



# JWST Stability

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# Talk Outline

- JWST context for Habitable Worlds
- Stability motivation
- Architecture implementation
- JWST instabilities
- Lessons learned



# JWST Telescope paper in PASP Special Issue

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## The James Webb Space Telescope Mission: Optical Telescope Element Design, Development, and Performance

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# JWST Context for Habitable Worlds

- JWST is a large, segmented telescope of comparable size to what is needed Habitable Worlds (JW 5.5m vs HWO > 6m inscribed diameter).
- JWST has passive stability that demonstrates what is achievable *now* (*i.e.*, TRL 9).
- JWST does not have the active wavefront controls planned for Habitable Worlds (e.g., edge sensors, laser truss, low order wavefront sensor).
- JWST telescope and instruments operate at cryogenic temperatures (~45 K), whereas Habitable Worlds is likely to be operated near room temperature (~300 K, actual T TBD).



# JWST Stability Motivation



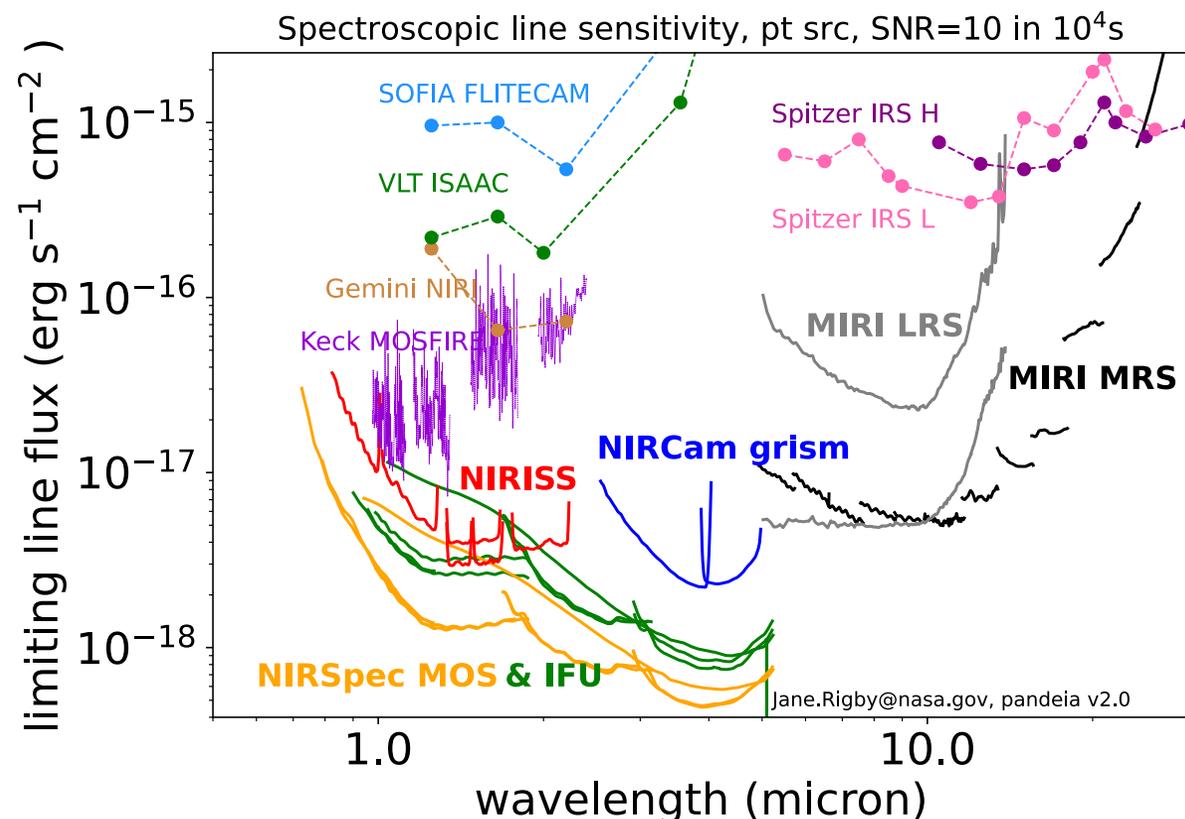
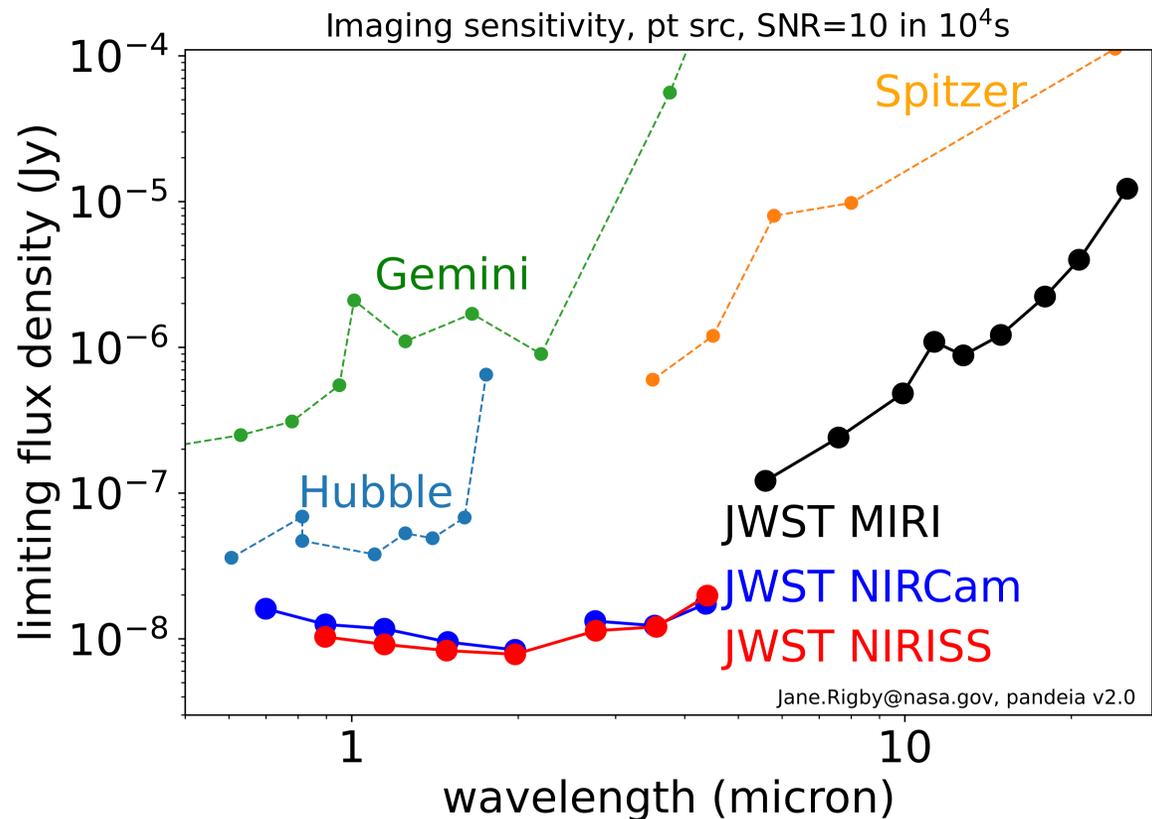


# Stability Motivation

- JWST science requirements built around 4 pillars: first light, assembly of galaxies, birth of stars and protostars, and planetary systems and the origins of life.
- Each of the scientific pillars required driving performance in **sensitivity** and **spatial resolution**.
  - JWST used **Strehl ratio** as the single scalar merit function for image quality to drive the allocation process.
  - Trade between wavefront error (WFE) and line of sight (LOS) jitter



# Transformative Sensitivity





# Image Quality and Stability Requirements

- The image quality is specified by the Strehl Ratio, *including dynamic terms*:
  - **Strehl Ratio of 0.8 at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  wavelength (NIRCam)** -- Equivalent to **150 nm rms WFE**
    - MR-110: “Over 80% of the FOV of each NIRCam module, the observatory shall be diffraction limited at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  defined as having a Strehl ratio greater than or equal to 0.8.”
  - **Strehl Ratio of 0.8 at 5.6  $\mu\text{m}$  wavelength (MIRI)** -- Equivalent to **420 nm rms WFE**
    - MR-116: “The Observatory, over the FOV of the Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) shall be diffraction limited at 5.6  $\mu\text{m}$ , defined as having a Strehl Ratio greater than or equal to 0.8.”
  - MR-228: “The **OTE WFE shall be less than or equal to 131 nm RMS** over the field of views of NIRCam, NIRSpec, and MIRI.” MR-414: “... 150nm RMS over the field of the FGS.”
- Image quality stability is specified by Encircled Energy (EE) stability
  - MR-113: Specified to **change less than 2.3% at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  wavelength over 24 hours.**
  - MR-115: Specified to **change less than 3.0% at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  wavelength over 14 days following a worst case slew.**
    - Approximately 68 nm rms (depends on form of aberration content)



# Architecture Implementation

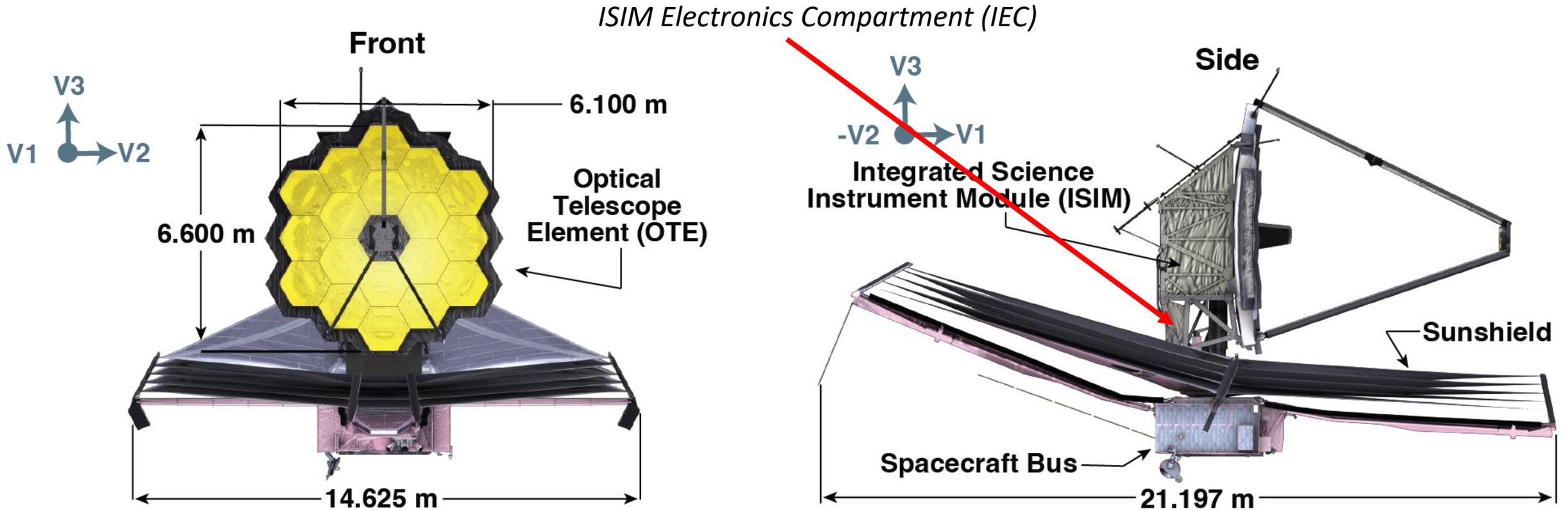


# Stability Design Considerations

- Thermal-structural stability – Observatory thermal variations, structural thermal expansion
- Dynamic stability – vibrations and dynamical excitations, mitigations through isolation
- Space environmental effects (e.g., micrometeoroid impacts, space weathering)

