Starshade Technology Workshop

Webster Cash
University of Colorado
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Recent Progress, Needs and Opportunities

In context of Rendezvous Mission
Definition of Mission

Very Poorly Defined

Based on EXO-S design which is known to have problems.

Should be spectroscopy driven. That’s the “Search for Life” that everyone wants.

But that makes our sources effectively 100x fainter

Drives the design at a fundamental level.
Science Capabilities

WFIRST Telescope, 0.1” IWA Starshade
Earths @ 0.1” 0.2”; Jupiter @ 0.5”; Saturn @ 1”
Includes local zodiacal light and dark noise

10^{-9} suppression
0.3 Zodis

10^{-9} suppression
1 Zodi

10^{-9} suppression
3 Zodis

10^{-9} suppression
10 Zodis
Technical Requirements

WFIRST Telescope, 0.1” IWA Starshade
Earths @ 0.1” 0.2”; Jupiter @ 0.5”; Saturn @ 1”
Includes local zodiacal light and dark noise

Total suppression
No exozodi

10^{-9} suppression
No exozodi

10^{-8} suppression
No exozodi

10^{-7} suppression
No exozodi
Development and Demonstration

It's always been about showing they work

I have 47 years of experience in development of Space Observatories. There are multiple technologies I invented and championed through flight.

And this I know:

_The key to success is building an experience base._

Just Do It
Starshade Critical Technology

Enabling Technologies

Precision Shape Control
• Maintain edge position
• Maintain structure shape

Thin Edge Treatment
• Maintain edge stability
• Minimize stray light

Precision Deployment
• Minimize jitter
• Maintain petal location

Opaque Membrane
• Maintain opacity
• Lightweight

2 Axes Formation Flying
• Maintain 1m alignment
• Minimize jitter

Enhancing Technologies

Solar Electric Propulsion
• NEXT engine
• Increase observable targets
• Reduce propellant mass

Lightweight S/C Structures
• Increase observable targets
• Reduce overall mass
Figure D-12. a) A test starshade, 35mm tip to tip made from silicon by lithographic techniques and suspended by three thin wires with a = b = 8mm, n = 6, and 42 petals; b) image of starshade back-illuminated by diverging beam of sunlight with approximately the same Fresnel number as expected in flight; clearly visible are scattering off support wires, two rings of bright points that correlate with tips of petals and gaps at bases of petals; c) when illuminated with coherent light (a green HeNe laser), one can see that diffraction by the starshade is primarily in the azimuthal direction.

d) Schematic of test beamline; a heliostat feeds sunlight into the dark tunnel; a photon counting photometer scans the shadow to measure its depth; a camera can image the diffraction and scatter by defects around the starshade.

f) Photometer mapping of shadow from 16 petal silicon starshade in white light shows suppression of several orders of magnitude of irradiance within a few millimeters, with an ultimate suppression level of $< 1 \times 10^{-7}$.

g) Map of shadow from a precision circular disc in white light showing amplitude of Poisson’s spot at a predicted irradiance level 1% of incident level, verifying the photometric accuracy of measurement facility.
CU/NIST starshade, 60s
500 micron entrance pinhole, iris=6mm, 7/30/07 data

- Mount wire
- Dust on wire
- Broken petal tip
- Diffraction where wires cross petal edges
- Diffraction where petal bases meet
- Planet @ $2 \times 10^{-9}$ contrast
The first of three field tests that will be carried out on TDEM contract

Testing carried out over 5 nights From May 28th to the morning of June 2nd

Testing range is 2km range with the Starshade in the middle
4 Starshades were tested

a. Hypergaussian built by Northrop Grumman, Same starshade as tested previously

b. Numerically determined IZ5, built by Northrop Grumman to JPL prescription

c. Numerically determined IZ5, built by JPL to identical prescription

d. Numerically determined HS25, built by JPL
NG built HG Starshade

JPL built HS25 ND Starshade

JPL built IZ5 ND Starshade

NG built IZ5 ND Starshade
Model Validation

But Models Cannot Be Validated
They are always wrong.

What needs validation is performance.
Models must be adjusted to follow lab results
July Test

Heliostat & 4” Starshade

West Heliostat

Integrated Light Field Mirror

Approved for public release; NGAS Case 15-1679 dated 8/26/15.
Sirius Blocked vs Unblocked

- 12 astronomical magnitudes shown in this image

Star: Sirius
$M_V = -1.46$

Star: BD-16 1586
$M_V = 8.45$

Star: BD-16 1589
$M_V = 8.61$

Star: CSS 2545
$M_V = 10.15$

ET Phone Home
Flashlight
Antares
Needs and Opportunities

We have no support as of the end of this month.
Therefore there is no opportunity to move forward.