



## Annoying question at a NSF Science and Technology Center Review

*“Are the graduate students being properly  
prepared to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century job  
market?”*

General, strong background:

- Physics
- Applied math
- Computer science

Diverse and useful skills:

- Computing (programming, modeling)
- Instrumentation

## Key questions for radio astronomy

- Among the most important topics in radio astronomy are:
  - Structure in the Cosmic Microwave Background (power spectrum, polarization)
  - The era of galaxy formation
    - Finding the early galaxies
    - Investigating and understanding local templates
  - Star formation
  - Structure of molecular clouds
  - Structure of active and normal galactic nuclei

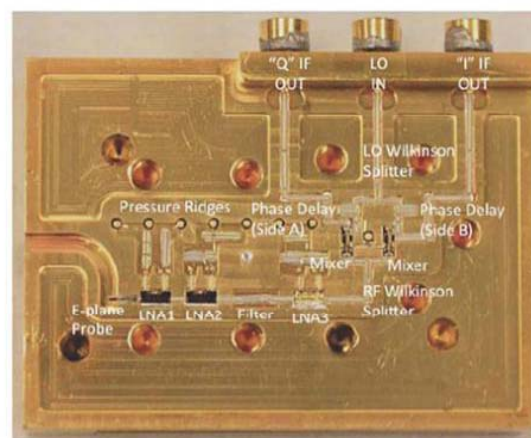
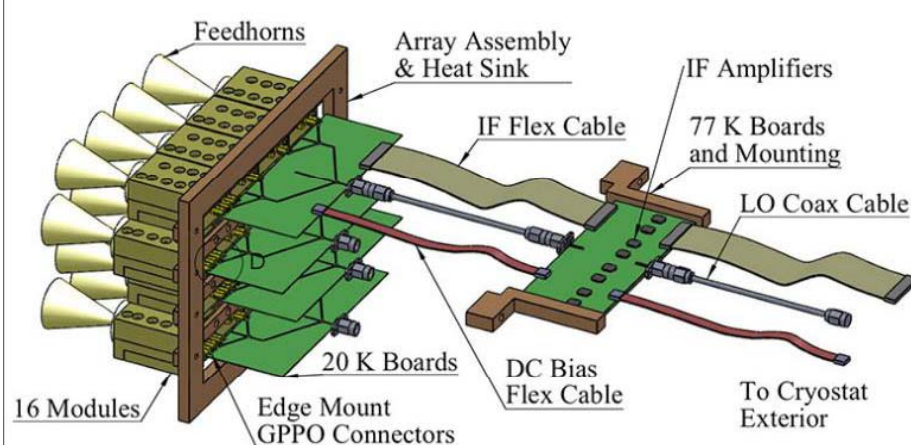


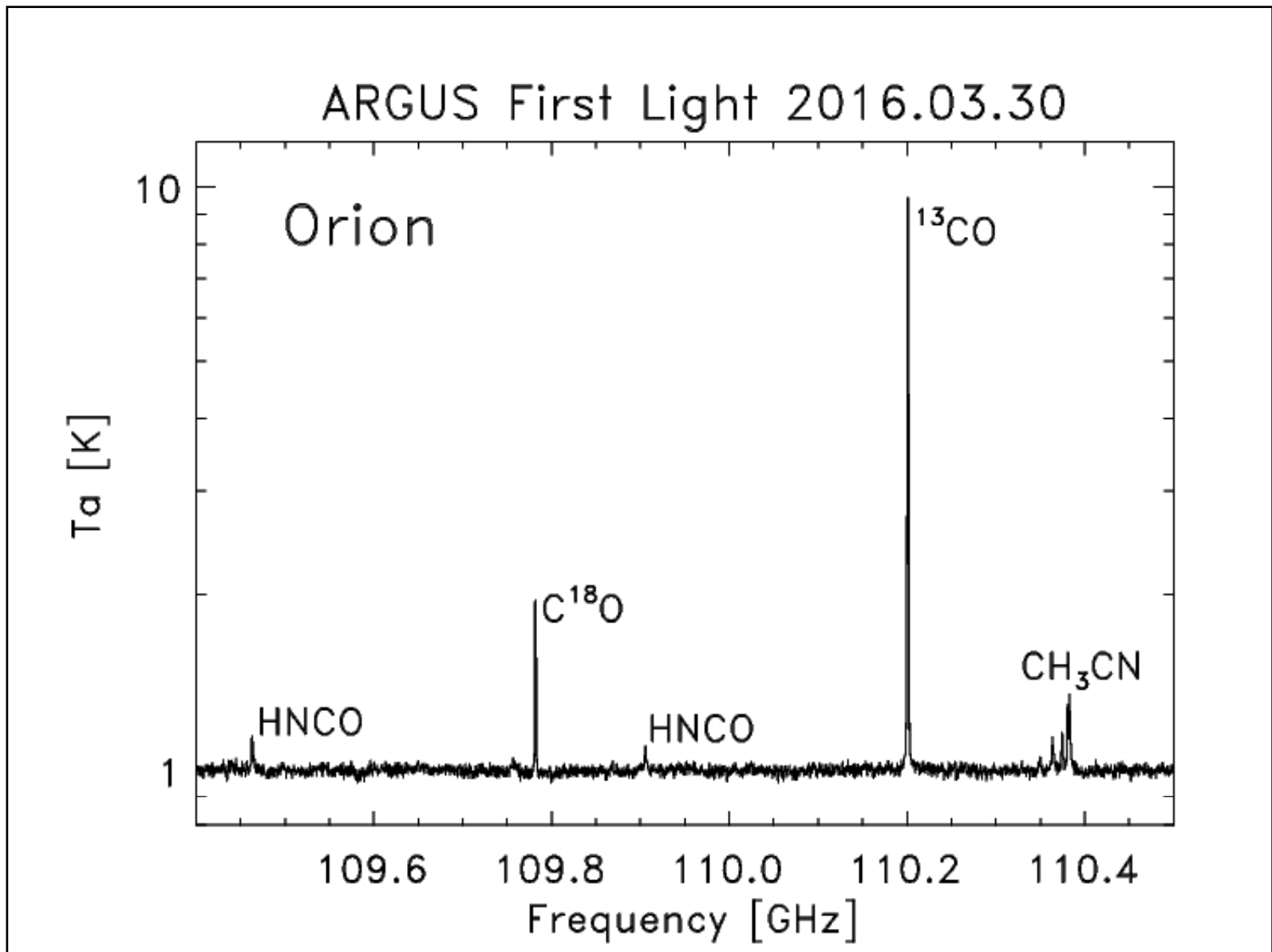
Argus is being commissioned on the GBT. It is a collaboration between Stanford U. (PI Sarah Church), Caltech, JPL, Univ. Maryland, Univ. Miami, and NRAO.

