

UK Astronomy Technology Centre

The South African Prototype SRC IDIA and MeerKAT

Dr. Bradley Frank

Head of Electronic and Software Engineering — UKATC Formerly SARAO's Associate Director for Astronomy Operations at IDIA

Acknowledging Russ Taylor (Director) and Rob Simmonds (AD Tech)

MeerKAT

 2006: ~20-dish Karoo Array Telescope



UK Astronomy Technology Centre

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#1 / 2006

This issue features:

Minister visits proposed astronomy reserve

Four competing countries to present their SKA

How the KAT is taking shape

KAT funding and astronomy reserve on track

MeerKAT

- 2006: ~20-dish Karoo Array Telescope
- 2008: 80x12m *meer*KAT



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#2 / 2007

This issue features:

MeerKAT prototype antenna installed

Feeding the meerKAT prototype

European award for SA astronomy project

SKA champions in South Africa



The meerKAT prototype with all major mechanical components installed. The prototype is at the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory in South Africa.



SKA Africa eNews

October 2010

metres.

Inside this issue

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Global partnerships to meet SKA demands	

Following an extensive engineering design "This is the most innovative option of the process, the baseline design concept for design solutions that we considered, but it the South African MeerKAT precursor telewill allow the MeerKAT to operate at a sensitivity of over 220 m²/K" explains Anita scope has been decided. This design process consisted of an in-depth design study Loots, Associate Director of the SKA South that investigated implementation options Africa Project. and tradeoffs for all key subsystems, and

Innovative new design for SA's MeerKAT

ulminated in a Concept Design Review (CoDR) undertaken by an independent panel of international experts. The recon mendations of the CoDR panel have informed the baseline concept, and the mo visible design decision is that the MeerKA will consist of 64 Gregorian offset dishes, each with an effective diameter of 13.5

With all seven dishes of the MeerKAT precursor array (known as KAT-7) now in place, the construction of MeerKAT itself is the next big step for the SKA Africa team. "We will start by building a qualification (prototype) dish of the new design, on site in the Karoo." Loots adds. This first dish will be located near the KAT-7 array, which will

allow extensive testing of the performance of the new design against the existing array

M0000-0000V1-03 DD Revision: 1 Commercial in Confidence

An iteration of structural design was performed which resulted in the layout presented in Figure 3.

(CoDR) undertaken by an independent

mendations of the CoDR panel have in-

panel of international experts. The recom-



formed the baseline concept, and the most offset [m] visible design decision is that the MeerKAT -1000 will consist of 64 Gregorian offset dishes, -2000 each with an effective diameter of 13.5 -3000 -3000 -2000 -1000 0 x-offset [m]

3000

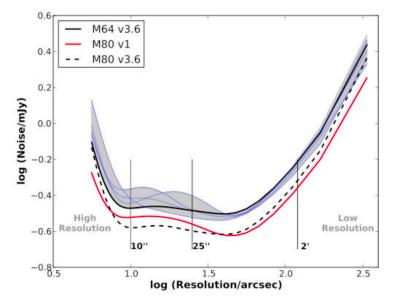
2000

1000

Figure 27: 64-dish Ver. 3.6 (yellow only) full configuration. Yellow and black together form the 80-dish Ver. 3.6

4km

1000 2000 3000



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netres.

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From the MeerKAT Configuration Design Review, 2010

Figure 3: Option 3 – structural layout

Figure 26: Sensitivity performance versus resolution for array configuration

MeerKAT Large Science Projects





An open invitation to the Astronomical Community to propose Key Project Science with the South African Square Kilometre Array Precursor

MeerKAT

R.S. Booth

Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory, P.O.Box 443, Krugersdorp 1740, South Africa email: roy@hartrao.ac.za

W.J.G. de Blok

Department of Astronomy, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa. email: edeblok@ast.uct.ac.za

J.L. Jonas

Rhodes University, Dept. Physics & Electronics, PO Box 94, Grahamstown 6410, South Africa email: j.jonas@ru.ac.za

B. Fanaroff

SKA South Africa Project Office, 17 Baker St, Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa email: bfanaroff@fanaroff.co.za

Proposal Submission deadline: March 15, 2010

I Introduction

As possible hosts of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), South Africa and Australia

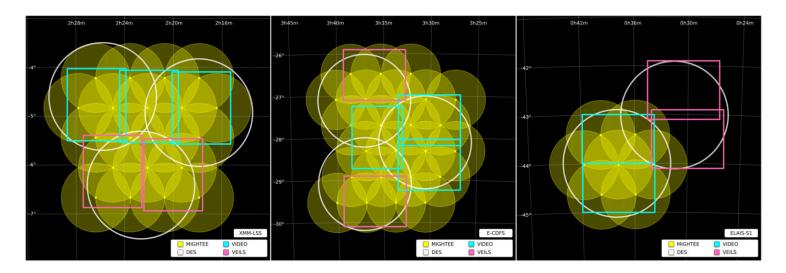
Large Survey Projects

A call for large MeerKAT observing proposals by SARAO's predecessor SKA South Africa in 2009 resulted in 10 Large Survey Projects (LSPs, defined to require more than 1000 hours of telescope time over 5 years) being approved in 2010. In 2016, with MeerKAT in an advanced state of construction, SKA South Africa requested revised project plans from eight LSPs:

- LADUMA: Looking at the Distant Universe with the MeerKAT Array
- MALS: The MeerKAT Absorption Line Survey
- MeerKAT Fornax Survey
- MeerTime: The MeerKAT Key Science Project on Pulsar Timing
- MHONGOOSE: MeerKAT HI Observations of Nearby Galactic Objects: Observing Southern Emitters
- MIGHTEE: The MeerKAT International GHz Tiered Extragalactic Exploration Survey
- ThunderKAT: The Hunt for Dynamic and Explosive Radio Transients with MeerKAT
- TRAPUM: Transients and Pulsars with MeerKAT https://skaafrica.atlassian.net

MIGHTEE

- Wide-band, wide-field survey at L-band.
- Four footprints, overlapping with large multiwavelenght surveys.





UK Astronomy Technology Centre **Figure 4:** Current plausible pointing strategies for (left-to-right) XMM-LSS (20 pointings, 6.7 deg²), E-CDFS (24 pointings, 8.3 deg²) and ELAIS-S1 (7 pointings, 1.6 deg²). Not shown here is the fourth COSMOS field, which will consist of a single deep pointing. In practice the grid of E-CDFS pointings will be snapped to the LADUMA pointing centre, requiring only 23 additional pointings from MIGHTEE.

MIGHTEE-HI

- Science Goals Maddox et al. (2020)
 - HI Mass & Velocity Function
 - Kinematics Spatially resolved HI.
 - Tully-Fisher Relation.
 - HI in Low Mass Galaxies.
 - HI as a function of Environment.
 - HI below the detection limit.
 - Galaxies and the surrounding medium.



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Published online	02 February 2021

A&A 646, A35 (2021)

MIGHTEE-HI: The HI emission project of the MeerKAT MIGHTEE survey^{*}

N. Maddox¹, B. S. Frank^{2,3,4}, A. A. Ponomareva⁵, M. J. Jarvis^{5,6}, E. A. K. Adams^{7,8}, R. Davé^{9,6,10}, T. A. Oosterloo^{7,8}, M. G. Santos^{6,2}, S. L. Blyth⁴, M. Glowacki¹¹, R. C. Kraan-Korteweg⁴, W. Mulaudzi⁴, B. Namumba¹², I. Prandoni¹³, S. H. A. Rajohnson⁴, K. Spekkens¹⁴, N. J. Adams⁵, R. A. A. Bowler⁵, J. D. Collier^{3,15}, I. Heywood^{5,12,2}, S. Sekhar^{3,16} and A. R. Taylor^{3,11}

+

Received: 12 October 2020 Accepted: 10 November 2020

Abstract

We present the HI emission project within the MIGHTEE survey, currently being carried out with the newly commissioned MeerKAT radio telescope. This is one of the first deep, blind, medium-wide interferometric surveys for neutral hydrogen (HI) ever undertaken, extending our knowledge of HI emission to z = 0.6. The science goals of this medium-deep, medium-wide survey are extensive, including the evolution of the neutral gas content of galaxies over the past 5 billion years. Simulations predict nearly 3000 galaxies over 0 < z < 0.4 will be detected directly in HI, with statistical detections extending to z = 0.6. The survey allows us to explore HI as a



MeerKAT Science: On the Pathway to the SKA

MeerKAT2016

25-27 May, 2016 Stellenbosch, South Africa published February 01, 2018

Entries on ADS

MeerKAT Science: On the Pathway to the SKA

MeerKAT is a next generation radio telescope under construction on the African SKA central site in the Karoo plateau of South Africa. When completed in 2018 MeerKAT will be a 64-element array of 13.5-m parabolic antennas distributed over an area with a diameter of 8 km. With a combination of wide bandwidth and field of view, with the large number of antennas and total collecting area, MeerKAT will be one of the world's most powerful imaging telescopes operating at GHz frequencies.

