List of Suggested Reviewers or Reviewers Not To Include (optional)

SUGGESTED REVIEWERS:
Not Listed

REVIEWERS NOT TO INCLUDE:
Not Listed

The following information regarding collaborators and other affiliations (COA) must be separately provided for each individual identified as senior project personnel. The COA information must be provided through use of this COA template.

Please complete this template (e.g., Excel, Google Sheets, LibreOffice), save as .xlsx or .xls, and upload directly as a Fastlane Collaborators and Other Affiliations single copy doc. Do not upload .pdf.

Please note that some information requested in prior versions of the PAPPG is no longer requested. THIS IS PURPOSEFUL AND WE NO LONGER REQUIRE THIS INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED.   Certain relationships will be reported in other sections (i.e., the names of postdoctoral scholar sponsors should not be reported, however if the individual collaborated on research with their postdoctoral scholar sponsor, then they would be reported as a collaborator). The information in the tables is not required to be sorted, alphabetically or otherwise.

There are five separate categories of information which correspond to the five tables in the COA template:

COA template Table 1:
List the individual's last name, first name, middle initial, and organizational affiliation in the last 12 months.

COA template Table 2:
List names as last name, first name, middle initial, for whom a personal, family, or business relationship would otherwise preclude their service as a reviewer.

COA template Table 3:
List names as last name, first name, middle initial, and provide organizational affiliations, if known, for the following:
• The individual's Ph.D. advisors; and
• All of the individual's Ph.D. thesis advisees.

COA template Table 4:
List names as last name, first name, middle initial, and provide organizational affiliations, if known, for the following:
• Co-authors on any book, article, report, abstract or paper with collaboration in the last 48 months (publication date may be later); and
• Collaborators on projects, such as funded grants, graduate research or others in the last 48 months.

COA template Table 5:
List editorial board, editor-in chief and co-editors with whom the individual interacts. An editor-in-chief must list the entire editorial board.
 • Editorial Board: List name(s) of editor-in-chief and journal in the past 24 months; and
• Other co-Editors of journal or collections with whom the individual has directly interacted in the last 24 months.

The template has been developed to be fillable, however, the content and format requirements must not be altered by the user. This template must be saved in .xlsx or .xls format, and directly uploaded into FastLane as a Collaborators and Other Affiliations Single Copy Document. Using the .xlsx or .xls format will enable preservation of searchable text that otherwise would be lost. It is therefore imperative that this document be uploaded in .xlsx or .xls only. Uploading a document in any format other than .xlsx or .xls may delay the timely processing and review of the proposal.

This information is used to manage reviewer selection. See Exhibit II-2 for additional information on potential reviewer conflicts.

1 Note that graduate advisors are no longer required to be reported.
2 Editorial Board does not include Editorial Advisory Board, International Advisory Board, Scientific Editorial Board, or any other subcategory of Editorial Board. It is limited to those individuals who perform editing duties or manage the editing process (i.e., editor in chief).

List names as Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial. Additionally, provide email, organization, and department
Fixed column widths keep this sheet one page wide; if you cut and paste text, set font size at 10pt or smaller, and
To insert _n_ blank rows, select _n_ row numbers to move down, right click, and choose Insert from the menu.

You may fill-down (crtl-D) to mark a sequence of collaborators, or copy affiliations. Excel has arrows that enable sorting. For "Last Active Date" and "Last Active" columns dates are optional, but will help NSF staff easily determine which information remains relevant for reviewer selection.
"Last Active Date" and "Last Active" columns may be left blank for ongoing or current affiliations.

Table 1: List the individual's last name, first name, middle initial, and organizational affiliation in the last 12 months.

1	Your Name:	Your Organizational Affiliation(s), last 12 months	Last Active Date
	Lynch, Ryan S.	Green Bank Observatory	Present
		West Virginia University	Present
		National Radio Astronomy Observatory	9/30/2016
		McGill University	7/31/2014
		University of Virginia	07/31/11
		Pennsylvania State University	05/30/06

Table 2: List names as last name, first name, middle initial, for whom a personal, family, or business relationship would otherwise preclude their service as a reviewer.
R: Additional names for whom some relationship would otherwise preclude their service as a reviewer.

to disambiguate common names

2	Name:	Type of Relationship	Optional (email, Department)	Last Active
R:	None			

Table 3: List names as last name, first name, middle initial, and provide organizational affiliations, if known, for the following.
G: The individual's Ph.D. advisors; and

T: **All of the individual's Ph.D. thesis advisees.**

to disambiguate common names

3	Advisor/Advisee Name:	Organizational Affiliation	Optional (email, Department)
G:	Ransom, Scott	National Radio Astronomy Observatory	
T:	Lorimer, Duncan	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy
	Majewski, Steve	University of Virginia	Astronomy
	Sarazin, Craig	University of Virginia	Astronomy
	Hirofsky, Robert	University of Virginia	Physics

Table 4: List names as last name, first name, middle initial, and provide organizational affiliations, if known, for the following:

A:	**Co-authors on any book, article, report, abstract or paper with collaboration in the last 48 months (publication date may be later); and**

C:	**Collaborators on projects, such as funded grants, graduate research or others in the last 48 months.**

to disambiguate common names

4	Name:	Organizational Affiliation	Optional (email, Department)	Last Active
A:	Arzoumanian, Zaven	USRA/Goddard Space Flight Center		Present
A:	Brazier, Adam	Cornell University	Physics	Present
A:	Burke-Spolaor, Sarah	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Chatterjee, Shami	Cornell University	Astronomy	Present
A:	Christy, Brian	Notre Dame of Maryland University	Physics	Present
A:	Cordes, James	Cornell University	Astronomy	Present
A:	Cornish, Neil	Montana State University	Physics	Present
A:	Crawford, Fronefield	Franklin and Marshall College	Physics	Present
A:	Demorst, Paul	National Radio Astronomy Observatory		Present
A:	Dolch, Timothy	Hillsdale College	Physics	Present
A:	Ferdman, Robert	University of East Anglia	Physics	Present
A:	Ferrara, Elizabeth	Univeristy of Maryland/Goddard Space Flight Center		Present
A:	Huerta, Eliu	National Center for Supercomputing Applications		Present
A:	Kaplan, David	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Physics	
A:	Kaspi, Victoria	McGill University	Physics	Present
A:	Shaprio Key, Joey	University of Washington Bothell	Physics	Present
A:	Lazio, Joseph	Jet Propulsion Laboratory		Present
A:	Lommen, Andrea	Haverford College	Physics	Present
A:	Lorimer, Duncan	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	McLaughlin, Maura	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	McWilliams, Sean	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Nice, David	Lafayette College	Physics	Present
A:	Ransom, Scott	National Radio Astronomy Observatory		Present
A:	Ray, Paul	Naval Research Laboratory		Present
A:	Romano, Joseph	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Physics	Present
A:	Siemens, Xavier	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Physics	Present
A:	Stairs, Ingrid	University of British Columbia	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Stinebring, Daniel	Oberlin College	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Vallisneri, Michele	Jet Propulsion Laboratory		Present
A:	Zhu, WeiWei	National Astornomical Observatories of China		Present
A:	Baker, Paul	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Brook, Paul	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Decesar, Megan	Lafayette College	Physics	Present
A:	Fonseca, Emmanuel	McGill University	Physics	Present

	Name	Organizational Affiliation		Last Active
A:	Gentile, Pete	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Hazboun, Jeff	University of Washington Bothell	Physics	Present
A:	Lam, Michael	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Levin, Lina	University of Manchester		Present
A:	Madison, Dusty	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Lewandowska, Natalia	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Mingarelli, Chiara	Flatiron Institute		Present
A:	Pallyaguru, Nipuni	Arecibo Observatory		Present
A:	Pennucci, Tim	Eotvos Lorand University	Physics	Present
A:	Seymour, Andrew	Green Bank Observatory		Present
A:	Simon, Joseph	Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Physics	Present
A:	Stovall, Kevin	National Radio Astronomy Observatory		Present
A:	Surnis, Mayuresh	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
A:	Swiggum, Joe	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Physics	Present
A:	Taylor, Stephen	Jet Propulsion Laboratory		Present
A:	Vigeland, Sarah	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Physics	Present
A:	Hessels, Jason	University of Amsterdam		Present
A:	van Leeuwen, Joeri	University of Amsterdam		Present
A:	Freire, Paulo	Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy		Present
C:	Croft, Steve	University of California, Berkeley	Physics	Present
C:	Blumer, Harsha	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present
C:	Wade, Leslie	Kenyon College	Physics	Present
C:	Wade, Madline	Kenyon College	Physics	Present
C:	Littenberg, Tyson	University of Alabama	Physics	Present
C:	Williamson, Katherine	West Virginia University	Physics and Astronomy	Present

Table 5: List editorial board, editor-in chief and co-editors with whom the individual interacts. An editor-in-chief must list the entire editorial board.

B: **Editorial Board: List name(s) of editor-in-chief and journal in the past 24 months; and**

E: **Other co-Editors of journal or collections with whom the individual has directly interacted in the last 24 months.**

to disambiguate common names

5	Name:	Organizational Affiliation	Journal/Collection	Last Active
B:				
E:				

COVER SHEET FOR PROPOSAL TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT/SOLICITATION NO./DUE DATE	☐ Special Exception to Deadline Date Policy	FOR NSF USE ONLY
NSF 18-576 **11/15/18**		**NSF PROPOSAL NUMBER**

FOR CONSIDERATION BY NSF ORGANIZATION UNIT(S)   (Indicate the most specific unit known, i.e. program, division, etc.)

AST - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES & INSTRM

DATE RECEIVED	NUMBER OF COPIES	DIVISION ASSIGNED	FUND CODE	DUNS# (Data Universal Numbering System)	FILE LOCATION
				074801689	

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) OR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)	SHOW PREVIOUS AWARD NO. IF THIS IS ☐ A RENEWAL ☐ AN ACCOMPLISHMENT-BASED RENEWAL	IS THIS PROPOSAL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY? YES ☐ NO ☒ IF YES, LIST ACRONYM(S)
111630900		

NAME OF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH AWARD SHOULD BE MADE	ADDRESS OF AWARDEE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE
Associated Universities Inc/National Radio Astronomy Observatory	**Associated Universities Inc/National Radio Astronomy Observatory** **1400 16TH ST NW STE 730** **WASHINGTON, DC. 200366225**

AWARDEE ORGANIZATION CODE (IF KNOWN)

4001434000

NAME OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERF	ADDRESS OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERF, INCLUDING 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE
Green Bank Observatory	**Green Bank Observatory** **PO Box 2** **Green Bank ,WV ,249440002 ,US.**

IS AWARDEE ORGANIZATION (Check All That Apply)   ☐ SMALL BUSINESS   ☐ MINORITY BUSINESS   ☐ IF THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL THEN CHECK HERE
☐ FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION   ☐ WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT   **New Wide-band Digital Technology and   Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy**

REQUESTED AMOUNT	PROPOSED DURATION (1-60 MONTHS)	REQUESTED STARTING DATE	SHOW RELATED PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL NO. IF APPLICABLE
$ **752,189**	**24** months	**07/01/19**	

THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW
☐ BEGINNING INVESTIGATOR
☐ DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES
☐ PROPRIETARY & PRIVILEGED INFORMATION
☐ HISTORIC PLACES
☐ VERTEBRATE ANIMALS IACUC App. Date _____
   PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number _____
☒ TYPE OF PROPOSAL   **Research**

☐ HUMAN SUBJECTS   Human Subjects Assurance Number _____
   Exemption Subsection _____ or IRB App. Date _____
☐ INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES: COUNTRY/COUNTRIES INVOLVED

☒ COLLABORATIVE STATUS
   Not a collaborative proposal

PI/PD DEPARTMENT	PI/PD POSTAL ADDRESS
	PO Box 2
PI/PD FAX NUMBER **304-456-2229**	**Green Bank, WV 24944** **United States**

NAMES (TYPED)	High Degree	Yr of Degree	Telephone Number	Email Address
PI/PD NAME **Ryan S Lynch**	**PhD**	**2011**	**304-456-2357**	**rlynch@nrao.edu**
CO-PI/PD				
CO-PI/PD				
CO-PI/PD				
CO-PI/PD				

CERTIFICATION PAGE

Certification for Authorized Organizational Representative (or Equivalent) or Individual Applicant

By electronically signing and submitting this proposal, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) or Individual Applicant is: (1) certifying that statements made herein are true and complete to the best of his/her knowledge; and (2) agreeing to accept the obligation to comply with NSF award terms and conditions if an award is made as a result of this application. Further, the applicant is hereby providing certifications regarding conflict of interest (when applicable), drug-free workplace, debarment and suspension, lobbying activities (see below), nondiscrimination, flood hazard insurance (when applicable), responsible conduct of research, organizational support, Federal tax obligations, unpaid Federal tax liability, and criminal convictions as set forth in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG). Willful provision of false information in this application and its supporting documents or in reports required under an ensuing award is a criminal offense (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).

