

# Geometrical envelopes of Fast Radio Bursts

Guillaume Voisin  
LUTH (soon to become LUX),  
Observatoire de Paris, CNRS

Journées Théories PNHE 11/2024

LUTH



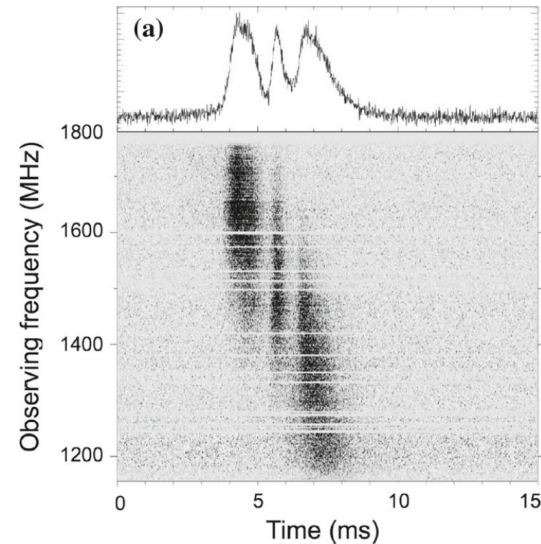
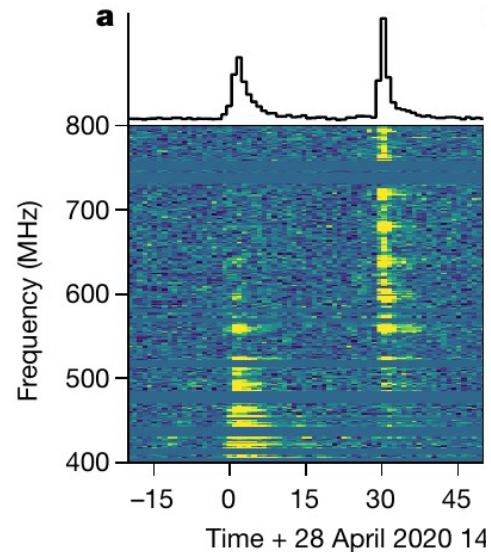
Observatoire  
de Paris

PSL



Image credit: ESO/L. Calçada (Creative commons)

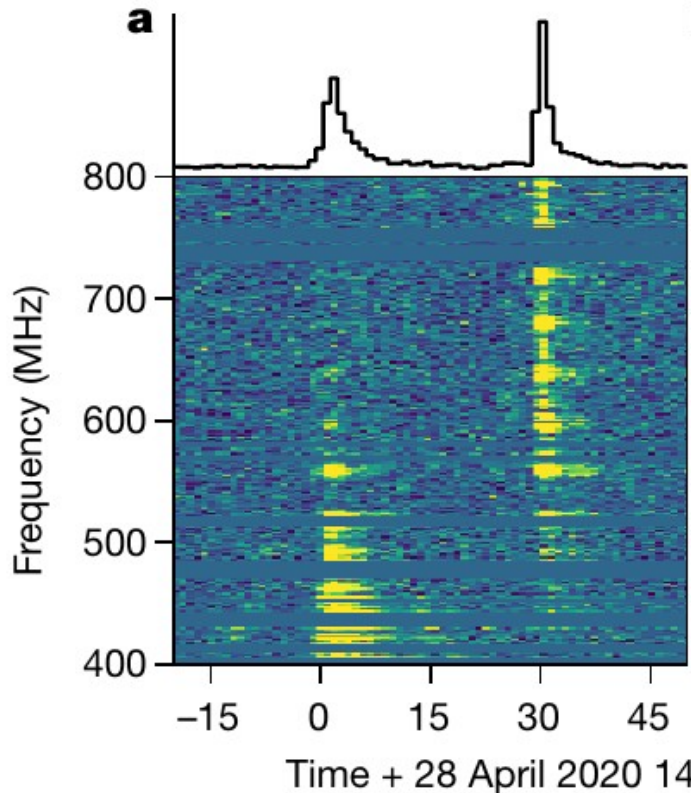
# Introduction to Fast Radio Bursts and their models



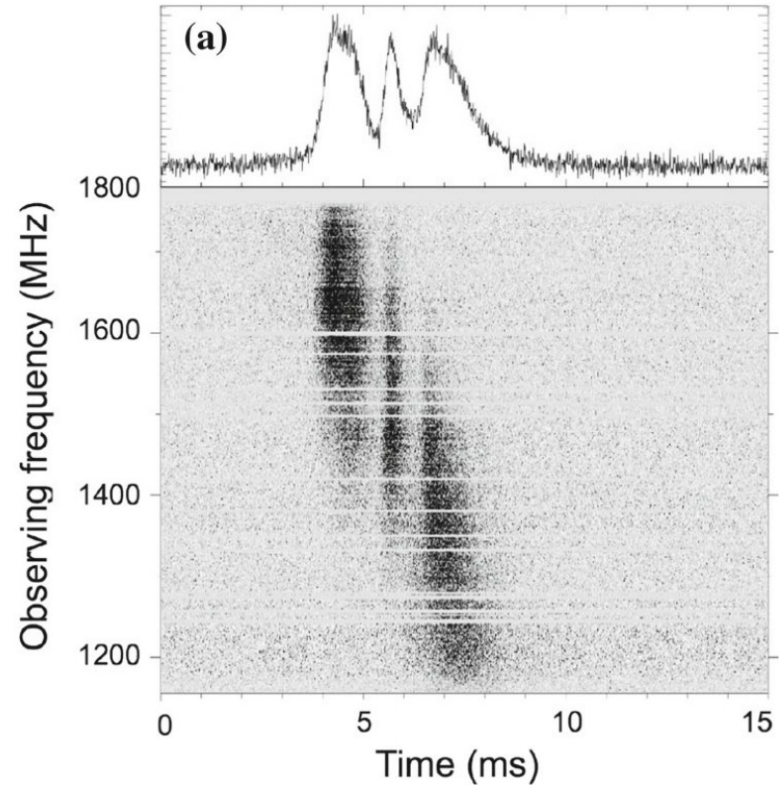
# Fast radio bursts

**One-off** : broad-band and shorter

**Repeaters** : narrow-band, longer, downward-drifting sub-bursts



FRB200428, (Chime/FRB 2020b)

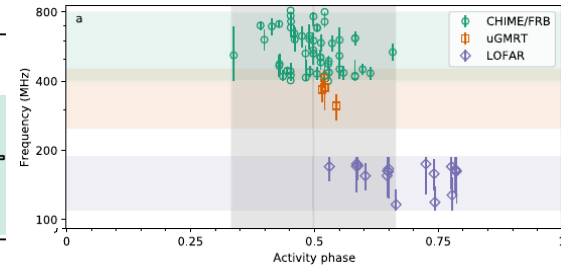
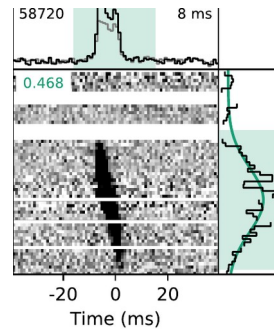
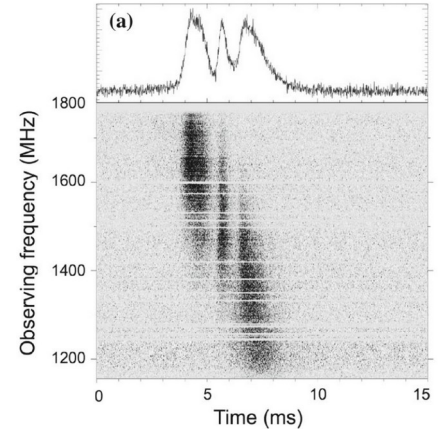


FRB121102, Hessels+18

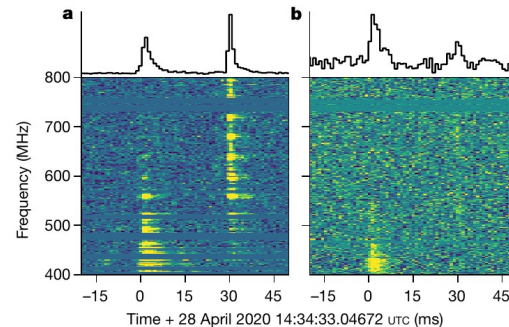
# Celebrities

- **FRB121102** : the loud one
  - Up to 30 bursts/hour
  - 1 Gpc
  - Very high RM ( $10^5$  rad/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Persistent radio counterpart
  - Periodic activity window with period 160 days
- **FRB180916.J0158+65** : the periodic one
  - 16 days periodicity
    - 5 day activity window
    - Higher freq come earlier (and narrower)
  - Star-forming region
- **FRB200824.SGR1935+2154** : the Galactic one
  - Low luminosity
  - (but  $10^3$  brighter than other magnetars)
  - X-ray counterpart (Magnetar flare)

