



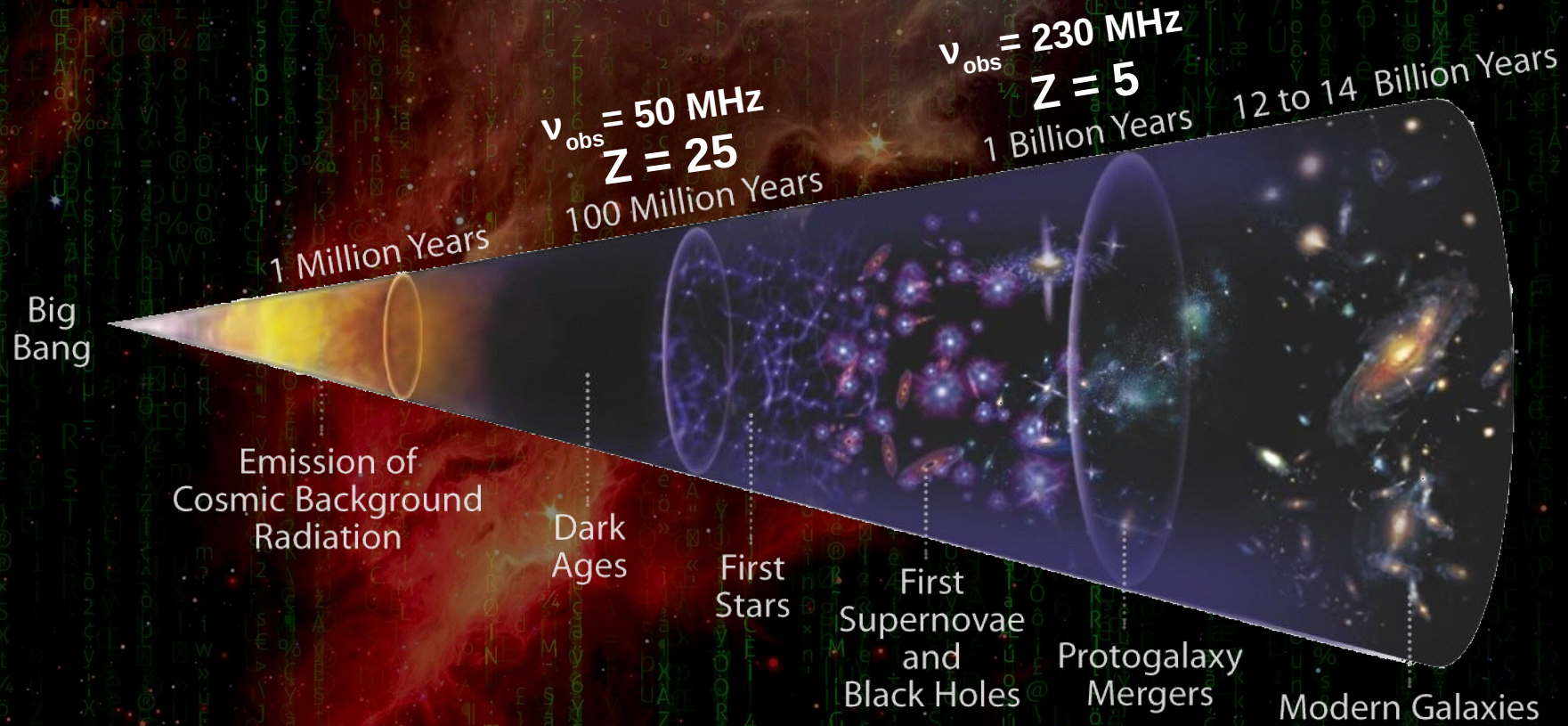
# Deep Learning approach for HI regions identification and 21-cm signal recover from SKA-Low observations

Michele Bianco

David Prelogović (SNS Pisa), Tianyue Cheng (EPFL),  
Sambit K. Giri (University Zurich), Emma Tolley (EPFL),  
Andrei Mesinger (SNS Pisa)



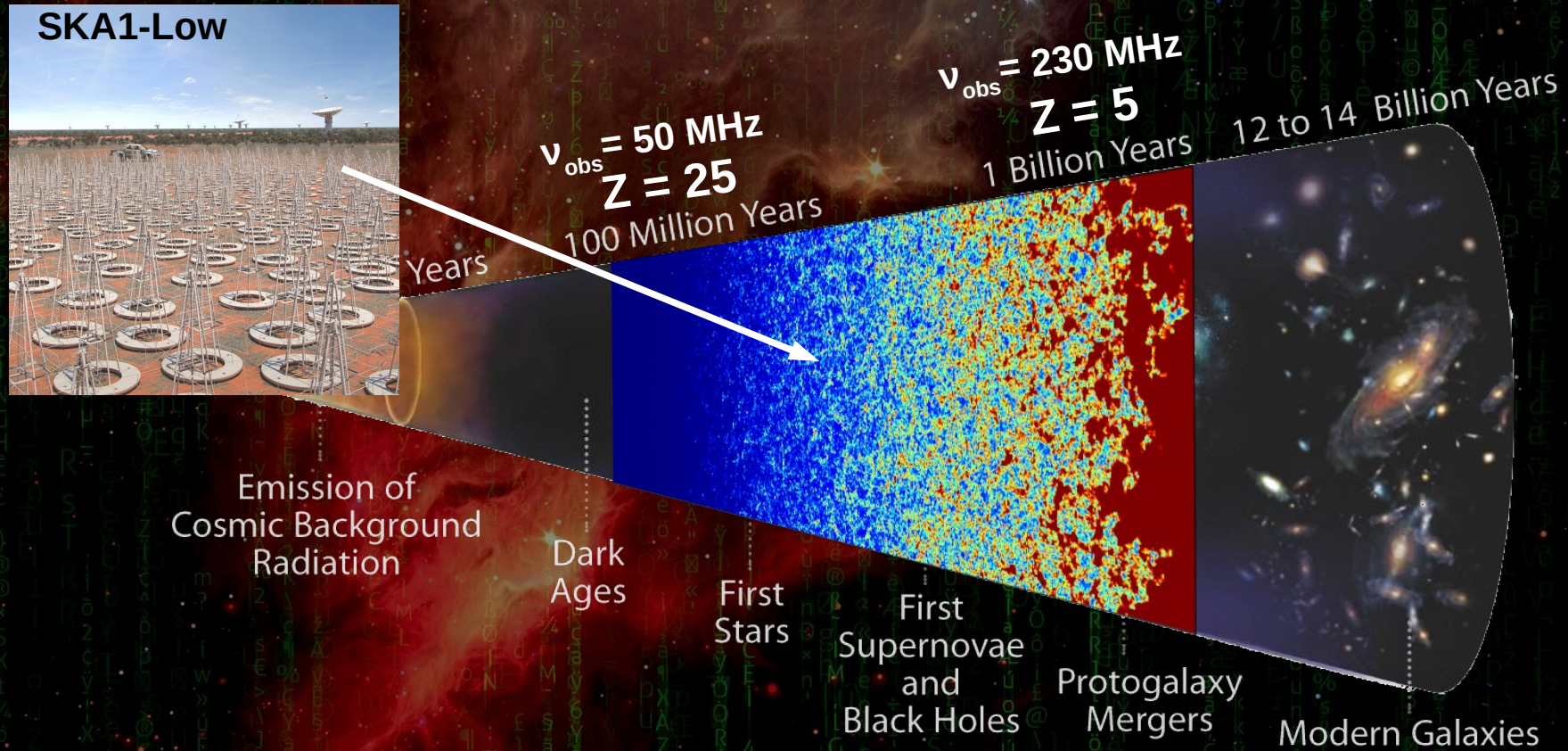
# The Epoch of Cosmic Reionisation



- Transition the Universe from a cold, neutral state to hot and ionised
- Detect 21-cm signal from hydrogen in the Intergalactic Medium (IGM)



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# Tomographic imaging of the 21-cm signal

