

SOFIA (EXES/GREAT) observations of the Herbig Ae/Be stars

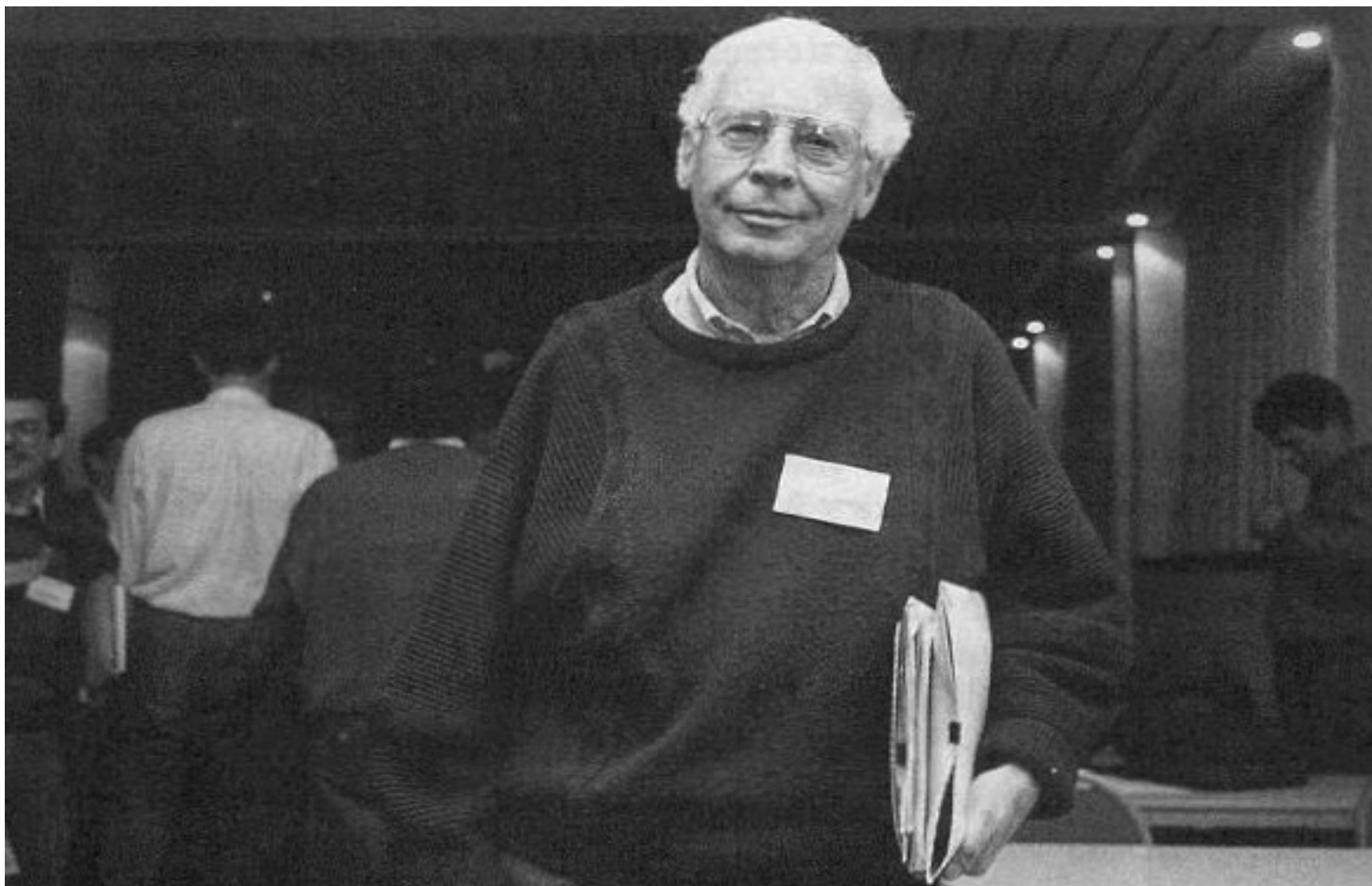


Hans Zinnecker

SOFIA Science Mission Operations
NASA-Ames/Univ. Stuttgart

Herbig Ae/Be star Workshop
ESO Santiago
10 April 2014

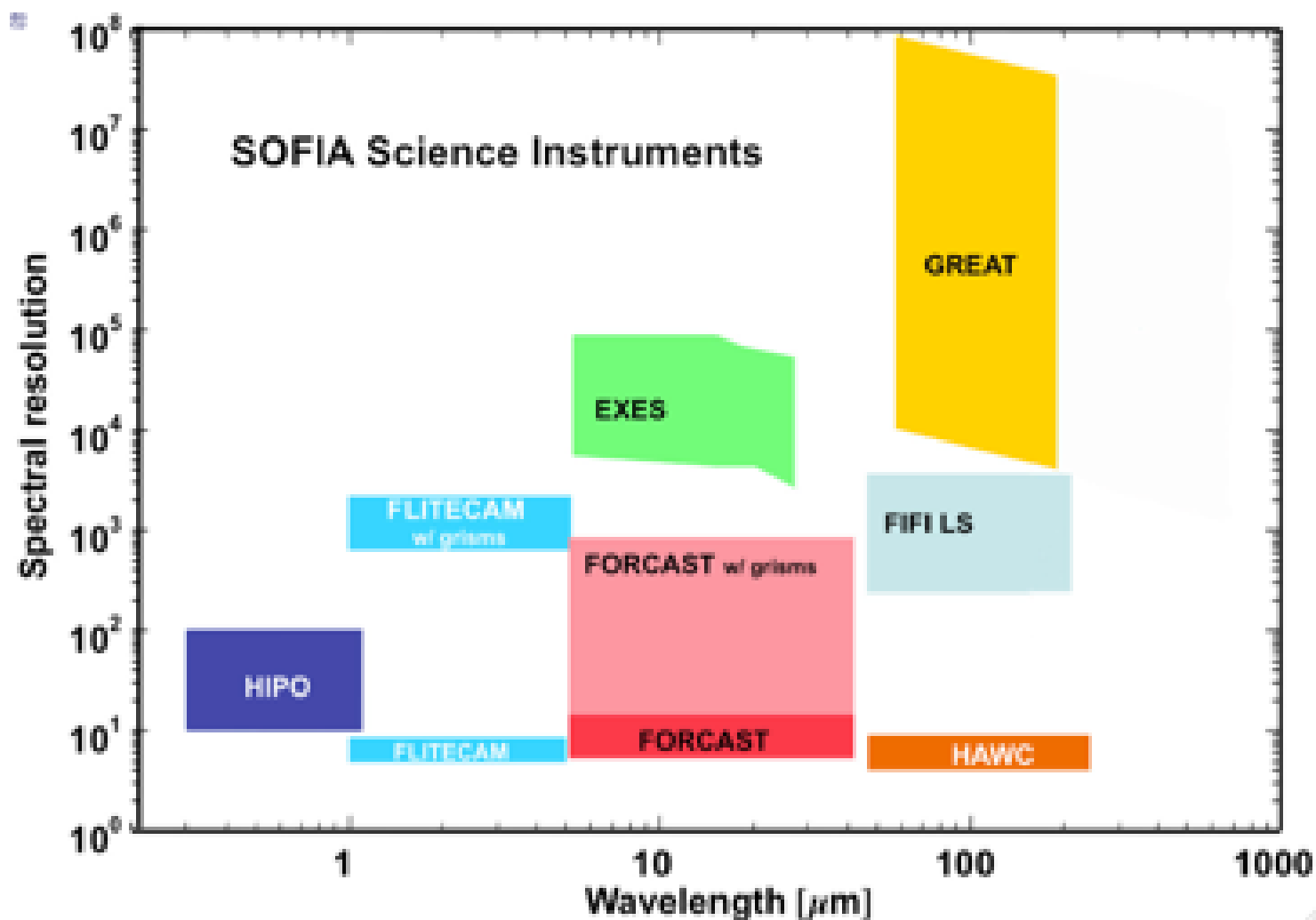
George Herbig in 1993 at Galaxy Hotel Amsterdam



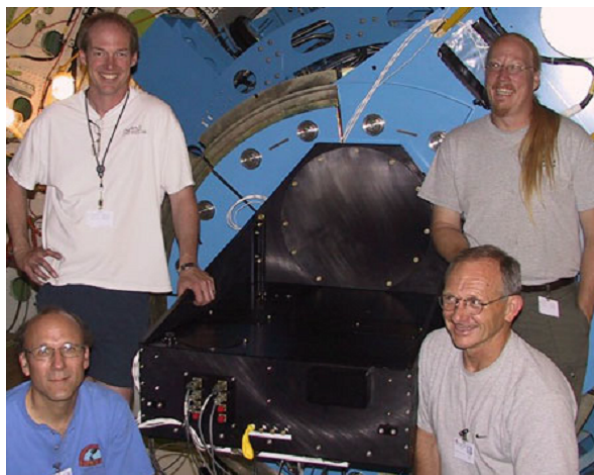


<http://www.sofia.usra.edu>

EXES niche within SOFIA



Four Completed 1st Generation Instruments

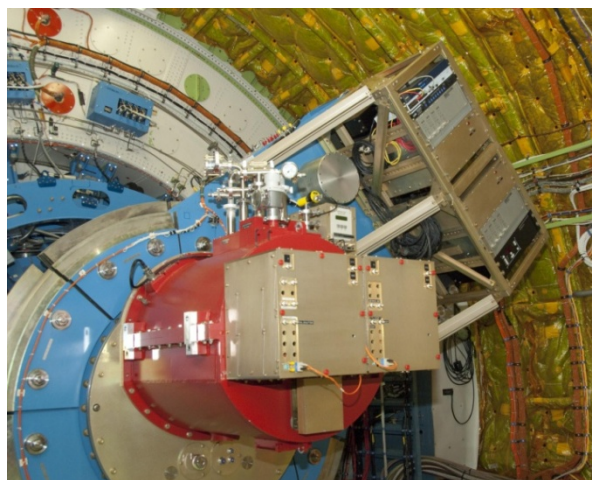


HIPO

High Speed Photometer
(on SOFIA)

FLITECAM

Near IR Camera
(at Lick observatory)

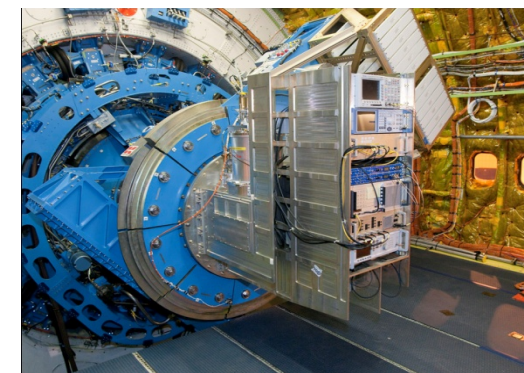


FORCAST

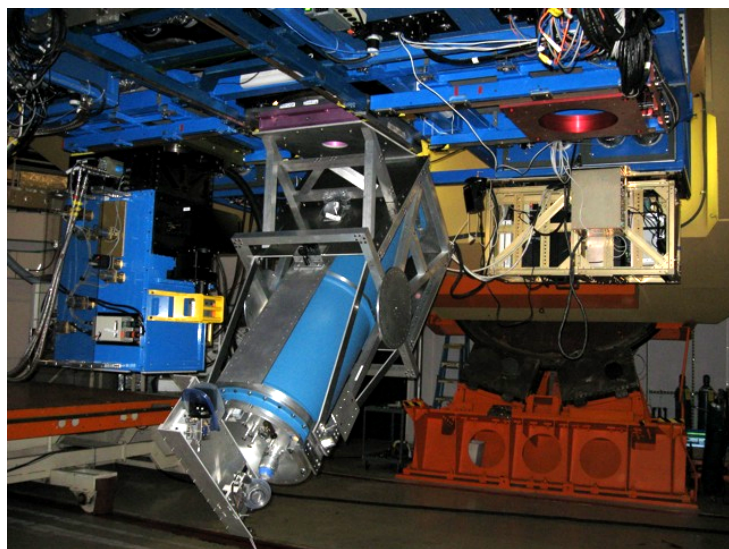
Mid-IR Camera
(on SOFIA)

GREAT

Heterodyne spectrometer
(on SOFIA)

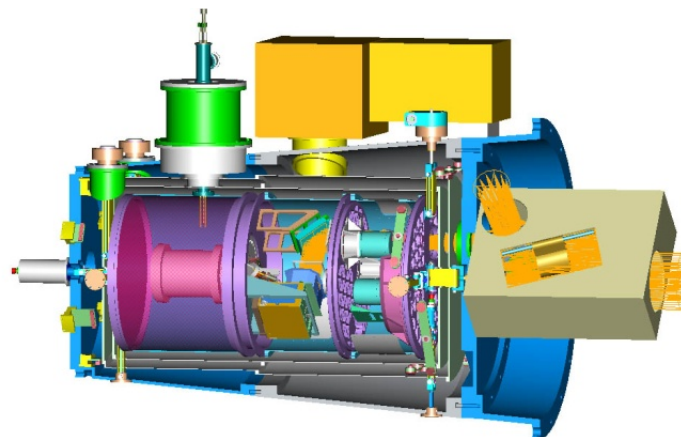


Instruments in development

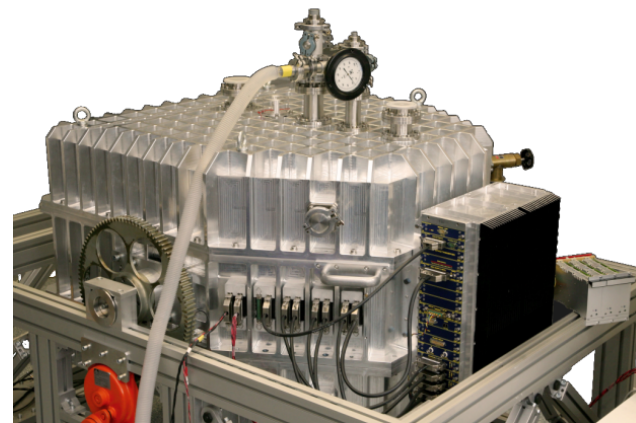


EXES
Mid- IR Spectrometer

HAWC
Bolometer
Camera

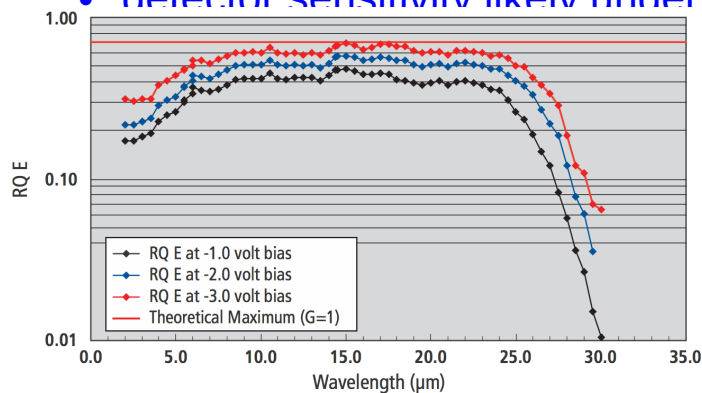


FIFI LS
Integral Field
Spectrometer

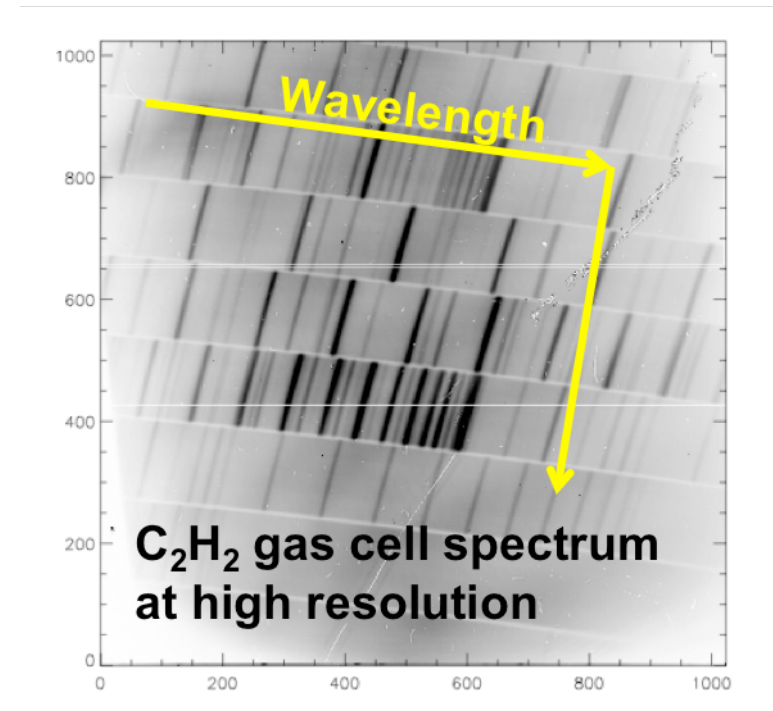


About EXES

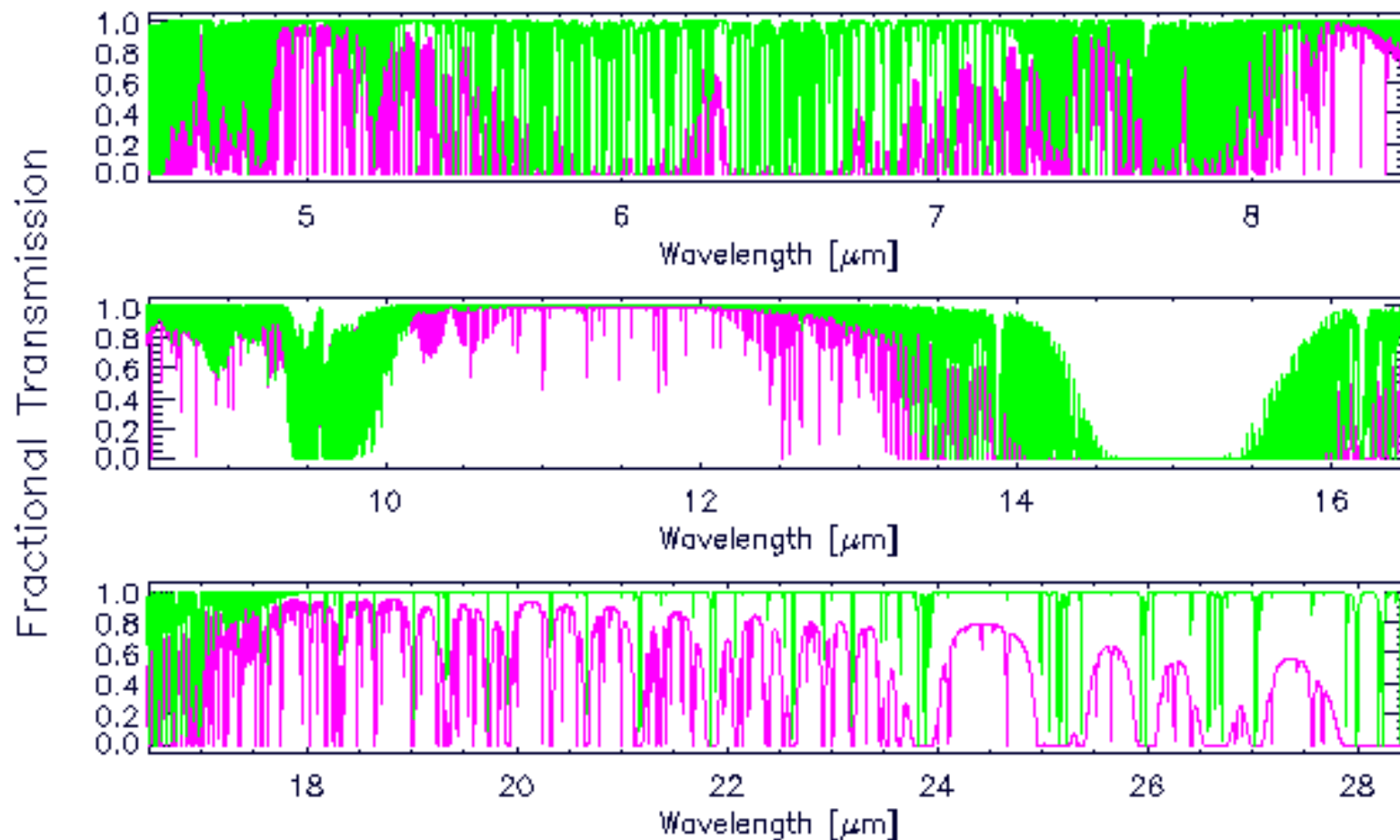
- EXES is a PI instrument optimized for high spectral resolution in mid-IR
 - High resolution mode:
 - cross-dispersed with $R = 50,000$ to $110,000$ depending on slit width
 - single setting coverage of $\sim 1\%$ with 4-40" long slit or $\sim 4\%$ with 2-3" long slit
 - Other spectral modes
 - $R \sim 5,000$ to $20,000$
 - $R \sim 1000$ to 3000
 - imaging for slit-positioning and pupil
- Wavelength range set by detector and science
 - shortest wavelength ($\sim 4.5 \mu\text{m}$): $\text{CO } \Delta v=1$
 - longest wavelength ($\sim 28.3 \mu\text{m}$): $\text{H}_2 \text{ J}=2-0$
 - detector sensitivity likely under 10% for H_2



Spectral response of a device
similar to EXES's detector



Atmospheric comparison (EXES 5- 28 μm) SOFIA vs Mauna Kea



SOFIA/EXES and molecules

Low lying pure rotational transitions of H_2

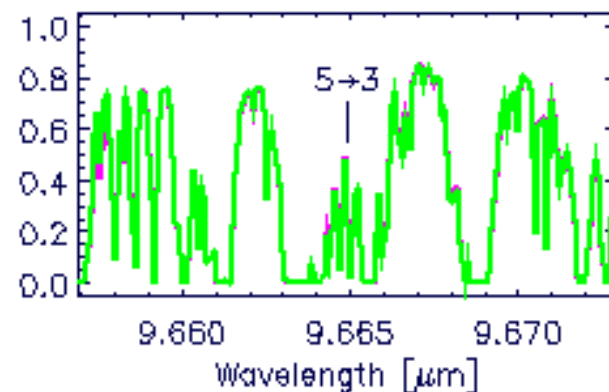
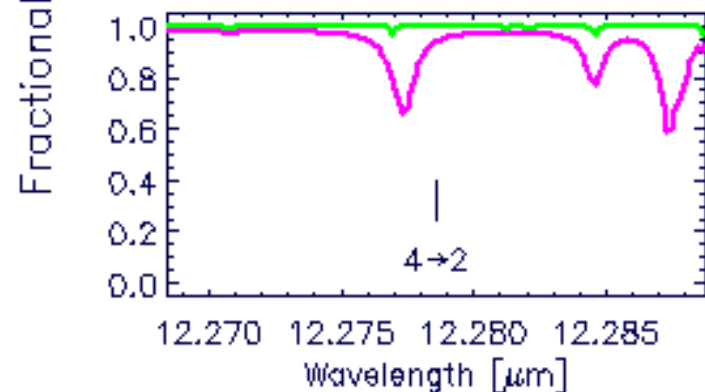
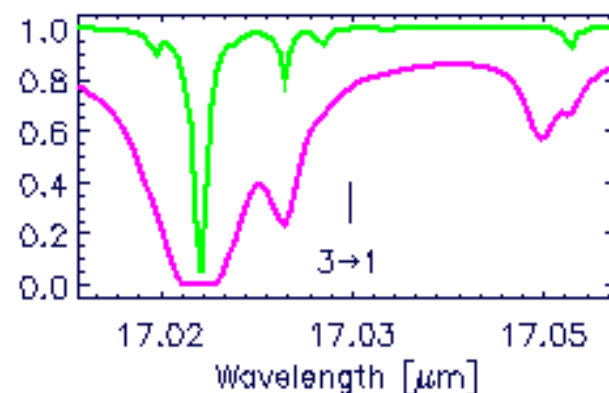
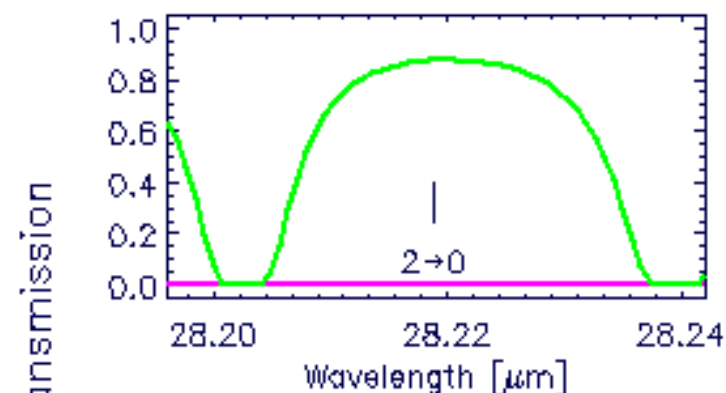
- S(1), S(2), S(4) observable from the ground (TEXES)
 - SOFIA makes these better
 - AB Aurigae TEXES observations (Bitner et al. 2007)
- S(0), S(5), S(6) only observable from SOFIA
- S(3) very difficult anywhere

