


# EarthFinder

A NASA-selected Probe Mission Concept Study  
for input to the 2020 Astrophysics Decadal Survey

Peter Plavchan  
Assistant Professor  
George Mason University

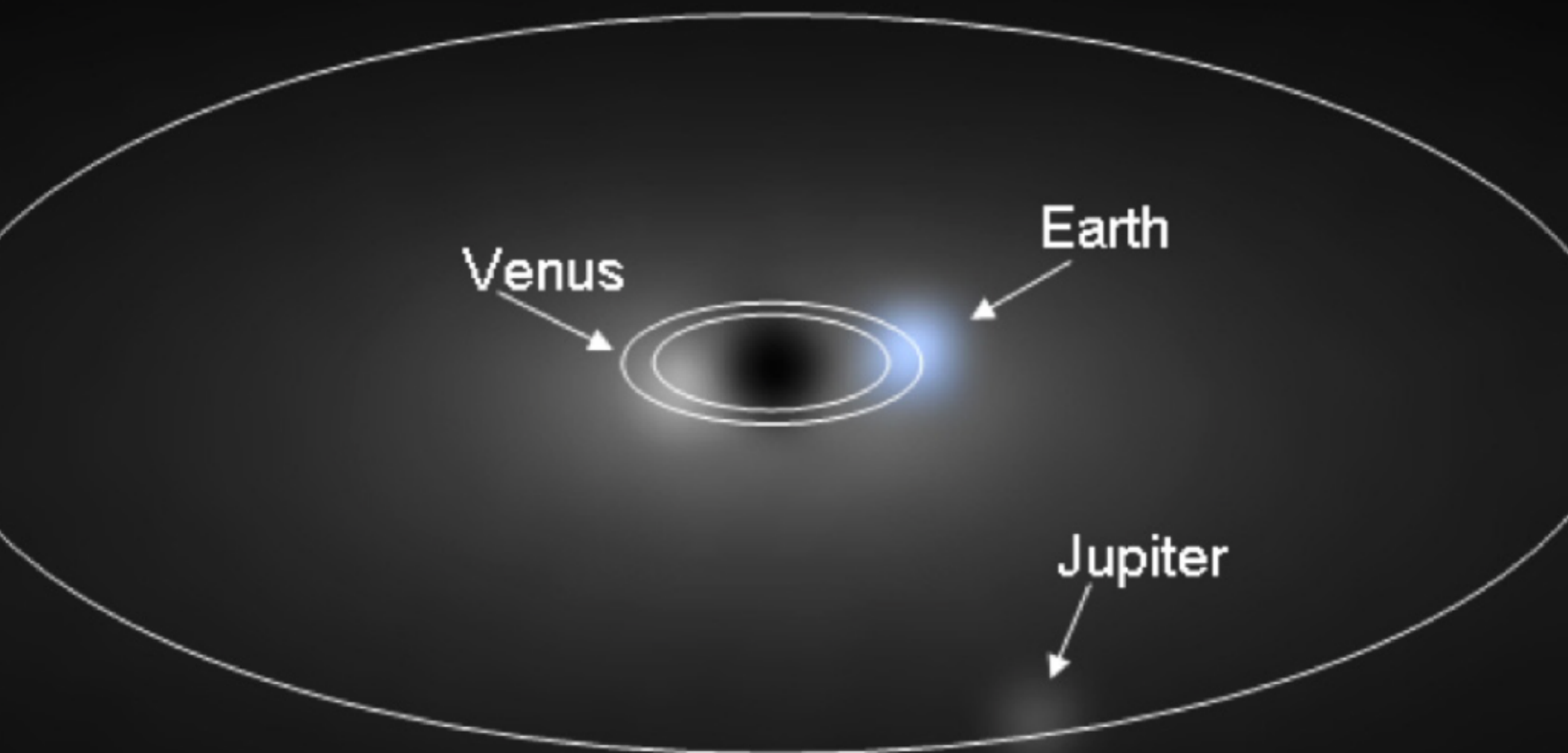
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# EarthFinder Team

**Peter Playchan** (George Mason)  
**Chas Beichman** (NExSci)  
**Bill Purcell** (Ball)  
**Heather Cegla** (Geneva)  
**Xavier Dumusque** (Geneva)  
**Courtney Dressing** (UC Berkeley)  
**Peter Gao** (UC Berkeley)  
**Gautam Vasisht** (JPL)  
**Sharon Wang** (Carnegie DTM)  
**Fabienne Bastien** (Penn St)  
**Sarbani Basu** (Yale)  
**Andrew Bechter** (Notre Dame)  
**Eric Bechter** (Notre Dame)  
**Thomas Beatty** (Penn St)  
**Cullen Blake** (Penn)  
**Vincent Bourrier** (Geneva)  
**Bryson Cale** (George Mason)

**David Ciardi** (NExSci)  
**Jonathan Crass** (Notre Dame)  
**Justin Crepp** (Notre Dame)  
**Scott Diddams** (NIST)  
**Jason Eastman** (Harvard)  
**Debra Fischer** (Yale)  
**Jonathan Gagne** (Carnegie DTM)  
**B. Scott Gaudi** (Ohio State)  
**Sam Halverson** (MIT)  
**Bahaa Hamze** (George Mason)  
**Enrique Herrero** (CSIC-IIEC)  
**Andrew Howard** (Caltech)  
**Katherine de Kleer** (Caltech/MIT)  
**Natasha Latouf** (George Mason)  
**Stephanie Leifer** (JPL)  
**Emily Martin** (UCLA)

**William Matzko** (George Mason)  
**Dimitri Mawet** (Caltech)  
**Andrew Mayo** (UC Berkeley)  
**Simon Murphy** (U. Sydney)  
**Patrick Newman** (George Mason)  
**Scott Papp** (NIST)  
**Benjamin Pope** (NYU)  
**Sam Quinn** (Harvard)  
**Ignasi Ribas** (CSIC-IIEC)  
**Albert Rosich** (CSIC-IEEE)  
**Sophia Sanchez-Maes** (Yale)  
**Angelle Tanner** (Miss St)  
**Samantha Thompson** (Cambridge)  
**Kerry Vahala** (Caltech)  
**Ji Wang** (Caltech)  
**Peter Williams** (NVCC)  
**Alex Wise** (U Del)  
**Jason Wright** (Penn St)

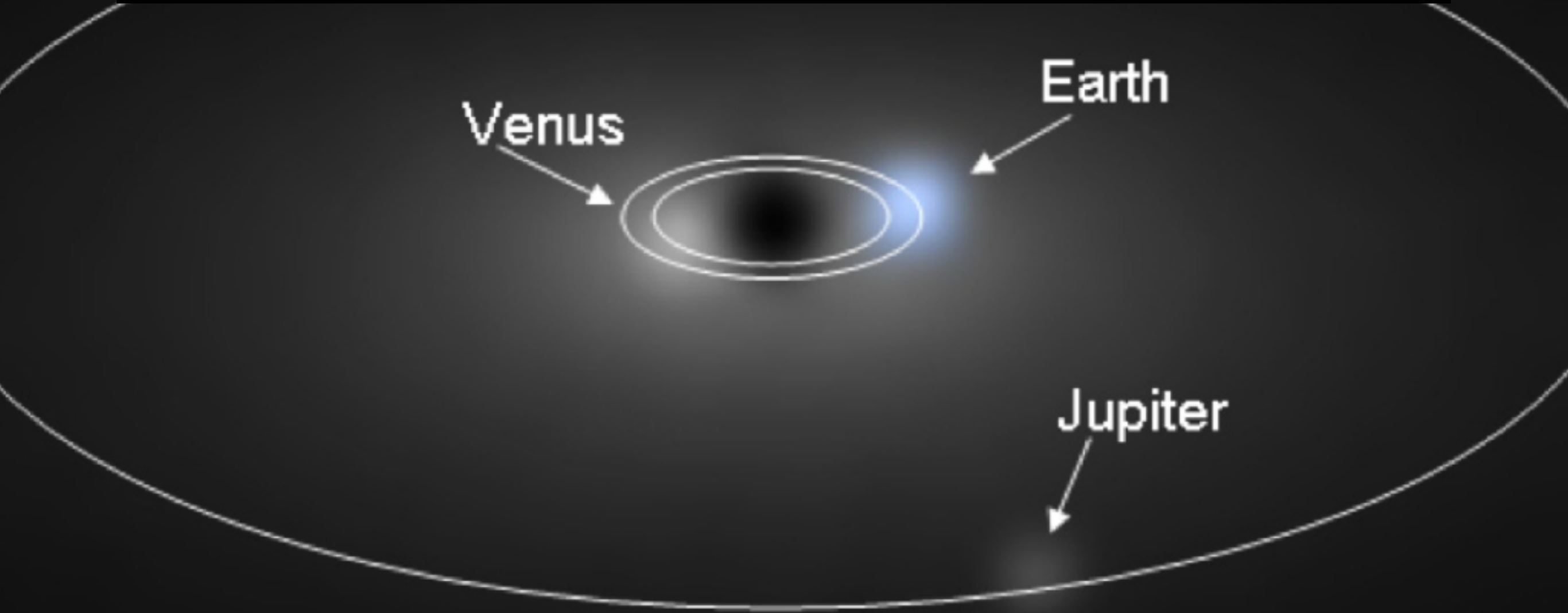


Venus

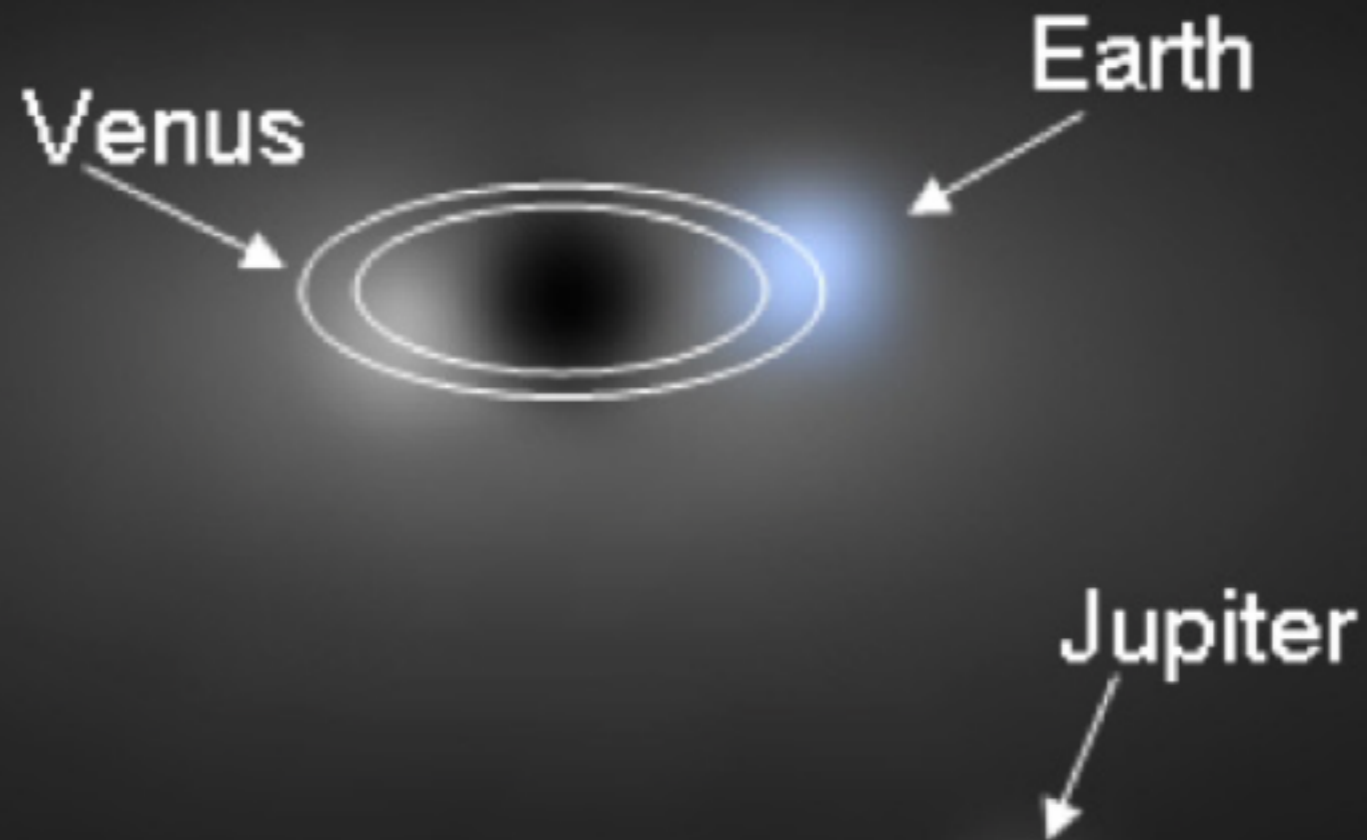
Earth

Jupiter

How many stars do we need to look at?  
How big (expensive) does the telescope need to be?  
Will we know where and when to look?



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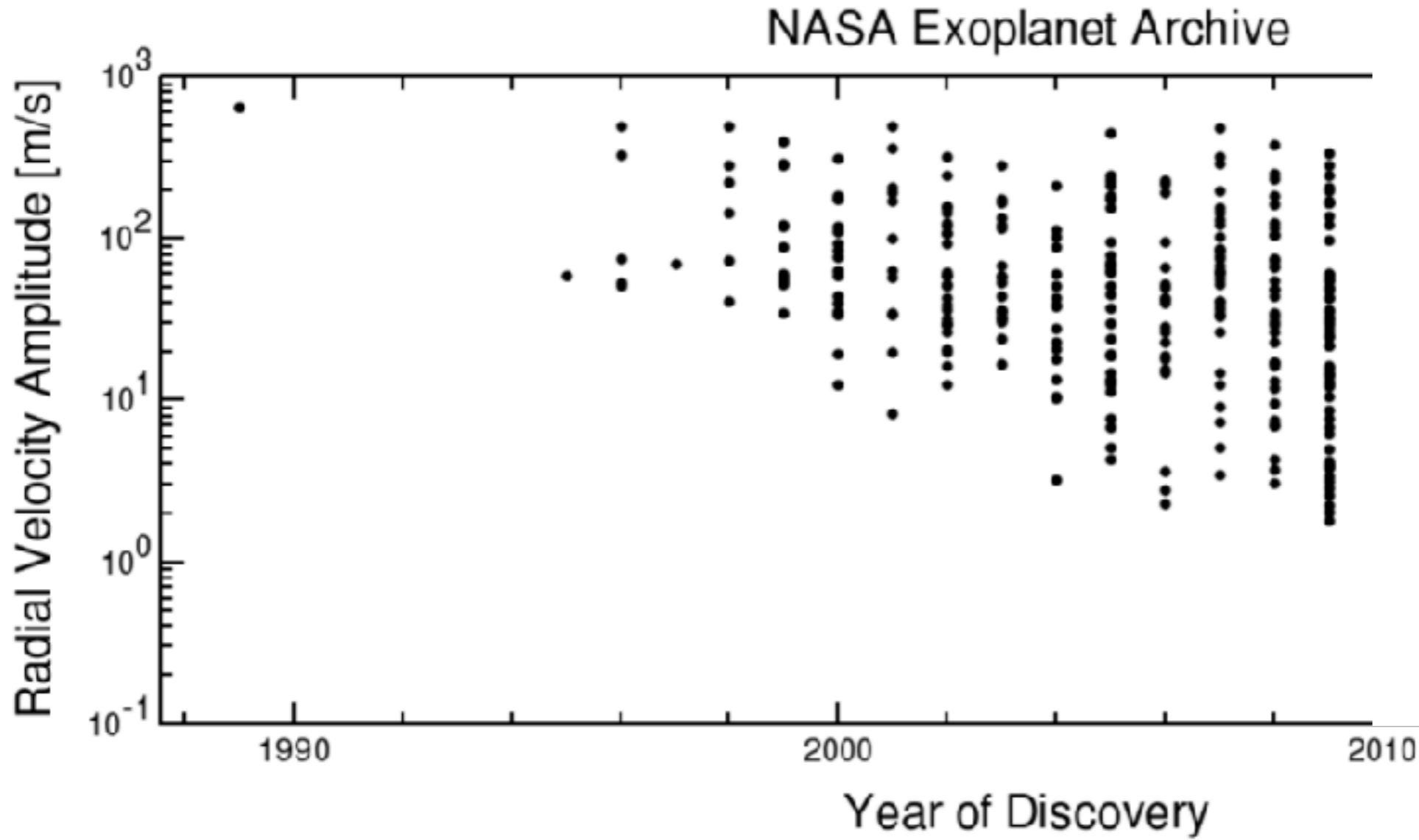


Either way, we will still need the planet masses for  
characterization!

# The Doppler Method

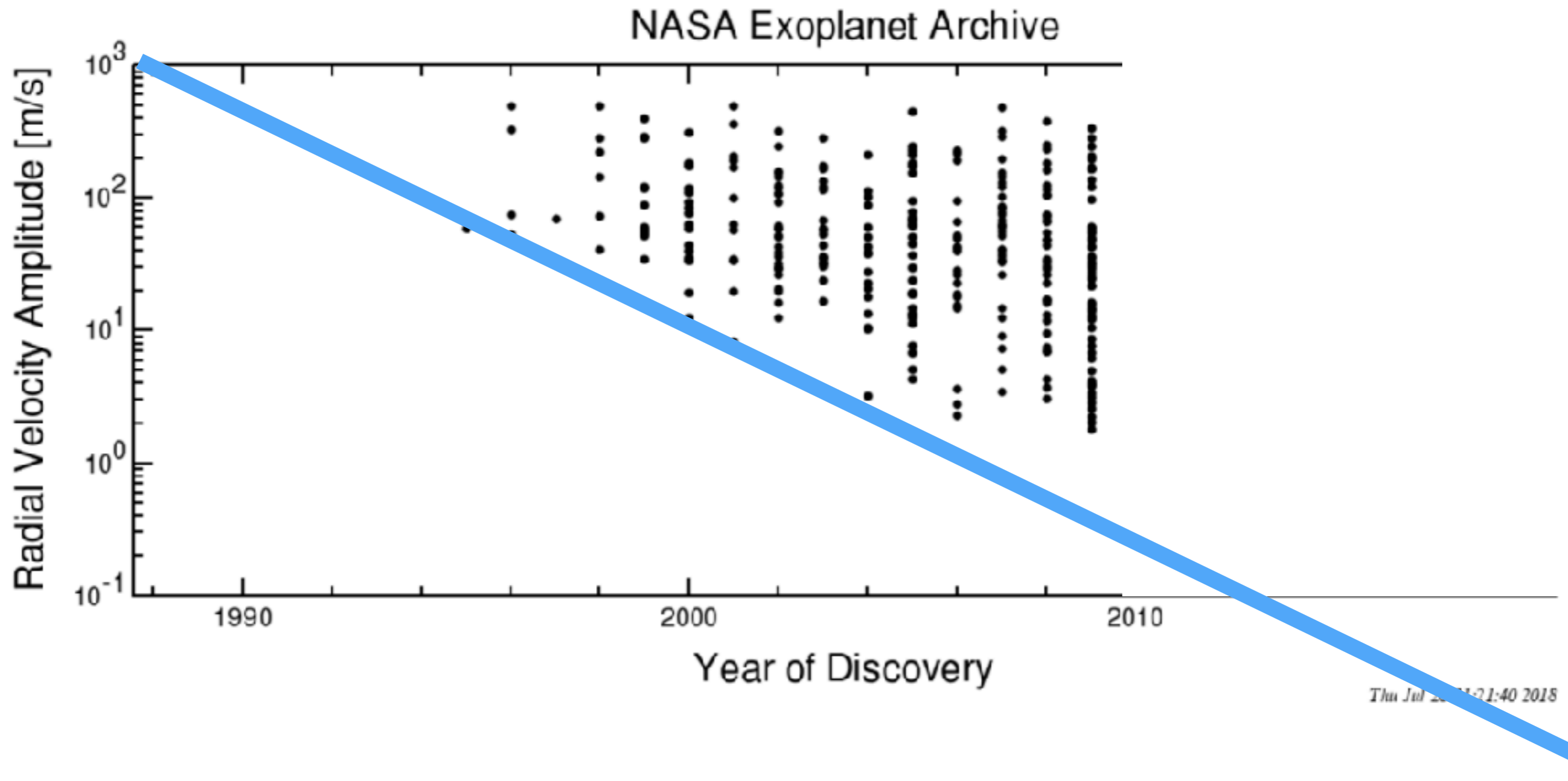


# The Future Promise of RVs



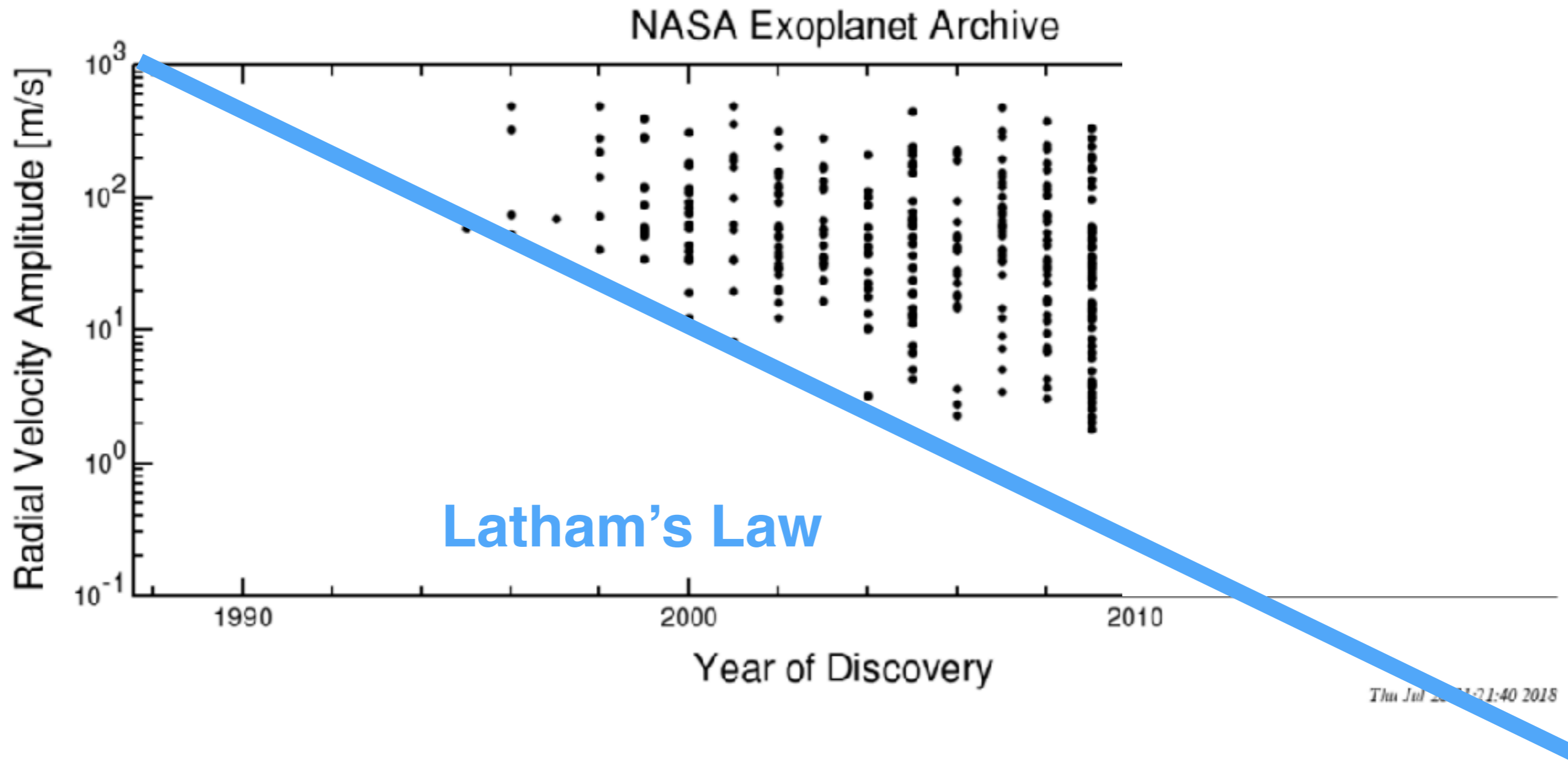
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# The Future Promise of RVs

