

# Galactic Exoplanet Census with the Roman Space Telescope

On the shoulders of giants

27 March 2026

Turin

Scott Gaudi

The Ohio State University

Roman Galactic Exoplanet Survey Project Infrastructure  
Team (RGES PIT)

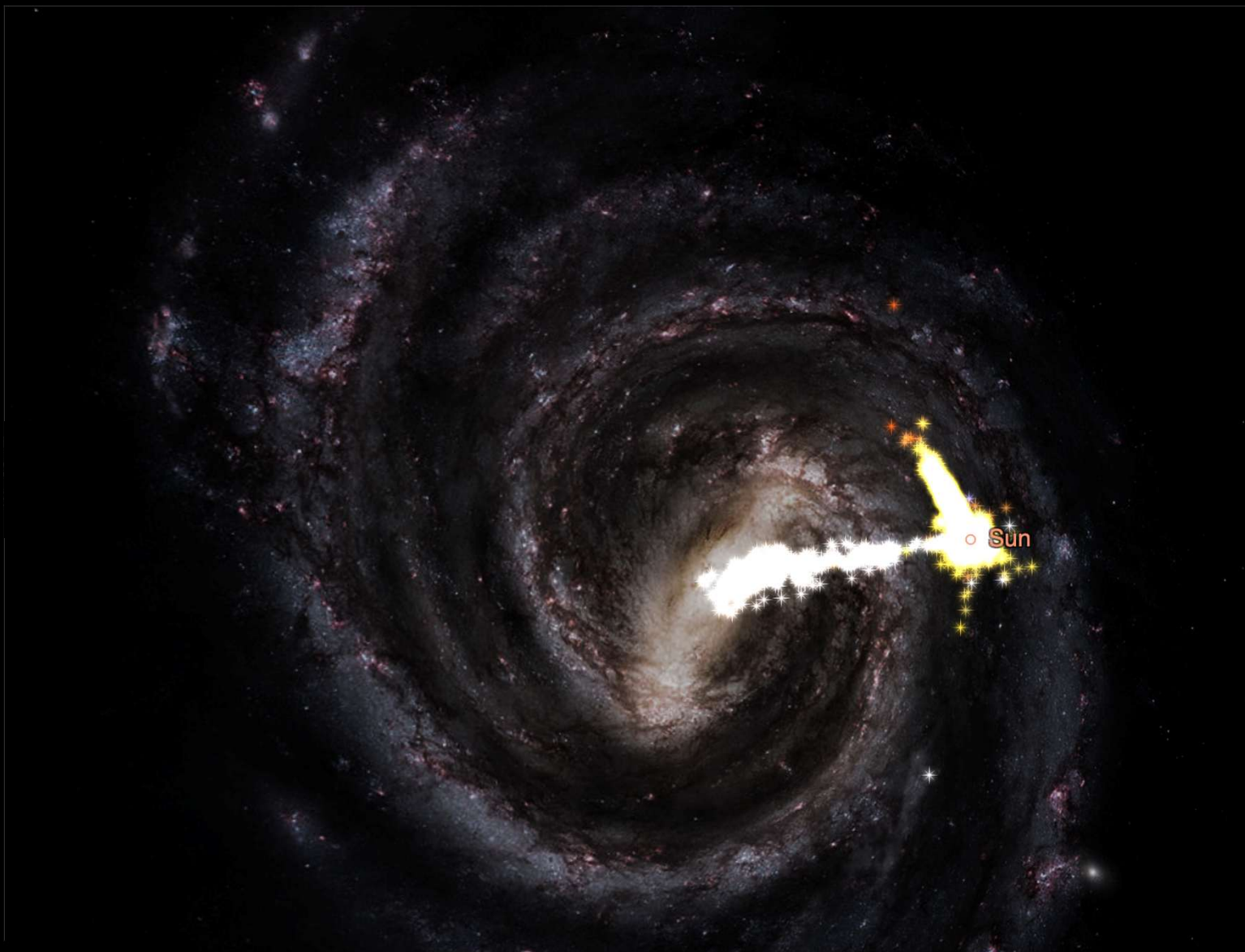
Transits in the Roman Exoplanet Survey (TReXs) Team  
HWO Community Science & Instrument Team (CSIT)



ur  
us is  
nplete

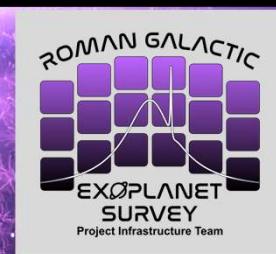
en't  
tive  
alogs  
ost

m  
ets

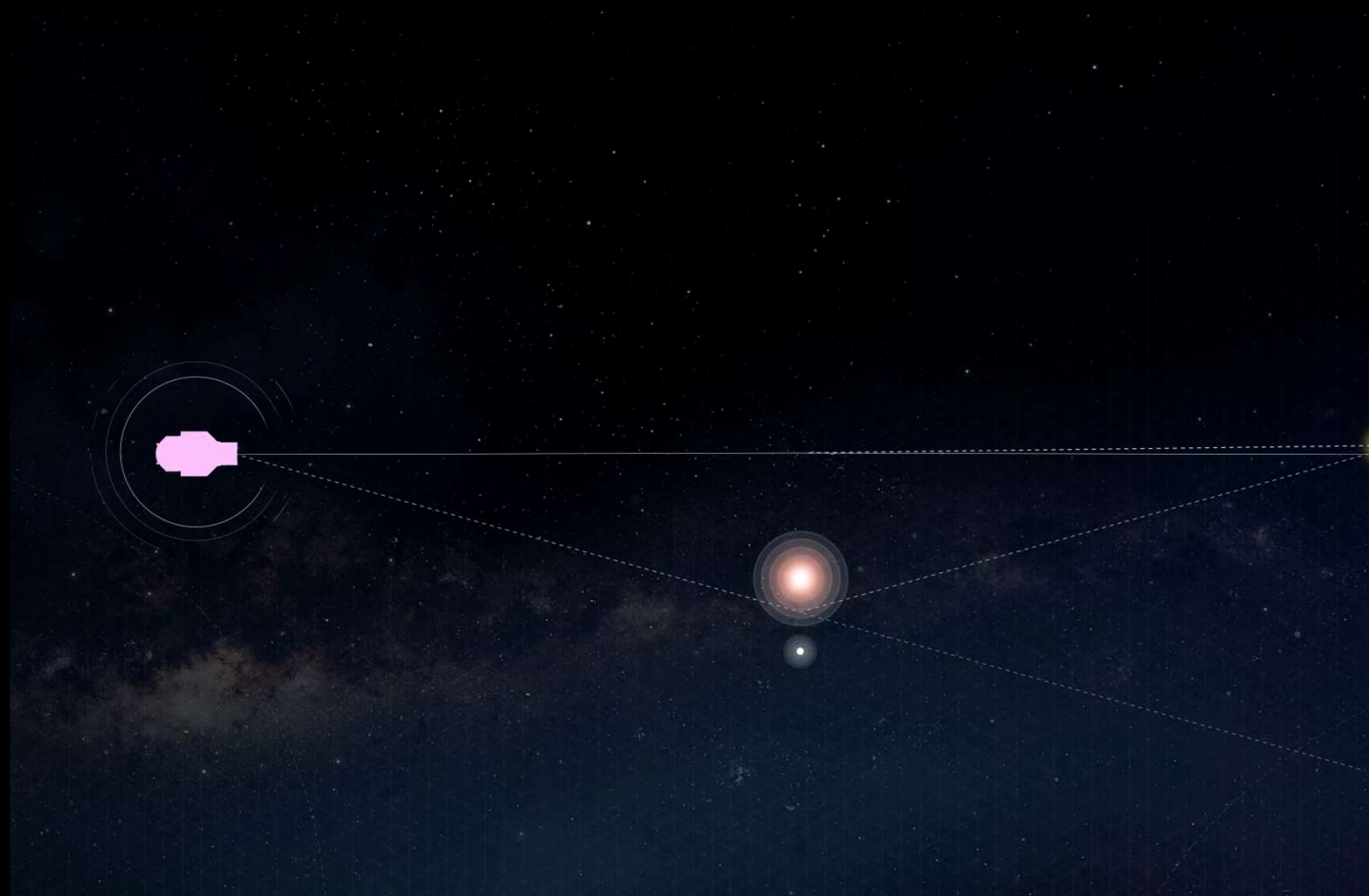
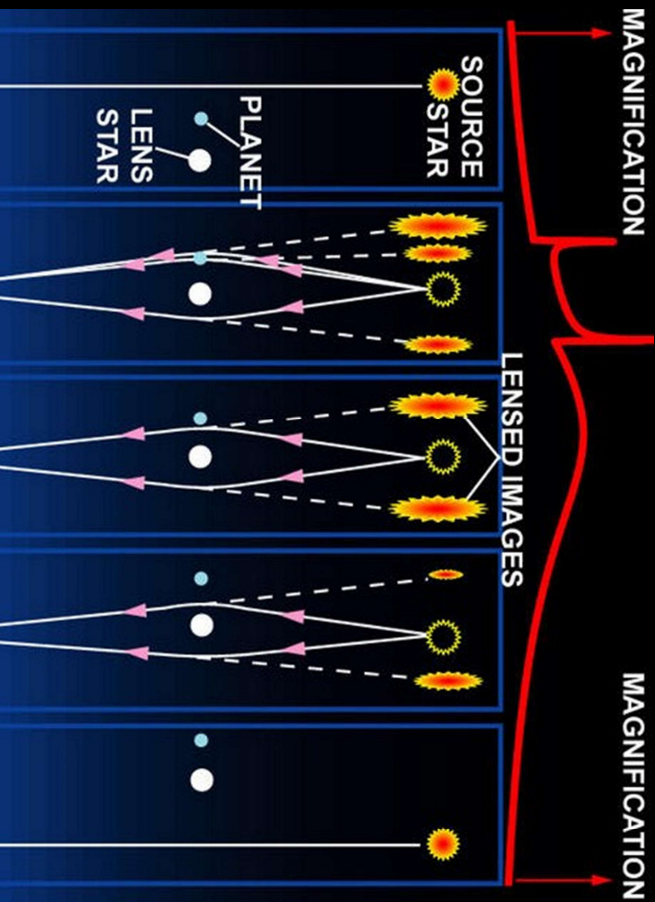