Other important molecules such as H_2O , CH_4 , CH_3 , C_2H_2 , HCN, and SO_2 are much better from SOFIA (if ~ 10 Jy)

- C_2H_2 Q-branch observed from ground
- Might try CH_3 (“Mrs. Angela Merkel’s molecule”)
Q-branch (16.5mu) in commissioning TONIGHT

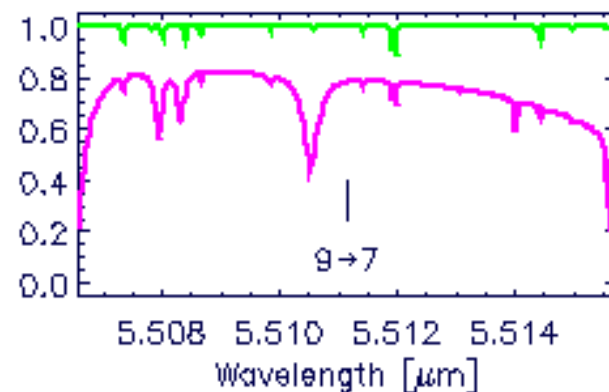
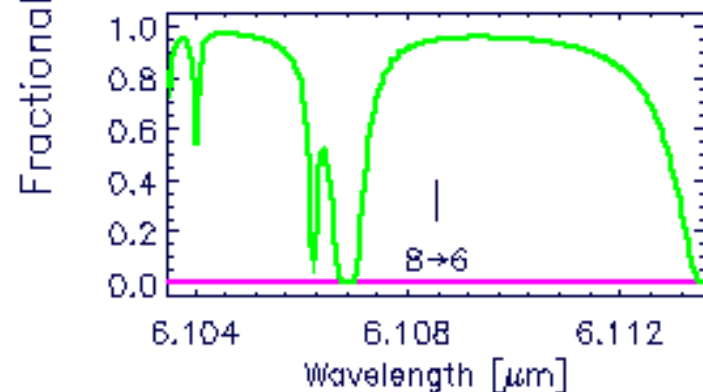
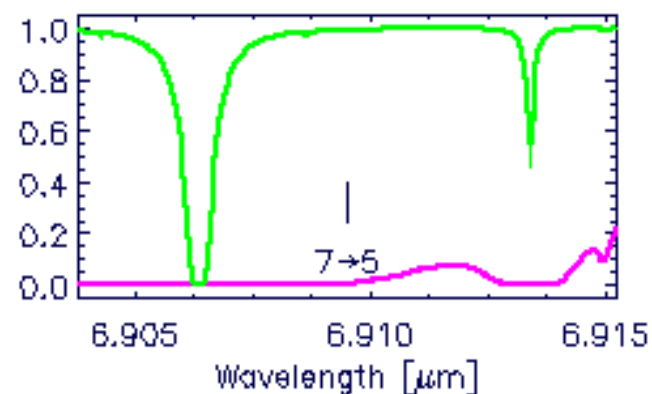
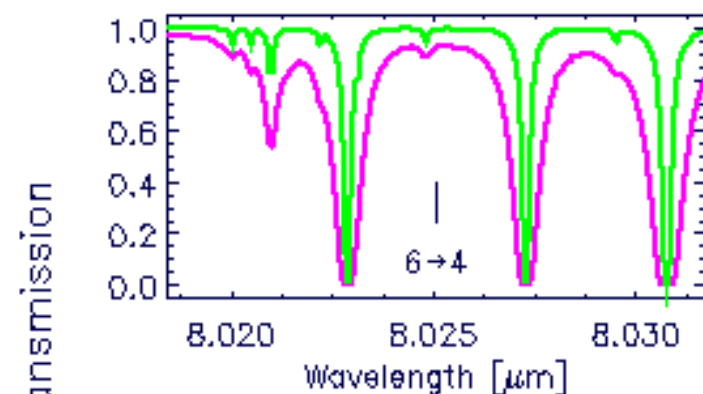
H₂ observations: atmospheric comparison

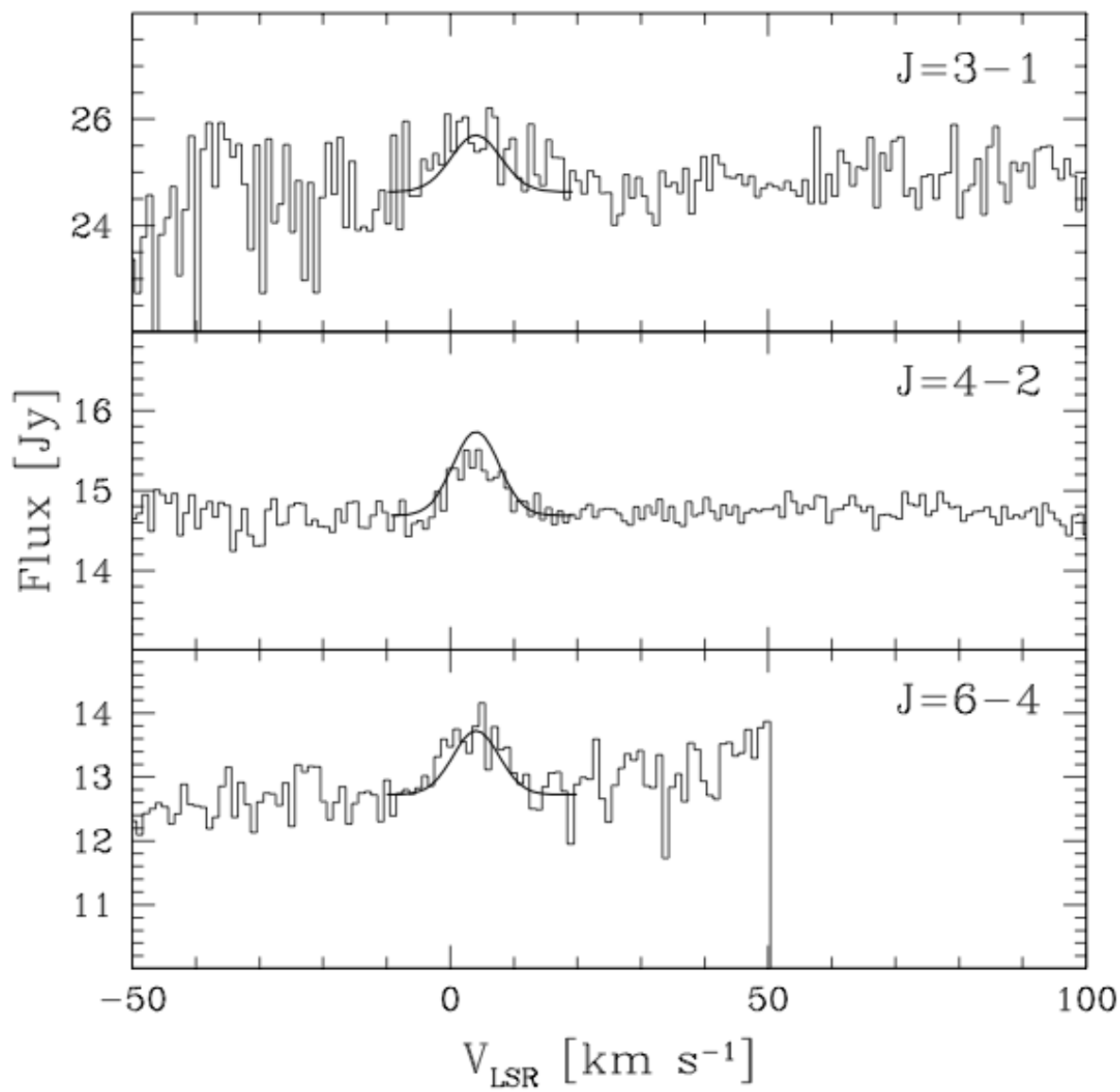
SOFIA vs Mauna Kea



H₂ observations: atmospheric comparison

SOFIA vs Mauna Kea

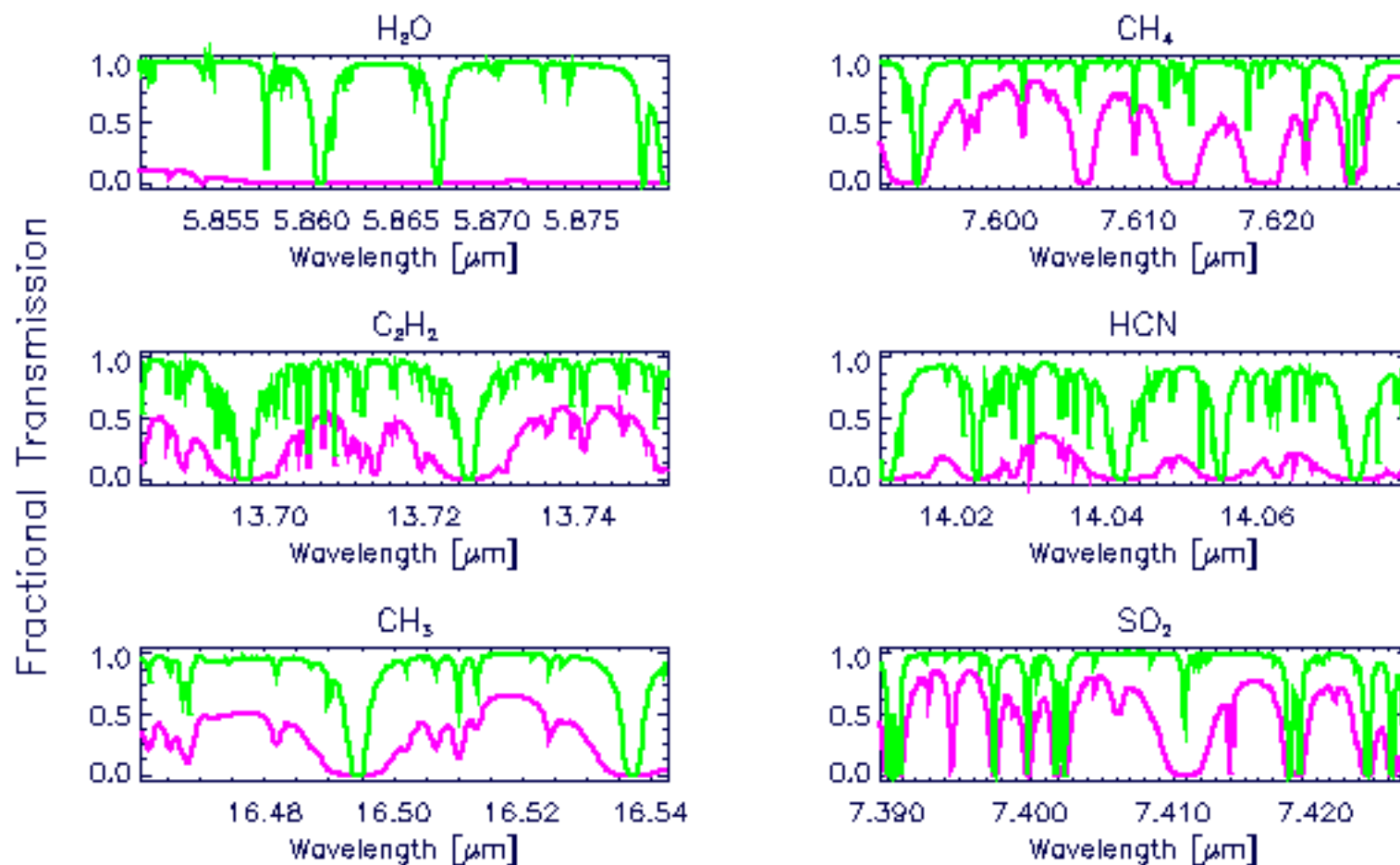




Bitner et al. (2007)

Other molecules

SOFIA vs Mauna Kea



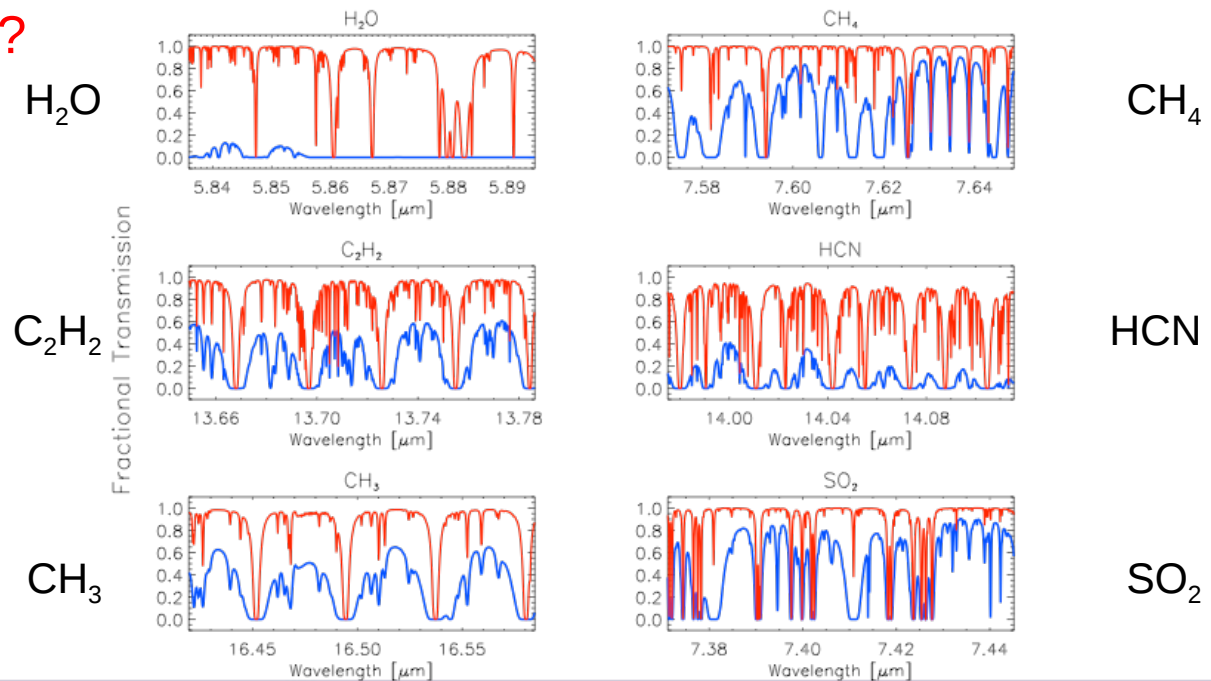
EXES Science: circumstellar disk chemistry

- high-spectral resolution obs. in mid-IR inaccessible from ground
- capabilities not available with Spitzer, JWST or Herschel
- complements ALMA through molecules with no dipole moment (H_2 , CH_4 , C_2H_2 , CH_3)

WATER in HAeBe disks?

Comparison of transmission from **SOFIA** and **Mauna Kea** for some important molecules

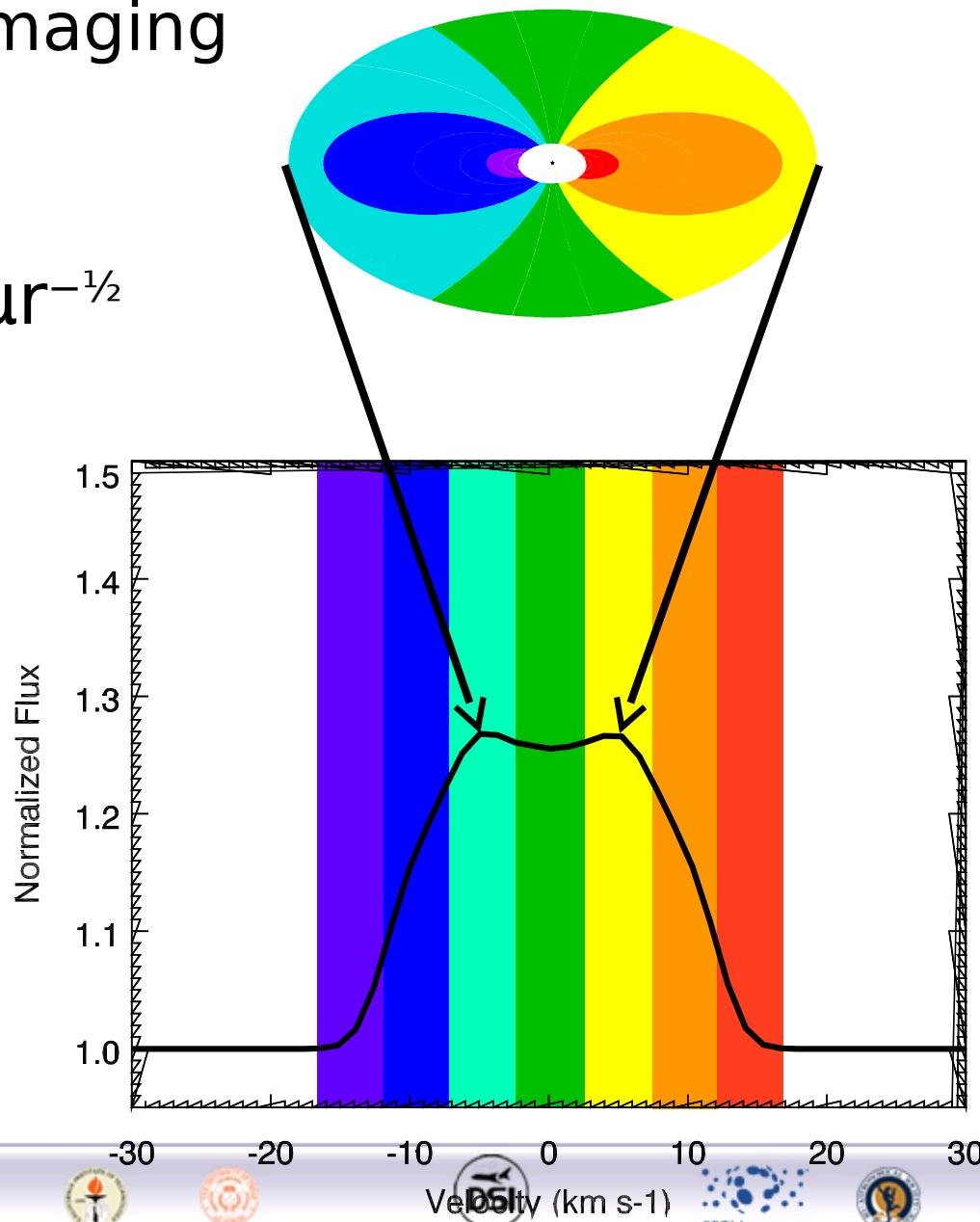
EXES velocity-resolved line profiles pinpoint origin of molecular emission/abs. (aka disk chemistry, Lacy).



Spectrally Resolved Lines as Surrogates for High Resolution Imaging

$$v(M_{*},i,r)\mu r^{-1/2}$$

Courtesy Sean Brittain



(See Smak 1981)

EXES Exposure Time Calculator

- Have functional EXES Exposure Time Calculator for planning observations.
- <http://iraastro.physics.ucdavis.edu/exes/etc/>
- User steps through three pages
 - observing wavelength and instrument configuration
 - grating order, slit width, aircraft altitude, observing mode, desired S/N, source brightness
 - summary of input with calculated integration time, clock time, and electron rates. Downloadable text file.

Welcome to the SOFIA - EXES Exposure Time Calculator

Step 1

Enter either the rest-frame wavelength OR the rest-frame wavenumber to be observed: 7.553 [4.5 - 28.5 micron, or 330 - 2220 cm⁻¹]

Check here if the source is Doppler shifted ☒ and enter its radial velocity: -30 [km/s, negative if the source is approaching]

Step 2

Next, select the instrument mode from the options below:

☒ Cross-dispersed High-Medium

☐ Cross-dispersed High-Low

☐ Single-order Long Slit Medium

☐ Single-order Long Slit Low

Click the submit button to continue on to the next step: [Submit](#)

[Click here for the EXES user manual & documentation.](#)

Exposure time calculator created by Benjamin Cain. Maintained by Matt Richter.

From your input in Steps 1 & 2

You have chosen Cross-dispersed High-Medium mode.
You are observing at 7.55232 microns (at a wavenumber of 1332.83 cm⁻¹).
Note: This is Doppler shifted by -30 km/s from the selected rest-frame wavelength of 7.603 micron (rest-frame wavenumber of 1332.8 cm⁻¹).
The expected SOFIA image quality (IQ) at this observed wavelength is 2.1 arcseconds (FWHM).

Click here to consult the EXES.

Step 3 - Select an observing order

Order	Grating Angle (Degrees)	R (with default slit)	Minimum Wavelength (microns)	Maximum Wavelength (microns)	Minimum Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	Maximum Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	Slit Length (arcsec)	Point Source Noting
1	36.426	83590	7.43773	7.36788	1321.37	1344.49	5.02	Must be off-alt.
6	44.944	83590	7.45443	7.35067	1324.39	1341.48	7.15	Must be off-alt.
7	54.905	83590	7.46966	7.33614	1328.94	1338.93	10.64	On-alt ok.

Note: The resolving power listed here is for the default slit width. Also note that for the cross-dispersed modes, the resolving power does not depend on grating angle.

Step 4 - Select a set of atmospheric conditions

Slit Width (arcsec)	Est. Source Aperture (Slit Width x R ₀ , arcsec ²)	R	R	R
1.89	3.97	83590	83590	83590
2.43	5.1	66667	66667	66667
3.23	6.8	50000	50000	50000

Note: This table lists the available slit widths (in arcseconds) and the corresponding resolving power for each width under conditions. For background limited observations, choosing a slit width larger than the default width may increase the background noise more than the signal is increased. Be sure to check the IQ.

Step 5 - Choose a set of atmospheric conditions

☒ Altitude 39,000 ft, elevation angle 45 degrees

☐ Altitude 41,000 ft, elevation angle 45 degrees

☐ Altitude 41,000 ft, elevation angle 45 degrees

☐ No atmosphere

Note: These are representative atmospheres. The delivered elevation angle and water vapor may vary.

Step 6 - Enter the desired S/N and the source properties

Enter the desired signal to noise ratio: 100

Note: The S/N ratio entered here is the target S/N within the resolution element centered on the target wavelength.

Source type: ☒ Point Source ☐ Extended Object

Source flux: 180 Jy

Note: The source flux or surface brightness entered should be the quantity at the target wavelength.

(Optional) Enter a detector width: 1024 pixels

Note: The full detector width is 1024 pixels. This width only affects the cross-dispersed modes.

