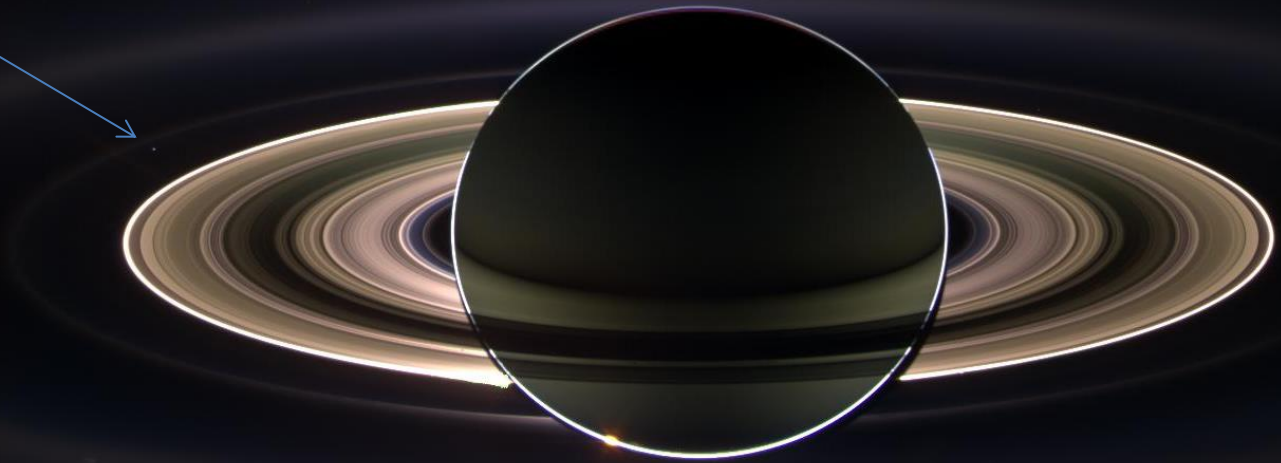


Are We Alone In the Universe?

You are here...



Dr. Shimon Lerner
Torah and Science Conference
Miami, December 2019

Prof. Yehuda (Leo) Levi Z"l



CHALLENGE



TORAH VIEWS ON SCIENCE AND ITS PROBLEMS

Edited by
Aryeh Carmell & Cyril Domb

ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH SCIENTISTS



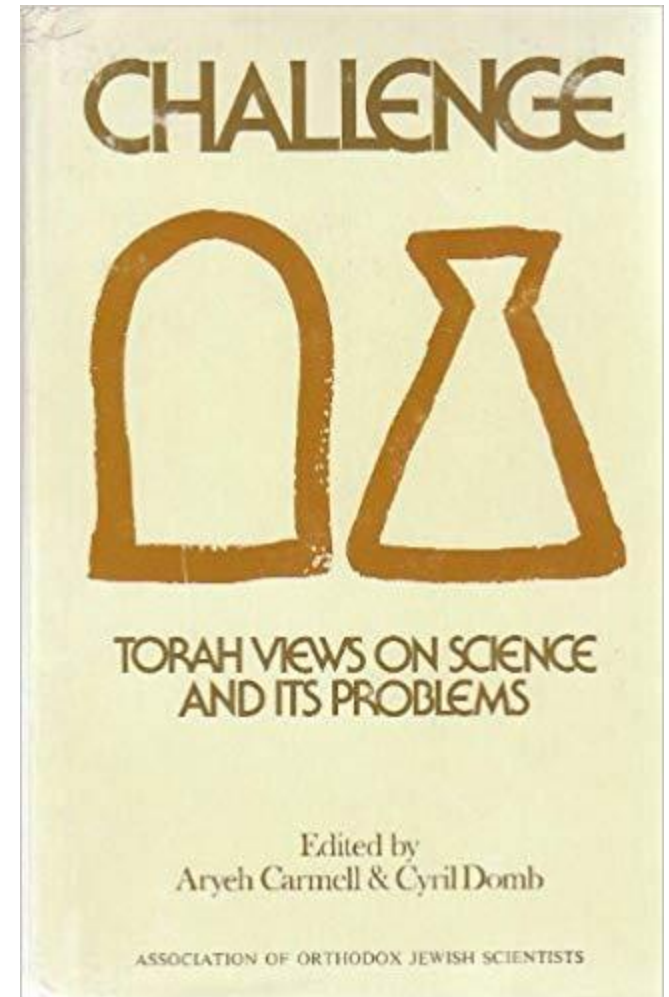
Norman Lamm

The revolutionary upheavals of the space age have shaken the belief in the centrality of man — historically, one of the most cherished doctrines of Western religious systems. To what extent the possibility of life on other planets affects basic tenets of Jewish theology is examined here by Rabbi Lamm, founder and first editor of *TRADITION* and now a member of its Editorial Board. The author of this study is Associate Rabbi of The Jewish Center in New York and visiting assistant professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University.