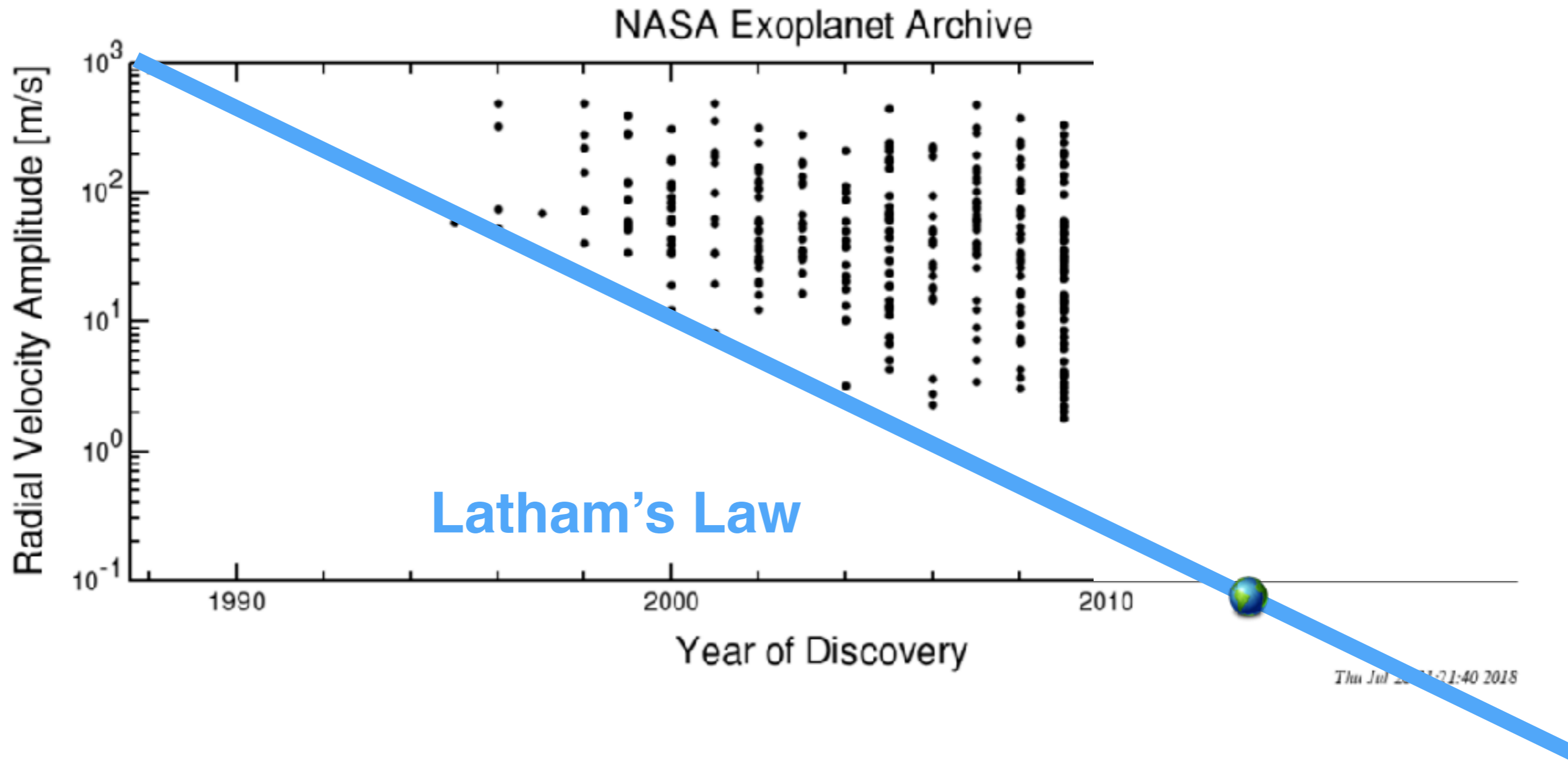




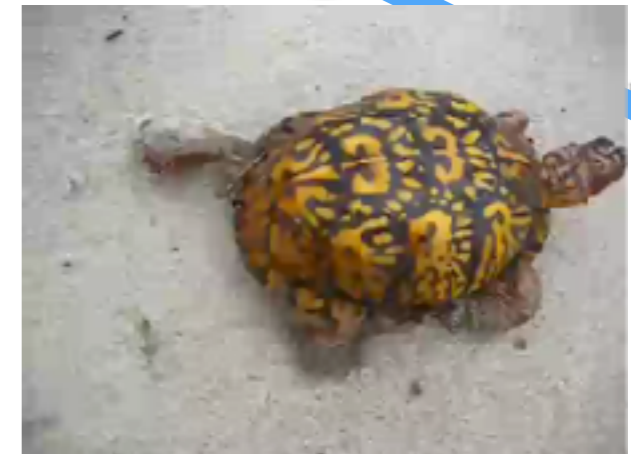
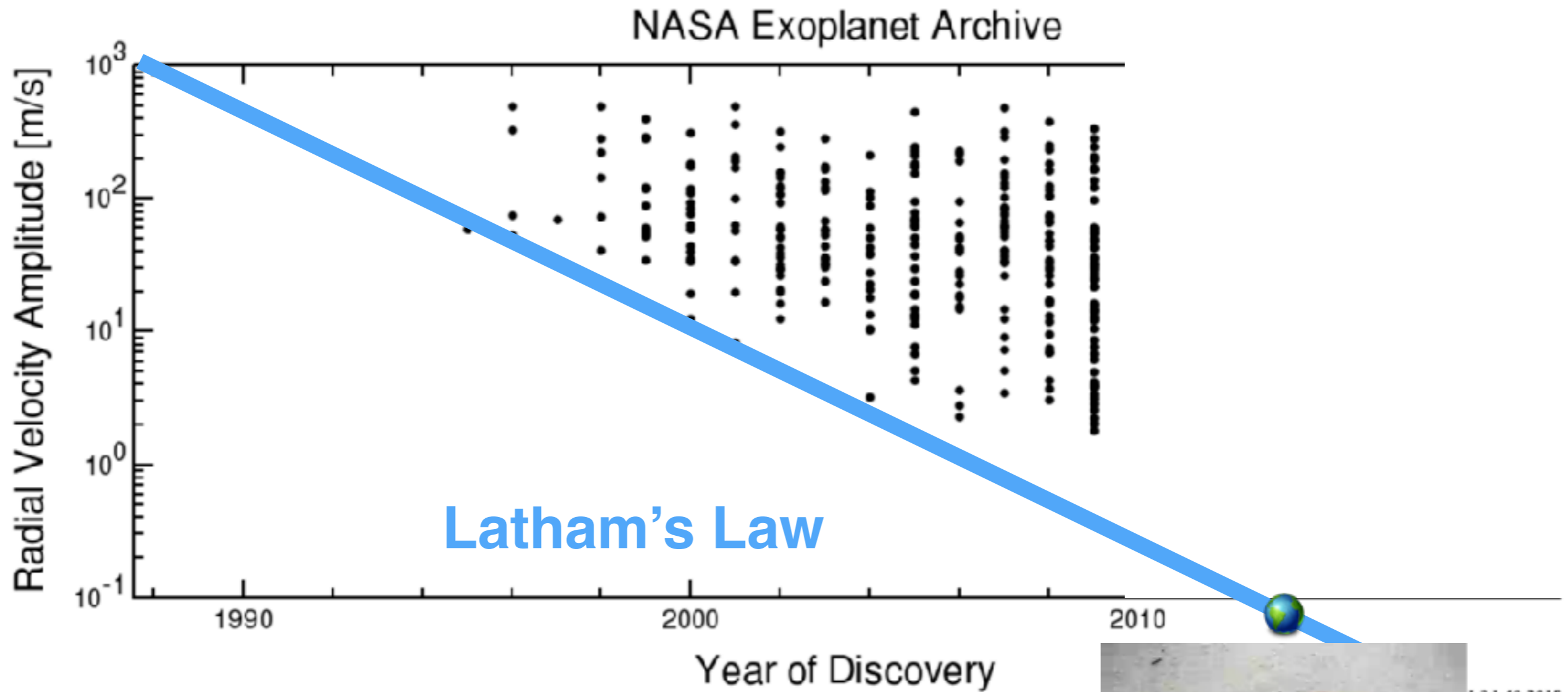
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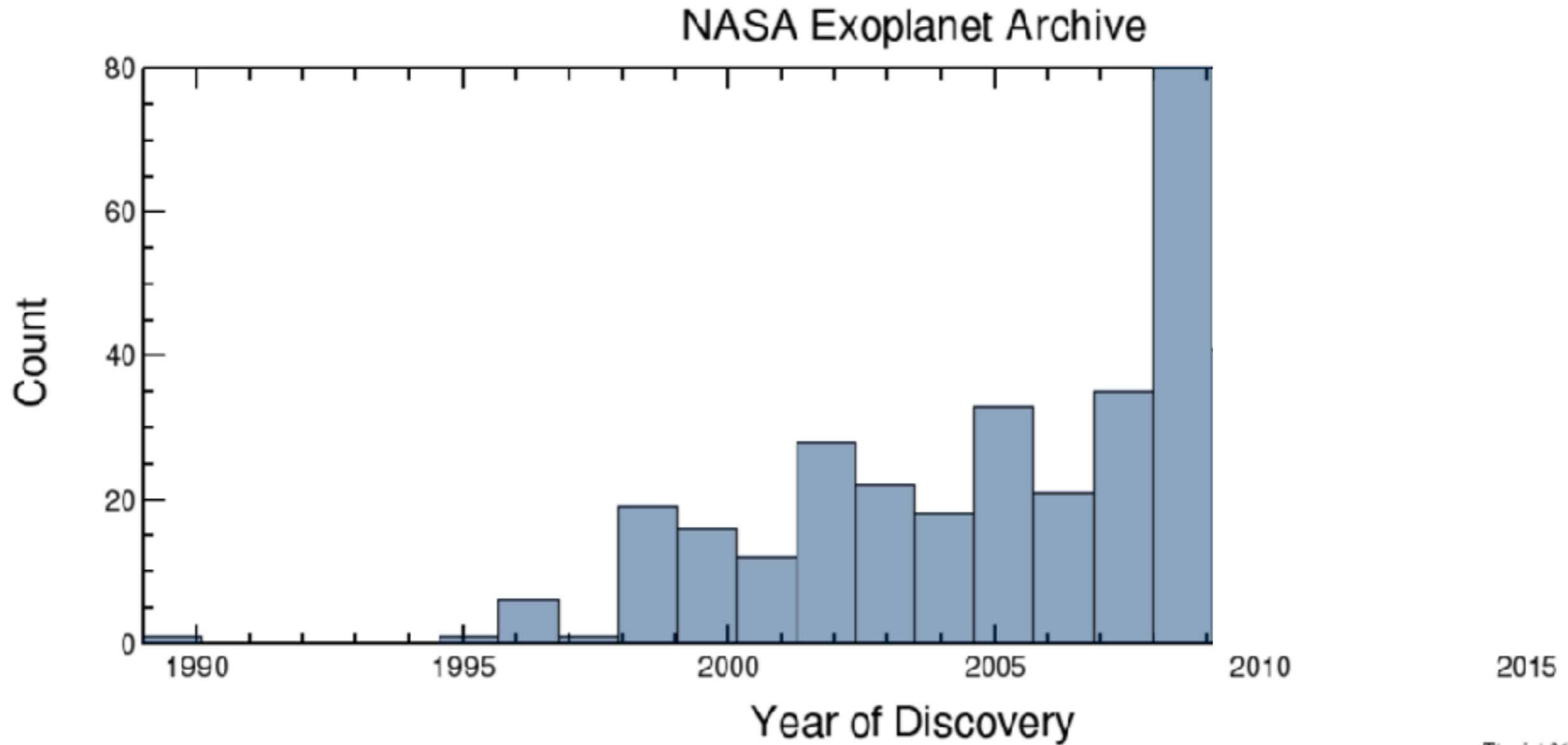
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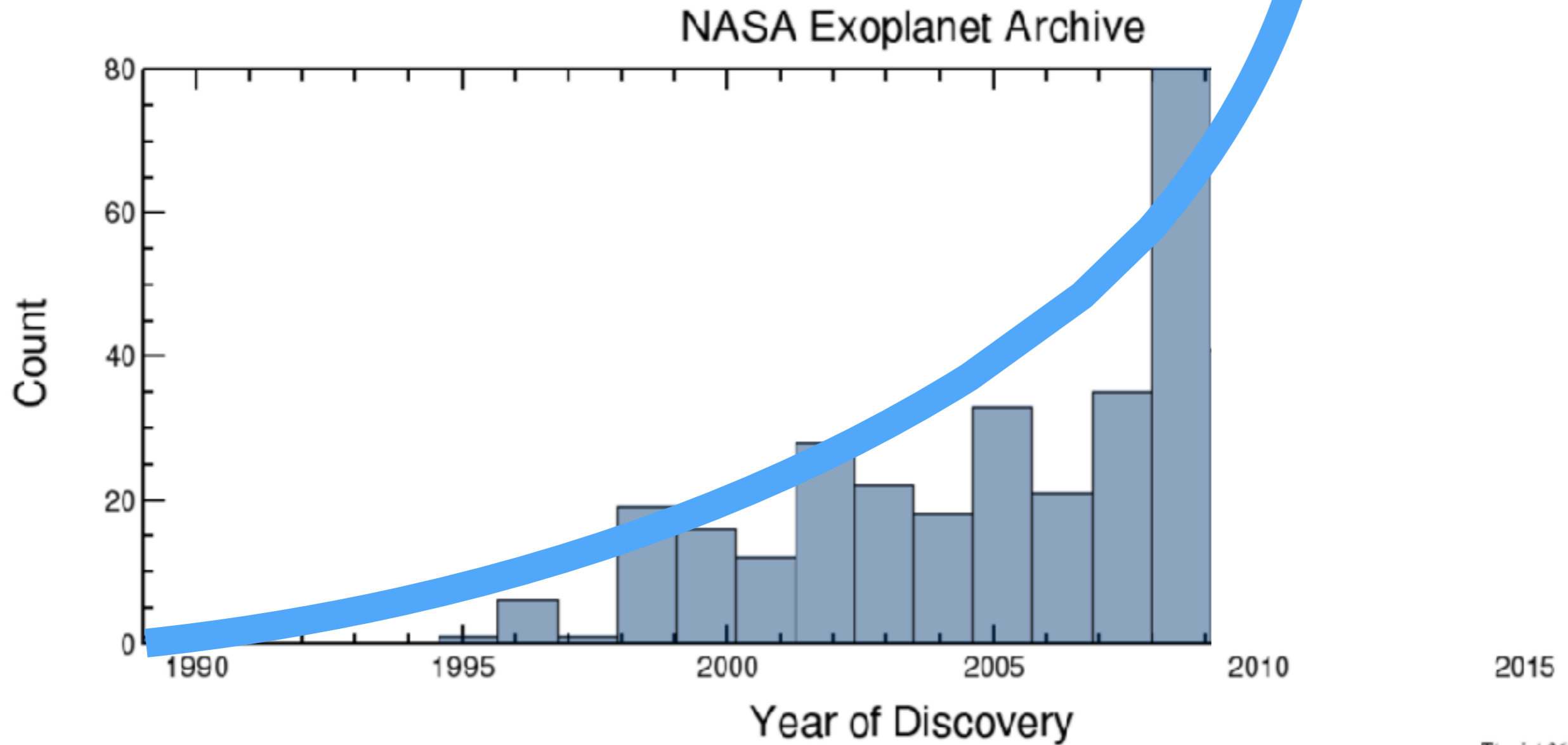


# The Future Promise of RVs



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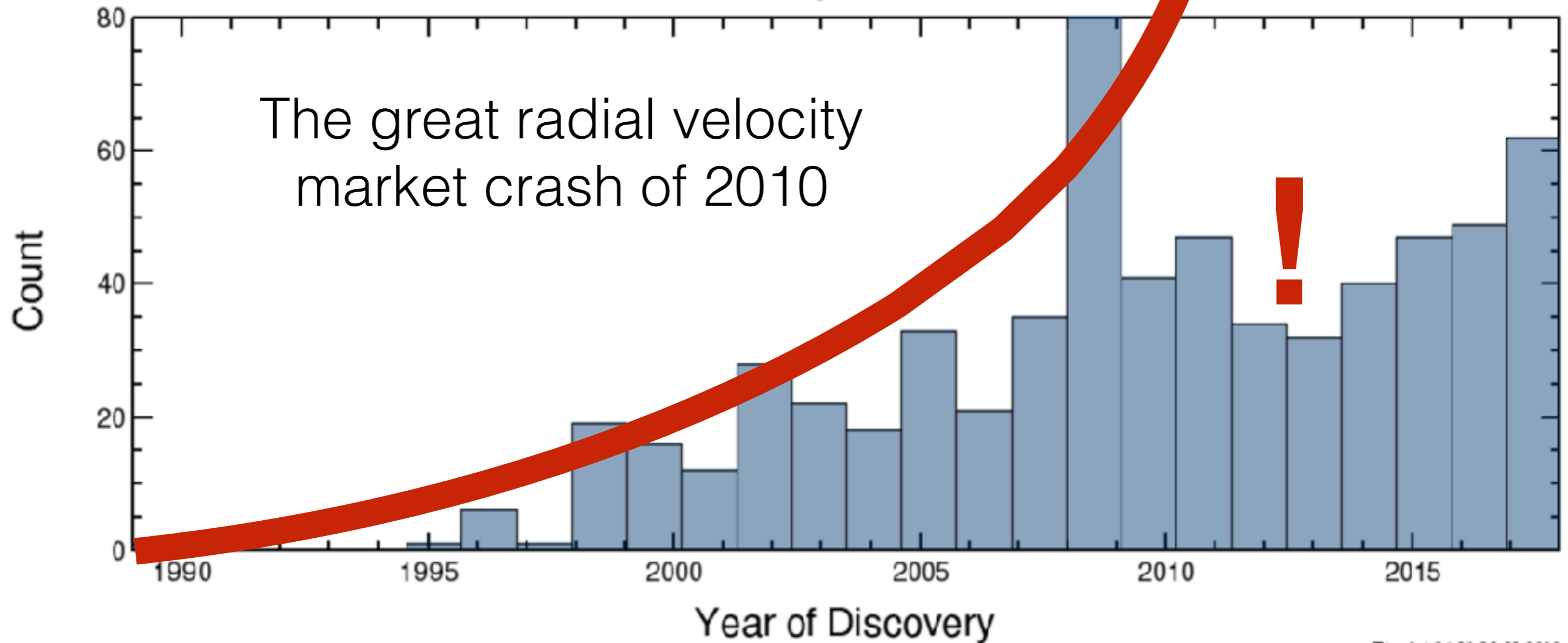
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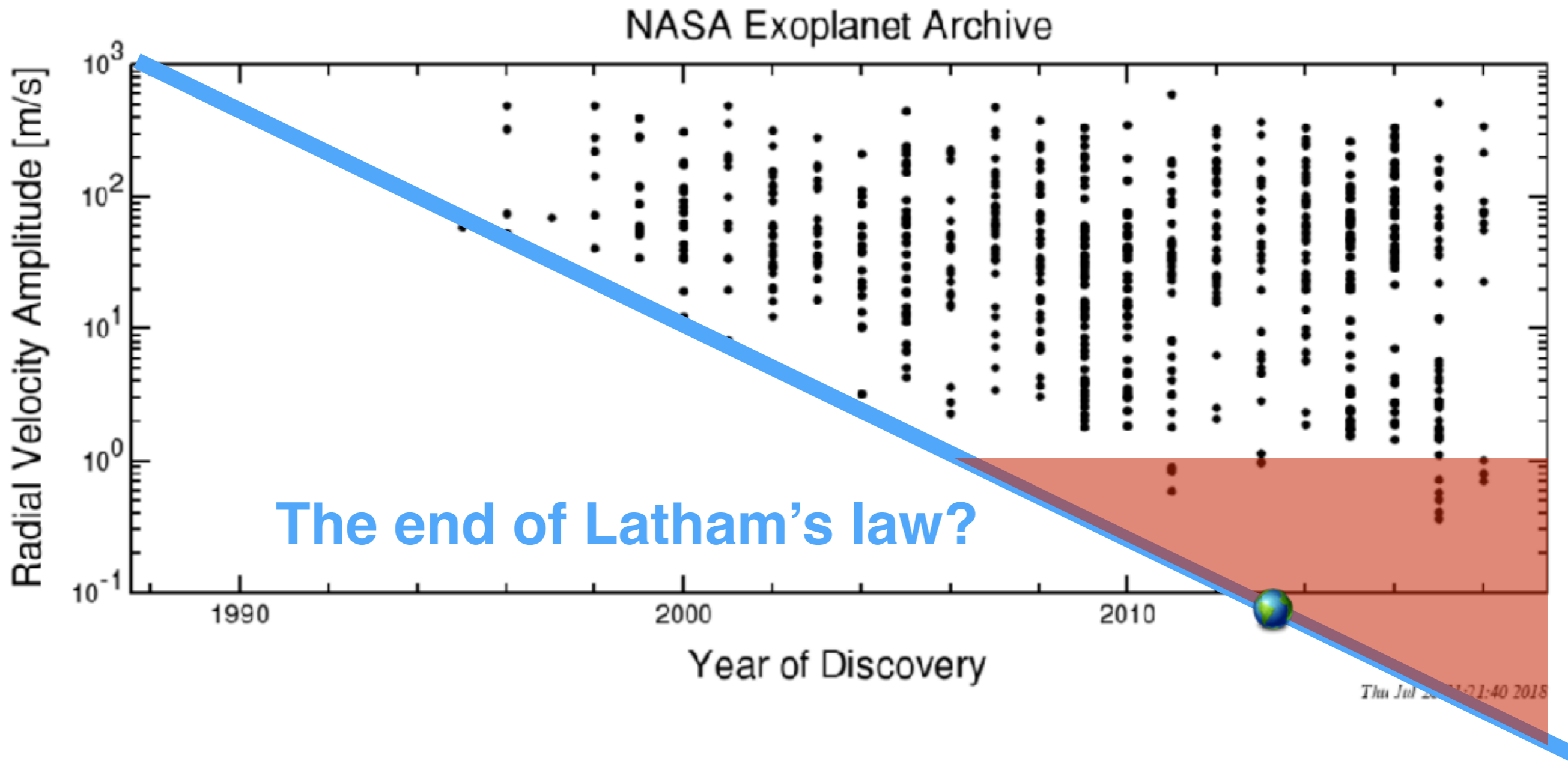
# The Future Promise of RVs

NASA Exoplanet Archive



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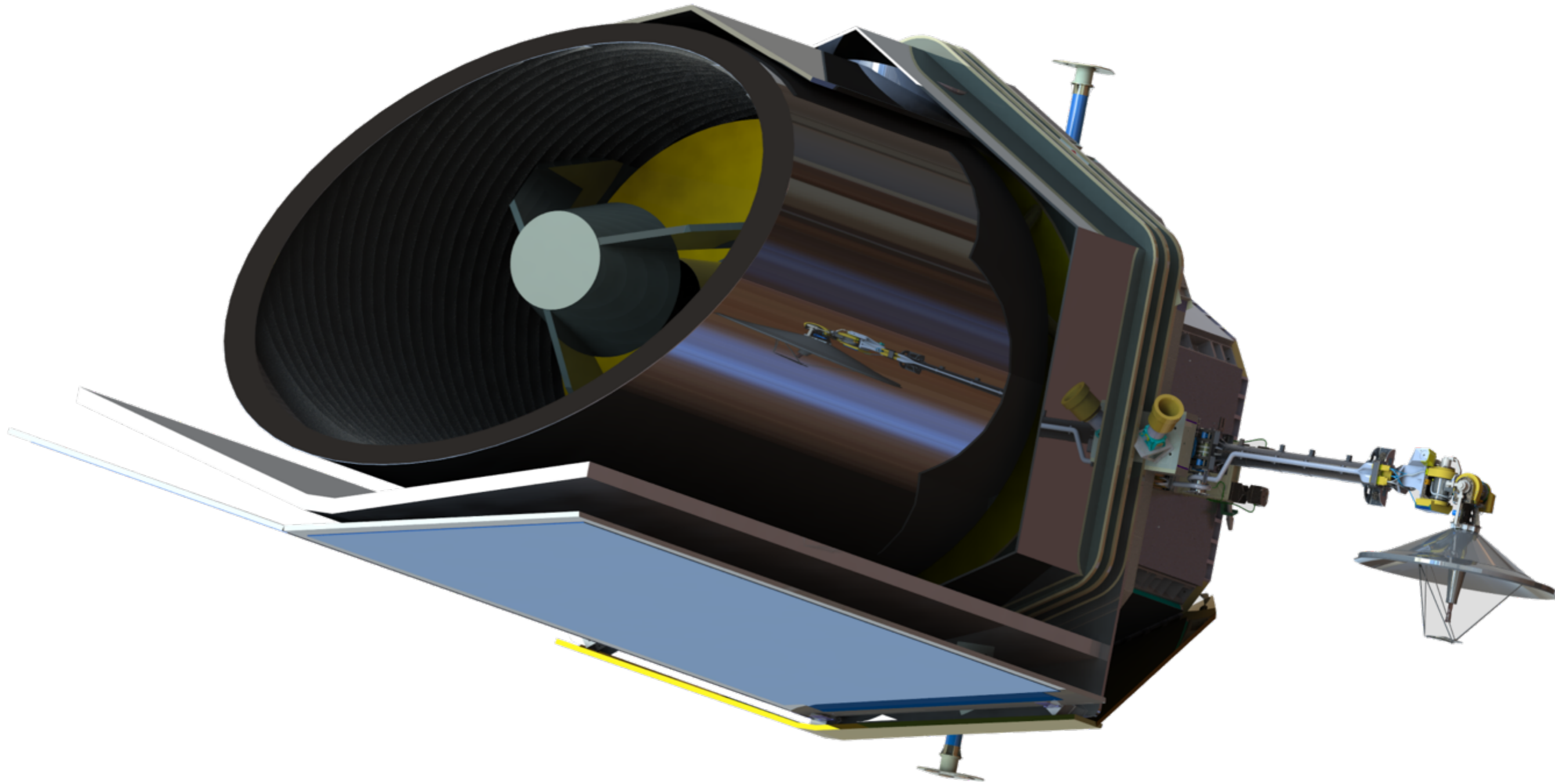


# Causes of the RV recession

- **Kepler** - Redirection of resources and personnel
- **Instrumentation** - 1 m/s single measurement precision from HARPS, 2-3 m/s from iodine technique
- **Telescope time** - 10x improvement in precision requires 100x increase in telescope time (or reduction in target lists); multi-planet system number of discovery epochs increases non-linearly (30: 1 planet; 100+: 2 planets; 500+: 3+ planets)
- **Pipeline analysis** - CPS code is 20 years old, designed for computation-limited environment. HARPS code is basic CCF with line-masking
- **Stellar Activity** - Targeting quietest stars running its course

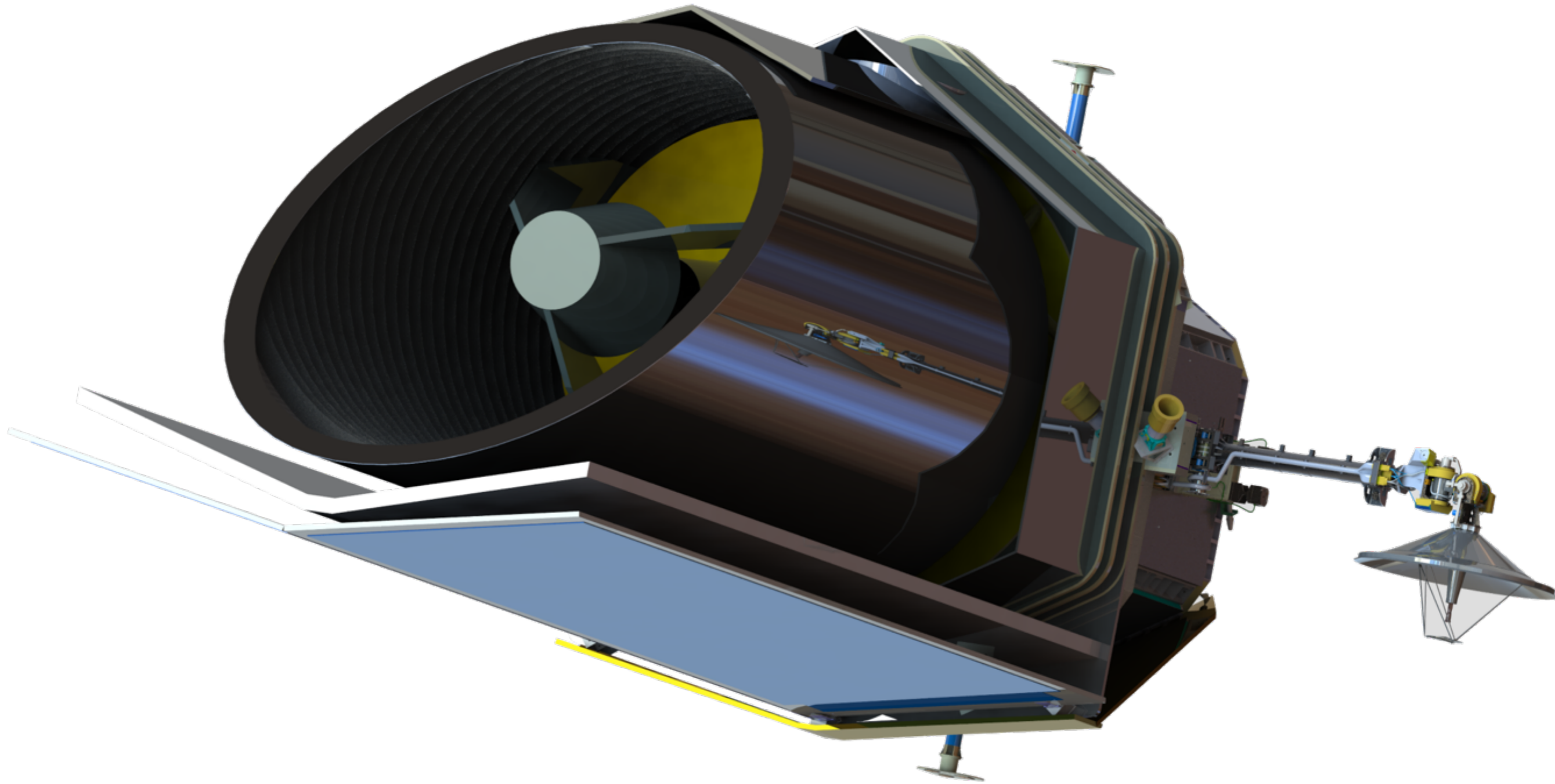


# EarthFinder



Credit: Ball Aerospace

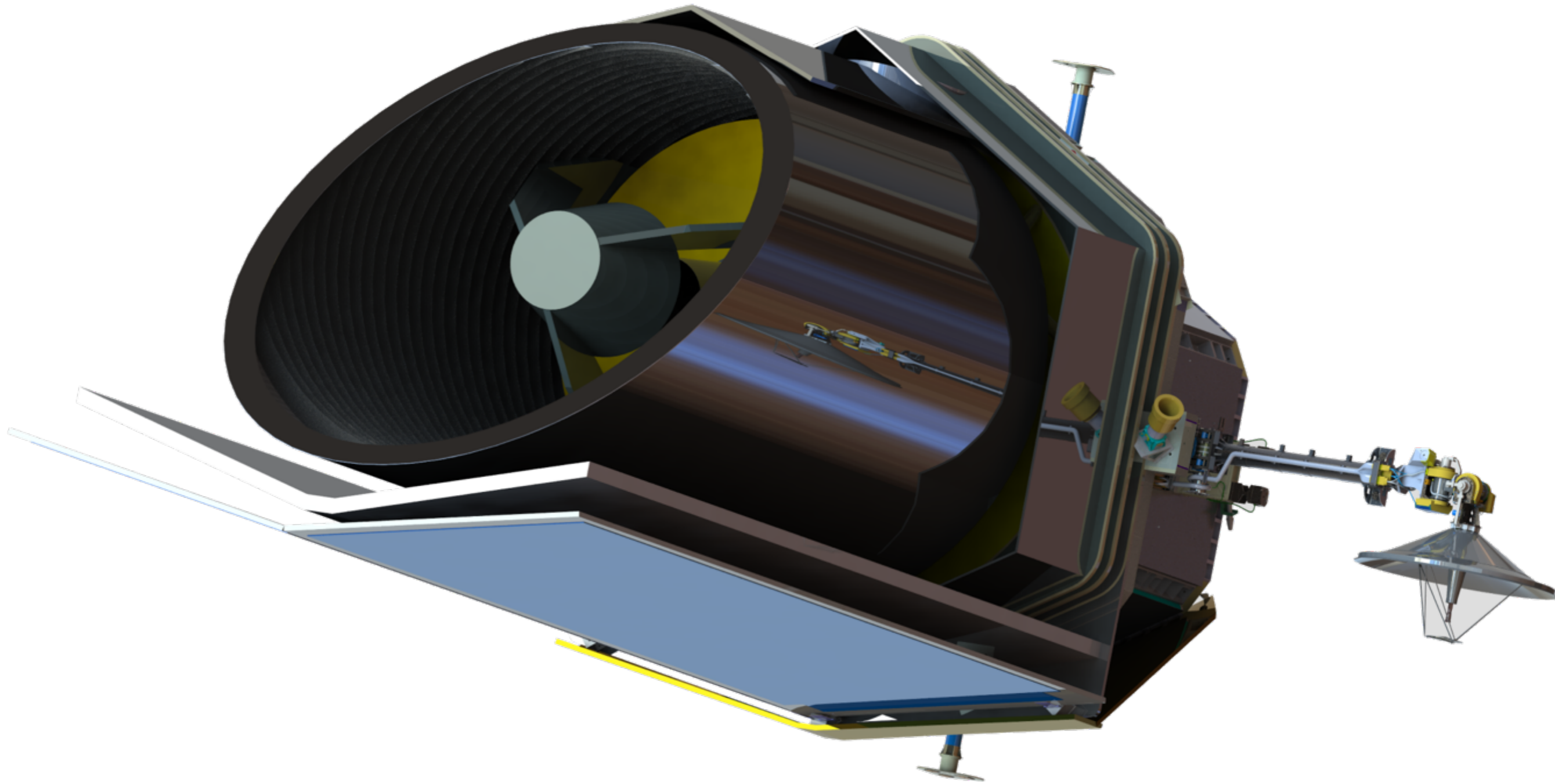
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**Radial Velocities ...**

Credit: Ball Aerospace

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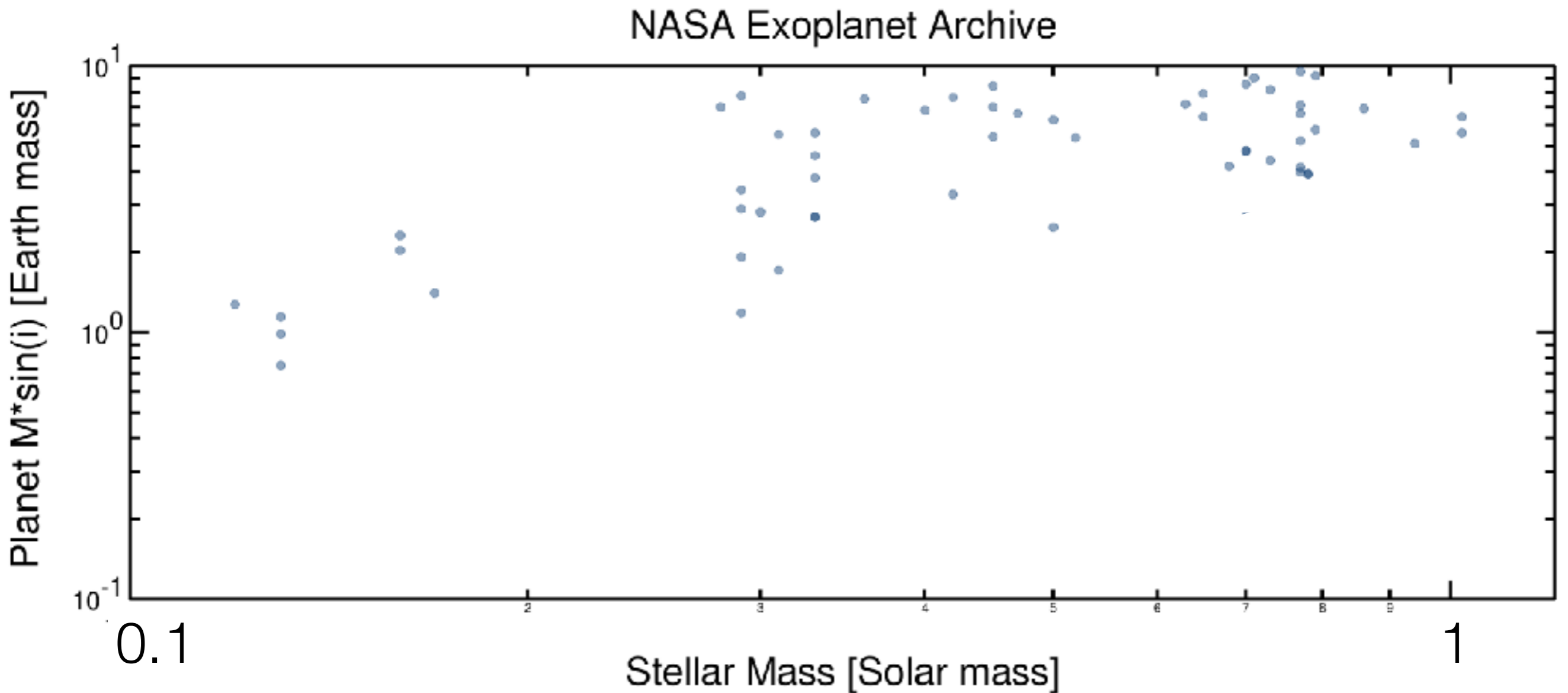


**Radial Velocities ... *in space!***

Credit: Ball Aerospace

# Science

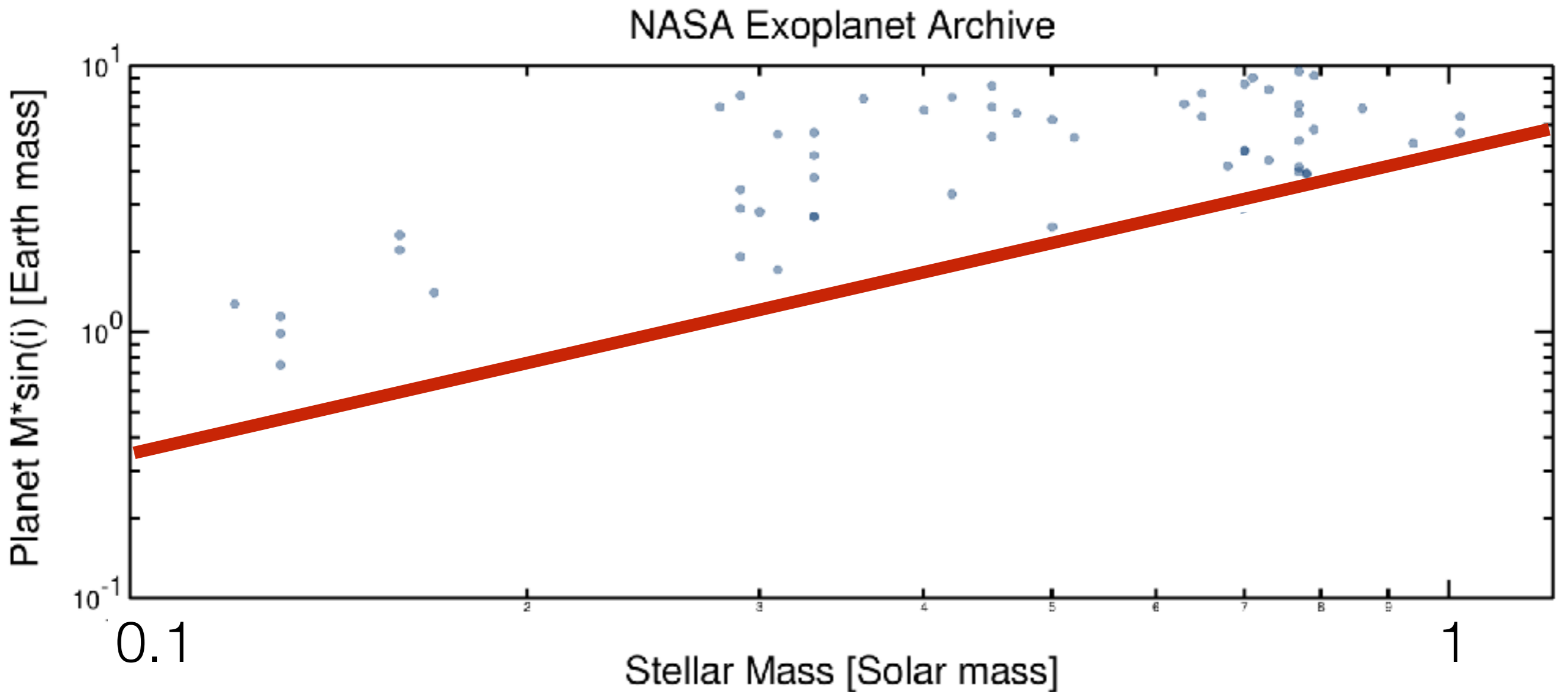
Discovery, mass and orbit characterization of Earth-mass exoplanets orbiting nearest Sun-like stars



