

# Simulating Dithered Microlensing Astrometry for Roman Space Telescope

**Evan Meade**<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Matthew T. Penny<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The University of Texas at Dallas, Department of Physics*

<sup>2</sup> *The University of Texas at Dallas, Department of Mathematical Sciences*

<sup>3</sup> *Louisiana State University, Department of Physics & Astronomy*

*\*Project completed as part of a Research Experience for Undergraduates, sponsored by  
the National Science Foundation under grant **NSF PHY-1852356***

What are alien planets like?

# Exoplanets (Expectation)



Obtained from [cimsec.org](http://cimsec.org), copyright Lucasfilm

**Adventure!!**

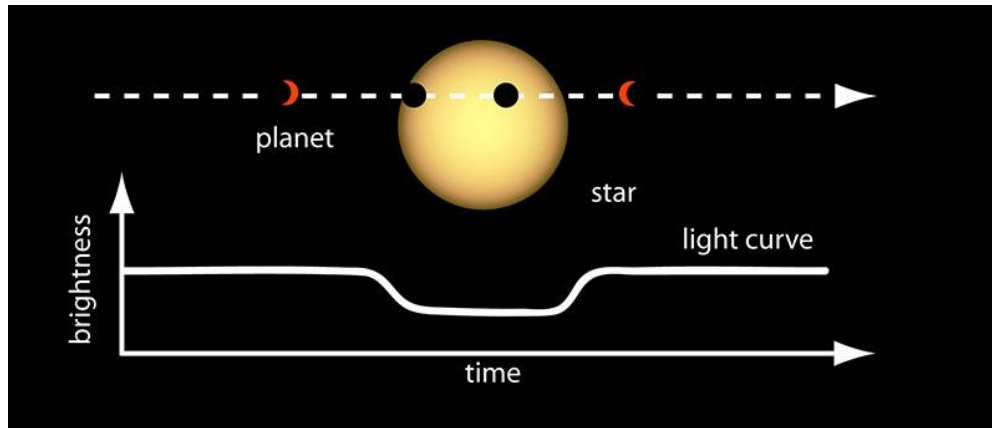
**Star Wars!!**



Obtained from [comicyears.com](http://comicyears.com), copyright Lucasfilm

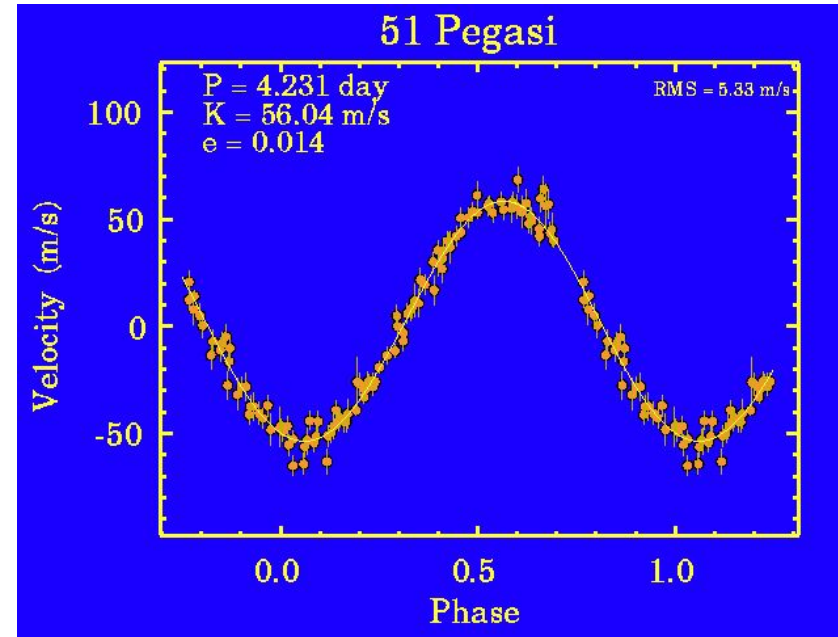
# Exoplanets (Reality)

Example transit event



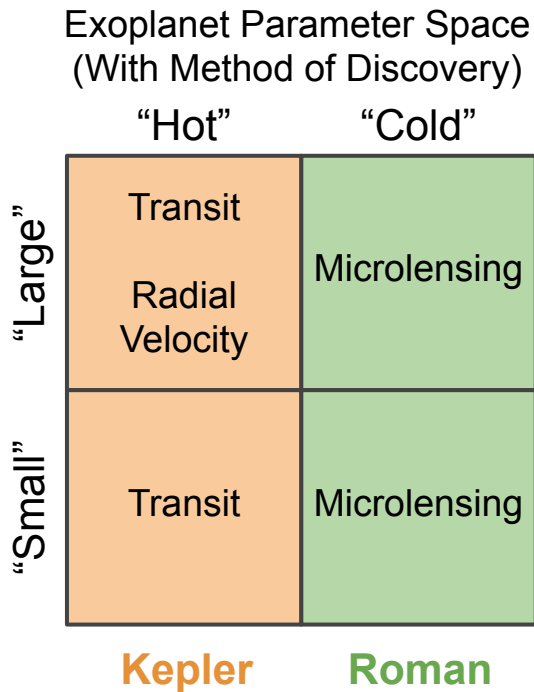
Credit [NASA](#)

Radial velocity graph of **51 Pegasi**



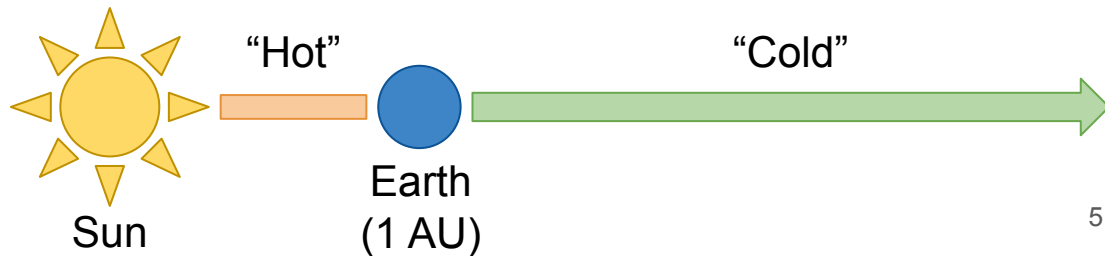
Credit [exoplanets.org](#), obtained from the [Planetary Society](#)

