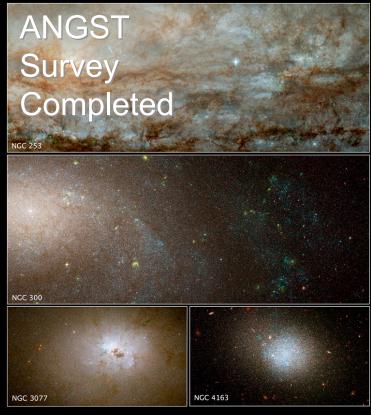


# Space Telescope Users Committee 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Matt Mountain
Director



WFPC-2 image taken 27-28th October



J. Dalcanton, 2008

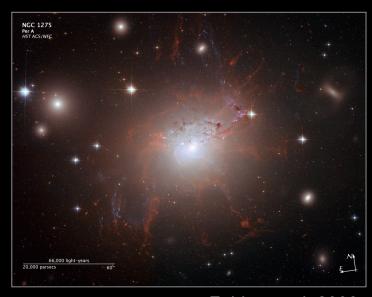
Jupiter's Red Spots • Hubble Space Telescope WFPC2



NASA, ESA, and A. Simon-Miller (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center) = STScI-PRC08-27

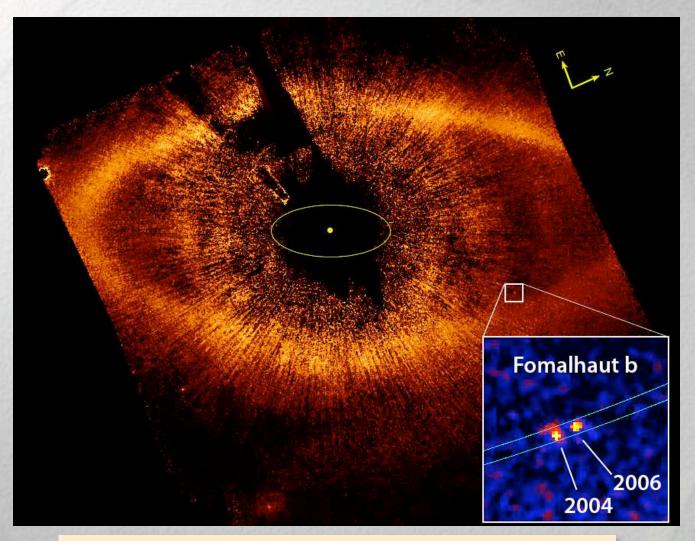


Bradac et al. 2008



Fabian et al. 2008

## Optical Images of an Exosolar Planet 25 Light Years from Earth Kalas et al., 2008 Science (today)



Fomalhaut b: Orbit = 119 AU, Mass ~ 2.5 M<sub>J</sub>, Age = 100~300 Myr Evidence of circumplanetary disk with dimension comparable to orbits of Galilean satellites





- Cycle 17 Results
- **■** ESA fraction

Pls: 15.4% proposals - 15.6% orbits

Cols: 38.5% proposals - 61% orbits

- → ESA MOU with NASA for HST expires 2010
- ESA held a Senior Review for continued support of HST after 2010 together with all other missions that ESA is currently operating.
- ESA intends to put HST on a two-year funding cycle.
- → HST ranked #1

ESA contributes 15 scientists at STScI, who represent about one third of the astronomical research staff complement for HST.

### Johnson Space Flight Center

- as it was on the 26 September'08



Re: HST -" once again unto the breach"

From:

"Griffin, Michael D. (HQ-AA000)" < Michael.D.Griffin@nasa.gov>

Date:Tue, 7 Oct 2008 15:45:42 -0500

To: <mmountain@stsci.edu>

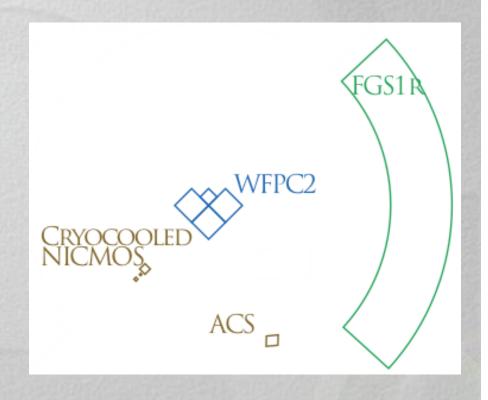
Matt-

You're welcome, and thanks for the kind words, but I don't deserve them. This is an obvious call. We're not going to spend hundreds of millions of \$\$\$ on the last servicing mission only to leave behind a single-string bird. At least I am not. And yeah, it'll cost some money. Some may not like that. If the White House or some members of Congress disagree (when they find out what I did, that is), so what? What are they going to do, fire me?

