



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



EXPLORE SCIENCE

NASA Astrophysics Update

James Webb Space Telescope Users Committee
Space Telescope Science Institute
September 9, 2019

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Director, Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate
@PHertzNASA 



NASA'S CHANDRA X-RAY OBSERVATORY

SCIENCE BY THE NUMBERS SO FAR

0.002 seconds
for a neutron star (47 Tuc W) observed with Chandra to spin around once

2.3 days
before Chandra started observing a neutron star merger and gravitational wave source after it was discovered

3 number of remnants observed with Chandra of thermonuclear supernova explosions seen with the unaided eye

300 million
Sun masses are swallowed by a black hole to create enormous cavities in hot gas in a galaxy cluster

100
factor of energy that particles obtain over the Large Hadron Collider after being accelerated in a supernova remnant

32 million miles
expansion speed per hour of blast wave in supernova remnant G1.9+0.3

20,000 light years
distance between the black hole in the "Death Star" galaxy and the target galaxy it is striking

10 years
for a supermassive black hole took to dine on the remains of a star it tore apart

3 quintillion
quantity of Sun masses in the El Gordo galaxy cluster

1 quadrillion
how many times stronger the magnetic field of a magnetar is than the magnetic field of Earth

4 inches
height of atmosphere of the neutron star in Cassiopeia A

0.01 number of electrons per cubic centimeter in hot gas in a galaxy cluster

100 million quadrillion
hydrogen bombs are needed to produce the energy a quasar releases every second

99.9 fraction of the speed of light that particles reach in a jet formed by a neutron star

110 years
age of the youngest supernova remnant, timed from Earth, in the Milky Way galaxy

1 billion tons
weight of a sugar cube-sized piece of neutron star

1 million
number of Earth masses worth of oxygen ejected into space in the Cassiopeia A supernova remnant

57 number of octaves below middle C of a note produced by a supermassive black hole observed by Chandra.



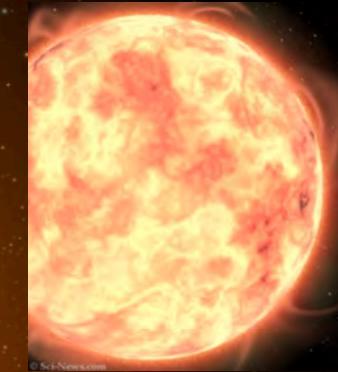
1075 planet candidates
29 confirmed planets

171 publications submitted, 108 peer-reviewed
(53% exoplanets, 47% astrophysics)

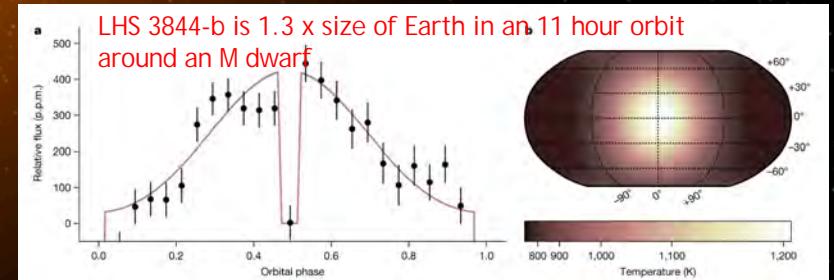
Exoplanet
lite

Observation Sector 15 in
progress

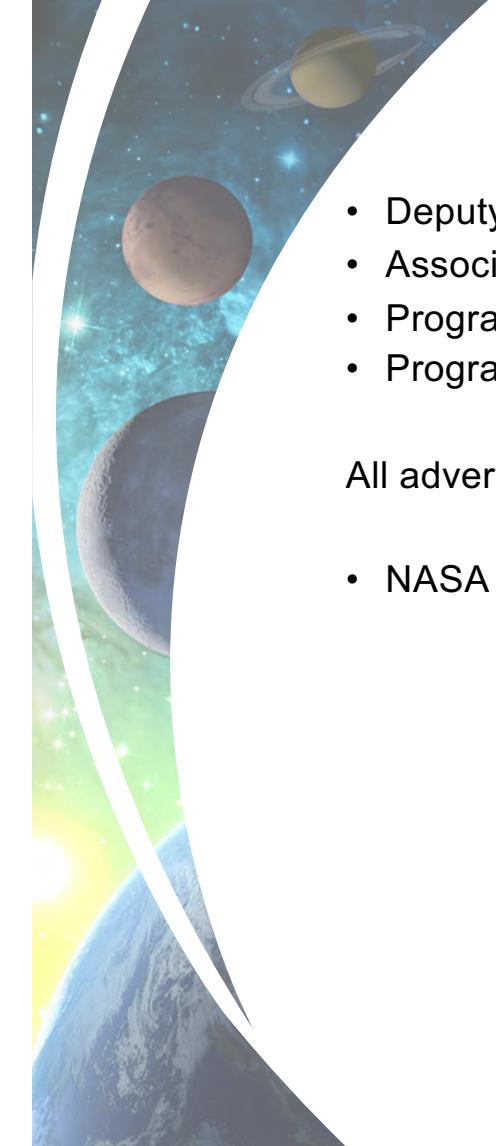
TESS discovers rock
its sky



Spitzer measures thermal
from TESS planet LHS 3844-b
Planet is likely a tidally locked



Last update: September 3, 2019



Astrophysics Division Hiring

- Deputy Division Director
- Associate Division Director for Flight Projects
- Program Scientist(s)
- Program Executive(s)

All advertisements have closed

- NASA will be calling for IPA applications in the Fall

Building An Excellent Workforce

NASA achieves excellence by relying on diverse teams, both within and external to NASA, to most effectively perform NASA's work

"Assess the state of the profession. Identify areas of concern and importance [regarding] the future vitality and capability of the astronomy and astrophysics work force. Where possible, provide specific, actionable and practical recommendations to the agencies." – Astro2020 Statement of Task

NASA Science Mission Directorate

- Developed a PI resources webpage at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/new-pi-resources>
- Introduced pre-reviews of mission peer review panels to ensure diversity
- Added a code of conduct requirement for SMD-funded conferences to ROSES 2019
- Included career development positions and associated evaluation criteria as part of Discovery and New Frontiers AOs
- Implemented a Code of Conduct and implicit bias training for all ROSES peer reviews
- Adopting dual anonymous reviews for all GO programs, and piloting them for other R&A programs, following successful demonstration by STScI for Hubble GO program
- Presented a national symposium by SMD AA Thomas Zurbuchen on lessons learned regarding mission proposal success
- Is developing award terms and conditions mandating reporting harassment, similar to NSF's
- Is presenting information sessions at major conferences to support people developing first proposal

NASA is looking forward to specific, actionable, and practical recommendations



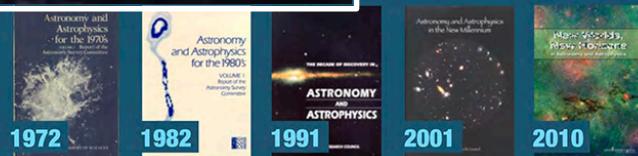
Setting the Stage for the Decadal Survey



Why Astrophysics?



Enduring National Strategic Drivers

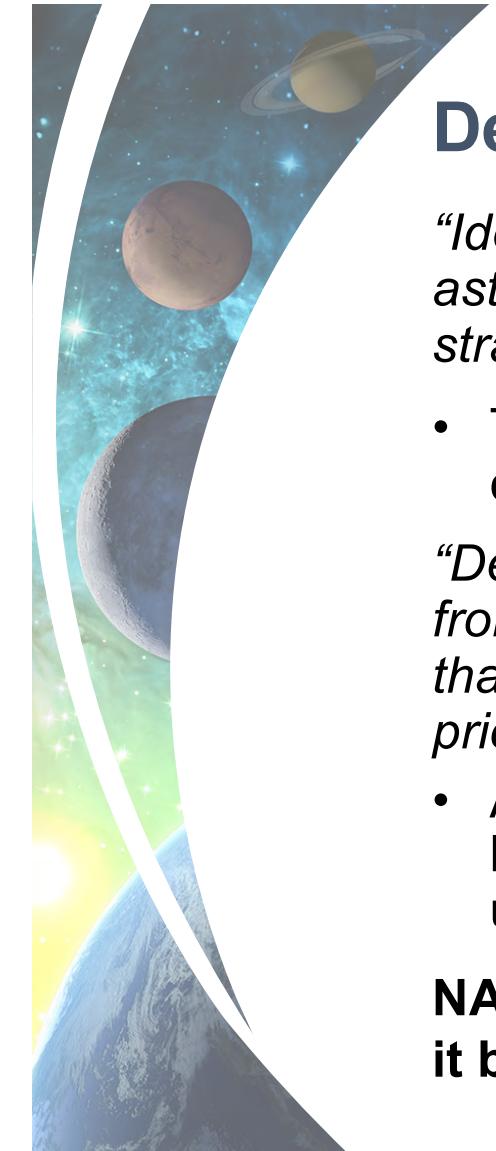


How did our universe begin and evolve?

“Success criteria are progress in answering fundamental science questions, implementing the decadal survey priorities, and responding to direction from the Executive Branch and Congress.”

NASA Strategic Plan (2018)

Astrophysics is humankind's scientific endeavor to understand the universe and our place in it.



Decadal Survey Goal

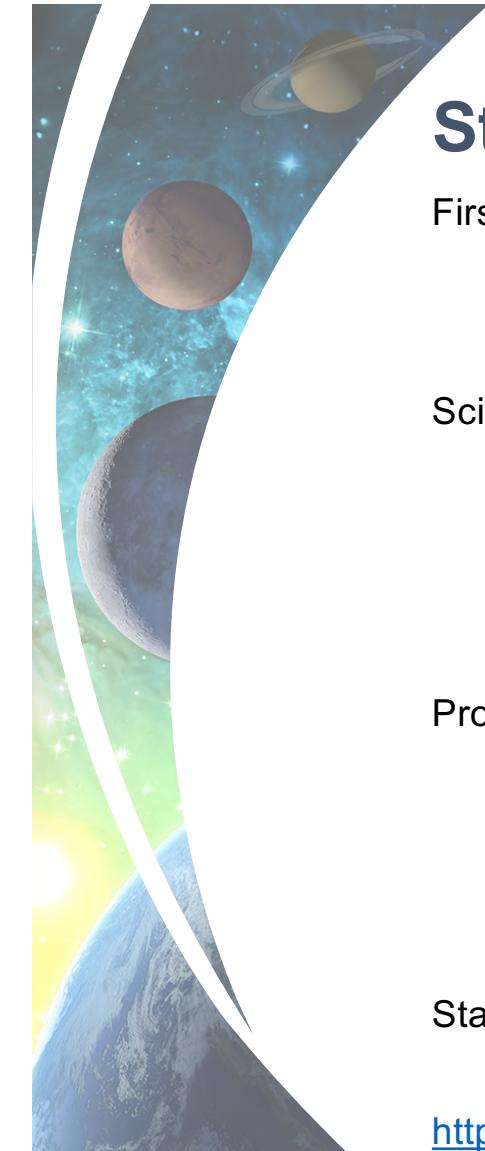
“Identify the most compelling science challenges and frontiers in astronomy and astrophysics, which shall motivate the committee’s strategy for the future.” – Astro2020 Statement of Task

