

# Probing the Middle Ages of Cosmic History with Line Intensity Mapping

Jessica Zebrowski (UChicago) , NHFP Symposium , 9/16/2024



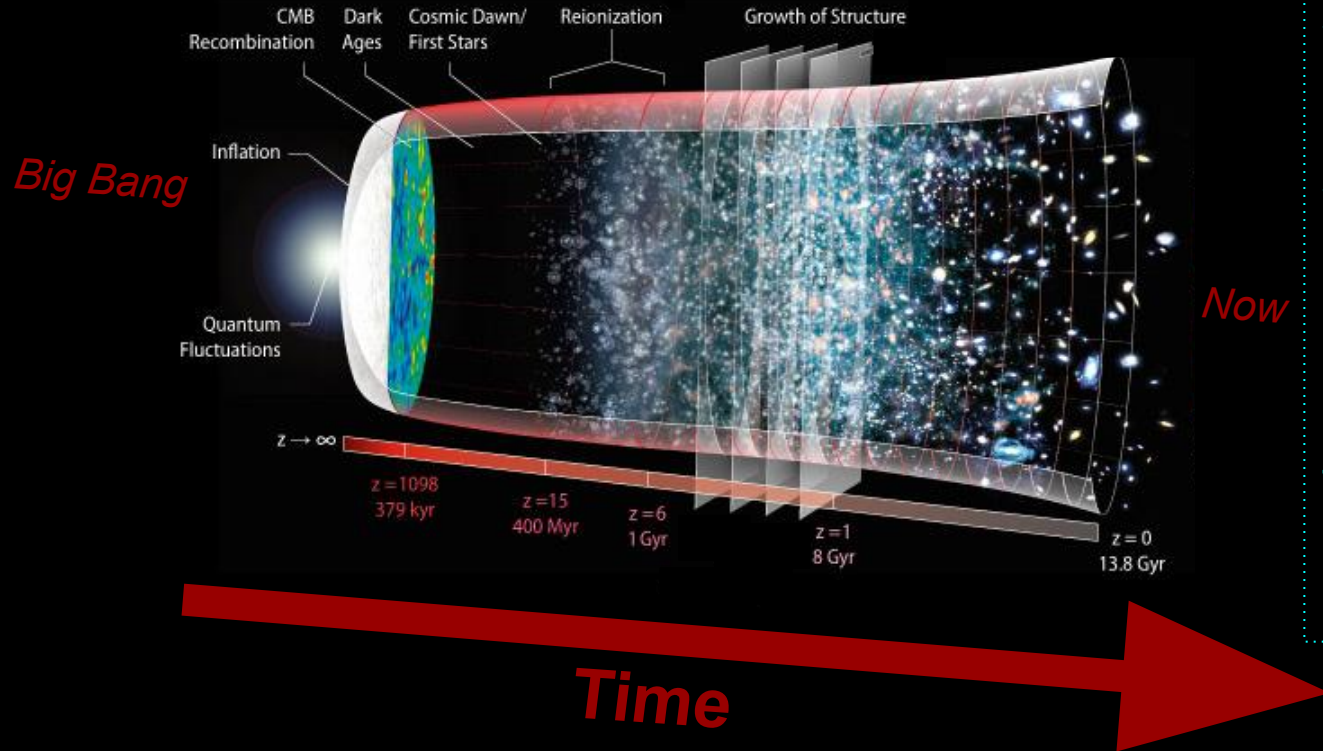
# The Terahertz Intensity Mapper Test Flight : The Hopes and Heartbreak of Scientific Ballooning

*A Line Intensity Mapping Story*

Jessica Zebrowski (UChicago) , NHFP Symposium , 9/16/2024



# The Observable Universe



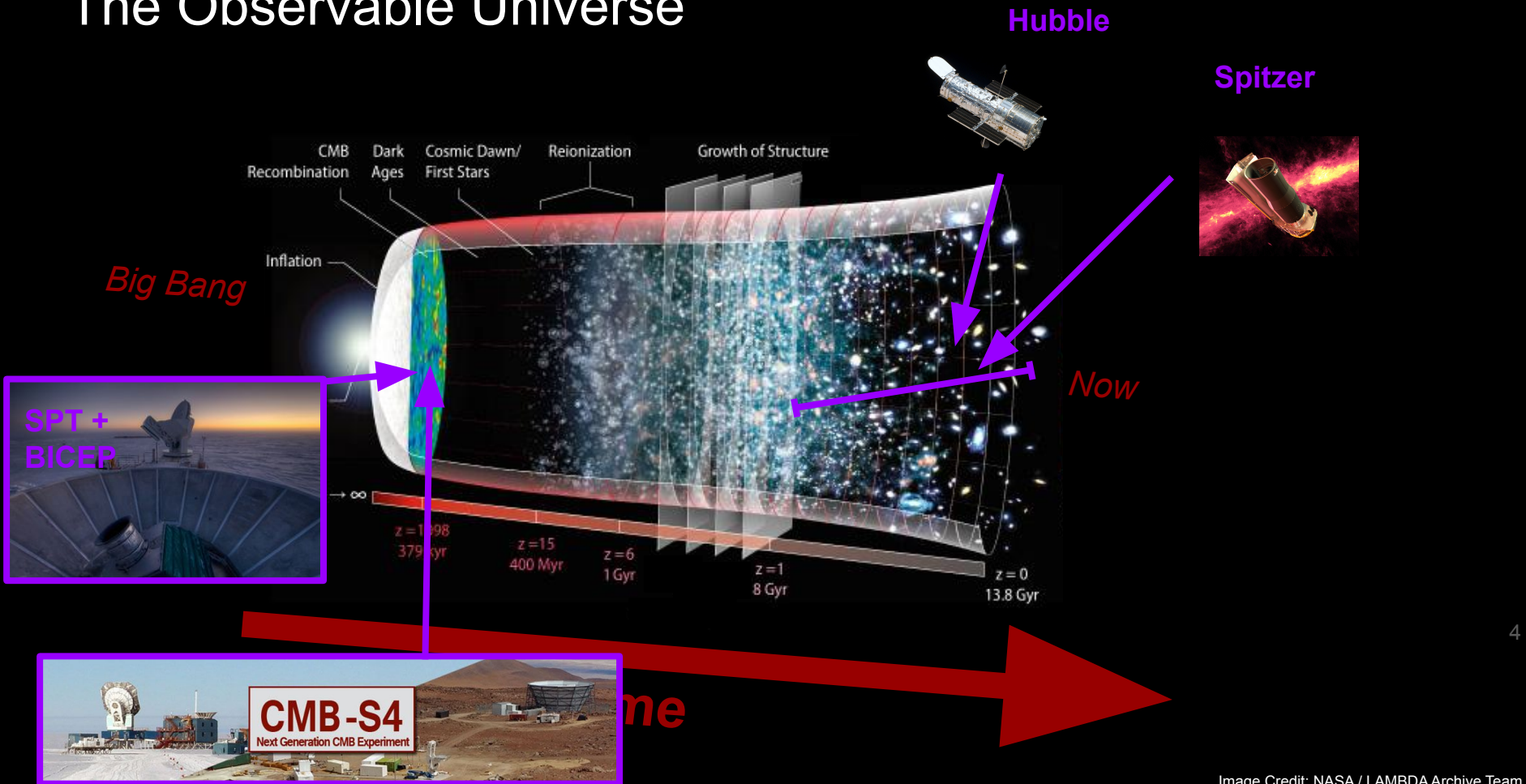
## Unsolved Mysteries

What is dark energy?

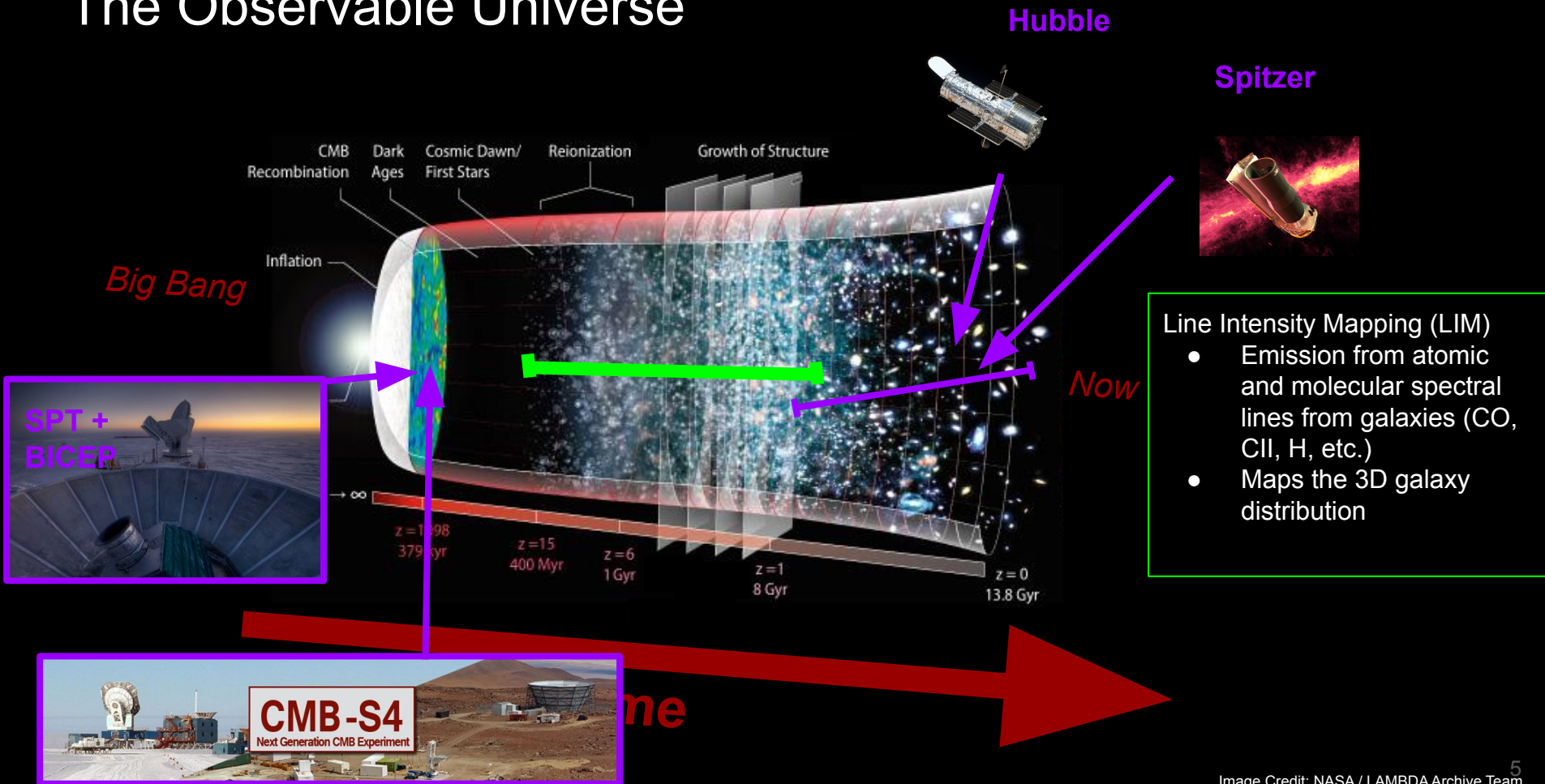
What mechanism drove inflation?

How did the first galaxies and stars form?

# The Observable Universe



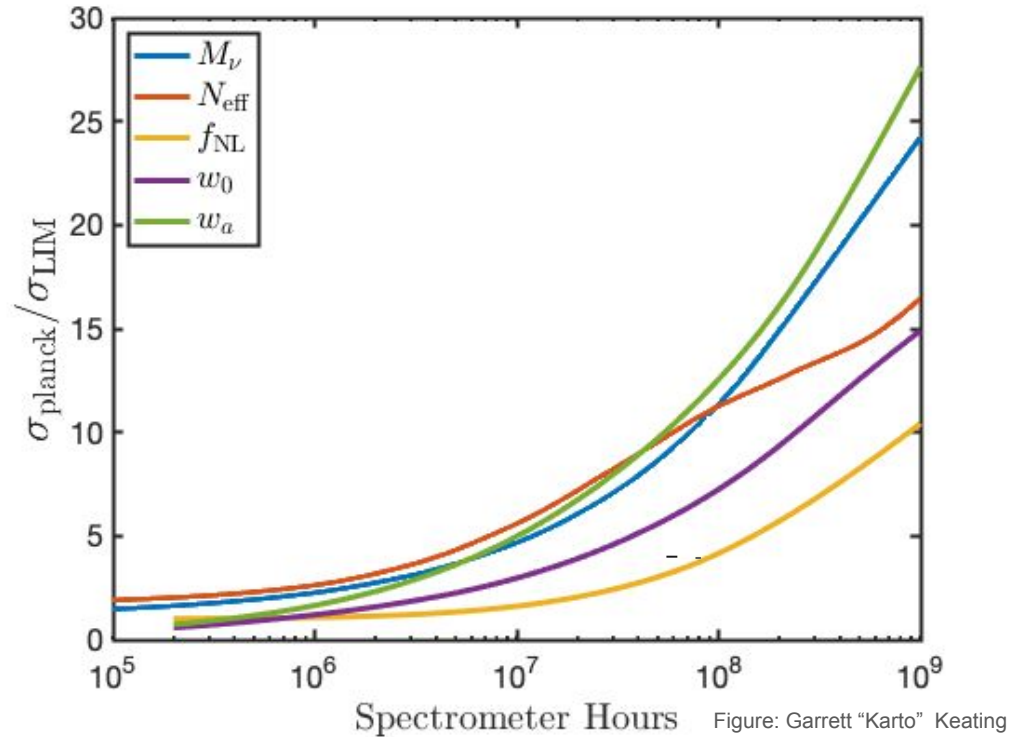
# The Observable Universe



# Cosmology with mm-wave Line Intensity Mapping

LIM can potentially constrain cosmological parameters beyond current CMB and galaxy survey constraints:

- Inflation and the history of the very early universe
- Neutrino masses
- New light relic particles
- Dark energy



*Need to increase instantaneous sensitivity*

# Which line to pick?

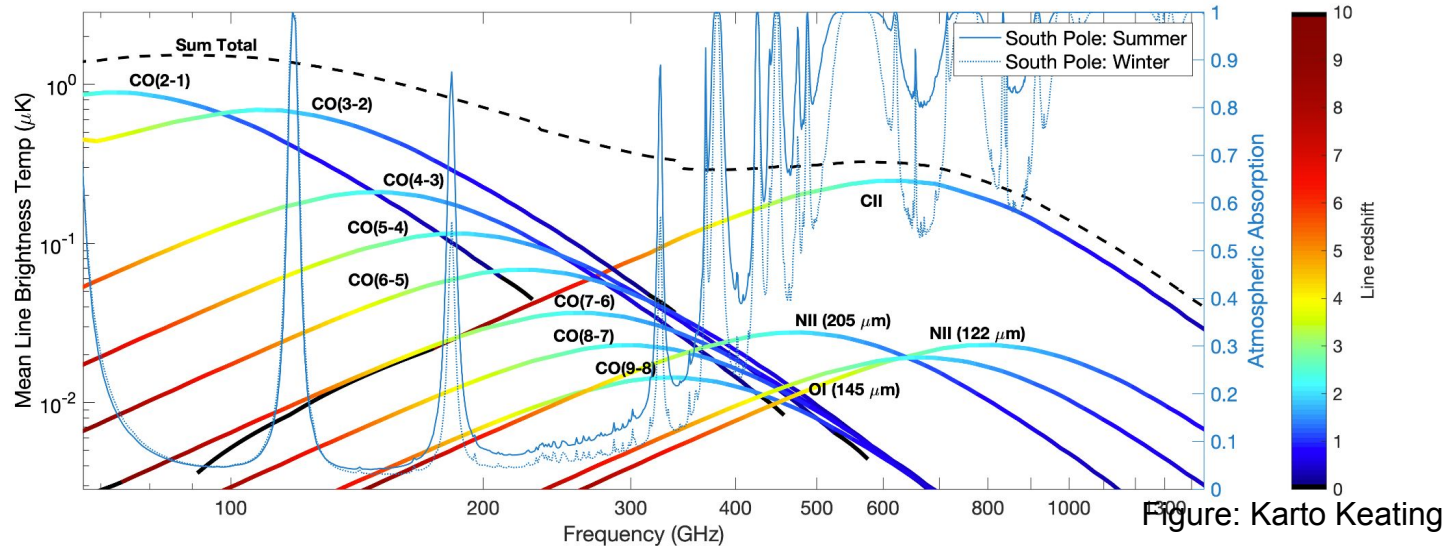
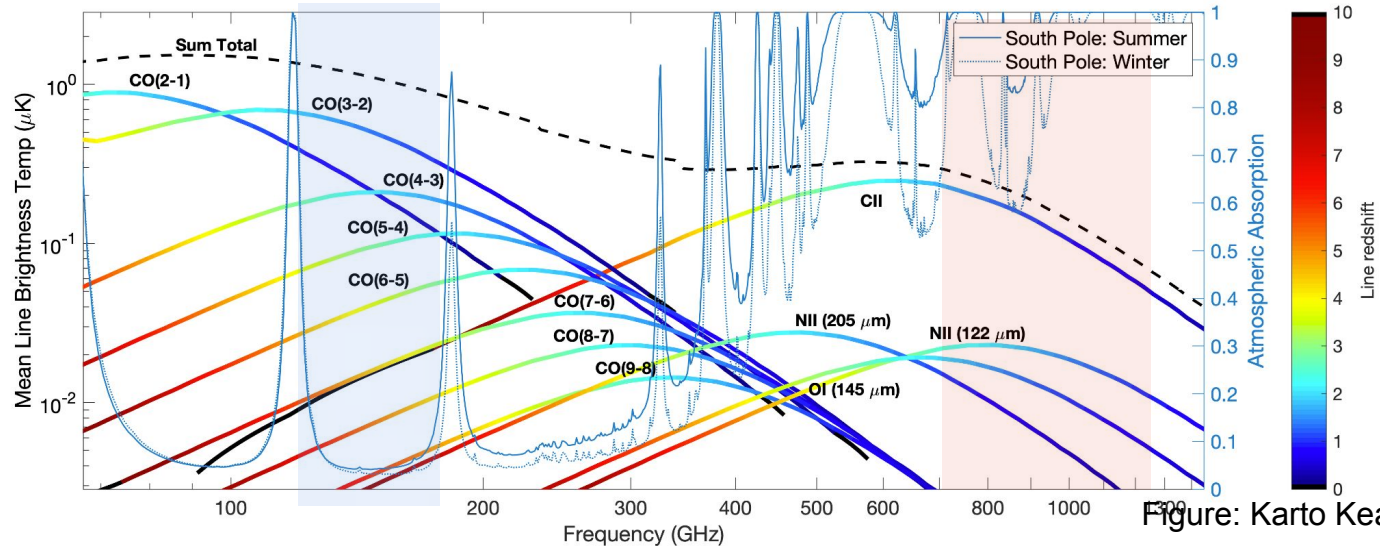


