

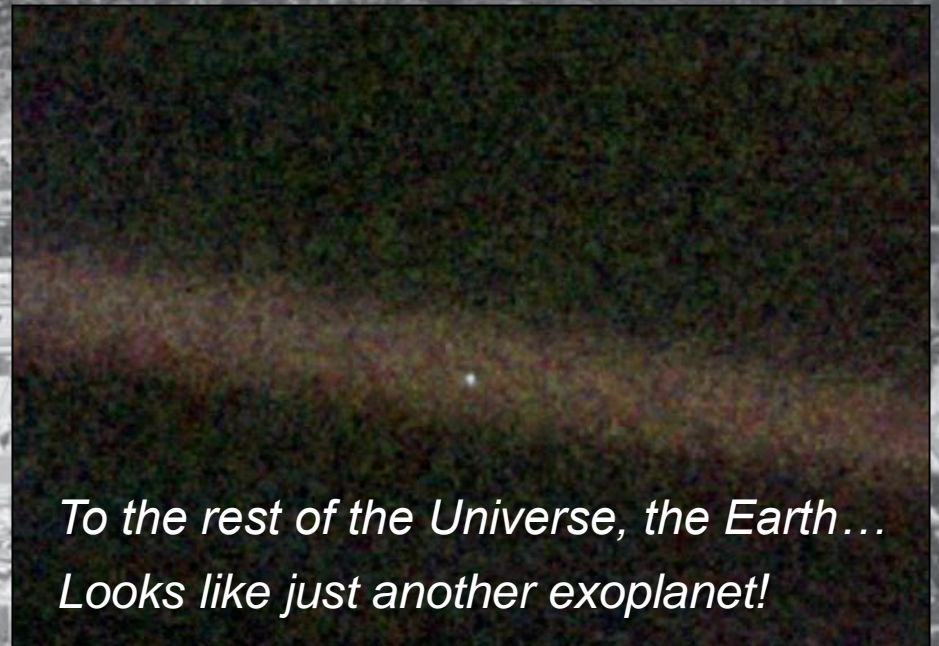
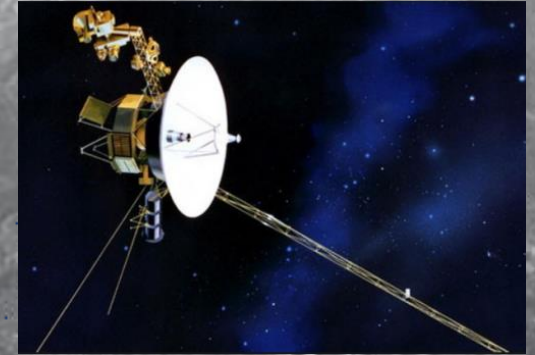
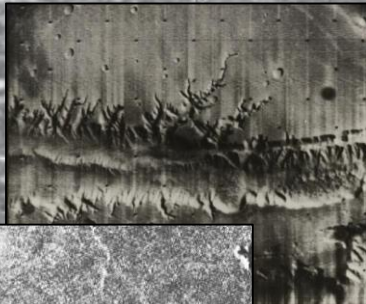
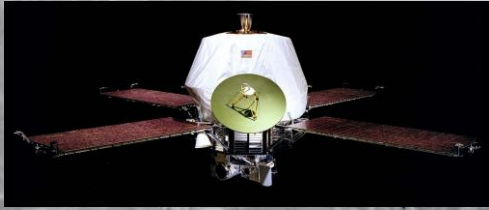
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

The NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program: The Search for Exoplanets, Habitability, and Life in our Galaxy

Gary H. Blackwood
Manager, NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program
February 18, 2015

ATLAST Seminar Series
Goddard Space Flight Center

NASA began the exploration of other worlds around our Sun...

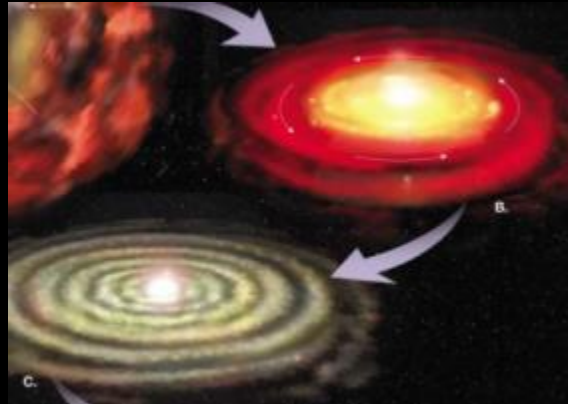


Why Astrophysics?

Astrophysics is humankind's scientific endeavor to understand the universe and our place in it.



1. How did our universe begin and evolve?




2. How did galaxies, stars, and planets come to be?



3. Are We Alone?

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Our galaxy is teeming with exoplanets...

....At least one for every star in the sky

Yet our eyes can see only a few thousand stars....

....of the hundreds of billions within our galaxy alone

Exoplanets for \$1000, please!

May 2014



THE FIRST EARTH-SIZE
EXOPLANETS WERE
FOUND BY THE NASA
SATELLITE LAUNCHED
IN 2009 & NAMED FOR
THIS 17th C. GERMAN
ASTRONOMER

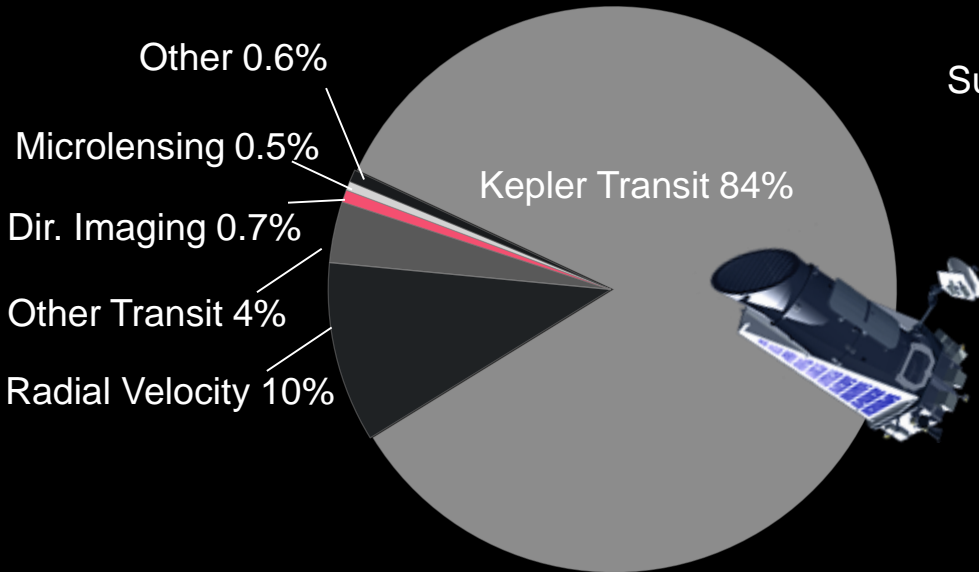
And the Question is: Who is Johannes Kepler?



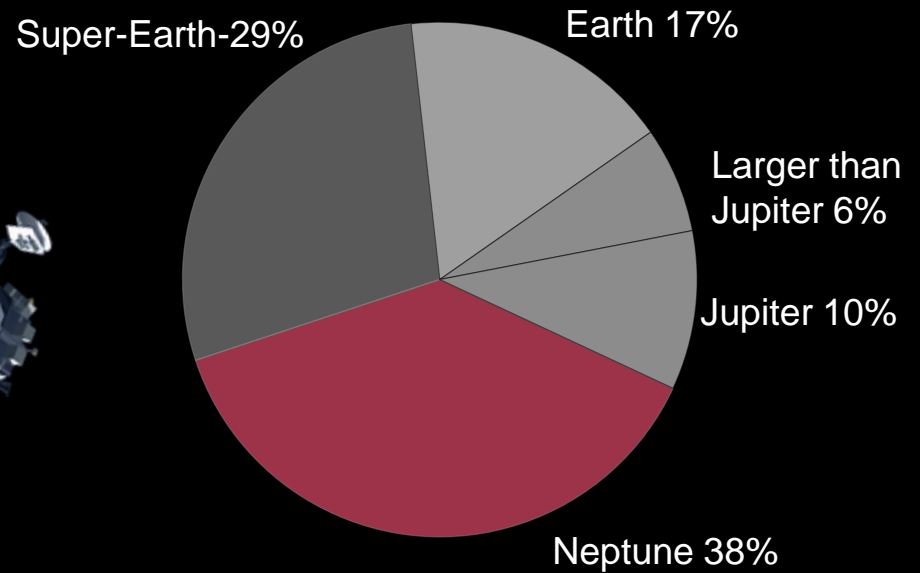
Even with the Kepler Mission,
we have explored only a tiny corner of our galaxy

Thousands of Exoplanets have been discovered. . .

Discovery Method



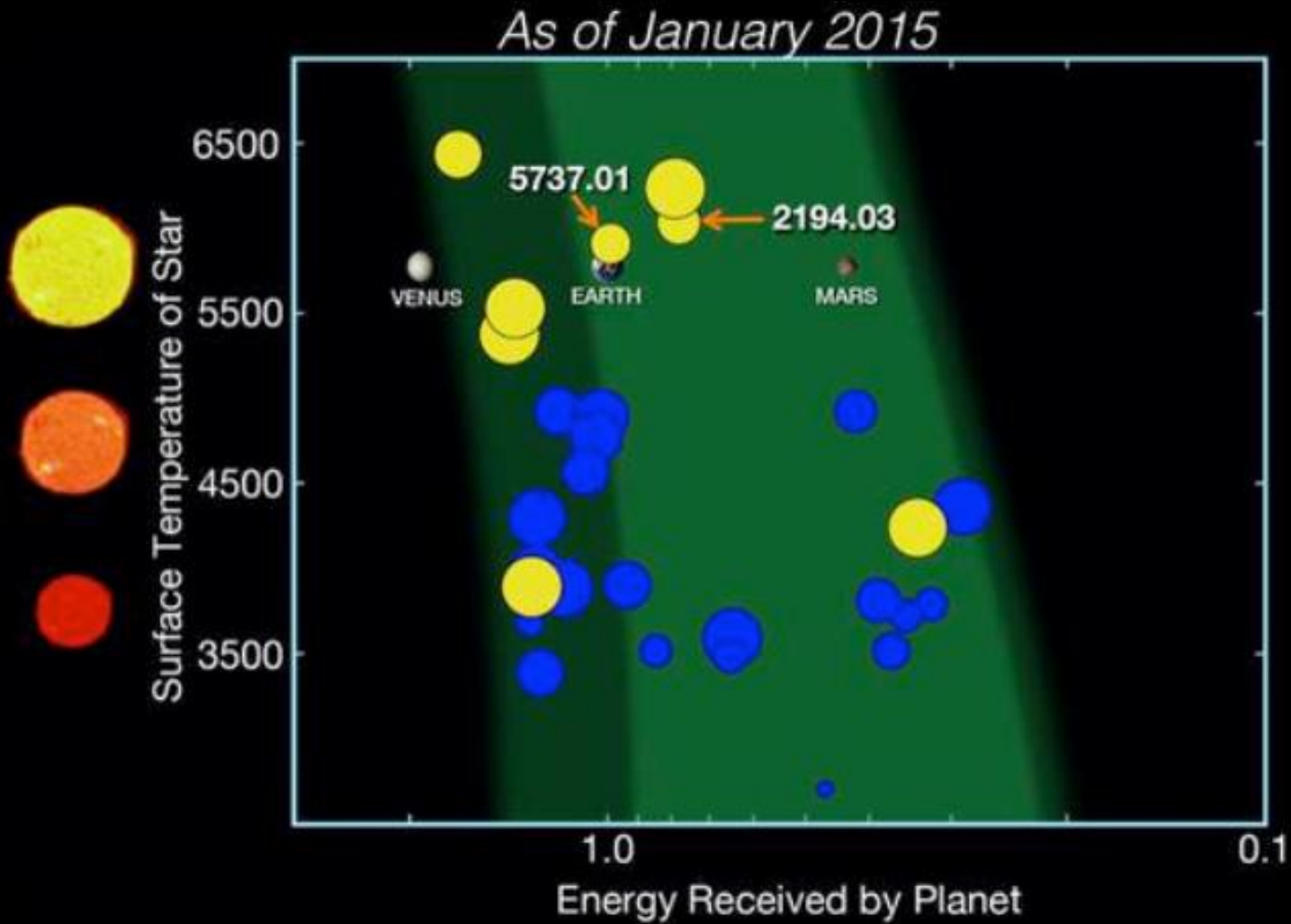
Exoplanets by Size



Total Exoplanets: 5013
(candidate and confirmed)

Ref.: http://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/counts_detail.html - Updated 4 November 2014