Frequency operation range: 75-115.3 GHz

Tsys~75K

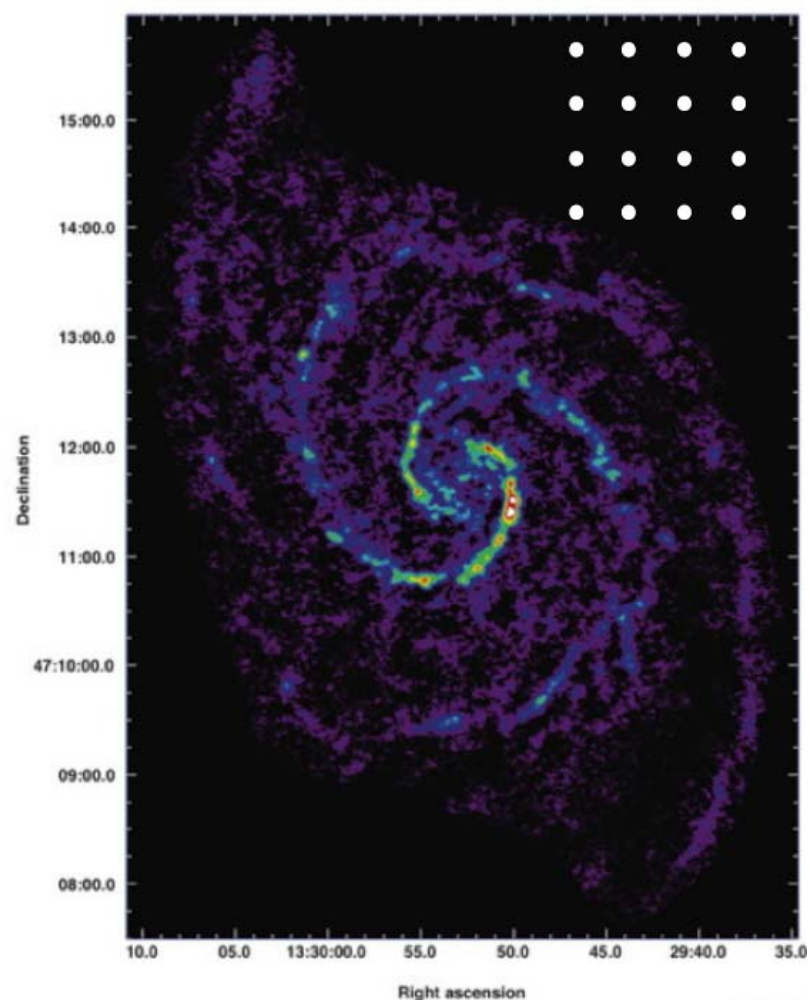
## 16 element scalable W-band focal plane array for the GBT

