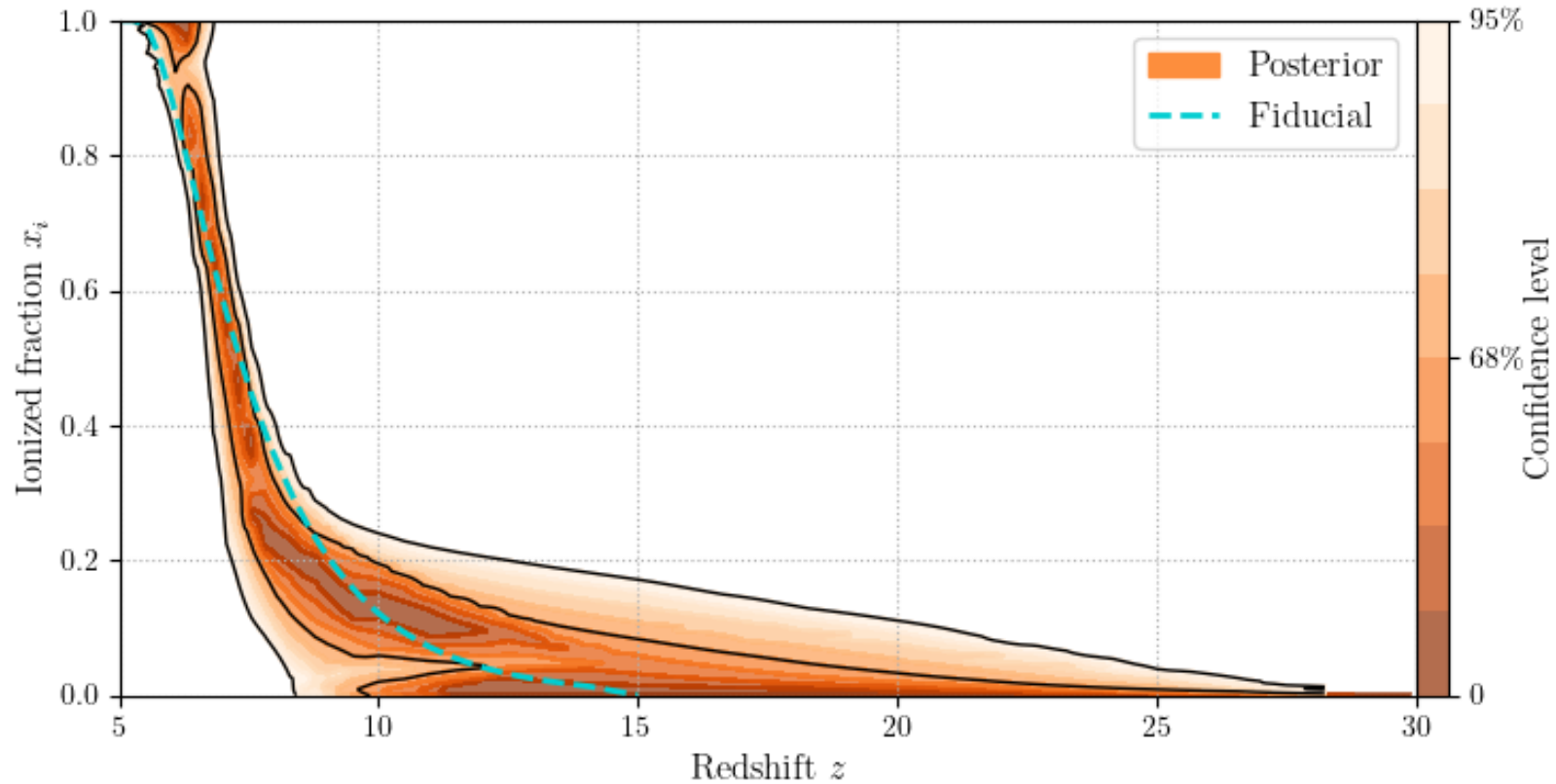
Unknown host
contribution

Observational error

