State of the Art of Coronagraph Technology

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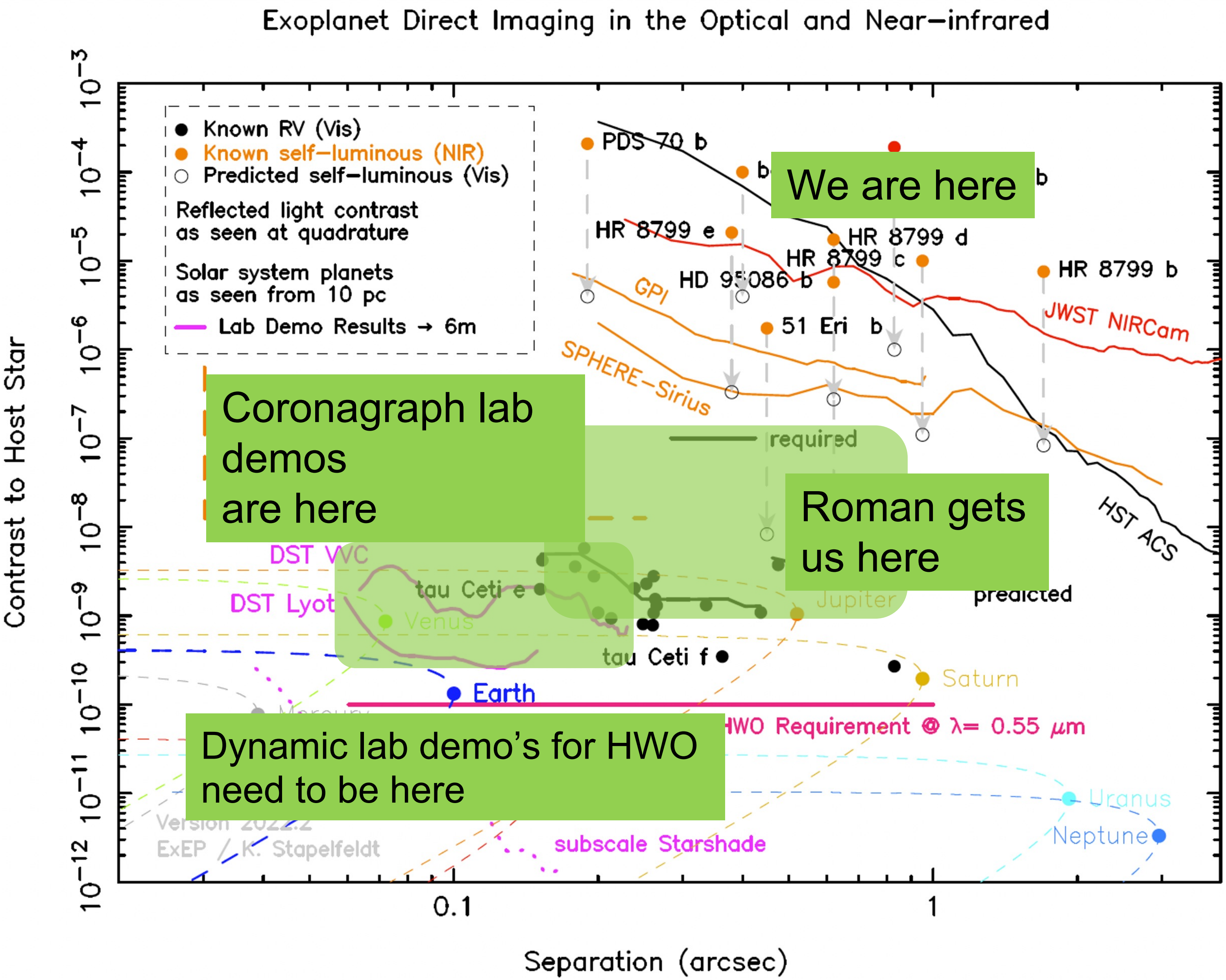
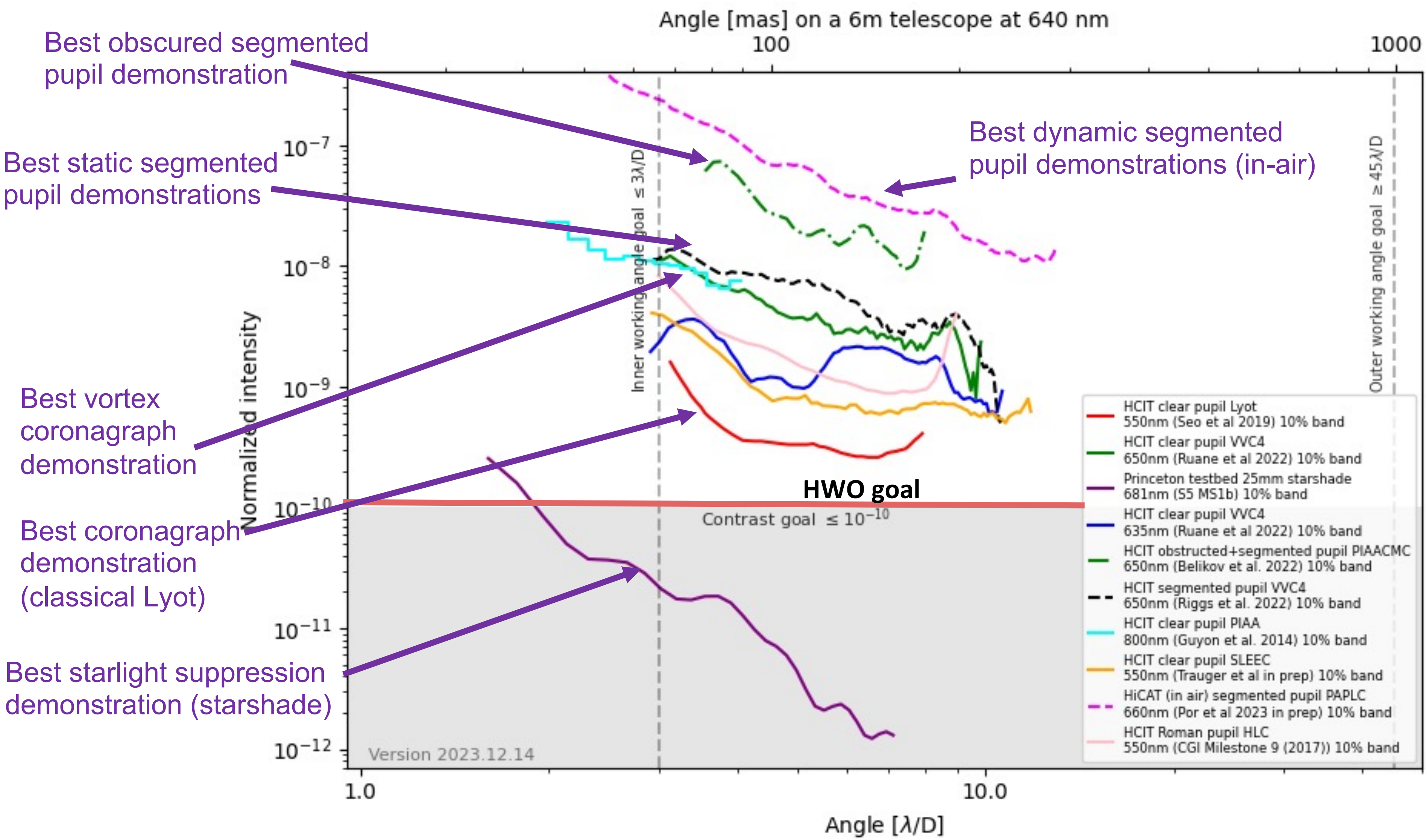
Jan 7, 2024