- The important science questions require new and ambitious capabilities

“Develop a comprehensive research strategy to advance the frontiers of astronomy and astrophysics for the period 2022-2032 that will include identifying, recommending, and ranking the highest priority research activities.” – Astro2020 Statement of Task

- Ambitious missions prioritized by previous Decadal Surveys have always led to paradigm shifting discoveries about the universe

NASA’s highest aspiration for the 2020 Decadal Survey is that it be ambitious



Status of the Decadal Survey

First public meeting of Decadal Survey Steering Committee occurred on July 15-16

Decadal survey is establishing Panels to review white papers and provide findings/recommendations to Steering Committee

Second public meeting will be December 9-11

Science Panels

Cosmology – Daniel Eisenstein (Aug 21-23)

Galaxies – Daniela Calzetti (Aug 28-30)

Interstellar Medium and Star and Planet Formation – Lee Hartmann (Aug 26-28)

Stars, the Sun, and Stellar Populations – Sarbani Basu (Aug 21-23)

Compact Objects and Energetic Phenomena – Deepto Chakrabarty (Sep 4-6)

Exoplanets, Astrobiology, and the Solar System – Victoria Meadows (Sep 11-13)

Program Panels

Electromagnetic Observations from Space 1

Electromagnetic Observations from Space 2

Optical and Infrared Observations from the Ground

Radio, Millimeter, and Submillimeter Observations from the Ground

Particle Astrophysics and Gravitation

An Enabling Foundation for Research

State of the Profession Panel

State of the Profession and Societal Impacts

<https://sites.nationalacademies.org/DEPS/astro2020/>

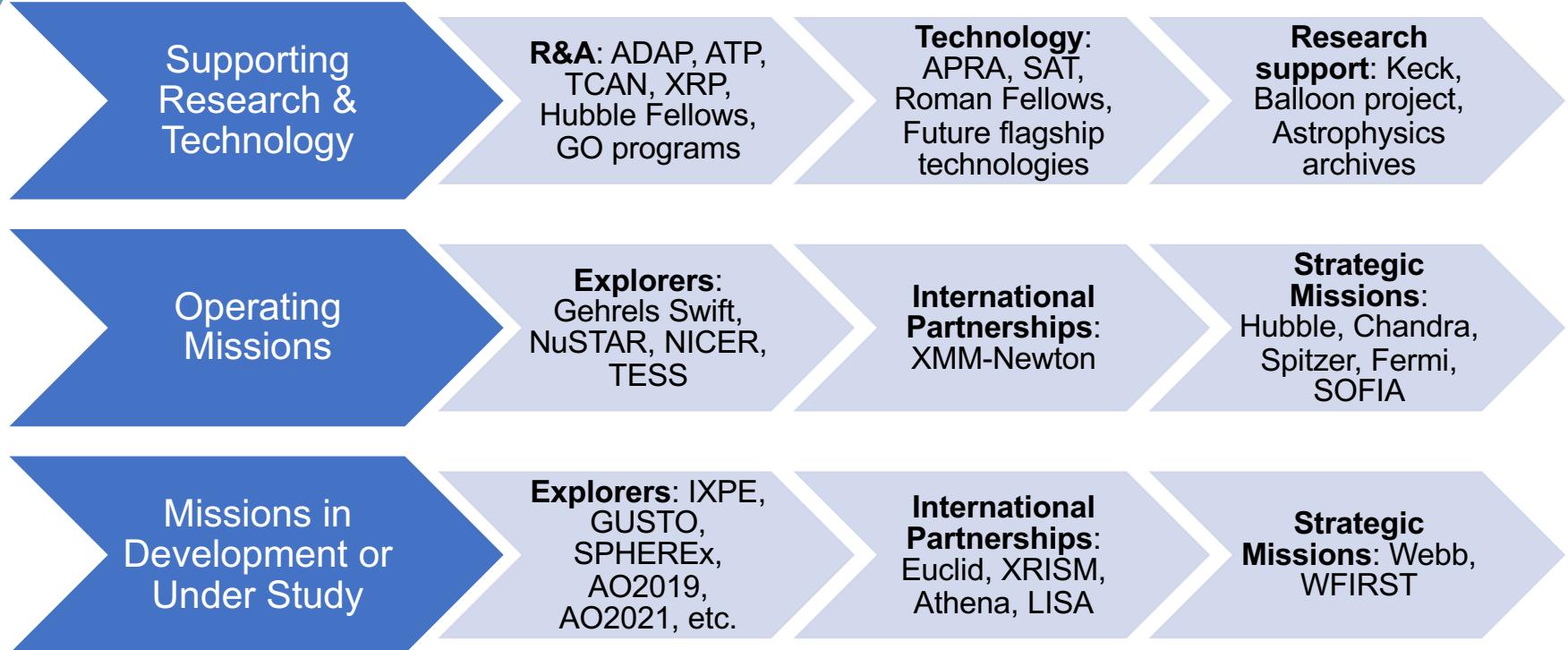


Program of Record



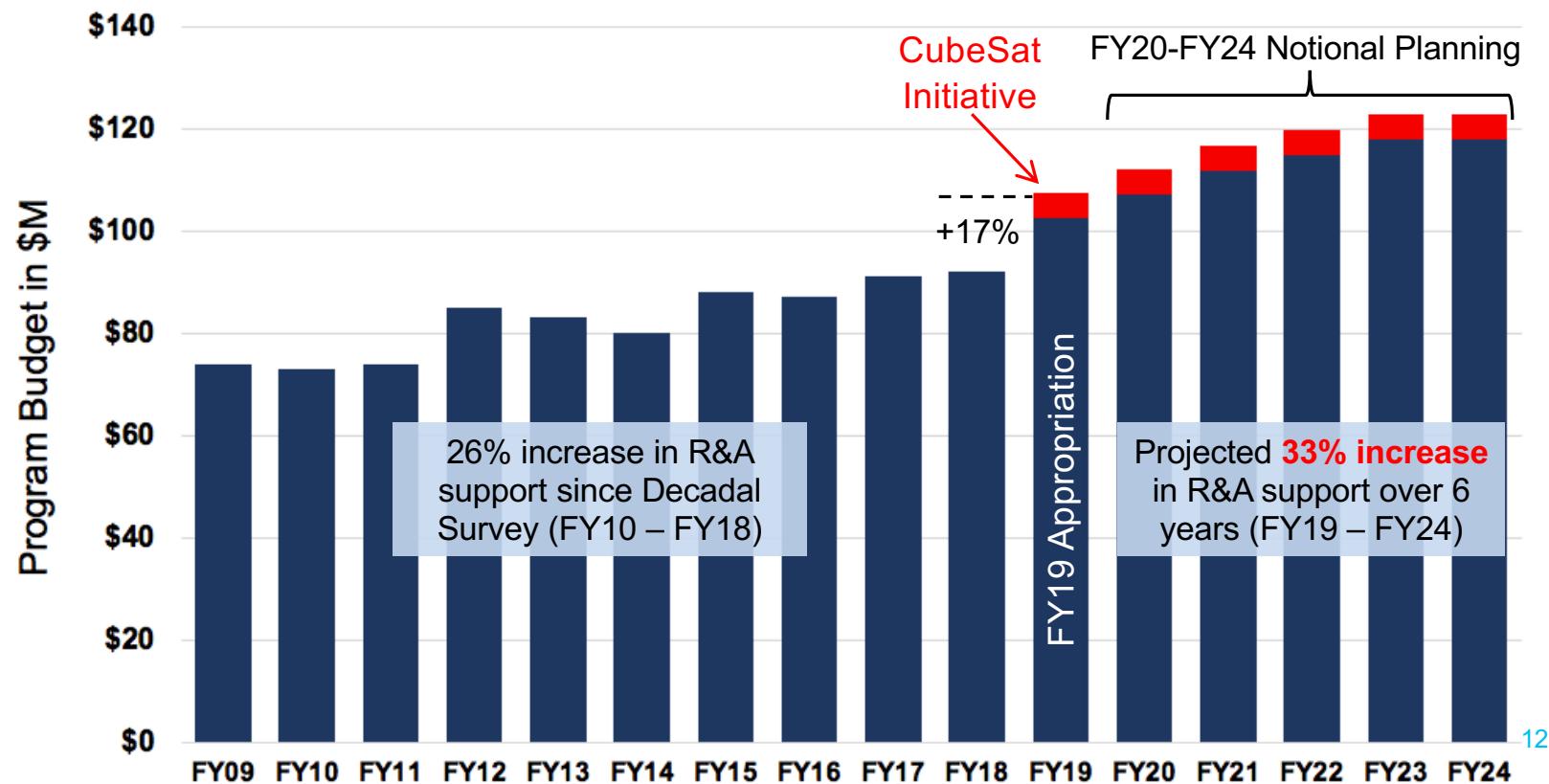


Program of Record

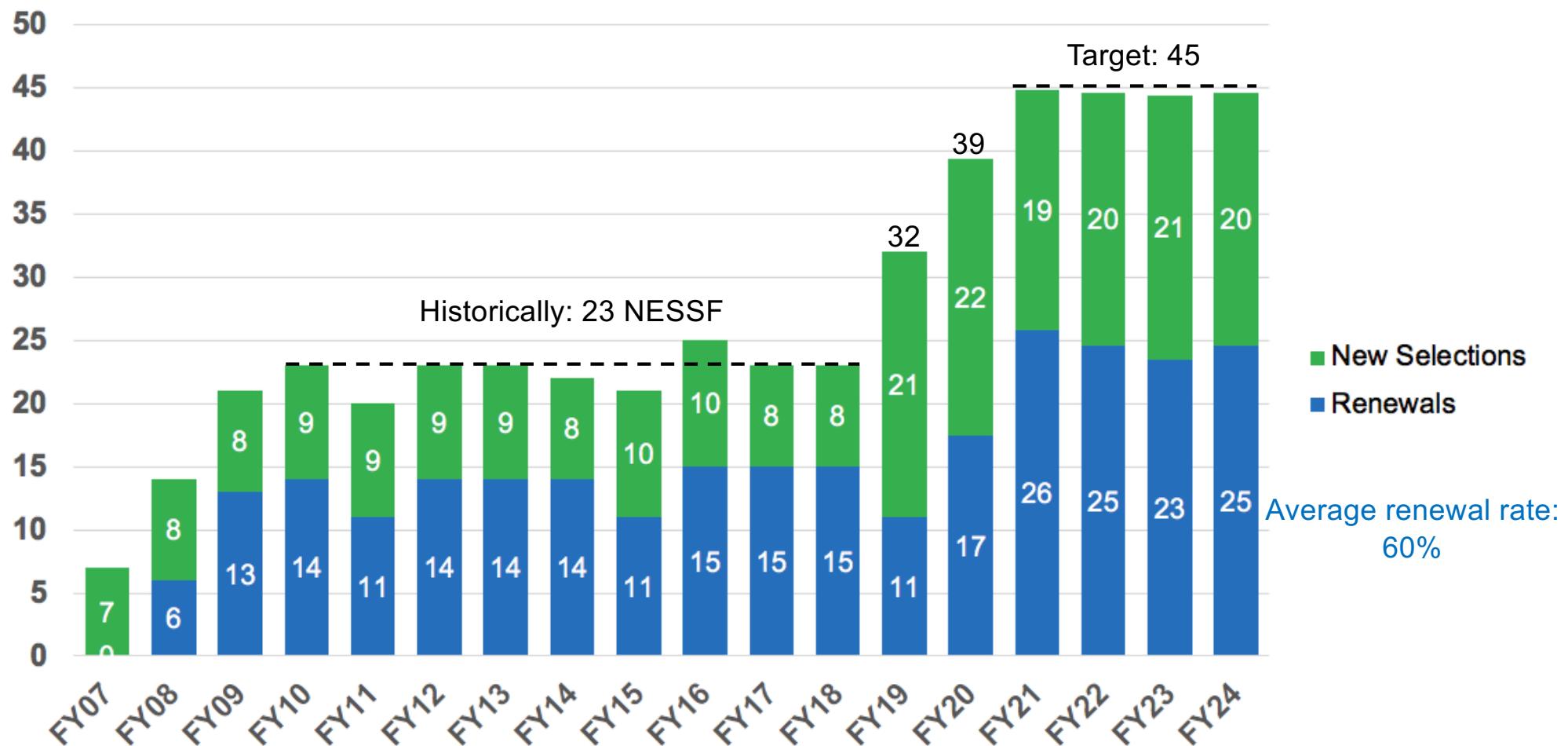


Growth in R&A Funding (\$M)

