National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Direct imaging of habitable planets with ELTs ?

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NASA Ames Research Center

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SPIE conference, July 2012, Amsterdam

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How we will directly imaging of habitable planets with ELTs

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Imaging habitable planets with ELTs is easier than finding the Higgs boson

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We would be fools not to image habitable planets with ELTs, and we should start working on this NOW

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ELTs and exoplanet imaging

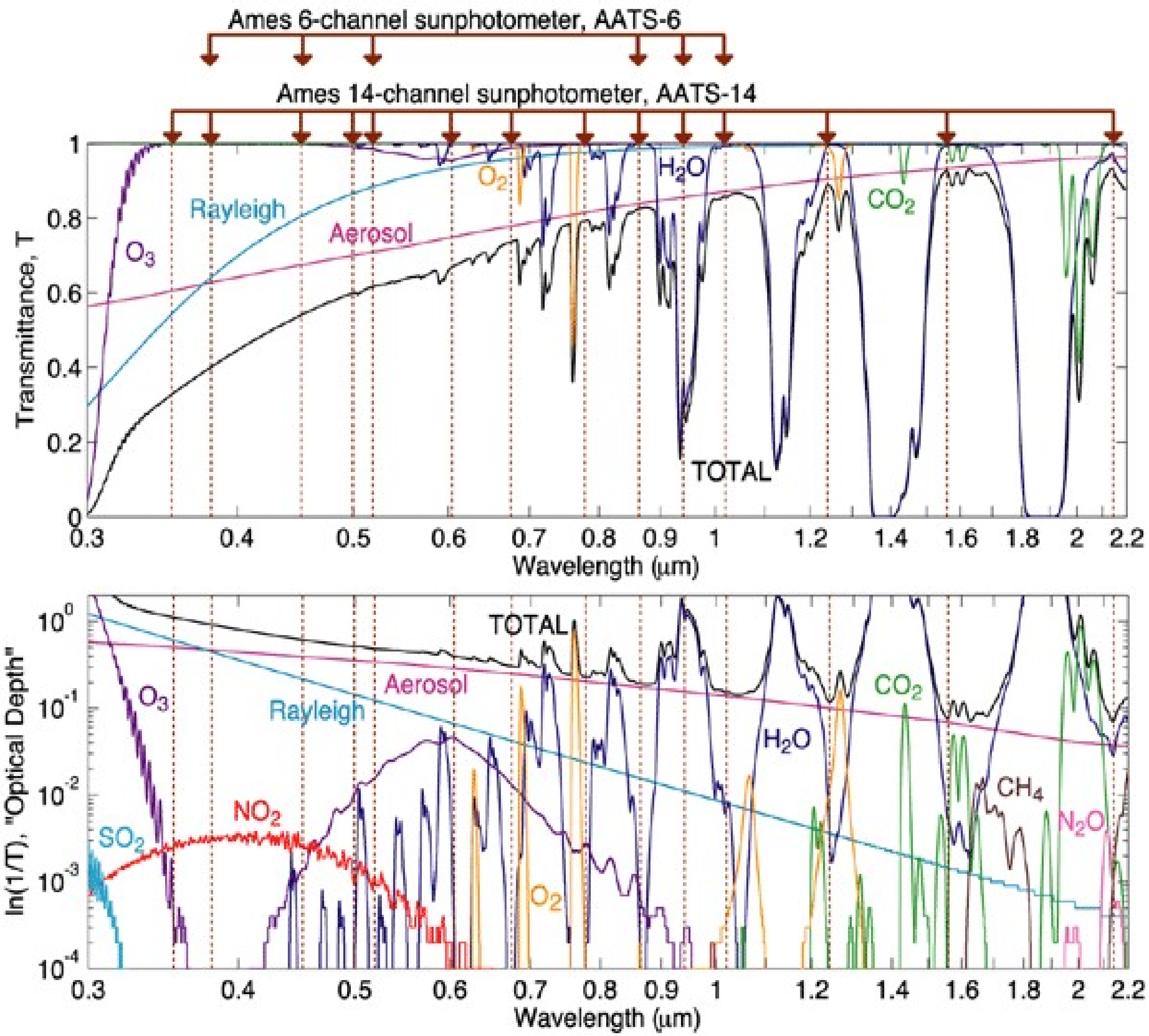
Detection of Jupiter-like giants
statistics
Competition from indirect techniques and space (JWST?)

Spectroscopy of Jupiter-like giants

Planet formation
ELT well suited for this science goal

Imaging and spectroscopy of rocky planets in habitable zones
Unique to ELTs for low-mass stars
habitable = no significant thermal emission → reflected light
Will be first opportunity to image habitable planets
(timing of space mission ?)
Very exciting science : habitability

Spectroscopy



Credit: NASA/Ames Airborne Tracking Sunphotometer (AATS)

Atmosphere transmission:
O_2 (see Kawara et al. 2012)
H_2O
CO_2

Polarimetry

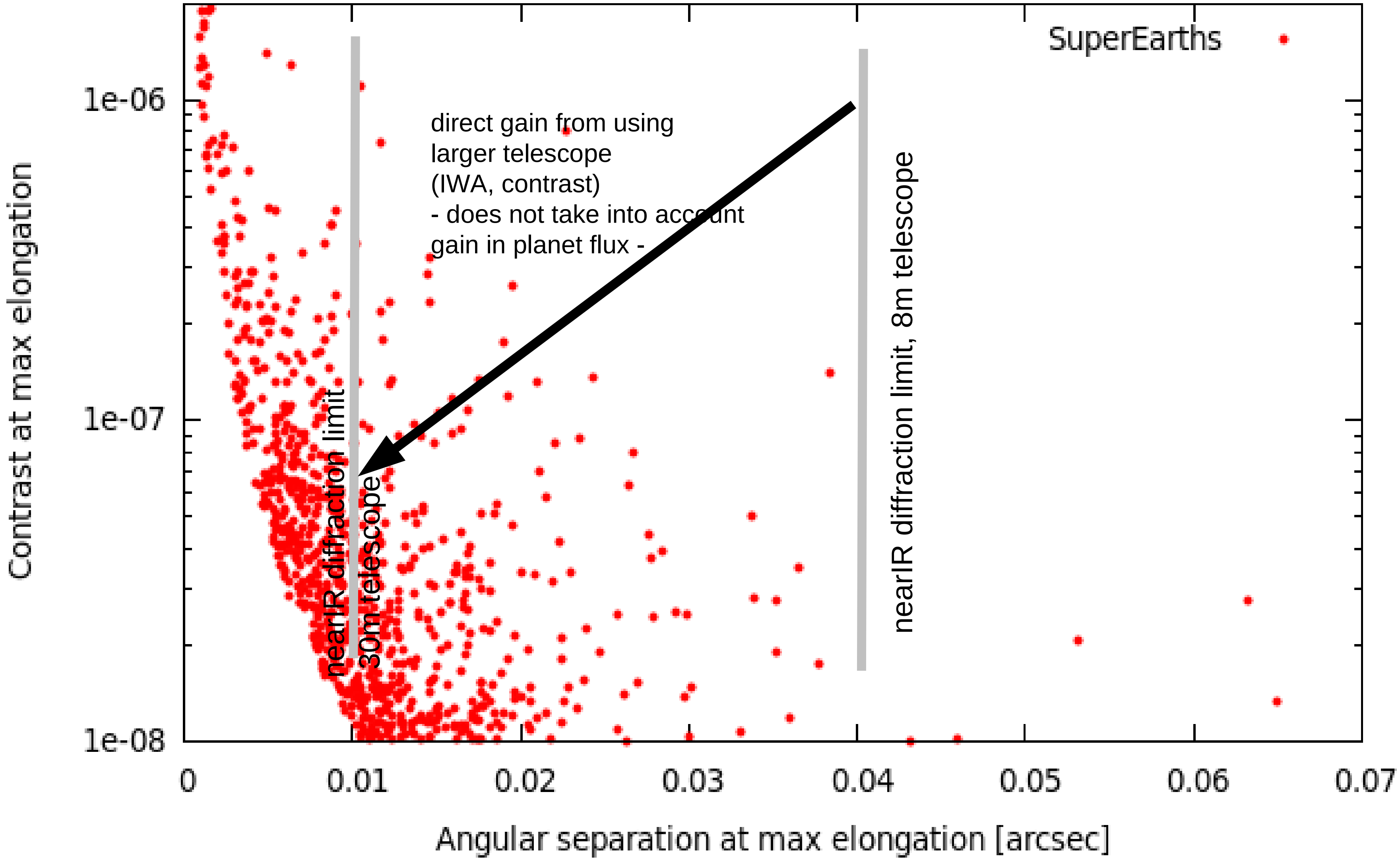
Cloud cover, variability
Rotation period

Reflectivity from ground in atmosphere transparency bands
(Ice cap, desert, ocean etc...)

Reflected light planets

Assuming that each star has a SuperEarth (2x Earth diameter) at the 1AU equivalent HZ distance

(assumes Earth albedo, contrast and separation for max elongation)



Reflected light planets

First cut limits meant to exclude clearly impossible targets

→ used to identify potential targets → instrument requirements

FIRST CUT LIMITS

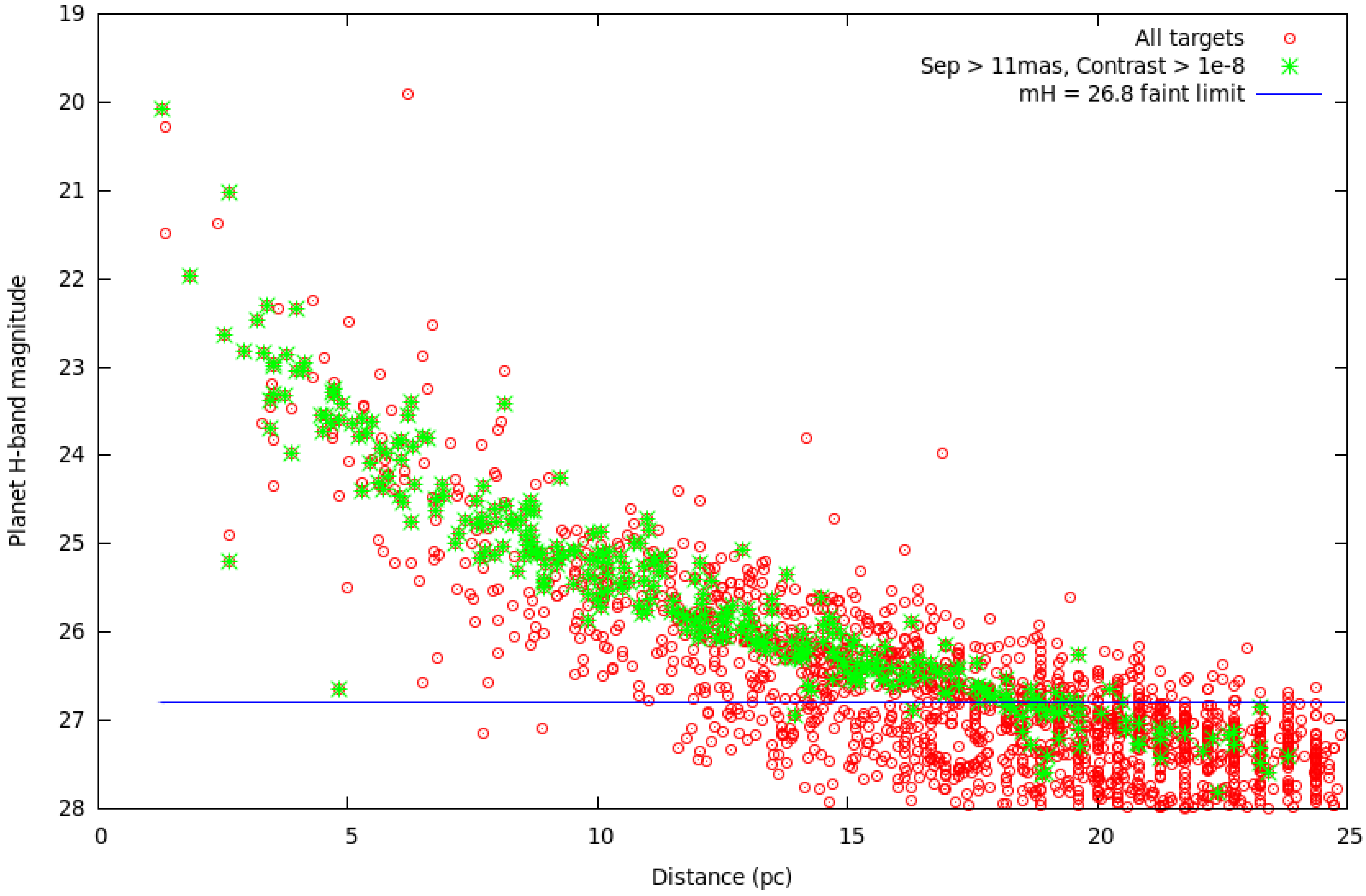
	Limit/constraints	**Comments**
Angular Separation	Must be > 1.0 λ/D	Limit imposed by coronagraph (see section 4). Corresponds to 11mas on a 30-m telescope in H band.
Contrast	Must be > 1e-8	High contrast imaging limit (see section 5)
Star brightness	Must be brighter than $m_R = 15$	Required for high efficiency wavefront correction (see section 5)
Planet Brightness	Must be brighter than $m_H = 26.8$	Faint detection limit

background-limited SNR > 10 in H band image in 1 hr on 30-m telescope (assuming 15% efficiency)

