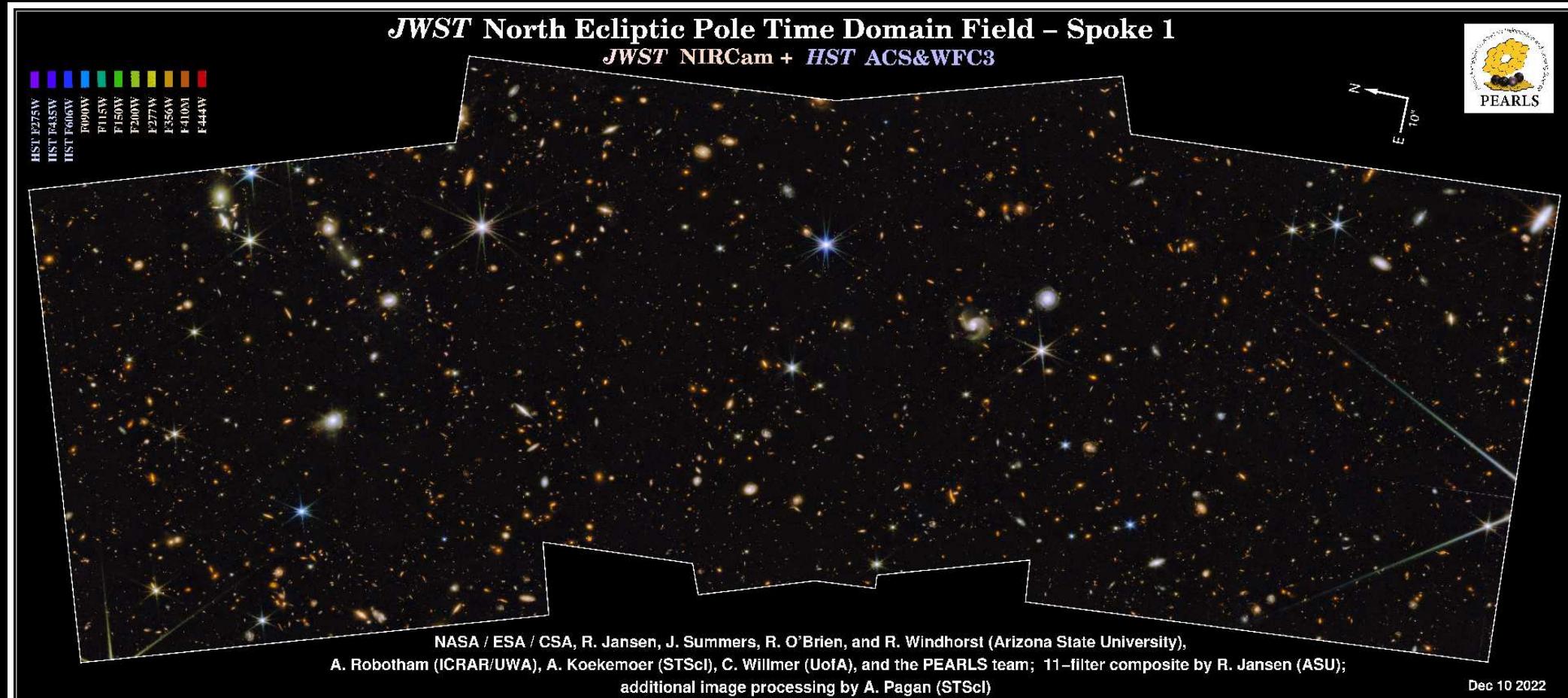


The World of Webb 2025, the Cosmic Circle of Life, and seeing through the Eyes of Einstein

Rogier Windhorst (ASU) — JWST Interdisciplinary Scientist

+JWST PEARLS team: T. Carleton, S. Cohen, R. Jansen, P. Kamieneski, T. Acharya, H. Archer, J. Berkheimer, D. Carter, N. Foo, R. Honor, D. Kramer, T. McCabe, I. McIntyre, R. O'Brien, R. Ortiz, J. Summers, S. Tompkins, C. Conselice, J. Diego, S. Driver, J. D'Silva, B. Frye, H. Yan, D. Coe, N. Grogin, W. Keel, A. Koekemoer, M. Marshall, N. Pirzkal, A. Robotham, R. Ryan Jr., C. Willmer + 110 more scientists over 18 time-zones



Arizona 5th graders, Arizona Digital Prep; Tempe, AZ

Friday December 5, 2025. All presented materials are ITAR-cleared.

Outline

- (1) Webb in orbit as of 2021
- (2) Webb's first images: the “Cosmic Circle of Life”
- (3) Viewing the Universe through the Eyes of Einstein”
- (4) Summary and Conclusions

SPARE CHARTS:

- (5) Spare Science Charts
- (6) Uniquely complementary roles of Hubble and Webb
- (7) JWST Observations of Solar System planets and Exoplanets
- (8) Where do our students end-up? Possible Future (NASA) Careers



Sponsored by NASA/HST & JWST



WARNING: asking NASA for Hubble images is like drinking from a fire-hydrant;



WARNING: asking NASA for Hubble images is like drinking from a fire-hydrant;

asking NASA for Webb images is like taking a sip from Niagara Falls!

Children: Please don't do this at home!! :)



Webb is finally launched from Kourou on December 25, 2021!



•LIVE

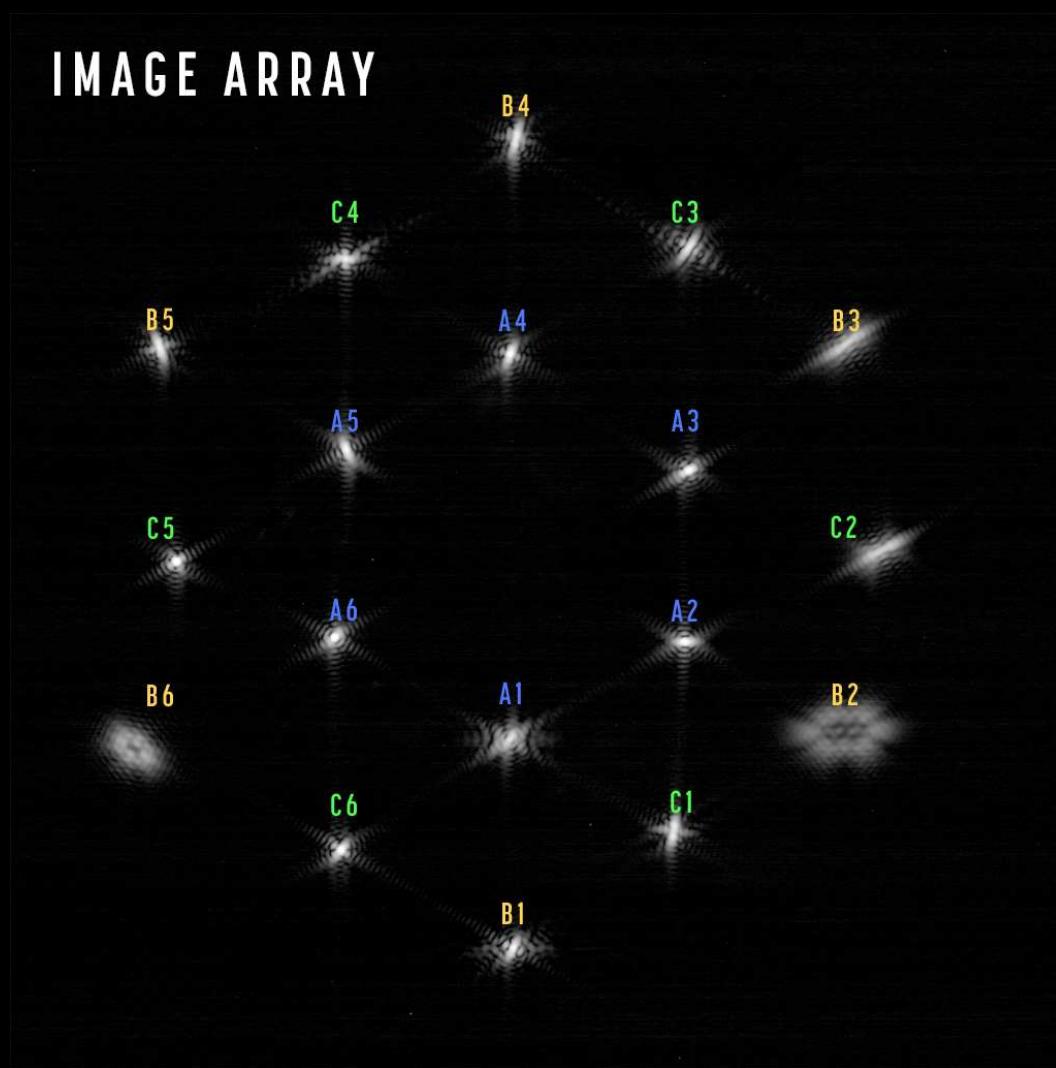


Dec. 25, 2021: Webb seen shortly after launch over Africa using the Ariane V on-board camera.

PRIMARY MIRROR SELFIE



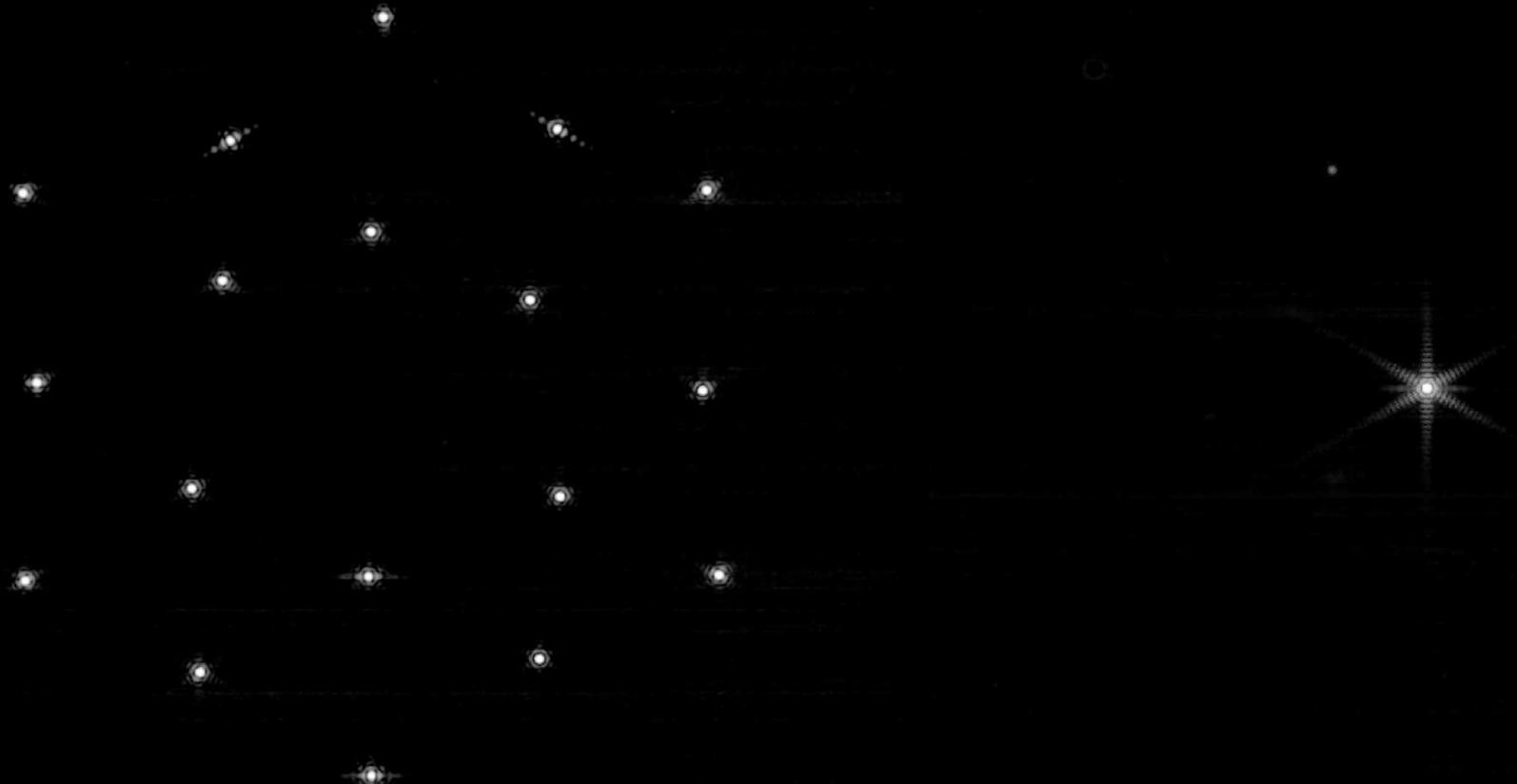
IMAGE ARRAY



Feb. 2022: Webb's first selfie (left) and First Light raw image (right).

COMPLETED SEGMENT ALIGNMENT

COMPLETED IMAGE STACKING



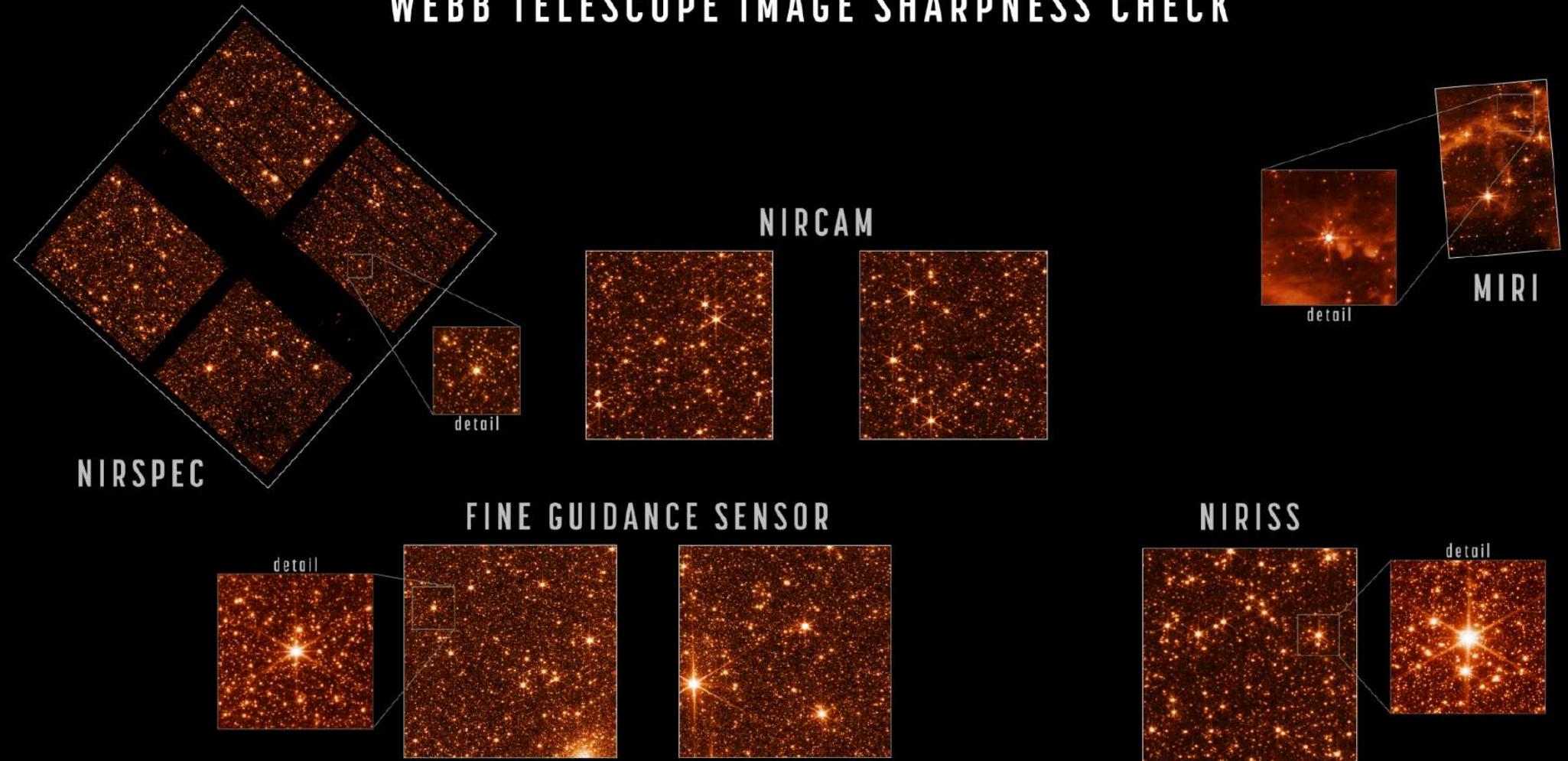
Webb's first segment alignment (left) and first image stack (right).

TELESCOPE ALIGNMENT EVALUATION IMAGE

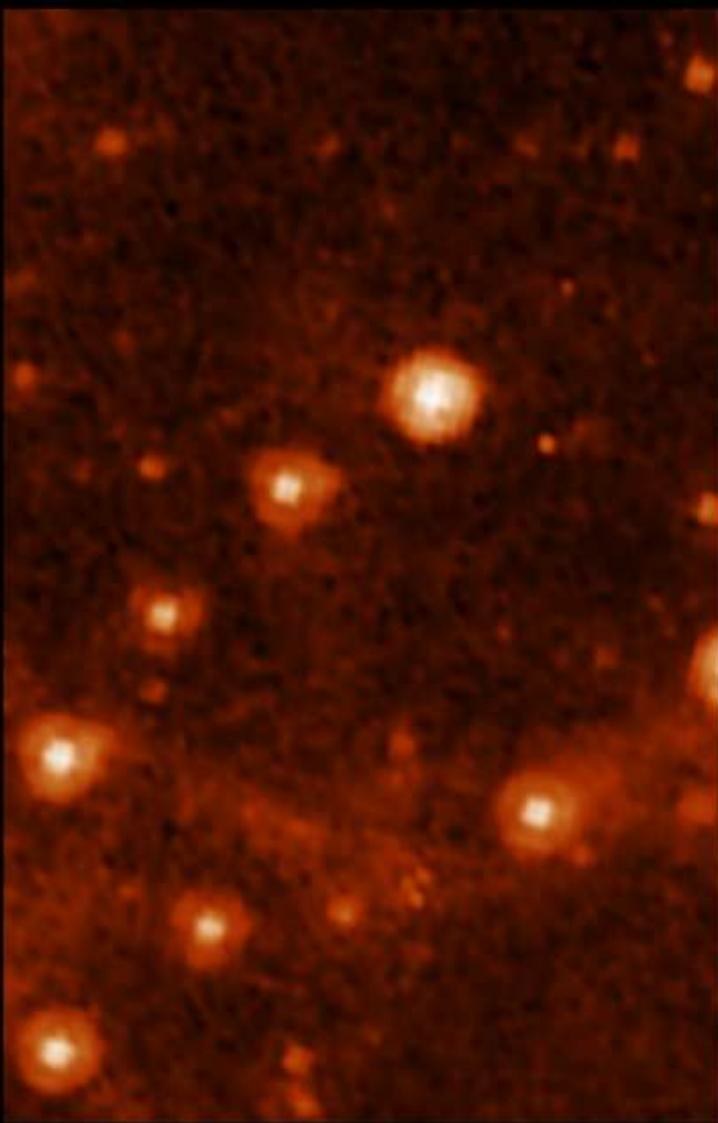


March 16, 2022: Webb's first fully focused image publicly released !!
Note the plethora of faint galaxies — Webb's looking back in time!

WEBB TELESCOPE IMAGE SHARPNESS CHECK



April 28, 2022: Webb's first fully focused images in all four instruments:
a dense star field in the Large Magellanic Cloud in the South Ecliptic Pole!
(NIRSpec: $1.1 \mu\text{m}$; NIRISS: $1.5 \mu\text{m}$; NIRCam: $2.0 \mu\text{m}$; MIRI $7.7 \mu\text{m}$).



SPITZER IRAC 8.0μ

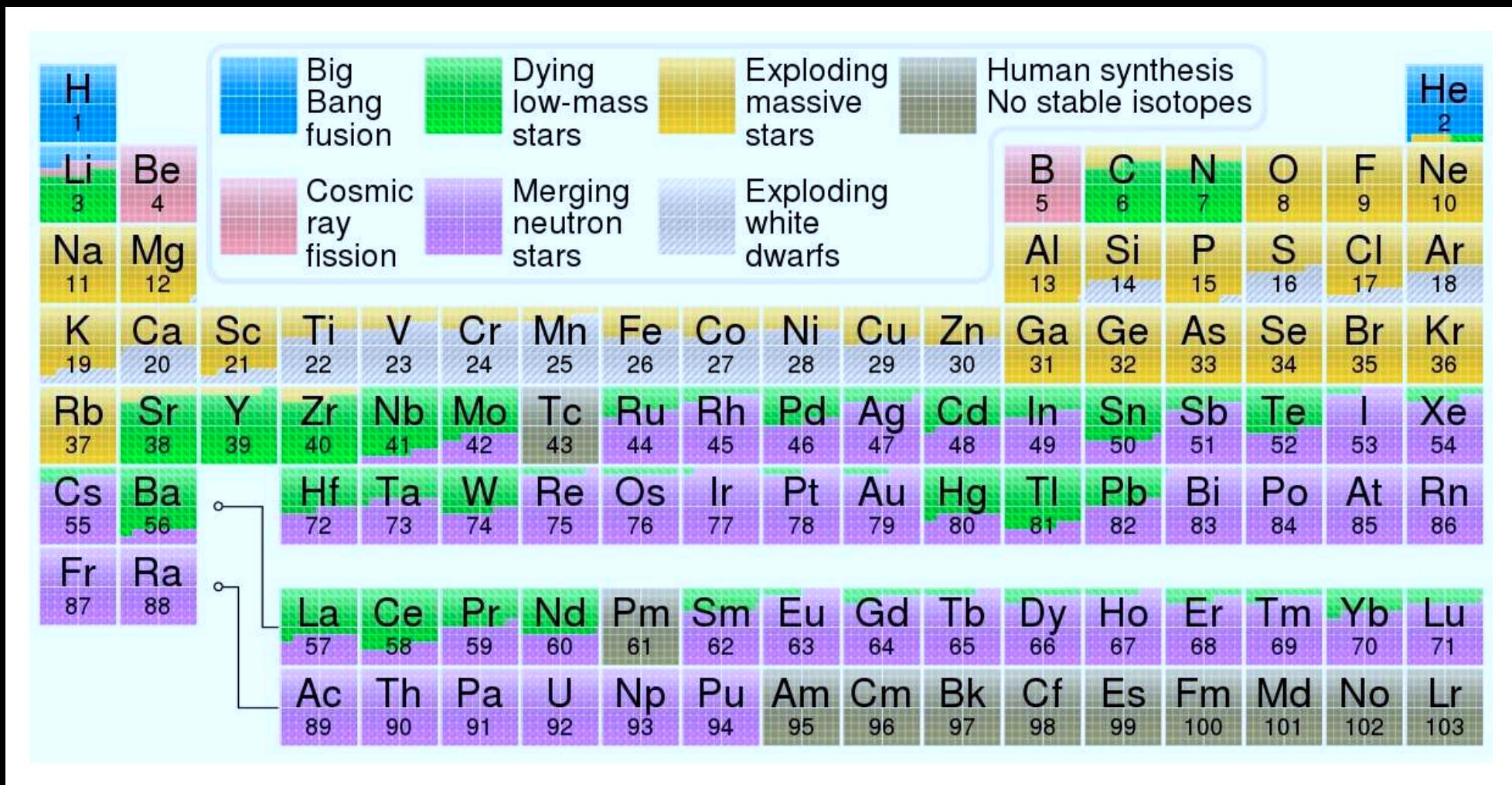


WEBB MIRI 7.7μ

May 9, 2022: Webb's 7.7μ m MIRI image compared to Spitzer 8.0μ m:
Same dense star field in the Large Magellanic Cloud in the South Ecliptic Pole

Before we get to the cosmic circle of life, let's get this straight:

- This Periodic Table you learned in highschool is **NOT** the real one!:



(1) Hydrogen & Helium: the *only* chemical elements made in the Big Bang!

(2) All heavier elements made by (dying) stars:

- Low mass stars ejecting their outer shells;
- Supernova explosions/WD's; &
- neutron star mergers.

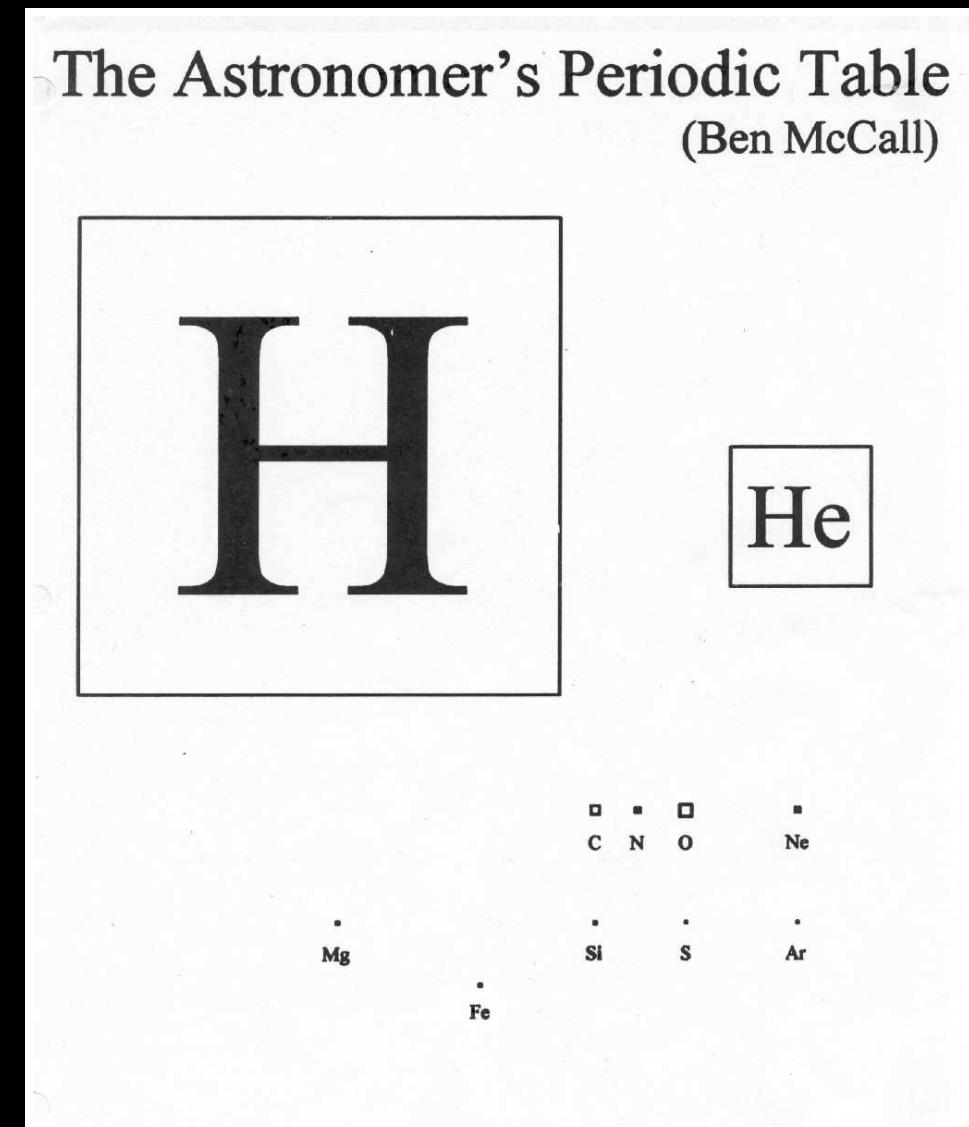
Here is the correct Astronomical Periodic Table:

(1) Hydrogen (76%) & Helium (24%) are the only chemical elements made in the Big Bang.

(2) Heavier chemical elements ($\lesssim 1\%$; "dust") made by (dying) stars:

- Late stages of stellar evolution, Supernova explosions & white dwarfs, and neutron star mergers distribute these throughout the universe.

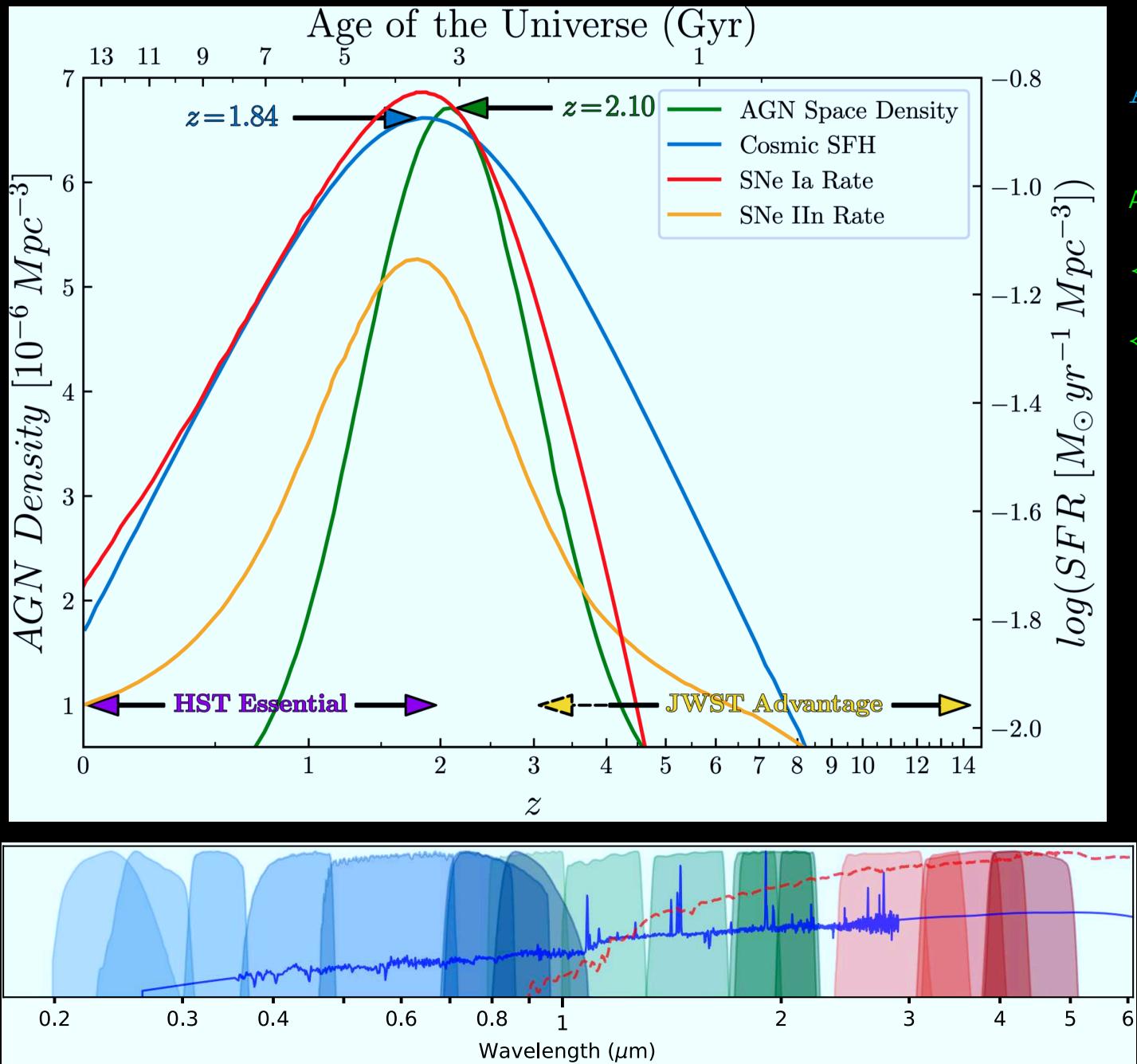
⇒ Planets and people are literally made from stardust!