3.  $\mu$ le  
probe  
region

4. Mo  
nearb  
thin-c  
hosts



# Detecting Planets with Microlensing



On the shoulders of giants



# Microlensing is sensitive to:

planets beyond the snow line.

most sensitive at  $\sim \text{few} \times a_{\text{snow}}$

low-mass planets

10% Mars.

long-period planets

including ice giant analogs

wide range of host masses

not just low-mass stars!

brown dwarfs, FGKM MS Stars, WD, NS, BH

typical mass  $\sim 0.5 M_{\text{Sun}}$

free-floating planets

$> M_{\text{Mars}}$

- Giant moons
  - Earth moon analogs
- Multi-planet systems
- Analogous of our solar system
- Wide circumbinary planets
- Outer habitable zone planets
- Planets throughout the Galaxy
  - 1-10 kpc
  - Thin disk, thick disk, bulge populations
  - Planet frequency vs  $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$



# Dr. Nancy Grace Roman

Named as NASA's first Chief of Astronomy throughout the 1960s and 1970s

Known to many as the "Mother of Exoplanets" for her foundational role in launching the Hubble Space Telescope



On the shoulders of giants

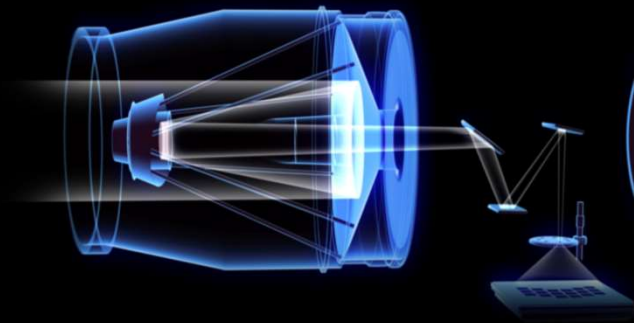


# Summary of Roman Space Telescope Properties

Properties	Roman
Aperture	2.28m
Field of View	0.281 deg <sup>2</sup>
Wavelengths	~0.5-2 μm (WFI)
Resolution @ 1μm	0.10"
Beam size	0.11"
Launch	Late 2026/Early 2027
Duration	5 + 5 years
Orbit	L2

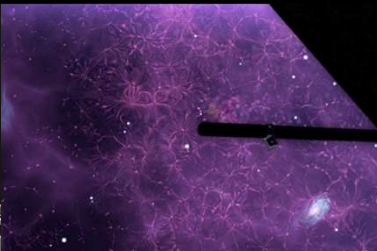
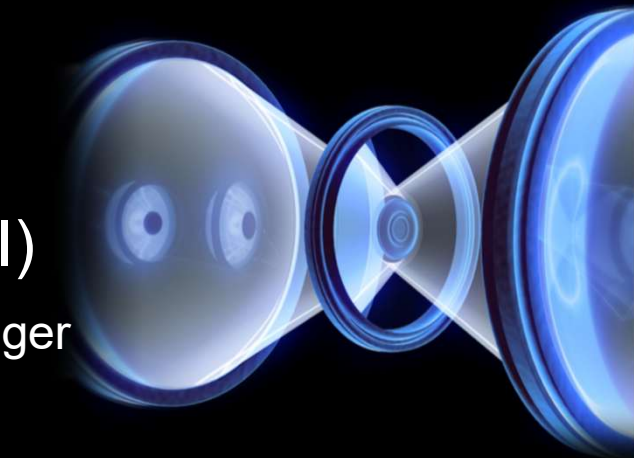
## Wide-Field Instrument (WFI)

- ~0.5–2.0 micron bandpass
- 0.281 sq. deg. FoV (~100x HST ACS FoV)
- 18 H4RG detectors (288 Mpixels)
- 7 filter imaging, grism and prism spectroscopy

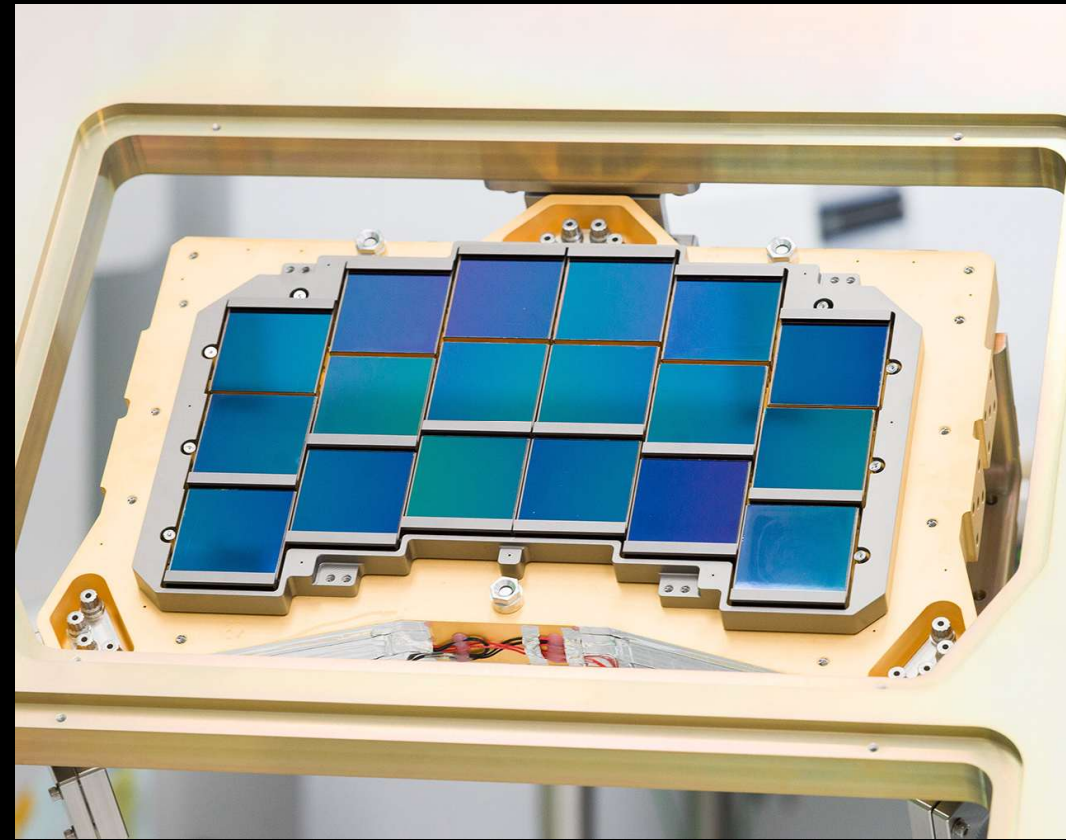
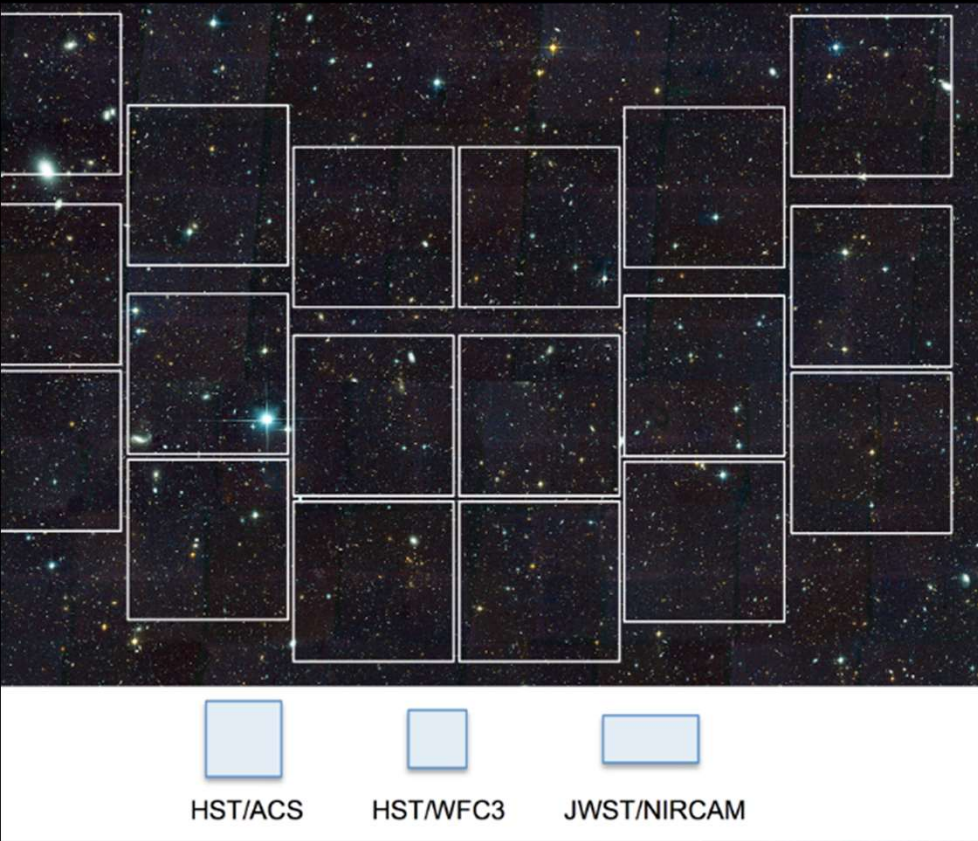


