

BURSTT

台灣宇宙電波爆廣角監測實驗 Bustling Universe Radio Survey Telescope in Taiwan



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林凱揚

Kai-yang Lin 2023 Nov 22, ASIAA


PI: Ue-Li Pen Team: ASIAA, NTU, NTHU, NCHU, NCUE



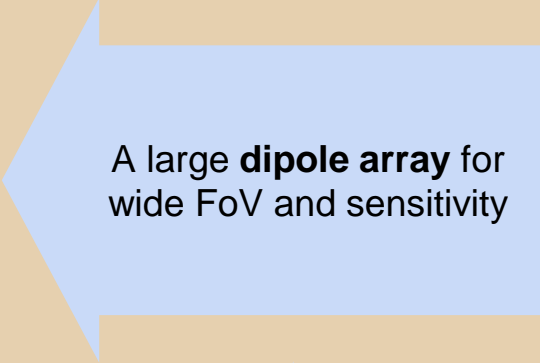
Why BURSTT?

Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) are millisecond flashes in radio band that originate from extragalactic sources.
Mechanism still unknown.

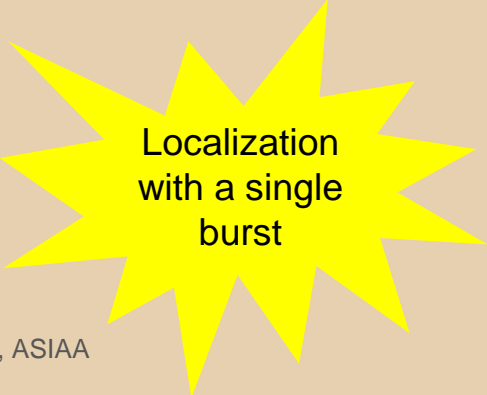
Only a small fraction (~10 percent) are known repeaters.



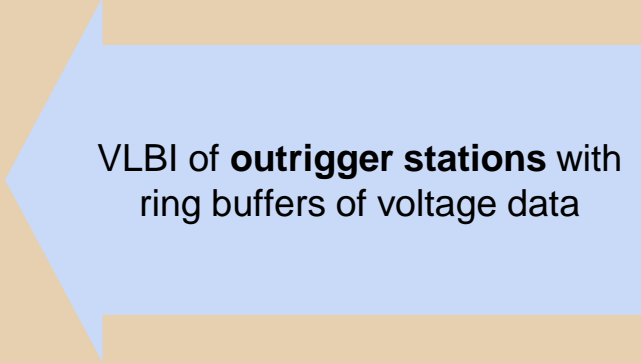
FRBs can be
anywhere
anytime



A large **dipole array** for
wide FoV and sensitivity



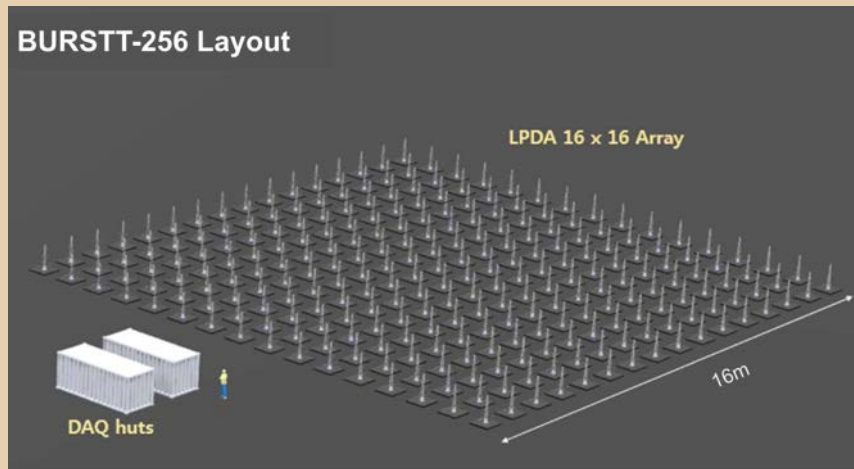
Localization
with a single
burst



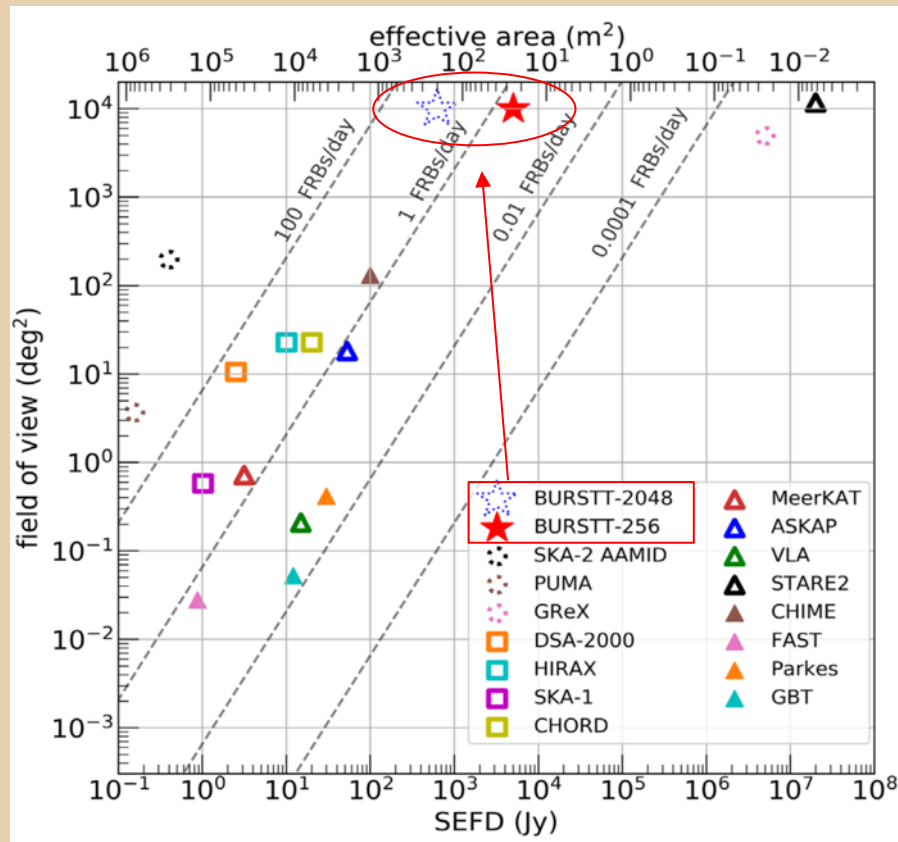
VLBI of **outrigger stations** with
ring buffers of voltage data

