

Imaging Habitable Exoplanets with Large Ground-based Telescopes: Challenges and Opportunities

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University of Washington, May 3, 2017

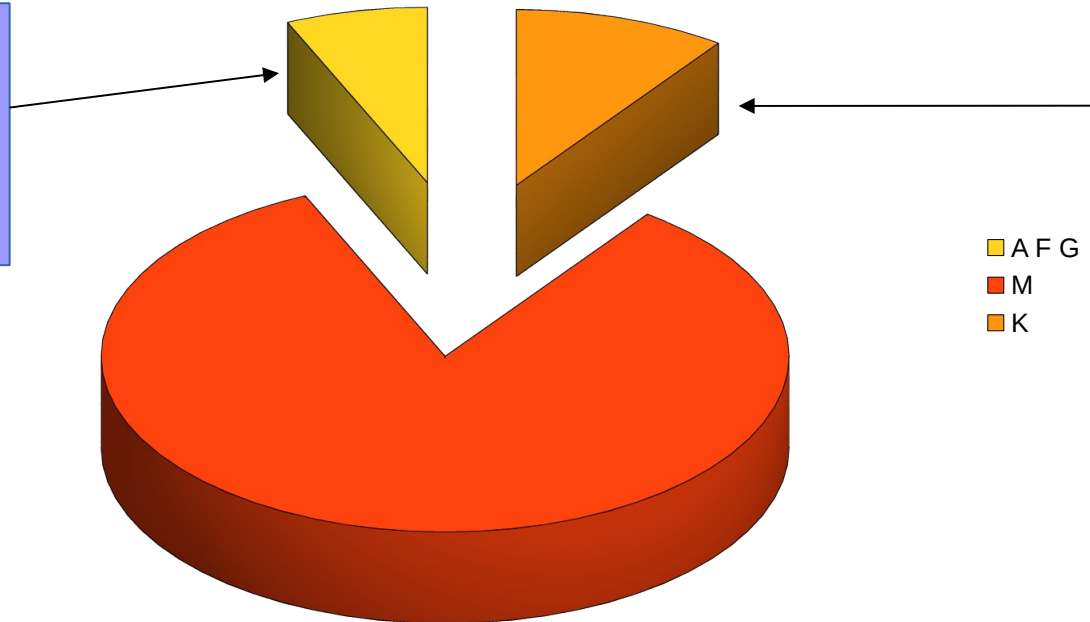
What is so special about M stars ?

They are **abundant**: >75% of main sequence stars are M type

Class	Effective temperature ^{[1][2][3]}	Vega-relative "color label" ^{[4][nb 1]}	Chromaticity ^{[5][6][7][nb 2]}	Main-sequence mass ^{[1][8]} (solar masses)	Main-sequence radius ^{[1][8]} (solar radii)	Main-sequence luminosity ^{[1][8]} (bolometric)	Hydrogen lines	Fraction of all main-sequence stars ^[9]
O	≥ 30,000 K	blue	blue	≥ 16 M_{\odot}	≥ 6.6 R_{\odot}	≥ 30,000 L_{\odot}	Weak	~0.00003%
B	10,000–30,000 K	blue white	deep blue white	2.1–16 M_{\odot}	1.8–6.6 R_{\odot}	25–30,000 L_{\odot}	Medium	0.13%
A	7,500–10,000 K	white	blue white	1.4–2.1 M_{\odot}	1.4–1.8 R_{\odot}	5–25 L_{\odot}	Strong	0.6%
F	6,000–7,500 K	yellow white	white	1.04–1.4 M_{\odot}	1.15–1.4 R_{\odot}	1.5–5 L_{\odot}	Medium	3%
G	5,200–6,000 K	yellow	yellowish white	0.8–1.04 M_{\odot}	0.96–1.15 R_{\odot}	0.6–1.5 L_{\odot}	Weak	7.6%
K	3,700–5,200 K	orange	pale yellow orange	0.45–0.8 M_{\odot}	0.7–0.96 R_{\odot}	0.08–0.6 L_{\odot}	Very weak	12.1%
M	2,400–3,700 K	red	light orange red	0.08–0.45 M_{\odot}	≤ 0.7 R_{\odot}	≤ 0.08 L_{\odot}	Very weak	76.45%

Within 5pc (15ly) : 60 hydrogen-burning stars, 50 are M type, 6 are K-type, 4 are A, F or G

4.36 Alpha Cen A
8.58 Sirius A
11.40 Procyon A
11.89 Tau Ceti



4.36 Alpha Cen B
10.52 Eps Eri
11.40 61 Cyg A
11.40 61 Cyg B
11.82 Eps Ind A
15.82 Gliese 380

What is so special about M stars ?

Strong evidence that their systems are rich in terrestrial planets:

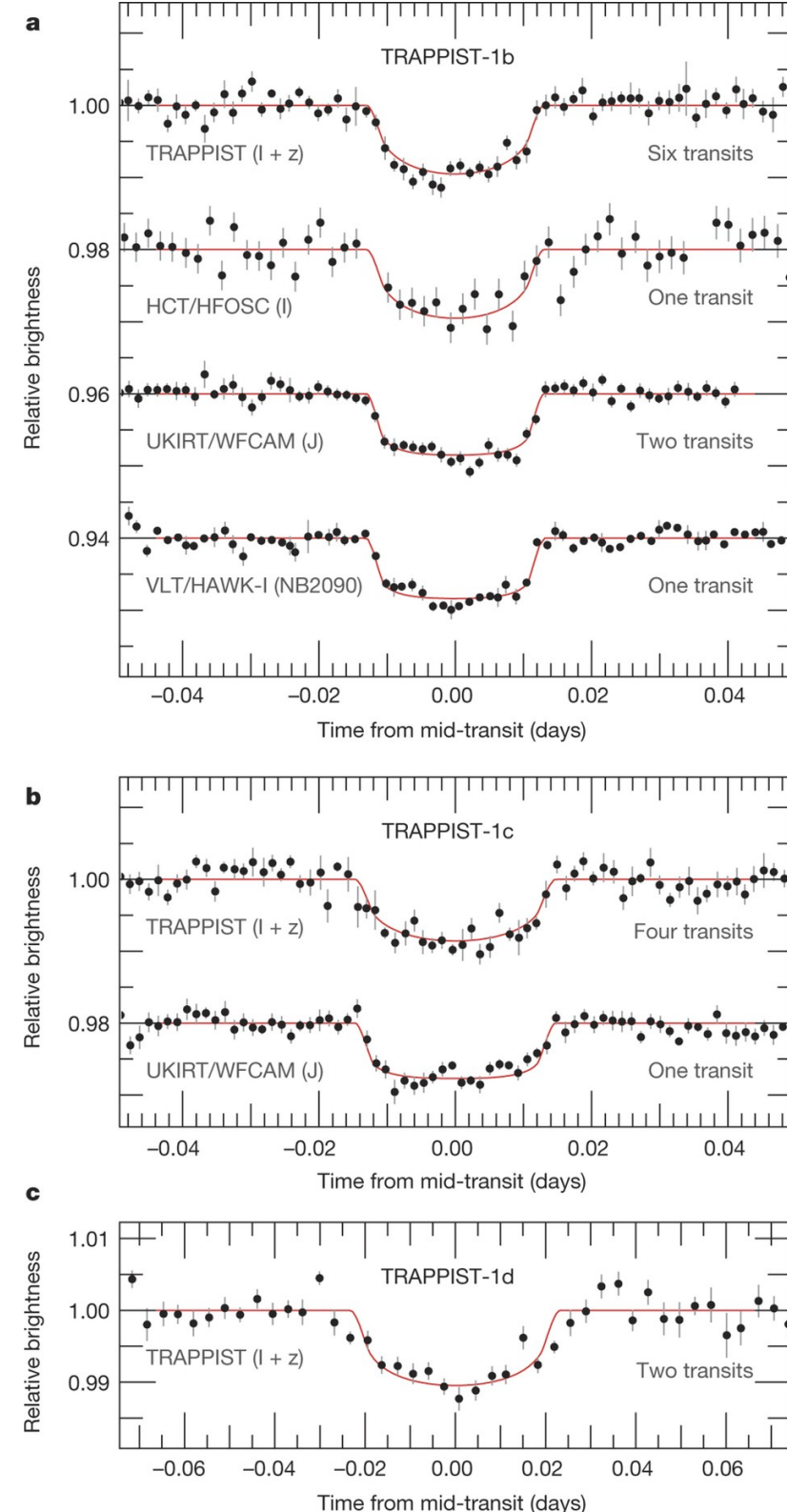
- Planet formation models evidence
- Lack of giant planets near HZ → good thing !
- Kepler data shows trend : more rocky planets around M-type stars
- Recent discoveries:
Prox Cen b
Trappist-1



What is so special about M stars ?

“Easy” to observe

- Strong RV signal (near-IR RV instruments coming online)
- Moderate contrast (this talk): good for direct imaging
- Excellent transit targets:
 - Larg(er) probability of transit: some hope for transit+RV+direct imaging
 - Larger transit depth: JWST transit spectroscopy

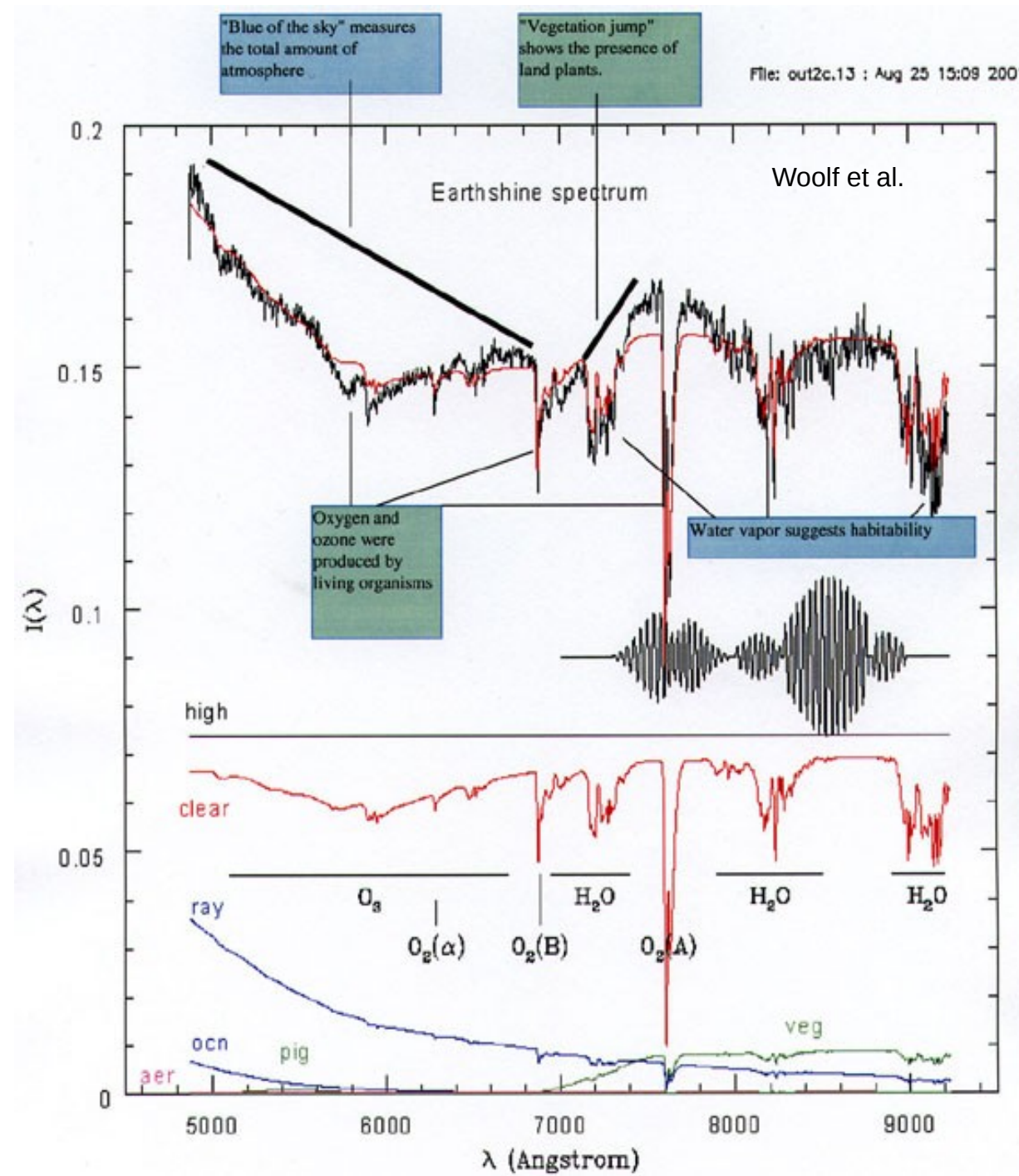


Why directly imaging ?

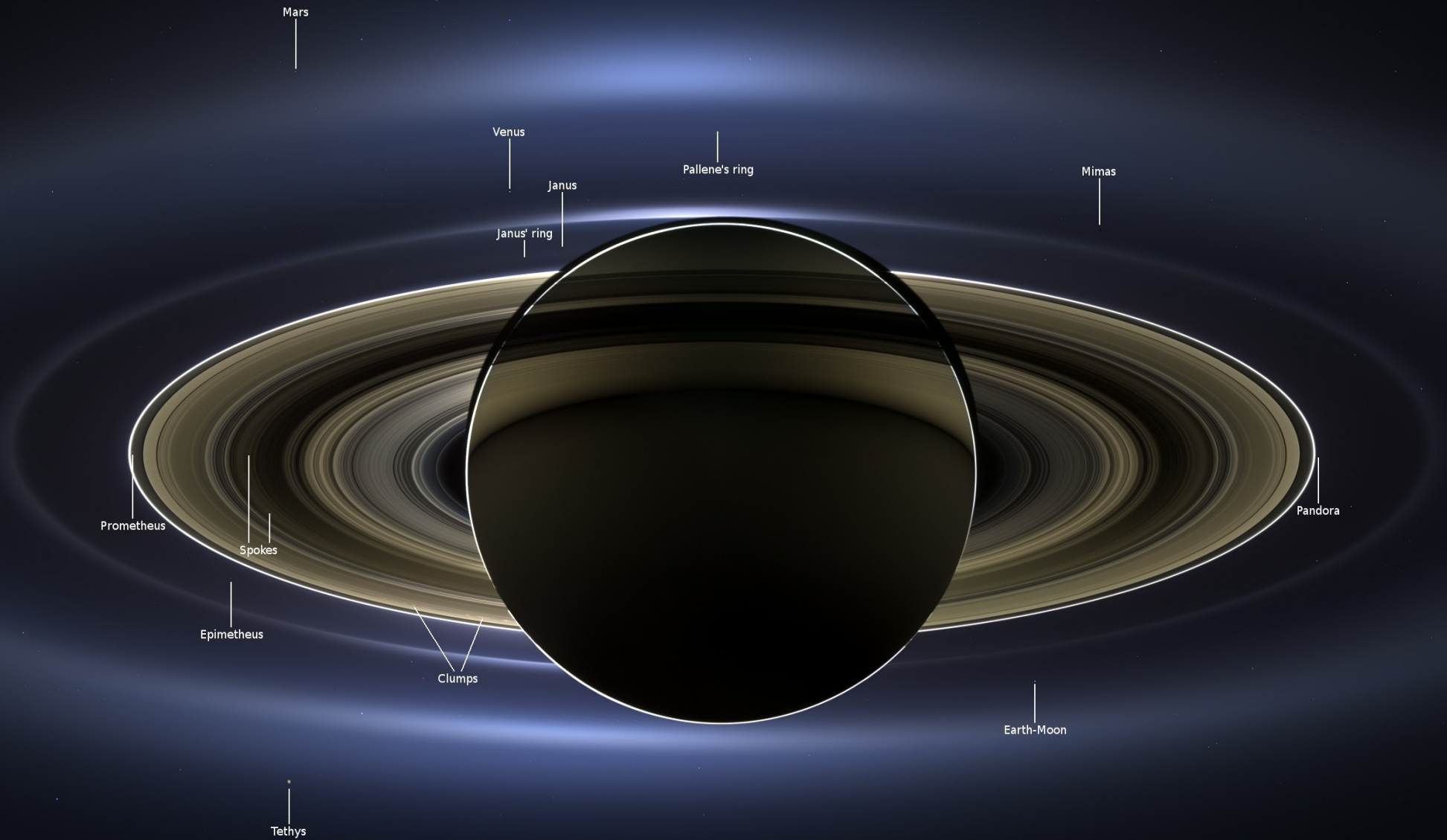
Spectra can also be obtained by transit, but :

- Low probability (few %)
- High atmosphere only

Spectra of Earth (taken by looking at Earthshine) shows evidence for life and plants



Taking images of exoplanets: Why is it hard ?

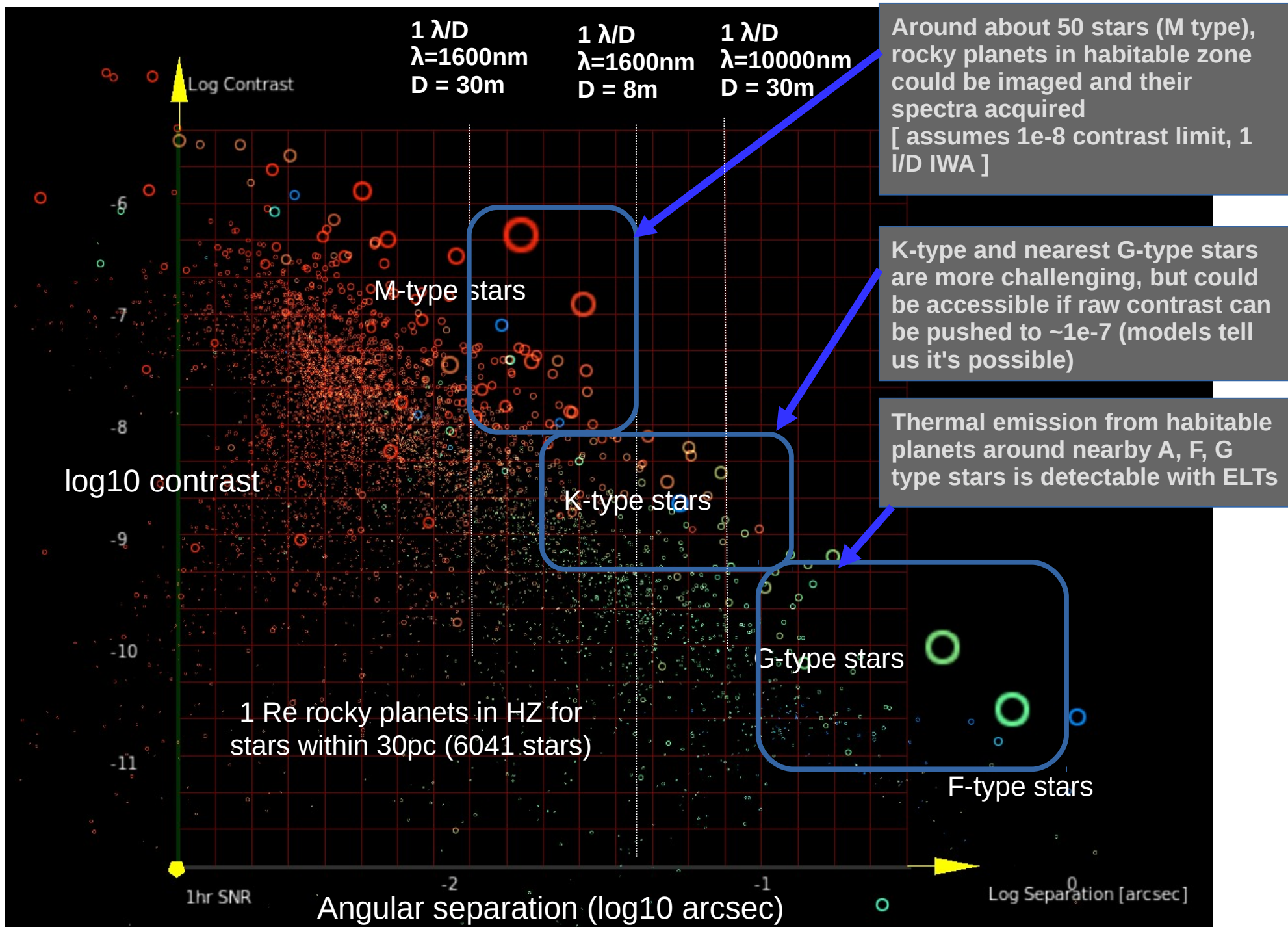


A photograph taken from space showing the planet Saturn in the upper left corner, with its characteristic yellowish-brown rings and atmosphere. A bright, glowing white arc of light, likely the Sun or a distant star, is visible just below the rings. The background is a deep blue-black space. In the lower right, a small, bright blue-white point of light is labeled 'Earth' with a small white arrow pointing directly at it.

