

49th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
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SEARCHING FOR, AND LOCALISING, FAST RADIO BURSTS

Abstract

Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs), first discovered in 2007, are very luminous, millisecond-wide flashes in the radio. Some FRBs appear to repeat while others have not been seen more than once even after hundreds of hours of followup. The progenitors of FRBs remain a mystery, with theories including merging of compact objects, neutron star flares, or extragalactic civilisations powering light sails. Real-time FRB searching and discovery has not only allowed localising FRBs to their host galaxies, but to regions tens of light years around their sources. Here we present an overview about the FRB field, including its history and new opportunities in the future. We will also present the ongoing effort to discover and localise FRBs using world class radio telescopes, in particular the Allen Telescope Array.