Step 7 - Select a Pointing Mode

☒ No dithering mode (on- or off- alt)

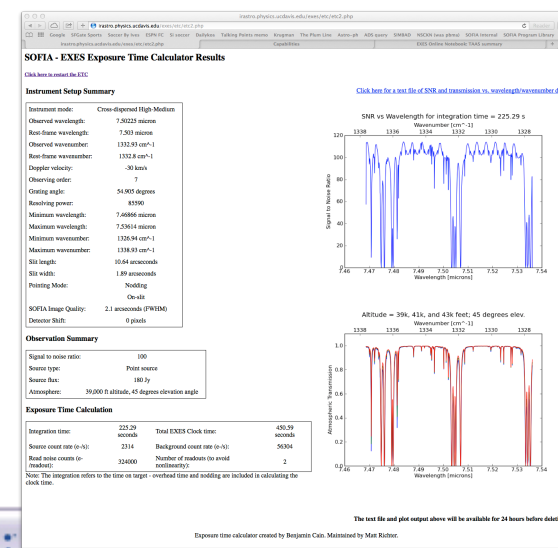
☐ Dithering Mode

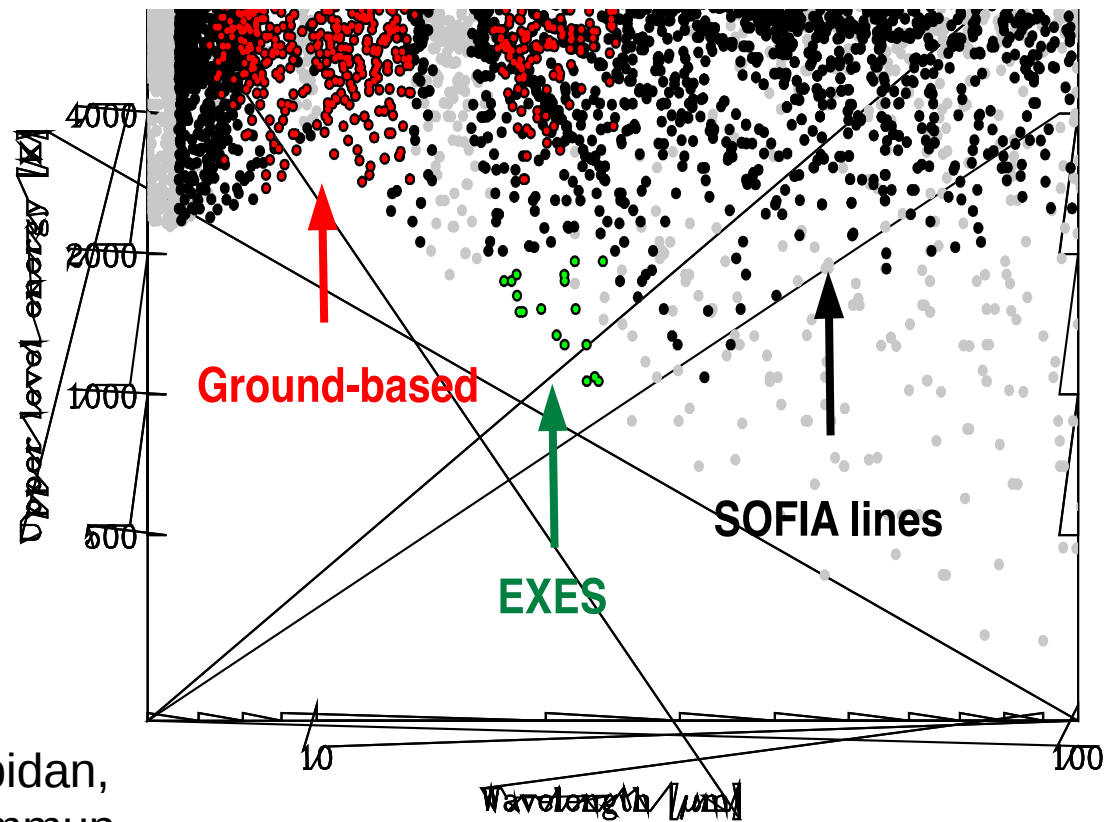
Enter the number of map points: 1

Note: For mapping mode, pointings will be offset by half the slit width and the final S/N will be based by averaging FWHM. Be sure to check the slit length and width from steps 3 & 4 when determining the number of mapping points. Mapping will be done in stripes perpendicular to the slit orientation. The slit angle will be determined by the S/N. The slit width will be determined by the S/N. The slit length will be determined by the S/N. The slit width will be determined by the S/N. The slit length will be determined by the S/N.

Click submit to calculate the required exposure time: [Submit](#)

Exposure time calculator created by Benjamin Cain. Maintained by Matt Richter.





Pontoppidan,
priv. commun.

Figure 1: Plot of all the strong ($A_{ul} > 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) water lines in the mid-infrared in GREY. The BLACK points are the lines that get $> 75\%$ transmission at the line center at the SOFIA altitude of 40 000 feet, assuming a Doppler reflex motion of 30 km s^{-1} . The RED points are the lines that can be reached from Mauna Kea. It is among the red points that we have selected our typical ground-based settings, including the TEXES observations. The GREEN points are those that can be targeted with EXES. It is seen that it

GREAT details

dual channel heterodyne spectrometer

L1 ab 1.25-1.50 THz: N+, CO, OD, H₂O+, SH

L2 ab 1.81-1.91 THz: NH₃, OH, CO 16-15, C+

M ab 2.5 THz, 2.7 THz: OH ground state, HD 1-0

H band 4.7 THz: [OI] 63 micron line (2013)

two out of 4 channels can be operated simultan.

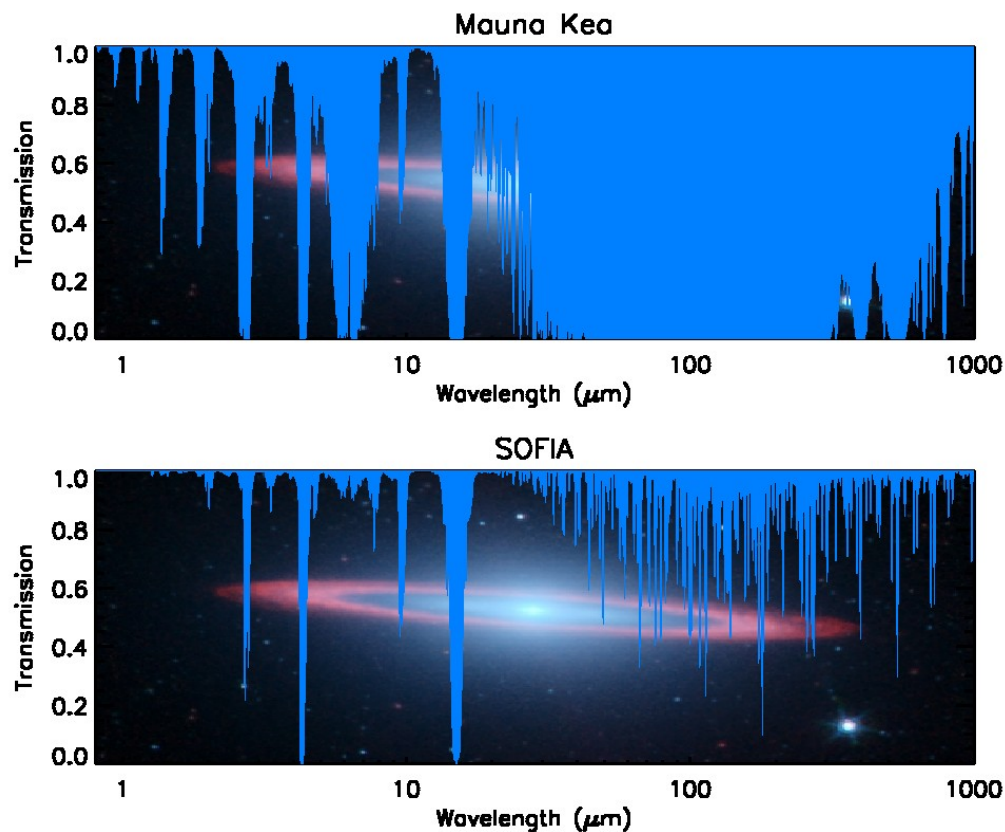
Spectral resolution: sub km/s, IF bandwidth 1.2 GHz

beam= $\lambda/10$ (16" for C+ 158 micron line)

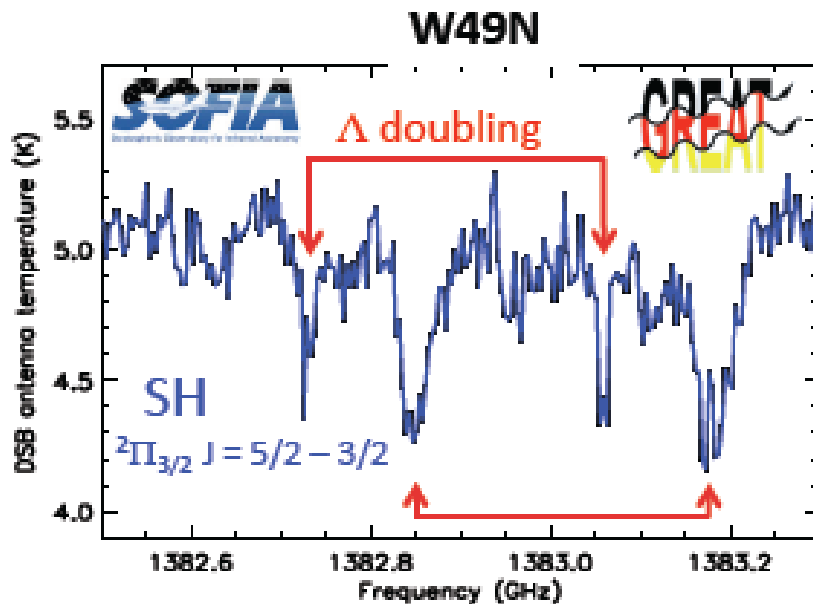
upGREAT (funded): 2x7 pixel arrays

Why SOFIA?

- Infrared transmission in the Stratosphere very good:
 - >80% from 1 to 1000 microns
- Instrumentation: wide complement, rapidly interchangeable, state-of-the art
- Mobility: anywhere, anytime
- Long lifetime
- Outstanding platform to train future instrumentalists
- Near Space Observatory that comes home after every flight



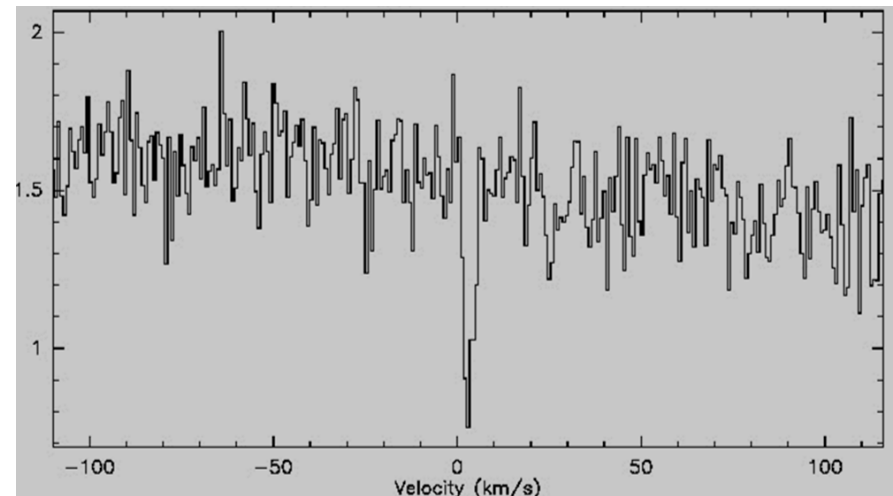
GREAT science examples



D. Neufeld: discovery of interstellar **mercapto radical SH** in absorption against W49N.

Wiesemeyer: OH rot. ground-state also detected in absorption (2.5THz) **(unaccessible to Herschel HIFI)**

B. Parise: most beautiful detection of **deuterated hydroxyl OD** towards the protostar IRAS16293A **(might try OD/OH in Herbig stars)**



SOFIA First Light Flight (Dec 1, 2010)



Thanks and Acknowledgements

Matt Richter (EXES PI)
Goeran Sandell (Ames)
Adwin Boogert (Ames)
Andres Carmona (LAOG)
Klaus Pontoppidan (JHU)
Mario Perez (NASA-HQ)

THANK YOU
for your interest in
and support of the
SOFIA OBSERVATORY

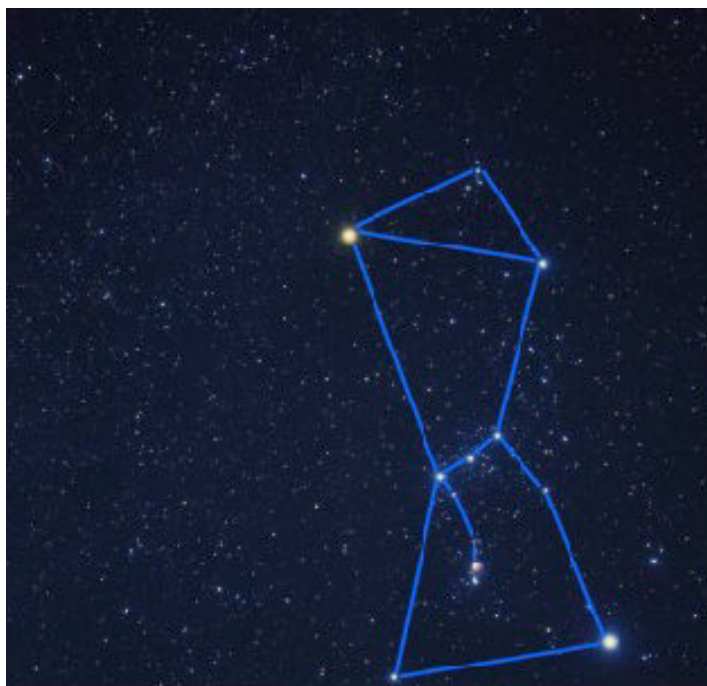
Stay tuned for CfP3 ...

References (MIR/FIR spectroscopy, disks)

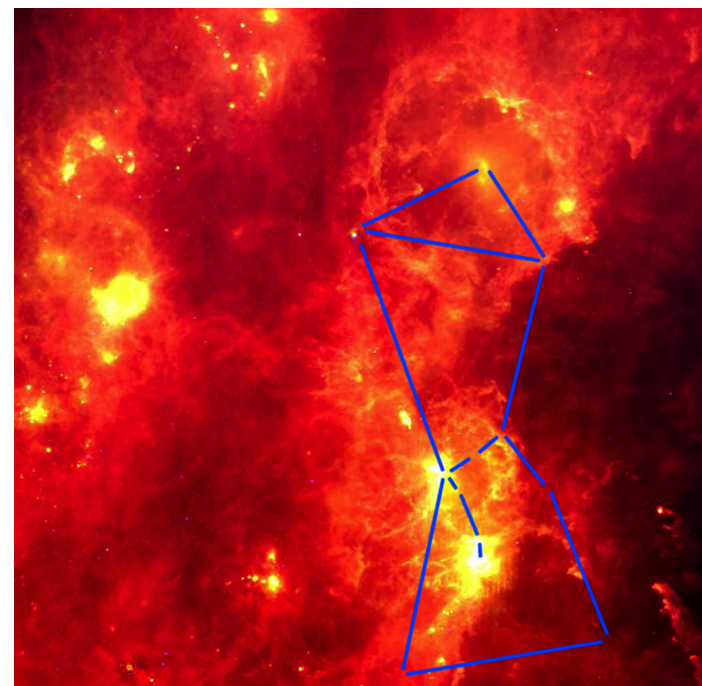
- Bitner et al. 2007, ApJ Lett. 661, L69 (H₂)
- Boogert & Blake 2004, ApJ Lett. 606, L73 (CO)
- Boonman et al. 2003, A & A 399, 1047 (CO₂, C₂H₂, HCN)
- Carmona et al. 2008, A & A 477, 839 (H₂)
- Feuchtgruber et al. 2000, ApJ Lett. (CH₃)
- Knez, Lacy et al. 2009, ApJ 696, 471 (CH₃, CH₄, etc)
- Jacquemart et al. 2003 JQSRT 82, 363 (C₂H₂)
- Lacy 2013, Review on mid-IR spectroscopy ...
- Meeus et al. 2013 (Herschel PACS, [OI]...)
- Pontoppidan et al. 2010, ApJ Lett 722, L173 (H₂O)
- Salyk et al. 2009, ApJ 699, 330 (H₂O)
- Sandell et al. 2011, ApJ 727, 26 (submm survey of HAeBe stars)

Getting the **WHOLE** picture

An object can look radically different depending on the type of light collected from it:



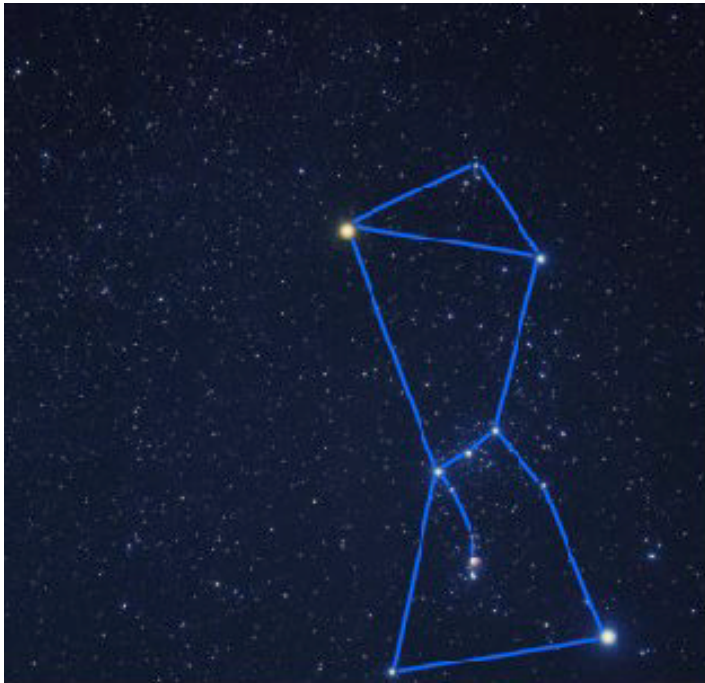
Constellation Orion
visual wavelengths



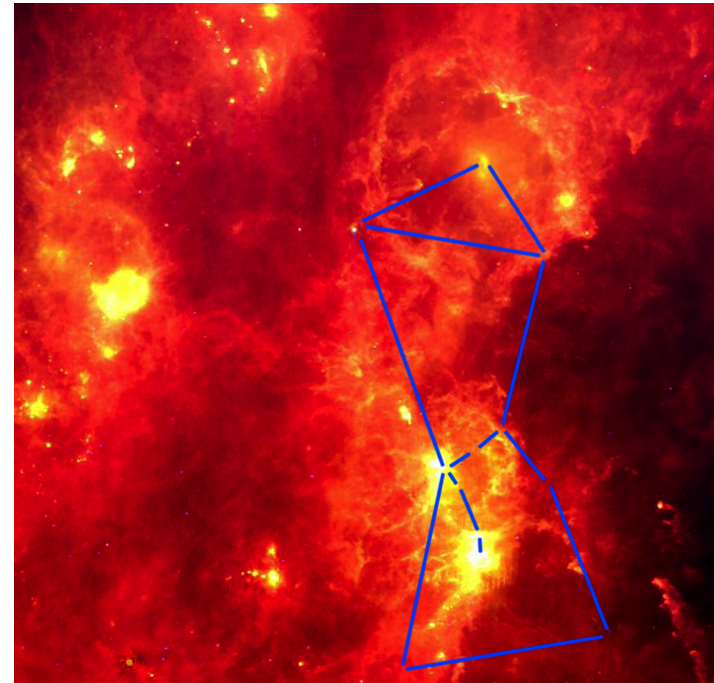
interstellar matter
far-infrared image

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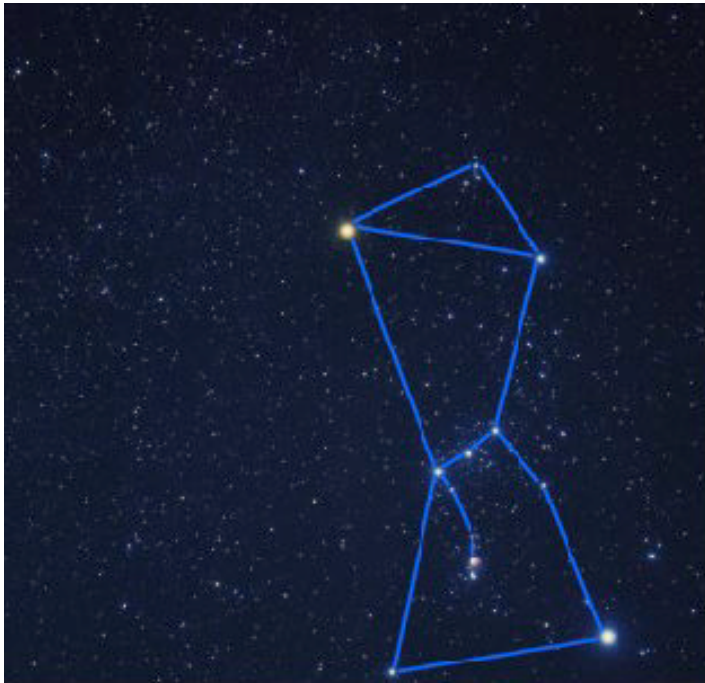
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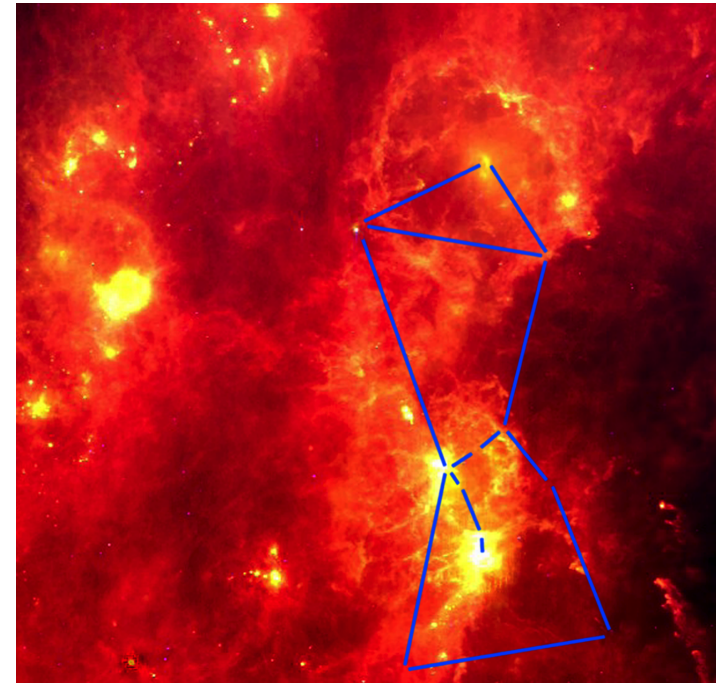
interstellar matter
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Constellation Orion
visual wavelengths



interstellar matter
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OUTLINE of the talk

Introduction to Orion
Introduction to SOFIA
SOFIA mid-IR results

Why observe Orion?

- “Obligation”

- To determine which sources are internally heated and contribute to the luminosity of BN/KL (motivation)

The mid-infrared wavelengths of FORCAST offer more dust penetrating power than near-infrared and optical obs.