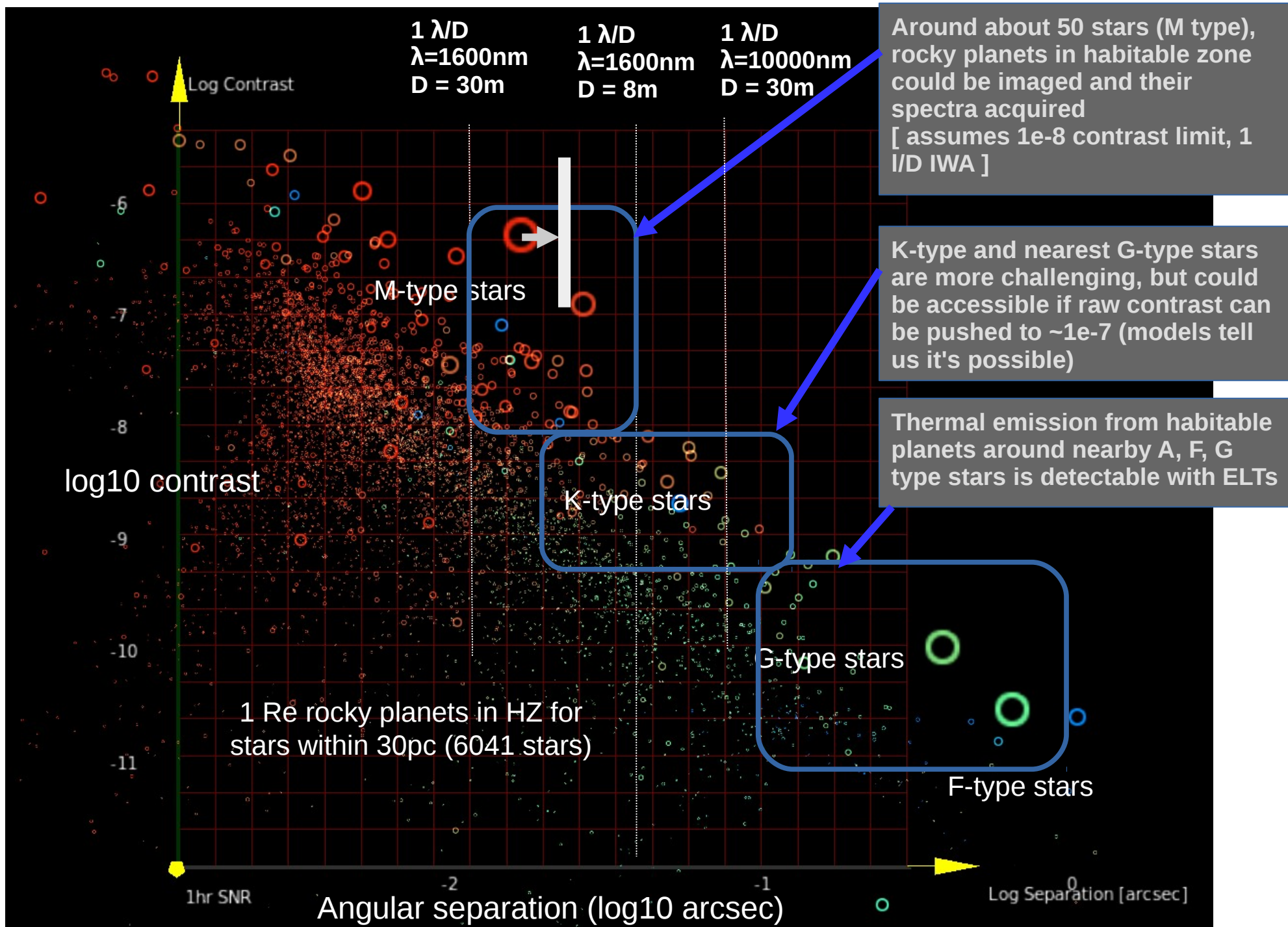
Saturn

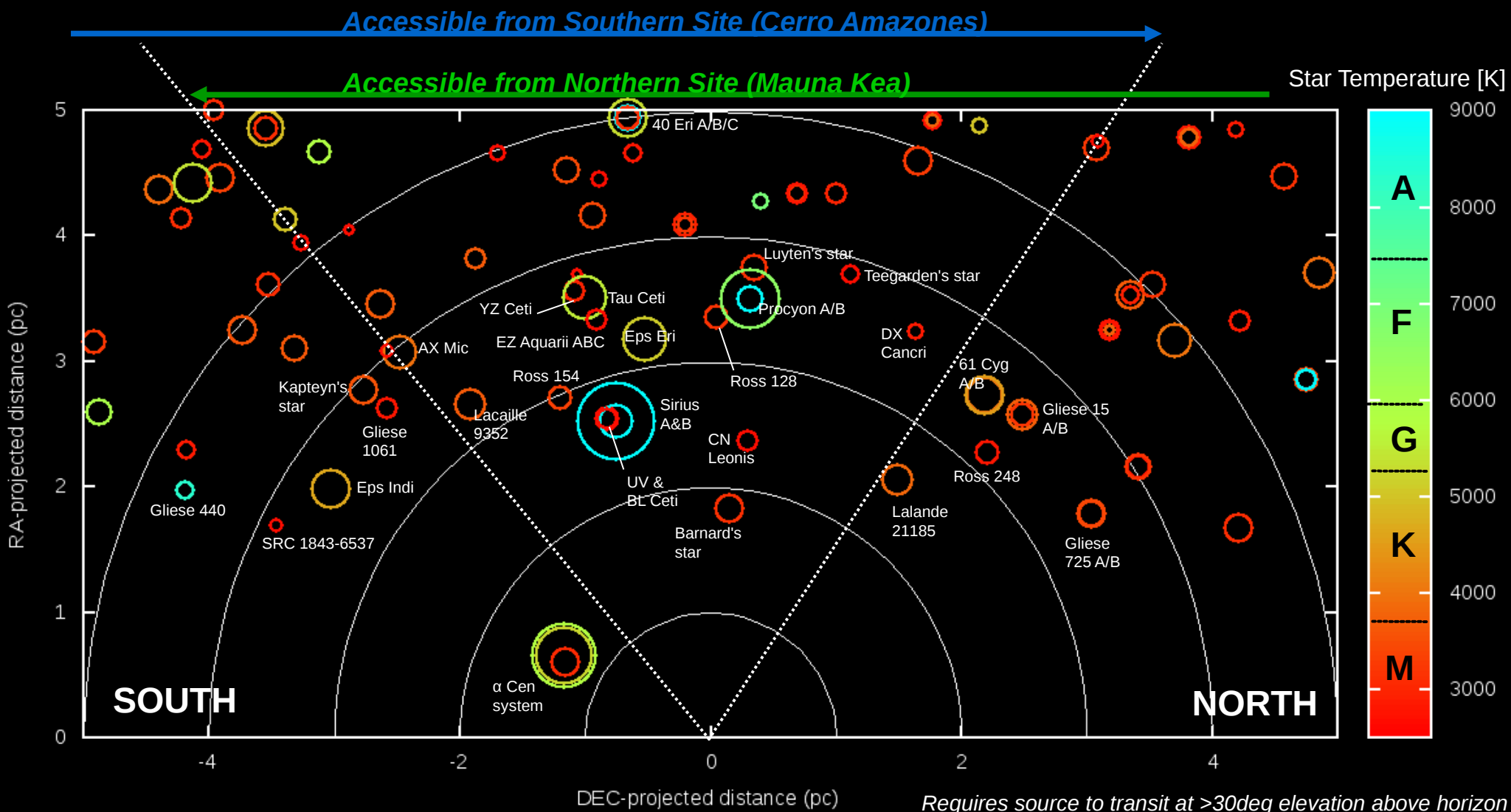
↑
Earth

Contrast and Angular separation

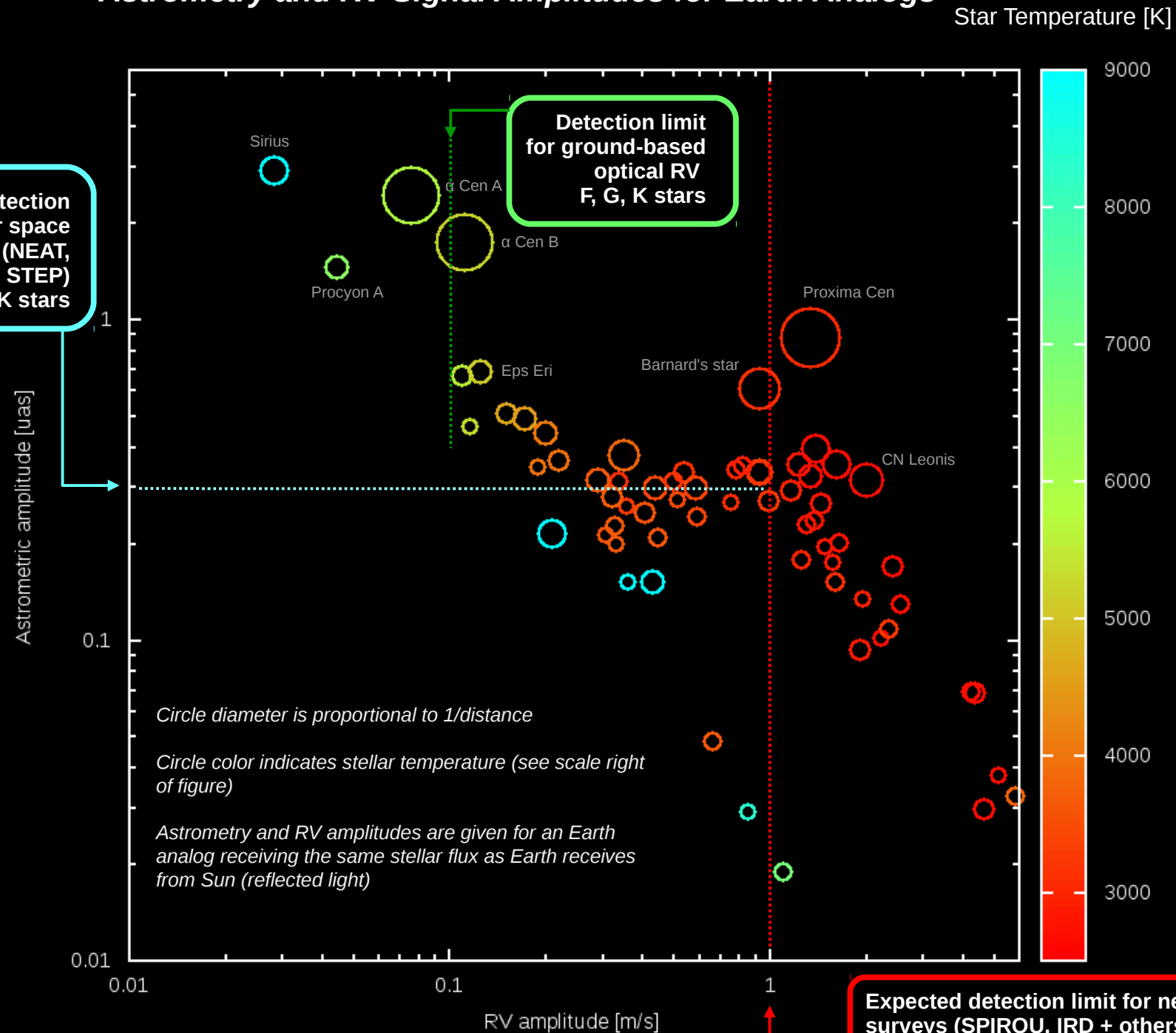


Contrast and Angular separation (updated)

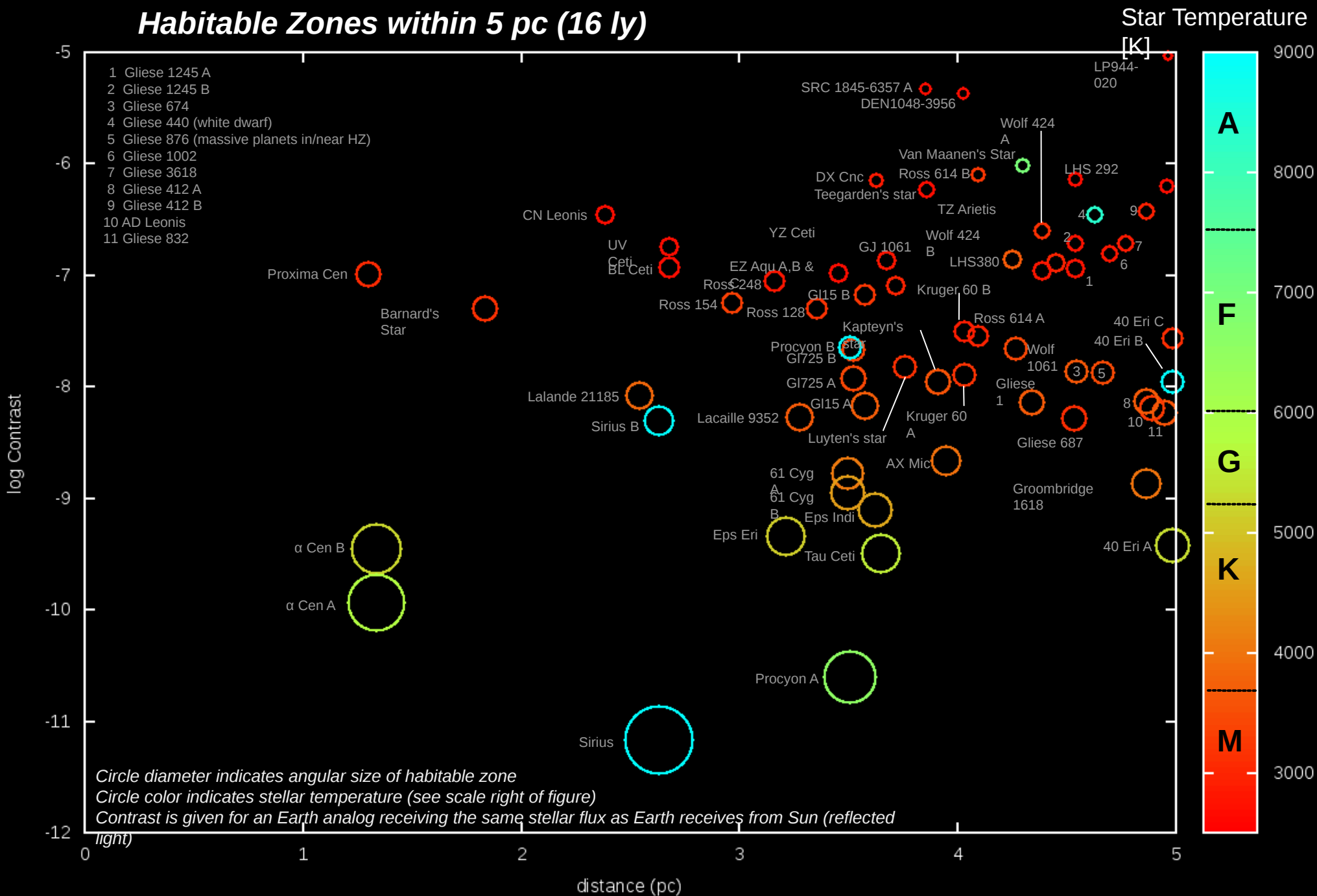




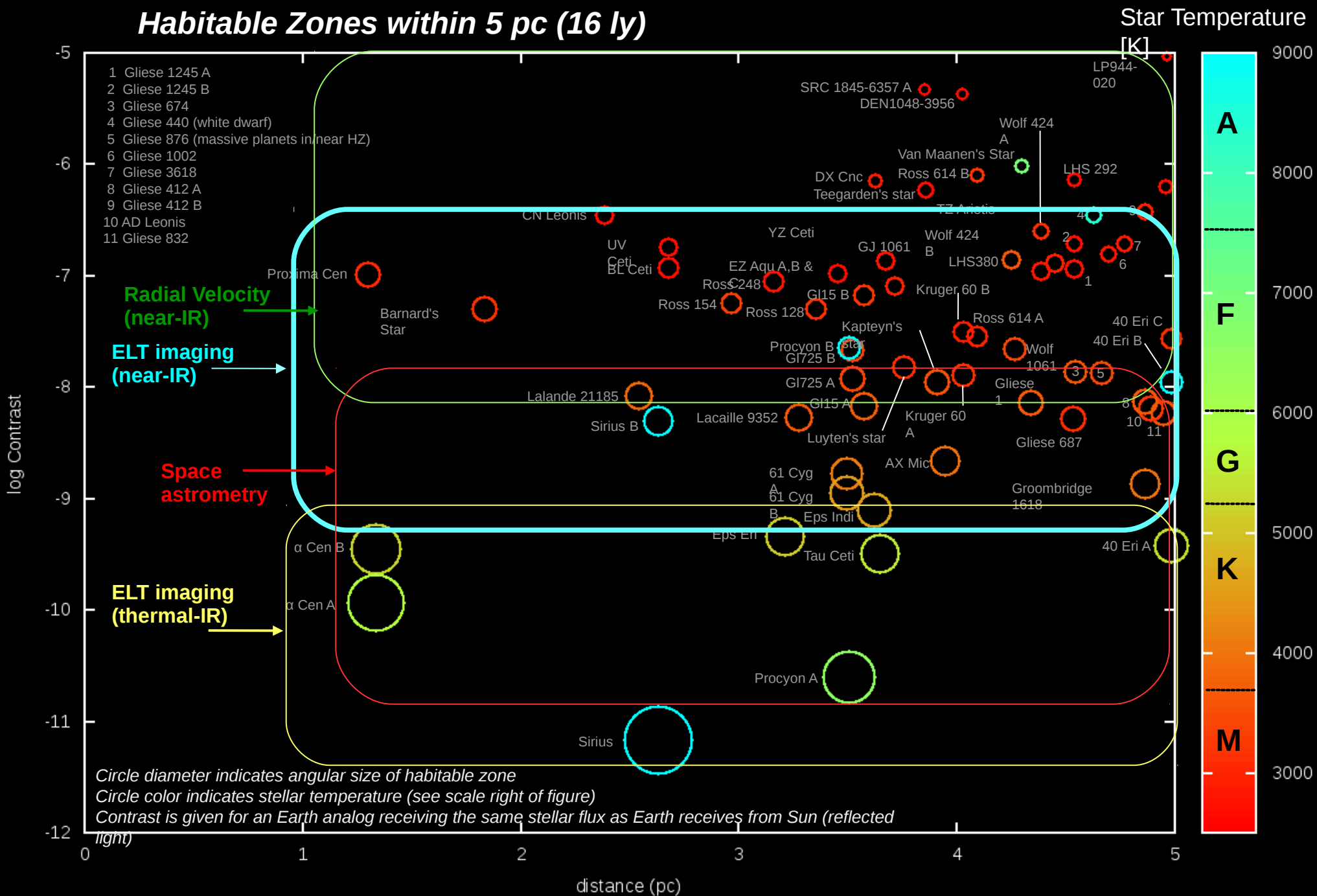
Habitable Zones within 5 pc (16 ly): Astrometry and RV Signal Amplitudes for Earth Analogs



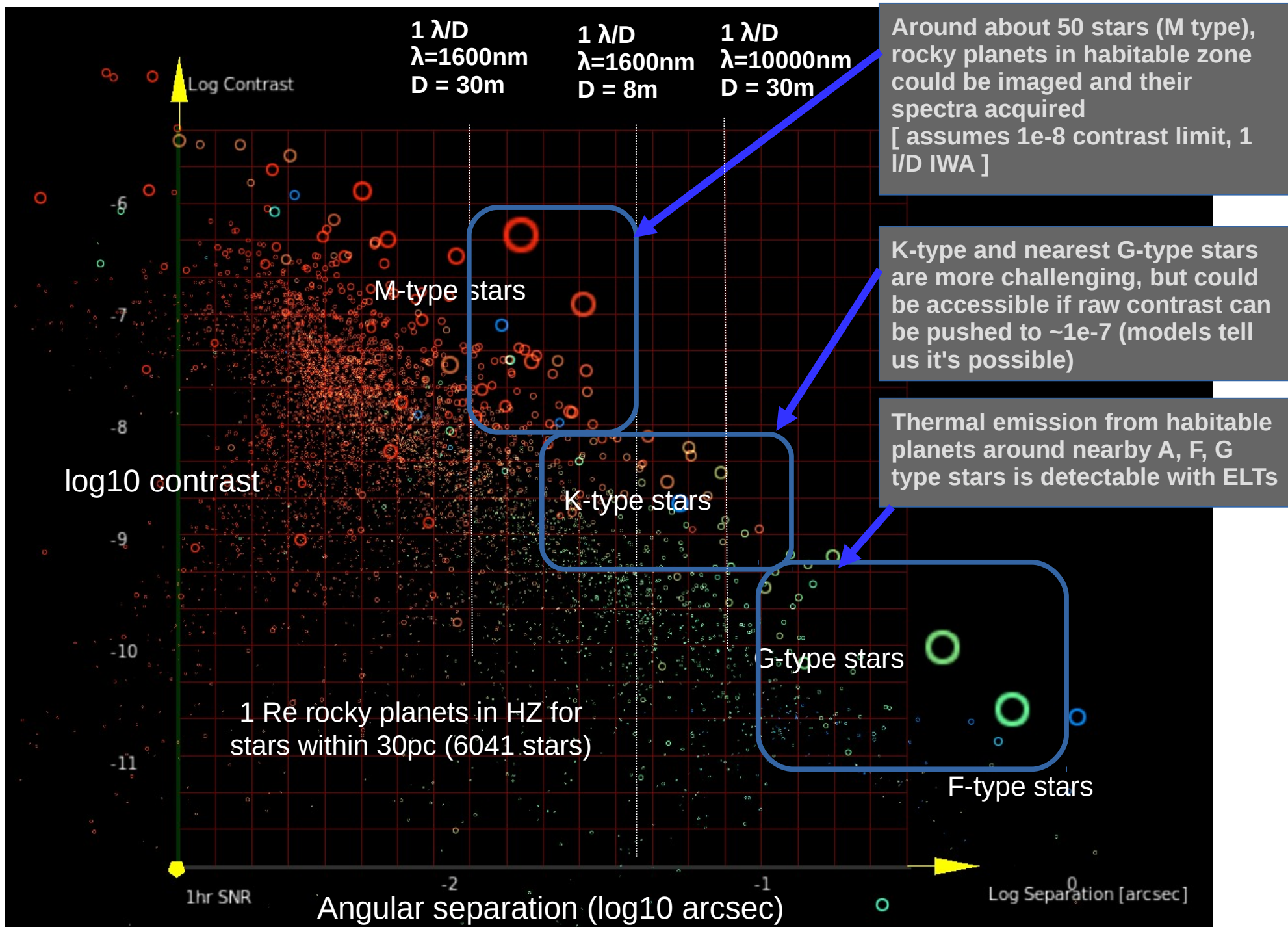
Habitable Zones within 5 pc (16 ly)



Habitable Zones within 5 pc (16 ly)



Contrast and Angular separation



We need a Coronagraph ...

Requirements ...

- IWA near 1 I/D
- high throughput ($>\sim 50\%$ @ 2 I/D)
- $\sim 1e-6$ raw contrast
- resilient against stellar angular size (ELTs partially resolve stars)

... can be met now

At least two approaches meet requirements: Vortex, PIAACMC
Performance demonstrated in lab on centrally obscured pupil (WFIRST)
in visible light. Designs for segmented apertures have been produced
(see next slides) but not tested.

