

Maser Astrometry

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(National Astronomical Research
Institute of Thailand) since **YESTERDAY**

11- 15 July 2022

15th EVN Symposium, Ireland

Review talk via Zoom



Today's contents

1. Basics of astrometry & Astrometric projects

- Parallax and Proper motion
- The Lutz-Kelker bias
- Atmospheric delay calibration
- VERA/VLBA BeSSeL

Lecture note by Mark J. Reid
Lutz-Kelker, 1973, PASP; Bailer-Jones 2015, PASP
Rioja & Dodson 2020, A&ARv, 28, 6
Reid & Honma 2014, ARA&A, 52, 339

2. Background and Context for each contributed talk

- Ultra-wide band polarimetry
- MultiView for 10 μ as astrometry
- MultiView for radio star astrometry

[Talk by Hagiwara-san](#)
[Hyland, et al. 2022, ApJ, 932, 52](#)
[Talk by Dr. Boven](#)

3. Astrometric results and future prospects

- The structure of the Milky Way

Reid et al. 2019, VERA Collaboration et al. 2020

- Episodic accretion in a high-mass star formation

Burns et al. 2020, NatAs, 4, 506

- Extreme Outer Galaxy

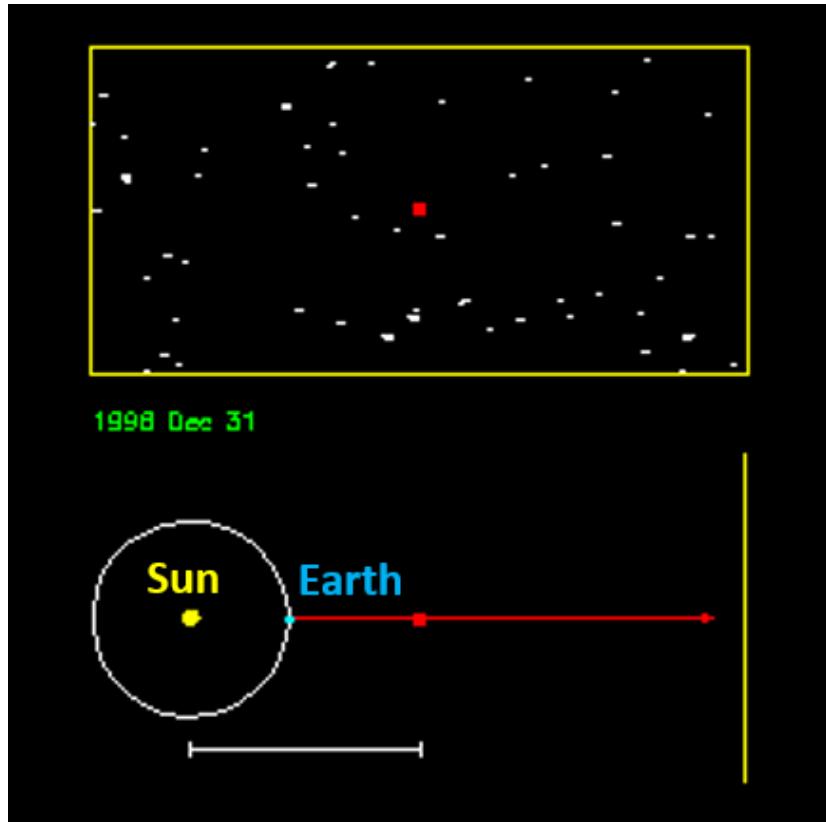
Sun et al., 2017, Reid 2022

- Radio Astronomy Network and Geodesy for Development at NARIT

(RANGD)

Parallax and Proper motion

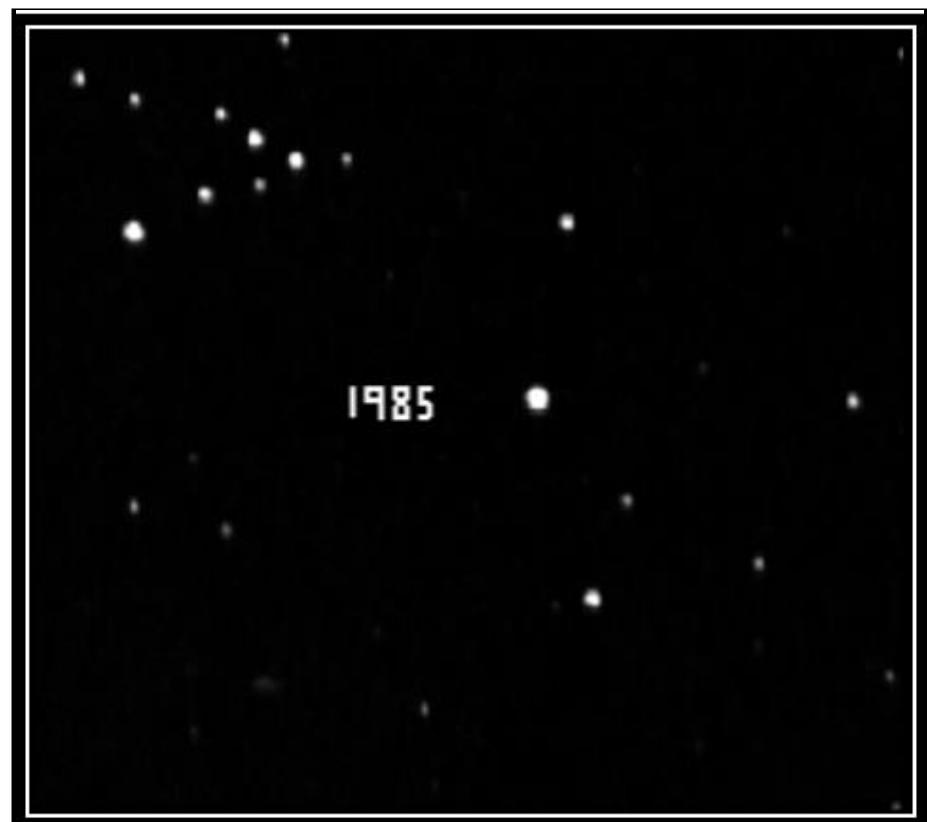
3/25



Trigonometric parallax (π in arcsec)

→ **Apparent motion**

→ Distance info ($d \sim 1/\pi$ in units of pc)



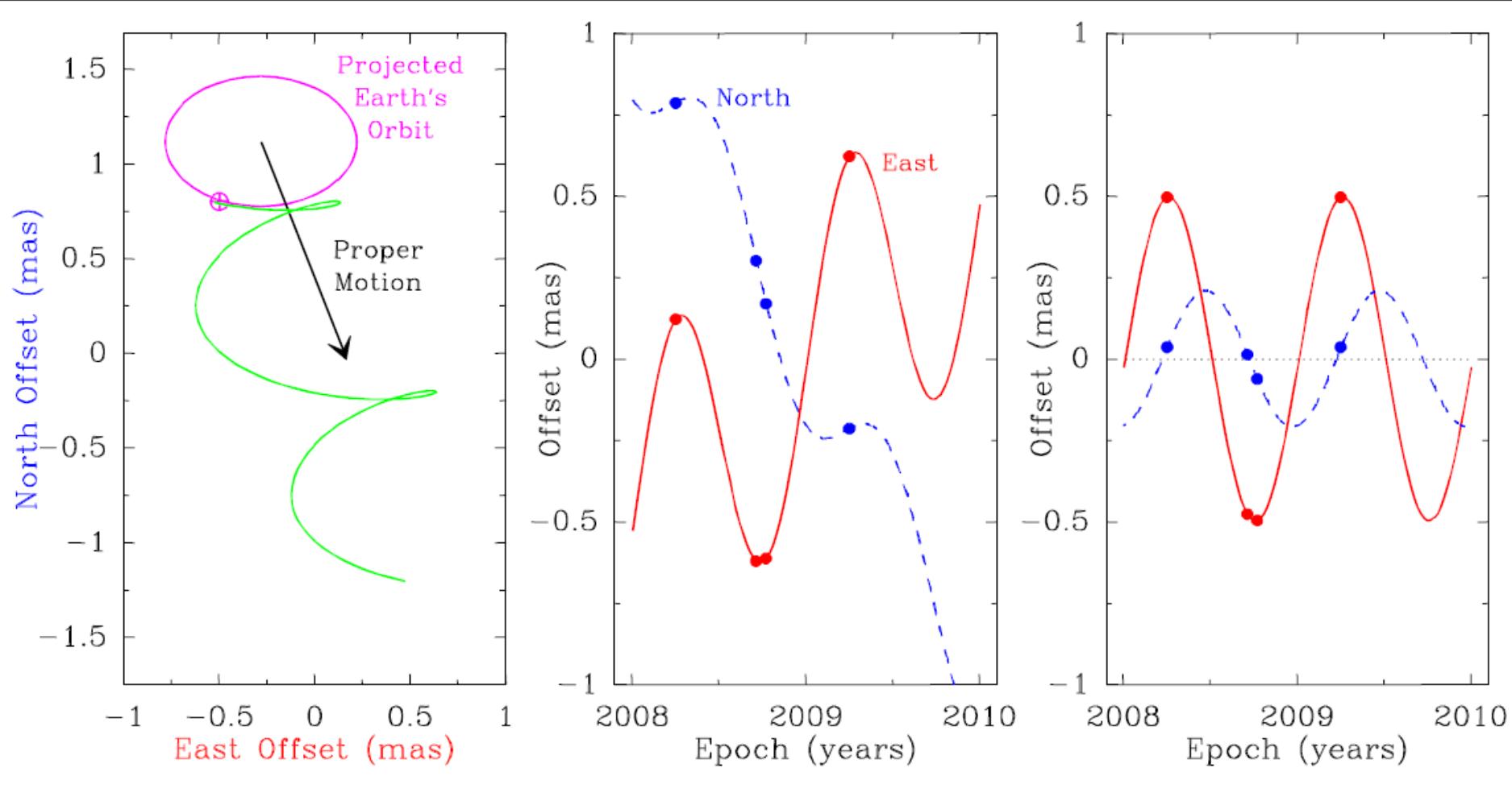
Proper motion (μ in arcsec/year)