BURSTT feature

- A wide-field ($\sim 10^4$ sq.deg) array to detect FRB events
- VLBI localization to ($1''$) and better
- Detect and localize bright FRBs \rightarrow near MW \rightarrow best candidates for followup



[Hsiu-Hsien Lin et al. 2022, PASP, 134, 094106](#)



Antenna design

- Log-periodic dipole array (LPDA) antennas for 3(4)00 - 800 MHz



Designed by ASIAA
(300 - 800 MHz)

9dBi



A commercial antenna
(400 - 800 MHz)

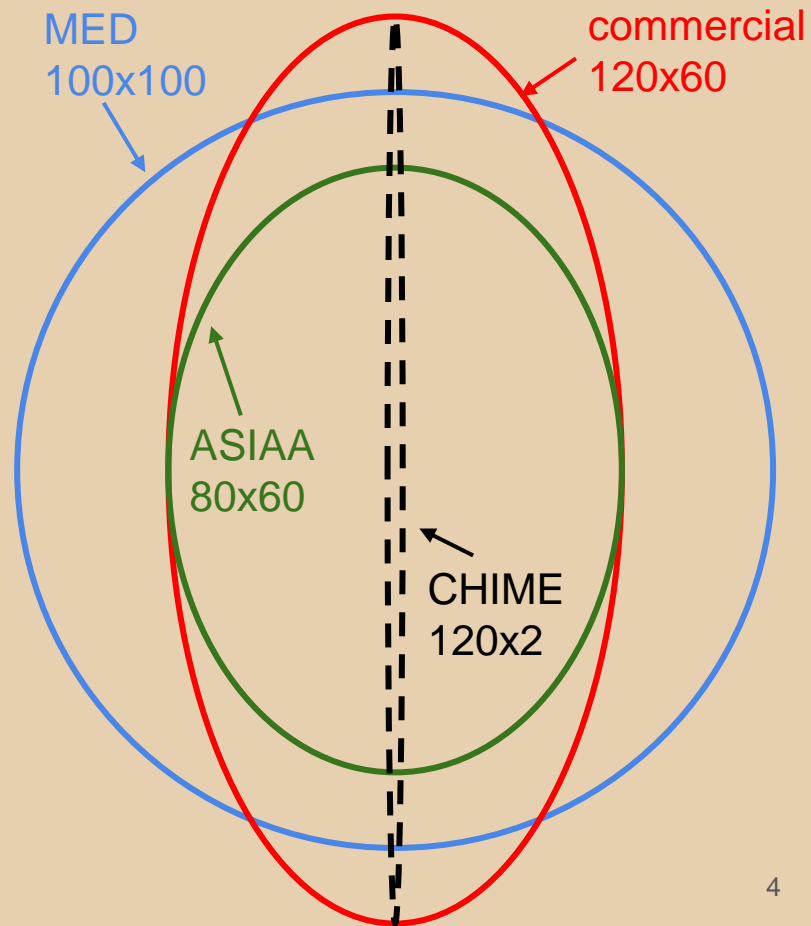
6dBi



Designed by NTU

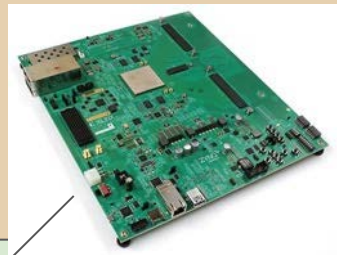
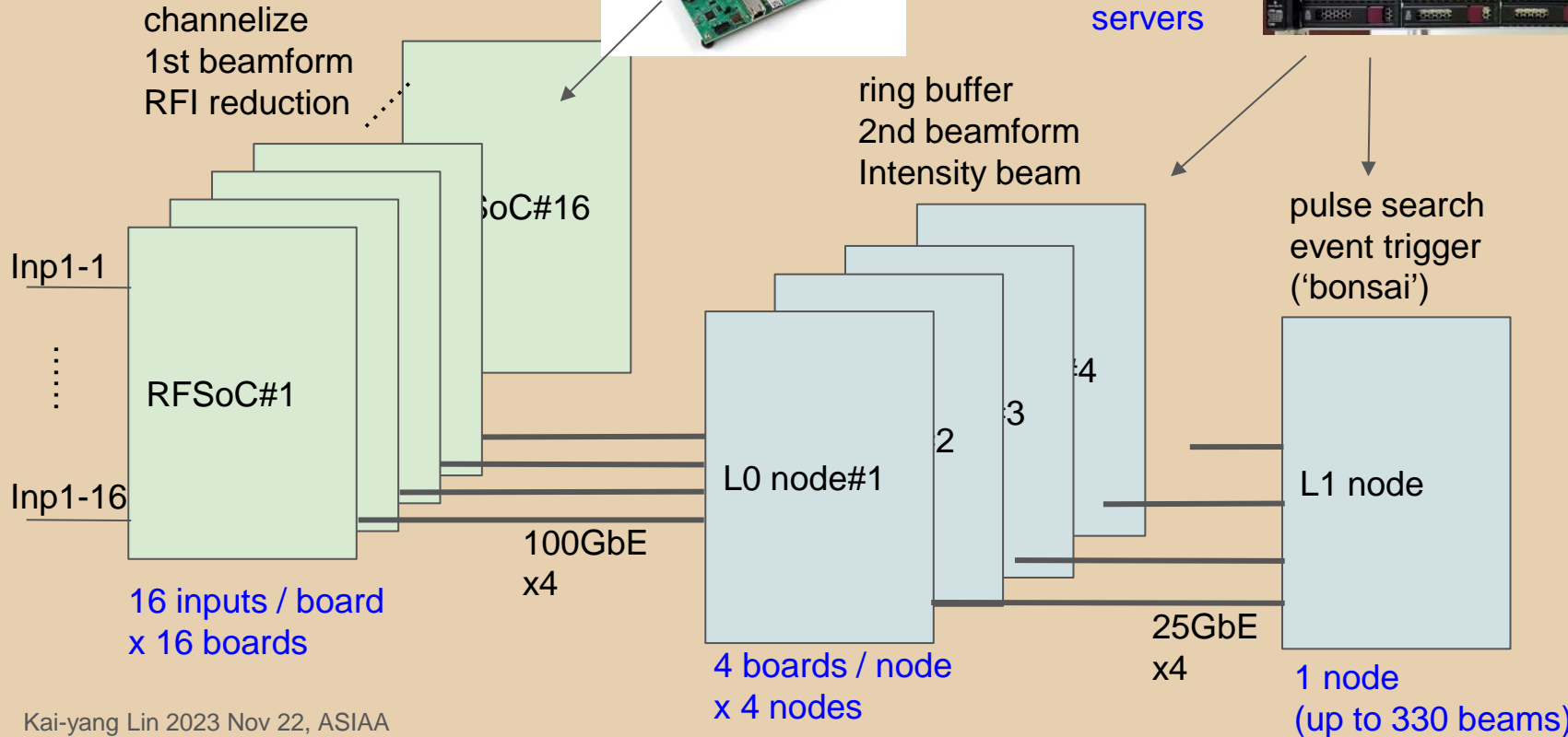
7dBi