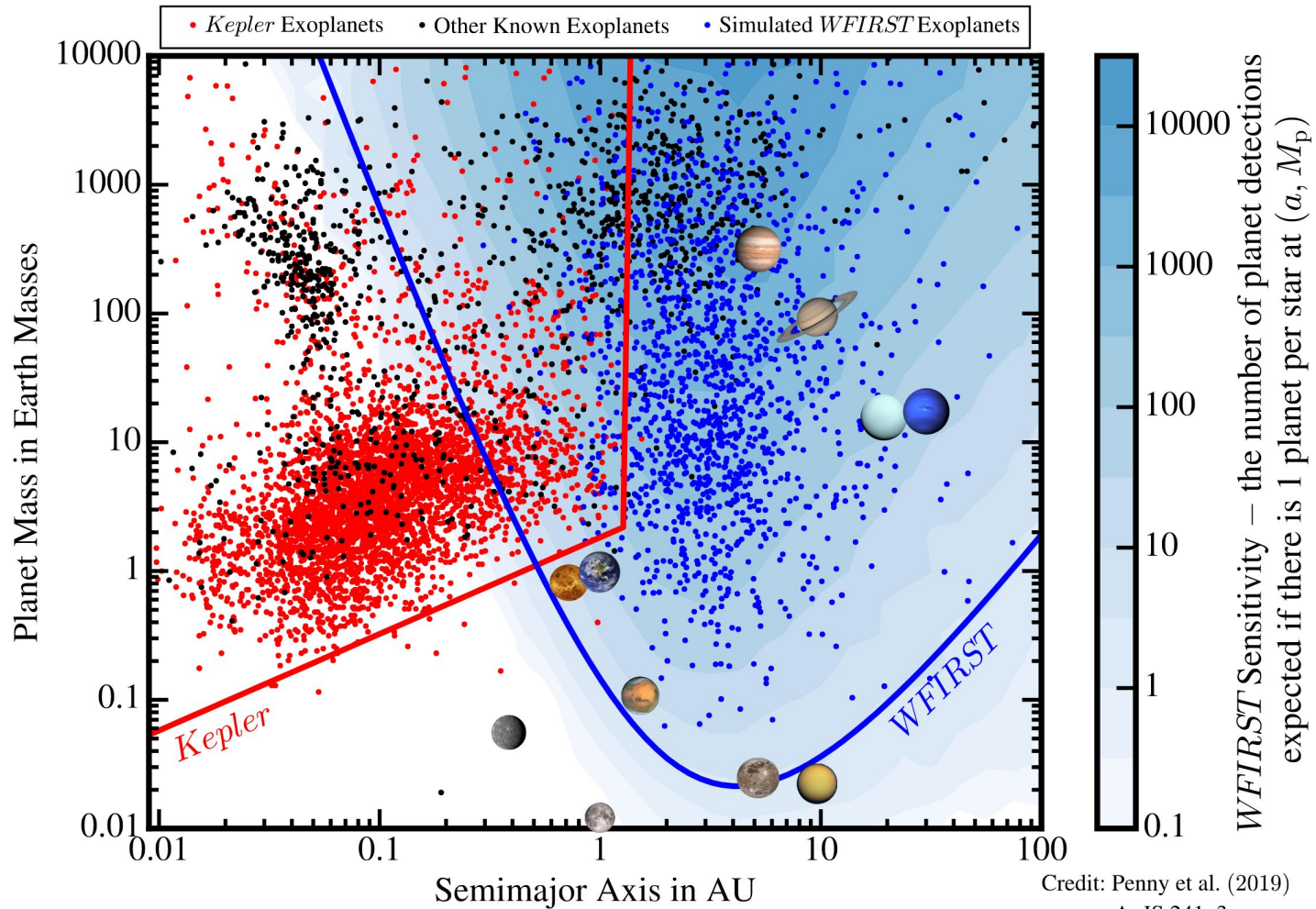
# Detecting Exoplanets



## NASA Exoplanet Census

- Representative sample of all exoplanets
- Can reveal more about planet formation
- 2 stages
  - **Kepler** - "hot" planets
  - **Roman** - "cold" planets





Credit: Penny et al. (2019)  
ApJS 241, 3

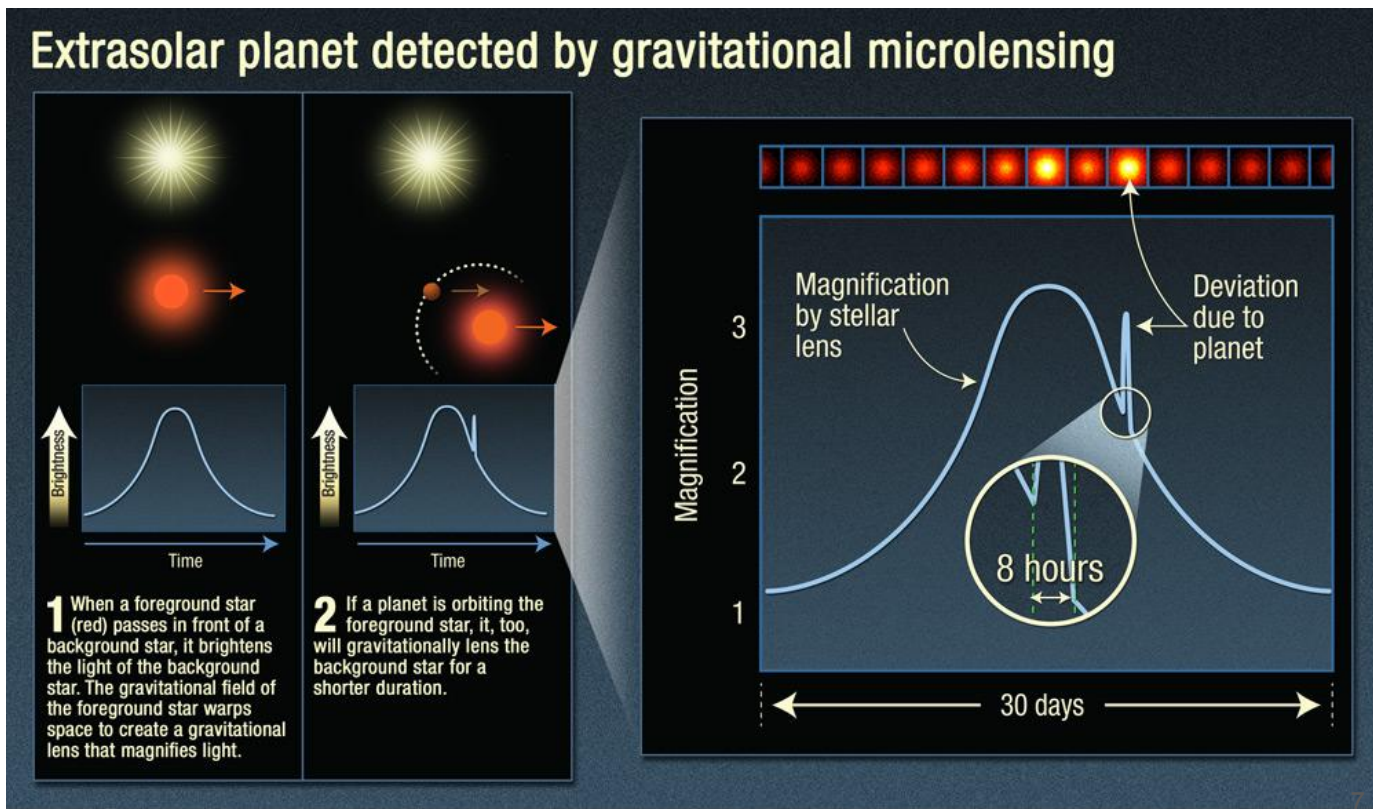
# What is Microlensing?