FRB121102, (Hessels18)

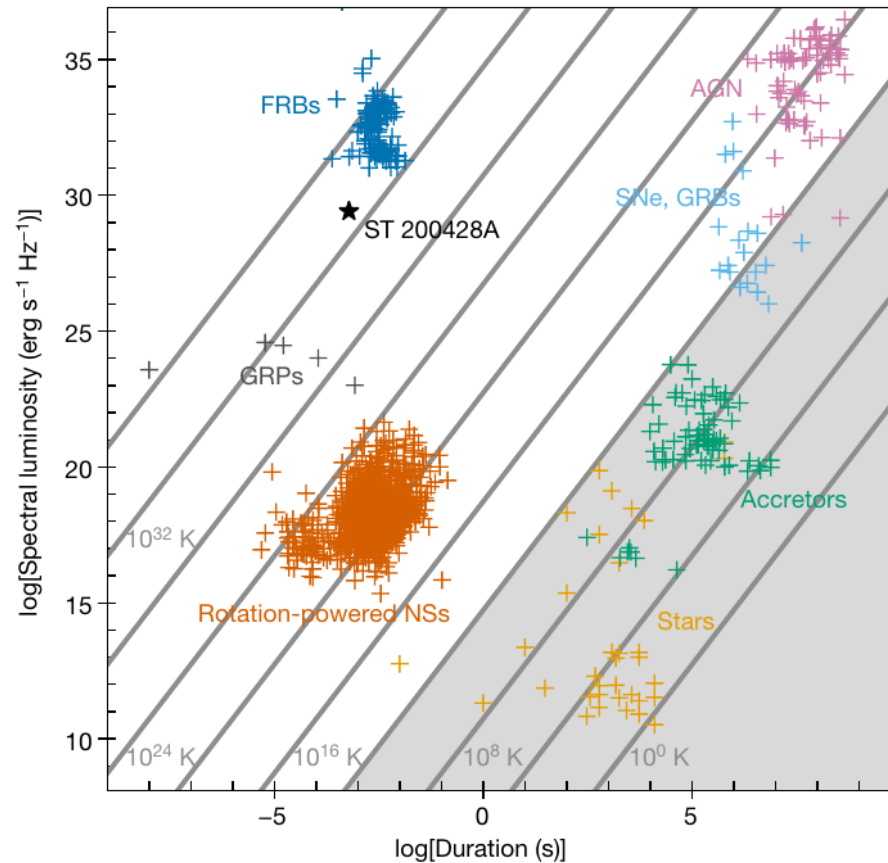


FRB180916 (CHIME/FRB 2020, Pleunis20)



FRB200428, (Chime/FRB 2020b)

# Comparison to other radio transients



Radio transients in 1-2 GHz band,  
Bochenek+2020

# Overview of the model maze

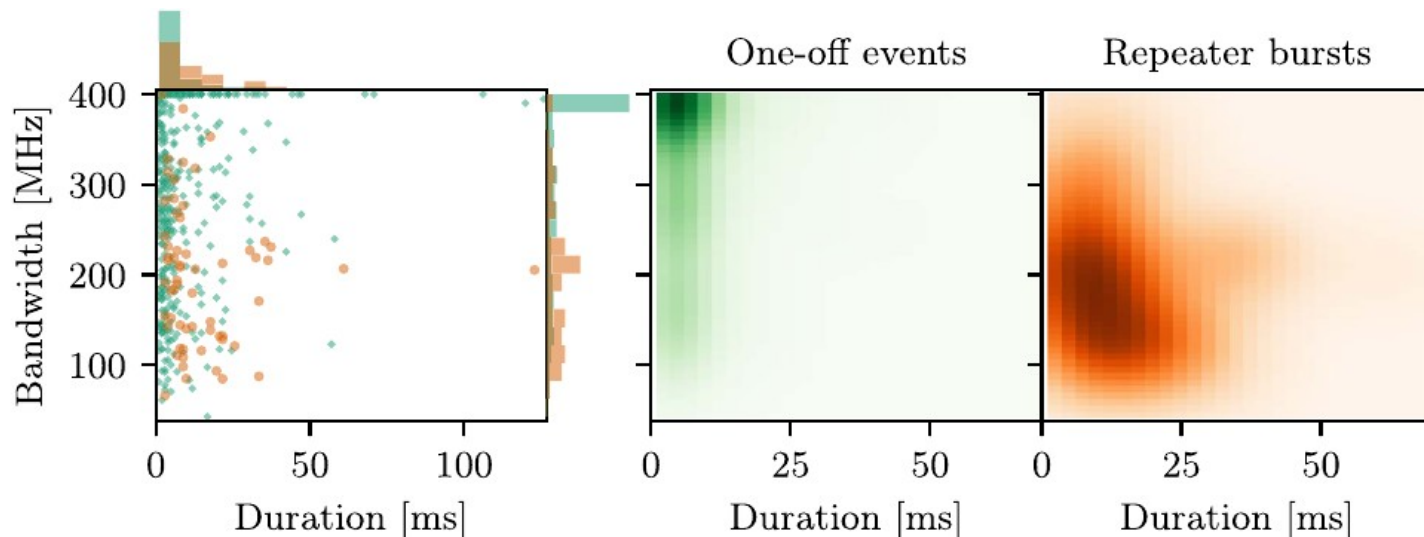
- Asteroids + Neutron star (NS)
- White dwarf – Neutron star (NS)
- Giant pulses (Young pulsars)
- Magnetar
  - Shock wave
  - Magnetospheric
- Pulsar – O/B star close binary (or combed NS)
- Flare stars
- Catastrophic events (mergers...)
- Plasma lensing
- Blitzars
- Cavitons (AGNs)
- (Even more) exotic :
  - Quark novae
  - Axion stars
  - Light sails (aliens)
  - ...

# Overview of the model maze

- **Asteroids + Neutron star (NS)**
- **White dwarf – Neutron star (NS)**
- **Giant pulses (Young pulsars)**
- **Magnetar**
  - Shock wave
  - Magnetospheric
- **Pulsar – O/B star close binary (or combed NS)**
- ~~Flare stars~~
- ~~Catastrophic events (mergers...)~~
- Plasma lensing
- Blitzars
- Cavities (AGNs)
- (Even more) exotic :
  - Quark novae
  - Axion stars
  - Light sails (aliens)
  - ...

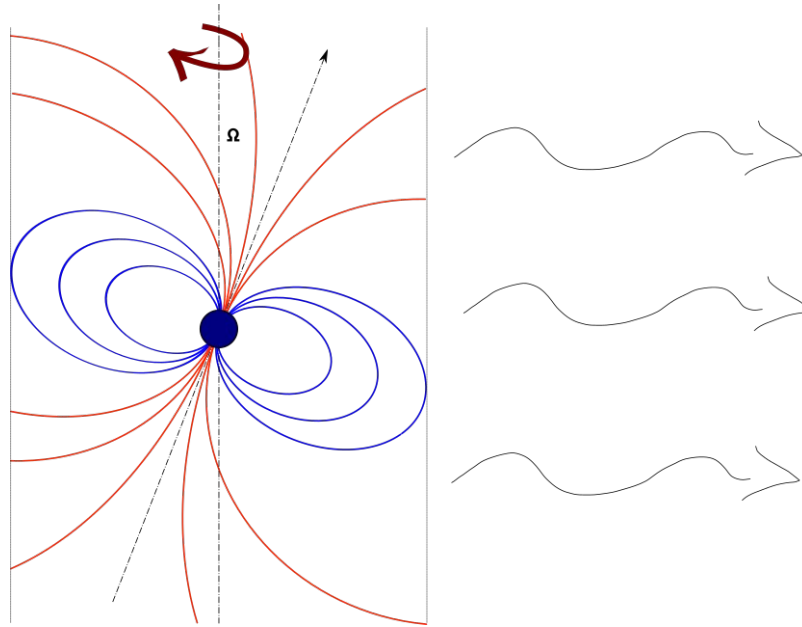
# State of the art of modelling (more or less)

- Statistical distributions: occurrence times, bandwidth/duration correlations...
- Physical constraints on observables are broadly averaged quantities: flux, duration, bandwidth, frequency drift...
- Burst morphology fitted with empirical functions (e.g. Gaussian).

