VAST: An ASKAP Survey for Variables and Slow Transients

ASKAP: The Australian SKA Pathfinder

- Murchison shire: 16,000 sq miles; very radio quiet site in W. Australia.
- 36 dishes, 12-m each.
- 2 km core, 6 km baselines; ~20" beam.
- Operates over 0.9-1.8 GHz.
- Focal plane arrays: wide (30 sq deg) FoV.
- BETA subarray ops start in 2014.

The VAST Survey

- One of 10 SSPs, now in Design Study.
- Planned surveys:
  All Sky; Targeted fields; All-commensal.
  Triggered Modes TBD.
- ASKAP is optimized for survey speed: VAST will far exceed existing surveys on that metric.

See: Murphy, Chatterjee, Kaplan, et al. 2013; arXiv:1207.1528