## Pros

- Works on distant exoplanets
- Sensitive to small exoplanets

## Cons

- One-time events
- Requires stellar separation to mass





# Roman Space Telescope (aka. WFIRST)

NASA's flagship astrophysics mission  
(2010 Decadal Survey)

Expected launch ~ **2026**

2.4 m main mirror

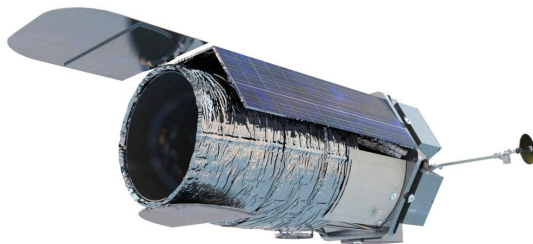


Image from [NASA](#)

## Wide Field Instrument

- Infrared band
- Similar resolution to Hubble, but covering a field **x100** as large!
  - Undersampling

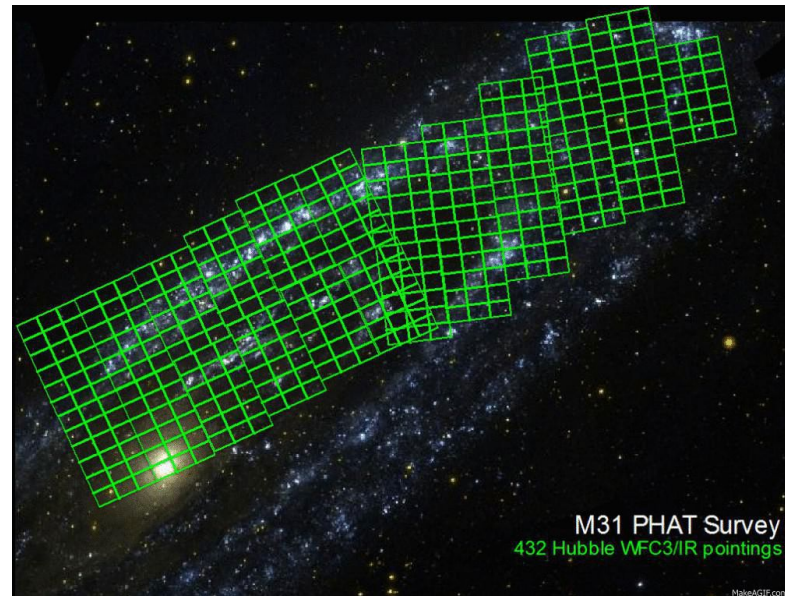
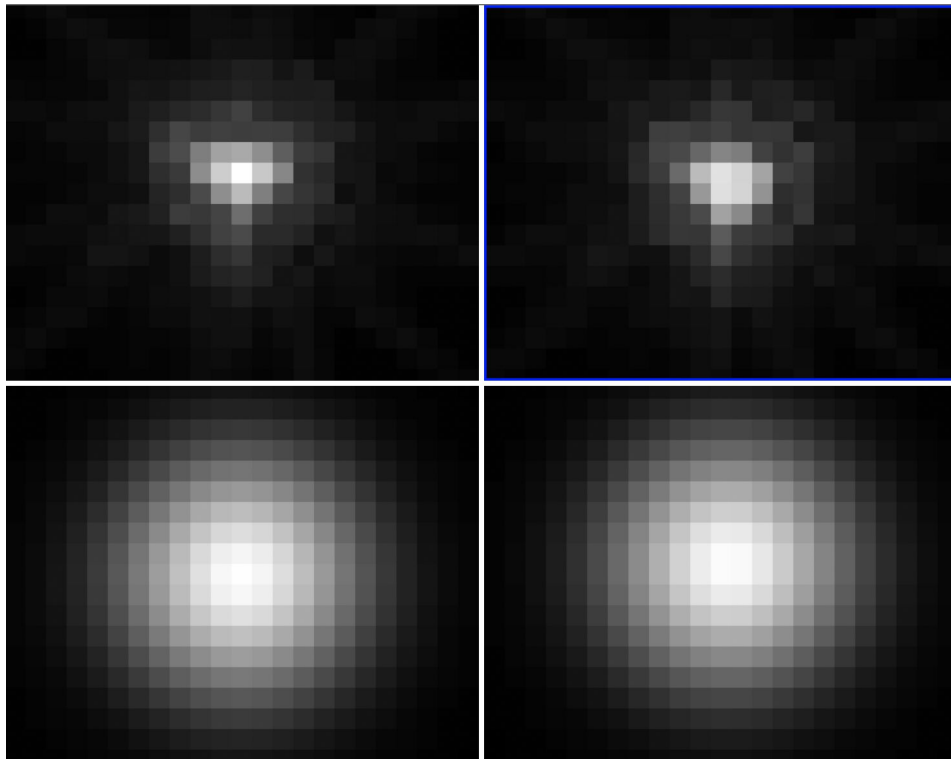


Image from [NASA](#)



# The Undersampling Trade-Off



**Undersampling** (top images) vs. regular sampling (bottom images)

Maximizes area, which increases exoplanet detection rates

## Drawbacks:

- Lower resolution makes stellar separation harder
- Systematic errors in time domain make photometry more difficult

How good will Roman be at detecting  
exoplanet microlensing events?

# GULLS Codebase

Developed by Penny, et al. (2013)

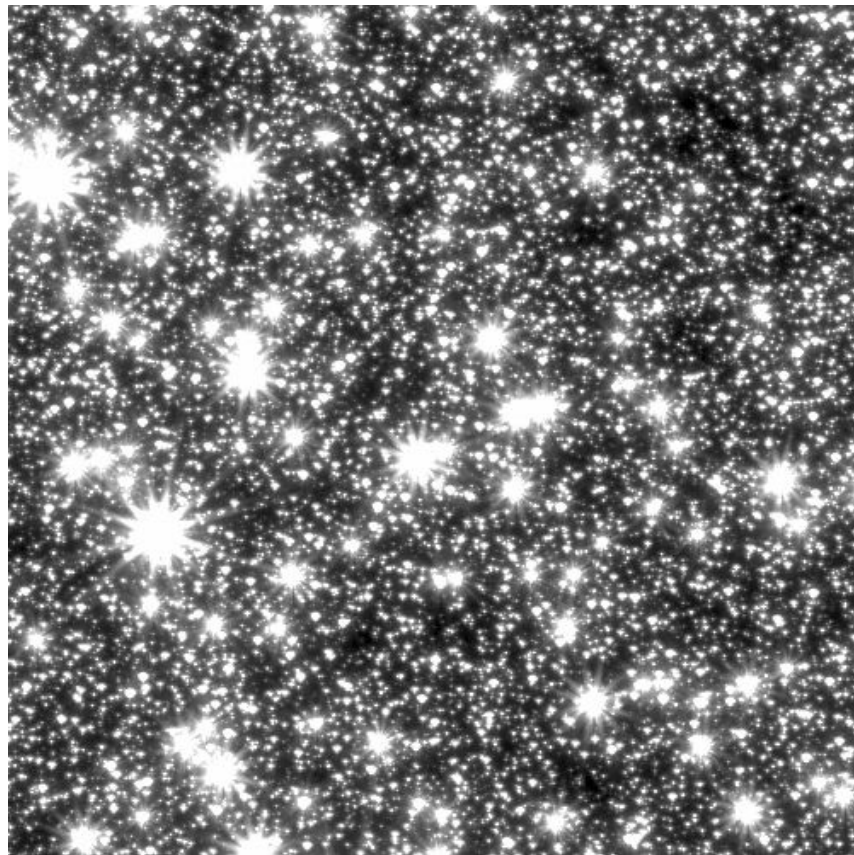
Simulates time-series microlensing data

Precisely models point spread functions (PSFs)

