

Mark5, SUs, MarkIV correlator

- Mark5, general
 - New Linux kernel + newest SdK would break e-VLBI
 - Has been investigated by Paul Boven
 - Fixed by Conduant
 - Still some minor issues with SdK9.4
 - Finally upgrade to non-antique Linux version! (Wheezy
- Mark5B/C
 - 2 units permanently converted to B
 - 1 extra unit currently B+, 6 C units in place
 - 1 C unit on loan to Yebes
 - 1 C unit on loan to Torun for DBBC verification
- MkIV Correlator
 - Gone!
 - Correlator boards sent to Hawaii



Jive5AB



- Jive5ab has taken over most operational VLBI in EVN
 - No major show stoppers, mishaps
- Much development ongoing

e-status

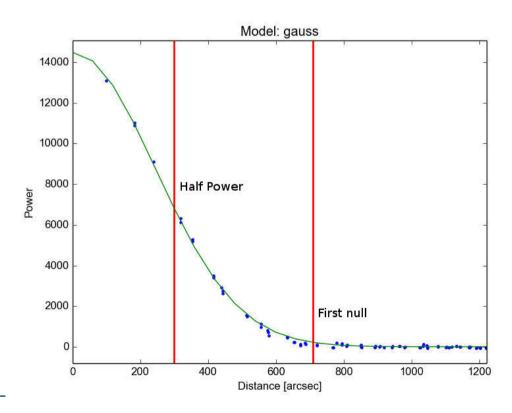


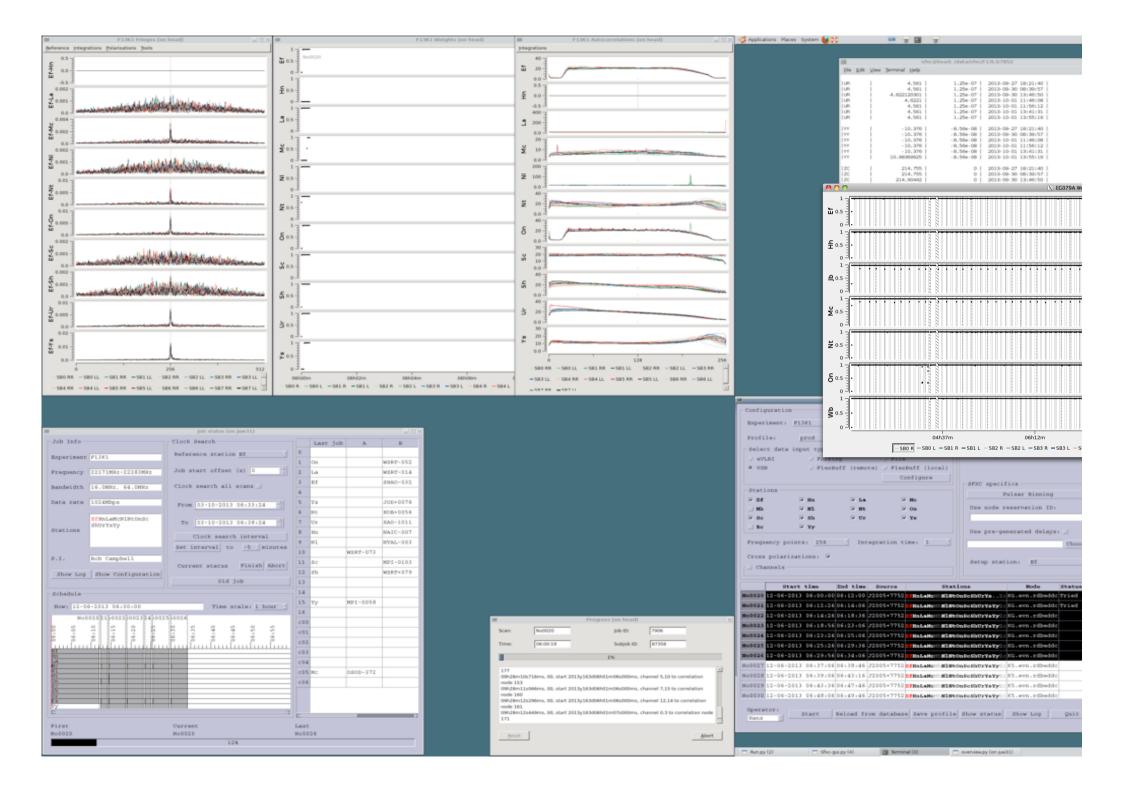
- Full 1024 Mbps available from most stations
 - •Ef, On, Nt, Mh, Hh, Tr, Ys using DBBCs operationally
 - Mc doing tests
 - •Jb received DBBC
- Channel dropping possible when needed (except Ar)
- Ar still at 512 Mbps
- Irbene: full EVN member in 2015?
- Still attempting to bring e-Merlin back into array