Reflected light planets

274 targets survive the first cut

Strong correlation between planet apparent brightness and system distance

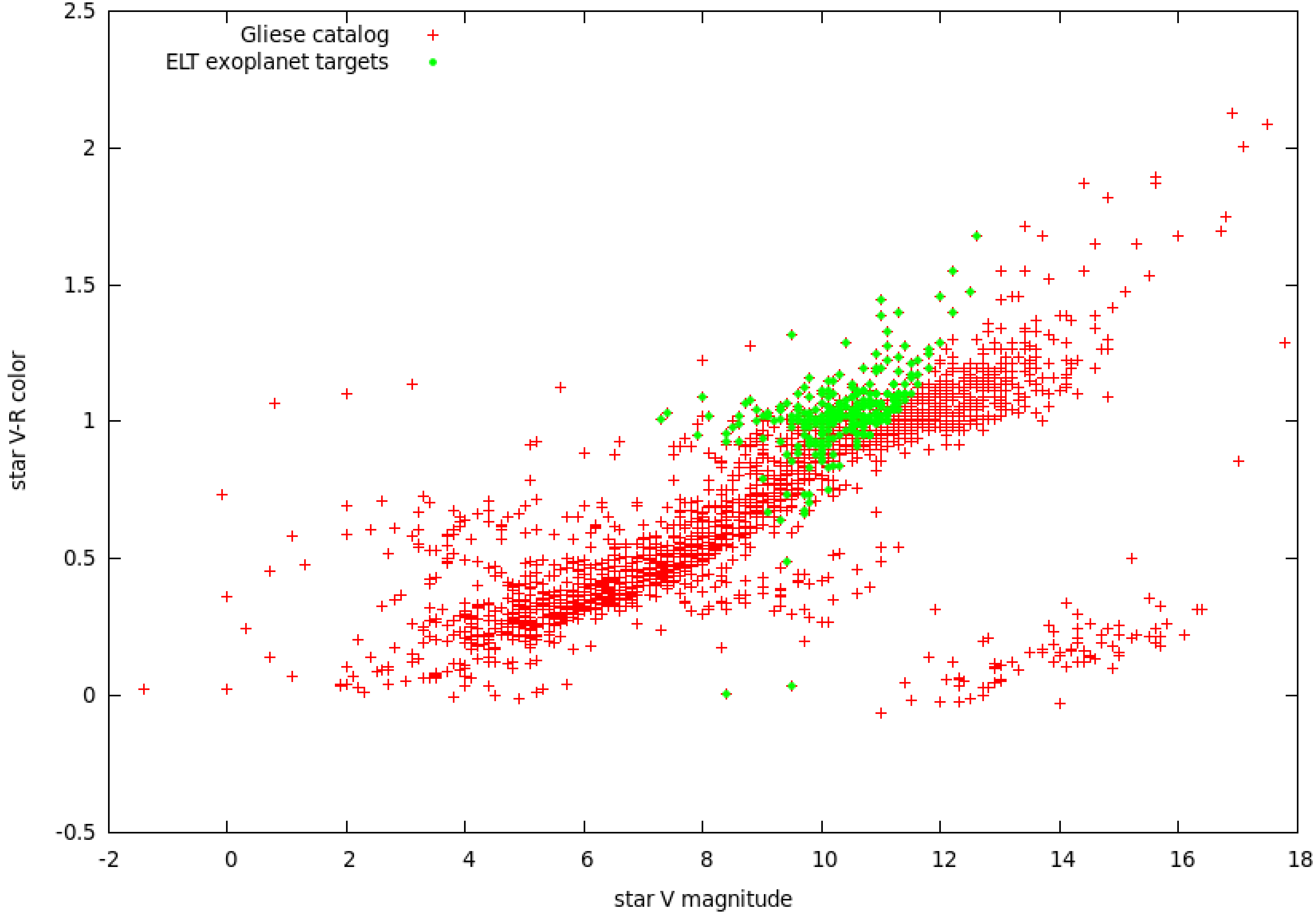


Reflected light planets

Most targets are red stars (M type), around V ~ 10, R ~ 9

2 white dwarfs : 40 Eri B and Sirius B

Early type stars → contrast too challenging



Reflected light planets

Assuming that each star has a SuperEarth (2x Earth diameter) at the 1AU equivalent HZ distance

(assumes Earth albedo, contrast and separation for max elongation)

MOST FAVORABLE TARGETS

STAR							PLANET				
Name	**Type**	**Distance**	**Diameter**	L_{bol}	m_V	m_R	m_H	**Separation**	**Contrast**	m_H	**Notes, Multiplicity**
Proxima Centauri (Gl551)	M5.5	1.30 pc	0.138 R_{Sun} 0.990 +- 0.050 mas [1]	8.64e-04	11.00	9.56	4.83	22.69 mas	8.05e-07	20.07	RV measurement exclude planet above 3 Earth mass in HZ [Endl & Kurster 2008]
Barnard's Star (Gl699)	M4	1.83 pc	0.193 R_{Sun} 0.987 += 0.04 mas [2]	4.96e-03	9.50	8.18	4.83	38.41 mas	1.40e-07	21.97	-
Kruger 60 B (Gl860B)	M4	3.97 pc	0.2 R_{Sun}[3]	5.81e-03	11.30	9.90	5.04	19.20 mas	1.20e-07	22.35	-
Ross 154 (Gl729)	M4.5	2.93 pc	0.2 R_{Sun}[3]	5.09e-03	10.40	9.11	5.66	24.34 mas	1.37e-07	22.82	-
Ross 128 (Gl447)	M4.5	3.32 pc	0.2 R_{Sun}[3]	3.98e-03	11.10	9.77	5.95	18.99 mas	1.75e-07	22.84	-
Ross 614 A (Gl234A)	M4.5	4.13 pc	0.2 R_{Sun}[3]	5.23e-03	11.10	9.82	5.75	17.51 mas	1.33e-07	22.95	Double star (sep=3.8 AU)
Gl682	M3.5	4.73 pc	0.26 R_{Sun}[3]	6.41e-03	10.90	9.70	5.92	16.93 mas	1.09e-07	23.33	-
Groombridge 34 B (Gl15B)	M6	3.45 pc	0.18 R_{Sun}[3]	5.25e-03	11.00	9.61	6.19	20.98 mas	1.33e-07	23.39	150 AU from M2 primary
40 Eri C (Gl166C)	M4.5	4.83 pc	0.23 R_{Sun}[3]	5.92e-03	11.10	9.88	6.28	15.93 mas	1.18e-07	23.61	35AU from 40 Eri B (white dwarf), 420 AU from 40 Eri A (K1)
GJ 3379	M4	5.37 pc	0.24 R_{Sun}[3]	6.56e-03	11.30	10.06	6.31	15.09 mas	1.06e-07	23.75	-

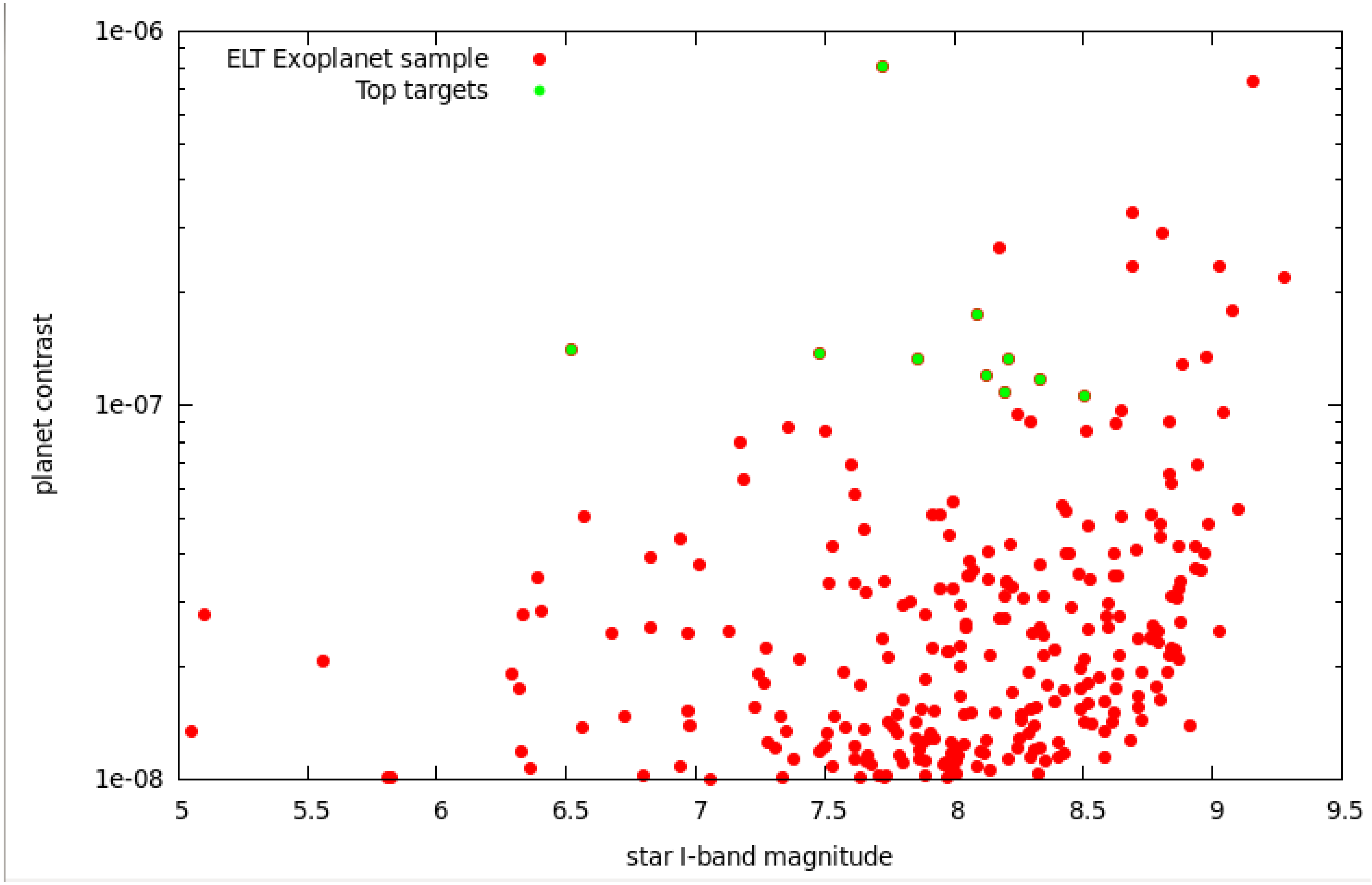
[1] Angular diameter (uniform disk, non limb-darkened value) measured by optical interferometry with VLTI Demory et al. 2009
[2] Uniform disk angular diameter from Lane et al. 2001
[3] No direct measurement. Approximate radius is given. If possible, radius is extrapolated from photometry using K magnitude and radius vs. absolute K magnitude relationship in Demory et al. 2009

Requirement : ~1e-7 contrast, ~15mas, mR ~ 9.5 guide star

Reflected light planets

Assuming that each star has a SuperEarth (2x Earth diameter) at the 1AU equivalent HZ distance

(assumes Earth albedo, contrast and separation for max elongation)



Interferometry or coronagraphy ?

Interferometry (aperture masking etc...):

Powerful calibration → contrast challenge mitigated

Demonstrated ability to work at separations around the telescope diffraction limit

Mixes planet and star flux → SNR limitation due to photon noise

Nulling interferometry (example: PFI study, TMT)

Access to 1 l/D

Usually poor efficiency → SNR limitation due to photon noise ?

Coronagraphy

Yes, but:

- Must access close to 1 l/D with high efficiency
- Must be able to reach at least ~1e4 raw contrast, AND calibrate WF to ~1e-7 contrast

Interferometry or coronagraphy ?
→ only coronagraphs can offer SNR

Photon-noise limited SNR limit in H band

Earth like planet around M type star at 5pc

Assumptions:

D = 30m telescope, m_H=14.4 $arcsec^{-2}$ background, 20mas aperture

15% efficiency (coatings, detector), 0.3 um bandpass (H band), 1 hr exposure

planet mH = 25.2 (Earth at 5pc)

background = 230 ph/sec

Planet = 27.5 ph/sec

Star = 9.98e8 ph/sec (mH=6.3, M4 stellar type)

Star / Planet contrast = 3.6e7

SuperEarth at 5pc around M star (4x Earth flux, 2x diameter)

	Detection SNR H band (R~5)	Spectroscopy SNR R = 100
Imaging, no starlight	**102 [356]**	**23.5 [83]**
Imaging, 1e5 raw contrast	**16.31 [65]**	**3.8 [15]**
Imaging, 1e4 raw contrast	**5.16 [20.6]**	**1.2 [4.8]**
Interferometry, 100% efficiency	**0.05 [0.2]**	**hopeless...**

Transit spectroscopy ?
→ not competitive in SNR

Around M4 star, transit probability = 1.3% for a HZ planet

Statistically, closest transit target is 4.3x further than closest direct imaging target, and star is 18x fainter

M4 star diameter ~ 2.8e5km

12000km planet diameter, scale height = 8km → atmosphere is 5e-6 of stellar disk surface

Transit signal = 275 ph/sec

Star flux = 5.5e7 ph/sec

Detection SNR (1hr) = 2.2 (only during transit !!!)

Detection SNR if closest target transits = 9.4 (1.3% chance of being that lucky...)

Requirements, Top challenges

(1) Efficient coronagraphy down to 1 l/D separation on segmented pupils

Coronagraph design

Chromaticity

Stellar angular size

(2) Wavefront control (getting raw contrast at or below 1e-4 at 1 l/D)

Efficient sensing of low order aberrations

Control and calibration of pointing errors

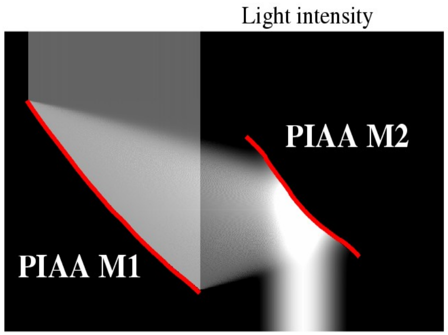
(3) Wavefront calibration to 1e-7 (separating scattered light from planet light)

Main issues: time lag, chromatic effects, systematics

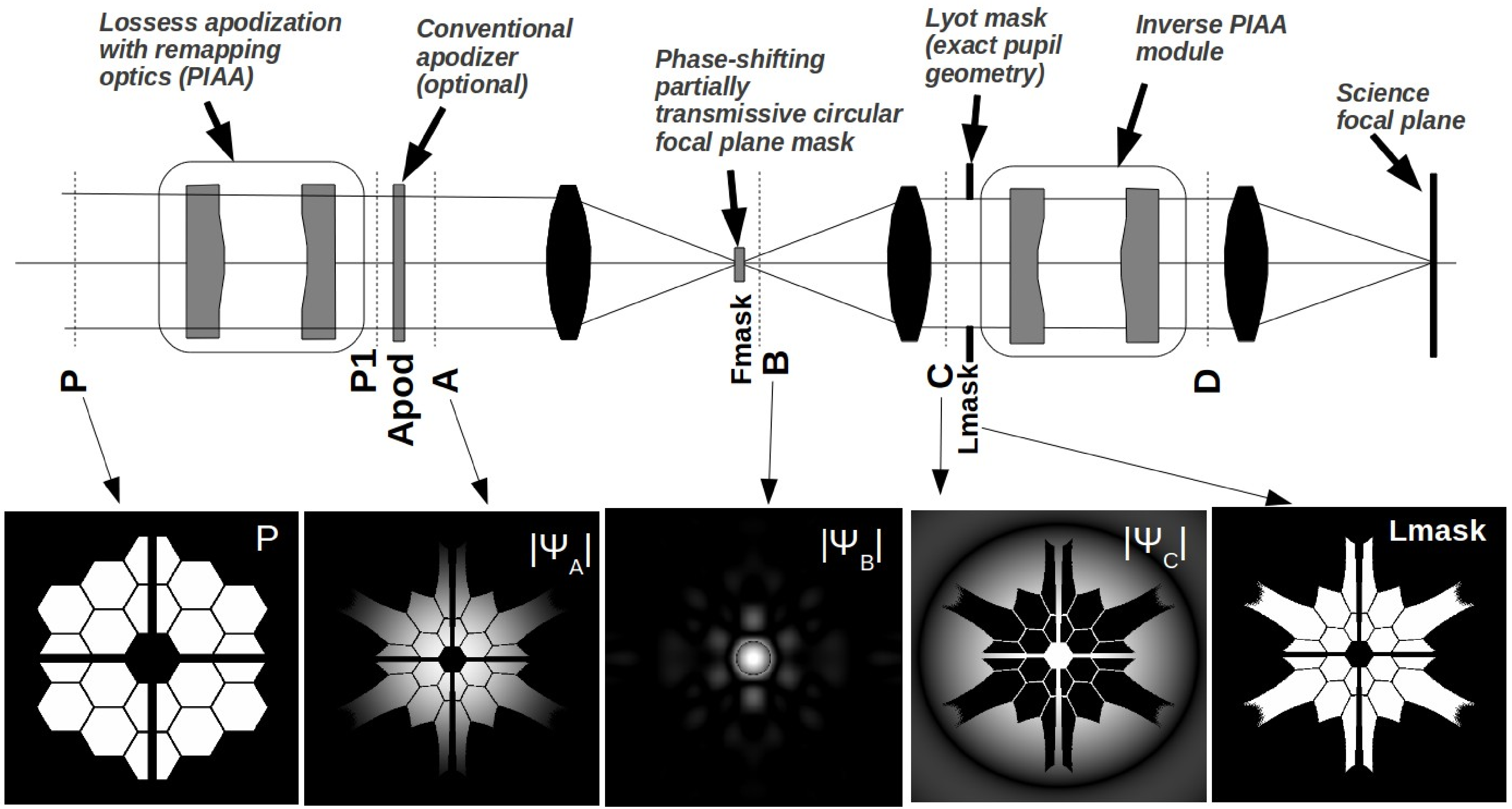
The need for nearIR wavefront modulation and correction

(4) Think small → dedicated experiment, not facility instrument !

