



In the beginning of the Dark Ages, electrically neutral hydrogen gas filled the universe. As stars formed, they ionized the regions immediately around them, creating bubbles here and there. Eventually these bubbles merged together, and intergalactic gas became entirely ionized.

Latest developments in EoR Science and the Requirements for SKA Phase 1

Jonathan Pritchard

Imperial College
London



21 cm tomography

DRM Ch 2: Probing the Neutral Intergalactic Medium During the Epoch of Reionization

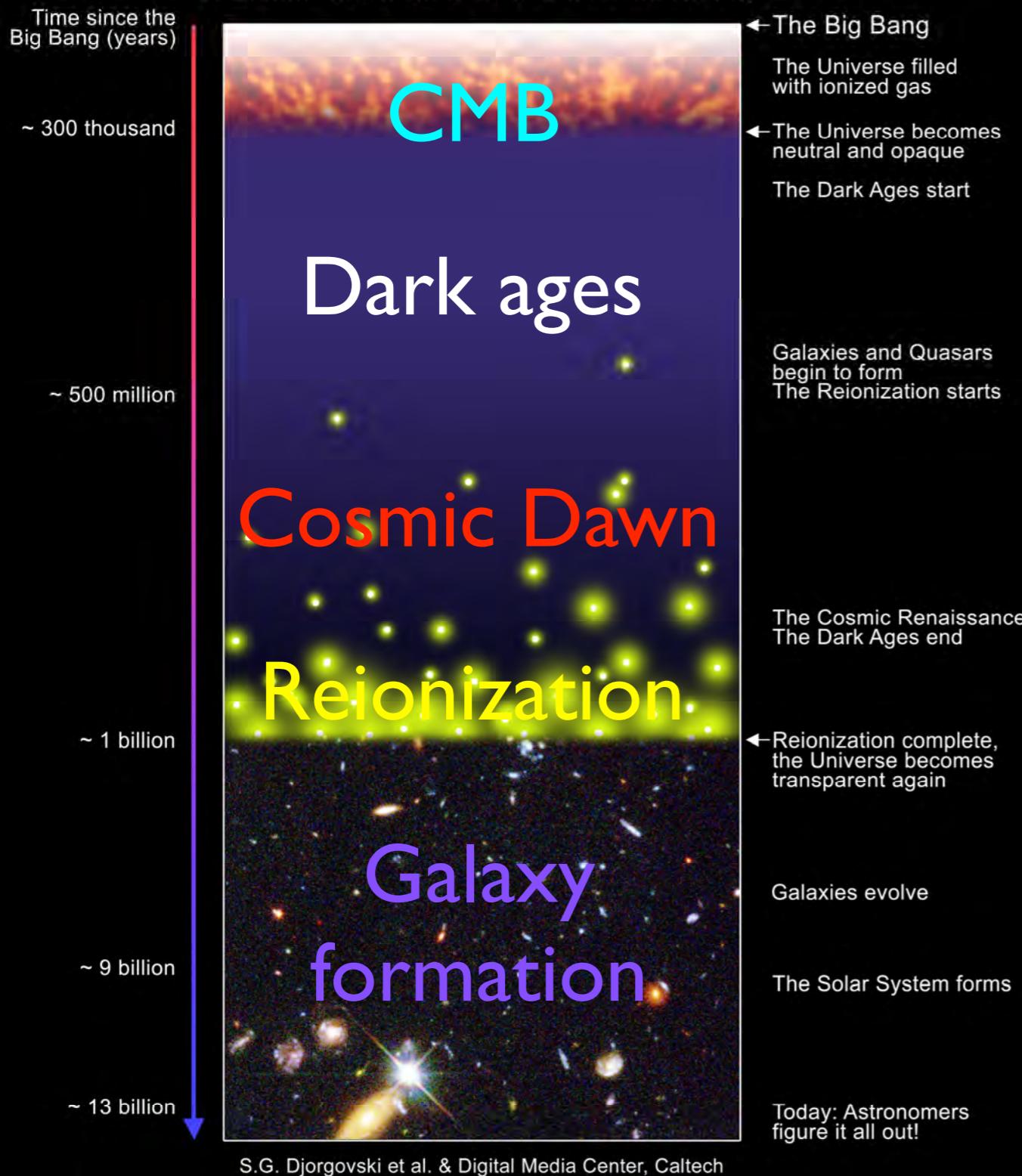
21 cm forest

DRM Ch 4: Probing the Epoch of Reionization Using the 21-cm forest

The first billion years

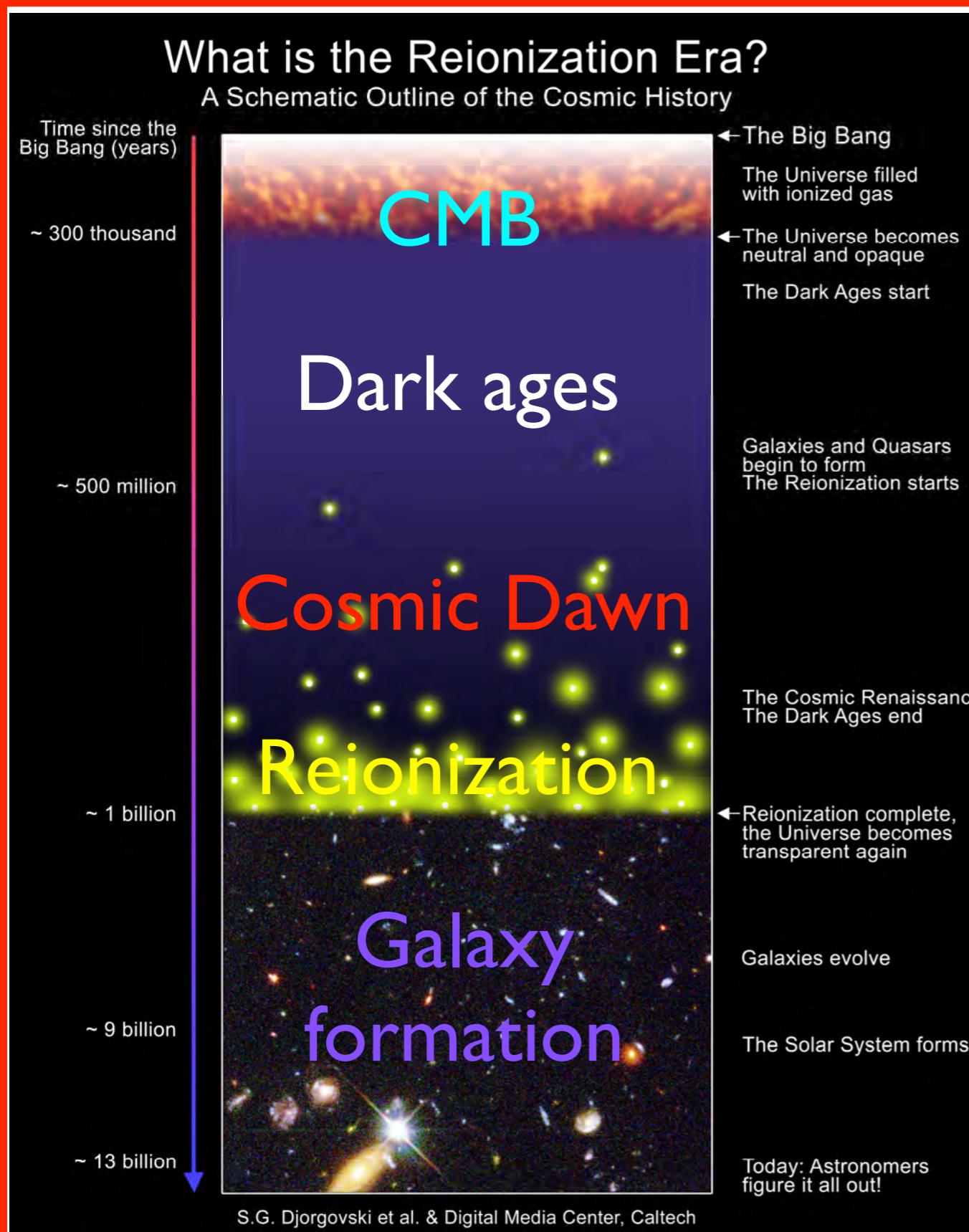
What is the Reionization Era?

A Schematic Outline of the Cosmic History



Reionization marks the limits of current observations

The first billion years



Reionization marks the limits of current observations

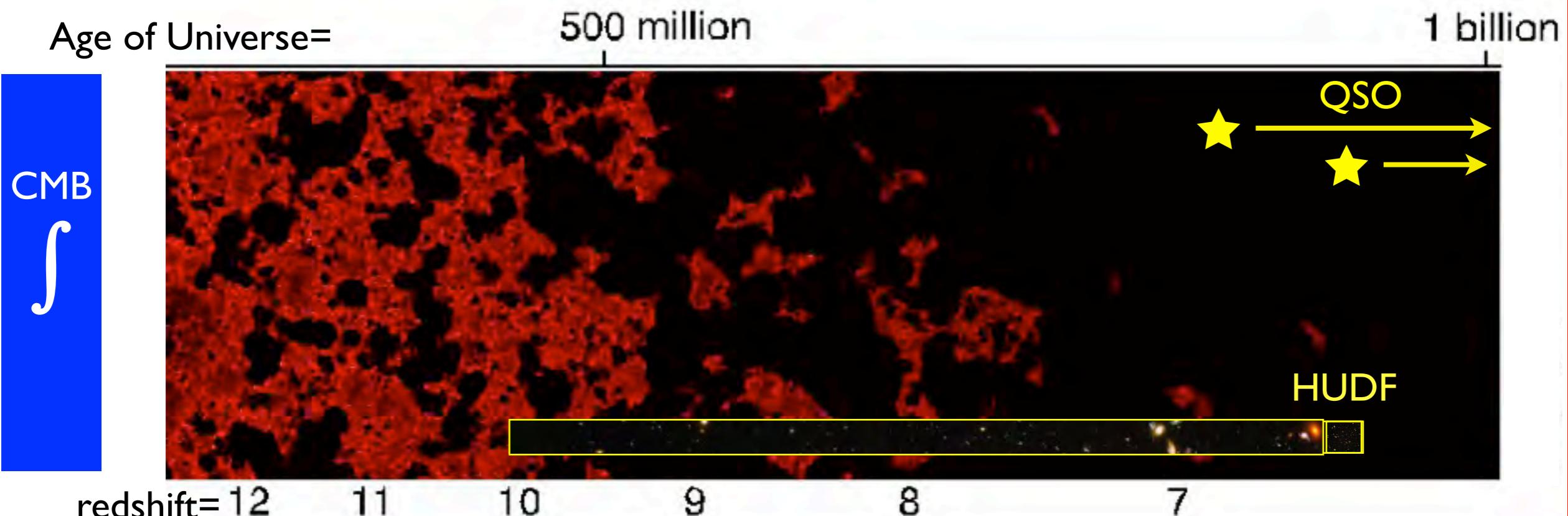
When did the first galaxies form?

When did the first black holes form?

How and when did reionization proceed?

How do galaxies form and evolve?

More data needed...



Existing observations leaves much unanswered:

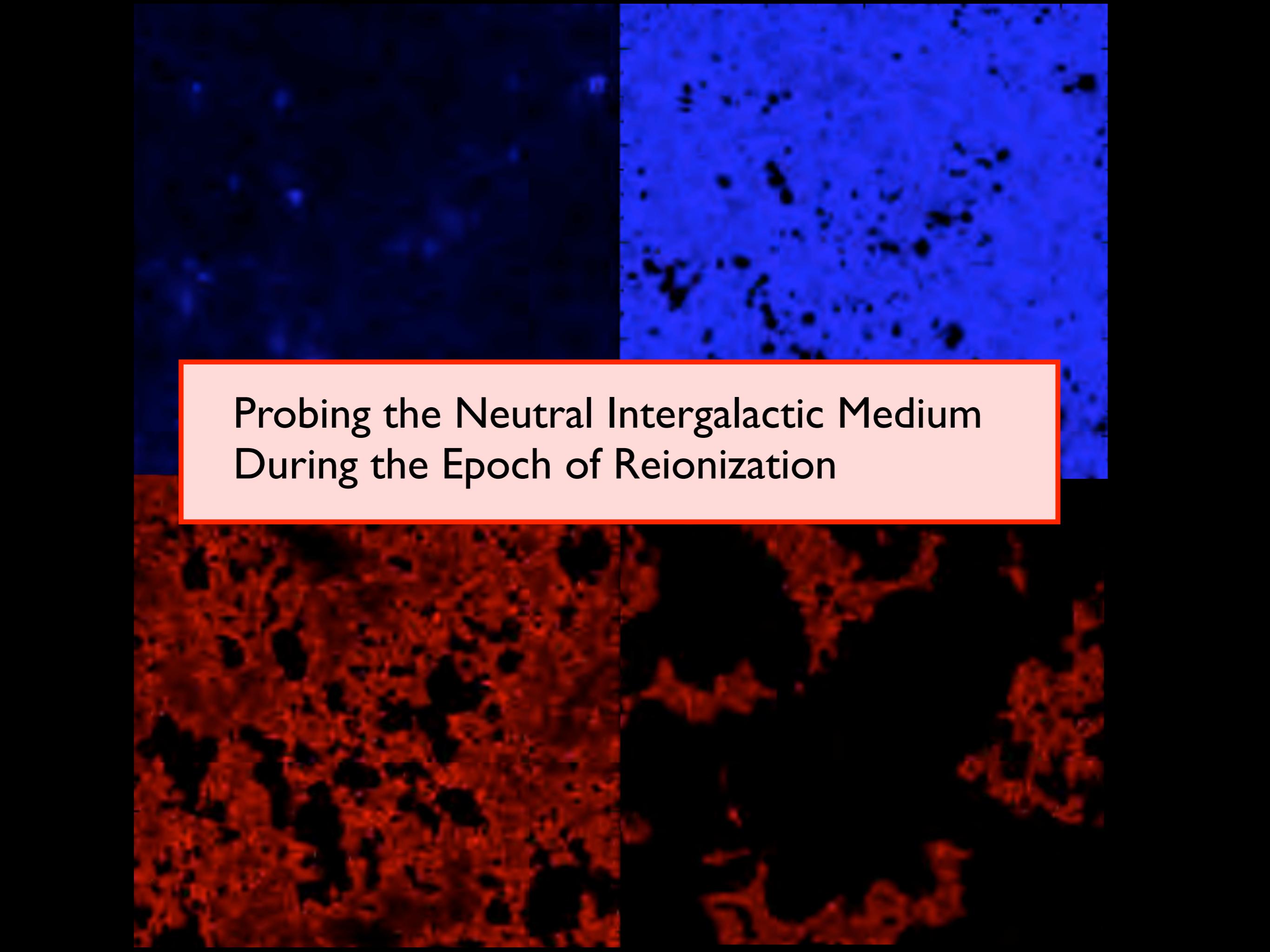
- CMB integral constraint only
- HST probes only brightest galaxies
- QSO spectra only probe small neutral fractions

Progress can be made by more consistently combining observations to constrain models

[Pritchard, Wyithe, Loeb 2010; Mitra, Choudhury, Ferrara 2011](#)

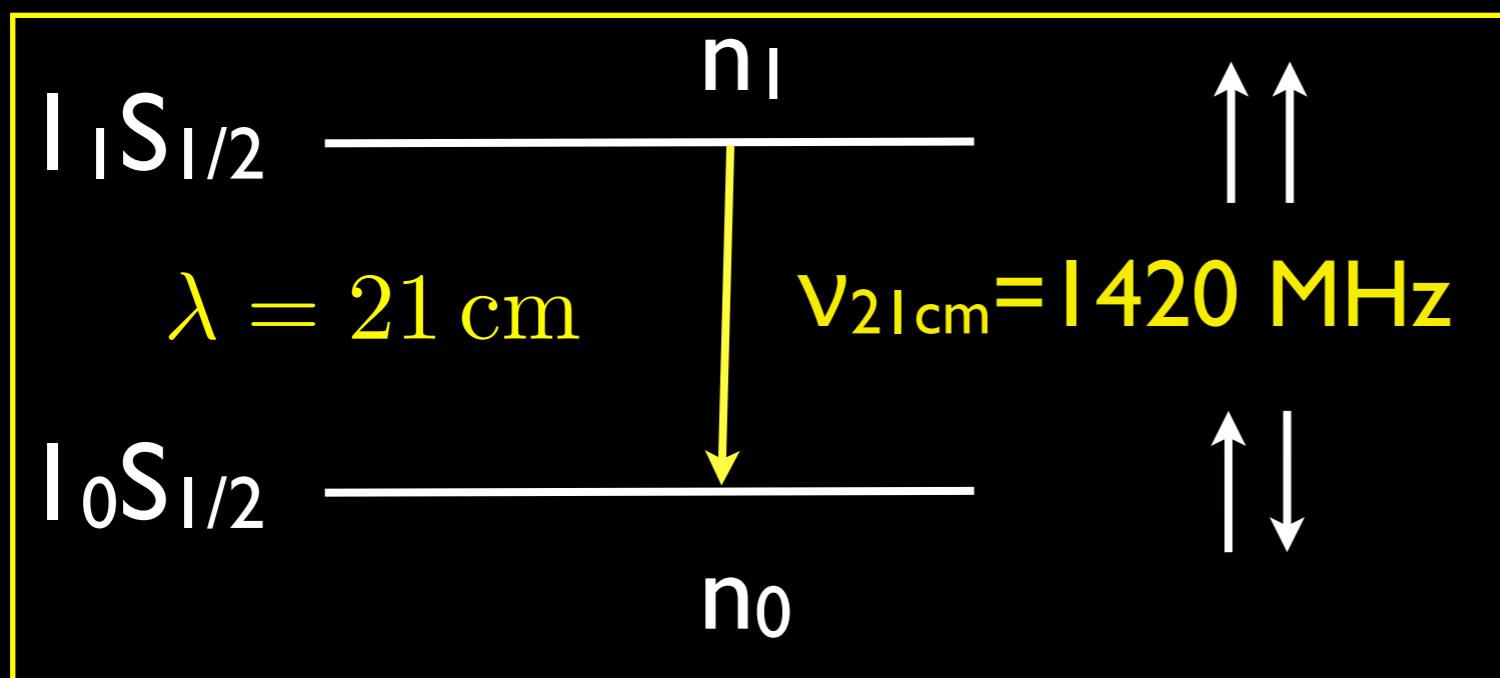
Fundamental need for new types of observation to understand details of reionization

New observations needed to probe $z > 12$ Universe



Probing the Neutral Intergalactic Medium During the Epoch of Reionization

Hyperfine transition of neutral hydrogen



Useful numbers:

$$\begin{aligned} 200 \text{ MHz} &\rightarrow z = 6 \\ 100 \text{ MHz} &\rightarrow z = 13 \\ 70 \text{ MHz} &\rightarrow z \approx 20 \end{aligned}$$

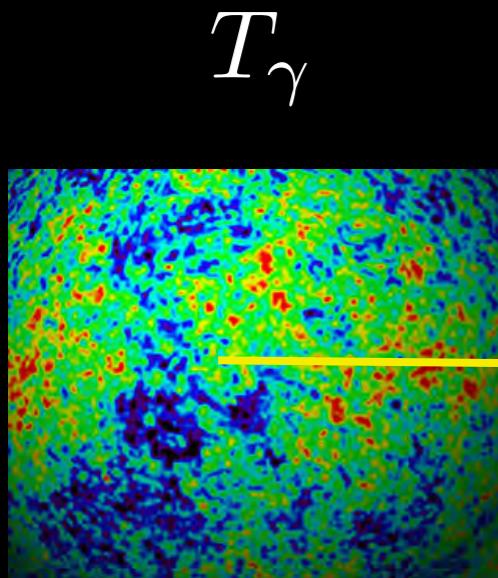
$$\begin{aligned} t_{\text{Age}}(z = 6) &\approx 1 \text{ Gyr} \\ t_{\text{Age}}(z = 10) &\approx 500 \text{ Myr} \\ t_{\text{Age}}(z = 20) &\approx 150 \text{ Myr} \end{aligned}$$

Spin temperature describes relative occupation of levels

$$n_1/n_0 = 3 \exp(-h\nu_{21\text{cm}}/kT_s)$$

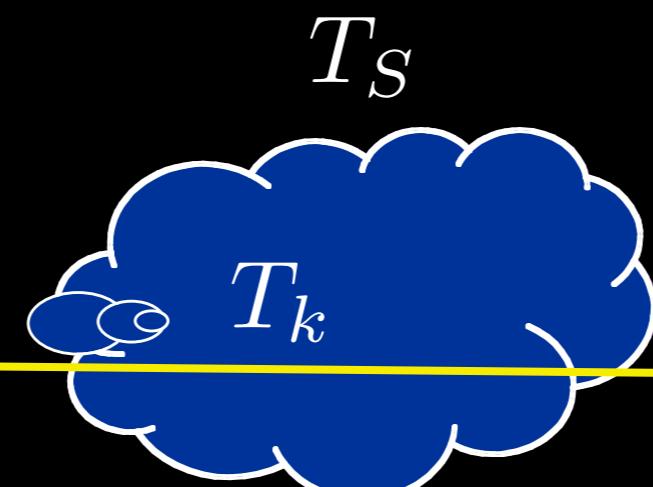
$$t_{\text{Gal}}(z = 8) \approx 100 \text{ Myr}$$

21 cm line in cosmology



CMB acts as
back light

T_γ



Neutral gas
imprints signal

T_S



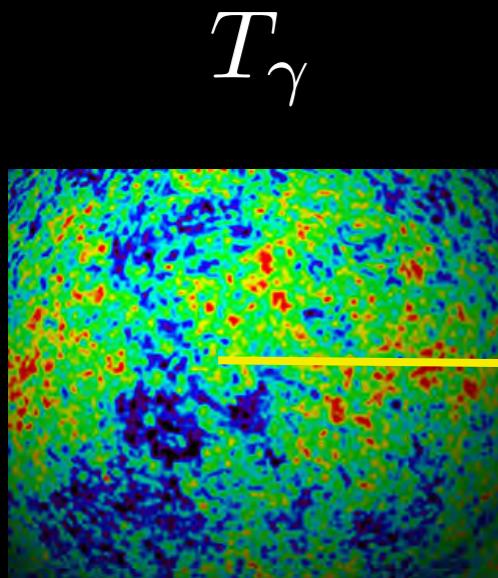
Redshifted signal
detected

T_b

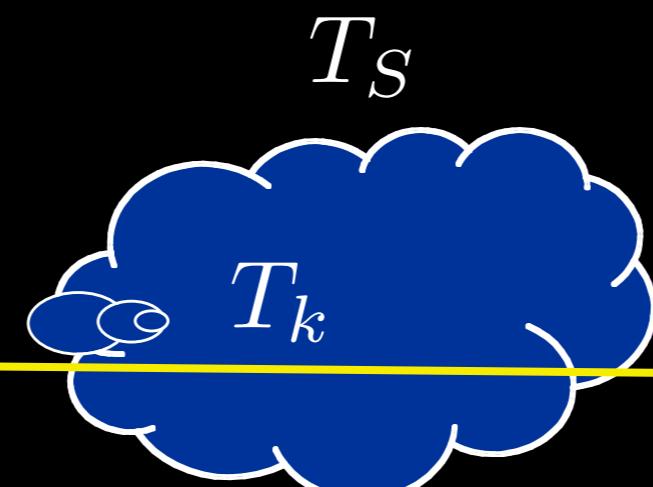
brightness
temperature
$$T_b = 27x_{\text{HI}}(1 + \delta_b) \left(\frac{T_S - T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left(\frac{1+z}{10} \right)^{1/2} \left[\frac{\partial_r v_r}{(1+z)H(z)} \right]^{-1} \text{ mK}$$

spin temperature set by different mechanisms: Radiative transitions (CMB)
Collisions
Wouthuysen-Field effect (resonant scattering of Ly α)

21 cm line in cosmology



CMB acts as
back light



$$z = 13$$

$$\nu = 1.4 \text{ GHz}$$

Neutral gas
imprints signal



$$z = 0$$

$$\nu = 100 \text{ MHz}$$

Redshifted signal
detected

brightness temperature $T_b = 27x_{\text{HI}}(1 + \delta_b) \left(\frac{T_S - T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left(\frac{1+z}{10} \right)^{1/2} \left[\frac{\partial_r v_r}{(1+z)H(z)} \right]^{-1} \text{ mK}$

neutral fraction

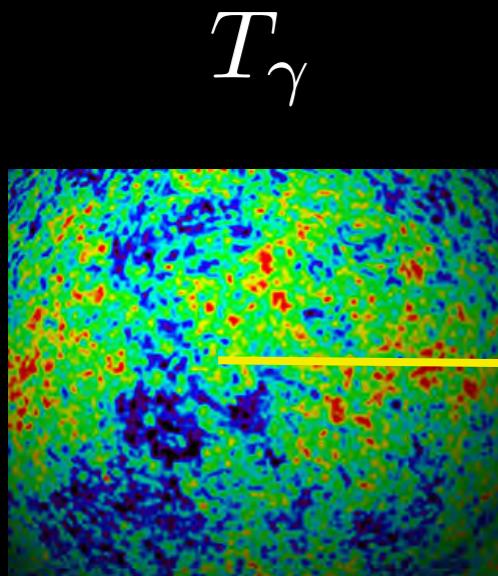
spin temperature set by different mechanisms:

Radiative transitions (CMB)

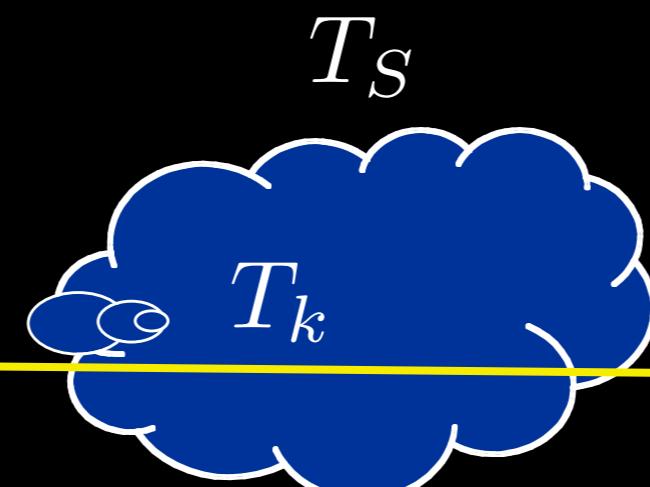
Collisions

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neutral fraction ↓
baryon density ↓

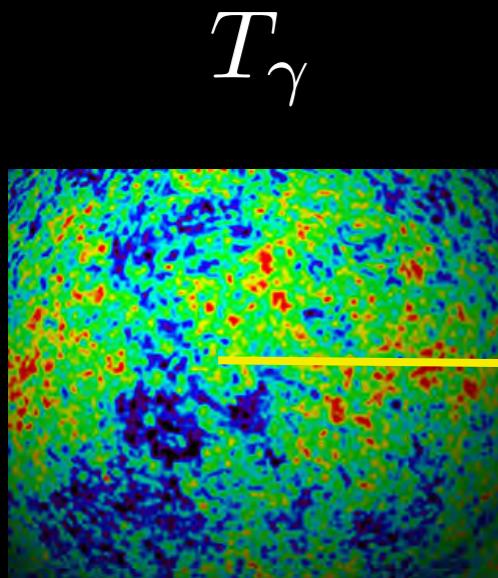
spin temperature set by different mechanisms:

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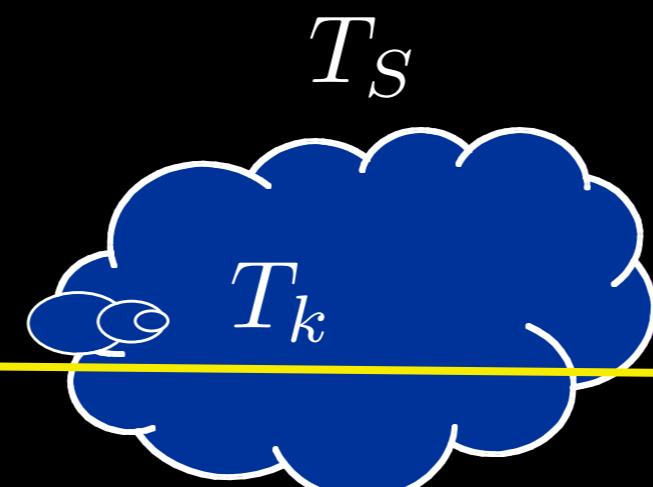
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neutral fraction \downarrow

baryon density \downarrow

spin temperature \swarrow

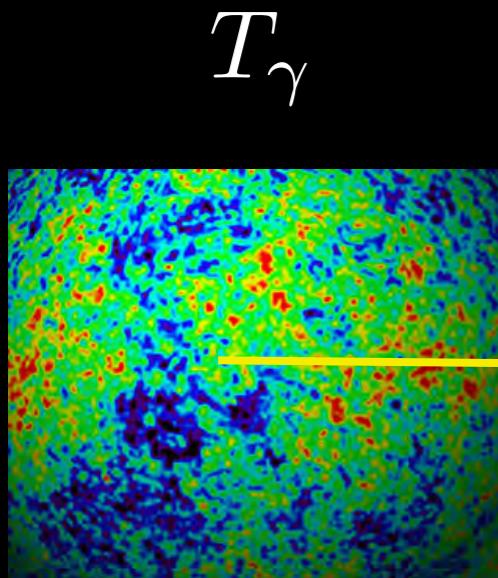
spin temperature set by different mechanisms:

Radiative transitions (CMB)