MeerKAT is a science and technology precursor of the SKA mid-frequency dish array, and following several years of operation as a South African telescope will be incorporated into the SKA phase-one facility. The MeerKAT science program will consist of a combination of key science, legacy-style, large survey projects, and smaller projects based on proposals for open time. This workshop, which took place in Stellenbosch in the Western Cape, was held to discuss and plan the broad range of scientific investigations that will be undertaken during the pre-SKA phase of MeerKAT. Topics covered included:

- technical development and roll out of the MeerKAT science capabilities,
- details of the large survey projects presented by the project teams,
 - science program concepts for open time,
- commensal programs such as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence,
- and the impact of MeerKAT on global Very Long Baseline Interferometry.

Editorial Board

Russ Taylor (chairman) Fernando Camilo Lerothodi Leeuw Kavilan Moodley

Report of the MeerKAT Large Project Review Panel – 2017

I. Background and Motivation for a Review

In 2009 the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa (SA) office released an open invitation to the international astronomical community, calling for key science projects to be carried out on the SKA precursor MeerKAT (Booth et al. astro-ph/0910.2935). A committee was formed in 2010 chaired by J. Lazio (JPL) to review these proposals and recommend a large science program for MeerKAT. The committee chose ten Large Survey Projects (LSPs), defined as requiring more than 1000 hours of telescope time over five years, and expected approximately 70% of the observing time to be allocated to LSPs during that span.

Table 1. Rank-ordered list of the recommended MeerKAT large science program.

Large Survey Project (LSP) Components	Requested Time (hrs)	Readers' Science Score	Panel Ranking
MeerTime (binary)	1440	3.87	А
MHONGOOSE	1650	3.55	Α
MeerTime (MSPs)	2160	3.58	Α
LADUMA	3424	3.84	Α
Fornax	900	3.41	Α
TRAPUM (Fermi sources)	338	3.60	Α
MeerTime (1000 PTA)	720	3.78	A/B
ThunderKAT (CVs)	250	3.42	В
MIGHTEE (L band)	979	3.23	В
ThunderKAT (GRBs)	330	3.42	В
MeerTime (GCs)	1080	3.38	В
MALS (UHF band)	2320	N/A	В
TRAPUM (nearby galaxies)	226	3.28	В
TRAPUM (GCs)	320	3.22	В
TRAPUM (SNR, PWN, TeV)	92	N/A	В
ThunderKAT (SNe Ia)	200	3.08	В
MIGHTEE (S band)	948	2.77	B/C
MeerTime (magnetars)	100	3.00	С
TRAPUM (Fly's Eye)	720	3.33	С
ThunderKAT (XRBs)	500	3.00	С
MALS (L band)	1073	N/A	С
MeerTime (young PSRs)	400	2.83	С



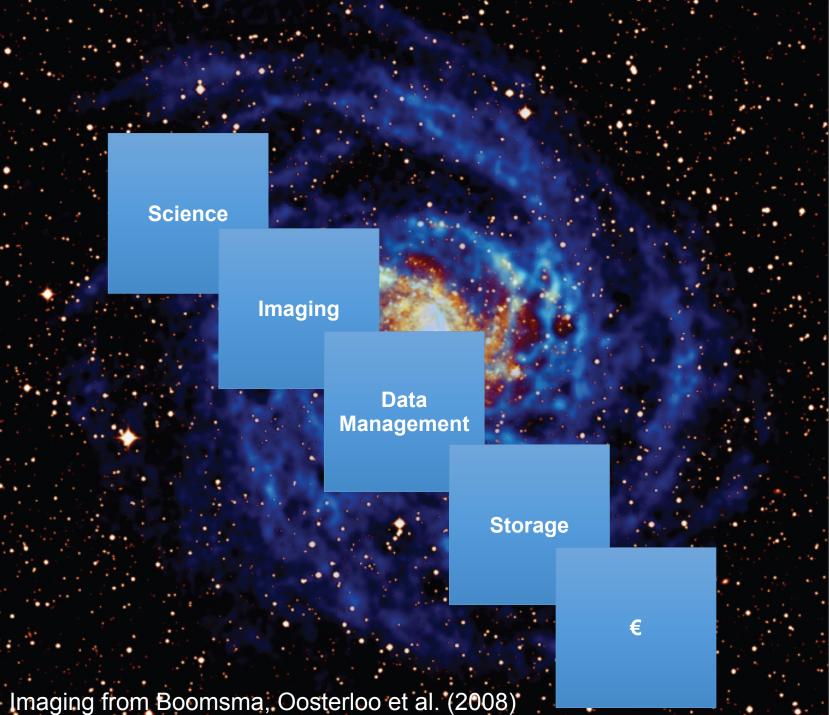
The benchmark WSRT Imaging of NGC6946 16x12h with WSRT 0.2 mJy/beam (~4km/s) 66 samples per channel, per polarisation, per integration.

MeerKAT?



The benchmark WSRT Imaging of NGC6946 16x12h with WSRT 0.2 mJy/beam (~4km/s) 66 samples per channel, per polarisation, per integration.

MeerKAT can achieve this in 12h 0.2 mJy/beam (5km/s) 2016 samples per channel, per polarisation, per integration.



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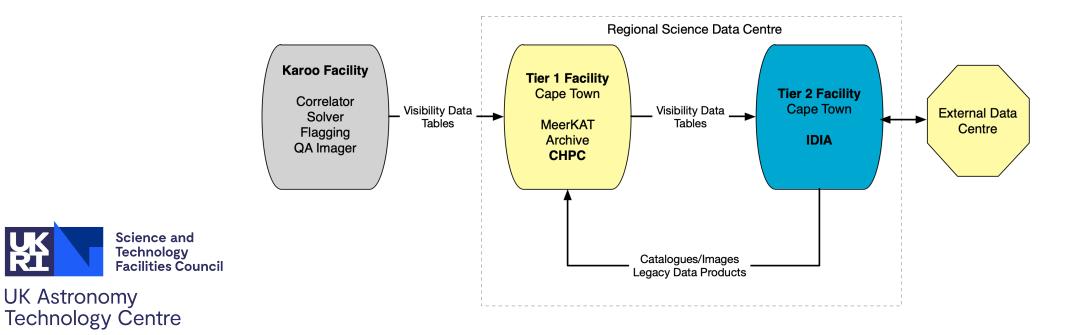
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MIGHTEE-HI Data Processing

- Volumes Expected: 1TB/hour
- Science Processing: data transport, management and imaging
- Analysis: Interactive, collaborative, agile, user-focused



Not entirely unexpected...

Square Kilometre Array Software and Computing:

Estimating the Sizes of the Challenges



UK Astronomy Technology Centre Duncan Hall SPDO Software and Computing 2009 Oct 13

International Journal of HIGH PERFORMANCE

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DOI: 10.1177/1094342014549059

Article

Challenges in exascale radio astronomy: Can the SKA ride the technology wave?

Erik Vermij¹, Leandro Fiorin¹, Rik Jongerius¹, Christoph Hagleitner² and Koen Bertels³

Abstract

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be the most sensitive radio telescope in the world. This unprecedented sensitivity will be achieved by combining and analyzing signals from 262,144 antennas and 350 dishes at a raw datarate of petabits per second. The processing pipeline to create useful astronomical data will require hundreds of peta-operations per second, at a very limited power budget. We analyze the compute, memory and bandwidth requirements for the key algorithms used in the SKA. By studying their implementation on existing platforms, we show that most algorithms have properties that map inefficiently on current hardware, such as a low compute–bandwidth ratio and complex arithmetic. In addition, we estimate the power breakdown on CPUs and GPUs, analyze the cache behavior on CPUs, and discuss possible improvements. This work is complemented with an analysis of supercomputer trends, which demonstrates that current efforts to use commercial off-the-shelf accelerators results in a two to three times smaller improvement in compute capabilities and power efficiency than custom built machines. We conclude that waiting for new technology to arrive will not give us the instruments currently planned in 2018: one or two orders of magnitude better power efficiency and compute capabilities are required. Novel hardware and system architectures, to match the needs and features of this unique project, must be developed.