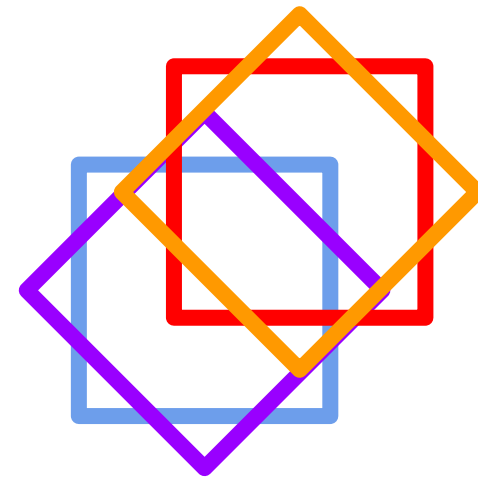
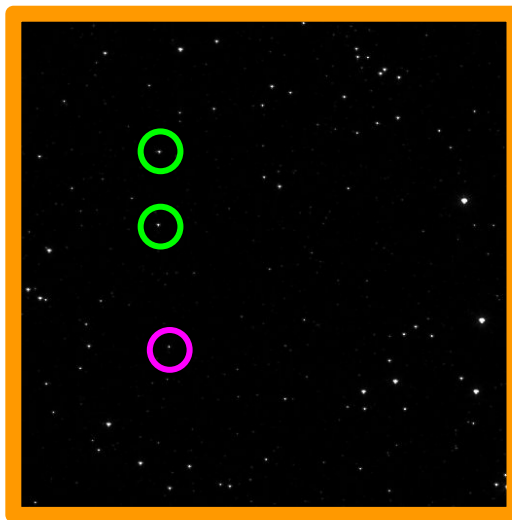
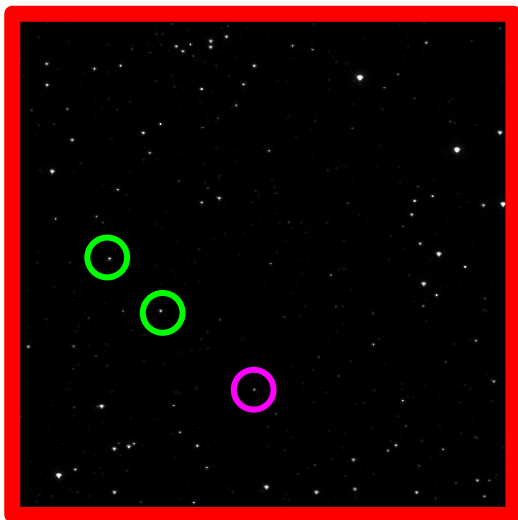
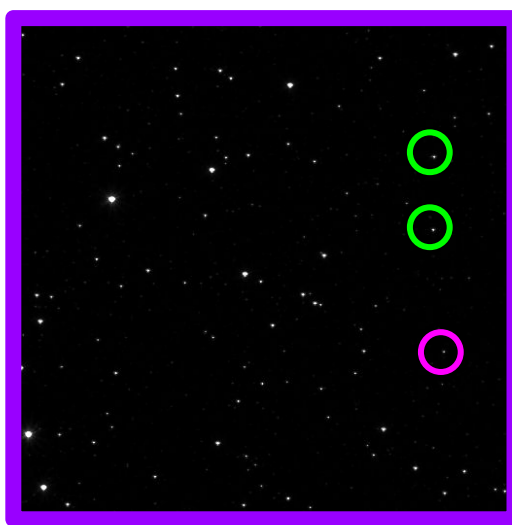
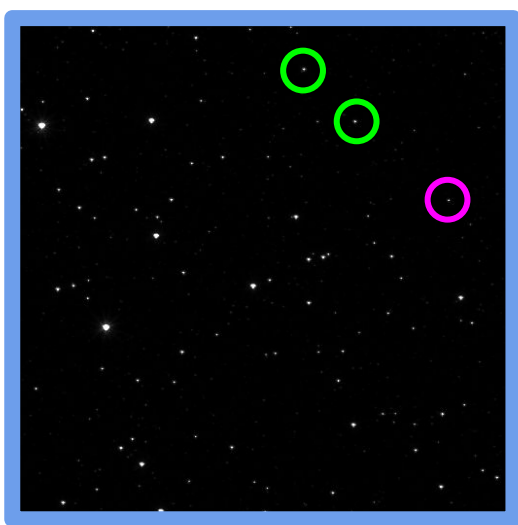
Generates singular images

