Dome-F, Antarctica

Antarctic Infrared Telescope (AIR-T) and its Scientific Drivers

Tohoku University Takashi Ichikawa



Astronomical Station at Dome-Fuji since 2011

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National Institute of Polar Research

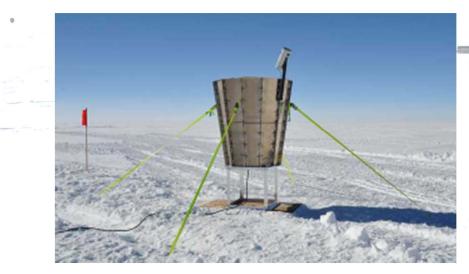
Jan, 2013

PLATO-F (UNSW)

TwinCAM 10cmx2 telescopes



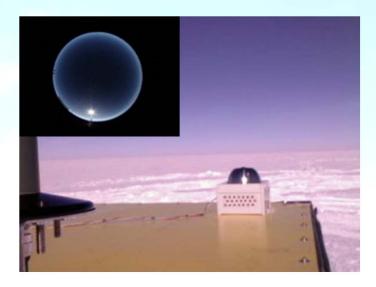
SNODAR (Bonner et al.)



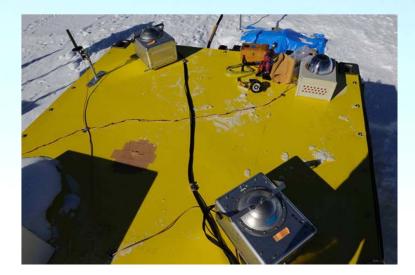
16m pole temperature



Whole sky camera



Aurora cameras



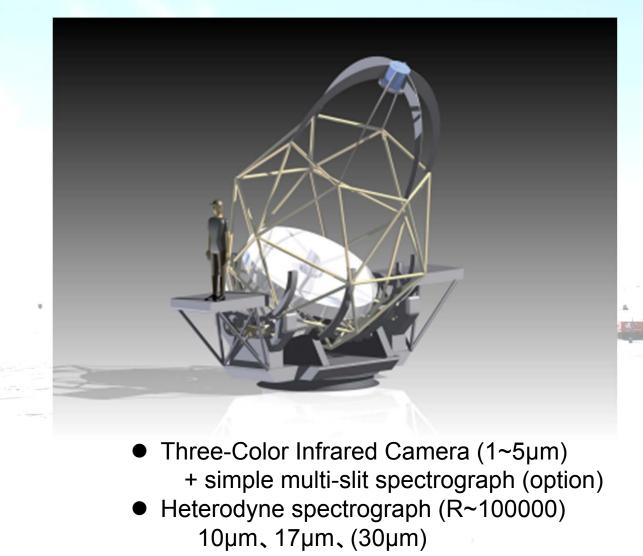


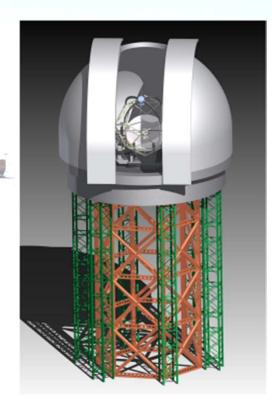




2.5m Infrared Telescope

Ultra-lightwieght telescope mount (Kurita+2009)

