

The Big Picture: Science & Public Outreach with Astronomical Surveys

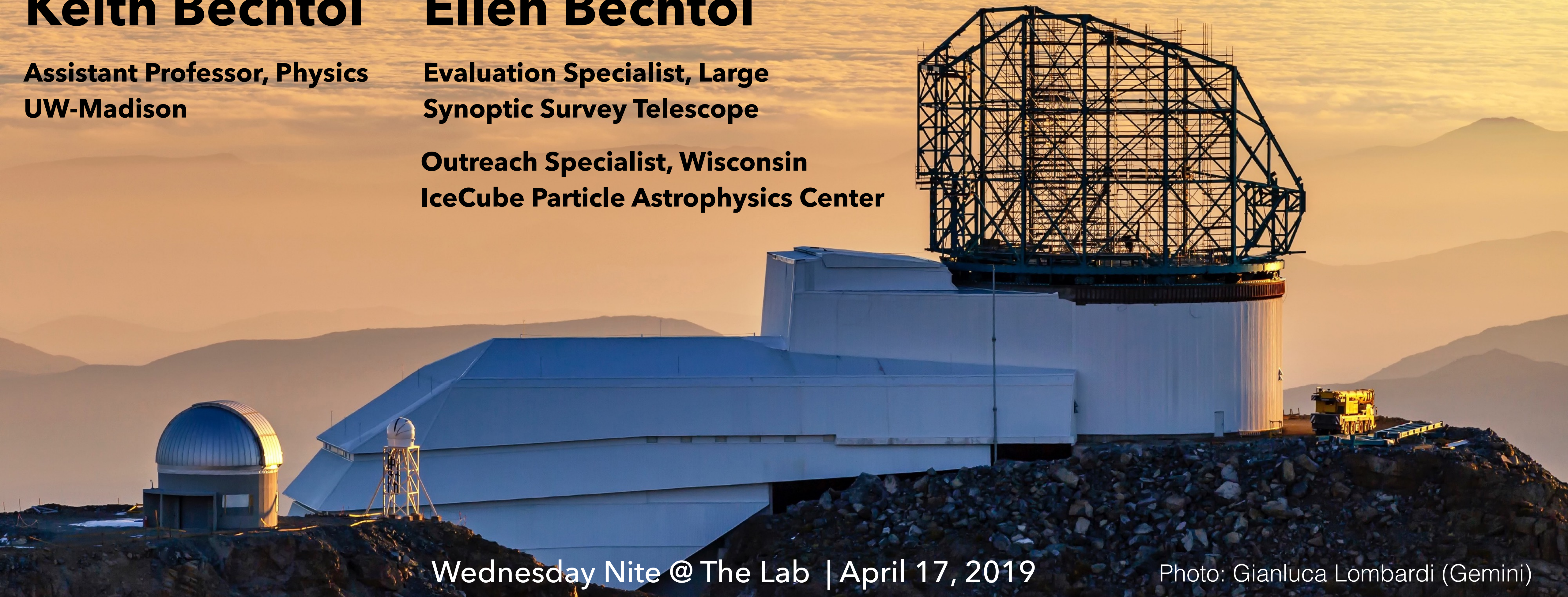
Keith Bechtol

**Assistant Professor, Physics
UW-Madison**

Ellen Bechtol

**Evaluation Specialist, Large
Synoptic Survey Telescope**

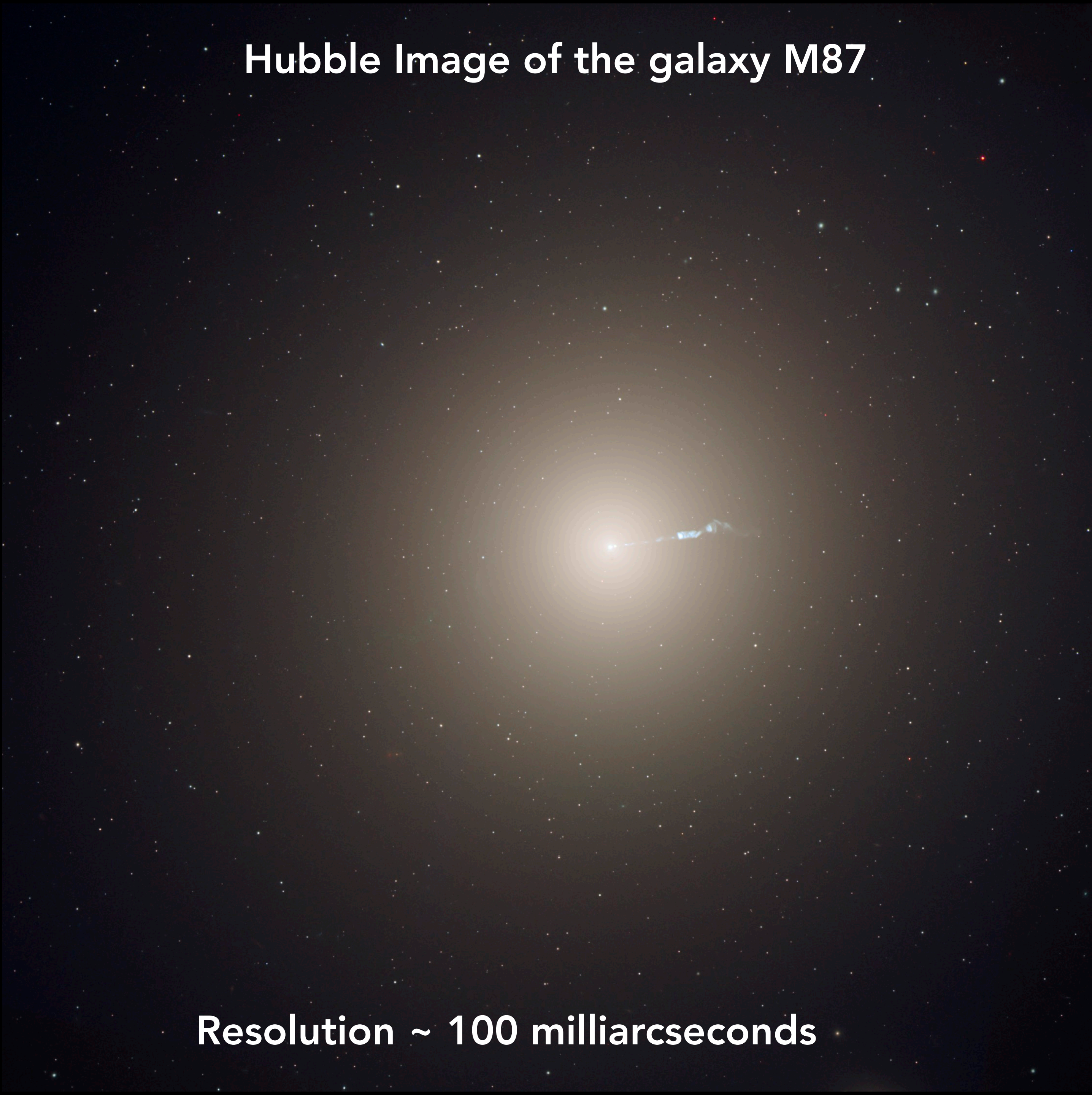
**Outreach Specialist, Wisconsin
IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center**



Wednesday Nite @ The Lab | April 17, 2019

Photo: Gianluca Lombardi (Gemini)

Hubble Image of the galaxy M87



Resolution ~ 100 milliarcseconds

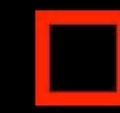
Image of supermassive black hole at
center of M87 using the
Event Horizon Telescope



Resolution ~ 25 microarcseconds



Hubble Ultra Deep Field



It would take more than
10 million photos this size to
cover the full sky

Each smudge of light is a galaxy

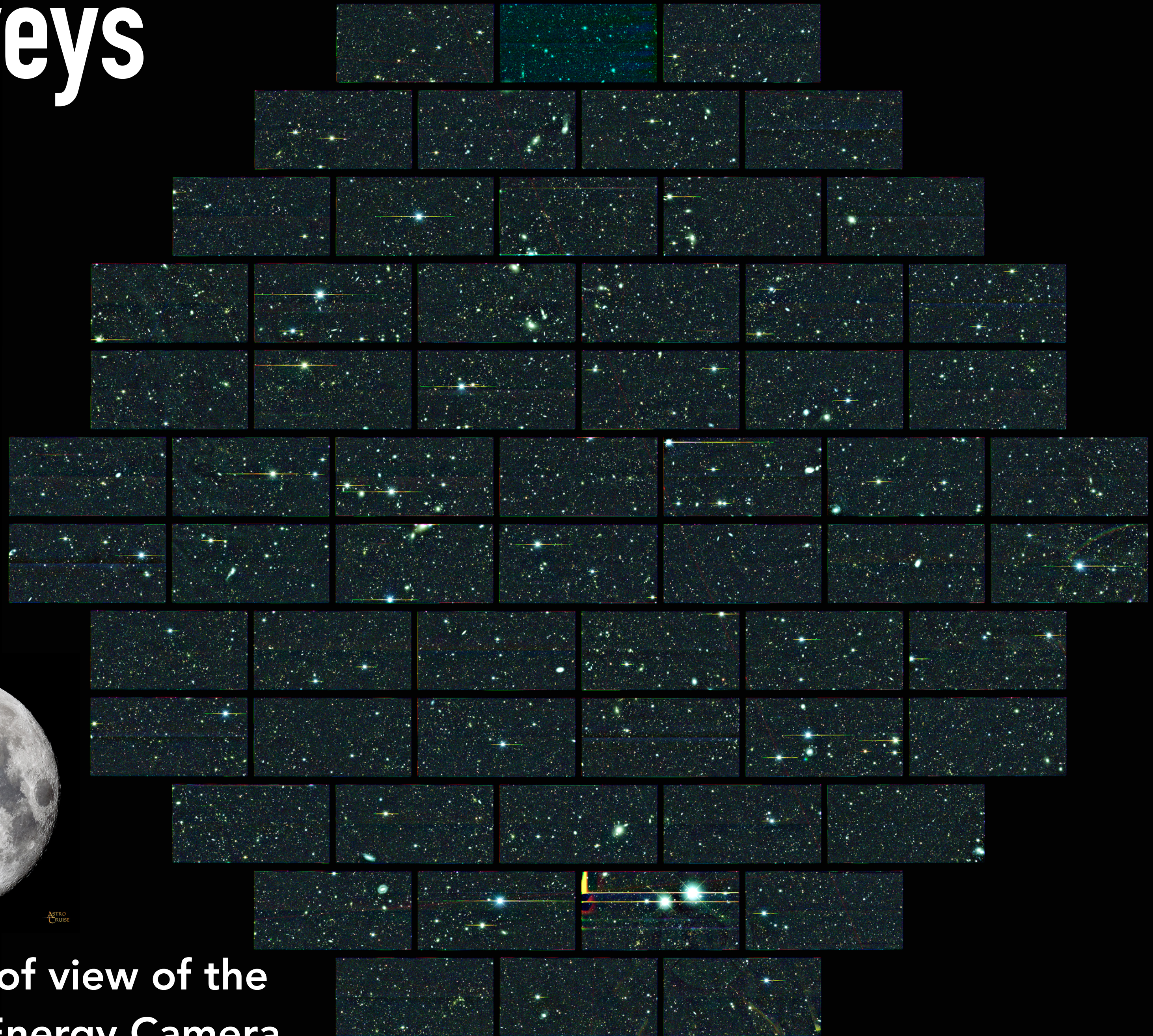
There are **> 2 trillion** galaxies in
the observable universe

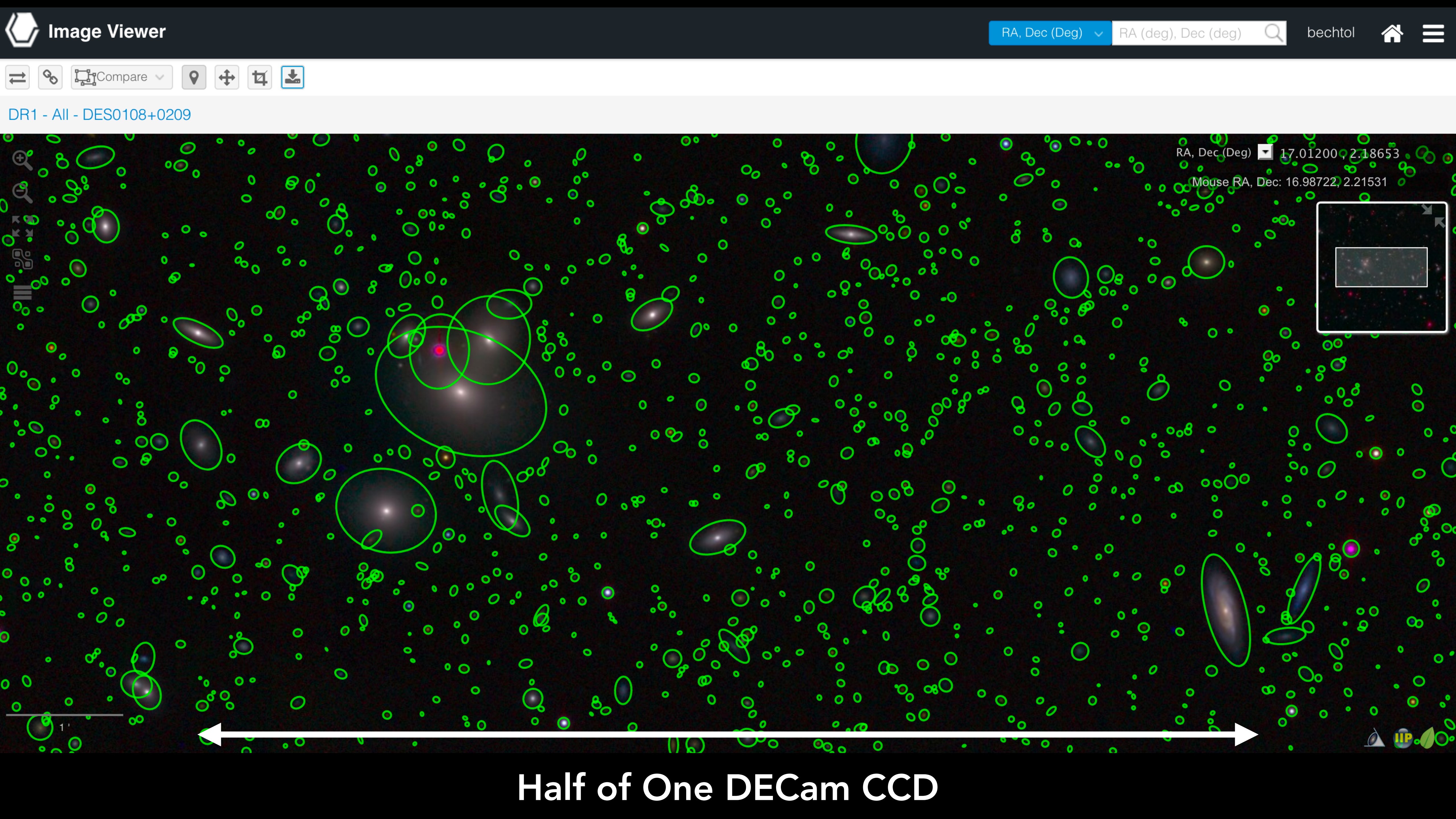
Astronomical Surveys

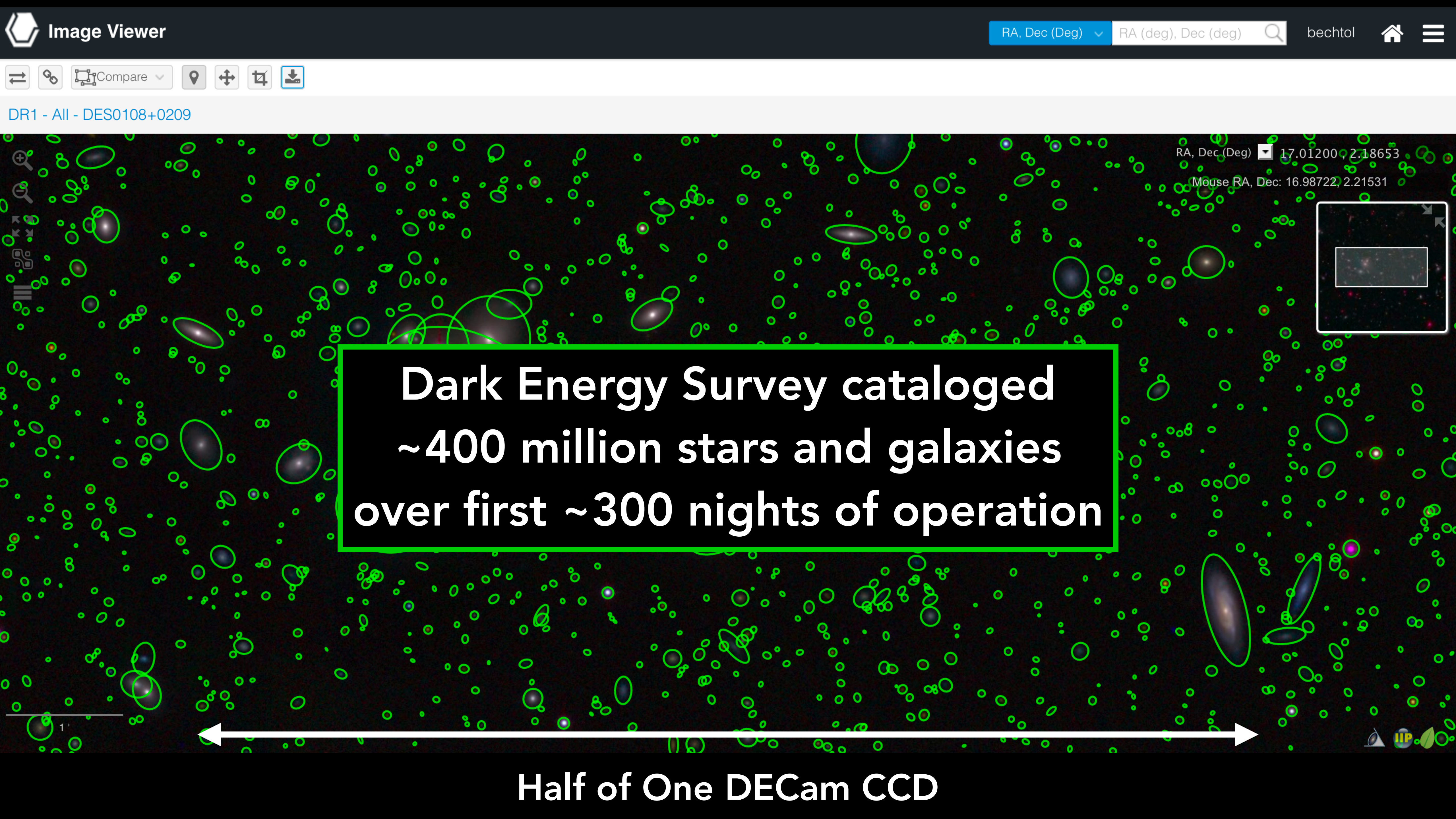
Wide, Fast, Deep



Field of view of the
Dark Energy Camera



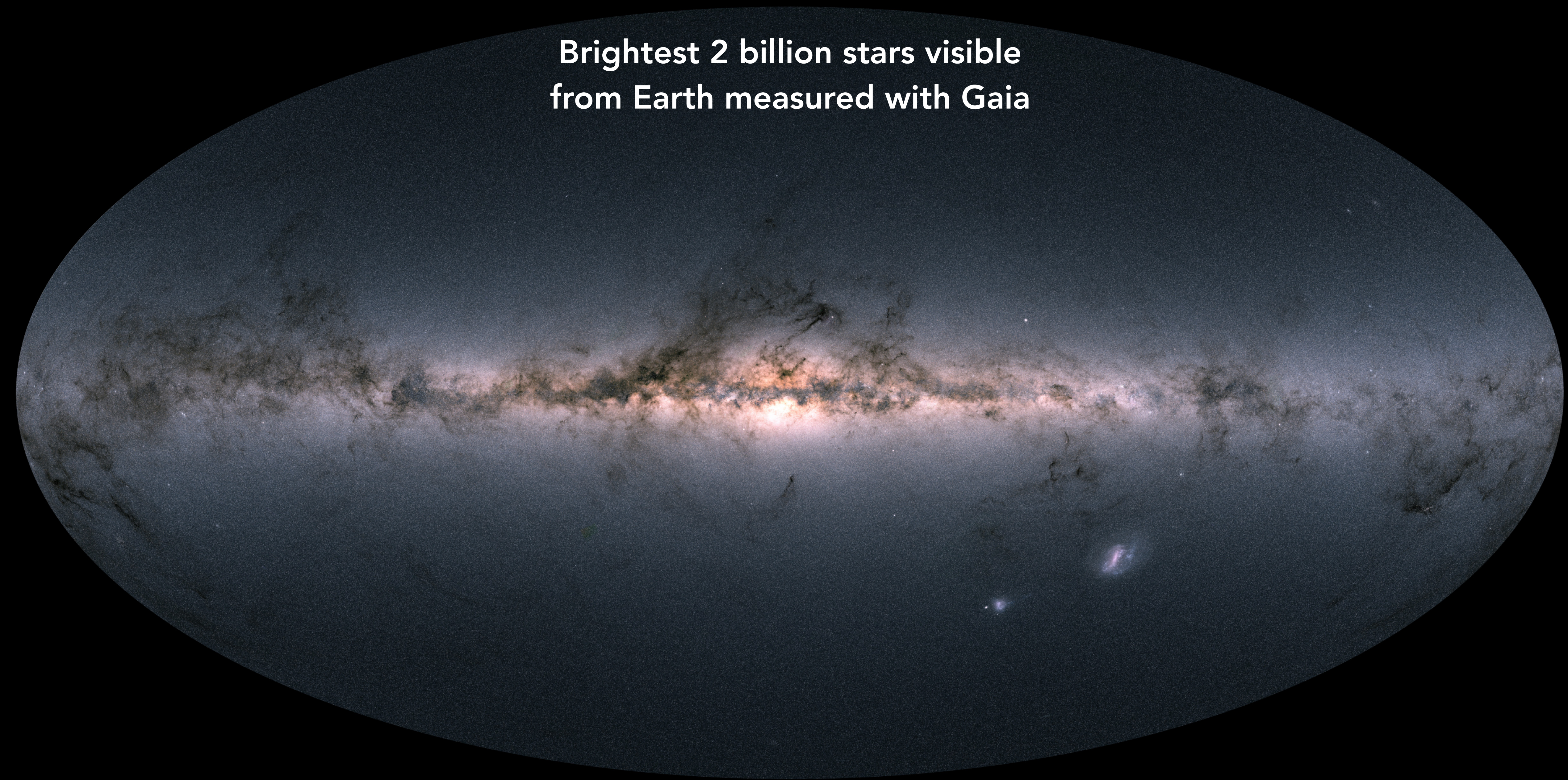





**Dark Energy Survey cataloged
~400 million stars and galaxies
over first ~300 nights of operation**

Half of One DECam CCD

Brightest 2 billion stars visible
from Earth measured with Gaia







Distant Galaxies
(billions of light years away)

Asteroid
in Solar System

Nearby Galaxies
(millions of light years away)

Star
in Milky Way

Why Astronomical Surveys?