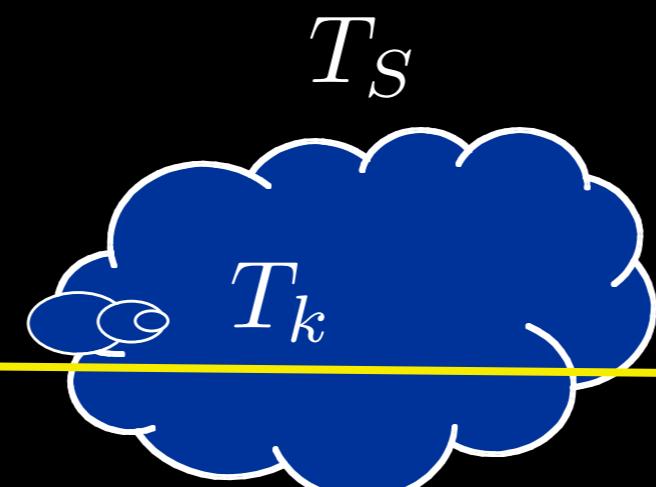
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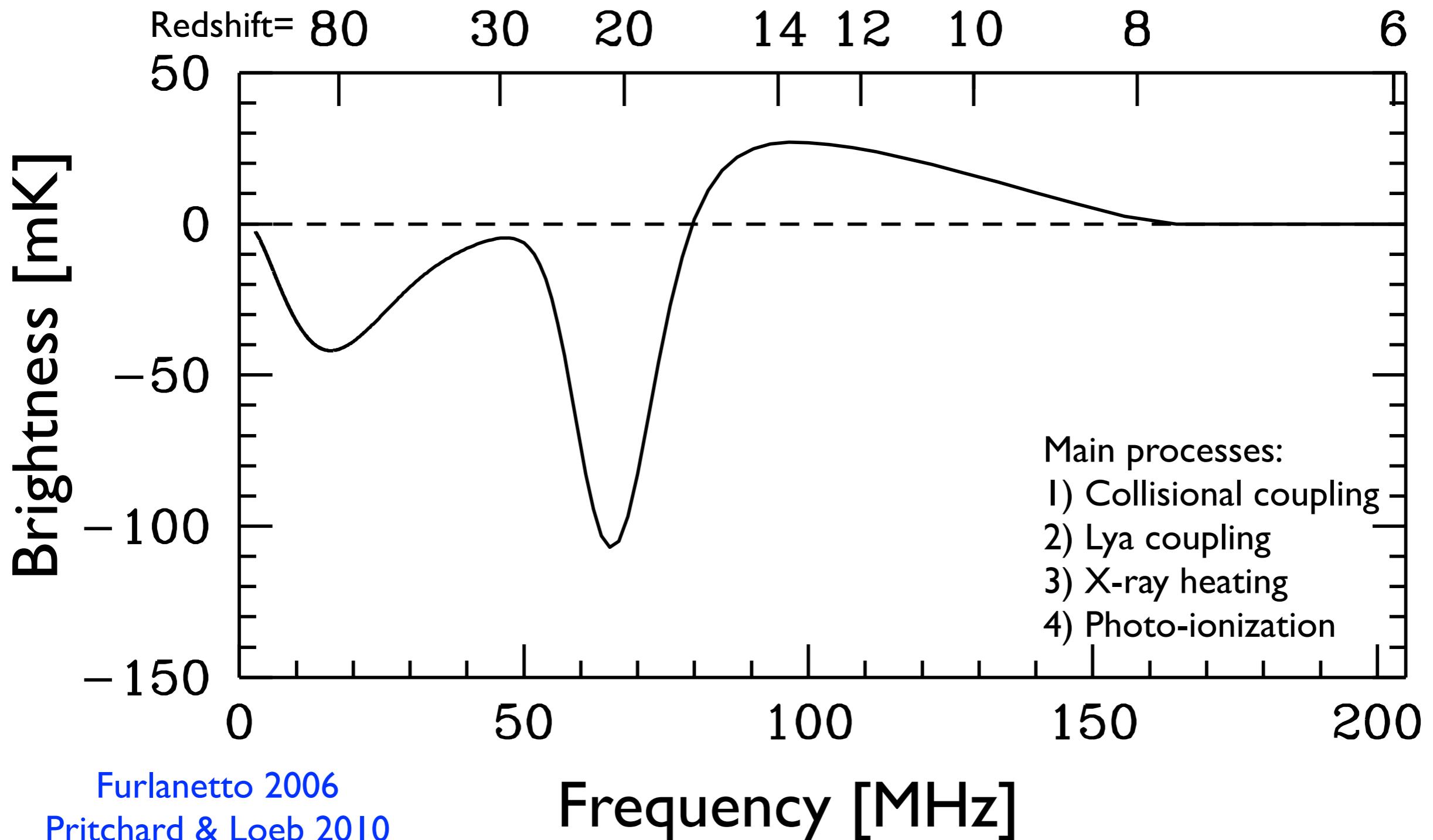
neutral fraction ↓
baryon density ↓
spin temperature ↗
peculiar velocities ↓

spin temperature set by different mechanisms: Collisions

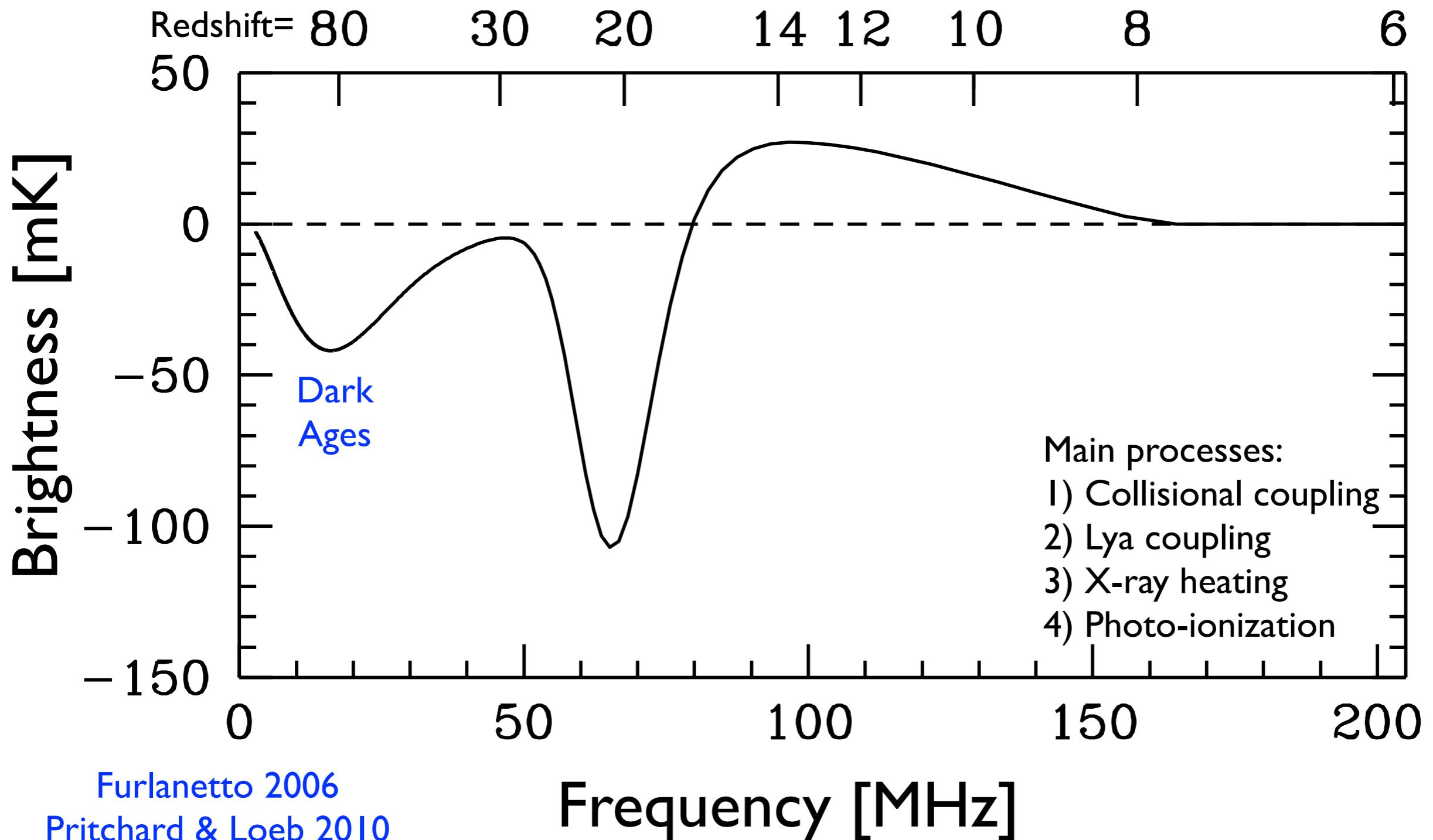
Radiative transitions (CMB)

Wouthuysen-Field effect (resonant scattering of Ly α)

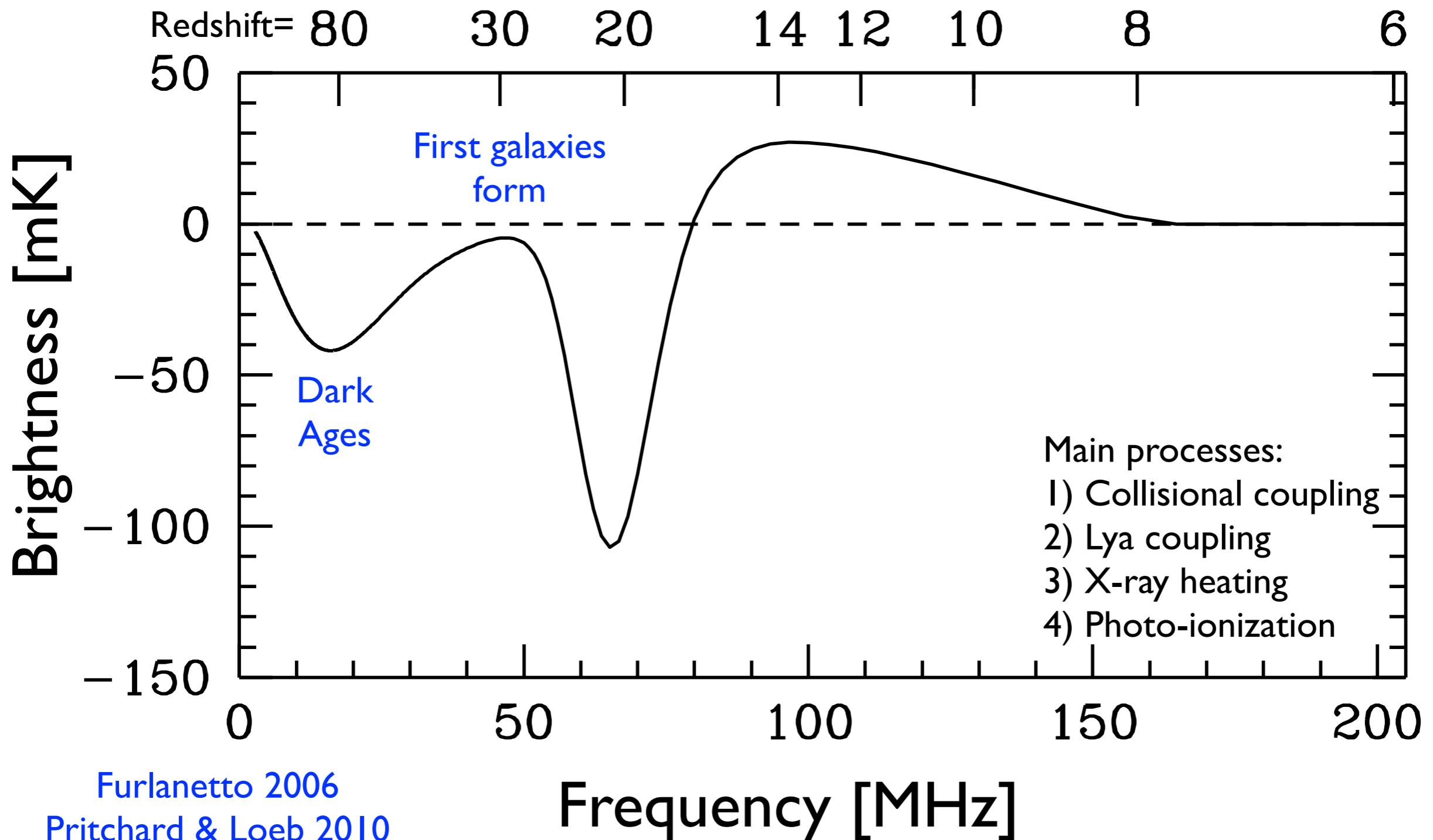
21 cm global signal



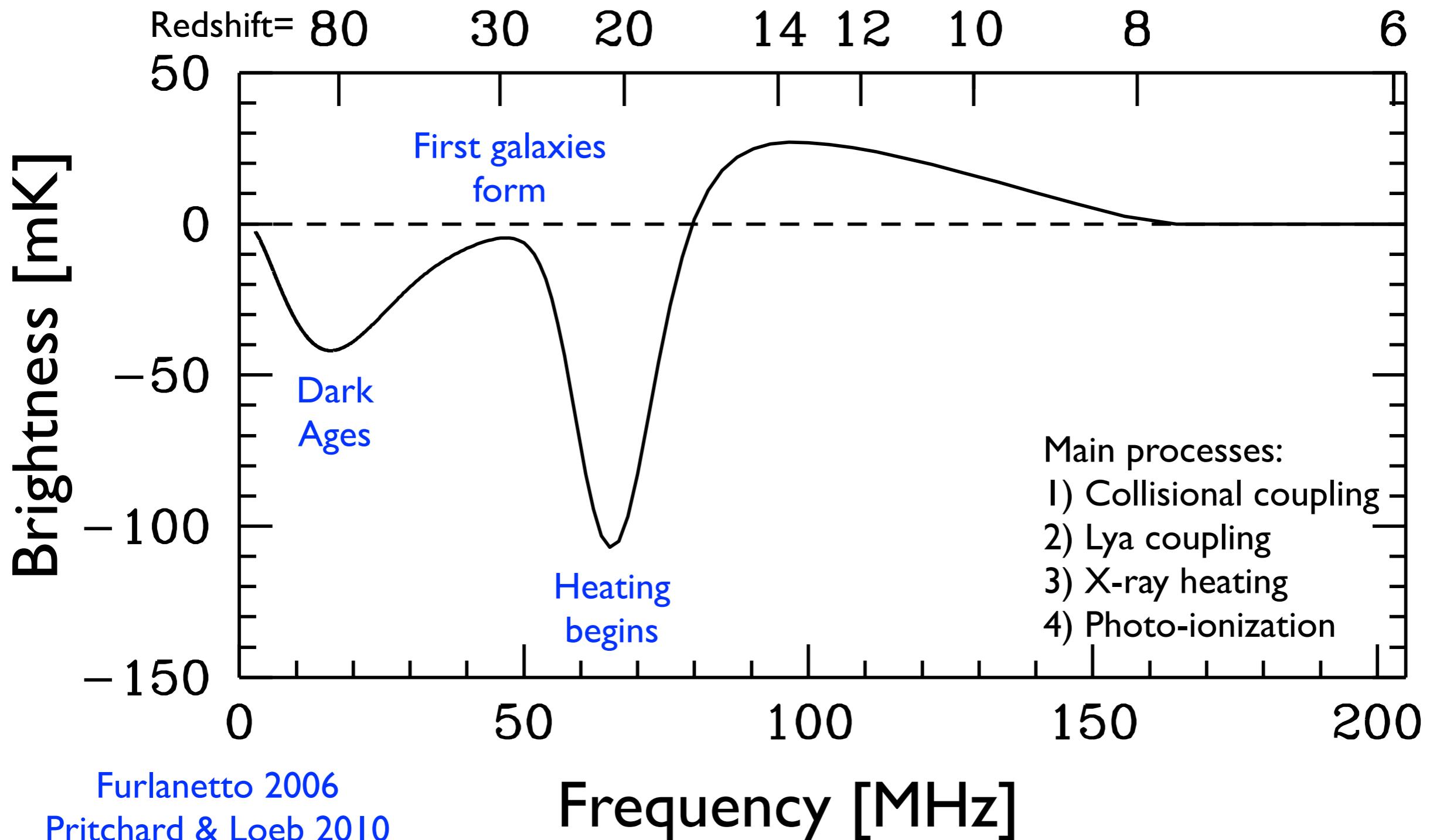
21 cm global signal



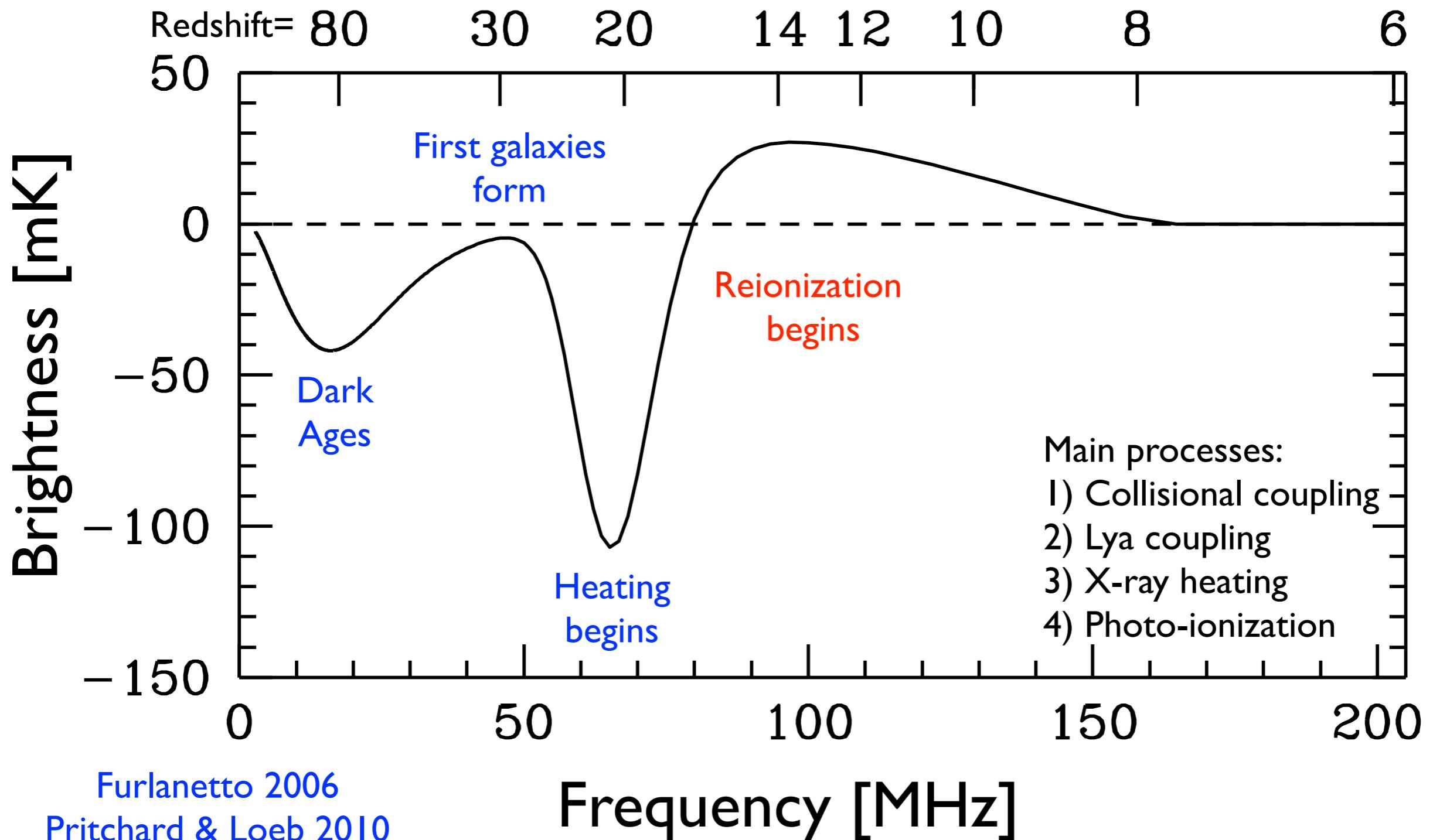
21 cm global signal



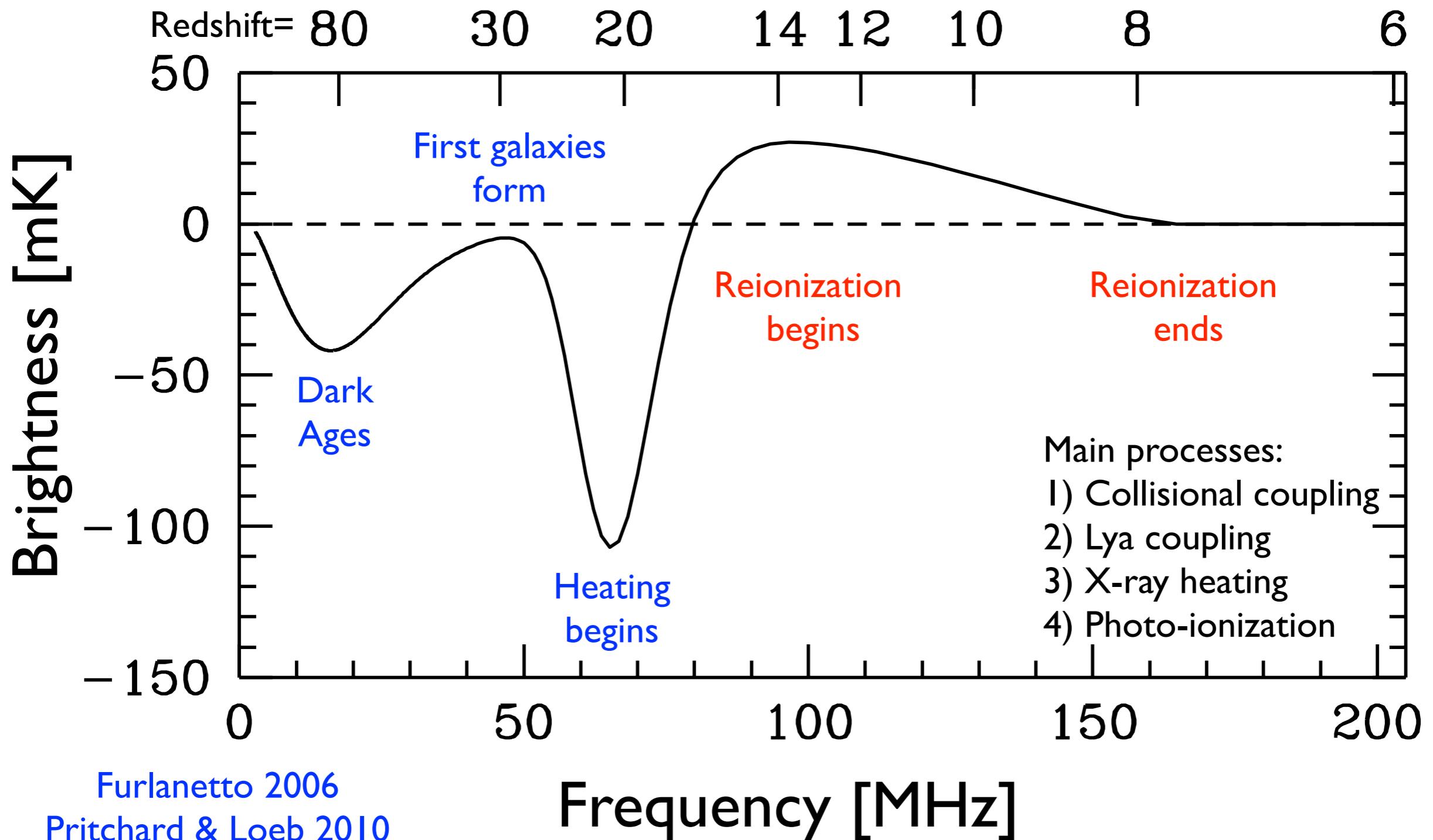
21 cm global signal



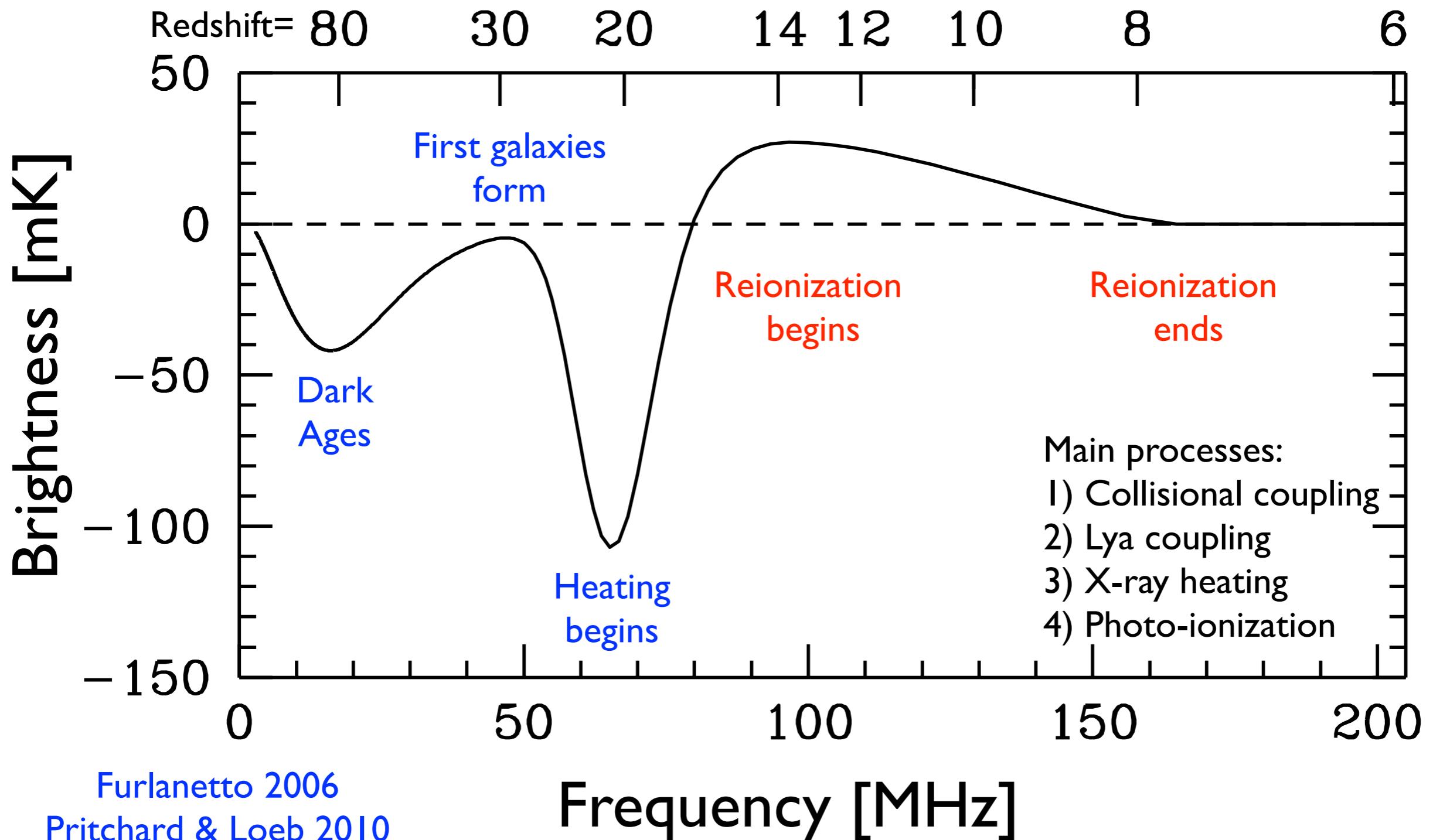
21 cm global signal



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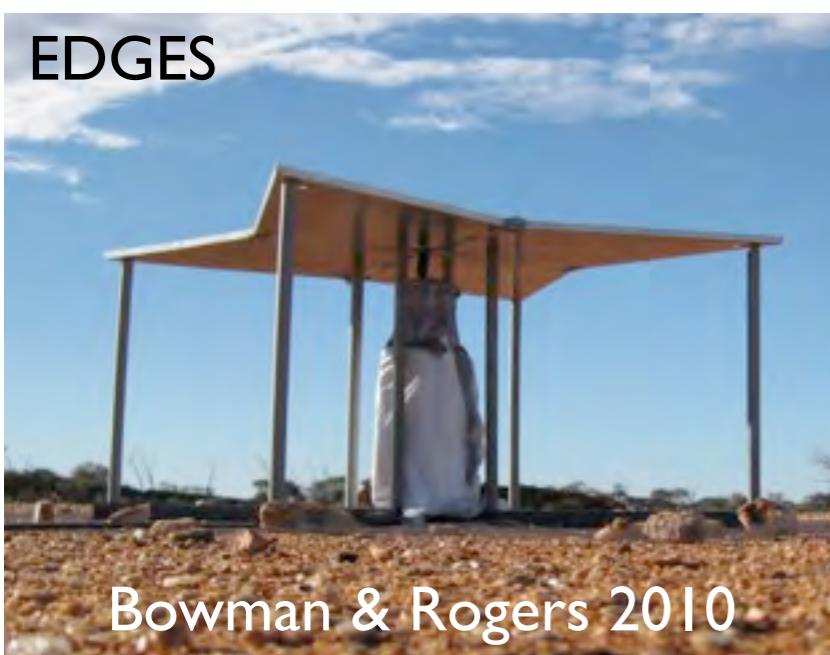
21 cm global signal