Certification Regarding Conflict of Interest

The AOR is required to complete certifications stating that the organization has implemented and is enforcing a written policy on conflicts of interest (COI), consistent with the provisions of PAPPG Chapter IX.A.; that, to the best of his/her knowledge, all financial disclosures required by the conflict of interest policy were made; and that conflicts of interest, if any, were, or prior to the organization's expenditure of any funds under the award, will be, satisfactorily managed, reduced or eliminated in accordance with the organization's conflict of interest policy. Conflicts that cannot be satisfactorily managed, reduced or eliminated and research that proceeds without the imposition of conditions or restrictions when a conflict of interest exists, must be disclosed to NSF via use of the Notifications and Requests Module in FastLane.

Drug Free Work Place Certification

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent), is providing the Drug Free Work Place Certification contained in Exhibit II-3 of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide.

Debarment and Suspension Certification (If answer "yes", please provide explanation.)

Is the organization or its principals presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded
from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency?   Yes ☐   No ☒

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) or Individual Applicant is providing the Debarment and Suspension Certification contained in Exhibit II-4 of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

This certification is required for an award of a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement exceeding $100,000 and for an award of a Federal loan or a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan exceeding $150,000.

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:
(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

Certification Regarding Nondiscrimination

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is providing the Certification Regarding Nondiscrimination contained in Exhibit II-6 of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide.

Certification Regarding Flood Hazard Insurance

Two sections of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 USC §4012a and §4106) bar Federal agencies from giving financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes in any area identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as having special flood hazards unless the:
(1)   community in which that area is located participates in the national flood insurance program; and
(2)   building (and any related equipment) is covered by adequate flood insurance.

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) or Individual Applicant located in FEMA-designated special flood hazard areas is certifying that adequate flood insurance has been or will be obtained in the following situations:
(1)   for NSF grants for the construction of a building or facility, regardless of the dollar amount of the grant; and
(2)   for other NSF grants when more than $25,000 has been budgeted in the proposal for repair, alteration or improvement (construction) of a building or facility.

Certification Regarding Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
(This certification is not applicable to proposals for conferences, symposia, and workshops.)

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative is certifying that, in accordance with the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, Chapter IX.B. , the institution has a plan in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.
The AOR shall require that the language of this certification be included in any award documents for all subawards at all tiers.

CERTIFICATION PAGE - CONTINUED

Certification Regarding Organizational Support

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is certifying that there is organizational support for the proposal as required by Section 526 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. This support extends to the portion of the proposal developed to satisfy the Broader Impacts Review Criterion as well as the Intellectual Merit Review Criterion, and any additional review criteria specified in the solicitation. Organizational support will be made available, as described in the proposal, in order to address the broader impacts and intellectual merit activities to be undertaken.

Certification Regarding Federal Tax Obligations

When the proposal exceeds $5,000,000, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is required to complete the following certification regarding Federal tax obligations. By electronically signing the Certification pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative is certifying that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the proposing organization:
(1) has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding this certification;
(2) has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and
(3) has not, more than 90 days prior to this certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

Certification Regarding Unpaid Federal Tax Liability

When the proposing organization is a corporation, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is required to complete the following certification regarding Federal Tax Liability:

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is certifying that the corporation has no unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

Certification Regarding Criminal Convictions

When the proposing organization is a corporation, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is required to complete the following certification regarding Criminal Convictions:

By electronically signing the Certification Pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative (or equivalent) is certifying that the corporation has not been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the 24 months preceding the date on which the certification is signed.

Certification Dual Use Research of Concern

By electronically signing the certification pages, the Authorized Organizational Representative is certifying that the organization will be or is in compliance with all aspects of the United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern.

AUTHORIZED ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE	SIGNATURE	DATE
NAME		
TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	FAX NUMBER

PROJECT SUMMARY

Overview:

We will research and develop cutting-edge technologies to enable ultra-wide bandwidth (UWB) radio astronomy and innovative detection and excision of radio frequency interference (RFI). This will lay the foundation for the next generation of end-to-end digital signal processing systems (DSP) and spectrometers that can effectively share the radio spectrum with the growing number of commercial, private, and governmental users. We will integrate new analog to digital converters (ADCs) and field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), develop firmware for interfacing these technologies with peripheral systems, and determine optimal methods for handling very high data rates. We will also create a standard procedure for testing and validating RFI excision algorithms that will build confidence in their use among scientists, and incorporate new RFI excision algorithms into firmware designs that are only made possible by hardware improvements. We will include a two-week undergraduate internship program aimed at first-generation college students and support a full-summer research experience.

Intellectual Merit:

The next generation of very fast ADCs and powerful FPGAs are opening new possibilities for direct sampling of ultra-wide bandwidths directly at radio frequencies, and also provide the resources needed to realize real-time RFI excision. This is important for building systems that are robust against the effects of RFI. However, significant research and development is needed to realize this potential. Our work will be prototyped using a revolutionary new UWB radio receiver under development by the Green Bank Observatory that will be optimized for the study of the low-frequency gravitational wave universe, radio transients such as fast radio bursts, and rich molecular line regions. A systematic approach to validating RFI excision techniques will encourage their adoption and be a valuable resource for the wider scientific community. The totality of our efforts will enable innovative, revolutionary advances in high-impact areas of science and technical development.

Broader Impacts:

Our work will enhance infrastructure for research and education by laying the ground work for the next generation of DSP systems. We will apply our work to future transformational upgrades to the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. We are committed to sharing the results of our work through the CASPER collaboration with the broader community to enable similar advances at other US and world observatories. Our undergraduate internship program will leverage our membership in the NSF-INCLUDES Alliance to train a twenty-person cohort of STEM professionals drawn from first-generation students. It will also provide near-peer mentoring opportunities to additional undergraduates. Both the scientific and educational components of this project will impact an extremely large and diverse community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

For font size and page formatting specifications, see PAPPG section II.B.2.

	Total No. of Pages	**Page No.* (Optional)***
Cover Sheet for Proposal to the National Science Foundation		
Project Summary (not to exceed 1 page)	1	
Table of Contents	1	
Project Description (Including Results from Prior NSF Support) (not to exceed 15 pages) **(Exceed only if allowed by a specific program announcement/solicitation or if approved in advance by the appropriate NSF Assistant Director or designee)**	15	
References Cited	4	
Biographical Sketches (Not to exceed 2 pages each)	2	
Budget (Plus up to 3 pages of budget justification)	7	
Current and Pending Support	1	
Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources	2	
Special Information/Supplementary Documents (Data Management Plan, Mentoring Plan and Other Supplementary Documents)	2	
Appendix (List below.) **(Include only if allowed by a specific program announcement/ solicitation or if approved in advance by the appropriate NSF Assistant Director or designee)**		
Appendix Items:		

Project Description: New Wide-band Digital Technology and Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy

A Overview

Advances in radio frequency (RF) analog and digital devices are opening new possibilities for ultra-wide bandwidth (UWB) radio astronomy science. However, a complete UWB digital signal processing (DSP) system that takes advantage of these advances is not yet available. UWB instrumentation also poses new challenges for sharing the spectrum with other users. We therefore propose to research and develop new technologies and techniques for UWB radio astronomy, and for maintaining the highest data quality in the presence of terrestrial radio frequency interference (RFI). Our project consists of four main activities:

1. Develop the hardware, firmware, and tool flows needed to integrate cutting-edge analog to digital converters (ADCs) and field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) for radio astronomy applications. *The primary outcome of this activity will be the next generation of UWB DSP boards and a prototype system for the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT).*

2. Create standard, quantitative, and well-tested procedures for validating real-time RFI excision techniques and ensuring that they preserve scientific data quality, for use in this project and as a service to the community. *The primary outcome of this activity will be tools and best practices that are necessary for testing the efficacy of RFI excision algorithms and building confidence in their use among scientists.*

3. Develop new algorithms for identifying and removing RFI in real-time, validate them using the procedures created in activity two, and implement them in our UWB DSP system. *The primary outcome of this activity will be innovative RFI excision techniques, ready to be used by radio astronomy observatories in the US and around the world.*

4. Engage first-generation college students in STEM fields through a two-week summer internship at the Green Bank Observatory (GBO), during which they will directly contribute to the RFI excision work by helping to create a public database of common RFI. This internship will leverage GBO's partnership in the NSF-INCLUDES program. *The primary outcome of this activity will be a cohort of students that are better prepared for STEM careers.*

The majority of this work will be conducted at GBO, in close collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) and as part of the Collaboration for Astronomy Signal Processing and Electronics Research (CASPER). Through CASPER, we will ensure that the outcomes of our work are shared broadly. *As a Federally-Funded Research and Development Center, GBO has been granted an exemption by NSF to submit this proposal since the resulting technical innovations will make unique contributions to the needs of researchers across the scientific community.* GBO staff have proven expertise in taking research projects from concept to design and construction with a goal of repeatable, reliable, maintainable, and scalable production use. By operating the GBT and other site telescopes, and working within the National Radio Quiet Zone (see Facilities, Equipment, and other Resources), GBO staff have gained unique experience in how to identify, assess, and mitigate RFI.

This project is the first step in a longer-term effort to build a next generation, end-to-end DSP system and flexible digital back-end for the GBT that employs active RFI mitigation. Such a system would be used to maximize scientific return of a new UWB radio receiver under independent development by GBO, and could also be adapted for use at other observatories. We will also lay the ground-work for revolutionary upgrades to the GBT that will expand its available bandwidth (BW) and enhance performance across all areas of radio astronomy science.

We describe the motivation for this project in more detail in §B.2, and specify the innovative work that we will carry out in §B.3. In §C.1 we affirm our commitment to making the results of this project of broad use, and in §C.2 we explain how the outcomes of our work can be applied to enhance research at GBO, and at other US and world observatories. We describe our two-week STEM student internship program in §C.3. We explain our timeline and how the project will be managed to ensure success in §D.
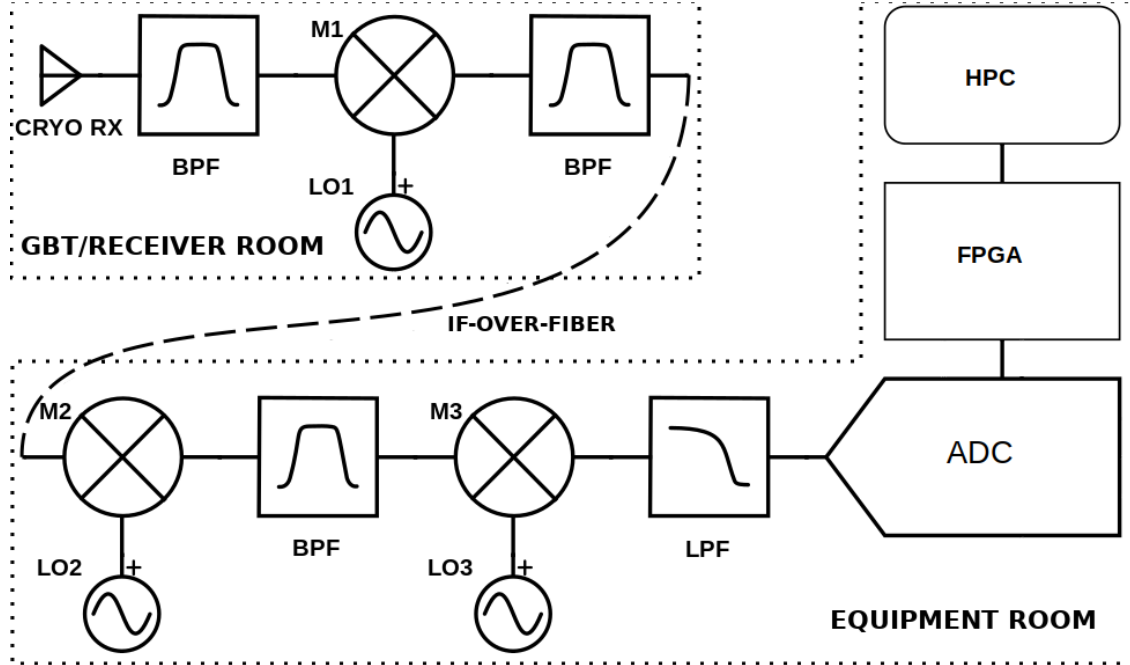
Figure 1: A simplified block diagram representation of the existing GBT intermediate frequency system. Components in the "receiver room" are located next to the radio receivers on the GBT. Signals are transported via IF-over-fiber (dashed line) to the "equipment room", which houses additional analog and digital instruments. Only one polarization channel is shown. Individual receivers will have slightly different configurations.

B Intellectual Merit

B.1 A Review of Existing Technology and Equipment

We begin by reviewing the existing instrumentation for wide-bandwidth radio astronomy using the GBT as an example. The GBT is the world's largest fully-steerable telescope and offers nearly continuous coverage from 0.3–116 GHz (excepting the 50–67 GHz oxygen absorption band). The Versatile Green Bank Astronomical Spectrometer (VEGAS, developed with support from NSF award AST-1006509) is the current primary digital back-end instrument. VEGAS employs eight CASPER ROACH2 boards, each equipped with two 8-bit ADCs clocked at 3 Gsps (one for each polarization). Before reaching VEGAS, all signals pass through the GBT's analog intermediate frequency (IF) system. The IF system consists of a first tunable local oscillator (LO) located in the "receiver room" on the GBT, which is used to convert RF to an IF that can be transferred over fiber to the "equipment room", located over 1 km from the telescope. The IF is then transported over coaxial cable through additional banks of bandpass filters and mixers before being converted to baseband and fed into the VEGAS ADCs (see Figure 1). This set-up is extremely flexible, but has several drawbacks (discussed in §B.2.2 and §C.2.2)that can be overcome using new technology and DSP techniques.