...and we are particularly interested in those in the *Habitable Zone*

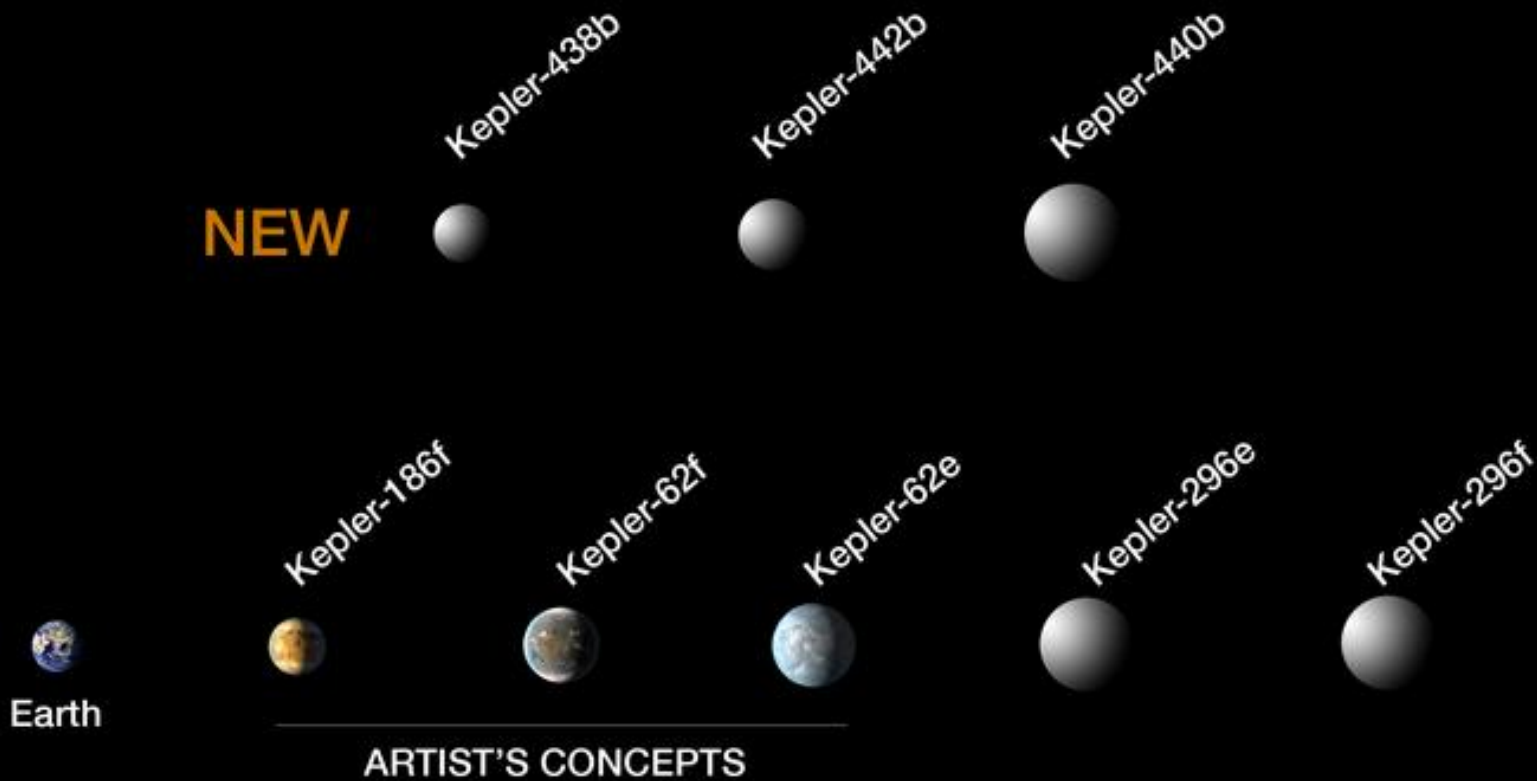


Batalha 2015

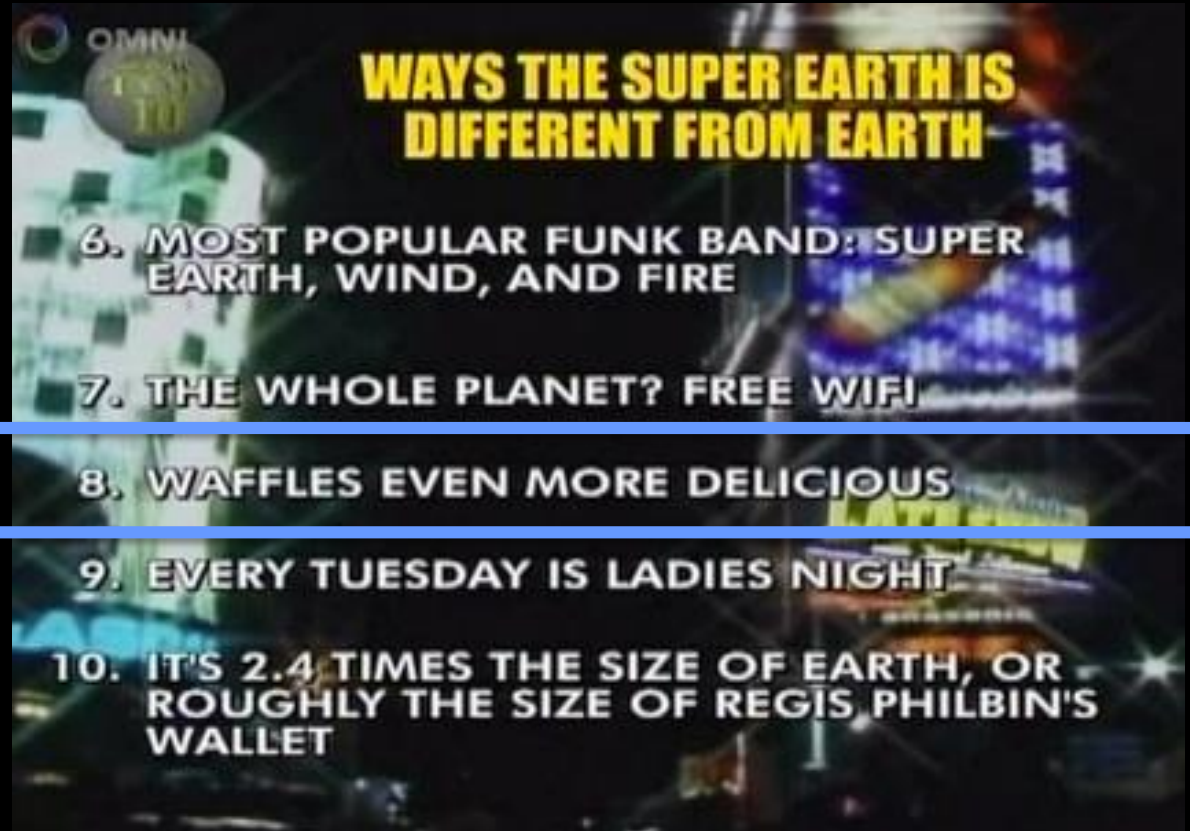
NASA Kepler's Hall of Fame:

Small Habitable Zone Planets

As of January 2015



We've discovered an abundance of Super Earths...



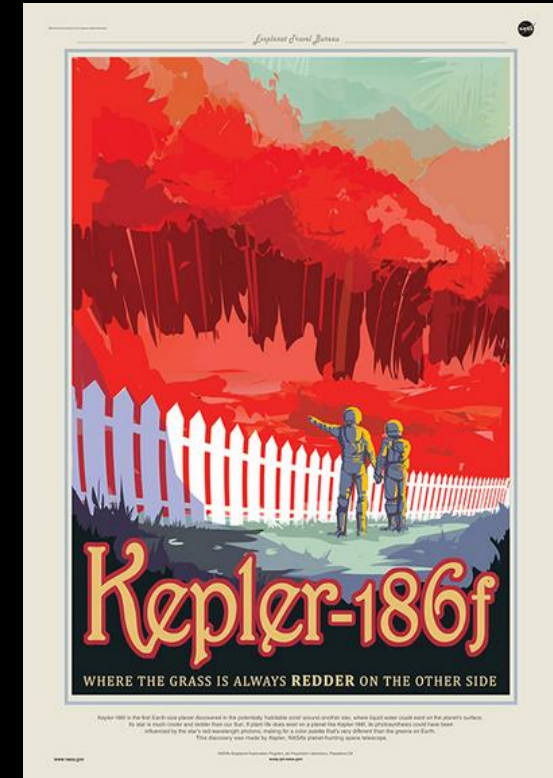
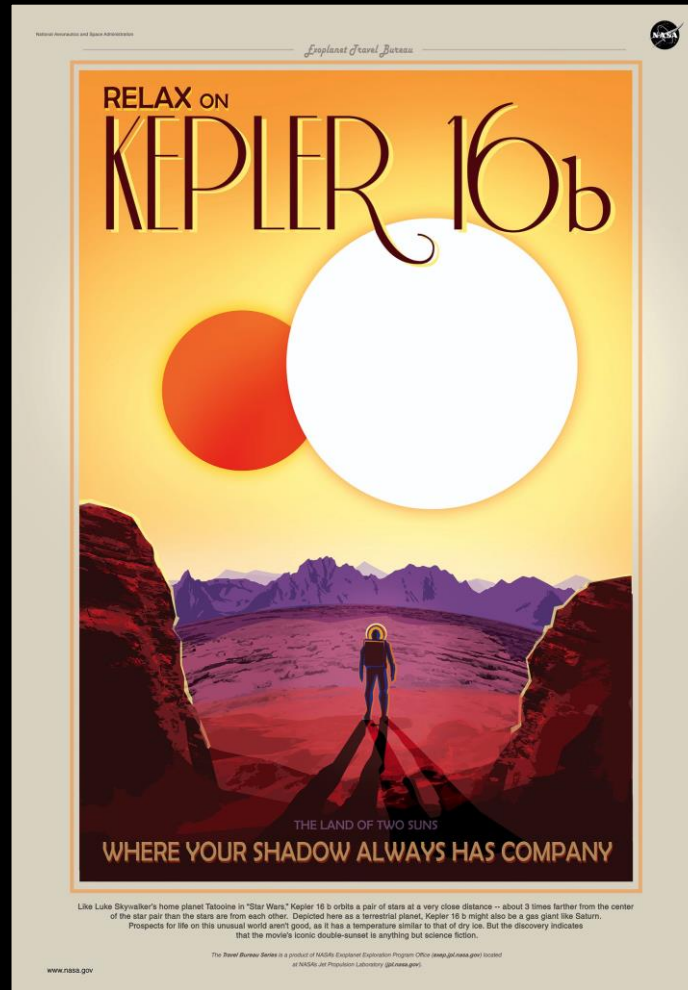
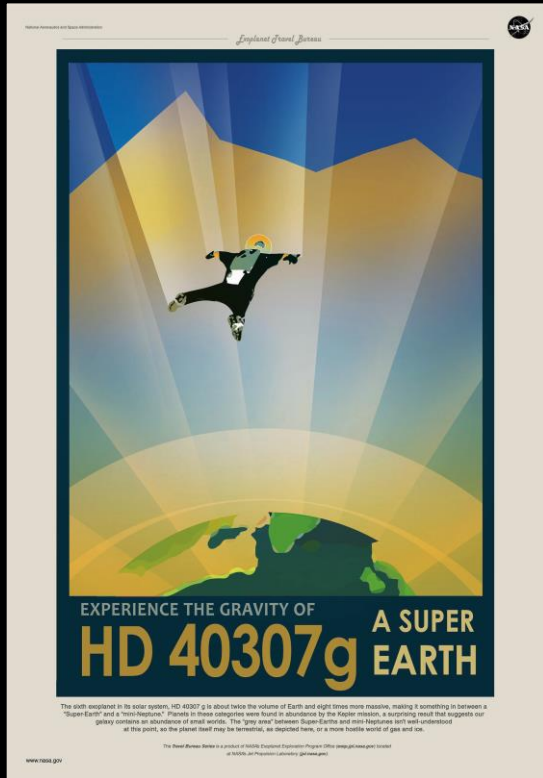
...and *Rogue planets* not bound to any star at all!



LOST
IN
SPACE



Where will exploration take us in 100 years? Introducing the *Exoplanet Travel Bureau*

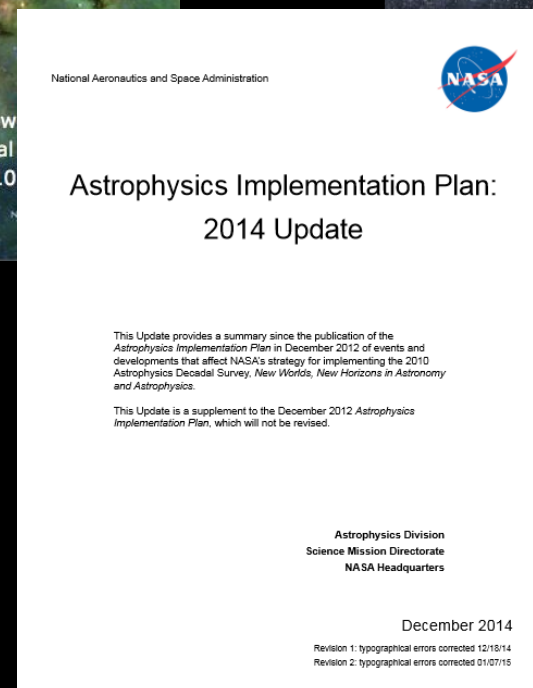
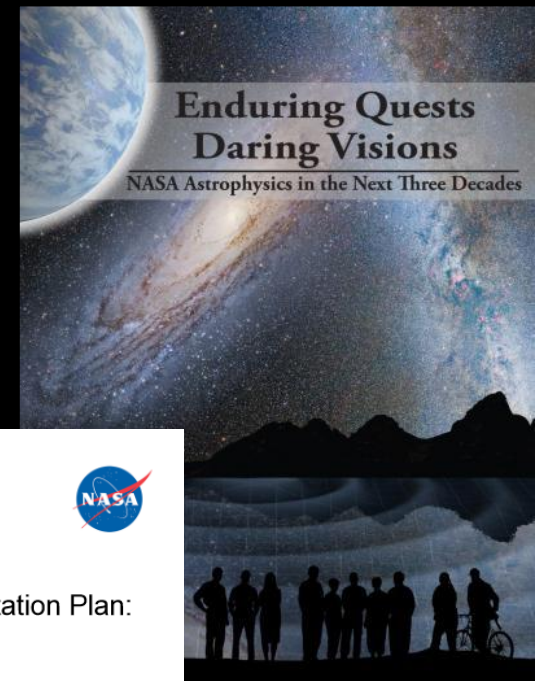
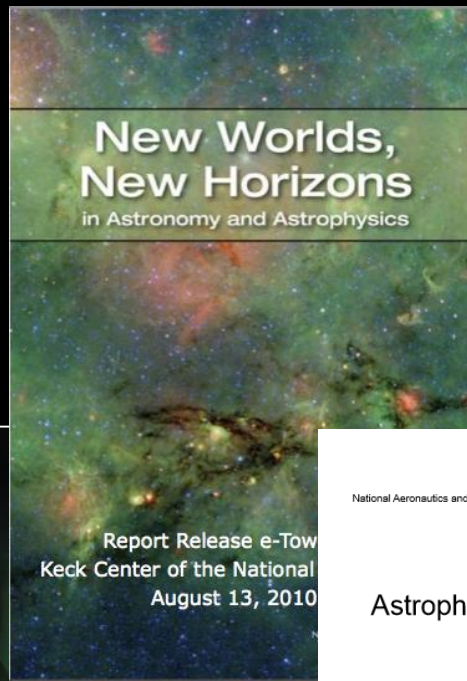
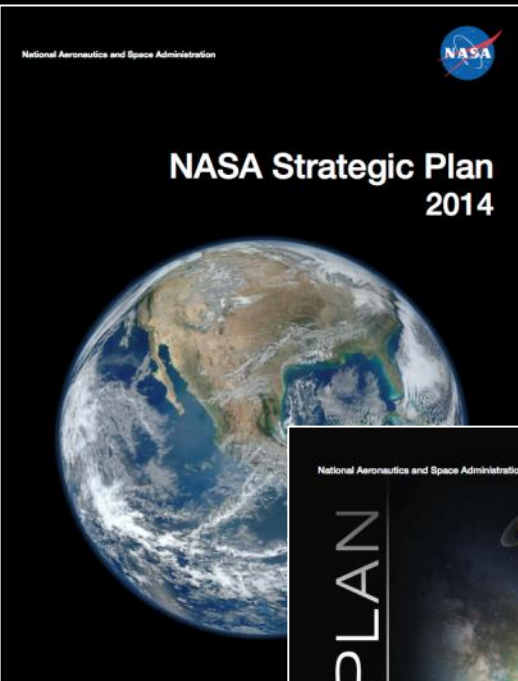


Let's call the *Exoplanet Travel Bureau*,
and book a trip...

Let's visit *Kepler-186f* !