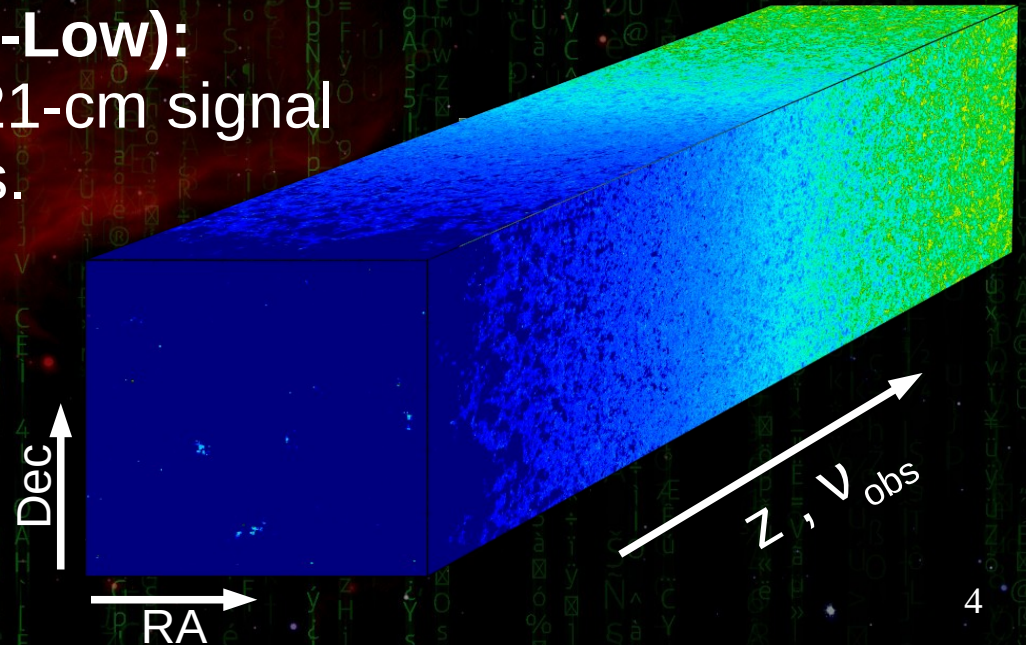
Probe reionization process by observing the redshifted 21-cm signal

$$\delta T_b(z) \propto x_{\text{HI}}(z)$$

**Square Kilometre Array (SKA1-Low):**

Images sequence of redshifted 21-cm signal  
at different observed frequencies.

3D tomographic dataset or  
a.k.a. 21-cm lightcones





# Tomographic imaging of the 21-cm signal

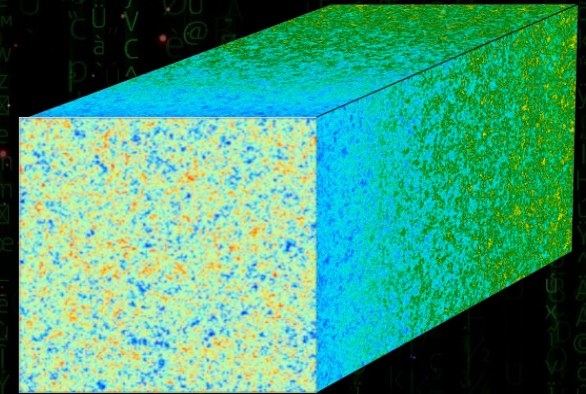
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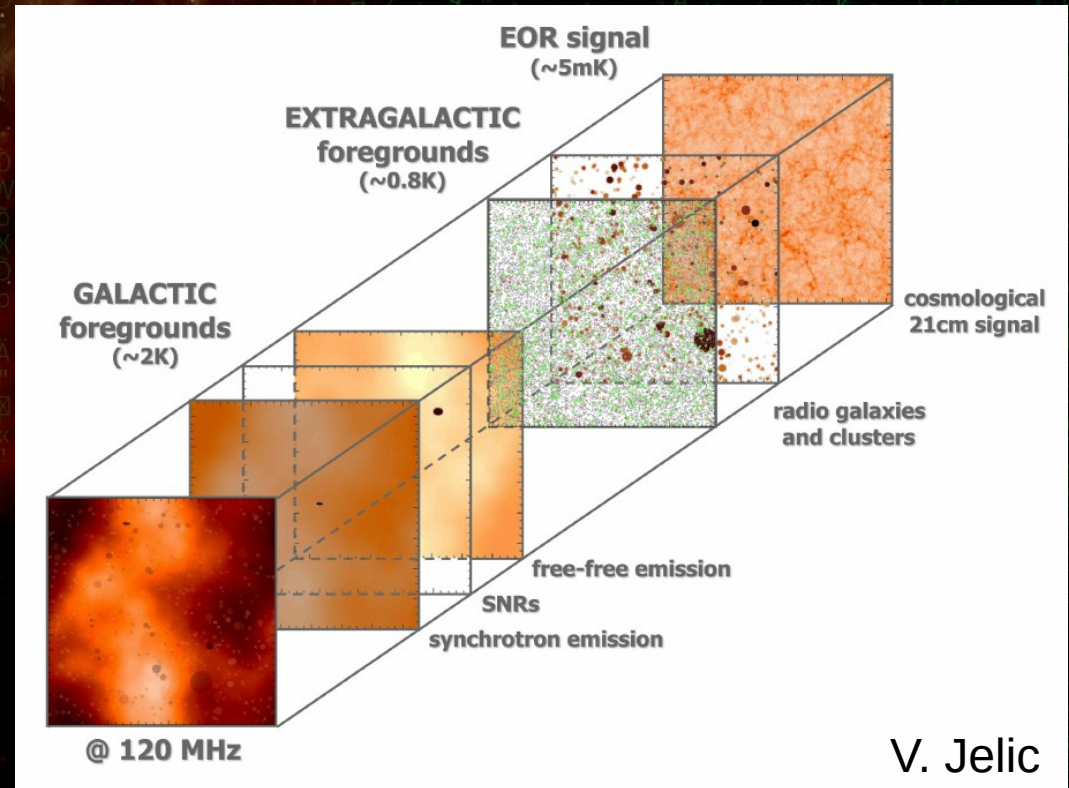
$z = 13.2$   
 $\nu_{\text{obs}} = 100 \text{ MHz}$



# Tomographic imaging of the 21-cm signal

**SKA1-Low** tomographic images of redshifted 21-cm signal challenges:

- Instrumental noise (signal  $\sim 5$  K)
- Foreground emission (signal  $\sim 1 - 1000$  K)
- Antennas gain errors
- Ionospheric refraction effects
- Radio frequency interference
- And more ...



