

The logo for EXCALIBUR 10, featuring the word 'EXCALIBUR' in white and '10' in white inside a red circle.

**EXCALIBUR  
10**

# LEARNED EXASCALE COMPUTATIONAL IMAGING (LEXCI): UPDATE

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Mullard Space Science Laboratory (MSSL)  
UCL**

**Engineer's House, 11-12 October 2023**

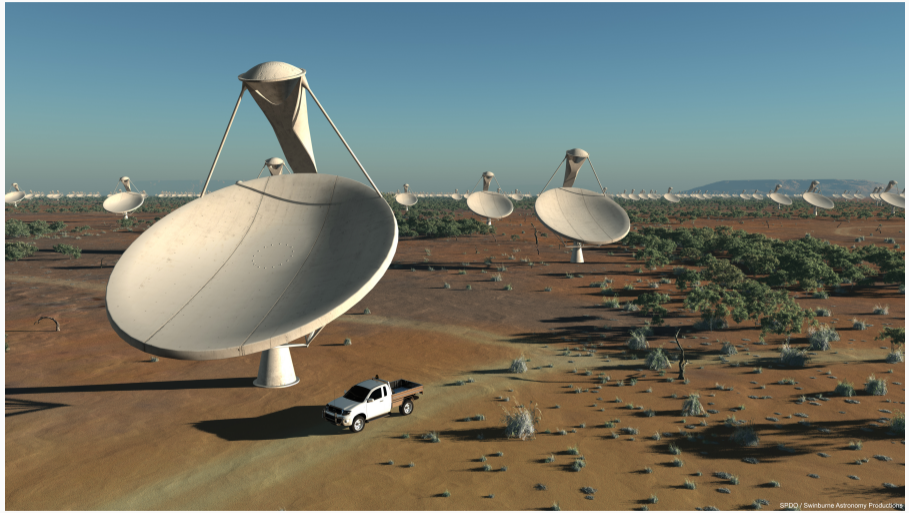


**UK Research  
and Innovation**




**UK Atomic  
Energy  
Authority**


# Canonical application: Square Kilometre Array (SKA)




## SKA-mid – the SKA's mid-frequency instrument

The SKA Observatory (SKAO) is a next-generation radio astronomy facility that will revolutionise our understanding of the Universe. It will have a uniquely distributed character: one observatory operating two telescopes on three continents. The two telescopes, named SKA-low and SKA-mid, will be observing the Universe at different frequencies. They are also called interferometers as they each comprise a large number of individual elements working together to form a single large telescope.







Location: South Africa




Frequency range:  
**350 MHz to 15.4 GHz**  
with a goal of 24 GHz



**197 dishes**  
(including 42 steerable dishes)




Total collecting area:  
**33,000m<sup>2</sup>**





Maximum distance between dishes:  
**150km**

or  
**126 tennis courts**



Data transfer rate:  
**8.8 Terabits per second**









Image quality of SKA-mid (left) versus the best current facility operating in the same frequency range, the Jansky Very Large Array (JVL) in the United States (right). SKA-mid's resolution will be 4x better than JVL.



Compared to the JVL, the current best similar instrument in the world:

**4x** the resolution


**5x** more sensitive


**60x** the survey speed

www.skatelescope.org @SKAO f SKA Observatory in SKA Observatory SKA Observatory @skaoobservatory


## SKA-low – the SKA's low-frequency instrument

The SKA Observatory (SKAO) is a next-generation radio astronomy facility that will revolutionise our understanding of the Universe. It will have a uniquely distributed character: one observatory operating two telescopes on three continents. The two telescopes, named SKA-low and SKA-mid, will be observing the Universe at different frequencies. They are also called interferometers as they each comprise a large number of individual elements working together to form a single large telescope.







Location: Australia



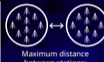
Frequency range:  
**50 MHz to 350 MHz**




**131,072 antennas** spread between 512 stations




Total collecting area:  
**0.4km<sup>2</sup>**




Maximum distance between stations:  
**>65km**





Data transfer rate:  
**7.2 Terabits per second**







Image quality of SKA-low (left) versus the best current facility operating in the same frequency range, the LOFAR in the Netherlands (right). SKA-low's resolution will be similar to LOFAR.



Compared to LOFAR Netherlands, the current best similar instrument in the world:

**25%** better resolution

**8x** more sensitive

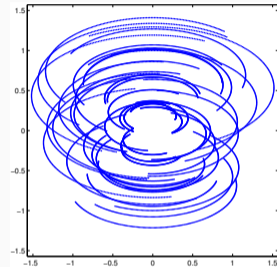
**135x** the survey speed

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# Radio interferometric telescopes acquire “Fourier” measurements



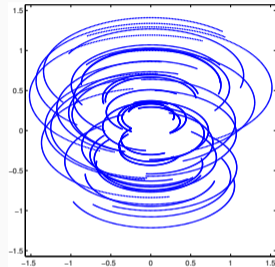
“Fourier”  
Measurements



# Radio interferometric telescopes acquire “Fourier” measurements



“Fourier”  
Measurements



Interferometric imaging is an **exascale computational inverse imaging problem**:

Recover an image from noisy and incomplete “Fourier” measurements.