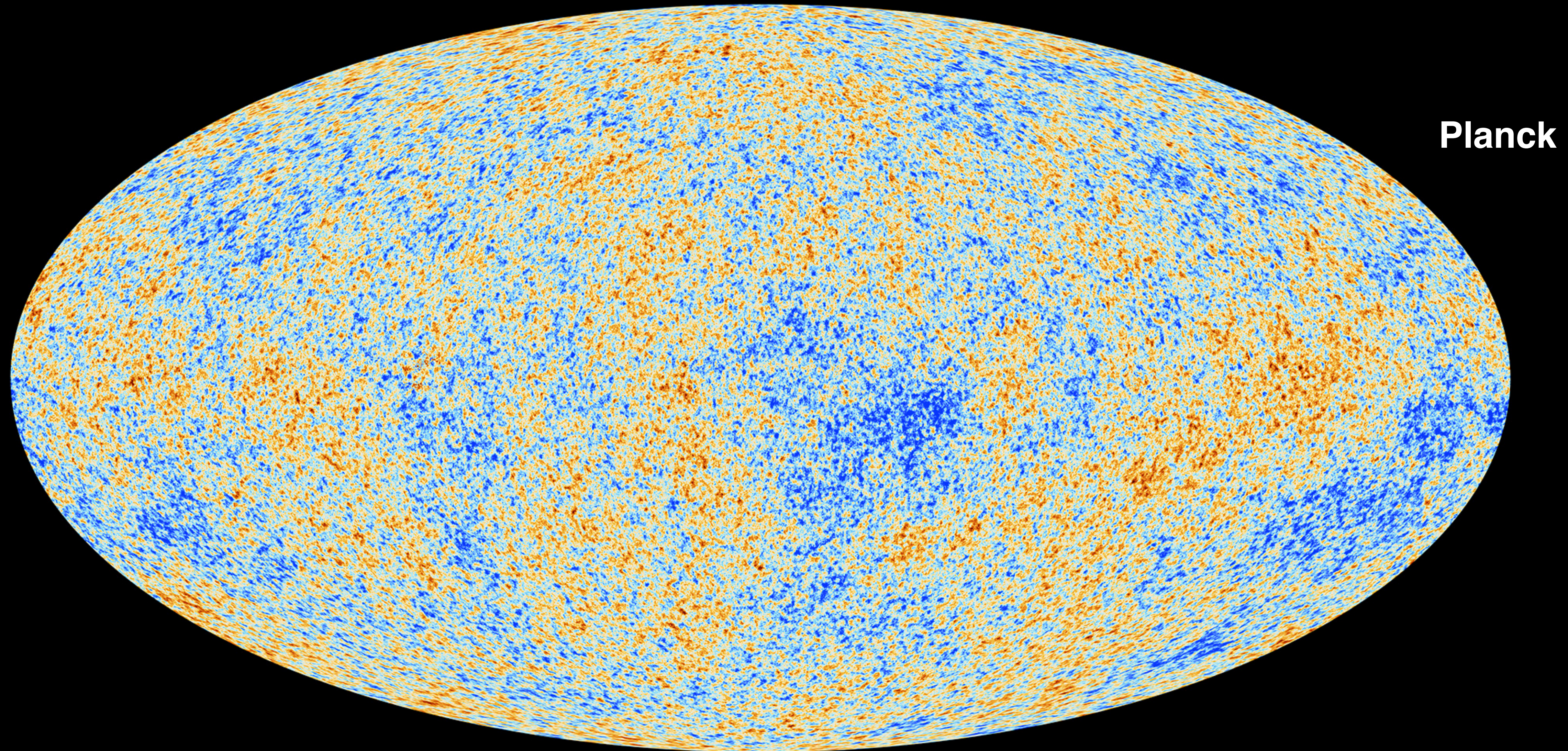
Why Astronomical Surveys?

Our Universe is one realization of a *statistical process* governed by the rules of nature

We aim to discovery these rules

Some patterns are *emergent* and/or only appear when we look at the Universe on the *largest possible scales*

**Density fluctuations at $\delta \sim 10^{-5}$ imprinted on
the cosmic microwave background (age of Universe $\sim 380,000$ yr)**



**Quantum fluctuations expanded to a macroscopic scale;
the seeds of cosmic structure formation**



HUMAN

Dark Energy, Dark Matter, Neutrinos

95% of the mass-energy content in the Universe today is NOT made of atoms

These three distinct “dark” components are invisible — you can’t touch them or feel them — but they determine the fate of the Universe...

Dark Energy

Consistent with an energy density that permeates all of space and maintains constant *density* as Universe expands

Dark Energy

Consistent with an energy density that permeates all of space and maintains constant *density* as Universe expands

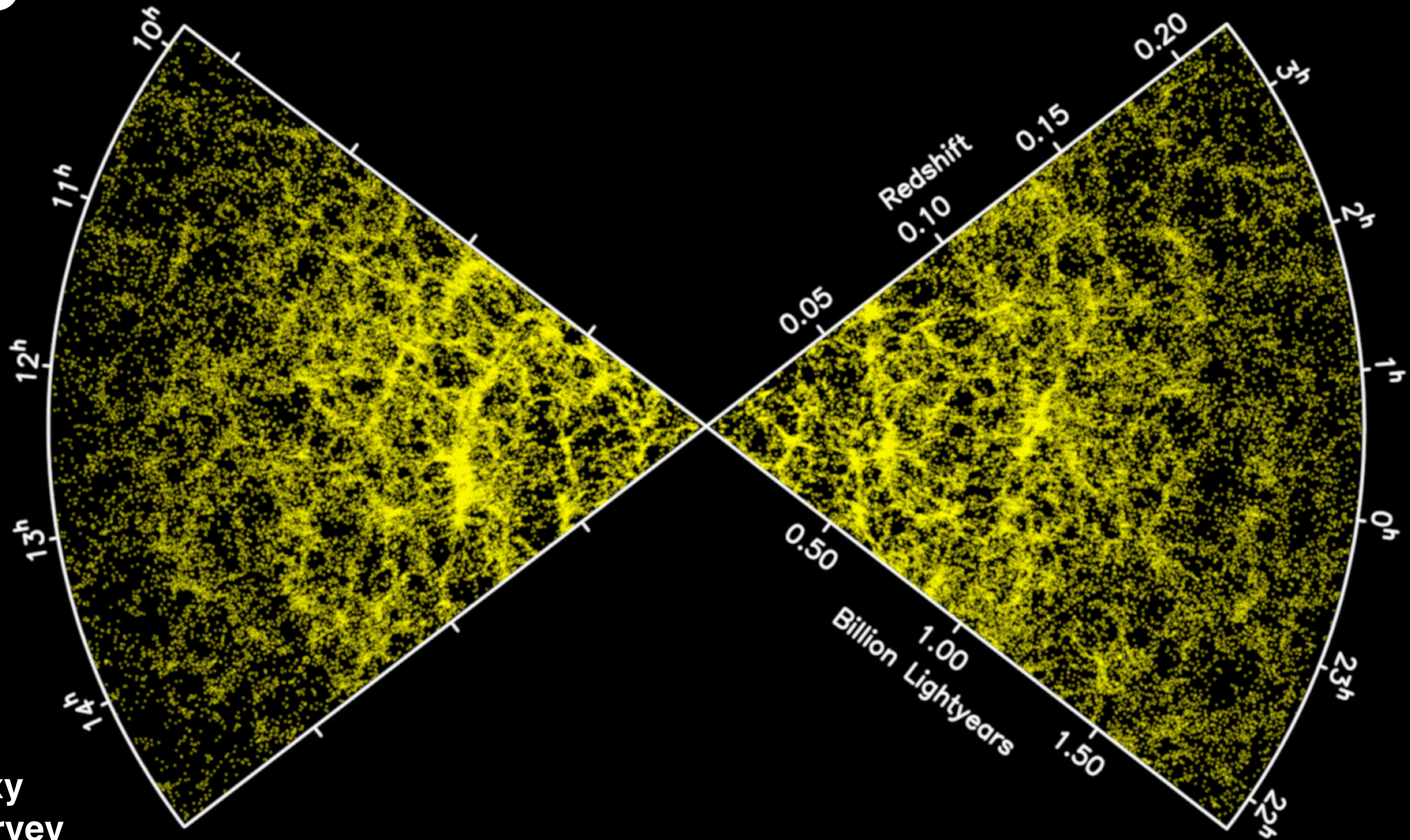
Dark energy (using $E = mc^2$) $\sim 4 \text{ protons} / \text{m}^3$

Interstellar Space $\sim 10^6 \text{ protons} / \text{m}^3$

Air $\sim 1 \text{ kg} / \text{m}^3$ $\sim 10^{27} \text{ protons} / \text{m}^3$

Water $\sim 10^3 \text{ kg} / \text{m}^3$ $\sim 10^{30} \text{ protons} / \text{m}^3$

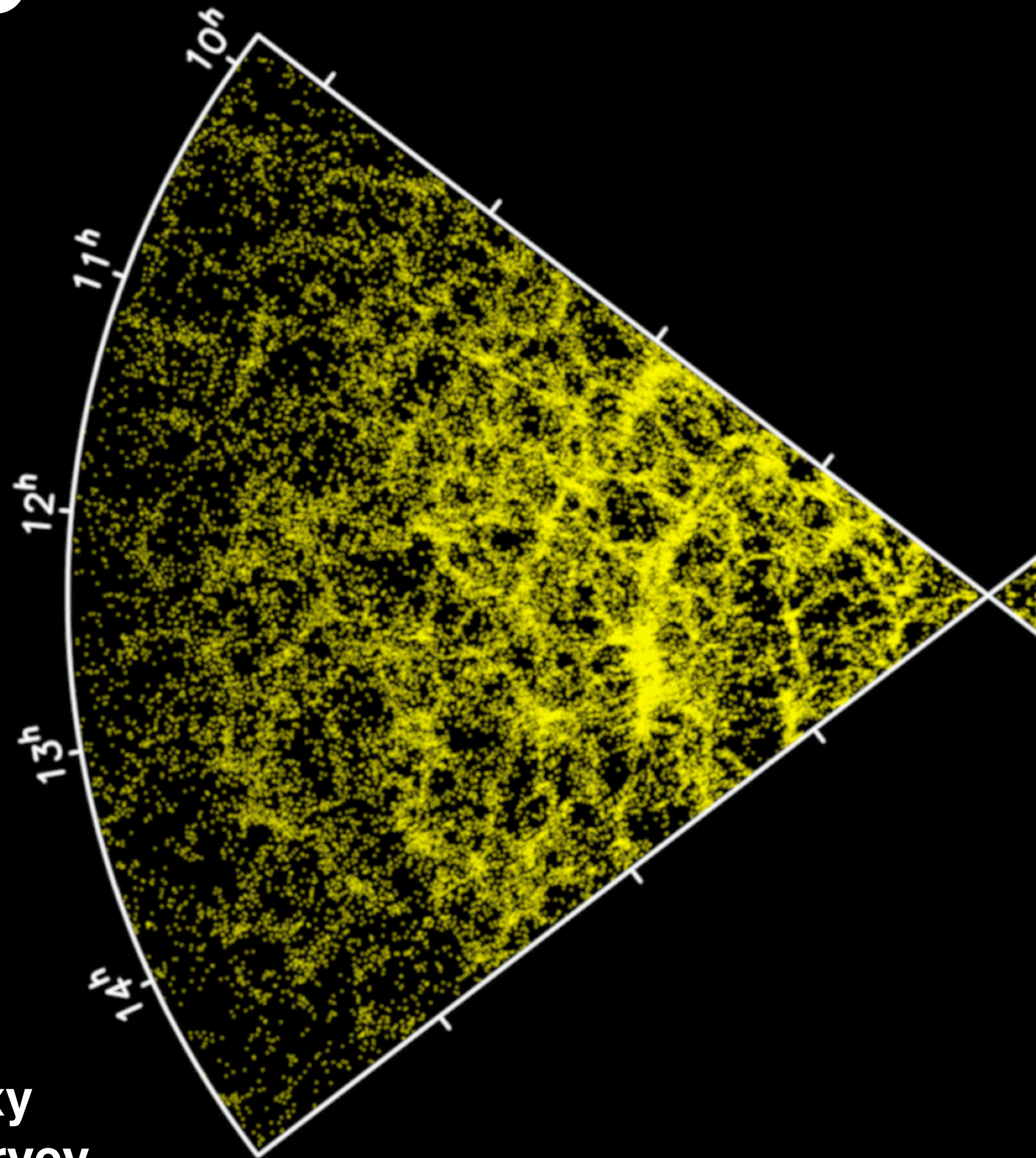
Large-Scale Structure



**2dF Galaxy
Redshift Survey**
1997-2002

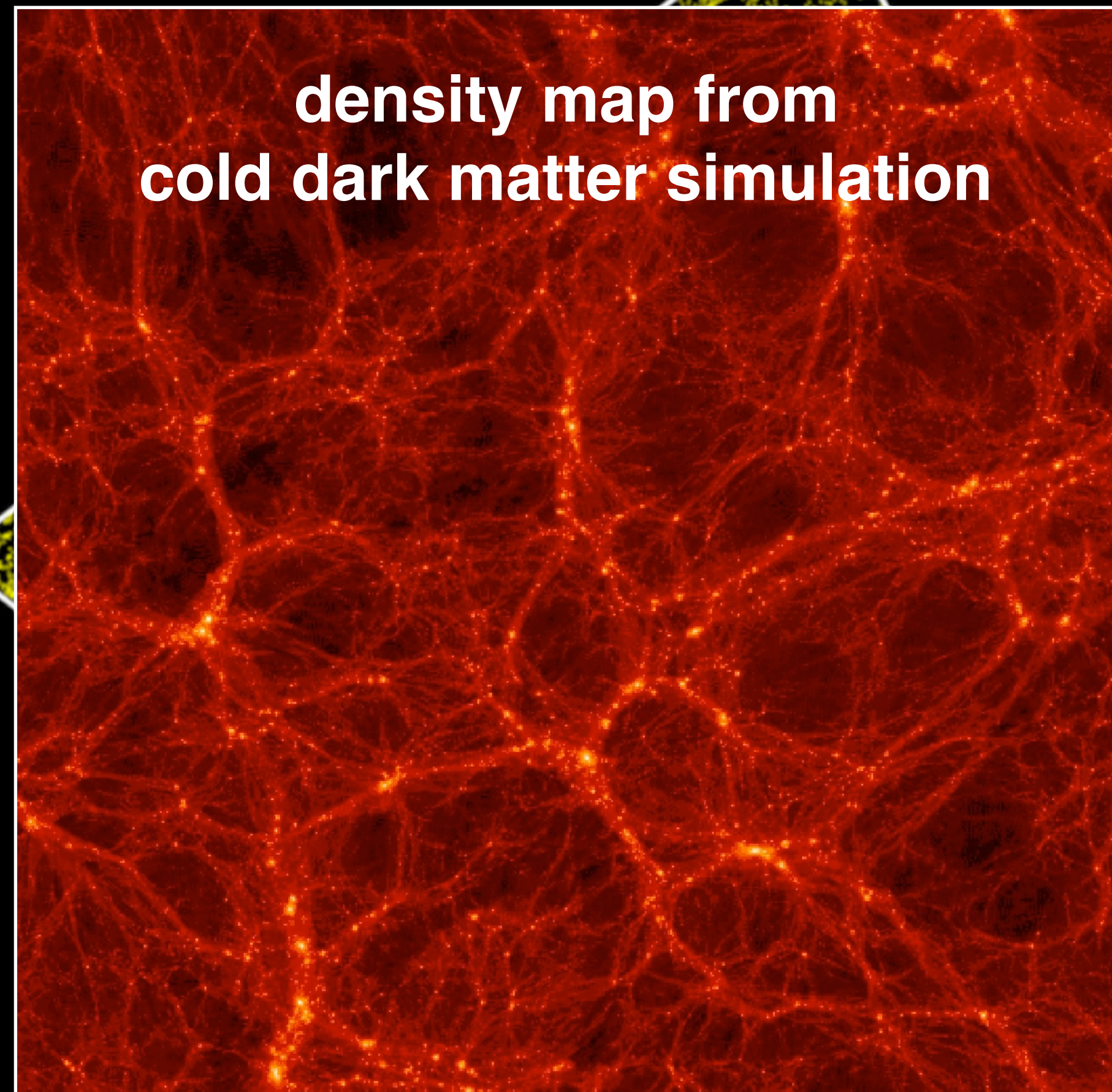
Slice of a three-dimensional map of galaxies

Large-Scale Structure



**2dF Galaxy
Redshift Survey**
1997-2002

Slice of a three-dimensional map of galaxies



**density map from
cold dark matter simulation**

Supernovae



Type Ia supernovae are *rare* and *unpredictable*;
~1 per 1000 yr in a typical galaxy

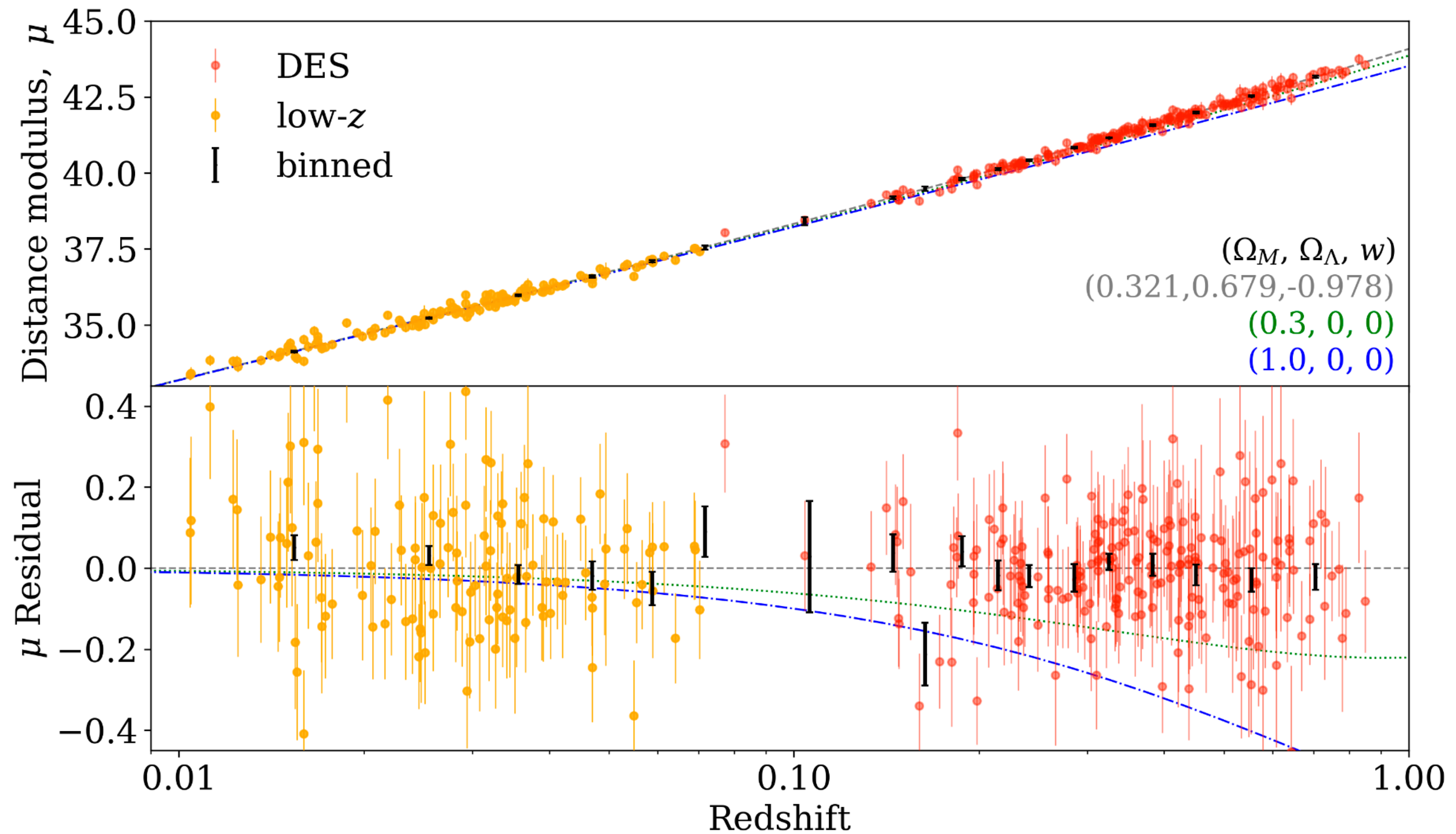
But need to schedule follow-up time for deep
imaging and spectroscopic observations months
in advance...