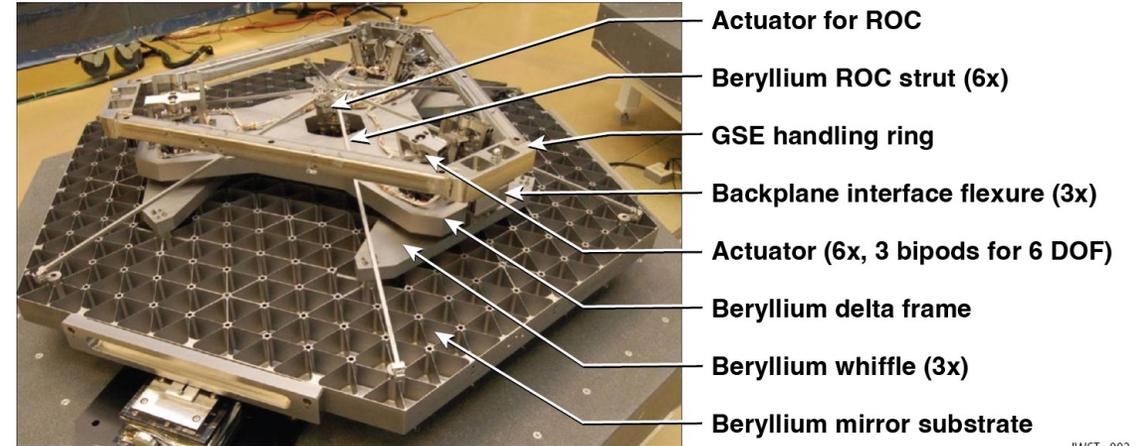
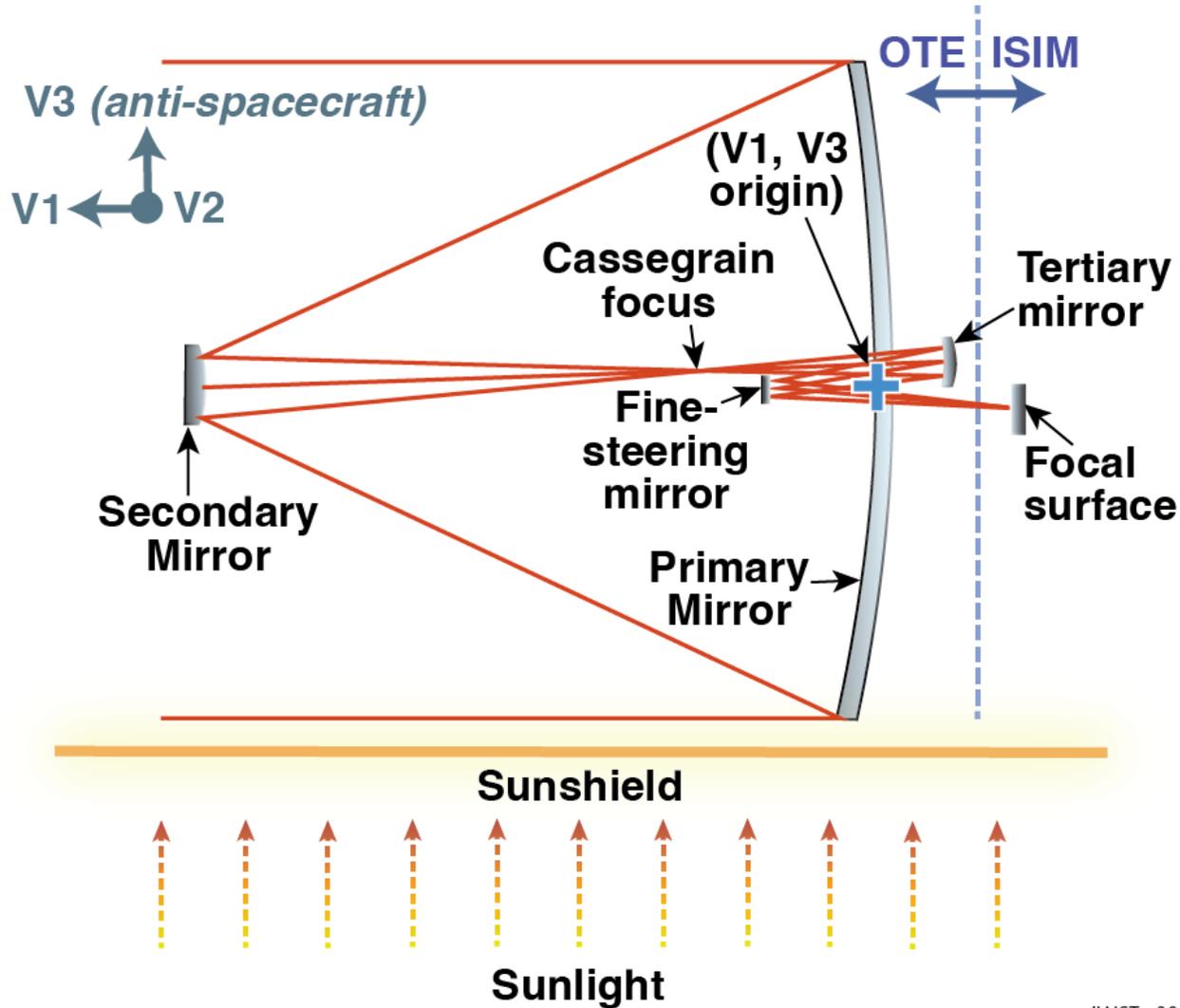


# Observatory Architecture





# Telescope Architecture



Primary mirror segment actuators with 7 degrees of freedom



Telescope emerges after cryogenic testing at NASA/JSC



# OTE Optical Error Budget Summary

nm rms	OTE totals			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	122	92	74	30
P+U	115	83	71	37
pred	81	53	55	26
unc	74	59	37	26

nm rms	OTE WFC Residual			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Req	81	41	63	30
P+U	78	33	60	37
pred	60	21	50	26
unc	51	29	34	26

nm rms	OTE Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	57	43	38	0
P+U	54	40	36	0
pred	34	25	22	0
unc	21	15	14	0

nm rms	OTE Steady State Vibe			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	13	11	7	0
P+U	7	0	7	0
pred	3	0	3	0
unc	3	0	3	0

nm rms	Image Motion Equ.			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Req	69	69	0	0
P+U	64	64	0	0
pred	41	41	0	0
unc	49	49	0	0

Req	los	6.2 mas		
P+U	los	5.7 mas		
pred	los	3.7 mas		
unc	los	4.3 mas		

LOS dynamics > fg bw	
Req	2.8 mas
P+U	2.6 mas
pred	1.3 mas
unc	2.3 mas

LOS jitter in fg bw	
Req	4.0 mas
P+U	3.5 mas
pred	2.5 mas
unc	2.5 mas

Inter-instr boresight motion	
Req	1.8 mas
P+U	1.8 mas
pred	1.1 mas
unc	1.4 mas

Cross term	
Req	3.3 mas
P+U	3.2 mas
pred	2.1 mas
unc	2.4 mas

System Image motion	
Req	6.6 mas
P+U	5.7 mas
pred	3.7 mas
unc	4.3 mas

System Image motion	
Req	6.2 mas
P+U	5.7 mas
pred	3.7 mas
unc	4.3 mas

LOS budget margin	
Req	2.3 mas
P+U	0.0 mas
pred	0.0 mas
unc	0.0 mas

nm rms	System Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	59	45	38	1
P+U	55	41	36	0
pred	34	25	22	0
unc	21	16	14	0

nm rms	OTE Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	57	43	38	0
P+U	54	40	36	0
pred	34	25	22	0
unc	21	15	14	0

nm rms	ISIS Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	13	13	1	1
P+U	8	8	0	0
pred	5	5	0	0
unc	4	4	0	0

nm rms	Alignment Vibrate			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	5	5	0	0
P+U	0.3	0	0	0
pred	0.1	0	0	0
unc	0.1	0	0	0

nm rms	Alignment Drift			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	10	10	0	0
P+U	8	8	0	0
pred	4	4	0	0
unc	4	4	0	0

nm rms	ISIS Struct Stab			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	8	8	0	0
P+U	7	7	0	0
pred	5	5	0	0
unc	2	2	0	0

nm rms	NIRCam Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	10	10	1	1
P+U	3	3	0	0
pred	0	0	0	0
unc	3	3	0	0

nm rms	Figure Vibrate			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	13	2	13	0
P+U	12	2	12	0
pred	6	1	6	0
unc	6	1	6	0

nm rms	Figure Drift			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	55	41	36	0
P+U	52	39	35	0
pred	33	25	22	0
unc	20	15	13	0

nm rms	OTE-ISIS Stability			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	1	1	0	0
P+U	0	0	0	0
pred	0	0	0	0
unc	0	0	0	0

nm rms	PM w/ frill & IEC effects			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	55	41	36	0
P+U	52	39	35	0
pred	33	25	22	0
unc	20	15	13	0

nm rms	SM			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	1	1	0	0
P+U	0	0	0	0
pred	0	0	0	0
unc	0	0	0	0

nm rms	TM			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	1	1	0	0
P+U	0	0	0	0
pred	0	0	0	0
unc	0	0	0	0

nm rms	FSM			
	tot	lo	mid	hi
Alloc	1	1	0	0
P+U	0	0	0	0
pred	0	0	0	0
unc	0	0	0	0



# JWST Performance

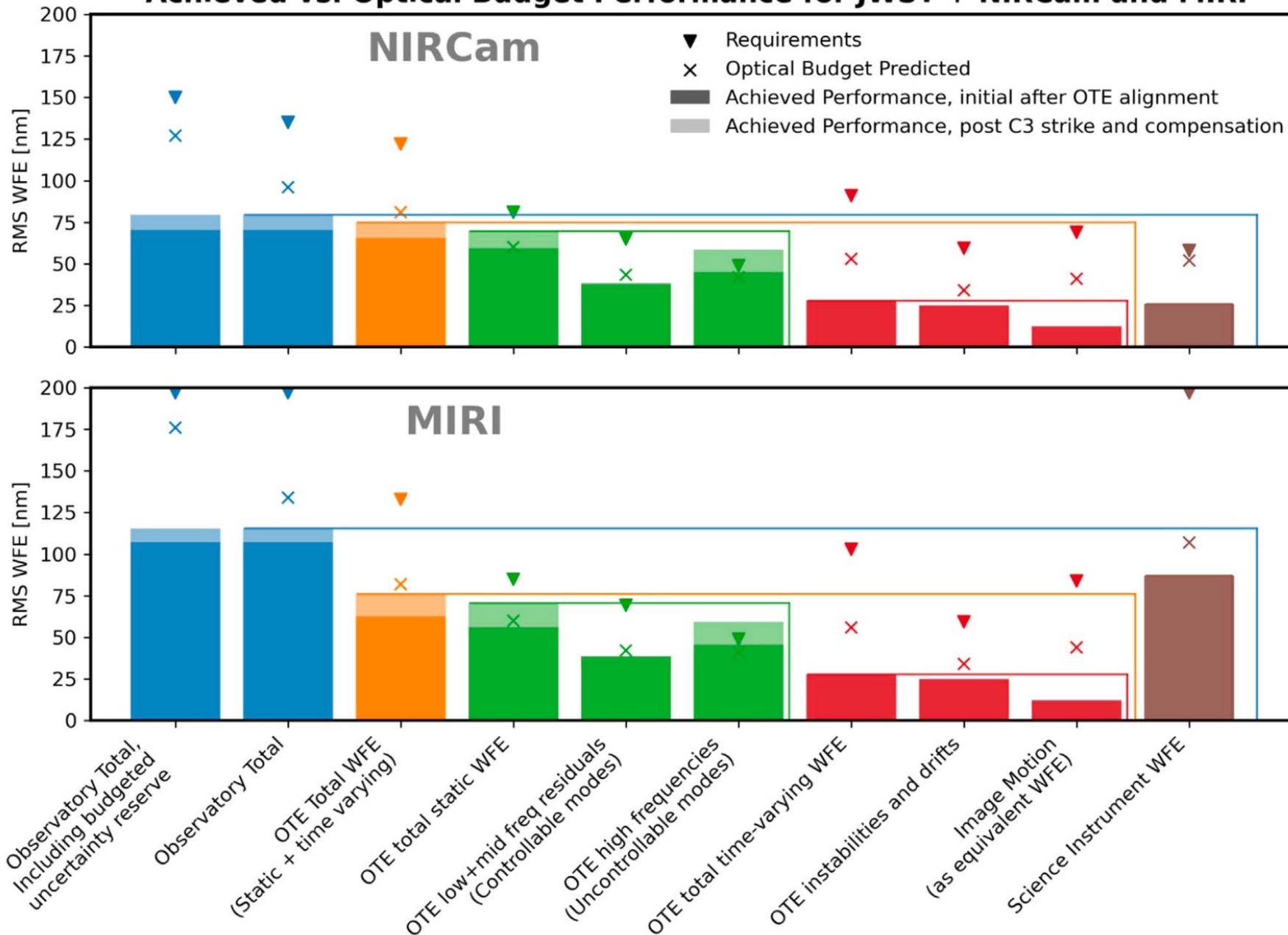


# Webb Telescope Team at Completion of Alignment





## Achieved vs. Optical Budget Performance for JWST + NIRCam and MIRI





# Telescope Static Error

- Telescope alignment, the correctable ***static*** wavefront error, is nearly perfect. There were no modifications to the alignment that would have gained material improvements (< 1% EE change at any field point).
  - NB: micrometeoroid impacts *are* slowly degrading the static wavefront error (see Menzel's presentation).
  - OTE wavefront error is currently 62nm; NIRCam WFE is 32nm at control field point
- We carry out wavefront measurements every 2 days and correct the telescope alignment less frequently as needed to maintain the ***static*** alignment (corrections planned for a 14 day cadence and currently needed significantly LESS frequently).
  - We do *not* plan to correct the dynamic drifts but rather the systematic drifts due to the telescope's deformations.



