

Fast Radio Bursts (No 2417)

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Fast Radio Bursts are one of the most enigmatic astrophysical objects discovered in recent times. They are characterised by intense bursts of radio emission that last just a few milliseconds and that have been detected out to cosmological distances. In recent years we have seen great progress on two fronts in terms of our understanding of FRBs as a populatio. A dramatic increase in the number of known sources has allowed us to identify that there are potentially two classes of FRBs, repeaters and non-repeaters. The localisation of repeaters and non-repeaters to their host galaxies provides vital clues to their formation. Most recently the association with a Magnetar in our own galaxy has provided new evidence for their origin. I will discuss the most recent results from the global effort to understand FRBs as well as the rise in instruments designed to detect and localise them. I'll also look to the future, including the Square Kilometre Array and touch upon my own project, MeerTRAP using the SKA precursor MeerKAT.