→ **Intrinsic motion**

→ Kinematics info

The parallax and proper motion can be measured with astrometry

Parallax and Proper motion

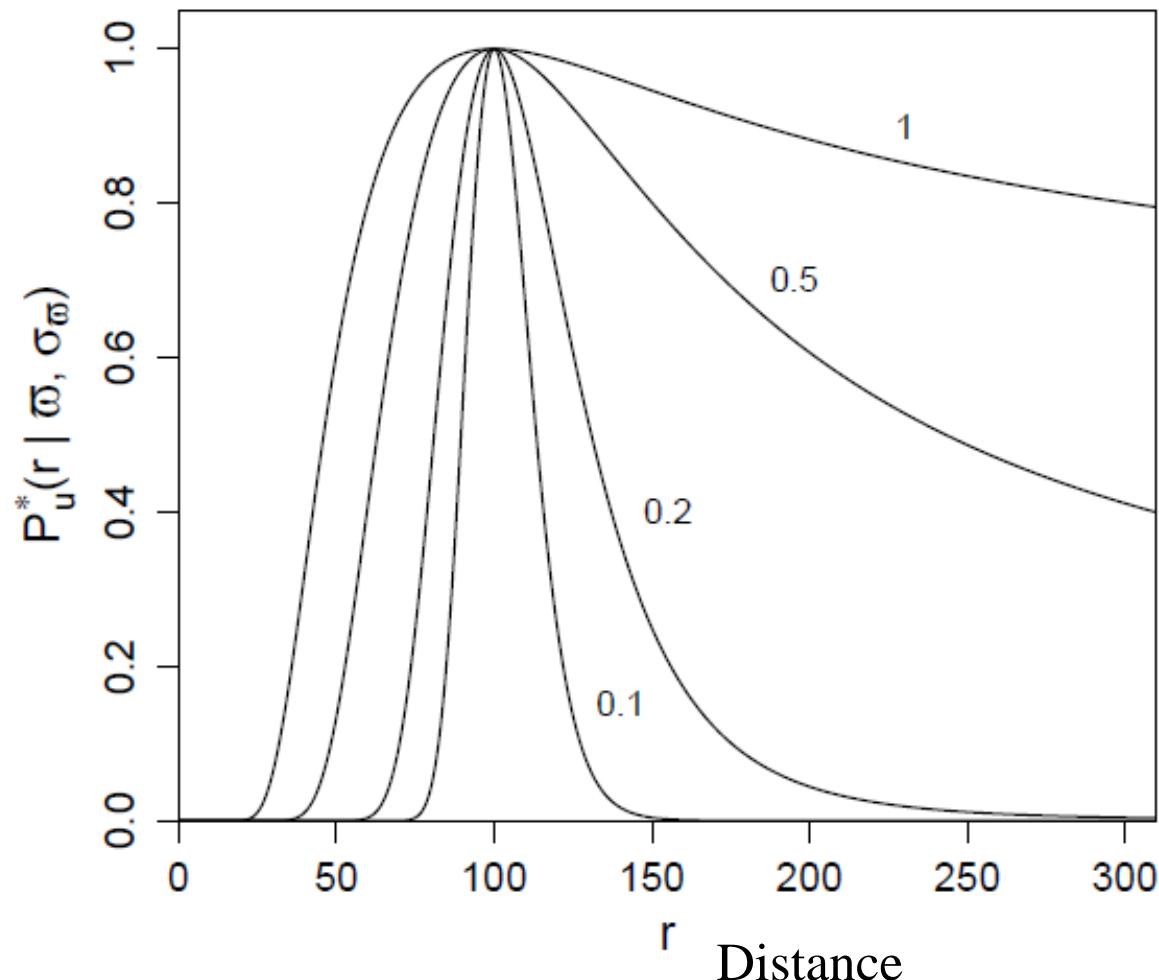


Can separate parallax from proper motion with well selected observations

The Lutz-Kelker bias

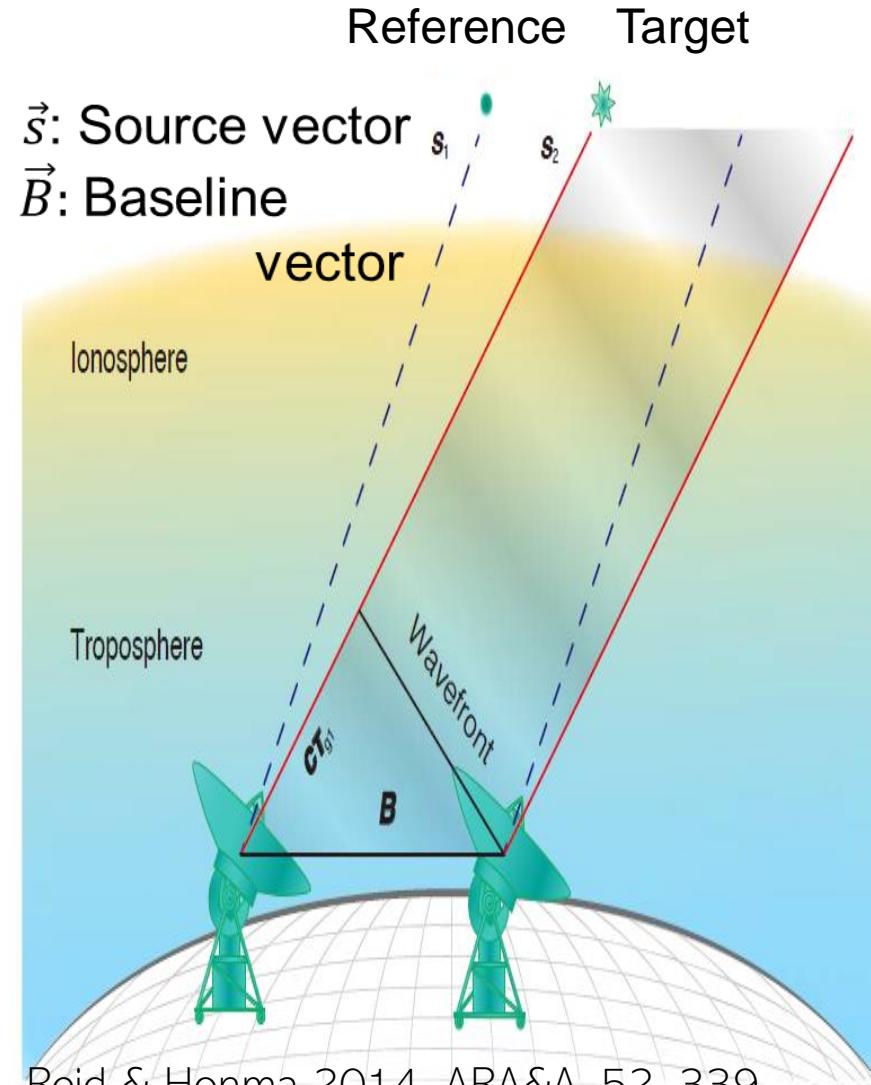
Posterior \sim Prior (flat) * Likelihood = Likelihood

- Parallax $\omega = 1 / 100$
- Fractional parallax error:
 $f = 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0$
- Prior: Uniform
- If $f > 0.2$, distance estimation
 by simply inverting the parallax
 results in a significant bias
- A simple prior which
 decreases asymptotically to
 zero at infinite distance has
 good performance.



Relative VLBI astrometry

Dominant error source



Troposphere at > 10 GHz
 (Ionosphere at < 10 GHz)

Talks/Poster:
Hyland, Boven,
 and Petrov

Observation: Fast switch; **Dual-beam (VERA)**

Calibrations: Geodetic-block(VLBA);GPS (VERA)
 JMA (KVN)

Single-epoch position accuracy

Observable: **Delay τ**

$$c\tau = \vec{s} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$\Delta s \sim \frac{c\tau_{\text{err}}}{B} * \Delta \text{secZ}$$

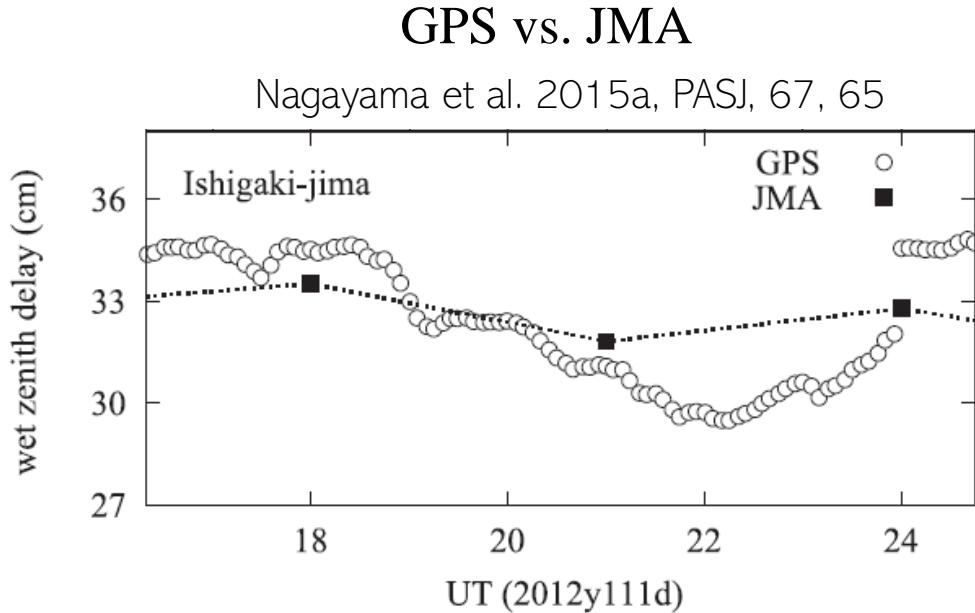
$\Delta \text{secZ} = 1 \text{ deg}$, $c\tau_{\text{err}} = 2 \text{ cm}$, $B = 2,300 \text{ km}$
 $\rightarrow \Delta s \sim 30 \mu\text{as}$ with **VERA**

*Use data with Zenith Angle $< 60^\circ$ for astrometry

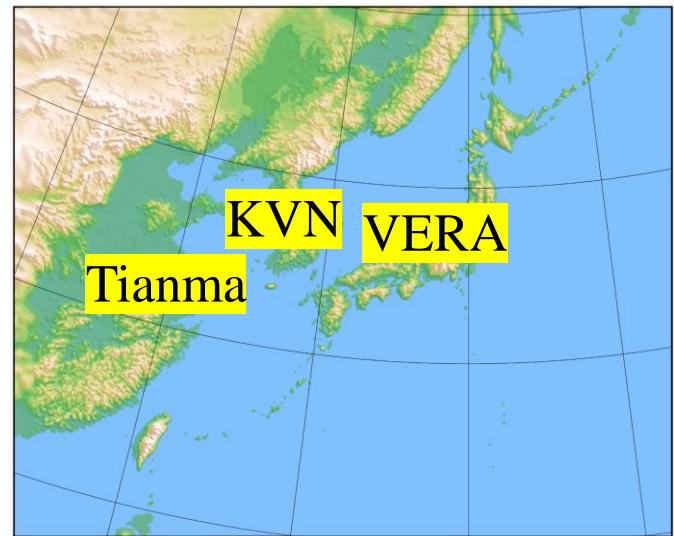
GPS vs. JMA on tropospheric cal.

