

Primer on astronomical adaptive optics

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My story...

Career path

Highs and Lows

Primer outline

Why do we need Adaptive Optics?

How does an AO system work?

What are the technologies used?

Designing an AO system with an error budget

Example AO systems: Robo-AO(-2)

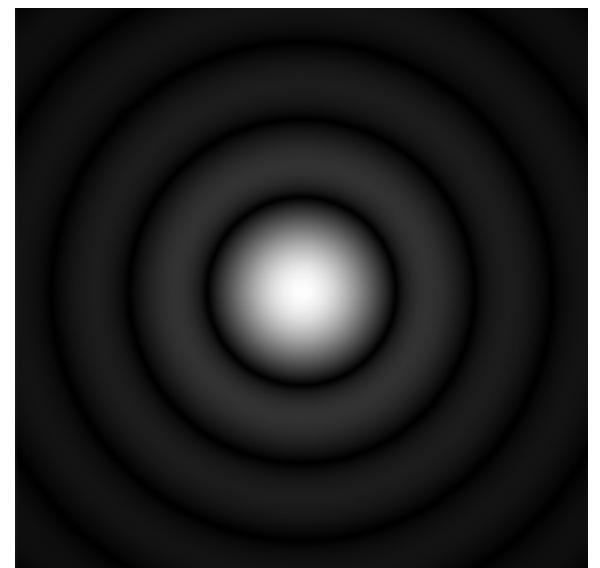
* This is not a comprehensive course in AO

Telescope image formation

Acuity/angular resolution set by diffraction:
wavelength of light, λ , divided by aperture
diameter, D. (For a circular aperture)

Full Width at Half Max

$$\sim (1.03) \lambda/D$$



Examples of λ/D

Visible wavelengths \sim 400-750 nm ($\lambda=500$ nm)

Thumb at arm's length is \sim 1-1.5 degrees

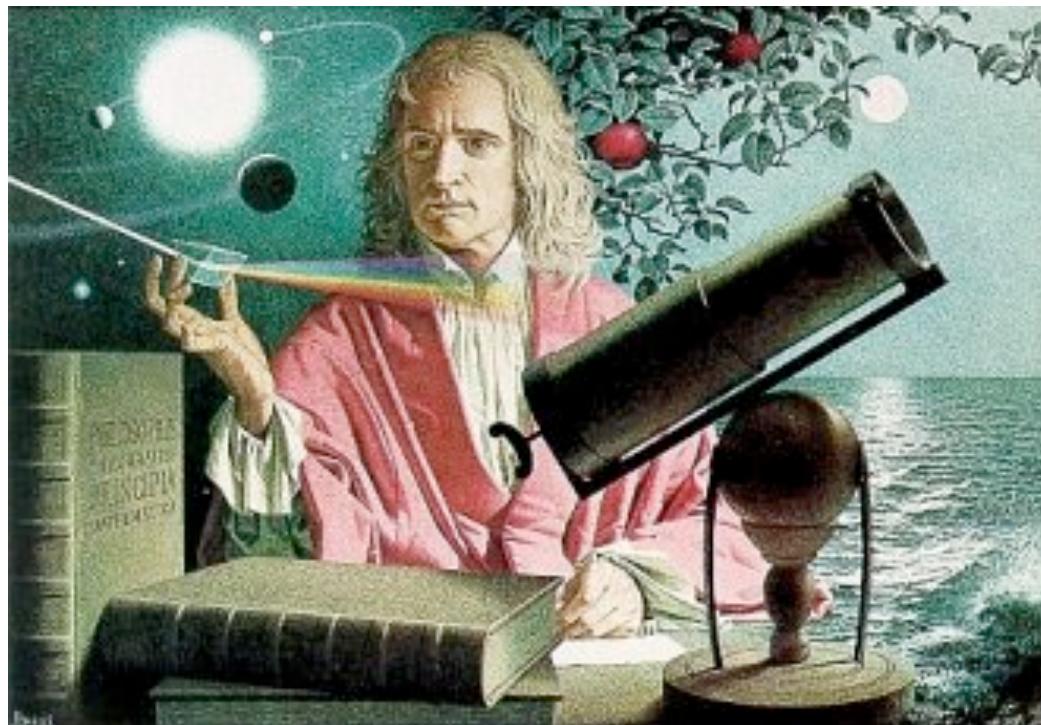
1 degree = 60 arcminutes = 3600 arc sec

Eye (D \sim 4mm): 7.2E-3 deg = 0.5 arc min

Hubble (D=2.4m): 1.2E-5 deg = 0.043 arc sec

Stars look blurry from down here.

“For the Air through we look upon the Stars, is in perpetual Tremor ...cause the Star to appear broader than it is...”



Sir Isaac Newton



Christiaan Huygens

Newton and Huygens were on to something!

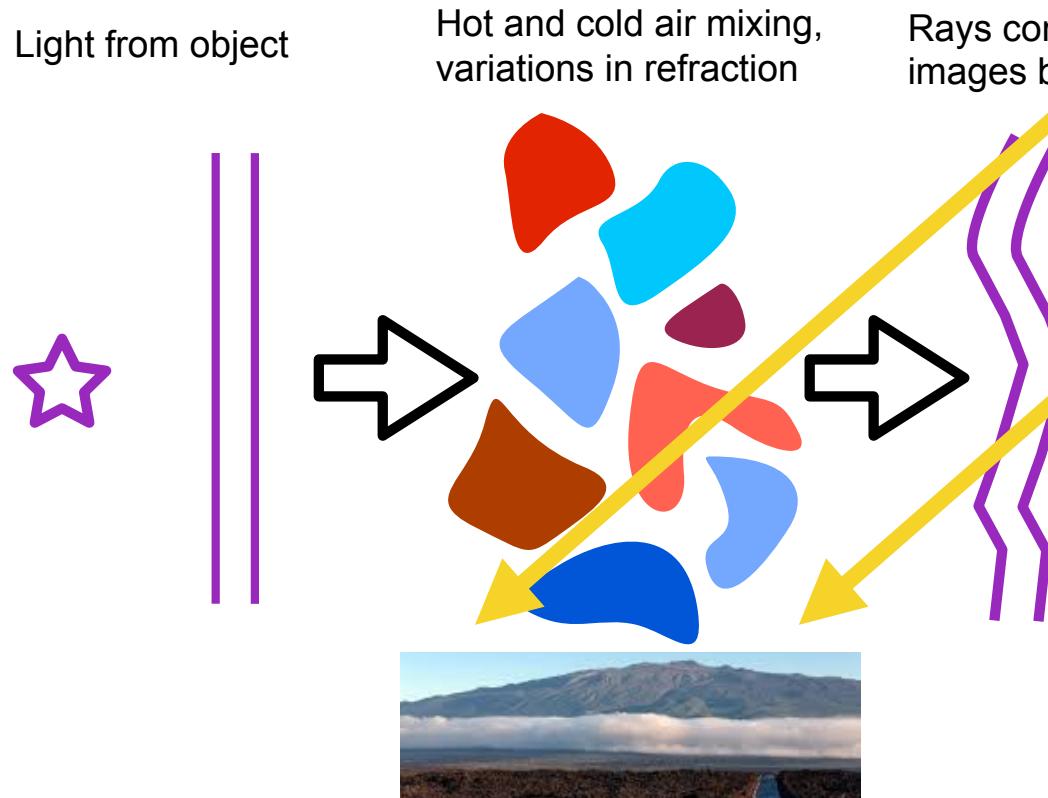
Astronomers have adopted the term '**seeing**' to describe this effect.



Typical seeing from a good astronomical site is 1 arc second, or 1/1800 the angular size of the moon.

So what's going on with the atmosphere?

- The sun heats the ground.
- Hot air rises and mixes with cold air.
- Light from stars is passing through a dynamic lens.



Hot and cold air mixing,
variations in refraction

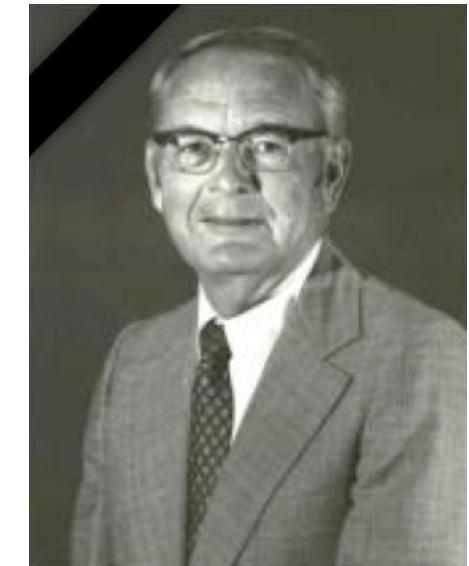
Rays come out distorted,
images become blurry



Solutions proposed in the 1950s

Horace Babcock (U.S.A.)

Seminal Paper: “The Possibility of Compensating Astronomical Seeing,” *PASP*, 1953.



MIT, Caltech, then director of Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories

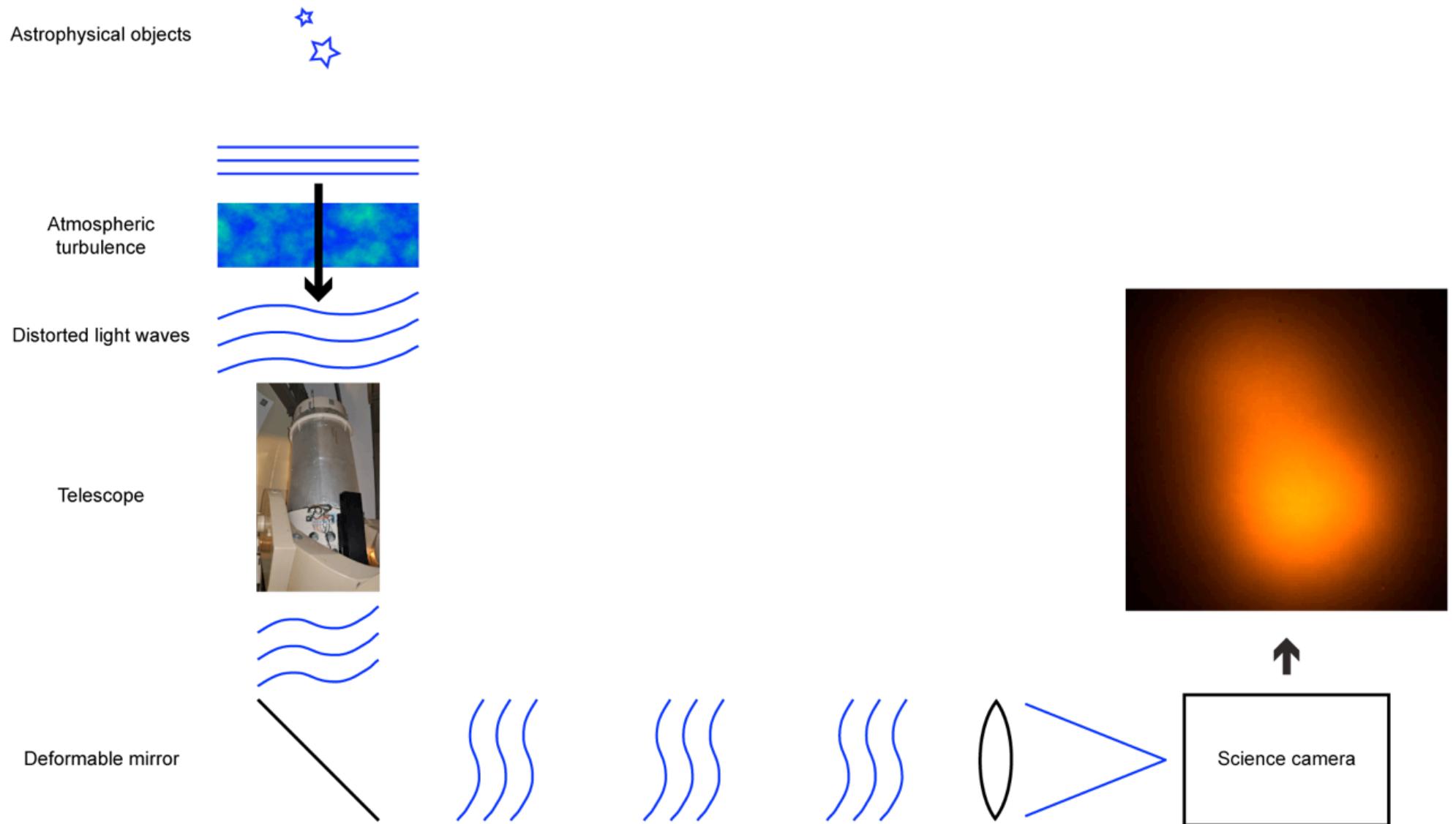
V. P. Linnik (U.S.S.R.)

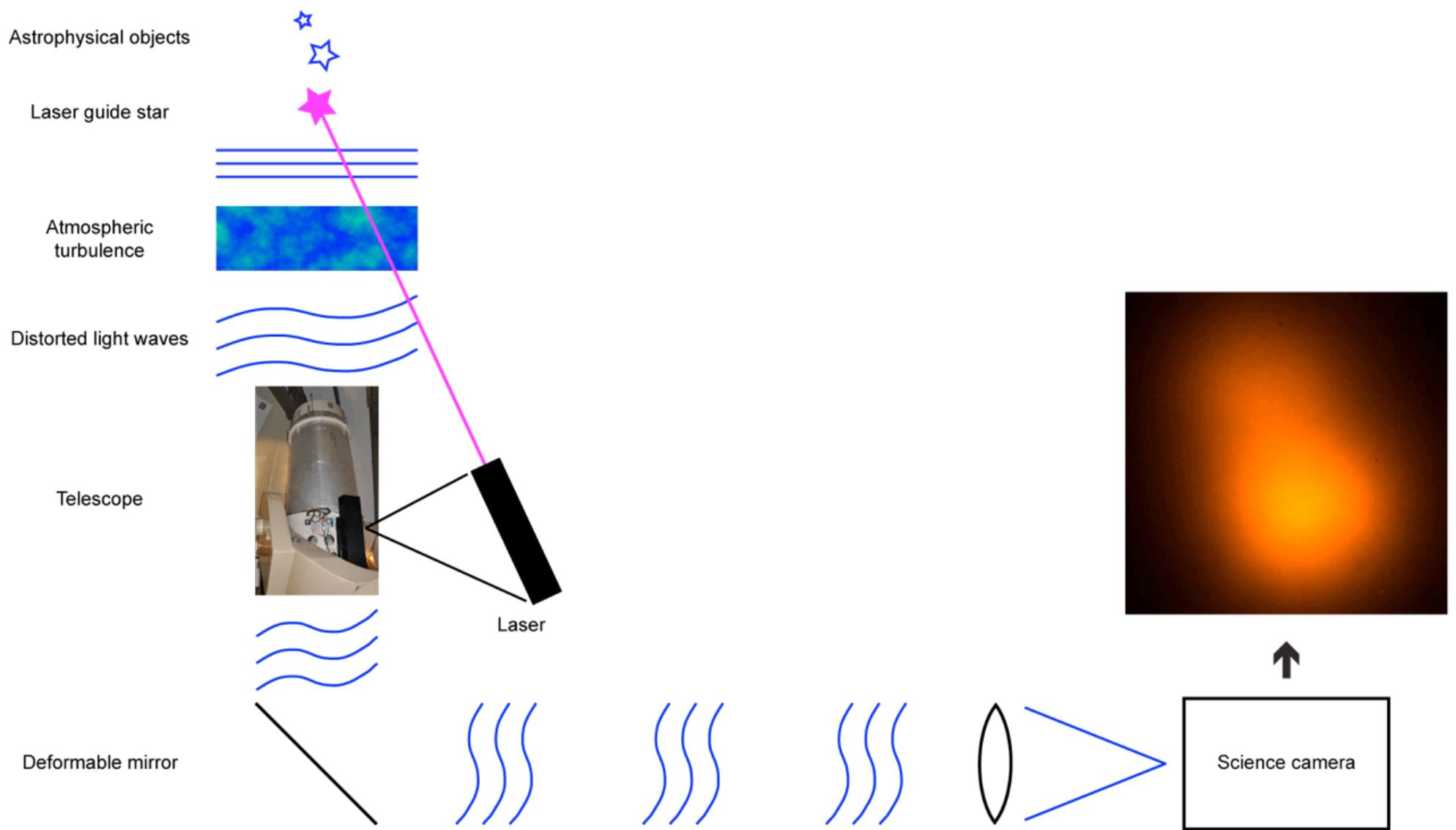
Independent proposal for adaptive optics systems and their limitations, and artificial stars, *Opt. Spectrosc.*, 1957.

