

A photograph of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory under construction on a mountain peak at dusk. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with a bright star visible. The observatory's large, white, multi-tiered structure is the central focus. Other smaller observatory buildings and a road are visible in the background.

Vera C. Rubin Observatory:  
Ushering a New Era of TDA

# what's in a name?



The first ground-based national US observatory named after a woman, Dr. Vera C. Rubin



In the first 10 years of its life Rubin will conduct the Legacy Survey of Space and Time or LSST



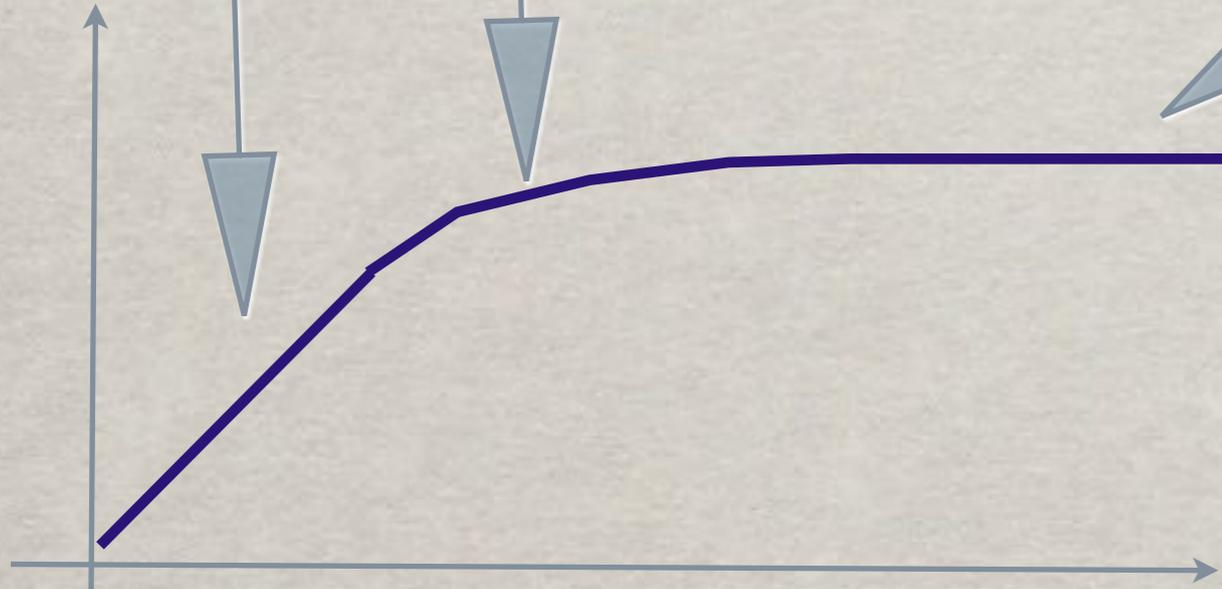
# Signal/Noise from a typical telescope

$$S_\nu \propto \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 T_{EXP} I_\nu \epsilon_\nu$$

**D:** Telescope Diameter  
**T<sub>EXP</sub>** Exposure time  
**I<sub>ν</sub>** Source Intensity  
**ε<sub>ν</sub>** Efficiency

$$N_\nu^2 \propto ron^2 + \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 T_{EXP} (I_\nu + B_\nu) \epsilon_\nu + \left( \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 T_{EXP} (I_\nu + B_\nu) \epsilon_\nu \right)^2 \times f_{FF}$$

**S/N**



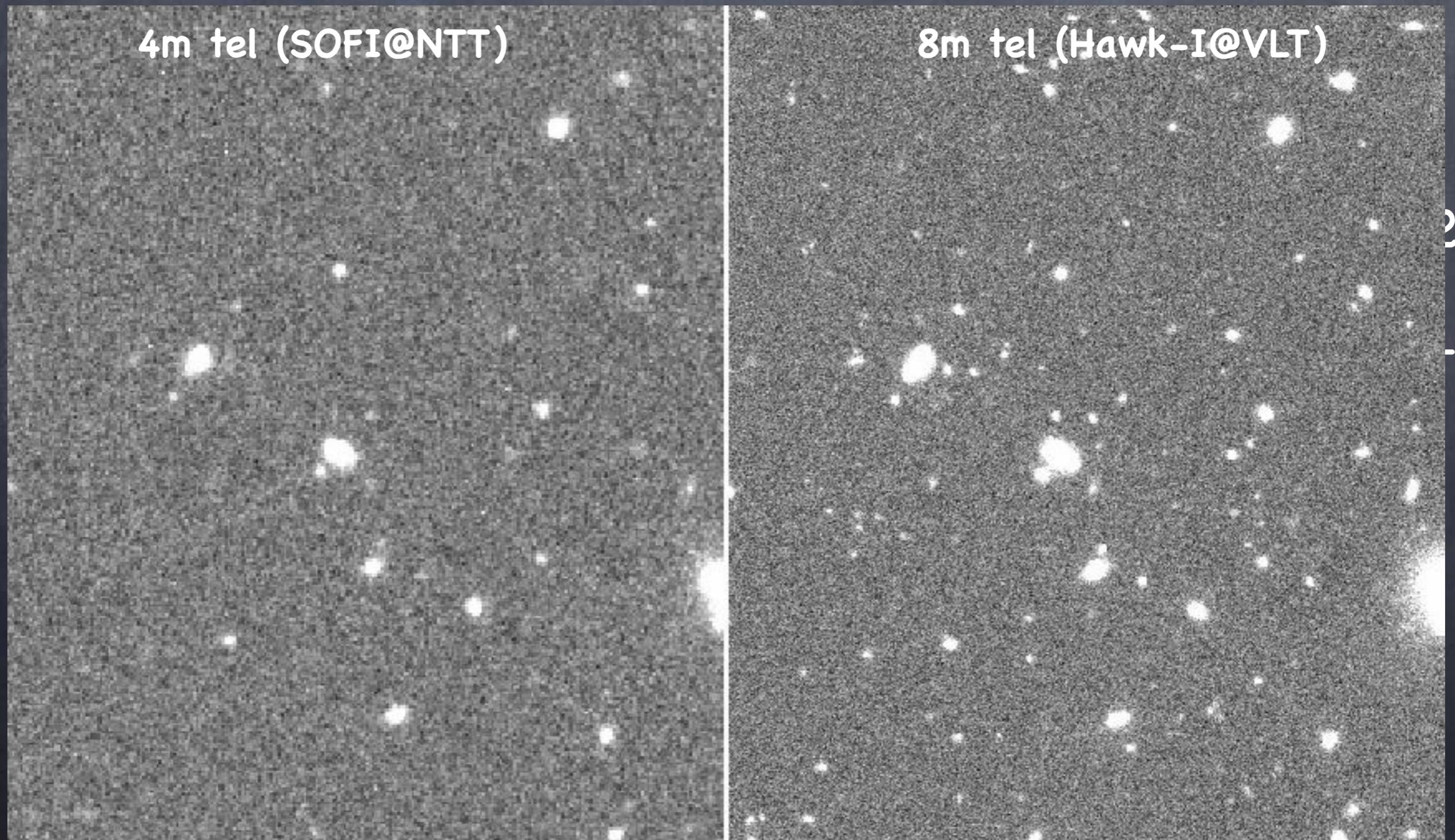
**ron:** read out noise  
**B<sub>ν</sub>:** Background Intensity  
**f<sub>FF</sub>** "Flat Field" noise

**T<sub>EXP</sub>**

# Why do we need larger telescopes?

1) To get more photons!

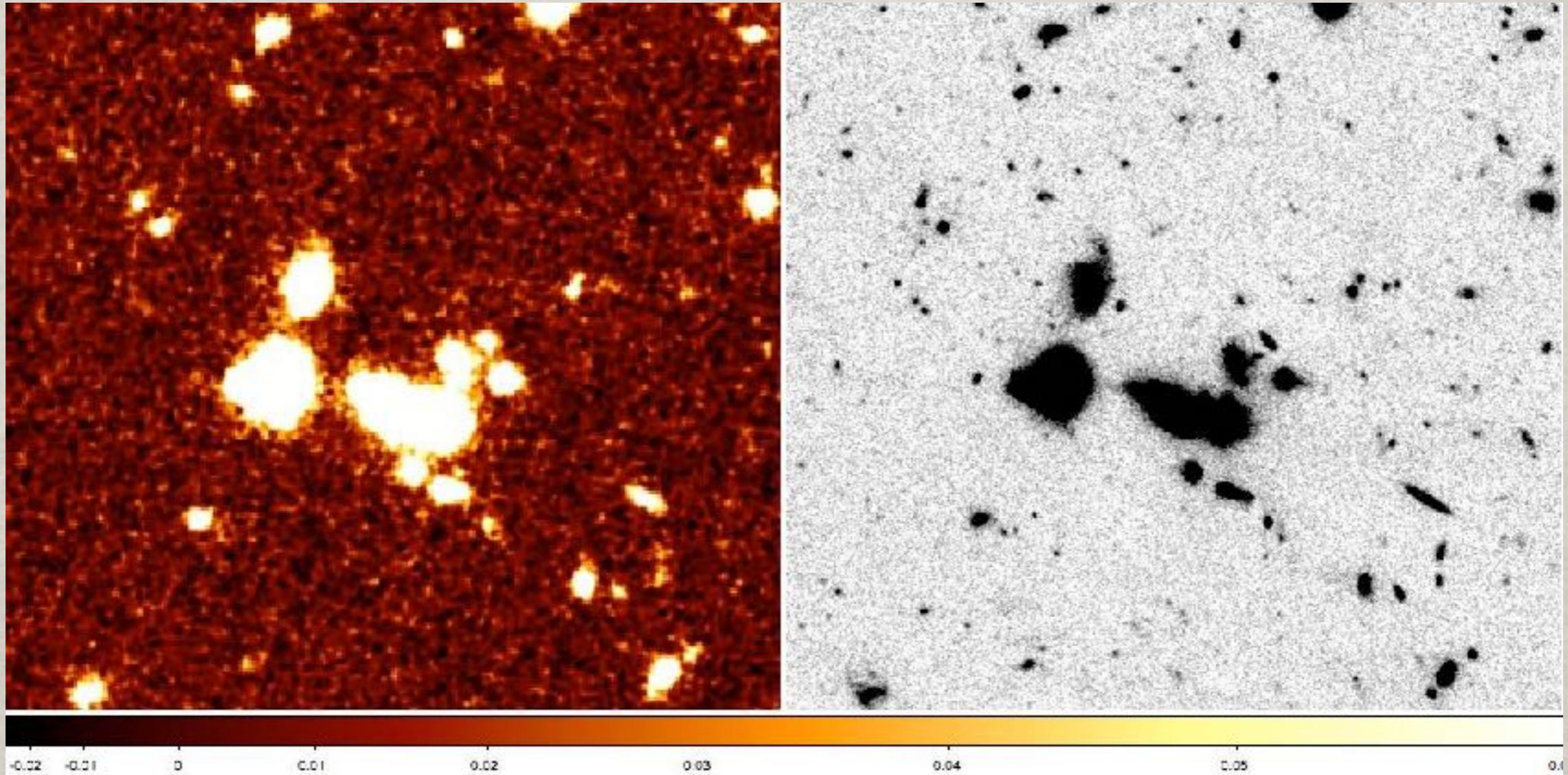
$$n_{\gamma} \propto D^2$$



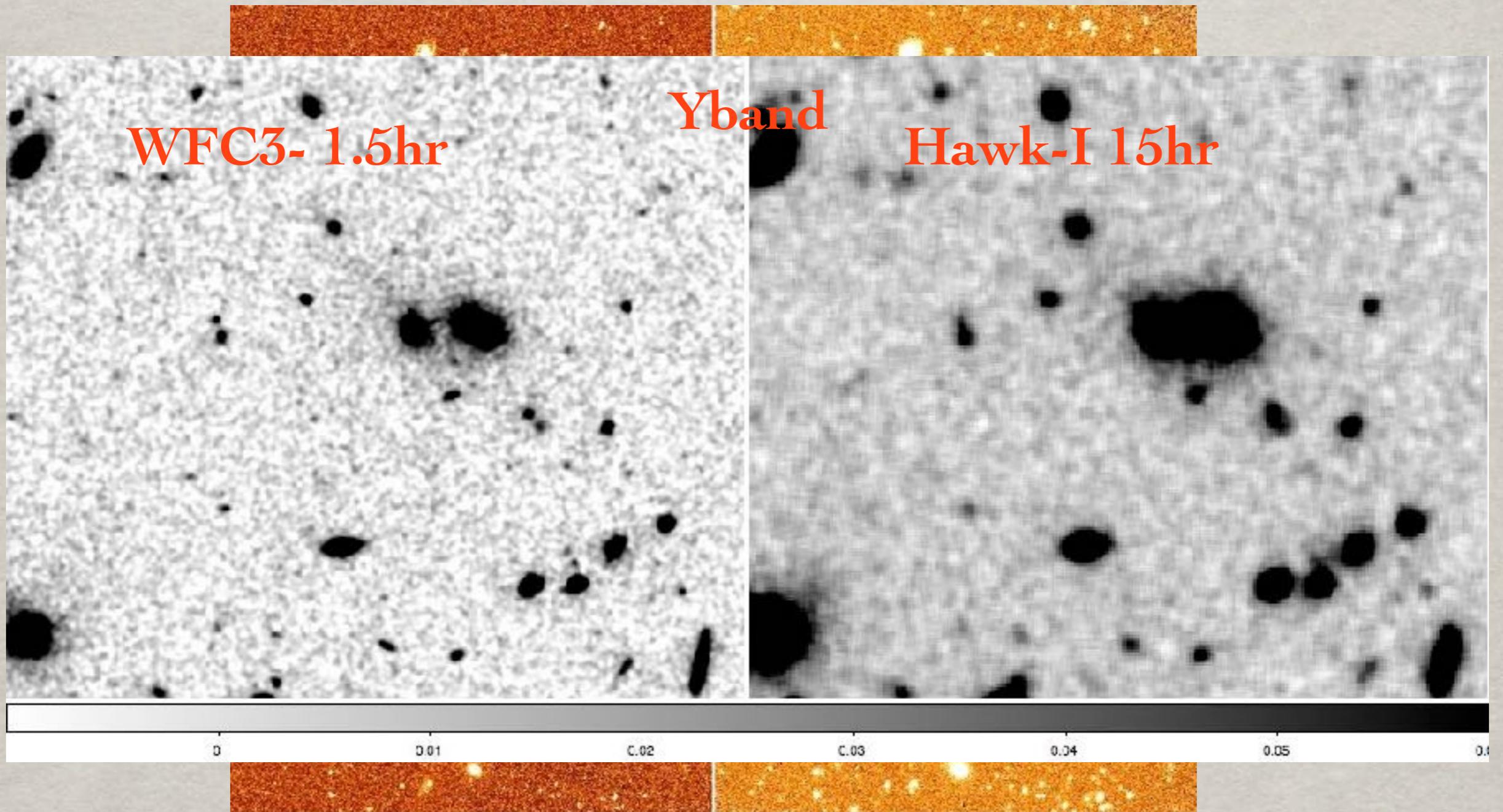
In the IR, observations from the ground are limited by the higher background --> HST wins.

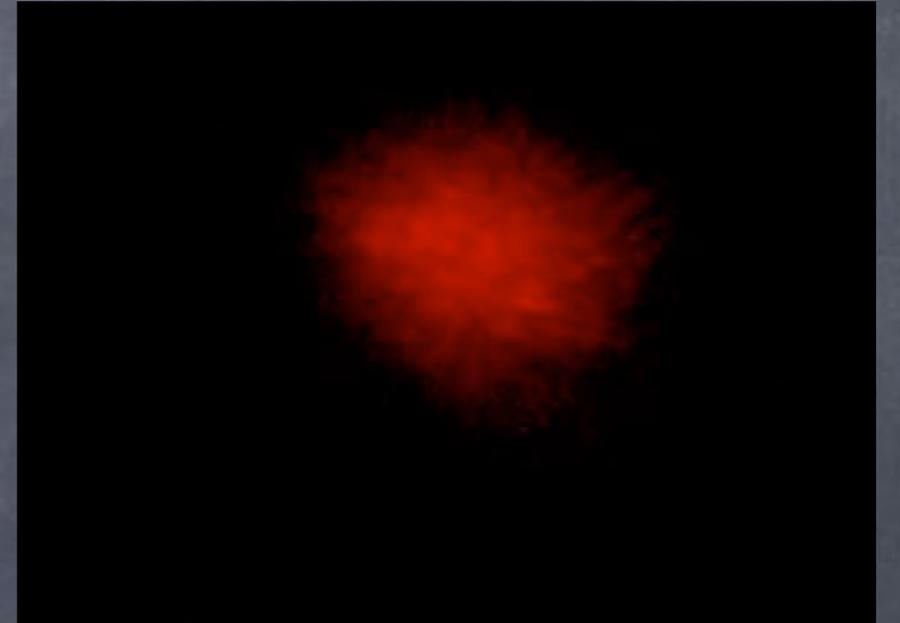
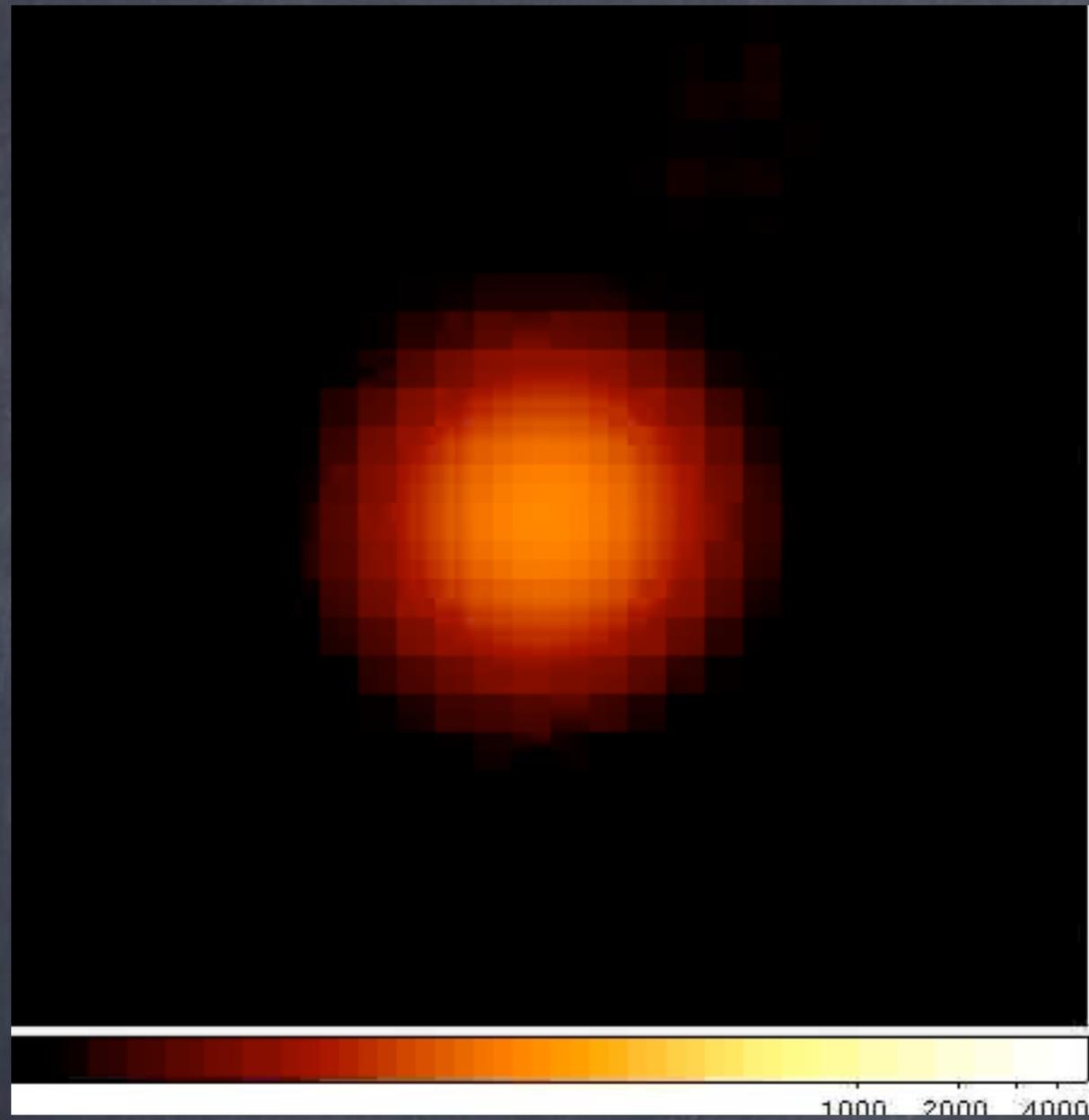
**VLT (8m ground)**  
*Y 15hr*

**WFC3@HST-J 22hr**



Ground-based telescopes are powerful survey machine, even in HST era.

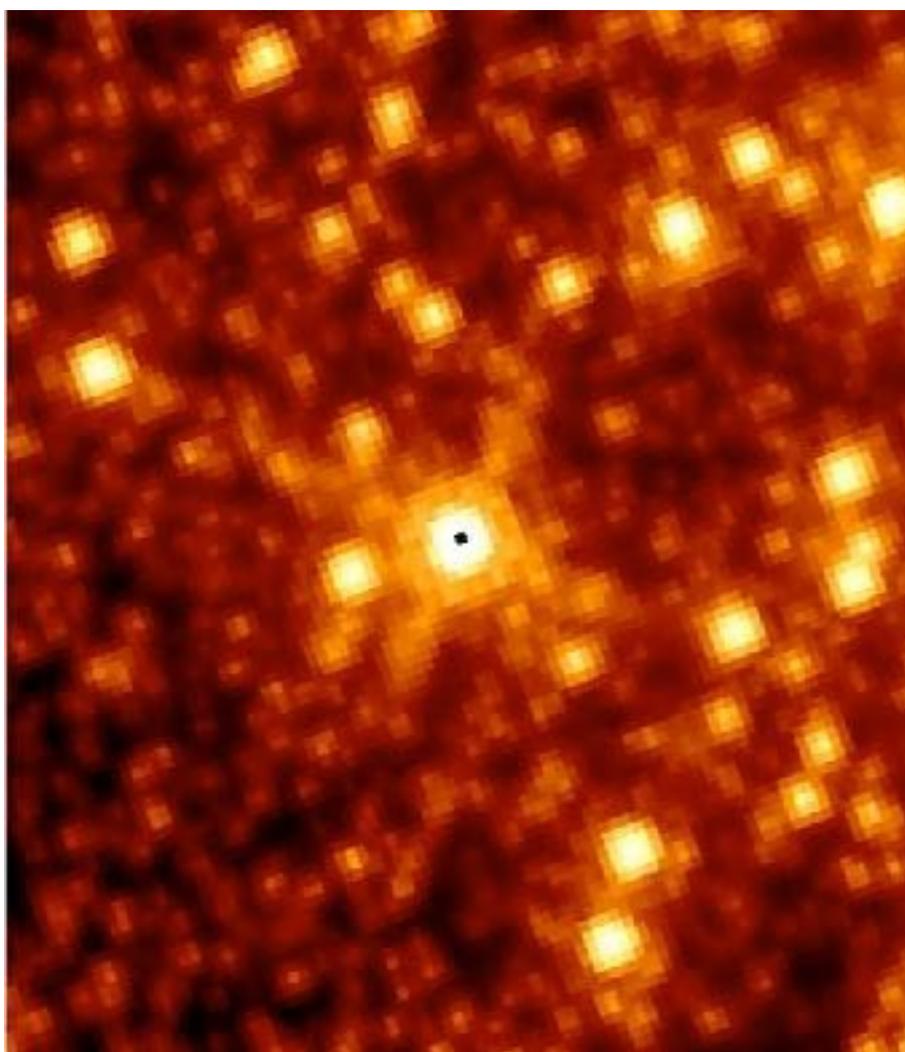




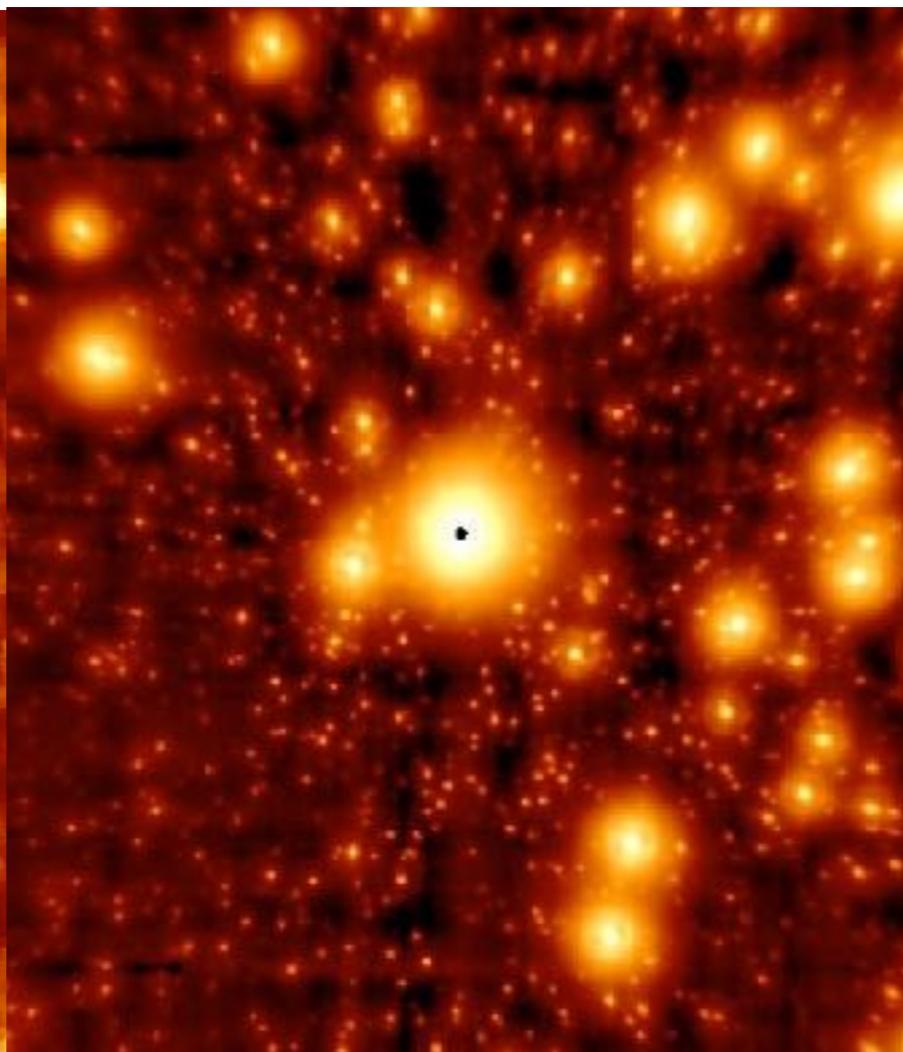
# The Globular cluster M92

Data reduction G.  
Bono & F. Mannucci

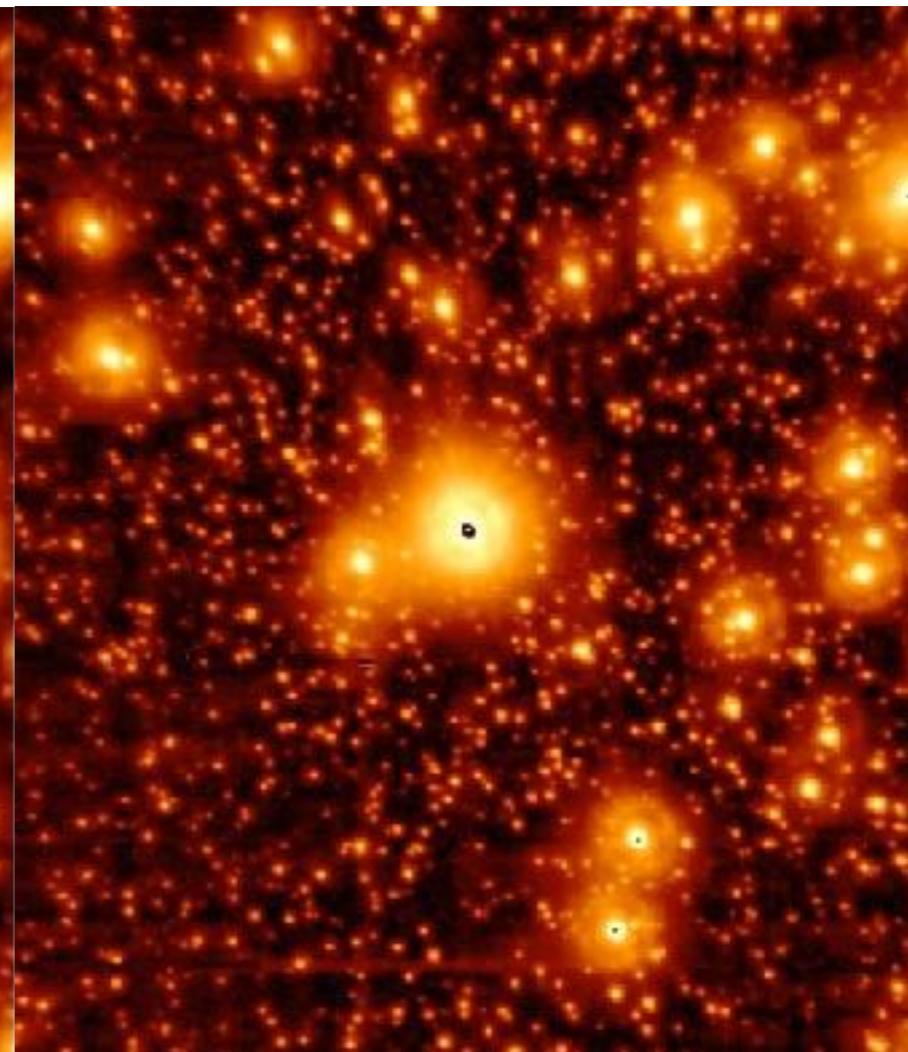
← 10'' →



HST/WFPC3, H band 21min



LBT J band, 6min

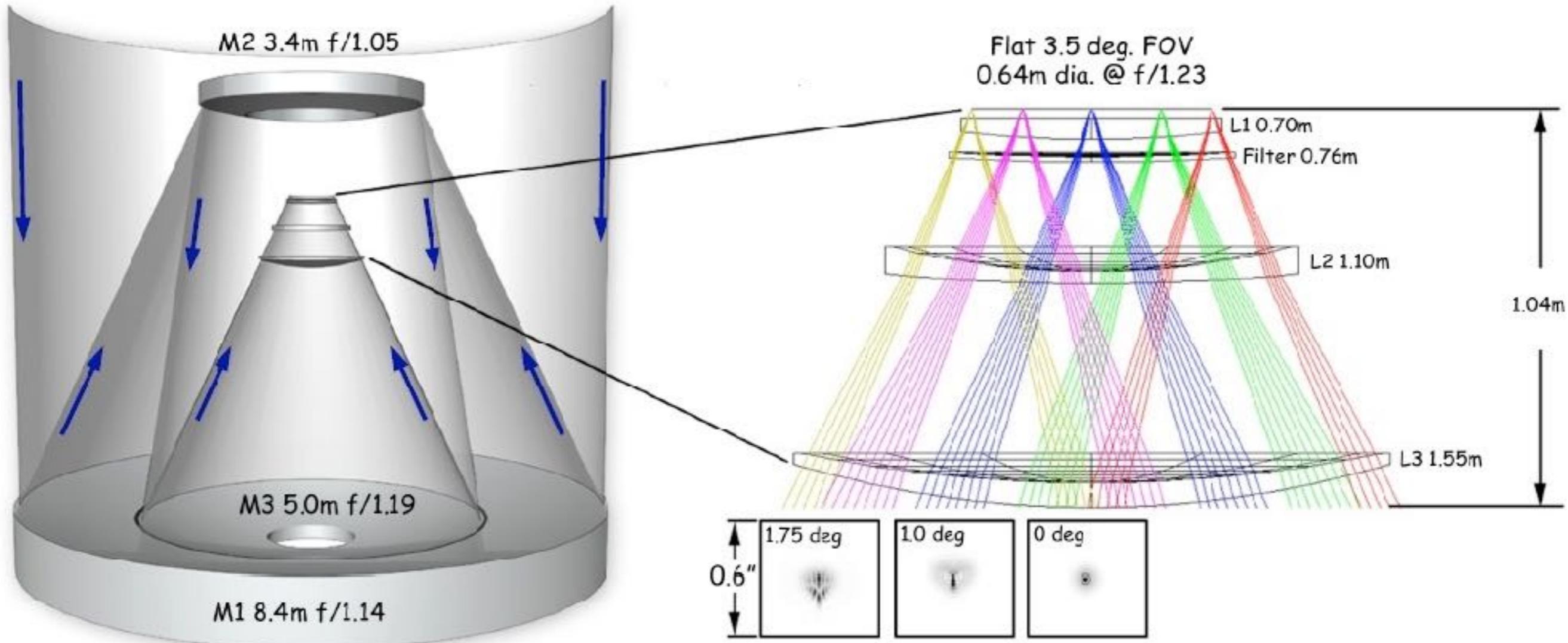


LBT K band, 3min

**Main data:** Rmag 12.0, 0.9'' seeing

**AO settings:** 0.5KHz, 15x15 subaps, 153 corrected modes

# Optical Design for LSST



Three-mirror design (Paul-Baker system)  
enables large field of view with excellent image quality:  
delivered image quality is dominated by atmospheric seeing