Japan Meteorological Agency data

- ① Global data ($5^\circ \times 5^\circ$) 8400 JPY / Month
- ② Japan model (0.25° in East-West and 0.20° in North-South with a total area of $50^\circ \times 50^\circ$)
- ③ Mesoscale model (5 km \times 5 km); Time resolution: 3 hr
 Data: Atmospheric pressure (equipotential altitude), Wind, Temperature, Relative humidity
25,200 JPY / Month



Meso-scale Analysis domain



An accuracy of tropospheric zenith delay calibration is $\sim 2\text{cm}$ with GPS or JMA

Astrometric capability of KaVA (VERA+KVN)

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In relative astrometry, delay residual is described as

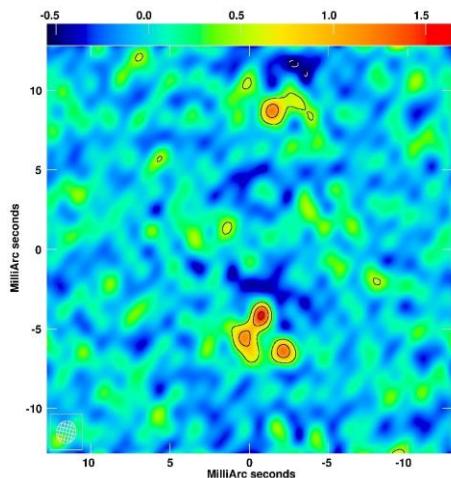
$$\Delta(\tau_{g,1} - \tau_{g,2}) = \Delta(\tau_{\text{trop},1} - \tau_{\text{trop},2}) - \Delta(\tau_{\text{iono},1} - \tau_{\text{iono},2}) - \Delta(\tau_{\text{stat},1} - \tau_{\text{stat},2}) \\ - \Delta(\tau_{\text{inst},1} - \tau_{\text{inst},2}) - \underline{\Delta(\tau_{\text{struc},1} - \tau_{\text{struc},2})} - \Delta(\tau_{\text{therm},1} - \tau_{\text{therm},2})$$

1: Target

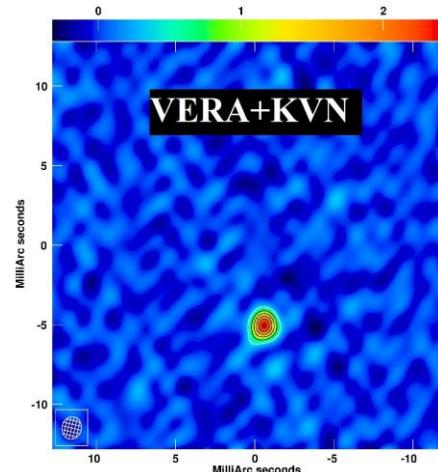
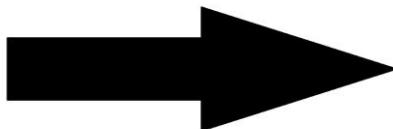
Baseline based quantity

2: Calibrator

- Baseline based quantity can be corrected when data reduction (i.e., self calibration).
- Station based quantities except for $\tau_{\text{struc},i}$, are cancelled out with relative astrometry.
- **Dominant error source is $\Delta(\tau_{\text{trop},1} - \tau_{\text{trop},2})$ at $\nu > 10$ GHz.**



Tropospheric calibration



Troposphere is calibrated with GPS and Japan Meteorological Agency meso-scale analysis data for KaVA (22 GHz).

MOVIE

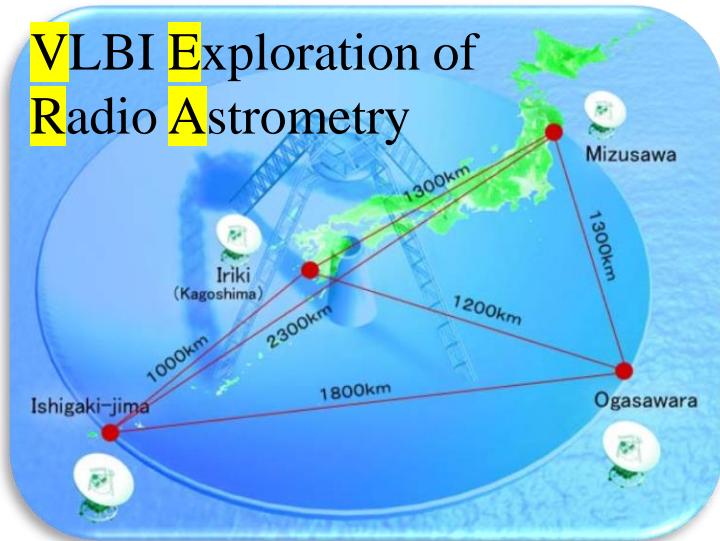


Major Radio Interferometers having astrometry mode

10/25

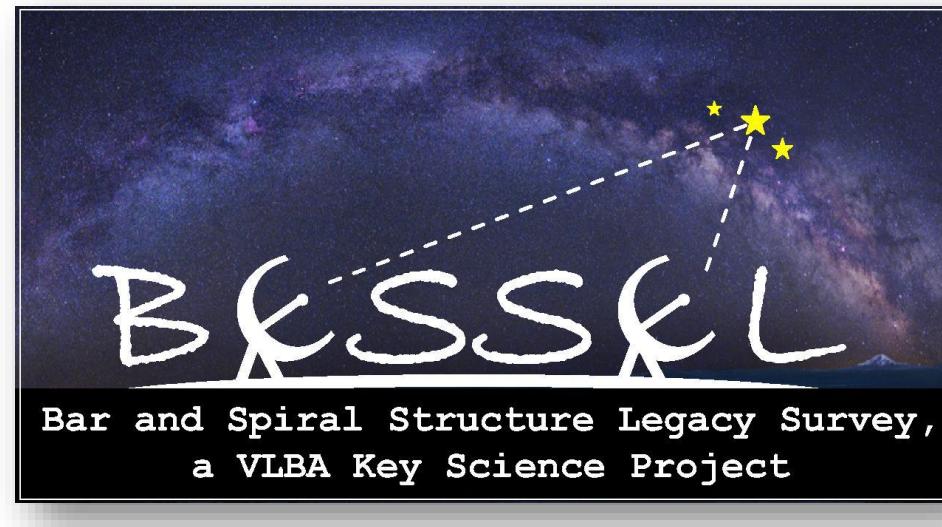
Array	Country/region	Antenna diameters and number in array	Maximum baseline	Operating frequencies	Beam size (mas)	Comments
VLBA	USA	25 m × 10	8,600 km	0.3–86 GHz	0.17 at 43 GHz	Homogeneous and best imaging capability
VERA	Japan	20 m × 4	2,300 km	6.7–43 GHz	0.63 at 43 GHz	Dedicated to astrometry with dual-beam system
EVN	Europe	14 m–100 m, × ~10	3,000–10,000 km	1.6–22 GHz	0.30 at 22 GHz	High sensitivity with large dishes
LBA	Australia	22 m–70 m, × ~10	1,700 km	1.4–22 GHz	1.7 at 22 GHz	The only VLBI array in the Southern Hemisphere

See Poster #25
by Molera Calves



Period: 2004-2022

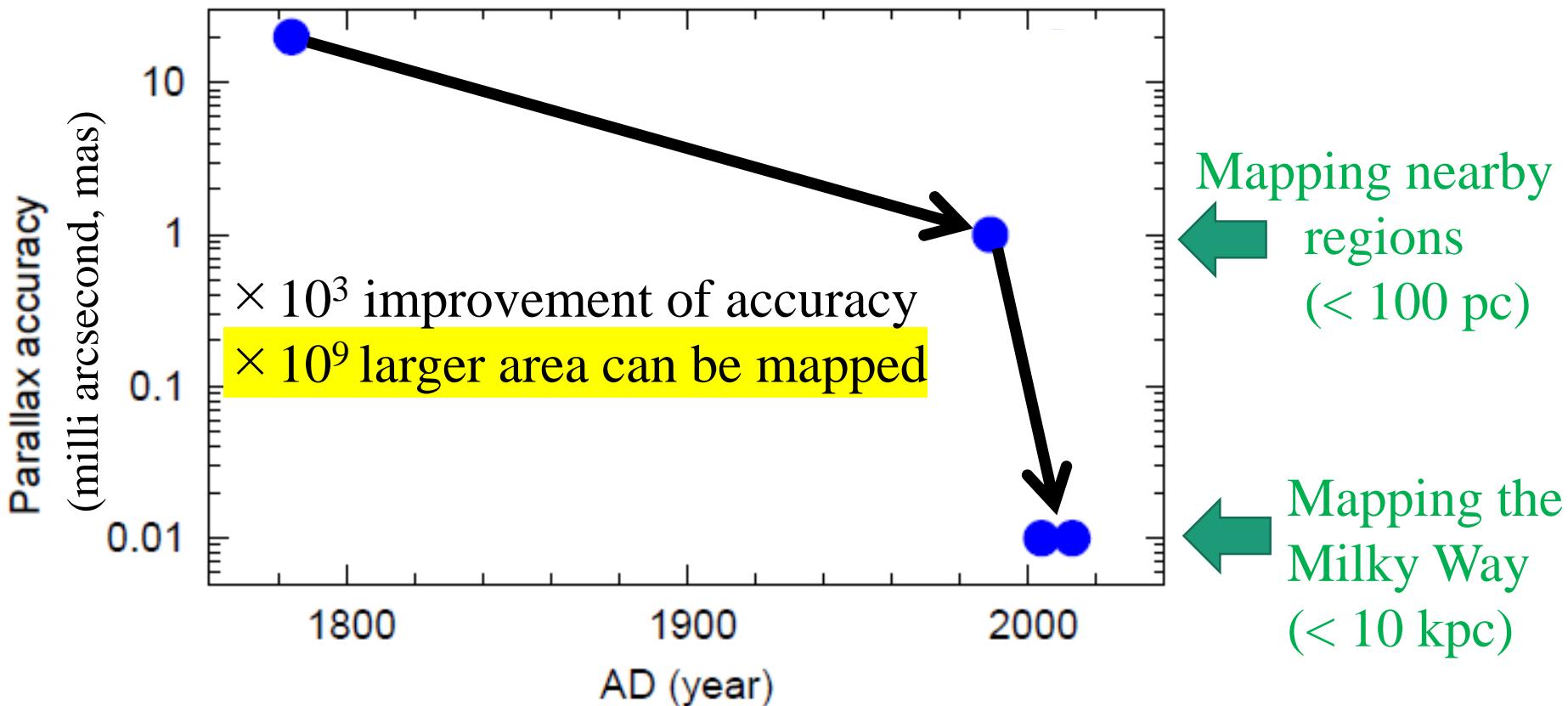
The largest VLBA program (3,500 hr)