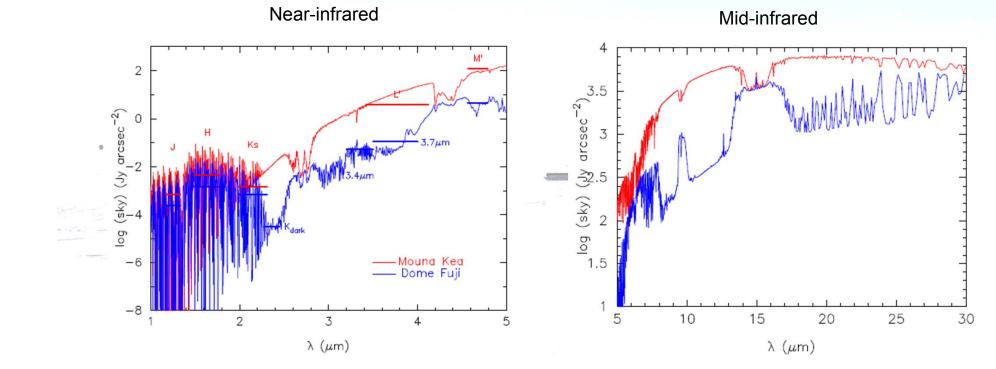




- Clear sky (>65% photometric), weak wind
- Cold atmosphere: dark infrared sky (50 100 times darker)
- The free-atmosphere seeing 0.2", the best in the world
- Dry atmosphere: 0.14mmPWV (~10 times lower) in winter
- Stable transparancy
- The atmospheric boundary layer is only 11m or lower
- Long periods of uninterrupted darkness for months

Low sky background

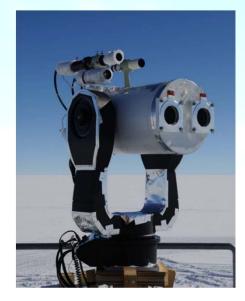
		altitude	temperature
blue	Dome Fuji	3810m	-70°C
red	Mounakea	4200m	0°C



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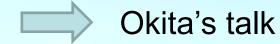
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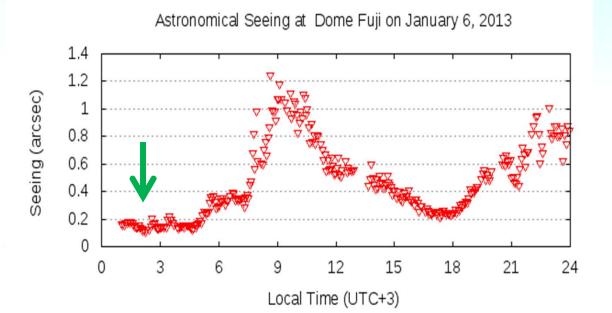


• 11m



Excellent seeing

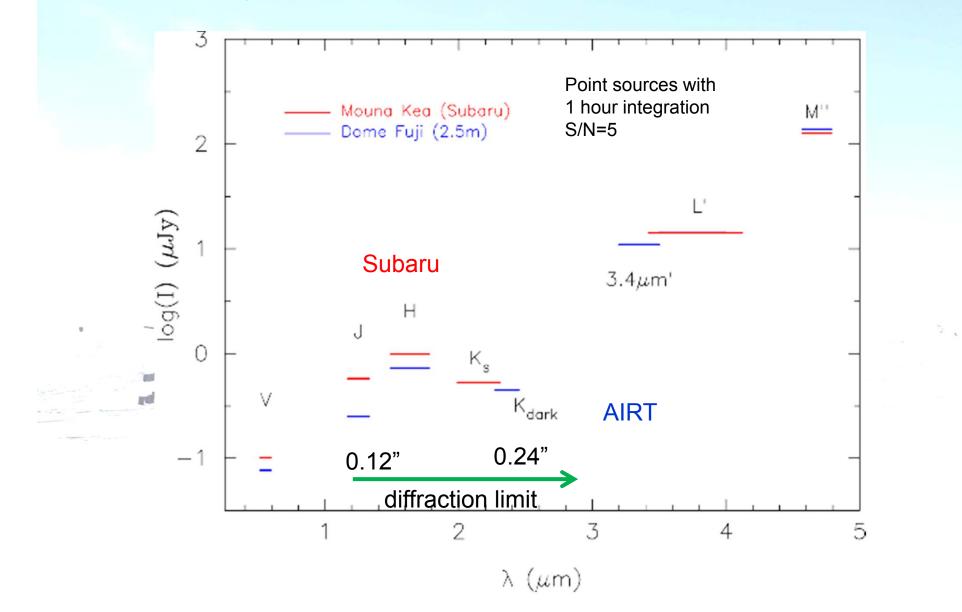




~0.2"(λ=0.47µm)