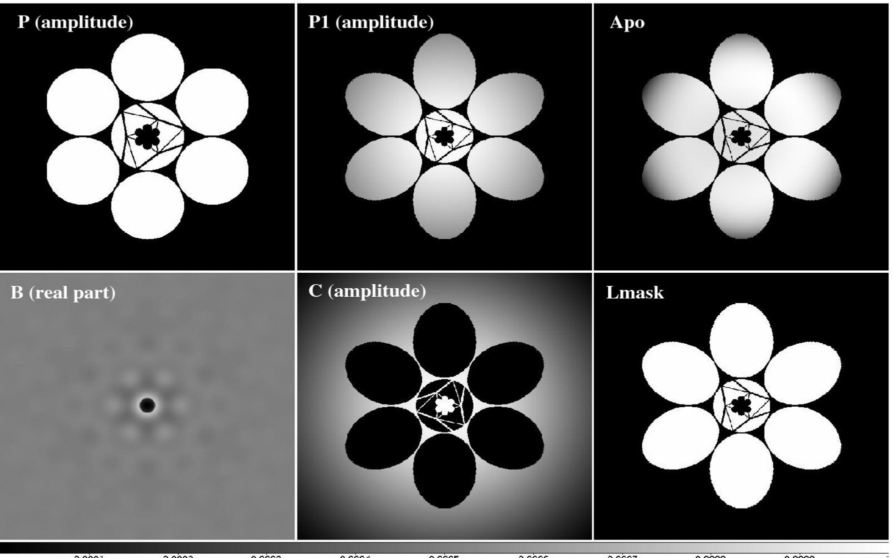
PIAACMC gets to < 1 l/D with full efficiency, and no contrast limit



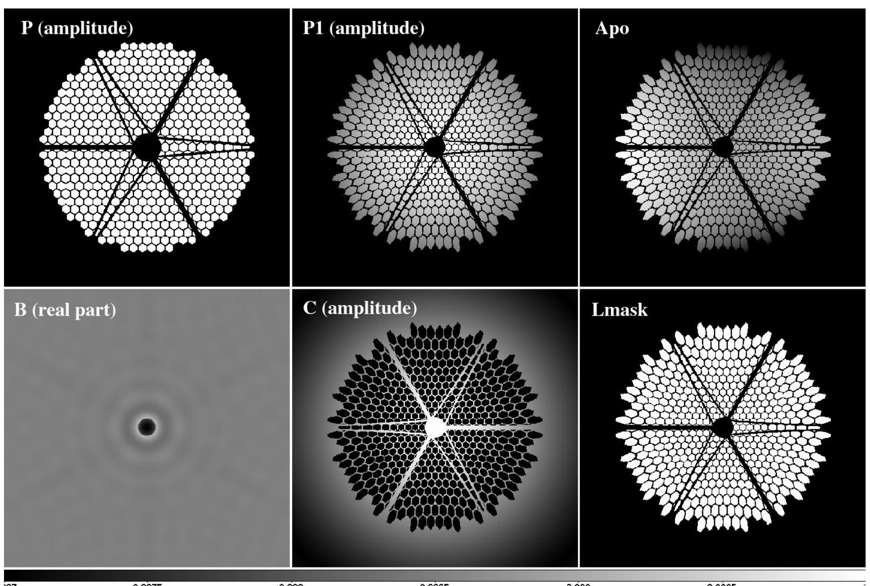
Phase Induced Amplitude Apodized Complex Mask Coronagraph (PIAACMC)

