SKA Science Prospects





SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY

Exploring the Universe with the world's largest radio telescope

Robert Braun 8 April 2015



SKA1 Scope: Members decision 05/03/2015

- SKA1-MID
 - 70% of planned SKA1 dishes, ie. 133x15m
 - Integration of MeerKAT, ie. 64x13.5m
 - Deployment of SPF2, SPF5 and SPF1
 - B_{max} ~ 150km (with 120km fall-back)
 - 50% savings on non-image-processing
- SKA1-LOW
 - 50% of planned LPDs, ie. 131,000 x Antennas
 - $B_{max} \sim 65 km$
 - Pulsar search and timing capability
- Advanced Instrumentation Program
 - Highlighting PAF development
- Negotiate ASKAP integration into SKAO

What is the SKA?





SKA1 Configurations





• SKA1–MID, –LOW: B_{Max} = 156, 65 km



SKA2 Configurations



SKA2–Dish, –LOW: B_{max} ≈ 300 km "core", ≈3000+ km remote

High-level SKA Schedule

: Blue = SKA1 science & engineering; orange = policy; green = SKA2



Exploring the Universe with the world's largest radio telescope

Andrea Casson, SKAO Project Controller, Sept 2014

Sensitivity Comparison





Survey Speed Comparison



Resolution Comparison





Image Quality Comparison Continuum ($\Delta \nu / \nu = 0.3$) Imaging Performance



- Single SKA1 track equivalent to VLA A+B+C+D + E+A+
- "Structural" dynamic range of ~1000:1 rather than ~3:1 per track
- Beam quality
 ~100 times
 better than VLA



Beam FWHM (arcsec)



Headline Science with SKA1 and SKA2

	SKA1	SKA2
The Cradle of Life & Astrobiology	Proto-planetary disks; imaging inside the snow/ice line (@ < 100pc), Searches for amino acids.	Proto-planetary disks; sub-AU imaging (@ < 150 pc), Studies of amino acids.
	Targeted SETI: airport radar 10^4 nearby stars.	Ultra-sensitive SETI: airport radar 10^5 nearby star, TV ~10 stars.
Strong-field Tests of Gravity with Pulsars and Black Holes	1st detection of nHz-stochastic gravitational wave background.	Gravitational wave astronomy of discrete sources: constraining galaxy evolution, cosmological GWs and cosmic strings.
	Discover and use NS-NS and PSR-BH binaries to provide the best tests of gravity theories and General Relativity.	Find all ~40,000 visible pulsars in the Galaxy, use the most relativistic systems to test cosmic censorship and the no-hair theorem.
The Origin and Evolution of Cosmic Magnetism	The role of magnetism from sub-galactic to Cosmic Web scales, the RM-grid @ 300/deg2.	The origin and amplification of cosmic magnetic fields, the RM-grid @ 5000/deg2.
	Faraday tomography of extended sources, 100pc resolution at 14Mpc, 1 kpc @ $z \approx 0.04$.	Faraday tomography of extended sources, 100pc resolution at 50Mpc, 1 kpc @ $z \approx 0.13$.
Galaxy Evolution probed by Neutral Hydrogen	Gas properties of 10^7 galaxies, $\langle z \rangle \approx 0.3$, evolution to $z \approx 1$, BAO complement to Euclid.	Gas properties of 10^9 galaxies, $\langle z \rangle \approx 1$, evolution to $z \approx 5$, world-class precision cosmology.
	Detailed interstellar medium of nearby galaxies (3 Mpc) at 50pc resolution, diffuse IGM down to N_H < 10^17 at 1 kpc.	Detailed interstellar medium of nearby galaxies (10 Mpc) at 50pc resolution, diffuse IGM down to N_H < 10^17 at 1 kpc.