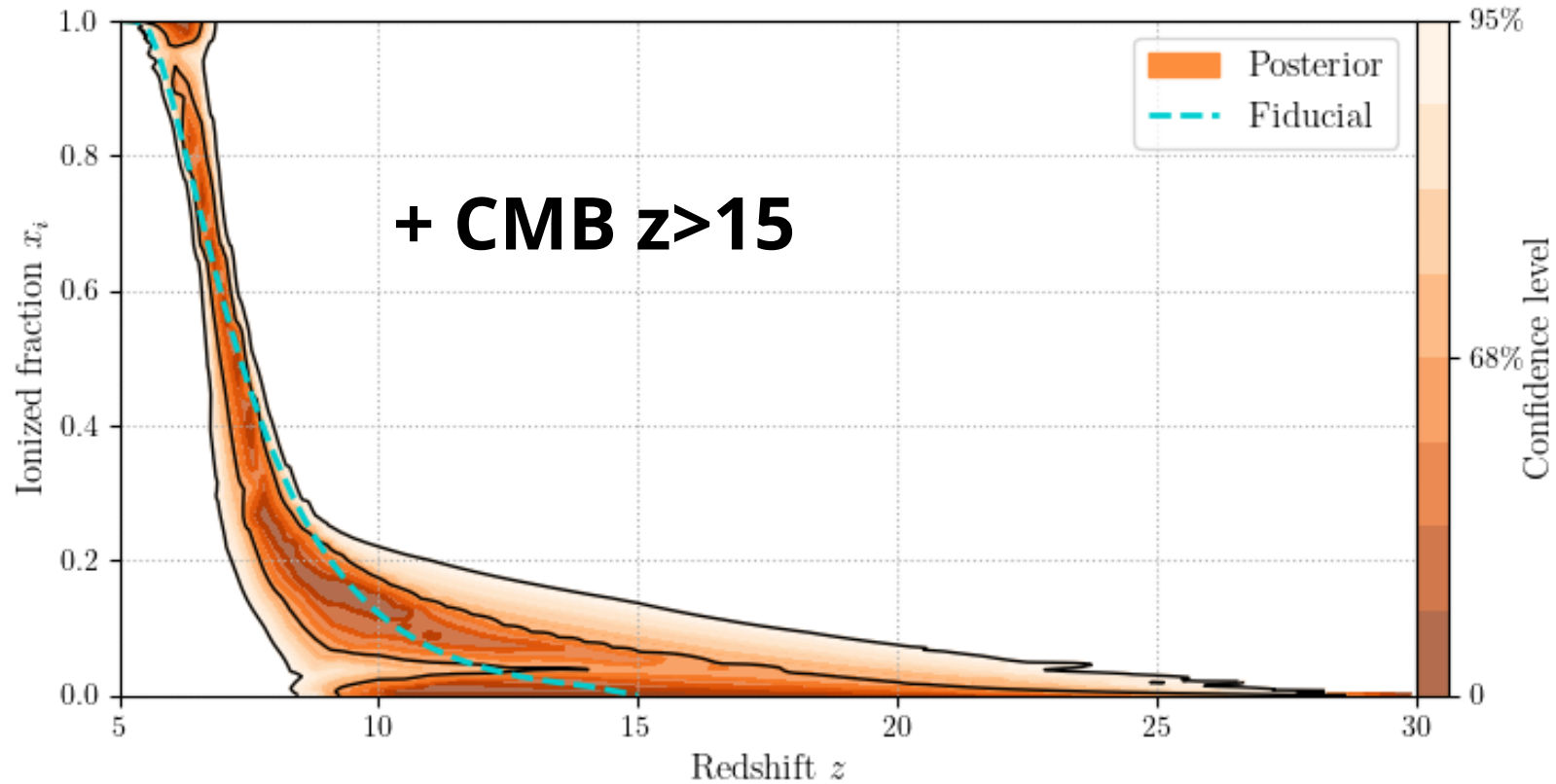


Generating mock observations