The Exoplanet Exploration Program

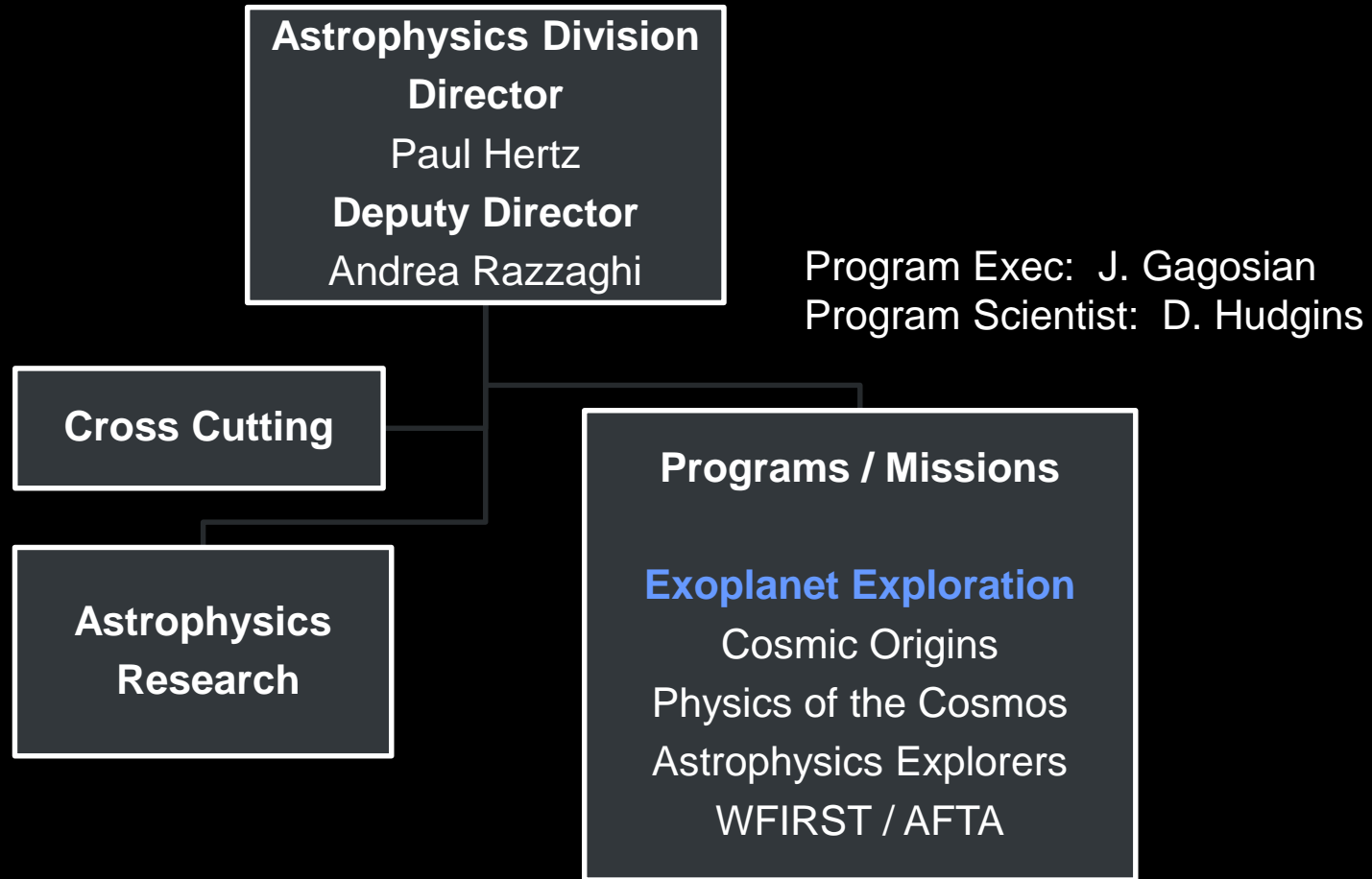
Astrophysics Division: Driving Documents



<http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/documents>

Here's how we are Organized

Within the NASA Science Mission Directorate



The Exoplanet Program Office is managed by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory for the Astrophysics Division, NASA Science Mission Directorate

What is the Purpose of the Program?

Described in 2014 NASA Science Plan



Exoplanet Exploration Program

The Exoplanet Exploration Program aims at

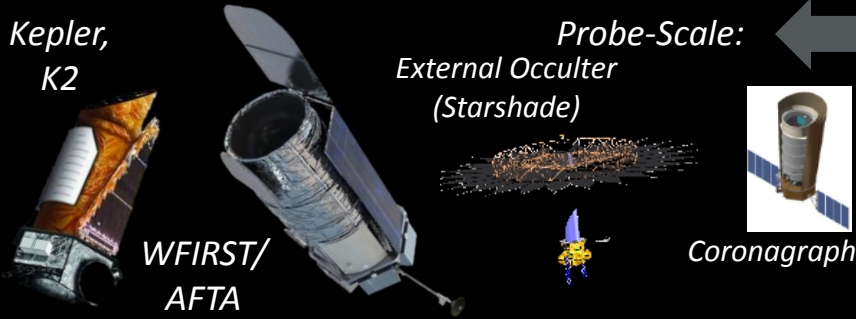
1. Discovering planets around other stars
2. Characterizing their properties
3. Identifying candidates that could harbor life

Interdisciplinary Studies of **Exoplanets:**

Crosscutting Work Between the Astrophysics
and Planetary Science Divisions

The Exoplanet Exploration Program

Space Missions and Mission Studies



Public Engagement



Supporting Research & Technology

Key Sustaining Research



Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer

Keck Single Aperture Imaging and RV



Extreme Precision Doppler Spectrometer

Technology Development



Coronagraph Masks



High Contrast Imaging

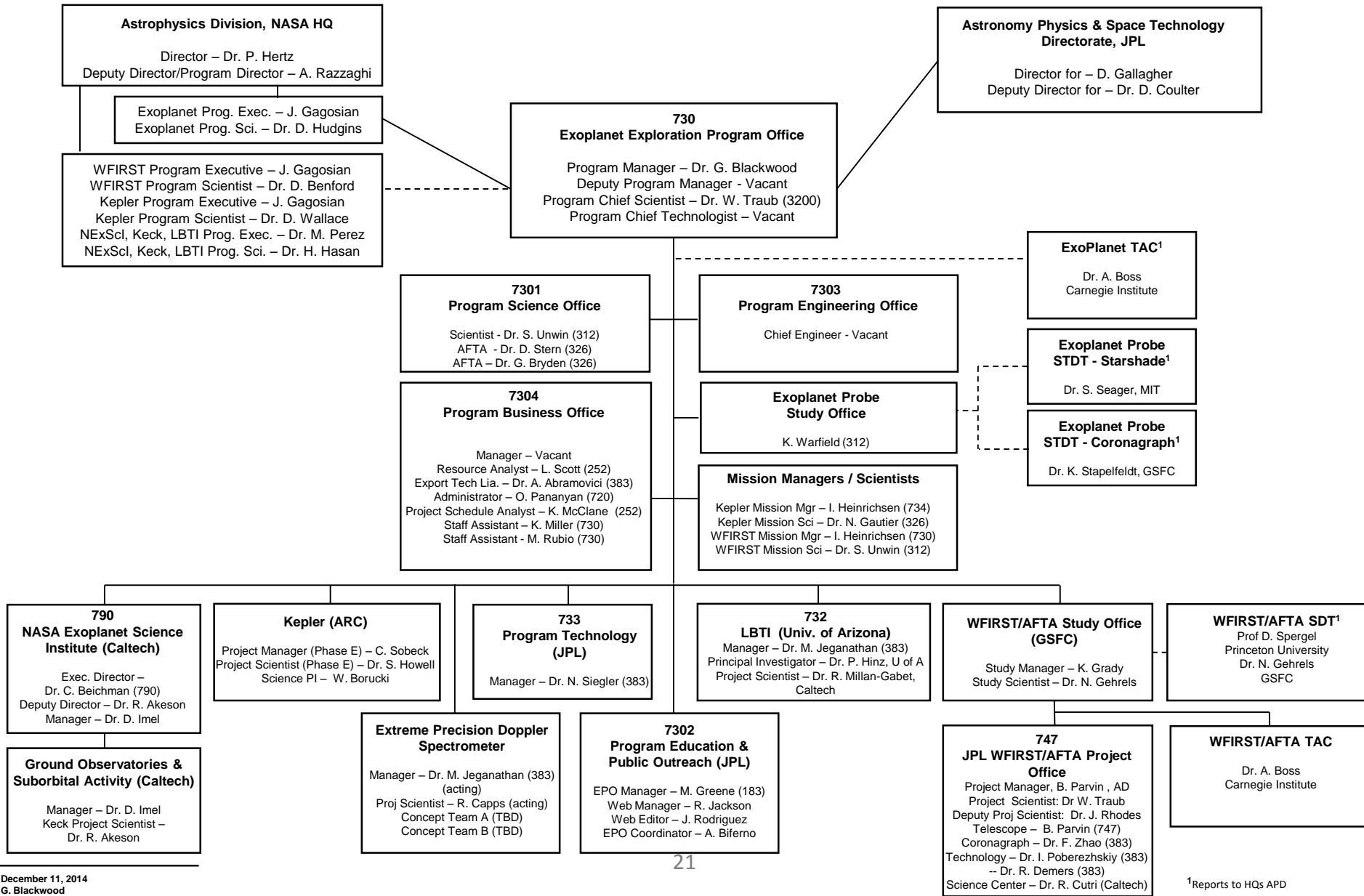


Deployable Star Shades

NASA Exoplanet Science Institute



Exoplanet Exploration Program Organization Chart



¹Reports to HQs APD

The Program relies on the Scientific Community

Active teams and committees:

- **ExoTAC** (Technology Assessment Committee)
Chair: A. Boss, Carnegie Institute
- **WFIRST/AFTA SDT** (Science Definition Team)
Chairs: D. Spergel, Princeton University
N. Gehrels, Goddard Space Flight Center
- **STDT** (Science and Technology Definition Team). Two:
 - **Exo-C** (Probe Coronagraph) Chair: K. Stapelfelt, GSFC
 - **Exo-S** (Probe Starshade) Chair: S. Seager, MIT
- **ExoPAG** (Program Analysis Group)
EC Chair: S. Gaudi, Ohio State University

Key Exoplanet Science Questions

1. Discovering Planets: How abundant are exoplanets in our Galaxy?

- Radial Velocity <math>< 1 \text{ m/s}</math>
- Transit Photometry <math>< 10 \text{ parts per million}</math>

2. Characterizing Planets: What are exoplanets like?

- Transit Spectroscopy <math>< 25 \text{ parts per million}</math> (large planets)
- Direct Imaging
 - High Contrast <math>< 1\text{E-}9</math> (after post-processing)
 - Small Inner Working Angle <math>< 500 \text{ mas}</math> (<math>< 200 \text{ mas}</math>)
 - Spectroscopy R~40 in visible, near infrared (water lines)

3. “Pale Blue Dots”: Are the planets habitable? Are there signs of life?

Current Exoplanet Science Missions

Kepler Space Telescope



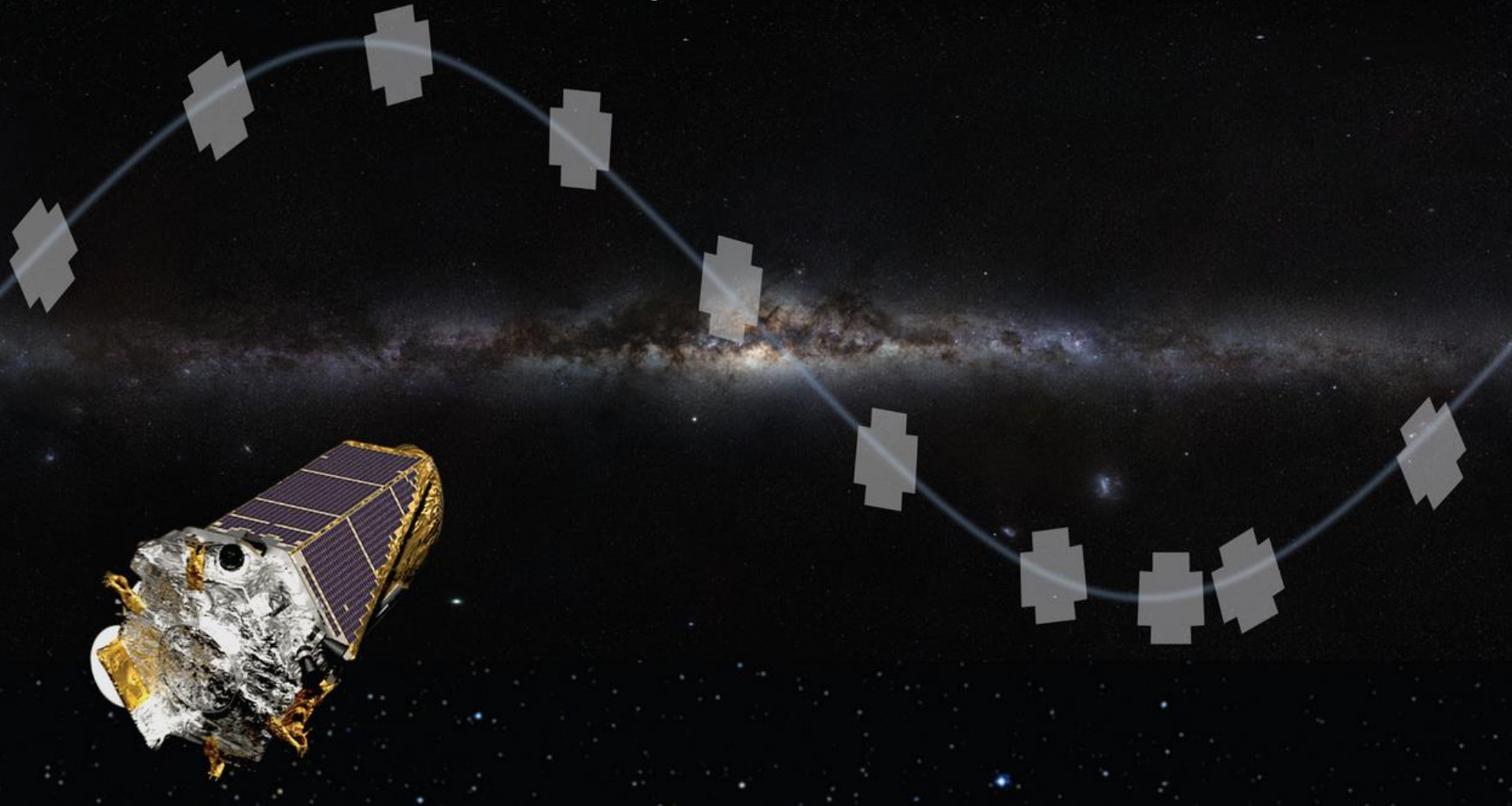
- **PI:** W. Borucki, NASA Ames Research Center
- **Launch Date:** March 6, 2009
- **Science Data Collection** through May 2013
- **Final processing of full data set** underway