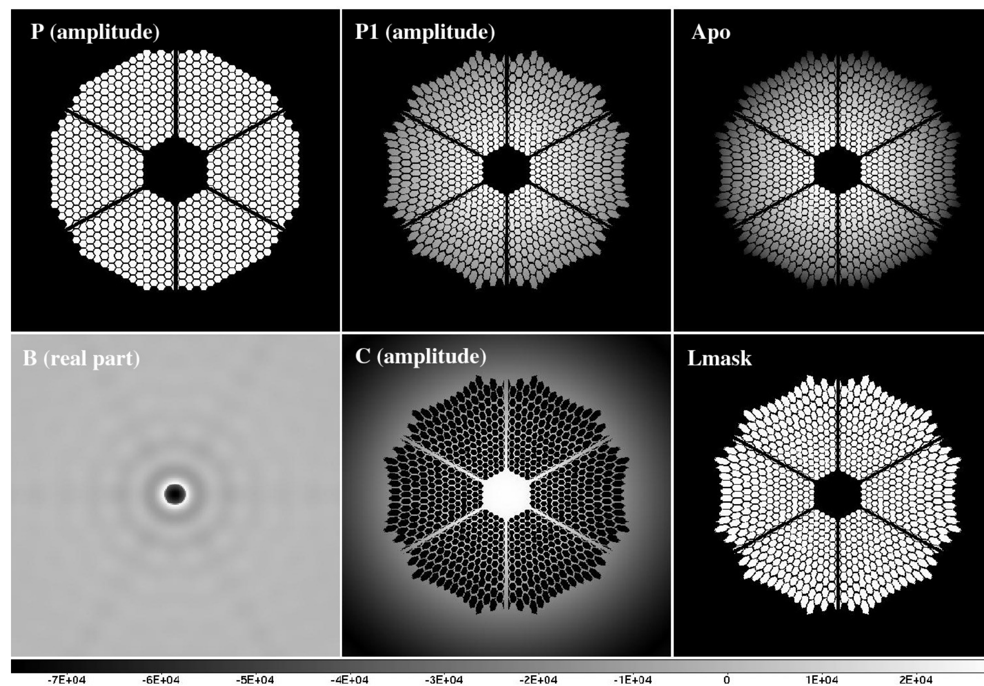


PIAACMC gets to < 1 l/D with full efficiency, and no contrast limit

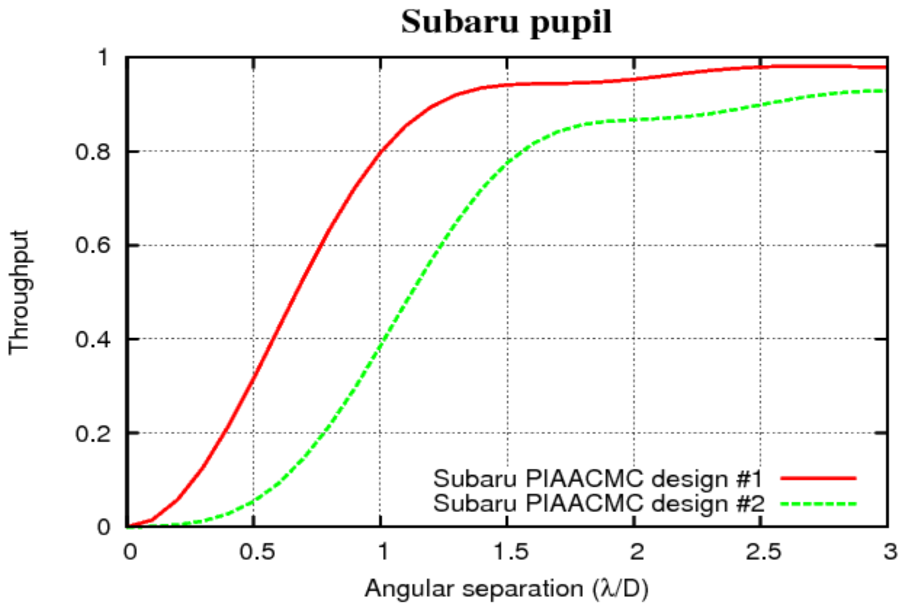


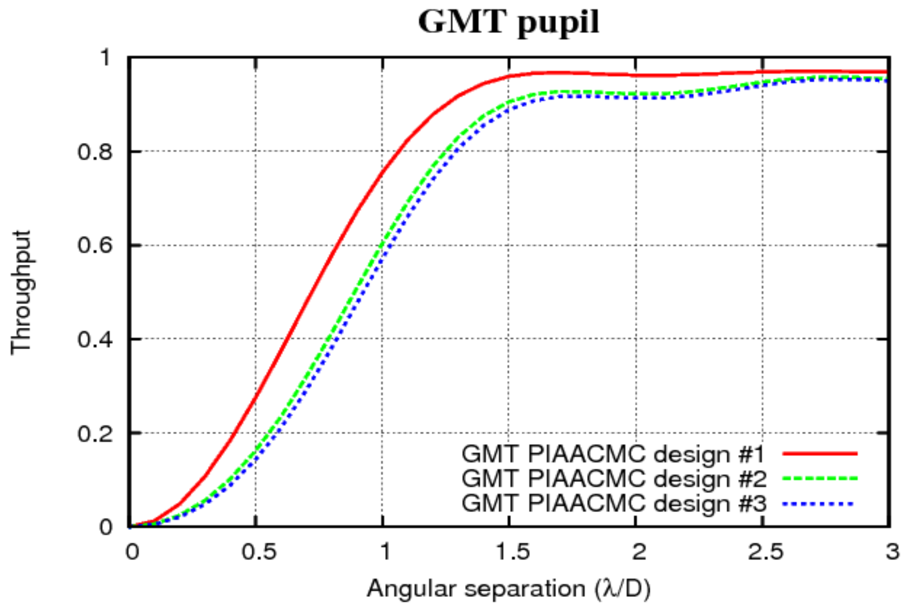
<u>Pupil shape does not matter !!!</u>

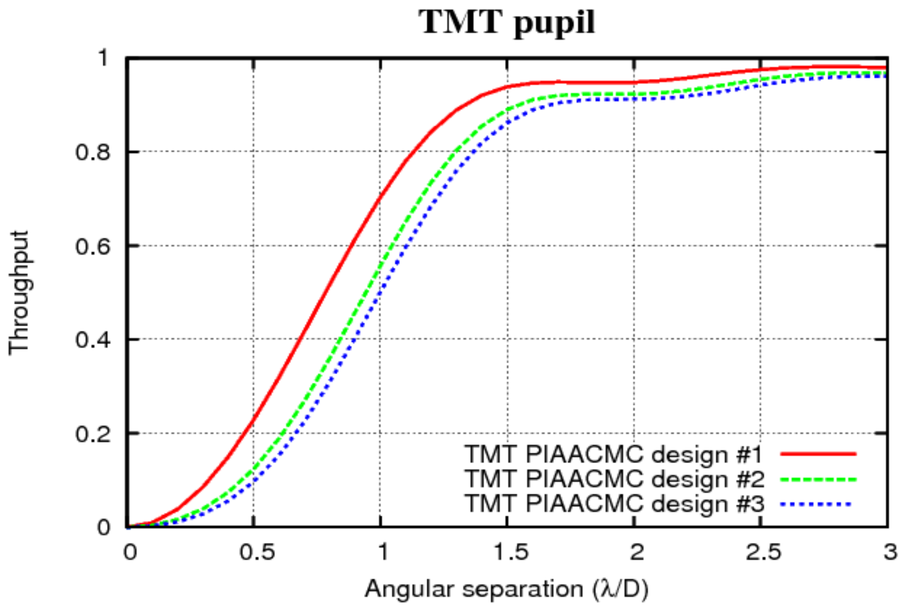


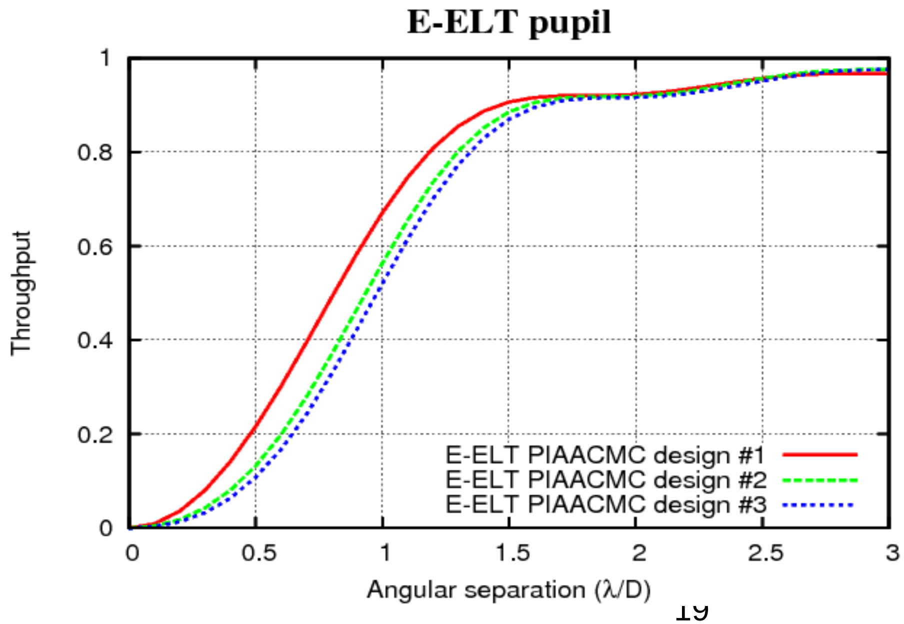


PIAACMC gets to < 1 l/D with full efficiency, and no contrast limit





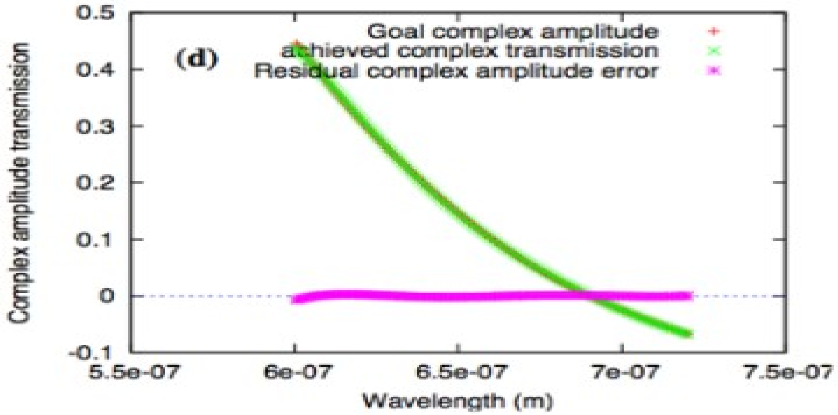


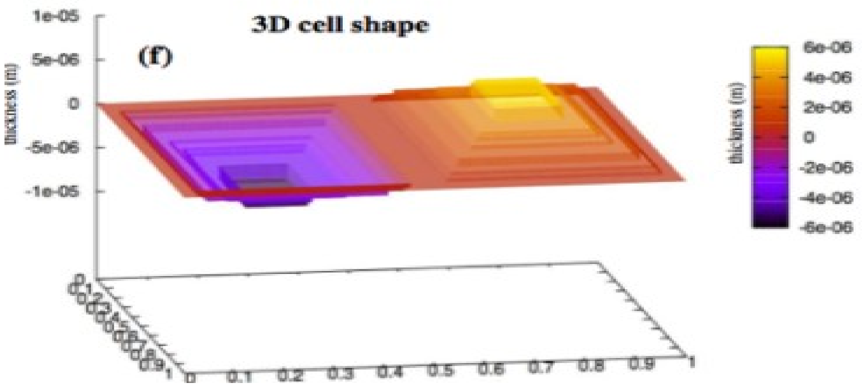


Coronagraphy: chromaticity

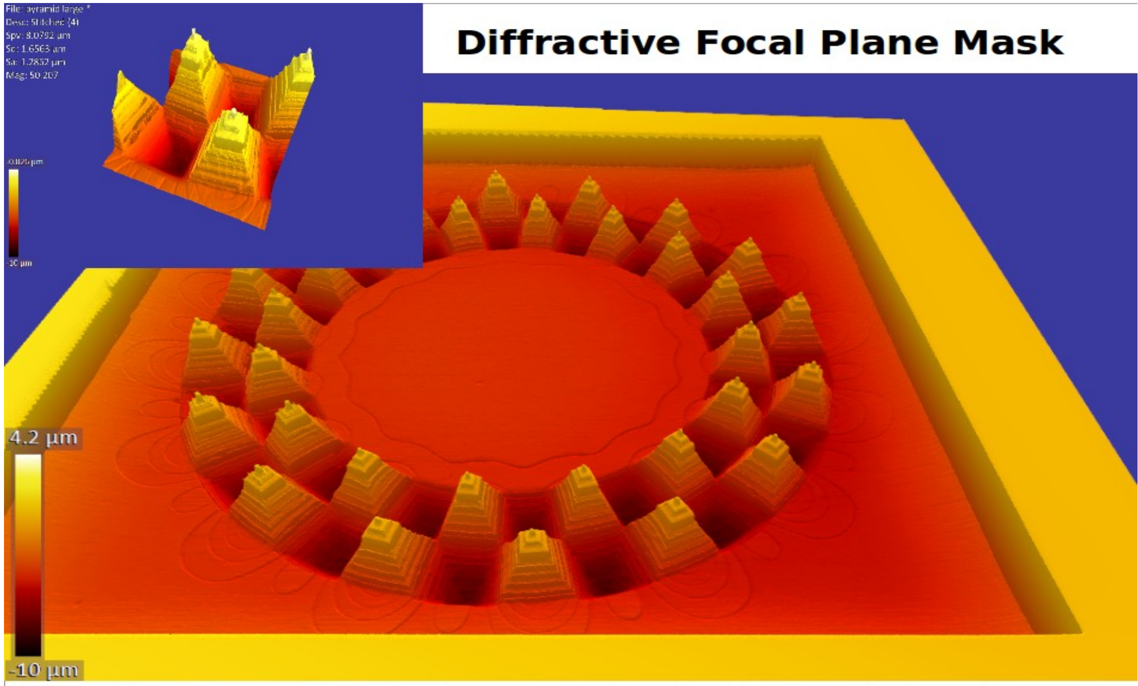
Diffractive focal plane mask for
high performance coronagraphy in broad band
(developped for ~1e-9 contrast, directly applicable to ELTs)
Work funded by NASA, PI: R. Belikov, NASA Ames

Design of a single diffractive cell





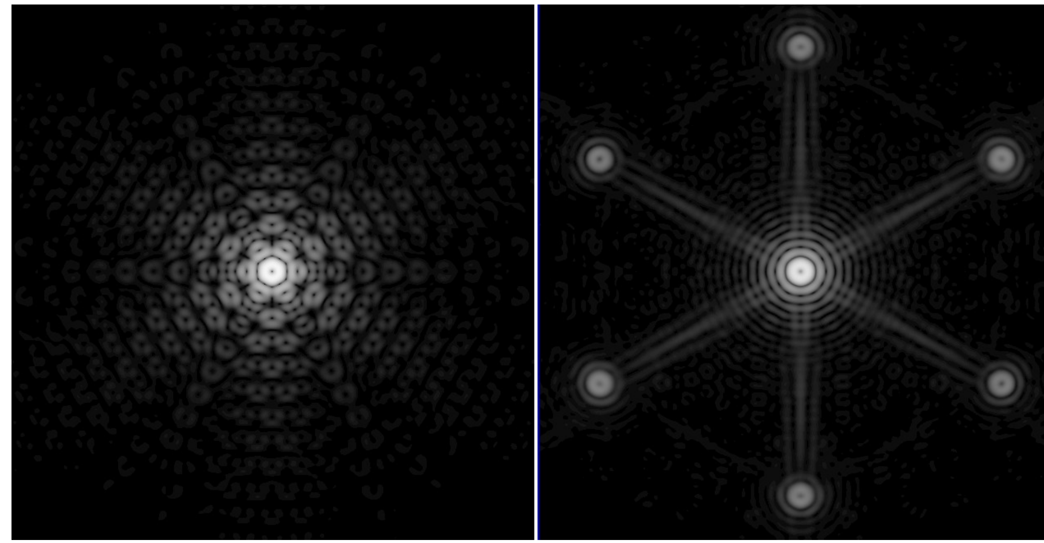
Prototype mask
(Manufactured by JPL MDL)

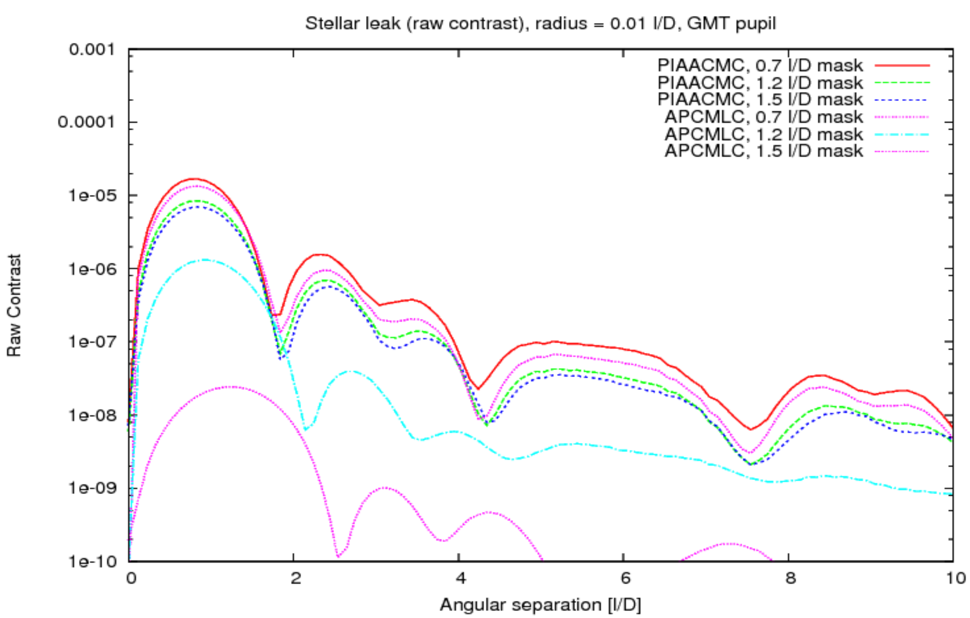


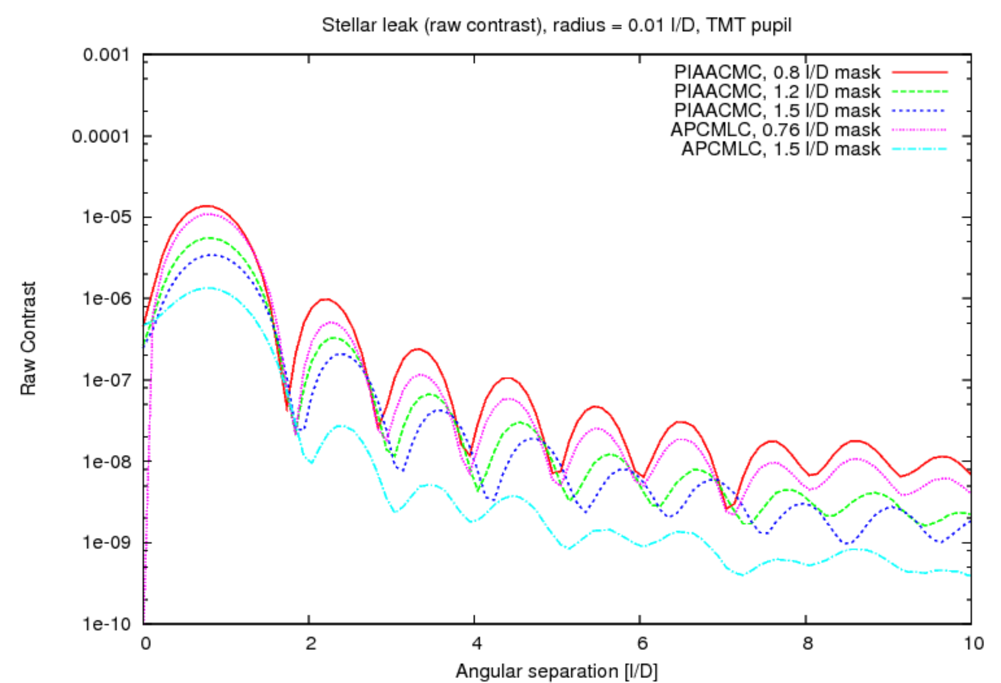
Coronagraphy: Stellar angular size

On ELT in near-IR, nearby M dwarf is about 0.1 to 0.5 mas radius = 0.01 to 0.05 l/D

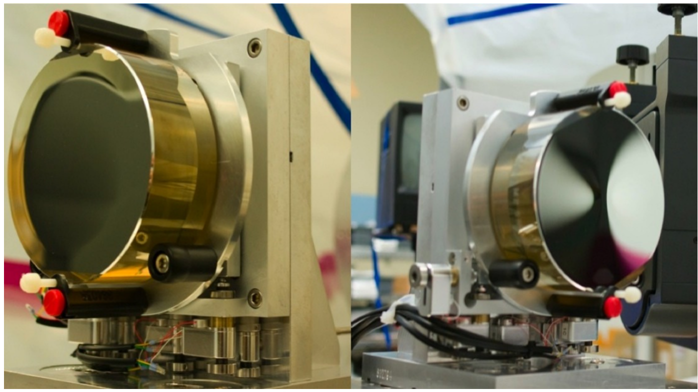
→ for 1 l/D IWA coronagraph
RAW contrast limited to ~1e5



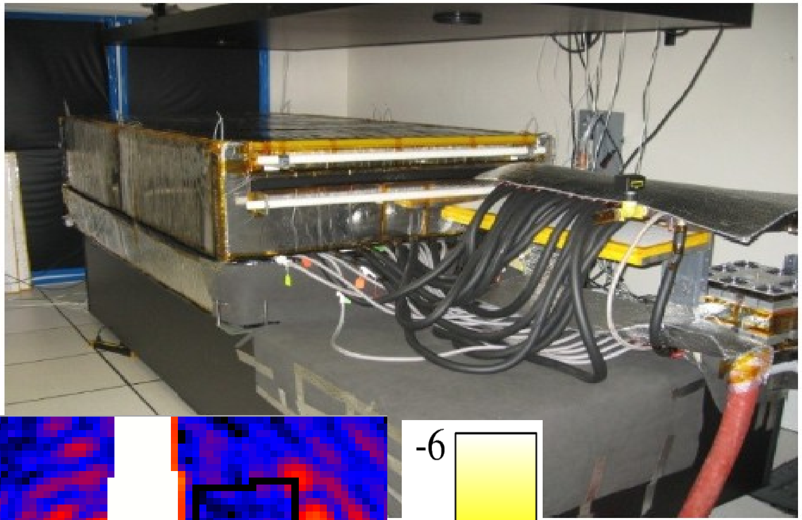


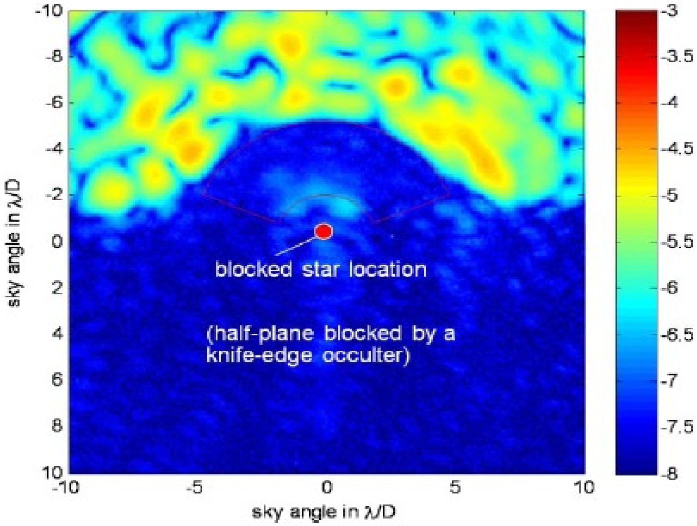


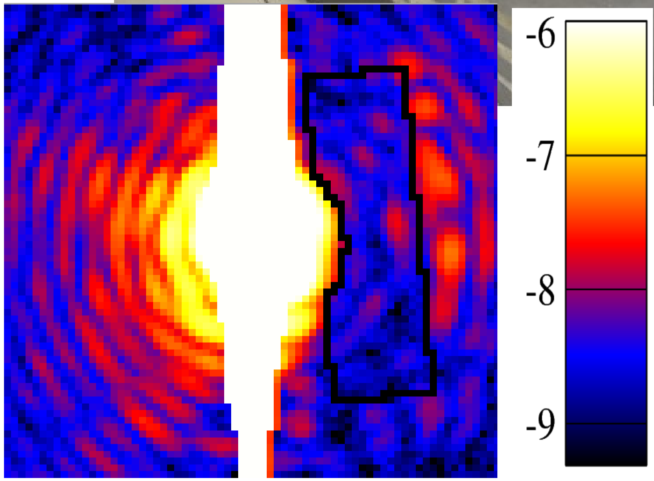
Is this realistic ?