Period: 2010-2016

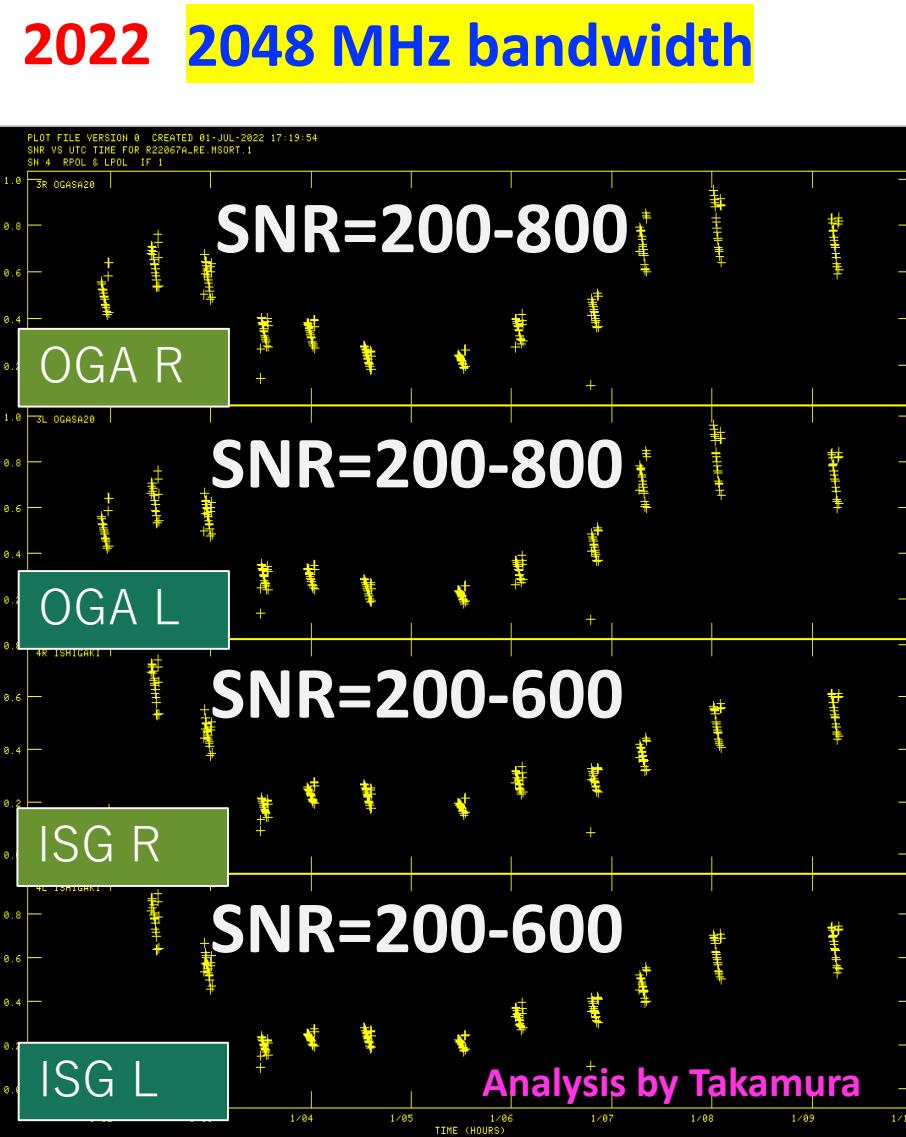
Parallax accuracy vs. Time

- 190 – 120 BC: Hipparchus estimated the distance to the moon with the parallax of the moon
- 1784 – 1846: Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel measured the first stellar parallax for 61 Cyg
- 1989 – 1993: Hipparcos satellite measured 1M stellar parallaxes within 100 pc from the Sun
- **2004 – Now:** VERA and BeSSeL projects observed >200 masers within 10 kpc from the Sun
- 2013 – Now: *Gaia* satellite measured 1 billion stellar parallaxes within 10 kpc from the Sun



Ultra-wide band polarimetry using VERA

- The first polarized intensity maps at 22/43 GHz obtained with wider bandwidth (4 x 512 MHz per polarization, **16 Gbps recording**) obtained only using VERA
- Polarized intensity at ~1 mJy/b level detectable
- A short-term goal is to create polarimetric VLBI at 1-16 Gbps recording rates, by connecting VERA to existing arrays, KVN and EAVN
- Science cases with the “ultra-wide band” capability under consideration (e.g., determination of larger Faraday Rotation measure)



MultiView for 10 μas astrometry

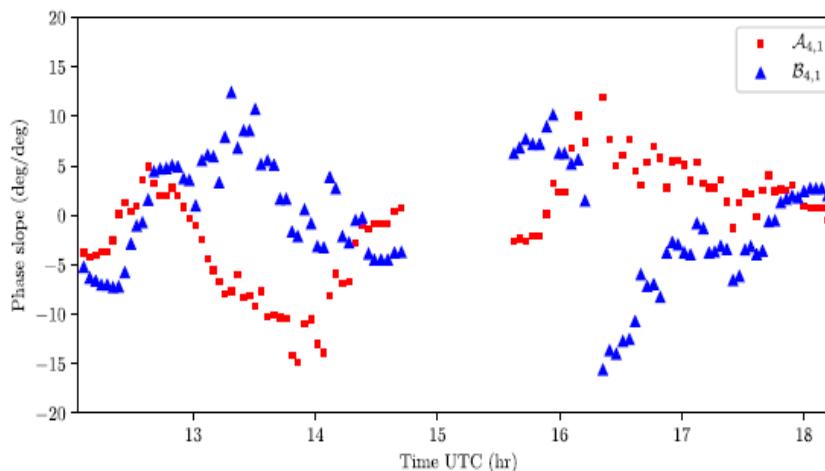
inverse MultiView (iMV):

$$\phi_{i,jk} = \underline{\phi_{T,jk}} + A_{jk} \underline{\Delta\alpha_i \cos\delta_T} + B_{jk} \underline{\Delta\delta_i}$$

Phase at the target
(j/k baseline)

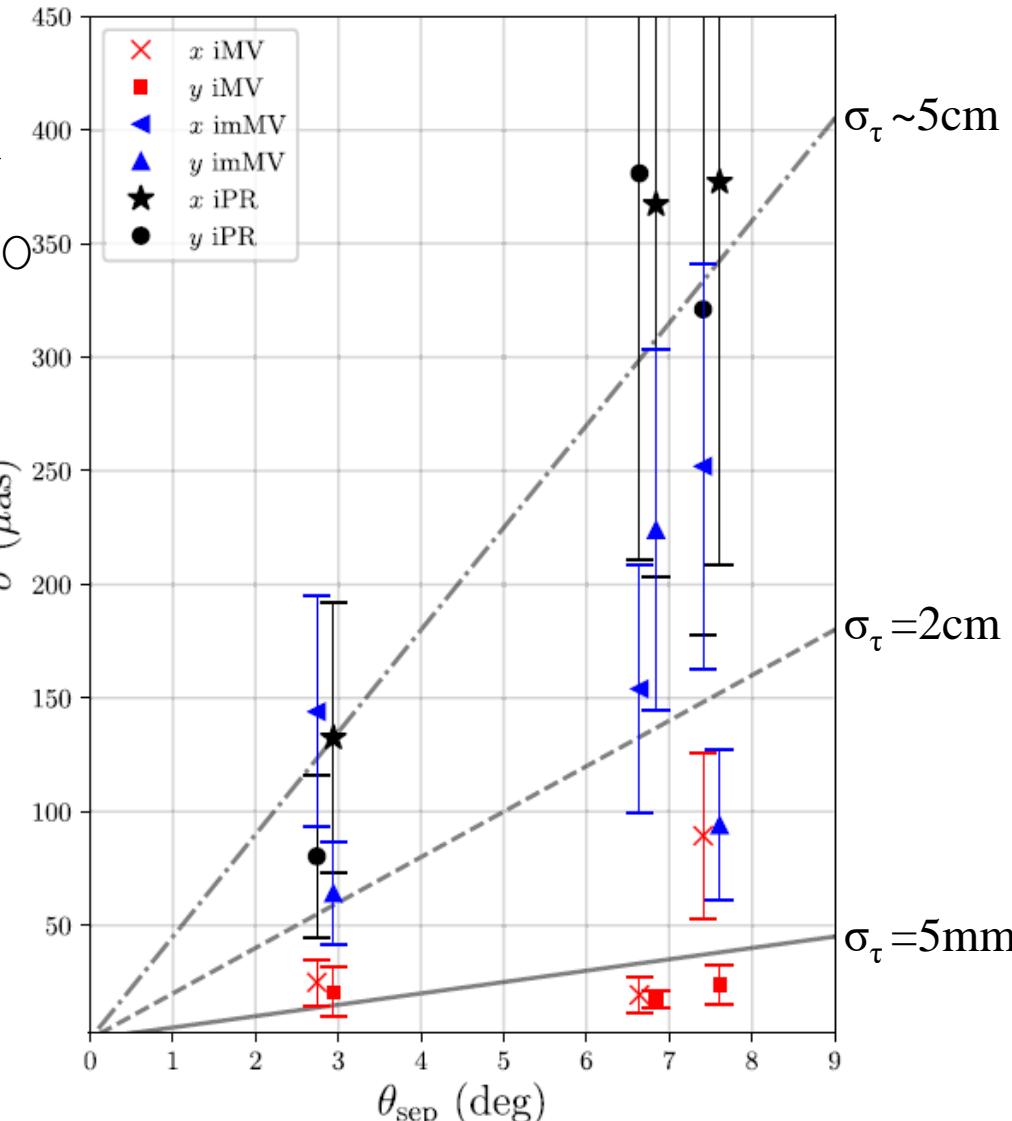
Angular offset for i th QSO
(j/k baseline)