Solution: generate supernovae sample by
observing 50-100 fields each containing ~1000
galaxies

"Supernova on demand"

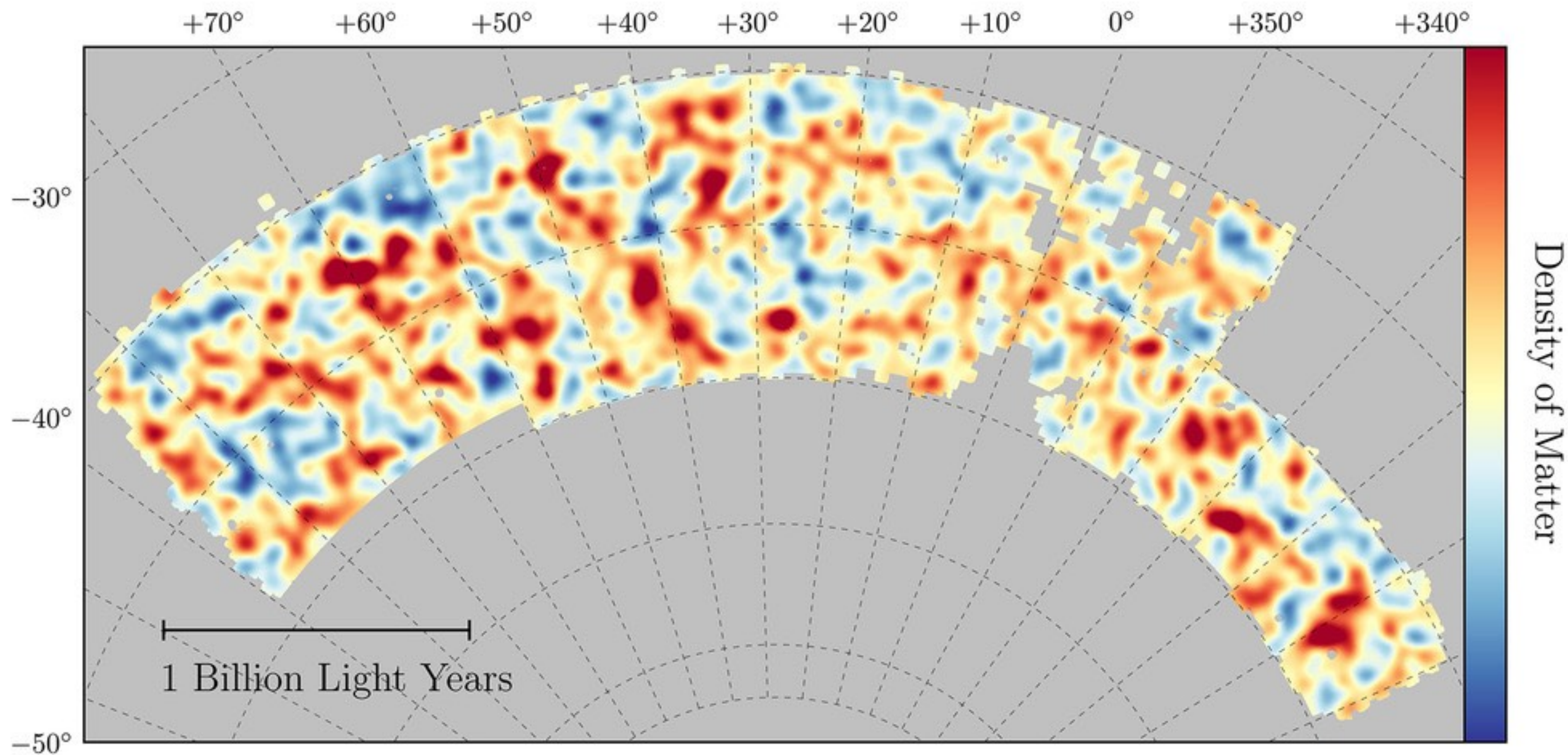
Supernovae

Time that Light
has Travelled to Reach Earth

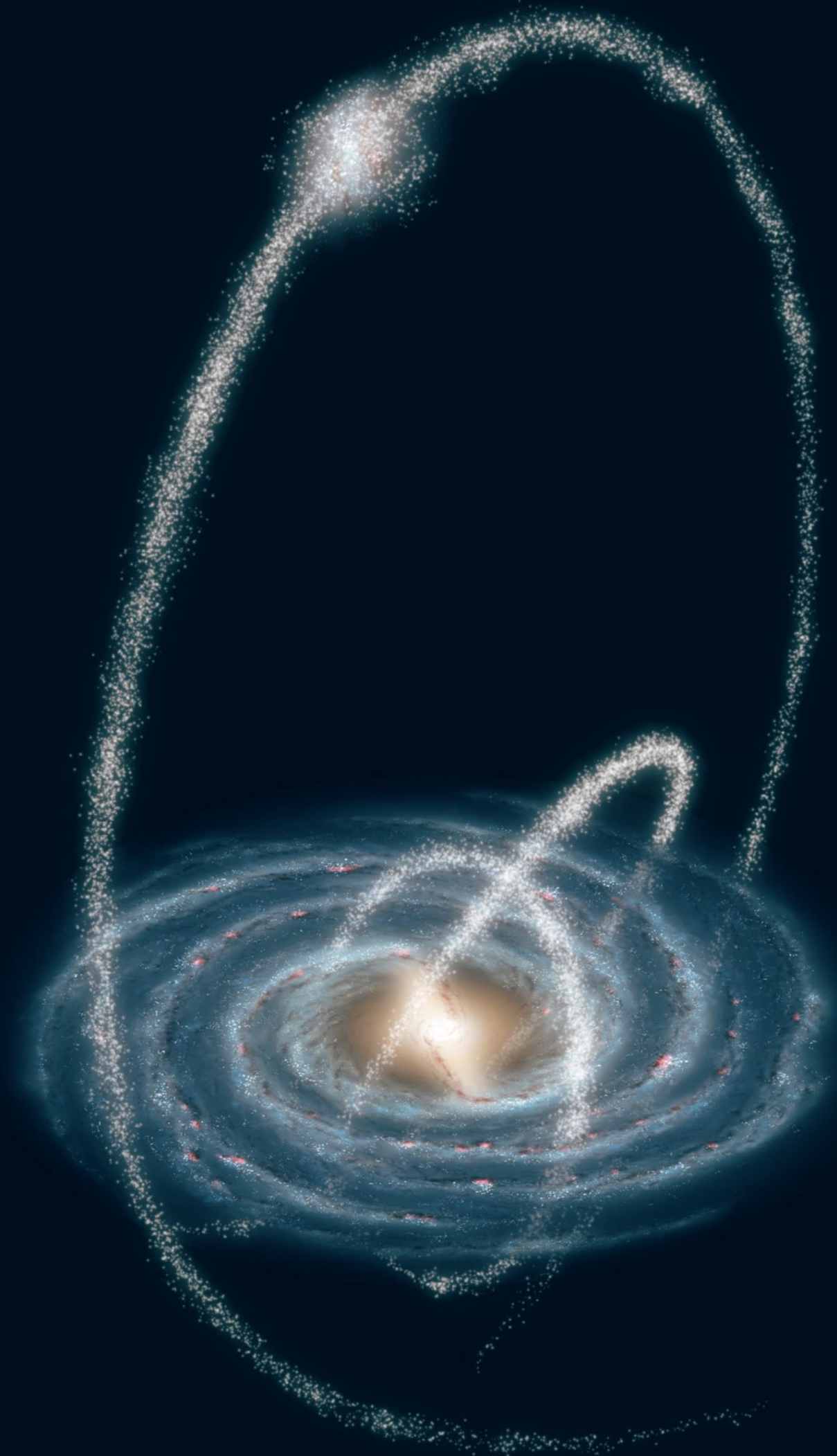


Expansion of the Universe

Weak Gravitational Lensing



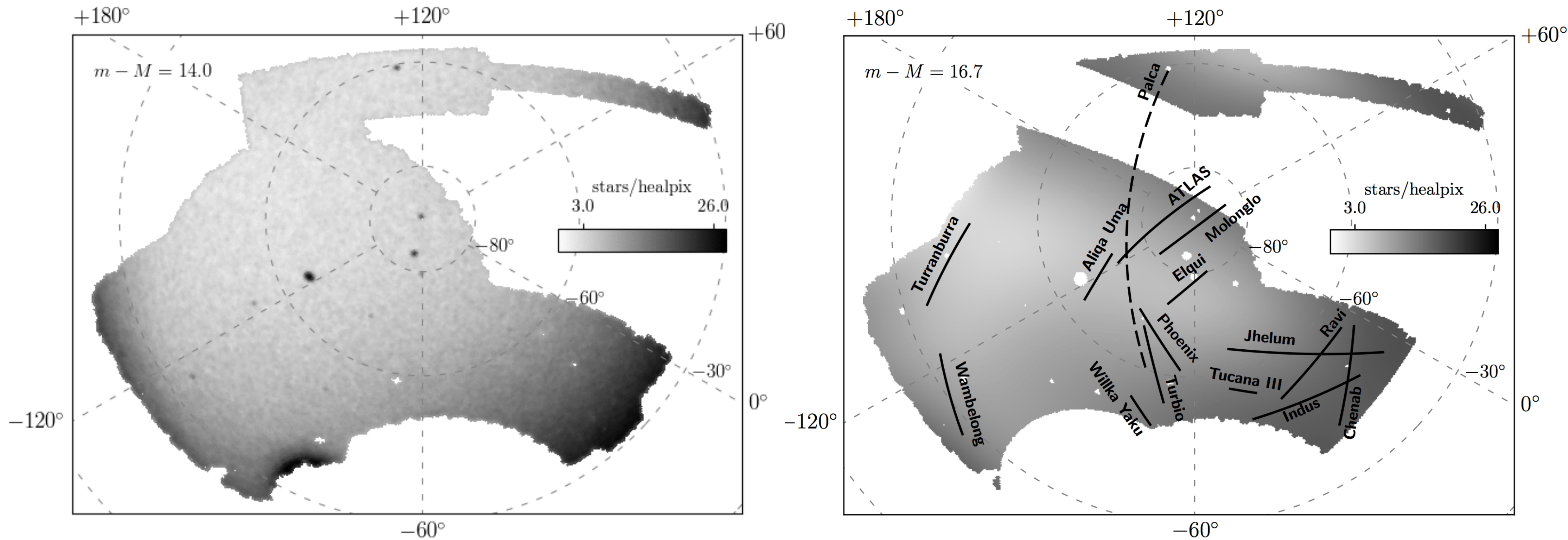
Milky Way Stellar Streams



Milky Way stellar streams visible in stellar density map from the DES survey
(1/8th of full sky)