Kepler Closeout

Harvesting the exoplanet yield from the mission

- Already available to Community: Q0-Q16
- Uniform Processing: Q0-Q17 (9.2)
 - Long cadence light curves Dec 2014
 - Short cadence light curves Mar 2015
 - Release notes Jul 2015
- Final Data processing: Q0-Q17 (9.3)
 - Light curves Jan 2016
 - Release notes Aug 2016

Kepler (K2) is now observing ~80-day windows in the ecliptic



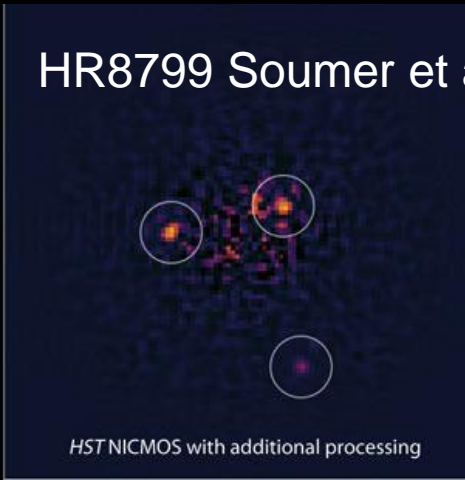
Hubble – an Exoplanet Observatory

Advancing the art of coronagraphy and transit spectroscopy

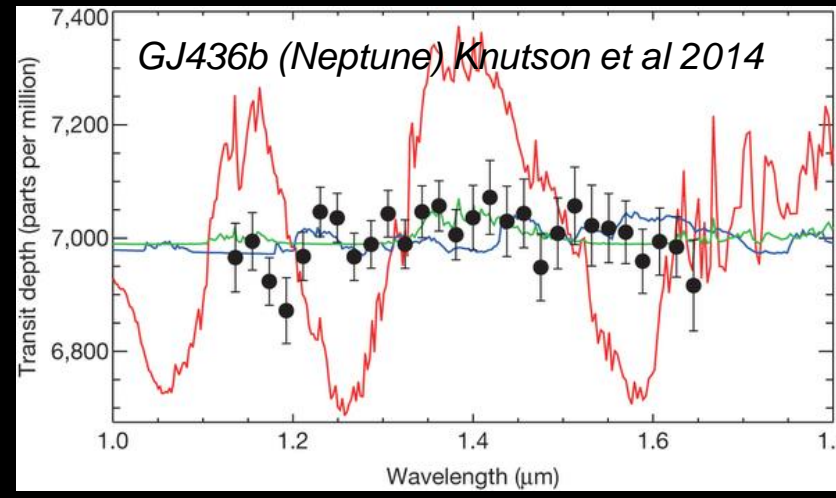


HST/NICMOS

HR8799 Soumer et al

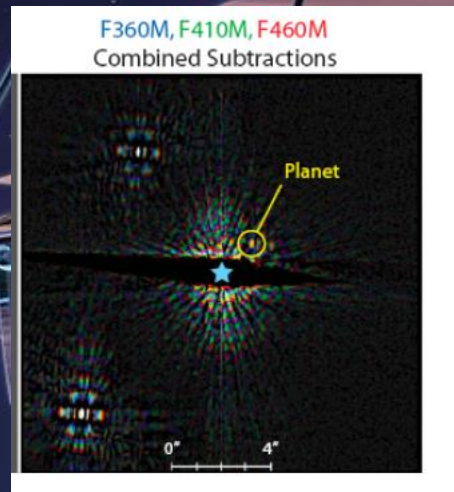


HST/NICMOS with additional processing

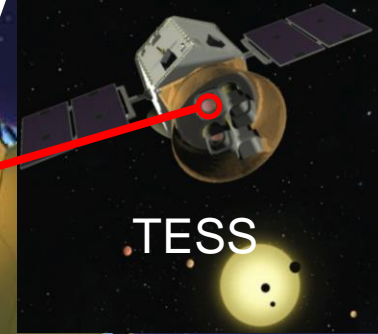


JWST – another Exoplanet Observatory

- Transit spectroscopy and photometry (1-20 μm)
- Coronagraphic imaging at 3-23 μm of planets (young Jupiters to Saturns)
- Spectra of coolest brown dwarfs (free floating planets)



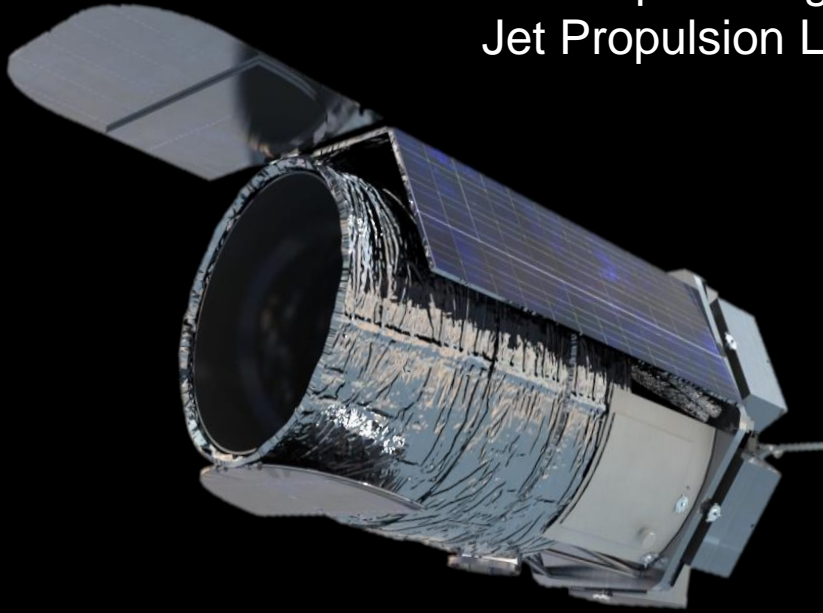
NIRCam Simulation



WFIRST / AFTA

*Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)
Astrophysics Focused Telescope Assets (AFTA)*

Goddard Space Flight Center
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
STScI
NExScI



Wide-field Instrument

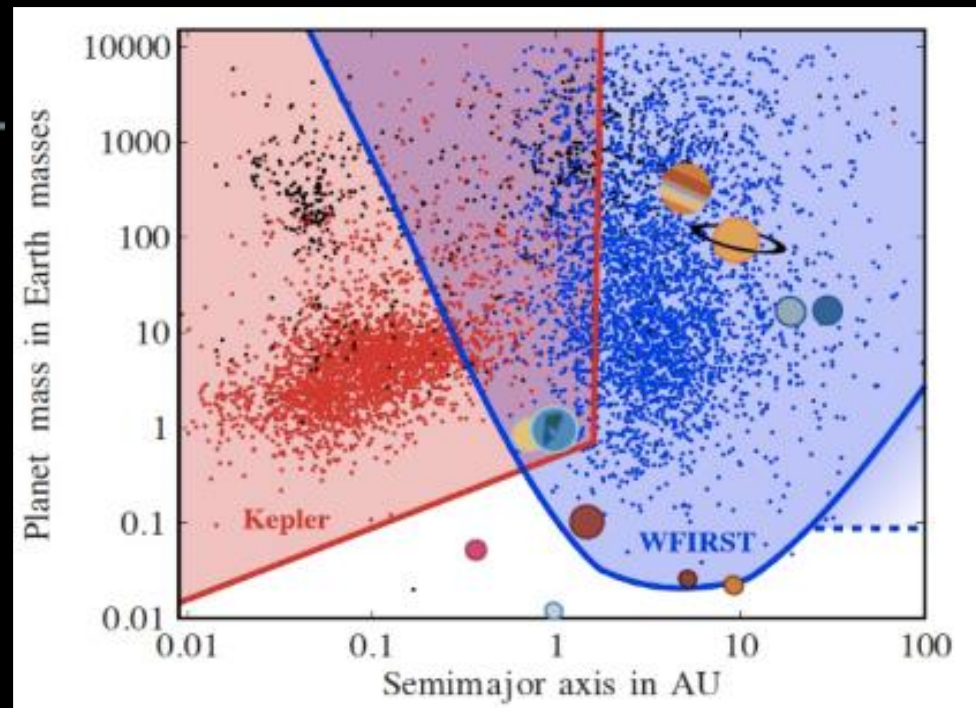
- H4RG detectors (Qty 18)
- Wavelength: 0.6 to 2.0 micron
- FOV: 0.28 deg²

Wide-field Instrument Science

- Dark Energy
- Infrared Survey
- Microlensing survey for exoplanets

WFIRST / AFTA

Microlensing survey
completes the census
begun by Kepler



But wait, there's more!

the WFIRST / AFTA Coronagraph

Direct Imaging of Exoplanet Nearest Neighbors

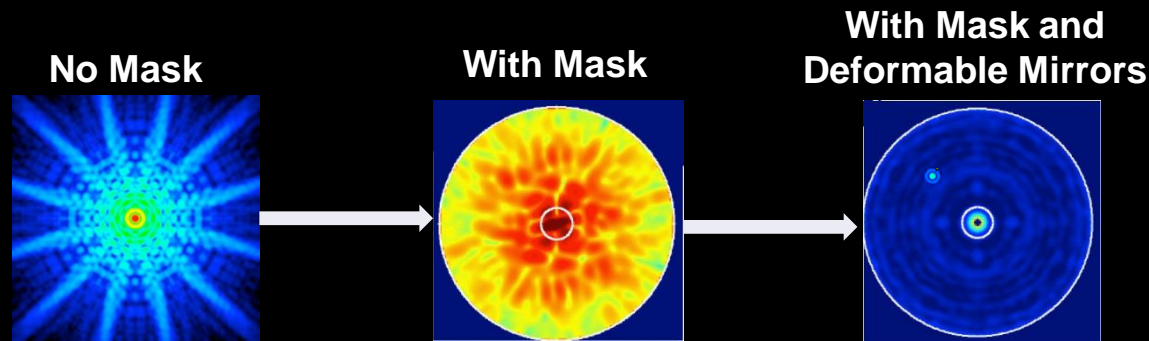


Coronagraph Instrument

- Imaging and spectra channels
- 0.4 – 1 μm bandpass
- $\leq 10^{-9}$ detection contrast
- 100 mas inner working angle at 0.4 μm
- $R \sim 70$

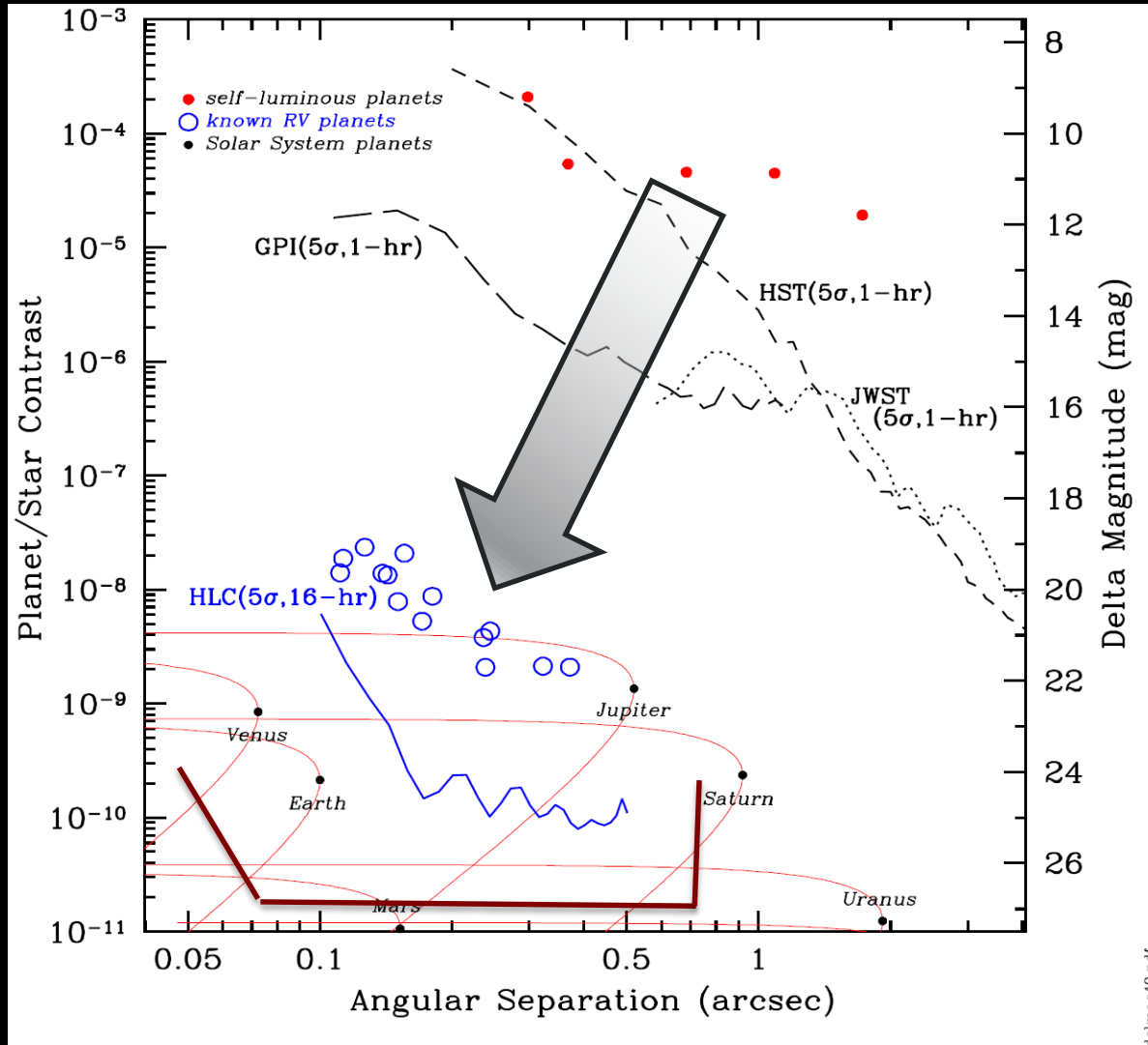
Coronagraph Science

- Imaging and spectroscopy of exoplanet atmospheres down to a few Earth masses
- Study populations of debris disks



Coronagraph will develop the technologies for a future exo-Earth mission

WFIRST Coronagraph images cool gas and ice giants



W. Traub

WFIRST SDT Final Report



- Final SDT Report Delivered to HQ on 1/30/2015
- Presentation to John Grunsfeld and Paul Hertz 2/13
- Public release afterwards, following incorporation of comments from HQ and presentation.