COMPUTING APPLICATIONS The International Journal of High

> Current state of the art, and projected trends, are insufficient for the exascale challenge of the SKA.

Article

Challenges in exascale radio astronomy: Can the SKA ride the technology wave?

Erik Vermij¹, Leandro Fiorin¹, Rik Jongerius¹, Christoph Hagle and Koen Bertels³

Abstract

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be the most sensitive radio telescope in the ity will be achieved by combining and analyzing signals from 262,144 antennas and 350 per second. The processing pipeline to create useful astronomical data will require h ond, at a very limited power budget. We analyze the compute, memory and bandw rithms used in the SKA. By studying their implementation on existing platforms, w properties that map inefficiently on current hardware, such as a low compute-band In addition, we estimate the power breakdown on CPUs and GPUs, analyze the ca possible improvements. This work is complemented with an analysis of supercomput current efforts to use commercial off-the-shelf accelerators results in a two to three pute capabilities and power efficiency than custom built machines. We conclude t arrive will not give us the instruments currently planned in 2018: one or two orders or magnitude better power en-

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Computing Challenges in the SKA Era

Bruce Elmegreen IBM T.J. Watson Research Center Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 bge@us.ibm.com

Rutgers University, March 16-18, 2015

Summary

- Processors: Moore's law for <u>systems</u> still on track
 - ** \$T/year investment: exponential growth continues to the SKA1 era
 - ** also assumed by the SKA SDP 2015 report
- Memory: changing to become more energy efficient (non-volatile)
 - also allows extremely fast large memory spaces ("solid state memory")
 - However, new memory technologies are more expensive now
- SKA1 data volumes are not excessive by world standards
- SKA1 raw data rates are large but the technology should handle it.
- Not discussed: software changes, machine learning, neural networks, ...

Data Processing for the lizer KA Kilometre Array - an overview

WIDEFIELD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SKA SKADS CONFERENCE 2009 S.A. Torchinsky, A. van Ardenne, T. van den Brink-Havinga, A.J.J. van Es, A.J. Faulkner (eds.) 4-6 November 2009, Château de Limelette, Belgium

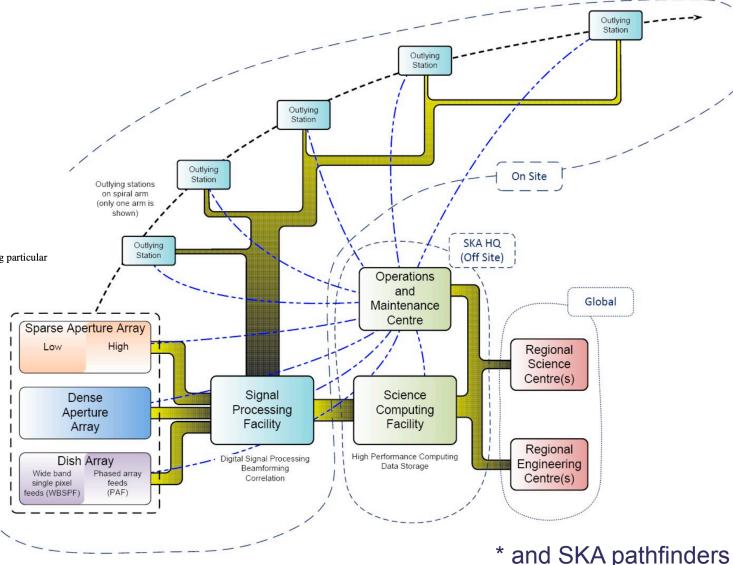
The Square Kilometre Array - an overview

R.T. Schilizzi¹, P.E. Dewdney¹, and T.J.W. Lazio²

¹ SKA Program Development Office, University of Manchester, UK

² Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC, USA

Abstract. A brief overview is given of the international SKA project and developments during the past year, paying particular attention to technical highlights, site characterisation, schedule and policy issues.





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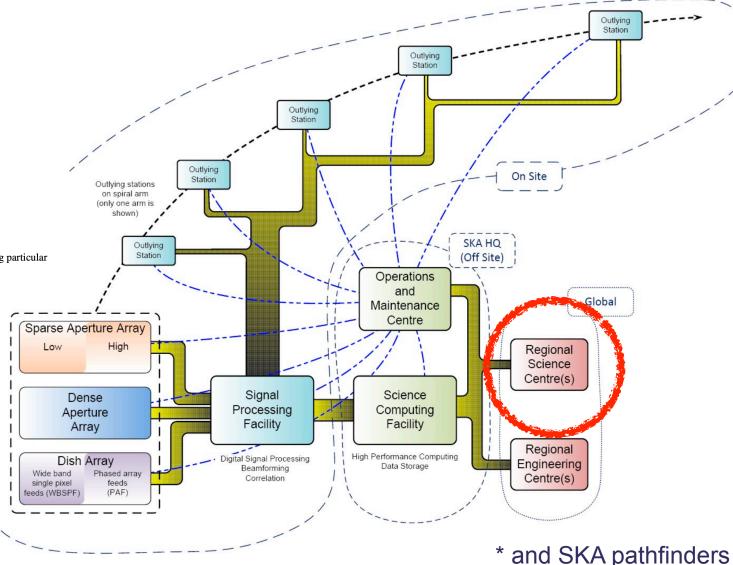
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Start Date

09/09/2024

Minister Naledi Pandor: Launch of Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy (IDIA)

03 Sep 2015

Address by Naledi Pandor MP, Minister of Science and Technology, at the launch of the Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy (IDIA), South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town

Prof Russ Taylor

Prof Tyrone Pretorius, UWC Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Bernie Fanaroff Prof Frik van Niekerk, NWU Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Directors of the SKA project



IDIA

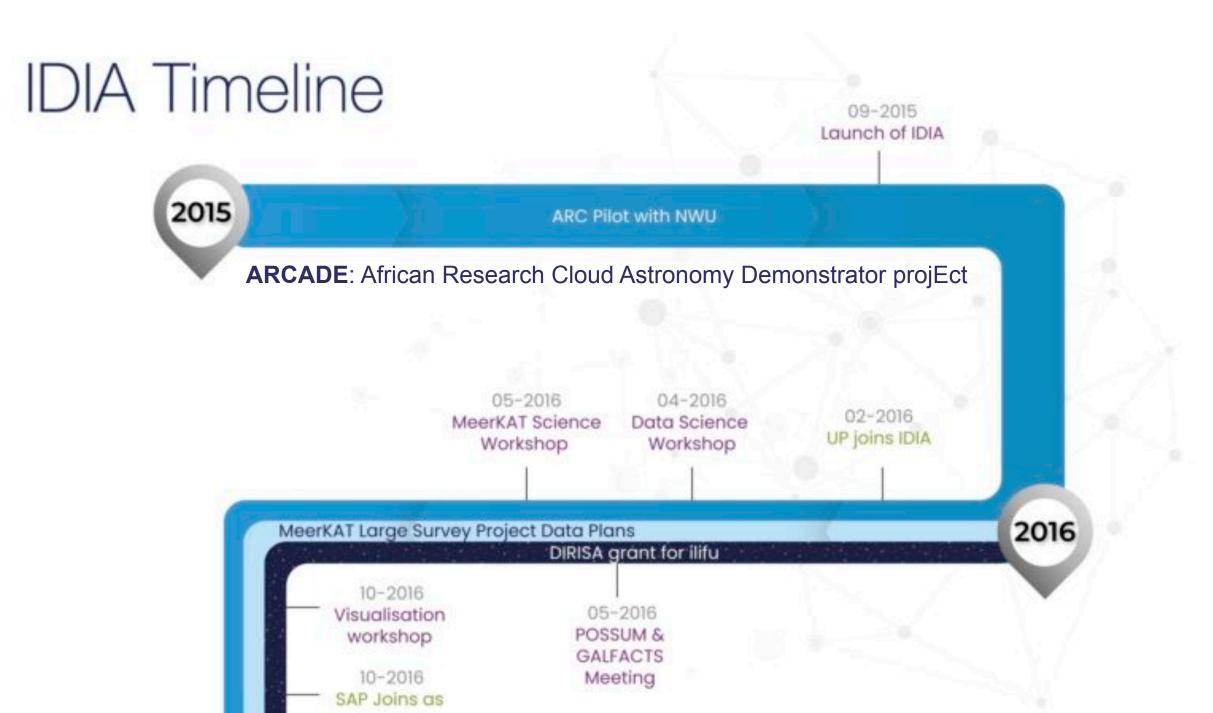
- Facility to empower the science users.
- Quid pro quo scientific community would need to show up (\$).
- Partnership with observatory, but community driven.
- Political and scientific support, and \$ to get started.