No component-level significant challenge, but system-level performance
has yet to be demonstrated on-sky

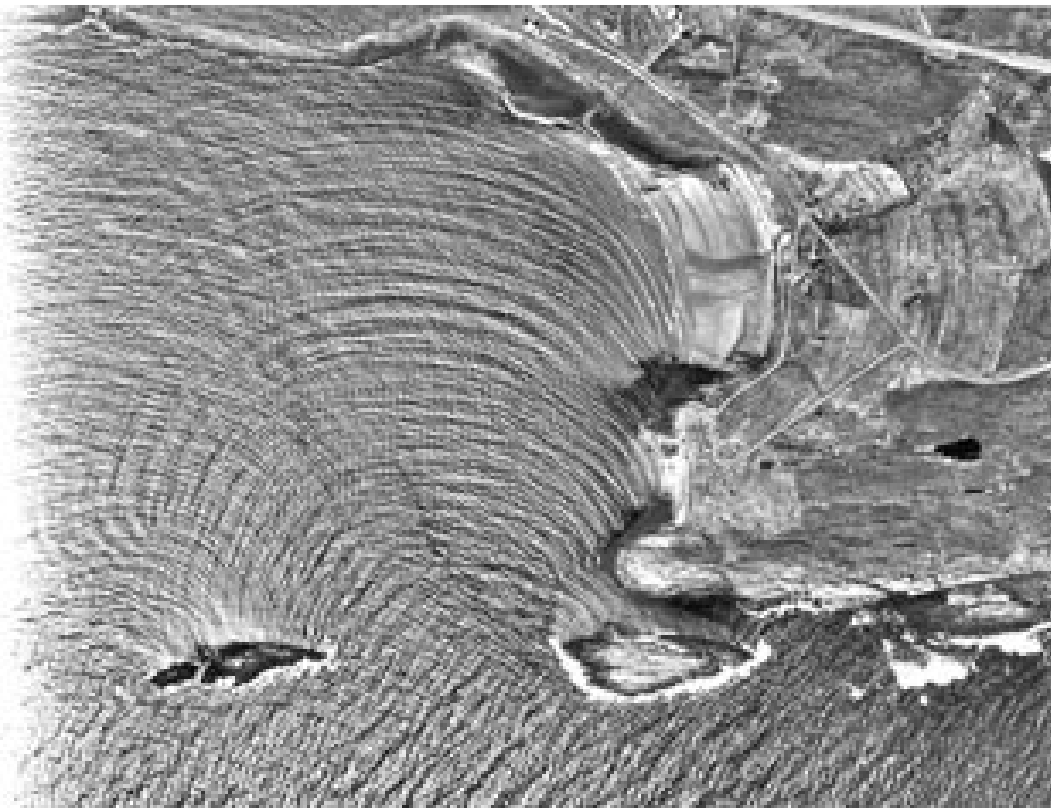
Coronagraphy ... Using optics tricks to remove starlight (without removing planet light)



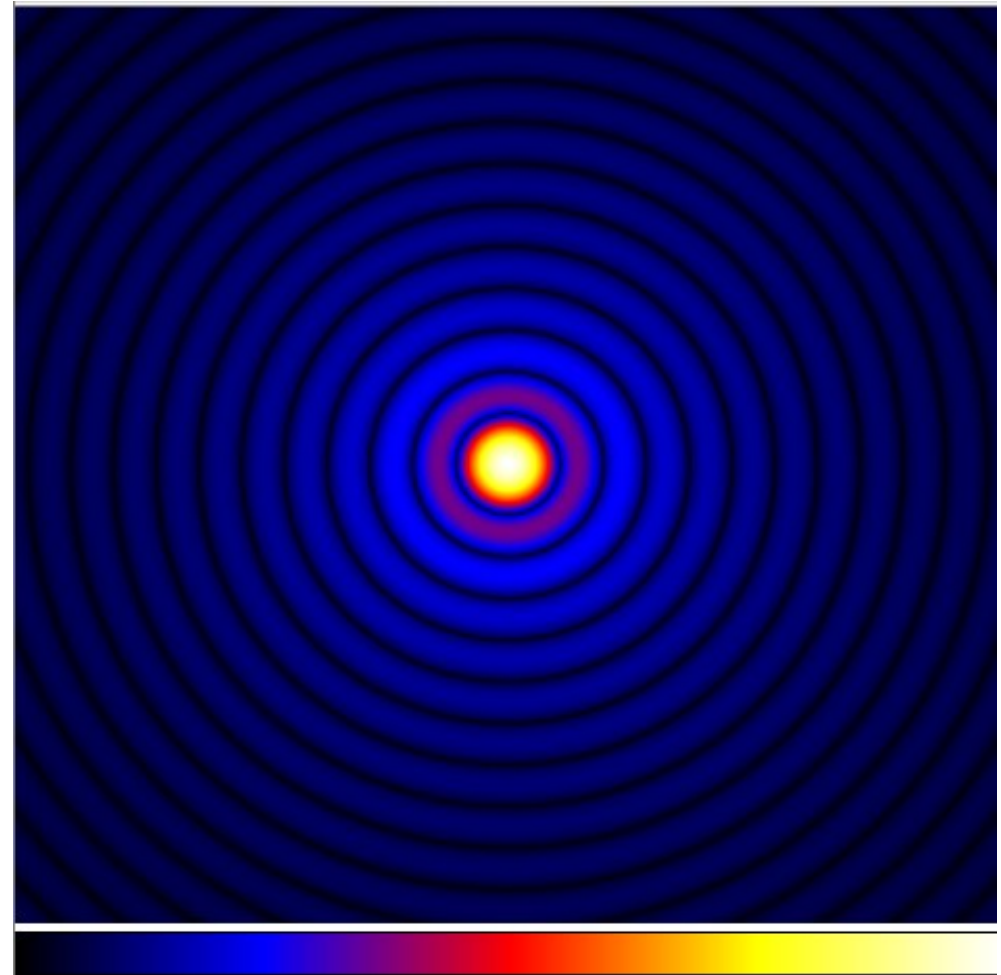
← Olivier's thumb...
the easiest coronagraph
Doesn't work well enough to
see planets around other stars

We need a better coronagraph... and a larger eye (telescope)

Water waves diffract around obstacles, edges, and so does light

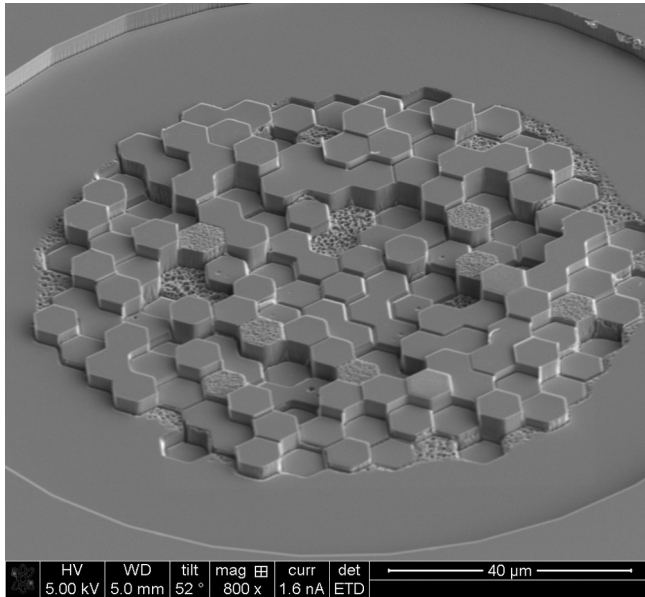


Waves diffracted by coastline and islands

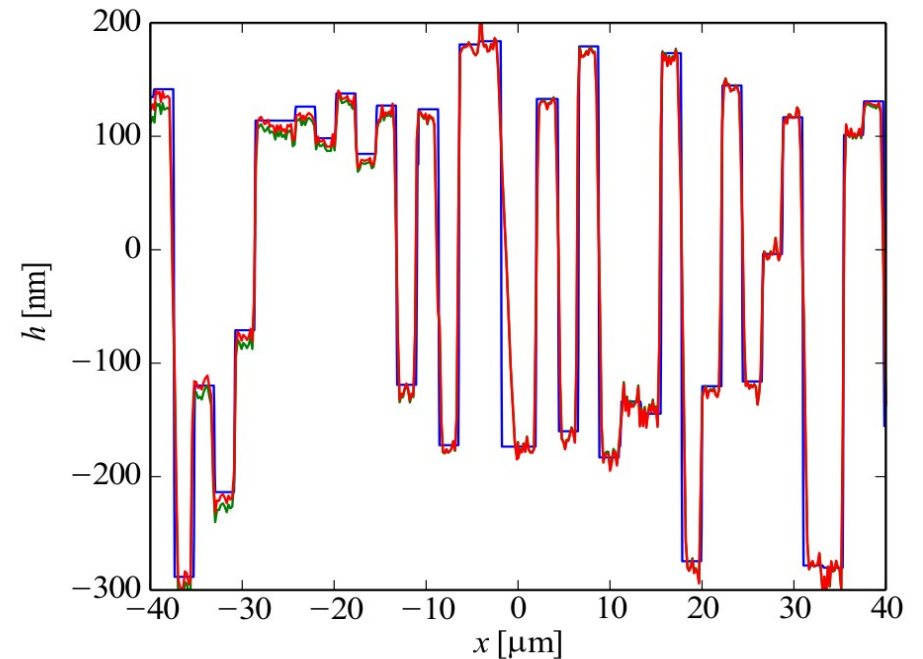
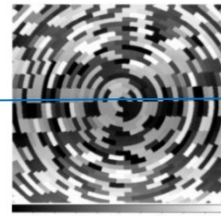


Ideal image of a distant star by a telescope
Diffraction rings around the image core

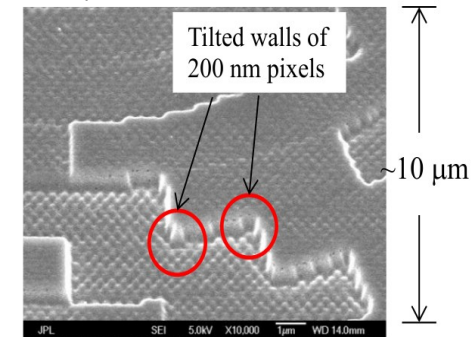
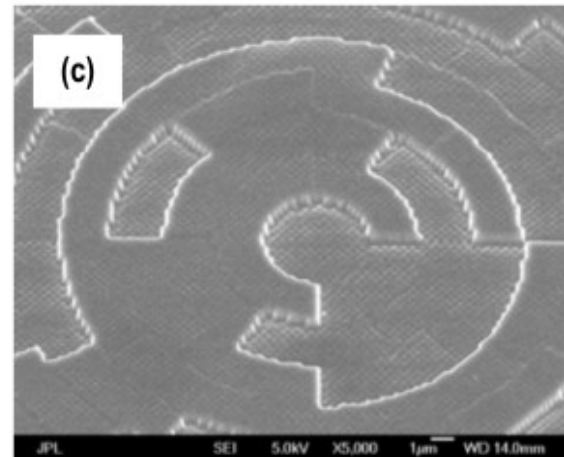
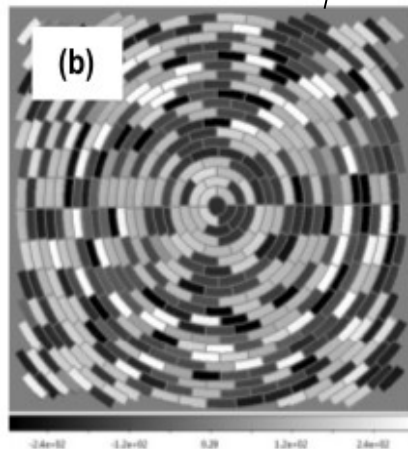
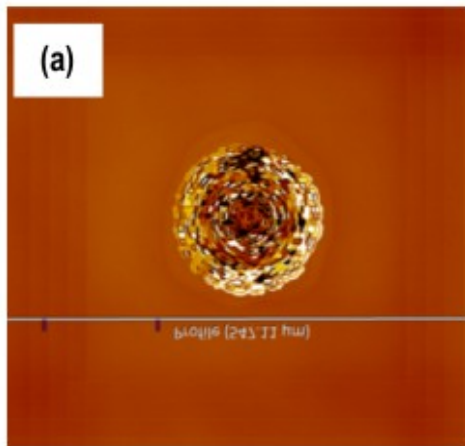
PIAACMC focal plane mask manufacturing



← SCEXAO focal plane mask (Mar 2017)



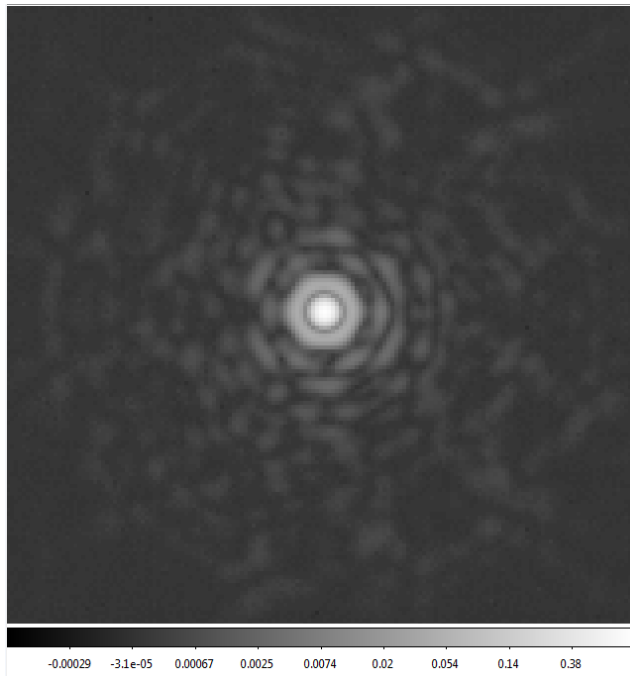
Focal plane mask manufactured at JPL's MDL
Meets performance requirements
(WFIRST PIAACMC Milestone report,



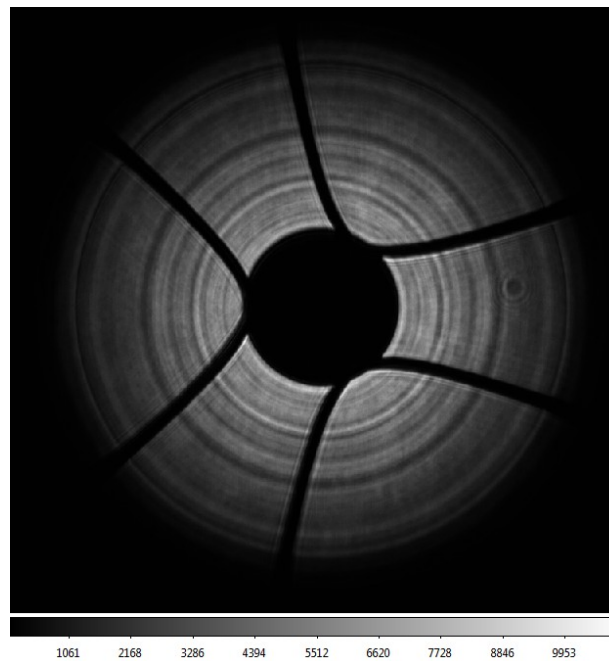
PIAACMC lab performance @ WFIRST (Kern et al. 2016)

Operates at $1e-7$ contrast, 1.3 I/D IWA, 70% throughput
Visible light

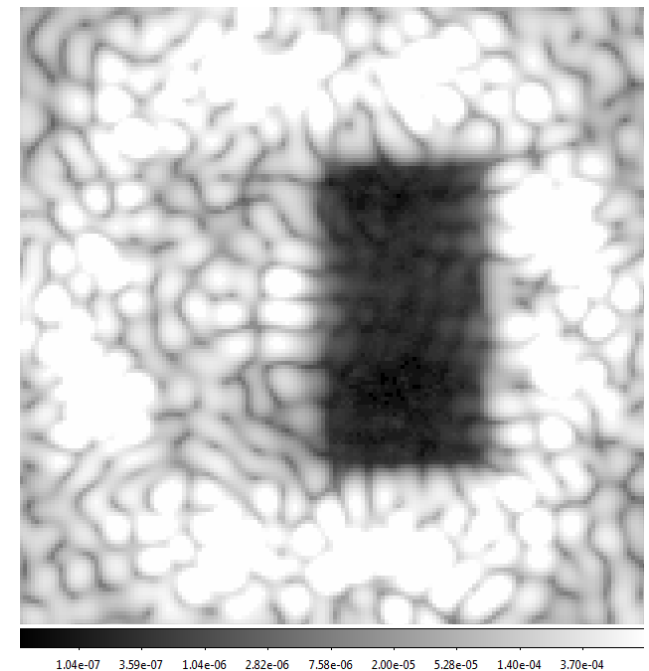
non-coronagraphic PSF



Remapped pupil

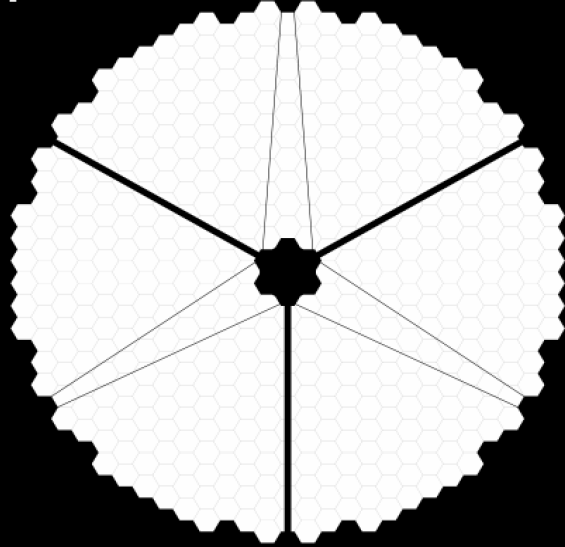


Coronagraphic image

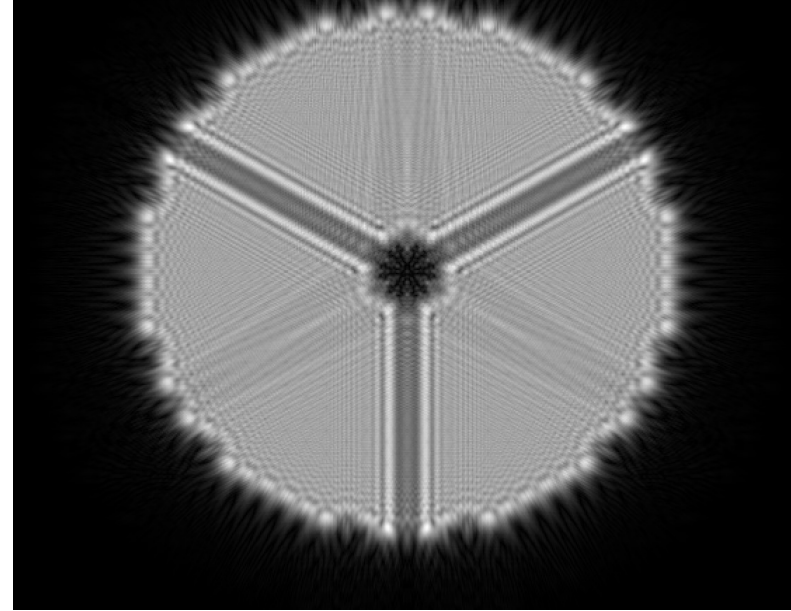


TMT coronagraph design for 1 I/D IWA

Pupil Plane

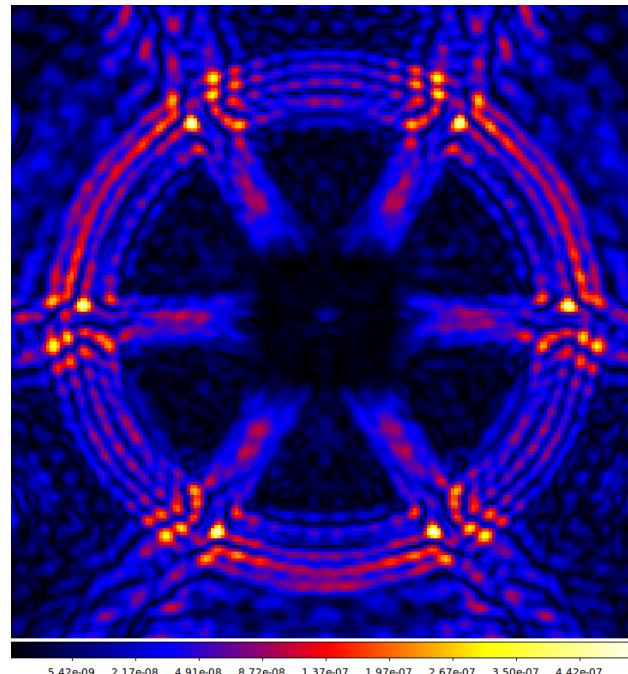
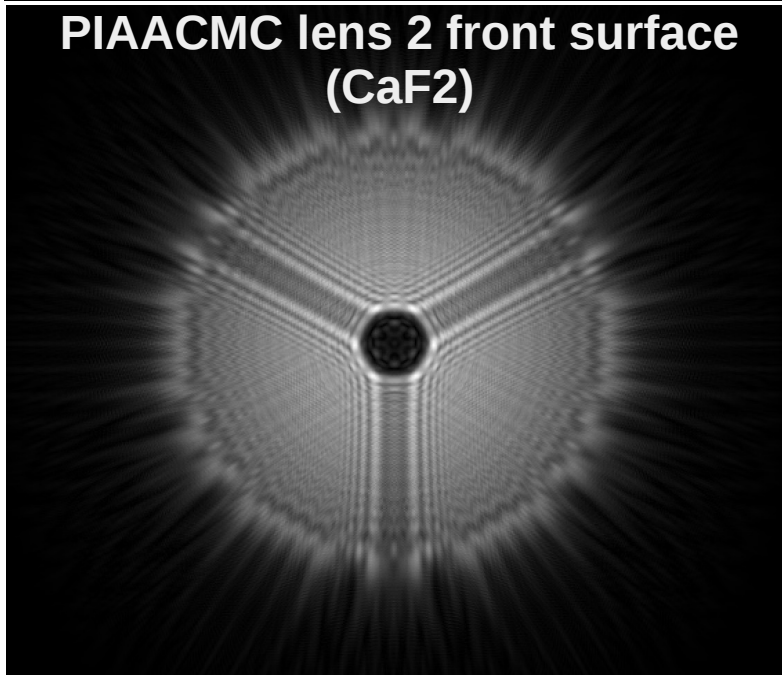


PIAACMC lens 1 front surface (CaF2)



To be updated with new pupil shape

PIAACMC lens 2 front surface (CaF2)



PSF at
1600nm

3e-9 contrast
in 1.2 to 8 I/D

80% off-axis
throughput

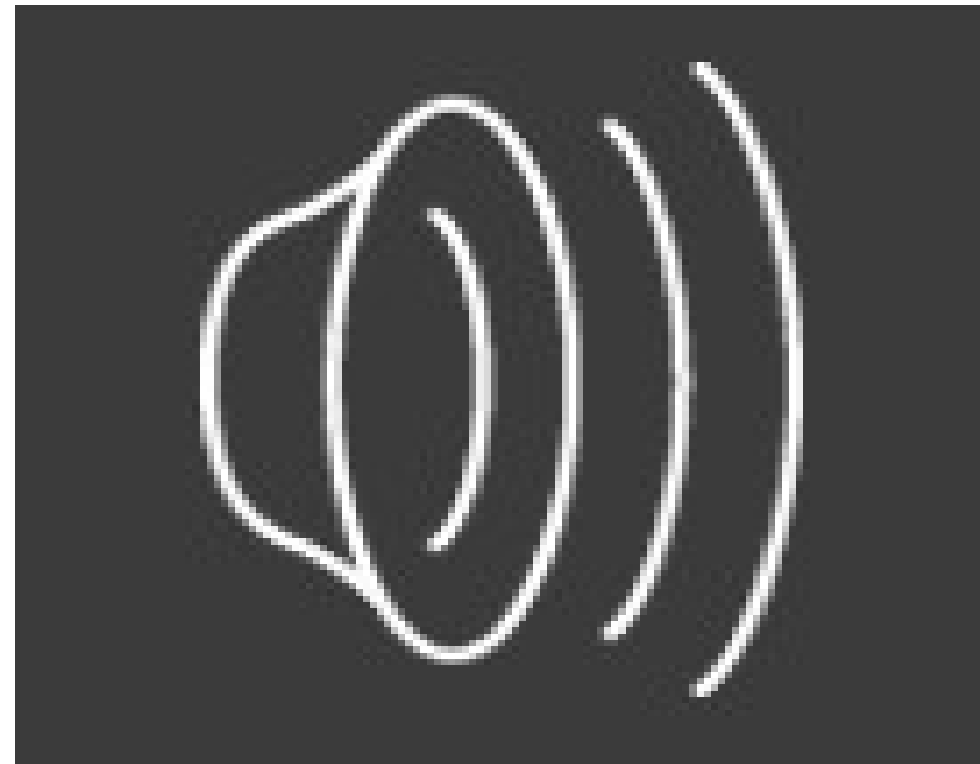
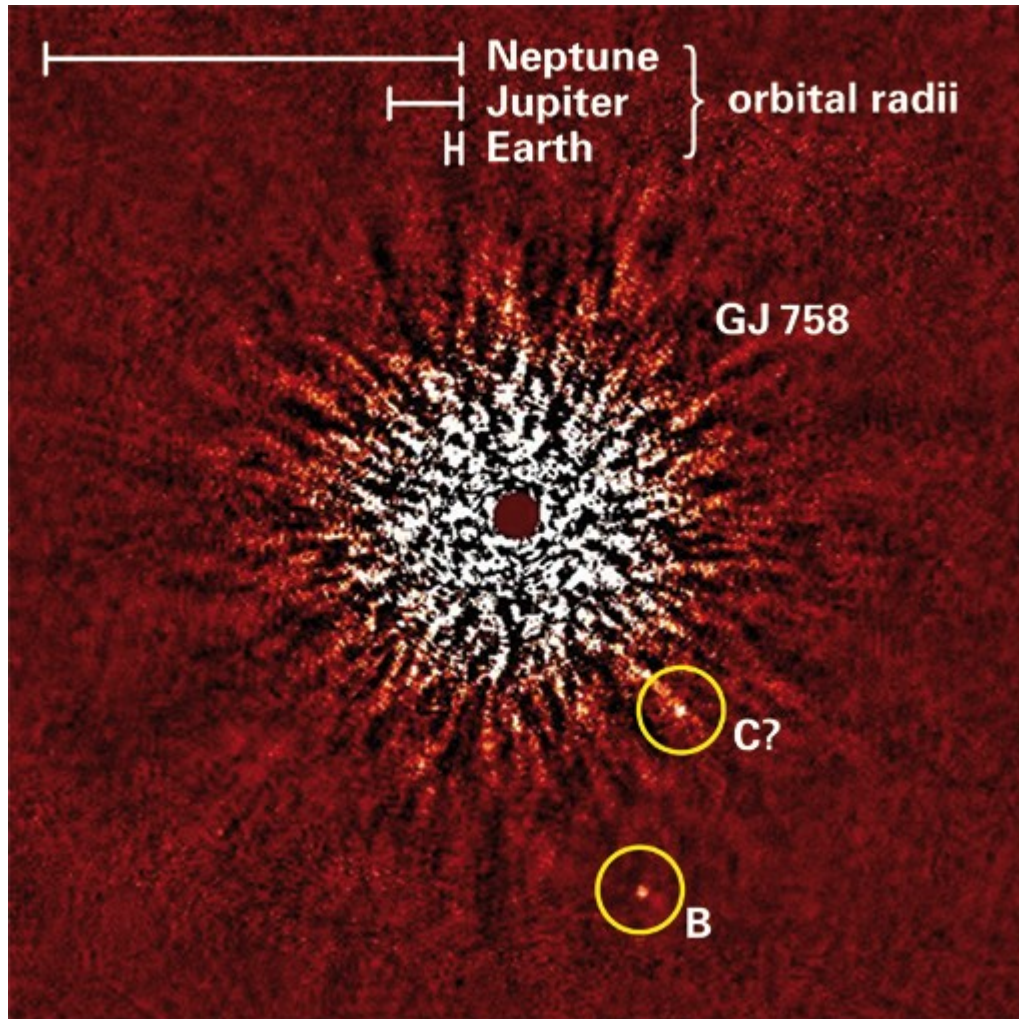
1.2 I/D IWA