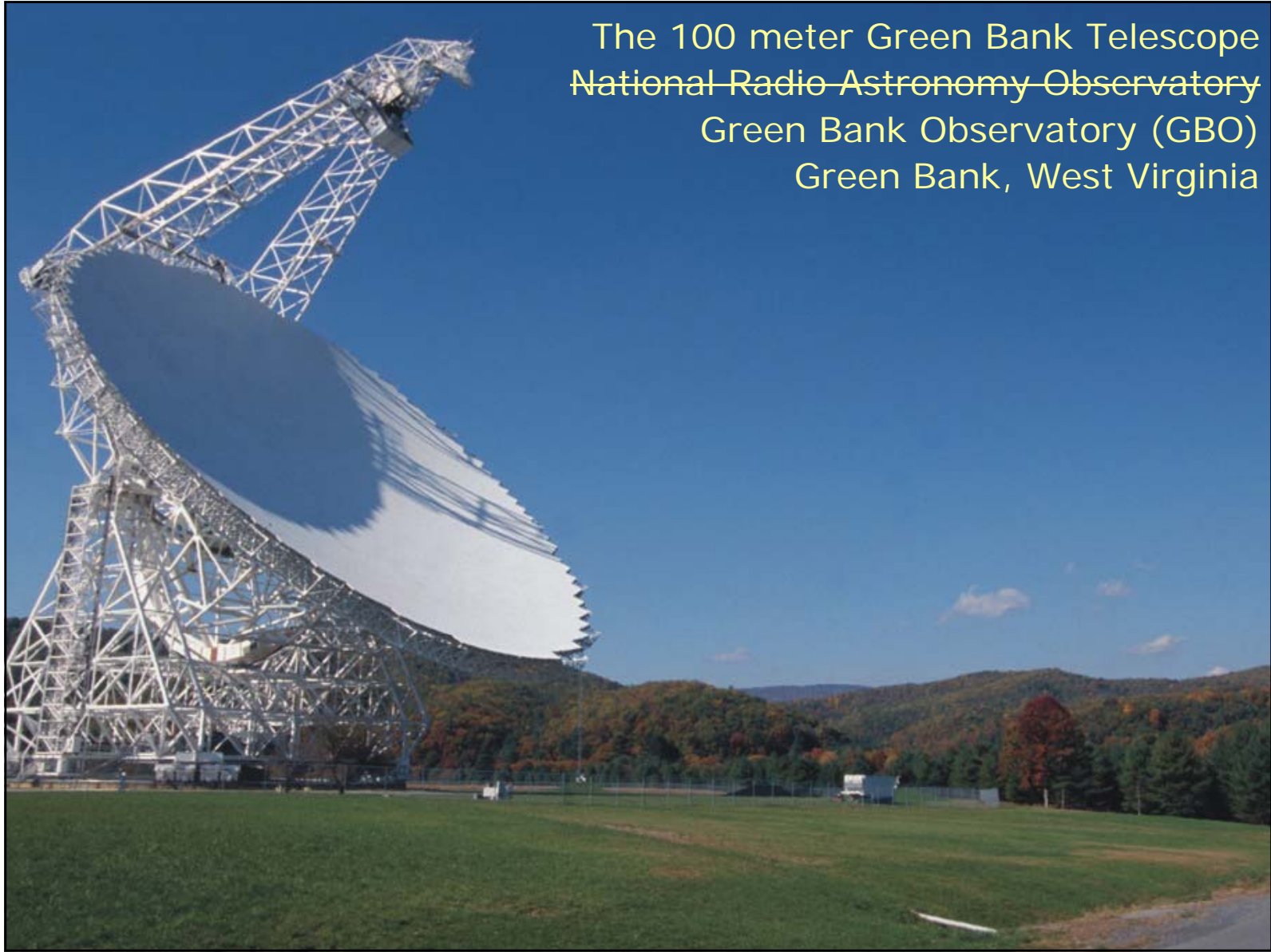


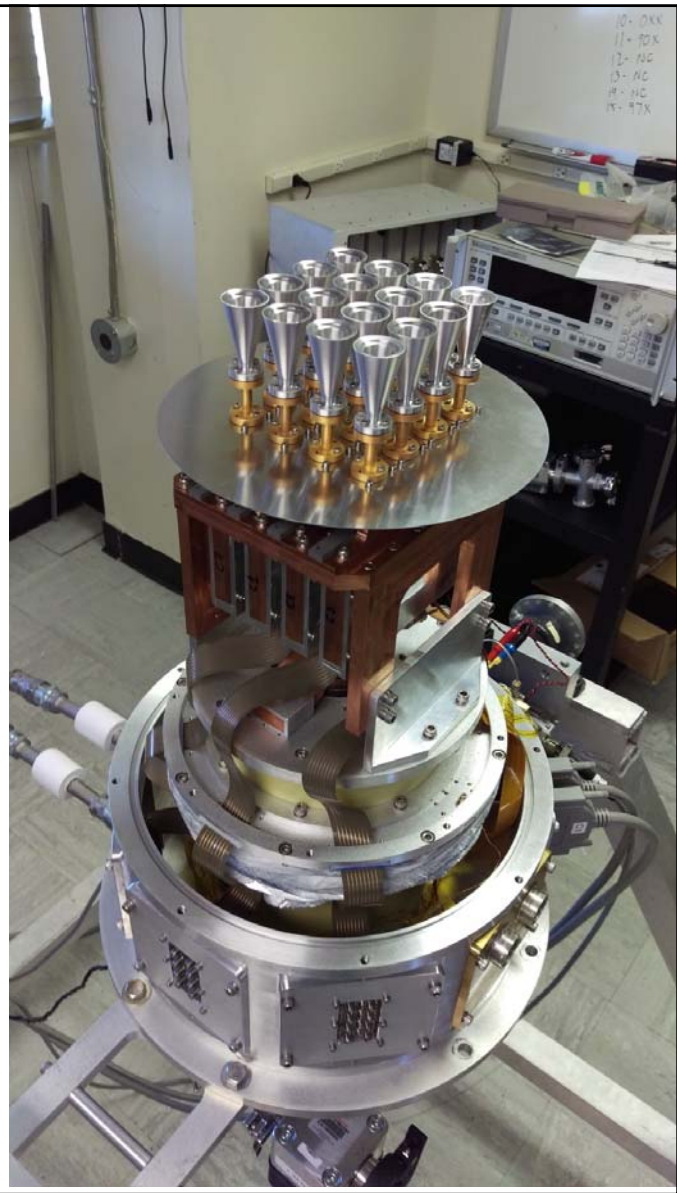


## Large area mapping with Argus

- Spectral imaging in HCN, HCO<sup>+</sup>, <sup>13</sup>CO, C<sup>18</sup>O
  - Dense regions
  - Column densities
- Galactic and extragalactic star formation
  - Galactic filaments
  - Extragalactic GMCs
  - Galactic center
  - Extragalactic nuclei









The view from the top

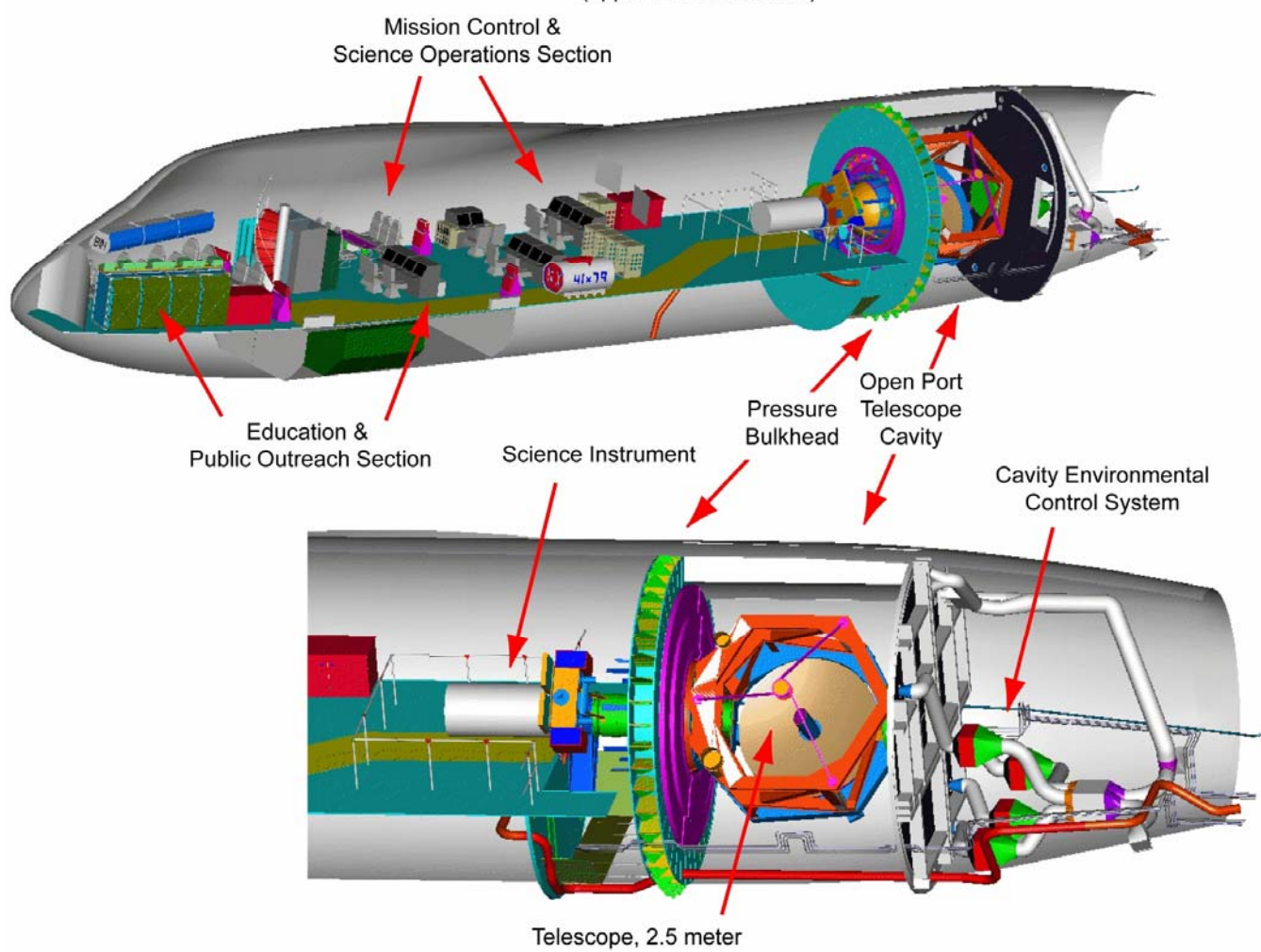


# Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)