B.2 Motivation

Several developments make this project especially timely.
- New commercial ADCs allow high dynamic range sampling of ultra-wide BWs, either at RF or after a single down-conversion.
- Advanced FPGAs provide the resources needed to implement real-time RFI excision side-by-side with other DSP procedures.
- The expanding presence of wireless devices and the increasing sensitivity and BW of radio receivers make it essential to *share the spectrum* by using instrumentation that is robust and produces high-quality scientific data in the presence of RFI.

- GBO is actively developing a revolutionary new 0.7–4 GHz UWB radio receiver for the GBT that will serve as the perfect platform for applying the outcomes of this project. This receiver will be optimized to study gravitational waves and fundamental physics, as well as radio transients and regions rich in molecular line emission.

B.2.1 Next Generation Hardware

In only the last few months, industry leaders have started to offer a number of exciting and powerful new ADCs and FPGAs. We have identified two products in particular that improve by factors of several over the previous generation.

1. The **Analog Devices AD9213** is a 10.25 Gsps 12-bit ADC that is representative of the upcoming generation. The AD9213 is faster, more precise, and has lower noise than our current EV8AQ160 (see Table 1). One large driver behind the better spur-free dynamic range is improved manufacturer-provided calibration techniques for the suppression of multi-core interleaved spurs that are inherent in pipelined ADC technologies (considerable work was required by GBO and CASPER to properly calibrate the ADCs used in VEGAS). *The fast sampling rate, high bit-depth, and 6 GHz full-power BW provided by the AD9213 make it feasible to directly sample RF up to 5 GHz.*

Table 1: Comparison of ADCs

Feature/Spec	EV8AQ160	AD9213
Max. Sampling Rate	5 Gsps	10.25 Gsps
Bit-depth	8	12
Spur-free Dynamic Range*	56 dBc	68 dBc
Power Consumption*	4.2 W	5.1 W
Effective Number of Bits*	7.1	7.7

*@ max. rate

2. A promising successor to the CASPER ROACH2 boards that were the core of many previous generation DSP systems is the **Xilinx Virtex UltraScale+ FPGA VCU118 evaluation kit**. The VCU118's FGPA has significantly more resources than the ROACH2's (allowing larger, more computationally intense designs), significantly smaller feature size (simplifying timing closure), and significantly faster transceivers (allowing higher I/O BW).

Table 2: Comparison of ROACH2 and VCU118

Resource	ROACH2	VCU118
FPGA System Logic Cells	476K	2586K
FPGA DSP Slice	2016	6840
FPGA BRAM	38 Mb	6840 Mb
Board DDR4	2 GB	8 GB
High-Speed Ethernet	8×10-GbE	3×100-GbE
FPGA Silicon Feature Size	40 nm	16 nm
Expansion Bus	$2 \times$ ZDOK	$1\times$ FMC, $1\times$ FMC+
Max FPGA Transceiver Speed	6.6 Gbps	32.75 Gbps

Table 2 provides a side-by-side comparison to the ROACH2. *These new FPGAs will provide the critical resources needed to implement real-time UWB RFI excision alongside standard DSP procedures (e.g. channelization).*

B.2.2 Sharing the Radio Spectrum

Radio receivers are exposed to a multitude of RFI sources such as ground- and space-based communications channels. Emerging technologies such as collision avoidance car RADARs that operate from 76–81 GHz will start to affect regions of the spectrum that had been comparatively free of RFI. Digital systems that effectively share the spectrum with other users are therefore critically important. We broadly classify techniques for sharing the spectrum into RFI resistance (i.e., a high linear dynamic range in every analog and digital component of the signal processing chain) and RFI excision (i.e. removal of RFI at the lowest-possible level of data to improve data quality).

RFI Resistance: RFI resistance is a perpetual concern for radio observatories. GBO is afforded unique interference protection through its location at the center of the 13,000 square-mile National Radio Quiet Zone and smaller West Virginia Radio Astronomy Zone (for more information on these interference protection zones see Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources). However, the relevant regulations only apply to fixed, ground-based transmitters, not to mobile ground, air, or space-based transmitters, of which there are many. Other US observatories lack any regulatory protection.

The consequences of a worsening RFI environment are best illustrated by the recent discovery by GBO staff of total power instabilities present in the 1–2 GHz band of the GBT. These instabilities are seen in a variety of digital back-end systems, including VEGAS, and have been traced to the growing use of automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) technology[1] transmitting at 1.09 GHz; the instability itself has been isolated to non-linear response of analog components between the GBT's IF-over-fiber transcievers and second frequency mixer. *We thus have empirical evidence that illustrates the need to minimize the number of analog components in the GBT's IF system.*

The technology that we will develop as part of this project will enable direct, high-dynamic range sampling up to 5 GHz. *This will allow us to completely bypass the usual analog IF system for many existing and future receivers.*

RFI Excision: GBO has been actively testing several techniques for automated RFI detection and excision. These include the use of median absolute deviation of complex voltage samples, spectral kurtosis, robust recursive power estimation, and a new exploration of machine learning (ML) algorithms that is in its early stages. However, the limitations of our existing ROACH2-based hardware prevents us from fully implementing, testing, and deploying these RFI excision techniques. Specifically, ROACH2 hardware has a comparatively low number of on-board resources such as block random access memory (BRAM), DSP cores, and logic cells, as well as low BW I/O transceivers. We have also struggled to meet timing closure using the Virtex-6 technology for complex firmware designs. As detailed above, the UltraScale+ FPGAs and associated tool flows fundamentally change the paradigm for realizing sophisticated RFI excision techniques. *We will take advantage of these new technologies to integrate real-time RFI excision into standard data-processing pipelines.*

B.2.3 Developing a Back-end System for New UWB Receivers

Several observatories and research labs are building UWB (4:1 and 6:1 BW ratio) radio receivers with system noise and efficiency that is competitive with traditional octave (2:1) receivers. One example is a 0.7–4 GHz UWB receiver that is under active, independent development at GBO. The GBO UWB receiver will be the perfect development platform and front-end complement for the digital technology and RFI excision techniques that we will produce as part of this work. This will maximize scientific return in the following key areas:

The Low-Frequency Gravitational Wave Universe: The primary science driver of the GBO UWB receiver is the direct detection of nanohertz-frequency gravitational waves (GWs) via pulsar timing, which is the focus of the NSF-supported North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves Physics Frontier Center (NANOGrav PFC; [31]). Pulsar timing is highly complementary to other GW observatories (see Figure 2). The NANOGrav PFC is on-track to detect a stochastic GW background from supermassive binary black holes (SMBBH) within the next 3–5 years [41], and is already placing important constraints on the amplitude of this background that informs models of SMBBH evolution and coupling to the surrounding galactic environments [4, 3]. The detection of individual binaries is expected to follow in the coming decade, which will enable multi-messenger studies of SMBBH systems. The NANOGrav PFC also places the most stringent existing limits on the energy density of cosmic strings [3].

The NANOGrav PFC uses the GBT and the William E. Gordon telescope at the Arecibo Observatory to observe a pulsar timing array (PTA) of millisecond pulsars (MSPs) distributed across the sky. The extremely high rotational stability of MSPs allows them to be used as clocks whose "ticks" are pulse times of arrival (TOAs) that can be measured *and predicted* with accuracies of $\lesssim 100$ ns over time scales of decades. The influence of GWs at the Earth will cause a 10–100 ns deviation in the TOAs because of the changing path-length between the observer and the pulsars, with a unique angular correlation pattern [19]. This process of pulsar timing demands a complete characterization of the MSPs themselves, including their rotational, astrometric, and binary properties. Thus, other high-impact science emerges from this project, such as pulsar mass measurements [16], tests of general relativity [46], and novel constraints on Solar system planetary ephemerides [3].

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[1]ADS-B is used for air traffic control as part of the Next Generation Air Transportation System and is intended to replace secondary surveillance RADAR. It will be required on all aircraft operating in the United States by 2020. See `https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/programs/adsb/`
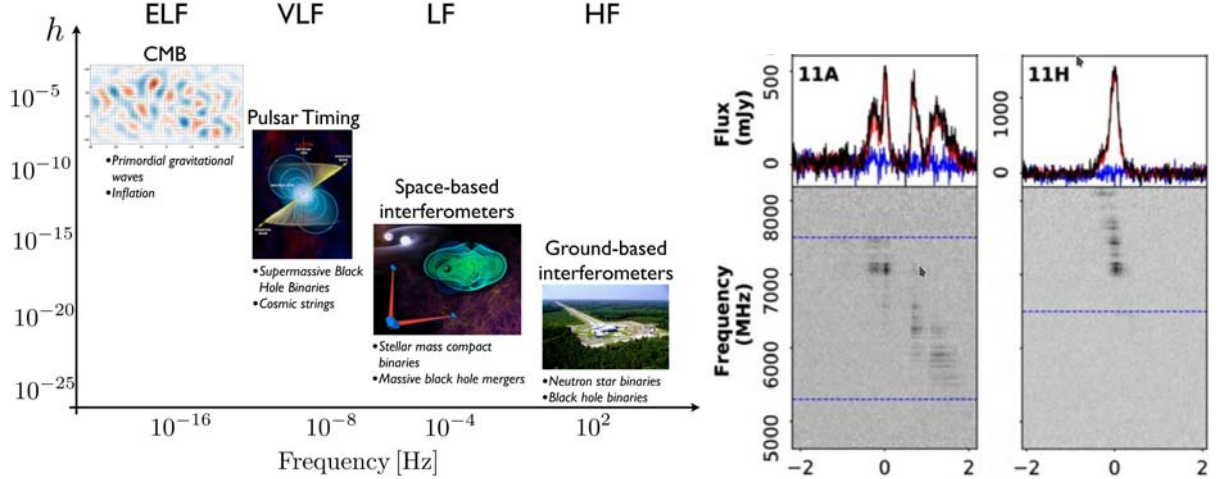
Figure 2: *Left:* Like the electromagnetic spectrum, the GW spectrum spans orders of magnitude and a variety of source-classes that can only be fully studied using complementary techniques. PTAs probe lower GW frequencies than ground- and space-based interferometers, and higher frequencies than cosmic microwave background polarization experiments (Figure courtesy of the NANOGrav PFC). *Right:* A selection of bursts from FRB 121102 showing dramatic spectro-temporal variation. The red and blue traces represent linearly and circularly polarized flux, respectively. These data were taken between 4–8 GHz and the second burst clearly extends beyond the available observing BW [17].

One of the biggest noise-terms for PTAs is a time and frequency dependent delay in pulse arrival times given by

$$\Delta t_{\mathrm{DM}} = \frac{k_{\mathrm{DM}}\,\mathrm{DM}(t, f)}{f^{-2}} \tag{1}$$

where k_{DM} is a physical constant, f is the radio frequency, and $\mathrm{DM}(t, f)$ is the dispersion measure, i.e. column density of free electrons between the pulsar and the Earth [e.g. 24], which must be measured with a fractional uncertainty of $\sim 10^{-5}$ at each observing epoch. In practice, this requires measuring TOAs at widely spaced frequencies. The NANOGrav PFC currently employs a two-receiver strategy to measure DM with the necessary precision, but this approach effectively doubles the observing time needed to obtain a single TOA and makes it difficult to resolve DM variations on intra-day timescales. *An UWB observing system will double the observational efficiency of high-precision pulsar timing programs while improving measurements of DM. When coupled with higher pulsar signal-to-noise from the wider instantaneous BW, the NANOGrav PFC's pulsar timing precision has the potential to improve by as much as a factor of two.*

Radio Transients: The UWB system will be a powerful tool for expanding our knowledge of radio transients with variable spectro-temporal behavior. One such population are fast radio bursts (FRBs) — millisecond duration radio-frequency pulses that originate in distant galaxies [23, 43]. Their physical origin is one of the most pressing mysteries in astronomy and will be a major area of research in the coming decade. To-date, only one FRB has been observed to repeat (FRB 121102; [39, 40]), a fact which has enabled the only precise interferometric localization of an FRB to a host galaxy [10, 42], as well as long-duration study of the changing characteristics of the bursts (e.g. DM, Faraday rotation measure (RM), and burst morphology; [32]). With telescopes like the Australian SKA Pathfinder and the Canadian HI Intensity Mapping Experiment poised to discover hundreds (if not thousands) of new FRBs [38, 5], more repeaters are sure to follow.

FRB 121102 exhibits dramatic burst-to-burst spectro-temporal variation (see Figure 2) including a) a highly variable power-law spectral index; b) non-power-law spectral shapes including band-limited bursts; c) changing peak frequency; d) changing burst morphology; and e) distinct sub-bursts that drift towards lower peak frequencies with time within the larger burst envelope [40, 37, 17]. It is not yet clear if these features are intrinsic or related to the local environment [e.g. 12, 27]. There is also some evidence for secular changes in

DM and RM [32, 17]. All bursts thus far have been detected between 1–8 GHz despite significant observing campaigns at lower and higher frequencies.