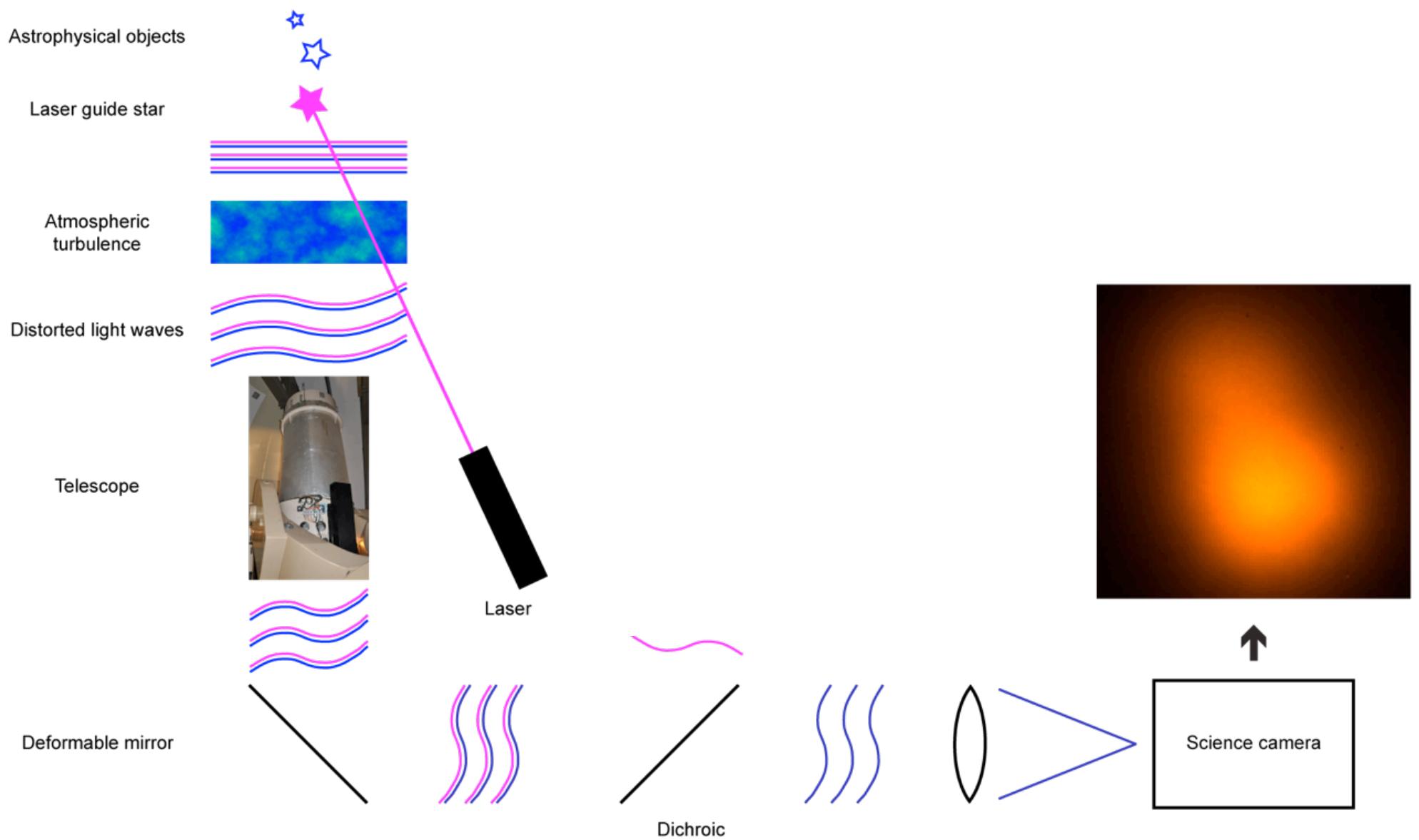


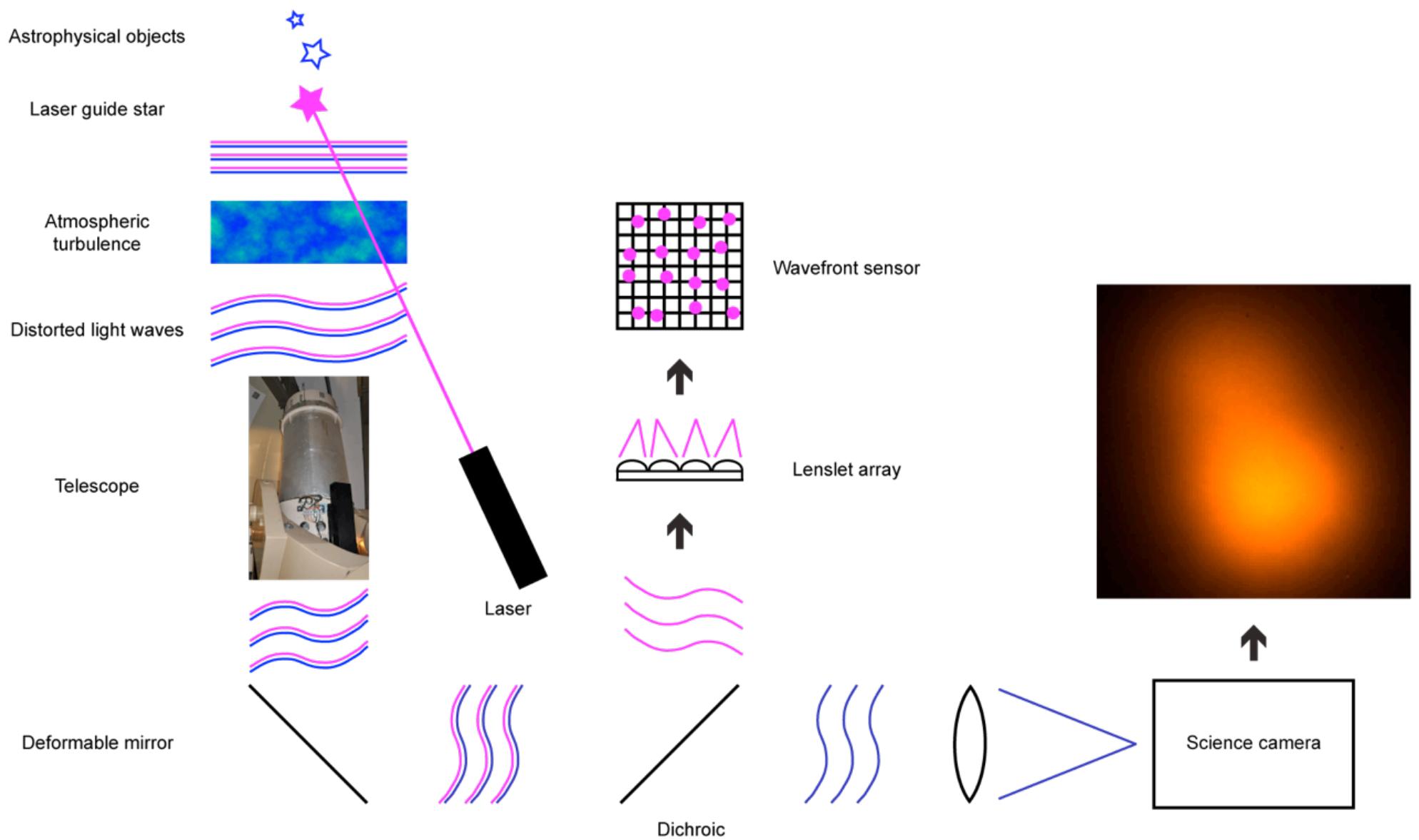
Modern Adaptive Optics

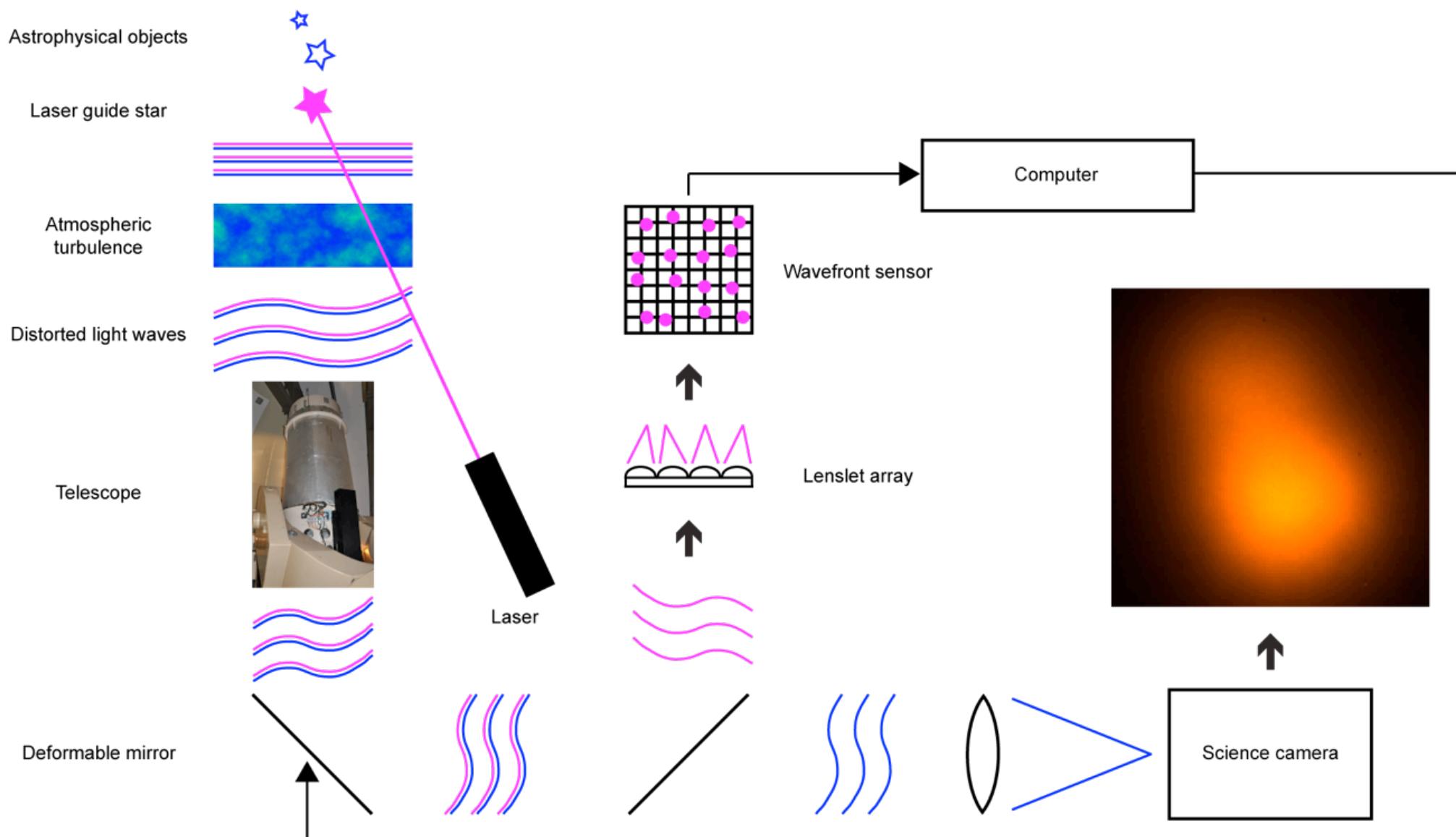
Modern Adaptive Optics

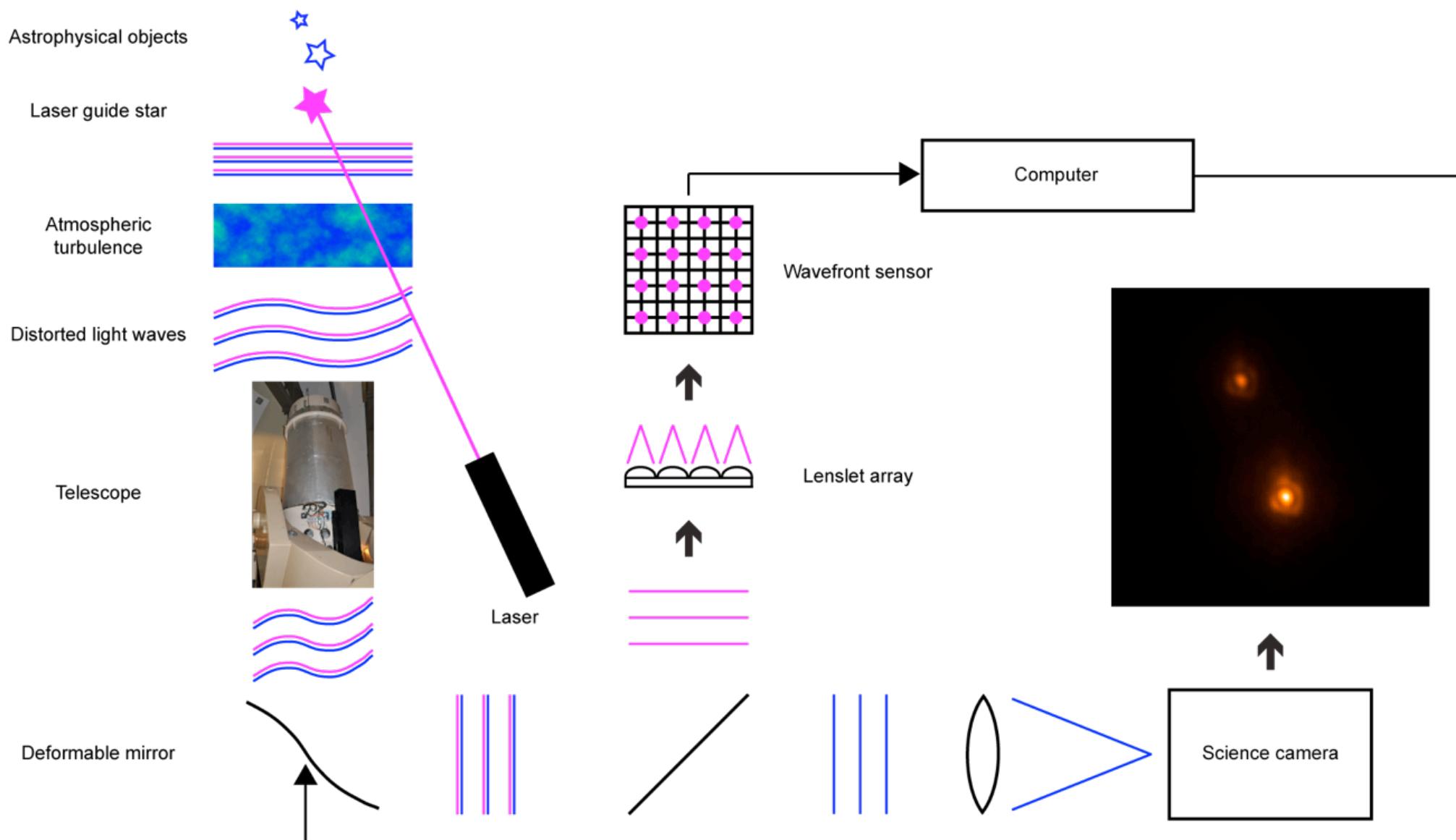




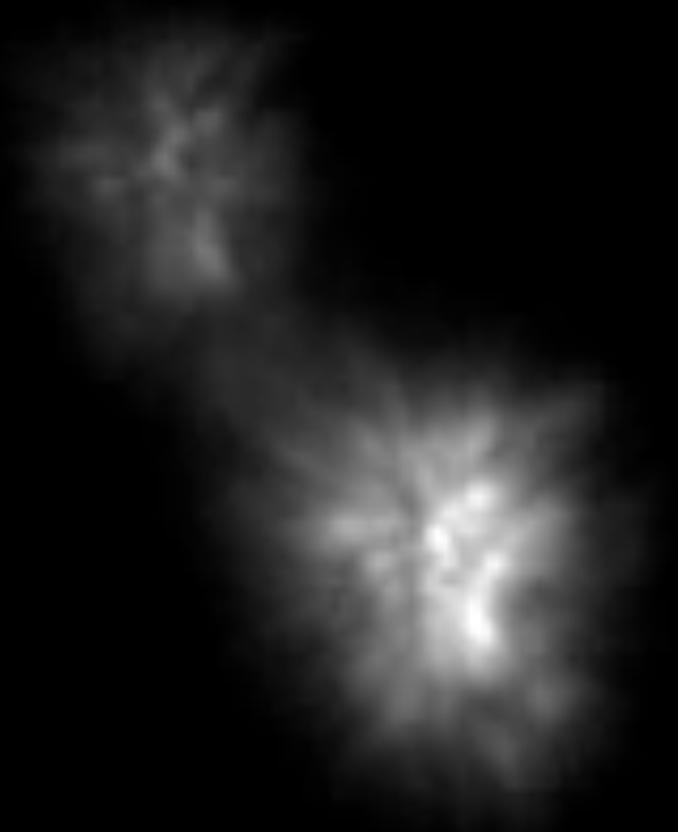




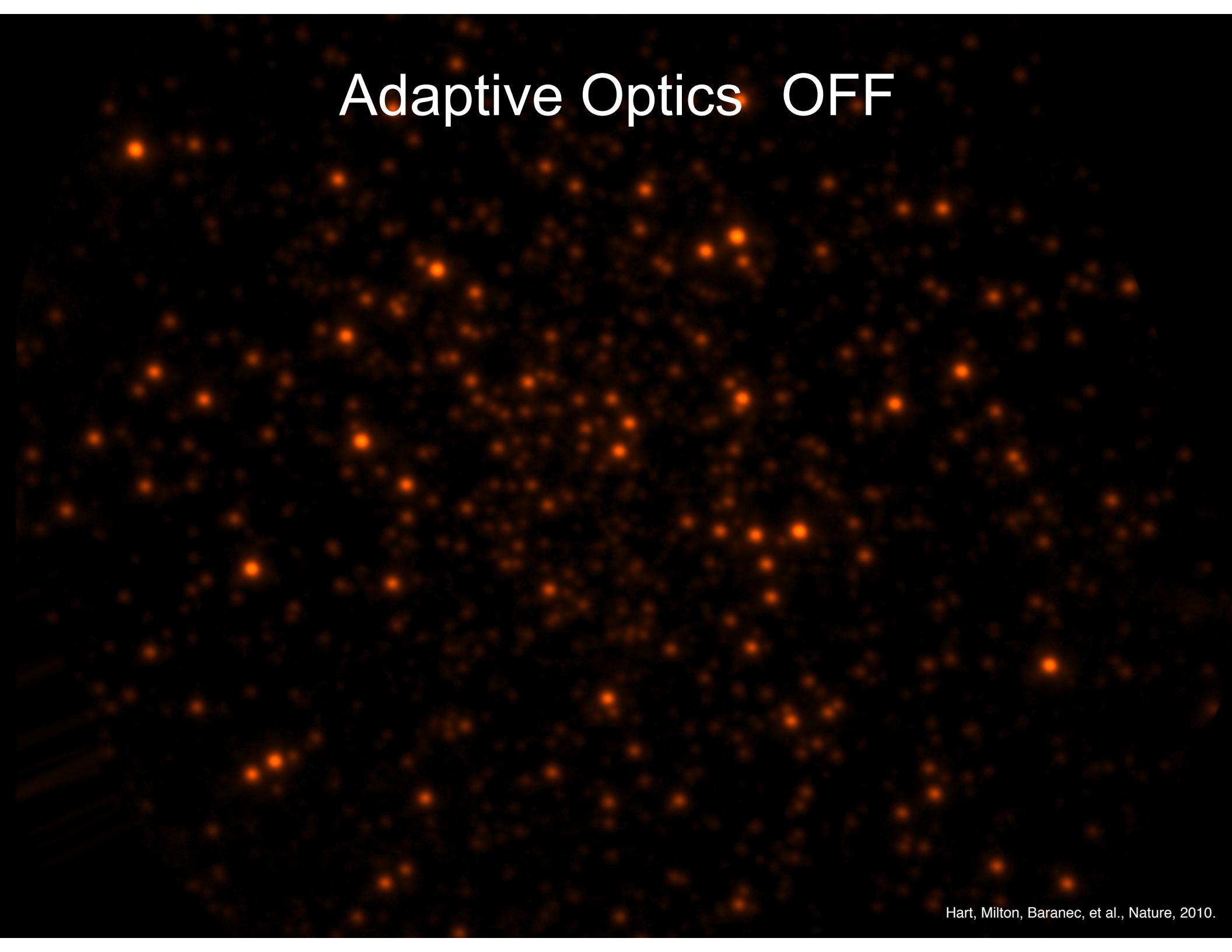




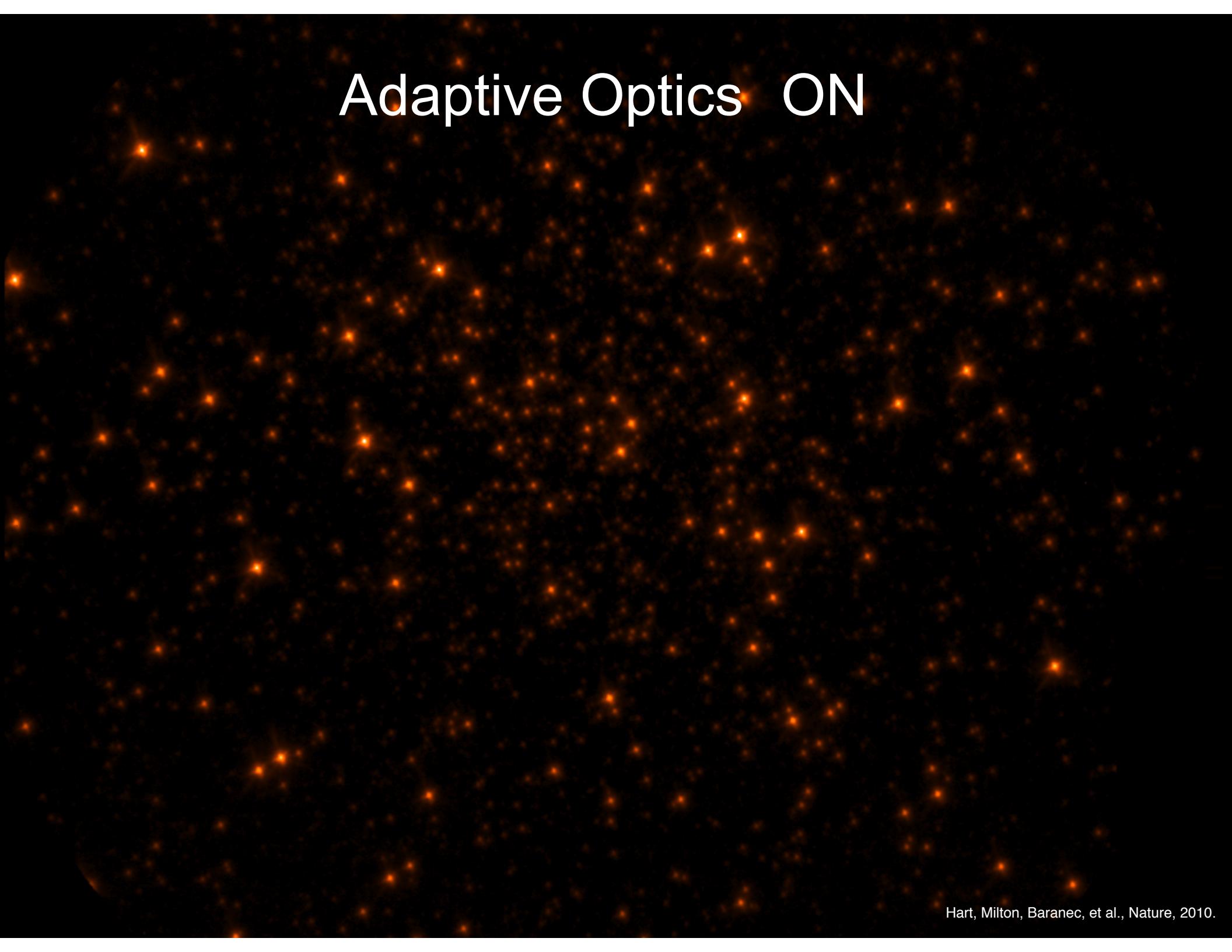
Adaptive Optics OFF



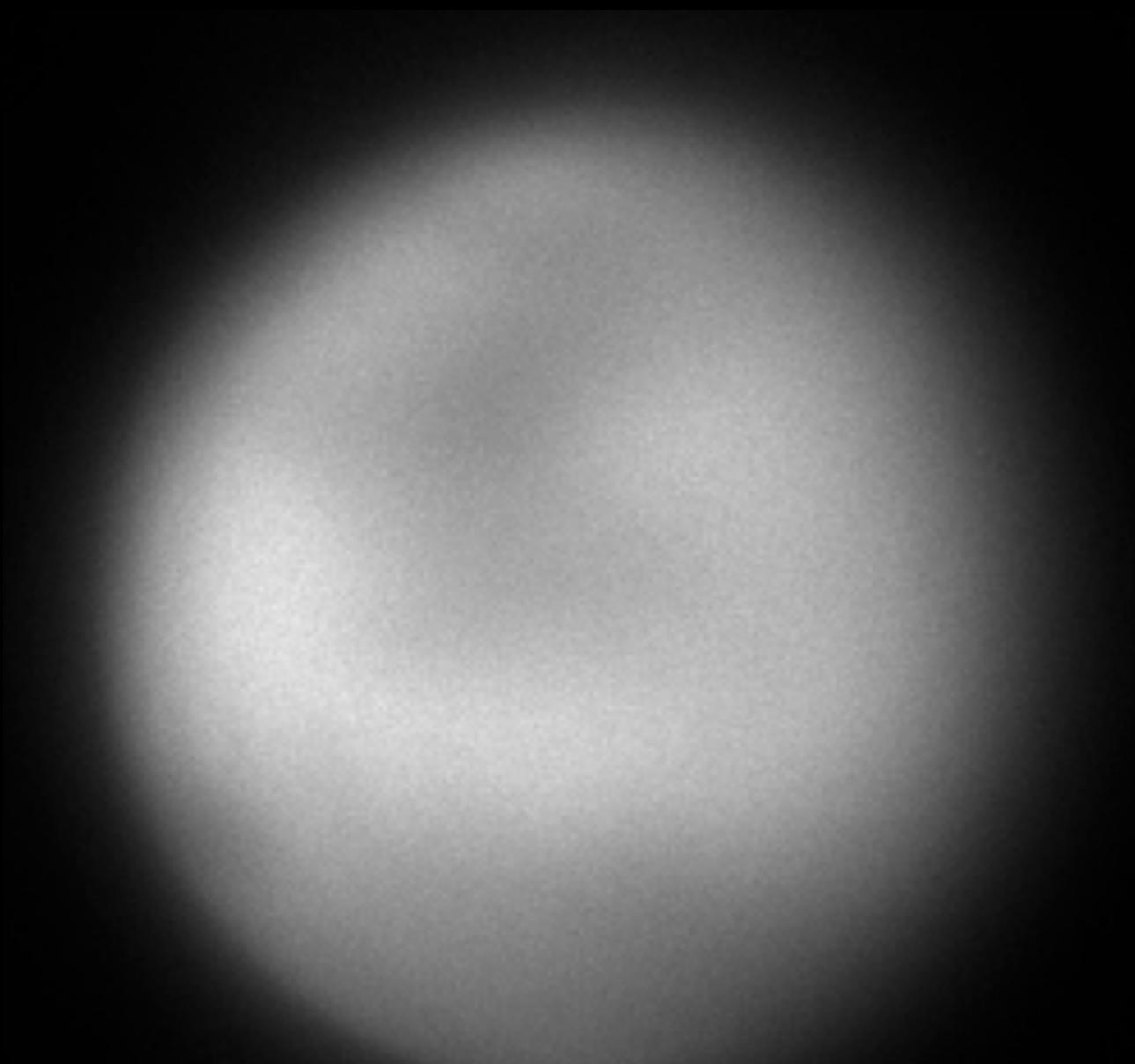
Adaptive Optics OFF



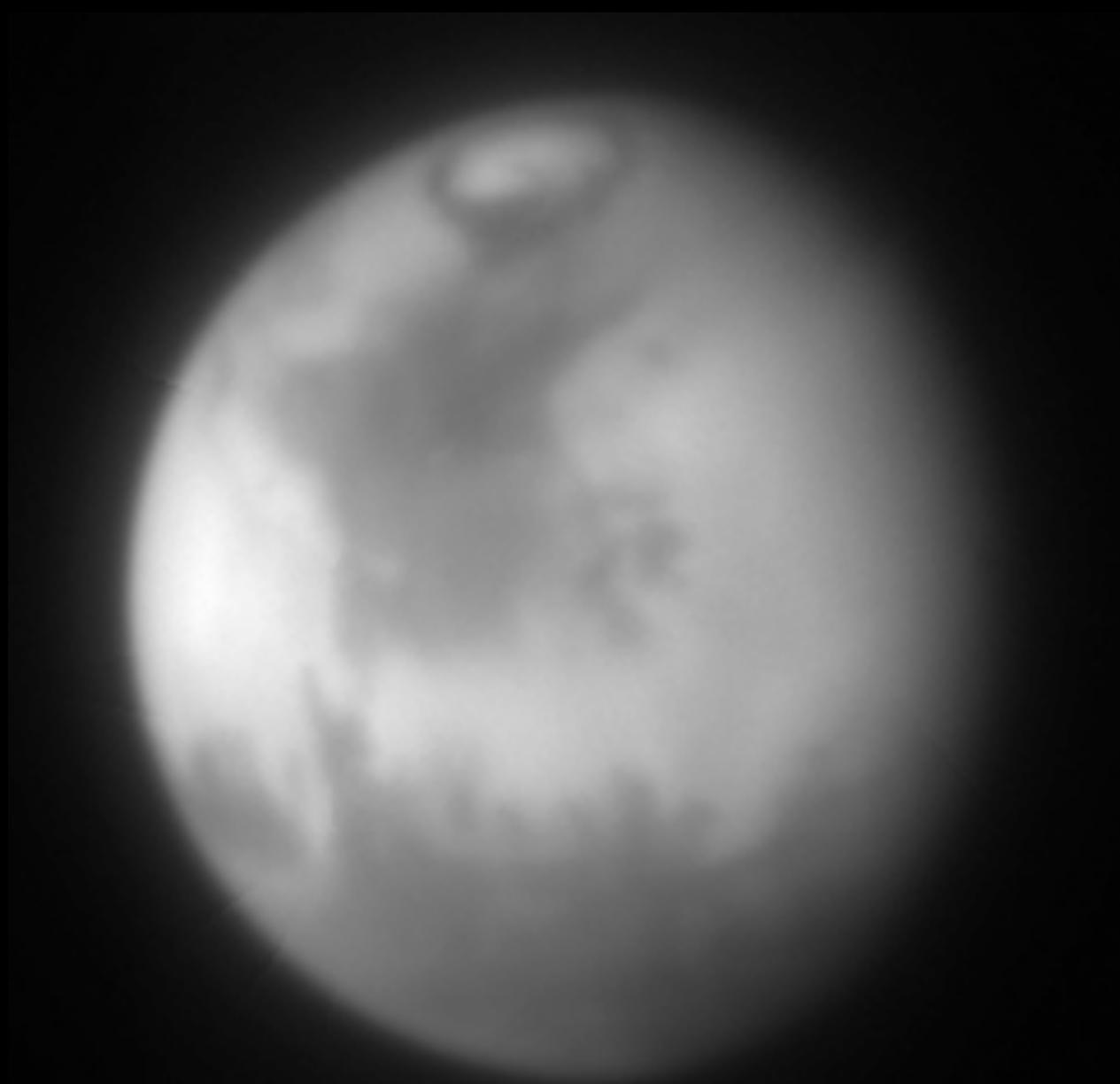
Adaptive Optics ON



Adaptive Optics OFF



Adaptive Optics ON



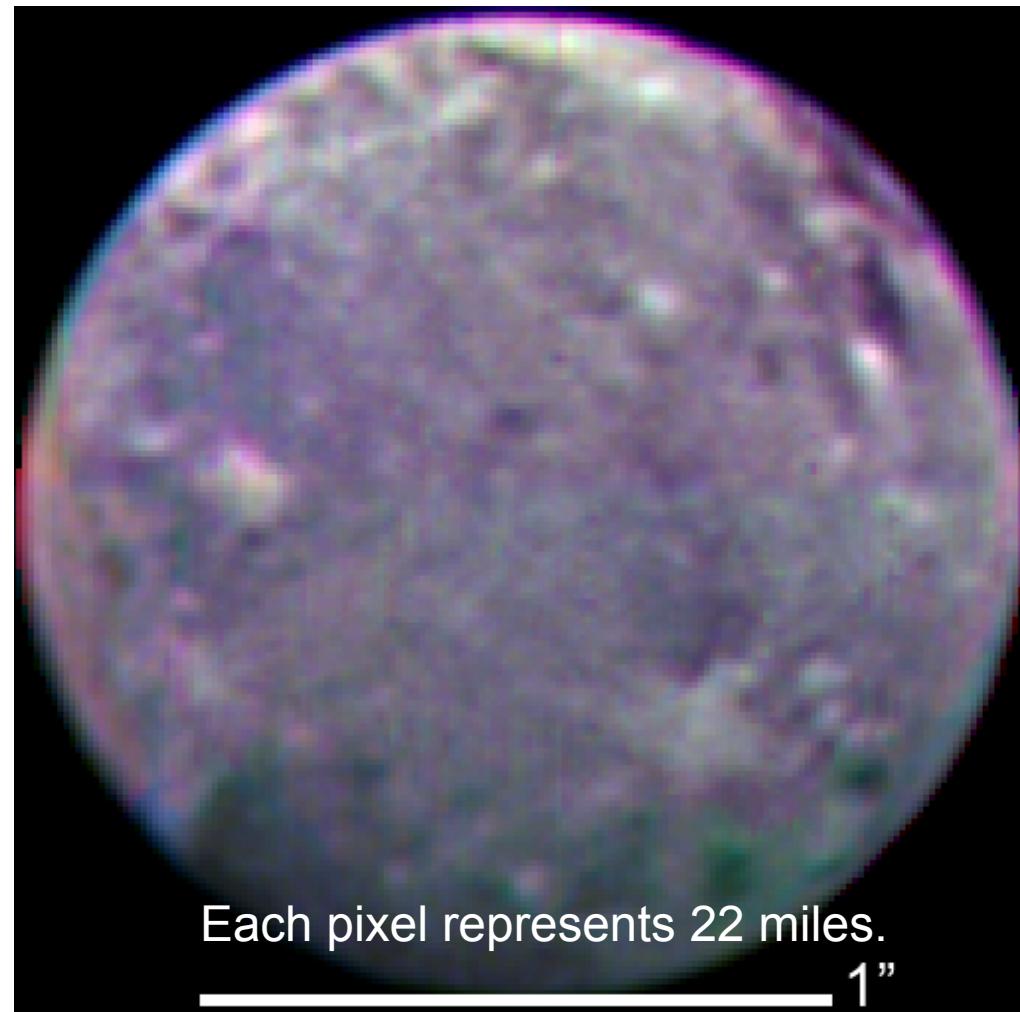
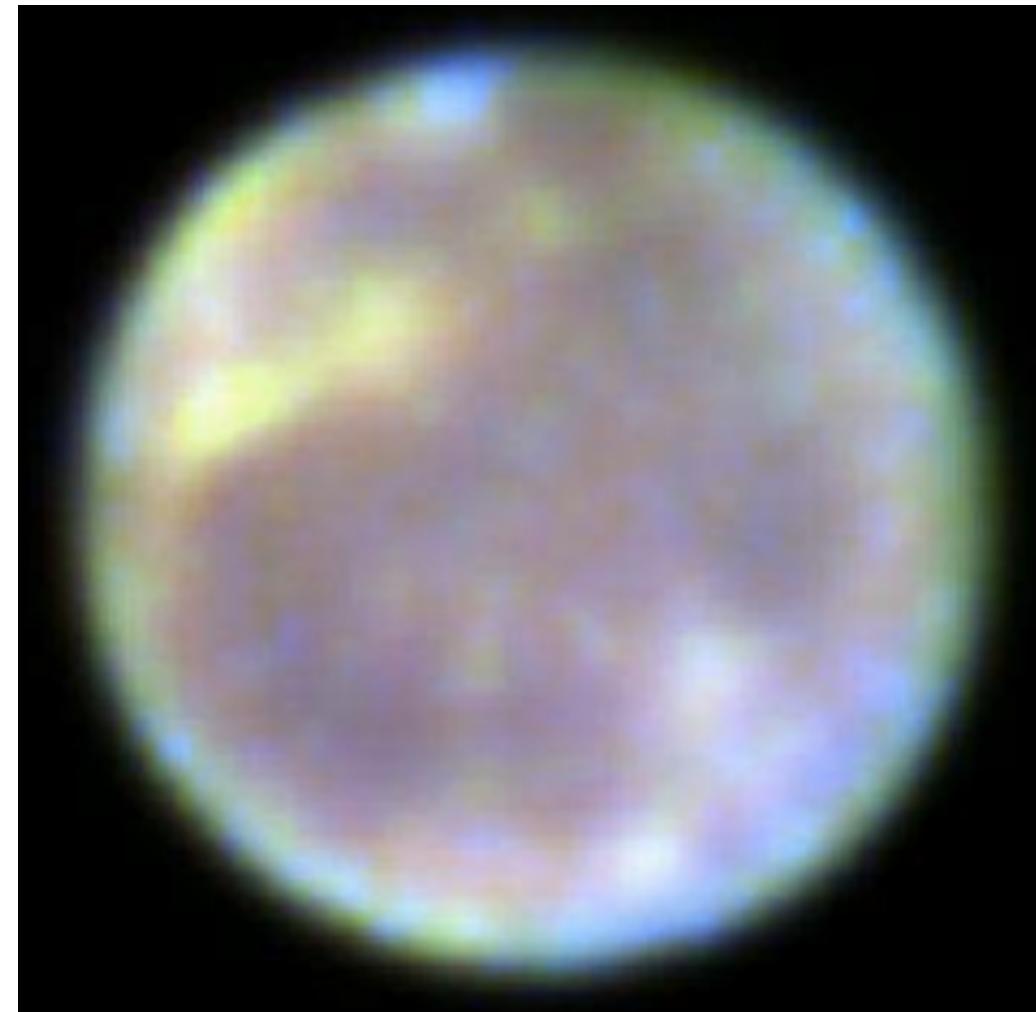
Saturn

