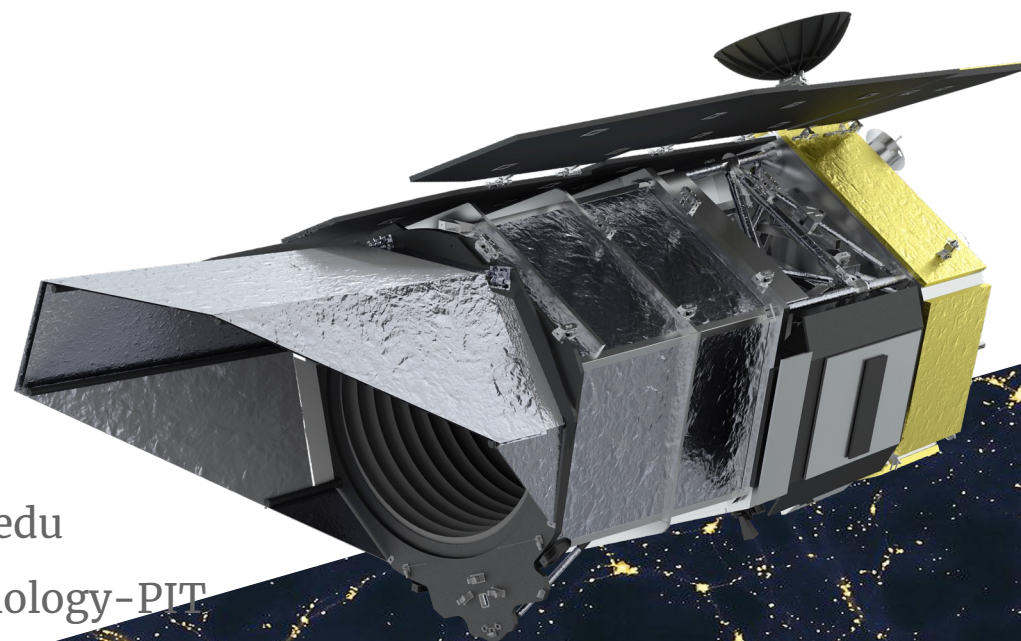




roman-hlis-cosmology.caltech.edu

github.com/Roman-HLIS-Cosmology-PIT

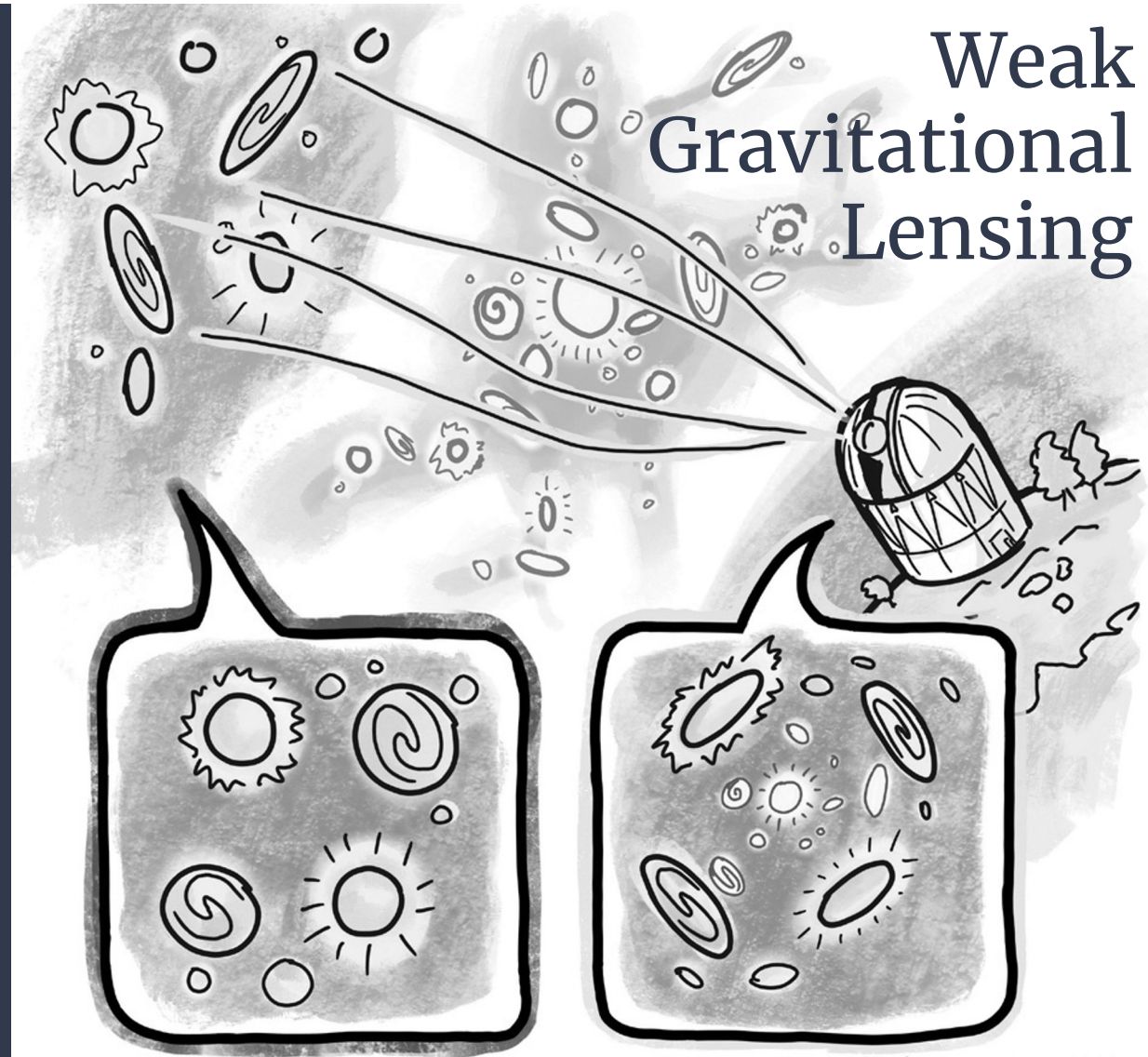


Hot-wiring the Roman Sky: Resolving the Undersampling Crisis with Fast IMCOM for Real-Time Discovery

Presenter: Kaili Cao (The Ohio State University → University of Michigan)

RAPID Response: Hot-wiring the Next Generation of Time-Domain Science, March 25, 2026

Our Project
Infrastructure
Team:
Maximizing
Cosmological
Science with the
Roman High
Latitude
Imaging Survey



Credit: Jessie Muir 2020

Why do we coadd images? – “Oversample, we must!”

- Roman point spread functions (PSFs)
 - = Airy disk ($\sim \lambda/D$) + linear obscuration + diffraction spikes + detector effects
 - An example in **Y106** band shown below