Figure: Karto Keating

# Which line to pick?



**CO**

Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)

**CII**

Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
THz (From Space)



# Which line to pick?

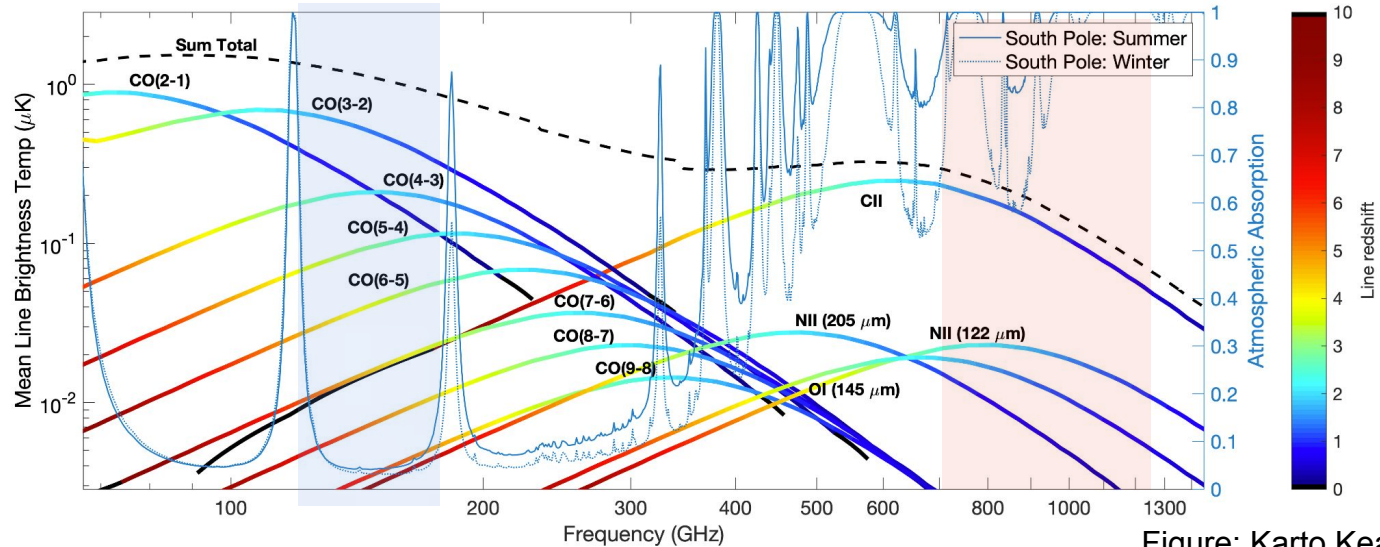
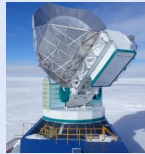


Figure: Karto Keating

## CO

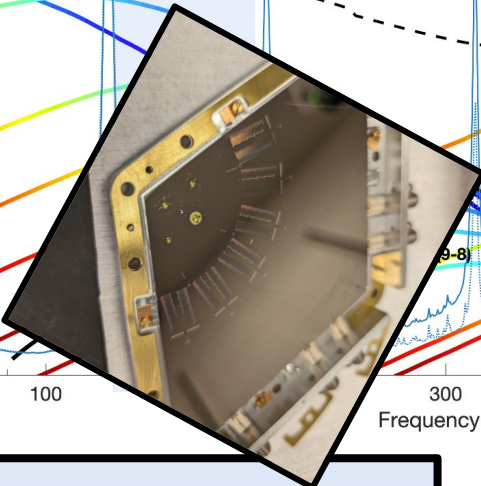
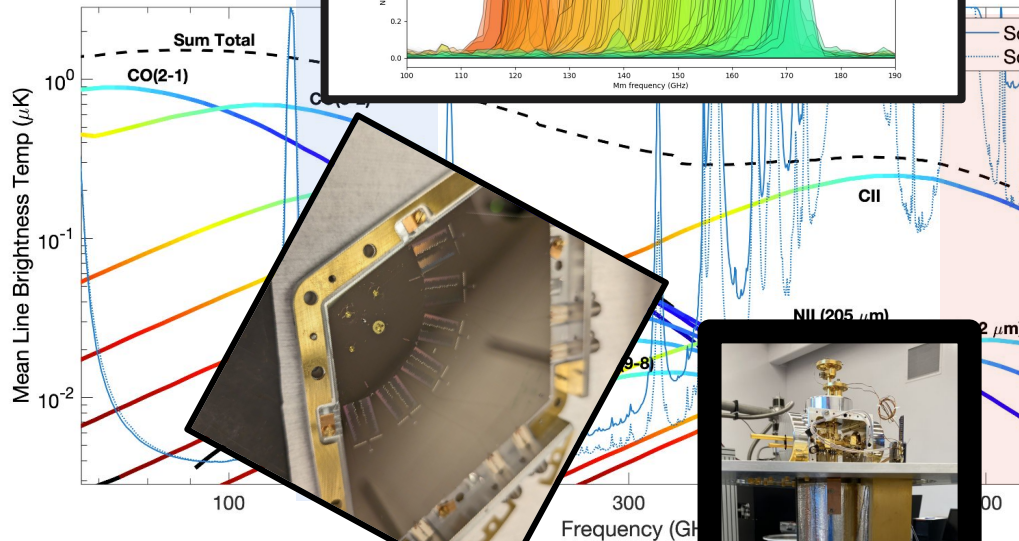
Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*



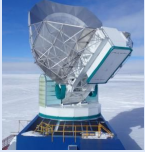
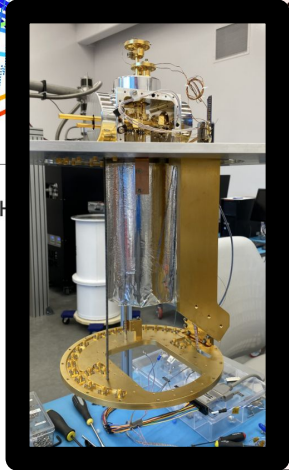
## CII

Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
THz (From Space)

# Which line to pick

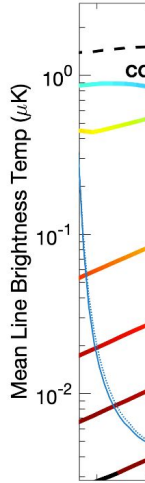


**CO**  
 Maximum *Signal*  
 GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*

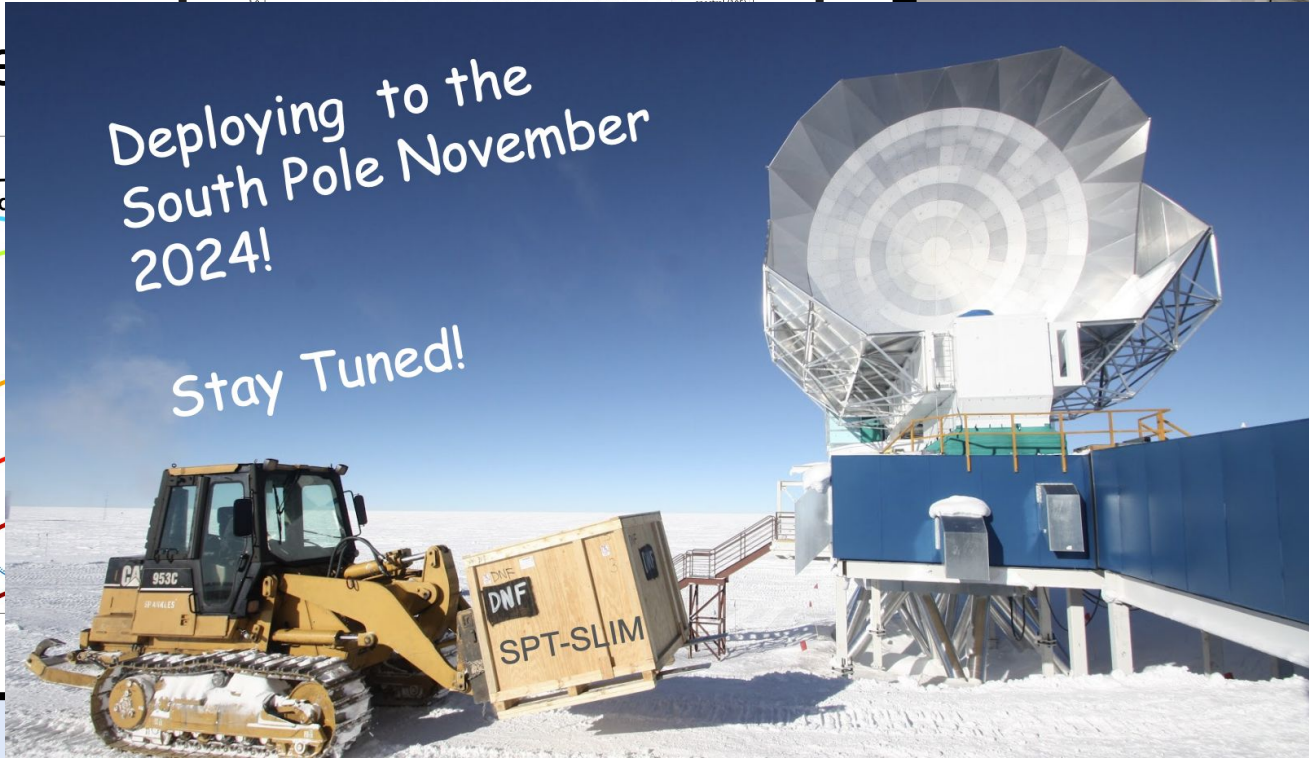
Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
 GHz (Can do from Space)

Which line



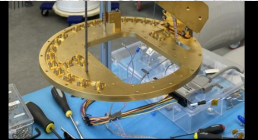
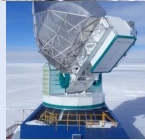
Deploying to the  
South Pole November  
2024!

Stay Tuned!



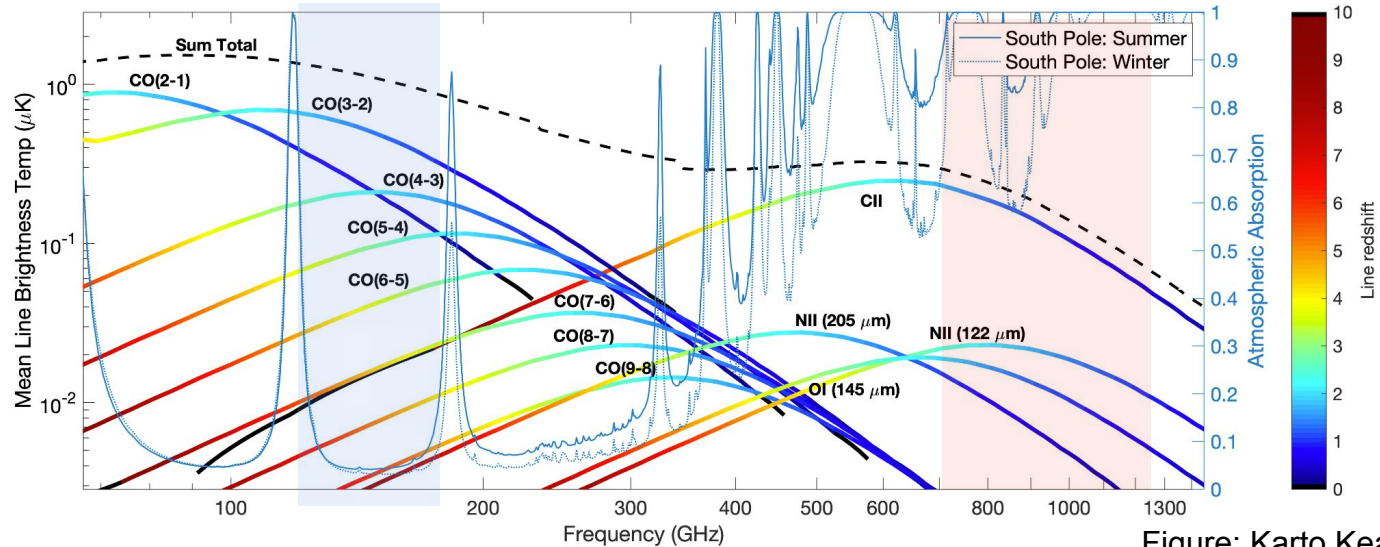
**CO**

Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*



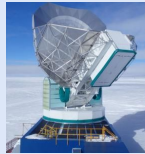
*Signal-to-Noise*  
m Space)

# Which line to pick?



## CO

Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*



## CII

Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
THz (From Space)

# Which line to pick?

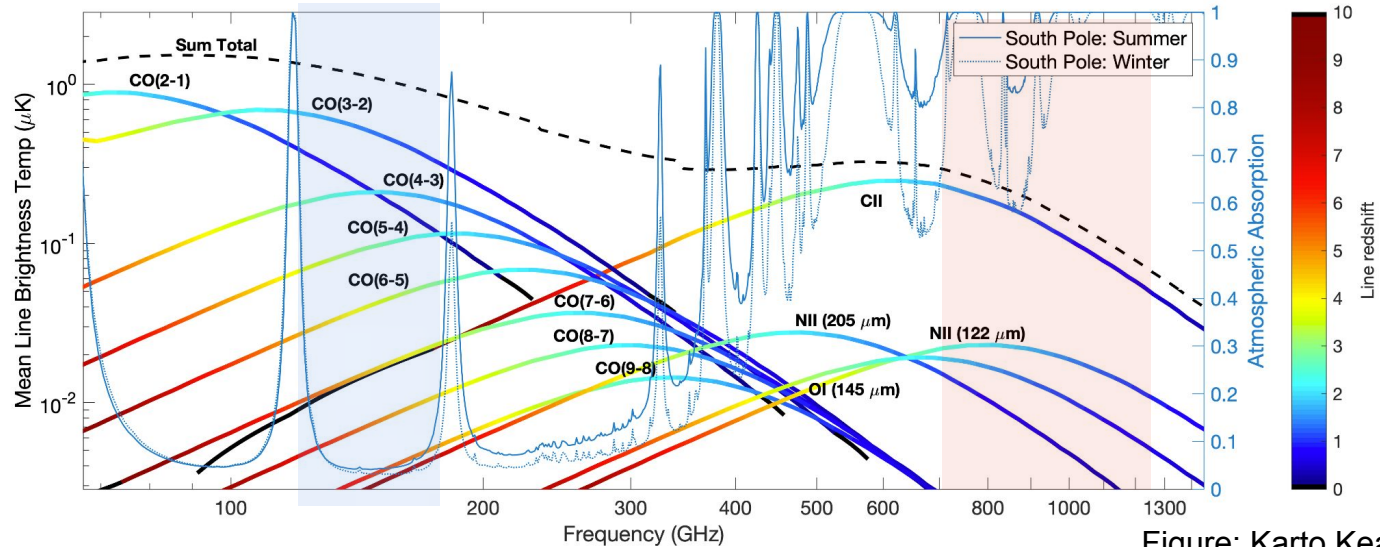
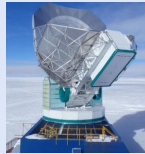


Figure: Karto Keating

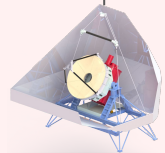
## CO

Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*



## CII

Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
THz (From Space)  
*TIM (Terahertz Intensity Mapper)*



# The Terahertz Intensity Mapper

University of Illinois **J. Vieira (PI)**, J. Filippini, J. Alameda, **H. Athreya**,  
B. Brendal, J. Fu, M. Kowalik, R. Nie, V. Razavimaleki

Caltech/JPL R. Janssen, M. Bradford, S. Hailey-Dunsheath, B. Bumble,  
L.-J. Liu

Arizona State University **C. Groppi**, D. Joralmon, P. Mauskopf, T. Saeid

University of Arizona **D. Marrone**, R. Dominguez, N. Emerson, V. Gasho, I.  
Lowe, E. Mayer, I. Trumper

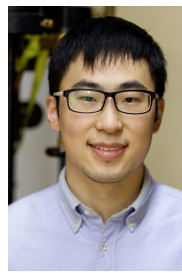
University of Pennsylvania J. Aguirre, S. Agrawal, J. Bracks, A. Manduca

Max Planck Institute for Astronomy R. Keenan

Harvard & Smithsonian **G. Keating**

University of Chicago **J. Zebrowski**





# TIM Deep Observations

## Deep Field

$\sim 0.1 \text{ deg}^2$

GOODS-S (3.5hr, -28deg)

Wants as small of a field as to have the lowest noise, but we have a large FoV

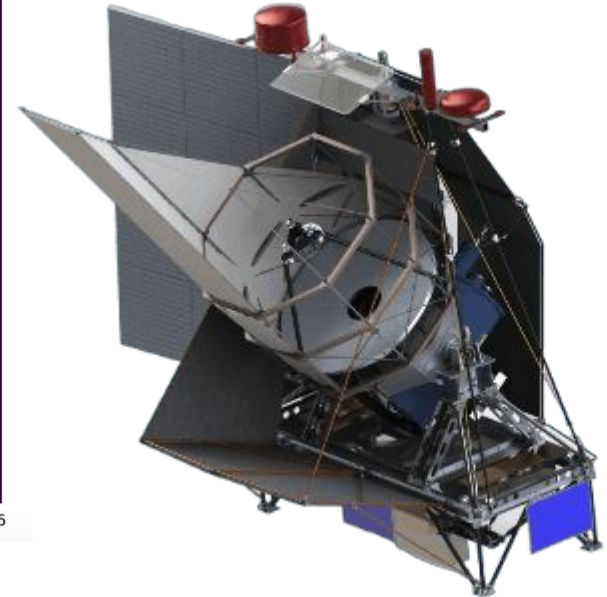
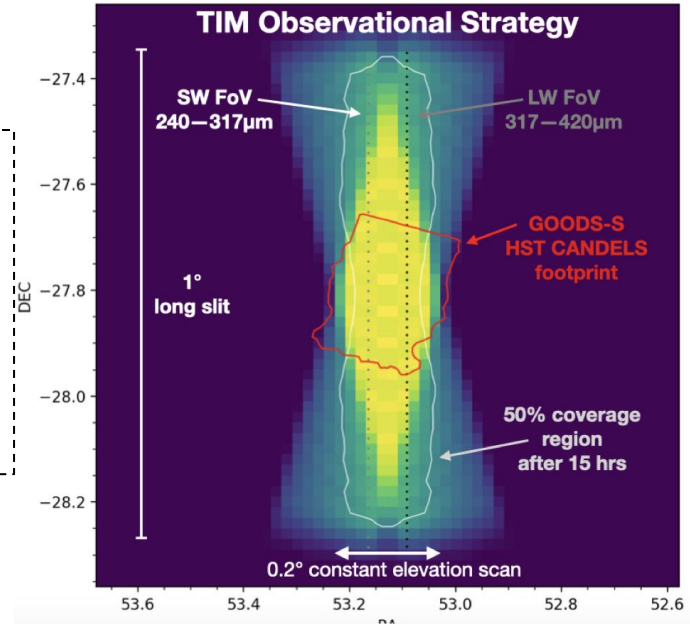
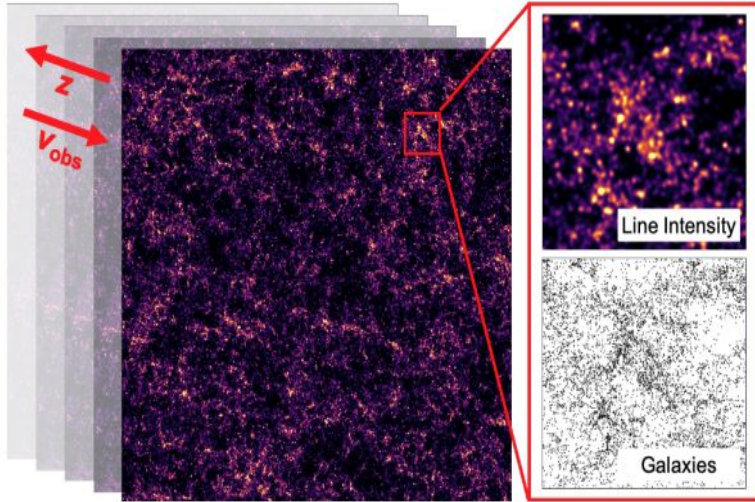


