

Fast Radio Bursts, and where to find them

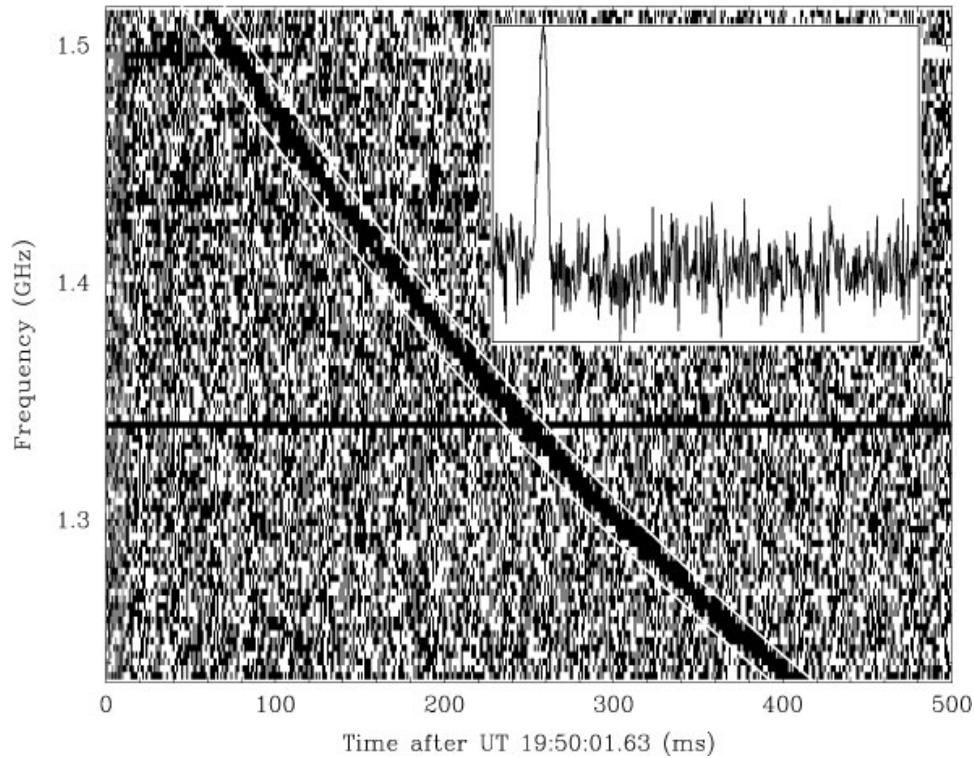
FRBs as probes of cosmic Reionization

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)

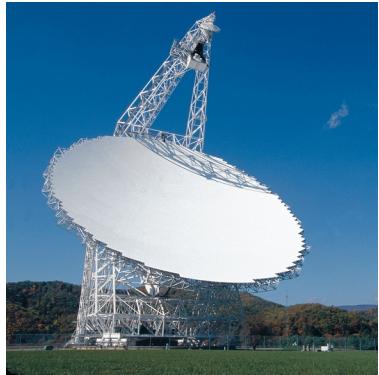


Lorimer et al. 2007 arXiv:0709.4301



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)



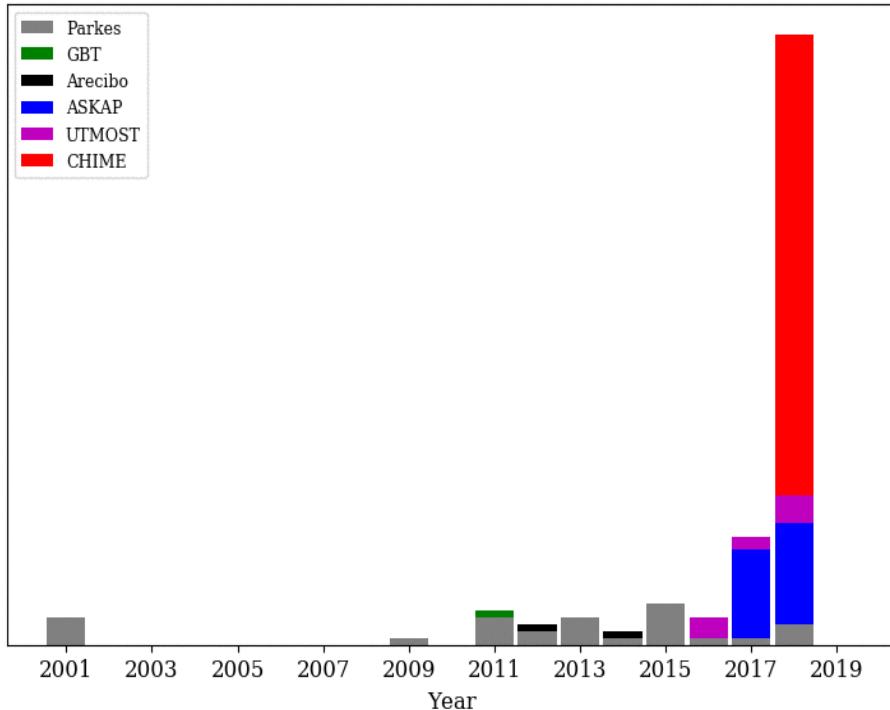
(Past) Arecibo
Photo credit:
Mario Roberto
Durán Ortiz
(CC BY-SA)



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

Photo credit: CHIME

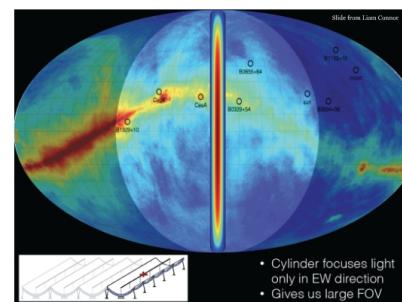
Recent FRB discoveries



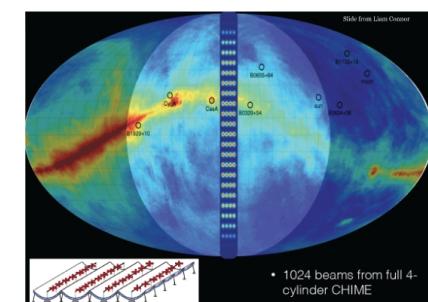
Animation by Cherry Ng, CHIME, Dunlap Institute (github.com/cherryng)



Photo credit: CHIME



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

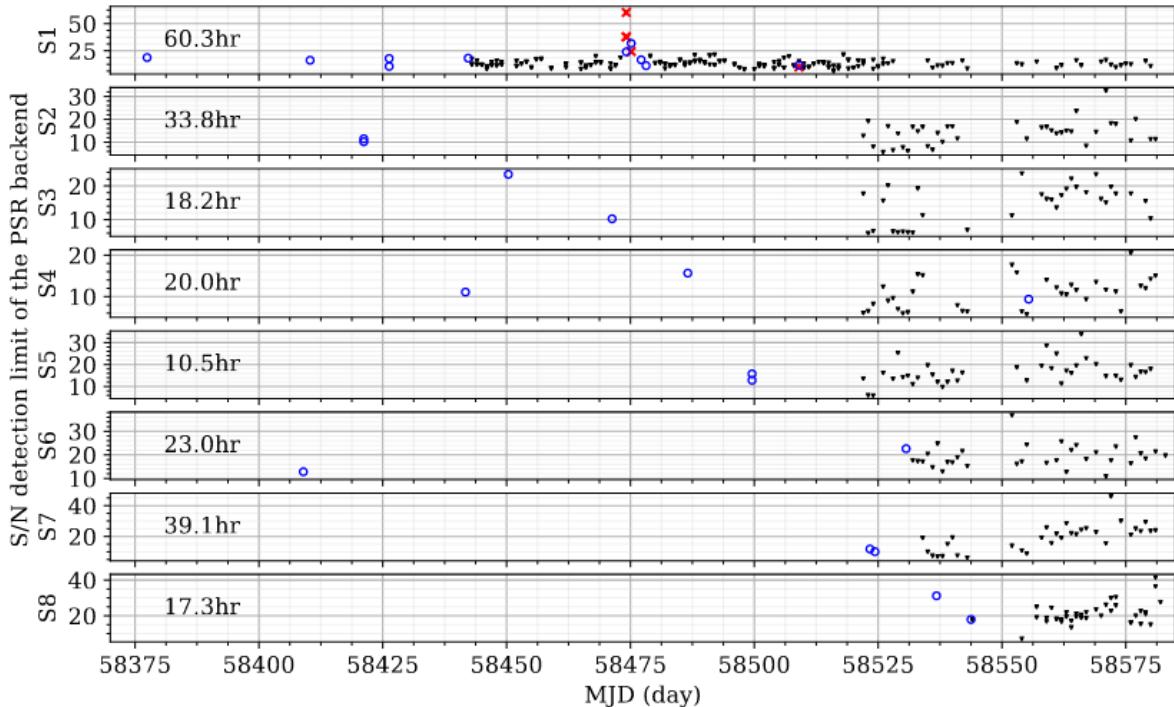
[The CHIME/FRB Collaboration](#)

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

– CHIME (2019)

Repeating FRBs!

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



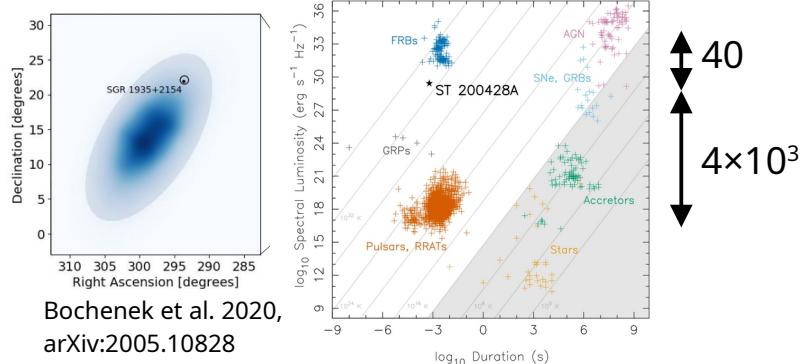
CHIME/FRB Collaboration 2020, arXiv:2001.10275 – 8 new repeaters

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

Magnetars as FRB sources?

Most promising currently: **Magnetars**

→ "FRB" from Magnetar SGR 1935+2154



Bochenek et al. 2020,
arXiv:2005.10828

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)

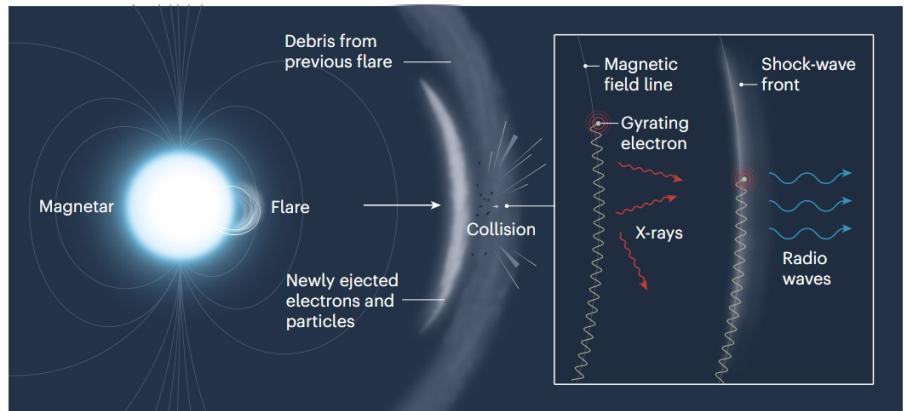


Figure 1 | A potential mechanism for the formation of fast radio bursts. A bright, millisecond-long burst of radio waves, known as a fast radio burst (FRB), has been detected^{1–3} coming from a highly magnetized stellar remnant (a magnetar) in our Galaxy. The radio waves were accompanied by X-ray emissions^{4–6}. 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)

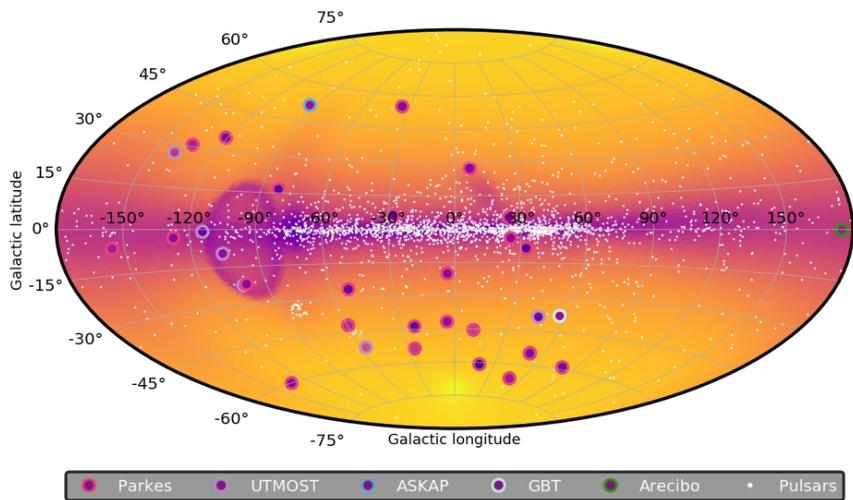
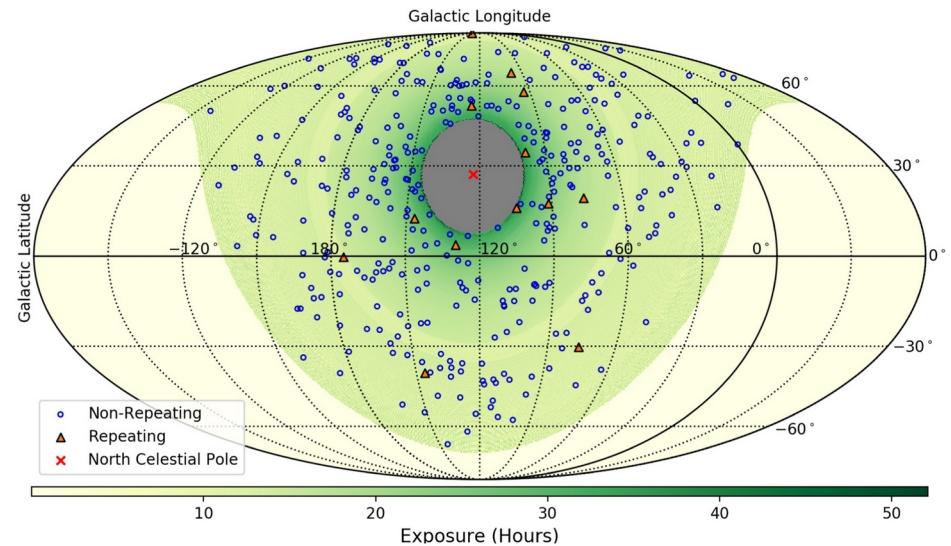


Figure: MeerTRAP, FRB & Pulsar locations
(<https://www.meertrap.org/science-goals/fast-radio-bursts/>)



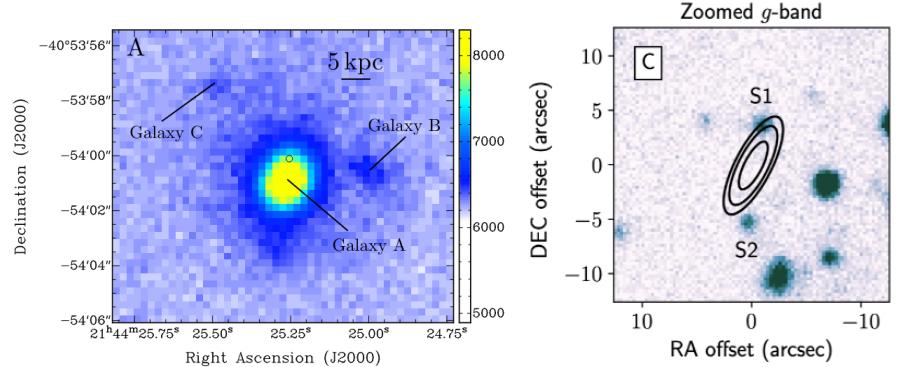
FRBs in CHIME/FRB Catalog 1 (arXiv:2106.04352)

