

An Ultra-Wideband Receiver for the ARO 46-meter Telescope

DUNLAP INSTITUTESophia Da Co

for ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS

Summer Undergo

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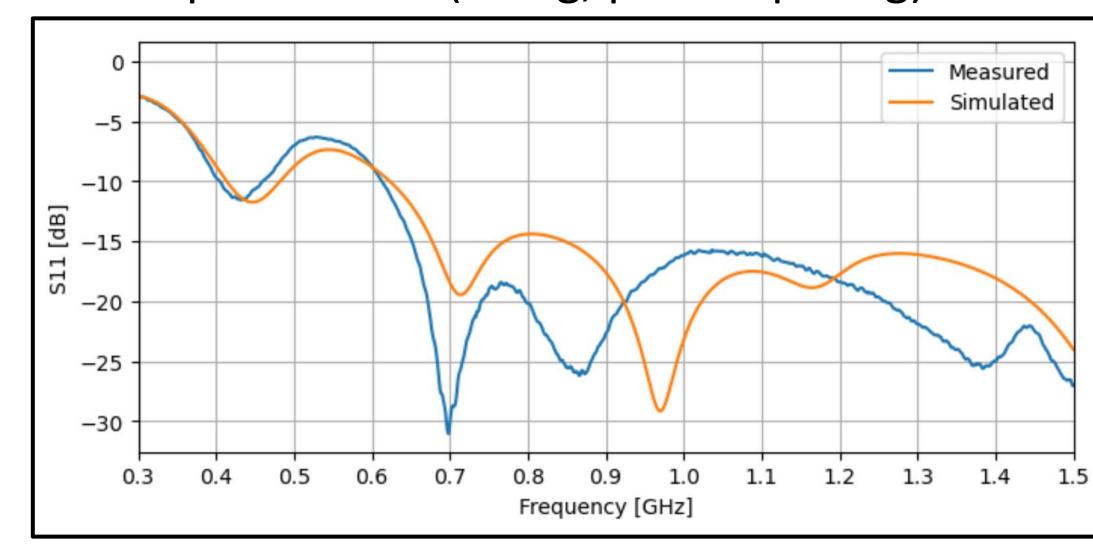


Introduction

- Designed, built and deployed an ultrawideband receiver chain for the 46-meter telescope located at the Algonquin Radio Observatory (ARO).
- Intended for pulsar scintillation observations.
- Modified design based on the Canadian
 Hydrogen Observatory and Radio Transient
 Detector (CHORD), currently being
 developed at the Dominion Radio
 Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO).

Ultra-Wideband Feed

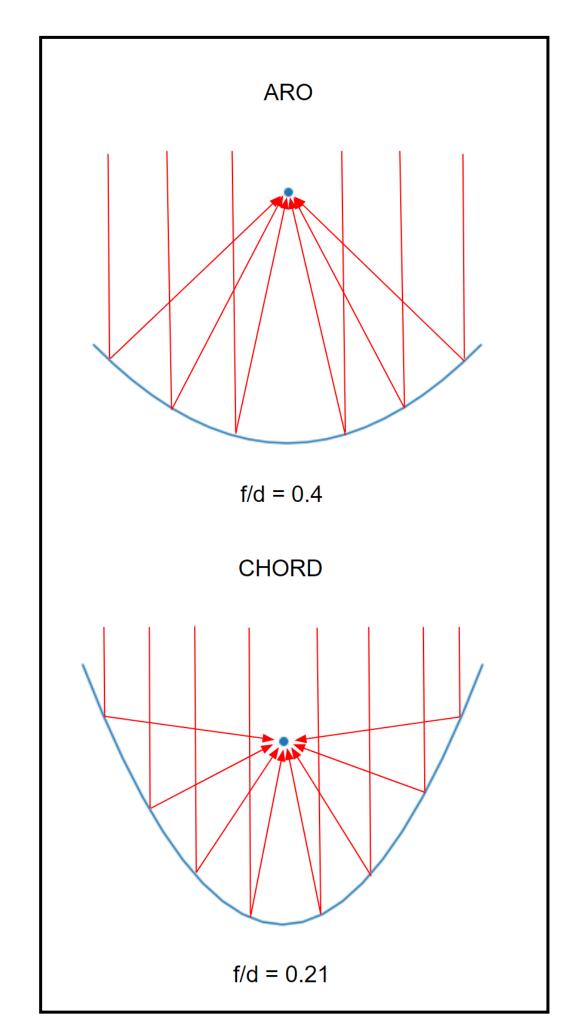
 Re-tuned CHORD feed by adjusting original model parameters (sizing, petal tapering).