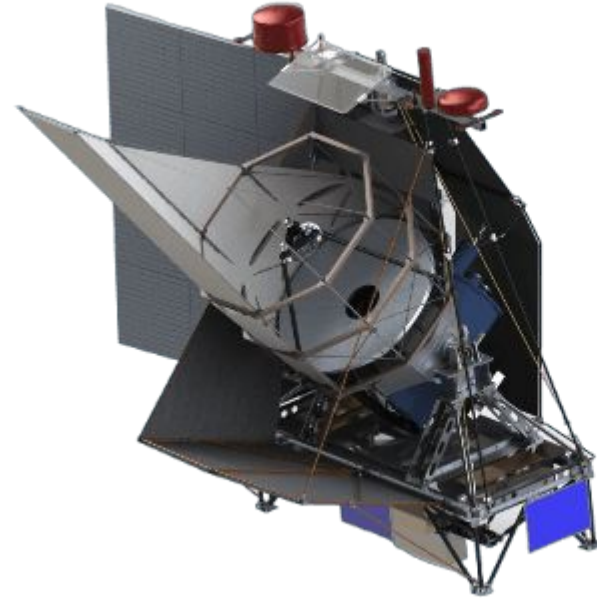
Figure: Talia Saeid

# TIM Deep Observations



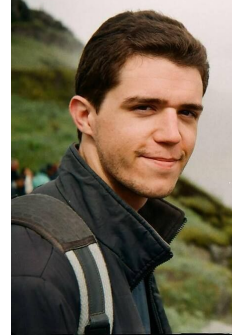
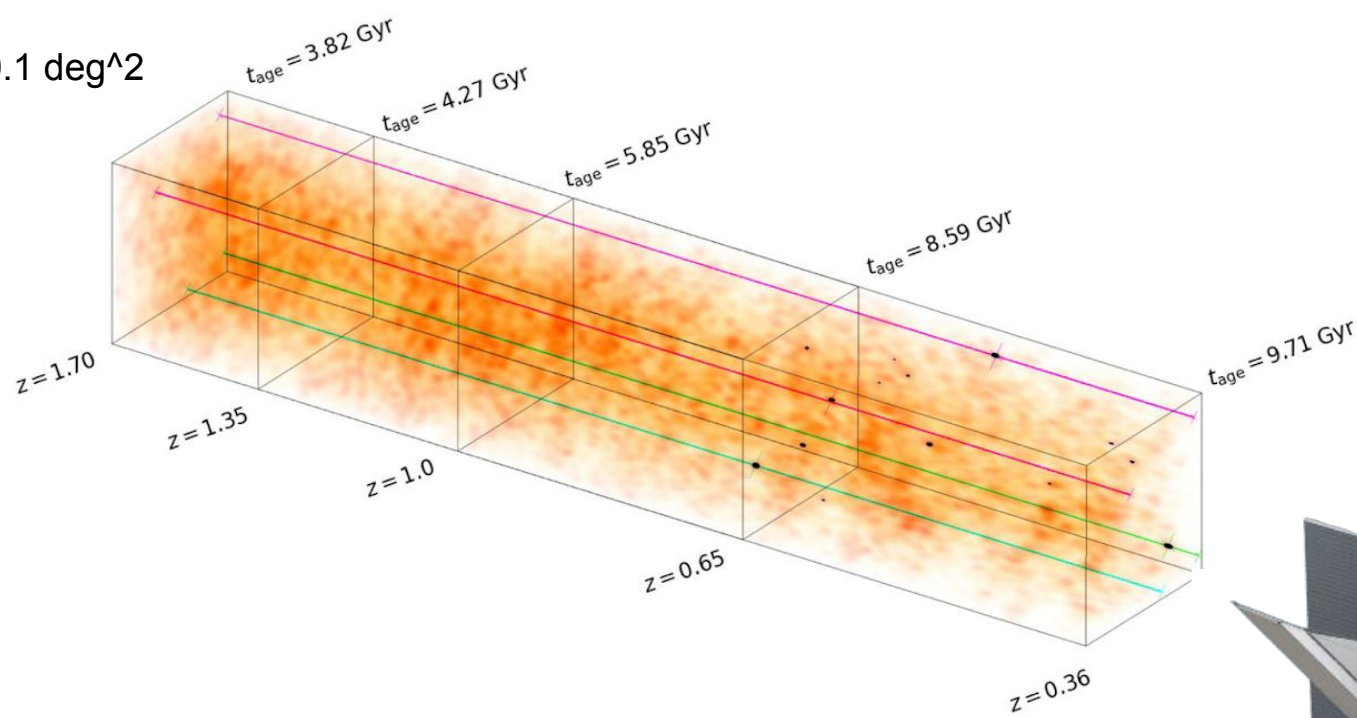
**What you measure**  
(*low-resolution intensity map of CII x multiple frequencies*)

**What this traces**  
(*large-scale structure in the underlying galaxy population/dark matter distribution as it evolves over time as the spectral line redshifts*)





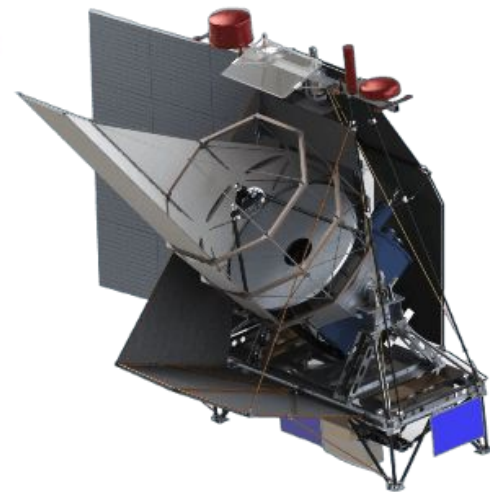
$\sim 0.1 \text{ deg}^2$

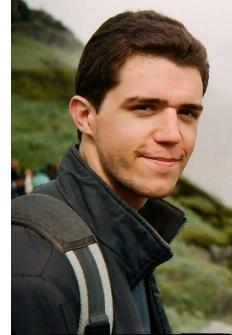
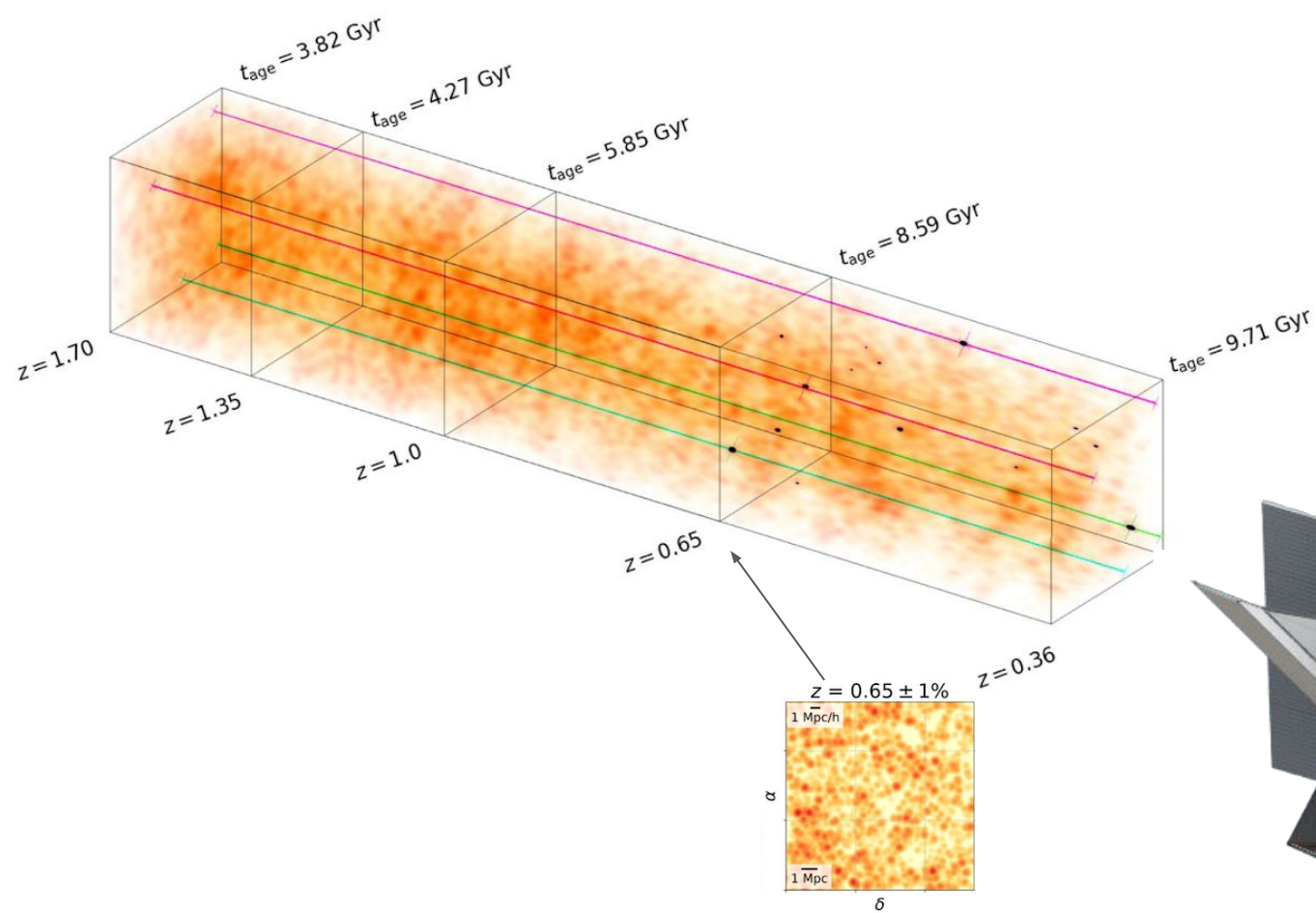


Evan Mayer



Shubh Agrawal

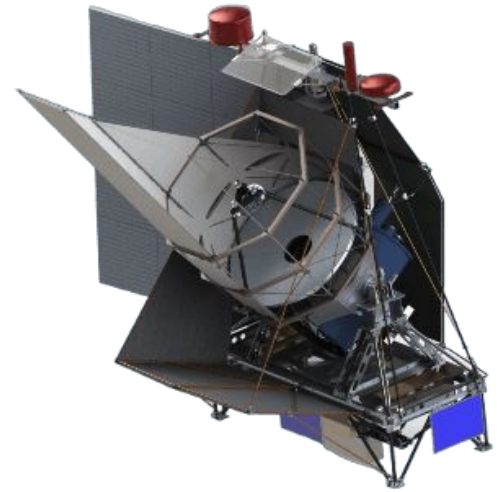


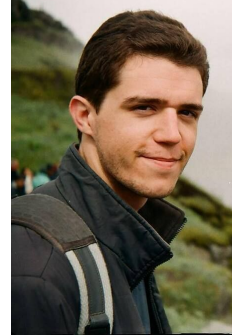
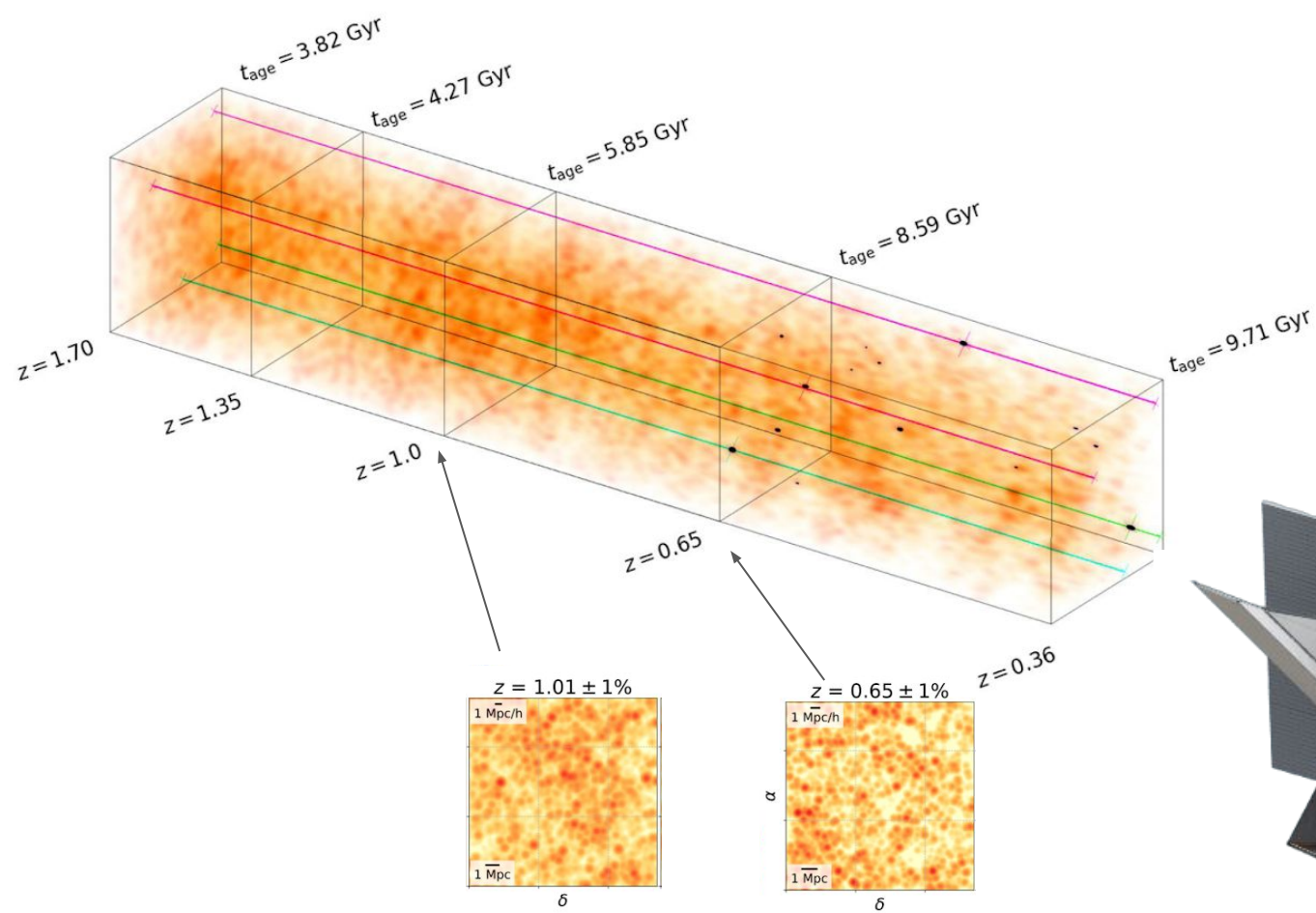


Evan Mayer



Shubh Agrawal

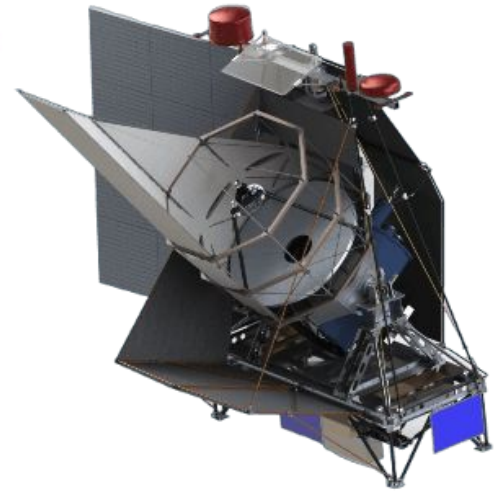


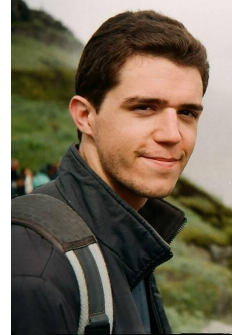
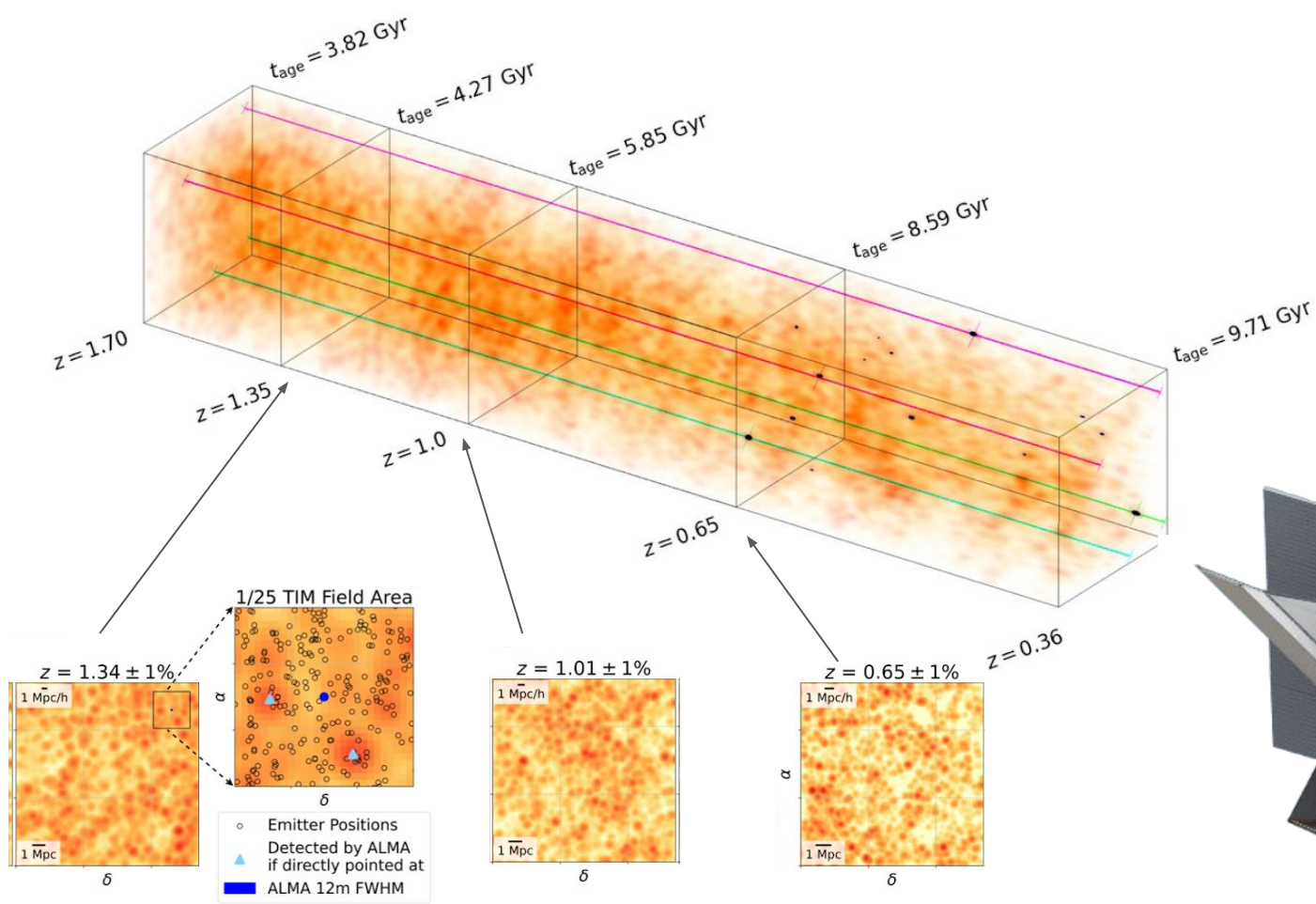


