

Tianlai Workshop

# The Tianlai 21cm intensity mapping experiment



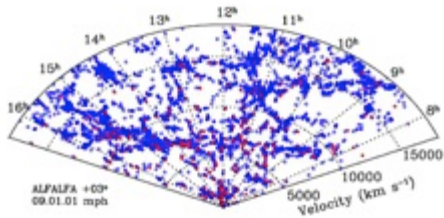
Xuelel Chen

National Astronomical Observatories,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

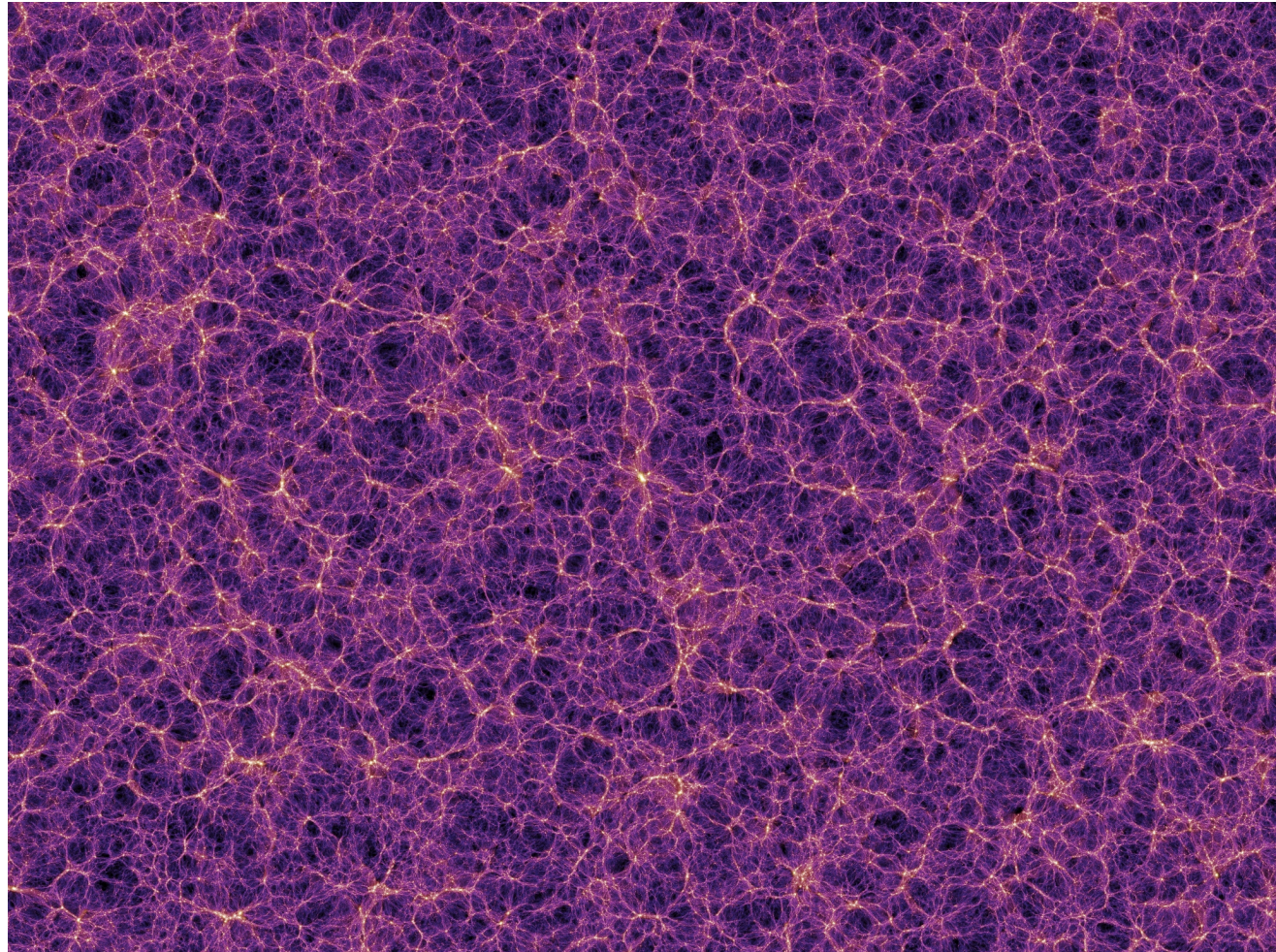
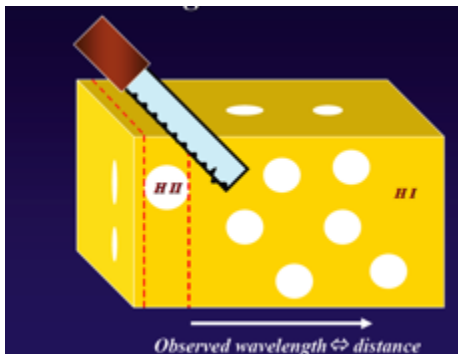
Fermilab, 2016.09.26

# Probe the Large Scale Structure with 21cm

HI galaxy survey

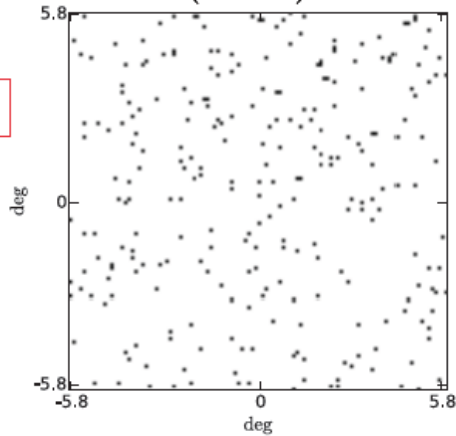


21cm tomography

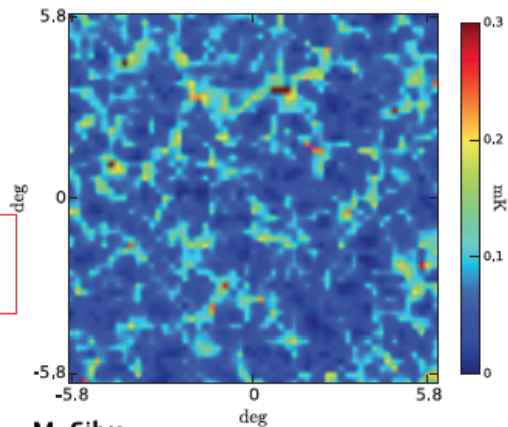


# Intensity Mapping

$z \sim 0.6$ , 1 MHz slice  
(SKA 1)



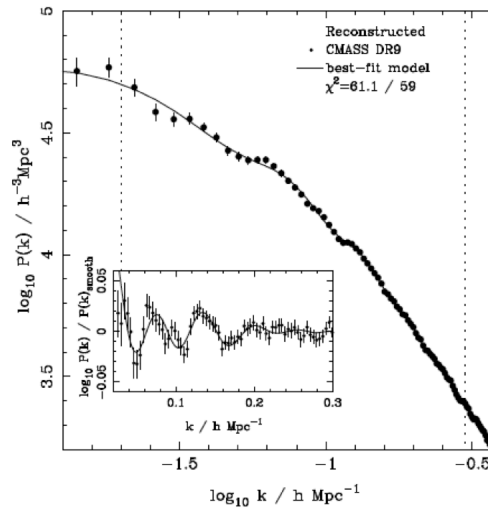
Galaxies



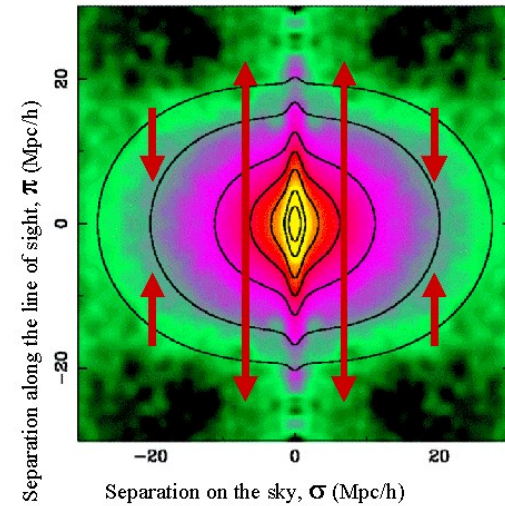
Maps of intensity

M. Silva

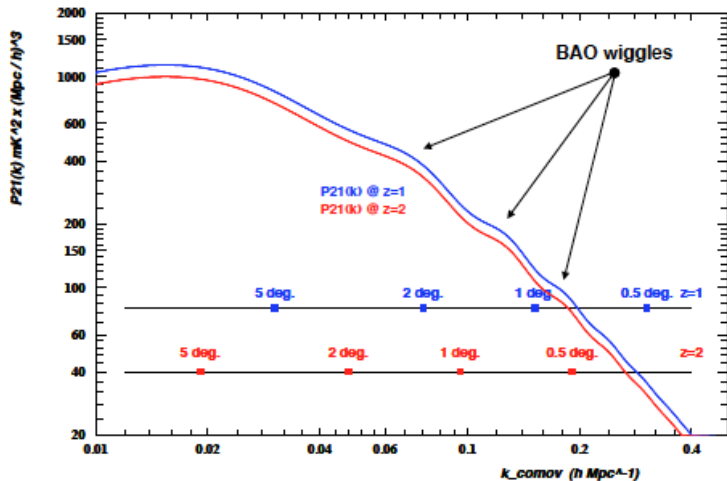
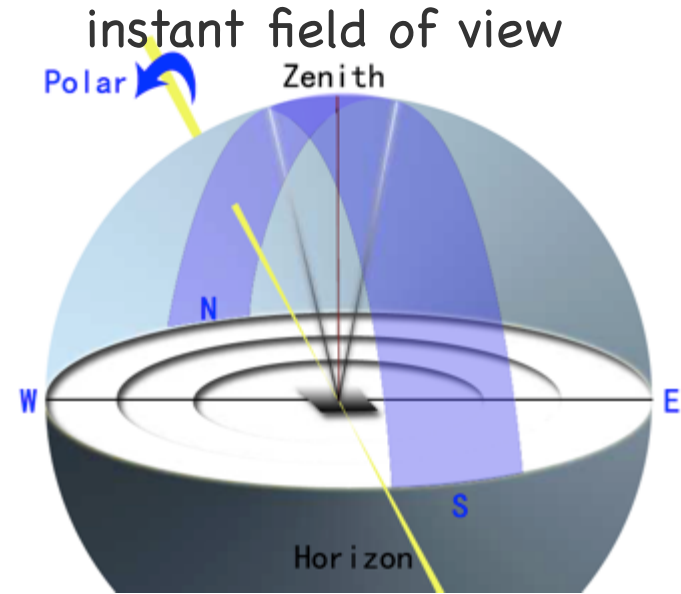
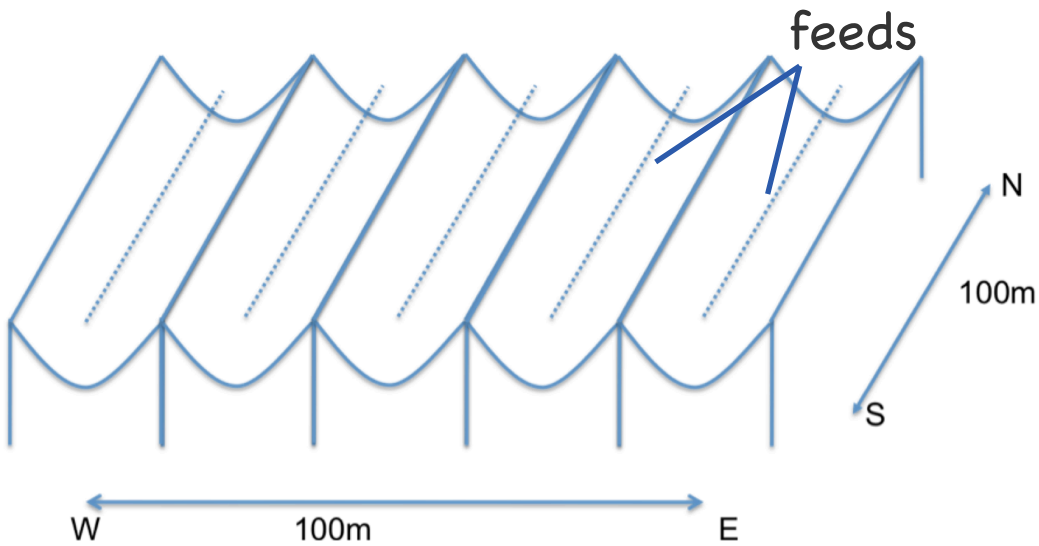
## Baryon Acoustic Oscillation (BAO)