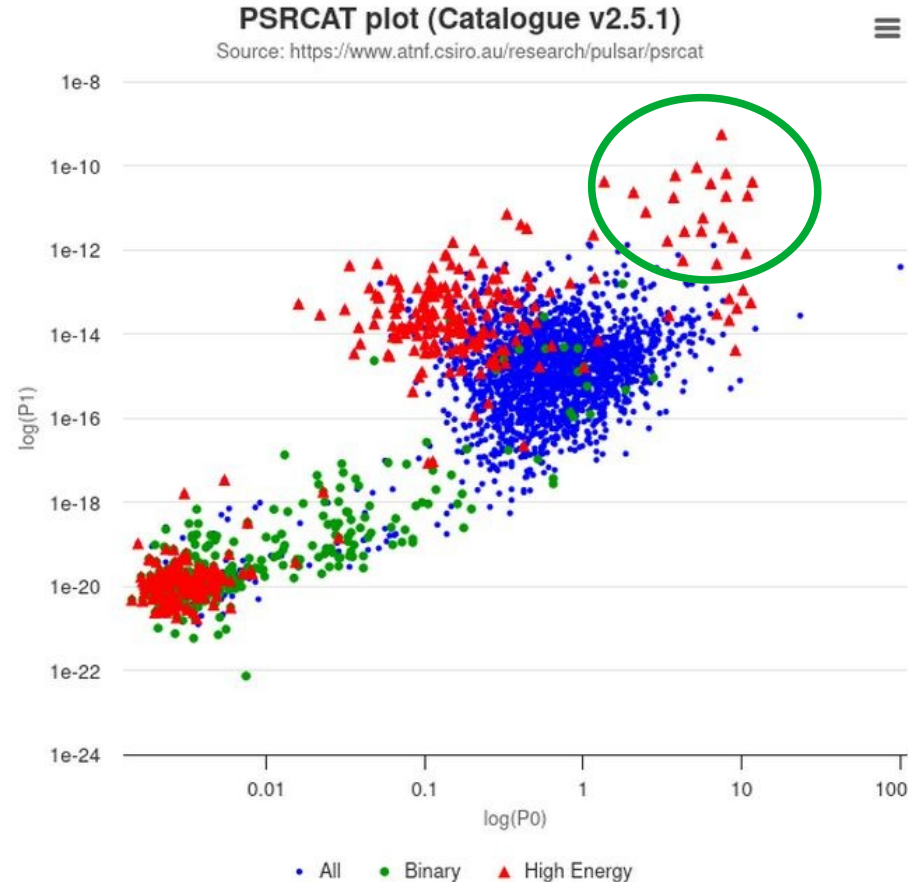




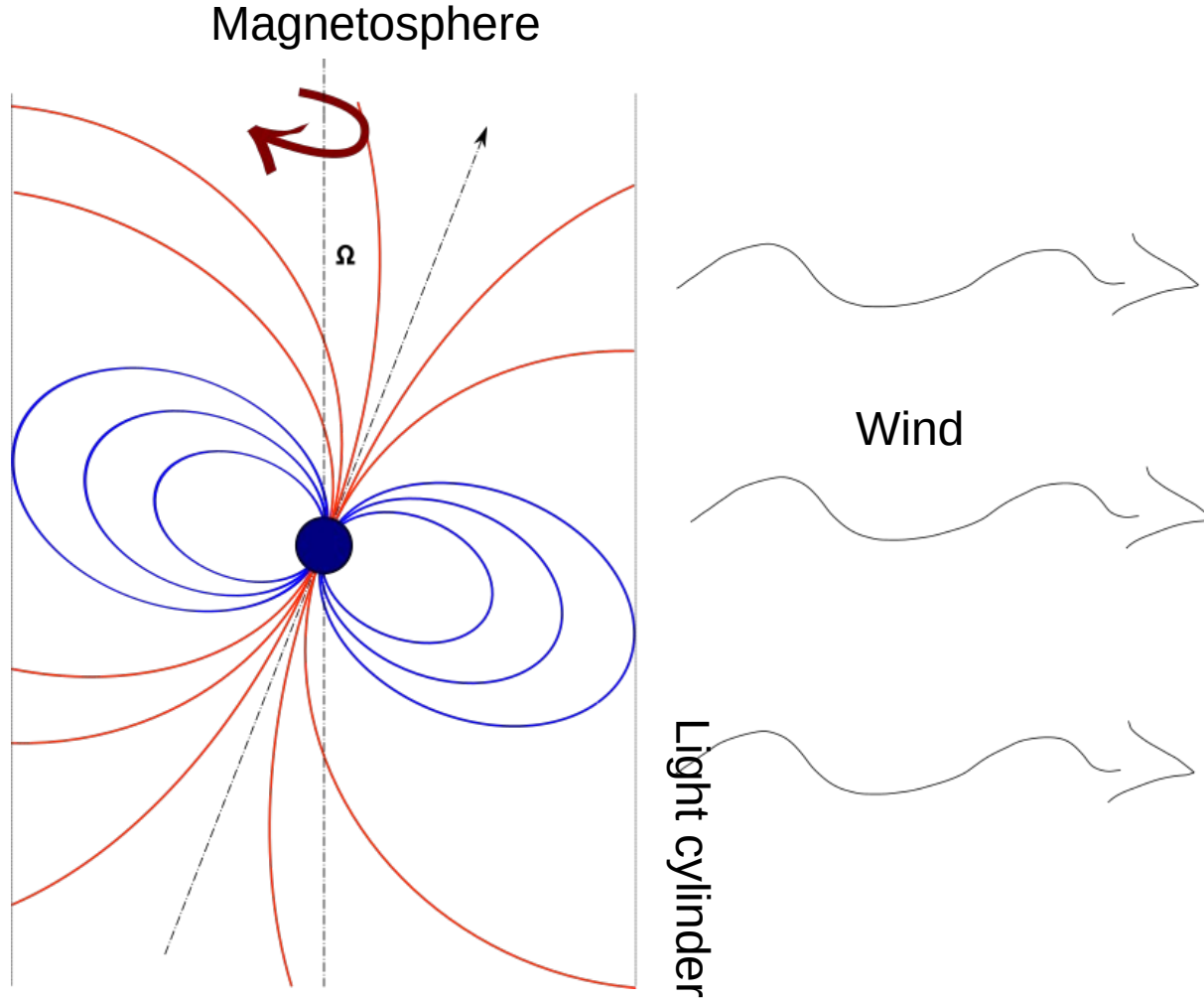
# Preliminary theoretical elements



# Magnetars : $P \sim 2 - 10$ s, large $\dot{P}$



# Neutron star magnetosphere/wind



## In magnetars:

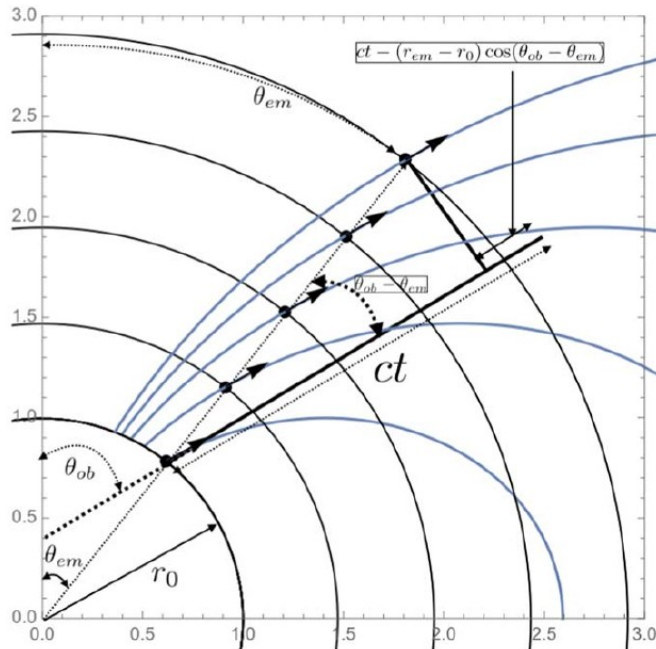
- “*Twisted magnetosphere*” : toroidal magnetic field
- Magnetic field :  $10^{12} - 10^{16}$  G
- *Star quakes* (responsible for magnetar flares)
- Magnetically-powered emission (vs rotation-powered for pulsars)
- Rotation period  $\sim$  few seconds for “normal” magnetars