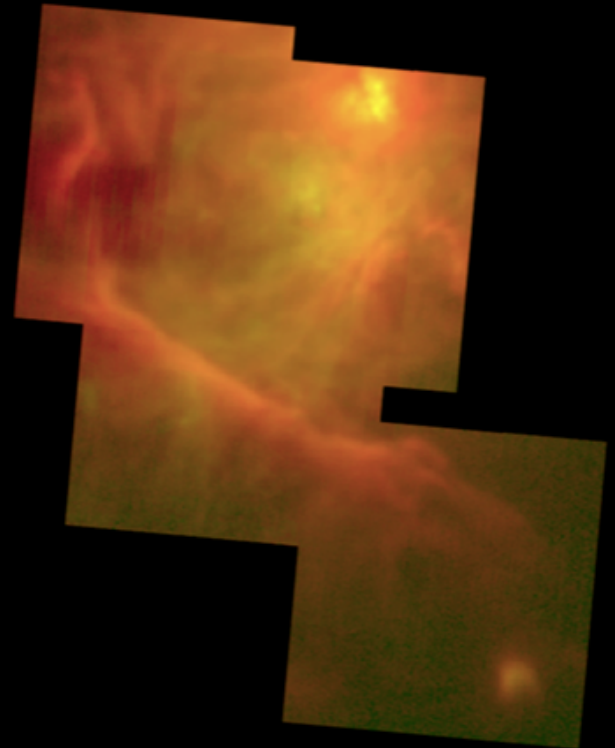
20 (Green) and 37 (Red) Micron Data of Orion Nebula



Visible light
(HST, C. O'Dell and S. Wong)



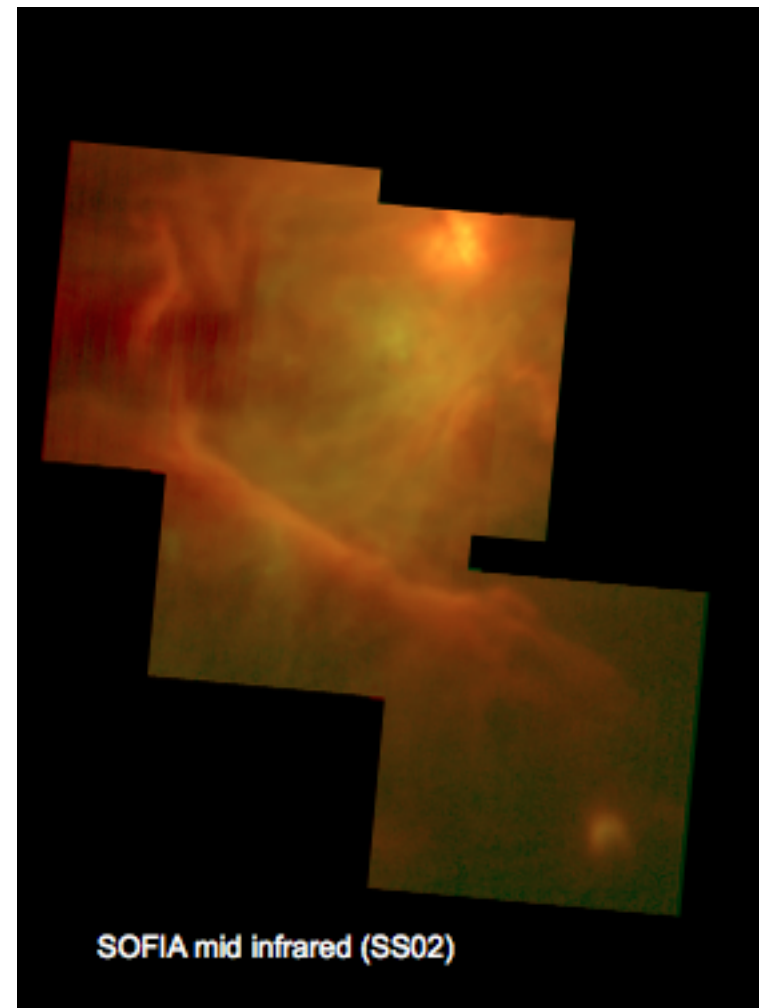
Near infrared
(ESO, M. McCaughrean)



SOFIA mid infrared
(SS02)

Orion Nebula at Mid IR with 3 arcsec Resolution

- Focus on the very bright and infrared-luminous BN/KL region (all radiation is in the infrared)
- Total power output similar to the opt. bright young Trapezium stars
Luminosity $L \sim 100,000 L(\text{Sun})$
- center of molecular activity (outflows, SiO masers, H₂ fingers)
- Major questions:
 - What is causing all the radiation? Which energy sources?
 - Still forming stars converting gravity to accretion luminosity?
 - Very young massive stars just starting their nuclear burning?
 - An “explosive” type event 500 yrs ago (due to a stellar merger)?



With Support from

- Jim DeBuizer (FORCAST instrument scientist)
- Eric Becklin (SOFIA chief advisor, Orion master-mind)
- Ralph Shuping (Data Cycle System specialist)
- Bill Vacca (FORCAST calibration specialist)

- Erick Young (SOFIA SMO director, ApJL overview paper)
- Terry Herter (PI of FORCAST facility instrument, Cornell)

de Buizer et al. (2012), ApJL (Orion BN/KL SOFIA paper)

Shuping et al. (2012), ApJL (Orion Trapezium SOFIA paper)



- High-flying aircraft --above 41,000 ft -- can observe most of the infrared universe (above water vapor)
- Airborne infrared telescopes can be more versatile -- and longer lasting than space infrared telescopes (3-5 yr)

NASA's Kuiper Airborne Observatory (KAO) C-141 with a 36-inch telescope onboard, based at NASA-Ames near San Francisco, flew from 1975 - 1996

SOFIA

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

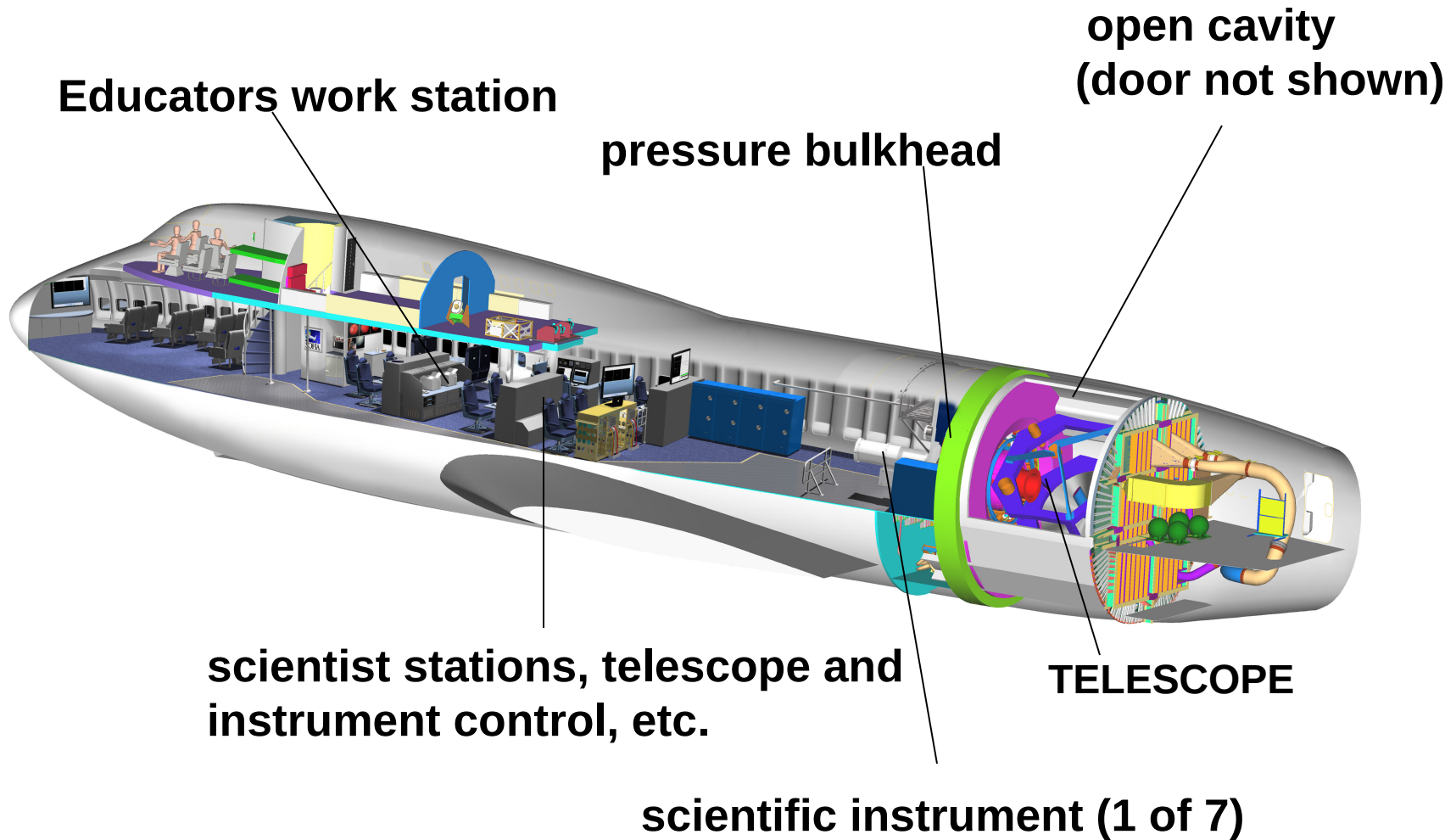


Boeing 747SP

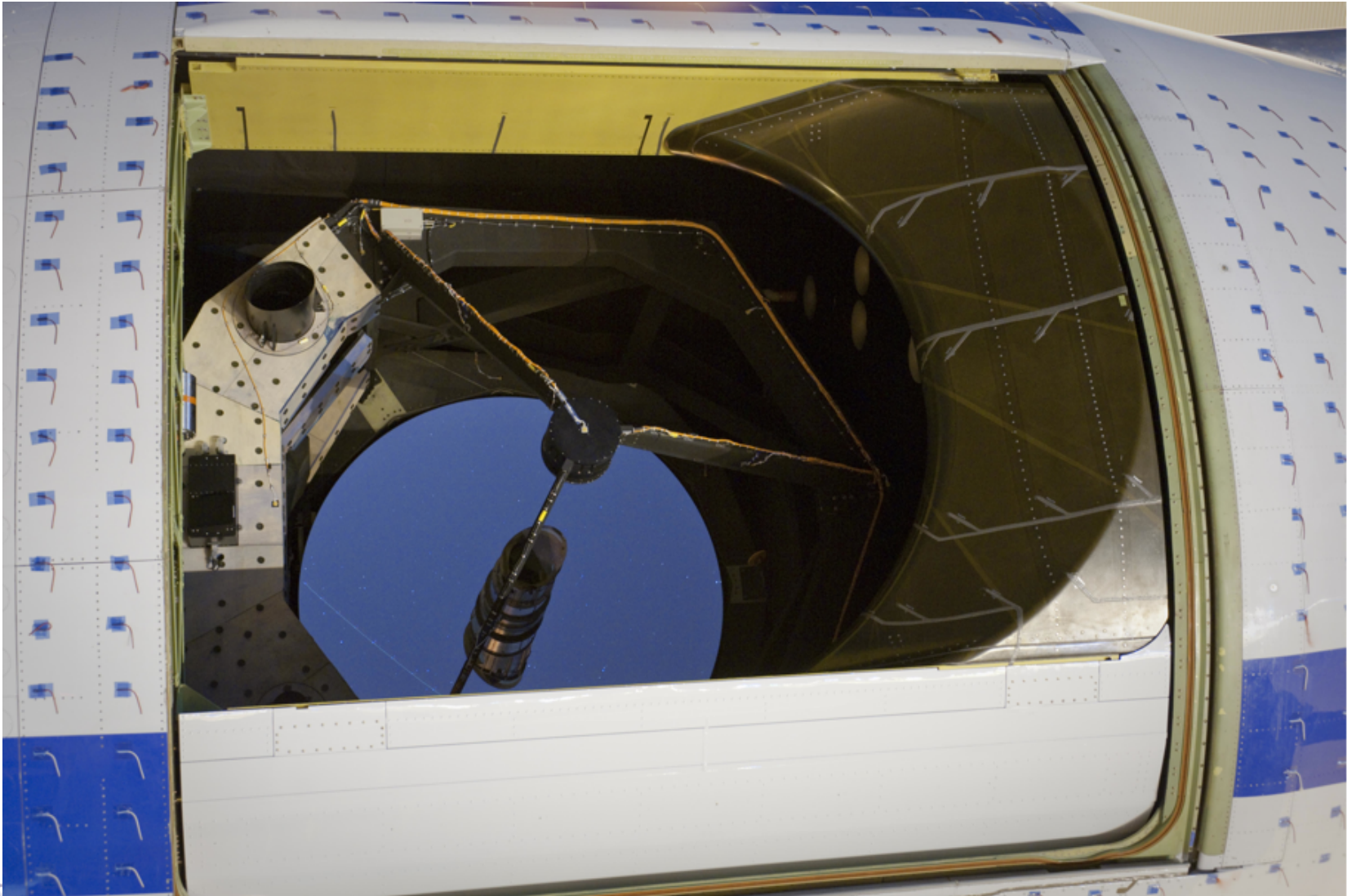
2.7-meter

- International partnership:
 - 80% -- NASA (US)
 - 20% -- DLR (Germany)
- Global deployments, incl. southern hemisphere
- ~1000 research hours per year in full operation (2015)
- ~ 20 year projected lifetime

SOFIA — The Observatory



Coated Mirror and Aperture on SOFIA



FORCAST: Mid-IR Imager

PI: T. Herter (Cornell Univ.)
herter@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu

Detectors: Dual channel
256 x 256 arrays;
5 – 25 μm (Si:As)
20 – 40 μm (Si:Sb)

Field of View: 3.2' x 3.2'

Pixel size: 0.75" (~4 pixels per PSF)

Science: broad/narrow-band imaging
low-res grism spectroscopy

Galactic Star Forming Clouds, HII Regions
Galactic Center Environs, Starburst
Galaxies

NB: FORCAST diffraction-limited at $\lambda > 30$ microns; PSF ~ 3 arcsec



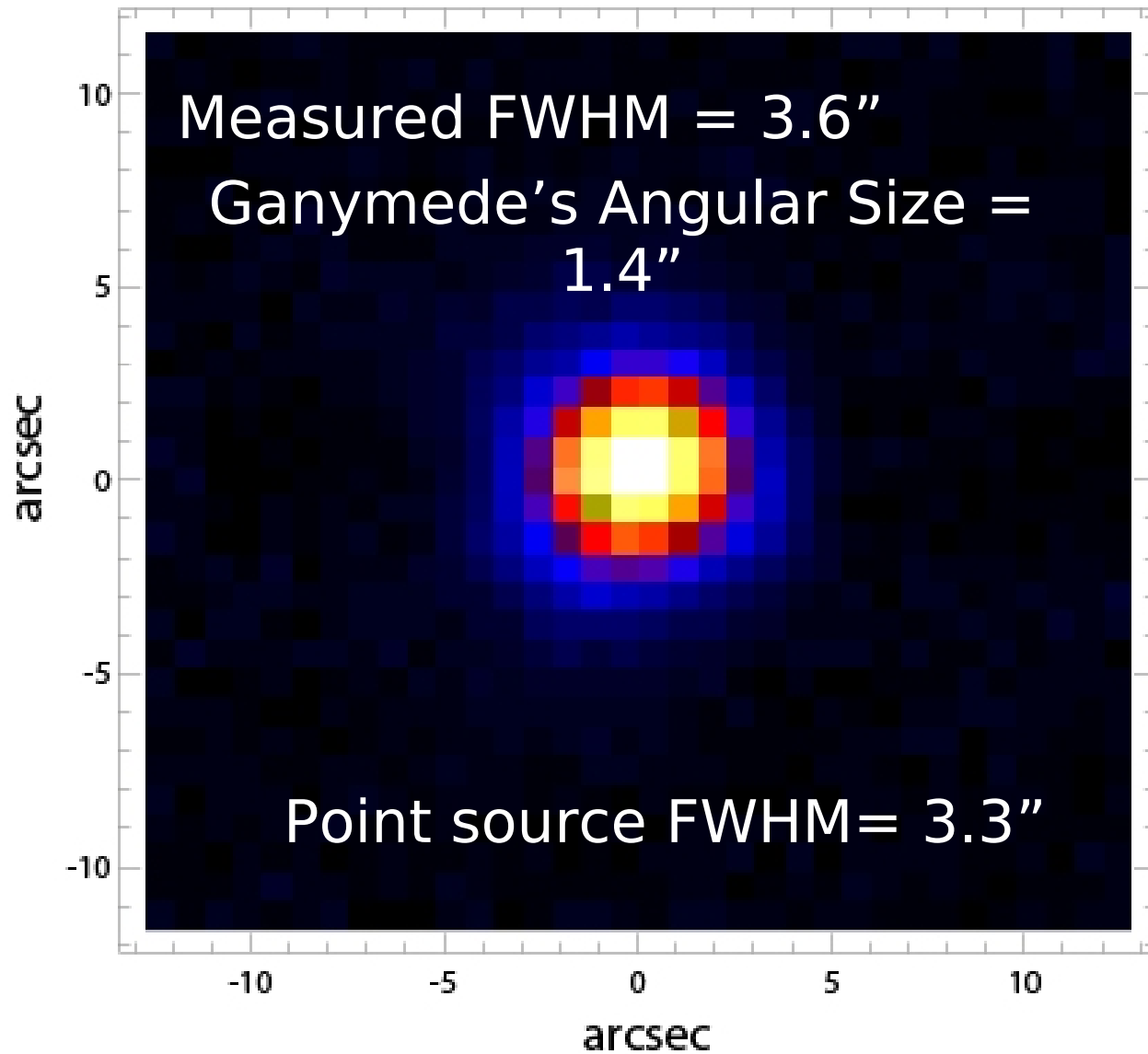
SOFIA First Light Flight (Dec 1, 2010)



Looking at the Data



Ganymede at 24.2 μm from First Light flight



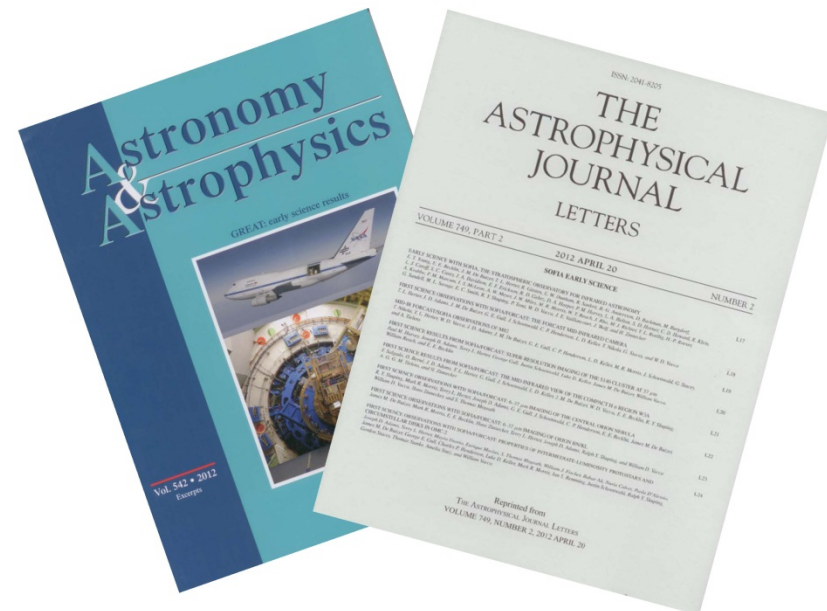
Sensitivities in the 5-40 μm
range as expected!

Science with FORCAST

- There was outstanding science from the FORCAST on three 10-hour science flights and an engineering flight (Dec 2010)
- Observations included: several regions where massive stars are forming: Orion Nebula, W3, and S106 (6 to 37 microns)
- An Infrared Galaxy, M82 (6 to 37 microns)
- A comet, Hartley 2 (11, 20, 31, and 37 microns)
- Results were first presented at AAS in Seattle and Austin. Eight papers have been submitted to ApJL 471 special issue (published in print April 20, 2012)

Recent Results

- SOFIA has published two special issues that highlight the science accomplished during the Early Science period



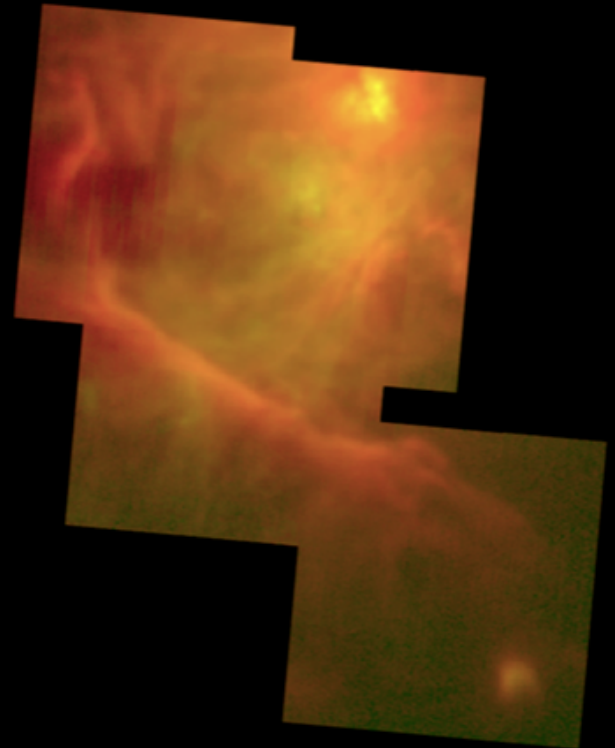
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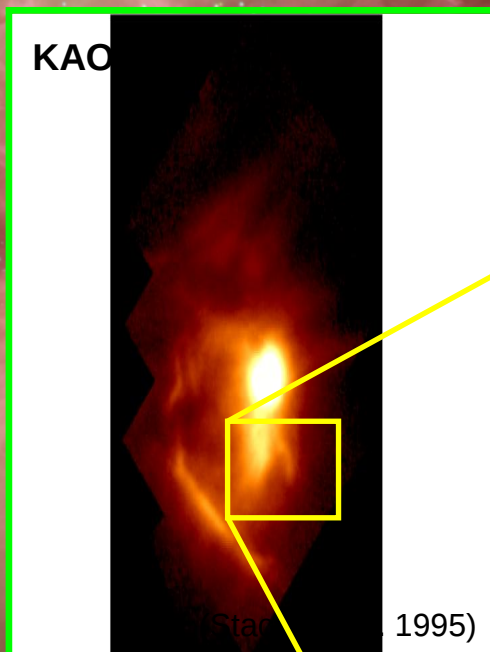


Near infrared
(ESO, M. McCaughrean)



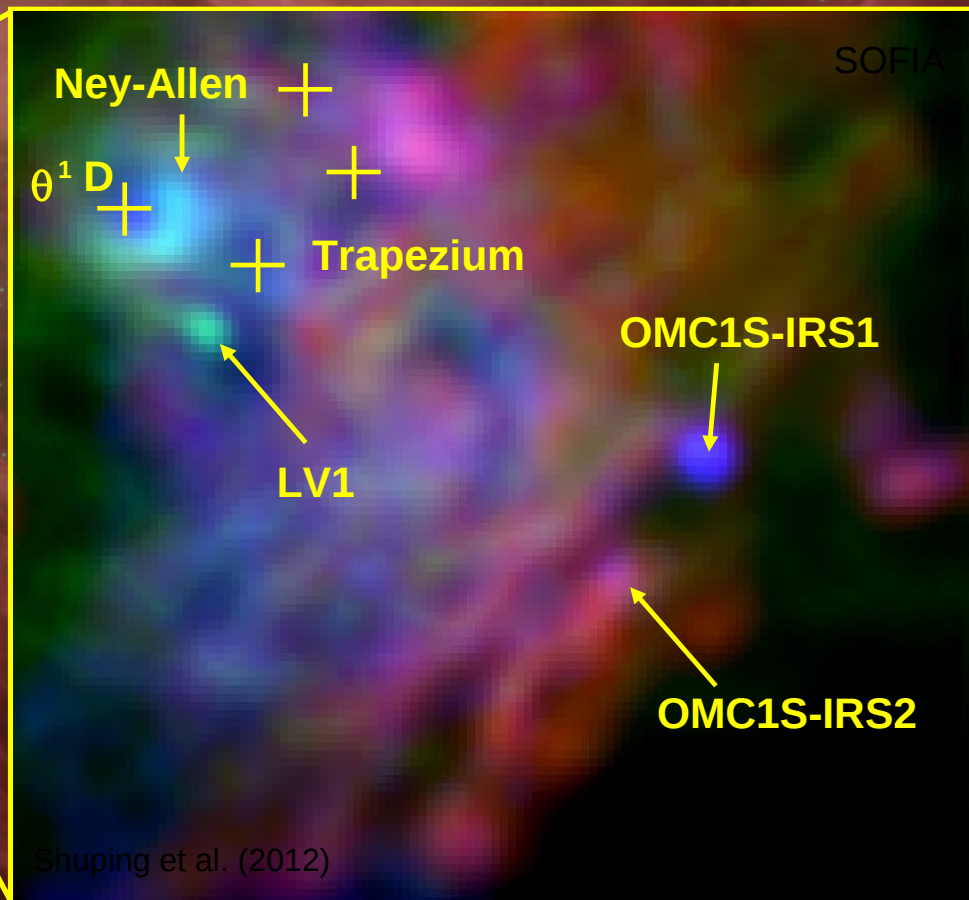
SOFIA mid infrared
(SS02)