- This is the real Periodic Table with cosmic abundance included.
- This has significant consequences for Hubble and Webb complementarity!

Star Formation, Supernova Rate, & Black Hole growth peak \sim 10 Gyr ago!

Windhorst et al.
astro-ph/2410.01187



\Rightarrow HST best samples *unobscured* SFH & BH growth in last 10 Gyr ($z \lesssim 2$),
while JWST best samples *obscured* parts, especially in first 3 Gyr ($z \gtrsim 3$).

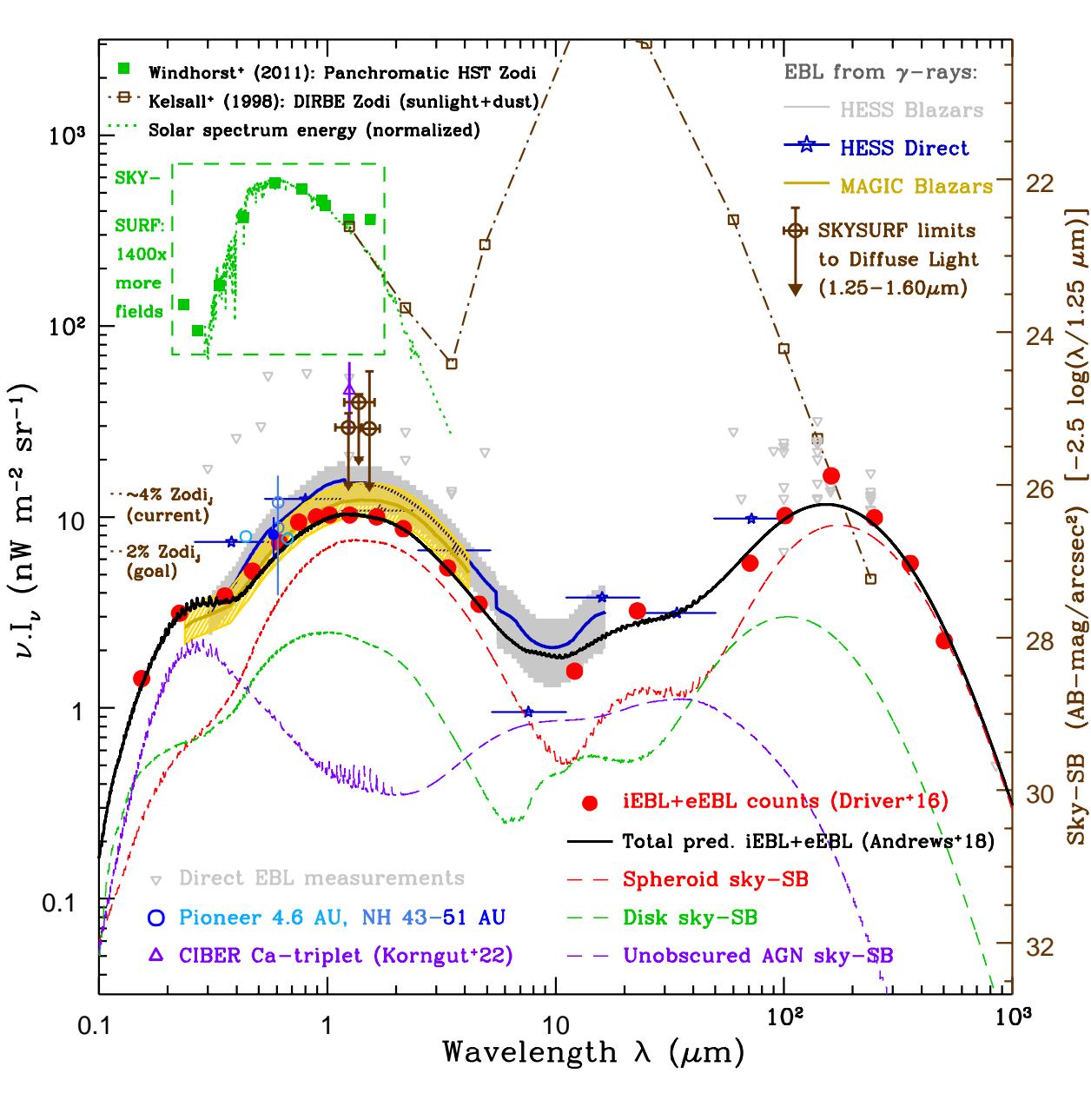
$$\text{Age} \sim \frac{13.8}{(1+z)} + \dots \text{ Gyr}$$

Active galactic nuclei (AGN)

\iff BH accretion disks

\iff Chandra X-ray sources

Fly's-eye energy in Universe vs. λ : (Driver⁺ 2016; Windhorst⁺ 2018, 2022):



Sunlight scattered off the
Zodiacal dust.

Thermal radiation from
 $\gtrsim 240$ K Zodiacal dust.

- integrated light from galaxy counts (+models).

New Horizon diffuse light
(Lauer⁺ 2021, 2022; 43–51 AU).

SKYSURF 1.25–1.6 μm
diffuse light (Carleton⁺ 2022;
O'Brien⁺ 2023; McIntyre⁺ 2024).

- Energy(cosmic SF+AGN) $\simeq 48\%$; Energy(dust) $\simeq 52\% \Rightarrow$ Dust wins !
- $\Rightarrow 1\%$ of the baryons ("dust") produce $\sim 52\%$ of Energy (except CMB)!

- (2) Webb's first images: the “Cosmic Circle of Life”



Hubble WFPC2 Eagle Nebula (1995) compared to JWST NIRCam (2022):

- The cradle of cosmic star-formation: NIRCam peers through the dust!
- The 1995 Hubble WFPC2 image (left) was made by Prof. Jeff Hester and Paul Scowen at ASU. It made it onto a US postage stamp!



Webb's MIRI shows the hauntingly beautiful cosmic dust pillars (8–15 μm)

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

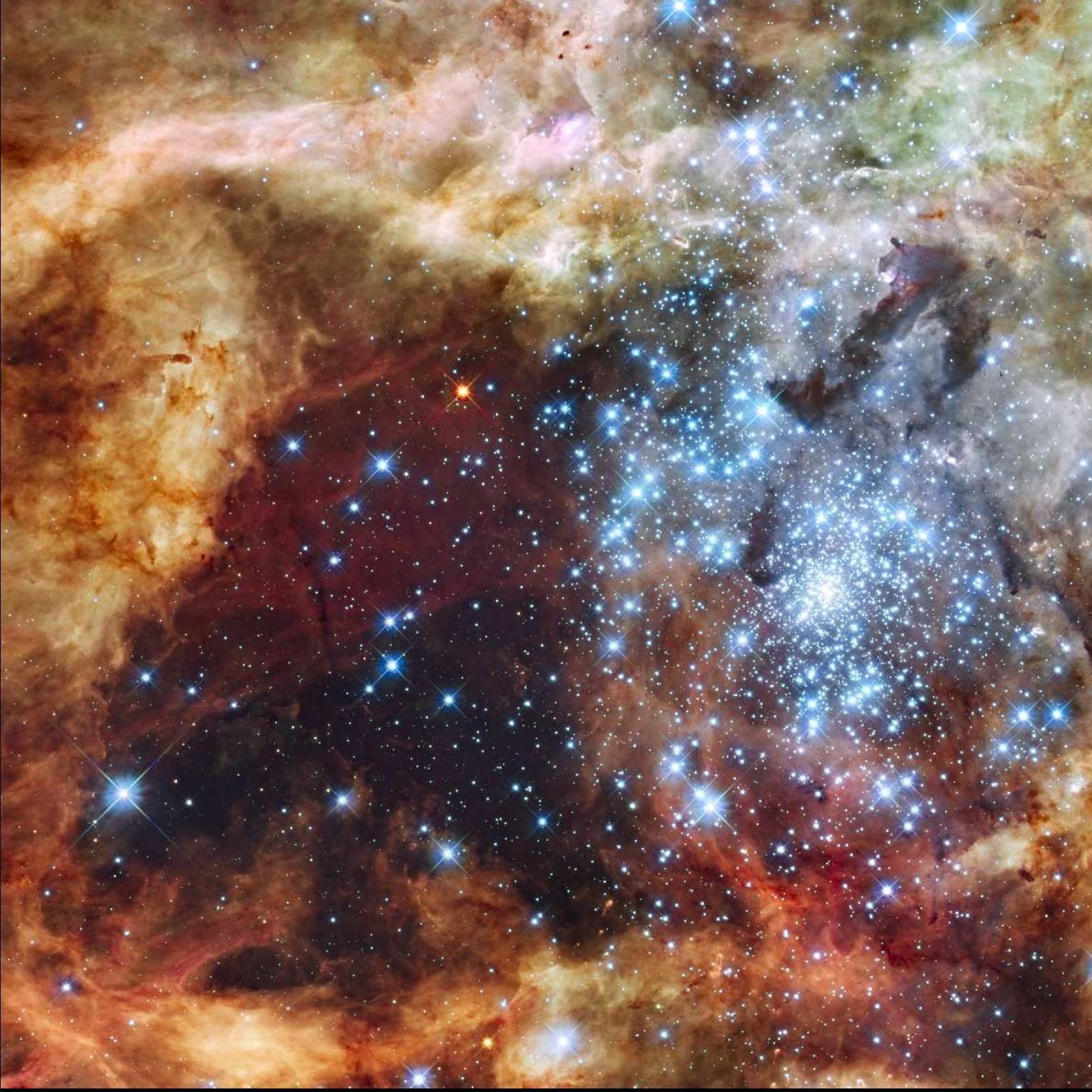
TARANTULA NEBULA | NGC 2070



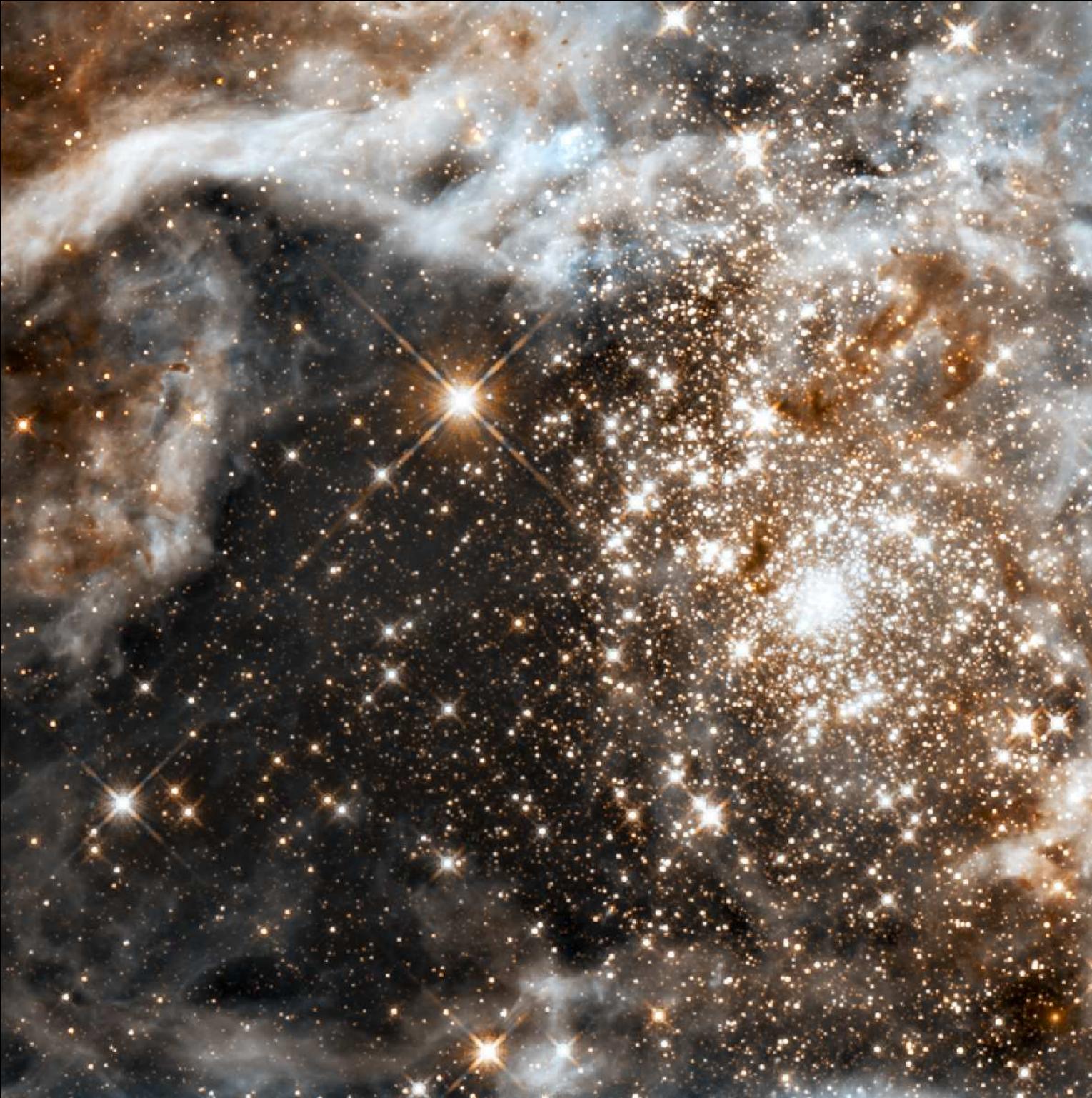
NIRCam Filters

F090W F200W F335M F444W

Tarantula Nebula “30 Doradus” in Large Magellanic Cloud (163,000 lyrs away)
Cradle of cosmic star-formation: massive stars trigger formation of sun-like stars



HST Wide Field Camera 3 UV-optical image of 30 Dor: hot massive stars.



HST WFC3 near-IR image of 30-Dor: massive and low-mass stars.



“Cosmic Cliffs” of star-formation in the Carina Nebula (NIR; 7600 light-years).

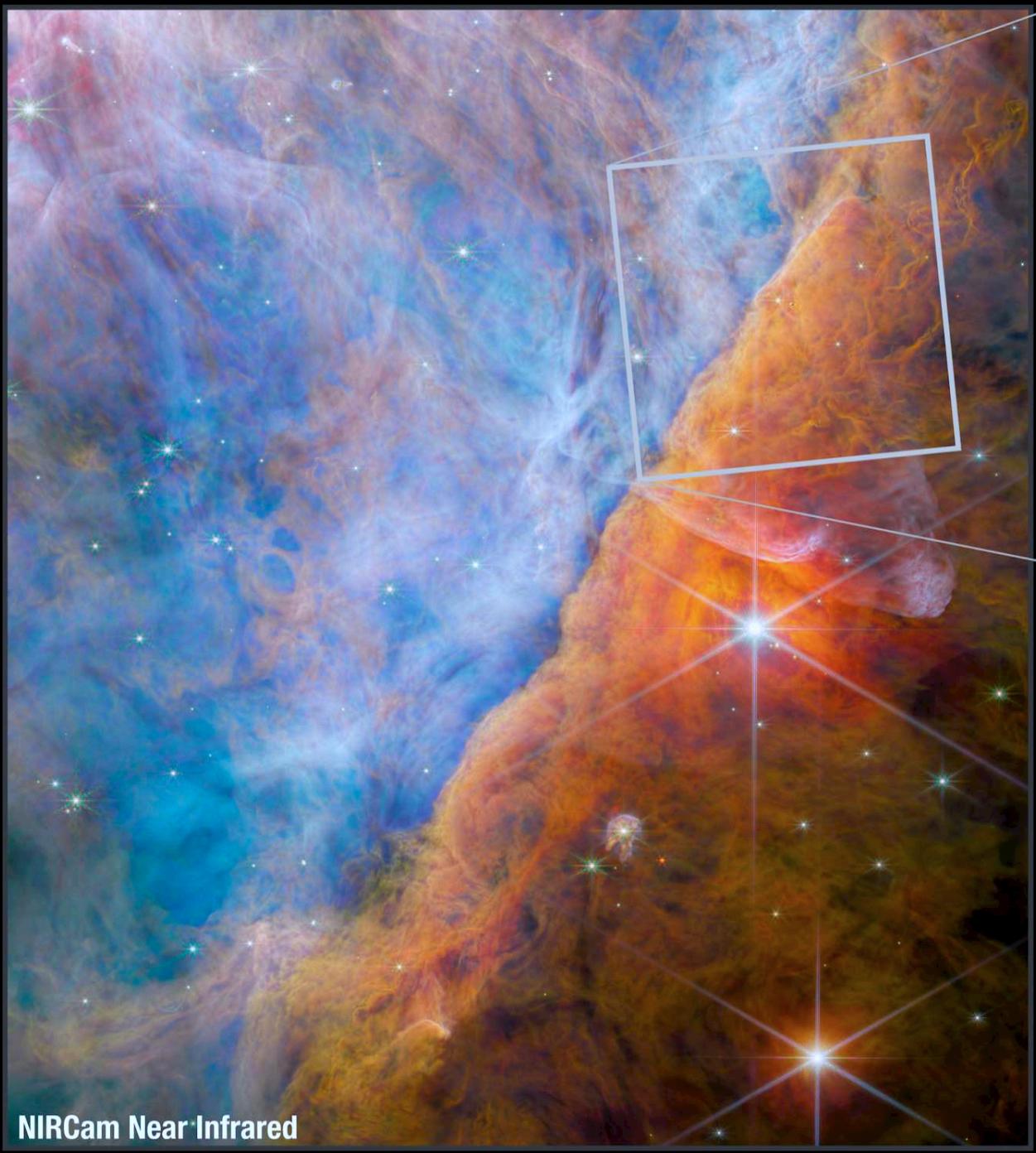
You will be witnessing the “Cosmic Circle of Life” ...



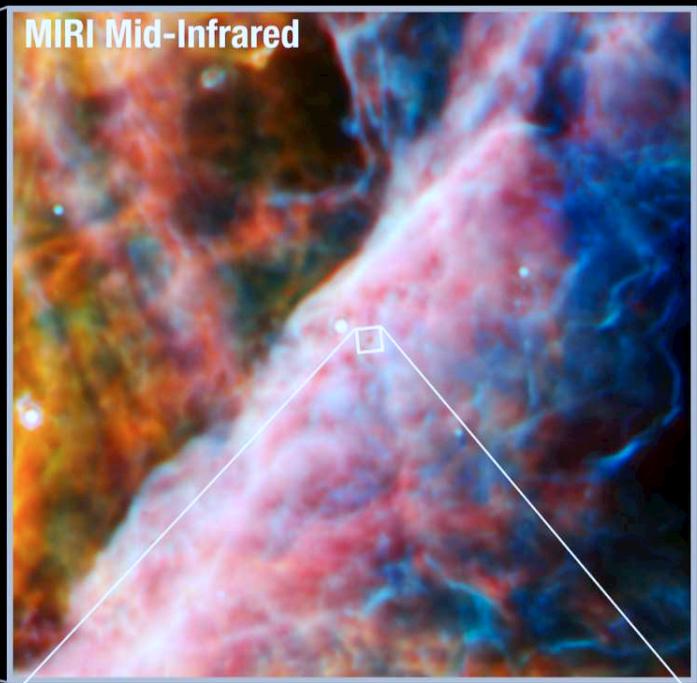
Cosmic Cliffs of Star-formation in Carina Nebula (NIR+MIR).

Compared to optical+near-IR, mid-IR sees “Cradle of Cosmic Star-formation”

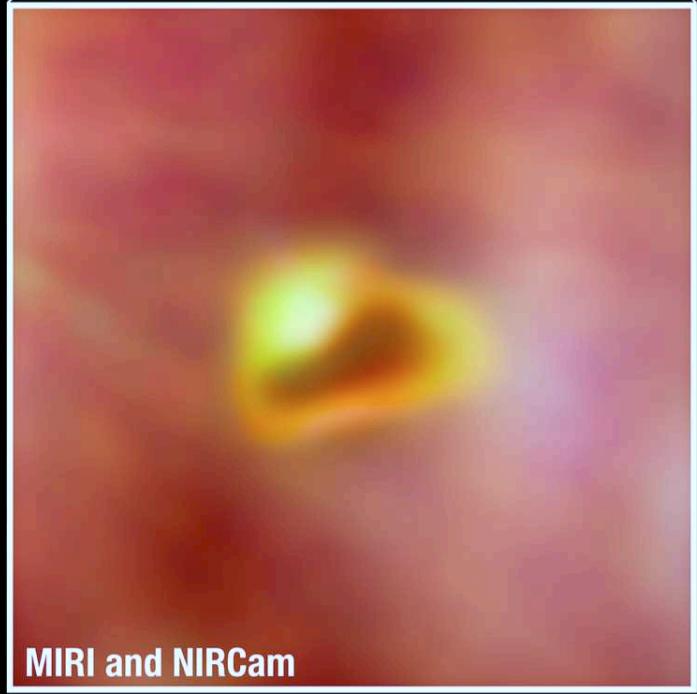
Deep inside the gas and dust, mid-IR reveals birth of young Sun-like stars.



NIRCam Near Infrared



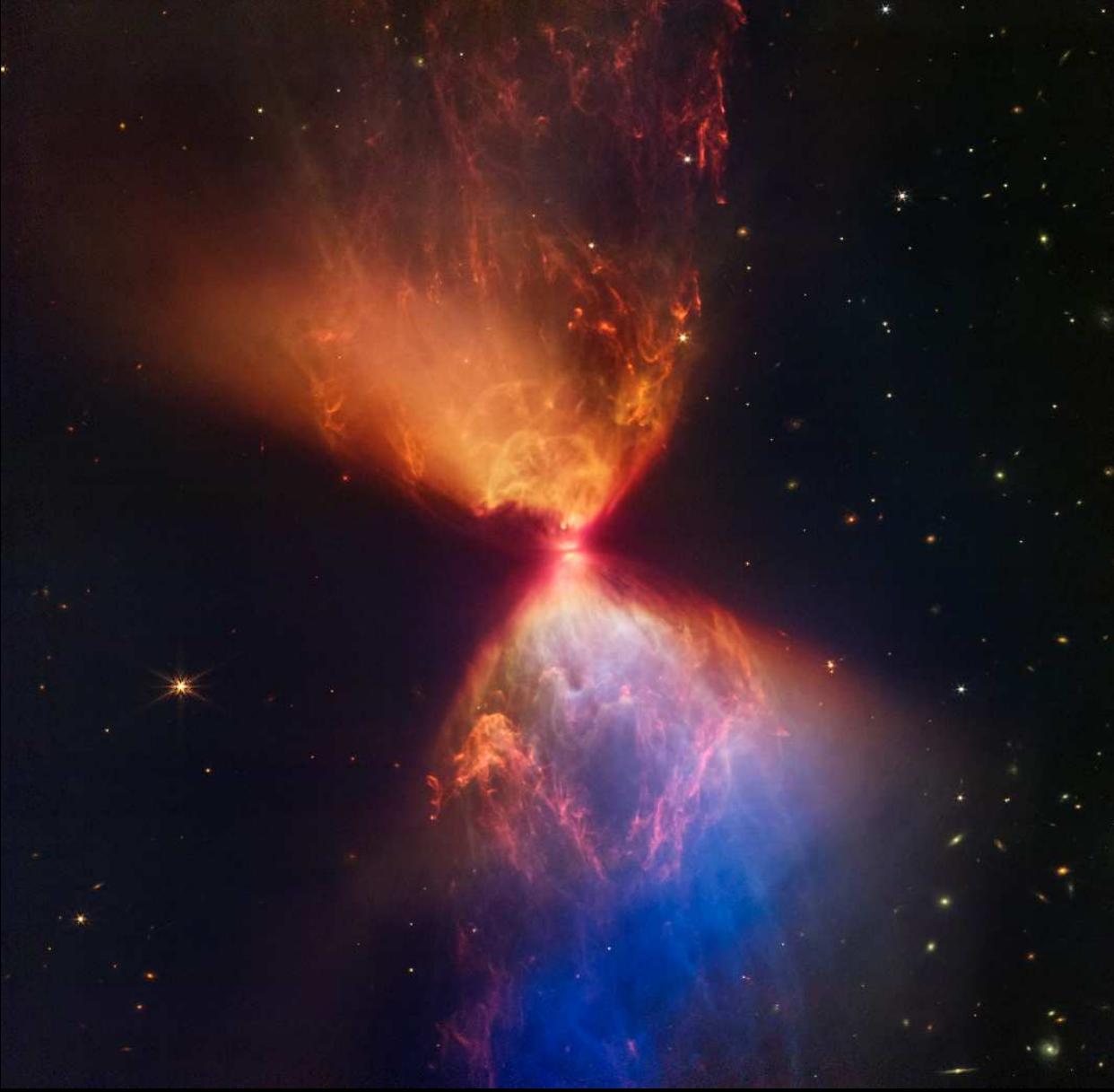
MIRI Mid-Infrared



MIRI and NIRCam

JWST NIRCam+MIRI: Cosmic Cliff-like in Orion's Trapezium (1344 lyrs):

- New stars are forming containing the carbon chain “Methyl Cation”



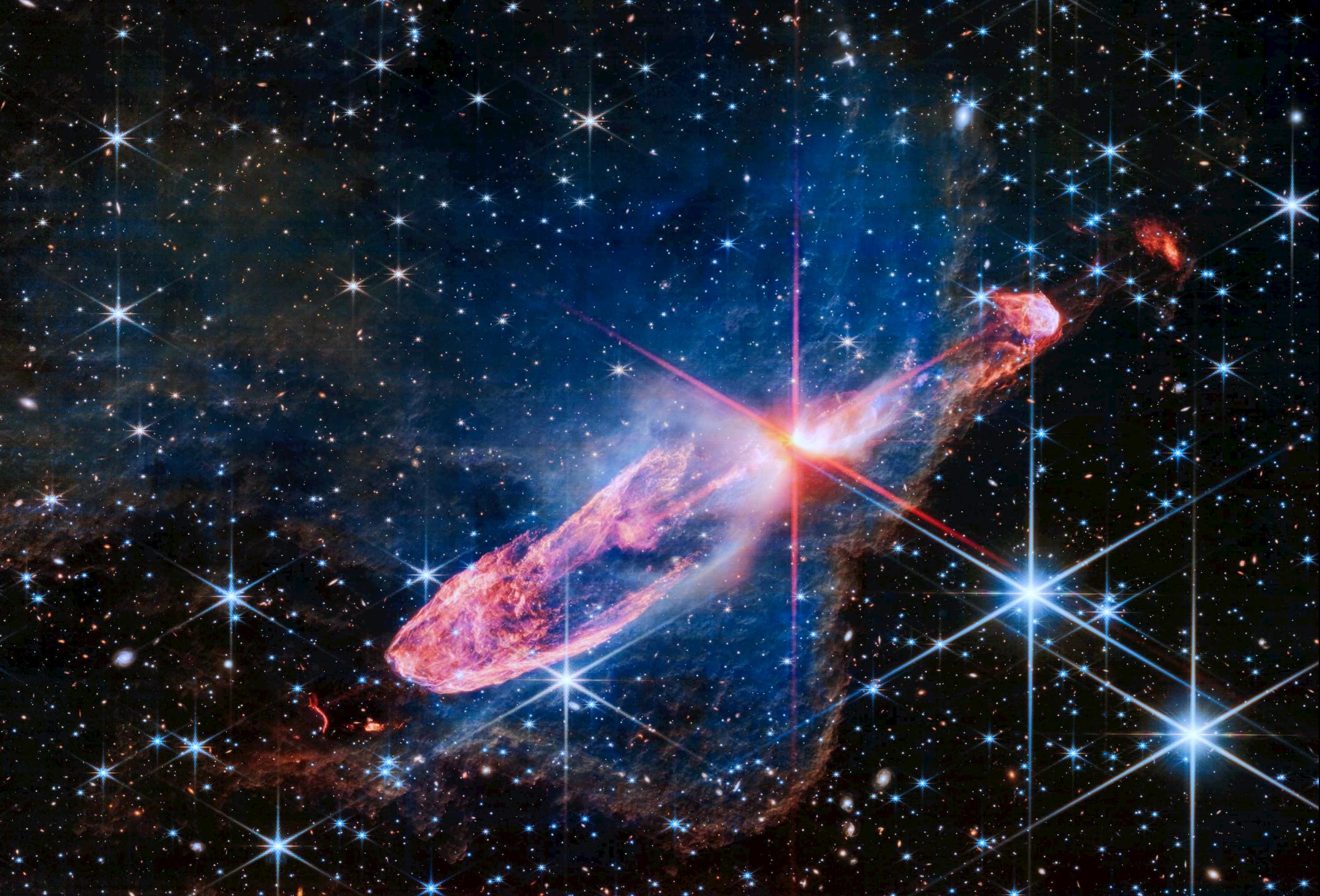
Our birth, *e.g.*, : Protoplanetary “Hourglass Nebula” L1527 at 460 lyrs.

- A forming protostar with $\sim 30\%$ of Sun's mass only 100,000 year old!
- The protostar has surrounding accreting gas, and a circumstellar disk.
- Eventually, L1527 will start shining as a star, and have its own planets.