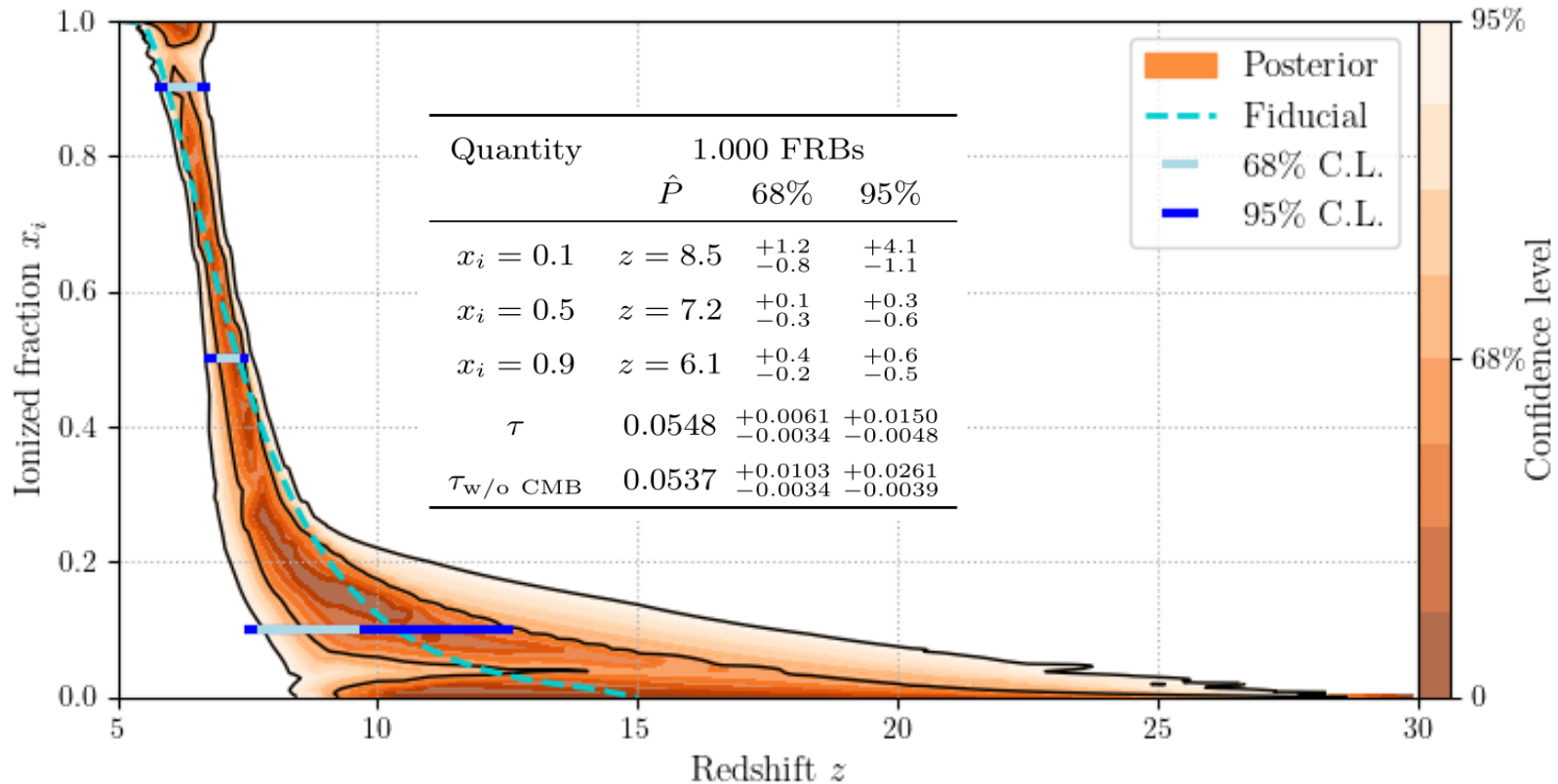
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



