FAST Detects Multiple Bursts in L-band from FRB 121102


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FAST Detects Multiple Bursts in L-band from FRB 121102

ATel #13064; Di Li (NAOC), Xinxin Zhang (NAOC), Lei Qian (NAOC), Weiwei Zhu (NAOC), Ran Duan (NAOC), Dan Werthimer (Berkeley), Vishal Gajjar (Berkeley), Yan Zhu (NAOC), Jeff Cobb (Berkeley), Youling Yue (NAOC), Chengjin Jin (NAOC), Bing Zhang (UNLV), Christian Gouiffes (CEA), Shen Wang (NAOC), Laura Spitler (MPIfR), Mary Cruces (MPIfR), Jason Hessels (University of Amsterdam), Andrew Seymour (Arecibo), Eric Korpela (Berkeley), Jingtao Luo, HengQian Gan (NAOC), Peng Jiang (NAOC), Hui Li (NAOC), Qi Li (NAOC), HongFei Liu (NAOC), Chenchen Miao (NAOC), Chenhui Niu (NAOC), GaoFeng Pan (NAOC), Zhichen Pan (NAOC), Bo Peng (NAOC), JingHai Sun (NAOC), Ningyu Tang (NAOC), QiMing Wang (NAOC), Pei Wang (NAOC), Xin Pei (XAO), Jun Yan (NAOC), Rui Yao(NAOC), DongJun Yu (NAOC), Mao Yuan (NAOC), Haiyan Zhang (NAOC), Lei Zhang (NAOC), ShuXin Zhang (NAOC), and and FAST Collaboration (NAOC)

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Credential Certification: Di Li (dili@nao.cas.cn)

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Tracking observations of FRB 121102 were carried out with the newly commissioned Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST). We used the FAST L-band Array of 19-beams (FLAN), which has a FWHM of ~2.95’ for individual beams and a ~26’ footprint. The source was placed in the central beam, while all 19 beams were recorded. The bursts were firstly identified by the FRB backend on August 29th (UT), which performs real time signal processing of 19-beams data and automatic candidate selection/triggering. The subsequent single pulse search using multiple pipelines have turned up many tens of pulses with significant SNR in observations carried out so far, on the 29th, 30th, and 31st (UT). While careful cross-check are being carried out, the majority of these detections are expected to be credible. FAST has been
targeting FRB 121102 since April of this year. In addition to the regular on-going FRB follow-up programs, the current observations was also motivated by timely and valuable alerts from our colleagues in the INTEGRAL team, Arecibo team, Max-Plank Institute for Radio Astronomy, Berkeley, and Cornell University. Given the significance of this source and its now apparent active state, FAST is executing more observations under the auspice of engineering testing time and multiple approved PI-led programs, which targeted FRB 121102. We encourage more ToO observations with other facilities.

FAST pulsar survey results

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R. E. Rutledge, Editor-in-Chief
Derek Fox, Editor
Mansi M. Kasliwal, Co-Editor
rrutledge@astronomerstelegram.org
dfox@astronomerstelegram.org
mansi@astronomerstelegram.org