## Redshift Space Distortion (RSD)



# Cylinder for Intensity Mapping



Ansari et al., 1108.1474

# Brief History

Drift Scan Cylinders (Bandura, Peterson & Pen 2006)

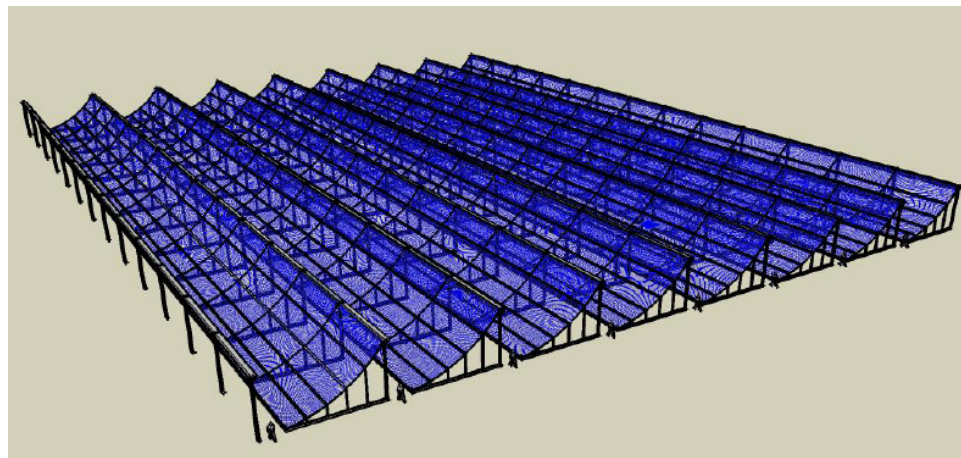
Intensity Mapping (Chang et al. 2008, Ansari et al. 2008, Seo et al. 2009)

Fermilab studies (Stebbins, McGinnis, Marriner, ...)

African desert site



Figure 10. Moroccan Site Map



# Pittsburgh Cylinder



# Tianlai's Origin

Jeff Peterson & XC conversation in 2005

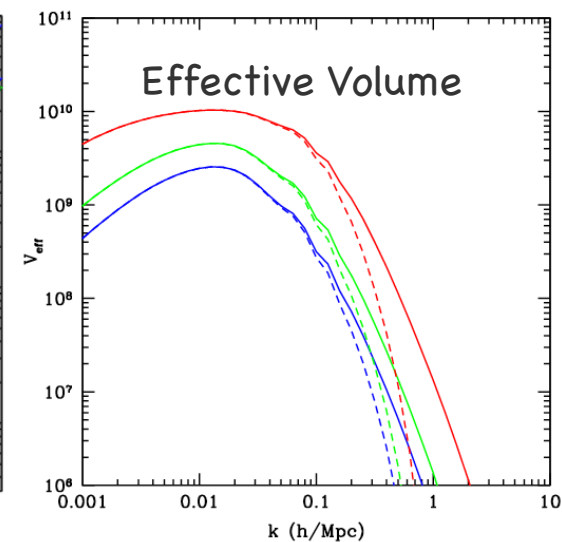
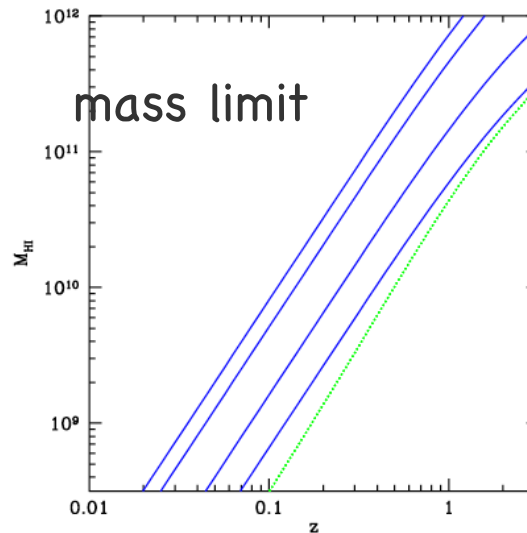
FAST study (2007)

$$\theta \sim \frac{21(1+z) \text{ cm}}{30000 \text{ cm}} \sim 3(1+z) \text{ arcmin}$$

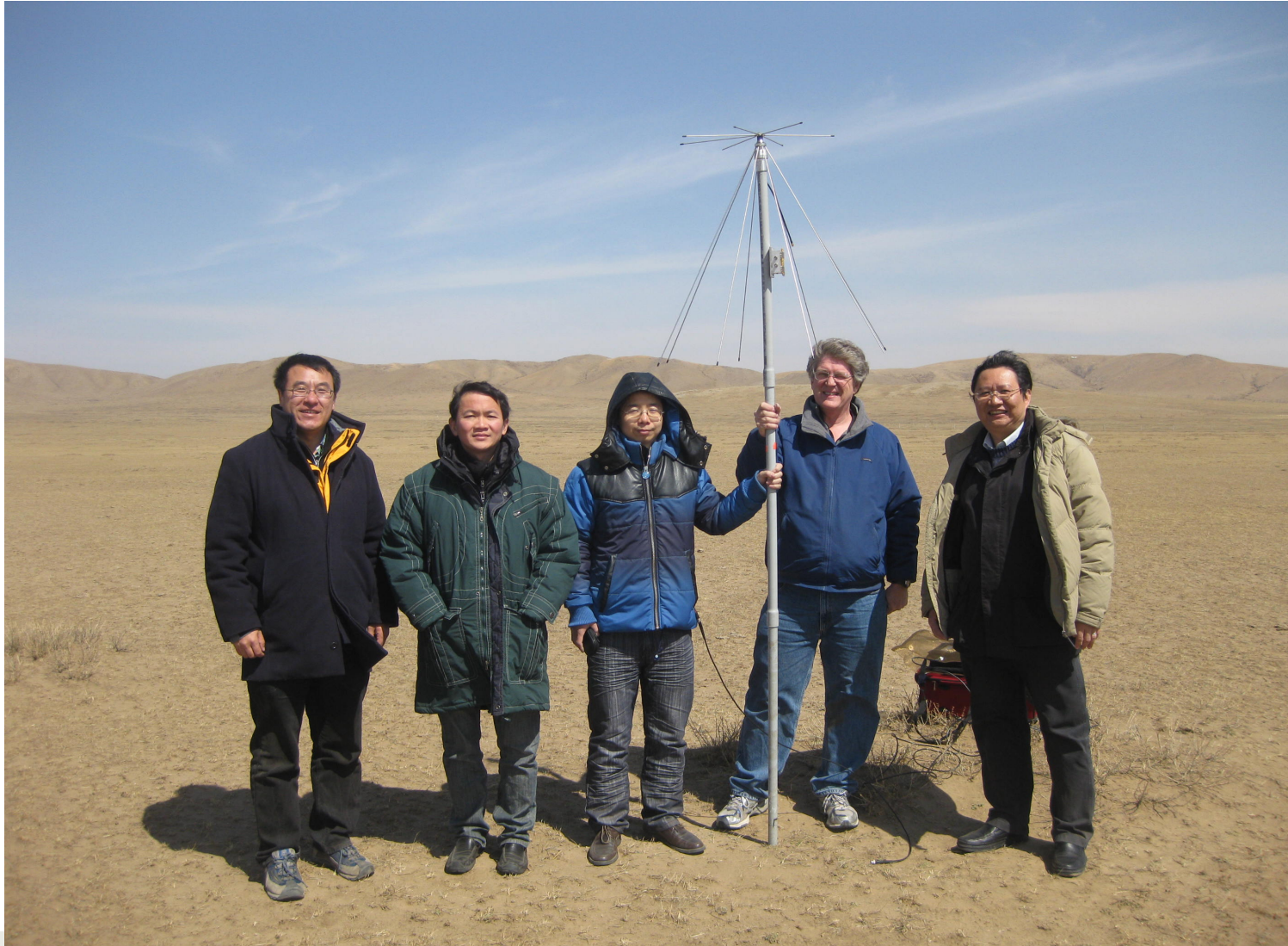
Talking with Ue-Li Pen in  
Japan in 2009

Join collaboration and start  
applying fund in 2010

Project start in 2012



# April 2010, visit of Inner Mongolia site





# The Tianlai (Heavenly Sound) Project

NAOC, Xinjiang Observatory, CETC-54, Institute of Automation,  
Hangzhou Dianzi U.