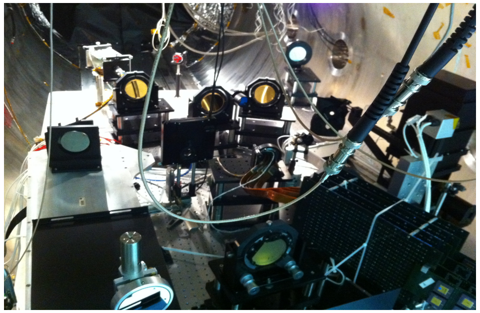


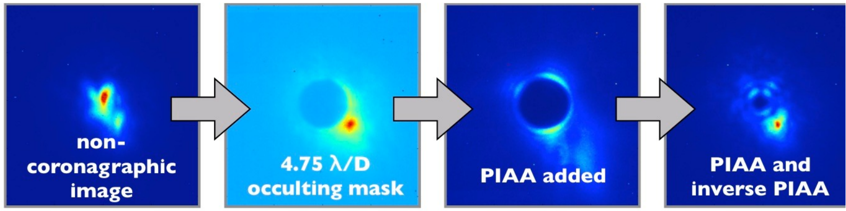
Contrast ratio with PIAA already reaching ~1e-6 (100x better than required) at 1.2 l/D in visible

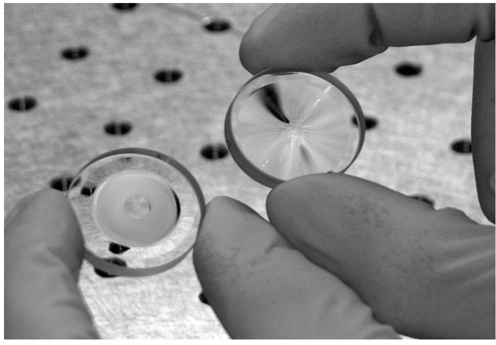












PIAA is easier for PIAACMC than conventional PIAA
Optics cost ~$3000

Wavefront control

Can we reach 1e-4 contrast in the 1 to 2 l/D range ?

Goal: ~1e-5 contrast at 1 l/D

We are not that far from it with current technology...

Conventional high order ExAO on 8-m class telescope achieves ~1e-3 contrast in near-IR at few l/D

Moving to 3x larger telescope diameter will help (dilute speckle halo) – at equal SR, 10x gain in contrast → 1e-4

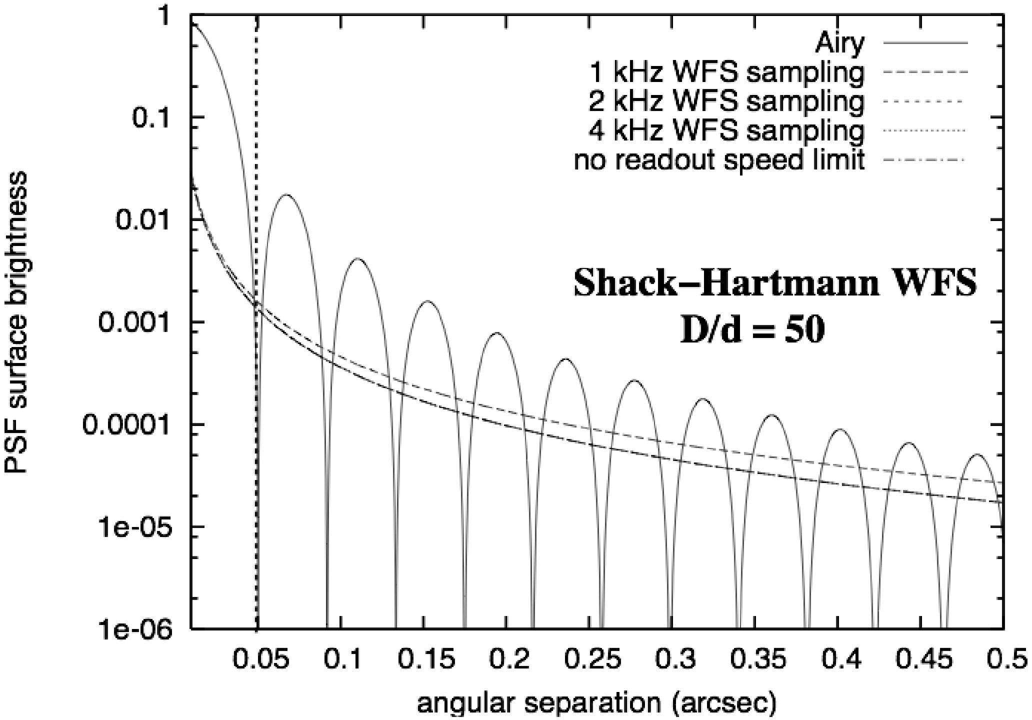
BUT **we can EASILY do much better** by :

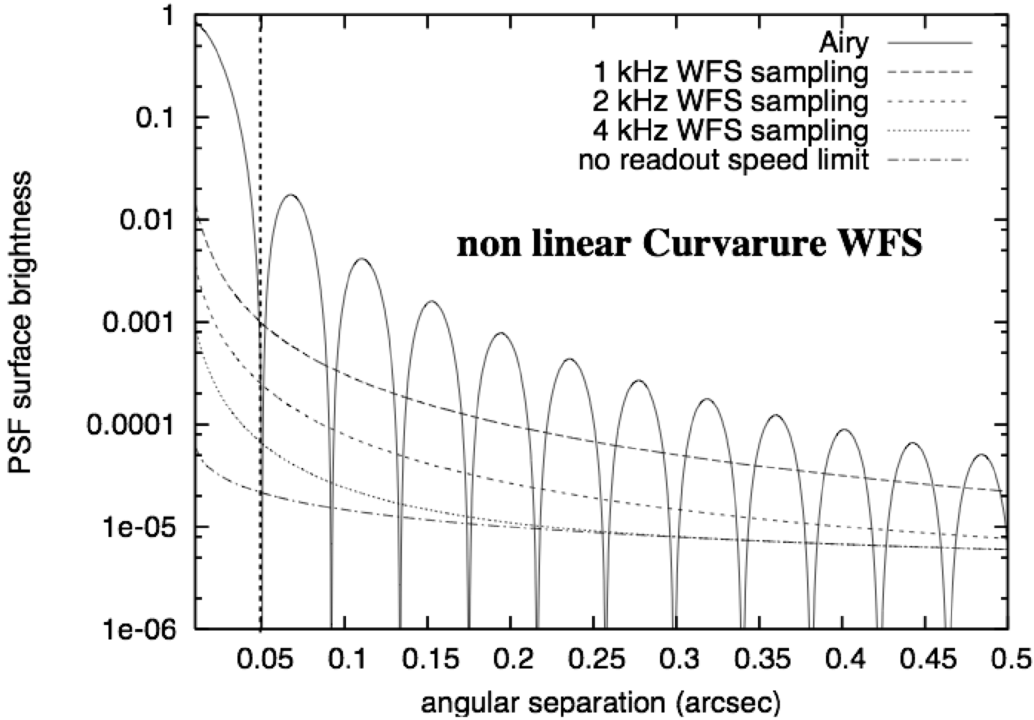
(1) Using diffraction-limited WFS (Pyramid with little or no modulation, nlCWFS, Zernike etc...)

For Tip-tilt, gain in flux is $(D/r_0)^2$ = 90,000 on 30m telescope (12.8 mag)

(2) Making use of predictive control in the control loop (inner PSF flux dominated by time lag)

Performance gain for ExAO on 8-m telescopes

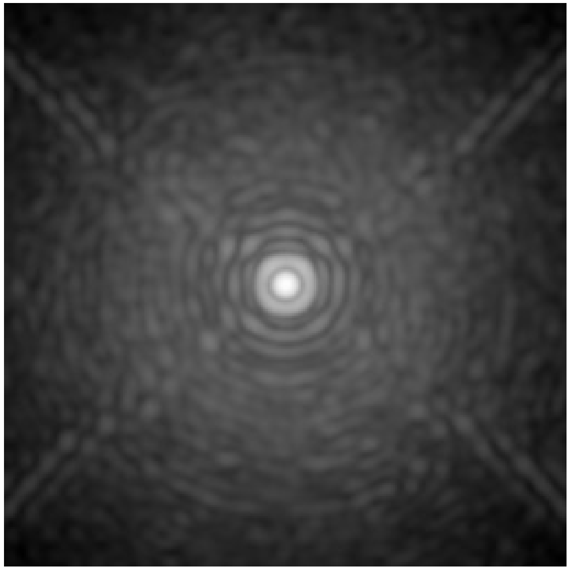




"High Sensitivity Wavefront Sensing with a non-linear Curvature Wavefront Sensor", Guyon, O. PASP, 122, pp.49-62 (2010)

Large gain at small angular separation: ideal for ExAO

Focal plane AO and speckle calibration



Use Deformable Mirror (DM) to add speckles

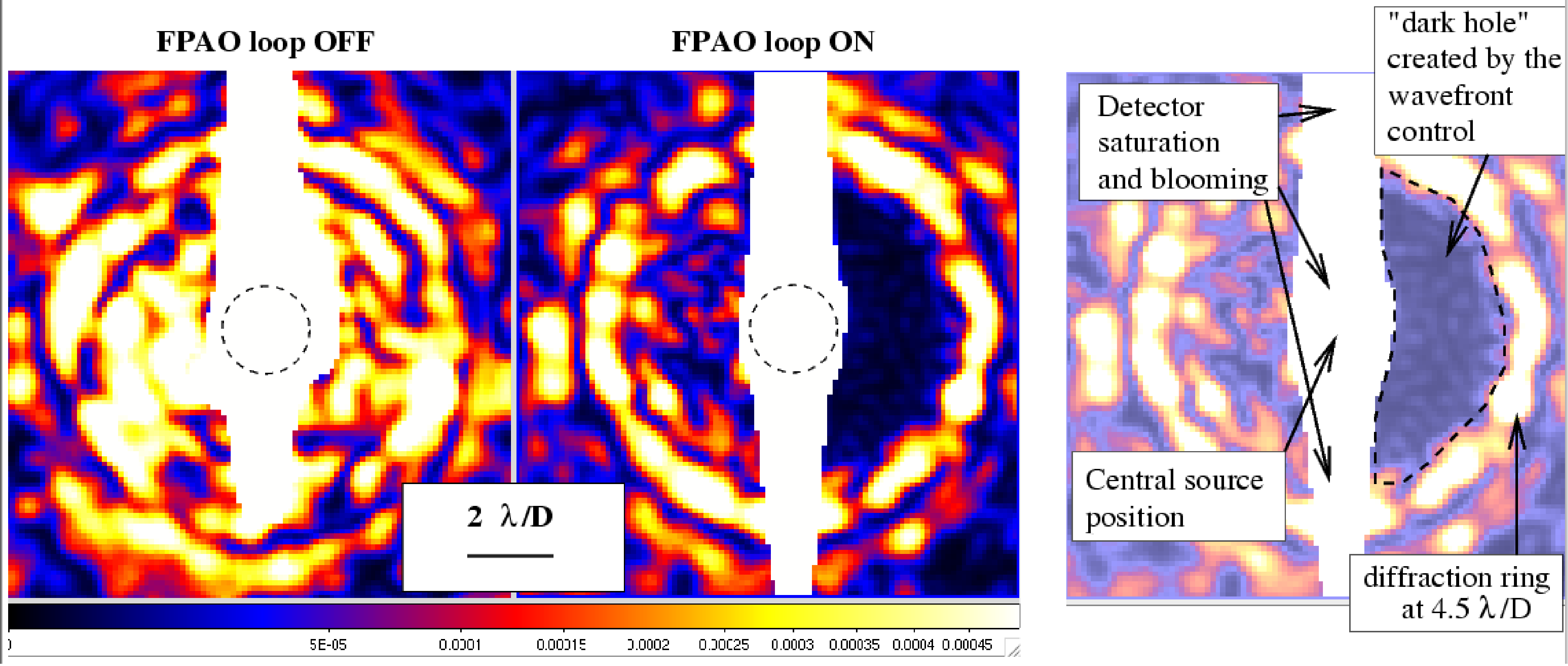
<u>SENSING</u>: Put “test speckles” to measure speckles in the image, watch how they interfere

<u>CORRECTION</u>: Put “anti speckles” on top of “speckles” to have destructive interference between the two (Electric Field Conjugation, Give’on et al 2007)

<u>CALIBRATION</u>: If there is a real planet (and not a speckle) it will not interfere with the test speckles

Fundamental advantage:
Uses science detector for wavefront sensing:
“What you see is EXACTLY what needs to be removed / calibrated”

Lab results with PIAA coronagraph + FPAO with 32x32 MEMs DM



See also results obtained at NASA JPL HCIT, NASA Ames & Princeton lab

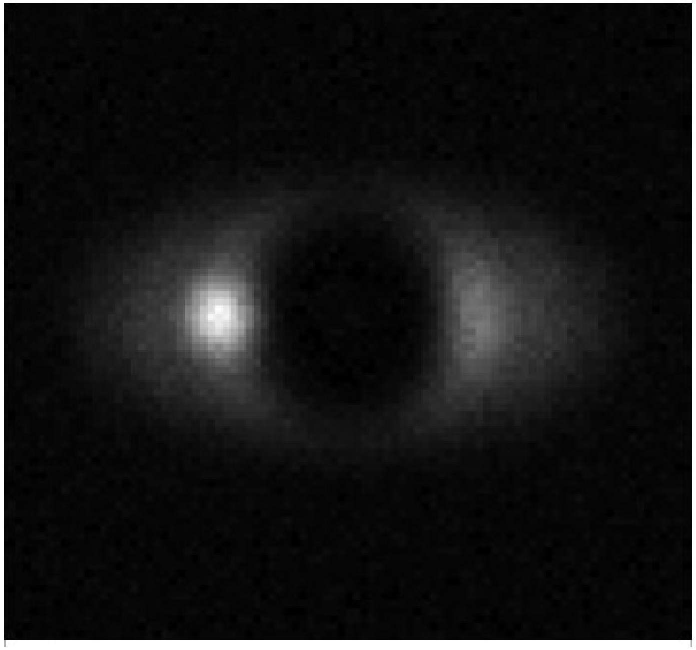
All high contrast coronagraphic images acquired in lab use this technique.