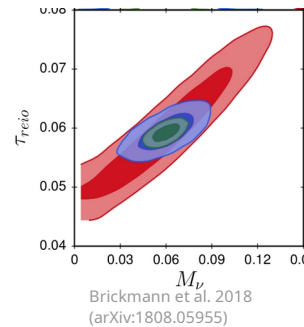
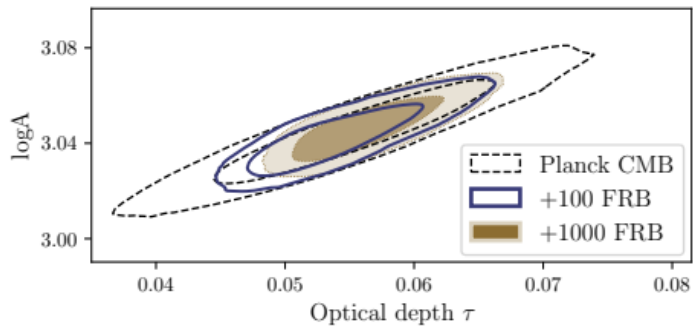
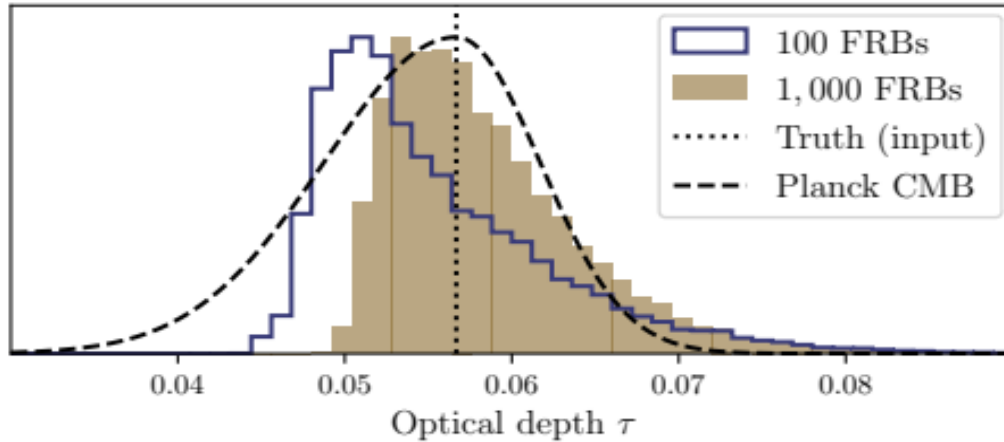
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



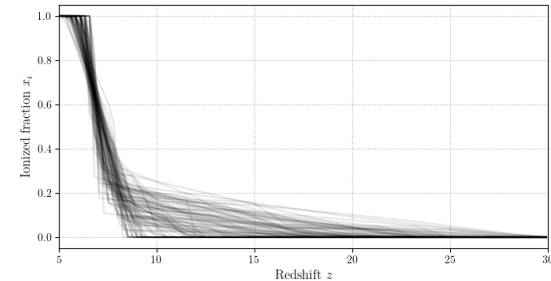
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



