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The Discovery of Fast Radio Bursts

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In this talk I will discuss the discovery of the Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs), short, millisecond-duration bursts of radio emission bright enough to be seen at cosmological distances. The discovery of FRBs was serendipitous, but not unlike the discovery of pulsars some 40 years prior. It took many years for FRBs to be accepted as true celestial objects but today they are valuable cosmological probes, with a sub-class exhibiting repeat bursts and at least one known source linked to a galactic magnetar.

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