US: CMU(Peterson), U. Wisconsin (Timbie), Fermilab(Stebbins)

LAL/IN2P3 (R. Ansari, J.E Campagne, M. Moniez), Obs. Paris (J.  
-M. Martin, P. Colom) , IRFU-CEA(C. Magneville, C. Yeche),  
CITA(Pen), KASI (Song), ASIAA(Chang)

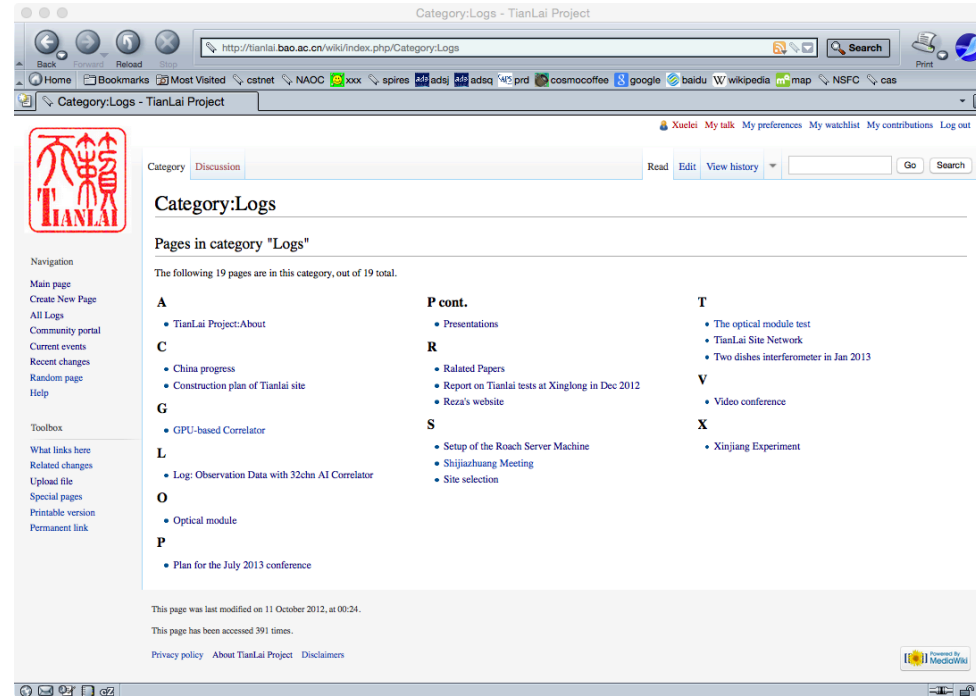
Monthly Telesconf and annual  
Collaboration Meeting since 2010,  
possibly a US meeting next year



The concept of  
“tianlai” -- the  
heavenly sound was  
coined by ancient  
Chinese philosopher  
Zhuang-Zi (Chuang-  
Tzu, 369BC-286BC)

# Activities

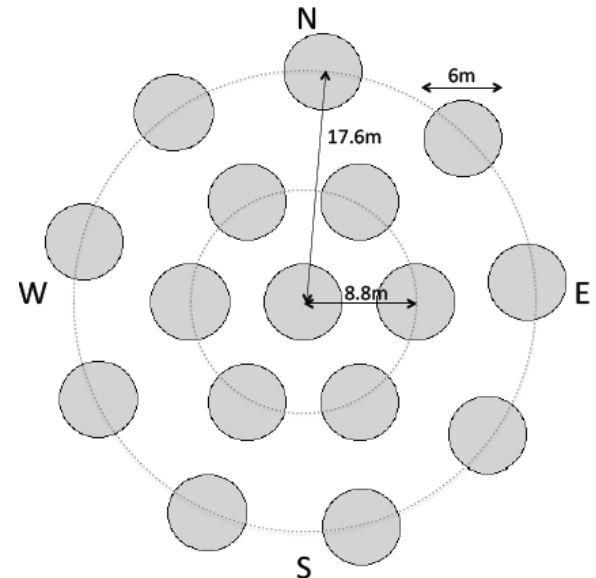
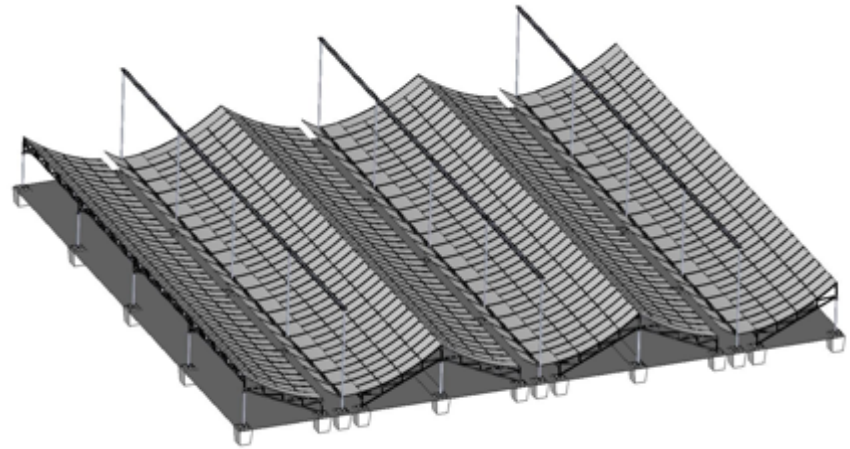
- Yearly Meeting since 2010
- Monthly Teleconference (14:00 UTC second Thursday each week)
- Ad hoc Teleconference on specific issues
- Project Wiki:  
<http://tianlai.bao.ac.cn/wiki>  
(members can apply for account)



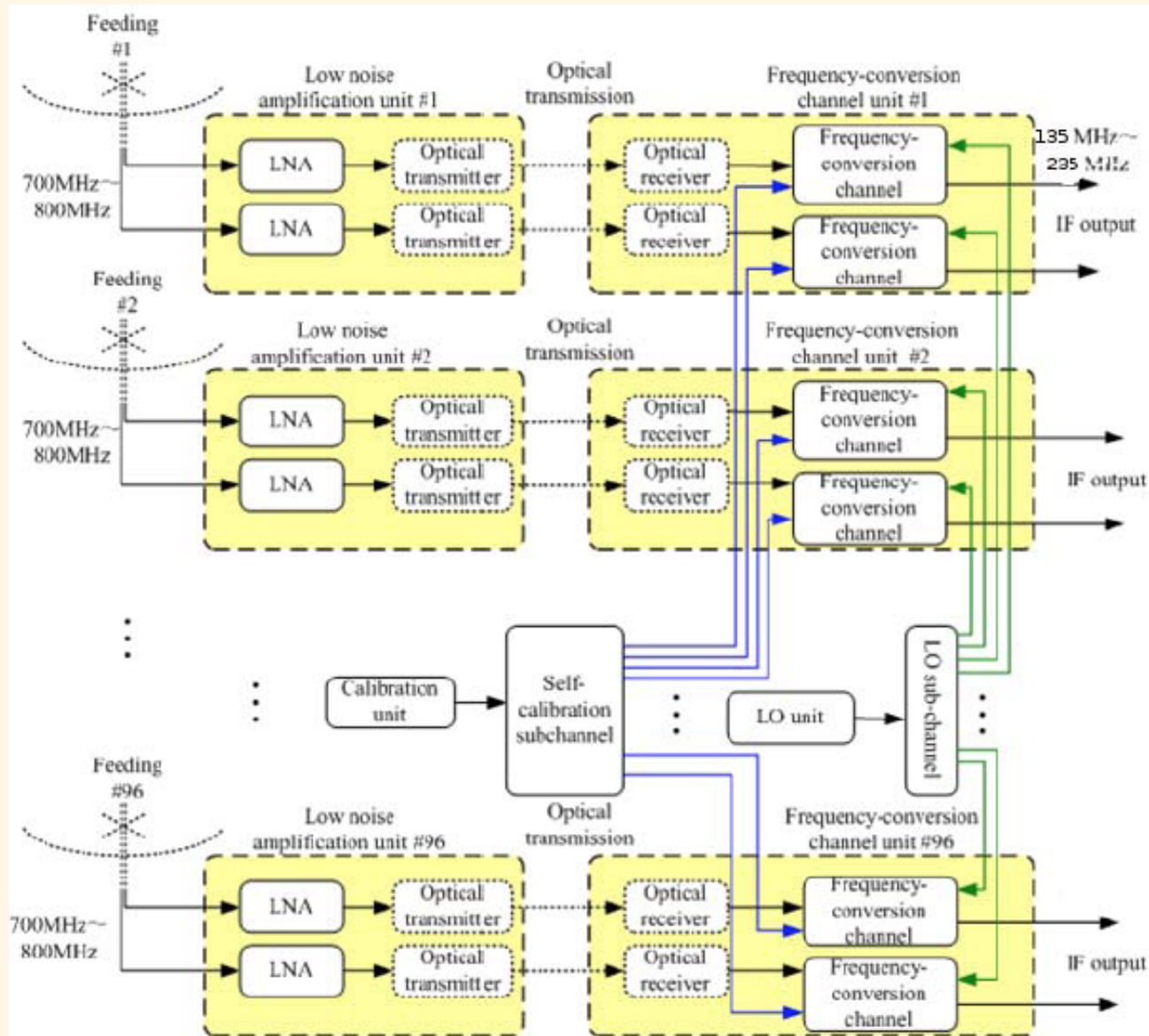
The wiki would be renewed and provide update on status of array, data storage, code, etc.

# Tianlai pathfinder experiment

- A small pathfinder experiment to check the basic principles and designs, find out potential problem
- 3x15x40m cylinders, 96 dual polarization receiver units
- 16 x 6m dishes
- observe 700-800MHz, can be tuned in 600-1420MHz
- If successful: expand to full scale 120mx120m, 2500 units