TRAPEZIUM STARS REGION

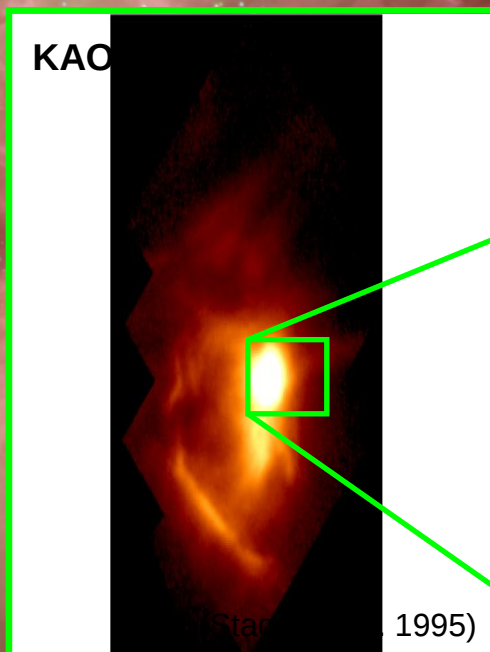


Ney-Allen Region

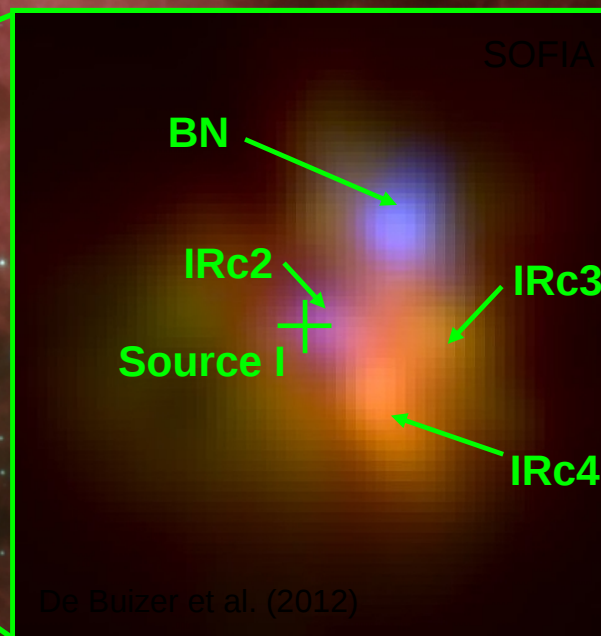
Blue=7um Green=19um Red=37um



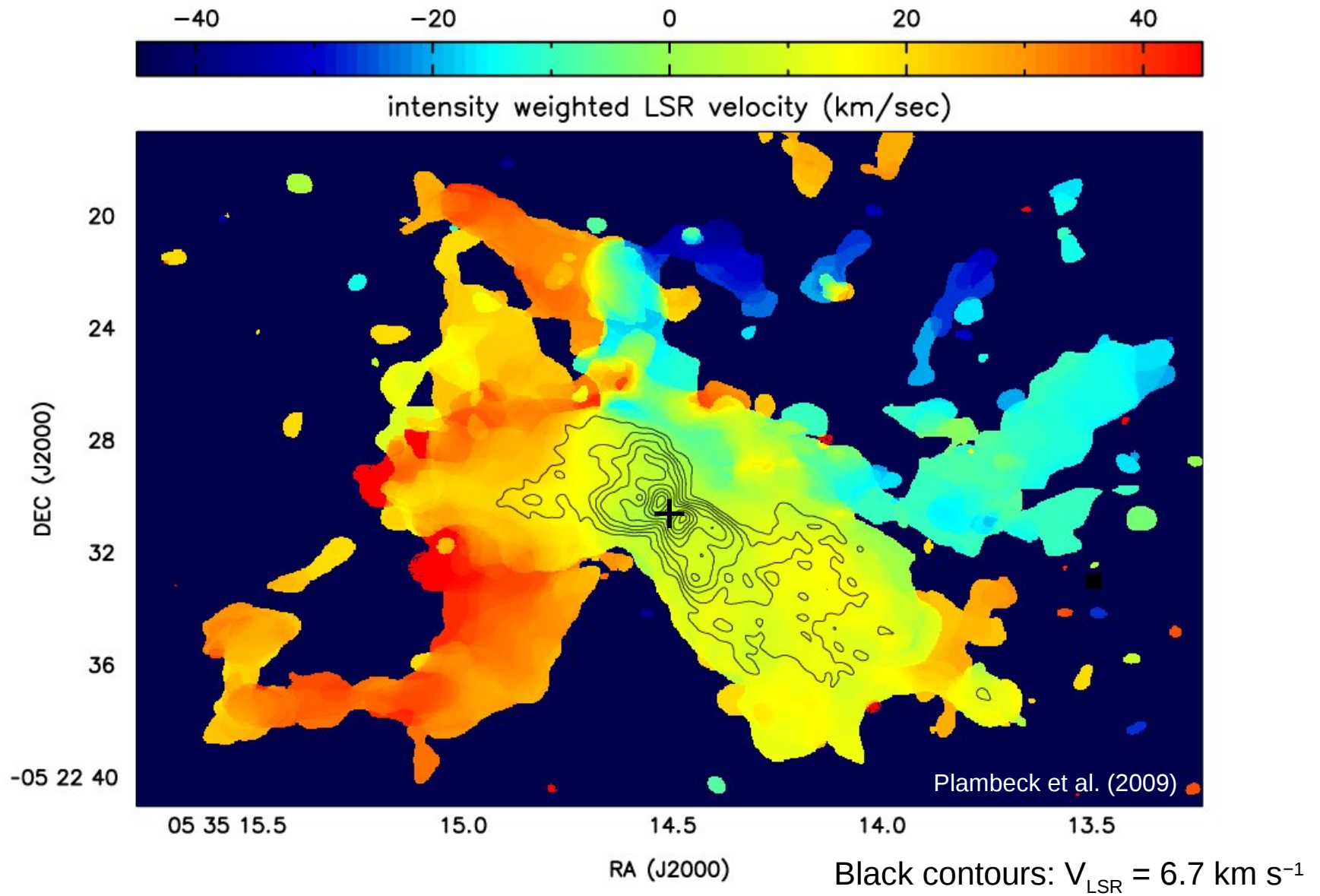
KLEINMANN LOW INFRARED NEBULA

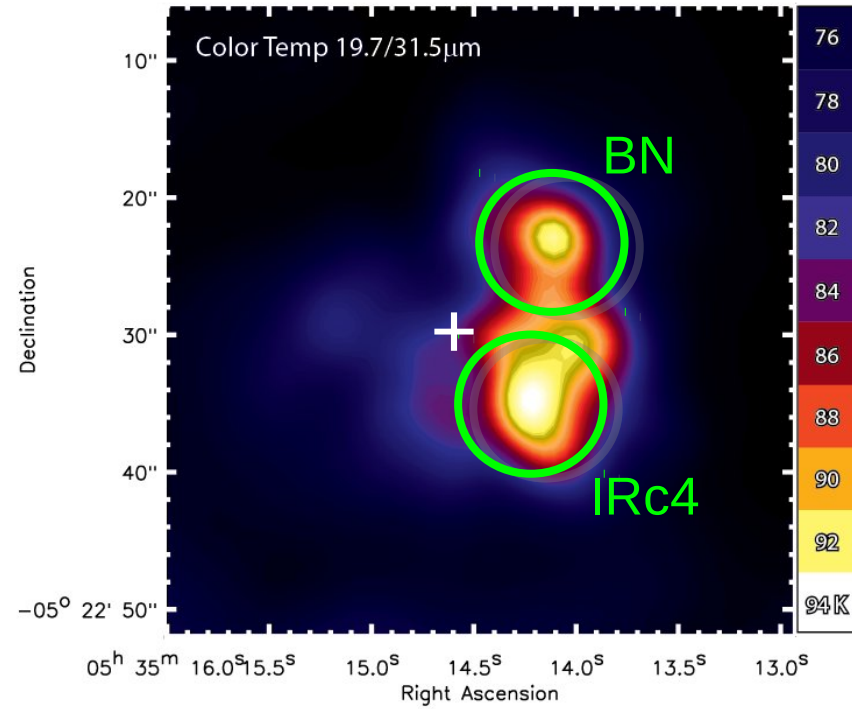


BN/KL Region
Blue=19um Green=31um Red=37um

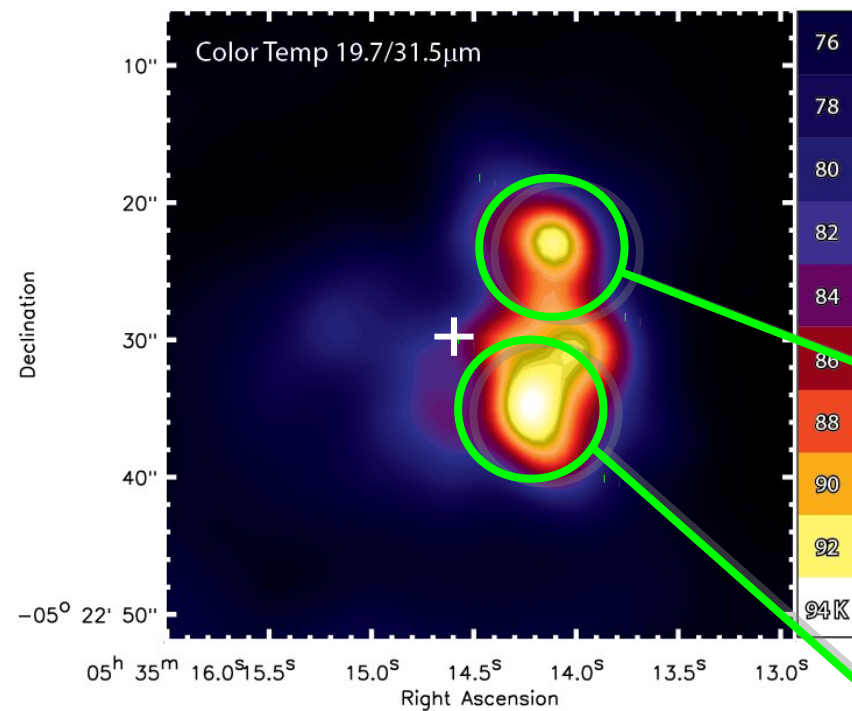


There is an SiO outflow centered near Source I

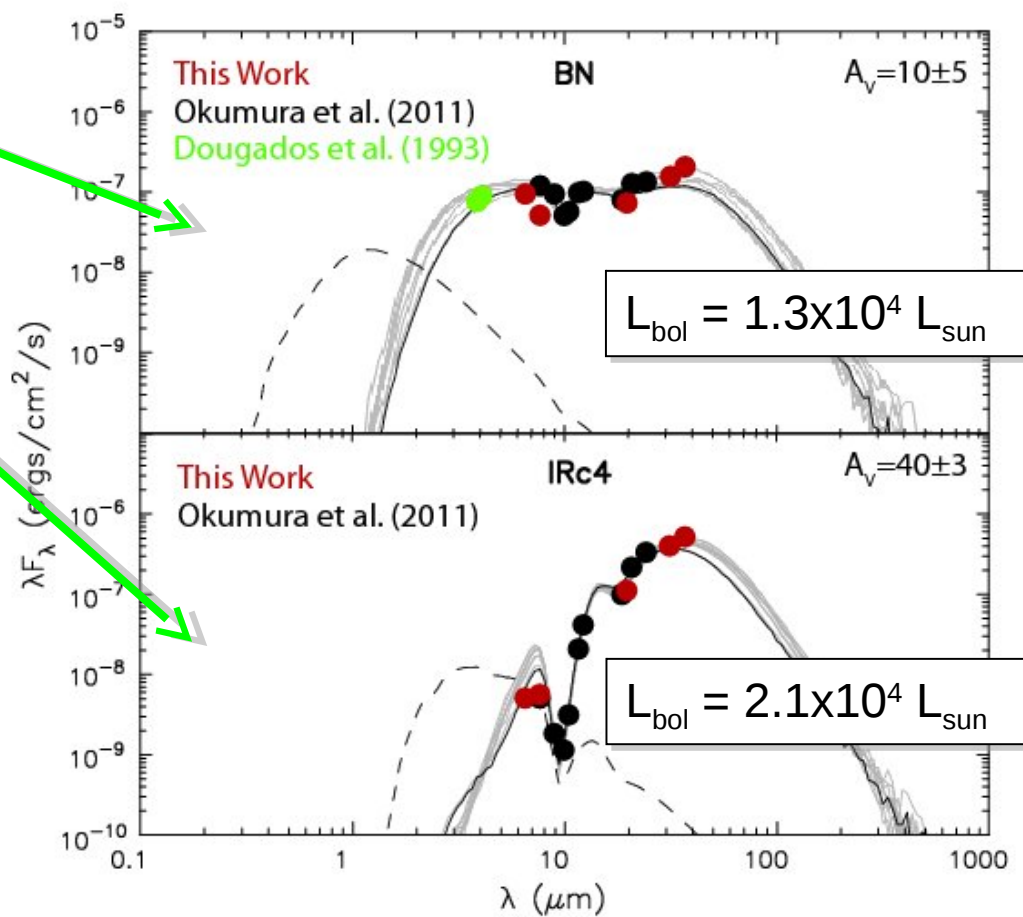


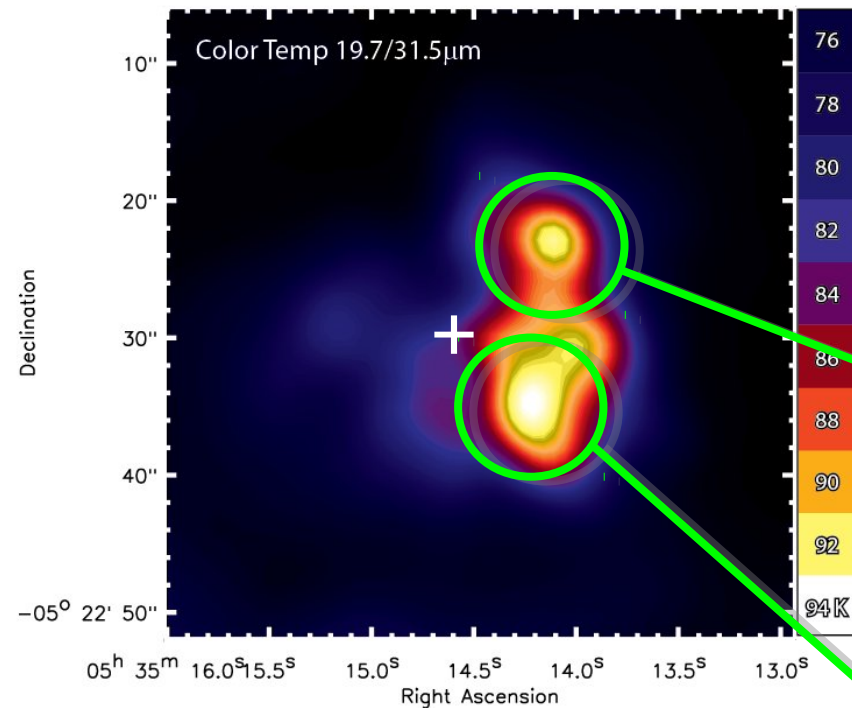


Like BN, IRc4 is a self-luminous source



Like BN, IRc4 is a self-luminous source

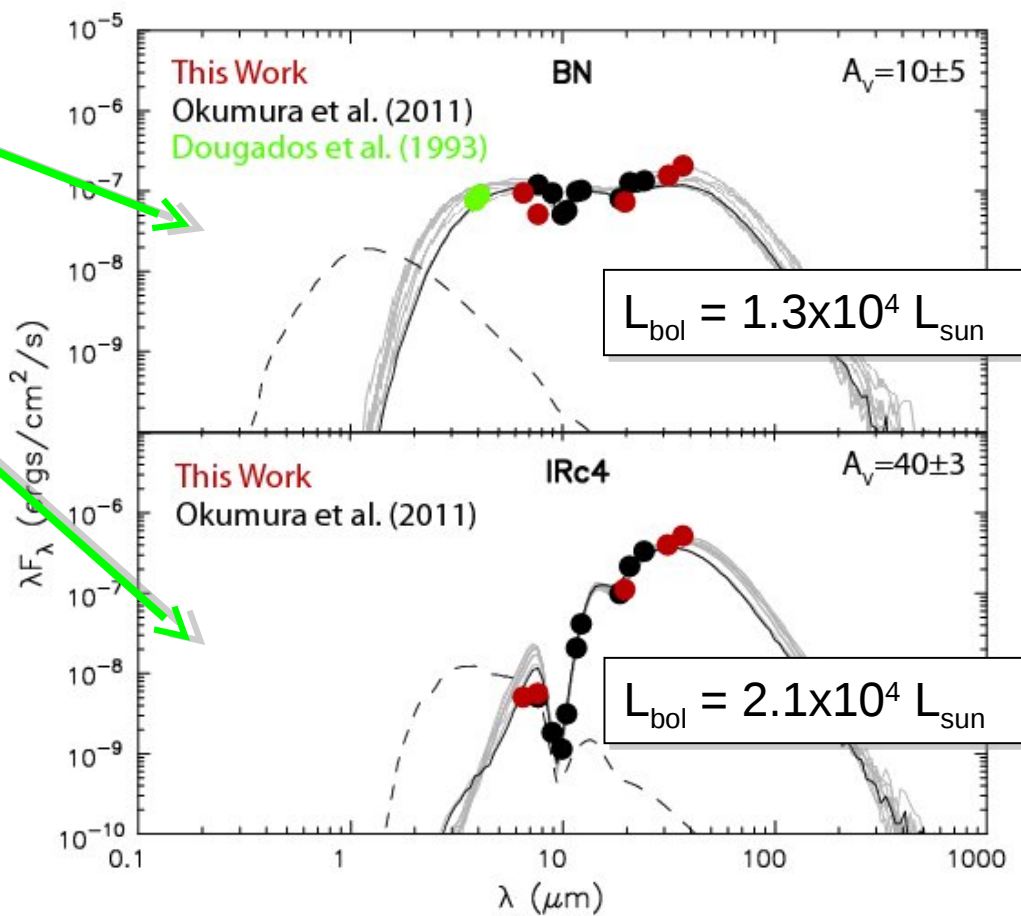


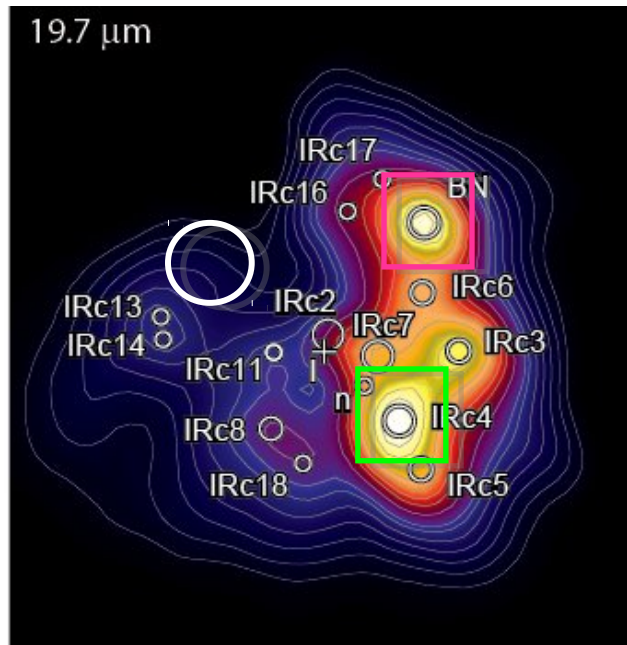
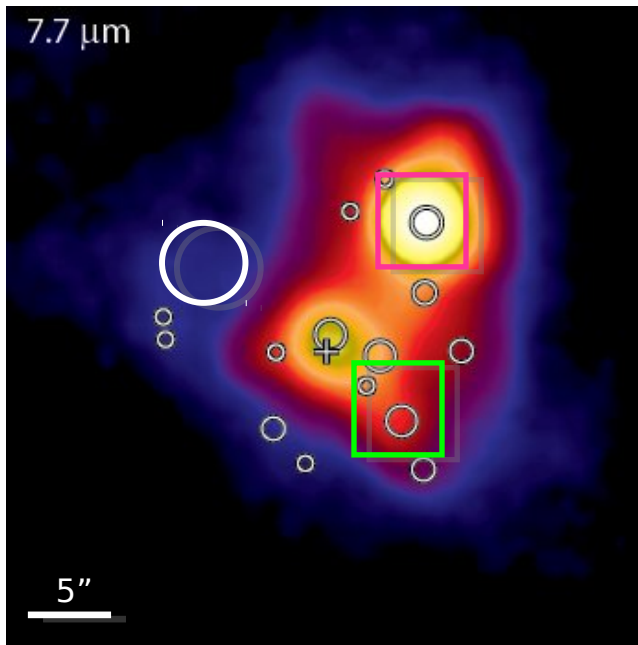


Like BN, IRc4 is a self-luminous source

IRc4 luminosity is too high to be caused by externally heating

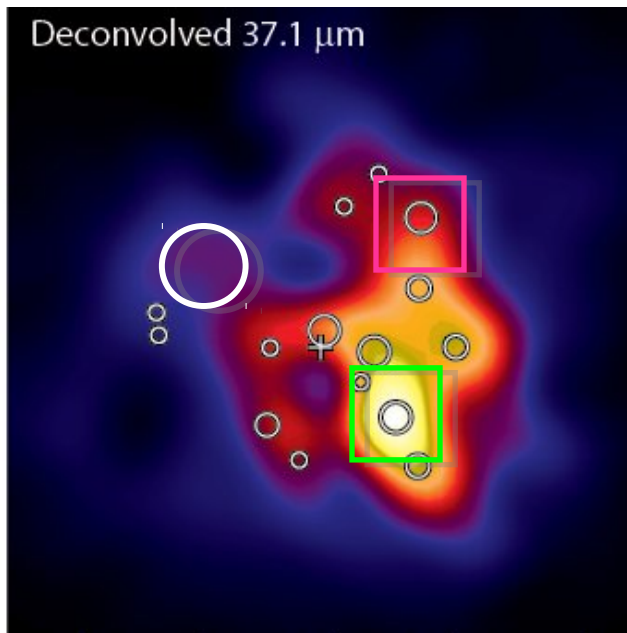
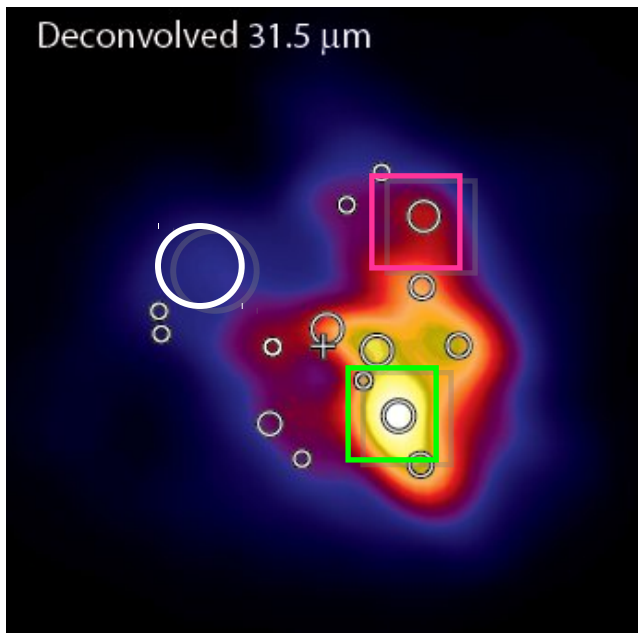
BN+IRc4 account for $\sim 40\%$ of the $\sim 10^5 L_{\text{sun}}$ of the BN/KL region