measurement would constrain basic features of first galaxies

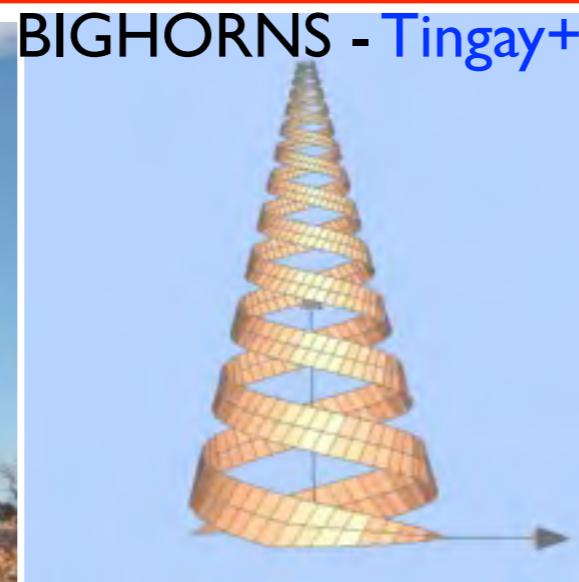
Absolute temperature measurements

EDGES



Bowman & Rogers 2010

BIGHORNS - Tingay+

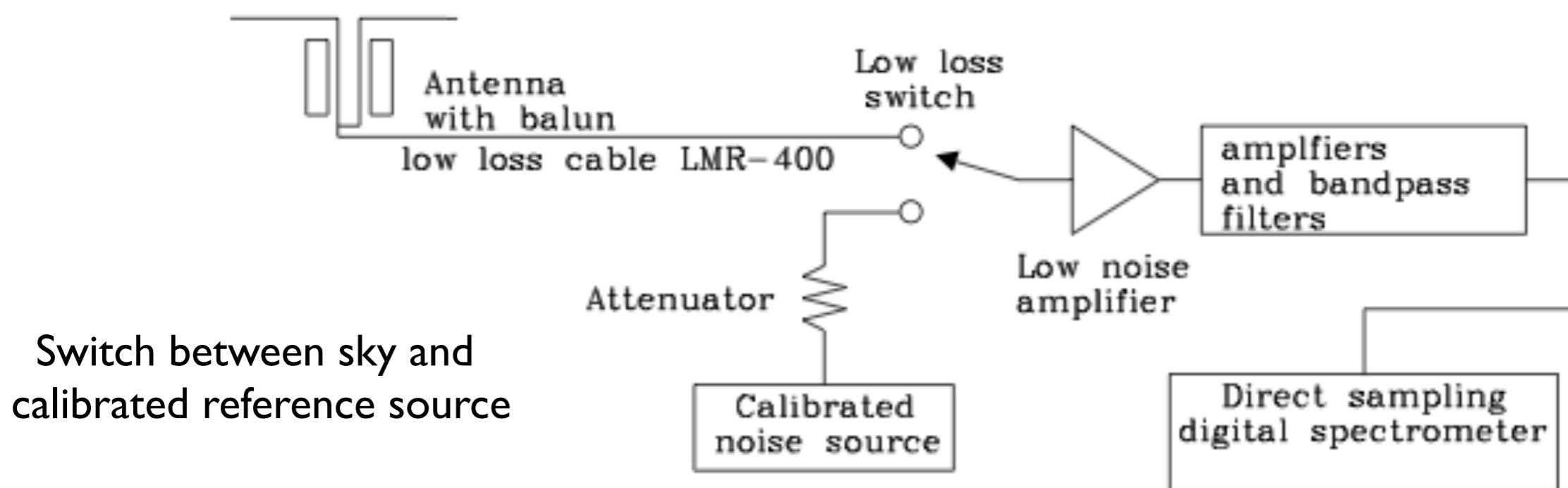


ZEBRA - Subrahmanyam+



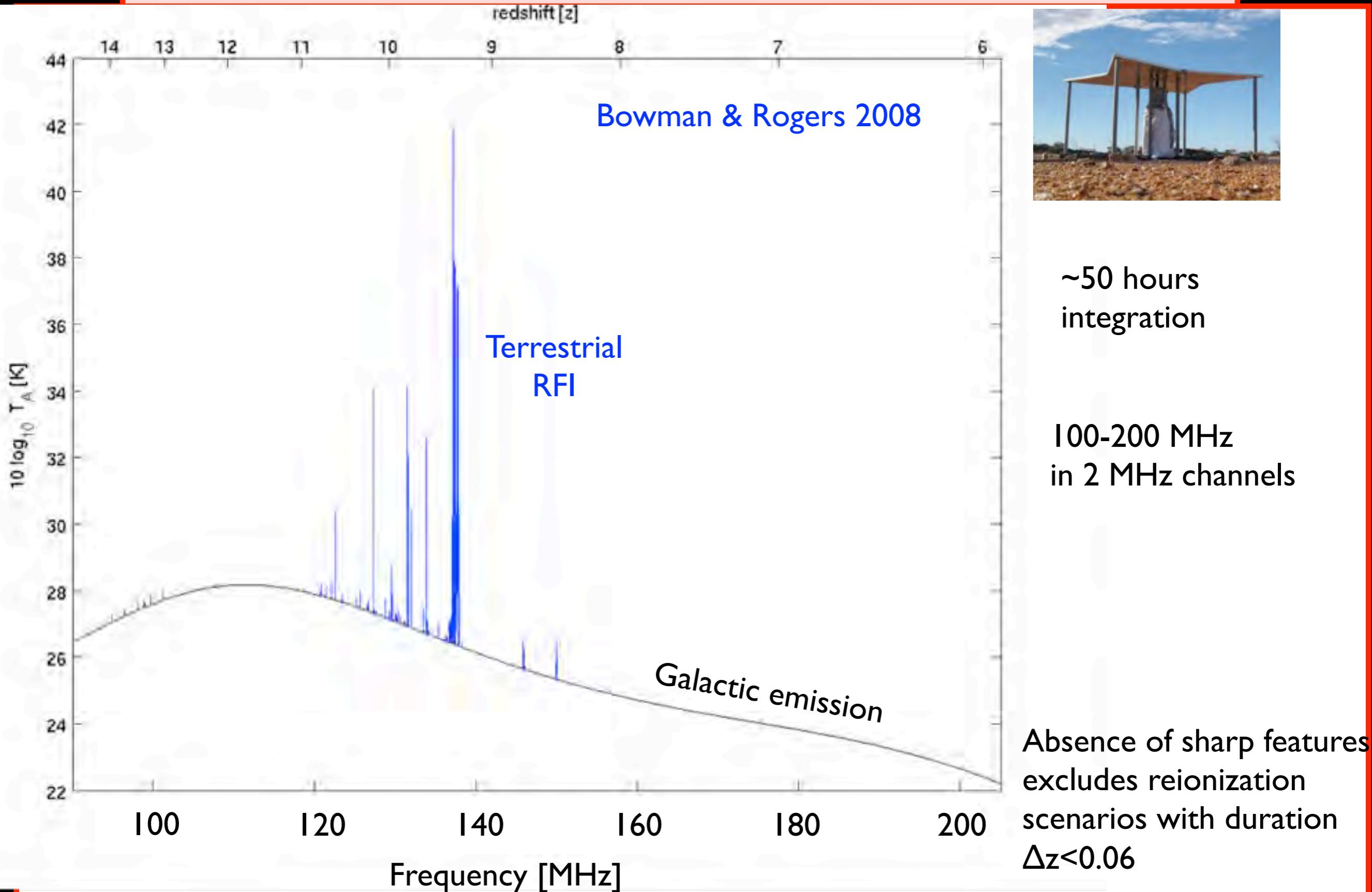
Burns+

also CoRE - Ekers+



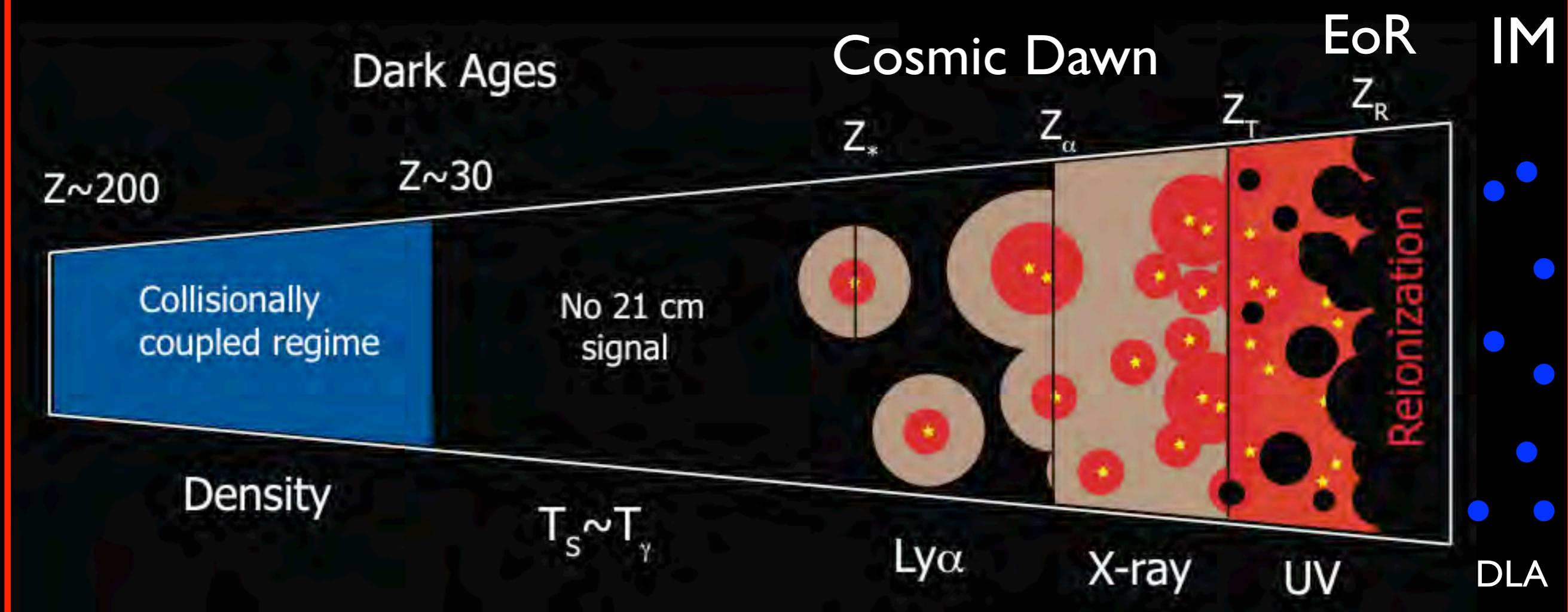
Large (smooth) foregrounds must be removed \Leftrightarrow instrumental calibration is crucial

EDGES observations



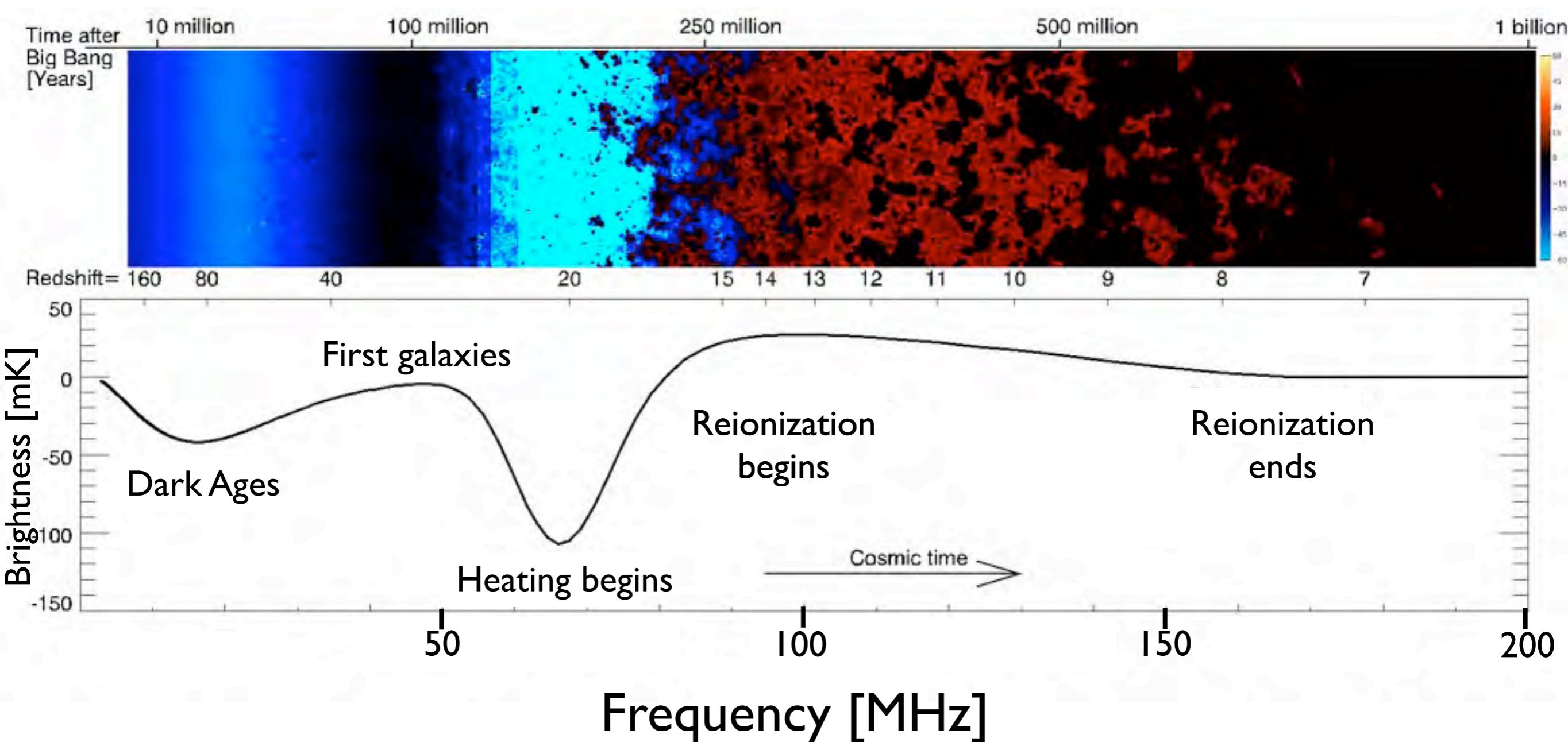
Brightness Fluctuations

brightness temperature	density	neutral fraction	gas temperature	Lyman alpha flux	peculiar velocities
$\delta T_b = \beta \delta_b + \beta_x \delta_{x_{HI}} + \beta_T \delta_{T_k} + \beta_\alpha \delta_\alpha - \delta_{\partial v}$					
cosmology		reionization	X-ray heating	Lya sources	cosmology



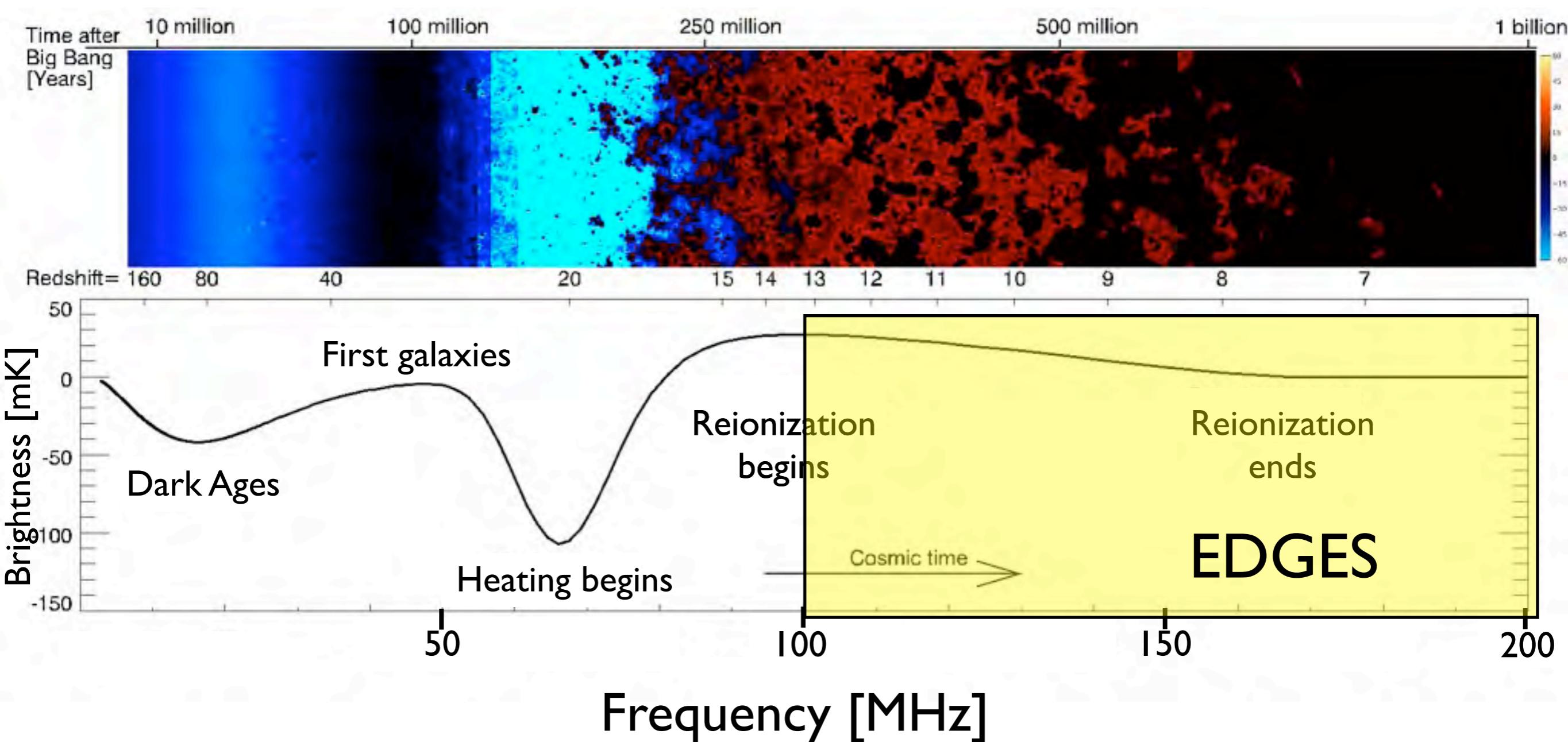
21 cm summary

Pritchard & Loeb 2010



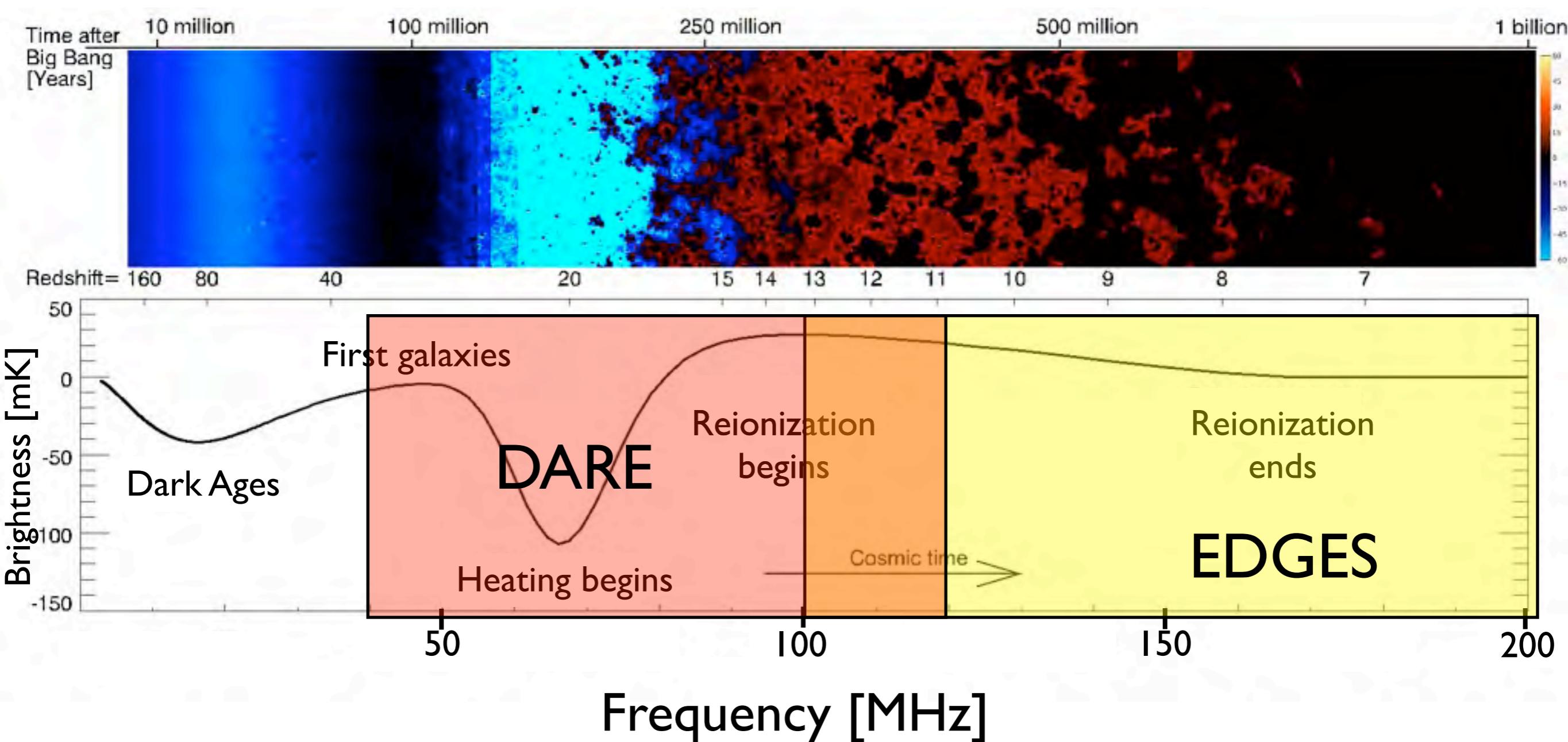
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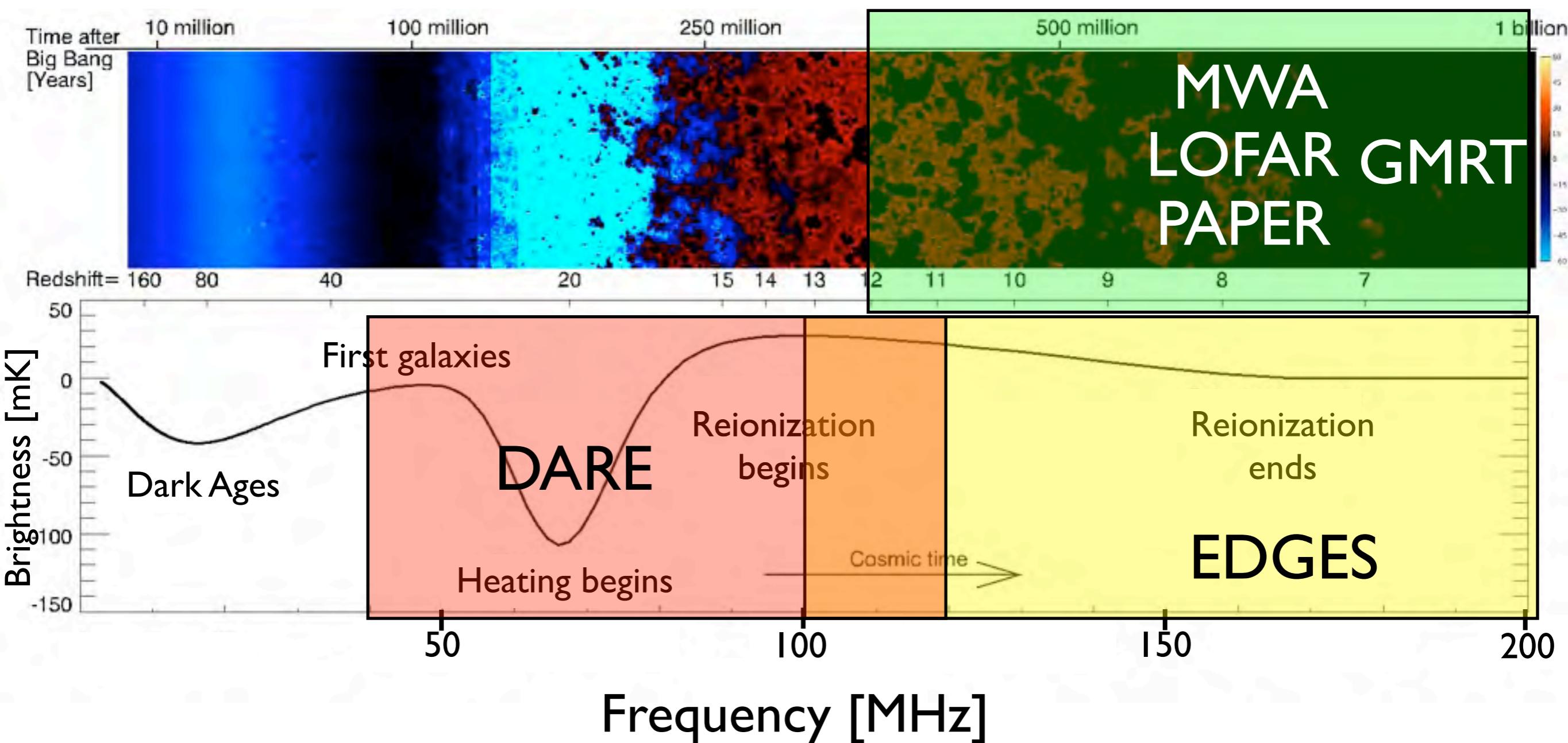
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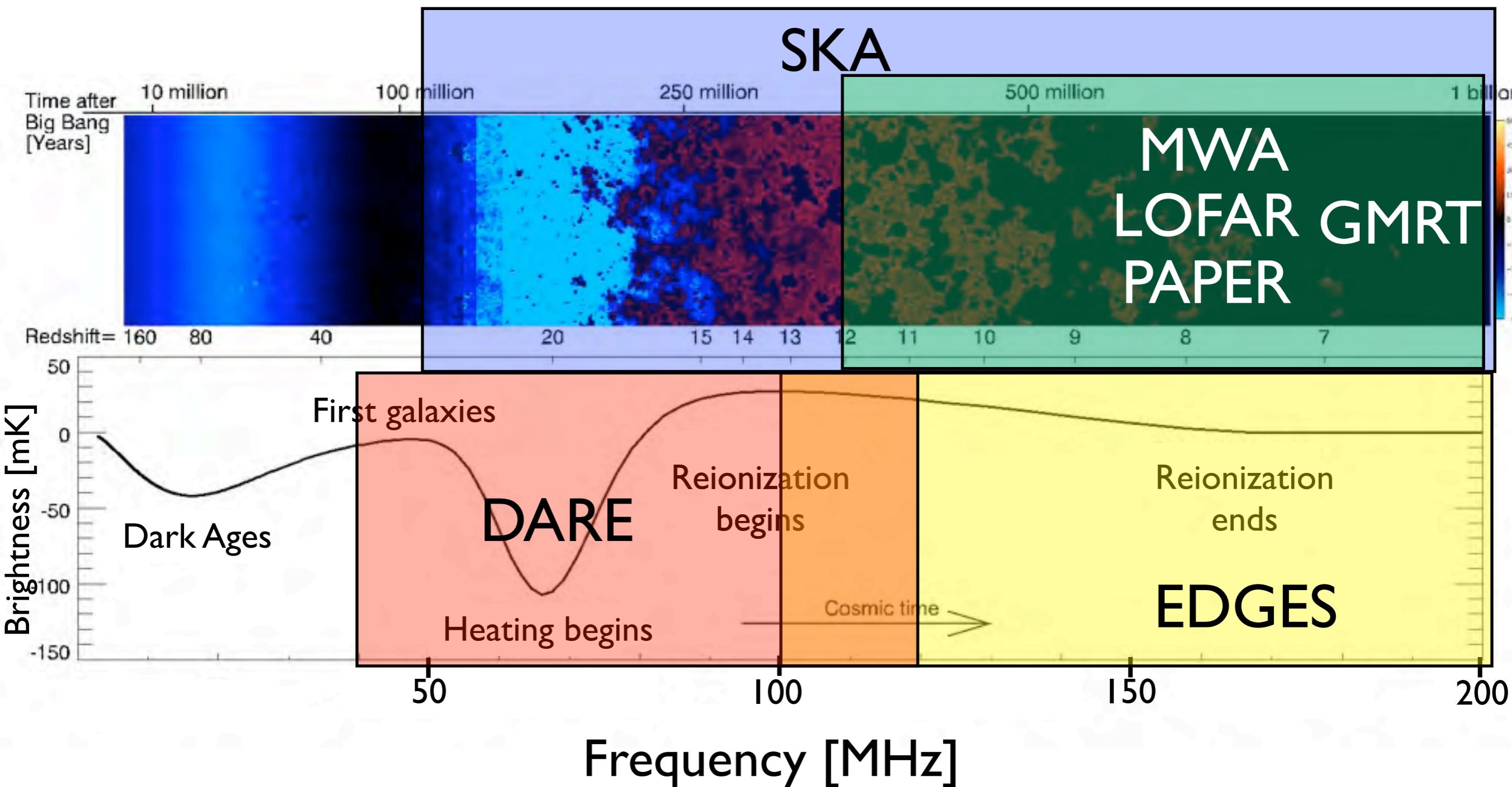
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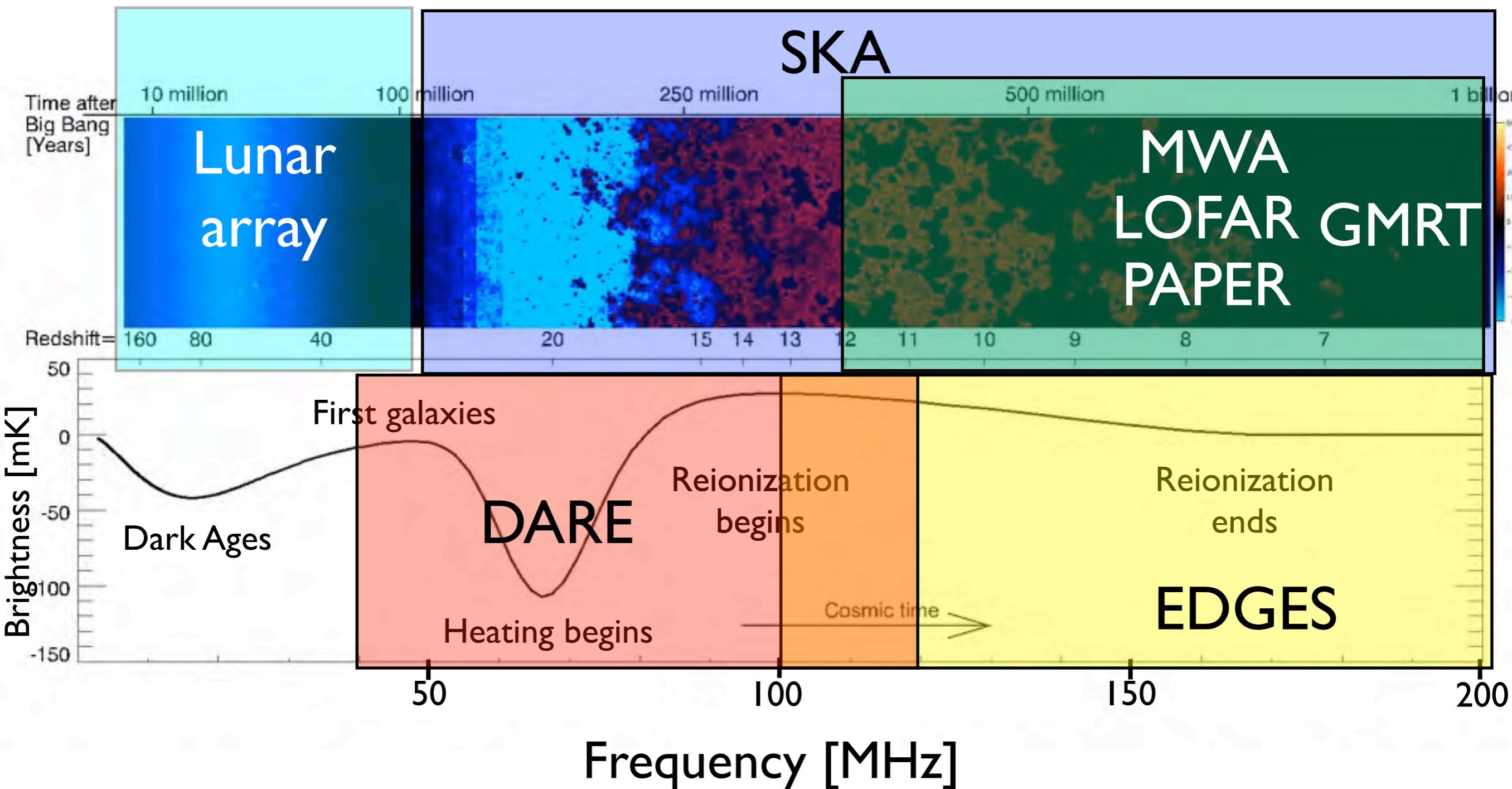


