



Introduction to Telescopes and Types of Instruments

A (almost) holistic view of Paranal Instrumentation

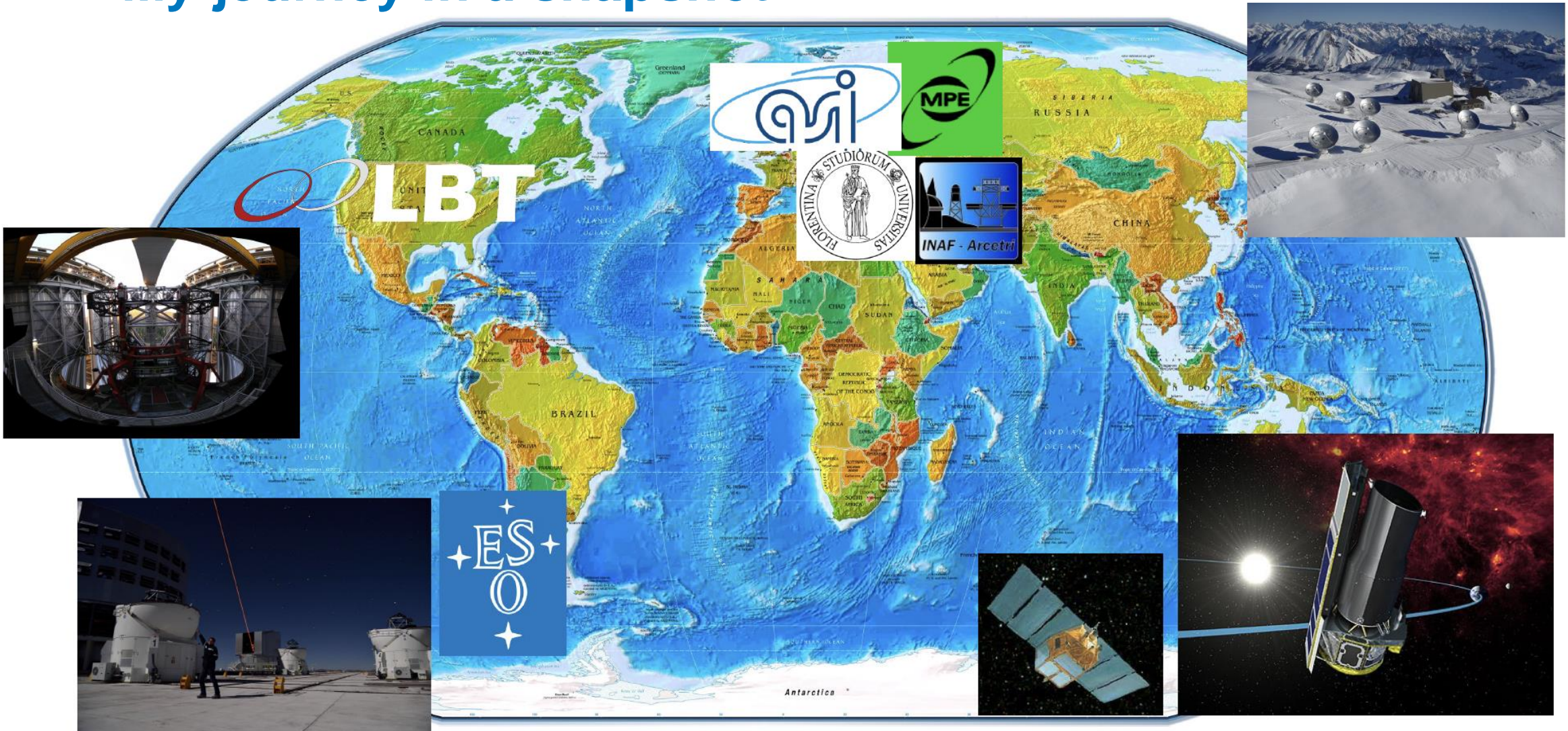
Eleonora Sani





Who I am and what I do

My journey in a snapshot

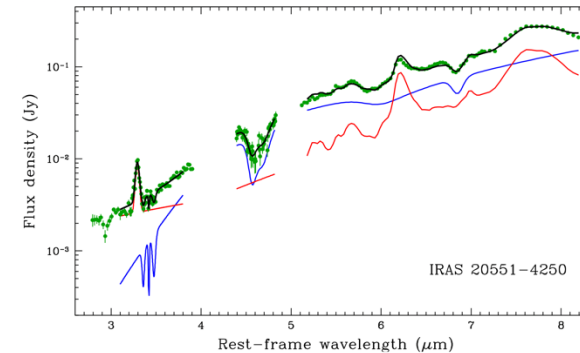
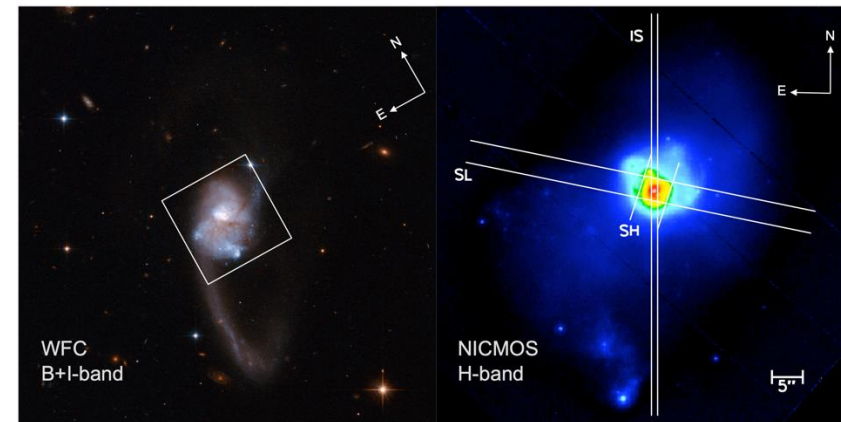


Main Scientific Topics

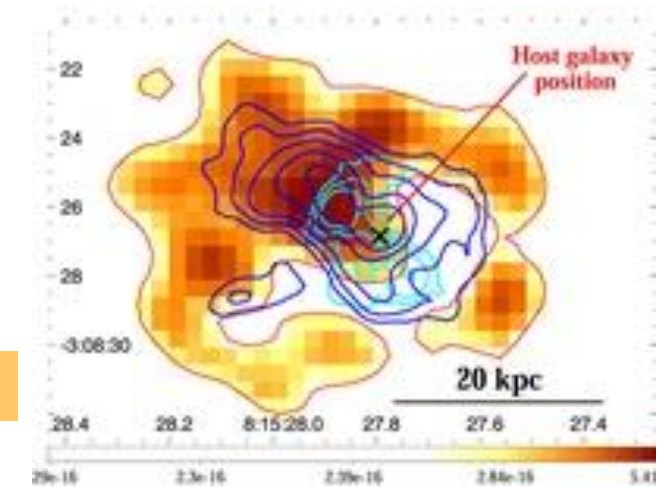
Active Galactic Nuclei – Star Formation connection

- Dominant process in composite sources
 - Risaliti, E.S. +06a,b; Sani+08; Sani+10; Sani+12b
- AGN structure and environment
 - Sani+12a; Rojas, E.S. +20; Jimenez-Gallardo, E.S. +22; Kakkad, E.S. +22; Hon, Berton, E.S. +23
- BH – bulge scaling relations
 - Sani+11; Ricci, E.S.+17b; Sani+18; Ricci F., E.S. +22, Vietri, E.S.+24

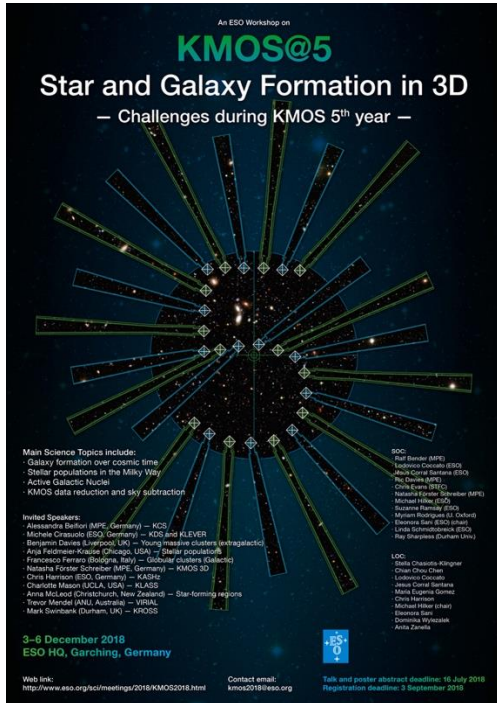
H α emission associated with an X-ray cavity



Emission of BH-accreting gas dominates over Star Formation in mid-IR



Role and duties at ESO



My first 6 yrs at ESO

- Core duties
- Instrument scientist
- UT coordinator
- Training coordinator

Deputy Head of Paranal Science Operations

- Definition and implementation of department policies
- Line management
- Staffing plan and scheduling

Instrument Operations Team coordinator

- Oversee **Instruments** status and performances
- **Instrument Scientist** support
- Cross-department board member



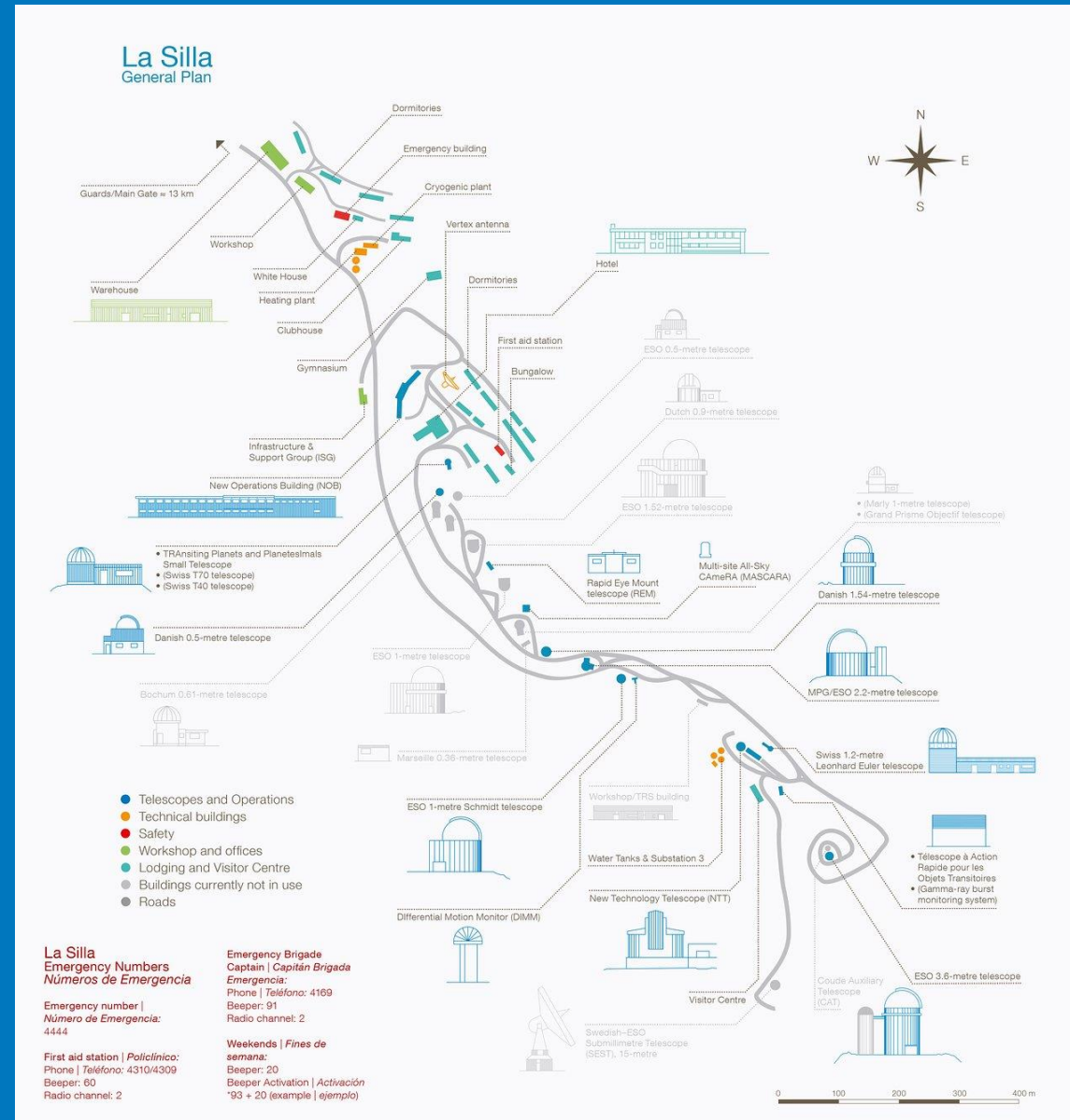
What I really like

Instruments are prototypes...

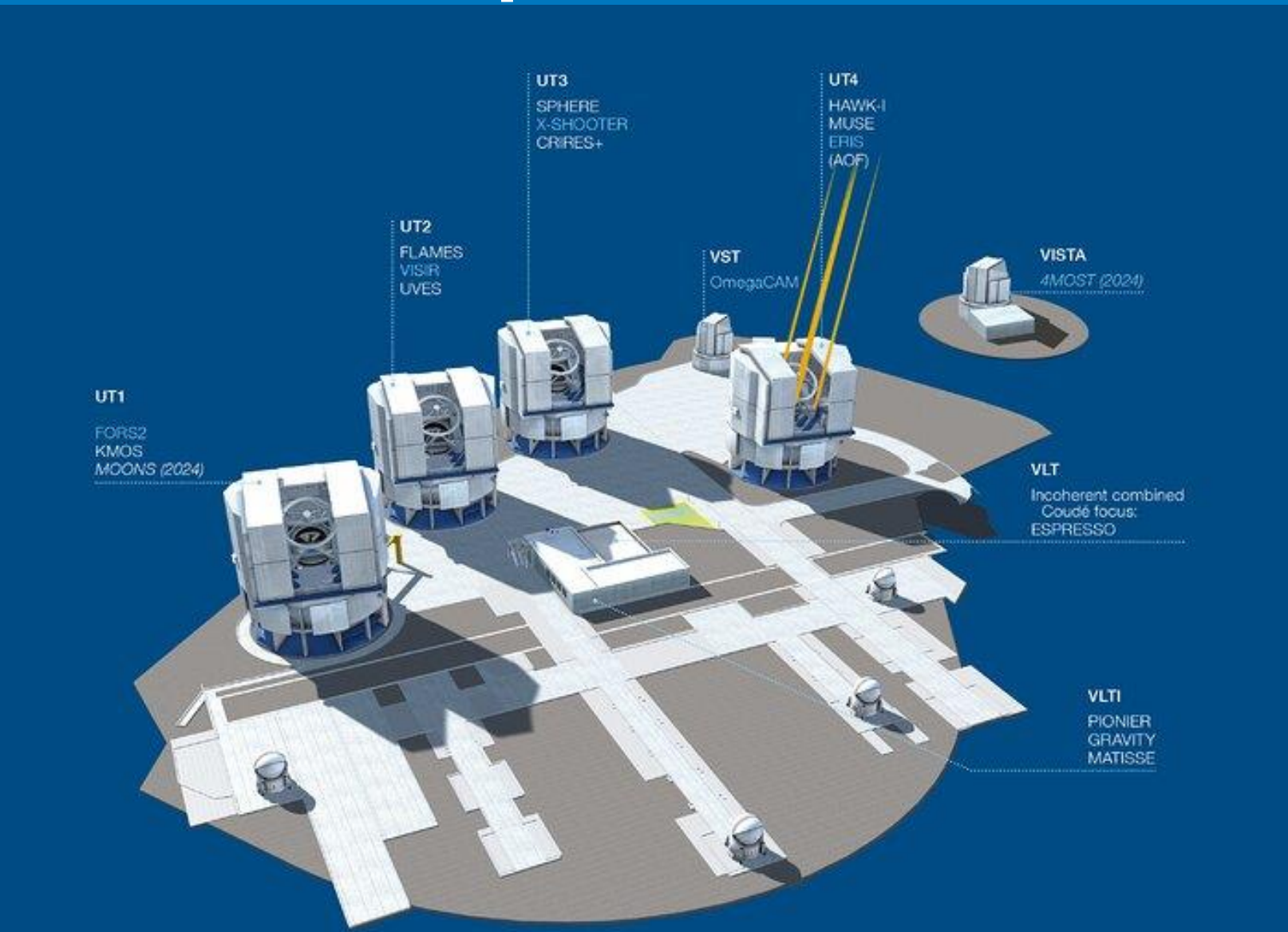
- Be at the forefront of astronomical technology
- Understand and stretch instruments to their limits
- Improve instrument performances and operations
- Being the joining link between the scientific community and the technical side at the Observatory