Headline Science with SKA1 and SKA2

	SKA1	SKA2	
The Transient Radio Sky	Use fast radio bursts to uncover the missing "normal" matter in the universe.	Fast radio bursts as unique probes of fundamental cosmological parameters and intergalactic magnetic fields.	
	Study feedback from the most energetic cosmic explosions and the disruption of stars by super-massive black holes.	Exploring the unknown: new exotic astrophysical phenomena in discovery phase space.	
Galaxy Evolution probed in the Radio Continuum	Star formation rates (10 M_Sun/yr to $z \sim 4$).	Star formation rates (10 M_Sun/yr to z ~ 10).	
	Resolved star formation astrophysics (sub-kpc active regions at z ~ 1).	Resolved star formation astrophysics (sub- kpc active regions at z ~ 6).	
Cosmology & Dark Energy	Constraints on DE, modified gravity, the distribution & evolution of matter on super- horizon scales: competitive to Euclid.	Constraints on DE, modified gravity, the distribution & evolution of matter on super- horizon scales: redefines state-of-art.	
	Primordial non-Gaussianity and the matter dipole: 2x Euclid.	Primordial non-Gaussianity and the matter dipole: 10x Euclid.	
Cosmic Dawn and the Epoch of Reionization	Direct imaging of EoR structures (z = 6 - 12).	Direct imaging of Cosmic Dawn structures (z = 12 - 30).	000 e
	Power spectra of Cosmic Dawn down to arcmin scales, possible imaging at 10 arcmin.	First glimpse of the Dark Ages (z > 30).	



- Notional package of Key Science Projects in Q1 2015 based on the highest priority science objectives that have been recommended by our science community that will be:
 - Consistent with capabilities of the SKA1 design
 - Consistent with a realistic observing schedule filled at approximately 50% for the first 5 years of scientific operations
- Adopt KSP policy
 - Only scientists from SKA member countries may lead a KSP
 - KSP Leadership is guaranteed to be distributed amongst SKA members in proportion to their financial contribution
 - KSP participation (at the non-Leader level) is guaranteed to be distributed amongst SKA members in proportion to their financial contribution
 - KSP participation (at the non-Leader level) of SKA non-members is capped at the value defined in the Access Policy



- Issue Call for KSP Letters of Intent (circa 2018)
 - Provides opportunity to coordinate appropriate balance of prospective
 SKA member teams and science topic coverage
- Issue Call for full KSP proposals
- Proposal assessment criteria:
 - Scientific merit
 - Technical feasibility
 - Plans and capabilities for data analysis
 - Publication and derived data product release arrangements
 - Collaboration policies and management arrangements
 - Consistency with science aims expressed in the set of notional KSPs



- Resourcing
 - KSP teams can propose and receive dedicated SKA resources
 - General expectation that teams bring significant additional resourcing
- Data rights
 - Primary data rights remain with the SKA Observatory
 - Data rights are granted to KSP teams for specific objectives
 - Commensal programs can be granted data rights for complementary objectives
- Ongoing review
 - Satisfactory progress against project plan, including timely public release of agreed data products is condition for further allocations

A Package of Notional SKA1 Key Science Projects



SWG	Objective
CD/EoR	Physics of the early universe IGM - I. Imaging
CD/EoR	Physics of the early universe IGM - II. Power spectrum
Pulsars	Reveal pulsar population and MSPs for gravity tests and Gravitational Wave detection
Pulsars	High precision timing for testing gravity and GW detection
HI	Resolved HI kinematics and morphology of \sim 10 10 M_sol mass galaxies out to z \sim 0.8
HI	High spatial resolution studies of the ISM in the nearby Universe.
HI	Multi-resolution mapping studies of the ISM in our Galaxy
Transients	Solve missing baryon problem at $z\sim2$ and determine the Dark Energy Equation of State
Cradle of Life	Map dust grain growth in the terrestrial planet forming zones at a distance of 100 pc
Magnetism	The resolved all-Sky characterisation of the interstellar and intergalactic magnetic fields
Cosmology	Constraints on primordial non-Gaussianity and tests of gravity on super-horizon scales.
Cosmology	Angular correlation functions to probe non-Gaussianity and the matter dipole
Continuum	Star formation history of the Universe (SFHU) – 1+11. Non-thermal +Thermal processes

- Outcome of well-documented SKA1 science prioritisation process
 - All objectives originate with the science community
 - Review and strong endorsement by advisory bodies (SRP, SEAC)
- Should be viewed as *representative* package of high-impact science deliverables for the first five years of science operations



- Some areas of feed-back/concern and their clarification:
 - Notional KSPs versus actual KSPs
 - Need to stress that the current list is representative and not final
 - KSP process must allow for best new ideas and not be frozen too early
 - KSP proposals versus KSP programs
 - Need to clarify that KSPs are large but otherwise normal observing proposals
 - KSPs are not blanket allocations of science areas to specific groups
 - Limited versus general data rights
 - KSPs only granted limited data rights for specific science objectives and wellmotivated proprietary period
 - Same data stream may well serve multiple KSPs, each with limited objectives
 - Global versus project member balance
 - Member balance would only be imposed globally on entire KSP package
 - Letter of Intent phase to gauge national aspirations and membership projections