THE RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

A Jewish Exotheology

The existence of rational, sentient beings on a planet other than earth is no longer a fantastic, remote possibility conjectured by imaginative and unrealistic minds. It is declared not a possibility but a probability by an ever-growing chorus of distinguished astronomers and eminent scientists in all fields. Already there has been established a new science — “exobiology,” the study of



"רק הנקודה העיקרית היא שיש רק תורה
אחת מן השמים וזאת התורה היא בעולם
שלנו, ורק לנו יש בחירה בטוב ורע ושכר
ועונש, ואין שום נברא אחר בעולם שיש לו
בחירה"



"אמרתי לאותו הפרופסור שאינני זקוק לשום
תצלום, וכי הכל דמיונות שווא, משום שהזוהר
הקדוש שגילה דברים גדולים ונשגבים עוד
לפני ראשוני המדענים כתב ב'פתח אליהו':
'ובראת שמיא וארעא ואפקת מינהון שמשא
וסהרא וכוכביא ומזלי, ובארעא - אילנין
ודשאין... ובעירין ובני נשא' מכאן משמע
שדווקא בארץ יש אילנין ודשאין ובעלי חיים
ובני אדם וכו', אבל בירח ובכוכבים - אין."

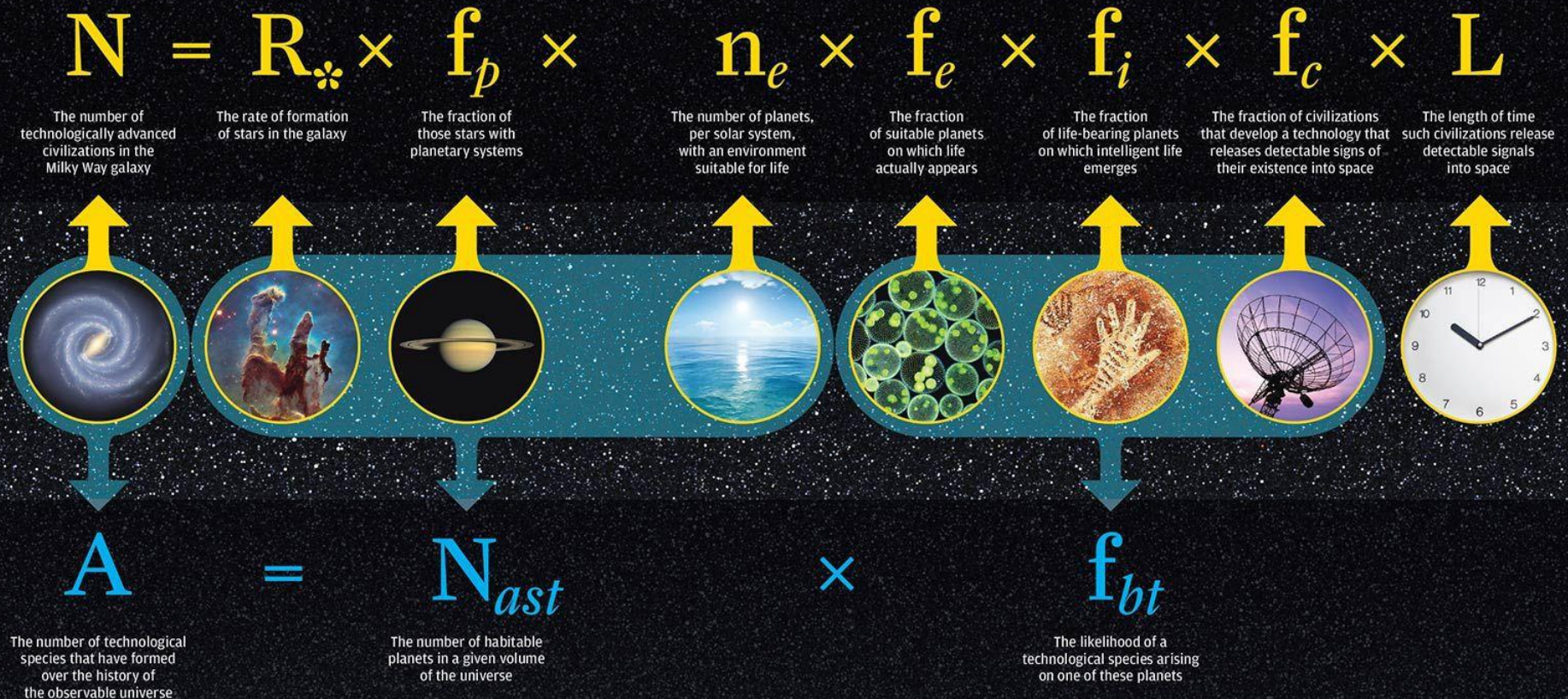


"אם ישנם חיים על פני המאדים, ודאי
שאינם יצורים תבוניים כמו בני האדם,
כיון שלו הייתה להם תבונה הם היו
נדרשים לקבל גם את התורה,
שתדריך אותם על פי אילו עקרונות
הם אמורים להכריע בבחירותיהם."



"עליך לחפש צורות חיים במאדים,
ולהמשיך ולחפש עוד ועוד, ואם לא
תמצא עליך להמשיך ולחפש בעוד
מקומות; כי לשבת כאן בעולם הזה
ולומר שאין חיים במקומות אחרים
מבלי אפילו לחפש, פירושו של דבר
להגביל את הקב"ה"