Any theory regarding the nature of FRB 121102 (and presumably at least some class of FRBs more generally) must explain these wide-band properties, so they serve as a powerful diagnostic tool for understanding FRBs' physical origins. However, most burst detections are limited by the BW of the receiver, so the only way thus far to investigate the behavior of FRB 121102 over ultra-wide BWs has been through limited simultaneous observations using multiple telescopes. Our new UWB system will enable spectro-temporal studies of FRB 121102 and future repeating FRBs, answering critical questions such as a) does the characteristic BW of bursts change with frequency, and if so, with what form? b) do band-limited bursts appear simultaneously in widely separated sub-bands? c) do sub-bursts cluster in frequency and time, or can the peak frequency change on burst-to-burst timescales? d) what is the burst morphology over ultra-wide BWs? e) is the apparent ~ 1 GHz lower limit real or an artifact of under-sampling at lower frequencies? and f) does DM vary as a function of frequency in broad-band bursts? The answers to these questions can then be quantitatively compared with physical models for FRB emission.

A second class of variables are radio magnetars — neutron stars whose emission is powered by the decay of extremely strong magnetic fields. To-date only four radio magnetars have been discovered out of a larger population[2] that emit X-rays and gamma-rays [7, 6, 22, 14]. Their sporadic emission and variable power-law spectral index, polarization fraction, polarization position angle, and burst morphology stand in stark contrast to rotation-powered radio pulsars [e.g. 8], and the details of the radio emission mechanism remains a mystery. Interestingly, there may be a connection between magnetars and FRBs. A young, powerful magnetar is one of the leading candidates for the source of FRB 121102 [e.g. 28], and the extremely high RM observed in FRB 121102 has only one known analog: the radio magnetar near the center of the Milky Way [14]. Thus, studies of magnetars may improve our understanding of FRBs, and vice versa.

Radio Recombination and Molecular Line Surveys: Survey speeds of regions that are especially rich in molecular lines are often limited by the available instantaneous BW. One example is observations of HII regions using Hydrogen radio recombination lines (RRLs). These act as extinction-free tracers of the ionized gas surrounding high-mass stars. The sensitivity of the GBT allows for individual RRLs to be detected toward star-forming regions across the entire Galactic disk with only minutes of on-source time. However, no current receiver/back-end combination can cover nearly as many simultaneous RRLs as the 0.7–4 GHz UWB system, which will be able to simultaneously observe 93 Hn_α, 117 Hn_β, 134 Hn_γ, and 146 Hn_δ lines. All RRLs of the same type can be combined to drastically increase signal-to-noise, offering unprecedented sensitivity to Galactic ionized gas. Because of the coarse spatial resolution in this frequency range (from $3'$ to $18'$ for the GBT), these lower frequency transitions are especially well suited for studying diffuse, low-density plasmas, including ionized outflows from star formation regions and the ambient diffuse ionized gas present throughout much of the plane of the Galaxy [25].

The study of complex chemical species offers another application of UWB technology. Many observations have focused on frequencies of 10's of GHz, but the 0.7–4 GHz band is a promising discovery space [e.g. 30, 15, 44]. Astrochemistry is a unique probe of species not easily studied in a laboratory and has implications for astrobiology and the nature of life on Earth [29]. The BW of the UWB system will allow for serendipitous, discovery-based science in this area.

B.3   Innovation

To realize the technical and scientific potential offered by UWB technology, we will integrate new cutting-edge hardware components and develop new firmware, data transmission methods, and network topologies for very high data rates. We will also implement and test various RFI excision strategies. To the extent possible we will use modular designs that abstract away lower-level components. This will make it easier to rapidly take advantage of future technologies as they emerge, so that the impact of our efforts will last much longer than a single generation or specific architecture. All of our work will be conducted in an open and collaborative framework for use by other observatories and interested parties. Figure 3 shows one possible high-level configuration of the system that we will build. The specific tasks that we will carry out are detailed below.

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[2]See `http://www.physics.mcgill.ca/~pulsar/magnetar/main.html` for an up-to-date list.
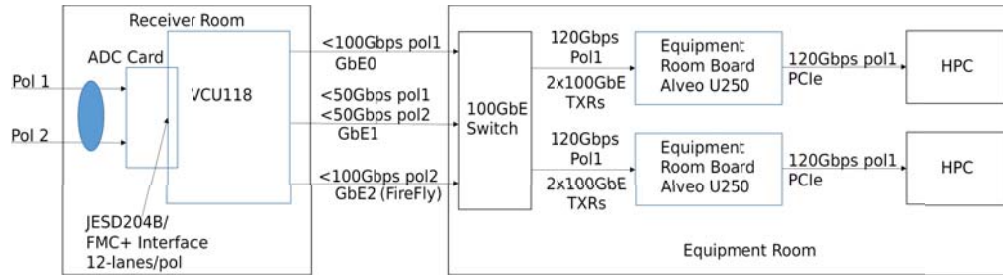
Figure 3: A block diagram representing one possible approach for deploying an UWB DSP system on the GBT sampling up to 5 GHz baseband with a single ADC. We identify those components that would be housed in the GBT receiver room and the equipment room, and refer to these designations throughout this proposal. Other configurations are possible.

B.3.1 Finding Optimal Sampling Strategies

We will determine the optimal approach for digitizing very wide RF BWs.

The AD9213 ADC has the ability to digitally sample baseband BWs up to approximately 5 GHz with a single sampler. Thus, the most straightforward approach is to clock the ADCs near their maximum rate, which would simplify downstream processing by avoiding the need to stitch together various smaller sub-bands to achieve the same BW while eliminating most analog components. However, this comes at the cost of a lower effective number of bits (ENOB) — the pre-release specifications for the AD9213 quote 7.7 bits at the maximum sampling rate of 10.25 Gsps. A second approach would use a simple signal-splitter to produce two or three copies of the desired UWB signal, which would each be sent to a separate pair of ADCs (one for each polarization) clocked at slower speeds. The first copy could be low-pass filtered and sampled at base band (i.e. the first Nyquist zone), while higher frequencies would be bandpass filtered to prevent aliasing and sampled in higher Nyquist zones. This would still eliminate the need for an analog IF mixing stage and would have the advantage of offering a higher ENOB (for example, pre-release specifications quote 8.3–9.1 ENOB when sampling at 6 Gsps), though at the expense of additional processing steps and analog RF conditioning. We will determine if the better dynamic range in the second approach is needed, using the UWB receiver as the test platform. This will inform the design of additional UWB systems at GBO and other observatories.

B.3.2 Integrating New ADCs and FPGAs

We will design and build custom printed circuit boards that will interface new ADCs and FPGAs.

Since our plan calls for installing digitally noisy ADCs and FPGAs very close to radio receivers, minimal power consumption and a low level of self-generated RFI is absolutely essential. These requirements will be incorporated into all designs from the beginning.

The VCU118 is equipped with an FPGA Mezzanine Card (FMC/FMC+) slot, which will be used to connect our chosen ADC. We prefer to use two ADCs per VCU118 (one for each polarization channel) to simplify design. However, each AD9213 dissipates 5.1 W, so two would exceed the maximum power allowed for the FMC/FMC+ daughter card (10 W). We will develop power-mitigation methods that would allow us to safely contravene the standards, allowing two ADCs per board. However, if unsuccessful we can fall back on using two VCU118's, each with a single ADC.

GBO requires that all installed electrical equipment in the GBT receiver room be ITU-R RA.769 compliant (protection criteria used for radio astronomical measurements). Functionally, this equates to an additional ~ 100 dBm of isotropic radiated power suppression on any commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) unintentional radiators that we wish to install close to the focal point of the GBT. To meet these strict requirements we will likely have to make considerable adjustments and/or add shielding to any COTS boards, which will include component-level shielding of noisy components (chip cage) and equipment-level shielding (metal box, in-case RF absorbent foam). We have substantial experience designing low-radiation electronics, and

have an excellent RF anechoic chamber to validate our modifications (see Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources).

However, many RFI-shielding techniques, such as encasing boards within metal boxes, works at cross-purposes with effective cooling techniques. As such, we will also be developing efficient and simple cooling methods. Air-cooling is preferred due to its simplicity, but water-cooling will be considered if necessary. Members of our team have already deployed water-cooling on compute racks used by the Breakthrough Listen project [26], and water-cooling has been used on the GBT as part of a revolutionary new L-Band phased array feed [35]. *All RFI-shielding and cooling techniques used at GBO will be broadly applicable to any observatory interested in using noisy COTS hardware near sensitive RF receivers.*

B.3.3 Developing Firmware for Emerging Technology

We will design firmware for next-generation hardware and communication protocols. These designs will be shared widely with the scientific and engineering communities.

We will build a variety of new firmware "blocks" (sets of low-level FPGA code abstracted to a higher level for easier use by firmware system designers) for interfacing with various FPGA-facing peripherals as well as for executing advanced DSP techniques. In addition, new firmware tools will need to be developed to allow our CASPER-based designs to take advantage of the advancements that are provided by new technologies. Much of this new firmware development can be broken into functional blocks within Xilinx's System Generator for DSP architecture (SGDSP). Basic SGDSP blocks are primarily dedicated to data processing with no use of peripheral components (e.g. BRAM, transceivers, Microblaze access, etc.), whereas CASPER blocks interface with peripherals. Many of the CASPER blocks exist for earlier generations of hardware, but considerable work is required to prepare them for the newest generations. The specific blocks that we will develop are outlined below.

Peripheral Interfacing: To take advantage of the possibilities enabled by the newest generation of data-transmission technologies, we will create CASPER blocks that interface with the 100-GbE core (both single-direction and duplex flavors), PCIe (generations 3×16 and 4×8, including monitor and control (M&C) of the FPGA board over the PCIe), as well as a block to interface the FPGA with ADC via FMC/FMC+. The 100-GbE blocks and ADC card block can be considered improvements upon existing capabilities, while the PCIe interface (and especially the M&C aspect) will be groundbreaking in the CASPER community.

DSP Capabilities: We will create additional basic SDGP blocks to improve DSP capabilities. For example, we will develop blocks implementing new RFI-mitigation methods (discussed in more detail in the §B.3.6) that are too computationally expensive to run in real-time on our current hardware. We will also take advantage of development occurring elsewhere within CASPER (e.g. new floating point FFT blocks).

B.3.4 Data Transmission Methods and Network Topology

We will find optimal strategies for managing the extremely high data rates produced by fast sampling with high bit-depth.

New ADCs will quintuple the bit-rate compared with previous instruments and will require the use of 100-GbE fiber down-links as the backbone of our signal sampling/transmission pipeline. We will develop solutions to mitigate several challenges.

The total maximum bit-rate for the AD9213 at maximum frequency will be 123 Gbps. The VCU118 is an outlier among Xilinx FPGA boards with 2×100-GbE QSFP28 ports and 1×100-GbE FireFly port. We will examine optimal network topologies to deal with these data rates (one or two polarizations per receiver-room board? 100-GbE duplex? how comparatively large is the 100-GbE duplex logic to single-direction logic?), and other related questions that will allow us to maximize our system's throughput BW while minimizing cost and complexity. The move to PCIe edge connectors instead of a 1-GbE port will also require us to integrate PCIe-based M&C functionality, and to measure how different bi-directional M&C data-rates between a control computer and the FPGA over the PCIe bus effect the main, uni-directional data-transfer rates from the FPGA to downstream computing clusters. These topologies will be compared by scalability,

I/O BW, processing power, cost, rack-space, and ease of maintenance. Factors that could impact the comparisons include cost of future 100-GbE network switches, ease of heterogeneous computing solutions, and the eventual computing requirements imposed by the final system.

B.3.5 Standardized Procedures for Validating RFI Excision Algorithms

We will develop a generalized test methodology for validating the efficacy of RFI excision techniques while preserving scientific data quality. This is crucial for building confidence in these techniques among scientific users.

This will consist of:

- Well defined observing modes (e.g. pulsar timing and HI spectroscopy), astrophysical sources, and quantifiable parameters that can be measured from each observation, that will serve as standards against which different observatories and instruments can test RFI excision techniques.
- A database of common RFI characteristics such as frequency, amplitude, BW, duration, and frequency sweep.
- Carefully curated data sets created using the above set-ups, in common formats and containing a variety of RFI sources, that can be used for off-line testing and validation.
- Synthetic data sets, both free of RFI and with synthetic RFI that matches the characteristics of common sources, to be used for additional, carefully controlled offline verification.
- Procedures for applying and quantifying the efficacy of RFI excision algorithms and assessing their impact on the measurable astrophysical quantities of interest.
- Best practices for applying the above to real-time data acquisition systems (e.g. techniques for parallel capture of RFI-mitigated and unmitigated data streams).
- Side-by-side comparison of the relevant parameters for mitigated and unmitigated data.

The limits for acceptable amounts of RFI non-detections, false-positives, and data perturbations are likely to be specific to the scientific requirements of a given observation, so we will focus on *how* to measure the impact of RFI excision in ways that are reliable *and replicable*. Observers and other facilities can then choose the most appropriate procedures for applying these algorithms as needed.

Test procedures and data sets will be developed openly and collaboratively, allowing for contributions from other researchers and observatories. *We will create a community-oriented, self-sustaining resource that will be vitally important for ensuring the integrity of scientific data as new instruments and telescopes are developed alongside increasing use of the radio spectrum.*

B.3.6 Active RFI Excision

We will implement complementary real-time techniques that can operate together to actively identify and excise RFI.