Okita+ 2013

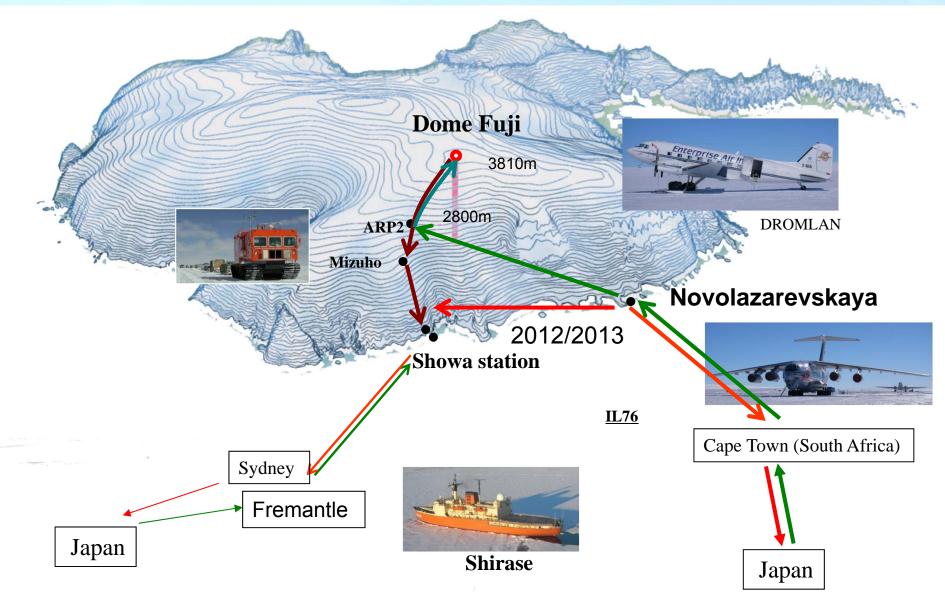
Comparison of Sensitivities - Subaru and AIRT



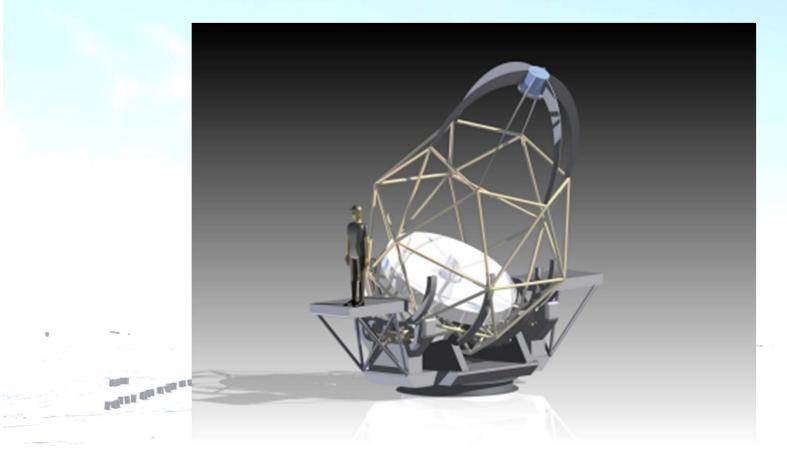
✓ High sensitivity of Subaru telescope
✓ High quality of HST