What La Silla can provide astronomers with

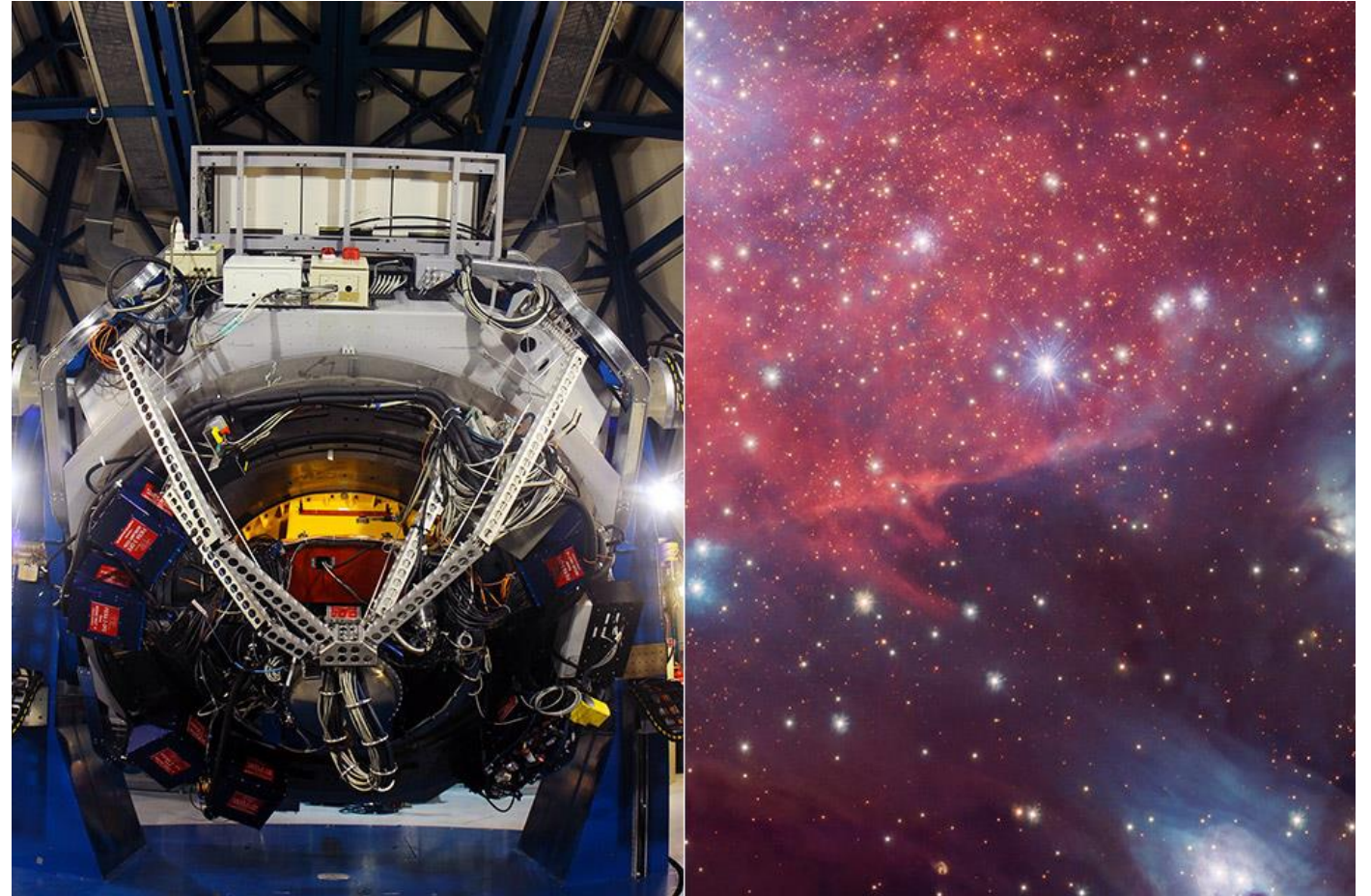


What Paranal can provide astronomers with



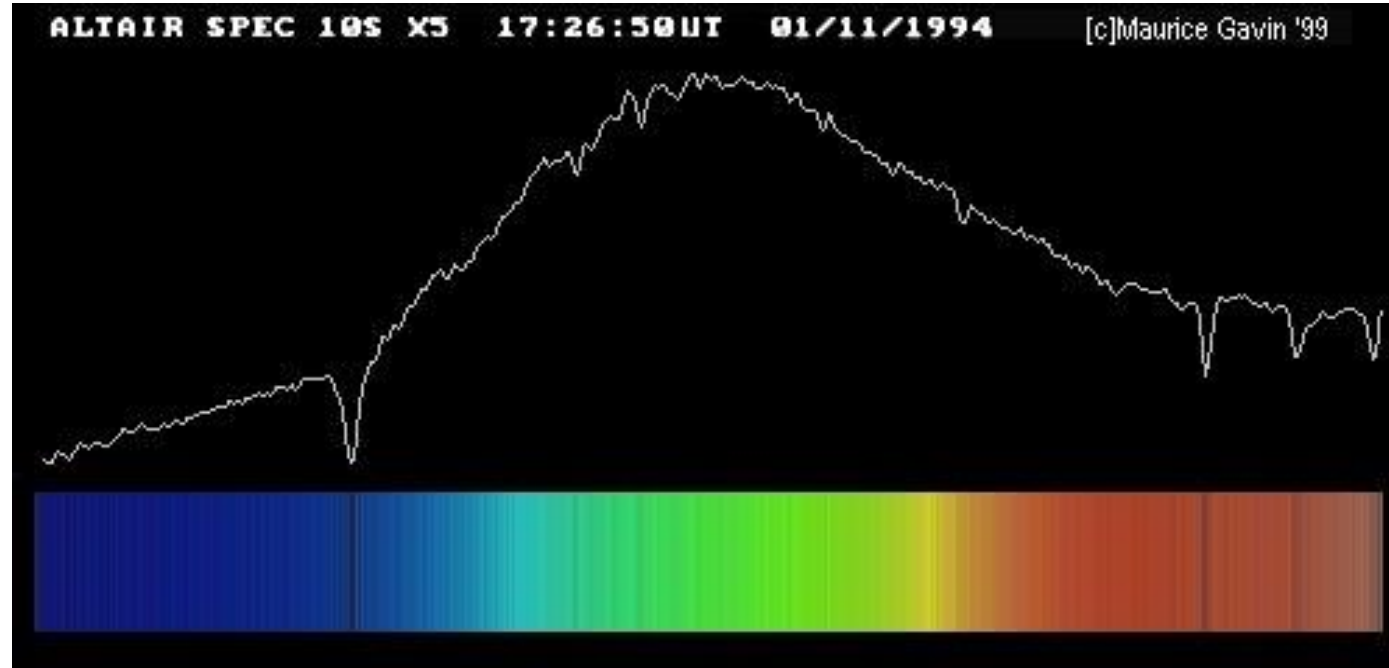
Imagers

Give the *mugshot* of an astronomical object



Spectrographs

Give the *fingerprint* of an astronomical object



Wavelength

SPECTRAL RESOLUTION

$$R = \frac{\lambda}{\Delta\lambda}$$

$\Delta\lambda = 0.1 \text{ nm}$
 @ 600 nm
 $R = 6000$

- See Luca Sbordone's talk on [Spectroscopy](#)

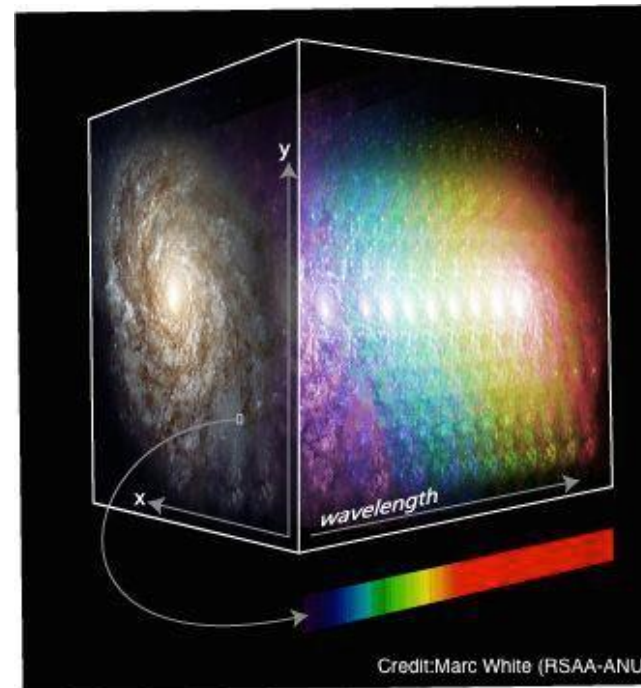
Integral Field Units

Give both the *mugshot* & the *fingerprint* of an astronomical object

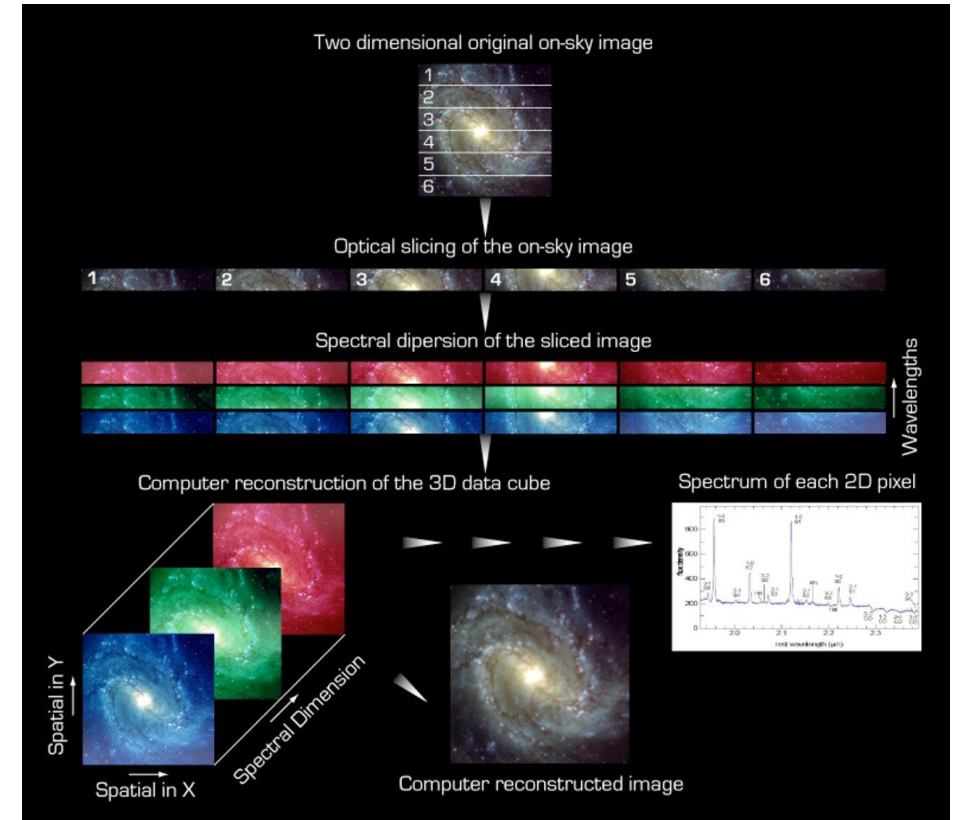
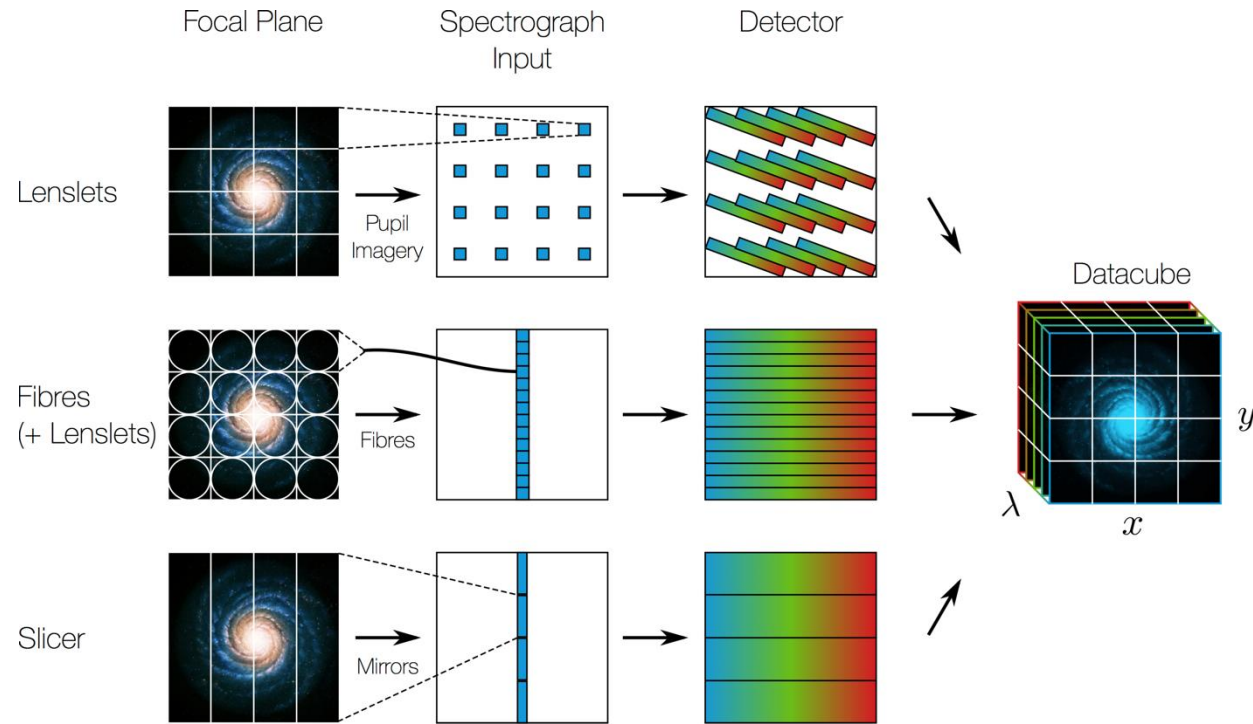