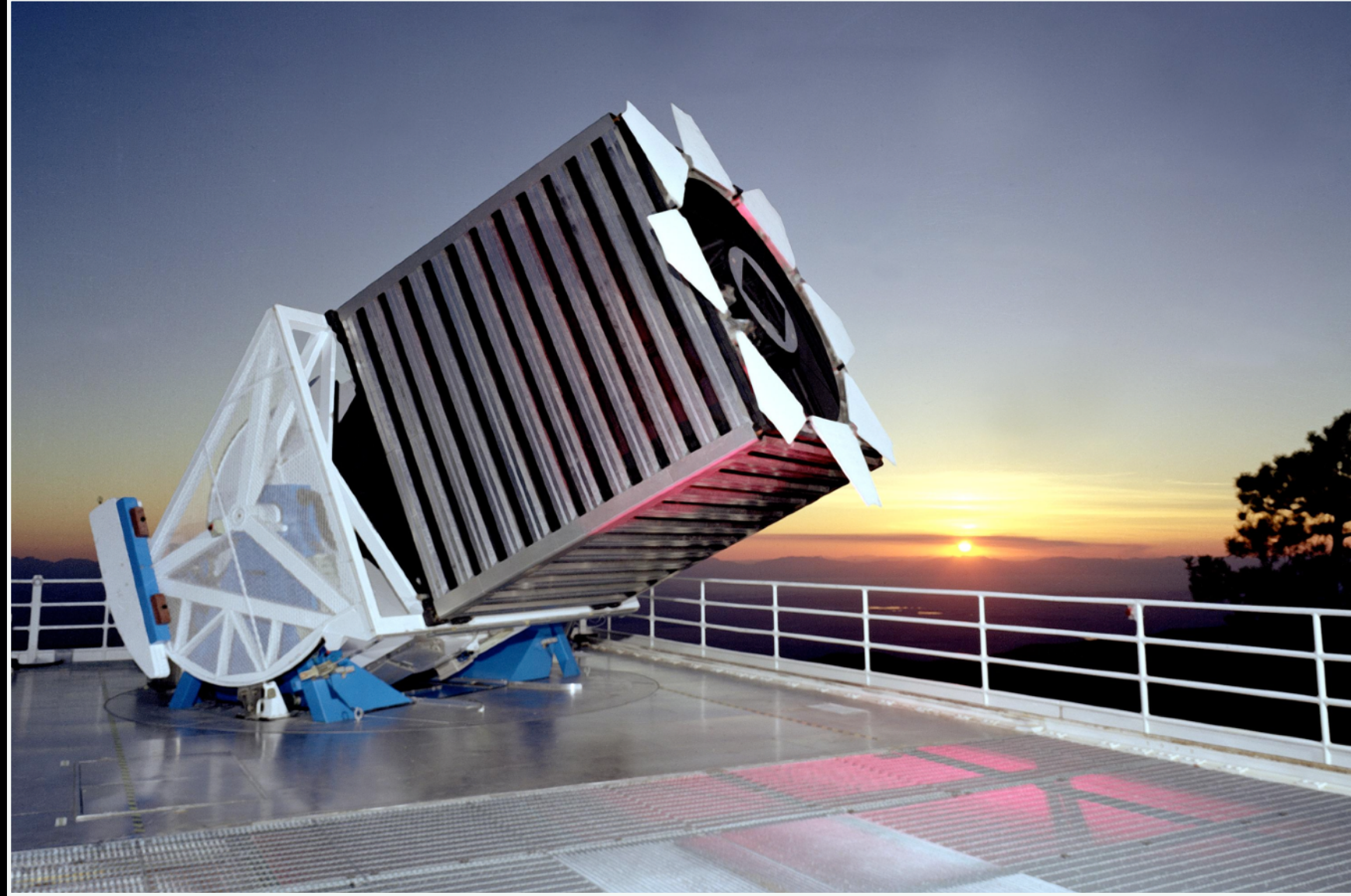


Milky Way Stellar Streams

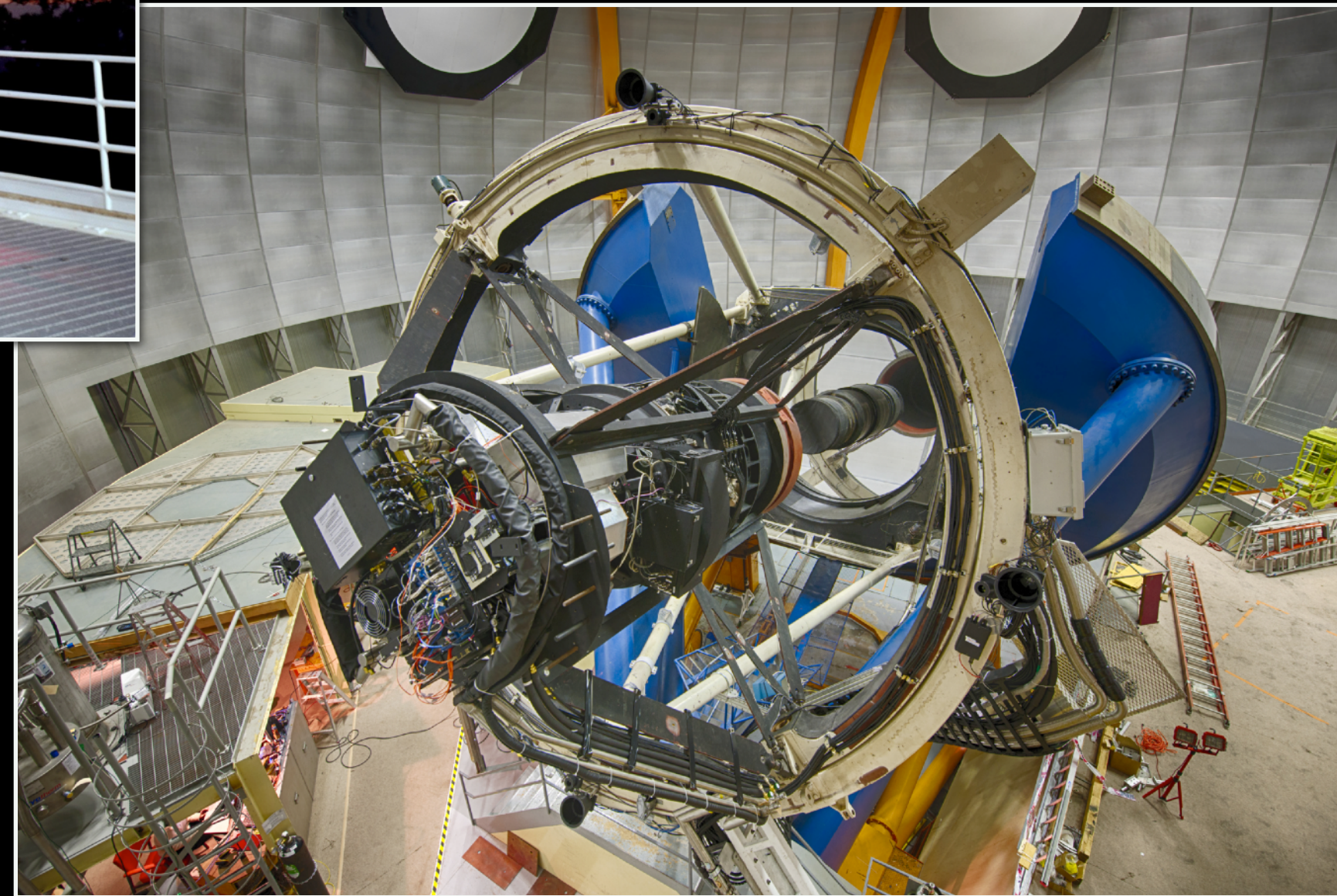


Scanning in distance

Sloan Digital Sky Survey
(SDSS), 2000 -



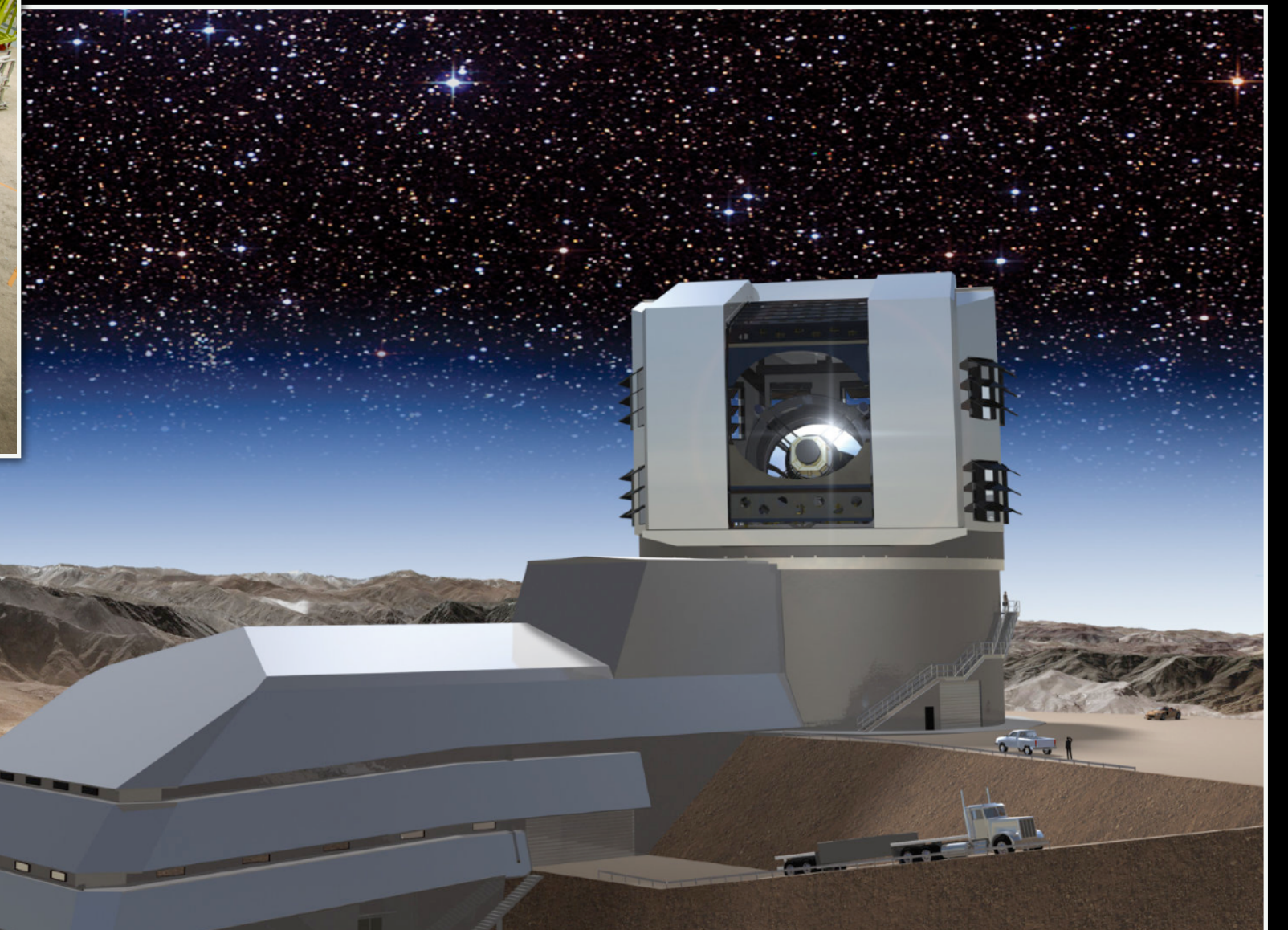
Dark Energy Survey
(DES), 2012 -



~10 deeper
than SDSS

Progression Of Wide-Field Optical Imaging Surveys

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope
(LSST), 2023 - 2033

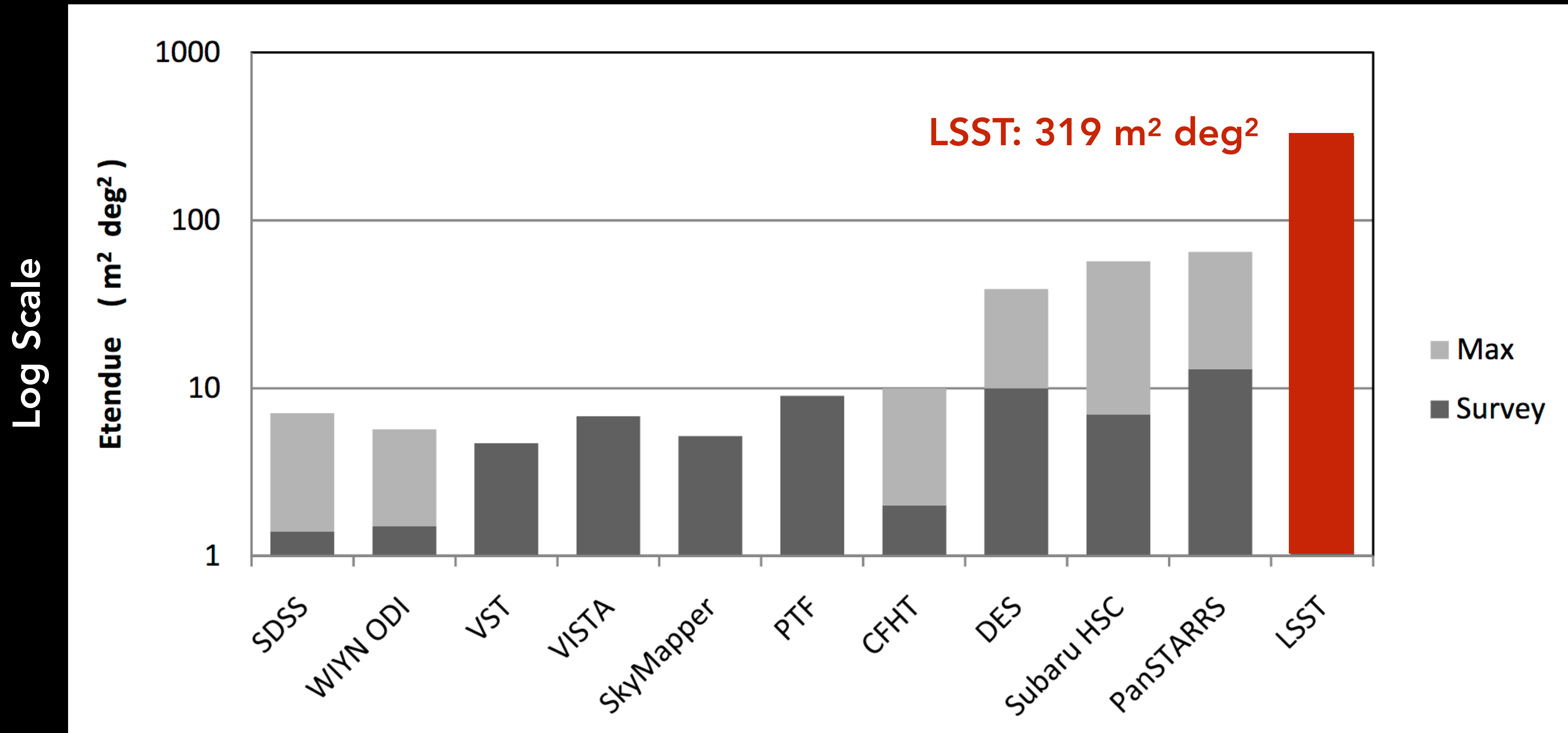


~100 deeper
than SDSS

* Representative selection

Etendue = Field of View \times Effective Aperture (\times Efficiency)

Measure of light-collecting power



A New Kind Of Telescope Optimized For Surveys

1998-2000

Modified 3-mirror Paul-Baker Design
Seeing limited over 3.5 deg field of view
"Dark Matter Telescope"

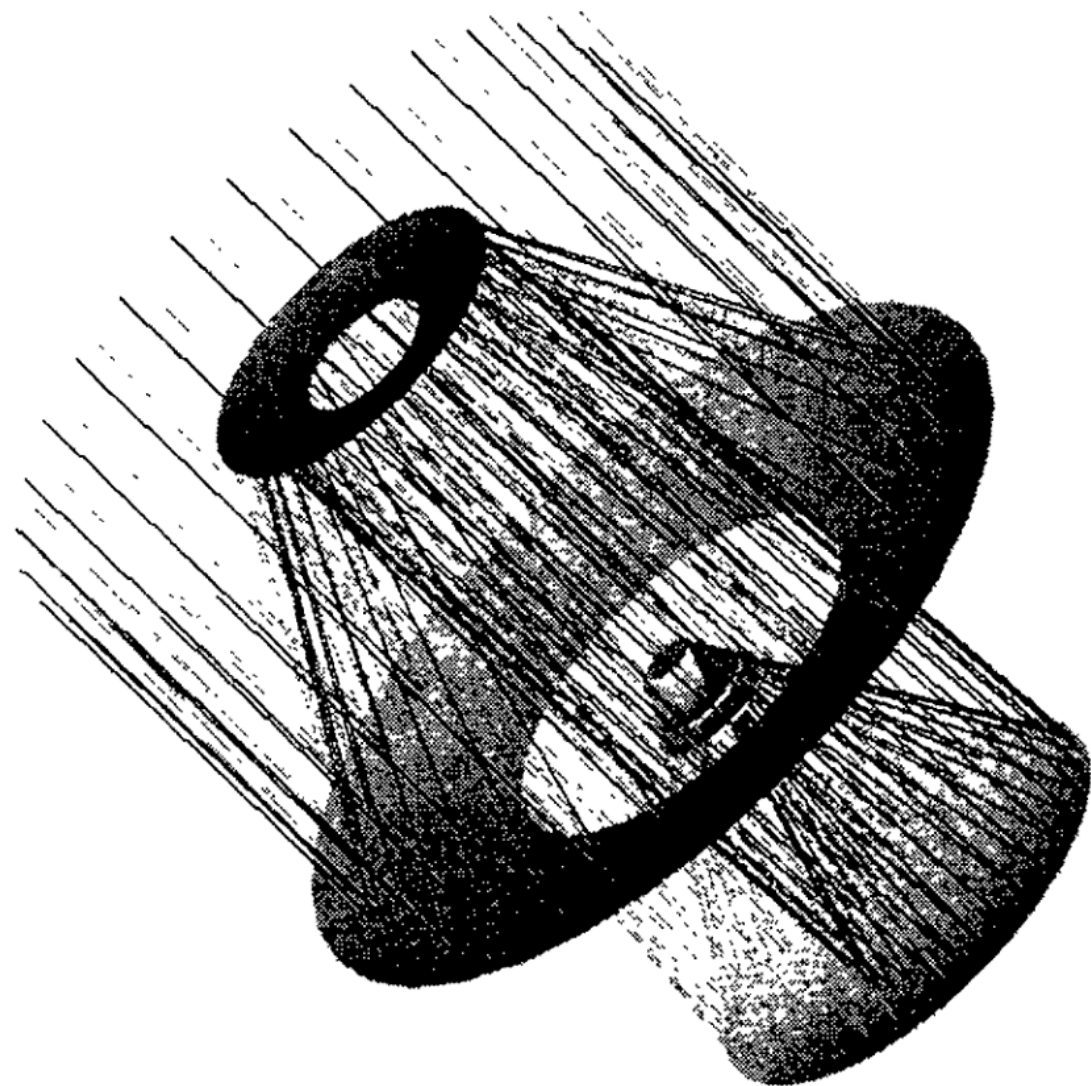


Figure 1. Optical layout with rays at $\pm 1.5^\circ$ field angle.

2010

LSST selected as the highest priority
ground-based instrument for the
coming decade

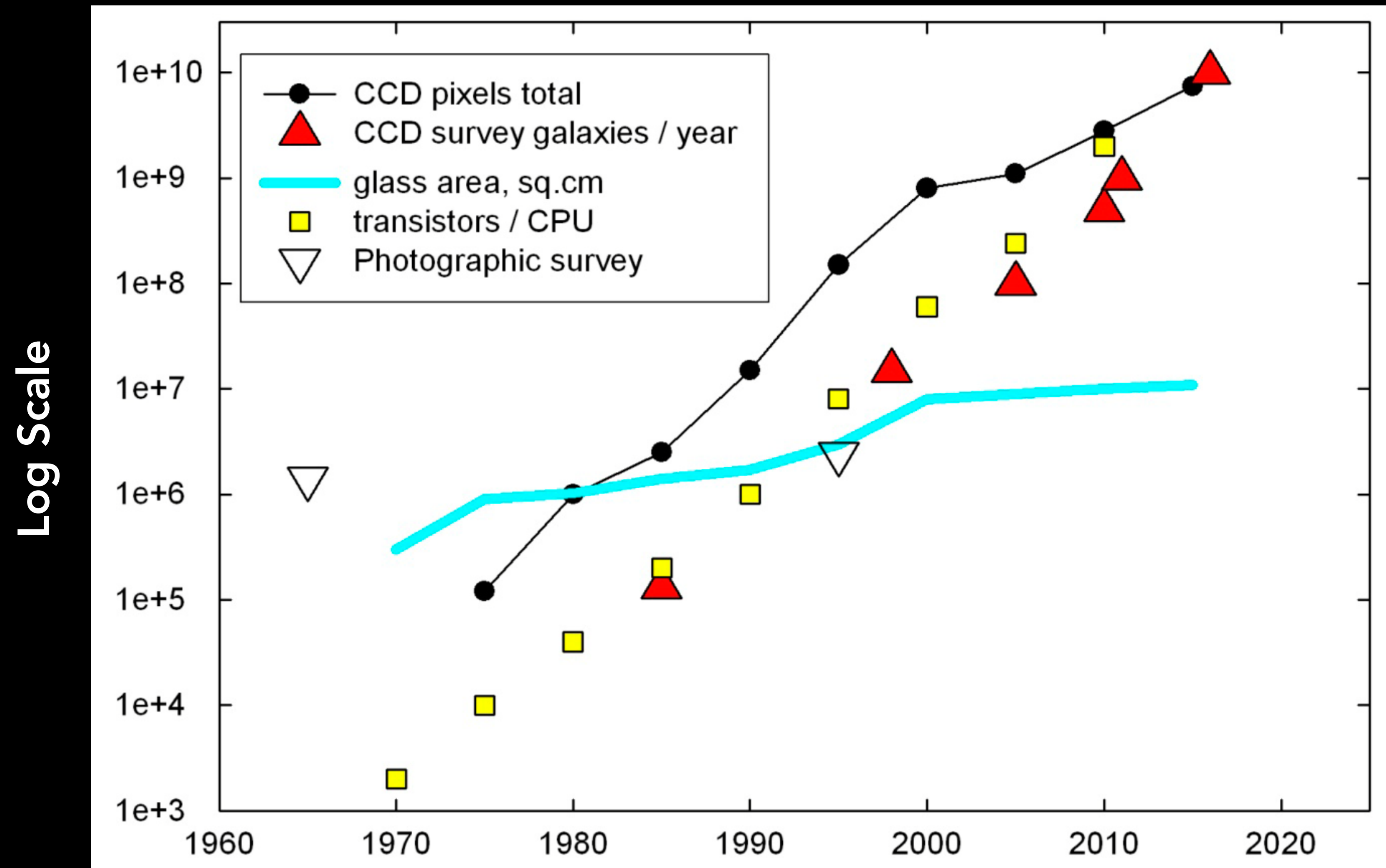


2014

Formal construction start!
Joint project between
National Science Foundation (NSF)
+ Department of Energy (DOE)
+ international partners

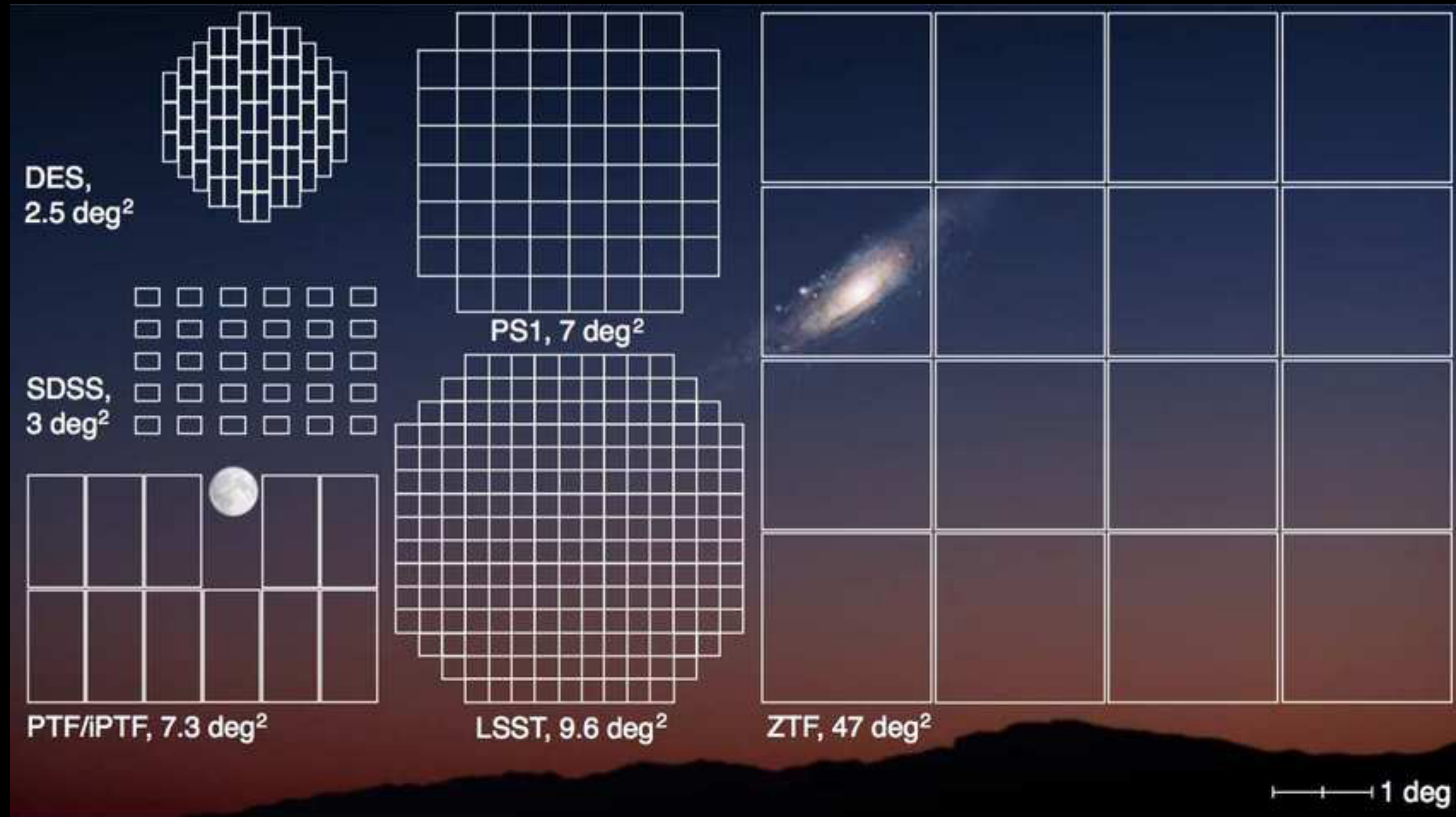


Confluence Of Enabling Technologies



- ✓ 8 meter class aspheric mirrors
- ✓ Mosaic of high quantum efficiency CCDs w/ near-IR sensitivity
- ✓ Exponentially increasing computational power

Wide Field Of View

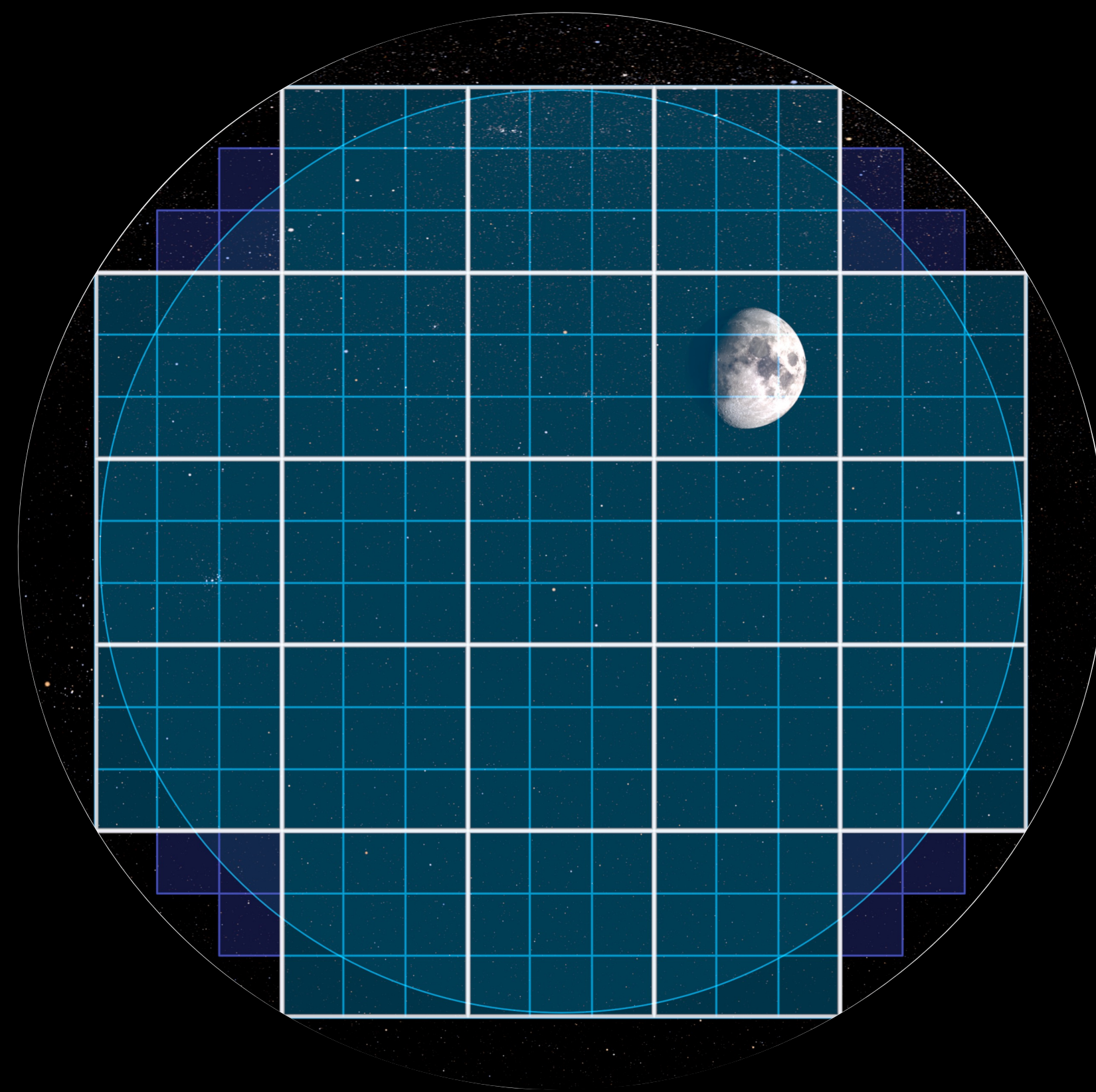
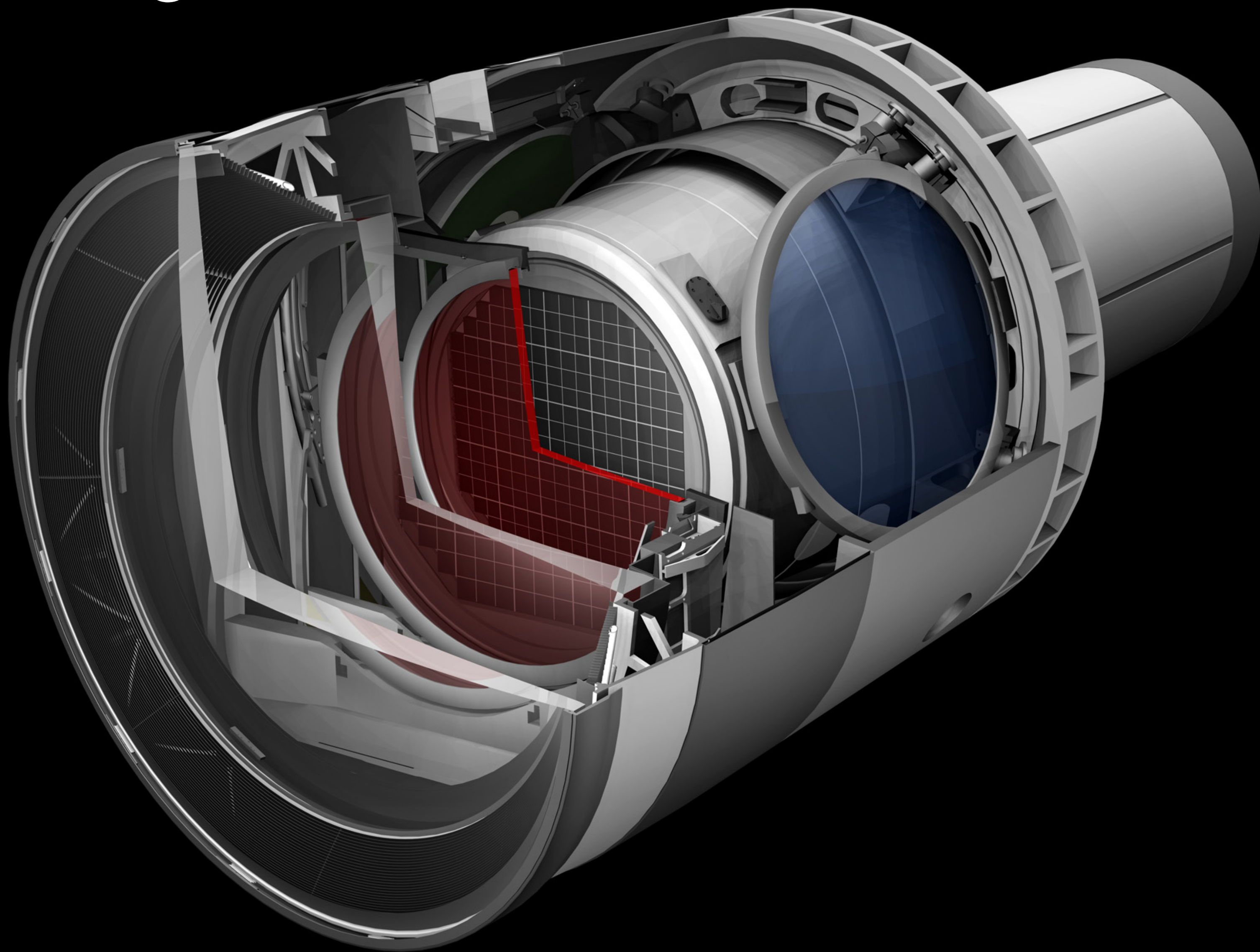


A large group of approximately 50 people, including men and women of various ages, are posed around a massive circular structure. The structure has a white, hexagonal-patterned top surface and a thick, metallic-looking rim. Some people are standing on the rim, while others are sitting or kneeling in the center. The setting appears to be a large industrial or research facility with concrete floors, metal railings, and various equipment in the background. A clock is visible on the wall in the upper right.