Unique opportunity for deep, high photometric and spatial precision astronomy

Long way to Dome Fuji and harshest environment

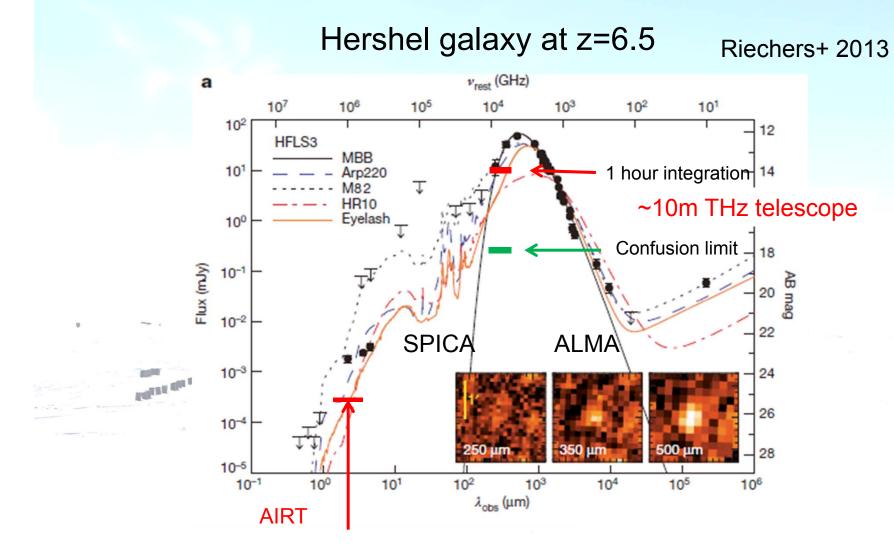


In near-infrared,

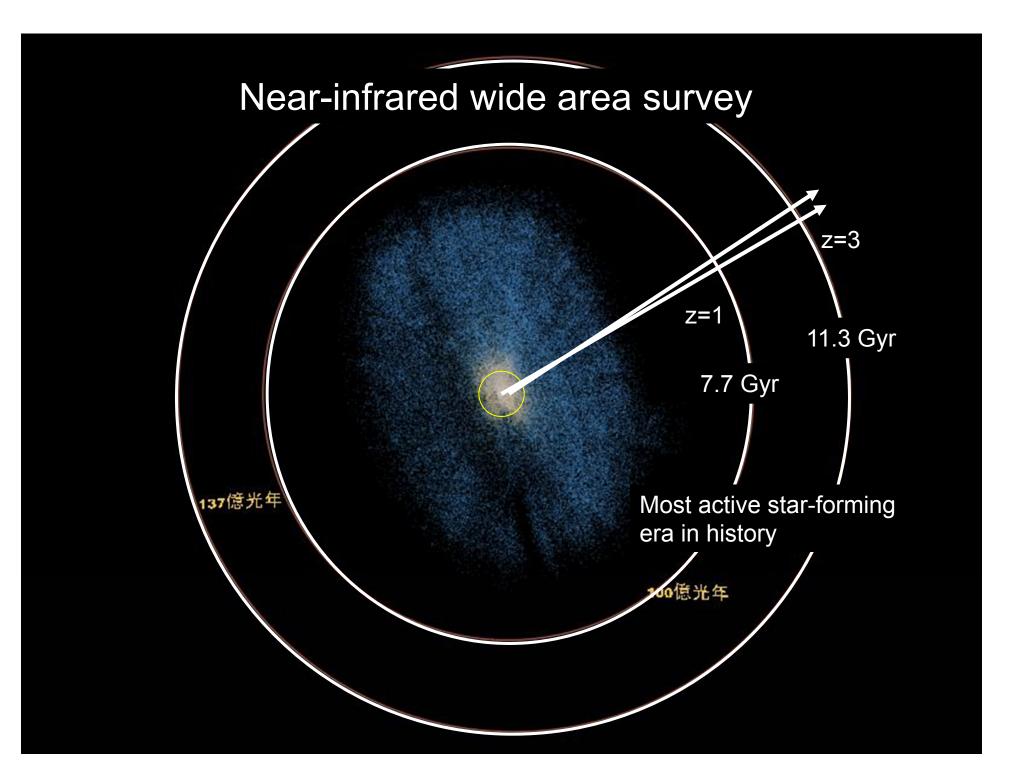


"Big science" with small telescope