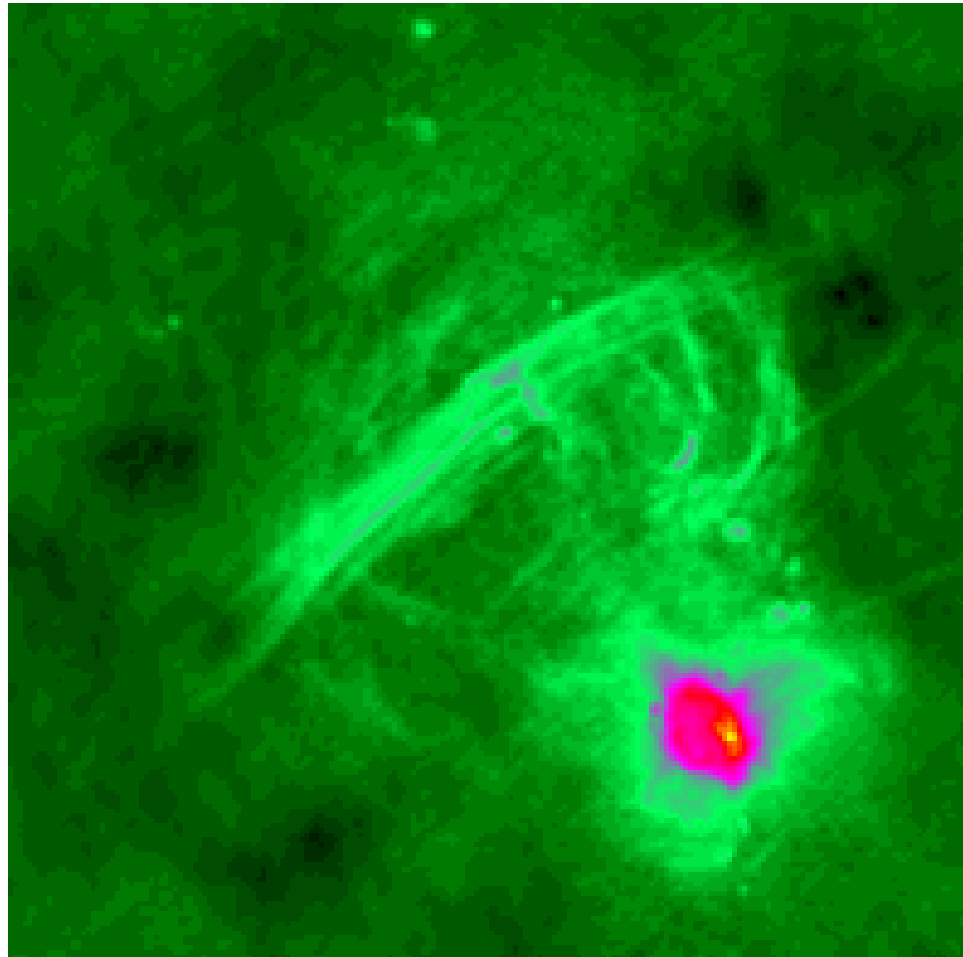


## Layout of Personnel and Accommodations

(upper deck not shown)

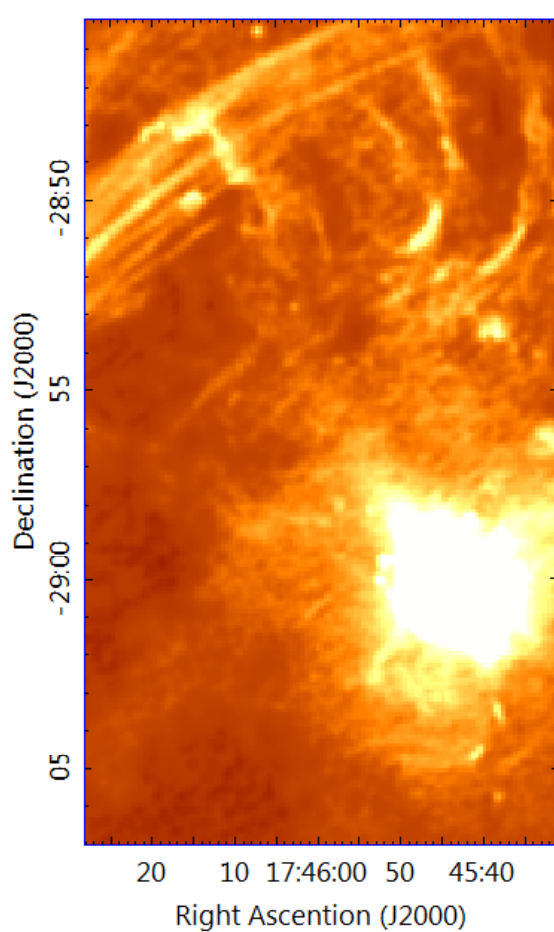


## Galactic Center in radio continuum



VLA image

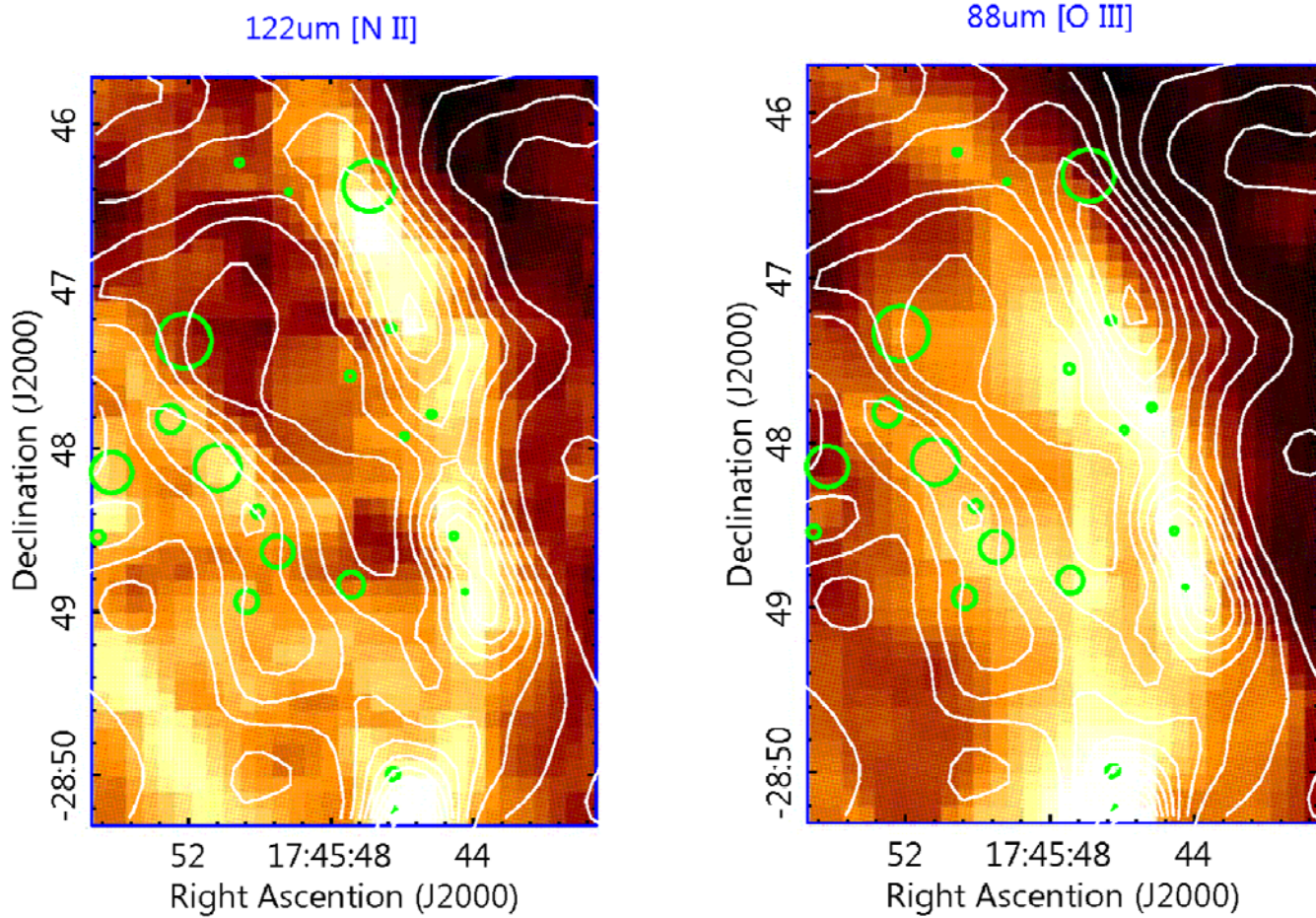
## What warms the dense molecular material in the Galactic center?