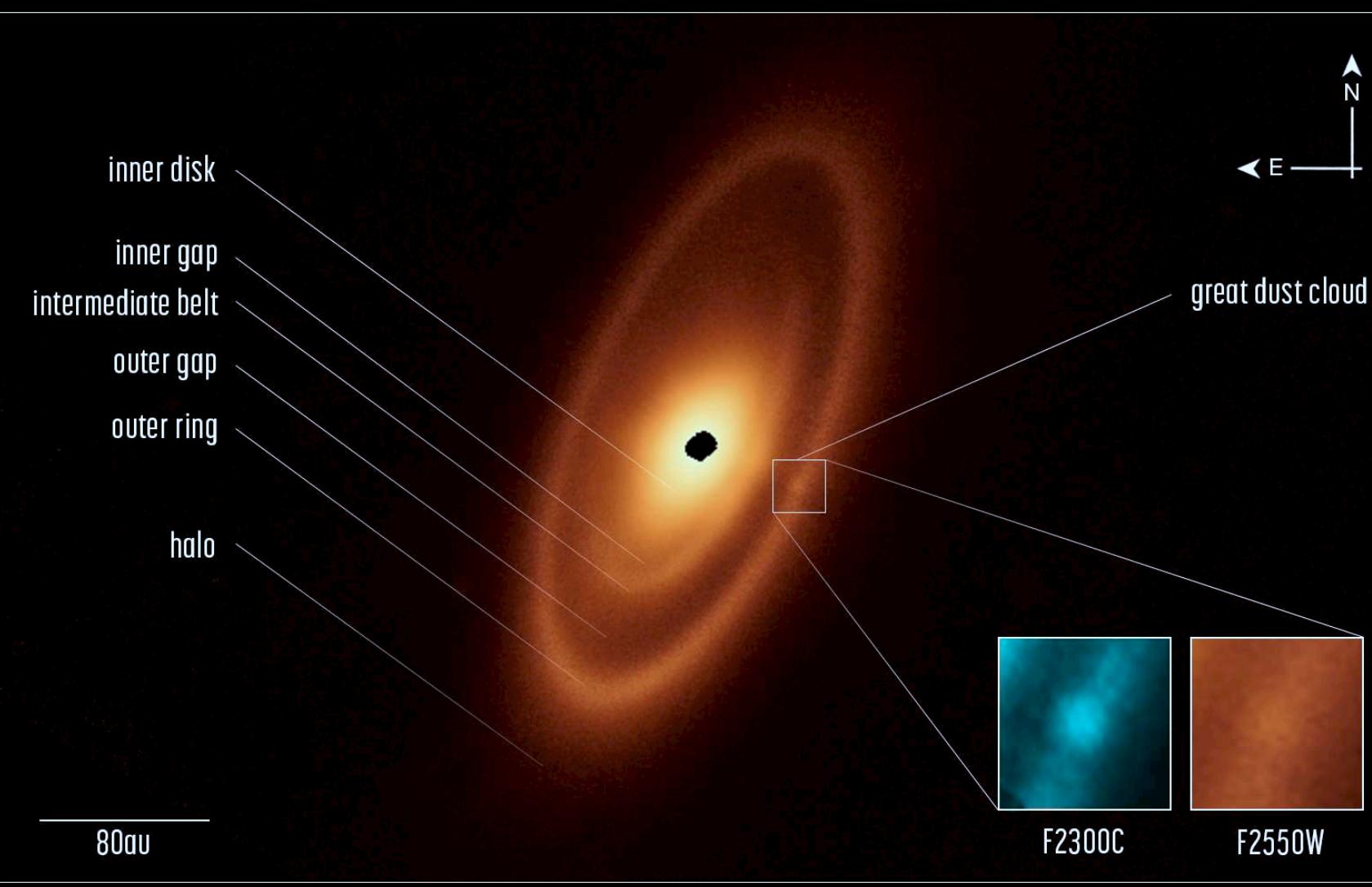
NIRCam+MIRI: ρ Ophiuchi dark cloud (closest stellar nursery at 456 lyrs):

- Cradle of star-formation contains Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons!



Newly forming stars Herbig-Haro 46/47 with jet-expelled material (1470 lyrs):
Formation of Sun-like stars is messy: inflow and outflow of gas & dust!

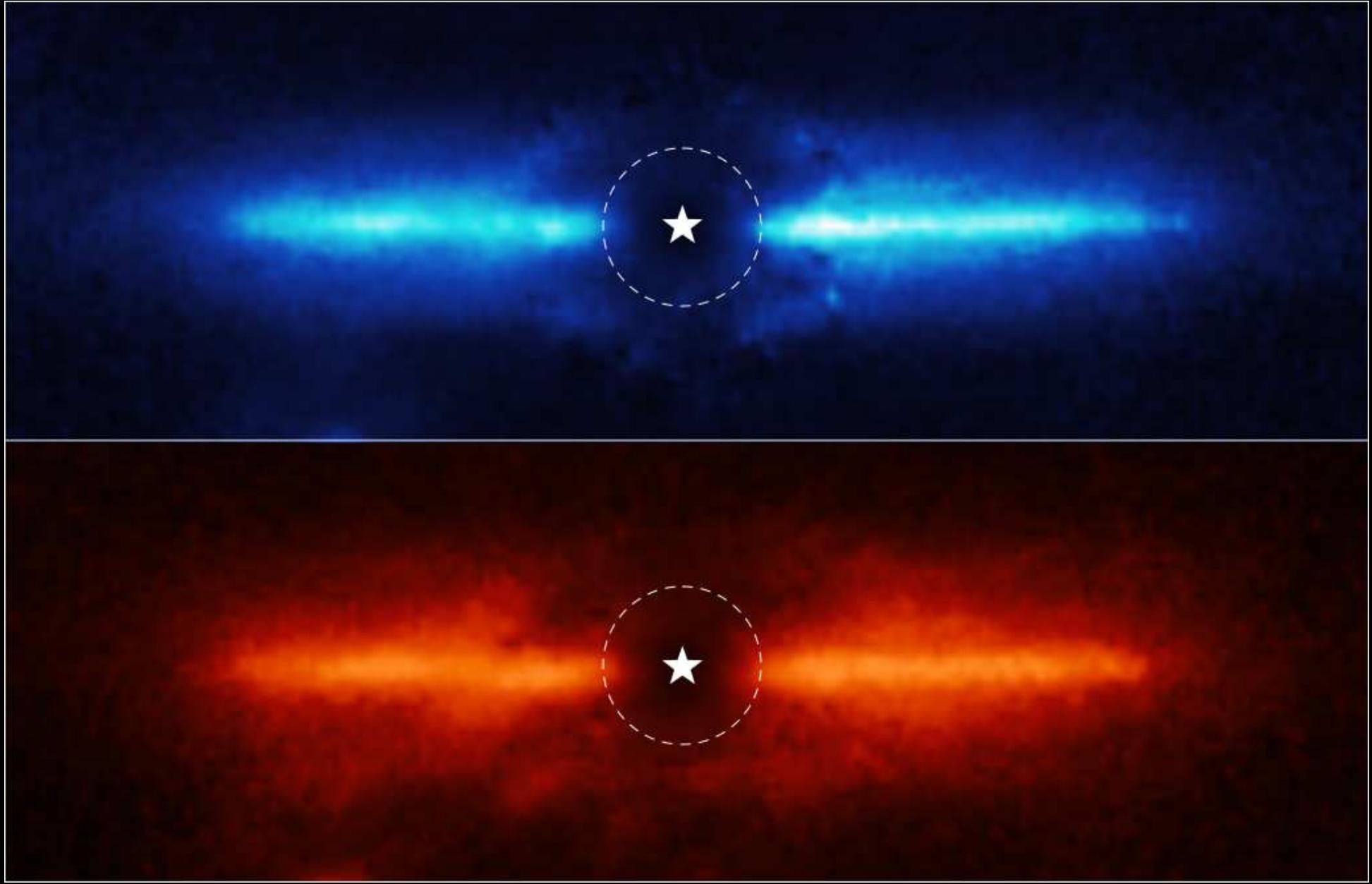
FOMALHAUT



MIRI Filters | F2550W

JWST MIRI Coronagraph: Debris disk around nearby star Fomalhaut:

- This is how the giant planets and terrestrial planets formed around our Sun



Dusty debris disk around red dwarf star AU Mic at 32 light-years:

- NIRCam's Coronagraph blocks the central star-light.
- Debris disk visible at 5–60 AU, *i.e.*, slightly larger than Solar System.

Star
HIP 65426

Exoplanet
HIP 65426 b

JWST

NIRCam

F300M

NIRCam

F444W

MIRI

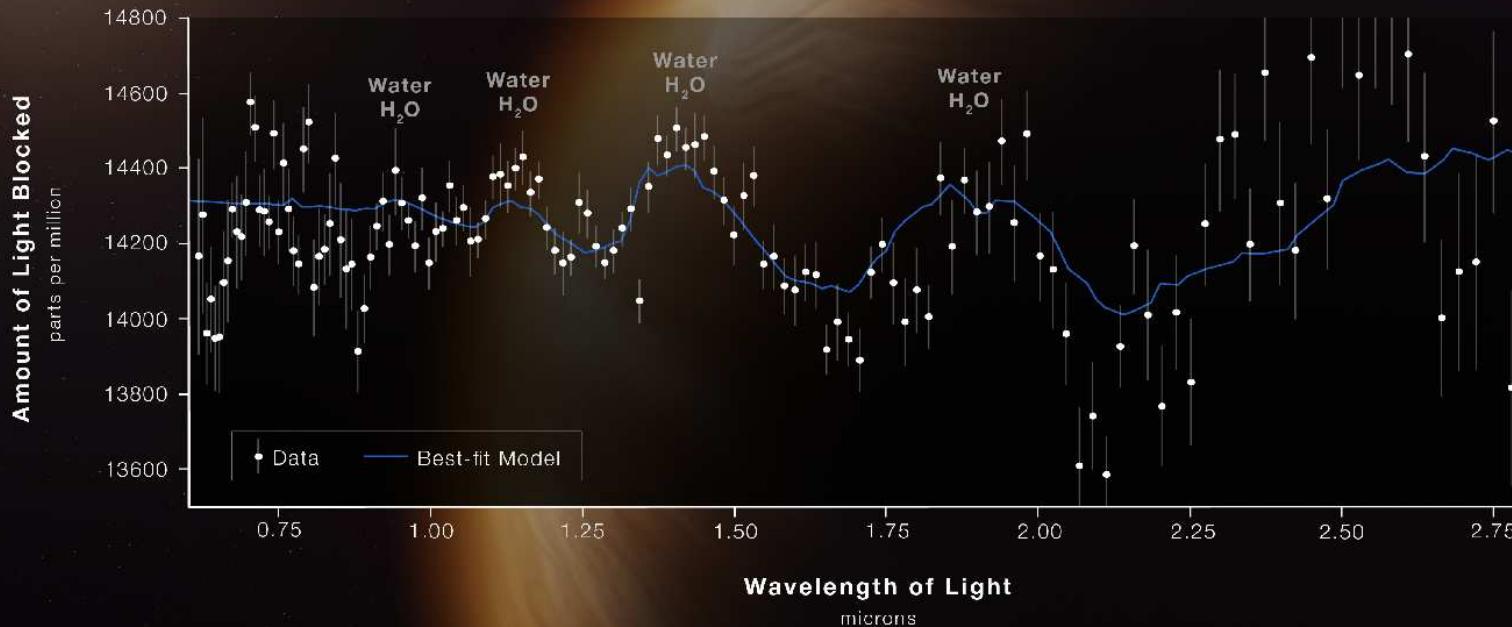
F1140C

MIRI

F1550C

Webb 3–15 micron exoplanet images (10 Jupiter masses; 15 Myr young!)

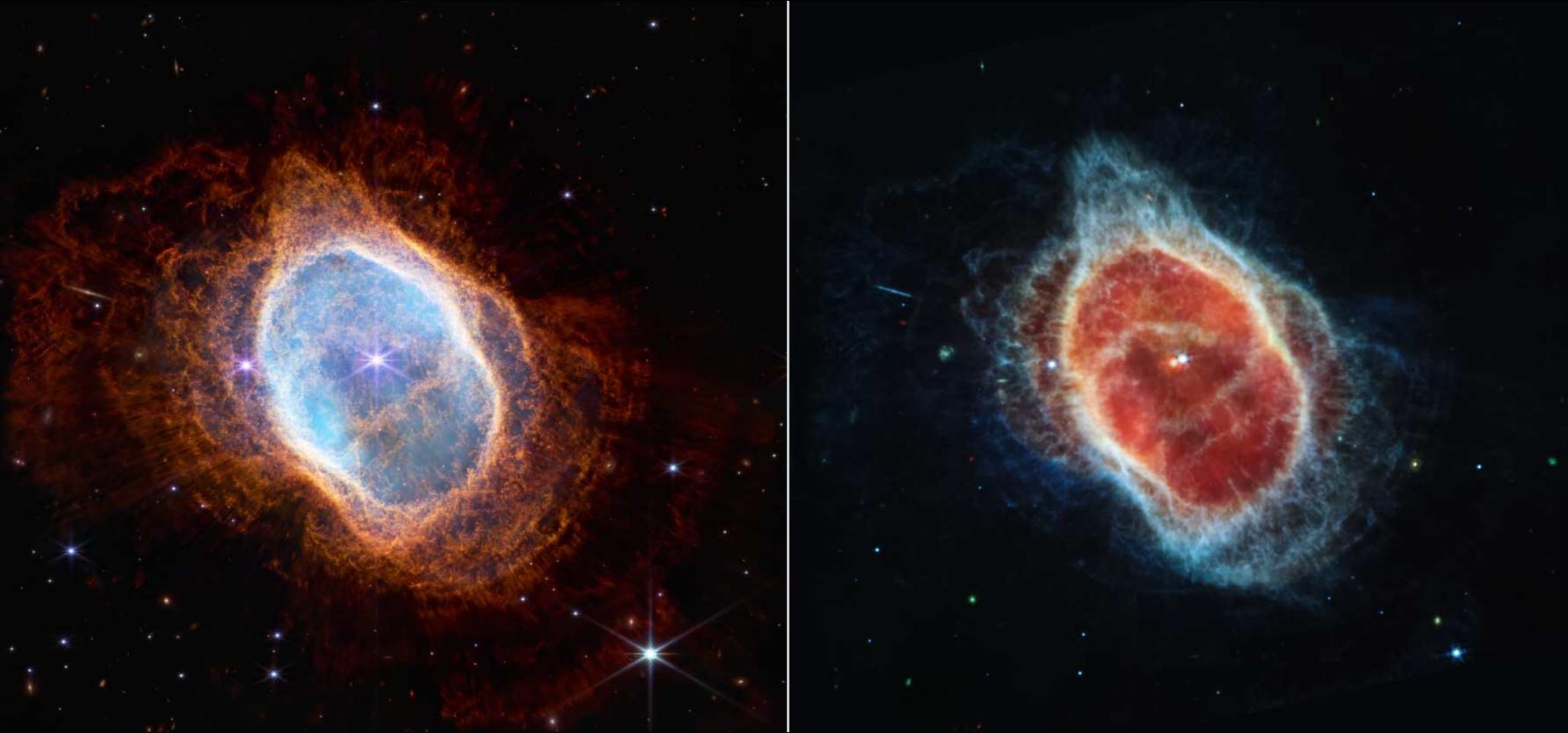
ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION



WEBB
SPACE TELESCOPE

Hot exoplanet WASP-96b orbiting a Sun-like star (1150 light-years):

- Near-IR spectrum shows characteristic features of water (steam !).
- It has a temperature of 1000 F and is half Jupiter in mass.
- Webb will scan Earth-like exoplanets for building blocks of life.



Southern Ring Nebula (Near-IR+Mid-IR; 2500 light-years):

- You **are** witnessing the “Cosmic Circle of Life” here ...
- This is a Sun-like star expelling its outer layers in retirement ...
- It has exhausted its hydrogen and helium as nuclear fuel ...
and expanded to >>100× its current size, engulfing the Earth.



This is how our Sun *will* come to an end in 5 Billion years (near-IR).

Genesis 3:19: "... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return".



From gas expelled by previous sun-like stars, new stars are born (mid-IR).
And thanks to the dust they expelled, new stars will form with planets ...



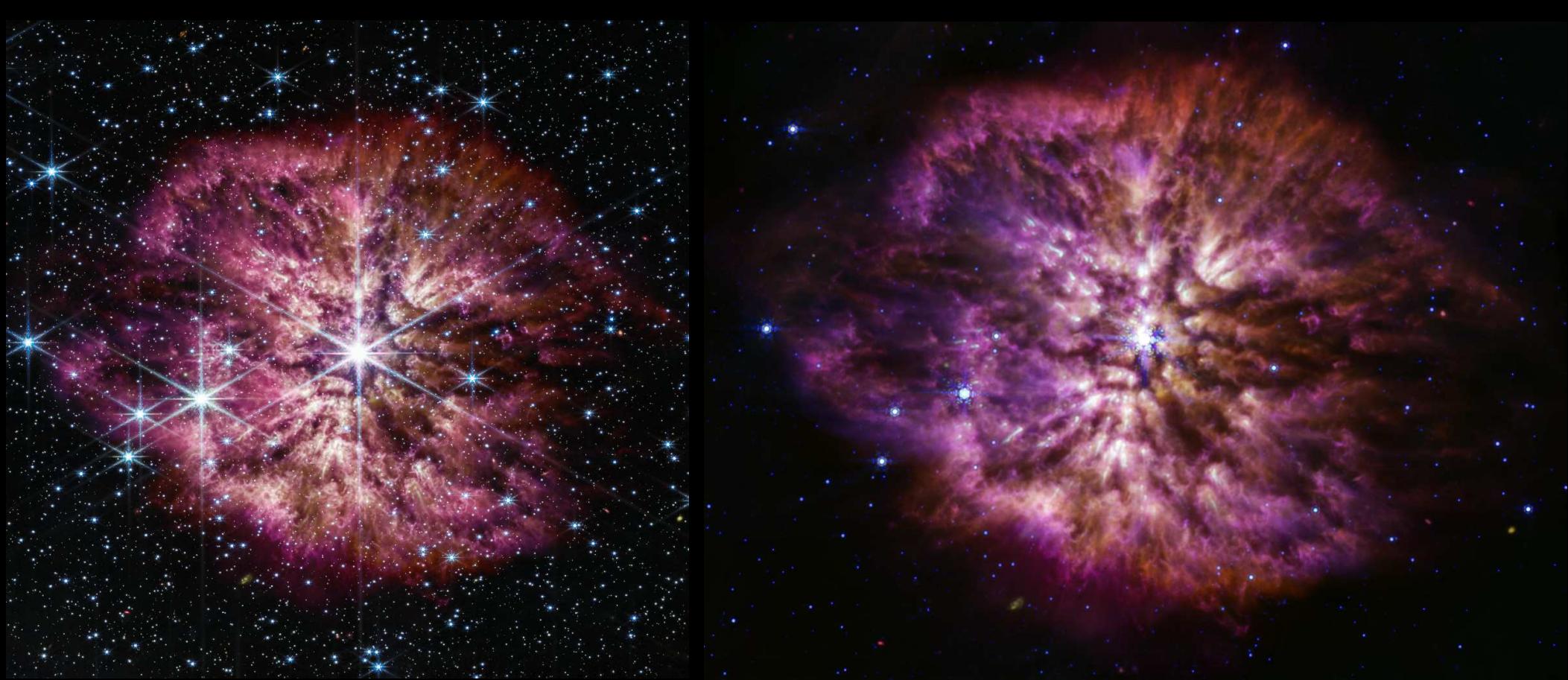
Webb images of THE Northern Ring Nebula in Lyra:

[Left] NIRCam & [Right] MIRI: mass loss in Asymptotic Giant Branch stage.

- This is how our Sun *will* come to an end in 5 Billion years ...

and leave an ultra hot dim white dwarf star behind in the center.

Genesis 3:19: "... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return".

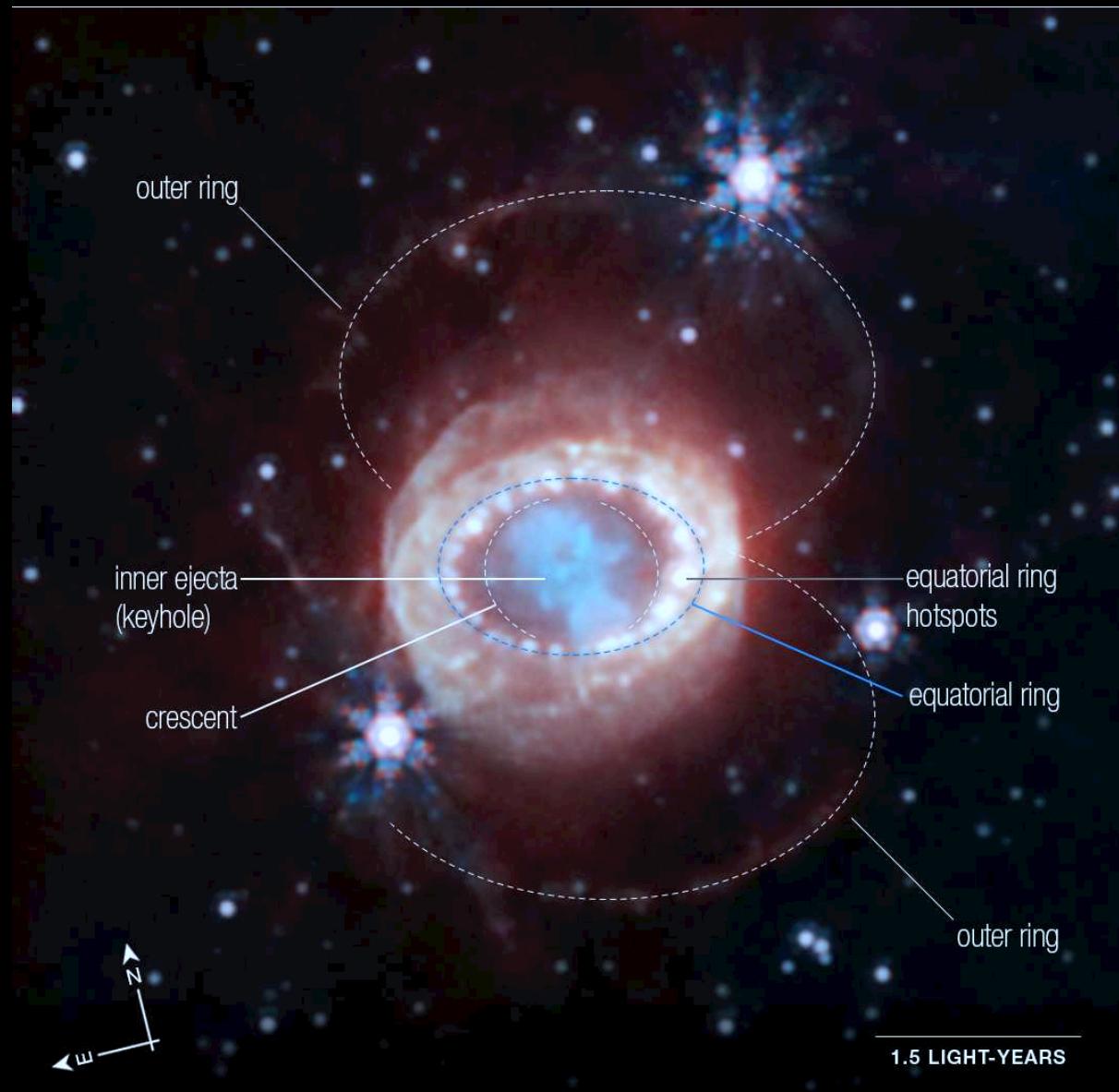


30 solar mass Wolf Rayet star WR124 shortly before it turns Supernova ...

- [Left] NIRCam and [Right] MIRI — both showing recent mass loss.
- Prelude stage to Supernova also releases a lot of (dusty) mass!

Genesis 3:19: "... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return".

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE
SUPERNOVA 1987A



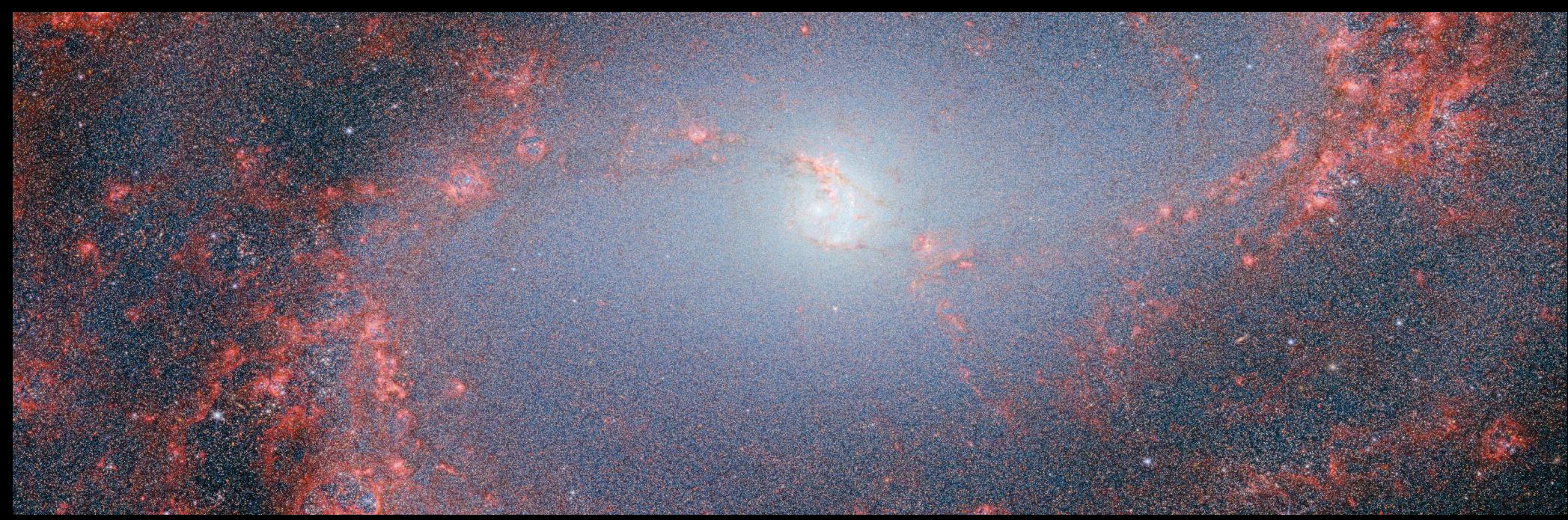
NIRCam Filters | F150W F164N F200W F322N F405N F444W

NIRCam: Remnants of Supernova 1987A seen in Large Magellanic Cloud

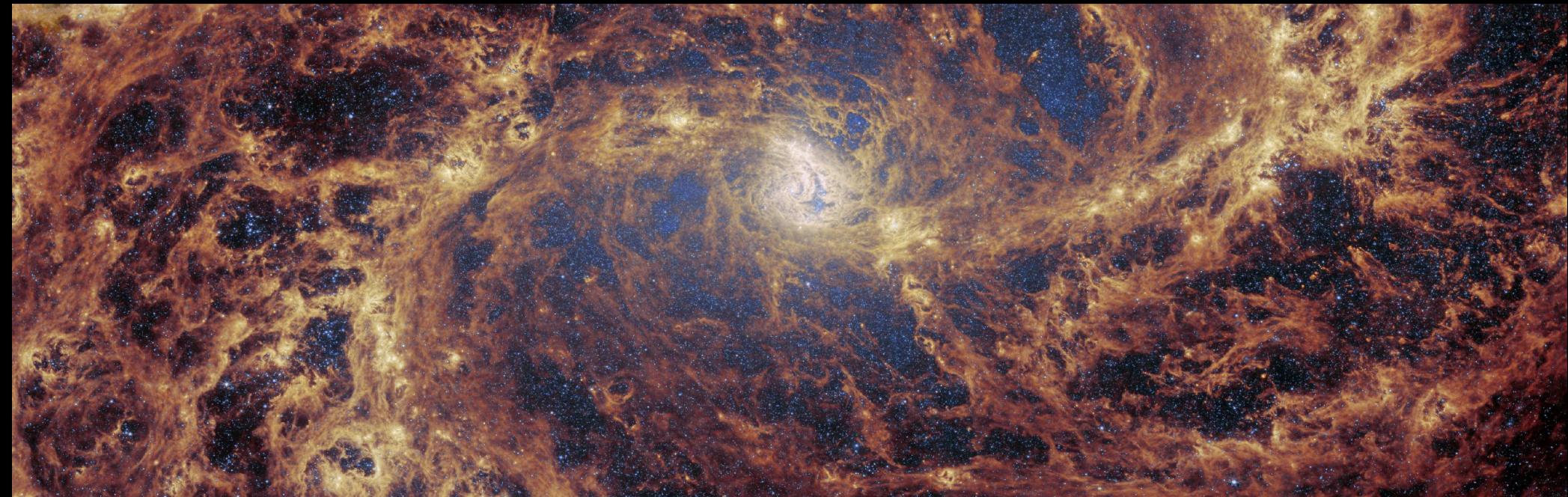
- Shells outflowing over the decades caused hour-glass shaped bubbles



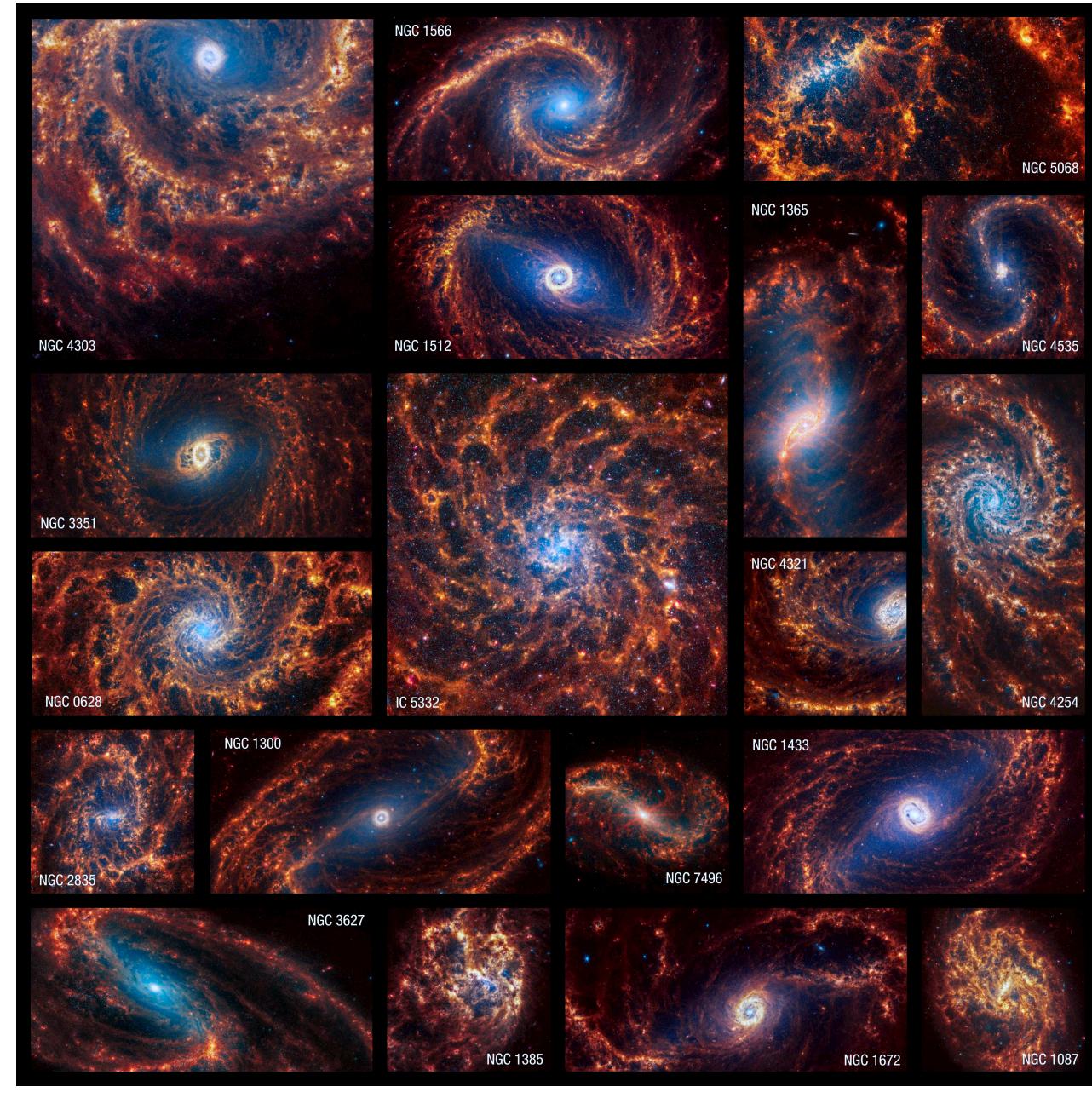
JWST MIRI: Supernova Remnant Cassiopeia-A expelling dust



M83 spiral galaxy NIRCam (near-IR): Through dust thou art made, stars!