CaF2 lenses
SiO2 mask

5.42e-09 2.17e-08 4.91e-08 8.72e-08 1.37e-07 1.97e-07 2.67e-07 3.50e-07 4.42e-07

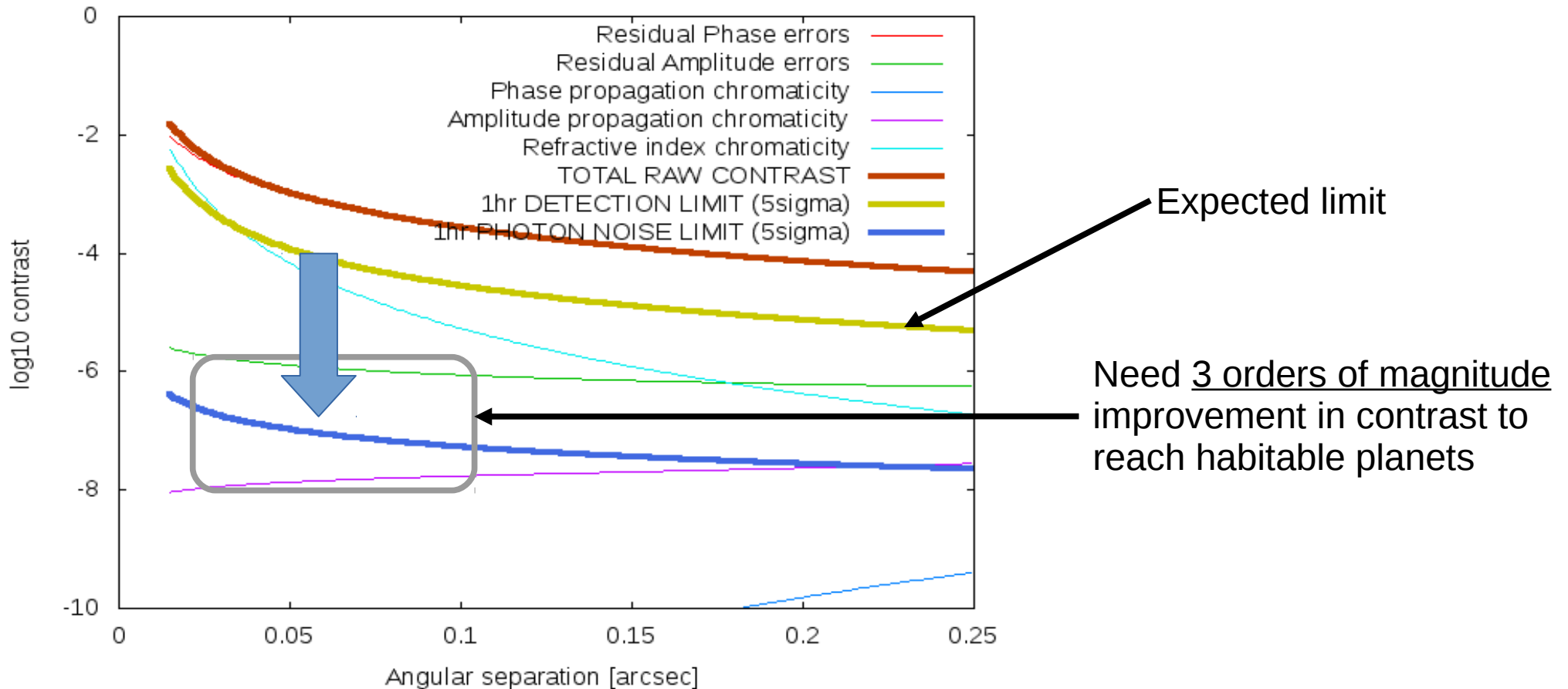
What about speckles ?

H-band fast frame imaging (1.6 kHz)



PREVIOUS technologies

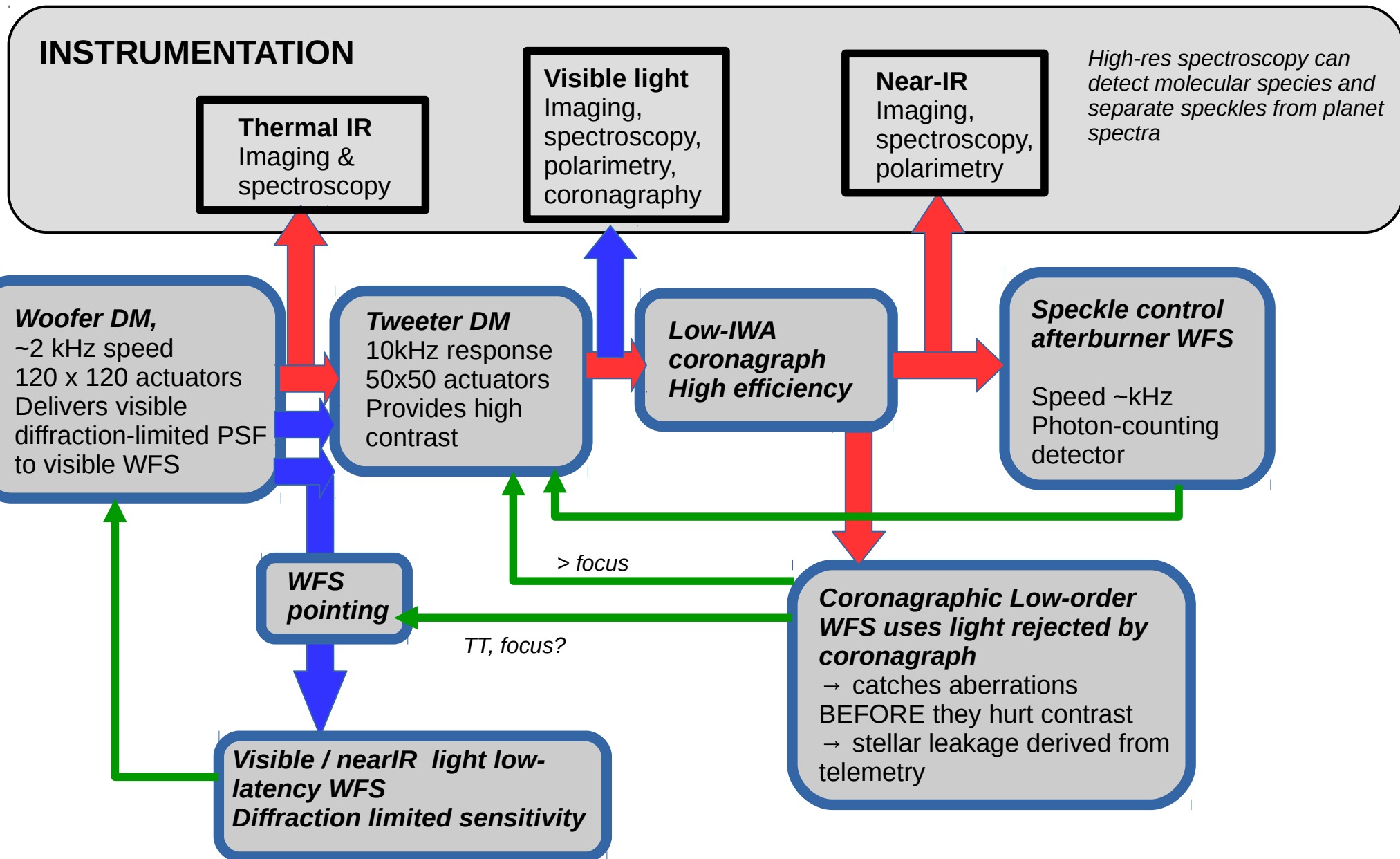
30m: SH-based system, 15cm subapertures



Limited by residual OPD errors: time lag + WFS noise
kHz loop (no benefit from running faster) – same speed as 8m telescope
>10kph per WFS required

Detection limit $\sim 10^{-3}$ at IWA, **POOR AVERAGING** due to crossing time

Nominal ELT ExAO system architecture



Wavefront Control: challenges ... and solutions

[1] High-efficiency WFS

M stars are not very bright for ExAO → need high efficiency WFS

For low-order modes (TT), seeing-limited (SHWFS) requires $(D/r_0)^2$ times more light than diffraction-limited WFS (Pyramid)

This is a **40,000x gain for 30m telescope** (assuming $r_0=15\text{cm}$) → 11.5 mag gain

[2] Low latency WFC (High-speed WFS + predictive control)

System lag is extremely problematic → creates “ghost” slow speckles that last crossing time

Need ~200us latency (10 kHz system, or slower system + lag compensation)

Predictive control is essential

[3] Managing chromaticity: Multi-wavelength WFC / LOWFS, closed loop ADC

Wavefront chromaticity is a serious concern when working at $\sim 1\text{e-}8$ contrast

Visible light ($\sim 0.6 - 0.8 \mu\text{m}$) photon carry most of the WF information, but science is in near-IR

[4] Fast speckle control, enabled by new detector technologies

Addresses non-common path errors

It doesn't take much to create a $1\text{e-}8$ speckle !

[5] Real-time telemetry → PSF calibration

WFS telemetry tells us where speckles are → significant gain using telemetry into post-processing

Predictive control → 100x contrast gain

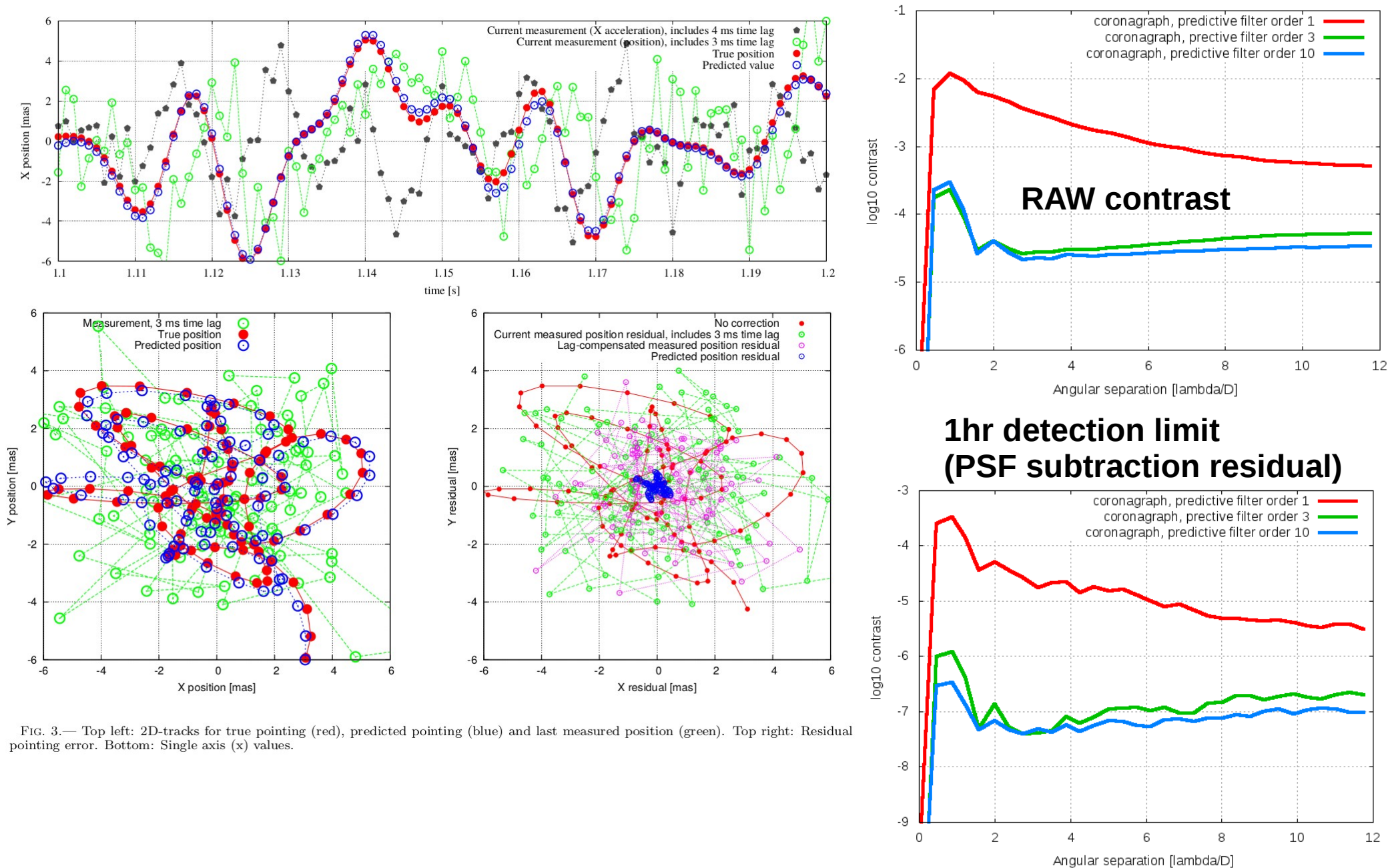
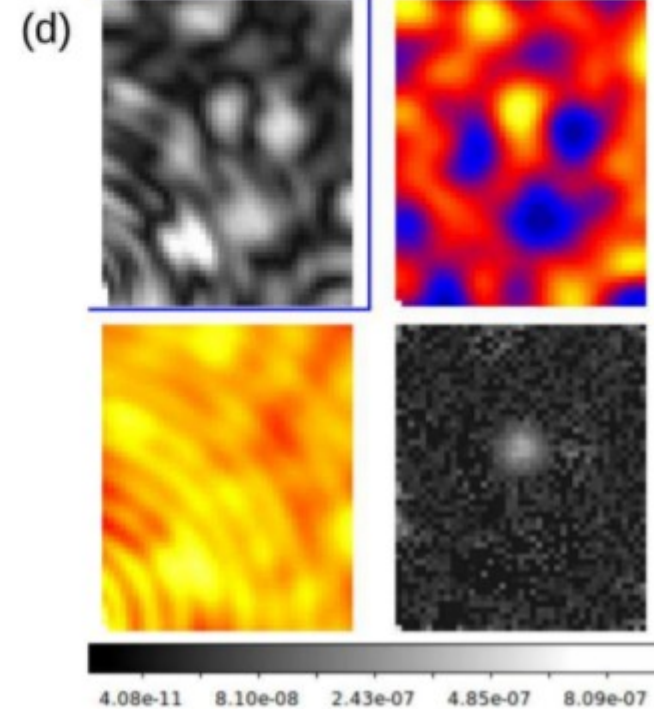
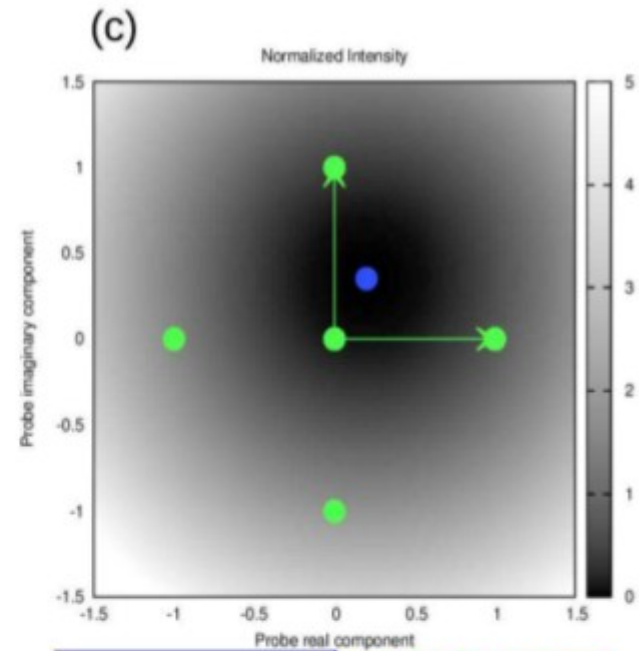
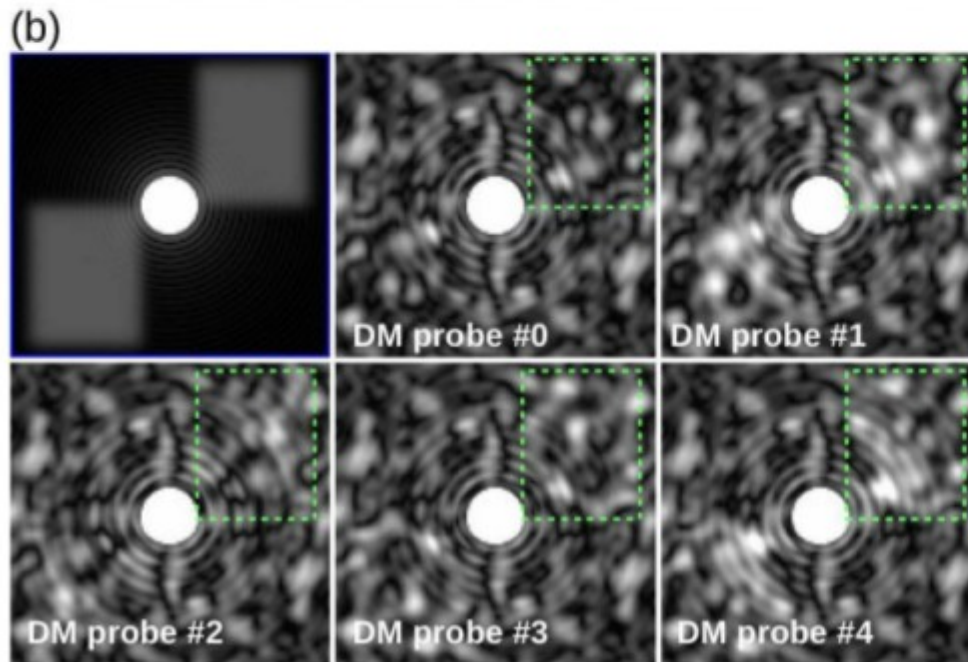
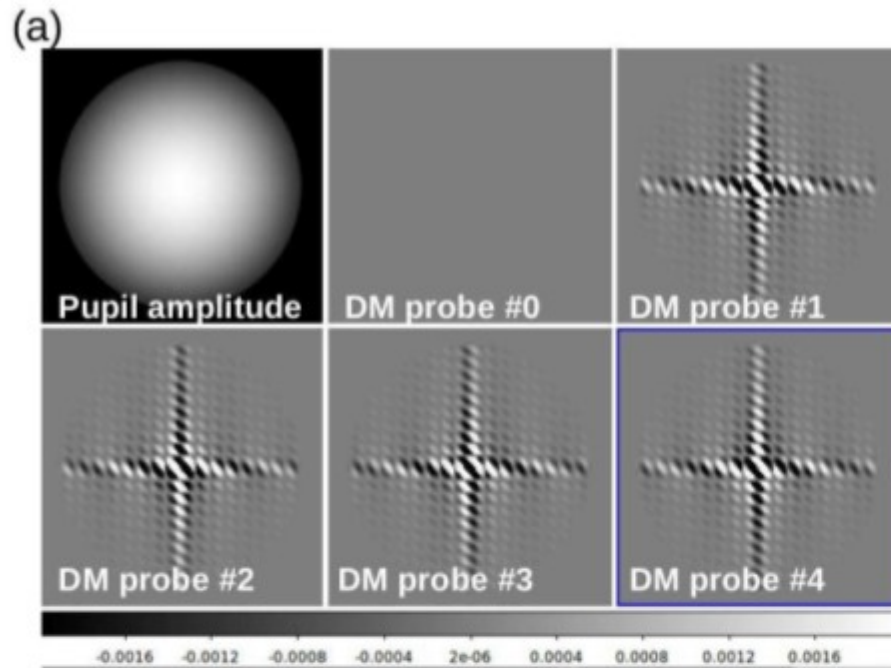


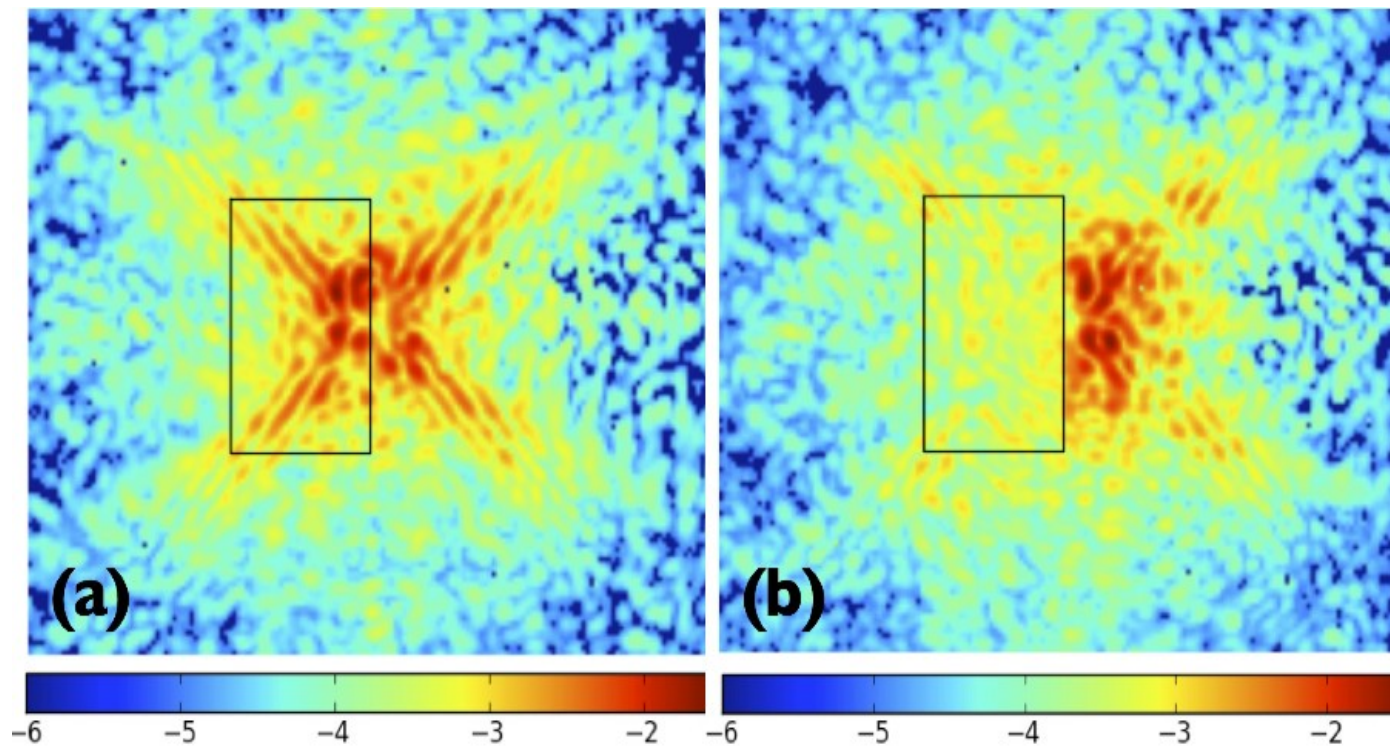
FIG. 3.— Top left: 2D-tracks for true pointing (red), predicted pointing (blue) and last measured position (green). Top right: Residual pointing error. Bottom: Single axis (x) values.