Requirements

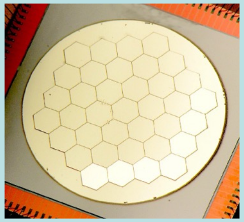


Best Broadband Contrast Lab Demonstrations to Date

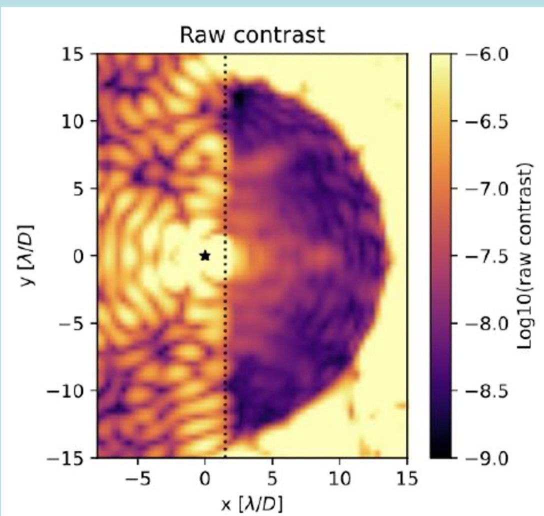


State of the Art Lab Demonstrations
(Segmented Apertures)