## Basic Improvements

- Poisson sampling of star lists
- Bug fixes



\* Images on ***sqrt zscale*** to show all faint stars



## GULLS Dithering

Added support for custom dithering configurations

- Translational
- Rotational

*\* Images on min/max scale for clarity*

# GULLS Proper Motion

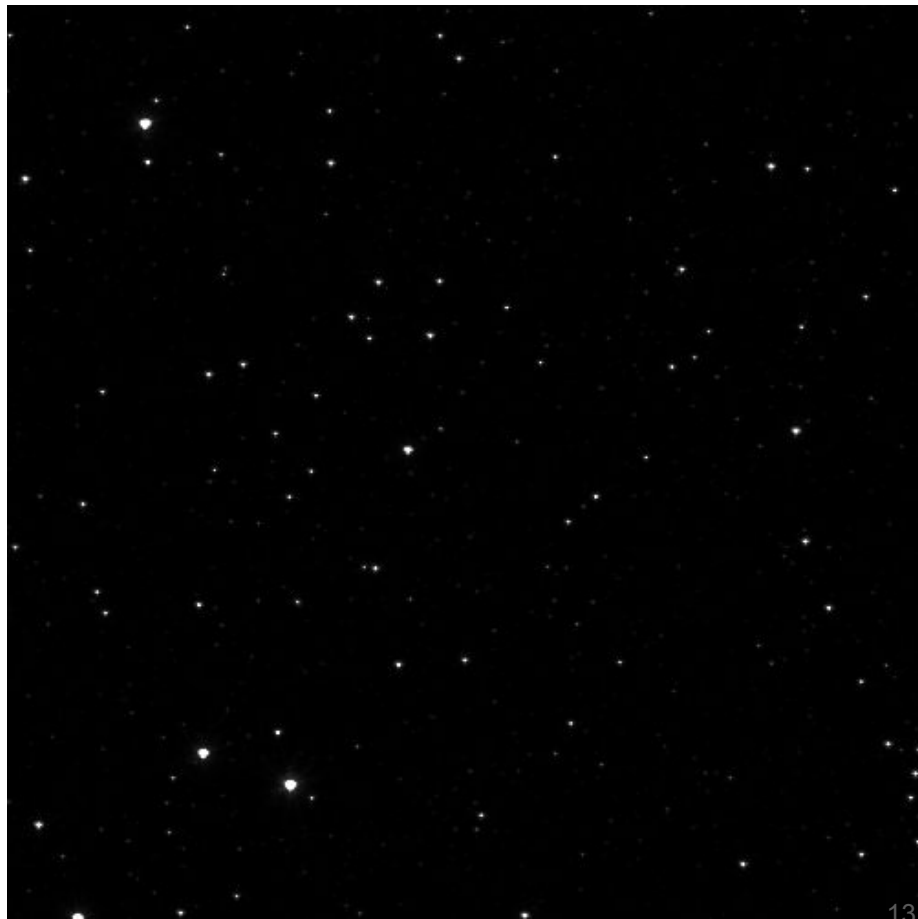
Added support for motion of stars over time

In total, dither courses specify:

- **d** - timestamp (days)
- **x, y** - translation offset (pixels)
- **$\theta$**  - rotation (centered, degrees)

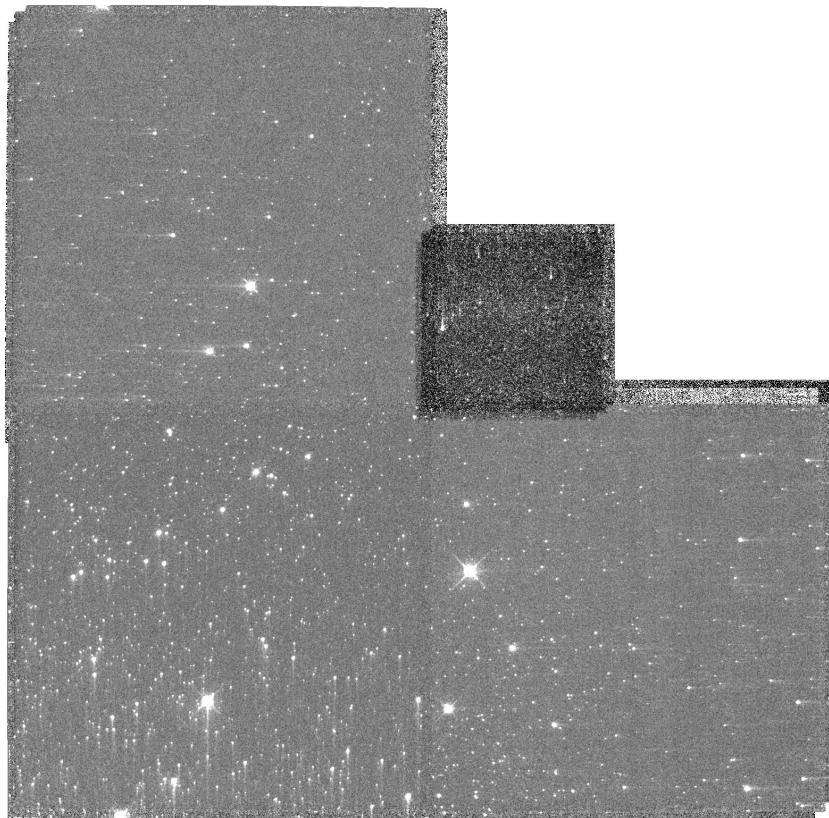
## Proper Motion Demo

Frames at 0, 100, 200, 300 years



\* Images on *linear min/max scale* for clarity

# Drizzle



Linear combination of aligned dithered images for high-resolution imaging

Potential for noise correlation among adjacent pixels

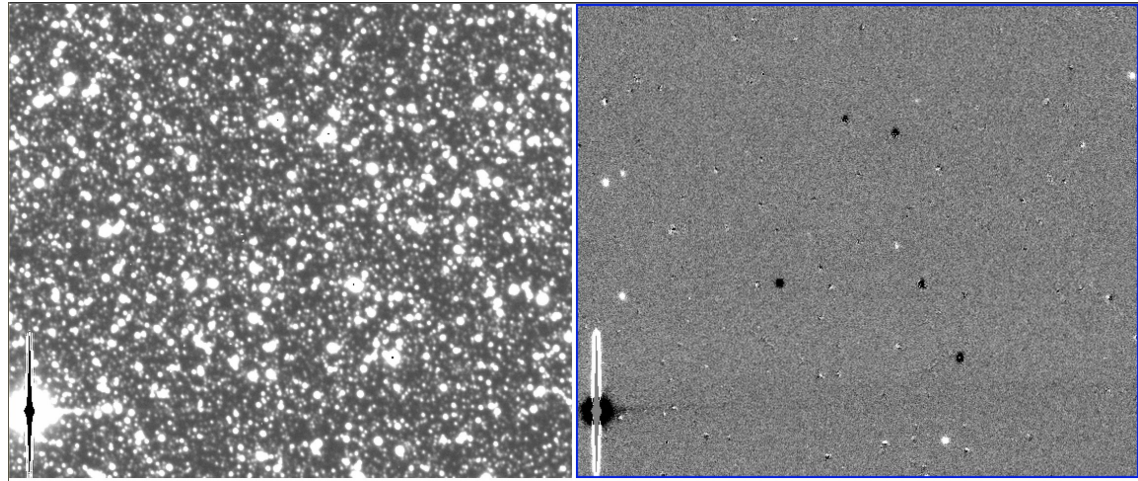
State-of-the-art implementation in DrizzlePac

## DrizzlePac

- Python package from STScI
- Tailored almost exclusively for Hubble; **difficult to implement**
  - Work in progress