# Radius-to-frequency mapping

- **Idea** : emission frequency  $\omega \propto 1/r^\alpha$

where  $r$  = distance from central engine

- Emitting plasma is propagating outwards
- Emission is relativistically beamed



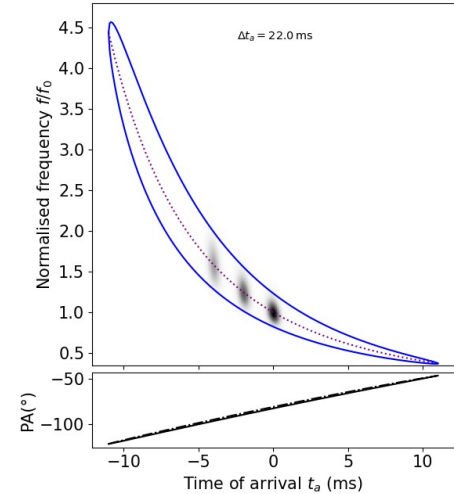
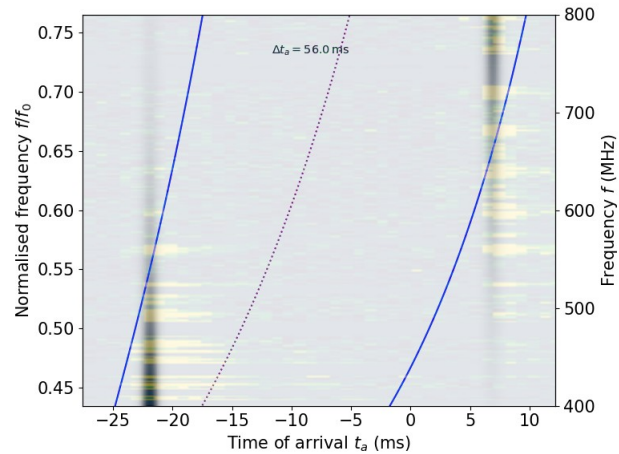
- **Emission mechanisms:**

- Synchrotron Maser :  $\omega_{\text{peak}} \propto B$
- Curvature radiation :  $\omega_c \propto 1/r_c$
- Plasma frequencies :  $\propto B^\beta$

- **Interesting result :**

- If NS magnetosphere rotating slow / burst duration then *linear frequency drift*

# A geometrical model of burst morphologies

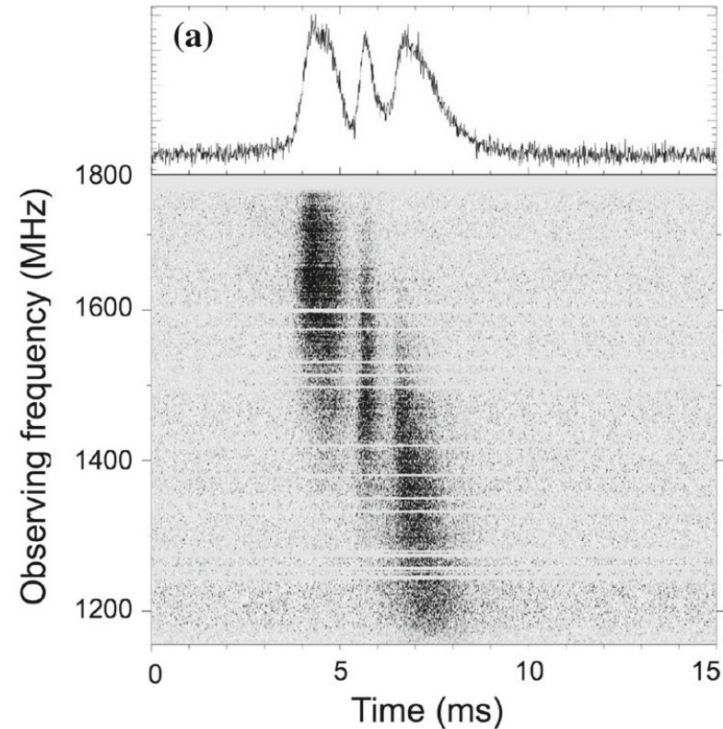


# Spoiler

Voisin24 ; Voisin in prep.