KSPs: Next step, 2015 Stockholm Workshop



- Further develop KSP concepts
 - A notional KSP list has emerged from the SKA1 Science prioritization process, but this is only a representative placeholder, and will be continually reviewed.
 - This workshop aims to provide a forum for open discussion of KSP concepts, reviewing the notional list and identifying missing concepts.
- Support development of potential KSP collaborations
 - There will ultimately be a competitive process of KSP proposal submission, evaluation and allocation, implying that all discussions at this stage are informal and come with no guarantees.
 - This workshop aims to provide a forum for the key areas of interest of particular communities to be presented, leadership aspirations to begin to be identified and resourcing strategies to begin development.
- Maximizing commensality
 - It is likely that the same data stream will serve multiple KSP or PI-led groups, each with limited data rights to address specific scientific objectives.
 - This workshop aims to provide a forum for early discussion of support for such commensal programs, including the development of efficient survey strategies intending to maximise the scientific return of the KSP package.



Headline SETI Science





- Detectable stars with airport radar power ~ 10⁴ with SKA1
- Detectable stars with TV transmitter power ~10 with SKA2



Finding all the pulsars in the Milky Way...

ordes et al. 2004, Kramer et al. 2004, Smits et al. 2008)





-40,000 normal pulsars -2,000 millisecond psrs -100 relativistic binaries rst pulsars in Galactic Centre rst extragalactic pulsars

- Timing precision is expected to increase by factor ~100
- Rare and exotic pulsars and binary systems: including PSR-BH systems!
- Testing cosmic censorship and no-hair theorem
- Current estimates are ~50% of population with SKA1, 100% with SKA2



Headline Pulsar Science



• Detection thresholds for discrete GW source detection; the first discoveries with SKA1, "GW astronomy" with SKA2

Headline Pulsar Science





 Pulsar 5 year timing constraints from a MSP-BH binary (1.4, 10 M₋₁) on scalar-tensor theories of gravity

Headline Magnetism Science





 3D magnetic tomography of the Galaxy and distant universe; from current 1 RM deg⁻², SKA1: 300 deg⁻² to SKA2: 5000 deg⁻²

Galaxy HI Evolution: out to z ~ 1 with SKA1 and z ~ 5 with SKA2











(Simulations: Schaye et al. 2010, Images: Oosterloo 2014)

- Understanding galaxy assembly and the baryon cycle
 - Determine the impact of galaxy environments
 - Probe gas inflow and removal, diffuse gas N_{HI} < 10¹⁷ cm⁻²
 - Measure angular momentum build-up

Galaxy HI Evolution: out to z ~ 1 with SKA1 and z ~ 5 with SKA2



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Precision Cosmology with SKA2 HI





- Detect 10^{8.9} galaxies with $\langle z \rangle \approx 1$, 10^{7.9} with $\langle z \rangle \approx 2$
- Compare Euclid (2020+5?) target of 10⁸ spectra with $\langle z \rangle \approx 1$
- SKA2 will provide an unrivaled capability for precision cosmology!



- Four celestial "FRB" events now detected (after first "Lorimer" burst): S = 0.5 - 1.3 Jy, $\Delta t = 1 - 6$ msec, DM = 550 - 1100 cm⁻³ pc
- Estimated event rate: 1x10⁴ sky⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Completely unknown origin, possibly at cosmological distances

Transients headline science:



Fast Radio Bursts as a cosmological probe



 Prospects for fundamental contributions to cosmology with large samples (~1000) of spectroscopically identified FRBs out to z ~ 2 with SKA1 and z ~ 5 with SKA2



Transients headline science: Untapped discovery space



• Prospects for entirely new classes of transient phenomena

Galaxy Evolution Studies in the Radio Continuum: Understanding the Star Formation History of the Universe



- Unmatched sensitivity to star formation rates (10 $M_{\perp}/yr)$ out to $z\sim4$ with SKA1 and $z\sim10$ with SKA2
- Resolved (sub-kpc) imaging of star forming disks out to z ~ 1 with SKA1 and z ~ 6 with SKA2

Cosmology with SKA: Integrated Sachs-Wolfe effect



- Constraining non-Gaussianity of primordial fluctuations with the Integrated Sachs-Wolfe effect: correlation of foreground source populations with CMB structures
 - Uniquely probing the largest scales