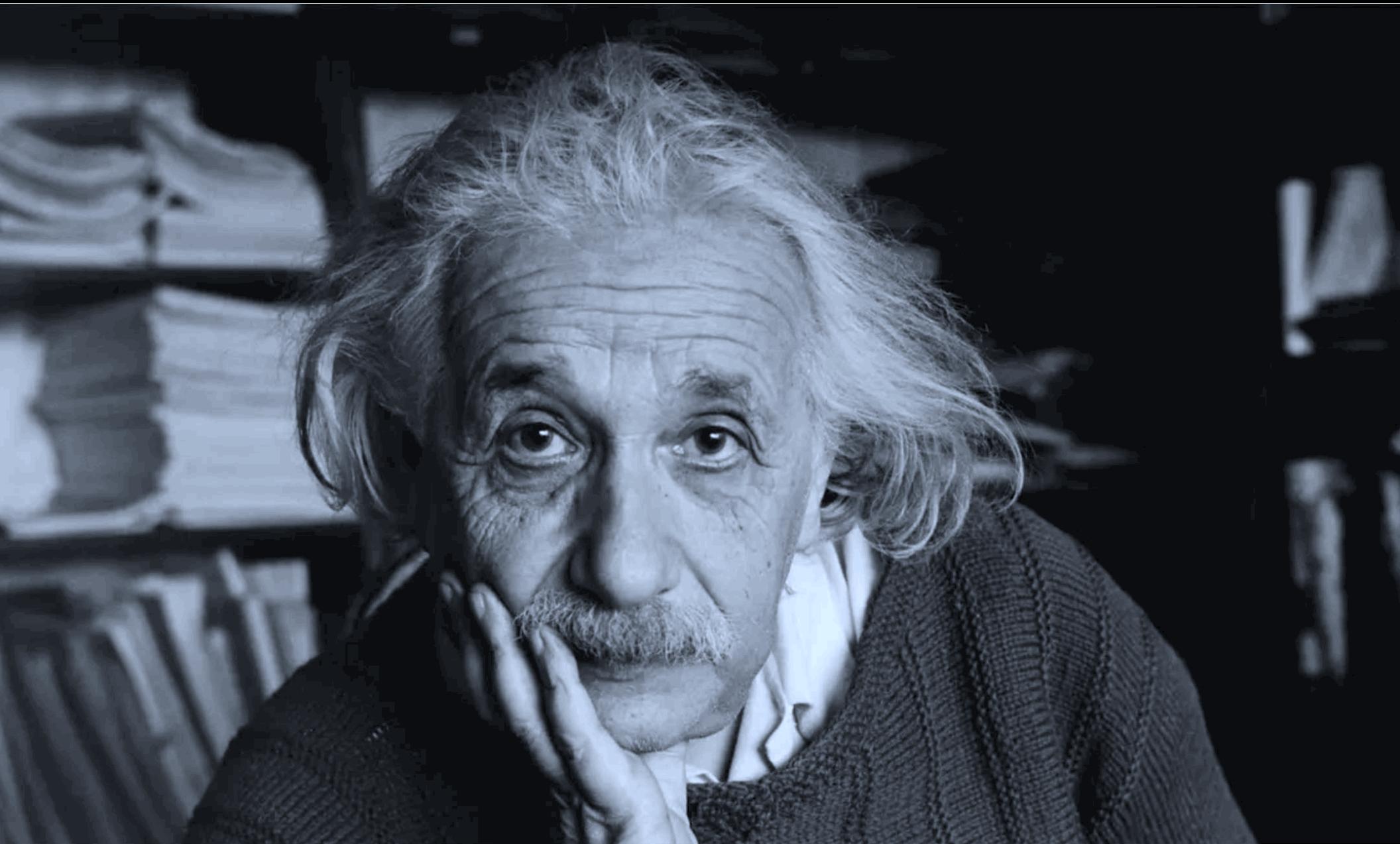


M83 spiral galaxy MIRI (mid-IR): ... and dust thou shalt return, stars!



Webb NIRCam and MIRI images of nearby galaxies:
Cosmic star-formation and dust production ubiquitous throughout the universe!
The “Cosmic Circle of Life” rules throughout the universe!

- (3) Viewing the Universe through the “Eyes of Einstein”

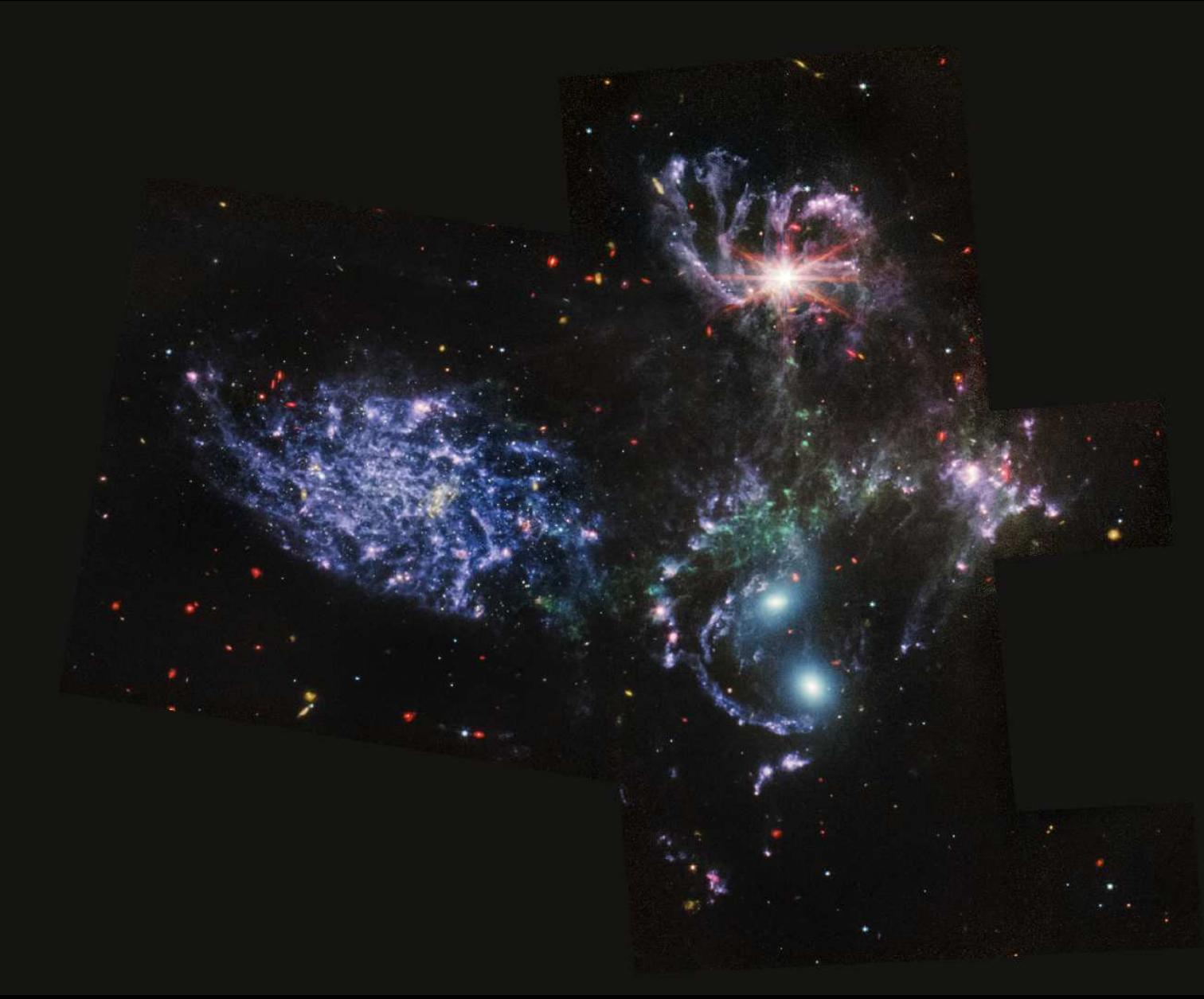


Webb is observing many things Einstein correctly predicted, yet doubted:
Gravitational lensing, Black Holes, the Hubble Expansion, ...



Stephan's Quintet: 4 colliding galaxies (40 M-lyr; left spiral is foreground).

- These major “Cosmic Trainwrecks” are much more common in the past.
- Sun-like stars formed in aftermath of minor “Cosmic Fender-benders” .



Stephan's Quintet: 4 colliding galaxies at 40 million light-years (Mid-IR):

- Mid-IR shows molecular gas being pulled out during collision.
- Gravity from collision in top galaxy feeds the Beast: central black hole!

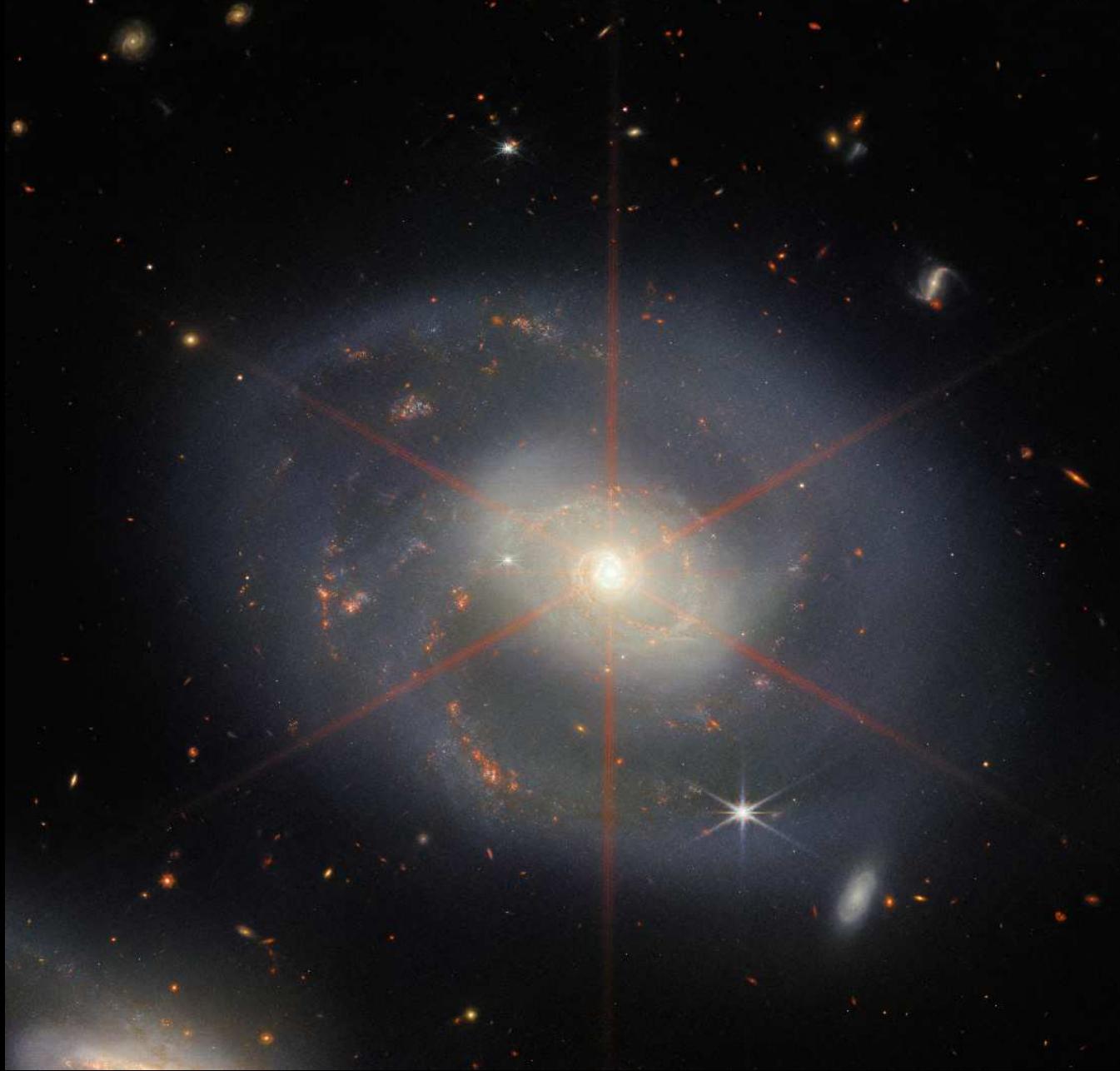


NGC1433 a galaxy with dusty spiral arms at 48 million light-years



NGC7496 a galaxy with dusty spiral arms at 24 million light-years:

- Inner spiral arms feed the central monster (supermassive black hole!)



Don't feed the animals: NGC7469, a spiral galaxy at 220 million light-years:

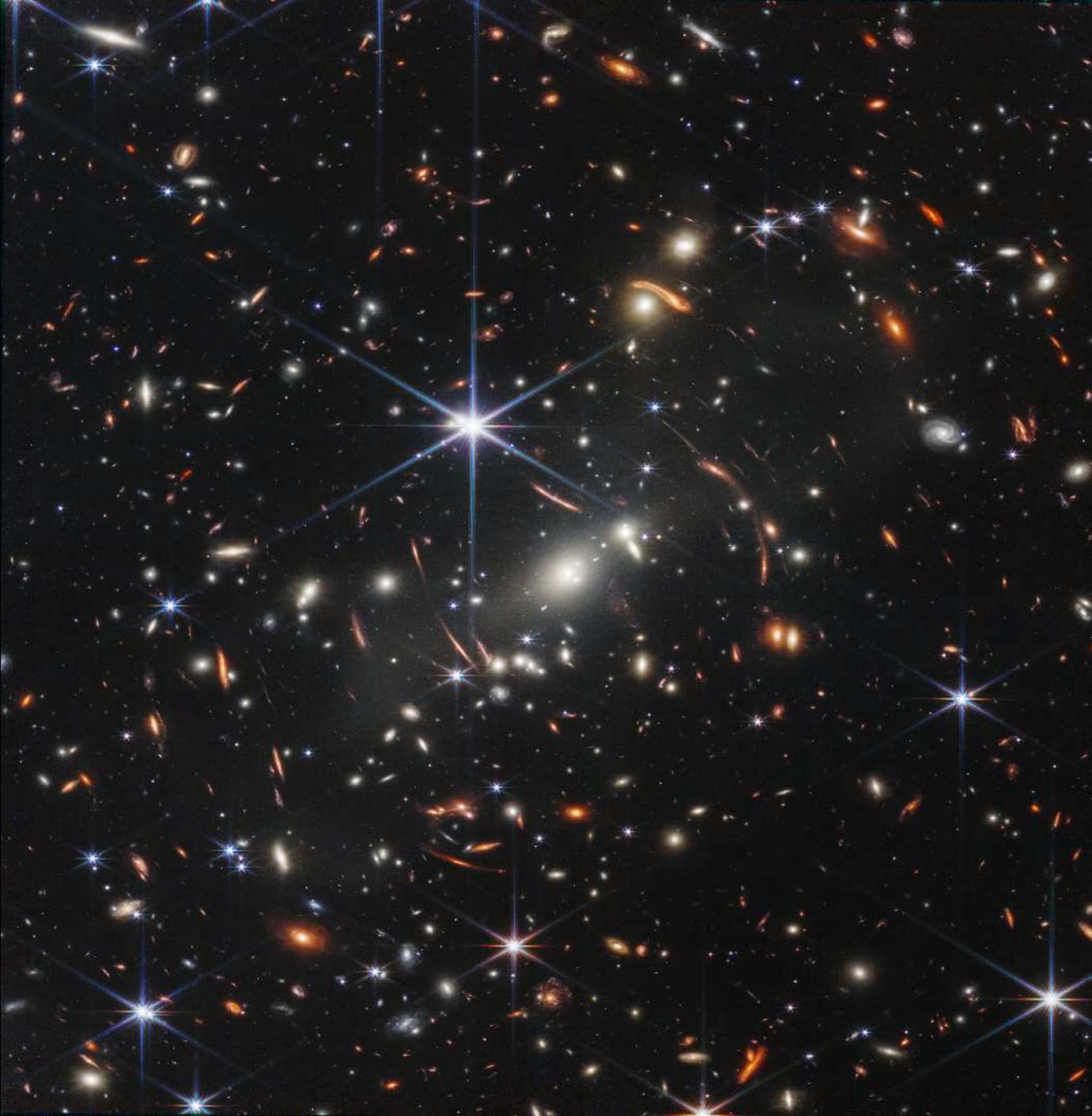
- It has a supermassive black hole (SMBH) feasting on the in-falling gas!
- In area surrounding the SMBH, gas is expelled at very high speeds.



- Spiral overlapping Elliptical VV191: Tracing dust: small grains! (Keel⁺ 23).
- 150 Globular Clusters in $z=0.0513$ Elliptical (Berkheimer⁺ 2024, ApJ, 964, L29).

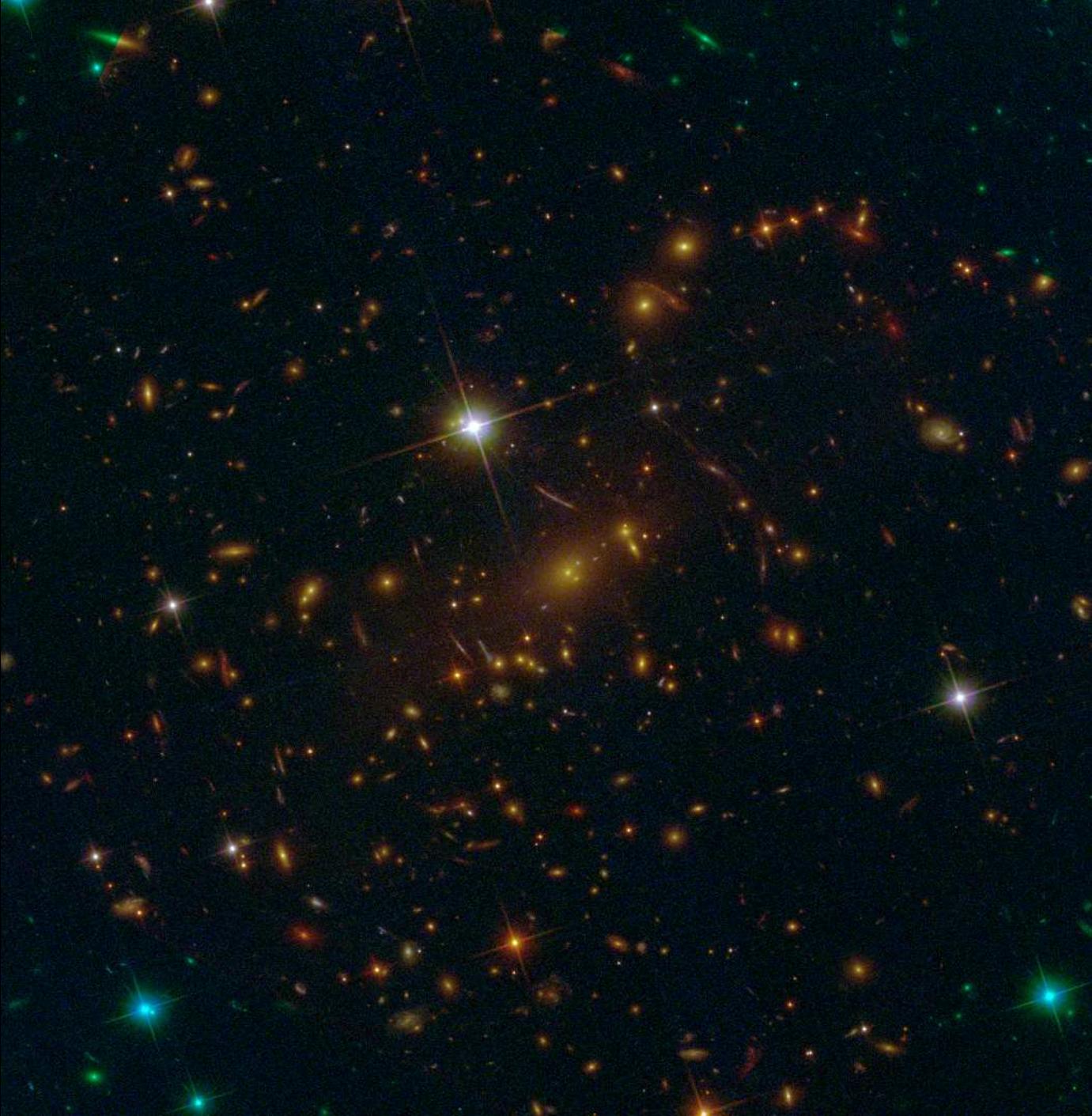


... and the $z=0.0513$ Elliptical also lenses a background galaxy at $z \sim 1$ (Keel⁺ 2023, AJ, 165, 16)!



July 11, 2022: 12-hr Webb Deep Field on galaxy cluster SMACS 0723

- Cluster galaxies already are ~ 9 Byrs old, seen at 4.5 Blyr distance!



Hubble image of SMACS 0723: not the same depth and breadth as Webb!

- Cluster 3× older than the Earth today: we are cosmic late bloomers!

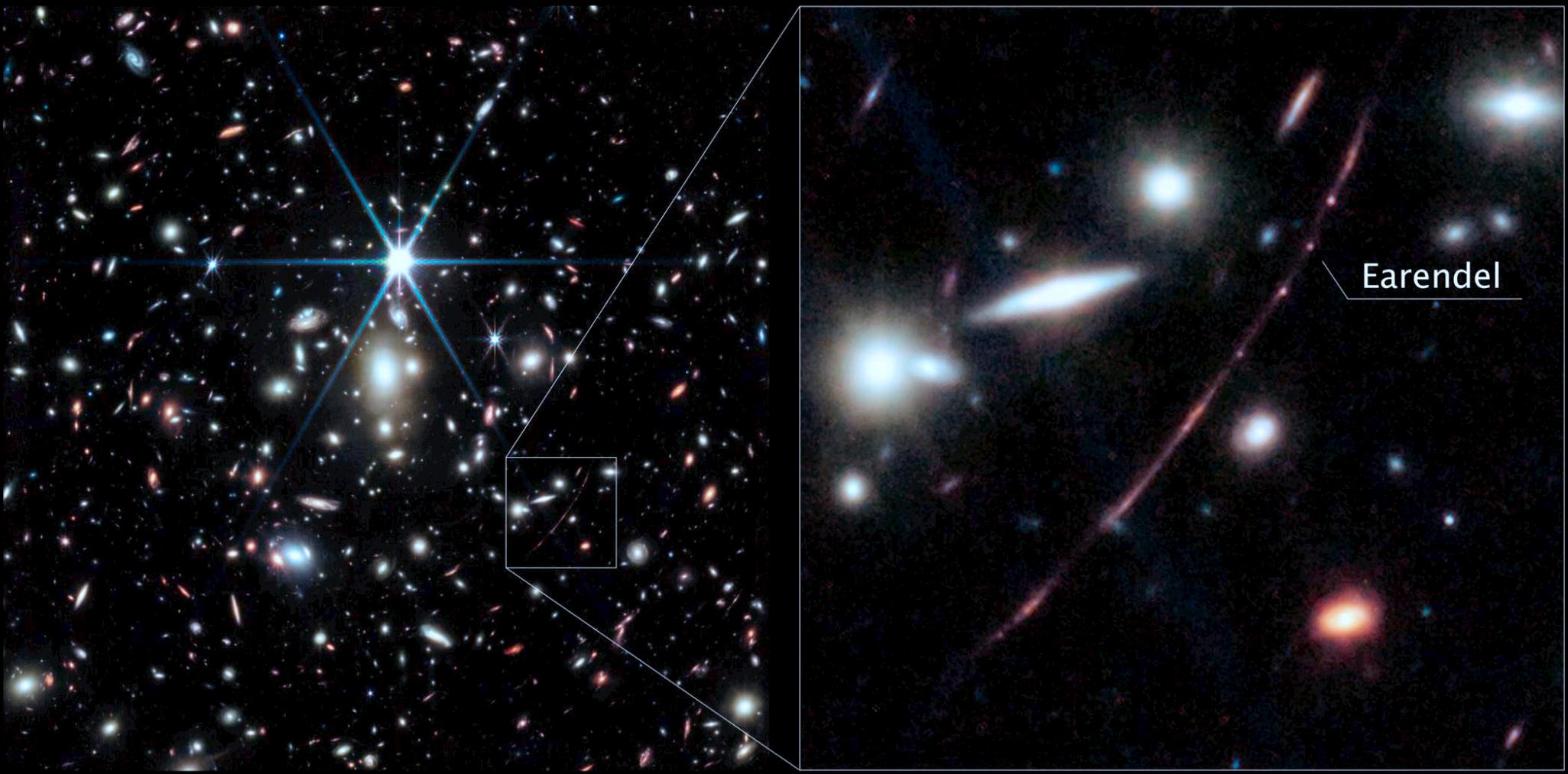


JD 1

JD 2

JD 3

Cluster MACS0647 triply lensed a galaxy 0.4 Byrs after BB! (Hsiao, Coe⁺ 22)



NIRCam: Cluster WHL0137-08 with highly lensed arc at $z=6.2$ (0.9 Byr).

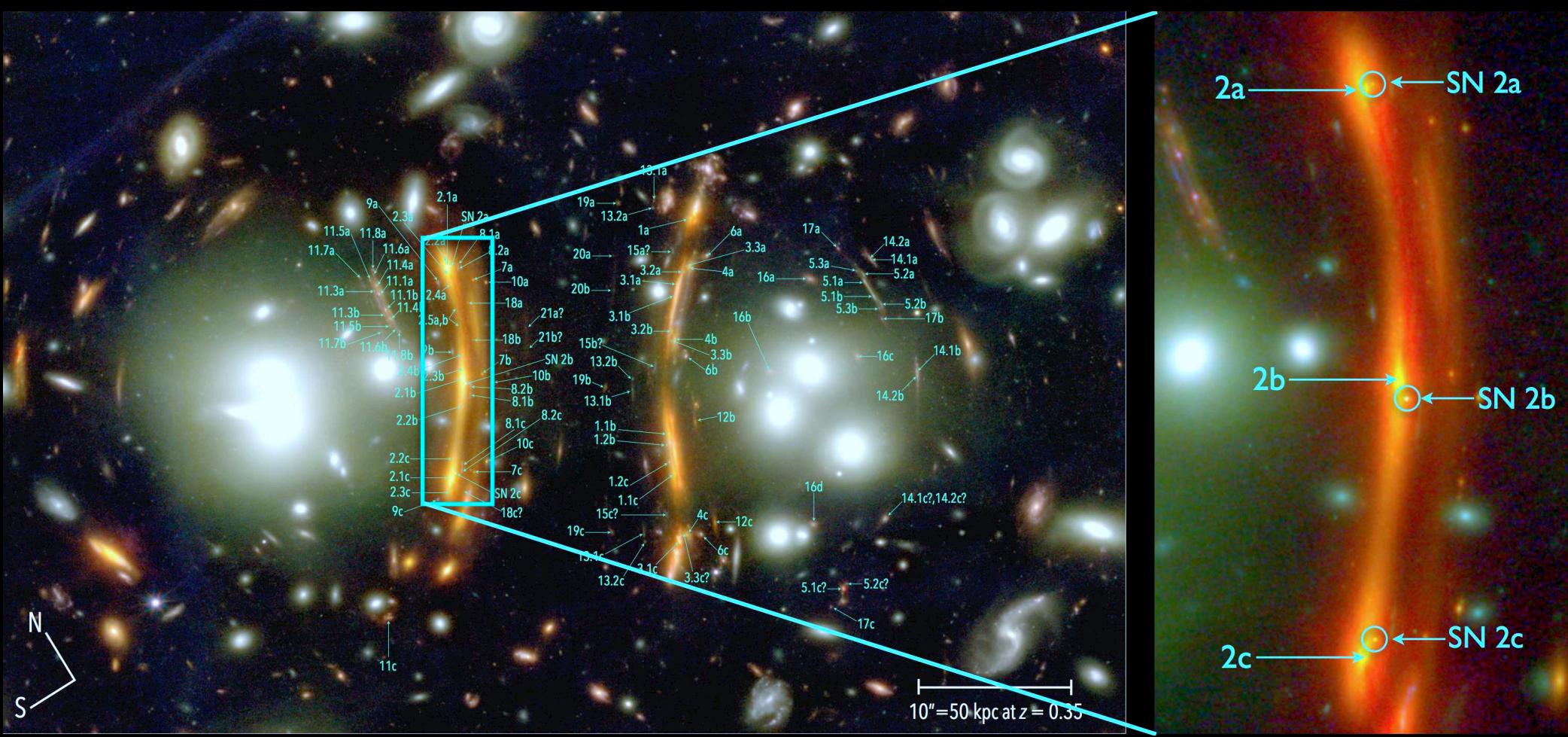
- Earendel: a highly magnified (double-)star seen in the first billion years after the Big Bang — the most distant star ever observed directly!