- No conventional AO system has achieved >1e-7 contrast
- Focal plane AO has allowed 1e-9 to 1e-10 contrast in visible light, with ~lambda/10 optics

Pointing and coronagraphy

Pointing errors put light in the 1 to 2 λ/D region of the focal plane, where planets should be seen

A pointing error and a planet at the inner working angle of the coronagraph look identical



Small IWA coronagraphy requires exquisite pointing control and knowledge

Pointing errors should be detected before they become large enough to induce a strong leak in the coronagraph

Pointing should be measured at the same λ as used for science

Should be measured at the diffraction limit of telescope

Should be measured at coronagraph focal plane mask

Coronagraphic LOWFS

(Guyon et al. 2010)

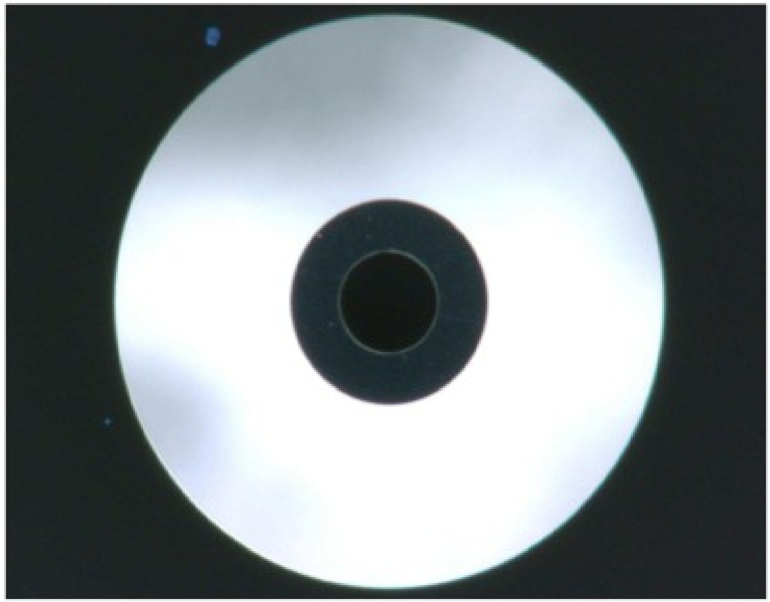
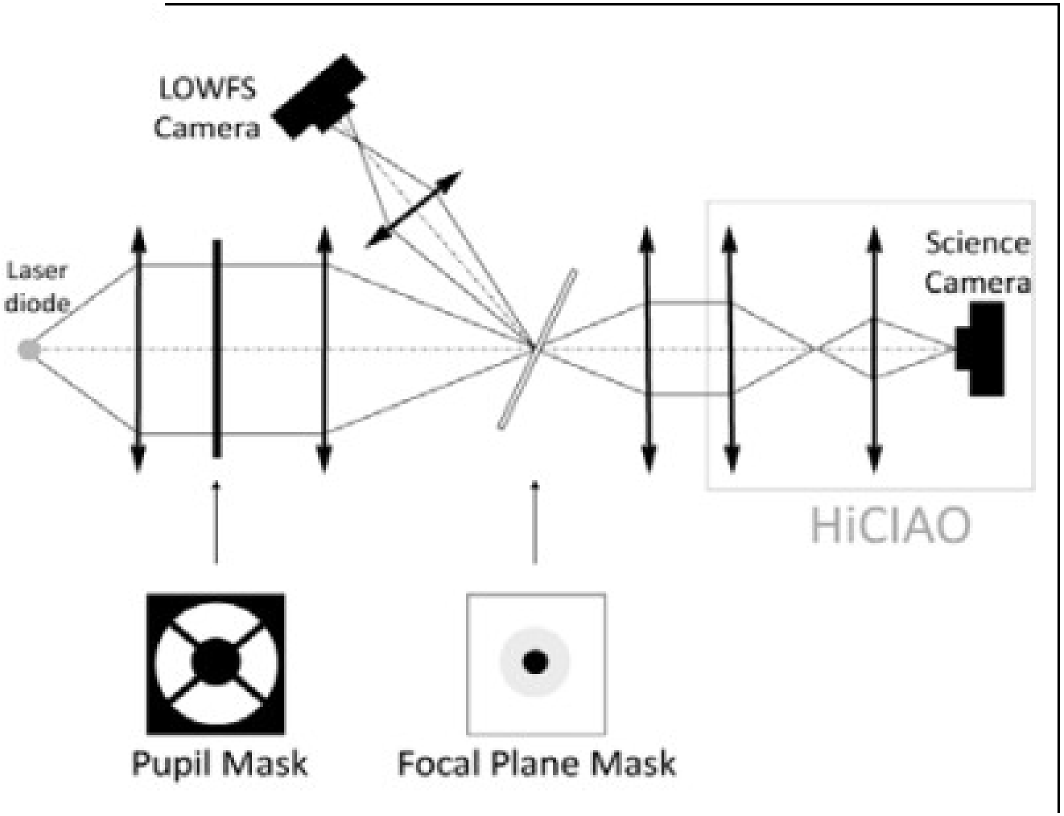
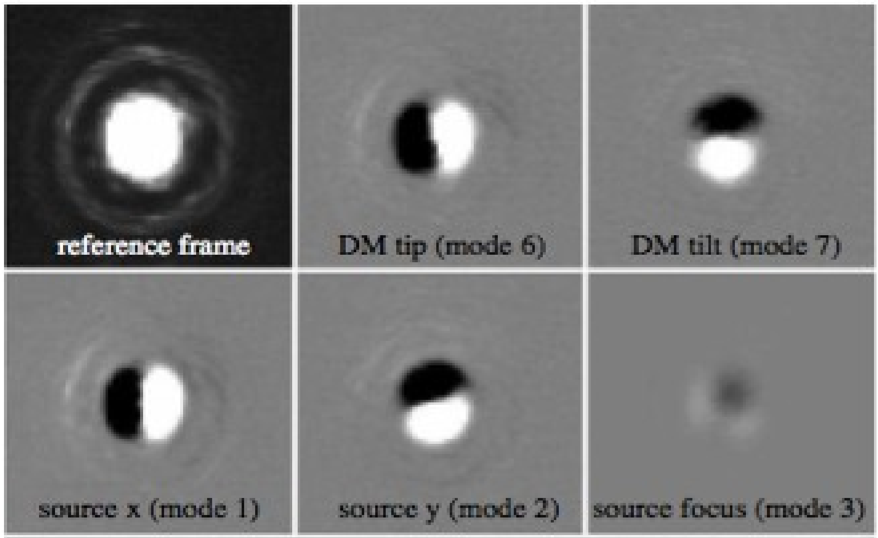
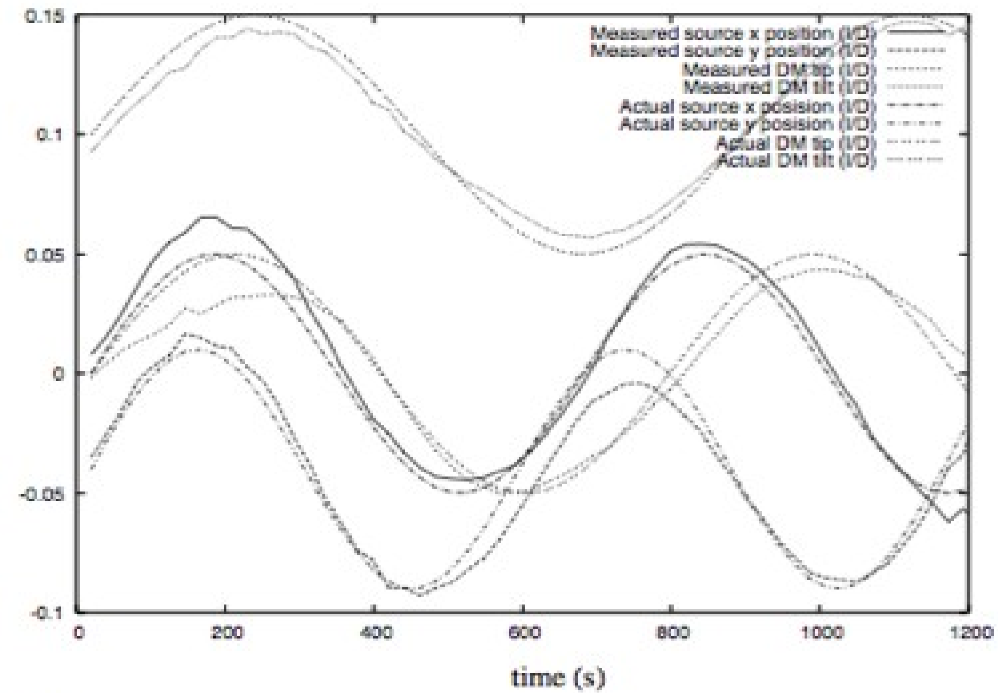


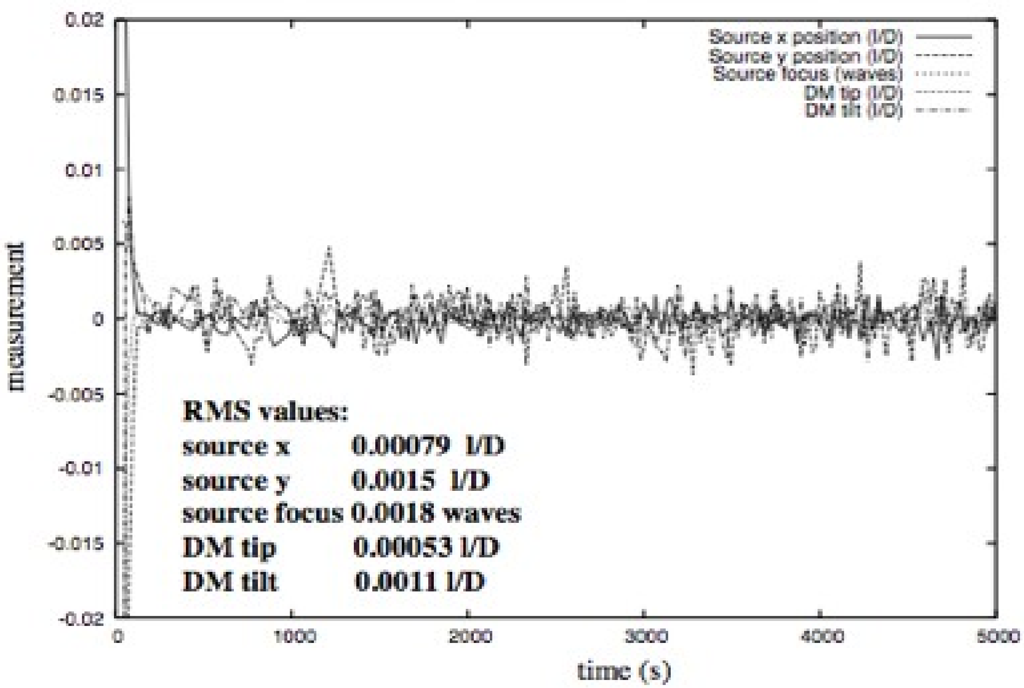
Fig. 9.— CLOWFS focal plane mask used in the PIAA coronagraph laboratory testbed at Subaru Telescope. The 100 micron radius mask center is opaque (low reflectivity), and is surrounded by a 100 micron wide highly reflective annulus. The science field, transmiting light to the science camera, extends from 200 micron to 550 micron radius.