IDIA

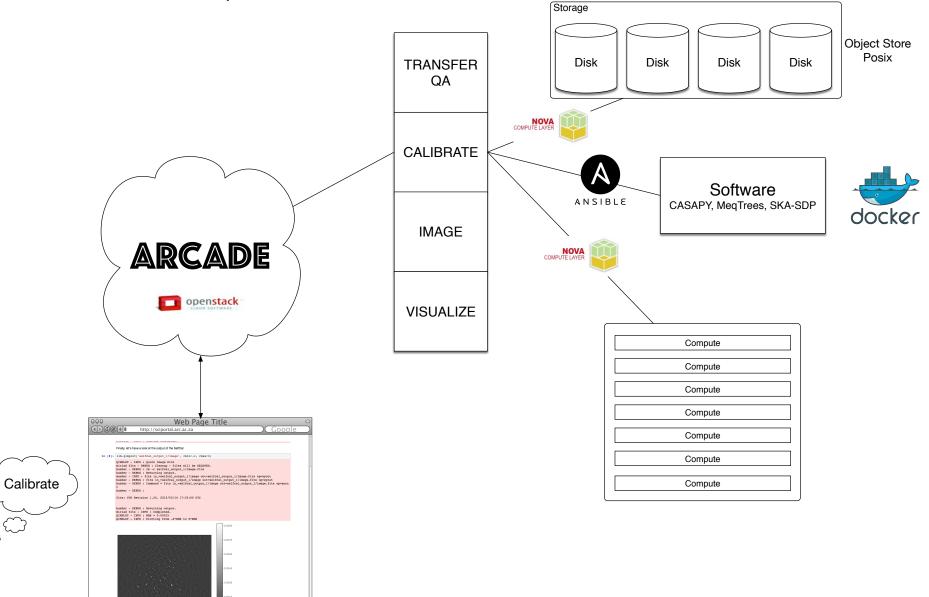
- Facility to empower the science users.
- Quid pro quo scientific community would need to show up (\$).
- Partnership with observatory, but community driven.
- Political and scientific support, and \$ to get started.
- But therein lay the problem how do we get started?

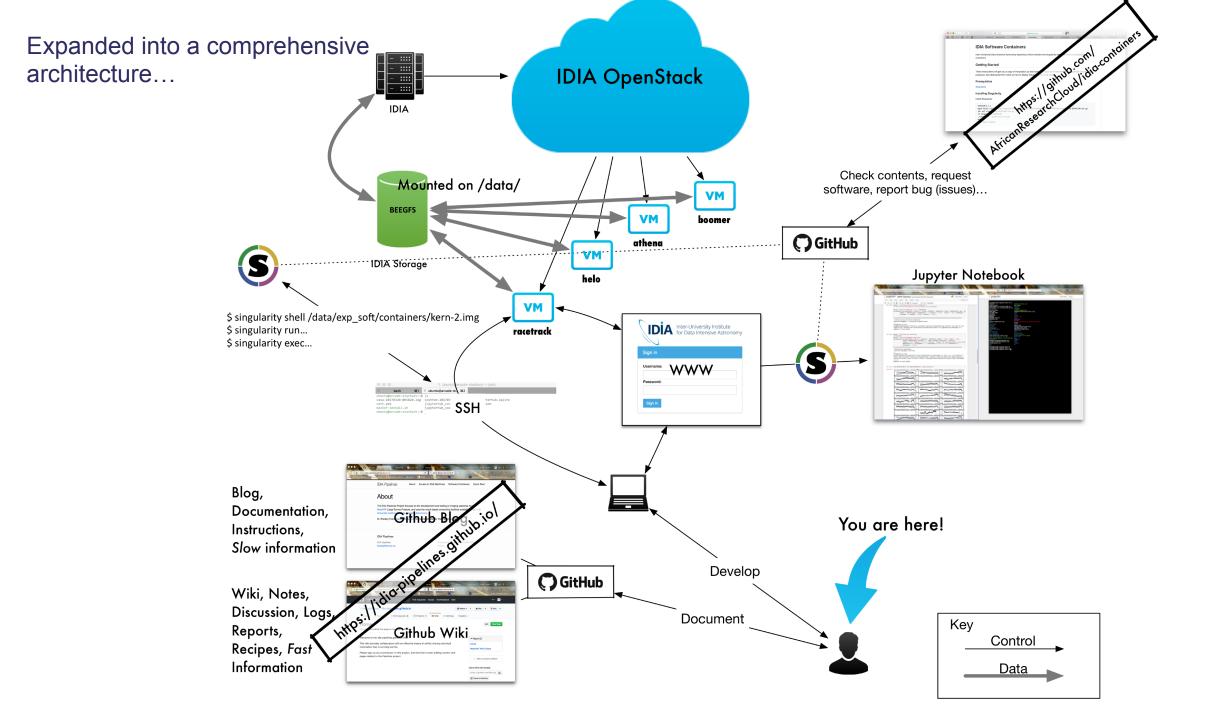




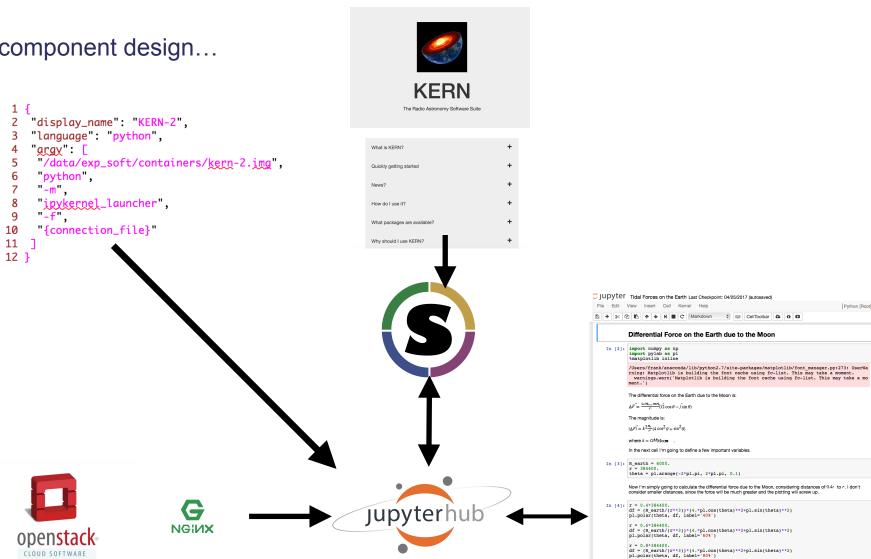
Basic expression of scientific requirements...

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Further broken down into component design...

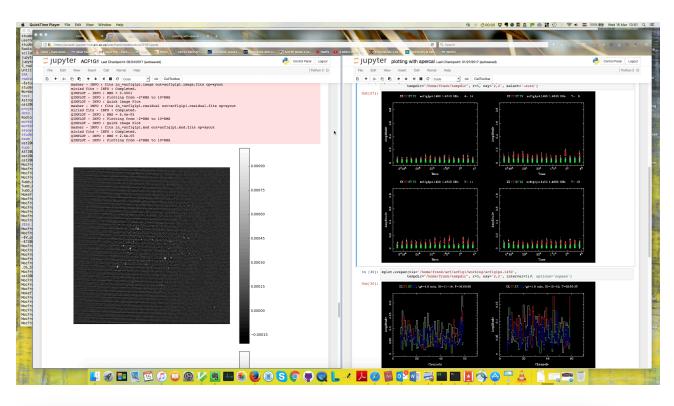


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Out[4]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x10cbc4390>

Substantiated by scientific use-cases...