21 cm summary

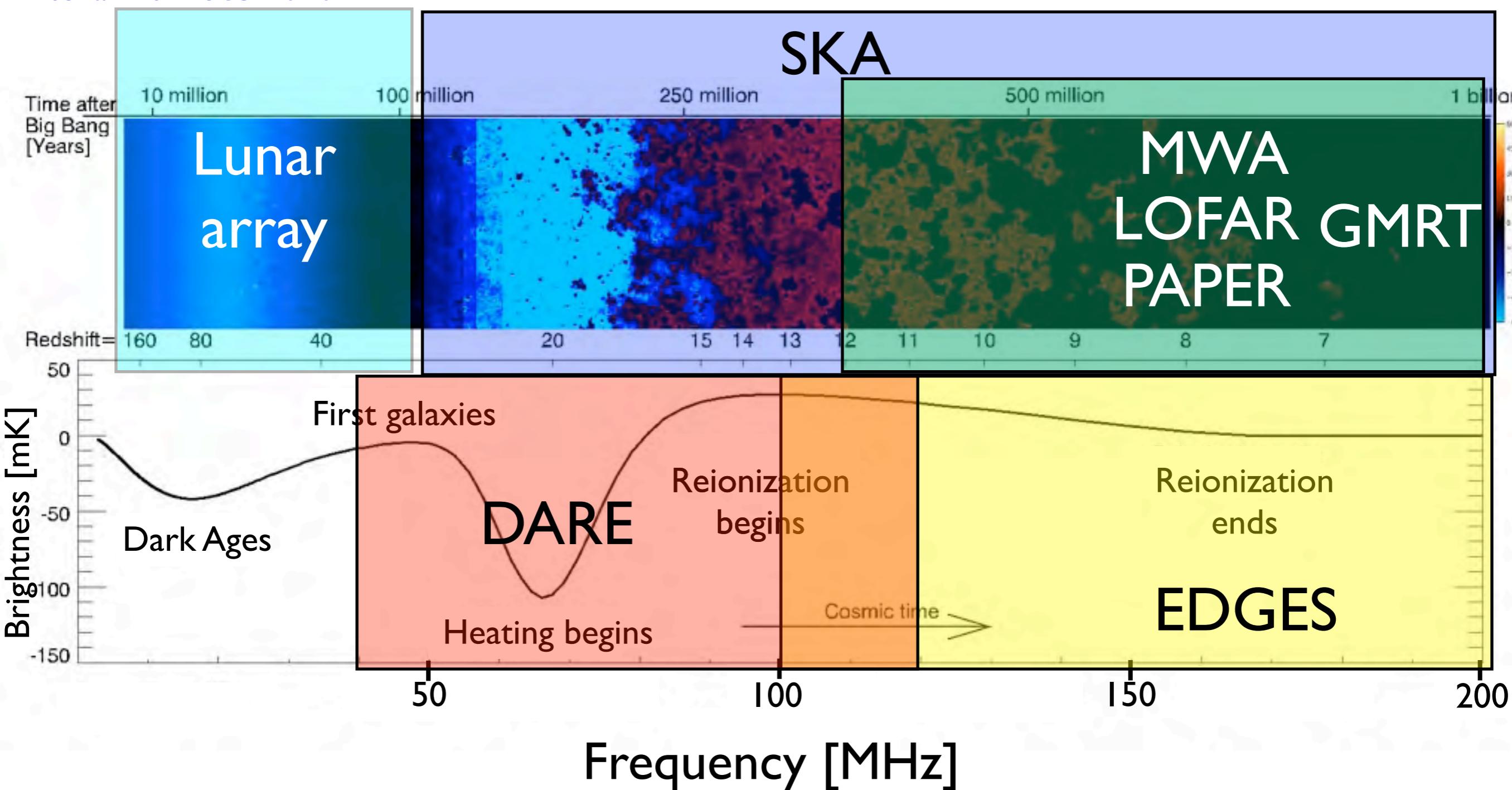
Pritchard & Loeb 2010



Pritchard & Loeb 2010

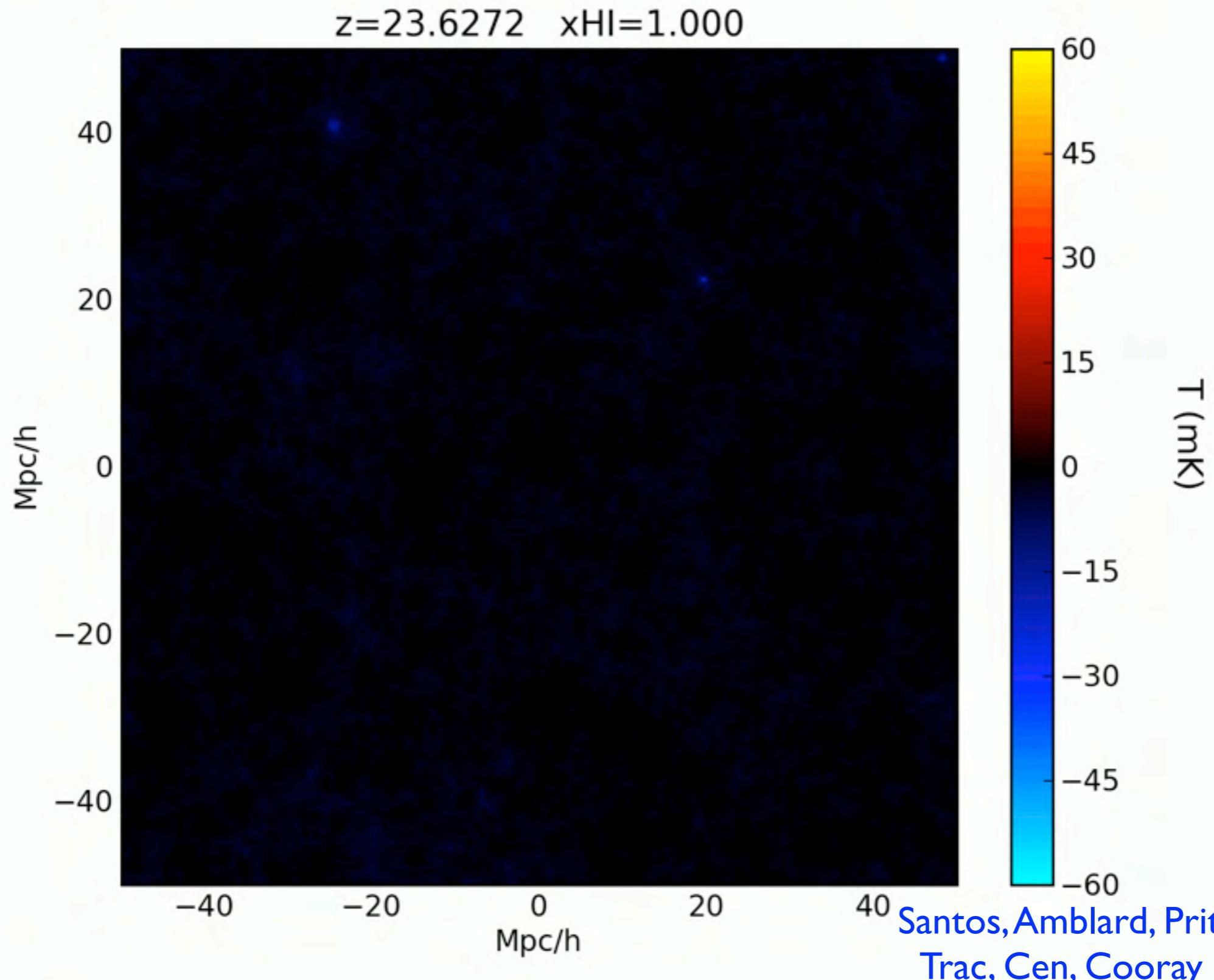


Pritchard & Loeb 2010

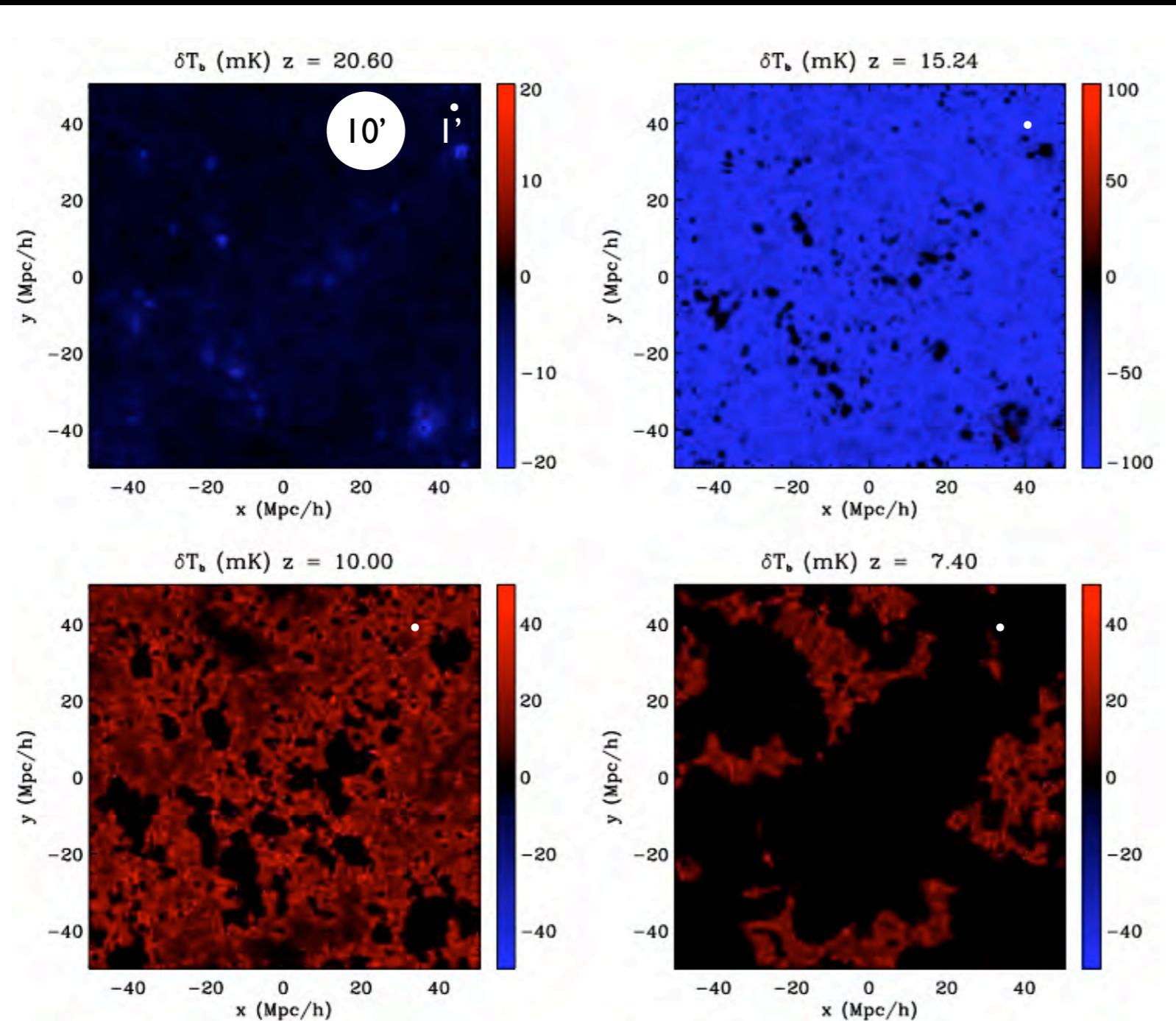


Science requirement 1: cover full redshift range accessible

Movie of the cosmic evolution



Imaging brightness fluctuations



At $z=8$ (150 MHz)

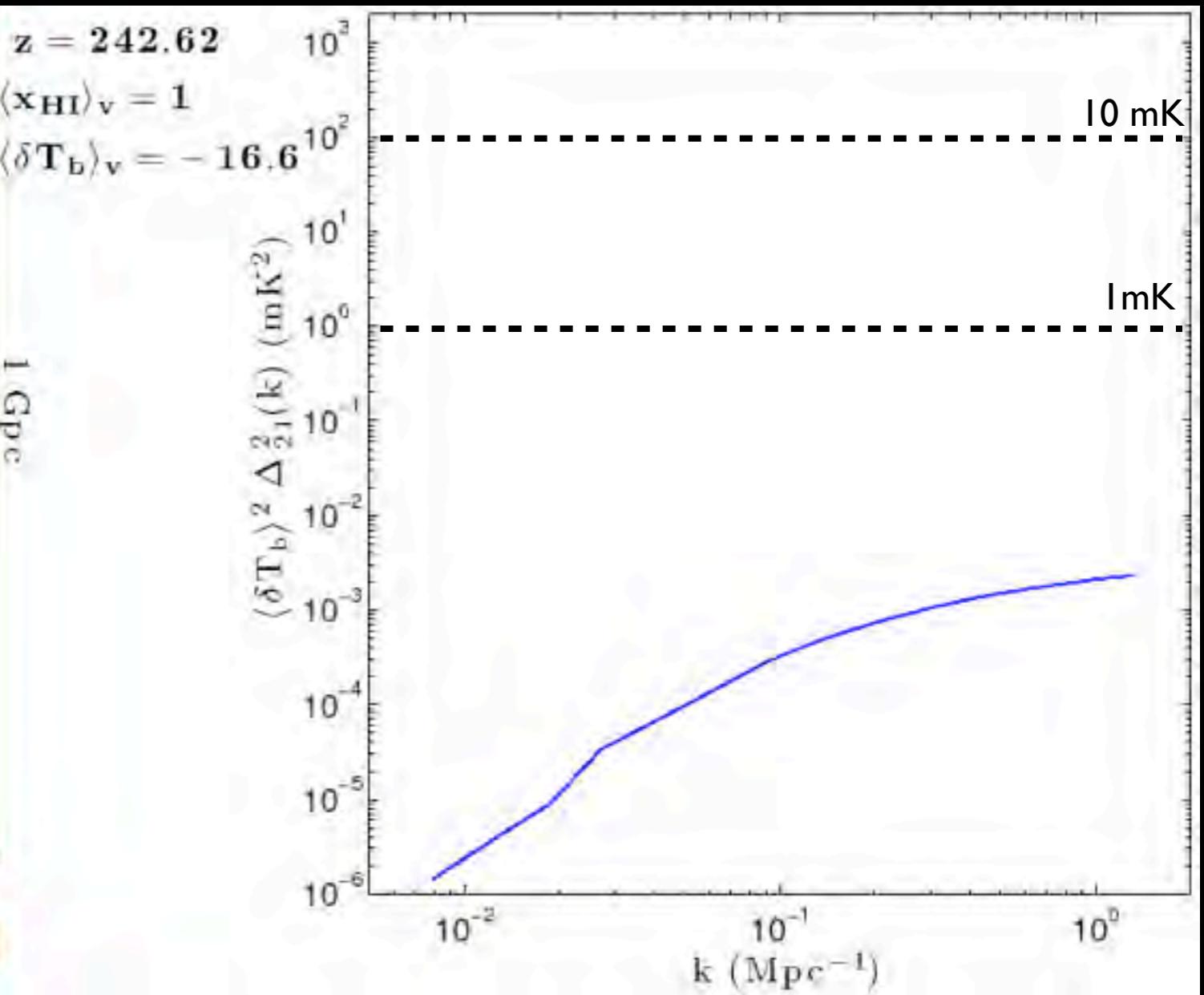
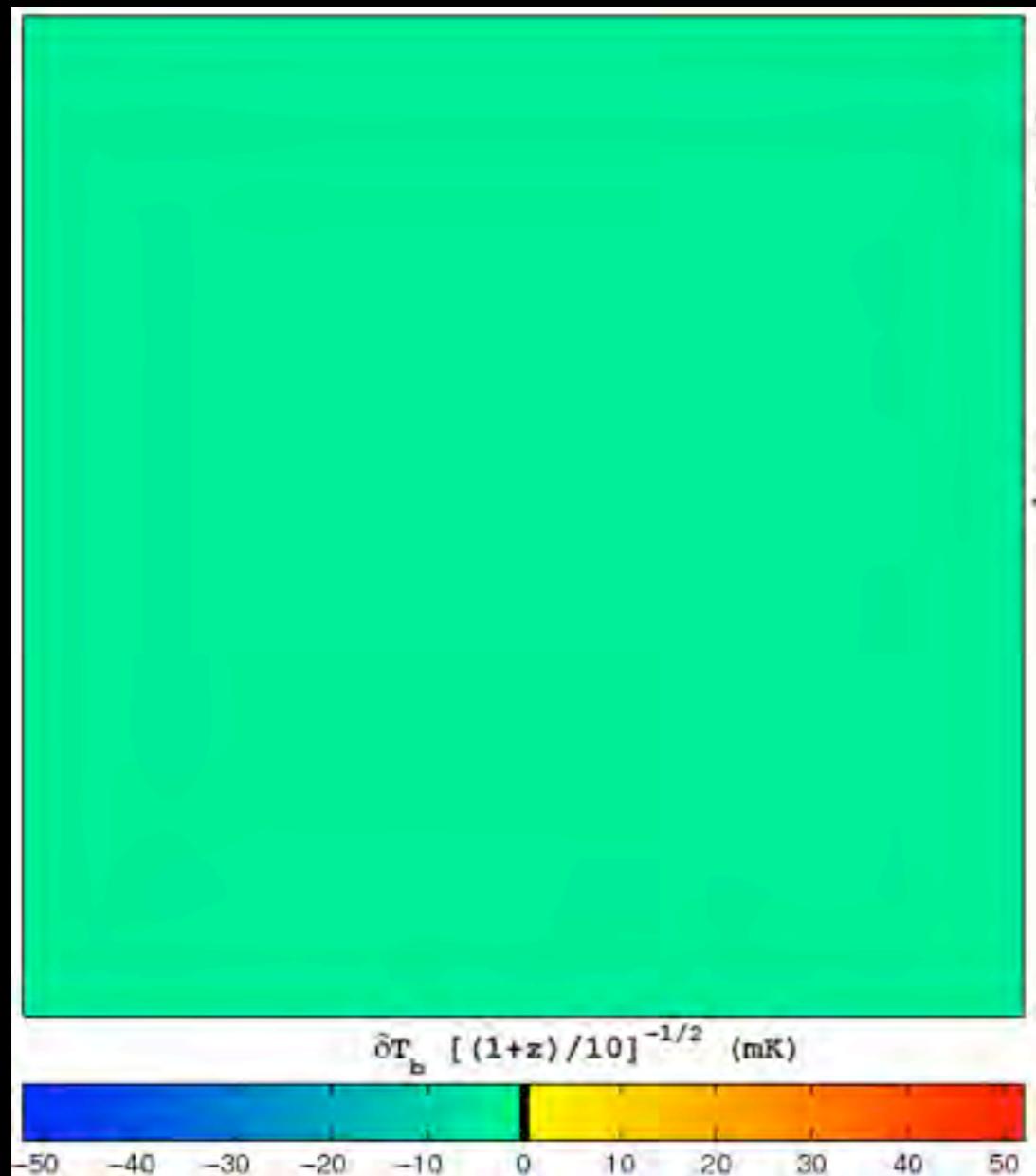
$|I| \text{ arcmin} \sim 0.3 \text{ pMpc}$
 $\sim 2 \text{ cMpc}$

$0.1 \text{ MHz} \sim 0.3 \text{ pMpc}$
 $\sim 2 \text{ cMpc}$

Imaging requires
 $S/N > |I|$ per mode

Science requirement 3+4: Resolve bubbles in 3D

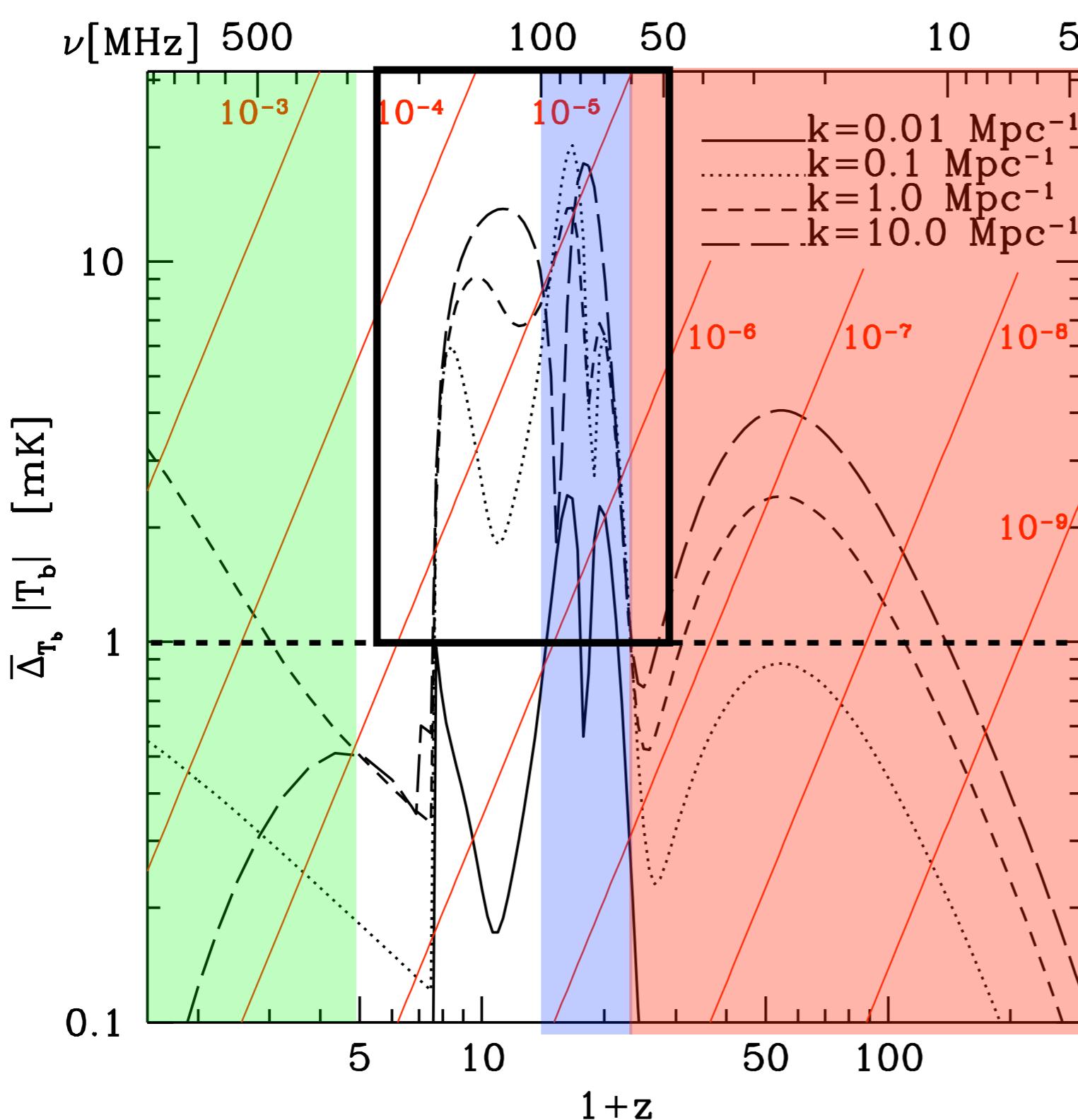
Evolution of the power spectrum



Science requirement 2: 1 mK sensitivity on arcmin scales
for imaging and power spectrum

Mesinger+ 2010

Evolution of power spectrum



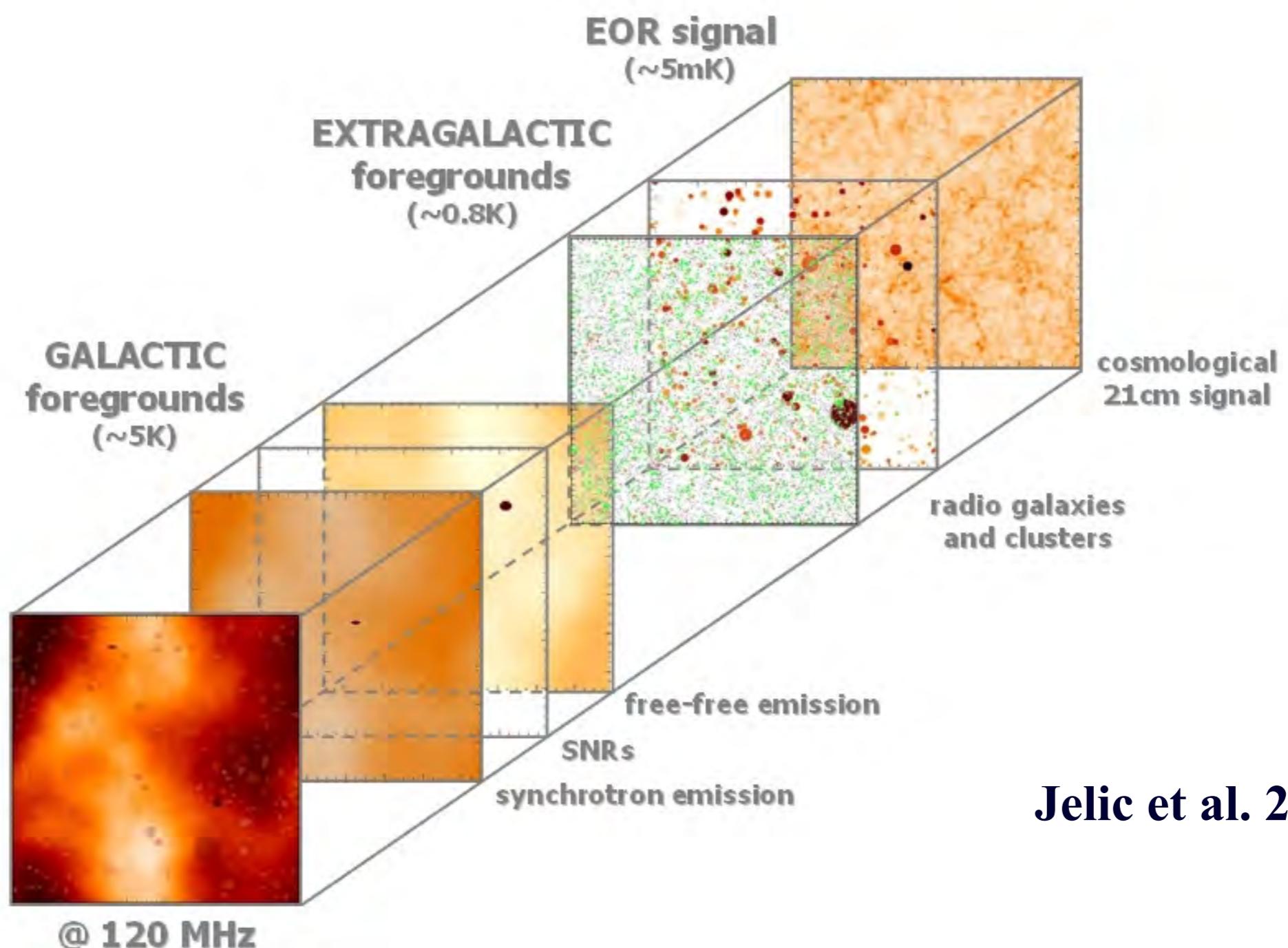
Evolution of signal means dynamic range requirements $\sim 1:100,000$
similar between $z=6$ and $z=20$