SFXC Correlator



- Used for all EVN operations, both recorded and real-time:
 - e-VLBI with 13 stations at 1024 Mbps
- Coherent de-dispersion
- Multiple phase centers in real time!
- Primary beam shape determination:
 - Beams from Ef, On, Bd, Sv, Ys
 - Single map from Tr
 - More needed!





SFXC Hardware



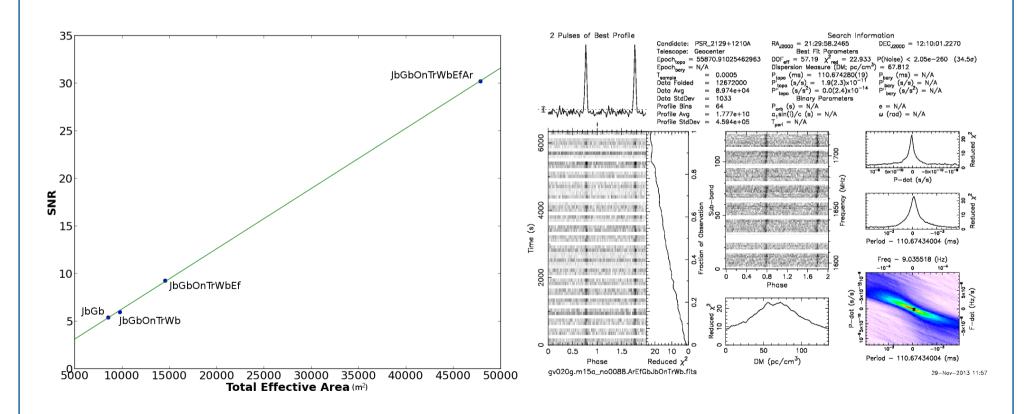
- 40 nodes; 384 cores (Intel Xeon 5500/5600/E5-2600)
- QDR Infiniband interconnect (32 Mbit/s)
- 8 nodes with 10 GbE (currently limited to 20 Gbit/s total)
- 13 stations @1Gbit/s real-time (with cross-polarisations)



SFXC Correlator: phasing up the EVN



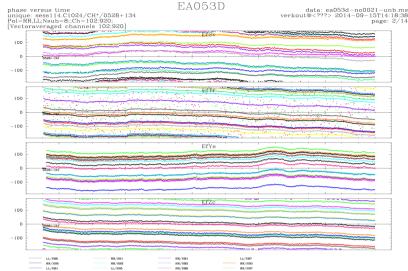
- Phased array mode
- Coherent summing of signals
- Mult. phase center capability for phased array mode under development
- Implementation at KVN