## Coronagraph Instrument (CGI)

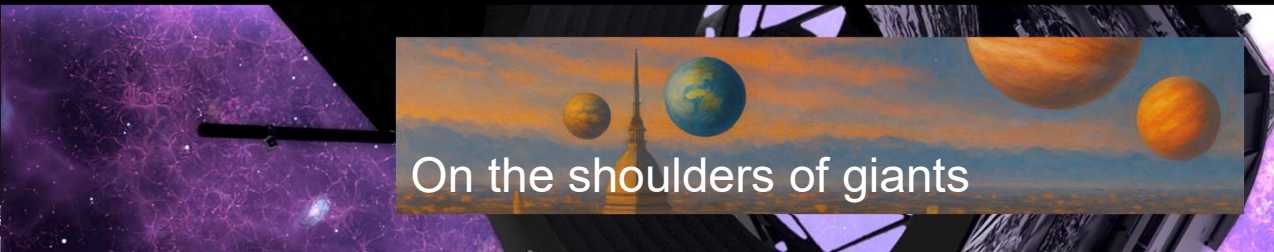
- Visible (545-865nm) high-contrast imager
- Polarimeter and spectrograph
- 3 types of coronagraph masks



# 100 times the field-of-view of Hubble/JWS



# 1000 times the sky-mapping speed of Hubble



# man is complete!



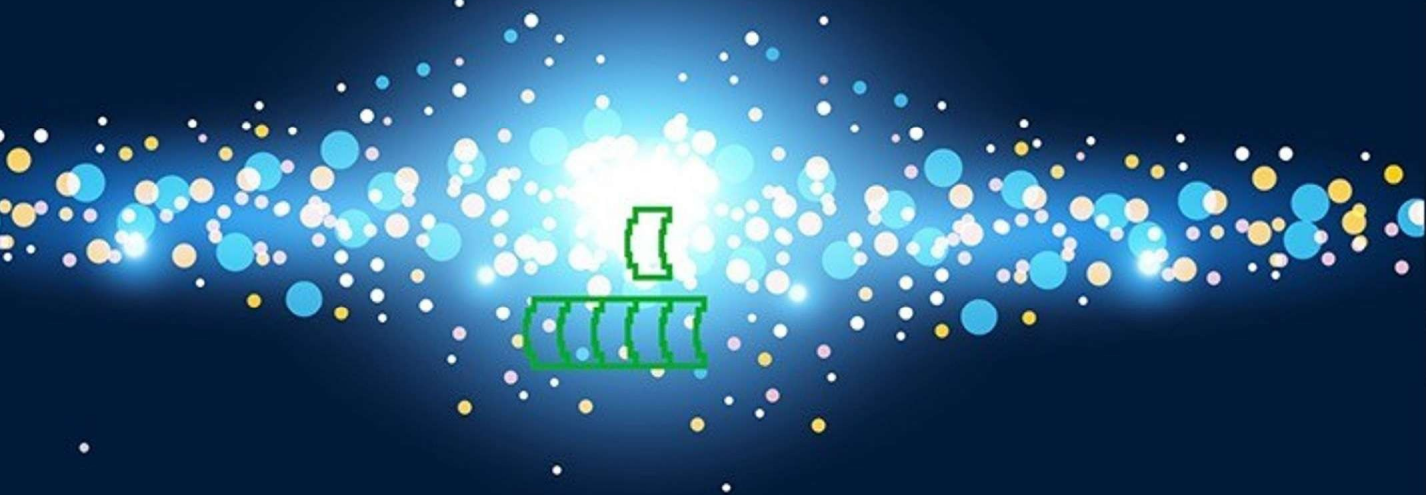
On the shoulders of giants



Current launch date:  
no earlier than  
September 7, 2026

First bulge observations  
February 12, 2027

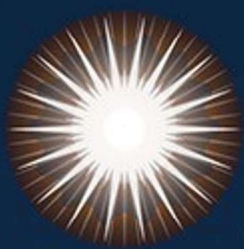
# GALACTIC BULGE TIME-DOMAIN SURVEY



The area of  
**8.5**  
full moons



Exoplanets



Transients



Black Holes



438 days, primarily in six sets of 72 days e

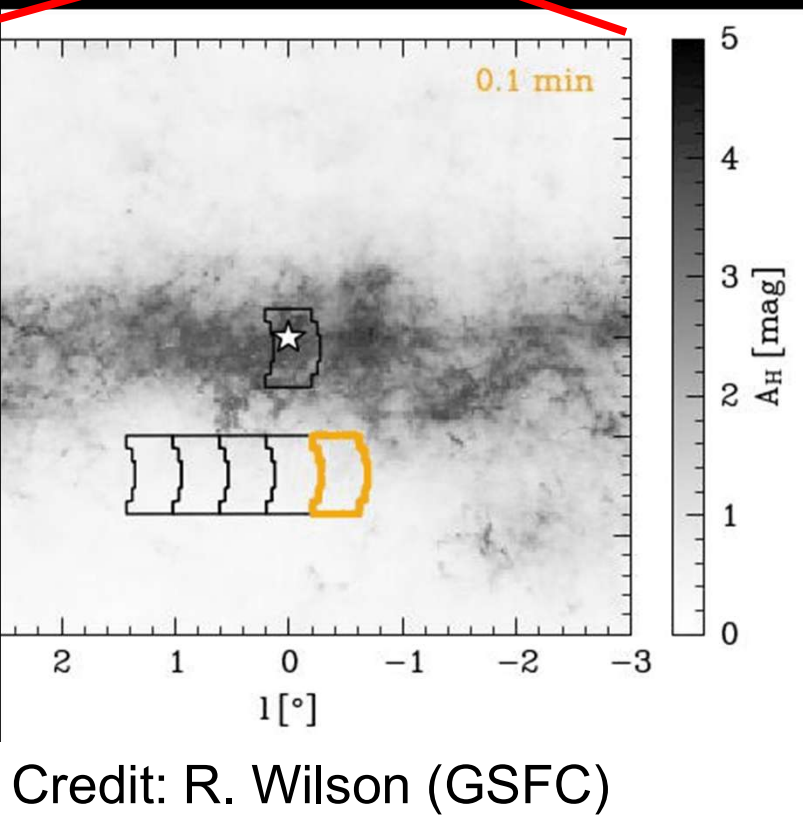
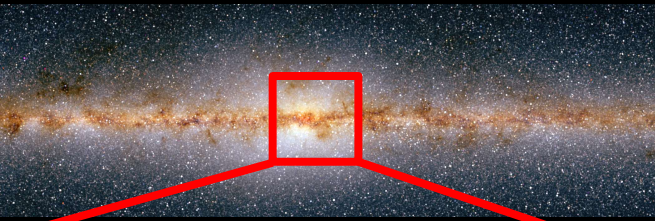