Field of View (FoV)



Real-time Backend

(for BURSTT-256 main array)



Intel Xeon
servers



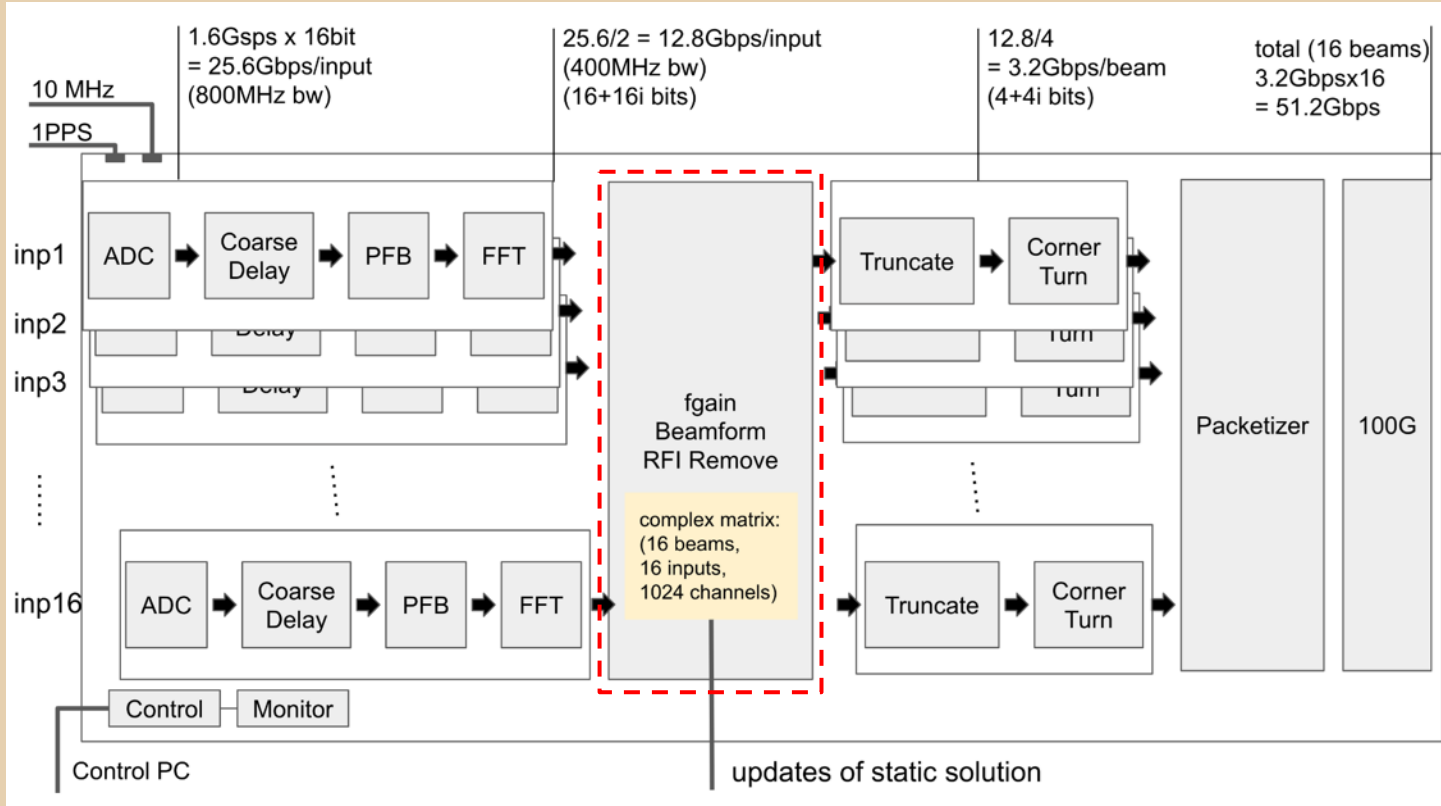
RFSoc: Xilinx Zynq UltraScale+ ZCU216

- input:
 - 16x 14-bit 2.5Gbps ADC
- output:
 - SFP28 x 4 -- QSFP28 (100GbE)
- implementation
 - CASPER library
 - 400MHz clock (demux 4) → 1600Msps
 - 800MHz bandwidth at 16-bit I and 16-bit Q
 - truncate to 4-bit I and 4-bit Q for 400--800MHz (52Gbps)





RFSoc Functional Block Diagram



Real-time Process

- 2x Nvidia ConnectX-6 Dual 100Gbps
 - 400Gbps in total
- libvma (nvidia messaging accelerator)
- 20sec baseband buffer
 - max DM ~ 1000 pc/cm³
- 4x RFSoc @ 400MHz BW (64-ant)
 - 1TB of RAM
 - 52Gbps x 4
 - 8-12 cores needed
- Max data rate achieved:
 - 98Gbps x 4
 - for future expansion
 - 16-20 cores needed
- Intel Xeon 6338 (Gen3 Gold) dual sock
 - 64 cores in two NUMA nodes
- 16x16 (x1024) matrix multiplication
 - assembly code
 - 12 cores per RFSoc
 - 48 cores for 2nd beamform of 256 beams
- Next gen Xeon (Gen 4) supports advanced matrix extension (AMX) → 10x to 100x faster

Wang, Andrew



Chih-Yi, Wen



Main array in Fushan

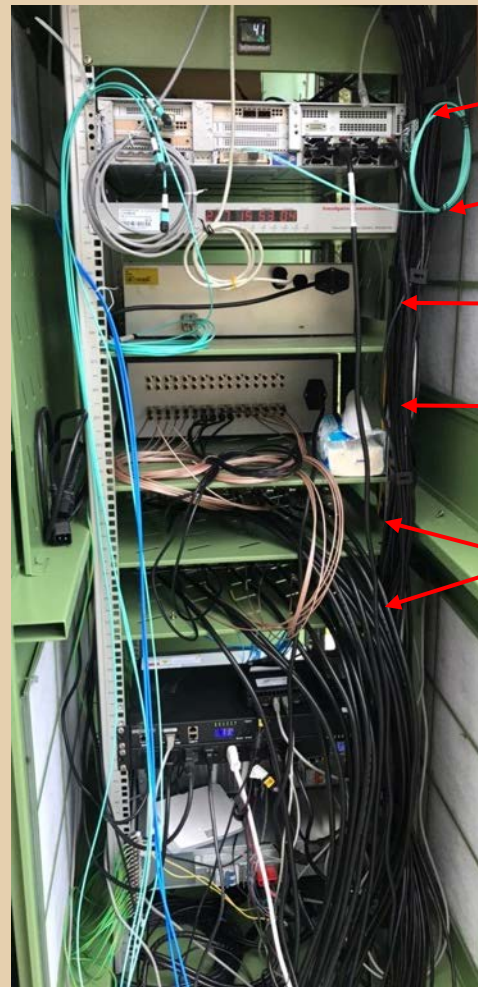
Each row of 16 ant
connected to one
RFSoc → 1D
beamform