# The field-of-view comparison: Gemini vs. LSST

Primary Mirror Diameter

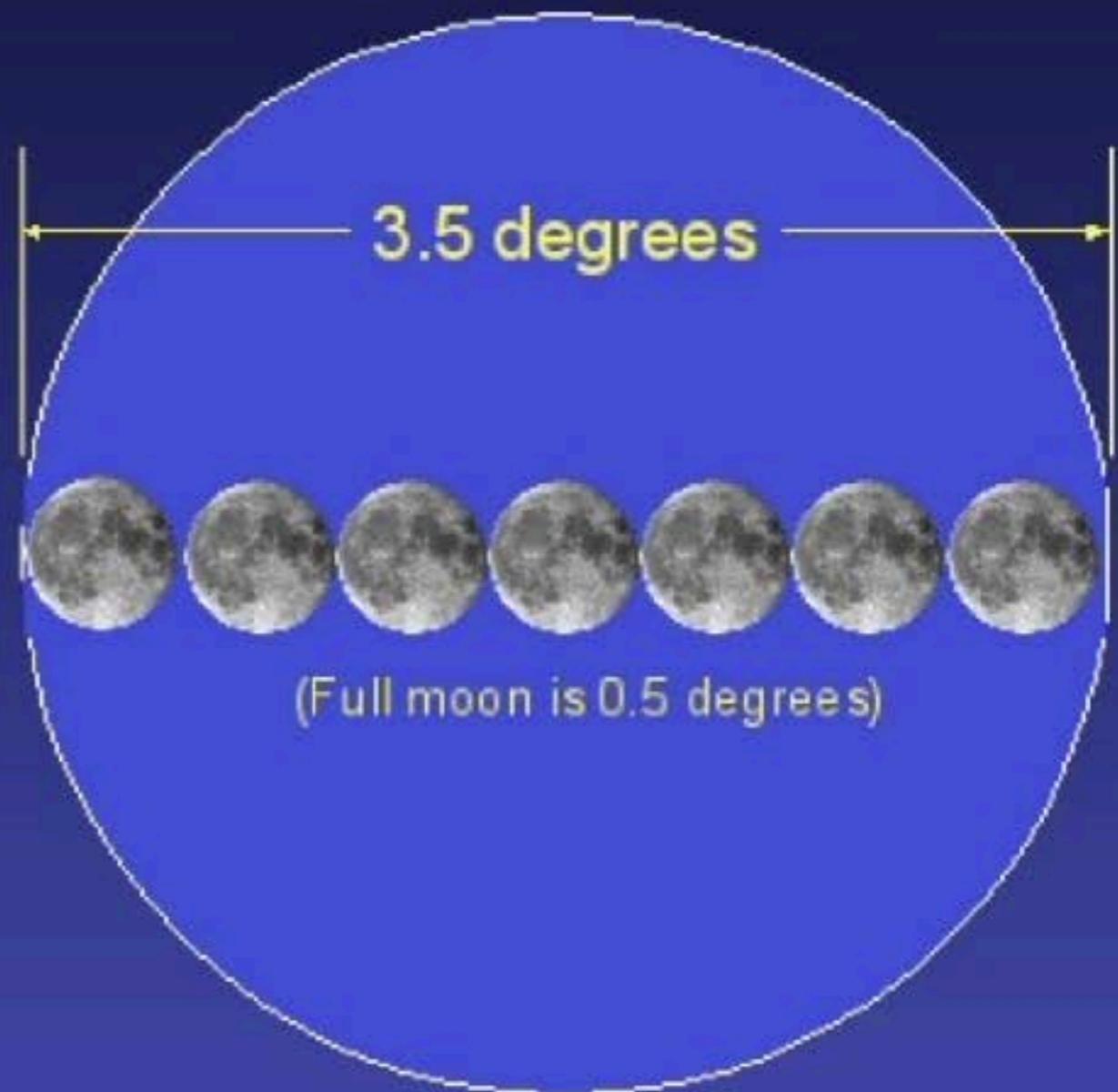
Field of View



Gemini South Telescope



LSST

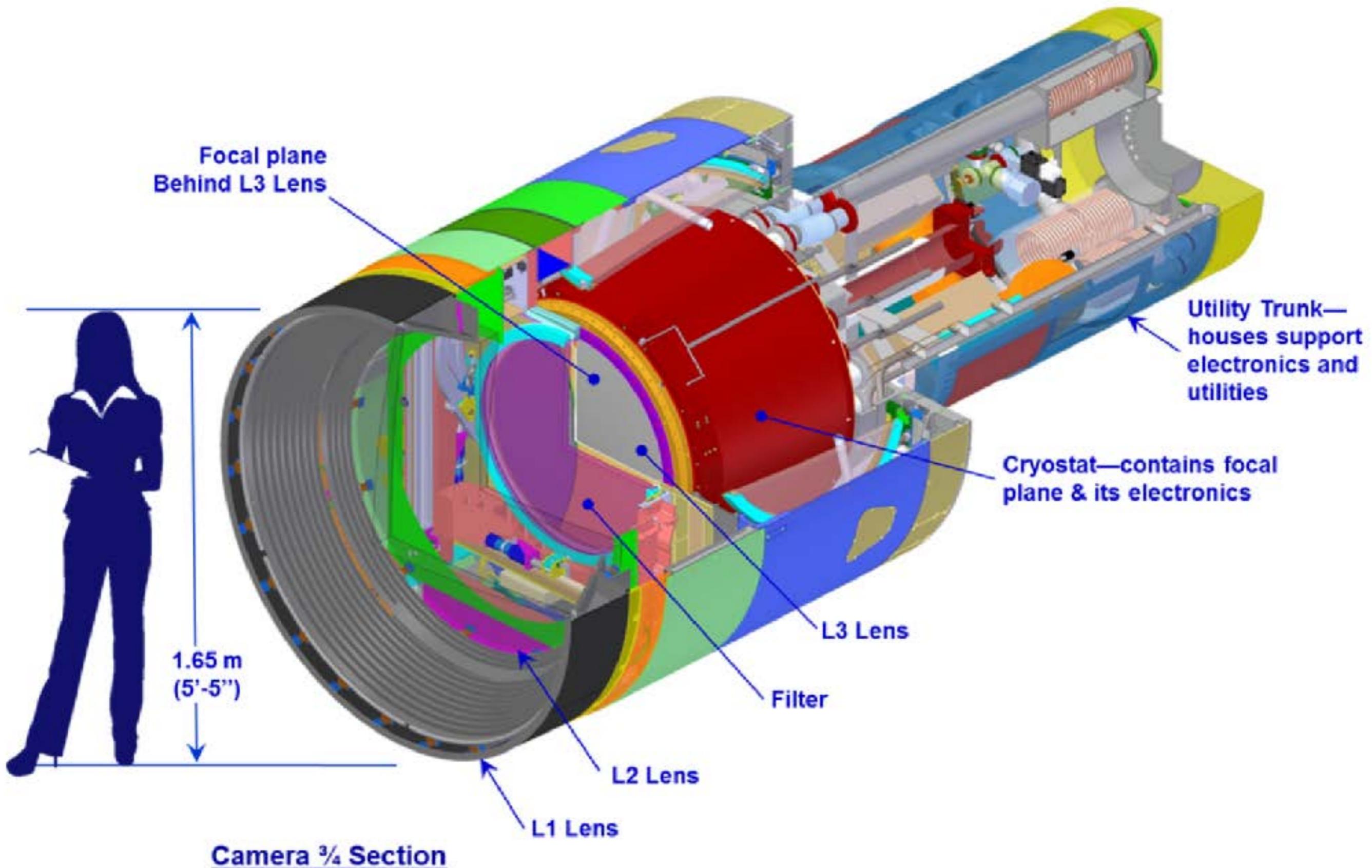


# Optical design

- Primary mirror 8.4m (6.6m effective)
- New optical design with three reflections
- FOV 9.6 sq. degrees
- 3.2 gigapixel instrument (189 CCDs) with a pixel scale of 0.2 arcsec/pixels

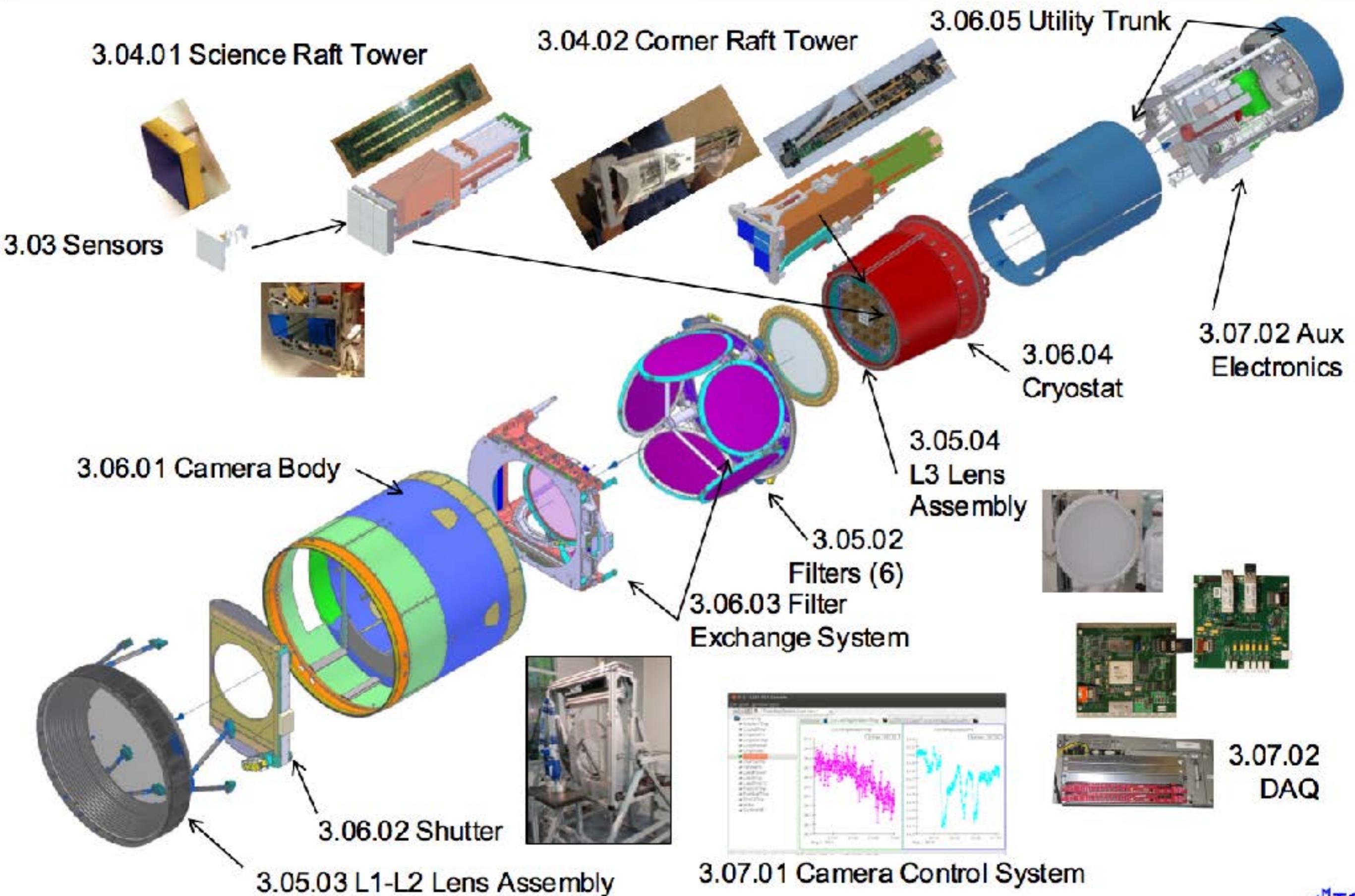


# LSST camera

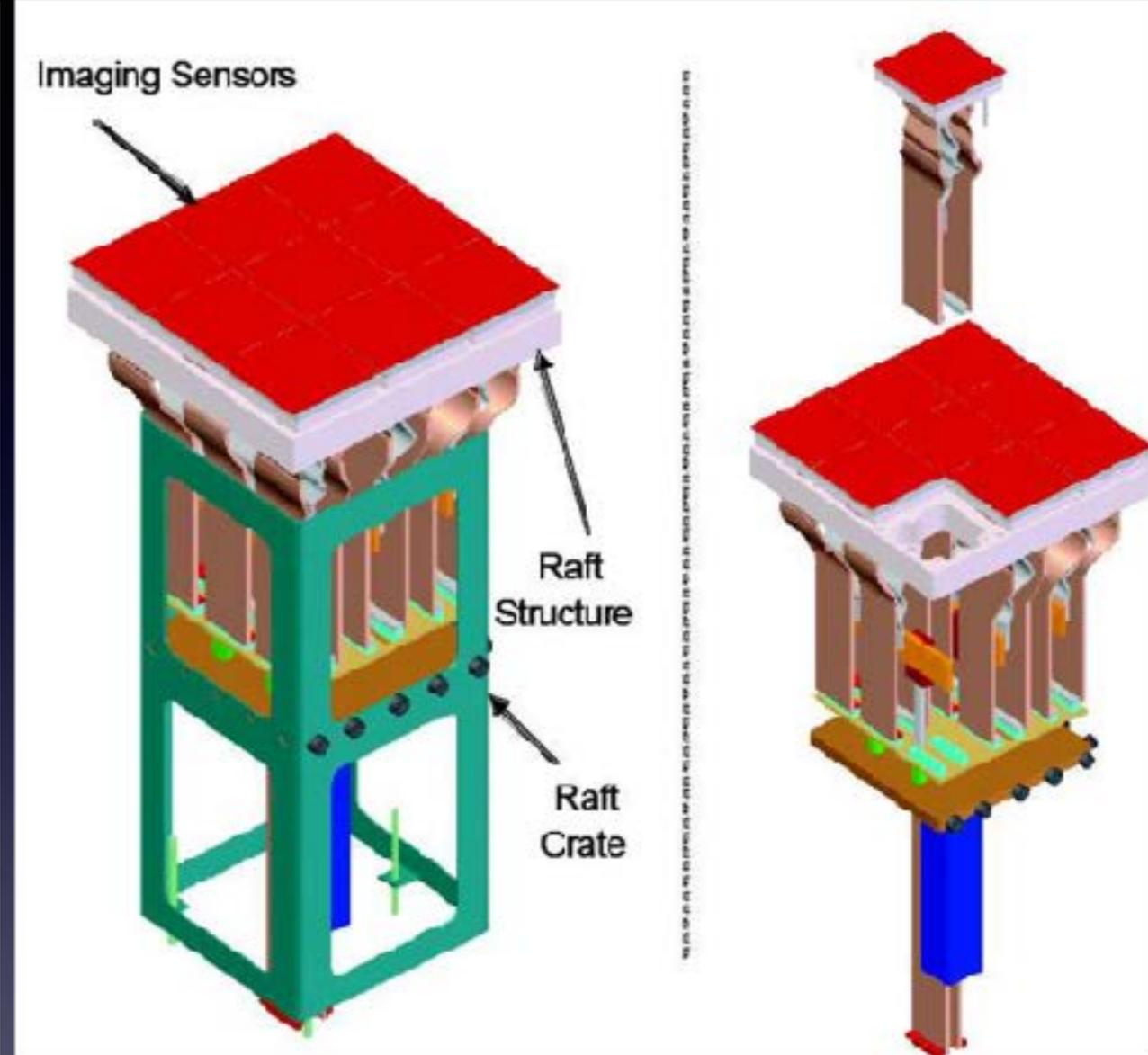
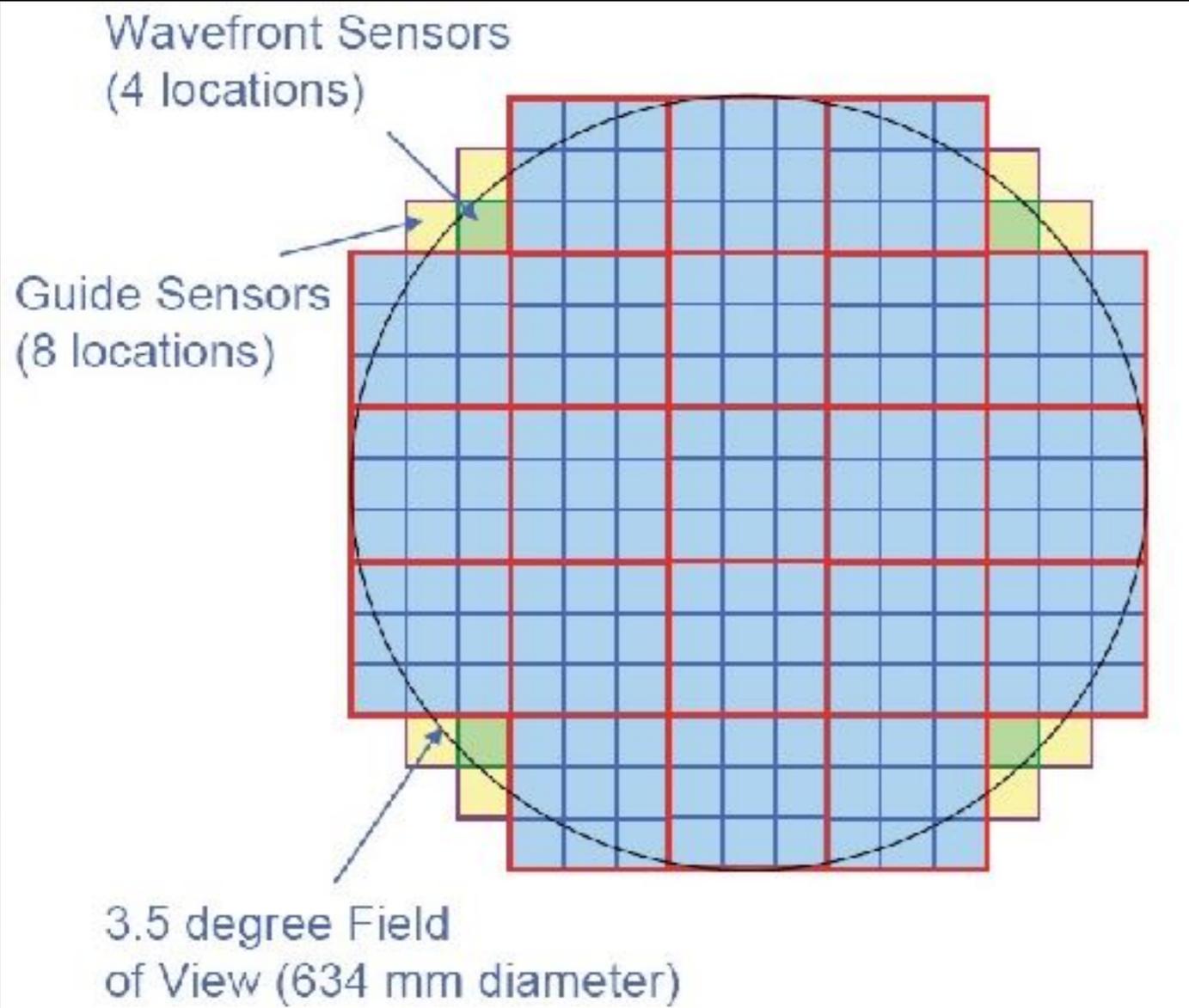


The largest astronomical camera: 2800 kg, 3200 Megapix

# Major Camera Elements



# LSST camera



Modular design: 3200 Megapix = 189 x 16 Megapix CCD

9 CCDs share electronics: raft (=camera)

Problematic rafts can be replaced relatively easily

LSST Science Sensor procurement (~200 CCDs) is complete!



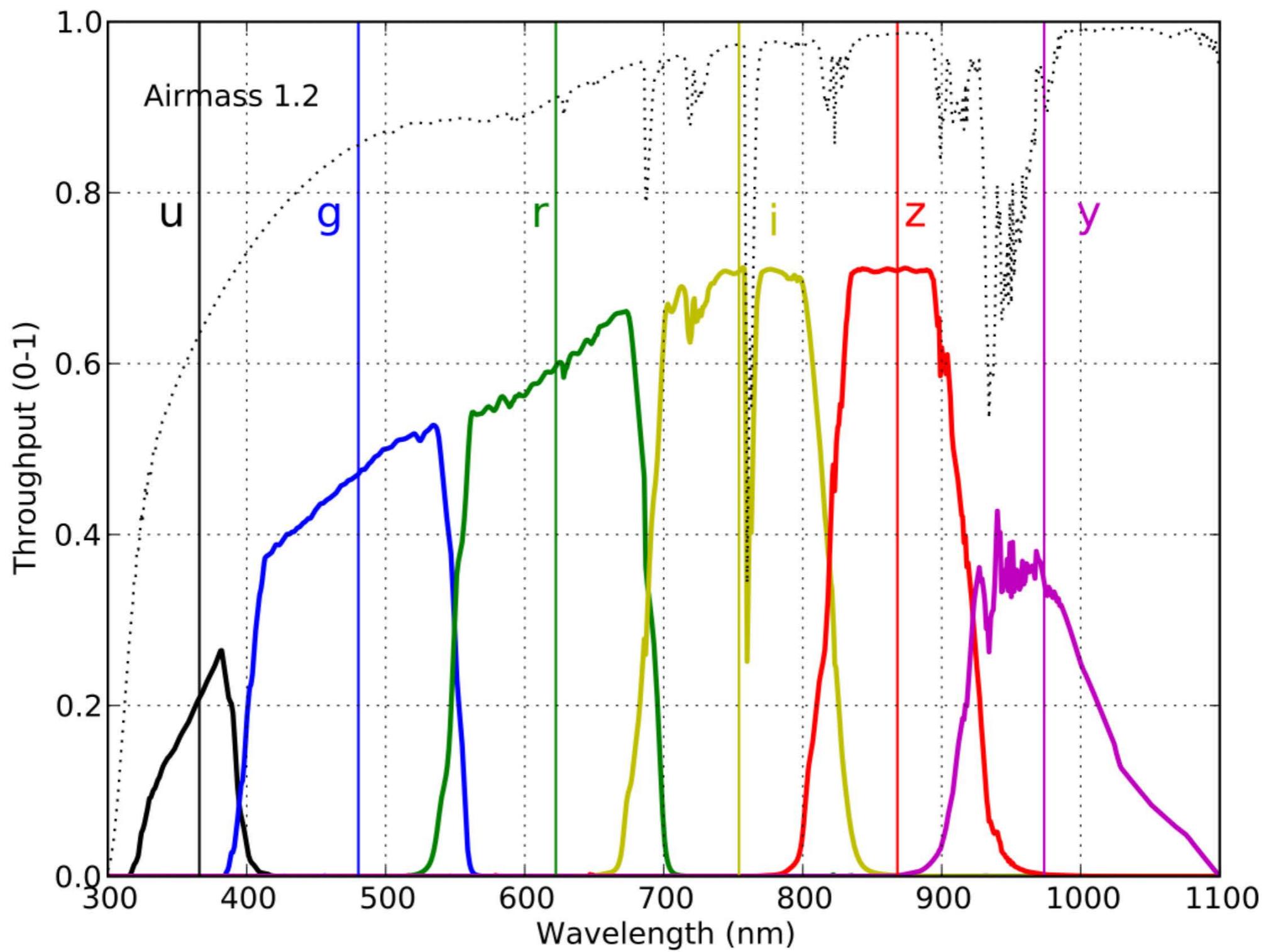
It would take about 1,500 HDTVs to display one image from LSST camera.

**Disclaimer:** I am unaware of any building with 1,500 HDTVs on its walls so we had to do this in PowerPoint...

To view all images one a HDTV with 30 frames per second, it would take 11 months!