Evan Mayer



Shubh Agrawal

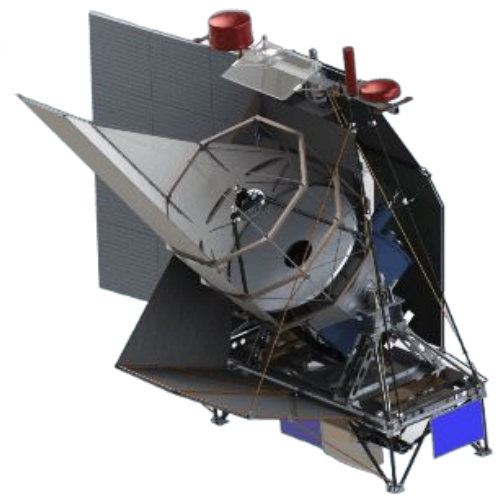


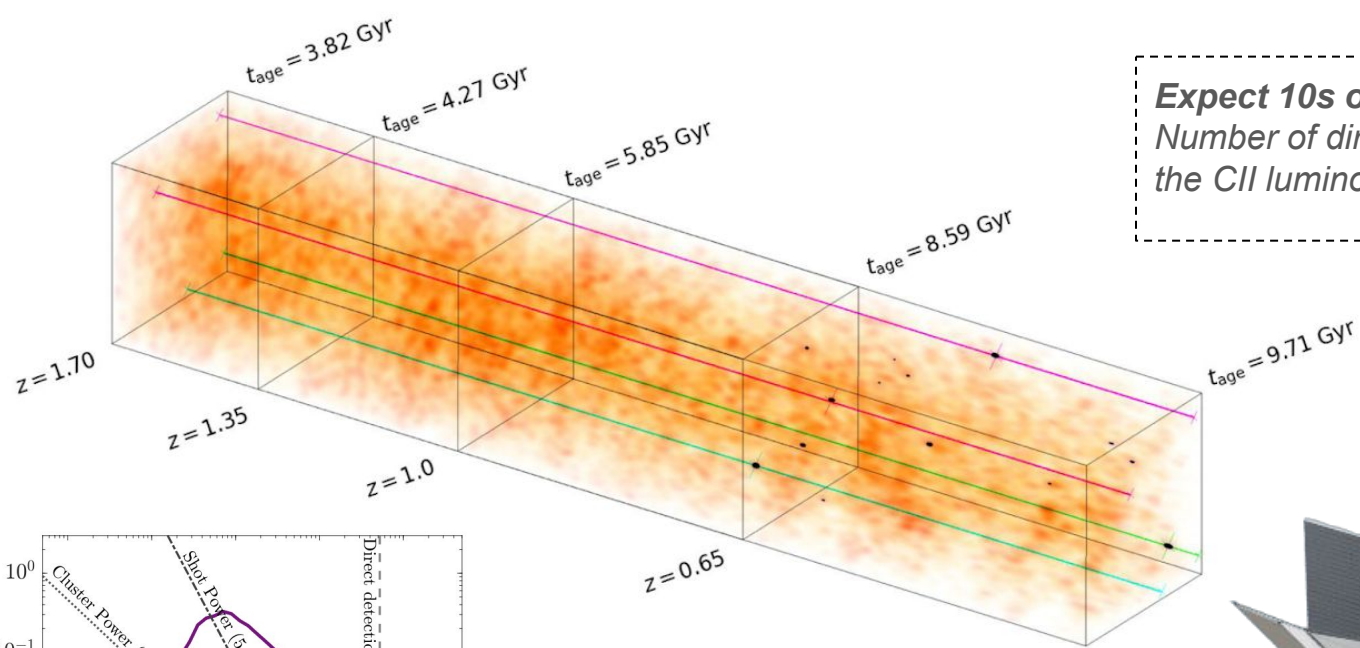


Evan Mayer



Shubh Agrawal





**Expect 10s of direct detections**  
 Number of direct detections constrains  
 the CII luminosity function

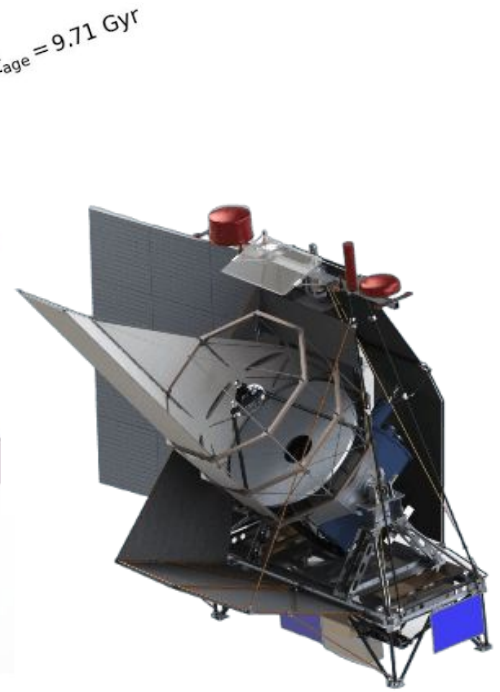
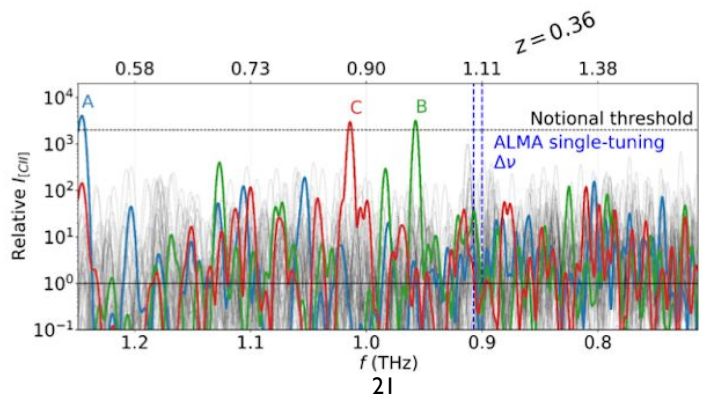
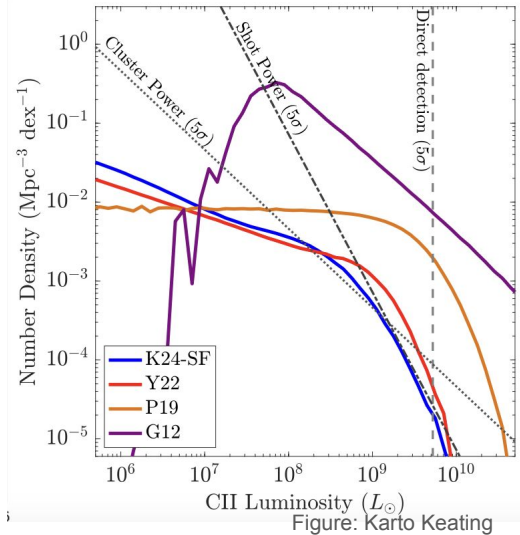
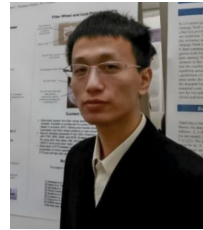
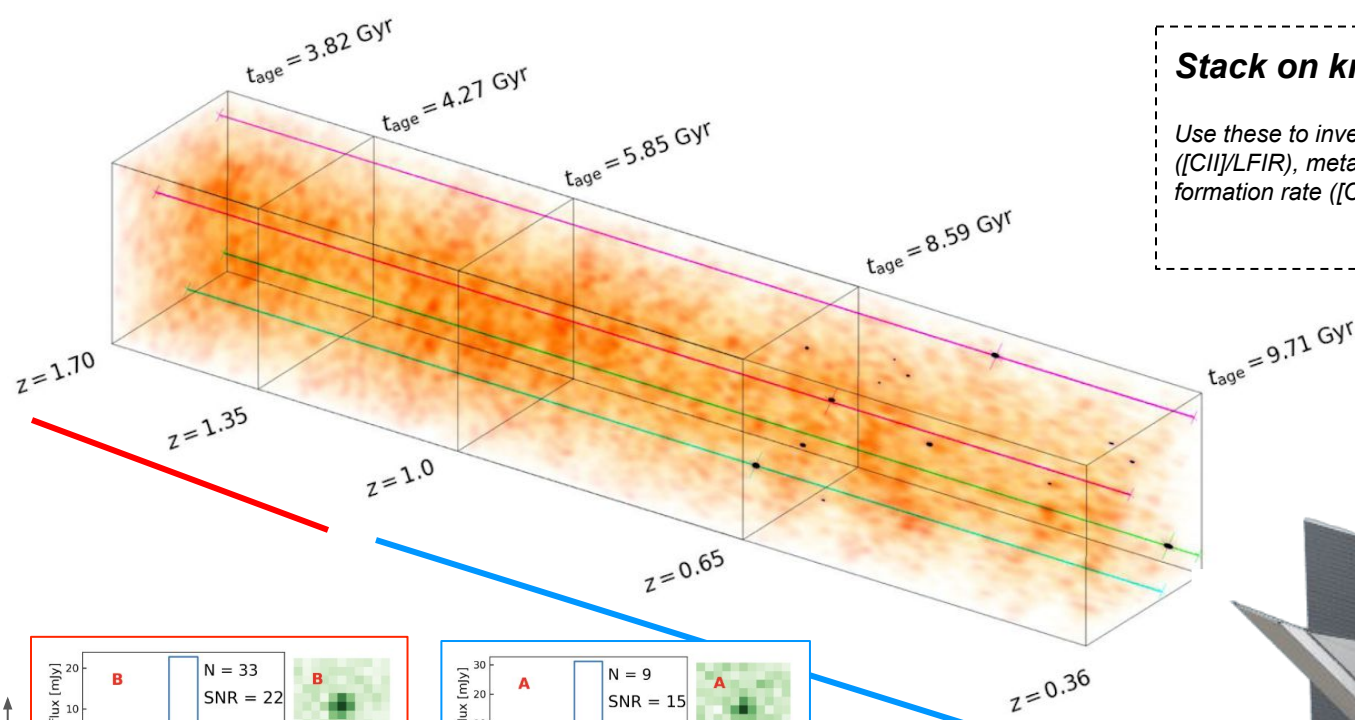


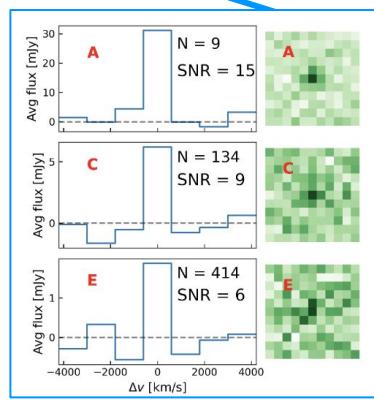
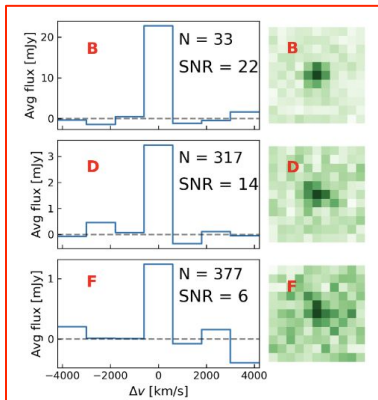
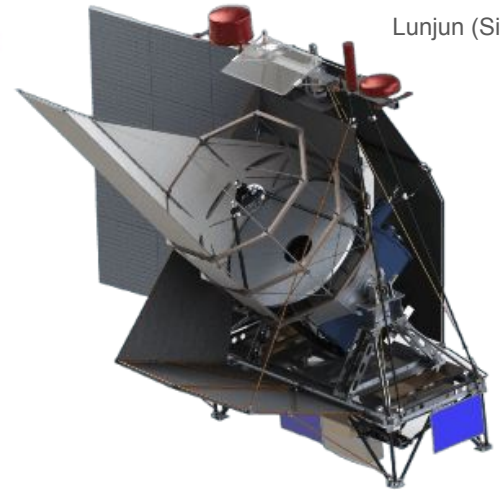
Figure: Karto Keating

## Stack on known locations of galaxies

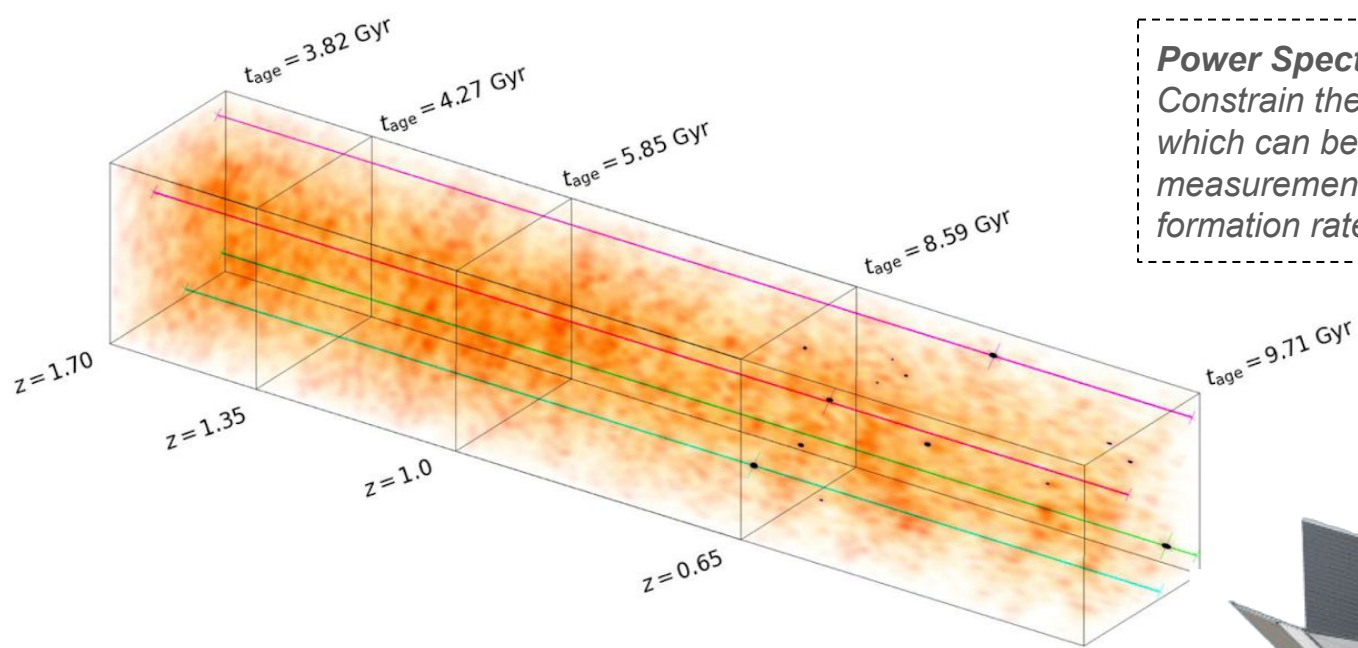
Use these to investigate changes in star formation modes ([CII]/LFIR), metallicity ([NII]/[CII]), and specific star formation rate ([CII]/M\_star)



Lunjun (Simon) Liu



SFR



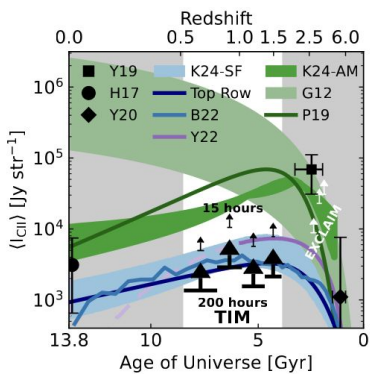
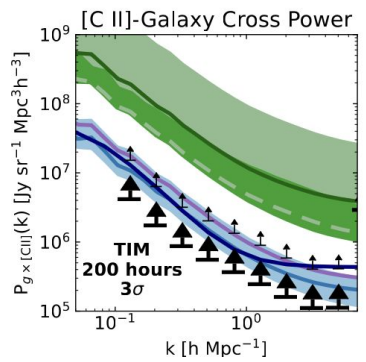
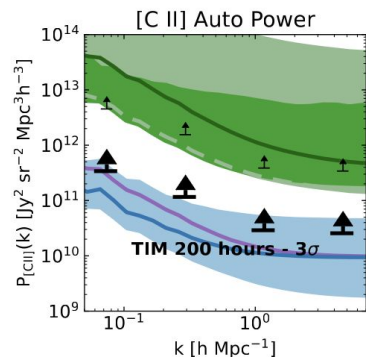
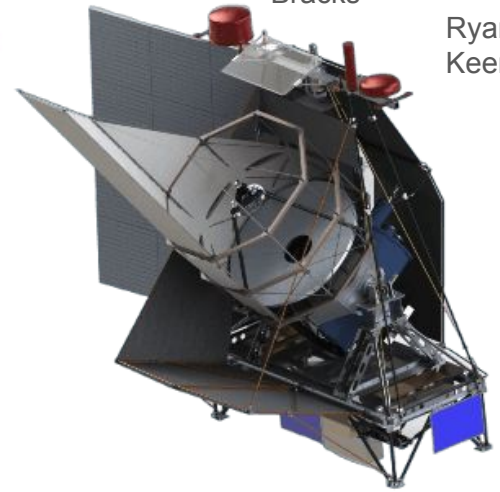
**Power Spectrum**  
 Constrain the CII Luminosity Function  
 which can be translated to a  
 measurement of the cosmic star  
 formation rate density at  $0.5 < z < 1.7$