Below we describe two techniques that can be most easily deployed as part of this project. Other techniques will explored as appropriate.

Robust Recursive Power Estimator: GBO has built upon work started at the Nançay Radio Observatory [13] that detects and excises interference from ground-based RADAR sources, and which should be applicable to other impulsive sources of RFI. It functions by measuring the frequency-domain mean power level and flags or replaces sets of samples that exceed a given threshold for a given amount of time. *Members of our team have now implemented this functionality in ROACH-based firmware, and have successfully conducted initial validation of its efficacy on multiple back-end systems currently being used at GBO (see Figure 4 for an example). To the best of our knowledge, GBO currently possesses the only CASPER-implemented real-time RFI-excision enabled back-end systems.* We will generalize this method to other sources of RFI and deploy it in the UWB DSP system.

Spectral Kurtosis: Initially conceived as a robust statistical RFI detector [33, 34], the simple sum/sum-squared algorithm lends itself naturally to implementation in FPGAs. As kurtosis measurements are more affected by a few, extreme outliers rather than many, moderate outliers, we can assume that any high-kurtosis samples (above user-adjustable thresholds) are contaminated with RFI and mitigate them.

Over the past year, a collaboration between the GBO digital engineering group and West Virginia University Physics department have created a Python-based implementation of the generalized spectral kurtosis
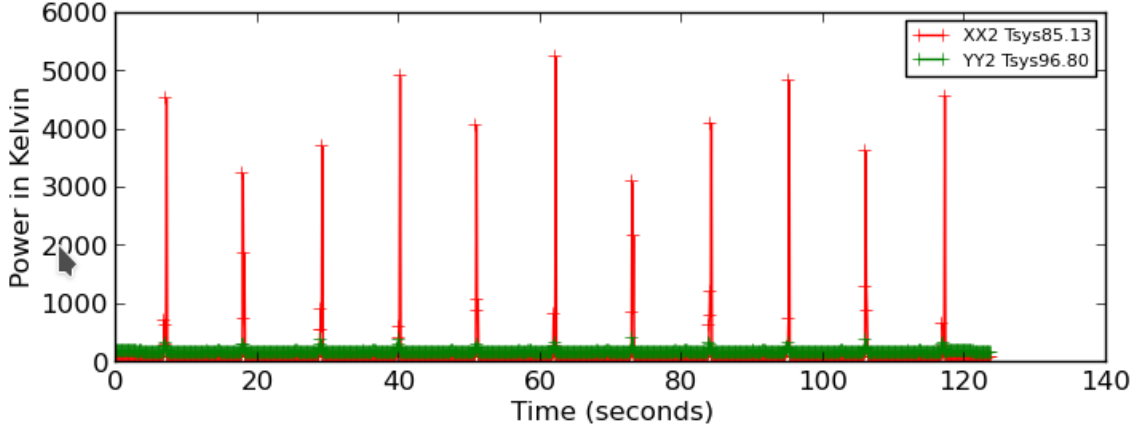
Figure 4: Data from the GBO 20-m telescope demonstrating our new, real-time robust recursive power estimation excision technique. The red curve is unmitigated data from the X-polarization channel, while the green curve is mitigated data from the Y-polarization channel (data were taken simultaneously). A 12-second RFI pulse from the Bedford airport radar is clearly seen in the unmitigated data, and almost entirely removed in the mitigated data. Further validation of these preliminary results is under way.

estimator [33], and its overall effectiveness has been proven. However, none of our extant back-end systems have enough logic/DSP cores and RAM resources available in the FPGAs to allow an implementation to co-exist with existing channelization firmware. *The FPGAs on the VCU118 will let us create and test a real-time implementation of this method that could then be shared with the wider community*.

C   Broader Impacts

C.1   Commitment to the Public

All of the hardware designs, firmware, and software produced in the course of this work will be made available to the wider astronomical and radio science communities for use at other facilities. Firmware blocks will be included in the CASPER library. We will use a mix of technical memos, presentations at conferences, and refereed publications to document and communicate the results of the work to the broadest possible audiences. The co-investigators also participate in public facing programs at the Green Bank Observatory to educate the broader public about the UWB system and radio astronomy more generally.

C.2   Enhancing Infrastructure for Research and Education

C.2.1 Towards a Complete Next-Generation Observing System

We view this project as the first in a two-phase effort that will ultimately result in a complete next-generation digital back-end system and flexible UWB spectrometer. This first R&D phase will produce the foundational hardware and firmware, ending in a functional prototype that can then be scaled up into a full, production system. This final system will be integrated into the GBT's new UWB receiver and released as a facility-supported instrument for use by the entire scientific community.

C.2.2 A Pilot Program for Future GBT Upgrades

The GBT has a flexible IF system that has enabled ground-breaking discoveries in all areas of astronomy, but it is now over 20 years old and has several limitations.

- Receivers operating above 18 GHz could provide $\gg 8$ GHz of instantaneous BW but are limited by existing IF filters to 4–6 GHz in most cases (see Table 3 for details).

Table 3: High Frequency GBT Receiver BW

Receiver	Frequency Range (GHz)	Current Max. BW (GHz)	Potential Max. BW (GHz)	Factor Increase
7-pixel KFPA	18.0–27.5	1.8	9.5	5.28
Ka-Band MM1	26.0–31.0	4.0	13.5	3.375
Ka-Band MM2	30.5–37.0	4.0		
Ka-Band MM3	36.0–39.5	4.0		
Q-Band	39.2–49.8	4.0	10.6	2.65
W-Band MM1	67.0–74.0	6.0	26.3	4.38–6.575
W-Band MM2	73.0–80.0	4.0		
W-Band MM3	79.0–86.0	4.0		
W-Band MM4	85.0–92.0	4.0		
16-pixel Argus	75.0–115.3	1.5	8	5.3

Note — The full BW of receivers operating below 18 GHz can be processed by the existing IF system, so only higher-frequency receivers are shown. A wide-band 8 GHz mode exists for KFPA but can only use one pixel. MM refers to different millimeter converter rack filters, which are required by the existing IF system, but could be bypassed. The maximum BW of Argus is determined by integrated receiver components.

- Up to 64 spectral windows can be formed through a bank of secondary and tertiary mixers and filters, as well as DSP in VEGAS, but filters limit the maximum BW and separation between spectral windows and the number of banks limits the number of windows.
- The secondary and tertiary converters are located over 1 km from the GBT, with signals transported via IF-over-fiber links that are subject to instabilities as discussed in §B.2.2.
- The above analog components can undergo gain variation due to changing environmental conditions, leading to spectral baseline changes that can be limiting.
- Doppler broadening caused by the Earth's motion can be removed by a tunable first-stage frequency mixer, but only for a single rest frequency. More complex Doppler tracking is not possible.

The proposed UWB-DSP technology has the potential to eliminate nearly all of these restrictions. Multiple fast ADCs could be employed to sample the full available BW for single-pixel receivers, and would provide maximum flexibility when trading BW for pixels in multi-pixel receivers. *This could lead to as much as a factor of 6.575 increase in survey speed when observing widely spaced spectral lines (see Table 3).* Digitization would occur at RF for low-frequency receivers and either in higher Nyquist zones or after a single down-conversion at higher frequencies. This would eliminate most analog components, reducing saturation from RFI while providing much better spectral baselines. More flexible Doppler tracking and windowing would be accomplished digitally. Active RFI mitigation would also be incorporated into all GBT observing. *This would be a transformational modernization of the GBT, analogous to the upgrades of the "extended" Jansky Very Large Array (VLA), and would revolutionize all areas of GBT science.* The UWB DSP system is a pathfinder that will allow us to determine the most effective and affordable solutions for these future upgrades.

C.2.3 Relevance for Other Facilities

As part of the Astro2020 Decadal Survey, the radio astronomy community is planning for major new facilities that could begin construction and operation in the 2020s, such as the Next Generation VLA, in addition to a myriad of experiment-class instruments. Our efforts, especially the RFI excision validation procedures and algorithms, would be an invaluable resource for many new facilities. Because of our focus on modular design enabling rapid development, our efforts will also serve as a pathfinder for technologies that will be deployed on these future facilities. *The GBT, and single-dish telescopes more broadly, are perfect test-beds for new techniques and technologies because of their simpler design and signal paths (compared to multi-dish arrays).*

C.3 Broadening Participation for a Diverse, Globally Competitive STEM Workforce

C.3.1 First-Generation Student Internship Program

GBO is a partnering institution in an NSF-INCLUDES Alliance called the First 2 Network. The First 2 Network aims to improve the persistence of STEM undergraduates during the first two years of their college education and targets first generation college students who face obstacles over and above their non-first generation peers [e.g. 9]. The Alliance focuses on the first two years of college because it is within these years that more than 50% of STEM students leave their majors [11].

Leveraging our participation in the NSF-INCLUDES program, our plan for broadening participation in this proposal is to offer a two-week internship experience to rising college freshmen and sophomores, engaging them in authentic participation in the development of the RFI excision and validation procedures. It is well known that engaging students in research early in their college careers can have a potent impact on their persistence as STEM majors [e.g. 21, 18]. However, most student research experiences including our own Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program generally targets rising juniors and seniors. Through this internship we will be providing a first research experience, and preparing younger students for future success in programs like REU, including our own.

GBO piloted a 2-week internship for early first generation undergraduates in 2017 with clear success. Pre- and post-survey results revealed:

- High levels of STEM efficacy at both pre- and post-test, and even higher by post-test.
- Interns tended to be less concerned about barriers to STEM persistence by post-test.
- Interns were somewhat more likely to report that professors lecturing a lot in their STEM courses would be a potential challenge.
- Interns were significantly less likely to be concerned that they would be intimidated by professors.
- Interns were significantly less likely to be concerned that they wouldn't know where to get help when they felt depressed or worried.

Internship Activities: Twenty student interns will participate in the research and development effort in year two of the project. They will work in teams to analyze archived RFI data to curate a categorized and searchable database that includes common RFI features. They will test sources of RFI in our anechoic chamber to develop RFI exemplars. This work is important for testing RFI removal algorithms in a controlled manner.

Their research will be scaffolded with "just in time" learning through hands-on activities and talks by the PI and other GBO staff on radio astronomy science and instrumentation, and DSP. Additionally, interns will be completely immersed in the GBO academic culture during their residence, participating in regular activities such as colloquia and organized REU summer student activities.

We will also offer an opportunity for students in our existing REU program to act as near-peer mentors. Working with GBO educational staff, they will hold workshops to prepare our participants for college success and for future internship experiences. Sessions will include: "What I wish someone had told me when I started college", time management, study tips, and applying for internships.

At the end of the two-week internship student teams will present the results of their work in a student colloquium for GBO staff.

Participant Recruitment and Selection: First generation (which generally includes under-represented minority students) STEM undergraduate students will be targeted for participation in the internship. Rising freshmen and sophomores will be eligible to apply. We will advertise through the First 2 Network and other NSF-INCLUDES Alliances and Launch Pilot projects via the NSF-INCLUDES National Hub website.

Evaluation: We will employ the Undergraduate Research Student Self-Assessment Survey to measure student outcomes related to internship participation including acquisition of STEM skills, leadership, confidence, and STEM identity [45]. We will also participate in evaluation measures designed by the First 2 Network and provide data to the Network to add to the growing knowledge base of successful strategies and interventions.

C.3.2 Summer Research Experience

This grant will also support one undergraduate student that will work with astronomers and engineers at GBO and UCB on a 10–12 week research project. The focus of the students' work will likely be on developing

RFI excision algorithms and the verification plan described in §B.3.5 & B.3.6, though we will devise specific projects with the strengths and interests of the individual student in mind. GBO already has a successful track record of involving summer undergraduate students in similar work, with four students having worked over the previous two summers on implementations of median absolute deviation and spectral kurtosis excision techniques. The student will be selected from UCB so that they can take advantage of local expertise and mentoring. While at GBO they will be fully integrated into the GBO/NRAO summer student activities (which includes the NSF-funded REU program). This will include living in observatory housing with other summer students, participating in scientific, technical, and career development seminars, and opportunities to engage in education and public outreach and local community events. The student will learn skills including advanced programming languages, fundamentals of DSP, and firmware and hardware design using the latest technology and tools. These skills are in extremely high demand within astronomy and other fields of basic research, as well as in applied fields and private industry.

D   Project Management Plan

D.1   Project Scope

The scope of work planned and budgeted under this proposal will 1) design and prototype innovative technologies to enable the digitization of signals from the telescope at RF, resulting in the first stage of a deployable instrument; 2) create standardized procedures for testing RFI excision algorithms; and 3) develop and assess new RFI excision techniques enabled by this technology.

GBO will work collaboratively with UCB's SETI Research Center and CASPER teams, who will serve as advisers to the project to ensure that the efforts are synchronized, and knowledge is shared across multiple interested groups. In parallel, the CASPER team will be evaluating and integrating new technologies into the CASPER open-source platform. A shared strategic goal for both GBO and UCB is to transition from current ROACH2 based architectures as that technology is becoming obsolete.

We foresee this work leading into a second phase that will result in a final, production system. From a systems engineering perspective, phase one (this proposal) will encompass basic and applied research into new digitization technologies and RFI excision techniques, include a preliminary design for a new system, and conclude with a technical proof of concept. The preliminary design work in phase one will also enable GBO to develop a more detailed plan and cost for phase two.