**The greatest movie of all time!**

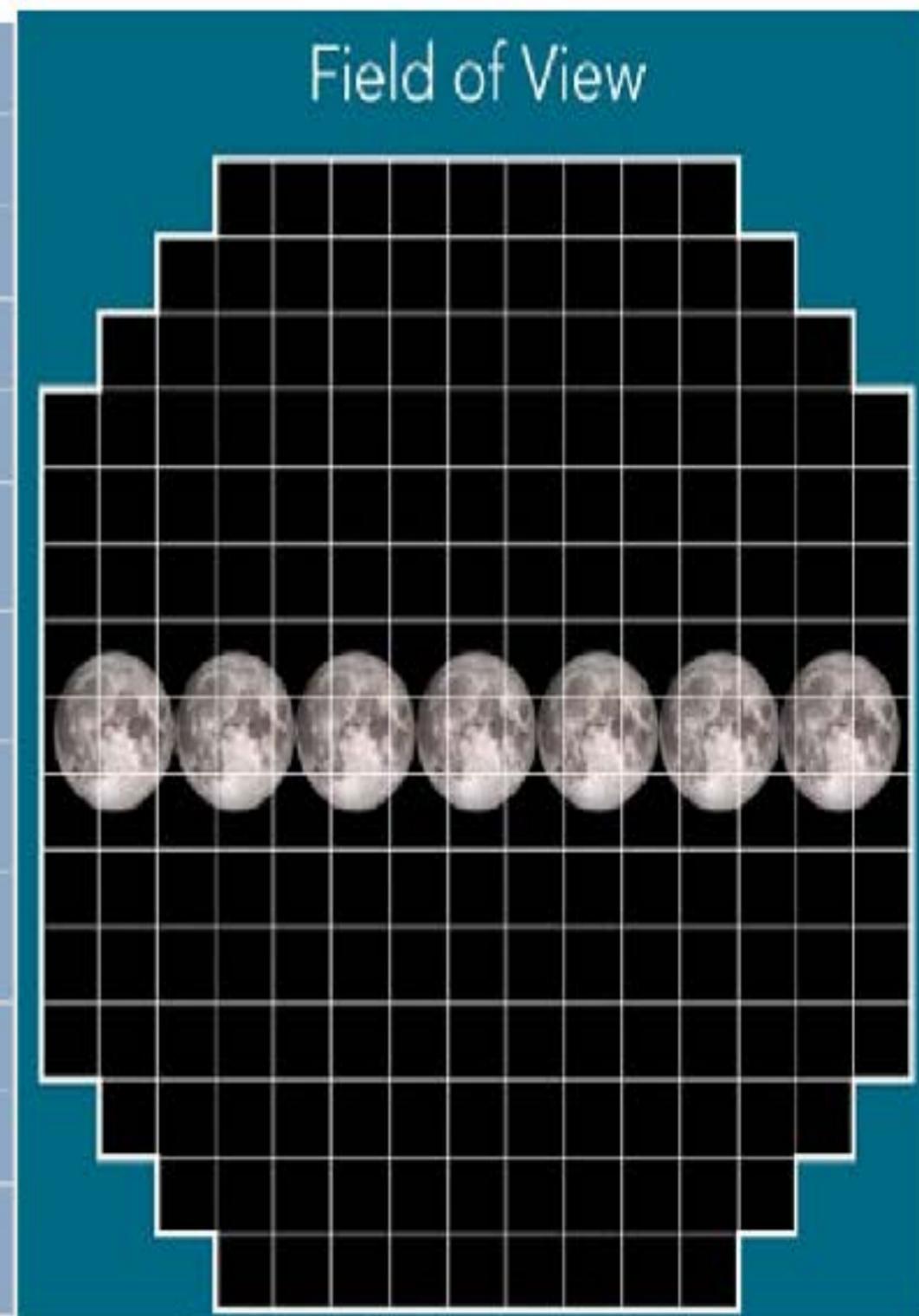
# Filter Set



# Rubin Observatory LSST



field of view	9.6 deg <sup>2</sup>
camera fill factor	>90 %
filters	<i>u g r i z y</i>
standard visit exposure	30s (2x15s)
standard visit depth	~ 24, 25, 24.7, 24, 23, 22
saturation	~ 15, 16, 16, 16, 15, 14
survey visits/field	56,80,184,184,160,160 (824)
survey full depth	~ 26, 27, 27.5, 27, 26, 25
survey full area	~18000° <sup>2</sup>
max filter change	90 sec
max slew (180° az)	<120 sec
standard visit processing time	60 sec





**One quarter the diameter of the moon**

Rubin  
VERA C. RUBIN  
OBSERVATORY  
LSST

(simulated)



One quarter the diameter of the moon

LSST  
Legacy Survey of Space and Time

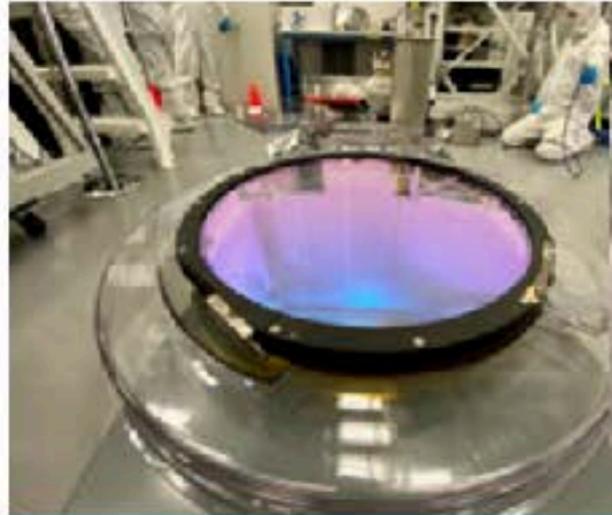


Video of  
telescope  
motion:  
[ls.st/-dt](http://ls.st/-dt)





# Camera progress



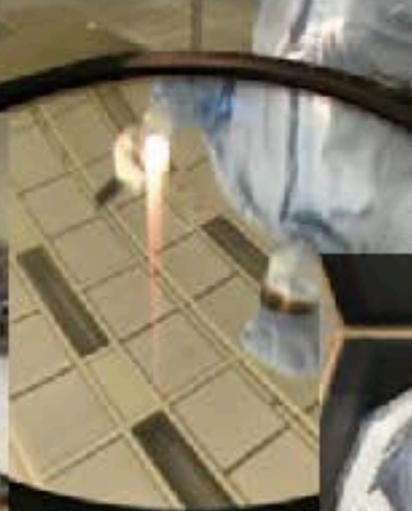
r-band filter in its frame during inspection at SLAC after delivery (March 2021)



z-band (left) filter inspection under bright light at LLNL prior to packing in its shipping container (April 2021) and i-band (right after installation (August 2021)



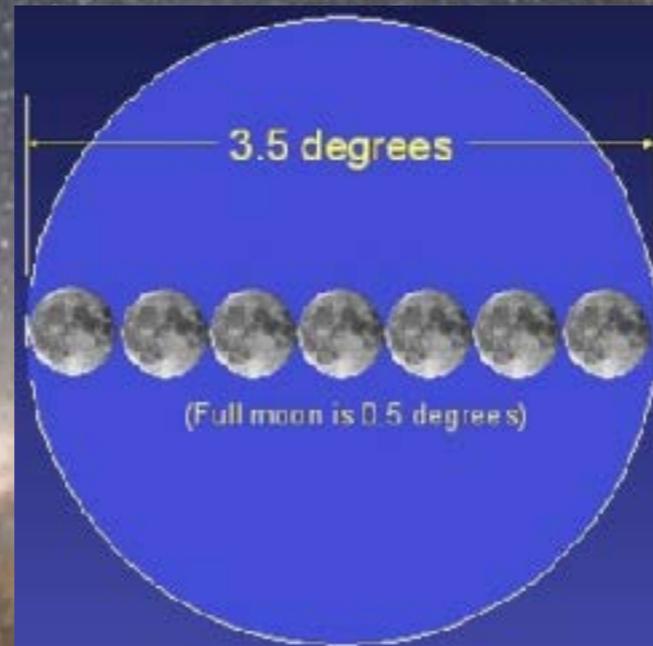
g-band (left) and y-band (right) filter in their frame during inspection at LLNL prior to packing in their shipping container (May 2021/July 2021)



u-band filter received at LLNL (August 2021)



Every circle  
contains  
10 million  
galaxies



Andy Connolly  
University of WA

**LSST will observe about half of the sky close to  
1000 times over 10 years.**



# Rubin Observatory LSST

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*Science*



# Rubin Observatory LSST

## *Probing Dark Energy and Dark Matter*

Exquisite measurements of strong and weak lensing, large-scale structure, clusters of galaxies, and supernovae



*LSST Science Drivers*



*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*





# Rubin Observatory LSST

*Mapping the Milky Way and Local Volume via resolved stellar population*

*17B stars characterized in shape, color, and variability.*

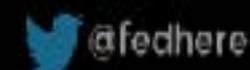


image credit ESO-Gaia

*LSST Science Drivers*



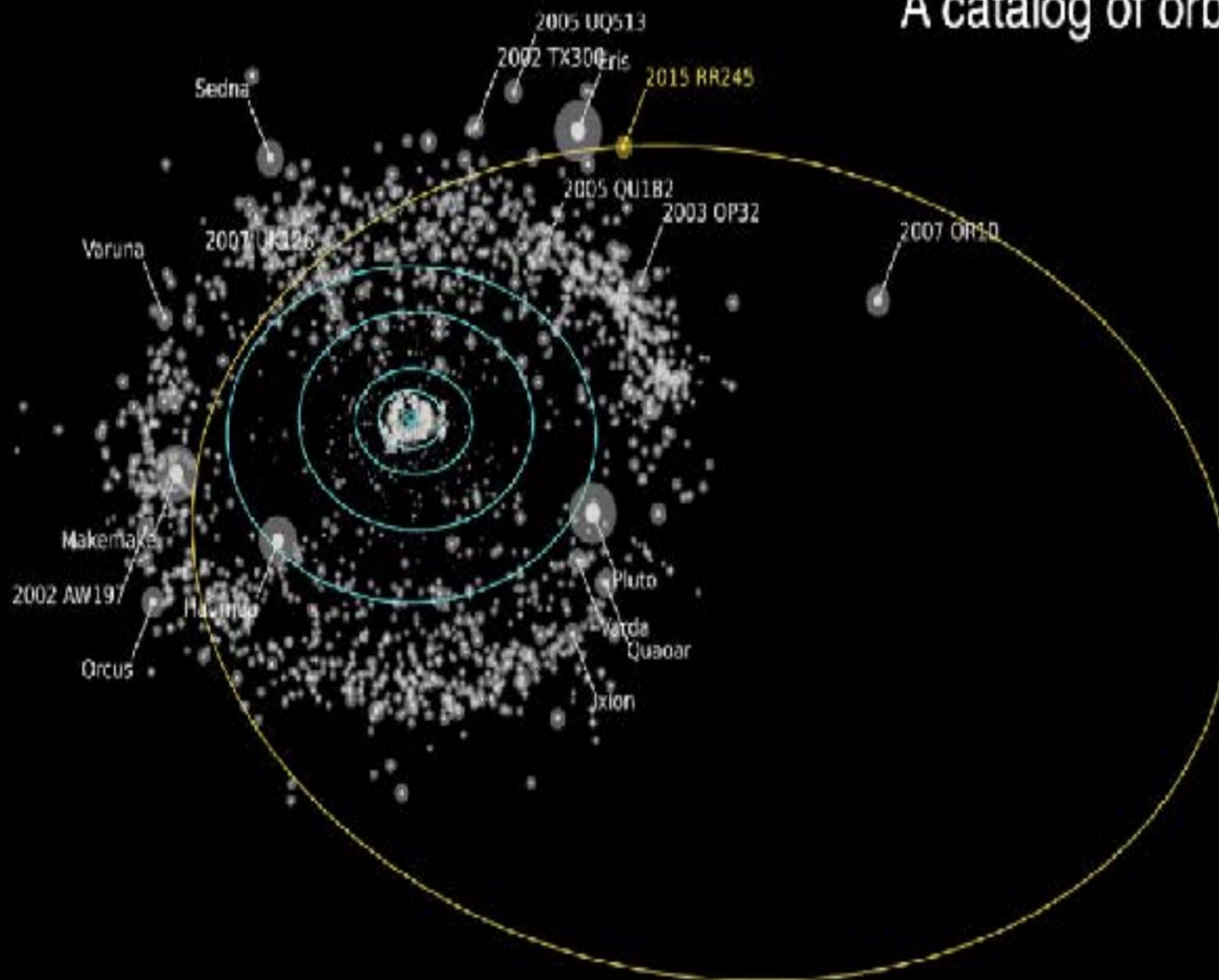
*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*



# Rubin Observatory LSST

*An unprecedented inventory of the Solar System from potentially hazardous asteroid to the distant Oort Cloud*

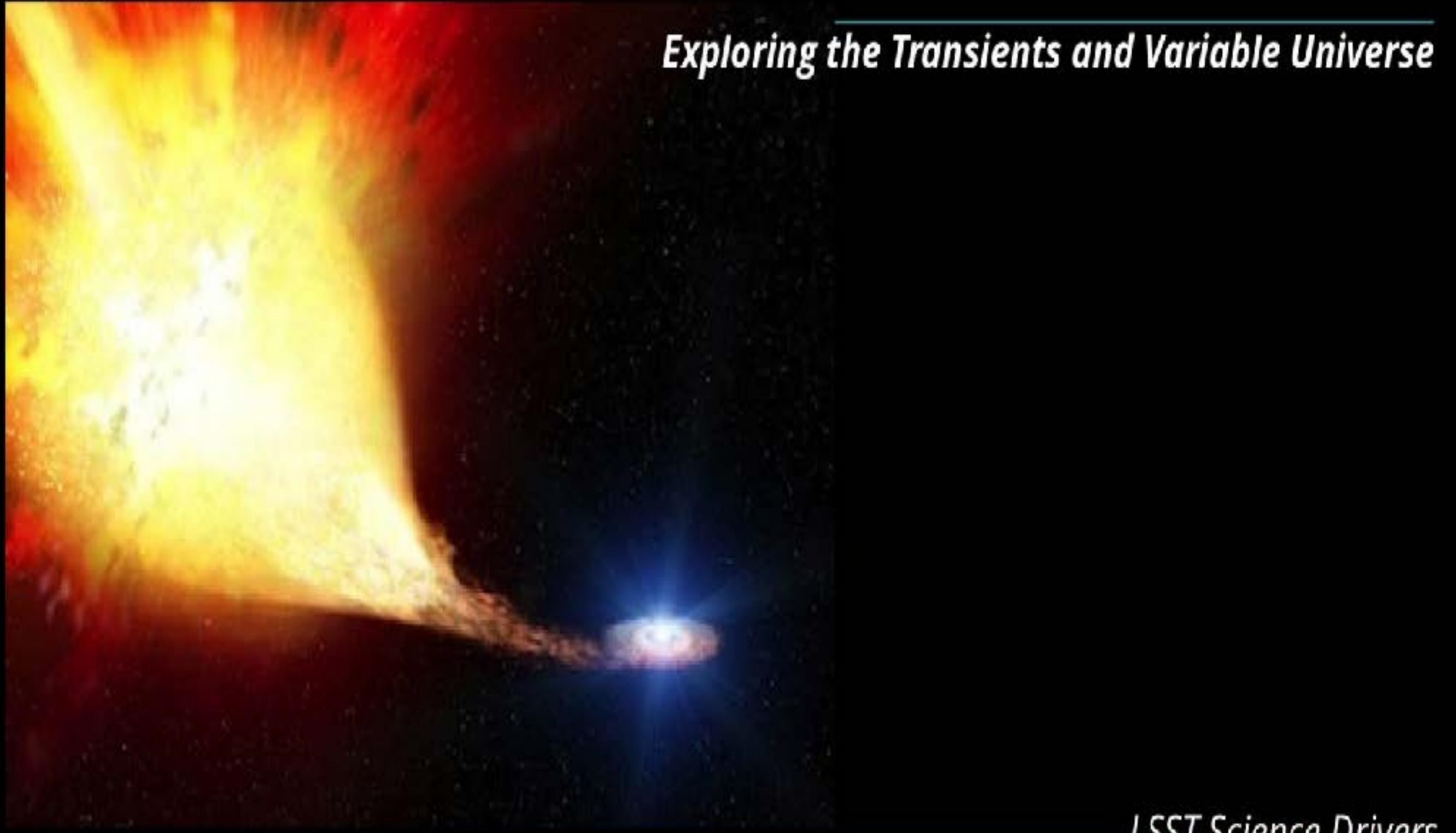
A catalog of orbits for 6 million bodies





# Rubin Observatory LSST

*Exploring the Transients and Variable Universe*



*LSST Science Drivers*



*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*

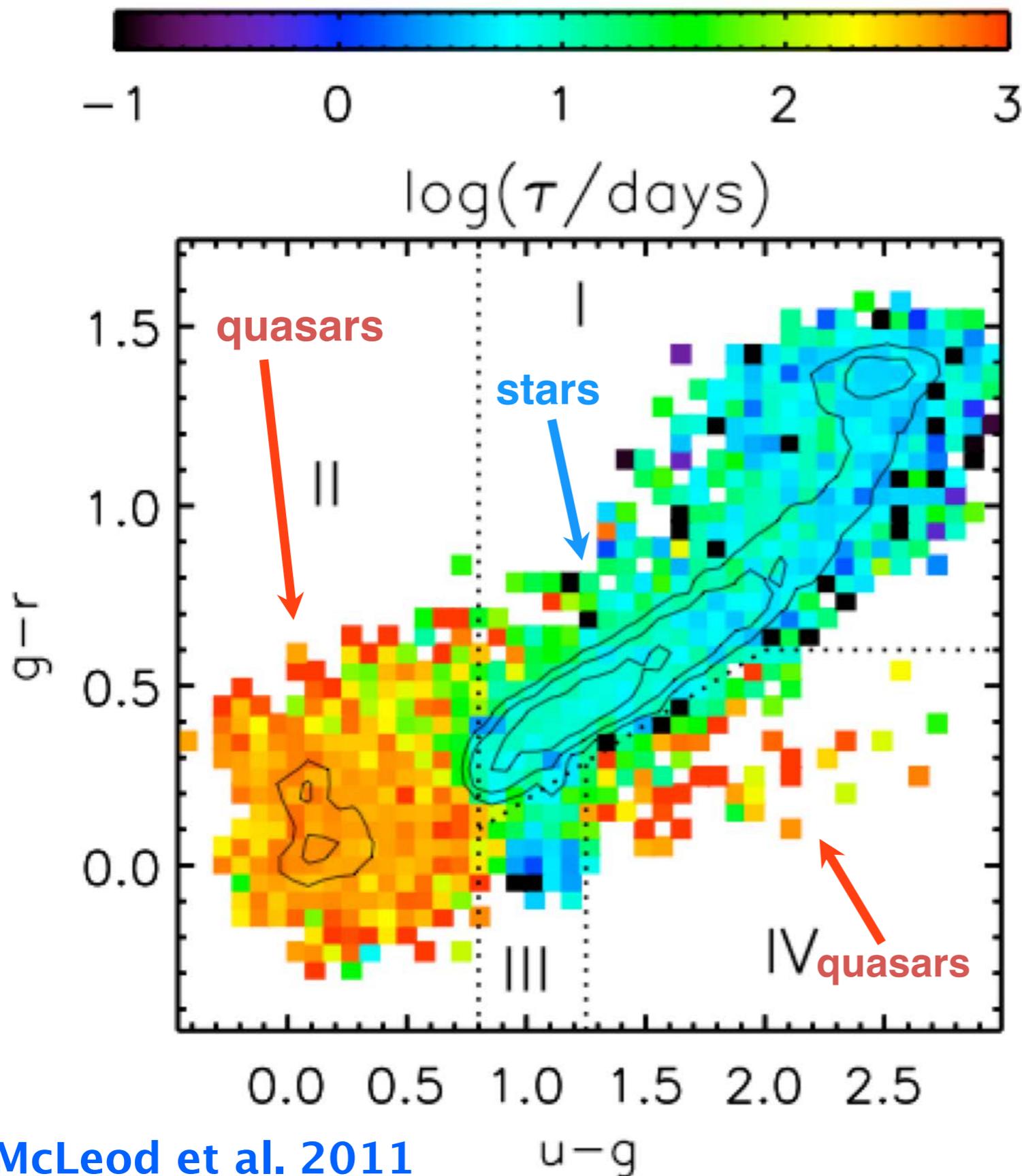
 @fedhere

image credit: ESA-Justyn R. Maund

# Special Projects

- Mini surveys are special projects devoted to special environments, where the WFD survey would not be completely effective:
  - The Galactic disk
  - The Galactic bulge
  - The Magellanic Clouds
- They have special cadences and observing strategies
- Deep Drilling Fields are small areas where higher cadence and deeper coverage are needed
- Some examples:
  - XMM-LS
  - Extended Chandra DFS
  - COSMOS

# The variability time scales



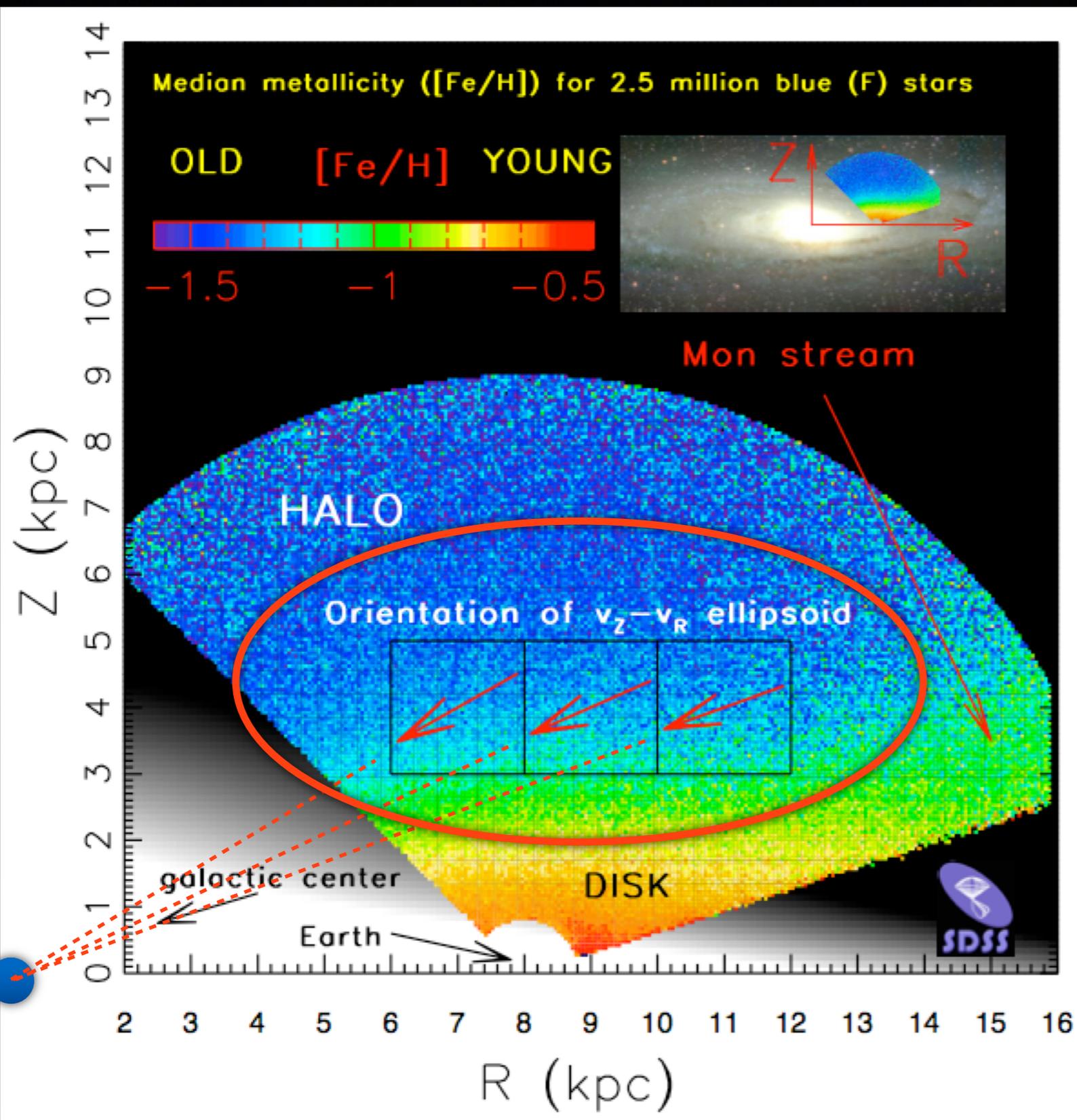
Time scale  $\tau$  is defined via **damped random walk** (because not all variable sources are periodic)

Quasars are easily distinguished from stars by their long time scales.

**Variability is even better than color selection!**

Case study: light curve data and proper motion data for over 1 million sources from SDSS Stripe 82 (all are publicly available)

# Velocity distribution for halo stars (SDSS)



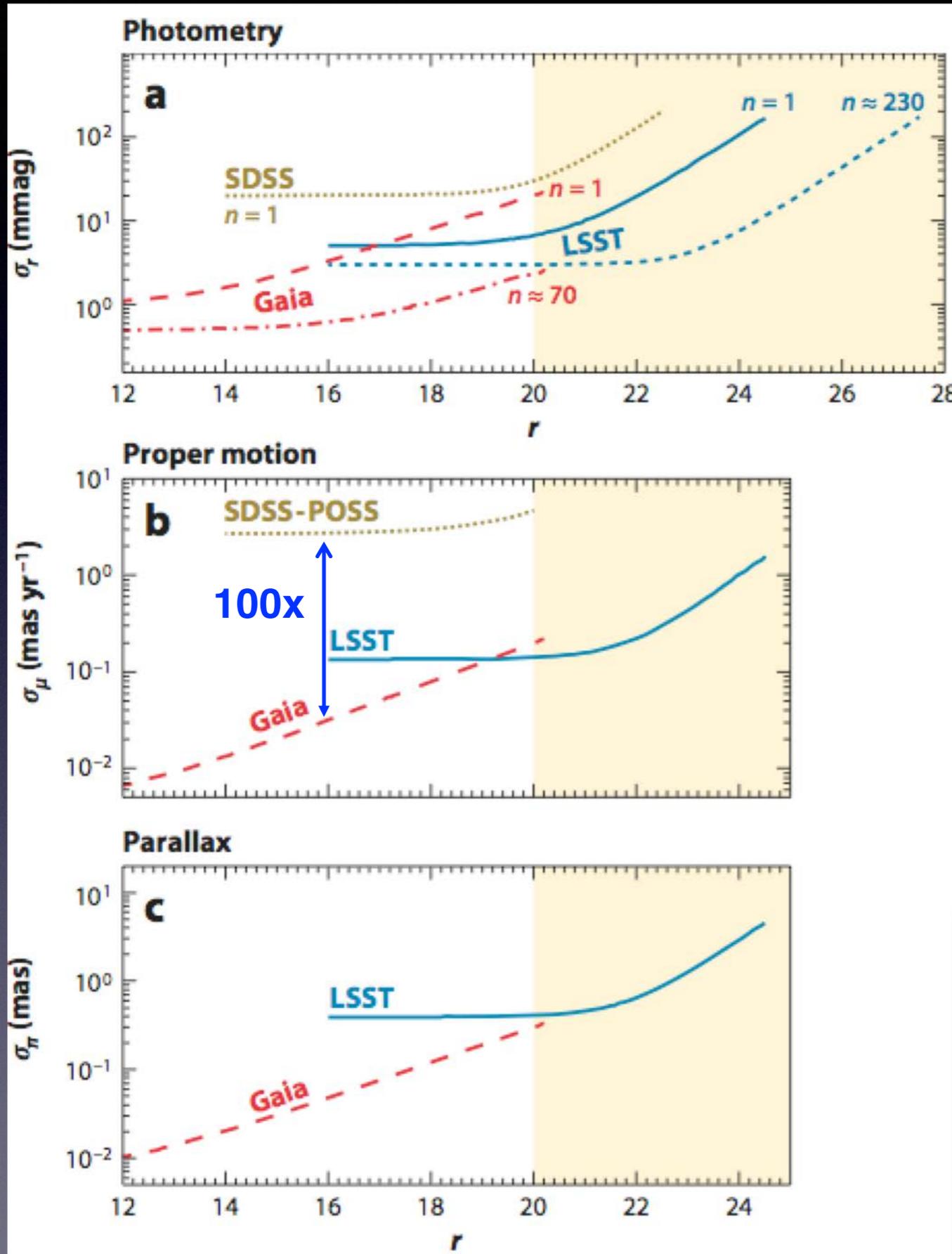
Kinematics of halo stars based on SDSS-POSS proper motions: velocity ellipsoid is nearly invariant in spherical coordinate system

[Bond et al. \(2010, ApJ, 716, 1\)](#)

Given measured stellar spatial distribution and stellar kinematics from proper motions, we can use **Jeans equations** to infer the gravitational potential, and ultimately the distribution of dark matter!

[Loebman et al. \(2014, ApJ, 794, 115\)](#)

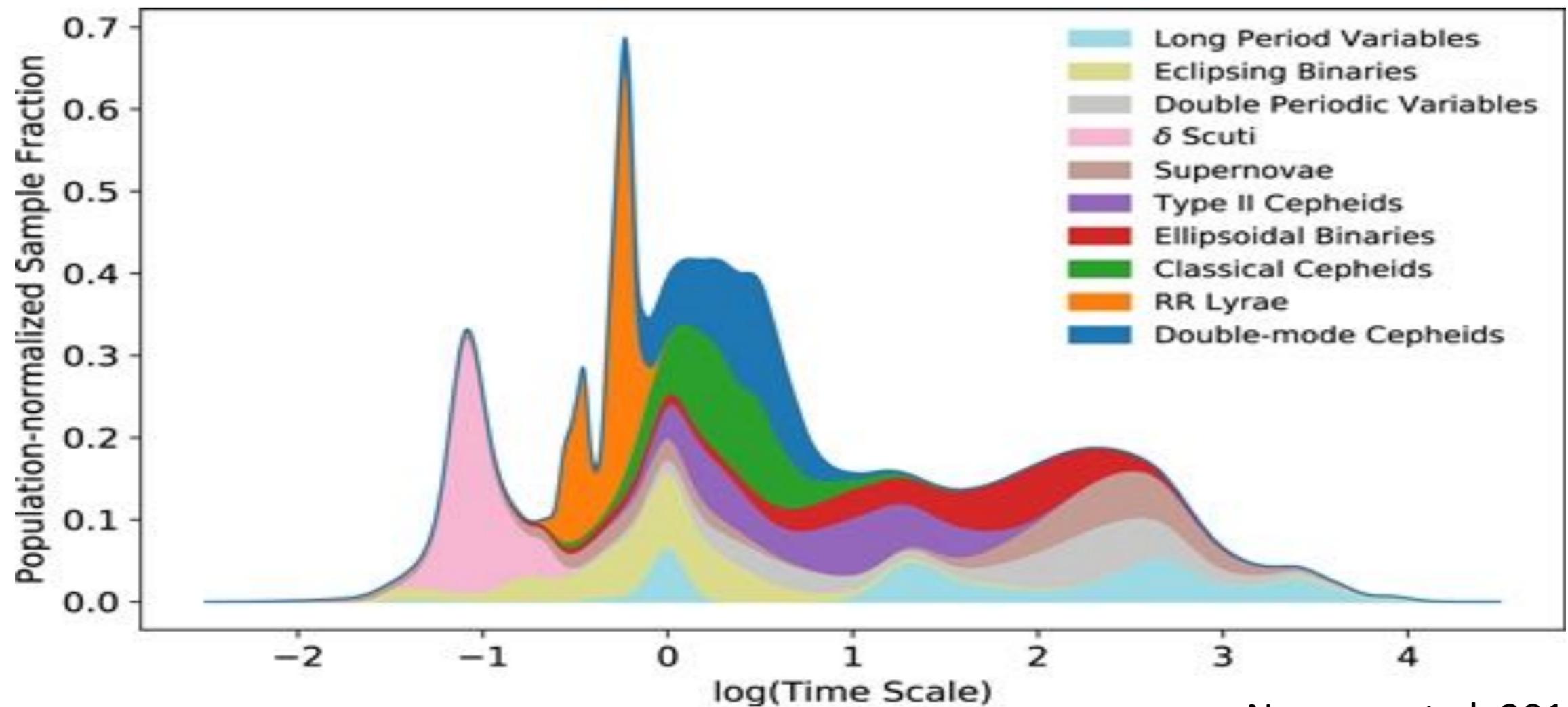
# Gaia vs. LSST comparison



- **Gaia**: excellent astrometry (and photometry), but only to  $r < 20$
- **LSST**: photometry to  $r < 27.5$  and time resolved measurements to  $r < 24.5$
- **Complementarity of the two surveys**: photometric, proper motion and trigonometric parallax errors are similar around  $r=20$

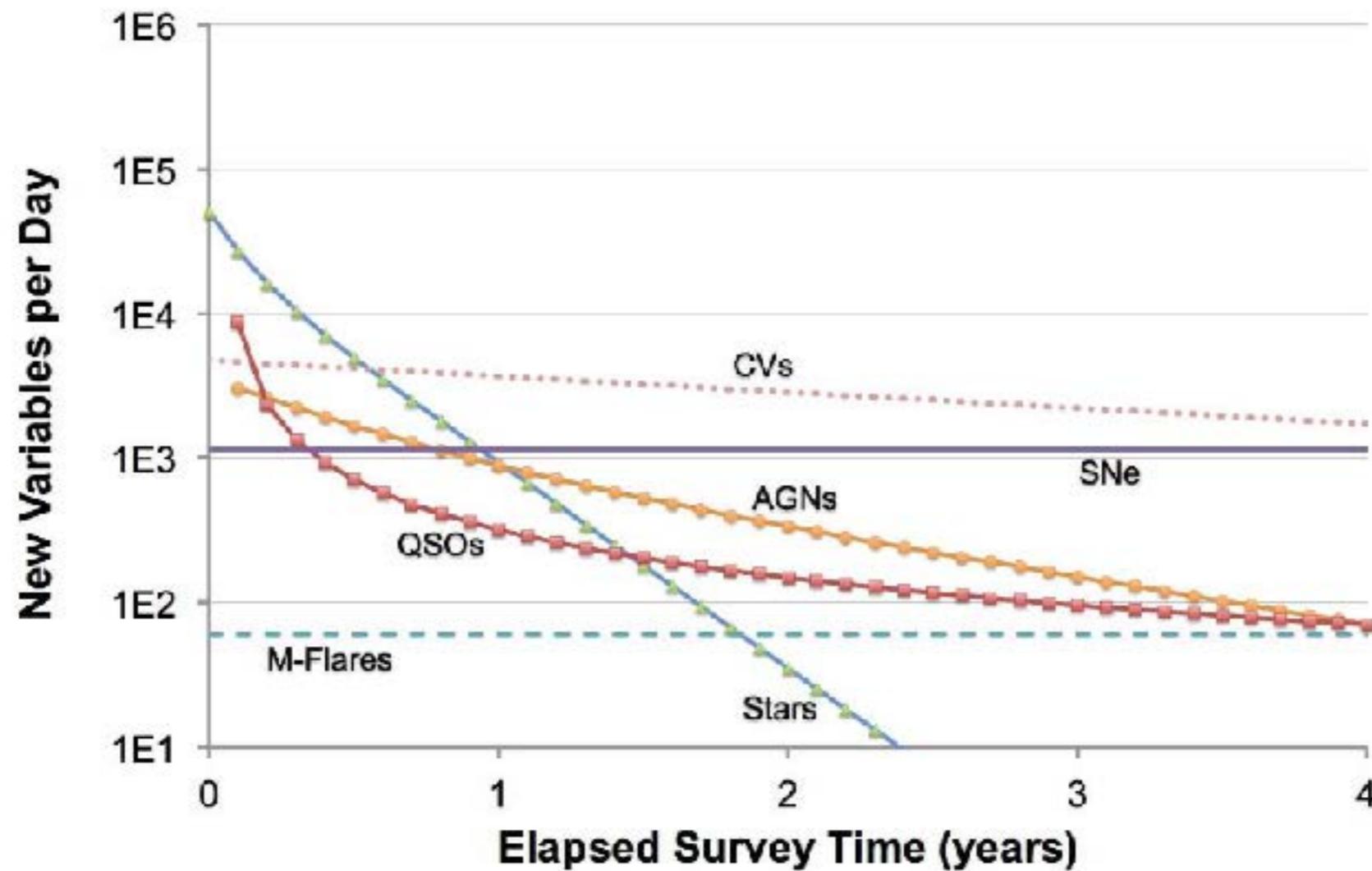
The Milky Way disk “belongs” to Gaia, and the halo to LSST (plus very faint and/or very red sources, such as white dwarfs and LT(Y) dwarfs).