Phase slopes (A and B) vs. Time



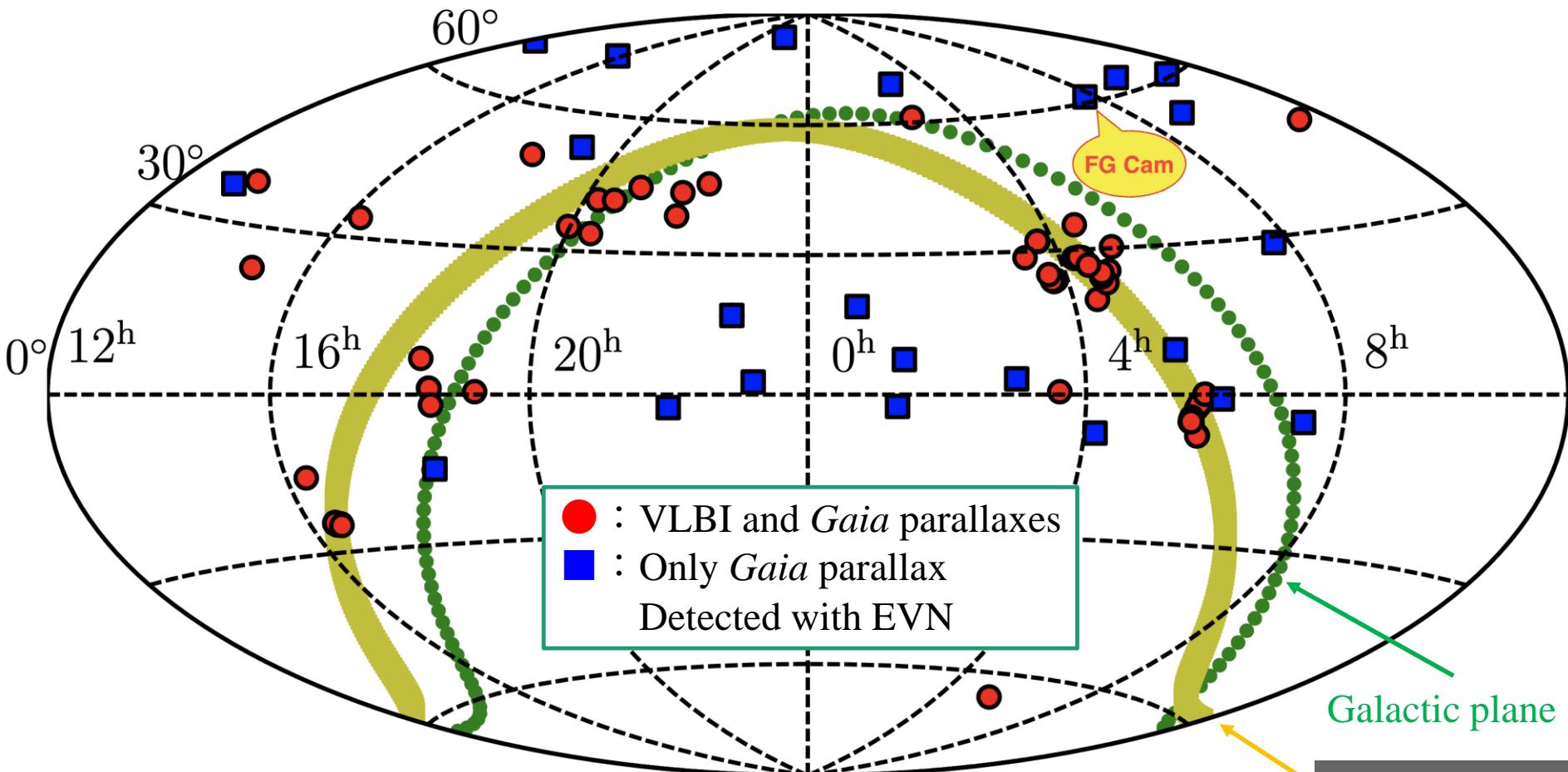
Single-epoch astrometric accuracies
near 20 μas for target-reference quasar
separations up to $\sim 7^\circ$ at 8.6 GHz

Position accuracy vs. separation angle



VLBI MultiView astrometry of Radio Stars

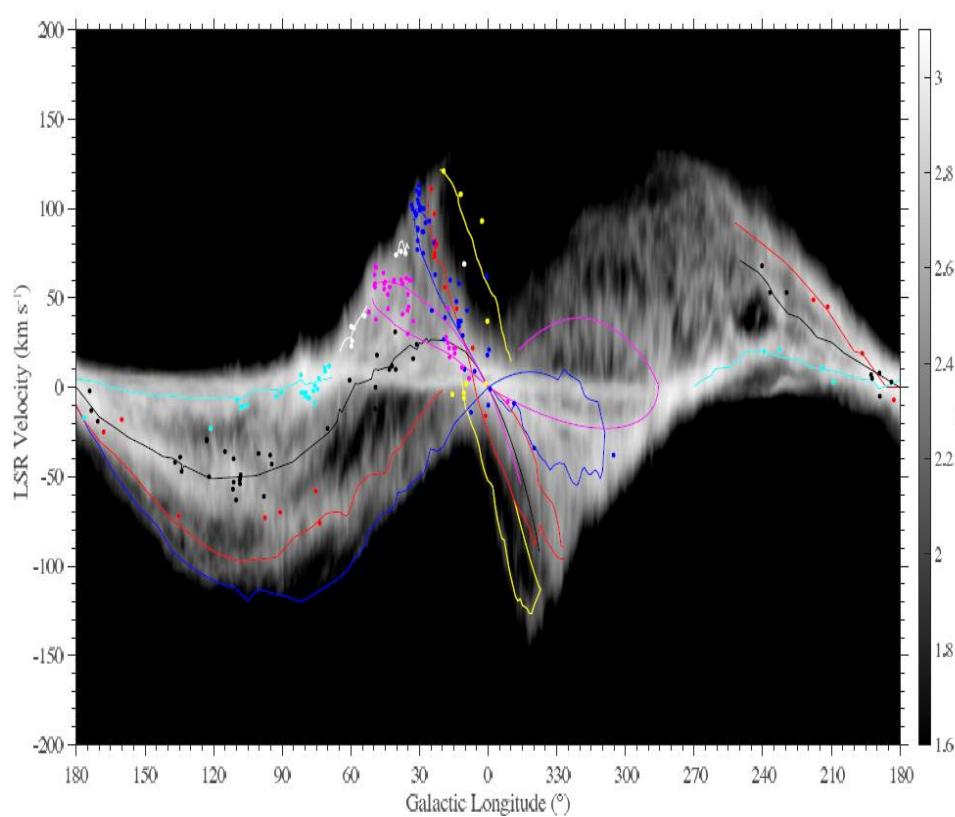
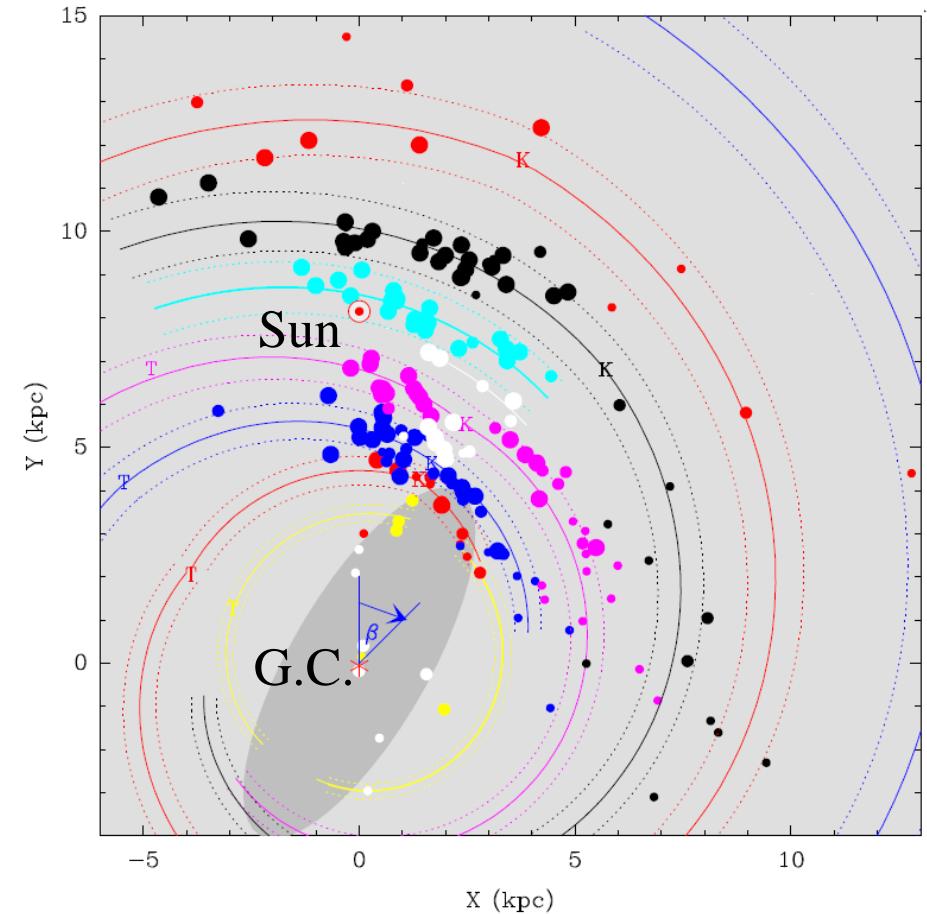
~Link between VLBI and *Gaia* frames~



- Determine orientation ($\sim 20 \mu\text{as}$) and spin ($5 \mu\text{as yr}^{-1}$) between *Gaia* Celestial Reference Frame and ICRF
- Correction of the *Gaia* parallax zero point (better than $10 \mu\text{as}$)