Soummer et al (2022): Phase-apodized Lyot Coronagraph

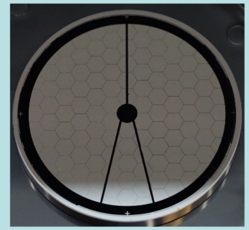


Segmented mirror simulating a segmented off-axis mirror in-air

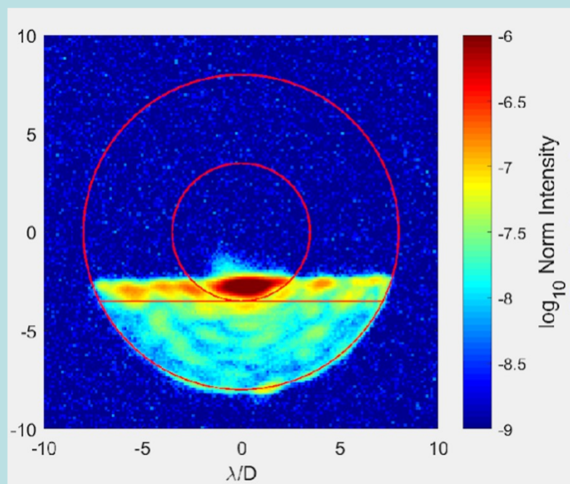


2x10^{-8} average contrast
2-13 λ/D
0% bandwidth
unpolarized light

Belikov et al (2022): PIAACMC

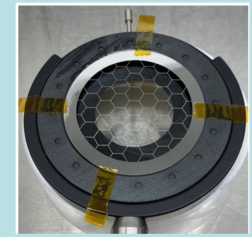


Segmented mask simulating a static segmented on-axis mirror in vacuum

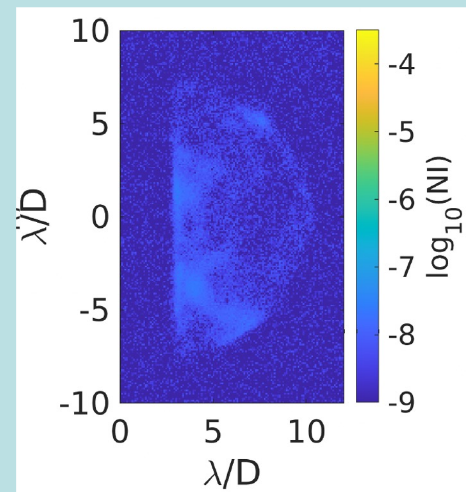


1.8x10^{-8} average contrast
3.5-8 λ/D
10% bandwidth
polarized light

Riggs et al (2022): Vortex Coronagraph



Segmented mask simulating a static segmented off-axis mirror in vacuum



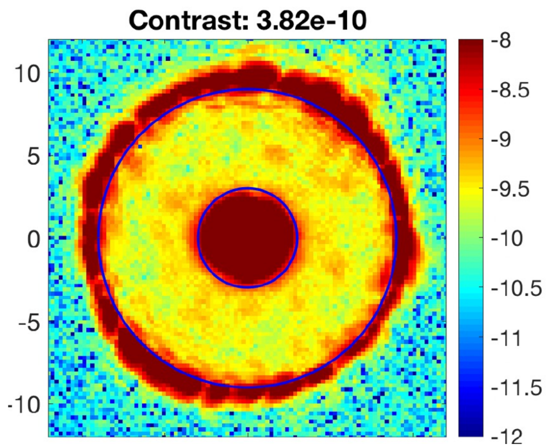
4.7x10^{-9} average contrast
3-10 λ/D
10% bandwidth
polarized light

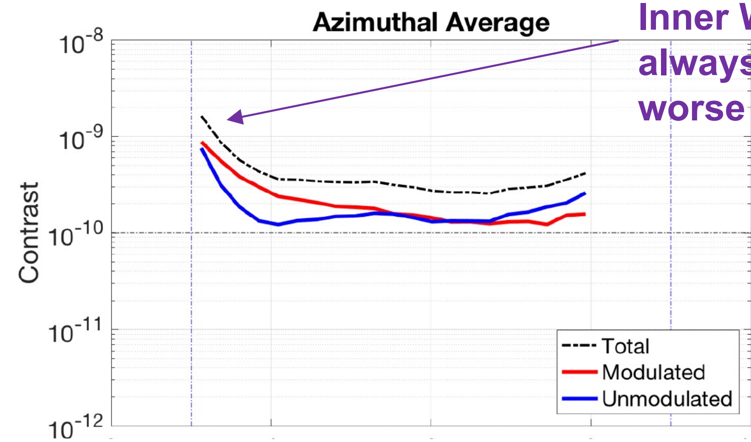
Habitable Worlds Observatory requirements (CBE, ref. Astro2020 Table E.1)

- IWA: ~ 60 mas:
  - VVC (LUVOIR-B) design meets requirement for $\lambda < 0.62$ µm (6-meter aperture), whereas the required spectral coverage might be as wide as 0.3 – 1.8 µm
- OWA for Spectroscopy: ~ 500 mas
  - VVC (LUVOIR-B) design meets requirement for $\lambda > 0.52$ µm, whereas the required spectral coverage might be as wide as 0.3 – 1.8 µm
- OWA for Imaging Only: ~ 1”
  - VVC (LUVOIR-B) design meets requirement for $\lambda > 1.0$ µm
- Contrast: ~ 1E-10
  - APLC and HLC (LUVOIR-A) designs surpass the requirement (even for an on-axis aperture) for *average* contrast (over the stated dark zone) and *point-source* stars
  - At 3 λ/D, only the HLC (LUVOIR-A) design produces 1E-10
  - Stellar diameter (or pointing jitter) has a large impact on contrast at 3 λ/D, but much smaller impact on average contrast
  - WFE due to random segment-piston jitter is generally disastrous at 100 pm RMS but tolerable at ~ 10 pm RMS
- Bandwidth: ~ 20% or greater
- Meeting all requirements will likely require a combination of coronagraphs