seeing limited

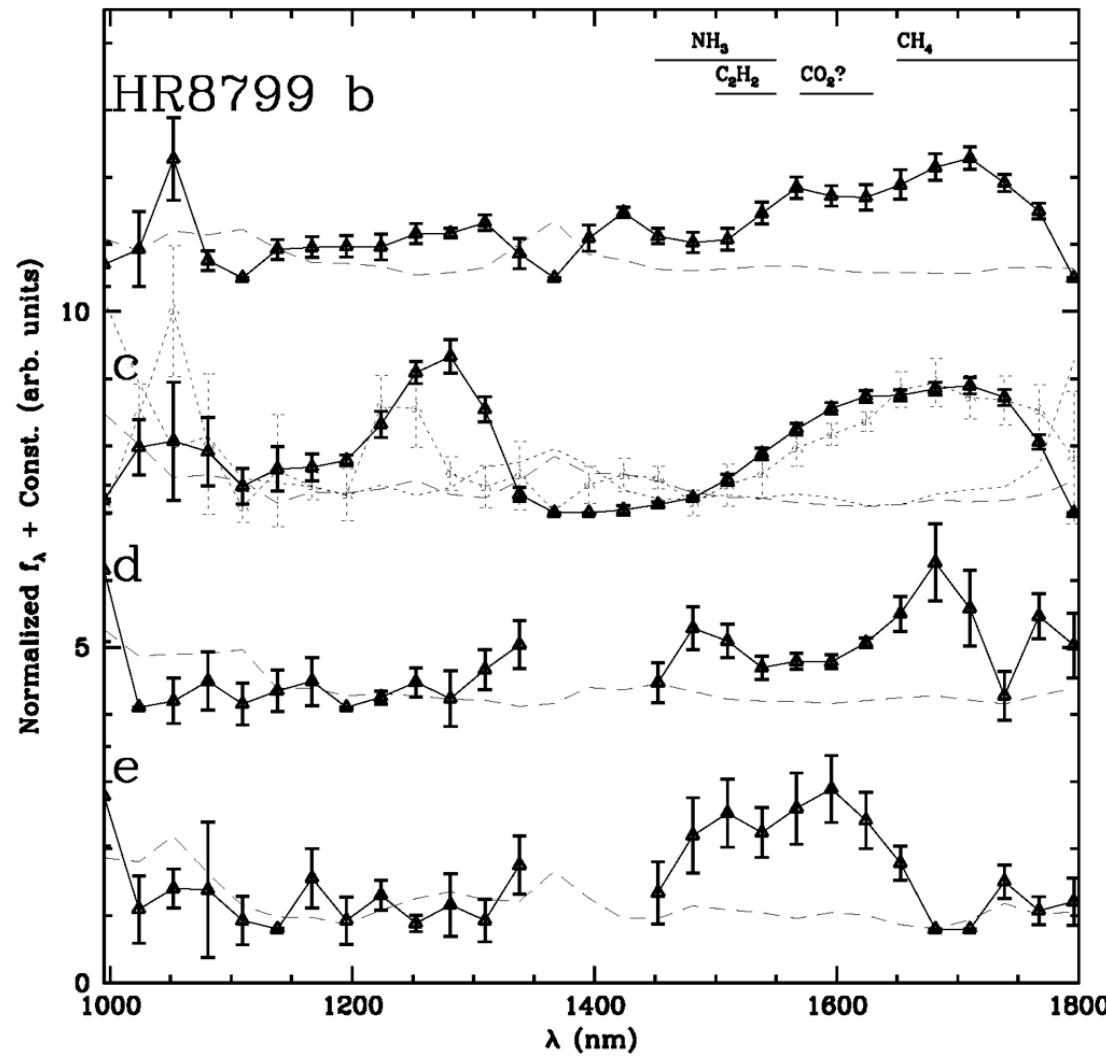
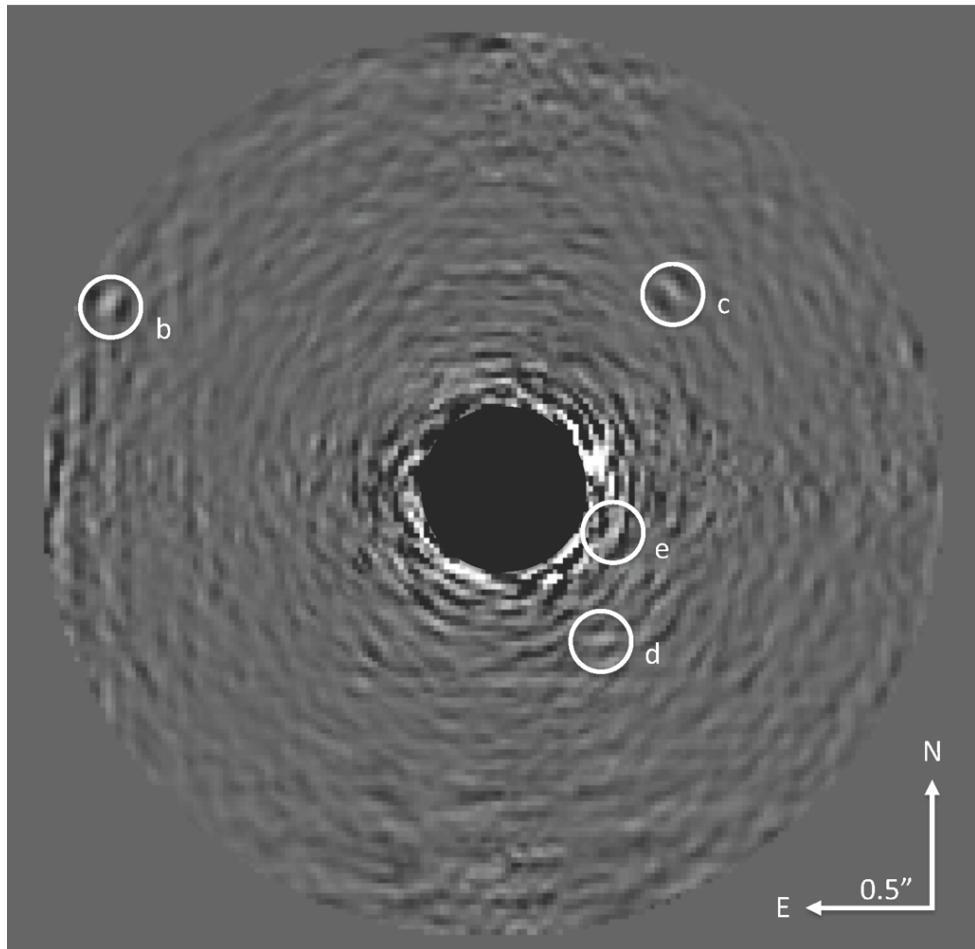
Jupiter's Moon Ganymede

2.4-m Hubble Space Telescope

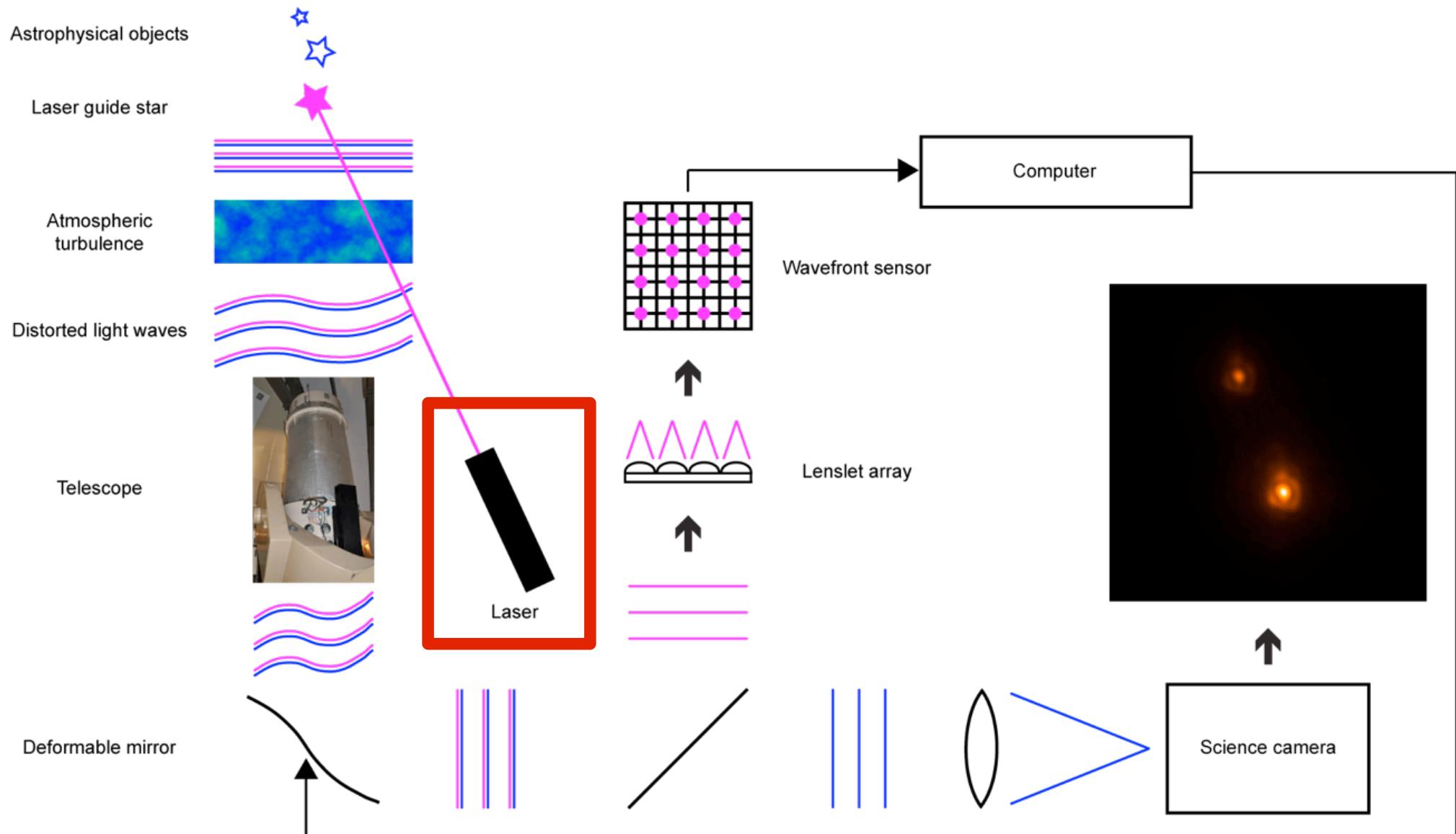
Adaptive Optics
on 5.1-m Hale Telescope



P3K + P1640 imaging spectroscopy



Adaptive Optics Components



There are two types of laser beacons used in adaptive optics.

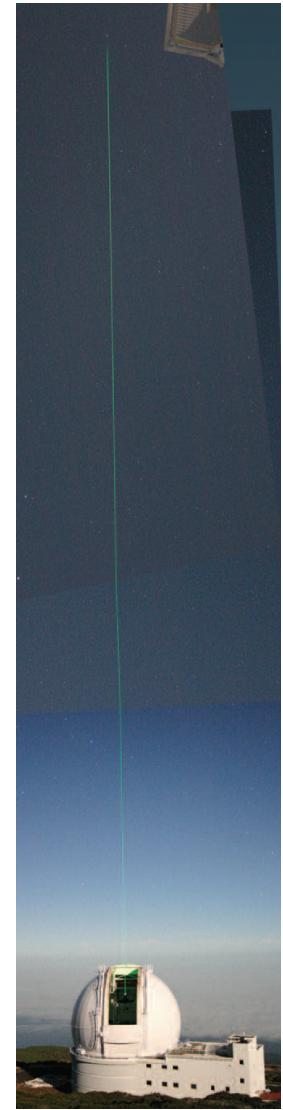
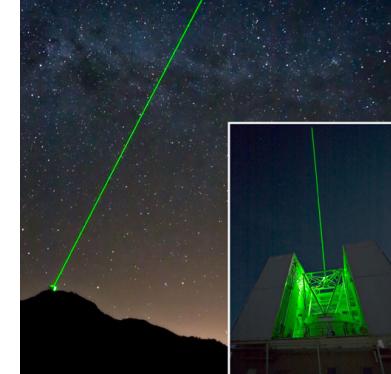
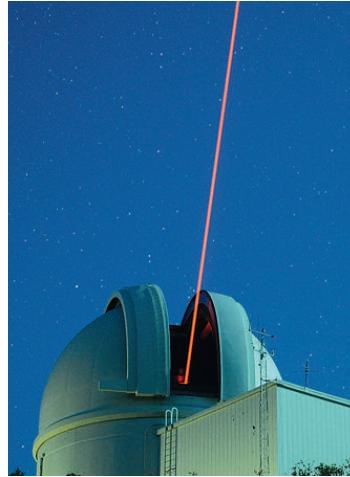
‘Sodium’

excite the D2 transition
of mesospheric
(~90km) Sodium ions

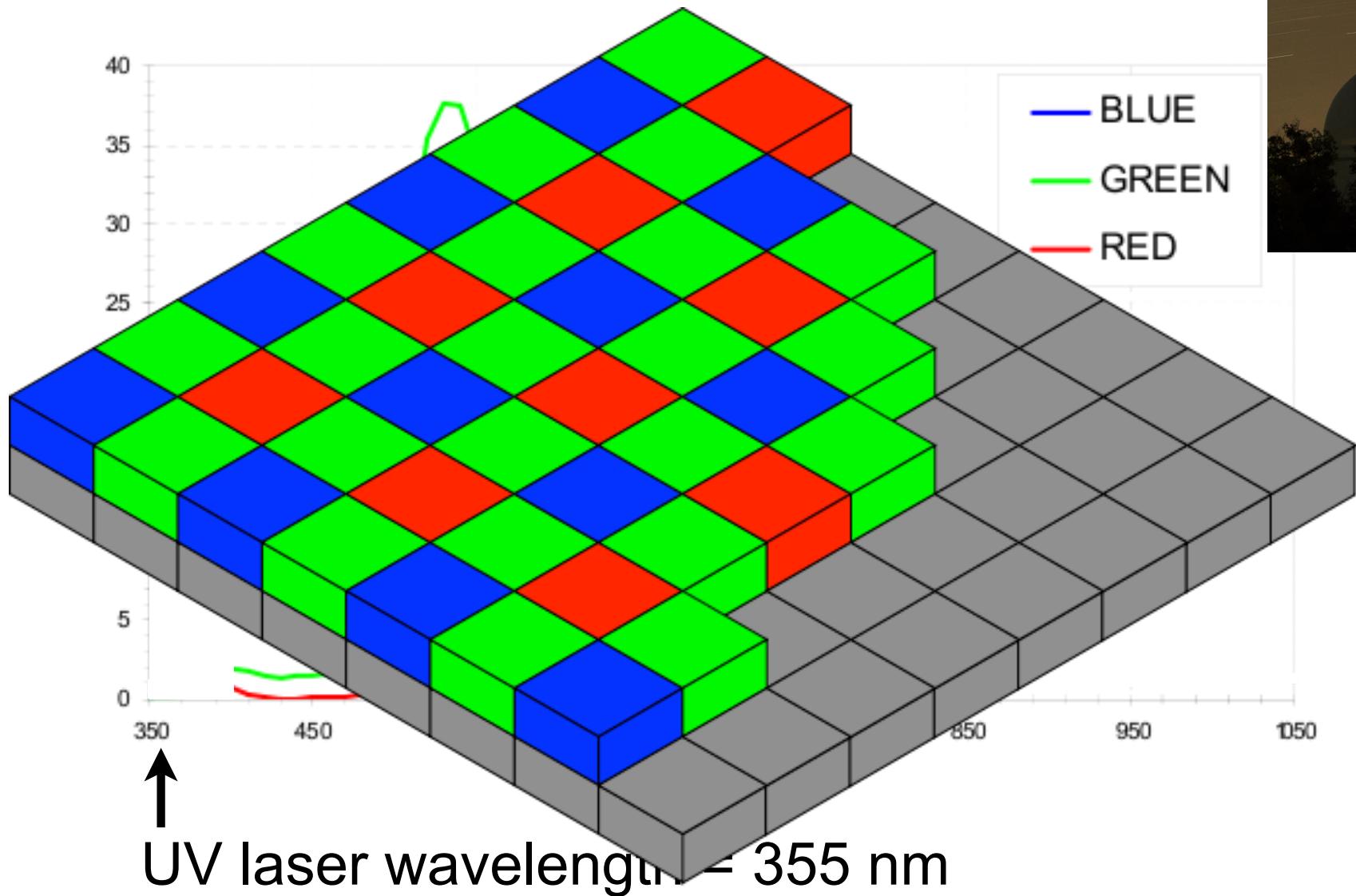


Rayleigh

rely on the backscatter
off of air molecules, up
to **10-15km**



Why does the ultraviolet laser look orange?



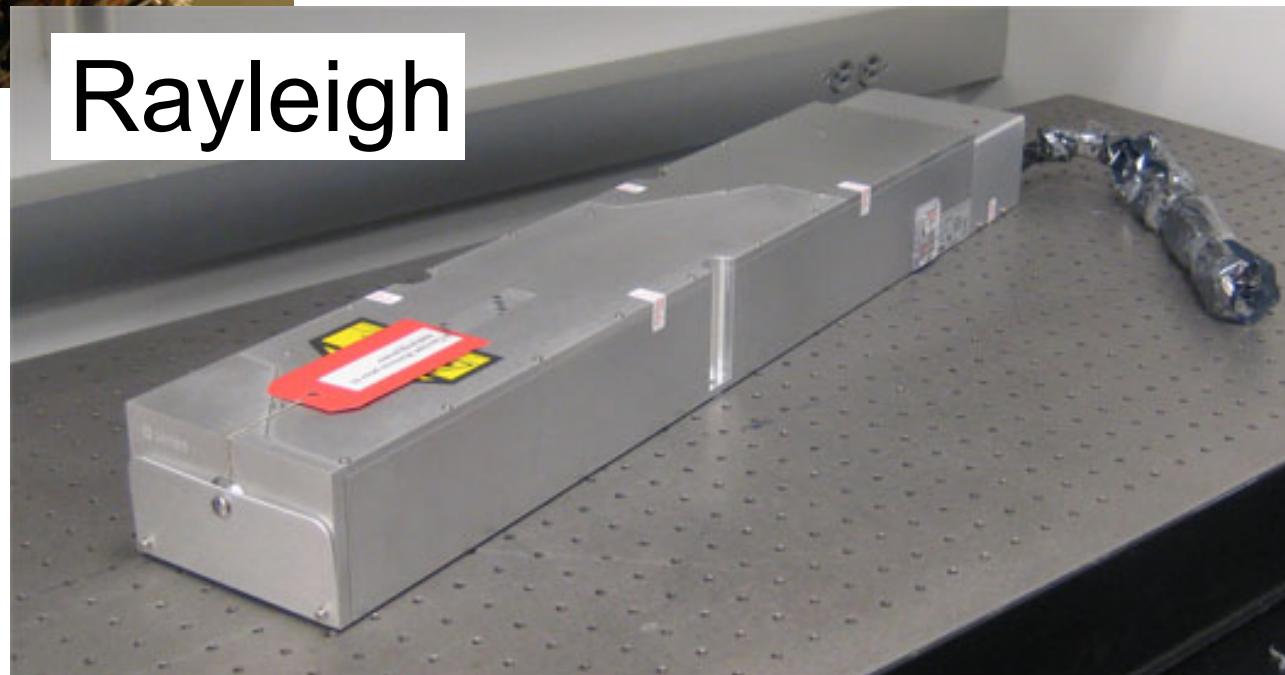
Sodium



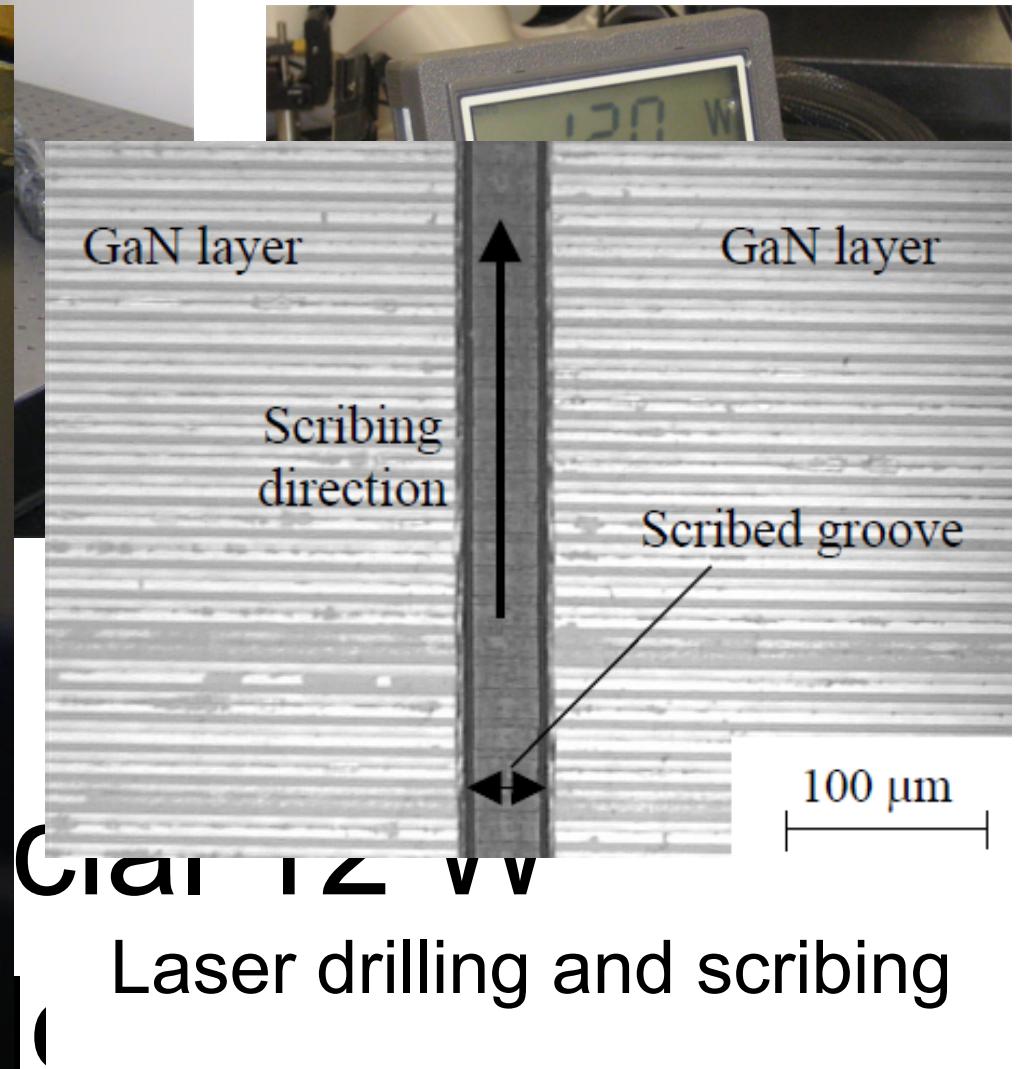
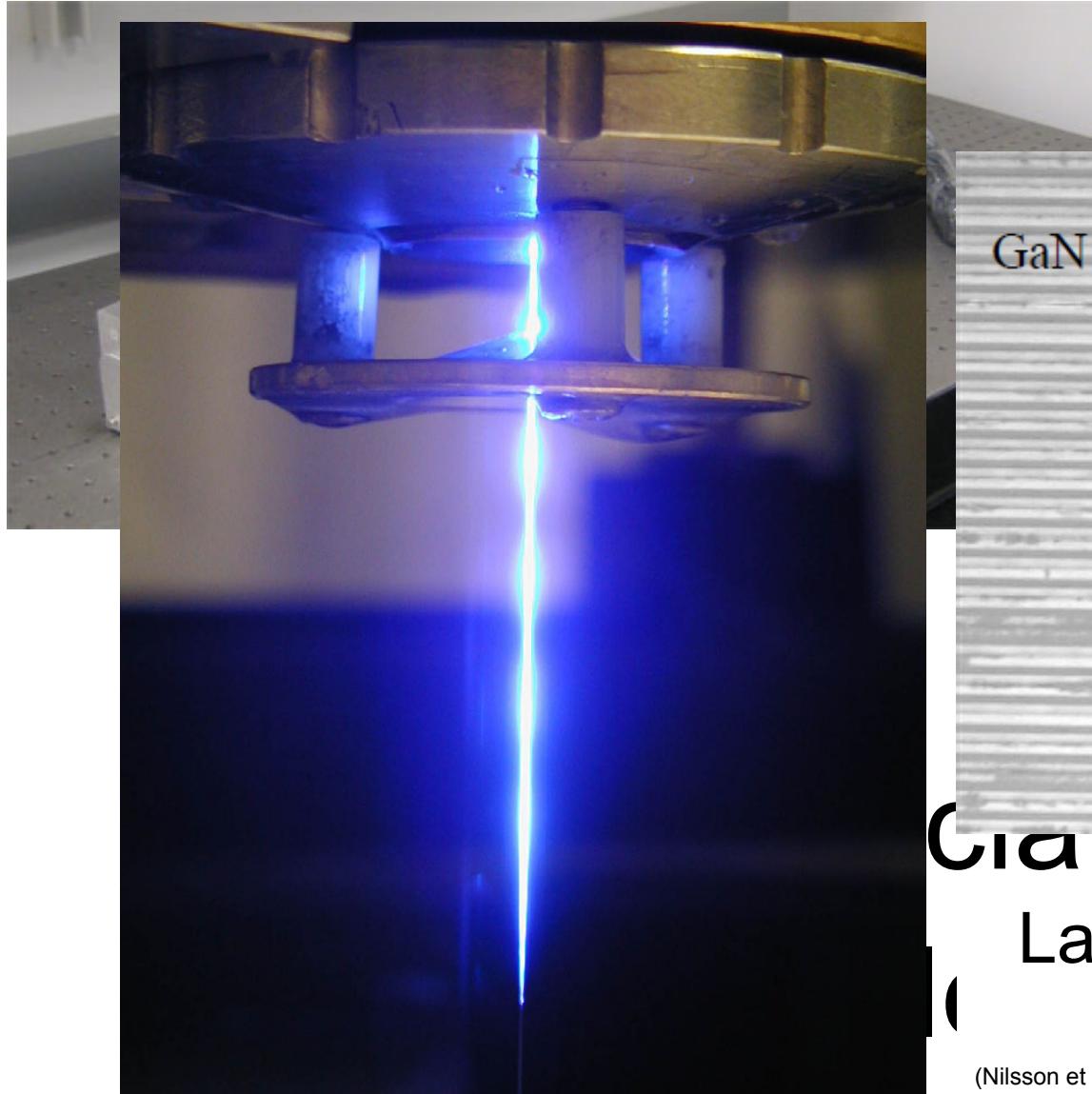
Na D2-line laser
~\$100K/Watt
Required for > 3m