FRB Localization (precise + redshift)

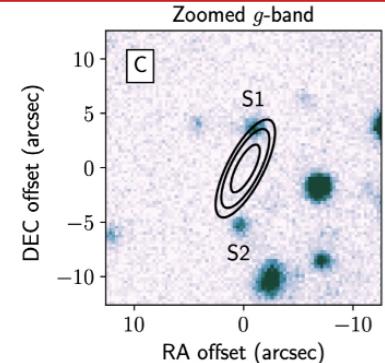
non-repeating

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

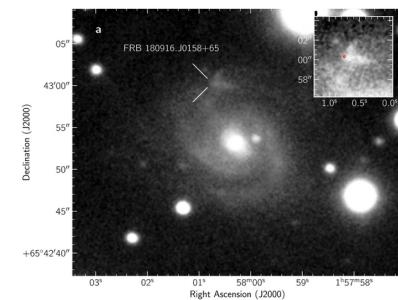
All localized FRBs from <https://www.frbcat.org/>



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

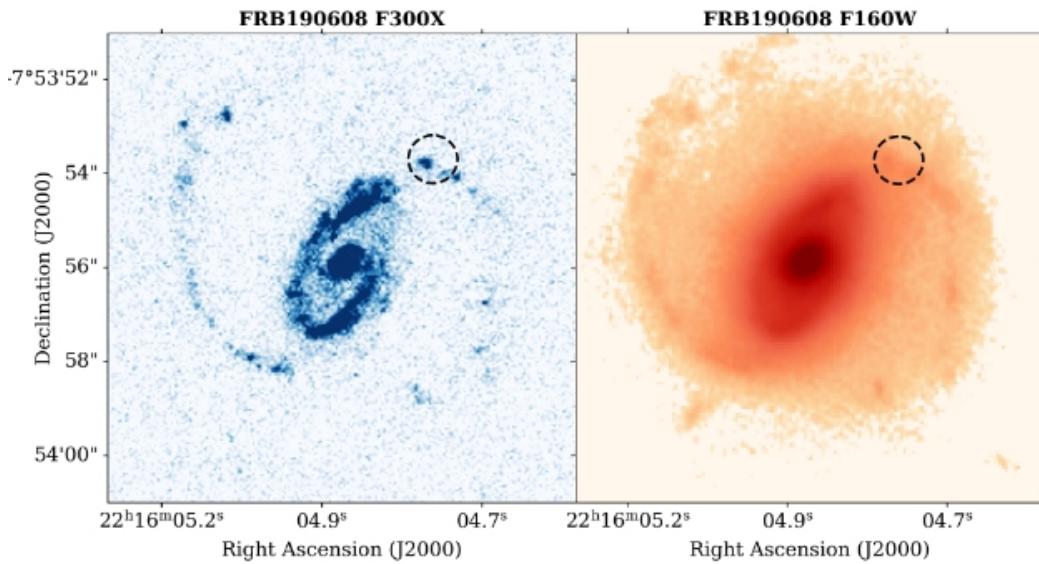


FRB 121102 by DSA-10, follow-up by VLA (arXiv:1701.01098)

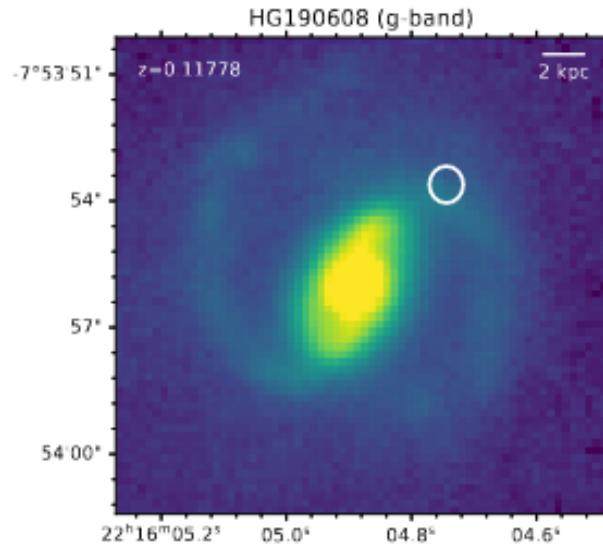


FRB 180916 by CHIME, follow-up with Europ. VLBI Net. (arXiv:2001.02222)

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

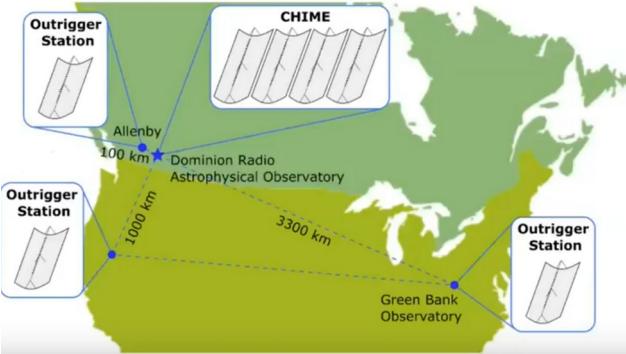
A: Recording B: Live

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

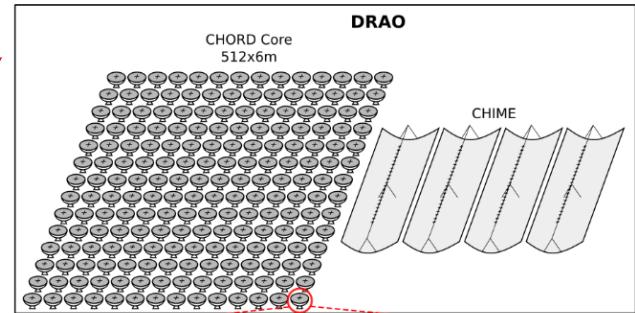
Bursts

Juan Mena-Parra, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A: Recording B: Recording

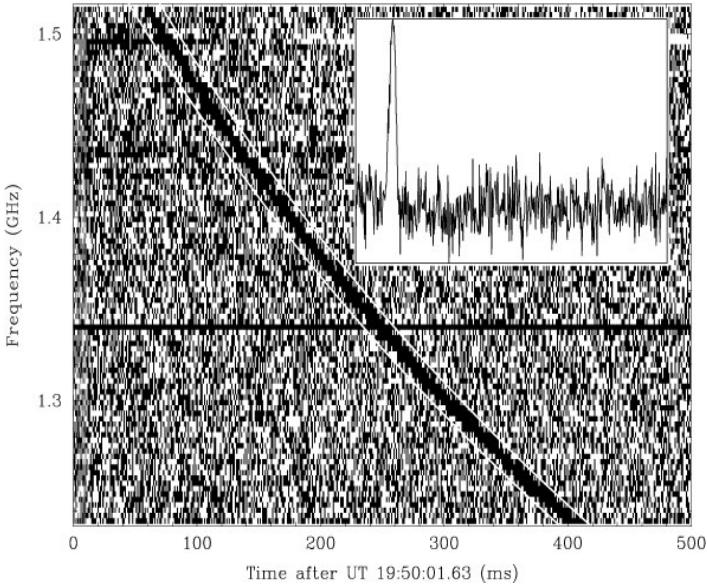
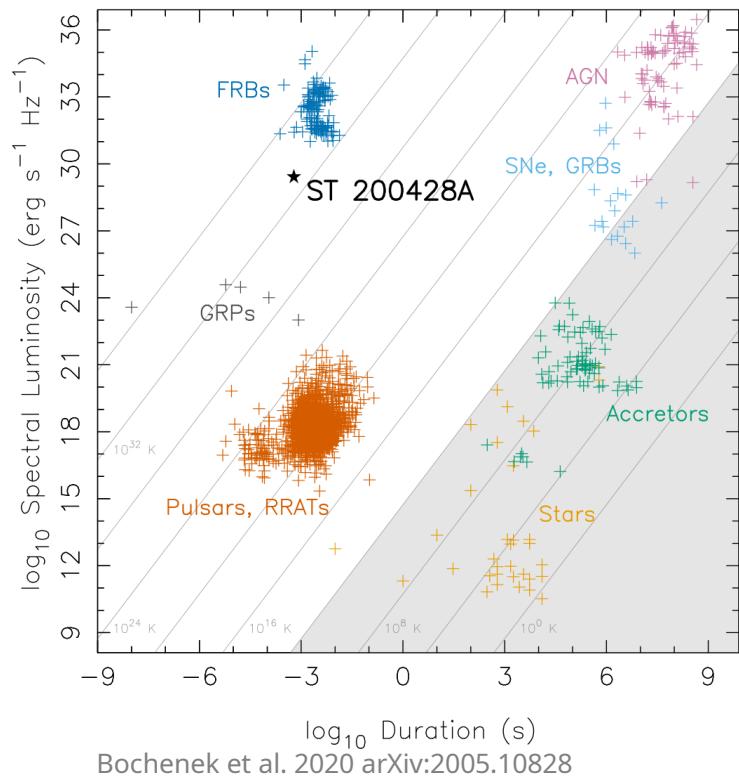


CHIME Outiggers. Juan Mena-Parra, FRB2021 (8A)



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

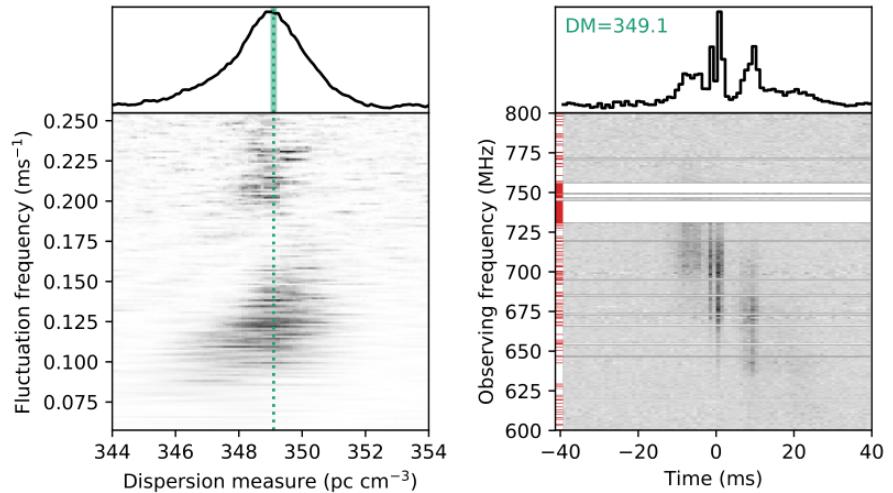
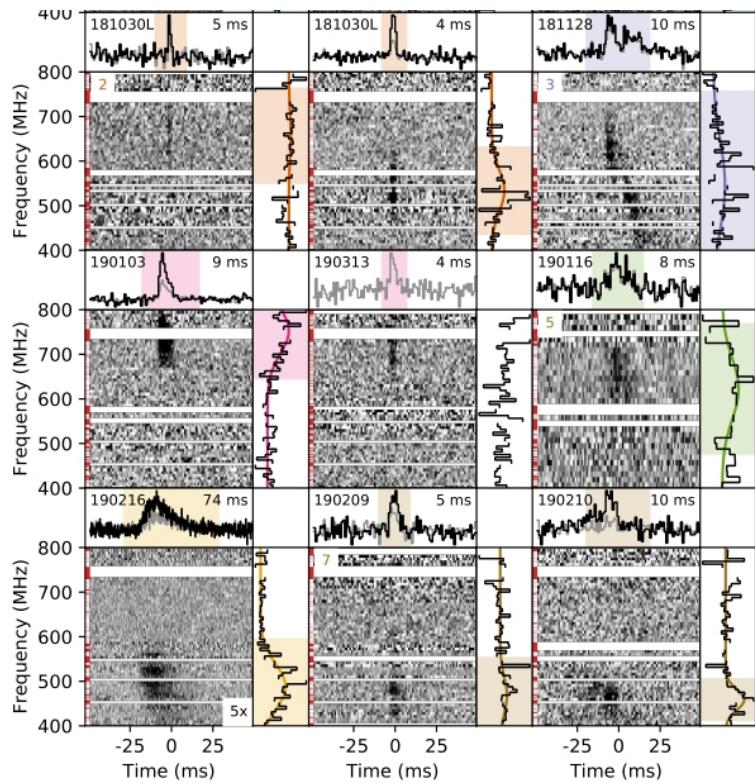
Typical properties



Lorimer et al. 2007 arXiv:0709.4301

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

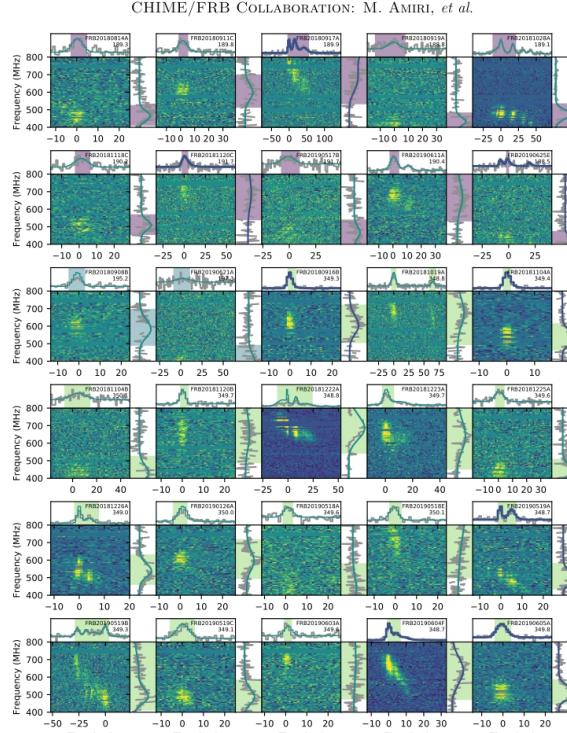
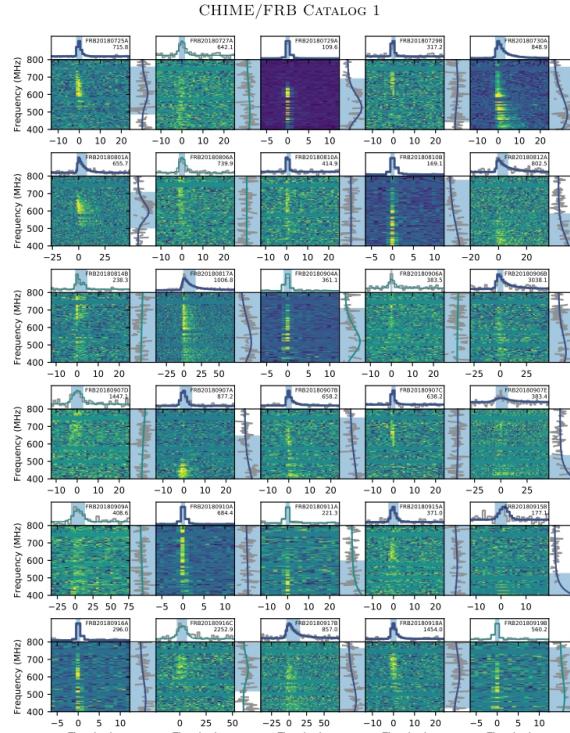
Signal shapes



Downward-drifting substructure
("sad trombone")

CHIME/FRB Collaboration, arXiv:1908.03507

Repeaters – A distinct population?



CHIME/FRB Collaboration
2021, arXiv:2106.04352

Repeaters – A distinct population?