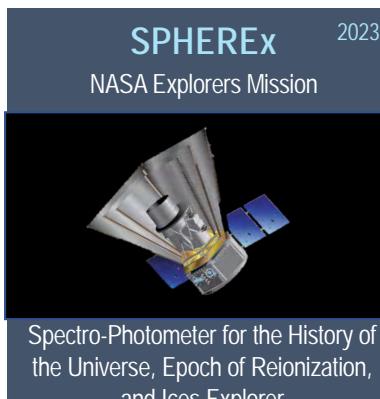
Program	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
R&A	\$74	\$73	\$74	\$85	\$83	\$80	\$88	\$87	\$91	\$92	\$103	\$107	\$112	\$115	\$118	\$118
CubeSat											\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Total	\$74	\$73	\$74	\$85	\$83	\$80	\$88	\$87	\$91	\$92	\$108	\$112	\$117	\$120	\$123	\$123



FINESST Renewals and New Selections



Missions in Development or Under Study



Dates are the current planning launch dates, not the NASA commitment dates



The Webb observatory in the clean room in Redondo Beach, CA before observatory environmental testing and observatory deployment tests

Webb

The James Webb Space Telescope



- Science payload completed three months cryogenic testing at end of 2017
- Spacecraft and sunshield integration completed January 2018
- Spacecraft element including sunshield completed environmental testing May 2019
- Science payload and spacecraft integration completed August 2019, to be followed by test deployment of sunshield
- Testing of full observatory begins in 2019 and continues in 2020
- Webb overrun covered using offsets from Astrophysics Probes

Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope

Work continues with FY19 funding

2016 – Completed Mission Concept review and began Phase A

2018 – Completed Mission Design review / System requirements Review and began Phase B

2019 – Completing Preliminary Design Reviews

2020 – Complete Confirmation Review and begin Phase C

2021 – Call for Core Surveys

Mid-2020s – Launch



WFIRST is 100 to 1500 times faster than Hubble for large surveys at equivalent area and depth

Science Program includes

- Dark energy and the fate of the universe through surveys measuring the expansion history of the universe and the growth of structure
- The full distribution of planets around stars through a microlensing survey
- Wide-field infrared surveys of the universe through General Observer and Archival Research programs
- Technology development for the characterization of exoplanets through a Coronagraph Technology Demonstration Instrument

Astrophysics Explorers Program



Gehrels
Swift



TESS

4 AOs per decade



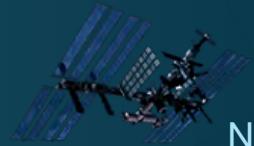
MIDEX
2011



NuSTAR



SMEX
2014



NICER



SMEX
2019



MIDEX
2021

Small and
Mid-Size
Missions



TESS

Missions of
Opportunity



NICER



IXPE



GUSTO



SPHEREx



MO TBD

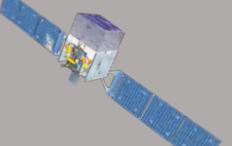
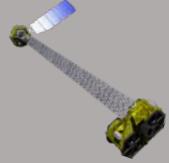


XRISM

Explorers Mission of Opportunity
AO includes new opportunities:

- NASA-provided RideShare
- SmallSat Secondary Payloads
- Opportunities enabled by the Artemis Program

Operating Missions

Hubble NASA Strategic Mission 	Chandra NASA Strategic Mission 	XMM-Newton ESA-led Mission 	Spitzer NASA Strategic Mission 	Gehrels Swift NASA MIDEX Mission 	Fermi NASA Strategic Mission 
Hubble Space Telescope	Chandra X-ray Observatory	X-ray Multi Mirror - Newton	Spitzer Space Telescope	Neil Gehrels Swift Gamma-ray Burst Explorer	Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope
Kepler NASA Discovery Mission  Mission Complete!	NuSTAR NASA SMEX Mission 	SOFIA NASA Strategic Mission 	ISS-NICER NASA Explorers Miss. of Opty 	TESS NASA MIDEX Mission 	

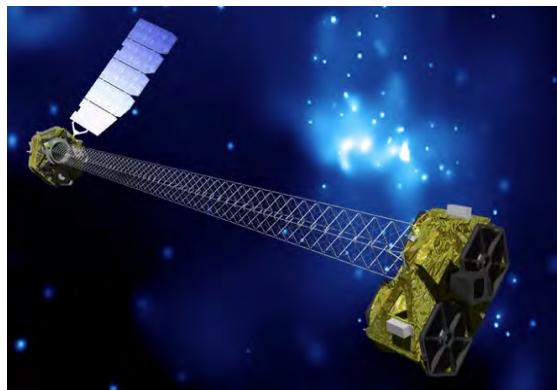
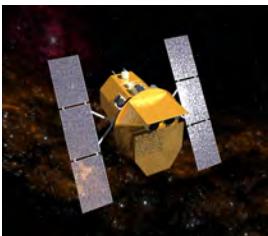
SOFIA

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

- SOFIA's 5-year prime mission will be completed at the end of FY19
- Given that the program has finished 5 years of operations, NASA has conducted two reviews of the SOFIA project to make changes directed at increasing the science productivity of SOFIA in FY20 and beyond
 - Review of SOFIA's maintenance and operations paradigm
 - Review of SOFIA's science progress and science prospects
- Based on the reviews, NASA will be making some changes in the SOFIA project to improve SOFIA's science productivity and responsiveness to community science priorities
 - Complete transition of SOFIA from a development mode to a more productive science operations mode
 - SOFIA will fly more frequently to obtain more science hours
 - SOFIA will primarily fly shorter (~8 hour) flights to immediately get to higher altitudes
- HIRMES, the next SOFIA science instrument, continues development
 - Expected delivery date is Dec 2020



Senior Review 2019

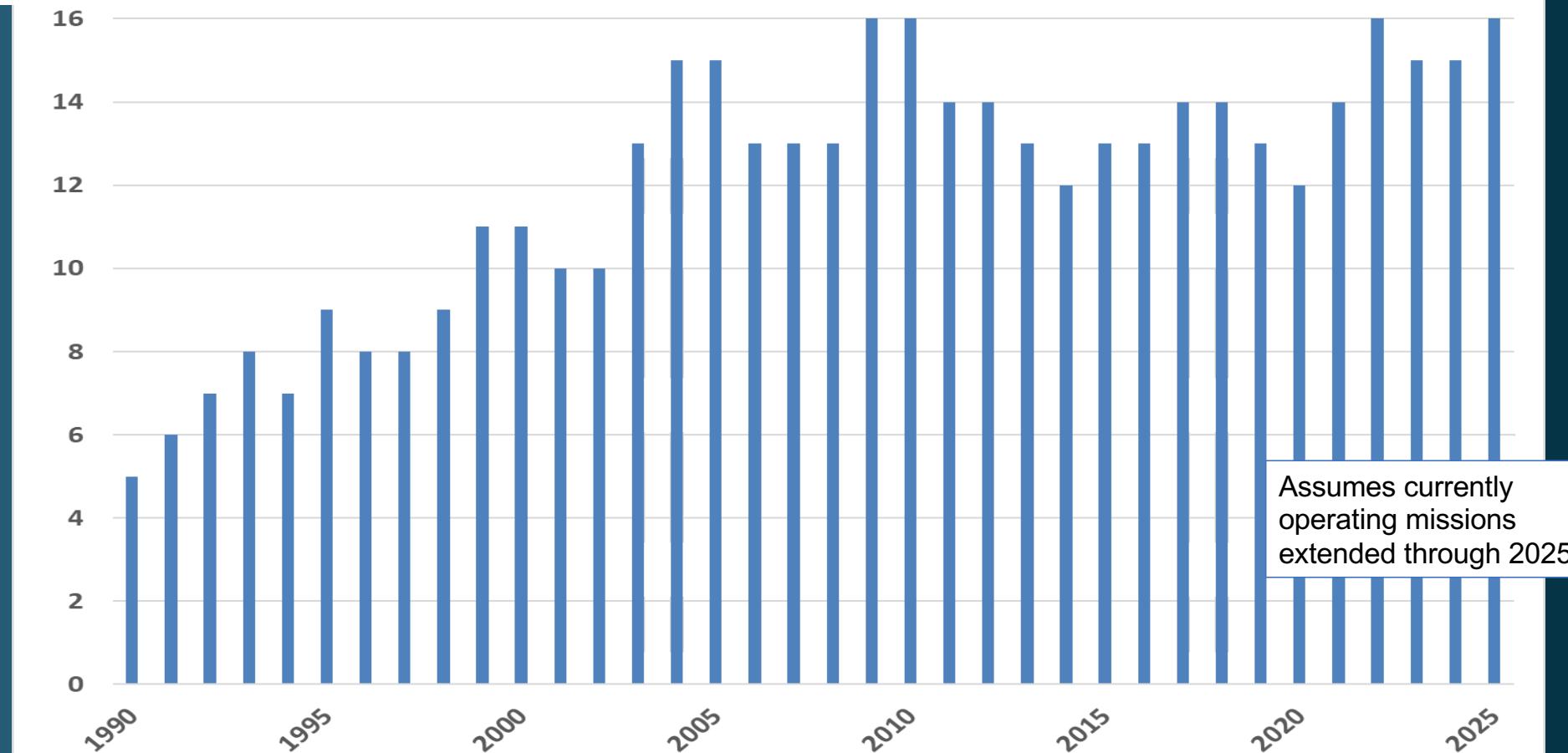


- Hubble No change to budget guideline
- Chandra Selected overguides: Audit fees, labor & GO (inflation)
- TESS Extended mission w/ full funding & continued GO program
- Swift Selected overguides: New tools for Targets of Opportunity (TOO) and Ultraviolet-Optical Telescope (UVOT)
Ops w/out Department of Energy (DOE)
- Fermi Extended mission w/ reduced ops & new GO program
- NICER Phase out legacy science for GO science
- NuSTAR No change
- XMM-Newton No change

