

# WORKSHOP 2020

2-6 November 2020

# Future of VLBI

# Cristina García Miró













#### CASA-VLBI Workshop 2-6 November 2020



#### **Future of VLBI**

Cristina García Miró SKA-VLBI scientist - JIVE



## **Future of VLBI**

- > What we get from VLBI right now
- > Where we are heading to...
- > The future of VLBI in the SKA era
- ➢ Key Science Projects with SKA-VLBI















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## What we get from VLBI right now?

Credit: A. Lobanov

- **Angular resolution:** ~10-30 μas (RadioAstron @22GHz, EHT @230GHz)
- > **Dynamic range:** ~100:1
- Spatial dynamic range: ~1000:1 (EVN+e-MERLIN), limited by uvcoverage
- > **Positional accuracy:** ~100  $\mu$ as (absolute), ~50  $\mu$ as (relative)
- > **Field of View:** from arcsec to 10's arcmin





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#### PLENTY OF SCIENCE BEING ADDRESSED!!!



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### BUT do we need more?





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#### BUT do we need more?

# VLBI20-30: a scientific roadmap for the next decade

The future of the European VLBI Network

Editors: Tiziana Venturi, Zsolt Paragi & Michael Lindqvist

https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2007/2007.02347.pdf



Image by Paul Boven (boven@jive.eu). Satellite image: Blue Marble Next Generation, courtesy of Nasa Visible Earth (visibleearth.nasa.gov)

- EU JUMPING JIVE project deliverable
- Role of EVN/VLBI in future astronomy landscape
- ~200 pages in 7 chapters, 80 authors, and 8 key science goals for VLBI in the next decade



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#### Endorsed by the EVN Consortium Board of Directors

## BUT do we need more?

#### **EVN/VLBI 8 key science goals:**













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- What is the nature of dark matter and dark energy?
- When and how did the first black holes formed?
- How do relativistic jets form? What is their impact on the host galaxy?
- What is the physics of explosions following gravitational wave events?
- What are the elusive fast radio bursts?
- Are we alone?
- How was the Milky Way born?
- How do stars form? How do they impact the environment at their death?

#### AND...

- Technical priorities for the next decade
- > Synergies



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# How do we get more?

- > Ultra-precise relative astrometry
- > Extreme angular resolutions: Space-VLBI
- > Wide-field imaging
- > Imaging at very low frequencies
- Imaging with higher fidelity and sensitivity





Credit: Rioja & Dodson 2020



High-mass star forming regions parallaxes with VLBI observations of methanol masers



Apparent proper motion of extragalactic objects due to secular aberration drift  $\sim 5\mu$ as/yr

- Precise positions, distances and motions -> VLBI provides highest accuracy and precision
- Goal: ultra-precise astrometry (~µas = x10 better) for large and complete surveys with next generation instruments – SKA, ngVLA
- Astrometry calibration: Special observational and analytical techniques that preserve the astrometric information (S selfcal): remove delay contributions from instrumental and atmospheric propagation effects → reach the interferometer thermal noise limit:

 $\Delta_{\text{pos}} \alpha \text{ FWHM}_{\text{beam}}/\text{SNR}_{\text{ph}}$ 

Standard phase calibration techniques for **imaging** faint or extended targets



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2.2 deg

Credit: Rioja & Dodson 2020 Images credit: Y. K. Choi

#### > Standard phase calibration techniques:





Dual-beam phase referencing (@VERA)

 $t_{sw} = 0$ 



In-beam phase referencing: lower freq

Advanced astrometric calibration methods: troposphere (Geoblocks & differential phase delay) and ionosphere (group delay correction, phase fitting & ICE-blocks)





Credit: Rioja & Dodson 2020 Images credit: Y. K. Choi

> Next generation astrometric calibration techniques:



**Source Frequency Phase referencing** (SFPR): Frequency phase transfer

requency phase transfer mm-VLBI astrometry: coherence times ~h @130GHz Simultaneous freqs @KVN