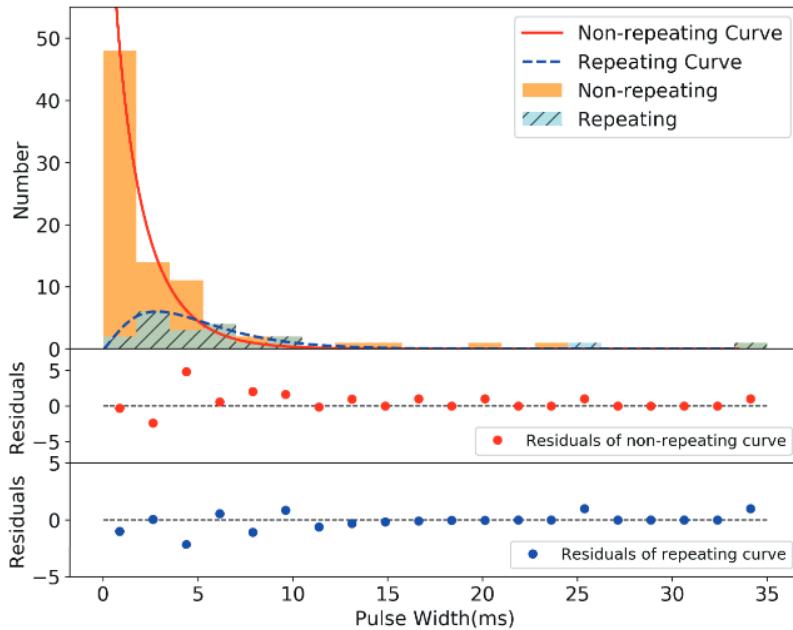


Figure 1. Upper panel: histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs with pulse width < 35 ms. The solid (dashed) line is the

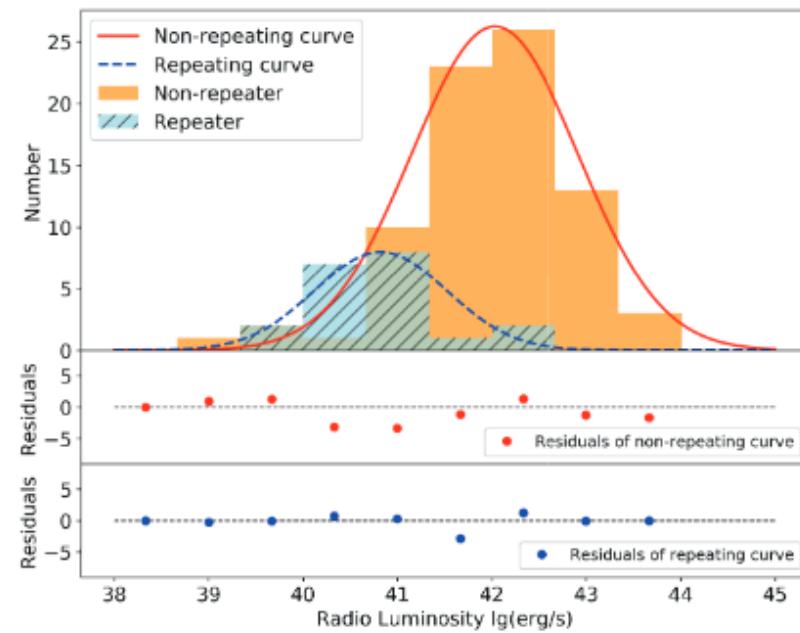
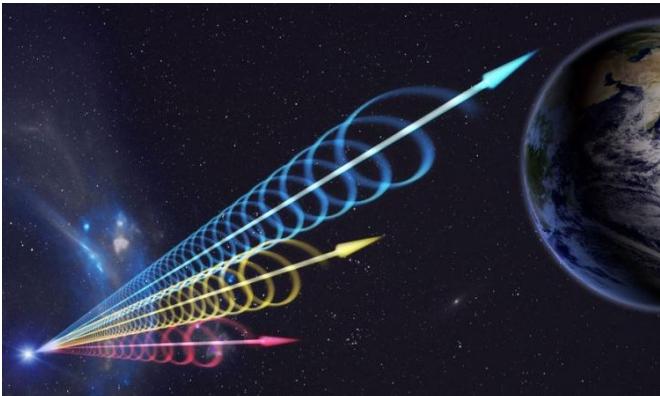


Figure 3. Histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs for radio luminosity expressed logarithmically. The solid line is the

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

Cosmology with FRBs

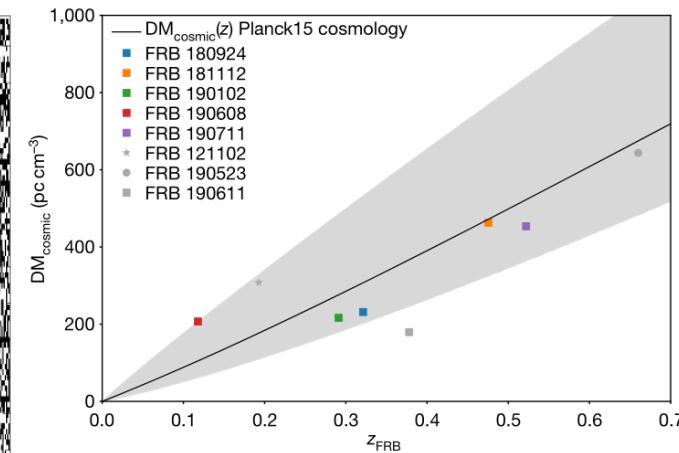
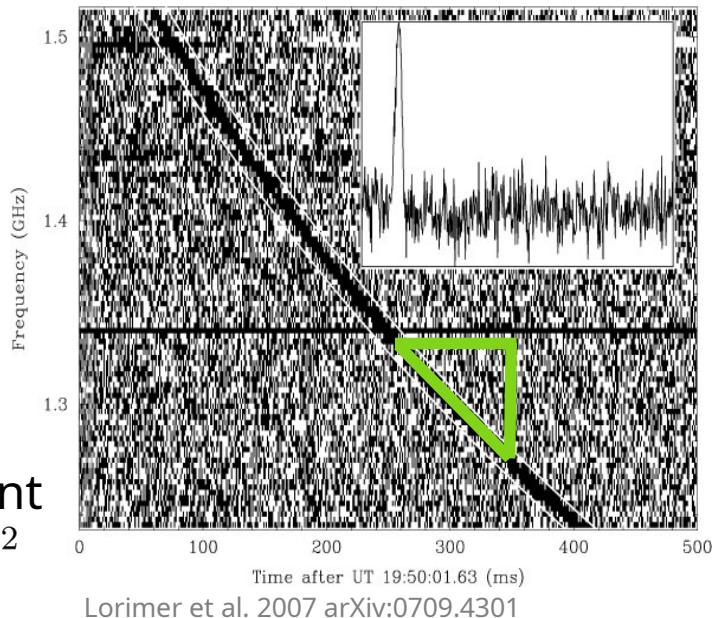
The FRB Dispersion Measure



Jingchuan Yu, Beijing Planetarium

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

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



DM \longleftrightarrow Redshift z

Dispersion Measure Contributions

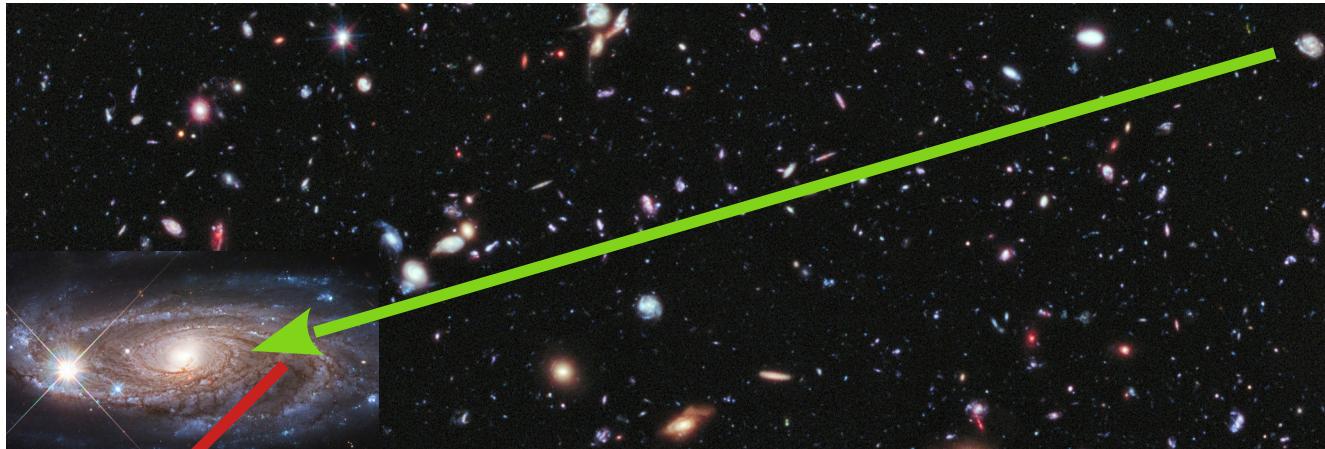
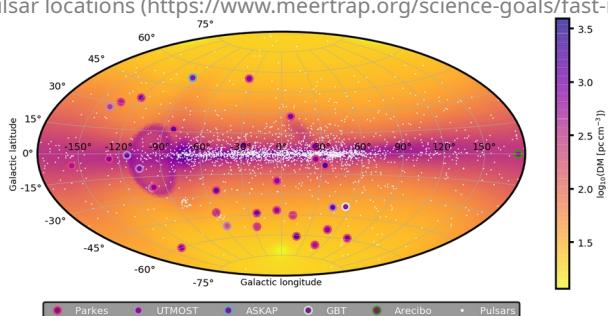


Image: BG - NASA; FG - ESA; B. Holwerda; Illingworth, Oesch, Bouwens and the HUDF09 Team

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

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



Dispersion Measure Contributions

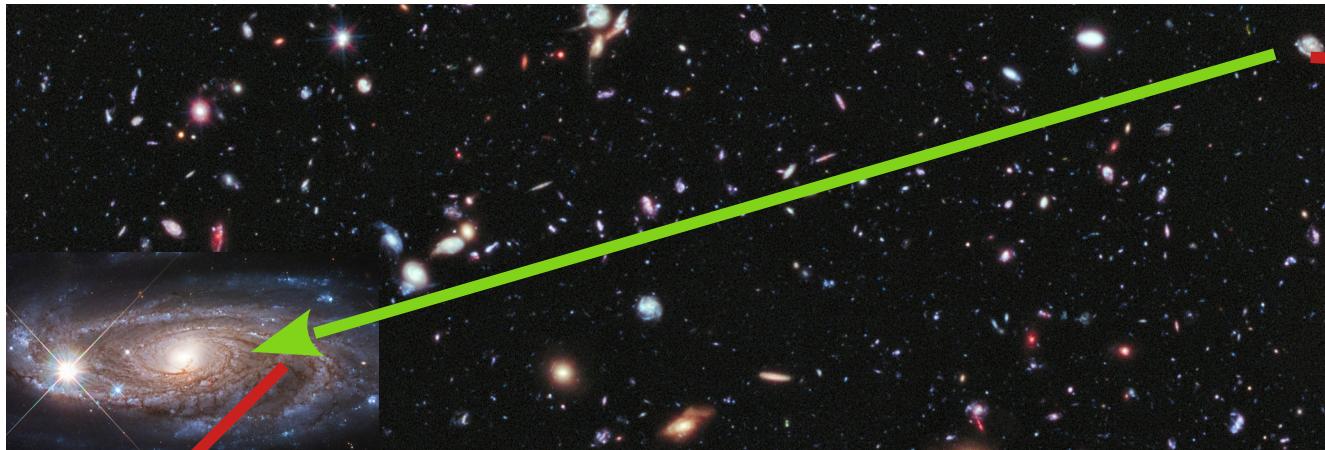
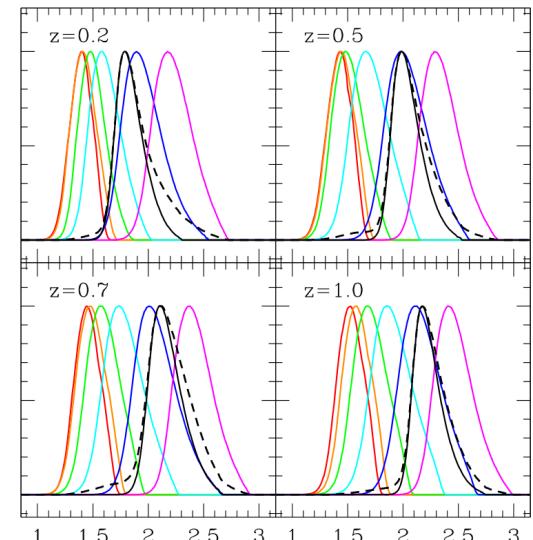


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Milky Way – from 10
to 3000 pc/cm³ but
known from model:

Host galaxy – unknown
 $\sim 200 \pm 100$ pc/cm³



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

Dispersion Measure Contributions

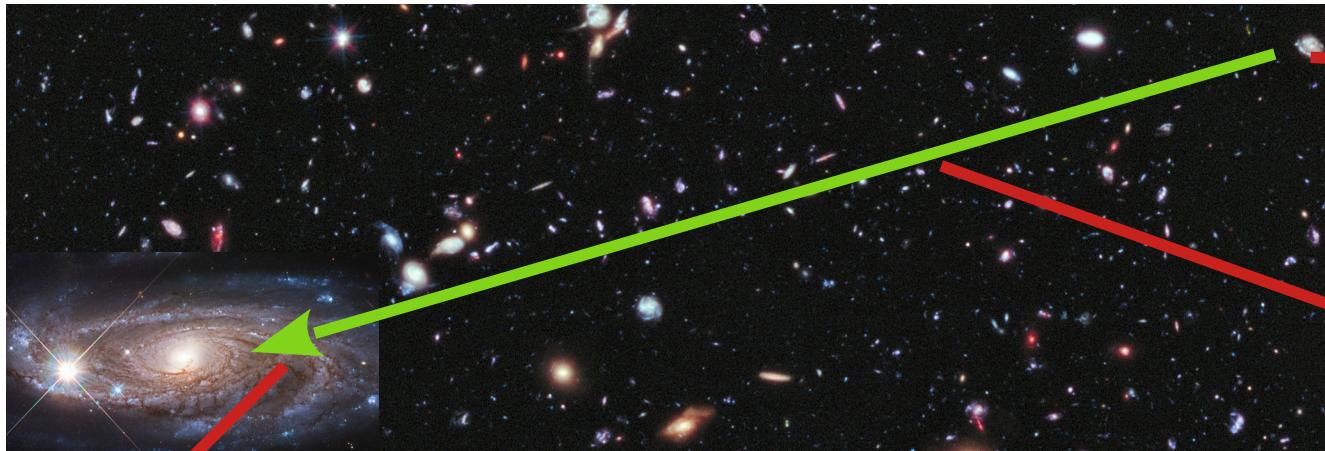


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Milky Way – from 10 to 3000 pc/cm³ but known from model:

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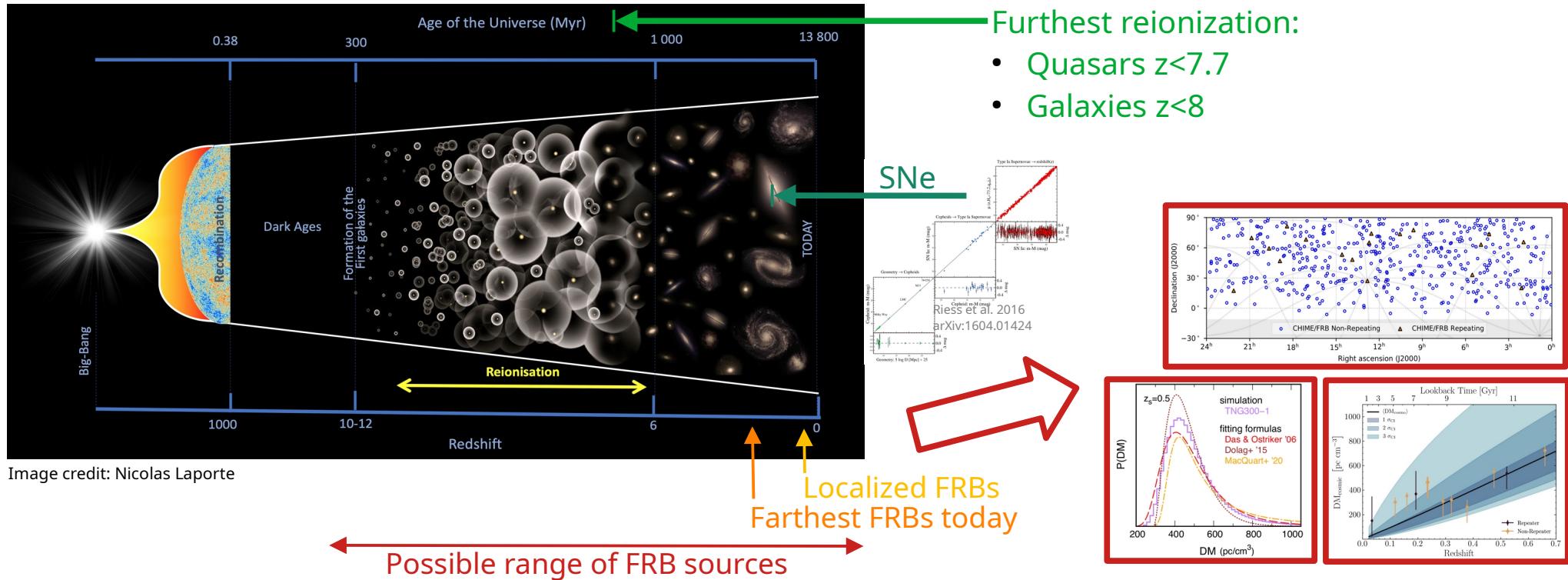
Intergalactic medium – depending on the distance, and ionization of the IGM along the line of sight

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

$\sim 4000 - 6000$ pc/cm³ $\pm 5-9\%$

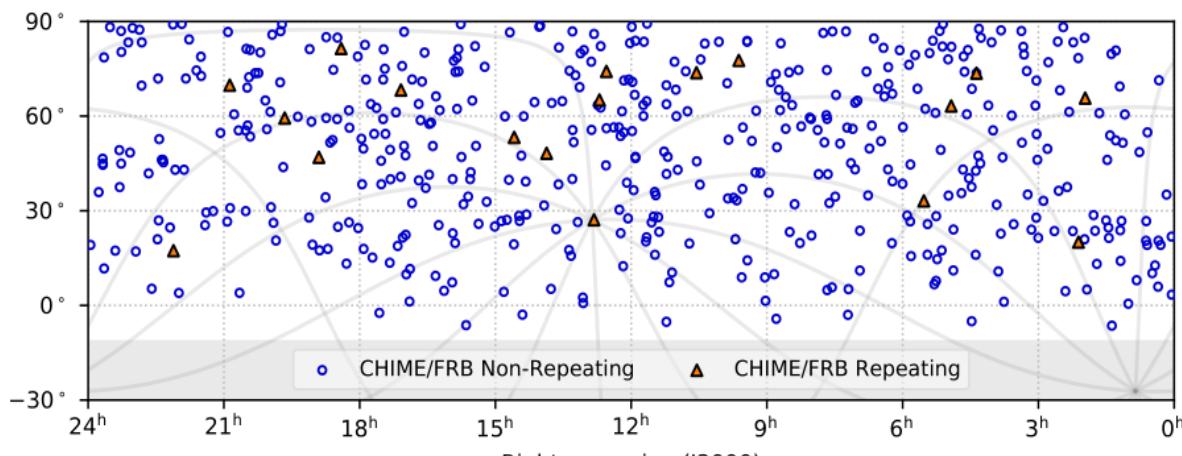
(for $z=5$ to 15)

Cosmology with FRBs



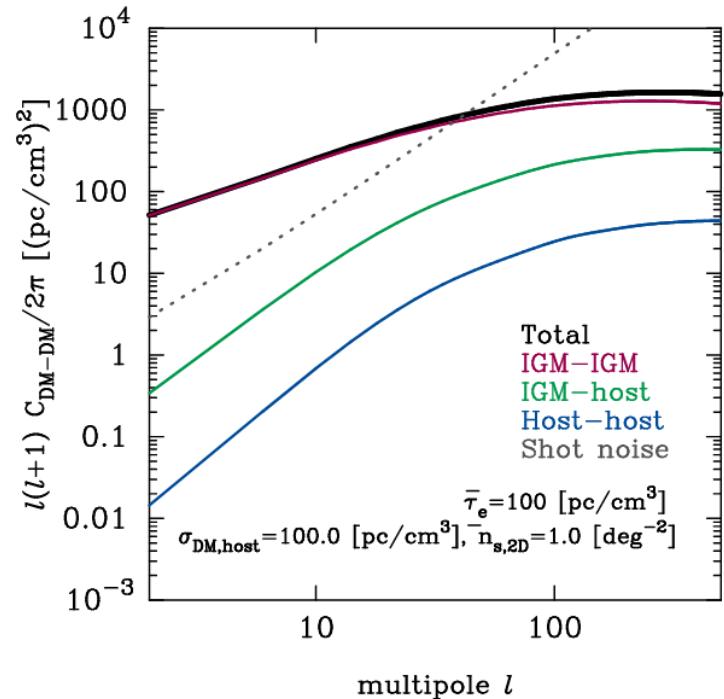
FRB (angular) clustering

Declination (J2000)



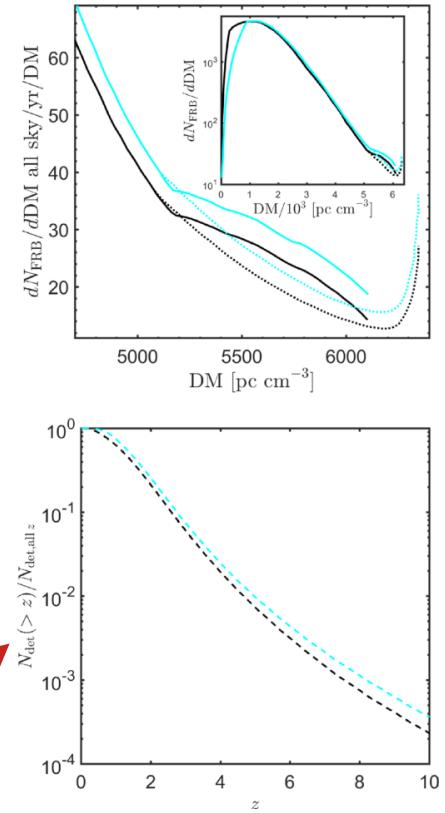
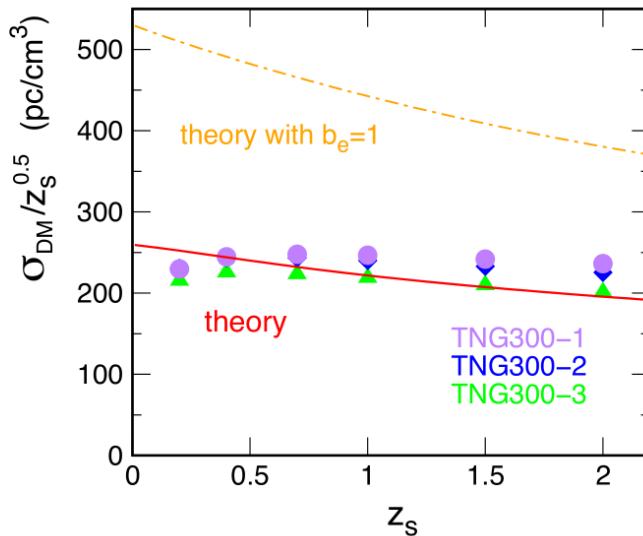
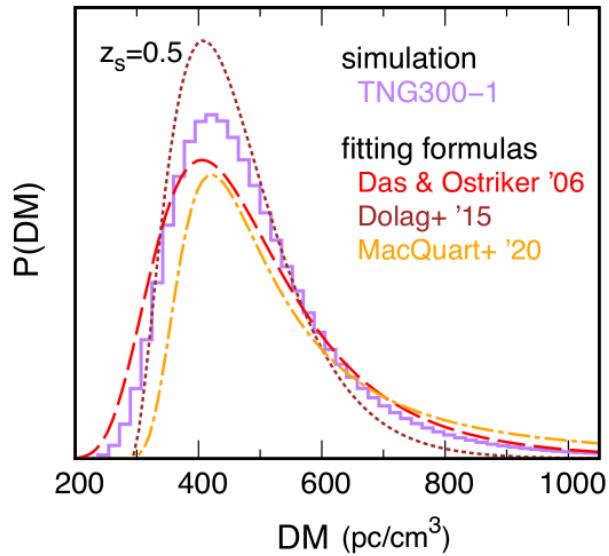
FRBs in CHIME/FRB Catalog 1 (arXiv:2106.04352)

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

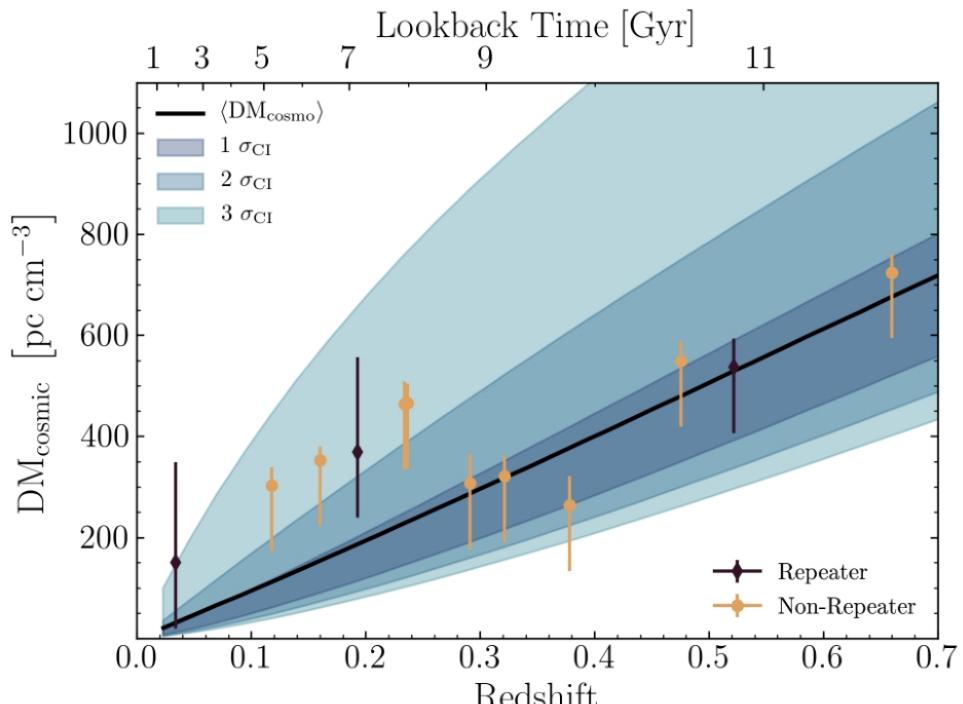


Shirasaki et al. 2017 (arXiv:1702.07085)
see also Dai & Xia 2021 (arXiv:2004.11276)

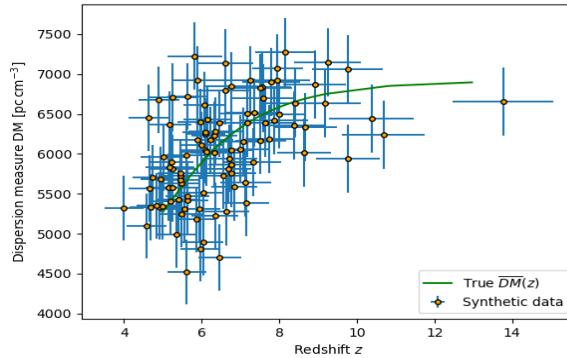
FRB DM statistics



FRB DM(z) relation



Batten et al. 2020, arXiv:2011.14547

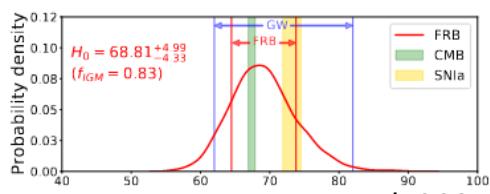


$$\text{DM} = \int_0^z \frac{f_{\text{IGM}} \bar{n}_e(z)}{H(z)(1+z)^2} dz$$

Red arrows point to the components of the equation:

- Astro-physics: f_{IGM}
- Reionization: $\bar{n}_e(z)$
- Background Cosmology: $H(z)$

Effects on DM(z)

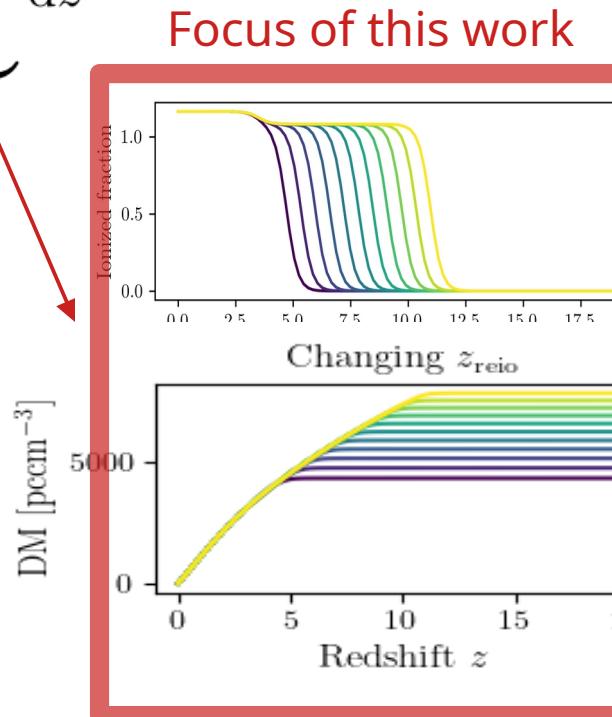
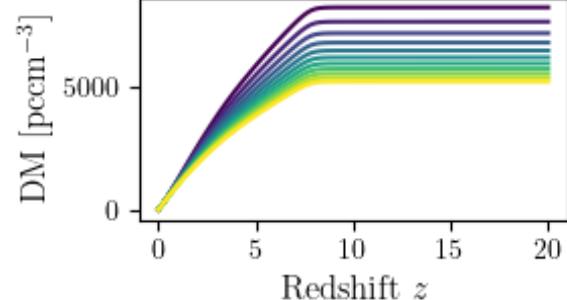
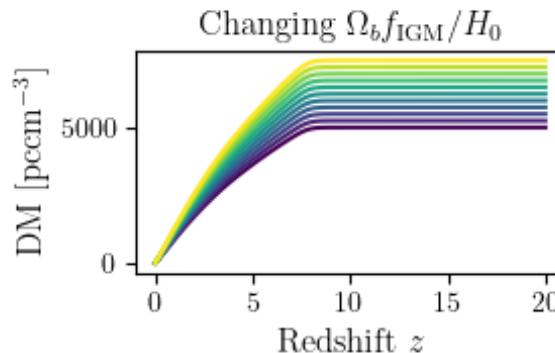


Wu et al. 2021
Hagstotz et al. 2021

Macquart et al. 2020

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

$H_0, \Omega_b, \Omega_m, w(z)$
E.g. Zhou et al. 2014 (forecast)