Science Definition Team

D. Spergel¹, N. Gehrels²

C. Baltay³, D. Bennett⁴, J. Breckinridge⁵, M. Donahue⁶, A. Dressler⁷, B. S. Gaudi⁸, T. Greene⁹, O. Guyon¹⁰, C. Hirata⁶, J. Kalirai¹¹, N. J. Kasdin¹, B. Macintosh¹², W. Moos¹³, S. Perlmutter¹⁴, M. Postman¹¹, B. Rauscher², J. Rhodes¹⁵, Y. Wang^{16,17}, D. Weinberg⁹,

Ex Officio

D. Benford¹⁸, M. Hudson¹⁹, W. -S. Jeong²⁰, Y. Mellier²¹, W. Traub¹⁵, T. Yamada²²

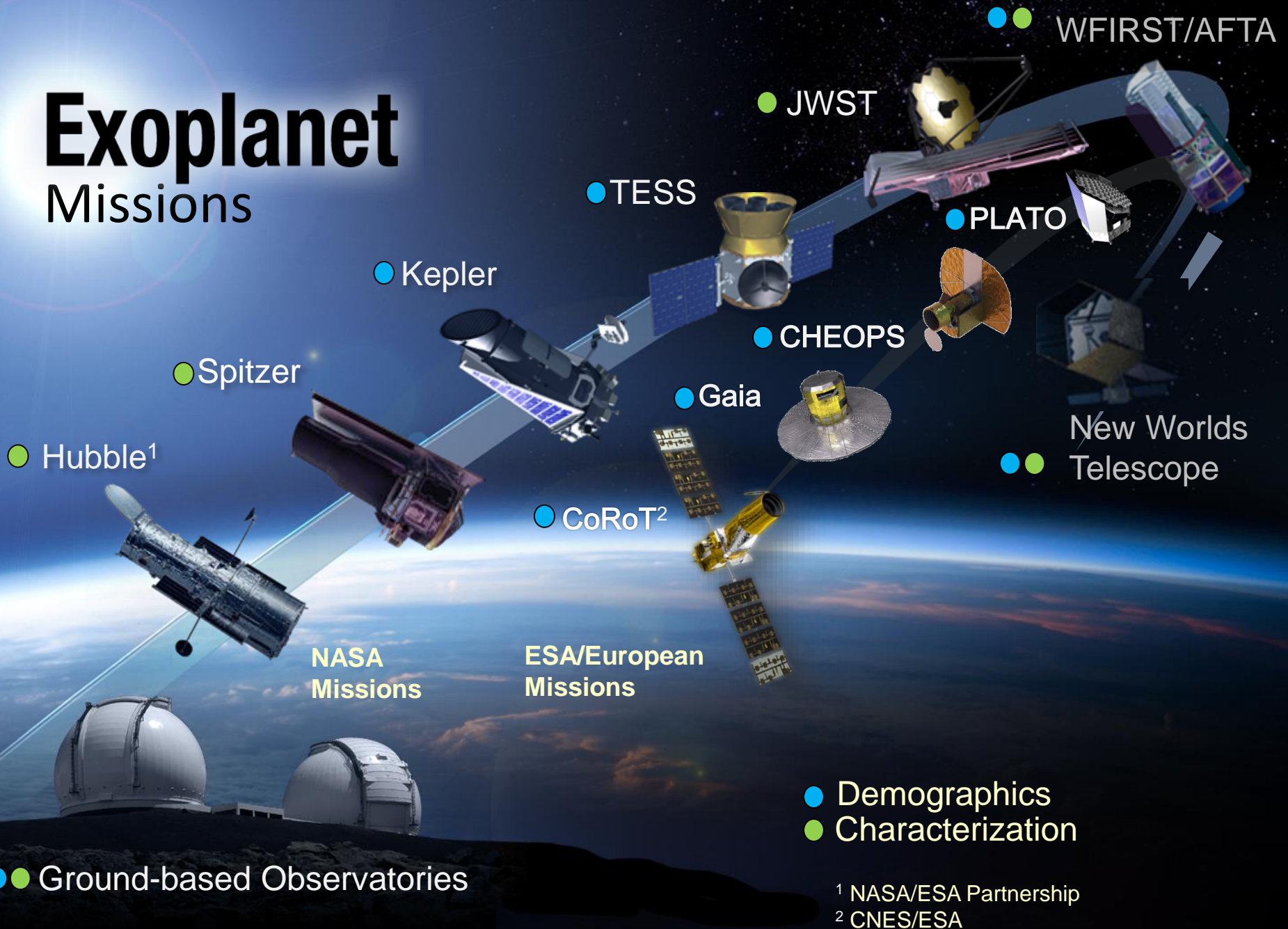
Consultants

P. Capak¹⁷, J. Colbert¹⁷, D. Masters¹⁷, M. Penny⁸, D. Savransky²³, D. Stern¹⁵

Study Team

R. Barry², L. Bartusek², K. Carpenter², E. Cheng²⁴, D. Content², F. Dekens¹⁵, R. Demers¹⁵, K. Grady², C. Jackson²⁵, G. Kuan¹⁵, J. Kruk², M. Melton², B. Nemat¹⁵, B. Parvin¹⁵, I. Poberezhskiy¹⁵, C. Peddie², J. Ruffa², J.K. Wallace¹⁵, A. Whipple²⁴, E. Wollack², F. Zhao¹⁵

Exoplanet Missions



The background of the slide features a large, vibrant blue planet, likely representing Earth, set against a deep black space filled with numerous small white stars. The planet's surface shows subtle atmospheric details and a slight gradient of blue.

EXOPLANET
Q&A*Alien*

Enabling and Creating
the Exo-Future:
Science and Mission Studies

Key Exoplanet Science Questions

1. Discovering Planets: How abundant are exoplanets in our Galaxy?

- Radial Velocity <math>< 1 \text{ m/s}</math>
- Transit Photometry <math>< 10 \text{ parts per million}</math>

2. Characterizing Planets: What are the (large) exoplanets like?

- Transit Spectroscopy <math>< 100 \text{ parts per million}</math>
- Direct Imaging
 - High Contrast <math>< 1\text{E-}9</math> (after post-processing)
 - Small Inner Working Angle <math>< 500 \text{ mas}</math> (<math>< 200 \text{ mas}</math>)
 - Spectroscopy $R \sim 40$ in visible, near infrared (water lines)

3. “Pale Blue Dots”: Are the planets habitable? Are there signs of life?



Key Exoplanet Science Questions

1. Discovering Planets: How abundant are exoplanets in our Galaxy?

2. Characterizing Planets: What are the (large) exoplanets like?



3. “Pale Blue Dots”: Are the planets habitable? Are there signs of life?

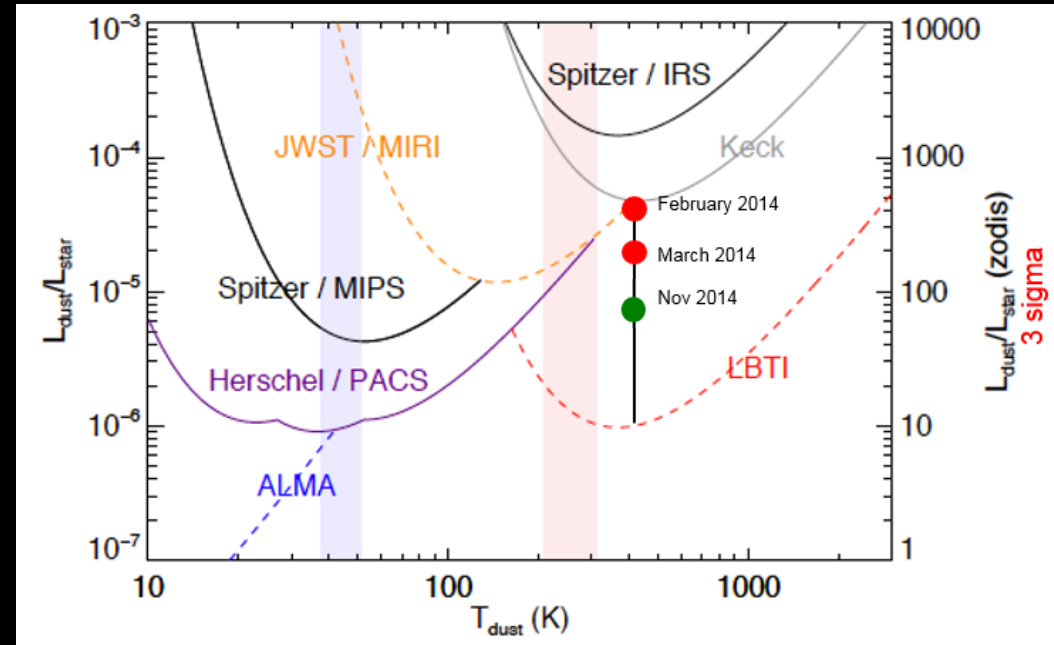
- Transit Spectroscopy < 1 part per million
- Direct Imaging
 - High Contrast < 1E-10 (after post-processing)
 - Small Inner Working Angle < 100 mas (<40mas)
 - Spectroscopy R~70 in visible, near infrared (biosignature gases)
 - η_{Earth} Quantify, for mission design
 - Exozodiacal Dust Quantify, for mission design
 - Yield Ideally: dozens of rocky planets

Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer

Measures exozodiacal dust in habitable zones

University of Arizona
P. Hinz, PI

LBTI Performance

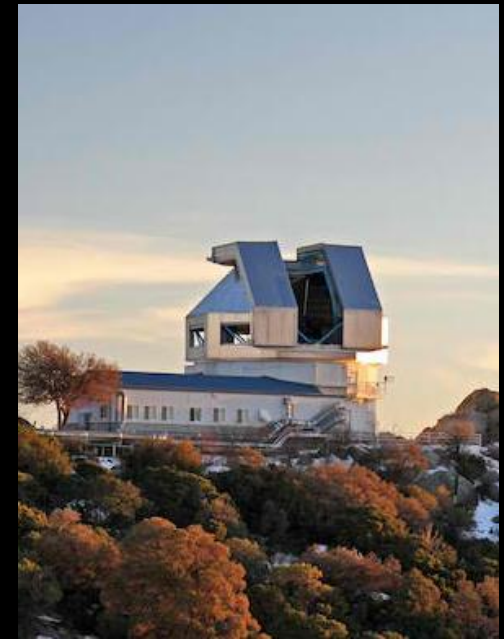


- 24 zodi (one sigma) achieved during November 2014 run
- LBTI will characterize the exo-zodiacal dust emissions of 50 target stars in mid-IR to a level of 3 - 6 zodi (one sigma)

NASA/NSF Partnership for Exoplanet Research

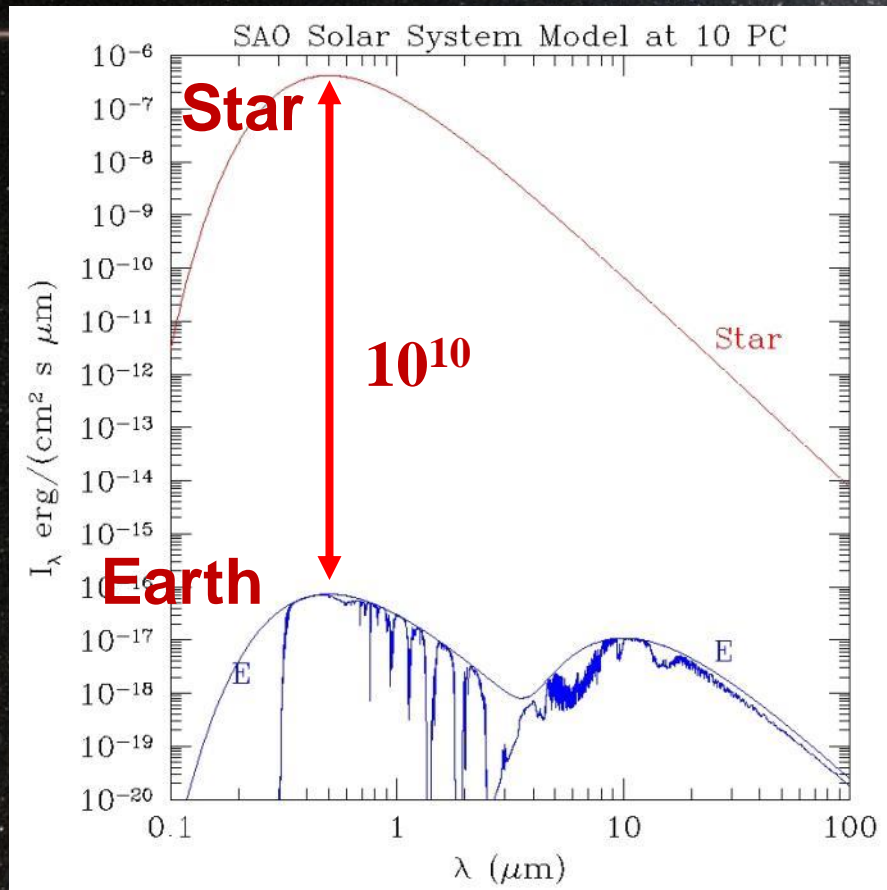
Extreme Precision Doppler Spectrometer

- Scope:
 - Exoplanet-targeted Guest Observer program with existing instrumentation on WIYN using NOAO share (40%) of telescope time
 - Solicitation for facility-class extreme precision radial velocity spectrometer for WIYN telescope (commissioning goal: 2018)
- Motivation
 - Follow-up of current missions (K2, TESS, JWST)
 - Pathfinder observations inform design/operation of future missions
- Timeline:
 - Dec 2014: community announcement
 - Jan 2015: amendment to ROSES 2014 NRA



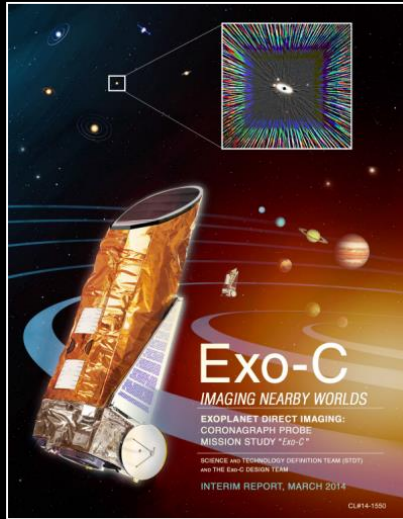
3.5m WIYN Telescope
Kitt Peak National Observatory
Arizona

The Exoplanet Direct-Imaging Challenge



Probe-Scale studies

High-Contrast Imaging



Exo-C:

Internal Occulter
(Coronagraph)