Structure of the Milky Way

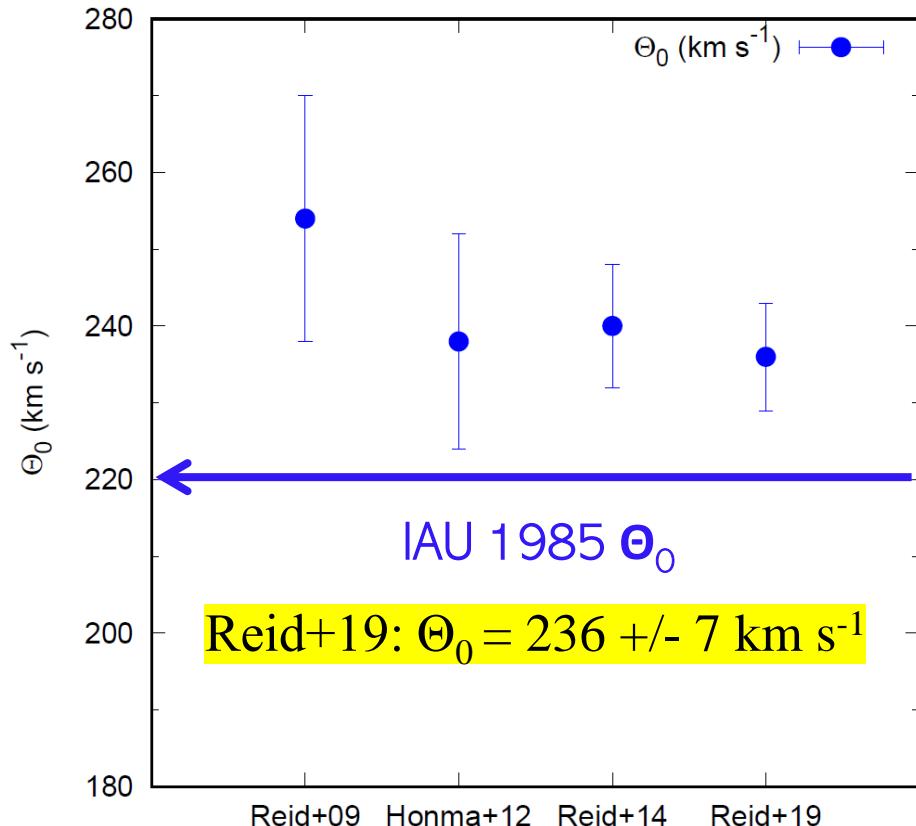
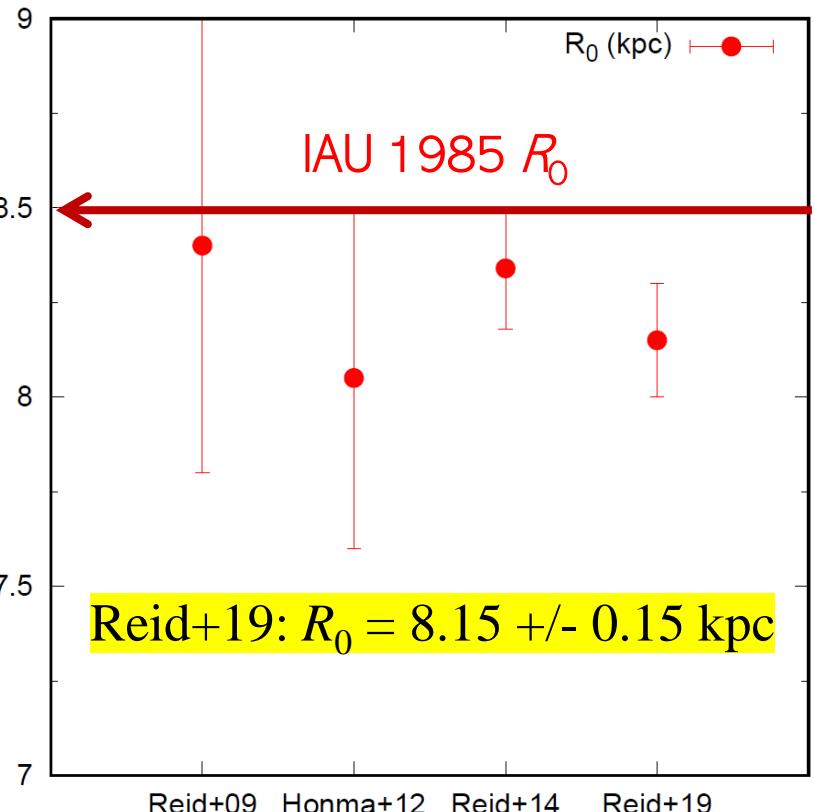
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- 🔊 MW is a four-arm spiral
Norma-Outer; Perseus; Sagittarius-Carina; Scutum-Centaurus-OSC
- 🔊 Extra arm segments and spurs

Position-Velocity diagram of H I (21 cm) emission

Galactic constants (R_0, Θ_0)



R_0 : Distance of the Sun from G.C.

Mass in NFW halo
 $\propto (\Theta_0)^3$

Θ_0 : Rotation velocity at the Sun (LSR)

Reid, et al. 2019, ApJ, 885, 131

MW is heavier than previously thought.

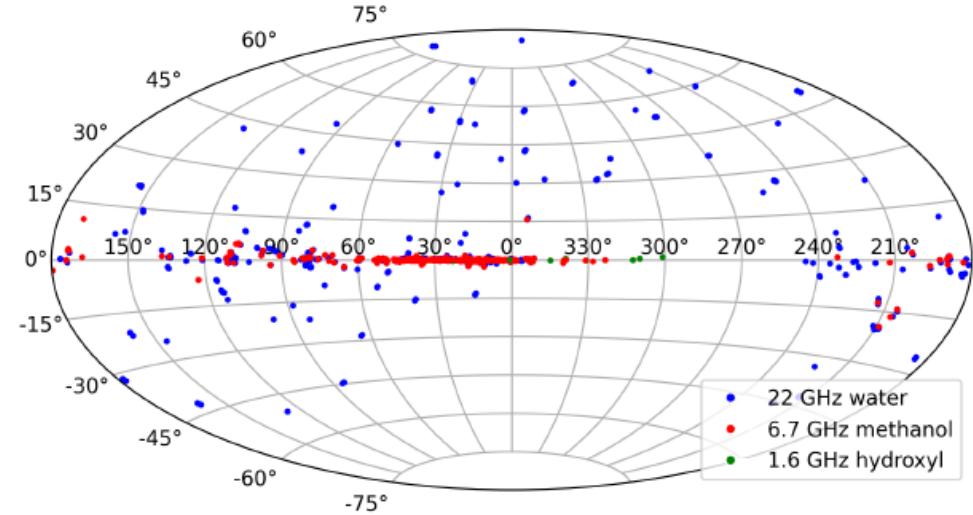
The Maser Monitoring Organisation (M2O)

Communications platform to bring together maser monitoring stations, theorists and follow-up campaigns

17/25



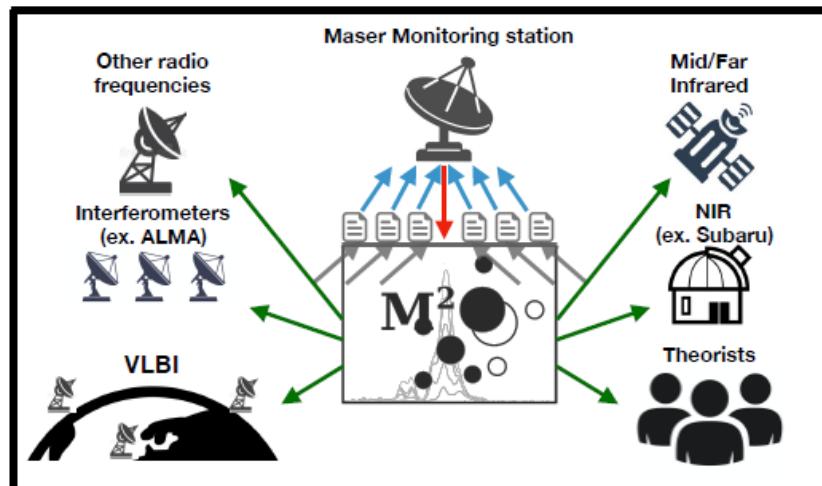
M2O source sky coverage



The fundamental flow of M2O operations:

(C) Burns, Ross A. (NAOJ)

- 1 New maser flare reported to the M2O
- 2 Disseminate information
Consult theorists
Check other maser transitions
Conduct follow-up observations
- 3 Share results with the team
Discuss results from each perspective
Plan and author publications
- 4 All publications credit the monitoring station in their author list and acknowledgements



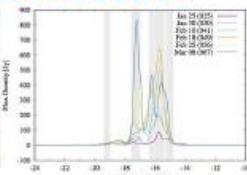
M2O current stats

85 members
14 monitoring stations
>1000 masers monitored
18 flares pursued
23 publications
since 2017 start

M2O website
masermonitoring.org

1 Flare identification during monitoring

by Hitachi 32m radio telescope



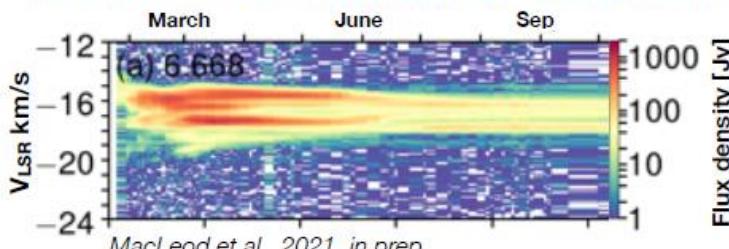
Maser flare in Jan 2019
reported to M2O
Sugiyama et al. ATel #12446)

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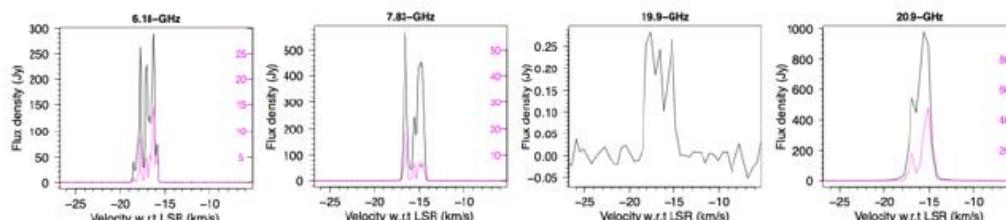
Case Study G358-MM1

2 Maser monitoring and spectral survey with available radio telescopes

Measure burst duration, find new maser transitions



MacLeod et al., 2021, in prep.