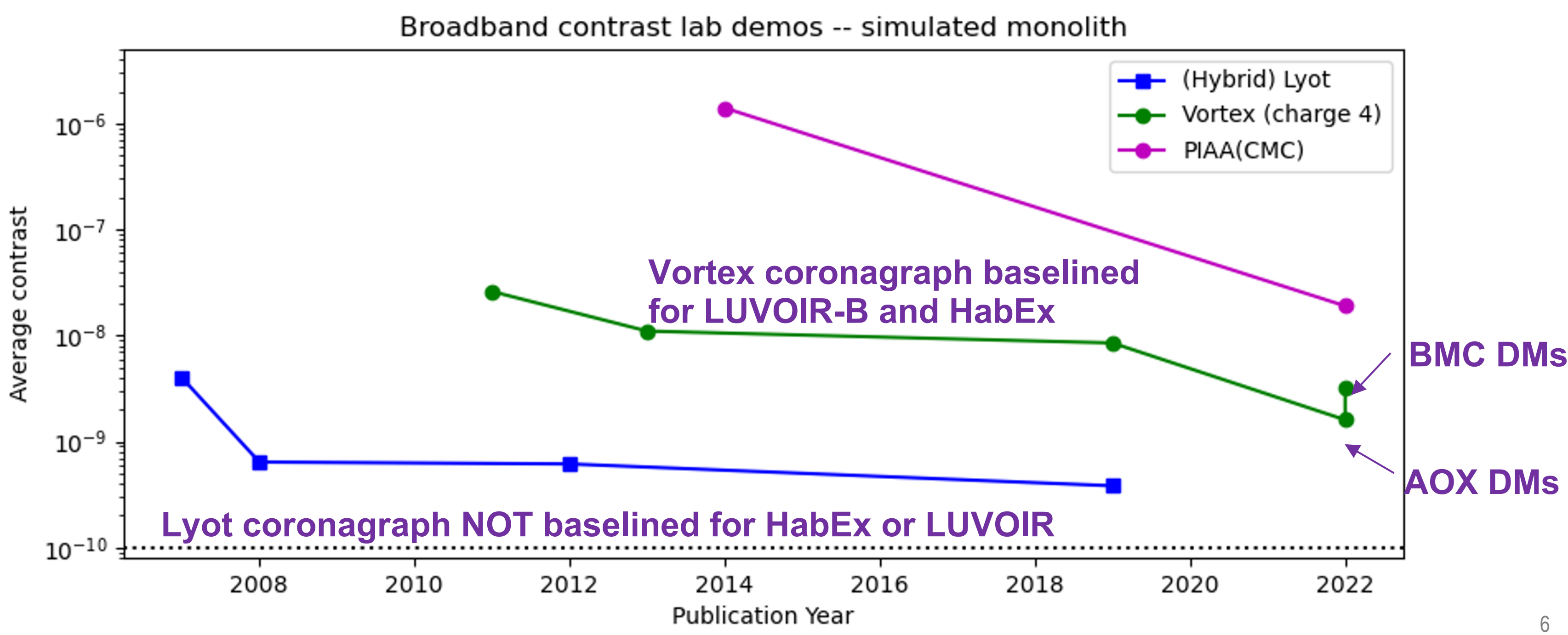
State of the Art Lab Demonstrations
(Clear Aperture)

Seo et al (2019): classic Lyot coronagraph, 550 nm 10% band: 3.82e-10 contrast





Contrast at Inner Working Angle always worse than average



Recent Coronagraph Lab Demonstrations

Coronagraph Type	HWO goal	Classical Lyot	Vector Vortex charge 4	Phase Apodized Pupil Lyot Coronagraph	Phase Induced Amplitude Apodization Coronagraph	Vector Vortex charge 4
Aperture Type		**Circular unobscured (off-axis monolith)**		**Off-axis segmented mirror**	**Circular on-axis static segmented mask**	**Circular off-axis static segmented mask**
Deformable Mirrors	2x 96 x 96	2 AOX (each 48 x 48 act)	2 AOX (each 48 x 48 act)	2 BMC MEMs (each 1k act)	1 BMC MEMs (1k act)	1 BMC MEMs (2k act)
Separation Range	3-45 λ/D	5-13.5 λ/D (vs 3-10 λ/D)	3-8 λ/D	2 – 13 λ/D	3.5 – 8 λ/D	3-10 λ/D
Dark Hole Azimuthal Extent (deg)	360	180 (vs 360)	180	180	180	180
Mean Raw Contrast over Sep. Range	1×10^{-10}	4×10^{-10} (idem)	5.9×10^{-9} (1.6×10^{-9})	2×10^{-8}	1.8×10^{-8}	4.7×10^{-9}
Central wavelength (nm)	300-1300	550	635	638	650	635
Spectral bandwidth	20%	20% (10%)	20% (10%)	Monochromatic	10%	10%
Number of polarizations	2	1	1	2	1	1
Off-axis Throughput	high	medium	high	high	high	high
Sensitivity to low order aberrations	low	medium	low	medium	medium	low
Facility and Testbed		JPL HCIT-2 DST	JPL HCIT-2 DST	STScI HiCAT	JPL HCIT-2	JPL HCIT-2 DST
Vacuum Operation		Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Currently demonstrated static contrast performance degrades when moving toward coronagraphs with higher throughput and lower sensitivity to aberrations, moving from monolithic to segmented apertures, and from off-axis to on-axis