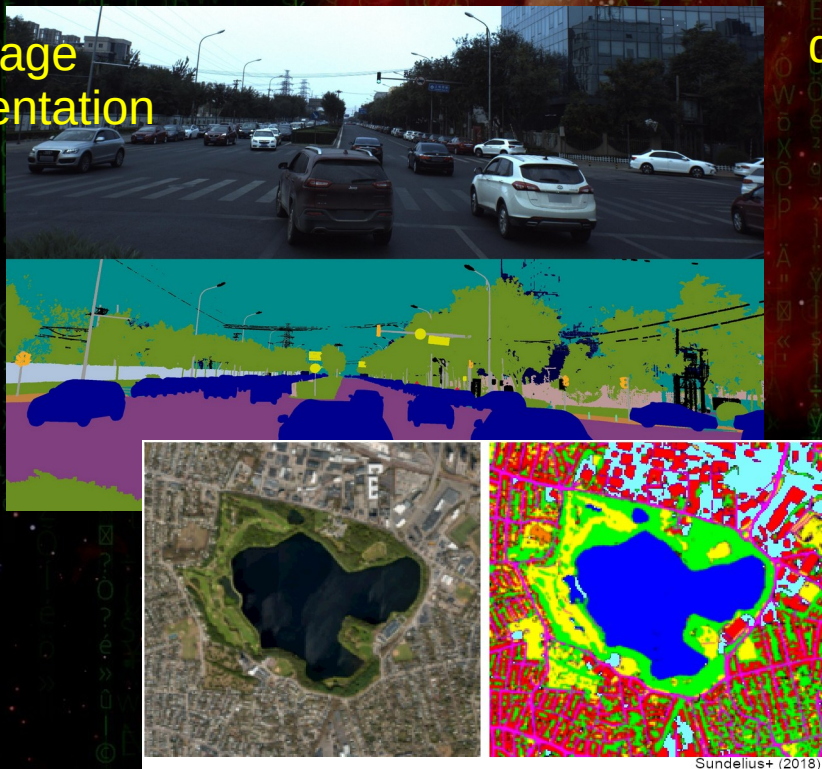
V. Jelic



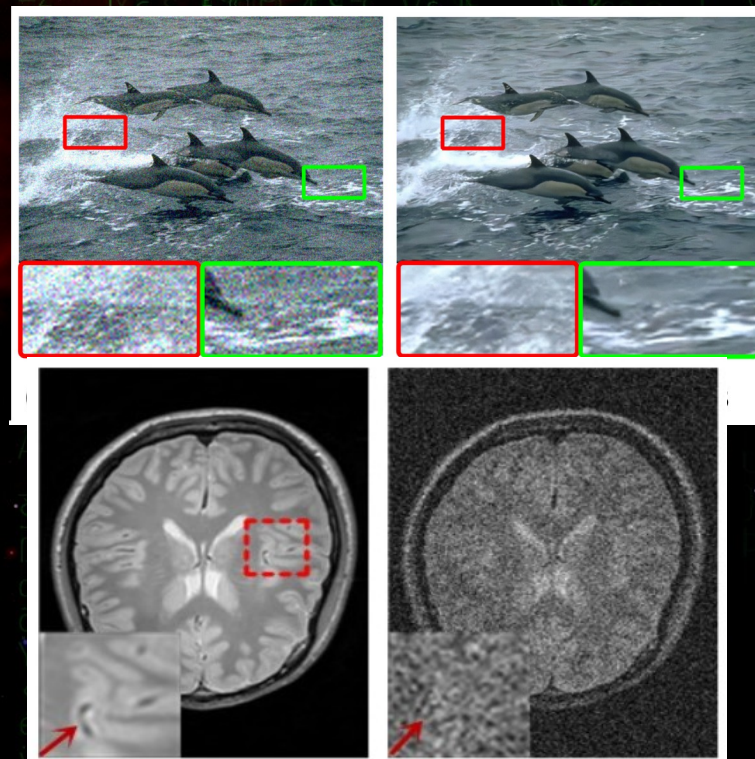
# Deep Learning algorithm with Convolutional Neural Networks

Modern Computer Vision technology based on AI and deep learning methods are able to **identify object** and/or **de-noise** images with great precision. (e.g.: self-driving cars, image satellites, medical image, etc...)

Image segmentation



de-noising images

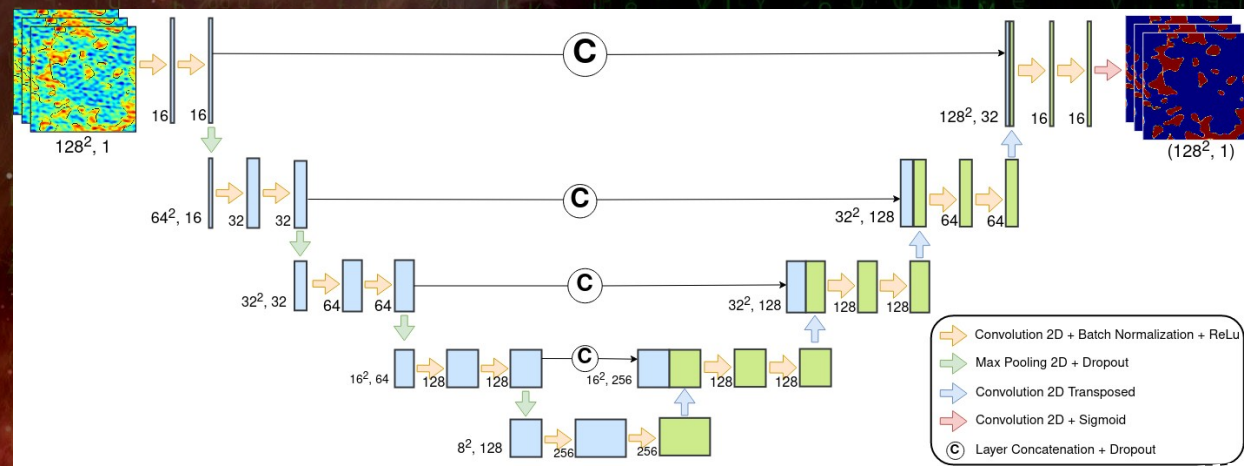




# SegU-Net: Segmentation with U-Net for EoR

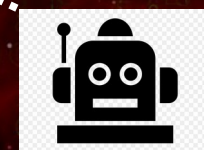
(Bianco+ 2021) arXiv:2102.06713

- U-Net: Network with interconnected encoder/decoder layers
- Convolutional layers on 2D slice of tomographic dataset (rolling procedure along z-axis)

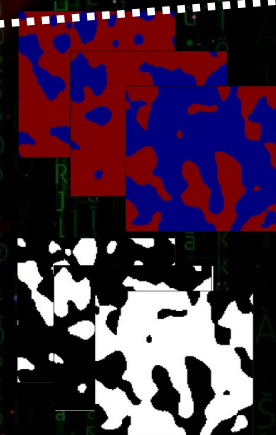


21cm  
tomography  
dataset

$(z, v_{\text{obs}})$   
21cm signal = image  
 $x_{\text{HI}}$  field = mask



SegU-Net  
(2.5M trainable params.)



Compare  
with ground truth

$\mathcal{L}(y, \hat{y})$   
Calculate  
Loss



# Mock Data for 21-cm Observations

EoR semi-numerical simulations:

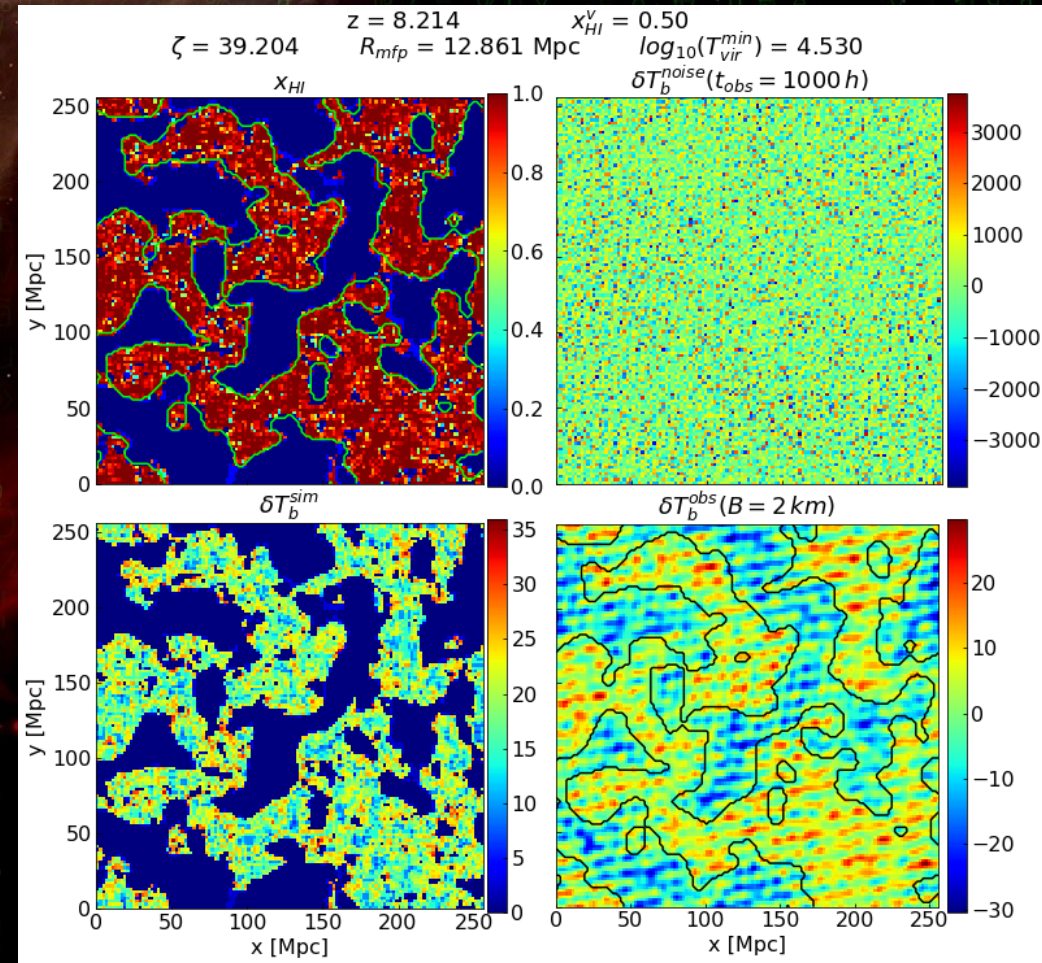
- 10k **21cmFAST** lightcone simulation
  - Astrophysical parameters
  - Redshift range: 7 – 9
  - Heating approximation:  $\delta T_b \sim n_{\text{HI}}(z)$