Thu Jul 26 21:59:25 2018

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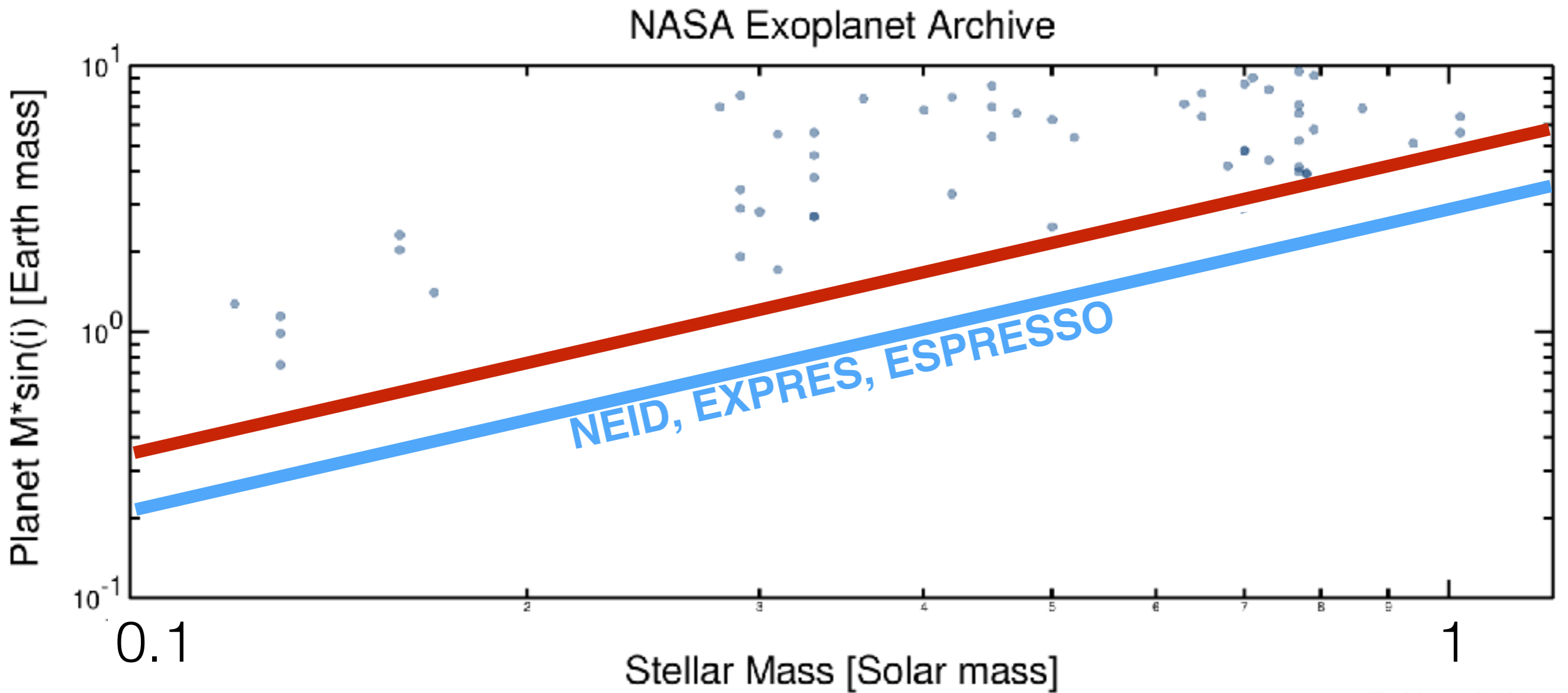
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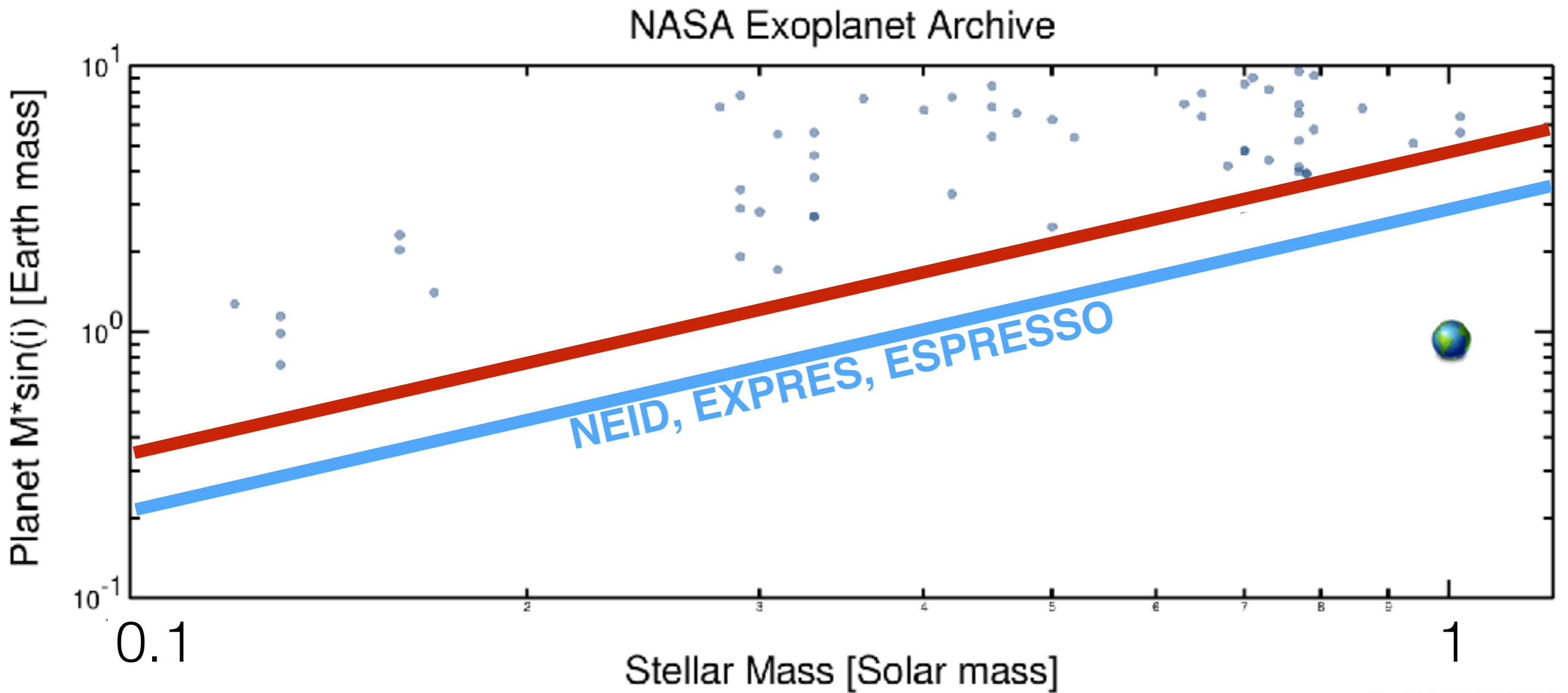
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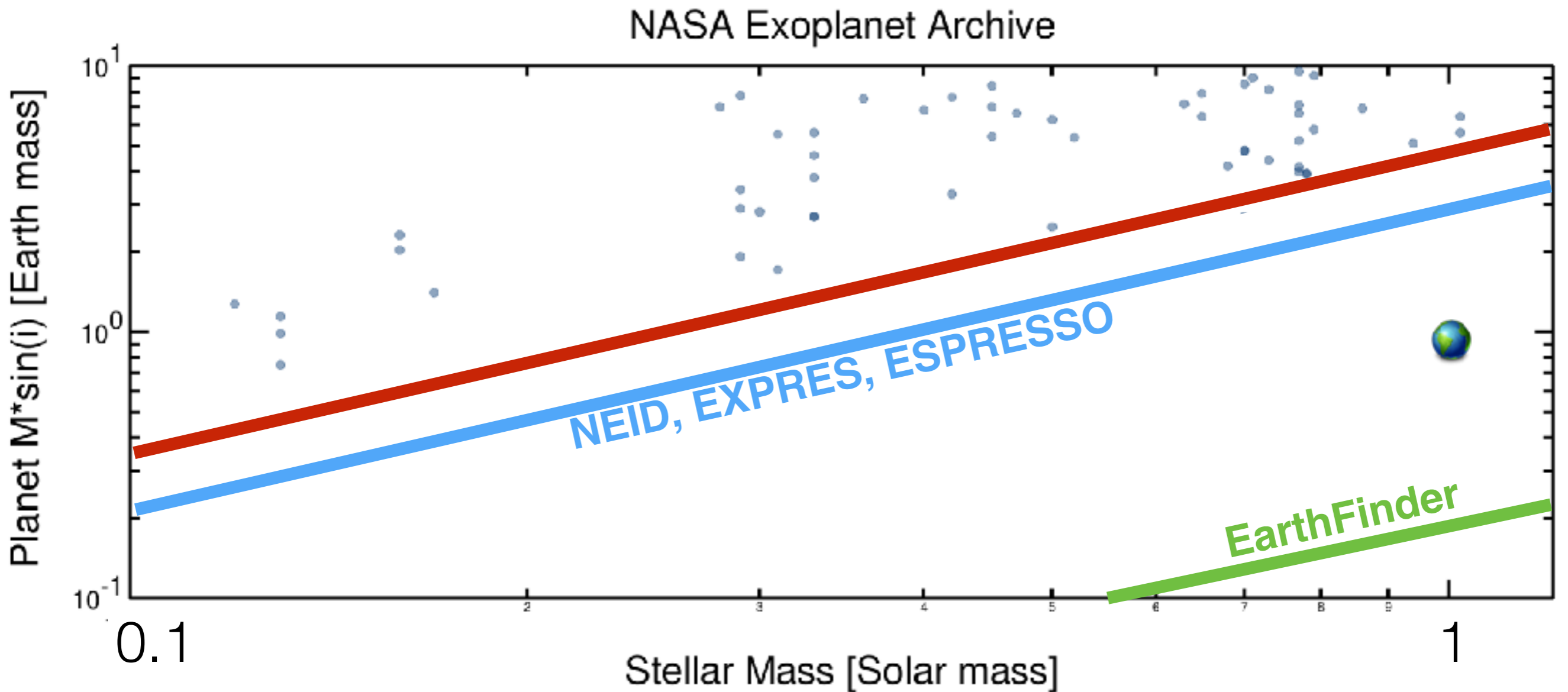
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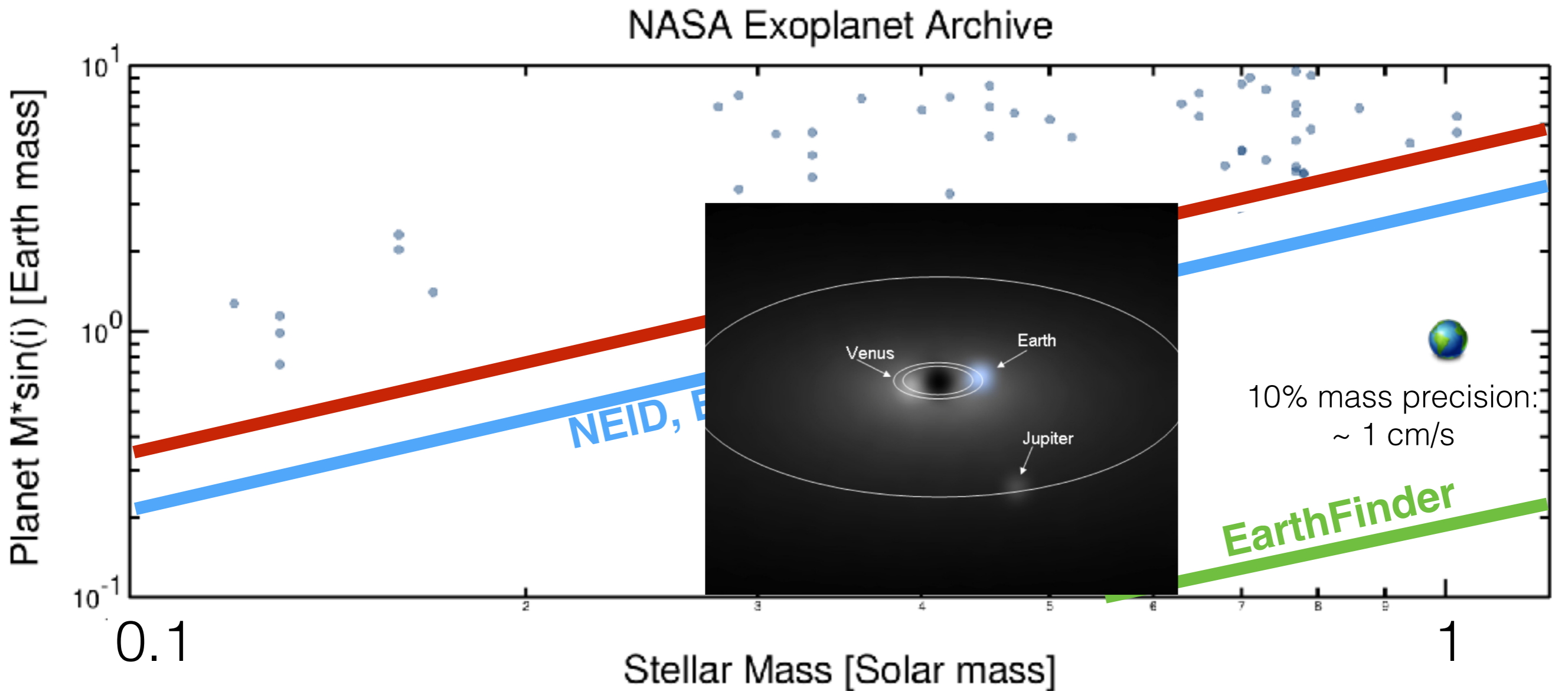


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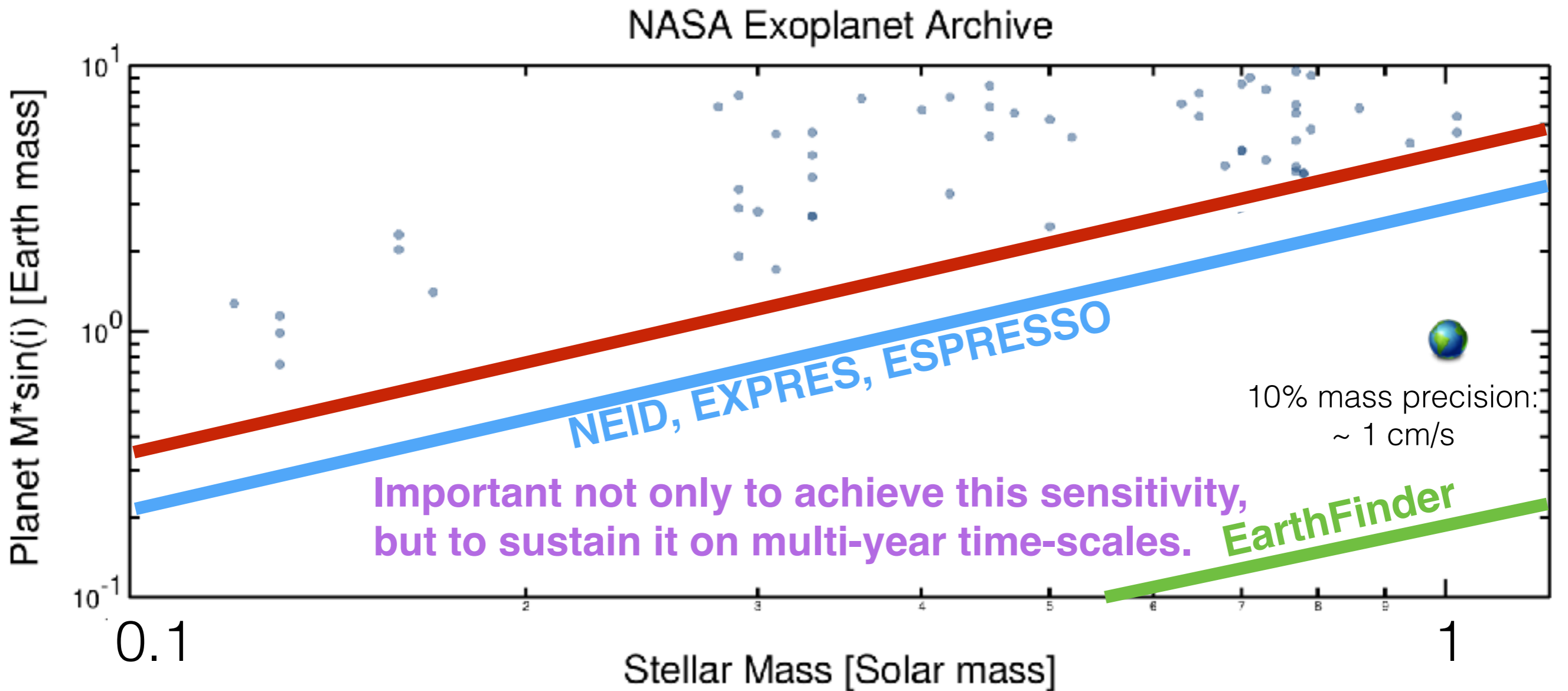
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# Study Focus

We are not building the mission;

We are not proposing to build the mission;

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**Can we “solve” stellar activity?**
- What can't you do from the ground?  
**Will the Earth's atmosphere limit RV precision on the ground?**



# Study Teams

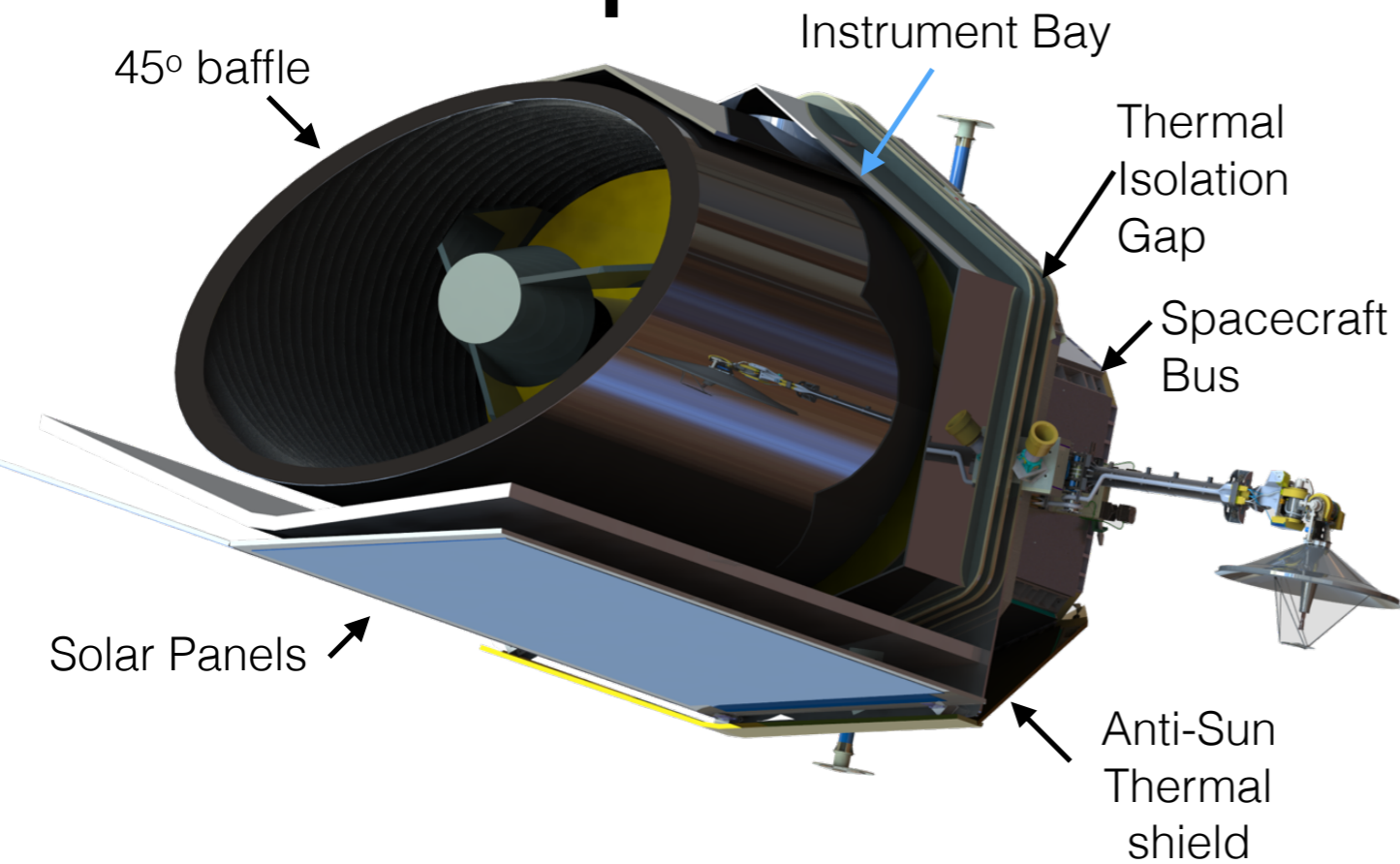
**Instrument & Mission** Gautam Vasisht

**Tellurics** Sharon Wang

**Stellar Activity** Heather Cegla, Xavier Dumusque

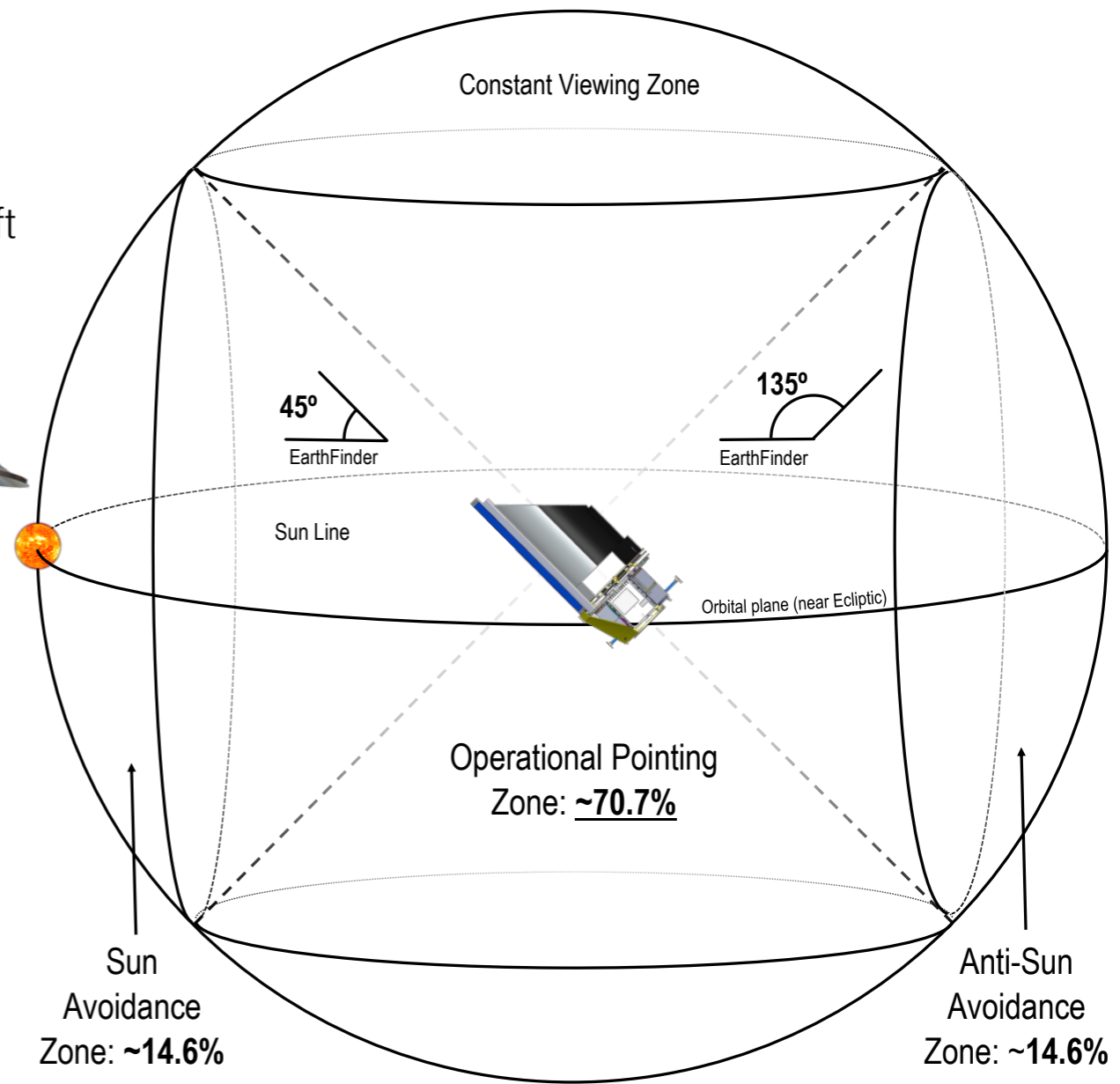
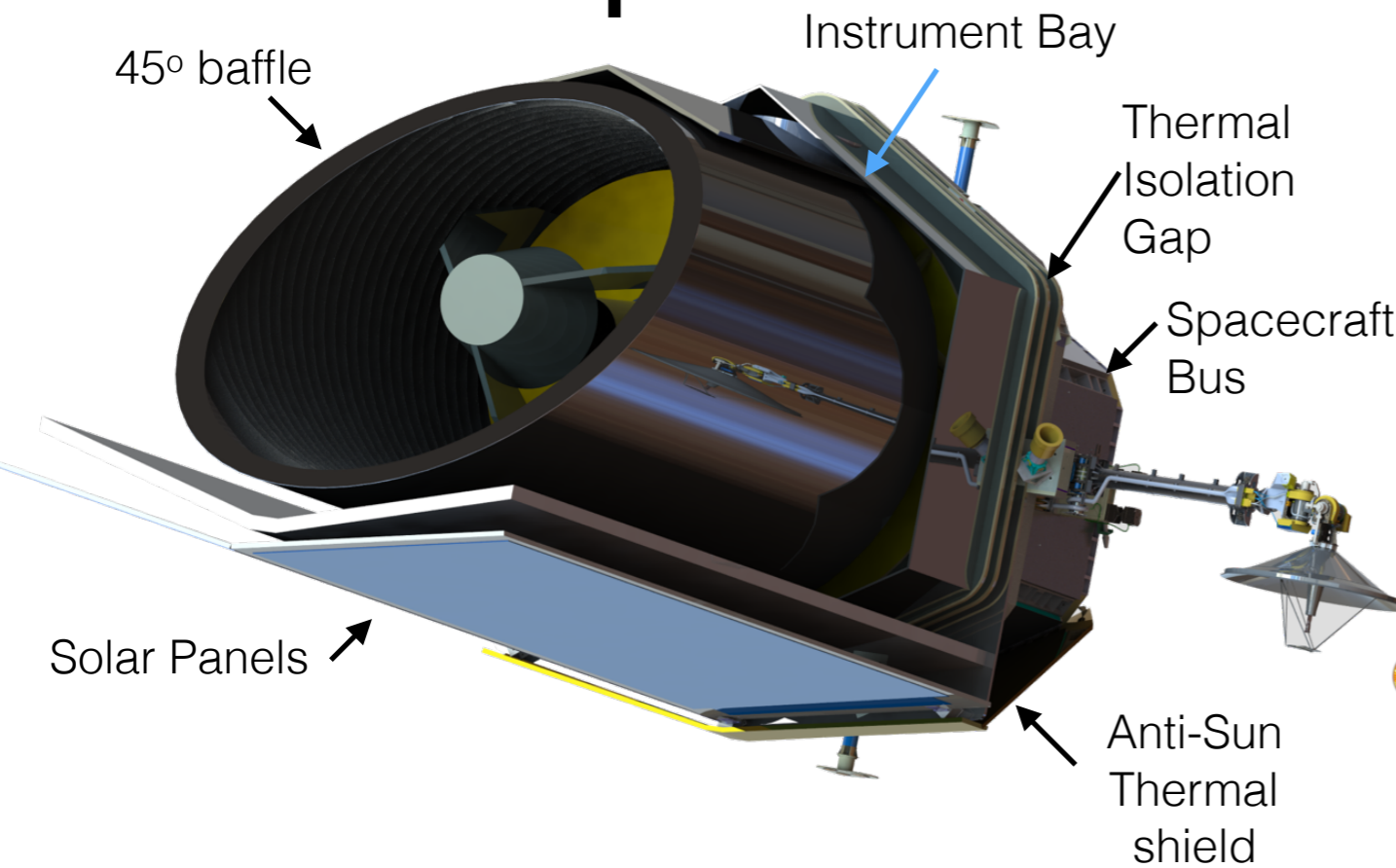
**Ancillary Science** Courtney Dressing, Peter Gao

# Spacecraft & Orbit



- Ball Aerospace
- Kepler, Spitzer heritage
  - Extended baffle
  - Thermal shield
- 1.45 meter primary
- 5 year primary mission
- 25-50 nearest FGKM main sequence stars