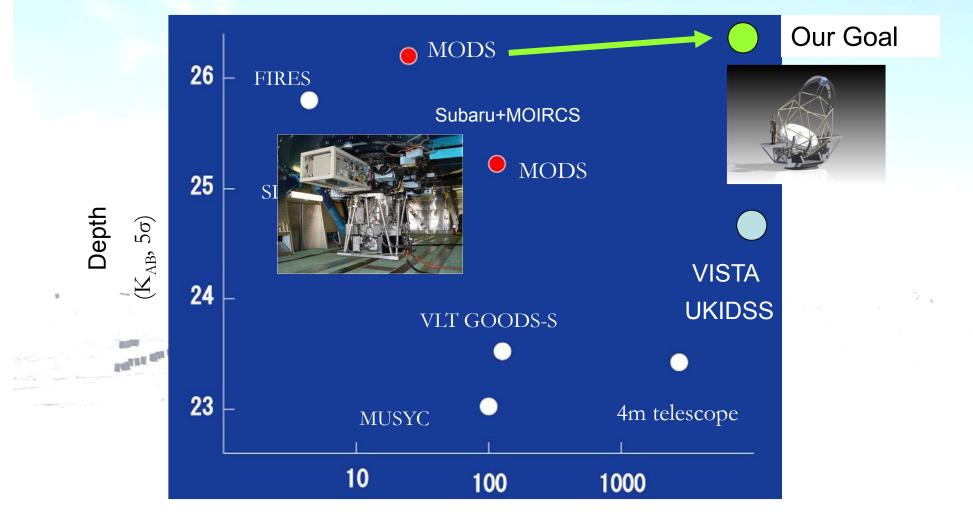
Dusty Star Burst Galaxies



2.4µm, S/N=5 (1 hour)

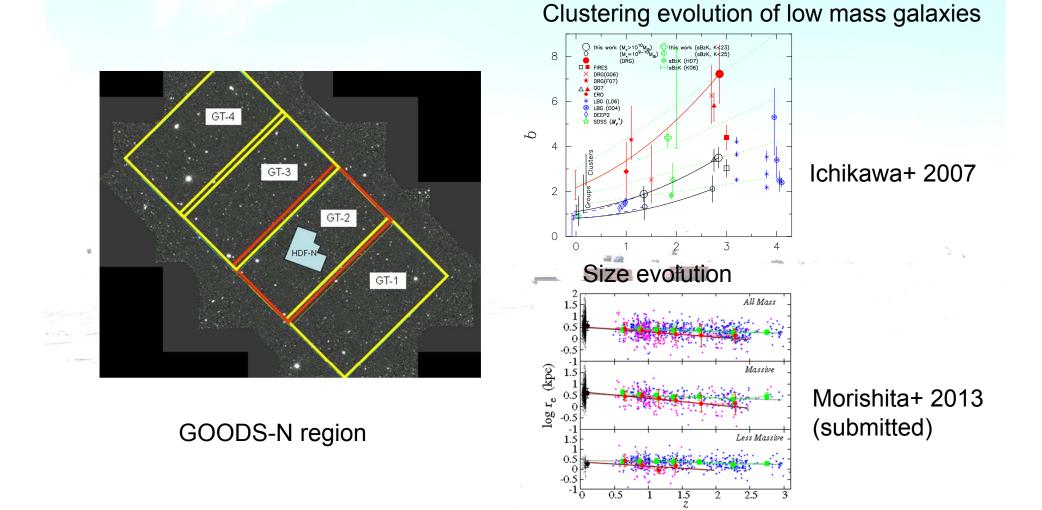


Widest and Deepest High-Redshift Galaxy Survey in K band Complete samples of 10⁹ M_{sun} at z~3