Cosmic reionization

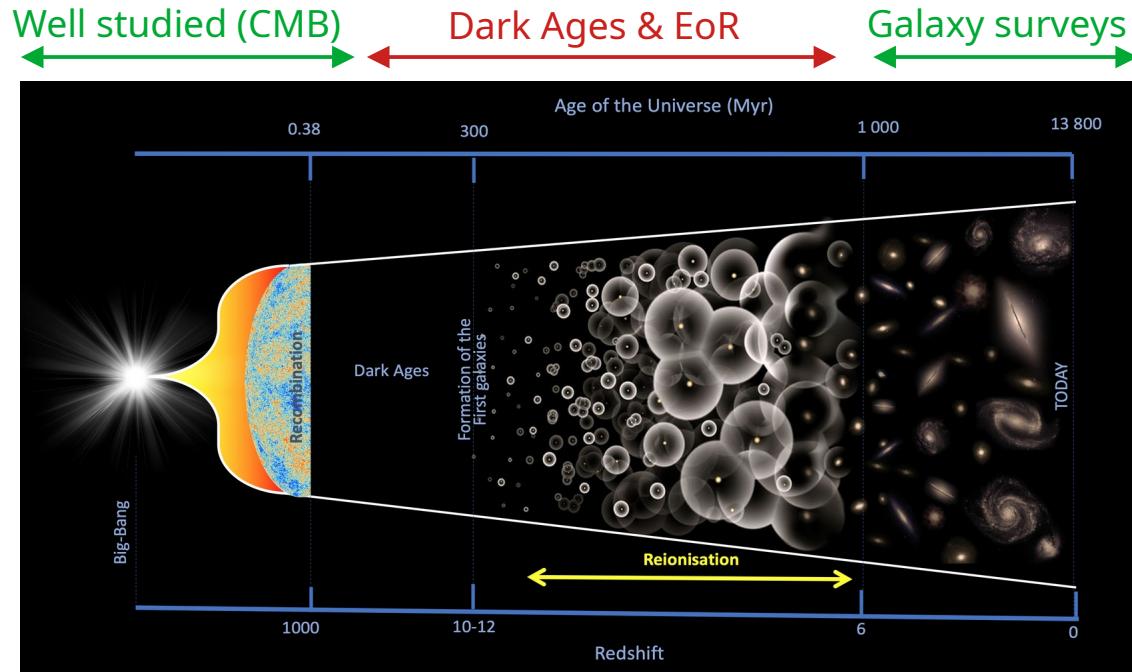


Image credit: Nicolas Laporte

Cosmological standard model
(Planck analysis incl. BAO):

$$\begin{aligned} \ln A_s &\pm 0.5\% \\ n_s &\pm 0.4\% \\ \Omega_m h^2 &\pm 0.6\% \\ \Omega_b h^2 &\pm 0.6\% \\ H_0 &\pm 0.6\%^* \\ \tau &\pm 12\% \end{aligned}$$

Cosmic reionization

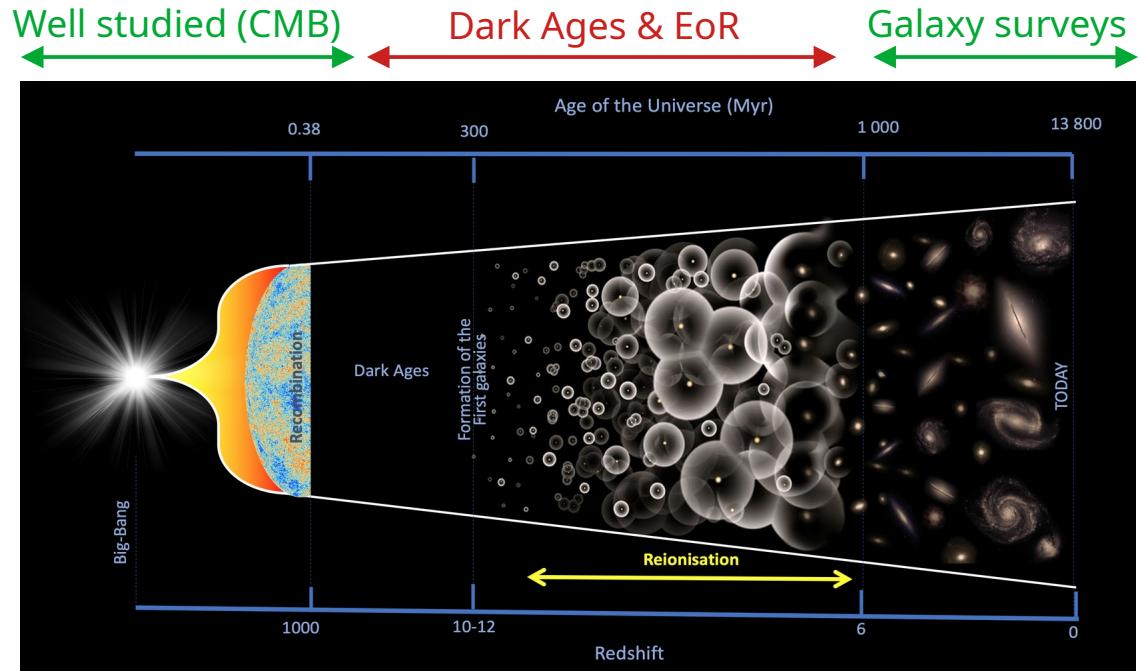
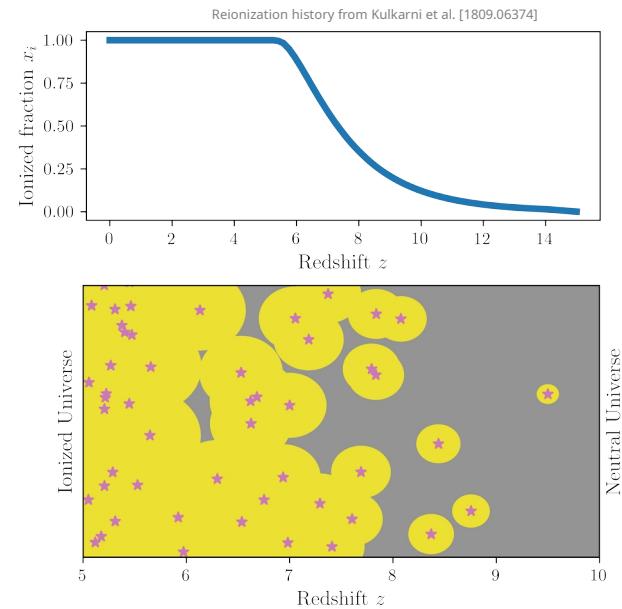
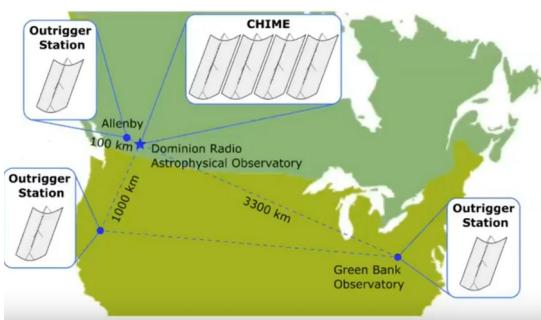
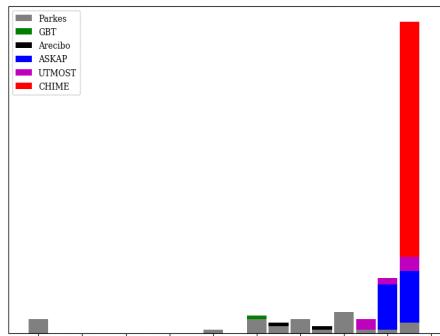


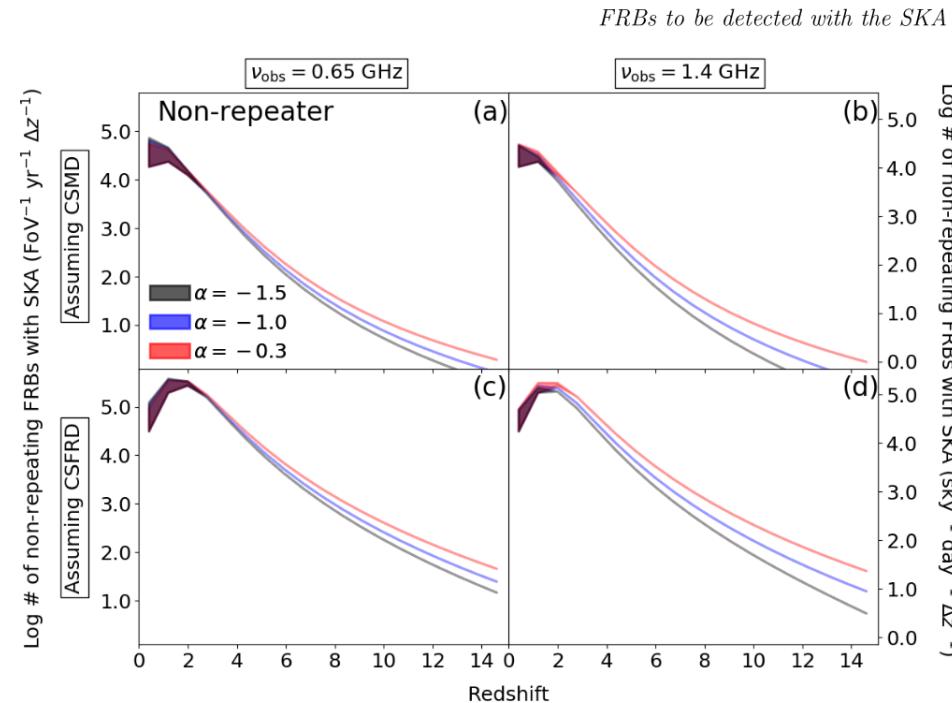
Image credit: Nicolas Laporte



Reminder: We will have many FRBs in the future!



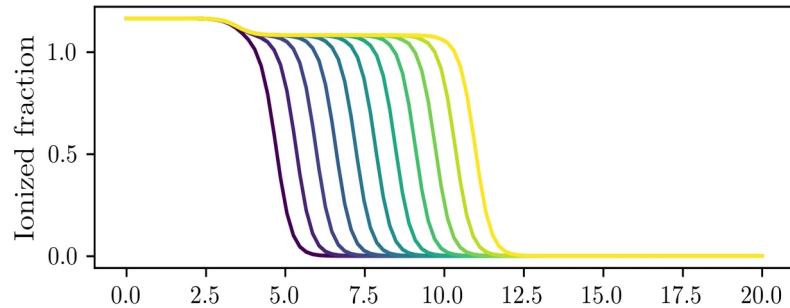
CHIME Outriggers. Juan Mena-Parra, FRB2021 (8A)



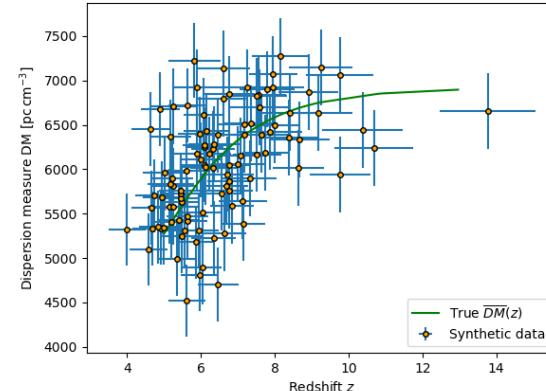
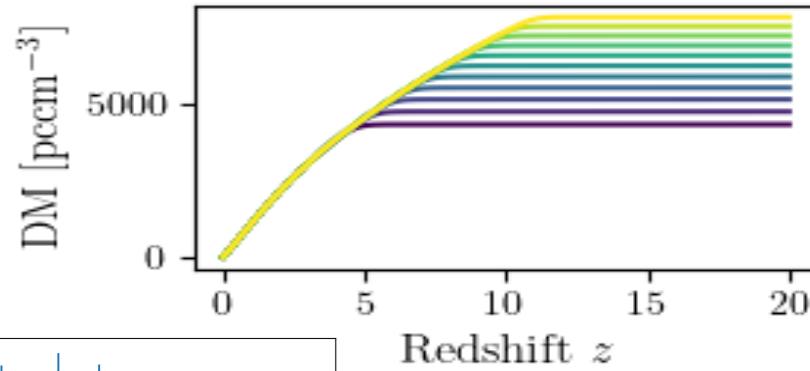
Forecast for FRBs/sky/day:
10⁴ at z>2,
10² at z>6,
10 at z>10
(rates still uncertain and assumption dependent though)

How to we currently measure Reionization from FRBs

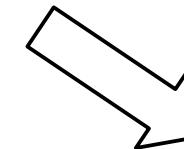
Common \tanh parameterization:



Changing z_{reio}



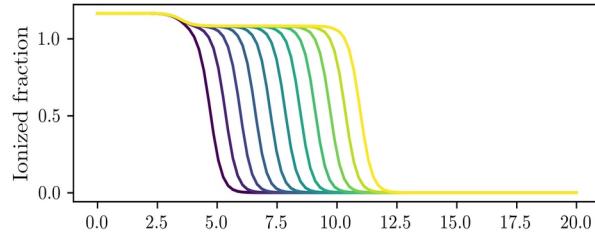
Redshift z



Reionization history $x_i(z)$
Optical depth τ

How to we currently measure Reionization from FRBs

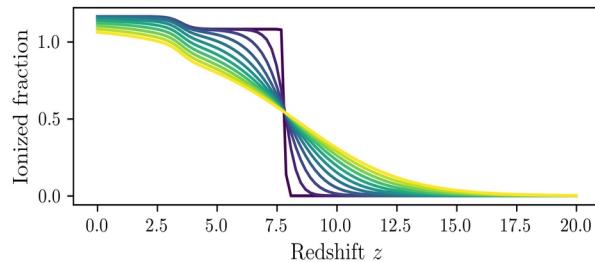
Common \tanh parameterization:



Planck 2018 results

VI. Cosmological parameters

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

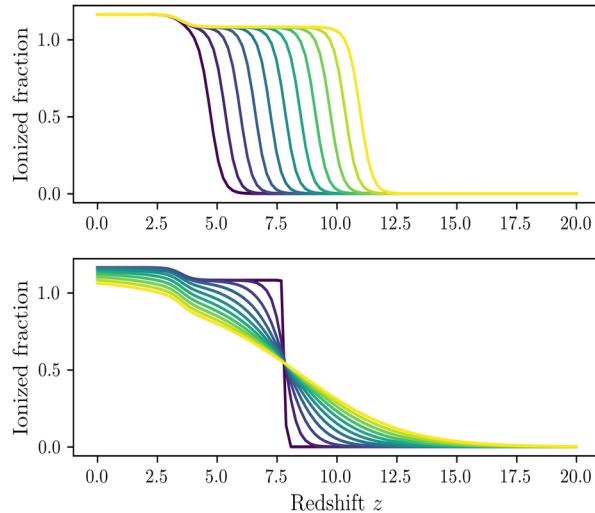


Results from EDGES High-band. I. Constraints on Phenomenological Models for the Global 21 cm Signal

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

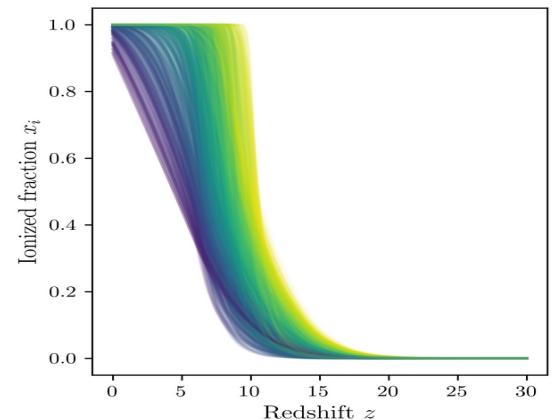
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Reconstruction of Reionization History through Dispersion Measure of Fast Radio Bursts

Reionization simulations
(Fialkov et al.):