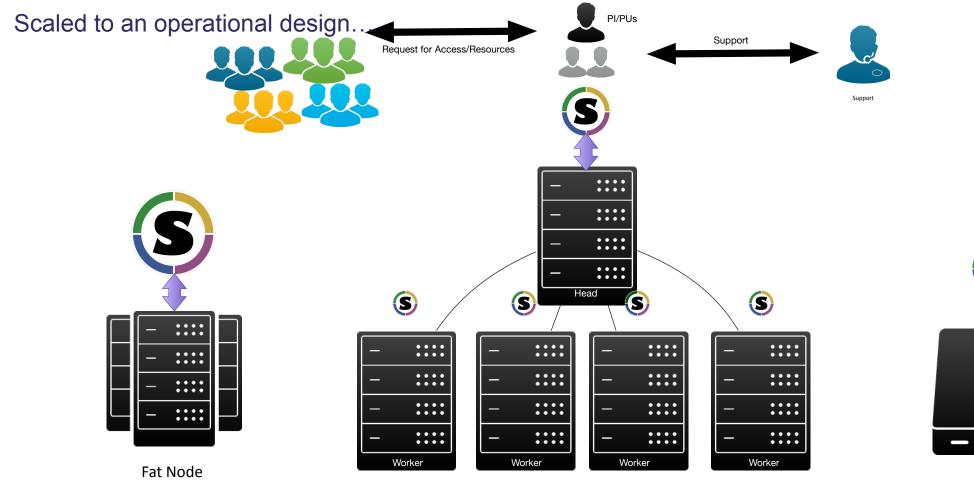




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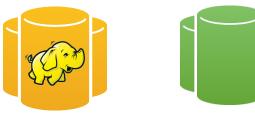






Bare Metal

••••



Hadoop/Distributed Storage

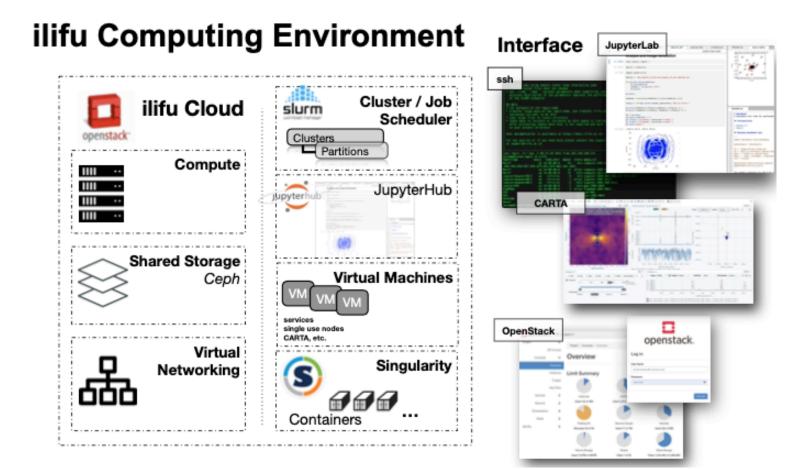
Recap (2015-2017)

- Used the African Research Cloud as a pathfinder for IDIA design.
- Defined the science requirements.
- Data processing use-cases: WSRT data, MeerKAT-16.
- Analysis: large astronomy groups, distributed collaborators...
- Laid the technical and technological groundwork for IDIA development, Ilifu procurement and data centre design.
- Convinced ourselves that we could build complex systems.



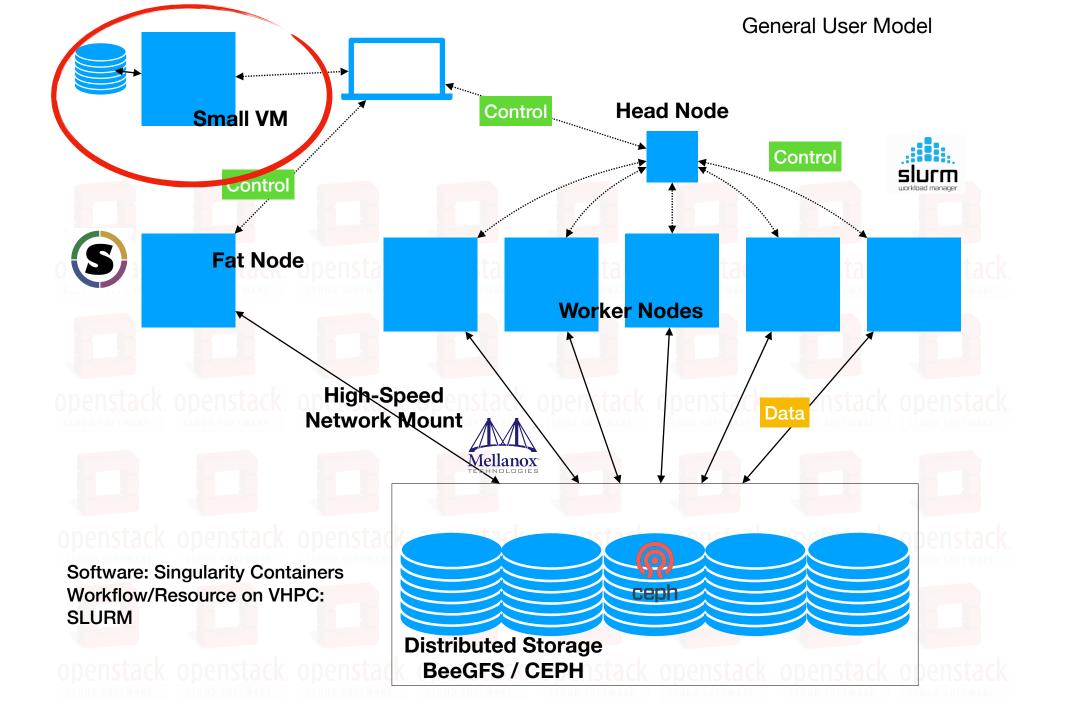
IDIA and Ilifu (2017+)

- Partnership with Bioinformatics stakeholders.
- Included the observatory (SARAO) as a partner.





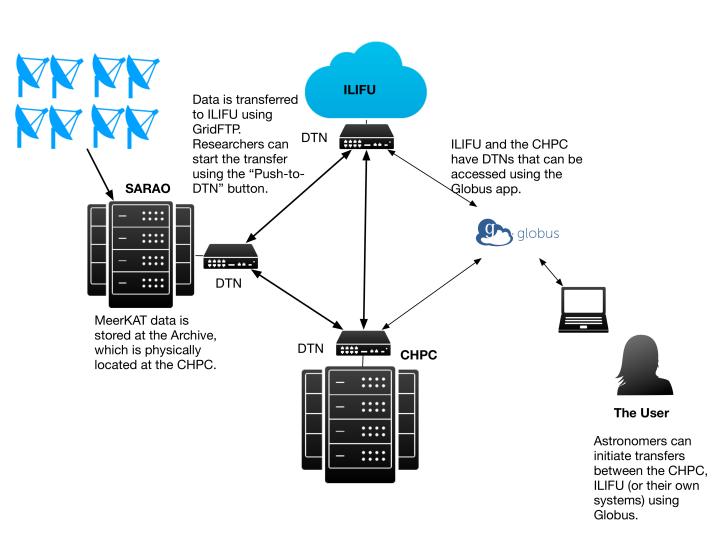
UK Astronomy Technology Centre Jeremy Smith, IDIA Operations Manager