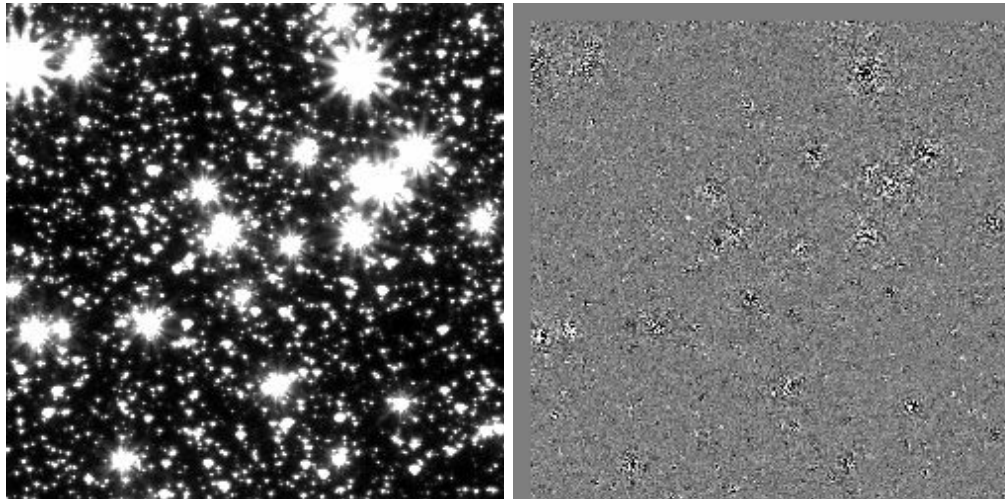


# Ground-Based Difference Imaging (CFHT Microlensing Survey)



*CFHT images provided courtesy of Matthew Penny*

# Roman Difference Imaging (GULLS/ISIS)



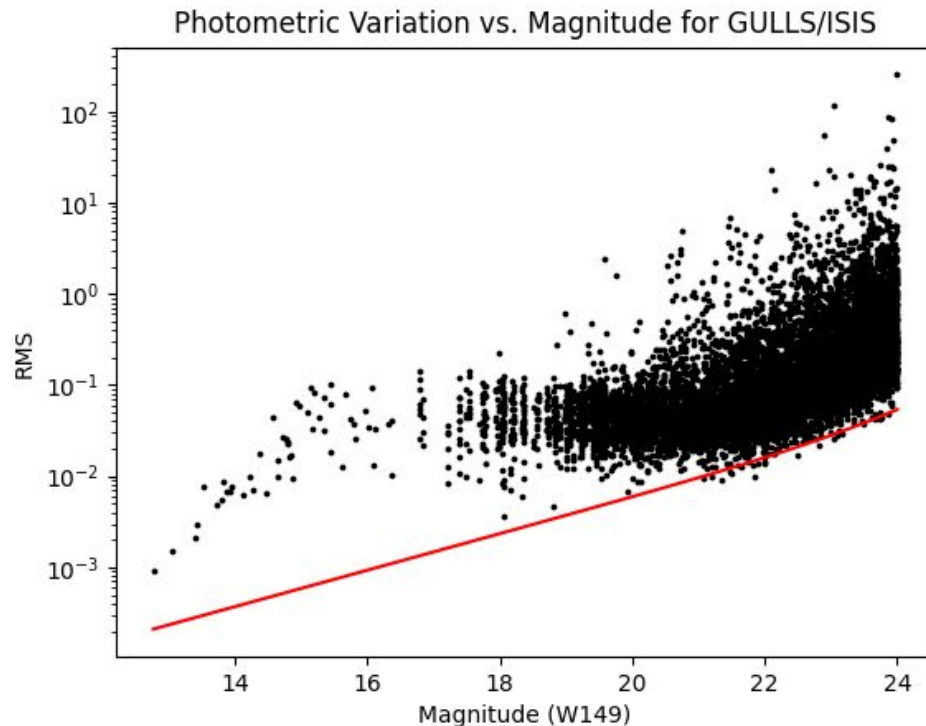
# Difference Imaging Analysis

**ISIS** - *Alard & Lupton 1998, ApJ, v. 503, p. 325*

Generates light curves from **image subtraction**

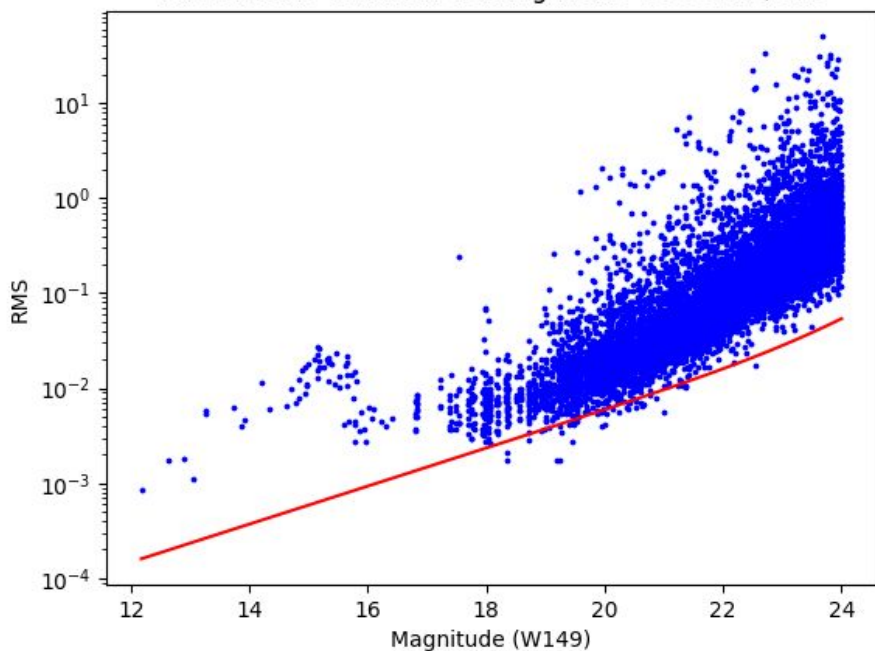
Very flexible, relatively simple implementation

**Systematic error** arises from undersampling and physical design



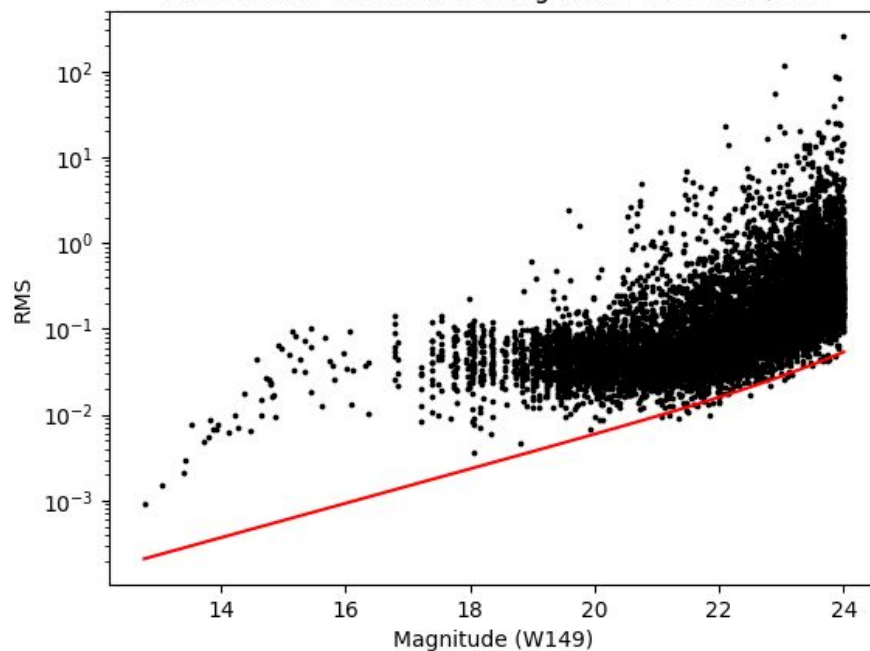
## With Gaussian Convolution

Photometric Variation vs. Magnitude for GULLS/ISIS



## Naive Implementation

Photometric Variation vs. Magnitude for GULLS/ISIS



# Conclusions

Roman is poised to play a crucial role in the NASA exoplanet census

GULLS is a powerful simulation tool which can be applied to Roman imaging

Improvements made are more reflective of real world observing conditions

Drizzle is a promising technique in theory, but difficult to implement in practice