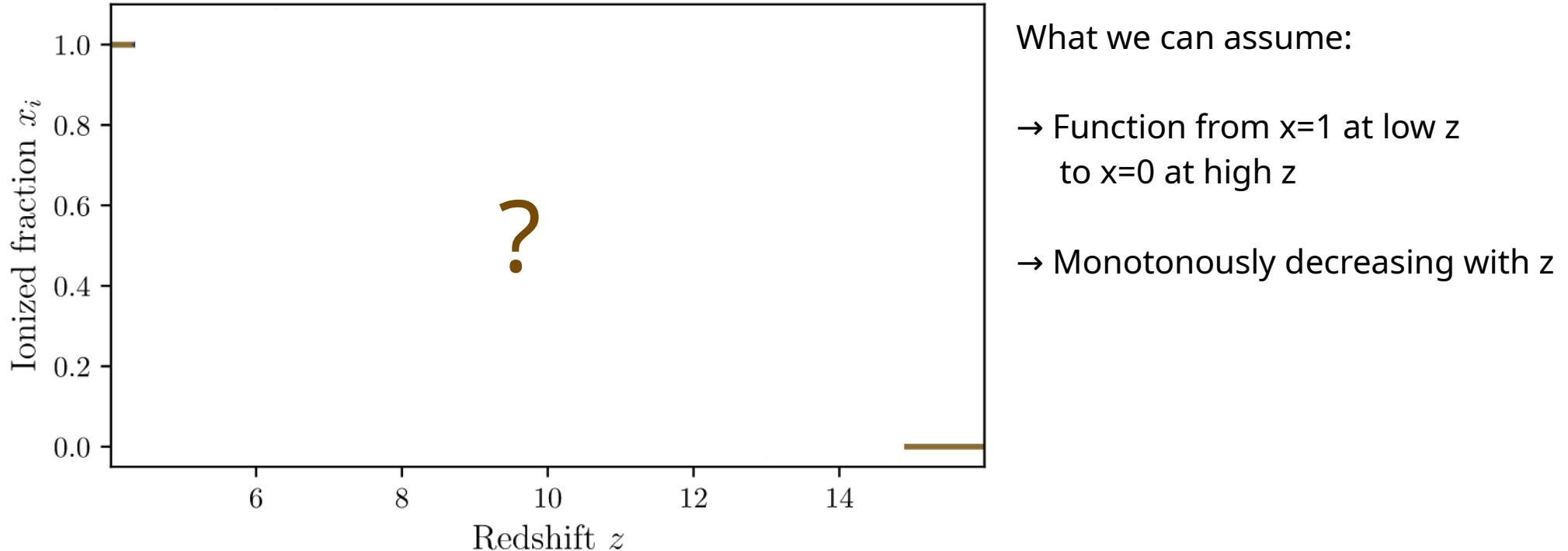
Problem: Assuming a model → Wrong result if model \neq reality

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

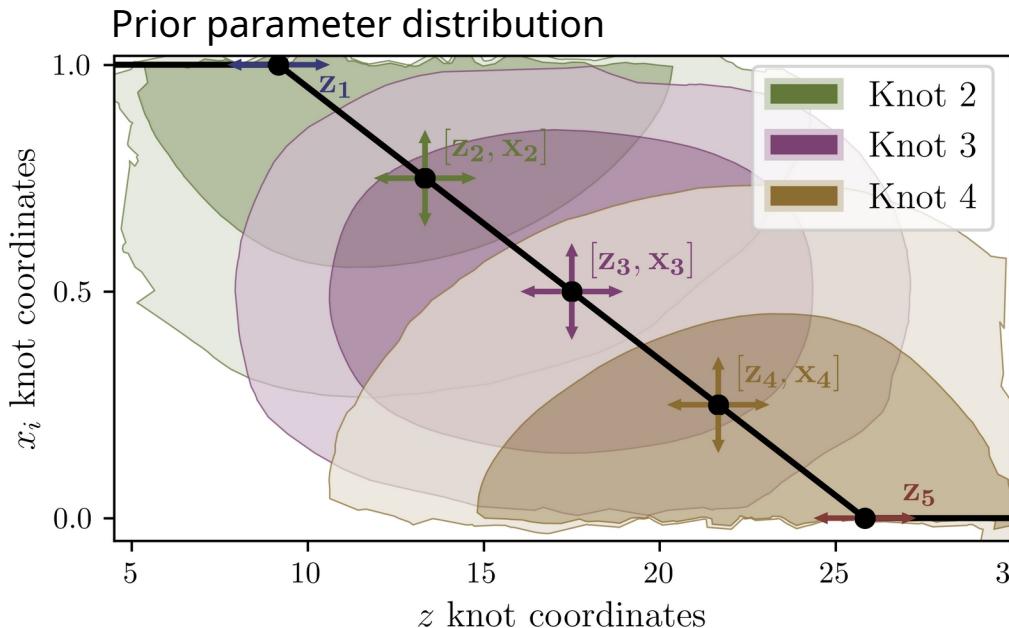
$$\tau_{\tanh} = 0.052 \pm 0.002 \text{ for } \tau_{\text{true}} = 0.057 \text{ (1,000 FRBs)}$$

Need a new approach – model-independent!

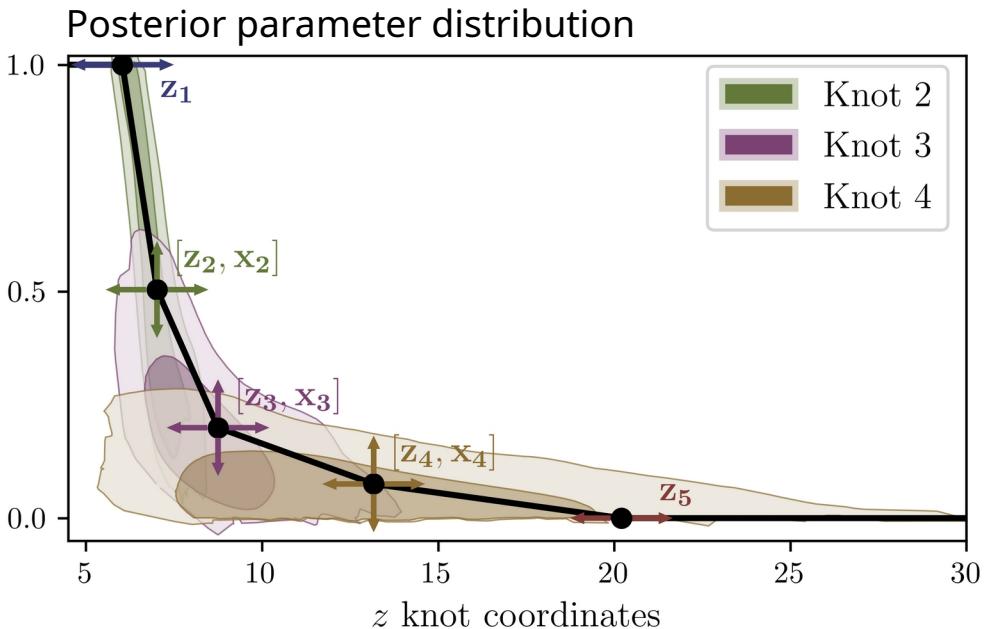
How to “free-form” parameterize a function?



FlexKnot parameterization

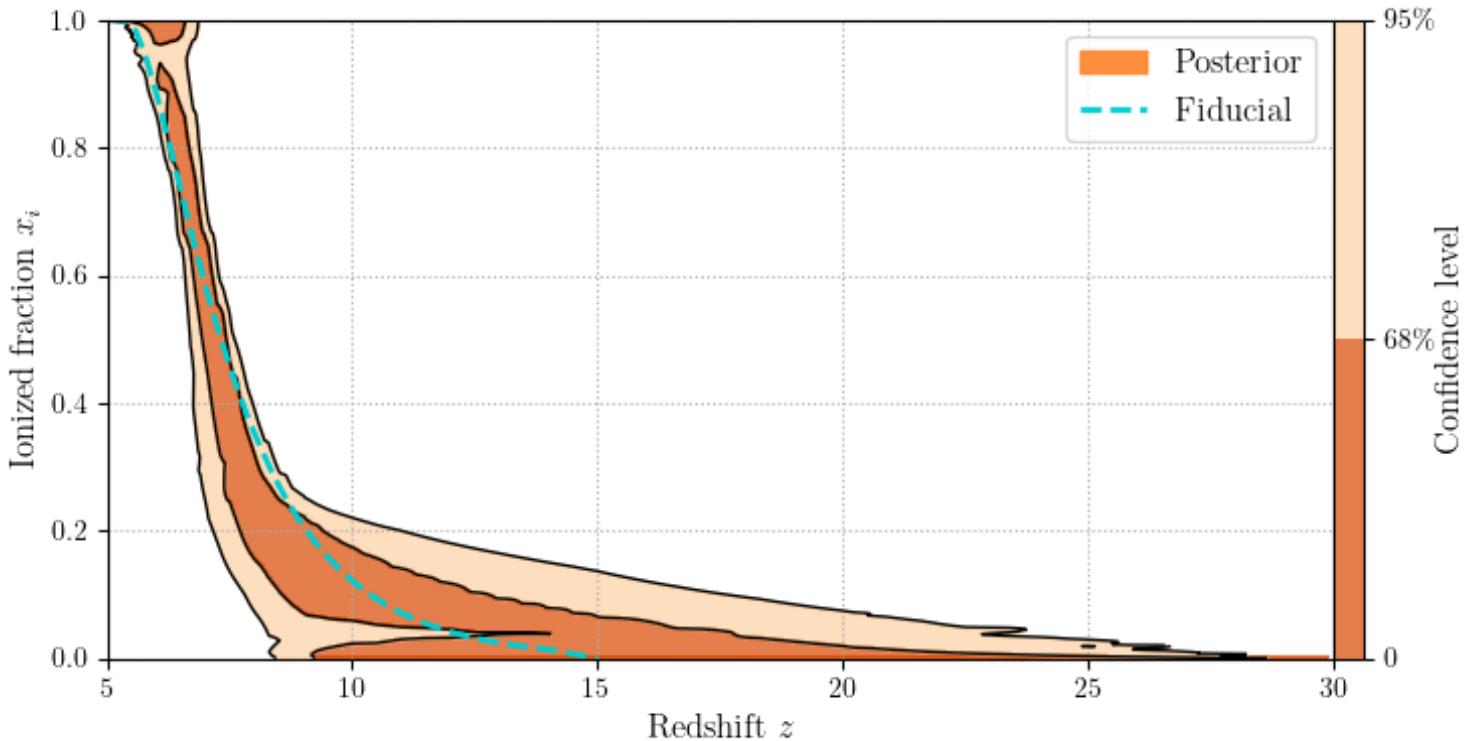


Coordinates (x, z) of interpolation knots as parameters

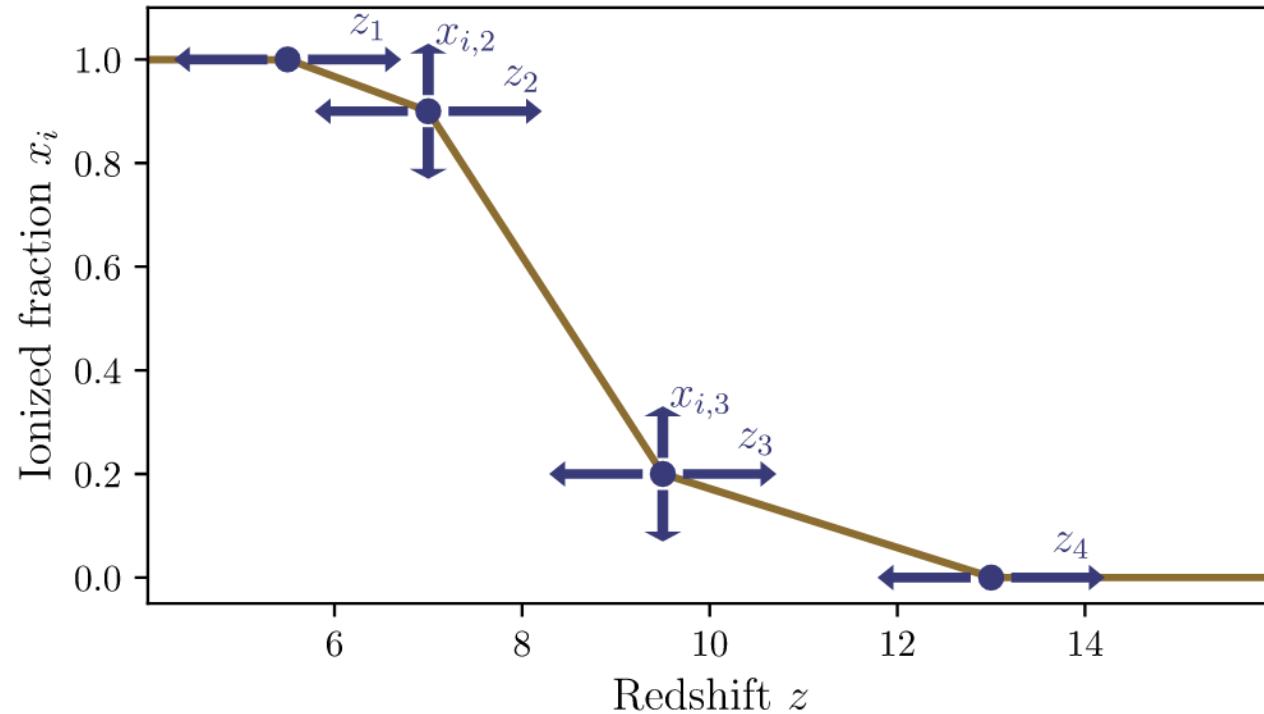


Basically, knots can move around and adjust to the data

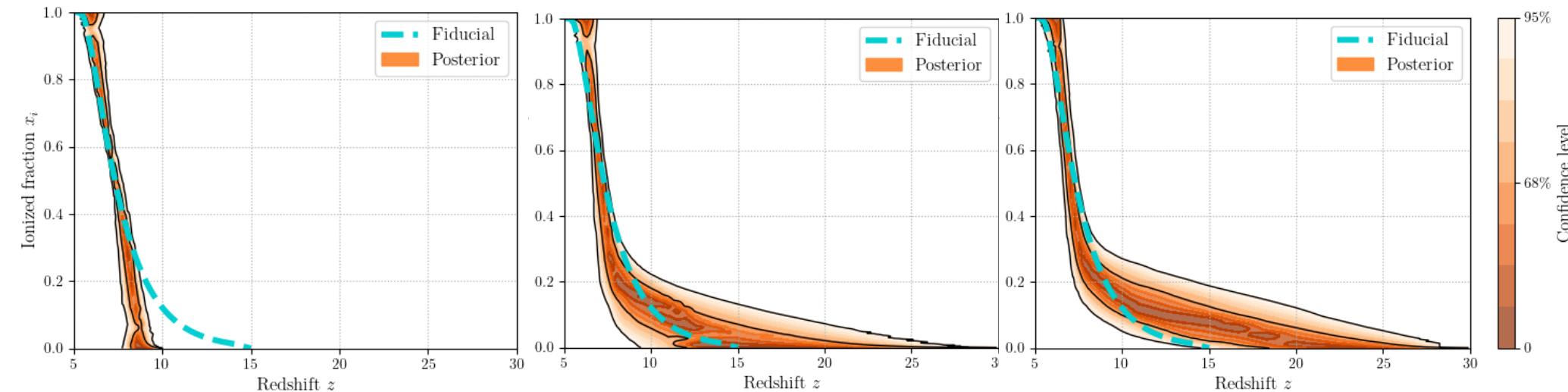
FlexKnot Reionization history



FlexKnot - How many knots do we need?



FlexKnot – How many knots do we need?



Only start + end knot:

too simple?

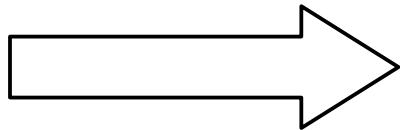
Add +2 more knots:

fits well?