Rayleigh

Commercial laser
\$5K-\$10K/Watt
Works for < 3m

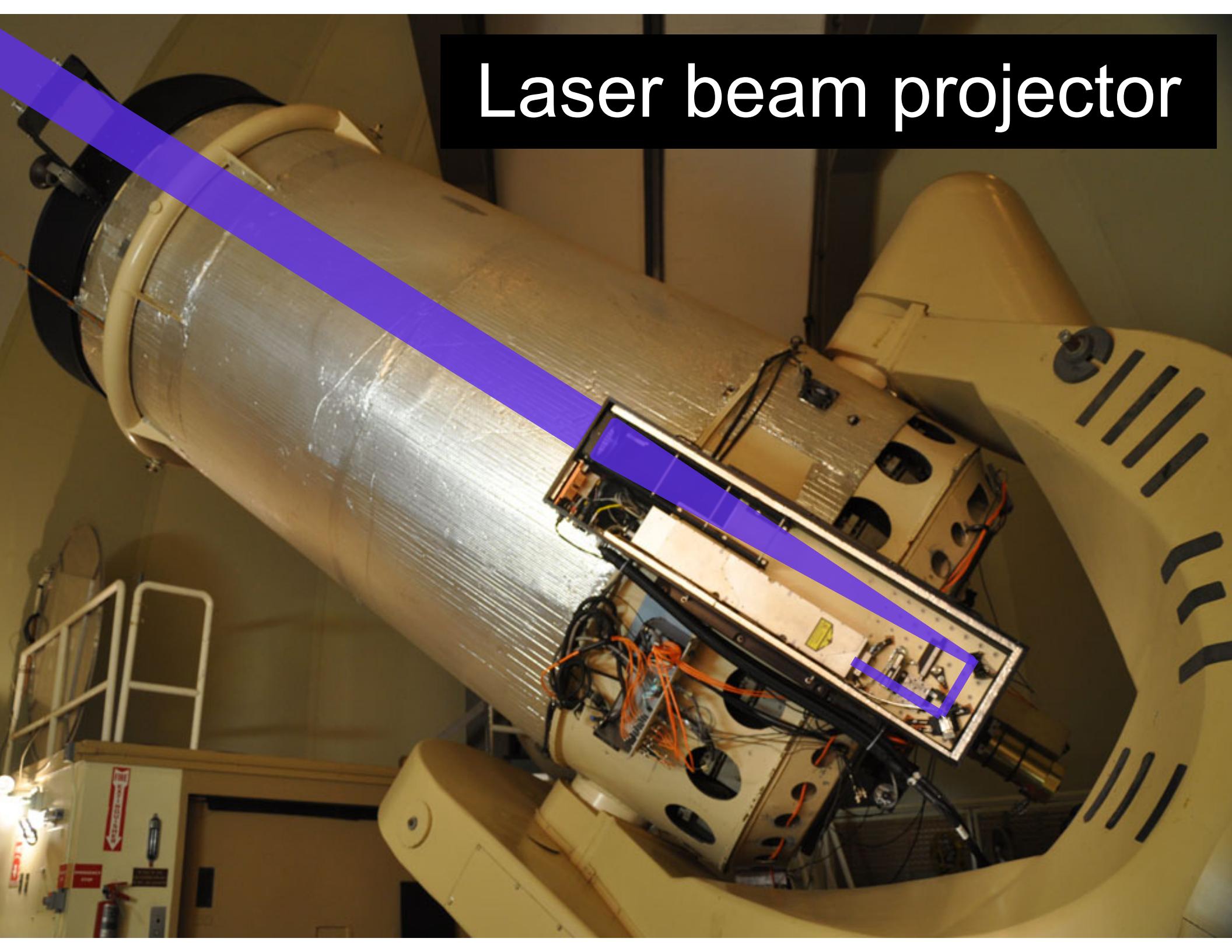


Example Rayleigh Laser



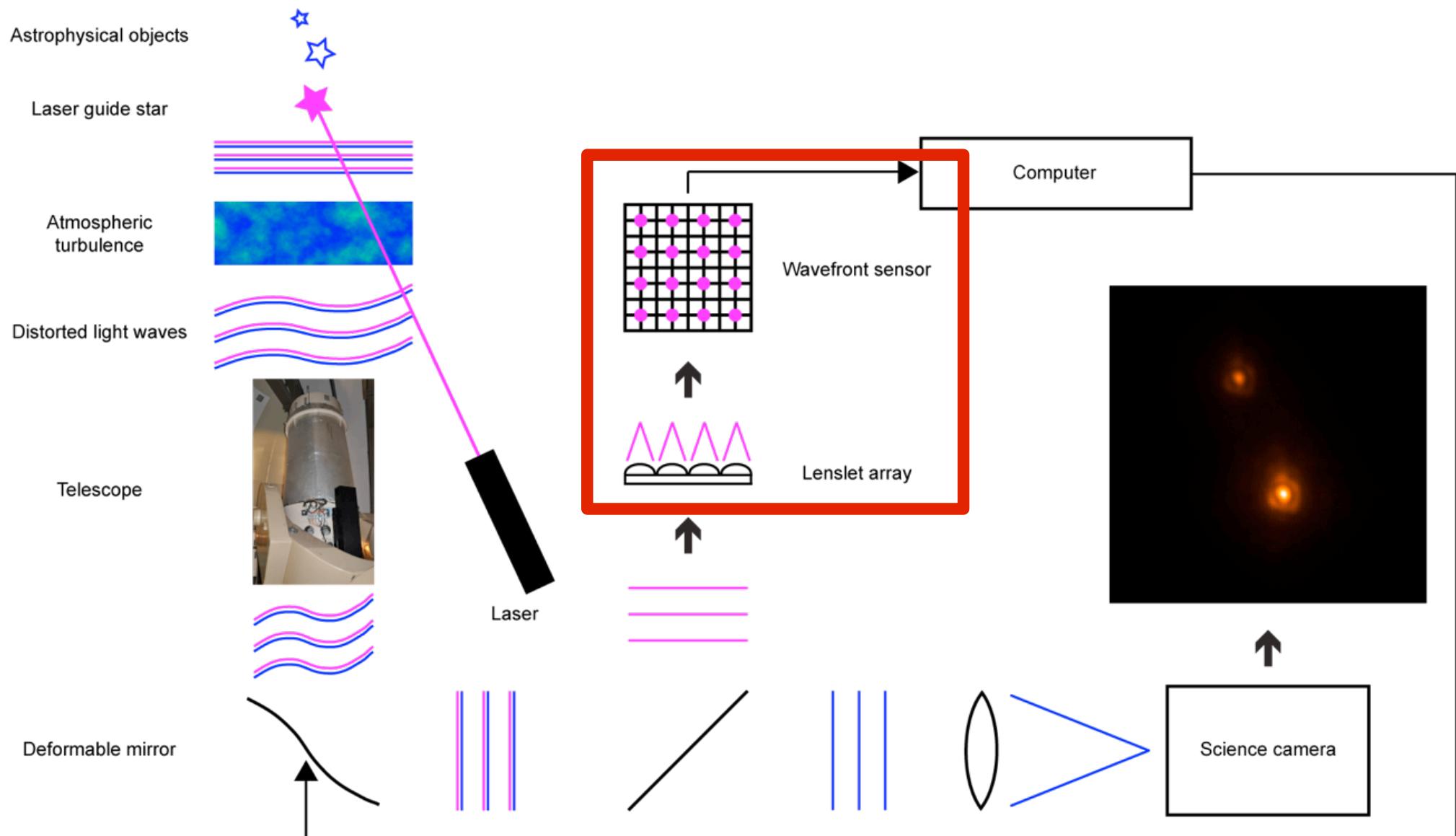
(Nilsson et al., 2004)

Laser beam projector



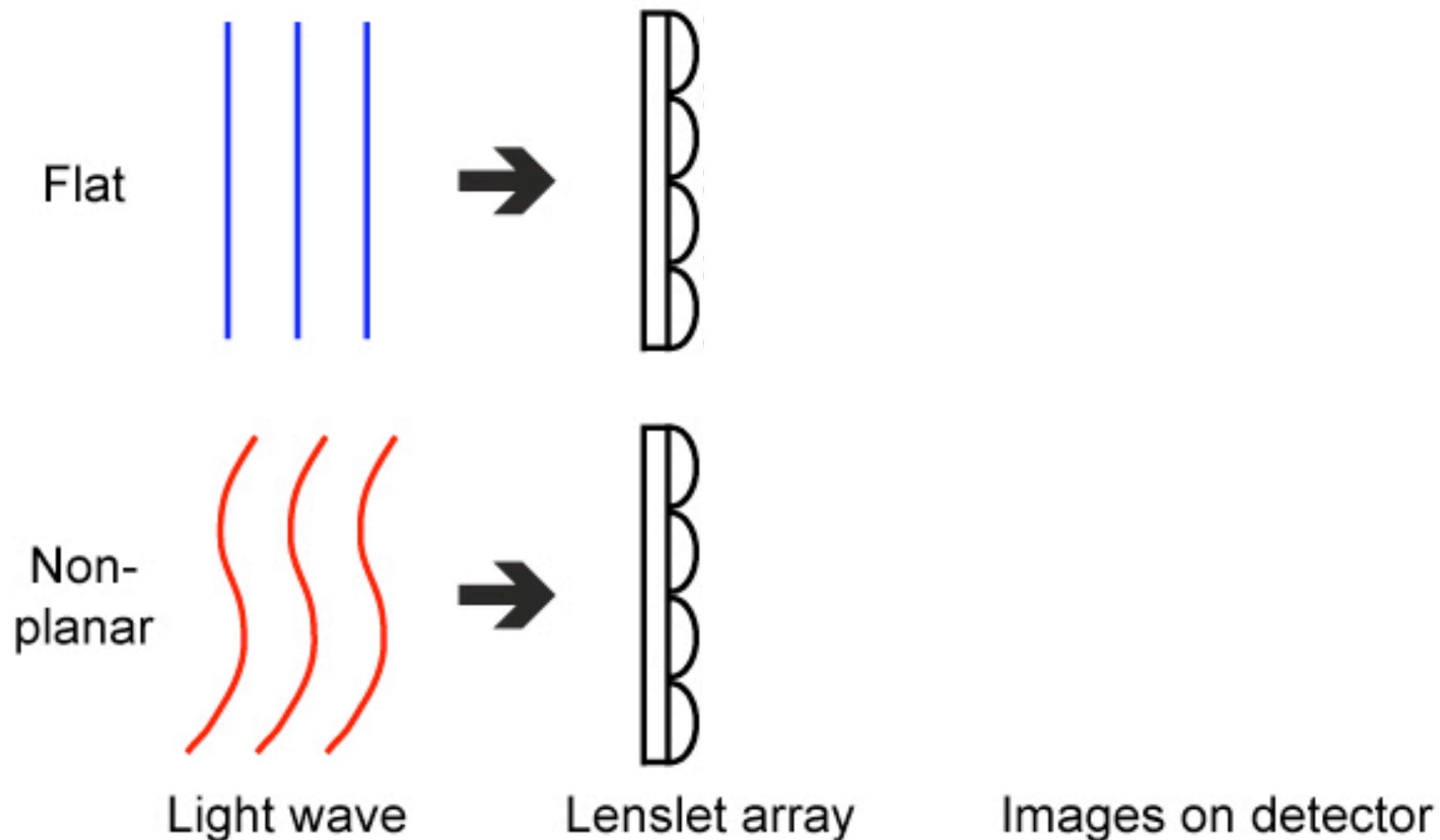


Adaptive Optics Components

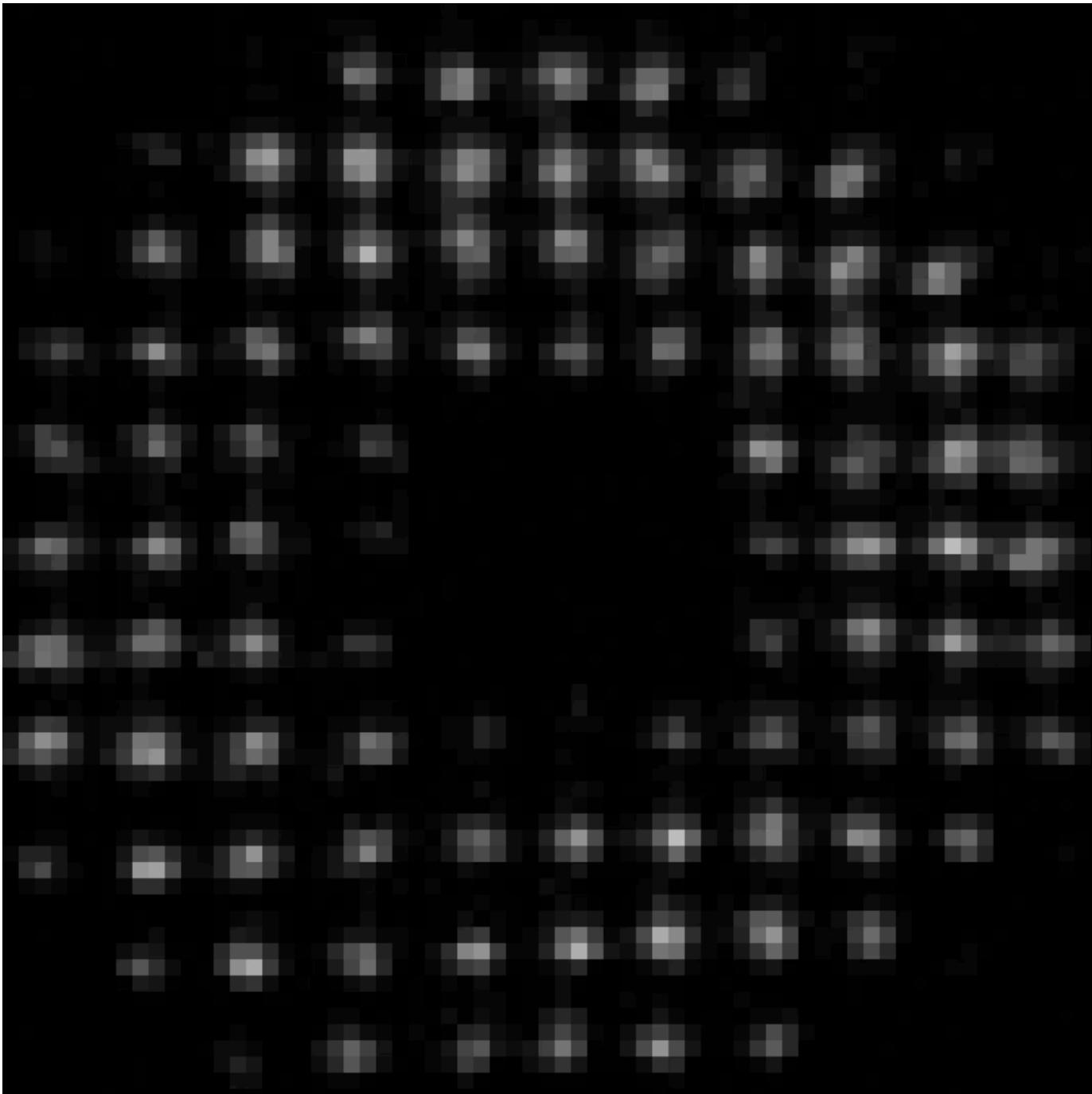


Measuring the shape of light

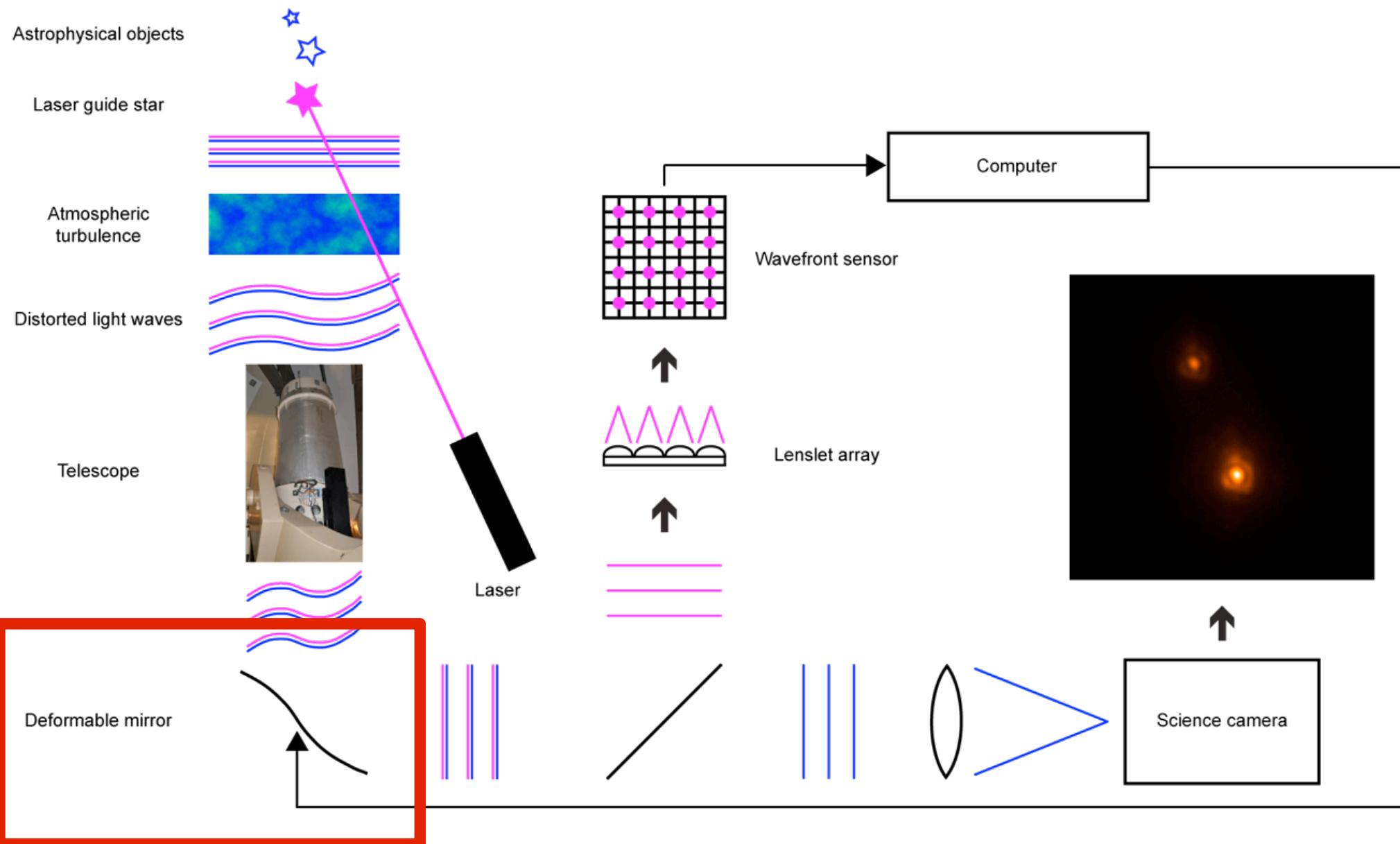
Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor



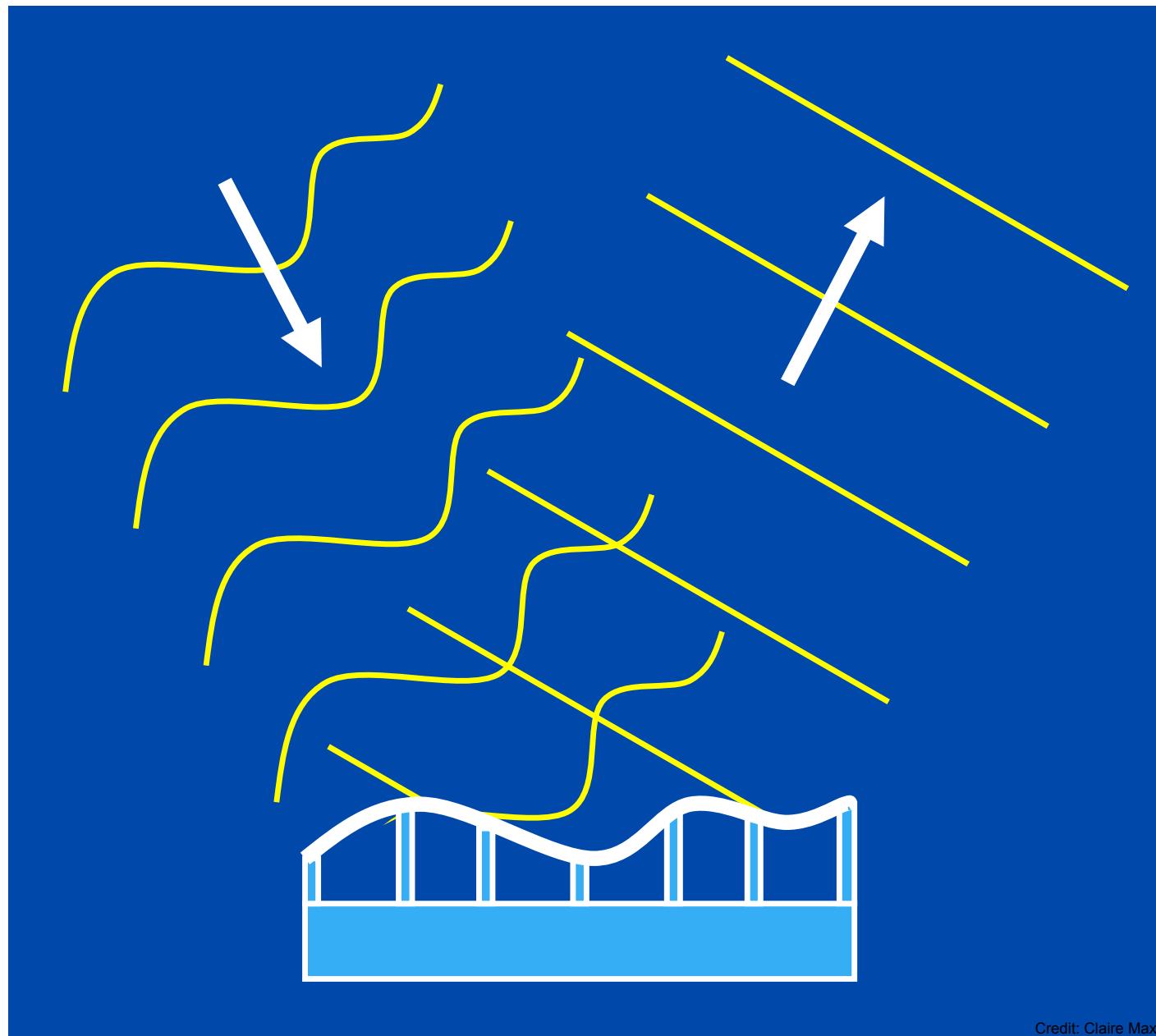
High-order Wavefront Sensor



Adaptive Optics Components



Deformable mirrors affect light waves



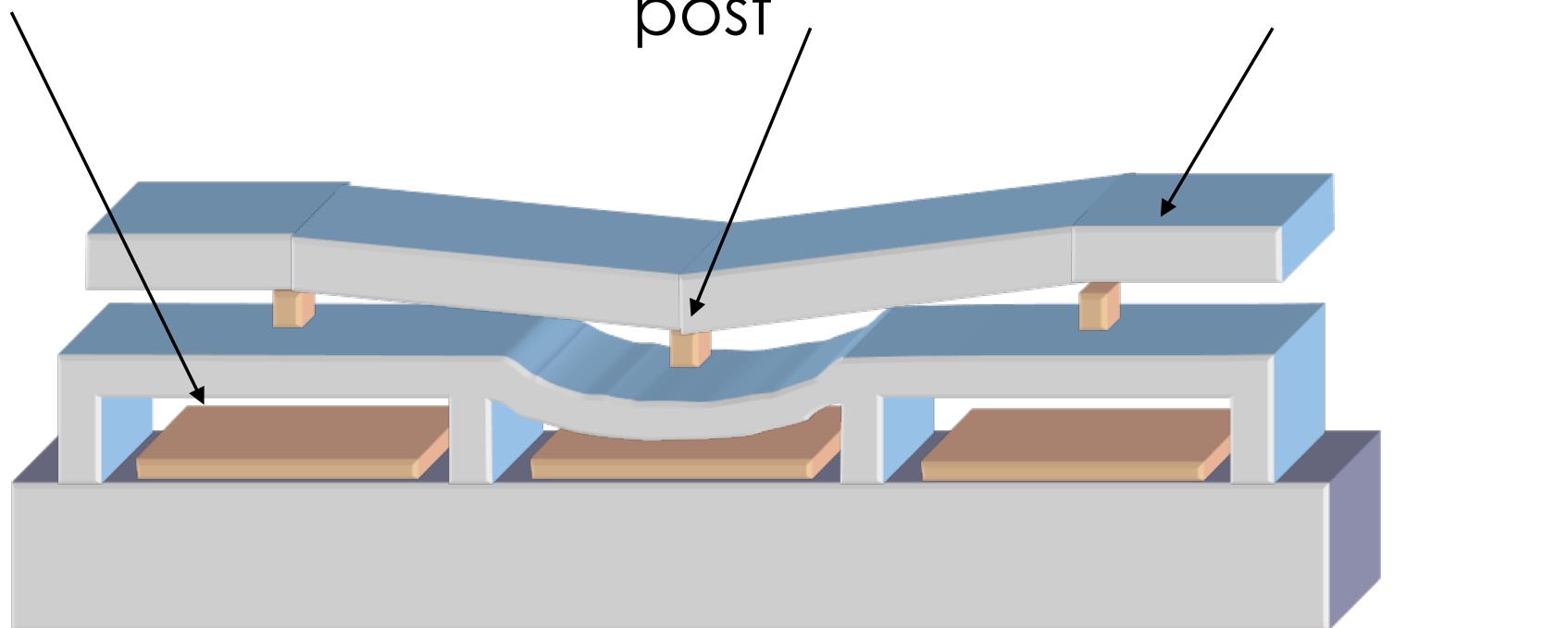
Credit: Claire Max

Deformable mirrors

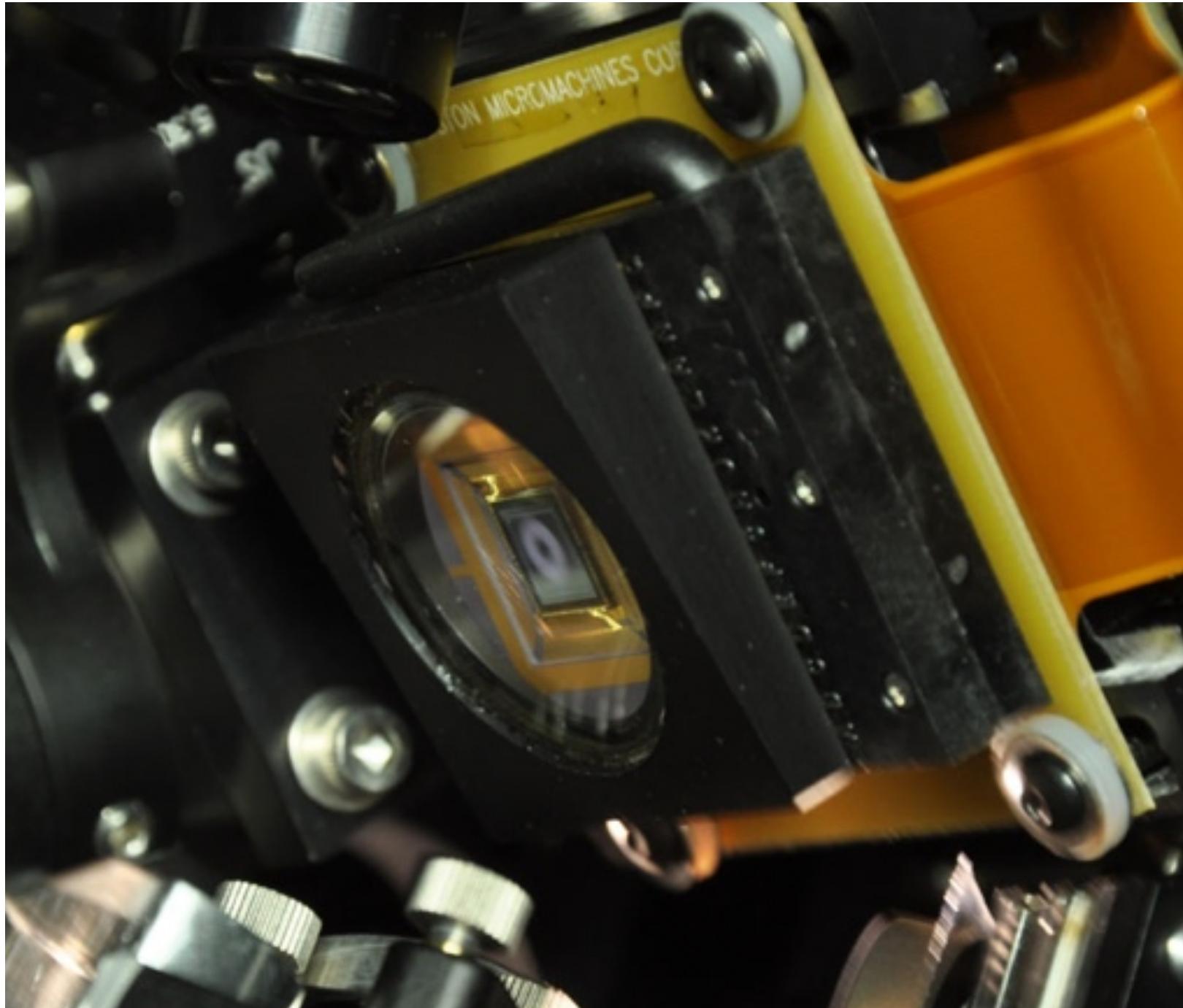
Electrostatically
actuated
diaphragm

Attachment
post

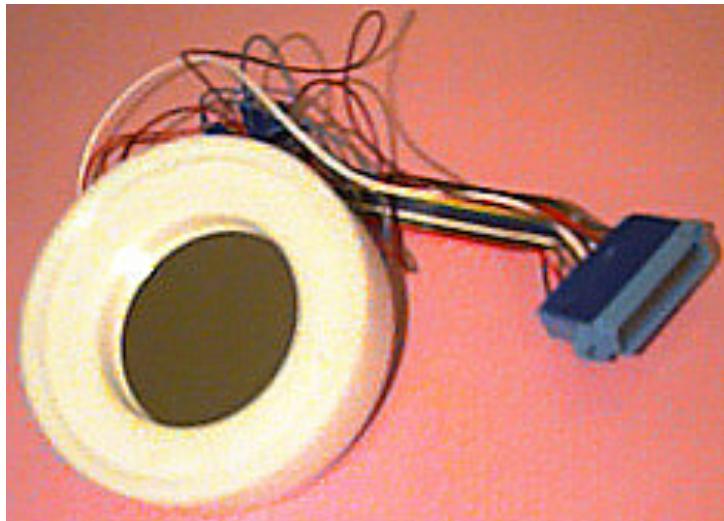
Membrane
mirror



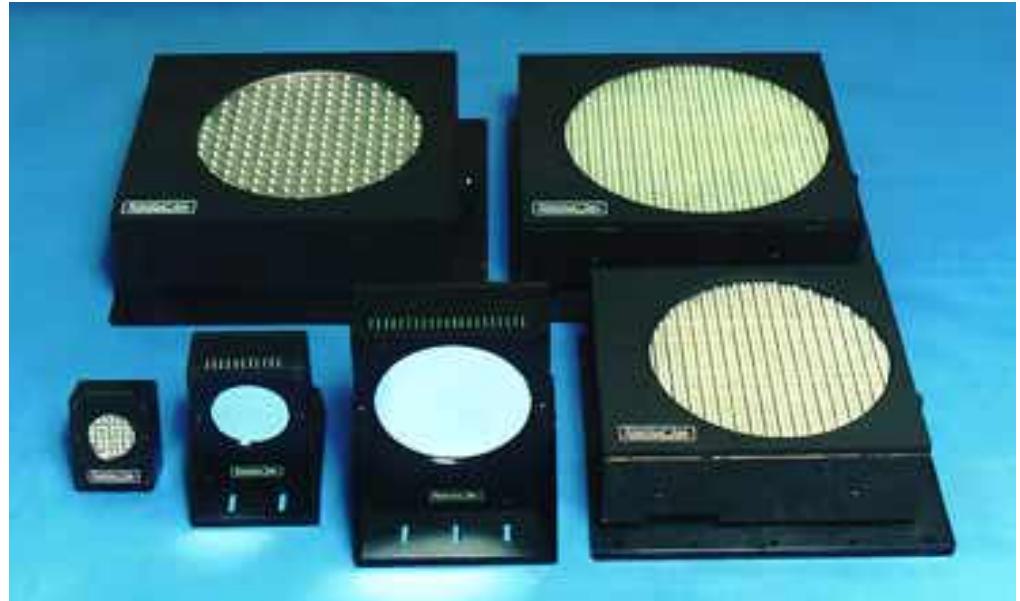
Silicon deformable mirror



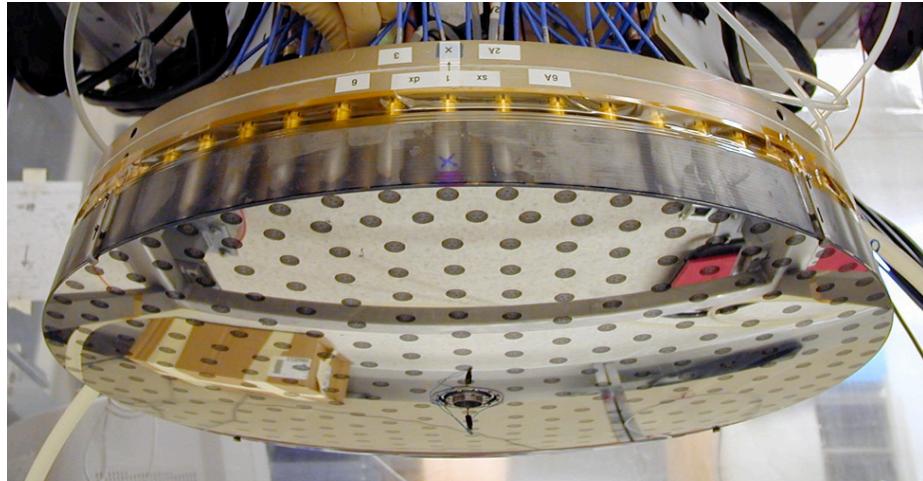
Other deformable mirrors



Uni/bi-morph DMs made from PZT wafers



Piezo stack array DMs with glass facetsheets

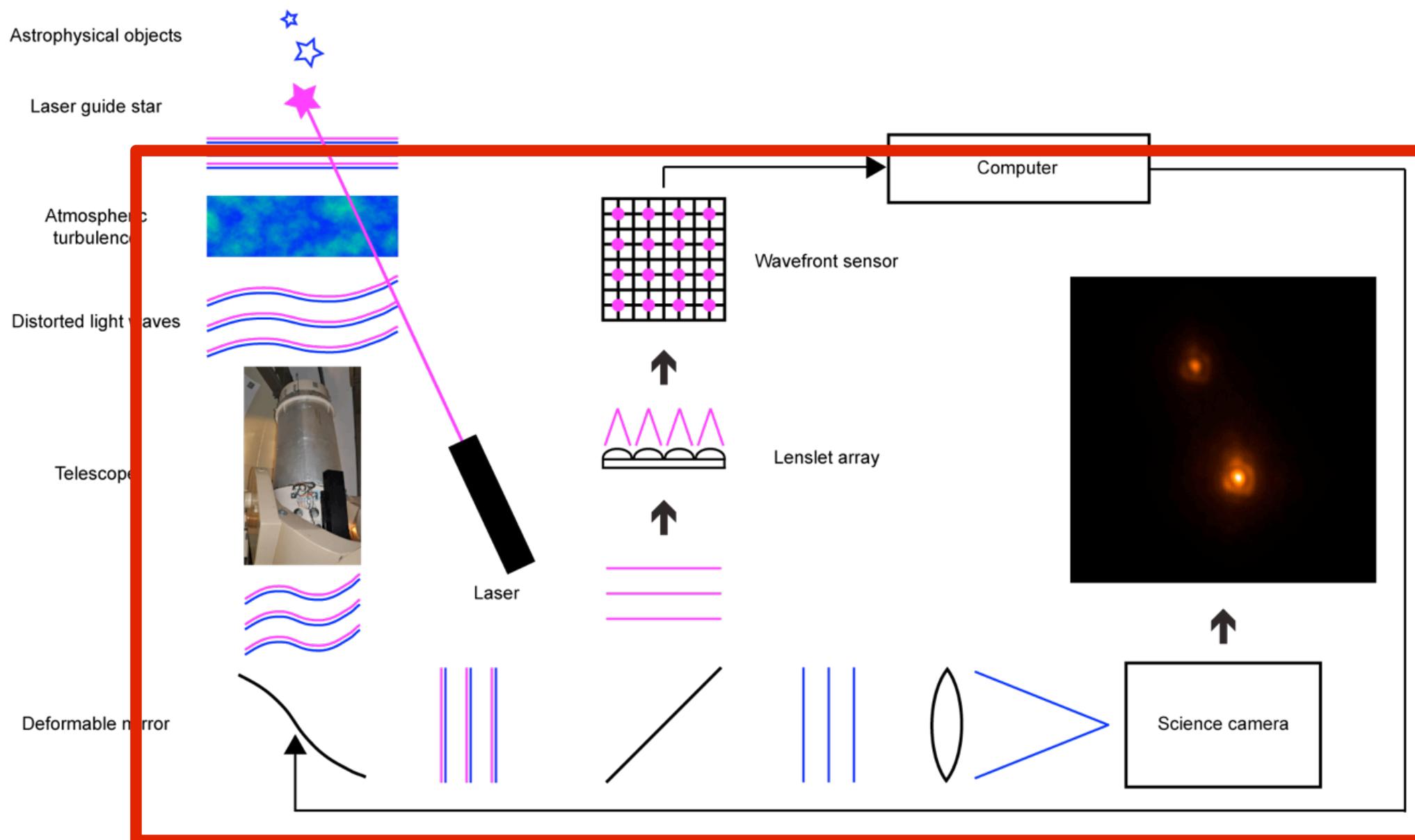


Voice coil deformable mirrors
(we'll be testing a new ASM technology in a few years at UH88")



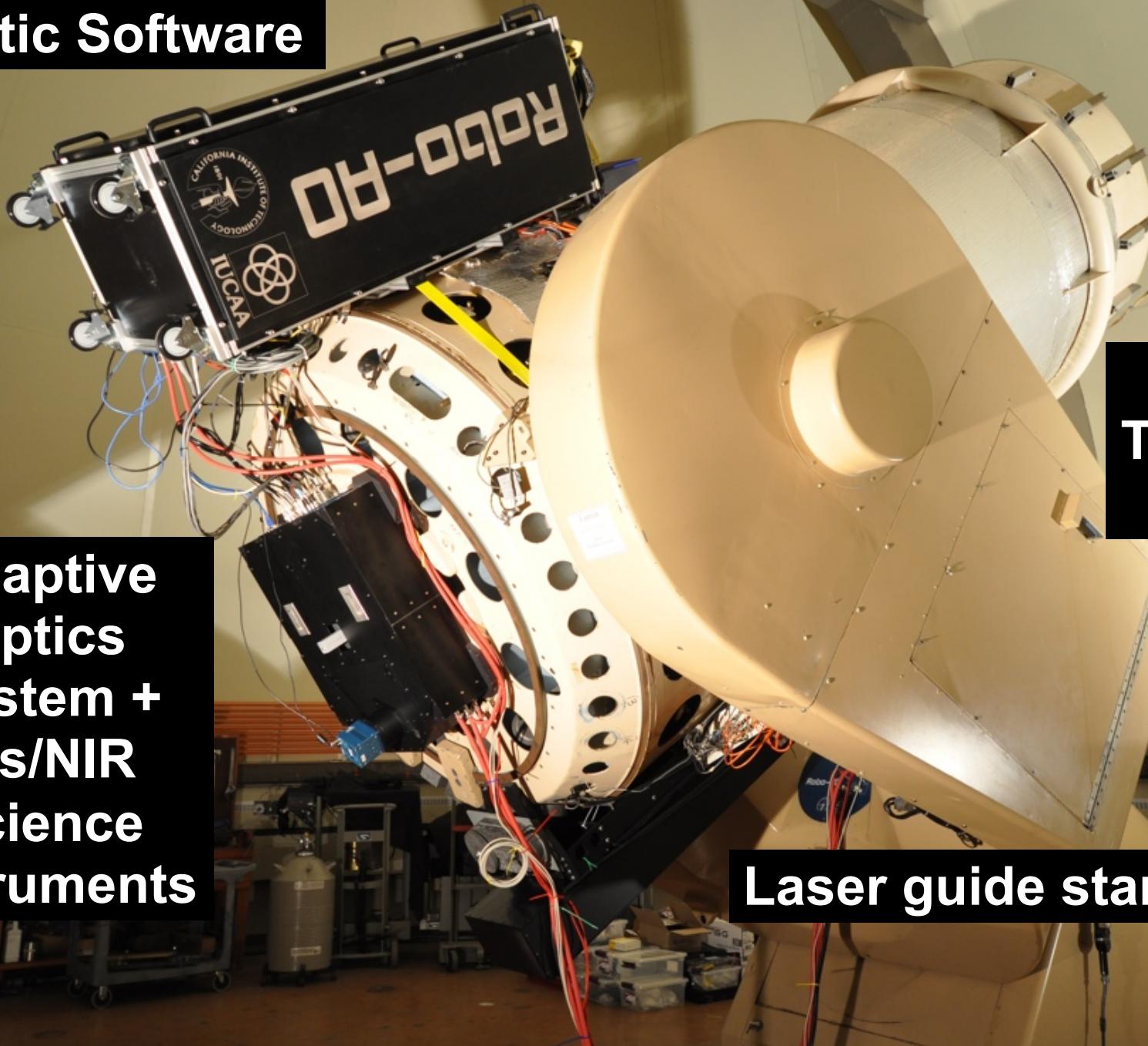
Even liquid crystal arrays (for narrow bandwidth and phase)

The entire system



Robo-AO on the Palomar 60" telescope

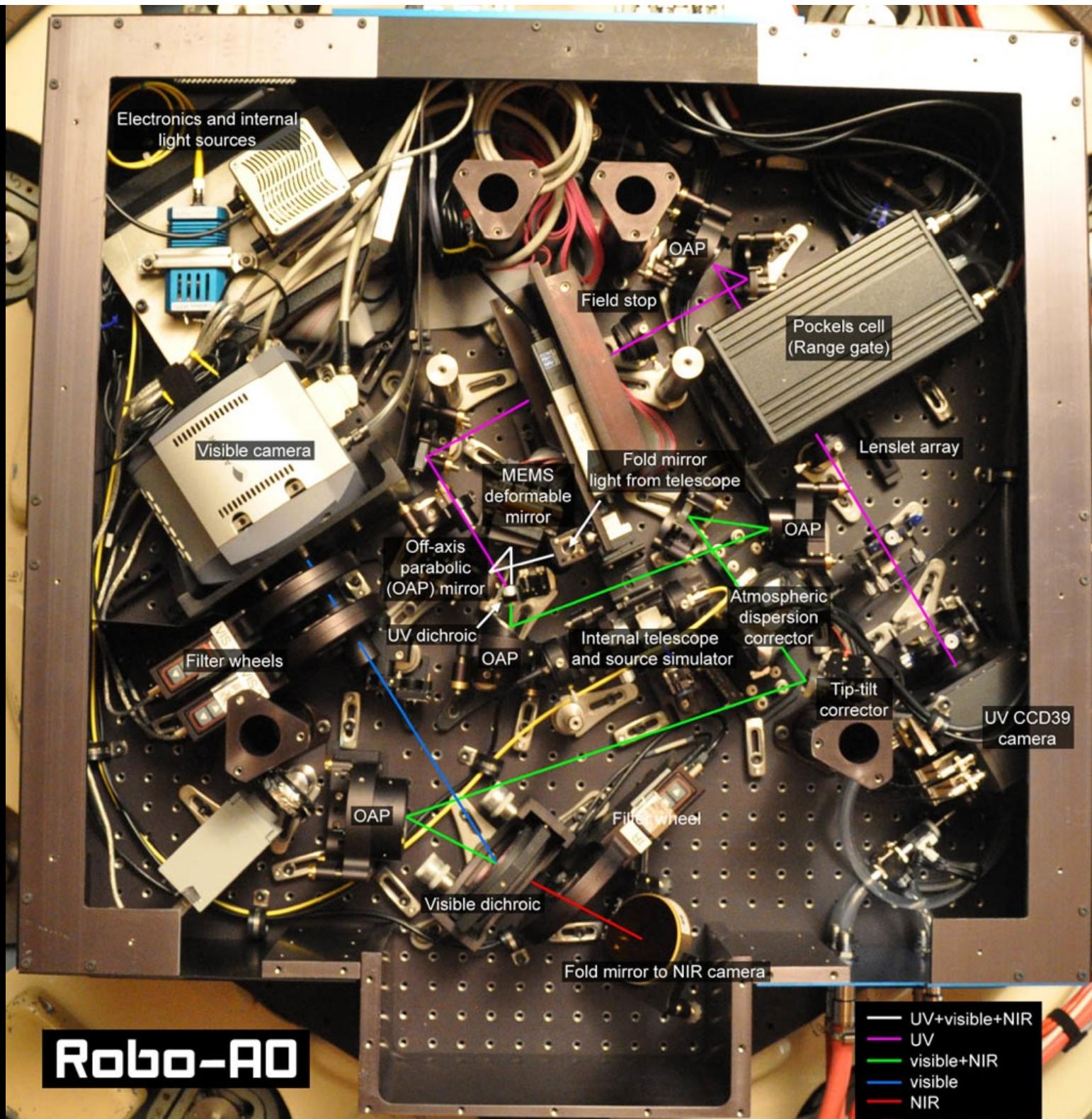
Robotic Software



Robotic
Telescope
(P60)

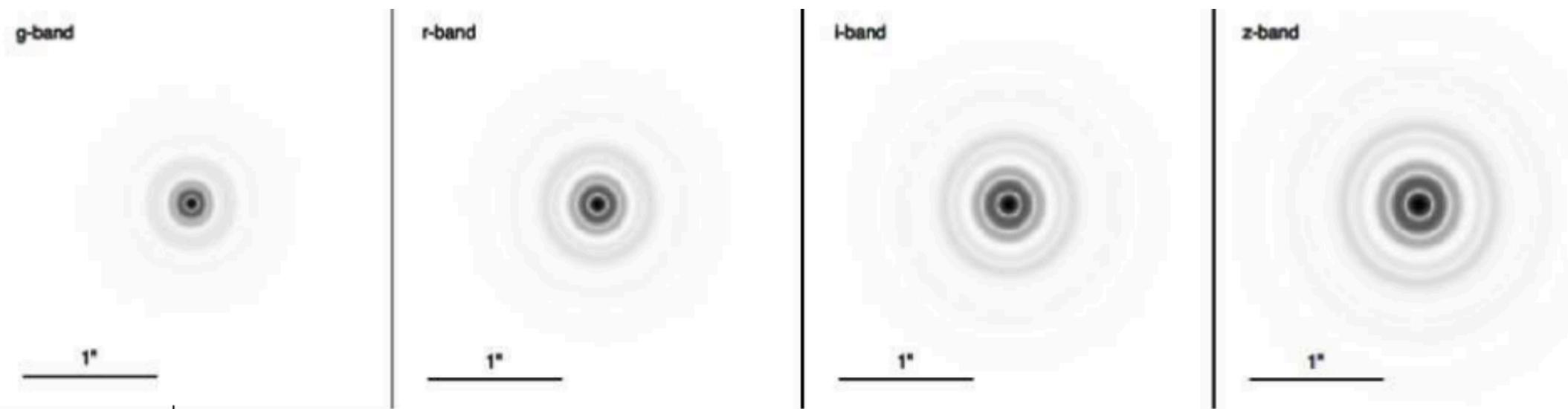
Adaptive
Optics
System +
Vis/NIR
Science
Instruments

Laser guide star



Strehl ratio - a measure of image quality

The ratio of peak intensity of the aberrated point-spread function (PSF) to an aberration-free PSF.



Model aberration-free PSFs for the Kitt-Peak 2.1-m telescope.

The Maréchal Approximation

$$\text{Strehl Ratio} \sim \exp(-\sigma^2) = \exp(-(2\pi[\text{nm}]/\lambda)^2)$$

- σ^2 - phase variance in square radians
- RMS wavefront error often expressed in nm
- This approximation does not take into account obscuration or frequency spectrum of phase variance.

r_0 and other useful relations

r_0 - Fried parameter / coherence length
– An aperture over which there is 1 radian² of phase variance.

Diffraction limited FWHM $\sim \lambda/D$

Seeing limited FWHM $\sim \lambda/r_0$

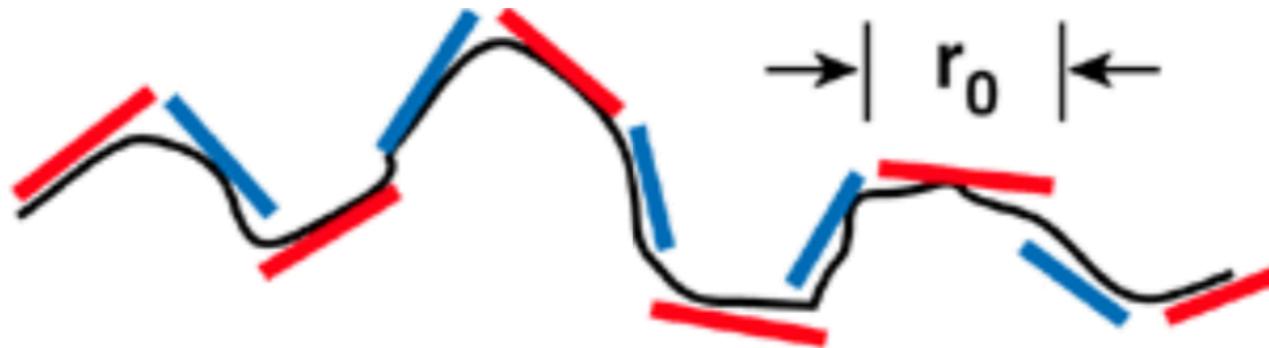
Total seeing phase variance = $1.03 (D/r_0)^{5/3}$
(Assuming Kolmogoroff power spectrum)

Error sources are added in quadrature.