Full survey area imaged every 12 minutes



1.7 square degrees

# Parameters for the Roman Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey (RGBTDS)



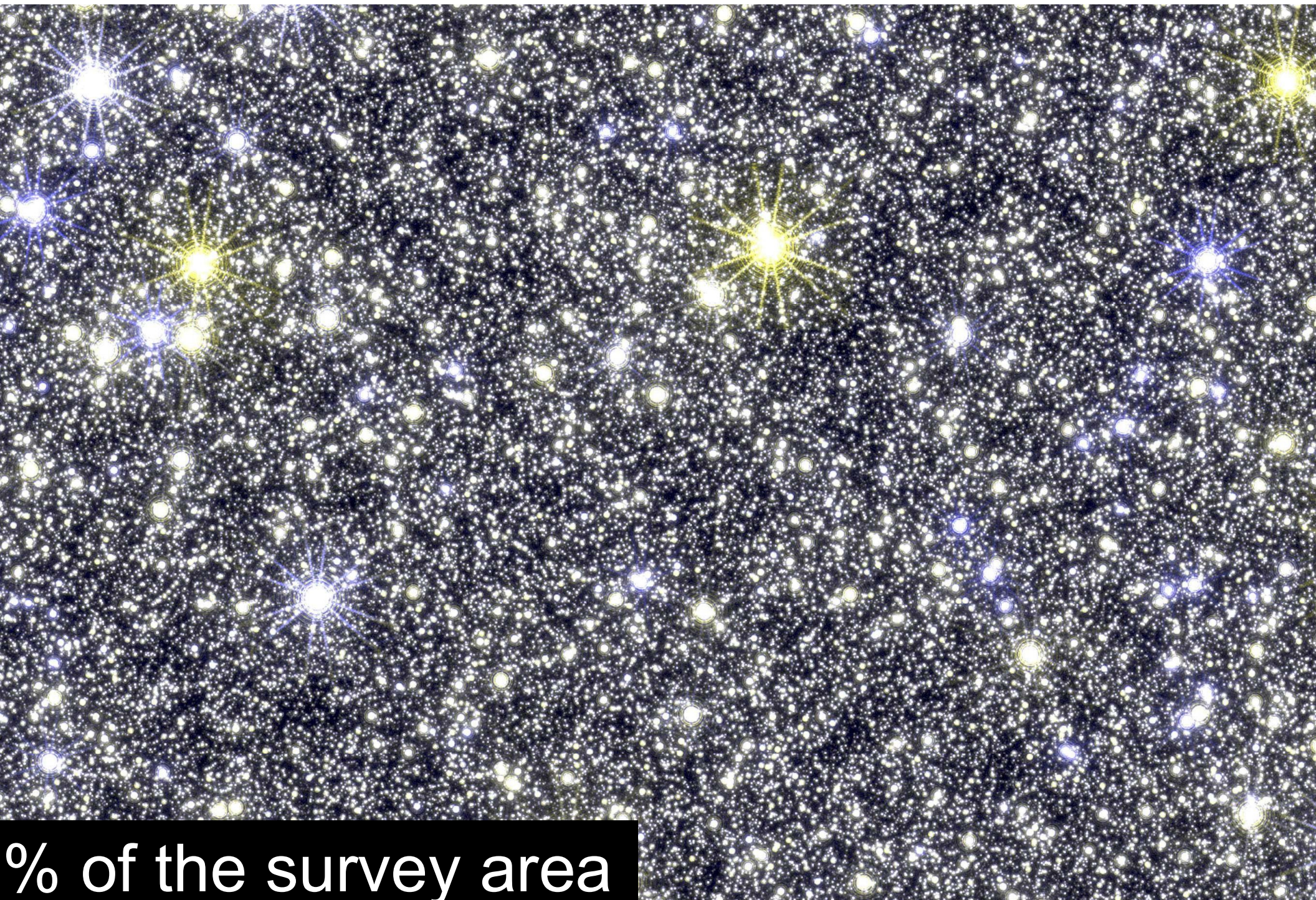
Credit: R. Wilson (GSFC)

- 5 fields for a total of  $\sim 1.5 \text{ deg}^2$  + GC
- 6 x 72-day high-cadence seasons (90% efficiency),  $\sim 67\text{s}$  exposures
  - $\sim 12$ -minute cadence in W146 ( $0.8 \mu\text{m}$ ) filter,
  - $\sim 3$ -hour cadence in alternating Z087/K213 filters
- 4 x 72 low-cadence seasons,  $\sim 67\text{s}$  exposures
  - $\sim 3$ -day cadence in W146+K213 filters
- $\sim 50,340$  exposures in W146.
- $\sim 438$  total days over 5-year mission



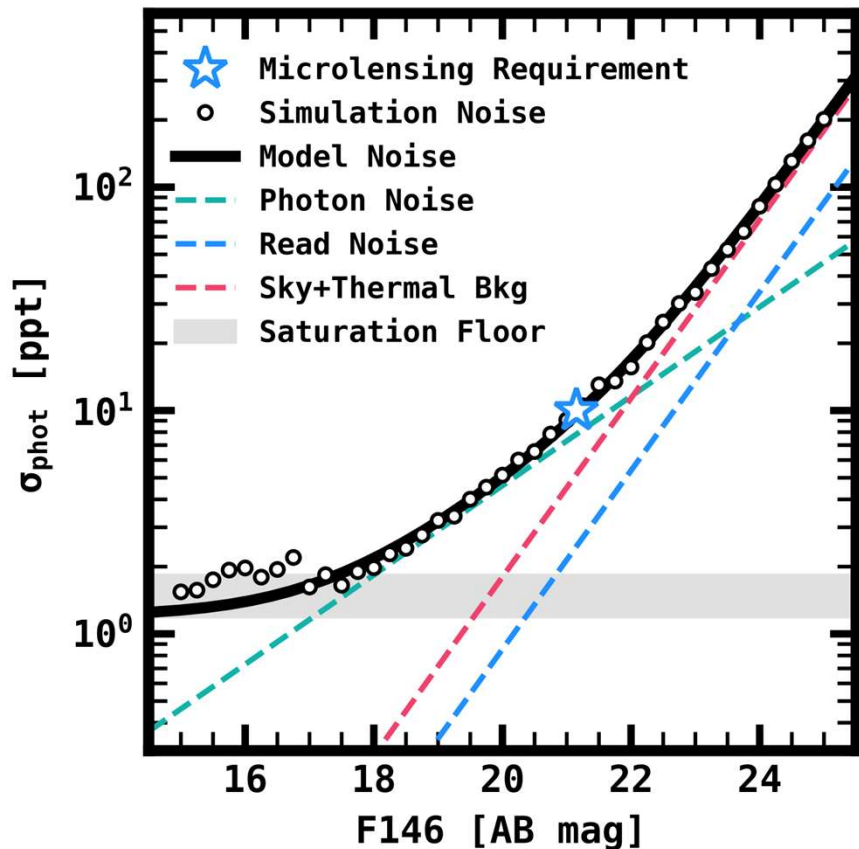
On the shoulders of giants





% of the survey area

# Statistical Power of the RGBTDS



For a W146~21 star:

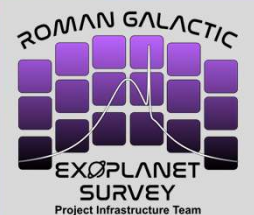
- Photometric precision of  $\sigma \sim 0.01$  mag per exposure
- Astrometric precision of  $\sim$  mas per exposure
- Total of  $\sim 10^9$  photons over the survey.

Saturation @ W146  $\sim 15$ .

Root N:  $\sqrt[2]{50,000} \sim 220$ .



