

ExoPAG 23 Agenda: Friday 3:30-5:00 pm EDT.

- *Review progress on actions from past meetings (K. Stapelfeldt).*
- Proposed discussion on potential “finding”:

On the value of investing in interdisciplinary exoplanet science of scale over longer periods of performance (see full text at <https://tinyurl.com/y6l8anlb>).

- Share new ideas for ExoPAG priorities and activities.
- **Any other business/Announcements?**

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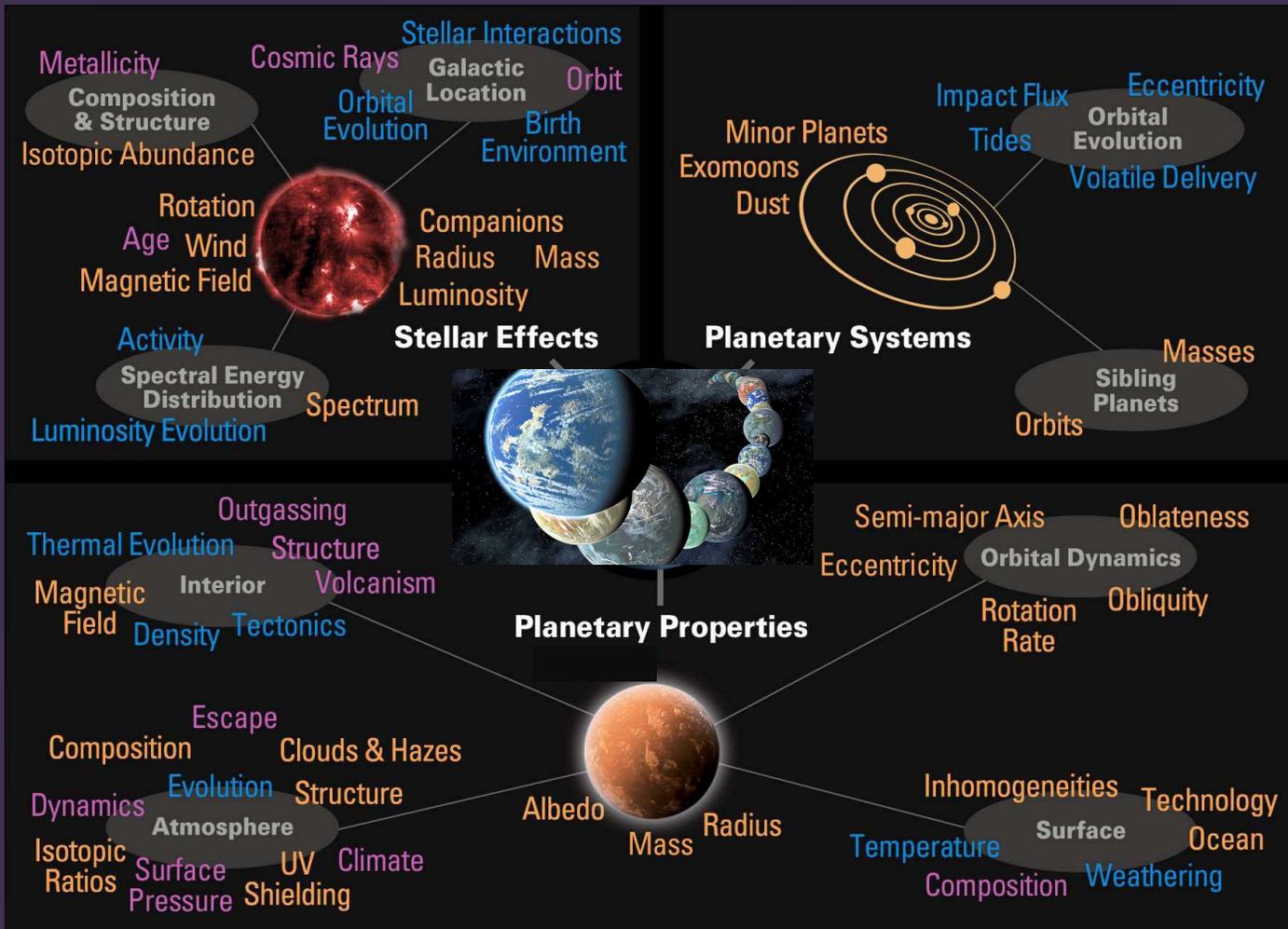
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What are “ExoPAG Findings”?:

- Developing process for whole community to contribute to analyses forwarded to Astrophysics Division leadership as input.
- We do not give “recommendations” but “findings” based on analysis.
- Three findings approved in January 2020 with overwhelming support:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4fepx9y>
- Ideas for new findings solicited from community and discussed at community forum (perhaps summer ExoPAG; cf December 15, 2020 meeting).
- Those with community support are reviewed by ExoPAG EC and top 1-3 findings put forward to ExoPAG for a vote (more than 2/3 support needed to “pass”).
- Ideas not adopted (or selected for vote) can be kept and re-discussed in future.
- Affirmation of findings generally scheduled for winter ExoPAG meeting

NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program Strategic Plan: “Discover and study planets around other stars, characterize their properties, ...”



Astronomy
Astrophysics

Geoscience

Planetary
Science

Heliophysics

ExoPAG 23 Proposed Finding:

On the value of investing in interdisciplinary exoplanet science of scale over longer periods of performance.

"Whereas exoplanet science is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring expertise in heliophysics, earth science, planetary science, and astrophysics, among other disciplines, as well as deep and broad knowledge in theory, computation, observation, experiment, statistics, and instrument development, and whereas interdisciplinary research can require longer timeframes and greater resources to take full advantage of such diverse expertise within a collaboration, and whereas existing opportunities of scale that permit longer periods of performance to support interdisciplinary research teams are restricted to areas that specifically address the goals of the astrobiology program,

We find that longer term programs of scale (e.g. five year periods of performance and up to several million USD awards) would enable NASA to rapidly and efficiently address linked sets of the Exoplanet Exploration Program Science Gaps, for example 01-03, 02, 04-06, and 07-08-10, which contribute significantly to achieving NASA's strategic goals, provided that such new opportunities did not come at the expense of existing programs which are also extremely valuable to help NASA achieve its strategic goals."

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New Suggestions

- Suggestion #1: Consider a new exozodi SAG based on the results from the HOSTS survey, new results from ALMA, recent high contrast imaging of debris disks in reflected light, studies of dust in the Solar system (and beyond), and archival results from Spitzer/Herschel. For context, first review SAG-1 report. Do we need a renewed effort to assess risk to exoplanet imaging missions presented by zodiacal light?
- Suggestion #2: Consider expanding ExoExplorers to international students and postdocs in a future announcement for cohort.
- Suggestion #3: Consider new analysis of synergies between ground- and space-based technology (wavefront control and diffraction suppression), as well as science algorithm development, in the context of high contrast imaging. This could be particularly relevant in the era of JWST, rapid developments on the ground with 6-12 meter telescopes (e.g. focal plane wavefront sensing), ELTs, Roman CGI, and future direct imaging missions.
- Suggestion #4: Consider expanding ExoExplorers to early career researchers, not just postdocs. Having a 'postdocs' as a requirement excludes equivalent early career researchers who are in different named positions (e.g. staff scientists). Perhaps a time limit after obtaining a PhD may be more appropriate like many other NASA programs.
- Suggestion #5: Consider using slack instead of web-based Q&A.

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