The Drake Equation

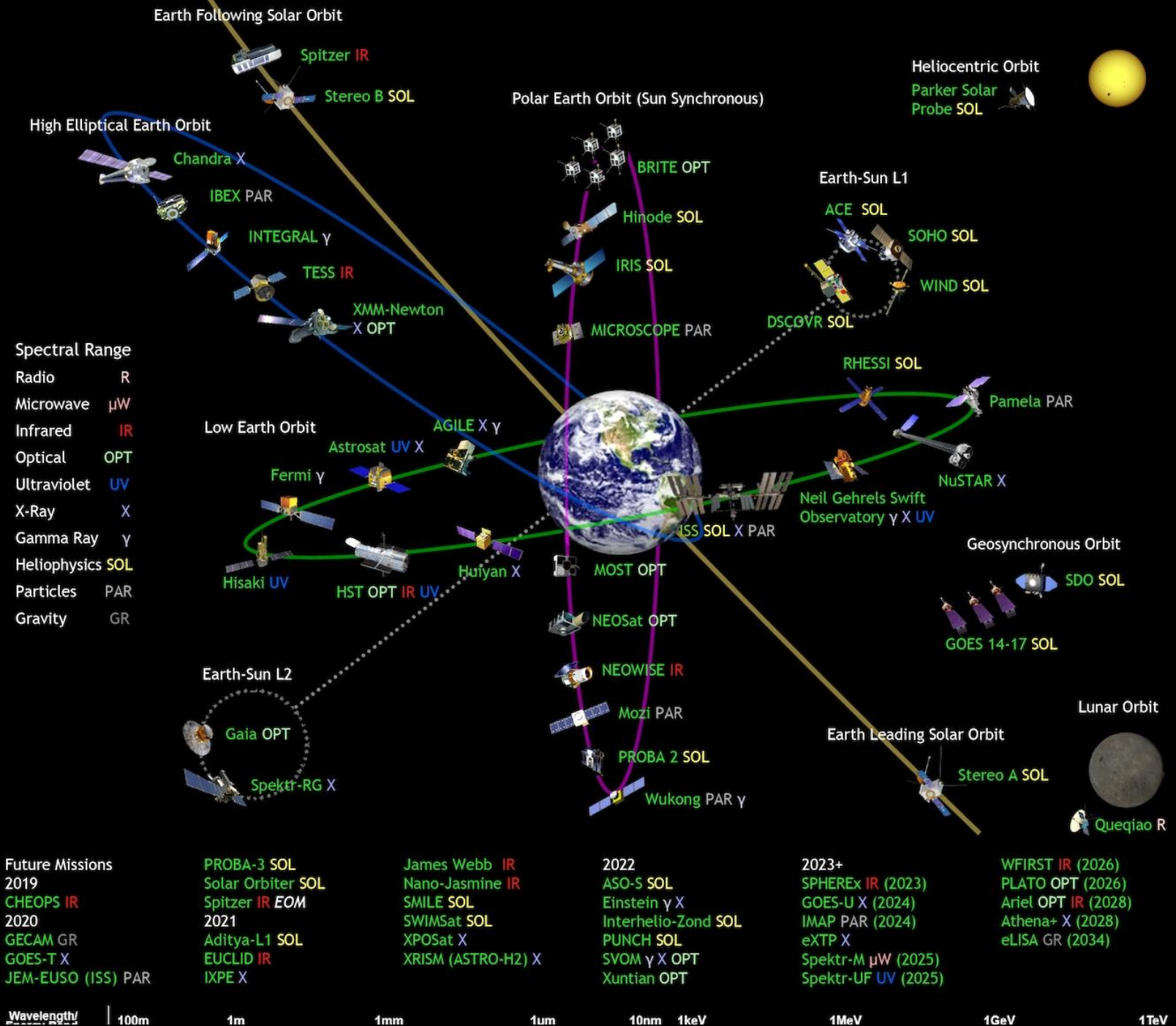


Mind
Blowing
advances
in the last
30 years.

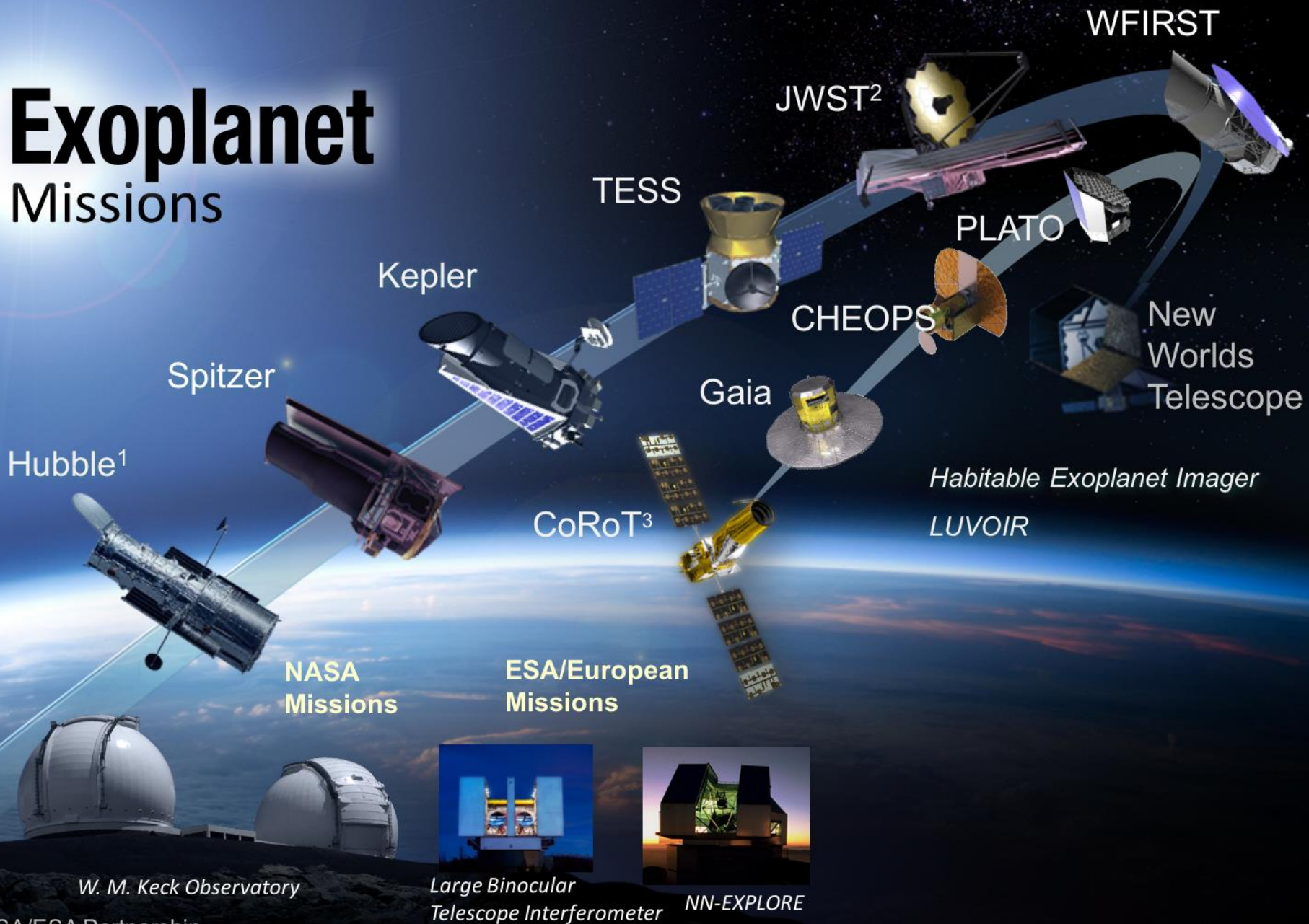
Due to:

Space Telescopes





Exoplanet Missions



¹ NASA/ESA Partnership
² NASA/ESA/CSA Partnership
³ CNES/ESA

3 Examples; Hubble, Kepler, Webb

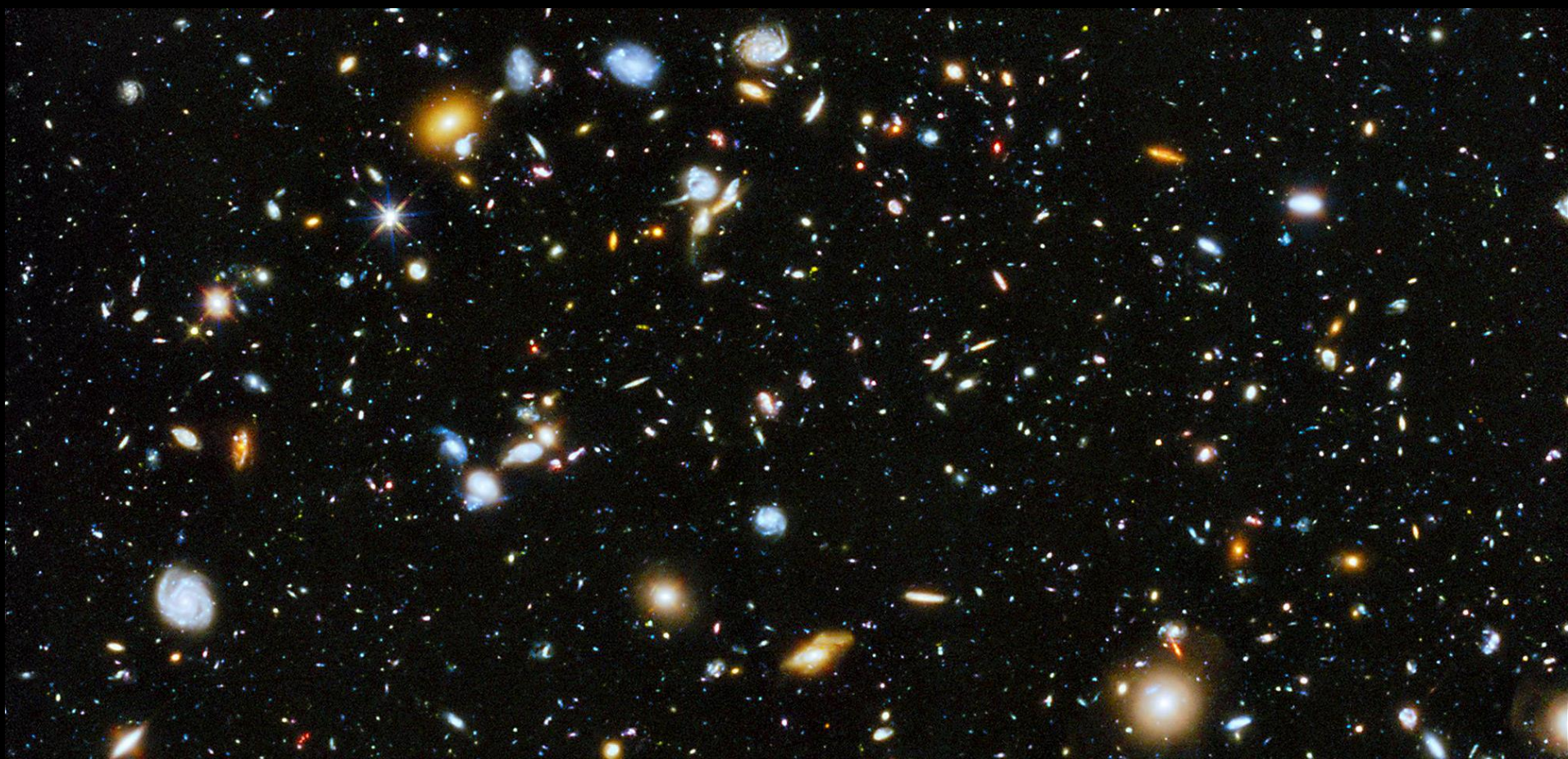


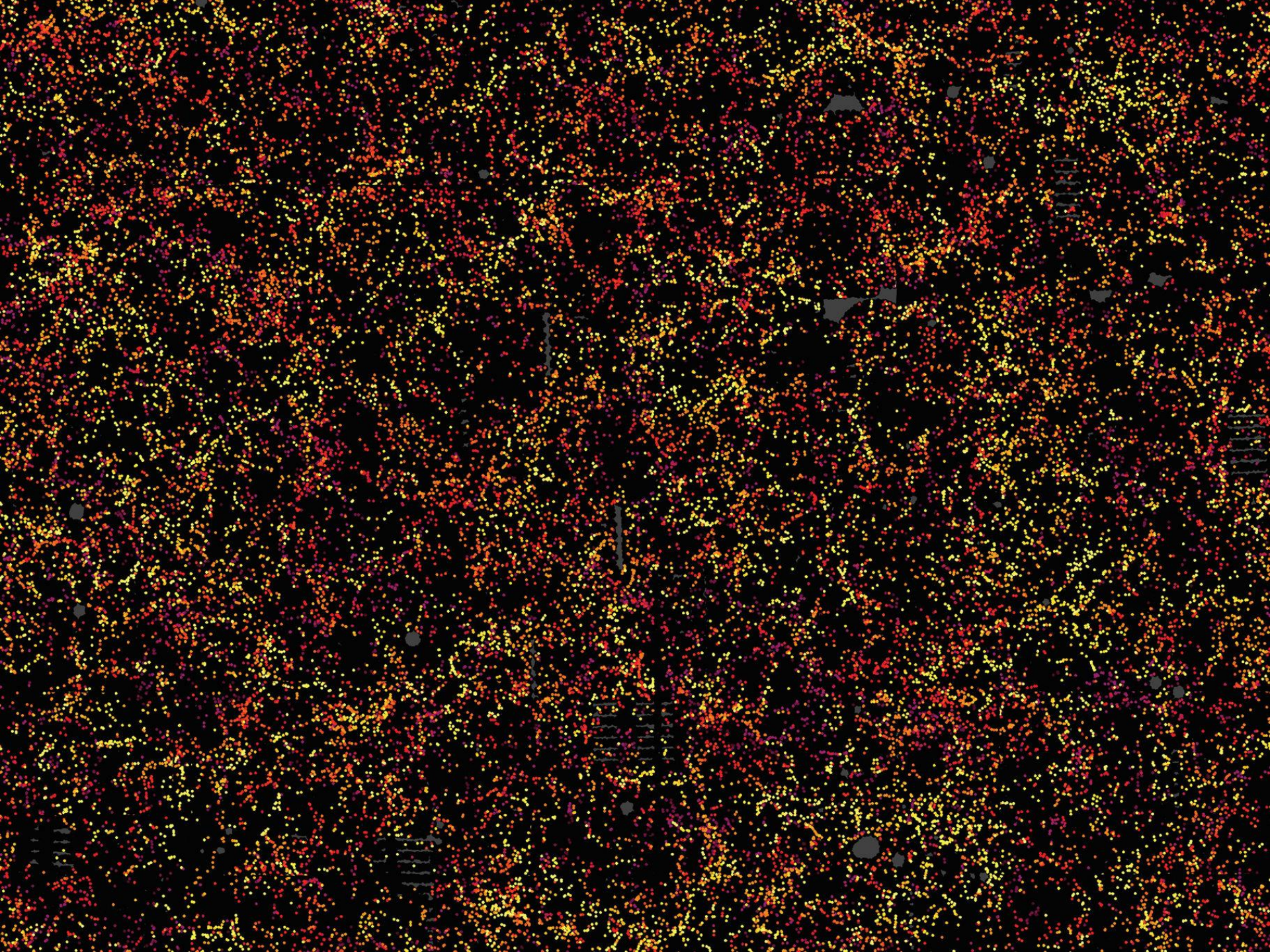