ISIS is relatively simple to implement, and has promising preliminary photometry

# Acknowledgements



Special thanks to my mentor, **Dr. Matthew Penny** (LSU)

Ali Crisp, my go-to grad student  
The LSU Interferometry Group

REU Directors, Dr. Robert Hynes (LSU) and Dr. Rongying Jin (LSU)  
The LSU Department of Physics & Astronomy  
The National Science Foundation (*Grant **NSF PHY-1852356***)

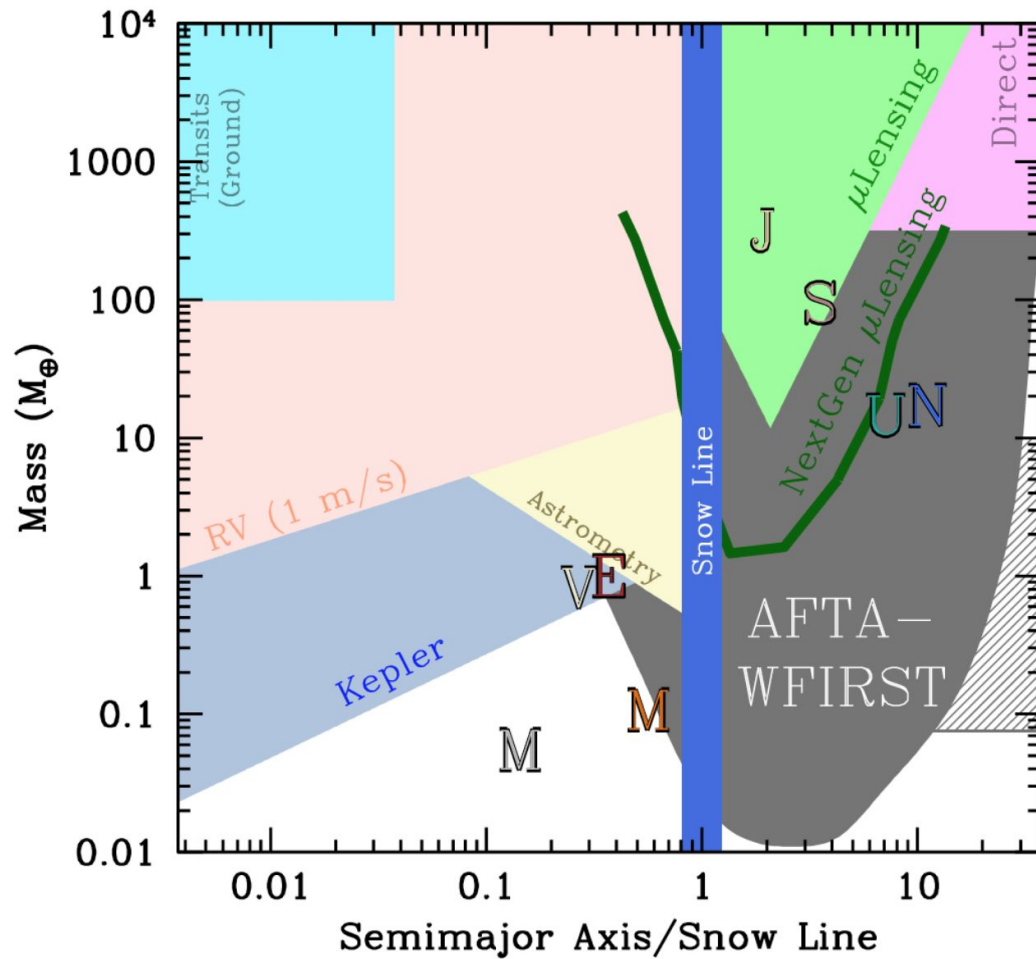


My home institution mentor, Dr. Lindsay King (UTD)  
The University of Texas at Dallas Department of Physics

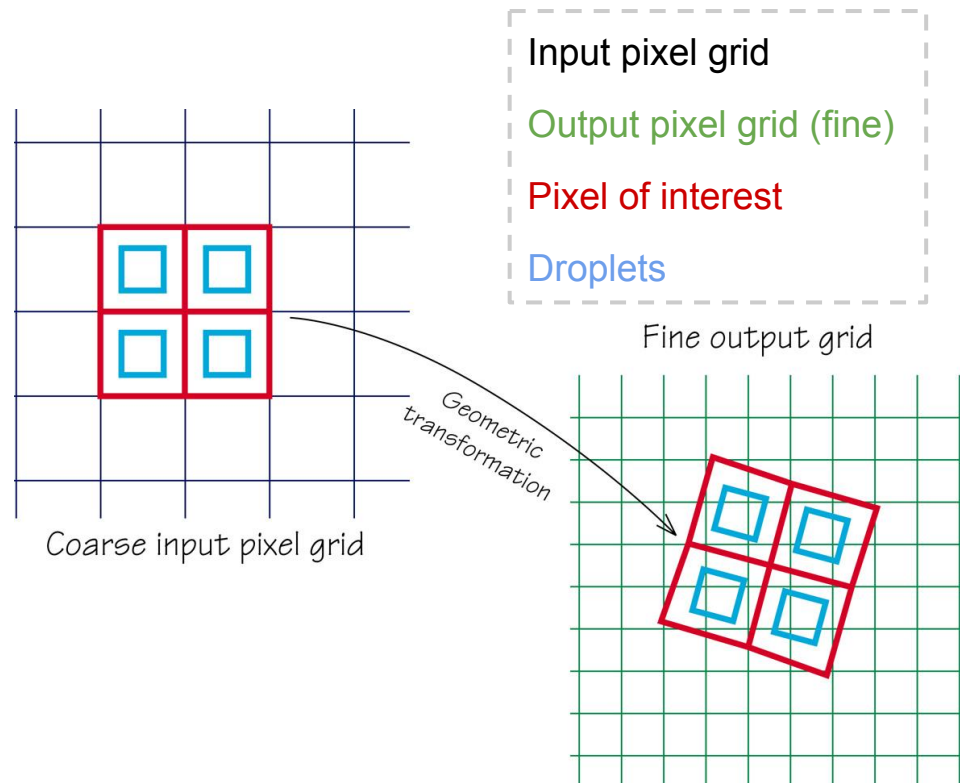


Questions?