DATA CUBE

- An image at each wavelength
- A spectrum for each pixel of the image

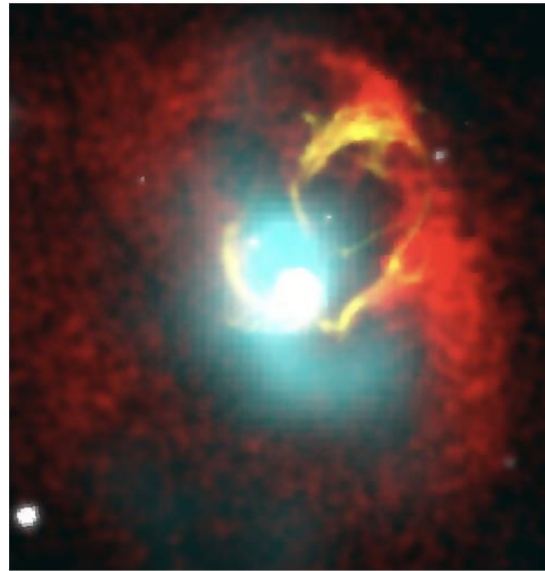


Integral Field Units

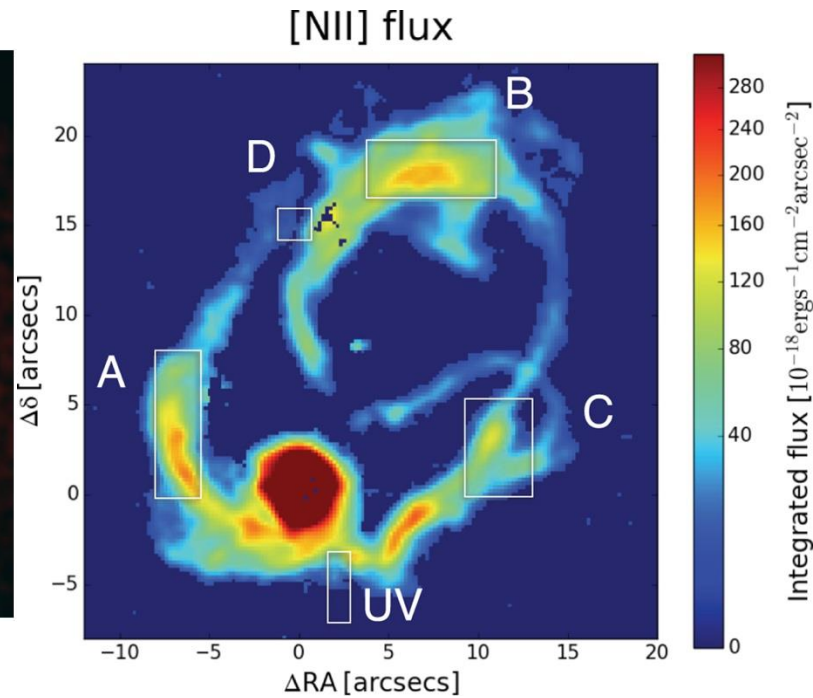


Integral Field Units

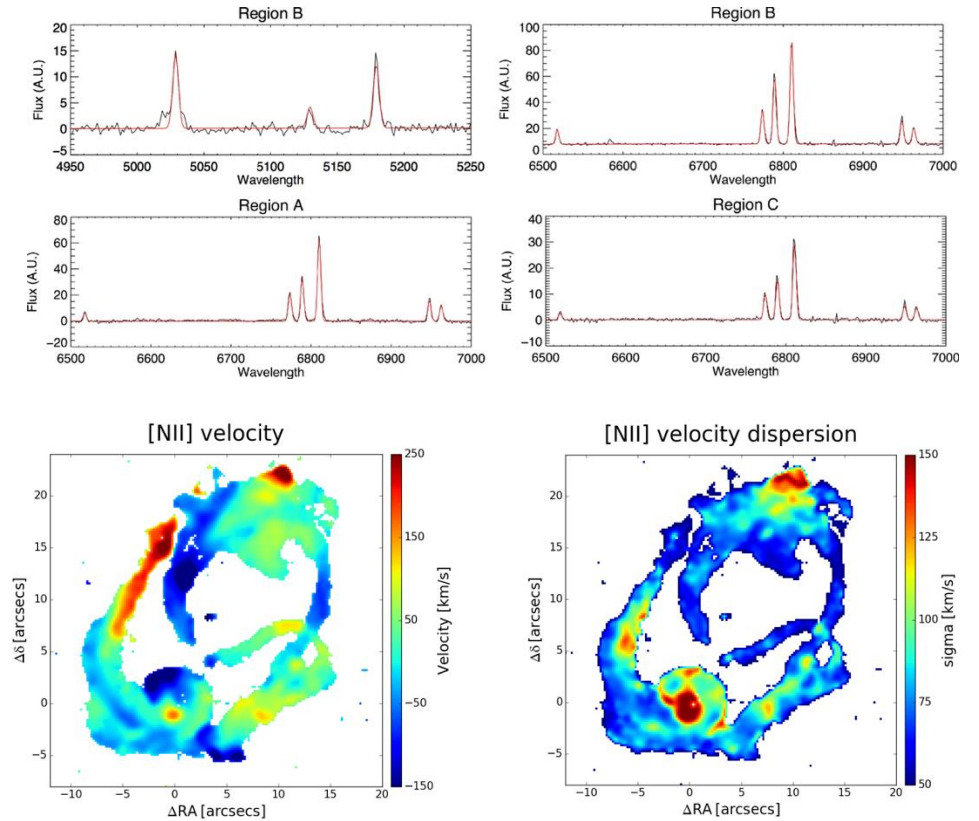
Emission line maps and kinematic



MURALES Survey



Ionized gas filaments *on* cavity rim
Balmaverde et al. 2018



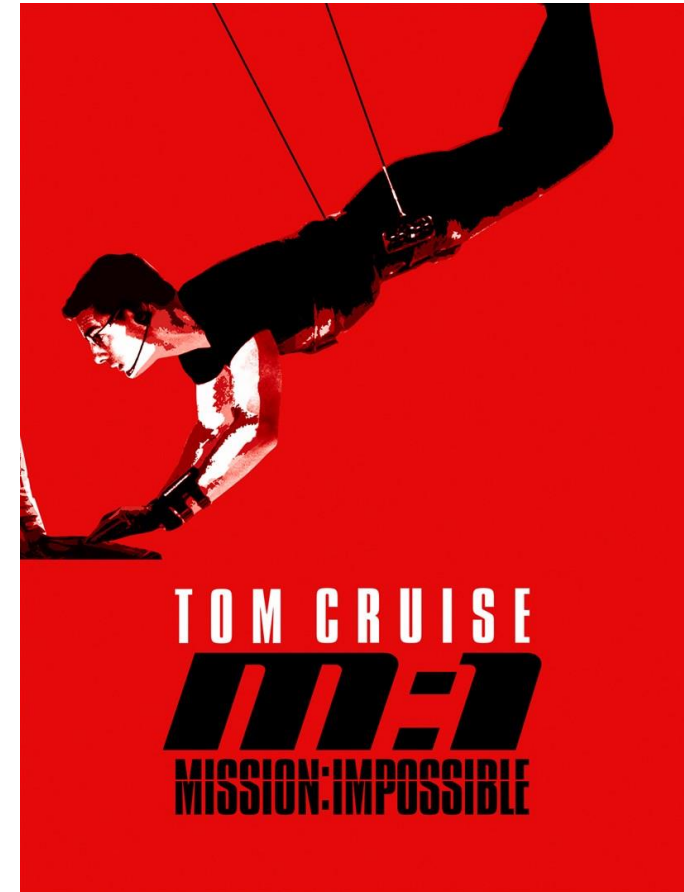


What astronomers really want

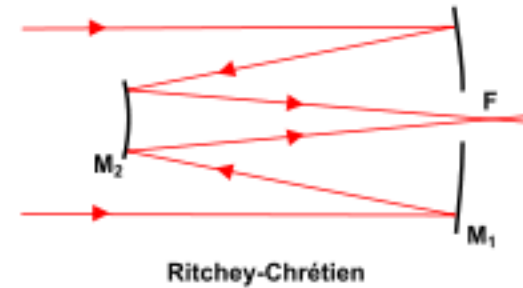
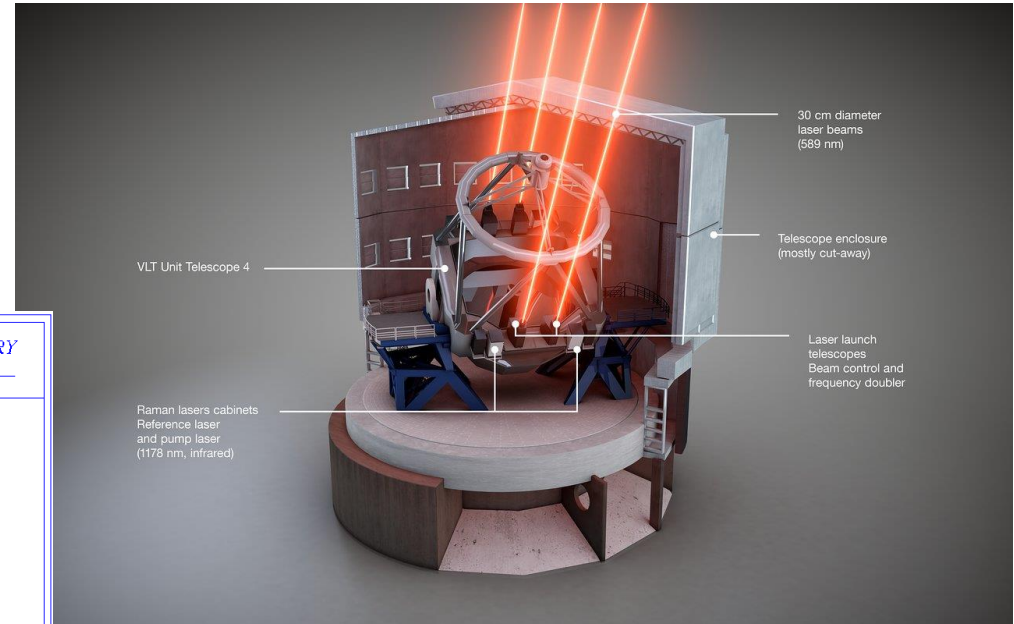
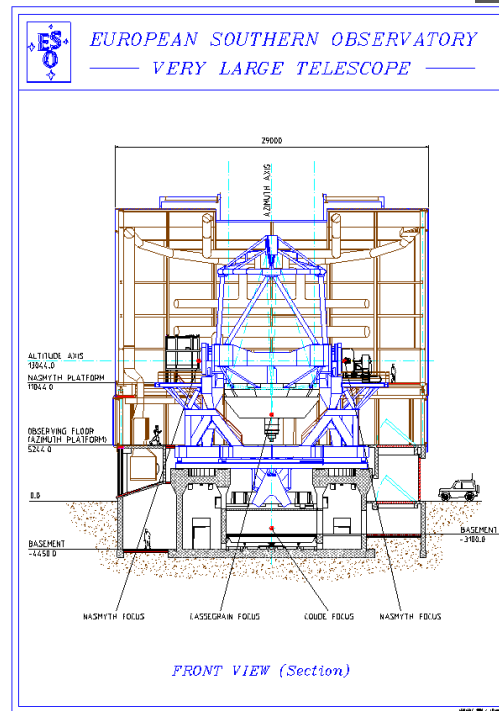
What all astronomers really want...

- **Sensitivity** to go deep/be efficient
- **Wide field of View** to capture information from extended objects/for many objects at the same time
- **High spatial resolution** to spot the smallest details ever seen
- **Large wavelength coverage** to collect information from many different line species/from wide continuum wavebands
- **High spectral resolution** to disentangle lines/to study line profiles/to spot extreme wings

All rolled into one!



Telescopes



Hyperbolic mirrors to avoid coma aberrations

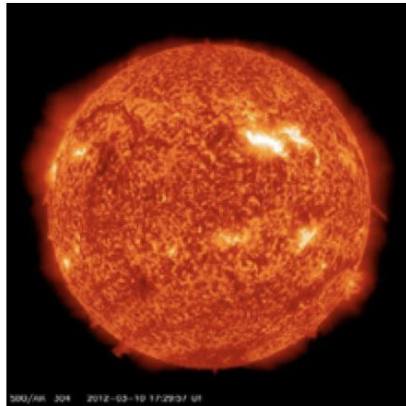
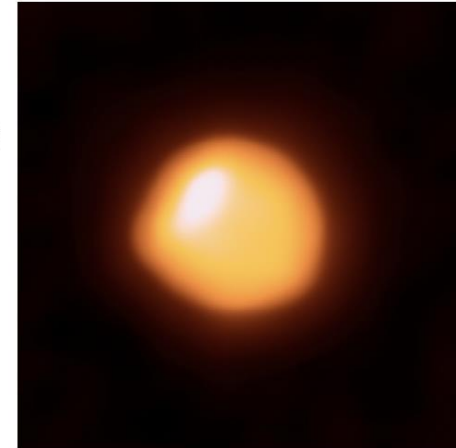


The need for high angular resolution

Range of angular sizes

Resolution of an UT in NIR: $\sim 0.050''$

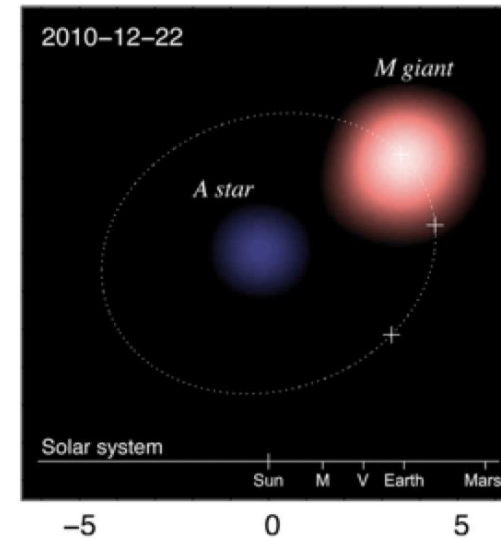
Betelgeuse
 $\theta = 0.050''$
 $d = 300 \text{ pc}$



Sun
 $\theta = 1800''$ (0.5 deg)
 $d = 5 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ pc}$



Jupiter
 $\theta = 50''$
 $d = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ pc}$

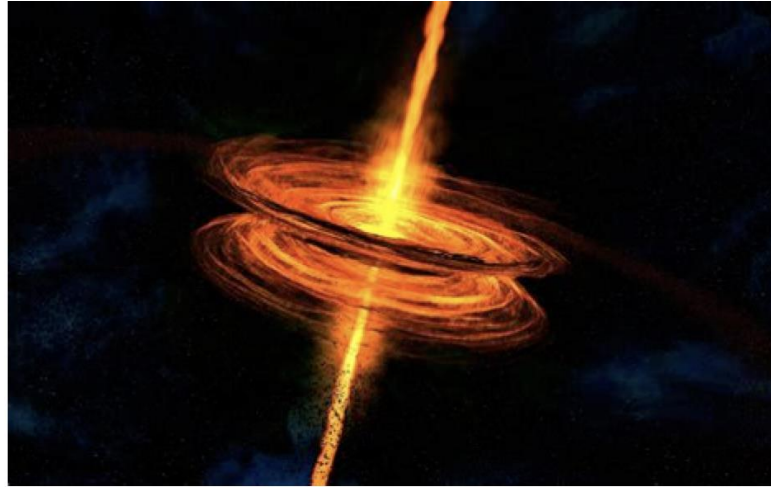


Binary SS Leporis
 $\theta = 0.001''$
 $d = 300 \text{ pc}$

Range of angular sizes



SgrA* EH
 $\theta = 0.00001''$
 $d \sim 8 \text{ kpc}$



Quasar 3C173
 $\theta = 0.000001''$
 $d = 0.6 \text{ Gpc} (z = 0.158)$

Diffraction law: the resolving power of a telescope is limited by its diameter,

$$\Delta\theta = \lambda/D$$

In near-IR (1.6 microns)
 $1.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m} / 8 \text{ m} = 0.05'' (50 \text{ mas})$

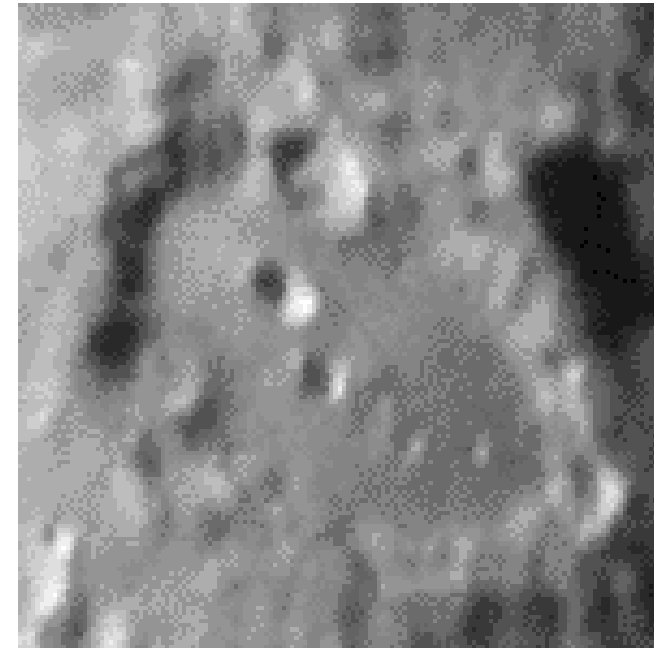
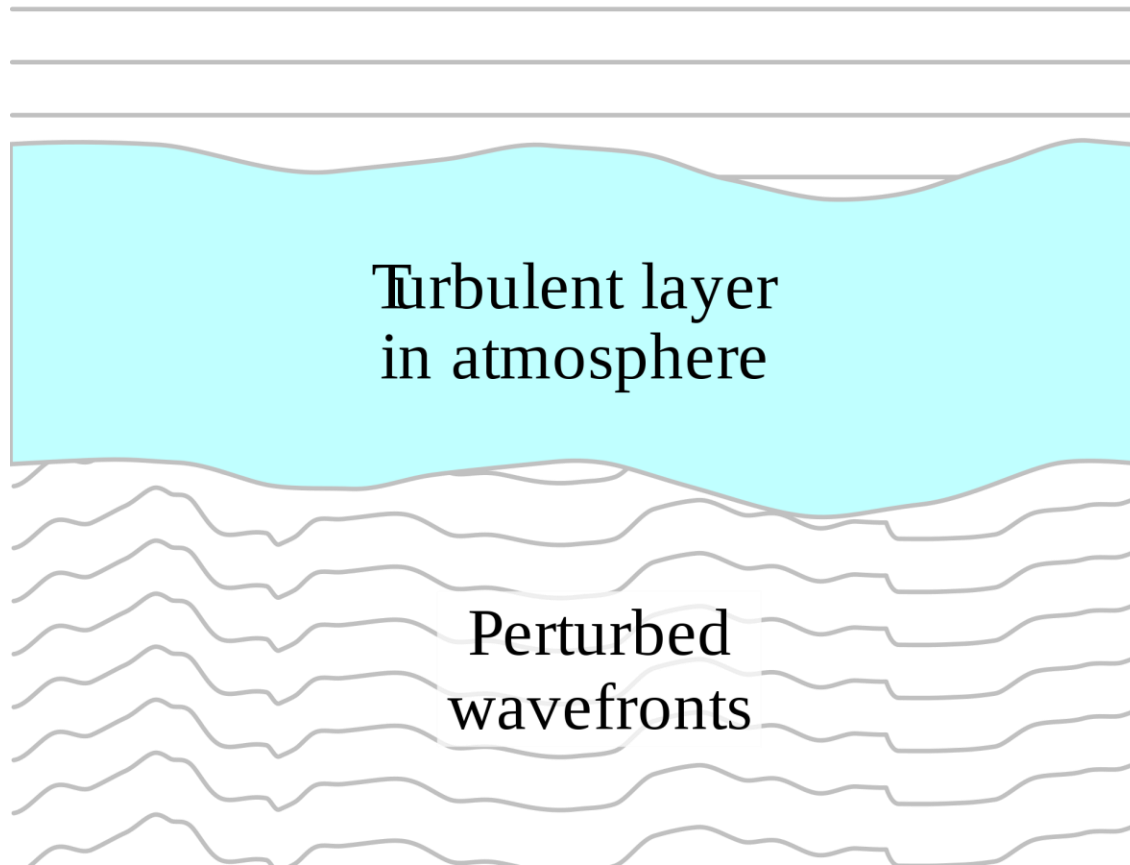