Large Aperture

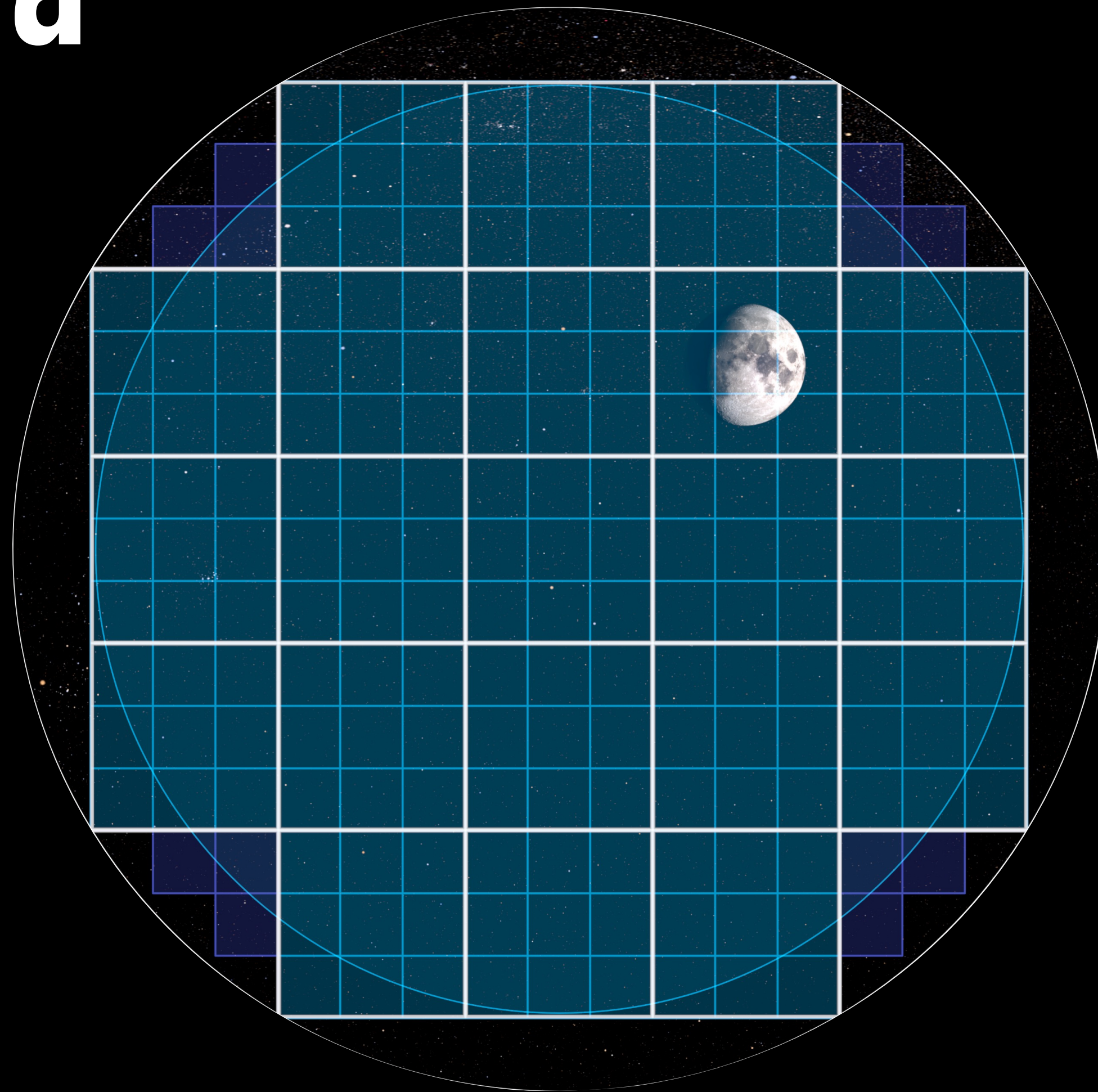
8.4 m diameter

Large Camera



Large Camera

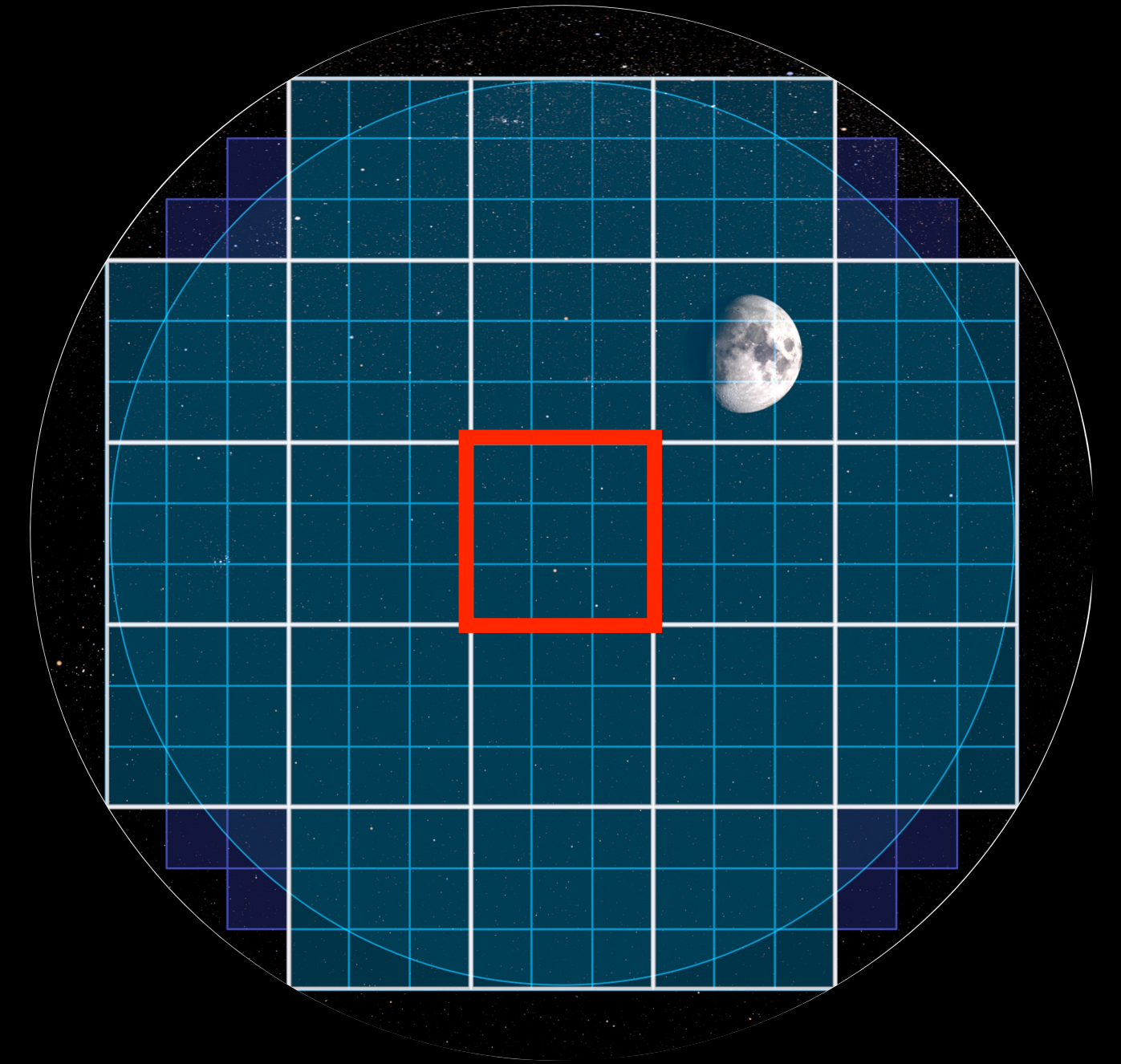
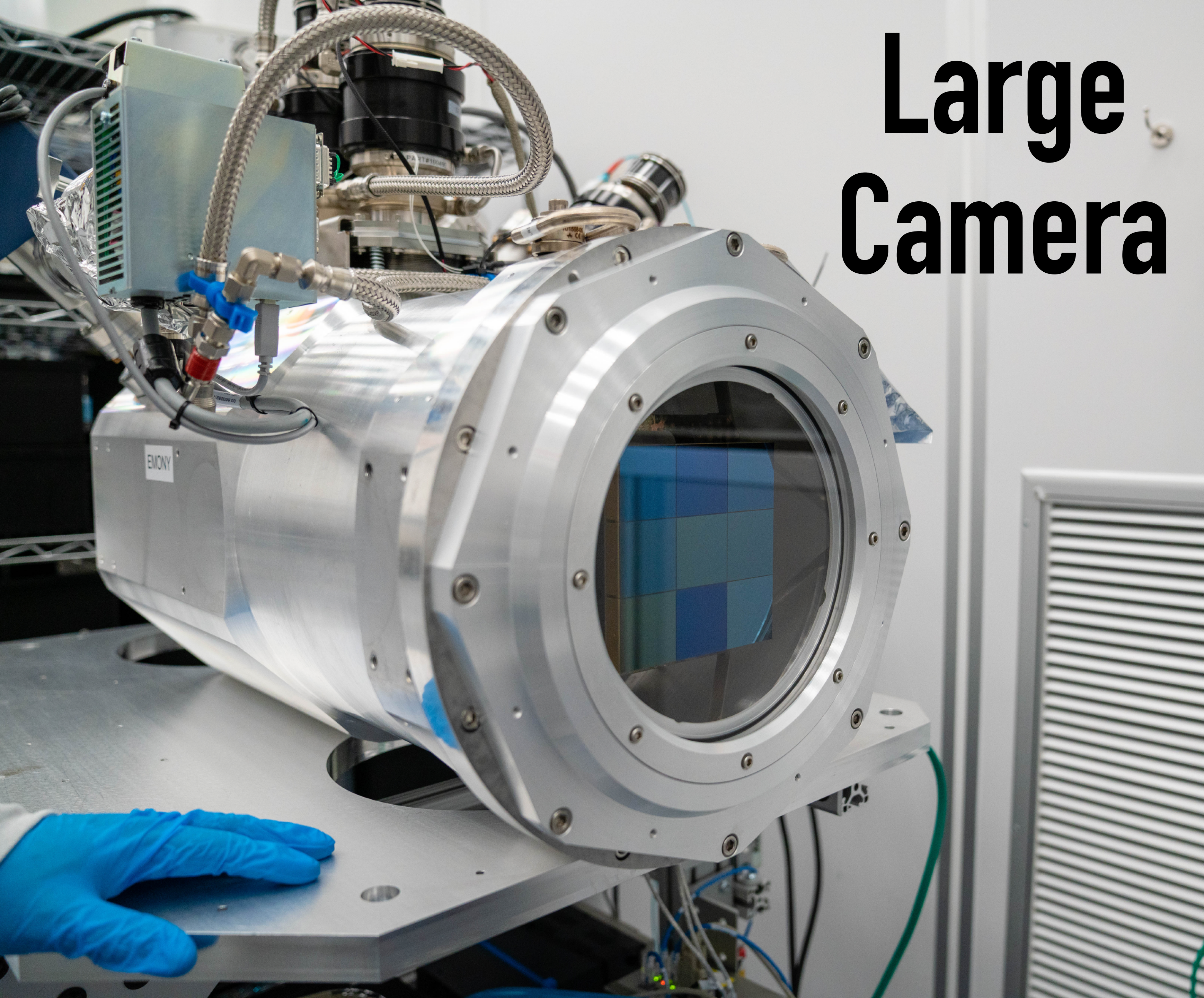
LSST
3,200,000,000
pixels



■
HDTV
2,073,600
pixels

Need 1,500 HDTV screens to view a single image taken by LSST
That's enough 4k TVs to cover half a basketball court!

Large Camera



**"Commissioning camera"
using 1 of 21 rafts
that make up the full
camera focal plane**

Large Camera



Data Management

Data Processing Facility at National Center for
Supercomputing Applications at U. of Illinois
(up to ~2 PFLOPS)



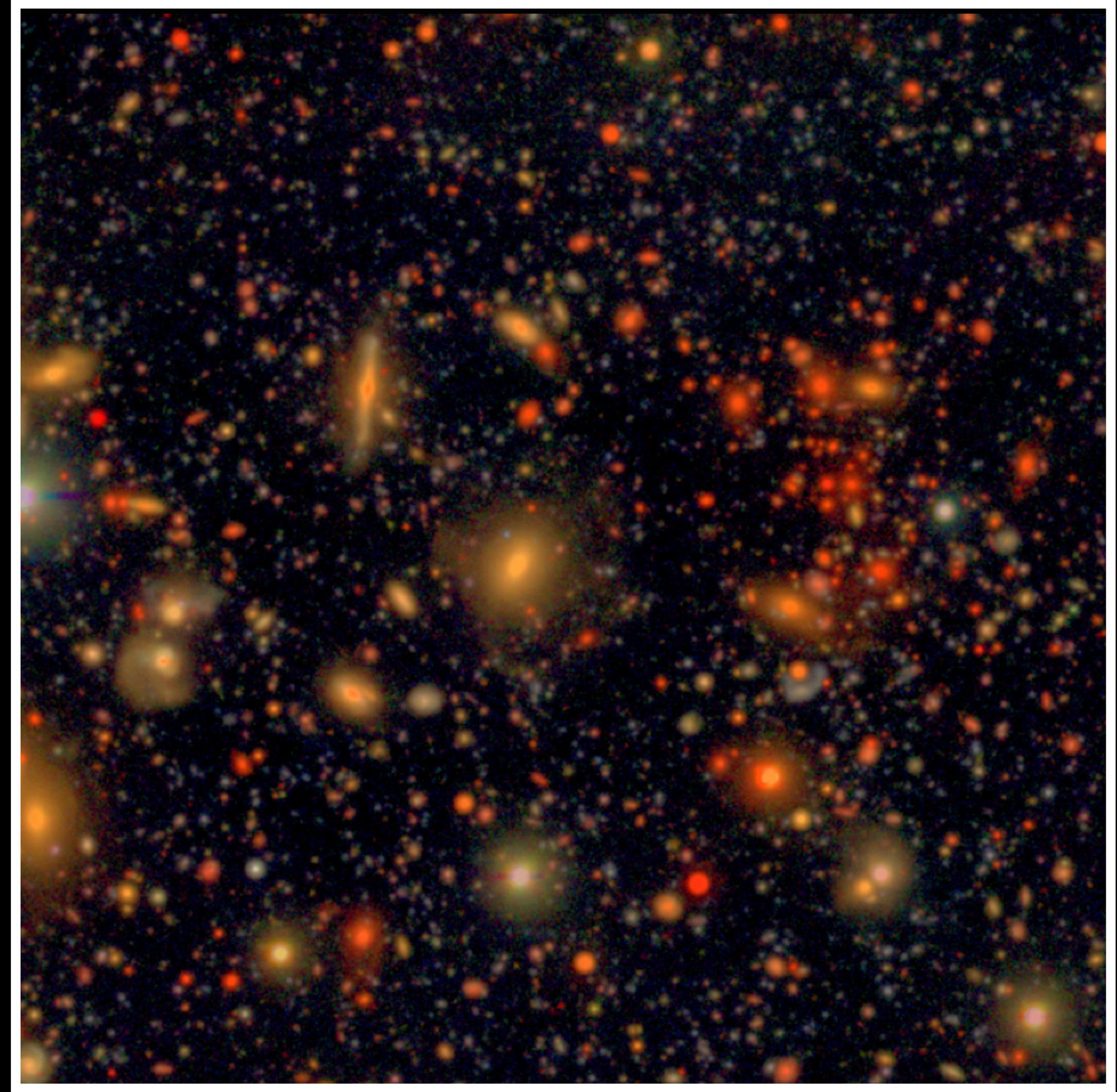
Laying fiber optical
cable from summit



Data Management



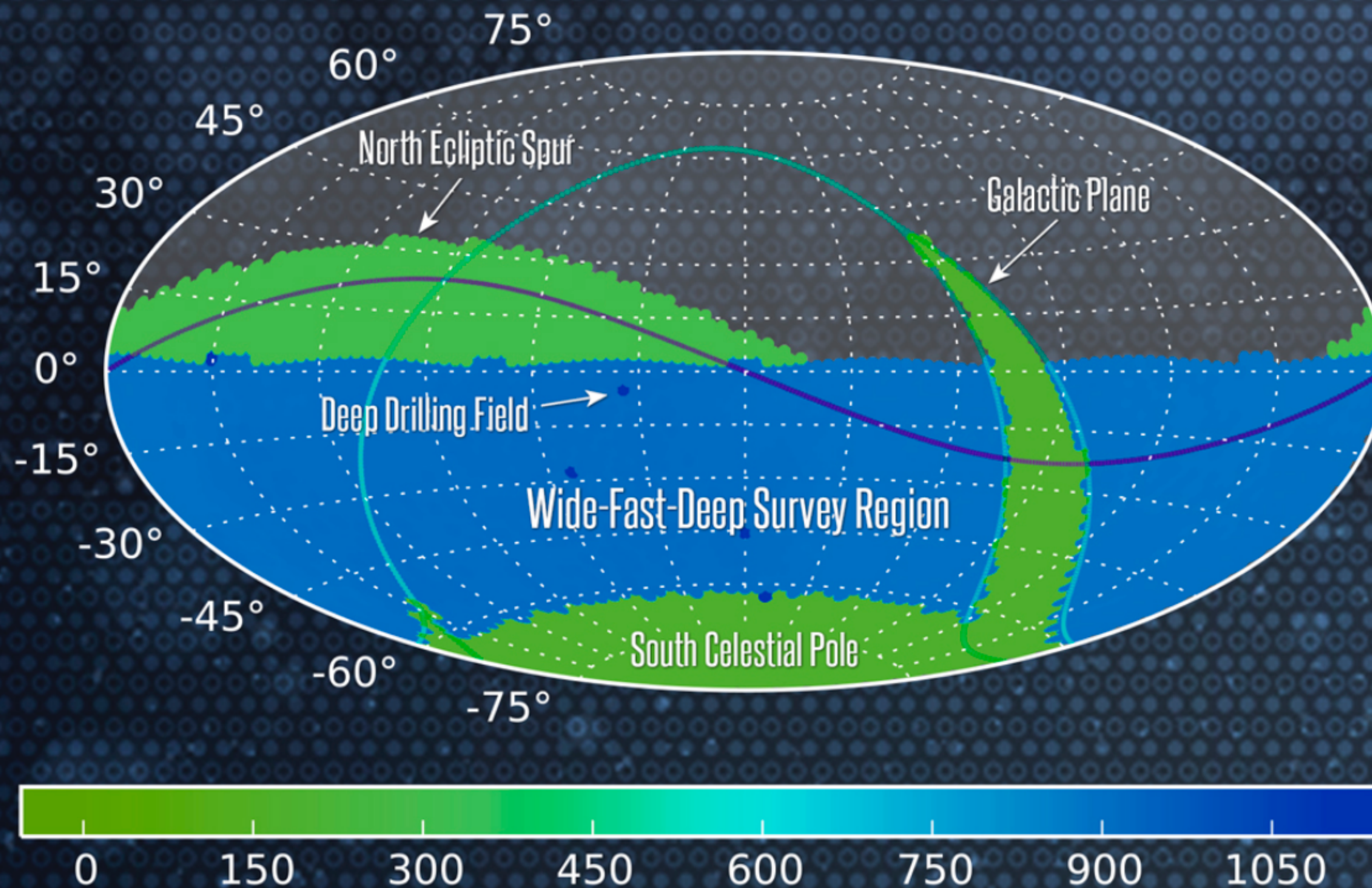
SDSS



HSC image at LSST depth

Number of Visits

(all-band, 10 years)