Residual phase error:

$$\sigma^2_{\text{total}} = \sigma^2_{\text{fit}} + \sigma^2_{\text{measure}} + \sigma^2_{\text{delay}} + \sigma^2_{\text{FA}} + \sigma^2_{\text{other}}$$

Fitting error



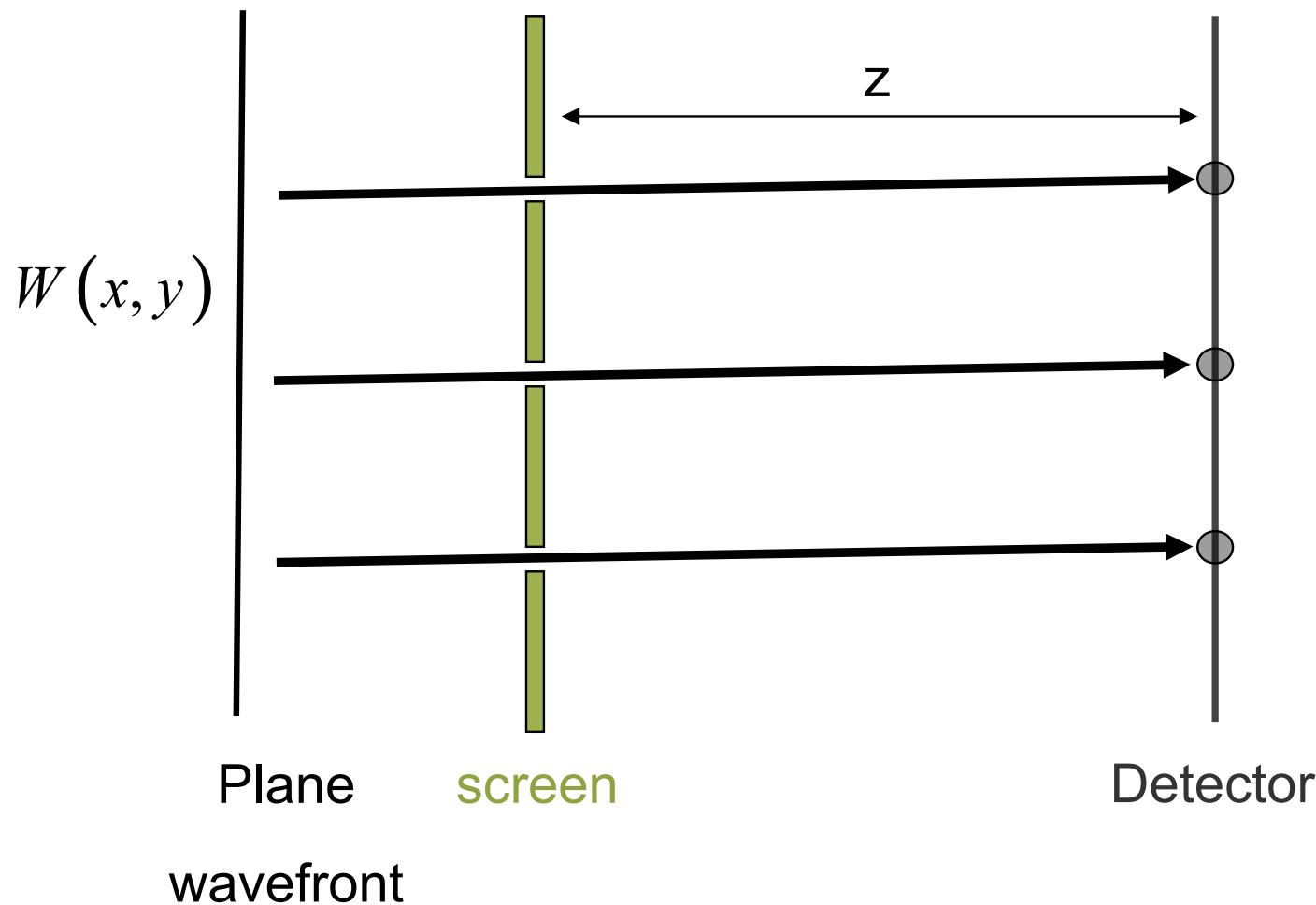
Credit: C. Max

$$\sigma_{\text{fit}}^2 = a_F (d/r_0)^{5/3}$$

- a_F - constant based on geometry and control
- d - actuator spacing / sub aperture size*
- r_0 - Coherence length / Fried parameter

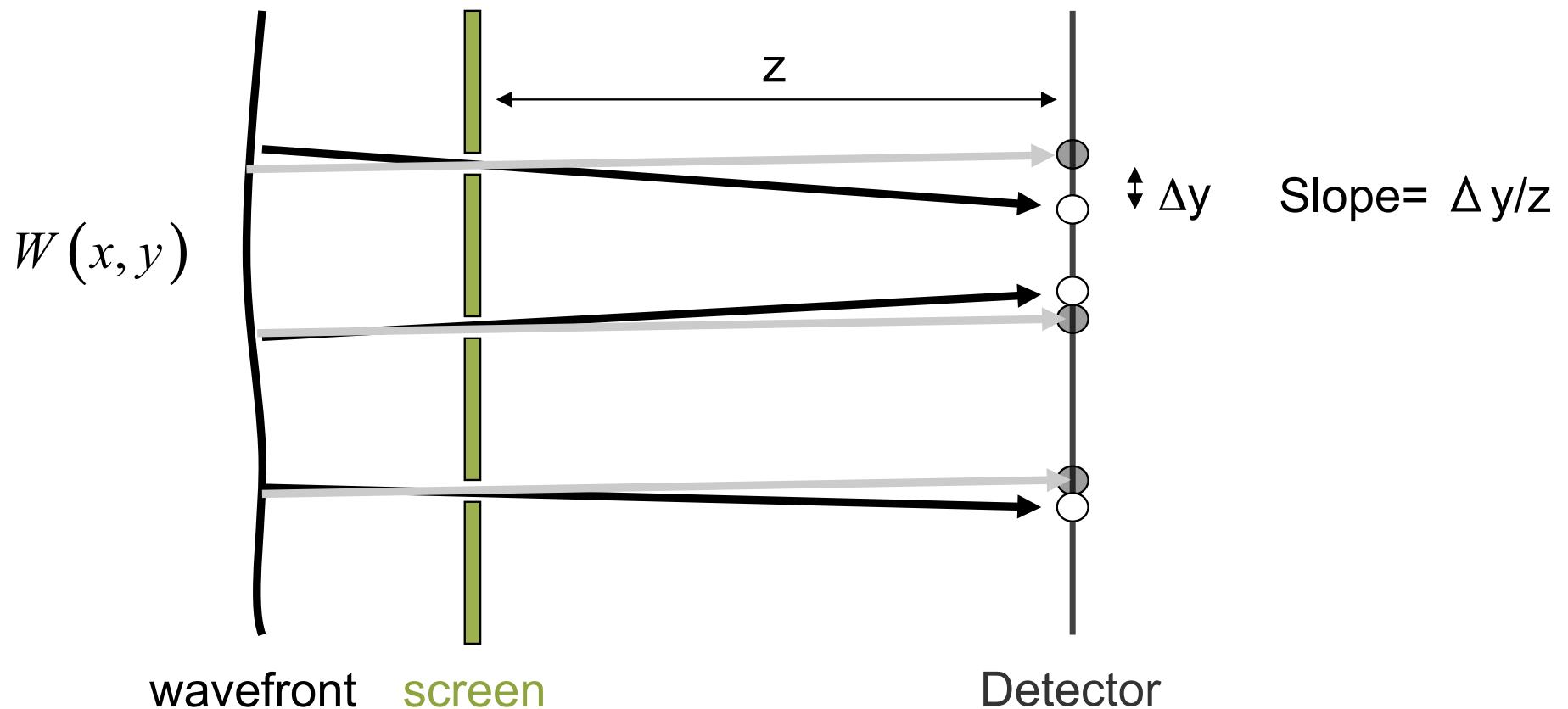
Measuring a light wave

- The Hartmann test (developed 1900):



Measuring a light wave

-

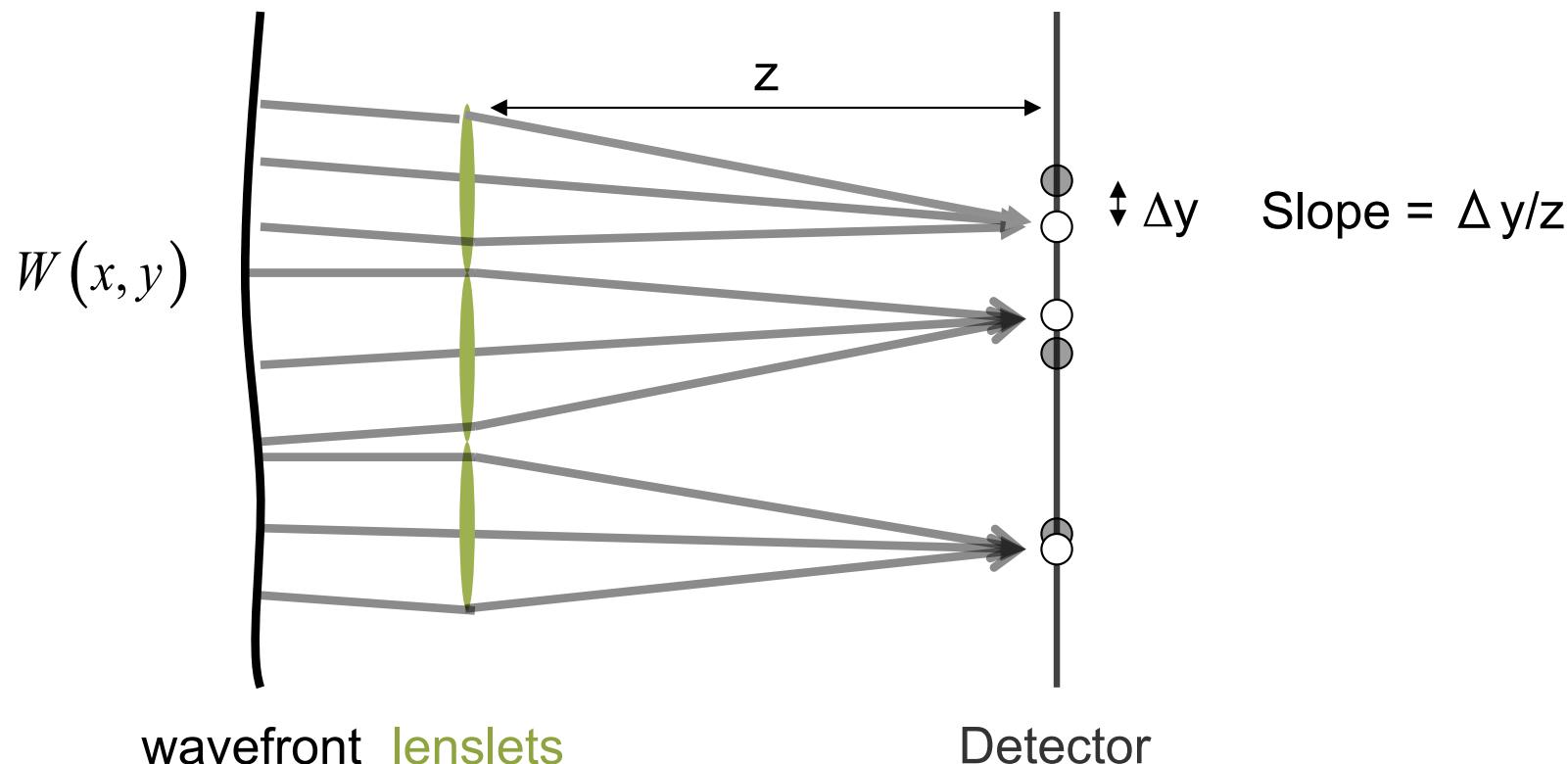


Measuring a light wave

- Main drawback to Hartmann test is the loss of light.
- Most stars aren't that bright.
- More than 60 years for a real improvement.

Measuring a light wave

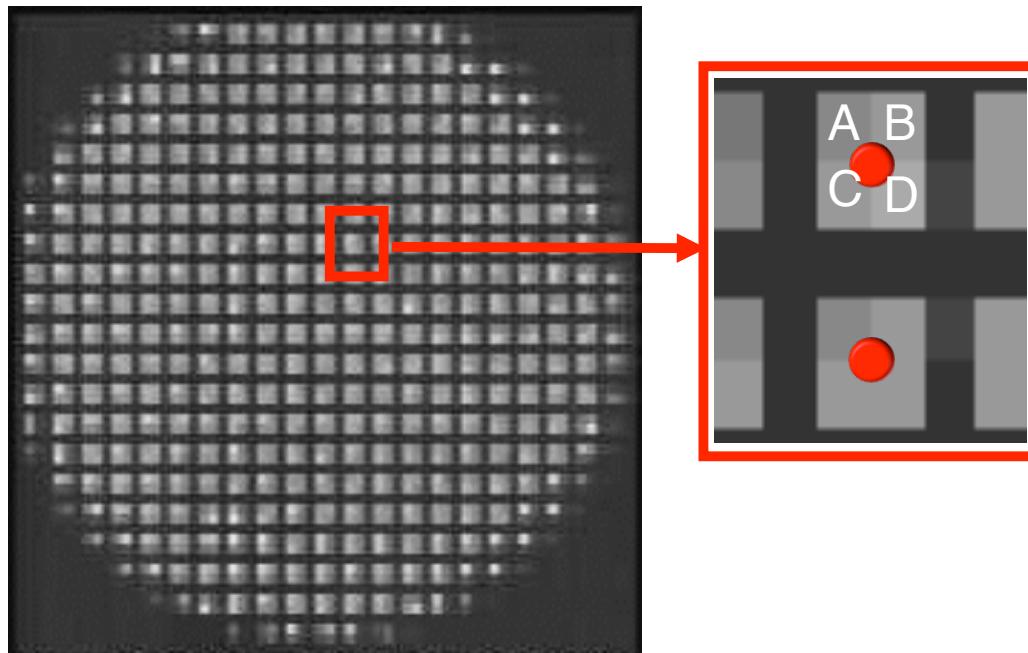
- Roland Shack (late 60's) proposed a grid of lenses instead of holes:



Locating Shack-Hartmann spots

- For each spot, measure its relative position.

Center-of-mass:



$$X_{\text{pos}} = \frac{B+D-(A+C)}{A+B+C+D}$$

$$Y_{\text{pos}} = \frac{A+B-(C+D)}{A+B+C+D}$$

Signal/Noise of centroid

$$\text{SNR} = \frac{n_{\text{phot/sub}}}{(n_{\text{phot/sub}} + n_{\text{pix}}^2 e^2)^{1/2}}$$

- $n_{\text{phot/sub}}$ - number photons per sub aperture
- n_{pix} - num. pixels per centroid measurement
- e - total noise from each pixel (read, dark, ...)

Measurement error

$$\sigma_{\text{me}}^2 = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4\text{SNR}}\right)^2 \left(\left(\frac{3d}{2r_0}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\theta d}{\lambda}\right)^2 \right) E, & \text{for } r_0 < d \\ \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4\text{SNR}}\right)^2 \left(\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\theta d}{\lambda}\right)^2 \right) E, & \text{for } d < r_0 \end{cases}$$

- E - Error propagator, dependent on geometry of the wavefront sensor (slowly varies with d)
- θ - angular size of guide source (0 for NGS)
- d - subparture size
- SNR - Signal/noise for single measurement

Time delay error

$$\sigma_{\text{td}}^2 = (\tau_s / \tau_0)^{5/3}$$

- τ_s - Time between measurement and application of correction. (Not frame rate)
- τ_0 - Atmospheric time constant. Typically 1-3 ms.
- There are other ways to determine this error.
- Partial mitigation with predictive control.

Balancing these errors

- Start with:
 - r_0 , D, τ_0 , guide star brightness
- You pick:
 - **s - d/D - spatial sampling of wavefront**
 - **f - frame rate / AO loop rate**
 - And to a lesser extent, WFS noise, geometry, QE of coatings, latency of computer, etc.

As $s \uparrow$: $\sigma^2_{\text{fit}} \downarrow$ and $\sigma^2_{\text{measure}} \uparrow$

As $f \uparrow$: $\sigma^2_{\text{delay}} \downarrow$ and $\sigma^2_{\text{measure}} \uparrow$

Analytical/brute force optimization

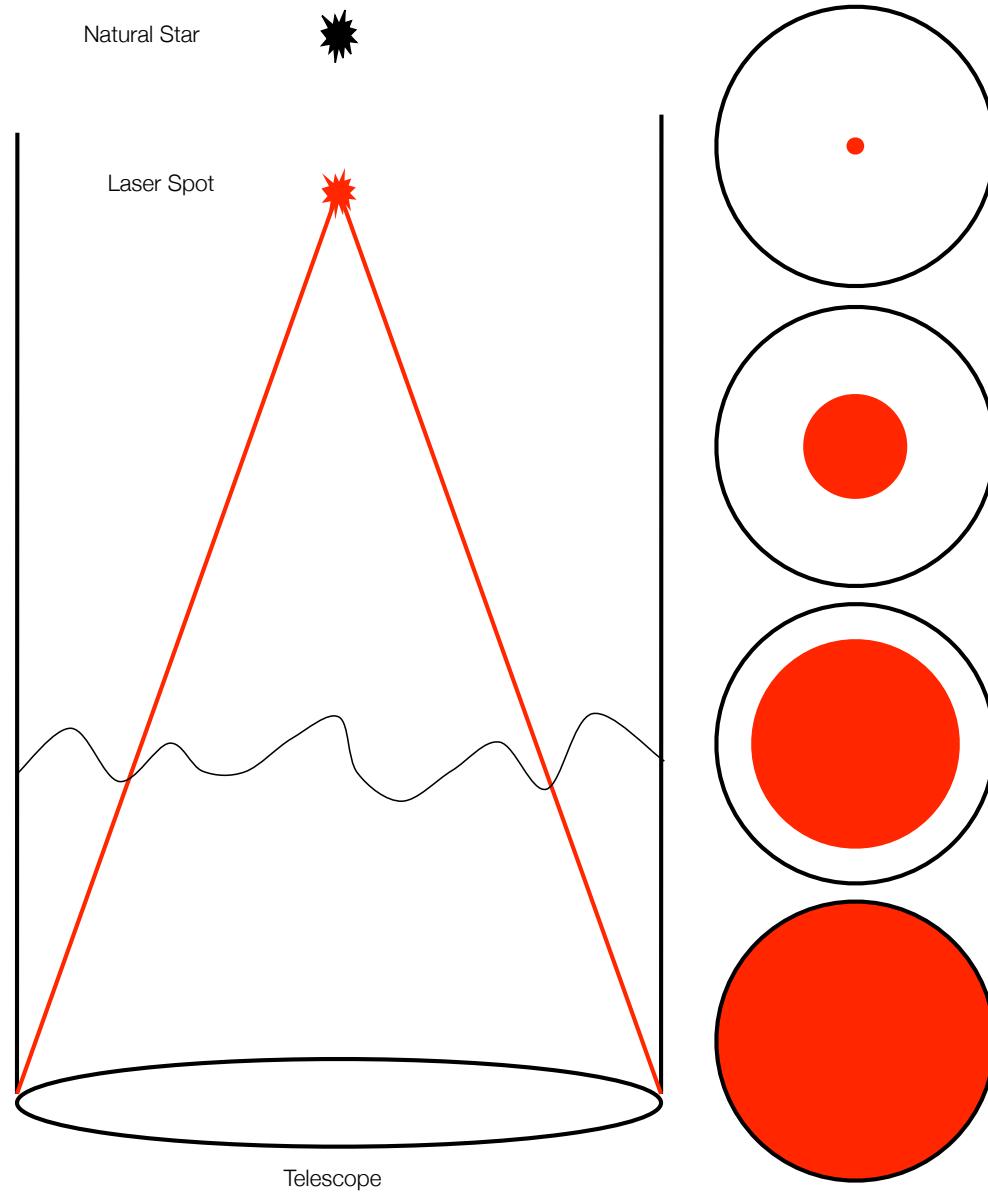
$$s_{\text{opt}} = 0.529 \frac{a_F^{12/35} d_{\text{tele}}^{4/7} \tau_0^{3/14} \Phi^{3/14}}{r_0^{4/7} n_{f\text{delay}}^{3/14}}$$

$$f_{\text{opt}} = 0.801 \frac{n_{f\text{delay}}^{1/14} r_0^{3/7} \Phi^{3/14}}{a_F^{9/35} d_{\text{tele}}^{3/7} \tau_0^{11/14}}$$

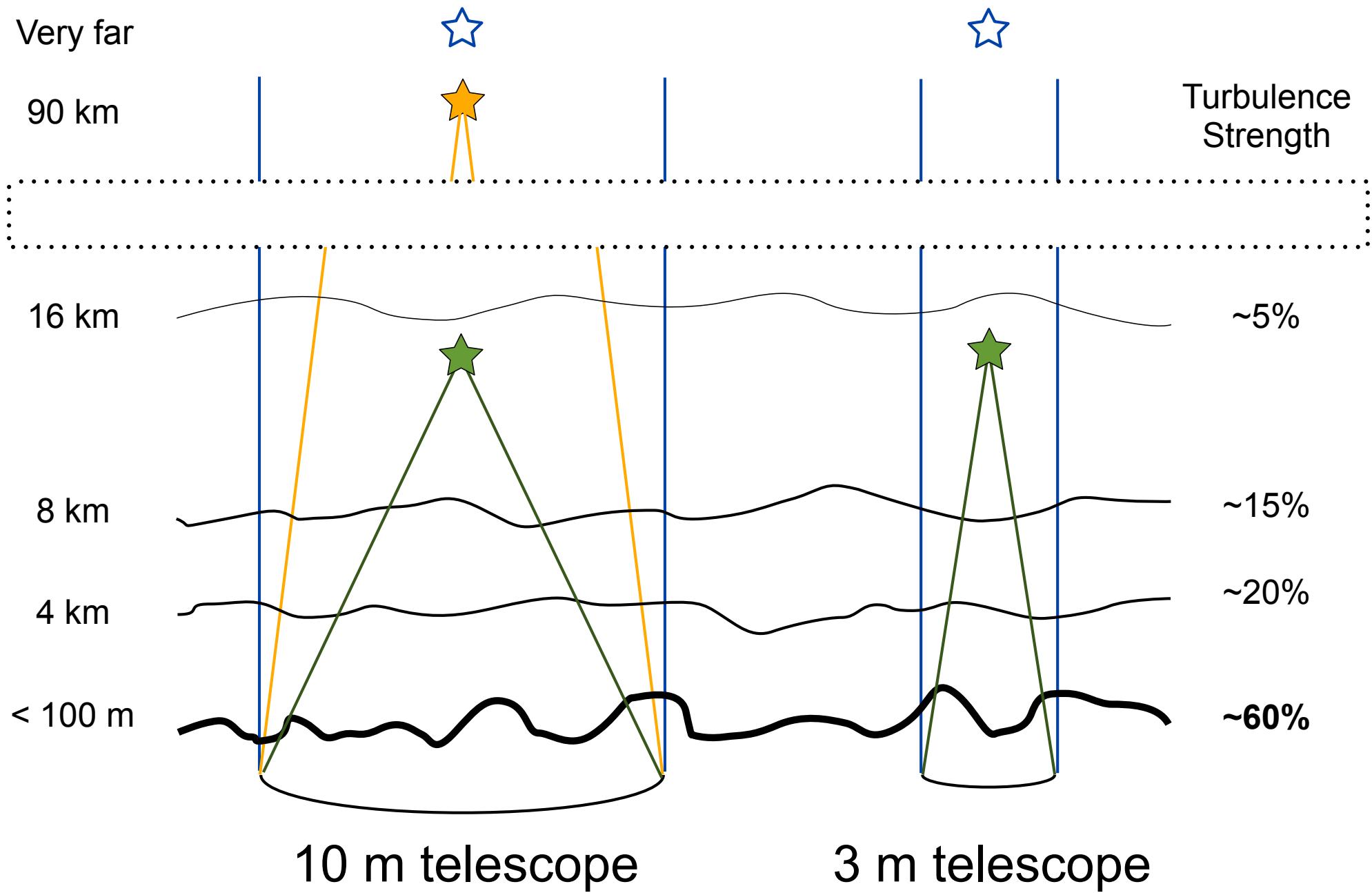
ϕ - total radiant flux time system quantum efficiency

$n_{f\text{delay}}$ - num. frames delay in CCD readout

'Focal Anisoplanatism'



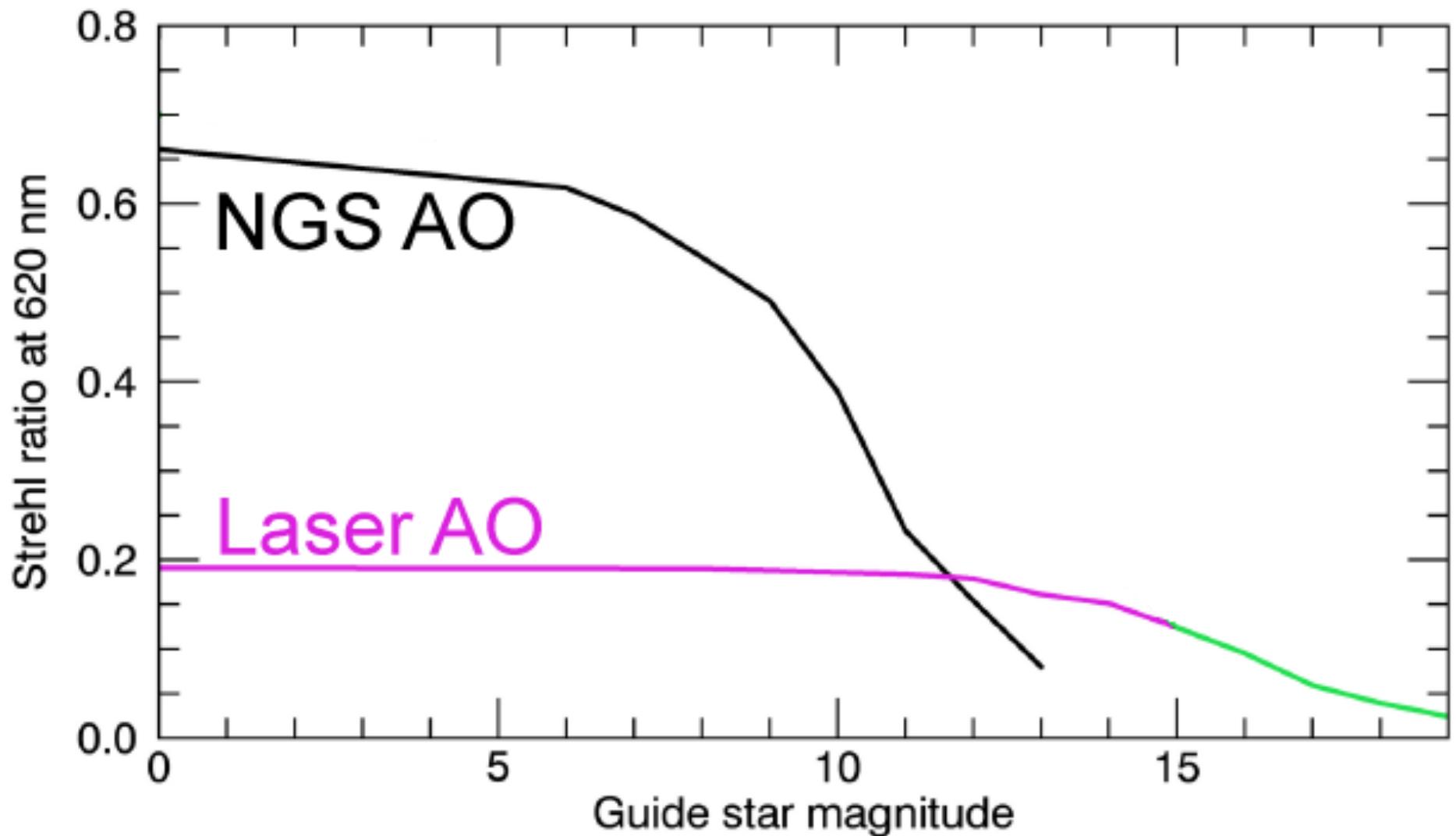
‘Focal Anisoplanatism’



Supplemental NGS wavefront sensing

- Lasers are insensitive to atmospheric tip/tit.
- Require supplemental tip/tilt sensing.
- Rayleigh always at exact same range.
- The Sodium layer and profile fluctuate requiring the use of a NGS to track focus.