Phase two of the project (out of scope for this proposal) will build upon the preliminary design to enter into a detailed design phase. This will include integration into the existing GBT M&C system, digital spectrometer development, engineering integration verification and validation, and scientific commissioning. The goal of the second phase will be to deliver a GBO user instrument to the Observatory.

D.2   Project Governance and Resources

D.2.1 Project Team

- PI Ryan Lynch (GBO) will provide scientific leadership. He will define the scientific goals and requirements for all work, lead the collection and generation of test data sets for the RFI excision validation procedures, and assist in scientific commissioning and validation of RFI excision algorithms. He is an expert in pulsar and radio transient science and project scientist for VEGAS.
- Co-Is Luke Hawkins, Randy McCullough, and Jason Ray (GBO) will serve as the technical project experts. They will design and develop integrated ADC/FPGA boards, Basic and CASPER blocks for M&C of FPGA boards and implementations of RFI excision algorithms. They will work with Lynch to asses and meet the scientific requirements. With over 40 years of combined experience, they are experts in DSP, Xilinx and CASPER tool flows, and RFI compliance and excision.
- Laura Jensen and Marty Bloss (GBO) will act as project managers, ensuring that project management and systems engineering best practices are used to allocate resources, set and meet milestones, and deliver on all project goals within budget. They will also assist Lynch with review and reporting requirements.

Table 4: Compressed View of Risk Register

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
The integration of planned technologies has never been done before, so expected outcomes cannot be guaranteed.	High	A systematic approach with multiple iterations to assess outcomes and refine assumptions, with incremental steps that reduce risk.
Specifications for some technologies are still in development (e.g AD9213).	High	Current assumptions will be iteratively tested as new technologies are integrated.
ROACH2 technology currently used by CASPER and GBO is reaching end of life.	High	This is an **opportunity risk** that will be realized if research into new technologies is not undertaken in a timely basis.
Potential impacts of RFI excision on data products.	Medium	RFI excision algorithms will be systematically tested. Detailed comparisons to pre-excised data will be conducted.
Alignment of GBO digitization efforts with CASPER.	Medium	The CASPER team at UCB is a collaborator on the project, building on past collaborations.

- Jack Hickish and Dan Werthimer (UCB) will be unfunded collaborators on this project. Hickish will develop CASPER blocks for interfacing with peripherals through 100-GbE and PCIe. Werthimer will provide local mentoring to a UCB undergraduate student. Both will act as technical advisers to the GBO digital engineering team.
- Sue Ann Heatherly (GBO) will oversee the two-week summer internship program. She is the education officer for GBO and a PI on the NSF-INCLUDES First 2 Network.
- A UCB undergraduate student will be funded for a summer research experience, and will work with the full team with a likely focus on implementing the RFI excision algorithms.

D.2.2 Project Organization

The UWB DSP project will be managed using documented GBO budget management, project management, and systems engineering processes developed in adherence with NSF requirements as per its Large Facilities Manual (NSF 17-066, March 2017). Experienced GBO program managers will coordinate, track, and report on activities from a project and programmatic view. Scope, schedule, costs, and risks will be managed by GBO program managers.

GBO and UCB have collaborated successfully on many projects over a number of years, and the project will benefit from established coordination mechanisms. Full project team teleconferences will be held monthly, and face-to-face meetings and short working sessions will be scheduled as required.

D.3 Risk Management

Our risk management plan identifies uncertainties in the project and mitigations to reduce loss, while identifying and realizing opportunities. As an R&D effort using newly released technologies, there are a number of risks related to uncertainties that we will mitigate through systematic basic and applied research. We will apply iterative project management techniques, testing the highest risk items first. If these tests are successful we will move on to next steps; otherwise we will reassess our approach and develop new strategies. Table 4 summarizes the risks we have identified thus far.

D.4 Schedule Management

The project will undergo iterative design, experimentation, test, verification, and validation phases. GBO's schedule management will measure progress towards the ultimate outcome of a prototype UWB DSP system. The planned period of performance is two years from the date of award. We will conduct preliminary evaluation of the new Xilinx VCU118 FGPA boards in collaboration with the UCB SETI Research Center in advance of the project award. This pre-work will address risks early on and enable the project to commence immediately upon award.

Table 5: Project Milestones

Milestone	Target Completion
GBO electronics printed circuit board design; hardware procurements; RFI characterization and preliminary RFI excision algorithm design in collaboration with GBO REU and UCB summer undergraduate students.	FY2019 - Q4
Development of new FPGA firmware	FY2020 - Q2
Iterative FPGA firmware testing (simulations)	FY2020 - Q3
FPGA firmware/hardware integration; RFI excision algorithm testing in collaboration with summer student; Two-week student internship; Document standards and best practices for assessing RFI excision techniques.	FY2020 - Q4
Iterative independent instrument testing with RFI excision techniques; Develop plan, schedule, and budget for phase two.	FY2021 - Q1
Iterative integration testing with VCU118.	FY2021 - Q3
Document outcomes and final report.	FY2021 - Q4

Table 5 summarizes target milestones by quarter based on the project schedule and an assumed start date in Q3 of Fiscal Year 2019.

D.5   Performance Measures

Program management performance measures throughout the project life-cycle will include:
- Analysis and monitoring of the project baseline (cost, schedule, scope) and controlling the baseline. Changes to the baseline will follow GBO's Change Management Process.
- Measuring project activities through the appropriate allocation of iterative verification and validation of results against hypothesis.
- Communications and stakeholder management through notifications, project reports, presentations, feedback, correspondence, meeting minutes, and other actions indicating transparency in the management of the project.
- Meaningful undergraduate summer student engagement and an organized summer student internship in year two. Undergraduate summer students will receive assessments based on validated evaluation instruments and NSF-INCLUDES requirements.
- Controlling risks through active management of the risk register and the prioritization of highest risks through iterative research, development, and testing.

The GBO Program Manager will prepare and submit quarterly status reports for review by the project team, GBO Management, and collaborators. Annual, Final, and Outcomes reports will be submitted in accordance with NSF requirements.

E   Results from Prior NSF Support

The PI was an unfunded co-I on "Radio telescope computer software for detecting exotic astronomical sources that change with time" (PI: N. Schmid; Award number AAG-1615884; 09/01/2016–08/31/2019; $119,131).

Intellectual Merit: The project developed detection algorithms for astrophysical pulses such as FRBs. Algorithms were tested using single pixel telescope data (e.g. the GBT). These techniques differ from the traditional approach by detecting pulses in transform spaces, (spatial Fourier transforms (SFT) or Radon transform). After the application of the SFT, the signature of a dispersed astrophysical pulse is concentrated in a very small area around the origin. The compactness of the pulse signature in the SFT space yields extremely efficient blind detection statistics. Four papers have been published as a result of this work [2, 20, 36, 1].

Broader Impacts: To-date this work has supported three MS/PhD students at West Virginia University (WVU). An additional undergraduate student at WVU was sponsored through the Summer Research Experience for Undergraduate program, and two REU students worked on this project at the GBO during the summer of 2017 (co-advised by Lynch).

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P. Scholz, X. Siemens, I. H. Stairs, K. Stovall, J. K. Swiggum, A. Venkataraman, W. W. Zhu, C. Aulbert, and H. Fehrmann. Fast Radio Burst Discovered in the Arecibo Pulsar ALFA Survey. ApJ, 790:101, August 2014.

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Biographical Sketch—Lynch, R. S.

Dr. Ryan S. Lynch
Associate Scientist
Green Bank Observatory
PO Box 2
Green Bank, WV 24944
(304)-456-2357
rlynch@nrao.edu

Professional Preparation

Pennsylvania State University	Astronomy & Astrophysics	B.S. w/ Honors, 2006
Pennsylvania State University	Physics	B.S., 2006
University of Virginia	Astronomy	M.S., 2008
University of Virginia	Astronomy	Ph.D., 2011

Appointments

Associate Scientist	Green Bank Observatory	Mar. 2018–present
Assistant Scientist	Green Bank Observatory	Oct. 2016–Mar. 2018
Adjunct	West Virginia University	Jan. 2015–present
Assistant Scientist	National Radio Astronomy Observatory	Jan. 2015–Sept. 2016
Postdoctoral Fellow	West Virginia University	Sept. 2014–Jan. 2015
Postdoctoral Scholar	McGill University	Sept. 2011–Aug. 2014

Products

Closely related publications:

- **Lynch, R. S.**, Swiggum, J. K., Kondratiev, V. I., Kaplan, D. L., Stovall, K., Fonseca, E., Roberts, M. S. E., Levin, L., Cui, B., Cenko, S. B., Gatkine, P., Archibald, A. M., Banaszak, S., Biwer, C. M., Boyles, J., Chawla, P., Dartez, L. P., Day, D. ,Ford., A. J., Flanigan, J., Hessels, J. W. T., Hinojosa, J., Jenet, F. A., Karako-Argaman, C., Kaspi, V. M., Leake, S., Lunsford, G., Martinez, J. G., Mata, A., McLaughlin, M., Al Noori, H., Ransom, S. M., Rohr, M. D., Siemens, X., Spiewak, R., Stairs, I. H., van Leeuwen, J., Walker, A. N., Welles, B. L., 2018, "The Green Bank North Celestial Cap Pulsar Survey II: 45 New Pulsar Timing Solutions", *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2018, 859, 93

- Scholz, P., Bogdanov, S., Hessels, J. W. T., **Lynch, R. S.**, Spitler, L. G., Bassa, C. G., Bower, G. C., Burke-Spolaor, S., Butler, B. J., Chatterjee, S., Cordes, J. M., Gourdji, K., Kaspi, V. M., Law, C. J., Marcote, B., McLaughlin, M. A., Michilli, D., Paragi, Z., Ransom, S. M., Seymour, A., Tendulkar, S. P., Wharton, R. S., "Simultaneous X-Ray, Gamma-Ray, and Radio Observations of the Repeating Fast Radio Burst FRB 121102", 2017, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2017, 846, 80

- Gajjar, V., Siemion, A. P. V., Price, D. C., Law, C. J., Michilli, D., Hessels, J. W. T., Chatterjee, S., Archibald, A. M., Bower, G. C., Brinkman, C., Burke-Spolaor, S., Cordes, J. M., Croft, S., Enriquez, J. Emilio, Foster, G., Gizani, N., Hellbourg, G., Isaacson, H., Kaspi, V. M., Lazio, T. J. W., Lebofsky, M., **Lynch, R. S.**, MacMahon, D., McLaughlin, M. A., Ransom, S. M., Scholz, P., Seymour, A., Spitler, L. G., Tendulkar, S. P., Werthimer, D., Zhang, Y. G., "Highest Frequency Detection of FRB 121102 at 4-8 GHz Using the Breakthrough Listen Digital Backend at the Green Bank Telescope", 2018, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 863, 2

- Michilli, D., Seymour, A., Hessels, J. W. T., Spitler, L. G., Gajjar, V., Archibald, A. M., Bower, G. C., Chatterjee, S., Cordes, J. M., Gourdji, K., Heald, G. H., Kaspi, V. M., Law, C. J., Sobey, C., Adams, E. A. K., Bassa, C. G., Bogdanov, S., Brinkman, C., Demorest, P., Fernandez, F., Hellbourg, G., Lazio, T. J. W., **Lynch, R. S.**, Maddox, N., Marcote, B., McLaughlin, M. A., Paragi, Z., Ransom, S. M., Scholz, P., Siemion, A. P. V., Tendulkar, S. P., van Rooy, P., Wharton, R. S., Whitlow, D. 2018, "An extreme magneto-ionic environment associated with the fast radio burst source FRB 121102", *Nature*, 553, 182

- **Lynch, R. S.**, Archibald, R. F., Kaspi, V. M., & Scholz, P. 2015, "Green Bank Telescope and Swift X-Ray Telescope Observations of the Galactic Center Radio Magnetar SGR J1745-2900", *The Astrophysical Journal*, 806, 266

Other publications

- Chawla, P., Kaspi, V. M., Josephy, A., Rajwade, K. M., Lorimer, D. R., Archibald, A. M., DeCesar, M. E., Hessels, J. W. T., Kaplan, D. L., Karako-Argaman, C., Kondratiev, V. I., Levin, L., **Lynch, R. S.**, McLaughlin, M. A., Ransom, S. M., Roberts, M. S. E., Stairs, I. H., Stovall, K., Swiggum, J. K., van Leeuwen, J., 2017, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 884, 140

- Antoniadis, J., Freire, P., Wex, N., Tauris, T., **Lynch, R.**, van Kerkwijk, M., Kramer, M., Bassa, C., Dhillon, V., Driebe, T., Hessels, J., Kaspi, V., Kondratiev, V., Langer, N., Marsh, T., McLaughlin, M., Pennucci, T., Ransom, S., Stairs, I., van Leeuwen, J., Verbiest, J., Whelan, D., 2013, " Massive Pulsar in a Compact Relativistic Binary", *Science*, 340, 448

- **Lynch, R.**, Boyles, J., Ransom, S., Stairs, I., Lorimer, D., McLaughlin, M., Hessels, J., Kaspi, V., Kondratiev, V., Archibald, A., Berndsen, A., Cardoso, R., Cherry, A., Epstein, C., Karako-Argaman, C., McPhee, C., Pennucci, T., Roberts, M., Stovall, K., van Leeuwen, J., 2013, "The Green Bank Telescope 350 MHz Drift-scan Survey II: Data Analysis and the Timing of 10 New Pulsars, Including a Relativistic Binary", *The Astrophysical Journal*, 763, 81