Noise:

- SKA1-Low instrumental noise model (Giri+ 2018b)
- $t_{\text{obs}} = 1000\text{h}$  of integration time

Interferometric Smoothing scale:

- Gaussian kernel,  $B=2\text{km}$





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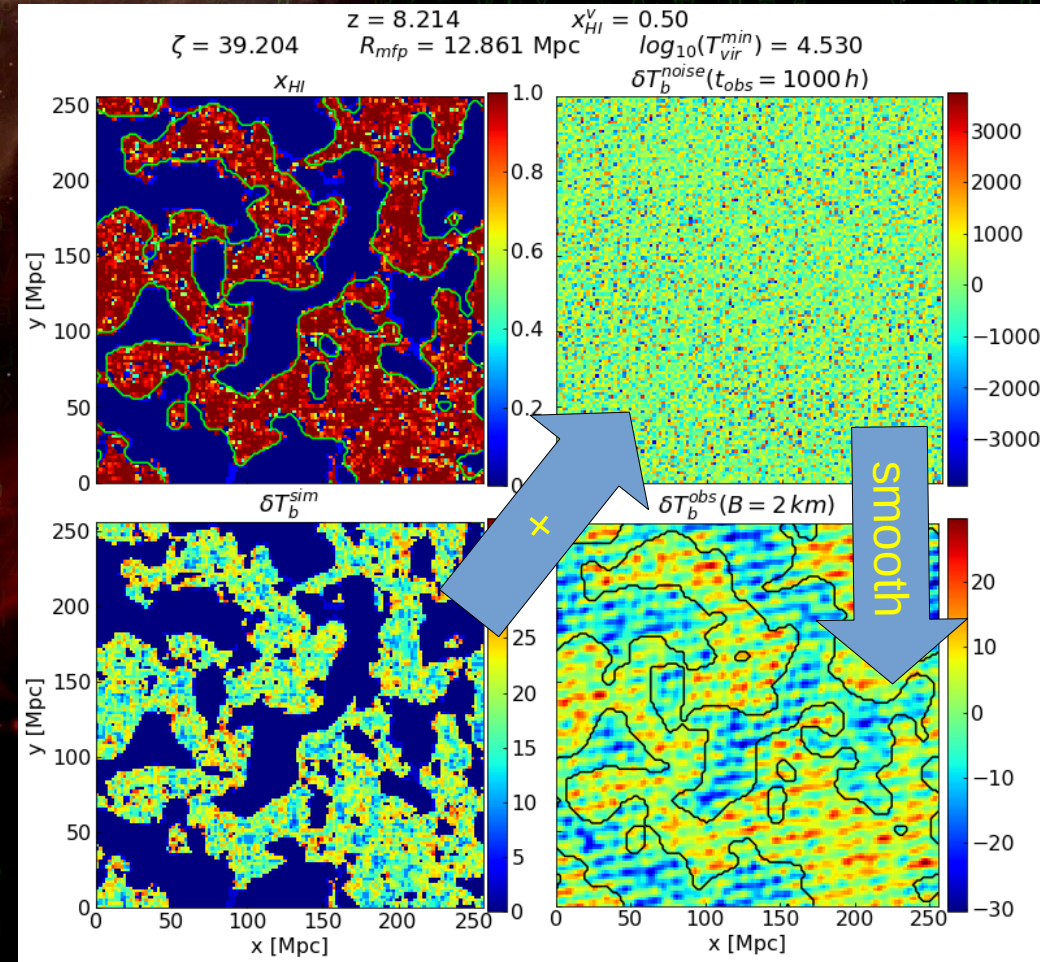
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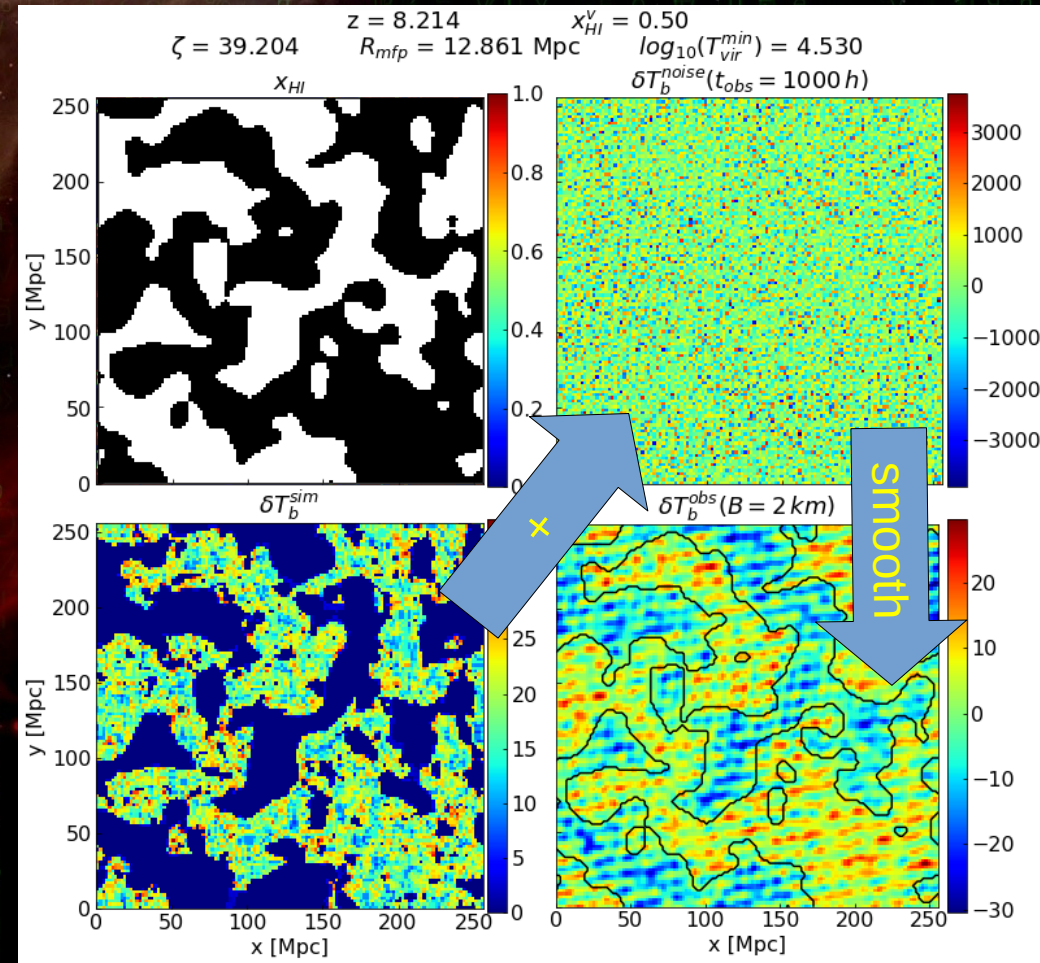
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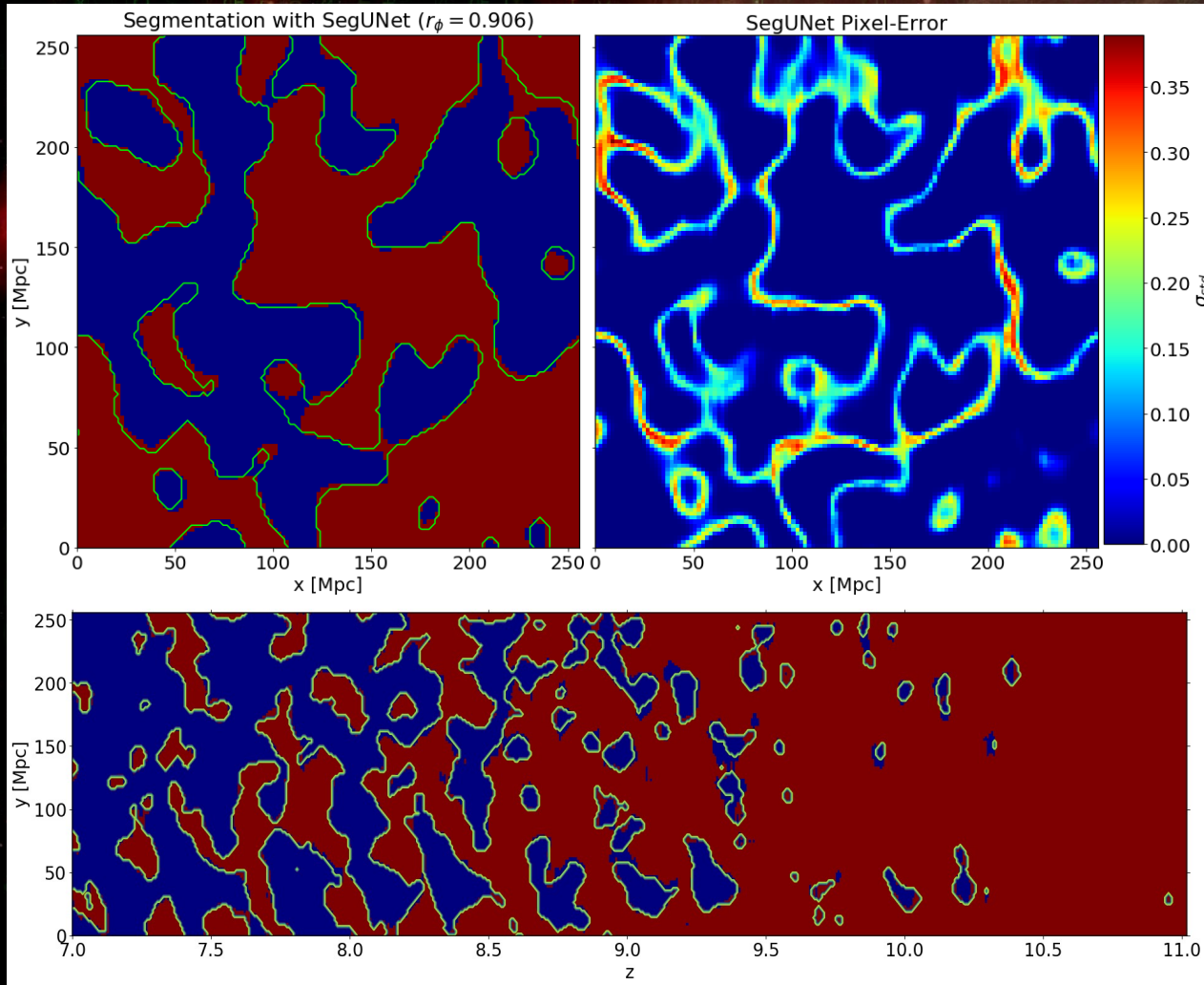
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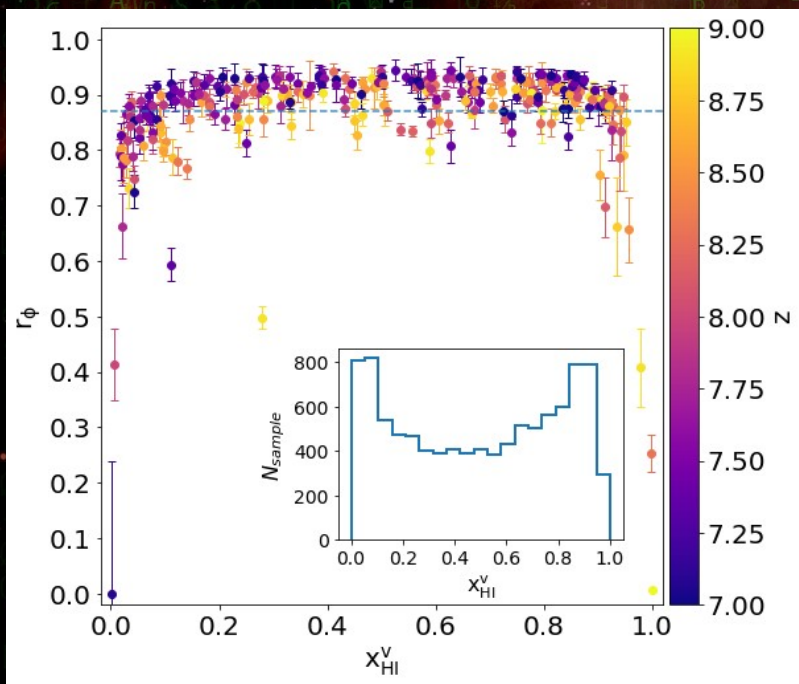
# SegU-Net Results: Visual Evaluation & Uncertainty-map