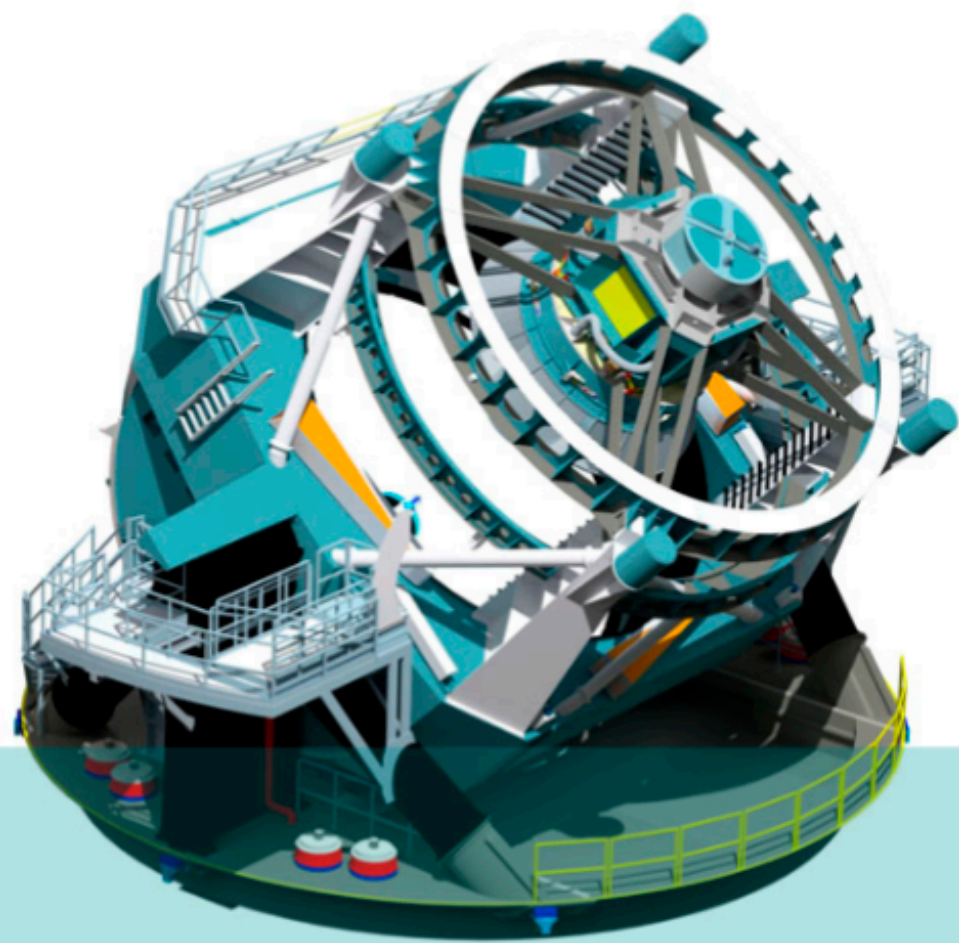
Capable of re-visiting every patch of the night sky visible from Chile every 3 nights

LSST Key Numbers

Raw Data: 20TB/night



Sequential 30s images covering the entire visible sky every few days



Prompt Data Products

Alerts: up to 10 million per night

Raw, calibrated, and difference images and their source and object catalogs

Solar System Objects: ~ 6 million

Data Release Data Products

Final 10yr Data Release:

- Images: 5.5 million x 3.2 Gpx
- Catalog: 15PB, 37 billion objects



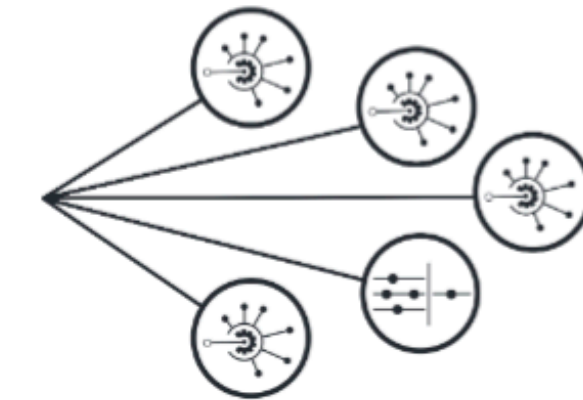
via nightly alert streams



via Prompt Products Database



via Data Releases



LSST Alert Filtering Service
Community Brokers

LSST DAC (NCSA)

Independent DACs (iDACs)

LSST Science Platform

Provides access to LSST Data Products and services for all science users and project staff

LSST SCIENCE PLATFORM



PORTAL

NOTEBOOKS



WEB APIS



DATA RELEASES



ALERT FILTERING SERVICE



USER DATABASES



USER FILES



USER COMPUTING



SOFTWARE TOOLS

LSST Key Numbers

3.2 Gpix image every 15 seconds 365 nights/yr for 10 yrs
(5.5 million images)

~500 Pb of images over 10 yrs

~10 million alerts per night (distributed w/in 60 sec)

~20 billion stars

~20 billion galaxies (~1 % of observable Universe)

~30 trillion individual flux measurements

Modern Landscape Of Astrophysics



Modern Landscape Of Astrophysics

Ask not what observations you can propose, but what science you can do with archival data...



DARK ENERGY SURVEY desaccess



bechtol
kbechtol@lsst.org

Home

DB access

DR1 Table Schema

Example Queries

Cutout Service

Query box

Insert your query in the box below. Data results for "Quick" Jobs (30 sec.) will be displayed at the bottom.

```
1  --
2  -- Example Query --
3  -- This query selects stars around the center of glubular cluster M2
4  SELECT
5    COADD_OBJECT_ID, RA, DEC,
6    MAG_AUTO_G G,
7    MAG_AUTO_R R,
8    WAVG_MAG_PSF_G G_PSF,
9    WAVG_MAG_PSF_R R_PSF
10 FROM DR1_MAIN
11 WHERE
12   RA between 323.36-0.12 and 323.36+0.12 and
13   DEC between -0.82-0.12 and -0.82+0.12 and
14   WAVG_SPREAD_MODEL_I + 3.0*WAVG_SPREADERR_MODEL_I < 0.005 and
15   WAVG_SPREAD_MODEL_I > -1 and
16   IMAFLAGS_ISO_G = 0 and
17   IMAFLAGS_ISO_R = 0 and
18   FLAGS_G < 4 and
19   FLAGS_R < 4
20
```

Submit Job

Clear

Check

Quick

See Examples

Modern Landscape Of Astrophysics

Open source code

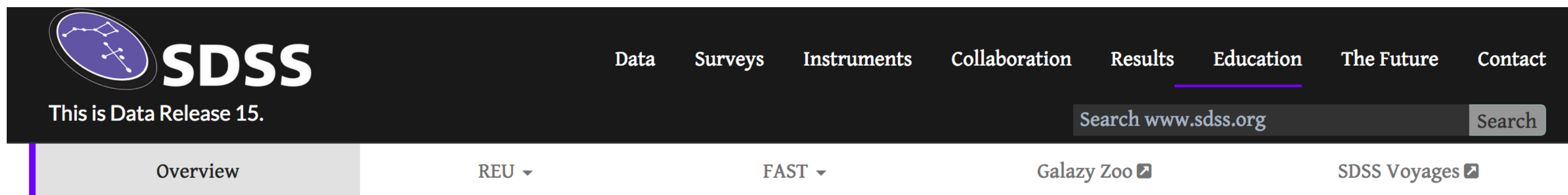
Public data

Reproducibility

Collaboration

Equal Opportunity

Sloan Digital Sky Survey Education & Public Outreach



Education and Public Engagement

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey is committed to working towards making the science and engineering results of our surveys accessible to the public. We are also enthusiastic about supporting the use of SDSS data for training and education. We aim to do this through informal and formal education, citizen science, news, and social media. A selection of our Education and Public Engagement activities are described below.

SDSS in Schools

SDSS Data for Education



[SDSS Voyages](#) is a custom resource for education focused explorers of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. Specifically designed to meet the needs of educators, SDSS Voyages provides the pathways and supporting resources needed to enable student-led discovery of a variety of astronomical phenomena using the same data utilized by professional astronomers.

[Explore SDSS Voyages](#)

Printable Resources

[Downloadable Resources on SDSS Voyages.](#)

SDSS Plates for Education



Through our program "[Your Piece of the Sloan Sky](#)" we distribute used plug plates to educators at formal and informal educational institutions. Plates are distributed via [SDSS Institutions](#) and accompanied by a custom-made poster showing the patch of sky the plate was used to observe, a package of educational materials, and training on the use of [SDSS Voyages](#).

If you are interested in participating in this program, please [contact us](#), and we will help to link you to your nearest [SDSS Institution](#).

SDSS has a long history with bringing survey data, and objects from the survey itself, into the classroom.



Few have witnessed what you're
about to see

Learn more

Get started

Subset of SDSS data made available to the public through the Galaxy Zoo citizen science project. Over 100,000 volunteers made more than 40 million classifications in ~175 days.

(Lintott et al., December 2010. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2010.17432.x>)

WELCOME TO THE ZOONIVERSE

People-powered research

See All Projects

Dark Energy Survey



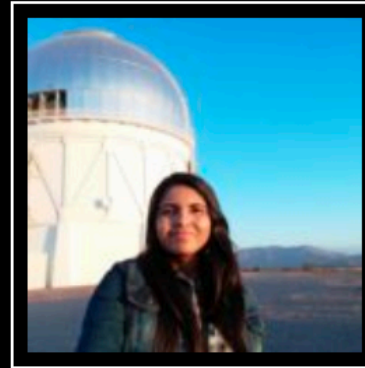
Dark Bites



Dark Bites, one of many DES education and outreach projects, connects science and art through astronomy facts and analogies to every day life.

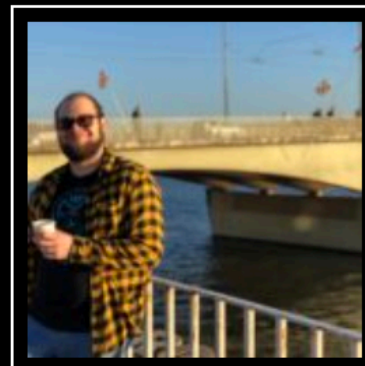
Scientist of the Week

Each week, we find out what's on the minds and in the hearts of our scientists as they work at the far reaches of space. Careful, you're seeing scientists as humans, in their wardrobes.



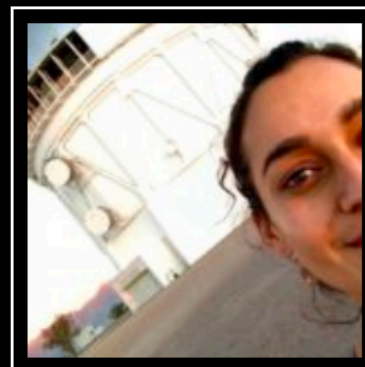
Maria Elidaiana da Silva Pereira

Maria Elidaiana is a postdoctoral researcher at Brandeis University working on gravitational lensing. Specifically, she's working ... Read more »



Pedro Bernardinelli

Pedro Bernardinelli is a PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley, working inside DES including ... Read more »



Alexandra Amon

Alexandra Amon is a postdoc at the Kavli Institute of Astrophysics and Space Sciences and the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory ... Read more »



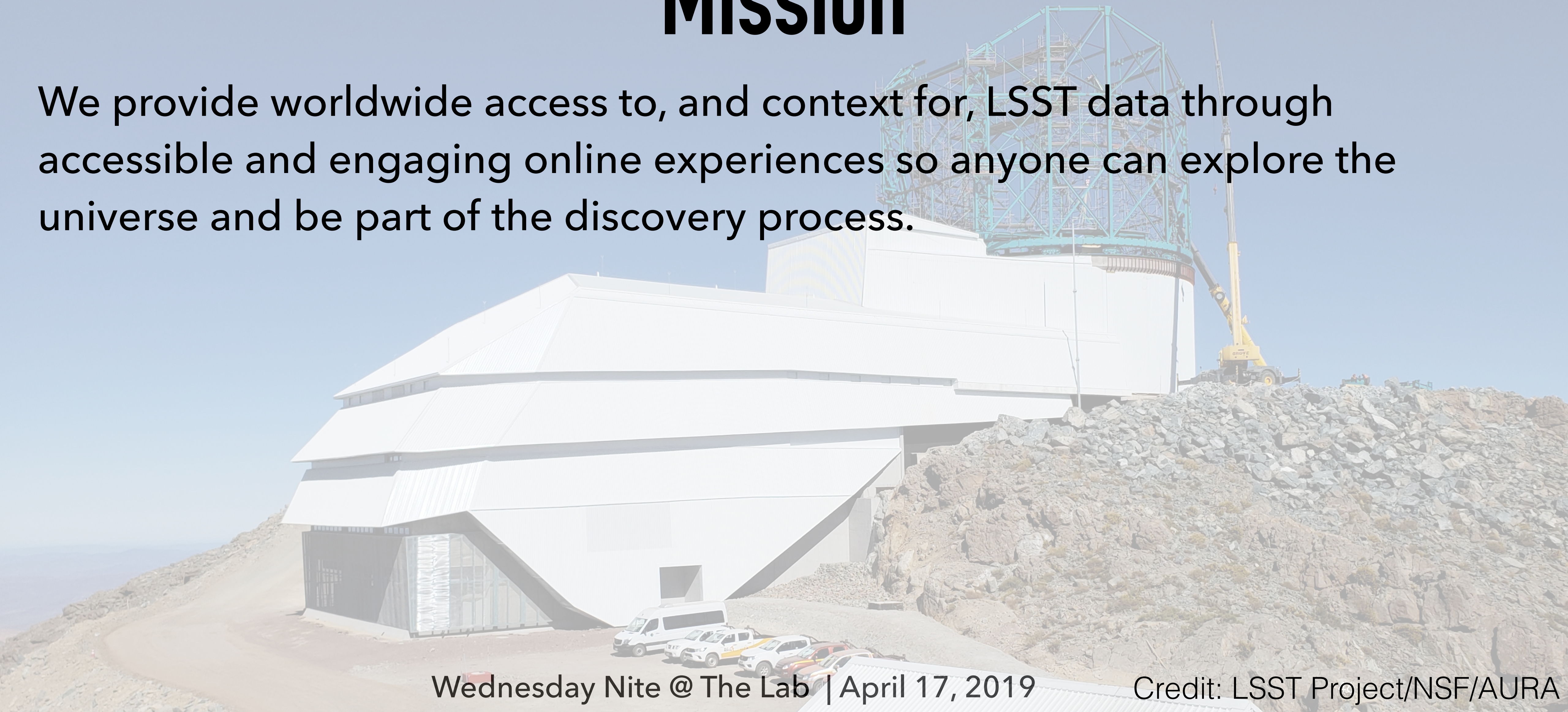
In the 0.9m control room: from the left: Claudia Belardi, Marcelle, Chihway, Catherine Kaleida, Pia Amigo, Sanzia Alves, Pamela Soto, Brittany Howard

We often have all-women observing crews observing for DES, but during my recent visit, there were all-women crews at all Tololo telescopes at once. Looks like the "old boys club" is truly becoming a thing of the past!

Scientist of the Week and reflections from the observing teams highlighted diverse individuals. Some parts of the DES Education webpages are translated in as many as four languages.

LSST Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Mission

We provide worldwide access to, and context for, LSST data through accessible and engaging online experiences so anyone can explore the universe and be part of the discovery process.



- **Formal educators** at advanced middle school, high school, college level
- **Citizen science** principal investigators
- Content developers at **science centers and planetariums**
- **Science-interested** teens and adults ("General Public")

During Construction, EPO will build:

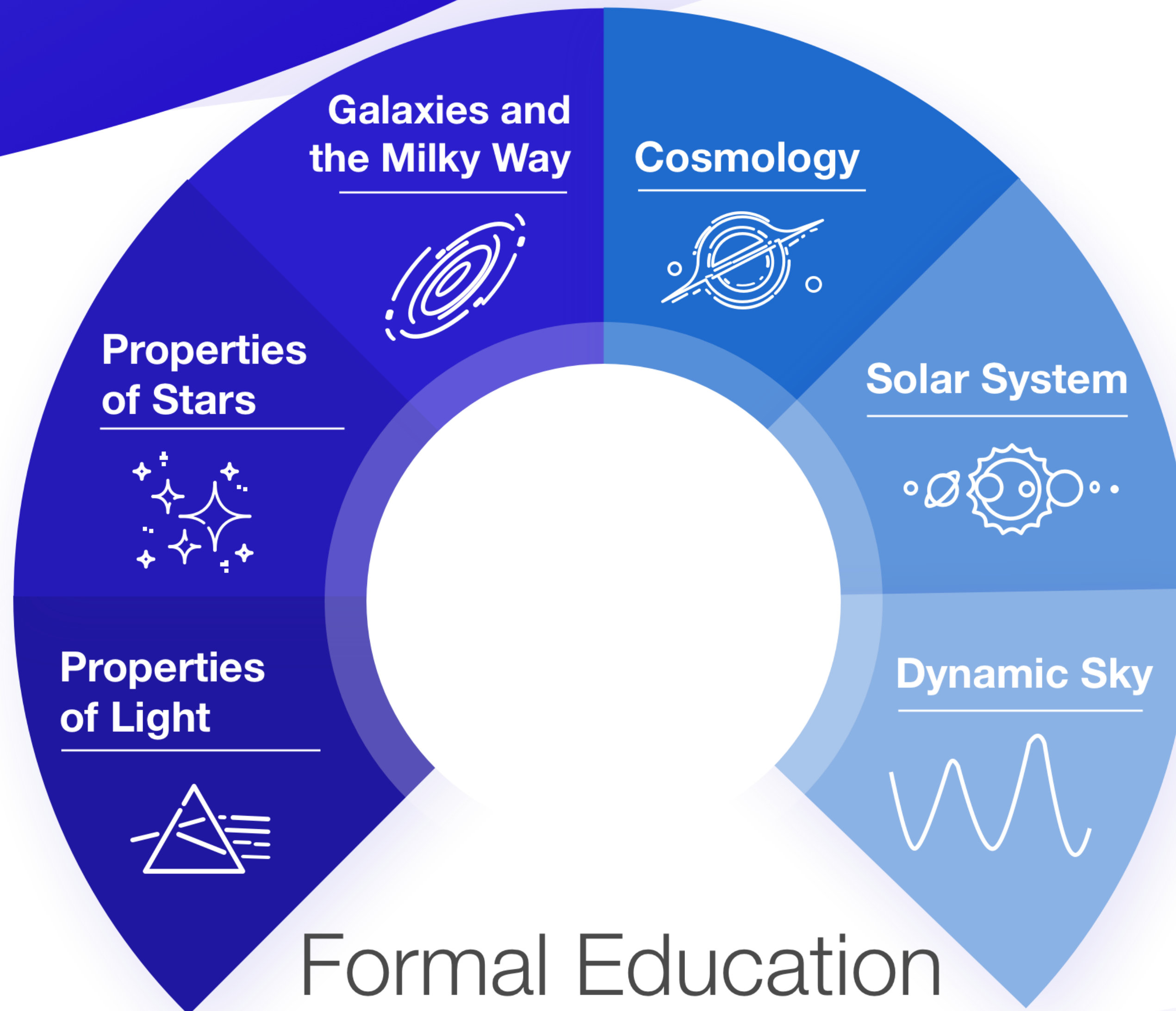
- Operations website and materials in English and Spanish
- Formal education program based on online notebooks
- Repository of multimedia resources
- Interactive Skyviewer
- Cloud-based EPO Data Center
- Capability to build citizen science projects
- Communications and Marketing Plans for Operations
- Strategy for measuring success



Formal Education



Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA



Formal Education
Themes



Coloring the universe

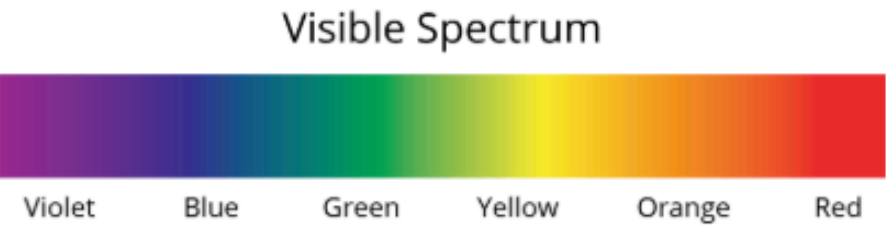
Introduction

Nearly everything astronomers know about the stars and galaxies in the Universe comes from the light we receive from these objects. Fortunately, that light contains a wealth of information. In this investigation, you will learn how astronomers use light and filters to learn about things such as distant galaxies, dusty nebulae and types of stars.

- How do filters pass light of specific energies and wavelengths,
- What types of filters are used in astronomical cameras?
- What can astronomers learn by using these filters?
- How are color astronomy images made?

Types of Light

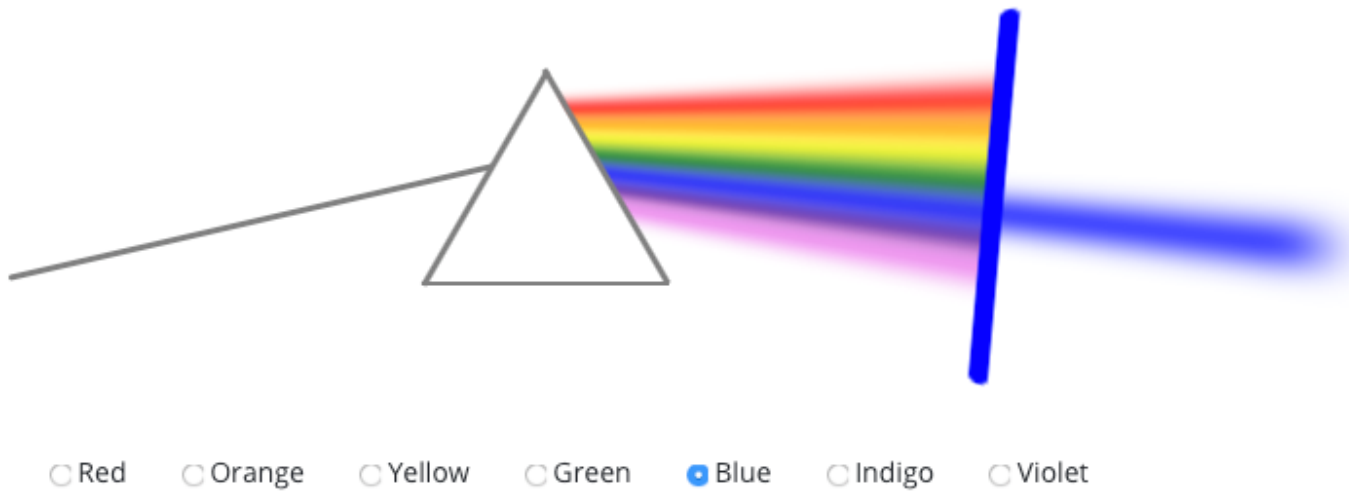
There are many types of electromagnetic radiation: radio waves, infrared, visible, ultraviolet (UV), X-rays, etc. Astronomers use all of these types of light to study objects in our Universe. Each type of light has specific ranges of wavelengths and energies. The type of light we can see with our eyes is called “visible” light. Visible light consists of all of the colors of the rainbow, as shown below. You may have learned the acronym “Roy G. Biv” to remember the seven colors of the rainbow. The different colors correspond to different wavelengths and energies. Red light is the lowest energy of light we can see and has the longest wavelengths; violet is the highest energy of light we can see, and has the shortest wavelengths.