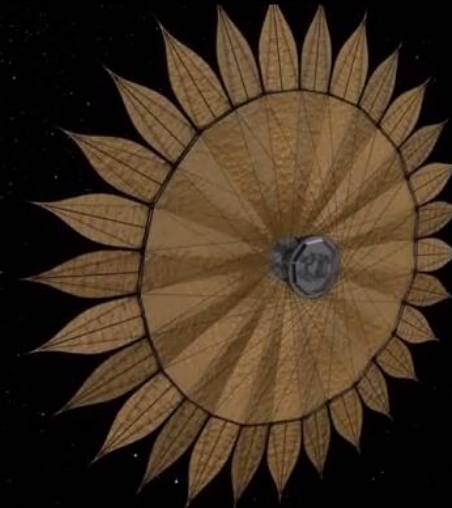
K. Stapelfeldt,
STDT Chair, GSFC



Exo-S:

External Occulter
(Starshade)

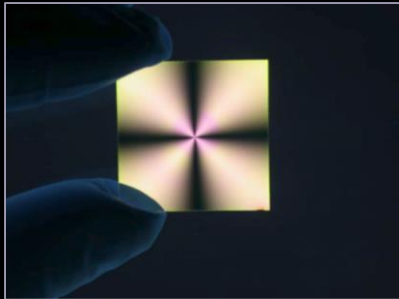
S. Seager,
STDT Chair, MIT



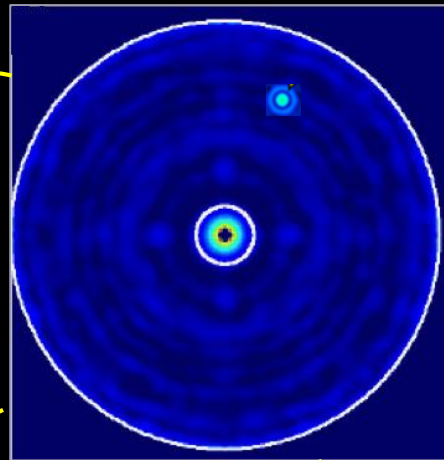
Enabling the Exo-Future: Technology Development

Technology Development for Coronagraphs

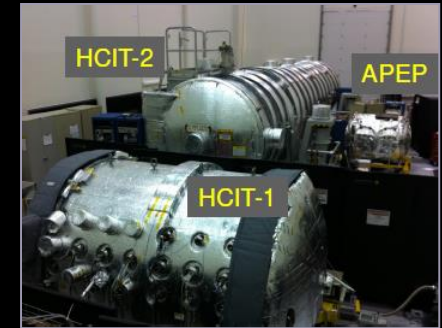
Occulting Masks/ Apodizers



Serabyn – Vector Vortex Mask

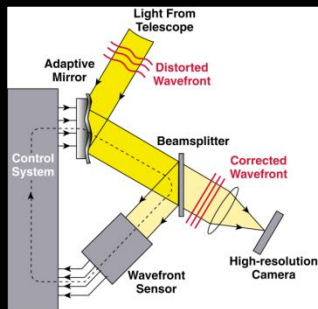


System Demonstration

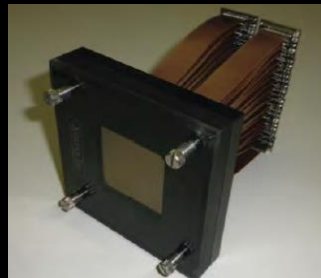


Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Low Order Wavefront Sensing and Control

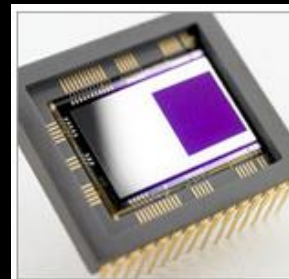


Deformable Mirrors



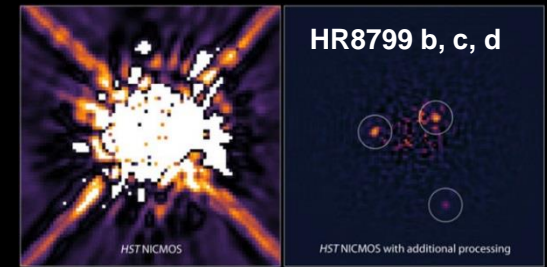
Xinetics

Ultra-Low-Noise Visible Detectors



e2v Electron Multiplying CCD

Image Post Processing



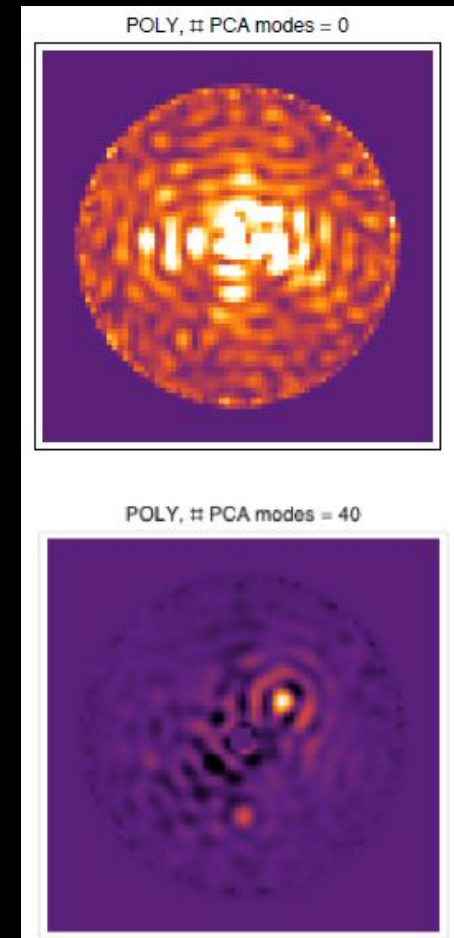
NASA, ESA, and R. Soummer (STScI)

Soummer et al. 2011

Extracting Exoplanets from the Speckles

Effect of post-processing on raw coronagraph images

- JPL-simulated fields from observation sequence of 47 Uma using HLC coronagraph
- Post-processing done at STScI “blindly” using PCA-KLIP algorithm (Soummer et al. 2010)
- Two known planets correctly retrieved



Pueyo, Soummer et al. STScI

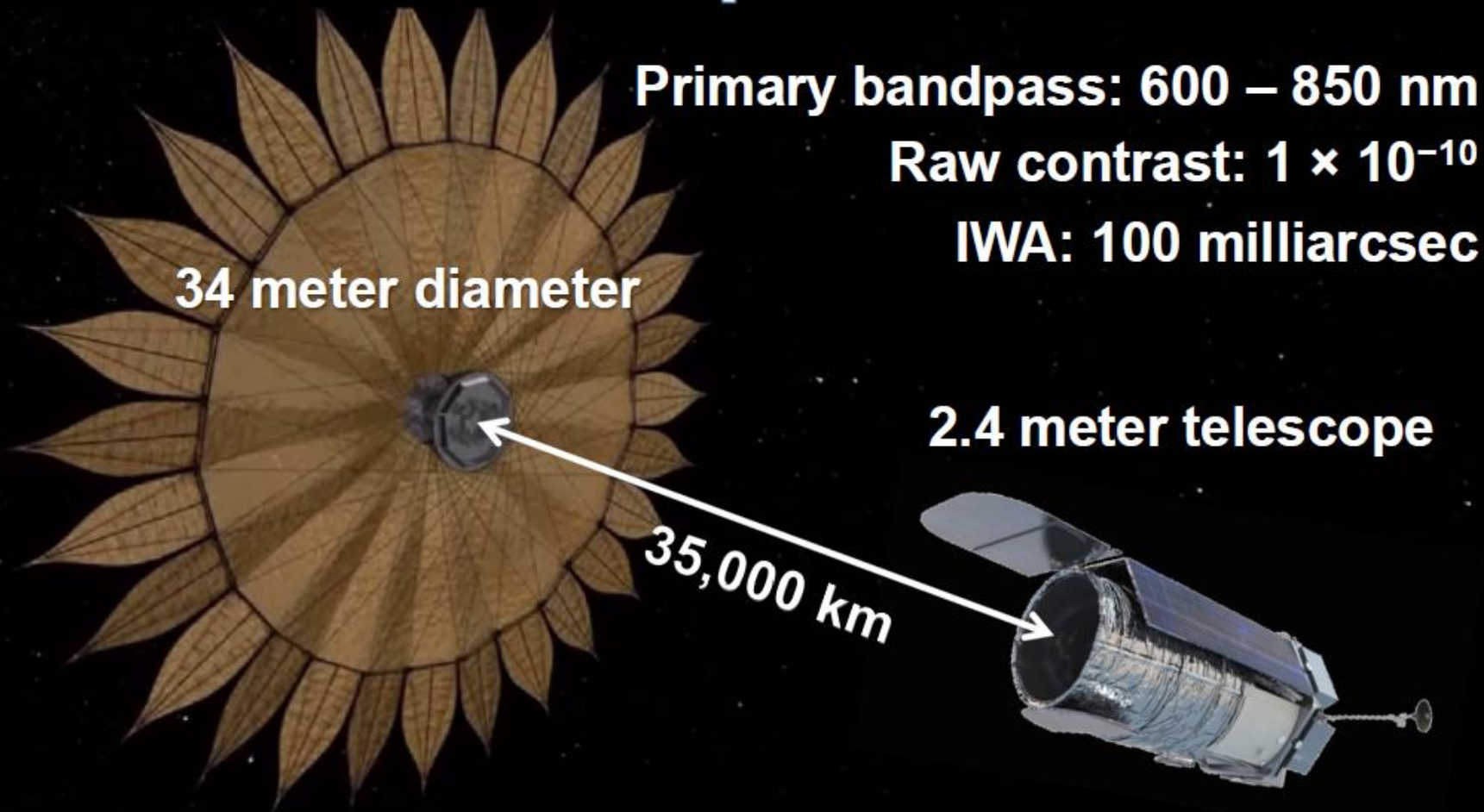
Blank slide

The External Occulter: Starshade

The starshade could launch together with a telescope. Once in space, it would split off and move into position to block the starlight.

Starshade Rendezvous

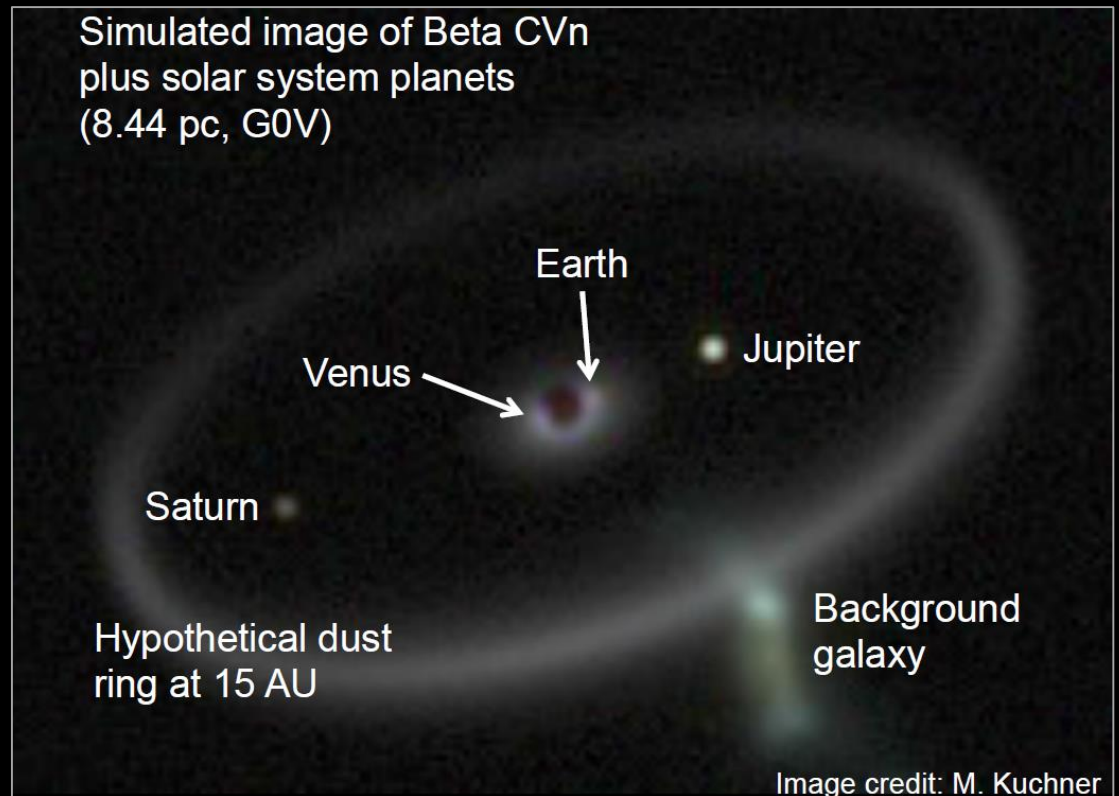
At L2 with WFIRST/AFTA



Starshade Rendezvous

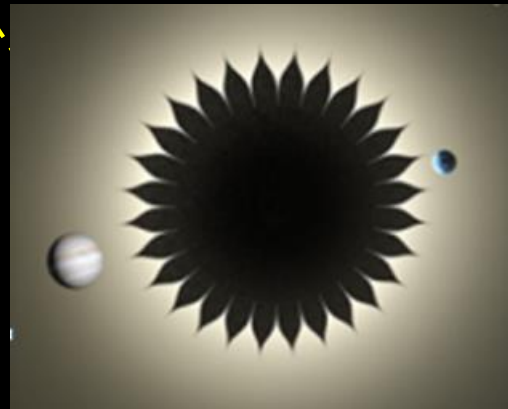
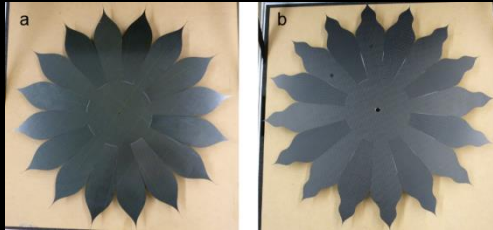
Possible Science

- Observe 52 stars in 2 years
- 13 known exoplanets
- 19 HZ targets. Expect ~ 2 Earths or Super-Earths
- Can detect sub-Neptunes to Jupiters around all HZ targets and 20 additional stars

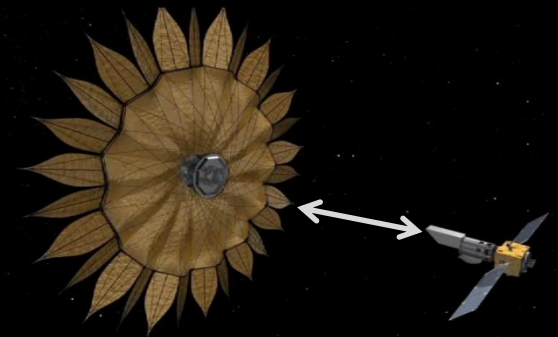


Technology Development for Starshades (External Occulters)