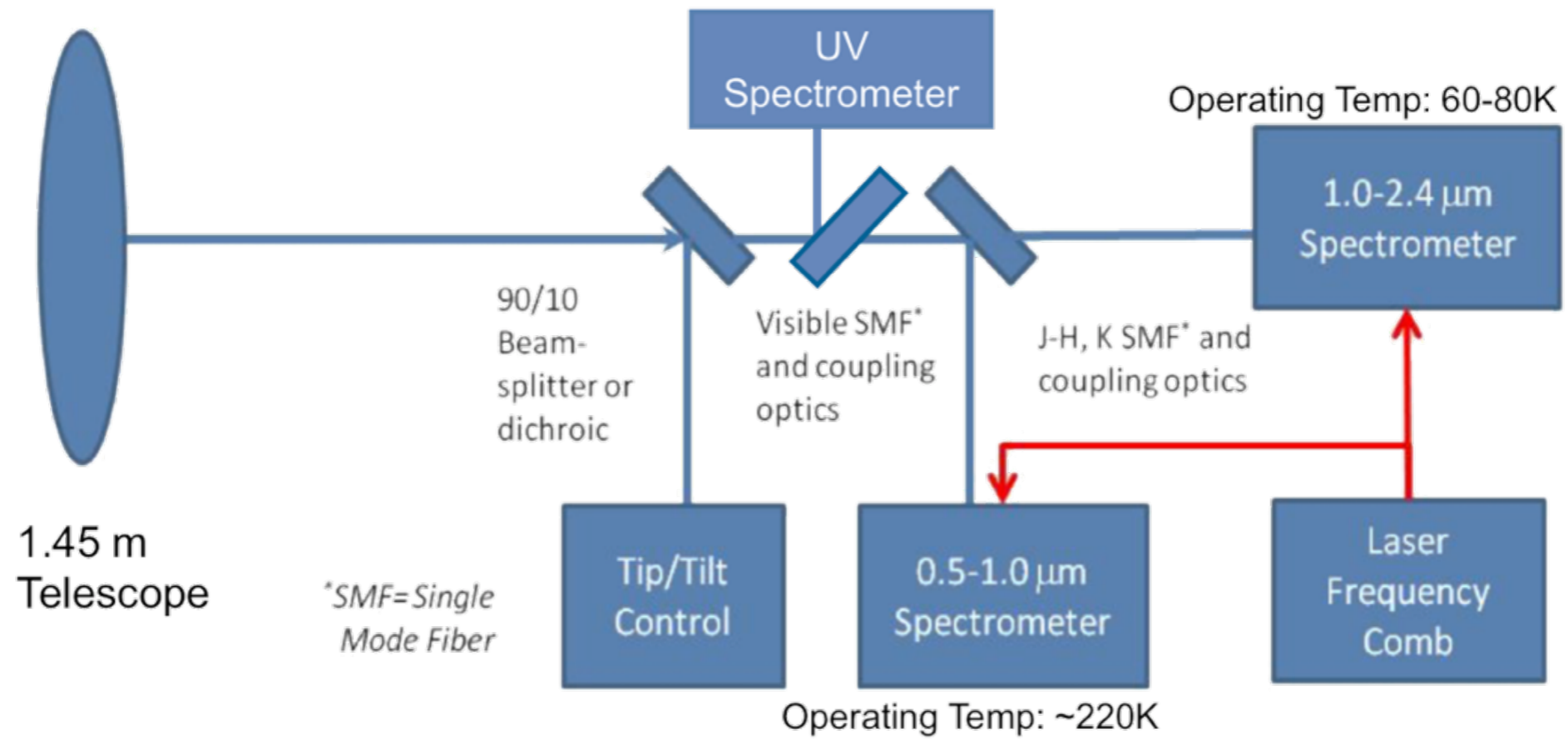
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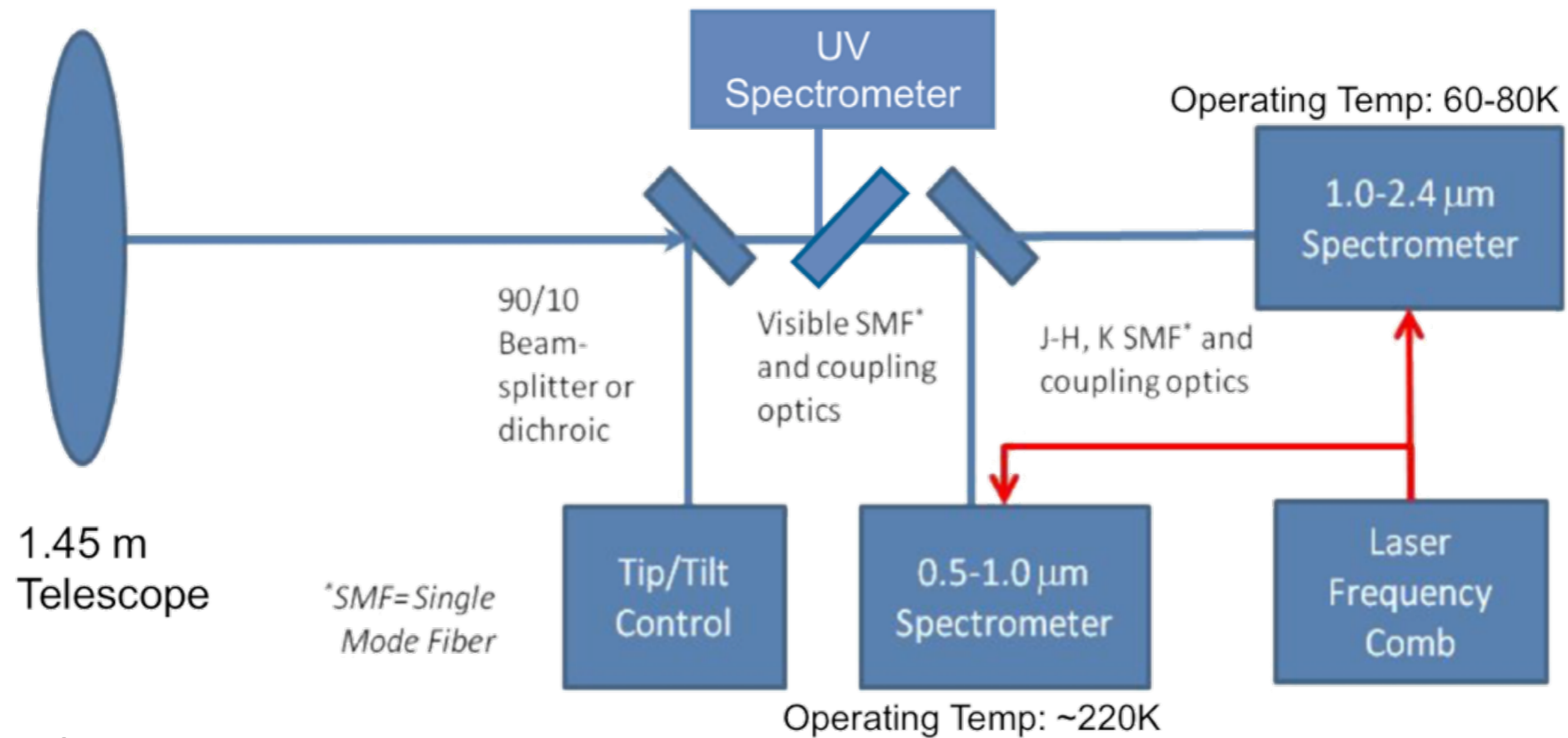
- Ball Aerospace
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- 25-50 nearest FGKM main sequence stars
- Earth-trailing or L2 orbit
- 70.7% of sky visible at any time
  - Minimum two three-month visibility windows every year
  - 29% of sky in continuous viewing zone

Figure from Bahaa Hamze

# Instrument



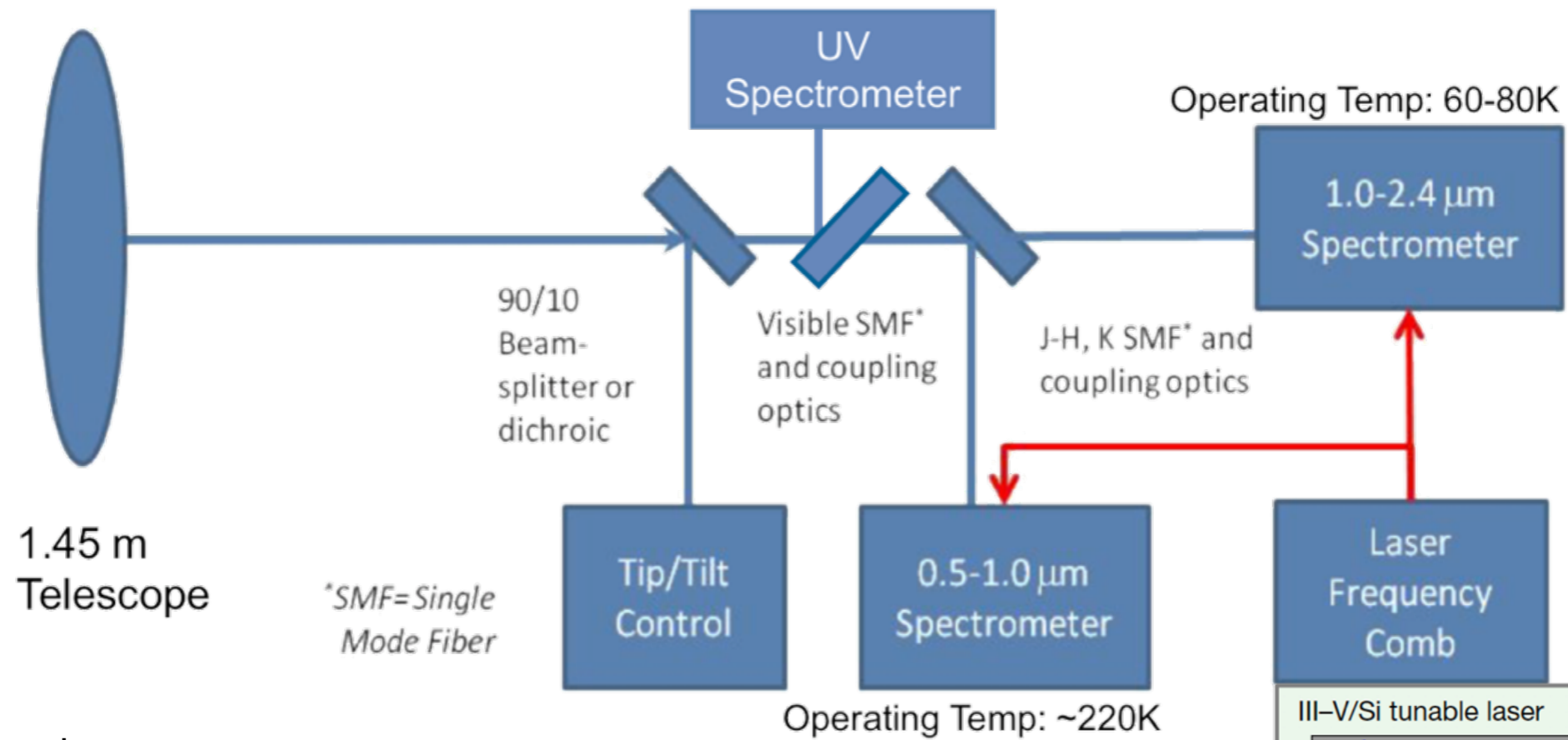
# Instrument



## Spectrograph:

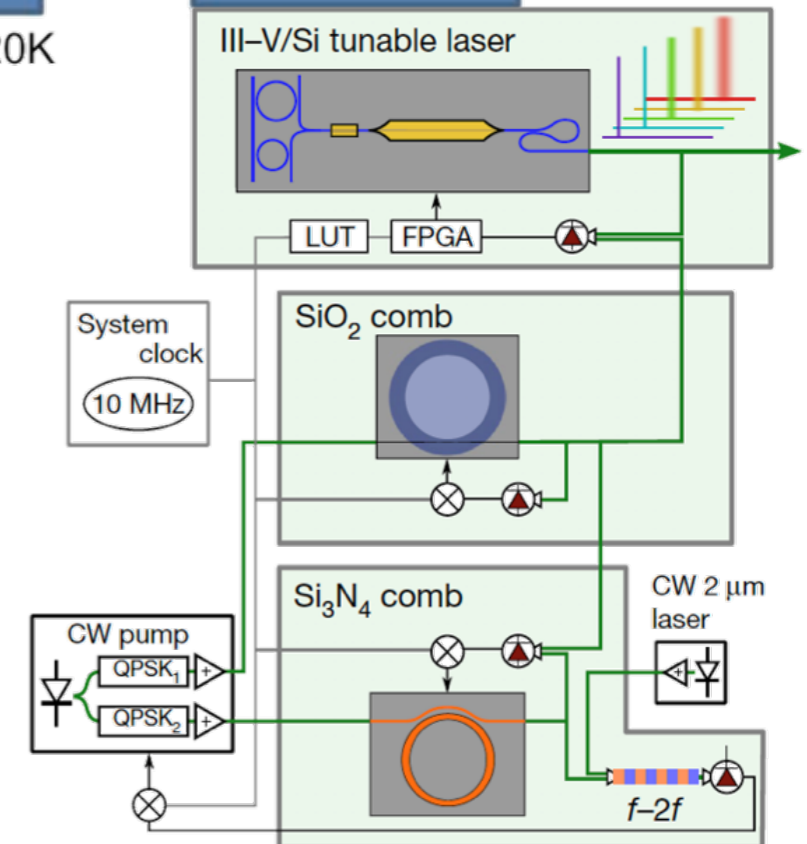
- High-resolution ( $R \sim 150\text{-}200\text{k}$ )
- Diffraction-limited (Single mode fiber spatial illumination stability)

# Instrument

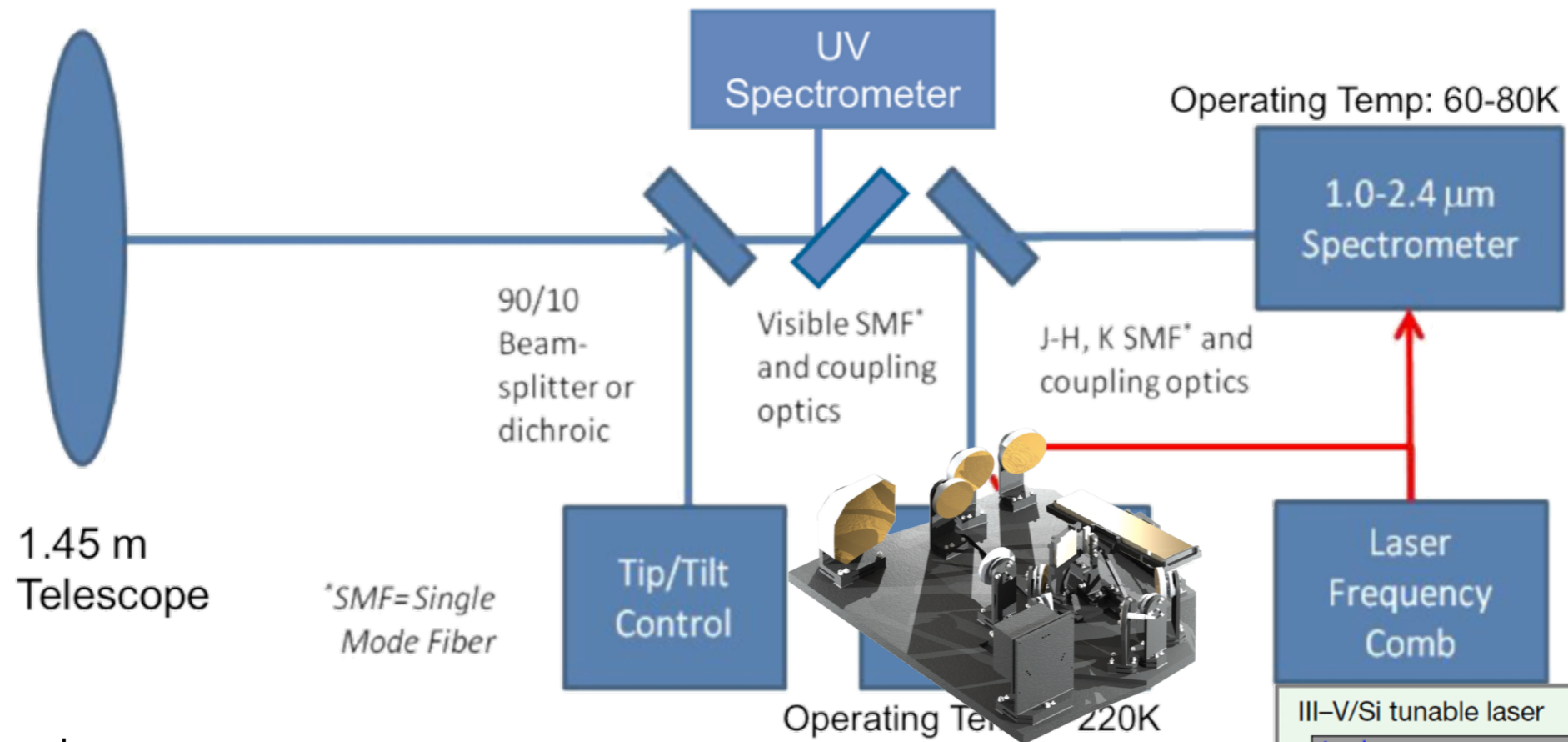


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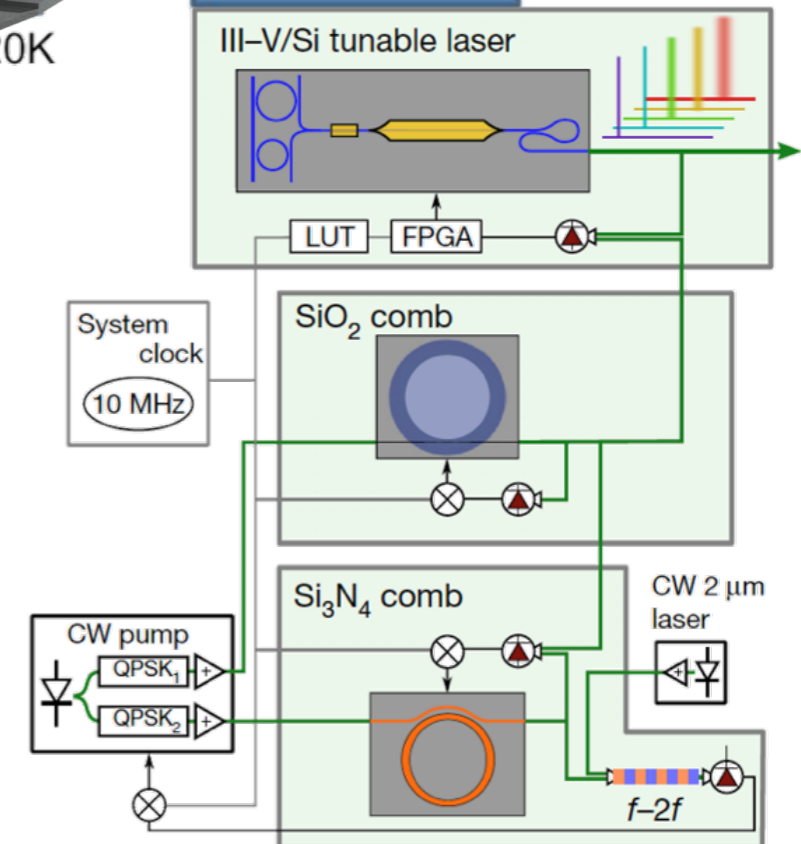


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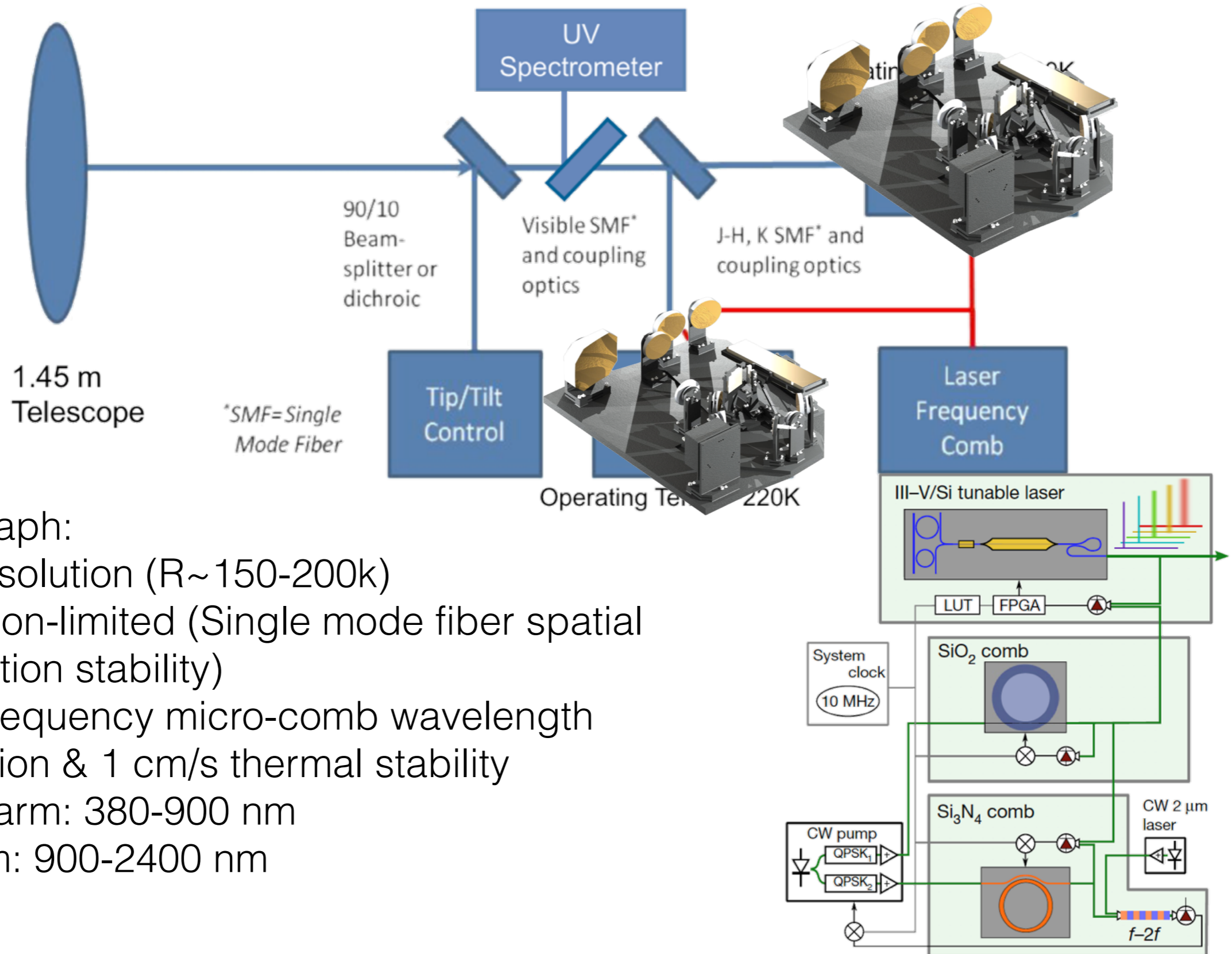


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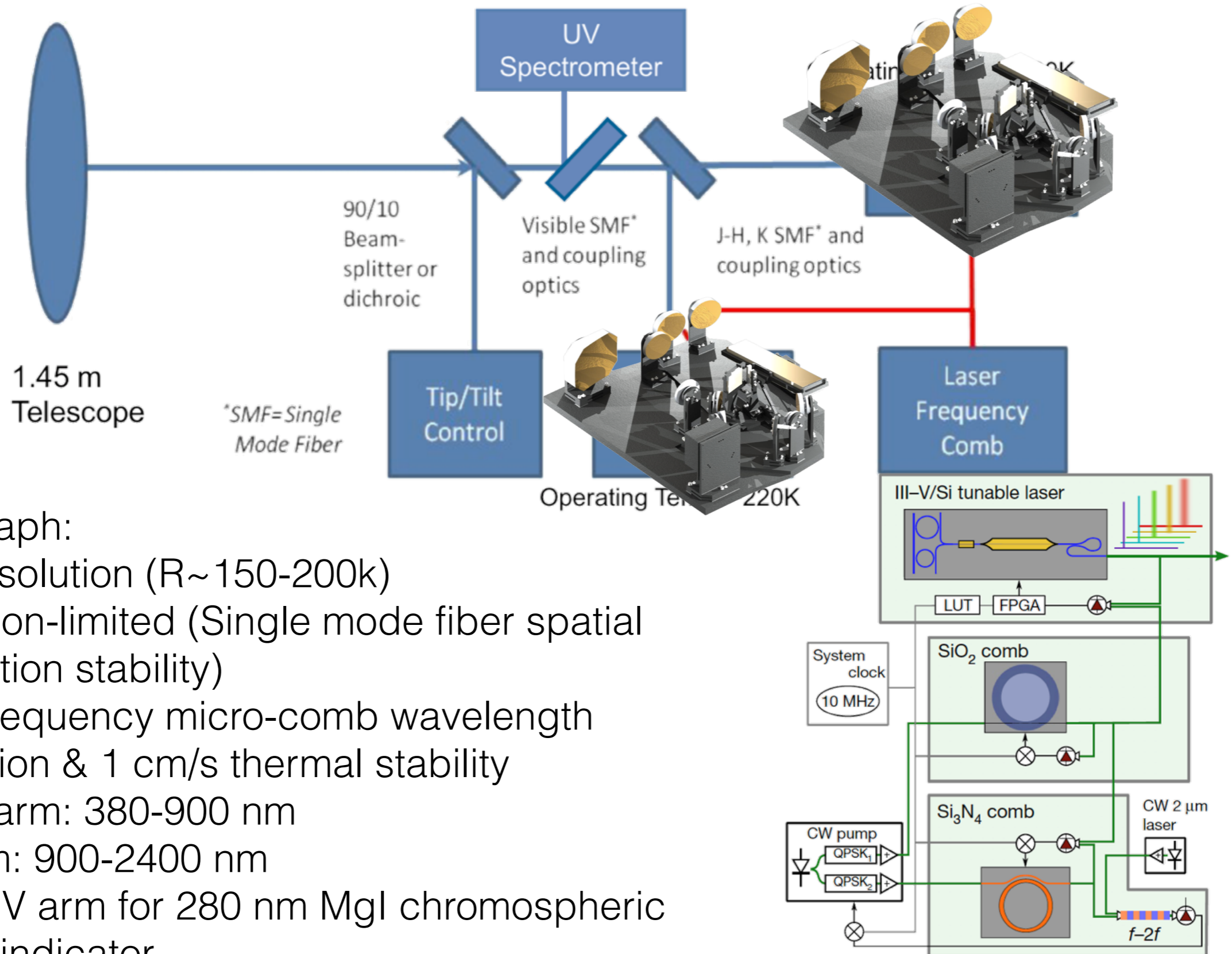


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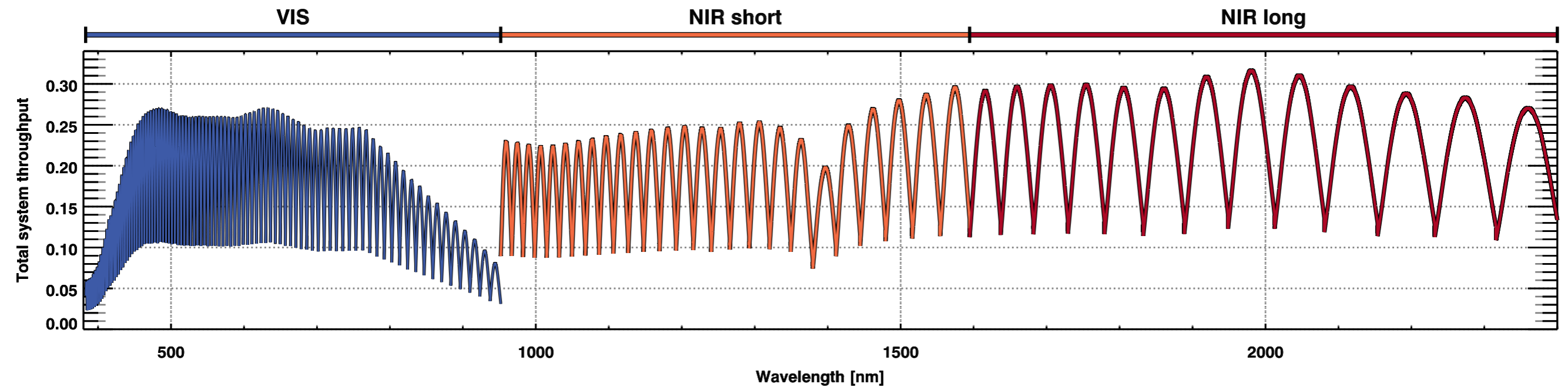
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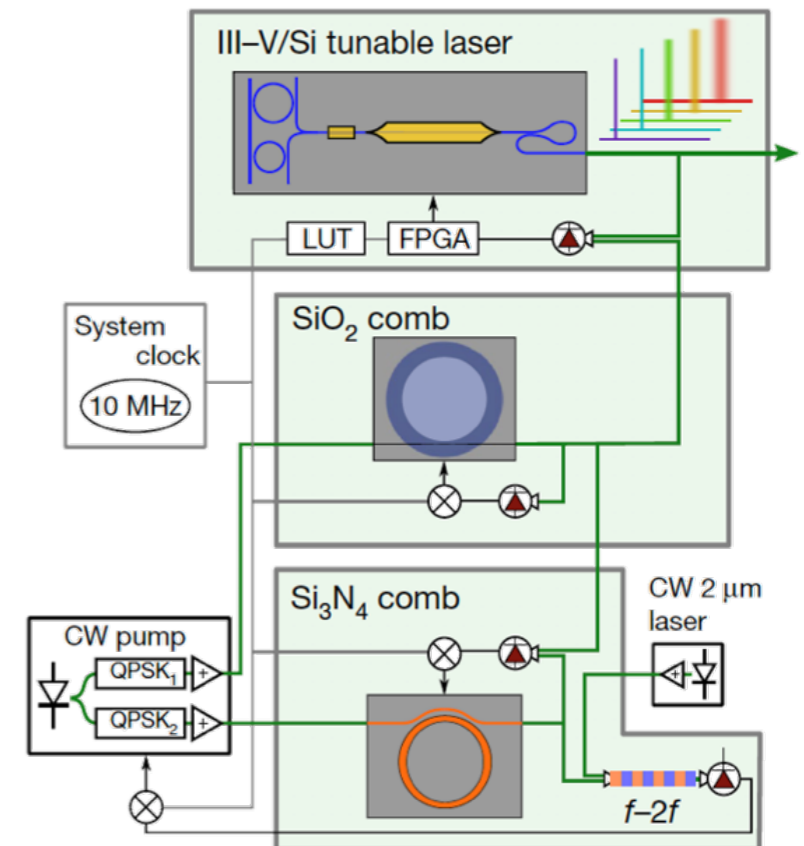
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# Why space?