Burst morphology in the dynamic spectrum encodes quantities such as

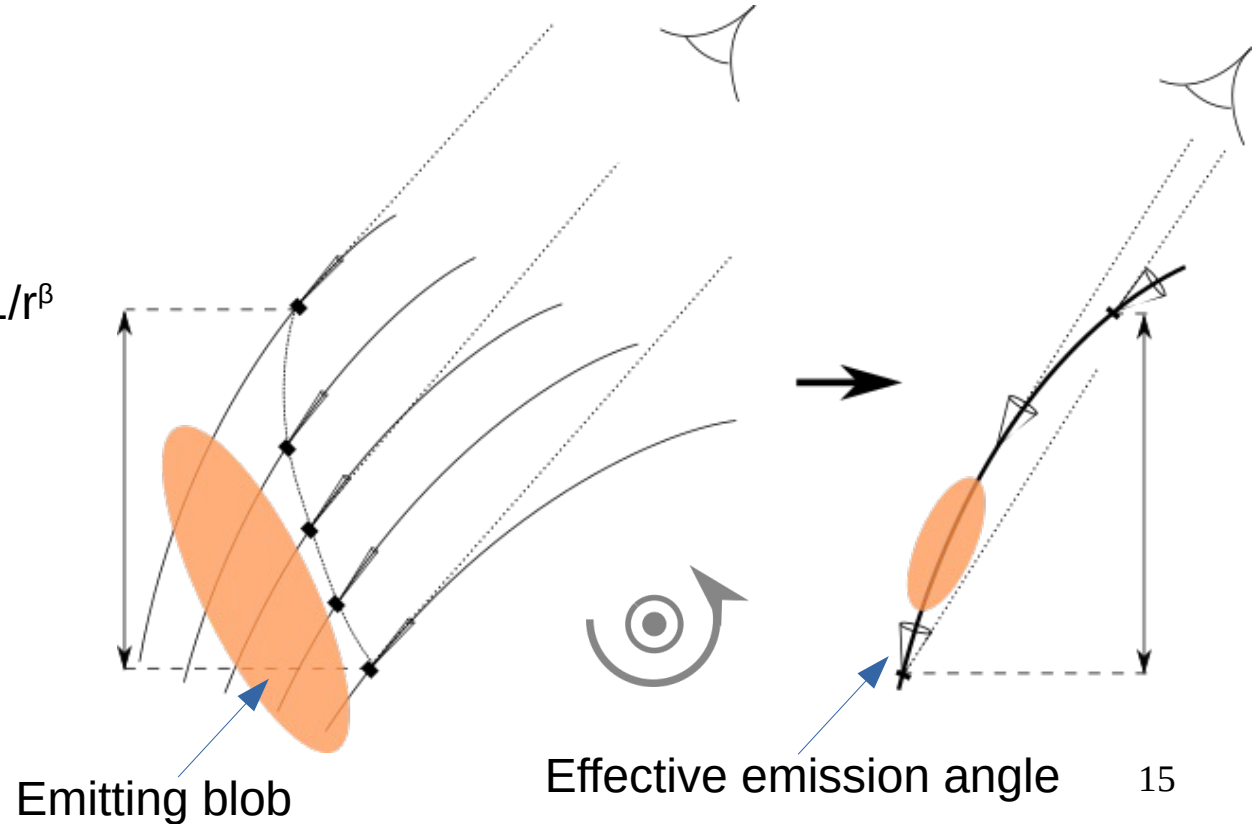
- Spin period
- Magnetic geometry



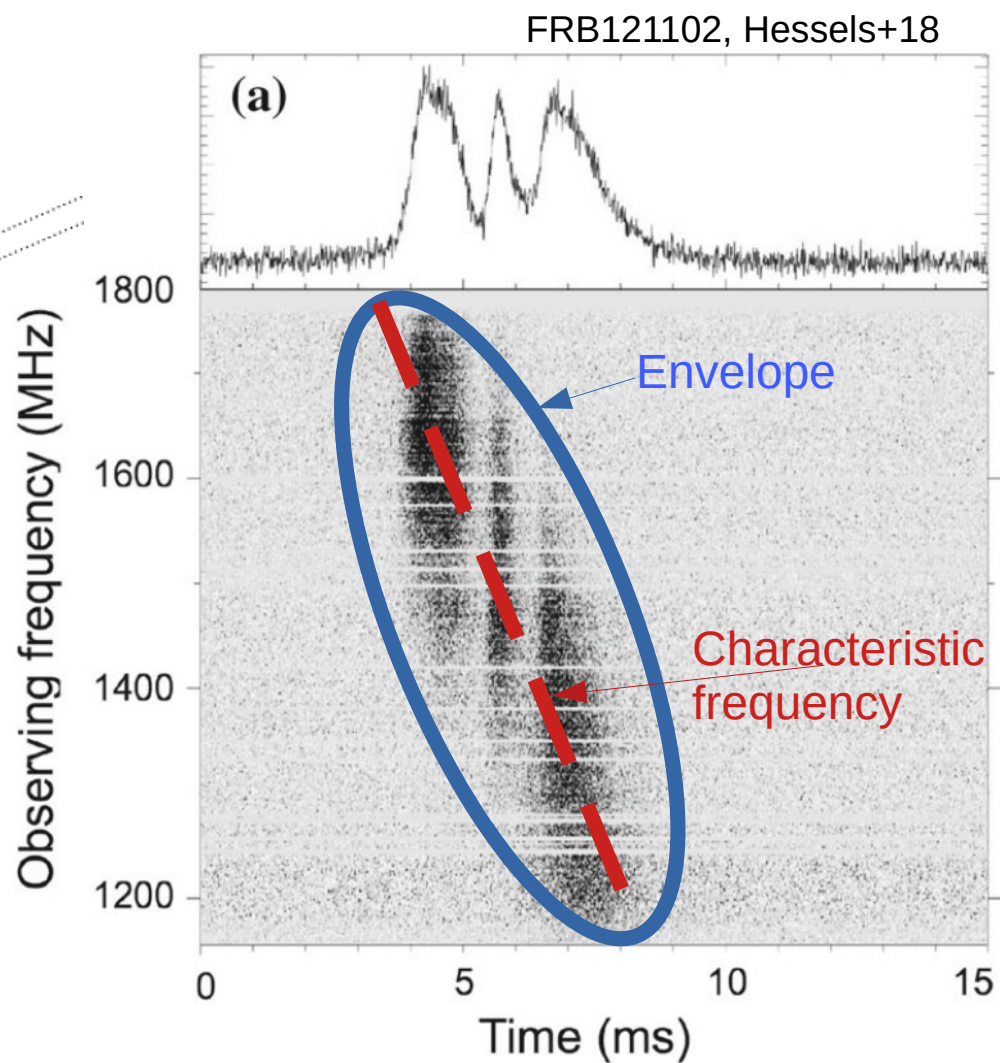
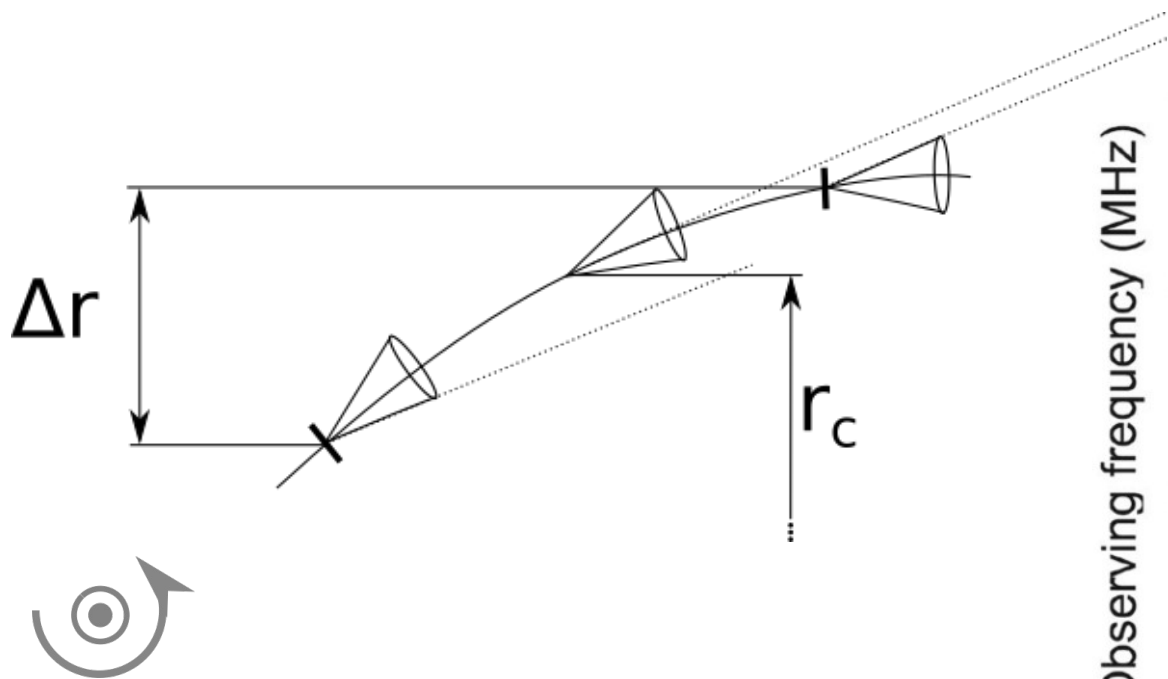
# Geometrical assumptions

Hypothesis :

- Emission region very localized in space & time
- Emitting plasma propagating at  $\sim c$
- Source in rotating frame
- Radius-to-frequency mapping :  $f \sim 1/r^\beta$
- Polarisation: Rotating vector model

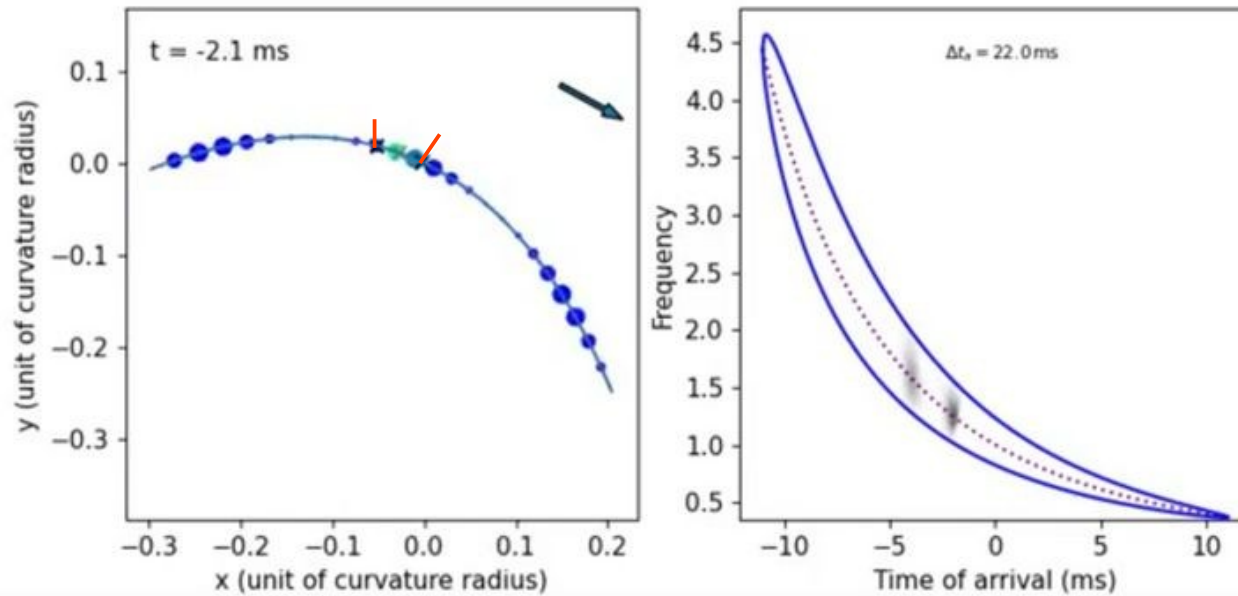


# Geometric envelope





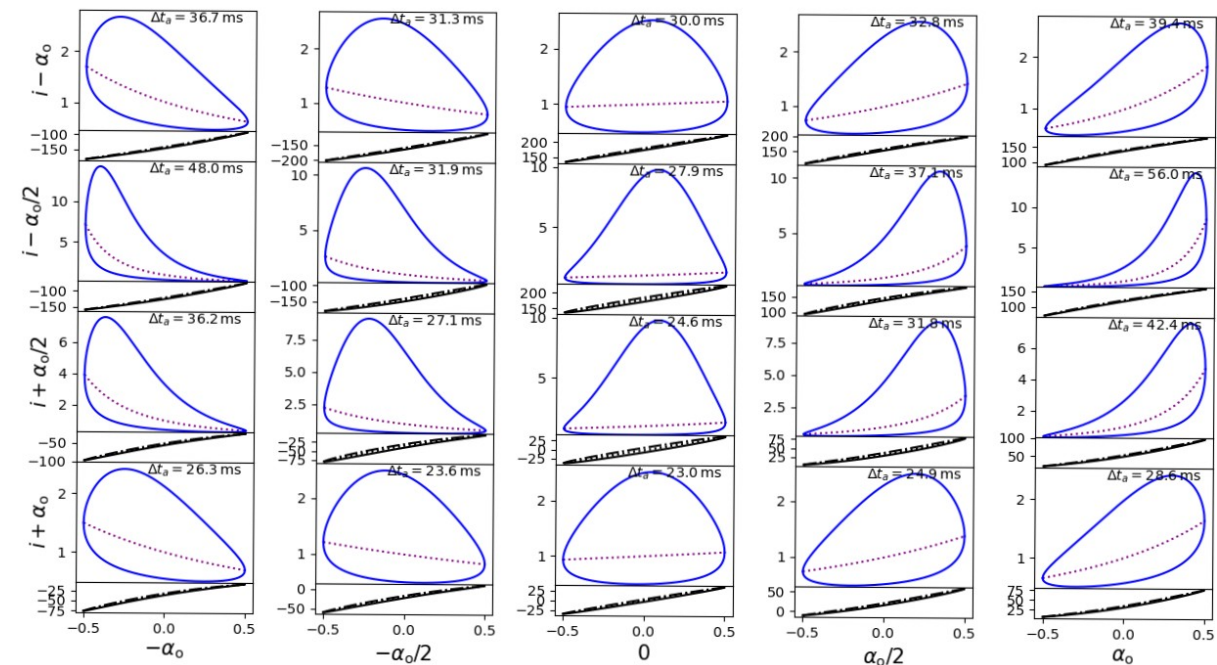
# Pseudo-Gaussian bursts



See animation on [Astrotube of Obs. Paris](#)