- Center molecular clouds are substantially warmer than disk clouds (e.g. Güsten+85)
- Lots of energy available: a black hole, hot stars (UV), intersecting orbits and colliding stellar winds (shocks), X-rays, rigid magnetic fields, radio lobes...  
A pretty active nucleus
- A galactic nucleus we can understand in detail
  - At 8.3 kpc,  $10'' = 0.4 \text{ pc}$



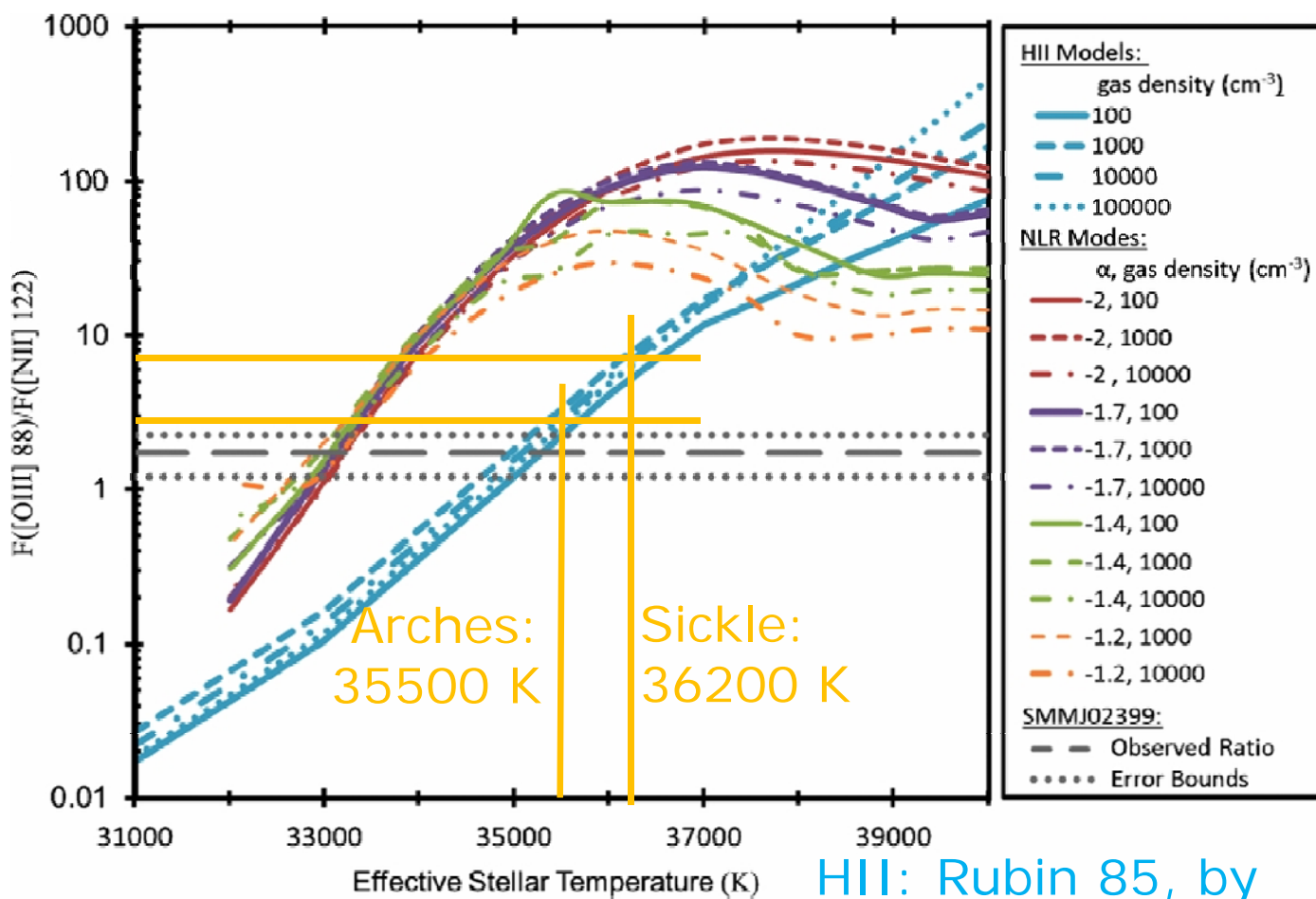
## [N II] and [O III] in the Arches



Harris + 2016

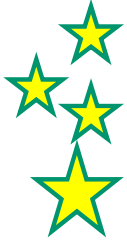
Green circle diameter  $\propto$  MSX point source catalog  
8 $\mu$ m/24 $\mu$ m