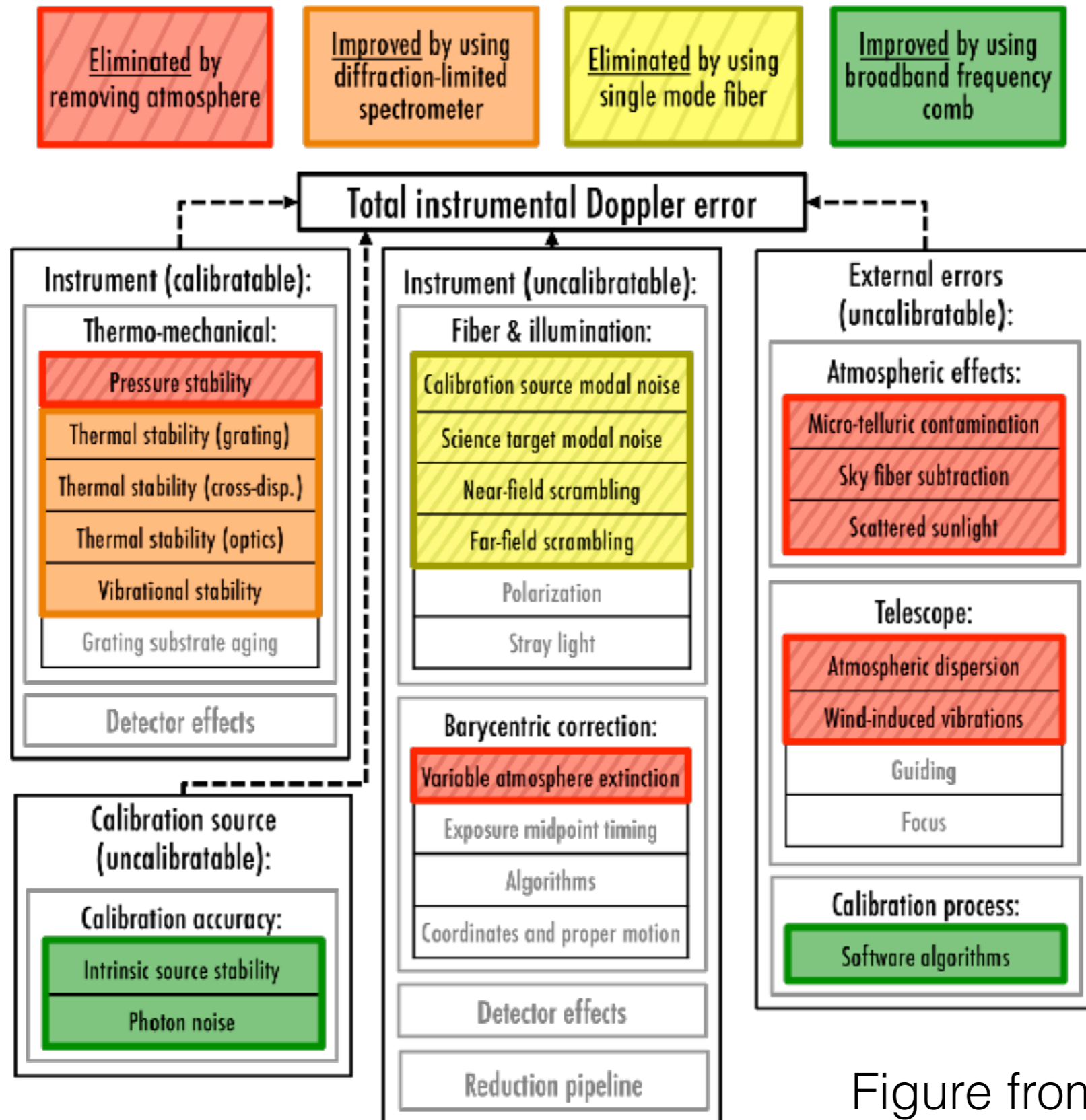


Figure from Sam Halverson

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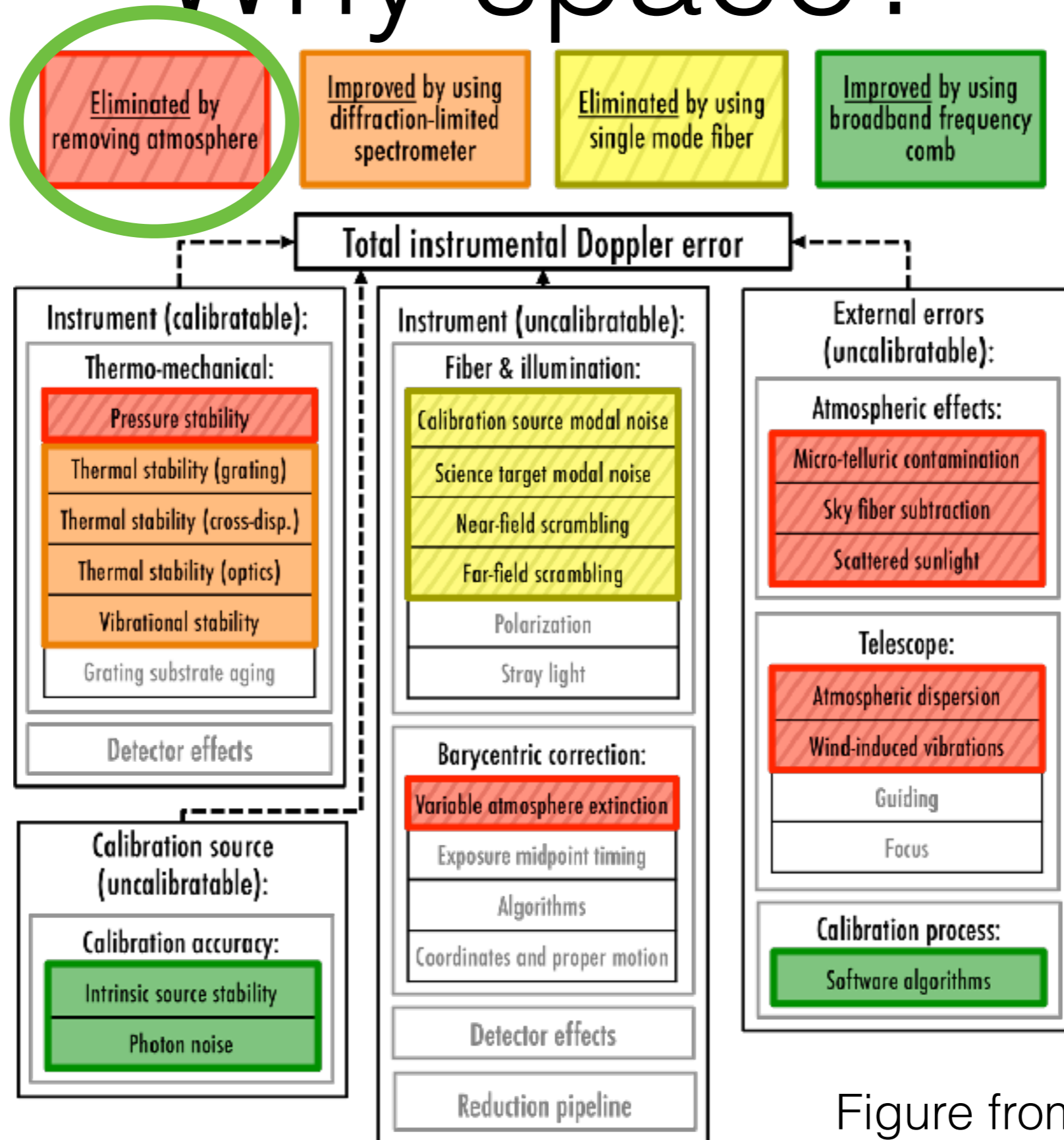
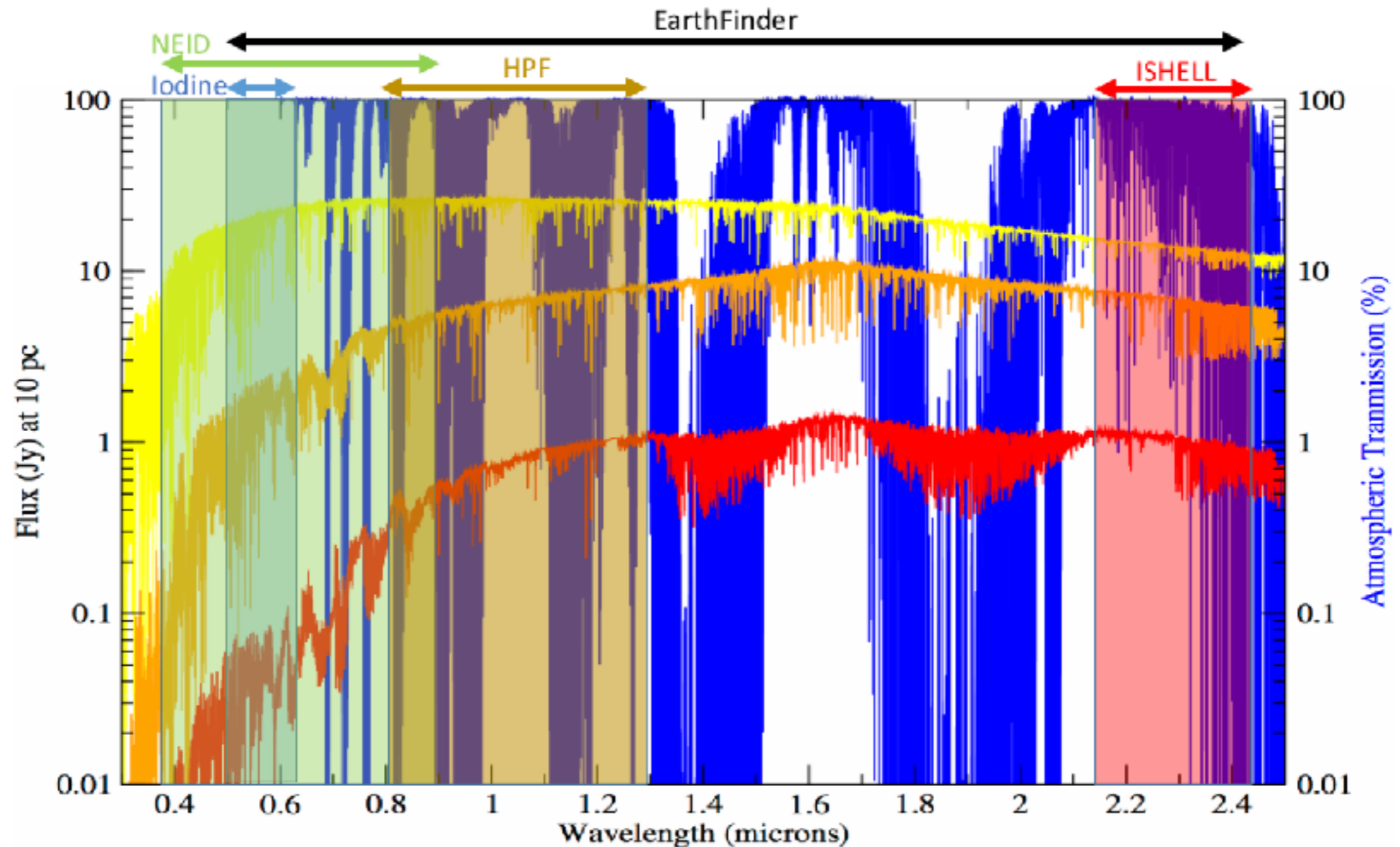


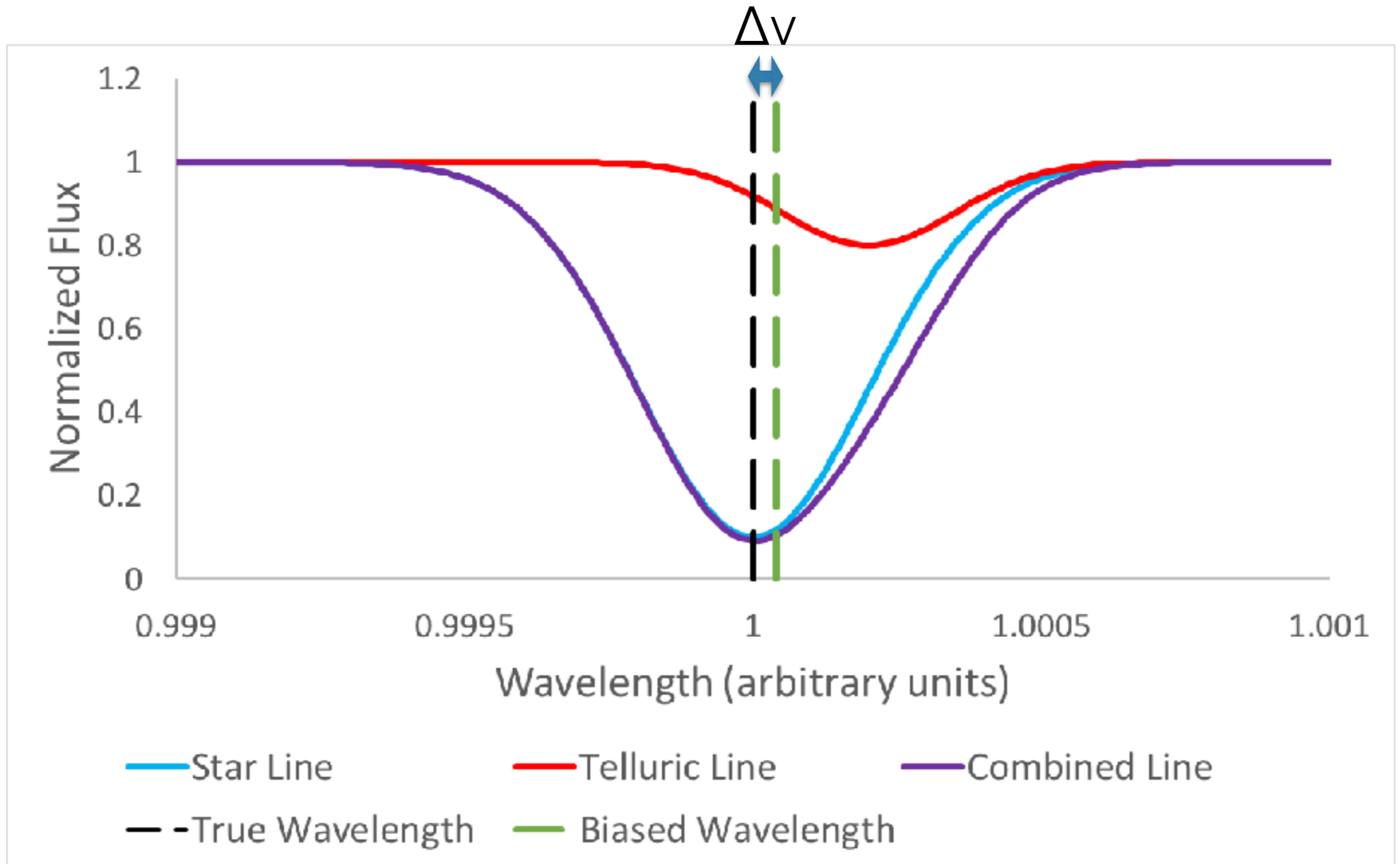
Figure from Sam Halverson

# What can't be done from the ground?

The Earth's atmosphere may introduce RV errors of  $\sim 10$  cm/s in the visible, &  $\sim 1$  m/s in the NIR

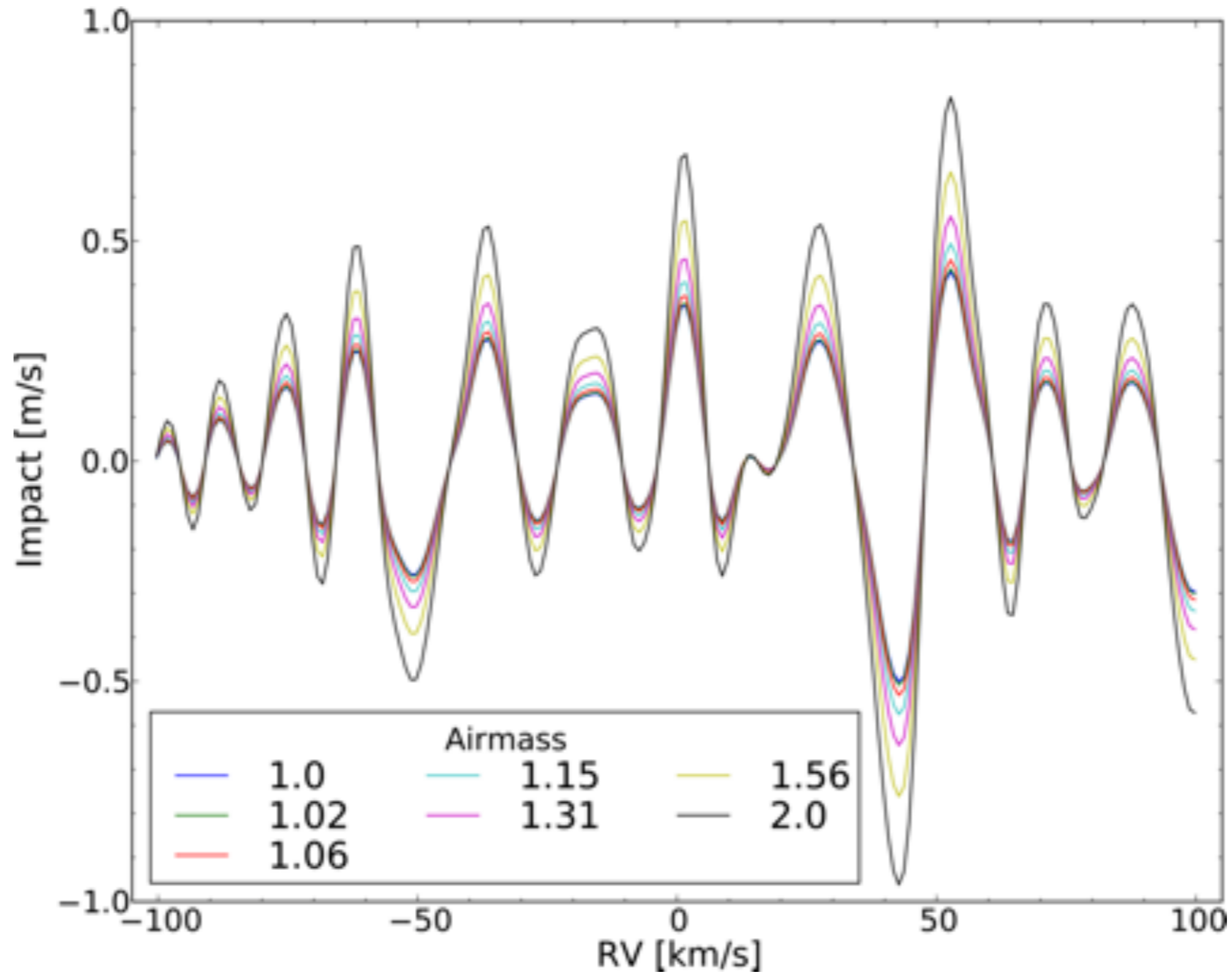


# The telluric challenge



# Cunha et al. 2014

Impact for HARPS data from ignoring micro-telluric



# Divide by telluric model or standard?

**Sameshima et al. 2018:**

”We also develop a new diagnostic method for evaluating the accuracy of telluric correction and use it to demonstrate that our method achieves an accuracy better than 2% for spectral parts for which the atmospheric transmittance is as low as ~20% if telluric standard stars are observed under the following conditions: **(1) the difference in airmass between the target and the standard is <0.05; and (2) that in time is less than 1 h.** In particular, the time variability of water vapor has a large impact on the accuracy of telluric correction and minimizing the difference in time from that of the telluric standard star is important especially in near-infrared high-resolution spectroscopic observation.”



# Divide by telluric model or standard?

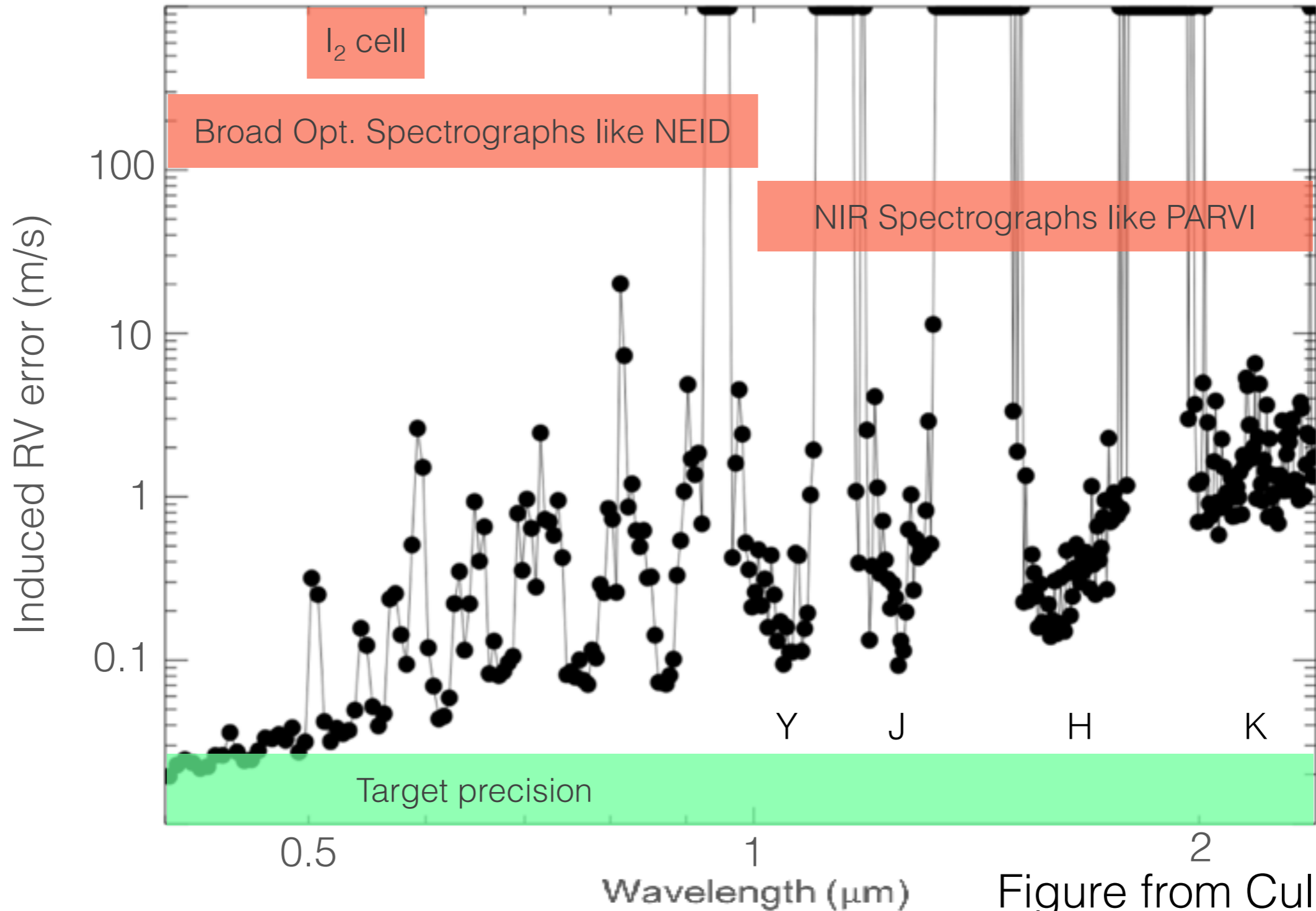


Figure from Cullen Blake

# Stellar Activity

Approaches under exploration for activity mitigation:

Wavelength Coverage (e.g. CARMENES)

Cadence (e.g. MINERVA)

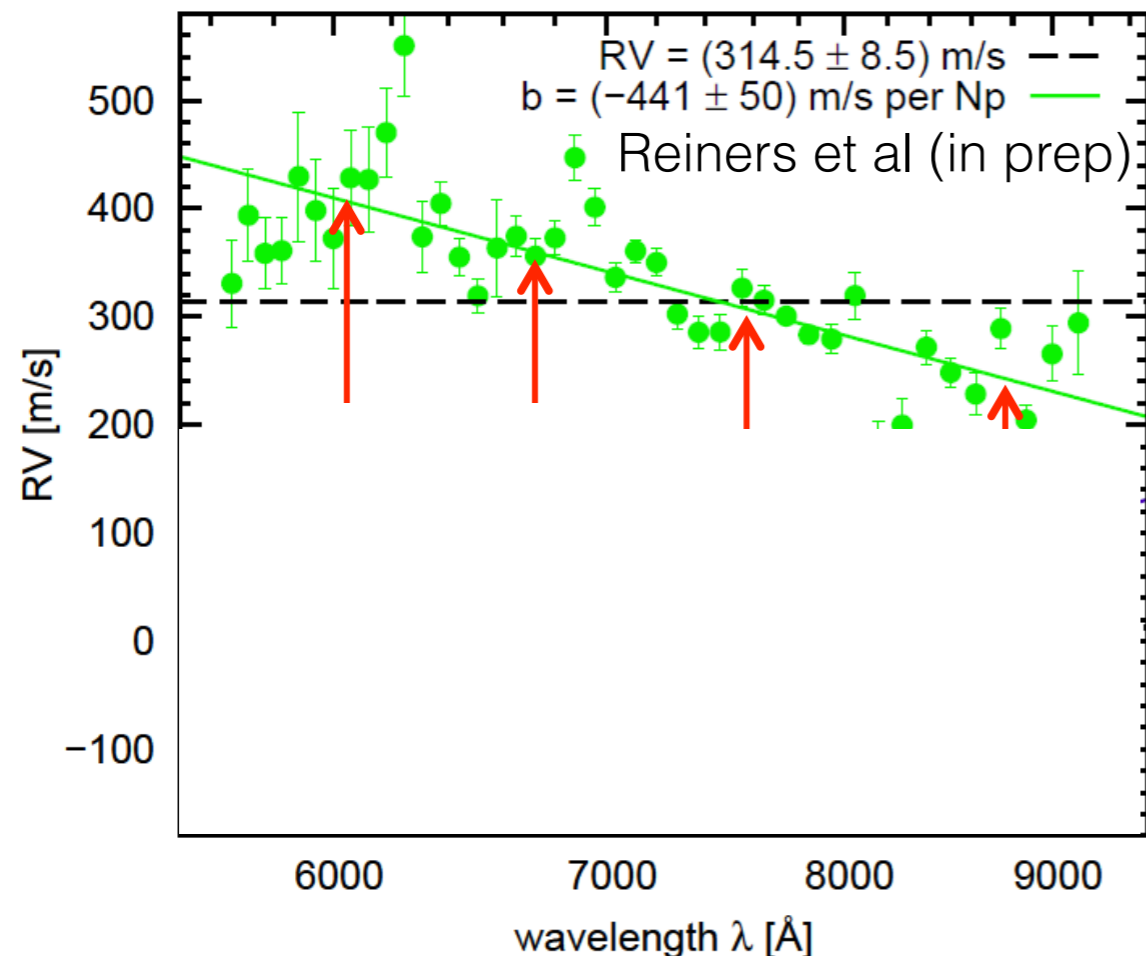
R~200k resolution (e.g. ESPRESSO)

Line-by-line analysis

Simultaneous photometry (e.g. Oshagh et al. 2017, RVxK2)

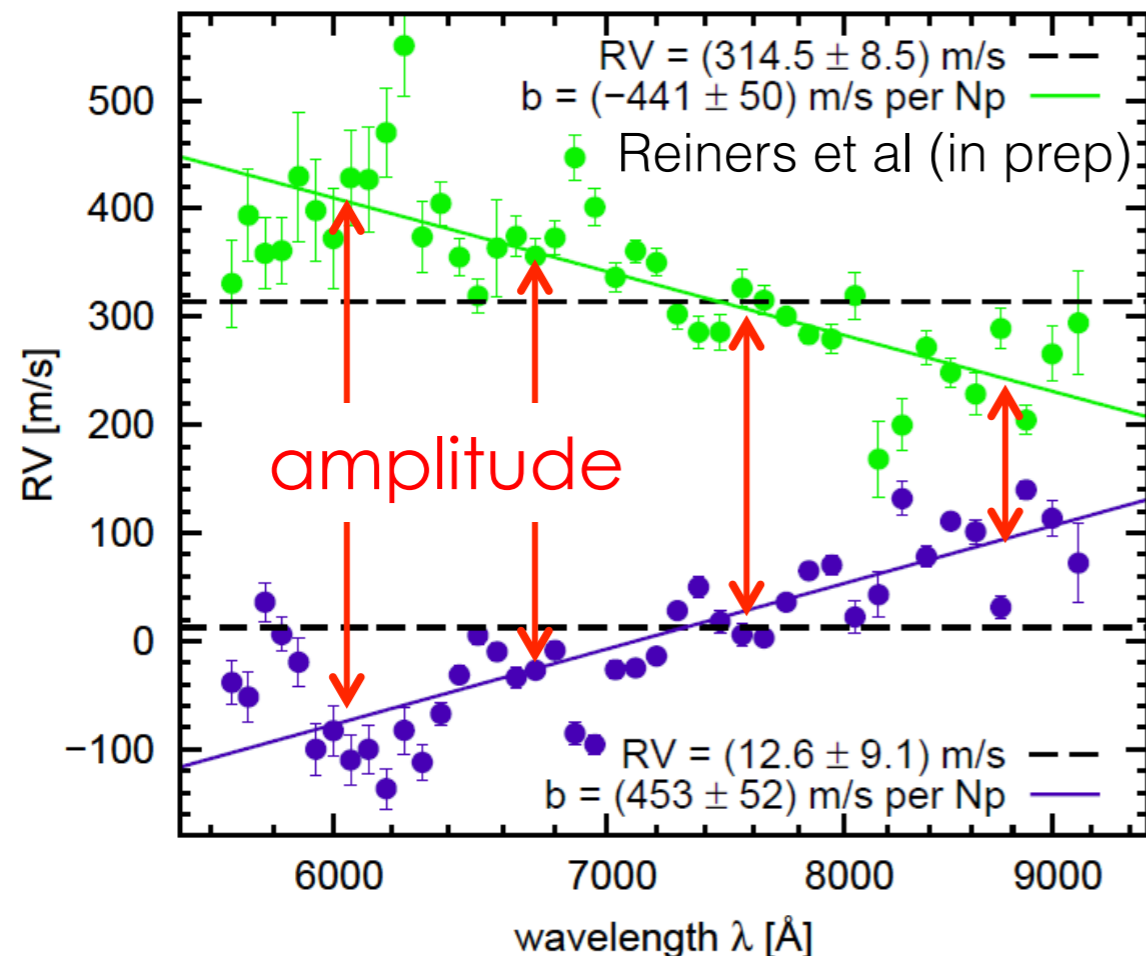
# Wavelength Dependence

To first order,  $RV \sim 1/\lambda$  was expected for cool starspots (eg Reiners et al. 2010), and observed for T Tauri stars, Barnard's star with HARPS, and now CARMENES:



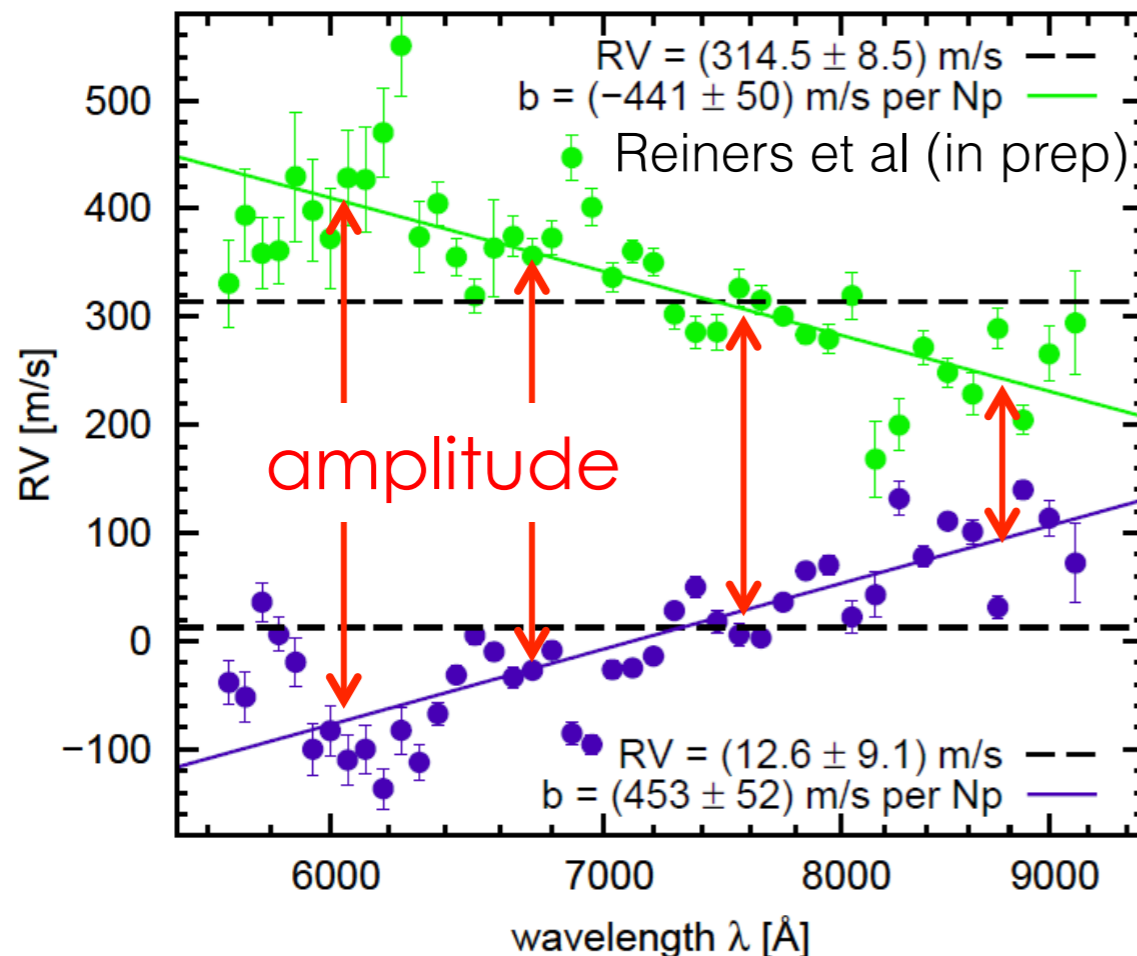
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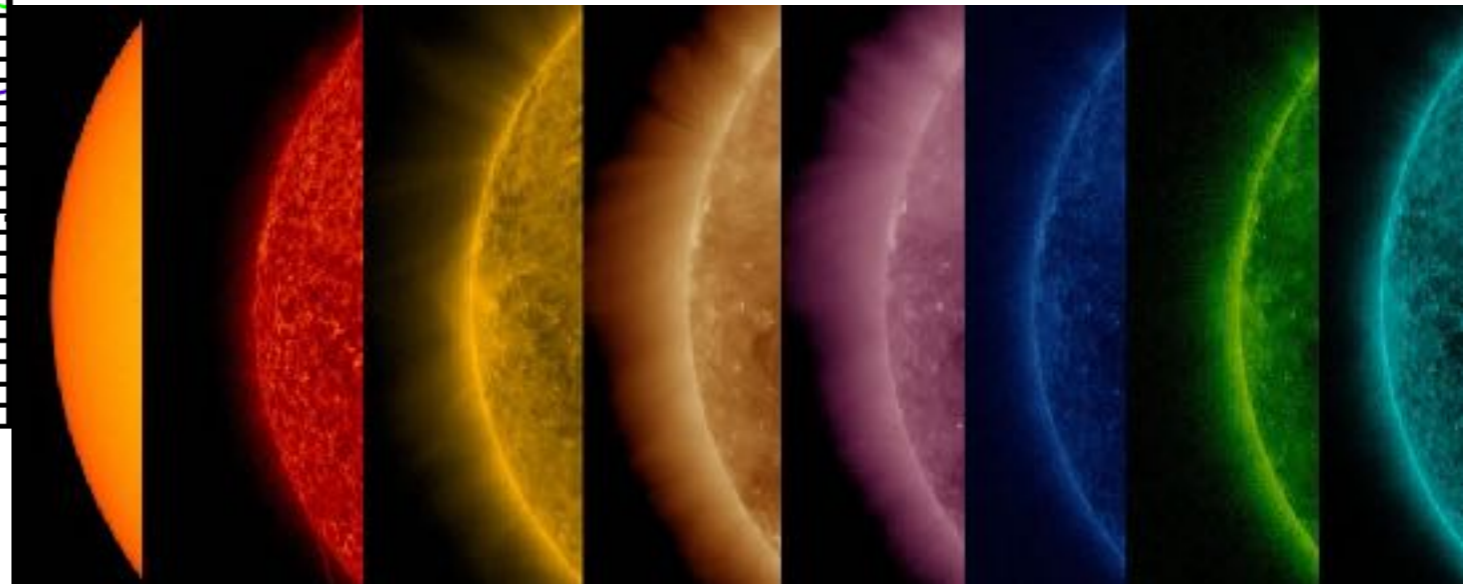