RFSoc backend



with housing and 16 balun boards



L0 node

Rb GPS clock

RFSoc

power supply

bias-T, 3rd
amp

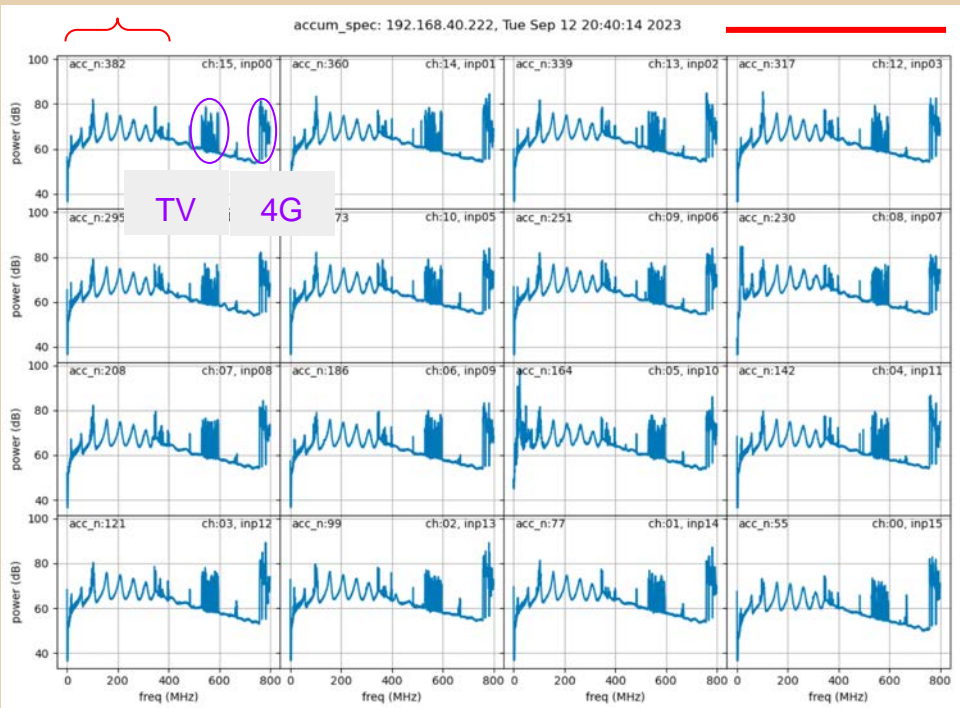
RFSoc Results from Fushan

Strong reflection below 400MHz
due to commercial antenna design

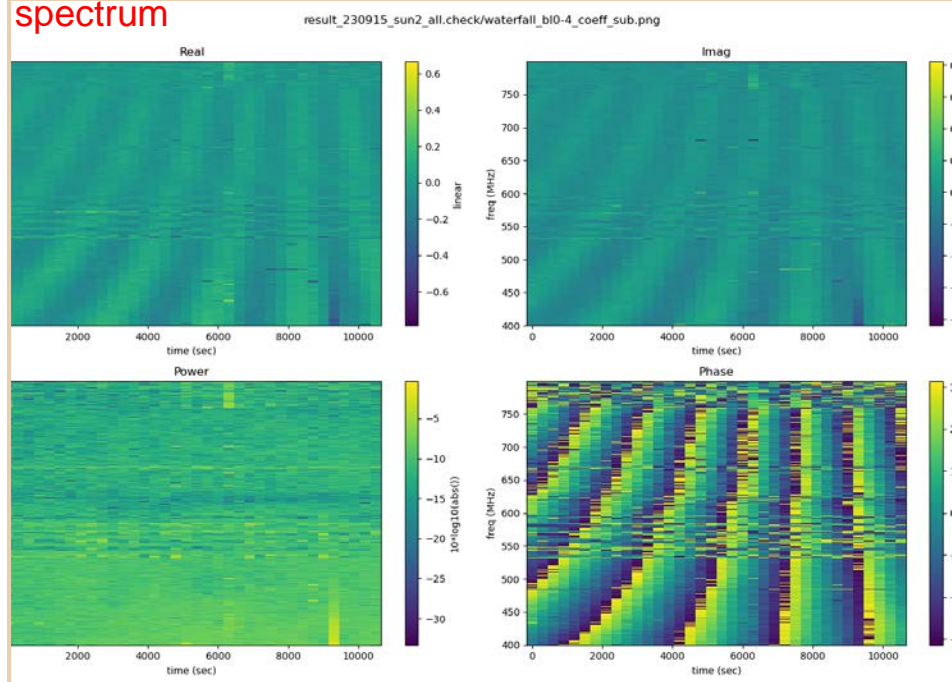


sending only
400MHz out
full 800MHz

Example:
Sun fringe
4m spacing

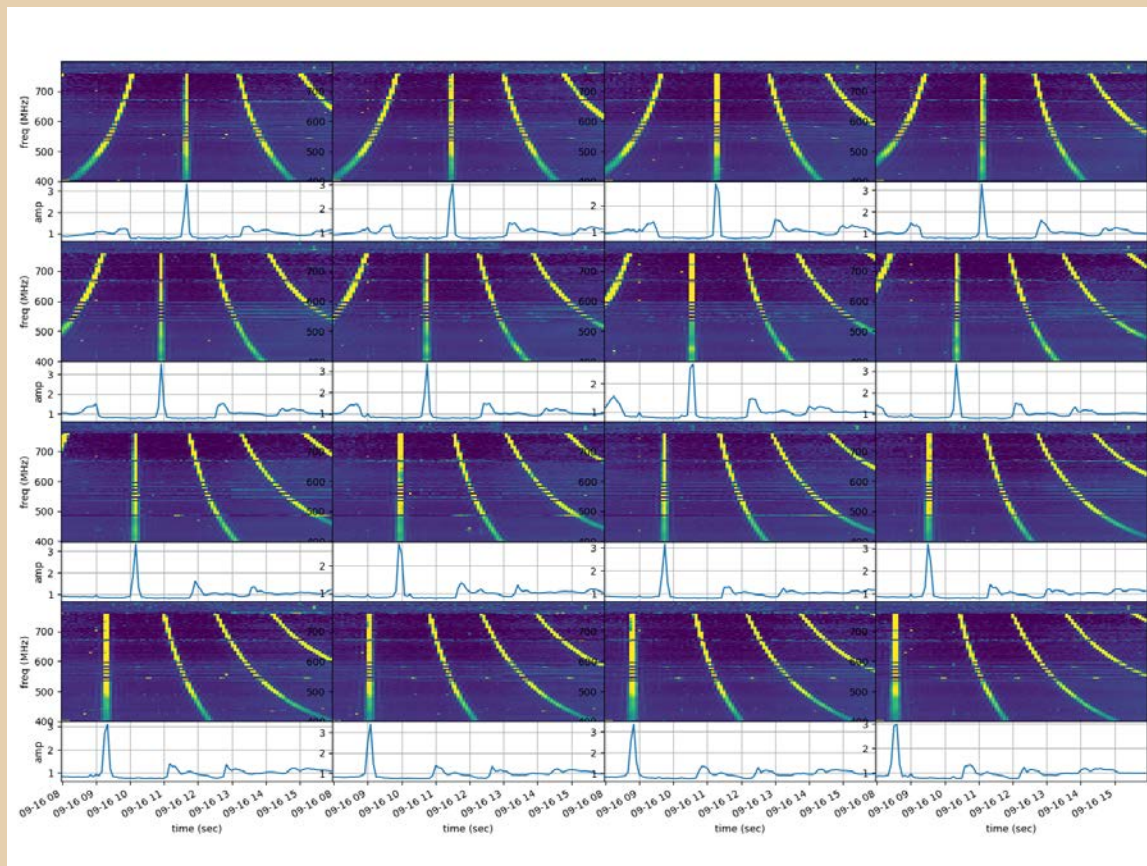


spectrum



First Beamform from Fushan

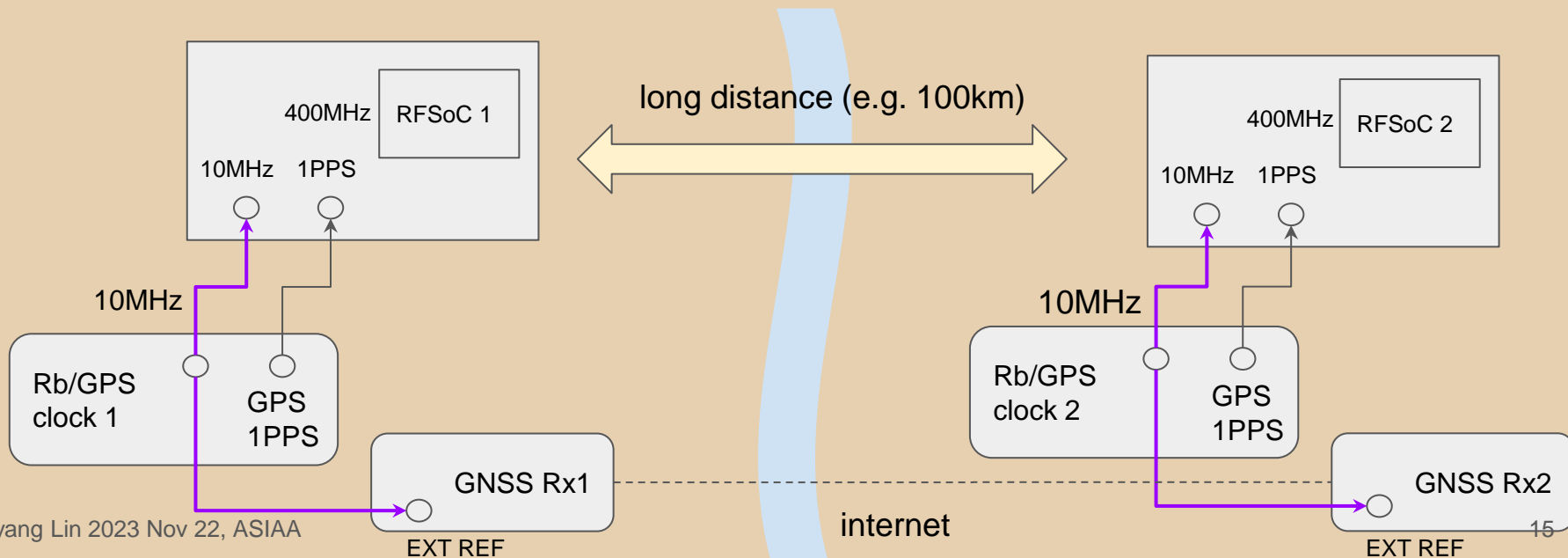
- 16 antennas \rightarrow 16 beams
- Bandpass calibration done
- Use the Sun to map out the main and side lobes
- Proof of concept for front-end, back-end, and site
- 64-ant beamform WIP