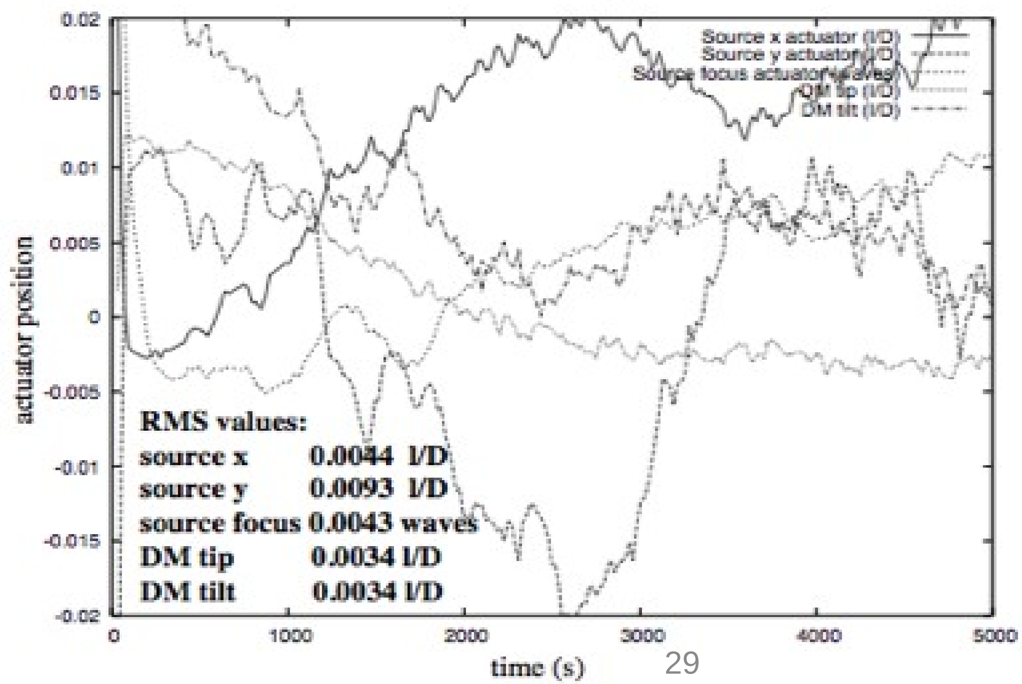


Pointing control demonstrated to 1e-3 λ/D in visible



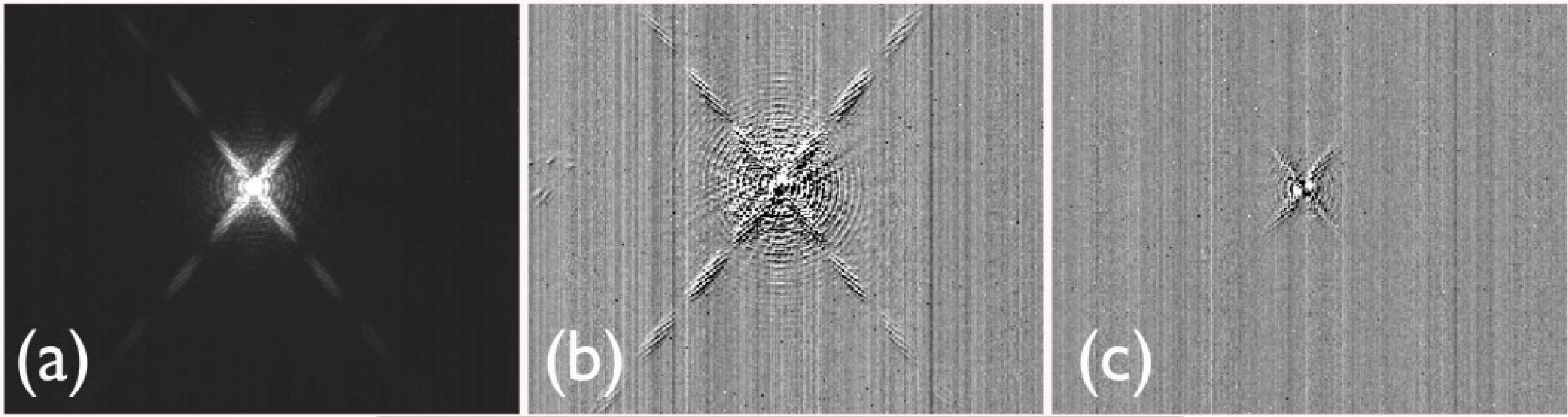


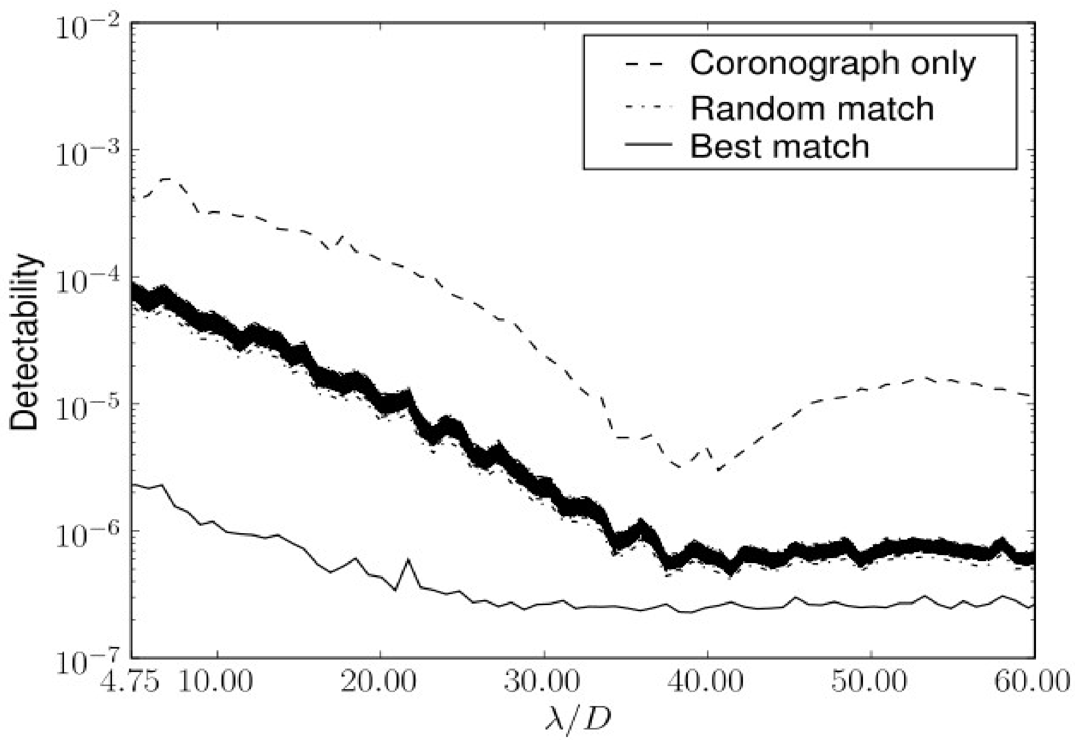




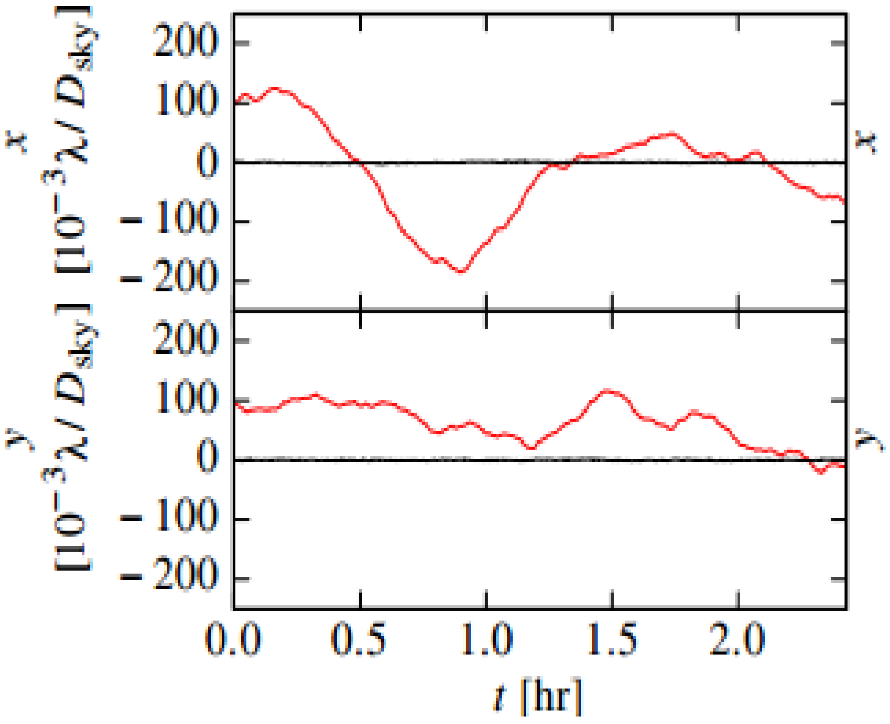
Coronagraph leaks calibrated to 1% in SCExAO (Vogt et al. 2011, submitted)

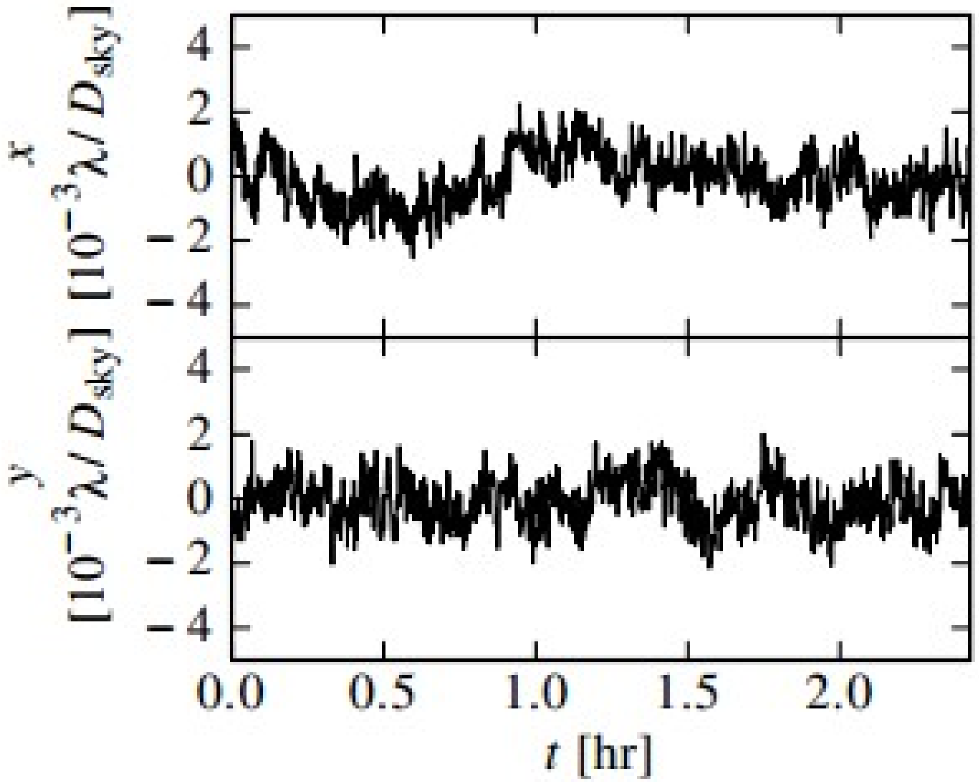
Co-added science image | Standard PSF subtraction | MMA





New results with CLOWFS at JPL demonstrate 3e-4 l/D control





Wavefront calibration to ~1e7 contrast

SDI, ADI WILL NOT WORK AT 1 l/D !!!

Focal plane speckle modulation appears to be very promising:

- no need for high optical quality
- non non-common path errors
- detectors now exist to do this efficiently

→ Will be tested on sky with SCExAO (and others...)

Works well in the lab when things are stable... will it also work on sky with speckles moving around ?

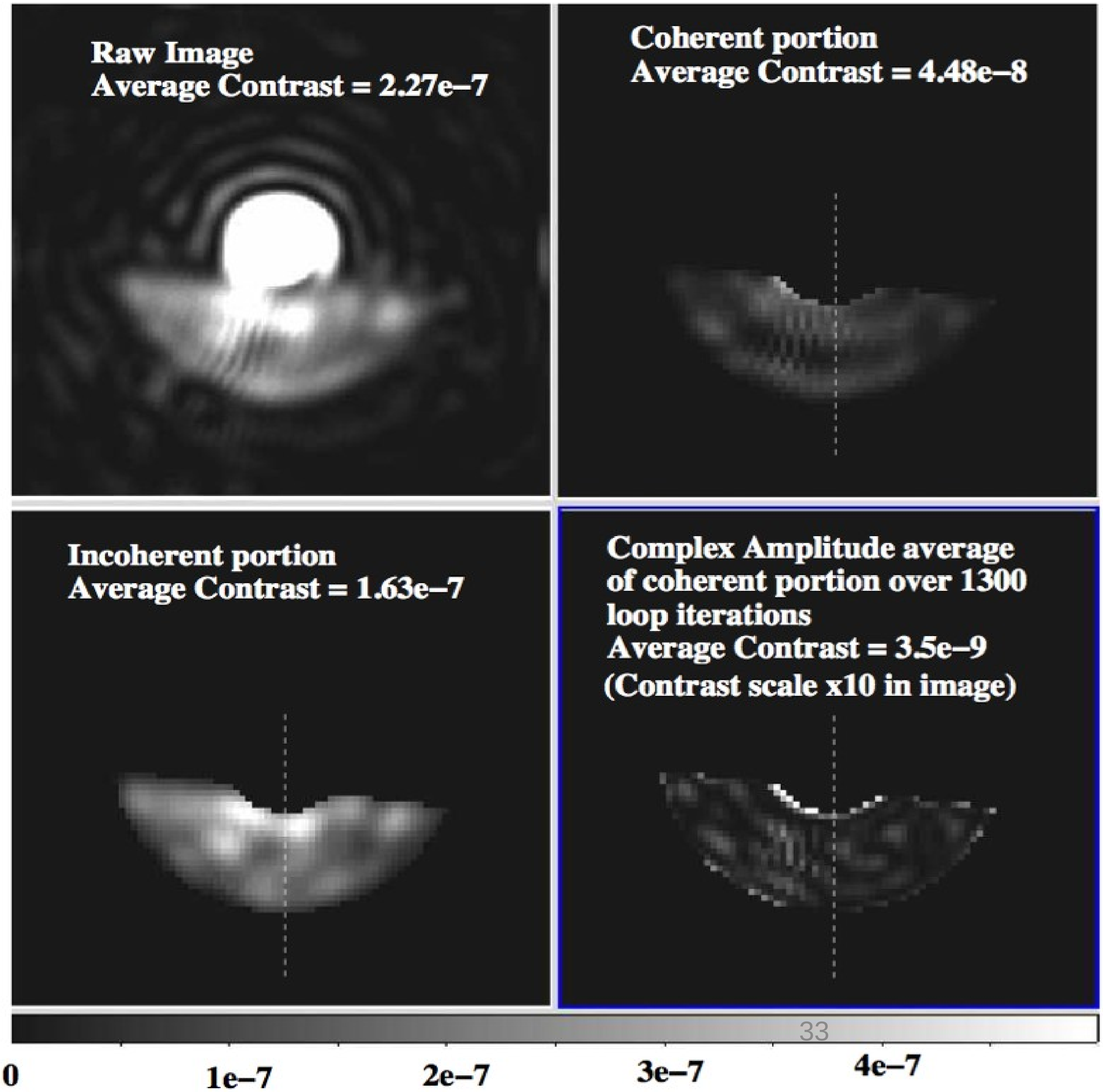
Focal plane WFS based correction and speckle calibration

2e-7 raw contrast obtained at 2 λ/D

Incoherent light at 1e-7
Coherent fast light at 5e-8
Coherent bias <3.5e-9

Test demonstrates:
- ability to separate light into coherent/incoherent fast/slow components
- ability to slow and static remove speckles well below the dynamic speckle halo

Guyon et al. 2010



How to remove / calibrate static and slow speckles ?
→ case for near-IR speckle control

On ELTs, slow speckles ARE A PROBLEM

~1e-5 speckles with few sec lifetime due to large aperture

1hr exposure will only average 5sec speckles by 30x

Use predictive control in visible AO loop

→ mitigates time-lag slow speckles

Sense and correct speckles at > 1 Hz in the nearIR (+ predictive control)

→ removes slow speckles due to time lag

→ removes slow speckles due to chromatic effects

→ removes static speckles due to optics

Detailed atmospheric WF modeling

1cm pixel scale, 40m x 40m size (4096x4096 pix)

250 us sampling (4 kHz) – linear interpolation between sample points

Multilayer frozen flow, Mauna Kea atmosphere model

0.6” seeing in visible

No inner scale, **outer scale = 25m**

Atmospheric refraction through atmosphere (**30 deg Z angle**)

Diffraction propagation between layers → **amplitude and phase**

Using 8192 x 8192 pix maps for all diffraction propagations, 16k x 16k screens for all frozen flow layers

Wavefronts unwrapped by comparison with 3D raytracing diffraction-free wavefront

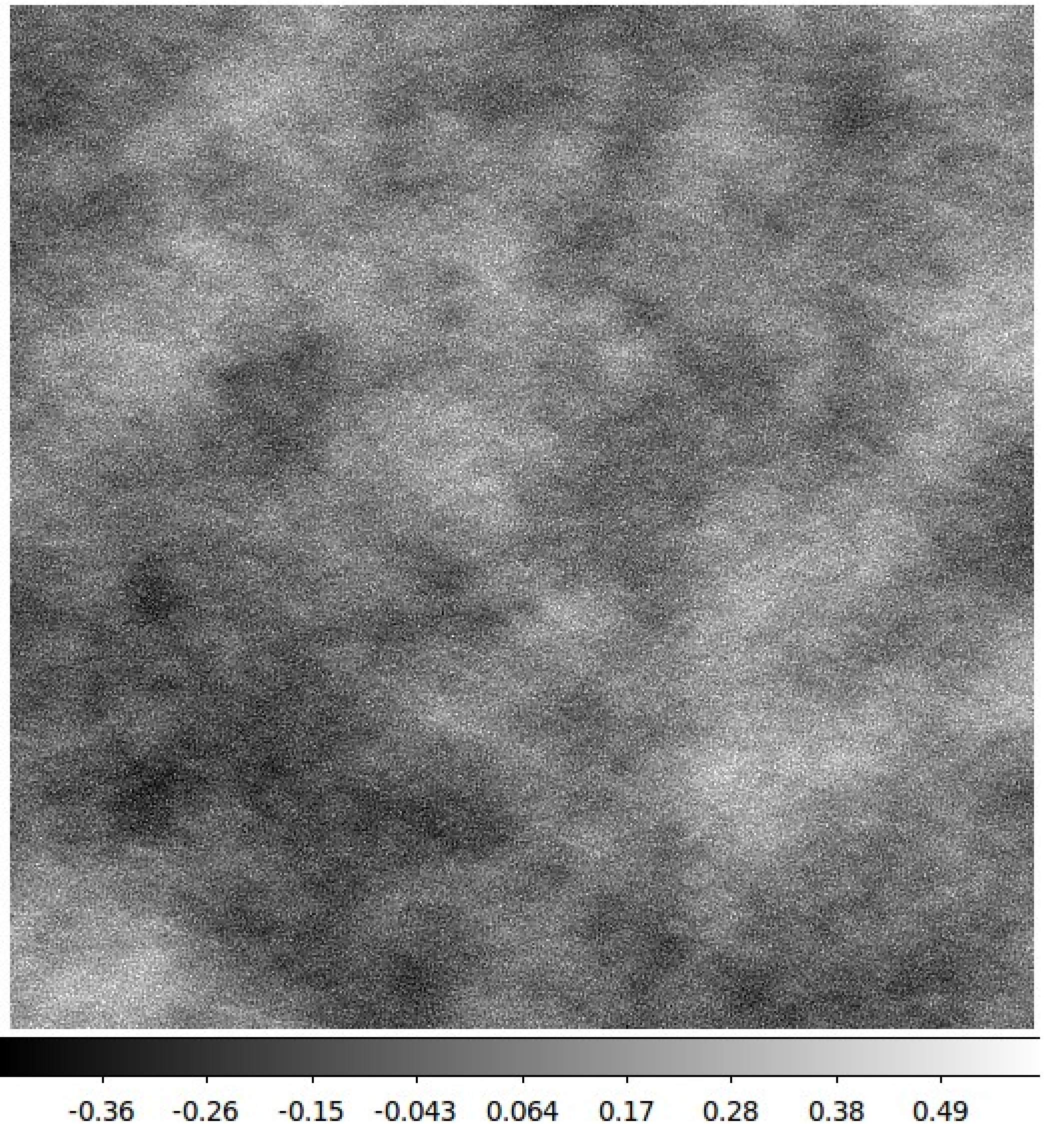
→ 240 GB / sec / wavelength (x3) = 0.72 TB / sec