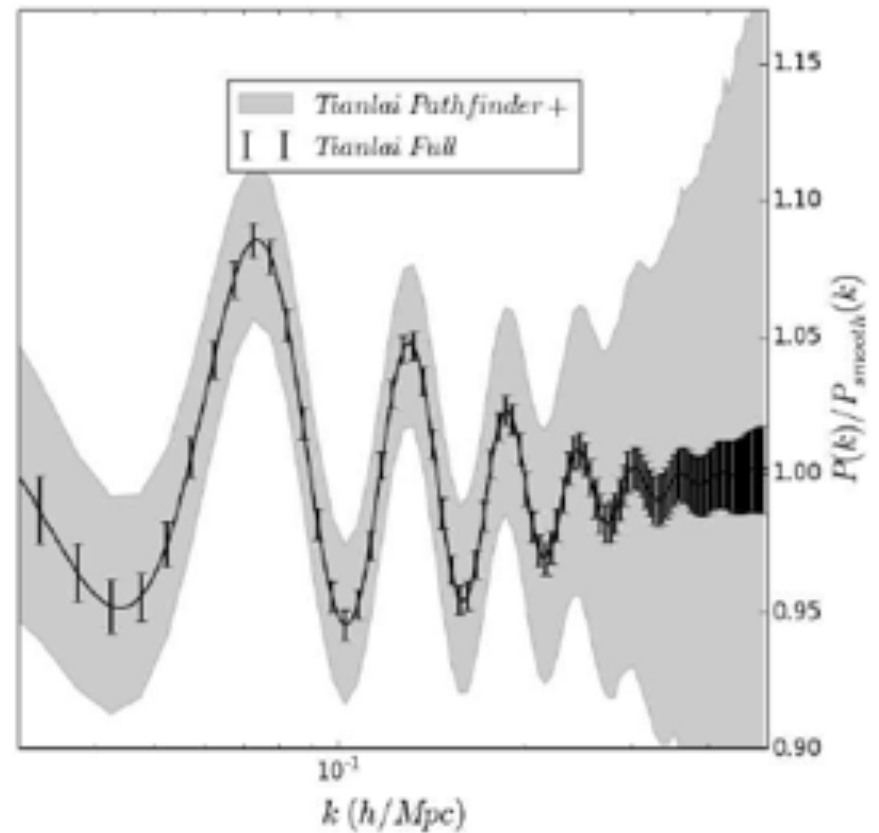
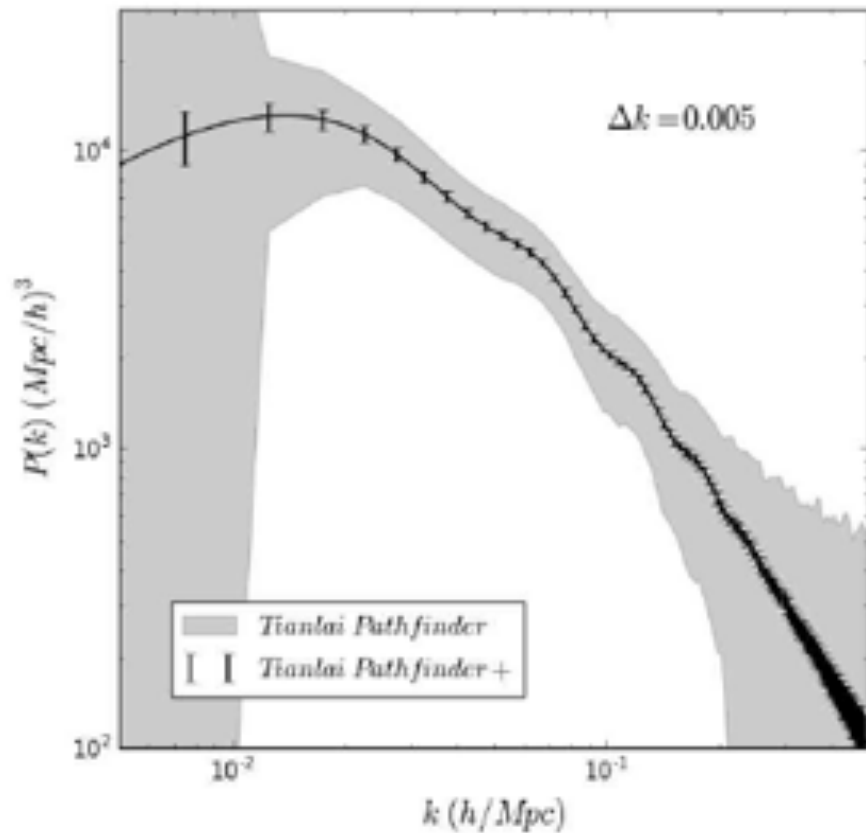