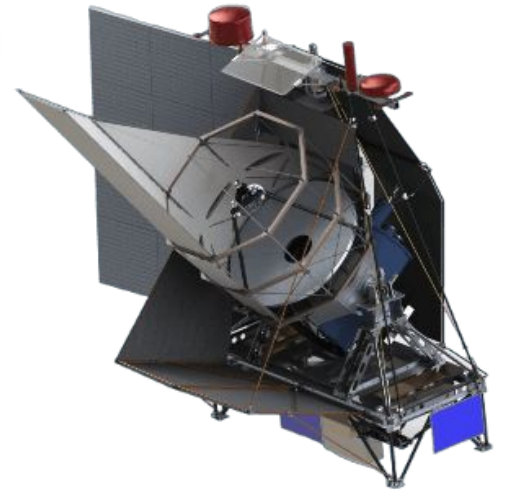
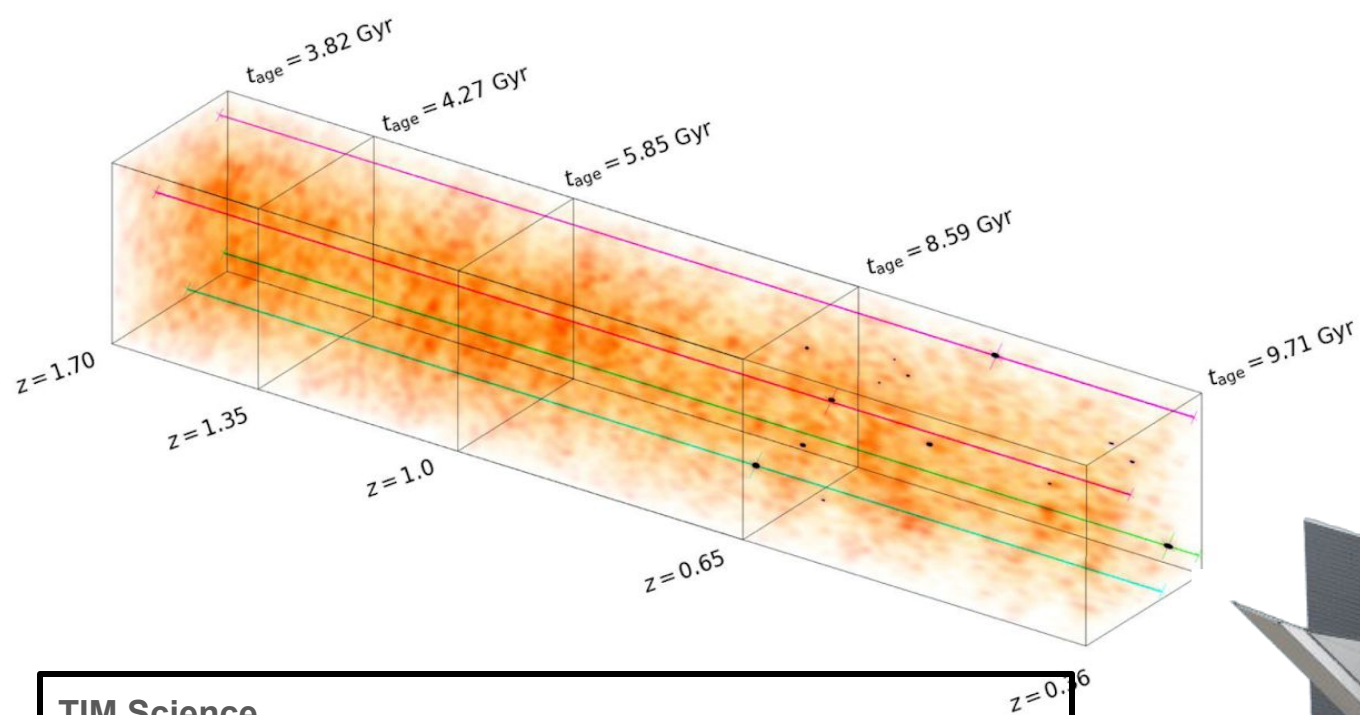


Justin Bracks



Ryan Keenan





### TIM Science

- Direct Detection
- Stacking
- Cross-Power Spectrum
- Auto-Spectrum

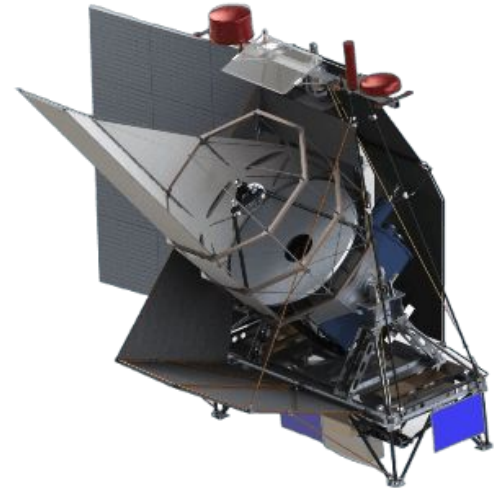
*Learn about galaxy and star formation from this powerful dataset!*

*Precursor to cosmology w/ LIM!*

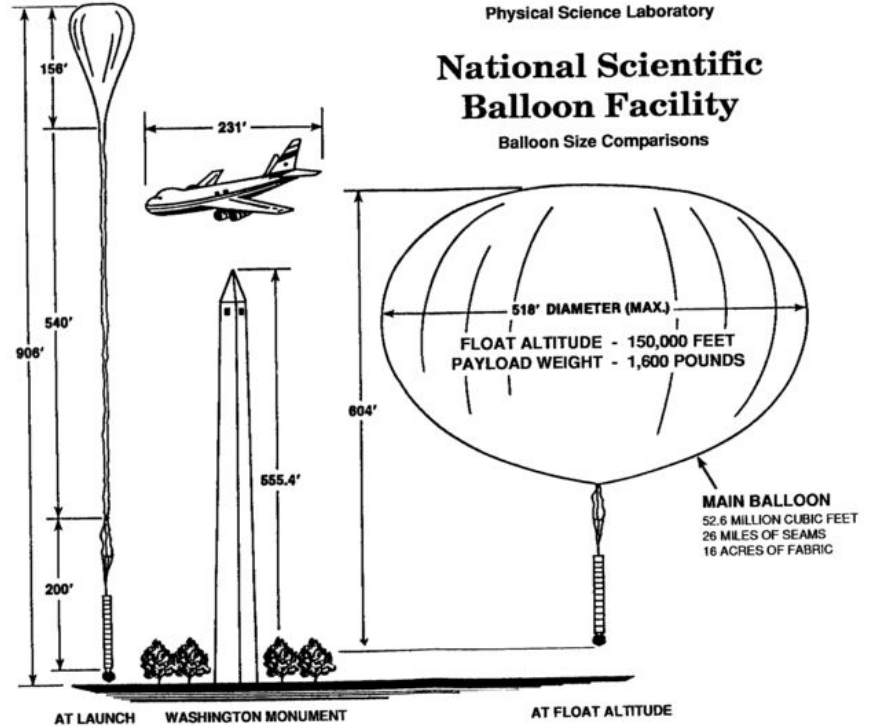


# The Terahertz Intensity Mapper (TIM) Instrument at a Glance

- Antarctic Stratospheric Balloon ('26/'27 Austral summer launch)
- 2m primary mirror, Cassegrain design
- Liquid-Helium cryostat with sorption cooler ( $\sim 250\text{mK}$ )
- Two grating spectrometers
  - 240 – 317 & 317 - 420  $\mu\text{m}$  at  $R\sim 250$
  - 1 degree slit length
- 2x MKID arrays with  $\sim 3600$  detectors each



# Scientific Ballooning



Images: NASA

# Schedule for Scientific Ballooning

Name	Location	Date	Payload Flies	Cryostat Cold	Comms Function	Take Science Data
Test Flight	Ft. Sumner, NM	Summer 2024	✓	✗	✓	✗
Hang Test	Palestine, TX	Summer 2026	✗	✓	✓	✗
Science Flight	McMurdo, Antarctica	Austral Summer 2026-2027	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Test Flight Schedule

Name	Location	Date	Payload Flies	Cryostat Cold	Comms Function	Take Science Data
Test Flight	Ft. Sumner, NM	Summer 2024	✓	✗	✓	✗



Q: Where is Ft. Sumner, NM?

A: The middle of nowhere.



The Nice Hotel in town:



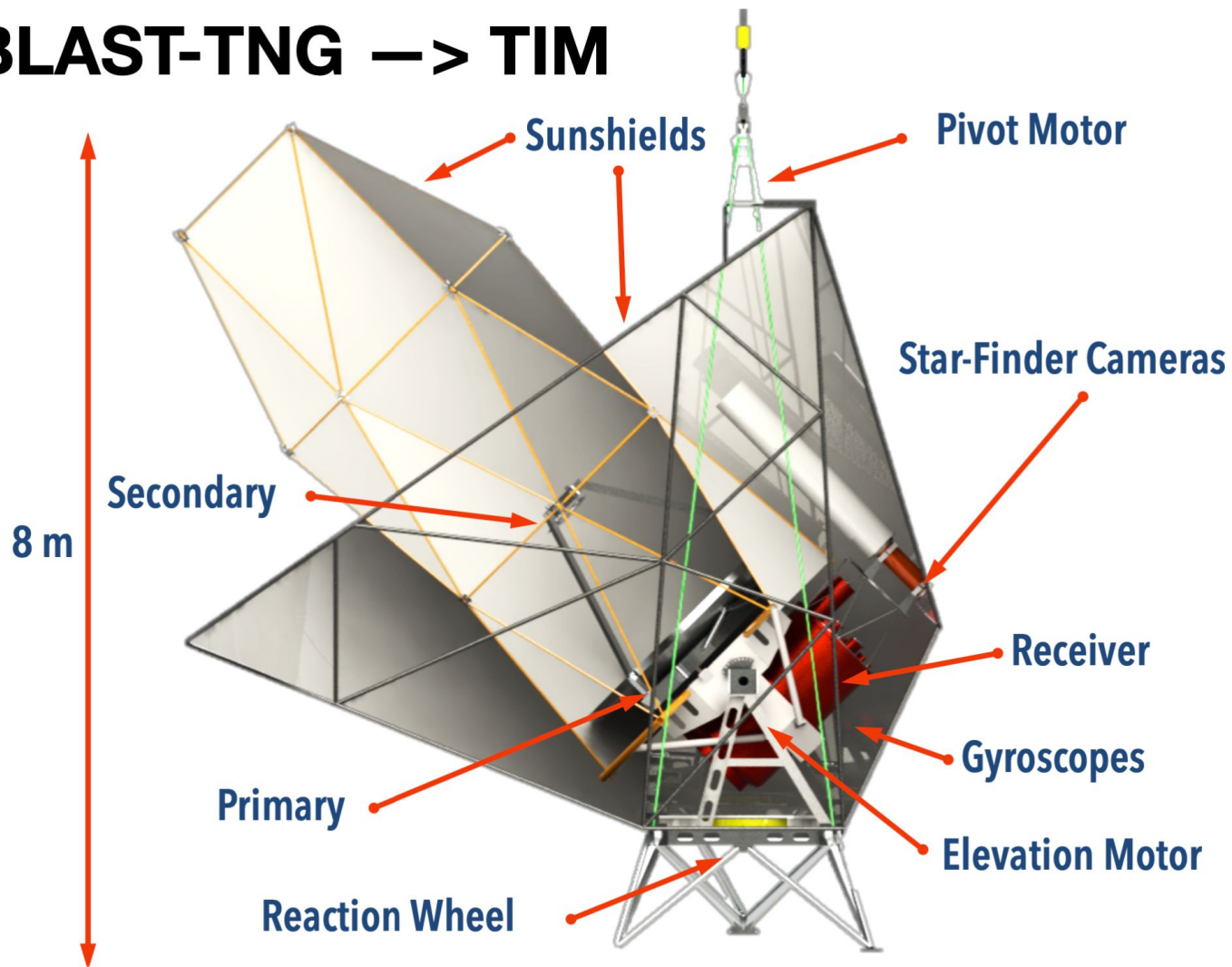
The only place open for dinner on a Sunday night:



# NASA Hangar in Ft. Sumner

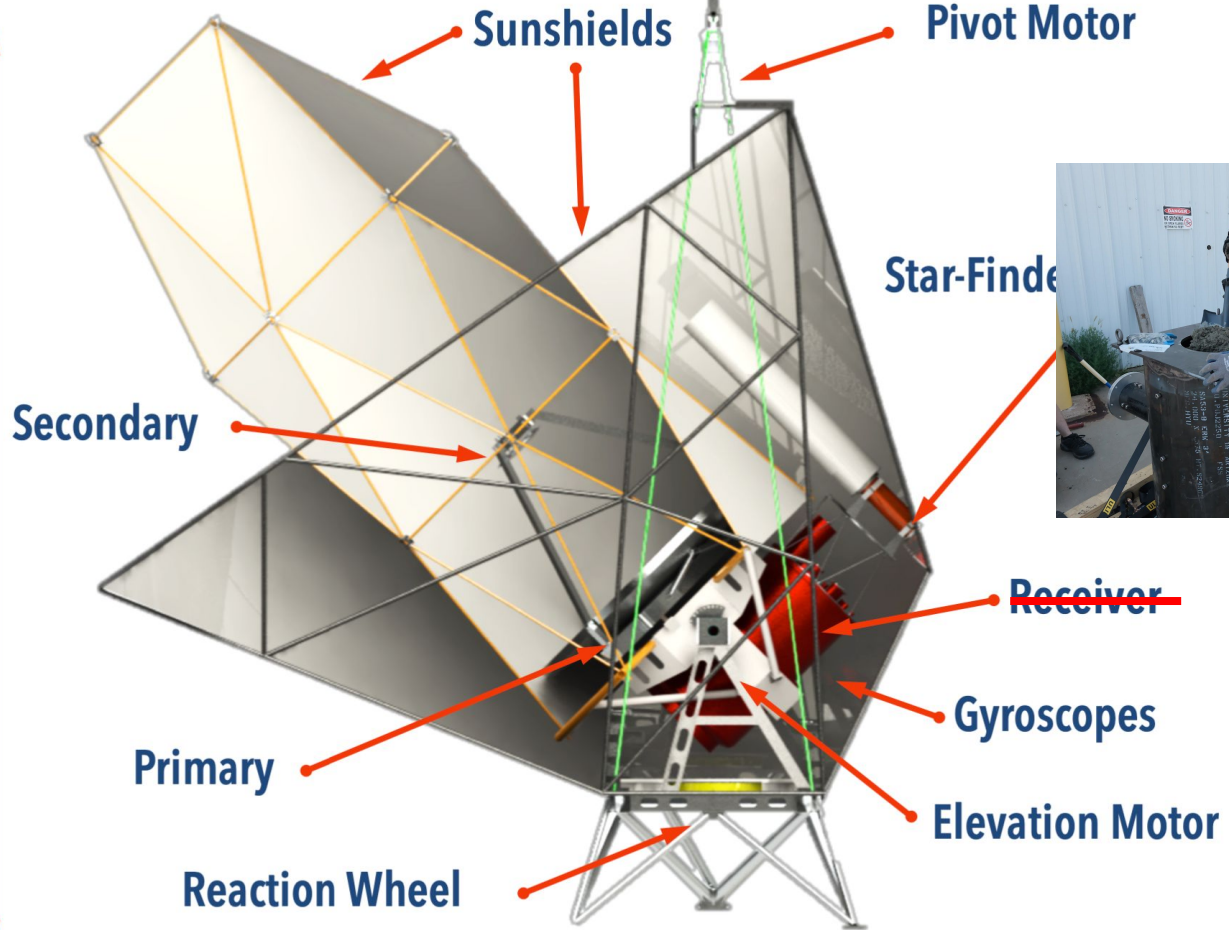


# BLAST-TNG → TIM



# BLAST-TNG → TIM

8 m

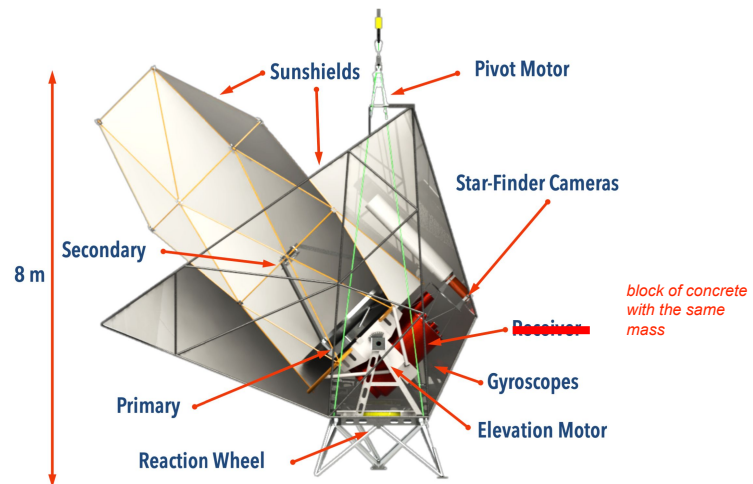
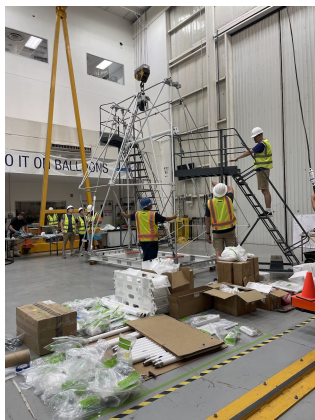