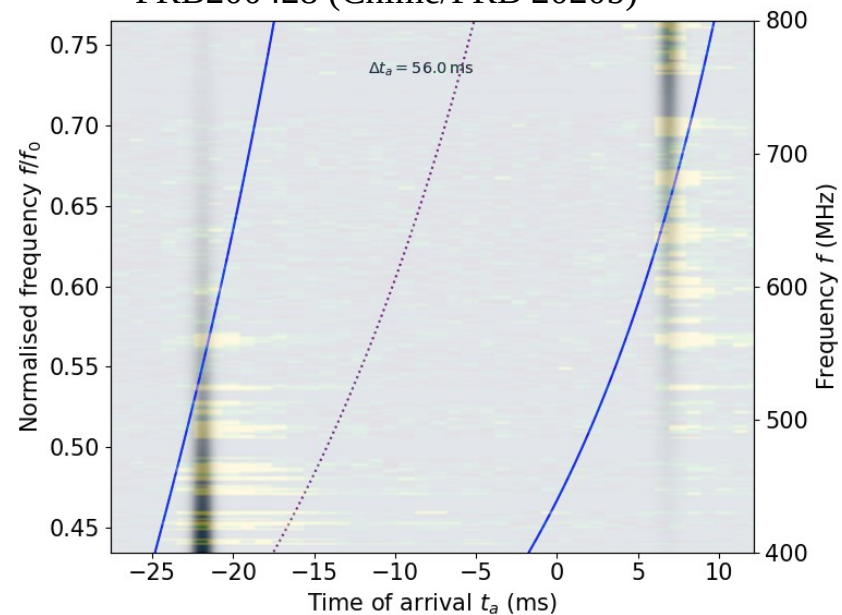
# Dipole magnetic field, $P_{\text{spin}}=3.2\text{sec}$

Voisin, A&A 2023



Envelopes in the polar cap region at  $r = 100R_*$ , Voisin2023

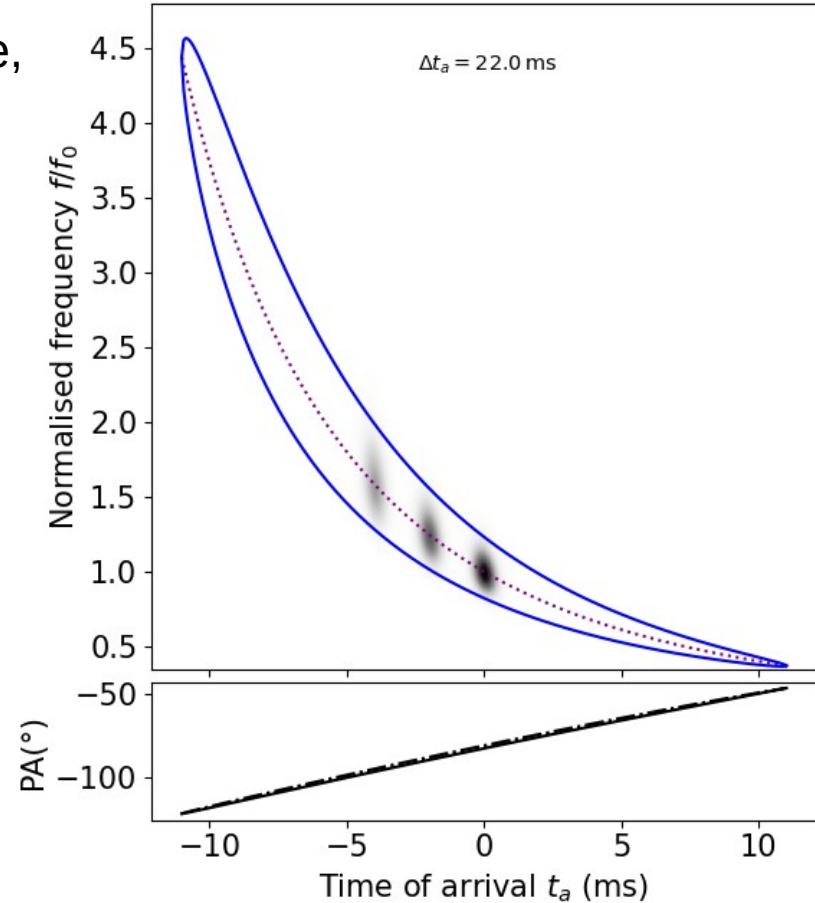
Modelled envelope+bursts overlaid with FRB200428 (Chime/FRB 2020b)



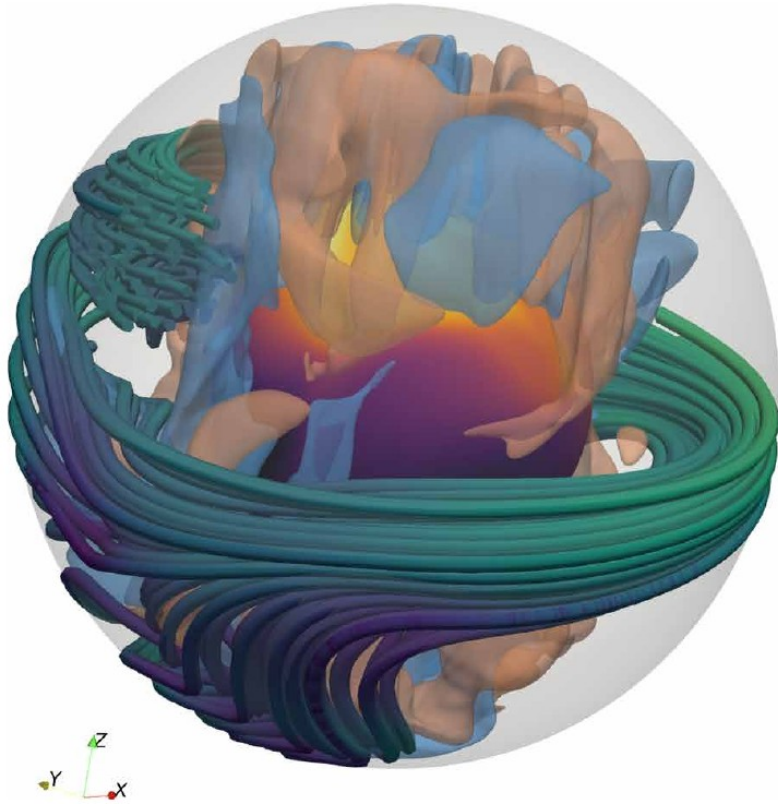
# Dipole+toroidal magnetic field : $P_* = 250\text{ms}$

Voisin, A&A 2023

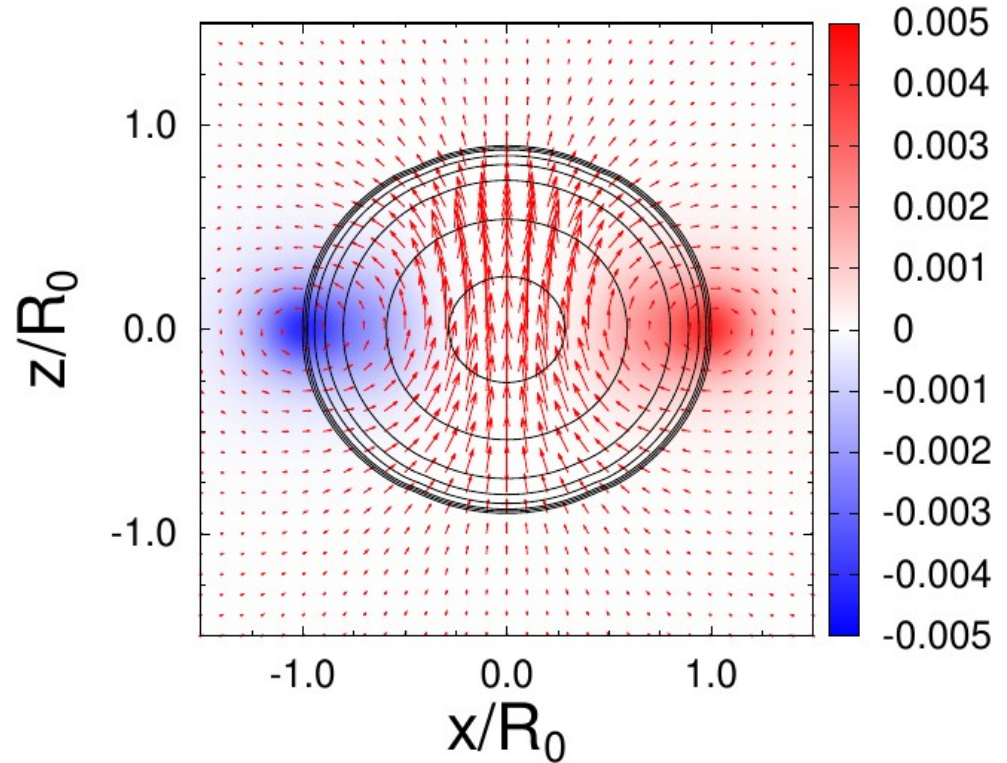
- Three bursts in envelope with  $B_{\text{toro}} = 0.5 B_{\text{dipole}}$ , (Voisin2023)
- Relative frequency drift:  $\dot{f}/f \sim 110\text{s}^{-1}$
- **Toroidal component generically produces:**
  - **Downward drifting sub-pulses**
  - **Narrow-band emission**