BN declines in prominence at longer λ 's

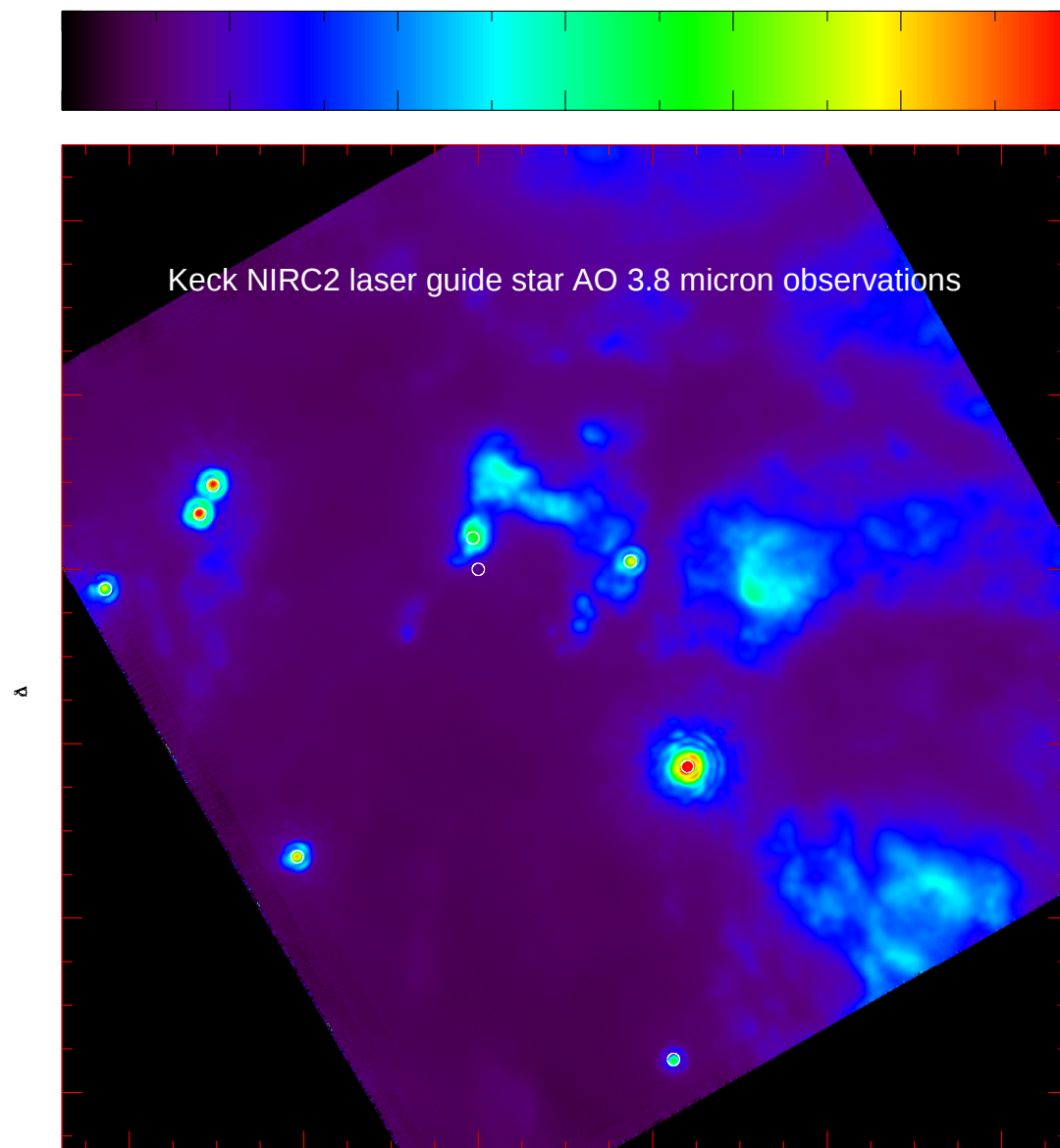
IRc4 dominates at $\lambda > 31\mu\text{m}$



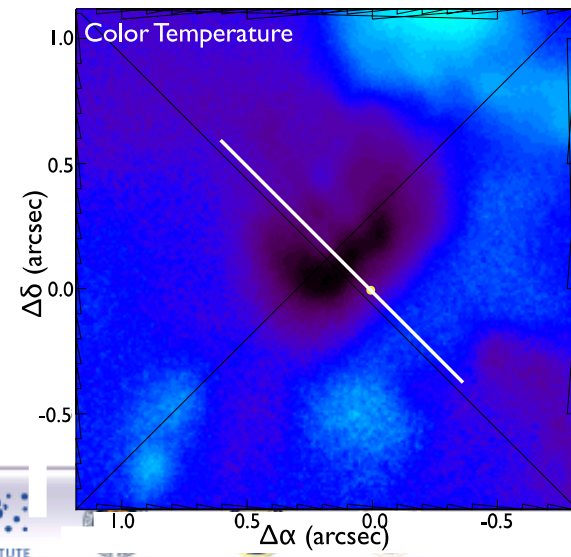
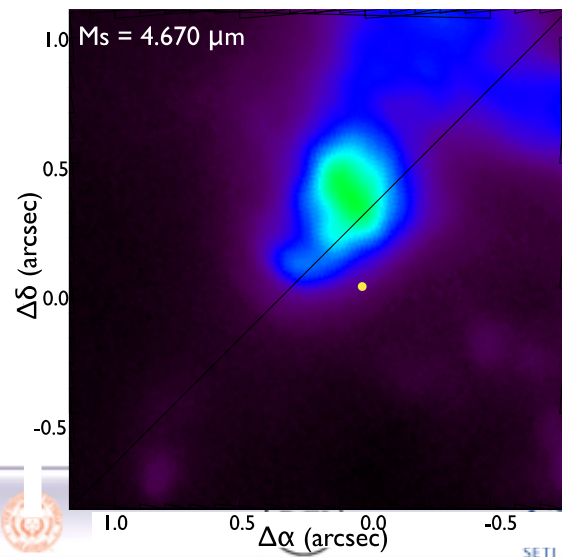
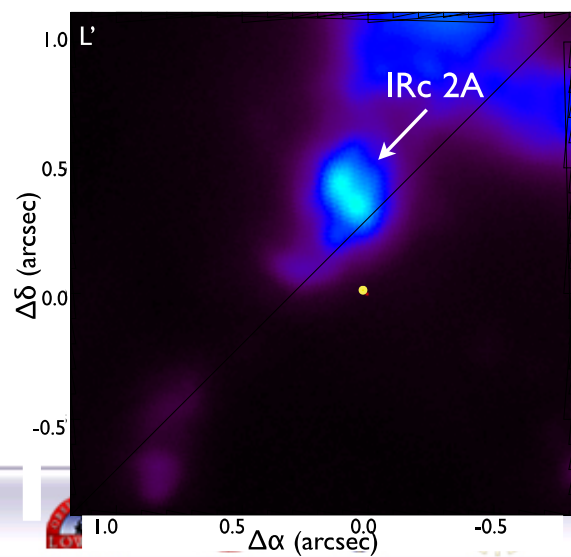
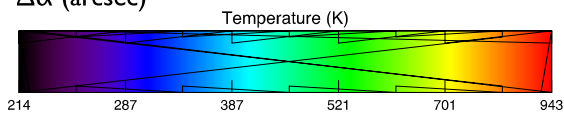
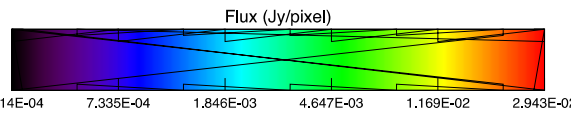
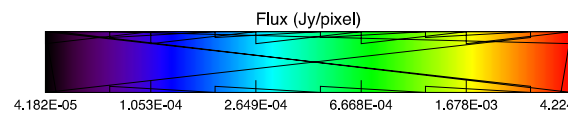
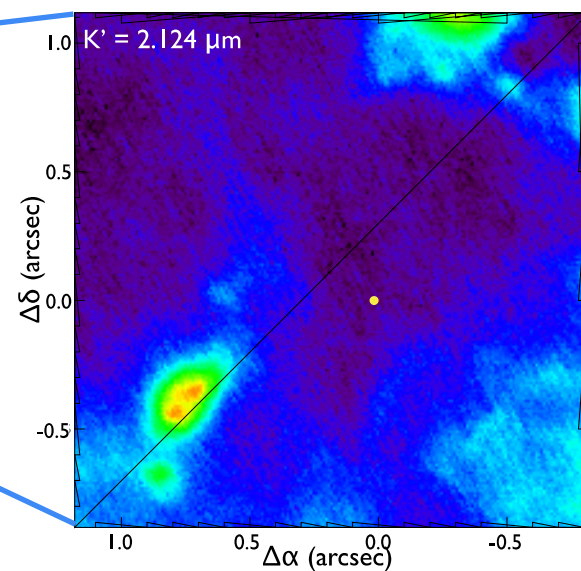
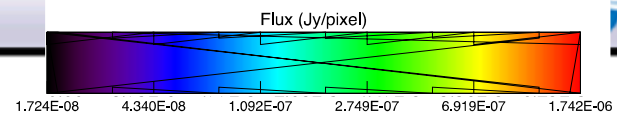
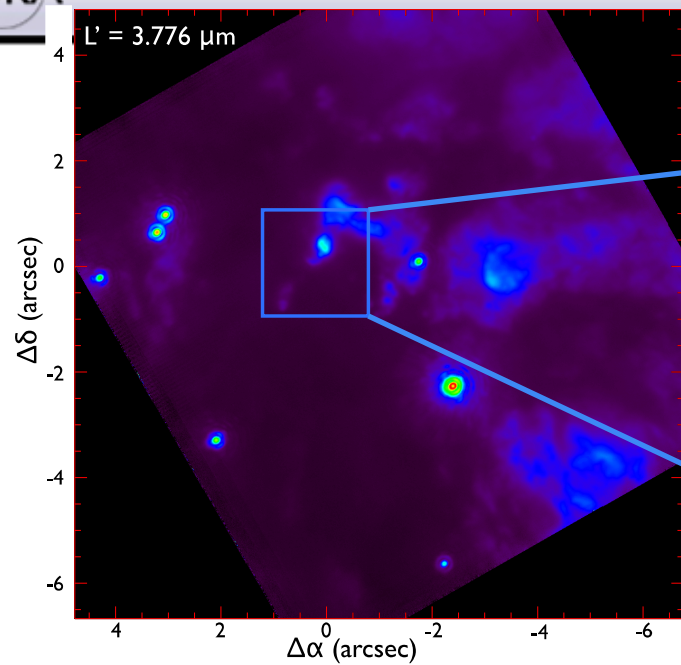
A previously unidentified area of emission is apparent at $\lambda > 31\mu\text{m}$ (SOF1)

What new did we find?

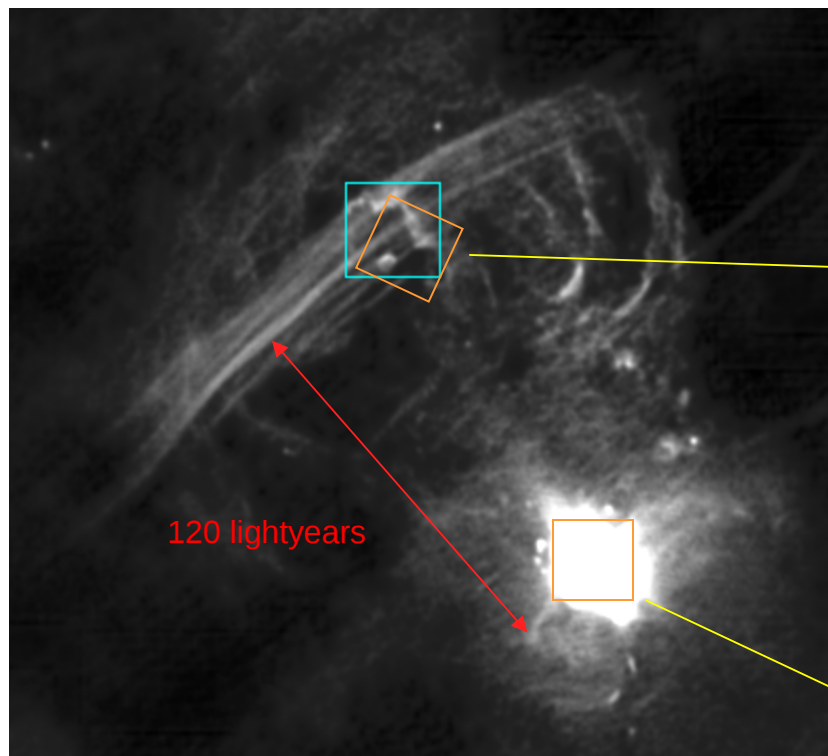
- BN is the hottest source and is not seen at 37 microns. The source IRc2 (bright at 12 microns) and radio source “I” are not seen at 37 microns (longer wavelengths needed).
- There is in fact a hole in the 37 micron emission at IRc2/“I”
- The brightest source at 37 microns is IRc4. Apparently heated from within (no color gradients). Also one of the coldest and most luminous sources ($T \sim 100\text{K}$). Protostar!
- Need more data. We got Keck AO 0.1” obs (2-5 micron) !
- Herschel or HAWC on SOFIA needed to detect source “I”.
- Also infrared/submm spectra needed □ EXES and ALMA



ESO/VLT AND KECK NIR OBSERVATIONS



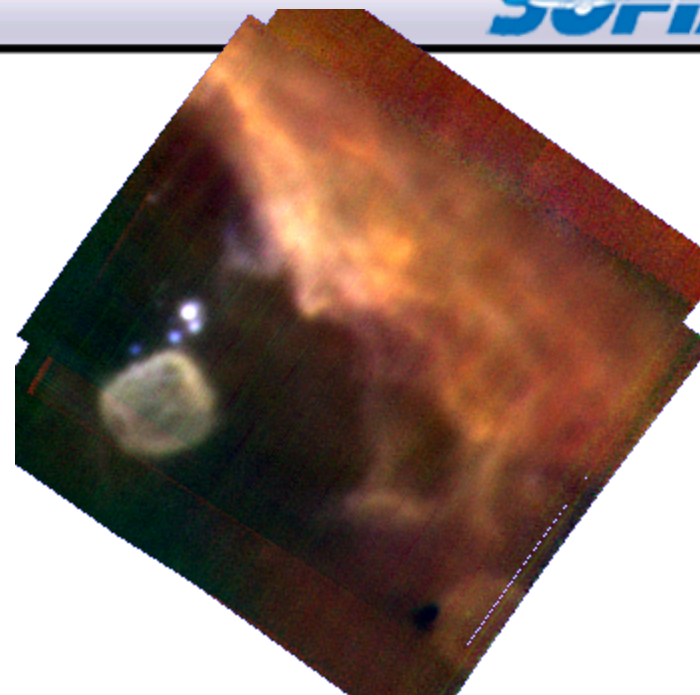
The Galactic Center



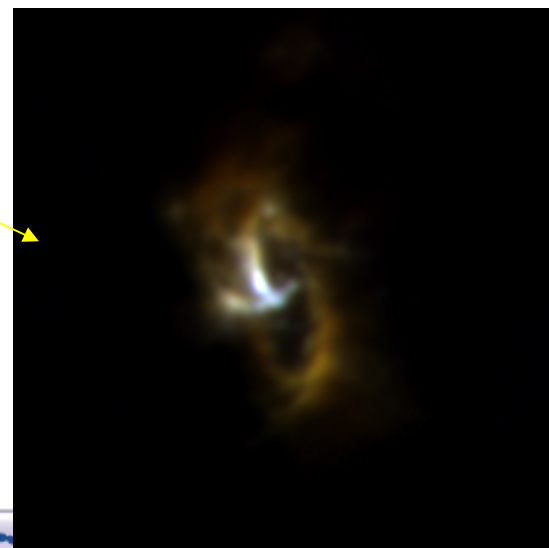
120 lightyears

Radio image of Sgr A, pistol, sickle, filaments and arches

- At right are multicolor infrared images of two regions of the center of the Milky Way made with FORCAST SOFIA (courtesy of T. Herter)
- Released at the Jan 2013 AAS in Long Beach



SOFIA/FORCAST images at 19.7 (blue), 31.5 (green), 37.1 (red) μm





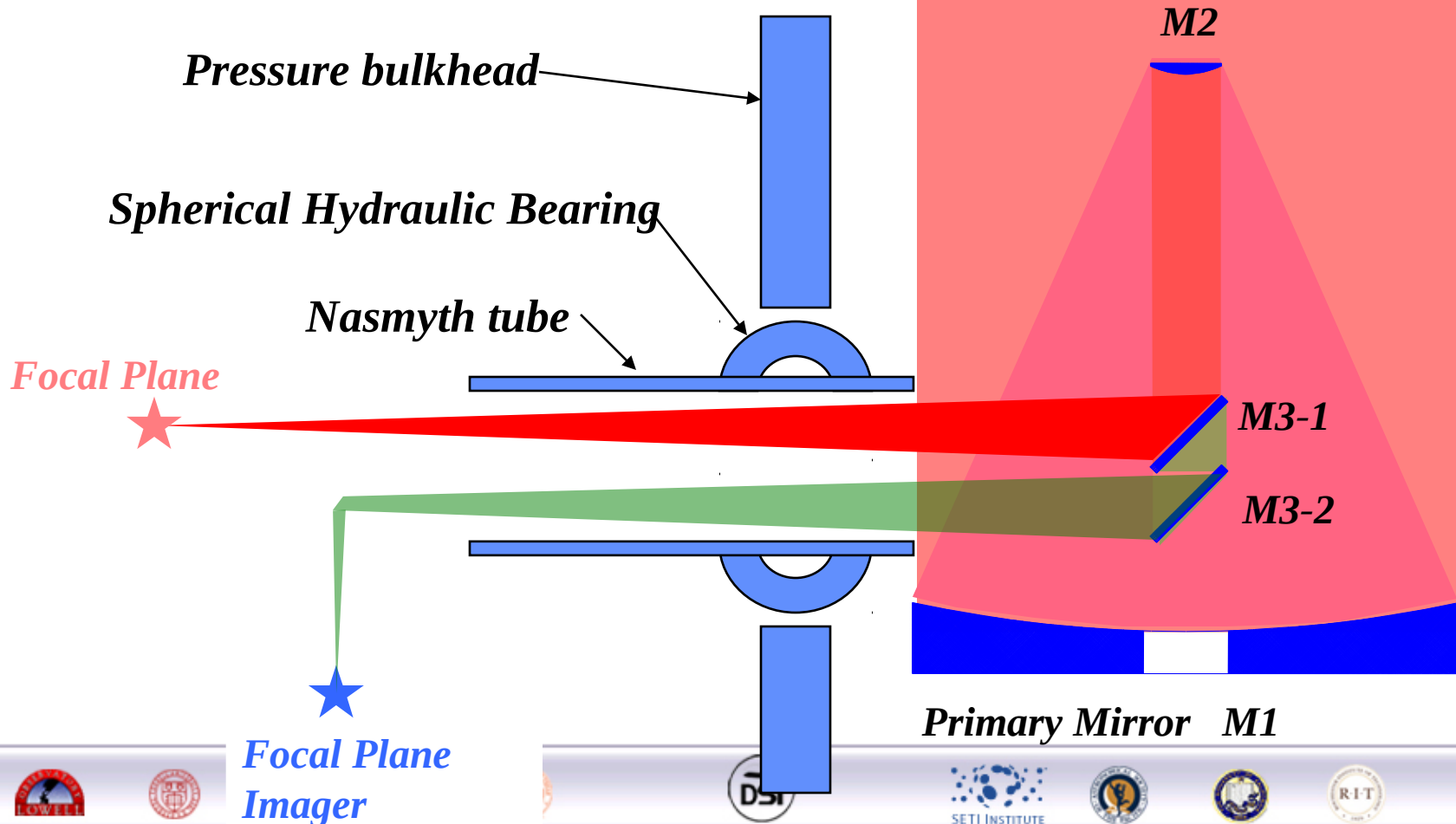
<http://www.sofia.usra.edu>

**deployment to the Southern Hemisphere:
9 flights out of Christchurch/NZ
July 15 to Aug 1**

**targets are Galactic Center
and the Magellanic Clouds**

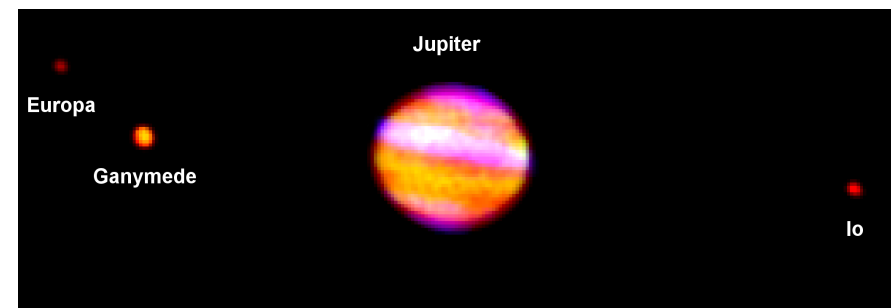
Nasmyth: Optical Layout

*Observers in pressurized cabin
have ready access to the focal
plane*



Summary

- SOFIA program getting into gear!
 - Early Science with FORCAST and GREAT was a great success
 - Some 30 science flights in 2011
 - 30 papers subm. to ApJL + A&A
 - Discoveries: BNKL; OH, OD, SH
 - Aircraft handles well, even with door open (unnoticable in flight)
 - Aircraft now cleared to 45,000ft
 - Successful Occultation of Pluto in June 2011 over the Pacific
 - Deployment to Germany and to Washington DC in Sept 2011
 - Cycle 1 Call for US/German Open Time Proposals (133 US, 39 GER) successful proposals flying in 2013
 - Premier facility for mid-IR and far-IR-astronomy for many years to come (post Herschel)



SOFIA EP/O

- Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors Program Launched
 - All 6 US educators in the first AAA class flew on Basic Science 1 flights
 - Parallel German AAA program flew their first educators during Basic Science 2
 - 26 new US ambassadors selected
- SOFIA has been deployed to Germany in mid-September to support the Cologne Air Show September 18, 2011
- SOFIA stopped over at Andrews Airforce Base in Washington/DC to Sept 25, 2011 on the way back from Stuttgart/Germany to Calif.