# Electronic system

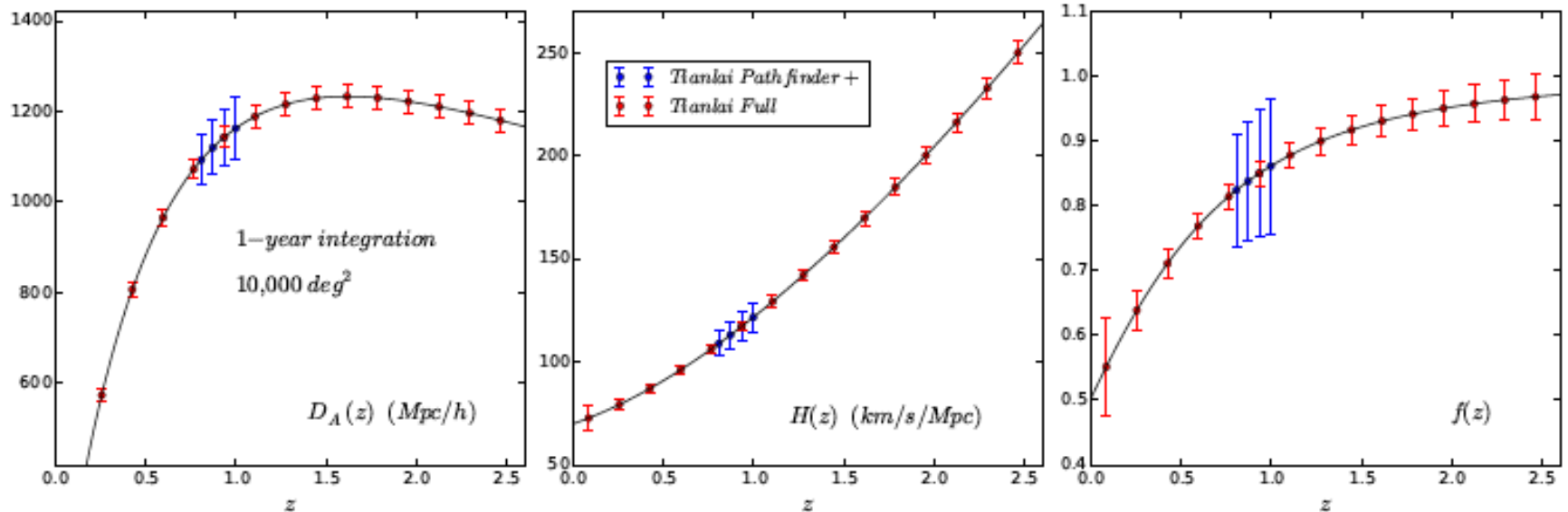


# Performance Forecast

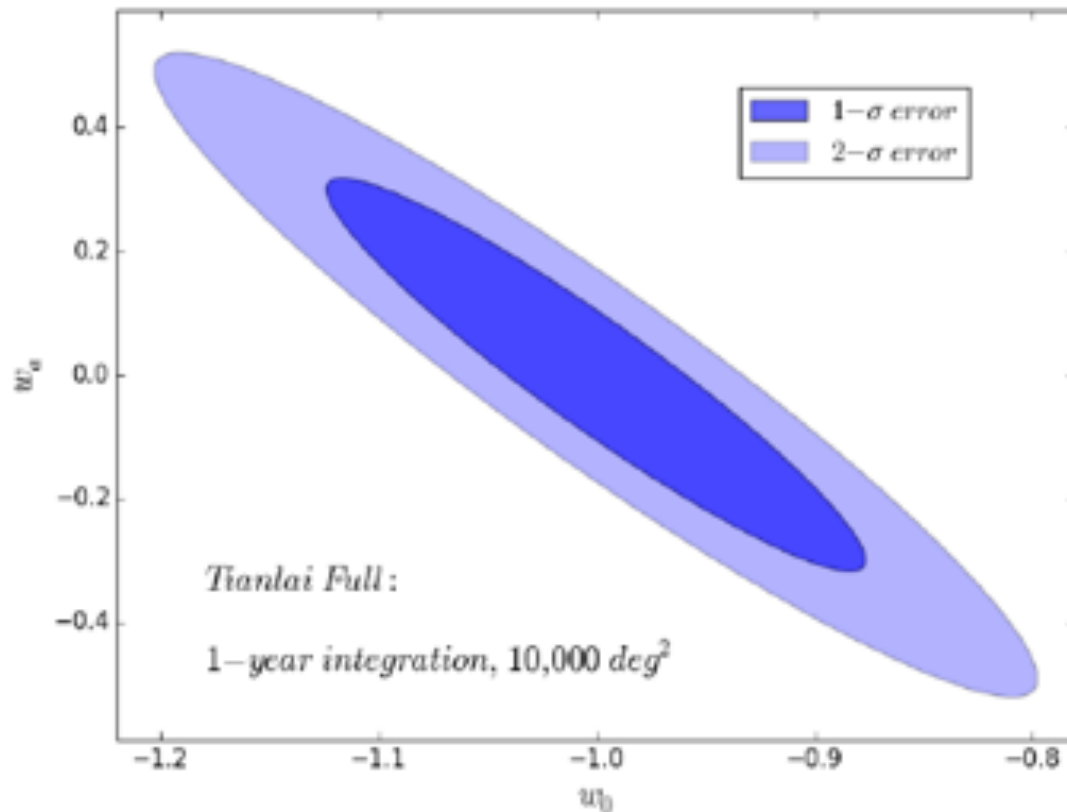
Xu, Wang & Chen, ApJ 2014,



# Measurement of Distance and growth factor

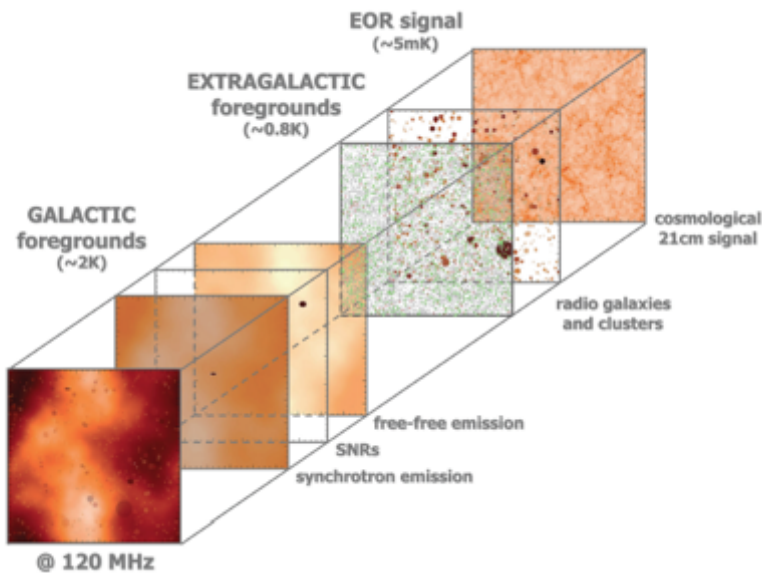


# Dark Energy equation of state



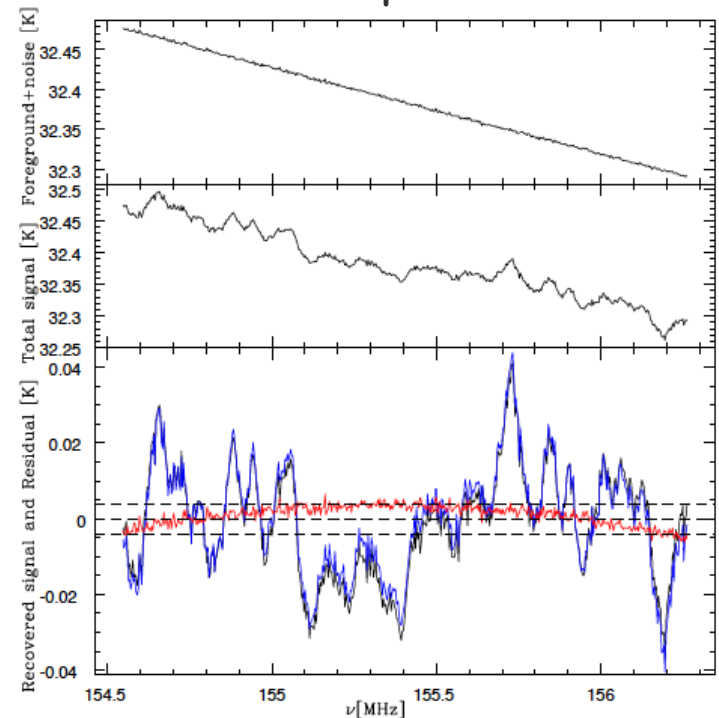
# The challenge: strong foreground

raw signal to noise ration (SNR)  $\sim 10^{-5}$



V. Jelic et al. (2010)

removable: foreground smooth in spectrum

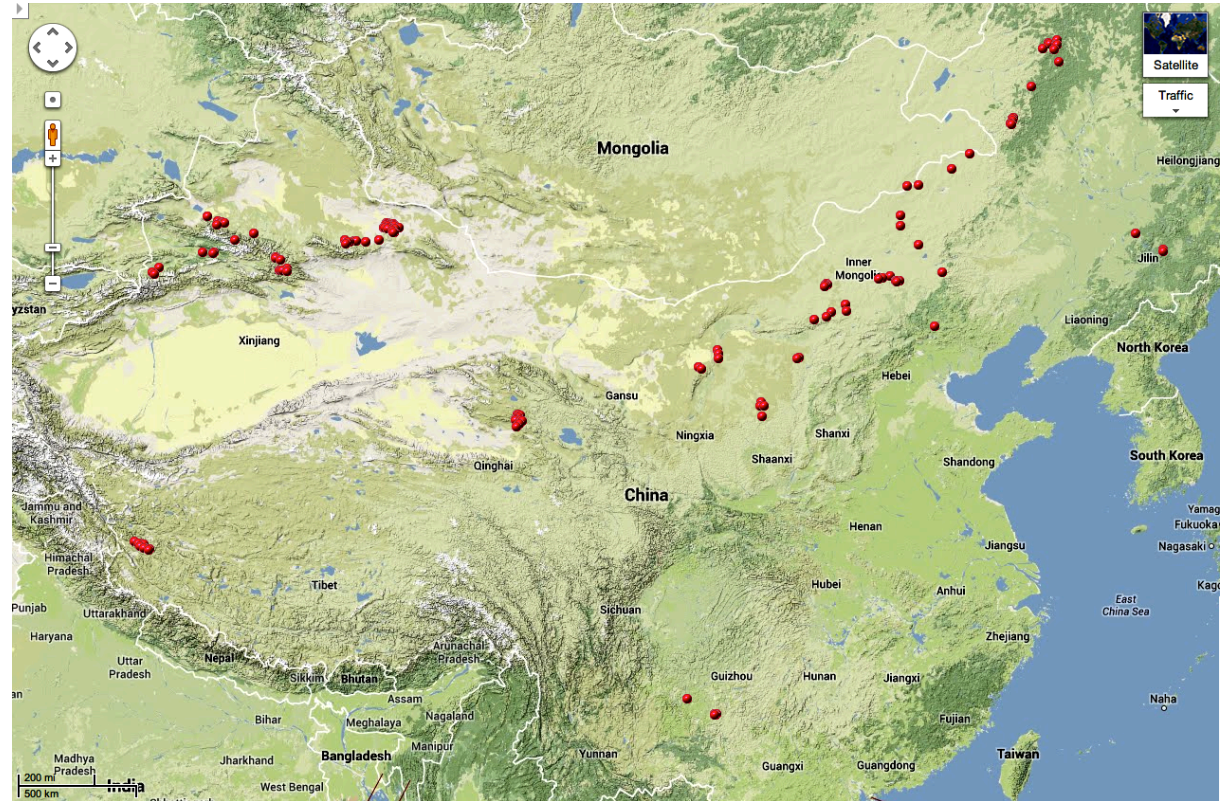


Wang et al. (2006)



# Site Surveys in China

- Low RFI (low population density, shielded by mountains)
- wide open terrain
- convenience in logistics, electricity, communication
- We checked for about 100 potential sites (found on Google Earth) near existing astronomical research facilities





A site in Baiqi, Inner Mongolia



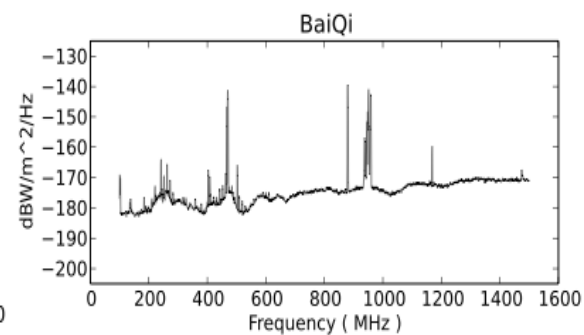
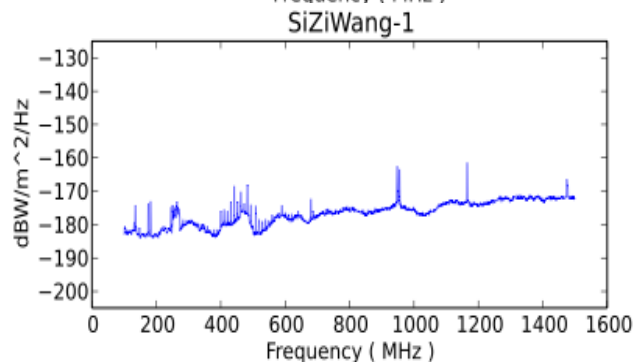
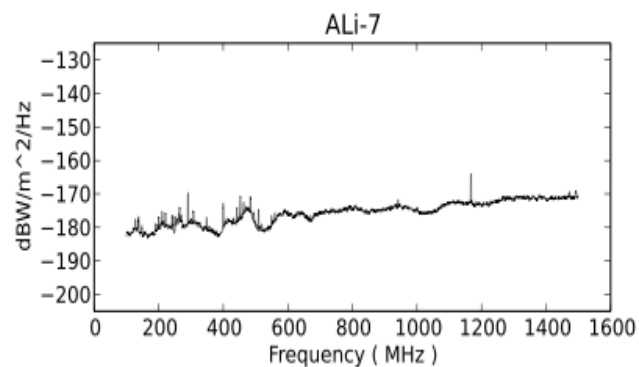
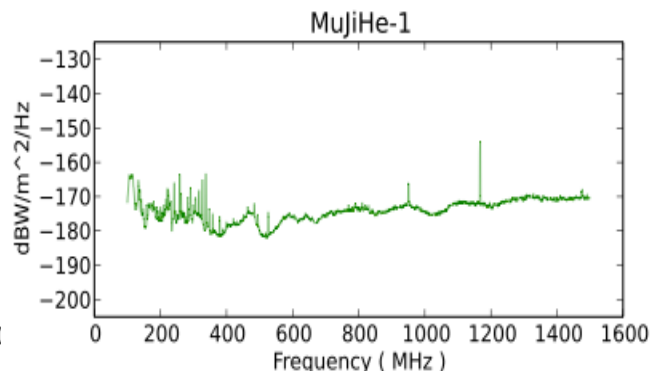
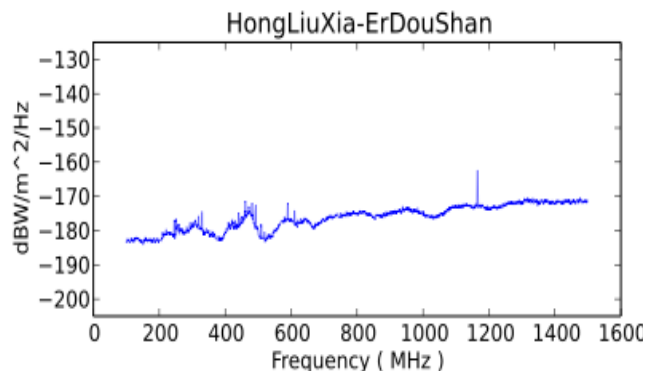
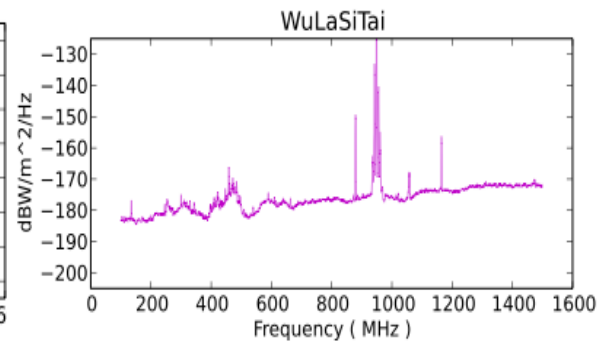
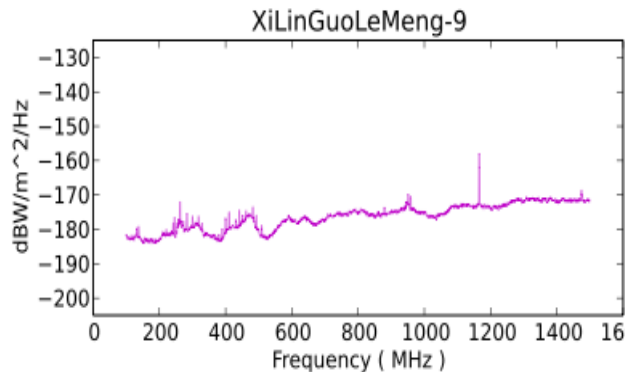
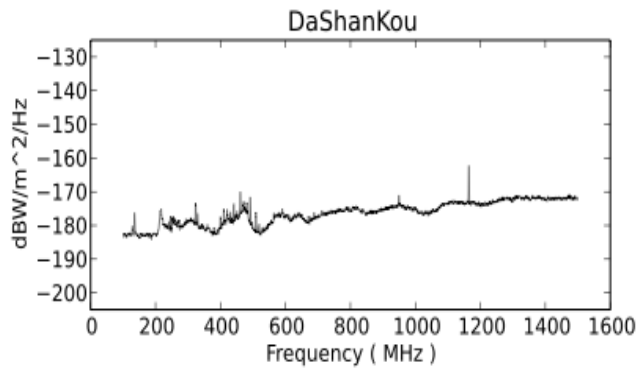
a site in Guizhou near FAST