Coherent Speckle Differential Imaging



Speckle control

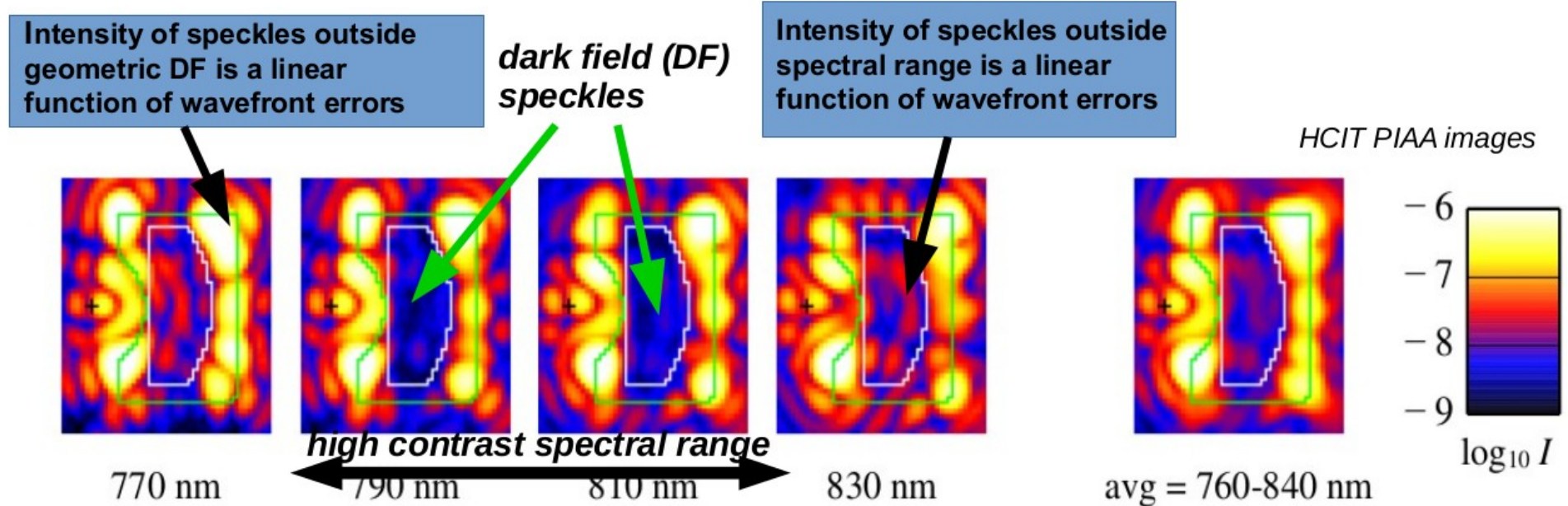
→ remove speckles in $\frac{1}{2}$ field dark hole



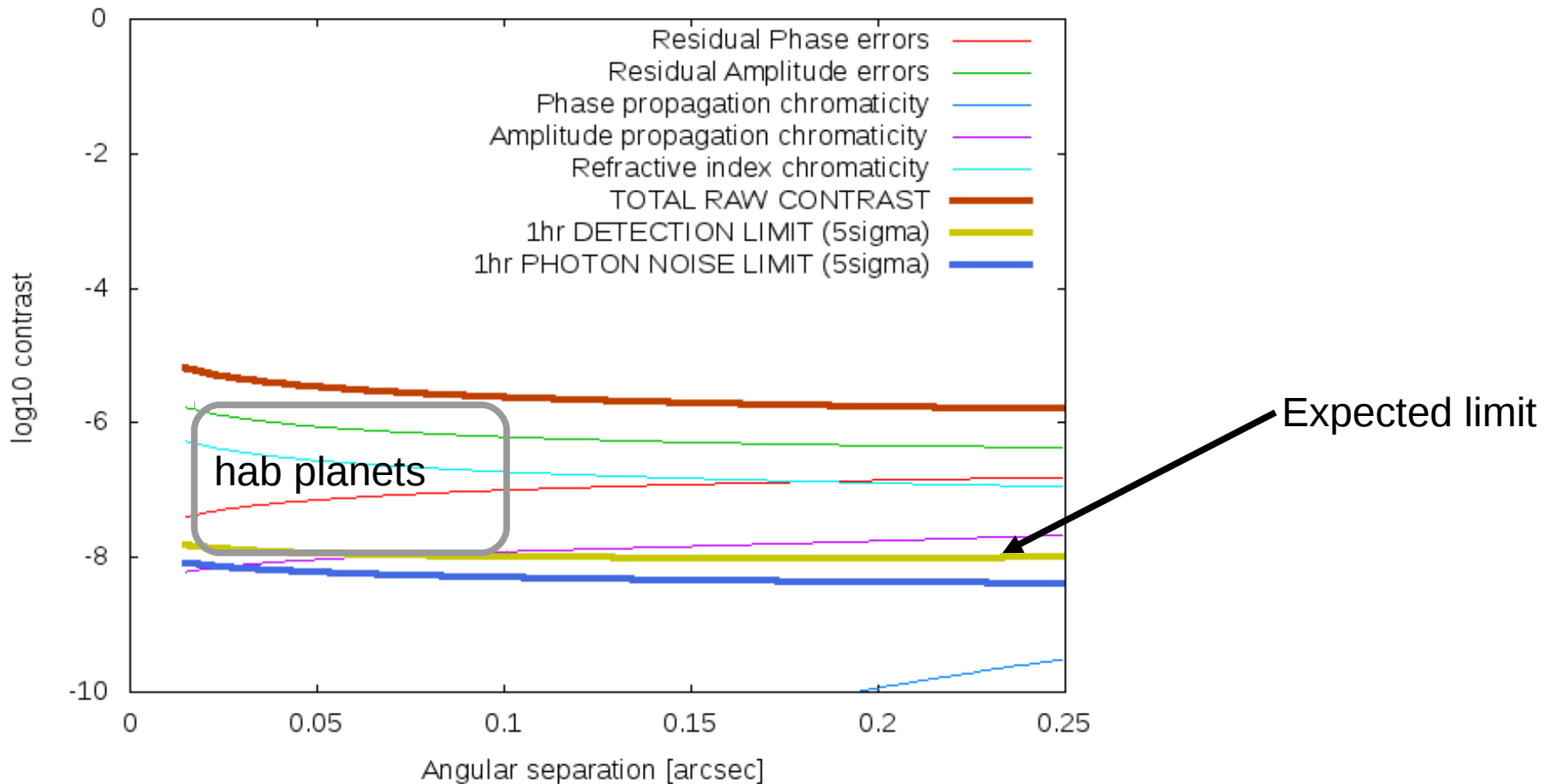
Linear Dark Field Control (LDFC)

Speckle intensity in the DF are a non-linear function of wavefront errors
→ current wavefront control technique uses several images (each obtained with a different DM shape) and a non-linear reconstruction algorithm (for example, Electric Field Conjugation – EFC)

Speckle intensity in the BF are linearly coupled to wavefront errors → we have developed a new control scheme using BF light to freeze the wavefront and therefore prevent light from appearing inside the DF



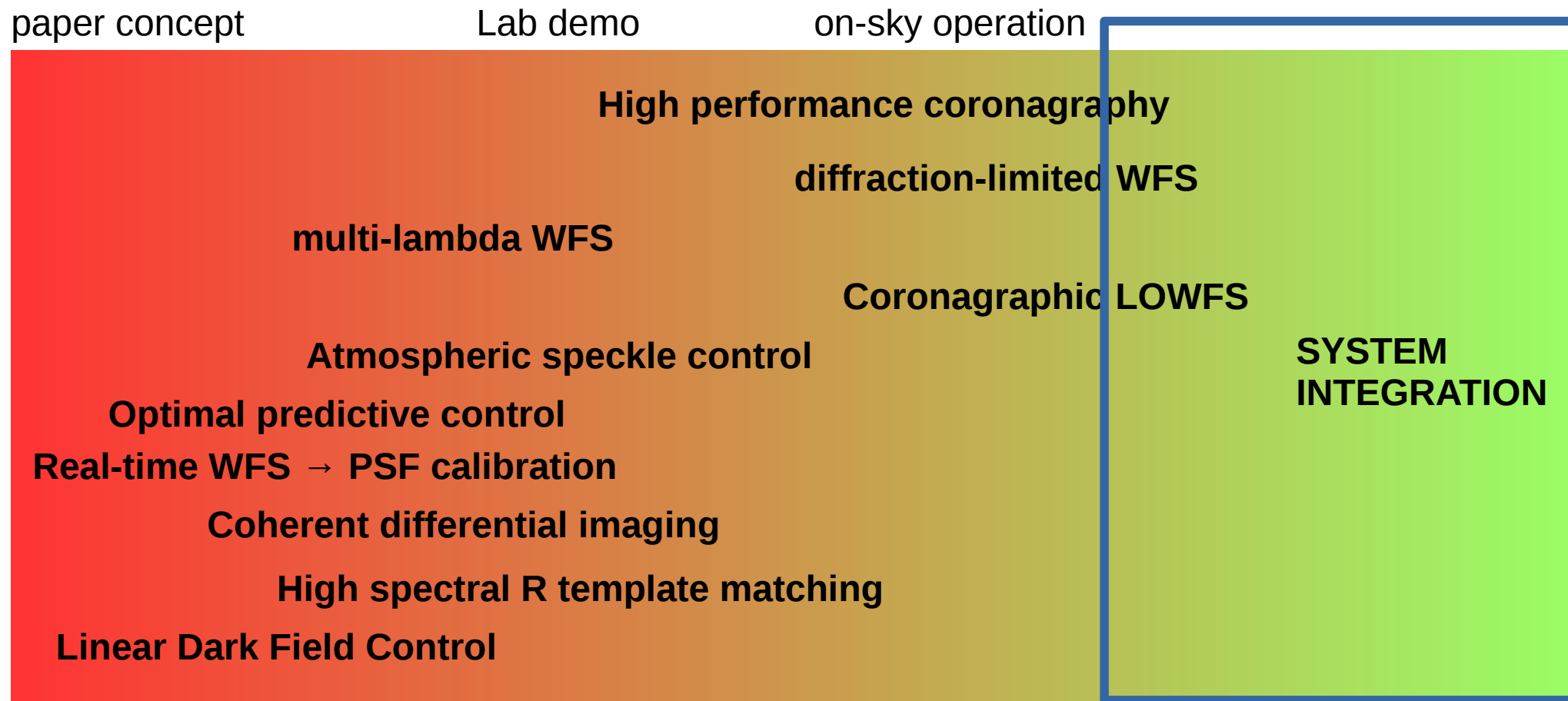
CURRENT technologies



300Hz speckle control loop (~1kHz frame rate) is optimal

Residual speckle at $\sim 10^{-6}$ contrast and fast \rightarrow good averaging to detection limit at $\sim 10^{-8}$

Key technologies need rapid maturation from paper concepts to system integration





Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics

- **Flexible** high contrast imaging platform
- Meant to **evolve to TMT instrument** and validate key technologies required for direct imaging and spectroscopy of habitable exoplanets

Core system funded by Japan

Modules/instruments funded by Japan + international partners:

- IFS funded by Japan, built by Princeton Univ
- MKIDs funded by Japan, built by UCSC
- SAPHIRA camera provided by UH
- VAMPIRES instrument funded and built by Australia
- FIRST instrument funded and built by Europe

SCEXAO is an international platform to prepare ELT imaging of habitable planets around M-type stars

Modules

The wavefront control feeds a high Strehl PSF to various modules, from 600 nm to K band.

Visible (600 - 950 nm):

VAMPIRES, non-redundant masking, polarimetry, with spectral differential imaging capability (h-alpha, SII)

FIRST, non-redundant remapping interferometer, with spectroscopic analysis

RHEA, single mode fiber injection, high-res spectroscopy, high-spatial resolution on resolved stars

IR (950-2400 nm):

HiCIAO - high contrast image (y to K-band)

SAPHIRA - high-speed photon counting imager, (H-band for now)

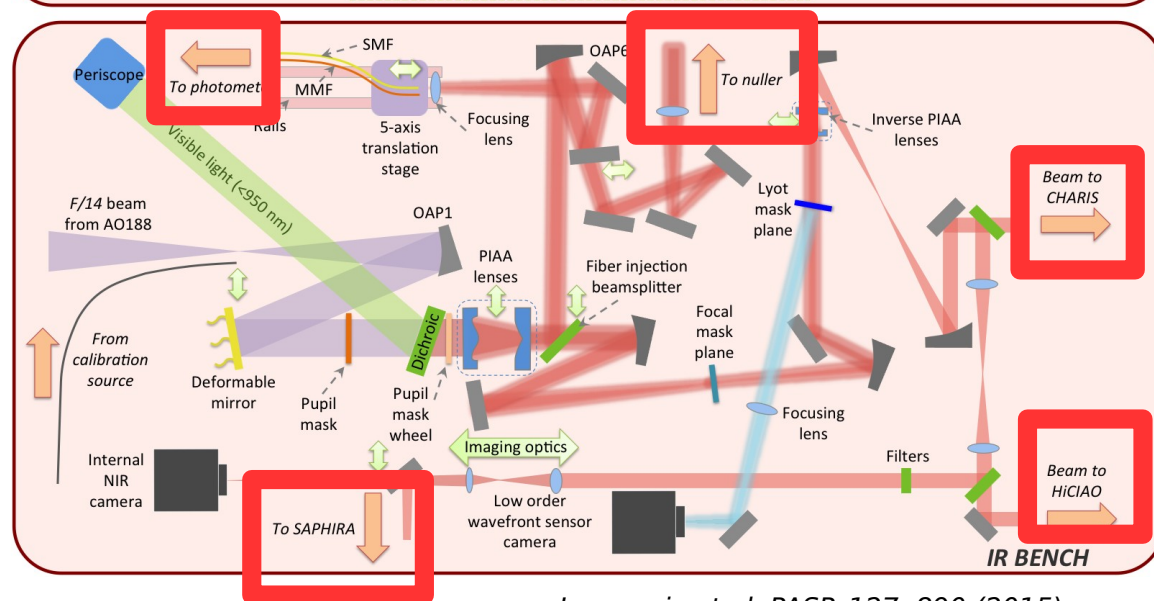
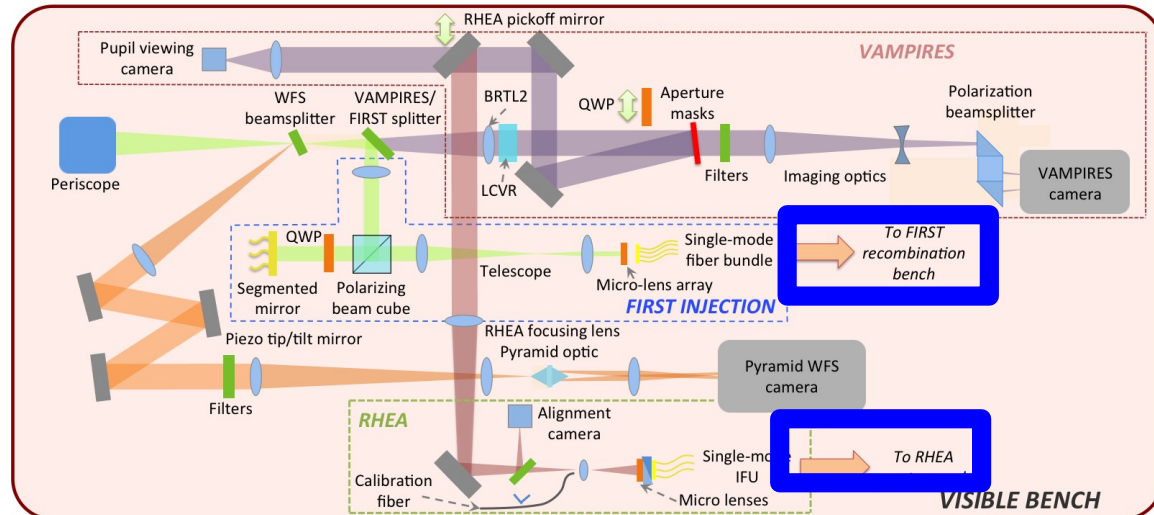
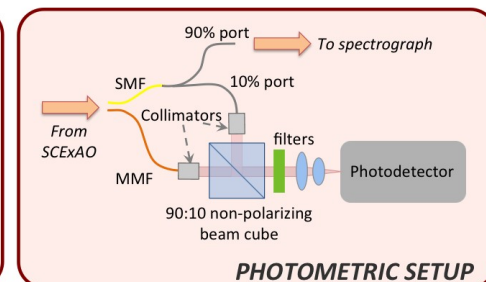
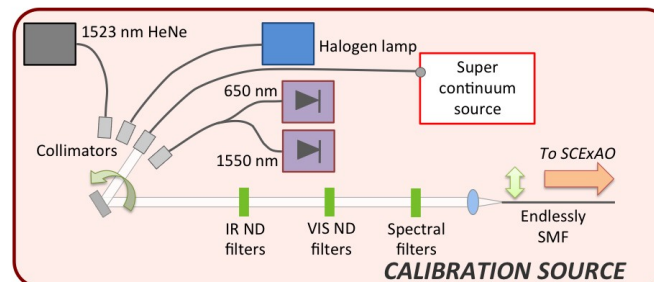
CHARIS - IFS (J to K-band)

MEC - MKIDs detector, high-speed, energy discriminating photon counting imager (y to J-band)

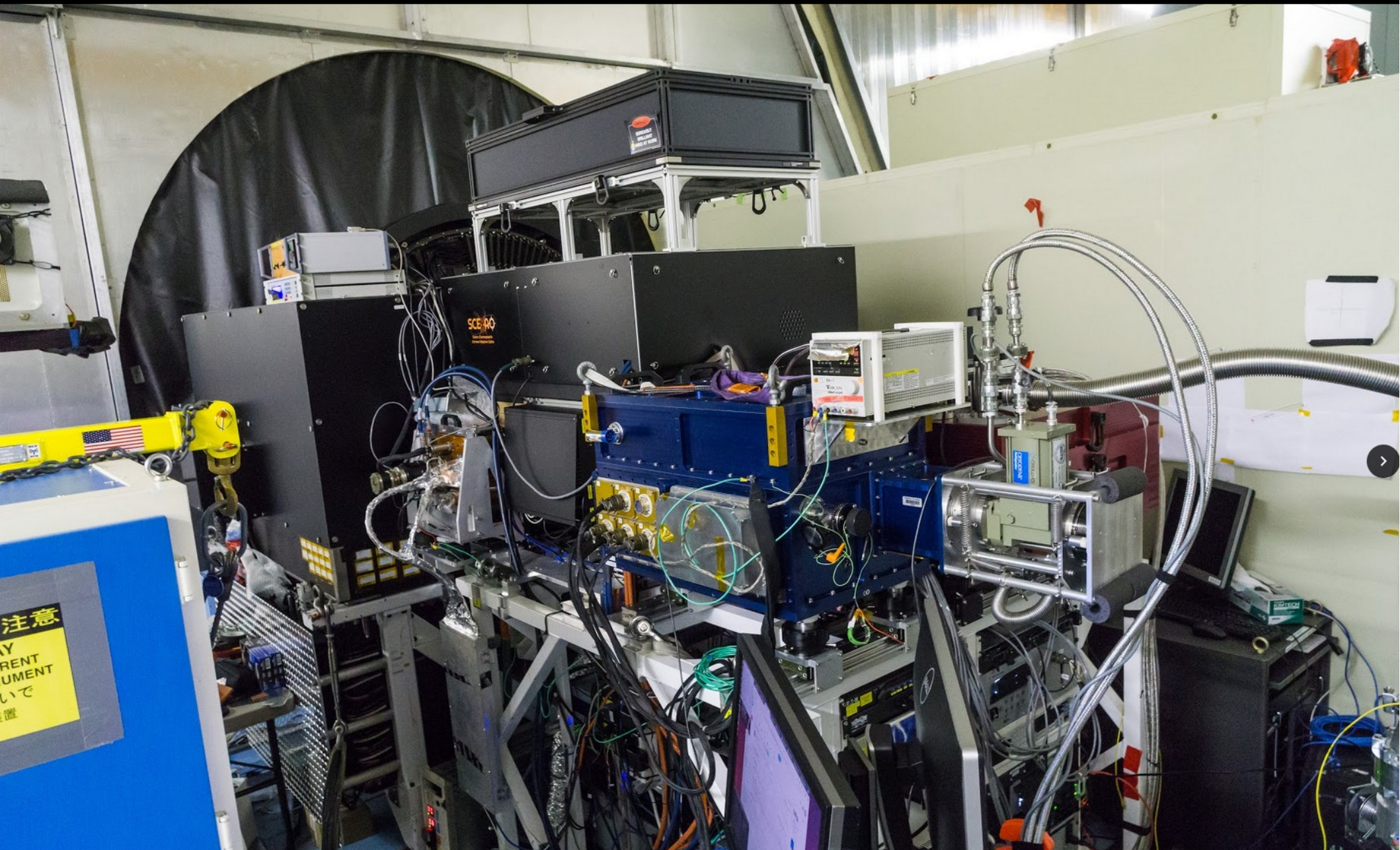
NIR single mode injection, high throughput high resolution spectroscopy. Soon will be connected to the new IRD

Various small IWA (1-3 I/D) coronagraphs for high contrast imaging - PIAA, vector vortex, 8OPM

GLINT - NIR nulling interferometer based on photonics

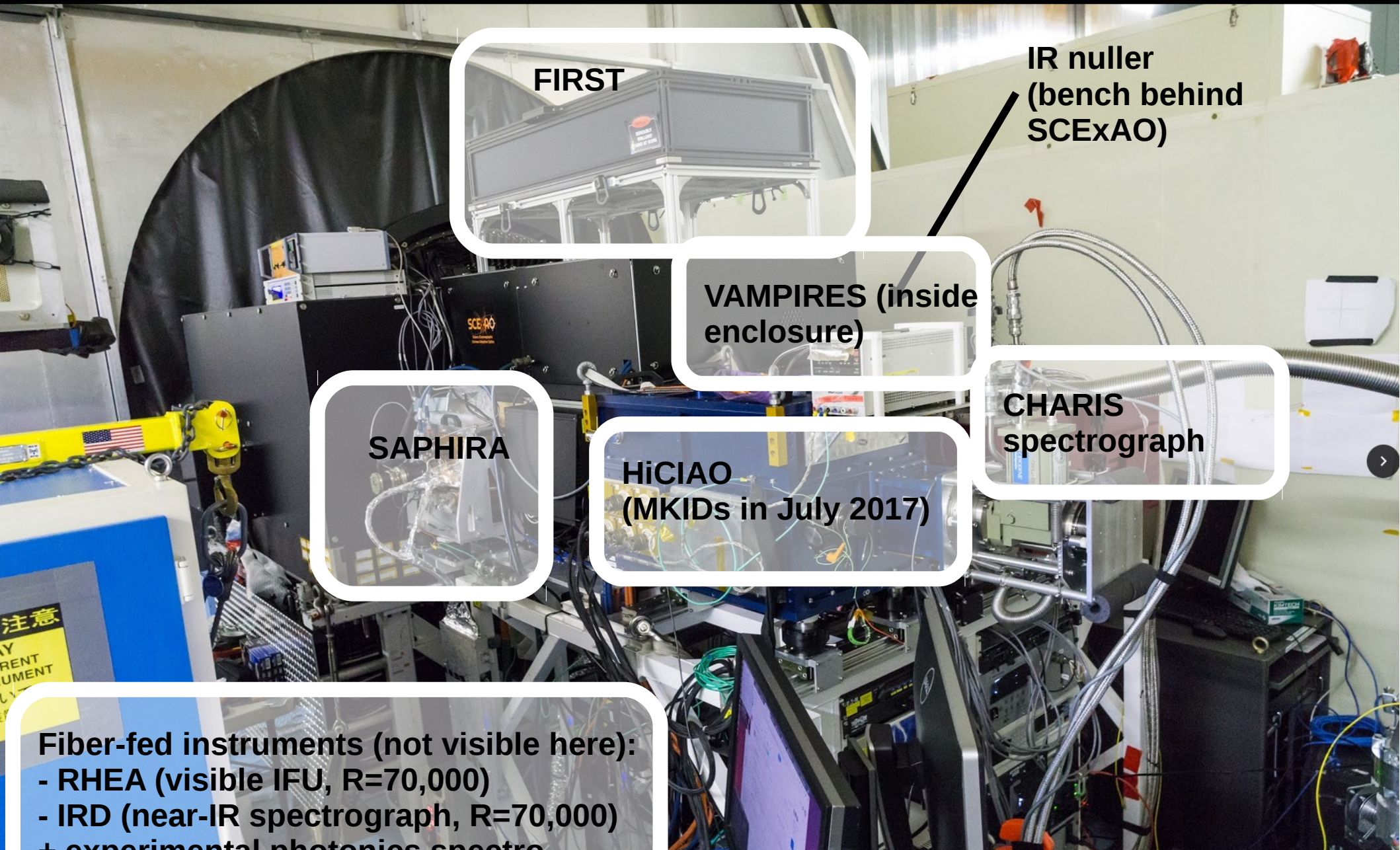


SCEXAO Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics





Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics



FIRST

IR nuller
(bench behind
SCEXAO)

VAMPIRES (inside
enclosure)

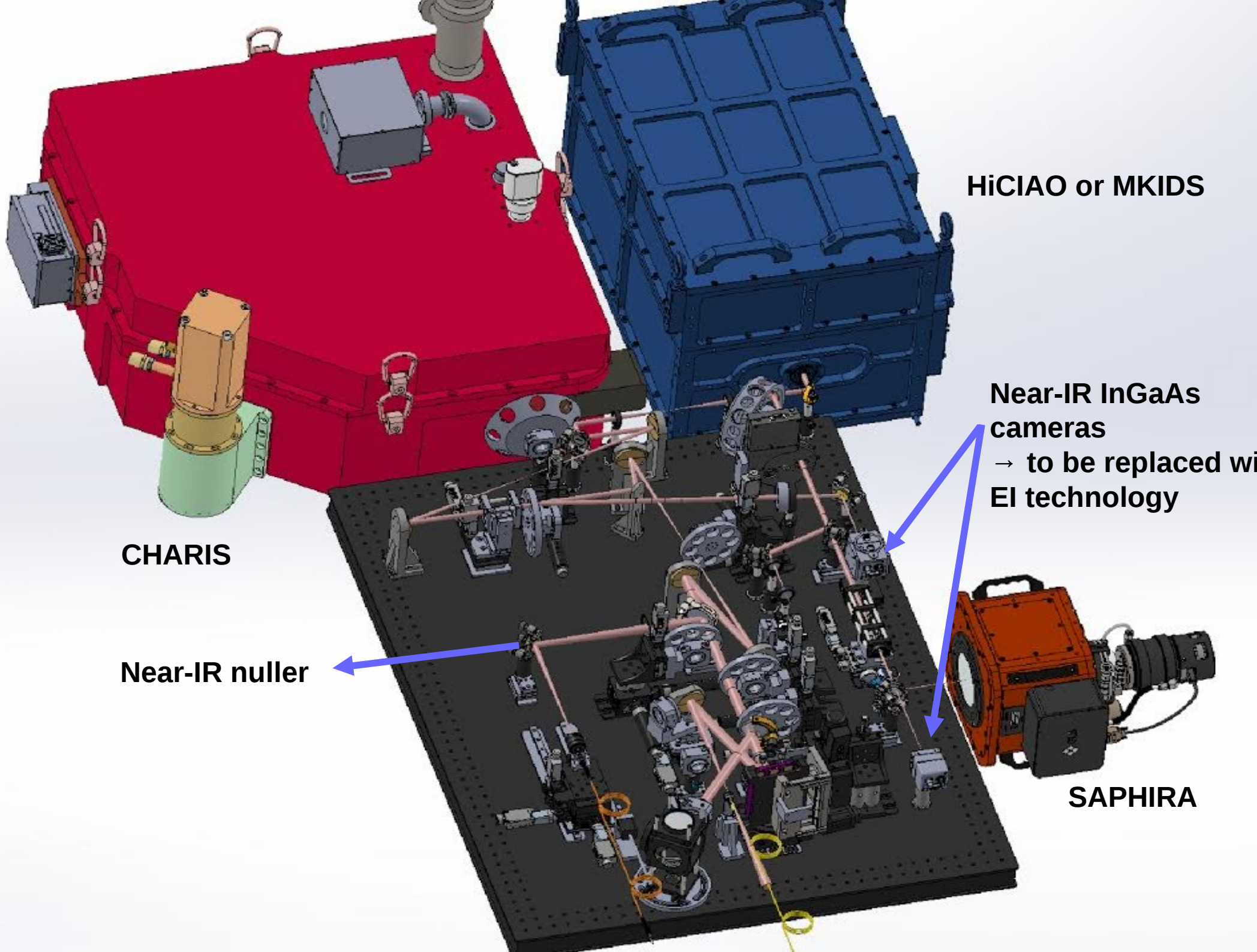
SAPHIRA

HiCIAO
(MKIDs in July 2017)

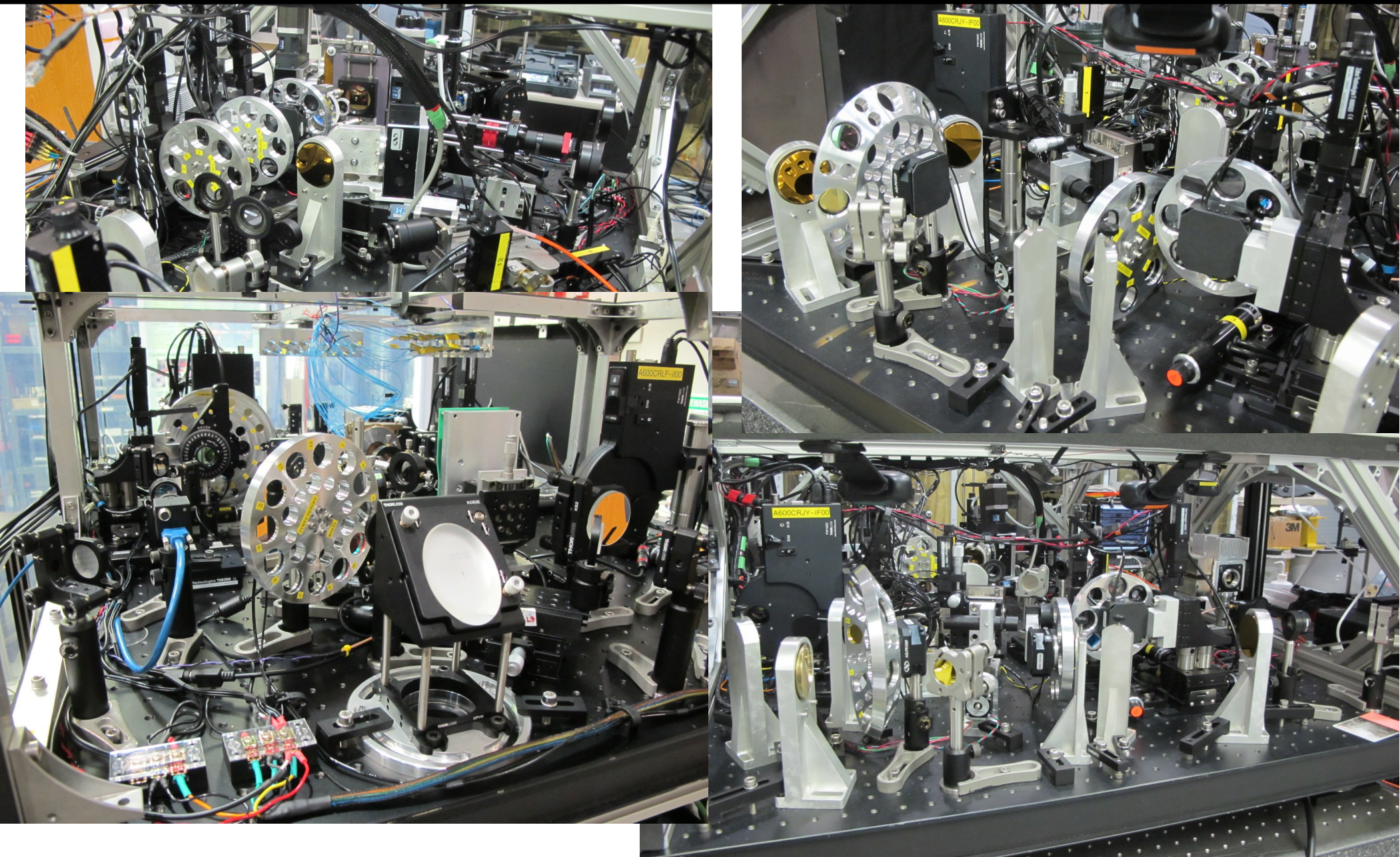
CHARIS
spectrograph

Fiber-fed instruments (not visible here):

- RHEA (visible IFU, $R=70,000$)
- IRD (near-IR spectrograph, $R=70,000$)
- + experimental photonic spectro

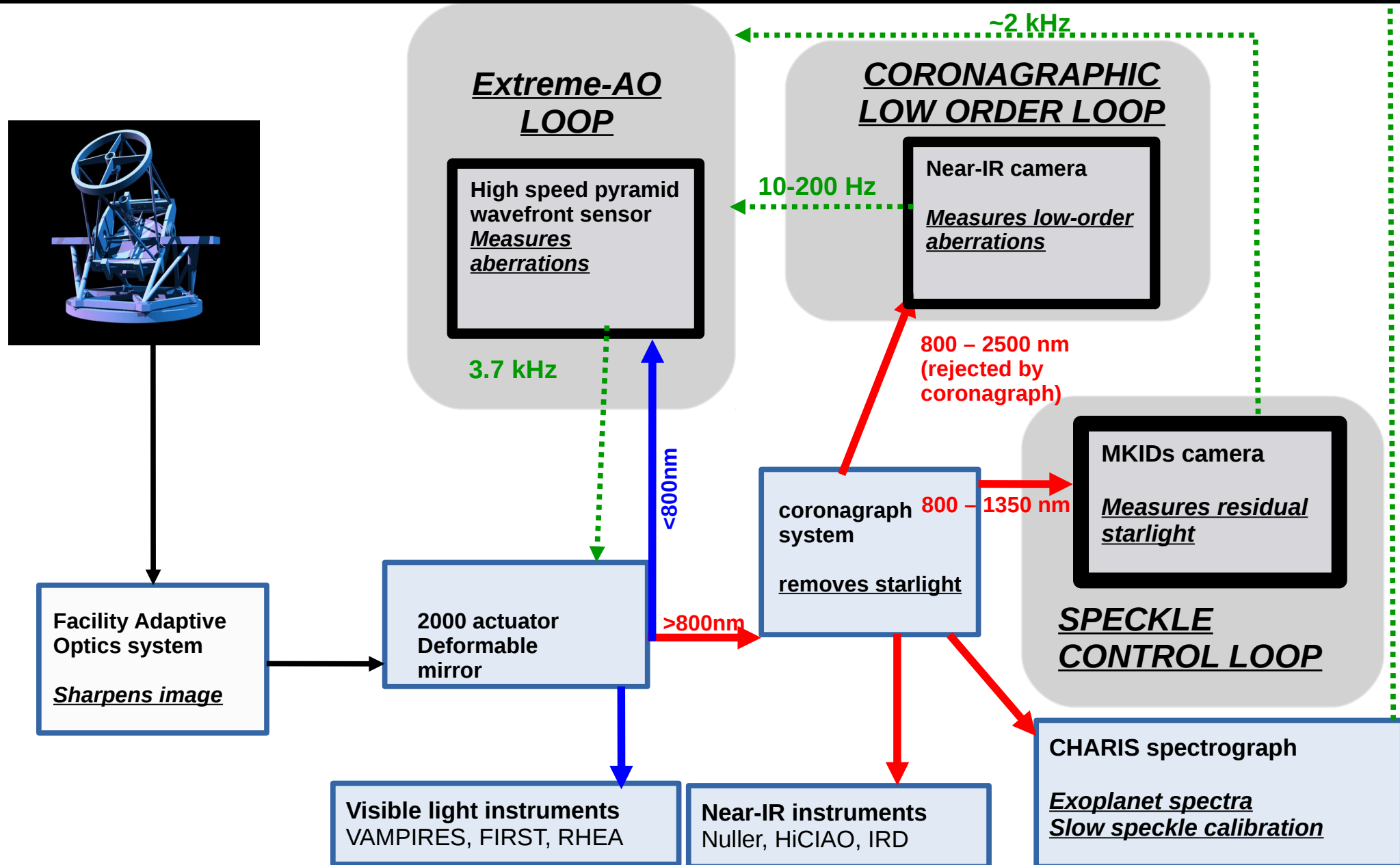


SCEXAO Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics

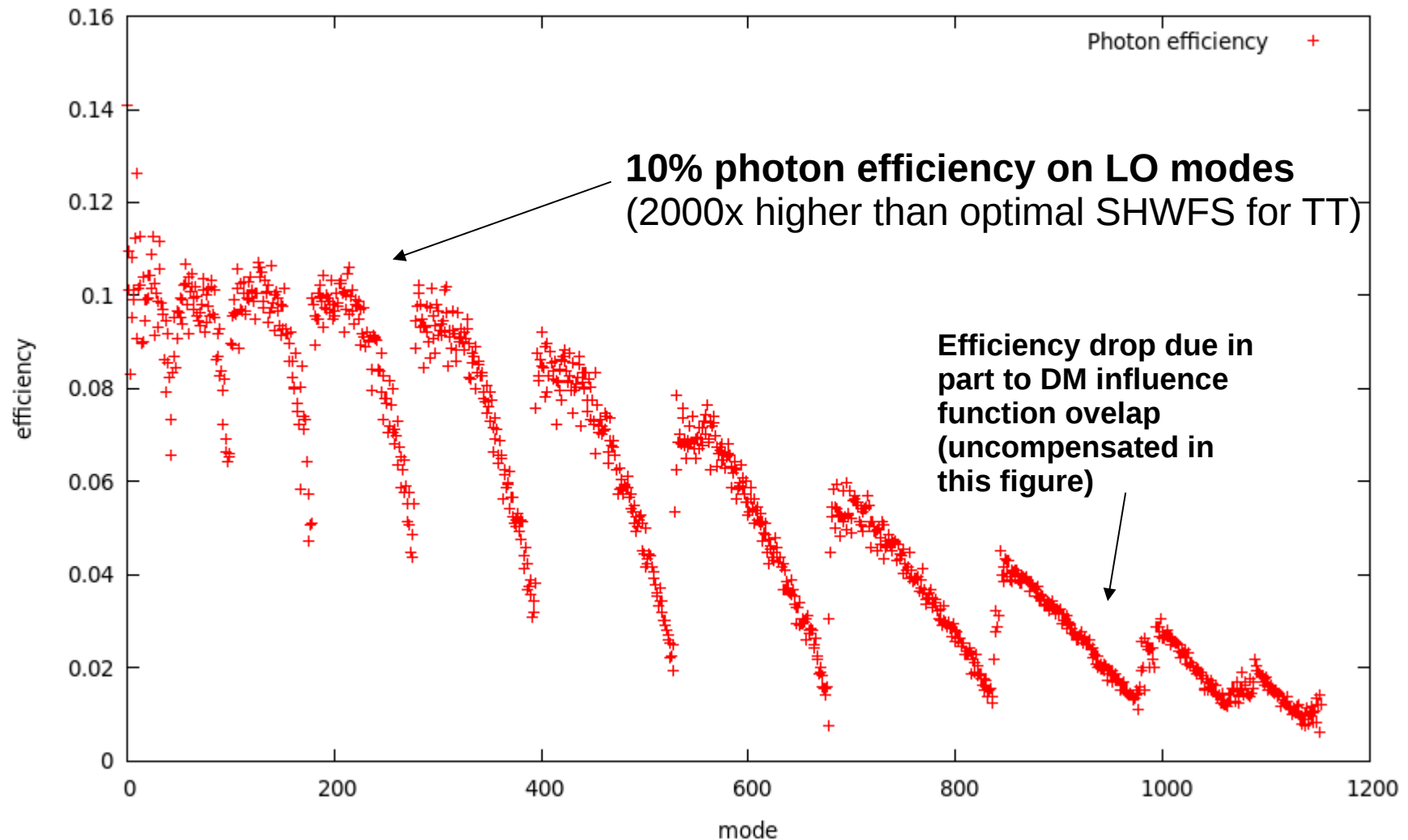




Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics

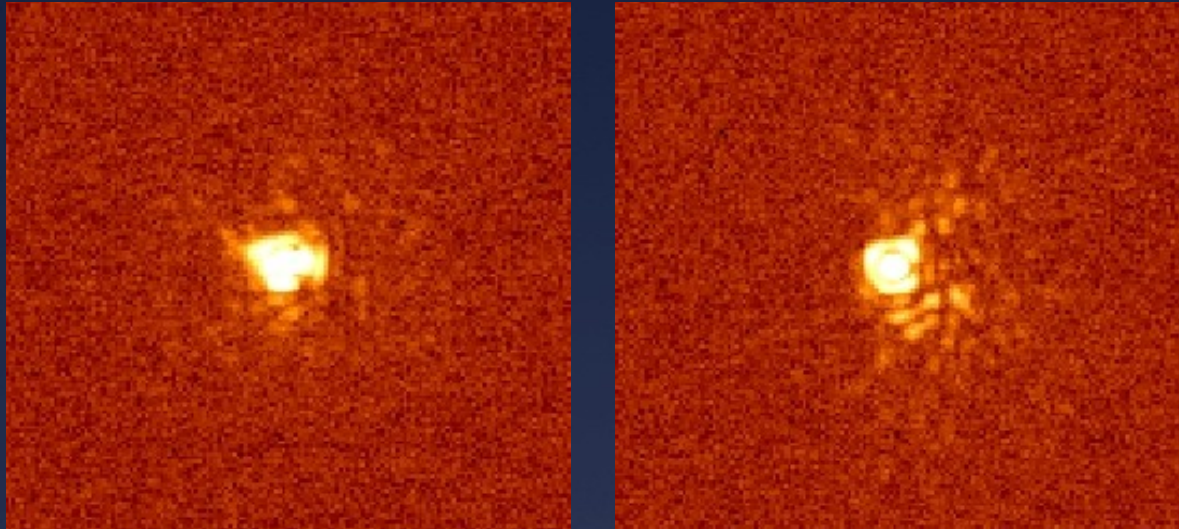


Measured photon efficiency (SCExAO, sub-I/D modulation pyramid)

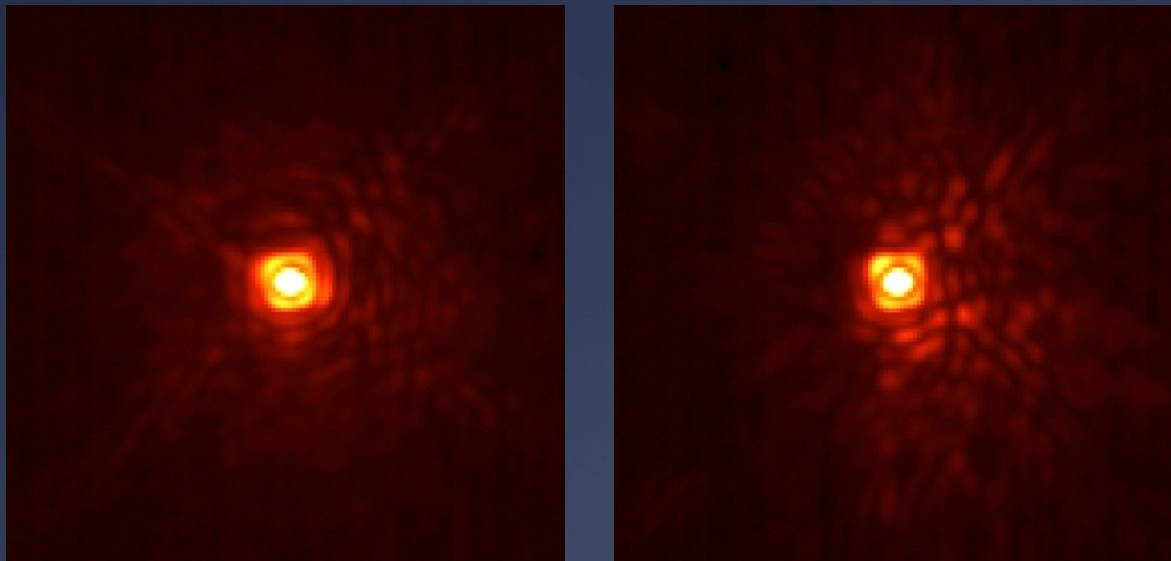


speckle nulling results on-sky (June 2014)

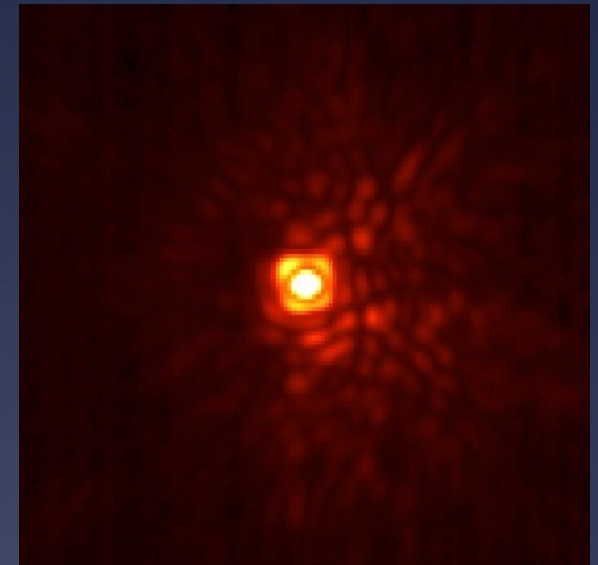
Single frames: 50 us



Meta data:
Date: 2nd or June
Target: RX Boo (also repeated on Vega)
Seeing: $< 0.6''$
AO correction: $0.06''$ post-AO corrected in H- band ($0.04''$ is diffraction-limit)
Coronagraph: None (used Vortex on Vega)



Sum of 5000 frames: shift and add



Martinache, et. al.

SAPHIRA Infrared APD array

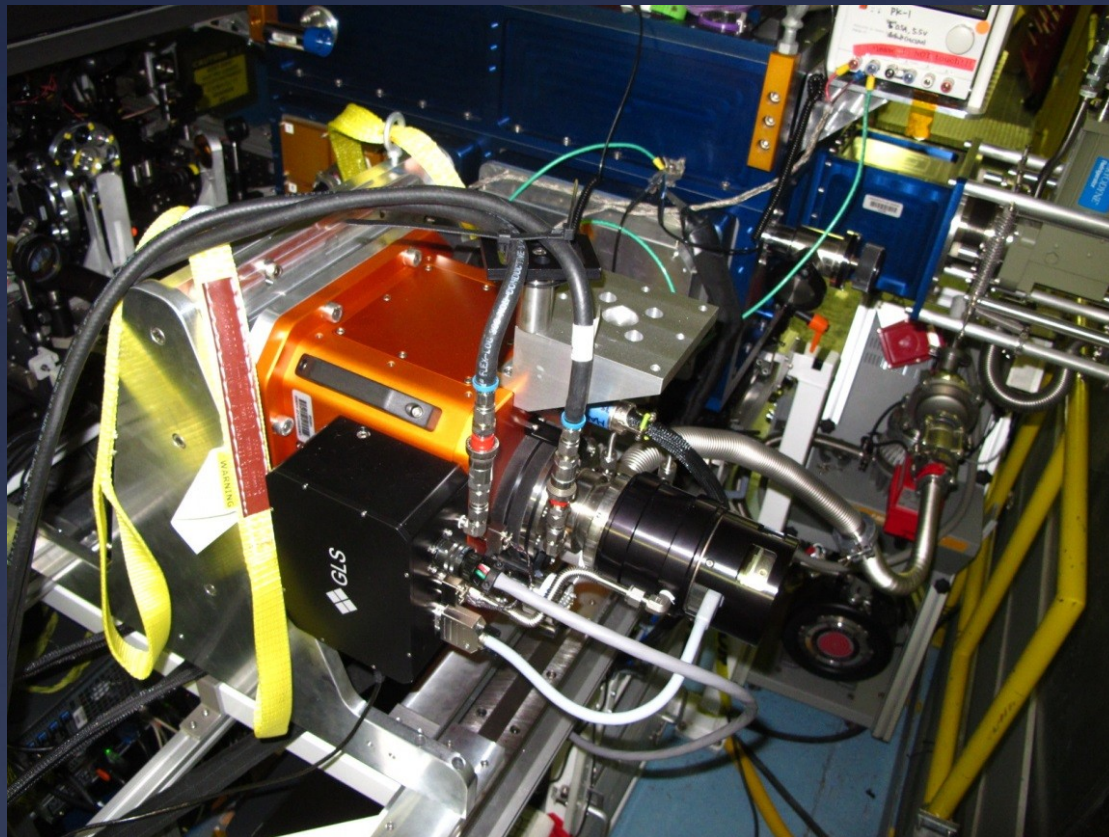
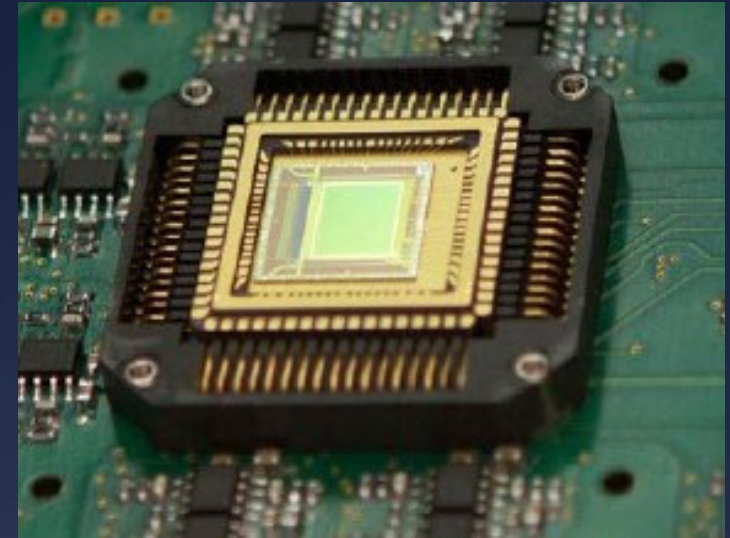
HgCdTe avalanche photodiode
manufactured by Selex

Specifications

320 x 256 x 24 μ m

32 outputs

5 MHz/Pix

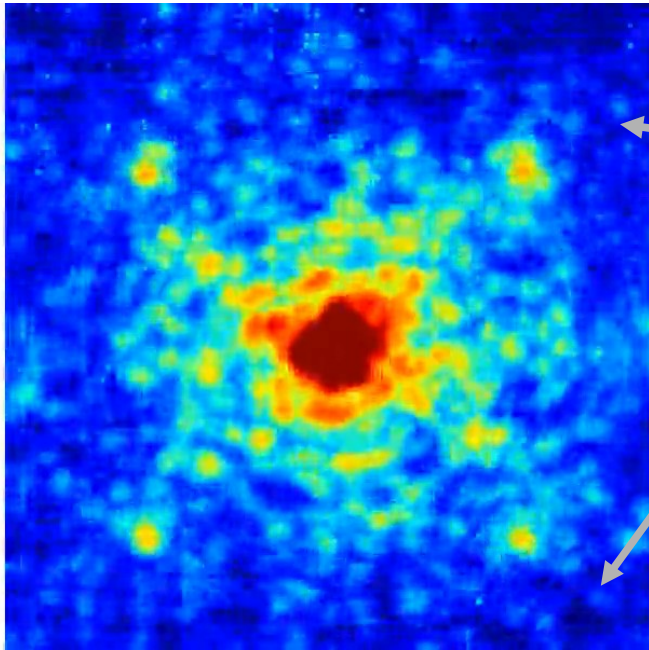


50 frame average



High speed speckle modulation

**1.6 kHz frame rate, H-band
(played at 30 Hz)**

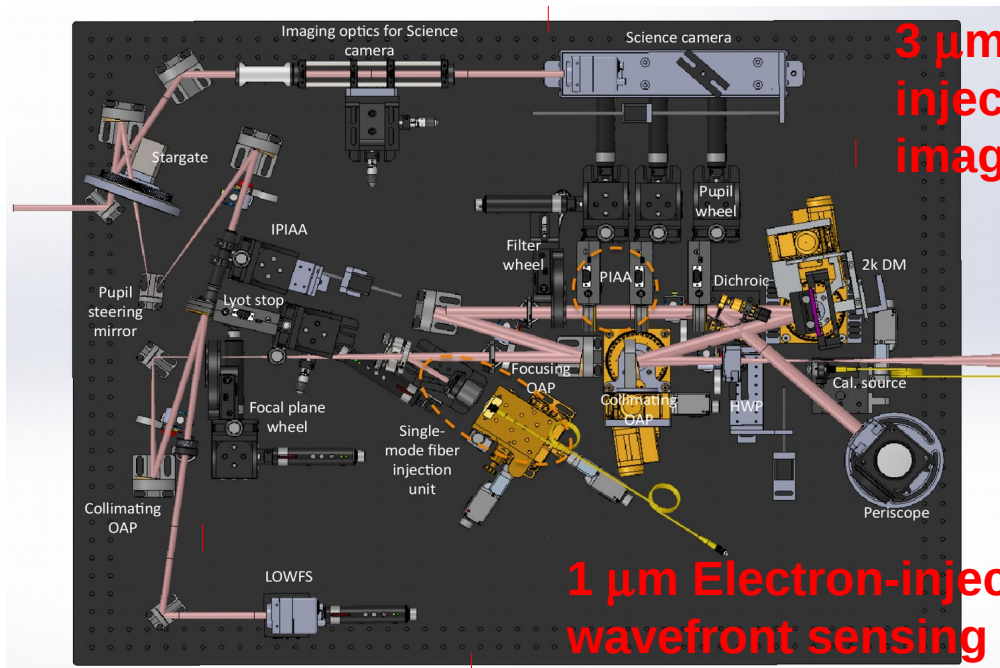
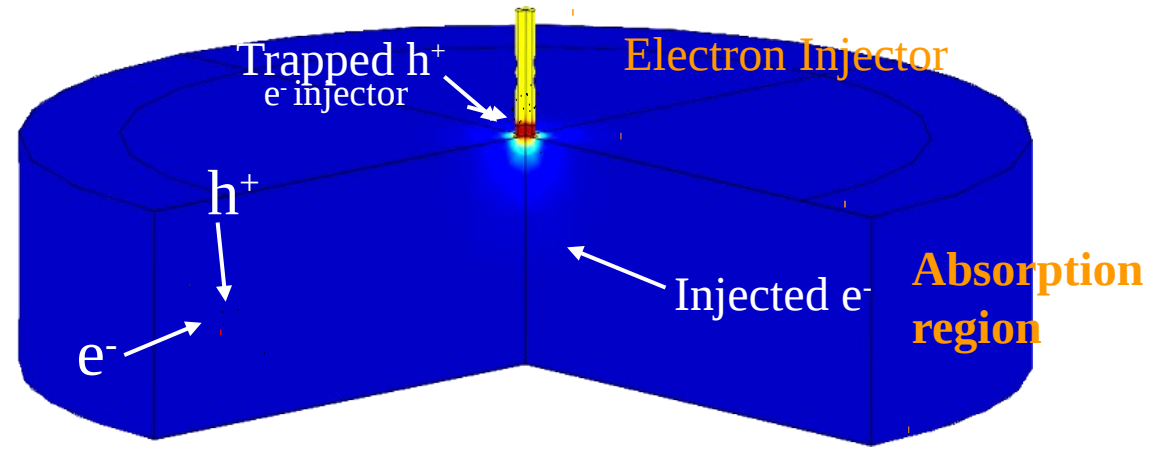


Speckles modulated at 1 kHz

Electron-injector nearIR camera (Northwestern Univ / Keck foundation)



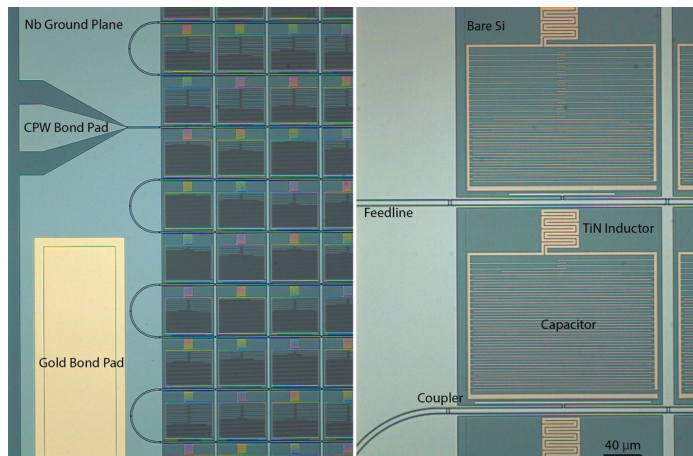
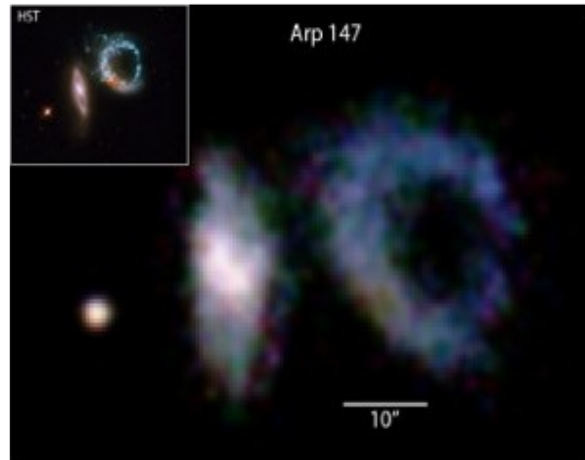
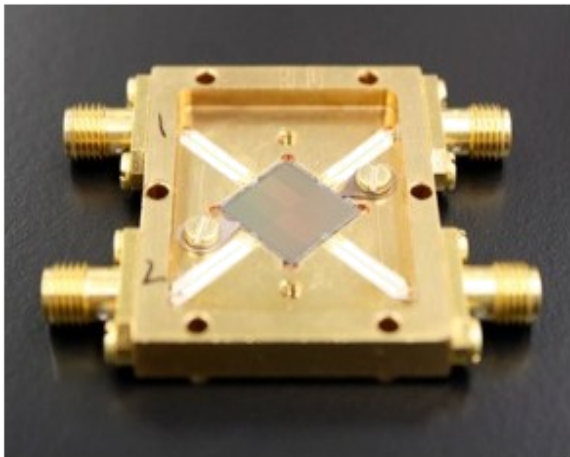
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



1 μ m Electron-injection low-order
wavefront sensing (pointing) camera

MKIDS camera (built by UCSB for SCExAO)

Photon-counting, wavelength resolving 100x200 pixel camera



Pixels are microwave resonators at $\sim 100\text{mK}$
photon hits \rightarrow resonator frequency changes



Photon-counting near-IR MKIDs
camera for kHz speed speckle
control under construction at
UCSB

Delivery to SCExAO in CY2017

From Subaru to TMT

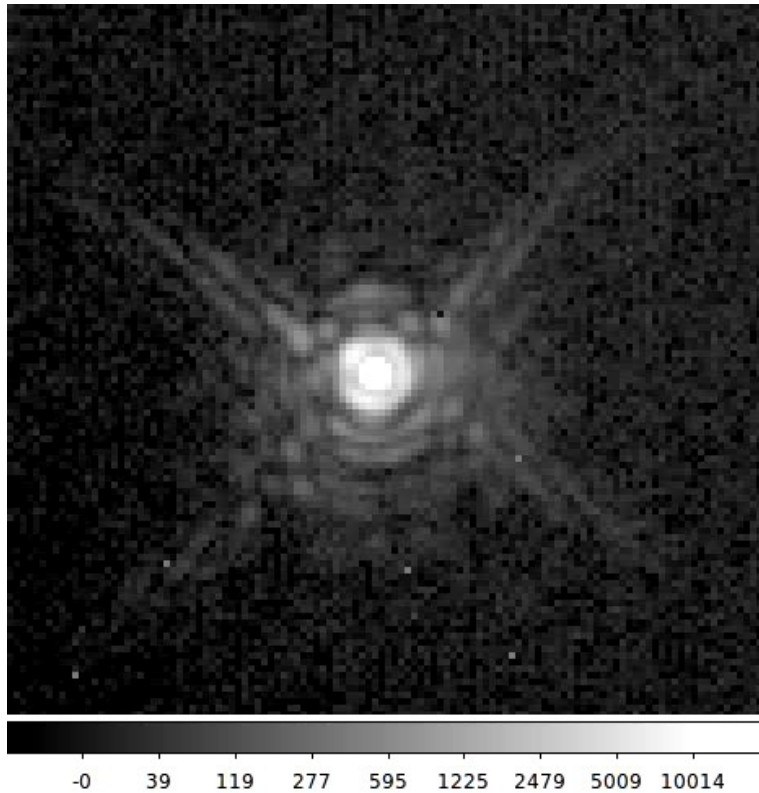
Demonstrate and validate performance on Subaru prior to deployment on TMT

- **ready to go as first light visitor instrument**, well understood
- **mitigates risks**, minimizes need for engineering time on TMT
- **benefits from yrs of experience** on Subaru (loop control, data reduction algorithms, observing strategy)
- Subaru provides path to quickly and safely integrate/validate new technologies prior to instrument deployment on TMT

Open international effort engaging TMT partners. Expected overlap with development team of 2nd generation, more capable ExAO system. Re-use experience/technologies and possibly hardware to reduce schedule/cost/risk of 2nd generation instrument.

Current PSF stability @ SCExAO

Highly stable PSF for coronagraphy
SCExAO provides sensing and correction at 3.5 kHz



1630nm (SCExAO internal camera)
3 Hz sampling

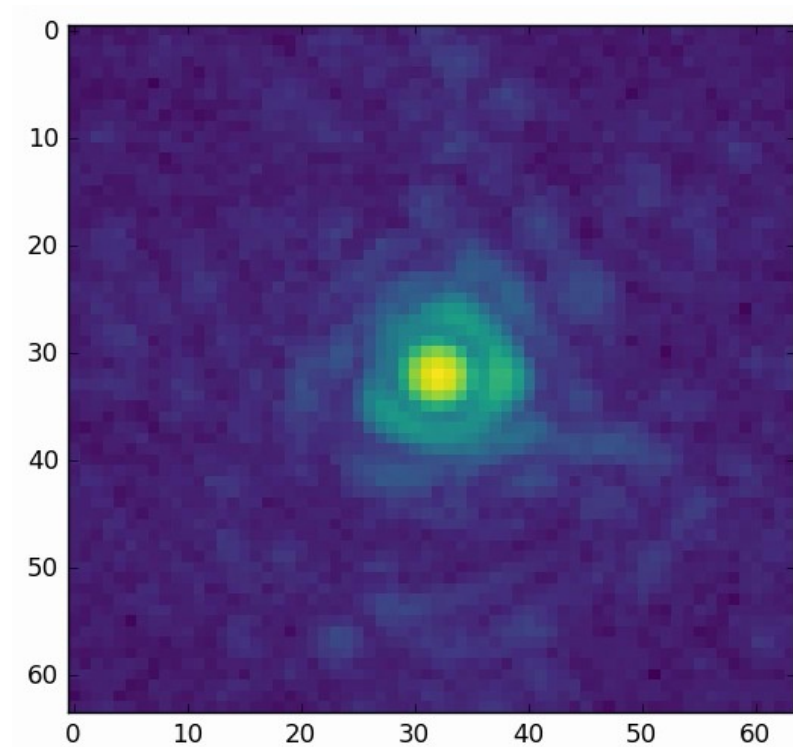
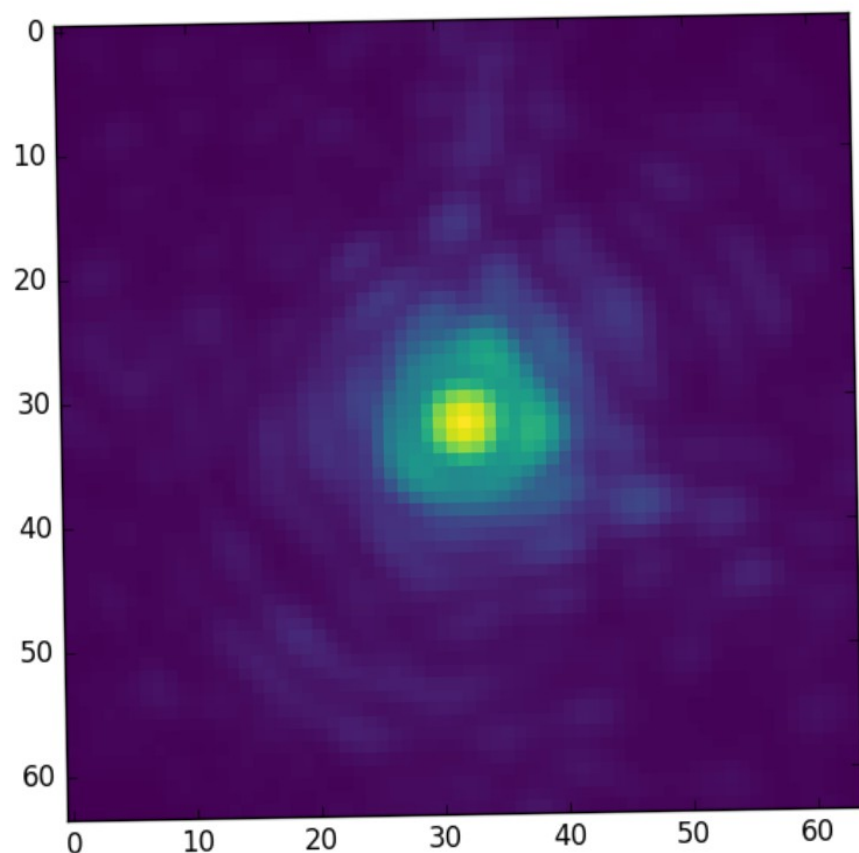
Preliminary VAMPIRES science

Diffraction-limited imaging in visible light

750nm, 1kHz imaging
log scale

Summed image

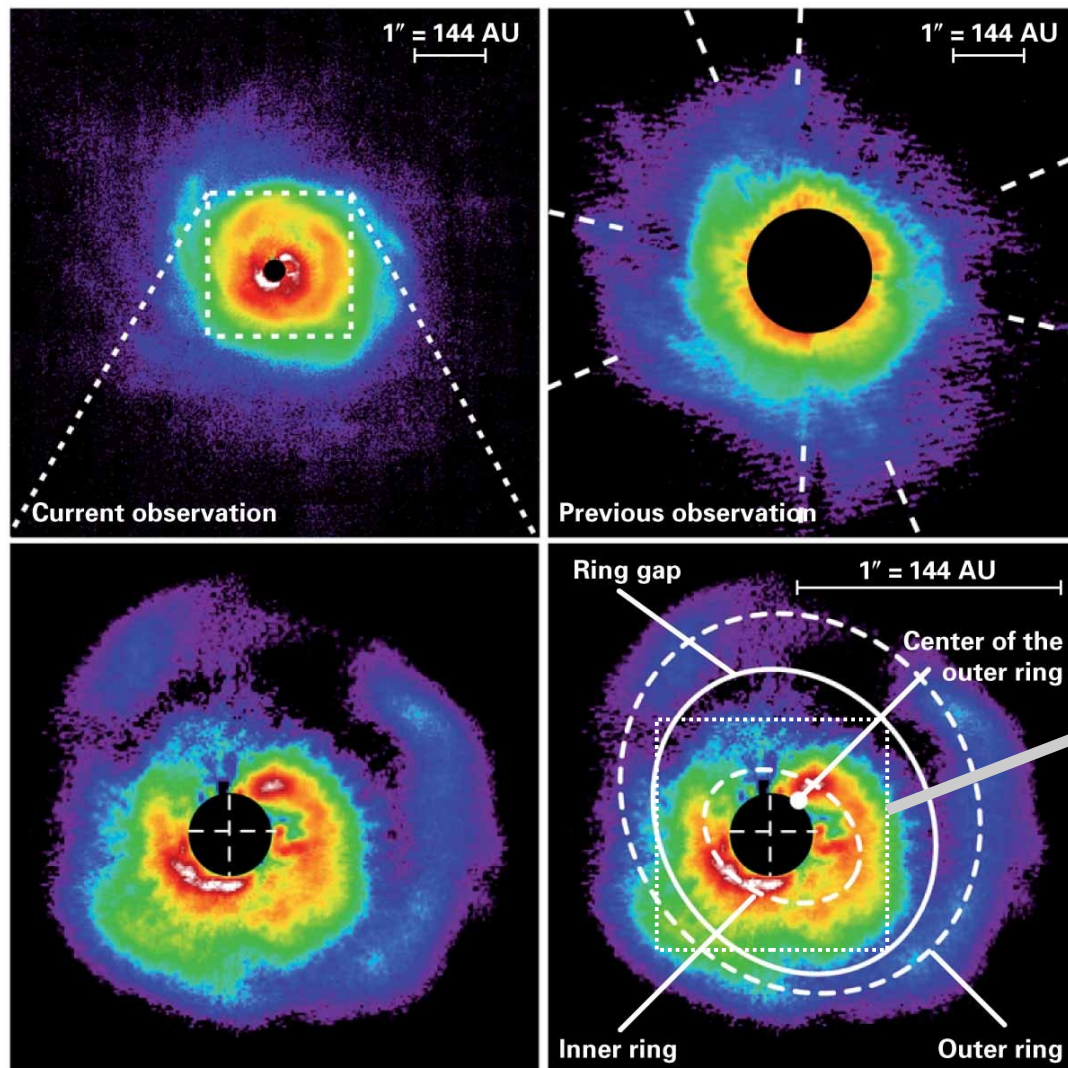
Video



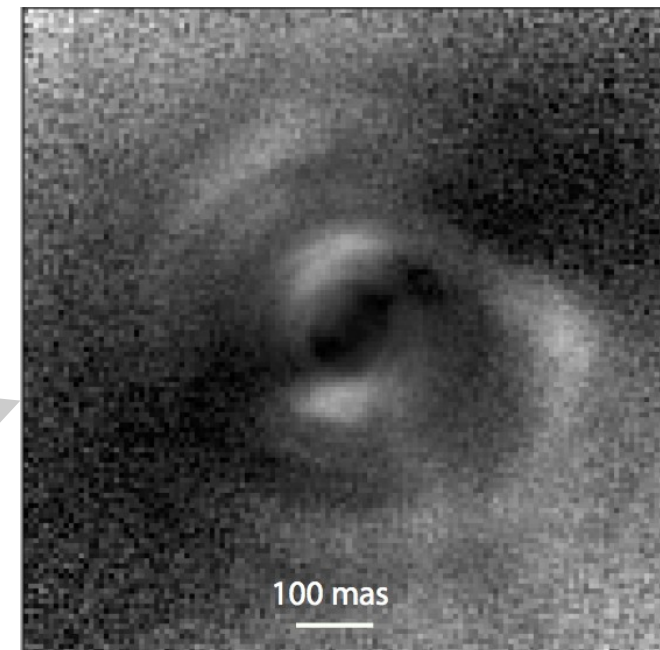
Preliminary VAMPIRES science

AB Aur star, polarimetric imaging mode

HiCIAO, near-IR



VAMPIRES
(preliminary data reduction)



Preliminary VAMPIRES science

Circumstellar dust around Red Supergiant μ Cephei

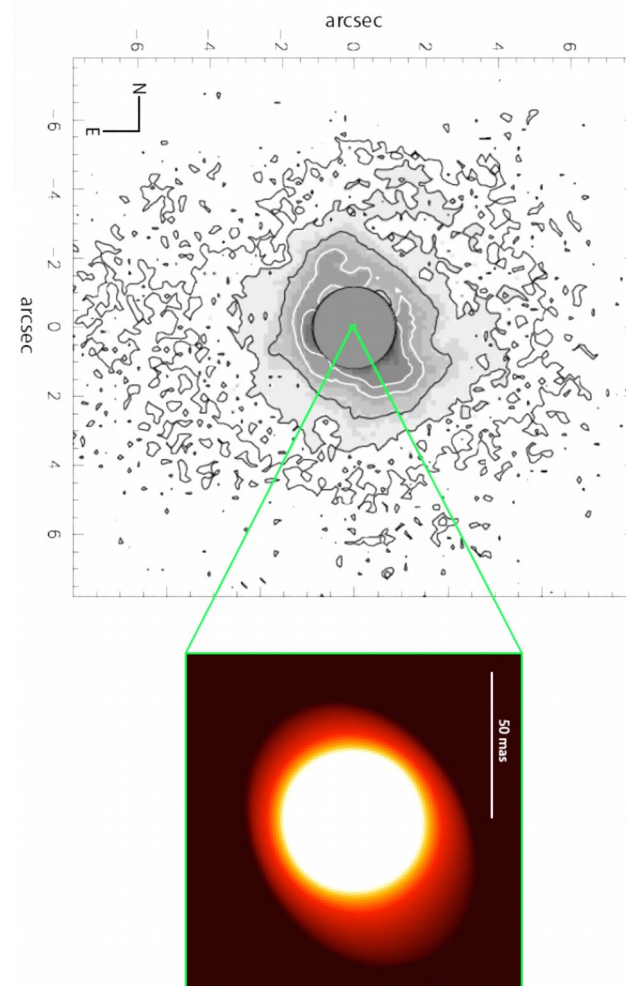
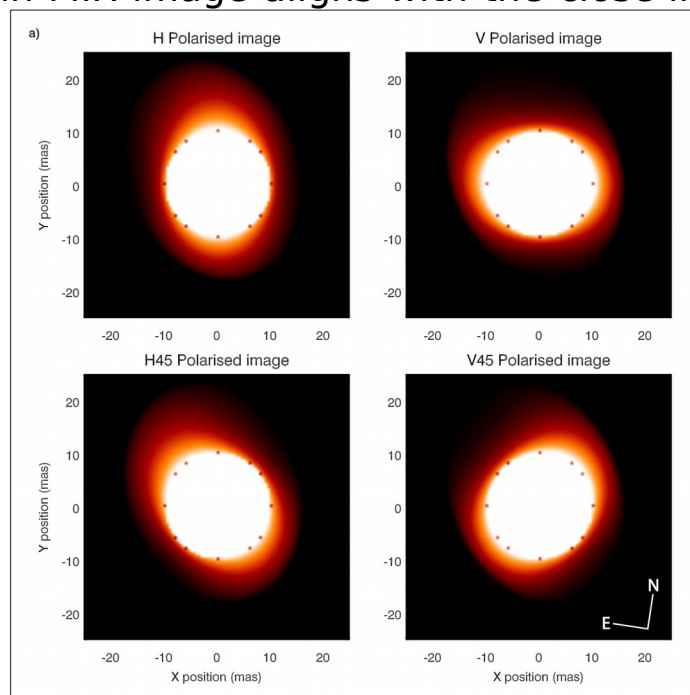
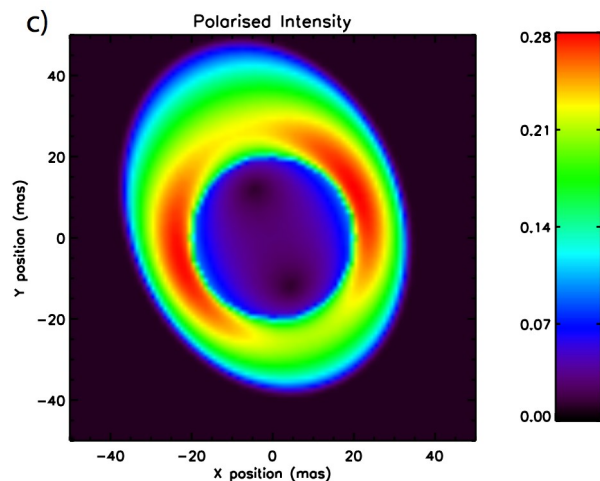
Model-fitting reveals extended, asymmetric dust shell, originating within the outer stellar atmosphere, without a visible cavity. Such low-altitude dust (likely Al_2O_3) important for unexplained extension of RSG atmospheres.

Inner radius: 9.3 ± 0.2 mas (which is roughly R_{star})

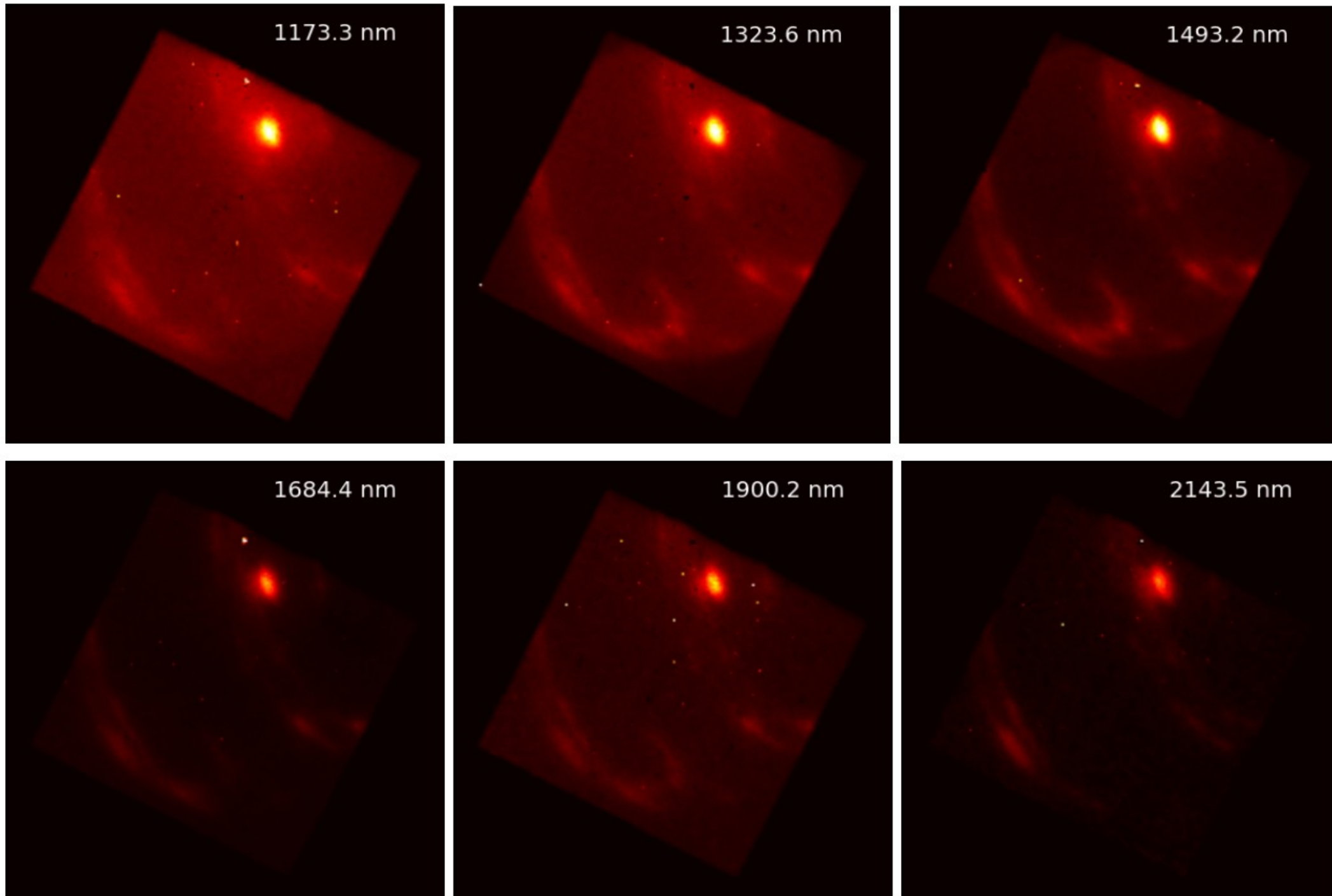
Scattered-light fraction: 0.081 ± 0.002

PA of major axis: $28 \pm 3.7^\circ$ • Aspect ratio: 1.24 ± 0.03

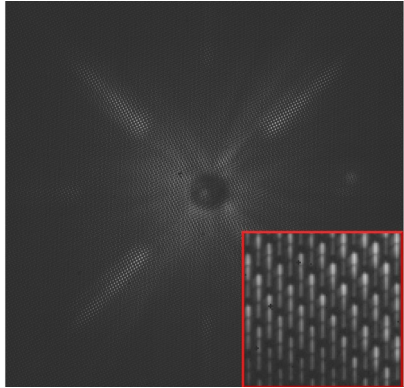
Left: model image, shown in polarized intensity. **Middle:** model image show in four polarisations. **Right:** Model image (intensity), shown with wide field MIR image (from de Wit et al. 2008 – green box shows relative scales. Axis of extension in MIR image aligns with the close-in VAMPIRES image.



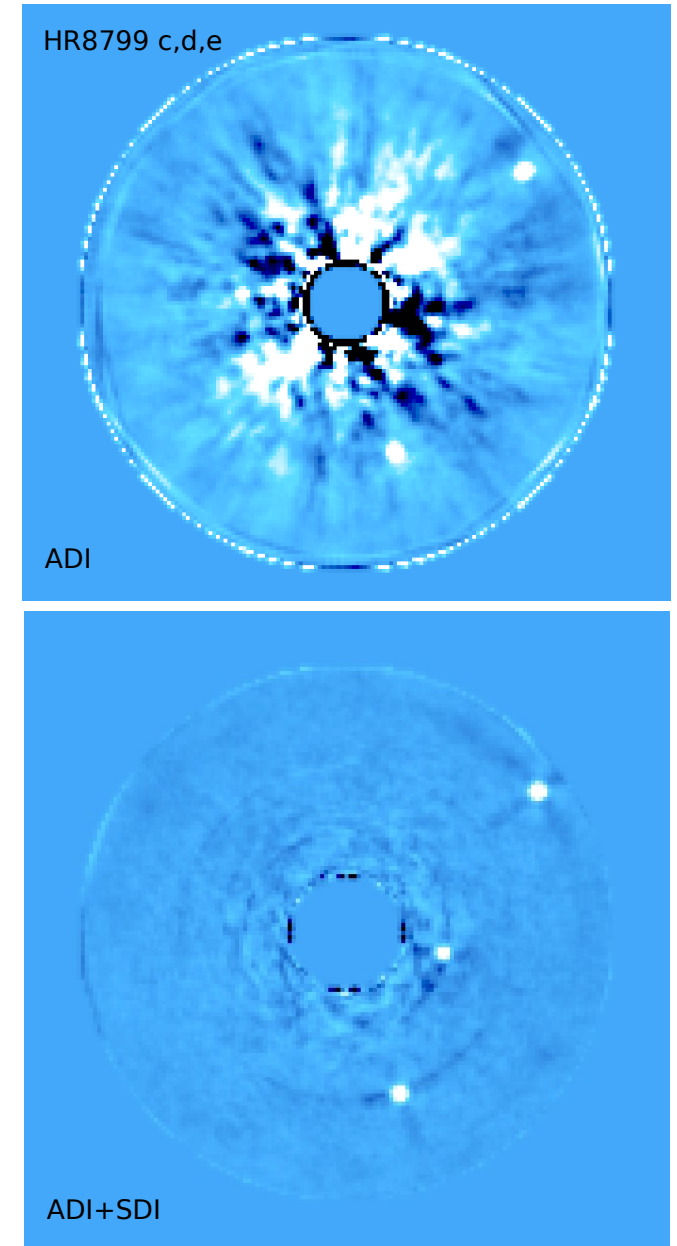
Neptune with CHARIS + SCExAO



CHARIS – early data on HD1160 and HR8799



- HD1160 easily visible in the speckle halo with a basic data reduction thanks to large wavelength range
- HR8799 c,d,e easily extracted with ADI+SDI.
- SNR of 70, 35 and 15

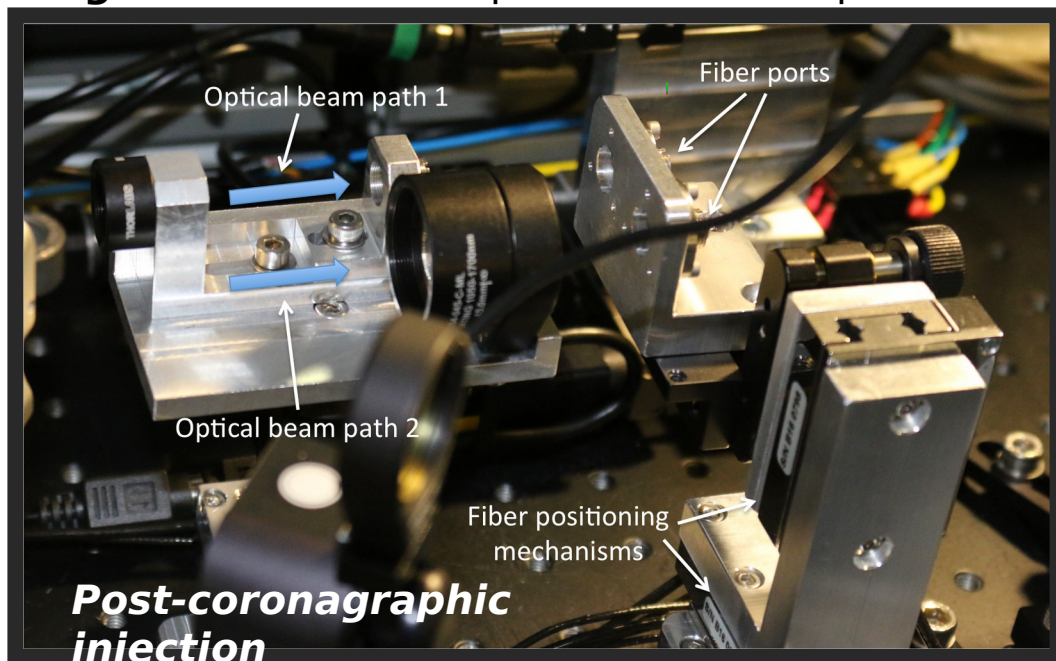


Images and movie courtesy of Tim Brandt

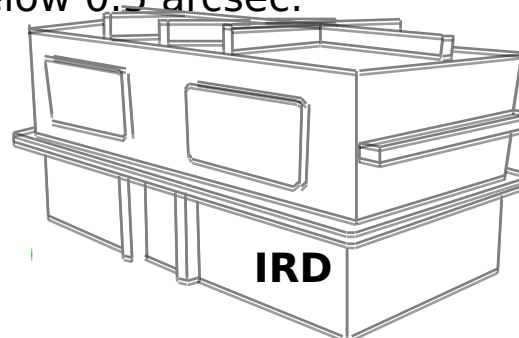
Post-Coronagraphic spectroscopy

Aim: Detection of atmospheric molecules and planetary radial velocity using post-coronagraphic high-dispersion spectroscopy

Targets: self-luminous planets whose separation are below 0.5 arcsec.

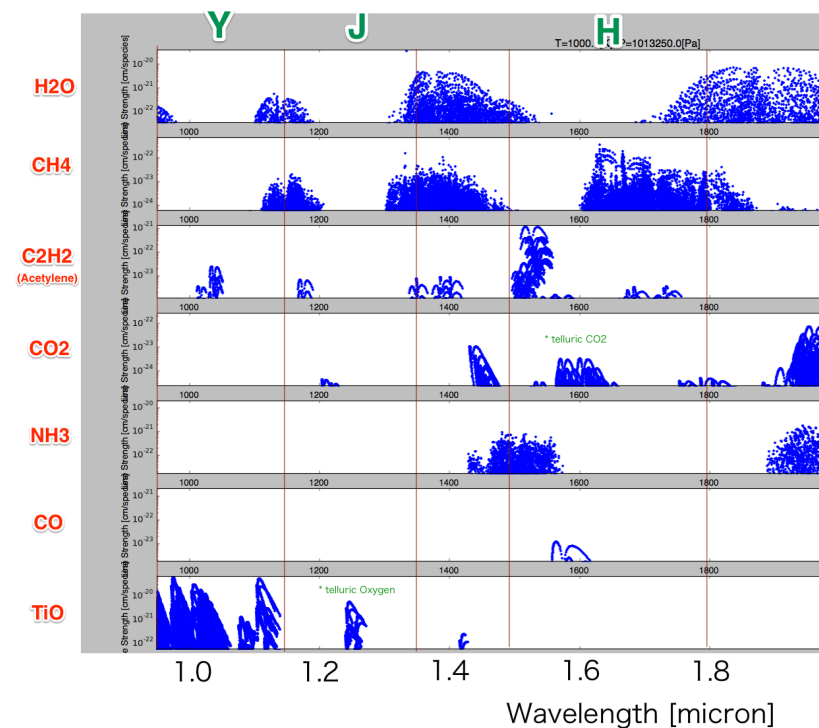


Jovanovic et al.

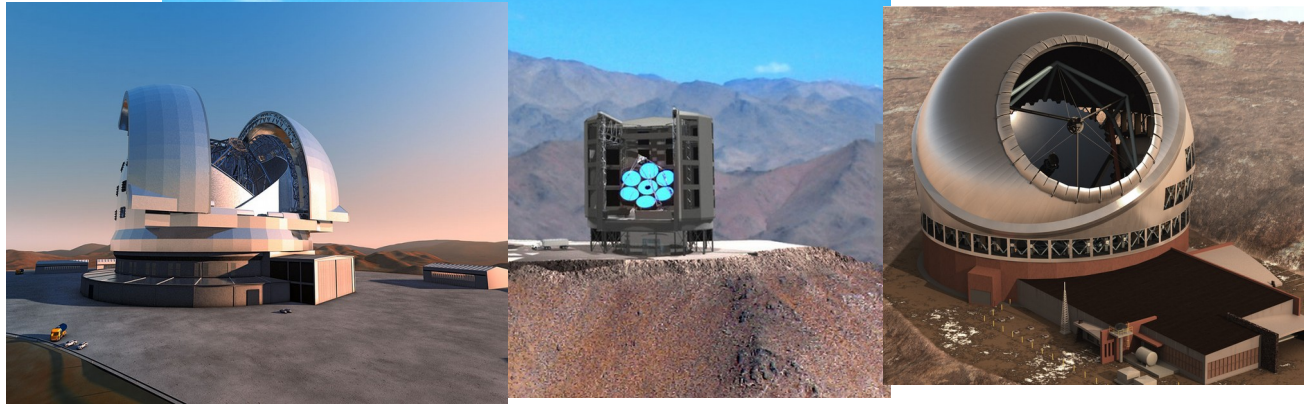


$R \sim 70,000$,
Y, J, H
bands,
laser comb

Molecular lines in Y, J, and H band



Conclusions



Low-hanging fruits (Prox Cen B !) can be imaged on ELTs with current technology (... possible even with VLT with high resolution spectroscopy)

ELTs can probably operate at $\sim 1e-5/1e-6$ raw contrast and photon-noise limited detection limit

→ characterization (spectroscopy) of $1e-8$ habitable planets accessible around >100 nearby stars, mainly near-IR/visible

Near-complete sample of M0-M5 stars within 5pc

BUT: ELTs instrument development process is slow compared to the pace of science in technology progress in our field

→ Schedule for (near-)first light instrument on ELT is very challenging

(No “extreme-AO” currently planned as ELT 1st generation instrument)