# LEXCI application domains more broadly

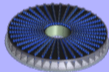


## Learned Exascale Computational Imaging (LEXCI)

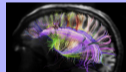
Radio Interferometry  
e.g. MWA, SKA



Optical Interferometry  
e.g. SPIDER



Medical Imaging  
e.g. Diffusion MRI



Seismic Imaging  
e.g. Mantle Plumes



Computer Graphics  
e.g. Inverse Rendering



*LEXCI project*

Astronomical Imaging

Planetary & Climate Science

Molecular Biology

Optical Photography

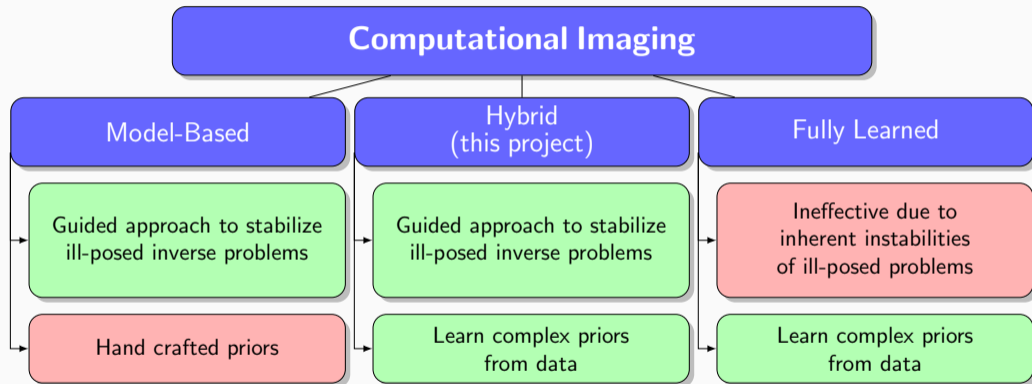
Geophysics

Acoustics

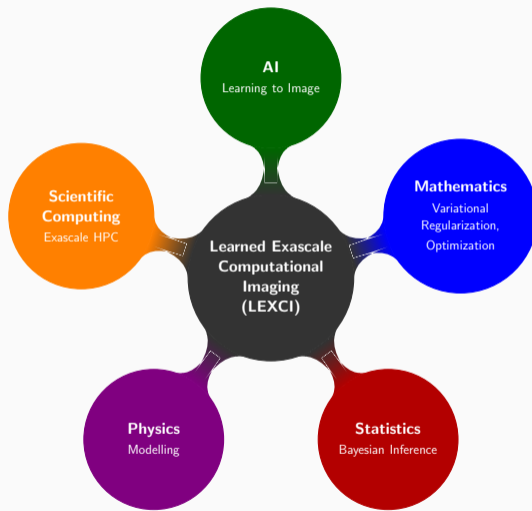
Computer Vision

Many Others. . .

*Extended application areas*



# Cross-cutting research areas

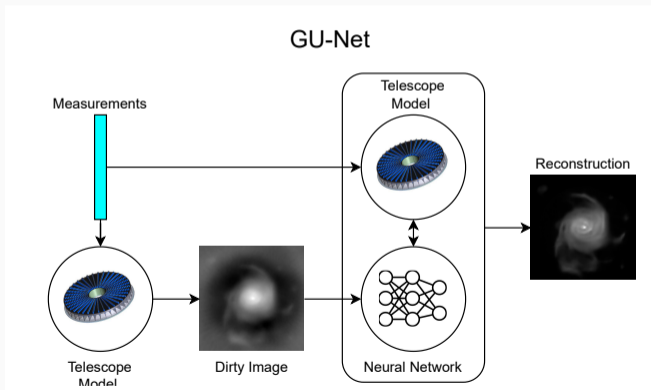




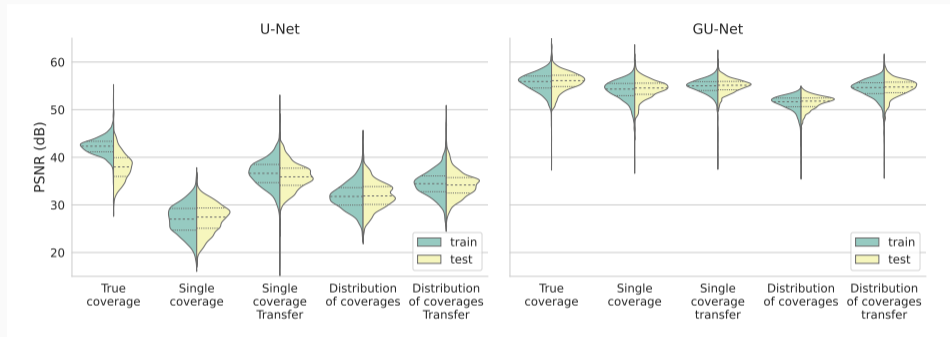
# Integrate physical model of telescope

Integrate (differentiable) **physical model of instrument** into an architecture; plus multi-resolution instrument model. (Mars *et al.* 2023, Mars *et al.* in prep.)