Light-paths are straight in 4D-curved space-time !



JWST image of most luminous far-IR Planck cluster G165 at $z=0.35$ found:
Lensed Supernova Ia at $z=1.78 \rightarrow$ measured $H_0 = 75.4^{+8.1}_{-5.5}$, 10 Byrs ago!

<https://bigthink.com/starts-with-a-bang/triple-lens-supernova-jwst/> (Frye⁺ 2023, Pascale⁺ 2025).



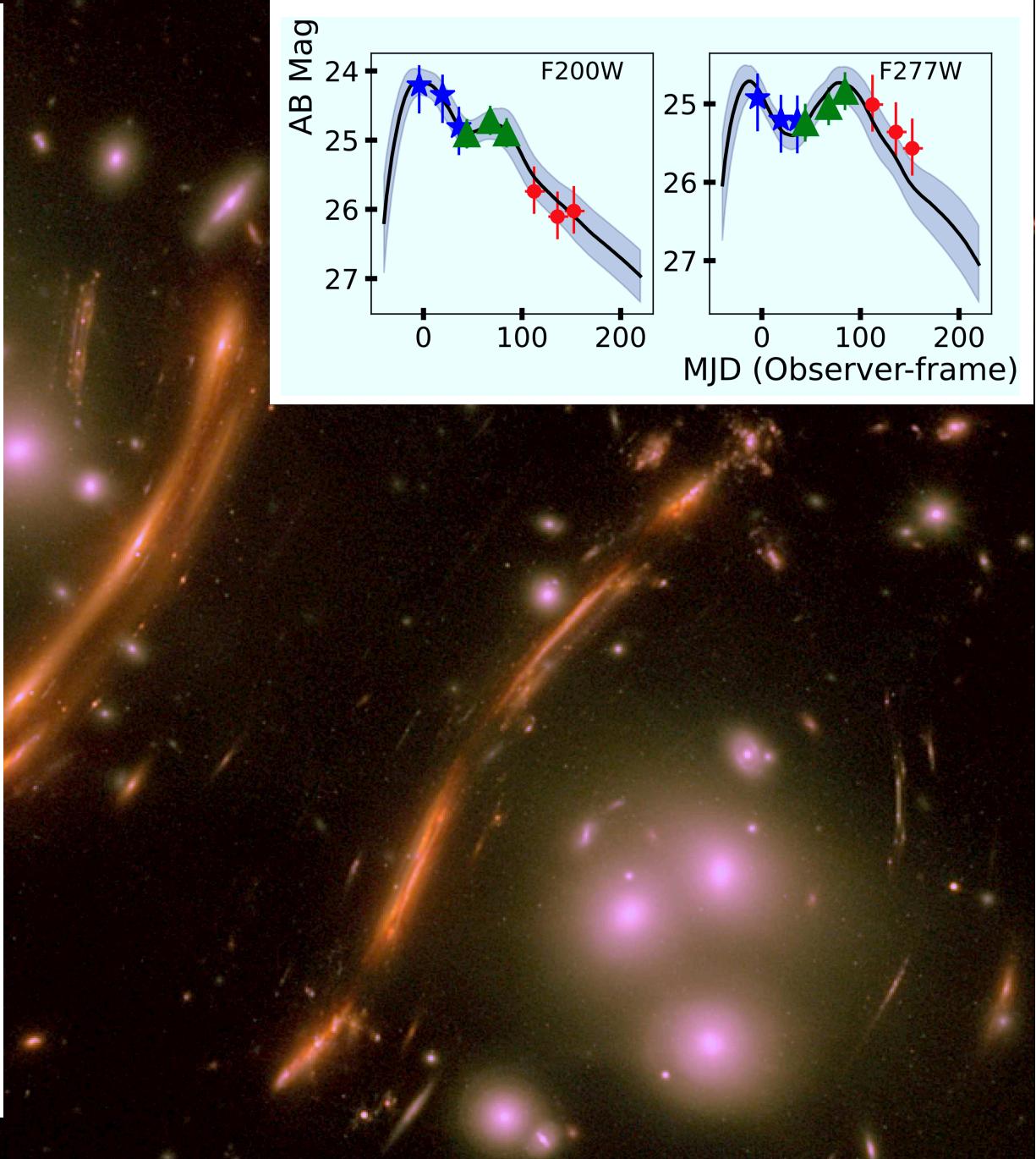
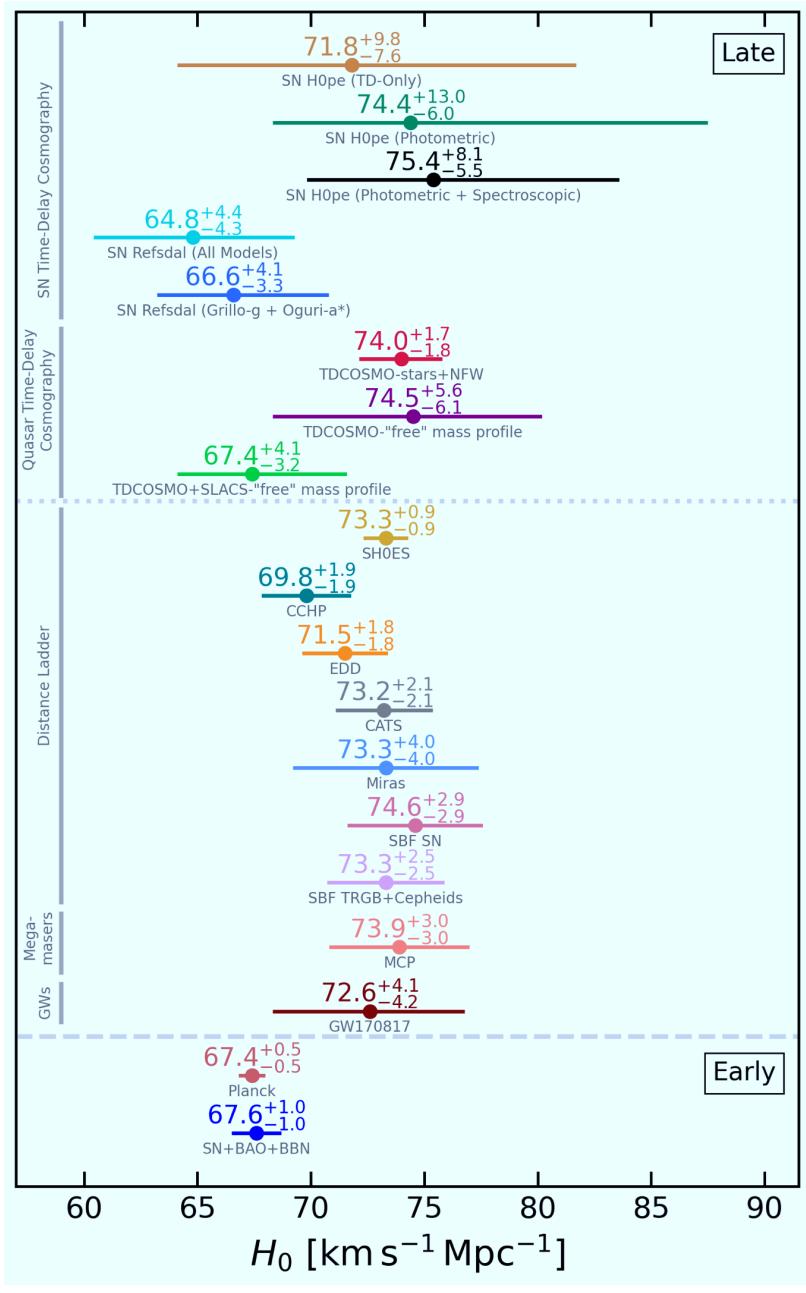
NIRCam in G165 shows: 3 bright point sources parity-flipped w.r.t. Arc-2:

- Clearly a lensed SN Type Ia at $z=1.783$, seen only 3.6 Byrs after BB!
- 3-epoch 9-point light curve! \implies measure H_0 constant directly !

(Polletta⁺ 2023, Frye⁺ 2024, Chen⁺ 2024, Kamieneski⁺ 2024, Pierel⁺ 2024, Pascale⁺ 2025).

→ Regular monitoring of clusters with extreme SF to yield more lensed SNe!

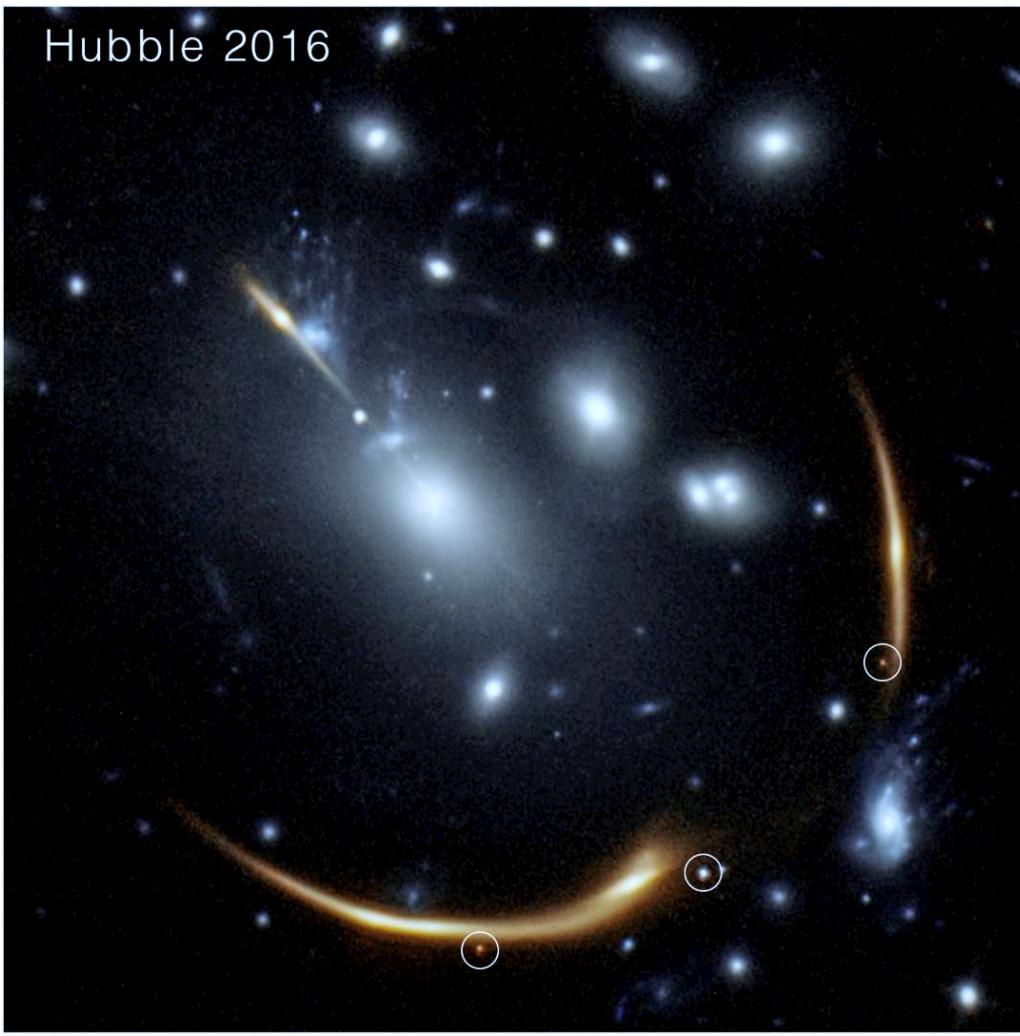
- Total SFR $\simeq 200\text{--}350 M_\odot/\text{yr}$ predicts $\gtrsim 1$ lensed SN/yr (Kamieneski⁺ arXiv/2404.08058)



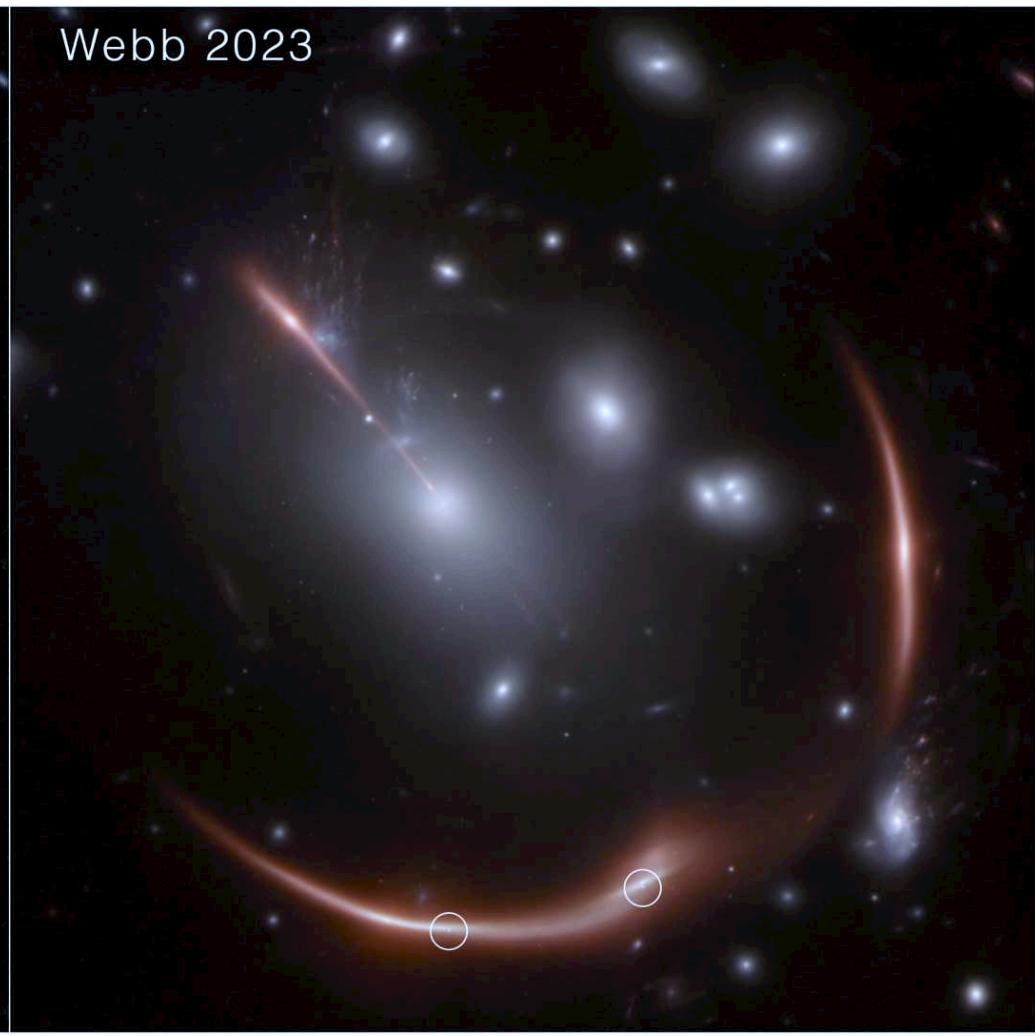
Pascale⁺ (2025, ApJ, 979, 13): Photo & spectro time delay: $H_0 = 75.4^{+8.1}_{-5.5}$ (at $z=0.35$).

- Monitoring G165 predicts $\gtrsim 1$ lensed SN-Ia/yr ! (Kamieneski⁺ 2024, ApJ, 973, 25)

Hubble 2016



Webb 2023



Hubble saw a lensed Supernova Ia behind this galaxy cluster in 2016:

Webb saw more distant lensed Supernova at $z=1.9$ (age 3.5 Byrs) in 2023!

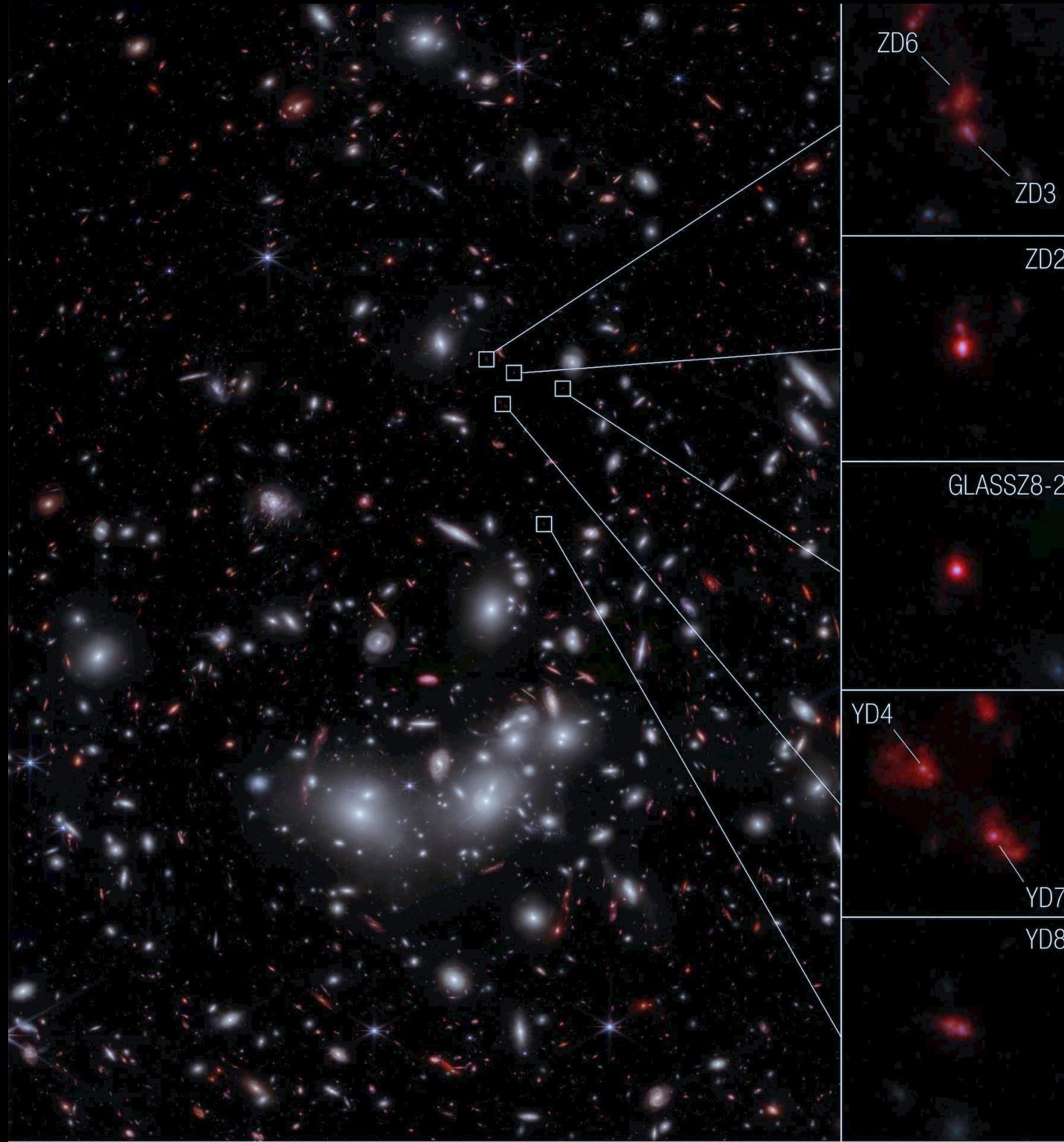
⇒ “SN Encore”: Lensing is the gift that keeps on giving!



Cluster RXJ2129 with triply lensed Supernova at 2.9 billion lyrs distance

- SN only seen in middle panel sampling the earliest observation

<https://esawebb.org/images/potm2302a/>



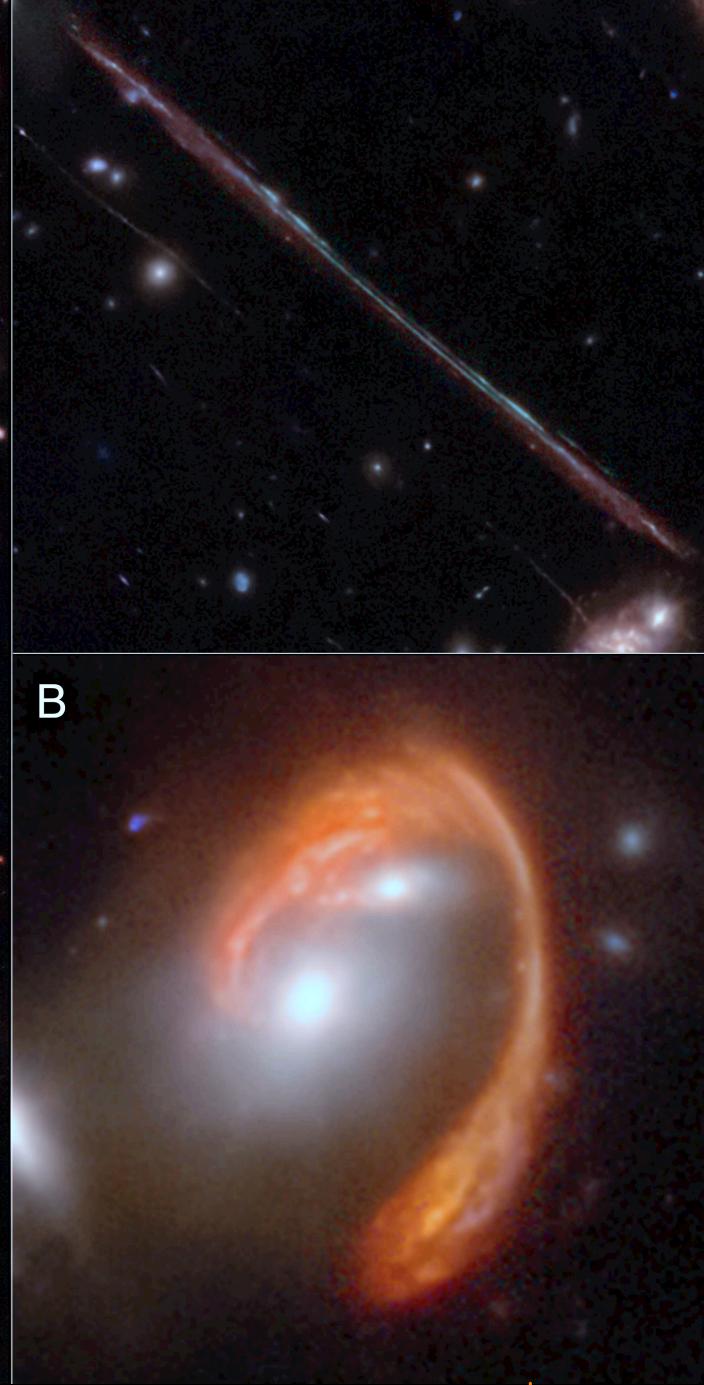
Massive lensing cluster Abell 2744:

Over 10^{15} solar masses seen 4 billion years ago:

its gravity lenses 5 young galaxies at redshift $z \approx 7.88$,

i.e., magnifying objects seen 13 billion years ago.

Webb is looking back to 650 million years after Big Bang!



Monster cluster El Gordo distorts distant galaxies into “pencils” (Diego⁺22)

<https://news.asu.edu/20230801-jwsts-gravitational-lens-reveals-distant-objects-behind-el-gordo-galaxy-cluster>

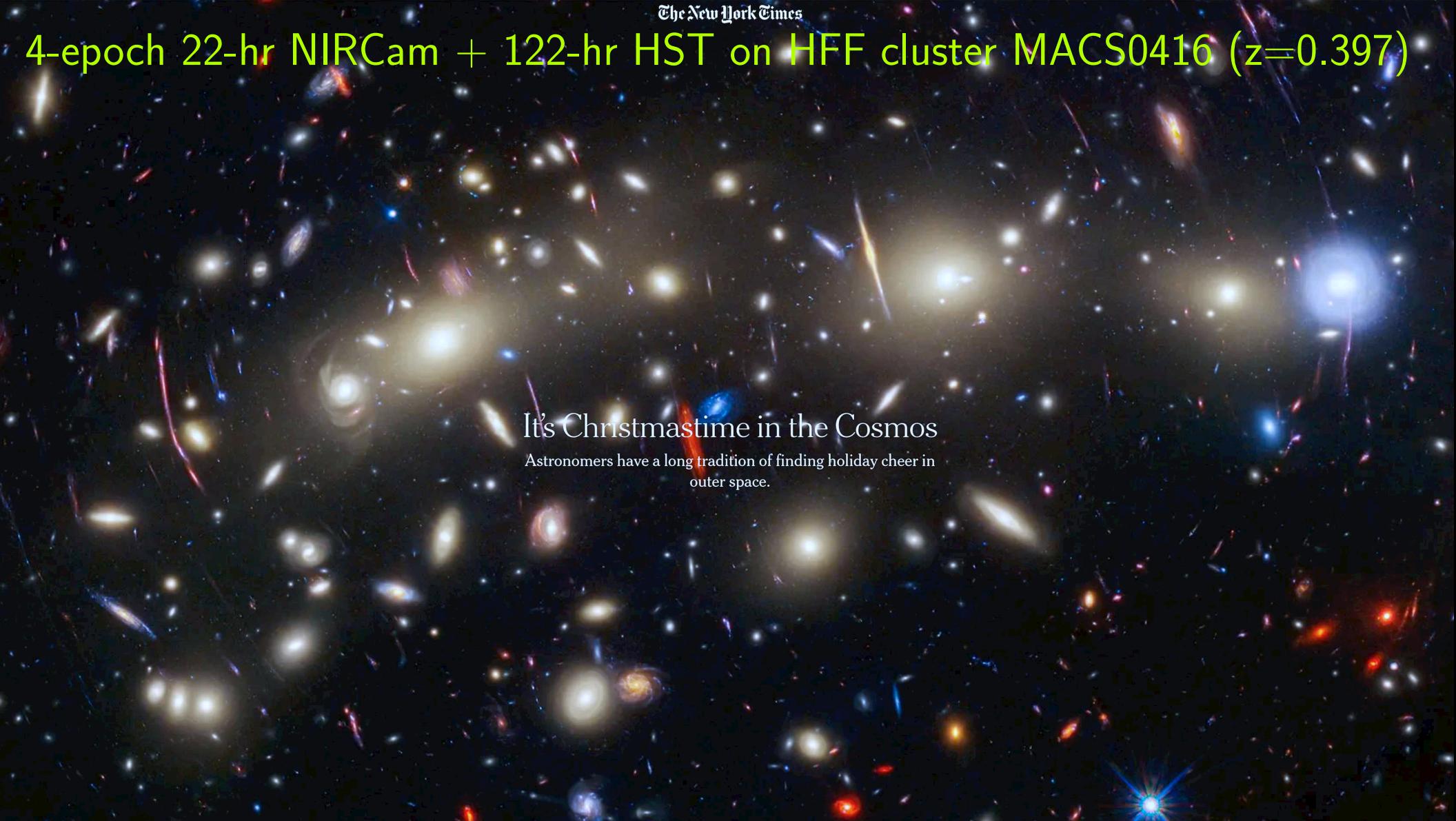


and El Gordo makes a super-lens “El Anzuelo” — Einstein’s fishhook!

<https://webbtelescope.org/contents/news-releases/2023/news-2023-119>

<https://news.asu.edu/20230802-global-engagement-asu-webb-telescope-einstein-werner-salinger-holocaust>

4-epoch 22-hr NIRCam + 122-hr HST on HFF cluster MACS0416 ($z=0.397$)



It's Christmastime in the Cosmos

Astronomers have a long tradition of finding holiday cheer in outer space.