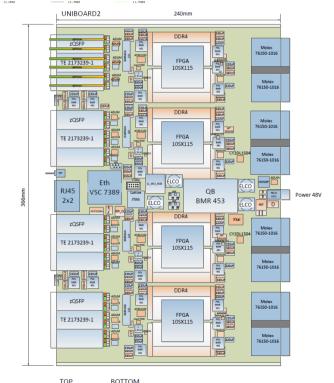


UniBoard and beyond

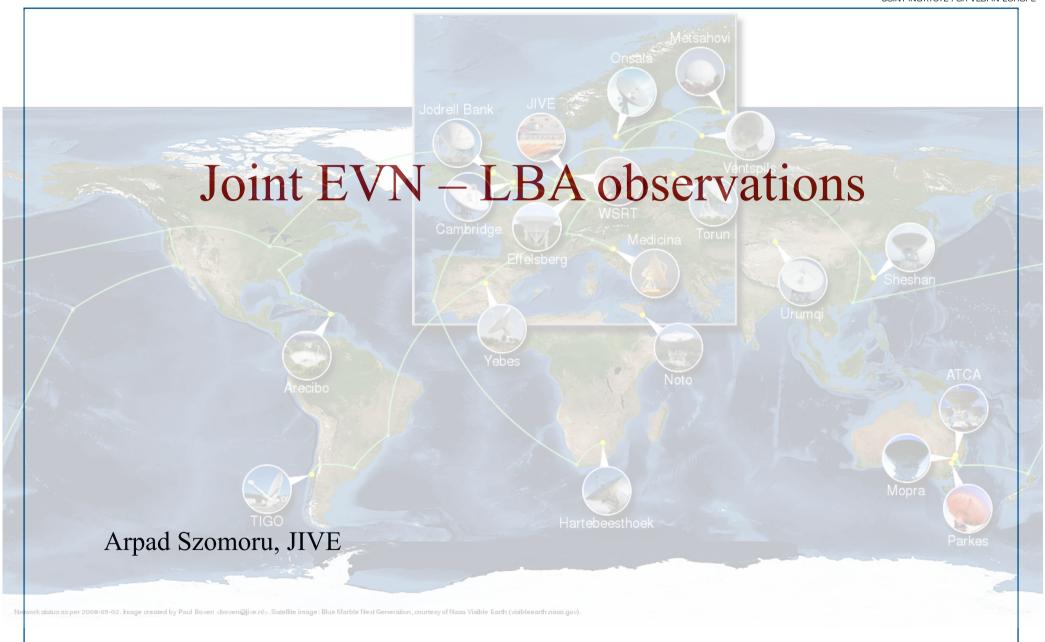
- UniBoard-based EVN correlator
 - Can now accept data from Mark5, FlexBuff
 - Interesting problems remain
 - Two UniBoards at JIVE
 - 32 stations at 1 Gbps
 - Or 16 at 2 / 8 at 4
 - Project review took place in September
 - Very positive feedback from panel
- UniBoard²
 - Prototype will use 20nm FPGA technology
 - Some (or all?) production boards with 14nm (pin compatible)
 - Main board, optimized for use as AA-low beam former
 - Full mesh, Hybrid Memory Cubes and QSFP+ cages on break-out board
 - Tender has been issued, manufacturer selected







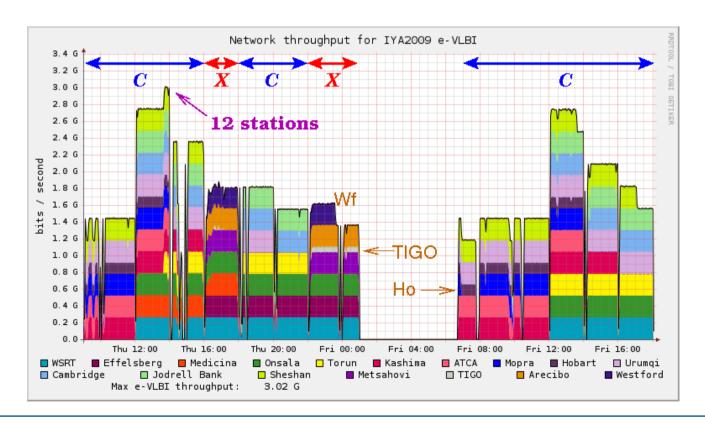


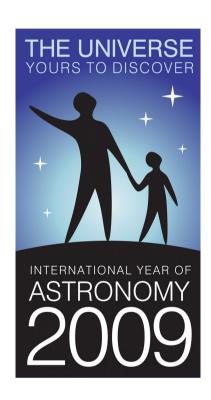


Some history



- 32 hour real-time (near-) continuous e-VLBI demo
- Involving telescopes in Australia, Japan, China, Europe, the Americas
- At opening of IYA2009, Paris
- Led to three-epoch observations by Giroletti et al.
- Then, nothing (not known, not supported,....)