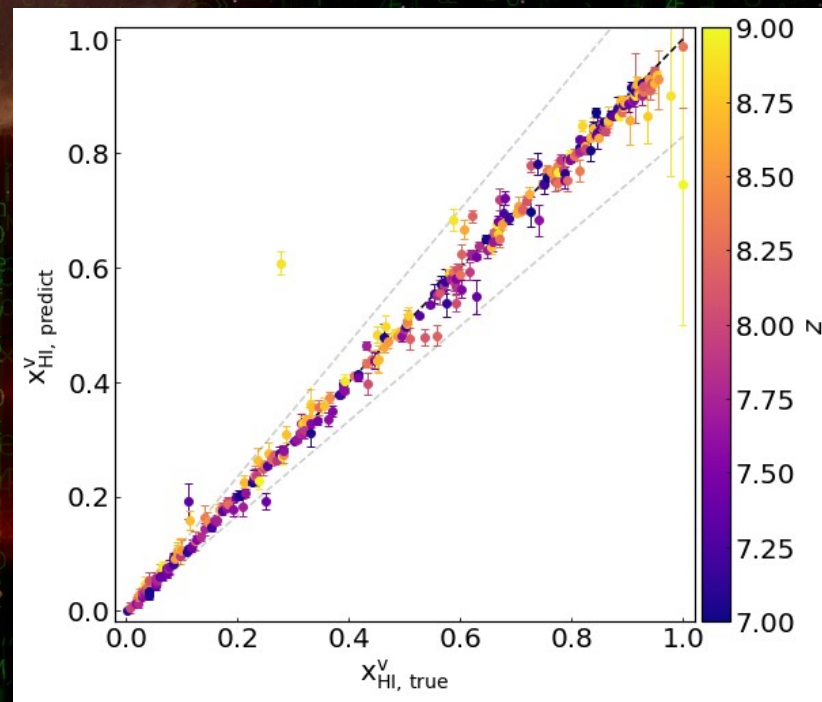
- Network binary field recovers with “confidence” large interconnected ionised/neutral regions
- Higher uncertainty at Bottleneck and regions with low-dynamic range



# SegU-Net Results : Correlation Coefficient $r_\phi$ and Reionisation History $x_{\text{HI}}$



Average accuracy: 85%  
better than state-of-the-art  
algorithm for segmentation