Not in Senior Review: Kepler, SOFIA, Spitzer

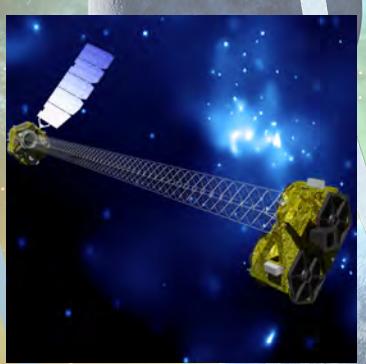
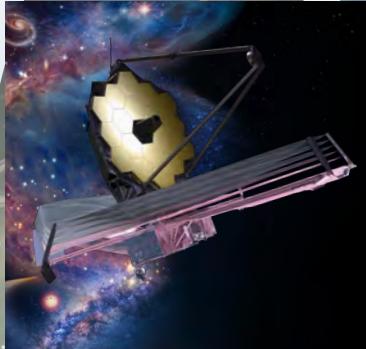
Astrophysics Mission Timeline

Missions operating each year

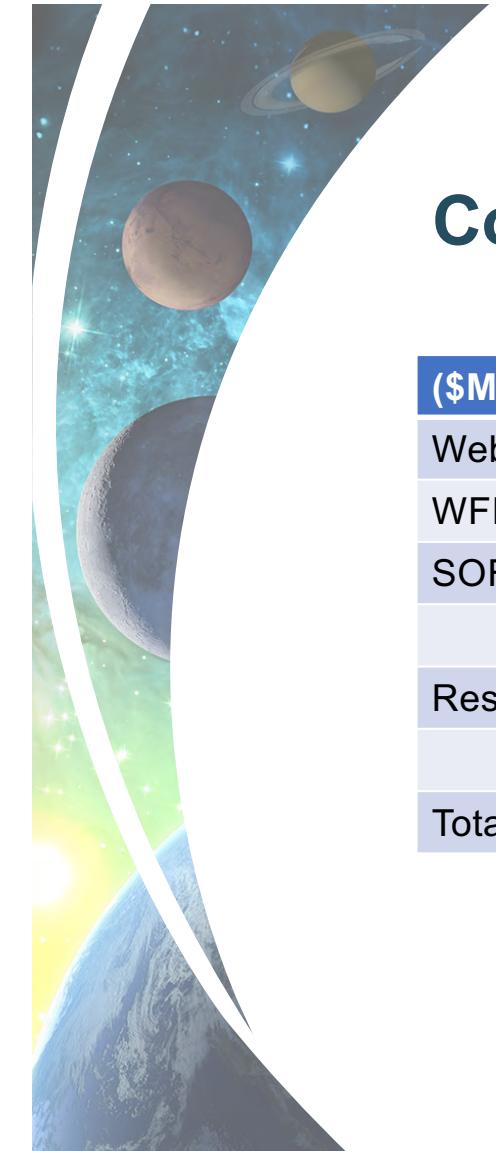


Budget

FY20 Budget Request



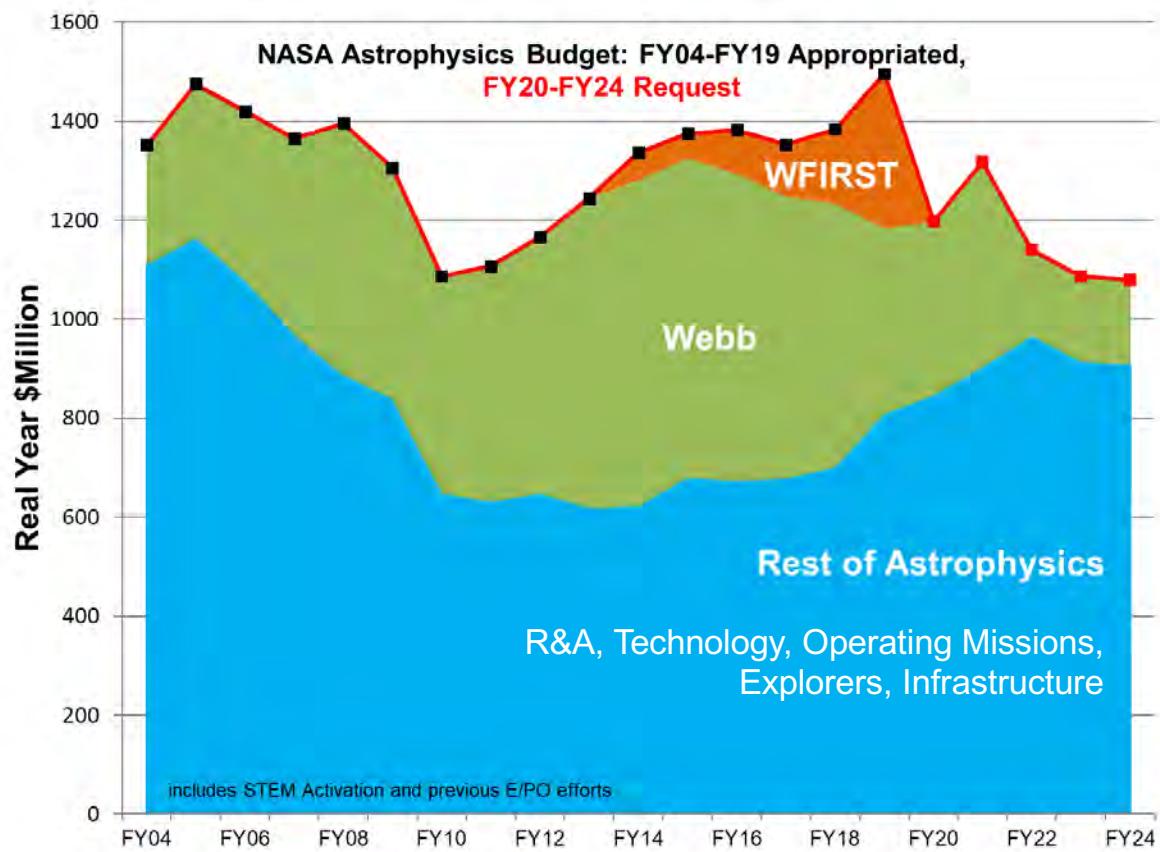
- Accommodates Webb replan to March 2021 LRD
- Given its significant cost within proposed lower budget for Astrophysics and competing priorities within NASA, WFIRST terminated with remaining WFIRST funding redirected towards completing Webb
- Supports formulation of a probe mission as early as 2022, conditional on Decadal Survey recommendations
- Maintains decadal cadence of four AOs per decade for Astrophysics Explorers and Missions of Opportunity
- Funds SOFIA for three years beyond end of prime mission in FY19 at reduced budget; two alternate reviews conducted in 2019 in lieu of inclusion in 2019 Senior Review
- Extends operating missions (other than Hubble and Chandra) at reduced budget beyond FY20 following 2019 Senior Review
- Supports mission concept studies and technology investments starting in 2022 to respond to Astrophysics Decadal Survey priorities



Congressional Markup of FY20 Budget

(\$M)	Request	House	Senate	Comment
Webb	352.6	352.6		Supports replan
WFIRST	0	510.7		Includes \$65M for CGI
SOFIA	73.0	85.2		
Rest of Astrophysics	772.8	771.8		\$1M (0.1%) reduction
Total	1,197.4	1,720.3		

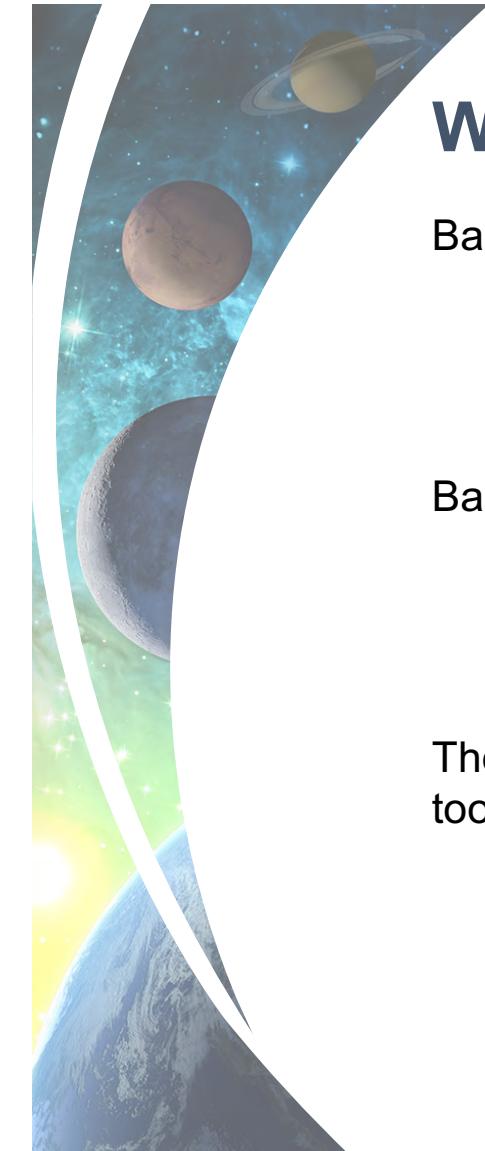
NASA Astrophysics Budget





Program of the Future





What is a Balanced Program?