# Encircled Energy Stability Meets Requirements

Encircled Energy Stability	24 Hour (%)	14 Day (%)
Requirement	< 2.3%	<3.0%
BOL Thermal Test	0.2	0.53
EOL Estimate	0.4	2.4

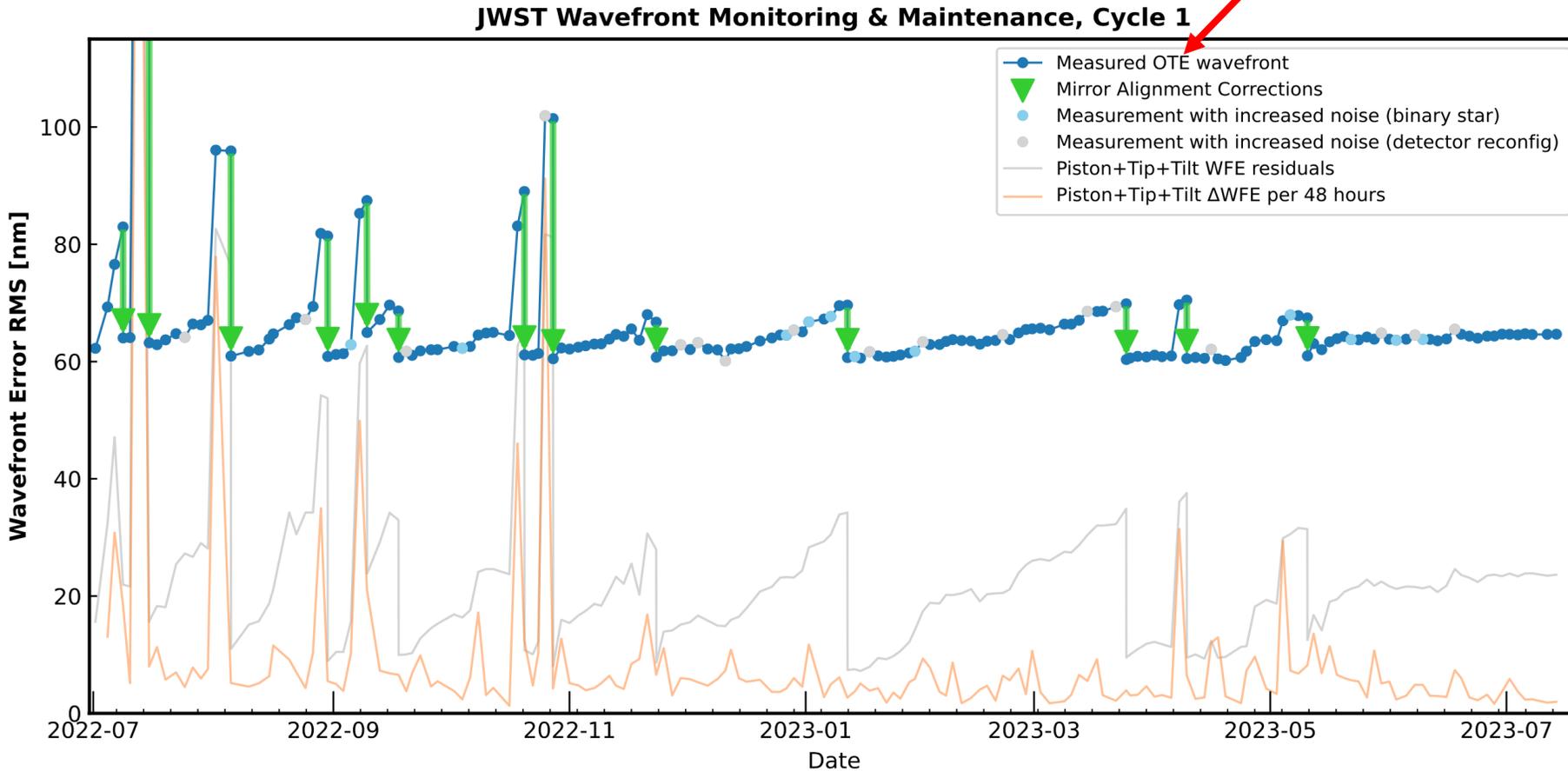
## *Evaluation assumptions*

- BOL to EOL extrapolations are valid.
- Thermal slew data matches the BOL prediction.
- Tilt events are small contributors relative to thermal and dynamics.
- Line of sight is bounded by high speed jitter (observed every 2 days with wavefront monitoring) and image motion measurements from the thermal stability test.
- Form of the static wavefront error is consistent with the encircled energy stability models.



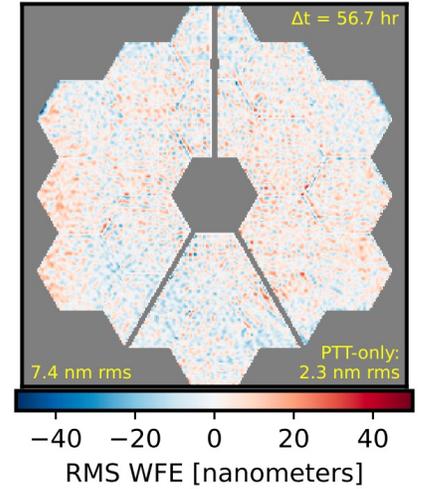
# JWST Cycle 1 Wavefront Trending

Wavefront errors reported for telescope only (not OTE+NIRCam).

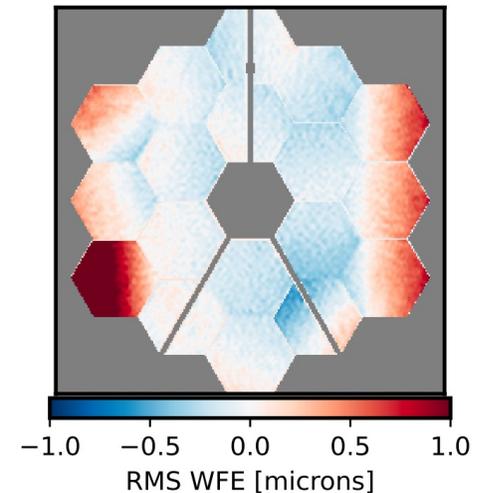


2 day WFS interval

Most Recent  $\Delta$ WFE  
(2023-07-13T21:32:59)



Cumulative  $\Delta$ WFE  
since 2022-07-01



Over the last 2 days, drift over that time interval was 2.5 pm/min

Lajoie, Lallo, Meléndez, et al., 2023; arXiv:207.11179



# JWST Instabilities



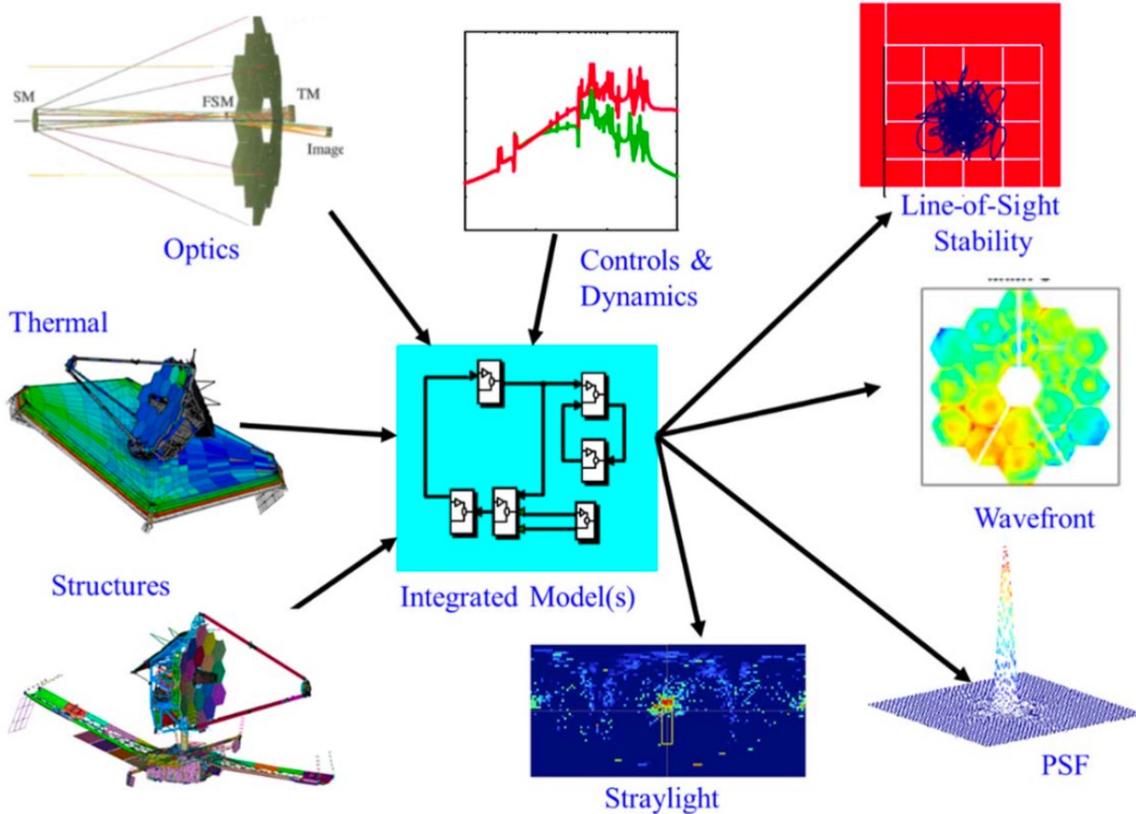
# Instabilities -- Knowns and Unknowns

- **Design drifts:** When a large slew in pitch (i.e., toward or away from the sun) is made, thermal changes on the spacecraft and OTE contribute to optical stability changes.
  - Pointing instability: from thermal changes to the star tracker assembly and OTE which affect the relative coordinates, resulting in a roll about the boresight (i.e., not sensed or corrected by the fine guidance sensor loop). *HWO could control roll with more than one guide star.*
  - OTE thermal distortion: from structural displacements to the OTE backplane and secondary mirror motion, resulting in a change in the wavefront error. *HWO will be active; the JWST is a benchmark for dynamic range and time constants for active control.*
- **As-built drifts:** During OTIS cryovacuum testing, three additional instabilities were observed:
  - PMSA tilt events: unpredictable tilt events, likely due to backplane stress relief from the structural cooldown to operational temperatures. Several events were identified during OTIS cryo-stable but had plausible non-flight contributors. *HWO will be sensitive at picometer level for HWO (need active controls, PSF calibrations); HWO room temperature so less built in strain.*
  - IEC cyclic wavefront drifts: from the IEC radiator panel heater turn on/off which coupled into the backplane through the harness. *HWO will use variable heater control (not bang-bang), harnesses will be designed to mitigate mechanical interactions (e.g., splayed cables, service loops), and thermal control loop should be modeled.*
  - Frill & PMSA close-out thermal distortion: from frill and PMSA installations that did not have the requisite slack to operate across the OTE temperature range without imparting forces on the backplane. *HWO design should avoid using a frill (e.g., a telescope barrel decoupled from mirrors/backplane).*
- Micrometeoroid damage will degrade the OTE static wavefront error over time. *HWO can use a barrel to protect from micrometeoroids and contamination.*



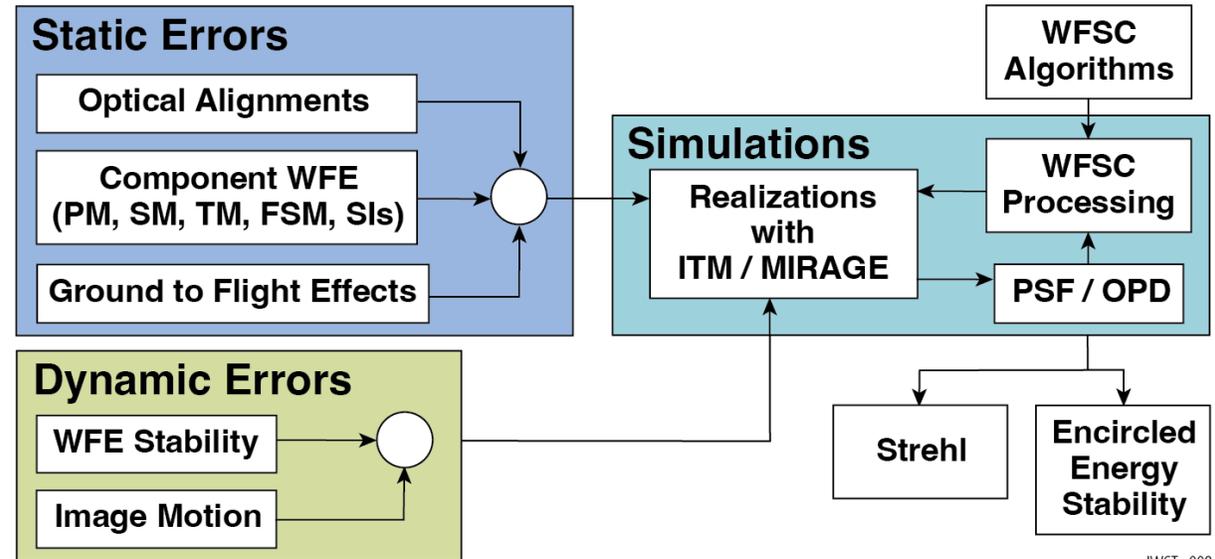
# Performance Verification often by Analysis

## Integrated Modeling



Menzel, Davis, Parrish et al., 2023, PASP Special Issue

## Optical Modeling

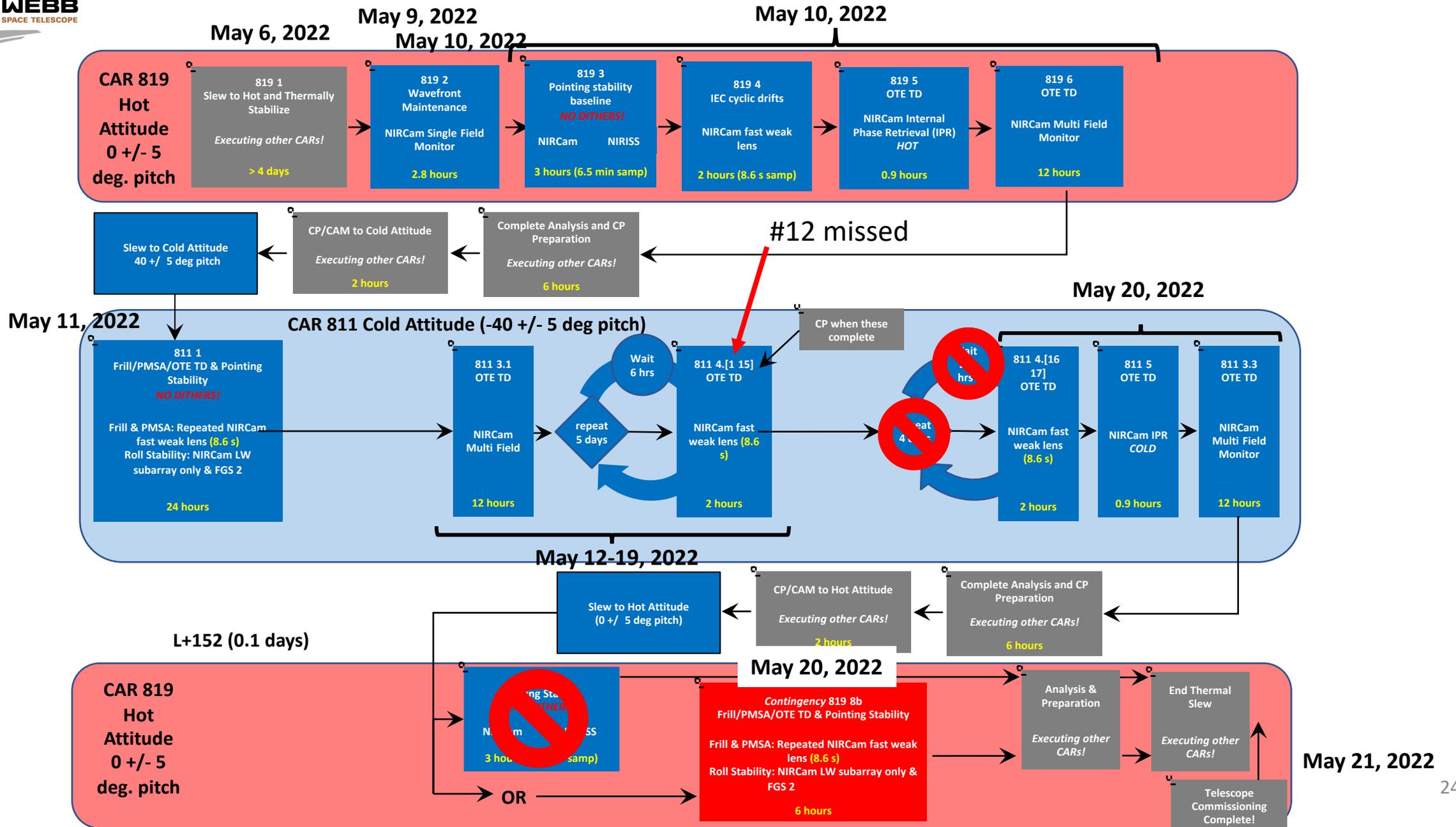


McElwain, Feinberg, Perrin, et al., 2023, PASP Special Issue

See Marie Levine keynote talk "Integrated modeling of the James Webb Space Telescope: flight performance and lessons learned" at SPIE Optics + Photonics August 20-24, 2023.