Multi-Frequency Phase referencing (MFPR) Frequency agility @VLBA + ICE-blocks between 1.3-22GHz



MultiView and in-beam MultiView: For low and high frequencies Multi-beam (minimum 3 cal)

 $\rightarrow$  10 µas for high and low frequencies (DR ~100:1)





Credit: Rioja & Dodson 2020 Images credit: Y. K. Choi

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vmany deg

MultiView and in-beam MultiView: For low and high frequencies Multi-beam (minimum 3 cal)

#### $\rightarrow$ 10 µas for high and low frequencies (DR ~100:1)

**Next generation instruments** (DR 1000:1, wide bandwidths, large FoV – PAF in single dish & multiple tied-array beams in antenna arrays)

 $\rightarrow$  Reach thermal limit: ultra-precise astrometry > 6GHz (1 µas) and enable precise astrometry for much lower frequencies





# Extreme angular resolutions: space mm-VLBI



*THEZA* space-mm VLBI concept (Gurvits+ 2019).

Figure credits: BH simulations – Monika Mościbrodzka+ 2014 & Freek Roelofs. Beabudai Design.

- > Space-borne radio interferometer freq  $\geq$  300GHz
- Ultra-sharp angular resolution down to µas and sub-µas
- ~orders of magnitude improvement in resolution and dynamic range
- Breakthrough in high-resolution studies with high quality imaging: to directly image the event horizon in supermassive black holes, physics of jets at launching sites, binary AGNs, time and X-ray domain synergies, megamasers, protoplanetary disks, exoplanets and SETI.



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# Wide-field VLBI imaging



Sensitivity map of VLBA-COSMOS project @1.4GHz 2 deg<sup>2</sup>, Herrera Ruiz+ 2017



GOODS-N field, EVN @1.6GHz 160 arcmin<sup>2</sup> 699 phase centres, Radcliffe+ 2018



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#### > VLBI as a survey instrument

- **FoV:** up to ten's arcmin (~30k x 30k images)
- Software correlators not limited by spectral and temporal resolution (reduce time and bandwidth smearing) & allow for correlation with multiple phase centres
- ➤ Wide-field advanced calibration techniques: a combination of in-beam phase referencing and Multi-Source Self-Calibration (MSSC) and primary beam corrections → µJy regime
- Application to multi-beam telescopes with multiple phase-centres (tied-array beams on targeted sources) and single dish antennas with PAFs.
- Application to direction-dependent calibration (atmospheric inhomogeneities and primary beam variations across FoV) defining isoplanatic facets.





# Wide-field VLBI imaging

- Multi-scale cleaning (Cornwell 2008, Rich+ 2008): complex and extended structure (delta + gaussian functions with scale determined every minor iteration) vs. compressed sensing (for accurate models, e.g. EHT)
- w-projection (Cornwell+ 2008): spherical geometry of large arrays and FoV, PSF changes over the image (Cotton-Schwab algorithm)
- > Automatic scale-dependent masking: diffuse structures
- > Multi-frequency deconvolution: takes spectral variation into account during deconvolution
- Image Domain Gridding (IDG) + correction of DD effects (a-term), 30k x 30k images
- > Parallel cleaning larger images subdivided and cleaned independently



→ WSClean (Offringa+ 2014): w-stacking clean

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➢ Direction-Dependent effects mainly due to ionosphere at lower freqs
→ affects position (shifts), and brightness (defocusing), with significant temporal fluctuations (can also affect polarization angle)



Credit: Rioja 2018



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▶ Direction-Dependent effects mainly due to ionosphere at lower freqs
→ affects position (shifts), and brightness (defocusing), with



- LEAP: real-time phase calibration in visibility domain, using frequency smearing as an efficient directional filter, better performance for longer baselines, no need an sky model
- Corrects for both shift and defocusing

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- Applicable to **SKA1-LOW tied-array real-time beamforming** (pulsars + VLBI beams)
- ▷ LEAP + WSCLean → wide FoV with DDE corrected images