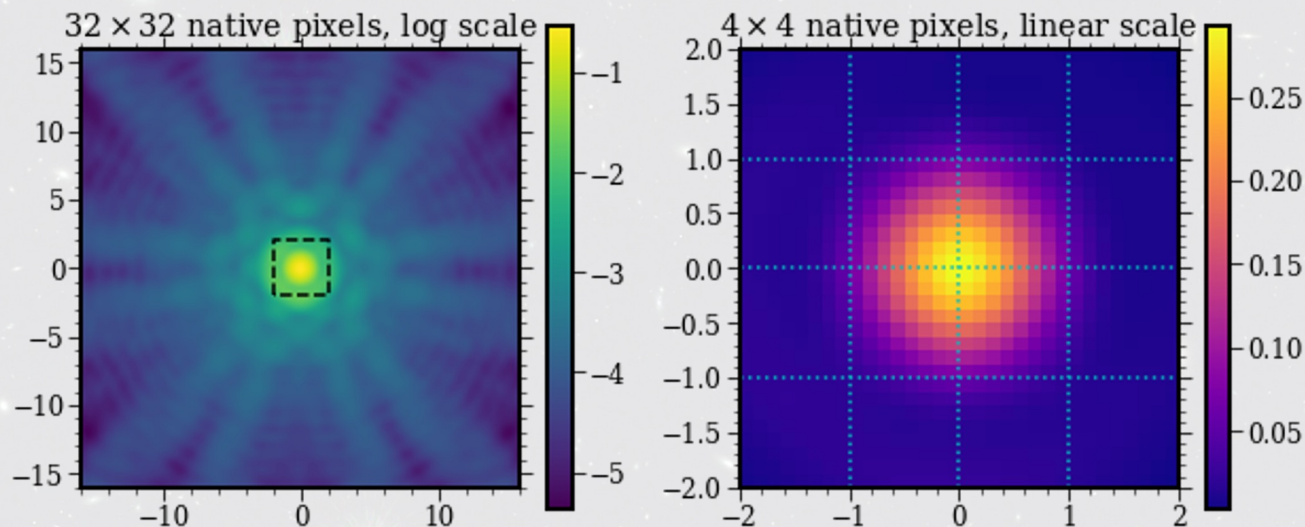
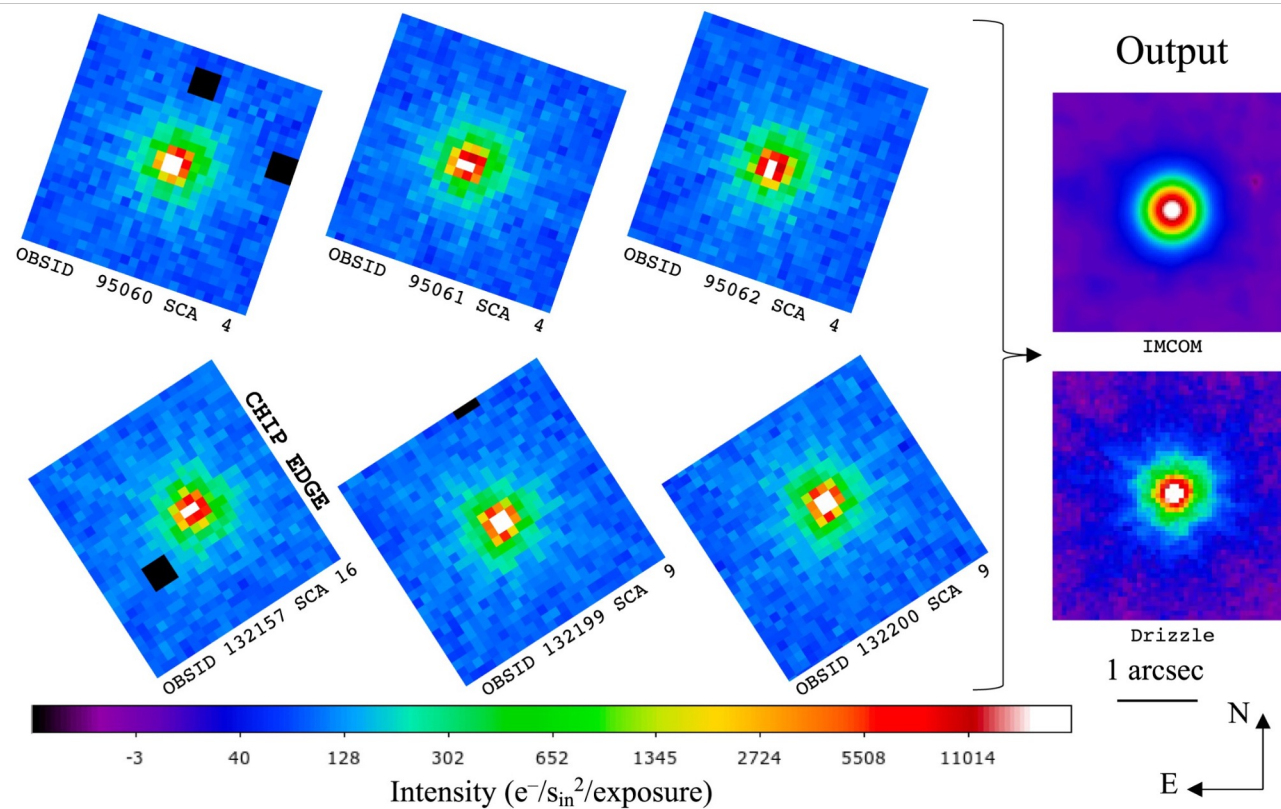


Image credits: Lucasfilm Ltd., Janson_G

IMCOM (B. Rowe et al. 2011): Image Coaddition with Control over Output Point Spread Function



←: 3 dithers × 2 passes
(typical for Medium and
Wide Tiers of HLWAS)

↗: IMCOM (IMage
COMbination) – **optimal**
image coaddition

↘: Drizzle – **efficient**
image coaddition

*Credit: Figure 9 from
C. Hirata et al. 2024*

One day

Time to reconstruct a Roman WFI image $[(7.5 \text{ arcmin})^2]$
with a single CPU core using IMCOM.