# Commissioning thermal stability activity flowchart



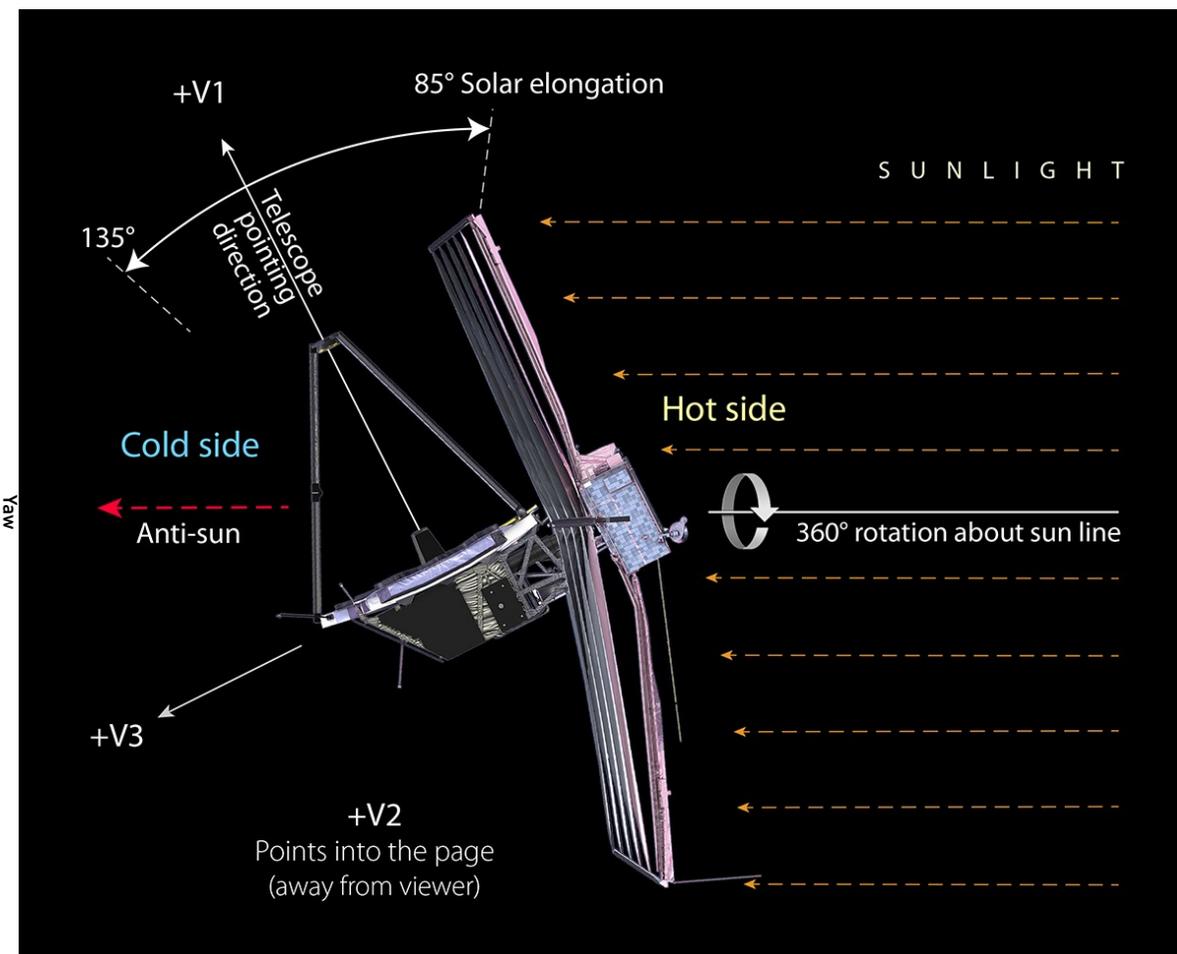
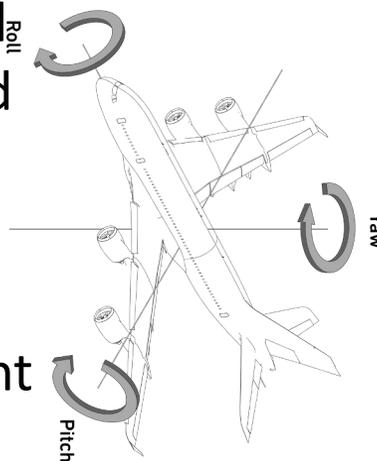


# Thermal Distortion: Telescope, Frill, and PMSA Closeout



# Thermal Distortion Overview

- Pointing within the field of regard changes solar heating, causing temperature changes ( $< 100$  mK,  $< 50$ nm drift EOL), causing wavefront drift.
- JWST is *passively* stable with thermal isolation from the spacecraft bus and low CTE components on the telescope.
- JWST designed to meet the 14 day encircled energy stability requirement without any mirror control – that is, the wavefront active control does not correct thermal distortion but rather systematic drifts (e.g., tilt events, mechanical creep).

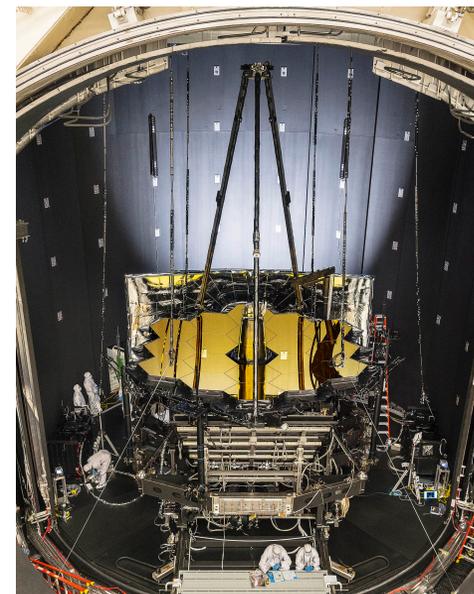




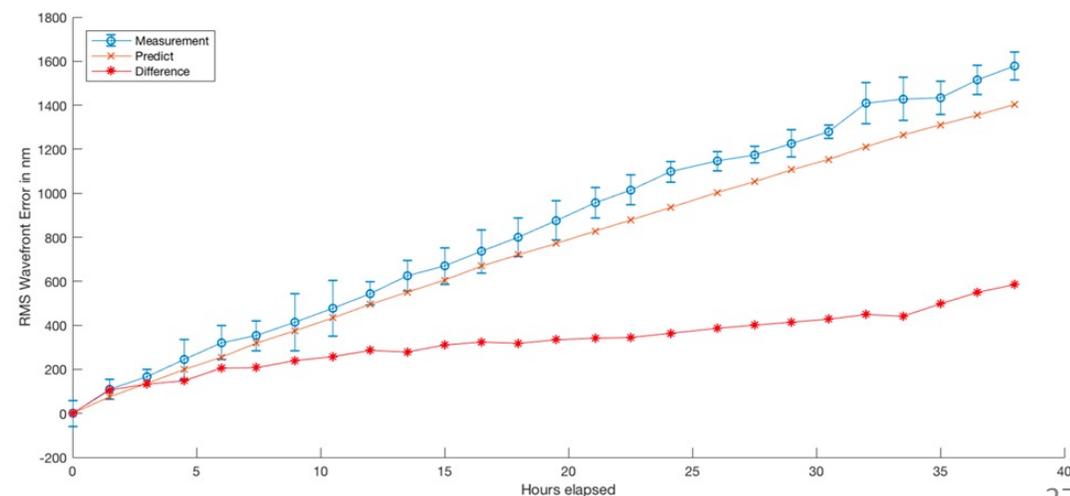
# Thermal Distortion Ground Tests

- Thermal distortion predictions from integrated modeling, anchored in tests at the component and assembly levels.
- OTIS cryovacuum testing measured alignment drifts and figure drifts, using overdrive tests that were  $\sim 100x$  larger temperatures than the flight conditions.
  - Confirmed structural displacements due to temperature changes, making use of high precision ground test temperature sensors
  - Repeated tests on cooldown and warm up; independent team analyses
- Verified flight telescope performance within integrated modeling predictions
- Discovered unexpected wavefront drifts, later attributed to interactions with soft structure and harnesses.

OTIS in JSC Chamber A



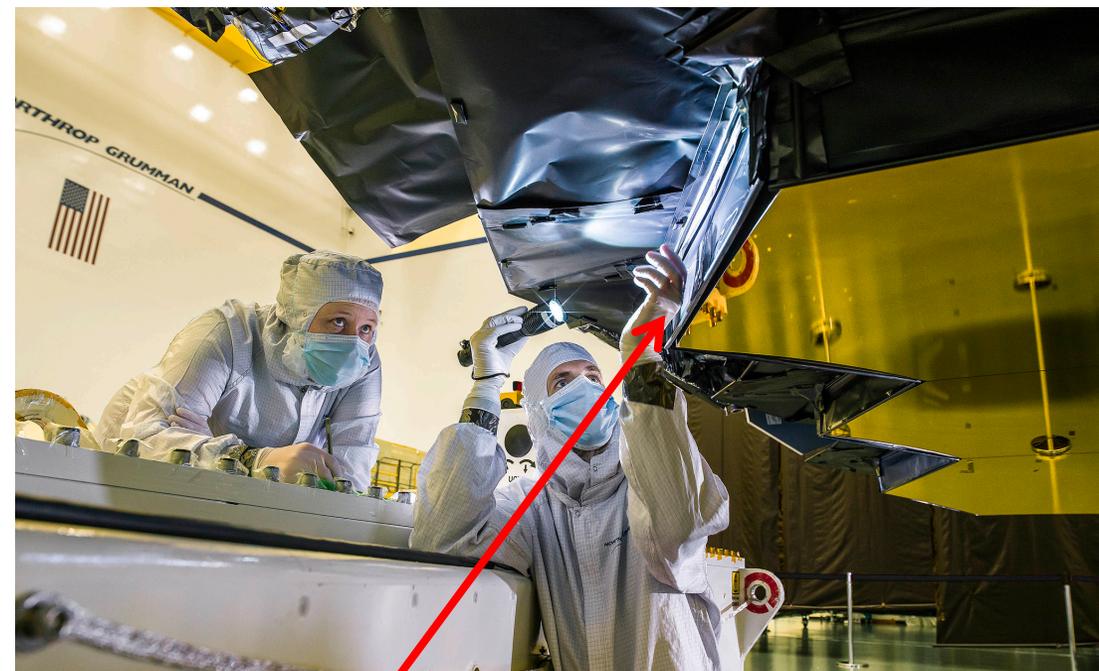
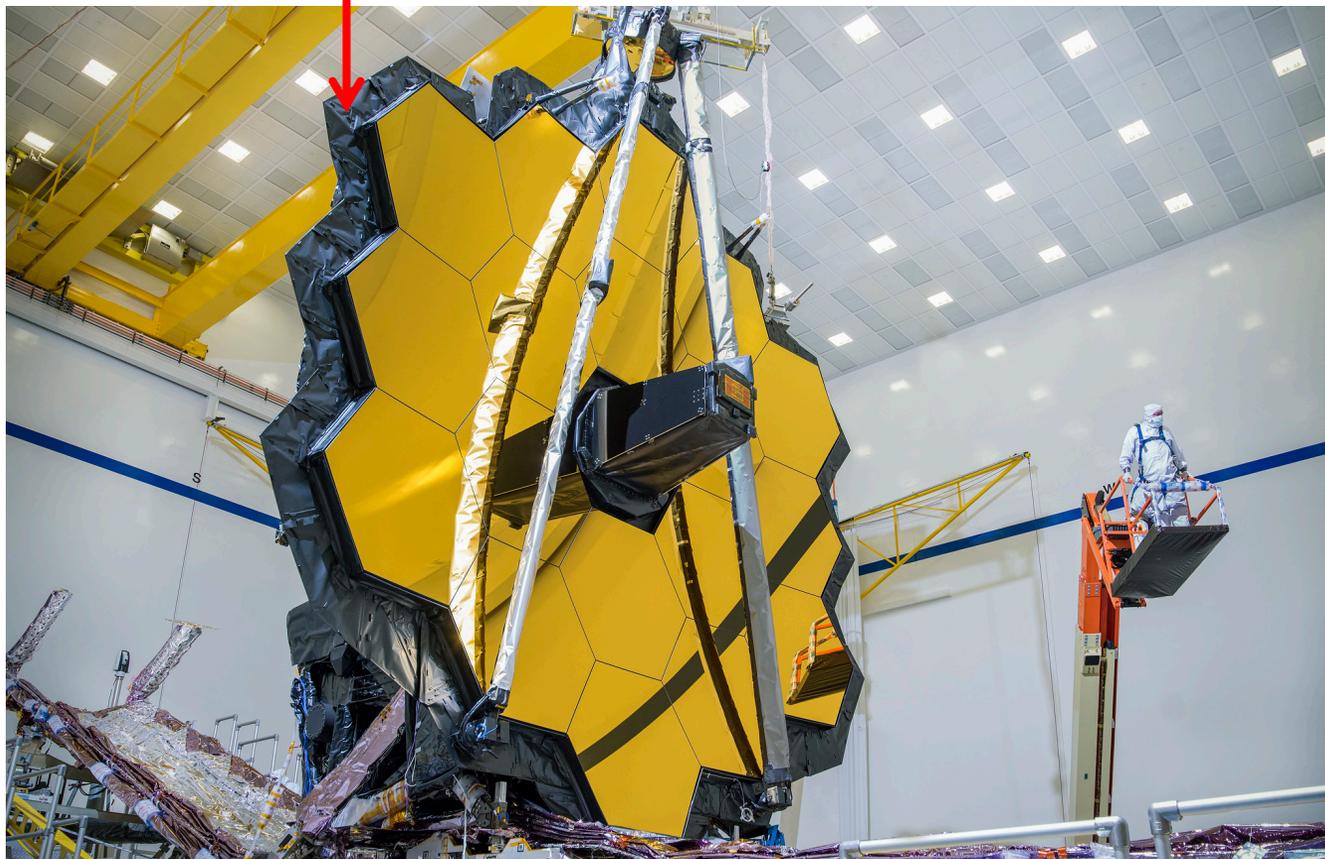
OTIS CV Figure Drift test vs. prediction validated models