# Typical time-scales



Narayan et al. 2018

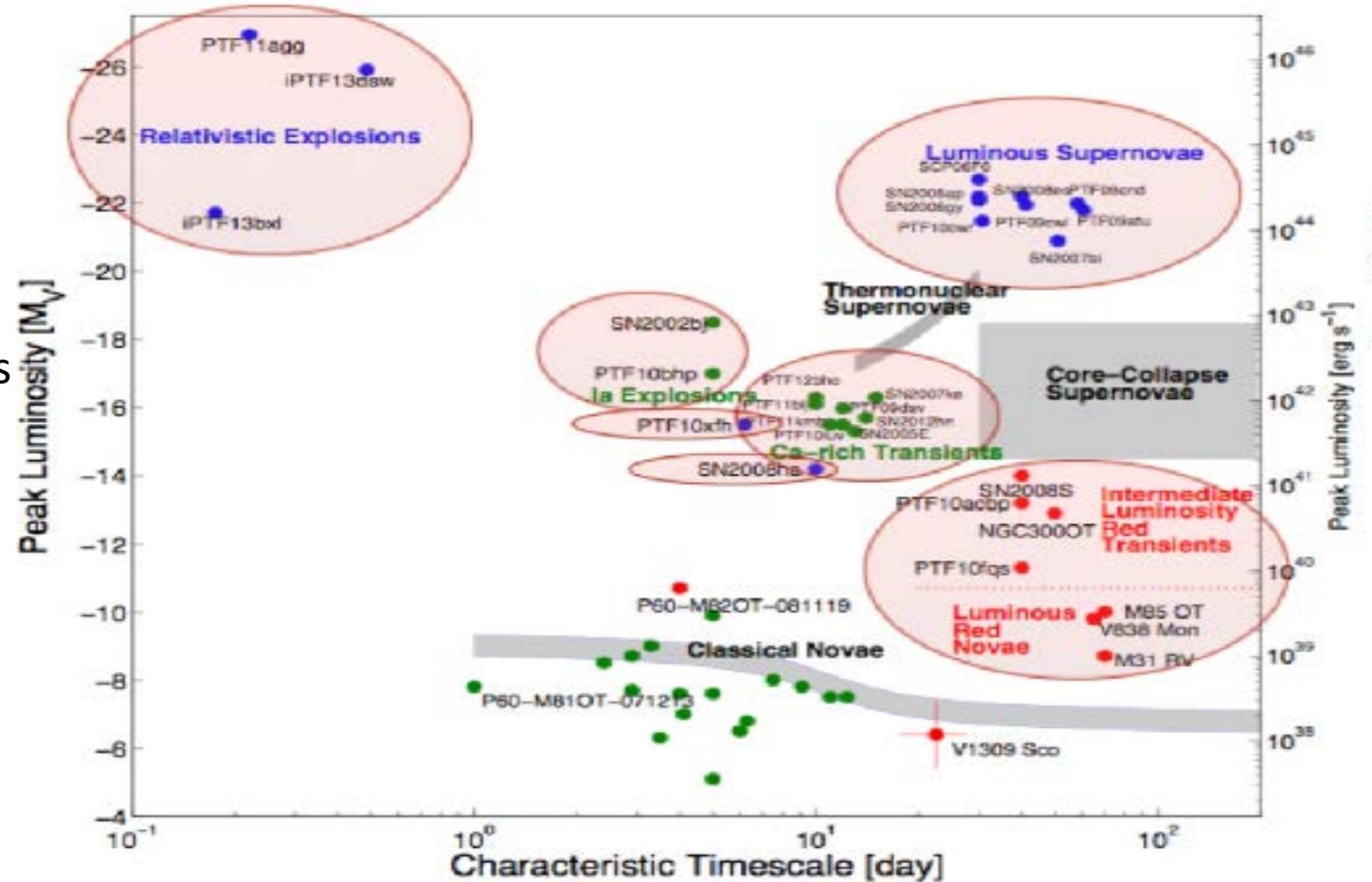
# New variables per night



Middleton et al. 2017  
adapted from  
Ridgway et al. 2014

# Filling the transients time-energy plane

- Unbiased and statistically significant sample of SNe
- Sample of different classes of transients
- Trained machine-learning classification



# The LSST Science Book



- **Contents:**

- Introduction
- LSST System Design
- System Performance
- Education and Public Outreach
- The Solar System
- Stellar Populations
- Milky Way and Local Volume Structure
- The Transient and Variable Universe
- Galaxies
- Active Galactic Nuclei
- Supernovae
- Strong Lenses
- Large-Scale Structure
- Weak Lensing
- Cosmological Physics

Dark Energy





# Rubin Observatory LSST

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*the Rubin LSST*

*Science Collaborations*

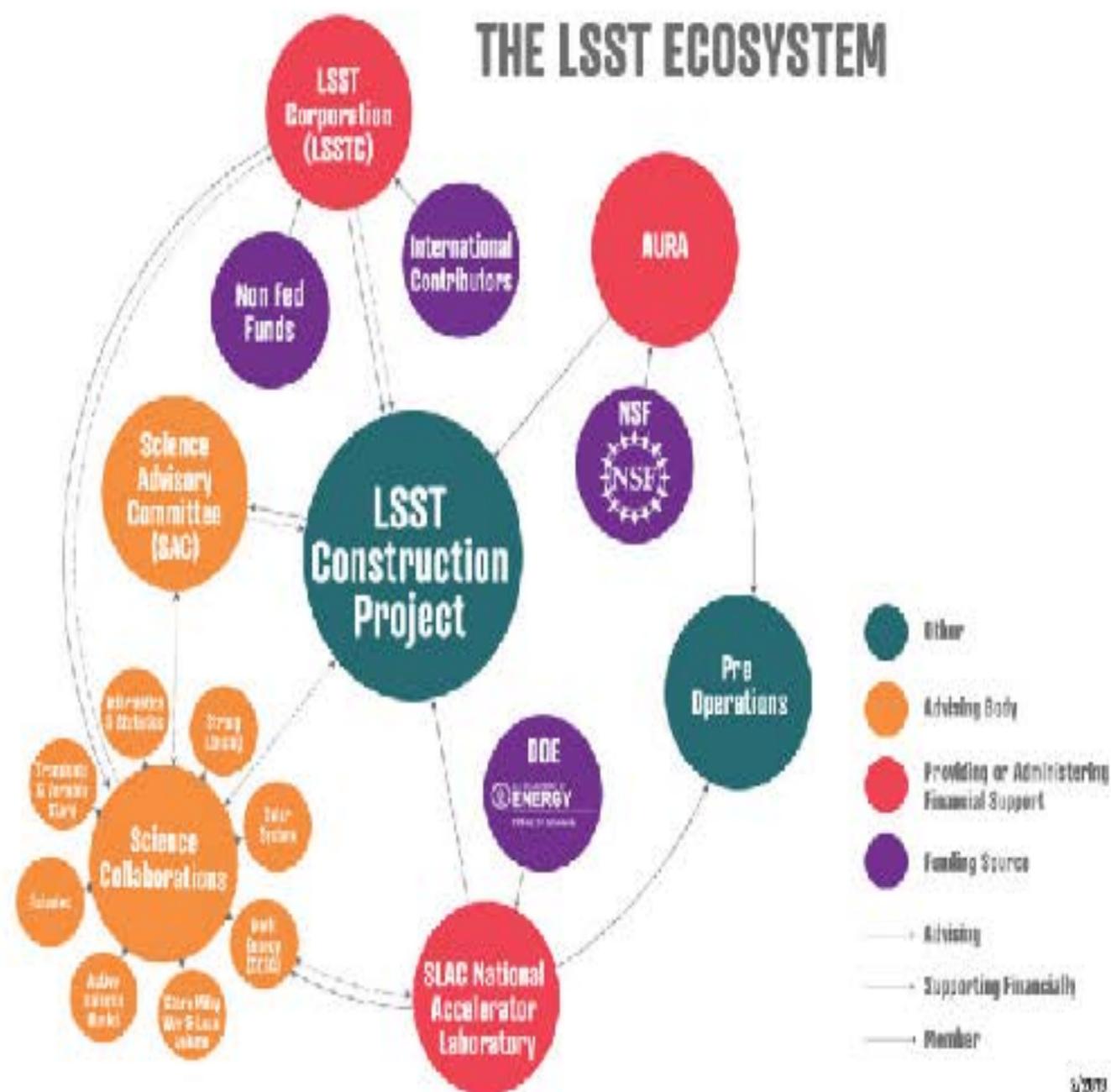
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# Rubin Observatory LSST



The Rubin Organization is almost as complex as the Universe it will explore!



# Rubin LSST Science Collaborations



## 8 Science Collaborations

think about us as an army of volunteers that thinks Rubin LSST will be amazing and transformational and are investing in preparing to use its data and helping optimize the Observatory choices

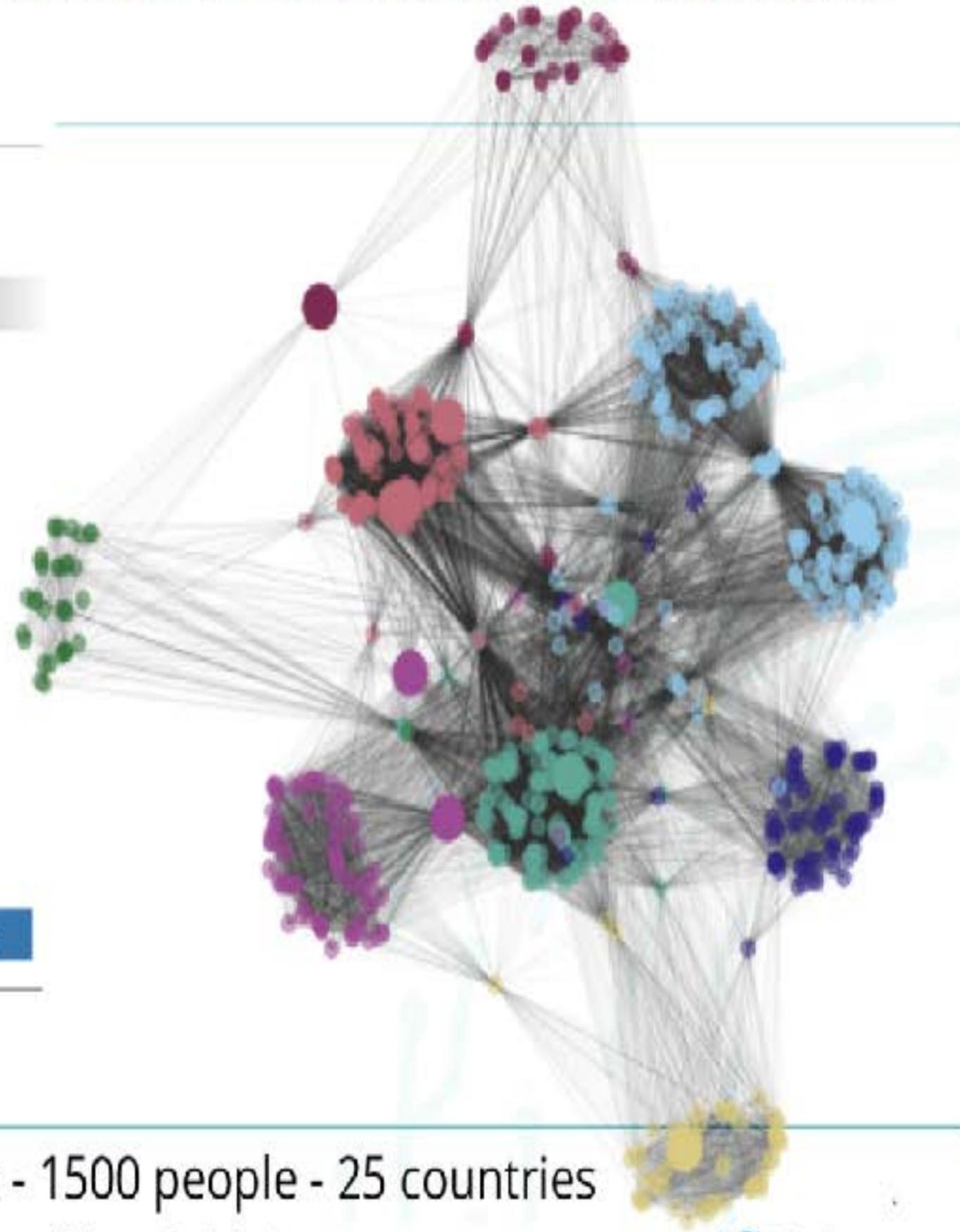
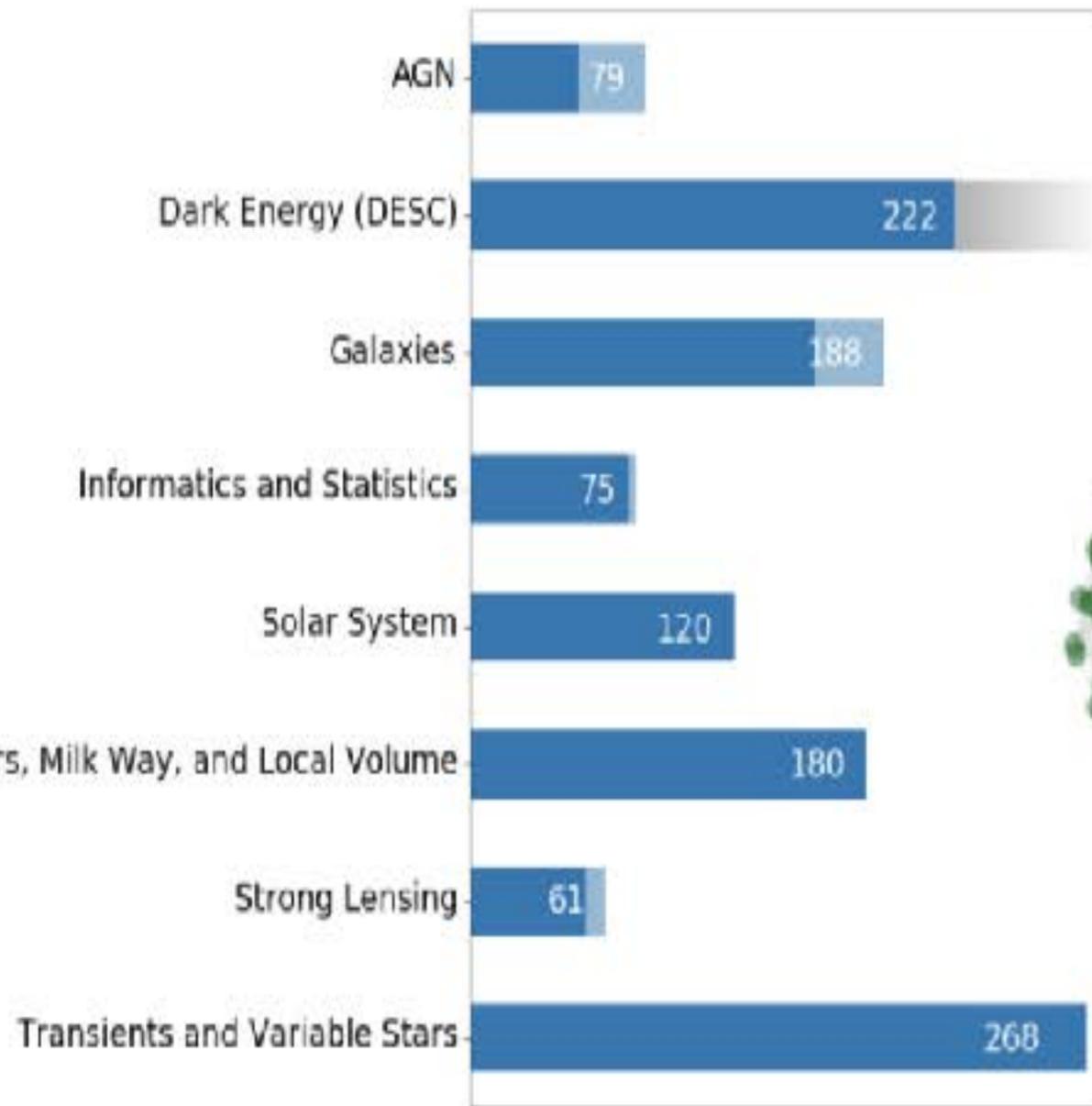


8 SCs - 5 continents - 1500 people - 25 countries

*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*

@fedhere

# Rubin LSST Science Collaborations

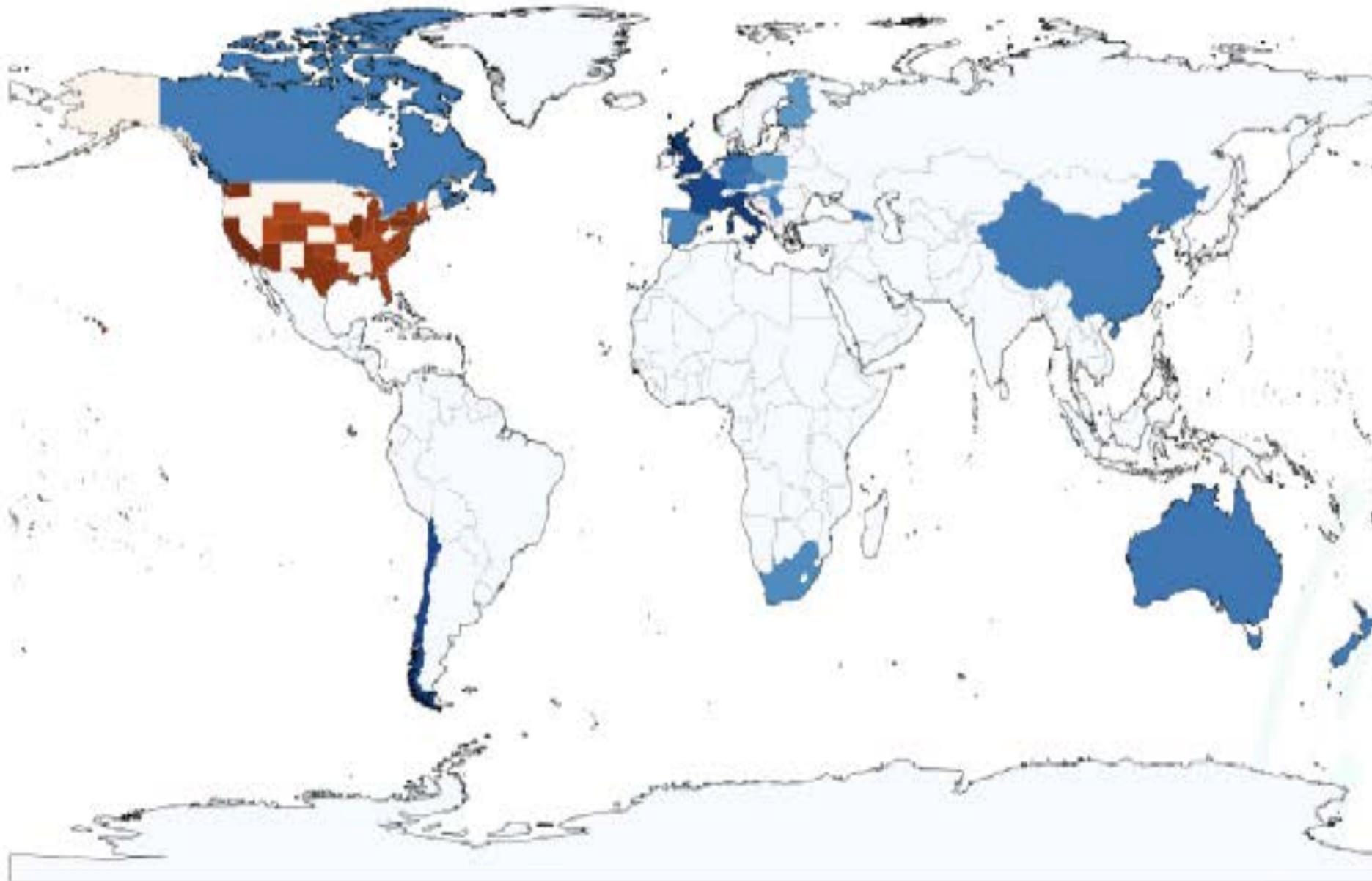


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@fedhere

# Rubin LSST Science Collaborations



<https://community.lsst.org/t/international-in-kind-contribution-evaluation-committee-cec-update-charge-and-science-collaboration-representation/3998>



8 SCs - 5 continents - 1500 people - 25 countries

*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*

@fedhere



Rubin Observatory LSST

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*Diversity*

*Equity*

*Inclusion*

---



# Rubin LSST Science Collaborations



*We aspire to be an inclusive, equitable, and ultimately just group and we are working with renewed vigor in the wake of the recent event that exposed inequity and racism in our society to turning this aspiration into action.*



## #desc-for-black-lives

@heather999 created this channel on June 9th. This is the very beginning of the #desc-for-black-lives channel. Description: Dialogues about how each of us as individual DESC members and our collaboration as a whole can help eradicate anti-Black racism. [\[edit\]](#)



Diversity Equity and Inclusion council of the SCs





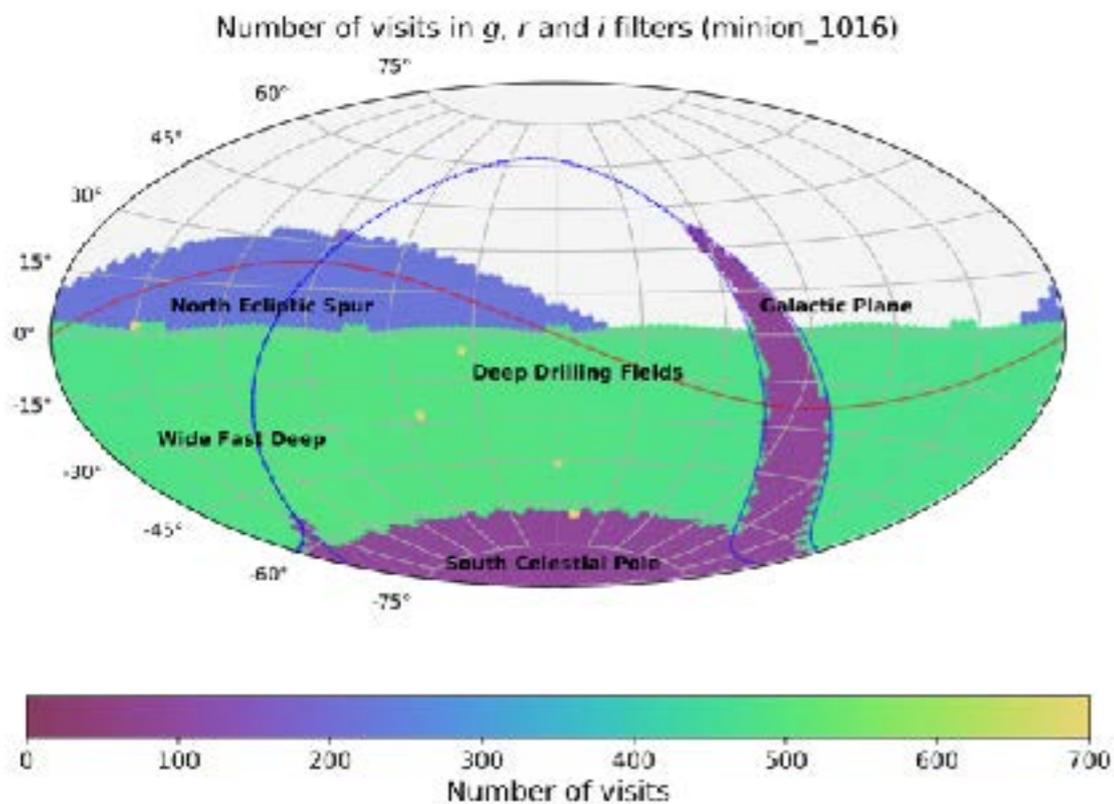
# Rubin Observatory LSST

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# *Survey*

# Basic idea behind LSST: a **uniform sky survey**

- **90% of time will be spent on a uniform survey:** every 3-4 nights, the whole observable sky will be scanned twice per night
- **after 10 years, half of the sky will be imaged about 1000 times (in 6 bandpasses, ugrizy):** a digital color movie of the sky
- **~100 PB of imaging data:** about a billion 16 Mpix images, enabling **measurements for 40 billion objects**



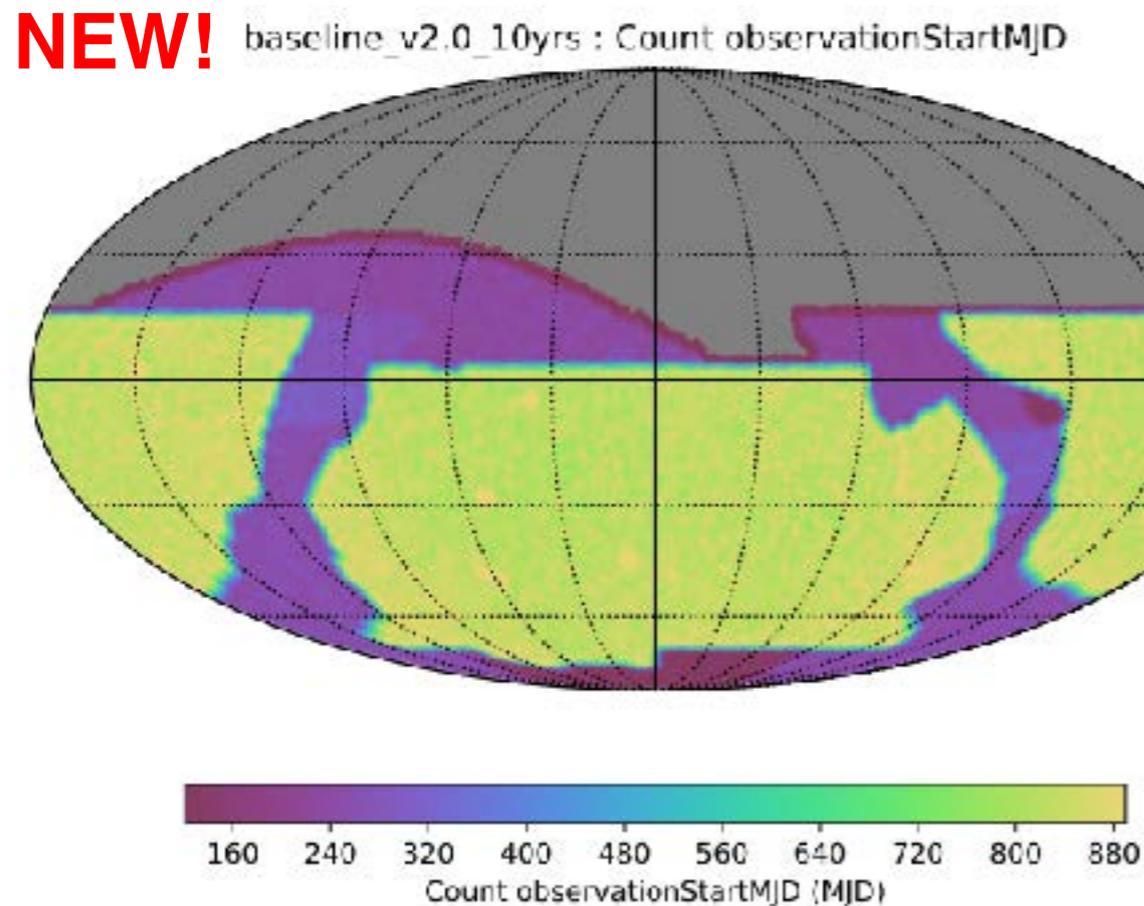
## **LSST in one sentence:**

An optical/near-IR survey of half the sky in ugrizy bands to  $r \sim 27.5$  ( $36 \text{ nJy}$ ,  $3.6 \times 10^{-31} \text{ erg/s/cm}^2/\text{Hz}$ ) based on 825 visits over 10 years: **deep wide fast.**

**Left:** a 10-year simulation of LSST survey: the number of visits in the r band (Aitoff projection of eq. coordinates)

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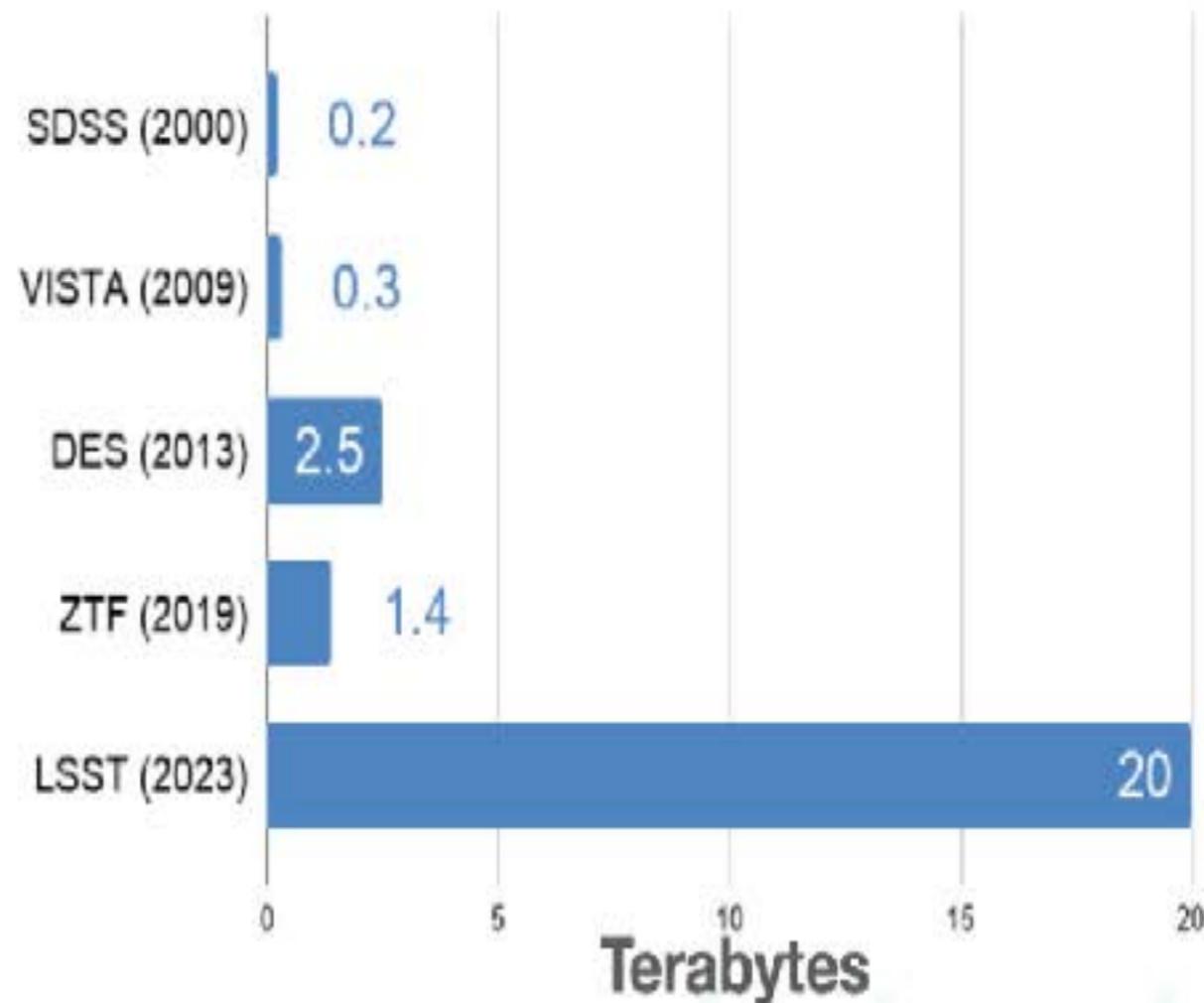
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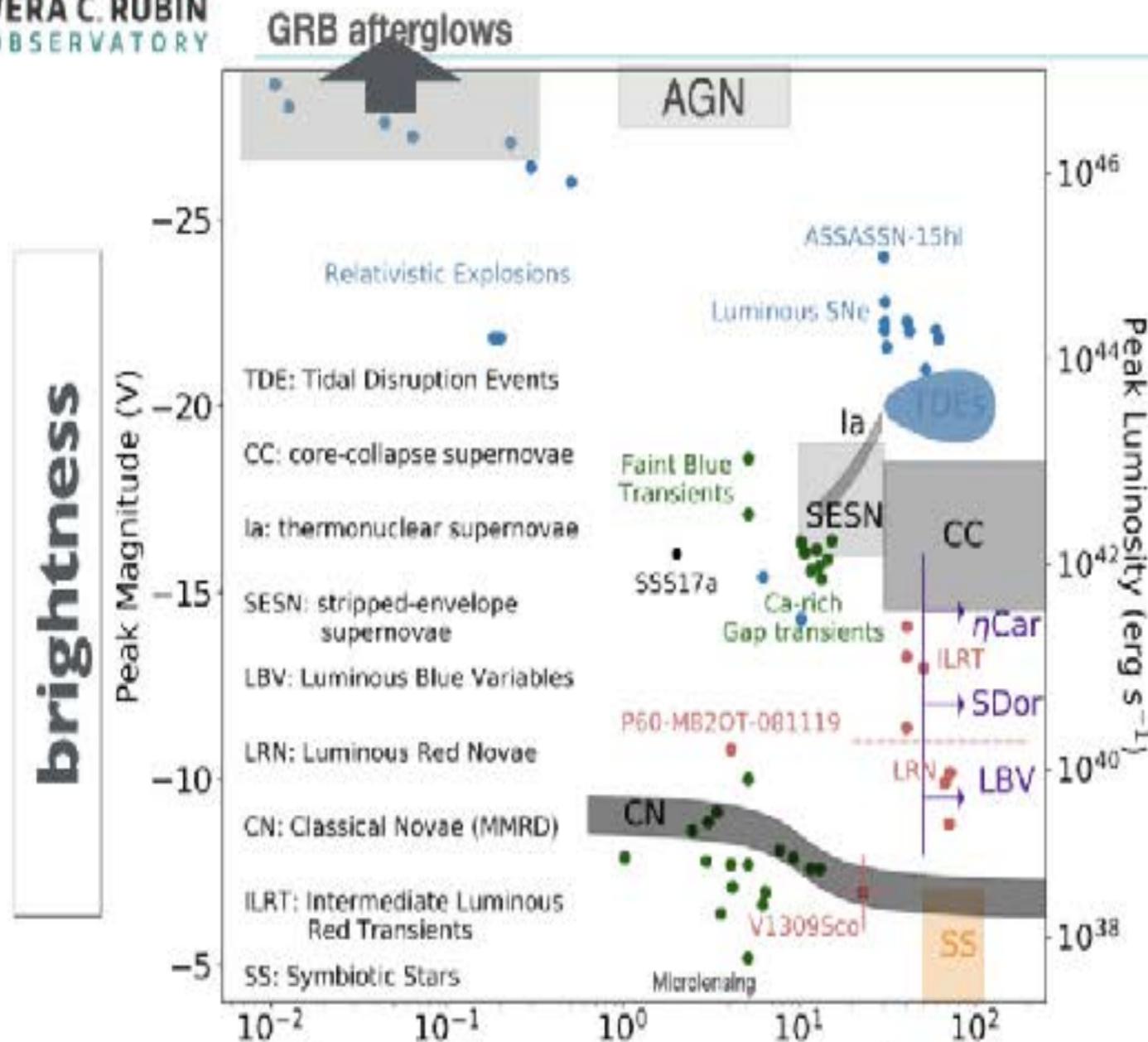
**Left:** a 10-year simulation of LSST survey: the number of visits in the r band (Aitoff projection of eq. coordinates)

## Rubin LSST = Astro + DataScience

x10  
increase  
in data  
volume



# Rubin LSST survey design



*What time scales can LSST probe?*

**characteristic time scale (days)**

LSST: from Science Drivers to Reference Design and Anticipated Data Products

60+ authors

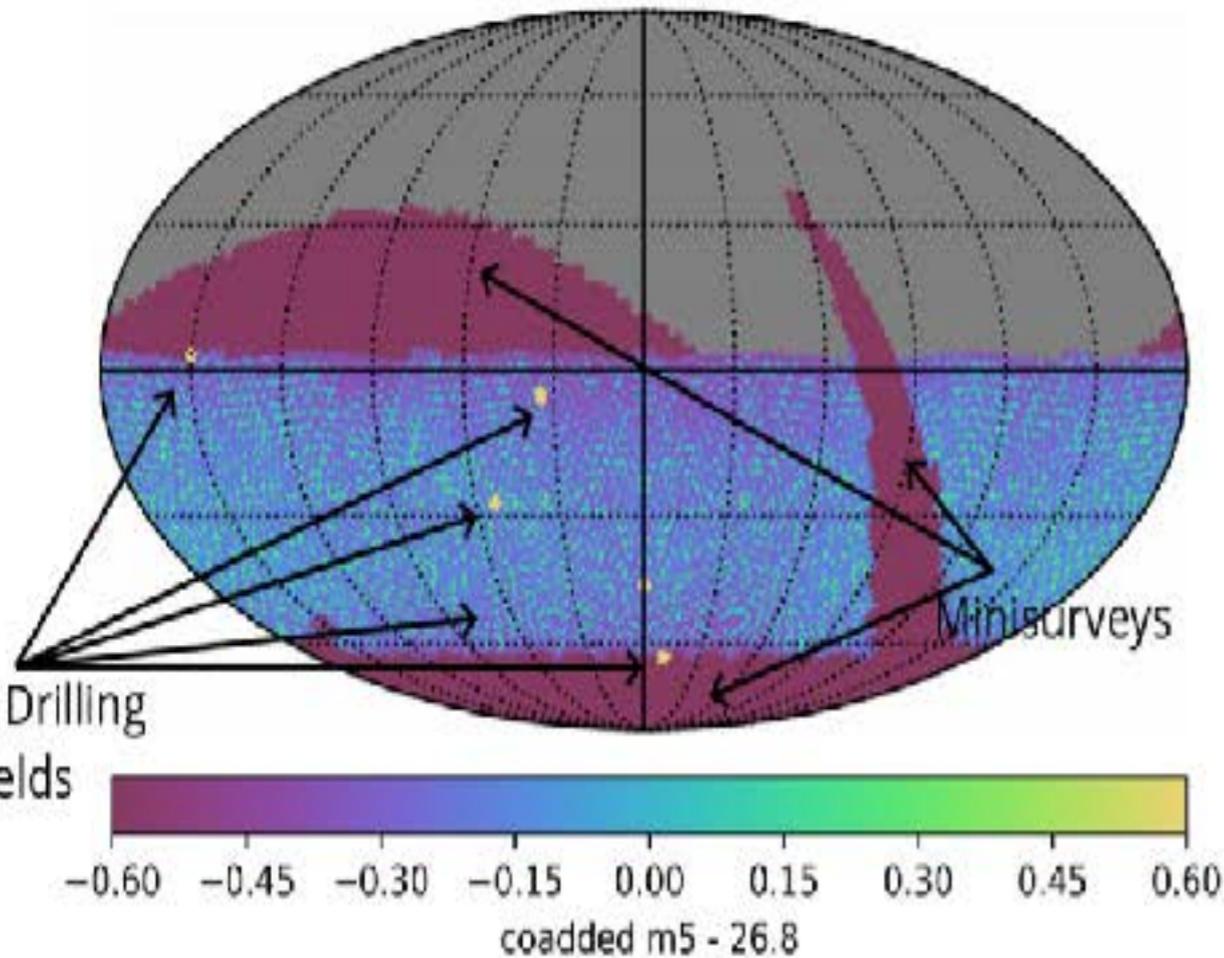
[Ivezic et al 2019 \(2008\)](#)



# Rubin LSST survey design



astro-lsst-01\_2022 i band: CoaddM5



Rothchild+ 2019

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.00531>

## *Many surveys in one*

Wide Fast Deep

800 img over 18,000 sq deg  
pairs of observations in <1 hour to track  
asteroid (and get transient colors)

80% of the sky time

Minisurveys

Deep Drilling Fields

Targets of Opportunity

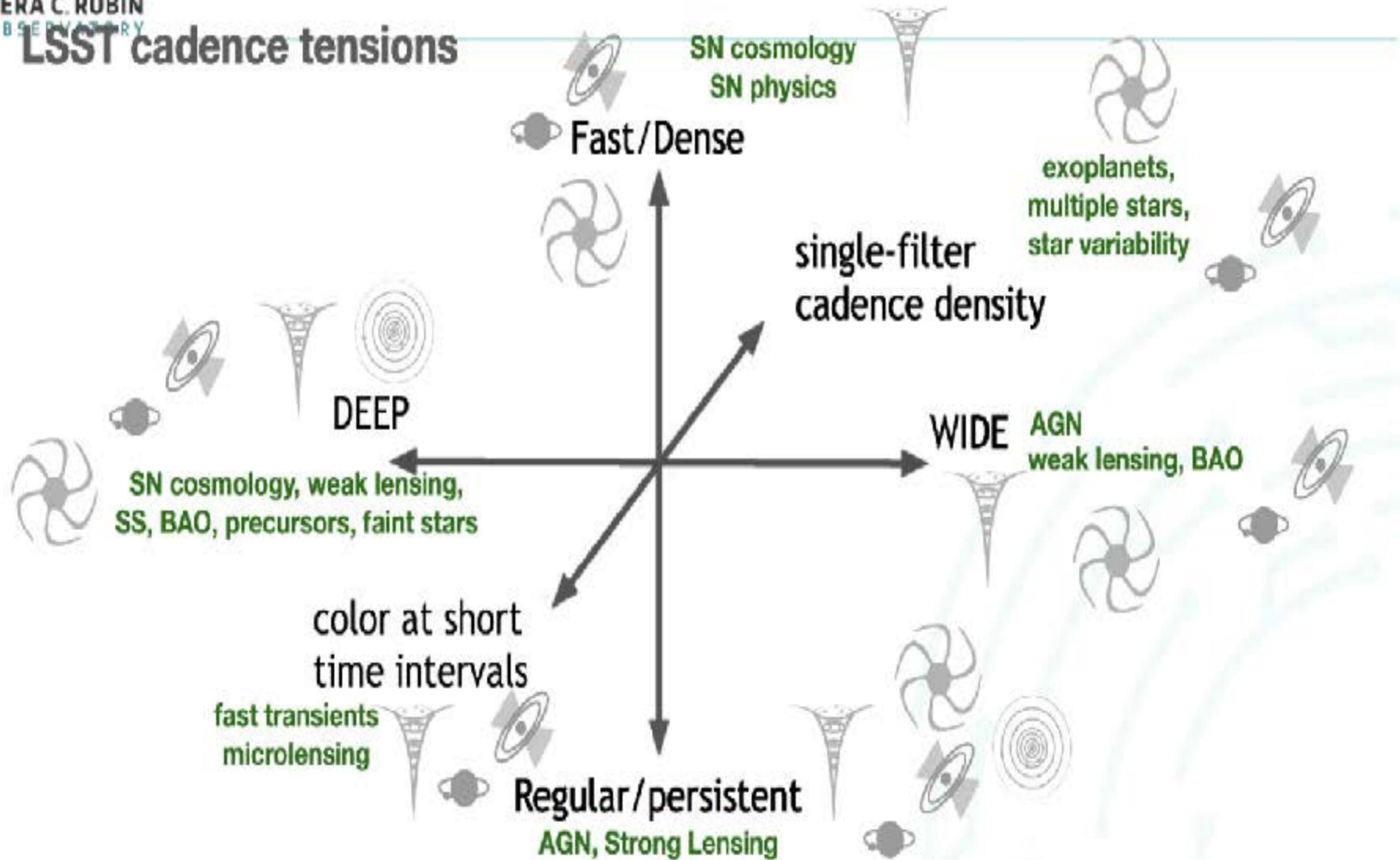
} 20%



# Rubin LSST survey design



## LSST cadence tensions

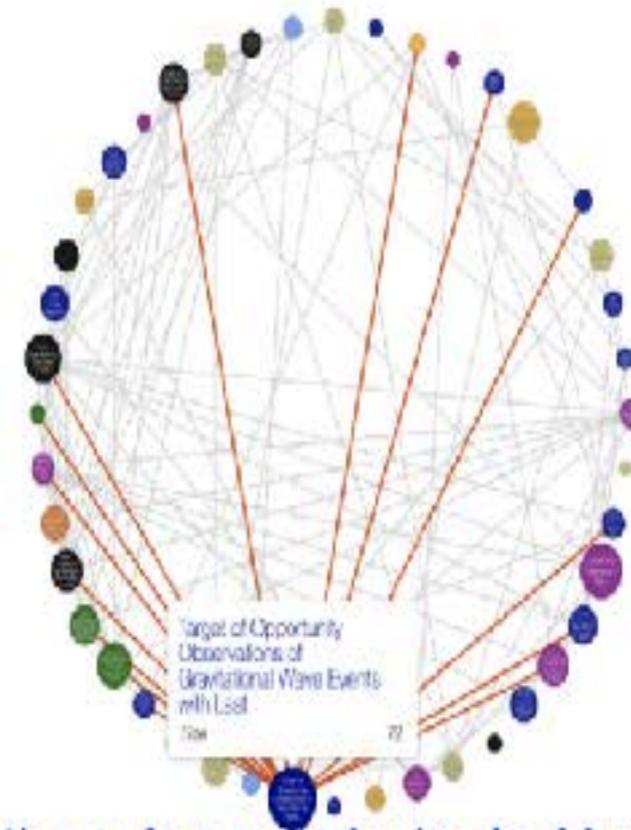
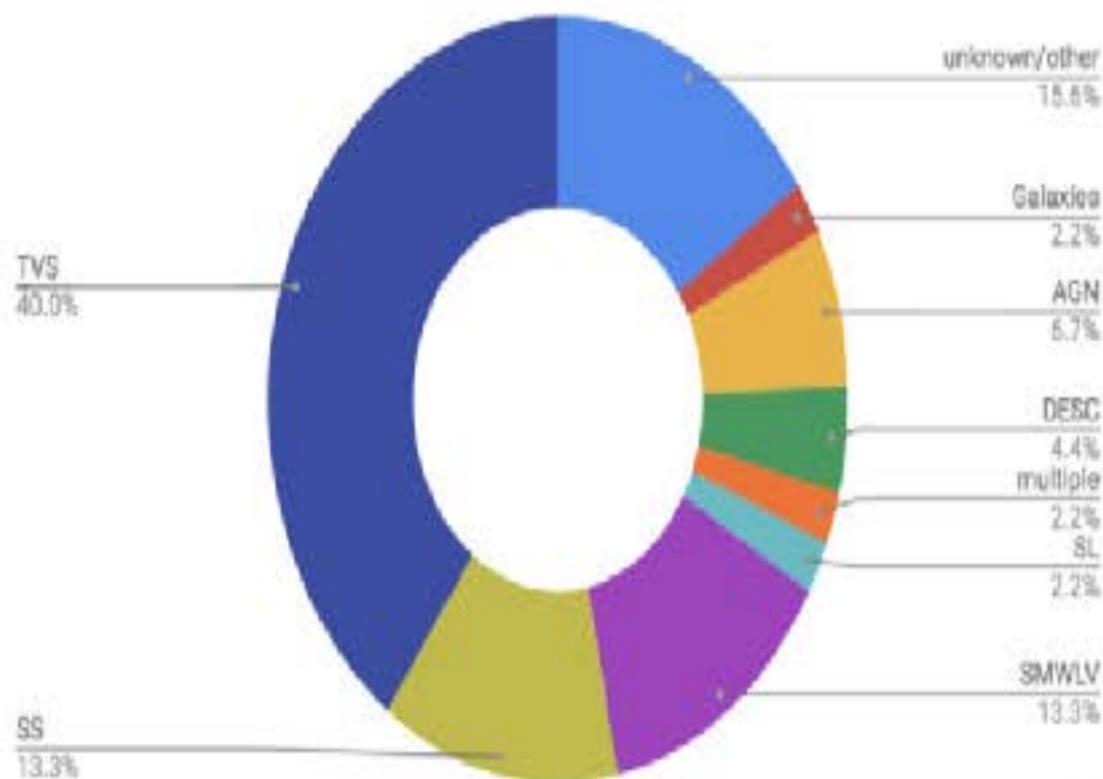


# Rubin LSST survey design

Rubin asked the community how to design the survey

40+ submissions

Cadence White Paper Submissions



<https://www.lsst.org/submitted-whitepaper-2018>

<http://fbb.space//LSSTWP/LSSTwhitePapers.html>



# Rubin Observatory LSST

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## *Rubin data and data products*

# Rubin Observatory LSST



## Data Management System Overview

**Raw Data: 20TB/night**  
Sequential 30s images that cover the entire visible sky every few days.



### Prompt Data Products

Alerts: up to 10M/night

Results of Difference Image Analysis (DIA): transient and variable sources

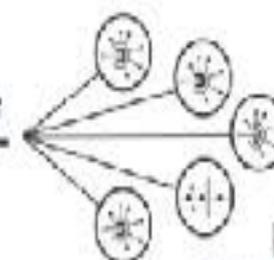
Solar System Objects: ~6M by year 10

### Data Release Data Products

Final 10 year Data Release images: 5.5M x 3.2 Gpx  
catalogs: 37M objects, 15PB

via nightly alert streams Community Brokers

60s



LSST Alert Filtering Service

24h

via Prompt Products Database

LSST DACs (Chile & NCSA)

Independent DACs (IDACs)



via Data Releases

Data Products Definition Document  
<http://ls.st/dpdd>



# Rubin Observatory LSST



## Data Management System Overview

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Data Products Definition Document  
<http://ls.st/dpdd>

# Rubin Observatory LSST



world public!

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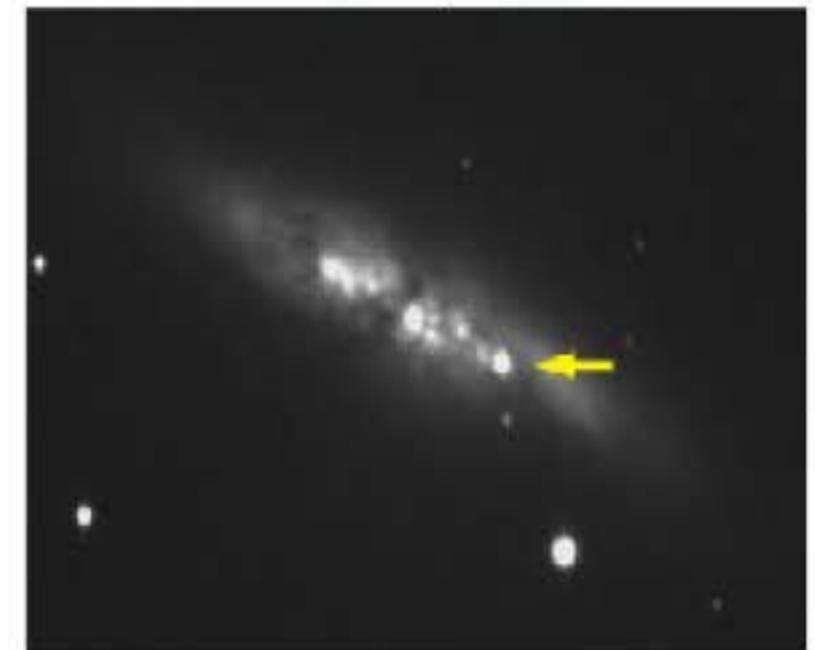
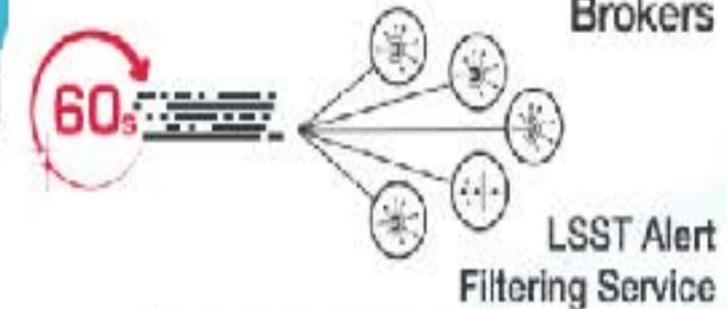
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Data Products Definition Document  
<http://ls.st/dpdd>



# Rubin Observatory LSST



world public

## Data Management System Overview

### Raw Data: 20TB/night

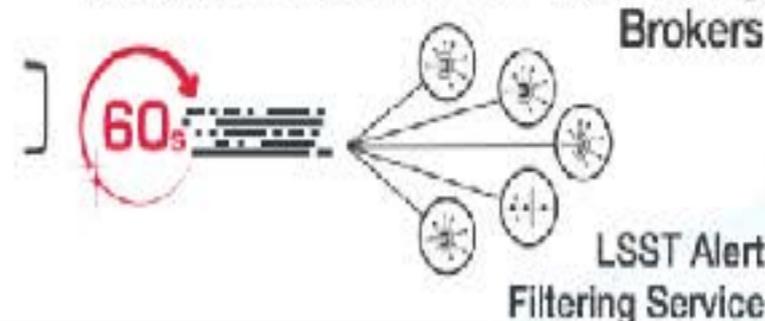
Sequential 30s images that cover the entire visible sky every few days.



### Prompt Data Products

Alerts: up to 10M/night

via nightly alert streams Community Brokers



### Processing Pipeline for Prompt Products

Difference Image Analysis (DIA) begins immediately after image acquisition.



(1) Source detection is run on the difference image.

(2) DIASources with signal-to-noise ratio  $> 5$  are "detected".

(3) DIASources are associated by location into DIAObjects.

(4) Measurement and characterization for DIASources and DIAObjects.

Product:  
60s Stream of Alert Packets  
one per DIASource

Products:  
24h DIA Source & Object Catalogs  
Difference and Direct Images



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dmmKG0ANK8>

# Rubin Observatory LSST



world public

## Data Management System Overview

### Raw Data: 20TB/night

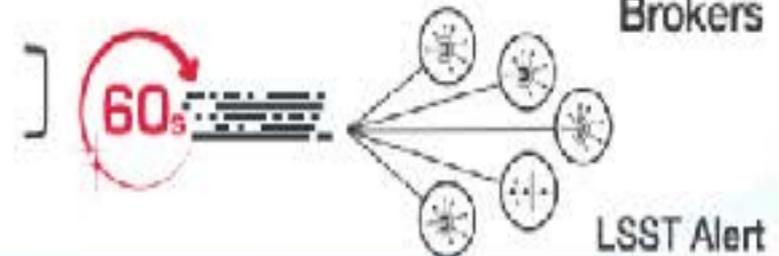
Sequential 30s images that cover the entire visible sky every few days.



### Prompt Data Products

Alerts: up to 10M/night

via nightly alert streams Community Brokers



### Alert Packet Contents



#### DIASource Parameters

- astrometry, photometry, shape (FWHM, trail, dipole, etc.)
- signal-to-noise ratio, spuriousness\* (real/bogus)



#### DIASource Record (~12 month history)

- proper motion, parallax, mean flux, orbital elements
- variability parameters\*\*, e.g., (non)periodic features
- association with latest static Object in Data Release catalog



#### All Associated DIASources (past ~12 months) SSource Record (more in later slide)

#### Image Stamps (e.g., FITS)

- at least 6"x6" for both difference and template
- flux, variance, and mask frames, with metadata (WCS, PSF)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dmmKG0ANK8>

v=6dmmKG0ANK8

federica

# Rubin Observatory LSST



world public

## Data Management System Overview

### Raw Data: 20TB/night

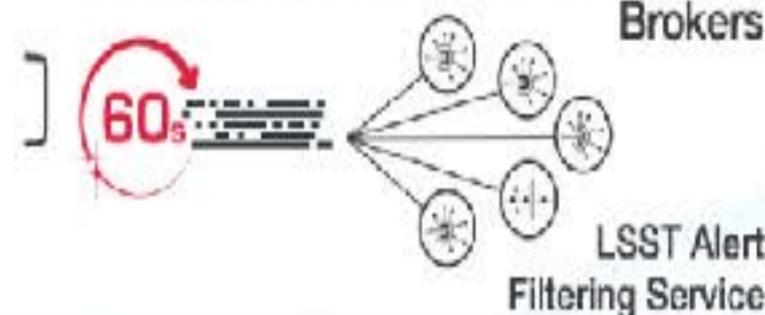
Sequential 30s images that cover the entire visible sky every few days.



### Prompt Data Products

Alerts: up to 10M/night

via nightly alert streams Community Brokers



## Prompt Products for Non-moving Objects



Prompt Products Database (PPDB) Contains **DIA**Source and **DIA**Object Catalogs with:

- all the same information as in the Alert Packet
- forced photometry in **difference** images at the locations of **DIA**Objects with detections in the past ~12 months
- precovery forced photometry for new unassociated **DIA**Sources at their location in the last ~30 days of **difference** images



Processed single-visit direct and **difference** images are also made available in 24 hours in the Science Platform.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dmmKG0ANK8>

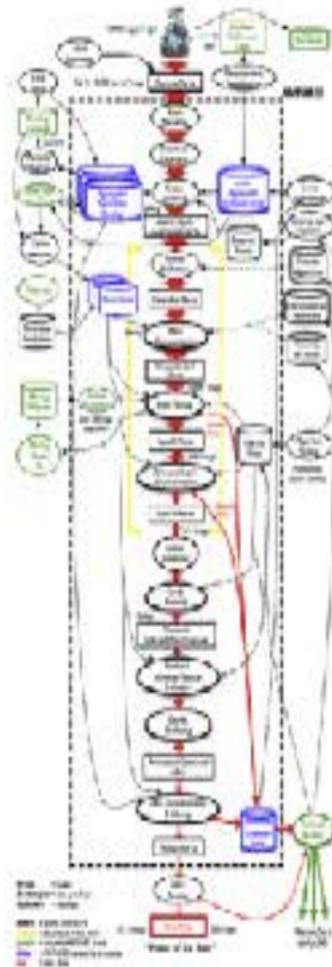
# Big data and time domain astrophysics

VERA C. RUBIN  
OBSERVATORY  
**Astronomy's Discovery Chain**

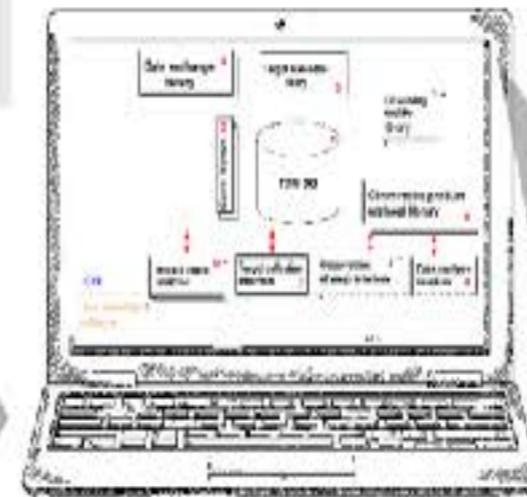
**AEON**  
Astronomical Earth Observation Network



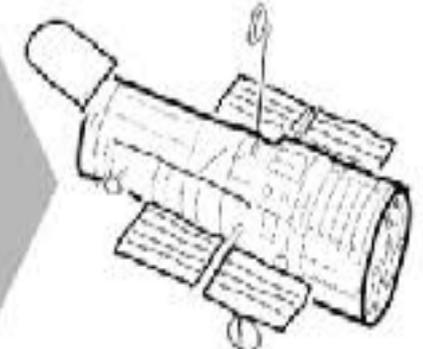
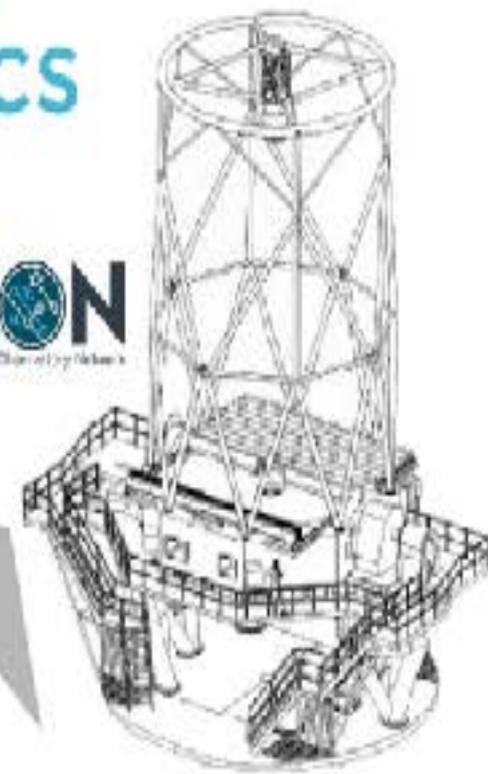
Discovery Engine  
10M alerts/night



Community Brokers



target  
observation  
managers



**the astronomy discovery chain**

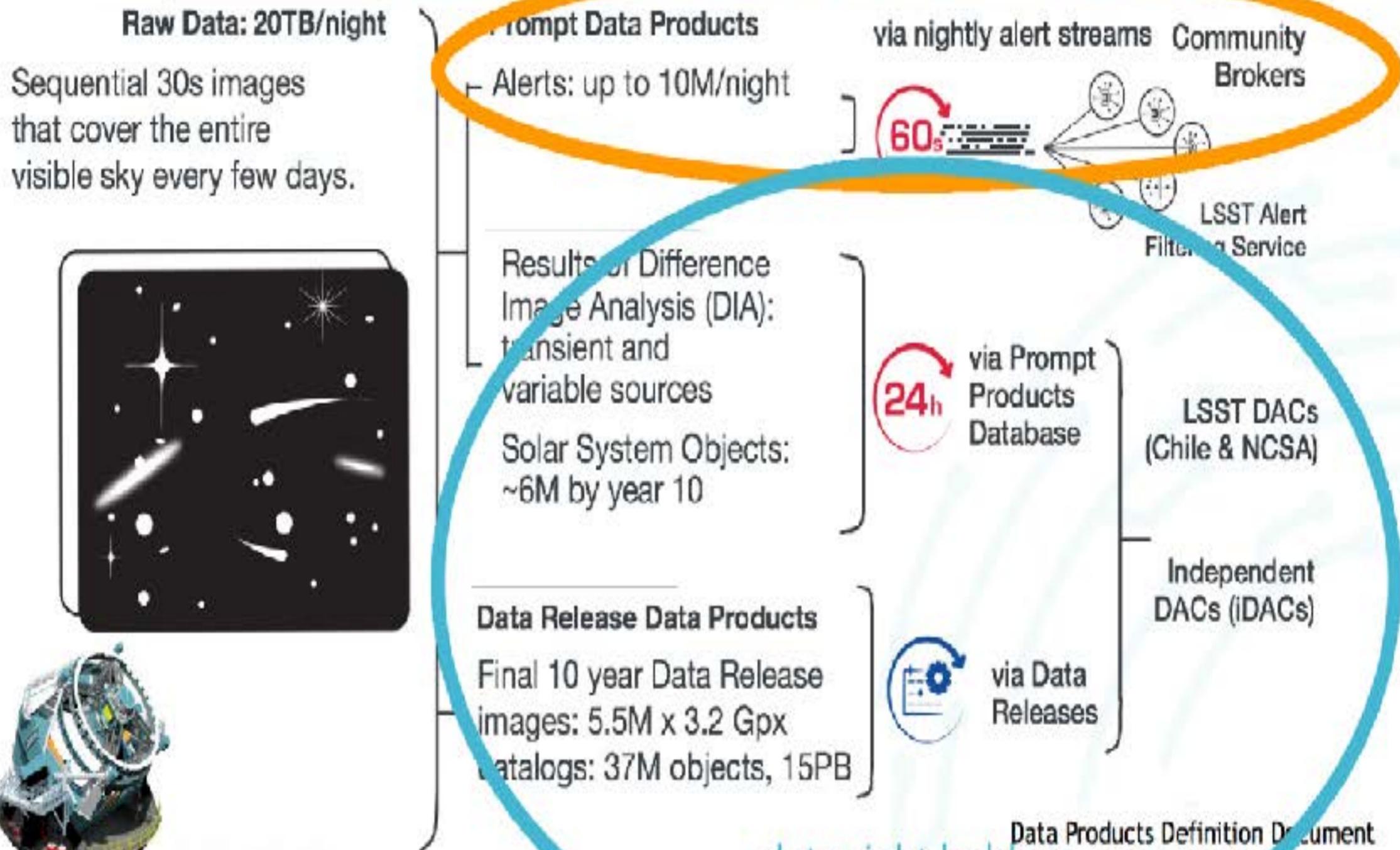


# Rubin Observatory LSST



world public

## Data Management System Overview



data right holders  
public after 2 years

Data Products Definition Document  
<http://ls.st/dpdd>



# Rubin Observatory LSST



LIGO/VIRGO area of localization  $\sim 100$ deg square

---

Ursa Minor contains 255.86 square degrees



Credit: LIGO/VIRGO/NASA/Leo Singer



5190425z 18% of the sky localization

*federica bianco - fbianco@udel.edu*

@fedhere



# Rubin Observatory LSST

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# *Rubin and*

# *LEOsats*

---



# Rubin Observatory LSST

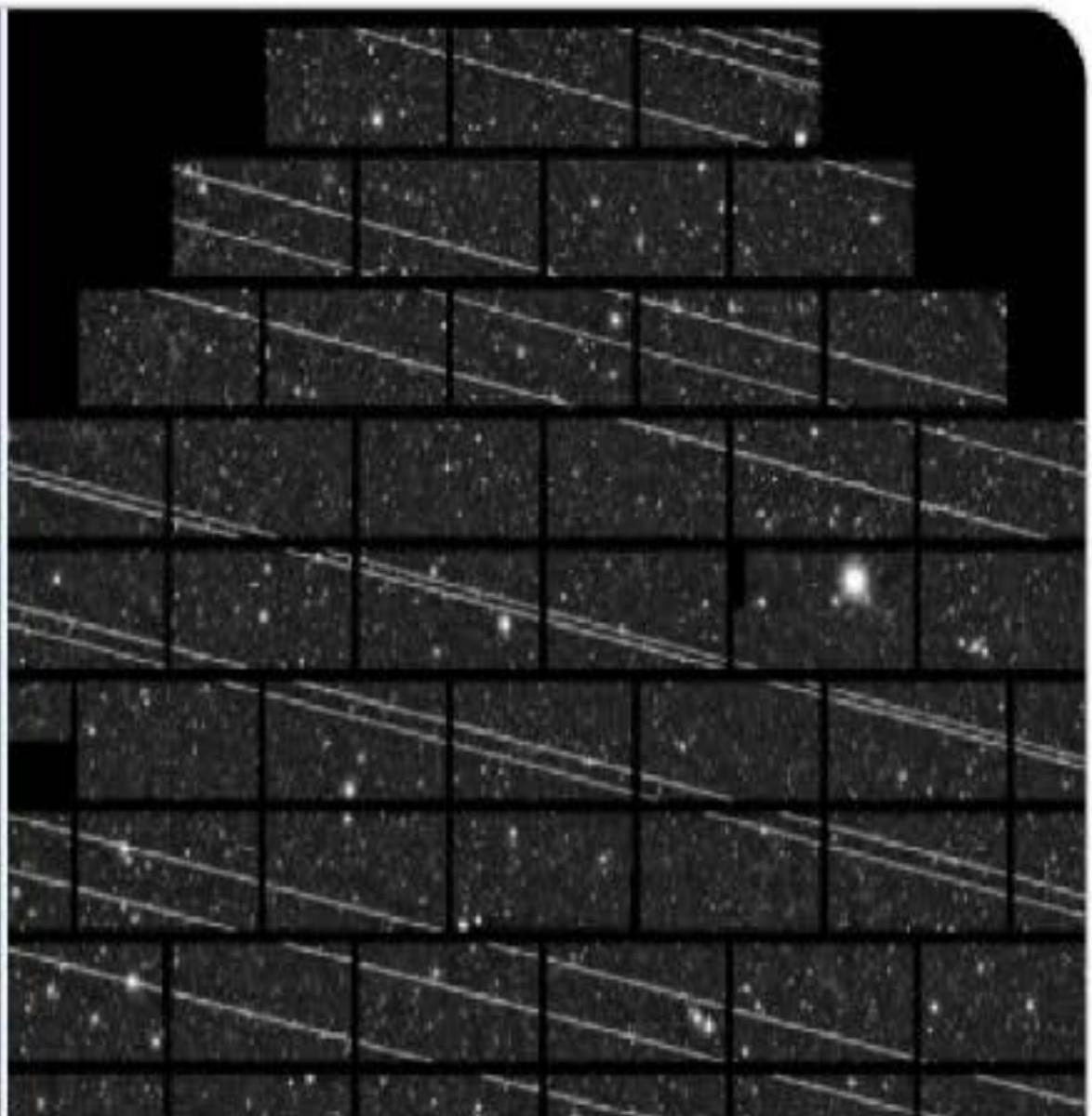
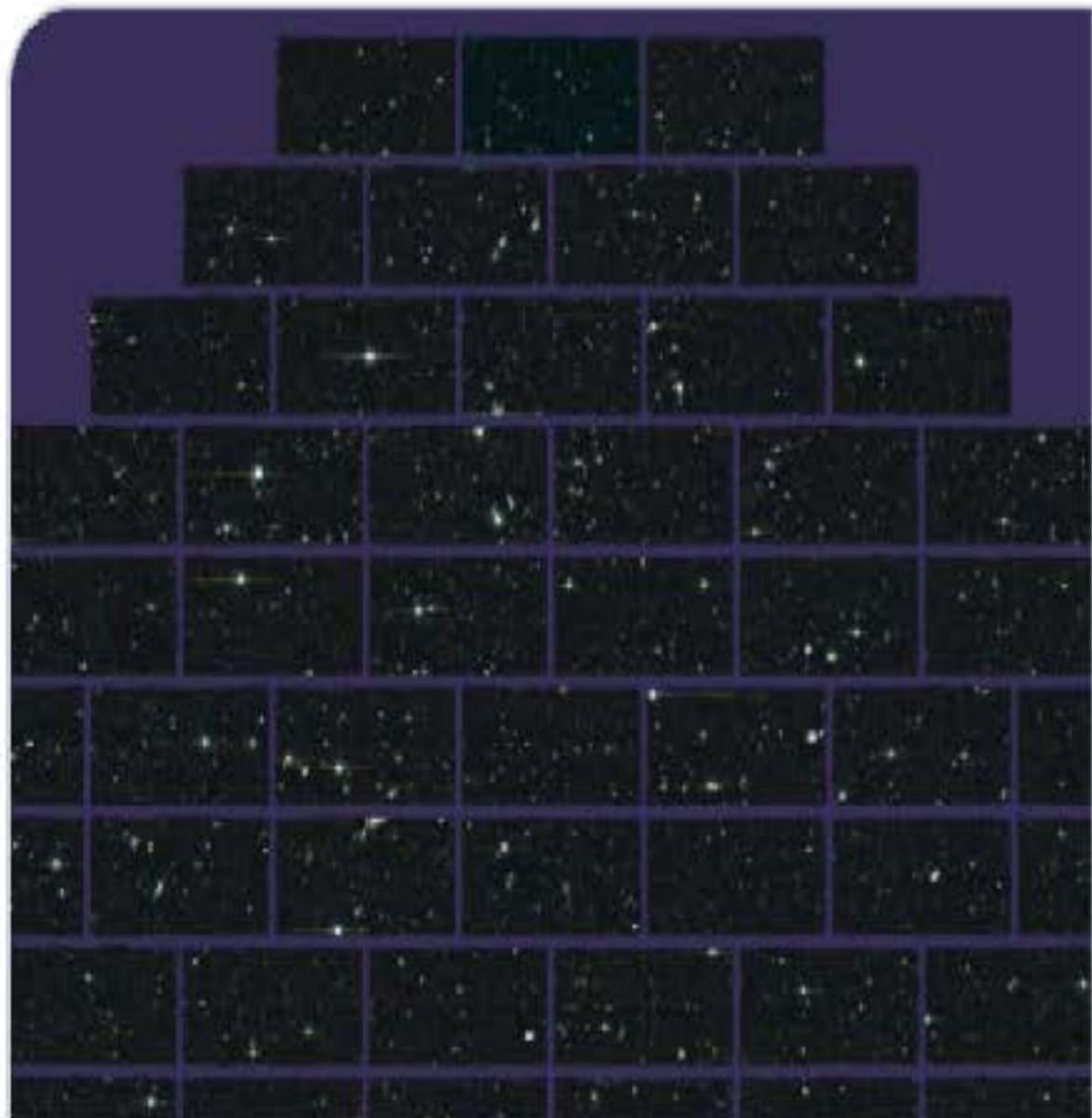


**Meredith Rawls**

@merrdiff



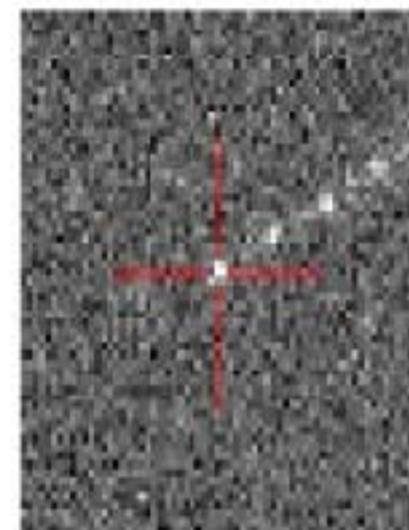
How it started:      How it's going:



# Time domain Rubin LSST science

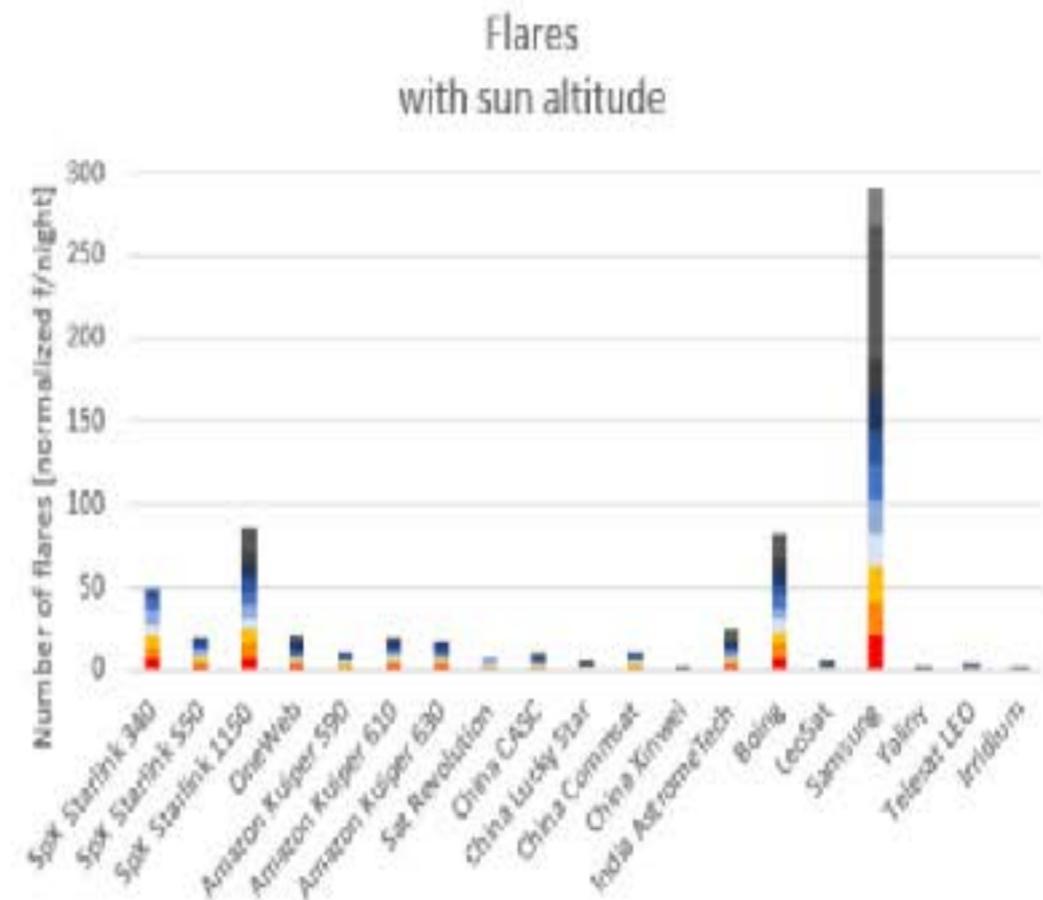


Iridium satellite number 35 lit up the predawn sky west of Boston at 5 a.m. EST on February 1, 1998, *Sky & Telescope*



- Satellite flares**  
can be mitigated:
- orientation of satellite,
  - directing flares away from observer
  - knowing coordinates to associate them to alerts

if not mitigate there would be bogus alerts and images ruined by saturating flares



**Fig. 9.** Number of flares for each constellation, simply scaling them to one-third of the flares caused by the original Iridium satellites (which had three large antennas) and to the number of satellites. This is the number of observable flares per night, or the number of flares per week brighter than  $-5$  mag for a mid-latitude site. The colour encodes the sun elevation below the horizon, from  $0^\circ$  (red),  $-18^\circ$  (pale blue), and into the night (darker blue to greys).

Hainaut & Williams 2020

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.01992>

Rubin  
Observatory

Science Collaborations

federica.bianco@udel.edu



@fedhero

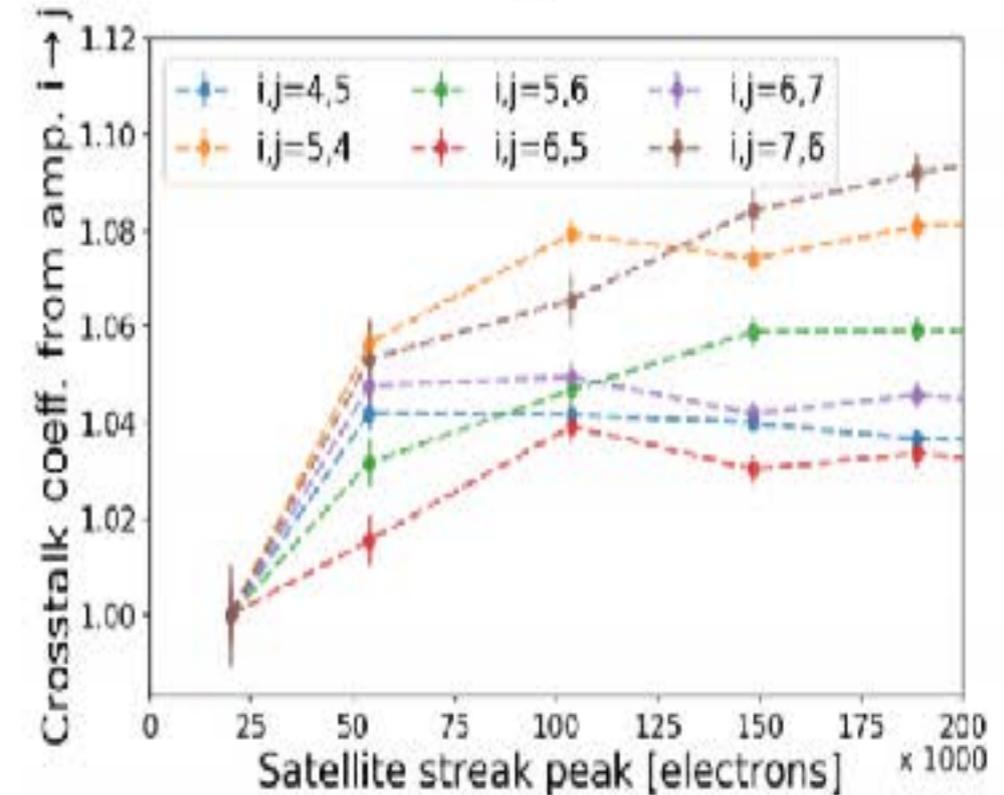


LSST  
Legacy Survey of Space and Time

# Static Sky: correlated noise and cross talk

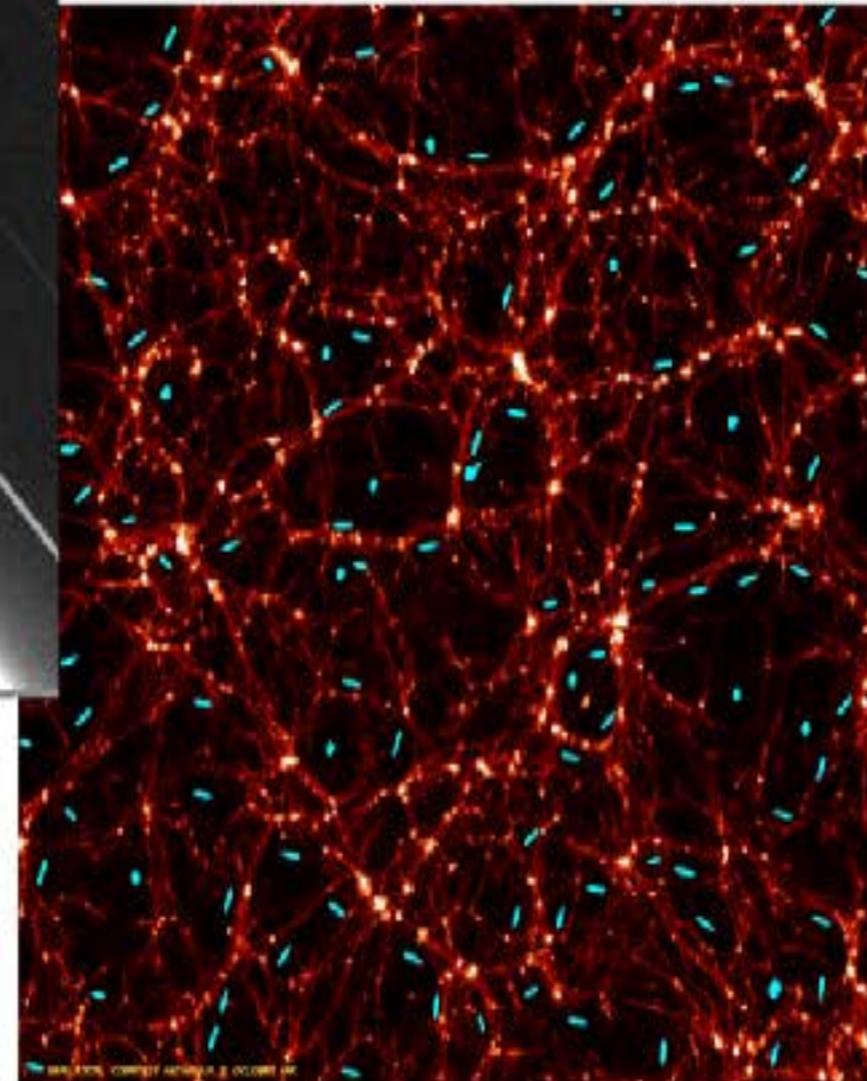
Cosmology probes are systematic dominated

mitigation: simulation of the non-linear crosstalk to measure the effect on precision cosmology and effectiveness of removal algorithms



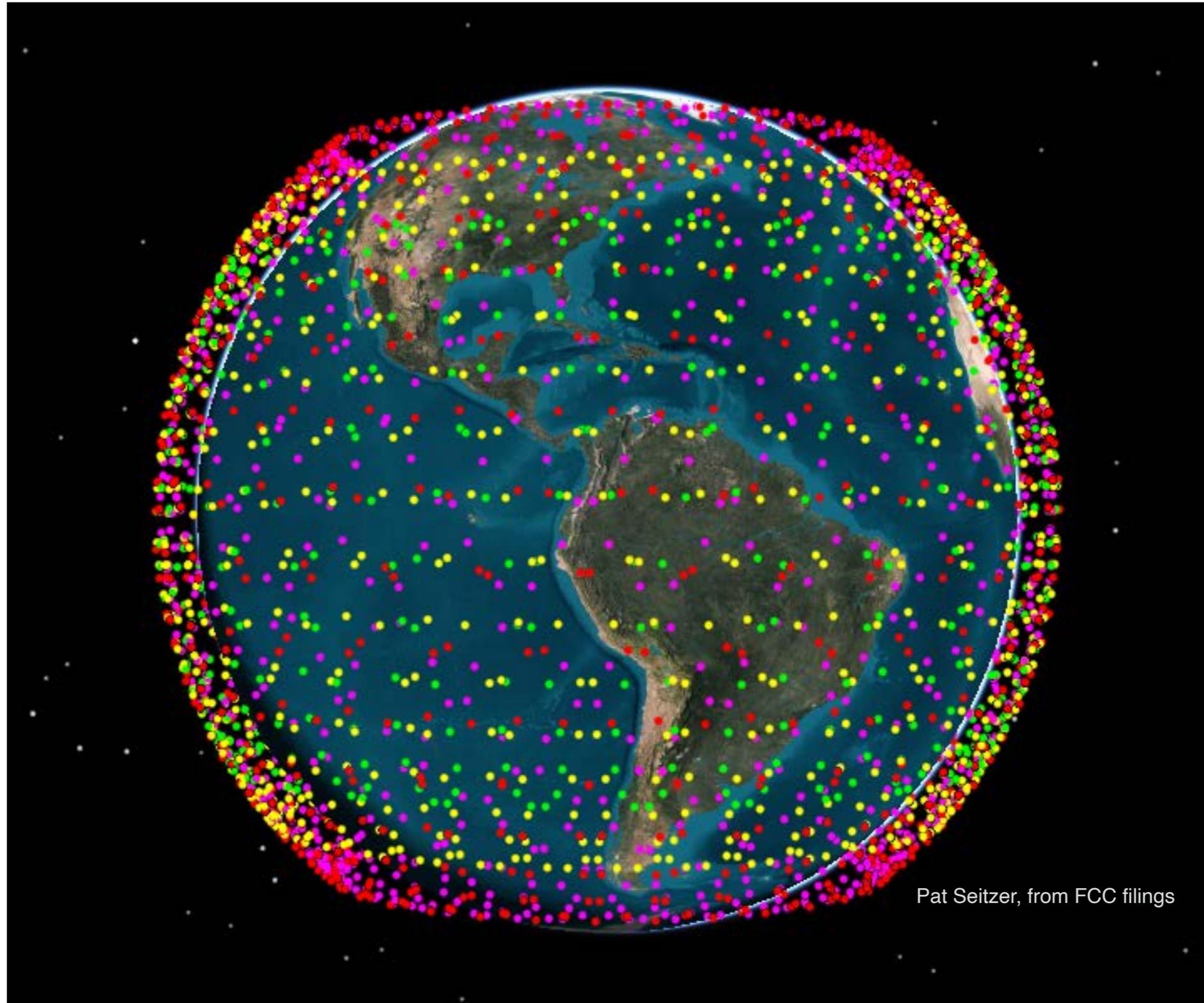
Tyson et al. 2020

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.12417>



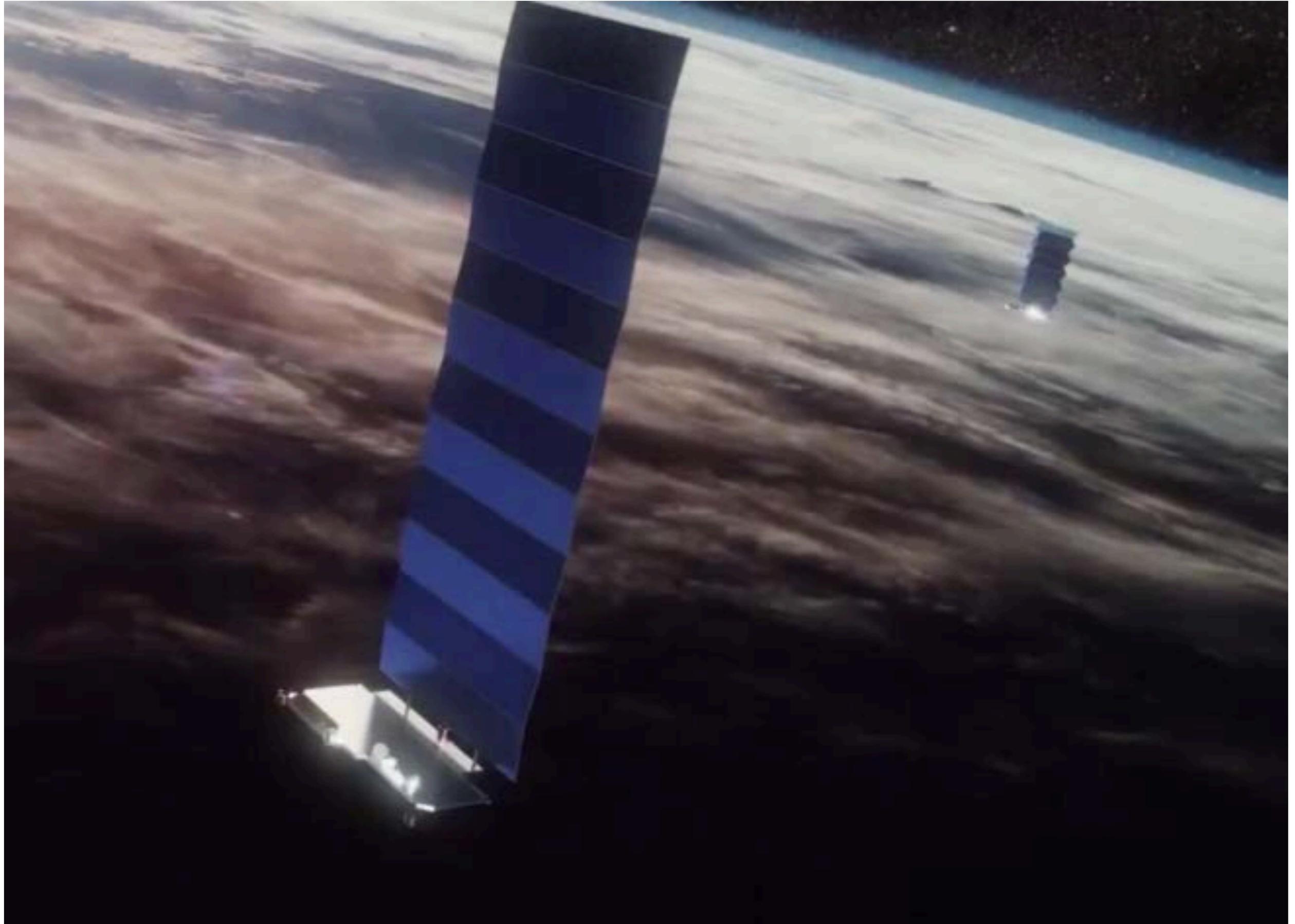
(image credit: Canada-France Hawaii Telescope)

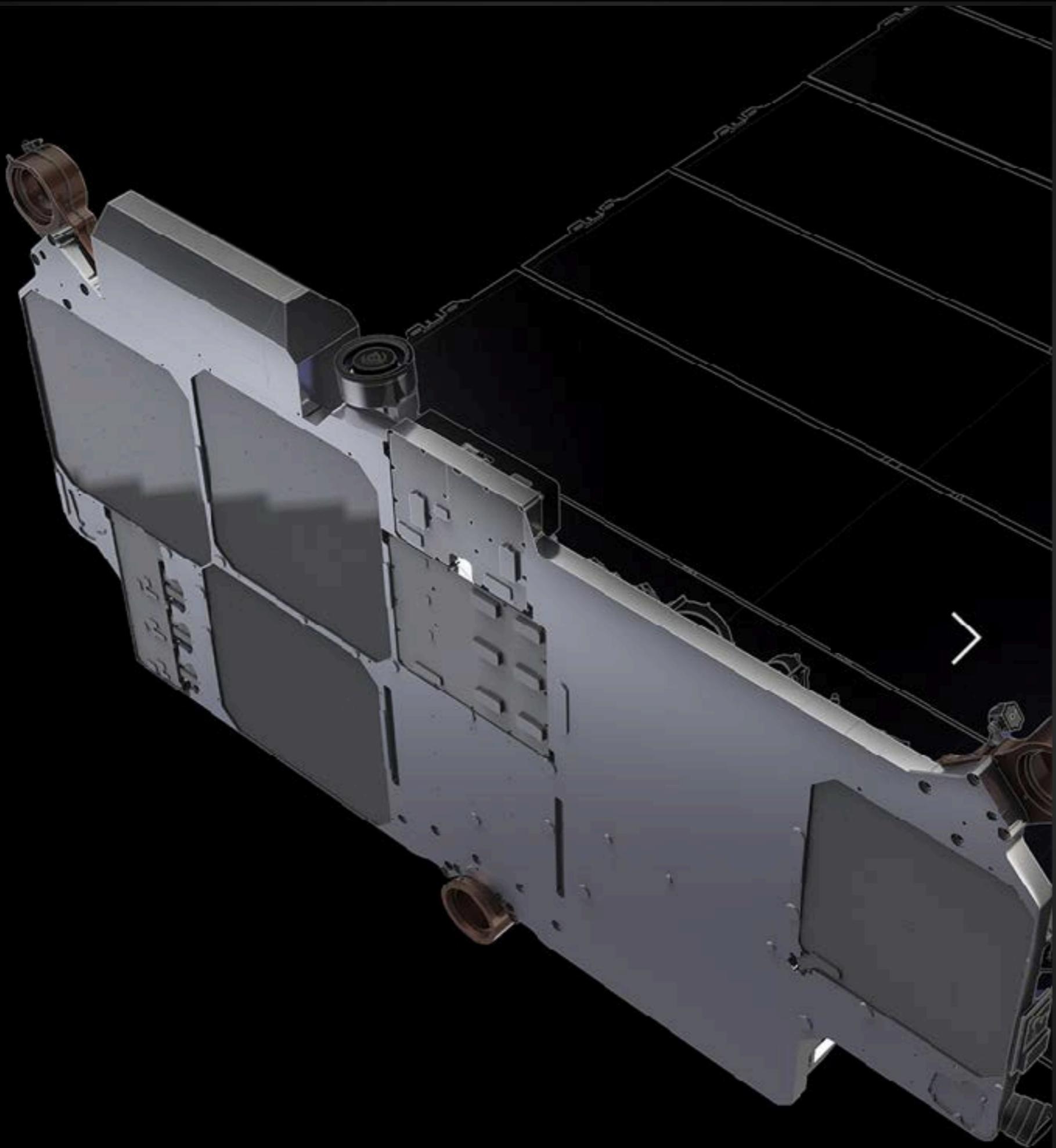
# Starlink and Kuiper constellations:



Purpose: direct broad-band internet delivery 24/7

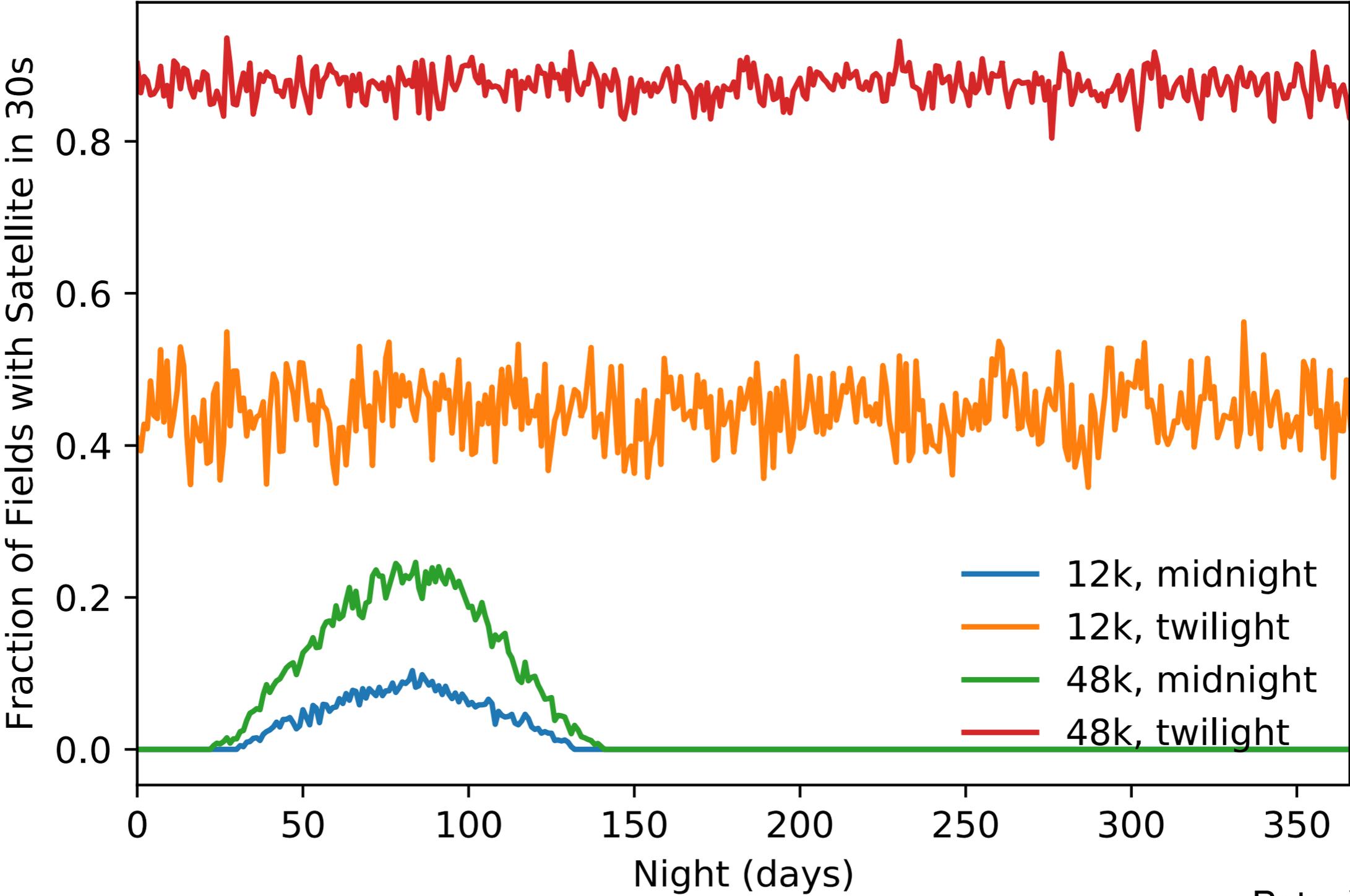
# Starlink satellites



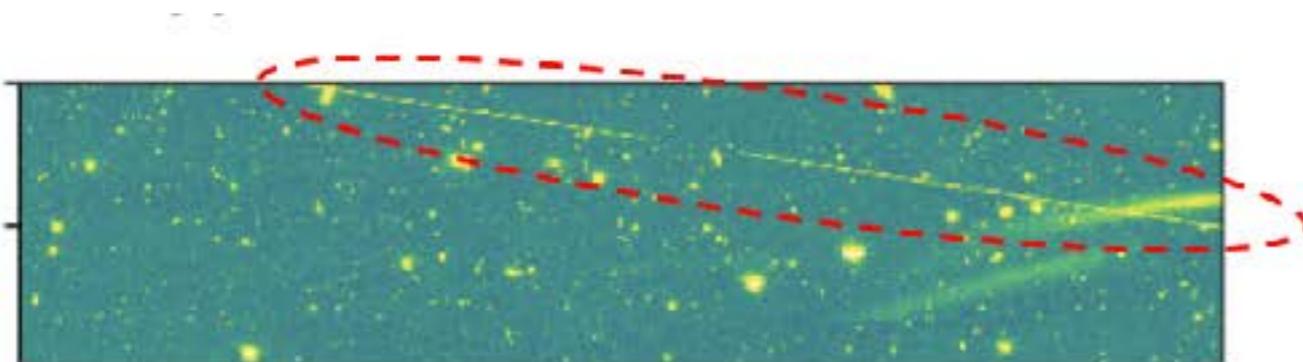
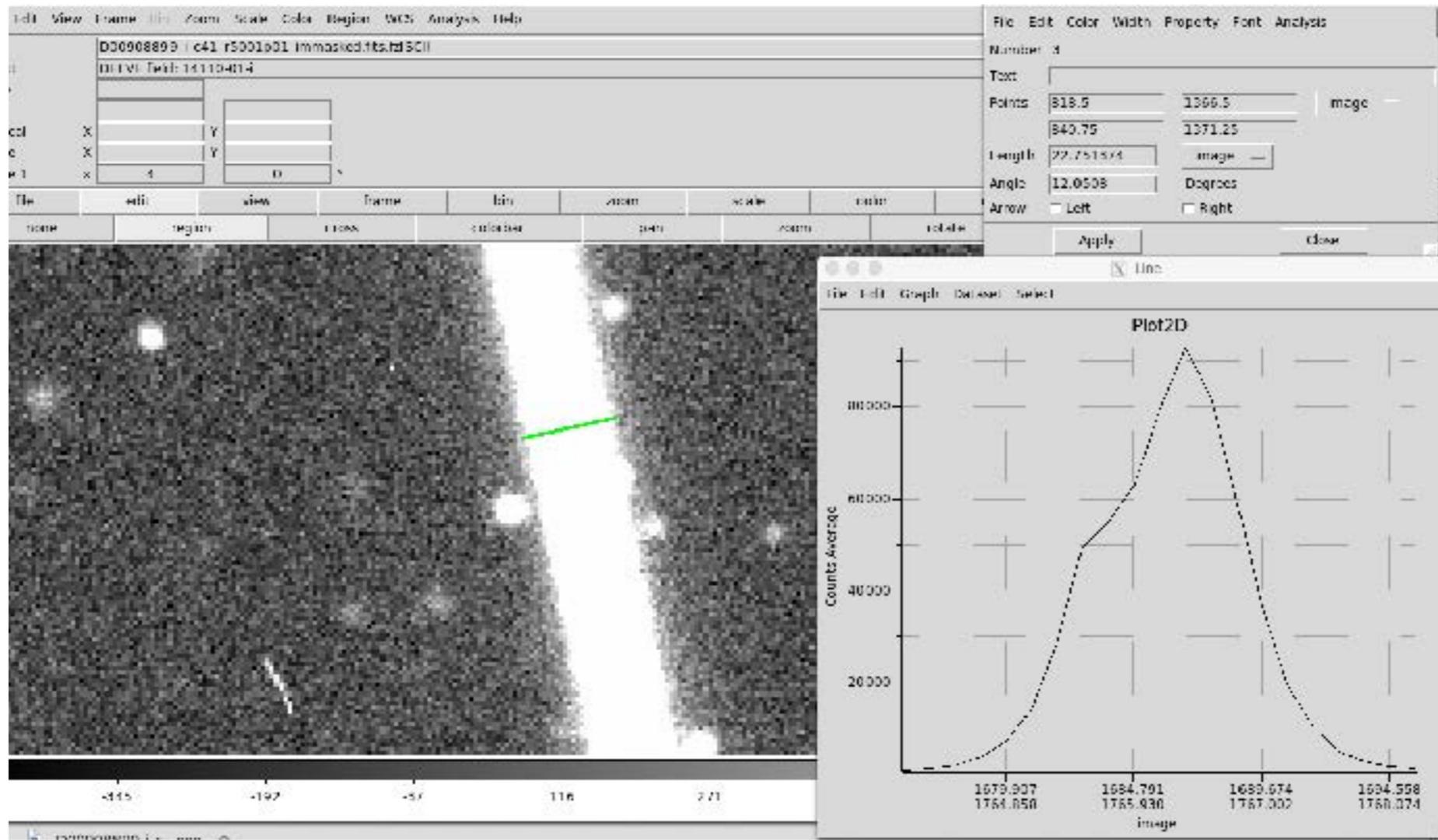


Starlink.com

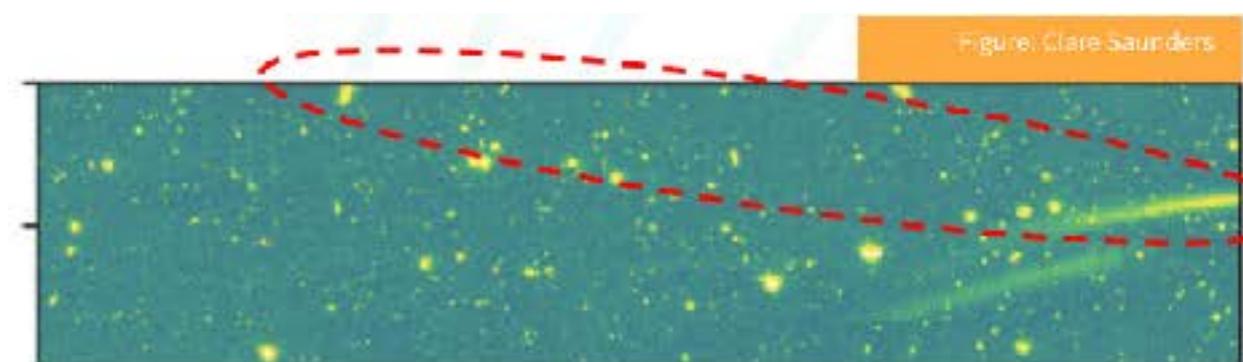
Simulations of 12K, 48K LEO Sats in baseline LSST cadence: about 1% of all LSST pixels affected by satellite trails!



# Starlink detection trail:



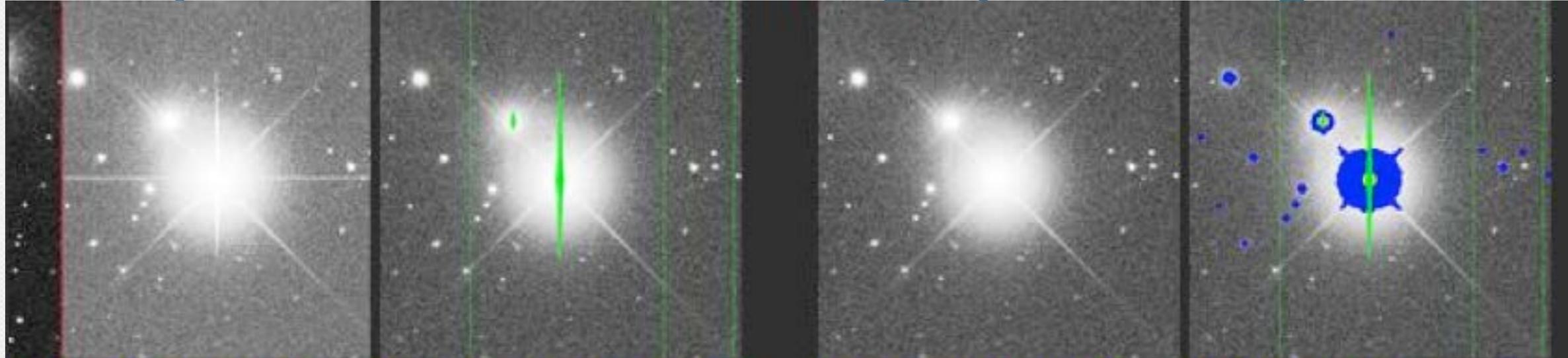
Coadded image without masking



Coadded image with trails masked

Figure: Clare Saunders

# Basic steps in astronomical image processing

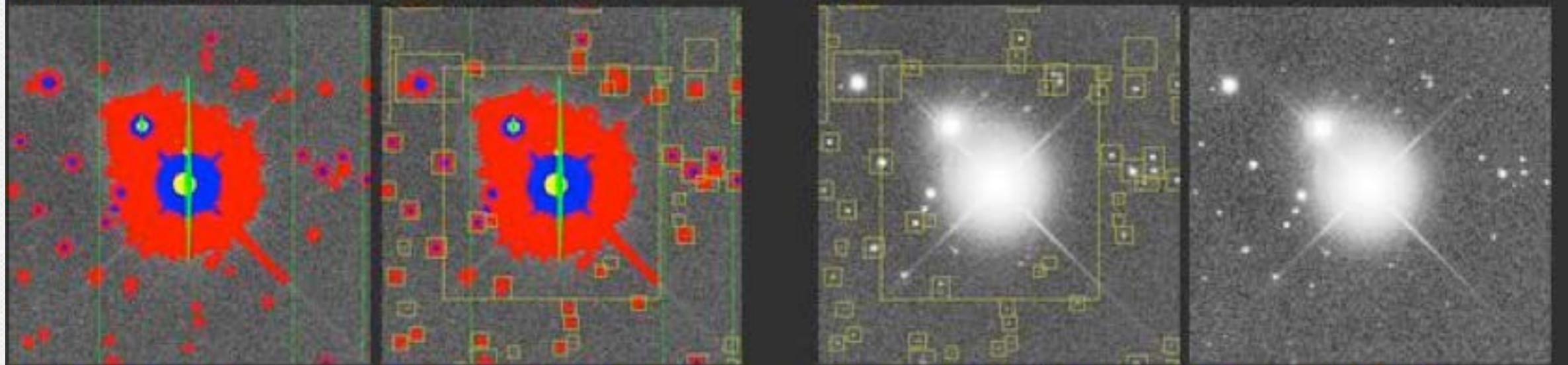


**A raw data frame.**  
The difference in bias levels from the two amplifiers is visible.

**Bias-corrected frame** with saturated pixels, bad columns, and cosmic rays masked in green.

**Frame corrected** for saturated pixels, bad columns, and cosmic rays.

**Bright object detections** marked in blue.



**Faint object detections** marked in red.

**Measured objects**, masked and enclosed in boxes. Small empty boxes are objects detected only in some other band.

**Measured objects** in the data frame.

**Reconstructed image** using postage stamps of individual objects and sky background from binned image.

## 2 Image Coaddition



## 3 Coadd Image Analysis



## 4 Multi-Epoch Object Characterization



## Image Coaddition

- more complex than might be expected: need to account for different PSF and background

## Detect and deblend sources

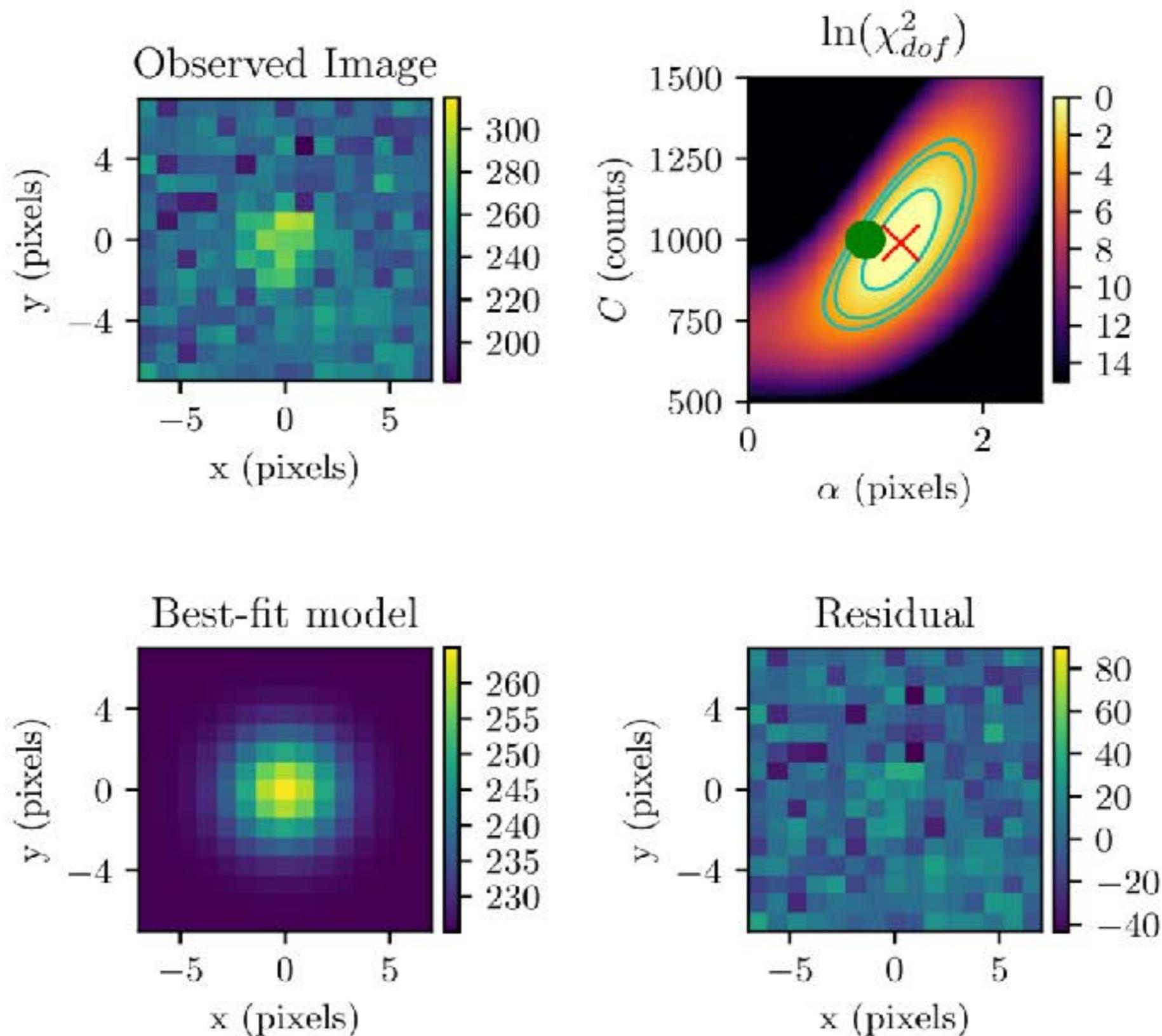
- deblending is a complex problem and it gets worse as data are deeper as there are more objects per unit angular area

## Multifit

- a modeling approach based on Bayesian statistics (hard in practice)

# How bright is this star? How do we estimate that from an image?

- let us assume that the stellar profile, or point spread function (PSF) is known
- we will also assume that we know the centroid (position) of our star; both PSF and centroid are determined in “pre-processing”
- then we fit the PSF to the observed image (pixel counts) of our star, with the PSF normalization (overall brightness) as a free model parameter
- in its simplest form, the fitting is done by chi<sup>2</sup> minimization
- we can also fit for an intrinsic profile width; that is, we can assume that the observed profile is **wider** than the PSF; this allows us to recognize (barely) resolved galaxies



**Figure 2.** Illustration of fitting an image generated with noise per pixel of  $\sigma_0 = 15$  counts, PSF with  $\alpha_{\text{psf}} = 1.5$  pix, the intrinsic profile width  $\alpha_g = 1.0$  pix, and a source with  $C = 1000$  counts. With an effective number of pixels of  $\sim 40$ , the S/N is  $\sim 10$ . The top left panel shows a data image, and the top right panel shows the  $\chi^2$  image as a function of two free parameters,  $\alpha_g$  and  $C$ . The standard  $1\sigma$ ,  $2\sigma$ , and  $3\sigma$  contours are shown by the lines; the maximum-likelihood best-fit values of the free parameters by the  $\times$  symbol; and the input values of fitted parameters by the dot. The best-fit model is shown in the bottom left panel, and the data-model residuals are shown in the bottom right panel.

The data likelihood given model for the PSF profile:

$$p(D|S, C_{\text{psf}}, I) = (2\pi)^{-N/2} \prod_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{(f_i - C_{\text{psf}} \phi_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$$

The maximum likelihood value of  $C_{\text{psf}}$ , denoted as  $\hat{C}_{\text{psf}}$ , can be found by maximizing the log-likelihood  $\ln L$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \ln L(C_{\text{psf}}) &\equiv \ln(p(D|S, C_{\text{psf}}, I)) \\ &= \text{const.} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(f_i - C_{\text{psf}} \phi_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

that is, using the condition  $d(\ln L)/dC_{\text{psf}} = 0$ . The associated uncertainty of  $\hat{C}_{\text{psf}}$  could be estimated from  $\sigma_C = (d^2(\ln L)/dC_{\text{psf}}^2)^{-1/2}$ , evaluated at  $C_{\text{psf}} = \hat{C}_{\text{psf}}$ .

The solution for the best-fit normalization, also known as the PSF photometry:

Assuming homoscedastic noise (i.e.,  $\sigma_i \sim \sigma_0 = \text{constant}$ , as is the case when the noise is dominated by the background contribution) yields the maximum likelihood estimate

$$\hat{C}_{\text{psf}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N f_i \phi_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N \phi_i^2} \quad (7)$$

and its uncertainty (which implies a Gaussian PDF)

$$\sigma_C = \sigma_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \phi_i^2 \right)^{-1/2} = \sigma_0 (n_{\text{eff}}^{\text{psf}})^{1/2}. \quad (8)$$

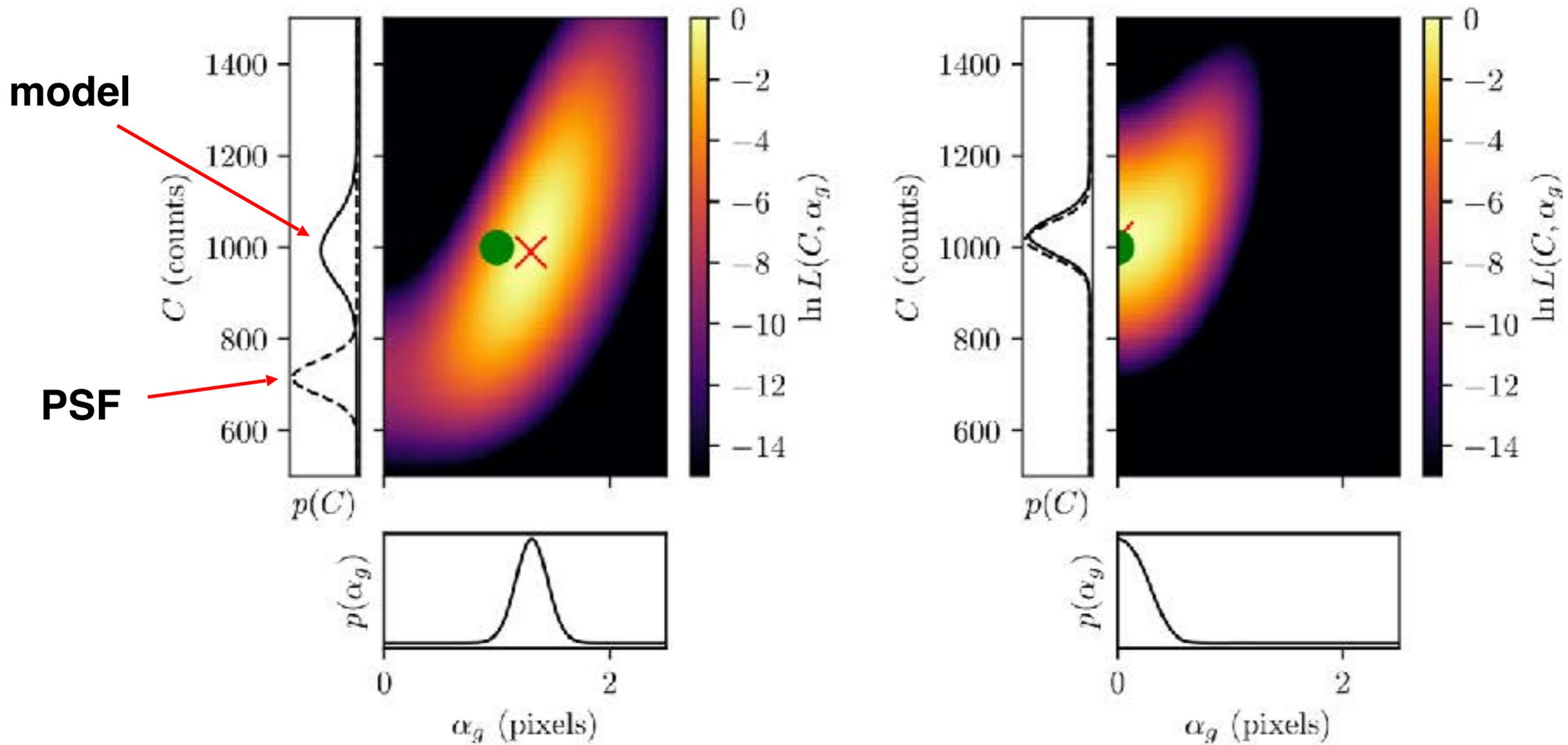
If the PSF profile is estimated correctly, the PSF photometry is optimal for unresolved sources (stars)

## How bright is this star? But: is it a star at all?

- we can always assume that the observed profile is well-described by PSF as compute PSF flux (eq. 7)
- since there is no guarantee that the source is unresolved, we also fit for an intrinsic profile width; when we use this “widened” profile instead of PSF profile in eq. 7, we compute the so-called “model” flux
- if the model flux is statistically larger than the PSF flux, we have evidence that the source is “resolved” (i.e wider than the PSF profile)
- note that the PSF flux can be thought of as the model flux conditioned on the intrinsic profile width being zero

For more details: [http://faculty.washington.edu/ivezic/Teaching/Astr511/LSST\\_SNRdoc.pdf](http://faculty.washington.edu/ivezic/Teaching/Astr511/LSST_SNRdoc.pdf)

[http://faculty.washington.edu/ivezic/Publications/Slater\\_2020\\_AJ\\_159\\_65.pdf](http://faculty.washington.edu/ivezic/Publications/Slater_2020_AJ_159_65.pdf)



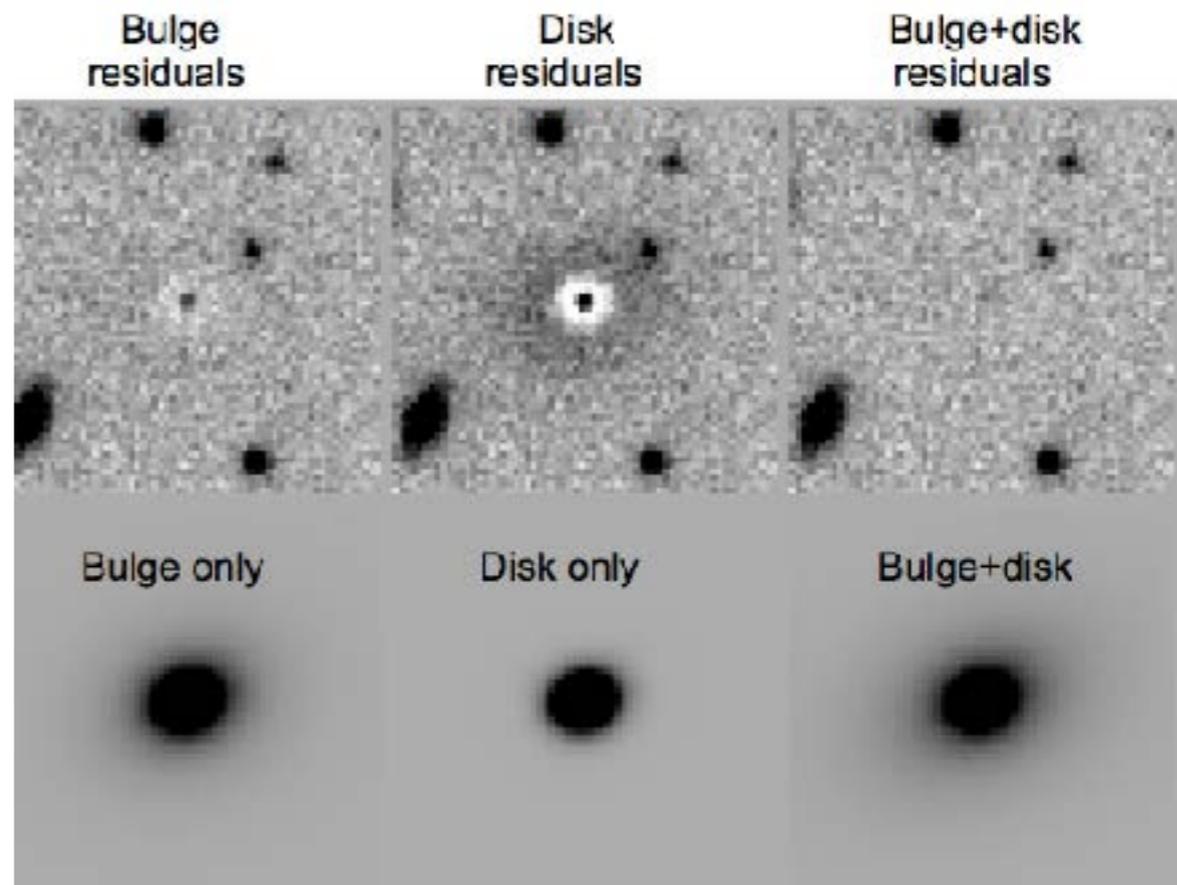
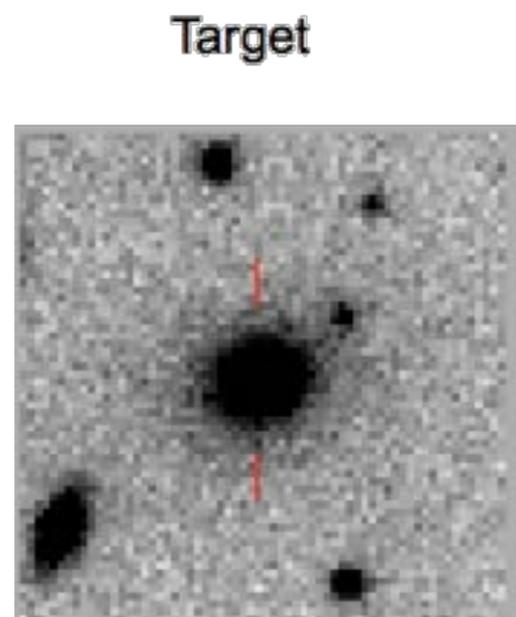
**Figure 3.** Left panel shows the two-dimensional log-likelihood surface ( $\ln(L) = -\chi^2/2$ ) for fitting the intrinsic profile width ( $\alpha_g$ ) and normalization ( $C$ , see Equation (33)) of an image generated with noise per pixel of  $\sigma_0 = 15$  counts, PSF width  $\alpha_{\text{psf}} = 1.5$  pixels, and  $\alpha_g = 1.0$  pixels (same image as shown in the top left panel in Figure 2). The circle marks the true values, and the  $\times$  symbol marks the maximum likelihood point. Marginal probability distributions for each parameter are shown to the left and below the panel with solid lines. The dashed line in the panel to the left is the conditional distribution of the normalization  $C$  given  $\alpha_g = 0$ . (Note that its peak corresponds to the maximum likelihood value of PSF counts,  $C_{\text{psf}}$ .) The right panel is analogous, except for a profile with  $\alpha_g = 0$  (a noisy realization of the PSF profile). Note that the marginal distributions for  $\alpha_g$  deviate from a Gaussian shape, especially in the right panel.

**Left: a resolved source, the model flux is larger than the PSF flux**

**Right: unresolved source (star, or PSF), the model flux is statistically the same as the PSF flux**

# How bright is this galaxy (resolved) source?

- this is a much harder question since we do not know the galaxy profile a priori (many morphological types of galaxies, inclination effects, distance effects, mergers, galaxy evolution)
- a short answer: need much more complicated models than just the PSF profile (below: “bulge+disk” model)



# Faint surface brightness limit reveals more detail:

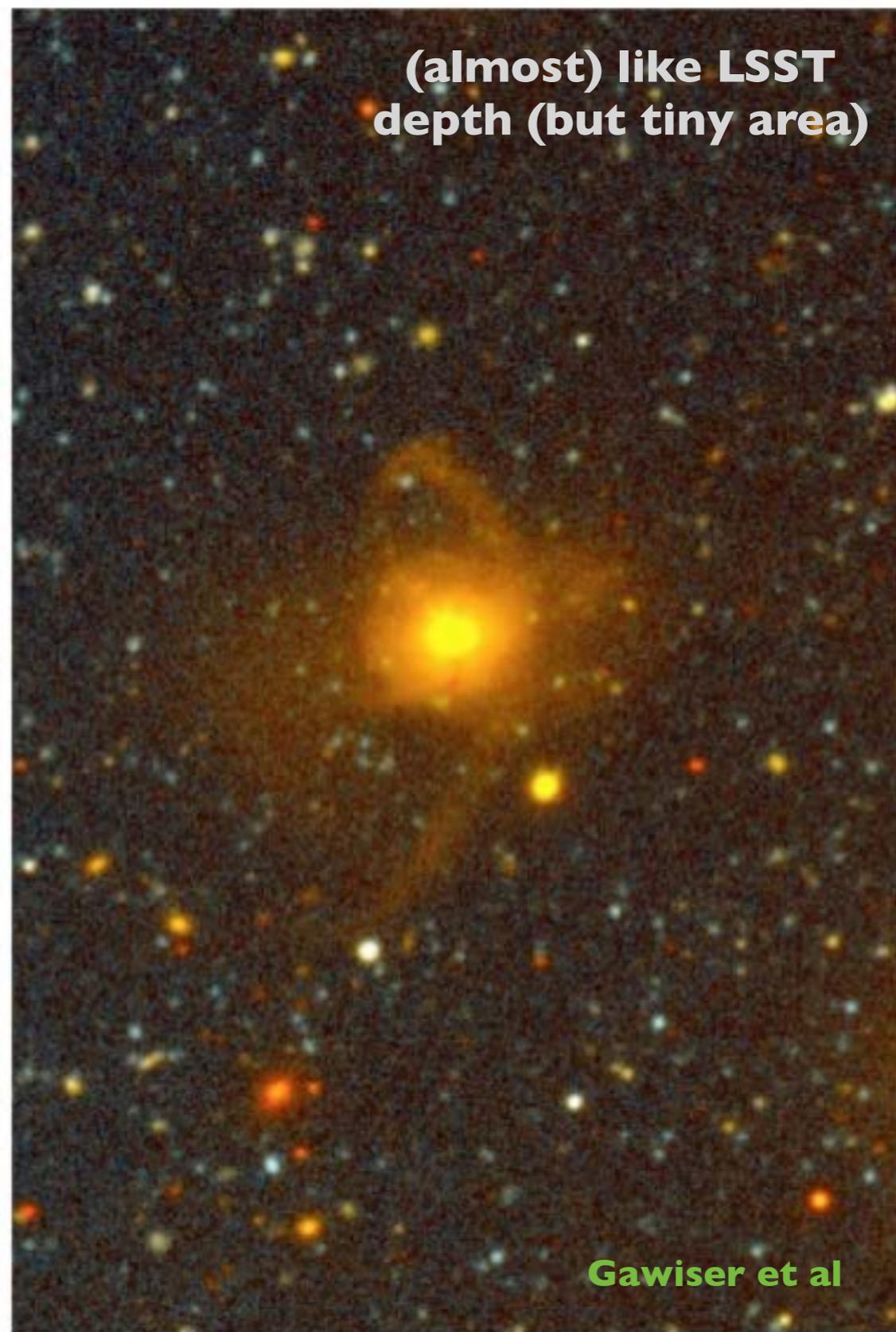
SDSS

3x3 arcmin, gri

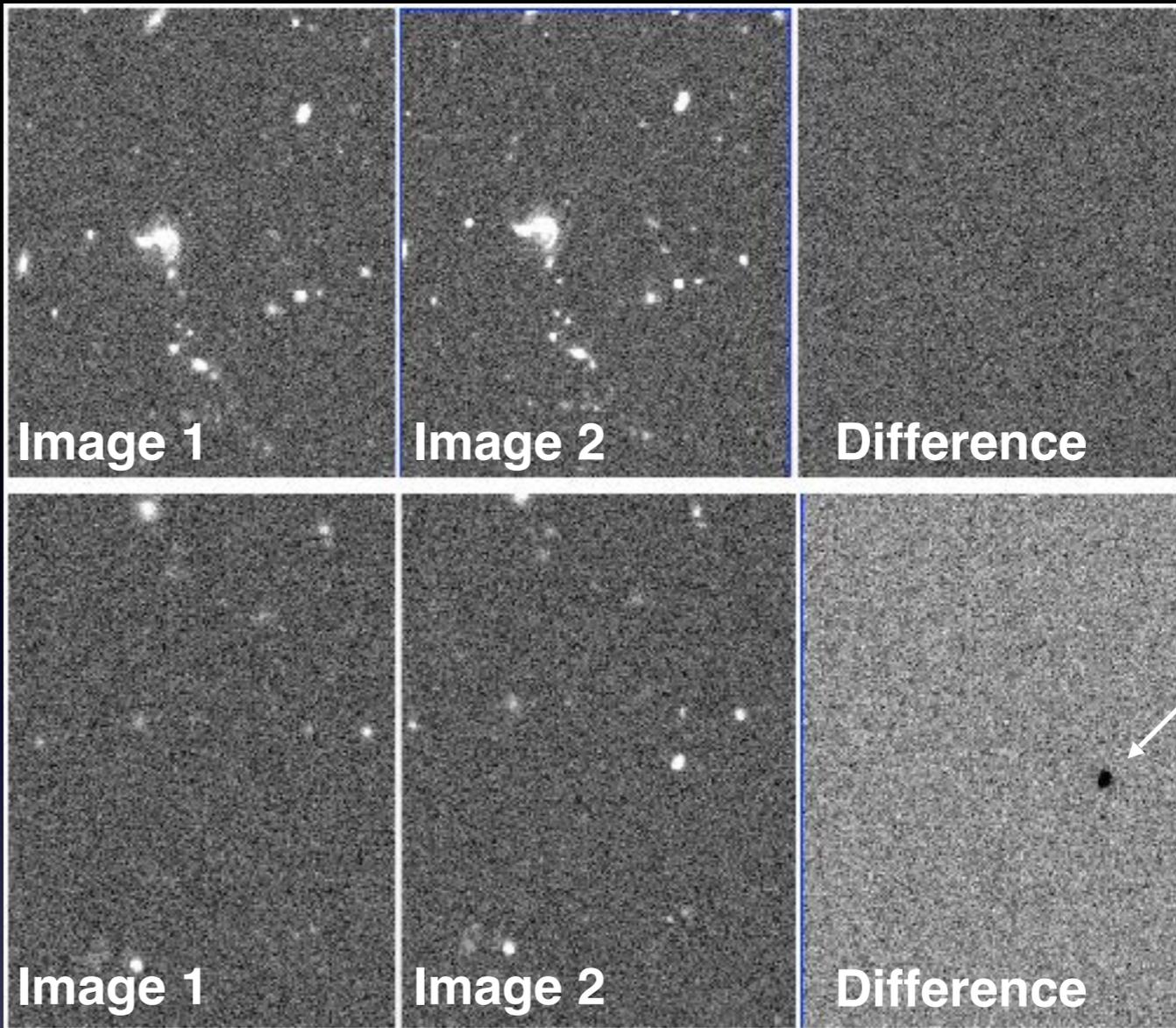
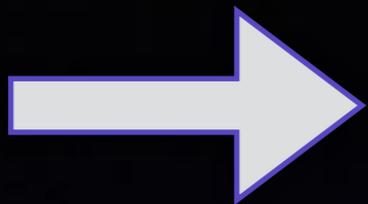


MUSYC  $r \sim 26$

(almost) like LSST depth (but tiny area)



Gawiser et al



Additional “followup” data obtained to:

- confirm and classify
- provide better temporal resolution
- use different filters/wavelengths
- obtain spectra (distance!)
- get other measurements (e.g. polarimetry)

**~10 billion alerts**

Alerts can trigger “Followup” observations:



We are expecting tens of thousands of new LEO (~550 km) satellites over the next few years (now about a thousand)

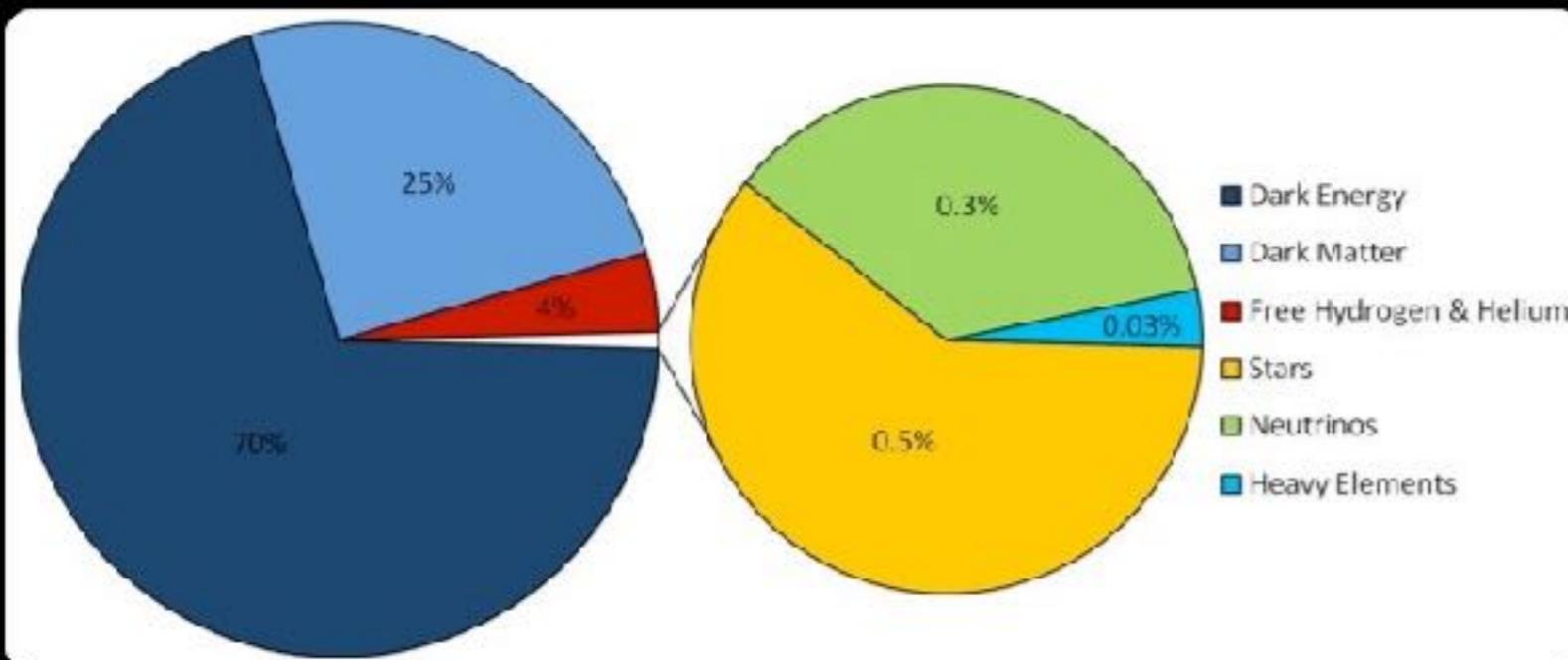
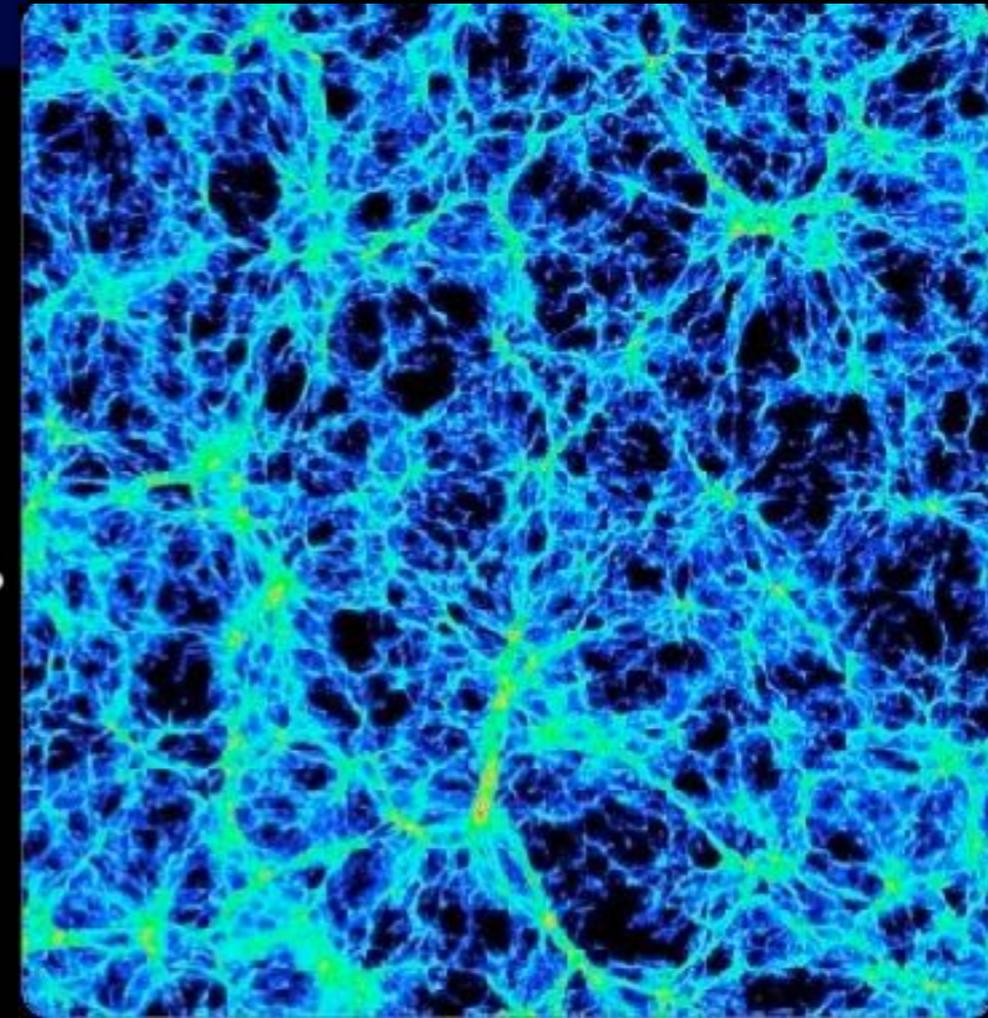
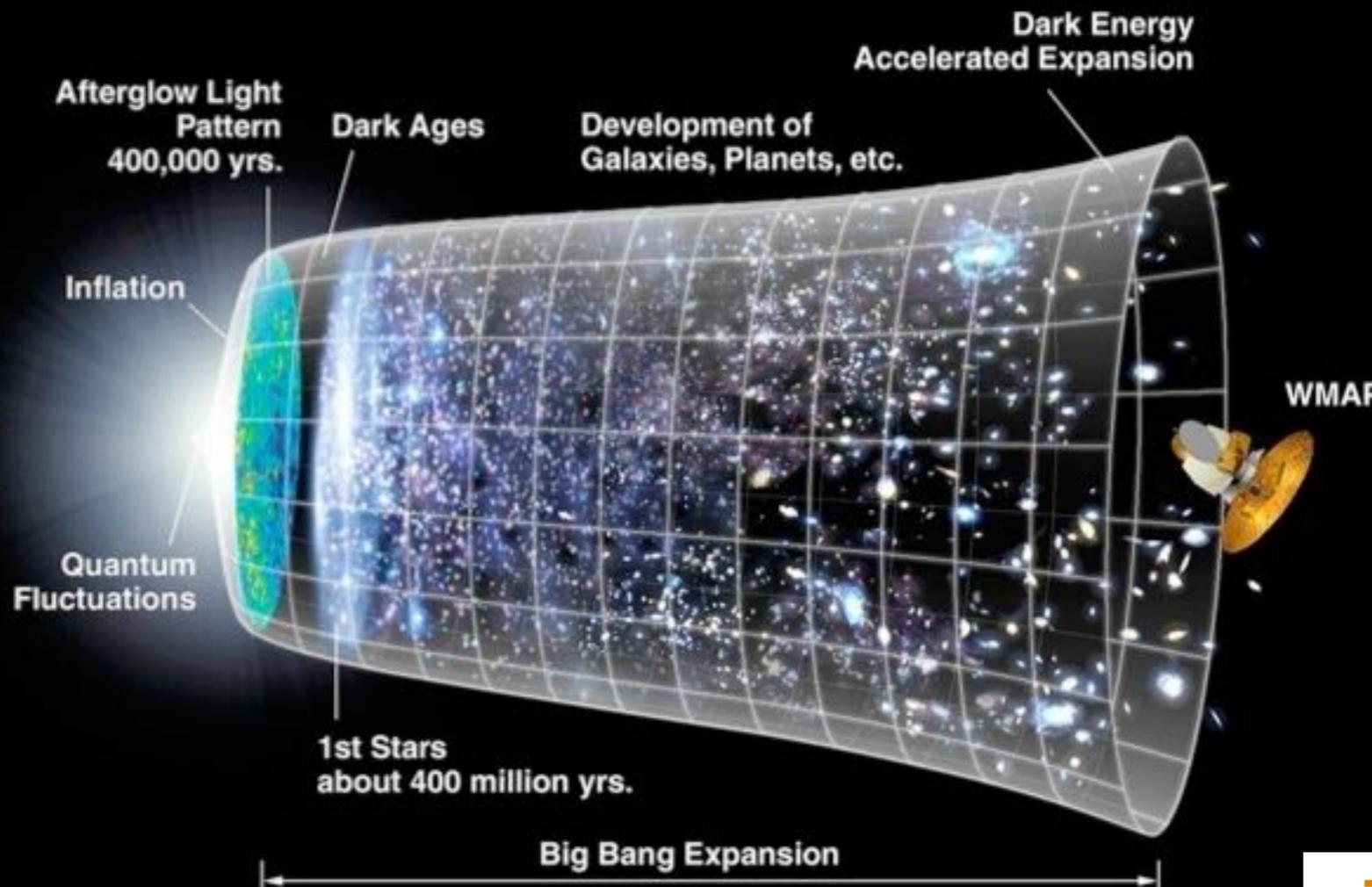


Alex Drlica-Wagner  
CTIO, AURA

<https://noirlab.edu/public/images/iotw1946a/>

# New Cosmological Puzzles

## $\Lambda$ CDM: The 6-parameter Theory of the Universe



The modern cosmological models can explain all observations, but need to **postulate** dark matter and dark energy (though gravity model could be wrong, too)

# Modern Cosmological Probes

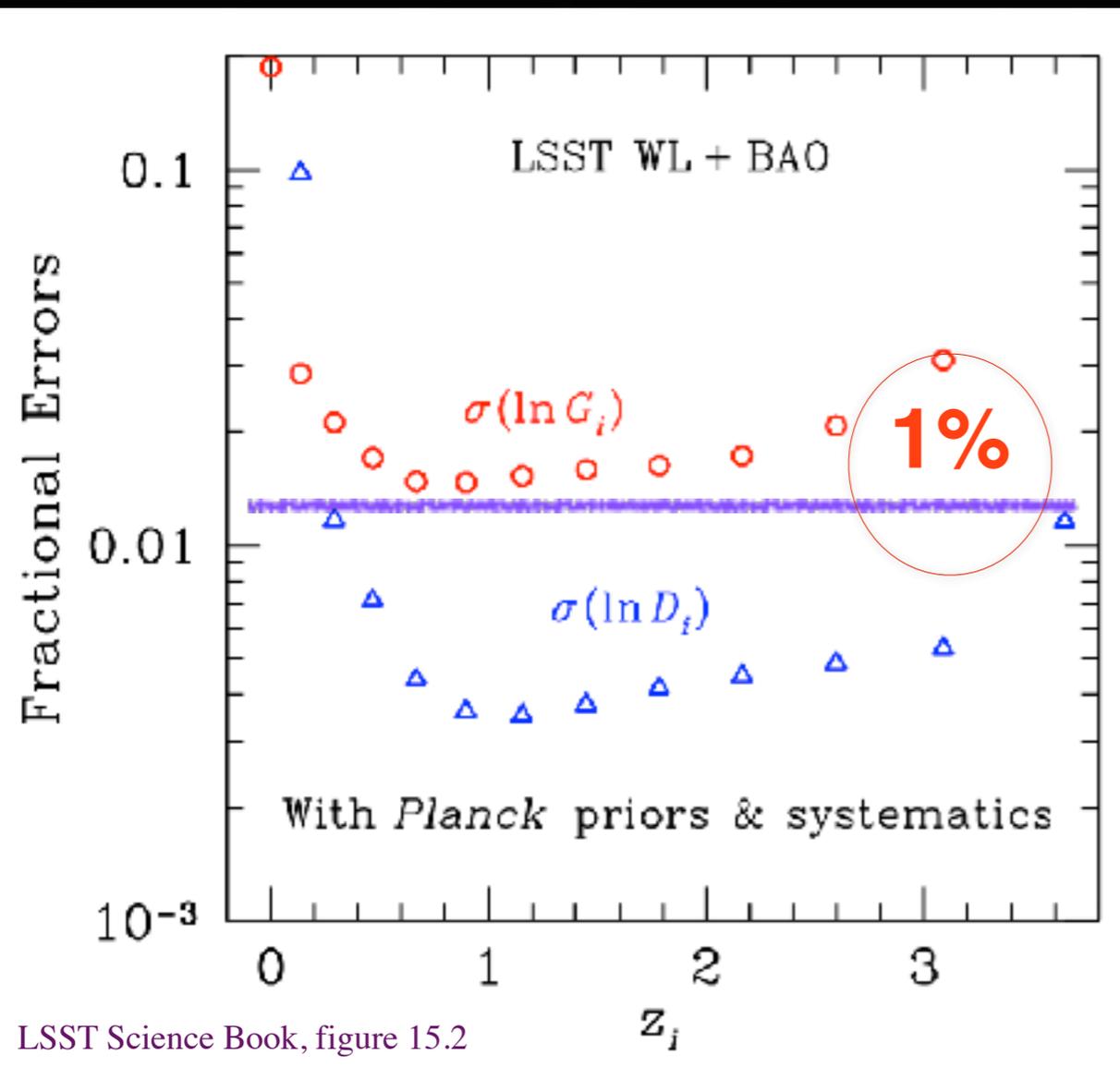
- Cosmic Microwave Background (the state of the Universe at the recombination epoch, at redshift  $\sim 1000$ )
- Weak Lensing: growth of structure
- Galaxy Clustering: growth of structure
- Baryon Acoustic Oscillations: standard ruler
- Supernovae: standard candle

Except for CMB, measuring  $H(z)$  and growth of structure  $G(z)$

$$H(z) \sim d[\ln(a)]/dt, \quad G(z) = a^{-1} \delta \rho_m / \rho_m, \quad \text{with } a(z) = (1+z)^{-1}$$

# Cosmology with LSST: high precision measurements

- Measuring distances,  $H(z)$ , and growth of structure,  $G(z)$ , with a percent accuracy for  $0.5 < z < 3$
- Multiple probes is the key!



By simultaneously measuring growth of structure and curvature, LSST data will tell us whether the recent acceleration is due to **dark energy or modified gravity**.