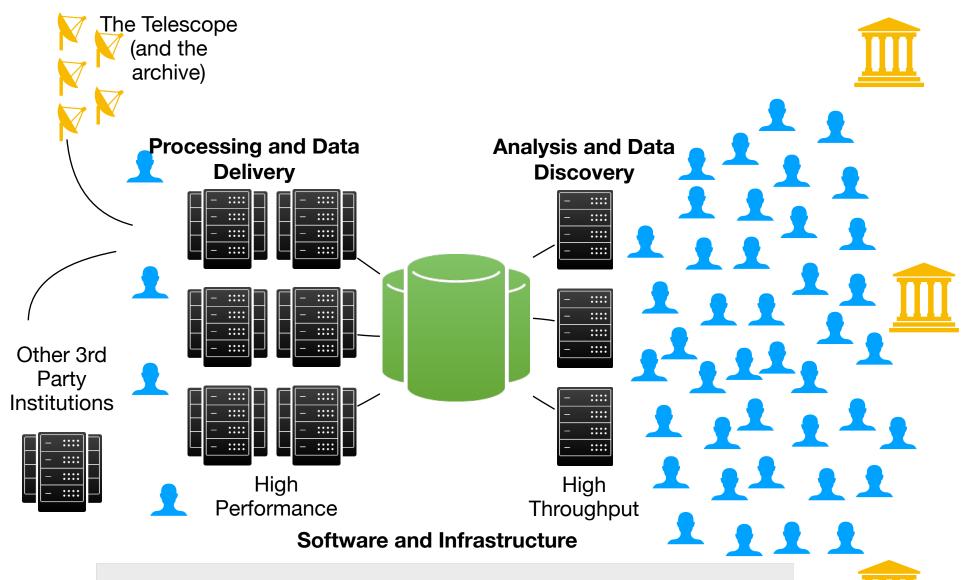


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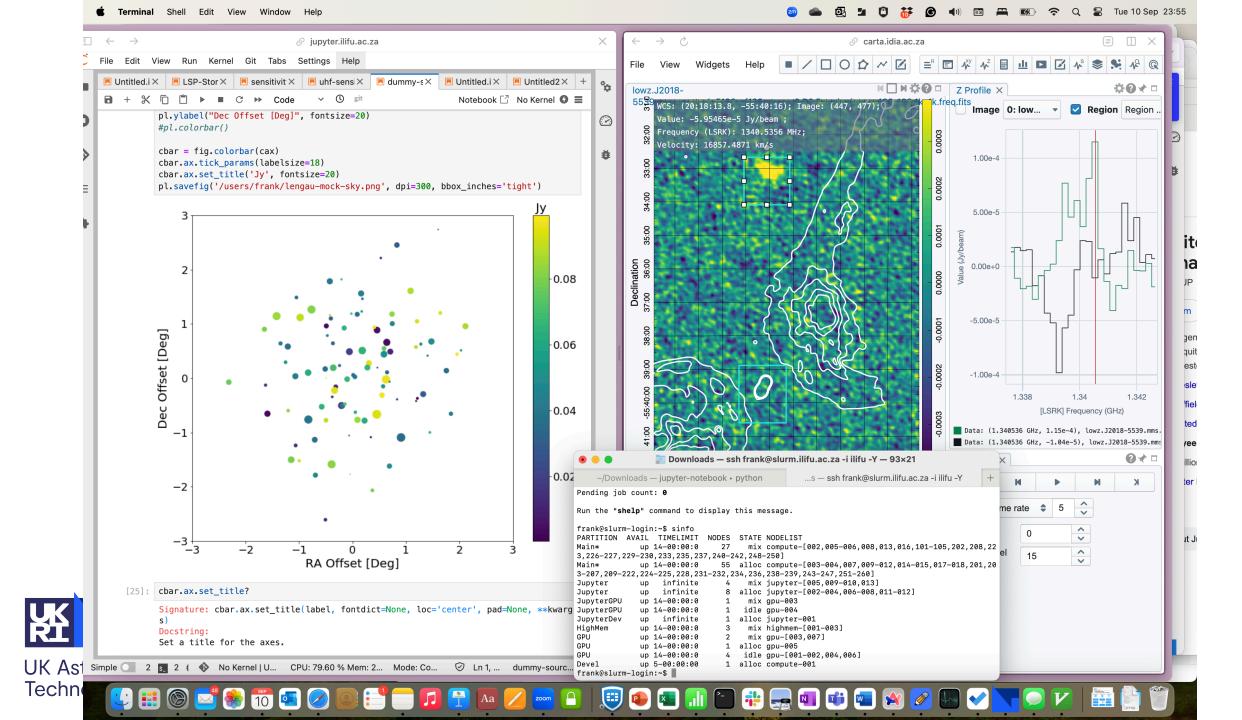
- Design emerged after coordination/ collaboration with SARAO, CHPC and IDIA.
- Hackathons/documents/designs/ negotiation.
- SANReN port + redirection.
- Staging (raw->MS), transfer, authentication and then validation on the IDIA side.
- Security authenticate on the SARAO side to *request* a push, validated identity, submitted to queue and then transferred back using certificates.







- A few users, long compute times, large data volumes.
- Changes slowly.
- Changes are big. Affect both software and infrastructure.
- Many users, highly interactive. Smaller data volumes.
- Changes often, but changes are small.



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Science Successes

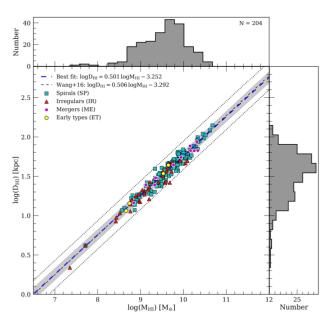
- 1 □ 2022MNRAS.512.2697R 2022/05 📑 🗮 👼 MIGHTEE-H I: the H I size-mass relation over the last billion years Rajohnson, Sambatriniaina H. A.; Frank, Bradley S.; Ponomareva, Anastasia A. and 15 more
- 2 ⊇ 2022MNRAS.tmp.971T 2022/04 MIGHTEE-H I: The relation between the H I gas in galaxies and the cosmic web Tudorache, Madalina N.; Jarvis, M. J.; Heywood, I. and 11 more
- 3 ⊇ 2022MNRAS.509.2150H 2022/01 cited: 5 MIGHTEE: total intensity radio continuum imaging and the COSMOS/XMM-LSS Early Science fields

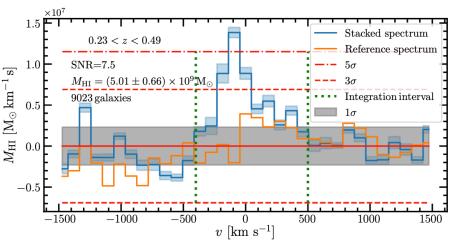
Heywood, I.; Jarvis, M. J.; Hale, C. L. and 23 more

- 4 O
 2021MNRAS.508.1897P
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- 5 □ 2021MNRAS.508.1195P 2021/11 cited: 4 📄 📰 💭 MIGHTEE-H I: the baryonic Tully-Fisher relation over the last billion years Ponomareva, Anastasia A.; Mulaudzi, Wanga; Maddox, Natasha *and 17 more*
- 6 2021MNRAS.506.2753R 2021/09 cited: 2 MIGHTEE-HI: discovery of an H I-rich galaxy group at z = 0.044 with MeerKAT Ranchod, Shilpa; Deane, Roger P; Ponomareva, Anastasia A. and 13 more
- 8 2021A&A...646A..35M 2021/02 cited: 18 ■ III CHTEE-HI: The H I emission project of the MeerKAT MIGHTEE survey Maddox, N.; Frank, B. S.; Ponomareva, A. A. and 19 more
- 9 2020MNRAS.491.1227P 2020/01 cited: 4 Measuring the HI mass function below the detection threshold Pan, Hengxing; Jarvis, Matt J.; Allison, James R. and 5 more

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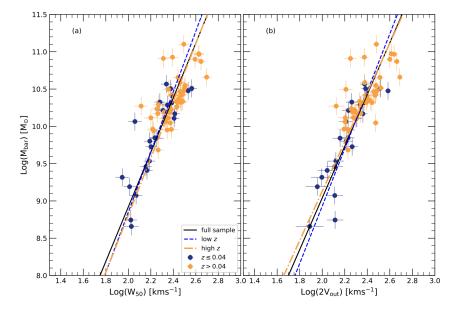


Figure 6. The bTFr based on corrected W_{50} , panel (a) and V_{out} , panel (b). The high-redshift galaxies (z > 0.04) are shown with orange symbols, while the low-redshift galaxies ($z \le 0.04$) are shown with blue symbols. The best-fit for the full sample is shown with the straight black line, while the fits for low- and high-z samples are shown with blue dashed and orange dashed-dotted lines respectively.