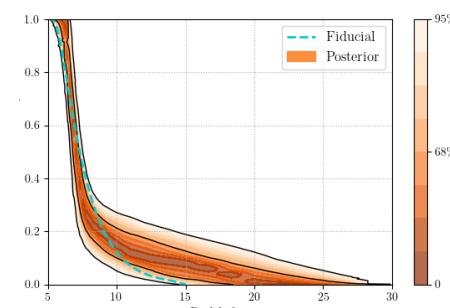
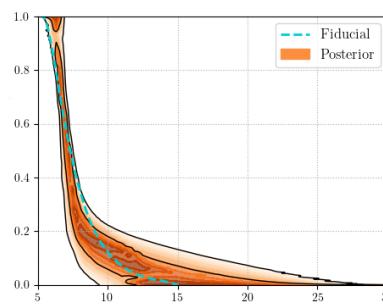
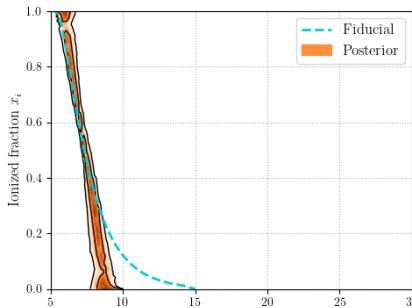
Add +9 additional knots:

too many params?

FlexKnot – How many knots do we need?



Marginalize over number
of knots (\rightarrow Evidence)



Only start + end knot:

too simple

Add +2 more knots:

fits well

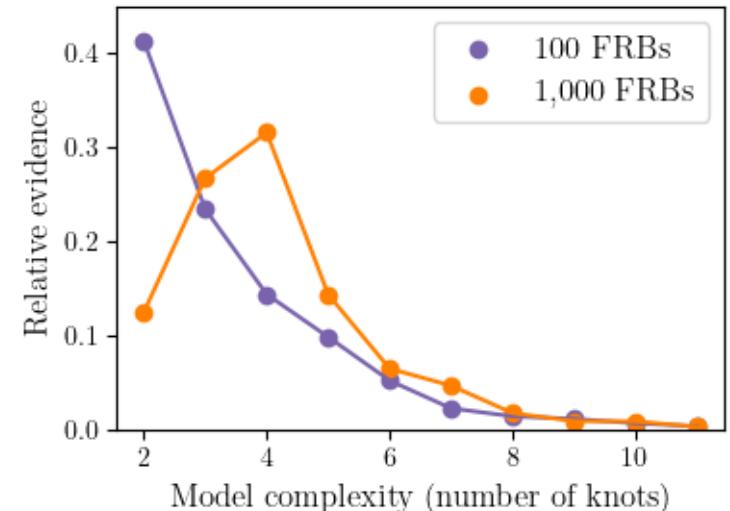
Add +9 additional knots:

too many params

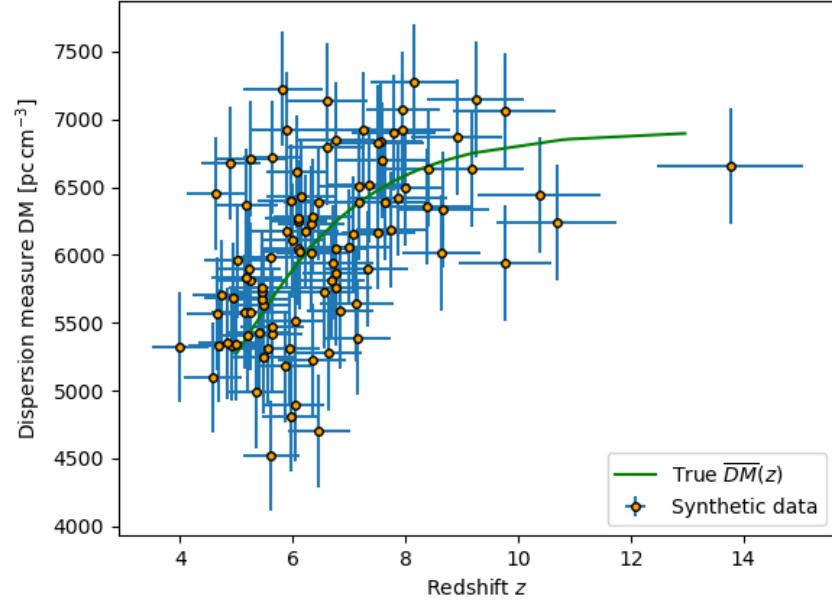
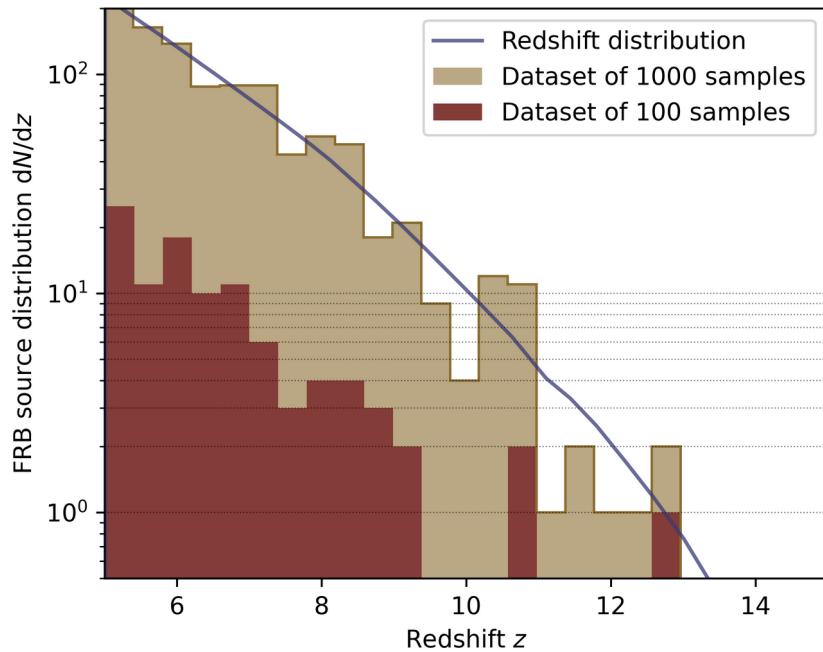
Evidence $Z = 0.4$

Evidence $Z = 1$

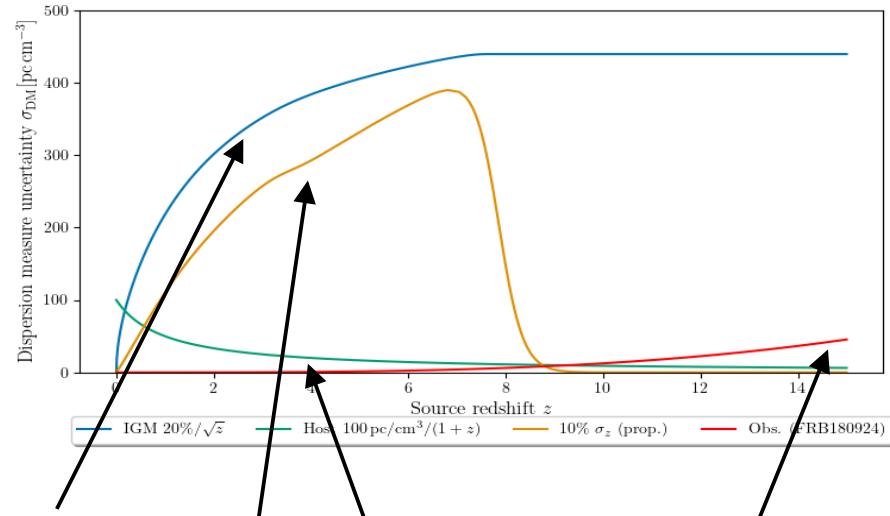
Evidence $Z = 0.01$



Concrete forecasts!



Measurement uncertainties

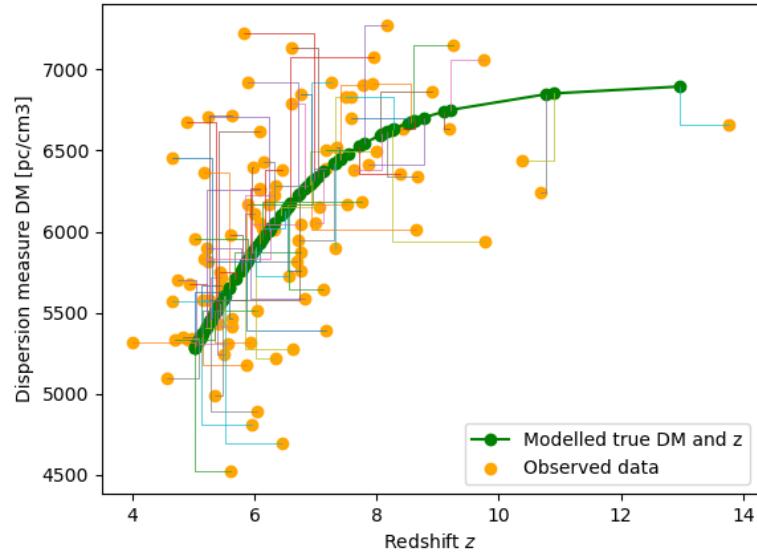


Main uncertainty:
IGM
inhomogeneity

Redshift error
(DM-equivalent)