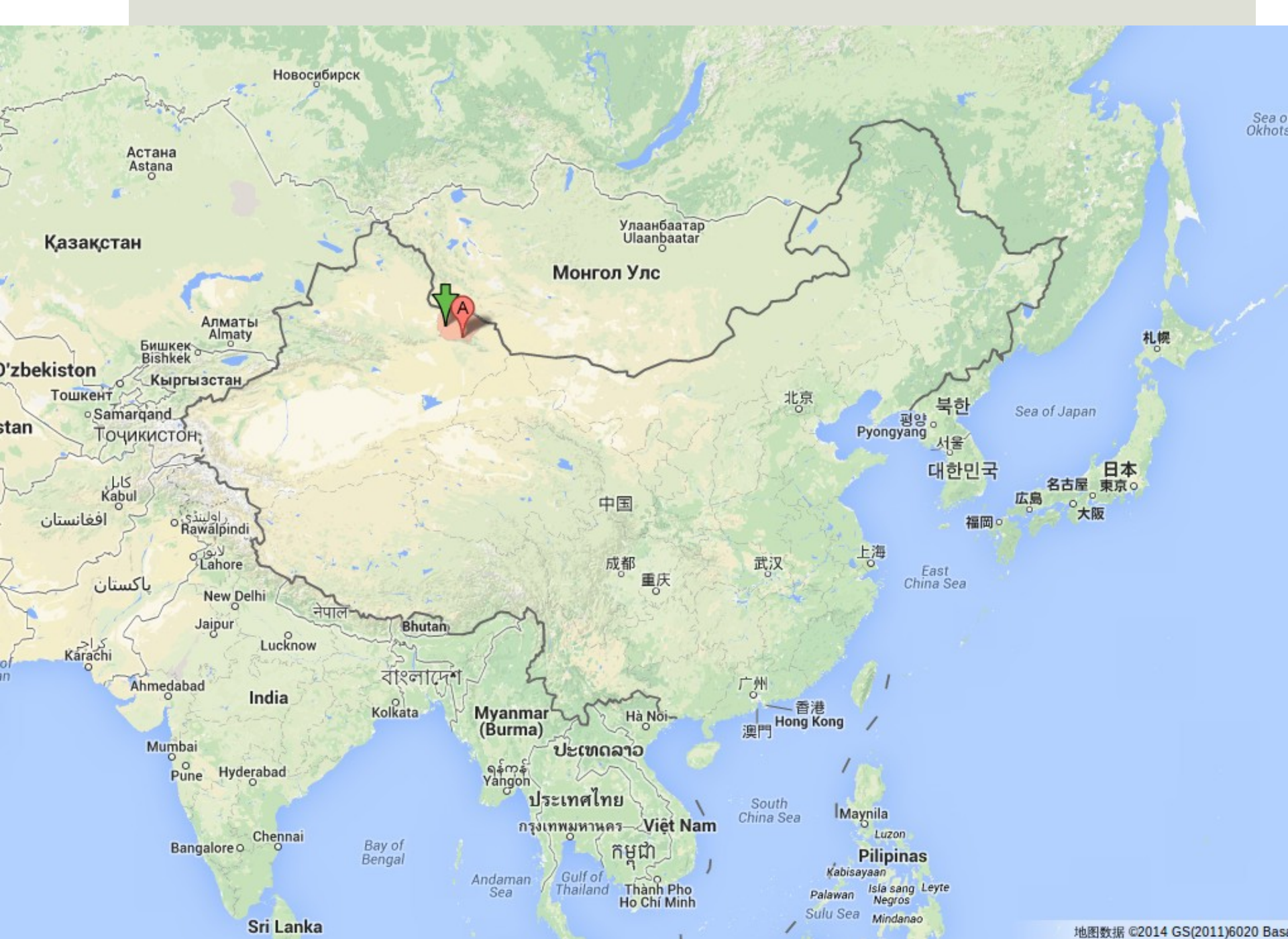


A site in Jiaohe, Jilin, NE China

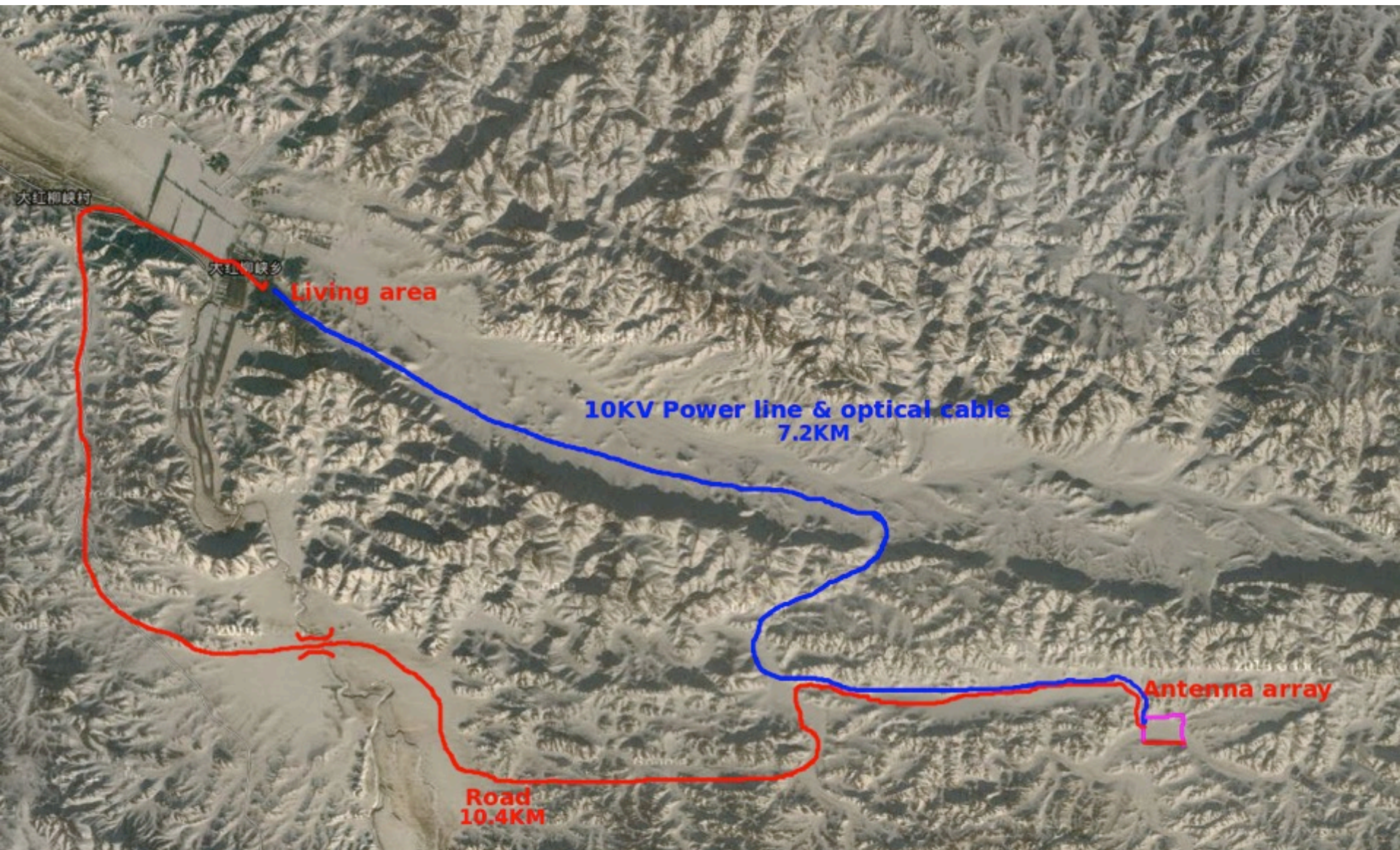


a site in Ali, Tibet





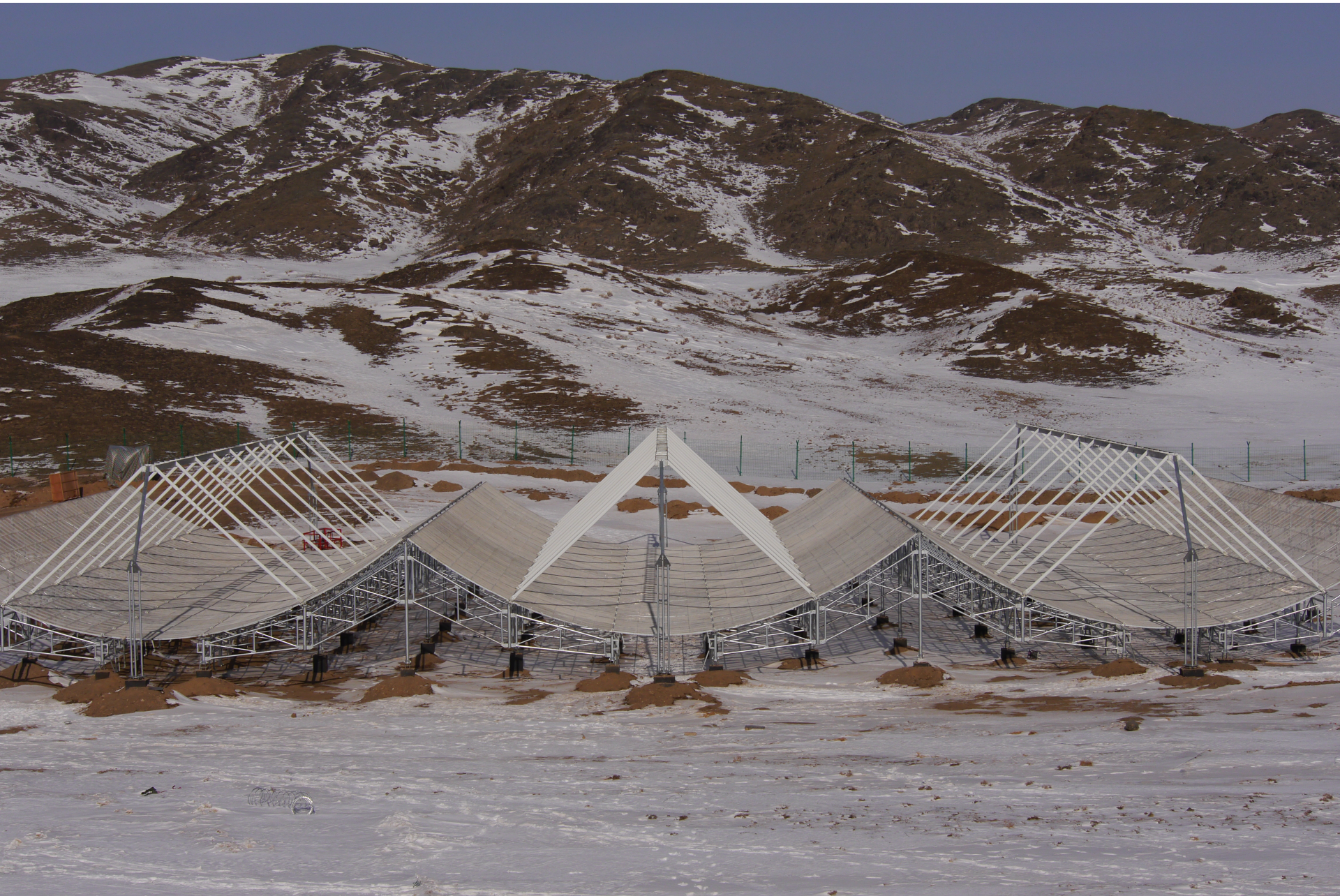
# Site Arrangement



# House









# Receiver and Correlator (SKA pathfinder?)



# Getting the system to Work

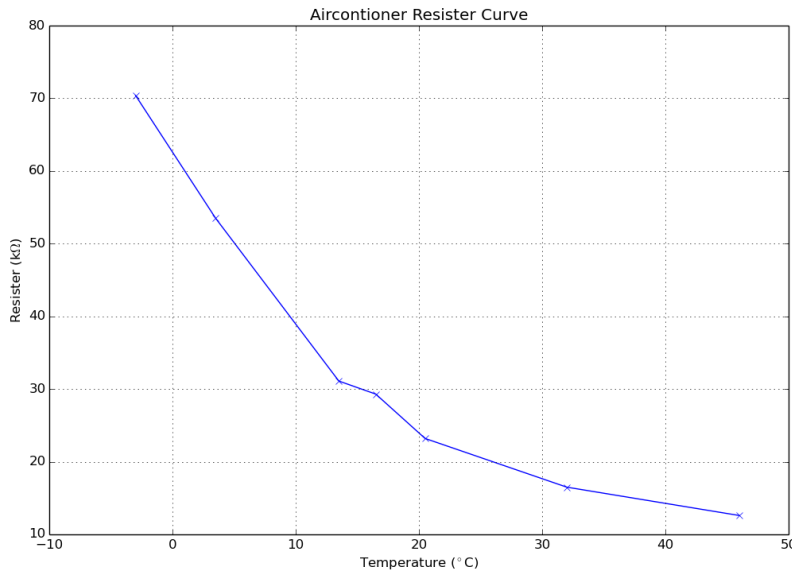
- Computer Room air conditioning and power
- Dish Array
- Calibration source
- Correlator
- self-generated RFI