On the shoulders of giants



# Number of Sources and Microlensing Events



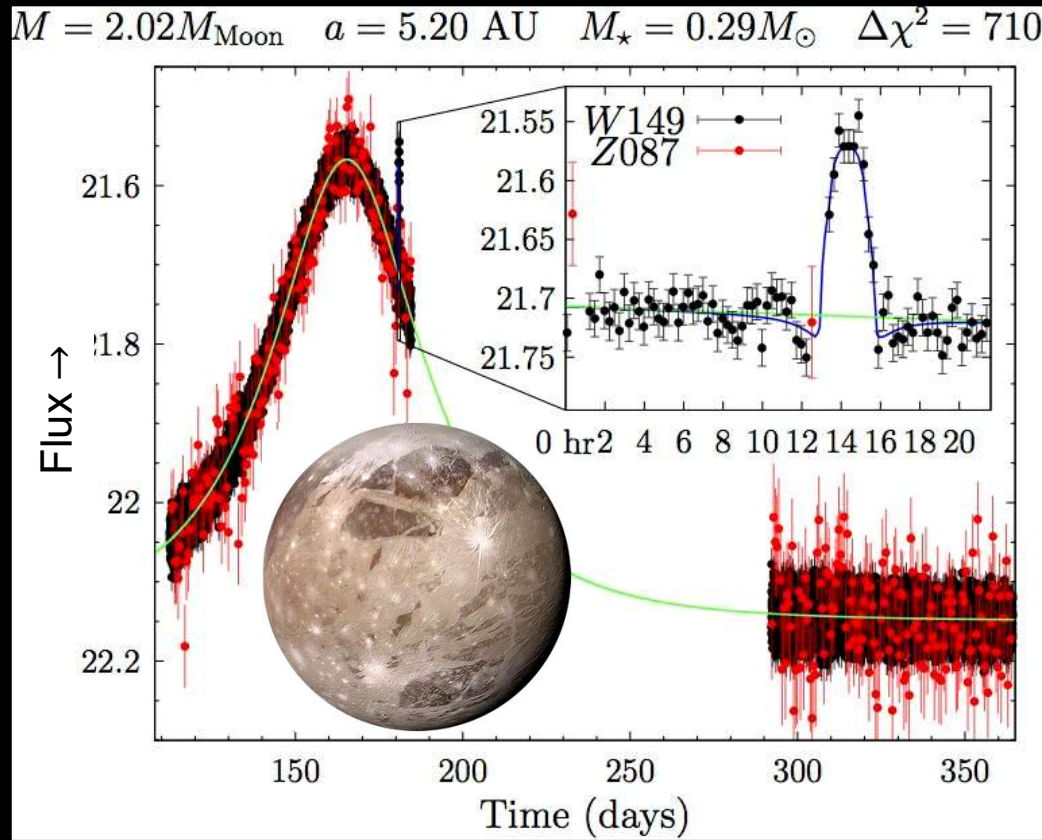
Stars ( $W149 < 15$ )	$\sim 0.3 \times$
Stars ( $W149 < 17$ )	$\sim 1.4 \times$
Stars ( $W149 < 19$ )	$\sim 5.8 \times$
Stars ( $W149 < 21$ )	$\sim 38 \times$
Stars ( $W149 < 23$ )	$\sim 110 \times$
Stars ( $W149 < 25$ )	$\sim 240 \times$
Microlensing events $ u_0  < 1$	$\sim 27,000$
Microlensing events $ u_0  < 3$	$\sim 54,000$



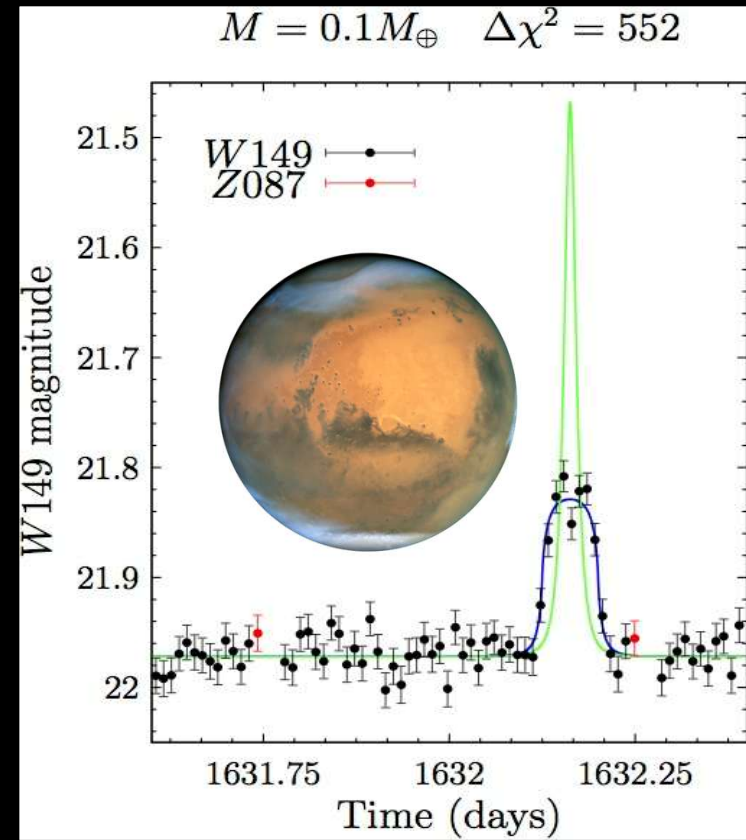
On the shoulders of giants



# Simulated Microlensing Planet Detections



2  $\times$  Mass of the Moon @ 5.2 AU  
( $\sim 27$  sigma)



Free floating Mars  
( $\sim 23$  sigma)



# Yields for Notional Survey Design

$M_{\oplus}$	0.1 -0.3	1	10	100	1000	3000- 10000	Total
Number of planets	20	181	545	412	224	91	1474



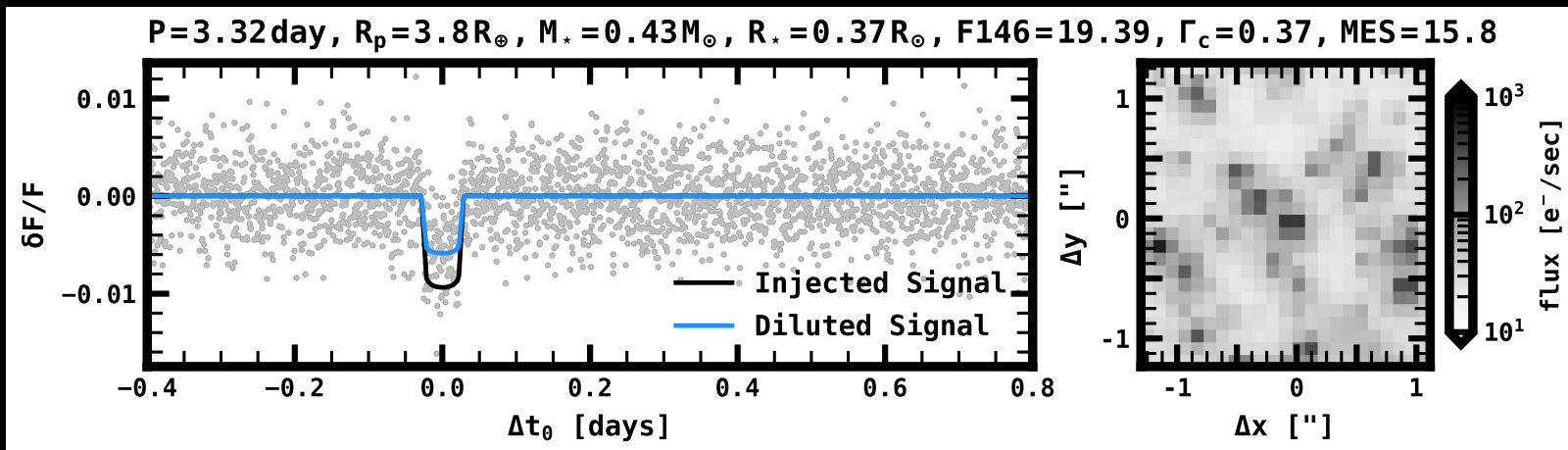
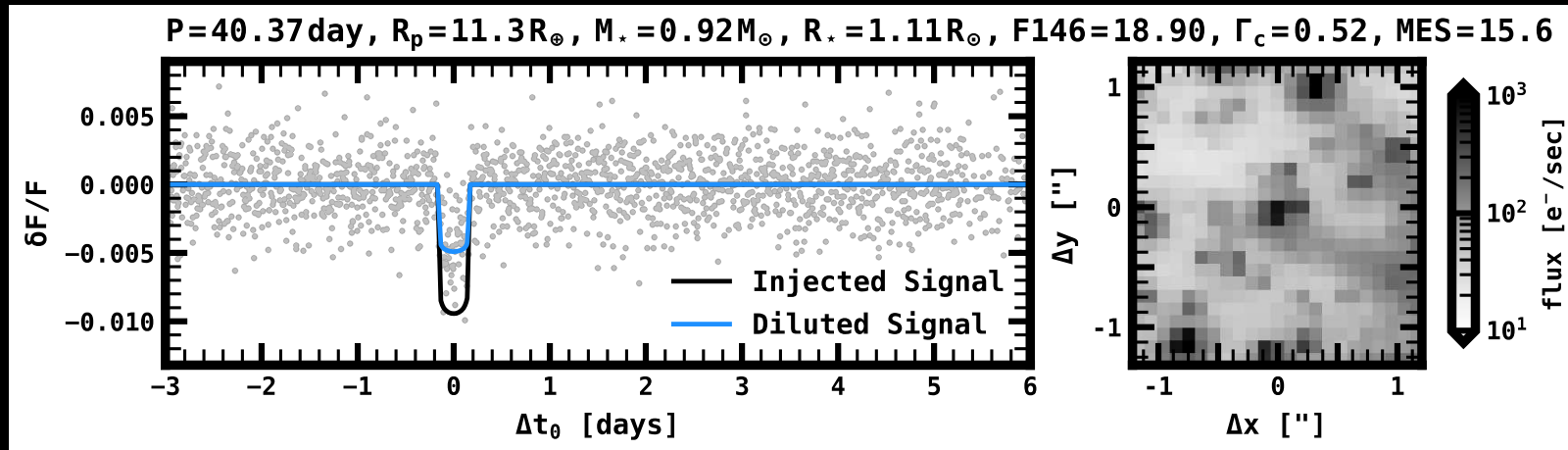
Warning! Don't believe these numbers