Representative correction of NGS vs. LGS AO



How does one design an AO system?

- Can the objects you want to look at be used as their own guide star (NGS), or do you need a laser?
- Do you need high contrast? Bright NGS
- Do you need high sky coverage? Laser
- Do you need a wide field? Multiple NGS/laser
- Do you need something else?
- Build an error budget spreadsheet.

	Percentile Seeing	10%	25%	50%	75%					
		0.67" @ z=0° r₀ = 15 cm	1.02" @ z=40° r₀ = 9.8 cm	1.12" @ z=20° r₀ = 8.9 cm	1.69" @ z=10° r₀ = 5.9 cm					
High-order Errors		Wavefront Error (nm)								
Atmospheric Fitting Error		39	56	61	85					
Bandwidth Error		47	52	65	92					
High-order Measurement Error		41	46	57	81					
LGS Focal Anisoplanatism Error		60	102	96	131					
Multispectral Error		0	74	11	3					
Scintillation Error		13	26	22	29					
WFS Scintillation Error		10	10	10	10					
Uncorrectable Tel / AO / Instr Aberrations		38	38	38	38					
Zero-Point Calibration Errors		34	34	34	34					
Pupil Registration Errors		21	21	21	21					
High-Order Aliasing Error		13	19	20	28					
DM Stroke / Digitization Errors		5	5	5	5					
Total High Order Wavefront Error		112 nm	168 nm	156 nm	219 nm					
Tip-Tilt Errors		Angular Error (mas)								
Tilt Measurement Error		19	24	27	39					
Tilt Bandwidth Error		14	18	21	30					
Science Instrument Mechanical Drift		6	6	6	6					
Residual Telescope Pointing Jitter		2	3	2	2					
Residual Centroid Anisoplanatism		1	2	2	2					
Residual Atmospheric Dispersion		0	1	0	0					
Total Tip/Tilt Error (one-axis)		24 mas	30 mas	35 mas	50 mas					
Total Effective Wavefront Error		137 nm	176 nm	185 nm	241 nm					
Spectral Band	λ	λ/D	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM
r'	0.62 μ	0.08"	17%	0.09"	5%	0.14"	4%	0.15"	0%	0.59"
i'	0.75 μ	0.10"	28%	0.10"	12%	0.15"	10%	0.15"	2%	0.21"
H	1.64 μ	0.22"	75%	0.22"	63%	0.23"	59%	0.24"	38%	0.26"

There is a growing need for very efficient adaptive optics.

- Large surveys, large data sets
 - E.g., Kepler, TESS, Gaia, Pan-STARRS, ...
 - Binary stars, exoplanet host vetting, ...
- Rapid-response (transients)
 - E.g., ATLAS, ZTF, LSST, your favorite TDA project
 - Crowded fields, location in host galaxy, SNR boost
- Monitoring
 - E.g., planetary weather, lensed quasar dynamics

Efficient AO Design Philosophy

- Most large telescopes have (laser) AO.
- Primarily focused on very detailed studies of few interesting objects
- Met

SUBMITTED, THE WSPC HANDBOOK OF ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTATION: VOLUME 3: UV, OPTICAL & IR INSTRUMENTATION: PART 2
Preprint typeset using L^AT_EX style emulateapj v. 12/16/11

AUTOMATED ADAPTIVE OPTICS

CHRISTOPH BARANEC¹, REED RIDDLE², AND NICHOLAS M. LAW³

Submitted, The WSPC Handbook of Astronomical Instrumentation: Volume 3: UV, Optical & IR Instrumentation: Part 2

ABSTRACT

Large area surveys will dominate the forthcoming decades of astronomy and their success requires characterizing thousands of discoveries through additional observations at higher spatial or spectral resolution, and at complementary cadences or periods. Only the full automation of adaptive optics systems will enable high-acuity, high-sensitivity follow-up observations of several tens of thousands of these objects per year, maximizing on-sky time. Automation will also enable rapid response to target-of-opportunity events within minutes, minimizing the time between discovery and characterization. In June 2012, we demonstrated the first fully automated operation of an astronomical adaptive optics system by observing 125 objects in succession with the Robo-AO system. Efficiency has increased ever since, with a typical night comprising 200-250 automated observations at the visible diffraction limit. By observing tens of thousands of targets in the largest-ever adaptive-optics surveys, Robo-AO has demonstrated the ability to address the follow-up needs of current and future large astronomical surveys.

1. THE NEED FOR EFFICIENT ADAPTIVE OPTICS

In 1998, J. Hardy identified several future directions for adaptive optics (AO) including a "Simplifed operator"

angular-resolution follow-up to confirm systems or remove confusing effects from the crowded targets. Only very efficient AO can confirm and measure the properties

[IM] 20 Sep 2017

Baranec, Riddle & Law: arXiv:1709.07103

Robo-AO

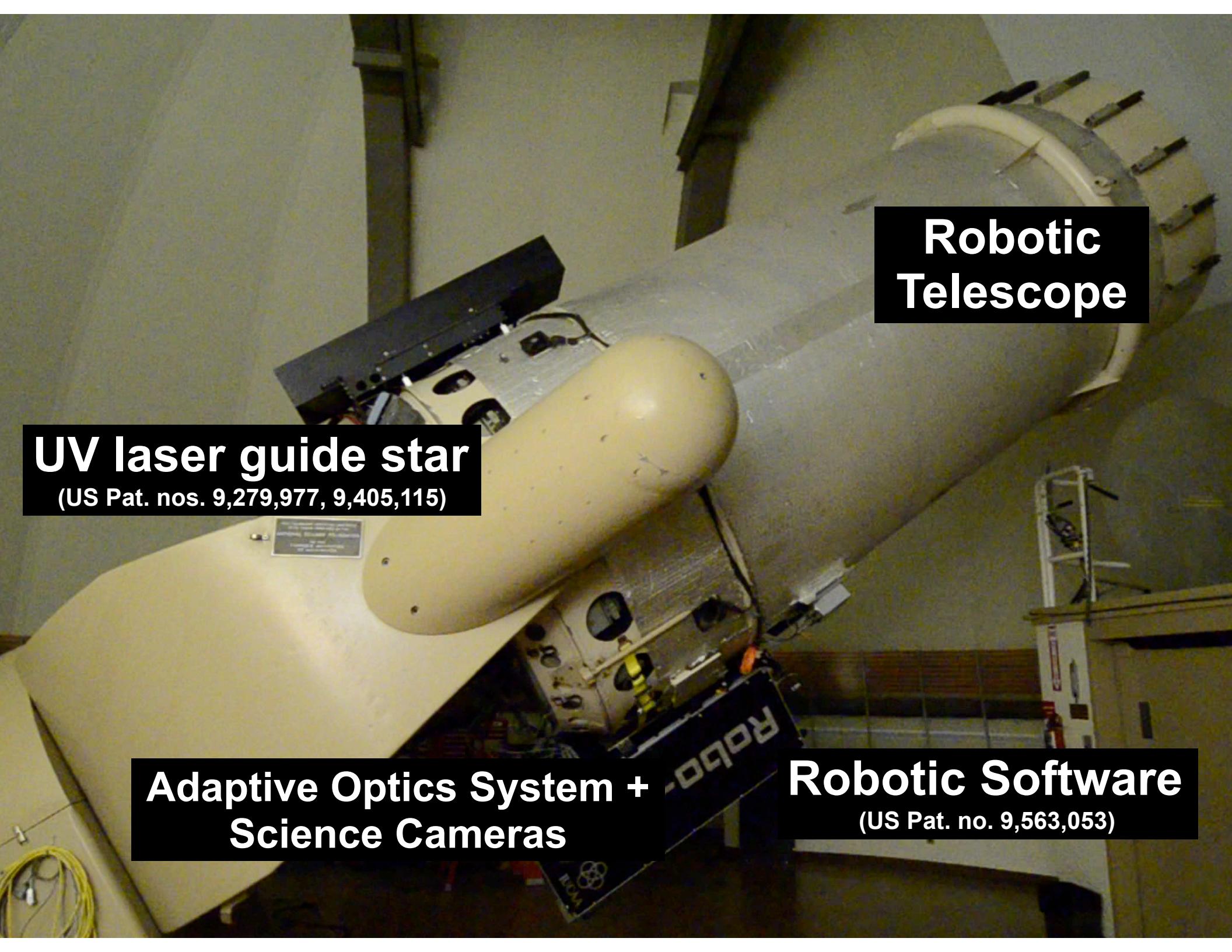
Fully robotic laser AO

Sub-minute overheads

Performing previously
infeasible AO surveys,
 $N > 1,000$

Diffraction limited on
 $V < 16$ point sources

Detects $\Delta m \sim 5$ at $0.5''$



**Robotic
Telescope**

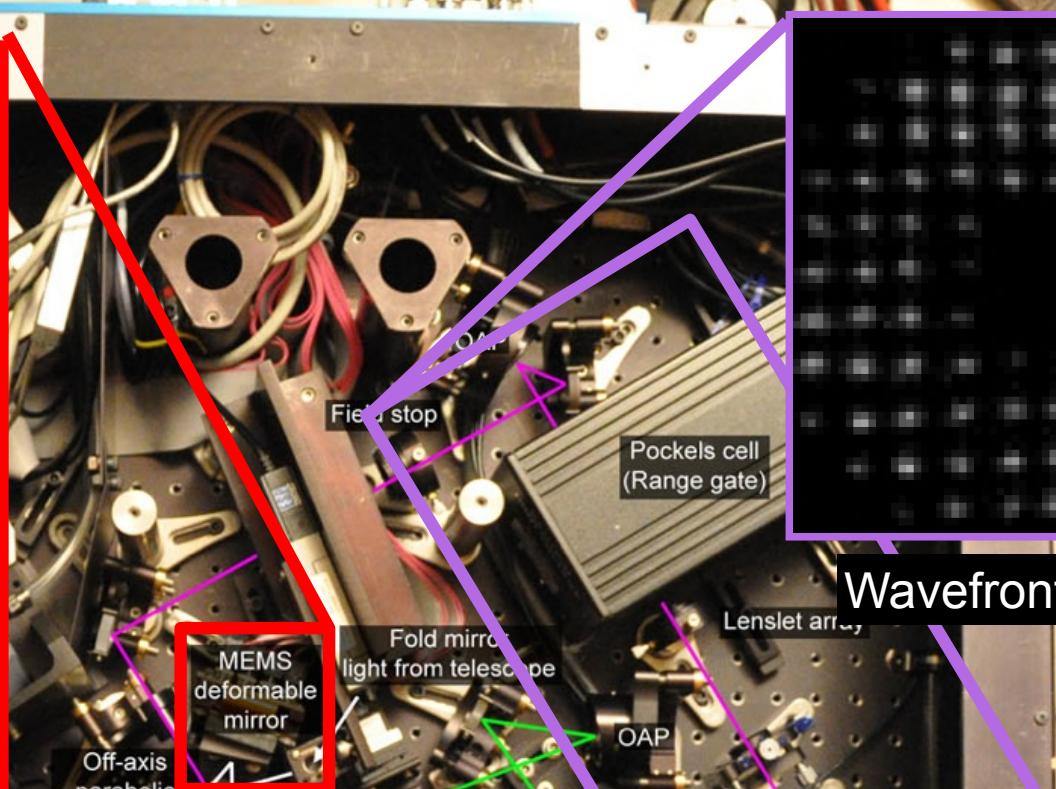
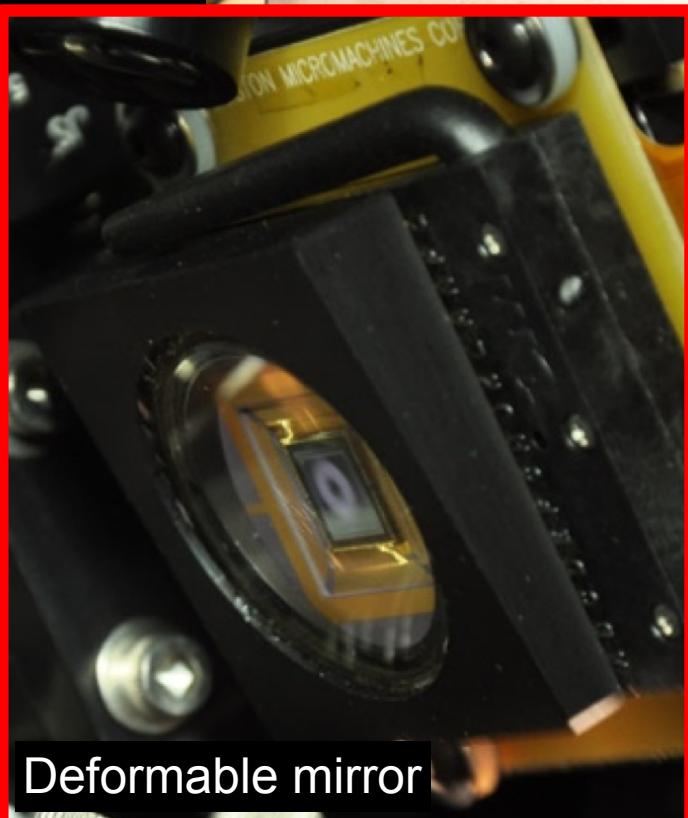
UV laser guide star

(US Pat. nos. 9,279,977, 9,405,115)

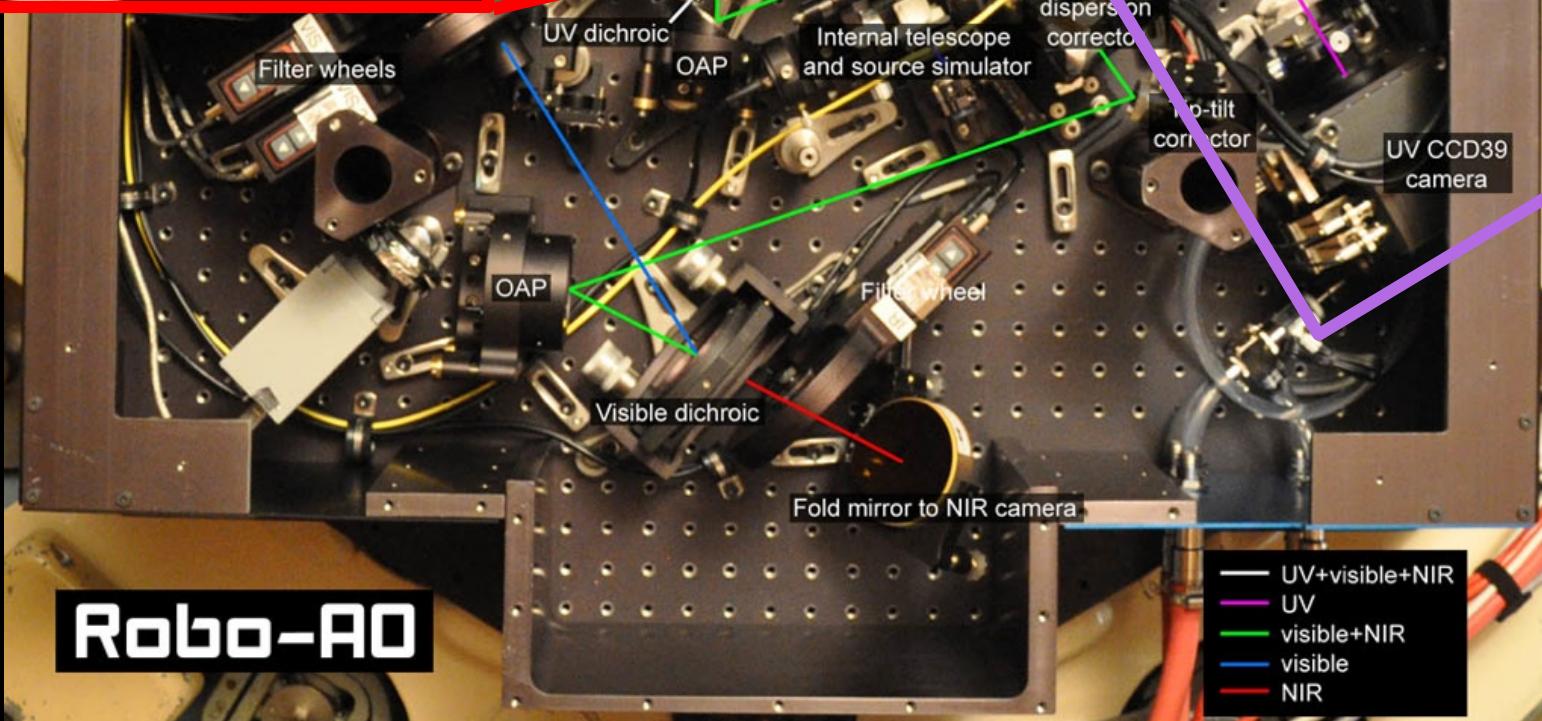
**Adaptive Optics System +
Science Cameras**

Robotic Software

(US Pat. no. 9,563,053)



Wavefront sensor



Robo-AO is fully automated.

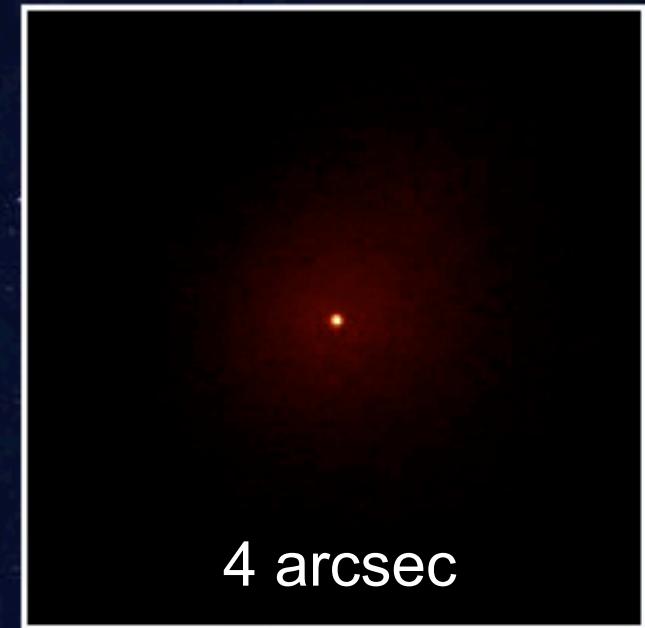
- A master sequencer runs the show.
- Subsystems run as daemons.
- Auto-recovery from unexpected errors
- Observations loaded into database via .xml.
- Intelligent obs. queue, mixes science programs
 - Automatic satellite/laser deconfliction (TBD Keck)
- Automatic data reduction and analysis pipeline (images ready the next day)



Reed Riddle,
Robotic
software Guru

40 second overhead / target

25 targets / hour



4 arcsec

Nightly data

Toggle view ▾

February 22, 2017 - February 23, 2017



2017/02/22

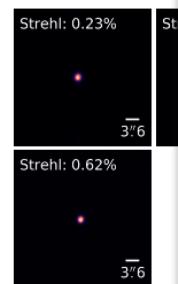
Data preview Auxiliary data Download

Toggle summary

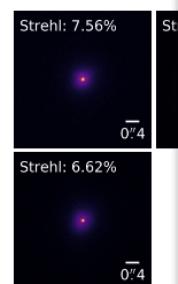
Program 0



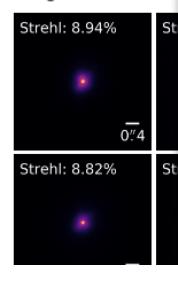
Program 24



Program 283



Program 3



0_ [REDACTED]_VIC_Si_o_20170222_092131.042223

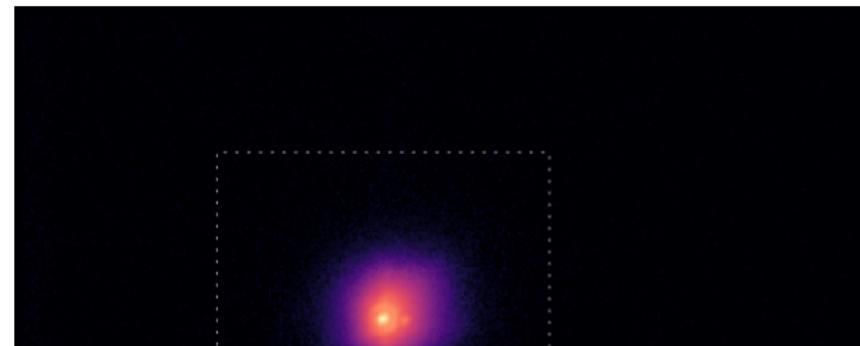
Lucky pipeline

Faint pipeline

Header

External images of the field

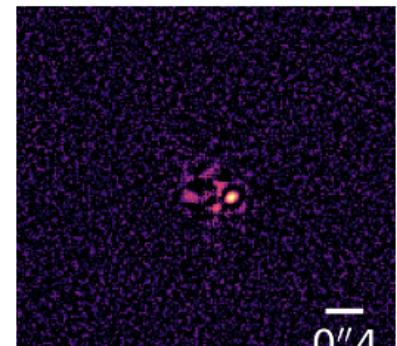
Full-size



Cropped

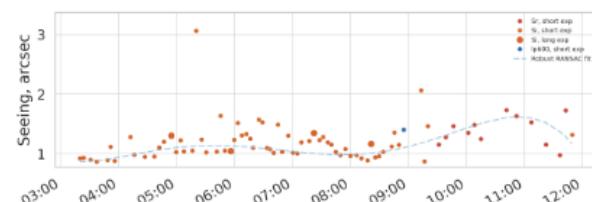


PSF-subtracted

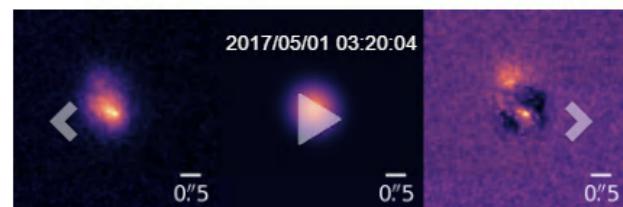


System performance and meteo data

seeing



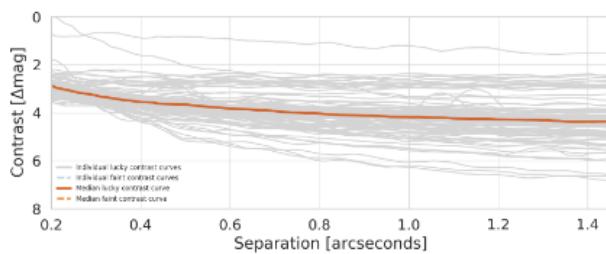
seeing movie [data, model, residuals]