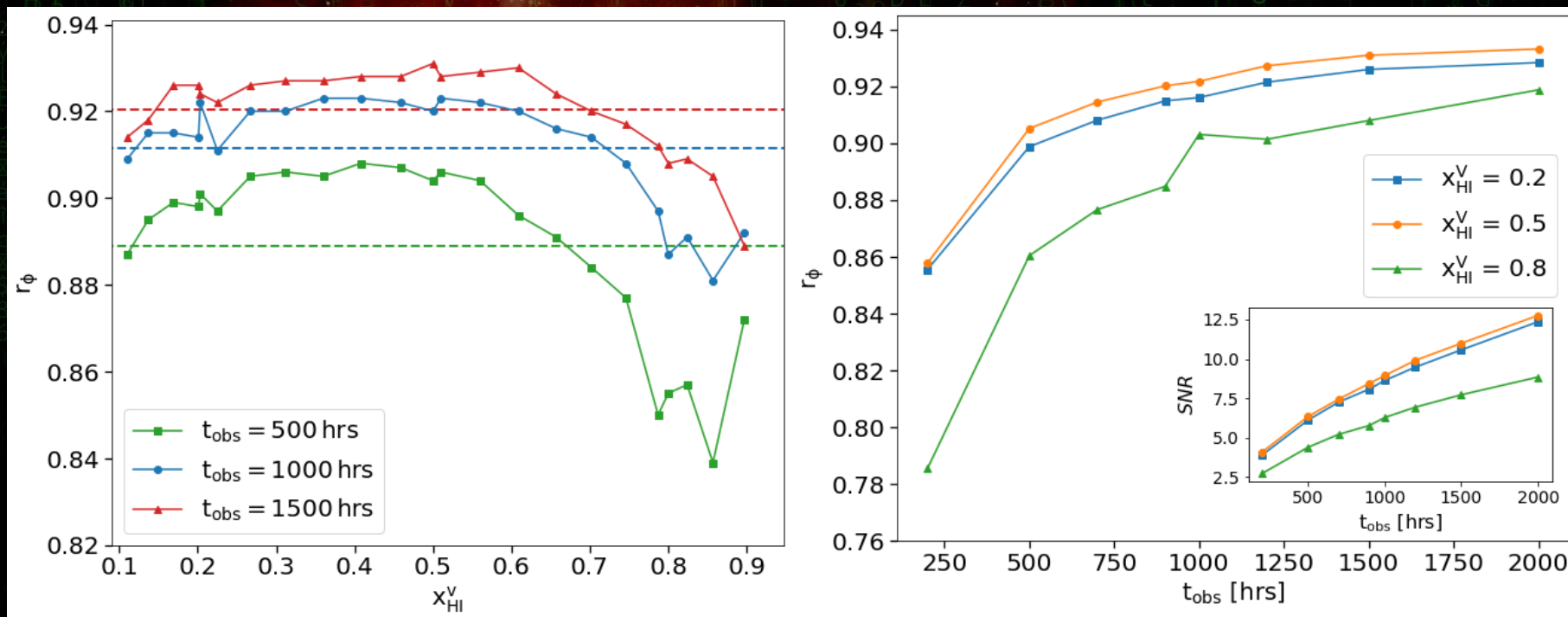
Recovered EoR history from  
the network binary field within  
 $\sim 0.5 \sigma$  difference



# SegU-Net Results: Response to Noise level

Test on different instrumental noise level: under- or over-estimate

- Predictions on un-trained data with  $t_{\text{obs}} = 500 - 2000$  hrs
- $t_{\text{obs}} > 500$  hrs (SNR>3) same level of accuracy ( $\sim 85\%$ ) as in the training
- Network accuracy affected by the **dynamic range** in the images

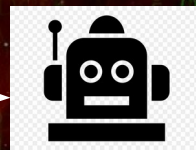
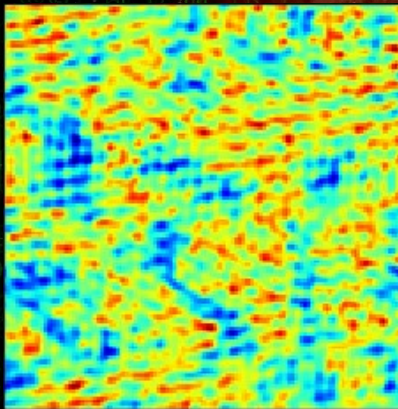




# The Next Goal of the Project

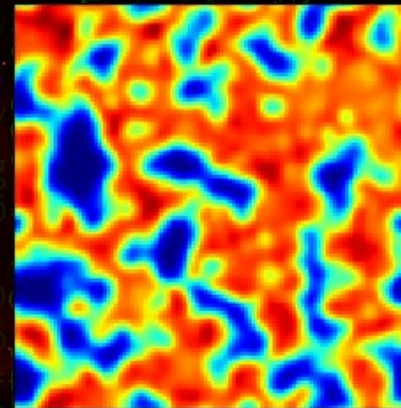
Deep learning approach for HI regions identification....  
.... and 21-cm signal recover from SKA-Low observations

**Corrupted  
21cm image**



Deep Learning  
Networks

**simulated  
21cm image**



- 1) Use accurate modelling of the foreground and interferometry instrumental response (incomplete uv-coverage)
- 2) Data pre-process for foreground avoidance (wedge removal) and/or foreground mitigation techniques (PCA)
- 3) Use identified HI regions as prior information in the training process of the 21-cm recover network (RecU-Net)

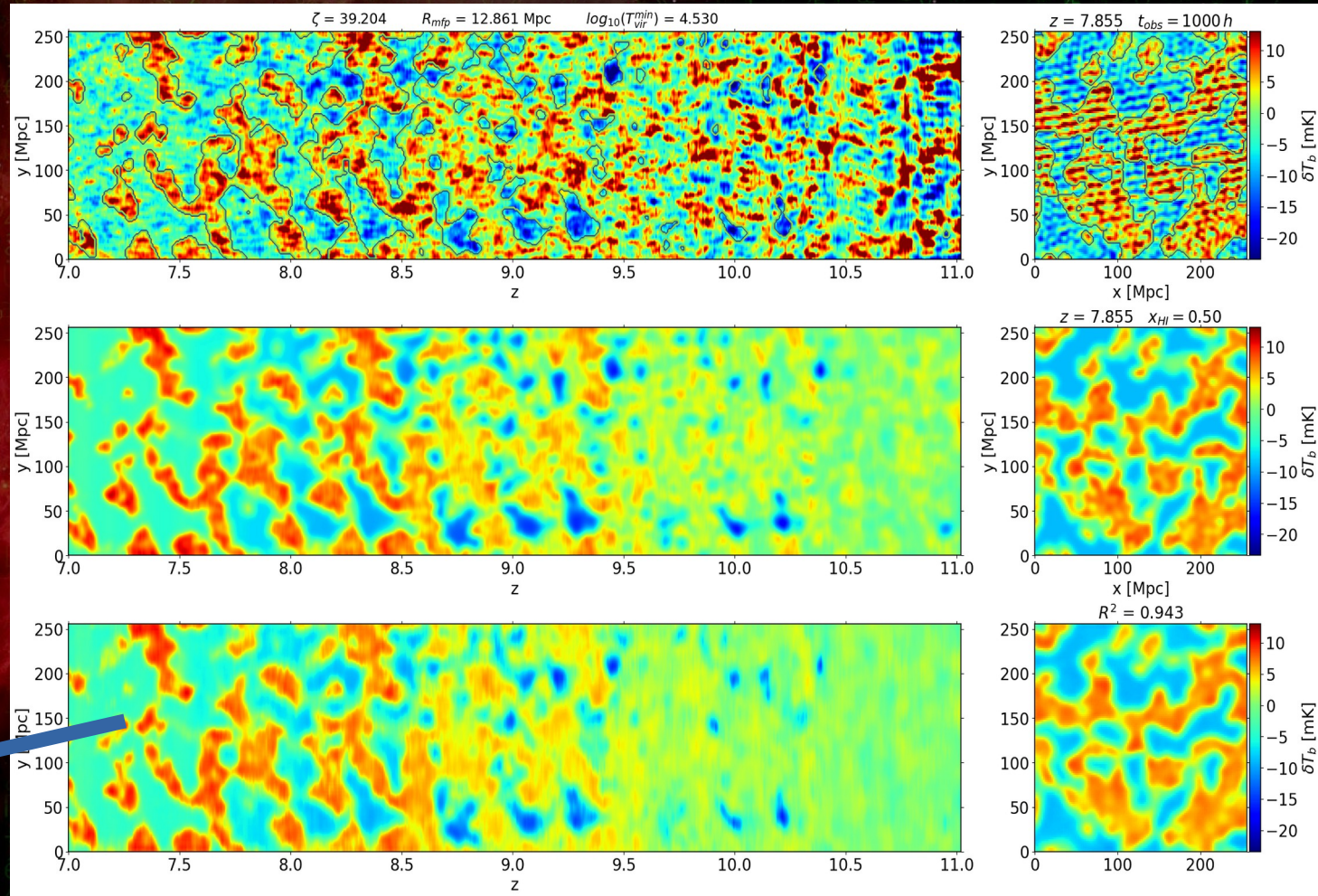


# RecU-Net Results: 21-cm Visual comparison

A first test:

- RecU-Net  $\approx$  SegU-Net
  - 1) final activation
  - 2) changed target
  - 3) different loss
- Recover 21cm signal from images with SKA-Low instrumental noise

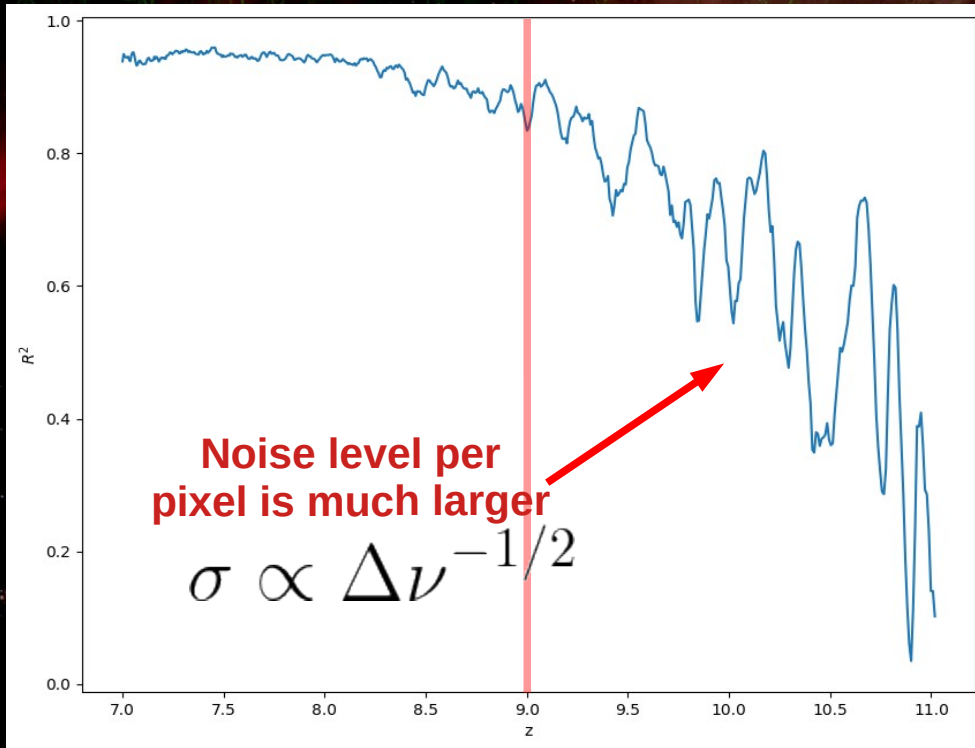
This is RecU-Net prediction



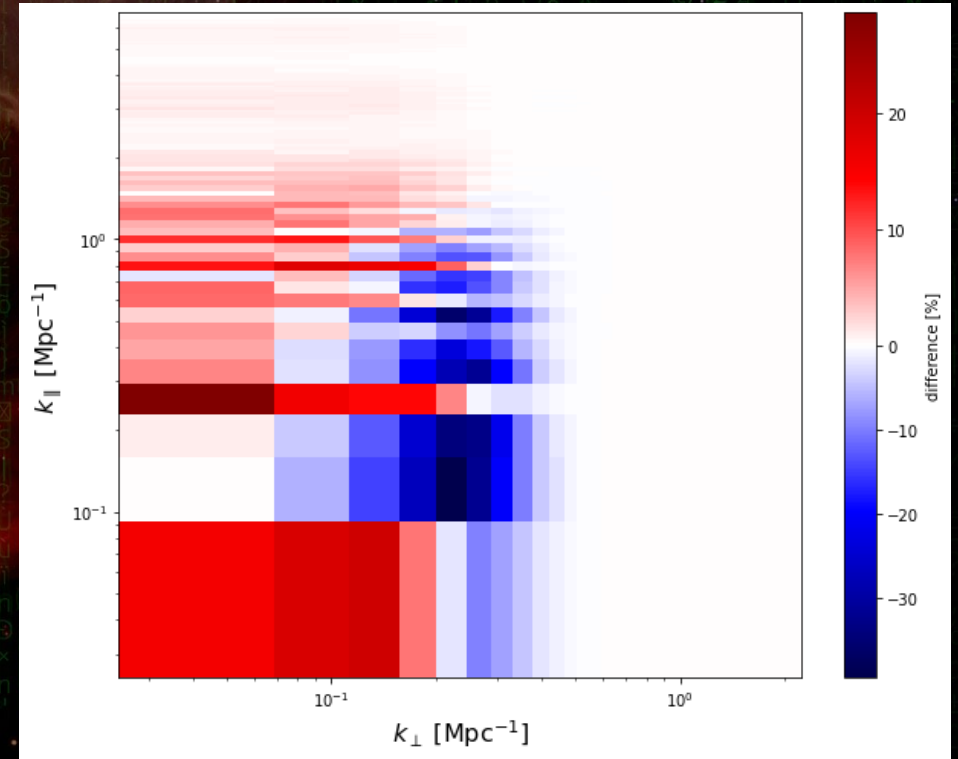


# RecU-Net Results:

## $r_\phi$ and $x_{\text{HI}}$ on entire Tomographic data



RecU-Net is extremely accurate ( $R^2 \sim 92\%$ ) redshift range  $7 < z < 9$



21-cm Power spectra (top) recover within  $\sim 5\%$  small scale correlation,  $k > 0.2 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  and redshift  $z < 9$



# Foreground Wedge Removal for SKA-Low

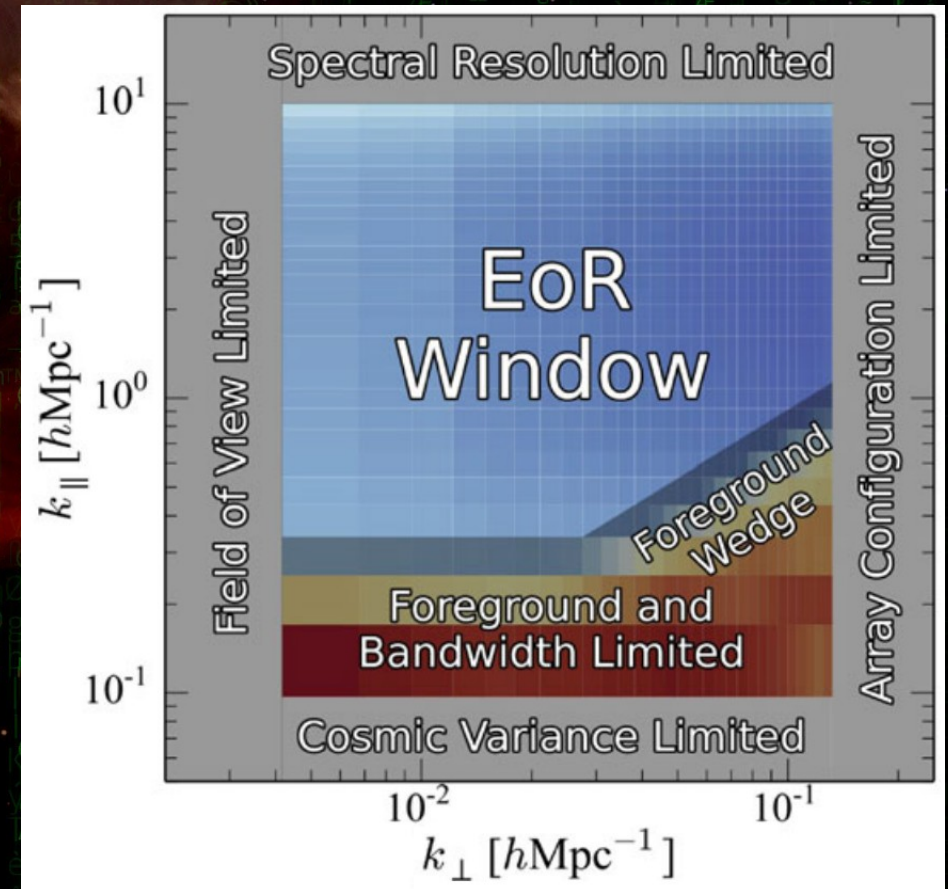
Advantage of SKA-Low long baselines:  
power spectra in the cylindrical  
coordinates ( $k_{\perp}$ ,  $k_{\parallel}$ )