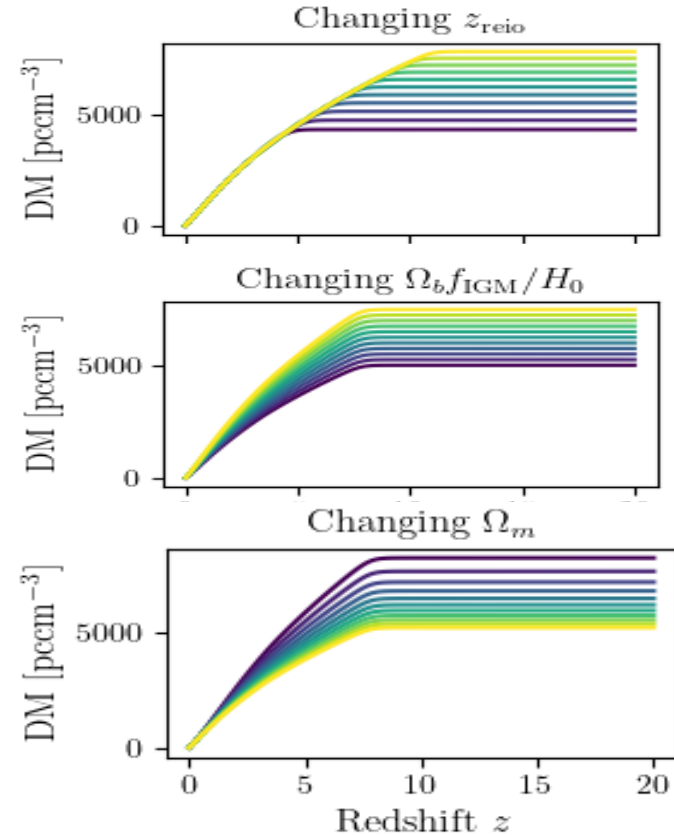
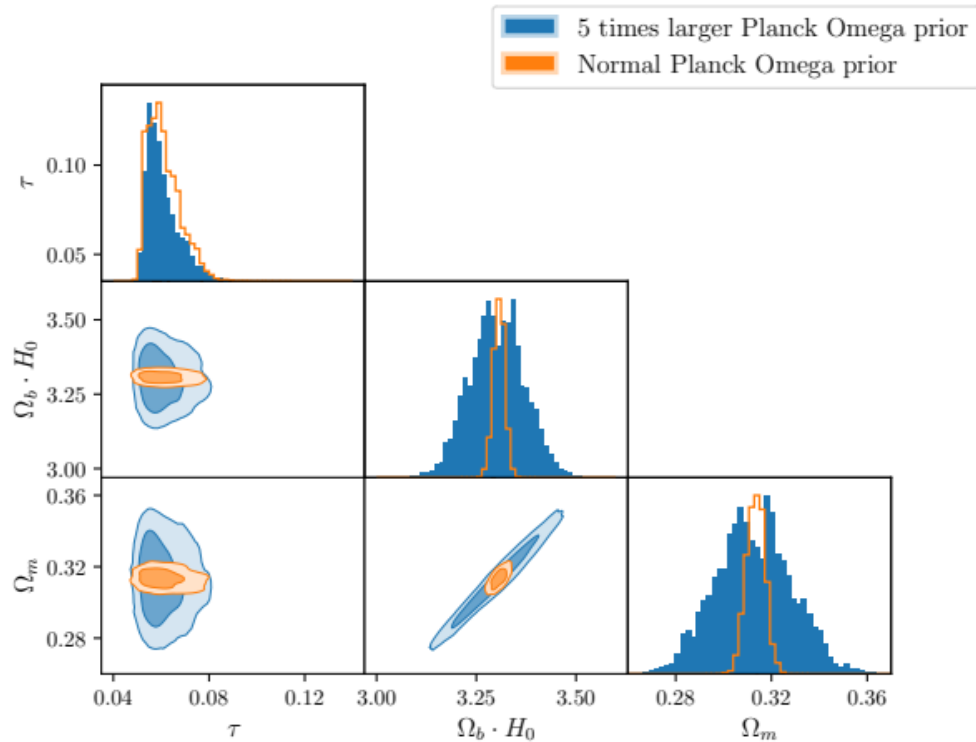
Optical depth constraint