The effect of the atmosphere

Seeing limited observations



Plane waves from distant point source



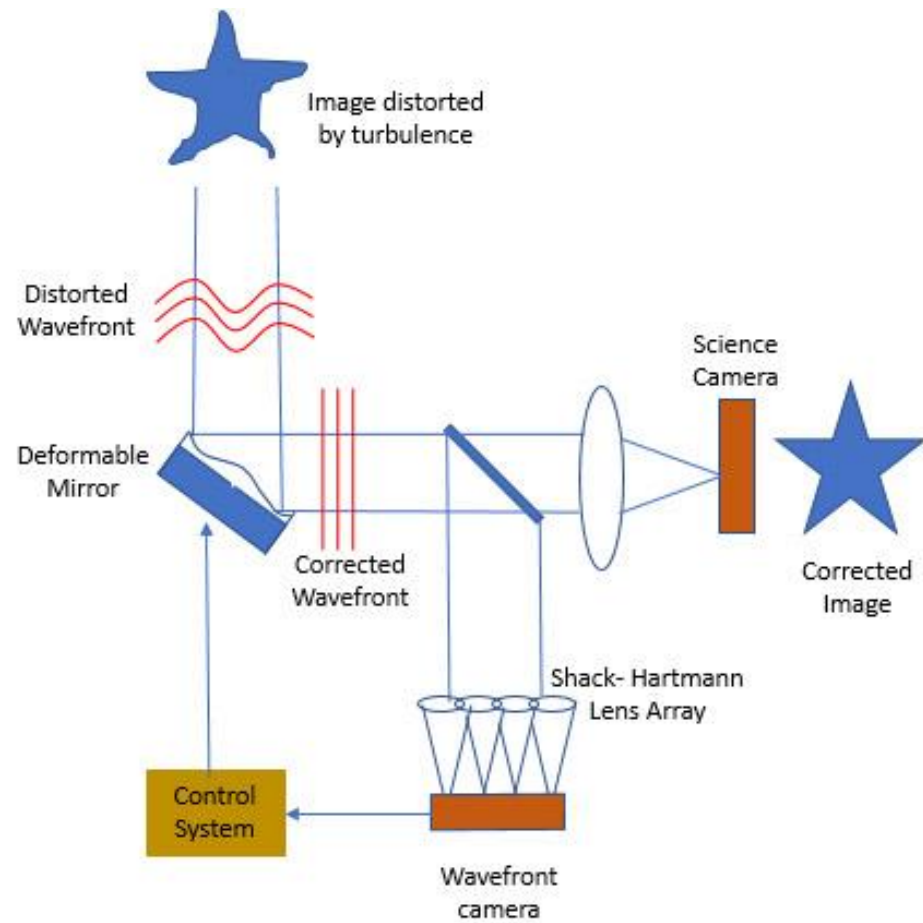
- 8m telescopes are limited to 0.3"-0.5" angular resolution → Can't go too small
 - Limited details

See Ana Jimene's talk

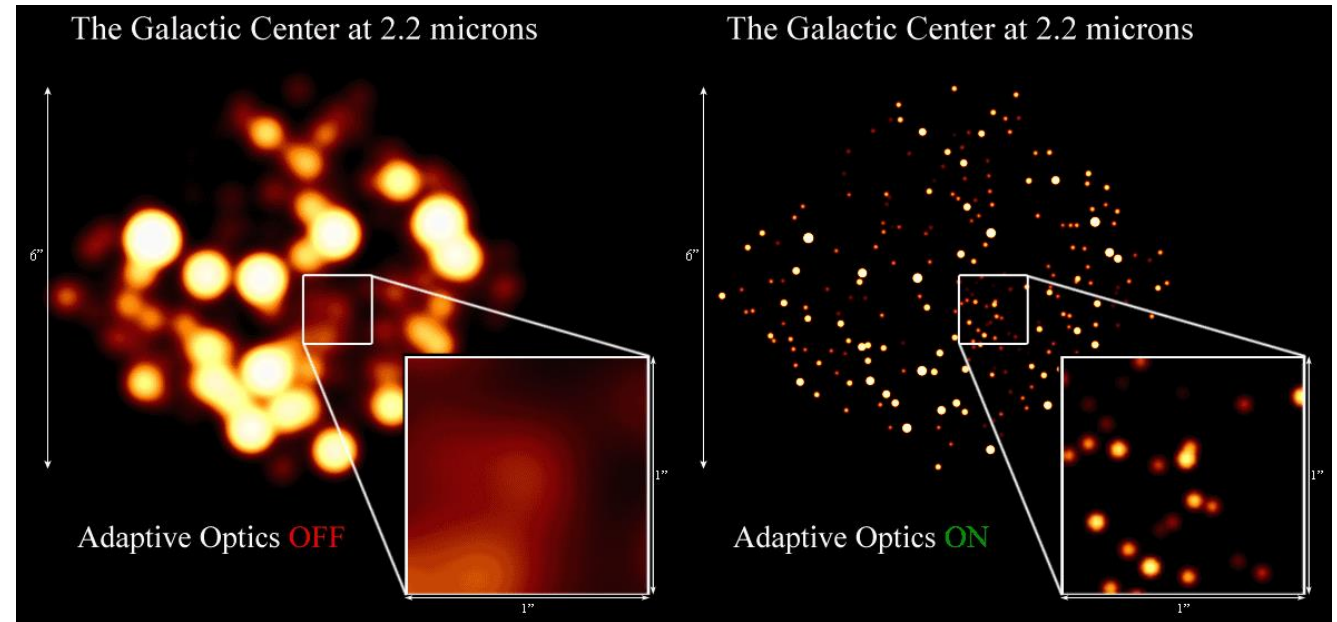
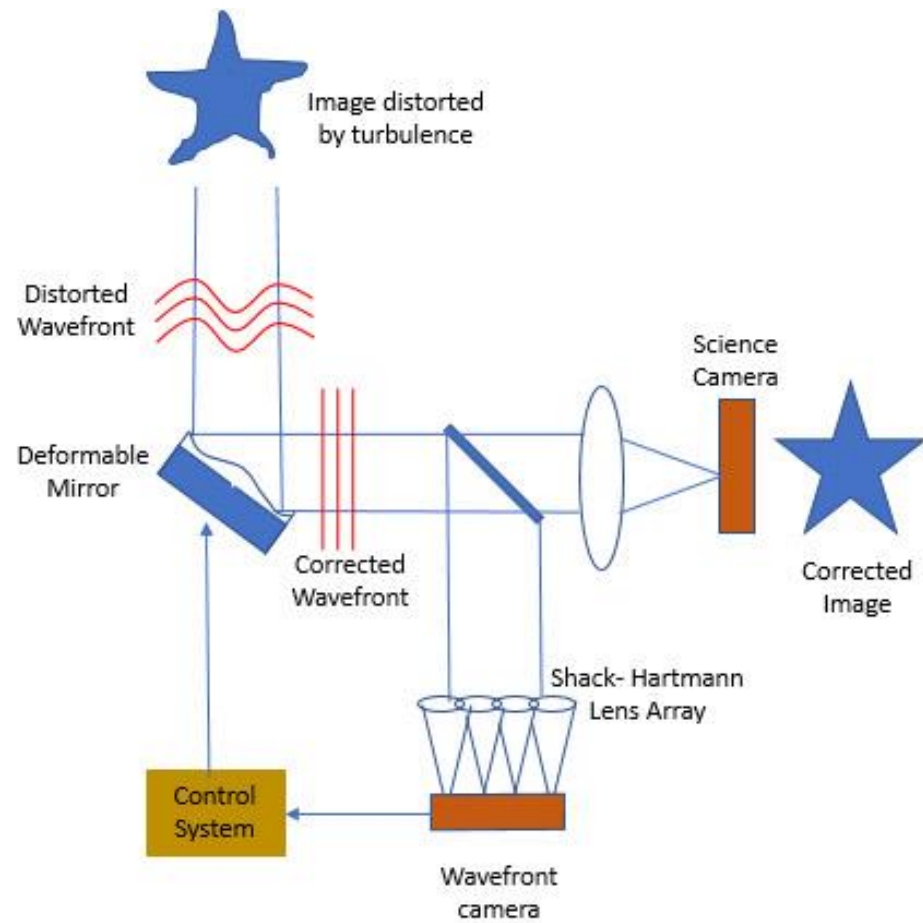


Adaptive Optics assisted observations

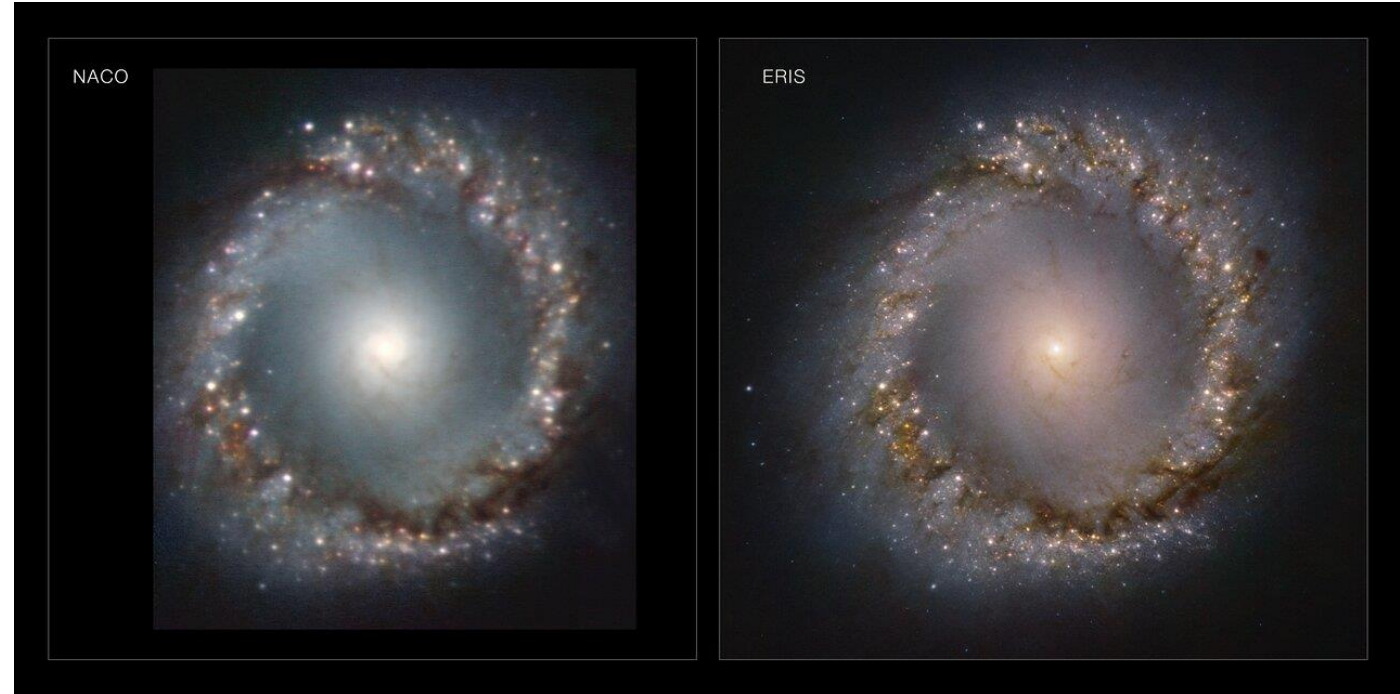
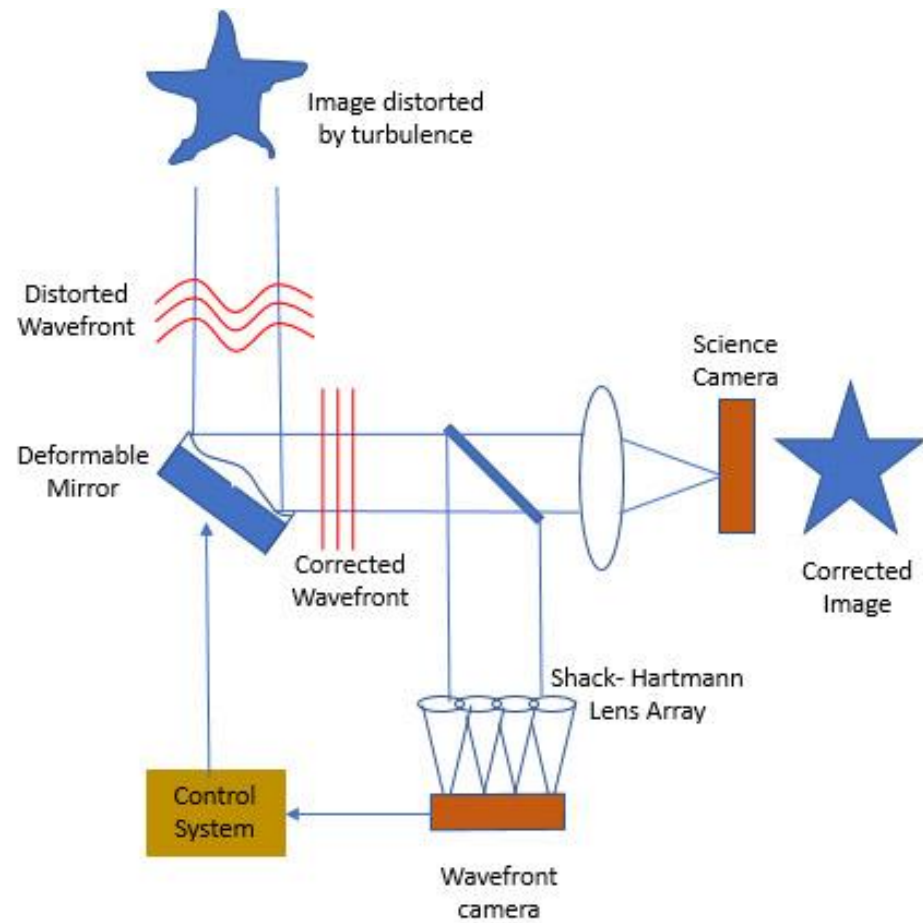
Overview of AO-assisted observations



Overview of AO-assisted observations



Overview of AO-assisted observations





Adaptive Optics assisted observations

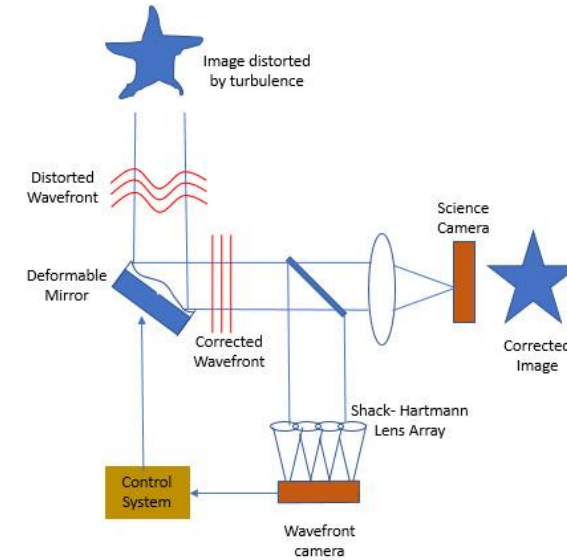
Extreme AO(SCAO), LTAO, GLAO, MCAO

Overview of AO-assisted observations



- **SCAO (Single Conjugate Adaptive Optics)**
 - Single guide star (natural/artificial)
 - Small field of view correction (< 1 arcminute)
 - High spatial resolution (0.01 - 0.1 arcseconds)
- **LTAO (Laser Tomography Adaptive Optics)**
 - Multiple laser guide stars
 - Larger field of view than SCAO (a few arcminutes)
 - Comparable resolution to SCAO (slightly lower)
- **GLAO (Ground Layer Adaptive Optics)**
 - Multiple guide stars (natural/laser)
 - Wide field of view correction (10-20 arcminutes)
 - Reduced resolution (not diffraction-limited)
- **MCAO (Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics)***
 - Multiple guide stars at different altitudes
 - Wide field of view (similar to LTAO)
 - High resolution across a wider field (near diffraction-limited)