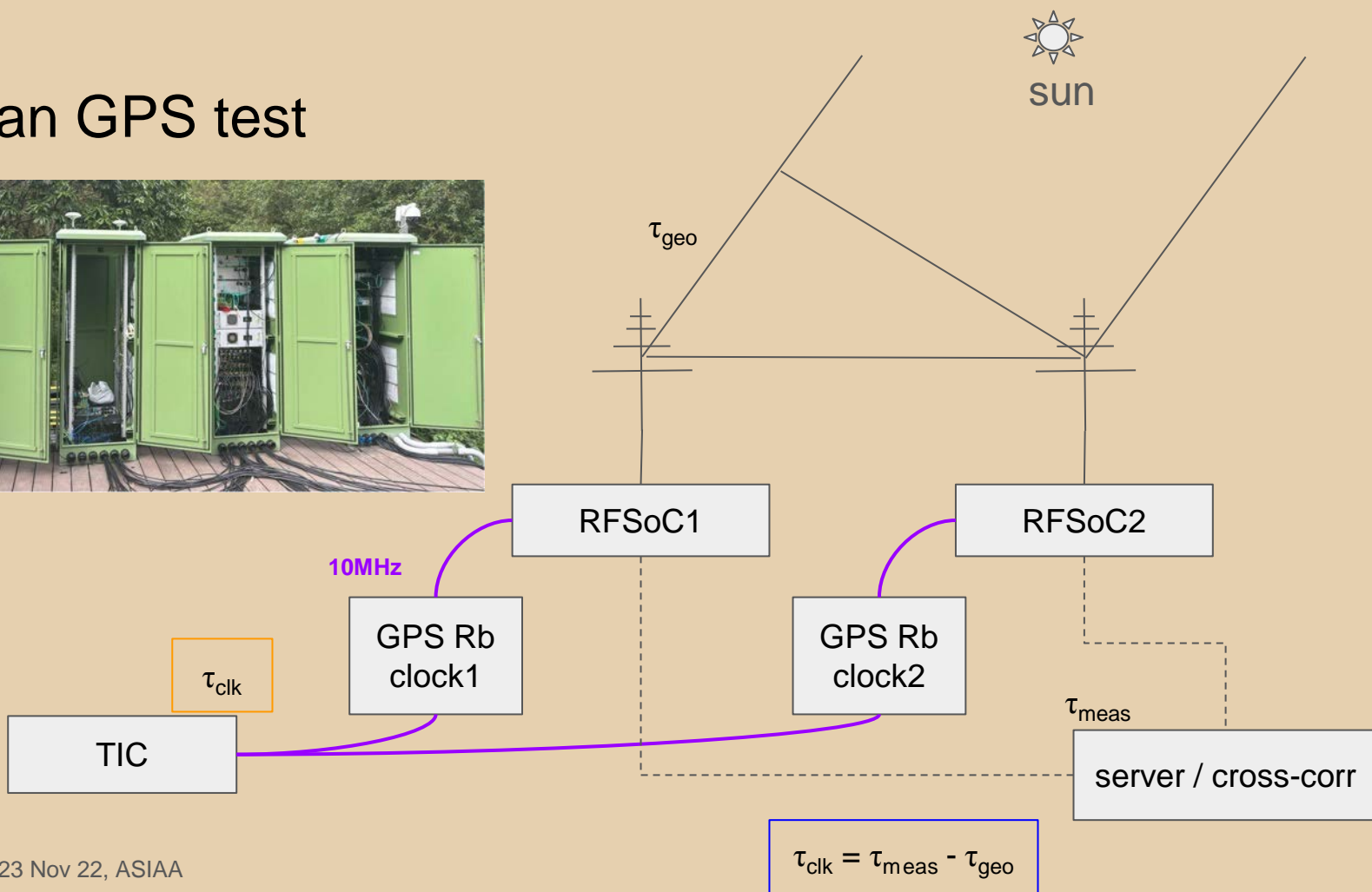
Timing for VLBI

- 400MHz sampling \rightarrow 2.5 ns
- 1" at 100km \rightarrow 1.6 ns
- 0.1" at 1000km \rightarrow 1.6ns

Timing goal: 0.2 ns



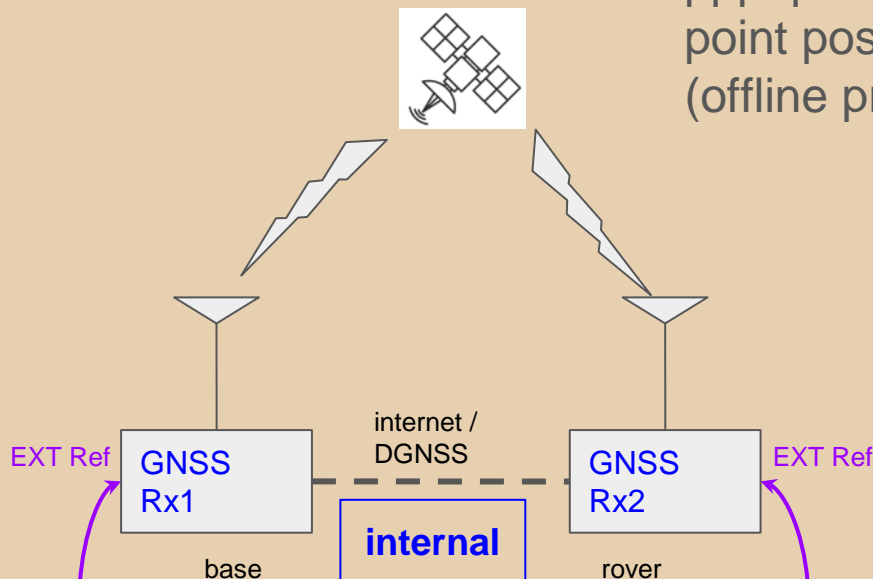
Fushan GPS test



GNSS Rx test setup

Septentrio: mosaic-T
+ Raspberry Pi
(dev: National Ocean University)

ppp: precise
point positioning
(offline process)



Time Interval Counter
(TIC)

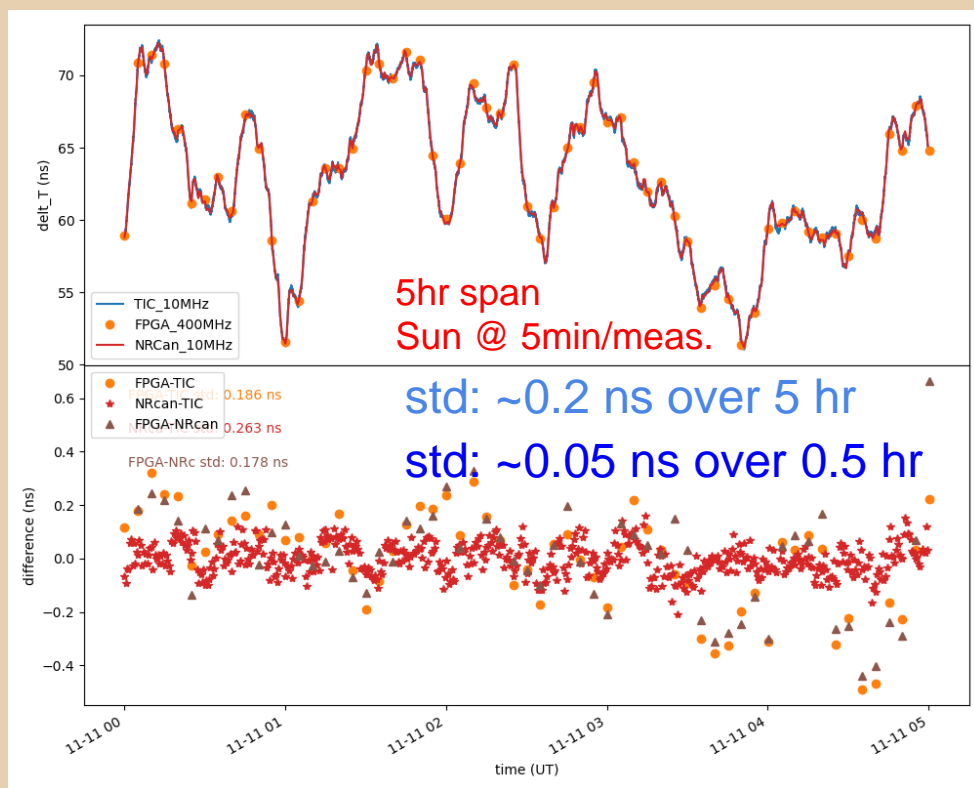
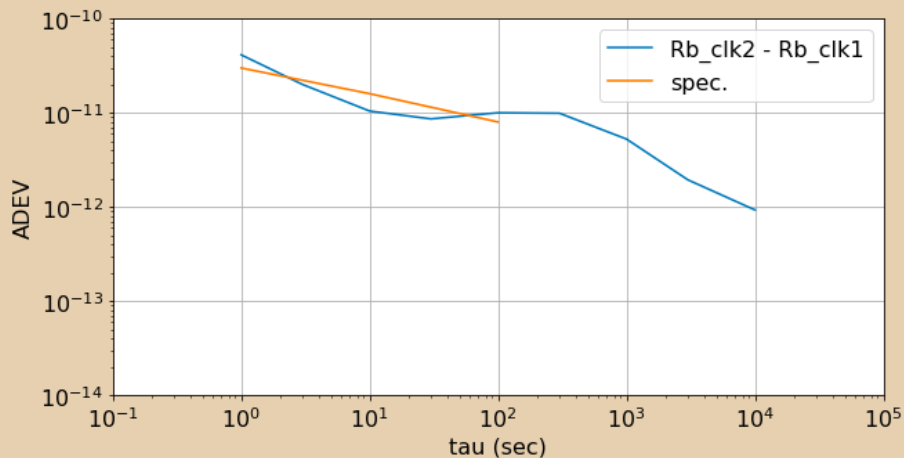
external