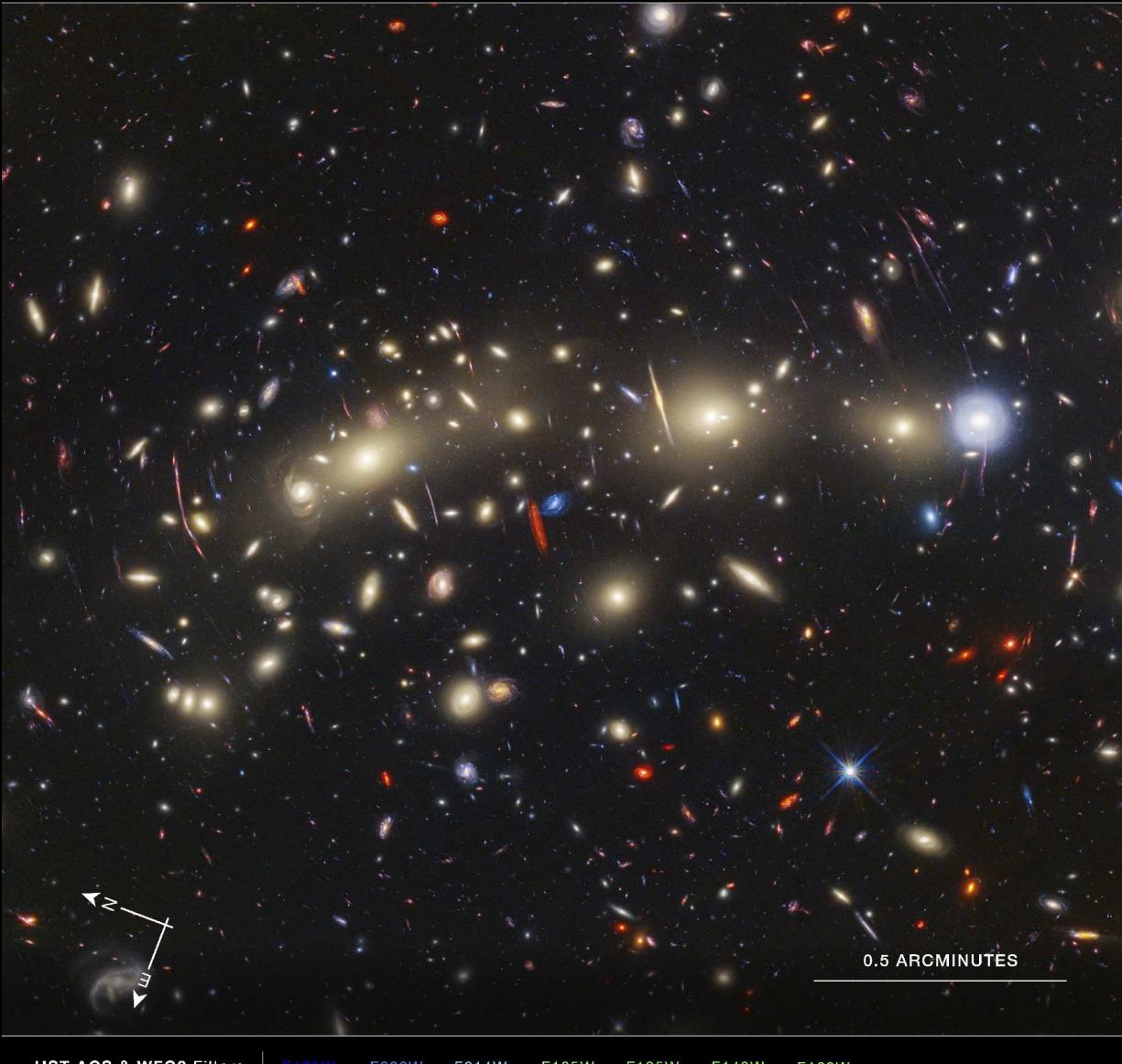
12 new caustic transits at $z \approx 1-2$ from 4 epochs! (Yan, H.+, 2023, ApJS, 269, 42)

Extremely magnified binary star at $z=2.091$! (Diego, J.+, 2023, A&A 679, A31)

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/09/world/webb-hubble-colorful-galaxy-cluster-scn/index.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/19/science/christmas-stars-galaxies-webb-nasa.html?>

HUBBLE AND WEBB SPACE TELESCOPES
GALAXY CLUSTER | MACS J0416.1-2403

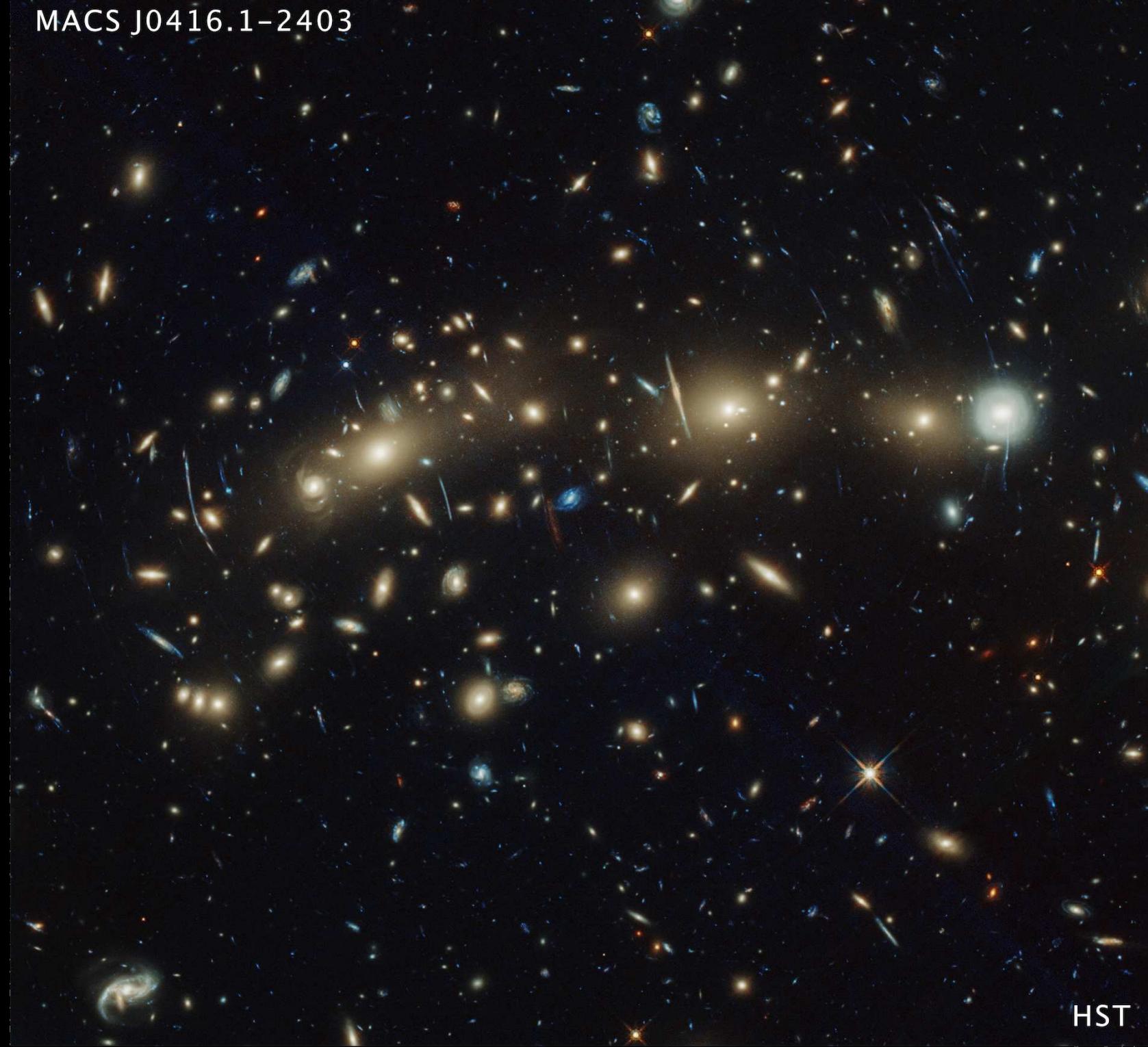


HST ACS & WFC3 Filters	F435W	F606W	F814W	F105W	F125W	F140W	F160W	
JWST NIRCam Filters	F090W	F115W	F150W	F200W	F277W	F356W	F410M	F444W

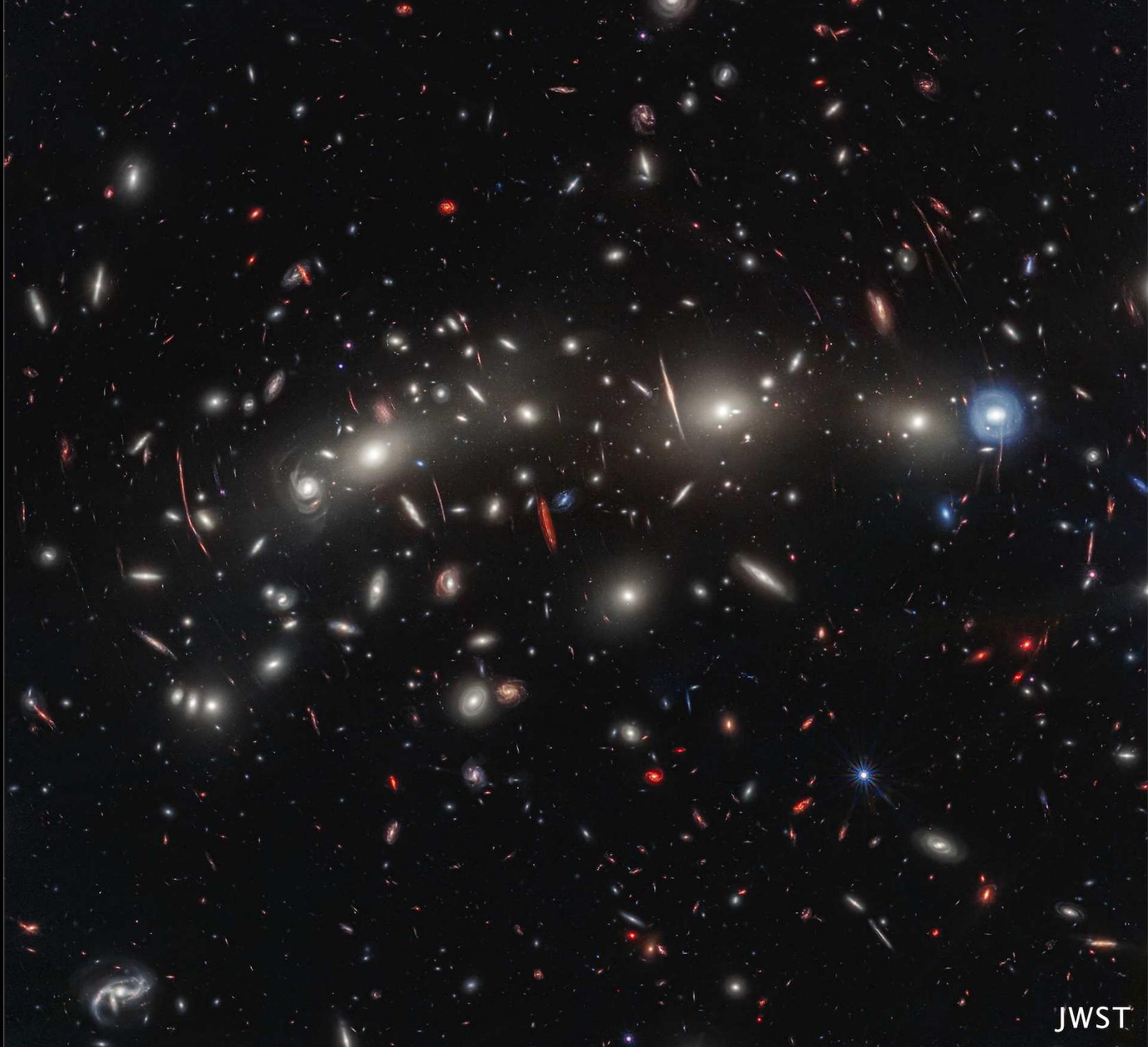
122 hr HST + 22 hr JWST on Frontier Field cluster MACS0416 (4.3 Blyr)

- The power of Two Telescopes: Webb collects 6× more light than Hubble!

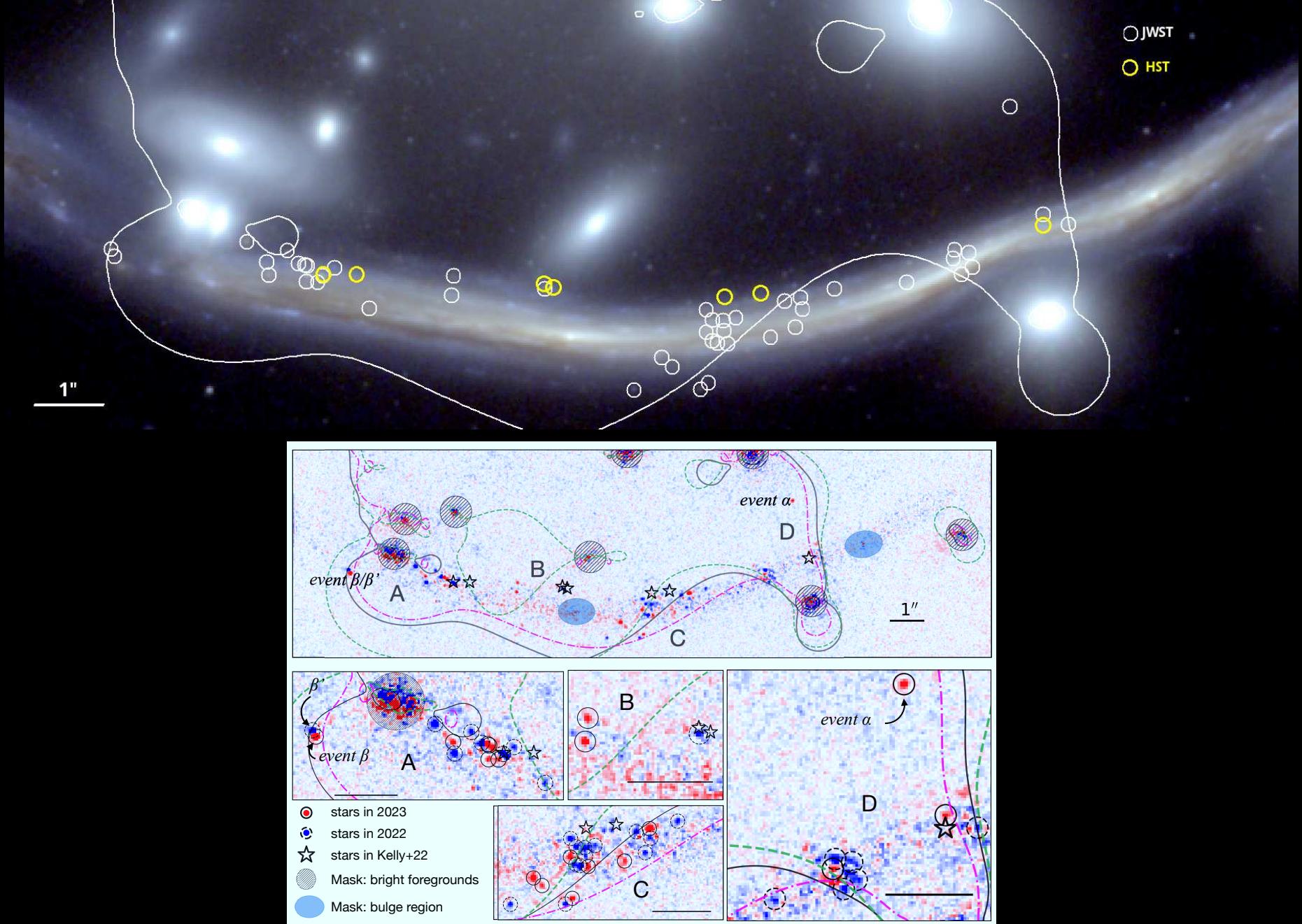
MACS J0416.1-2403



122 hr HST on Hubble Frontier Field cluster MACS0416 ($z=0.397$; 4.3 Blyr)



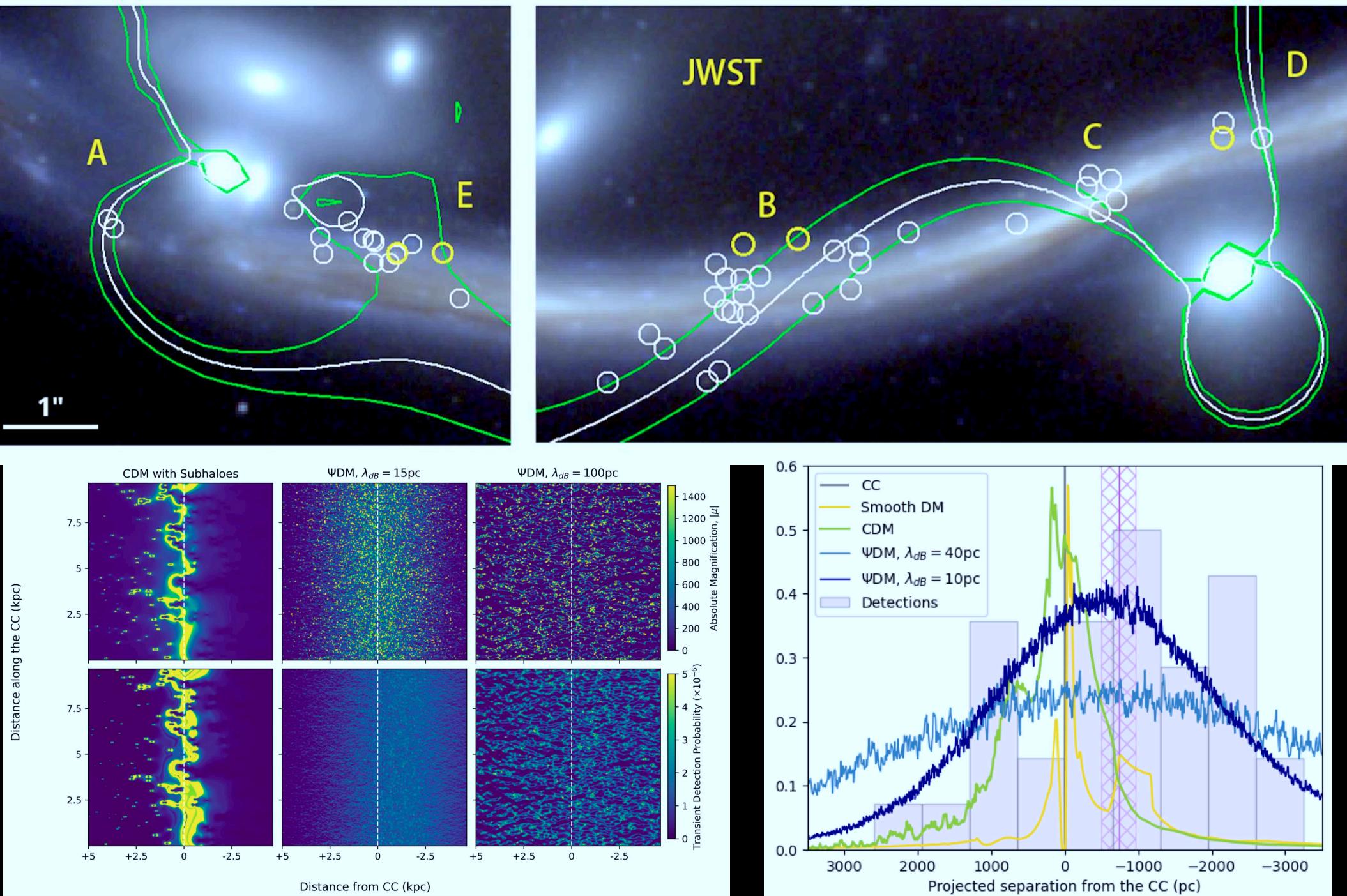
22 hrs JWST on Hubble Frontier Field cluster MACS0416 ($z=0.397$; 4.3 Blyr)



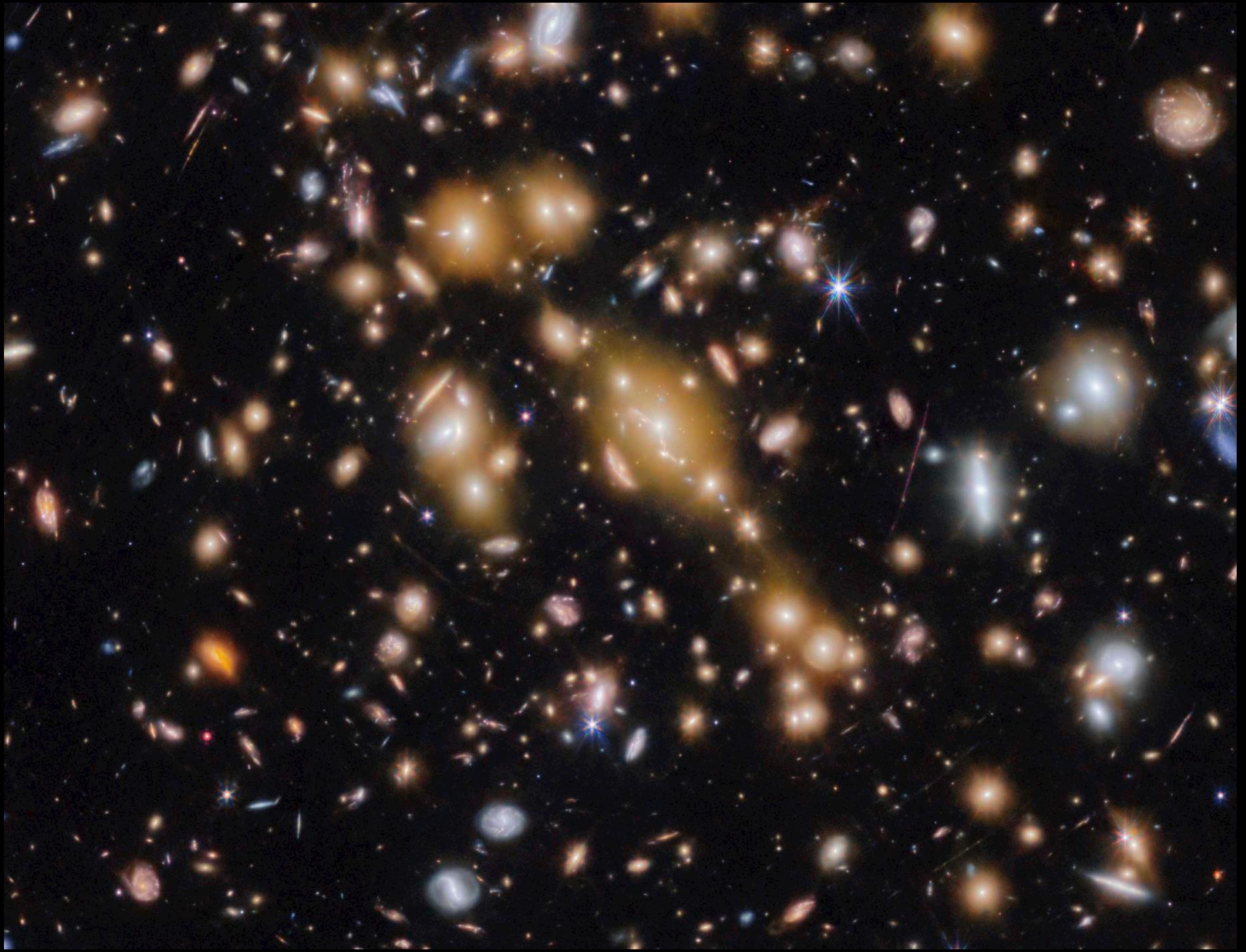
Abell 370 Dragon's arc: 44 individual caustic-transiting stars at $z=0.73!$

→ Detect stars at $z \gtrsim 0.7$ directly, going across infinity lines! (Y. Fudamoto⁺, *Nat. Astr.* 9, 428).

⇒ JWST Time-Domain detects luminous stars at $z \gtrsim 0.7$ directly!



A370 $z=0.73$ caustic transits asymmetric around critical curve (2405.19422)
Explained better by ΨDM than CDM: $\sim 10^{-22}$ eV particle with $\lambda_{dB} \sim 10$ pc



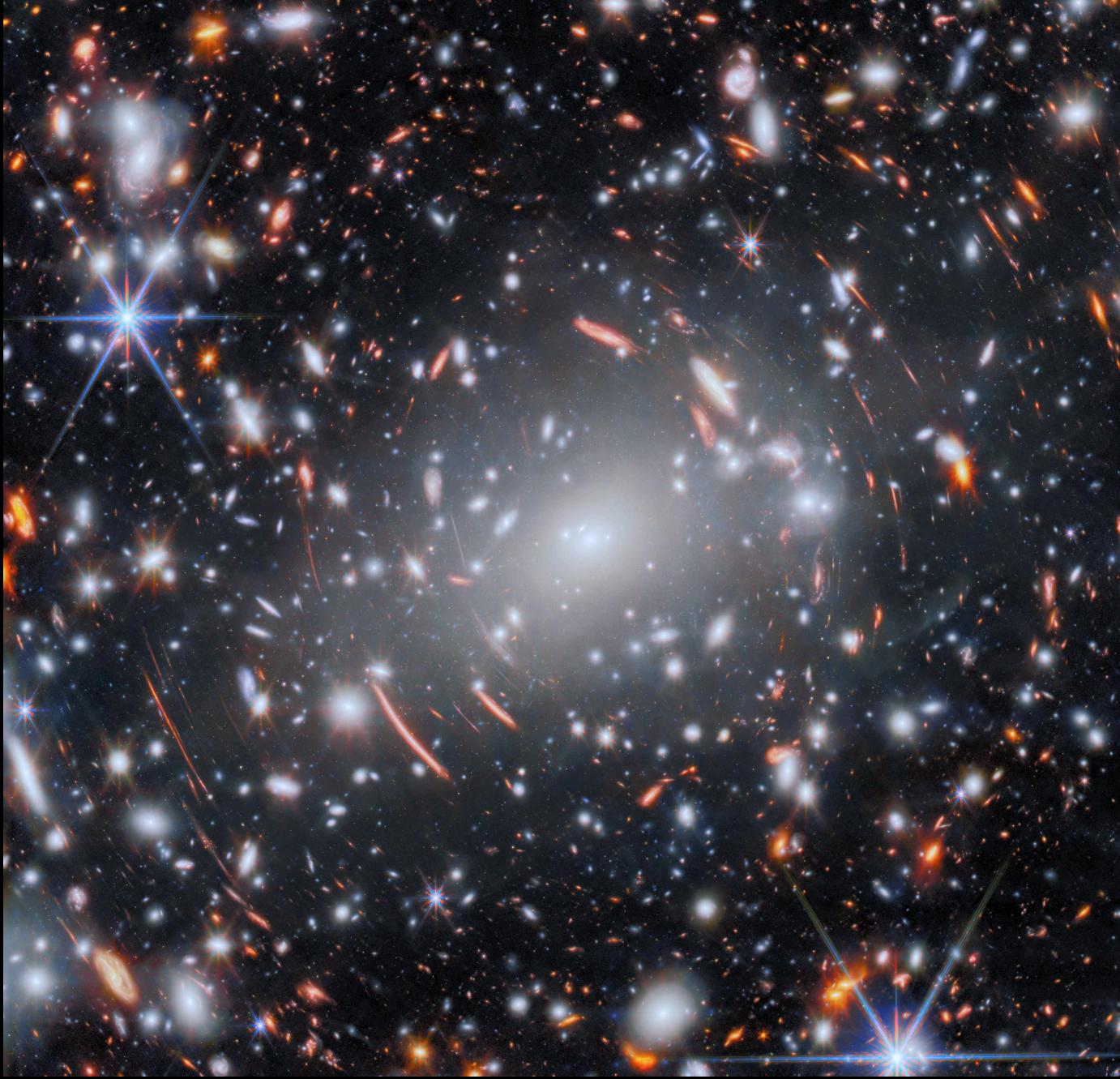
$z=0.97$ cluster SPT0615: lenses young globular clusters at $z=10.2$!

Adamo⁺ (Nature; astro-ph/1401.03224): ~ 50 Myr old, formed at $z \sim 11$! <https://esawebb.org/news/weic2418/>



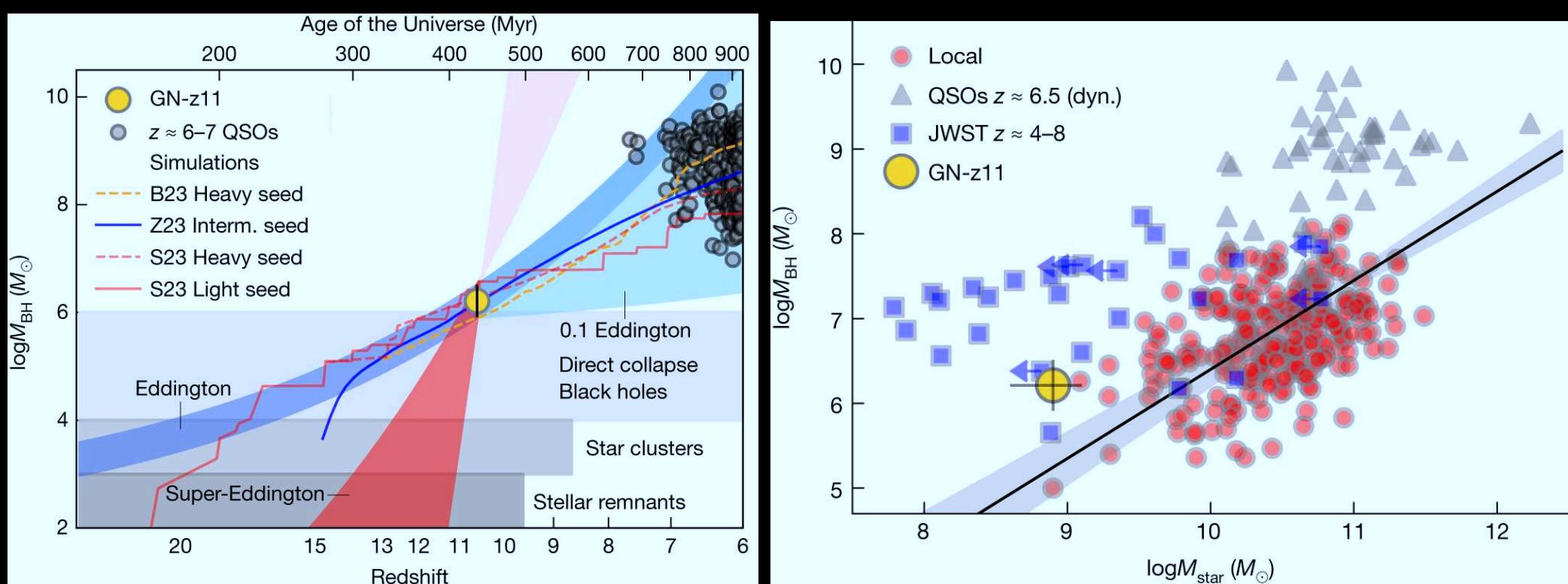
- $z \gtrsim 1$ universe is littered with galaxy mergers and supermassive black holes!

We live in a *boring* galaxy far away from major mergers & SMBHs!



May 27, 2025: Deepest 120 hr JWST cluster image of Abell S1063 ($z=0.351$)!
Einstein's cosmic house of mirrors: many galaxies with supermassive black holes!

Atek⁺ (2025): https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2025/05/Webb_glimpses_the_distant_past



[Left] (Super Massive) Black Hole growth may start before $z \simeq 20$ (175 Myr).

[Right] This results in overweight SMBHs compared to their host galaxies at $z \simeq 4-8$ (*i.e.*, in the first 0.6–1.5 Byr)! (Maiolino⁺ 2024, Nature, 627, 59)

Who came first: chicken (Galaxy) or egg (SMBH)?: Most certainly the egg!

(4) Summary and Conclusions

(1) Webb was successfully built, tested and finally launched in Dec. 2021.

(2) Webb's first images trace the "Cosmic Circle of Life":

- Formation and evolution of stars and dust over cosmic time.
- How dust helped form exoplanets and building blocks for life.

(3) Webb is observing the epochs of First Light, Galaxy Assembly & Super Massive Black Hole-growth in detail (much through lensing):

- Formation of the first stars, star-clusters, SMBH's after 0.2 Byr.
- How galaxies formed and evolved over 13.5 Billion years.