→ 0.1 sec of WF data takes 1 day to compute

5 sec computed so far (= 50 days of CPU time, 3.6 TB), goal is about 20 sec (14.4 TB, to be completed in Jan 2013)

OPD chromaticity

Scintillation chromaticity (nearIR[1.6um] OPD – visible[0.6um] OPD), 40x40m



Due to :
(1) change in refactive index (gain factor)
(2) atmospheric refraction
(alt-dependent translation)

(also, diffraction propagation to lesser degree)

~0.1 rad RMS → 1% SR loss

But:
Dominated by low spatial frequencies
Slow (speckle lifetime up to few sec on ELT)

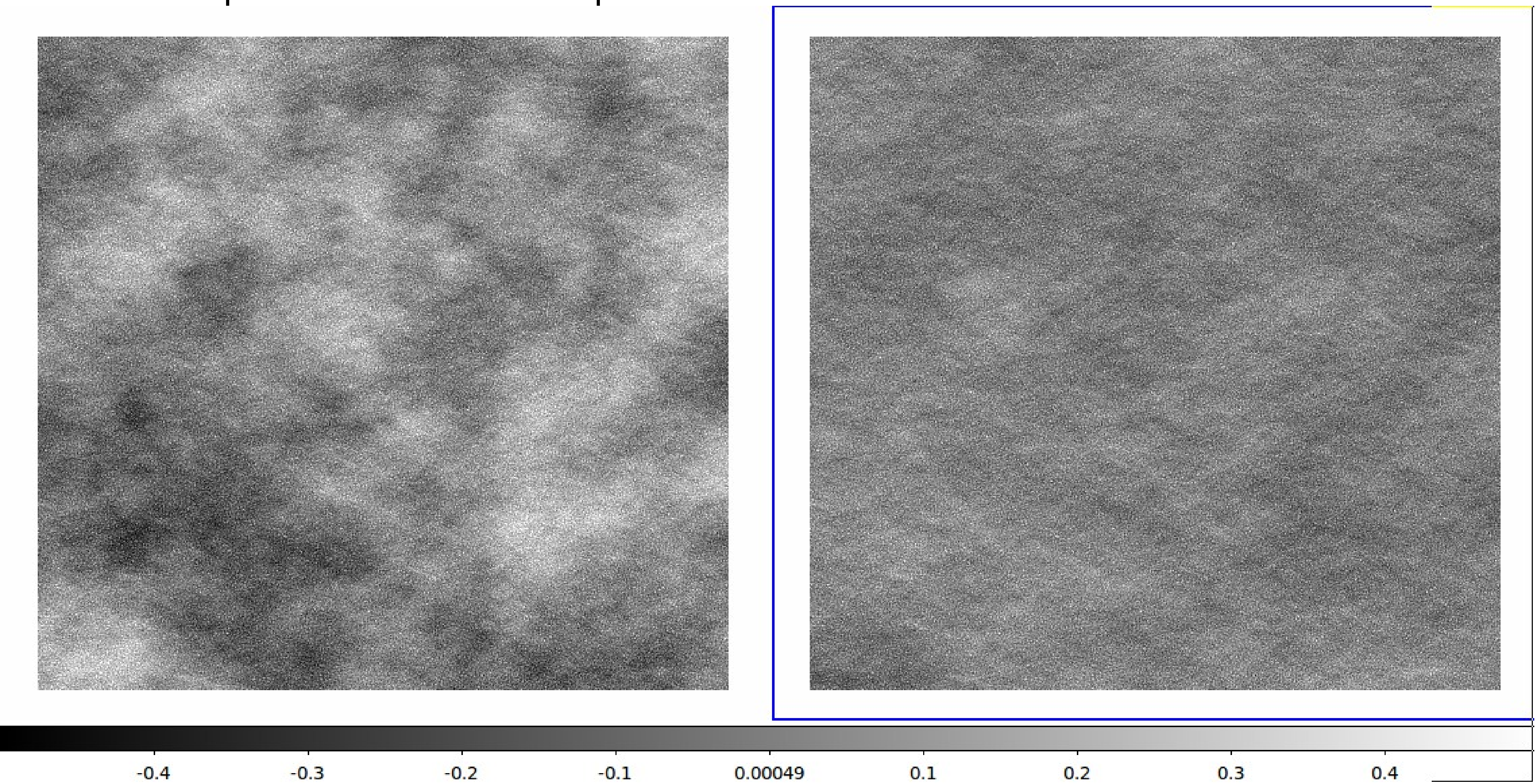
Optimal OPD scaling

0.6 um vs 1.6 um: 1.4% difference in (n-1)

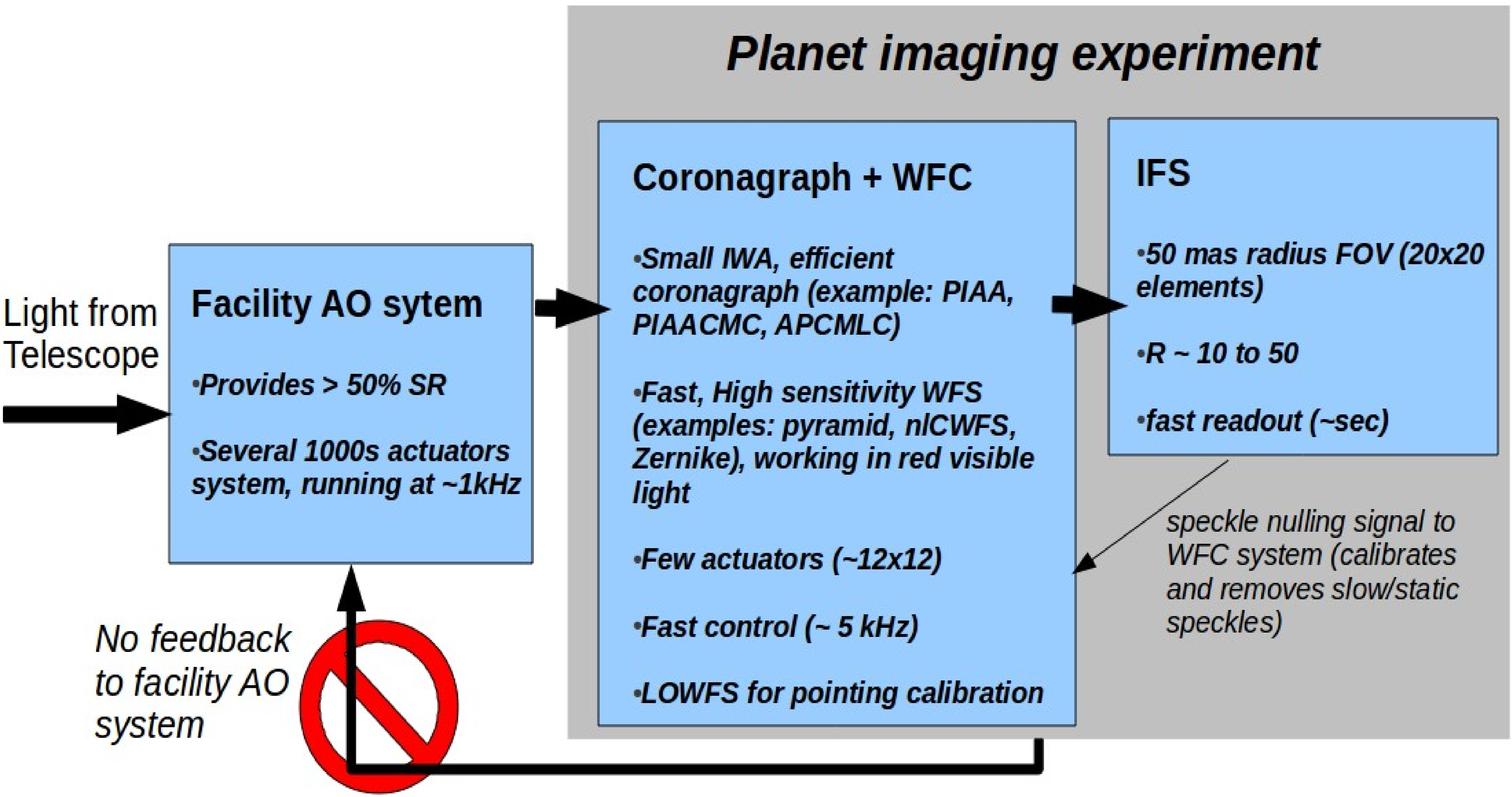
0.8 um vs 1.6 um: 0.7% difference in (n-1)

Scaling removes most of the low order OPD chromaticity

Multiplicative coefficient (here 1.017) can be computed, but difficult to separate telescope errors from atmosphere



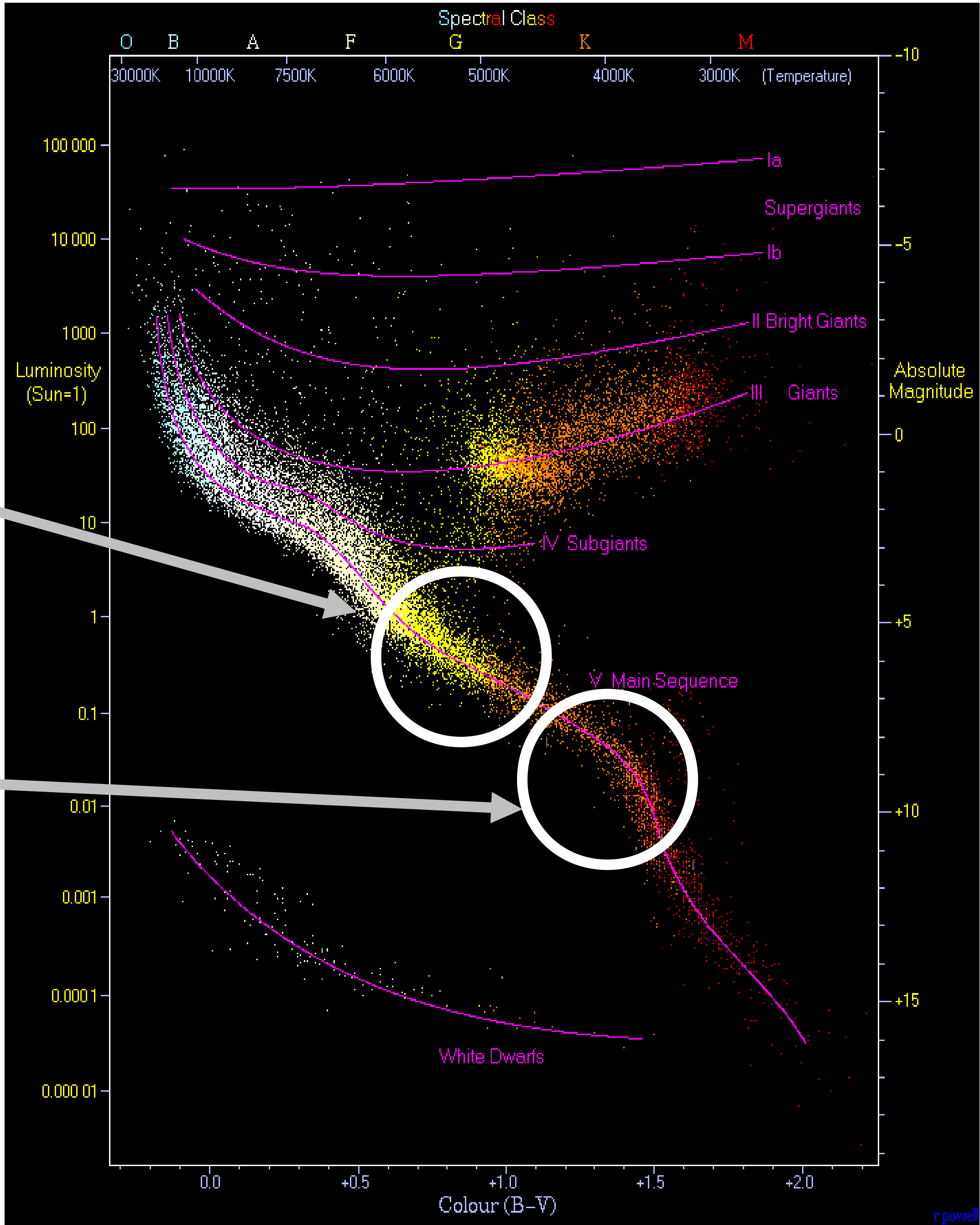
Possible system architecture



Habitable planets spectroscopy

Space (~4m telescope):
F-G-K type stars, visible light
(~203x)

Ground (ELT):
M type stars, nearIR
(~ 202x)



Conclusions

Habitable planets can be imaged with ELTs around low-mass stars. Spectroscopy of several targets could also be done at a very useful R~100 → <u>this is the easiest quickest way to characterize habitable planets</u>

This requires aggressive IWA system able to work at 1 lambda/D and somewhat unusual (but not particularly challenging) technical choices

Technologies are being matured now, and should be ready in 10yrs

ASSUMING WE WORK ON IT

This should be a focused experiment for <100 targets. Can be deployed quickly and cheap → great science per $!!!!

SCExAO is a precursor to such a system. A SCExAO-like system could be placed on an ELT in a short time, as optical interfaces for narrow FOV system are relatively easy

(See next talk by F. Martinache)