## [O III]/[N II] in J02399-0136 and in the Galactic center Arches



## A solution?

Cluster of early O, WR stars



Cloud boundary



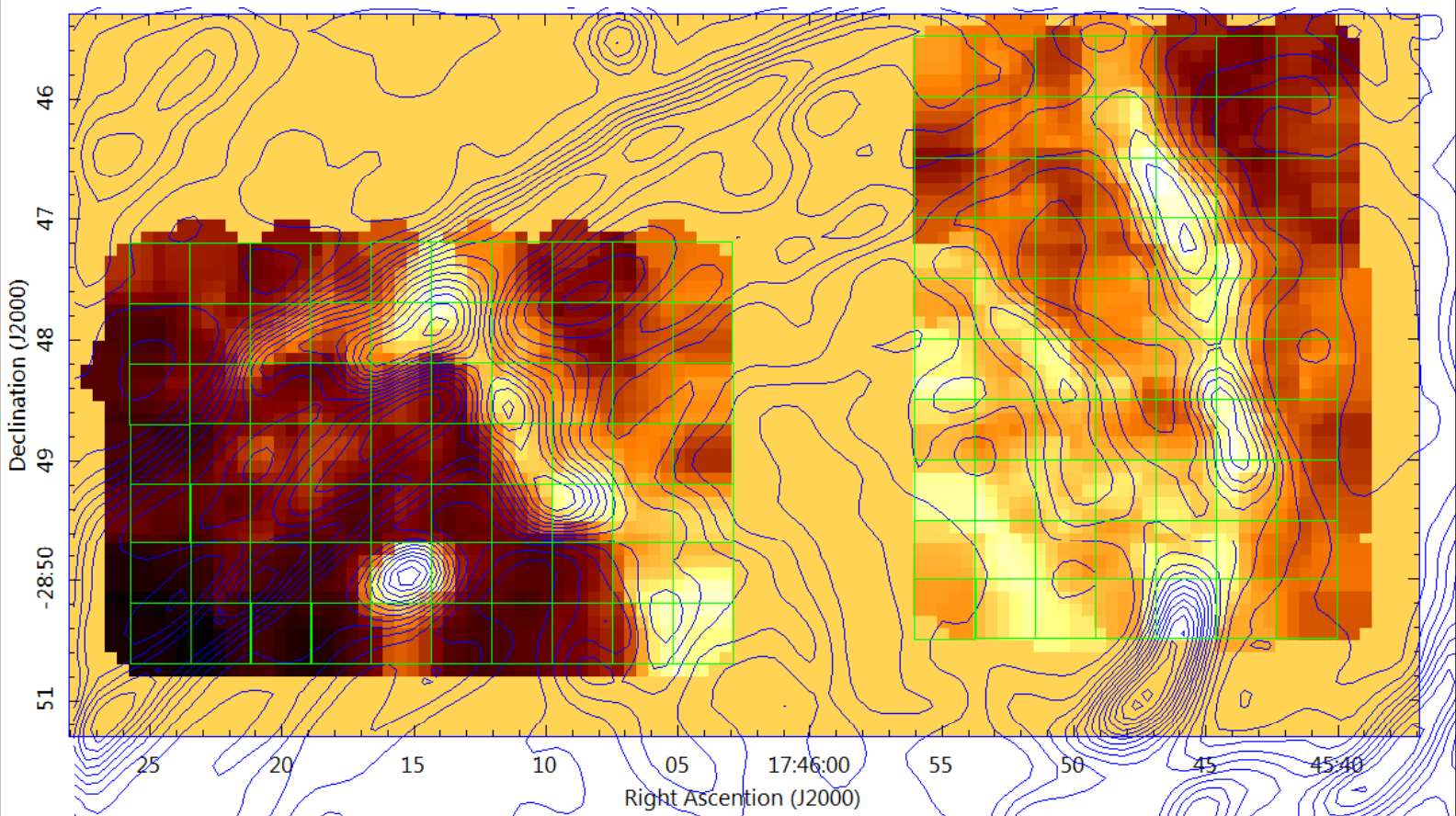
Radio cont.

13.6 eV

$$I \propto \int n_e^2 dl$$

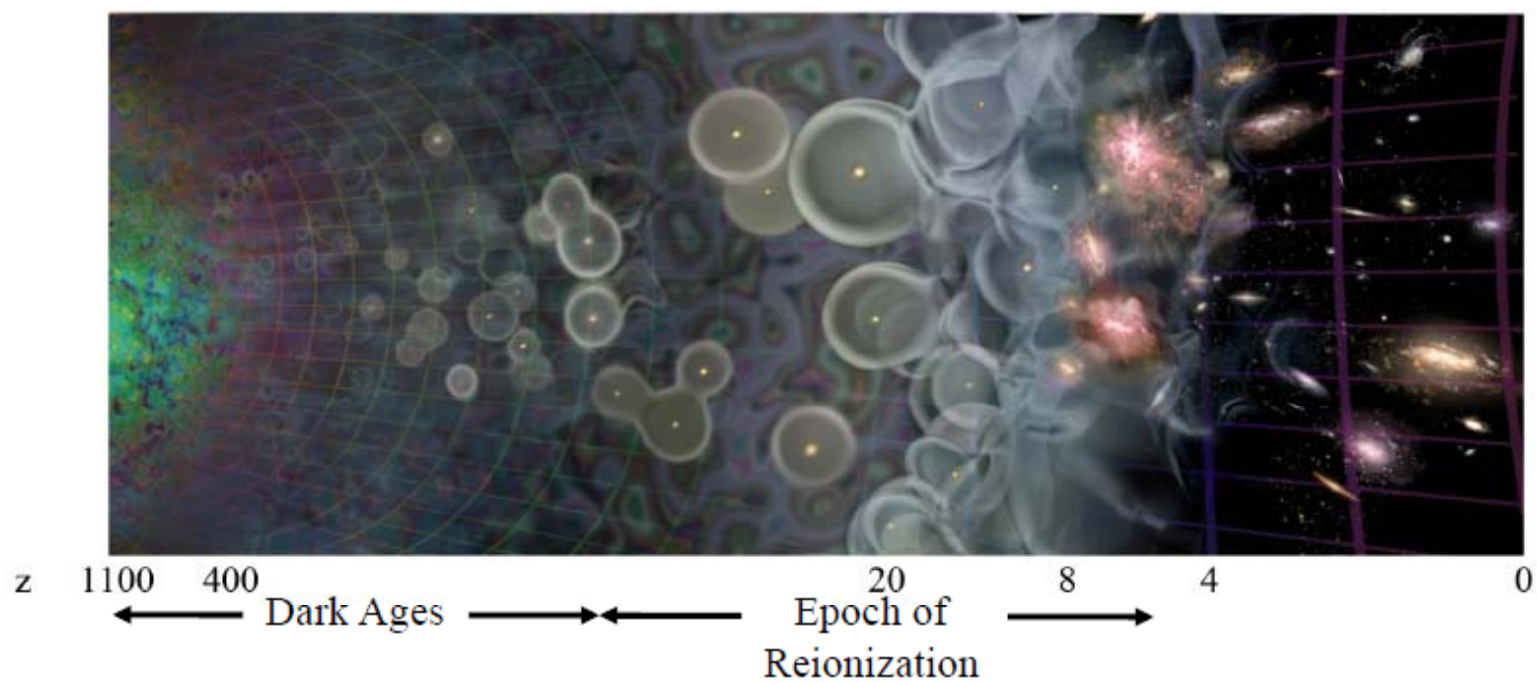
- Geometrical dilution can't change field hardness
- No O stars? Unlikely.
- But: density gradient at cloud edge can soften radiation field with distance into cloud, reducing apparent [O III]/[NII] ratio
- Test with SOFIA FIFI-LS [N III] observations scheduled for summer 2016: does [N II] have same spatial distribution as [O III] or as [N II]?