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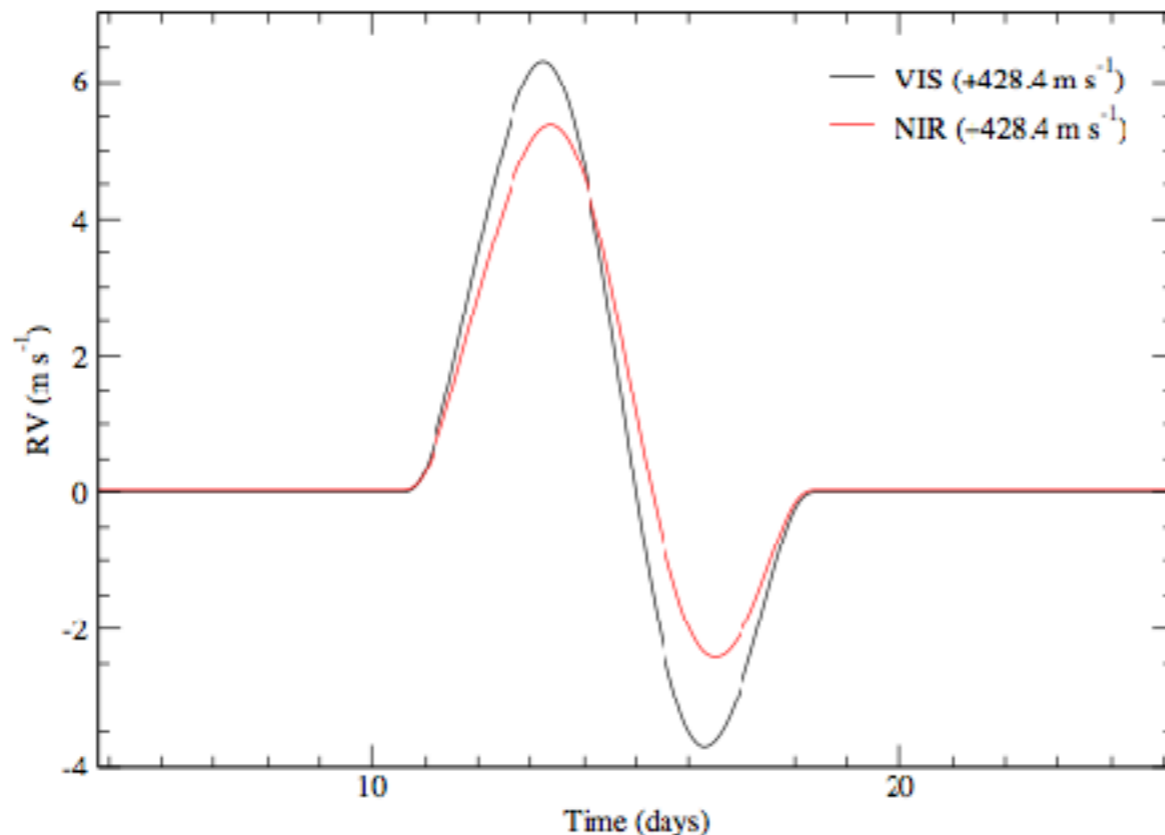
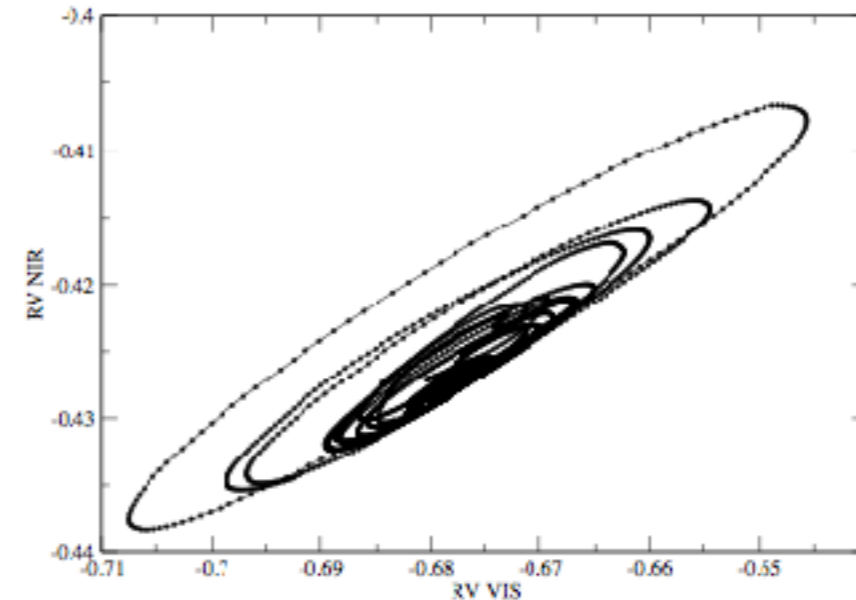


# Wavelength Dependence

## StarSim 2.0

VIS & NIR RV data to correct out stellar activity

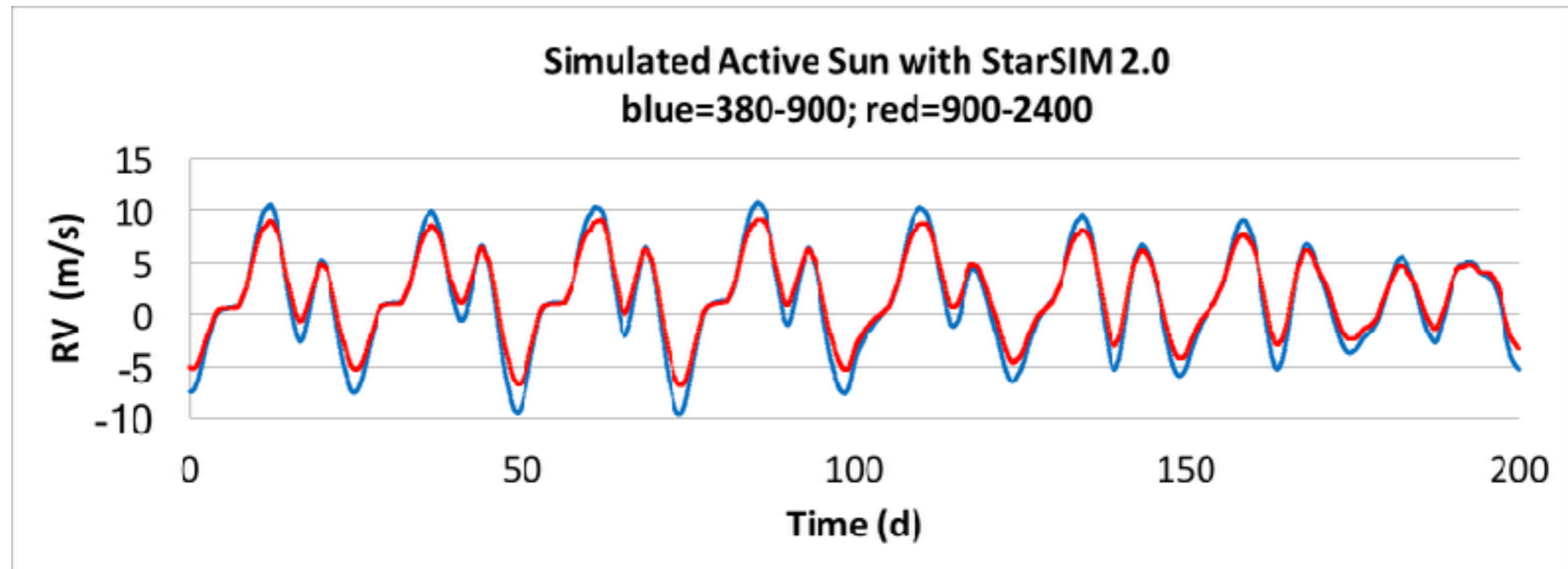
- Is NIR scaled version of VIS?  $\Rightarrow$  NO!



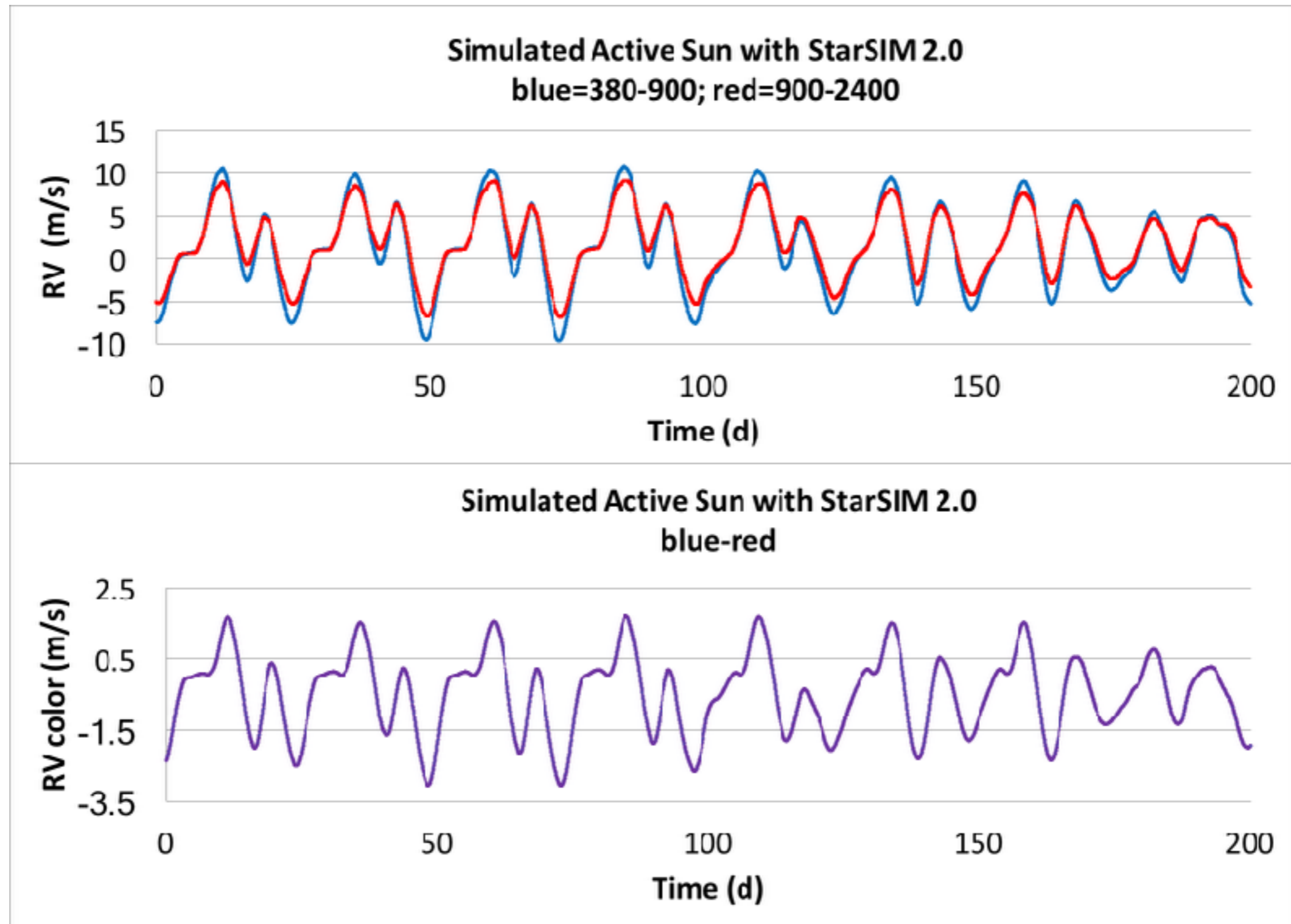
- There is a phase shift
- Not so easy...  
work in progress

Slide from  
Ignas Ribas group

# Wavelength Dependence



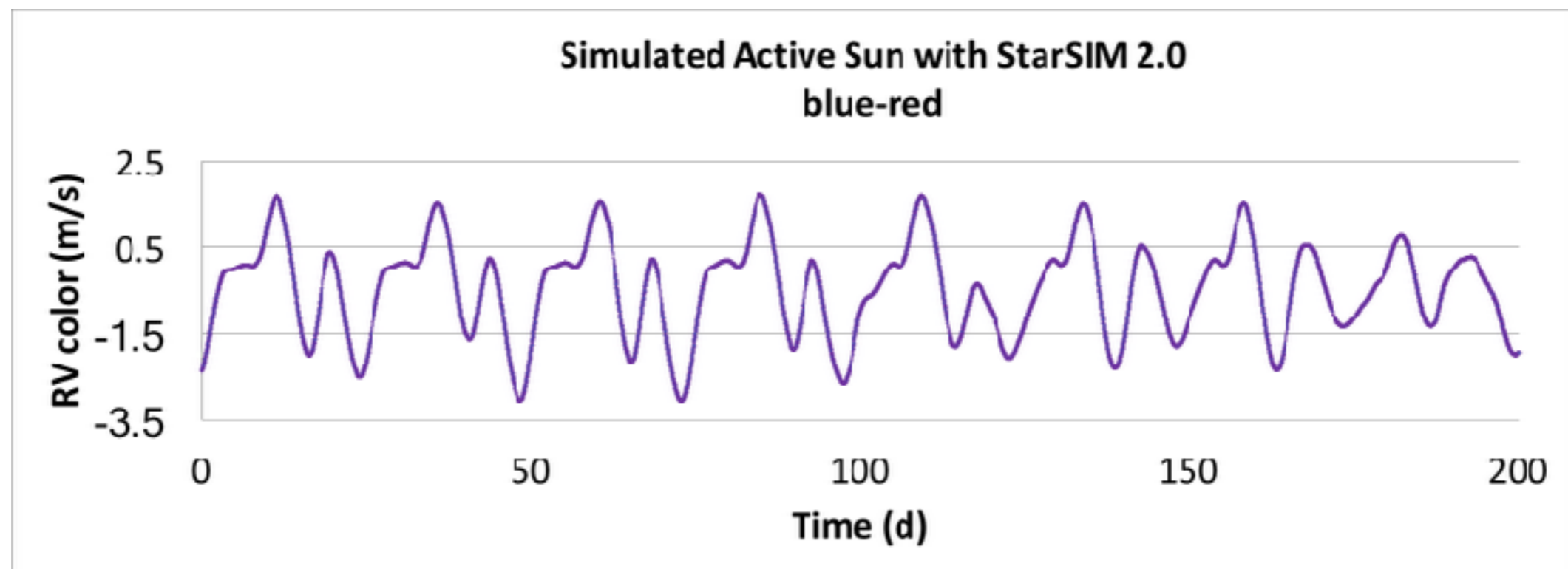
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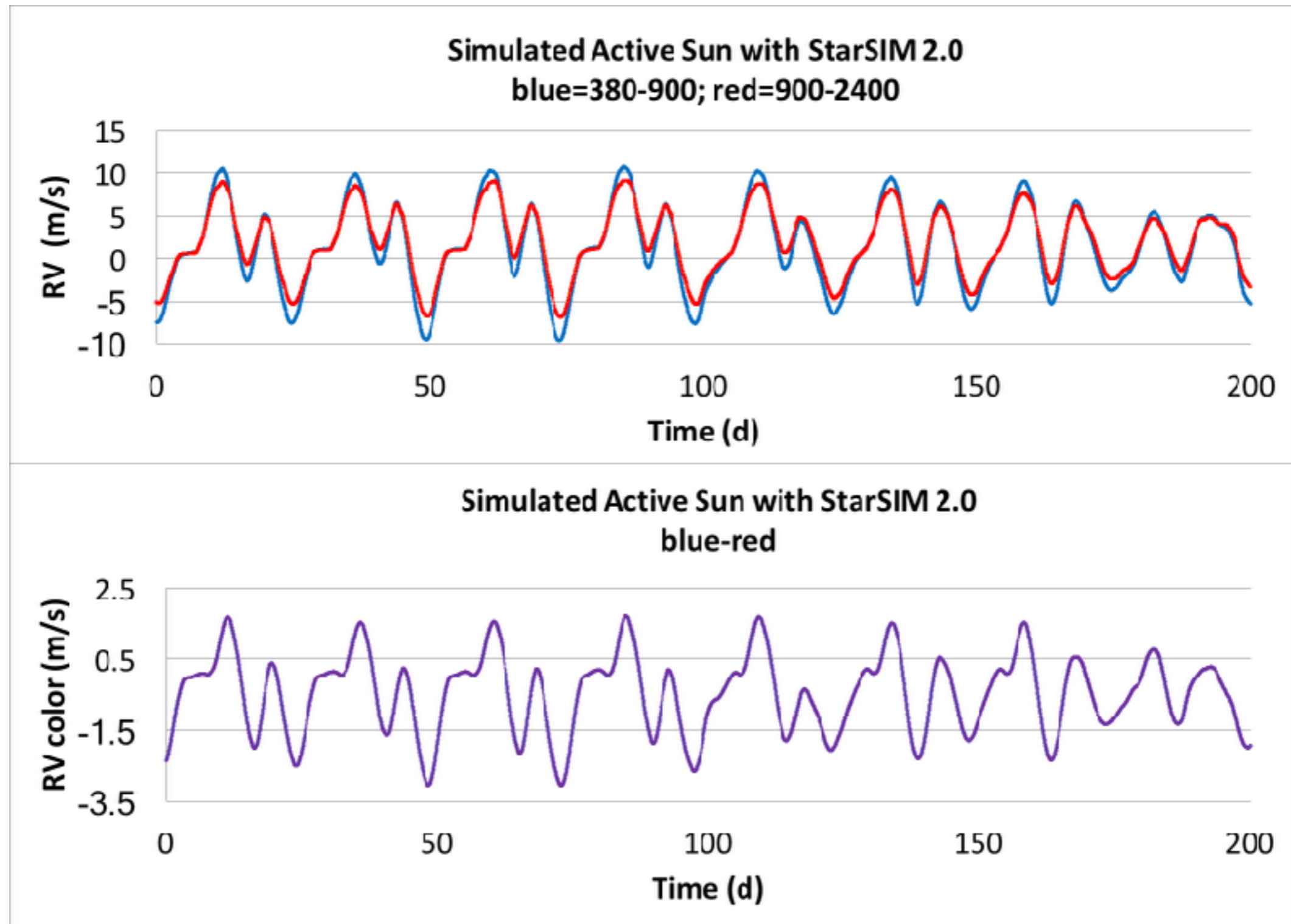


# Wavelength Dependence

- RV color subtracts planet signal(s) completely!
- Clean measure of RVs due to chromatic activity!
- Needs modeling to go from RV color  $\rightarrow$  RV from activity
- To zeroth order, activity RV  $\propto$  RV color, so:
  - Isolated planet signal is  $\sim$ RV - Cx(RV color)



# Wavelength Dependence



# The cadence advantage of space

## Pinning down the mass of Kepler-10c: the importance of sampling and model comparison

V. Rajpaul,<sup>1\*</sup> L. A. Buchhave,<sup>2</sup> and Suzanne Aigrain<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sub-department of Astrophysics, Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Star and Planet Formation, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, DK-1350 Copenhagen, Denmark

## Recovering planet radial velocity signals in the presence of starspot activity in fully convective stars

J.R. Barnes<sup>1</sup>, S.V. Jeffers<sup>2</sup>, G. Anglada-Escudé<sup>3</sup>, C.A. Haswell<sup>1</sup>, H.R.A. Jones<sup>4</sup>, M. Tuomi<sup>4</sup>, F. Feng<sup>4</sup>, J.S. Jenkins<sup>5</sup>, P. Petit<sup>6,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Physical Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, UK.

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<sup>3</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary, University of London, 327 Mile End Rd, London, UK

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<sup>7</sup> CNRS, Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, 14 Avenue Édouard Belin, 31400 Toulouse, France.

May 2

on of the enigmatic planet Kepler-10c suggested a mass of  $\sim 17 M_{\oplus}$ , high for a planet with radius  $2.32 R_{\oplus}$ ; further observations and subsequent (possibly much) lower mass, but masses derived using RVs from two HARPS-N and HIRES) were incompatible at a  $3\sigma$  level. We demonstrate discrepancies may readily arise from sub-optimal sampling and/or a single coherent signal (stellar, planetary, or otherwise) that may be present a plausible resolution of the mass discrepancy, and ultimately as having mass  $7.37^{+1.32}_{-1.19} M_{\oplus}$ , and mean density  $3.14^{+0.63}_{-0.55} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ .

Keywords: Kepler-10 – planetary systems – methods: data analysis – stars: activity

Accepted for publication in MNRAS (2016 December 2)

“We have clearly demonstrated that high cadence observations on the timescale of the stellar rotation period are essential for reliable RV detection of planets orbiting active stars.”

# The cadence advantage of space

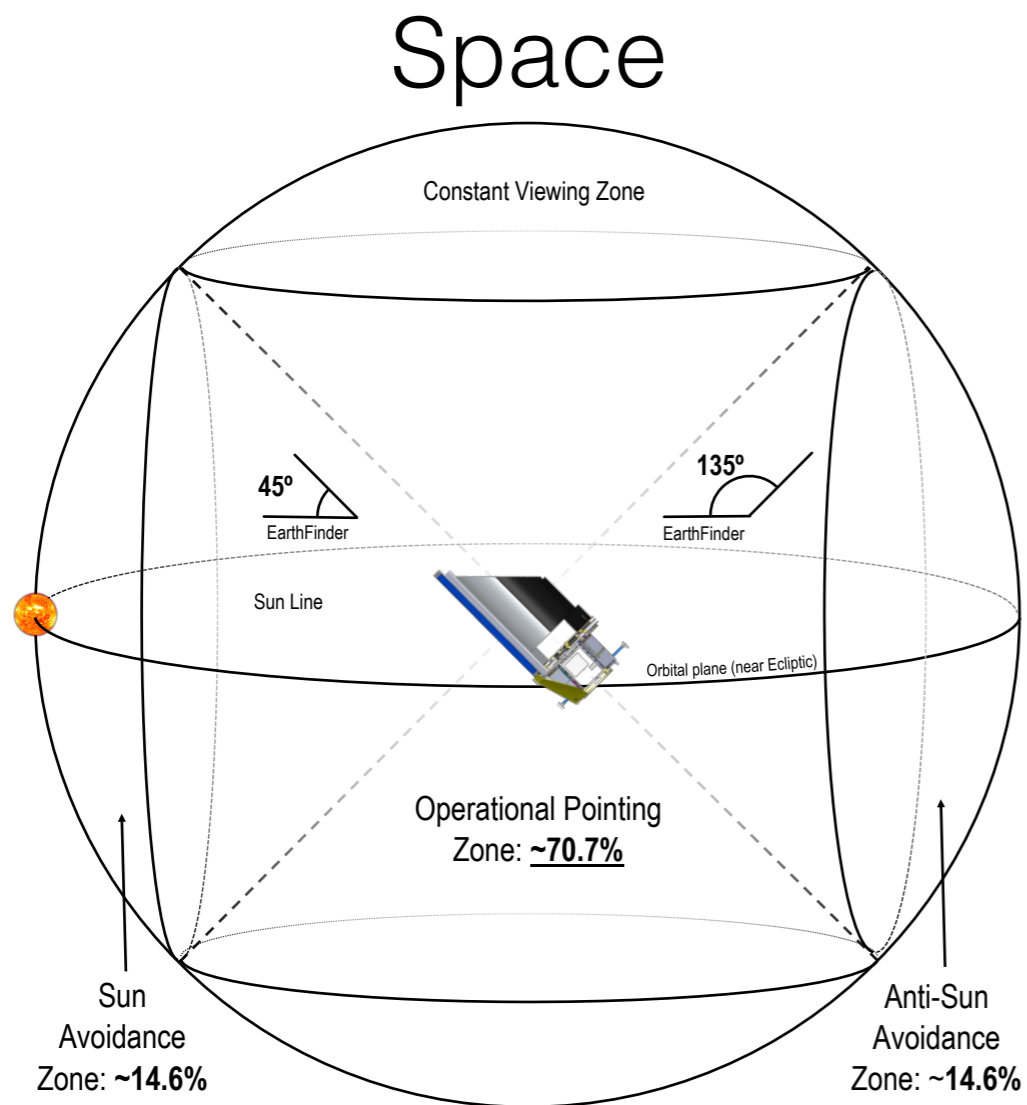
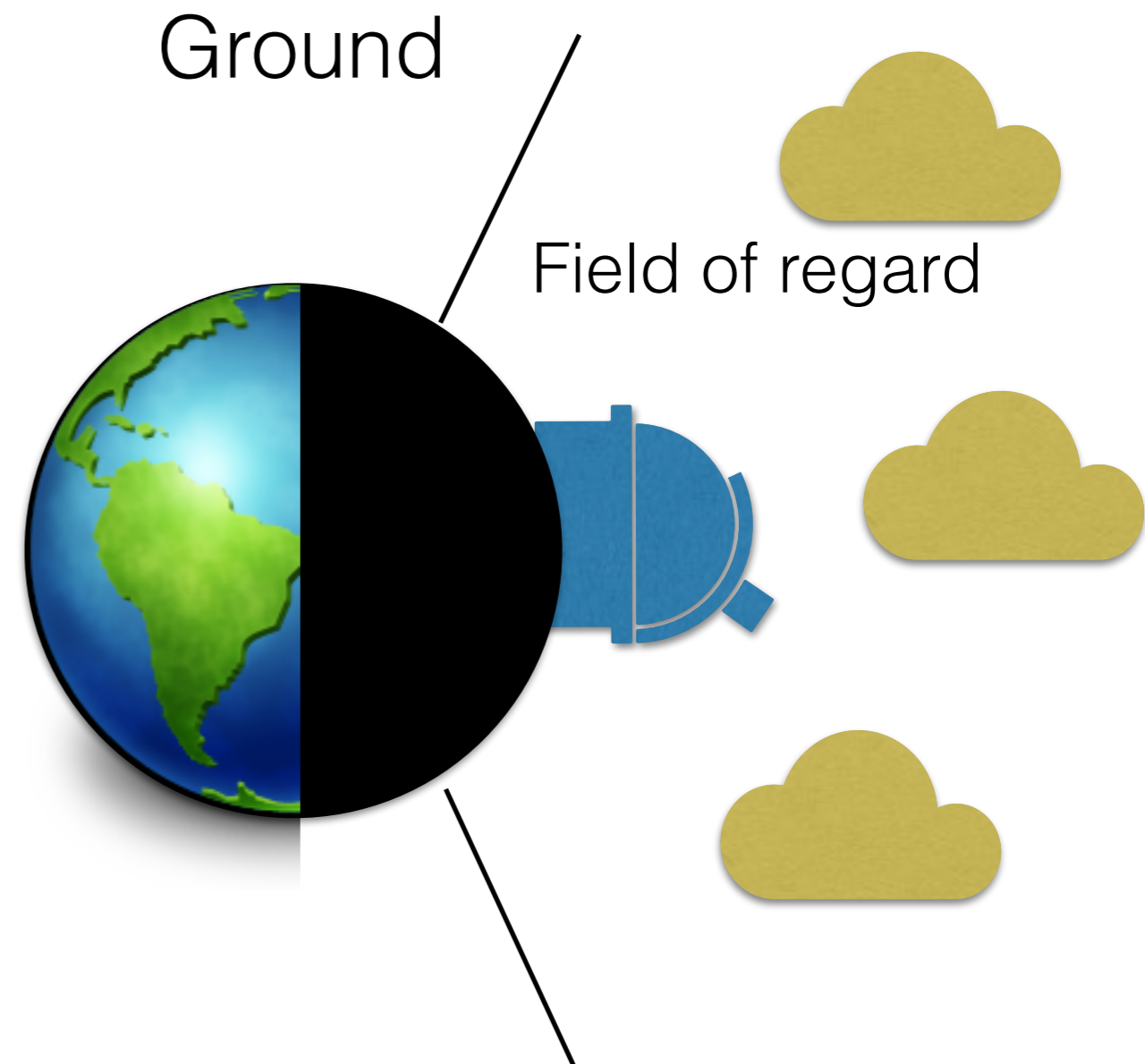


Figure from Bahaa Hamze

Two 3-6 month visibility windows per year (critical for 0.5-2 yr HZ orbital periods), no daytime (no 1 day aliases!)