Balanced among multiple goals and priorities

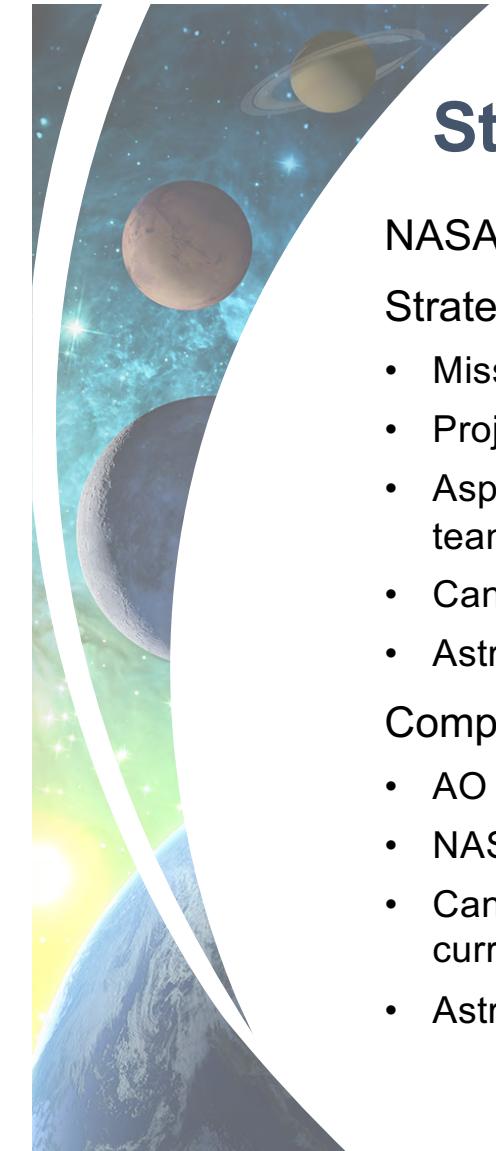
- Addresses science (Decadal Survey) goals and priorities
- Addresses National goals and priorities
- Addresses NASA goals and priorities

Balanced through time

- Yields science discoveries today
- Enables science discoveries tomorrow
- Is sustainable: maintains necessary National capabilities

The needs for different mission sizes and/or wavelength diversity are necessary tools for success

- A balanced astrophysics portfolio reduces overall risk with different mission sizes that have different risk/reward postures
- A balanced astrophysics portfolio is capable of addressing multiple science goals and priorities and increases overall productivity with wavelength diversity



Strategic Missions and Competed Missions

NASA science missions are generally initiated in two different ways

Strategic missions are initiated to respond to specific science objectives

- Mission architecture and acquisition strategy is tailored to the science objectives
- Project management is generally directed to a NASA Center
- Aspects of the mission may be competed through an AO (instruments), ROSES (science team, key science projects), or an RFP (spacecraft, integration and test)
- Can be any mission size: Flagship, Medium/Probe, International Contribution, or Small
- Astro2020 should recommend strategic missions

Competed missions are initiated through an AO

- AO solicits both the science objectives and the implementation plan (architecture, team)
- NASA selection of PI-led proposal is generally “take it or leave it”
- Can be any size except flagship, though only small (MIDEX, SMEX, MOs) are in the current astrophysics program
- Astro2020 should recommend competed programs, but not specific competed missions



Medium Mission Concepts (Probes)

Probes are strategic missions that have had a strong impact on astrophysics, either through a focused investigation or as a broadly-capable observatory

COBE NASA Strategic Explorer 	EUVE NASA Strategic Explorer 	Rossi XTE NASA Strategic Explorer 	GP-B NASA Strategic Mission 	Fermi NASA Strategic Mission 	Kepler NASA Discovery Mission 
Cosmic Background Explorer	Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer	Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer	Gravity Probe B The Relativity Mission	Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope	Kepler Space Telescope

NASA funded probe studies are available at <https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/2020-decadal-survey-planning>

Options for 2020 Decadal Survey

- Do not recommend a medium mission in Astro2020
- Recommend specific probe(s) as medium-size strategic missions
- Recommend several specific science concepts for an AO (New Frontiers)
- Recommend an unconstrained AO (Super-Explorer)