#1

Hubble Deep Field Measurements

HUDF Infrared 



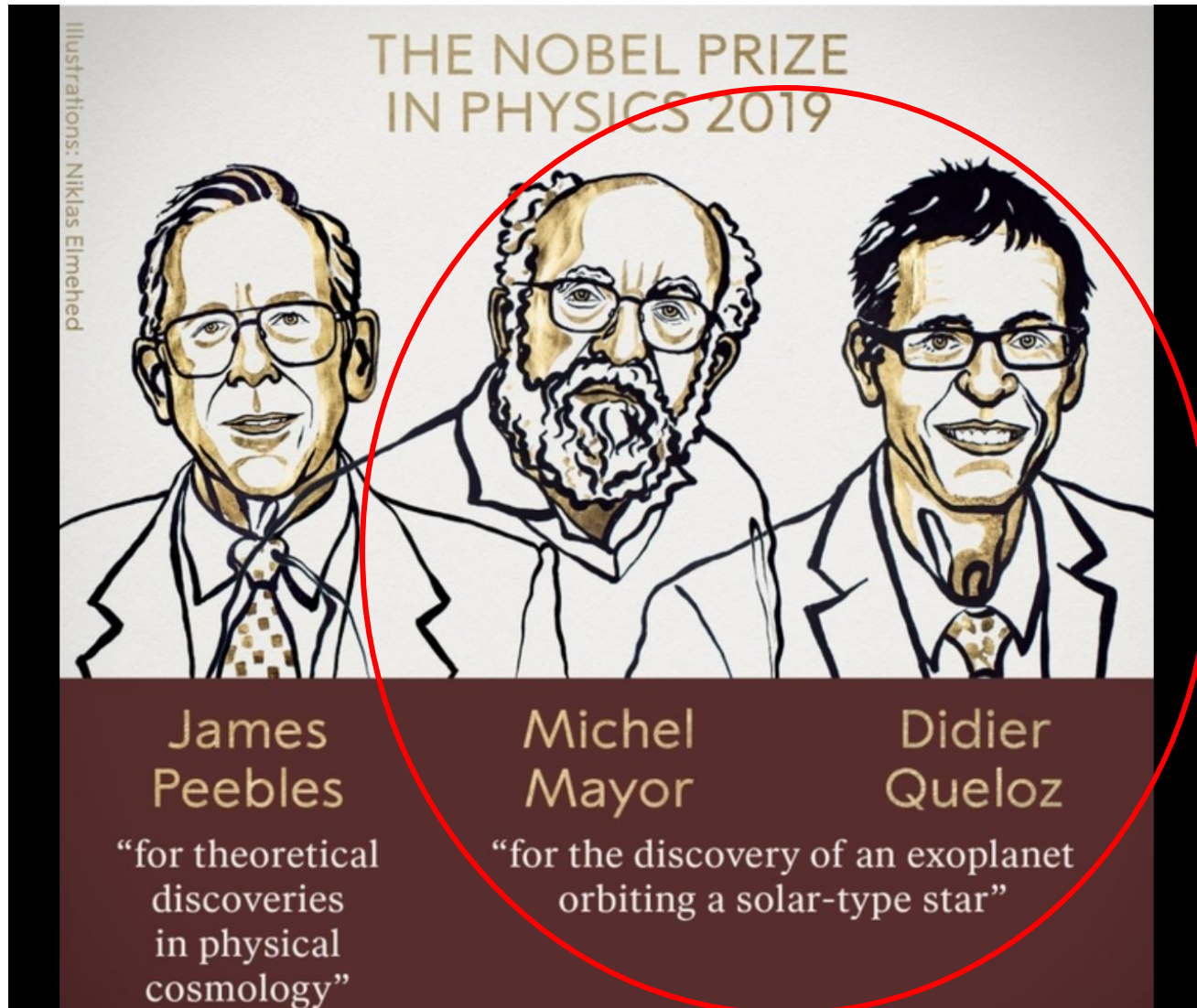




#2

Kepler and Exoplanets

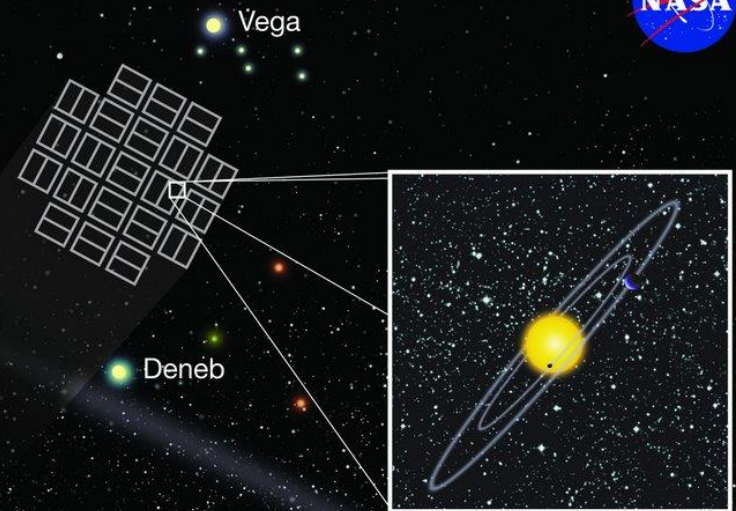
The Exoplanet Revolution





Kepler

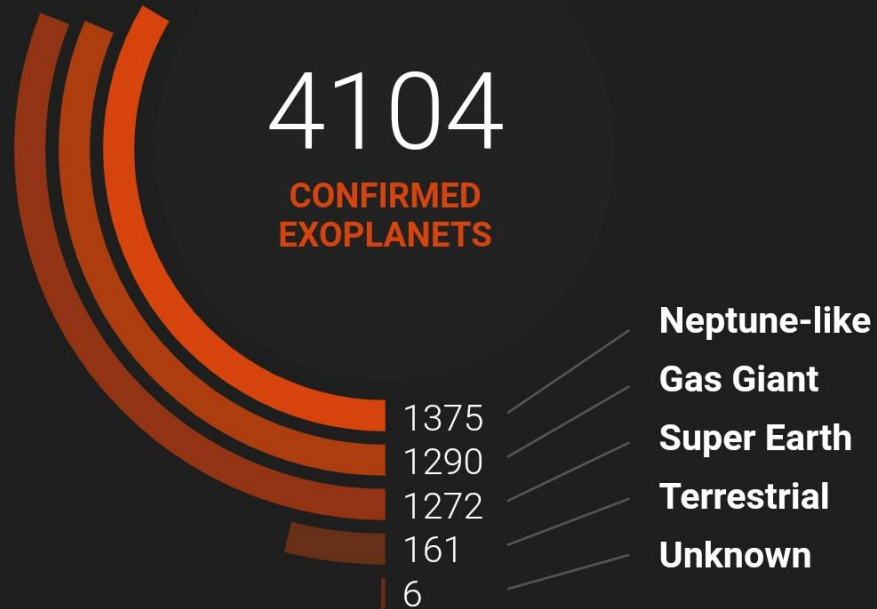
NASA's First Mission Capable of
Finding Earth-size & Smaller Planets



WARNING: OBJECTS IN
THIS RENDITION APPEAR
LARGER AND CLOSER
TOGETHER THAN THEY
ARE IN REALITY.