*Not available yet

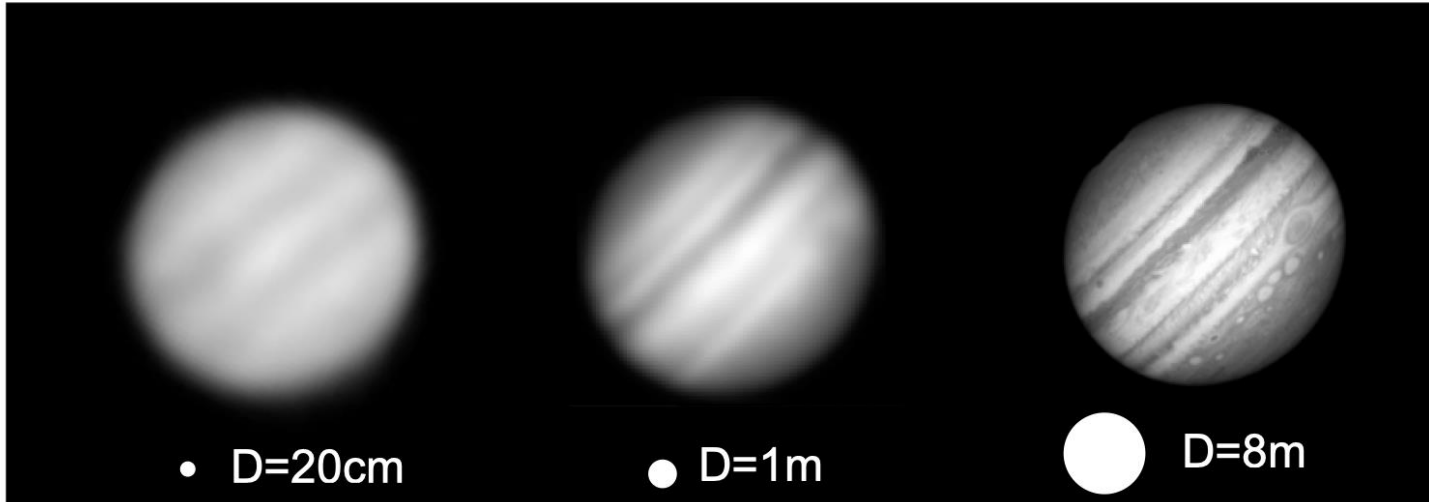


| AO System | Field of View | Pixel Scale (arcseconds) |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| SCAO | < 1 arcminute | 0.01 - 0.1 |
| LTAO | ~ arcminutes | ~0.1 |
| GLAO | 10 arcmin | > 0.1 |
| MCAO* | Few arcminutes | <~0.1 |



Interferometry

Overview of interferometric observations

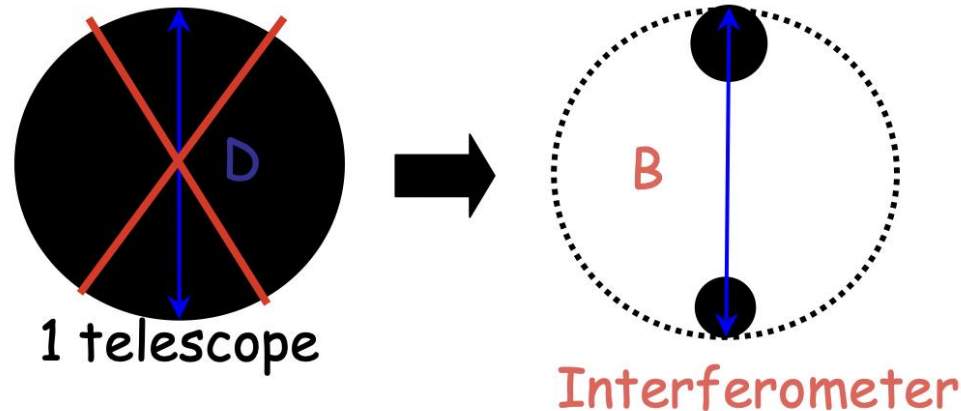


Diffraction law: the resolving power of a telescope is limited by its diameter,

$$\Delta\theta = \lambda/D$$

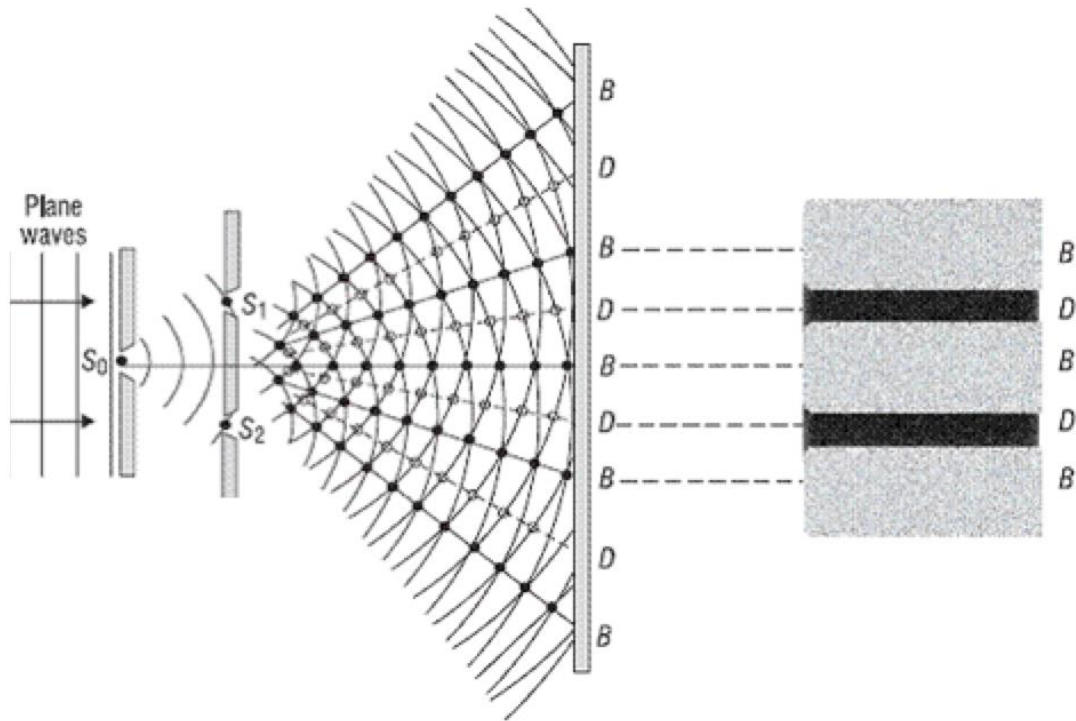
In near-IR (1.6 microns)
 $1.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m} / 8 \text{ m} = 0.05''$ (50 mas)

- At 1,6 microns : $\Delta\theta < 5 \text{ mas} \rightarrow D > 70\text{m}$
D=70 m ?



Use of the coherence of light
between telescopes

Spatial coherence of light



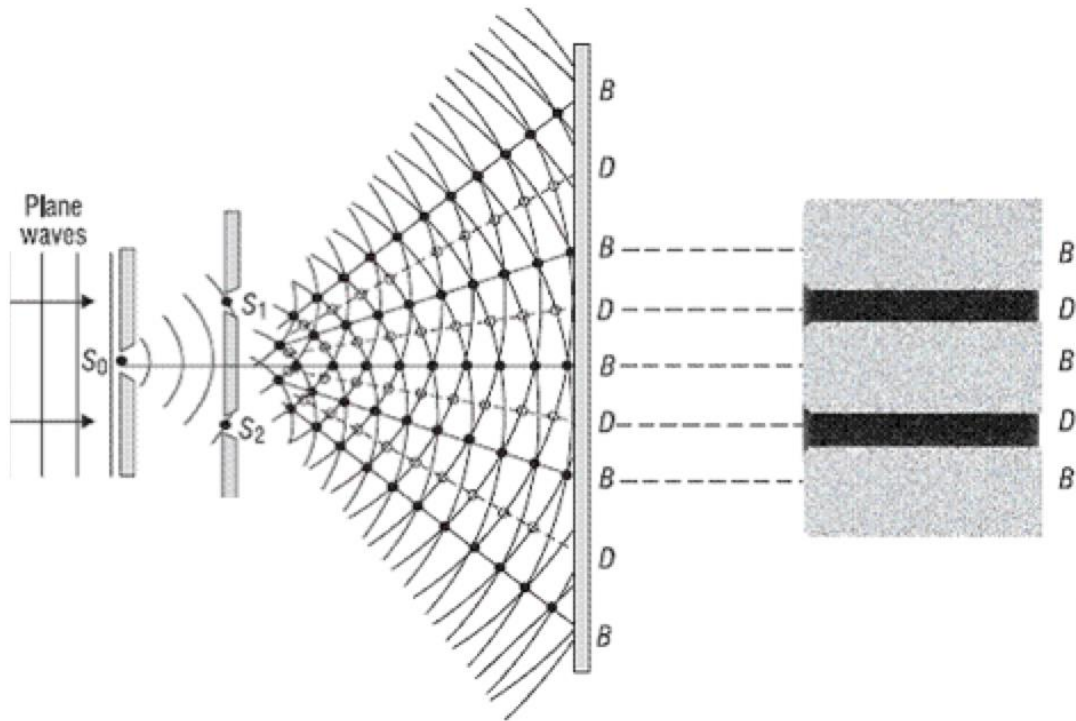
Young's Experiment

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} \cos \Delta$$

$$\Delta = \varphi_2 - \varphi_1$$

In case the interfering waves have the same *frequency* and *wave number*

Spatial coherence of light

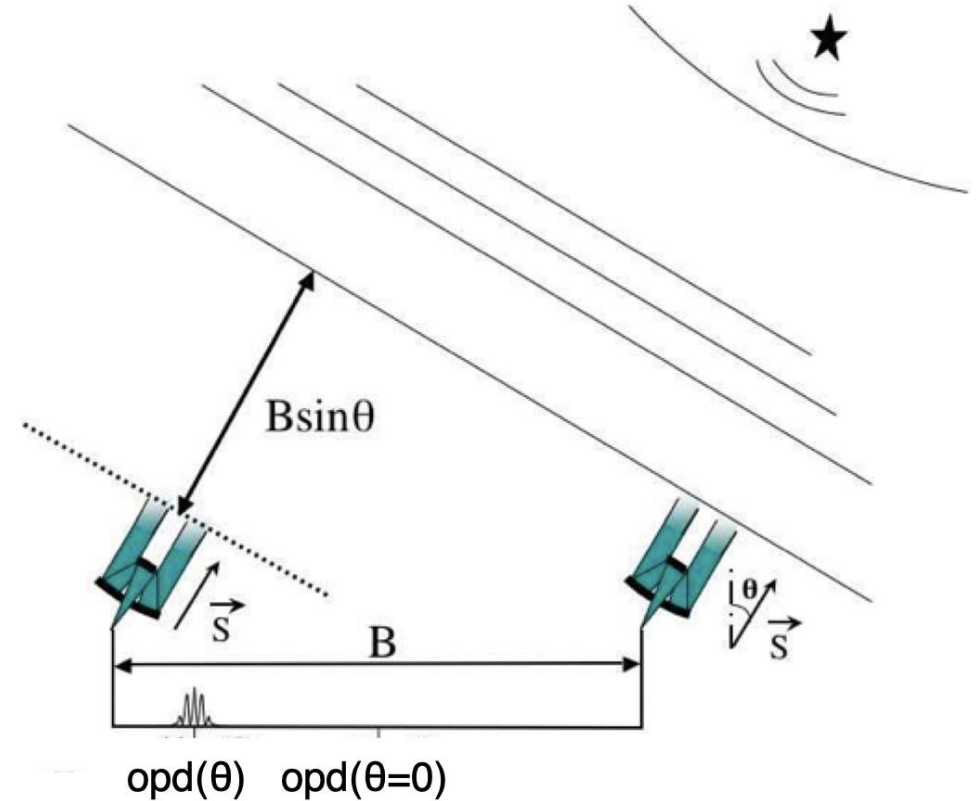


Young's Experiment

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} \cos \Delta$$

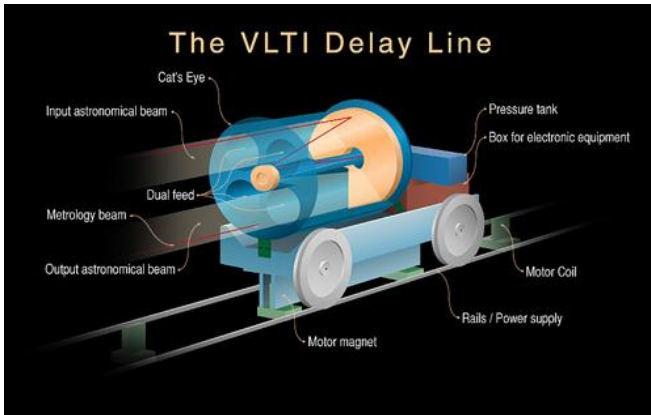
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In case the interfering waves have the same *frequency* and *wave number*

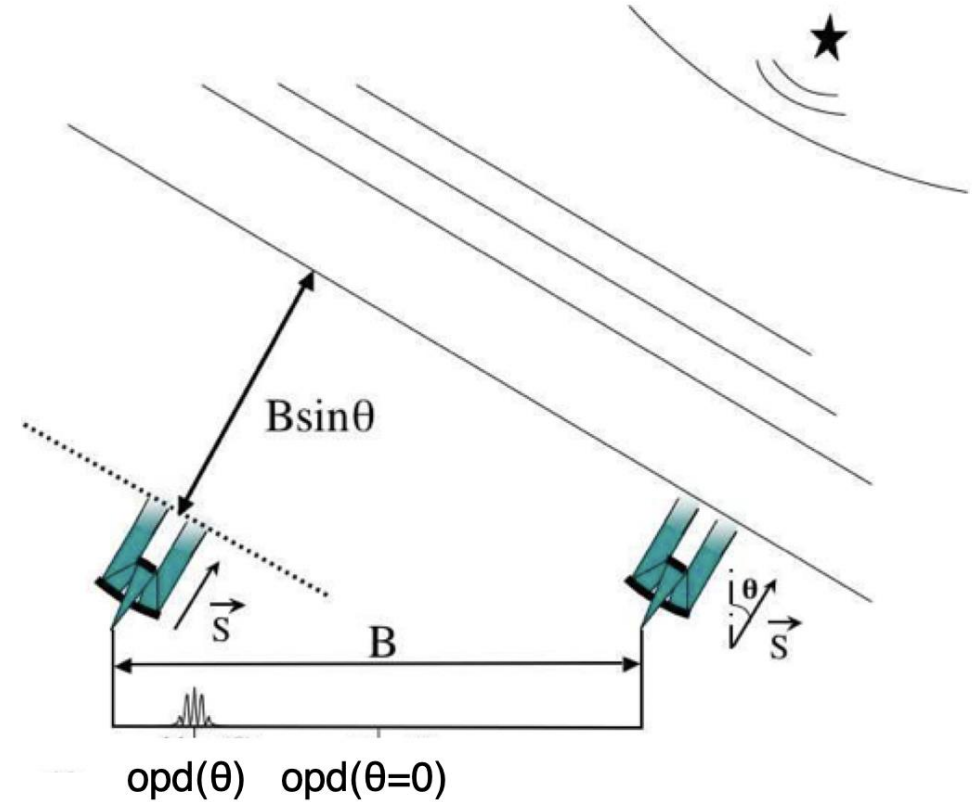


$$\Delta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} B \sin \theta$$

Delay Lines



Metrology system with position precision of 20 nm over 120 m (i.e. ~0.2 parts/billion)



$$\Delta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} B \sin \theta$$

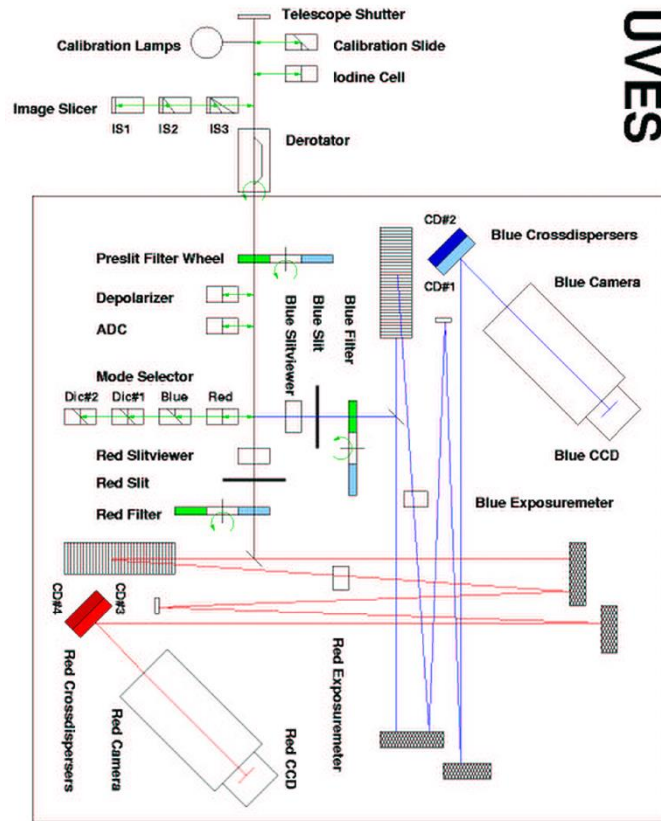


“Workhorse” instruments

UVES



Ultraviolet and Visual Echelle Spectrograph (330 -1100 nm); resolving power 110000