Why Flagships

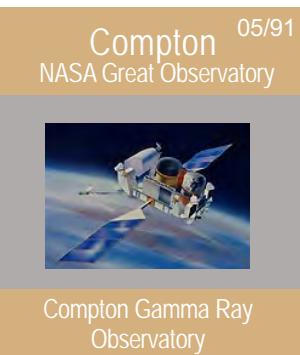
Flagships drive science

Flagships drive US capabilities and contribute to US leadership

Flagships drive NASA budget and create stakeholder support



Hubble
NASA Great Observatory



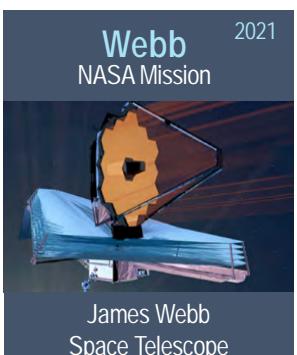
Compton
NASA Great Observatory



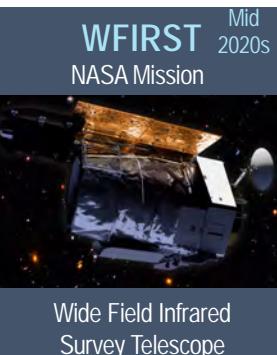
Chandra
NASA Great Observatory



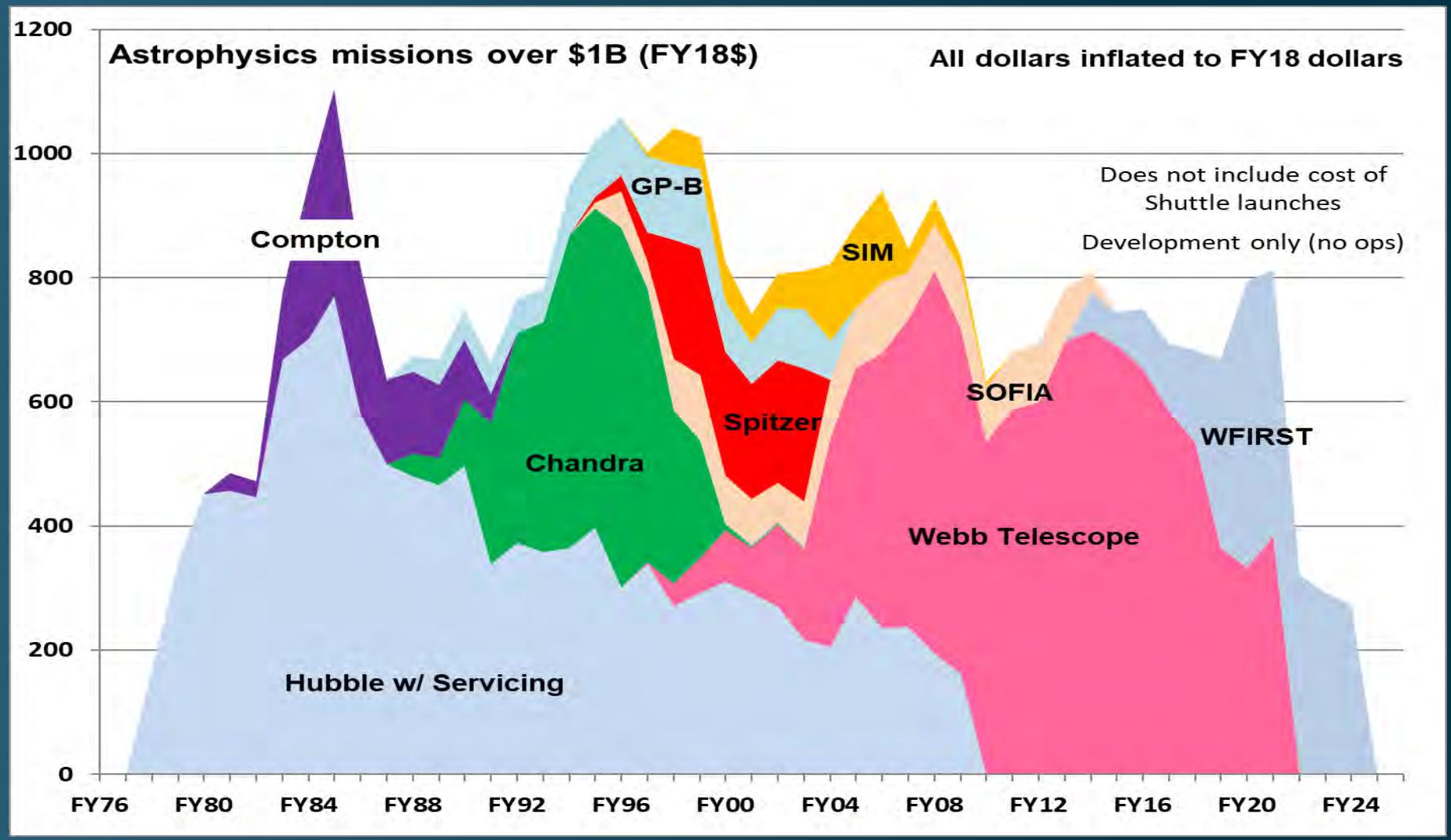
Spitzer
NASA Great Observatory



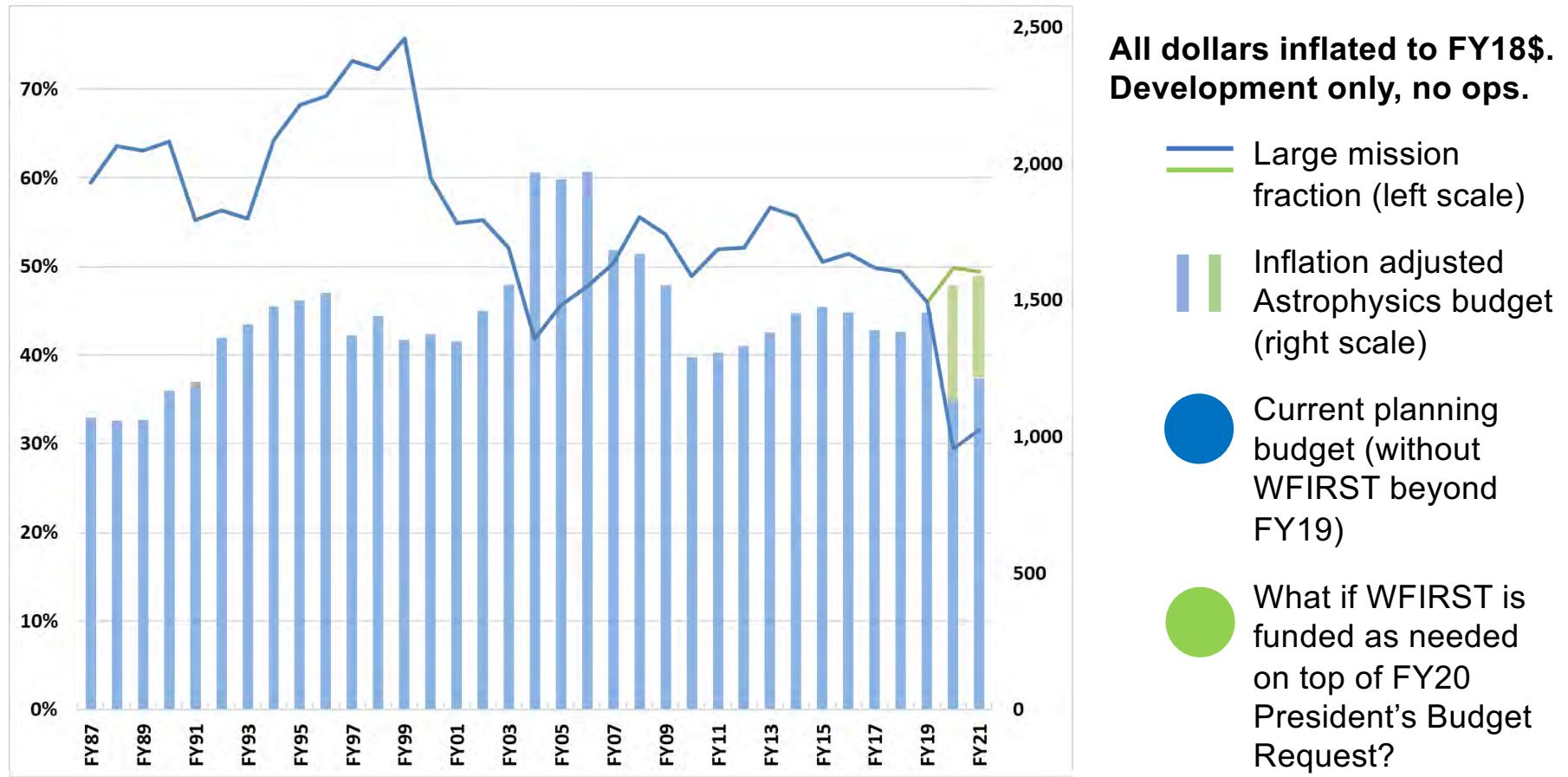
Webb
NASA Mission

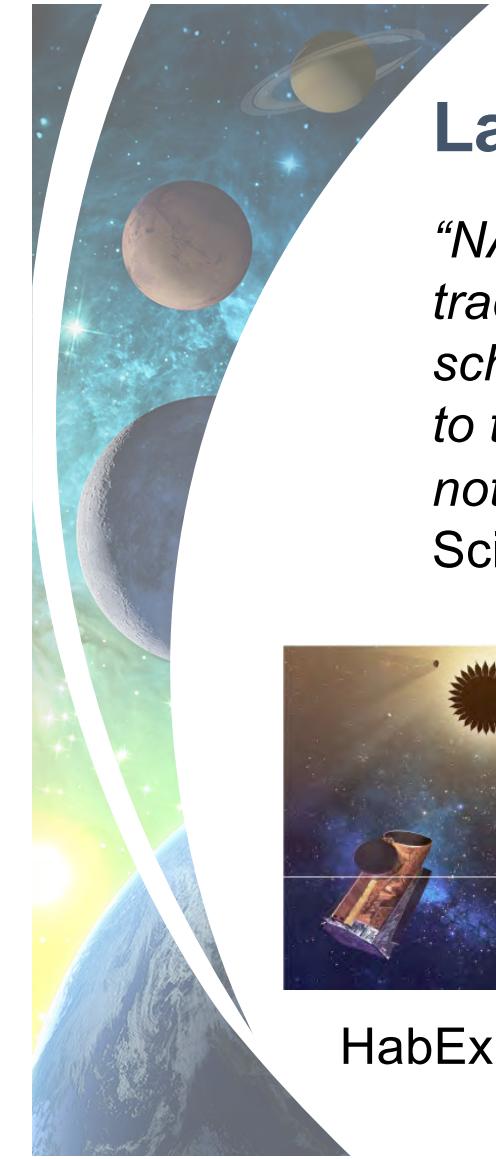


WFIRST
Mid
NASA Mission



Flagship Fraction of Astrophysics Budget



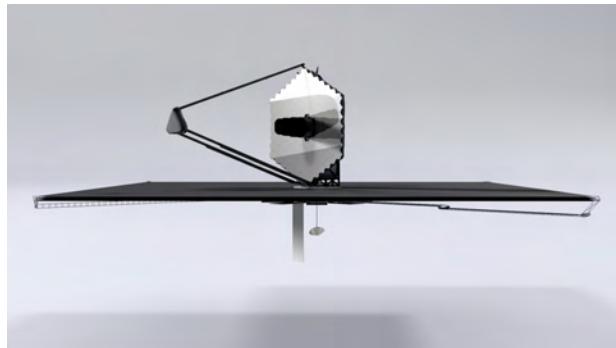


Large Mission Concepts

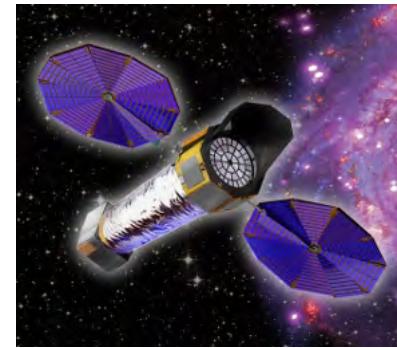
“NASA should ensure that robust mission studies that allow for trade-offs (including science, risk, cost, performance, and schedule) on potential large strategic missions are conducted prior to the start of a decadal survey. These trade-offs should inform, but not limit, what the decadal surveys can address.” – Powering Science: NASA's Large Strategic Science Missions (NAS, 2017)



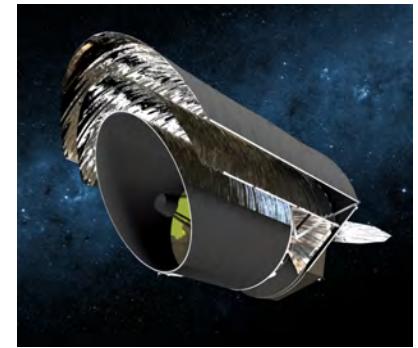
HabEx



LUVOIR

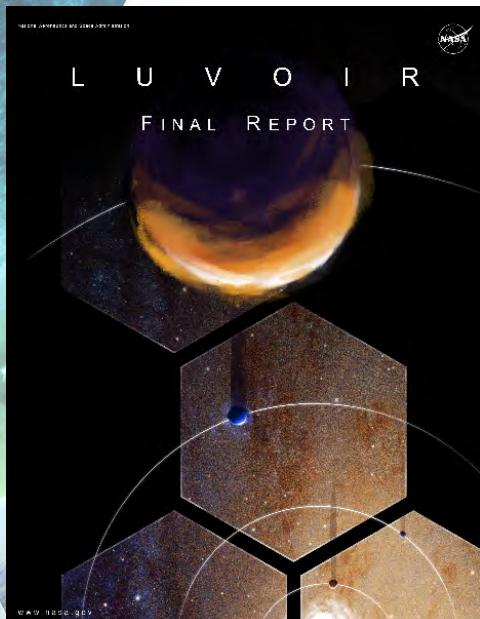
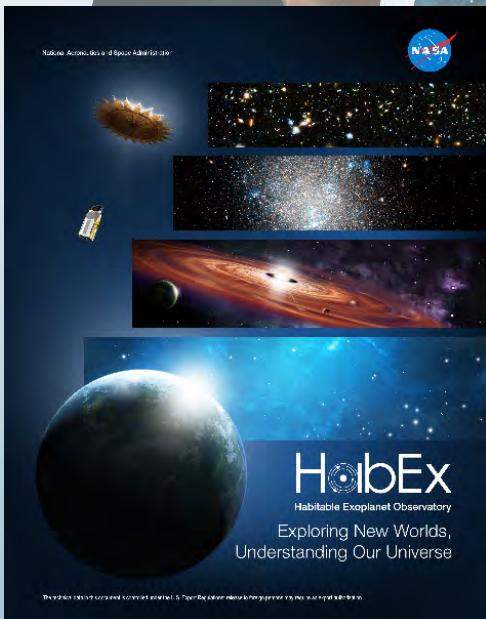


Lynx

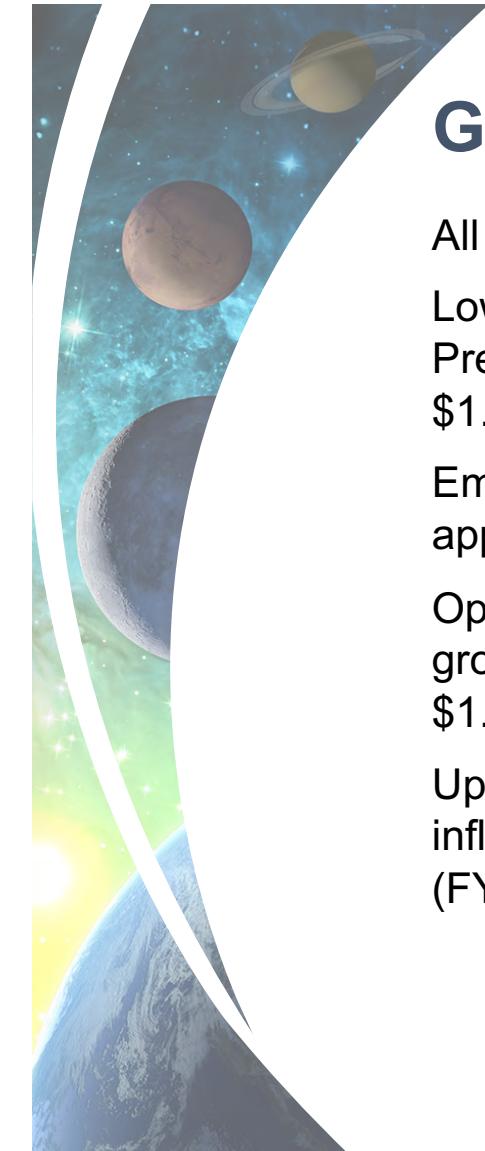


Origins

Large Mission Studies



Links to the concept study reports are posted at
<https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/2020-decadal-survey-planning>
and at
<https://www.greatobservatories.org/> ₃₄



Guidance on Future Budgets

All guidance is for Astrophysics including Webb Telescope

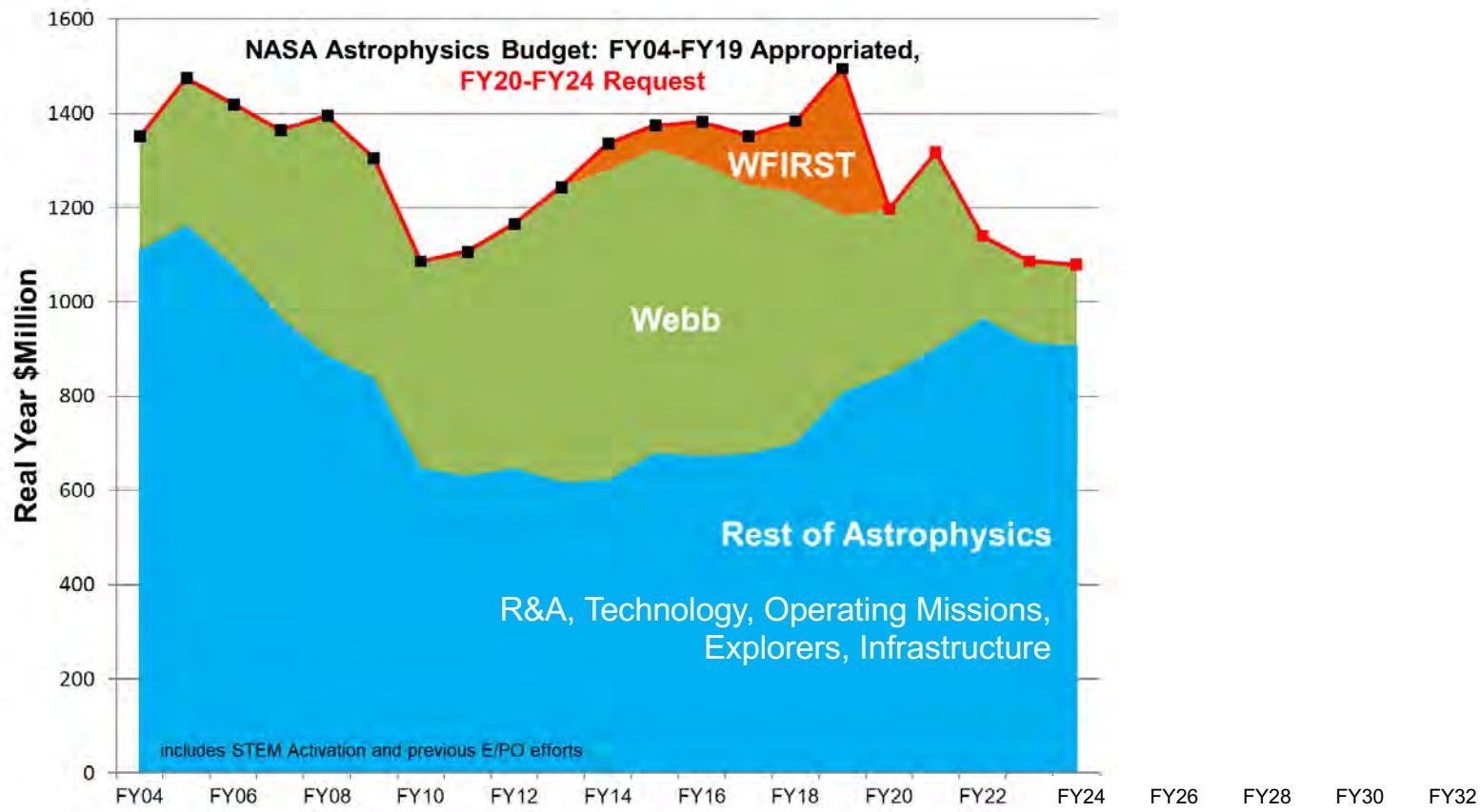
Lower bound budget projection – Extrapolation of out year planning numbers for President's FY20 budget request. Average of FY22-FY24 planning numbers is \$1.1B/yr