*block of concrete with the same mass*

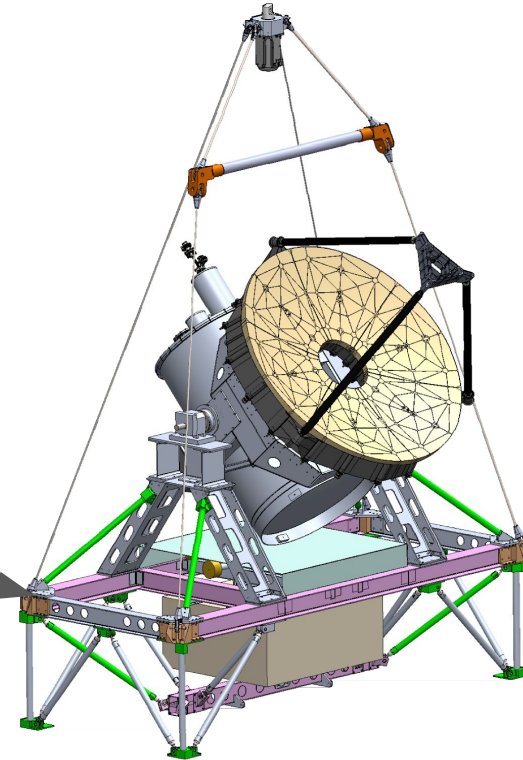
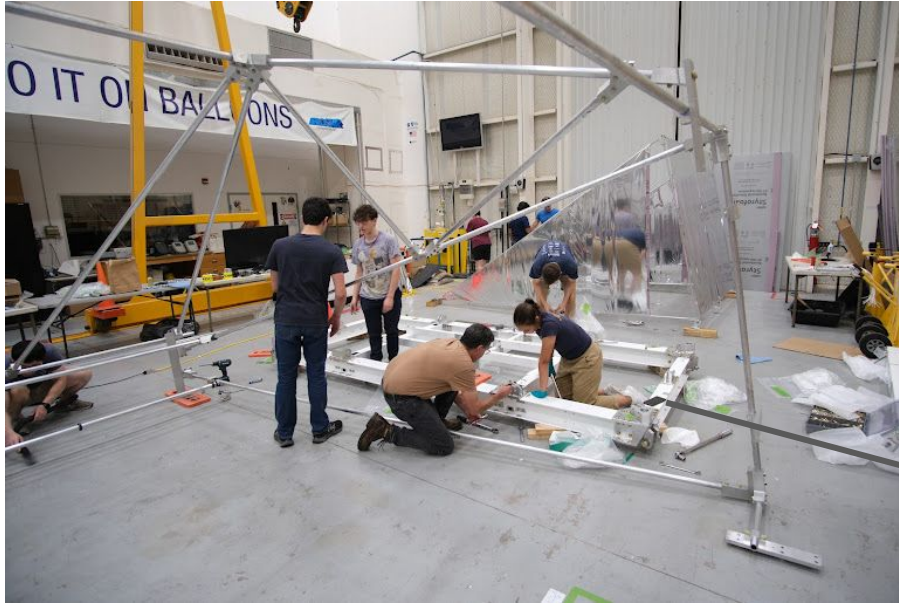




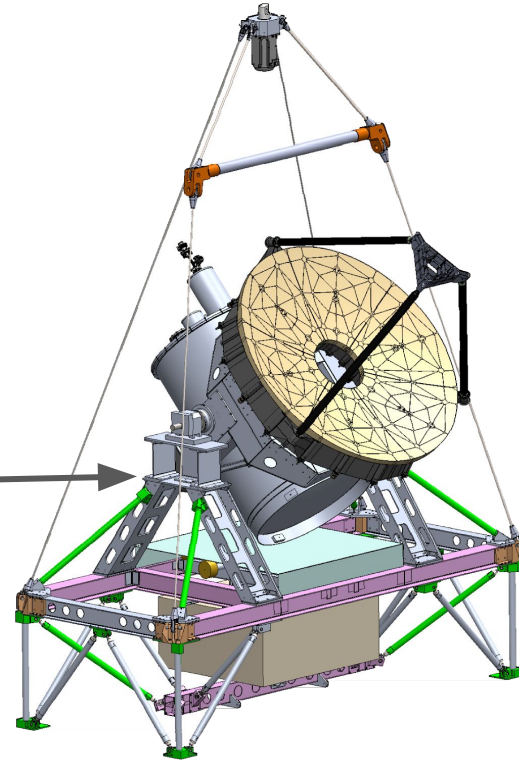
# Assembling the Sun Shields



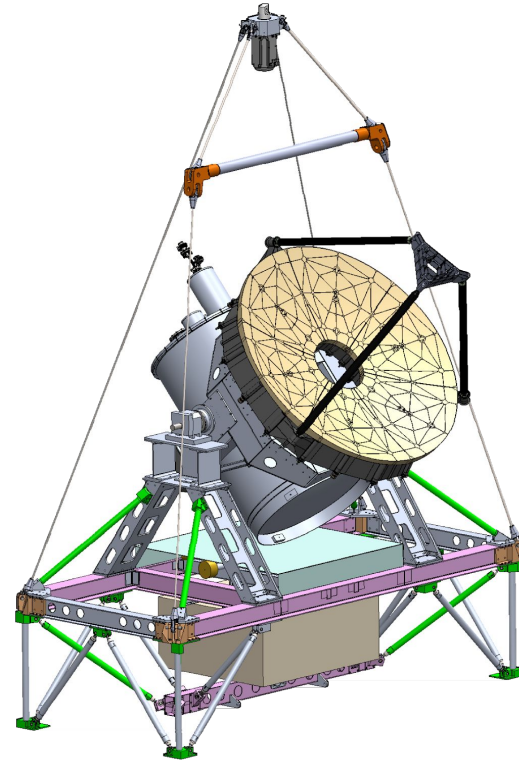
# Building up the gondola



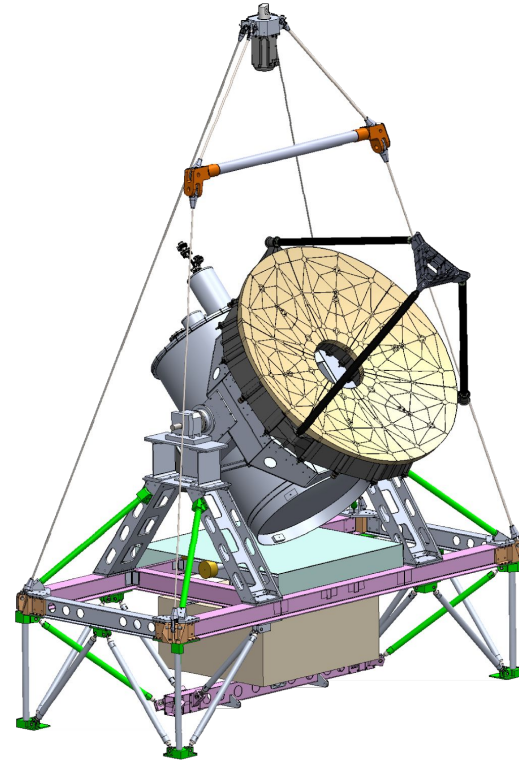
# Building up the gondola

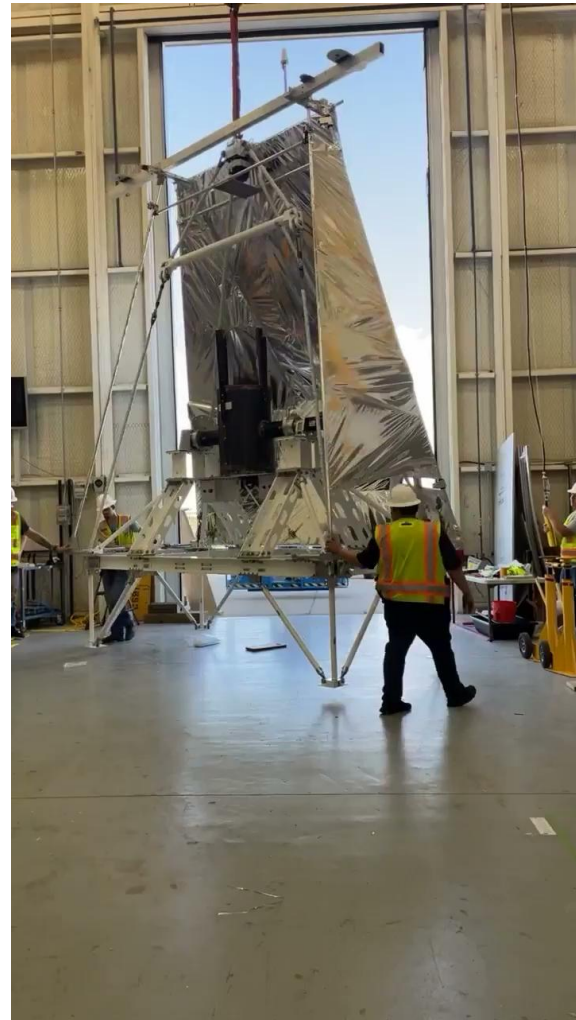
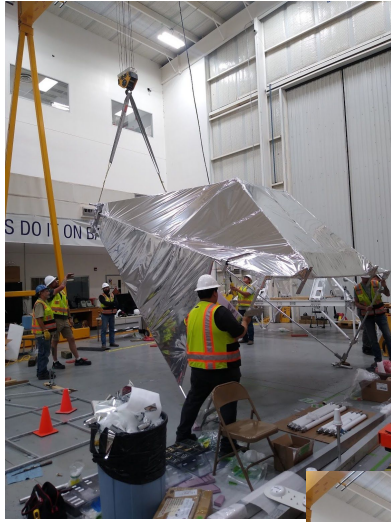


# Building up the gondola



# Building up the gondola





# Fully built TIM gondola ready for launch





Image: Chris Walker



## A typical launch night:

- 11 pm - show up and prep payload
- 1 am - science is ready to go, safety check
- 2 am - electronics integrated
- 3 am - hang on the launch vehicle with weather all-clear
- 4 am - inflate the balloon
- 7 am - launch





Image: Chris Walker



## A typical launch *attempt* night:

11 pm - show up and prep payload

1 am - science is ready to go, safety check

2 am - electronics integrated

3 am - hang on the launch vehicle with weather all-clear

4 am - ~~inflate the balloon~~ wait for weather to clear (it doesn't)

7 am - ~~launch~~ pack in the payload and go get a sad brunch at the only diner in town, sleep until 3pm, rinse and repeat



Image: Chris Walker



## Sunday launch *attempt*:

11 pm - show up and prep payload

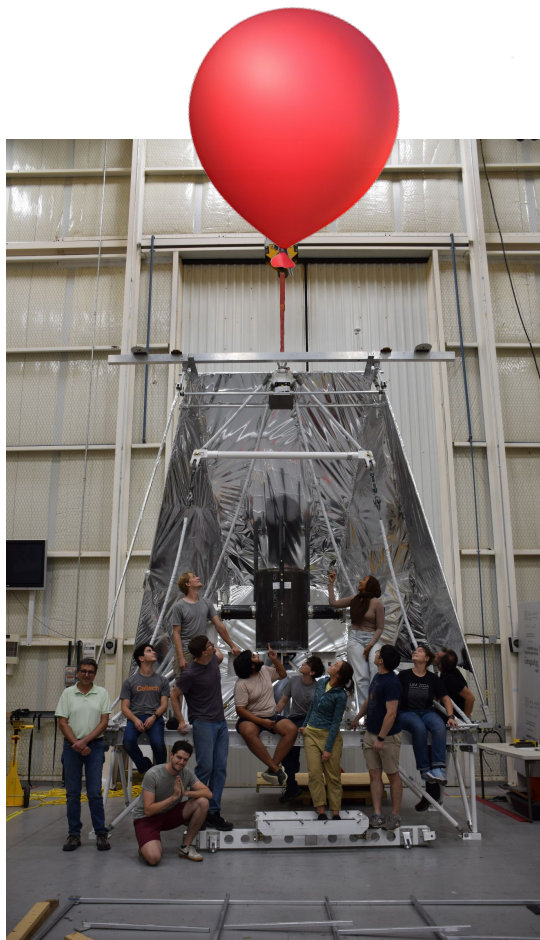
1 am - science is ready to go, safety check

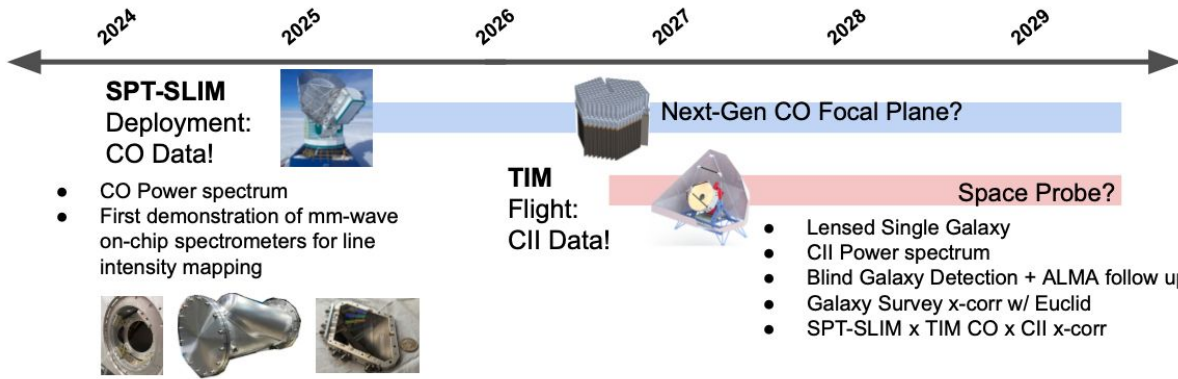
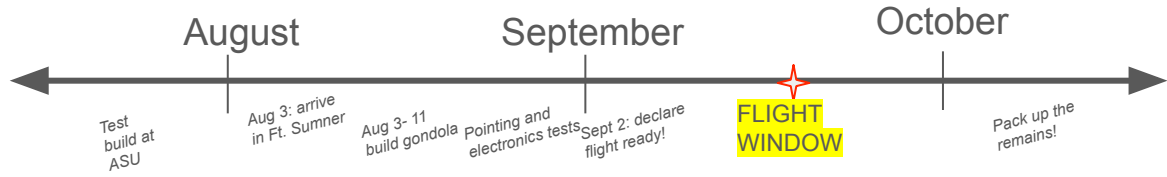
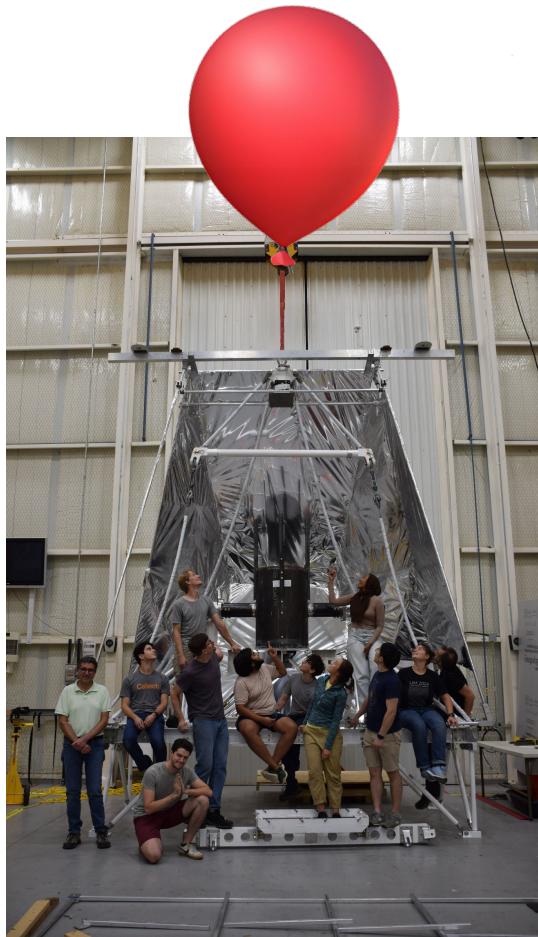
2 am - electronics integrated

3 am - hang on the launch vehicle with weather all-clear

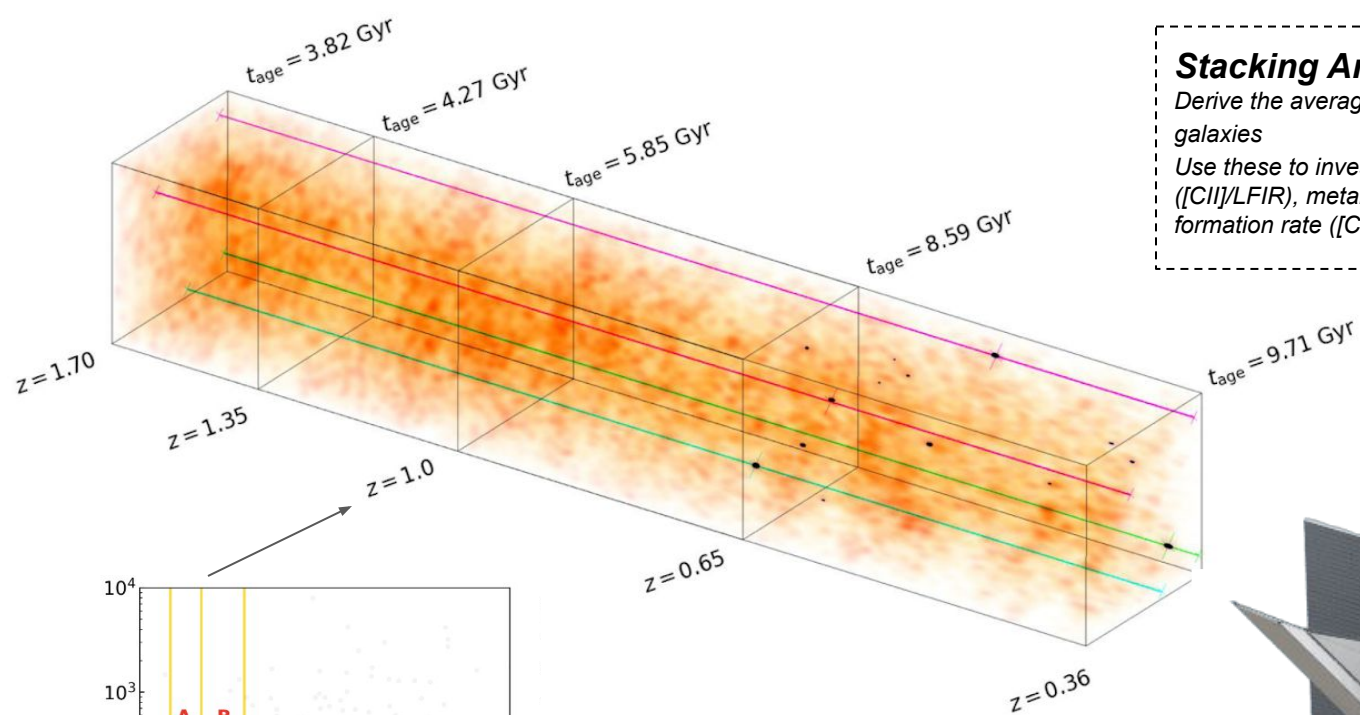
4 am - ~~inflate the balloon~~ wait for weather to clear (it doesn't)

7 am - ~~launch~~ pack in the payload **and book a ticket to LA to go to the NHFP Symposium**





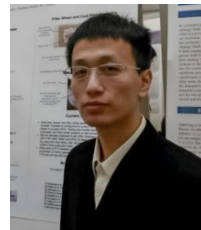
# Backup



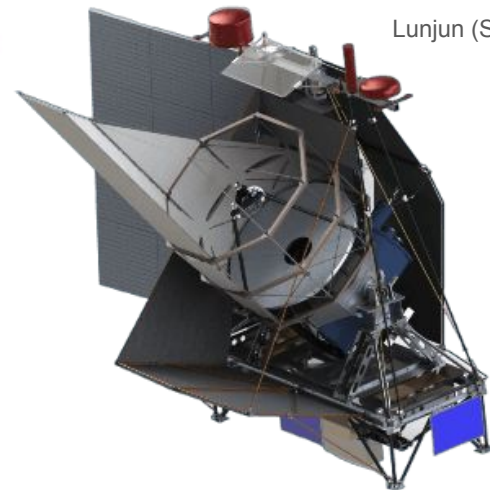
## Stacking Analysis

Derive the average FIR spectral properties of samples of galaxies

Use these to investigate changes in star formation modes ( $[CII]/LFIR$ ), metallicity ( $[NII]/[CII]$ ), and specific star formation rate ( $[CII]/M_{star}$ )



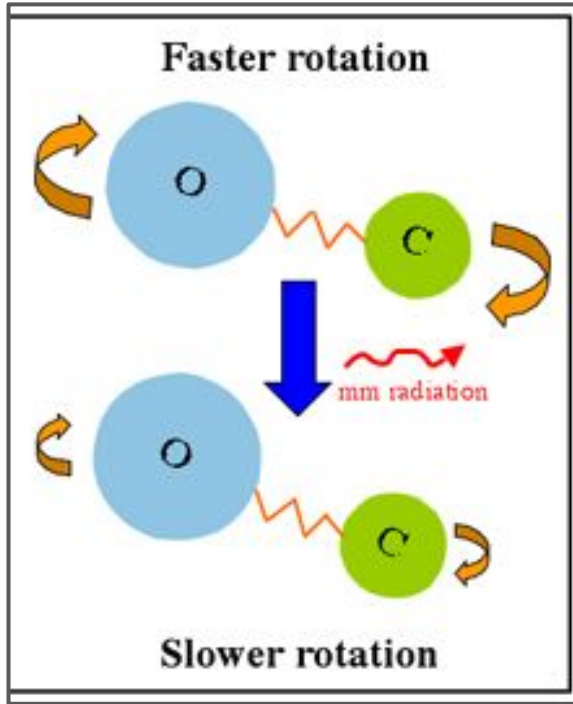
Lunjun (Simon) Liu



~1,700 spectroscopic samples are available for stacking from the ASTRODEEP catalogue, which are binned by spectroscopic redshift and SFR, labeled A – F.