Modification of an original Bertrand Mennesson table

Recent Starlight Suppression Demos

Coronagraph Type	**HWO goal**	**Classical Lyot**	**Vector Vortex charge 4**	**Phase Apodized Pupil Lyot Coronagraph**	**Phase Induced Amplitude Apodization Coronagraph**	**Vector Vortex charge 4**	**Starshade subscale flight Fresnel number**
Aperture Type		**Circular unobscured (off-axis monolith)**		**Off-axis segmented mirror**	**Circular on-axis static segmented mask**	**Circular off-axis static segmented mask**	**n/a**
Deformable Mirrors	2x 96 x 96	2 AOX (each 48 x 48 act)	2 AOX (each 48 x 48 act)	2 BMC MEMs (each 1k act)	1 BMC MEMs (1k act)	1 BMC MEMs (2k act)	n/a
Separation Range	3-45 λ/D	5-13.5 λ/D (vs 3-10 λ/D)	3-8 λ/D	2 – 13 λ/D	3.5 – 8 λ/D	3-10 λ/D	1.7-7 λ/D
Dark Hole Azimuthal Extent (deg)	360	180 (vs 360)	180	180	180	180	360
Mean Raw Contrast over Sep. Range	1×10^{-10}	4×10^{-10} (idem)	5.9×10^{-9} (1.6×10^{-9})	2×10^{-8}	1.8×10^{-8}	4.7×10^{-9}	2×10^{-11}
Central wavelength (nm)	300-1300	550	635	638	650	635	680
Spectral bandwidth	20%	20% (10%)	20% (10%)	Monochromatic	10%	10%	10%
Number of polarizations	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Off-axis Throughput	high	medium	high	high	high	high	high
Sensitivity to low order aberrations	low	medium	low	medium	medium	low	n/a
Facility and Testbed		JPL HCIT-2 DST	JPL HCIT-2 DST	STScI HiCAT	JPL HCIT-2	JPL HCIT-2 DST	Princeton Frick
Vacuum Operation		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N

Simulated Coronagraph Performances

Coronagraph Type	Aperture Type	Aperture [m]	λ_c [nm]	BW	IWA [λ/D]	OWA [λ/D]	Core Throughput	Average Contrast	Contrast @ 3λ/D, point star	Contrast @ 3λ/D, 1 mas star	ΔContrast @ 3λ/D due to 100 pm rms piston jitter
VVC	LUVOIR-B	8	575	10%	2.8	28	30%	5.E-10	3.E-10	1.E-09	6.E-09
APLC	LUVOIR-A	15	575	10%	3.8	12	15%	6.E-11	8.E-10	2.E-09	2.E-09
HLC	LUVOIR-A	15	575	10%	3.5	10	15%	3.E-11	1.E-10	2.E-10	3.E-09

- The table includes only coronagraphs recently analyzed by SCDA*
- The designs used deformable mirrors with 64 actuators across the diameter
- Manufacturability of the designs will be assessed (as part of the ExEP Coronagraph Technology Roadmap work)
- The table does not include all important aberrations. For example, all three coronagraphs are extremely sensitive to misalignment of the telescope's exit pupil with respect to the coronagraph's entrance pupil.
- The listed APLC and HLC are for LUVOIR-A. The LUVOIR-B aperture can enable substantially better performance (contrast/throughput/IWA). An HLC-LUVOIR-B design will be completed in FY23

*Segmented Coronagraph Design & Analysis study led by the ExEP