On the shoulders of giants



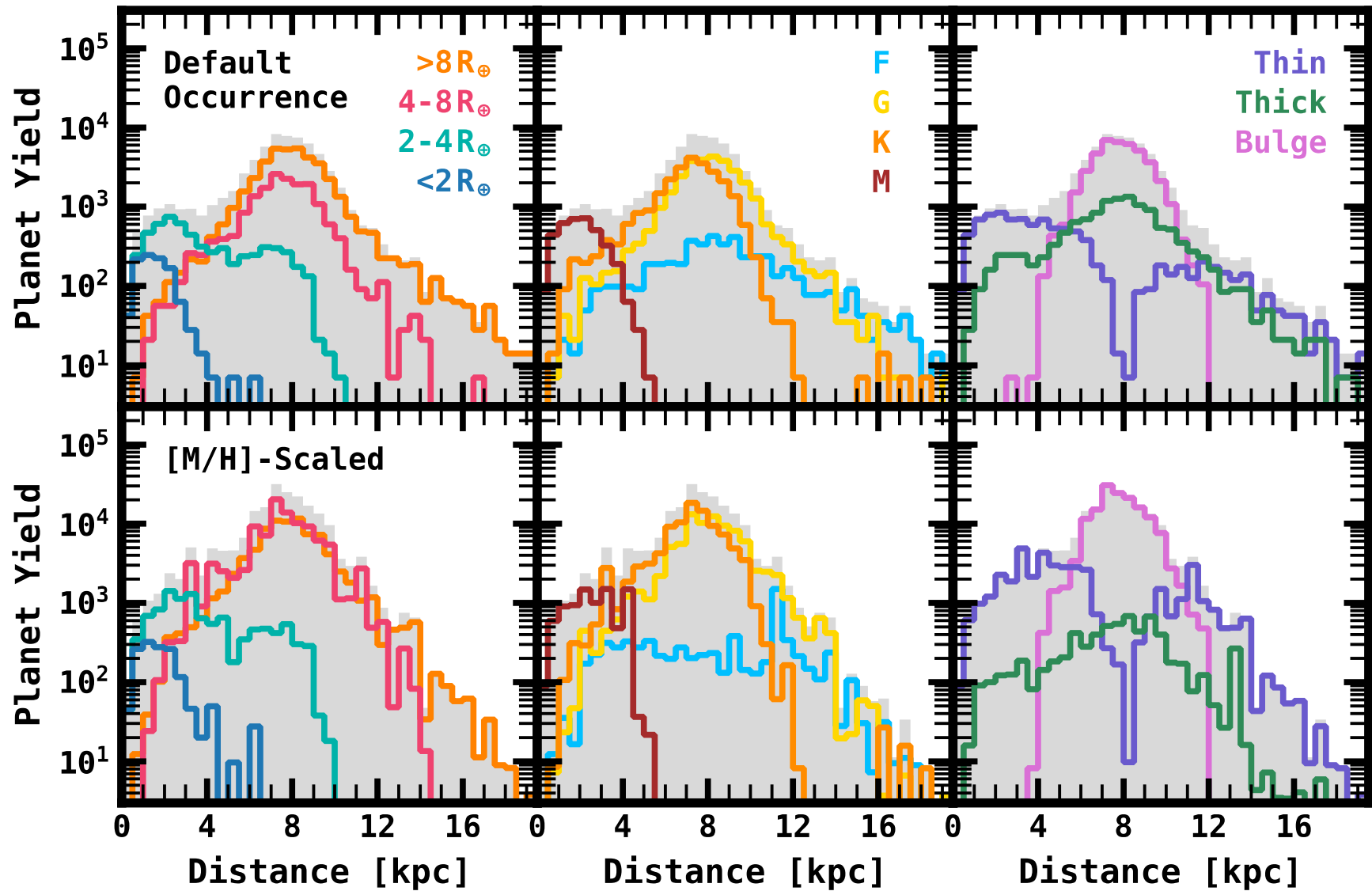
# Simulated Transit Planet Detections



Wilson et al. 2023



# Estimated Exoplanet Yield



Wilson et al. 2023



CTIC

SURVEY  
Project Infrastructure Team

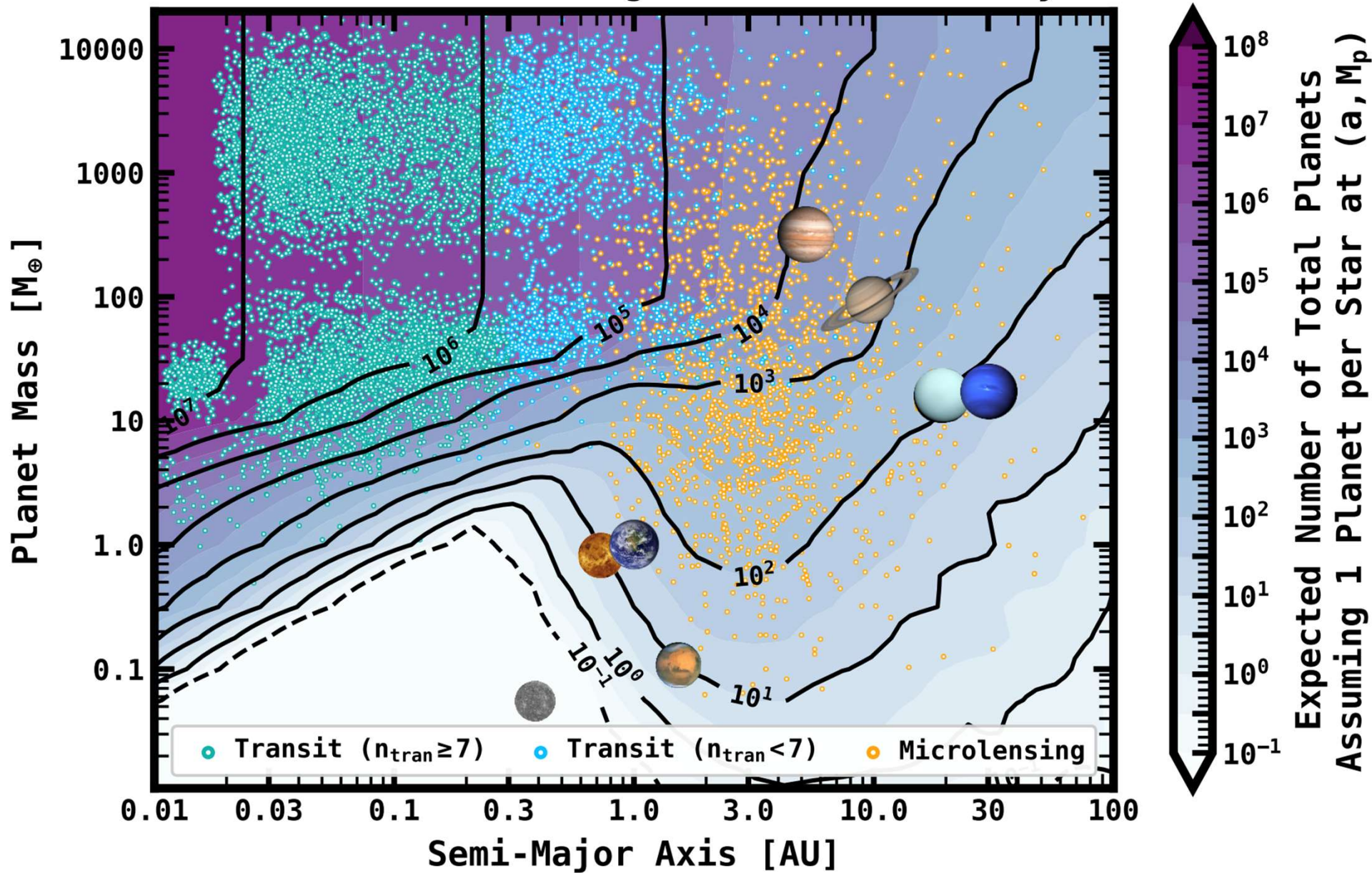
# 100,000 Planets



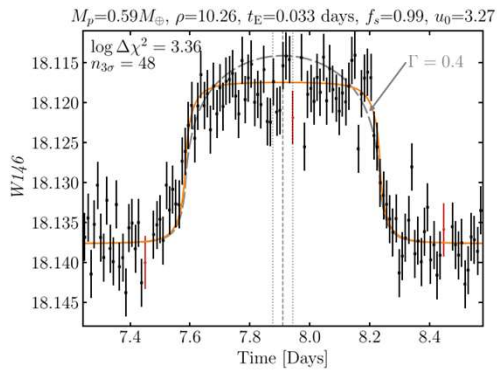
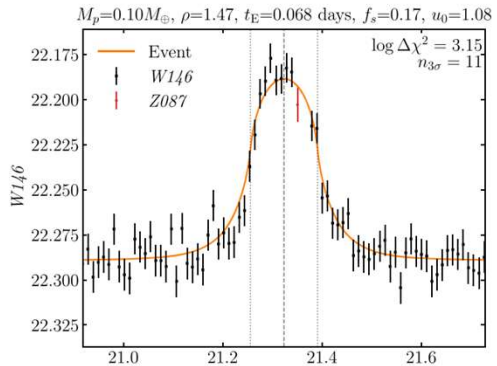
On the shoulders of giants







# Combined Microlensing+Transit Sensitivity



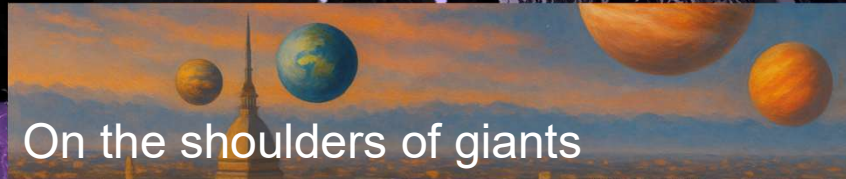
# FFPs with Roman: Yields



Mass ( $M_{\oplus}$ )	One-Per-Star	Mass Function		
		Log-Uniform	N/star/dex	$N_{\text{det}}$
0.01	1.22	 0.349	1335	466
0.1	17.9	 5.13	146	751
1	88.3	 25.2	16	404
10	349	83.0	1.8	146
100	1250	 298	0.2	57
1000	4100	976	0.02	21
10000	13300	3170	0.002	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3750</b>	<b>897</b>		<b>1852</b>



Johnson et al. 2020



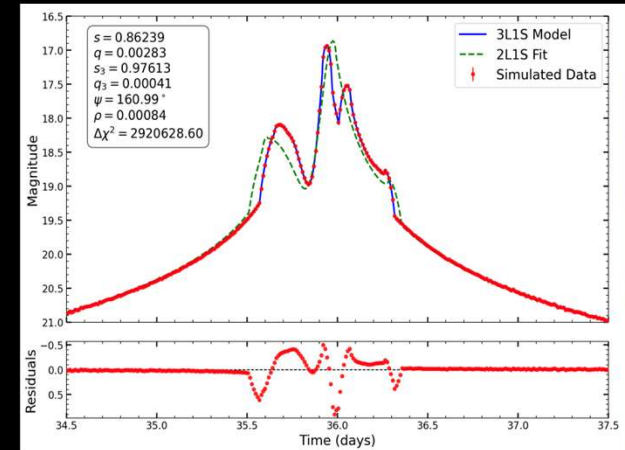
# Roman's Sensitivity to Multiplanet Systems

Roman has sensitivity to multiplanet systems

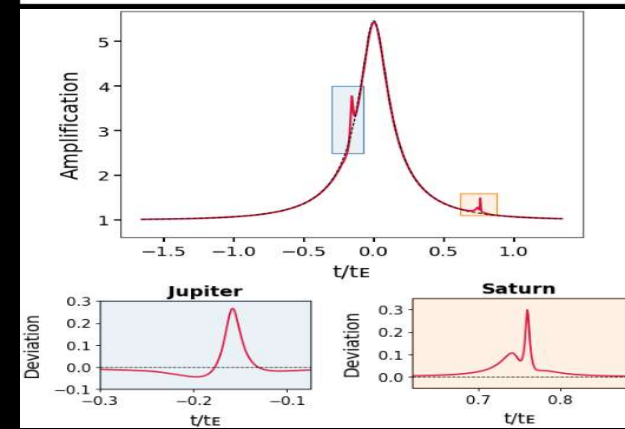
This includes some sensitivity to systems with outer giant planets and inner super-Earth planets.