## FIFI-LS footprints on the Galactic Center's Sickle and Arches

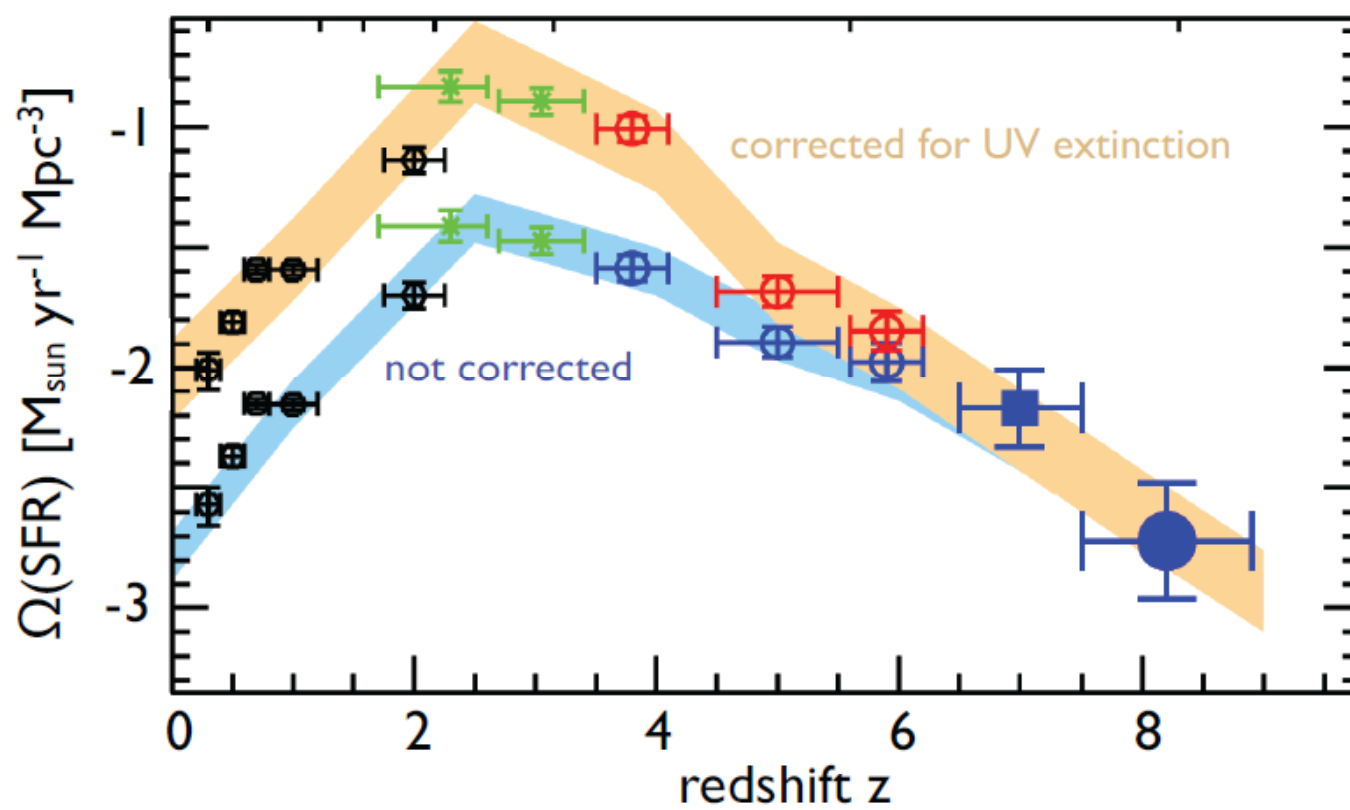


Color Herschel-PACS [N II]; contours 20 cm radio continuum

## Universe's structure formation



## Cosmic star formation rate density vs. redshift



Carilli & Walter 2013, after Bouwens et al. 2010

## The Zpectrometer ultrawideband correlation spectrometer

NSF ATI Program award AST-0503946 to UMD



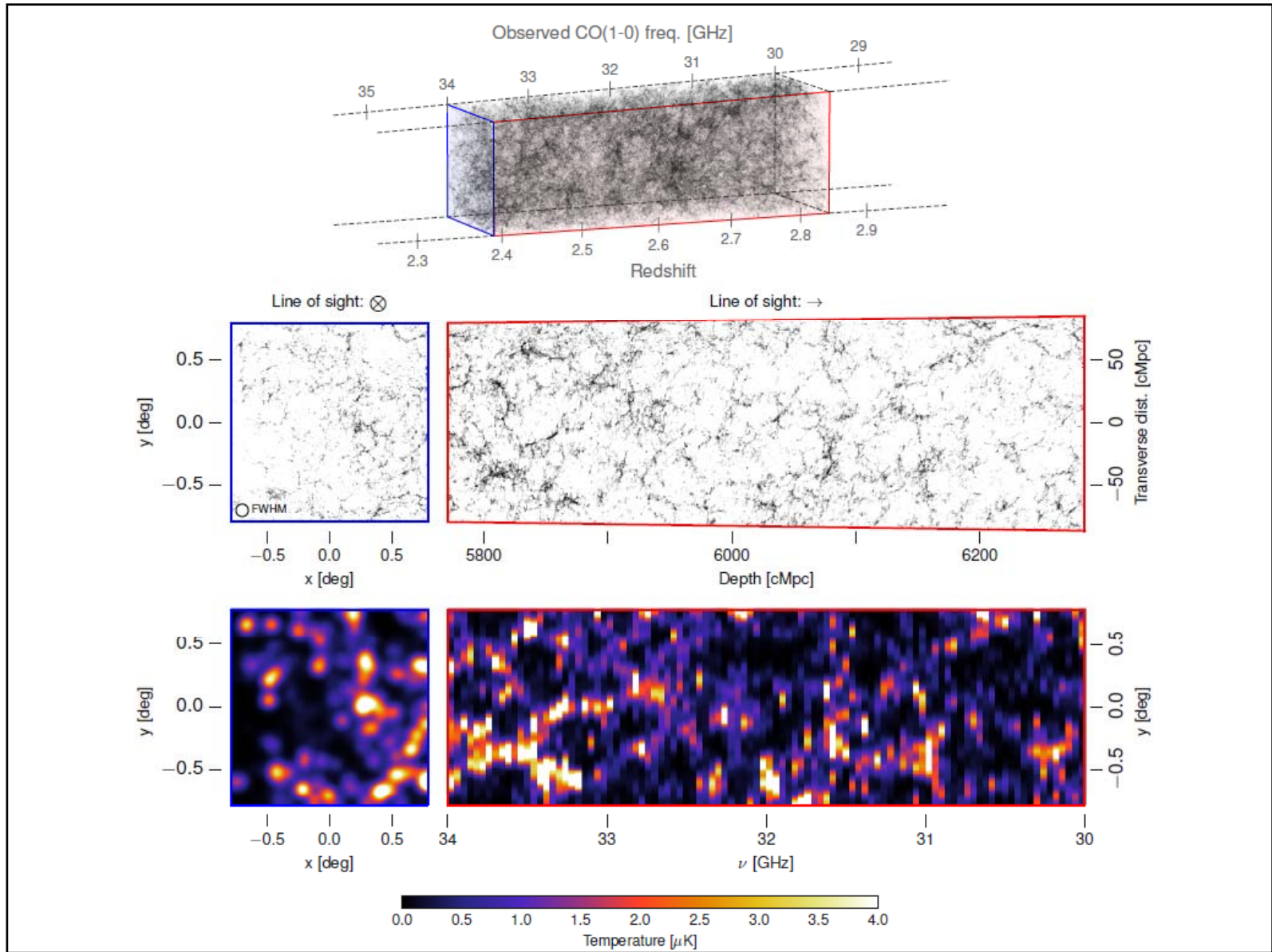
The 100 meter diameter Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT)