How Filters Work

Digital cameras cannot see color. They can only measure the amount of light that falls on the photosensor. To build a color image, we use filters when we take pictures of an object. A filter is designed to allow only certain wavelengths (or colors) of light to pass through it. All other wavelengths (or colors) are blocked. The image below on the left (Figure 2) shows an example of how an orange filter allows some wavelengths of light to pass through while blocking others. There are filters like this inside a digital camera (e.g., the one on a smartphone.) Tiny red, green, and blue filters are placed over the pixels of the photosensor as shown in the picture below (Figure 2) on the right. When you take a picture, your camera measures light simultaneously through all three kinds of filters.

To better understand how filters work, try out the filter tool below:



1. What does the prism do to the white light?
Choose the red filter.
2. What does the filter do to the red light? What does it do to the other colors of light?
Now choose the blue filter.
3. What does the filter do to the blue light? What does it do to the other colors of light?

Constructing an Image with Three Filters

Looking at a rainbow you might think that we need to use (at least) seven filters to produce a color image. But you actually only need three. This is because our eyes contain sensors called “cones” that are designed to detect red, green, and blue light. Much like the electronics in a camera, the cones in our eyes only see in black and white, but our brain knows how to turn the relative amounts of red, green, and blue light measured by the cones into a color image. This is known as the “three-color process.” Remarkably, our eyes can see over a million different colors with this method. Now let’s explore how the three-color process works.

Below is a color image made from red, green and blue filters.

Each of the three images of filtered light start out as black and white images.

A color (red, green, or blue) is assigned to each image, and then the three images are combined.

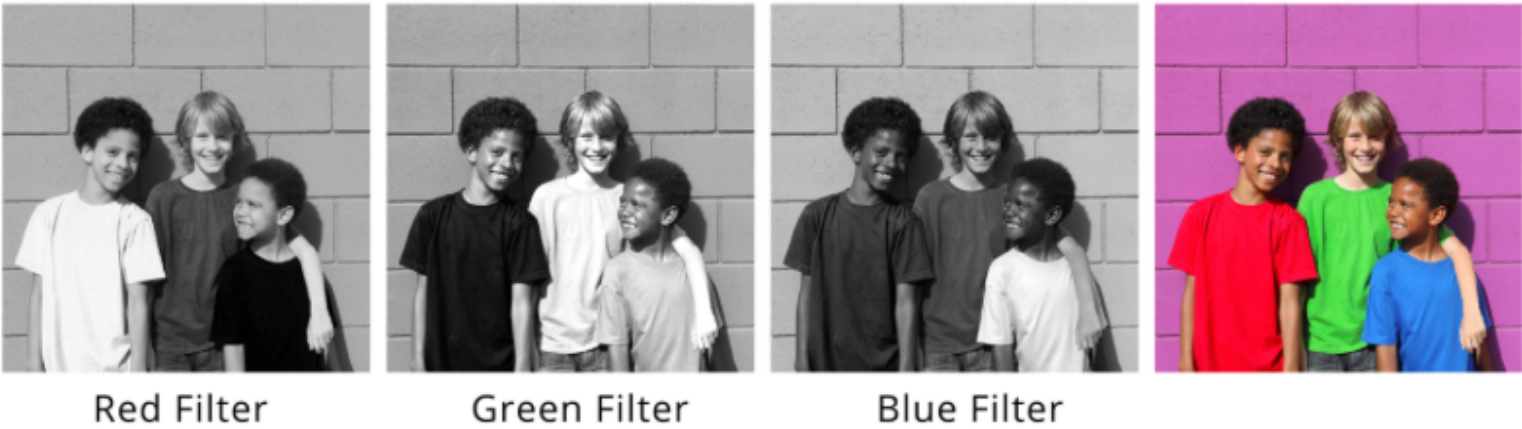


Figure 3: Comparison of the light passed by filters.

4. In which of the three filters is the red shirt the brightest?
5. In which of the three filters is the green shirt the brightest?
6. How does the red shirt appear in the green filter? Why is that?

Color The Universe

Learn how to make astronomy images.

☒ u

Select ▾

☒ g

Select ▾

☒ r

Select ▾

☒ i

Select ▾

☒ z

Select ▾

☒ y

Select ▾

Reset

Print

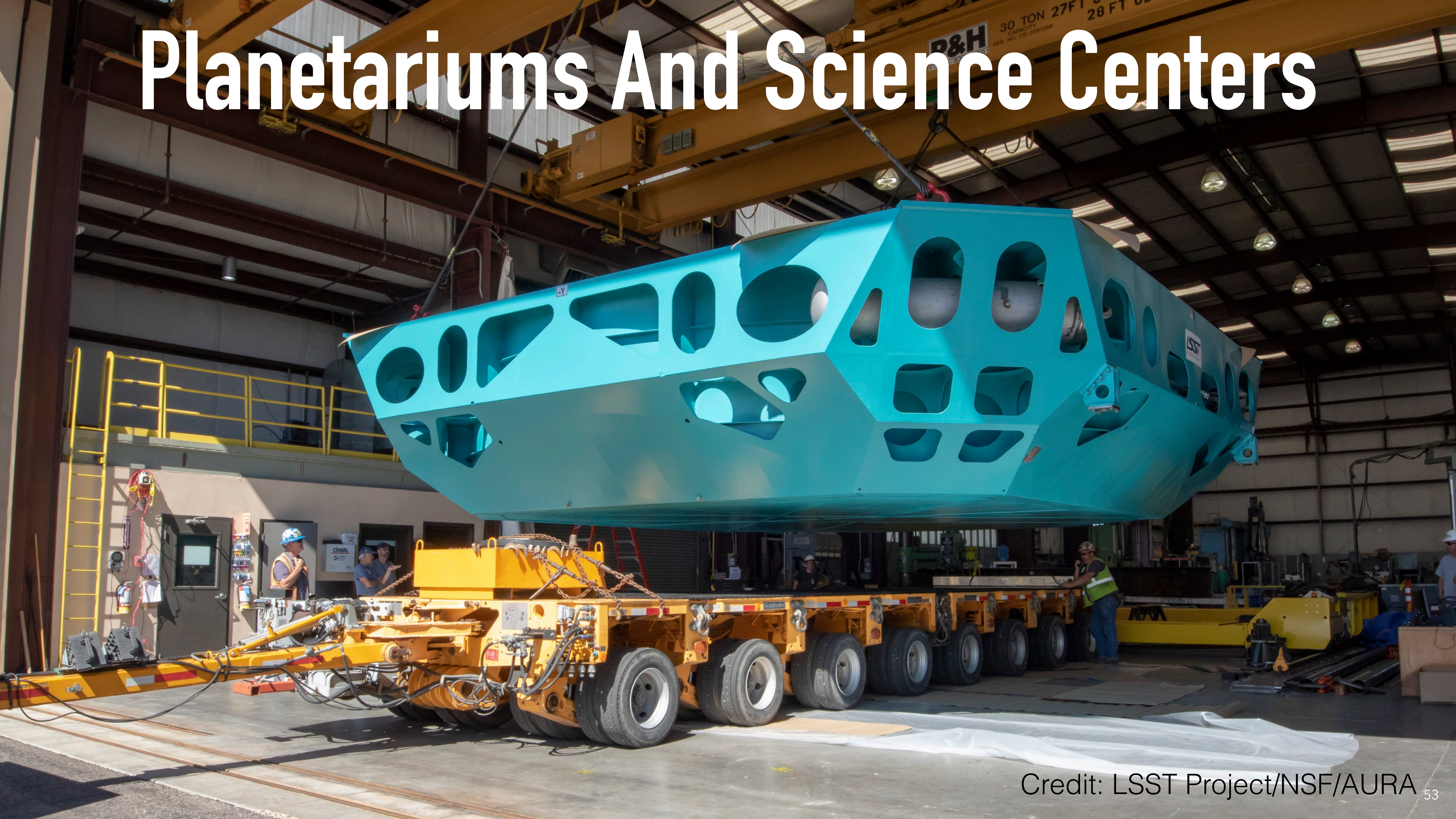


+

-

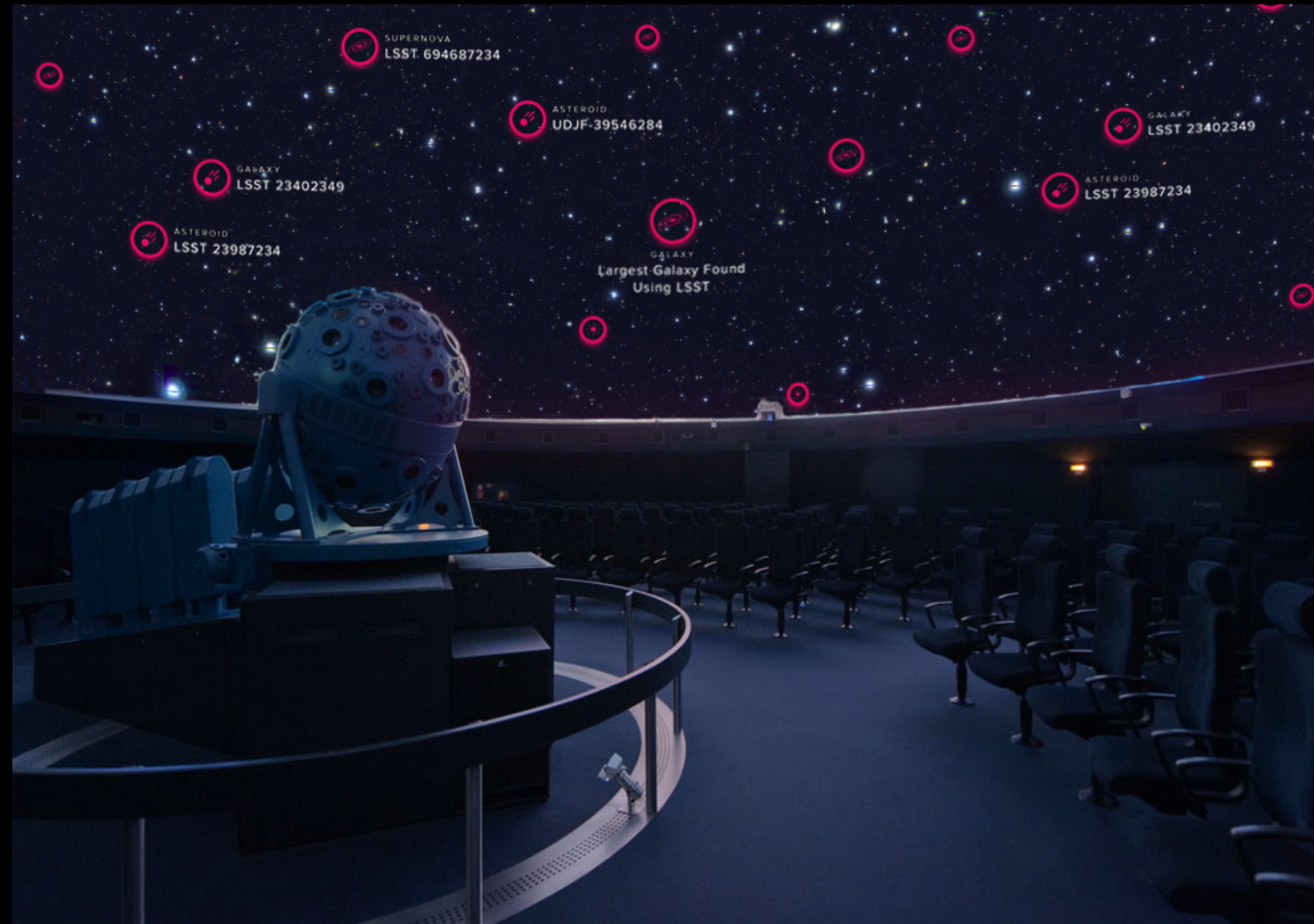
M33 ▾

Planetariums And Science Centers



Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA 53

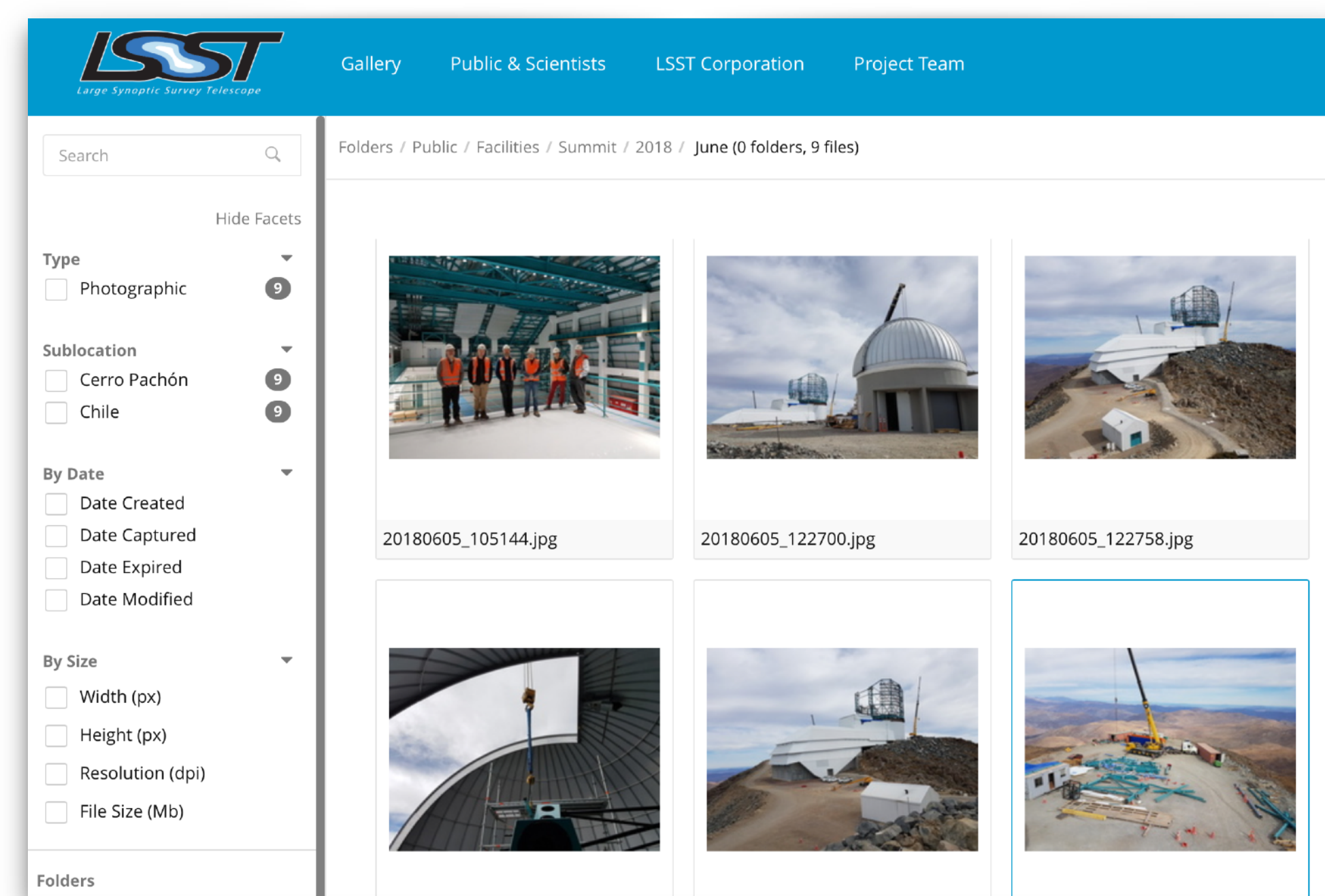
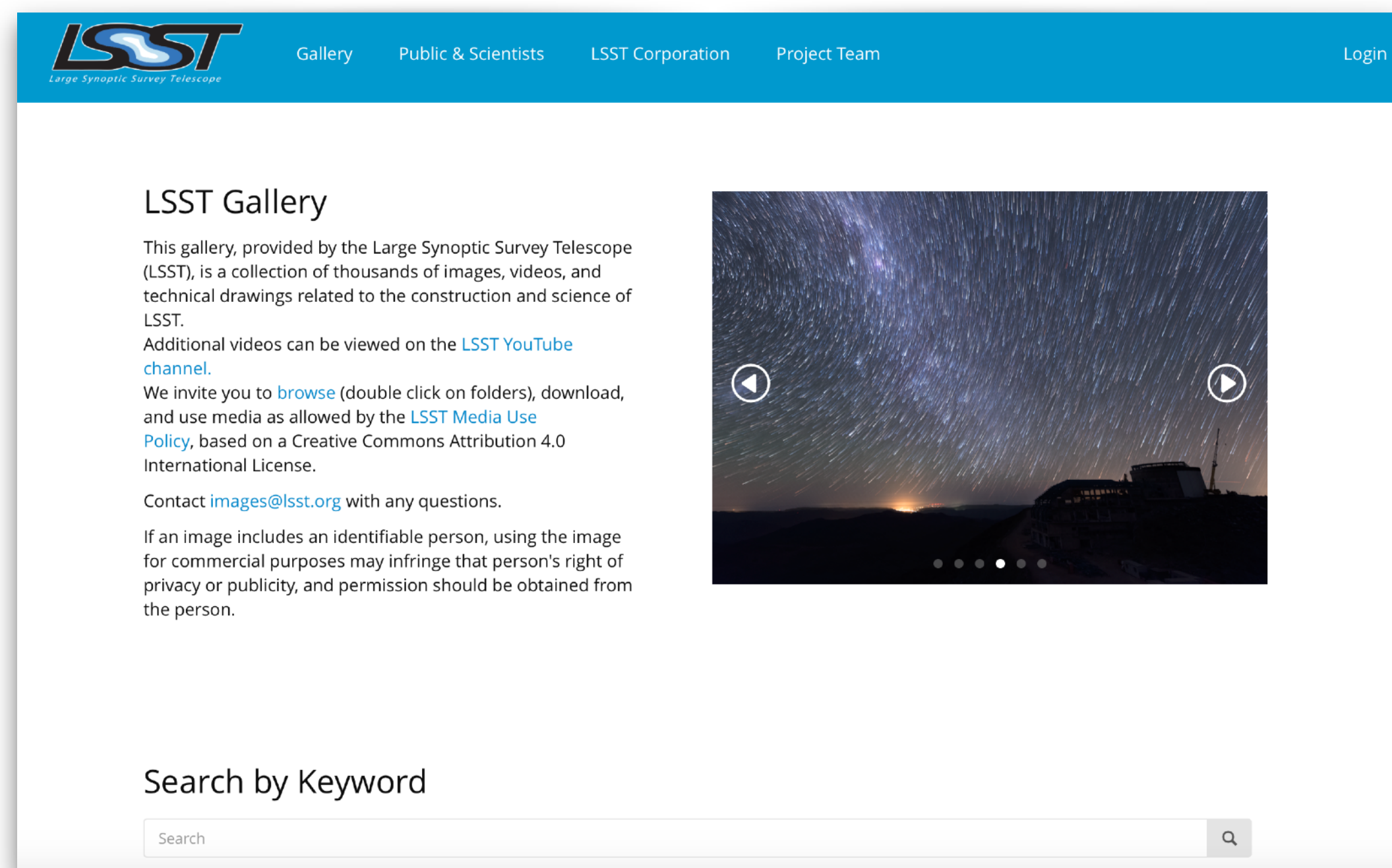
LSST EPO deliverables:



Library of digital multimedia assets
Full dome sky view with LSST Alert stream overlay
Media specific for Chilean audiences
3D multimedia

Multimedia Gallery

LSST EPO will produce video clips, images, and 3D models to be used throughout the Operations website. Assets will also be provided in formats that support emerging industry standards (IMERSA Dome Master, AVM, Data2Dome) to enable content creators at informal science centers to freely incorporate them as they deem best.