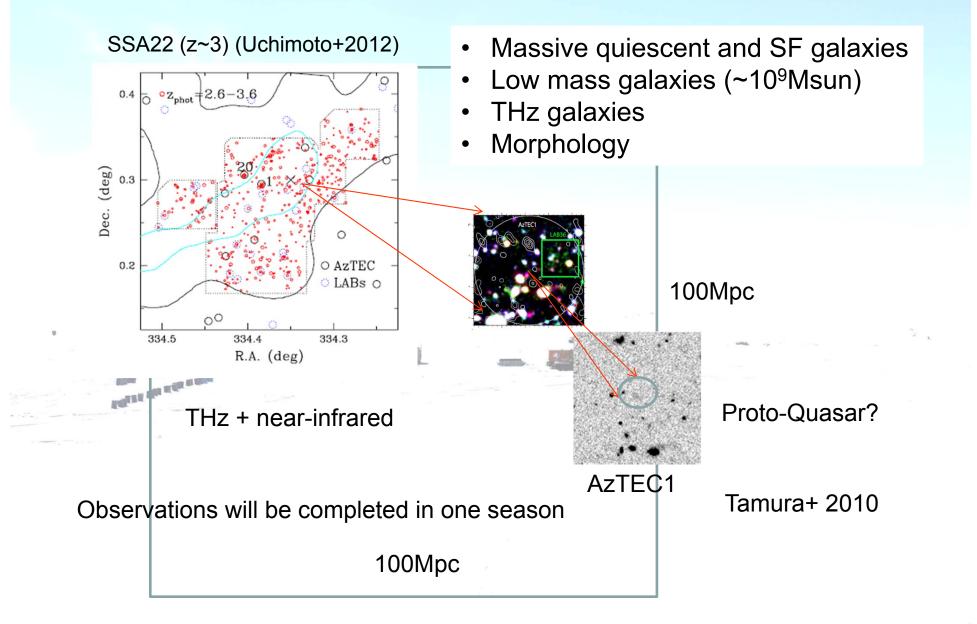


Survey area (arcmin²)

Deepest K-band galaxies with MOIRCS + HST WFC3 data



Large scale structure of galaxy populations

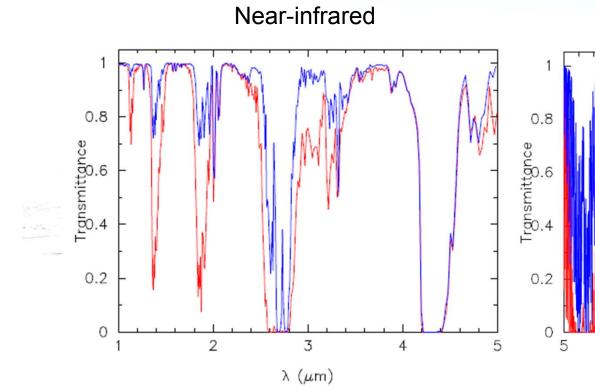


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- Stable transmittance
- Long periods of uninterrupted darkness for months

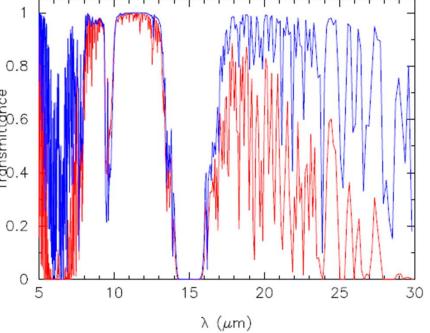


High Transmittance

		altitude	PWV
blue	Dome Fuji	3810m	0.2mm
red	Mounakea	4200m	1mm



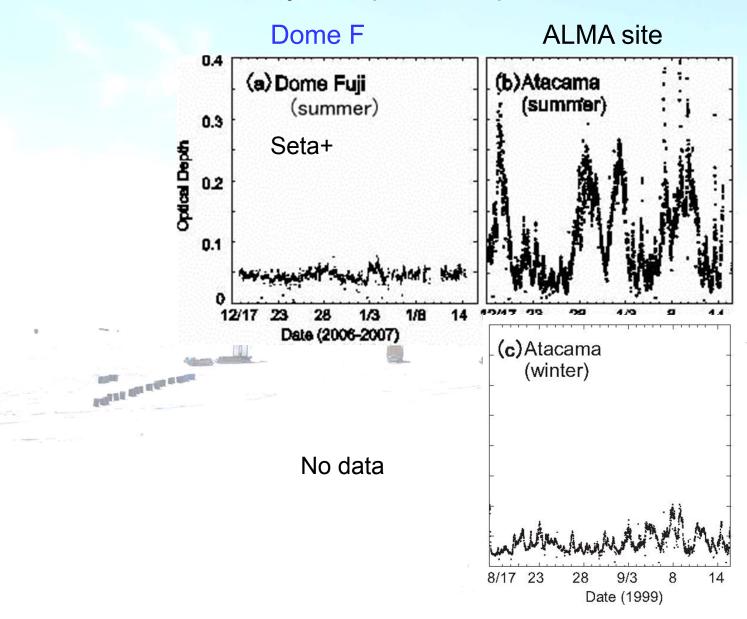
Mid-infrared



- Cold atmosphere: dark infrared sky (50 100 times darker)
- The free-atmosphere seeing 0.2", the best in the world
- Dry atmosphere: 0.14mmPWV (~10 times lower) in winter
- Stable atmospheric transmittance
- Long periods of uninterrupted darkness for months