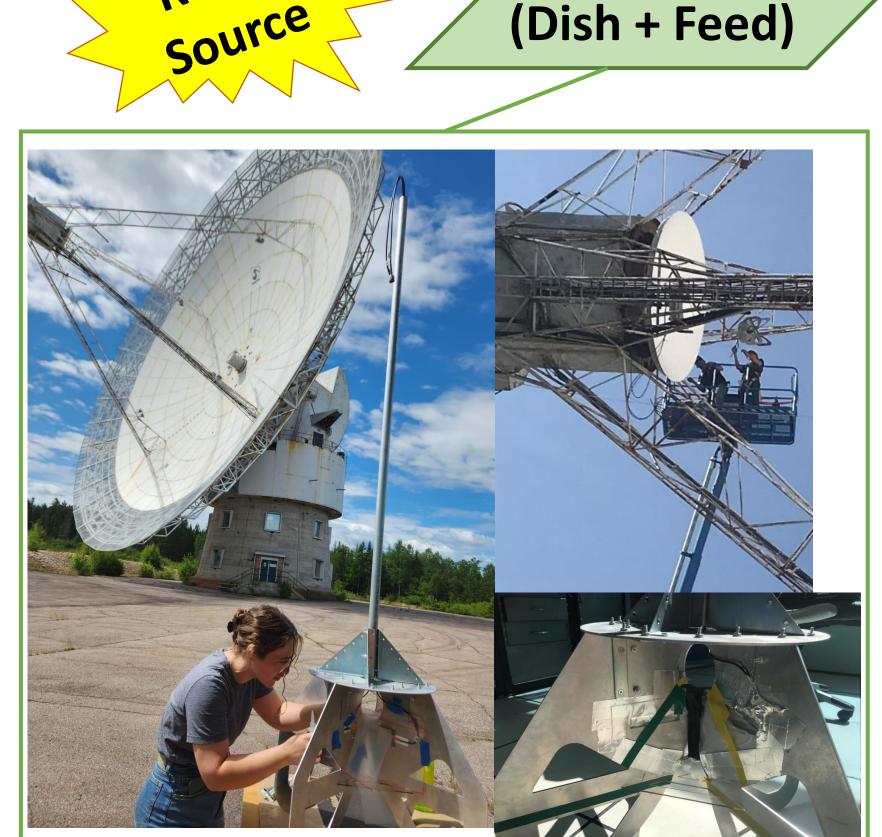


Simulated beam pattern using 3D electromagnetic analysis software and optimized for aperture efficiency and noise reduction across a **300 to 1500 MHZ band.**