# Basics of Line Emission

Emission from atomic and molecular spectral lines from galaxies

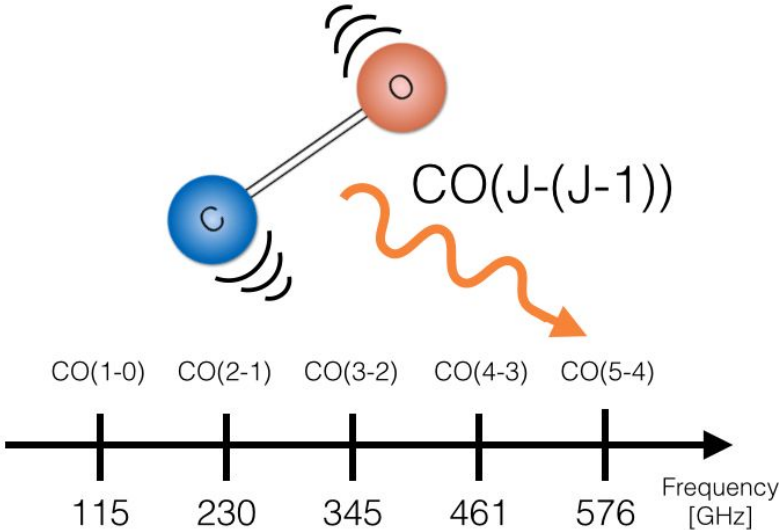
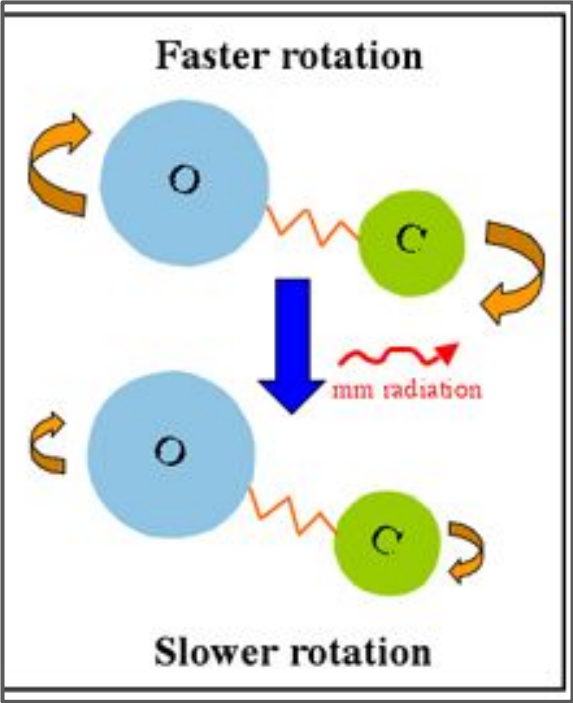


Swinburne University of Technology

- In an atom, electrons can only exist at specific energy levels → need to absorb or release photons to transition
- Similarly, molecules can only rotate and vibrate and certain rates
- When CO changes its rotational state, it absorbs or emits a photon in the mm-wavelengths
- [CII] fine structure transition at  $158 \mu\text{m}$

# Basics of Line Emission

Emission from atomic and molecular spectral lines from galaxies

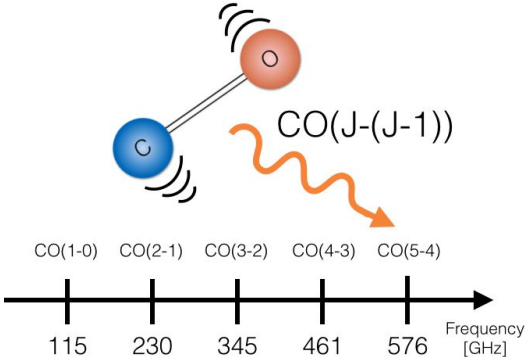
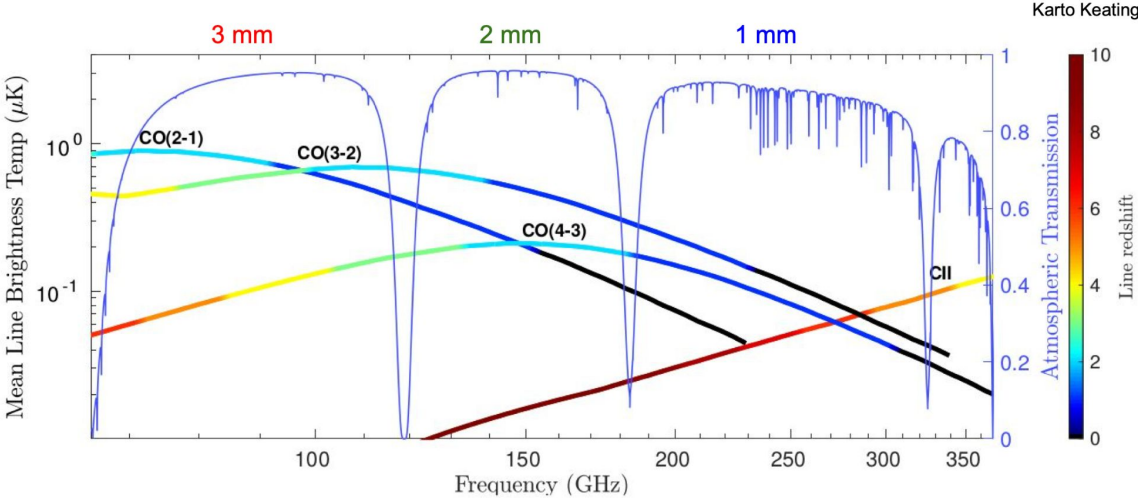


K. Olsen



# Basics of Line Emission

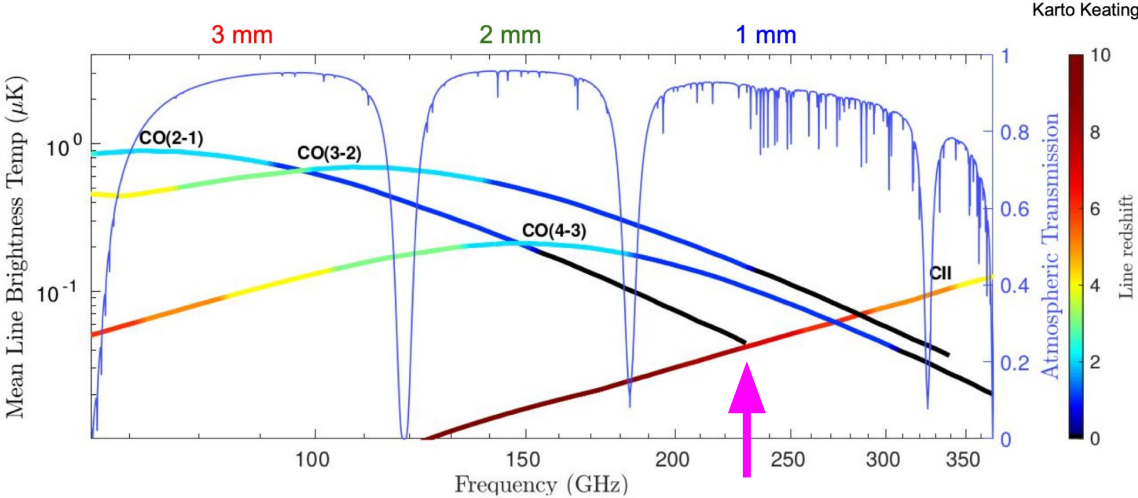
Emission from atomic and molecular spectral lines from galaxies



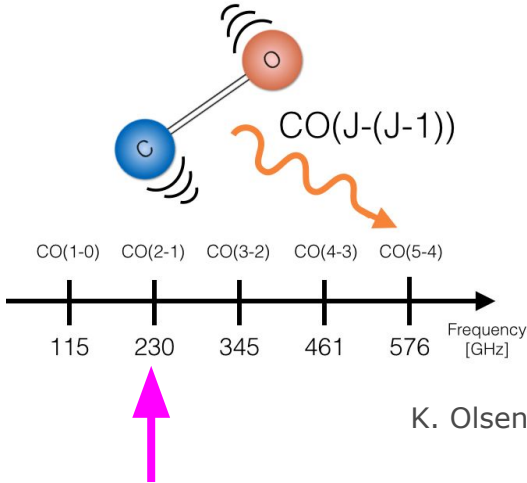
K. Olsen

# Basics of Line Emission

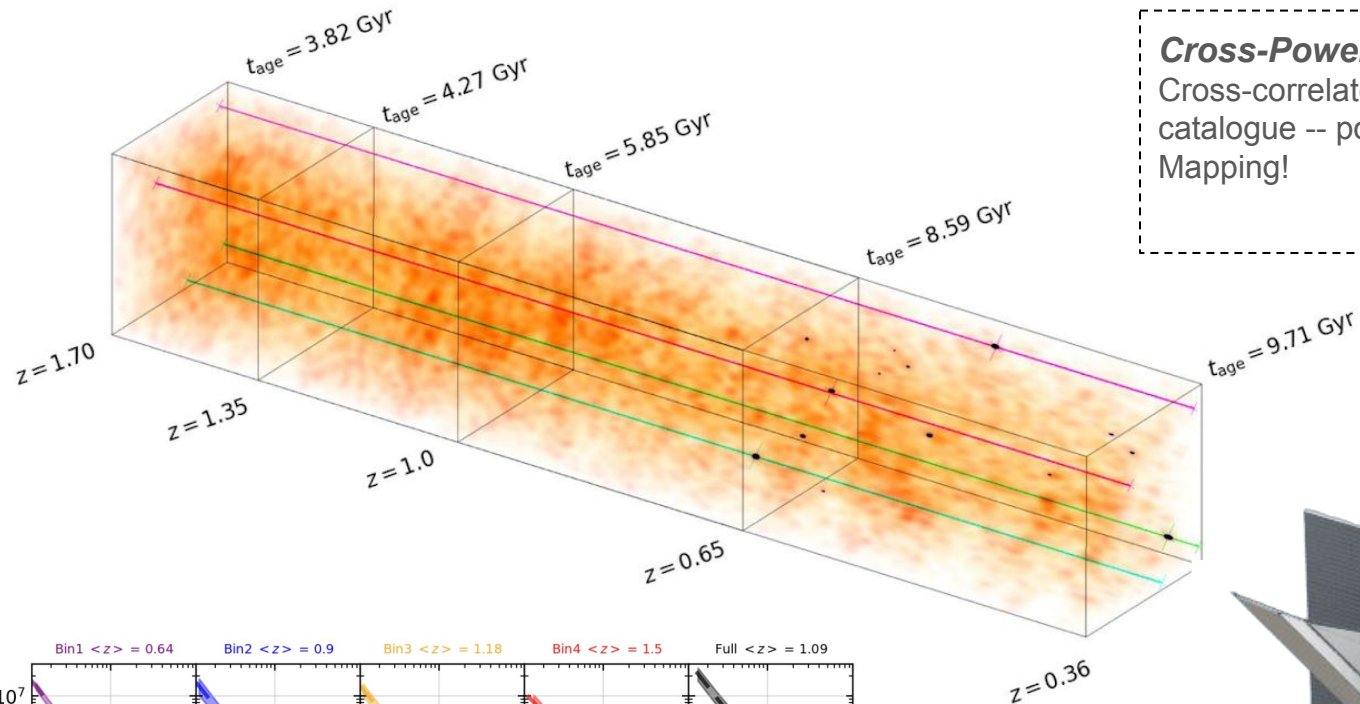
Emission from atomic and molecular spectral lines from galaxies



Karto Keating



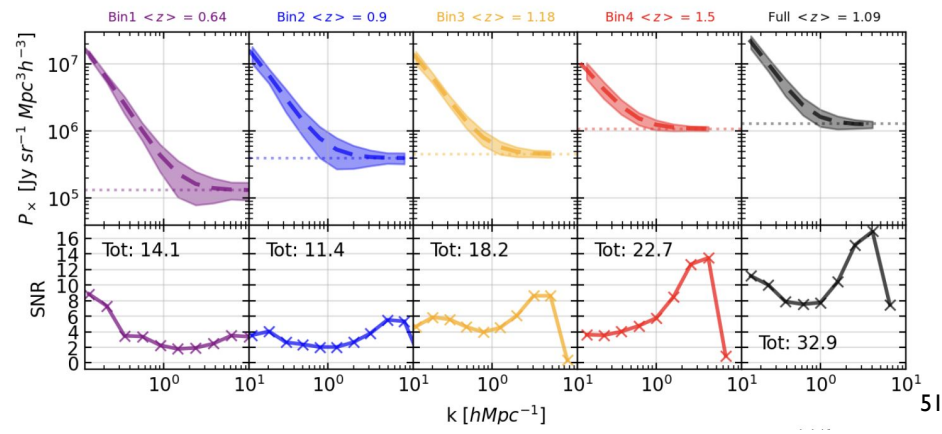
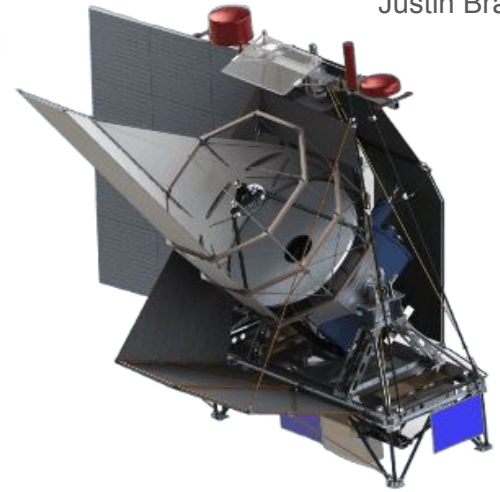
K. Olsen



**Cross-Power Spectrum**  
 Cross-correlate with ASTRODEEP catalogue -- powerful proof of Line Intensity Mapping!



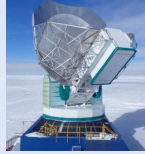
Justin Bracks



*Why should I, as a SPT-SLIM collaborator, care about TIM? (And what is the difference)*

**CO**

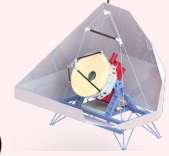
Maximum *Signal*  
GHz (Can do from the ground)  
*SPT-SLIM*



CO traces **cold** gas of molecular clouds, which is an excellent tracer of star formation since molecular clouds are the dense regions in galaxies where new stars form -- the “fuel” of star formation

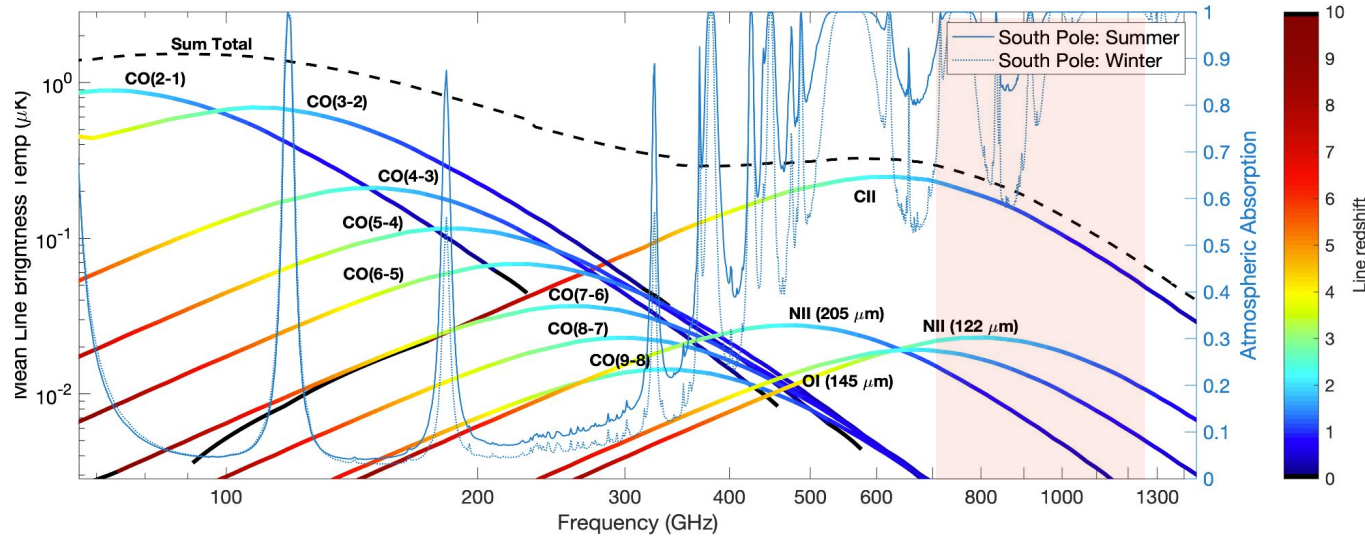
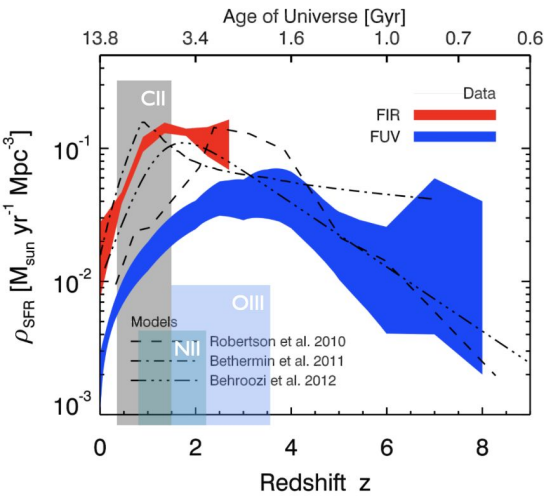
**CII**