Detecting more than 2 planets is unlikely, but possible.

Constraints on the orbital parameters of the planets are weak.



Vincent Sagg...



Sinclair Jones



# What do we measure?

For nearly all planetary systems— mass ratio  $q$  and instantaneous projected separation in units of the Einstein ring radius  $s$

For  $\sim 40\%$  of systems, we can

- Infer host star mass, planet mass, and distance to the system to 20%.
- Infer the semimajor axis to a factor of 2.

For a small subset of events, we can measure orbital motion and obtain a better measurement of  $a$  and crude constraints on the other orbital elements ( $i, e, \omega$ )

For the brighter host stars, we can use JWST to infer the  $\log g$ ,  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ , and likely  $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$  of the lens

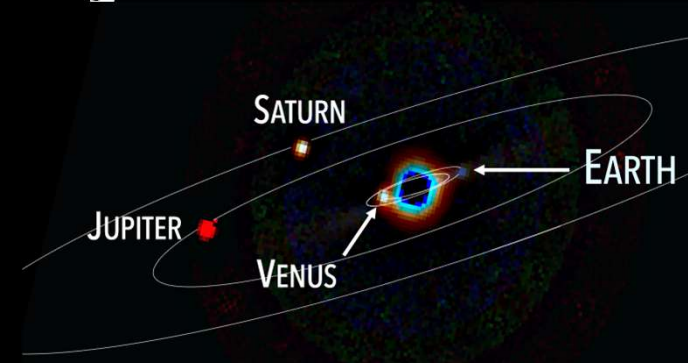


# Inhabitable Worlds Observatory

USA's next flagship mission concept  
recommended by Astro2020 Decadal  
Survey

Next generation telescope designed to search for  
signs of life on planets outside our solar  
system

Large-aperture UV / Optical / NIR  
observatory performing transformative  
astrophysics