1 mK sensitivity at 1 arcmin scale enough to probe full range

Pritchard & Loeb 2008

Foreground removal

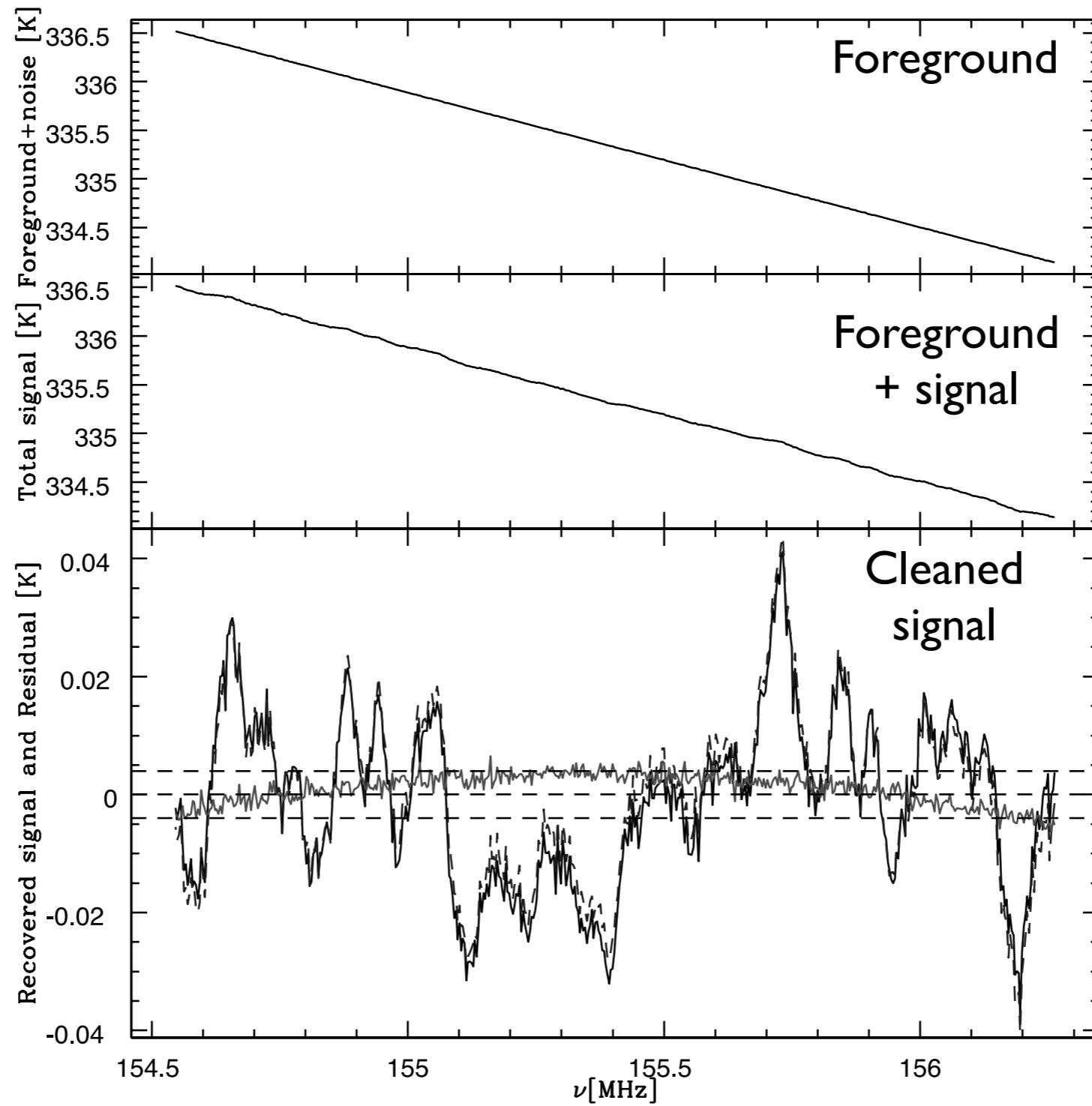
Foregrounds $\sim 10^3\text{-}10^5$ signal





Diffuse foregrounds

Diffuse foregrounds readily removed if spectrally smooth
e.g. galactic synchrotron emission



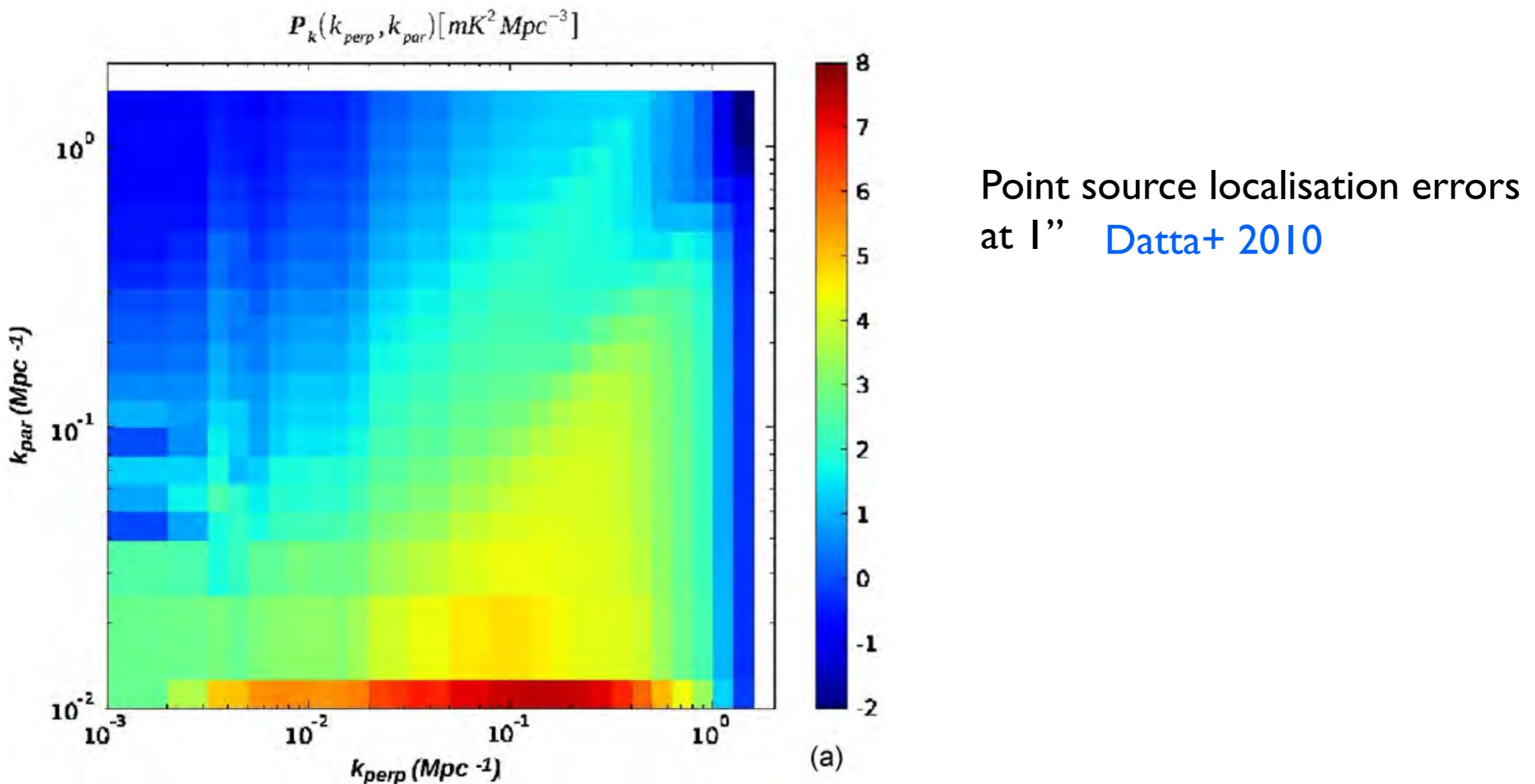
Wang+ 2006

Point source subtraction/ionosphere

Confusion floor from point source removal needs to be below sensitivity

Point source modeling of extended e.g. double lobe sources maybe important

Ionospheric corrections across field of view $\sim 10''$ across 5 deg field

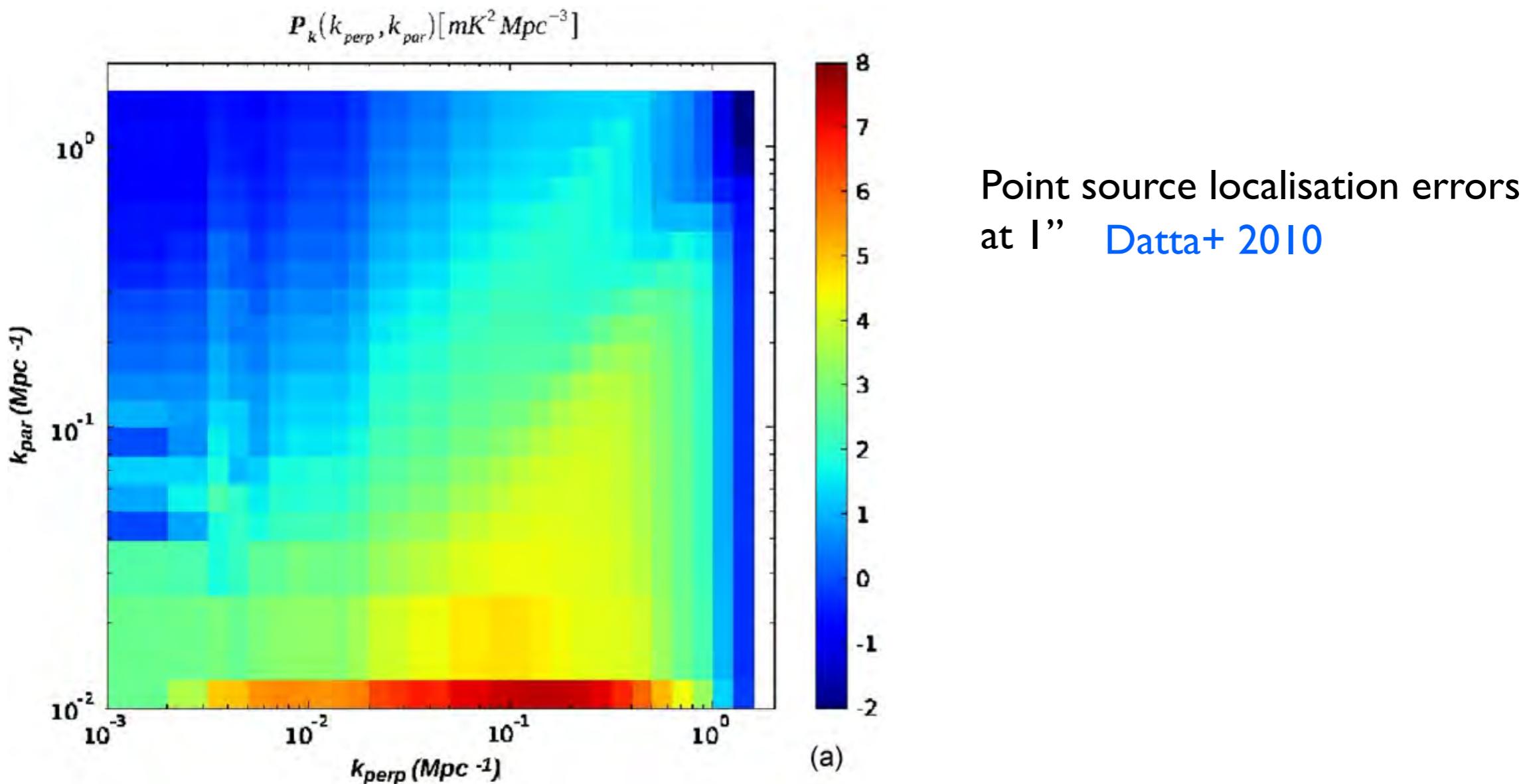


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Tech. 3: Outer baselines $>5\text{km}$ (maybe as long as 50km)

21 cm pathfinders

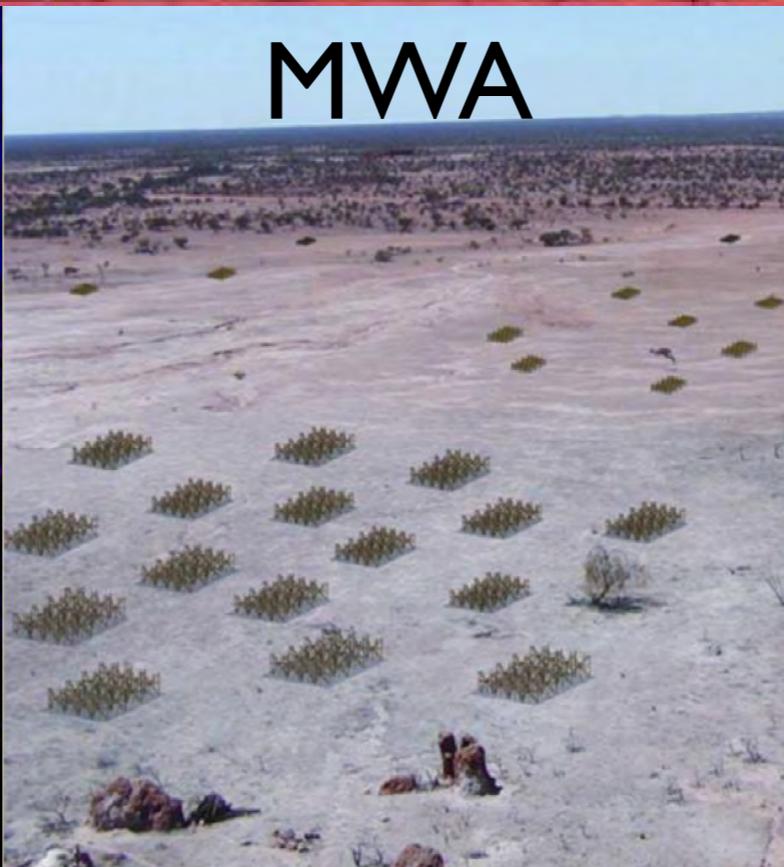
GMRT



LOFAR



MWA



PAPER

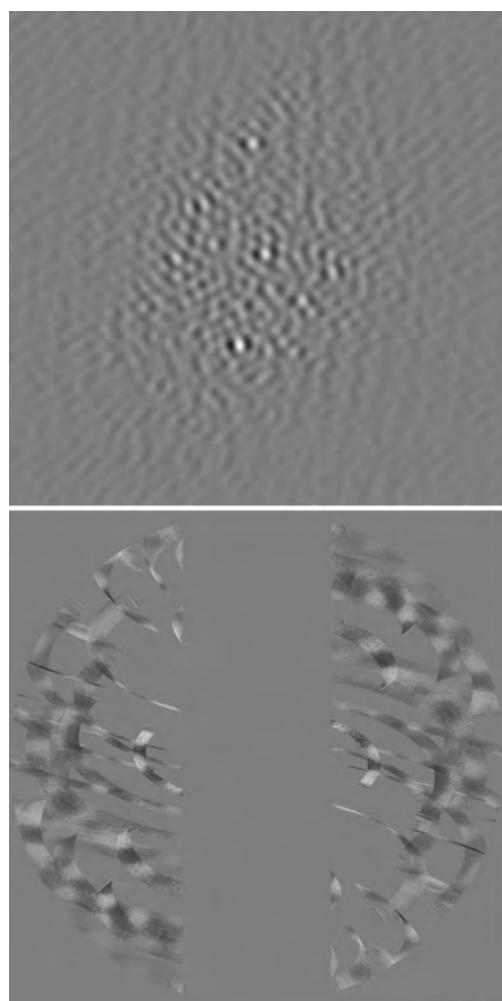
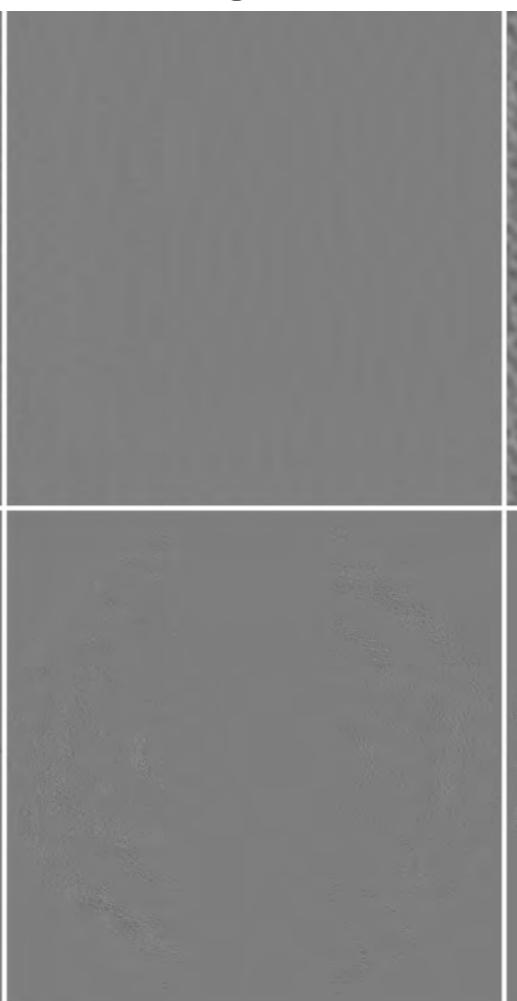
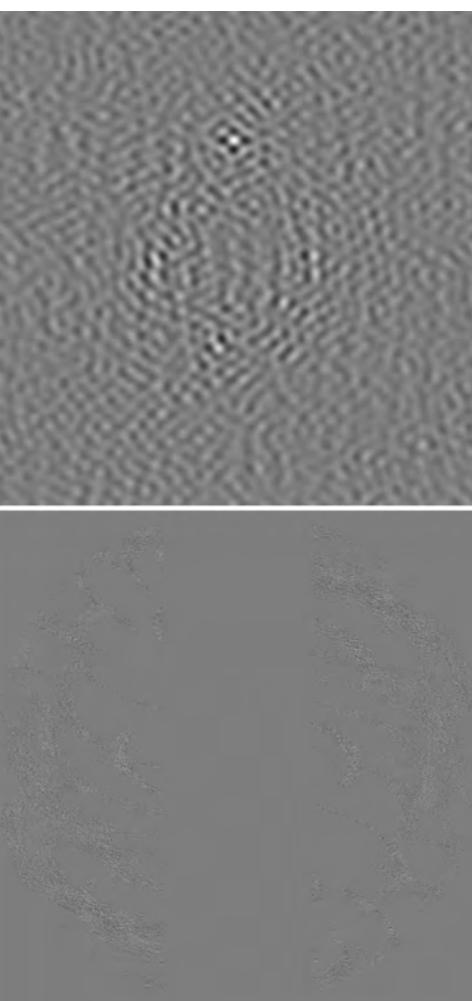


Several interferometers taking data to probe **reionization** ($z < 12$)

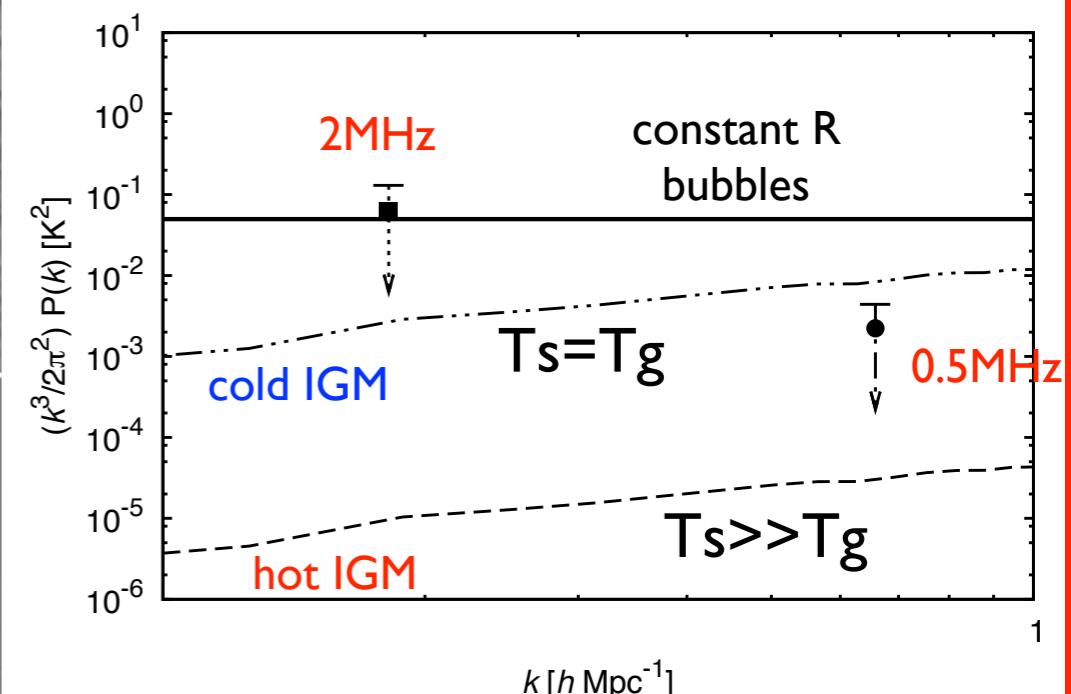
GMRT



Sky map

Sky map
- foregroundsSky map-foregrounds
zoom

Upper limits
on power spectrum of
cold IGM



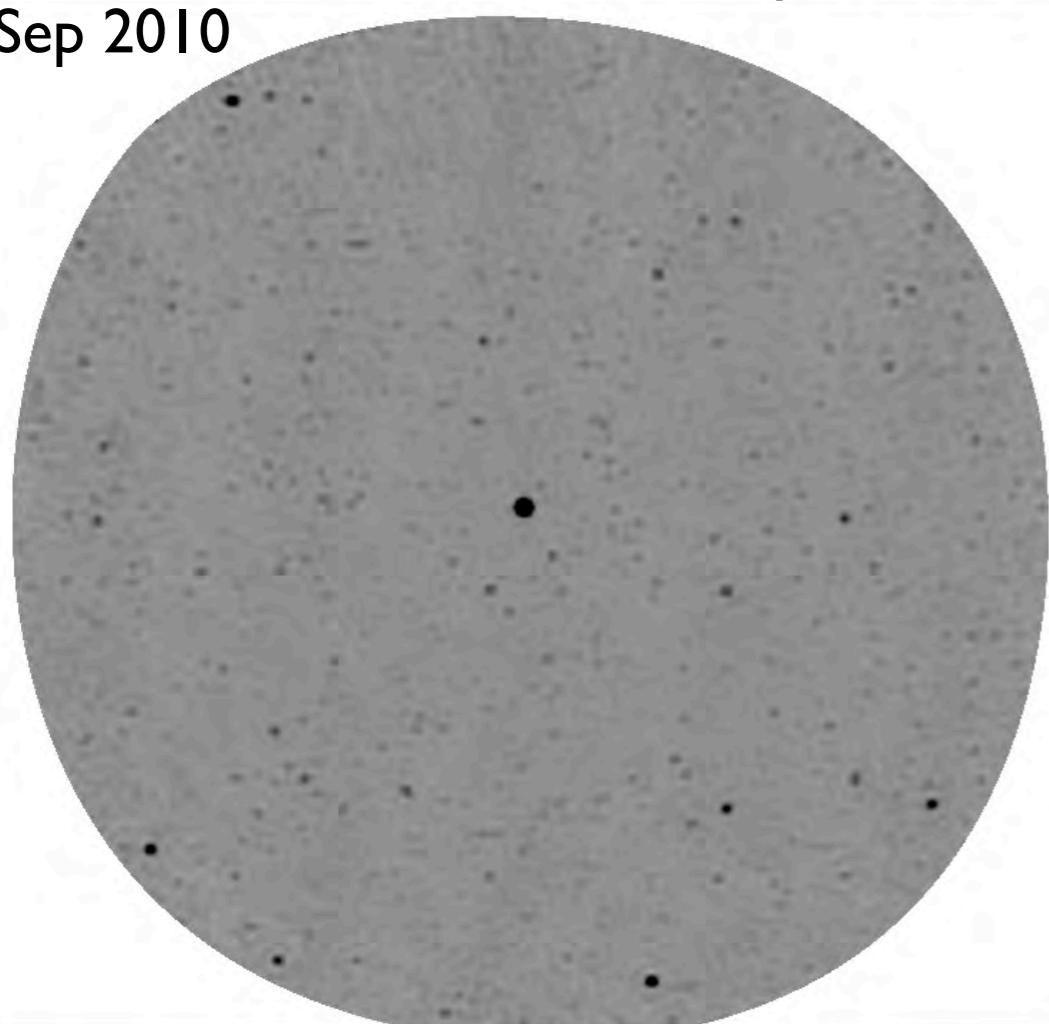
50 hours integration
~50 mK uncertainties

Data of the required sensitivity acquired with GMRT
=> first serious limits on 21 cm signal at z~8.5