Maximum *Signal-to-Noise*  
THz (From Space)  
*TIM (Terahertz Intensity Mapper)*



CII directly traces the signatures of star formation, because it originates from photon-dominated regions around **hot** stars - it is an effective proxy for the total infrared galaxy luminosities

*Note: neither says “traces dark matter!” -- both a biased tracer. Much can be learned by cross correlating maps of both, and looking at line ratios at different redshifts!*



The TIM redshift range: *perfect for studying galaxy and star formation*

**0.7-1.2 THz (240-420 $\mu$ m)**

[CII] 158 $\mu$ m  $0.5 < z < 1.6$

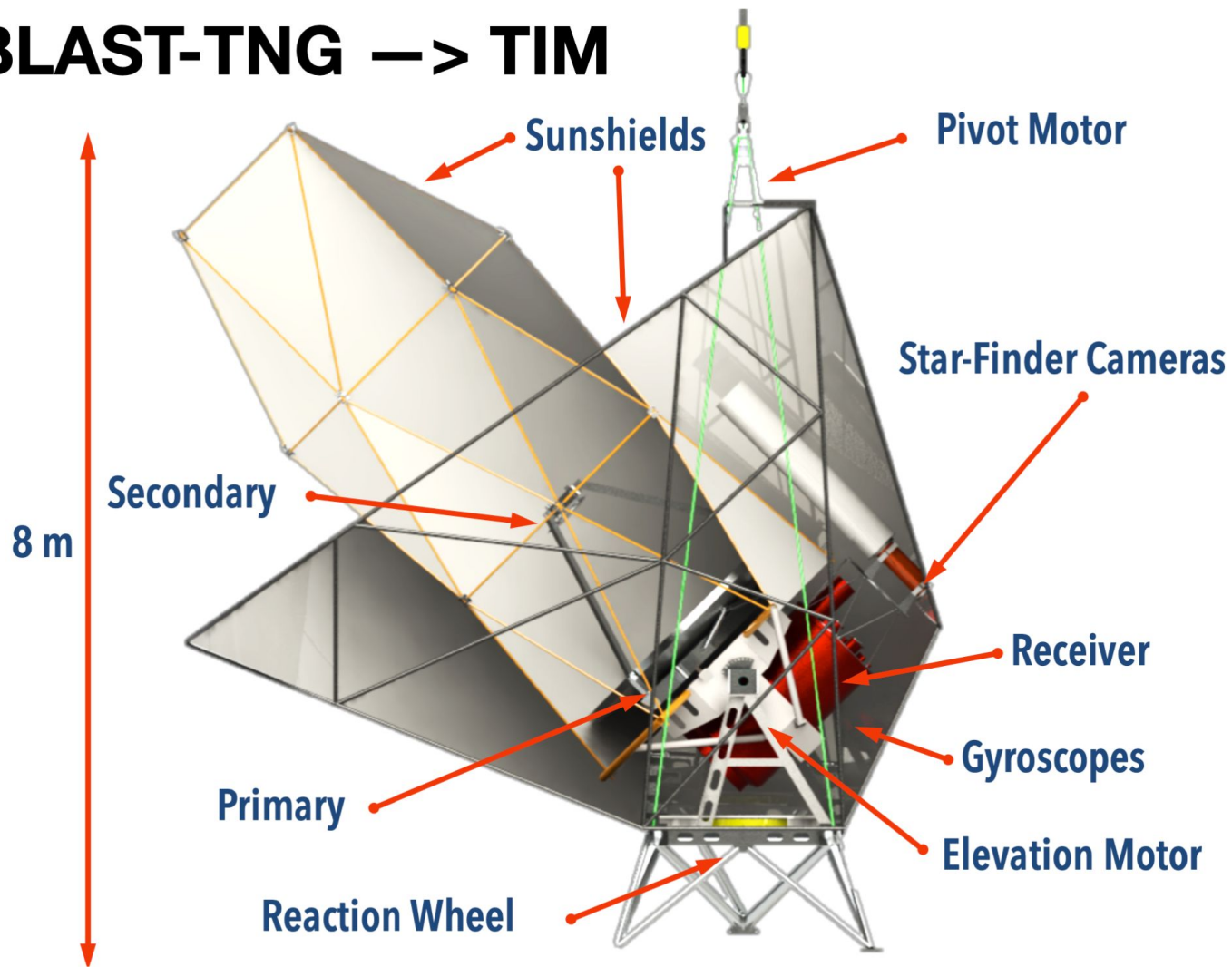
[OIII] 88 $\mu$ m  $1.8 < z < 3.5$

[OI] 63 $\mu$ m  $3.0 < z < 5.0$

TIM connects [CII] intensity mapping to galaxy studies in local universe

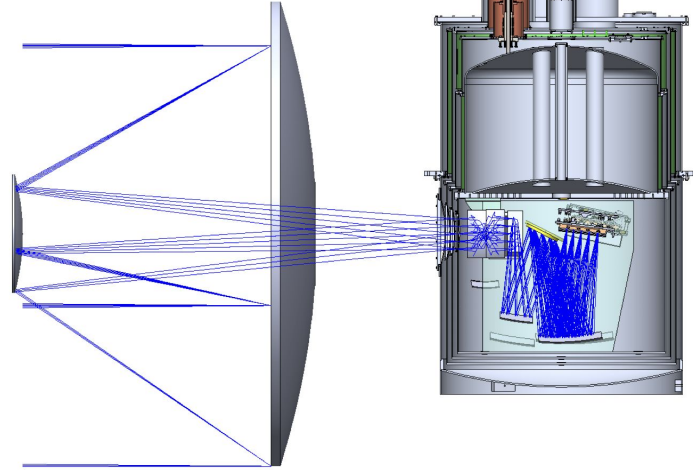
- Ionized Carbon [CII] 158 $\mu$ m (or C+) is one of the major coolants for the interstellar medium and can be  $\sim 0.1\%$  of the total luminosity of a galaxy
- C+ is a (mostly) extinction-free probe of the physical conditions of gas and radiation fields
- Can be used as a tracer of large scale structure and of the cosmic star formation history

# BLAST-TNG → TIM



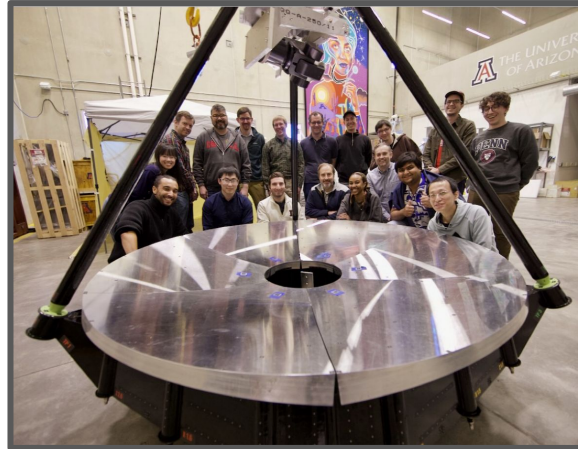
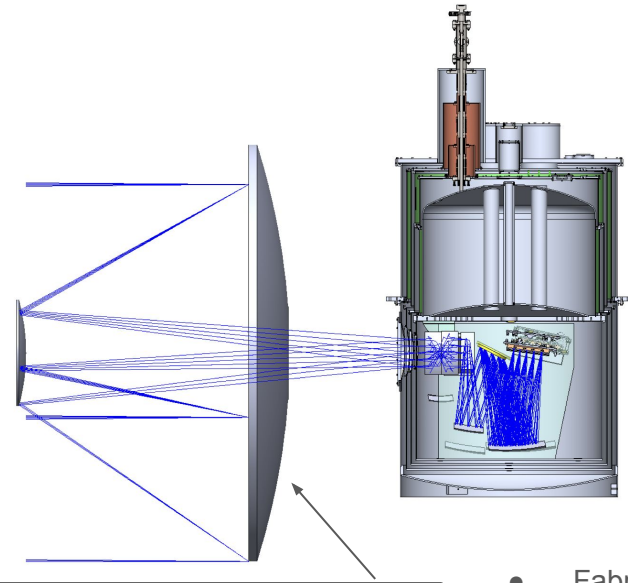
# Optical Design & Cryostat

- 2m primary
- 1.3 deg diffraction-limited FoV
- Separately optimized LW/SW spectrometers
- 45-60% efficiency (Filters not included)
- Liquid Helium cooled with He10 sorption fridge

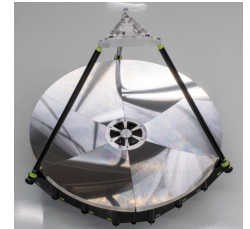


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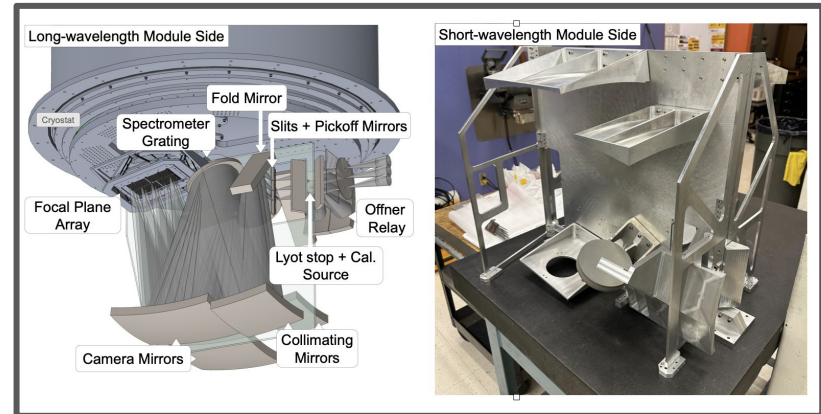
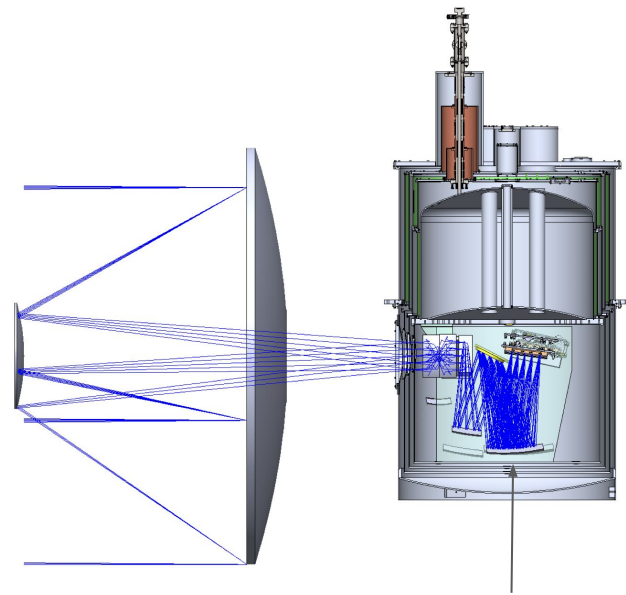
- Fabricated in 6 wedges by mtex Antenna Technology -- surface  $\sim 5 \mu\text{m rms}$





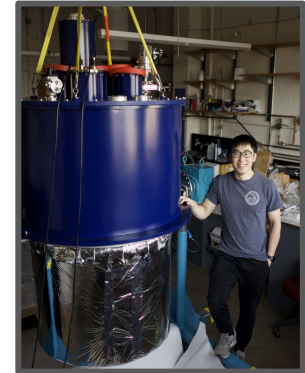
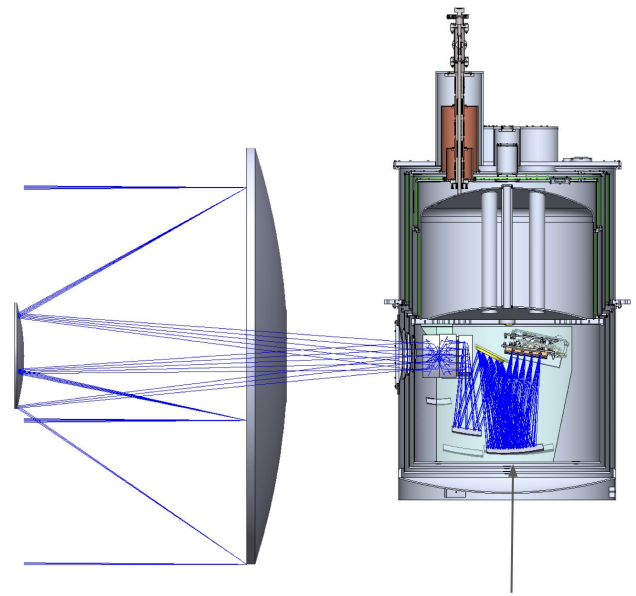
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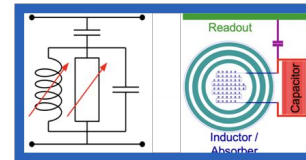
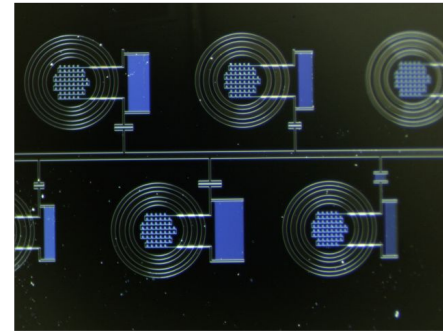
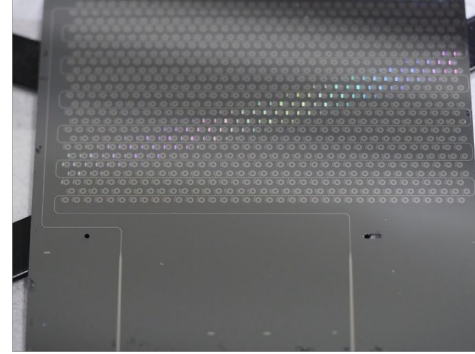
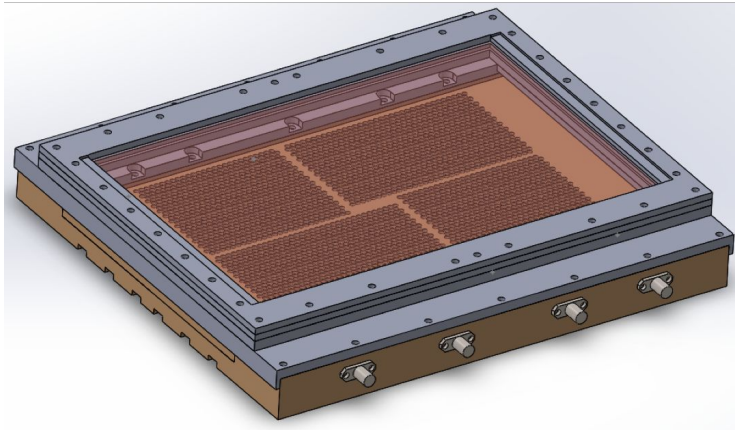
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# Detectors

- 2x ~3600 Aluminum Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)
- Detectors exceed sensitivity requirements
  - NEP =  $3.5 \times 10^{-18}$  W/Hz<sup>0.5</sup> at 250mK
  - 2-3x better than needed
- First arrays >95% fabrication yield
- Coupled through horn array plate



# What's different about ballooning?

## Things we have to consider

- Build to withstand 8g+ shocks
- Soft “weight envelope” - costs altitude
- Hard size envelope to launch
- Harsh solar radiation + Earth Limb to avoid
- Radiative only heat dissipation
- DIY power systems
- Low-overhead flight software
- Attitude determination and control

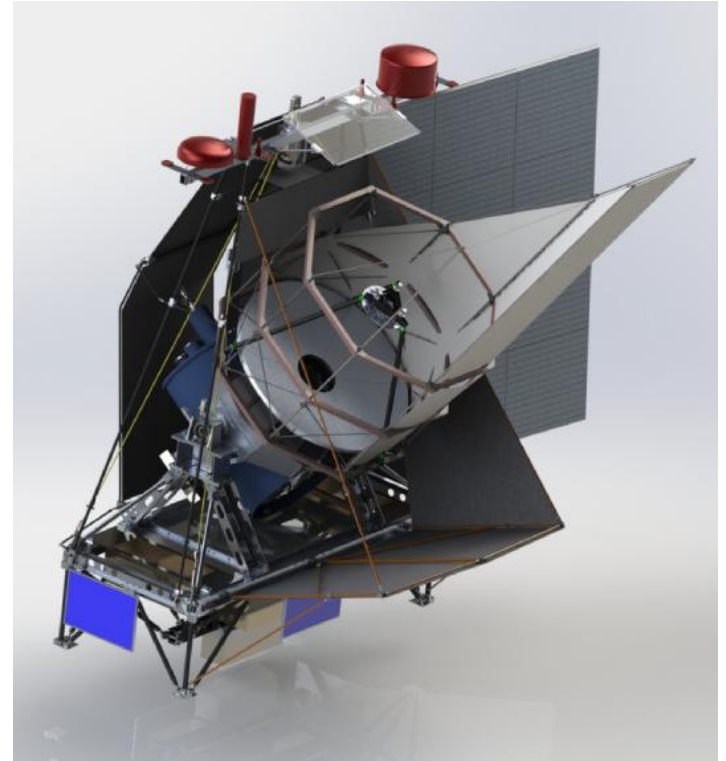


Figure: Talia Saeid