EXOPLANET EXPLORATION

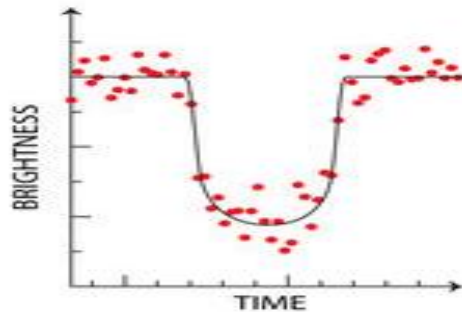


Transit method:

As a planet eclipses its star as seen from Earth, the intensity of star-light drops measurably.



EARTH

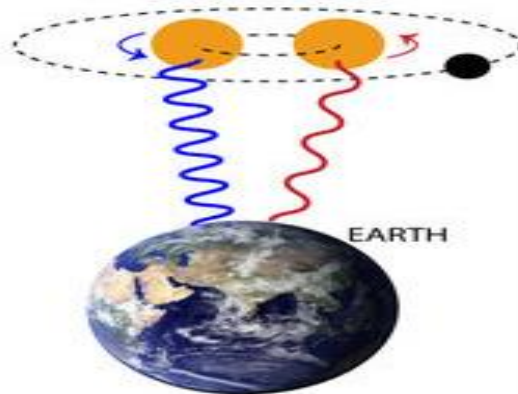


Pros: Possible to monitor many stars at once from a single instrument. Yields mass and radius of planets.

Cons: Only usable where planet's orbit brings it across the star's disc as seen from Earth. Also, up to 40 percent risk of false positives.

Radial velocity method:

A massive planet's gravity will cause its star to "wobble," resulting in blue-shifted light when the star is tugged toward Earth (left) and red-shifted light when tugged away (right).



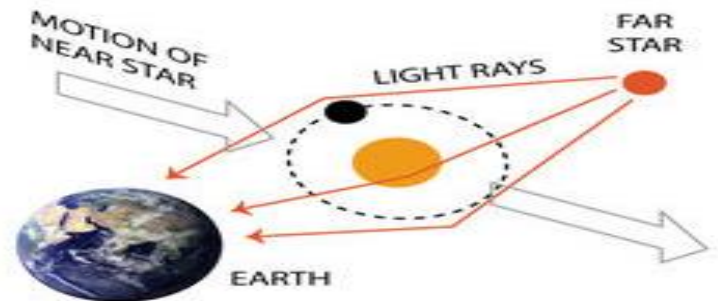
EARTH

Pros: Yields minimum mass and orbital inclination of planets.

Cons: Reliable only out to about 160 light-years from Earth for low-mass planets. Impossible to monitor many stars at once from a single instrument. Not usable when planet's orbit is highly inclined relative to Earth.