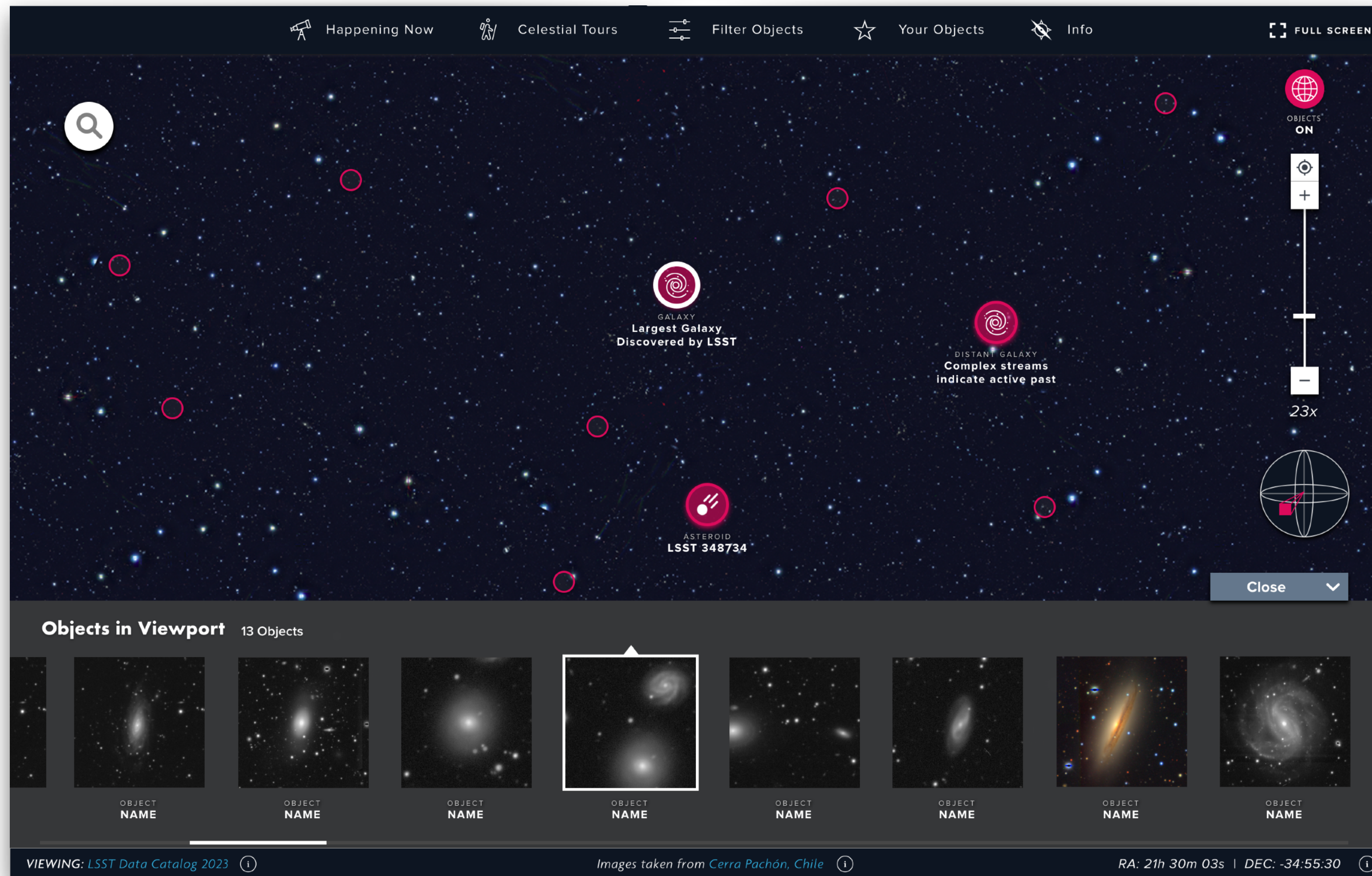
<https://gallery.lsst.org>

Skyviewer



Credit: Manuel Paredes/NSF/AURA/Gemini

The viewport highlights objects within the current skyviewer to suggest options for user



- Curated objects highlighted
- Links to recommended features

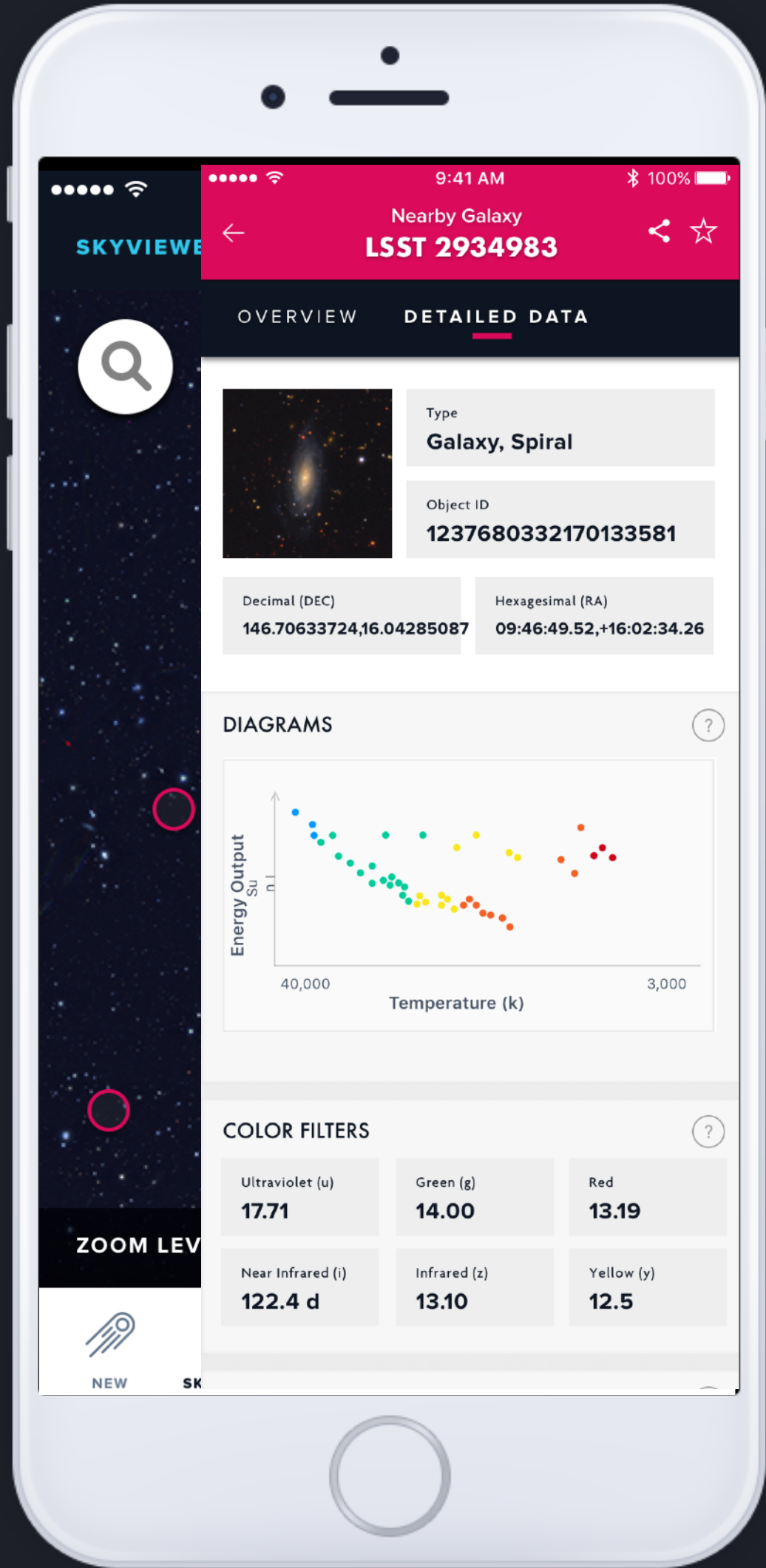
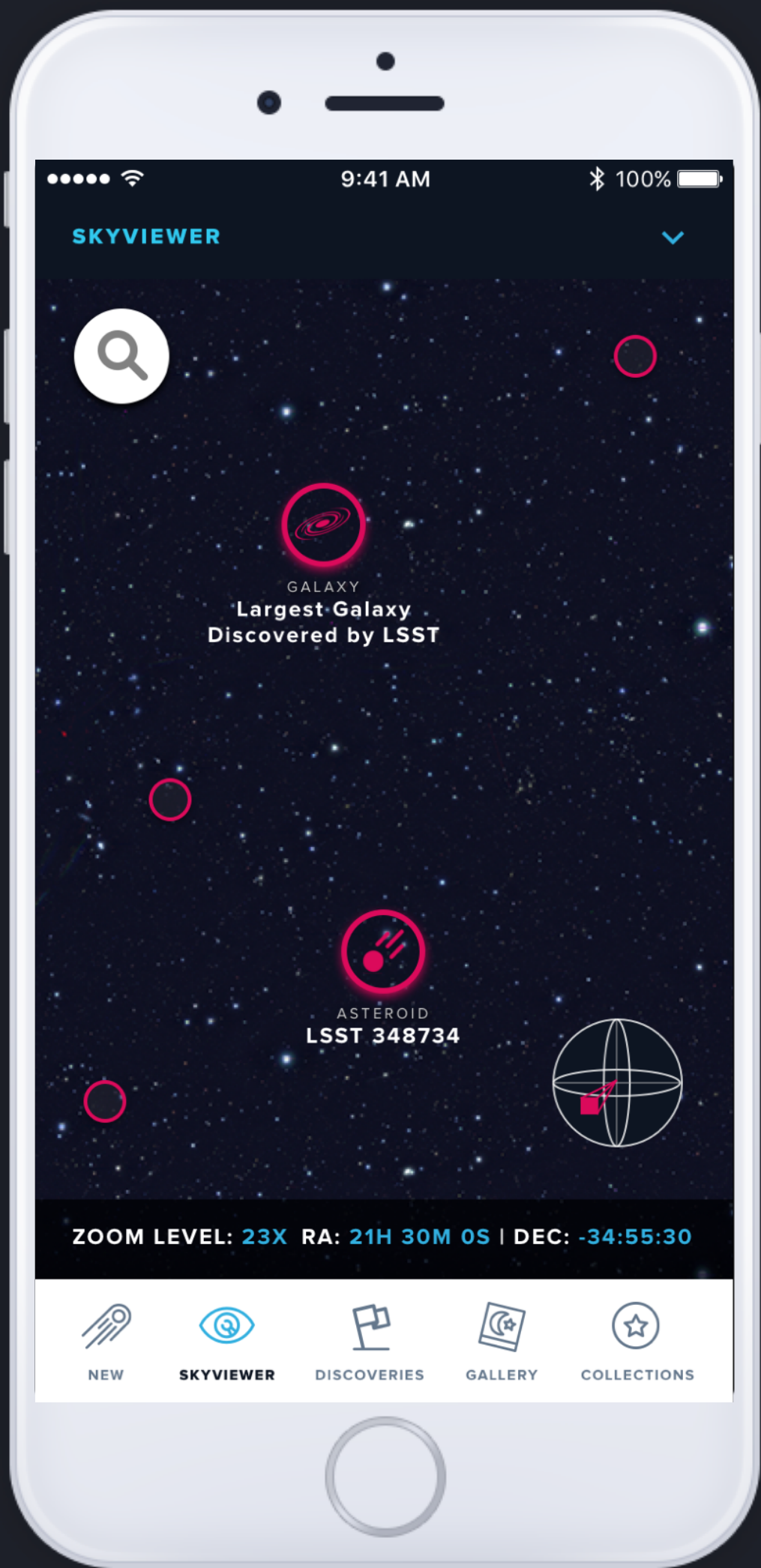
Skyviewer as a Self-Guided Educational Tool

"I saw a lot of information about something that is so intangible"

"An exploratory site where you get to just delve into what the telescope sees"

Wednesday Nite @ The Lab | April 17, 2019

The website will be mobile friendly and features will be shareable.



Citizen Science



Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA

Summit facility November 2018

Citizen Science

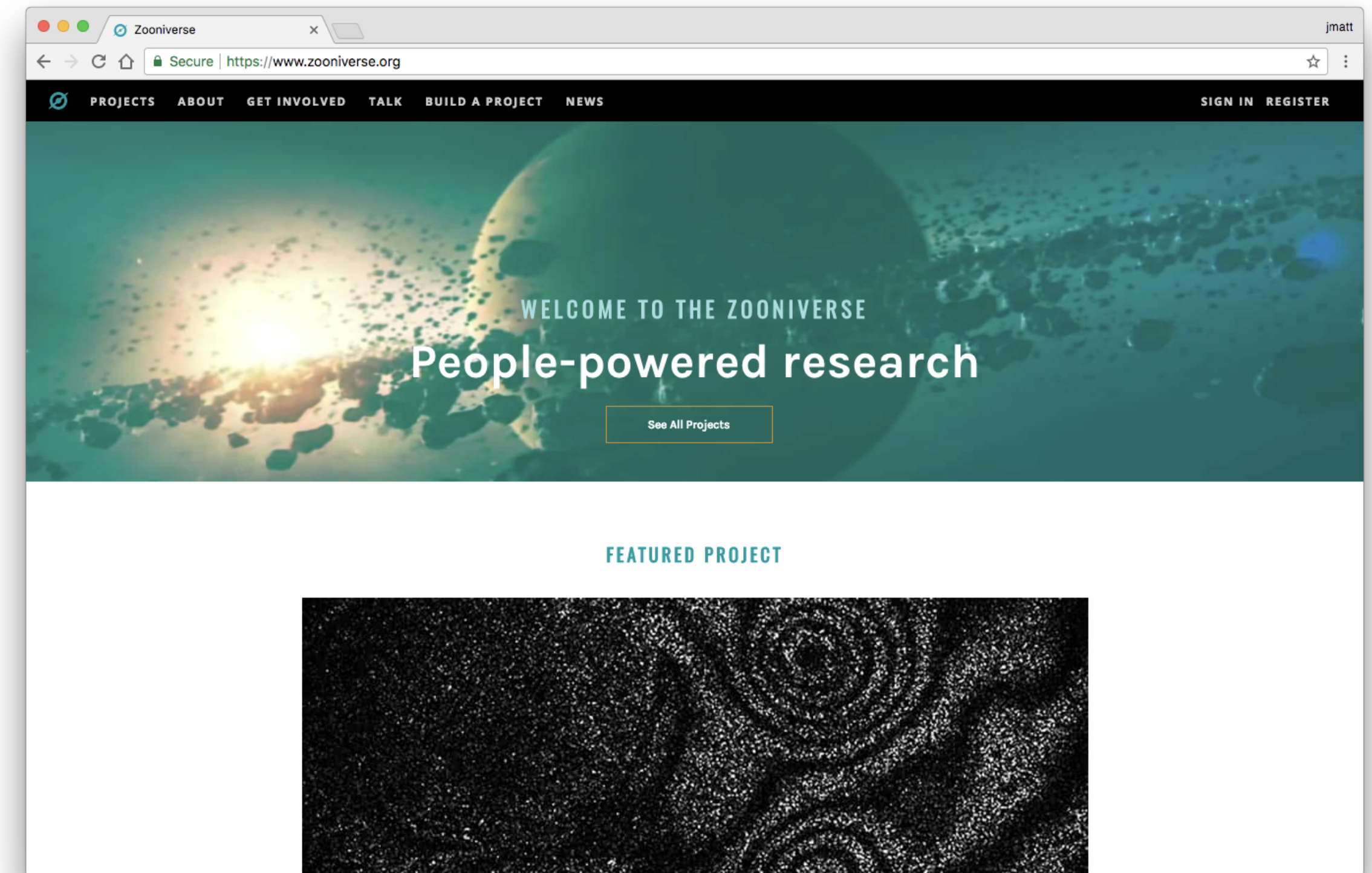


People-Powered Research

Public volunteers help make science happen by contributing to real research projects

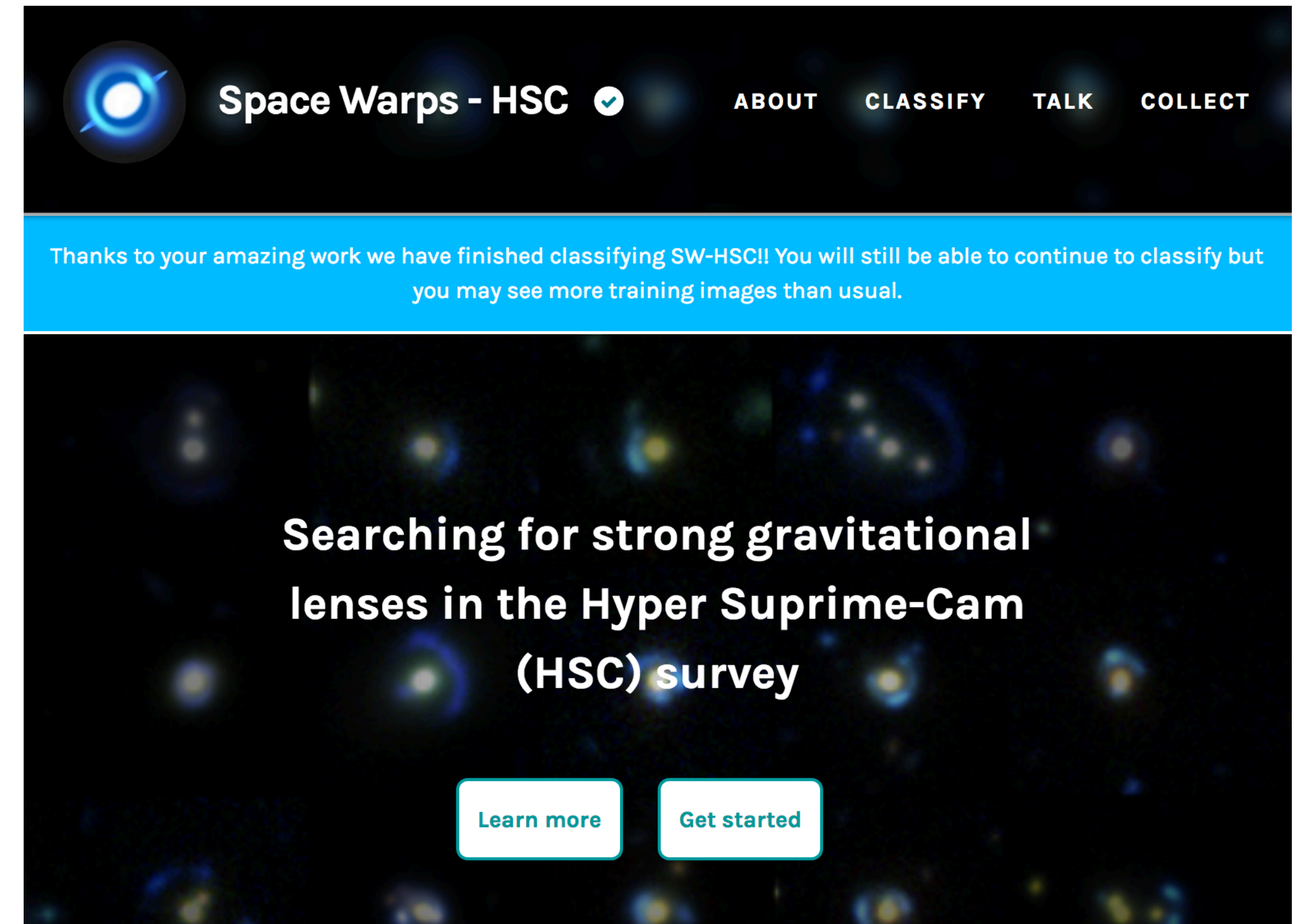
Citizen science can be a research tool enabling more science with LSST

LSST EPO will enable researchers to initiate Citizen science projects using any LSST data



We are working with *Zooniverse* to maximize flexibility in the types of projects that can be created by LSST citizen science principal investigators.

Space Warps-HSC used data from the Hyper Suprime-Cam survey. The data is similar to that of LSST.



Recent Events



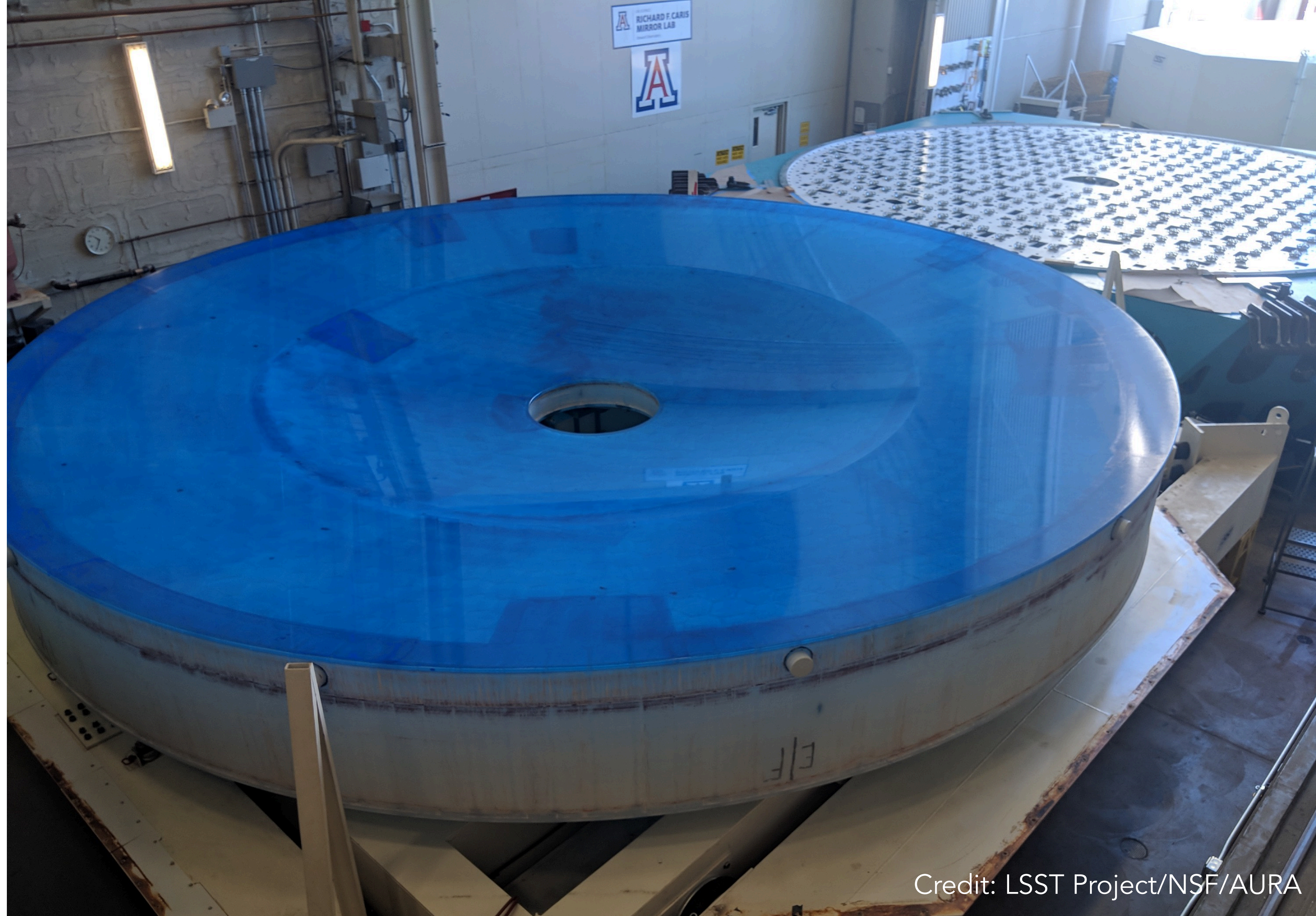
Coating Chamber riding to summit - Oct 2018

Photo Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA



Credit: LSST
Project/NSF/
AURA





Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA



Credit: LSST Project/NSF/AURA



Credit: Precision Heavy Haul Inc./LSST Project/NSF/AURA



Credit:
B Shoening/LSST
Project/NSF/AURA

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