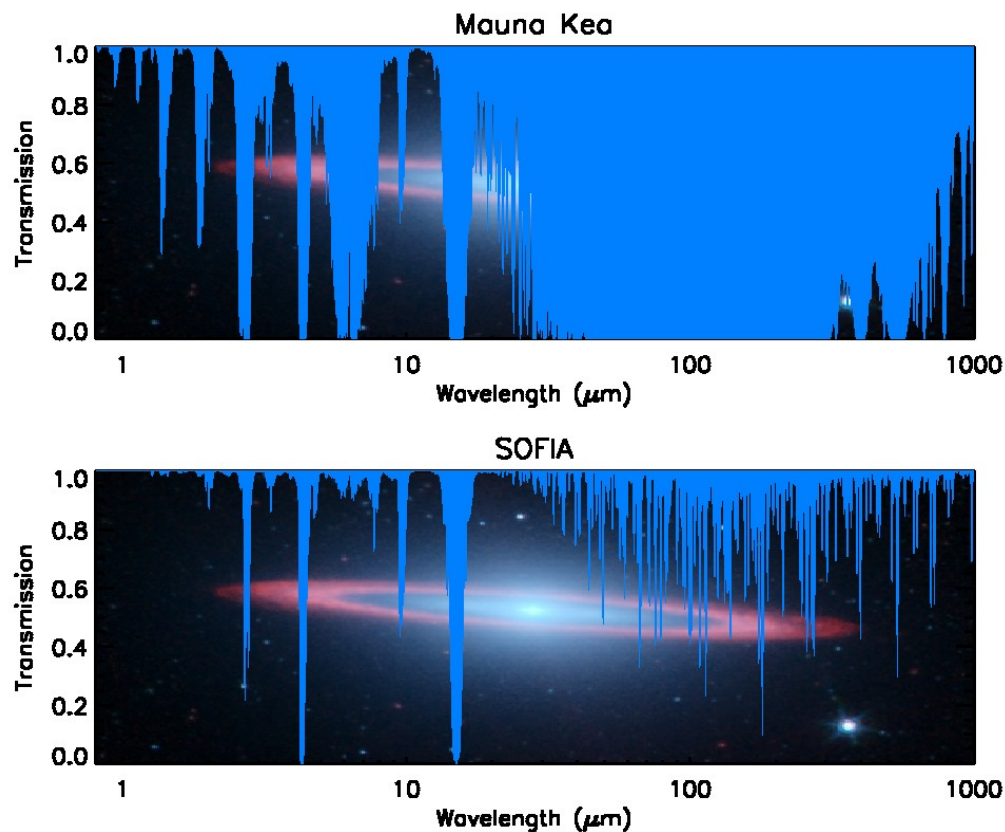
Educators from the first Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors flight. (l-r) Margaret Piper, Lincoln Way High School, Frankfort, Ill.; Theresa Paulsen, Mellen School District, Mellen, Wis.; and Kathleen Joanne Fredette, Desert Willow Intermediate School, Palmdale, Calif.

Overview of SOFIA (Young et al. 2012 ApJL)

- Operating altitude
 - 39,000 to 45,000 feet (12 to 14 km)
 - Above > 99% of obscuring water vapor
- World Wide Deployments
- Ramp up to ~1000 science hours per year (12% of the time)
- Build on Kuiper Airborne Observatory (KAO) heritage with improvements (more and longer flights, facility instruments, science support)
- Science flights to originate from Palmdale, CA
aircraft operation by NASA Dryden Research Center (DFRC)
- Science Center is located at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA

Why SOFIA?

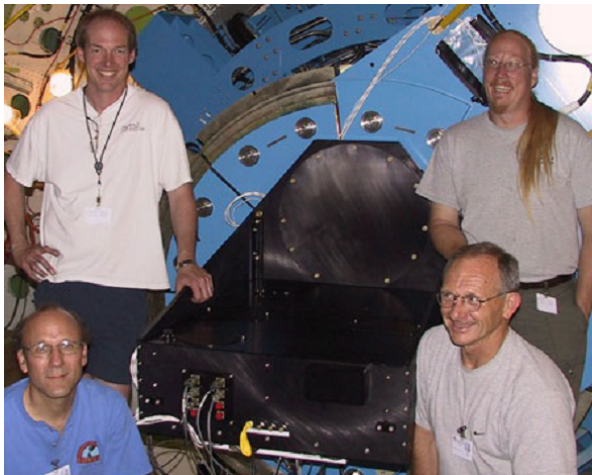
- Infrared transmission in the Stratosphere very good:
 - >80% from 1 to 1000 microns
- Instrumentation: wide complement, rapidly interchangeable, state-of-the art
- Mobility: anywhere, anytime
- Long lifetime
- Outstanding platform to train future instrumentalists
- Near Space Observatory that comes home after every flight



SOFIA instrument suite

- FORCAST
- GREAT (upGREAT)
- HIPO
- FLITECAM
- FIFI-LS
- HAWC (HAWC-Pol)
- EXES

Four Completed 1st Generation Instruments

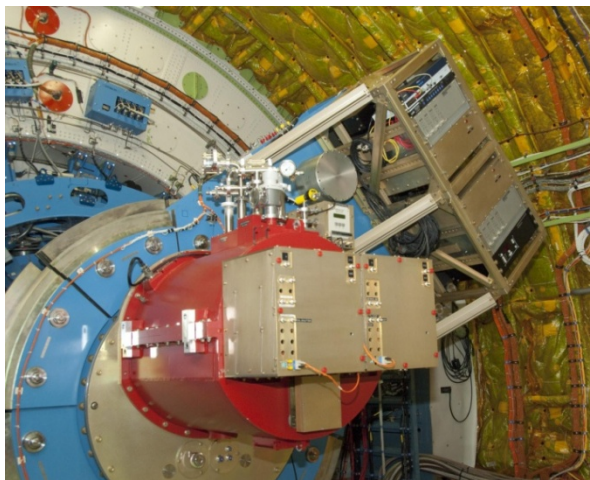
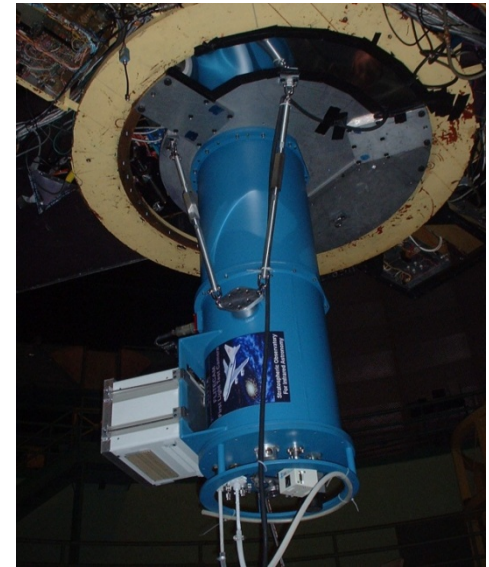


HIPO

High Speed Photometer
(on SOFIA)

FLITECAM

Near IR Camera
(at Lick observatory)

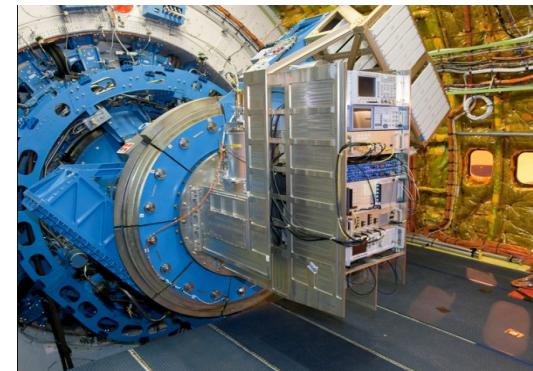


FORCAST

Mid-IR Camera
(on SOFIA)

GREAT

Heterodyne spectrometer
(on SOFIA)

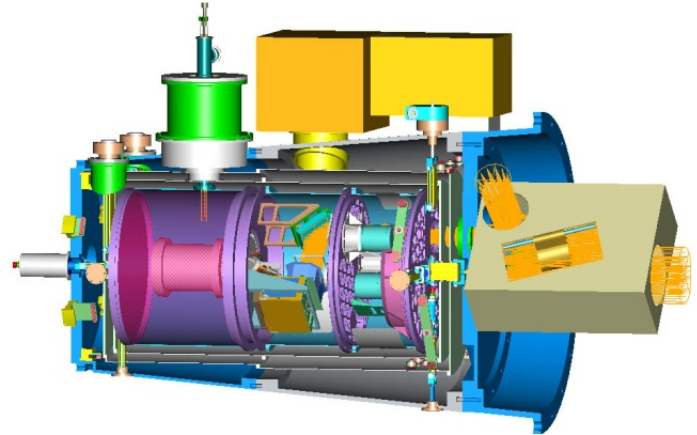


Instruments in development

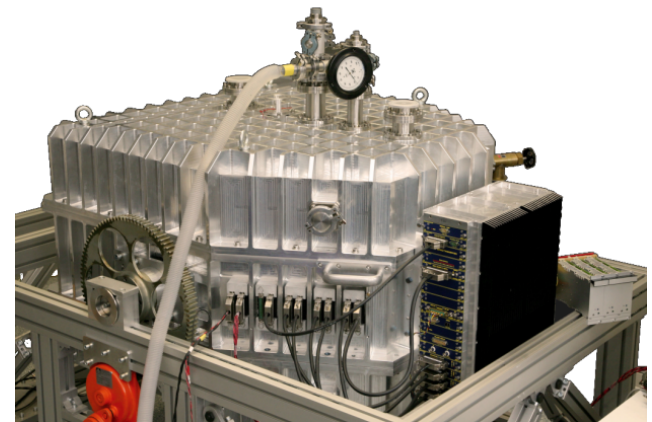


EXES
Mid- IR Spectrometer

HAWC
Bolometer
Camera



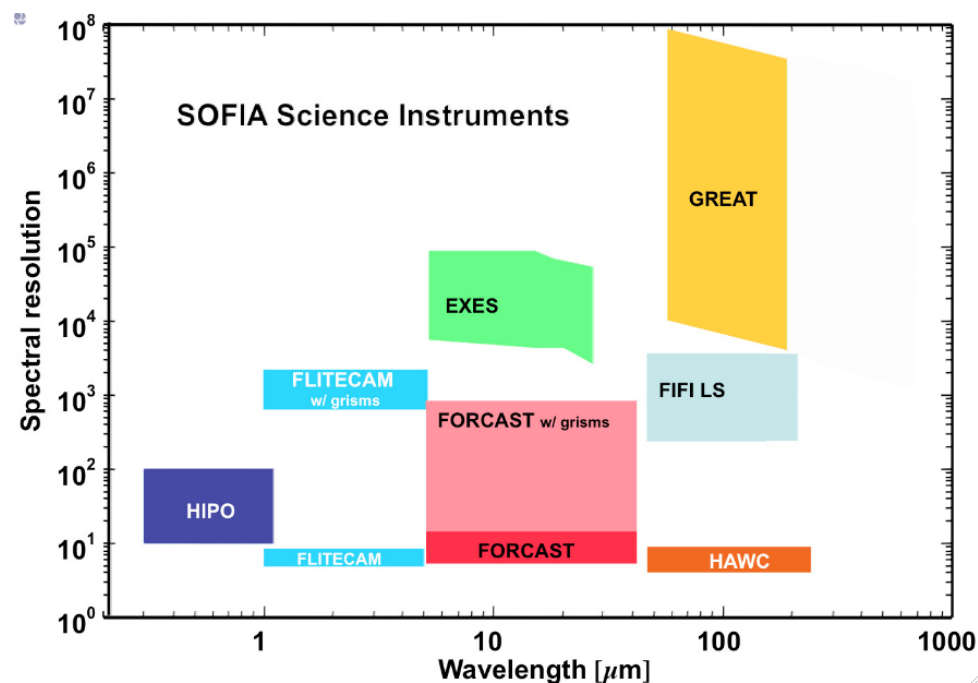
FIFI LS
Integral Field
Spectrometer



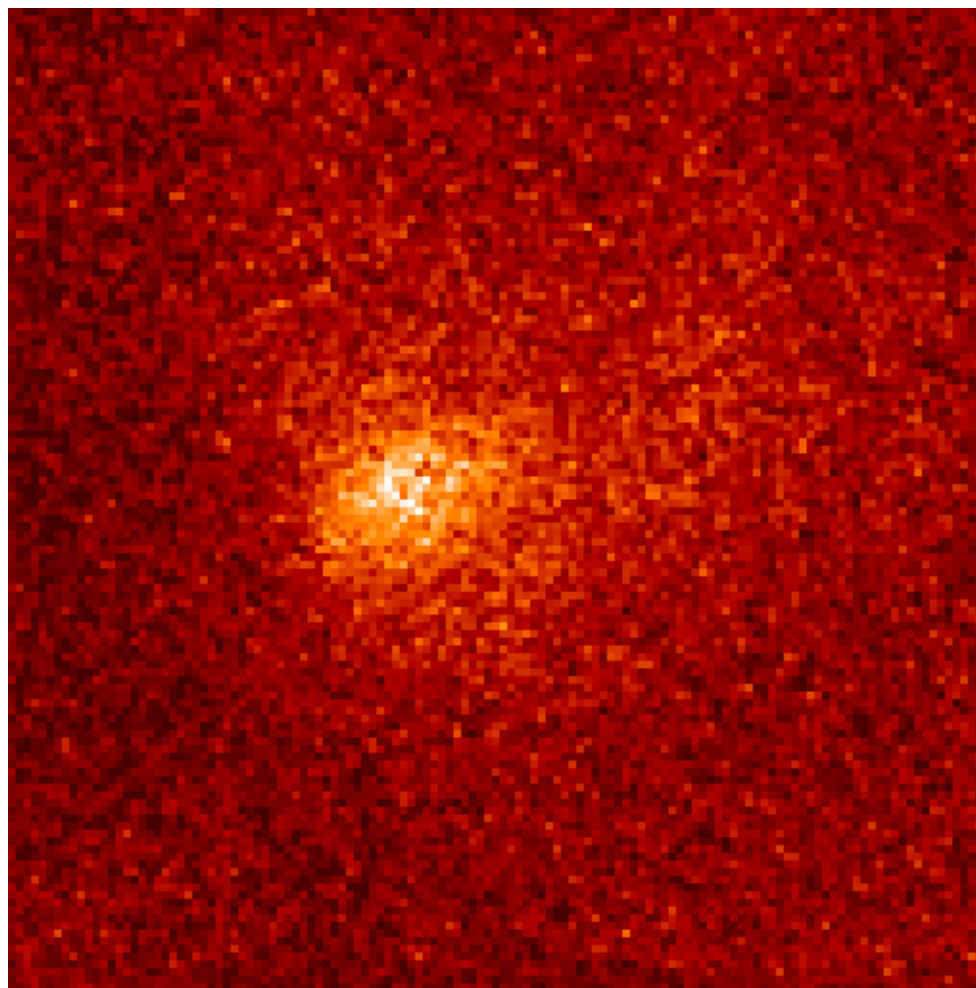
SOFIA's Instrument Complement

As an airborne mission, SOFIA supports a unique, expandable instrument suite

- SOFIA covers the full IR range with imagers and low- to high-resolution spectrographs (30-60 μm missing)
- 4 instruments at initial operations; and 7 instruments at full operations.
- SOFIA will take full advantage of improvements in instrument technology. There will be one new instrument or major upgrade every other year.
- Will support both facility instruments and PI class instruments
- 2nd gen instrument selected (April 2012) (HAWC upgrade: HAWC-Pol, HAWC++)



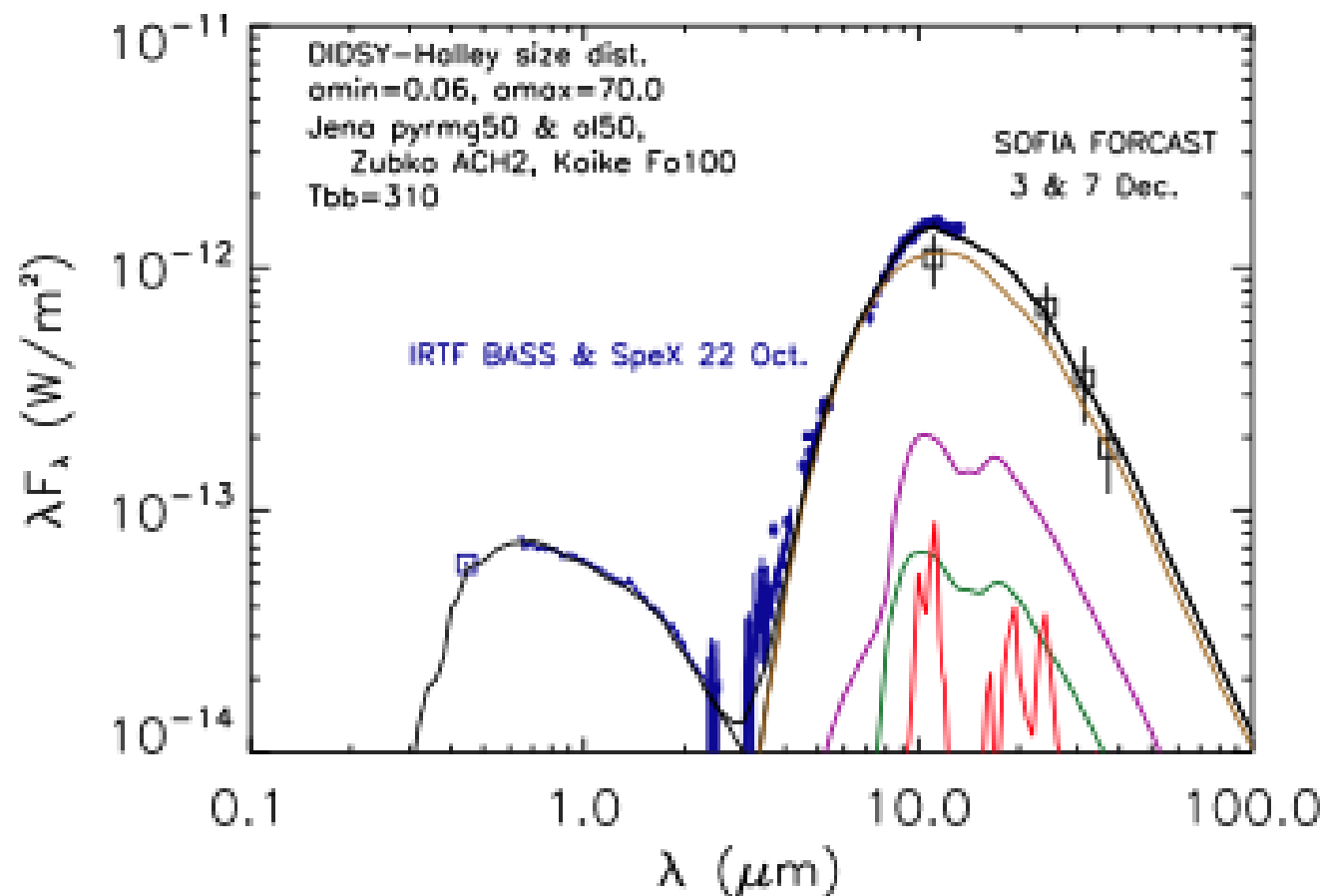
Comet Hartley 2



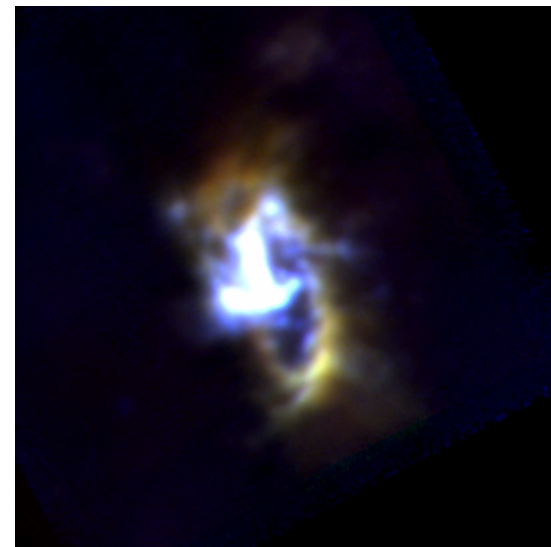
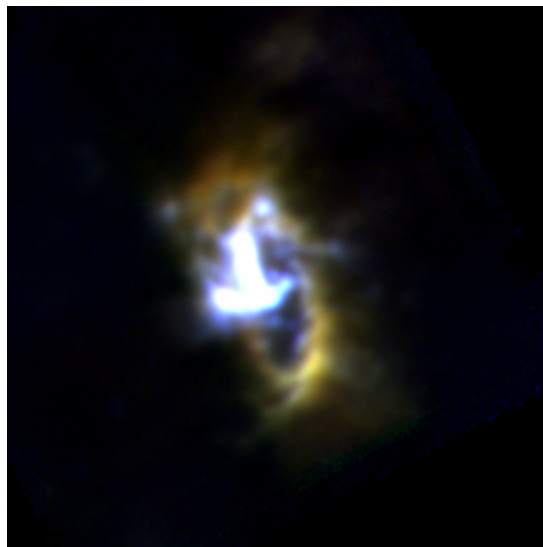
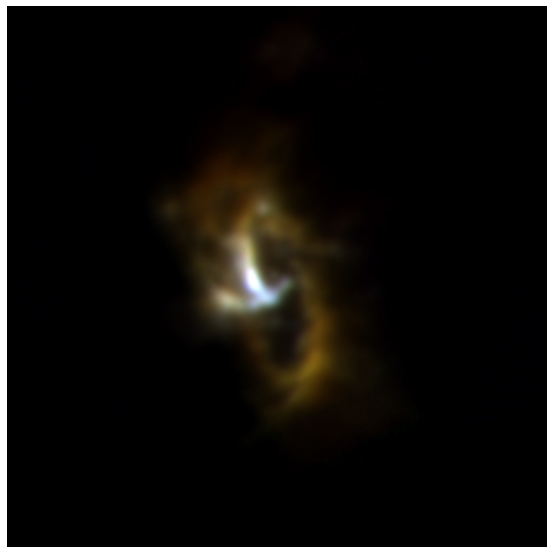
31.4 microns

- 31 and 37 Micron data of Comet that had a fly by in Nov.
- First Astro Results Publication of SOFIA 20 Jun ApJ2011

Energy Distribution of Hartley 2 (Meech et al)



Sgr A - CND

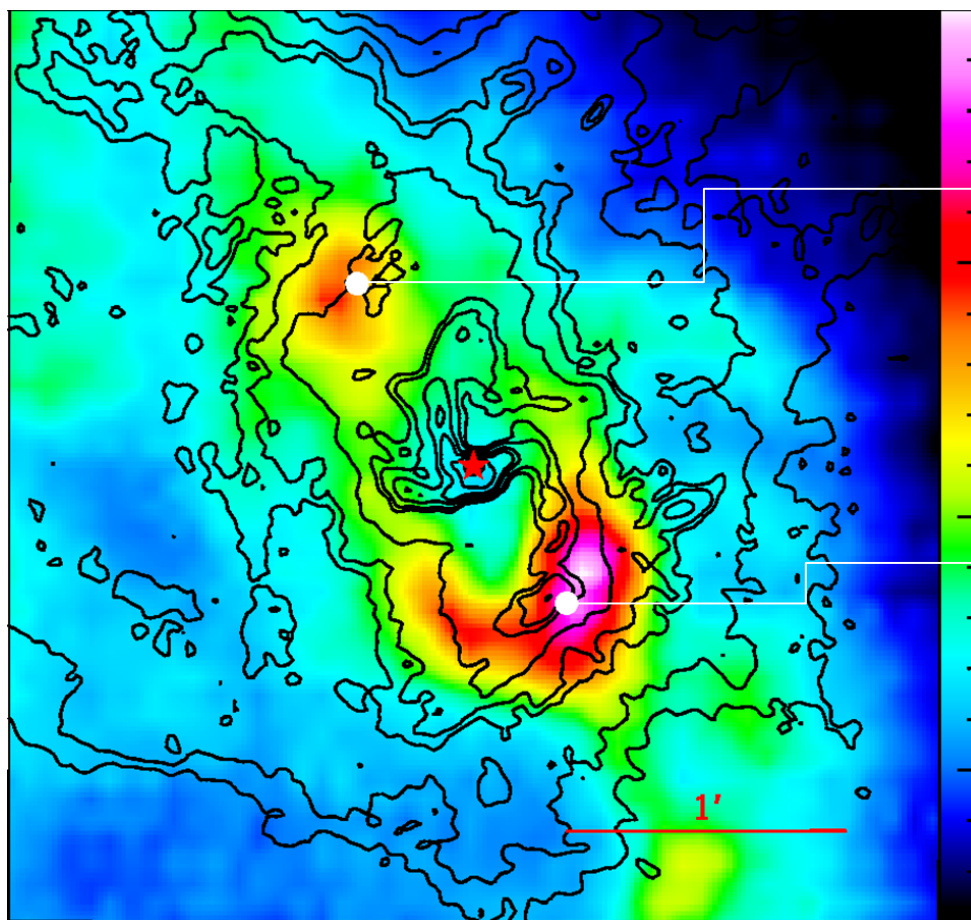


19.7 (blue), 31.5 (green), 37.1 (red)

