



**STScI** | SPACE TELESCOPE  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

# Thoughts on Tech Development for HWO

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Jason Tumlinson

STScI Head of Community Missions

January 2023

# How We Got Here - Astrophysics Decadal Surveys

HUBBLE

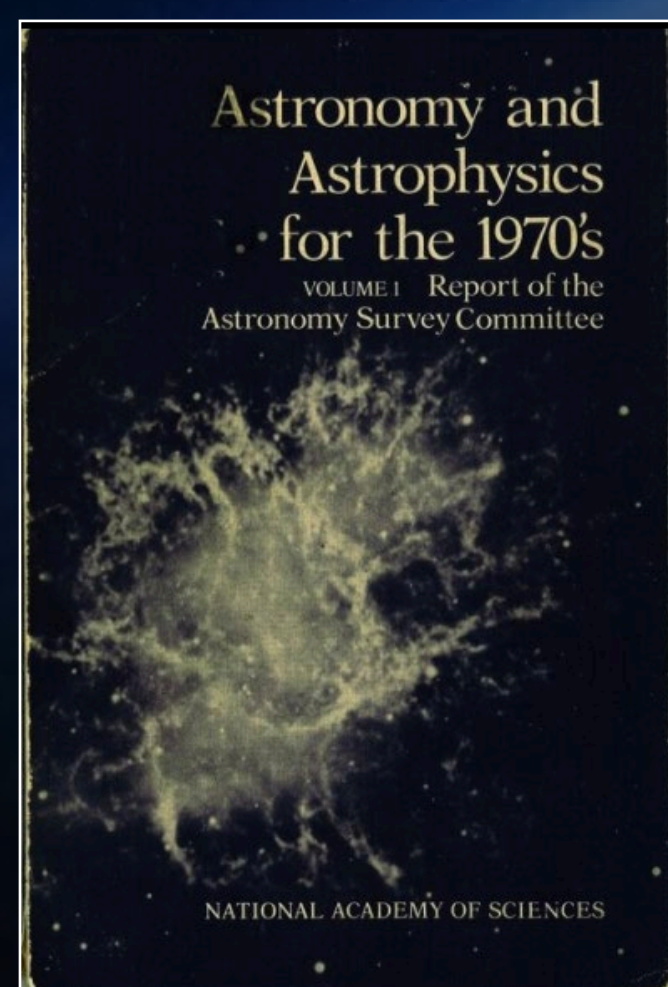
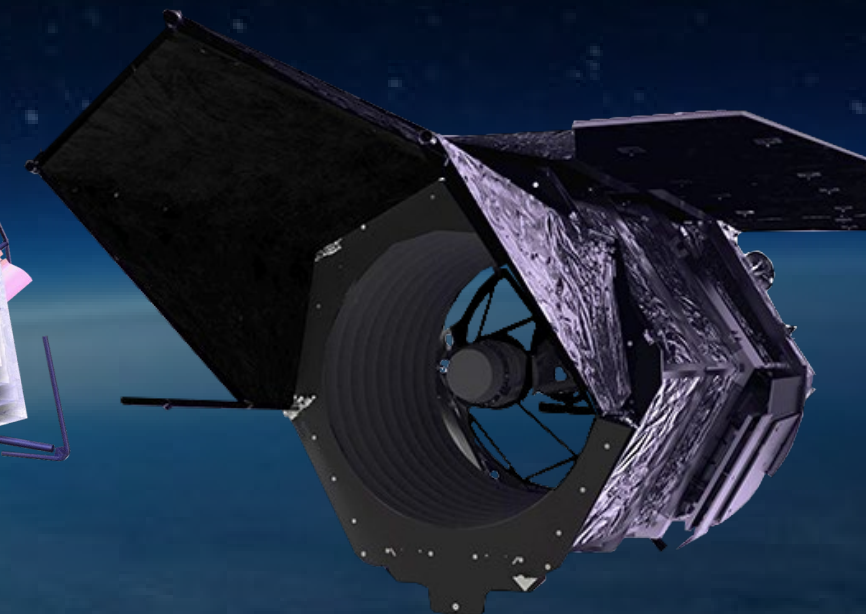
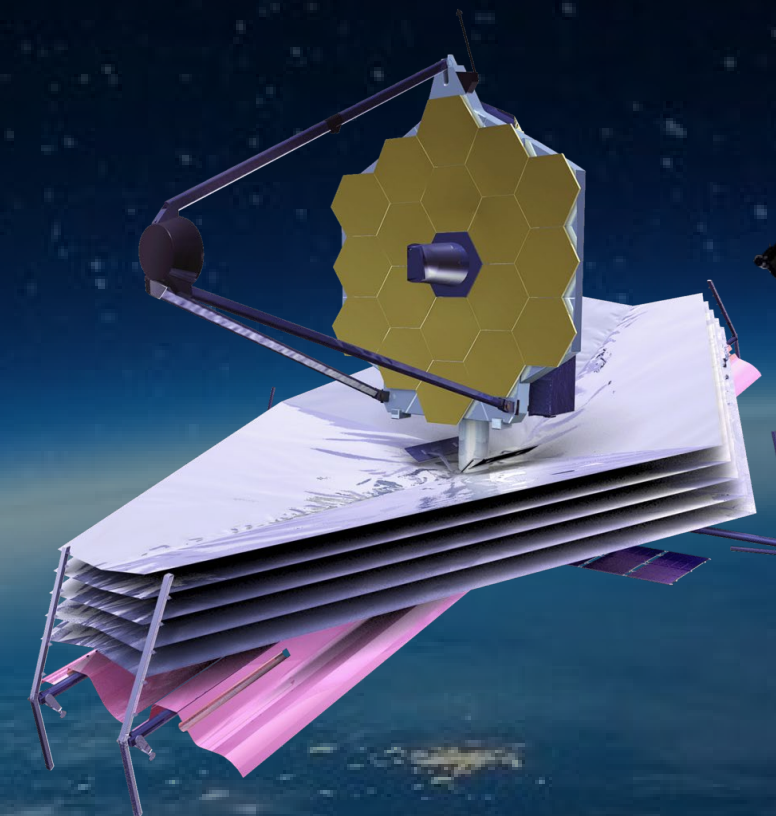
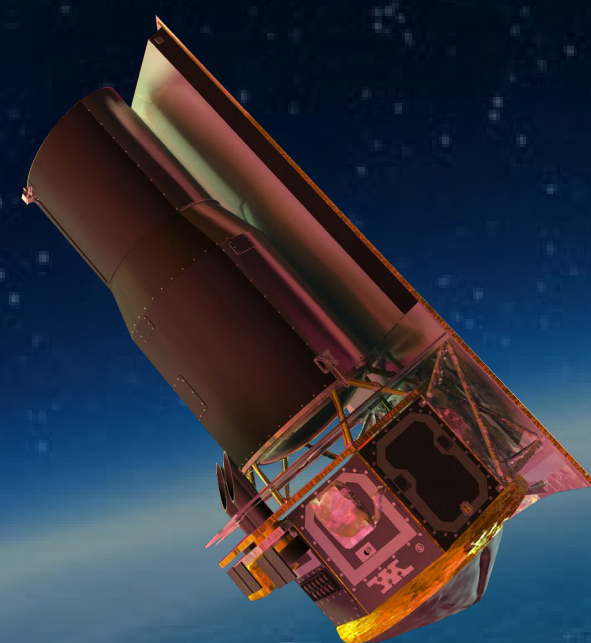
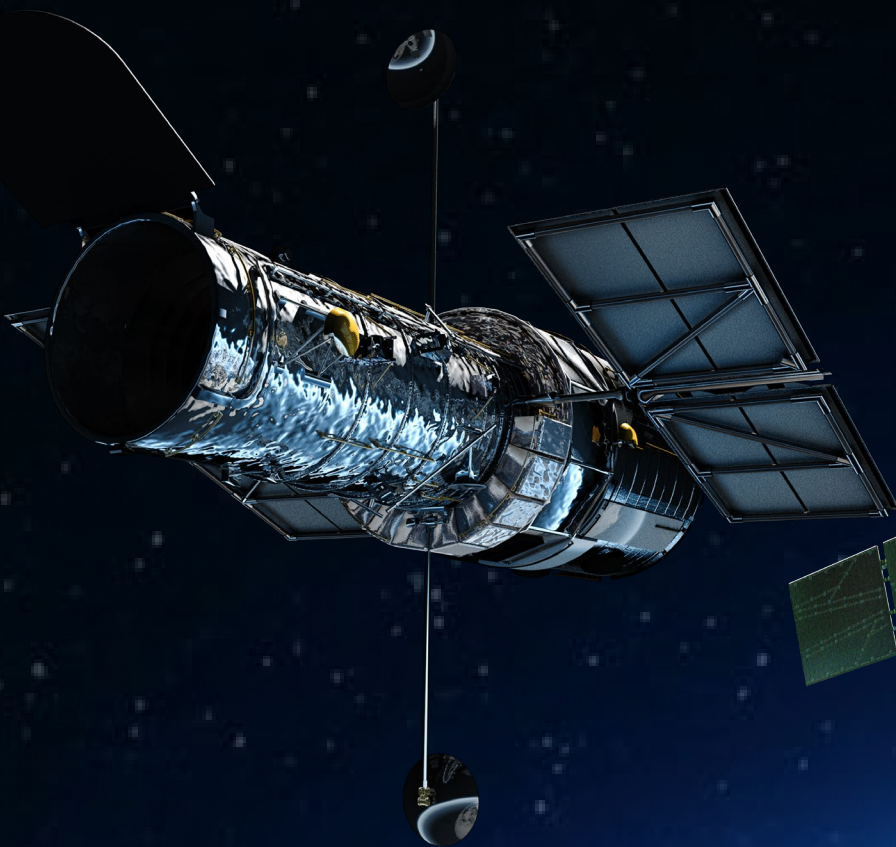
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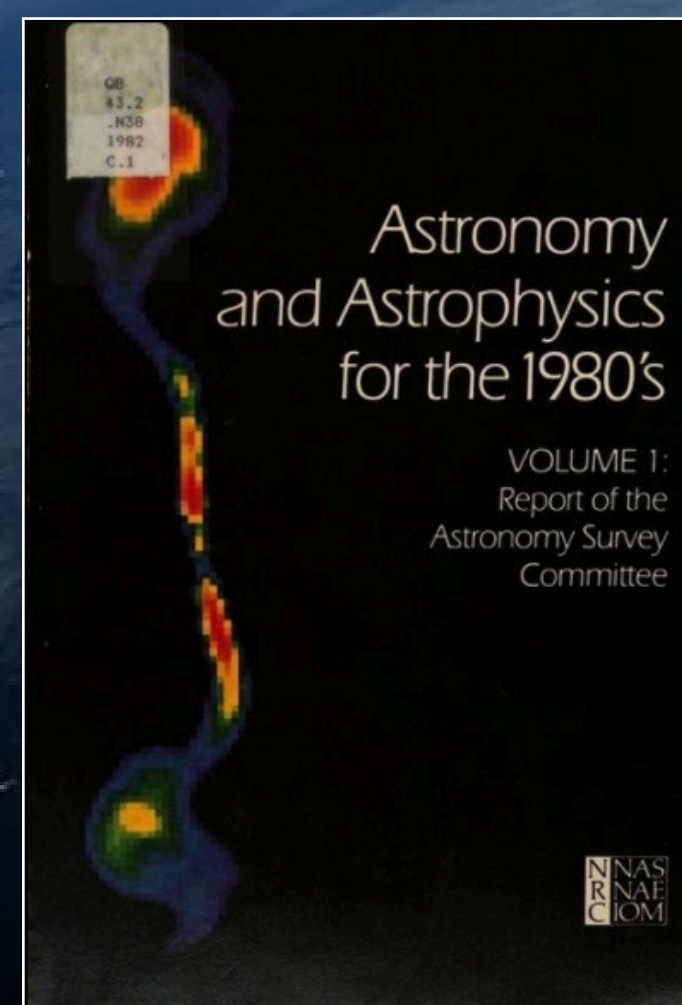
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ROMAN

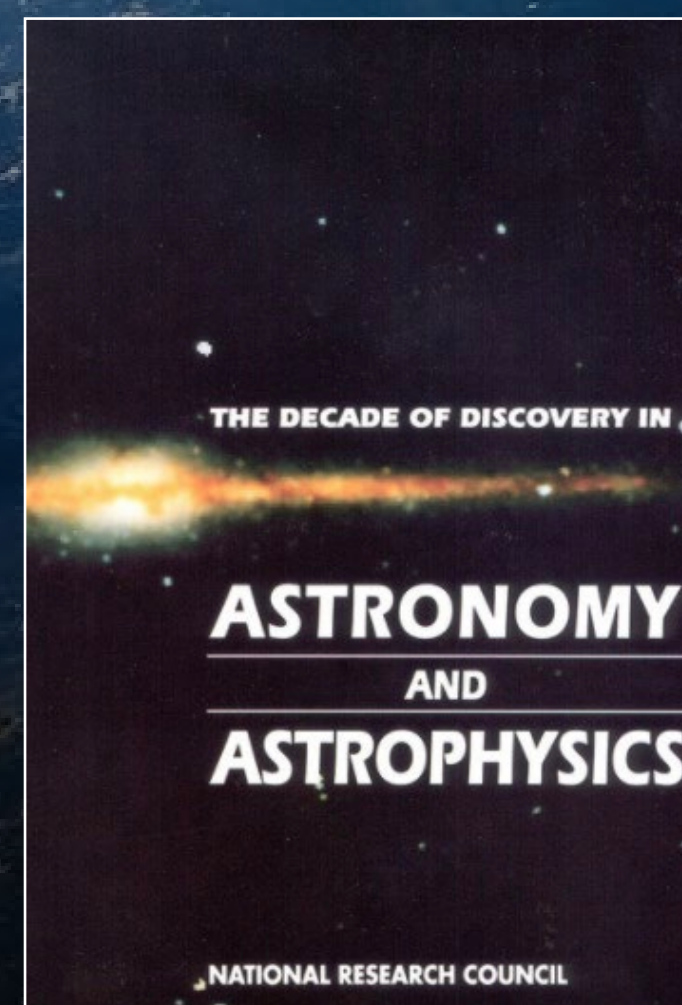
The NGOs



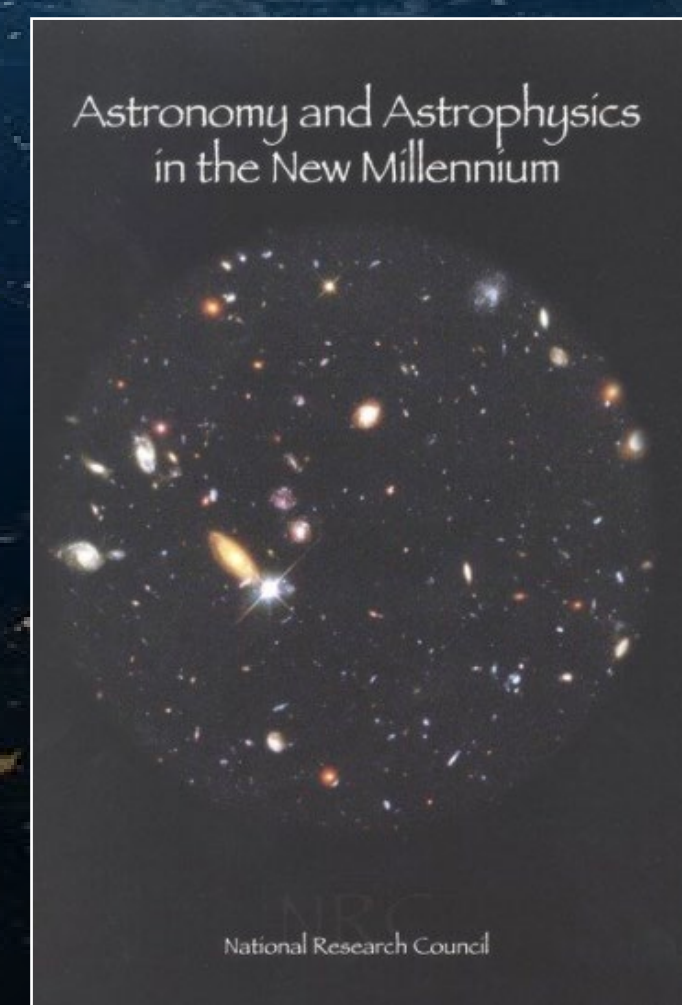
1972



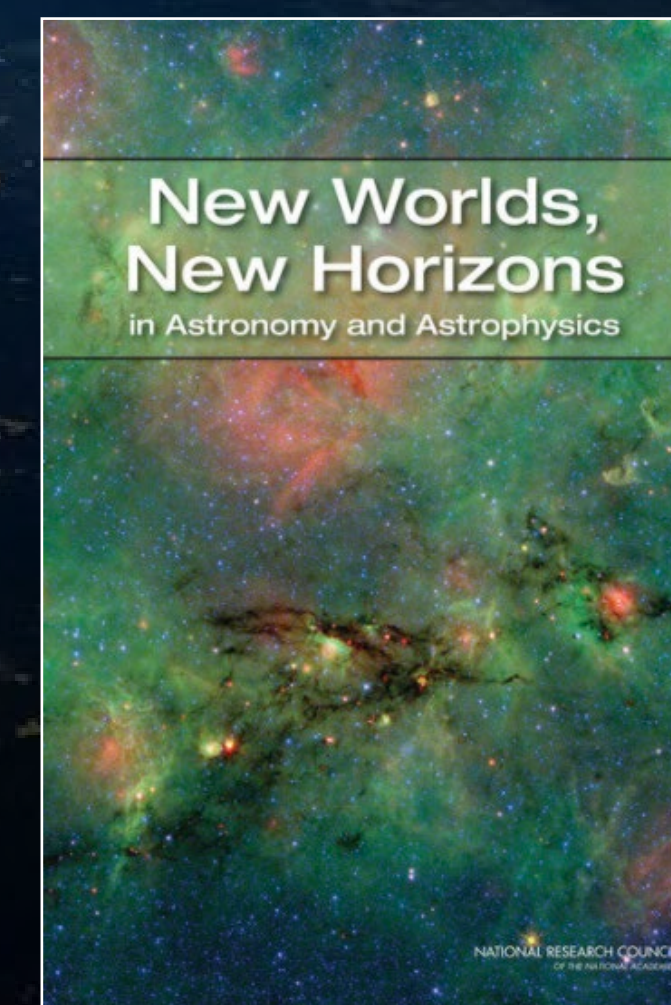
1982



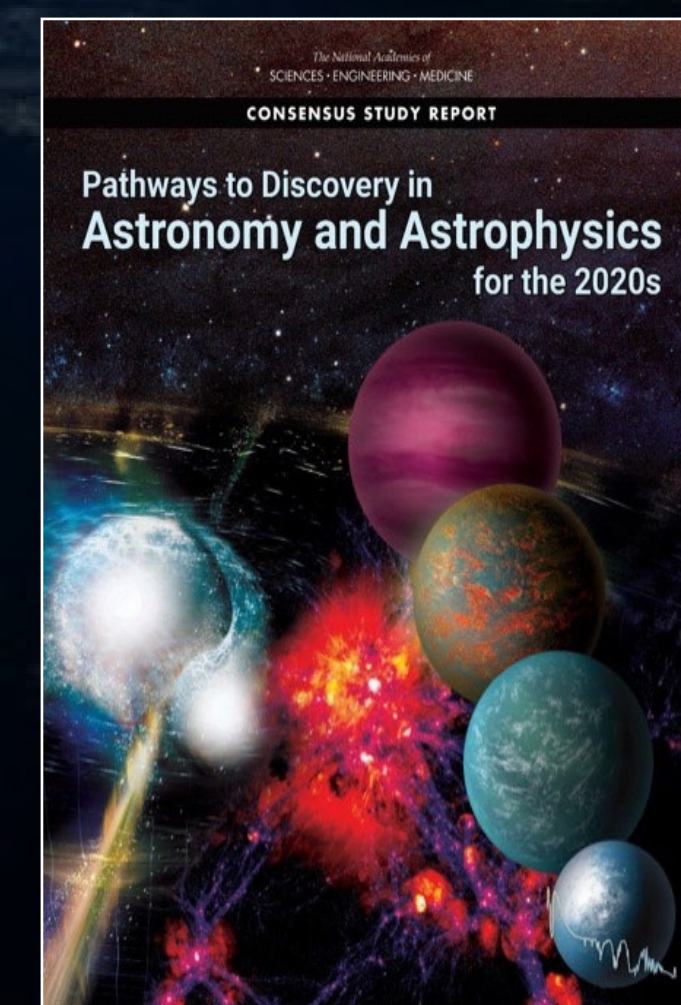
1991



2001



2011



2021

# T H E N E W G R E A T O B S E R V A T O R I E S

## Transformative

*for the scientific aims of the next decades and for fields and problems yet unknown.*

## Achievable

*by maturing technologies wisely and building on the experience of past flagships*

## Inclusive

*by pursuing open science in which the best ideas rise to the top and all are welcome*

## Ready

*to proceed to development, supported by a strong and united community*

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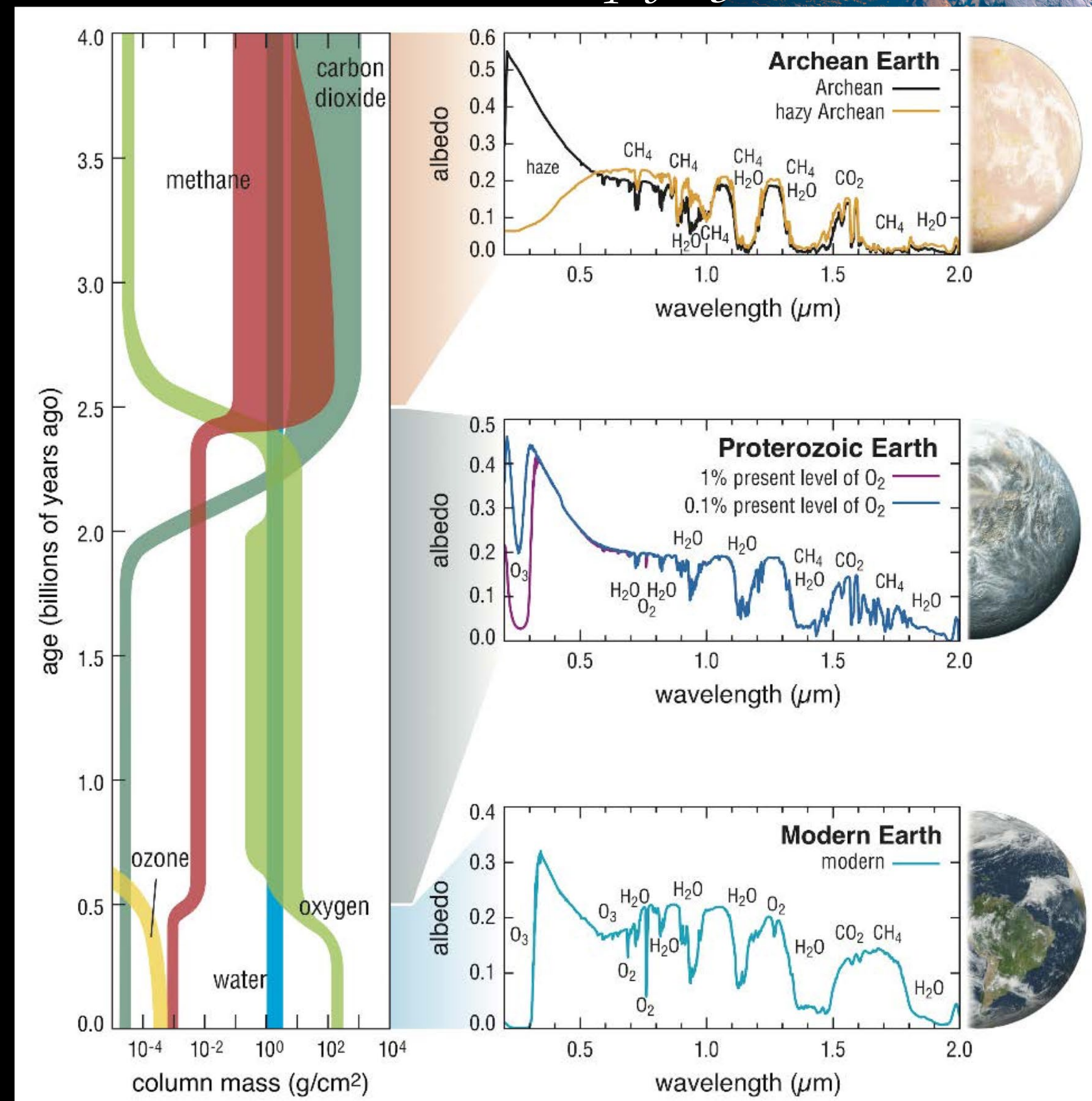
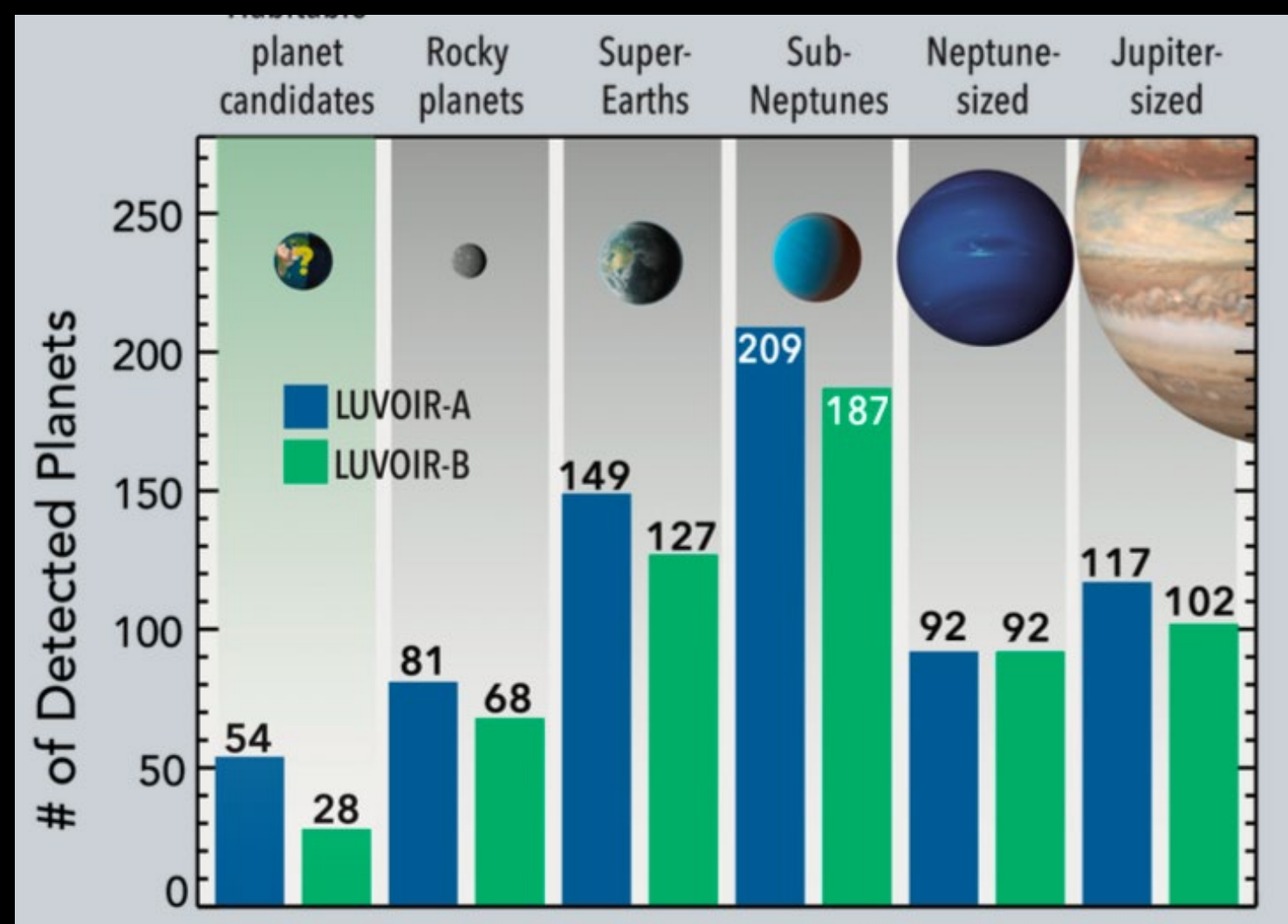
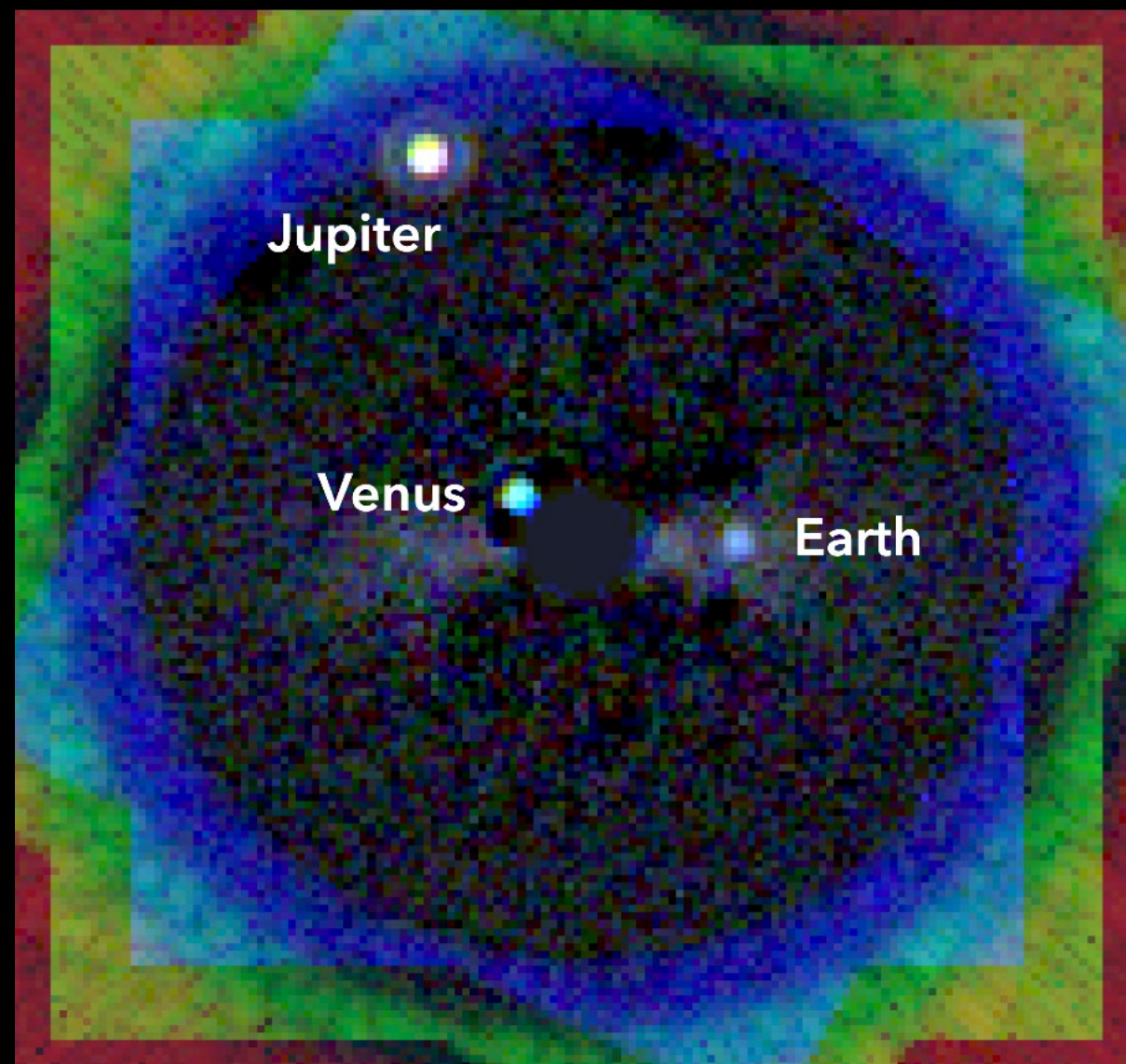
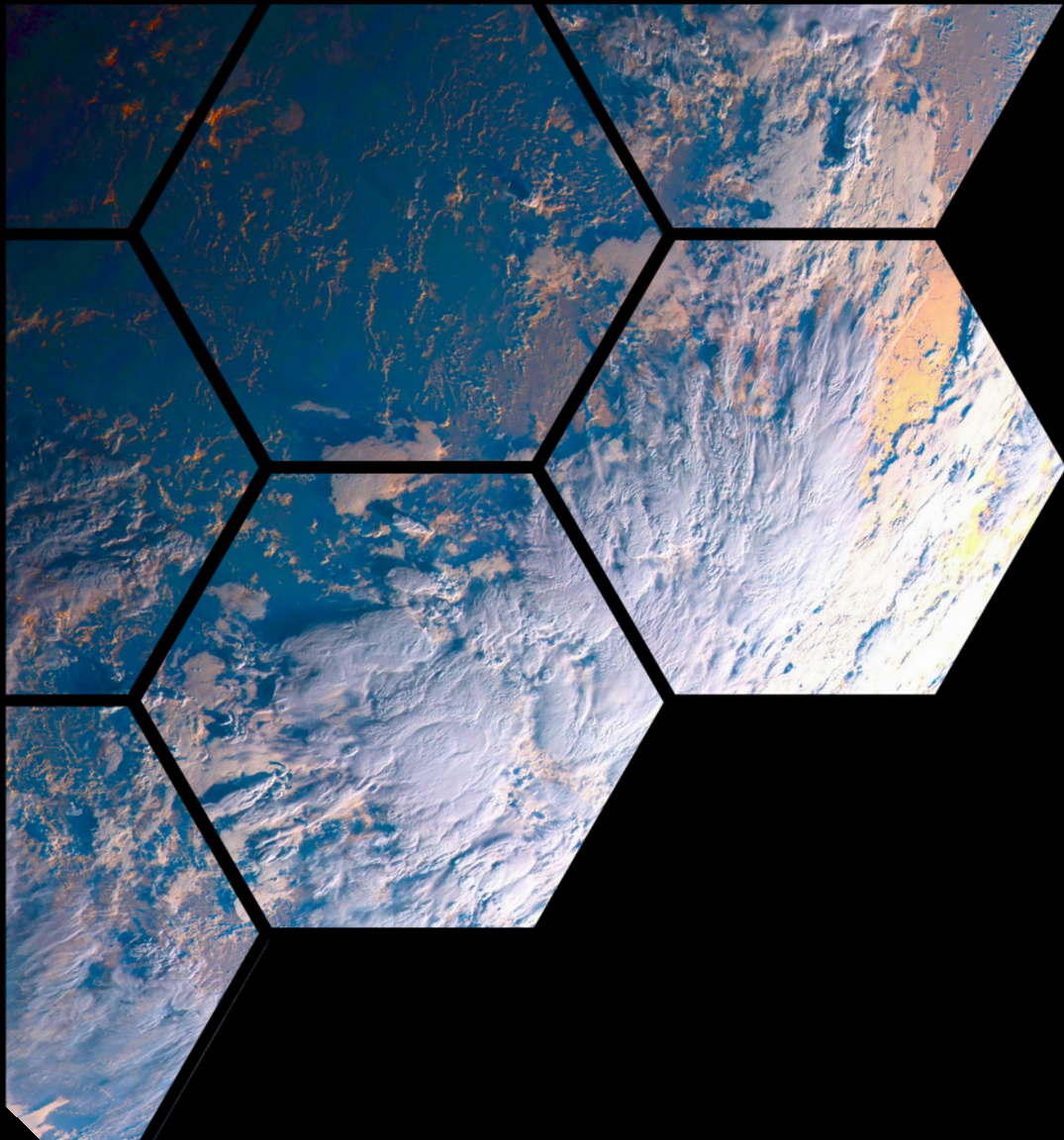
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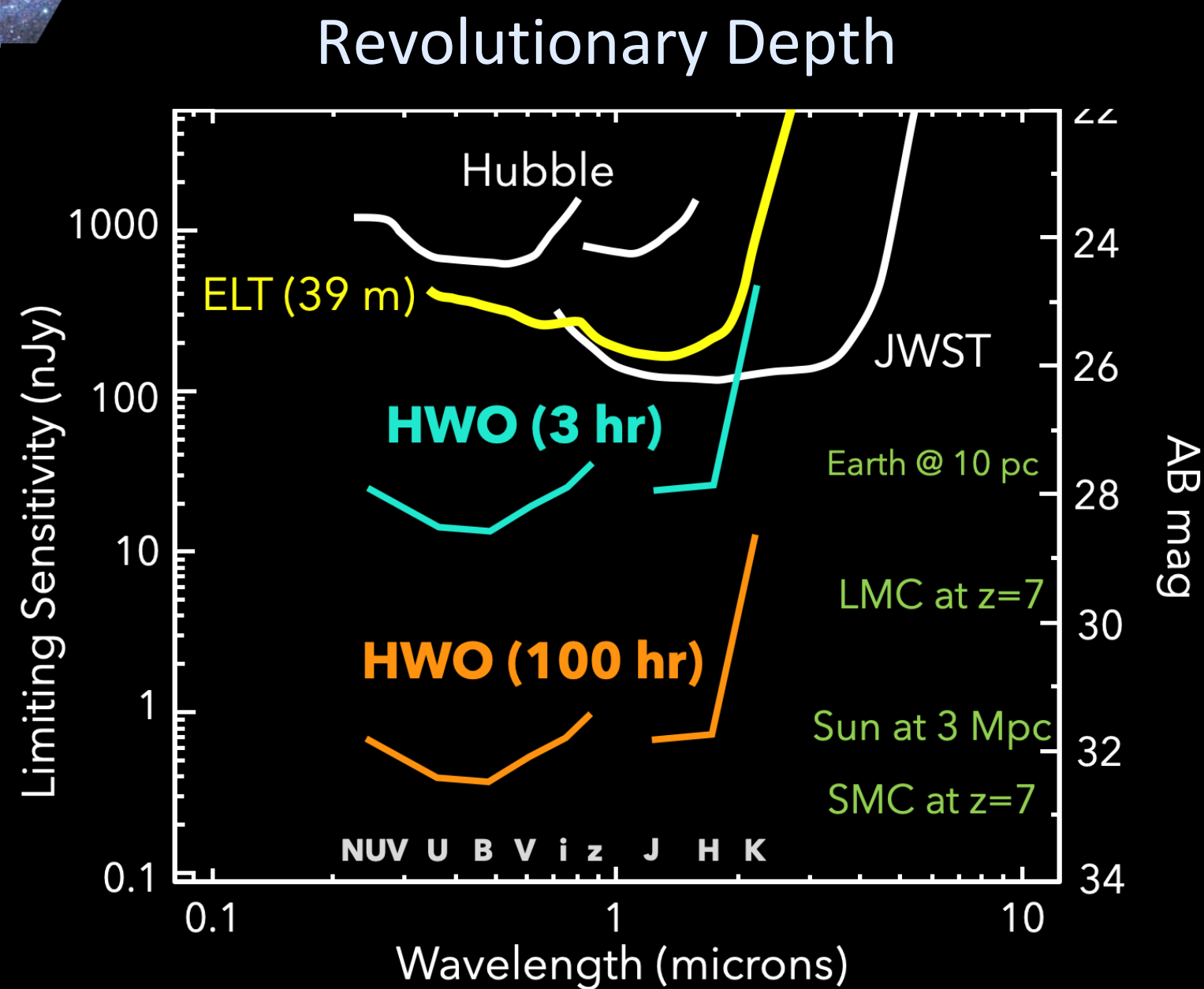
# Habitable Worlds Observatory

100 Hab Zone searches, and hopefully 25 "Earths"

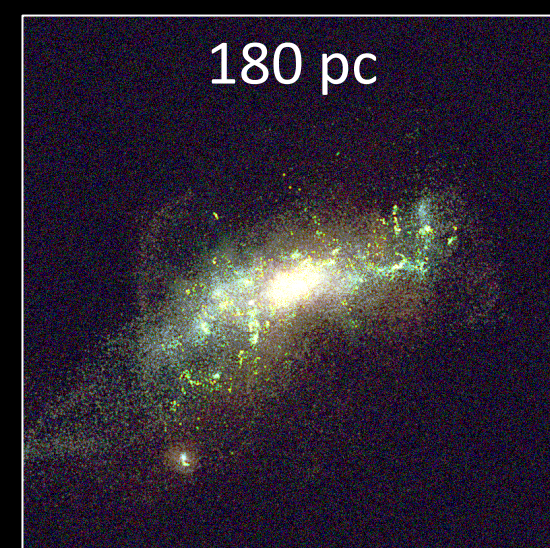


*The Copernican and Darwinian revolutions rolled together.*

# Habitable Worlds Observatory

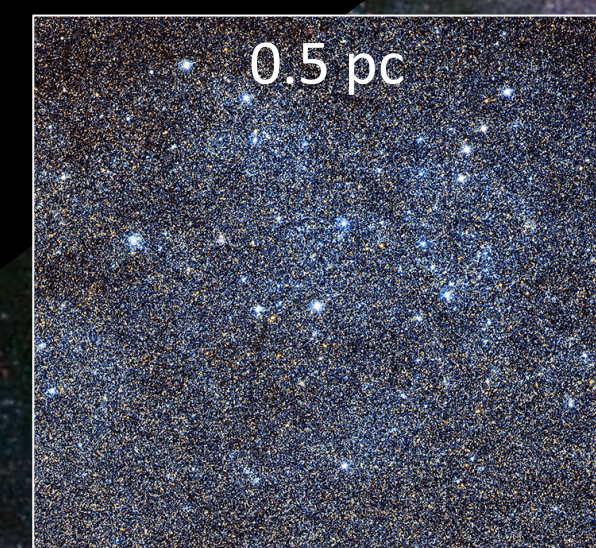


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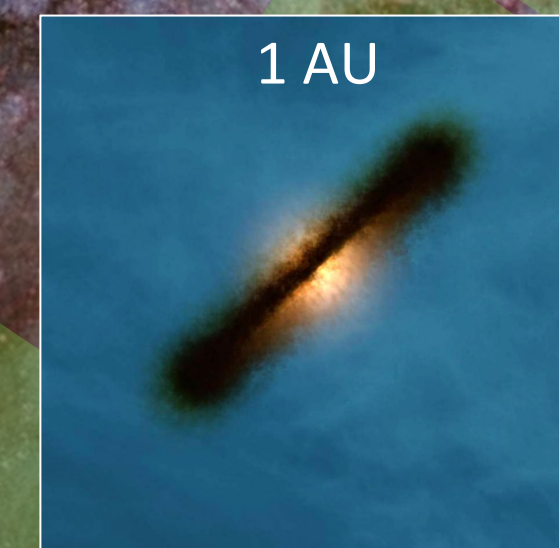


Spatial Resolution

at 5 Mpc



at 50 pc



at 3 AU



*Transformative general astrophysics from radically new resolution, depth, and multiplexing*

Cold

Gas Temperature Probed by Key Ultraviolet Lines

Hot

Wide-Field, High Spatial Resolution UV Multiobject Spectroscopy

# T H E N E W G R E A T O B S E R V A T O R I E S

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*for the scientific aims of the next decades and for fields and problems yet unknown.*

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*by maturing technologies wisely and building on the experience of past flagships*

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## Ready

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# Achievable with lessons learned from:

## JWST

*It works! We can deploy complex systems and operate them at the diffraction limit, so let's evolve from this.*

*Make future missions “evolutions” but not “revolutions” on existing designs and engineering.*

*Using a big rocket provides ample mass and volume margin to reduce system complexity.*

*Mature architecture and technology fully before starting development phase, to better align funding.*

## Other missions

*Costs cannot be estimated robustly, and therefore controlled, until a design is matured.*

*This will increase costs in the early phases but make flagships cheaper in the long run.*

*Plan for servicing to expand capabilities, control initial costs, and reduce risks.*

*Build to schedule so as to avoid an open ended development path (like planetary missions).*

es Maturation Program (GOMAP), now started by NASA, will incorporate these lessons in



# Status of Each Item as of LUVOIR Report (2019)

Based on Table 11-3 of LUVOIR Report

Black font = current status as of 2018, from Table 11-3 of LUVOIR Final Report

7	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment.													
<b>LUVOIR Preliminary Design Review</b>														
6	System / sub-system model or prototype demonstration in an operational environment.							meets requirements for 100-150 nm						
5	Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment.			Meets performance requirements, but is environmentally unstable									8K x 8K devices exist with 18 micron pixels, lacks high speed subarray readout for guiding	
4	Component and/or breadboard validation in lab environment					>5000:1 contrast achieved on re-windowed XGA format (1024x768) <a href="#">Ninkov SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		meets requirements for 100-150 nm; requires devel for large tile size and integration with cross-strip readout. GaN has better Solar-blind performance		Demonstrated 50% improved QE with CsI photocathode		4K x 4K devices exist, require development for 8K x 8K and readout optimization		
3	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept	Meets performance requirements, but requires demonstration on meter-class optics, validation of uniformity, repeatability, and env. stability <a href="#">PVD</a> ; <a href="#">Quijada SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>			840x420 prototype demonstrated, but requires devel. to survive launch <a href="#">Greenhouse SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>									
		> 50% over 100-115 nm, > 80% over 115-200 nm > 88% over 200 - 850 nm, > 96% over > 850 nm, < 1% reflectance non-uniformity over primary mirror in coronagraph bandpass (200-2000 nm)			840x420 format, two-side buttable, high contrast		200 mm x 200 mm tile size > 30% QE between 100-200 nm				8K x 9K format, < 7 μm pixels, three-side buttable, ~1 e- read noise, 10 <sup>-4</sup> e-/pix/s dark at 170K			
		Al+eLiF+MgF <sub>2</sub> <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Al+eLiF+AlF <sub>3</sub>	Al+eLiF	Microshutters <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Micromirrors	CsI <a href="#">Baseline</a>	GaN <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Bi-alkali	Funnel micro	8K x 8K CMOS <a href="#">Baseline</a>	4K x 4K CCDs		
		Far-UV Broadband Coatings LUVOIR pg. 11-25			Configurable Shutters LUVOIR pg. 11-26		UV Microchannel Plate LUVOIR pg. 11-26				Visible Detectors LUVOIR pg. 11-27			

# Strategic Investments in Technology are Ongoing

## Development of Digital Micro-mirror Devices for Far-UV Applications

PI: Zoran Ninkov / Rochester Institute of Technology

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- There is a need for a technology to allow for selection of targets in a field of view that can be input to an imaging spectrometer for use in remote sensing and astronomy
- We are looking to modify and develop Digital Micro-mirror Devices (DMDs) for this application

**Significance of Work:**

- This work looks to improve the deep-UV performance of COTS DMDs by recasting the DMD mirrors themselves using the coating facility at GSFC and operating them with a custom window or operating in an open mode

**Approach:**

- Use available 0.7 XGA DMDs that will be recasted with a Al/AlF<sub>3</sub> at GSFC coating facility; test and evaluate such devices both with a window and in an open configuration

**Key Collaborators:**

- Manuel Quijada and Javier del Hoyo (NASA/GSFC)
- Massimo Roberto (STScl)
- Alan Raisanen (RTI)
- Stephen Smea (JHU)
- Dmitry Vorobiev (U Colorado, Boulder)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Jan 2018 – Dec 2019

**Recent Accomplishments:**

- First XGA devices recasted and found functional
- Radiation testing completed, analysis proceeding
- Optical measurement facility assembled and tested
- Procedure for delivering and coating DMDs at GSFC developed
- Procedure for using far-UV testing with MPhenson monochromator at GSFC developed

**Next Milestones:**

- TRL Review
- Sufficient recasted DMDs for further testing

**Application:**

- Proposed for Probe mission ATLAS (Astrophysics Telescope for Large Area Spectroscopy), a small sat project, and a proposed rocket payload

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 5    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 5    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

## Use of Plasma Enhanced ALD to Construct Efficient Interference Filters for the FUV

PI: Paul Scowen / ASU

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Use a range of oxide and fluoride materials to build stable optical layers using Plasma-Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition (PEALD) to reduce absorption, scattering, and impurities
- Layers will be suitable for protective overcoats to thermal ALD
- Unprecedented uniformity (compared to thermal ALD)
- Development of single-chamber system to deposit metal oxide and dielectric layers without breaking vacuum

**Significance of Work:**

- To use the improved ALD capability to leverage innovative ultraviolet/optical filter construction

**Approach:**

- Development of existing PEALD system to a single-chamber model
- Atomic layer processing to remove surface oxides from Al
- Demonstration of fluoride deposition on top of Al films
- Demonstration of VUV reflectivity, uniformity, and stability

**Key Collaborators:**

- Paul Scowen, Robert Nemnich, Brianna Eller, Daniel Messina, Zhiyu Huang, and Hongbin Yu (ASU)
- Tom Mooney (Materion)
- Matt Beasley (Planetary Resources Inc.)

**Application:**

- LUVVOIR / HDST / ATLAS / HabEx

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Dec 2015 through Nov 2019

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 4

## Large format, high dynamic range UV Detector using MCPs and Timepix4 Readouts

PI: John Vallerger / U.C. Berkeley

**Description and Objectives:**

Large format (200x200mm) MCP detectors have been baselined as the detector of choice for the Far-UV instruments on the proposed LUVVOIR and HabEx missions. To scale to that size while maintaining spatial resolution and dynamic range requires a pixelated anode readout that can be mosaiced over this area. The new photon counting ASIC, called Timepix4 (Tp4), has all these attributes: large format (28x25mm), buttable on 4 sides, low input noise (75e- rms), sparsified event readout, and events rates exceeding 100 MHz.

**Key Challenge/Innovation:**

- Demonstrating Tp4 readout of MCPs with excellent spatial resolution, at very high event rates in a low-power mode
- Tp4 mosaics with minimum gaps between ASICs (<50µm)
- New 100x100 MCP detector with Tp4 readout to be environmentally tested (vibration, thermal, radiation)

**Approach:**

- Timepix4 ASICs will first be processed at the wafer level to create Through Silicon Vias (TSVs) and a signal redistribution layer on the backside to enable a ball-grid array pattern. A High Temperature Co-fired Ceramic (HTCC) circuit layout board will be designed to hold a 3x3 array of accurately aligned Tp4 dies. Signals and Power/Gnd will be distributed on the back side of the HTCC including two LDC transformers per chip (18 total). This 84x74mm active anode will be placed in a 100x100 mm MCP detector to measure performance in flight like environments.

**Key Collaborators:**

- Timepix4/Medipix4 collaboration (14 international institutes) <http://medipix.web.cern.ch/collaboration/medipix4-collaboration>

**Development Period:**  
March 1, 2019 - Feb 28, 2022

**Accomplishments and Next Milestones:**

- Timepix4 wafer processed with TSVs and BGA redistribution layer - Jan 2021
- HTCC ceramic carrier fabricated. - Oct. 2020
- Readout of single Tp4 x-ray sensor using Kintex dev. board. - Oct 2020
- Mounting of Tp4 dies onto HTCC carrier. - Apr. 2021
- Tp4x anode with MCP detector assembly operating in vacuum - Oct 2021
- Fully functional MCP - Tp4 detector with FPGA readout - Jan 2022
- Environmental tests of MCP-Tp4 detector. - July 2022

**Applications:**

- High performance UV (1-300nm) detector for astrophysics (LUVVOIR, HabEx, CETUS), planetary, solar, heliospheric, or aeronomy missions
- Particle or time of flight detector for space physics missions
- Neutron radiography/tomography for materials science

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

## Advanced FUV/UV/Visible Photon-Counting and Ultralow-Noise Detectors

PI: Shouleh Nikzad / JPL, California Institute of Technology

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Develop and advance TRL of solar-blind (SB), high-efficiency, photon-counting, and ultralow-noise solid-state detectors, especially in FUV ( $\lambda < 200$  nm)
- Key challenges: SB silicon, large-format arrays, reliable and stable high response in FUV

**Significance of Work:**

- Key innovations are high and stable UV response through atomic-layer control of surface and interfaces, the breakthrough in rendering Si detectors with optimized in-band response and out-of-band rejection, versatility with CMOS and CCD, and uniform large format

**Approach:**

- Fabricate and process UV detectors by superlattice (SL) doping Electron Multiplying CCDs (EMCCDs) and ultralow-noise CMOS wafers
- Develop multi-stack, integrated, SB filters using atomic-layer deposition (ALD)
- Combine integrated SB filters and SL with CMOS and EMCCDs
- Characterize and validate

**Key Collaborators:**

- Chris Martin (Caltech)
- David Schimminoff (Columbia University)
- Michael Hoehn (JPL)
- Tedyne+e2v, SRI, AMS-CMOSIS, Alacron

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Jan 2016 – Dec 2019

**Recent Accomplishments:**

- EMCCD wafers processed by low-temperature SL-doping
- Visible-blind filters on SL-doped EMCCDs (optimized: 120-160 nm)
- TREBall-2 flown. Detector performed well. Data analysis ongoing
- Partnership with CMOS vendors (SRI). Wafer processing underway
- Radiation testing moving forward as planned (WFIRST protocol)
- Room-temperature proton radiation testing on one device
- Completed testing of low-T-processed SL-doped EMCCD wafers

**Next Milestones:**

- Pocket pumping characterizations pre radiation (Aug 2019)
- Complete pad opening, packaging, testing low-T-processed SL-doped EMCCDs (Sep 2019)
- Complete processing first batch of low-noise CMOS wafers (Sep 2019)
- Radiation testing (Nov 2019)

**Applications:**

- LUVVOIR, HabEx, Lynx
- Probes, Explorers, CubeSats

CMOS TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 4-5    Note: TRLs assessed for EMCCD TRL<sub>in</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5-6    2-µm, integrated filters

© 2018 California Institute of Technology

## Enhanced MgF<sub>2</sub> and LiF Over-coated Al Mirrors for FUV Space Astronomy

PI: Manuel A. Quijada/Code 551

**Description and Objectives:**

- Development of high reflectivity coatings to increase system throughput, particularly in the far-UV (FUV) spectral range
- Study other dielectric fluoride coatings and other deposition technologies such as Ion Beam Sputtering (IBS) that is expected to produce the nearest to ideal morphology optical thin film coatings and thus low scatter.

**Key challenge/Innovation:**

- Achieving high reflectivity (> 90-95%) in the 90 to 250 nm range
- Scaling up coatings to large diameter (1+meter) mirror substrates

**Approach:**

- Retrofit a 2 meter coating chamber with heaters/thermal shroud to perform Physical Vapor Depositions at high temperatures (200-300 C) to further improve performance of Al mirrors protected with either MgF<sub>2</sub> or LiF overcoats.
- Optimize deposition process of lanthanide trifluorides as high-index materials that when paired with either MgF<sub>2</sub> or LiF will enhance reflectance of Al mirrors at Lyman-alpha.
- Establish the IBS coating process to optimize deposition of MgF<sub>2</sub> and LiF with extremely low absorptions at FUV wavelengths.

**Key Collaborators:**

- Javier del Hoyo, Steve Rice and Felix Threat (551)
- Jeff Kruk and Charles Bowers (665)

**Development Period:**  
Oct. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2014

**Accomplishments:**

- Performed end-to-end testing of the 3-step Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) coating process in 2 meter chamber to enable 1-meter class mirrors with either Al-MgF<sub>2</sub> or Al-LiF coatings for FUV applications
- Completed characterization of lanthanide trifluorides (GdF<sub>3</sub> and LuF<sub>3</sub>) to pair them with low-index MgF<sub>2</sub> layers to produce narrow-band dielectric reflectors at FUV wavelengths
- Production of mirrors with reflectance over 90% in FUV for ICON and GOLD projects.

**Applications:**

- Application of these enhanced mirror coating technology will enable FUV missions to investigate the formation and history of planets, stars, galaxies and cosmic structure, and how the elements of life in the Universe arose.

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Out</sub> = 4

## Next Generation FORTIS<sup>®</sup>

PI: Stephan McCandliss/JHU

**Description and Objectives:**

- Demonstrate the scientific utility and feasibility of multi-object spectroscopy over wide angular fields in the far-UV.
- First Science Investigation:
  - Spectroscopy of Hot Star Clusters in galaxy M33
  - How does matter circulate from Disk to CGM?

**Key Challenge/Innovation:**

- Pulsed Actuated Next Gen Microshutter Arrays (NGMSA)
- New low scatter baffles to trap geo-Lyman alpha light
- Longlife, High QE, Large Area Borosilicate MCP's
- Autonomous Target Acquisitions

**Approach:**

- Collaborate with GSFC on NGMSA requirements and fabrication
- Sensor Sciences retrofit detector with new borosilicate MCPs with CsI photocathode
- Develop Wide-Field Lyra Geocoronal Simulator (WFLaGS)
- Design light traps suppress Lyra
- Involve graduate and undergraduates all phases of mission

**Key Collaborators:**

- Brian Welch, Anna Carter, Paul Feldman, William Blair, Luciana Bianchi - JHU
- Matt Greenhouse, S. Harvey Moseley, Alexander Kutvrev, Mary Li - GSFC
- Gerhardt Meurer - U. Western Australia

**Development Period:**  
1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021

**Accomplishments and Next Milestones:**

- Three flights of FORTIS have proven basic design
- Science results on Comet ISON have been published
- Baseline in-flight instrument performance established:
  - Scattered geo-Lyman alpha tail pole identified
  - Reproduced in-flight scatter signature
- Upcoming milestones include:
  - Launch of 36.352 UG from WSMR 27 October 2019 (Success!!!)
  - Post flight calibration Fall/Winter 2019/2020
  - Prep for Australia???

**Application:** Enabling Multi-object Spectroscopy for LUVVOIR future missions (Explorers, Probes, Flagships)

New Tech Readiness	TRL <sub>in</sub>	TRL <sub>Current</sub>	TRL <sub>Target</sub>
Borosilicate MCPs	4	7	7
NGMSA	4	7	7
Low Scatter Baffles	4	7	7

## High-Performance Sealed-Tube Cross-Strip Photon-Counting Sensors for UV-Vis Astrophysics Instruments

PI: Oswald Siegmund / UC Berkeley

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Exploit developments in atomic-layer-deposited (ALD) microchannel plates (MCPs), photocathodes, and cross strip (XS) readout techniques to implement a new generation of enhanced-performance sealed-tube photon-counting sensors that span the 115-nm-to-400-nm regime; subcomponent areas have achieved considerable technical development, but putting them into a robust, integrated package, advancing the TRL from 4 to 6 for the next UV/Vis astrophysics instruments has not yet been attempted

**Significance of Work:**

- Format, performance, and capabilities of the scheme is directly relevant to the requirements specified for CETUS, LUVVOIR and HABEX, as well as upcoming SMEX, CubeSat and sub-orbital projects

**Approach:**

- Adopt current Photonis Planacon 50-mm sealed tube and implement the new technologies within this envelope
- Implement UV MgF<sub>2</sub> entrance window and UV-optimized bi-alkali semitransparent photocathode with narrow (~200-µm) proximity gap
- Replace standard MCPs with two ALD MCPs, depositing an opaque UV photocathode onto MCP input surface
- Replace pad-uv anode with XS anode readout

**Key Collaborators:**

- Dr. T. Cremer (Incom Inc.)
- Dr. J. DeFazio (Photonis USA)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

**Recent Achievements:**

- ALD MCPs: new 54-mm ALD 10-µm MCPs received, perform much better than original material, flat fields and linearity much improved; tested and ready to install in first Planacon device
- Planacon: body-anode trial seals completed successfully
- XS anodes: 47-mm anodes cut to size, plated, ready for 1<sup>st</sup> device.
- New bi-alkali cathode on MgF<sub>2</sub>, 2x better QE, stable, and 360-nm cutoff
- Opaque CsI deposited on initial 10-µm ALD MCPs and QE measured

**Next Milestones:**

- Initial 10-µm and 20-µm ALD MCPs life-test in progress
- Fabricate and test optimized bi-alkali cathode on MgF<sub>2</sub> (Aug 2019)
- QE tests and pre-conditioning of new 10-µm ALD MCPs (Dec 2019)
- Complete 1<sup>st</sup> planacon tube build (Oct 2019)
- Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> planacon tube build (Mar 2020)
- Papers, talks for SPIE (Aug 2019) and AMOS (Sep 2019) accepted

**Applications:**

- Explorer, Probe class (CETUS), Flagship (LUVVOIR, HABEX), Suborbital
- Planetary and Earth-observing missions
- Homeland security, biological imaging, high energy physics

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 6

## Scalable Microshutter Systems for UV, Visible, and Infrared Spectroscopy

PI: Matt Greenhouse, NASA GSFC

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Eliminate macro-mechanisms required by the prior JWST magnetic actuation technology
- Develop large-array format and modular packaging for large-field-of-view applications
- Enable electrostatic actuation with high pixel operability
- Enable large-array format compatible with vibration/acoustic flight environment
- Enable 3-side-buttable packaging for large-field-of-view applications

**Significance of Work:**

- This technology uniquely enables the multi-object spectroscopy objectives of three Decadal Survey mission concept studies (HabEx, LUVVOIR, and CETUS)

**Approach:**

- Evolve shutter mechanical and electrical design to above objectives
- Incorporate improved oxide (ALD) to enable electrostatic actuation
- Incorporate 3D printing to increase manufacturability of large-format design
- Develop drive electronics for electrostatic actuation
- Develop 6<sup>th</sup>-wafer process and tooling necessitated by new array format requirement
- Incorporate anti-stiction techniques to improve pixel operability

**Key Collaborators:**

- Stephan McCandliss (JHU)

**Development Period:**  
Oct 2018 – Sep 2021

**Accomplishments:**

- ALD process development and going through modification
- Number of pilot arrays are fabricated and assembled
- Suborbital flight assemblies are delivered for FORTIS
- High voltage actuation drivers are selected
- Ceramic substrates were designed
- Large array mask layout was completed

**Next Milestones:**

- Actuation scheme is being developed and in the process of refinement
- Preparation of large-array testing system

**Application:**

- Sparse field multi-object spectroscopy
- New missions LUVVOIR, HabEx, CETUS, AERIE

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

## Development of DMD Arrays for Use in Future Space Missions

PI: Zoran Ninkov / Rochester Institute of Technology

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- A technology is needed that allows target selection in a field of view that can be input to an imaging spectrometer for remote sensing and astronomy
- We are looking to modify and develop Digital Micro-mirror Devices (DMDs) for this application

**Significance of Work:**

- Existing DMDs need to have the commercial windows replaced with appropriate windows for the scientific application desired
- The devices need to be evaluated for survivability in a space environment

**Approach:**

- Use available 0.7 XGA DMDs to develop window removal procedures, and then replace delivered window with a hermetically sealed UV-transmissive window of Magnesium Fluoride, HEM sapphire, and fused silica
- Test and evaluate such devices and as well as Cinema DMDs

**Key Collaborators:**

- Sally Heag, Manuel Quijada, Jonny Pellish, and Tim Schwartz (NASA/GSFC)
- Massimo Roberto (STScl)
- Alan Raisanen (RTI)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
May 2014 – May 2018

**Recent Accomplishments:**

- 0.7 XGA DMD and 1.2 DCKZ DMDs delivered
- XGA devices re-windowed with MgF<sub>2</sub>, Sapphire, and fused silica
- Proton and heavy-ion testing show good results (only SEUs)
- Contrast measurements indicate high contrast (>5000:1)

**Next Milestones:**

- Analysis and publication of gamma-ray testing (Dec 2017)
- Measurement, analysis, and publication of UV scattering measurements (Feb 2018)
- Low-temperature long-hold-time testing (Apr 2018)

**Applications:**

- Can be used in any hyper-spectral imaging mission
- Galaxy Evolution Spectroscopic Probe

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 4    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

## E-Beam-Generated Plasma to Enhance Performance of Protected Aluminum Mirrors for Large-Space-Telescope Astronomy

PI: Manuel Quijada/Code 551

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Development of aluminum-based mirror coatings with high reflectance over a broad spectral range and particularly in the far-ultraviolet (FUV) spectral range
- Development of a plasma-based cleaning process to restore reflectance of mirror coatings in the FUV spectral region

**Significance of Work:**

- Successful oxide removal and passivation of Al-based coating will open the possibility of developing a large-scale process to enable the intrinsic high reflectance of Al-based reflectors on 1-m class mirrors

**Approach:**

- Produce samples of bare aluminum and overcoat with a metal-fluoride in the 2-m GSFC coating chamber
- Process various Al and metal-fluoride coatings by using the Large Area Plasma Processing System (LAPPS) at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)
- Demonstrate oxide removal and fluorination processing on the LAPPS meter-scale facility

**Key Collaborators:**

- Javier del Hoyo, Ed Wollack, and Vivek Dwivedi (NASA/GSFC)
- David Boris and Scott Walton (NRL)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

**Accomplishment:**

- Optimized plasma parameters of the LAPPS reactor to varying process parameters to optimize etching capabilities for Al-based coatings

**Next Milestone:**

- Oxide removal and passivation of bare Al mirrors with a thin AlF<sub>3</sub> layer

**Applications:**

- Flagship FUV missions
- Explorer type FUV missions

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 4

## High Performance, Stable, and Scalable UV Aluminum Mirror Coatings using ALD

PI: John Hennessy / JPL

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Atomic layer deposition (ALD) for wide bandpass (100–2500 nm) mirror coatings with emphasis on high performance in the FUV through the use of lithium fluoride based coatings
- Studying and enhancing long term performance stability.
- Demonstrating ALD scalability trends towards large (>1 m) size mirrors.
- Study fundamentals of aluminum deposition with respect to birefringence, microstructure, and ALD compatibility.
- Measurement and modeling of reflectance uniformity, wavefront error, and polarization retardance over the full aperture of shaped optics in the wavelength bands of interest to exoplanet coronagraphs.

**Significance of Work:**

- An alternative to conventional physical vapor deposition (PVD) methods.
- Improvements in performance, repeatability, and scalability are an enabling technology for LUVVOIR.

**Approach:**

- JPL's hydrogen fluoride based approach for ALD metal fluorides, as well as thermal atomic layer deposition (ALD) to maximize performance of UV protected-aluminum mirror coatings.
- Exploiting the unique capabilities of ALD including nanolaminate structures and mixed composition fluoride overcoats.
- Hardware at USFC originally developed for ALD-protected silver mirror coatings to demonstrate scale at >1 meter diameter.
- Facilities developed for flight projects at CU Boulder will allow detailed characterization of "flight-like" optics.

**Key Collaborators:**

- April Jewell, K. Balasubramanian, Shouleh Nikzad (JPL)
- Kevin France, Brian Fleming (CU Boulder)
- Nobuhiko Kobayashi (USFC)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2022

**Recent Accomplishments:**

- New project starting FY20

**Next Milestones:**

- ALD LiF-based coating meeting LUVVOIR performance requirements with <1% variation over five independent coating runs.
- First direct comparison of ALD vs. PVD coating dependencies on humidity
- Coating of 200 mm shaped optic with demonstration of <5% reflectance loss in the challenging 100–200 nm spectrum in accelerated aging tests.

**Applications:**

- LUVVOIR, enhancing technology for HabEx.
- Will produce shaped optics relevant for a variety of probe-class, explorer-class, and smallsat instrumentation.

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Current</sub> = 3    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

## Ultraviolet Coatings, Materials, and Processes for Advanced Telescope Optics

PI: K. 'Bala' Balasubramanian / JPL

**Objectives and Key Challenges:**

- Development of UV coatings with high reflectivity (>90-95%), high uniformity (<1-0.1%), and wide bandpasses (~100 nm to 300-1000 nm) is a major technical challenge; this project aims to address this key challenge and develop feasible technical solutions
- Materials and process technology are the main challenges; improvements in existing technology base and significant innovations in coating technology such as Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) are to be developed

**Significance of Work:**

- This is a key requirement for future Cosmic Origins and ExoPlanet missions, such as LUVVOIR and HabEx.

**Approach:**

- Develop a set of experimental data with MgF<sub>2</sub>, AlF<sub>3</sub>, and LiF-protected Al mirrors in the wavelength range 100-1000 nm for a comprehensive base of measurements, enabling full-scale developments with chosen materials and processes
- Investigate and develop enhanced coating processes including ALD
- Improve characterization and measurement techniques

**Key Collaborators:**

- John Hennessy, Shouleh Nikzad, Nasrat Raouf, Stuart Shaklan (JPL)
- Paul Sclaw (ASU)
- Manuel Quijada (GSFC)

**Current Funded Period of Performance:**  
Jan 2013 – Dec 2015

**Recent Accomplishments:**

- Upgraded coating chamber with sources, temperature controllers, and other monitors to produce various coatings
- Upgraded measurement tools at JPL and GSFC
- Produced and tested several coatings with MgF<sub>2</sub>, AlF<sub>3</sub>, and LiF
- Fabricated several iterations of protective coatings on Al mirrors
- Developed ALD coating processes for MgF<sub>2</sub>, AlF<sub>3</sub>, and LiF at JPL
- Developed and studied Atomic Layer Etching (ALE) techniques
- Produced and characterized first set of test coupons representing 1m-class mirror to assess uniformity

**Further Research Needed:**

- Enhancements to conventional coating techniques and ALD and ALE processes to advance the TRL status depending on further funding

**Applications:**

- Future astrophysics and exoplanet missions such as LUVVOIR and HabEx intended to capture key spectral features from far-UV to near-IR

TRL<sub>in</sub> = 2-3    TRL<sub>Assessed</sub> = 3-4    TRL<sub>Target</sub> = 5

# Status of Each Item as of ~2021

Based on Table 11-3 of LUVOIR Report

Black font = current status as of 2018, from Table 11-3 of LUVOIR Final Report

Orange font = SAT Quad Charts

7	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment.	SPRITE Prime Mission			FORTIS Rocket for 128x64 format							
<b>LUVOIR Preliminary Design Review</b>												
6	System / sub-system model or prototype demonstration in an operational environment.	SPRITE I&T					meets requirements for 100-150 nm					
5	Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment.	ALD on >20 cm optics; aging tests <a href="#">Hennessy SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		Meets performance requirements, but is environmentally unstable	2021 Greenhouse SAT Goal	UV performance measurements on re-windowed XGAs <a href="#">Ninkov SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		Vallerga SAT			Figer SAT	8K x 8K devices exist with 18 micron pixels, lacks high speed subarray readout for guiding
4	Component and/or breadboard validation in lab environment					>5000:1 contrast achieved on re-windowed XGA format (1024x768) <a href="#">Ninkov SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		meets requirements for 100-150 nm; requires devel for large tile size and integration with cross-strip readout. GaN has better Solar-blind performance	Demonstrated 50% improved QE with CsI photocathode	4K x 4K devices exist, require development for 8K x 8K and readout optimization		
3	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept	Meets performance requirements, but requires demonstration on meter-class optics, validation of uniformity, repeatability, and env. stability <a href="#">PVD</a> ; <a href="#">Quijada SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>				840x420 prototype demonstrated, but requires devel. to survive launch <a href="#">Greenhouse SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>						
		> 50% over 100-115 nm, > 80% over 115-200 nm > 88% over 200 - 850 nm, > 96% over > 850 nm, < 1% reflectance non-uniformity over primary mirror in coronagraph bandpass (200-2000 nm)			840x420 format, two-side buttable, high contrast		200 mm x 200 mm tile size > 30% QE between 100-200 nm			8K x 9K format, < 7 μm pixels, three-side buttable, ~1 e- read noise, 10 <sup>-4</sup> e-/pix/s dark at 170K		
		Al+eLiF+MgF <sub>2</sub> <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Al+eLiF+AlF <sub>3</sub>	Al+eLiF	Microshutters <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Micromirrors	CsI <a href="#">Baseline</a>	GaN <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Bi-alkali	Funnel micro	8K x 8K CMOS <a href="#">Baseline</a>	4K x 4K CCDs
		Far-UV Broadband Coatings LUVOIR pg. 11-25			Configurable Shutters LUVOIR pg. 11-26		UV Microchannel Plate LUVOIR pg. 11-26			Visible Detectors LUVOIR pg. 11-27		

# This is why it is so important to focus on the key items. . .

Based on Table 11-3 of LUVOIR Report

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7	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment.	SPRITE Prime Mission			FORTIS Rocket for 128x64 format								
<b>LUVOIR Preliminary Design Review</b>													
6	System / sub-system model or prototype demonstration in an operational environment.	SPRITE I&T	<b>WHAT</b>			meets requirements for 100-150 nm	<b>HAPPENS HERE?</b>						
5	Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment.	ALD on >20 cm optics; aging tests <a href="#">Hennessy SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		Meets performance requirements, but is environmentally unstable	2021 Greenhouse SAT Goal	UV performance measurements on re-windowed XGAs <a href="#">Ninkov SAT</a> ; <a href="#">Quad</a>		Vallerga SAT			Figer SAT	8K x 8K devices exist with 18 micron pixels, lacks high speed subarray readout for guiding	
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		Al+eLiF+MgF <sub>2</sub> <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Al+eLiF+AlF <sub>3</sub>	Al+eLiF	Microshutters <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Micromirrors	CsI <a href="#">Baseline</a>	GaN <a href="#">Baseline</a>	Bi-alkali	Funnel micro	8K x 8K CMOS <a href="#">Baseline</a>	4K x 4K CCDs	
Far-UV Broadband Coatings LUVOIR pg. 11-25					Configurable Shutters LUVOIR pg. 11-26		UV Microchannel Plate LUVOIR pg. 11-26				Visible Detectors LUVOIR pg. 11-27		

# Propositions

- **NASA intends to ‘build HWO to schedule’, starting with GOMAP.**  
There is not an indefinite period available to carry low TRL items much longer.
- **The set of technologies that must be matured to meet the performance specs of the LUVOIR and HabEX studies is not large:**
  - (1) for UV coatings: performance below Ly $\alpha$ , scalability to large optics, and compatibility with a high-performance coronagraph.
  - (2) For MOS capabilities: microshutter (and/or micromirror) arrays must be scaled up to mission needs and proven in operational environments,
  - (3) For MCP and CMOS detectors: formats, focal plane packing . . . .
- **Let’s take advantage of this to focus on the key items that matter most, and build the UV tech dev plan that gets all this to TRL 5-6 during GOMAP.**