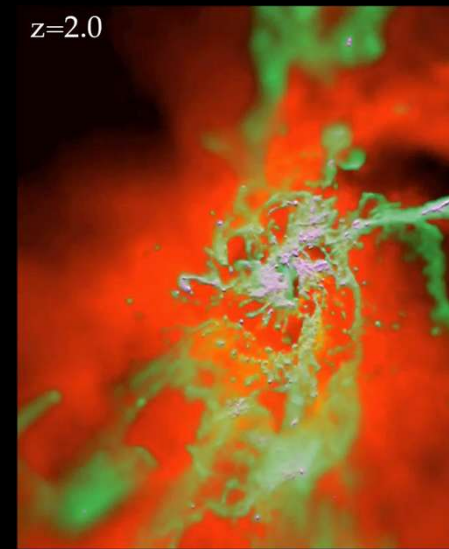
$10^6\text{K}$

$10^5\text{K}$

$10^4\text{K}$

$10^3\text{K}$

$z=2.0$



On the shoulders of giants



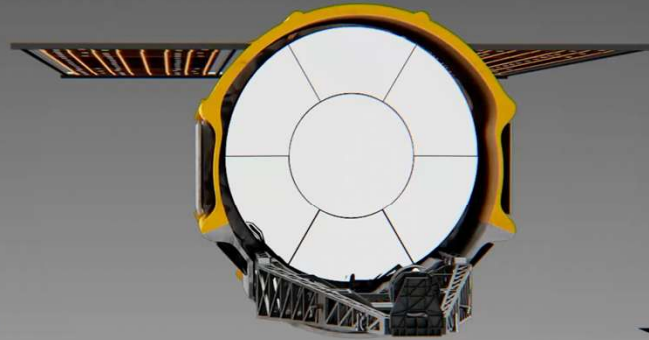
# Exploring the technical trade space

Exploration of EACs 1 – 3 nearly complete. Work started on EACs 4 & 5



EAC3

8-m diameter on-axis



EAC2

6-m diameter off-axis



EAC1

6-m inner diameter / 7.2-  
outer diameter off-axis

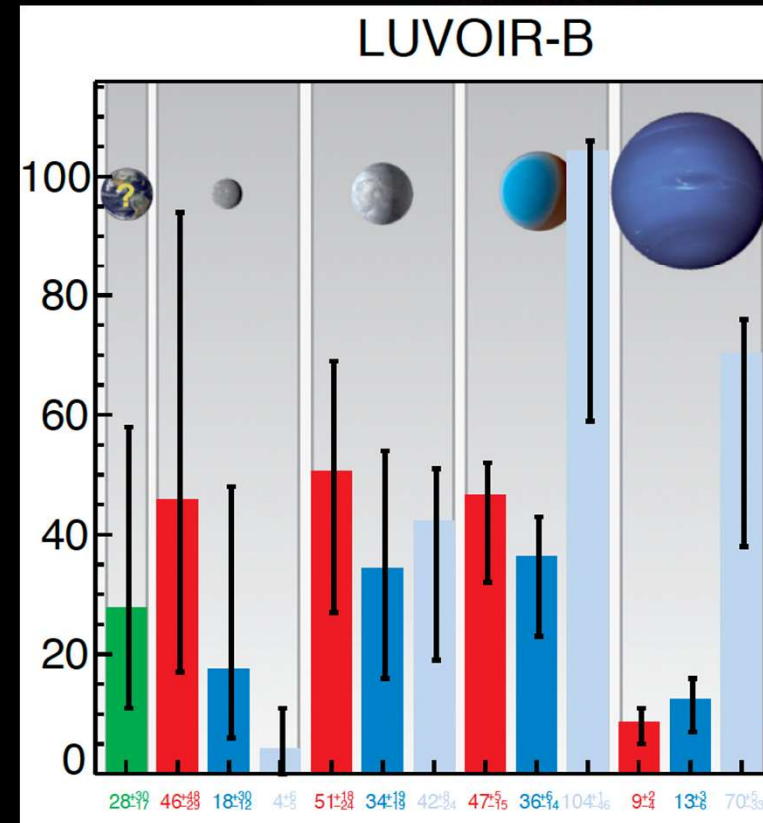
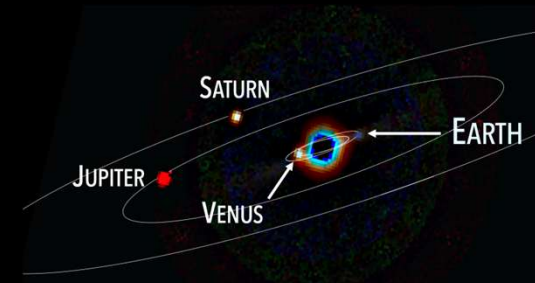
# Detection and Characterization of Planetary Systems with HWO

HWO can directly image and take spectra of nearby complete planetary systems

Inner terrestrial planets

Outer giant planets (out to 8-15 au)

In, in principle, search for a correlation between liquid water on potentially habitable planets and the presence of giant planets.



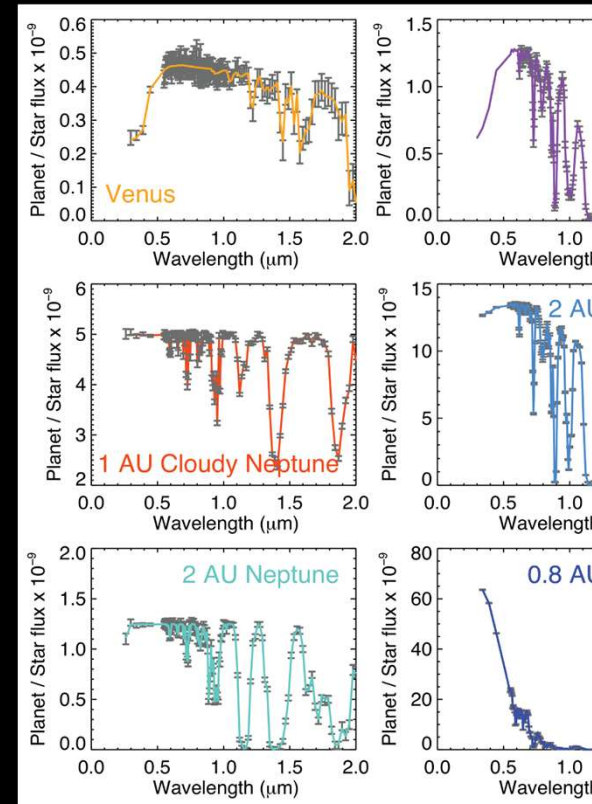
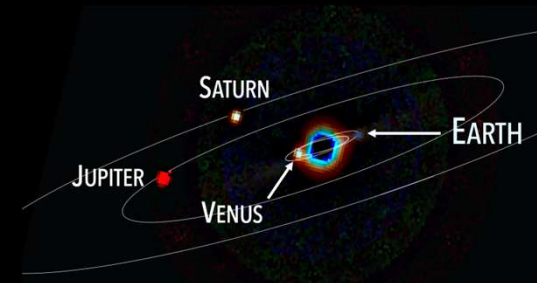
# Detection and Characterization of Planetary Systems with HWO

HWO can directly image and take spectra of nearly complete planetary systems

Inner terrestrial planets

Outer giant planets (out to 8-15 au)

In, in principle, search for a correlation between liquid water on potentially habitable planets and the presence of giant planets.



# Roman Galactic Exoplanet Survey Project Infrastructure Team (RGES PIT)

Goal: Ensure the success of the RGES, RGBTDS and  
Roman!

Currently ~50 active members

Fourteen working groups

Public website: <https://rges-pit.org/>



ExS and RGES PIT Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, October 13-17, 2025



# Roman Microlensing Data Challenge 2026 (RMDC26)

RMDC26 is a community challenge to model simulated Roman microlensing data

The goal is to broaden participation, standardize best practices, and spur innovation in microlensing modeling and tooling.

The challenge is intended to be a semi-realistic representation of the microlensing data volume and type expected from the Roman Galactic Bulge Time Domain Survey.

The official launch will very soon!

<https://rges-pit.org/data-challenge/>



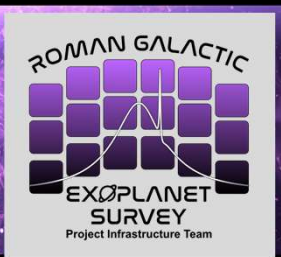
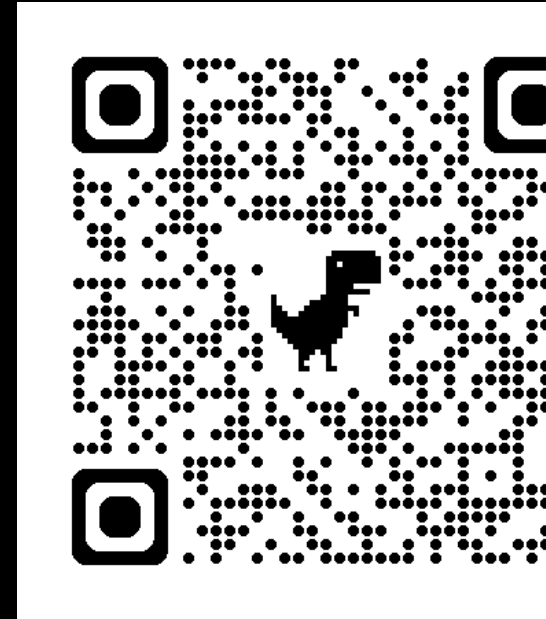
Alison Crisp



Jon Hulberg



+many others



# This is an exciting time!

Roman will launch in just over 6 months and the first bulge data will arrive in less than a year.

All data will be non-proprietary and publicly available as soon as possible after the observations.

High-level data products will be available

There is a lot of science to be done with the Roman data, as well as with synergistic observations with other observatories



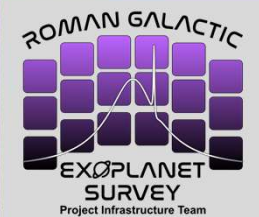
# Summary

Roman will provide a nearly complete galactic census of planets

Roman will not only probe planets beyond the snow line, but also have some sensitivity to inner planets down to  $\sim$ Earth mass

Multiplanet system detections will allow one to probe the connection between inner/outer regions of planetary systems

HWO will allow for the detection and characterization of planetary out to  $\sim$ 10-15 au.



# Thank you!