#### Other solutions for DDE's:

- Image in small "facets" where DDE's are constant: LOFAR facet calibration (van Weeren+ 2016)
- Probabilistic model for inferring ionospheric phase screens: Albert+ 2020, 2019



LOFAR facet calibration: each facet



DDE in regions far from calibrators improved with TEC screens -top row-(Albert+ 2019, 2020)



self-calibrated independently, isoplanatic, high resolution + dynamic 2020 range (van Weeren+ 2016)



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Credit: Venturi+ 2020

#### **Technical enhancements**

- Broadband receivers ~4-8GHz: improve sensitivity + instantaneous coverage + improve observation efficiency + good polarisation response (e.g. BrandEVN)
- > Increase data rates x4: data storage and connectivity, data correlation
- Extend the frequency coverage to higher (e.g. triple band receivers) and lower frequencies (<1GHz), increase number of antennas with these frequencies</p>
- New additions to the networks: uv-coverage improvement, specially in the southern direction for SKA synergies (more on this in a sec...)
- > Extend FoV (e.g. PAFs) and align with "survey-modes" in other astronomical facilities
- Enhance software correlator to cope with previous upgrades, telescopes with multiple beams (e.g. SKA, PAFs), new observing modes (e.g. fast transients and pulsar processing modes)...







Image by Paul Boven (boven@jive.eu). Satellite image: Blue Marble Next Generation, courtesy of Nasa Visible Earth (visibleearth.nasa.gov).



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Credit: Conway, 2008

# **EVN + e-MERLIN baselines:** excellent spatial dynamic range 8000km to 6km i.e >1000:1

- > with many times VLA sensitivity
- Global VLBI promotes as VLA-like coverage
- + Multi-Frequency Synthesis (MFS) basically complete uv coverage!



*uv*-coverage of **EVN and** *e*-**MERLIN** with 18 stations total. Single frequency and 2 Gbps (256 MHz or 5% b/w)



**Global VLBI** *uv*-coverage with 30 stations world-wide. Single frequency and 2 Gbps (256 MHz or 5% b/w)



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Image by Paul Boven (boven@jive.eu). Satellite image: Blue Marble Next Generation, courtesy of Nasa Visible Earth (visibleearth.nasa.gov).



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### The African VLBI Network





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### The African VLBI Network





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Credit: Phillips 2019

**Global VLBI:** LBA + EVN + EAVN + AVN (Ghana) + MeerKAT







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#### VLBI sustainable development







# VLBI sustainable development?

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#### SKA & VLBI sustainable development



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### SKA & VLBI sustainable development



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### SKA & VLBI sustainable development





## The future of VLBI in the SKA era





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#### SKA provides ...

- Independent MULTI-BEAM
  CAPABILITY
- BOOST in SENSITIVITY to µJy regime
- Access to SOUTHERN SKIES
  and GC
- COMMENSALITY with other observing modes
- Superior AMPLITUDE & POLARISATION calibration
- Pristine RF environments and state of the art RFI detection/excision



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#### SKA provides ...

- Independent MULTI-BEAM **CAPABILITY**
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- **COMMENSALITY** with other observing modes
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#### "Joining up Users for Maximizing the Profile, the Innovation and Necessary Globalization of JIVE"

**European Union's H2020** research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730884







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#### Work package 10: "VLBI with the SKA"

- > Provide support for SKA integration and operations within the VLBI arrays
- Led by Zsolt Paragi (JIVE) and Antonio Chrysostomou (SKAO)
- SKA-VLBI project scientist Cristina García-Miró (SKAO currently at JIVE)



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# How we do VLBI with the SKA?