- **Lynch, R.**, Lorimer, D., Ransom, S., & Boyles, J., 2012, 'A Population of Non-recycled Pulsars Originating in Globular Clusters", '*The Astrophysical Journal*, 756, 78

- **Lynch, R.**, Freire, P., Ransom, S., & Jacoby, B., 2012, "The Timing of Nine Globular Cluster Pulsars", *The Astrophysical Journal*, 745, 109

Synergistic Activities

- Project scientist, GBO 0.7–4 GHz Ultra-wideband Receiver

- Project scientist, VEGAS / VEGAS Pulsar Modes

- Senior Personnel, NANOGrav PFC

- Site Coordinator, GBO/NRAO Summer Student Program

- Advisor for six GBO undergraduate summer students

SUMMARY PROPOSAL BUDGET   YEAR   1

					FOR NSF USE ONLY	
ORGANIZATION					PROPOSAL NO.	DURATION (months)
Associated Universities Inc/National Radio Astronomy Observatory						Proposed / Granted
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / PROJECT DIRECTOR					AWARD NO.	
Ryan Lynch						

A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: PI/PD, Co-PI's, Faculty and Other Senior Associates (List each separately with title, A.7. show number in brackets)	NSF Funded Person-months			Funds Requested By proposer	Funds granted by NSF (if different)
	CAL	ACAD	SUMR		
1. **Ryan S Lynch - Associate Scientist**	0.60	0.00	0.00	8,698	
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6. (**0**) OTHERS (LIST INDIVIDUALLY ON BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PAGE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
7. (**1**) TOTAL SENIOR PERSONNEL (1 - 6)	0.60	0.00	0.00	8,698	
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (SHOW NUMBERS IN BRACKETS)					
1. (**0**) POST DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
2. (**8**) OTHER PROFESSIONALS (TECHNICIAN, PROGRAMMER, ETC.)	1.64	0.00	0.00	146,583	
3. (**0**) GRADUATE STUDENTS				0	
4. (**1**) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS				9,600	
5. (**0**) SECRETARIAL - CLERICAL (IF CHARGED DIRECTLY)				0	
6. (**0**) OTHER				0	
TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES (A + B)				164,881	
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (IF CHARGED AS DIRECT COSTS)				54,931	
TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS (A + B + C)				219,812	

D. EQUIPMENT (LIST ITEM AND DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH ITEM EXCEEDING $5,000.)

ADC AD9213 Evaluation Board	$ 12,436
FPGA Alveo Board	13,508
High Performance Computer (Backend)	6,440
Xilinx Frontend VCU118 Board	6,995
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	39,379

E. TRAVEL 1. DOMESTIC (INCL. U.S. POSSESSIONS)	3,394
2. INTERNATIONAL	0

F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS
1. STIPENDS $ 0
2. TRAVEL 0
3. SUBSISTENCE 0
4. OTHER 0

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (**0**) TOTAL PARTICIPANT COSTS	0
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS	
1. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	11,350
2. PUBLICATION COSTS/DOCUMENTATION/DISSEMINATION	0
3. CONSULTANT SERVICES	0
4. COMPUTER SERVICES	0
5. SUBAWARDS	0
6. OTHER	0
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS	11,350
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A THROUGH G)	273,935
I. INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)(SPECIFY RATE AND BASE)	
AUI IDC (Rate: 6.7300, Base: 337056) (Cont. on Comments Page)	
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)	125,185
J. TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)	399,120
K. SMALL BUSINESS FEE	0
L. AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST (J) OR (J MINUS K)	399,120
M. COST SHARING PROPOSED LEVEL $ **0** AGREED LEVEL IF DIFFERENT $	

PI/PD NAME	FOR NSF USE ONLY
Ryan Lynch	INDIRECT COST RATE VERIFICATION
ORG. REP. NAME*	Date Checked / Date Of Rate Sheet / Initials - ORG

1 *ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR REVISED BUDGET

** I- Indirect Costs
GBO ICC (Rate: 43.7000, Base 234555)

			FOR NSF USE ONLY	
			PROPOSAL NO.	DURATION (months)
ORGANIZATION				Proposed | Granted
Associated Universities Inc/National Radio Astronomy Observatory				
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / PROJECT DIRECTOR			AWARD NO.	
Ryan Lynch				

A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: PI/PD, Co-PI's, Faculty and Other Senior Associates (List each separately with title, A.7. show number in brackets)	NSF Funded Person-months			Funds Requested By proposer	Funds granted by NSF (if different)
	CAL	ACAD	SUMR		
1. **Ryan S Lynch - Associate Scientist**	1.00	0.00	0.00	**15,498**	
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6. (**0**) OTHERS (LIST INDIVIDUALLY ON BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PAGE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0**	
7. (**1**) TOTAL SENIOR PERSONNEL (1 - 6)	1.00	0.00	0.00	**15,498**	
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (SHOW NUMBERS IN BRACKETS)					
1. (**0**) POST DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0**	
2. (**9**) OTHER PROFESSIONALS (TECHNICIAN, PROGRAMMER, ETC.)	1.51	0.00	0.00	**134,122**	
3. (**0**) GRADUATE STUDENTS				**0**	
4. (**1**) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS				**9,840**	
5. (**0**) SECRETARIAL - CLERICAL (IF CHARGED DIRECTLY)				**0**	
6. (**0**) OTHER				**0**	
TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES (A + B)				**159,460**	
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (IF CHARGED AS DIRECT COSTS)				**52,135**	
TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS (A + B + C)				**211,595**	
D. EQUIPMENT (LIST ITEM AND DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH ITEM EXCEEDING $5,000.)					
TOTAL EQUIPMENT				**0**	
E. TRAVEL 1. DOMESTIC (INCL. U.S. POSSESSIONS)				**5,244**	
2. INTERNATIONAL				**0**	
F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS					
1. STIPENDS $ **0**					
2. TRAVEL **8,000**					
3. SUBSISTENCE **12,000**					
4. OTHER **500**					
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (**20**) TOTAL PARTICIPANT COSTS				**20,500**	
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS					
1. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES				**0**	
2. PUBLICATION COSTS/DOCUMENTATION/DISSEMINATION				**0**	
3. CONSULTANT SERVICES				**0**	
4. COMPUTER SERVICES				**0**	
5. SUBAWARDS				**0**	
6. OTHER				**0**	
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS				**0**	
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A THROUGH G)				**237,339**	
I. INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)(SPECIFY RATE AND BASE)					
AUI IDC (Rate: 6.7300, Base: 311598) (Cont. on Comments Page)					
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)				**115,730**	
J. TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)				**353,069**	
K. SMALL BUSINESS FEE				**0**	
L. AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST (J) OR (J MINUS K)				**353,069**	
M. COST SHARING PROPOSED LEVEL $ **0** AGREED LEVEL IF DIFFERENT $					

PI/PD NAME	FOR NSF USE ONLY		
Ryan Lynch	INDIRECT COST RATE VERIFICATION		
ORG. REP. NAME*	Date Checked	Date Of Rate Sheet	Initials - ORG

SUMMARY PROPOSAL BUDGET COMMENTS - Year 2

** I- Indirect Costs
GBO ICC (Rate: 43.7000, Base 216839)

SUMMARY
PROPOSAL BUDGET

Cumulative

		FOR NSF USE ONLY	
ORGANIZATION **Associated Universities Inc/National Radio Astronomy Observatory**		PROPOSAL NO.	DURATION (months)
			Proposed / Granted
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / PROJECT DIRECTOR **Ryan Lynch**		AWARD NO.	

A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: PI/PD, Co-PI's, Faculty and Other Senior Associates (List each separately with title, A.7. show number in brackets)	NSF Funded Person-months			Funds Requested By proposer	Funds granted by NSF (if different)
	CAL	ACAD	SUMR		
1. **Ryan S Lynch - Associate Scientist**	1.60	0.00	0.00	24,196	
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6. ( ) OTHERS (LIST INDIVIDUALLY ON BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PAGE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
7. (**1**) TOTAL SENIOR PERSONNEL (1 - 6)	1.60	0.00	0.00	24,196	
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (SHOW NUMBERS IN BRACKETS)					
1. (**0**) POST DOCTORAL SCHOLARS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
2. (**17**) OTHER PROFESSIONALS (TECHNICIAN, PROGRAMMER, ETC.)	3.15	0.00	0.00	280,705	
3. (**0**) GRADUATE STUDENTS				0	
4. (**2**) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS				19,440	
5. (**0**) SECRETARIAL - CLERICAL (IF CHARGED DIRECTLY)				0	
6. (**0**) OTHER				0	
TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES (A + B)				324,341	
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (IF CHARGED AS DIRECT COSTS)				107,066	
TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS (A + B + C)				431,407	
D. EQUIPMENT (LIST ITEM AND DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH ITEM EXCEEDING $5,000.) $ 39,379					
TOTAL EQUIPMENT				39,379	
E. TRAVEL 1. DOMESTIC (INCL. U.S. POSSESSIONS)				8,638	
2. INTERNATIONAL				0	
F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS					
1. STIPENDS $ 0					
2. TRAVEL 8,000					
3. SUBSISTENCE 12,000					
4. OTHER 500					
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (**20**) TOTAL PARTICIPANT COSTS				20,500	
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS					
1. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES				11,350	
2. PUBLICATION COSTS/DOCUMENTATION/DISSEMINATION				0	
3. CONSULTANT SERVICES				0	
4. COMPUTER SERVICES				0	
5. SUBAWARDS				0	
6. OTHER				0	
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS				11,350	
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A THROUGH G)				511,274	
I. INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)(SPECIFY RATE AND BASE)					
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)				240,915	
J. TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)				752,189	
K. SMALL BUSINESS FEE				0	
L. AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST (J) OR (J MINUS K)				752,189	
M. COST SHARING PROPOSED LEVEL $ **0** AGREED LEVEL IF DIFFERENT $					

PI/PD NAME **Ryan Lynch**	FOR NSF USE ONLY		
	INDIRECT COST RATE VERIFICATION		
ORG. REP. NAME*	Date Checked	Date Of Rate Sheet	Initials - ORG

C ***ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR REVISED BUDGET**

Associated Universities, Inc., Green Bank Observatory Budget Justification

A. **Senior Personnel ($24,196):** Green Bank Observatory (GBO) will provide personnel for this project based on AUI/GBO staff salary scales. Calendar months requested per year are based on a two-year period of performance.

- Ryan Lynch, Principal Investigator (PI), GBO, requests support of 100 hours in year 1 and 173 hours in year 2. Lynch will be responsible for scientific leadership of the project.

B. **Other Personnel ($280,705):** The following table provides a listing by role of GBO staff allocations budgeted to the project.

Job Title/Role	No. of Positions	Total FTE % Allocation by Role by Year	
		Year 1	Year 2
Electronics Engineer Sr.	1	0.10	0.10
Project Manager	1	0.07	0.07
Electronics Engineers	3	1.25	1.15
Education Specialist	1	0.00	0.08
Machine Shop Technicians	2	0.10	0.06
Technician	1	0.12	0.05

All GBO personnel budget calculations include 3% per year salary range adjustments in accordance with AUI/GBO general practice. An AUI 20% leave rate is included in labor.

Undergraduate Student: In years 1 (FY2019) and 2 (FY2020), funding is requested for one UC-Berkeley undergraduate student to participate for 12 summer weeks per year. The student will work on the RFI excision project in collaboration with at least one other Green Bank-based summer student from AUI/GBO's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The Berkeley student support is budgeted at $20/hour for year 1 and $20.50/hour for year 2. The Berkeley student's tasks will be supervised by GBO engineers with mentoring by Dr. Dan Werthimer. Inclusion of the UC-Berkeley student will facilitate the undergraduate student collaboration between GBO and UC-Berkeley. Dr. Werthimer does not request compensation for his mentorship.

C. **Fringe Benefits:** 36% Benefit rate applied to applicable labor

D. **Equipment:** Planned equipment purchases greater than $5,000 per item by year are listed. Estimates are based on vendor quotations.

Item	Year	QTY	Total Cost
ADC AD9213 Evaluation Board	2019	2	$12,436
Xilinx VCU118 Board	2019	1	$6,995
FPGA Alveo Board	2019	1	$13,508
High Performance Computer (Backend)	2019	1	$6,440

E. Travel: Budgeted travel is based on AUI/GBO approved travel rates for one-week, domestic trips with pre-established annual escalations.

In 2019, travel for a one-week collaboration visit for a GBO engineer to UC-Berkeley is budgeted at $1,697. One round-trip domestic trip is budgeted for a Berkeley undergraduate summer student to visit GBO at $1,697.

In 2020, travel for a one-week collaboration visit for a GBO engineer to UC-Berkeley is budgeted at $1,748. Two round-trip domestic trips are budgeted for a Berkeley undergraduate summer student to visit GBO and also to attend a professional meeting at - 2 x $1,748 ($3,496).

F. Participant Support: In year 2 (FY2020), GBO will host a summer student camp for 20 students who will participate in the RFI excision project. Travel support of $8,000 is requested for the students as well as $12,000 for subsistence, and $500 for materials.