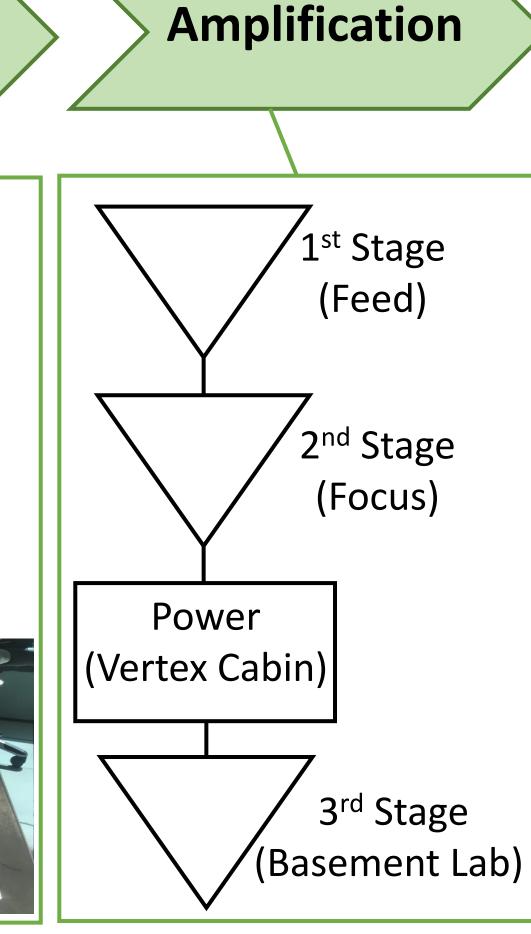
Filtering

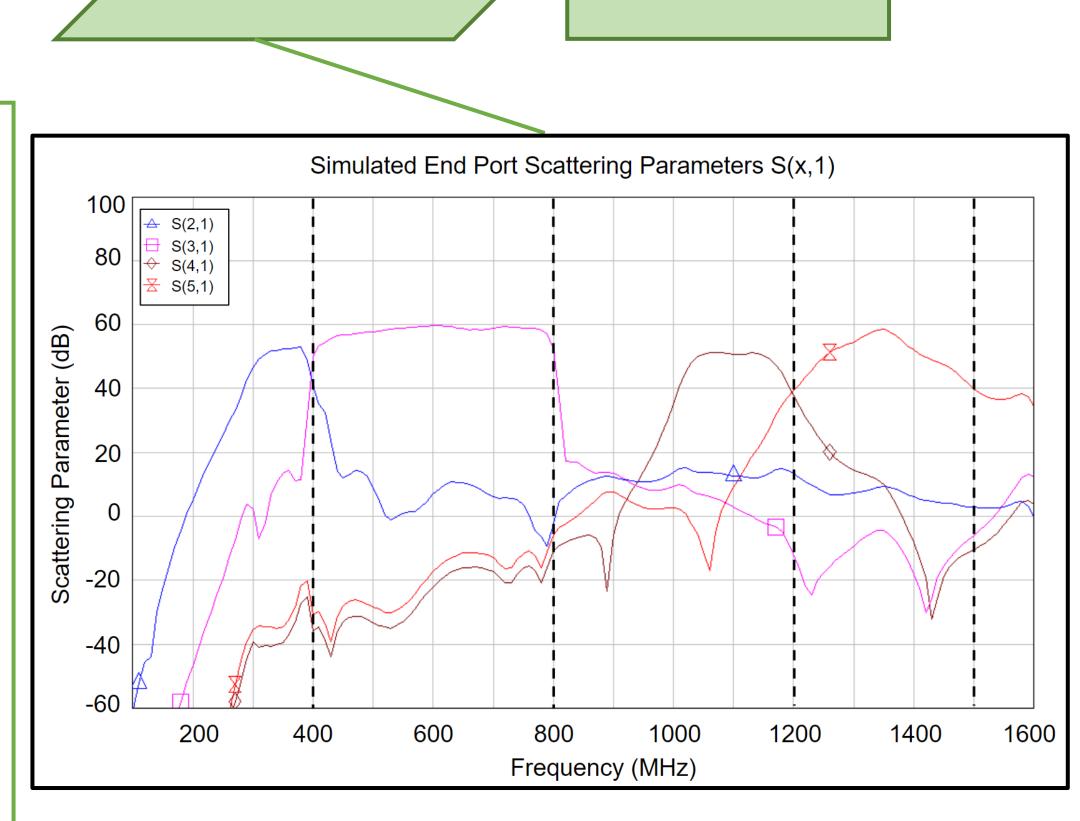
Receiver Chain Design and Deployment





Antenna

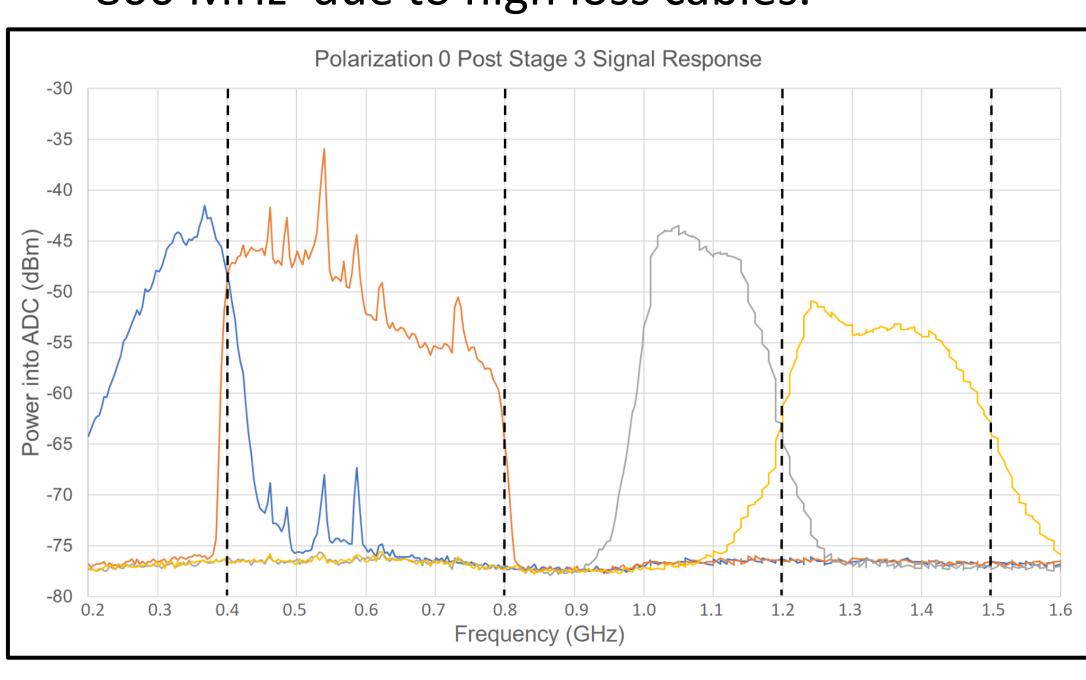


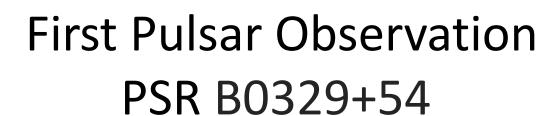


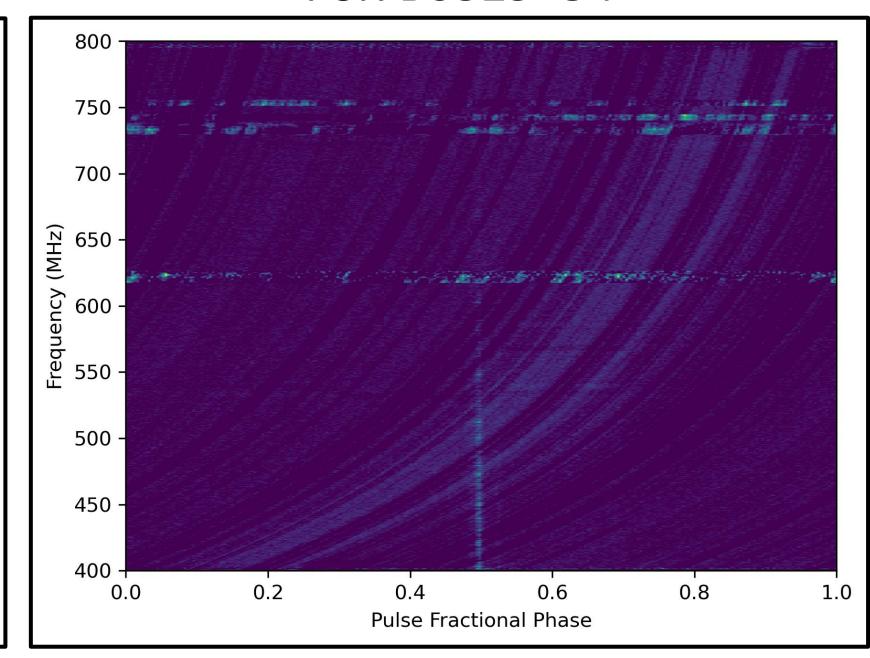
Digitization

Results

- Observable results between 300-800 MHz.
- Increased attenuation in frequencies above 800 MHz due to high loss cables.







Conclusion

- An ultra-wideband receiver chain operating at 300-1500 MHz was developed and deployed at ARO for the study of pulsar scintillation.
- Pulsar observations were successful in the range of 300-800 MHz.
- Unanticipated signal loss in cabling caused higher frequencies of the band to underperform; requiring increased amplification.

Future Improvements

- Additional amplifiers for higher frequency band followed by a band flattener is expected to aid in signal response issues.
- 3D modeled weather proofing mechanism to increase feed lifespan.

Acknowledgments

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References

[1] MacKay, Vincent, et al. "Low-cost, Low-loss, Ultra-wideband Miniaturized Feed for Modern Interferometric Radio Telescopes." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.07477* (2022)..

[2] Vanderlinde, Keith, et al. "The Canadian hydrogen observatory and radio-transient detector (CHORD)." Canadian Long Range Plan for Astronomy and Astrophysics White Papers 2020 (2019): 28.