Removing  $k$ -mode contaminated by  
foreground (Foreground Wedge) as a  
**avoidance technique**

$$k_{\parallel} \leq |k_{\perp}| \frac{H(z)}{1+z} \int_0^{z'} \frac{dz'}{H(z)} \cdot \sin \theta + b$$

Horizon limit angle:  $\theta$

(Pregolević+ 2021)





# (Preliminary) 21-cm images Pre-process

Master student project @ EPFL:

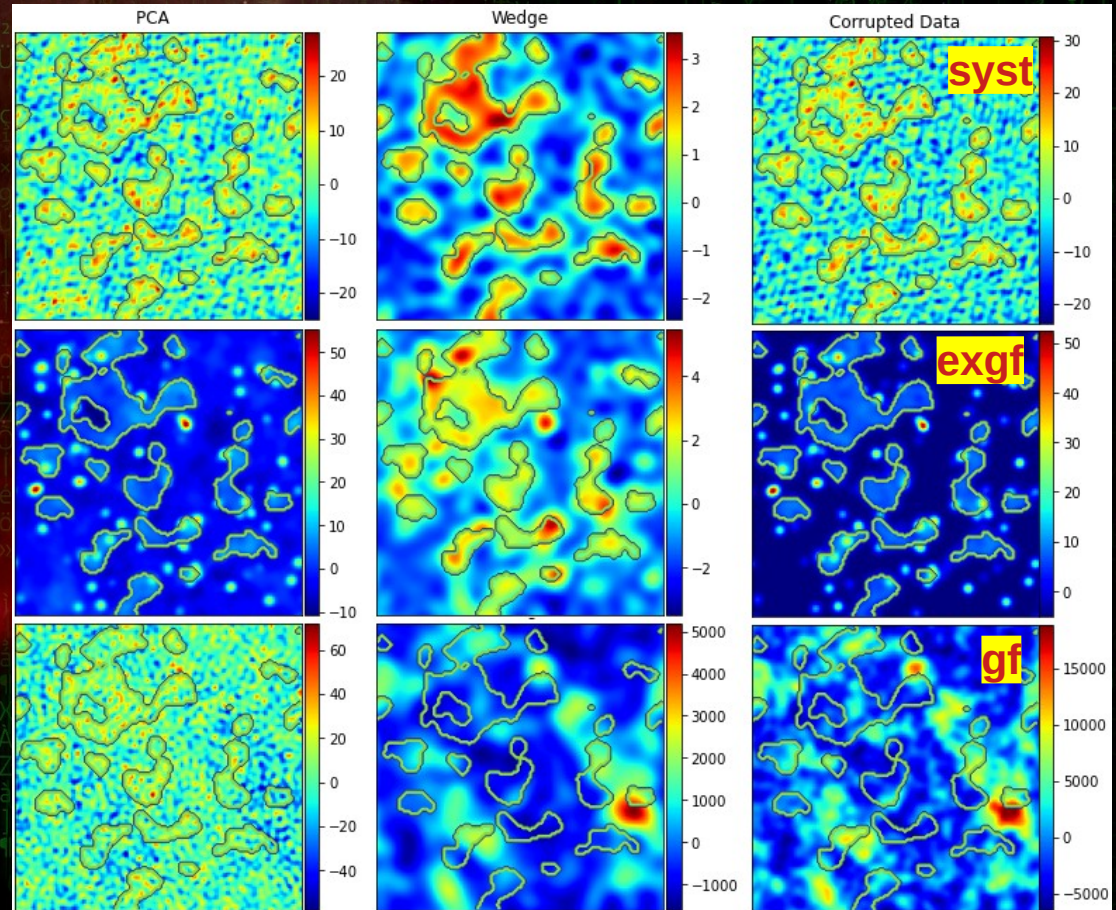
Investigate the efficiency of pre-processing

- Foreground Wedge Removal
- Principle Component Analysis (PCA) decomposition

Wedge Removal works better on extragalactic point sources

PCA works well on synchrotron galactic foreground

Both fails at higher redshift ( $z > 9$ )

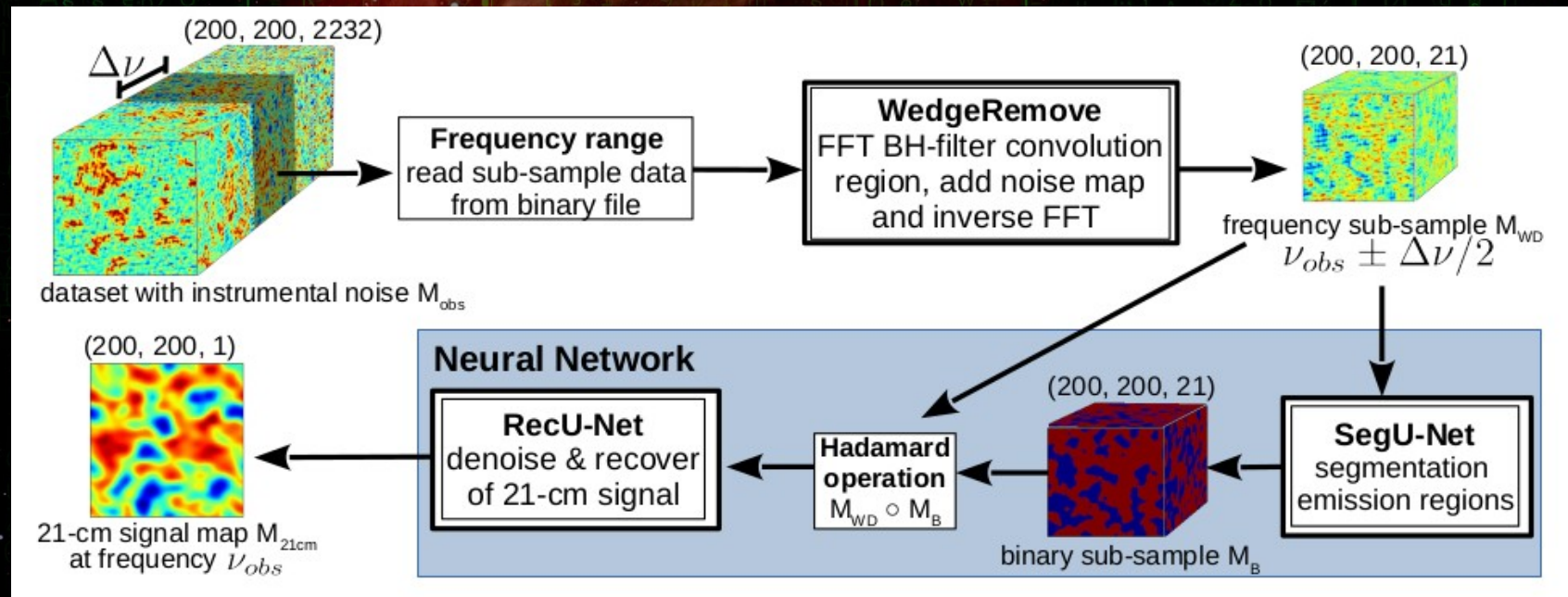




# SERENet

## Segmentation and Regression Network

Combine the prediction of SegU-Net as additional input in RecU-Net training step in order to include prior in the network training.



Proposal accepted for SKACH large HPC allocation projects  
at Pitz Daint @ CSCS (start 1th of August)



# Summary & Future Work

## Work done so far:

- U-Net are powerful tools for segmentation on noisy 21-cm images.
- U-Net can also be use to recover 21-cm signal from noisy data.
- Existing technique can be employed to pre-process data before training. to reduce the dynamic range of foreground contamination.

## Open challenges list:

- Implement foreground contamination in the training dataset .
- Employ OSKAR simulation for radio interferometry effects.
- Feed prior information in training (combination of Seg and RecU-Net).
- Impact of the foreground pre-process step on the training and prediction.
- Combine foreground subtraction algorithm (PCA or Wedge + U-Net).