(4) Webb has shown us our place in the universe:

- From cosmic dust we were made, and to cosmic dust we shall return!
- We are cosmic later bloomers, and live in a cosmic quiet place !

(5) Spare Science Charts

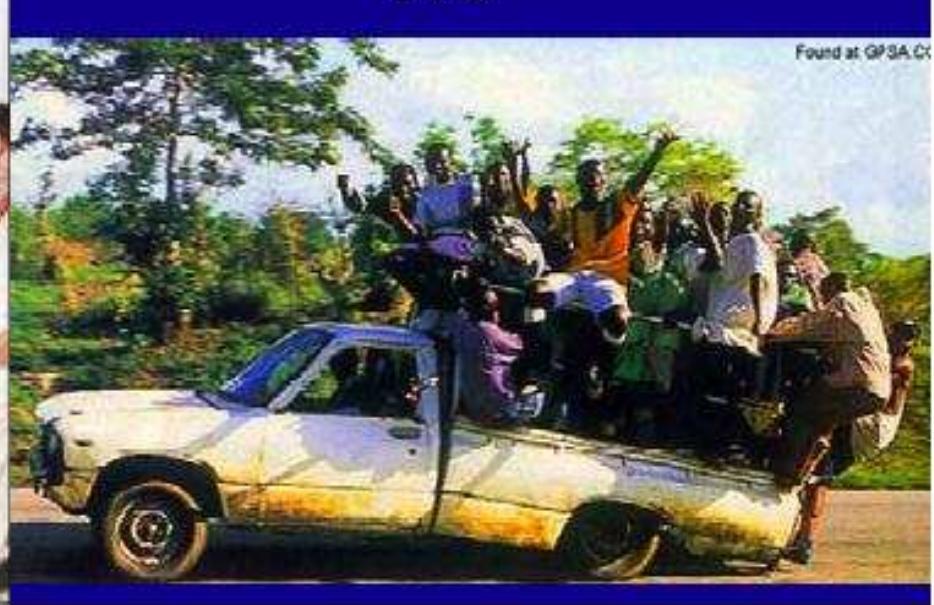
What the Scientists See:



What the Project Manager Sees:

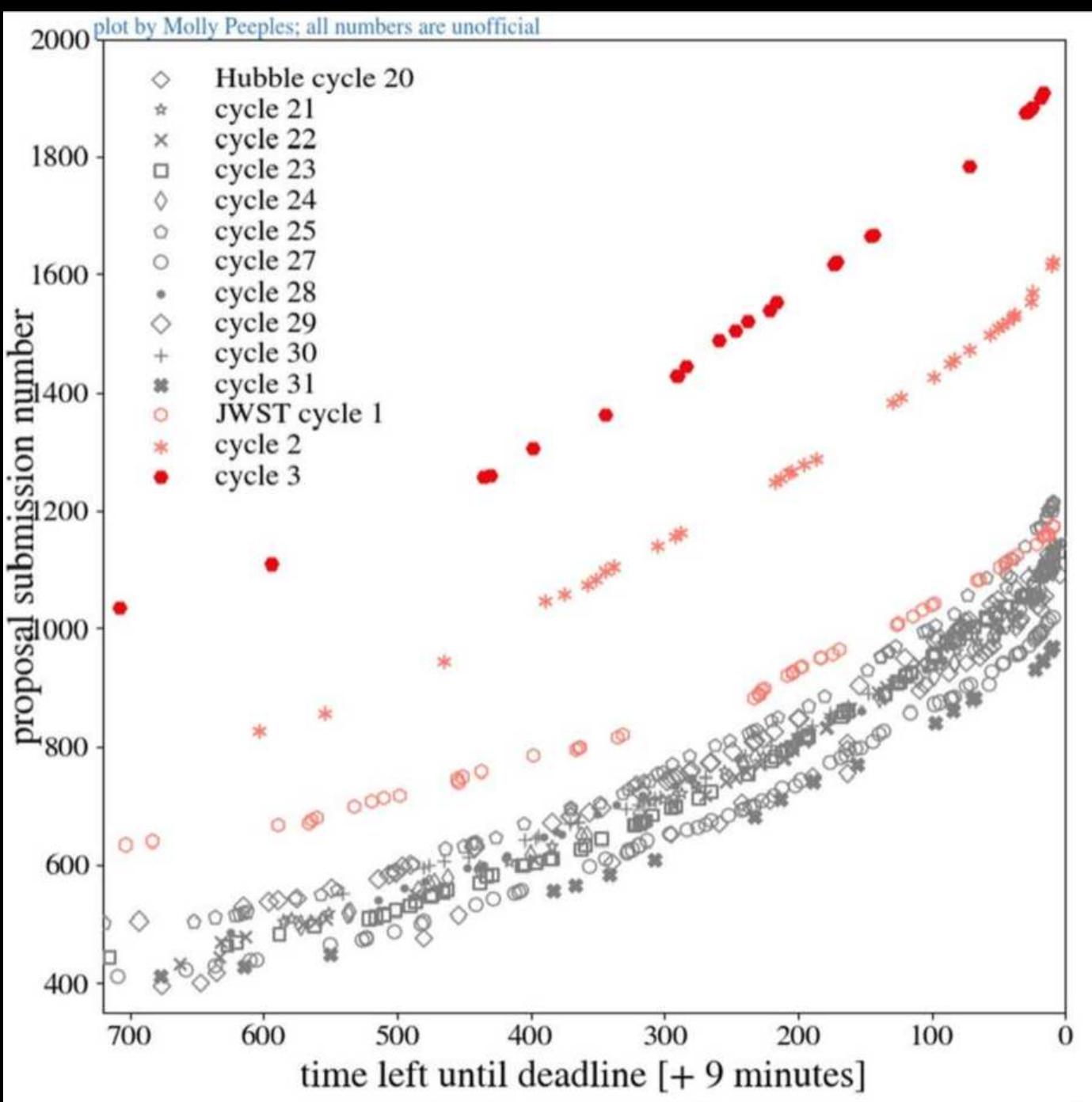


The Happy Balance



Found at GP3A.CX

Any (space) mission is a balance between what science demands, what technology can do, and what budget & schedule allows ... (courtesy Prof. R. Ellis).



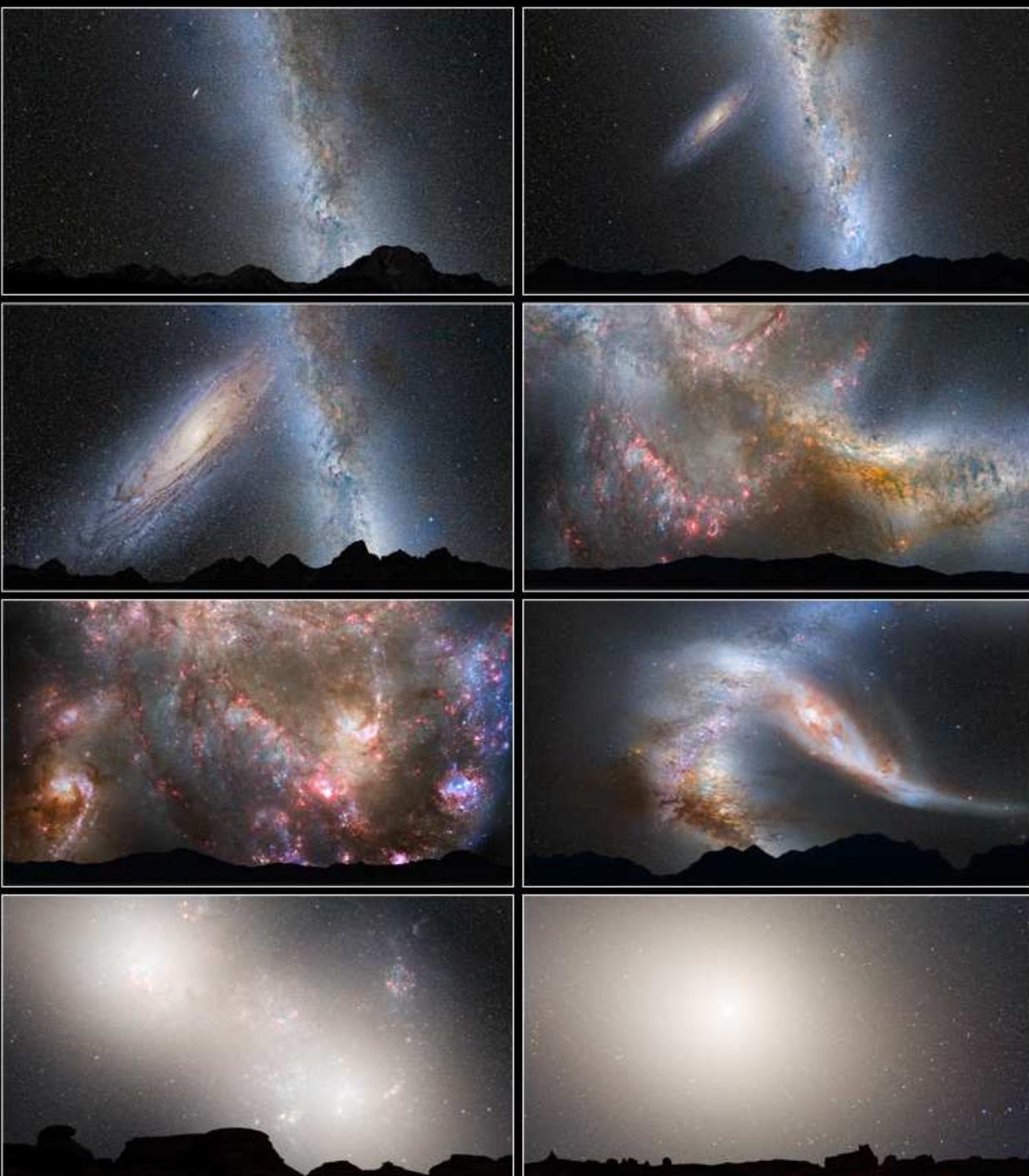
- Webb is now THE highest-in-demand NASA Flagship mission ever, but Hubble remains in at least as high a demand as it was 30 years ago!



LEDA-2046648: a beautiful galaxy pair observed with NIRISS 1 Blyr away.



LEDA-2046648: Andromeda will collide with Milky Way like this in 4-5 Byrs.



Will this ever happen to our own Galaxy?

YES! Hubble showed no lateral motion of Andromeda:
Approaches at -110 km/s.

Hence, Andromeda will merge with Milky Way!

The two blackholes (10^6 – 10^7 suns) will also merge!

Not to worry: only 4–5 Byr from today!

Illustration Sequence of the Milky Way and Andromeda Galaxy Colliding

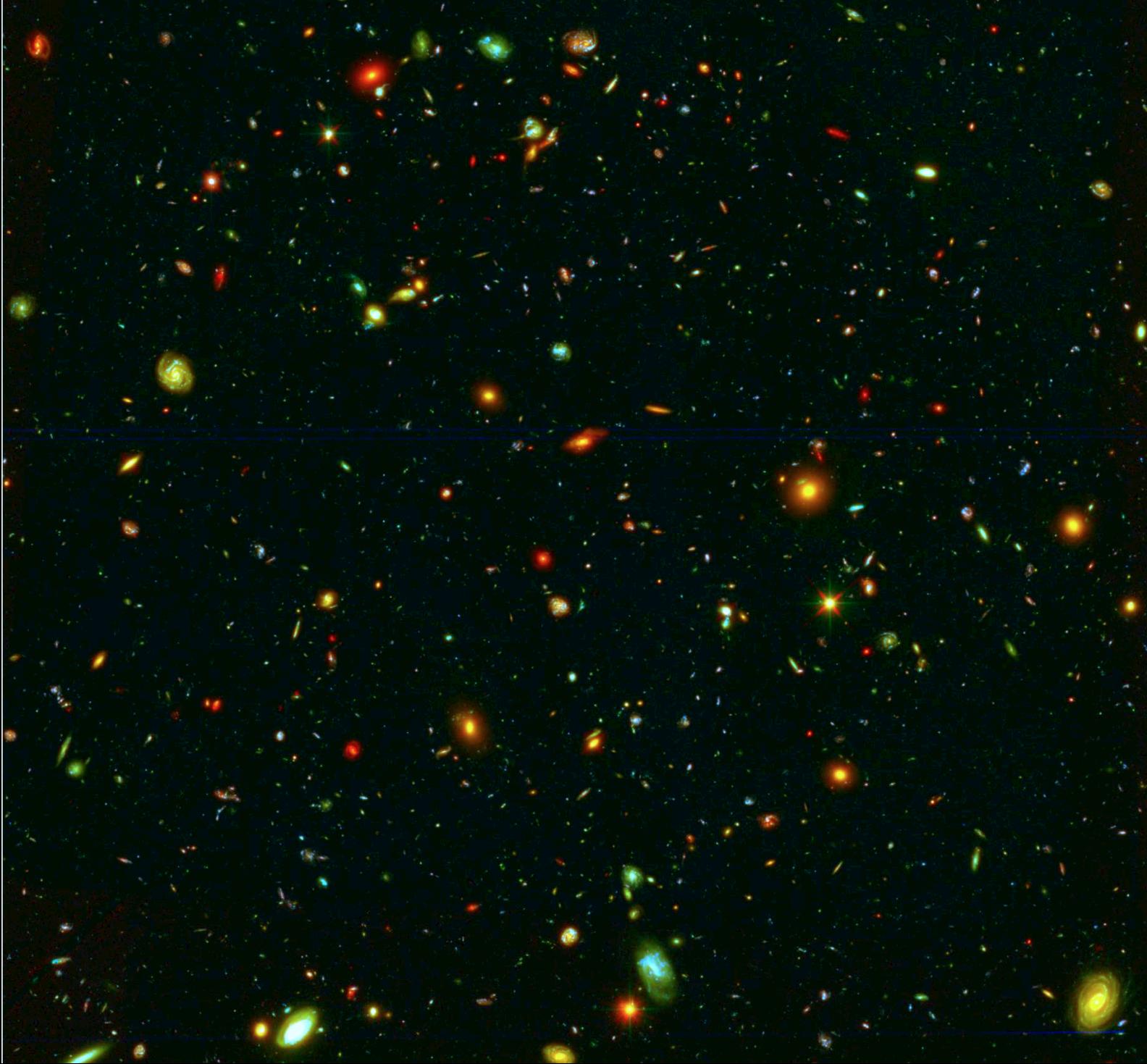
(6) Uniquely complementary roles of Hubble and Webb:



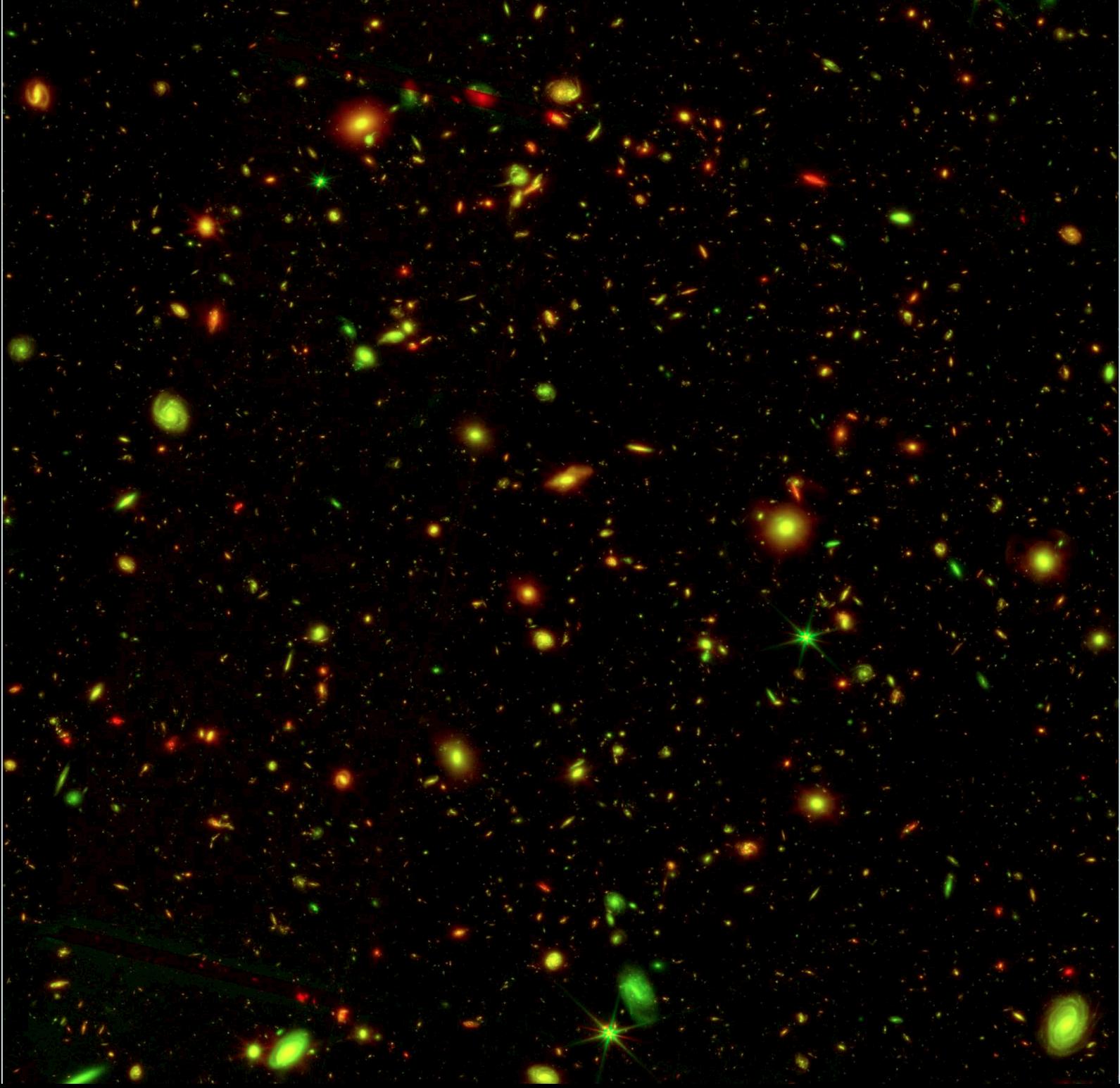
500 hrs HST+JWST: 45 filters (0.2–5.0 μ m), lensing cluster MACS0416:

- HST darkest skies ($10\text{--}10^3 \times$ darker) + JWST's dark skies ($10^3\text{--}10^5 \times$ darker than ground based):
 \Rightarrow HST & JWST reach 30–31 mag ($\simeq 1 \text{ nJy} \simeq 1 \text{ firefly from Moon}$).

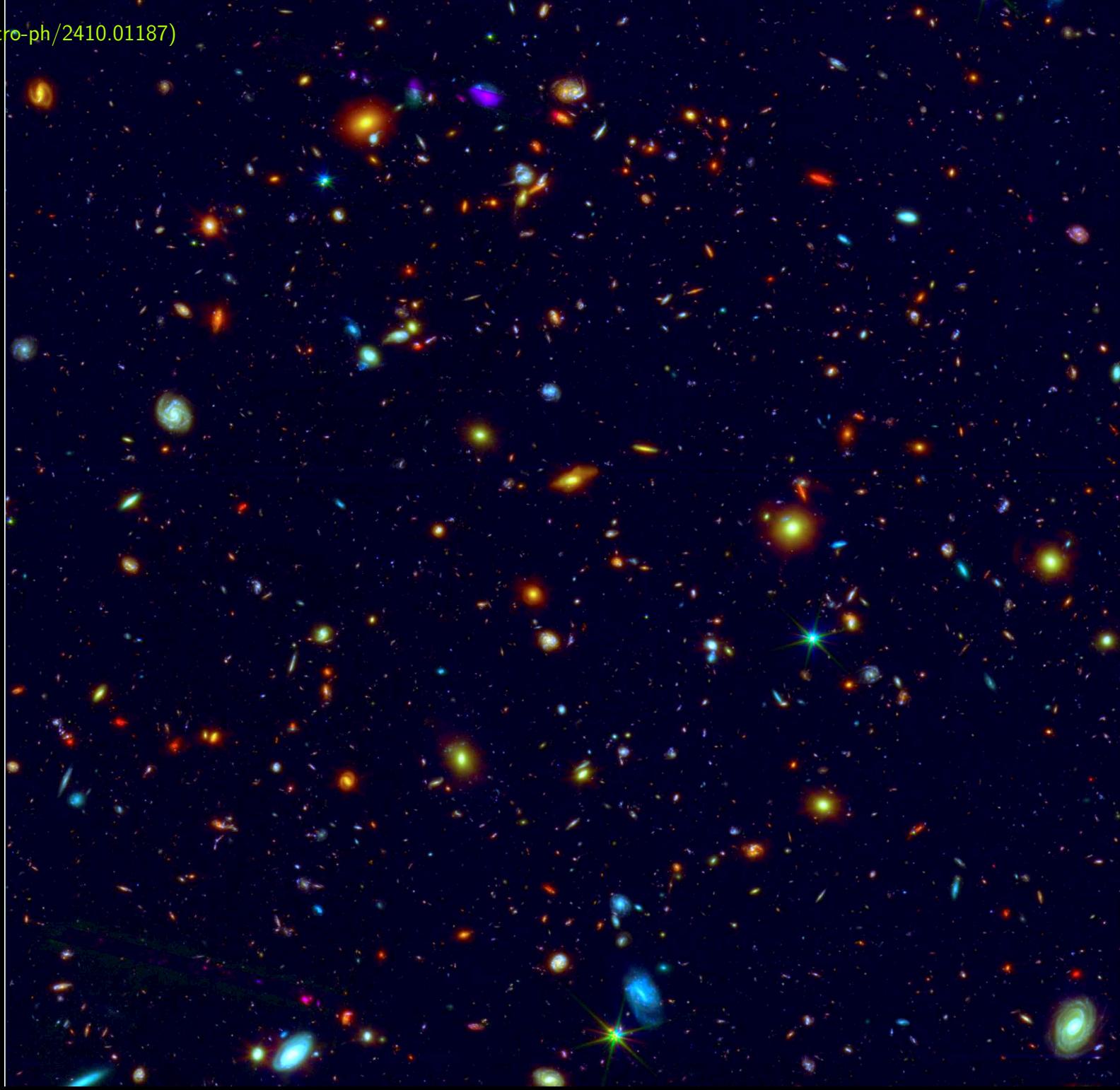
Field-of-View $\sim (\text{Moon}/10)^2$



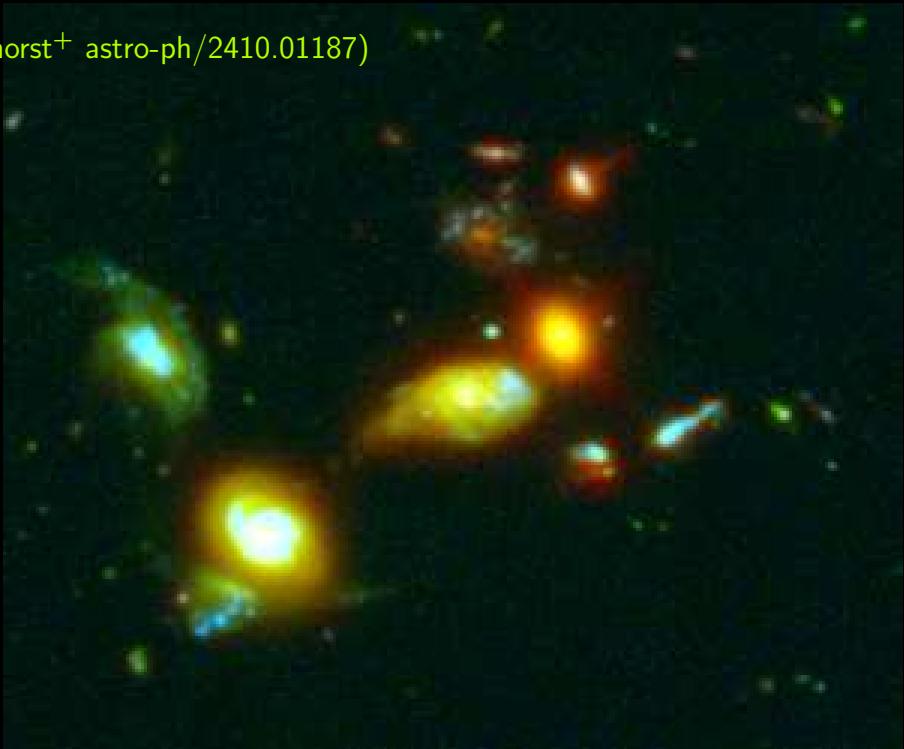
556 hr HST Hubble UltraDeep Field: 12 filters at 0.2–1.6 μm ($\text{AB} \lesssim 31$ mag; ~ 1 nJy; full BGR).



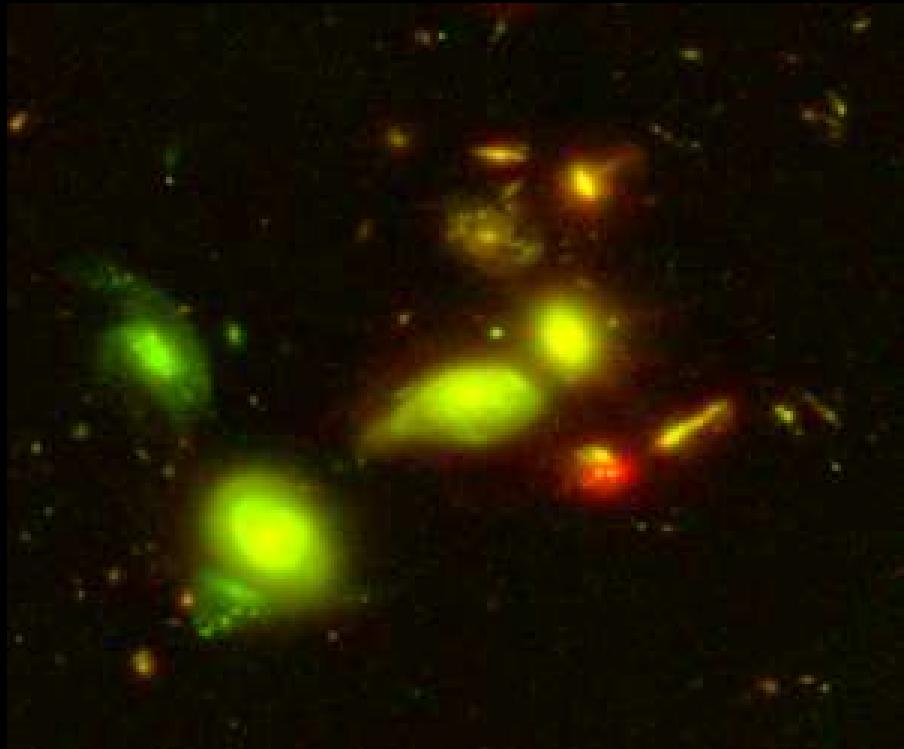
53 hr JWST/NIRCam Hubble UltraDeep Field: 12 filters at 0.9–5.0 μm ($\text{AB} \lesssim 31$ mag; in green + red).



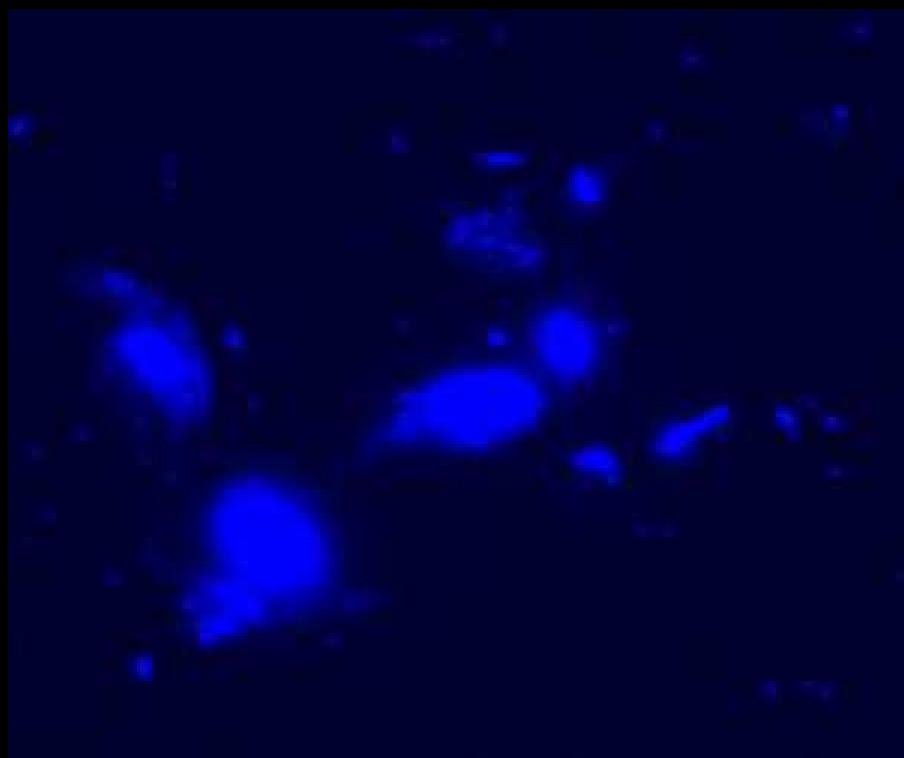
414 hr HST+JWST Hubble UltraDeep Field: 20 filters at 0.2–5.0 μ m (AB \lesssim 31.5 mag; full BGR).