**Transfer learning** to handle measurement operator variability (telescope configuration).



# Distribution of radio interferometric reconstruction quality



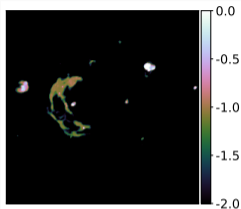
Reconstruction quality (PSNR  $\uparrow$ ) for different training strategies.

- ▷ Superior reconstruction quality.
- ▷ Imaging time speed-up of 50-600 $\times$  relative to classical approaches.
- ▷ Support for varying measurement operators for the first time.

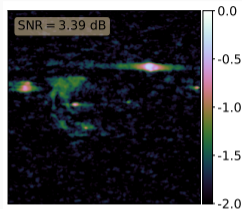
# Scalable Bayesian UQ with learned data-driven priors

1. **Statistical framework:** Bayesian inference and MAP estimation.
2. **Mathematical theory:** probability concentration theorem for log-convex distributions.
3. **Designed/constrained ML model:** convex ML model with explicit potential.

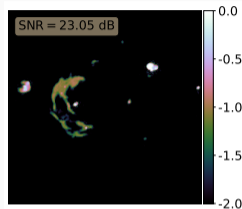
↪ **Scalable Bayesian uncertainty quantification (UQ)** with learned data-driven priors, which are highly expressive. (Liaudat *et al.* in prep.)



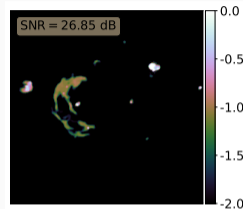
Ground truth



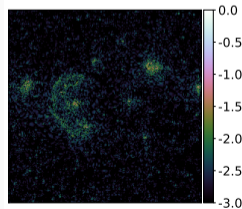
Dirty image  
SNR=3.39 dB



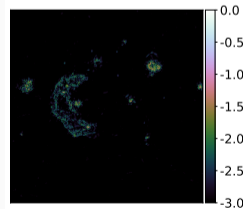
Reconstruction (classical)  
SNR=23.05 dB



Reconstruction (learned)  
SNR= 26.85 dB

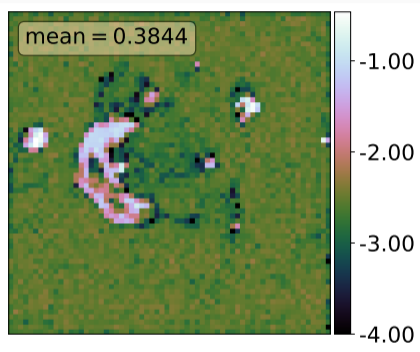


Error (classical)

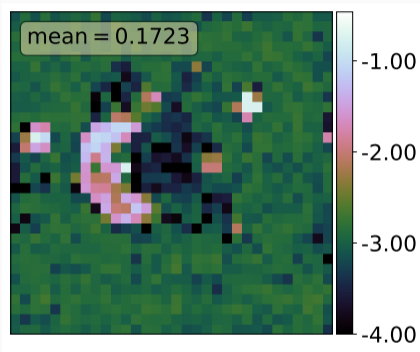


Error (learned)

# Approximate pixel-level uncertainty quantification



LCI  
(super-pixel size  $4 \times 4$ )



LCI  
(super-pixel size  $8 \times 8$ )

# Open-source codes (C++, MPI, OpenMP)

## PURIFY code

<https://github.com/astro-informatics/purify>

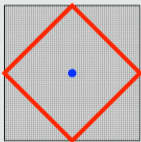


### Next-generation radio interferometric imaging

PURIFY is a highly distributed and parallelized open-source C++ code for radio interferometric imaging, leveraging recent developments in the field of variational regularization and convex optimisation.

## SOPT code

<https://github.com/astro-informatics/sopt>



### Sparse OPTimisation

SOPT is a highly distributed and parallelized open-source C++ code for variational regularization and convex optimisation.

# Computational strategy

- ▷ Hybrid deep learning (data-driven) & model-based approach
- ▷ Big data and big compute BUT moderate size models
- ▷ **Training and prototyping in Python** on current-generation hardware (TensorFlow, PyTorch)
- ▷ **Imaging (production) in C++** on **exascale** hardware  
~> TensorFlow interoperability with C++ implemented and working well



## Next steps

- ▷ **PyTorch** Interoperability with C++ (including gradients)
- ▷ Port uncertainty quantification to C++
- ▷ **Benchmark** on large data-sets
- ▷ **Unconference** in Spring 2024: *Applying LEXCI software to cross-cutting problems across domains*