Empirical budget projection – Extrapolation of recent NASA Astrophysics appropriations. Average of FY17-FY19 appropriations is \$1.4B/yr

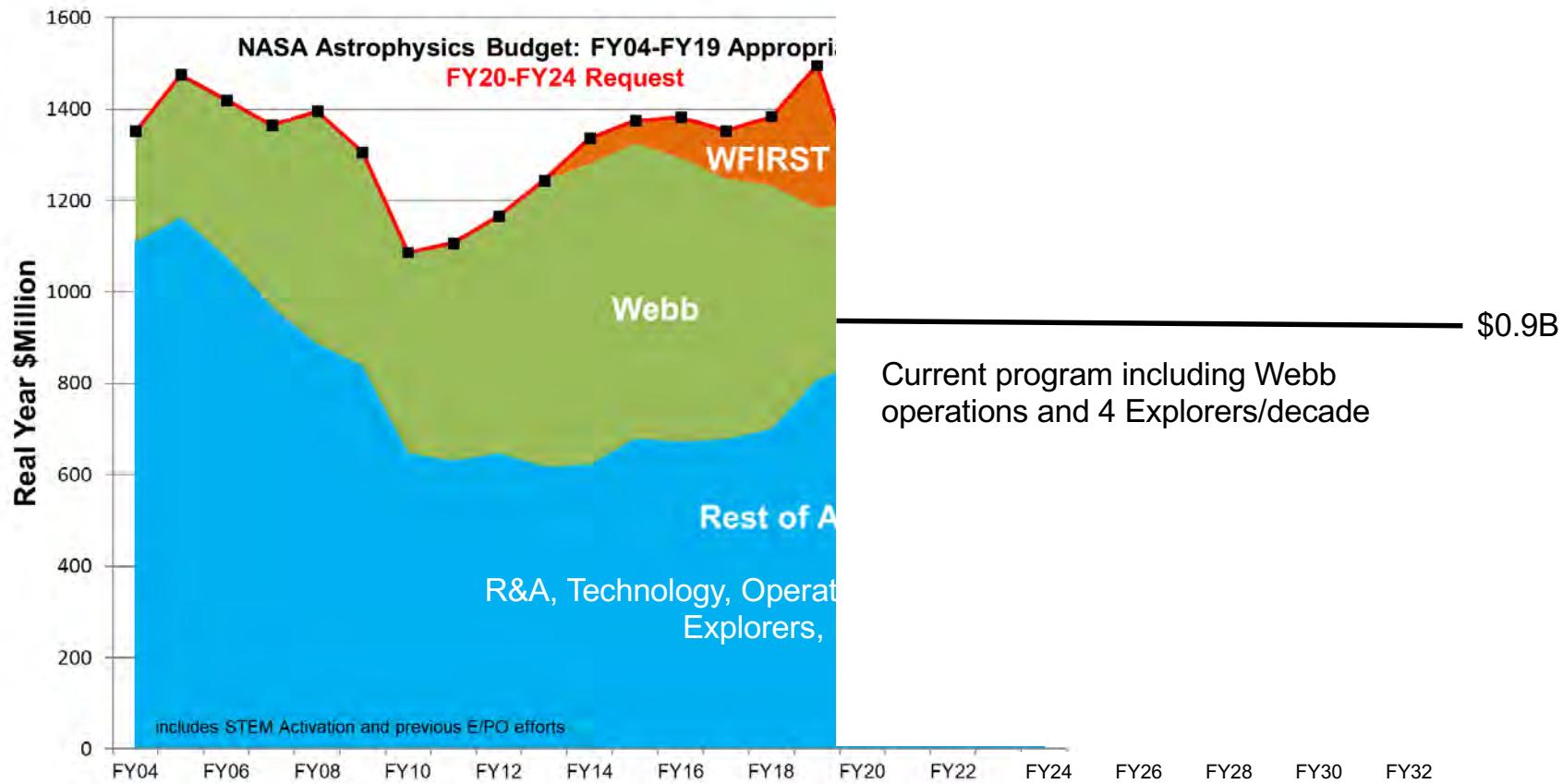
Optimistic budget projection – Empirical budget projection plus 1% inflationary growth in the out years. Budget grows from \$1.5B (FY19) to \$1.6B (FY25) to \$1.7B (FY30)

Upper bound budget projection – Empirical budget projection plus 2% inflationary growth in the out years. Budget grows from \$1.5B (FY19) to \$1.7B (FY25) to \$1.9B (FY30)