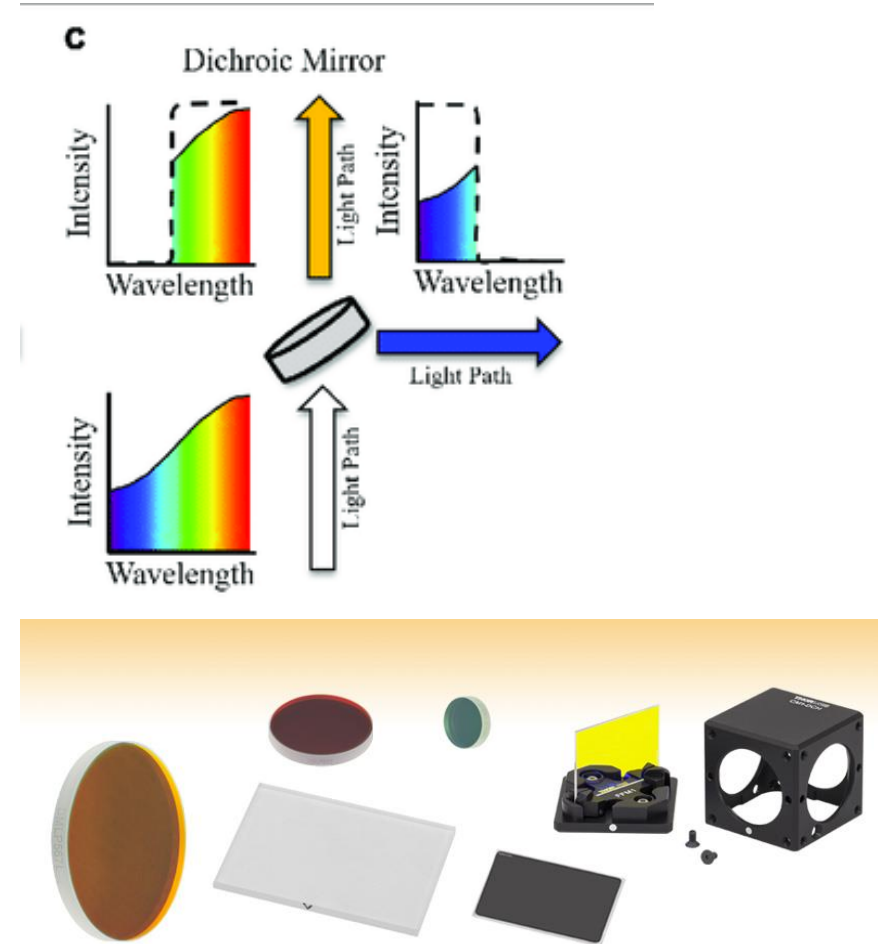
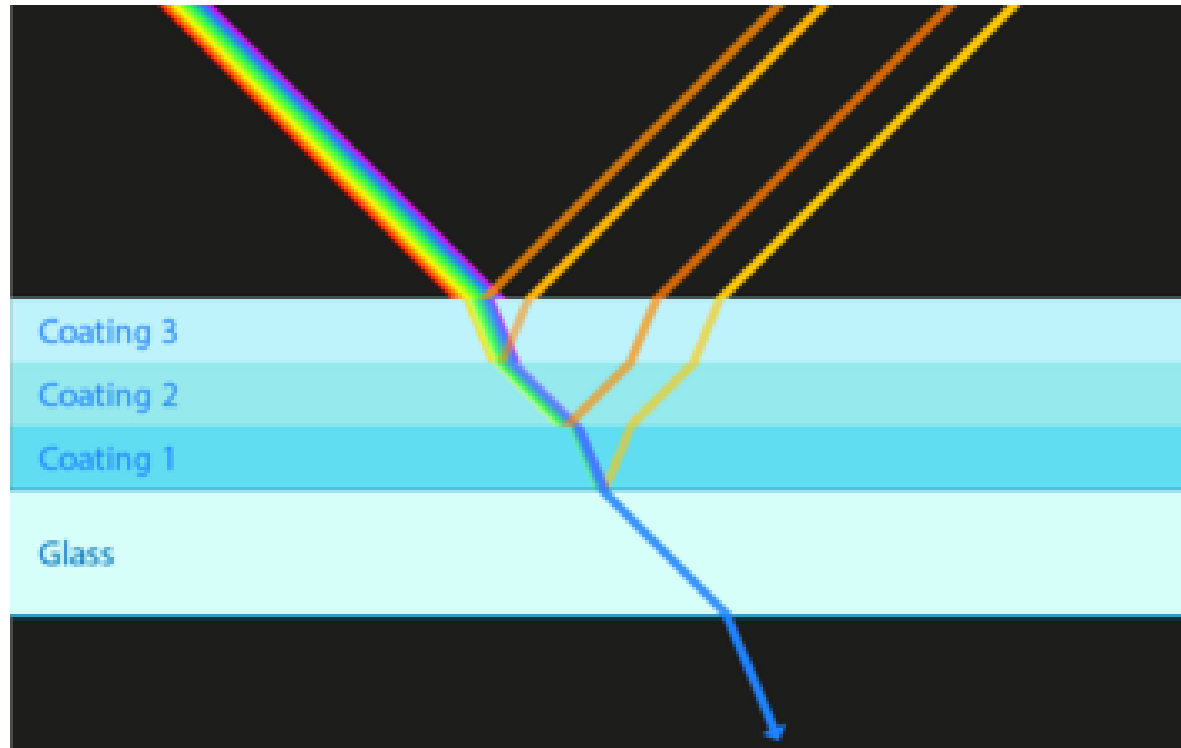
UVES

Spectroscopic Modes

| Instrument mode | Accessible λ range (nm) | Maximum resolution ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) | Covered λ range (nm) | Magnitude limits |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| Blue arm | 300-500 | 80,000 | 80 | 17-18 |
| Red arm | 420-1100 | 110,000 | 200-400 | 18-19 |
| Dichroic #1 | 300-400 | 80,000 | 80 | 17-18 |
| | 500-1100 | 110,000 | 200 | 18-19 |
| Dichroic #2 | 300-500 | 80,000 | 80 | 17-18 |
| | 600-1100 | 110,000 | 400 | 18-19 |
| Iodine cell | 500-600 | 110,000 | 200 | 17 |

Digression: dichroic mirrors

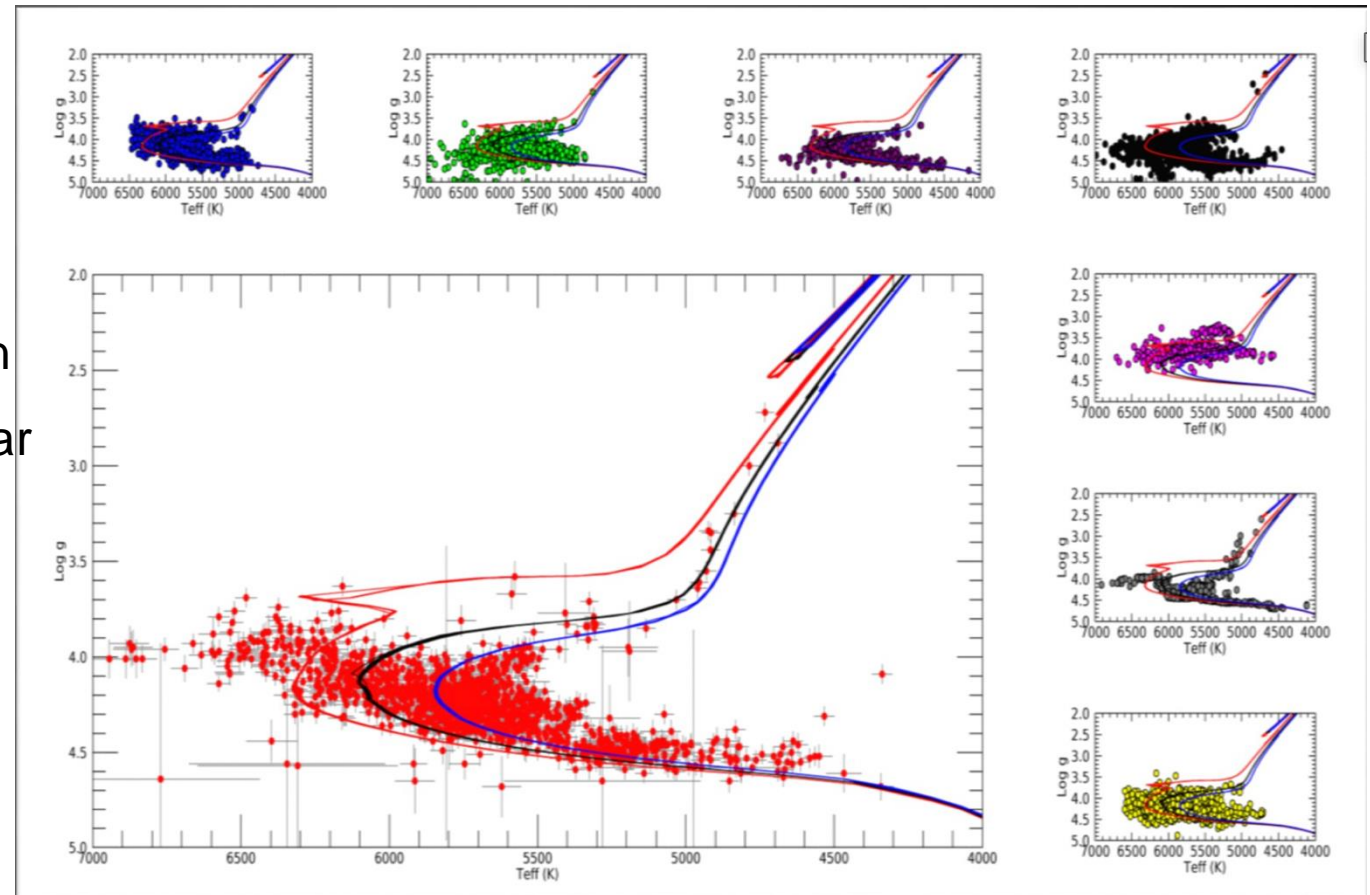
Use refraction to select certain wavebands



UVES view of Milky Way disk

UVES contribution (among many) to the ESO GAIA Survey

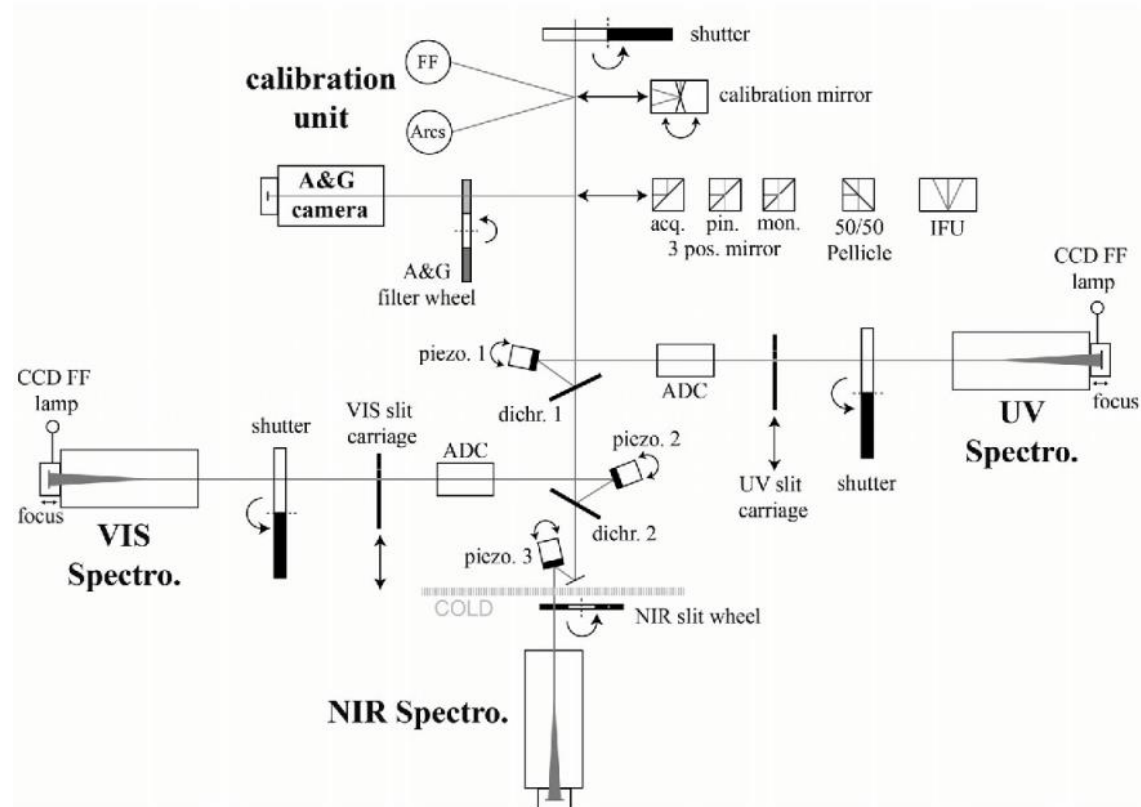
- 10.000 stars
- More than 40 UVES-based papers
- From the characterization of the field population to the detailed chemistry of open and globular clusters; to constrains on stellar physics and characterization of variable sources
- Exploring the limits and the systematics of high-resolution spectral analysis with multi-analysis approach



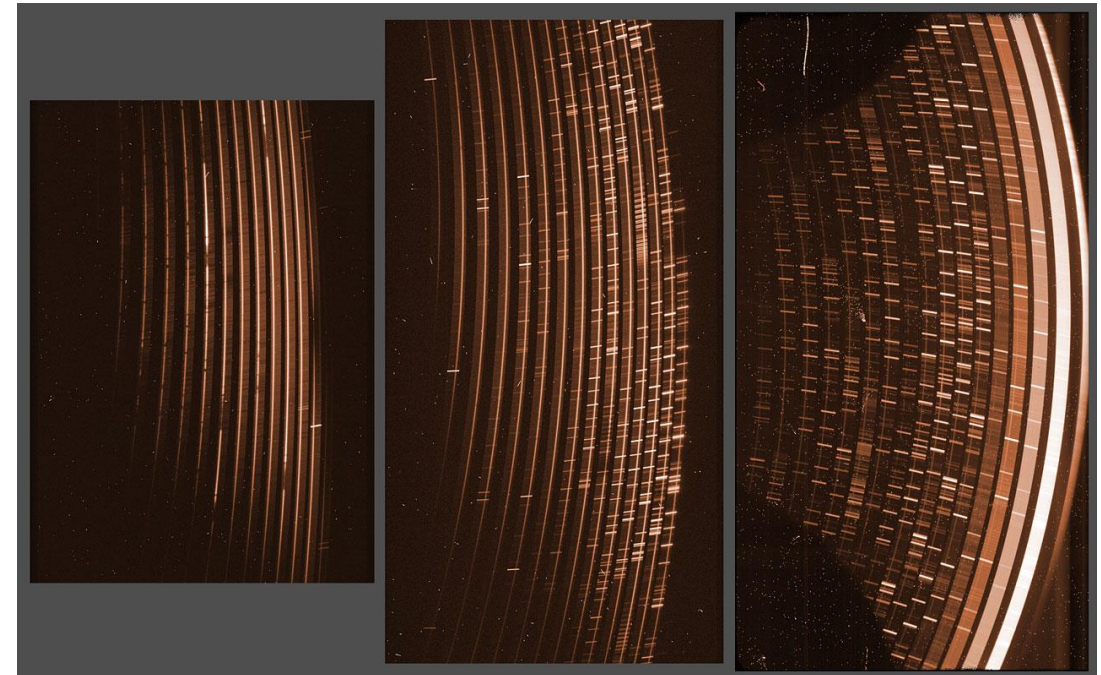
Randich et al. 2022

XShooter

Broadband Echelle Spectrograph; 3 Channels; $R \sim 3000-18000$

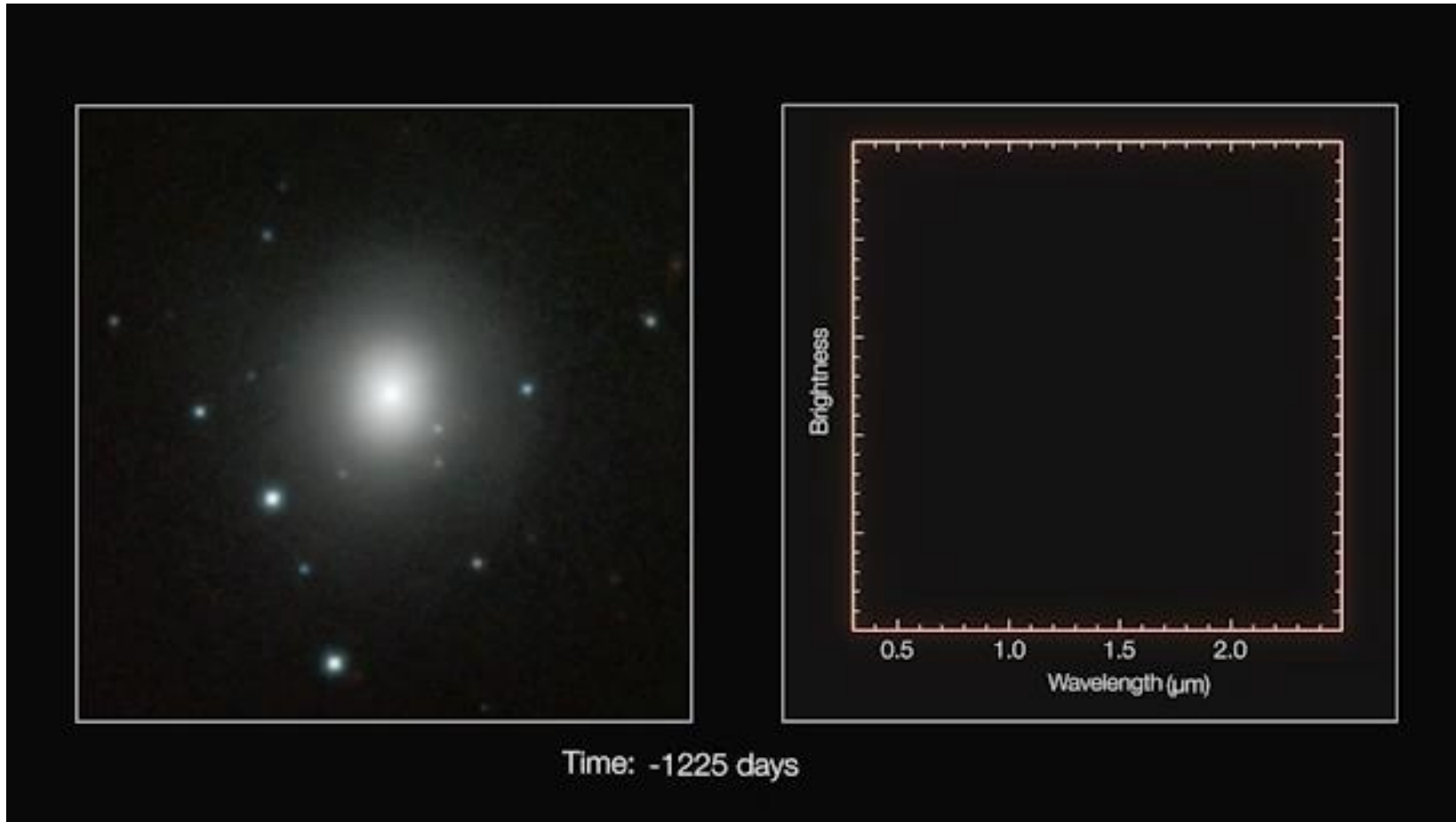


| Arm | λ -range (nm) | N. of orders | scale ("'/pix) | AB limit (mag) |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| UVB | 300-560 | 12 | 0.161 | 21.2 (at 356.1 nm, ord N.21) 21.7 (at 438.8 nm, ord N.17) |
| VIS | 550-1020 | 15 | 0.158 | 20.9 (at 653.8 nm, ord N.35) 20.8 (at 777.6 nm, ord N.21) |
| NIR | 1020-2480 | 16 | 0.248 | 21.0 (at 1245.2 nm, ord N.21) 20.6 (at 1634.4 nm, ord N.16) 18.7 (at 2179.2 nm, ord N.12) |