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#### VLBI with SKA1: key operational concepts

Multiple VLBI beams produced from a subarray of antennas/stations typically the core + individual SKA1 antennas or stations short uv-spacings



# VLBI with SKA1-MID:

#### all observing modes within a subarray with bandwidth sacrifice



#### Correlation:

- Normal visibilities, zoom (100-3 MHz, 6 kHz-190 Hz)
- ✓ VLBI coarse visibilities: 200 vs. 13 kHz

Tied-array beams:

- ✓ 4 VLBI beams but up to 52 beams max per subarray (200 MHz b/w), from any subarray size
- ✓ Each VLBI beam: dual-pol real channels (1-128 & 200 MHz, 2-16 bits, Nyquist)
- ✓ RFI flagging/excision and polarisation correction
- ✓ 1500 for Pulsar Search PSS
- ✓ 16 for Pulsar Timing PST

Transients:

- ✓ Transient buffer (2x300 MHz search windows: -2,+60 sec, every 62 sec)
- Fast imaging pipeline for slow transients (>1sec)

#### VLBI with SKA1-MID: configurations



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## SKA1-MID simultaneous observing:

limited by processing resources (26+1 FSP=Frequency Slice Processor)

Band	VLBI + coarse Vis	Imaging	PSS	PST	Zoom
Band 1 (0.35- 1.05GHz )	<b>4beams full (700MHz)</b> (8 FSP)	Full (4 FSP)	1500b 300MHz (8 FSP)	16b full (4 FSP)	2 (2 FSP)
	4b 600MHz (6 FSP)	Full (4 FSP)	1500b 300MHz (8 FSP)	16b full (4 FSP)	4 (4 FSP)
Band 2 (0.95-	<b>4beams full (810MHz)</b> (10 FSP)	Full (5 FSP)	1500b 300MHz (8 FSP)	16b 600 MHz (3 FSP)	$\sim$
1.76GHz )	4b 600MHz (6 FSP)	Full (5 FSP)	1500b 300MHz (8 FSP)	16b full (5 FSP)	2 (2 FSP)
Band 5a/b	2/4beams 5/2.5GHz (26 FSP)	0	0	0	0
(4.6- 8.5GHz & 8.3- 15.3GHz )	<b>4beams 600MHz</b> (6 FSP)	512MHz (3 FSP)	1500b 300MHz (8 FSP)	16b 512 MHz (3 FSP)	6 (6 FSP)
	<b>14beams 500MHz</b> (21 FSP)	500MHz (3 FSP)			3.1MHz (1 FSP)
<	0	Full (26 FSP)	0	0	0

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### VLBI with SKA1-LOW: configurations

SEFD - SKA1-LOW subarray radius



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# SKA1 Observatory model





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#### SKA1 Observatory: a global research infrastructure

#### SKA Regional Centres tiered model



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SKA image cubes with ~TB size, ~2<sup>16</sup> frequency channels → SKA science-ready data products (forget SKA visibilities!)

Distributed network of SKA Regional Centres: subsets of SKA archive, processing and postprocessing capability, distribution of data and user support, open science model

SKA Data Challenges: build new culture on radio astronomy post-processing and analysis.



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#### SKA1 Observatory: a global research infrastructure

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**JIVE** 

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Distributed network of SKA Regional Centres: subsets of SKA archive, processing and postprocessing capability, distribution of data and user support, open science model

SKA Data Challenges: build new culture on radio astronomy post-processing and analysis.

New culture into the VLBI world!





#### SKA1 Observatory: SKA data challenges

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#### SKA1 Observatory: SKA data challenges







#### SKA1 Observatory: SKA data challenges





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with HPC facilities access

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#### SKA1 Observatory: SKA data challenges for VLBI





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#### SKA1 Observatory: SKA data challenges for VLBI





#### INVITED SPEAKERS

#### 14 - 17OCTOBER 2019

SKA GLOBAL HQ, UK

SKATELESCOPE.ORG/ SKA-VLBI-WORKSHOP

IFFE (U. of Pretoria/SARAO): Wide-field VL



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\* RadioNeL



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# SKA-VLBI WORKSHOP

#### SKA-VLBI KEY SCIENCE PROJECTS WORKING GROUPS

#### Active Galactic Nuclei

- Leah Morabito (Durham U.)
- John McKean (ASTRON/RuG)

#### Stars / Astrometry

- Maria Rioja (ICRAR-UWA/CSIRO; OAN)
- Hiroshi Imai (Kagoshima U.)