# Toroidal field in young magnetars



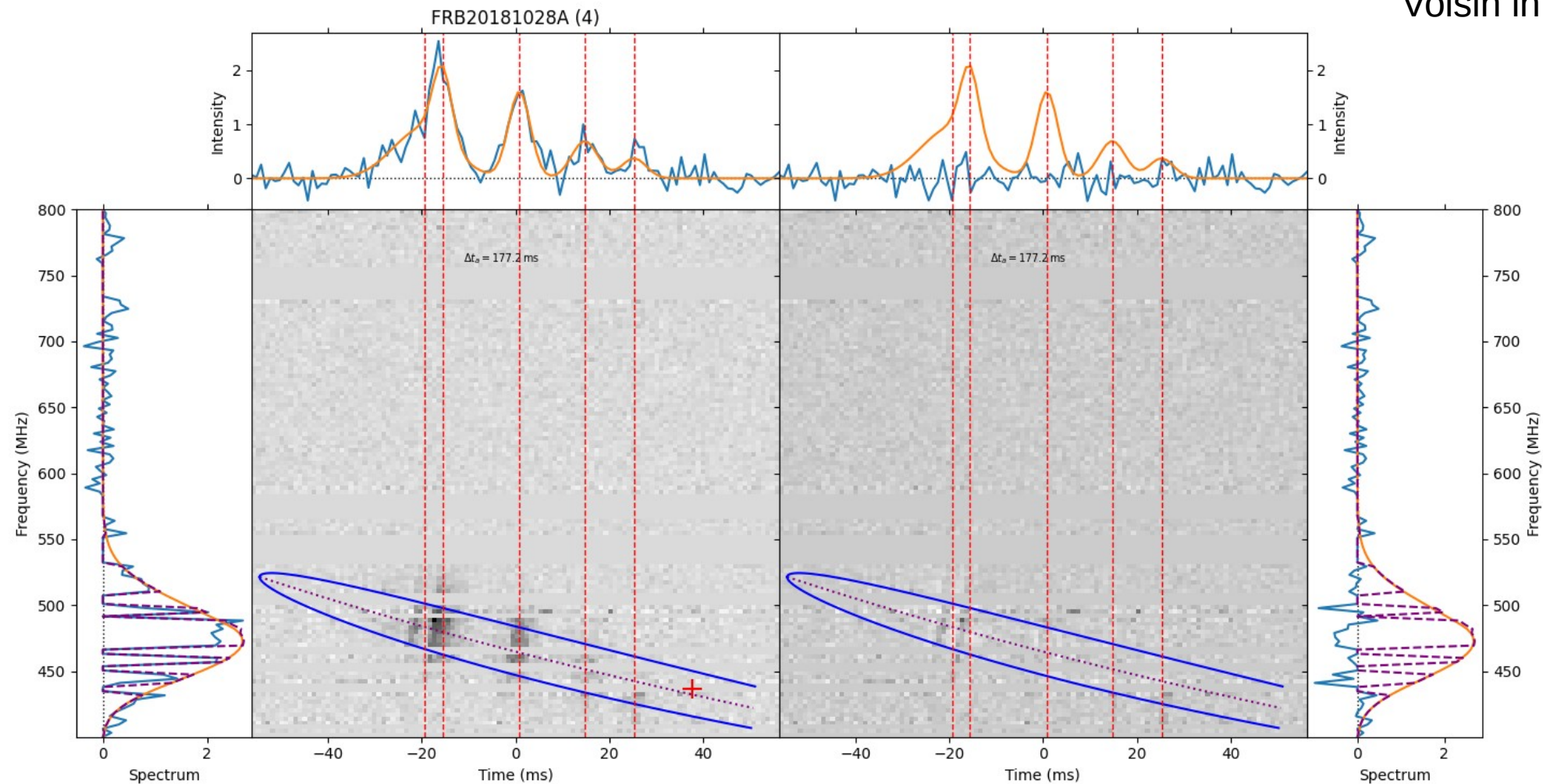
Raynaud+2020 : toroidal B field  $\sim 200\times$  dipole inside the star



Uryū+2023 : toroidal B field  $\sim 4\times$  dipole outside the star (at the surface)

# Application to CHIME/FRB data

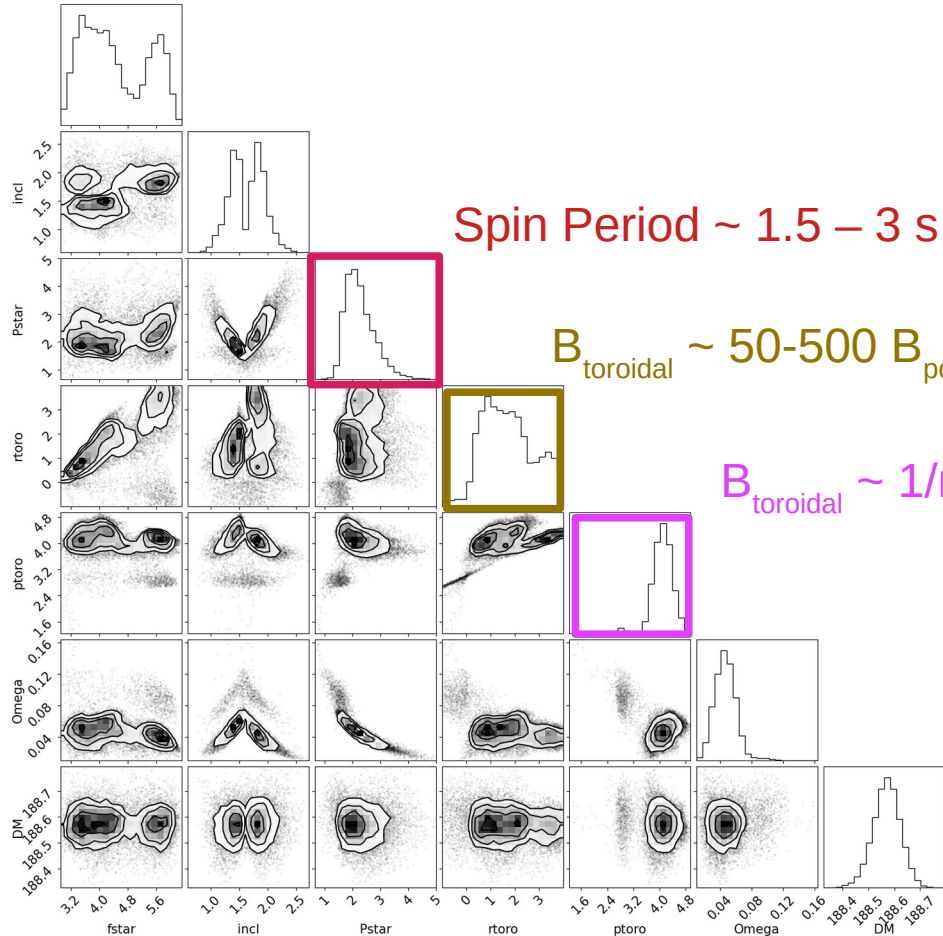
Voisin in prep.



# FRB20180814A: moderately fast magnetar with strong toroidal magnetic field

Voisin in prep.