# Frill and PMSA Closeouts

Soft structure “frill” extends from the perimeter of the primary mirror to block unwanted stray light



Primary mirror closeouts

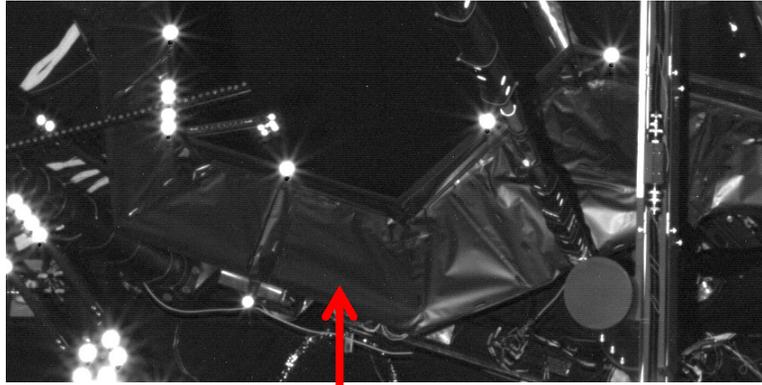


# Evidence of a Taut Frill during Cryo Testing

Ambient

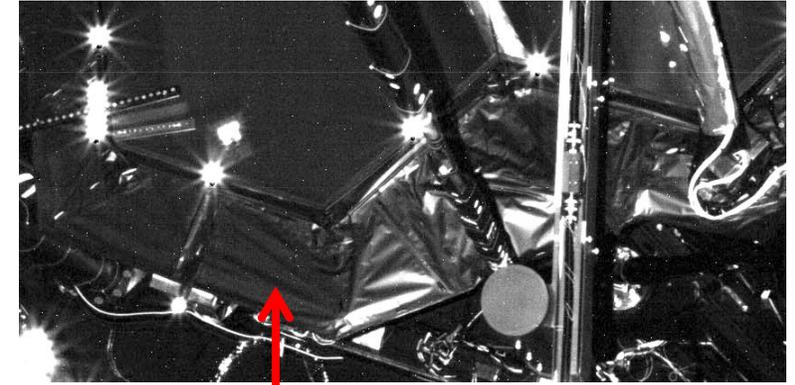


125 K



tension folds apparent

75 K

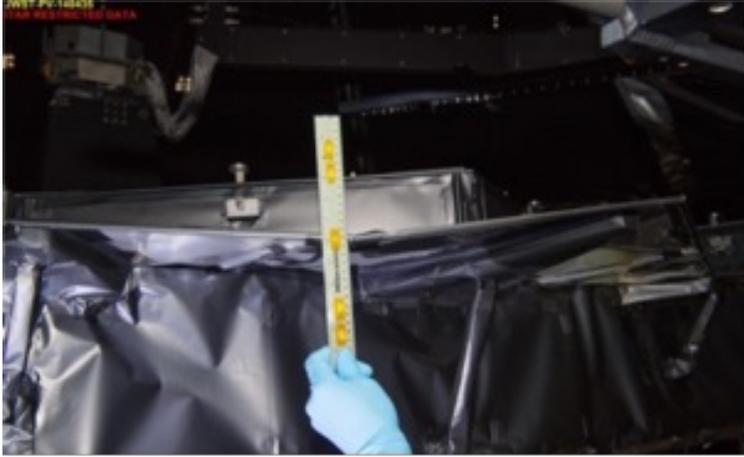


tension folds increased

- Design intent was for frill and close-out to remain slack throughout operating temperature range.
- Evidence of tension fields in frill seen in photogrammetry system imagery



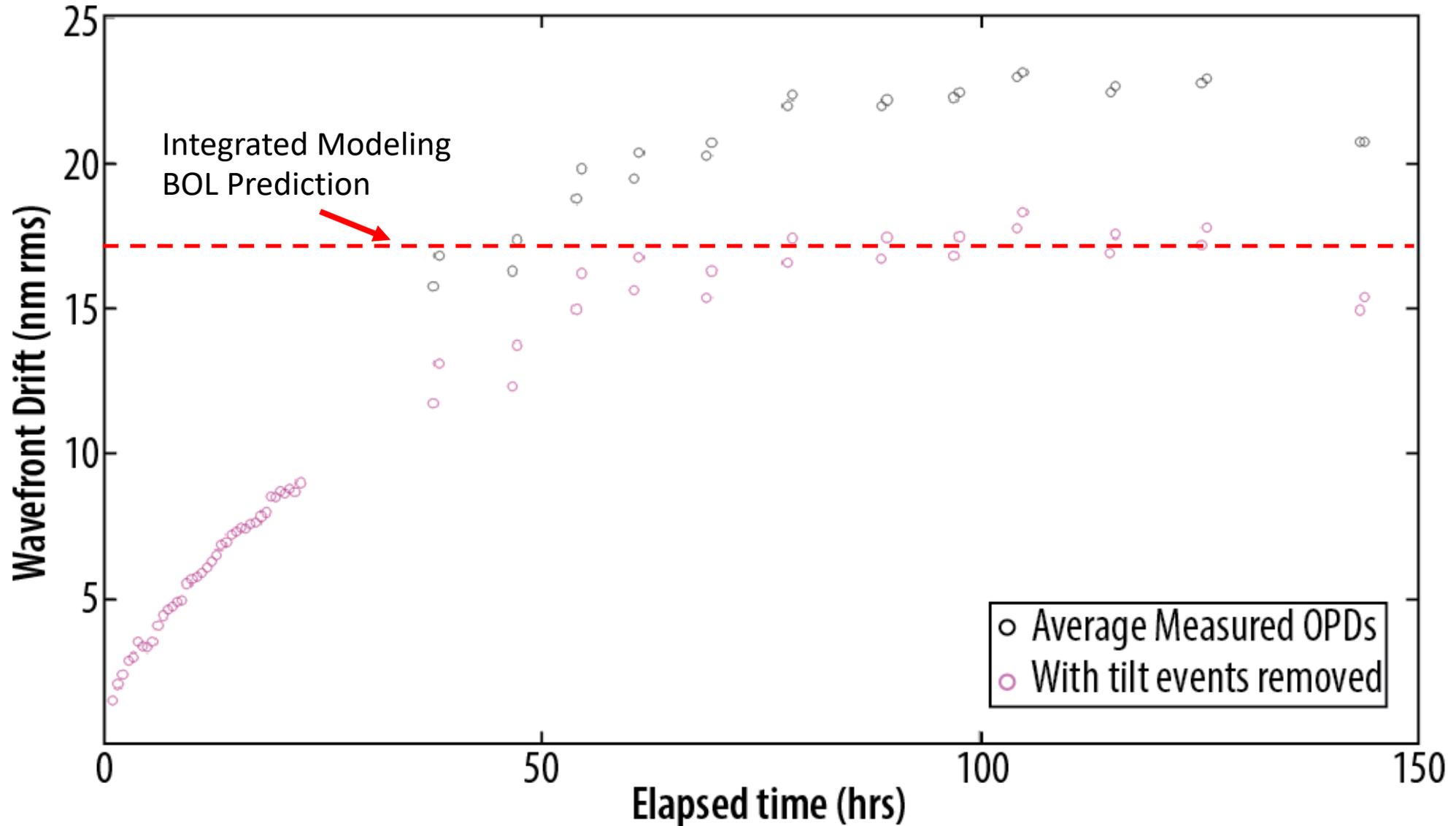
# Frill Slack Measurements



- Following the test, direct inspections confirmed the design intent was not achieved
- Frill blanket inspections estimated the slack by measuring the available deflection when a gentle force was applied normal.
- Major effort was made to increase the slack but we didn't do this in a few places near deployments and accepted there would be a few nm effect after a slew.
  - We were not able to re-test and verify the repaired performance.



# On-orbit Thermal Distortion Measurement



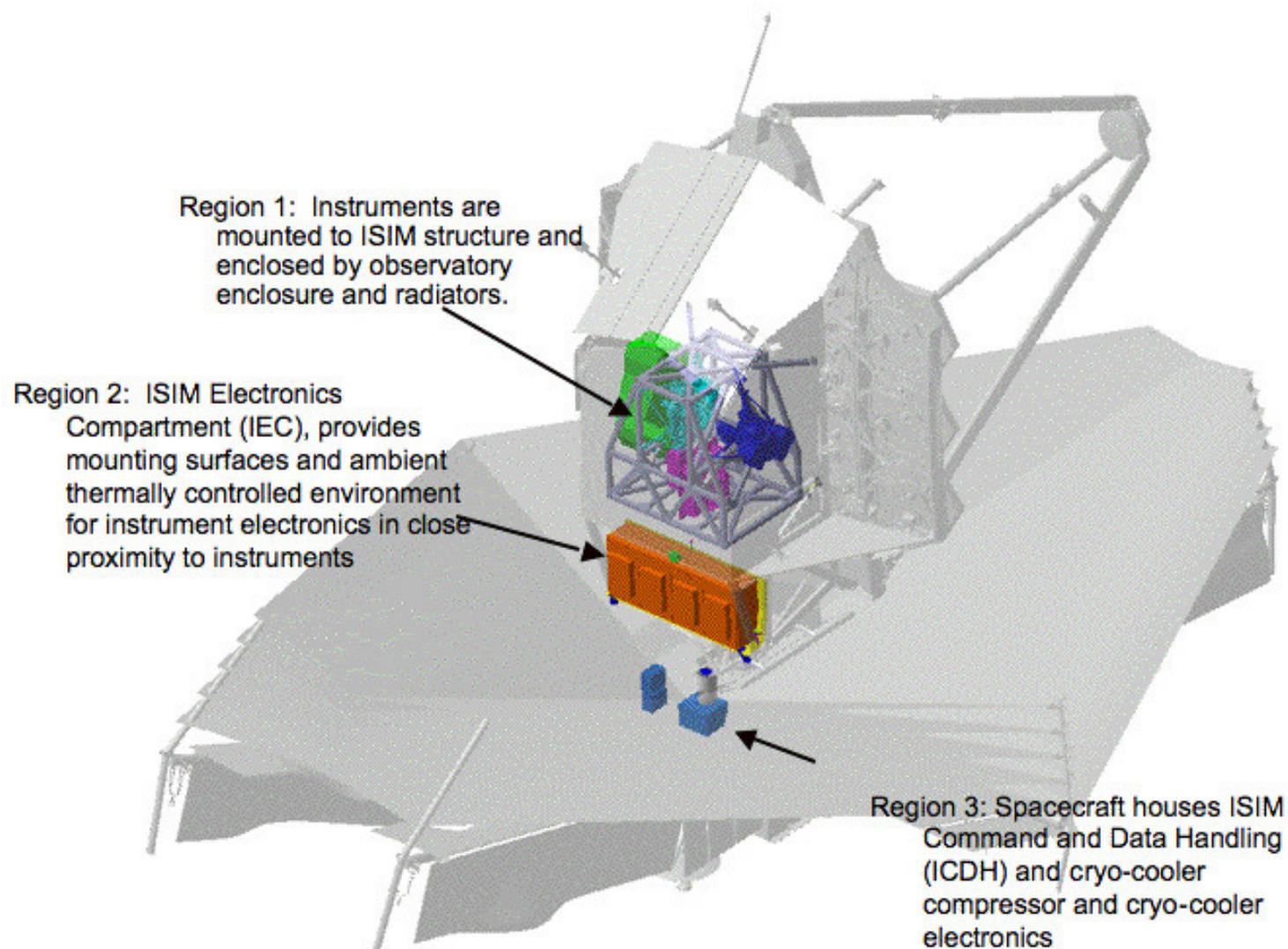


# IEC Cyclic Wavefront Drifts



# Instrument Electronics Compartment

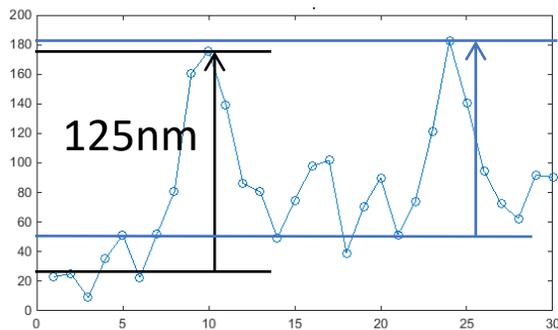
- IEC electronics operate at  $\sim 280$  K
- IEC electronics boxes use bang-bang heaters for thermal control
- IEC electronics boxes are connected via harnesses to the science instruments.