G. Other Direct Costs
G.1. Materials and Supplies (total M&S - $11,350): Materials and supplies are based on catalog pricing, vendor quotations, and past performance from previous digital frontend projects.

In addition to the A-to-D converter (ADC) evaluation board and Xilinx VCU118 listed under "D. Equipment", materials costs for the ADCs includes $3,500 for an ADC evaluation data capture card. Three printed circuit boards (PCB) will be built at GBO to connect the ADC evaluation boards to the VCU118. Costs for the PCBs are estimated at $275 each x 3 unpopulated boards plus miscellaneous components at $375 total.

The frontend chassis will include cables, two transceivers, a 10GbE media converter, and connectors for a total of $2,562 in parts. Additionally, a Valon synthesizer will be needed at $599 plus power supplies, cooling fans, and connectors and wiring for $889 in parts.

A limited backend will be required for the prototype proof-of-concept. The FPGA and HPC are budgeted under "D. Equipment". An additional $2,600 is budgeted for four transceivers plus a GPU RTX 2080 Ti.

I. Indirect Costs:
43.7% GBO Internal Common Cost Recovery rate (ICC) is budgeted and applied to qualifying direct costs. The GBO ICC rate is approved on an annual basis.

6.73%. AUI Indirect Cost (IDC) rate is budgeted and applied to total qualifying direct costs plus GBO ICC. The indirect cost rate is approved annually by the NSF.

Current and Pending Support

(See PAPPG Section II.C.2.h for guidance on information to include on this form.)

The following information should be provided for each investigator and other senior personnel. Failure to provide this information may delay consideration of this proposal.

| Investigator: Ryan Lynch | Other agencies (including NSF) to which this proposal has been/will be submitted. |

Support:　　☐ Current　　☒ Pending　　☐ Submission Planned in Near Future　　☐ *Transfer of Support

Project/Proposal Title:　　NRAO/GBO Research Experience for Undergraduates

Source of Support:　　　NSF
Total Award Amount: $　　　893,688 Total Award Period Covered:　　05/01/19 - 05/01/24
Location of Project:　　　National Radio Astronomy Observatory/Green Bank Observatory
Person-Months Per Year Committed to the Project.　　Cal:3.00　　Acad: 0.00　　Sumr: 0.00

Support:　　☐ Current　　☒ Pending　　☐ Submission Planned in Near Future　　☐ *Transfer of Support

Project/Proposal Title:　　This proposal: New Wide-band Digital Technology and
Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy

Source of Support:　　　NSF
Total Award Amount: $　　　752,189 Total Award Period Covered:　　07/01/19 - 07/01/21
Location of Project:　　　Green Bank Observatory
Person-Months Per Year Committed to the Project.　　Cal:0.80　　Acad: 0.00　　Sumr: 0.00

Support:　　☐ Current　　☐ Pending　　☐ Submission Planned in Near Future　　☐ *Transfer of Support

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:
Total Award Amount: $　　　　　　Total Award Period Covered:
Location of Project:
Person-Months Per Year Committed to the Project.　　Cal:　　Acad:　　Sumr:

Support:　　☐ Current　　☐ Pending　　☐ Submission Planned in Near Future　　☐ *Transfer of Support

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:
Total Award Amount: $　　　　　　Total Award Period Covered:
Location of Project:
Person-Months Per Year Committed to the Project.　　Cal:　　Acad:　　Sumr:

Support:　　☐ Current　　☐ Pending　　☐ Submission Planned in Near Future　　☐ *Transfer of Support

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:
Total Award Amount: $　　　　　　Total Award Period Covered:
Location of Project:
Person-Months Per Year Committed to the Project.　　Cal:　　Acad:　　Summ:

*If this project has previously been funded by another agency, please list and furnish information for immediately preceding funding period.

　　　　USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY

Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources

1 Green Bank Observatory

The Green Bank Observatory (GBO) is a Federally-Funded Research and Development Center whose mission is to enable forefront research into the radio universe by providing world-leading telescopes, instrumentation and expertise, training to the next generation of scientists and engineers, and by promoting astronomy to foster a more scientifically literate society.

GBO operates the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT), the world's largest fully steerable telescope. The GBT provides nearly continuous frequency coverage from 0.3–116 GHz and a diverse suite of instruments, including two CASPER-based digital spectrometers with spectral line and pulsar observing modes. GBO also operates a number of additional research-class telescopes, including a 20-m telescope equipped with a ROACH1-based digital back-end that has been used to prototype real-time radio frequency interference (RFI) techniques.

1.1 Digital Electronics Group

GBO digital engineers have over 40 years combined experience designing, building, testing, deploying, and operating world-leading instruments for radio astronomy. This includes expertise in the design of low-power and low-noise electronics and the Xilinx Vivado tool flow for complex firmware design. Our group has also become active in designing and implementing real-time RFI excision algorithms in firmware, and have recently completed the first real-time CASPER-based system for mitigating impulsive RFI such as airport RADAR.

An undergraduate funded by this project will be co-mentored by the digital electronics group and the PI.

1.2 Radio Quiet Zones

GBO is located in the heart of the 13,000 square-mile National Radio Quiet Zone (NRQZ) and the West Virginia Radio Astronomy Zone (WVRAZ). The NRQZ was established by the Federal Communications Commission and the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee in 1958 to minimize possible harmful interference to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV (now GBO) and the radio receiving facilities for the United States Navy in Sugar Grove, WV. The NRQZ provides regulatory protection by requiring coordination between GBO and all new or modified, permanent, fixed, licensed transmitters inside the NRQZ, as specified for federal transmitters by NTIA manual section 8.3.9 and for non-federal transmitters by the FCC in 47 CFR section 1.924. The NRQZ office at GBO ensures that the power flux density of transmitters within the zone does not exceed certain frequency-dependent thresholds, and works with with stakeholders to mitigate any non-compliant devices. Mitigation methods include the use of directional antennas, locating transmitters to areas that provide terrain shielding, or selecting a different frequency where the transmitter power is within limits.

The WVRAZ provides stricter protection within a more limited geographic area. Within two miles of GBO all electrical devices that interfere with the operation of GBO are prohibited. This includes the use of wireless internet, Bluetooth, and broadband transmitters such as microwave ovens, to name but a few. Between a two-mile and ten-mile radius from GBO, strict power dissipation requirements are in place.

The NRQZ and WVRAZ are a unique and invaluable resource for GBO, but cannot protect against all forms of interference. Notable exceptions are the growing use of car RADAR collision avoidance systems, aircraft, and communications satellites. This necessitates observing systems that produce high-quality data in the presence of RFI, such as the one we will build as part of this project.

1.3 Anechoic Test Chamber

A shielded anechoic chamber measuring $15' \times 15' \times 37'$ is located in the Jansky Laboratory at GBO. The chamber serves as both a far-field antenna test range and evaluation suite for new equipment to ensure compliance with limits on self-generated RFI. The GBO Interference Protection Group evaluates all equipment

and devises mitigation techniques as needed. The anechoic chamber will be used to evaluate all hardware developed as part of this project, including all equipment that will be installed near the GBT radio receivers.

1.4 Machine Shop

GBO operates a full machine shop that can build custom fabricated parts as needed. We do not anticipate heavy use of the machine shop for this project, but could rely on it to build RFI-shielded casings for the electronics that will be placed in the GBT receiver and equipment rooms.

1.5 Education and Public Outreach

GBO has a nationally recognized, fully-developed education and public outreach program. The Green Bank Science Center hosts over 50,000 visitors each year. Over 3,000 students annually take part in various on-site educational programs. GBO has a variety of long- and short-term housing, including a dormitory that sleeps up to 60 students (which will be used for the two-week internship) and on-site housing for summer research students (which will be used for the undergraduate student supported by this proposal). GBO is a member of the NSF-INCLUDES Alliance First 2 Network.

1.6 Project Management

GBO has established budget management, project management, and systems engineering processes developed in adherence with the NSF's requirements as per its Large Facilities Manual (NSF 17-066, March 2017). The GBO team includes an experienced and credentialed program management and systems engineering professional who will coordinate, track, and report on activities from a project and programmatic view. Scope, schedule, costs, and risks will be managed using GBO standard operating procedures.

2 The University of California, Berkeley

GBO staff will work in collaboration with UCB's Collaboration for Astronomy Signal Processing and Electronics (CASPER). The primary goal of CASPER is to streamline and simplify the design flow of radio astronomy instrumentation by promoting design reuse through the development of platform-independent, open-source hardware and software. CASPER's aim is to couple the real-time streaming performance of application-specific hardware with the design simplicity of general-purpose software. By providing parameterized, platform-independent "gateware" libraries that run on reconfigurable, modular hardware building blocks, we abstract away low-level implementation details and allow astronomers to rapidly design and deploy new instruments.

Dan Werthimer is the director of the UCB SETI program and CASPER. Werthimer is also associate director of the Berkeley Wireless Research Center. Werthimer will provide local mentoring to a UCB undergraduate student.

Jack Hickish is a staff researcher in UCB's Radio Astronomy Lab. Hickish will develop CASPER blocks for interfacing with peripherals through 100-GbE and PCIe.

Both Werthimer and Hickish will act as unfunded collaborators and technical advisers to the GBO digital engineering team.

Data Management Plan

1 Types of Data

This project will generate the following types of data:

- Engineering drawings and circuit diagrams for custom printed circuit boards.

- Field programmable gate array (FPGA) firmware blocks and compiled BIT files.

- Monitor and control (M&C) software and implementations of radio frequency interference (RFI) excision algorithms.

- Laboratory- and telescope-generated high-level test data (e.g. digitized raw voltages and detected spectra).

- A database of common sources of RFI and their characteristics.

- Technical documents, memos, and publications.

- Educational curricular materials.

- Educational evaluation data.

2 Data Formats and Standards

We will use common data formats wherever possible to facilitate broad dissemination and use of our work. This will include:

- Engineering mechanical drawings and block diagrams created with AutoCAD and/or Autodesk Inventor. Printable circuit board layouts will generate standard Gerber files that are used by manufacturing companies. We will use the Eagle printable circuit board diagram layout program to draw schematics and design boards.

- FPGA designs will generate BIT files and BOF files that are common in CASPER.

- C++ and Python for M&C software; Python, C++, CUDA, and Verilog HDL and Simulink for RFI excision algorithms.

- High-level test data will primarily be in the FITS format. SDFITS is an implementation for spectral line data supported by GBO; PSRFITS is an implementation for pulsar data supported by numerous third-party software packages. Voltage data will in the GUPPI RAW format, which is used for other CASPER-based back-ends and supported by numerous third-party software packages.

- SQL will be used for the RFI database.

- Documents, including educational materials, will be written in portable formats such as PDF.

- Educational evaluation data will be stored using spreadsheets.

3 Usage and Distribution Policies

A public-facing project web page will be hosted by GBO for communicating results of our work to a scientific, technical, and general audience. It will be updated with status reports upon the completion of key milestones, and will include links to publicly-available data products. An internal wiki page will be hosted by GBO for recording meeting minutes, internal project memos, and preliminary data products.

- Engineering mechanical drawings and circuit board layouts will be placed on GBO GitHub repositories.

- We will distribute all resources that enable the integration of new hardware into the CASPER tool-flow through the official CASPER GitHub repository

- Source code and firmware for RFI excision algorithms will be placed on GBO GitHub repositories.

- Test data may be many tens to hundreds of gigabytes in size, and will be hosted on spinning-disk at GBO. Data generated during initial testing and debugging will be retained for use by the project team. Final validation and verification data will be made publicly available. High-level descriptions and meta-data of final validation and verification data will be published on the public project web page. Final validation and verification data sets will be made available via FTP.

- The RFI database will be publicly accessible via a GBO-hosted web page. Community contributions will be welcome with editing privileges granted on a case-by-case basis via coordination with the PI and the GBO computing division.

- Final commissioning reports, technical publications, and curricular material will be made freely available via the public project web page.

- Since evaluation data will not be identified with particular individuals, institutional review board approval is not required and the pre- and post-data will be available upon request by GBO.

4 Data Archiving

GBO will curate and archive data. Documentation, firmware blocks and BIT files, test data, public databases, and public and internal web pages will be stored locally on spinning disks that undergo regular back-up as part of normal GBO computing division activities. Local revision control repositories will be used to track changes in firmware and software.

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2 November 2018

TO: NSF ATI Proposal Reviewers

RE: New Wide-band Digital Technology and Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy
PI: Dr. Ryan Lynch

Dear ATI Reviewers,

If the proposal submitted by Dr. Ryan Lynch, entitled "New Wide-band Digital Technology and Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy" is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources sections of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Dan Werthimer

Marilyn and Watson Alberts Chair
Director, Berkeley Center for Astronomy Signal Processing and Electronics Research
Principal Investigator, SETI@home and Breakthrough Listen
Associate Director, Berkeley Wireless Research Center

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12 November 2018

TO: NSF ATI Proposal Reviewers

RE: New Wide-band Digital Technology and Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy
   PI: Dr. Ryan Lynch

Dear ATI Reviewers,

If the proposal submitted by Dr. Ryan Lynch, entitled "New Wide-band Digital Technology and Interference Excision for Radio Astronomy", is selected for funding by the NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources sections of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Hickish

Staff Researcher, Radio Astronomy Laboratory