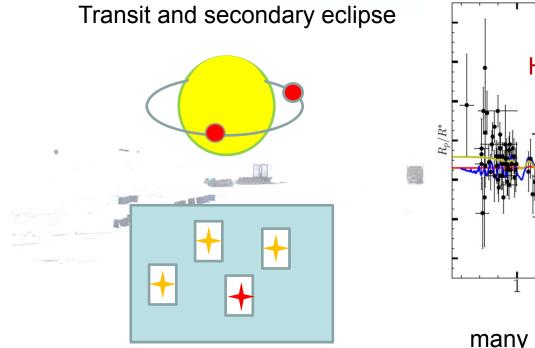
Stability of Optical Depth in Summer

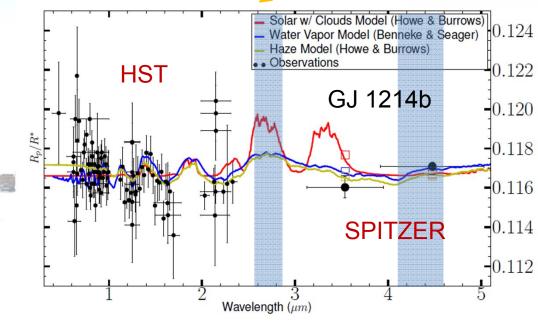


water-dominated atmosphere on super-earths

Spectroscopic transit observations with low resolution $\lambda/\Delta\lambda \sim 100$ on multi-slits

Minimum effect of terrestrial water vapor in Antarctica





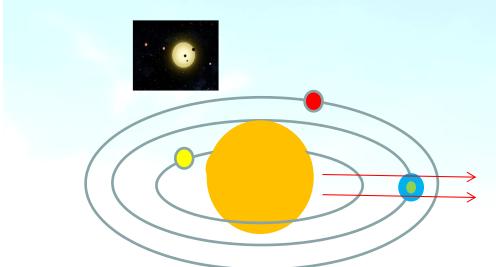
many molecular lines ($H_2O,CO_2,CH_4...$)

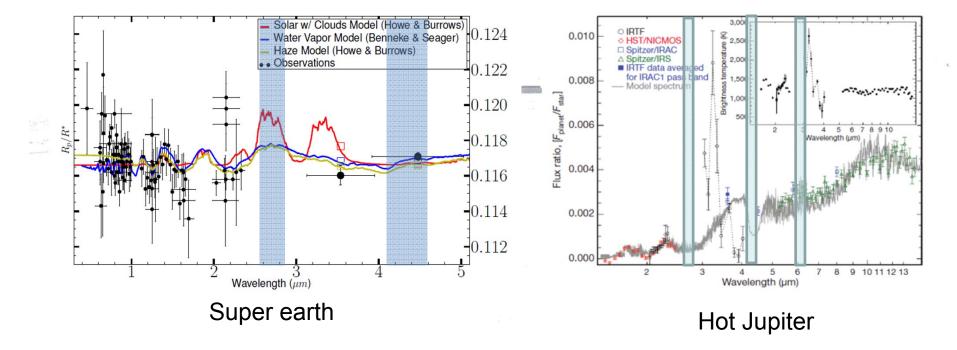
~10 reference stars in large slits

- Cold atmosphere: dark infrared sky (50 100 times darker)
- The free-atmosphere seeing 0.2", the best in the world
- Dry atmosphere: 0.14mmPWV (~10 times lower) in winter
- Stable transparency
- Long periods of uninterrupted darkness for months



Continuous observations of multiple systems

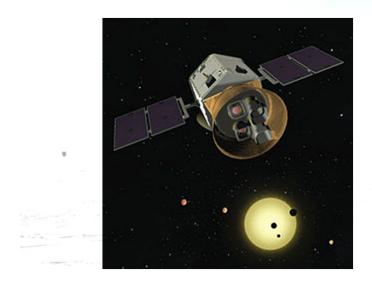




Candidates of multiple systems

TESS (2017)

Bright G, K, M type stars



CCD camera at Dome-F





Collaboration with Dome A

50cm Schmidt x3