Breen et al. 2010, MNRAS, 401, 2219

3 Quick-response Follow-up (“Target of opportunity”) observations, various facilities

Measure burst intensity, identify the progenitor protostar, investigate the kinematics and environment at low/mid/high resolution



nasa.gov/mission_pages/SOFIA/



almaobservatory.org/

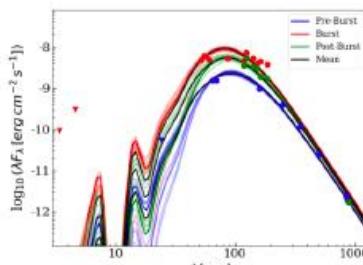


evlbi.org

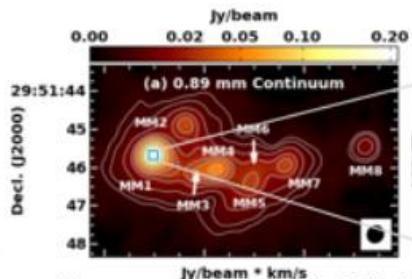


vlba.nrao.edu

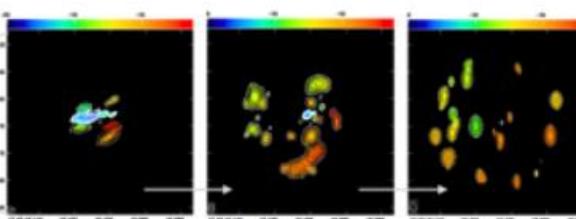
And many more ...



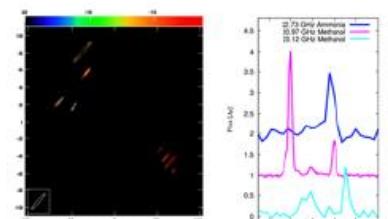
Stecklum et al. 2021, A&A, 646, A161



Brogan et al. 2019, ApJ, 881L, 39B



Burns et al. 2020, Nature Astronomy, 4, 506



Burns et al., 2021, in prep.

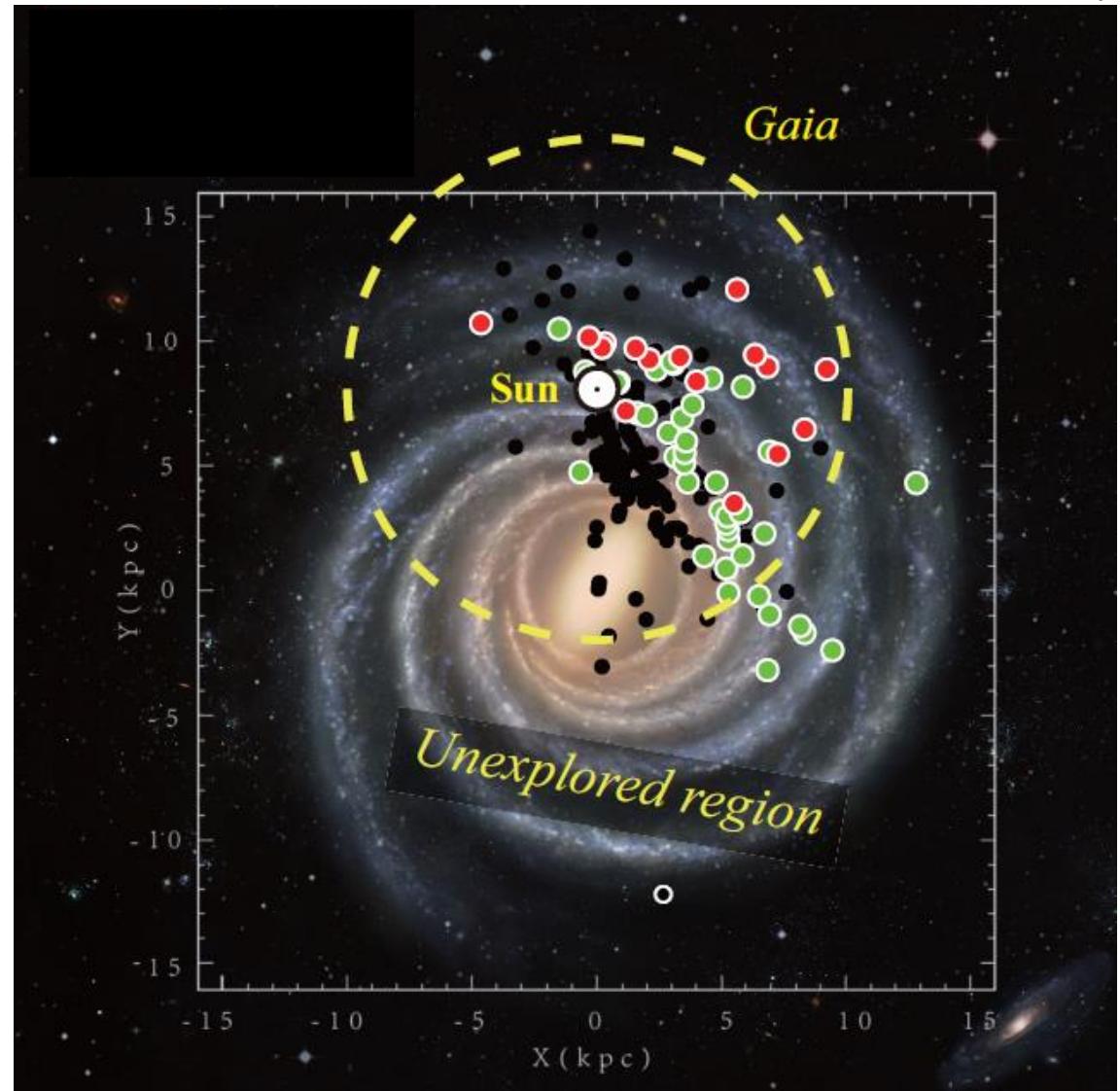
All publications credit the team who discovered the maser flare. This helps radio monitoring stations maintain funding and apply for upgrades

Future

Mapping distant star-forming regions ($d > 10$ kpc) with VLBI astrometry

Requirements

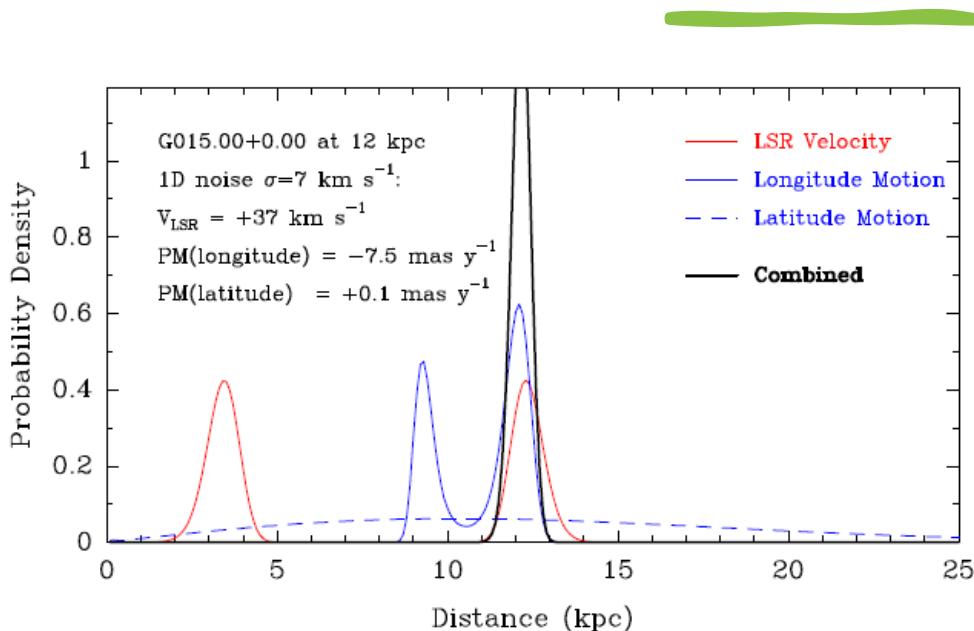
- Better parallax (π) accuracy
 $\therefore \pi \propto d^{-1}$
- Better image sensitivity
 $\therefore \text{Flux } F_\nu \propto d^{-2}$



Beyond the yellow circle ($d > 10$ kpc)
unexplored (not mapped)

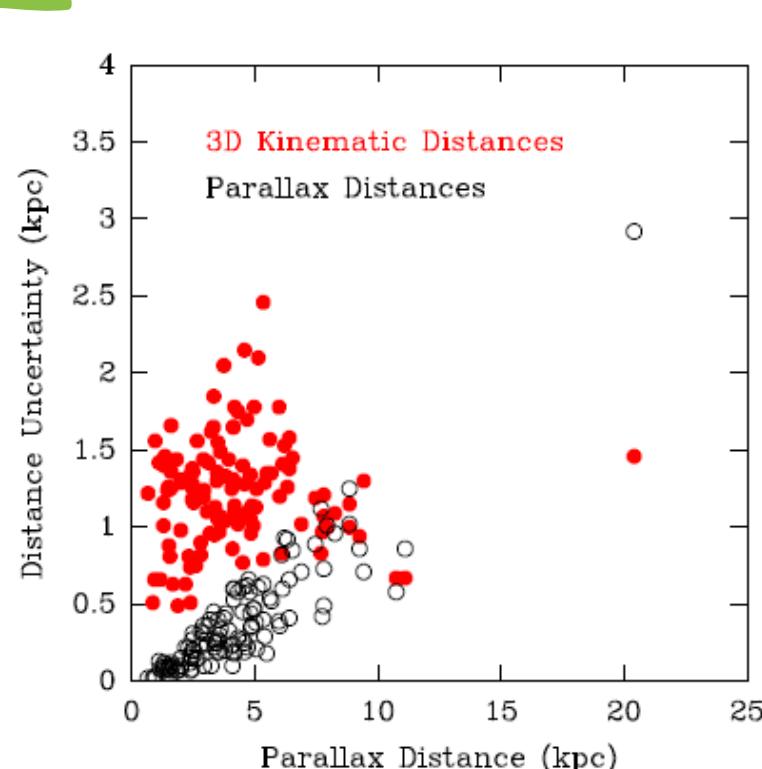
Estimating distances with 3D motion

Reid 2022, eprint arXiv: 2205.06903



- A Bayesian distance calculator taking into account (l, b, v, μ = optional), improves on standard kinematic distances to star-forming regions