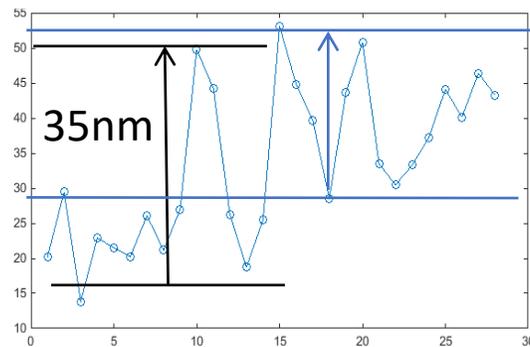


# Cyclic Drift Instabilities Observed in OTIS cryotest)

- Large cyclic wavefront errors observed in test and correlated to IEC temperature control cycle
- During JSC there was a mechanical short between the IEC and Backplane from the GSE
- At the end of the test, the short was offloaded (using a large flexure) and showed the cyclic behavior greatly reduced
- Dead band was reduced from  $\pm 1.0$  K to  $\pm 0.25$  K, wavefront oscillations mitigated
- Analysis indicated not worth implementing pseudo PID control (complicated, late)
- Residual effect expected in flight; integrated modeling predicted 3.5 nm oscillations

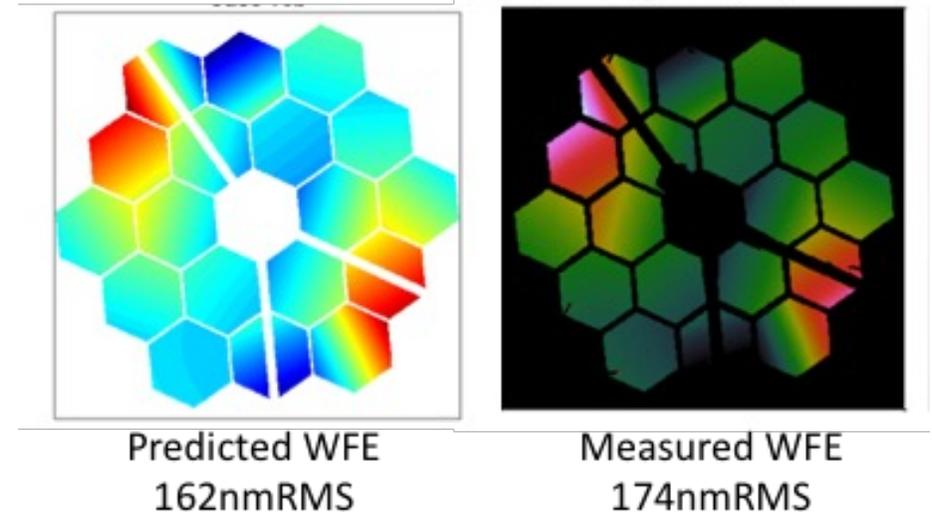


$\pm 1.0$  K  
IEC heater dead band



$\pm 0.25$  K  
IEC heater dead band

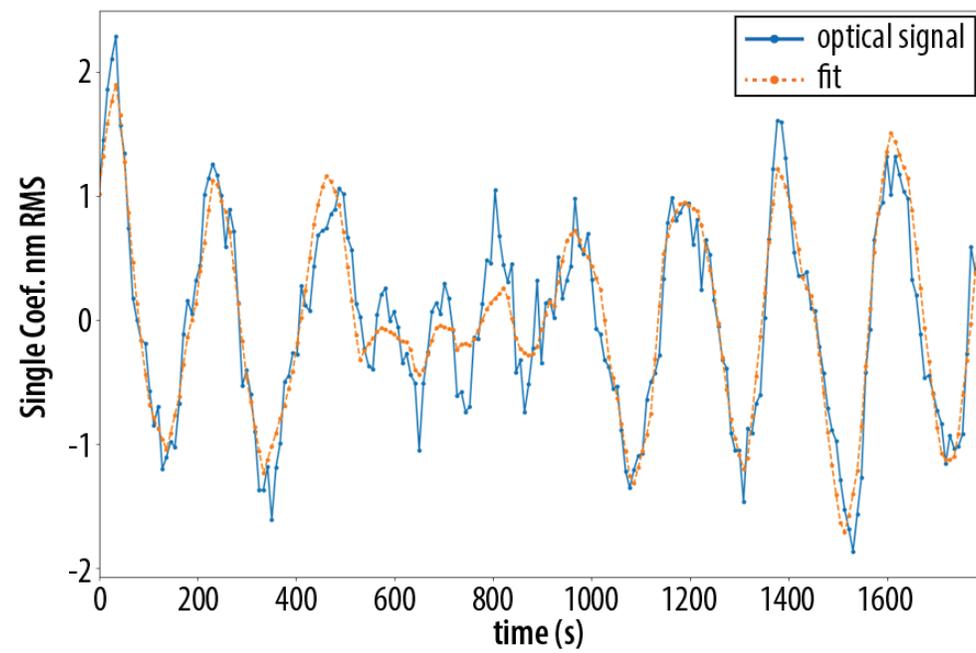
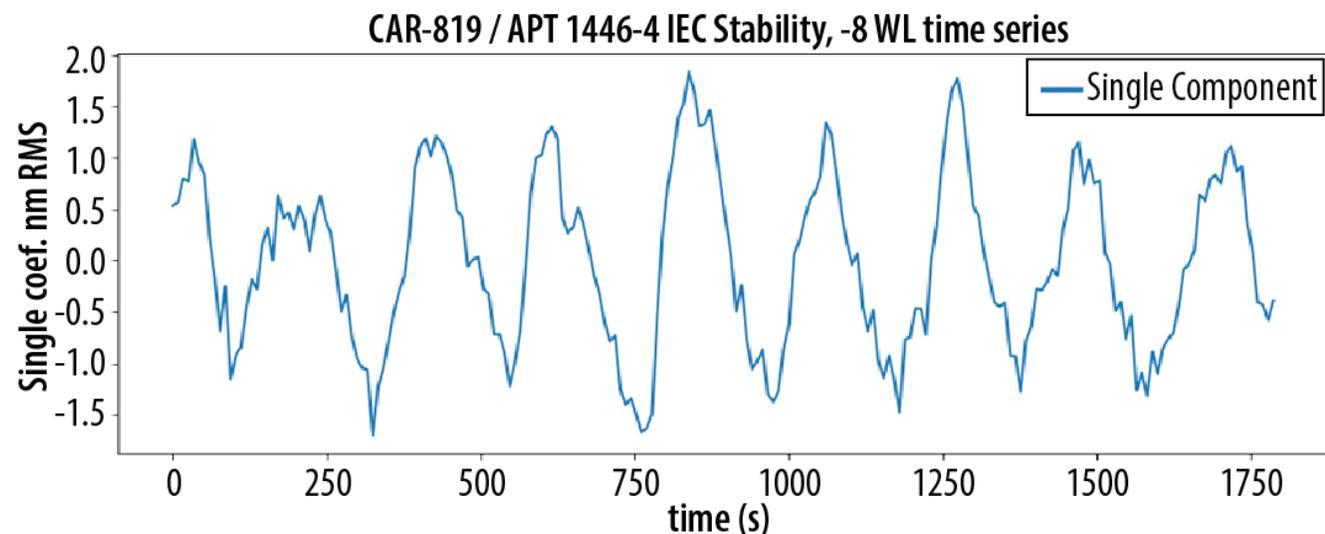
## Harness Short Model Validation





# IEC Cyclic Drifts Measured with 8.5 s sampling

- Cyclic drifts expected from IEC panel heater on-off cycle.
- Wavefront is primarily focus and astigmatism (single component model mixes focus and astigmatism).
- Delta WFE monitor achieved  $\sim 200\text{pm}$  resolution performance (analysis by Alden Jurling, GSFC).
- Transit spectroscopy measurements report correlated noise at timescales  $< 5$  minutes, attributed to uncorrected noise from the IEC heater thermal cycling (Lustig-Yaeger et al., 2023).





# Measured and Predicted Instabilities

Contributor	Predicted Amplitude (WFE nm rms)	Measured Amplitude (WFE nm rms)	Predicted Response	Measured Response
IEC Heater Cycling	3.5	2.5	240-480s period oscillation	224 s period oscillation
Frill & PMSA Closeout	9	4.45±0.19	8-10 hr time constant	0.77 hr time constant
Thermal Distortion	14.4	17.94±0.39	5-6 day time constant	1.41 day time constant

\*The predicted values reported are for the beginning of life properties and including model uncertainty factors.

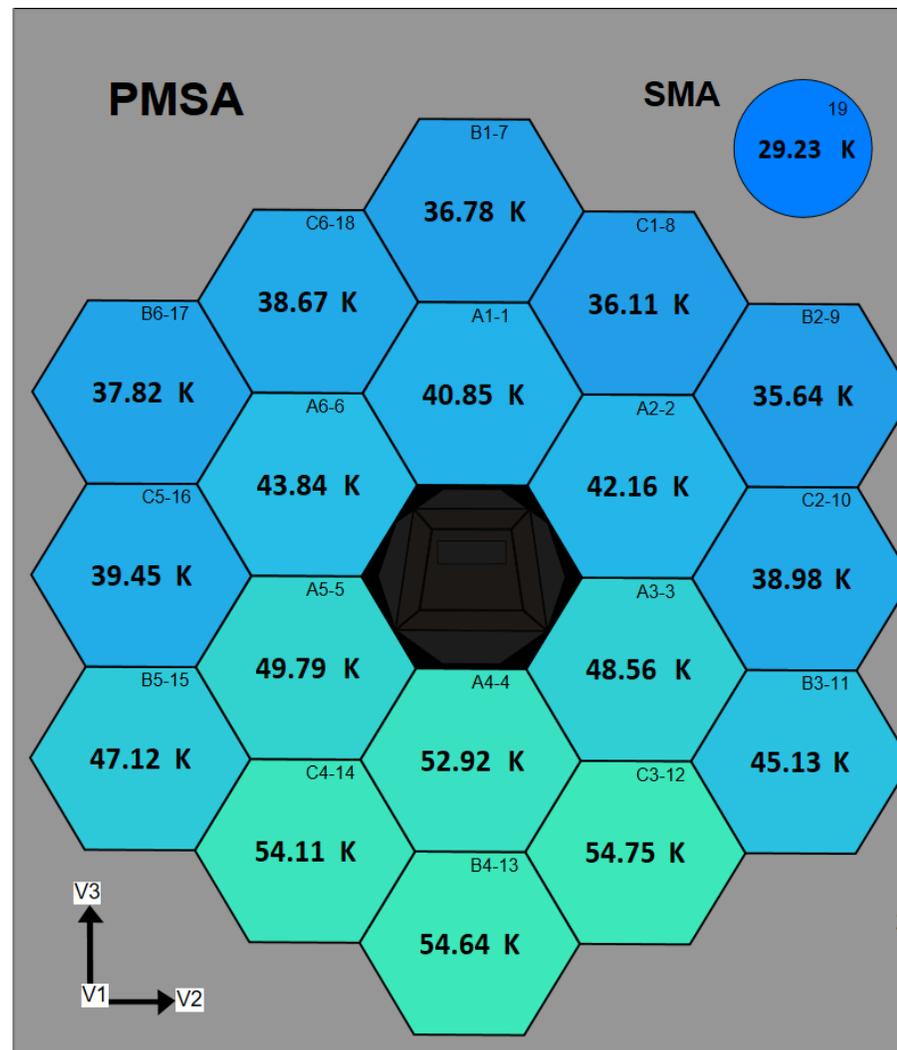


# Primary Mirror Segment Assembly Tilt Events (now infrequent)



# Cooldown Created Mechanical Stress

- Passive cooling to its operational temperature by the 5 layer sunshield.
- Cooldown from room temperature to cryogenic temperatures created stress within the telescope materials and interfaces.
- Structural stress relief manifests itself as stick-slip releases, tilting the optical elements (called “tilt events”).
- Tilt events were frequent early in the mission but have decreased in frequency as the structure equilibrates.