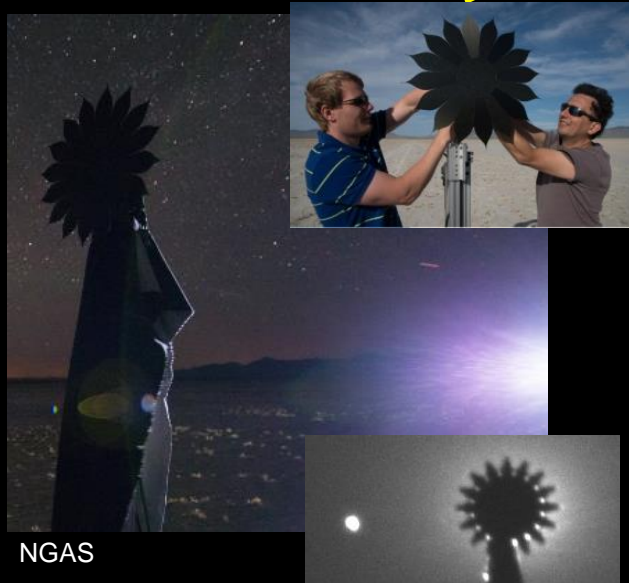
Control of Scattered Light



Formation Flying

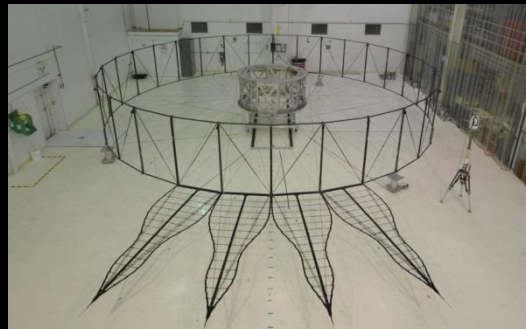


Validation of Optical Models



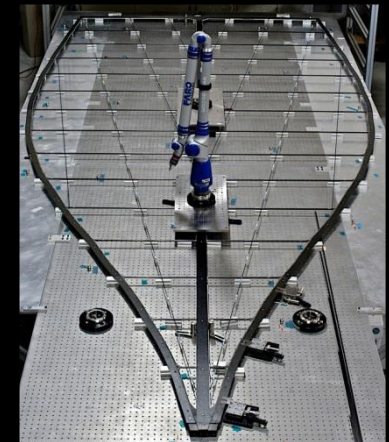
NGAS

Starshade Deployment



NGAS, Princeton, JPL

Petal Prototype



Princeton, JPL

Deployment Testing at Northrop Grumman (Astro-Aerospace)

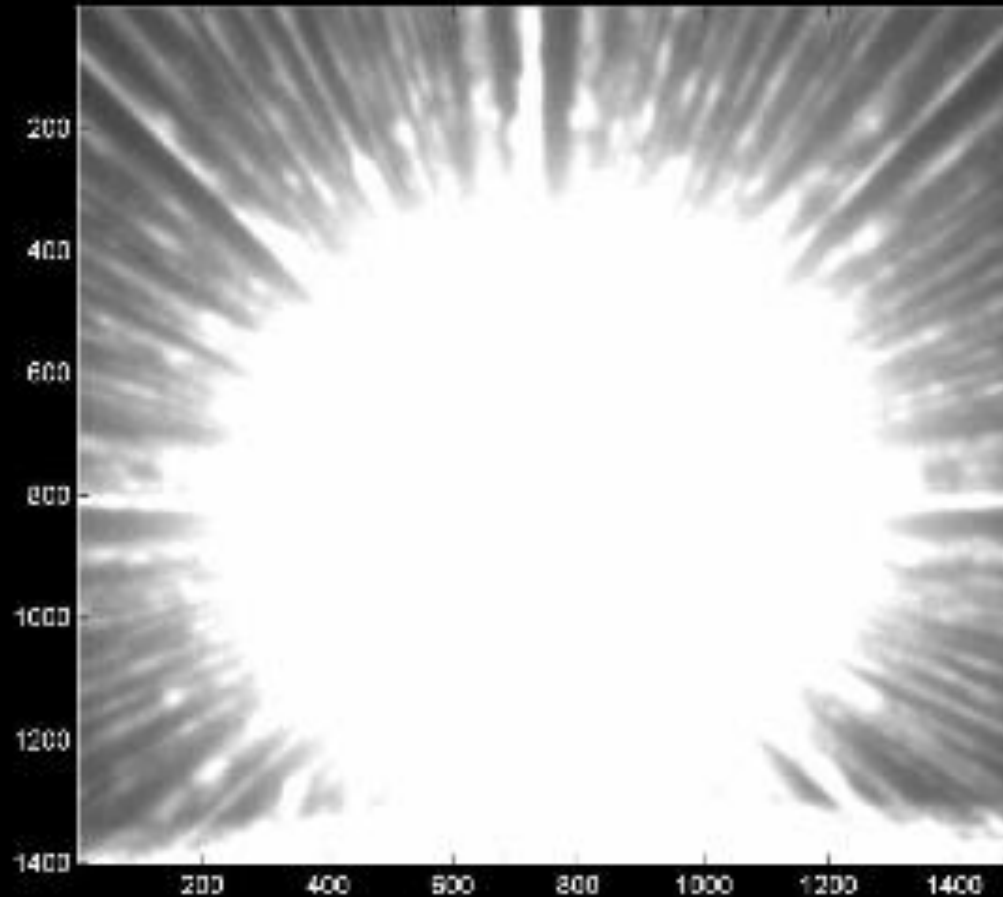
Demonstration of starshade development model

Desert Testing of Starshades



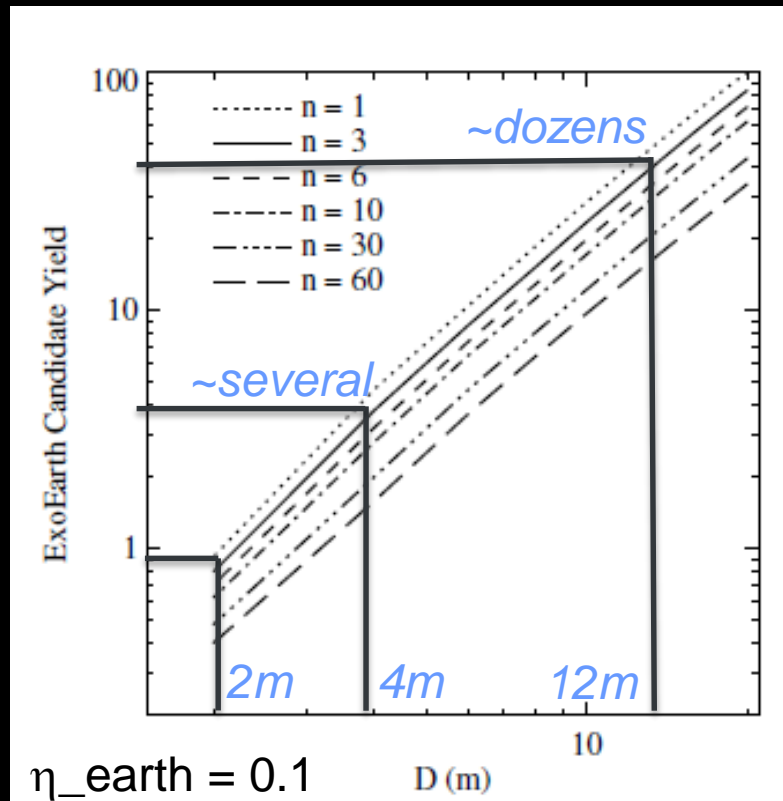
S. Warwick, Northrop Grumman

Desert Testing of Starshades



S. Warwick, Northrop Grumman

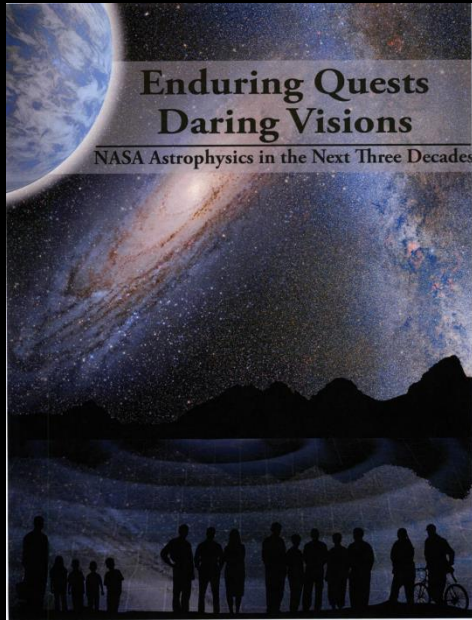
Exo-Earths require large telescopes



Stark et al, 2014
For Coronagraphs

- Yield most sensitive to (in order):
 - Telescope diameter
 - Coronagraph inner working angle
 - Coronagraph contrast
 - Coronagraph noise floor
- Also sensitive to η_{earth} (strong) and exozodiacal dust (relatively weak)

Formative Era: Large UV-Optical-IR Telescope



	LUVOIR Surveyor
Formation flying	
Interferometry: precision metrology	
X-ray interferometry	
High-contrast imaging techniques	
Optics deployment and assembly	
Broadband coatings	
X-ray optics	
Large-format detector arrays	
New detector capabilities	
Cryogenics	

Formative Era: Large UV-Optical-IR Telescope (LUVOIR)

Optics Deployment and Assy



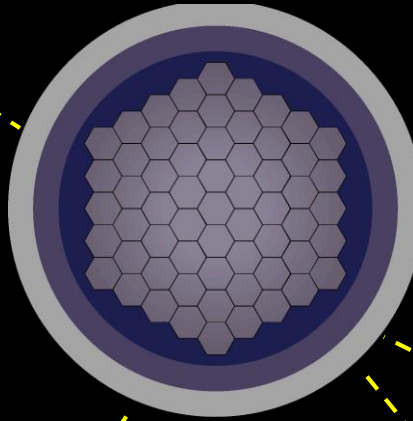
SiC Active Hybrid Mirror, Xinetics



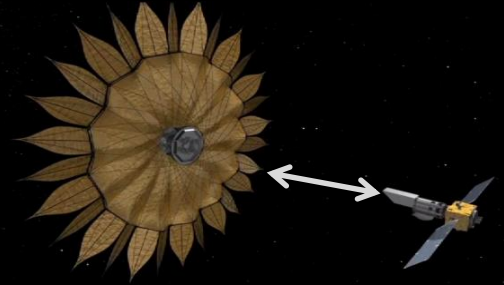
MOIRE, BATC



Lightweight ULE, ITT



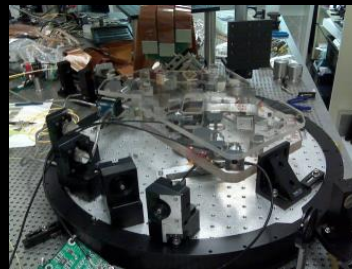
Formation Flying



Broadband Mirror Coatings

Telescope Mechanical Isolation Systems

Starlight Suppression Systems



Visible Nuller, GSFC



Pupil Mapping, Univ. Arizona



Starshade
NGAS, Princeton, JPL

The Program Address the Key Questions

Through Science, Advanced Studies, and Technology Development

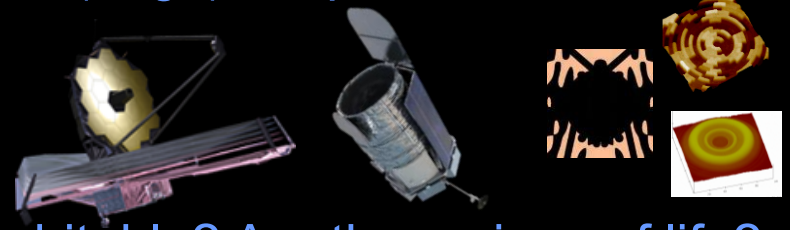
1. Discovering Planets: How abundant are exoplanets in our Galaxy?

- Radial Velocity
- Transit Photometry



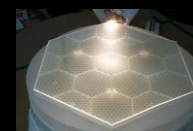
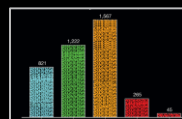
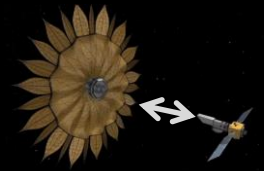
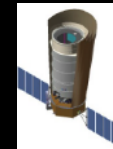
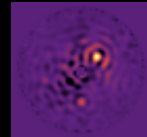
2. Characterizing Planets: What are the (large) exoplanets like?

- Transit Spectroscopy
- Direct Imaging



3. "Pale Blue Dots": Are the planets habitable? Are there signs of life?

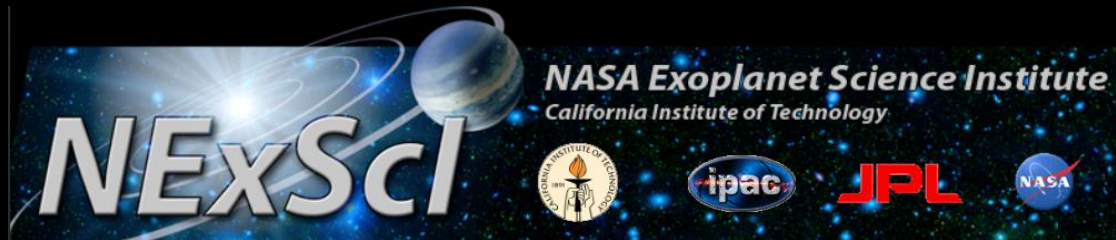
- Transit Spectroscopy
- Direct Imaging
 - High Contrast
 - Small Inner Working Angle
 - Spectroscopy
 - η_{Earth}
 - Exozodiacal Dust
 - Yield



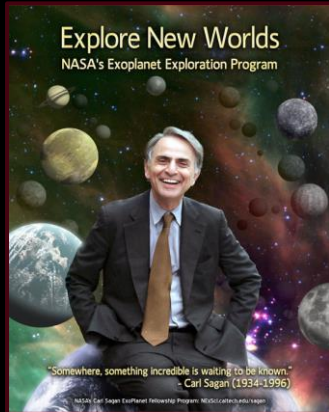
Engaging the Science Community

NASA Exoplanet Science Institute

Archives, Tools, and Professional Education

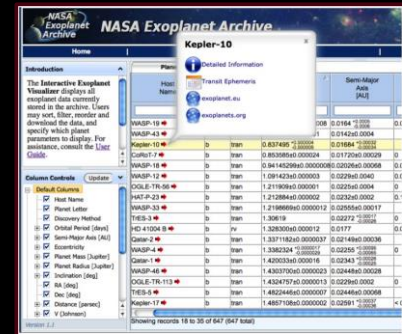


Sagan Fellowships
and Workshops



Kepler Community
Follow-up
Program

Exoplanet Database
Science Data Archives



LBTI Project
Science



Administers
NASA Keck
Telescope
time



NExSci hosts an archive of all data ever acquired on all Keck Instruments
NExSci provides science center support for the WFIRST Coronagraph

Program Engages the Public



<http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov>

<http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov>



Ways to Become Involved

ExoPAG (Program Analysis Group)

- Solicits and coordinates community input
- Provides analysis findings through Astrophysics subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council

ExoPAG Executive Committee members

Scott Gaudi <i>Chair</i>	Ohio State University
Rus Belikov	NASA Ames Research Center
Nick Cowan	Northwestern University
Jonathan Fortney	University of California, Santa Cruz
Dave Latham	Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Amy Lo	Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems
Peter Plavchan	Caltech/NASA Exoplanet Science Institute
Gene Serabyn	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Remi Soummer	Space Telescope Science Institute
Maggie Turnbull	Global Science Institute
Lucianne Walkowicz	Princeton University

Active Science Analysis Groups

- Precision radial velocity
- Probe/Medium-scale direct imaging mission requirements
- Atmospheres / transit spectroscopy
- High-precision astrometry

Active Science Interest Group

- Toward a Near-Term Exoplanet Community Plan

Preparing for the Next Astrophysics Decadal Survey

Charge from Astrophysics Division Director, Jan 4 2015:

- Part A: Identify a small set (~3-4) of large missions to study
- Part B: Science and Technology Definition Teams conduct studies
 - Supported by engineering design team assigned to NASA Centers



Preparing for the 2020 Decadal Survey Large Mission Concepts

The initial short list (in alphabetical order):

- **FAR IR Surveyor** – The Astrophysics Visionary Roadmap identifies a Far IR Surveyor as contributing through improvements in sensitivity, spectroscopy, and angular resolution.
- **Habitable-Exoplanet Imaging Mission** – The 2010 Decadal Survey recommends that a habitable-exoplanet imaging mission be studied in time for consideration by the 2020 decadal survey.
- **UV/Optical/IR Surveyor** – The Astrophysics Visionary Roadmap identifies a UV/Optical/IR Surveyor as contributing through improvements in sensitivity, spectroscopy, high contrast imaging, astrometry, angular resolution and/or wavelength coverage. The 2010 Decadal Survey recommends that NASA prepare for a UV mission to be considered by the 2020 Decadal Survey.
- **X-ray Surveyor** – The Astrophysics Visionary Roadmap identifies an X-ray Surveyor as contributing through improvements in sensitivity, spectroscopy, and angular resolution.