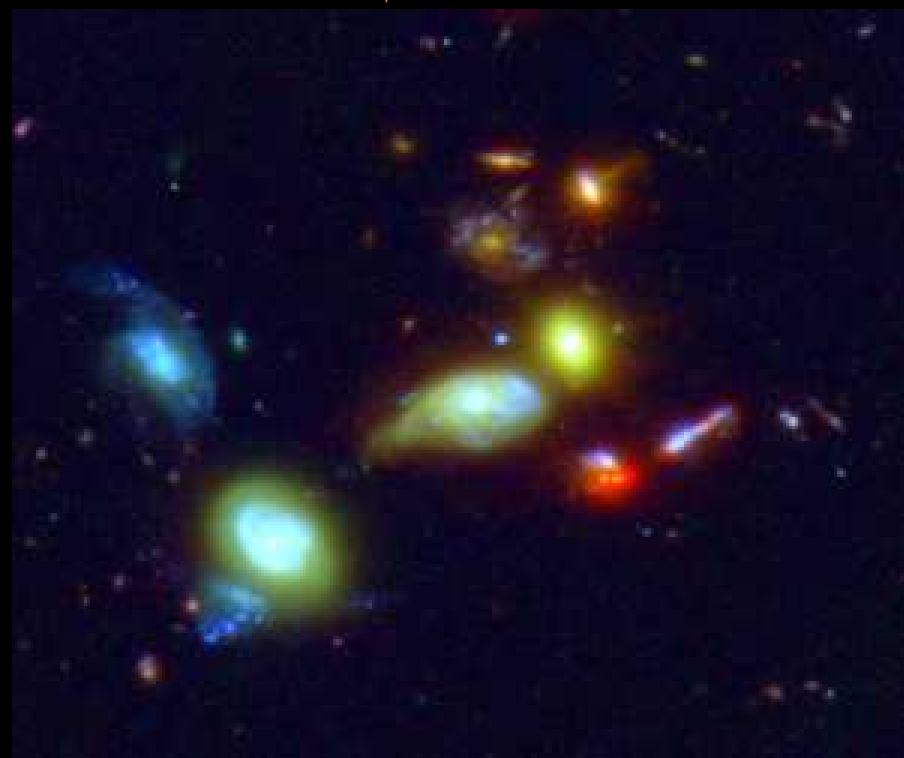
556 hr HST HUDF 12 filters



53 hr JWST/NIRCam 12 filters



361 hr 8 HST-unique filters (false-blue)

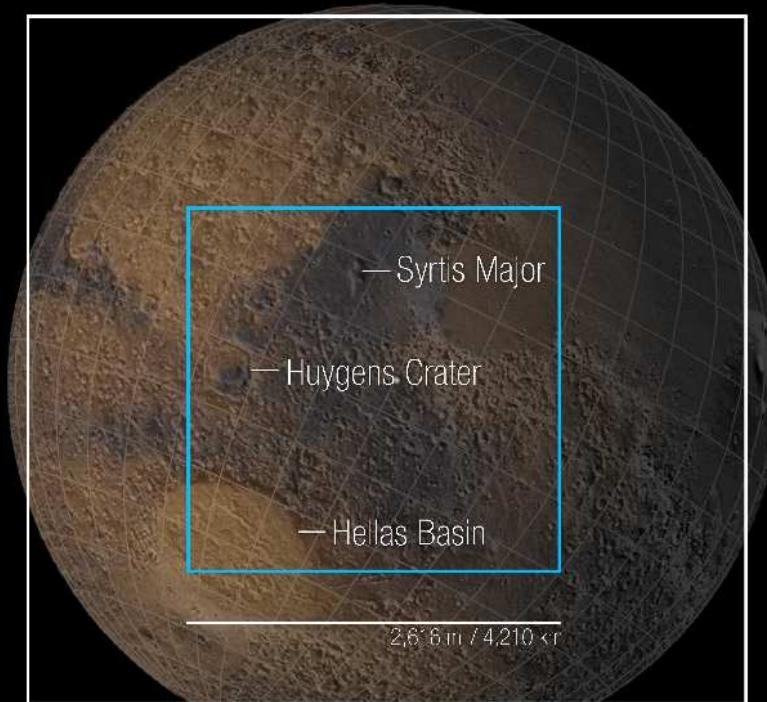


414 hr HST+JWST 20 filters

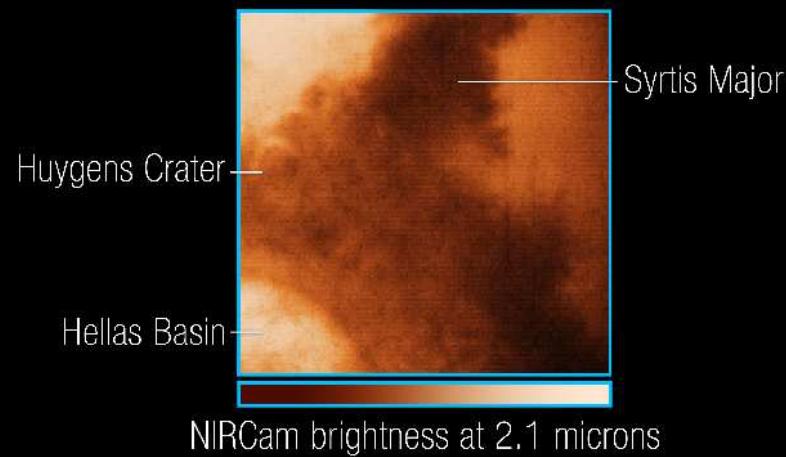
● (7) JWST Observations of Solar System planets.

Mars

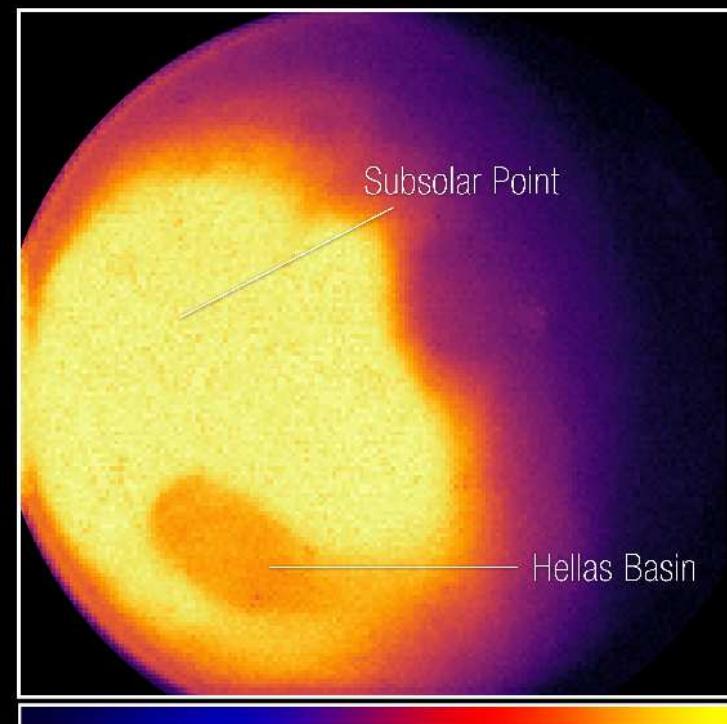
James Webb Space Telescope
NIRCam - September 5, 2022



Simulated Mars image with base maps
from NASA and MOLA data



NIRCam brightness at 2.1 microns

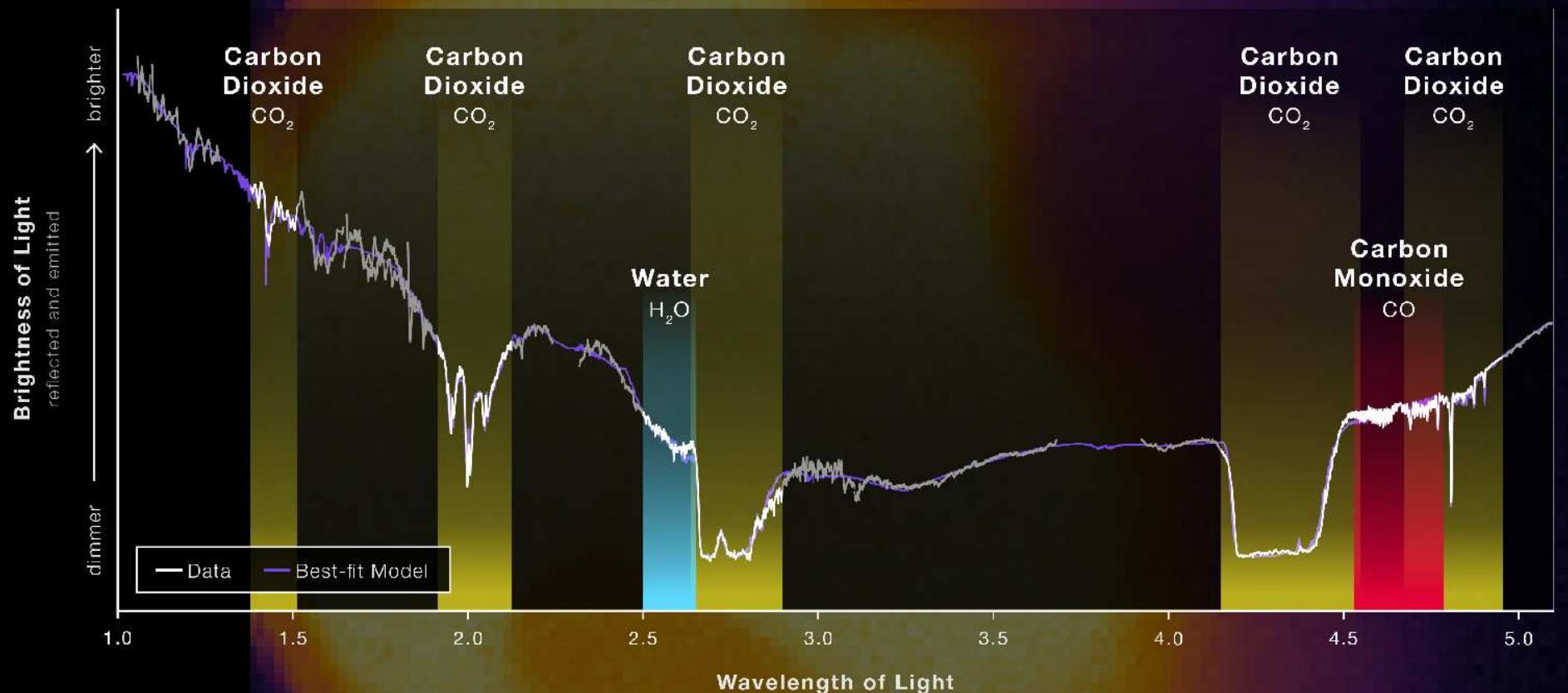


NIRCam brightness at 4.3 microns

NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, MARS JWST/CTO team

Mars' surface with NIRCam: From “hot” to “cold” in the infrared!

ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION



WEBB
SPACE TELESCOPE

Mars atmosphere NIRSpec spectrum: Plenty of Carbon Dioxide ...

but the search is much harder for Water vapor and Carbon Monoxide



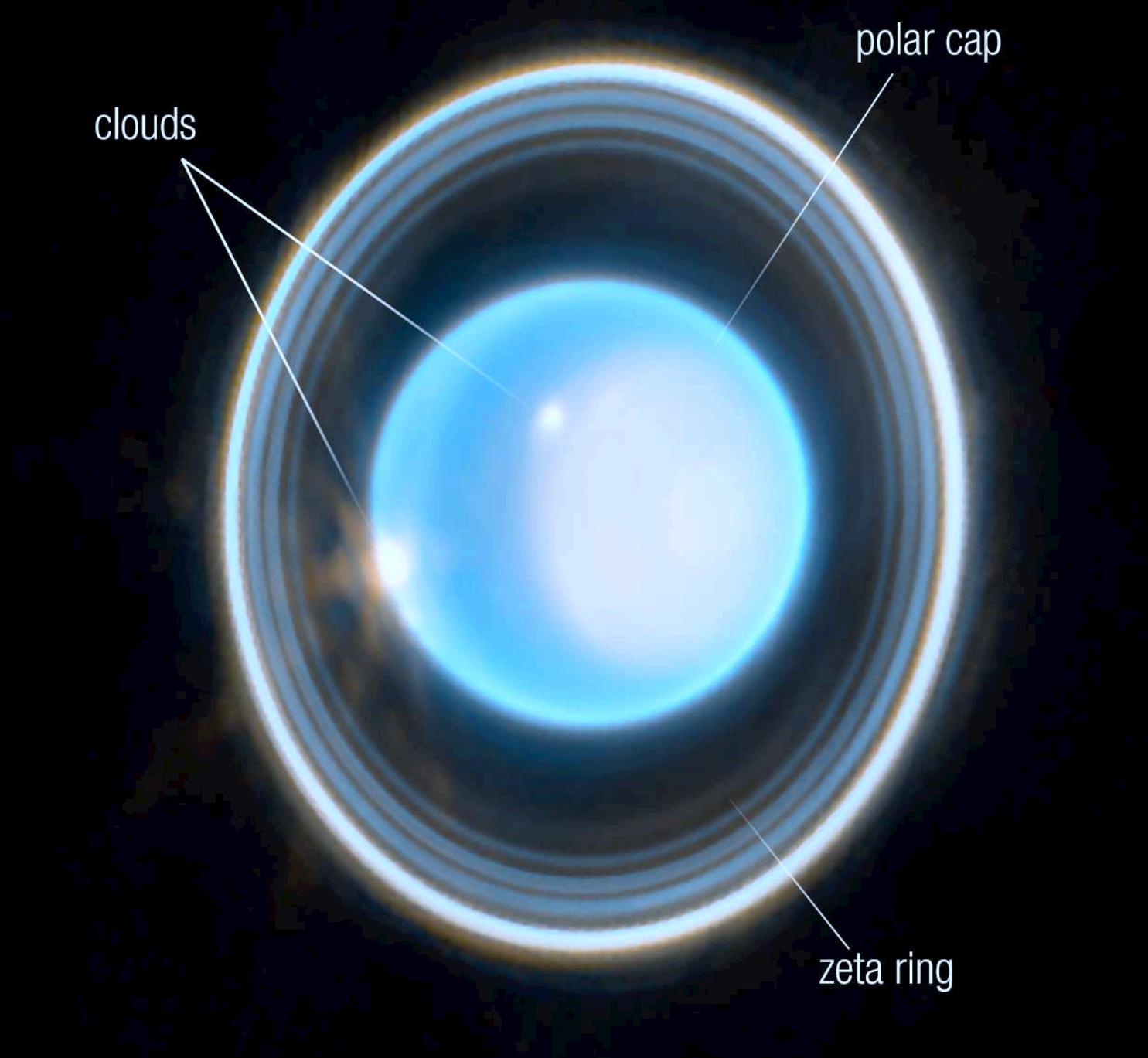
Aug. 2022: JWST NIRcam image of the planet Jupiter:
Beautiful aurorae at its North and South pole: very strong magnetic field!
● The Great “Red” Spot: A giant 4-century storm $2 \times$ Earth’s diameter!

Saturn
JWST NIRCam F323N
June 25, 2023



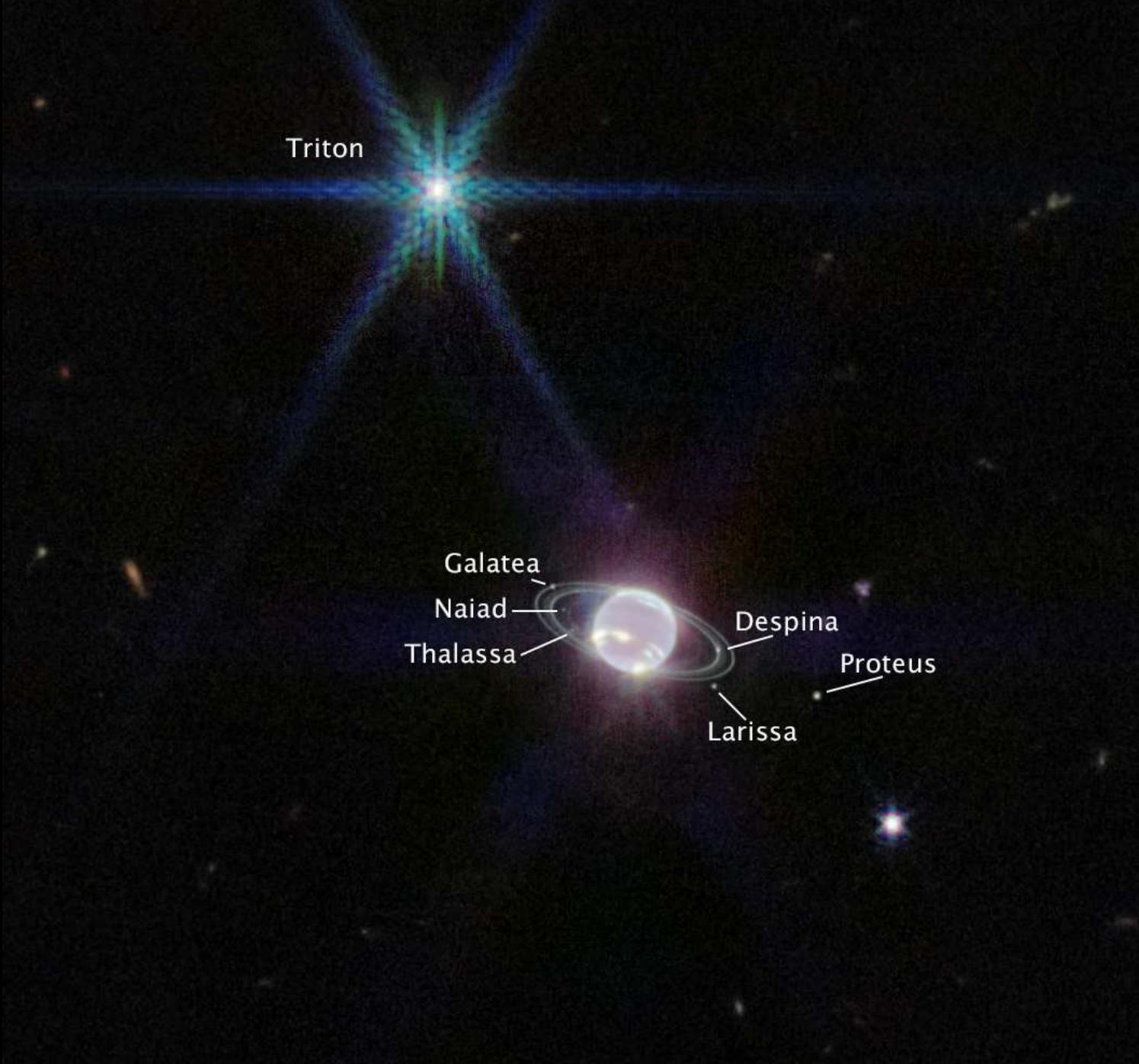
JWST NIRCam: Our own planet Saturn with its moons and rings:

- Planetary rings are “failed moons” due to planet’s strong tidal forces.



NIRCam: Our own planet Uranus with new Zeta ring (*i.e.*, a failed moon)

- Polar cap: warmest point on Uranus for half its 84-year orbit!



NIRCam family portrait of Neptune with 7 of its Moons:
Moon Triton is brighter, since methane darkens Neptune's atmosphere



Closeup of planet Neptune with Webb's NIRCam:

- Giant planets with (dim) rings more common those than without rings!

(1) SCIENCE IMPACT BY THE HST & JWST COMMUNITY (Feb. 2025):

- HST: $\gtrsim 500\text{--}1000$ refereed papers/year by the community since 1990.
- 45,900 HST papers on [ADS](#), 948,800 citations since 1990, $h_{HST}=322!$
- JWST: over 2300 refereed papers ([57k cites](#)), since July 2022 alone!
- In year 1-3: JWST already outdoing HST's yearly production.

(2) NEWS RELEASES BY THE HST & JWST COMMUNITY (Feb 2025):

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST) had 1,100 science press releases since 1990, each with $\gtrsim 400$ million readers (or impressions) worldwide.
- $\sim 480 \times 10^9$ reads (or impressions) of Hubble press releases in total \Rightarrow
- *On average* each human on Earth would have read $\gtrsim 60$ Hubble stories during their lifetimes.
- HST is the most publicized space astrophysics mission in NASA history.
- JWST: $\gtrsim 170$ press releases since 2022, each 0.5–1 billion readers.
- JWST is now the most-in-demand space mission in NASA history.
- ASU Cosmology: 10 billion [readers](#) from $\gtrsim 10$ releases since 2022 ([URL](#)).

(8) What do our Astrophysics College Graduates do?

Possible Future (NASA) Careers:

- Over the last 25 years, (ASU) Astrophysics College Graduates typically:
- (0) Have very low unemployment (\lesssim few %).
- (1) About 25% are faculty at Universities or 4-year colleges.
- (2) About 25% are researchers at NASA or other government centers.
- (3) About 30% work in Aerospace or related industries.
- (4) About 20% are faculty at Community Colleges or Highschools.

See also: <http://aas.org/learn/careers-astronomy>

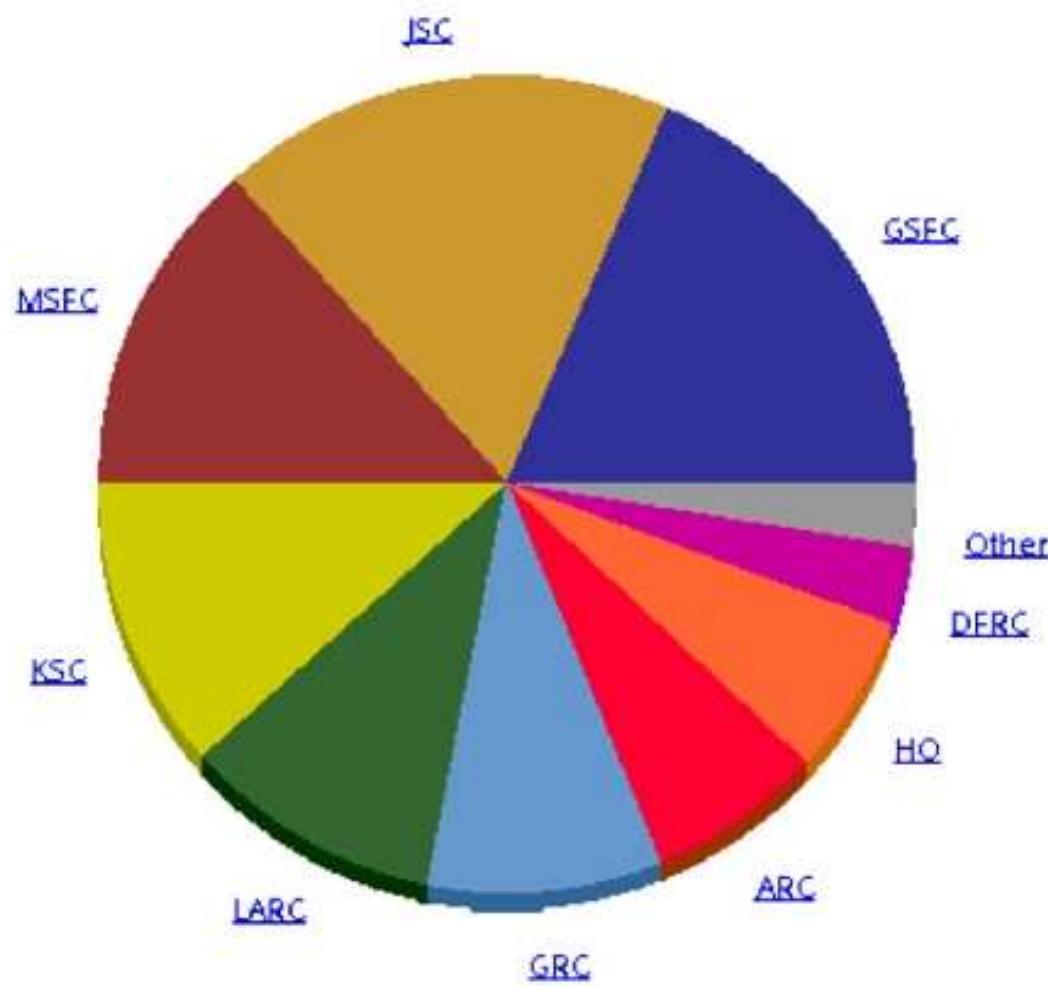
<http://www.aip.org/statistics/astronomy/>

<https://webapp4.asu.edu/programs/t5/careerdetails/19-2011.00?init=false&nopassive=true>

<http://scitation.aip.org/content/aip/magazine/physicstoday/article/68/6/10.1063/PT.3.2815>

CS Head Count

as values



NASA workforce as pie-chart and in numbers — 2013 total: about 18,000).

Nation-wide NASA contractors (Northrop, Lockheed, Boeing, etc): 150,000.

See also: <https://wicn.nssc.nasa.gov/generic.html>

Some of our ASU grad students do important outreach events:



Annual Girl Scout Stargazing at the White House South lawn (July 2015).

Our own Amber Straughn (right; now at NASA GSFC working for Nobel Laureate Dr. John Mather) informs the Obama's about NASA.

Related papers, press releases and other URLs

- Talk: http://www.asu.edu/clas/hst/www/jwst/azdigitalprep_5thgraders_jwst25.pdf Data: <https://sites.google.com/view/jwstpearls>
- <https://hubblesite.org/contents/news-releases/2022/news-2022-050>
- <https://blogs.nasa.gov/webb/2022/10/05/webb-hubble-team-up-to-trace-interstellar-dust-within-a-galactic-pair/>
- <https://blogs.nasa.gov/webb/2022/12/14/webb-glimpses-field-of-extragalactic-pearsls-studded-with-galactic-diamonds/>
- <https://esawebb.org/images/pearls1/zoomable/>
- <https://webbtelescope.org/contents/news-releases/2023/news-2023-119>
- <https://news.asu.edu/20230801-jwsts-gravitational-lens-reveals-distant-objects-behind-el-gordo-galaxy-cluster>
- <https://hubblesite.org/contents/news-releases/2023/news-2023-146>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/19/science/christmas-stars-galaxies-webb-nasa.html?>
- <https://blogs.nasa.gov/webb/2024/10/01/> & <https://bigthink.com/start-with-a-bang/triple-lens-supernova-jwst/>
- Adams, N. J., Conselice, C. J., Austin, D., et al. 2024, ApJ, 965, 169 ([astro-ph/2304.13721v1](#))
- Berkheimer, J. M., Carleton, T., Windhorst, R. A., et al. 2024, ApJ, 964, L29 ([astro-ph/2310.16923v2](#))
- Carleton, T., Windhorst, R. A., O'Brien, R., et al. 2022, AJ, 164, 170 ([astro-ph/2205.06347](#))
- Carleton, T., Cohen, S. H., Frye, B., et al. 2023, ApJ, 953, 83 ([astro-ph/2303.04726](#))
- Diego, J. M., Meena, A. K., Adams, N. J., et al. 2023, A&A, 672, A3 ([astro-ph/2210.06514](#))
- Diego, J. M., Sun, B., Yan, H., et al. 2023, A&A, 679, A31 ([astro-ph/2307.10363](#))
- Diego, J. M., Adams, N. J., Willner, S., et al. 2024, A&A, 690, 114 ([astro-ph/2312.11603](#))
- Diego, J. M., Li, S. K., Amruth, A., et al. 2024, A&A, 690, A359 ([astro-ph/2404.08033](#))
- D'Silva, J. C. J., Driver, S. P., Lagos, C. D. P., et al. 2024, ApJL, 959, L18 ([astro-ph/2310.03081v1](#))
- D'Silva, J. C. J., Driver, S. P., Lagos, C. D. P., et al. 2025, A&A ([astro-ph/2503.03431](#))
- Duncan, K. J., Windhorst, R. A., et al. 2023, MNRAS, 522, 4548–4564 ([astro-ph/2212.09769](#))
- Frye, B. L., Pascale, M., Foo, N., et al. 2023, ApJ, 952, 81 ([astro-ph/2303.03556](#))
- Frye, B. L., Pascale, M., Pierel, J., Chen, W., Foo, N., et al. 2024, ApJ, 961, 171 ([astro-ph/2309.07326v1](#))
- Gardner, J. P., Mather, J., Abbott, R., et al. 2023, PASP, 135, 068001 ([astro-ph/2304.04869](#))
- Kamieneski, P. S., Frye, B. L., Pascale, M., et al. 2023, ApJ, 955, 91 ([astro-ph/2303.05054](#))

- Fudamoto, Y., Sun, F., Diego, J. M., et al. 2025, *Nature Astron.*, 9, 428 (astro-ph/2404.08045)
- Kamieneski, P. S., Frye, B. L., Windhorst, R. A., et al. 2024, *ApJ*, 973, 25 (astro-ph/2404.08058)
- Keel, W. C., Windhorst, R. A., Jansen, R. A., et al. 2023, *AJ*, 165, 166 (astro-ph/2208.14475)
- Kramer, D. M., Carleton, T., Cohen, S. H., et al. 2022, *ApJL*, 940, L15 (astro-ph/2208.07218v2)
- O'Brien, R., Carleton, T., Windhorst, R. et al. 2023, *AJ*, 165, 237 (astro-ph/2210.08010)
- O'Brien, R., Jansen, R. A., Grogin, N. A., et al. *ApJS*, 272, 19 (astro-ph/2401.04944)
- Ortiz, III, R., Windhorst, R. A., Cohen, S. H., et al. 2024, *ApJ*, 974, 258 (astro-ph/2404.10709)
- Pascale, M., Frye, B., Pierel, J., et al. 2025, *ApJ*, 979, 13 (astro-ph/2403.18902)
- Polletta, M. del Carmen, Nonino, M., Frye, B., et al. 2023, *A&AL*, 675, L4 (astro-ph/2306.12385)
- Robertson, C., Holwerda, B. W., Young, J., et al. 2024, *AJ*, 167, 263 (astro-ph/2403.15619)
- Smail, I., Dudzeviciute, U., Gurwell, M., et al. 2023, *ApJ*, 958, 36 (astro-ph/2306.16039)
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- Smith, B. M., Windhorst, R. A., Teplitz, H., et al. 2024, *ApJ*, 964, 73 (astro-ph/2401.03094)
- Summers, J., Windhorst, R. A., Cohen, S. H., et al. 2023, *ApJ*, 958, 108 (astro-ph/2306.13037)
- Wang, X., Teplitz, H. I., Smith, B. M., et al. 2025, *ApJ*, 980, 74 (astro-ph/2308.9064v1)
- Willner, S. P., Gim, H. B., Polletta, M. et al. 2023, *ApJ*, 958, 176 (astro-ph/2309.13008)
- Windhorst, R. A., Timmes, F. X., Wyithe, J. S. B., et al. 2018, *ApJS*, 234, 41 (astro-ph/1801.03584)
- Windhorst, R. A., Carleton, T., O'Brien, R., et al. 2022, *AJ*, 164, 141 (astro-ph/2205.06214)
- Windhorst, R. A., Cohen, S. H., Jansen, R. A., et al. 2023, *AJ*, 165, 13 (astro-ph/2209.04119)
- Windhorst, R. A., Summers, J., Carleton, T., et al. 2025, *J. BAAS*, 57, 1, (astro-ph/2410.01187)
- Yan, H., Cohen, S. H., Windhorst, R. A., et al. 2023, *ApJL*, 942, L8 (astro-ph/2209.04092)
- Yan, H., Ma, Z., Sun, B., et al. 2023, *ApJS*, 269, 43 (astro-ph/2307.07579)