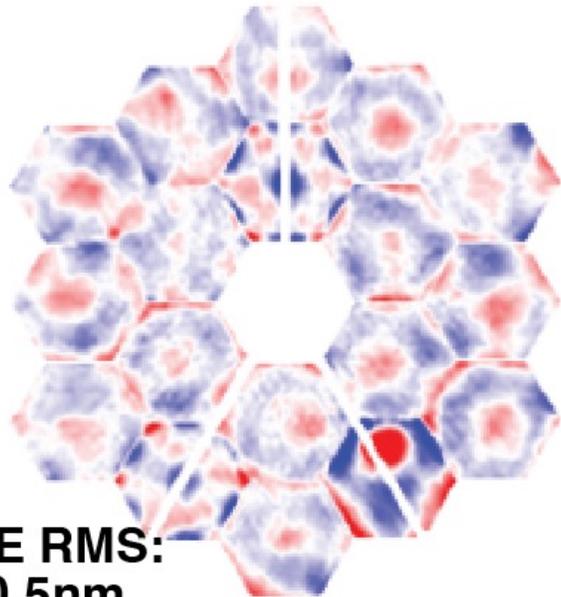




# Tilt Events

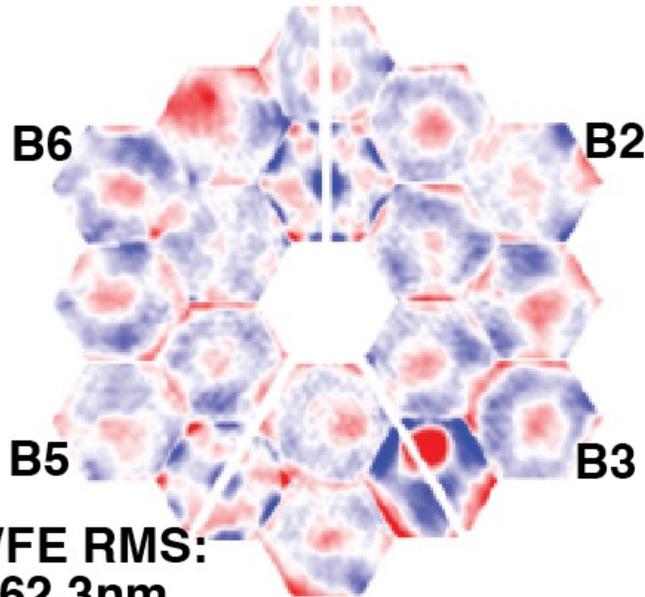
- Frequency has reduced considerably as the OTE structure has equilibrated.
- Easily measured with wavefront sensing and corrected as needed.

**Previous Obs. PID 02726,  
Obs 377  
R2022102704  
(2022-10-27 18:47:45.269000)**



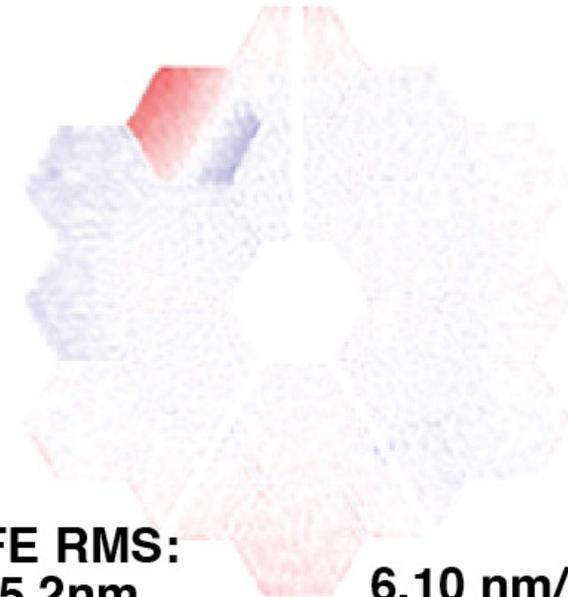
**WFE RMS:  
60.5nm**

**Sensing Obs. PID 02726,  
Obs 403  
R2022102903  
(2022-10-29 21:17:41.119000)**



**WFE RMS:  
62.3nm**

**Drift between  
Current and Previous**



**WFE RMS:  
15.2nm**

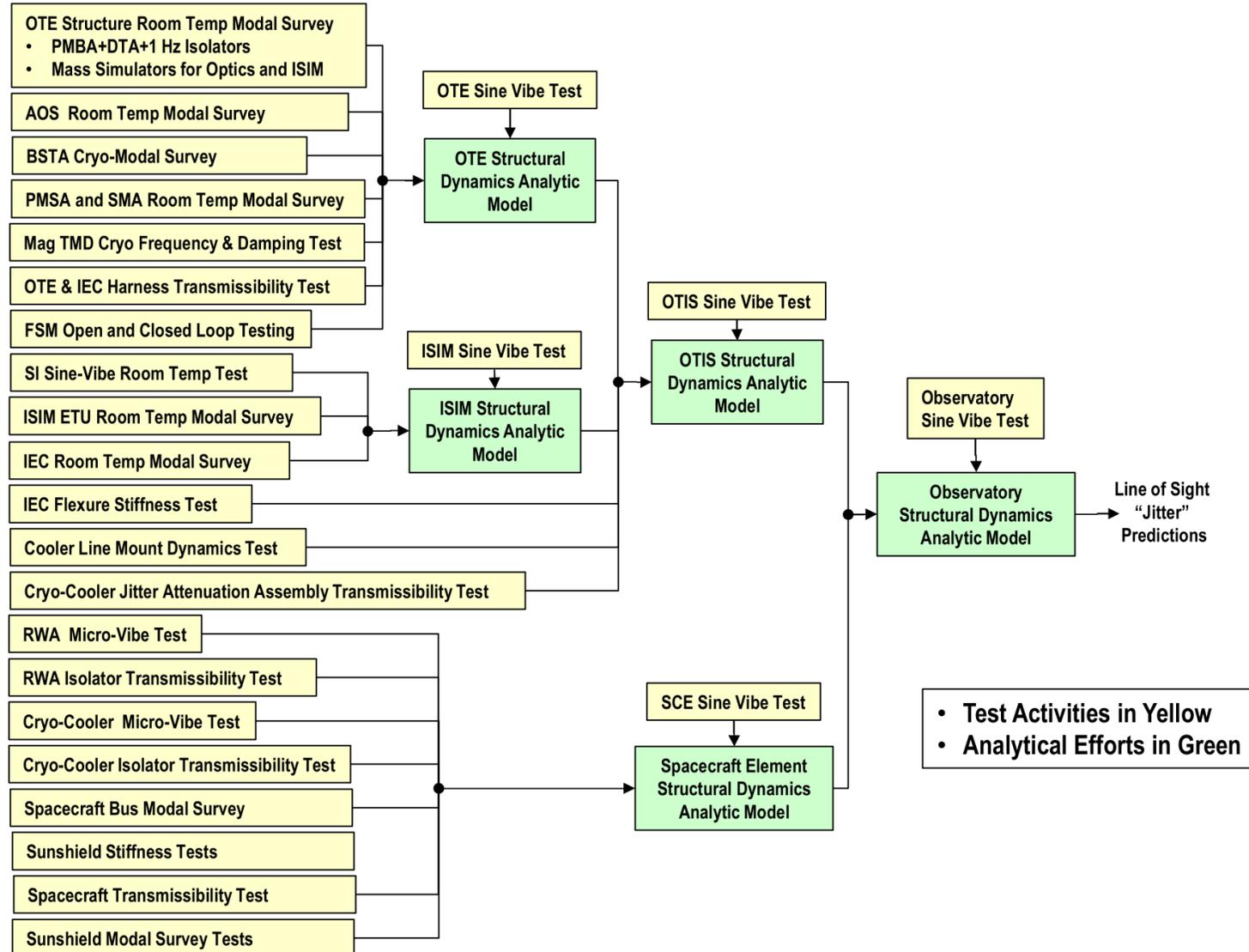
**6.10 nm/hr**



# Image Motion



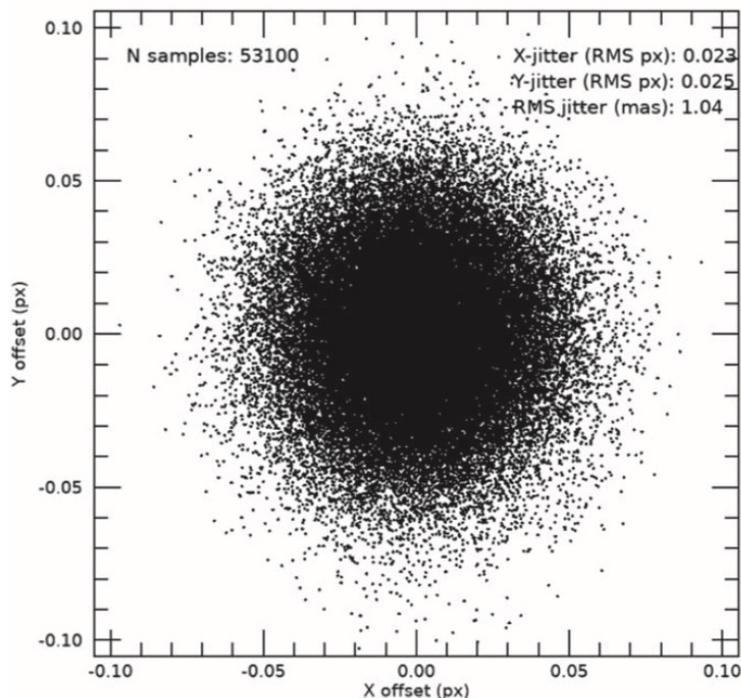
# Jitter Verification by Analysis with Integrated Modeling