One ~3-6 month visibility window per year, minus daytime and minus weather

# The cadence advantage of space

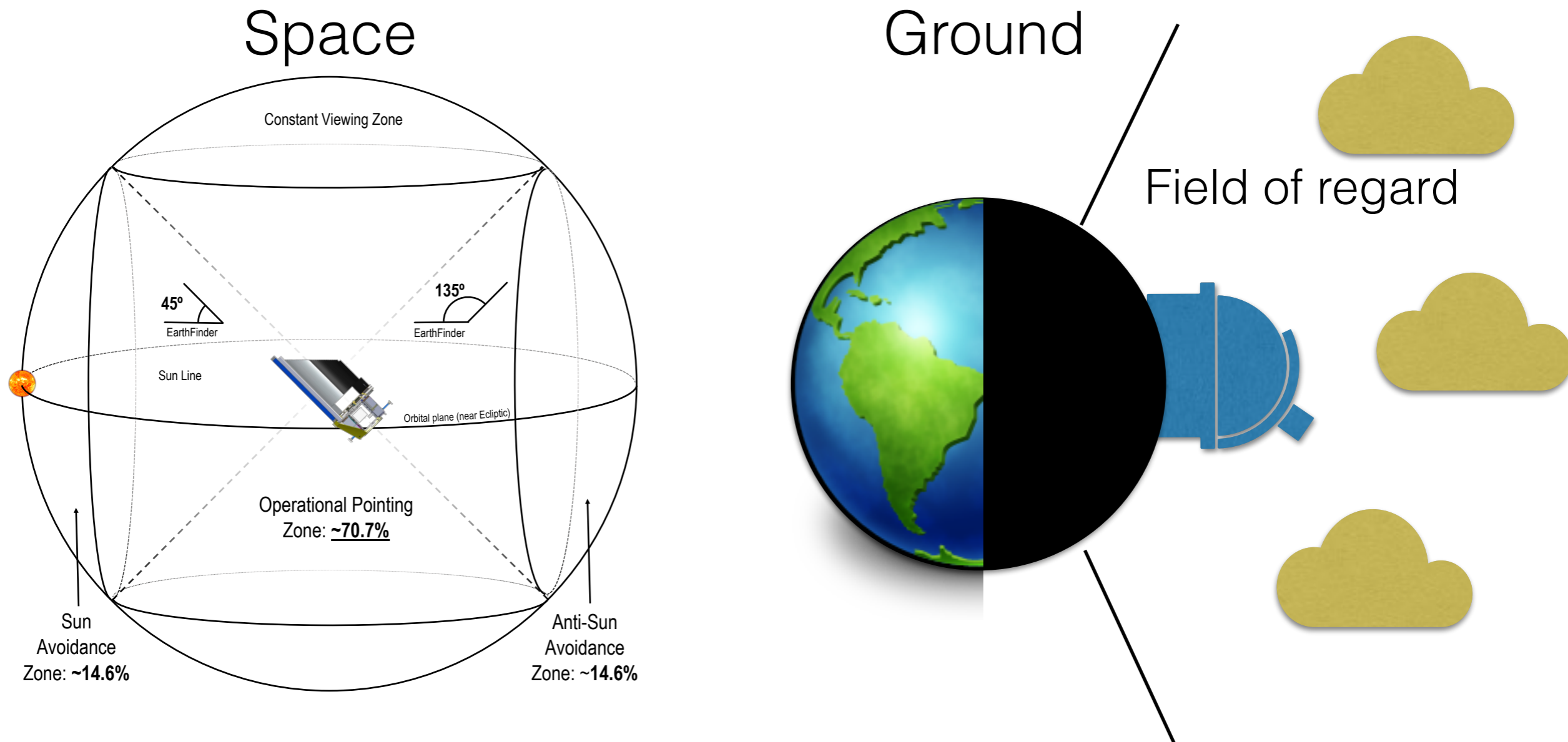
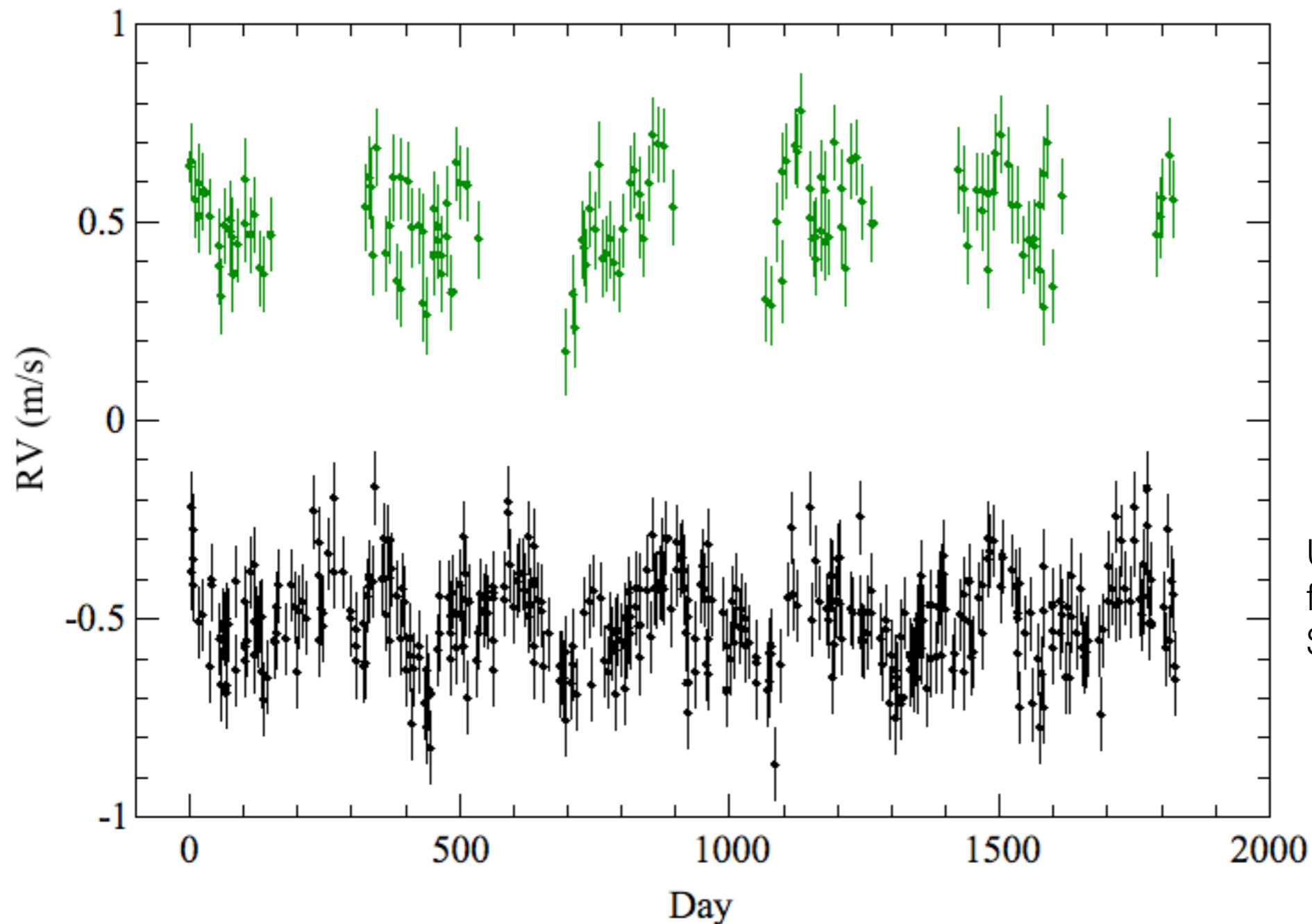


Figure from Bahaa Hamze

Due to loss of observing time on the ground due to daytime and weather, a 1.5-m telescope in space has the photon gathering power of a ~3.5-m telescope on the ground.

# The cadence advantage of space

- Median target with 2 terrestrial planets from a 5 yr, 42 target “super-NEID” vs. EarthFinder survey of direct imaging targets.

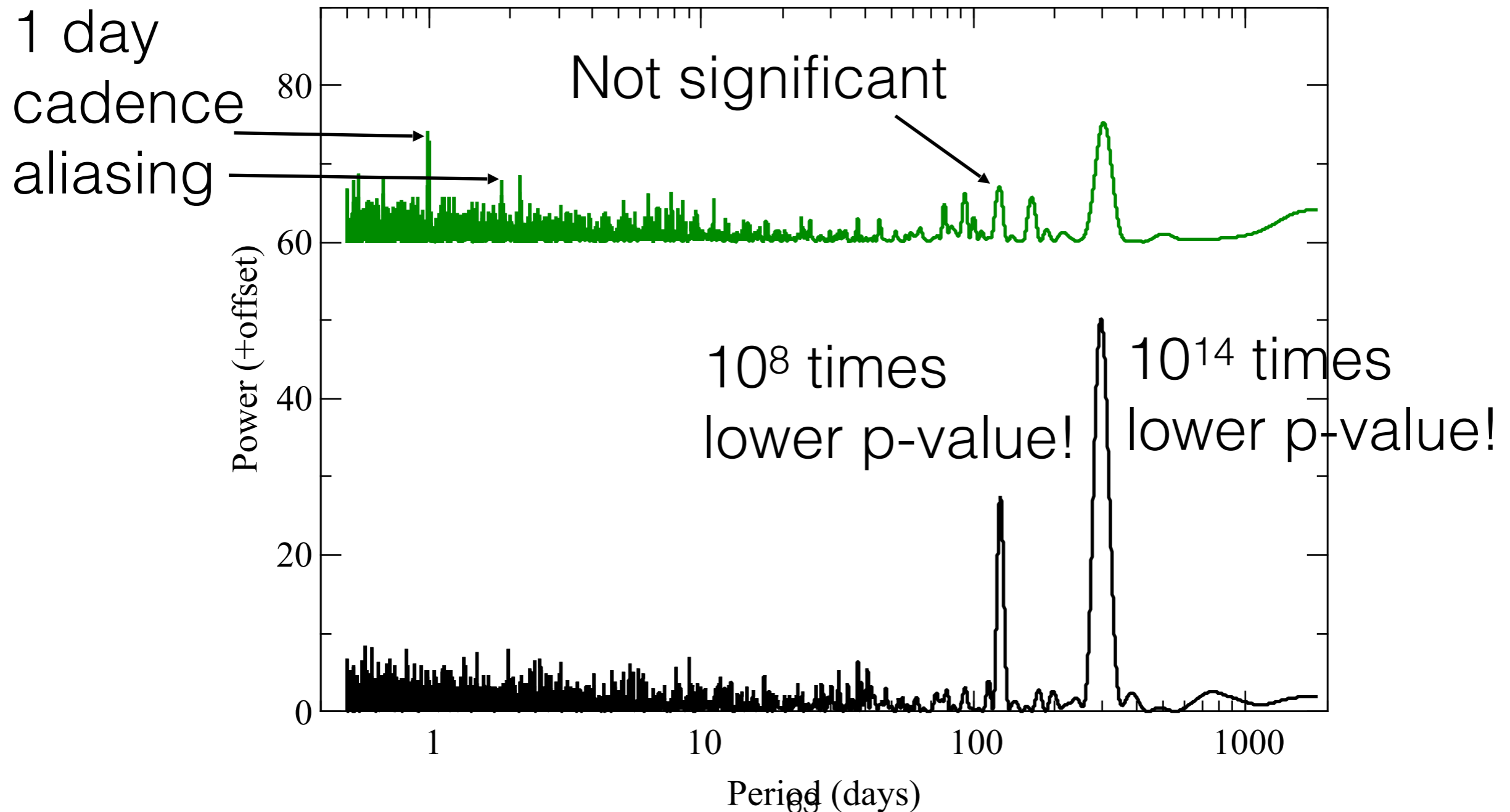


Realistic survey simulation accounting for weather and daytime, target list, stellar host RV information content

Uniform random cadence for target in CVZ;  
See also Hall et al. (2018)

# The cadence advantage of space

- Median target with 2 terrestrial planets from a 5 yr, 42 target “super-NEID” vs. EarthFinder survey of direct imaging targets.



# Cost

\$

1e+10

1e+09

1e+08

1e+07

1e+06





# Cost

\$

1e+10

1e+09

1e+08

1e+07

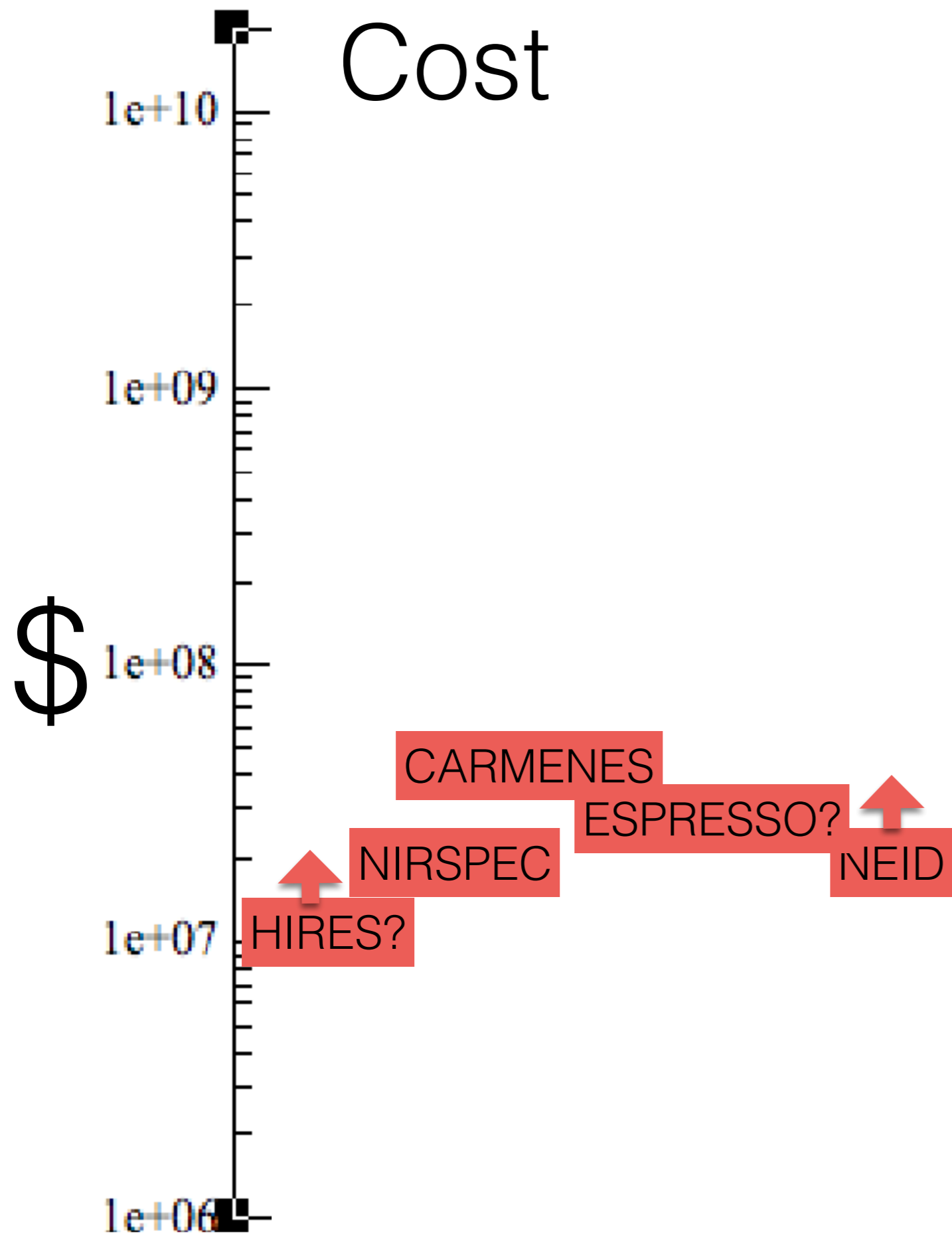
1e+06

HIRES?

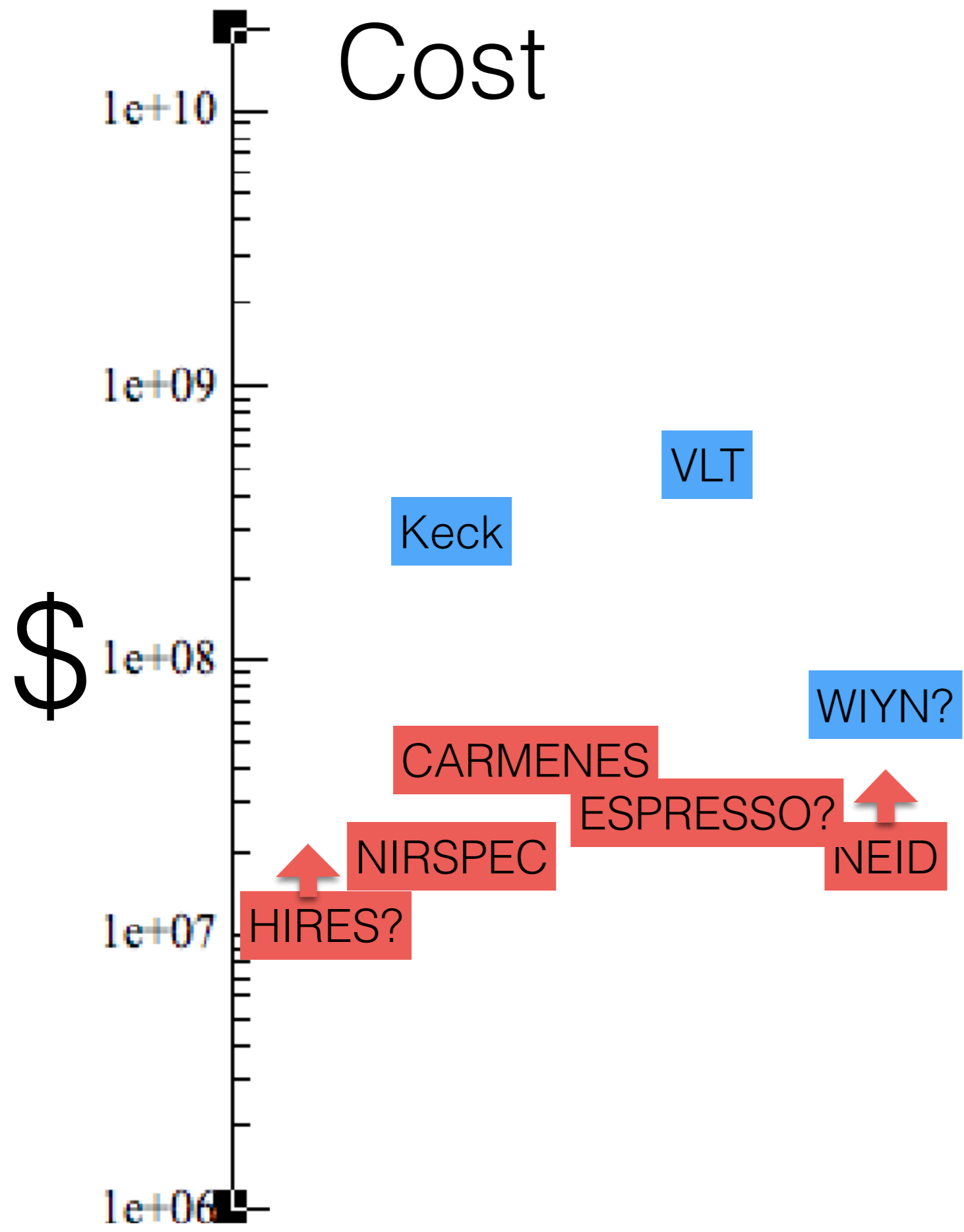
NIRSPEC



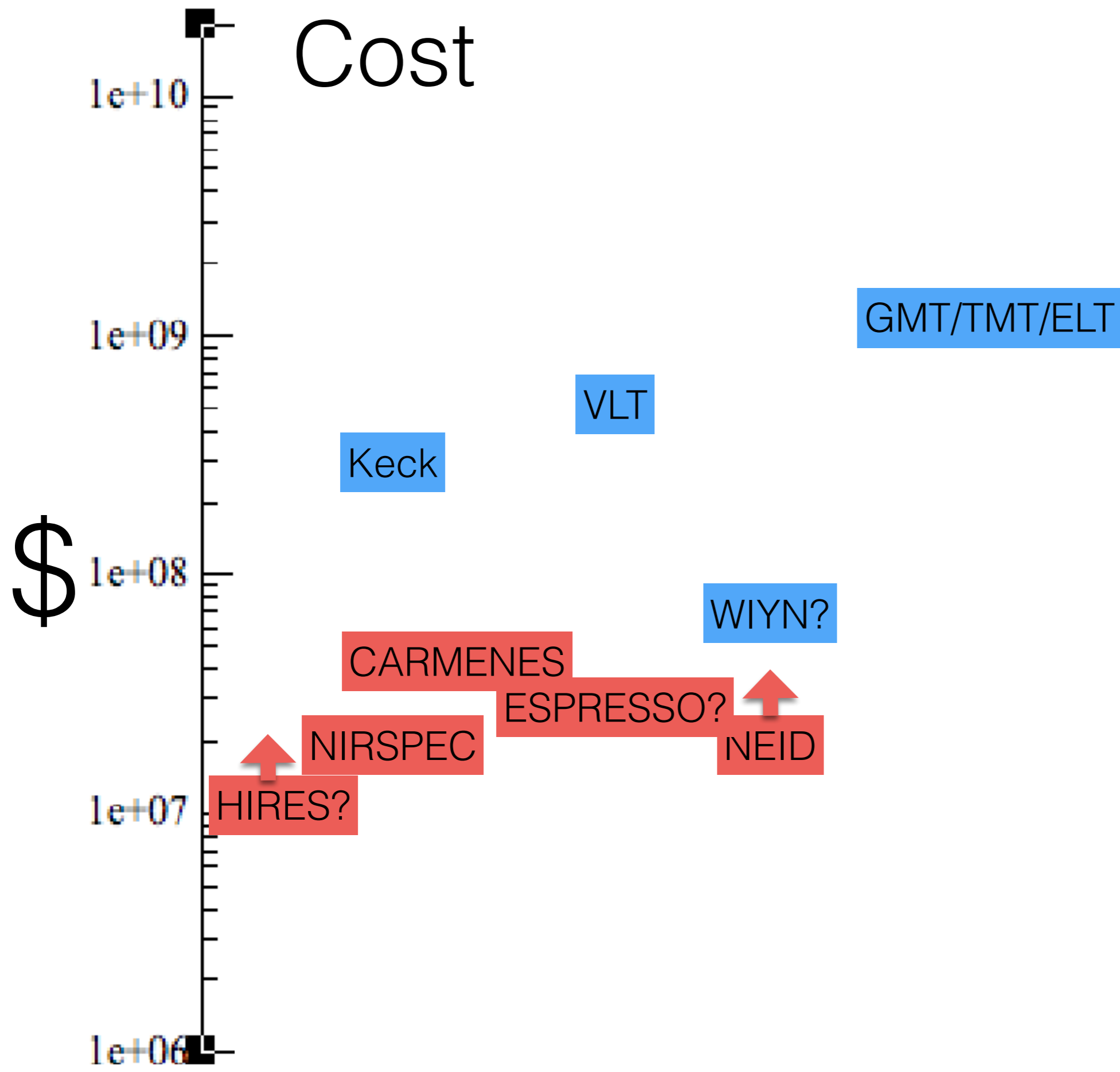
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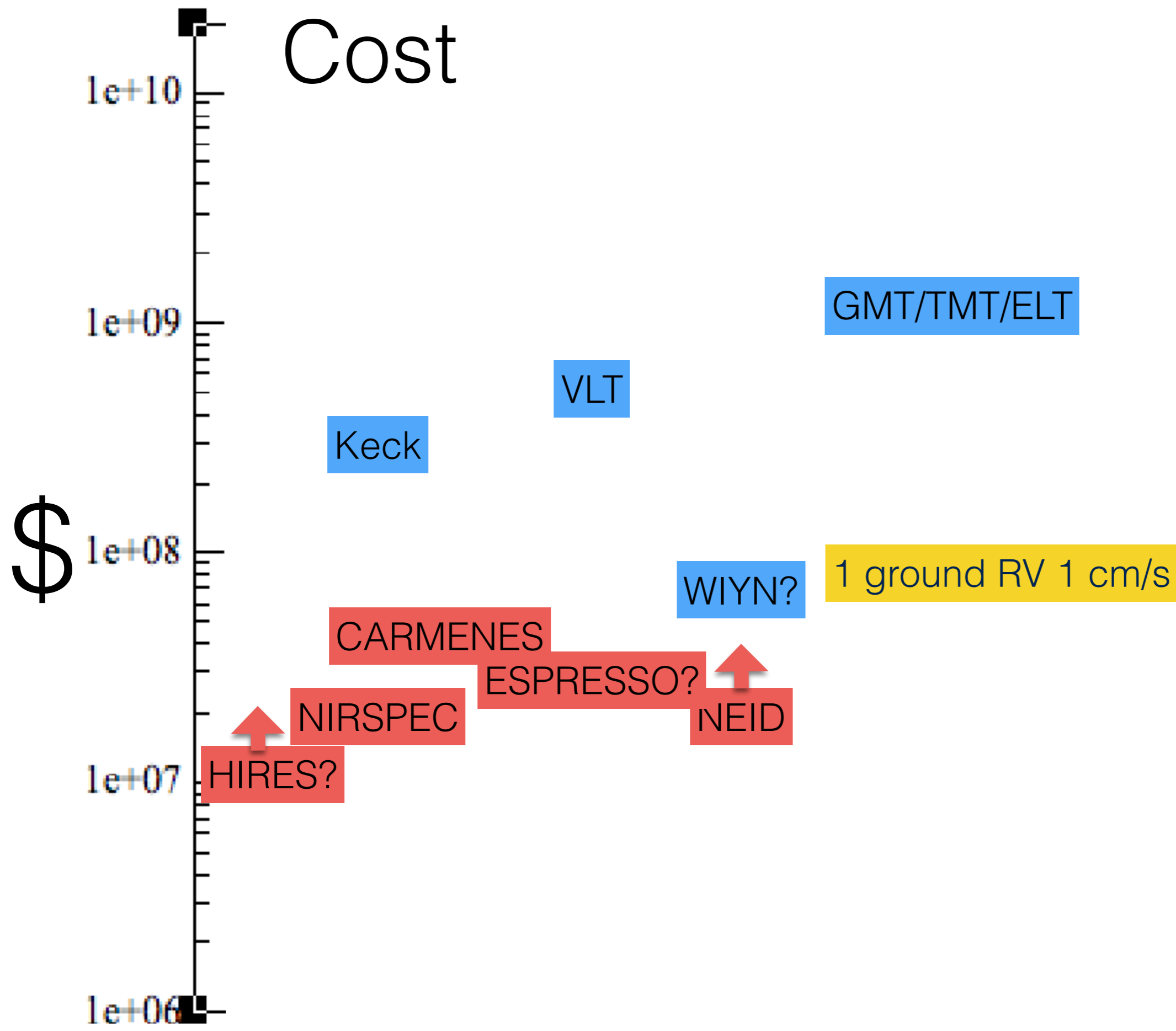
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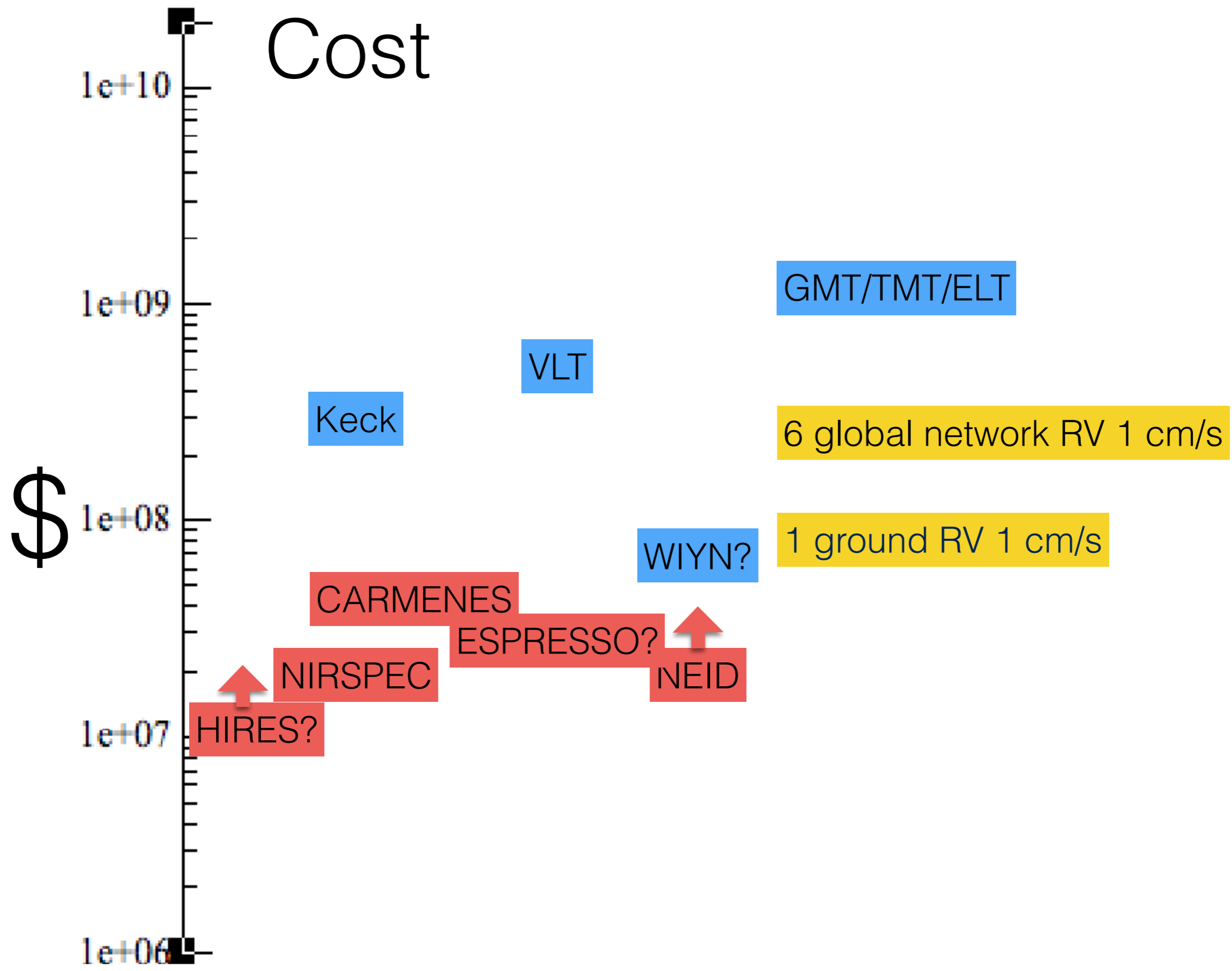
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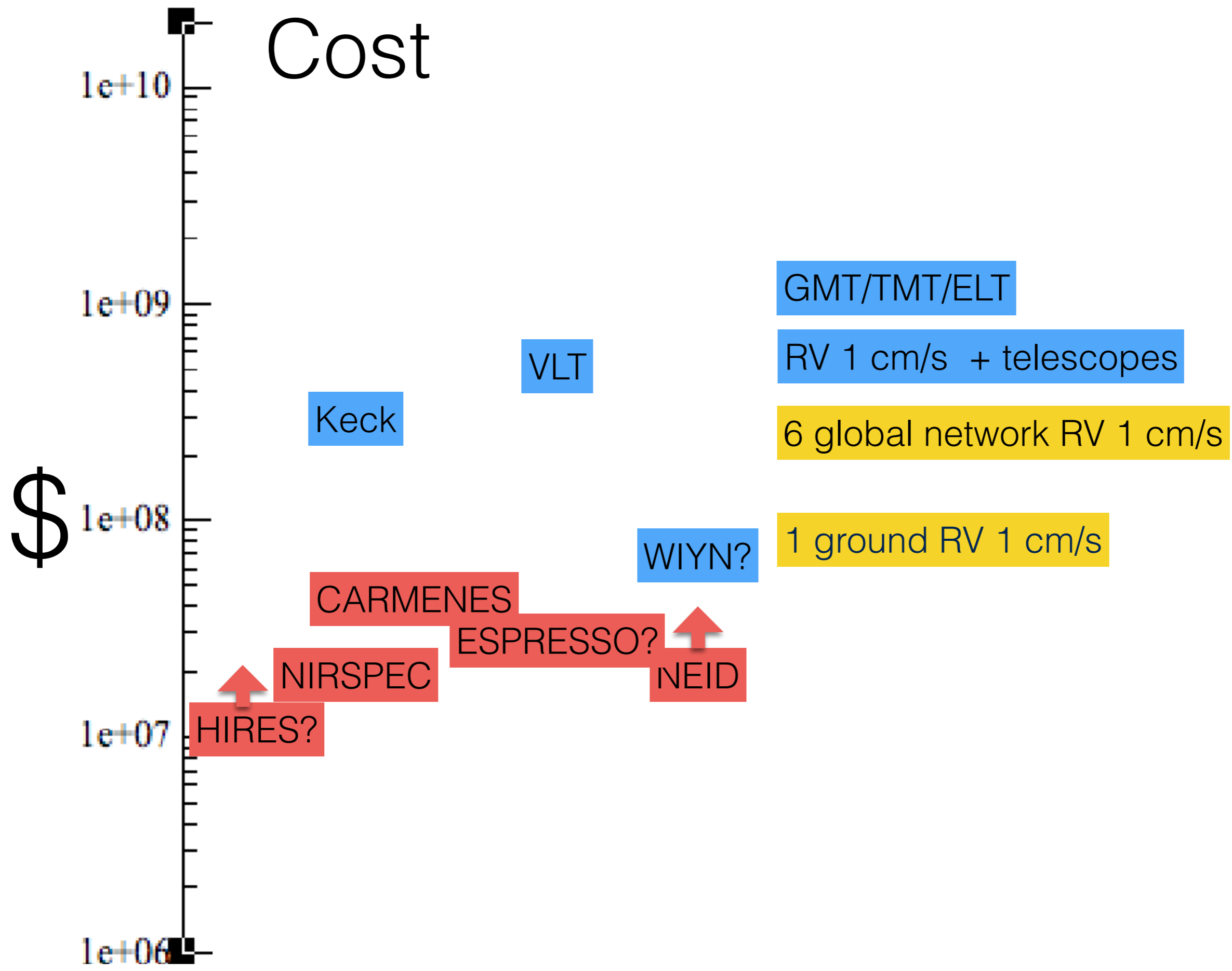
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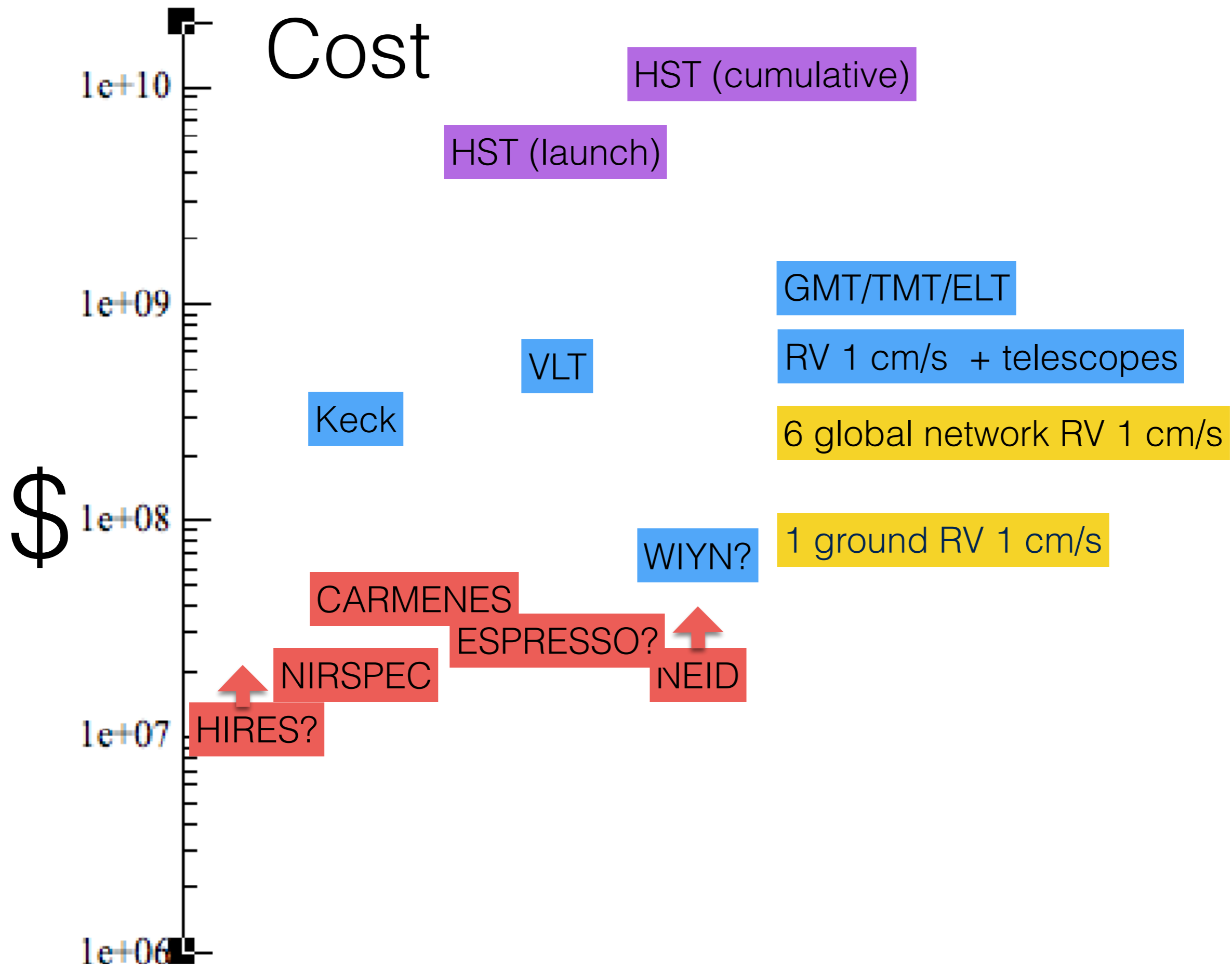
# Cost



