High-Contrast Imaging and Exoplanet Applications

Sasha Hinkley

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Ben R Oppenheimer Doug Brenner Remi Soummer (STScI) Anand Sivaramakrishnan Neil Zimmerman



Lewis Roberts Chas Beichman Mike Werner Gautam Vasisht Laurent Pueyo Mike Shao Rick Burruss Jenny Roberts



Lynne Hillenbrand Justin Crepp Rich Dekany Antonin Bouchez



lan Parry Stephanie Hunt







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Nearly 400 exoplanets now known. Many more not yet announced.

Highlights:

- Most of the planets are nothing like Earth.
- Usually many times the mass of Jupiter.
- Starting to find super earths.
- Many systems with multiple planets.

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How do we detect these planets?

A majority have been detected indirectly: by measuring the planets' effect on their host star's light.









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- 3. Correct Any residual uncorrected starlight.

Step 1: Starlight Stabilization with Adaptive Optics





Step 2: Coronagraphy

Focal Plane Mask: 5.37λ/D at 1.65 μm, .37 arcsec on sky: hole diameter 1332 microns

Lyot stop: 2% downsized from primary Beam size at stop 3.8mm

Apodizing mask: Chromium microdots

(1µm) on glass

Soummer et al. (2005)



Correlated Speckle Noise Limits Sensitivity

40-minute H-band image sequence:

• AO on

Coronagraphically-occulted

Correlated speckle noise: the greatest obstacle to groundbased exoplanet detection.



Hinkley et al. (2007)

Averaging does not work

Highly Static Wave Front Aberrations in Pupil



Highly Static Speckles in Image Highly Static Wave Front Aberrations in Pupil



Highly Static Speckles in Image





Pupil: No Phase Errors

Image Plane: Point Spread Function Highly Static Wave Front Aberrations in Pupil



Highly Static Speckles in Image





Pupil: Sinusoidal Phase error

Image Plane: Speckles

Step 3: Speckle Suppression Through Chromaticity

RED (1.8 μm)

Plan: Utilize the chromatic nature of speckles with a IFS.

Enables differentiation between speckles and companions

1.2

BLUE (1.0 μm)

Automatically provides spectra of any companions.

Project 1640: IFU+Coronagraph at Palomar

- Science Camera: IFU covering $\lambda = 1.05 1.75 \mu m$ (J to H bands)
- Diffraction-limited Apodized Pupil Lyot Coronagraph (APLC)
- Separate (2nd Stage) IR fine guidance system
- Designed to interface with the Palomar AO system (PALAO)
- Only project like it in the Northern Hemisphere.



Americai





<u>Integral Field Spectrograph</u>



JH prism Collimating optics Lenslet array



- Array of 270 x 270 microlenses 75µm pitch. Two powered faces.
- -6029 29 kmm v510 27/07
- Rockwell Hawaii-II 2048x2048 pixel HgCdTe array

Property		Project 1640 IFU +	
		Coronagraph	
	Wavelength coverage	1.05- 1.75 μm,	
		$\Delta\lambda = 0.7 \ \mu m$	
Central wavelength		1.403 μm	
IFU FOV		4200 mas	
	Platescale	21 mas/lenslet	
	Total spectra	$200 \ge 200 = 40,000$	
Pixels per spectrum		3.2768 x 32	
	$\Delta\lambda$ per 2 pixels	.044 (.7µm/32 pix)	
	$\mathbf{R} = \lambda / \Delta \lambda$	32	
	Lenslet Pitch	75 um (chosen for	
		manufacturing issues)	
Input f/ratio from		f = 143.21	
coronagraph for $\lambda/2D$			
Spaxels at 1.0 µm			
Focal Plane Mask size		5.6 λ/d	
	Optimal coronagraph	1.65 μm	
	wavelength		
Apodizer throughput		51%	









P1640 Coronagraph & Wave Front Calibration System

Wave Front Calibration system (2010):



- Interferometer nearly identical to GPI
- Designed to achieve 1nm RMS wave front error measurement at 1Hz
- Dynamic Control of wave front errors.

Laboratory Data

Monochromatic 1330 nm light source

Broadband white light source





Data

Data cube spans 1.05 - 1.75 μm.



Stellar Companion to a Nearby A-star



Photometry
Astrometry
CPM
Orbital motion

• Spectrum

•Photometry suggests ~0.16 solar masses.

•Mass ratio *q* ~ 0.07



Hinkley et al. (2009) submitted

Alcor B: A New Stellar companion in the Big Dipper

• Are unseen low mass companions the source of anomolously high X-ray counts from A-stars?

- Common parallax obtained
- Anomolously high ROSAT brightness

N↑

0.5"-

• M3-M4 companion

Alcor B: A New Stellar companion in the Big Dipper



4 arcsec

Data cube spans 1.05 - 1.75 μm.

Speckle Suppression with Wavelength (Energy) Diversity



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Gemini Planet Imager

MEMS Extreme-AO + apodized pupil coronagraph

IFS (1-2.4 μm), R=45, 2.8"x2.8" FOV

Dual channel polarimetry

Wave front calibration system (southern hemisphere) First light: 2011



SPHERE (VLT)



Extreme-AO (41x41 actuator) + coronagraph

Differential imaging (Y, J, H, Ks)

IFS (0.95-1.65 μm) R=30, 1.8" x 1,8"FOV

Visible Imaging Polarimeter

First light: 2011

Palomar AO Upgrade: "PALM-3000" (2010)

- 3,388 Actuator Deformable Mirror.
- High-order Wave Front Sensor (62 x 62 Shack-Hartmann).





High Strehl Preview:



Serabyn et al. (2007)

Wavelength/Energy Resolution is a key for Higher contrast

Assigning an energy to each photon with single photon counting devices is akin to our wavelength diversity.

See also talks by Ben Mazin, Don Figer.