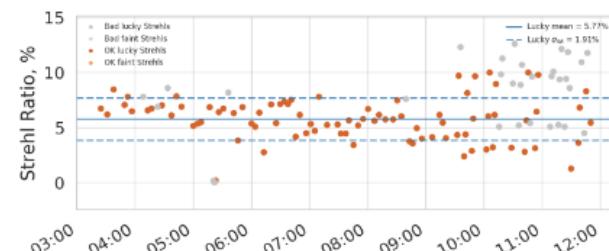
0222_092131.042223



contrast_curve

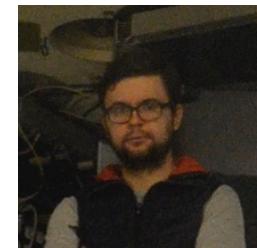


strehl



Download all

Close

Dmitry Duev
CIT P.Doc

Robo-AO General Observing

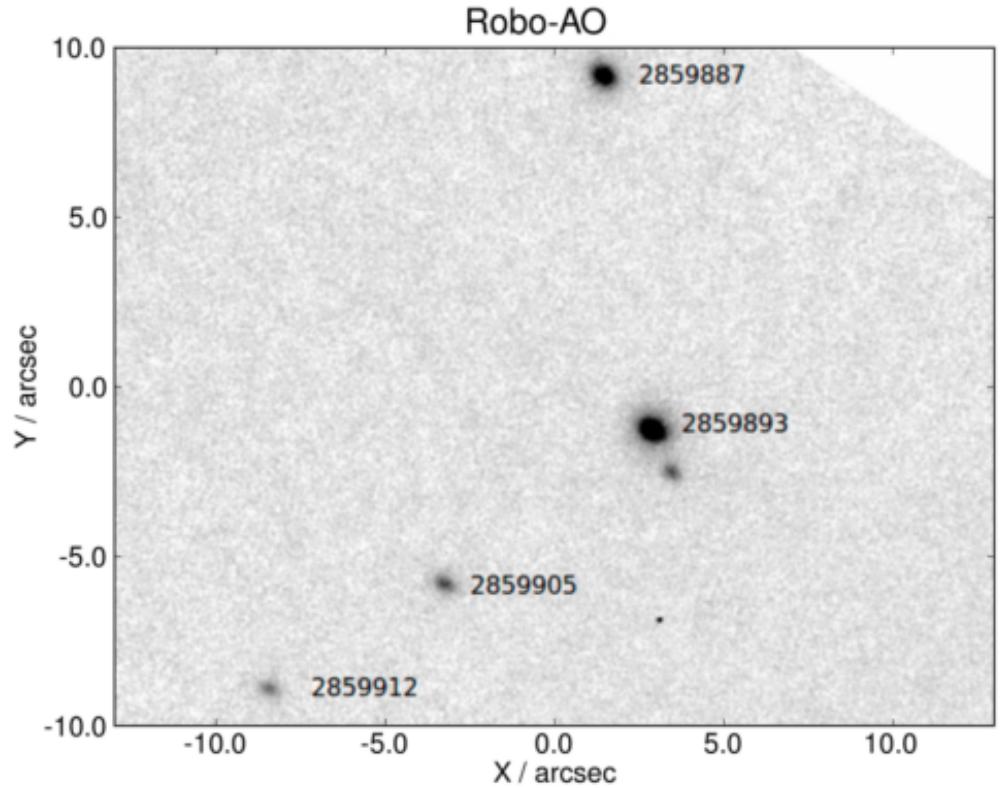
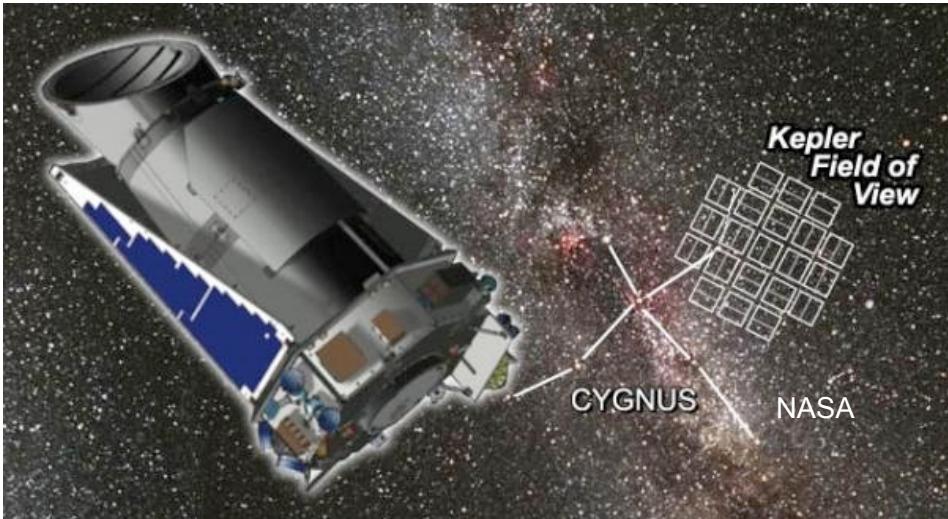
- Nearby exoplanets & planetary formation:
 - Stellar companions around K2 exoplanet hosts (Open c.o. Templeton Fnd.)
 - Verifying debris-disk stars (S. Hinkley)
 - Transit candidates from PTF/M-dwarfs survey (N.Law)
- Field stellar multiplicity:

**Robo-AO: 40 refereed scientific papers
6 refereed technical papers
12,500 targets (published and in sub.)**

- Multiplicity as a function of age (S. Caris, R. Kader, E. Monnier),
- Solar system science:
 - Monitoring of outgassing from Comet ISON (M. Drazus)
 - Solar system imaging (R. Hueso, et al.)
 - Search for binary asteroids (D. Duev)
 - Extragalactic & high-energy:
 - AGN nuclei binarity (S. Tendulkar)
 - High-precision astrometry for globular cluster black holes (S. Hildebrand)
 - Lensed Quasar discovery and monitoring (E. Ofek, R. Griffiths)

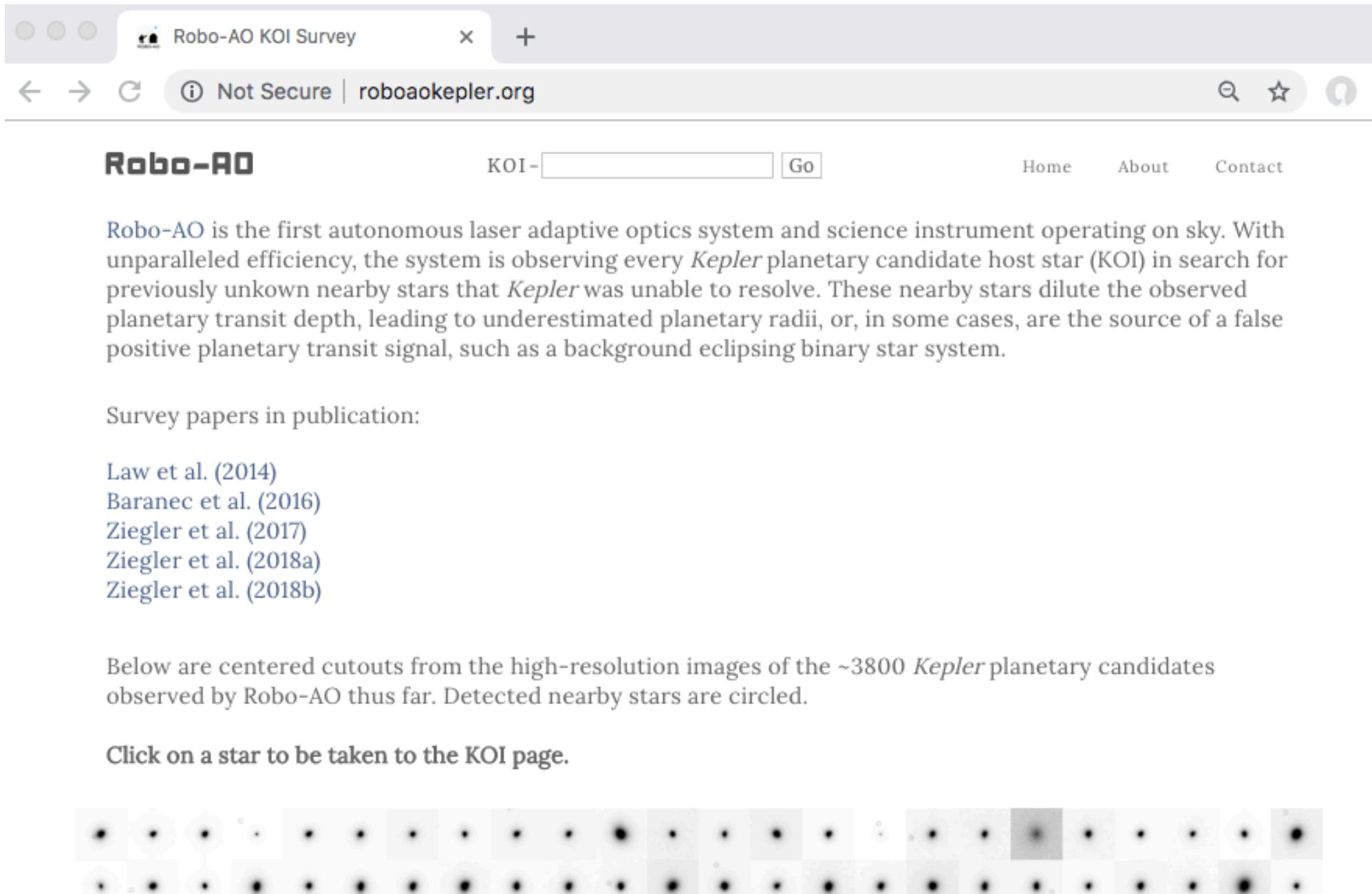
Robo-AO Kepler survey

NASA XRP grant NNX15AC91G (Law, Baranec & Morton)



Kepler pixels are $\sim 4''$...
and stellar blends contaminate transits.

We imaged all ~3,800 candidate host stars (KOIs).
Public access to reduced images at roboaokepler.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window for the "Robo-AO KOI Survey" website. The address bar indicates the site is not secure. The main content area features the "Robo-AO" logo, a search bar with a "GO" button, and a menu with links to "Home", "About", and "Contact". Below this, a text block describes the survey's purpose: to observe Kepler planetary candidate host stars to find nearby stars that might dilute transit signals. A section titled "Survey papers in publication:" lists several academic references. At the bottom, a note explains that centered cutouts from high-resolution images are shown, with detected nearby stars circled.

Robo-AO KOI Survey

Not Secure | roboaokepler.org

Robo-AO

KOI- Go

Home About Contact

Robo-AO is the first autonomous laser adaptive optics system and science instrument operating on sky. With unparalleled efficiency, the system is observing every *Kepler* planetary candidate host star (KOI) in search for previously unknown nearby stars that *Kepler* was unable to resolve. These nearby stars dilute the observed planetary transit depth, leading to underestimated planetary radii, or, in some cases, are the source of a false positive planetary transit signal, such as a background eclipsing binary star system.

Survey papers in publication:

- Law et al. (2014)
- Baranec et al. (2016)
- Ziegler et al. (2017)
- Ziegler et al. (2018a)
- Ziegler et al. (2018b)

Below are centered cutouts from the high-resolution images of the ~3800 *Kepler* planetary candidates observed by Robo-AO thus far. Detected nearby stars are circled.

Click on a star to be taken to the KOI page.

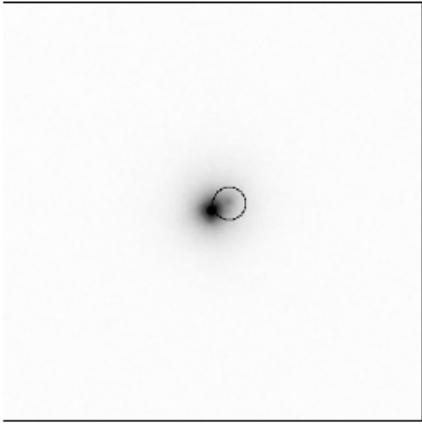
Robo-AO KOI Survey X

roboaokepler.org/koi_pages/KOI-1150.html

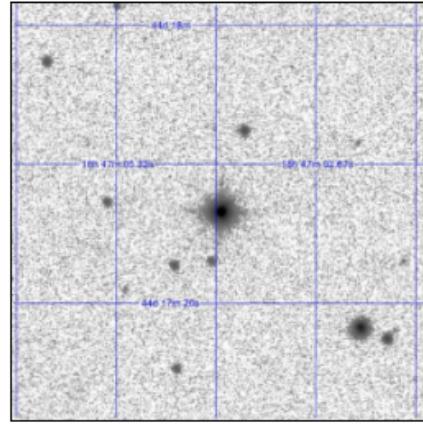
Robo-AO KOI- Go Home About Contact

KOI-1150

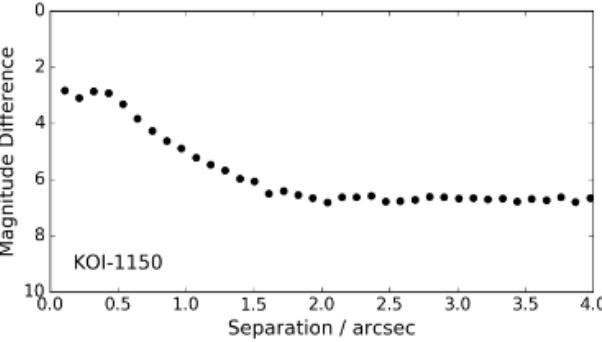
Confirmed planet
Kepler-780 b



Robo-AO 8-arcsec centered cutout image of KOI-1150 with any detected nearby stars circled (Law et al. 2014)



UKIRT 1-arcmin field centered on KOI-1150



Robo-AO 5-sigma detection sensitivity for KOI-1150

Nearby star properties

Separation ('')	Position Angle (deg)	LP600 Contrast (mags)	Reference
0.39	322	2.41	Law et al. (2014)

Planet properties (Kepler DR25)

Planet	Disposition	Period (days)	Radius (R_{Earth})	Epoch (BJD)	Transit duration (hrs)	Transit depth (ppm)	Eq. Temp. (K)
--------	-------------	------------------	----------------------------------	----------------	---------------------------	------------------------	------------------

Robo-AO was moved to
the 2.1 m telescope at
Kitt Peak, AZ in Nov. 2015.

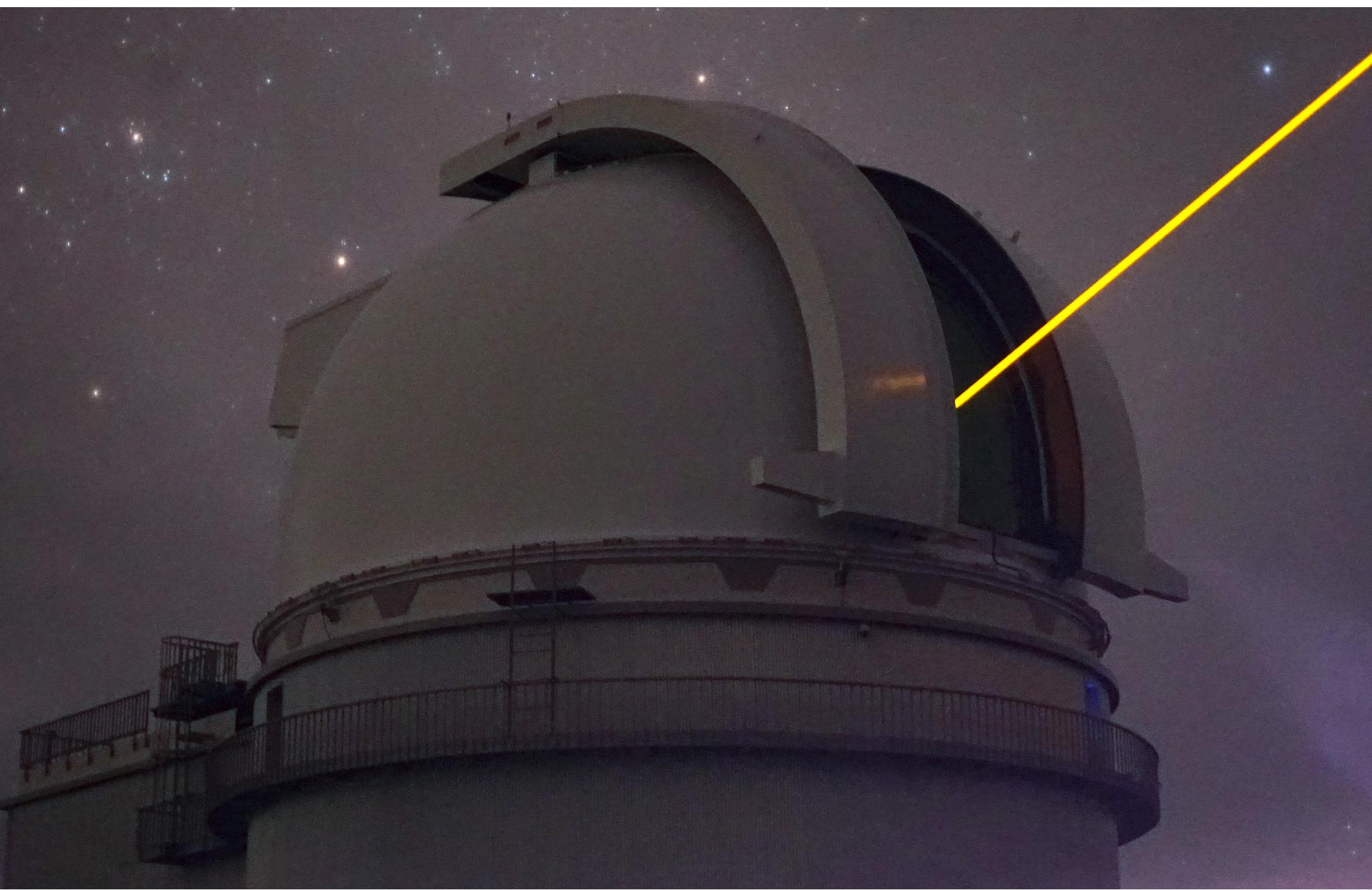


R. Jensen-Clem, et al., 2018
arXiv:1703.08867

Robo-AOs at the UH 2.2m:

- Robo-AO
 - Laser projection test July 2018
 - Commissioning/early science now
 - Semi-autonomous mode
- Robo-AO-2
 - Permanently mounted at North bent-Cass by end 2020
 - Better AO image quality
 - Demonstrating new AO technologies



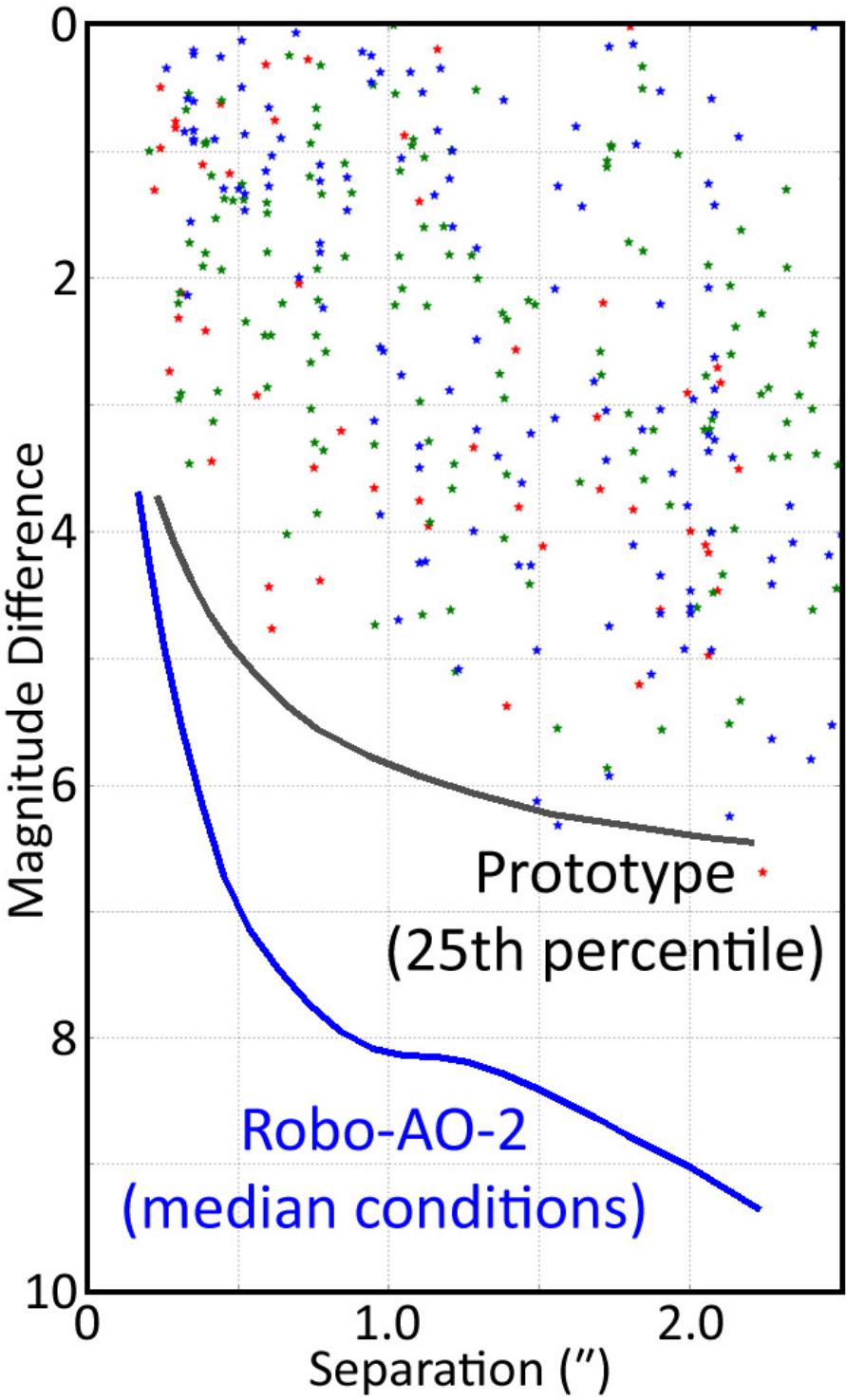




Robo-AO-2

Faster WFS, more photons, less read noise,
more actuators, better site

Percentile Seeing		25%	50%	50%	75%					
Atmospheric r_0	22.1 cm		16.8 cm		10.3 cm					
Effective seeing at zenith (inc. dome seeing)	0.69"		0.80"		1.00"					
Zenith angle	15 degrees	15 degrees	40 degrees	40 degrees						
High-order Errors		Wavefront Error (nm)								
Atmospheric Fitting Error	35	39	44	53						
Bandwidth Error	32	37	42	49						
High-order Measurement Error	32	35	36	41						
LGS Focal Anisoplanatism Error	74	102	118	164						
Other High-order Errors	58	59	69	74						
Total High Order Wavefront Error	110 nm	134 nm	154 nm	198 nm						
Tip-Tilt Errors		Angular Error (milli arcseconds - mas)								
Tilt Measurement Error	10	11	12	14						
Tilt Bandwidth Error	8	9	9	10						
Other Tip-Tilt Errors	6	7	10	12						
Total Tip/Tilt Error (one-axis)	14 mas	16 mas	18 mas	21 mas						
Total Wavefront Error (NIR TT)	123 nm	146 nm	163 nm	206 nm						
Total Wavefront Error (Visible TT)	122 nm	146 nm	163 nm	207 nm						
Spectral Band	λ	λ/D	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM	Strehl	FWHM
g'	0.47 μ	0.044"	7%	0.06"	2%	0.07"	1%	0.13"	0%	0.49"
r'	0.62 μ	0.058"	19%	0.07"	10%	0.07"	5%	0.08"	1%	0.14"
i'	0.75 μ	0.070"	30%	0.08"	19%	0.08"	13%	0.08"	4%	0.10"
J	1.25 μ	0.117"	65%	0.12"	55%	0.12"	47%	0.12"	31%	0.13"
H	1.64 μ	0.153"	77%	0.16"	70%	0.16"	64%	0.16"	50%	0.16"



Robo-AO-2 on the UH 2.2-m

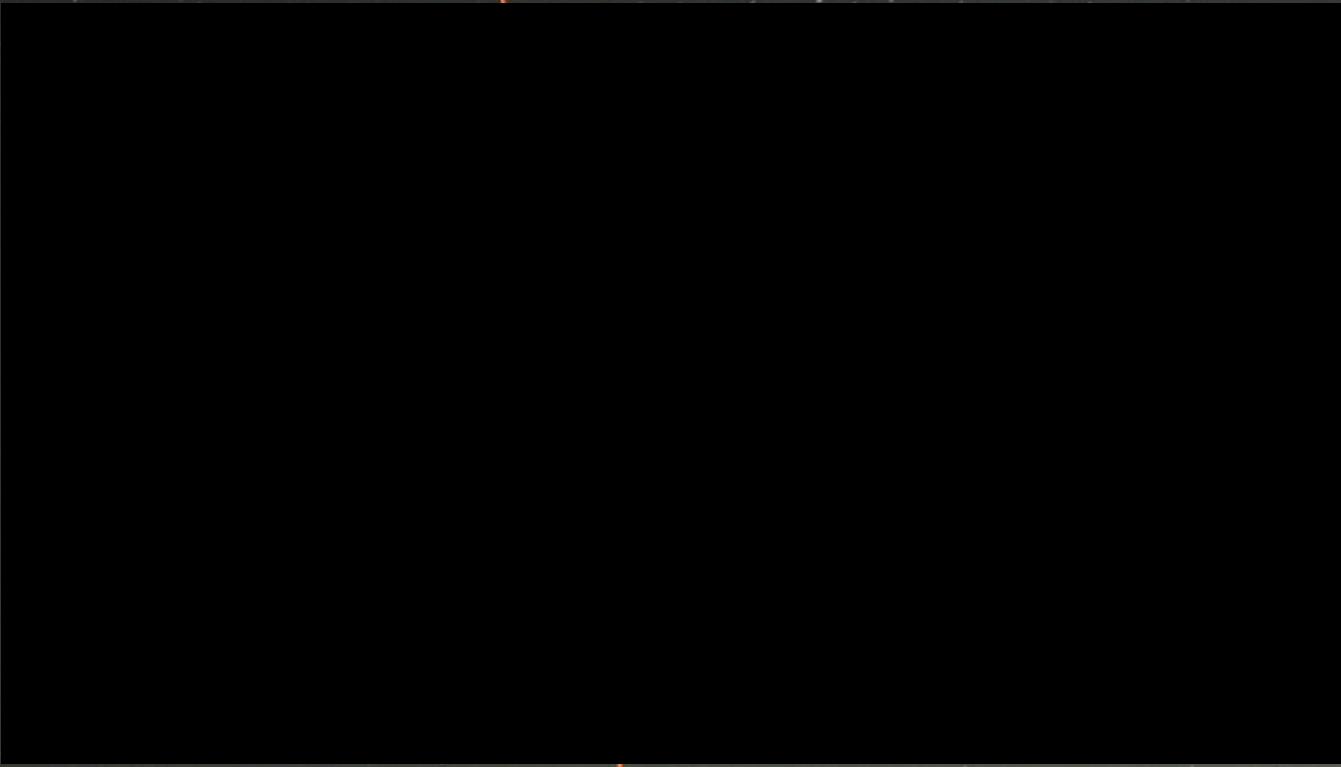
Moving to a 3 instrument automated facility

Respond to transients

~1 mag fainter (better image quality, larger aperture)

NGS for bright targets, and hybrid AO demonstrations

ETA end-2020



Mahalo no kou manawa!

<http://robo-ao.org>

Supported by:



Mt. Cuba Astronomical Foundation

Lumb Family

Further reading

1. **Adaptive Optics for Astronomical Telescopes**, Hardy (1998)
2. **SPIE Field Guide to Adaptive Optics**, Tyson & Frazier (2004)
3. **Recent Advances in Adaptive Optics**, Hart, Appl. Opt. 49, D17-29 (2010)
4. **Adaptive Optics for Astronomy**, Davies & Kasper, Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. (2012)
5. <https://www.jove.com/video/50021/bringing-the-visible-universe-into-focus-with-robo-ao>
6. **Astronomical Adaptive Optics**, Rigaut, PASP 127, 958 (2015)
7. **Extreme Adaptive Optics**, Guyon, Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. (2018)