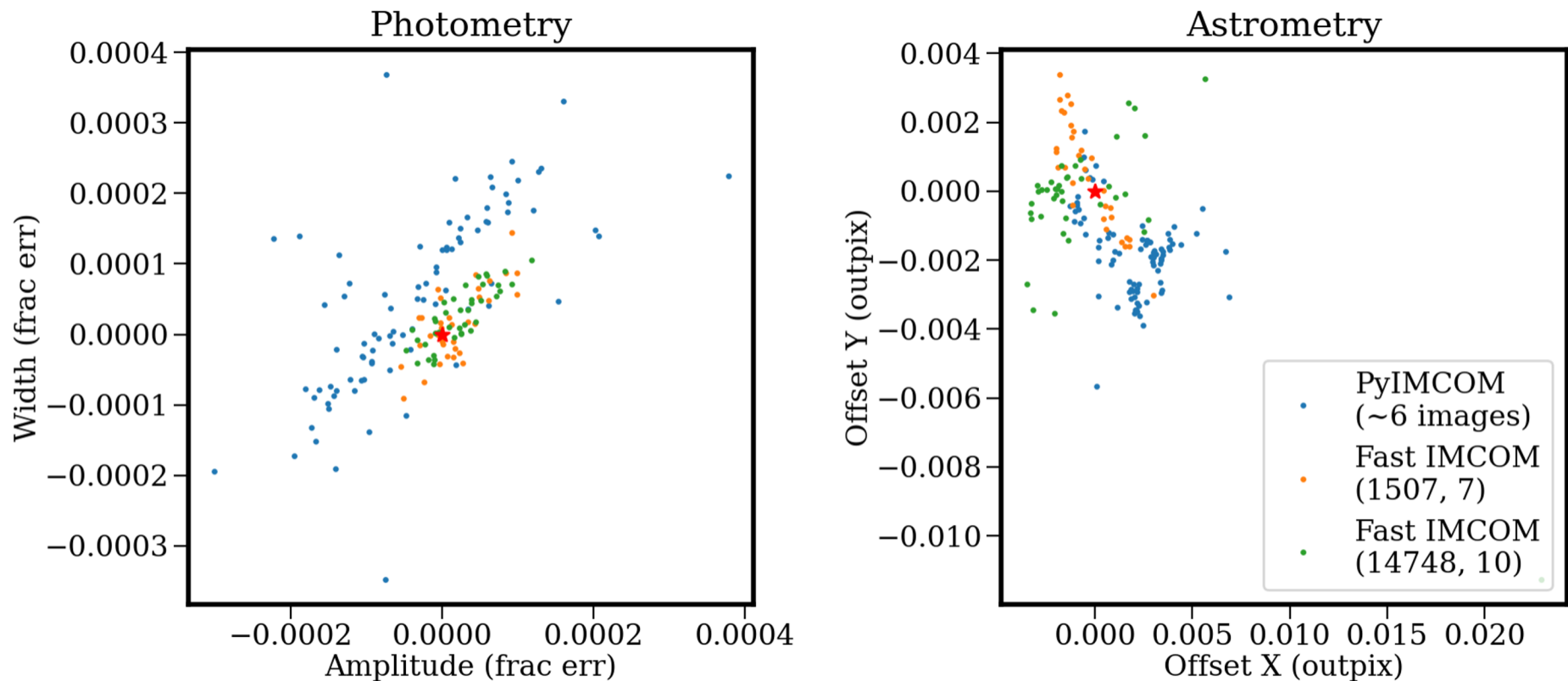
One day → Half an hour

Time to reconstruct a Roman WFI image $[(7.5 \text{ arcmin})^2]$
with a single CPU core using IMCOM → Fast IMCOM.

Foreseeable Future: Efficient Optimal Image Reconstruction with **Fast IMCOM** (Cao 2026*)



Measurements with Fast IMCOM (Cao 2026*)



For noiseless point sources. The output pixel scale is currently ~ 46.3 mas.

Credit: GSFC; Kessler, Hounsell, Joshi et al 2024 (↗)