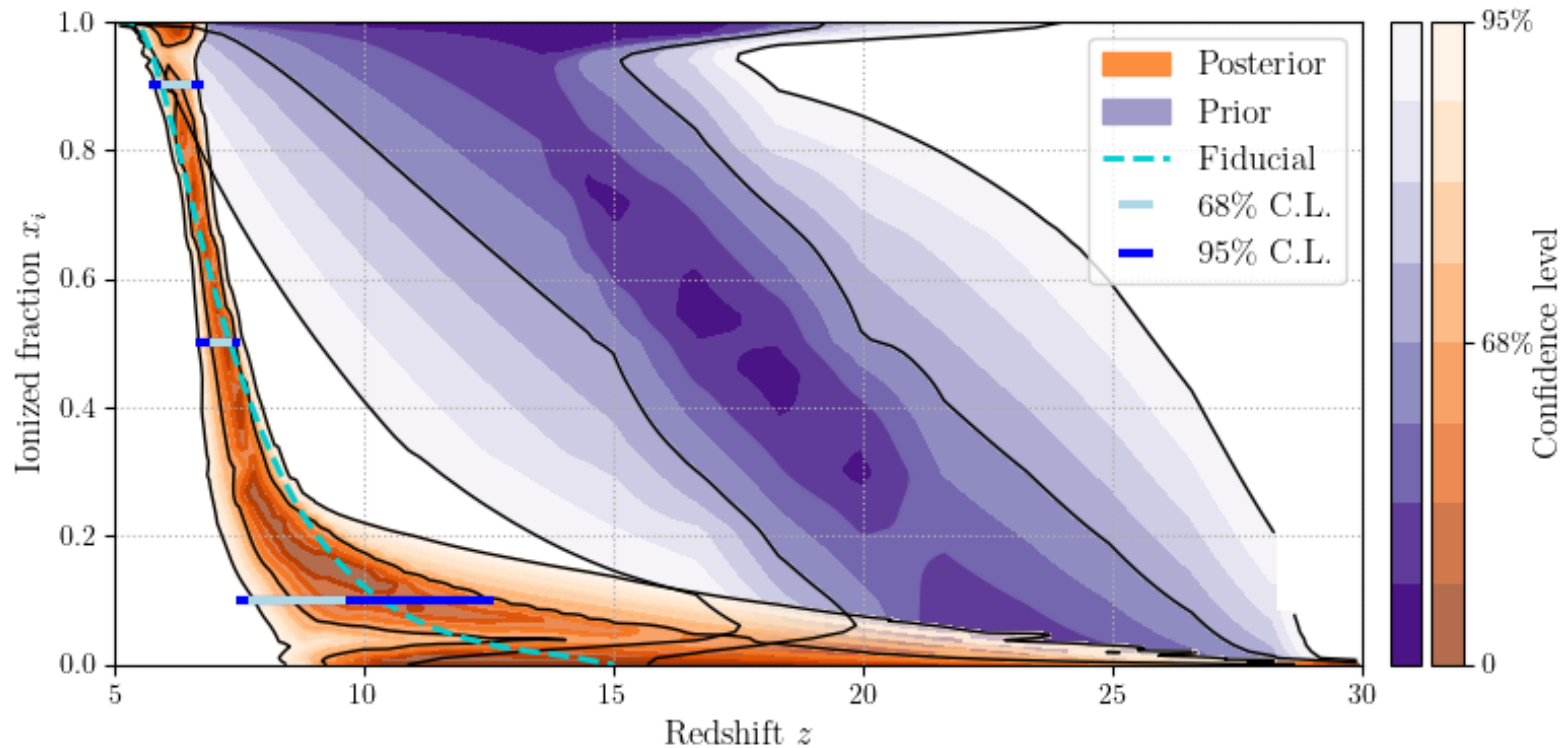
Key point: Reionization model-*marginalized* ("independent"), i.e. averaged over all reionization models.



Degeneracies



Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



Summary

- FRBs originate from cosmological distances → new probe of the high- z Universe
- This is just the beginning: New instruments → More FRBs
- Many open questions: Origin, Mechanism, Repeaters
- Cosmology with Dispersion Measure: H_0 , Reionization and more
- Use model-independent parameterizations of functions → applicable everywhere!

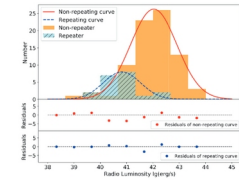
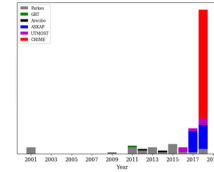


Figure 3. Histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs for radio luminosity expressed logarithmically. The solid line is the