XShooter observations of first Kilonova

Broadband Echelle Spectrograph; 3 Channels R~3000-18000



- Gravitational Wave and GRB triggers
- Identification of candidates to be the ever-observed optical counterpart of a GW
- Spectroscopic follow up for 1 month
- Heavy elements produced by r-processes in binary Neutron Star merger

Abbott et al. 2017



Integral Field Spectrographs

MUSE, ERIS, KMOS

Integral Field Units

| Instrument | Spectral Coverage | Observing Mode | Spectral Resolution | Multiplex | Note |
|------------|------------------------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| MUSE | optical 465 - 930 nm | integral field spectroscopy | 1770 @ 480nm 3590 @ 930nm | no | IFU size on sky 60"x60" with spaxel size 0.2" (WFM) or 7.5"x7.5" with spaxel size 0.025" (NFM); GLAO, LTAO, no AO; RRM. |
| KMOS | near-IR 0.8 - 2.5 μ m | multi-object integral field spectroscopy (24 arms) | 1800 - 4000 | yes | 24-arms Integral Field Spectroscopy; 2.8x2.8", 0.2" sampling IFU over a 7.2' field; |
| ERIS | near-IR 1-5 μ m | imaging, coronagraphy: apodizing phase plate (K/L-band only) and focal plane coronagraphy (L/M-band only), sparse aperture mmask interferometry, integral field spectroscopy (JHK), long-slit spectroscopy (L-band only) | 5000-11200 (IFS), 900 (NIX long-slit spectroscopy) | no | AO modes: NGS, LGS, LGS-SE, noAO |

MUSE



Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer



Wide Field Mode (Currently offered)

| | |
|---|---|
| Field of view | 59.9"x 60.0" |
| Spatial Sampling | 0.2" /pixel |
| Spatial resolution (FWHM) | 0.4" @ 700nm |
| Resolving power | 1770 (480 nm) -- 3590 (930 nm) |
| Limiting magnitude (1 hr, airmass=1.0, seeing 0.8"@V) | $V_{AB} = 22.64$ mag (550 nm) $R_{AB} = 22.70$ mag (650 nm) $I_{AB} = 22.28$ mag (784.9 nm) |

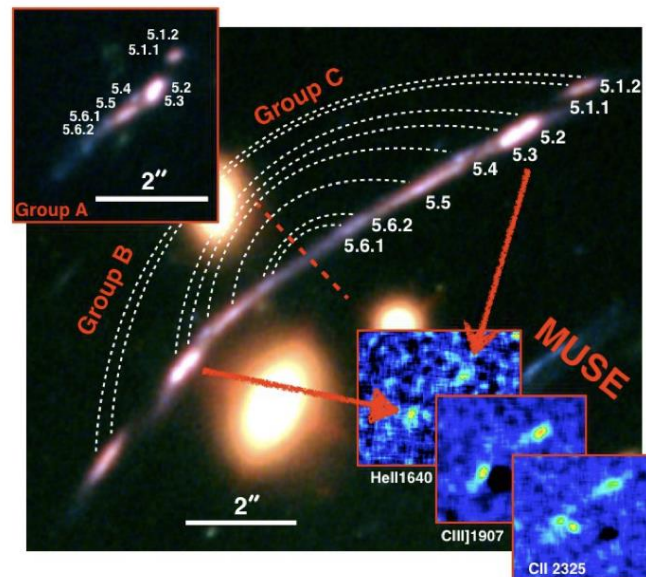
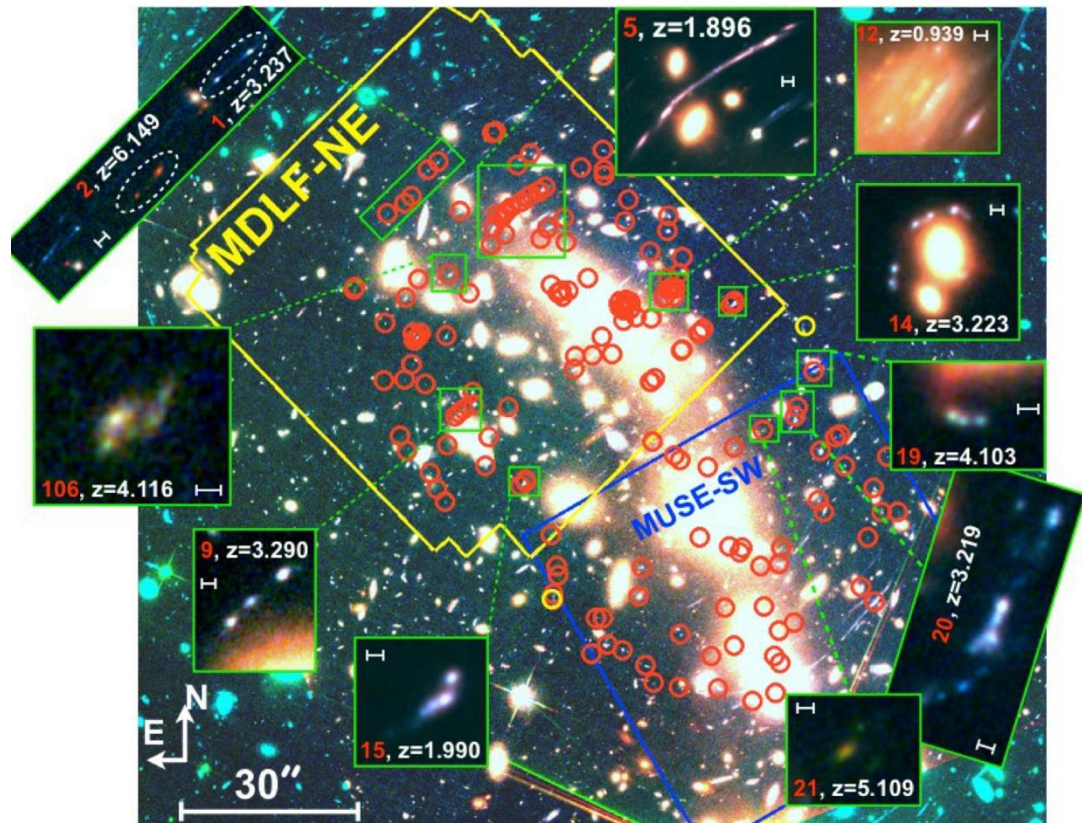
Wide Field Mode with AO (Currently offered)

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Gain in ensquared energy within one pixel with respect to seeing | 2 |
| Condition of operation with AO | 70th percentile |
| Sky coverage with AO | 70% at Galactic Pole |

Narrow Field Mode (Currently offered)

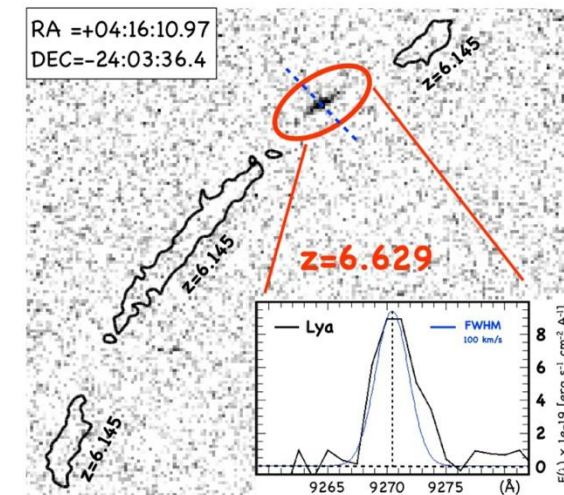
| | |
|---|--|
| Field of view | 7.42" x 7.43" |
| Spatial Sampling | 0.025" / pixel |
| Spatial resolution(FWHM) | 55 mas - 80 mas |
| Resolving power | 1740 (480 nm) -- 3450 (930 nm) |
| Ensquared Energy (25 mas) | 10% - 1% |
| Predicted limiting flux in 1 hr | 2.3×10^{-18} erg s ⁻¹ cm ⁻² |
| Predicted limiting magnitude in 1 hr | $R_{AB} = 22.3$ mag |
| Predicted limiting surface brightness in 1 hr | $R_{AB} = 17.3$ mag arcsec ⁻² |

MUSE Deep Lensed Field on Hubble Frontier Field MACS J0416



Source 5, $z=1.896$

Source 2



Vanzella et al. 2020
Candidate POPIII stellar complex at $z=6.29$

17.1 GALACSI/MUSE (GLAO) 30 hours on MACS J0416
Spectroscopic redshift of 48 galaxies (136 multiple images) with $0.9 < z < 6.2$

Vanzella, E.S., et al. 2021

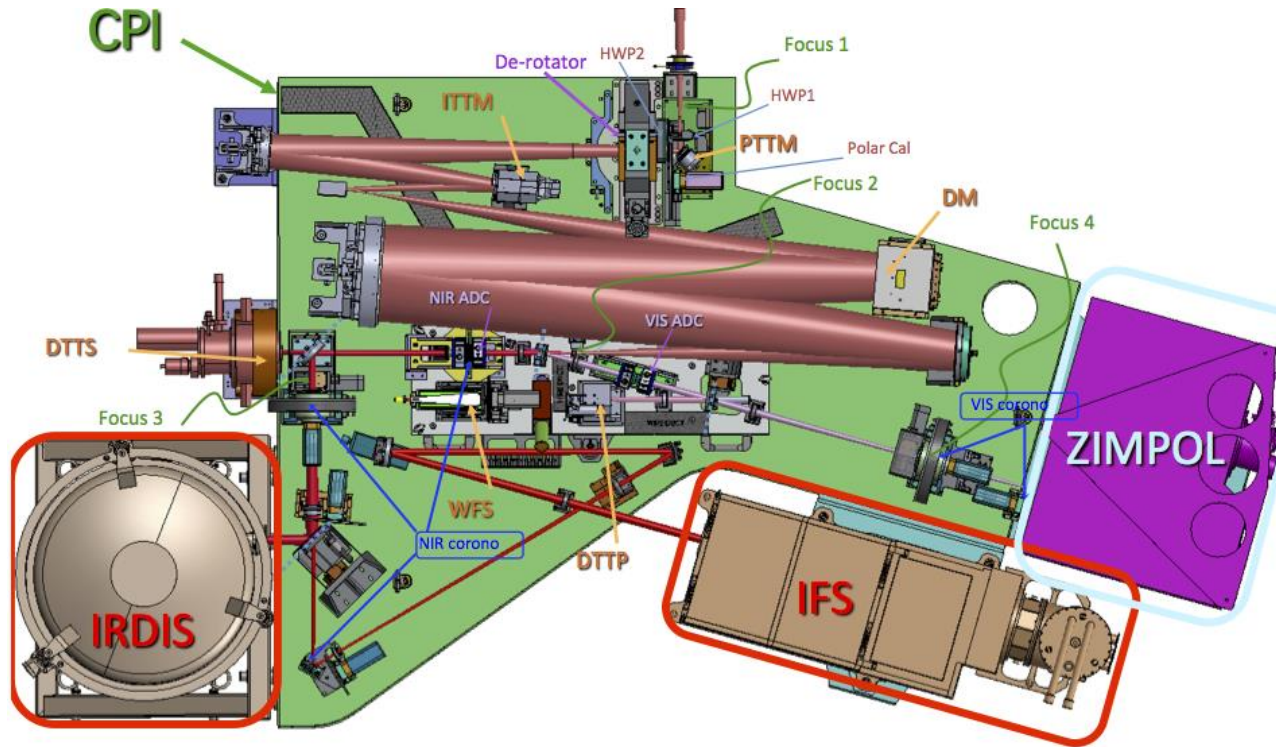


Specialized Instruments

Extreme-AO assisted imaging

SPHERE

*S*Pectro-polarimetric *H*igh contrast *E*xoplanet *R*Esearch



| AO performance | H-band Strehl Ratio | R-band Strehl Ratio |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Good | > 75% | > 20% |
| Median | 50 - 75% | 5 - 20% |
| Poor | < 50% | < 5% |

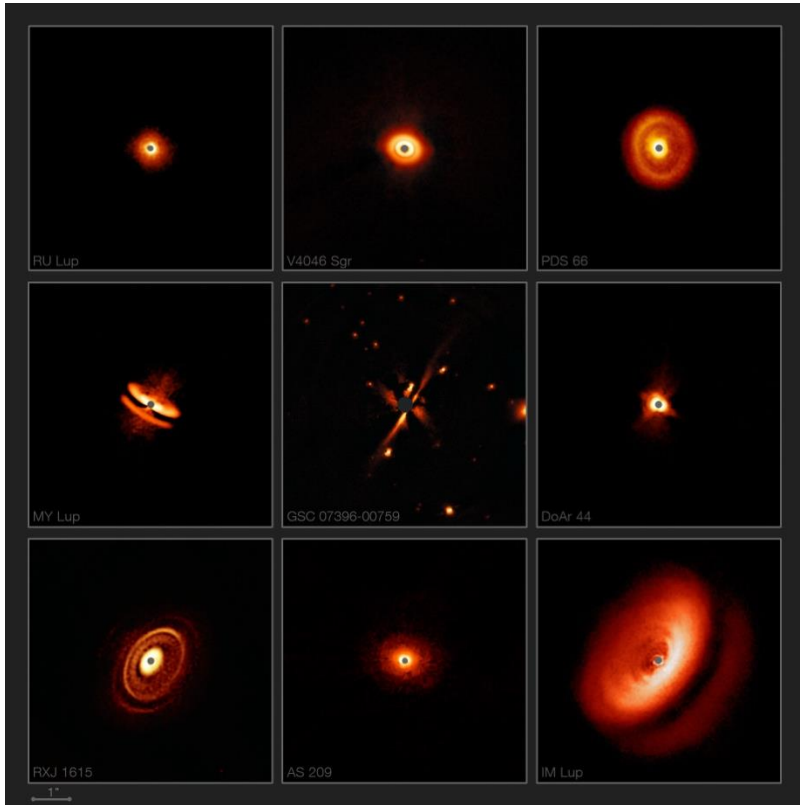
Strehl Ratio: ratio between the expected and the observed amplitude of the signal

Modes

- Dual imaging
- Long slit spectroscopy
- Dual-polarization imaging mode
- Sparse Aperture Masking
- Coronagraphy
- Integral Field Spectroscopy