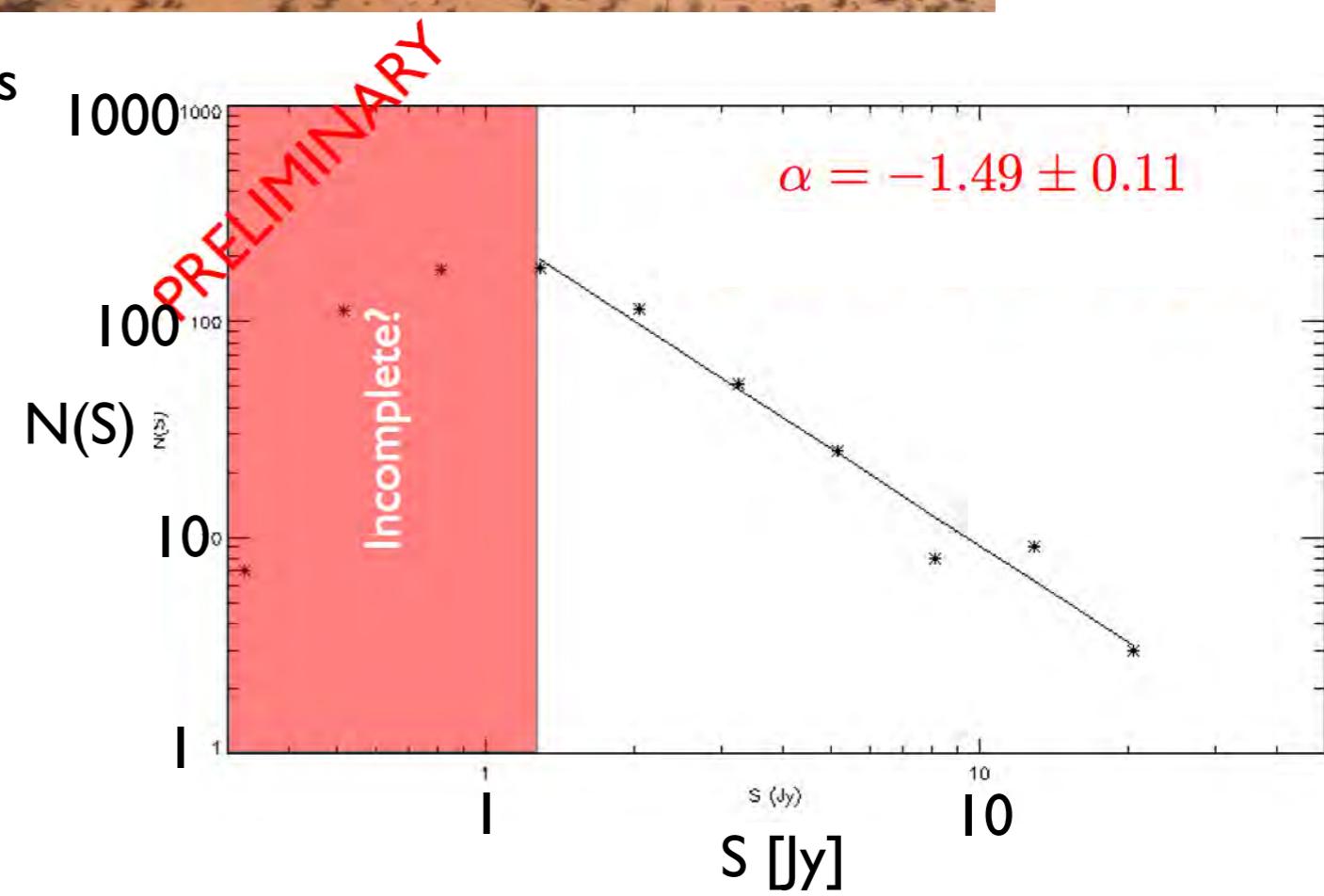
Paciga+ 2010



Hydra A
121 MHz
Sep 2010

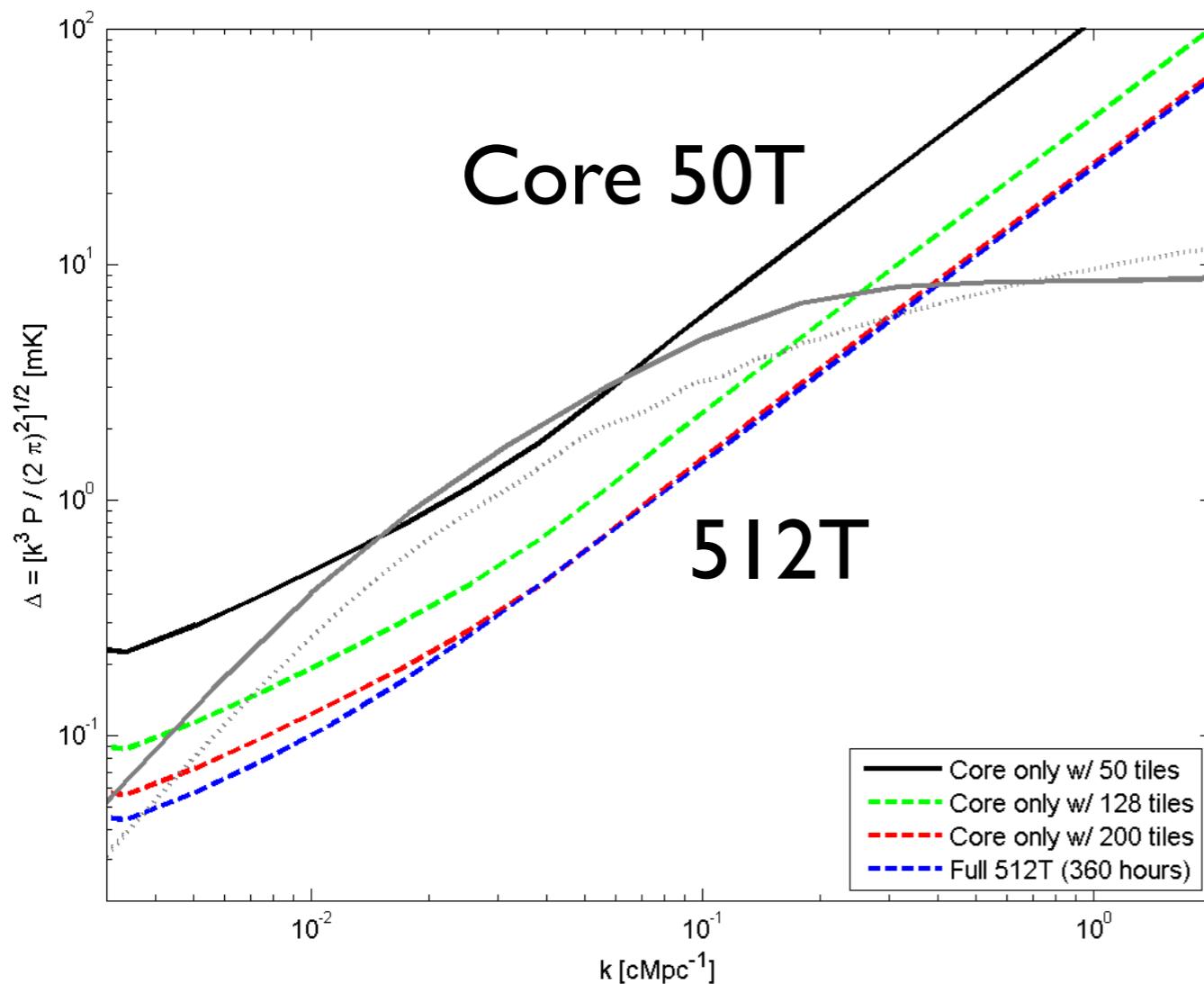


Confusion limited maps
7000:I dynamic range



Chris Williams & MWA Collaboration

- Funding constraints prevent build out to 512T.
Rescoped to 128T (infrastructure allows extension to 256T)
- 128T construction to be completed Sep 2012



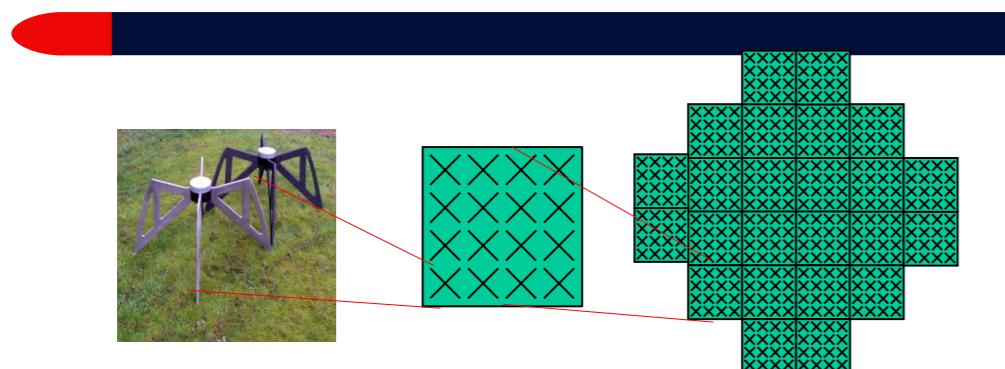
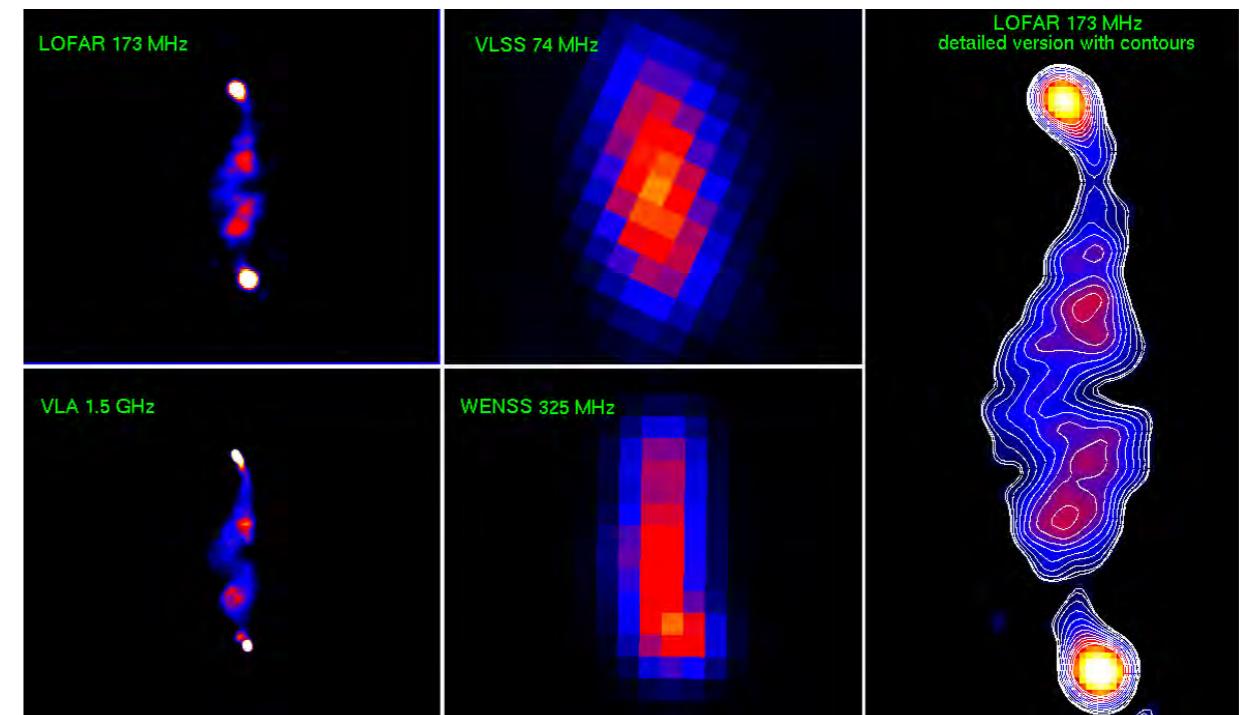
Limited ability to **detect**
EoR. Strong **constraints**.

Test bed for large N,
small D concept

Lots of other science...

J. Bowman & MWA collaboration

LOFAR



Core	2 km	23+ stations
NL	80 km	18+ stations
Europe	>1000 km	8+ stations

Total # of HBA dipoles: ~ 50000.

Timeline:

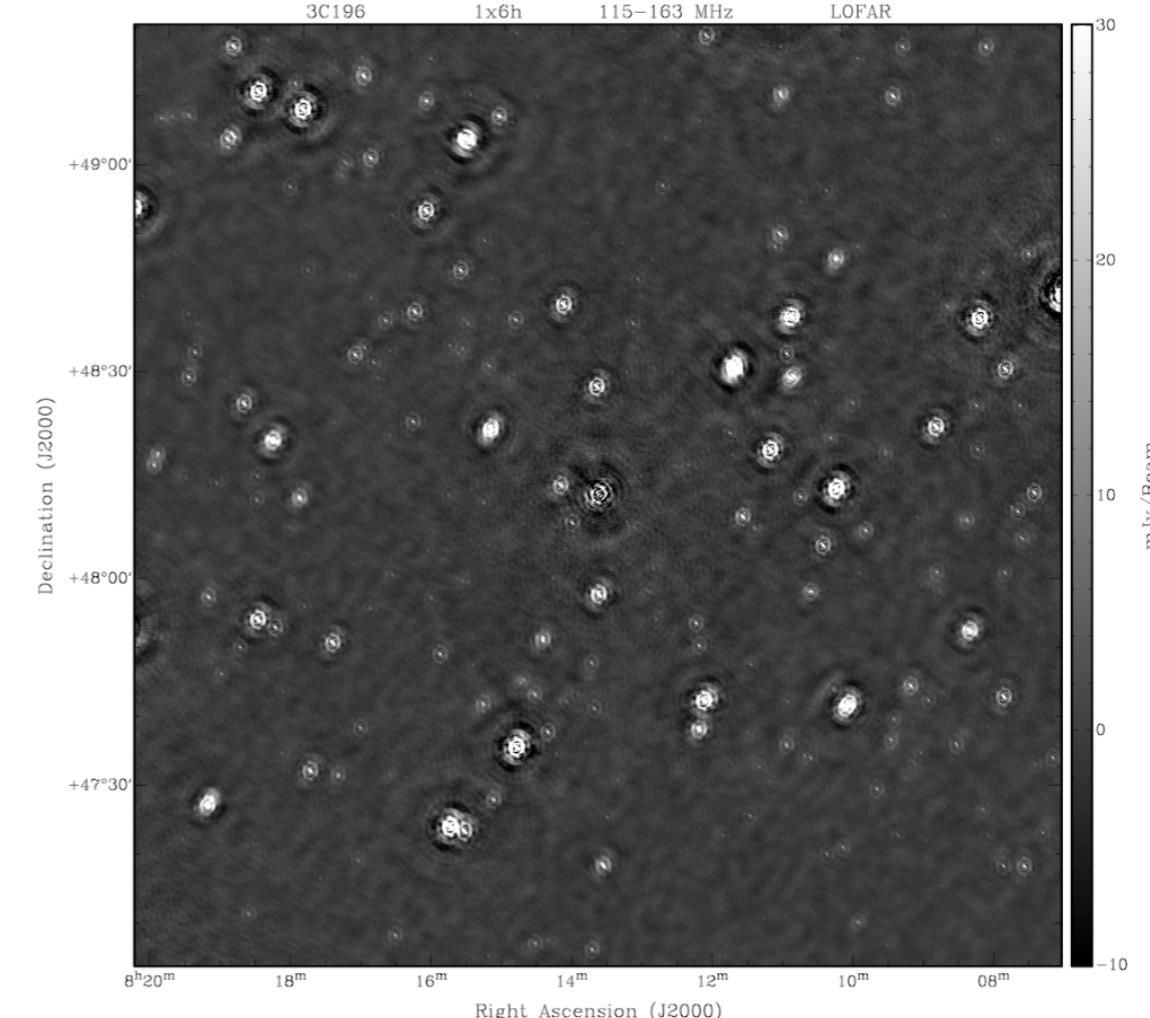
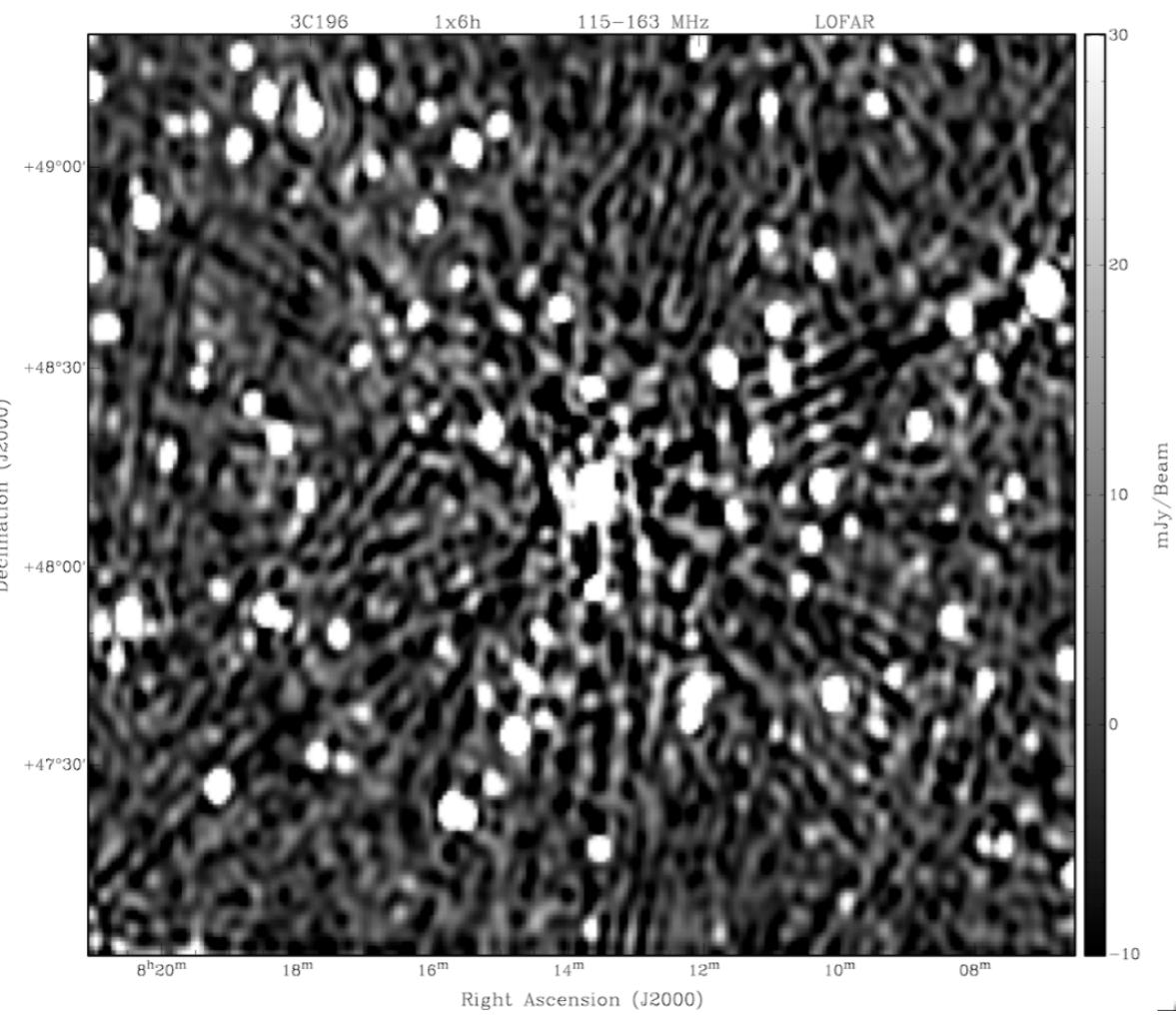
1. Official opening: June 2010
2. Data for our project starts: Jan. 2011
3. First results (hopefully) mid 2012



Slide from S. Zaroubi

LOFAR images

3C196: WSRT versus LOFAR 115-163 MHz



WSRT **72 h** thermal noise 0.6 mJy
confusion noise 3 mJy

LOFAR **6h** thermal noise ~ 0.1 mJy
image noise ~ 0.3-0.7 mJy
CS +RS, ~ 30 km ! 244 subbands
DR ~ 83 Jy/0.5 mJy ~ 200,000:1 average

**(300.000:1 edges, 180.000:1 close to
brightest sources)**

Gianni Bernardi et al (2010)

Labropoulos et al., in prep.

Slide from
P. Labropoulos

PGB: PAPER Green Bank

- PGB-4: 2004
- PGB-8: 2006
- PGB-16: 2008
- PGB-32: 2010

PSA: PAPER South Africa

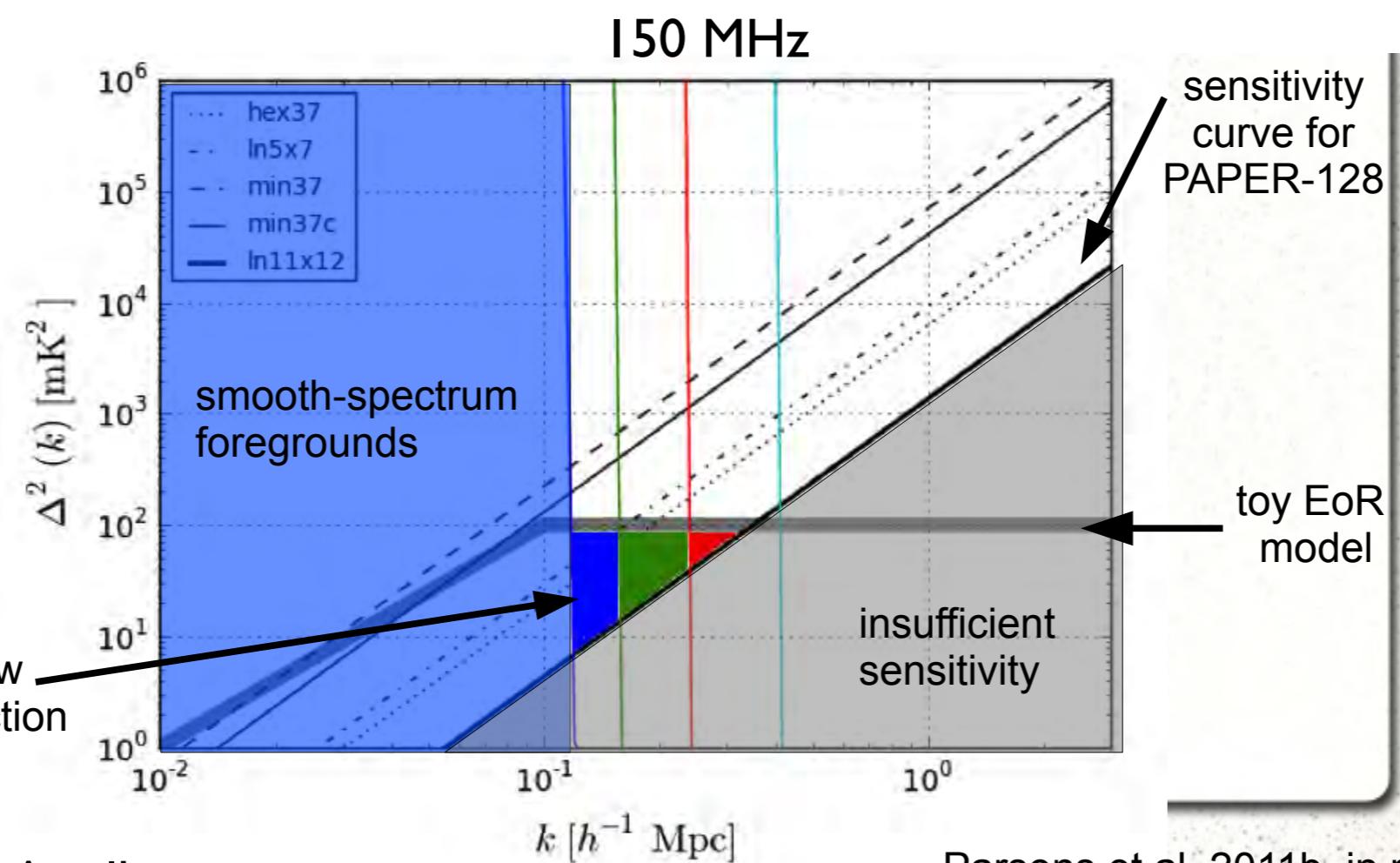
- PSA-16: 2009
- PSA-32: 2010
- PSA-64: 2011
- (PSA-128: 2012)

PAPER is producing maps of the radio sky in both hemispheres

Maximum redundant array to maximise sensitivity to single UV mode



4 months in
max. redundant
configuration



From J. Pober IoA talk

Parsons et al. 2011b, in prep

Redshift evolution
key to proving
detection

Scientific requirements for Phase I

Track evolution of IGM through reionization to the first galaxies

SCI-S-REQ-0010: The SKA Phase 1 shall be able to observe the H I line over at least the redshift range of 6–19, with the goal of observing over the redshift range of 6–30.

Achieve S/N for power spectrum and imaging

SCI-S-REQ-0020: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a brightness temperature noise level, typically taken as the root-mean-square value, of 1 mK on arcminute angular scales.

Resolve ionized bubbles in angle and depth

SCI-S-REQ-0030: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide an angular resolution at least as high as 1'.

SCI-S-REQ-0040: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a radial resolution over the required frequency range for these observations of 0.1 Mpc.

Probe representative volumes of Universe

SCI-S-REQ-0050: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a field of view large enough to mitigate cosmic variance.

Technical requirements for Phase I

Ensure desired redshift range is covered

SCI-T-REQ-0010: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide frequency coverage of at least 70 to 200 MHz, with a goal of covering 50 to 200 MHz.

Resolve bubbles in depth direction (RFI excision...)

SCI-T-REQ-0020: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a frequency resolution of at least as fine as 100 kHz.

Resolve bubbles in angle (longer baselines for ionospheric calibration + point source removal)

SCI-T-REQ-0030: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a maximum baseline of at least 5 km, and potentially as large as 50 km (TBC).

Polarised foreground removal (e.g. to prevent polarisation leaking into intensity)

SCI-T-REQ-0040: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide full polarization capabilities.

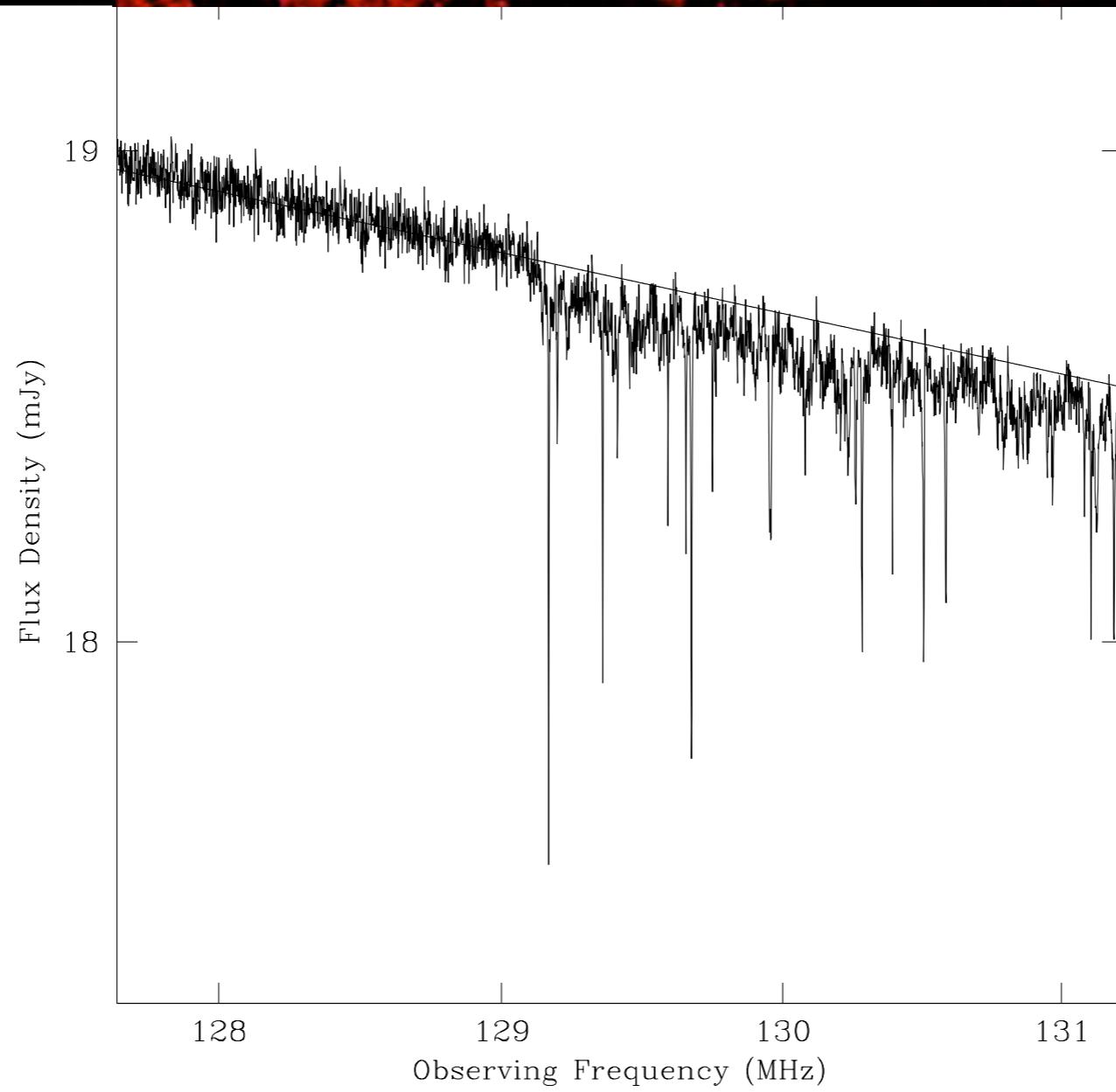
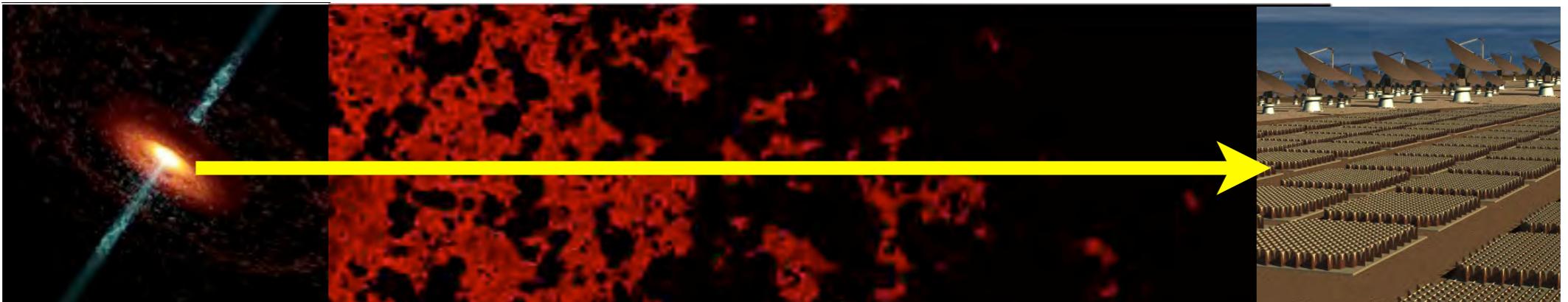
Integration time: More the better... > 1000 hrs

SCI-T-REQ-0050: TBD

Limit instrumental systematics to less than desired 1 mK sensitivity

SCI-T-REQ-0060: The SKA Phase 1 shall be designed so that any spatial structure within the sky area of interest that results from an instrumental contribution is much less than 1 mK on arcminute scales.