Enabling Decadal Mission Readiness

Program Office Leadership for Exoplanet Science

- What can we do now for a solid story in 2020 to assure TRL5 readiness by 2024?
- Approach:
 - Engineer a technical and programmatic solution
 - Start by assessing technology success criteria and capability today => technology gaps leads to technology plan
- ExEP will facilitate, plan, advocate for technology readiness to maximize likelihood that exoplanet missions are ranked highly by the next Decadal Committee

In Closing...

...And on those other worlds, are there beings who wonder as we do?

C. Sagan

We dream about other Worlds...

Now we have the means to image our nearest neighbors,
To search for Habitable Worlds, and for Life in our Galaxy

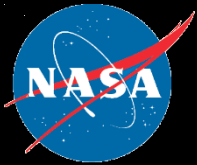
Exoplanet Missions



Imagine your role in the discovery of Habitable Worlds and Search for Life in our Galaxy

¹ NASA/ESA Partnership

² CNES/ESA



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Acknowledgements

This work was conducted at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

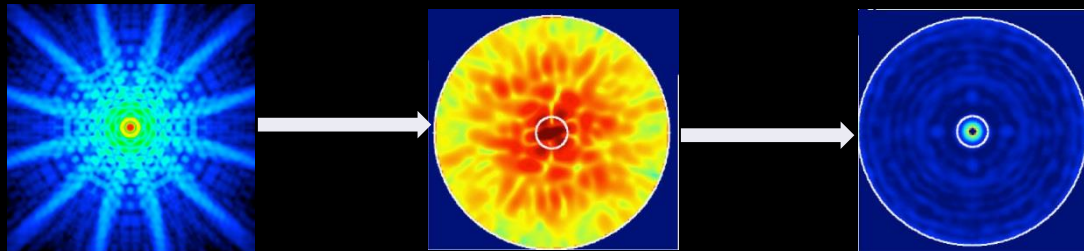
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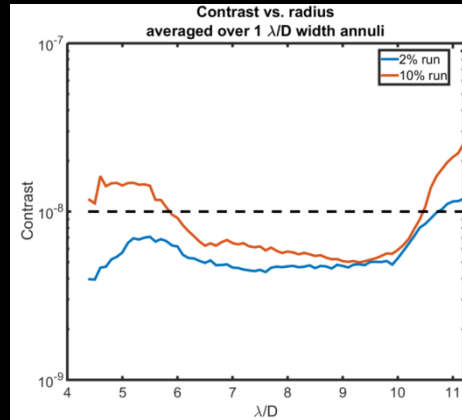
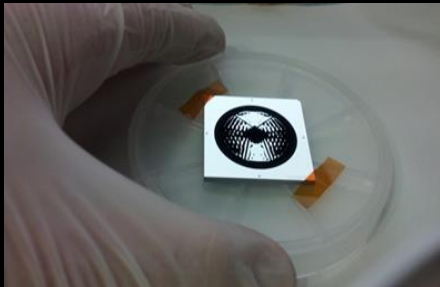
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

Backup

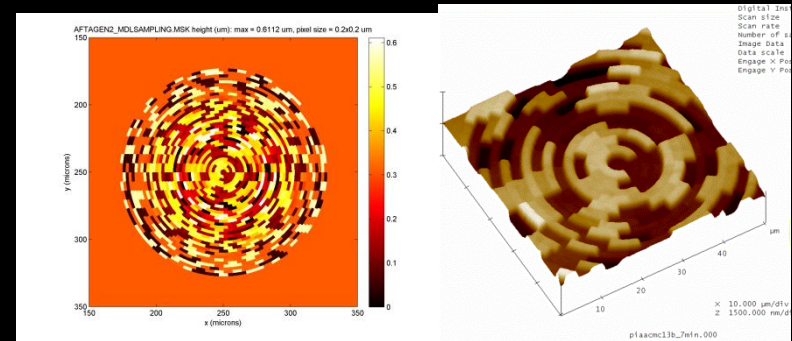
Coronagraph Masks for WFIRST/AFTA



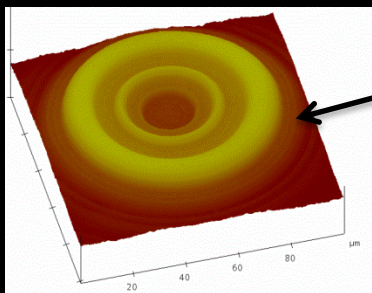
Reflective shaped pupil mask
Jeremy Kasdin, Princeton



PIAA-CMC focal plane mask (backup)
Olivier Guyon, U. of Arizona

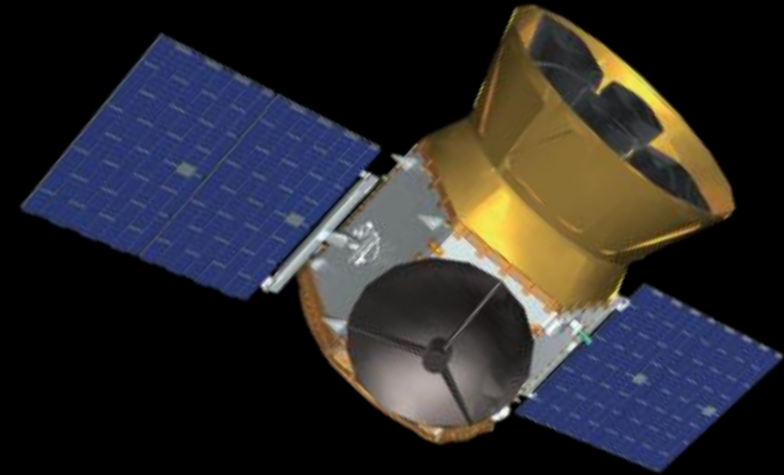


Transmissive hybrid Lyot mask
John Trauger, JPL



TESS

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite



Standard Explorer (EX) Mission

PI: G. Ricker (MIT)

Mission: All-Sky photometric exoplanet mapping mission.

Science goal: Search for transiting exoplanets around the closest and brightest stars in the sky.

Instruments: Four wide field of view (24x24 degrees) CCD cameras with overlapping field of view—operating in the Visible-IR spectrum (0.6-1 micron).

Operations: 2017 launch with a 2-year prime mission

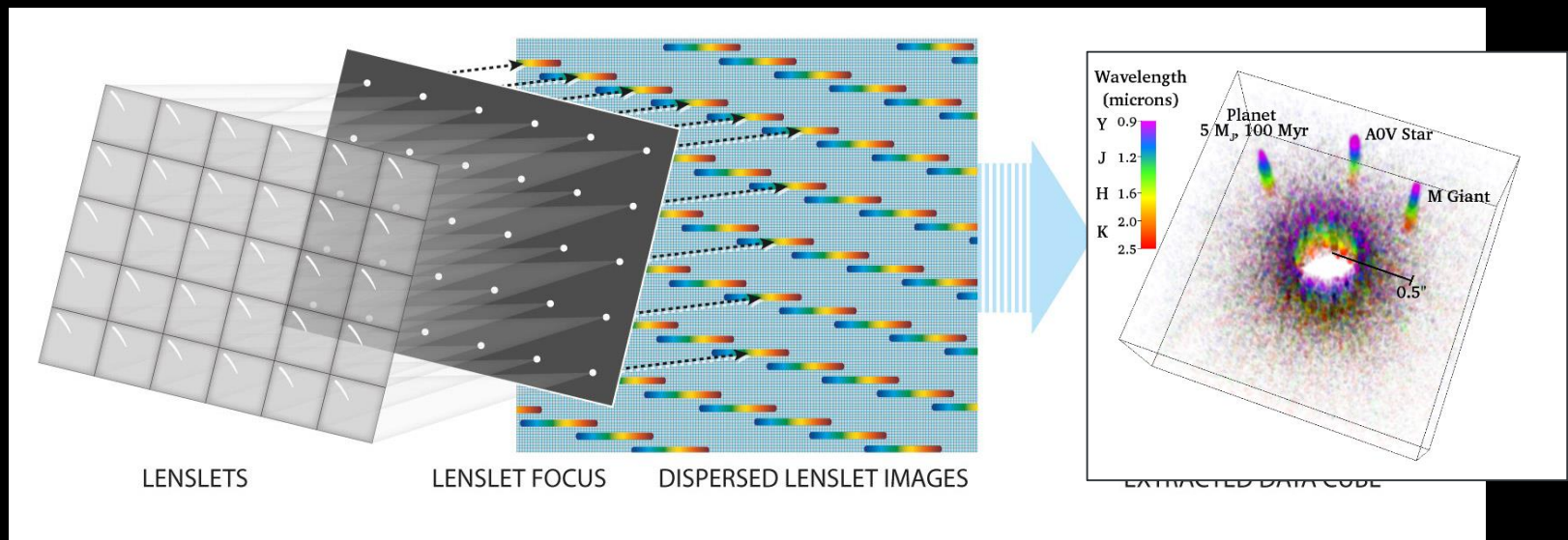
CURRENT STATUS:

- Major partners:
 - PI and science lead: MIT
 - Project management: NASA GSFC
 - Instrument: Lincoln Laboratory
 - Spacecraft: Orbital Science Corp
- Development progressing on plan.
 - Preliminary Design Review (PDR) successfully completed Sept 9-12, 2014.
 - Confirmation Review, for approval to enter implementation phase, successfully completed October 31, 2014.

Characterizing the Spectrum of Exoplanets

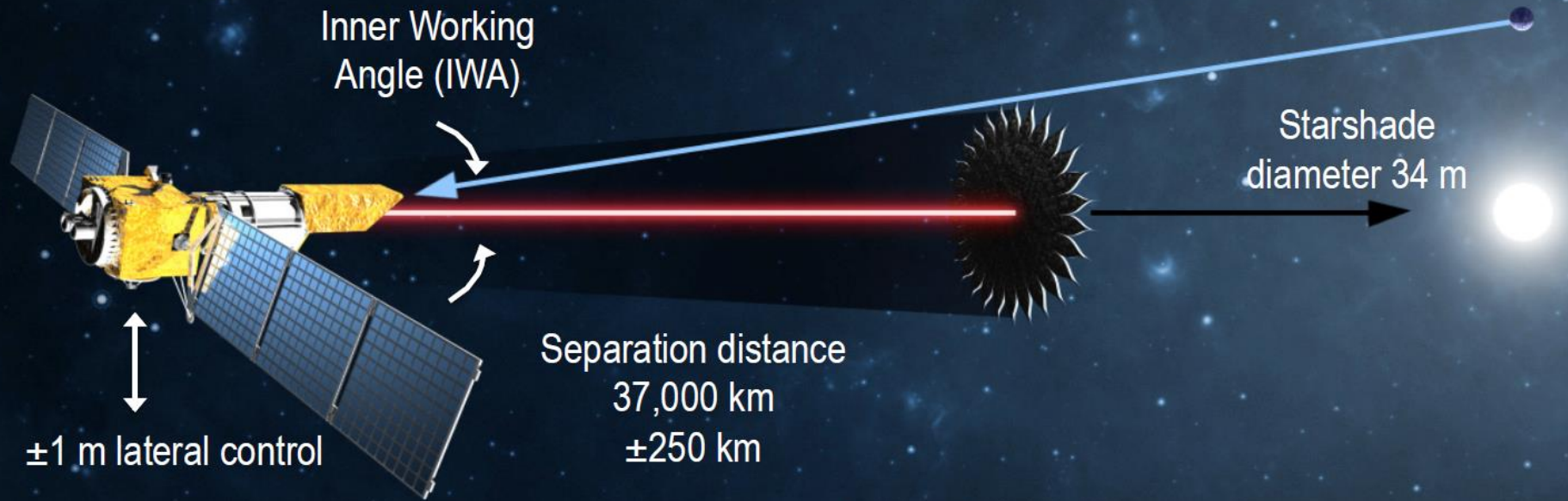
Integral Field Spectrometer

- Low spectral crosstalk needed for spectral science data
- Extracts data cube
- Used in post-processing for speckle suppression



M. McElwain, Roman Fellow, GSFC

Starshade Concept



Telescope diameter 1.1 m

*Read more about technologies, studies,
and the Exoplanet Exploration Program at*

<http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov>

- Contrast and inner working angle are decoupled from the telescope aperture size
A simple space telescope can be used
No wavefront correction is needed
- No outer working angle

Ways to Become Involved

- ExoPAG: SAGs, and SIG
- EPDS initiative
- Program and decadal studies
- Competitive Funding:
 - Exoplanet Research Program (XRP)
 - Astrophysics Data Analysis Program (ADAP, supports archival Kepler/K2 research)
 - K2 Guest observer program
 - Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP)
 - Hubble Guest Observer program (supports exoplanet research).
 - SAT / ROSES / TDEM for exoplanet technology development

Read more at: <http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov>