

Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

The NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program

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Discovery of Trappist-1 system had big public impact





7 Earth-sized exoplanets, at least 3 of which lie in the habitable zone where liquid water is possible, were found by the transit method orbiting an ultracool dwarf star. Mass ratios $\sim 3x10^{-5}$ of the central star



Trappist-1 Discovery

The Richest Set of Earth-sized Planets Ever Found



Exoplanet Program supported the PI Michael Gillon, the Spitzer Project, & NASA HQ to develop materials for the public release. Set up dedicated site <u>https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/trappist1/</u> with original stories, image & video gallery, virtual reality views, & the travel poster at left



The case of 40 Eridani A

Constraining the presence of a habitable planet

- Very nearby K0 dwarf star at 5 pc distance; B and C components orbit each other 80" away
- HZ lies at 0.13" separation. An earth mass planet there:
 - Would induce 12 cm/sec of stellar reflex motion
 - Has a 0.4% probability of transiting
 - Would induce 0.5 μ as of stellar astrometric wobble
 - Won't lens background stars (galactic lat. -38°)
- 40 Eri A is the host of Star Trek's fictional planet Vulcan
- There is no current means to detect a habitable planet in this system today



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 - Won't lens background stars (galactic latitude -38°)
 Mass ratio ~5x10⁻⁶ to the star
- In direct imaging, an Earth analog here would:
 - Appear at R magnitude 27.6, and with contrast to the star of 3×10^{-10}
 - Be separated from the star by 3 resolution elements as seen by a 3 meter telescope observing in V band
 - Provide photons enabling its discovery *and* spectral measurements of its physical/chemical/biological? conditions

Coronagraph technology today

- Development and laboratory contrast demonstrations have been ongoing for 10+ years, supported by NASA technology investments
- Has already demonstrated 10⁻⁹ visible contrast with 20% bandwidth at an inner working angle (IWA) of 3 λ /D in the laboratory (Trauger et al. 2012).
- We are within reach of the contrast and bandwidth needed to image a habitable planet around 40 Eri A, if the host telescope is sufficiently stable



Hybrid Lyot coronagraph, lab measurements of contrast versus bandwidth

Progress since this demo: - Full dark hole created using two deformable mirrors

- Circular masks fabricated

- Mask rebuilt to provide better performance

NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program





Purpose described in 2014 NASA Science Plan

- 1. Discover planets around other stars
- 2. Characterize their properties
- 3. Identify candidates that could harbor life

ExEP serves the science community and NASA by implementing NASA's space science vision for exoplanets

http://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep

ExEP



ExEP

(General-purpose activities managed outside of ExEP)

- Hubble Space Telescope general observer (STScI)
- Spitzer Space Telescope general observer (SSC/IPAC)
- Research & Analysis grant programs (NASA HQ)
 - Exoplanet Research (XRP), Habitable Worlds, Emerging Worlds
 - NASA Astrobiology Institute
 - Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS)
- TESS (NASA Explorer Program; in development for 3/18 launch)
- JWST (NASA HQ & STScI; in development for 10/18 launch)



NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program



https://exoplanets.nasa.gov



Kepler Close-Out

Delivering Kepler's Legacy. 4496 exoplanet candidates, 2337 confirmed

Transits – mission concluding

 Kepler SOC9.3 Final Catalog and Occurrence Rate data has been delivered and is live at the NExScI Data Archive.



 Kepler closeout and final data processing continues steadily within overall schedule margin. <u>Prime mission ends Sep 30 2017</u>

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Key Kepler result this year

A gap in the size distribution \bullet of small planets has been reported by B.J. Fulton and collaborators. The gap emerged when Petigura et al. derived more accurate stellar radii for more than 1000 Kepler planet host stars using Keck observations. The two peaks correspond to rocky planets and planet with significant gaseous envelopes. This is a fundamental discovery in planetary physics.

arXiv:1703.10375, arXiv:1703.10400

Transits – mission concluding





Kepler / K2



Extending Kepler to the Ecliptic. 521 exoplanet candidates, 157 confirmed Campaign 9 provided the first large space-based microlensing survey



Recently completed Campaign 14 (Leo); now in Campaign 15 (Scorpius)

Upcoming:

- Changed the position of the field for Campaign 16 Kepler will observe in the forward-facing direction; emphasis on supernova science
- Campaign 17, 18, 19 fields have now been selected through March 2019 (?)

NASA Exoplanet Science Institute

- Exoplanet Archive:
 - Planet tables
 - Light curves
 - Analysis tools
 - Regularly updated
- Exoplanet Follow-up Observing Program data-sharing infrastructure for community followup of Kepler, K2, and TESS
- Sagan Summer Schools
- Sagan Fellowship Program (new role working with STScI)



NASA Exoplanet Science Institute California Institute of Technology

In the HZ Confirmed Candidates





Three 2017 Sagan Fellows Selected

Training the next generation of exoplanet scientists

Raphaëlle Haywood Harvard Breaking the Ultimate Barrier to Characterizing Other Earths

Ben Pope NYU Finding Planets Around Naked-Eye Stars Andrew Vanderburg, University of Texas, Austin The Galactic Distribution of Exoplanets



Ground-Based Support for Space Missions

I. The twin 10m Keck telecopes at Mauna Kea, Hawaii





- NExScI administers NASA's 1/6 share
- Key Projects and smaller general observer Investigations
- Proposals for 2018A due on 9/14

Ground-Based Support for Space Missions

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II. Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer, Mt. Graham Arizona,

Credit: ESO/Y. Beletsky

- Measuring HZ exozodiacal dust at 10 μm to inform designs of future missions
- Measurement precision: ~12 zodi one star one sigma
- Progress:
 - 26 stars observed
 - Mostly upper limits so far
- 35-star survey should be achieved this fall
- Project scheduled to complete in 2018

Credit: NASA/GSFC

NNEXPLORE

Partnership for Exoplanet Discovery and Characterization.

- Motivation
 - 2010 Decadal Survey called for precise ground-based spectrometer for exoplanet discovery and characterization
 - Follow-up & precursor science for current missions (K2, TESS, JWST, WFIRST)
 - Inform design/operation of future missions
- Scope:
 - Extreme precision radial velocity spectrometer (<0.5 m/s) with 40% of time on WIYN telescope
 - Penn State NEID proposal selected in March 2016
 - Instrument to be commissioned spring 2019
 - R= 100,000; 380-930 nm wavelength coverage
 - Ongoing Guest Observer program using NOAO share of telescope time for exoplanet research

NN-Explore Exoplanet Investigations with Doppler Spectroscopy

RV - Building

PI: S. Mahadevan

3.5m WIYN Telescope Kitt Peak National Observatory Arizona Technical readiness for direct imaging of habitable exoplanets:

The #1 medium-scale space mission priority of U.S. 2010 Decadal Survey

Coronagraph Technology Gap List

Table A.3 Coronagraph Technology Gap List.

ID	Title	Description	Current	Required
C-1	Specialized Coronagraph Optics	Masks, apodizers, or beam-shaping optics to provide starlight suppression and planet detection capability.	A linear mask design has yielded 3.2×10^{-10} mean raw contrast from $3-16 \lambda/D$ with 10% bandwidth using an unobscured pupil in a static lab demonstration.	Circularly symmetric masks achieving $\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}$ contrast with IWA $\leq 3\lambda/D$ and $\geq 10\%$ bandwidth on obscured or segmented pupils.
C-2*	Low-Order Wavefront Sensing & Control	Beam jitter and slowly varying large-scale (low- order) optical aberrations may obscure the detection of an exoplanet.	Tip/tilt errors have been sensed and corrected in a stable vacuum environment with a stability of $10^{-3} \lambda$ rms at sub-Hz frequencies.	Tip/tilt, focus, astigmatism, and coma sensed and corrected simultaneously to 10 ⁻⁴ λ (~10's of pm) rms to maintain raw contrasts of ≤ 1×10 ⁻¹⁰ in a simulated dynamic testing environment
C-3*	Large-Format Ultra-Low Noise Visible Detectors	Low-noise visible detectors for faint exoplanet characterization with an Integral Field Spectrograph.	Read noise of < 1 e-/pixel has been demonstrated with EMCCDs in a 1k × 1k format with standard read- out electronics	Read noise < 0.1e-/pixel in a ≥ 4k × 4k format validated for a space radiation environmen and flight-accepted electronic
C-4*	Large-Format Deformable Mirrors	Maturation of deformable mirror technology toward flight readiness.	Electrostrictive 64x64 DMs have been demonstrated to meet ≤ 10-9 contrasts in a vacuum environment and 10% bandwidth.	≥ 64x64 DMs with flight-like electronics capable of wavefront correction to ≤ 10 ⁻ contrasts. Full environmental testing validation.
C-5	Efficient Contrast Convergence	Rate at which wavefront control methods achieve 10 ⁻¹⁰ contrast.	Model and measurement uncertainties limit wavefront control convergence and require many tens to hundreds of iterations to get to 10 ⁻¹⁰ contrast from an arbitrary initial wavefront.	Wavefront control methods that enable convergence to 10 ⁻¹⁰ contrast ratios in fewer iterations (10-20).
C-6*	Post-Data Processing	Techniques are needed to characterize exoplanet spectra from residual speckle noise for typical targets.	Few 100x speckle suppression has been achieved by HST and by ground-based A0 telescopes in the NIR and in contrast regimes of 10-5 to 10-6, dominated by	A 10-fold improvement over the raw contrast of ~10° in th visible where amplitude error are expected to no longer be negligible with respect to phase errors.

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Future imaging mission technology

Coronagraph Technology Gaps

*Topic being addressed by directed-technology development for the WFIRST/AFTA coronagraph. Consequently, coronagraph technologies that will be substantially advanced under the WFIRST/AFTA technology development are not eligible for TDEMs.

http://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/technology/

Credit: NASA/GSFC

Mission in Formulation

Dark Energy, Microlensing, Coronagraphy, and Infrared Surveys ...

- WFIRST in Project Phase A
- All technology milestones were met on time
 - Five for IR Detector, now at TRL 6
 - Nine for Coronagraph, now at TRL 5
- Actively studying how to make WFIRST starshade-ready, to enable decision by 2020 Decadal survey on whether to go forward with this option
- Independent external review took place this week !

WFIRST coronagraph: A milestone on the way to exo-Earth contrasts

STARSHADE

for visible wavelengths; active area of NASA study/investment Does not require high telescope stability. Needs fuel to reposition. A deployed structure \ge 30 m diameter, cannot fully test before flight

- Inner Working Angle is the closest separation of Planet and Star that we can expect to see with a given starshade
- For Hypergaussian starshade, this is approximately equivalent to:

IWA =
$$\frac{D_{ss}/2}{z}$$

Figure by Steve Warwick, NGST

Future mission technology

Starshade Technology Gap List

Table A.4 Starshade Technology Gap List

ID	Title	Description	Current	Required
S-1	Control Edge- Scattered Sunlight	Limit edge-scattered sunlight with optical petal edges that also handle stowed bending strain.	Graphite edges meet all specs except sharpness, with edge radius ≥10 µm.	Optical petal edges manufactured of high flexural strength material with edge radius ≤ 1 µm and reflectivity ≤ 10%.
S-2	Contrast Performance Demonstration ar Optical Model Validation	Experimentally validate the equations that predict the contrasts achievable with a starshade.	Experiments have validated optical diffraction models at Fresnel number of ~500 to contrasts of 3×10 ⁻¹⁰ at 632 nm.	Experimentally validate models of starlight suppression to ≤ 3×10 ⁻¹¹ at Fresnel numbers ≤ 50 over 510- 825 nm bandpass.
5-3	Lateral Formation Flying Sensing Accuracy	Demonstrate lateral formation flying sensing accuracy consistent with keeping telescope in starshade's dark shadow.	Centroid accuracy ≥ 1% is common. Simulations have shown that sensing and GN&C is tractable, though sensing demonstration of lateral control has not yet been performed.	Demonstrate sensing lateral errors ≤ 0.20m at scaled flight separations and estimated centroid positions ≤ 0.3% of optical resolution. Control algorithms demonstrated with lateral control errors ≤ 1m.
5-4	Flight-Like Petal Fabrication and Deployment	Demonstrate a high- fidelity, flight-like starshade petal and its unfurling mechanism.	Prototype petal that meets optical edge position tolerances has been demonstrated.	Demonstrate a fully integrated petal, including blankets, edges, and deployment control interfaces. Demonstrate a flight-like unfurling mechanism.
S-5	Inner Disk Deployment	Demonstrate that a starshade can be autonomously deployed to within the budgeted tolerances.	Demonstrated deployment tolerances with 12m heritage Astromesh antenna with four petals, no blankets, no outrigger struts, and no launch restraint.	Demonstrate deployment tolerances with flight-like, minimum half-scale inner disk, with simulated petals, blankets, and interfaces to launch restraint.

Tech development project

Starshade Technology Development "S5"

- Focused effort to ready starshade technology by 2020 – enable a WFIRST starshade option
- Held two workshops on scattered sunlight from edges and the mechanical architecture trade space
 - Per plan, one more workshop to go on starlight suppression demonstration
 - Adding a new workshop on petal shape and science return
- Key Technology Achievements
 - Demonstrated starlight suppression modeling agreement within 10%
 - Princeton starlight suppression demonstration currently at 10^{-7.5} (mask limits)
 - Demonstrated half-scale deployment of inner disk optical shield

Contrast at higher Fresnel number, exposure time: 100s

Suppression at flight Fresnel n umber, exposure time: 3000s

Inner optical shield deployment tests

Decadal Flagship Mission Studies

Possible New Worlds Exoplanet Telescopes

(for 2020 Decadal Survey; mid 2030s launch; work outside ExEP)

- Origins Space Telescope: Large mid/far-infrared mission
 - Primary exoplanet science case is transit spectroscopy to follow build on JWST results
- Large Ultra-Violet Optical InfraRed Telescope (LUVOIR)
 - Coronagraphic imaging with deployed/segmented primary mirror
 - Large apertures & exoplanet survey sample
 - equal weighting to exoplanets & general astrophysics
 - 5 instruments: coronagraph, UV spectrometer, general astrophysics camera, optical/NIR spectrograph, UV polarimeter (CNES)
- Habitable Exoplanet Mission (HabEx)
 - Coronagraph & starshade imaging with monolithic, off-axis telescope
 - Smaller apertures & exoplanet survey samples
 - 3 instruments: coronagraph, UV spectrometer & general astrophysics camera

HabEx & LUVOIR's prime goal: spectra of rocky exoplanets

FROM TPF-C STDT report

<u>Two studies:</u> Habitable Exoplanet Mission (HabEx) and Large UltraViolet Optical near-IR (LUVOIR) surveyor

- Both have goal of studying Earthlike planets in reflected light, visible & near-infrared. They differ in levels of ambition
 - HabEx to "search for" signs of habitability and biosignatures. ~50 HZs ?
 - LUVOIR to "constrain the frequency of" habitability and biosignatures = larger statistical survey of exoEarths, larger aperture. ~300 HZs ?
- HabEx to focus on exoplanets, "best effort" only on general astrophysics. Apertures 4, 6.5? m. Study led by JPL.
- LUVOIR gives equal priority to exoplanets and general astrophysics. Would be HST-like, expansive vision. Apertures 15, 9 m. Study led by NASA Goddard.
- They are likely to differ in cost and technical readiness
- Interim reports late 2017; final reports early 2019

Future mission concepts Progress in HabEx and LUVOIR designs

(work outside of ExEP; both teams gave input on their tech priorities)

Above: HabEx 4m monolith telescope with lateral optical bench, solar pressure paddle & 72 m starshade.

Right: LUVOIR 15m segmented telescope, 6 ring hex, deployed 70 m sunshade.

Steps that will enable direct imaging and spectra of habitable exoplanets

- Understand the frequency of HZ rocky planets
- Measure the astronomical backgrounds
- Make precursor and follow-up observations to measure exoplanet masses and orbits, where possible
- Measure host star properties that affect habitability
- Develop our understanding of exoplanet atmospheres, biosignatures, and biosignature false positives
- Ready the starlight suppression technology
- Close in on the mission architecture

Important NASA Exoplanet websites and dates

Main Exoplanet Exploration Program website: http://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep

Exoplanet science archive:

http://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu

WFIRST Project: <u>http://wfirst.gsfc.nasa.gov</u>

HabEx mission study: <u>http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/habex</u>

LUVOIR mission study: http://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/luvoir

3rd Workshop on Extreme Precision Radial Velocities State College PA, August 14-17 (next week)

Know Thy Star, Know Thy Planet – Oct 9-12 2017, Pasadena NExSS Workshop "Habitable Worlds 2017"

- Laramie WY, November 13-17

ExoPAG 17 meeting at winter AAS: Jan 7-8, Washington DC

A historical progression

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Galileo discovers Jovian satellite system

Exignatiset ralodiscover bhite angle of the system bite and th Future space telescopes confirm first habitable exoplanet

ExEP is a Program Office within the NASA Astrophysics Division