Probing the Epoch of Reionization Using the 21-cm forest



Physics of 21 cm forest

Radio bright point source as backlight => Targeted 1 dimensional skewer through IGM

Absorption by neutral hydrogen => flux decrement

Foregrounds much less of a problem - different systematics from 21 cm tomography

Size of decrement determined by optical depth

- 1) gas density
- 2) neutral fraction
- 3) gas temperature

density

neutral fraction

$$\tau_{\nu_0}(z) \approx 0.009(1 + \delta)(1 + z)^{3/2} \frac{x_{\text{HI}}}{T_S}$$

spin temperature

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neutral
fraction

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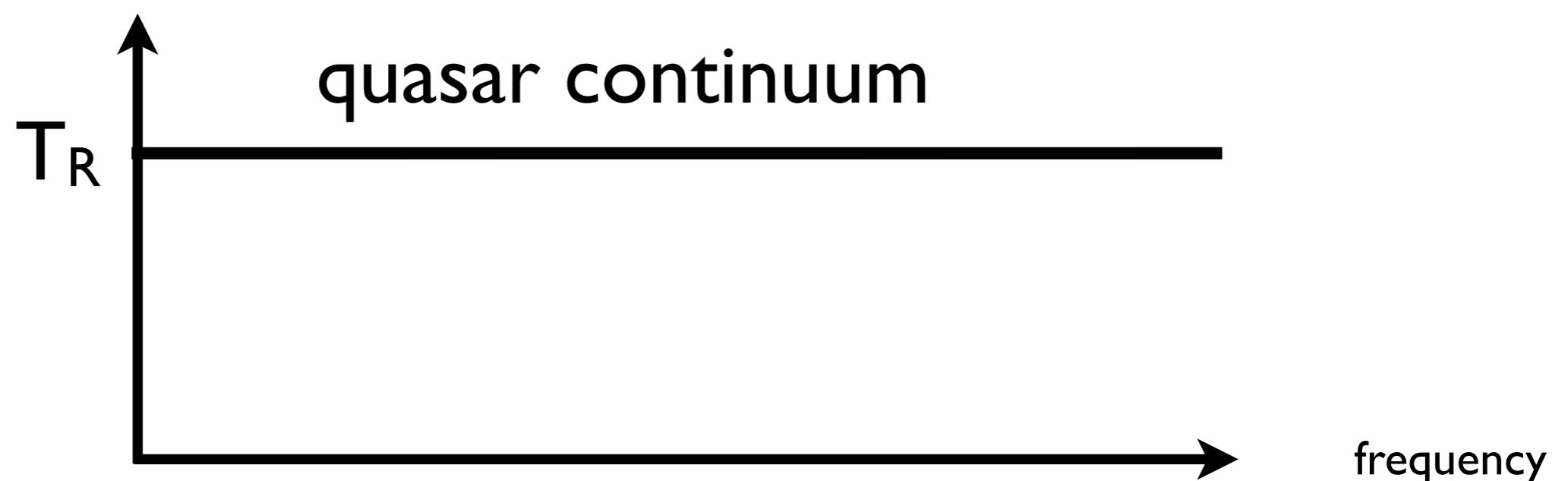
spin
temperature

Science requirement 3: detect tau=0.001 or lower

$z=10$

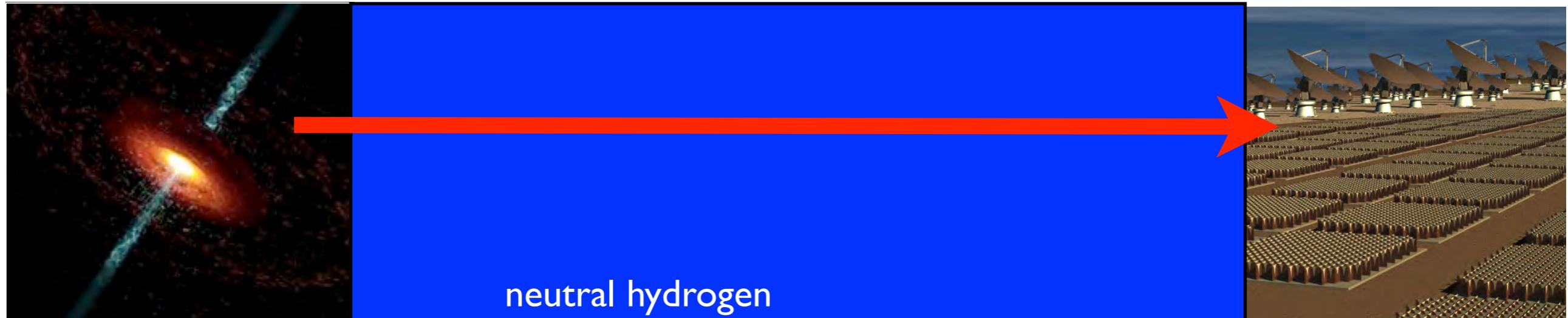


brightness



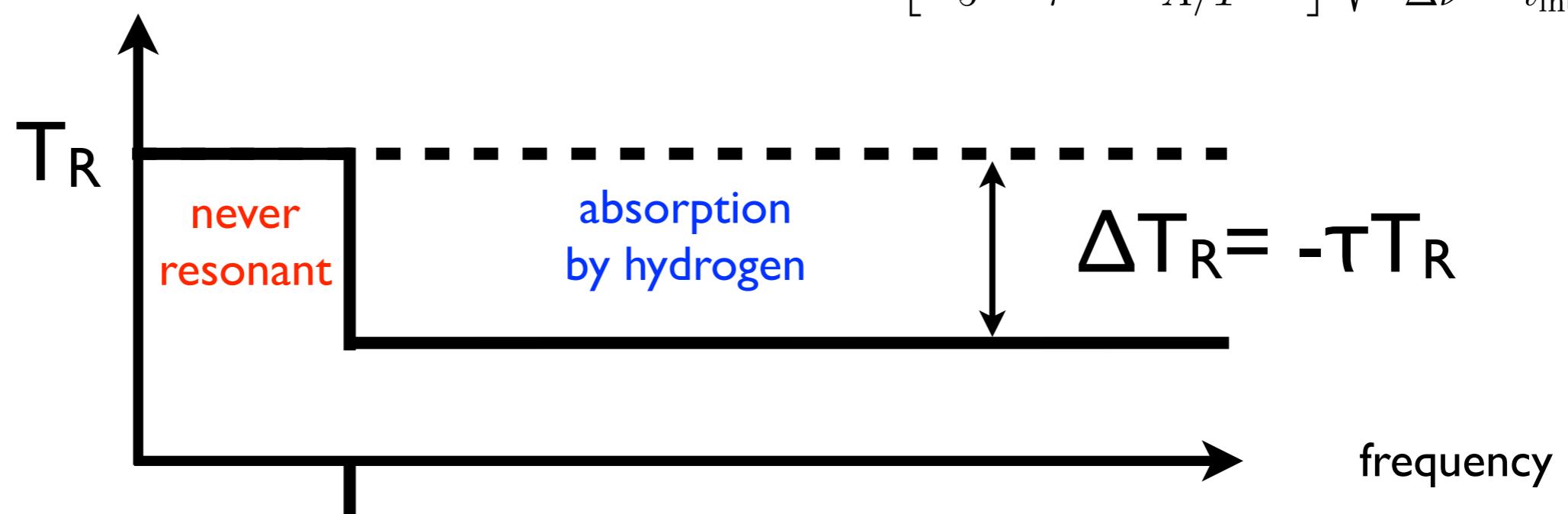
Absorption by hydrogen

$z=10$



Forest easier to detect in brighter sources

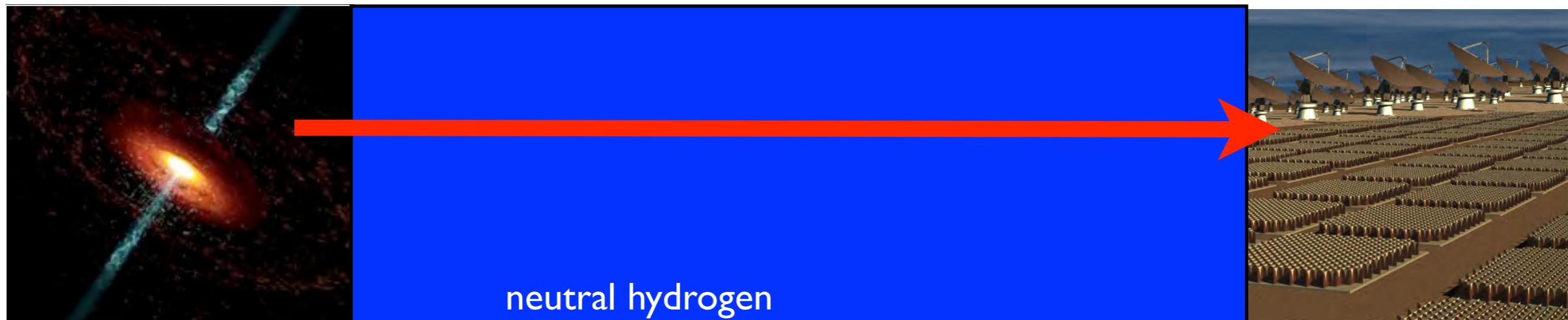
$$S_{\min} = 32 \text{ mJy} \left[\frac{S/N}{5} \frac{0.01}{\tau} \frac{1250 \text{ m}^2/\text{K}}{A/T} \right] \sqrt{\frac{1 \text{ kHz}}{\Delta\nu} \frac{1 \text{ week}}{t_{\text{int}}}},$$



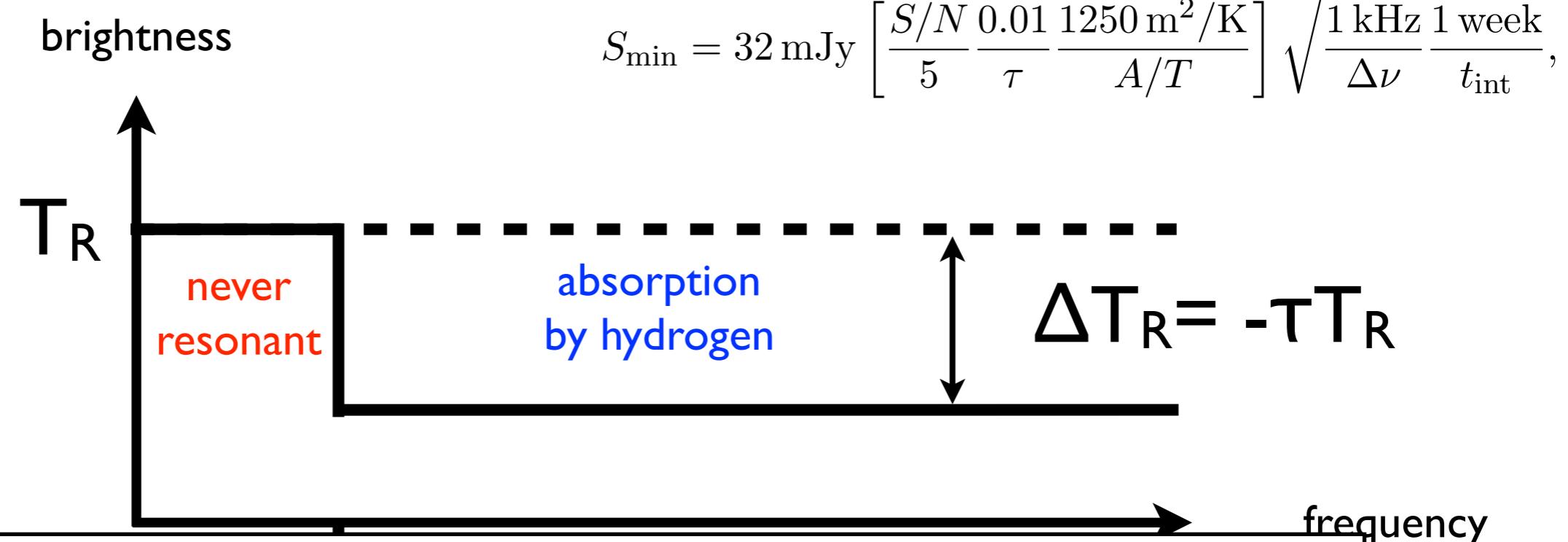
$$129 \text{ MHz} = 1420 \text{ MHz}/(1+z)$$

Absorption by hydrogen

$z=10$



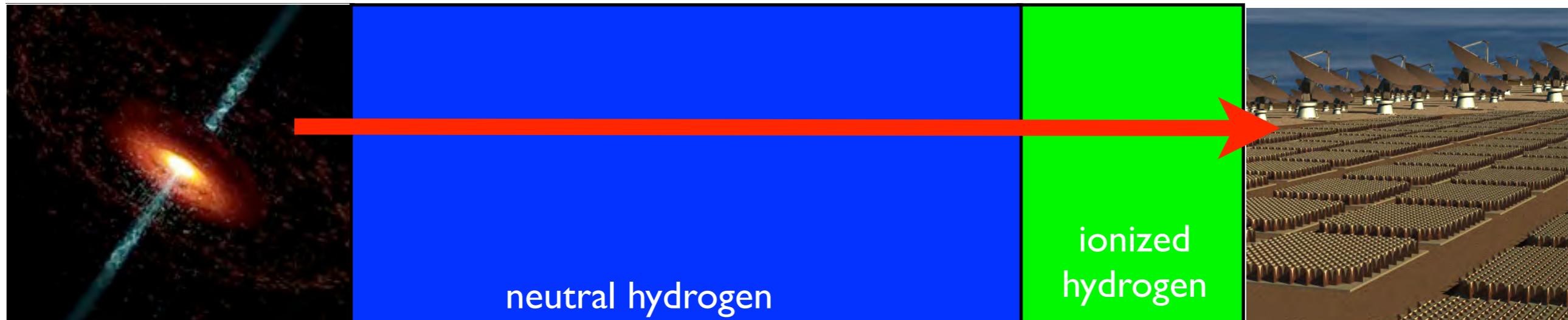
Forest easier to detect in brighter sources



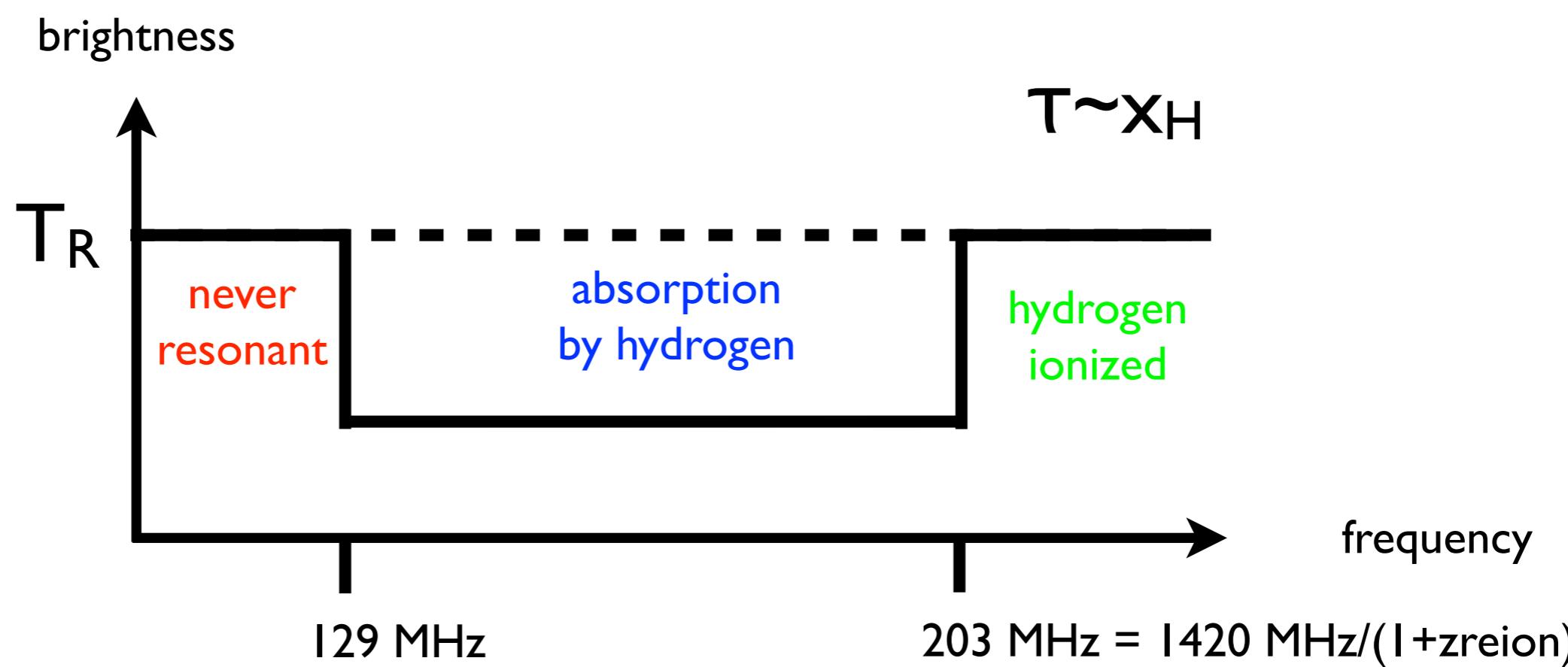
Tech requirement 3: $A/T > 1300 \text{ m}^2/\text{K}$

Reionization

$z=10$

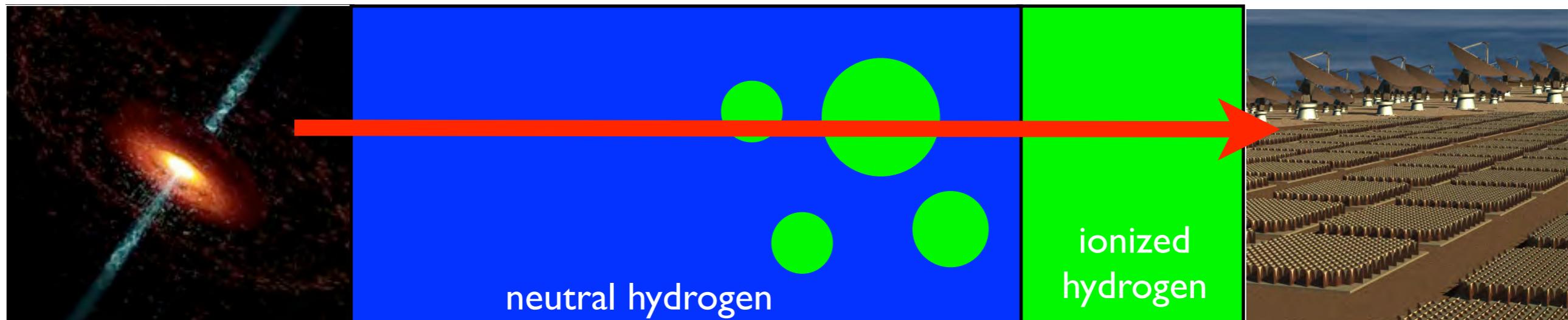


$z_{\text{reion}} = 6$

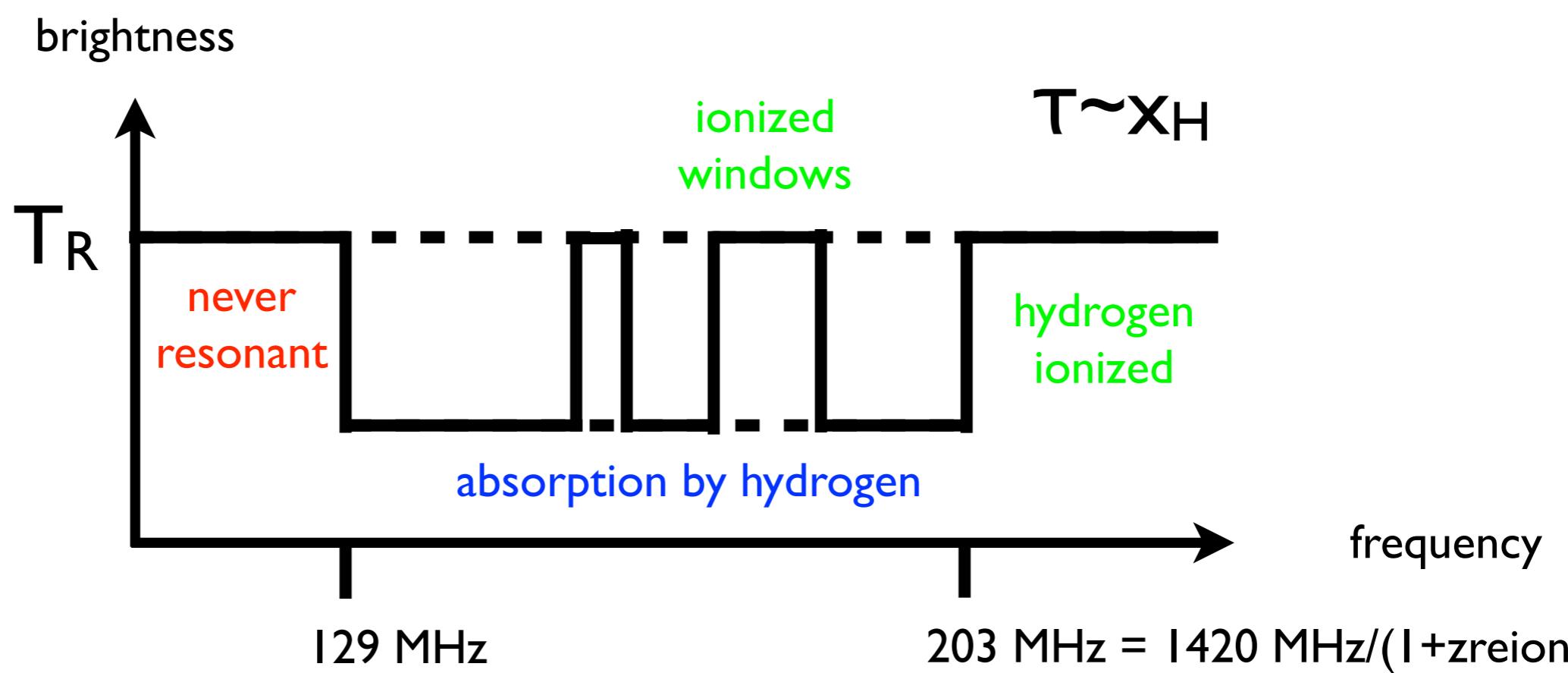


Patchy Reionization

$z=10$

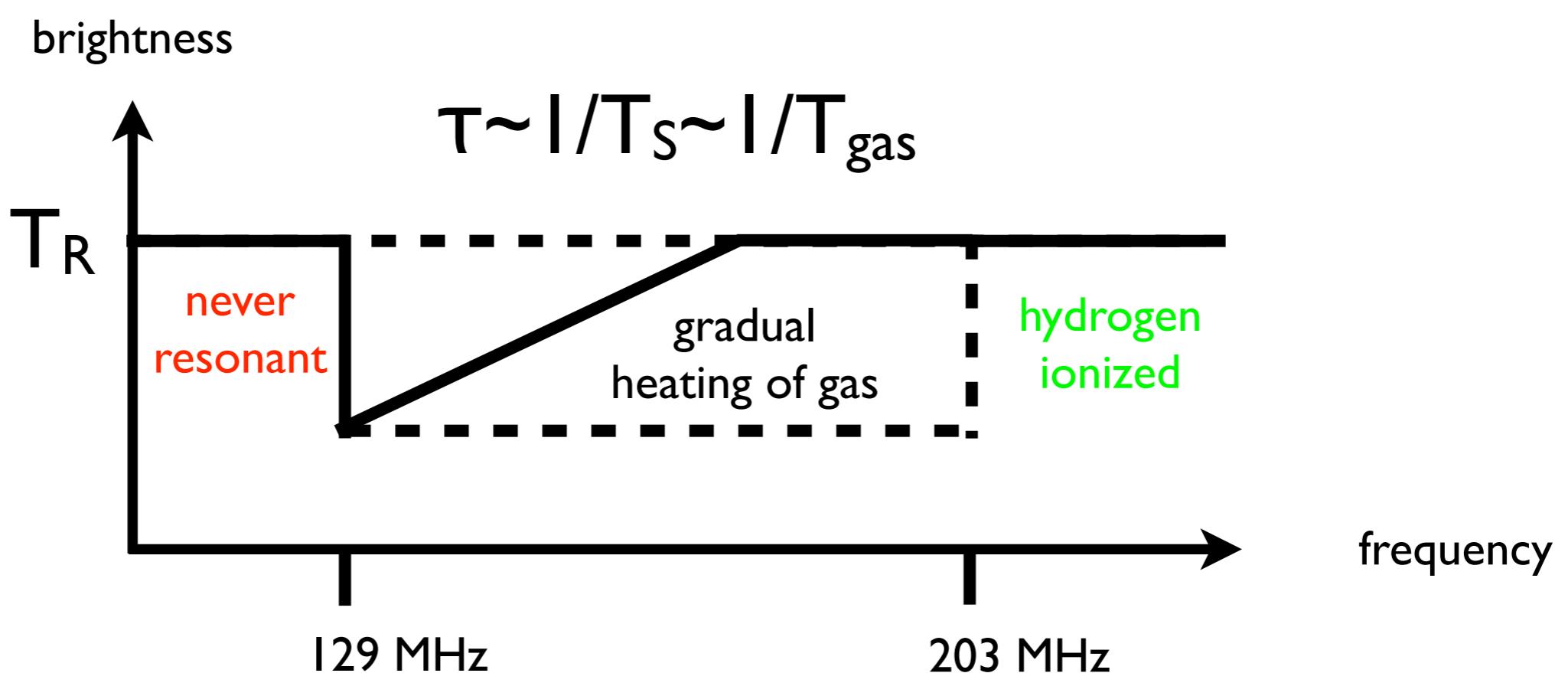
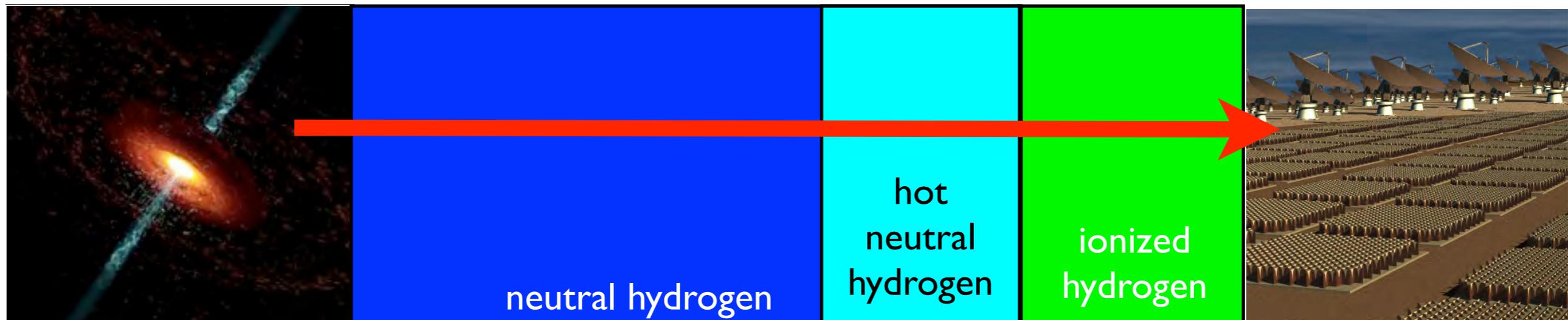


$z_{\text{reion}} = 6$

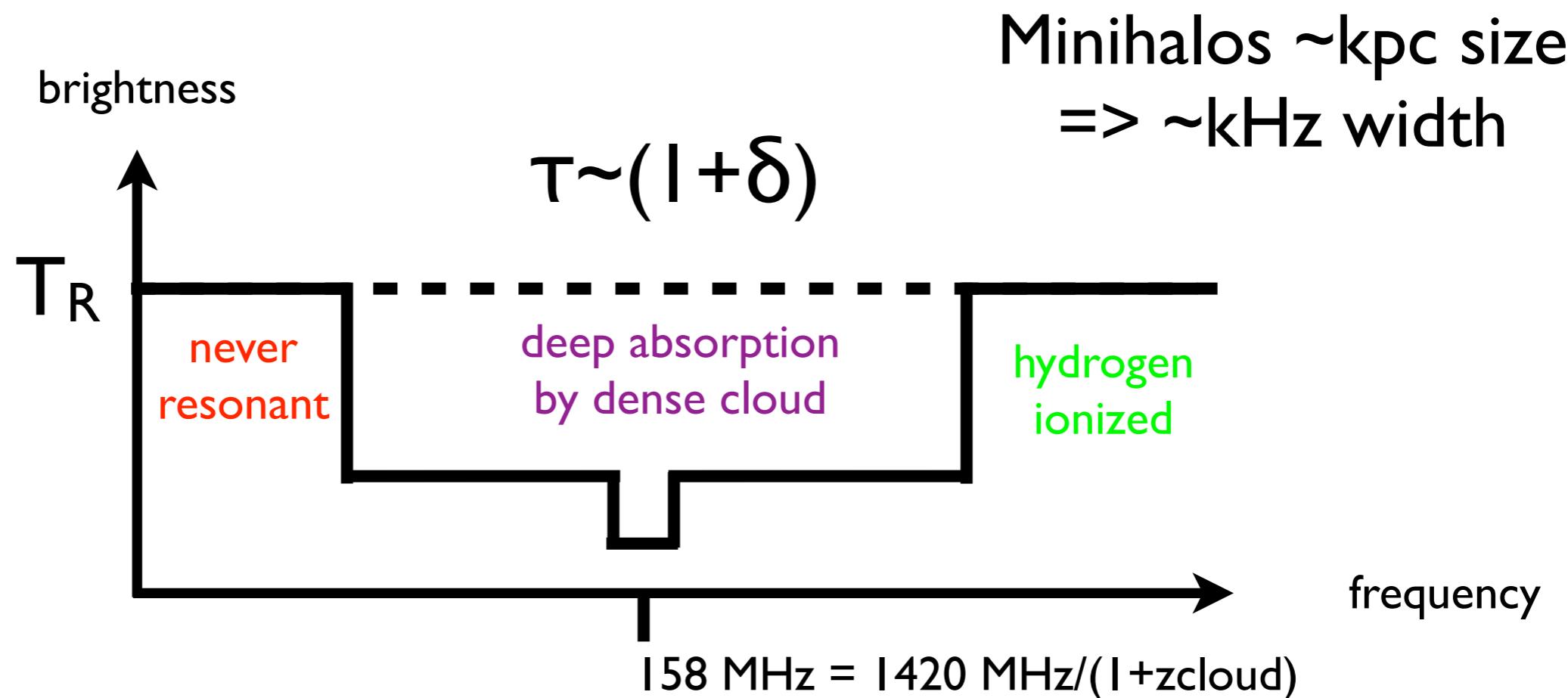
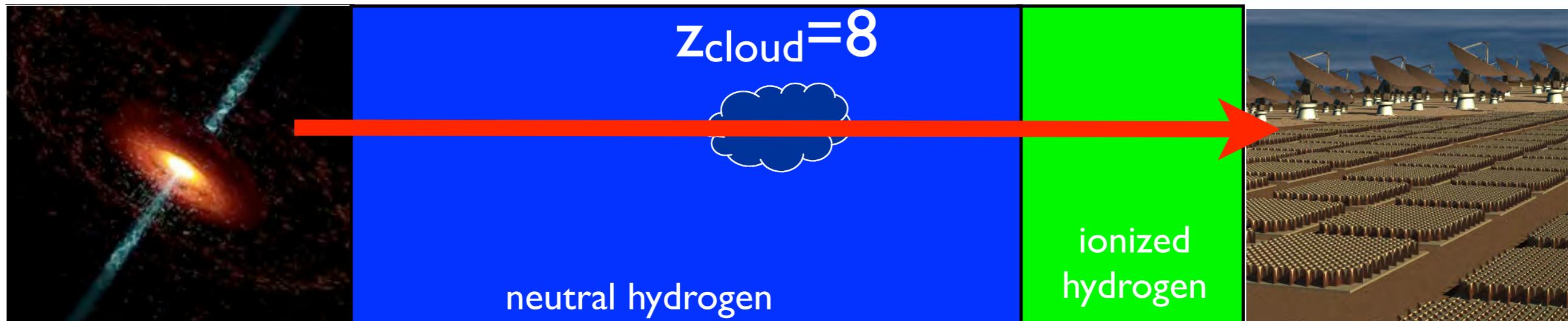