clock1

clock2

Clock difference

- 400MHz clock diff by Sun
- 10MHz ref diff by TIC
- 10MHz ref diff by GNSS-ppp



Verification test at
the same site

Summary

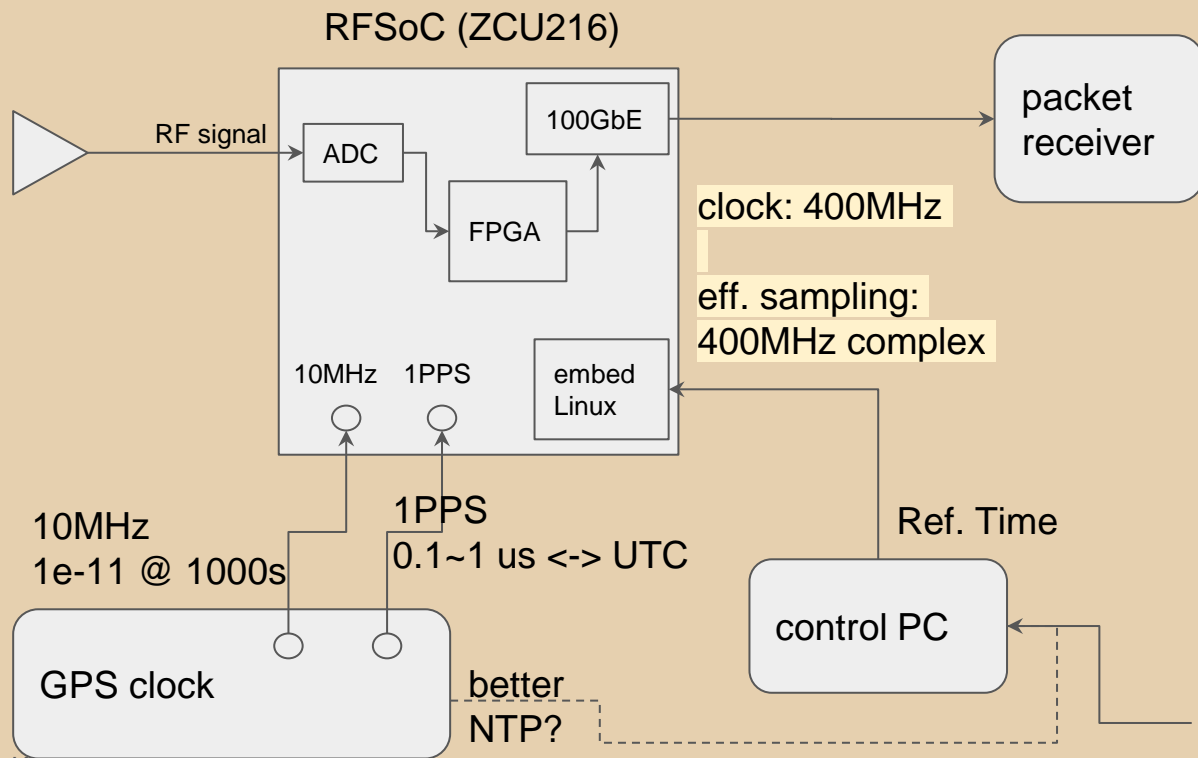
- 64/256 antennas deployed in Fushan main array
 - 16/64 antennas in Nantou outrigger array
 - site work to begin shortly in Green Island
 - negotiation for a site in Dongsha
- Sun fringe observed:
 - ~300MHz usable (between 400-800MHz)
 - $T_{\text{sys}} \sim 90\text{K}$
 - beamform successful
- VLBI timing
 - post-process data from the GNSS Rx a success
 - next to test between different sites
 - continuous estimates of the total electron content (TEC) toward various GNSS satellites at each site. potentially useful for estimating ionospheric delays of the pulses.
 - stay tuned ...

Thank you!

Potential External Collaborations

- NARIT (Thailand)
 - 2-element bladeRF prototype system just received and setup in TNRO (near Chiang Mai)
- NAOJ / Mizusawa VLBI Obs. (Japan)
 - 2-element bladeRF prototype system received and will be tested near Mizusawa first
 - Plan to test in Ogasawara island later
- RRI (India)
 - Interested in setting up an outrigger station in Gauribidanuru Radio Obs. (near Bangaluru)
- UM / Radio Cosmology Lab (Malaysia)
 - Interested in searching for a site to host an outrigger station.

BURSTT backend



Timestamp Error Budget:

- ref time (integer sec)
- **pps count (~100ns)**
- clock count within 1s (<0.01ns?)