#### > Transients

- Manisha Caleb (U. Manchester)
- Zsolt Paragi (JIVE)

#### > Pulsars

- Dana Simard (U. Toronto)
- Franz Kirsten (OSO)





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# **GALAXIES and AGNs: Key Science Themes**



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#### **GALAXIES and AGNs: Key Science Themes**



### **GALAXIES** and **AGNs**

# **AGNs at lower frequencies** (MHz regime):

LoTSS - LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey



Shimwell et al. 2019, Williams et al. 2019, Duncan et al. 2019; Special volume A&A Feb 2019 SKA1-LOW - VLBI

high resolution + sensitivity + low freqs

#### Unique probe for AGN science

- > **AGN/SF** disentanglement
- FRI vs. FRII characterisation
- Radio loud AGN: physics of hot-spots (spectral modelling)
- Radio quiet AGN: origin of radio emission, core identification and small scale jets or winds, gravitationally lensed galaxies
- Build a sample of resolved high-z AGN





#### What SKA-VLBI can do for your science? SKA1-MID - VLBI **GALAXIES** and AGNs



high resolution + sensitivity + multiple beams

- ➤ How is the VLBI sky at < µJy sensitivities?</p>
- > SKA deep-field surveys with targeted SKA-VLBI beams to extract radio/AGN science commensally

#### **Plenty of science to exploit!**

- ➤ Co-evolution → Feedback between SMBH and host galaxy
- Radio emission traces both SF/AGN activity
- > The VLBI method detects the largest number of AGN: VLBI wide-field surveys for AGN finder
- > **but also for:** SMBH binaries, gravitational lenses, radio SNe, LLAGN... CASA-VLBI Workshop



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#### **STARS/ Astrometry: Key Science Themes**



#### **STARS/ Astrometry: Key Science Themes**



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#### **STARS/ Astrometry**



Rioja & Dodson, 2020

#### **SKA-VLBI**

Most powerful tool for astrometry (distances + proper motions + positions + multiple beams)

New phase calibration techniques: "MultiView" (Rioja+ 2017) for >6GHz → 1µas

#### Ultimate astrometric accuracy + dramatic increase of # targets (large and complete surveys) → → new discoveries!

(exoplanets orbits, geometric parallaxes up to 100 kpc, pulsar parallaxes in the galactic centre, methanol masers parallaxes in LMC, AGN launching jets scales...)



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## What SKA-VLBI can do for your science? TRANSIENTS/PULSARS: Key Science Themes





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### What SKA-VLBI can do for your science? TRANSIENTS/PULSARS: Key Science Themes





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# What SKA-VLBI can do for your science?

### **TRANSIENTS/PULSARS**

#### e-EVN, JVLA, VLBA, e-Merlin



*Chomiuk et al., Nature, 514, 339, 2014* 

#### **SKA-VLBI** to measure very accurately: Source expansion / apparent jet speed proper motions / distances (parallaxes)

- Faint synchrotron radio transients in the local Universe  $d \le 200$ Mpc (z ~ 0.05) Faint collimated ejecta can be resolved within weeks! proper motions in the ~1 µas regime
- GW astronomy: SKA-VLBI sensitivities and excellent calibration needed for resolving mildly relativistic outflows, long-term radio afterglows (BNS mergers, long-GRBs, etc.)
- FRBs: SKA-VLBI for progenitor environments and highz localisations.
- Exoplanets: orbital motions will be detectable with SKA-VLBI.
- Magnetars: SKA-VLBI reaches the GC and covers a very large galactic volume for proper motion measurements.















## The VLBI Future is .....





**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

> DECENT WORK AND Economic growth

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# The VLBI Future is YOU

A01550985 Iñaki Palestino Díaz

( AI )



# Thanks to our sponsors







This event has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements 730562 (RadioNet) and 7308844 (JUMPING JIVE) CASA-VLBI Workshop





This presentation has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 7308844 (JUMPING JIVE)







# **Future of VLBI**

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