# Computer Room AC

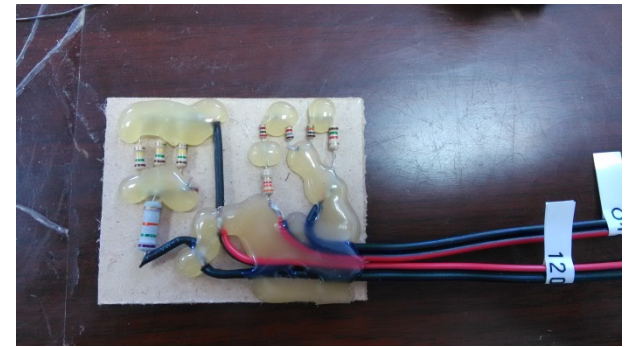
- Digital correlator a strong heat source, 8.5 kW
- Small computer room, correlators are tightly arranged, need active cooling even during winter
- Added fan to help cooling, still insufficient
- The civil use AC we purchased (same as used in IA) does not work in winter due to freezing of compressor, added heater



- Working room temperature too high:  
cheated sensor by changing thermistor resistance, so that 5°C is realized (Jixia Li)



Thermistor resistance as function of temperature.



# working, but still problematic

Refrigerating fluid pressure too low

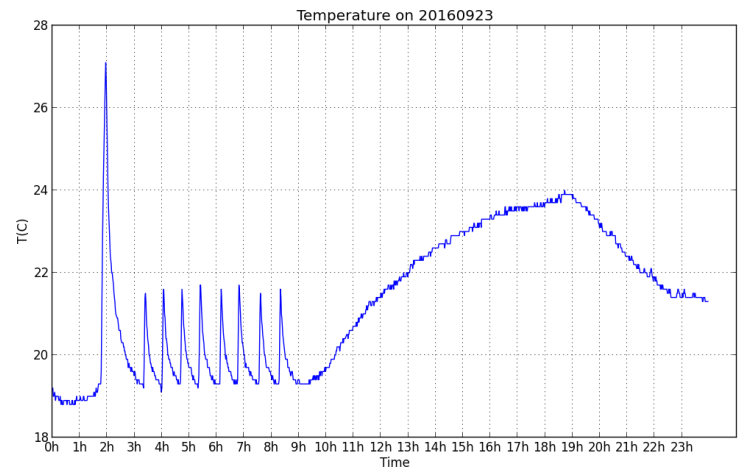
High: 1.25MPa; Low: 0.8MPa

Normal values:

High: 2.4~2.5MPa; Low: 0.6~0.9MPa

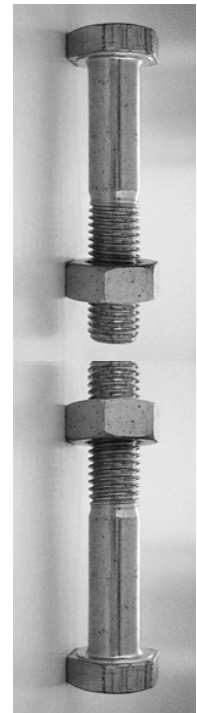
Note: we added fluid according to weight written in the label of the compressor (R410A/3.2kg)

We decide to replace with an industrial AC soon



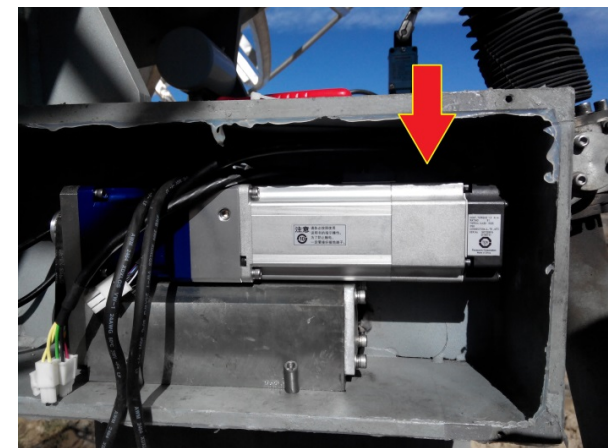
# Dish Array Problems

- Antenna Sloshing:  
the two opposite bolts along one line are too long and blocking each other, these are now replaced with one single long bolt (fixed in Nov. 2015)
- Stuck at high elevation angle  
restricted to  $< 88.5$  degree
- Pointing precision too low  
reprogrammed firmware on antenna motor controller,  
improved pointing precision from 0.5 degree to  $< 0.04$  degree.



- No response at low temperature  
a warning LED fail at low temperature, removed  
this LED

- Antenna Stuck and broken belt  
slack screw drive, added dowel to help fix the  
motor (Nov. 2015), and rotate antenna for break  
in. Store the belt on site (relatively easy to  
replace).



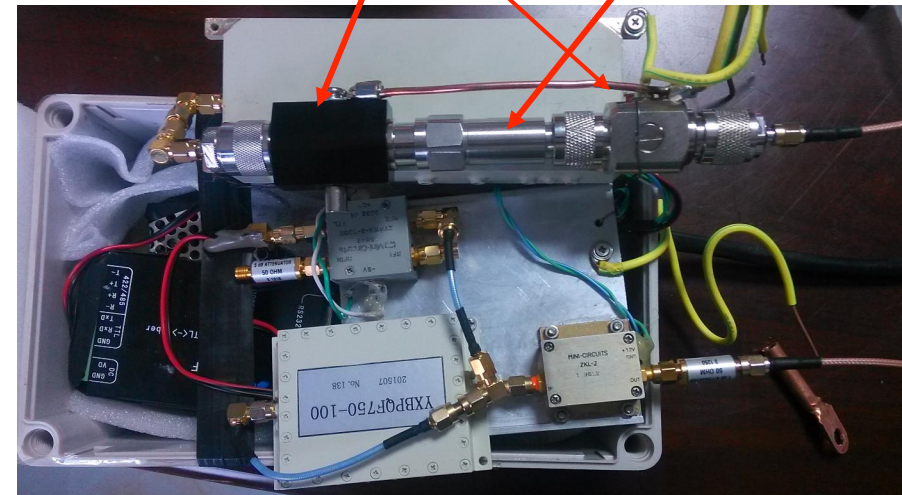
- Pointing shift under wind  
the motor lacks self-locking mechanism,  
replaced with new motors on Sep. 25 2016

# Calibrator Source

- Damaged a few times due to lightning  
Added insulation and surge protector
- Amplitude too high or too low  
Adjust amplitude of the system
- Temperature variation from 1-3 dB (day time) to 9-12 dB (night time)  
will add temperature controlled box



Surge protector DC block

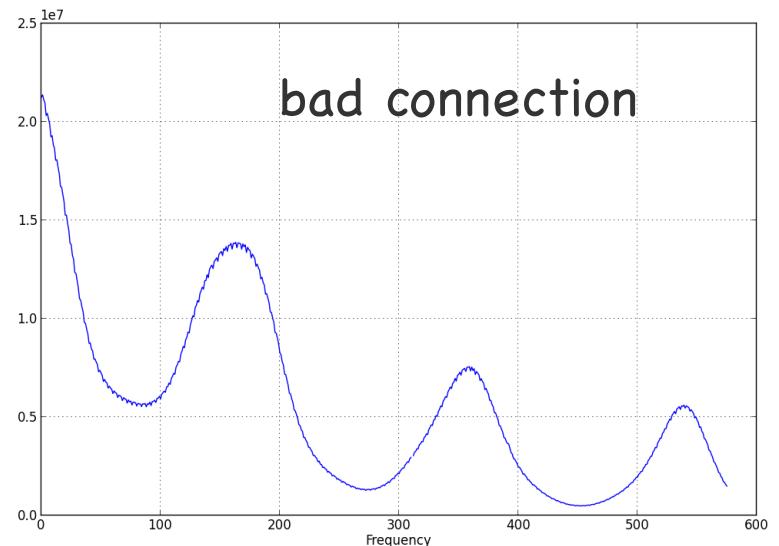






# RF System and optical fiber

- Connector malfunction (1 case),  
replaced with a new one.
- SMA-SMB cable bad connection cause reflection  
reconnected with a new cable
- Optic transmitter malfunction  
1 case, replaced
- Optic receiver malfunction:  
1 case, DC power failed, repaired.



# Correlator

## DSP board malfunction

- 9 DSP boards malfunctioned
- suspect AC power supply voltage ripples?  
Added UPS but no improvement
- Inhomogeneous cooling contact generate thermal stress, broken pin.

## FPGA8 board malfunctioned

- Replaced with a new one still not work
- Replace with a new power cable

The screenshot displays a web-based interface titled "Processor Board Boot State". It features two main panels: "Processor Board 9-17" on the left and "Processor Board 18-26" on the right. Each panel contains a table with columns for board ID and boot status. The status is indicated by color: blue for successful boot and red for failure. In the "Processor Board 9-17" panel, boards 11, 12, and 16 show red cells, indicating boot failures. In the "Processor Board 18-26" panel, board 21 shows a red cell with the text "N1:0451" next to it, indicating a boot failure. The interface also includes input fields for "Input EthBoot File" (set to "jtu\_core\_1\_N100\_N2D17.eth") and "Input Reset Board", along with "EthFile Confirm" and "Reset Confirm" buttons.

| Processor Board 9-17 |         | Processor Board 18-26 |                   |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Board 9              | Success | Board 18              | Success           |
| Board 10             | Success | Board 19              | Success           |
| Board 11             | Failure | Board 20              | Success           |
| Board 12             | Failure | Board 21              | Failure (N1:0451) |
| Board 13             | Success | Board 22              | Success           |
| Board 14             | Success | Board 23              | Success           |
| Board 15             | Success | Board 24              | Success           |
| Board 16             | Failure | Board 25              | Success           |

# Data Loss

Loosing Data packages when strong source (Sun, Calibrator) are present

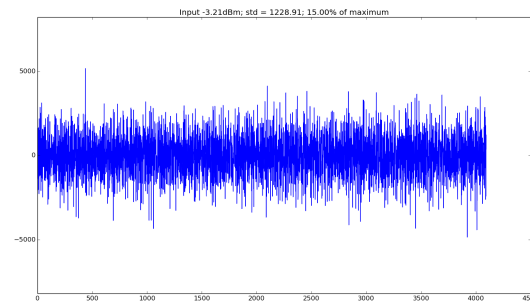
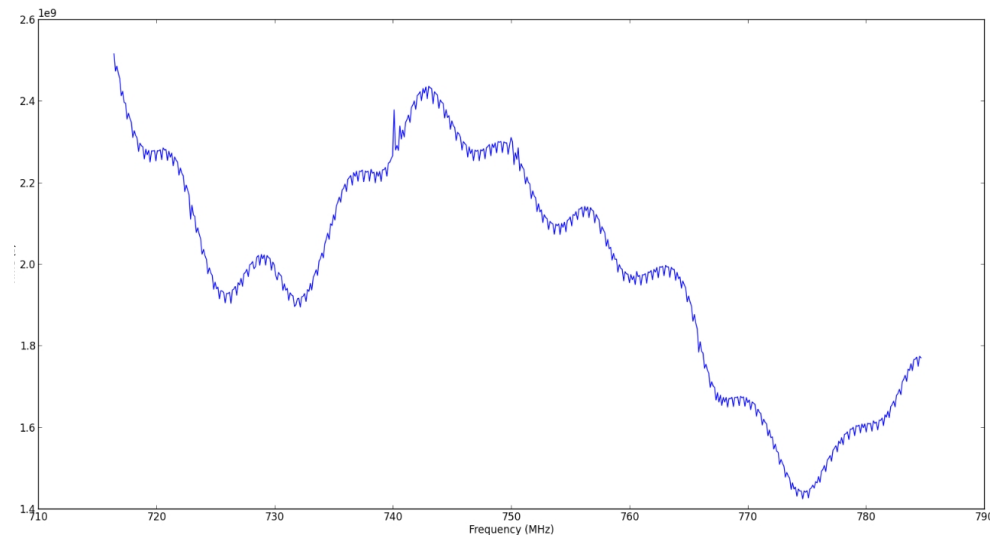
The DSP want into a power-save mode when lot of signals are 0, when suddenly have strong source, insufficient power. Problem solved

# Abnormal Output-1

Trough every 4 frequency channels:

after much test, we found that analog input level too low (<0.5%)

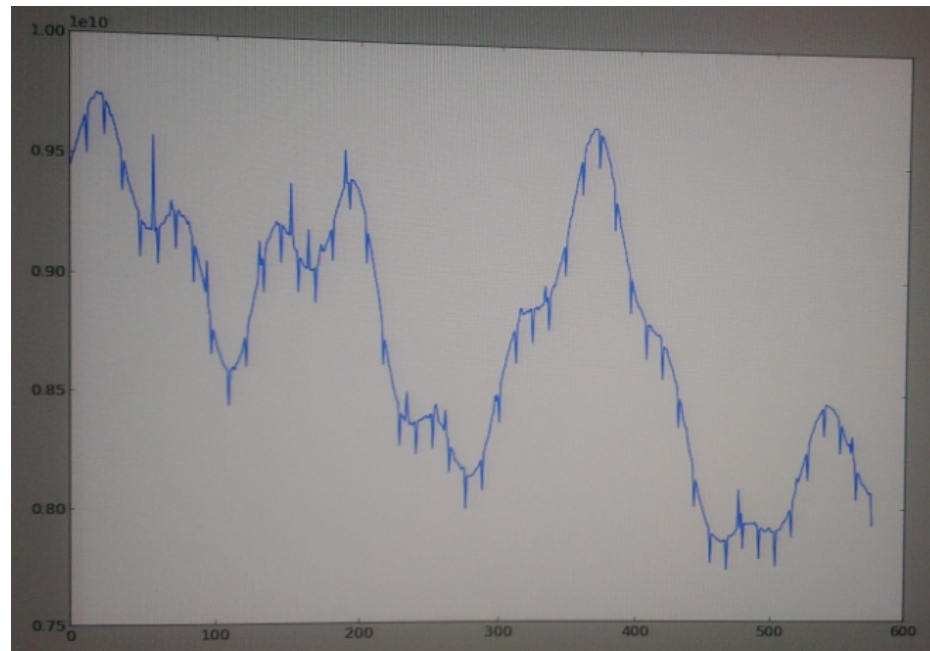
Now, we set the level to be 5~6%, leaving much space for the Sun (<8dB) and calibrator source (~10dB).



# Abnormal Output-2

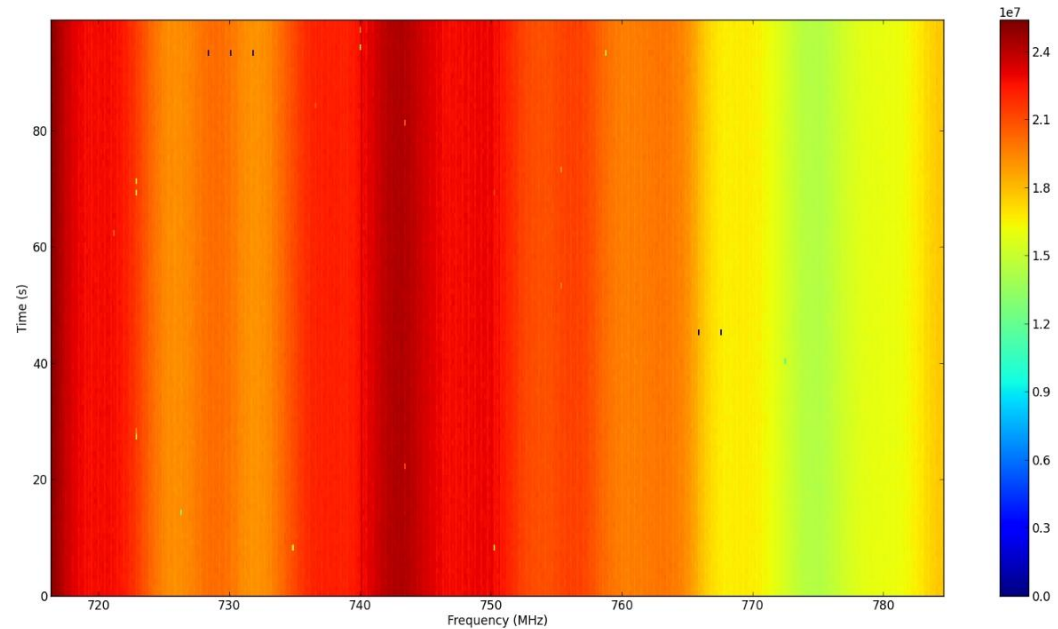
- Trough every 12 frequency points in channels 117-115

Time delay in DSP core improperly set



# Abnormal Output-3

- Data loss randomly due to too heavy computing load

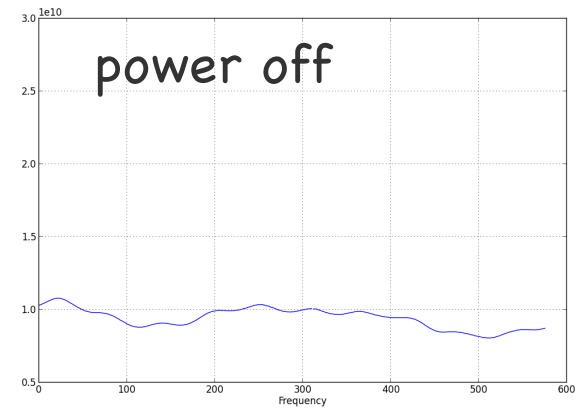
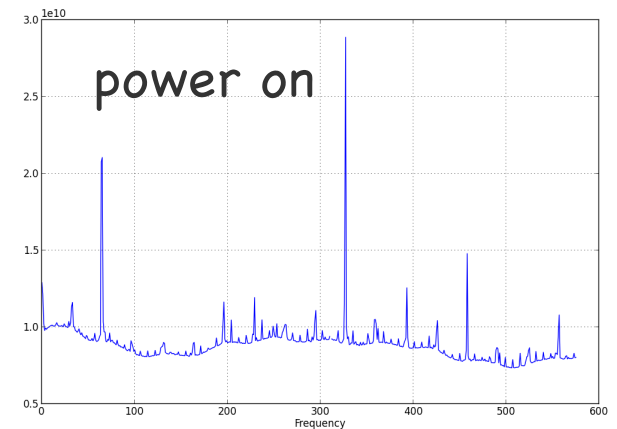


# RFI

RFI came from various devices on site.

- Motors of dish antennas
- Serial server
- Telephone
- Network devices
- PDU (Power Distribution Unit; network man
- Camera, weather station...

Shield with copper net but no effect





# 10kV transformer

build a cage made of aluminum

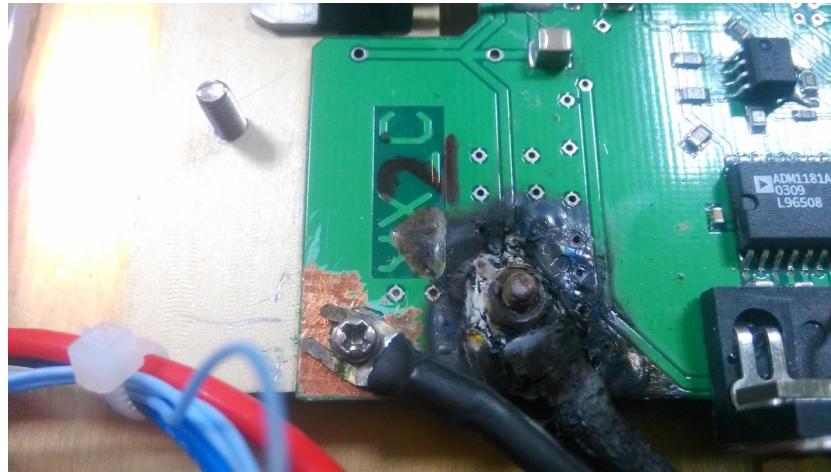


Front view



Back view

- ❑ **Frequency down converter:** The inner DC power lines are not properly connected to the circuit board. It results in short circuit.
- ❑ All of the 17 converters have been repaired now.



The burnt cable

The design itself is bad. The positive line is isolated from the negative area by a plastic sheet. When it's working, this area is hot and the plastic get burnt.

# The Future Plan

- We have received some funding for operation and survey in the next few years
- Add FRB search

# Acknowledgement

The Tianlai project is supported by

- The 863 project of the Ministry of Science and Technology
- The CAS renovate and procurement program
- The NAOC Pilot Research Program
- The John Templeton Foundation and NAOC "Beyond the Horizon" program

Thanks !