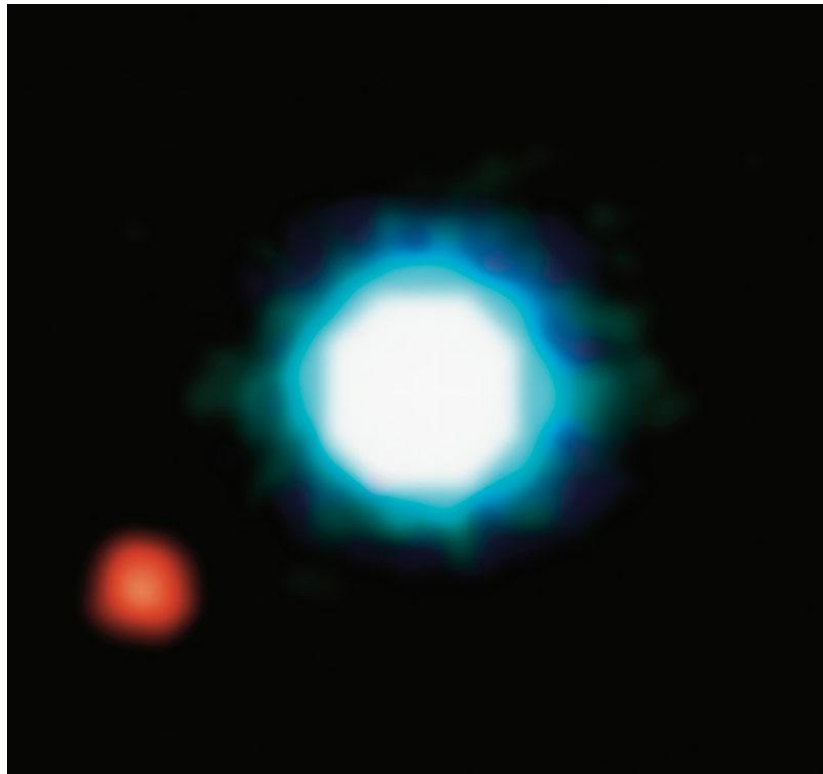


Obtained from Fischer, et al. (2014), figure courtesy of B. Scott Gaudi and Matthew Penny



Fruchter and Hook (2002), obtained from [STScI](#)

Incredibly clear direct image of  
**2M1207b**



*Credit ESO, obtained from [NASA](#)*

# Roman Specifications (Cycle 7 Design)

**Table 1**  
Adopted Parameters of Each Mission Design

	IDRM		DRM1		DRM2		AFTA		WFIRST Cycle 7	
Reference	Green et al. (2011)		Green et al. (2012)		Green et al. (2012)		Spergel et al. (2015)		... <sup>a,b</sup>	
Mirror diameter (m)	1.3		1.3		1.1		2.36		<b>2.36</b>	
Obscured fraction (area, %)	0		0		0		13.9		<b>13.9</b>	
Detectors	7 × 4 H2RG-10		9 × 4 H2RG-10		7 × 2 H4RG-10		6 × 3 H4RG-10		<b>6 × 3 H4RG-10</b>	
Plate scale (″/pix)	0.18		0.18		0.18		0.11		<b>0.11</b>	
Field of view (deg <sup>2</sup> )	0.294		0.377		0.587		0.282		<b>0.282</b>	
Fields	7		7		6		10		<b>7</b>	
Survey area (deg <sup>2</sup> )	2.06		2.64		3.52		2.82		<b>1.97</b>	
Avg. slew and settle time (s)	38		38		38		38		<b>83.1</b>	
Orbit	L2		L2		L2		Geosynchronous		L2	
Total survey length (day)	432		432		266		411 <sup>c</sup>		<b>432</b>	
Season length (day)	72		72		72		72		<b>72</b>	
Seasons	6		6		3.7		6		<b>6</b>	
Baseline mission duration (yr)	5		5		3		6		<b>5</b>	
Primary bandpass (μm)	1.0–2.0 (W149)		1.0–2.4 (W169)		1.0–2.4 (W169)		0.93–2.00 (W149)		<b>0.93–2.00 (W149)</b>	
Secondary bandpass (μm)	0.74–1.0 (Z087)		0.74–1.0 (Z087)		0.74–1.0 (Z087)		0.76–0.98 (Z087)		<b>0.76–0.98 (Z087)</b>	
	W149	Z087	W169	Z087	W169	Z087	W149	Z087	W149	Z087
Zeropoint <sup>d</sup> (mag)	26.315	25.001	26.636	24.922	25.990	24.367	27.554	26.163	<b>27.615</b>	<b>26.387</b>
Exposure time (s)	88	116	85	290	112	412	52	290	<b>46.8</b>	<b>286</b>
Cadence	14.98 min	11.89 hr	14.35 min	12.0 hr	15.0 min	12.0 hr	15.0 min	12.0 hr	<b>15.16 min</b>	<b>12.0 hr</b>
Bias (counts/pix)	380	380	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	<b>1000</b>	<b>1000</b>
Readout noise <sup>e</sup> (counts/pix)	9.1	9.1	7.6	4.2	9.1	9.1	8.0	8.0	<b>12.12</b>	<b>12.12</b>
Thermal + dark <sup>f</sup> (counts/pix/s)	0.36	0.36	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	1.30	0.05	<b>1.072</b>	<b>0.130</b>
Sky background <sup>g</sup> (mag/arcsec <sup>2</sup> )	21.48	21.54	21.53	21.48	21.52	21.50	21.47	21.50	<b>21.48</b>	<b>21.55</b>
Sky background (counts/pix/s)	2.78	0.79	3.57	0.77	1.99	0.45	3.28	0.89	<b>3.43</b>	<b>1.04</b>
Error floor (mmag)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Saturation <sup>h</sup> (10 <sup>3</sup> counts/pix)	65.5	65.5	80	80	80	80	679	2037	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>

# Roman Specifications (Cycle 7 Design)

**Table 2**  
The *WFIRST* Microlensing Survey at a Glance

Area	1.96 deg <sup>2</sup>
Baseline	4.5 yr
Seasons	6 × 72 days
W149 Exposures	~41,000 per field
W149 Cadence	15 min
W149 Saturation	~14.8
Phot. Precision	0.01 mag @ W149 ~ 21.15
Z087 Exposures	~860 per field
Z087 Saturation	~13.9
Z087 Cadence	≤ 12 hr
Stars (W149 < 15)	~0.3 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Stars (W149 < 17)	~1.4 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Stars (W149 < 19)	~5.8 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Stars (W149 < 21)	~38 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Stars (W149 < 23)	~110 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Stars (W149 < 25)	~240 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
Microlensing events $ u_0  < 1$	~27,000
Microlensing events $ u_0  < 3$	~54,000
Planet detections (0.1–10 <sup>4</sup> $M_{\oplus}$ )	~1400
Planet detections (<3 $M_{\oplus}$ )	~200