Cosmology with SKA: Baryon Acoustic Oscillations





• Constraining Dark Energy models with redshift-resolved BAO measurements

- Discrete detection is complementary with SKA1, cutting edge with SKA2
- Intensity mapping is higher risk but world-class, even with SKA1

Cosmology with SKA: Baryon Acoustic Oscillations





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Cosmology with SKA: Modified Gravity & Dark Energy EoS w(z)



 Precision cosmology by enabling meaningful multiparameter representations of new physics models with explicit red-shift evolution

HI surveys of the EoR, Cosmic-Dawn & Dark Ages



CMB displays a single moment of the Universe. Its initial conditions at ~400,000

yrs

HI emission from the Dark Ages, Cosmic Dawn & EoR traces an evolving "movie" of baryonic

and DM structure formation at $t_{univ} < 10^9$



SKA1 surveys of the EoR (& Cosmic-Dawn)



z = 21.19z = 30.071 mK rms $\langle \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{HI}} \rangle_{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{1}$ $\langle \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{HI}} \rangle_{\mathbf{v}} = 1$ 10 mK rms $\langle \delta \mathbf{T_b} \rangle_{\mathbf{v}} = -34.6$ $\langle \delta \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{b}} \rangle_{\mathbf{v}} = -14.$ 100 mK rms. HI Red-Shift Gpc EoR 10 CD $\delta T_{[(1+z)/10]}^{-1/2}$ (mK) 10 100 1000 10^{4} 105 (Mesinger et al Beam FWHM (arcsec)

- Detecting EoR structures in imaging mode (as distinct from statistically) on 5 arcmin scales with 1 mK RMS
- Probing the Cosmic Dawn statistically

2011)

δT [(1+z)/10]^{-1/2} (mK)

SKA1-LOW Line Deep Field (1 MHz, 1000 h)

SKA2 surveys of the Cosmic-Dawn (& Dark Ages)





SKA2-LOW Line Deep Field (1 MHz, 1000 h)

2011)

- Detecting Cosmic Dawn structures in imaging mode (as distinct from statistically) on 5 arcmin scales with 1 mK RMS
- Probing the Dark Ages statistically (for $v_{Min} < 50$ MHz)

Advancing Astrophysics with the Square Kilometre Array 9-13 June 2014, Giardini Naxos, Italy Image: Skascicon14

2014 marks 10 years since the publication of the comprehensive 'Science with the Square Kilometre Array' book and 15 years since the first such volume appeared in 1999. In that time numerous and unexpected advances have been made in the fields of astronomy and physics relevant to the capabilities of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). This meeting will facilitate the publication of a new, updated science book, which will be relevant to the current astrophysical context.

Scientific Organising Committee
Robert Braun (SKAO) – co-Chair
Grazia Umana (INAF-OACt) – co-Chair
Tyler Bourke (SKAO)
Rob Fender (Oxford)
Federica Govoni (INAF-OA Cagliari)
Jimi Green (SKAO)
Melvin Hoare (Leeds)
Melanie Johnston-Hollitt (Victoria Univ. Wellington
Leon Koopmans (Kapteyn Astronomical Institute)

Michael Kramer (MPIfR) Roy Maartens (Univ. Western Cape) Tom Oosterloo (ASTRON) Isabella Prandoni (INAF-IRA) Nicholas Seymour (CASS) Ben Stappers (Manchester) Lister Staveley-Smith (ICRAR) Wen Wu Tian (NAOC) Jeff Wagg (SKAO)

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Mount Etna eruption closes airport

16 June 2014 Last updated at 13:40 BST

A new eruption at Mount Etna eruption has forced the closure of Catania Airport in Sicily.

Footage shows boiling lava and ash spewing from the southern crater of Europe's most active volcano on Sunday. And to celebrate completion of a very successful meeting ...



SKA 2014 Science Meeting





SKA Science Book:



- Meeting Program based on advanced Chapter drafts_
- Contributions matched to instrumental capabilities:
 - 1. SKA1, early deployment phase (50% and up)
 - 2. Fully specified SKA1
 - 3. Fully specified SKA2
- 140 self-contained chapters, most now on arXiv
- Publication in 2015 Q2

SKA Science Book:

Chapters by Category



- Continuum Universe
- Magnetism
- Synergies & More
- Cosmology
- Cosmic Dawn / EoR
- Transients
- Cradle of Life
- Pulsars





SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY