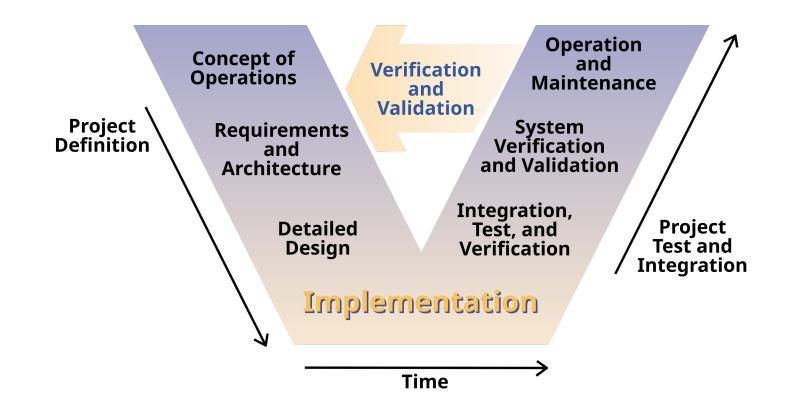
Wanga Mulaudzi

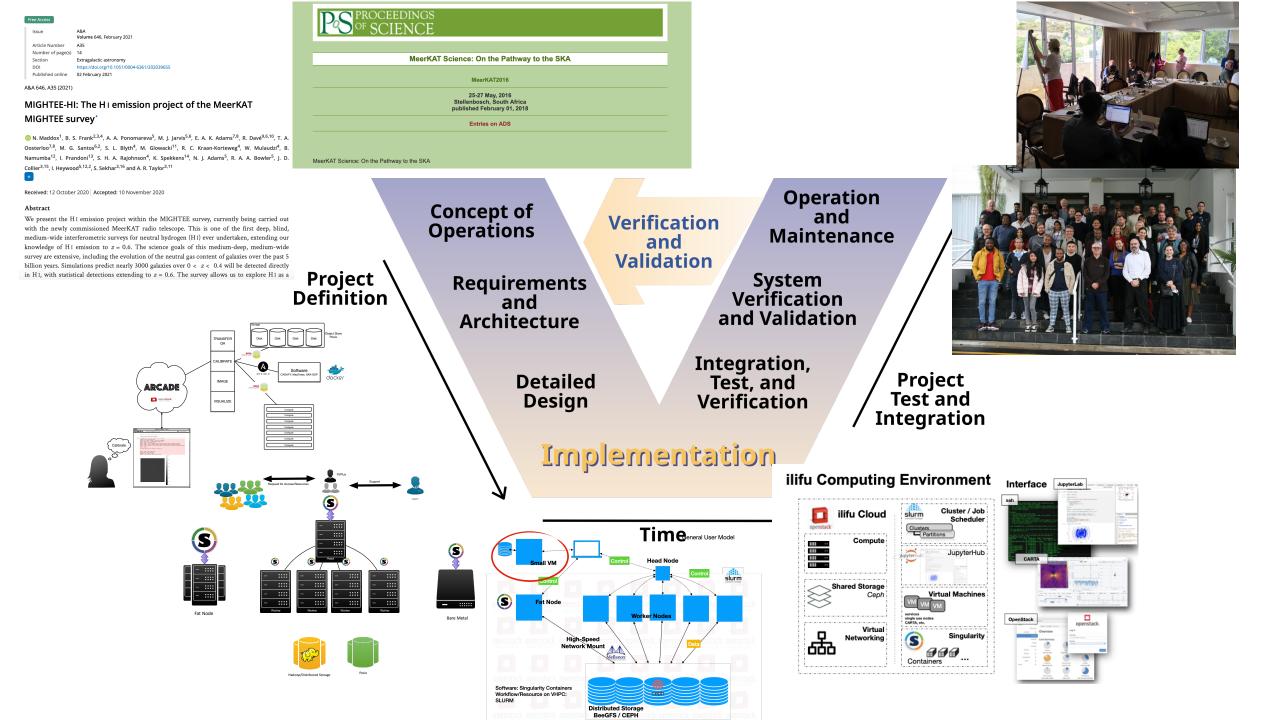
Supervisor: Dr Bradley Frank Co-Supervisor: Prof. Renée Kraan-Korteweg

Thesis presented for the degree of Master of Science



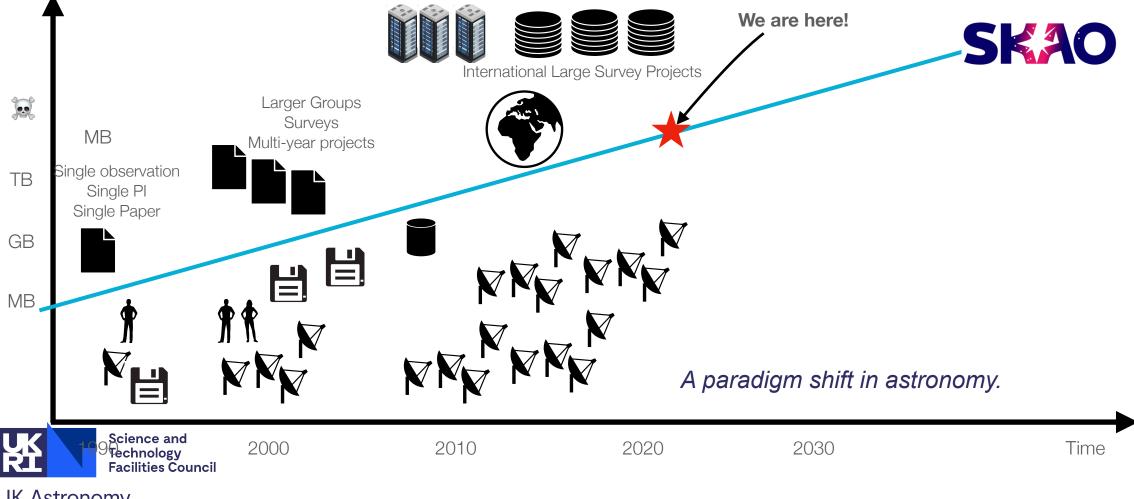
Department of Astronomy University of Cape Town South Africa November 2021 Systems Engineering "V" Diagram





MeerKAT/IDIA in Context

Log Complexity



Time to Science

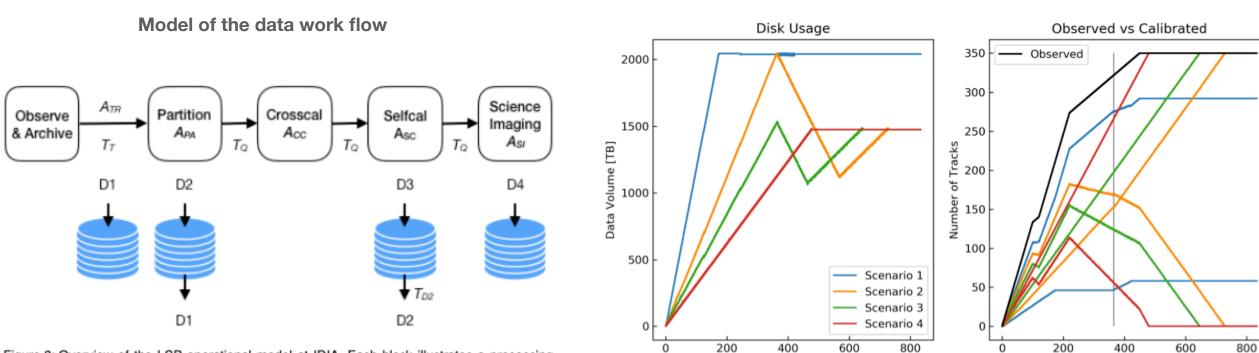


Figure 3: Overview of the LSP operational model at IDIA. Each block illustrates a processing step, and has an associated coefficient. The model includes the corresponding data write or removal operation, and various wait or staging times.

$$T_{proc} = (A_{TR} + A_{PA} + A_{CC} + A_{SC} + A_{SI}) \cdot T_{obs}$$

From Ilifu Processing and Storage for MeerKAT Large Imaging Surveys (Memo)

Each scenario explores the impact of:

Time Since First Observation [Days]

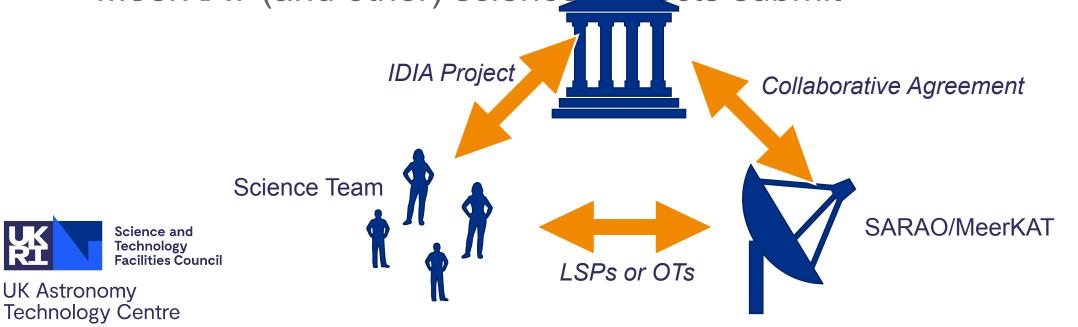
- Serial vs parallelised processing
- Data production QA

Time Since First Observation [Days]

- QA storage overhead (hoarding data)
- Science imaging strategies.

"Governance"

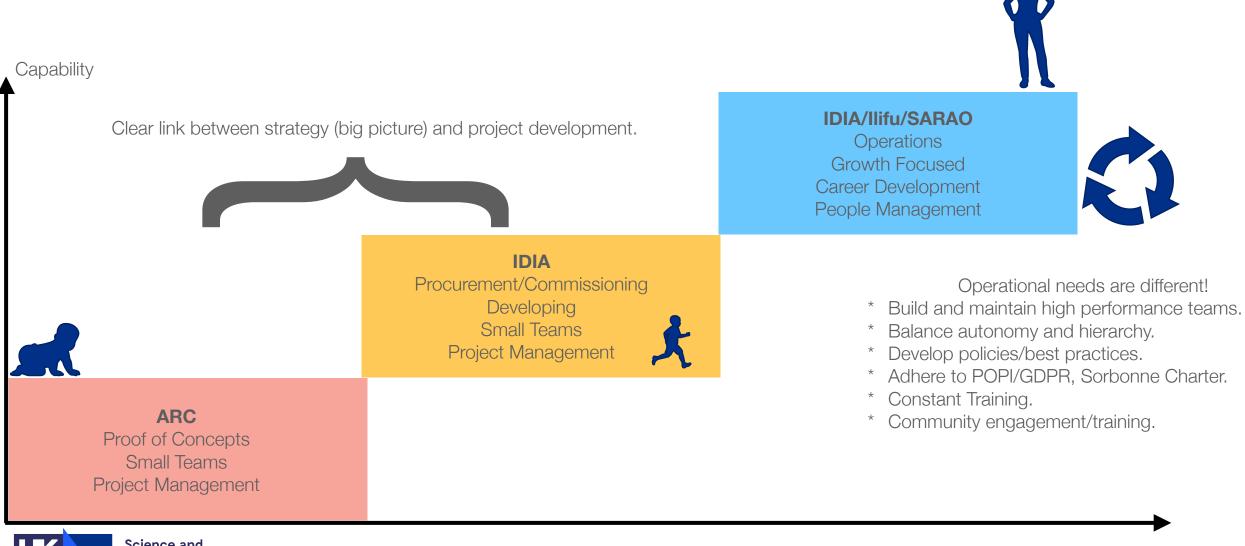
- Independent, with an oversight committee comprising DVCs and SARAO Chief Scientist.
- Funding tapped from universities and national funding agency (NRF).
- MeerKAT (and other) science projects submit



IDIA and MeerKAT

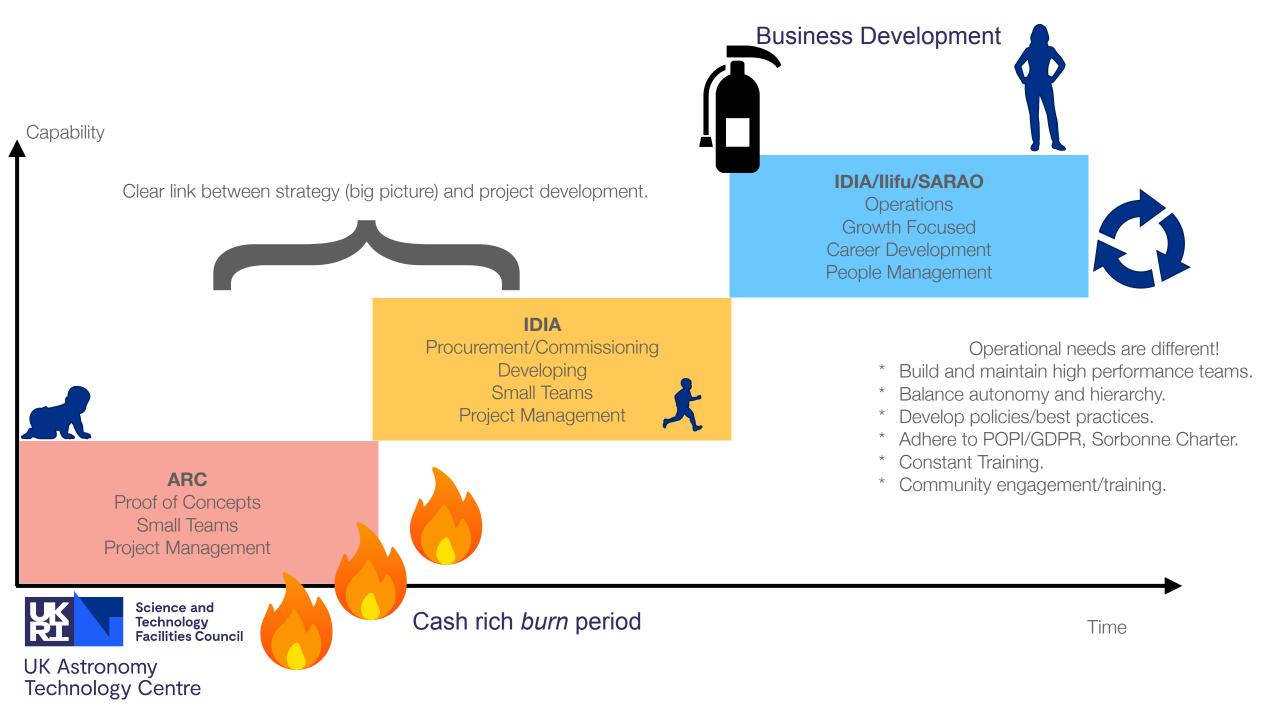
- SARAO: call for proposals, or large project review, which includes a data processing/management plan or report.
- Simultaneously, IDIA issues a call for expressions of interest, or support, for data management.
- Letter of support, or *data/report*, is provided for potential projects, which is included in proposal, or report.
- For successful projects, IDIA+SARAO sets-up semi-automatic data transfer for observations, and IDIA projects (fairshare rated).
- IDIA reviews projects annually, based on data usage.







UK Astronomy Technology Centre Time



Challenges

- Astronomers are not computers scientists!
- Policy development flexible enough for innovative science, but strong enough to ensure compliance and fairness.
 - Also affects your technology, e.g., Slurm fairshare!
- Service at a constant level: €total = 2×€OpEx×Tops
 - Depends on Inflation, Operational Model, Staff, etc...
 - For IDIA, $\in_{OpEx} \sim \in 0.5M$, so $\in_{total} = \in 5M$ for 5 years
- Sustainable management model scaling from a *project* to an institution.





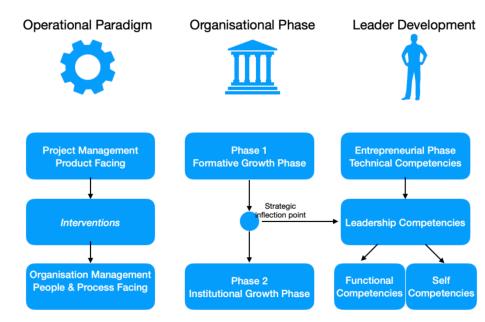


Table V

Self competencies

- A. Exercise intellectual integrity
- **1.** Understand personal strengths and weaknesses
- 2. Hire people to complement weaknesses
- 3. Self educate where needed

B. Move from "me" to "we"

- **1.** Sell the company instead of self
- 2. Become a coach
- C. Speak to the oracle
- **1.** Maximize external advisors
- 2. Participate in networking groups
- 3. Anticipate organizational changes
- D. Create a sustainable organization
- **1. Become a strategic thinker**
- 2. Begin to make long-term decisions
- 3. Identify unique contribution to the organization

Swiercz & London, 2002