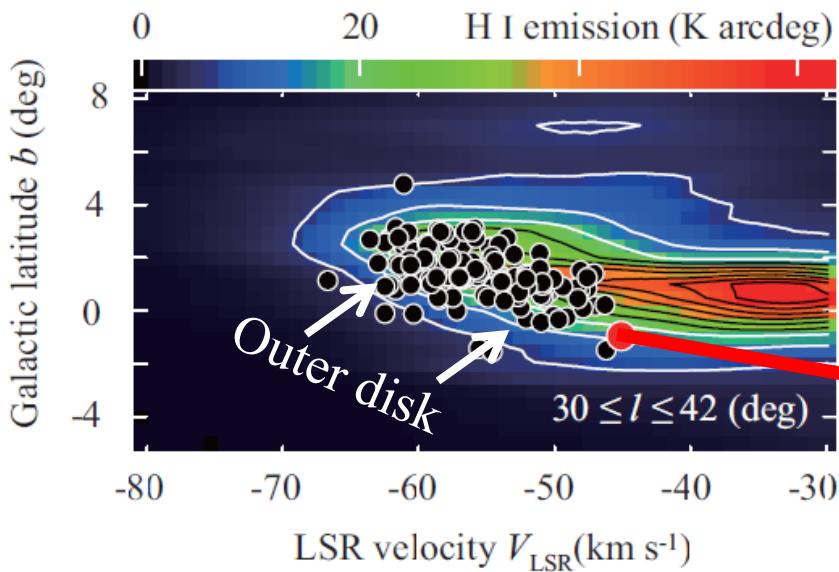
A Bayesian distance calculator: <http://bessel.vlbi-astrometry.org/node/378>



- 3D kinematic distances are robust and more accurate for $d > 8 \text{ kpc}$

Sun et al. 2017, ApJS, 230, 17

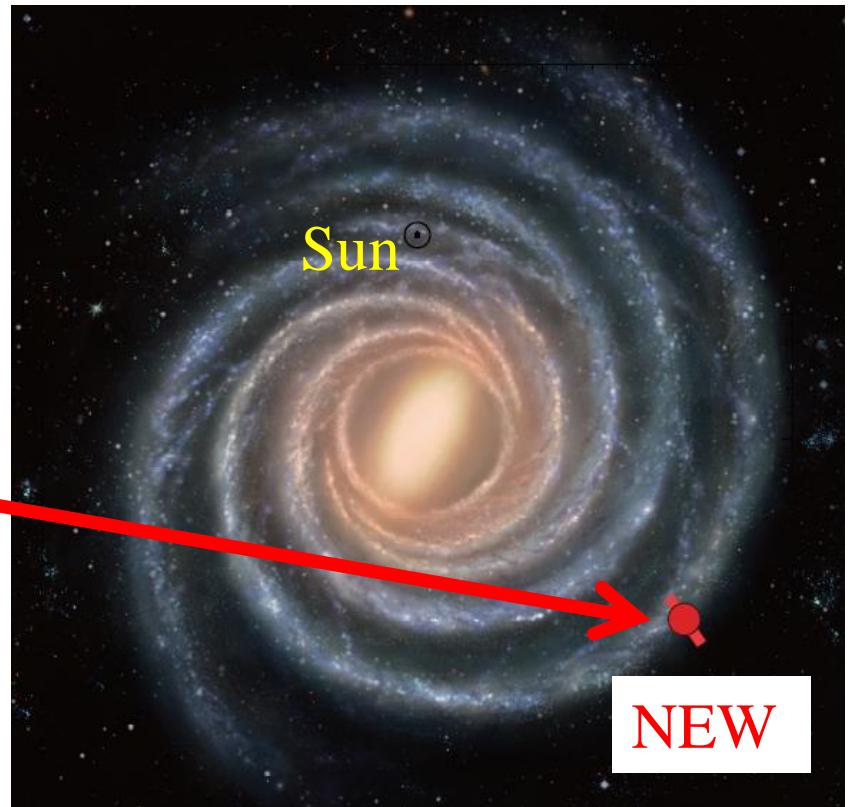
CO survey toward the outer disk
($d > 16$ kpc)



The survey results (●) are superimposed on integrated brightness temperature of H I (LSR velocity vs. latitude).

Sakai et al. 2022b in preparation

G034.84-00.94 ($d = 18.7 \pm 1.0$ kpc)



KaVA (VERA+KVN) astrometry result
(derived with v and μ)

Radio Astronomy Network and Geodesy for Development at NARIT (RANGD), in Thailand

“Capacity Building Through Radio Astronomy”

- Observatory with 40-m TNRT & 13-m VGOS, and Visitor Centre
- Receiver and Electronics Laboratories
- Human Expertise: Workshop/Seminar/School/Trainings/Exchange

Dr.Saran Poshyachinda
(Executive Director
of NARIT)

Dr.Wiphu Rujopakarn
(Deputy Director
of NARIT)



Project leaders: Dr.Phrudth Jaroenjittichai
Mr.Apichat Leckngam

RAOC: Engineer/Geodesist

Pitak Kempet
Kamorn Bandudej
Dan Singwong
Pitipong Somboonpon
Songklod Punyawarin
Nikom Prasert

Nattaporn Thoonsaengngam
Spiro Sarris
Teep Chairin
Nakornping Namkham
Nattawit Chanwedchasart
Sothaya Prathumsub

+ lots of engineer/technician



Scientist

Kitiyanee Asanok
Busaba H. Kramer
Koichiro Sugiyama
Ram Kesh Yadav

+ collaboration with NARIT/World-wide astronomers
& lots of students/RA

Chanapote Thanapol
Daisuke Sakai
Malcolm D. Gray
Nobuyuki Sakai

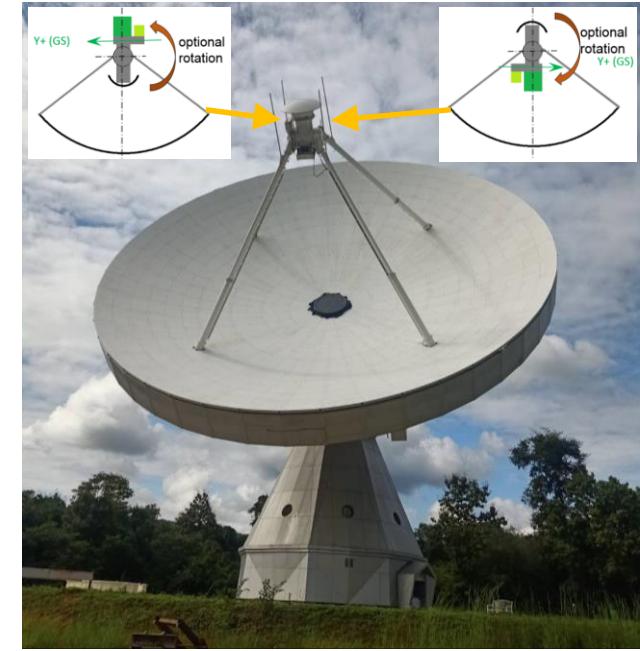


Specs of the 40-m TNRT at Commissioning

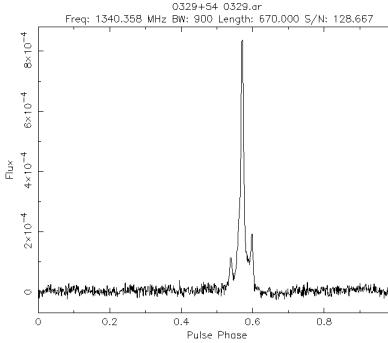
	Phase I	Phase II (early)	
	L-band	K-band	CXKu-band
Frequency RF [GHz]	1.0 - 1.8	18 - 26.5	4.55 - 13.65
Beam width [arcmin]	~14-26	~1.0-1.4	~1.9-5.7
Polarization	Linear	Circular	Linear
Sampling rate	3 Gsps	4 Gsps	4 Gsps * ¹
Digitization bit	< 12 bit	< 12 bit	< 12 bit
Bandwidth	1.5 GHz	2 GHz	1.3 GHz
Aperture efficiency	0.7	0.5	0.6 * ¹
Gain [K/Jy]	0.32	0.23	0.27 * ¹
Trx [K]	13	20	15 * ¹
Tsky [K]	12	50	15 * ¹
Tsys [K]	25	70	30 * ¹
SEFD [Jy]	78	307	110 *¹

Note.: “*¹” means designing on-going and TBC.

©P. Jaroenjittichai, D. Singwong, S. Sarris, K. Bandudej, & K. Sugiyama



Timeline to launch the TNRT 40m



PSR B0329+54
15 June 2022
1.0 - 1.8 GHz
warm receiver
1x1 deg²



P. Jaroenjittichai/T. Chairin/N. Prasert

	2022				2023				2024	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Install	L-band Rx	1st light!		Pulsar 1st light!						
	K-band Rx									
Commissioning	Performance Evaluation									
	Scientific Evaluation									
Operation	Single-dish									
	VLBI				1st fringe?					
Development	C/X/Ku-bands Rx									
	Q/W-bands Rx								→	

References

Chapter 1

Parallax <https://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/pogge.1/Ast162/Movies/parallax.html>

Proper motion http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proper_motion#mediaviewer/File:Barnard2005.gif

- Lutz & Kelker, 1973, PASP, 85, 573
- Bailer-Jones 2015, PASP, 127, 994
- Rioja & Dodson 2020, A&ARv, 28, 6
- Reid & Honma 2014, ARA&A, 52, 339
- Nagayama et al. 2015a, PASJ, 67, 65
- Poster #25 by Molera Calves about UTAS including LBA
- Poster #27 by Leonid Petrov about ionospheric calibration

Chapter 2

- Talk by Hagiwara-san (Ultra-Wide band polarimetry)
- Hyland, et al. 2022, ApJ, 932, 52 (inverse MultiView)
- Talk by Dr. Boven (MultiView for Radio Star astrometry)

Chapter 3

- Reid, et al. 2019, ApJ, 885, 131, VERA Collaboration et al. 2020, PASJ, 72, 50
- Poster #18 by K. L. J. Rygl about the Sagittarius arm
- Navarro, Frenk, and White, 1996, ApJ, 462, 563
- Burns, R. A., et al. 2020, NatAs, 4, 506
- Sun et al. 2017, ApJS, 230, 17, Reid 2022, eprint arXiv:2205.06903