# Cost

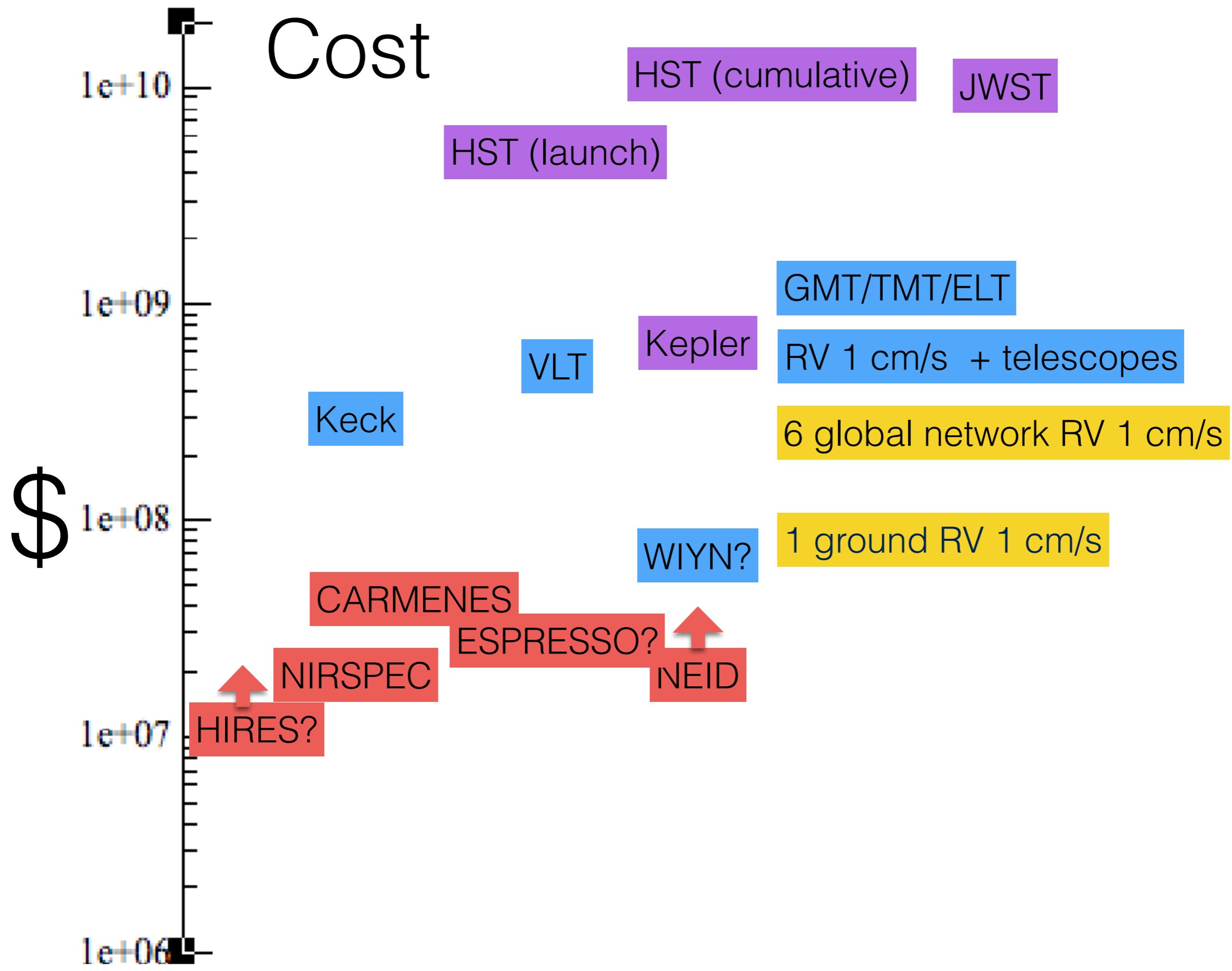


# Cost





# Cost



# Cost

\$

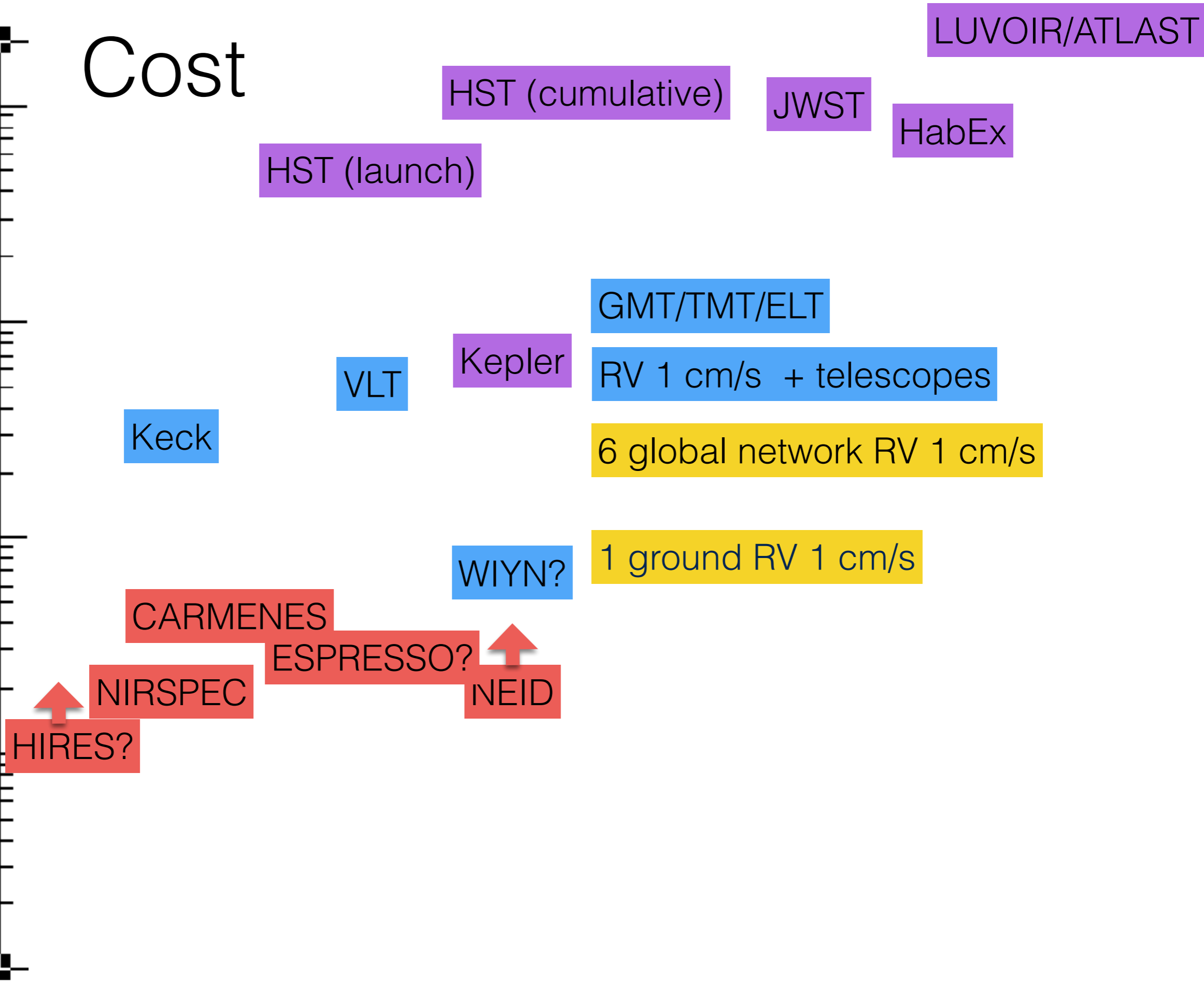
1e+10

1e+09

1e+08

1e+07

1e+06



# Cost

\$

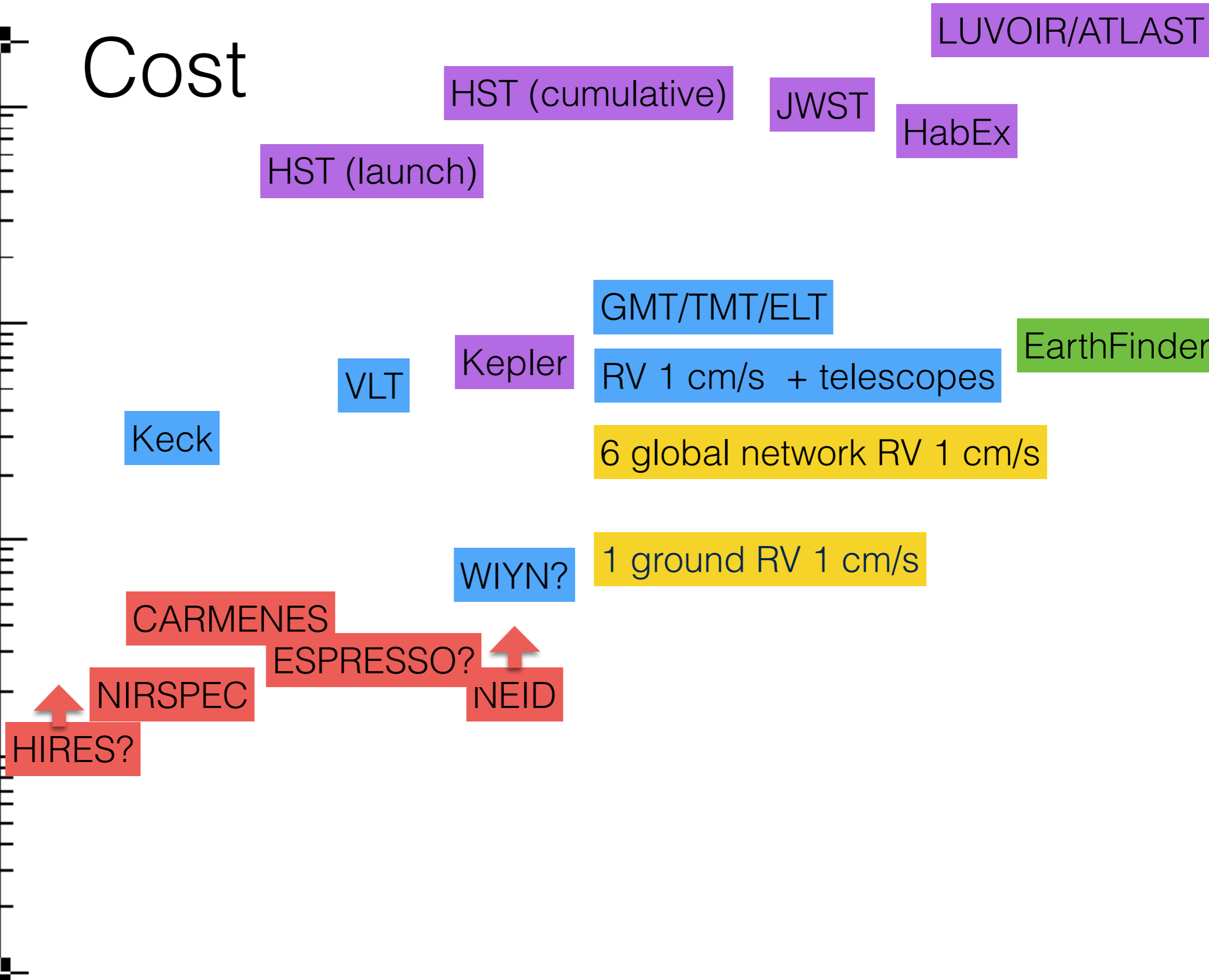
1e+10

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1e+08

1e+07

1e+06



# EarthFinder Summary

- EarthFinder is a space-based 1.45-m observatory Probe mission concept
- Extremely precise and stabilized high-resolution UV-VIS-NIR spectrograph
- Developing scientific rationale for measuring stellar velocities of the nearest FGKM dwarf stars from space
- Absence of the Earth's atmosphere improves the obtainable radial velocity precision
- Unique combination of space advantages aid in mitigating stellar activity:
  - Uninterrupted wavelength coverage
  - Uninterrupted cadence
  - Diffraction-limited
  - Extreme spectral resolution
- Ancillary science cases:
  - Asteroseismology
  - Water in the local Universe
  - Acceleration of the Universe
  - UV space capability spanning Hubble - HabEx/LUVOIR. temporal gap
  - And more!

Thank you

# Stellar Activity Masquerading as Planets in the Habitable Zone of the M dwarf Gliese 581

Paul Robertson<sup>1,2</sup>, Suvrath Mahadevan<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Michael Endl<sup>4</sup>, Arpita Roy<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, The Pennsylvania State University

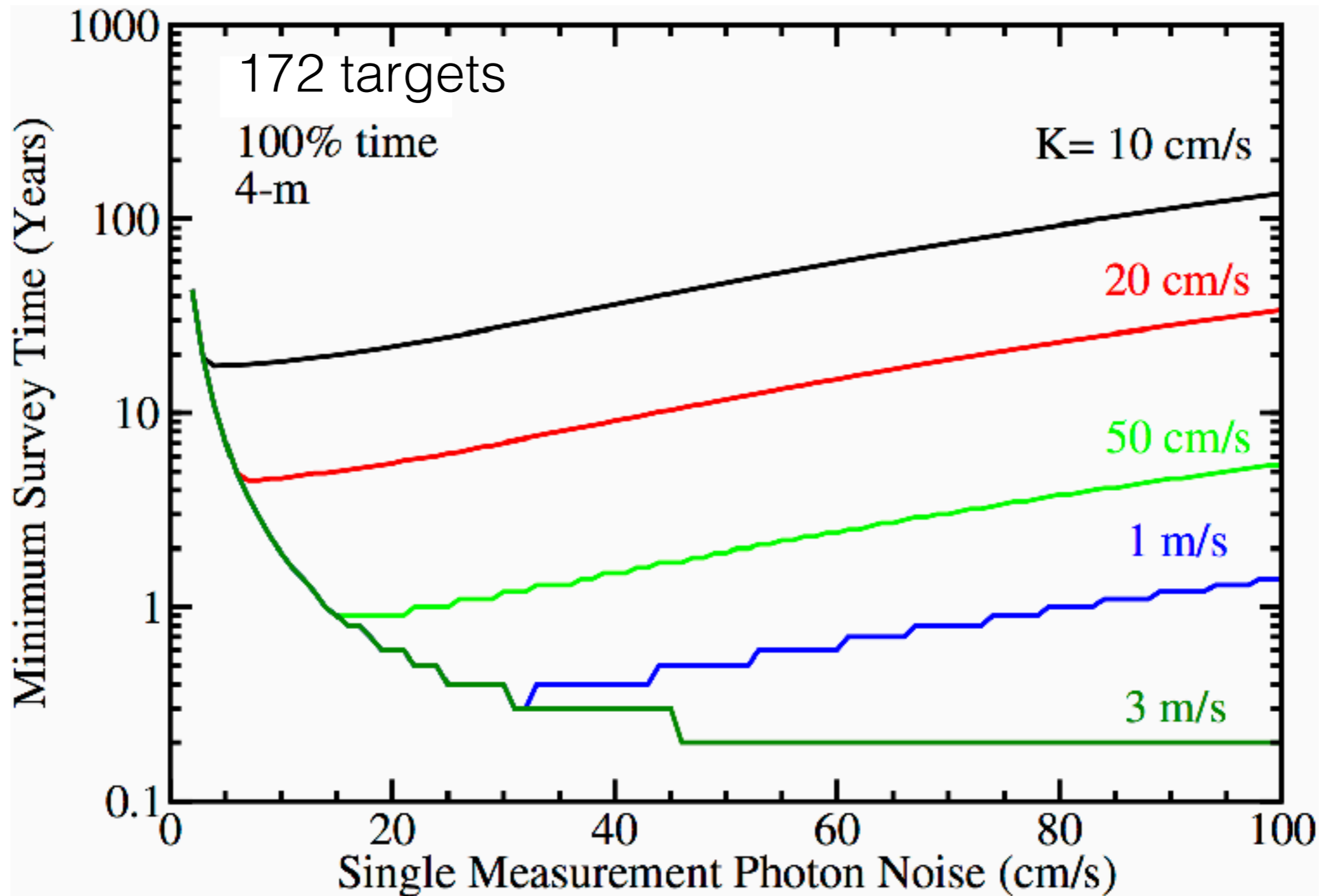
<sup>2</sup>Center for Exoplanets & Habitable Worlds, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>3</sup>The Penn State Astrobiology Research Center, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>4</sup>McDonald Observatory, The University of Texas at Austin

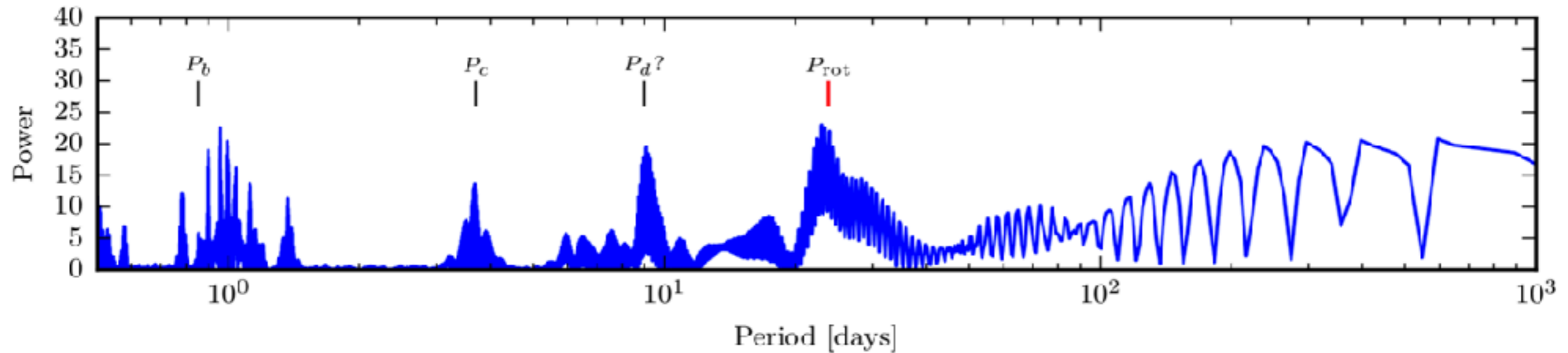
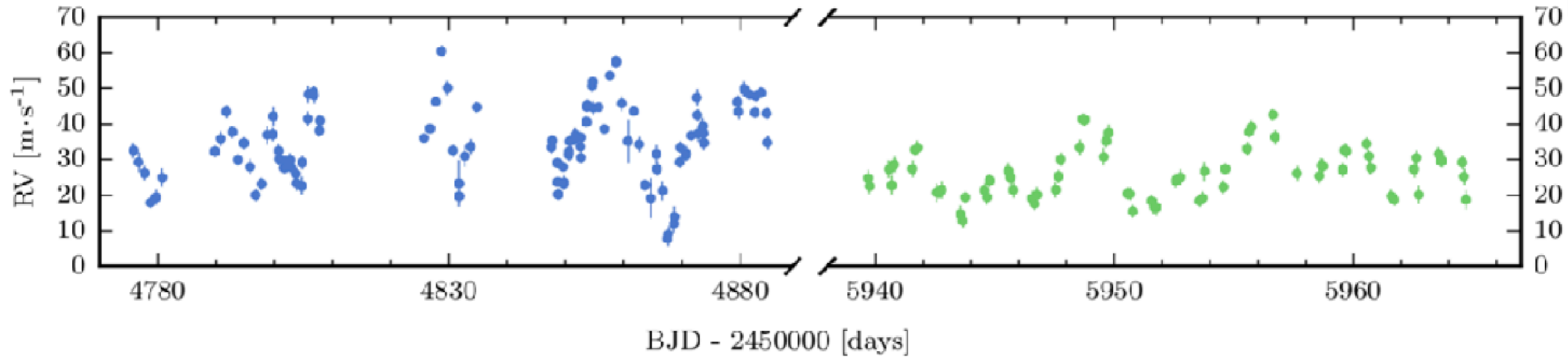
2014

# MINERVA - Photons



# MINERVA - Time

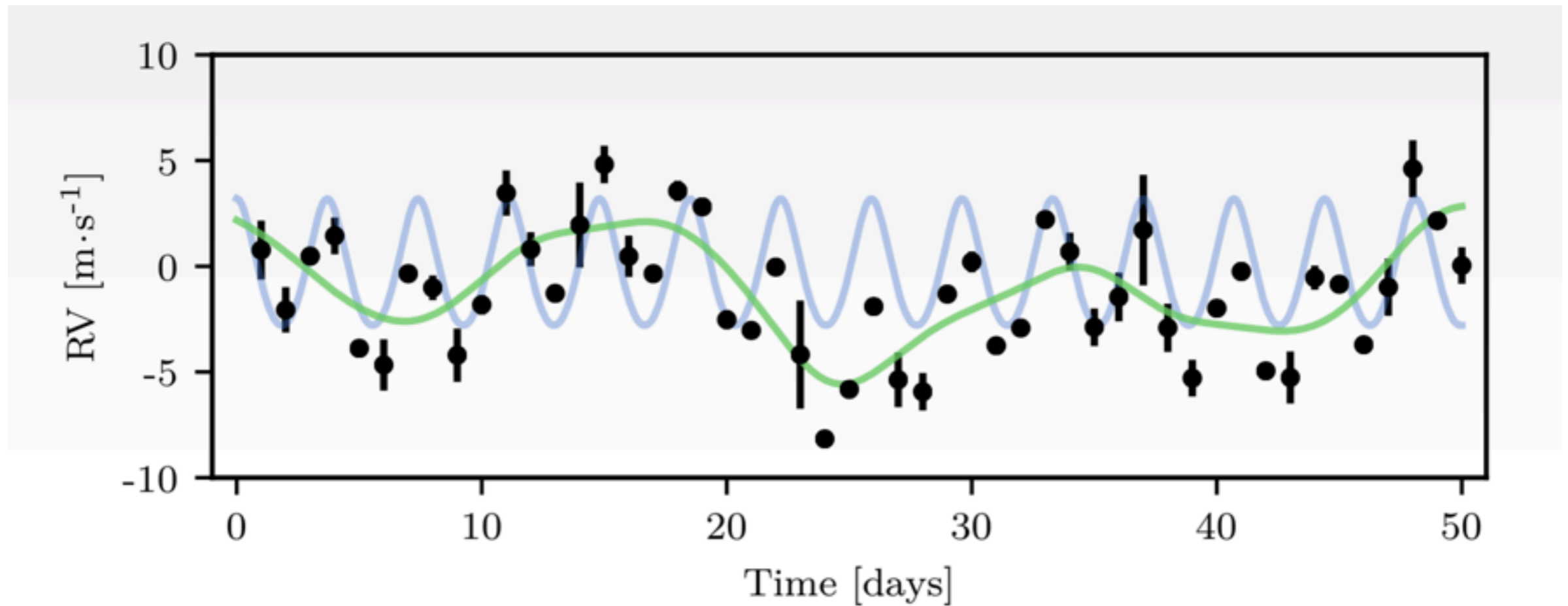
HARPS RVs of CoRoT 7





# MINERVA - Time

Gaussian Processes - Figure from João P. Faria



# Instrument

High-resolution ( $R \sim 200k$ ) UV-Optical-NIR diffraction-limited stabilized spectrograph

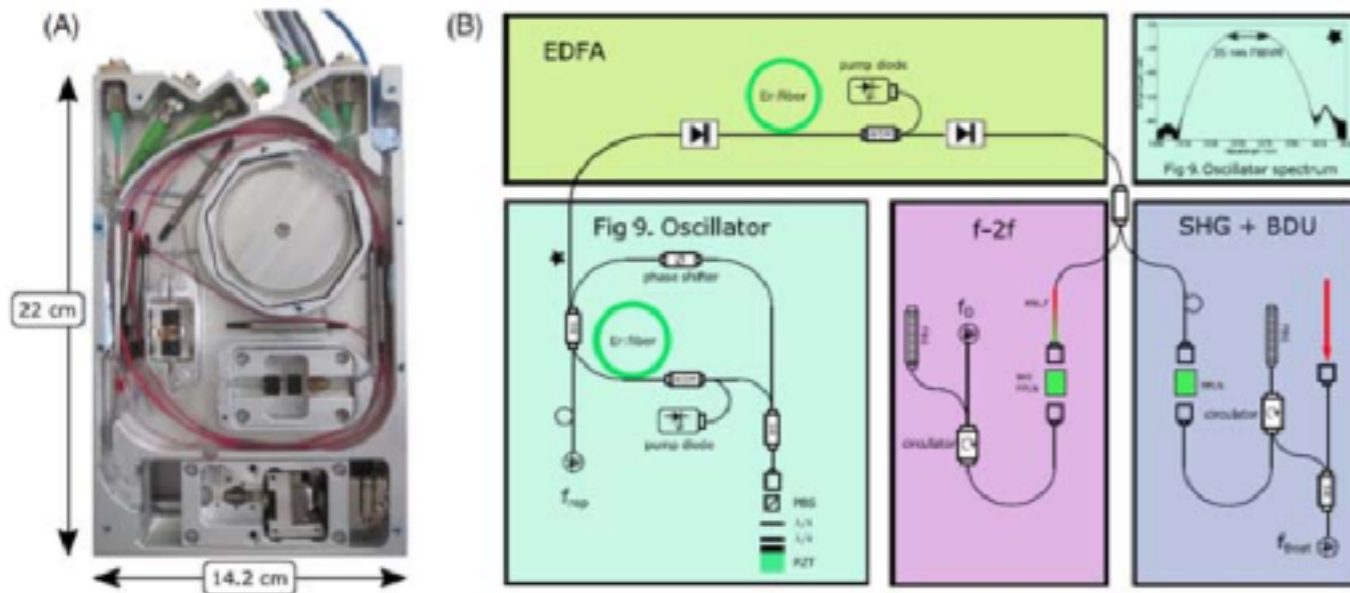
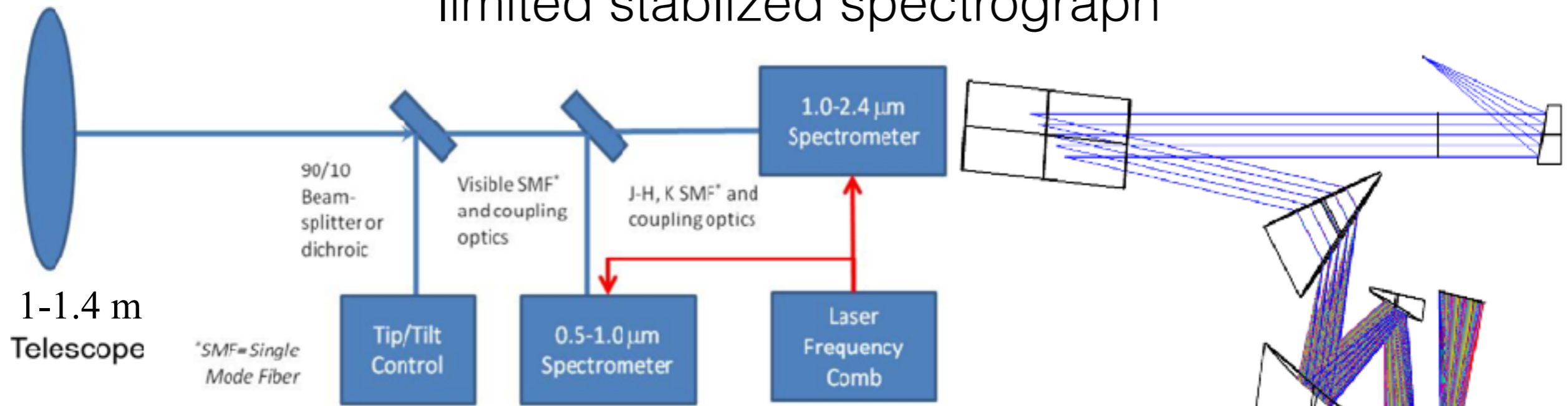


Figure 4. A NIR laser frequency comb was recently flown on a TEXUS sounding rocket in a compact package weighing less than 22 kg. See Lezius et al (2016) for details.

Total Orders: 86  
 Order Range: 74 - 159  
 Free Spectral Range: 7nm - 32 nm  
 Spectral Range: 1110nm - 2385 nm  
 Collimator Focal Length: 120 mm  
 Camera Focal Length: 400 mm  
 Pupil Diameter: 30 mm  
 Echelle Ruling Density: 11 l/mm

Figure from Gautam Vasisht