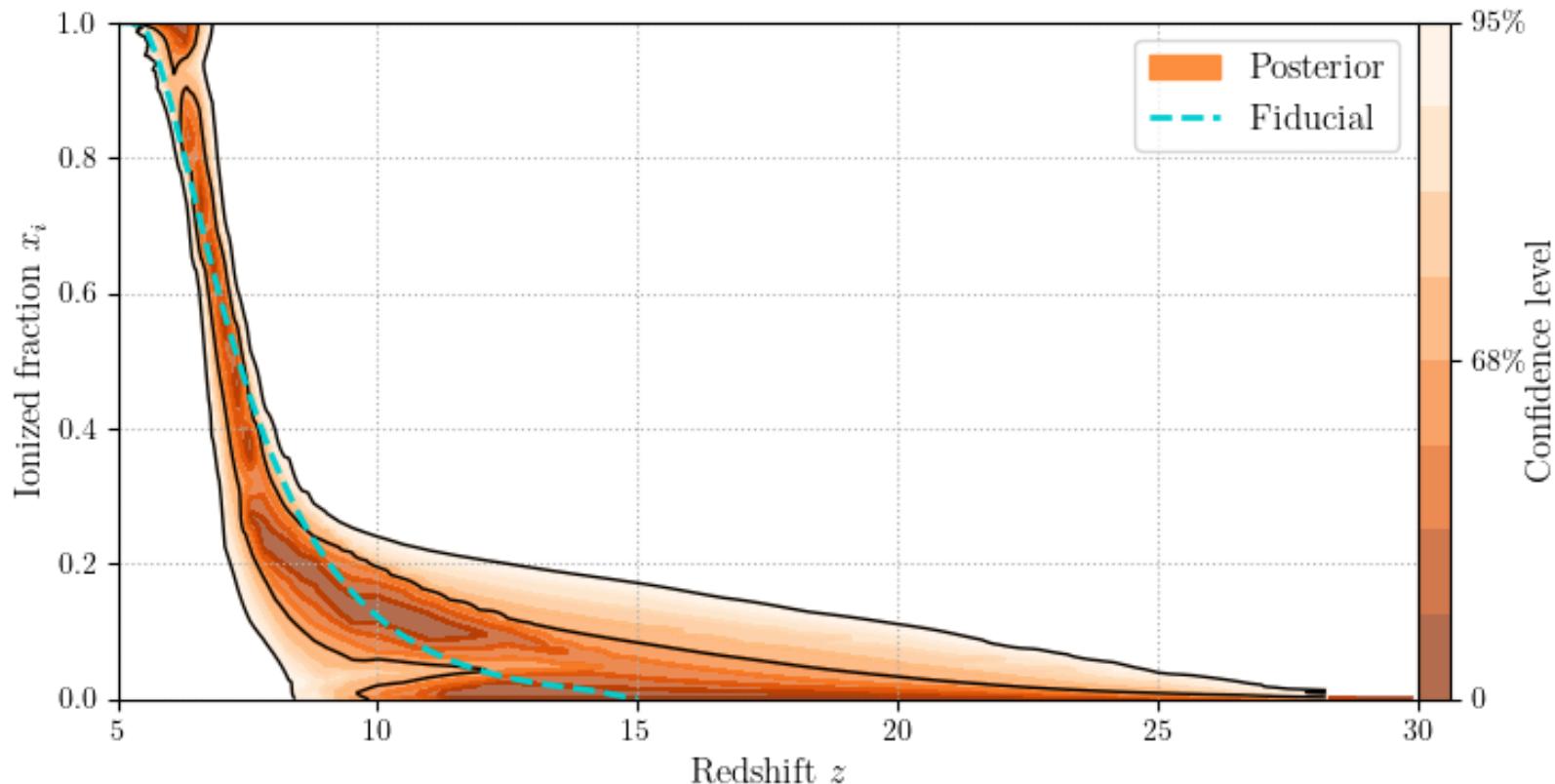
Unknown host
contribution

Observational error

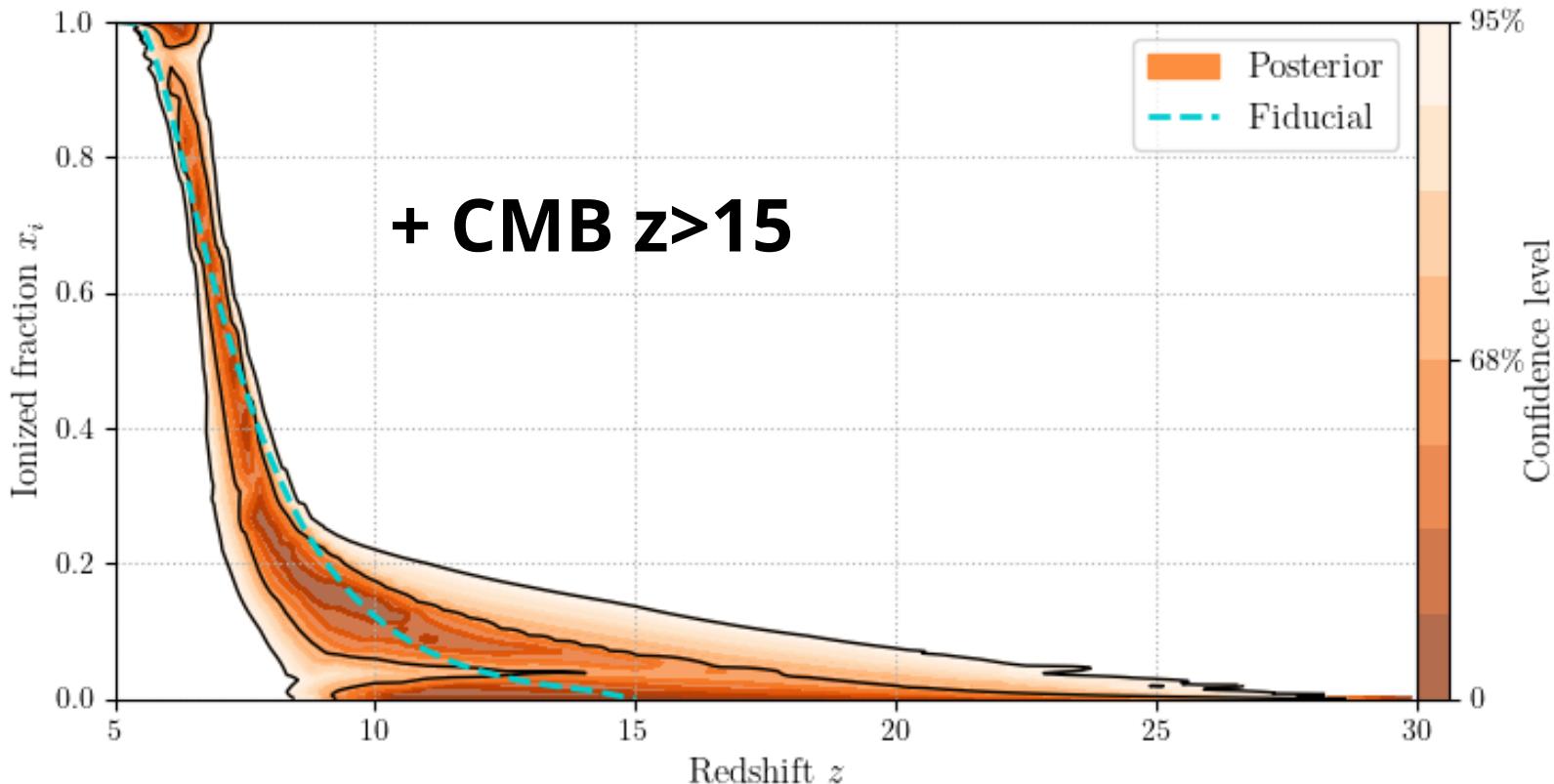


Generating mock observations

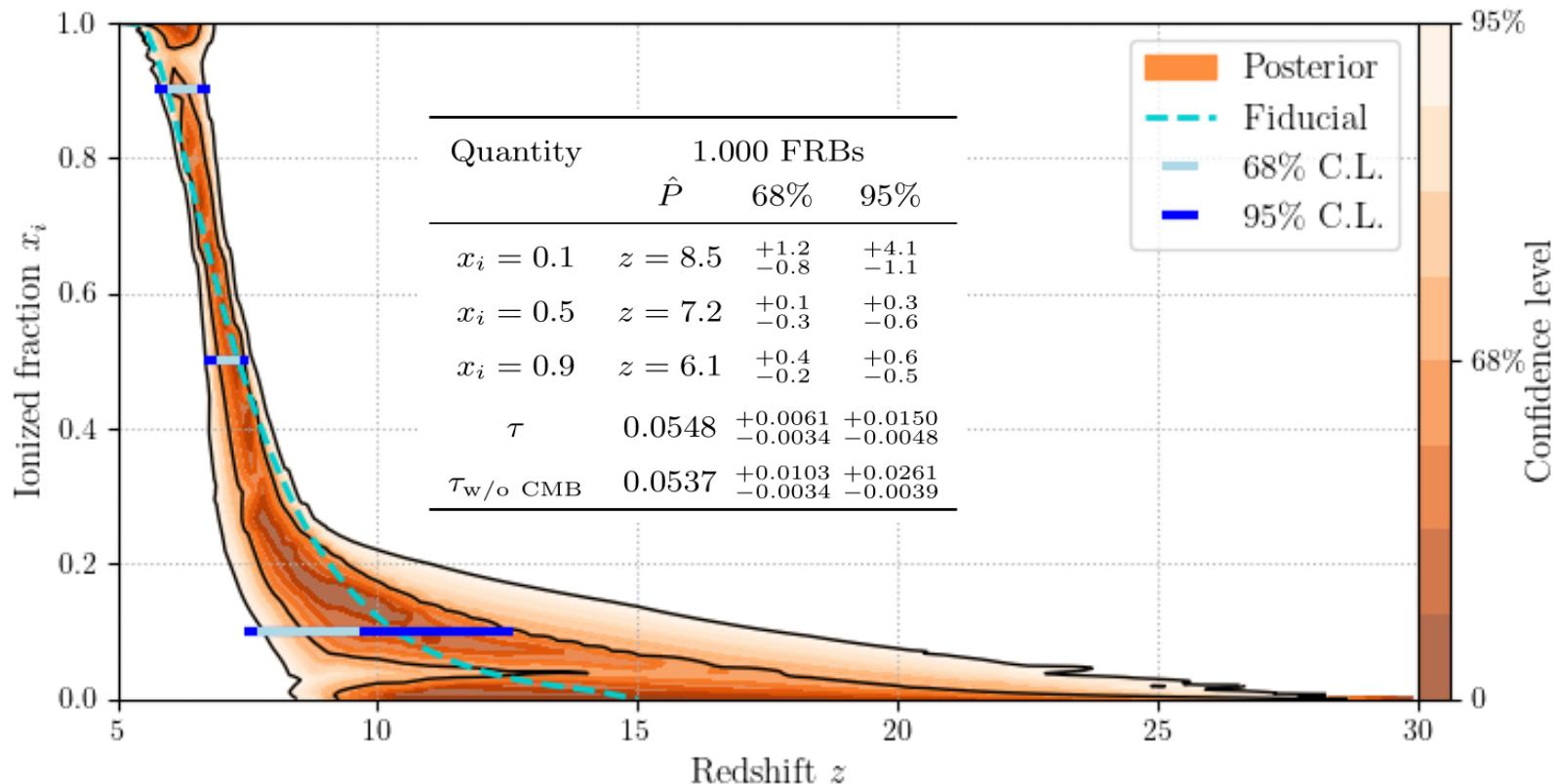
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



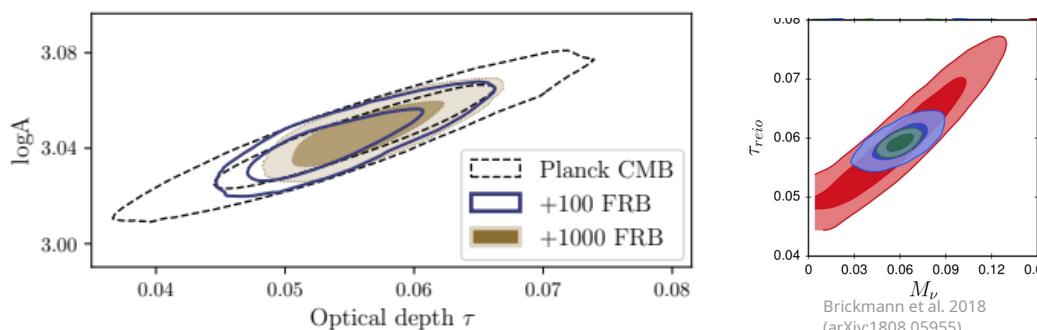
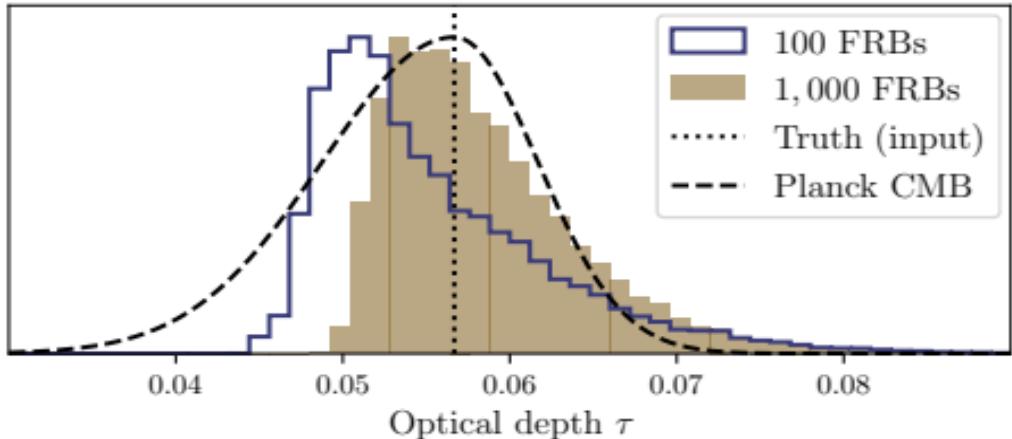
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



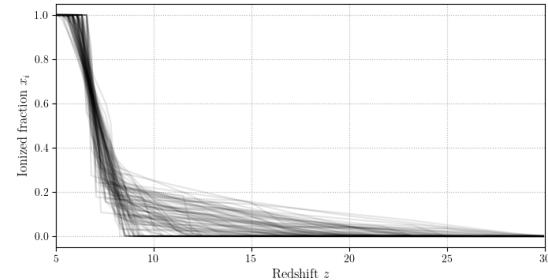
Reionization history posteriors – 1,000 FRBs



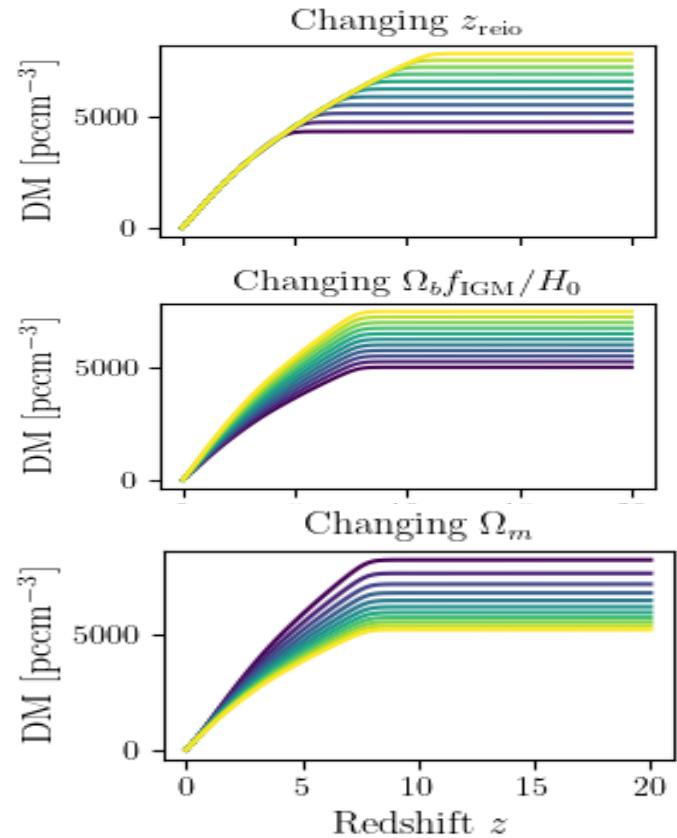
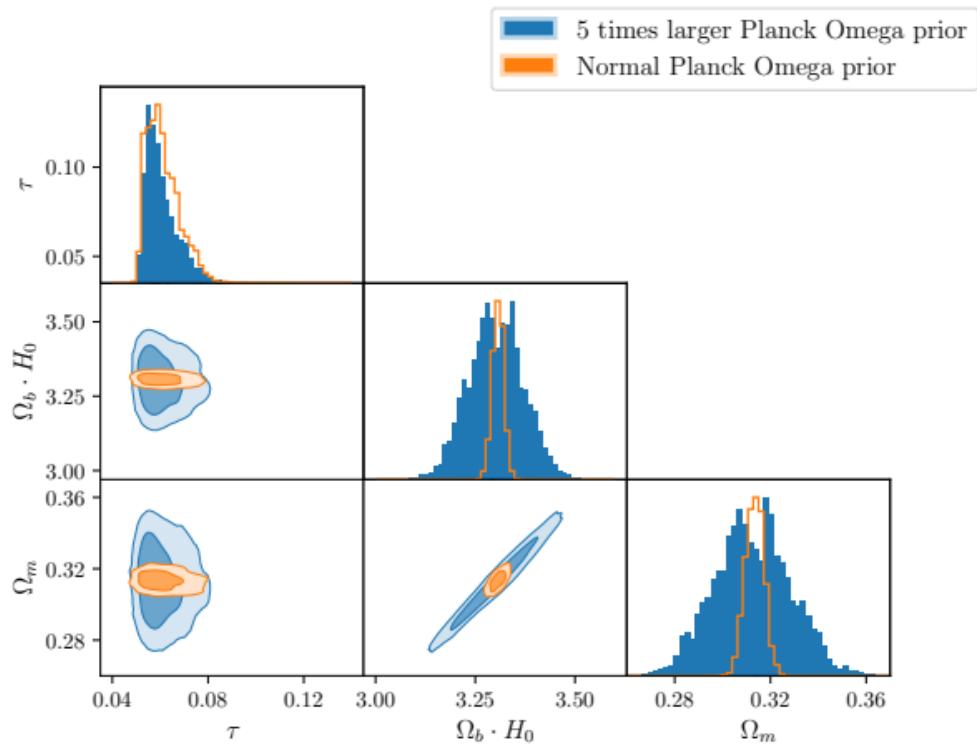
Optical depth constraint



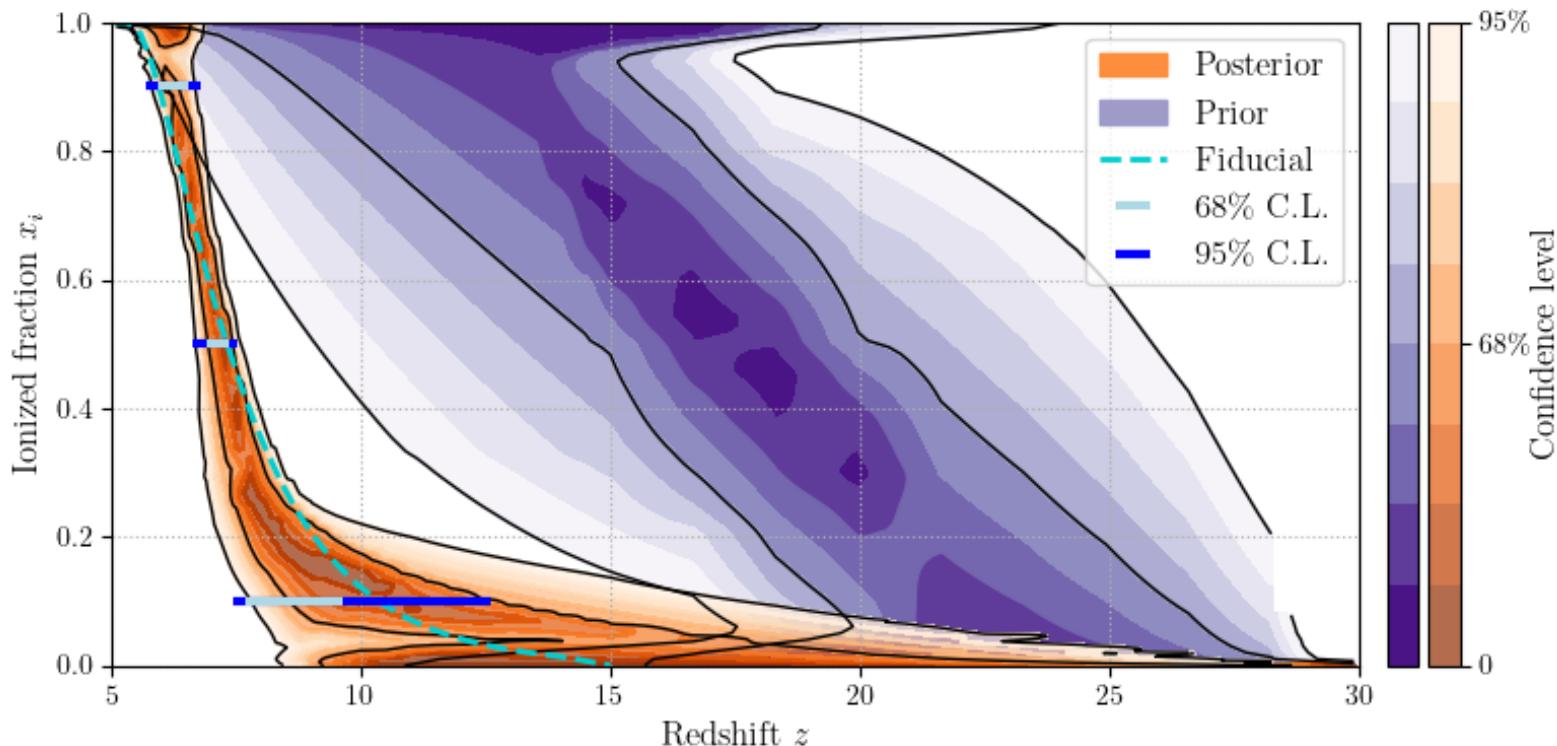
Key point: Reionization model-*marginalized* ("independent"), i.e. averaged over all reionization models.



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!

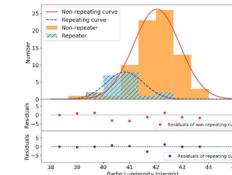
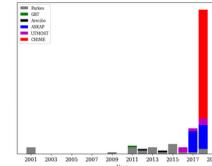


Figure 3. Histogram of repeating and non-repeating FRBs for radio luminosity expressed logarithmically. The solid line is the