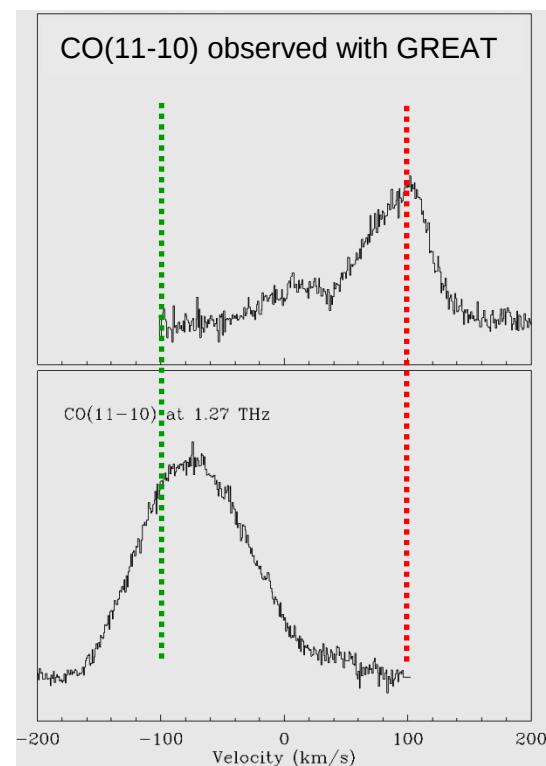
- Multicolor image of circumnuclear disk (CND) in the Galactic Center (courtesy of T. Herter)
- Scaling varies from left (scaled to central brightness) to right (scaled to emphasize the ring)

The circum-nuclear disk in the GC

a massive gas disk is rotating around & feeding the black hole in the Galactic center



carbon monoxide (CO) in orbit around the central mass



GREAT will help constraining the physical conditions of the gas reservoir, feeding the nucleus

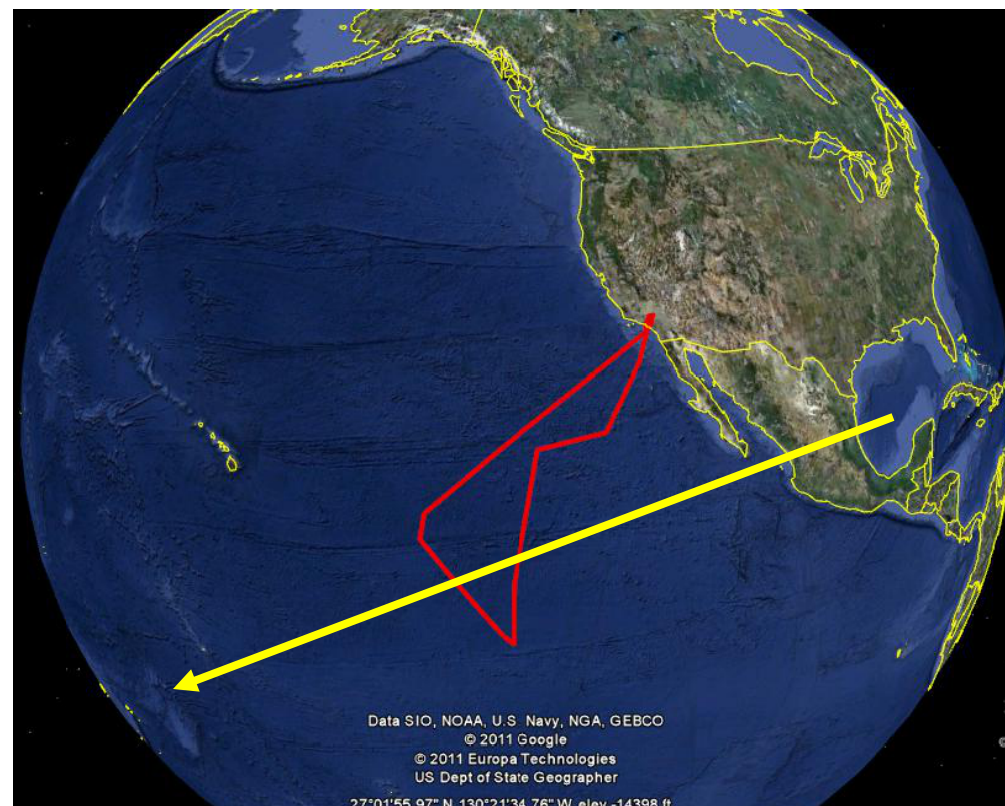
HIPO Occultation of Pluto

HIPO Occultation of Pluto

- On 23 June, Pluto occulted a 14 mag star over the Pacific
- HIPO was placed on the telescope to attempt to measure the occultation at two wavelengths, as close to the center line as possible. If Pluto's atmosphere is dense enough, a central brightening, due to refraction, should be seen.
- Positional updates 3 hours before the event allowed us to cross the central cord within ~ 100 km and see a central brightening. Central path occurred south of Hawaii.

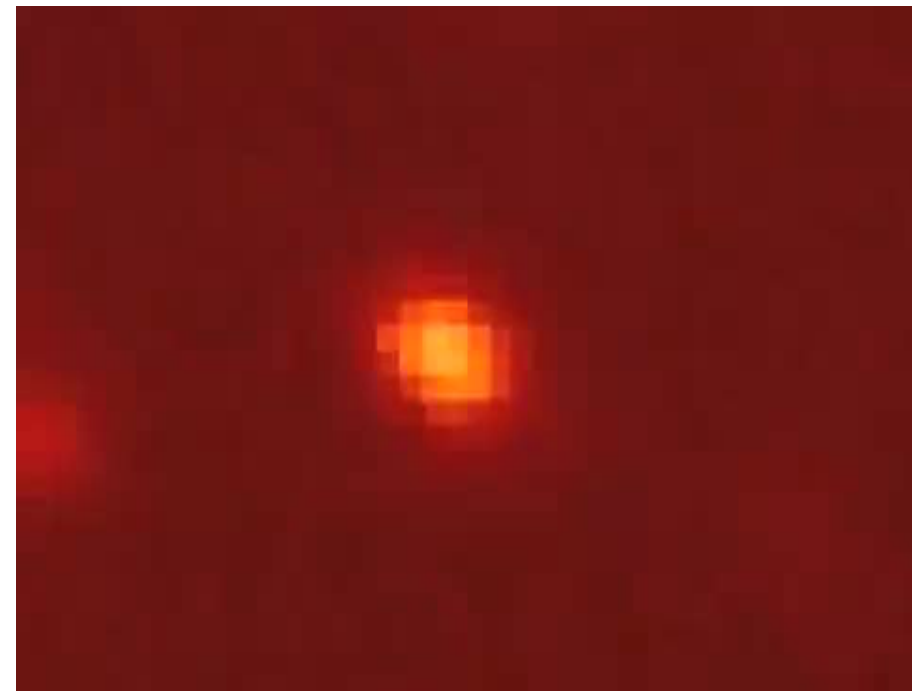
Occultation by Pluto 2011 June 23

- Observation of Pluto passing in front of a bright star is used to provide highly detailed information about the atmosphere
- Mobility of SOFIA is key to successful observations



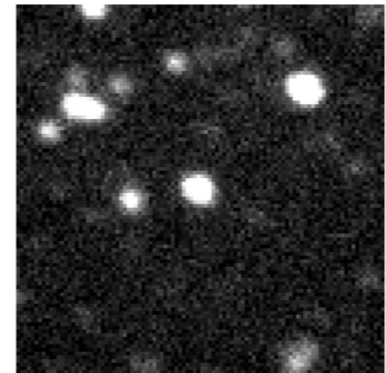
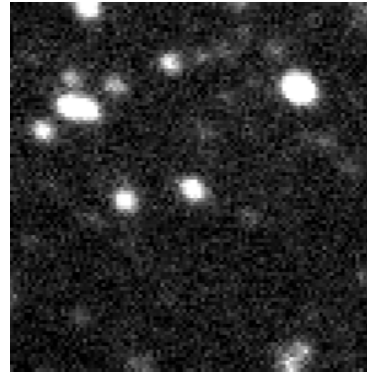
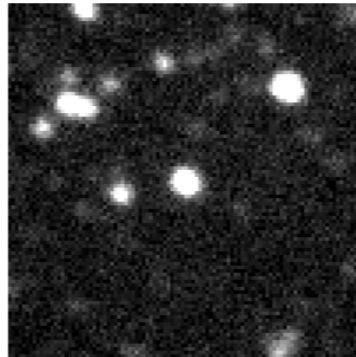
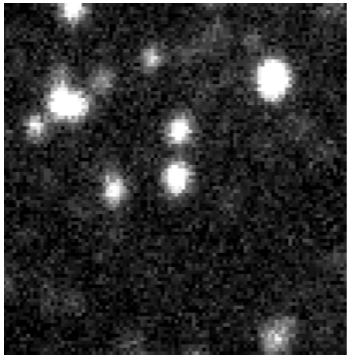
Occultation Results

- Goal of flight was to get as close as possible to center line of occultation
 - If close enough to center line, we can see brightening at mid-event due to atmospheric refraction in Pluto
- Required refinement of prediction as close to time of event as possible
 - Observations at US Naval Observatory, Flagstaff AZ
 - Reductions at MIT
 - Rerouting of SOFIA during flight
- Successful detection indicated SOFIA hit the mark within 100 km.



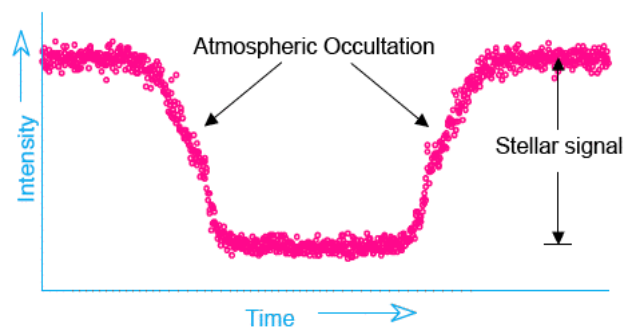
Ted Dunham, Lowell Observatory,
HIPO instrument

Pluto Occultation: 3 hours before, just before, during and just after.

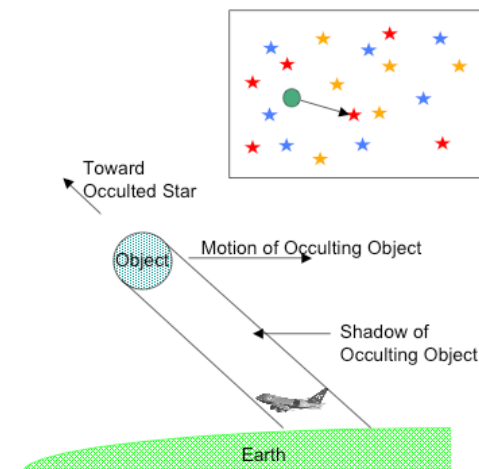


Occultation astronomy with SOFIA

SOFIA will determine the properties of Dwarf Planets in and beyond the Kuiper Belt



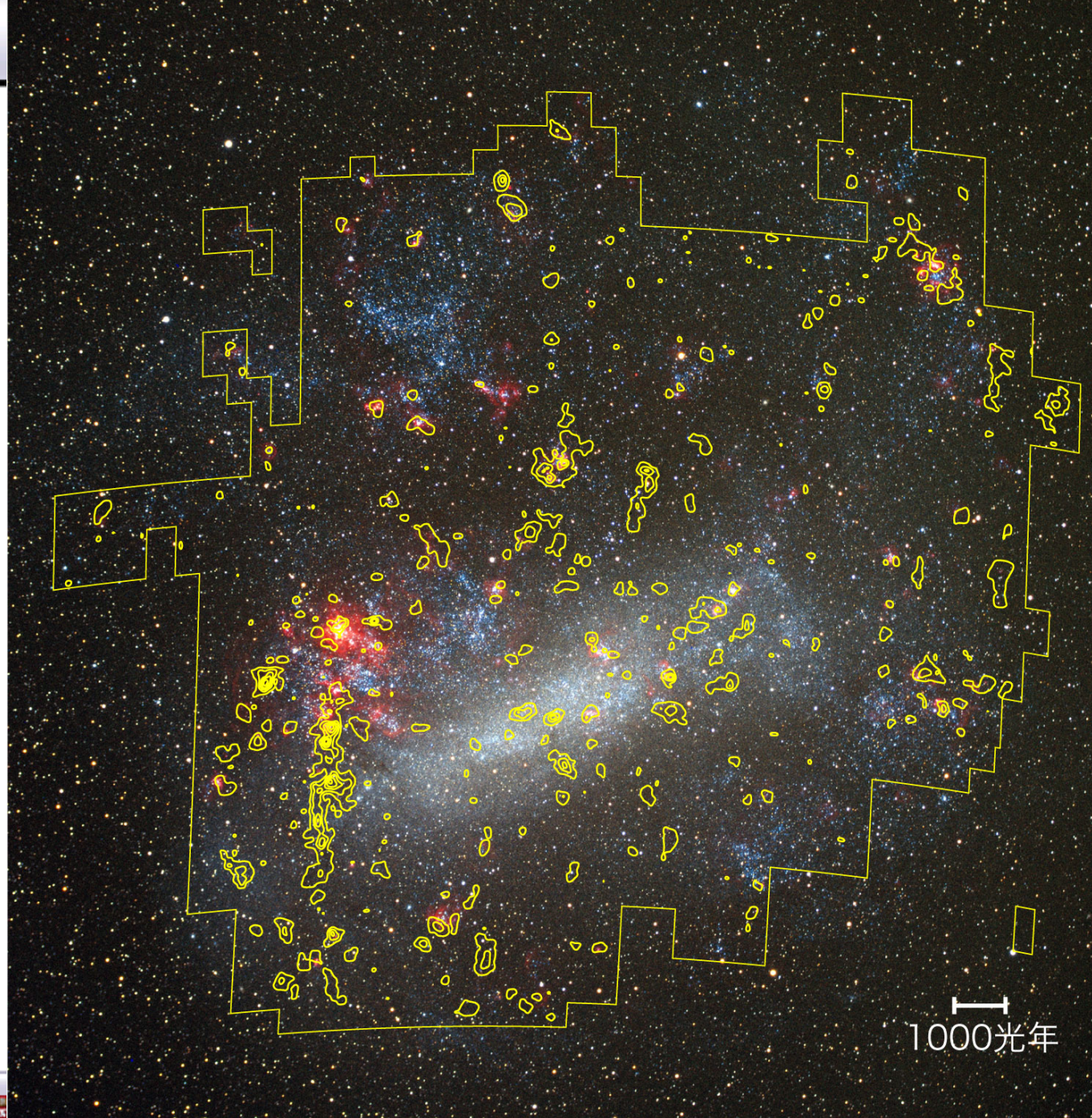
Pluto occultation lightcurve observed on the KAO (1988) probes the atmosphere

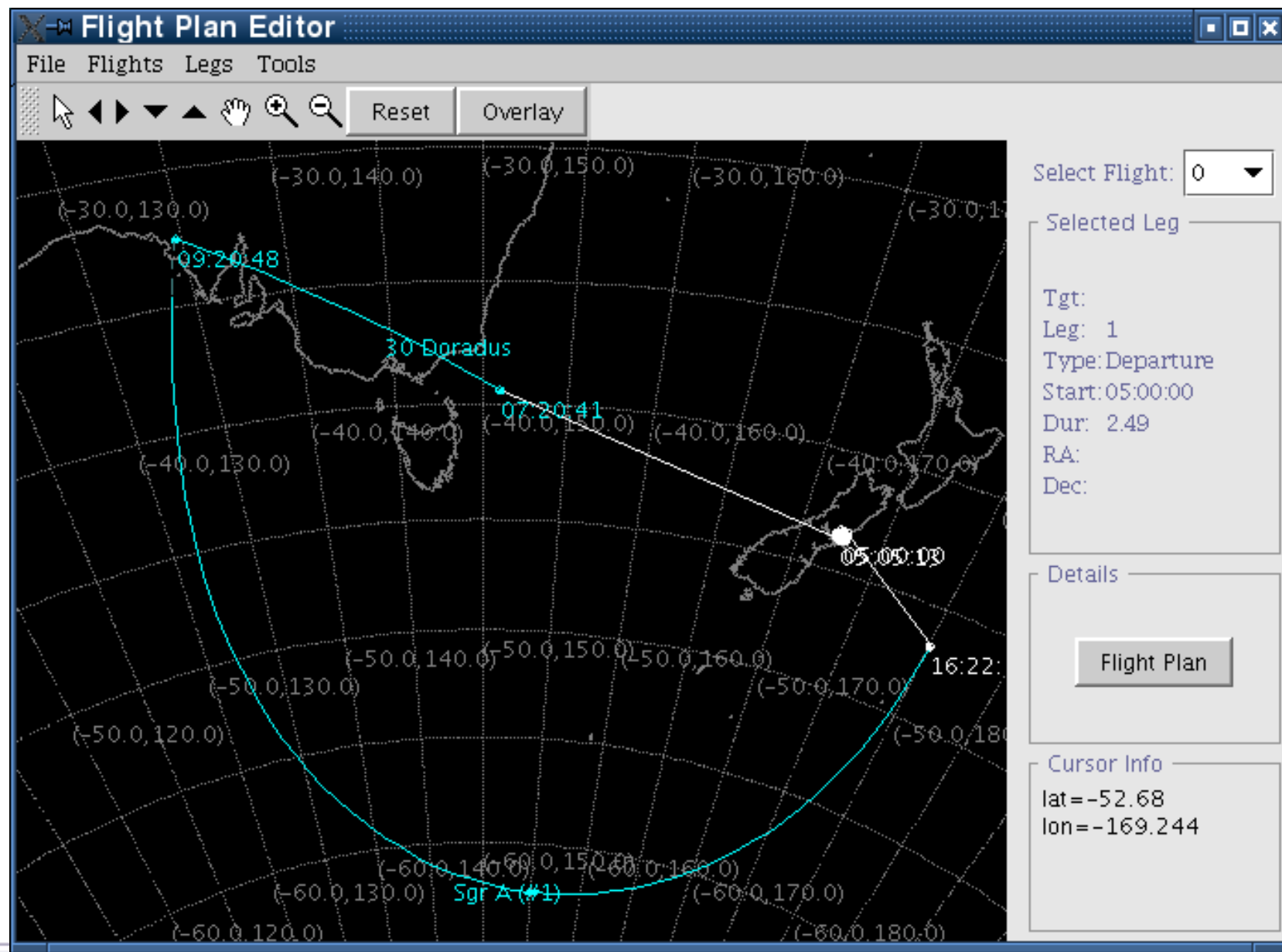


- SOFIA can fly anywhere on the Earth, allowing it to position itself under the shadow of an occulting object.
- Occultation studies with SOFIA will probe the sizes, atmospheres, and possible satellites of newly discovered planet-like objects in the outer Solar system.
- The unique mobility of SOFIA opens up some hundred events per year for study compared to a handful for fixed observatories.

LMC
GMCs (CO 1-0)

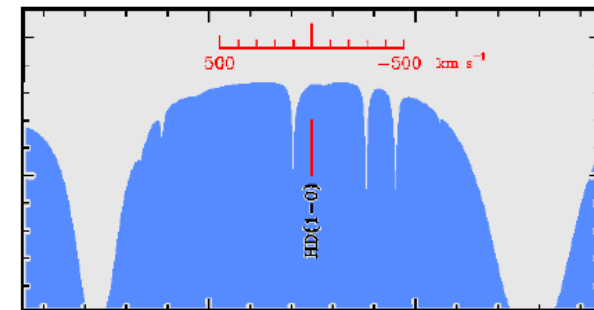
Fukui et al. 2008
NANTEN 4m tel.





Cold Molecular Hydrogen using HD

SOFIA will study deuterium in the galaxy using the ground state HD line at 112 microns. This will allow determination the cold molecular hydrogen abundance.



Atmospheric transmission around the HD line at 40,000 feet

Deuterium in the universe is created in the Big Bang.

Measuring the amount of cold HD ($T < 50\text{K}$) can best be done with the ground state rotational line at 112 microns accessible with SOFIA (HD in emission and in absorption).

Detections with ISO means that GREAT high resolution spectroscopic study is possible.

HD has a much lower excitation temperature and a dipole moment that almost compensates for the higher abundance of molecular hydrogen.

As pointed out by Bergin and Hollenbach, HD traces the cold molecular hydrogen

In the future HD could be used, much like the HI 21cm maps but for cold molecular gas.

Schedule & Future Opportunities

next call for proposals (Cycle 2): April 2013

next deadline (Cycle 2): 28 June 2013

**4+2 instruments on offer for 2014 obs.
(two on shared risk basis)**

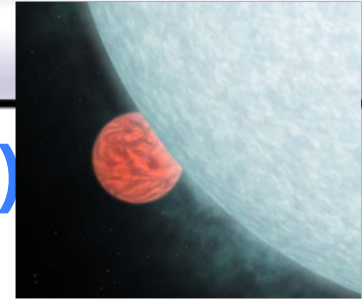
**FORCAST, GREAT, FLITECAM, HIPO
(FIFI-LS, EXES on shared risk)**

We expect an oversubscription of factor 5

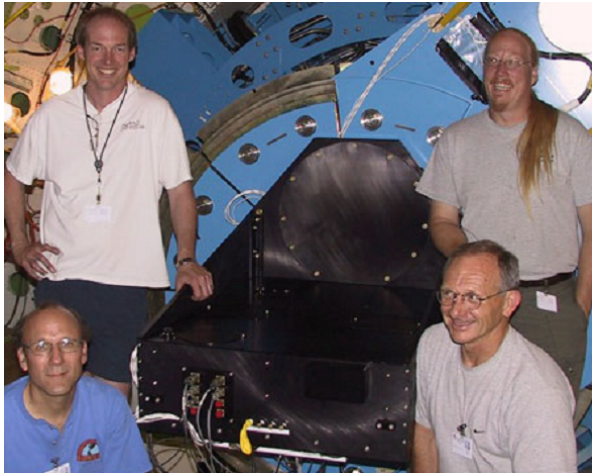
SOFIA in the Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility



SOFIA movie (take-off and landing)



Four Completed 1st Generation Instruments

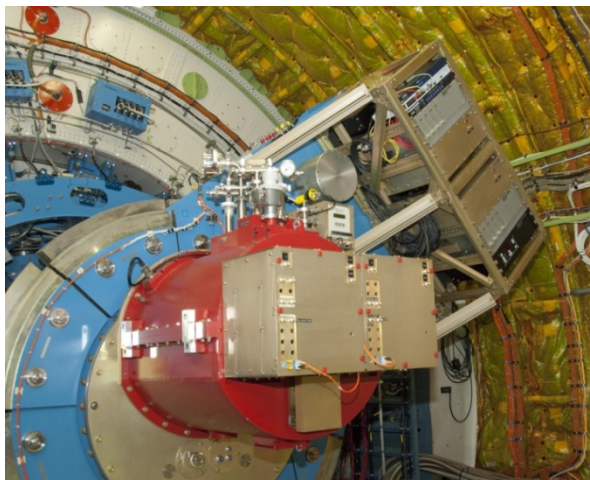
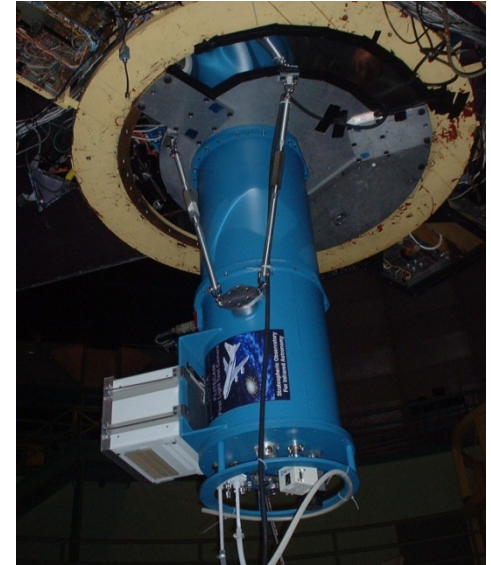


HIPO

High Speed Photometer
(on SOFIA)

FLITECAM

Near IR Camera
(at Lick observatory)



FORCAST

Mid-IR Camera
(on SOFIA)

GREAT

Heterodyne spectrometer
(on SOFIA)