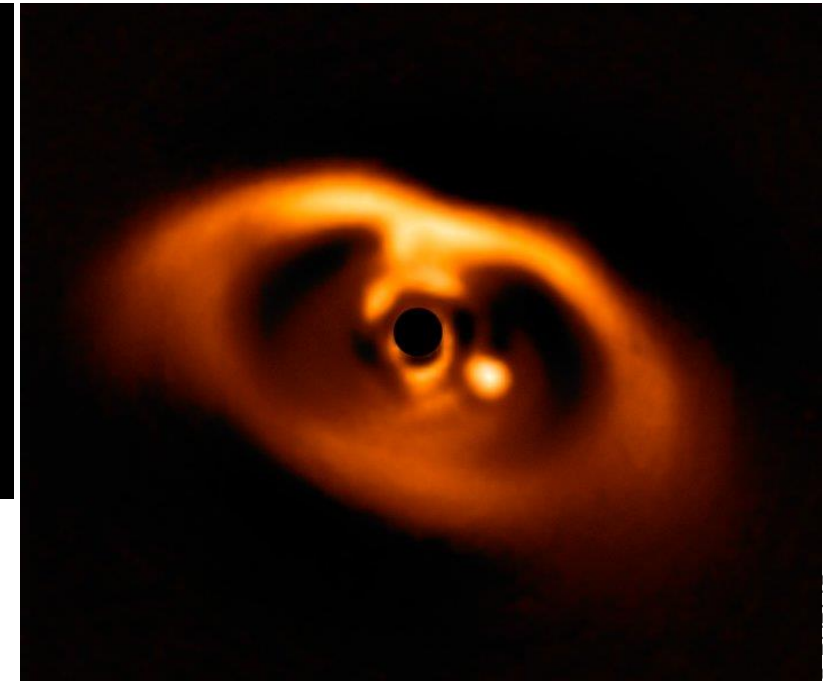
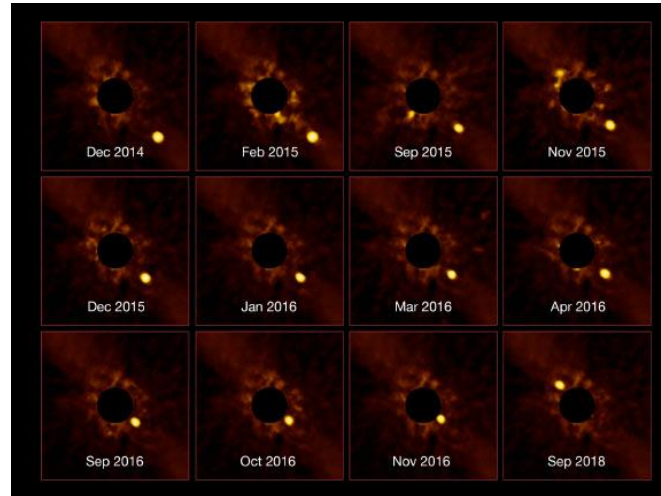
SPHERE exoplanets and protoplanetary disks

SPectro-polarimetric High contrast Exoplanet REsearch



Avenhaus et al. 2018
Sissa et al. 2018

Direct imaging of B Pictoris b



Newborn planet swapping the protoplanetary disk

Keppler et al. 2018
Müller et al. 2018



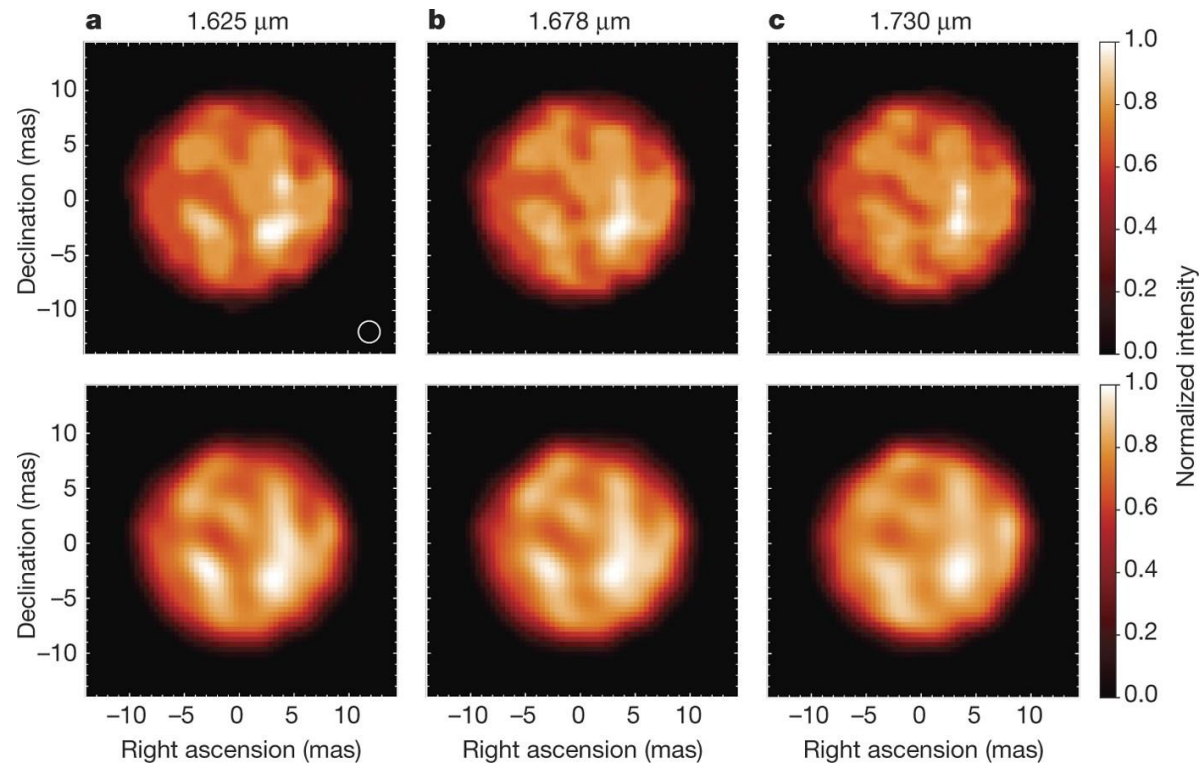
VLT Interferometer

PIONIER, GRAVITY, MATISSE

Integral Field Units

| Instrument | Spectral Coverage | Observing Mode | Spectral Resolution | Multiplex | Note |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|--|-----------|---|
| GRAVITY | near-IR 2.05 - 2.45 μm | spectro-interferometry | R ~ 20, 500, & 4000 | no | 4 beam combiner - delivers spectrally dispersed visibilities, differential and closure phases |
| MATISSE | mid-IR 2.8 - 4.1 μm 4.5 - 5 μm 8 - 13 μm | spectro-interferometry | R ~ 30 (covers L&M-band) R ~ 506, 959, 3666 (L or M band) R ~ 30, 218 (N band) | no | 4 beam combiner - delivers spectrally dispersed visibilities, differential and closure phases |
| PIONIER | near-IR 1.65 μm | spectro - interferometry | R ~ 5 or 40 | no | 4 beam combiner - delivers spectrally dispersed visibilities and closure phases |

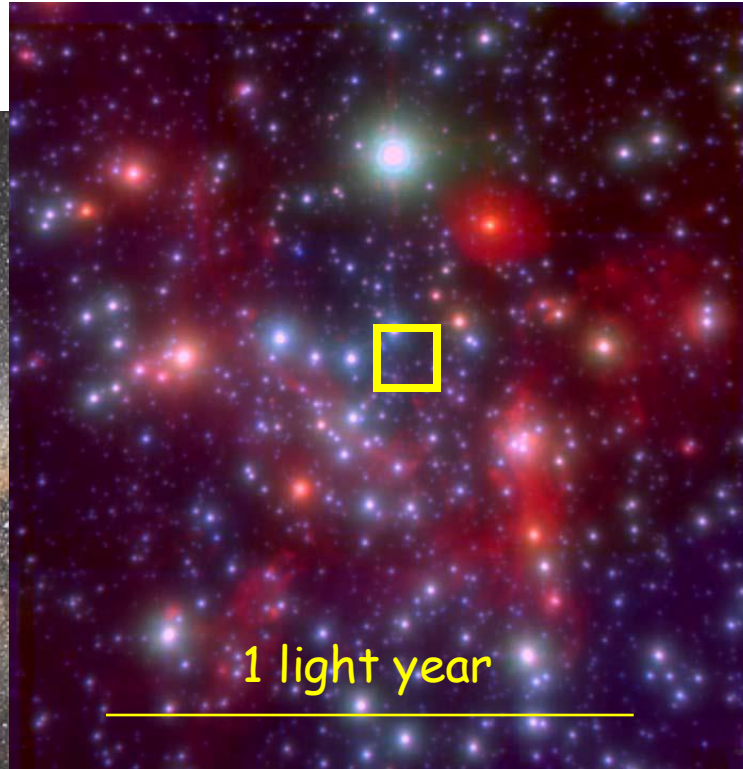
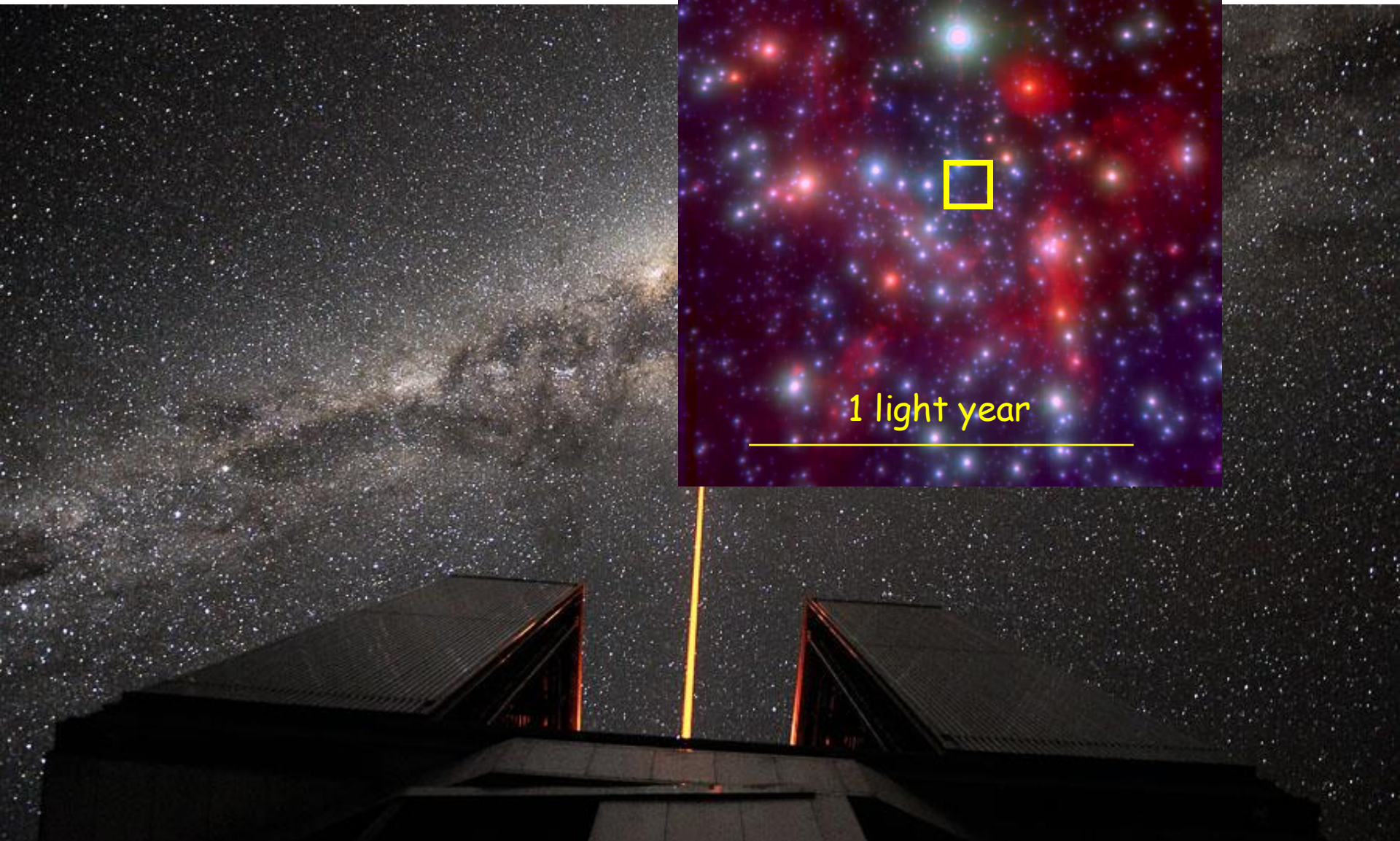
VLTI-PIONIER Images of a star



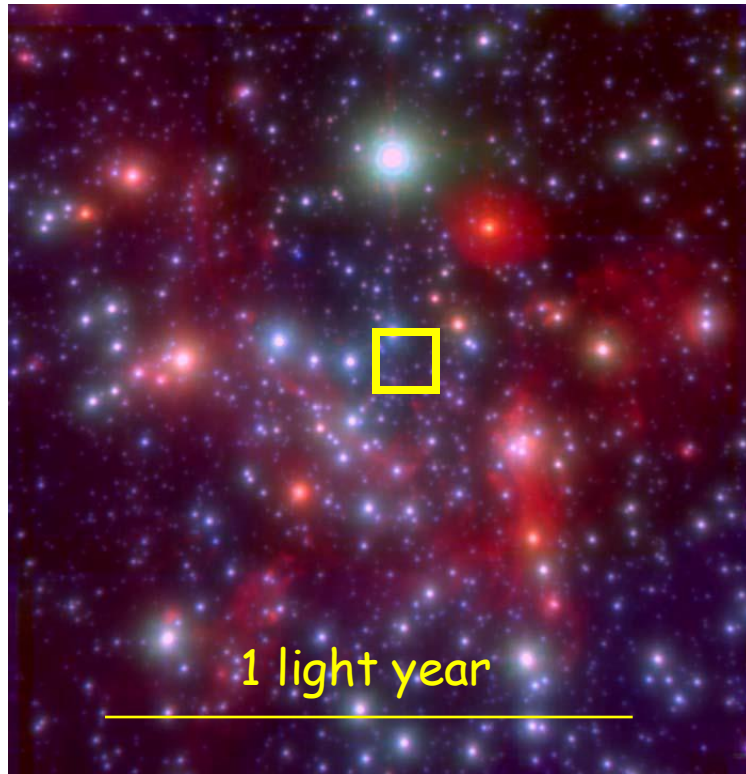
Large granulation cells detected on the surface of a giant star

Paladini et al. 2017

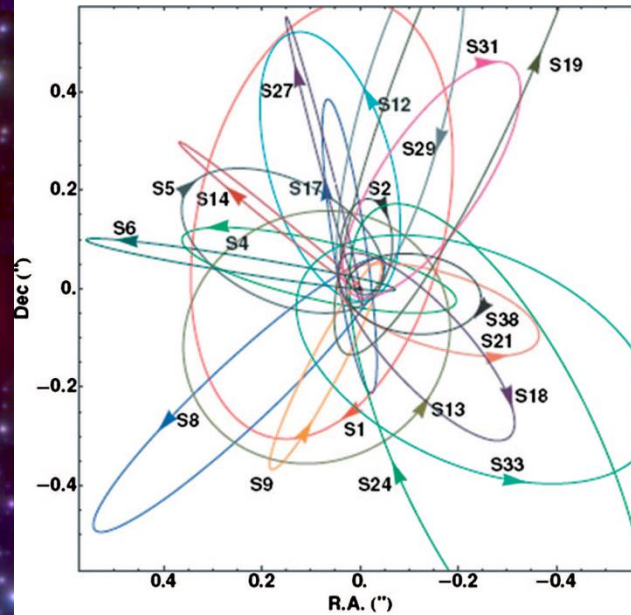
GRAVITY 'weights' the Supermassive Black Hole in the Milky way



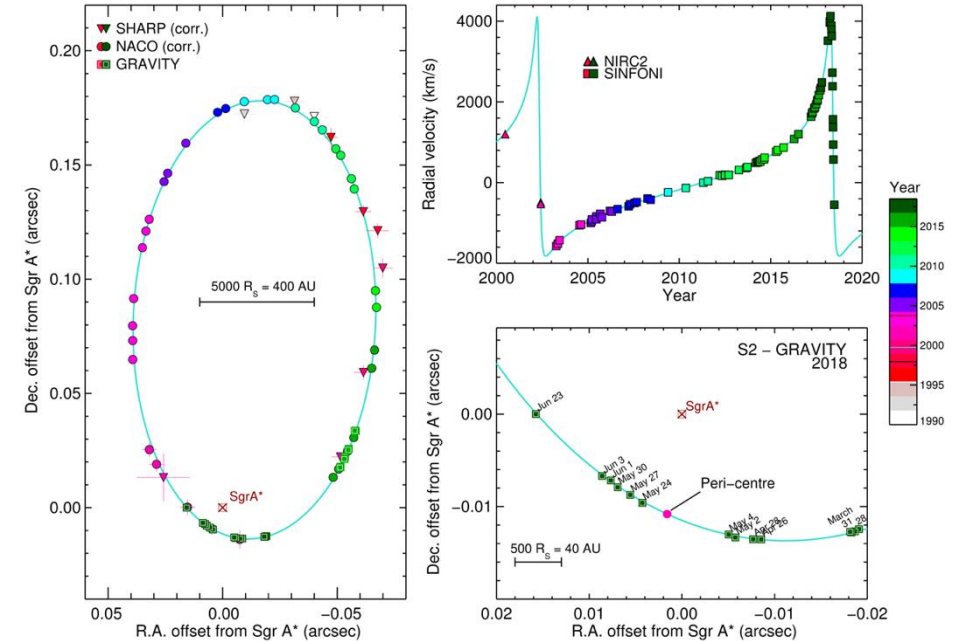
GRAVITY 'weights' the Supermassive Black Hole in the Milky way



NACO – AO imaging



Gillessen et al. 2009



Gravity collaboration 2018
 $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 1.6 \times 10^6 M_{\text{Sun}}$