GPS Clock Allan Variance



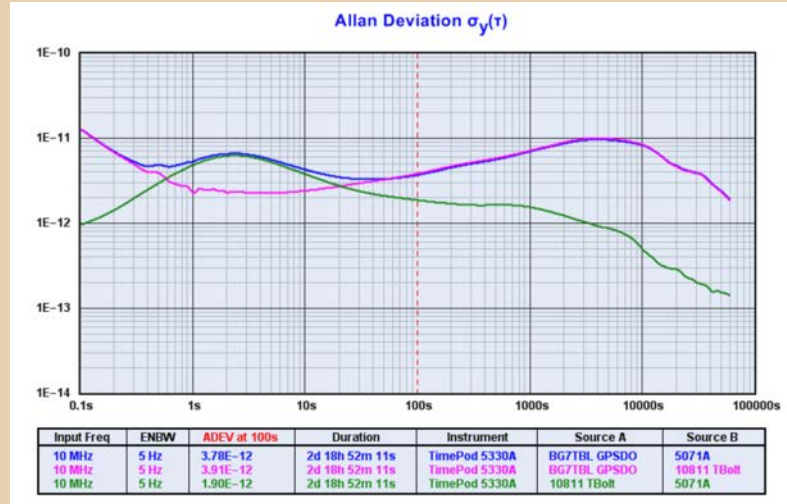
Brandywine NFS220+

Oscillator Option	Stability -10-60 °C	Allan Variance					
		1s	10s	100s	1000s	10000s	1 day
OCXO*	3×10^{-9}	2×10^{-11}	4×10^{-11}	8×10^{-11}	1×10^{-11}	5×10^{-12}	5×10^{-12}
Rb1	7×10^{-10}	3×10^{-11}	1.6×10^{-11}	8×10^{-12}			$< 5 \times 10^{-12}$
Rb2	4×10^{-10}	1×10^{-11}	3×10^{-12}	1×10^{-12}			$< 5 \times 10^{-12}$
Rb/OCXO	4×10^{-10}	8×10^{-12}	1×10^{-11}	3×10^{-12}			$< 5 \times 10^{-12}$

Oscillator Option	10 MHz Phase Noise dBc					
	1Hz	10Hz	100Hz	1kHz	10kHz	100kHz
OCXO*	-90	-120	-140	-150	-150	--155
Rb1	-67	-85	-114	-130	-140	-140
Rb2	-80	-100	-130	-140	-150	-150
Rb/OCXO	-90	-120	-140	-150	-150	--155



BG7TBL



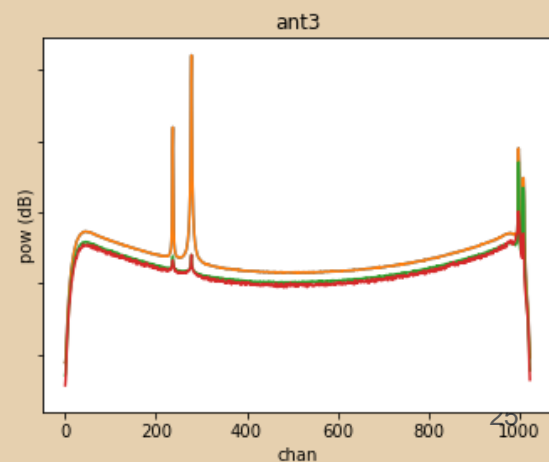
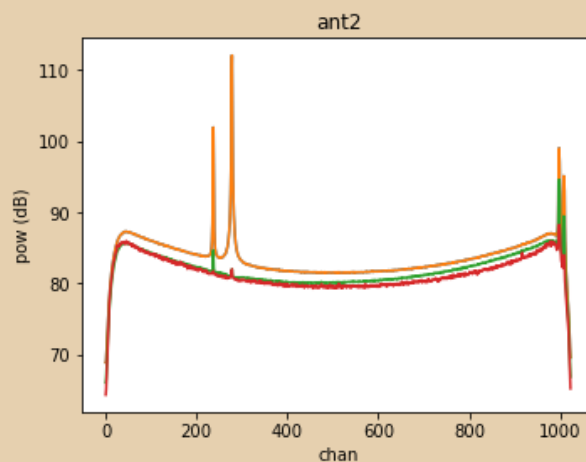
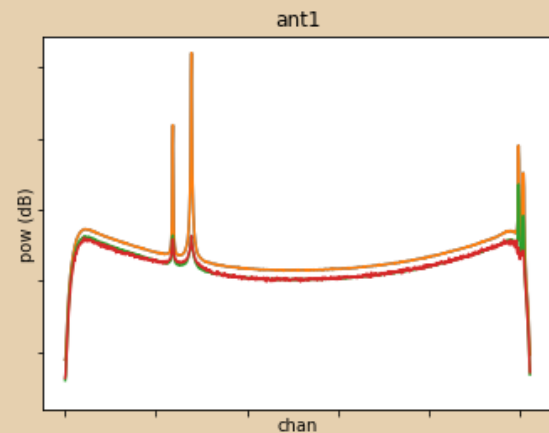
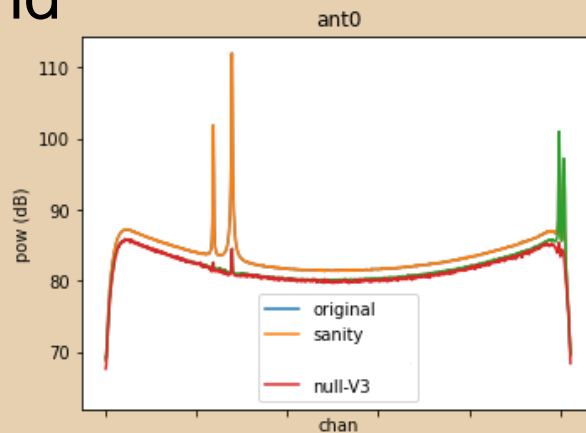
Software-Defined Radio Backend

- 2T/2R Transceiver chip
- 12-bit ADC depth
 - 2-byte real + 2-byte imag sample
- 50MHz -- 6GHz range
 - digital downconversion (DDC)
- up to 40MS/s sampling / 40MHz bandwidth (dual-channel)
 - $40\text{MS/s} \times 4\text{bytes/S} \times 2\text{inp} = 320\text{MB/s}$
- FPGA (default: bypass)
- USB3.0 connection to PC
 - 500MB/s data rate



Example 1: clean band

- ‘sanity’ == no nulling
- ‘null-V3’
 - each spec channel has a set of eigenvectors
 - project and remove strongest component independently
 - **20--30dB removed**



Example 2: TV bands

- ‘sanity’ == no nulling
- ‘null-V3’
 - project and remove strongest component independently
 - ~20dB removed from middle TV station
- ‘null-V3V2’
 - remove **two** strongest eigenmodes
 - more antennas needed for complicated RFI