Evolution of optical depth

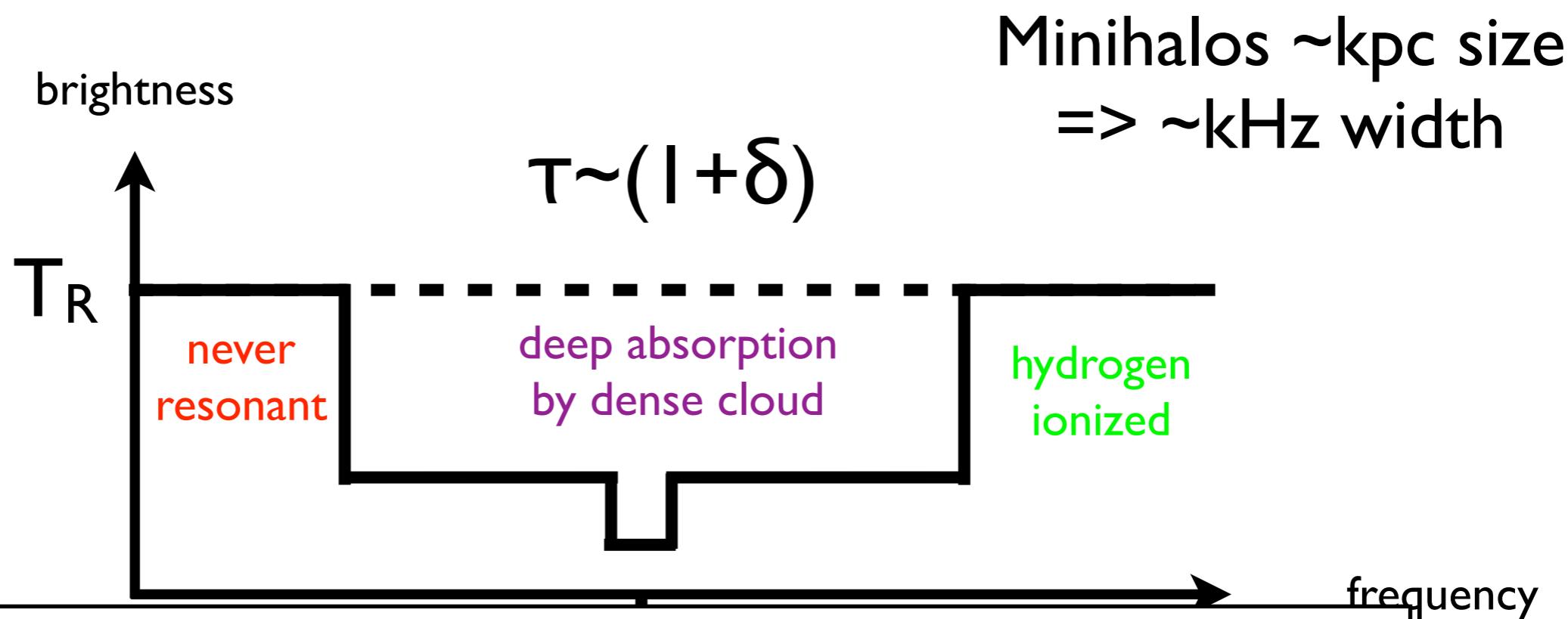
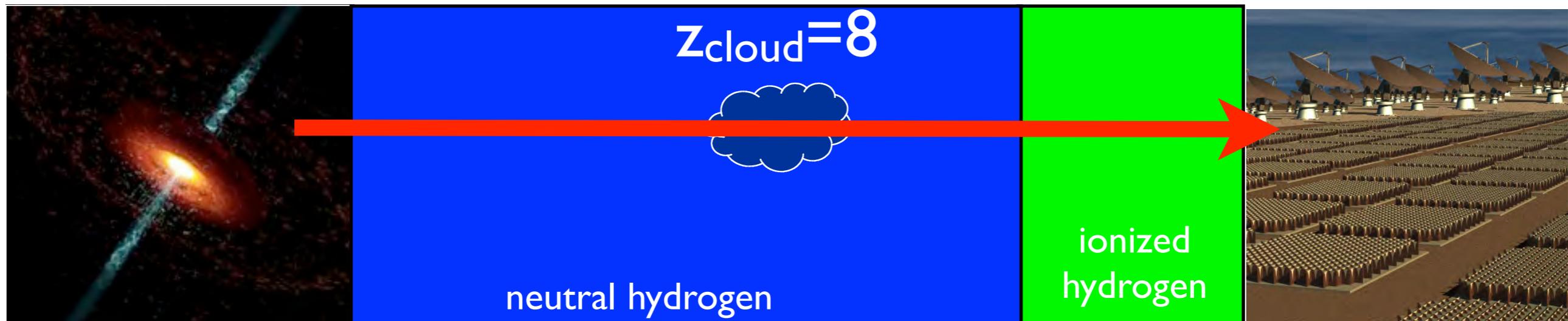
$z=10$



$z=10$

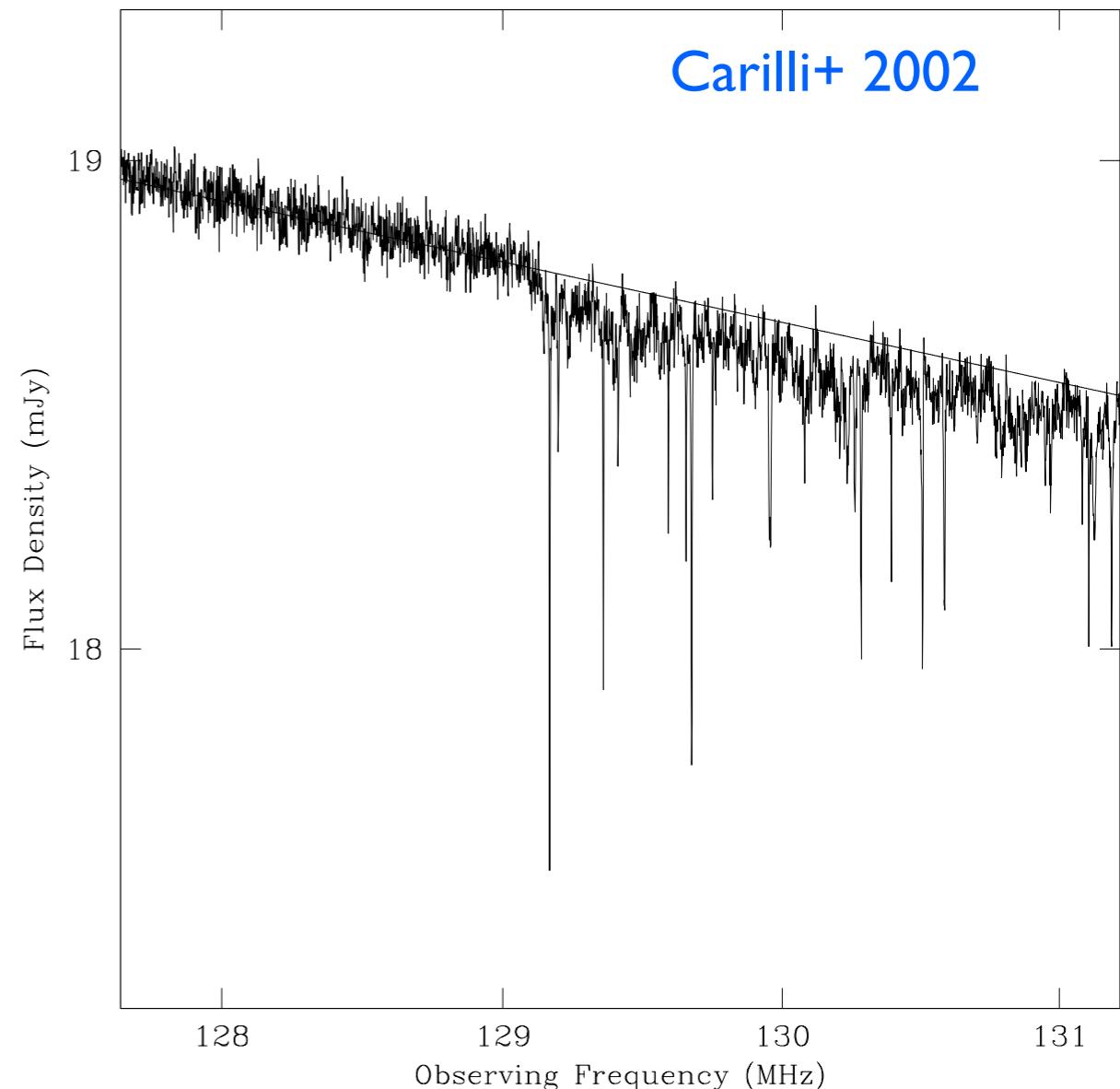
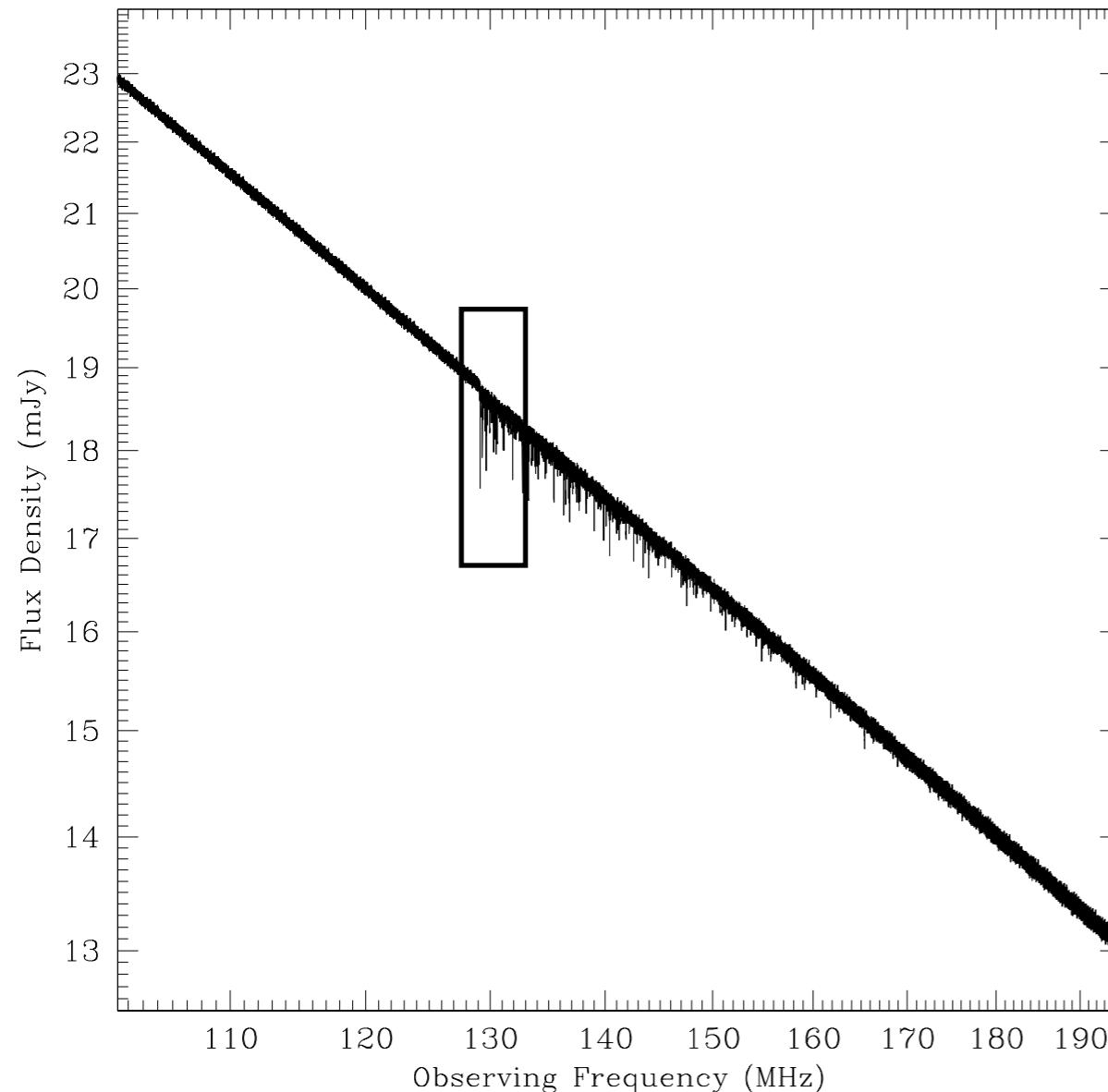


$z=10$



Tech requirement 2: resolve 0.1 kHz

Opportunity to study detailed structure of IGM

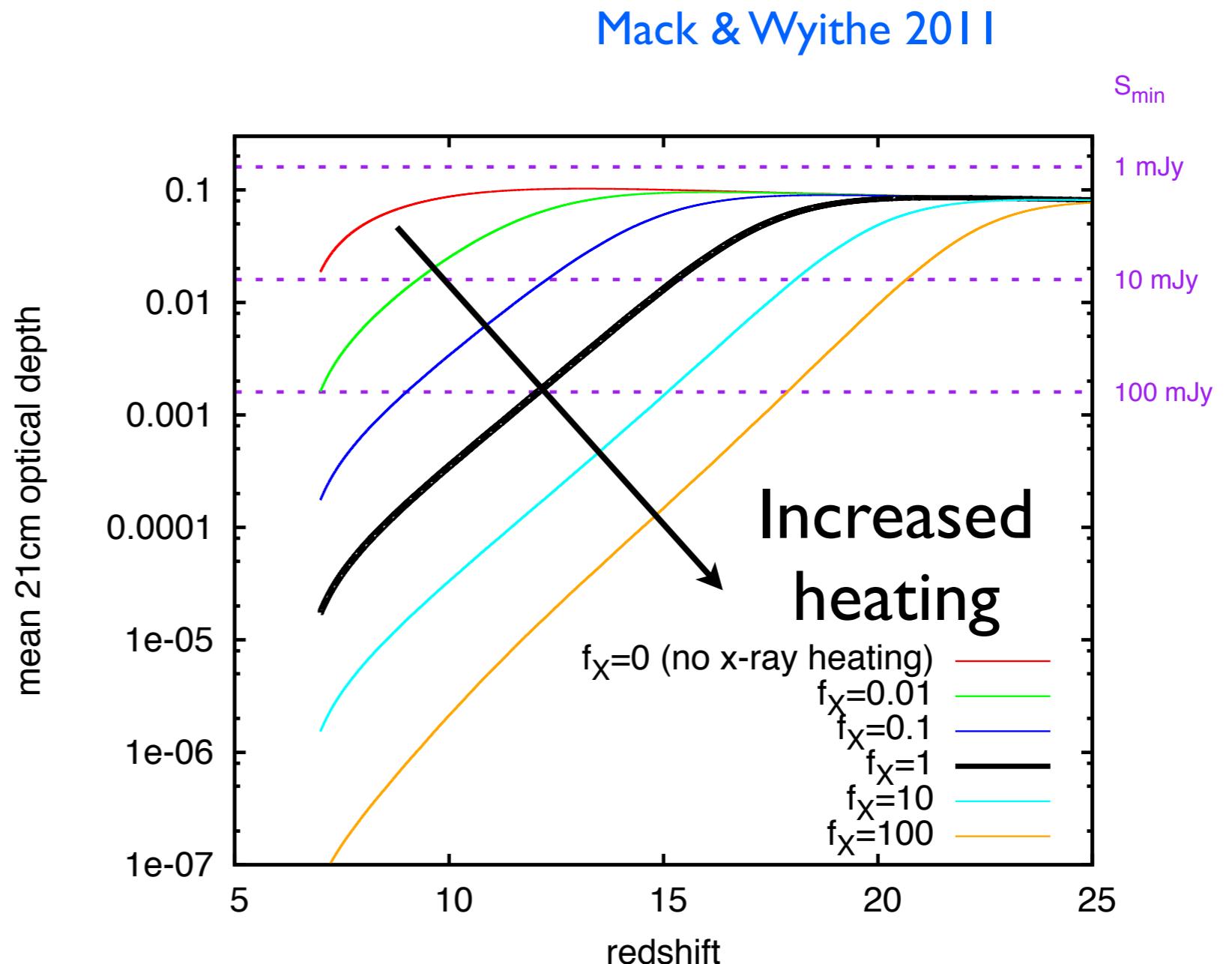


- When did reionization occur
- Statistics of ionized regions
- Properties of collapsed regions => dark matter

21 cm forest is a thermometer

Optical depth tracks
IGM temperature

Constrains early
X-ray heating



High S/N, high resolution 21 cm forest observations require bright sources

Statistical techniques - e.g. variance - may make forest more accessible with fainter radio sources

Mack & Wyithe 2011

21 cm forest observations require existence of
high redshift ($z > 6.5$) radio loud sources ($S_{\min} > 1 \text{ mJy}$)

Do they exist?

Radio loud quasars

Radio loud supernovae/GRB

(many $> 10 \text{ mJy}$ sources in existing catalogues e.g. FIRST with no redshift)

Radio loud quasars?

NIR surveys are beginning to find $z > 7$ quasars

UKIDSS

(3800 deg² total)

$z \sim 7.05$

(~50% survey)

Mortlock+ 2011

$2 * 10^9$ Msol black hole can form
~700 million yrs after big bang

~10-20% quasars are radio loud

VISTA-VIKING

(1500 deg² total)

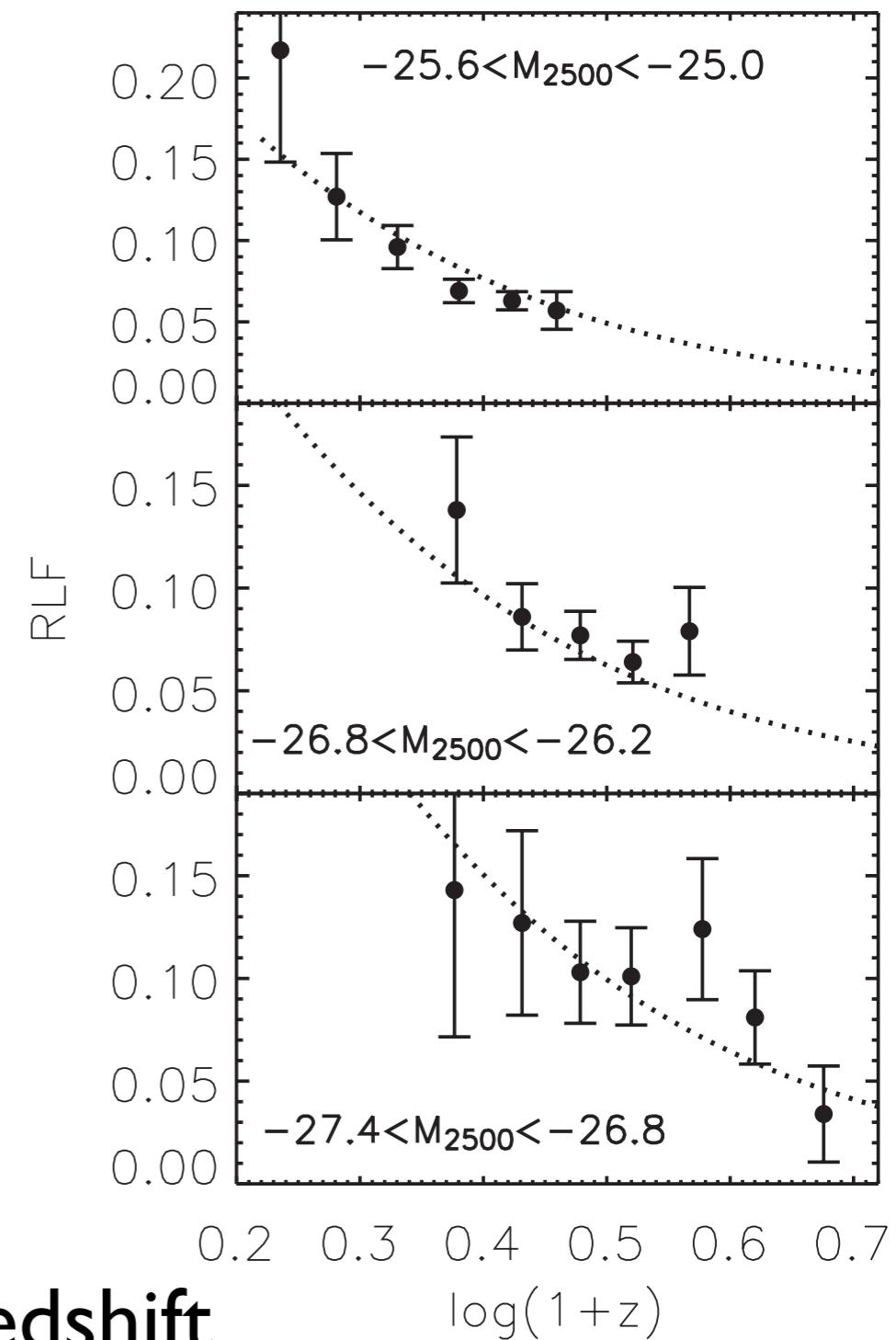
$z \sim 6.8$

$z \sim 6.9$

(<20% survey)

Venemans+

Evidence for RLF decreasing at higher redshift



Jiang+ 2007

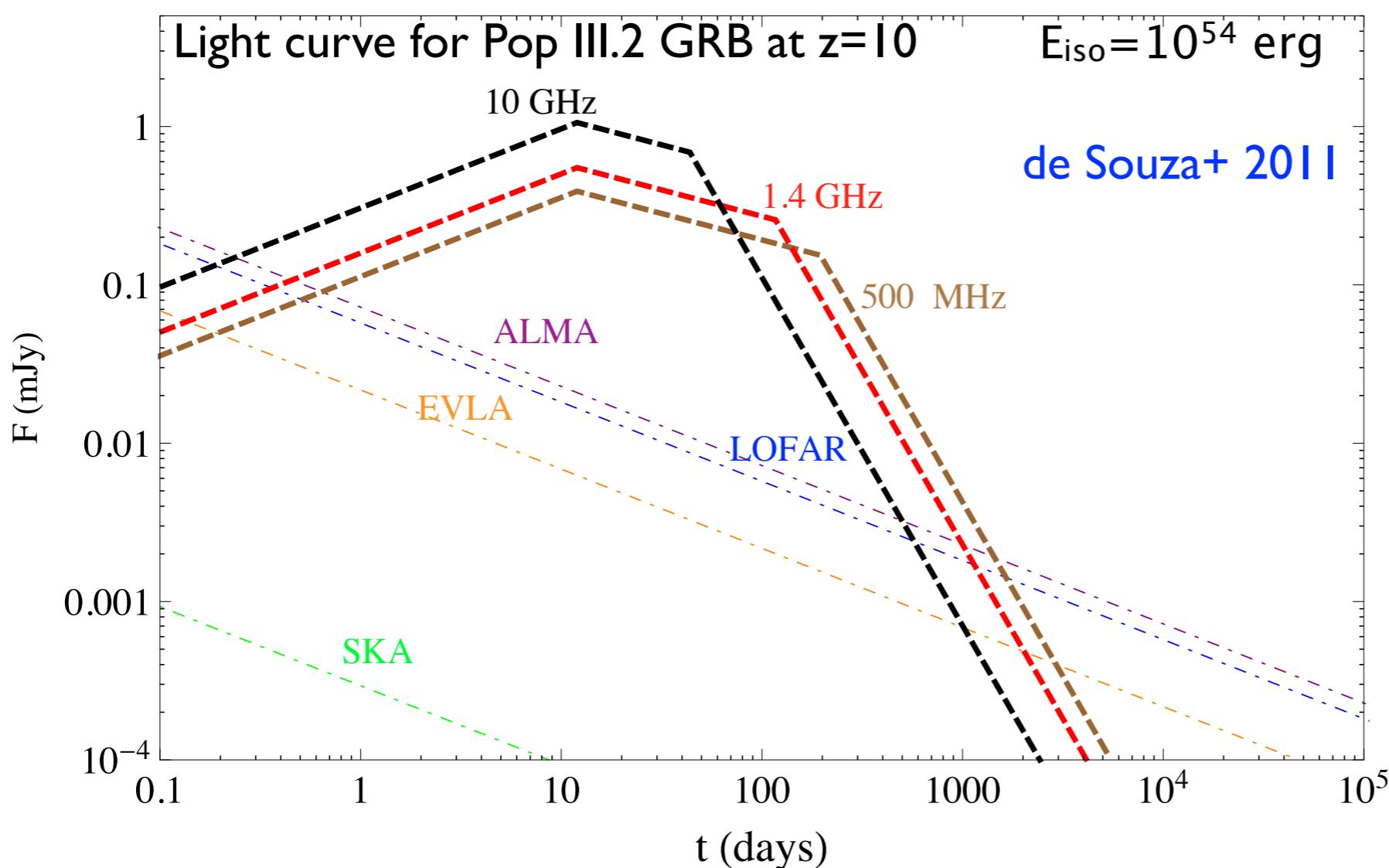
Radio loud SN/GRB?

Advantage: GRB have been seen at desired redshifts

$z=9.4$ (Cucchiara+ 2011), $z=8.6$ (Lehnert+ 2010), $z=8.26$ (Greiner+ 2009), ...

Disadvantage:

- 1) Lower radio brightness temperature
- 2) Finite duration limits integration time.



Intrinsic event rate
 $\sim 10-10^4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$

Transient surveys from
LOFAR, MWA,...
coming soon

Paradigm for first stars
currently unclear
e.g. Stacy+ 2011

Scientific requirements

Track evolution of IGM through reionization to first galaxies

SCI-S-REQ-0210: The SKA Phase 1 shall be able to access the H I line over at least the redshift range of 6 to 20.

Detect 21 cm forest for expected values of optical depth

SCI-S-REQ-0220: The SKA Phase 1 shall be able to detect H I absorption at optical depths of 0.001 or lower.

Resolve minihalos in forest

SCI-S-REQ-0230: The SKA Phase 1 shall be able to provide a velocity resolution of 0.2 km s^{-1} or better.

Ensure rare radio loud sources lie in survey

SCI-S-REQ-0235: The SKA Phase 1 shall be able to provide access as large a fraction of the sky as feasible, notionally at least 2π steradians.

Technical requirements

Frequency coverage to match redshift range

SCI-T-REQ-0210: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a frequency range of at least 70 to 200 MHz.

Frequency resolution to resolve minihalos

SCI-T-REQ-0220: The SKA Phase 1 shall provide a frequency resolution commensurate with the velocity resolution, with a fiducial value of 0.1 kHz at an observation frequency of 150 MHz.

Sensitivity needed to see 21 cm forest in a bright (~20 mJy) source at z~8

SCI-T-REQ-0230 The SKA Phase 1 shall have a sensitivity of at least $1300 \text{ m}^2 \text{ K}^{-1}$.

Summary of science progress

- 21 cm tomography and forest are key probes of reionization and first galaxies
- Related science, but different strategy and complementary
- New NIR surveys are finding $z>7$ quasars - hints of $x_H>0.1$ (also LAE-LBG fraction evolution at $z\sim 7$)
- Global experiments taking baby steps - duration of reionization
- Pathfinders GMRT, MWA, LOFAR, PAPER making maps and measuring point sources

- For 21 cm tomography
 - Match redshift range => $z=6-30 \Rightarrow \nu=250-50 \text{ MHz}$
 - Match size of bubbles $\sim \text{Mpc} \Rightarrow 1 \text{ arcmin}$ resolution & 0.1 MHz frequency resolution
 - High S/N => 1 mK thermal noise
 - Sample representative volume => large field of view
 - Ionosphere + calibration + point source removal may force longer **baselines** $> 5\text{km}$ for high angular resolution

- For 21 cm forest
 - Match redshift range => $z=6-30 \Rightarrow \nu=250-50 \text{ MHz}$
 - Match size of minihalos $\sim \text{kpc} \Rightarrow 0.1 \text{ kHz}$ frequency res.
 - High S/N => $> 1300 \text{ m}^2/\text{K}$
 - Find rare radio loud sources => large field of view $\sim 2\pi \text{ steradians}$.