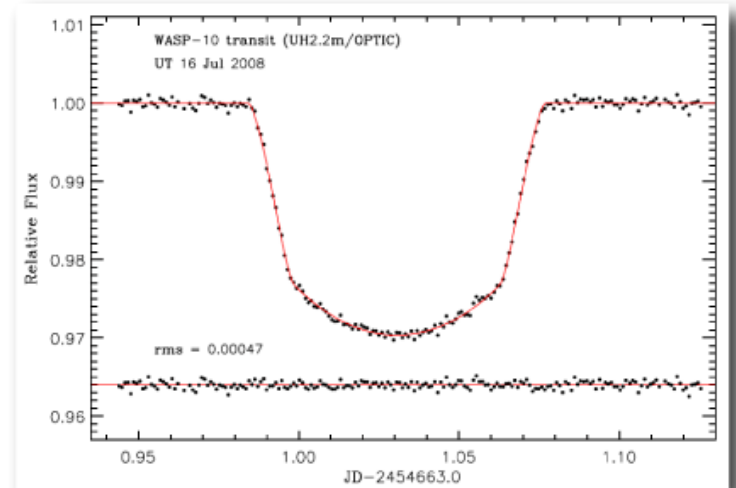
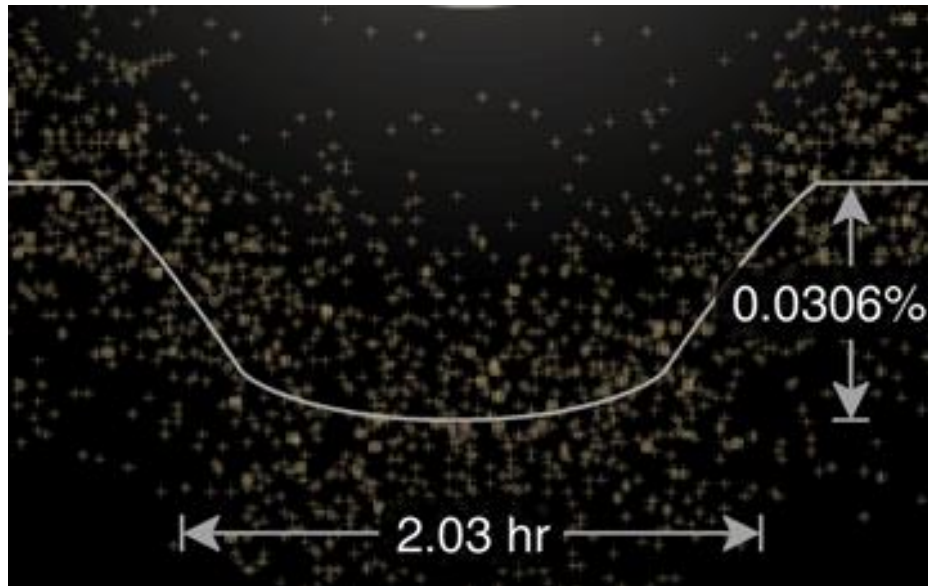
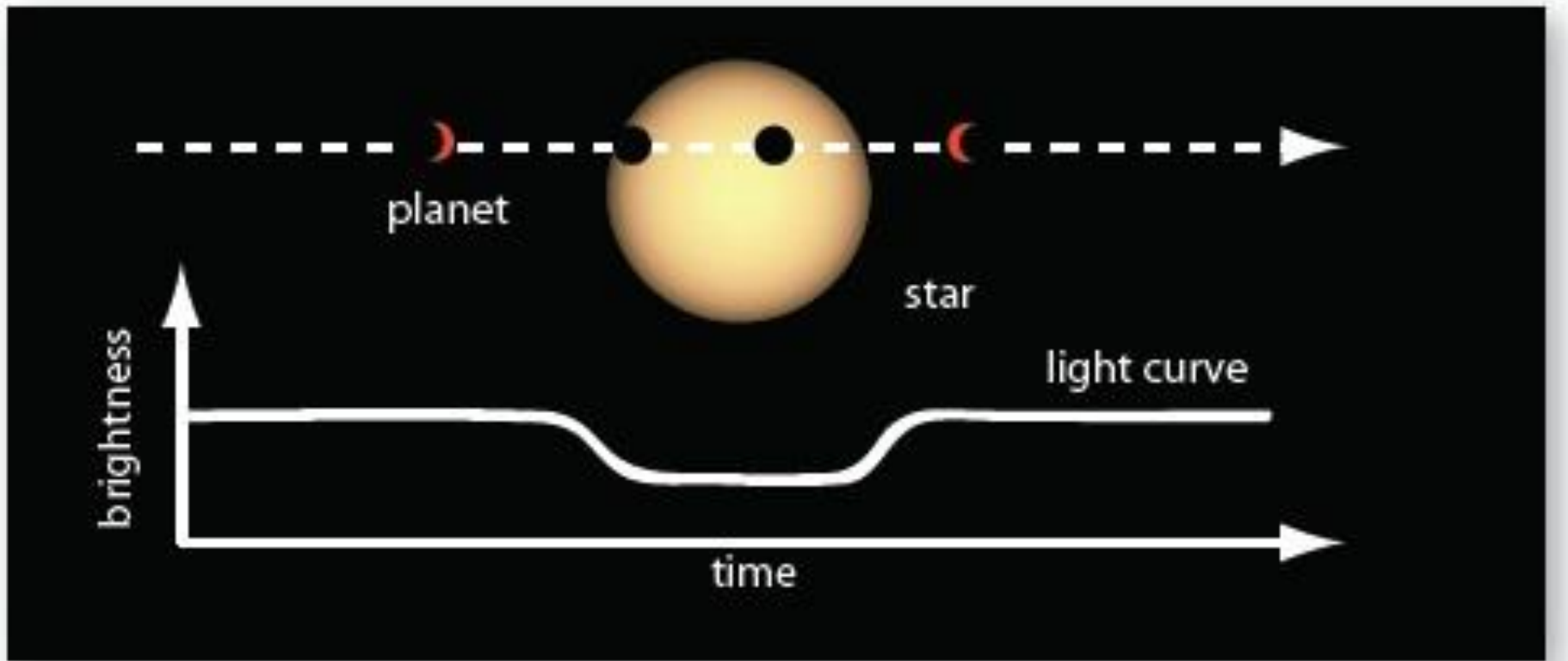
Gravitational microlensing method:

A chance alignment of a nearby star (with planet) and a distant star causes the near star's gravity to act like a lens, bending and concentrating the far star's light. Seen from Earth, the near star's planet shows up as an additional increase in brightness as the planet's gravity also temporarily lenses the far star's light.



Pros: The only current method of detecting exoplanets at distances of tens of thousands of light-years from Earth. Possible to monitor many stars at once from a single instrument.

Cons: Planets observed by this method will not be seen again because microlensing events cannot be repeated.



Milky Way Galaxy

A composite image of the Milky Way galaxy, showing its spiral arms and central bulge. The image is dark blue and black, with some reddish-brown highlights. Several labels are overlaid on the image: 'Milky Way Galaxy' at the top, 'Most Known Exoplanets' on the left, 'Our Solar System' at the bottom left, 'Microlensing Exoplanets' in the center, and 'OGLE-2014-BLG-0124L' on the right. A red arrow points from the 'Most Known Exoplanets' label to a cluster of yellow dots. A white arrow points from the 'Our Solar System' label to a single yellow dot. A white arrow points from the 'OGLE-2014-BLG-0124L' label to a single yellow dot. A white arrow points from the 'Microlensing Exoplanets' label to a cluster of yellow dots.

Most Known
Exoplanets

OGLE-2014-BLG-0124L

Our Solar System

Microlensing
Exoplanets