The area of
90
full moons



HIGH-LATITUDE TIME-DOMAIN SURVEY



180 days, primarily in two years



30 hours every five days



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Supernovae



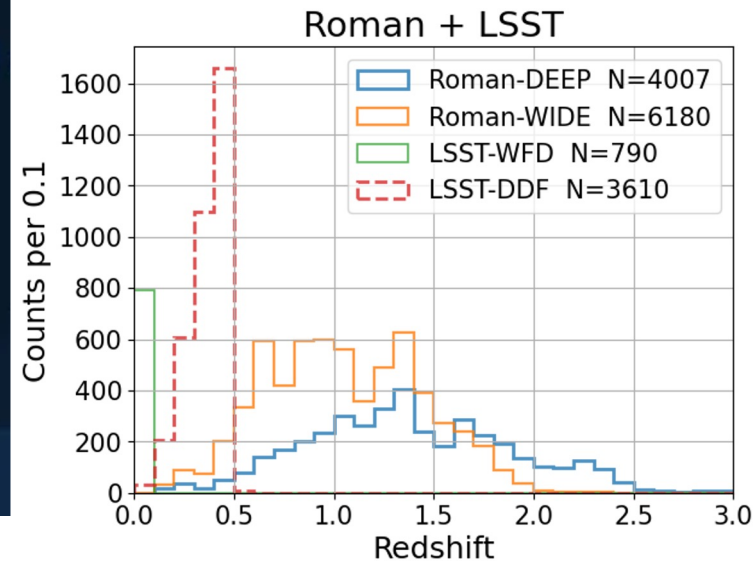
Transients



Galaxies



Dark Energy



Credit: GSFC

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



ASTROPHYSICS FLEET

New “eyes,”
new “visual cortex.”

KEY

- INTERNATIONAL PARTNER LED
- ISS INSTRUMENT
- SMALLSAT
- CUBESAT
- BALLOON

- FORMULATION
- IMPLEMENTATION
- OPERATING
- EXTENDED

2025



SPHEREX



ROMAN



COSI



ULTRASAT



ARIEL



UVEX



LISA



PROBES

TRADITIONAL MISSIONS

SPARCS

SPRITE

BLACKCAT

PUEO

PANDORA

ASPERA

STARBURST

TIGERISS

LANDOLT

POEMM

STARI

MANTIS

PIONEERS & CUBESATS

2020



IXPE



WEBB



EUCLID



XRISM

CUTE

1990



HUBBLE



CHANDRA

XMM-NEWTON

2000



GEHRELS SWIFT

2005



FERMI

2010



NUSTAR

2015



NICER



TESS

How do we optimize transient discovery with multi-wavelength and multi-messenger alert streams?

Is it worth projecting single-epoch images onto a common pixel grid and unifying the point spread functions?

Necessary inputs: calibrated single-epoch images (“Level-2”), world coordinate systems, point spread functions

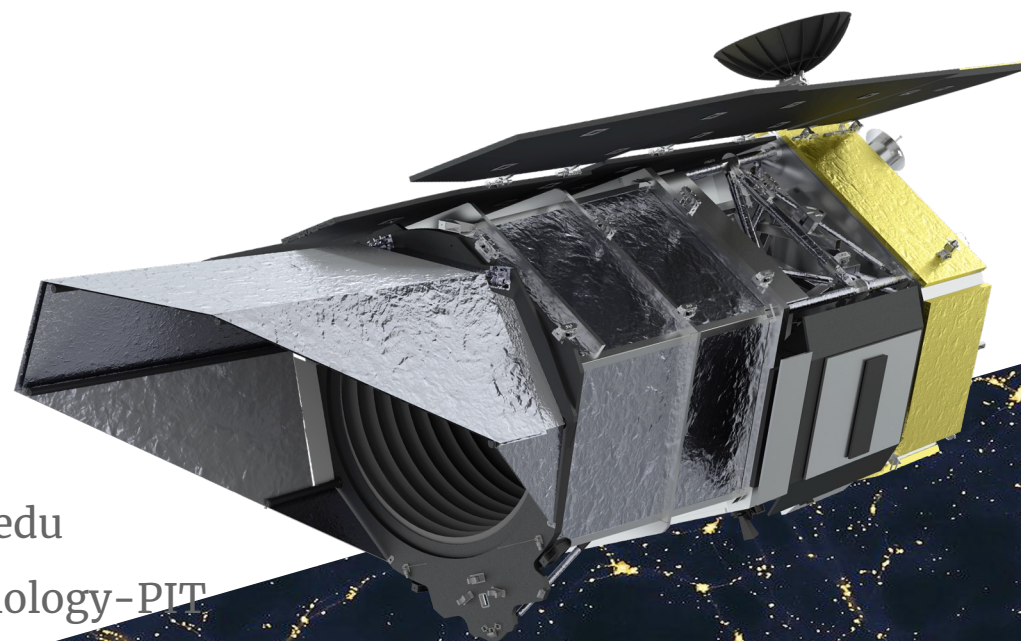
Configurable outputs: pixel grid, point spread function

Formalism paper published in AJ; methods papers underway.



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