Why bother?

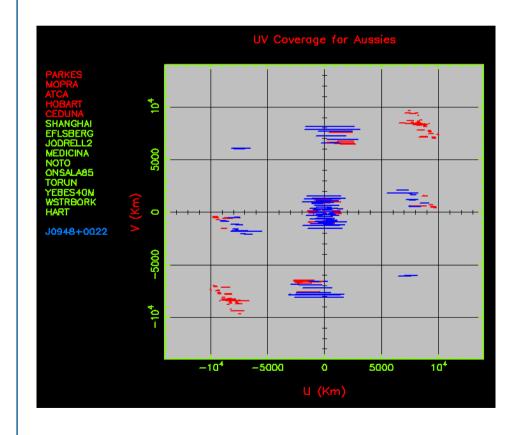


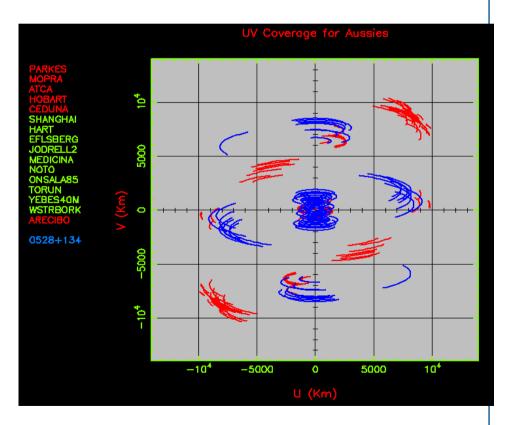
- NEXPReS has finished
- For time being, no formal collaboration between JIVE + EVN and LBA, CSIRO, AARNET
- New Zealand looking at refurbishing 32m telescope
 - Obviously working together with Australians
 - But how to get them involved in world-wide VLBI?
- SKA looming on horizon, eating up radio astronomy
- VLBI will remain important, considering what baseline design looks like
- But have to showcase this importance
 - Be global, connected, active, transparent
- LBA already observes regularly with some EVN stations

Science case (?)



- Left: source at Dec 0 (RG001)
 - 17 hours in total
 - Longest N-S and E-W baselines with different telescopes
- Right: source at Dec -10 (now includes Ar)
 - 19 hours in total

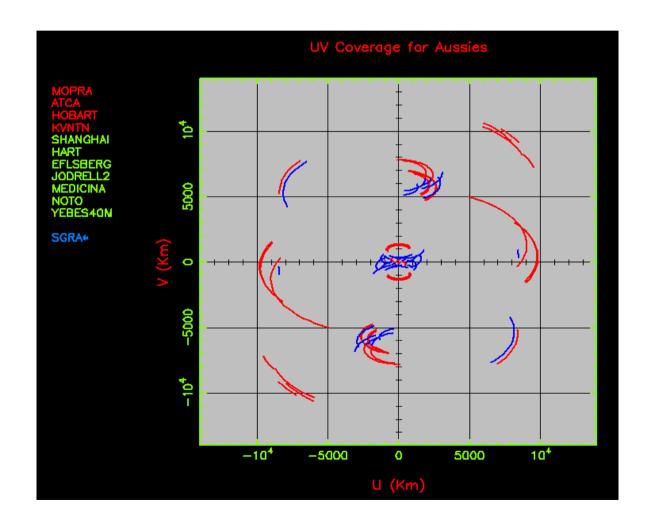




Science case (!)



- SGRA*
- High frequencies preferred, KVN perfect for this



And now



- Board approved collaboration
 - In call for proposals
 - Until now, one very good candidate, did not ask for joint observations though
 - Not sufficiently known in community?



Towards 2 - 4 Gbps operations

Arpad Szomoru, JIVE

Status



Current Problems:

- Recording media
- Common LO setting
 - DDC mode needed!
- Lack of FS support

To do:

- Test DDC mode
- Find solution for FS
- Buy FlexBuffs/Mark6
- Test Jive5AB on Mark6
- Aim for 2Gbps for now (VLBA, CDAS, R1002)