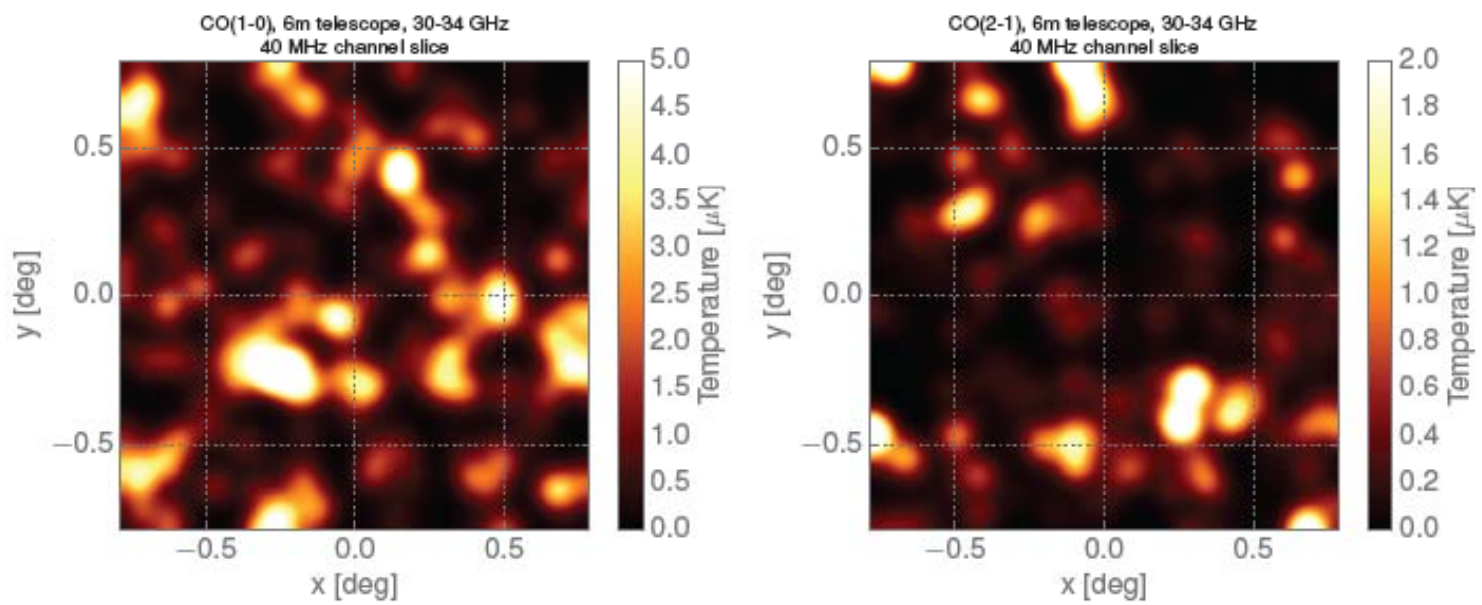
UMD's Zpectrometer correlators on the GBT receiver turret

### COMAP survey properties at $z \sim 2.9$

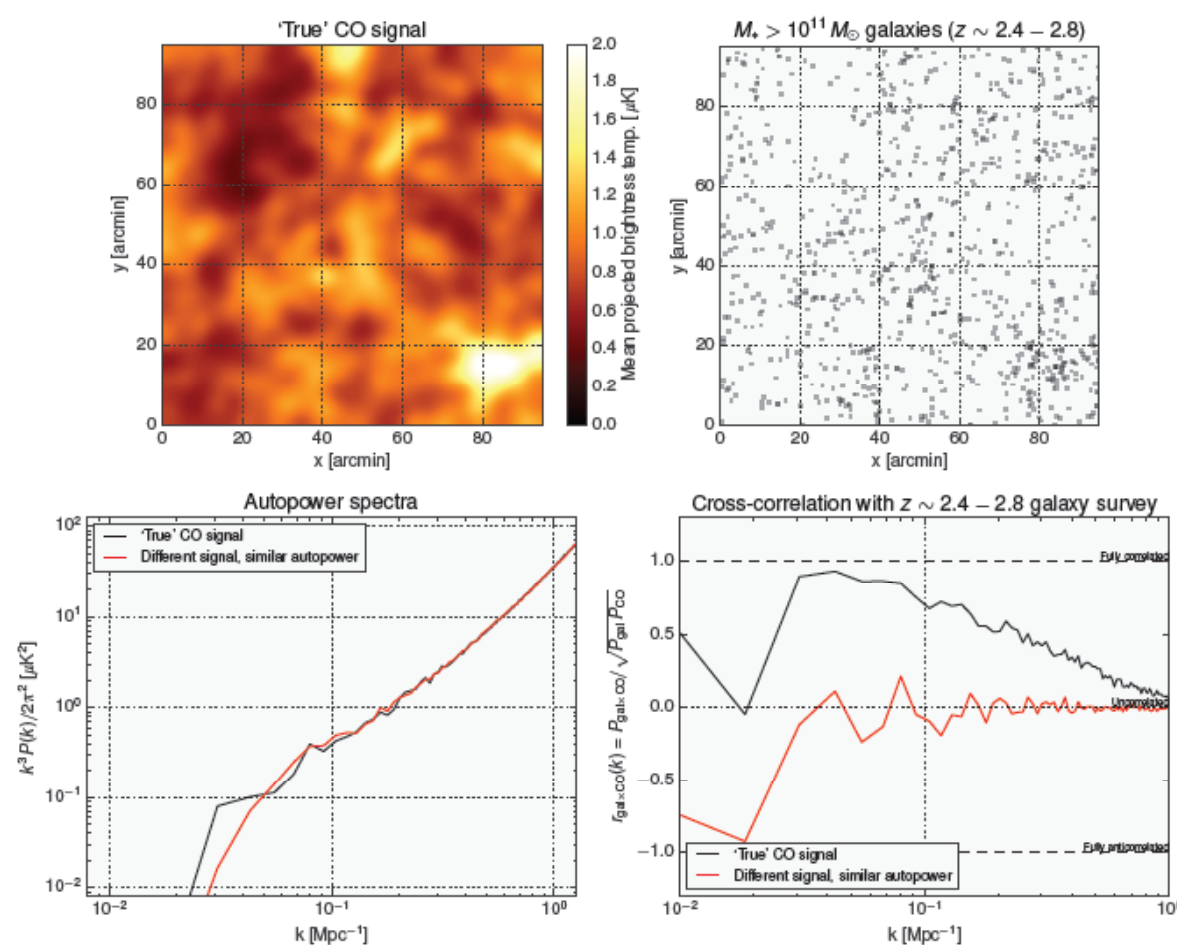
- Sensitive to *clusters* of galaxies
- 10 m telescope, 26-34 GHz; 29 GHz center frequency,  $\sim 3.4'$  beam
- Beam size corresponds to a comoving  $\sim 6$  Mpc
- $\Delta z \sim 0.006$  matches the linear and line of sight scales
- This corresponds to  $\Delta f \sim 48$  MHz, or  $\sim 165$  "slices" in an 8 GHz bandwidth (covering  $\sim 1$  Gyr)
- Comoving volume of  $\sim 600$  Mpc<sup>3</sup> for each "slice" (each covering  $\sim 60$  Myr)



## Simulated integrated intensity images



## Cross-correlation distinguishes signal from noise



## Potential projects

- Herschel HIFI and SOFIA Galactic center (data analysis; with MPIfR Bonn, UCLA, Cornell). A great second-year project.
- Argus observations and mapping software for the GBT: dense gas mapping of galaxies and galactic filaments at 4 mm wavelength (With Boltatto or Mundy)
- COMAP CO integrated intensity experiment to trace star formation near the peak of the galaxy formation and mass assembly era (High risk, high gain in a big international project)