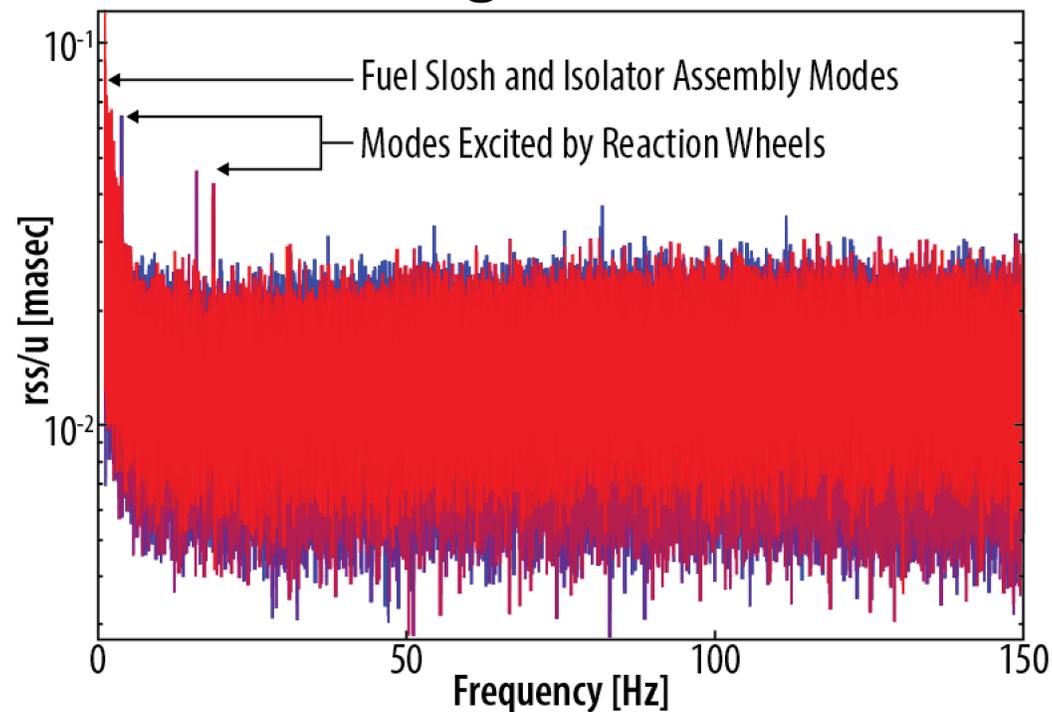


# Jitter Measurements

## Typical Jitter Measurement



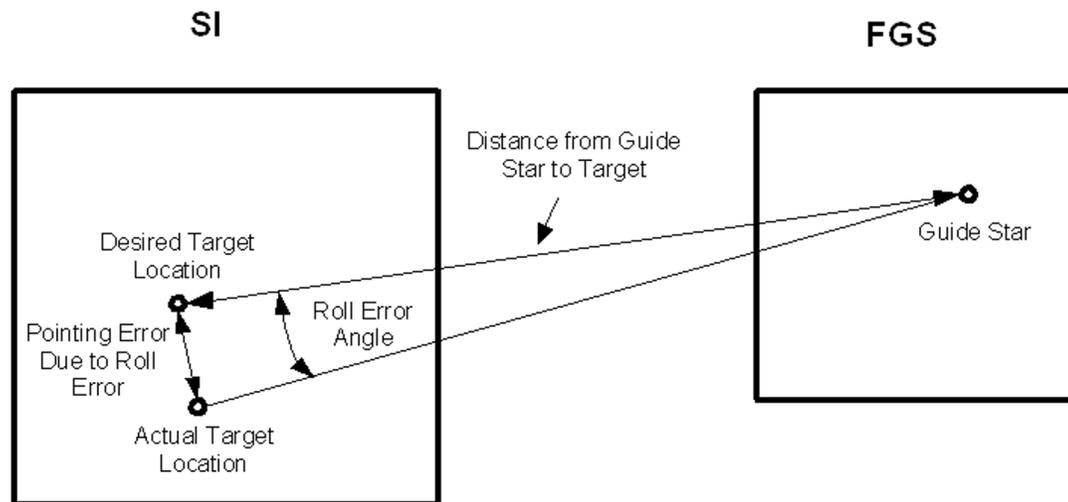
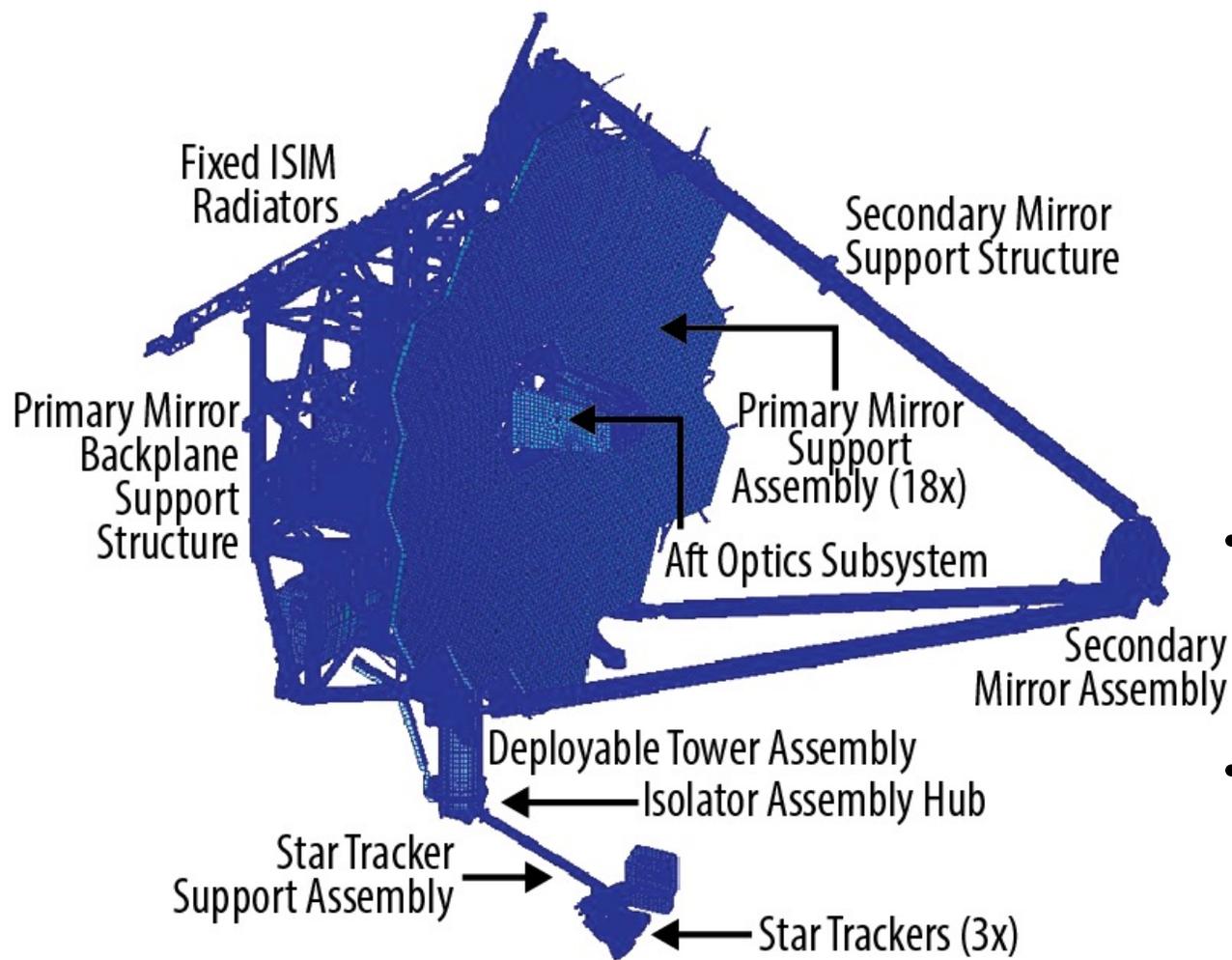
## PSD Showing Excited Modes



- Typical jitter rms is  $\sim 1$  mas radial (cf.  $\sim 7$  mas rms over 15 s requirement)
  - NIRCam 8x8 pix readout with 2.2 ms frame rate ( $=460$  Hz = 230 Hz Nyquist frequency) for  $\sim 2$  min
- Expected contributions from reaction wheels and cryocooler exported vibrations less than predicted (conservative modeling)
  - *Cryocooler tuning and Reaction Wheel push through algorithm (PTA) not needed!*
- Jitter measurements every 2 days as part of the routine wavefront sensing measurements.



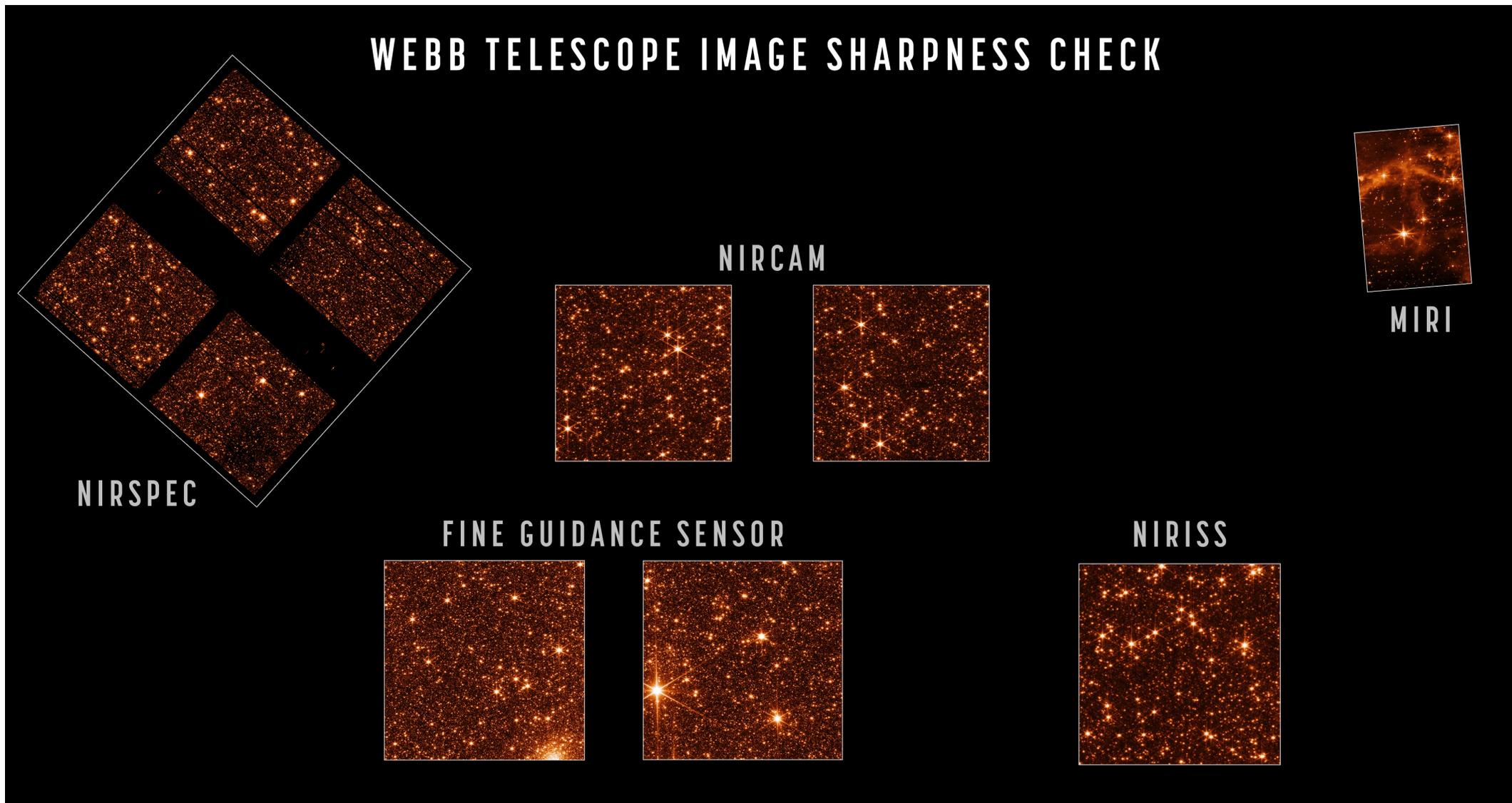
# Pointing Instability Overview



- Pointing instability following slews ( $\tau \sim 1$  hr) can arise due to the different locations of the startracker (ST) in Thermal Region 3 on the spacecraft (hot) side of the Observatory and the fine guidance sensor (FGS) in Thermal Region 1 on the telescope (cold) side.
- Relative ST and FGS thermal drifts will cause inter-boresight motion that produces a guide star offset in FGS in the V2/V3 plane, which will be corrected through the ACS loop with offset loops and FGS to J-frame updates, and rotational drift about the V1 axis. The rotational drift is not sensed by the ACS system and not corrected.



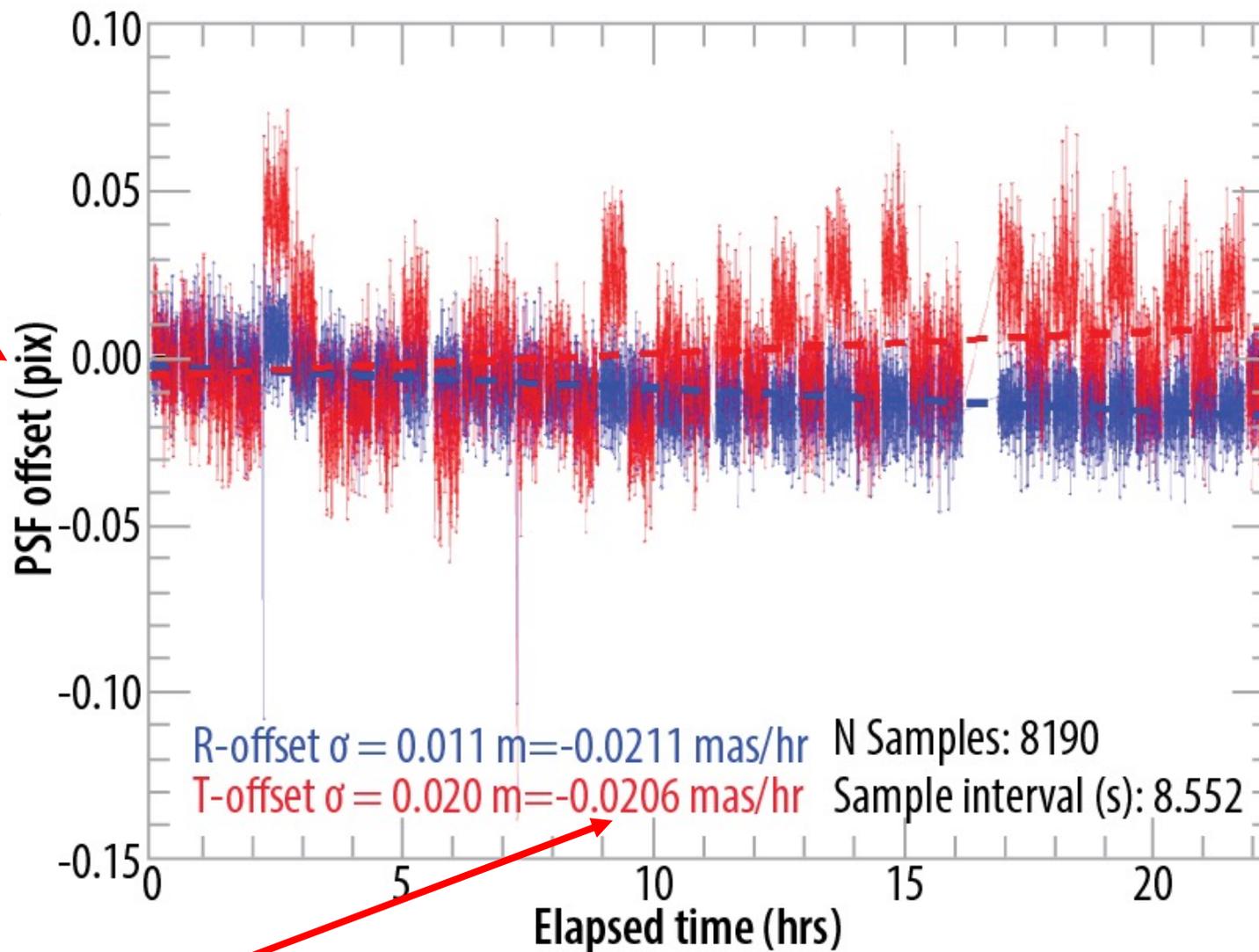
# Science Instrument Focal Plane Arrangement





# On-orbit Pointing Stability Measurement using NIRCam

NIRCam shortwave  
platescale is 31.1 mas/pix



Predict 0.79 mas/hr



# Environmental Factors: Micrometeoroids

See Menzel's talk at this conference



# Lessons Learned



## Some Stability Lessons Learned

- Piecewise verification by analysis works
- JWST wavefront sensing demonstrated in the sub-nm regime
- Soft structure is prone to workmanship issues and is difficult to verify
- Tilt event instabilities may be present for similar composite structures with wing latch interfaces
- Model uncertainties are required for requirements verification but can lead to conservatism. How you evaluate the model uncertainties should be revisited on a case by case basis. Day in the life at beginning of life performance should be emphasized too.
- Harness properties should be carefully included in thermal distortion models
- Avoid bang-bang heater control; include thermal control in integrated models
- Independent modeling and analysis is valuable throughout the development



# Key References

JWST Topic	Reference
Telescope Development, Performance, Lessons Learned	McElwain, Feinberg, Perrin, et al., 2023, PASP, 135, 058001
Telescope Imaging Performance	Knight & Lightsey, 2022, SPIE, 12180, 121800V
Observatory Development & Performance	Menzel, Davis, Parrish, et al., 2023, PASP, 135, 058002
Line of Sight Measurements During Commissioning	Hartig & Lallo, 2022, JWST-STScI-008271
Science Performance	Rigby, Perrin, McElwain, et al., 2023, PASP, 135, 048001
Cycle 1 Wavefront Trending	Lajoie, Lallo, Meléndez, et al., arXiv: 2307.11179
Stability Lessons Learned	Feinberg, McElwain, Bowers, et al., 2023, JATIS (submitted)
Integrated Modeling Lessons Learned	Levine & Mosier, 2023, SPIE Optics + Photonics 2023