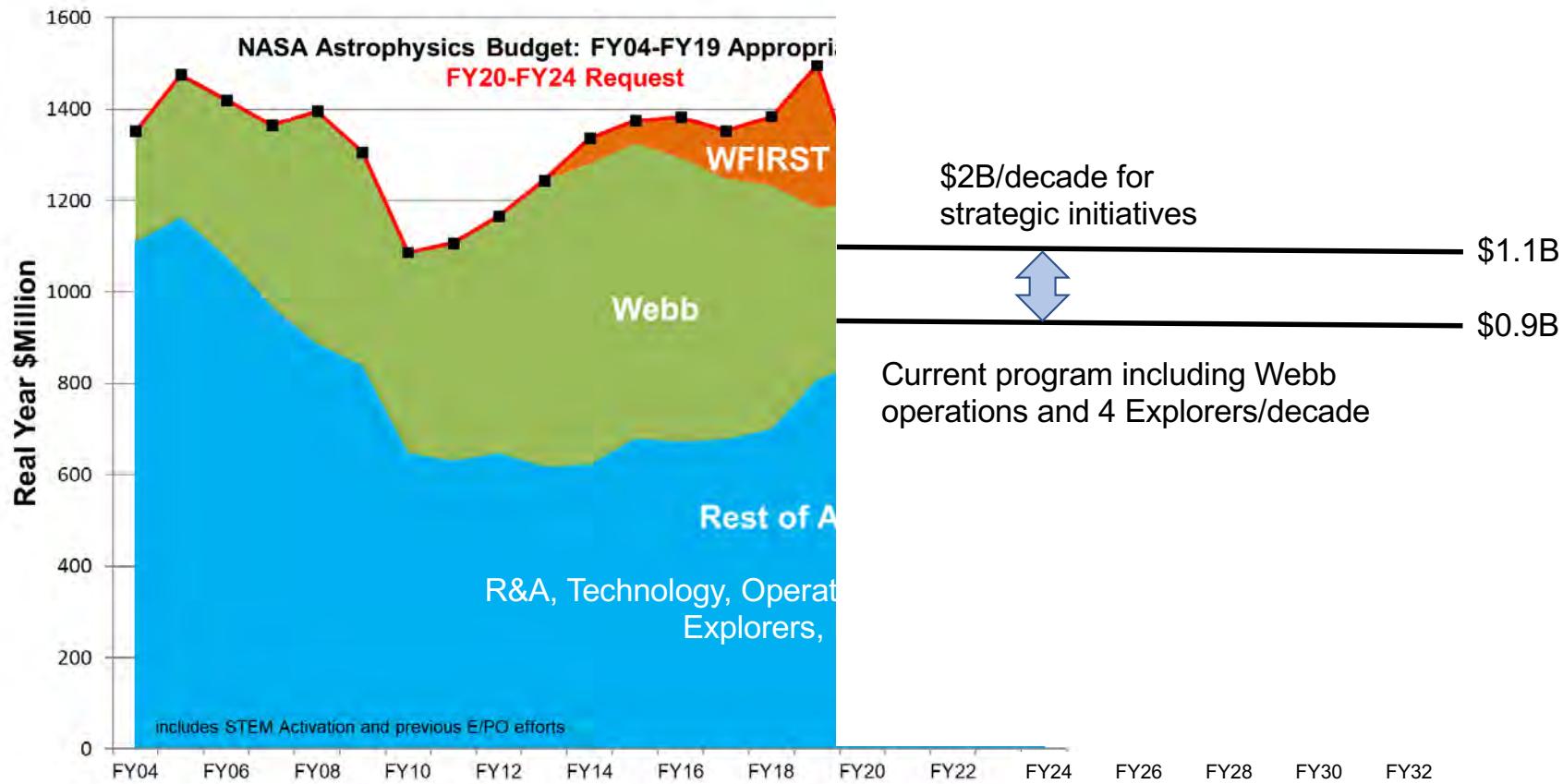
NASA Astrophysics Budget



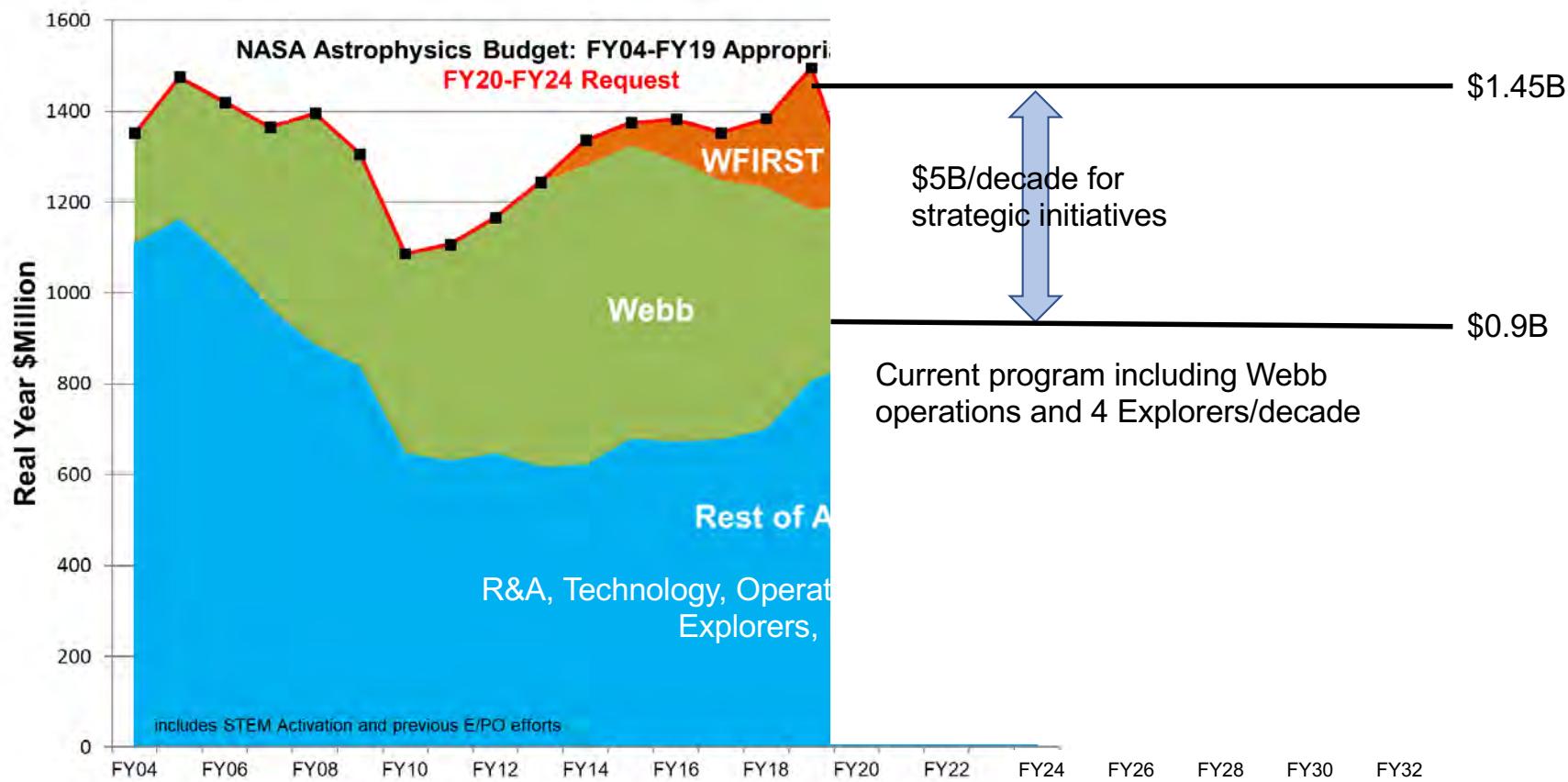
NASA Astrophysics Budget



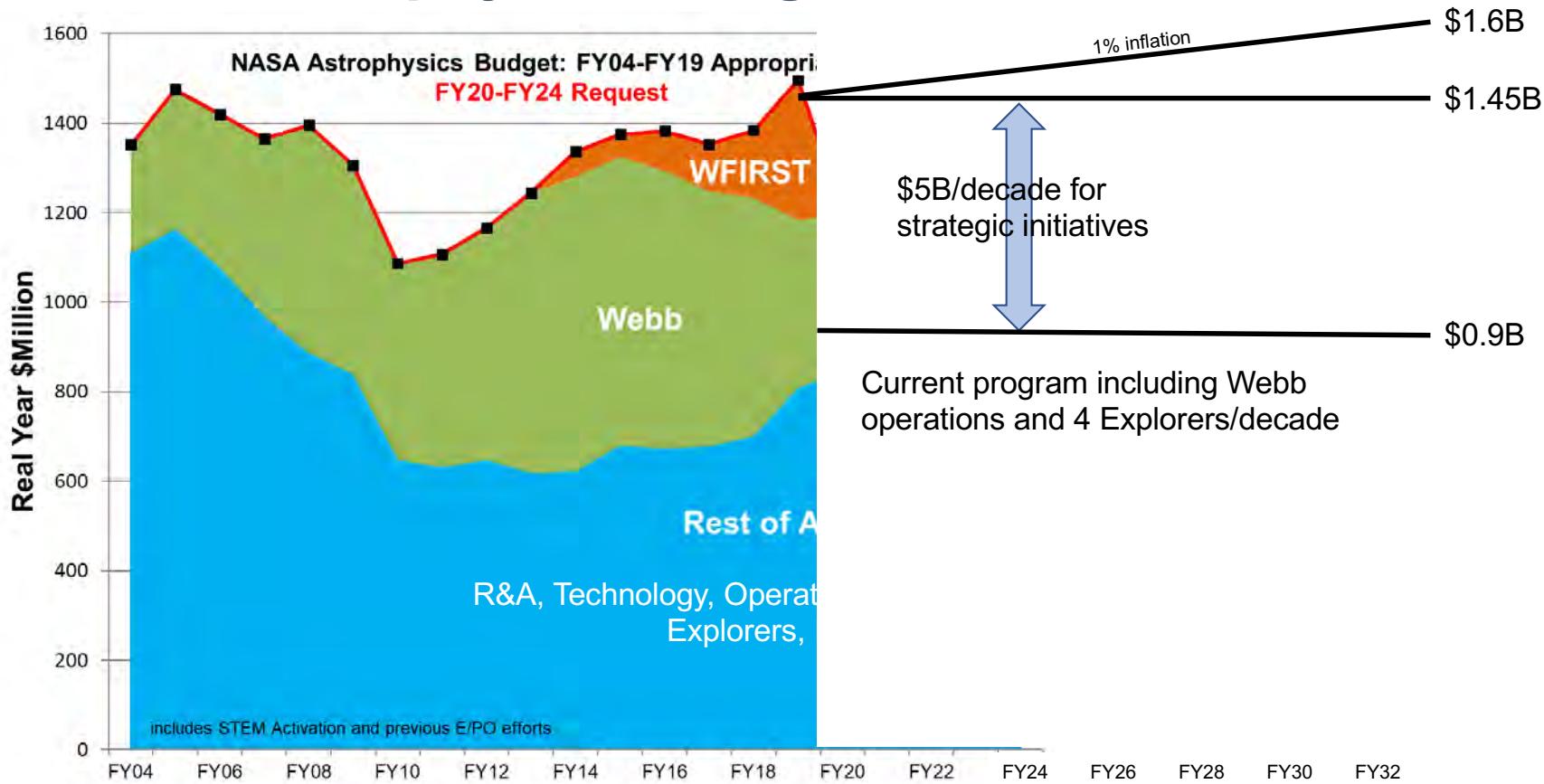
NASA Astrophysics Budget



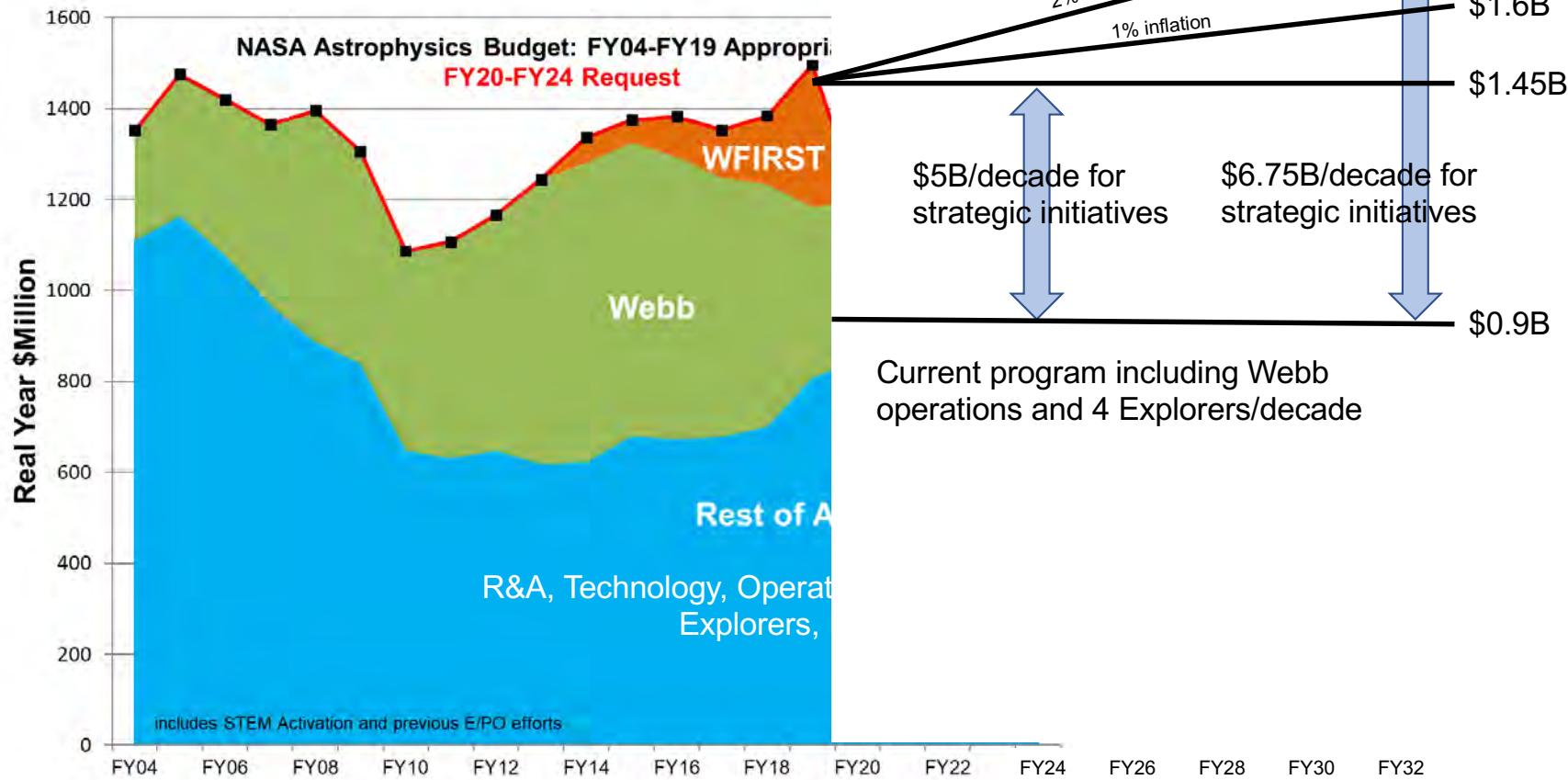
NASA Astrophysics Budget



NASA Astrophysics Budget



NASA Astrophysics Budget





Decadal Survey Goal

- NASA's highest aspiration for the 2020 Decadal Survey is that it be ambitious
 - The important science questions require new and ambitious capabilities
 - Ambitious missions prioritized by previous Decadal Surveys have always led to paradigm shifting discoveries about the universe
- If you plan to a diminishing budget, you get a diminishing program.
 - Great visions inspire great budgets.

Carpe Posterum



Revised August 1, 2019