- Repeater FRB20180814A
- Assuming :
  - « Curvature radiation » :  $f \sim 1/r$
  - Axi-symmetric magnetic field



Spin Period  $\sim 1.5 - 3$  s

$B_{\text{toroidal}} \sim 50-500 B_{\text{poloidal}}$  @ surface

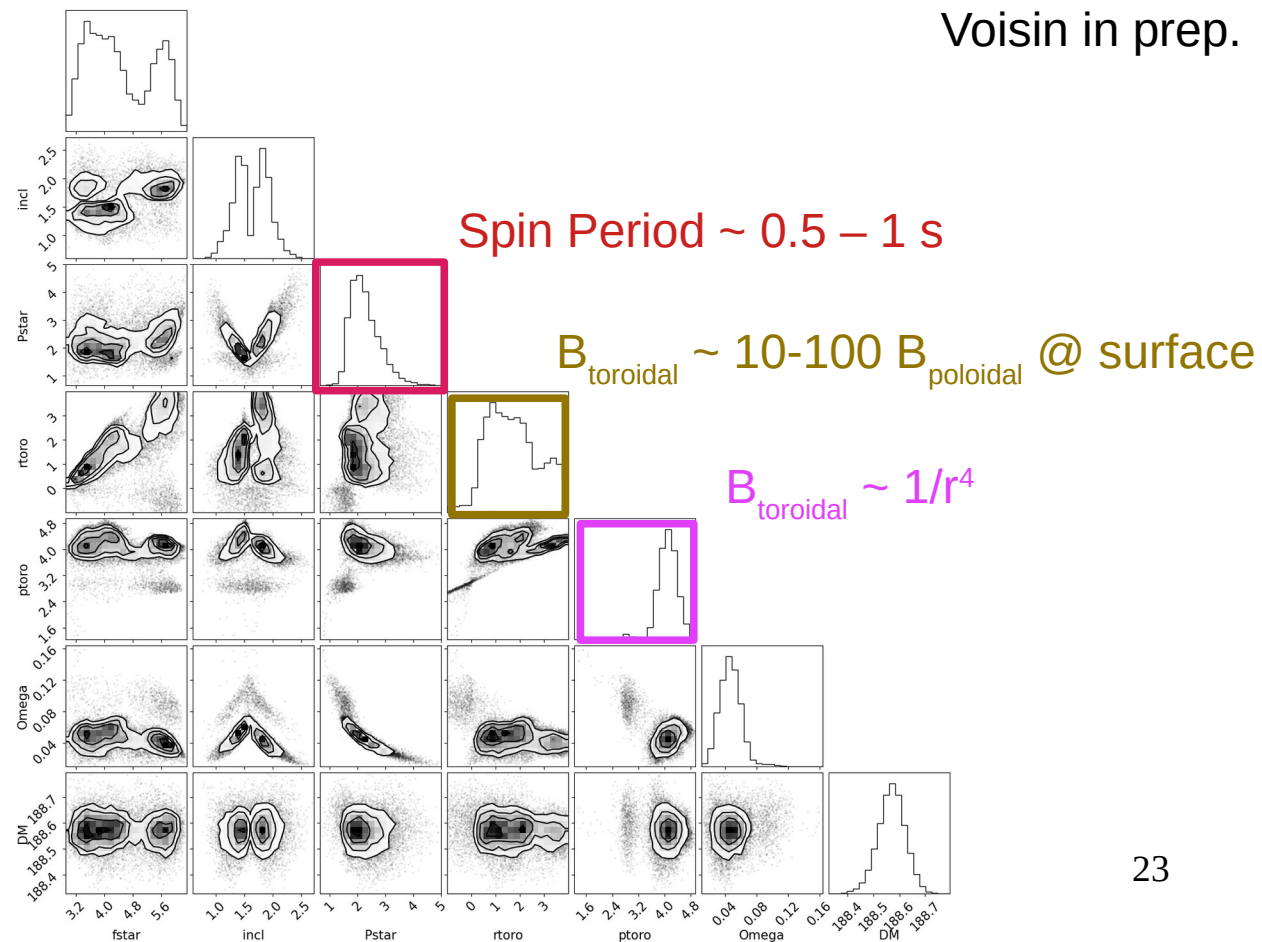
$B_{\text{toroidal}} \sim 1/r^4$

# FRB20180916B : ~~Moderately~~ fast magnetar with less strong toroidal magnetic field

Voisin in prep.

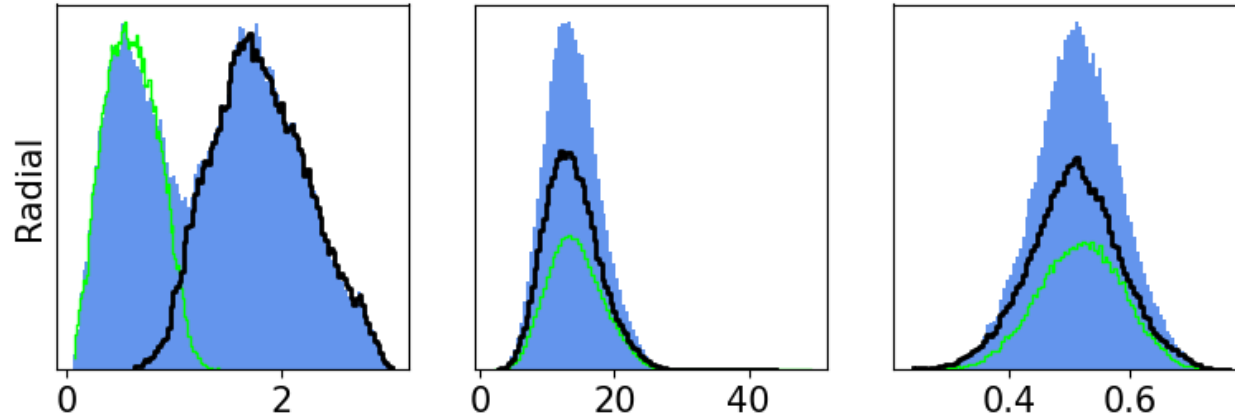
Assuming :

- « Curvature radiation » :  $f \sim 1/r$
- Axi-symmetric magnetic field

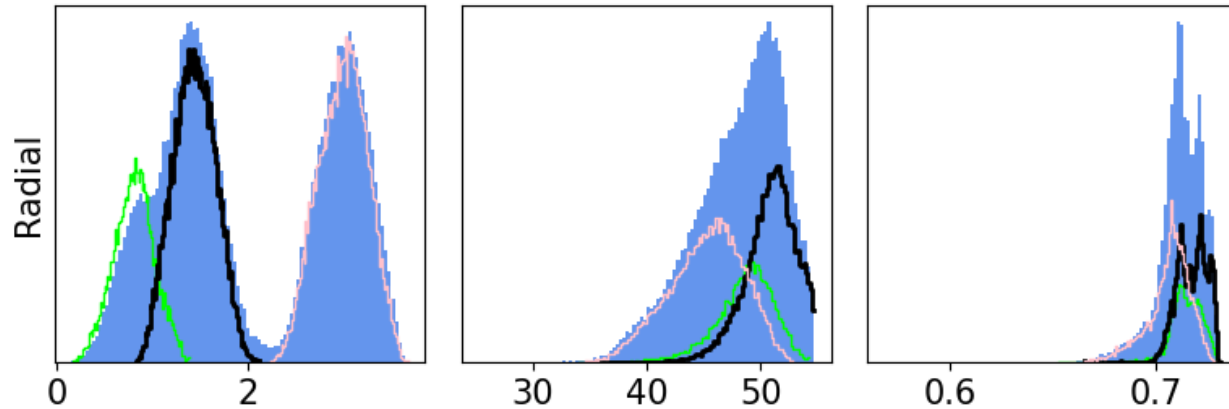


# Positions in the magnetosphere

FRB 20180916B



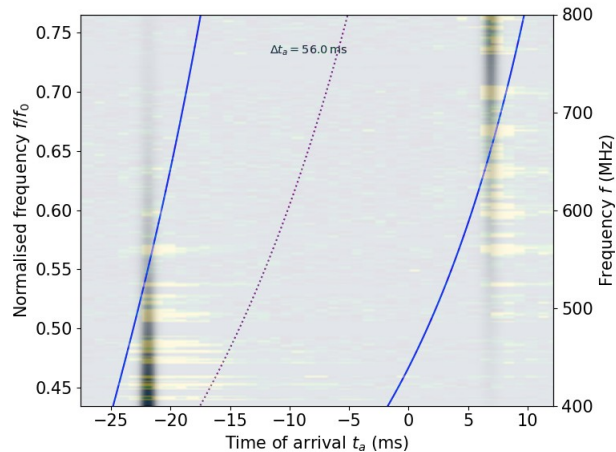
FRB 20180814A





# The Message and a « nice story »

- Burst morphology may encode important parameters such as :
  - Spin period
  - Magnetic geometry
- The nice story :
  - Repeaters ~ high toroidal-field magnetars ~ very active ~ « young »
  - One-off ~ lower toroidal field (dissipated?) ~ less active ~ « older »



Voisin, A&A 2023