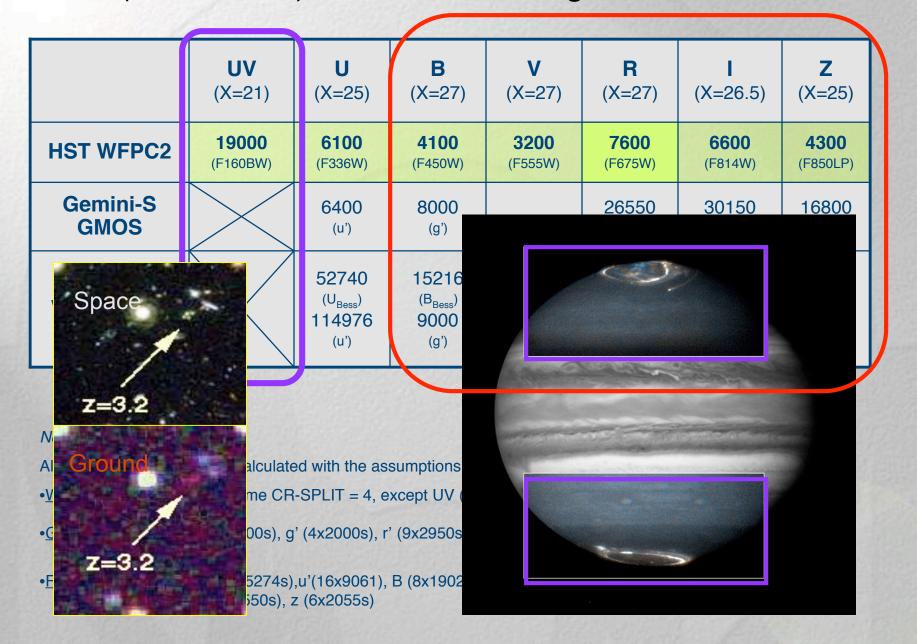
Mike

## HST's Science Program until SM4

- HST will be kept scientifically active as much as possible
- WFPC2, ACS/SBC & FGS
   Cycles 15 & 16 executing +
   more SNAPs
- NICMOS cryocooler to be restarted
- Cycle 17 ACS/SBC,
   NICMOS & FGS programs
   that could execute earlier
   and in 2 gyro science mode
- Short turn-around proposal solicitation



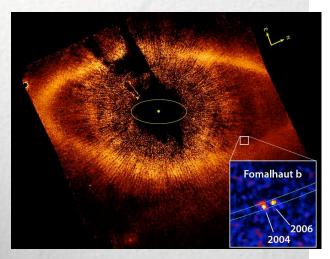
#### Time (in seconds) to Reach $X^{th}$ Magnitude at S/N = 5



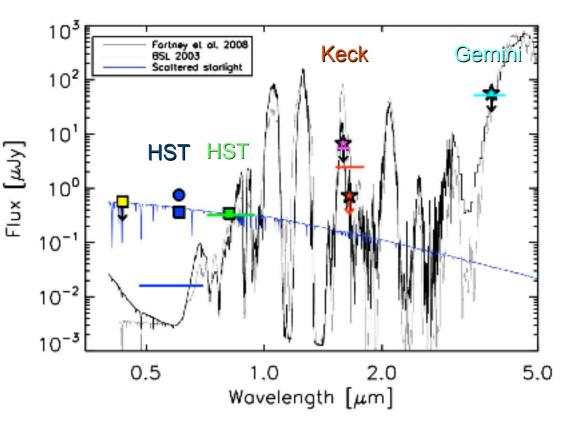
## HST/NICMOS Compared with Ground-based 8m-class Telescopes: On-Source Exposure Time Required to Reach S/N=5

				J=25.2	H=24.5	K=23.2
HST/NICMOS:				F110W	F165W	F205W
NIC3		51" x 51"		0.5 hours	0.6 hours	-
NIC2		19" x 19"		1.1 orbits	1.8 orbits	9.6 orbits
NIC1		11" x 11"		4.7 orbits	4.2 orbits	-
8m with AO:		A		<del></del>		Ks
Gemini/NIF	22" x 22"		16.4 hours	17.8 hours	1.0 hours	
VLT/NAOS+CONICA		27" x 27"		10.7 hours	12.2 hours	4.4 hours
8m without AO:				J	H	Ks
			PAK M	12.5 hours	23.8 hours	1.4 hours
(A)				11.2 hours	25.9 hours	9.1 hours
HST04Dic HST04Haw	HST04Kur	HST04Omb	HST04Rak	10		
		41		odiacal and earthshine background ile [J=0.66", H=0.64", K=0.61" without AO]		
HST04Sas HST04Yow	HST04Zwi	HST05Lan	HST05Str	ure radius = 0.3" x seeing FWHM (d	efault for VLT)	
High redshift	SNe and D	ark Ene	rgy		tors for these telescop	pes.

# NICMOS is still a *very competitive* science capability



From Kalas et al (2008)

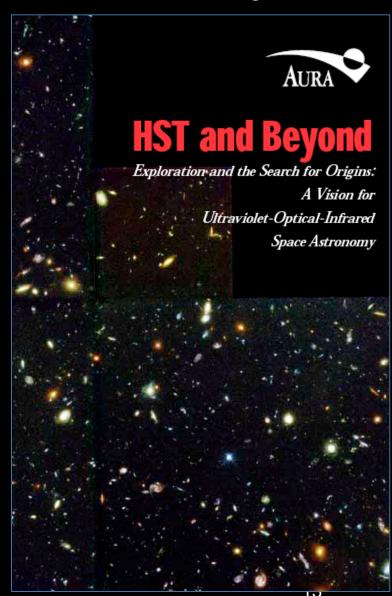




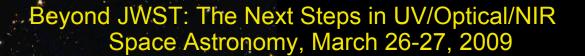
Groundbased observations at 1.6μm and 3.8μm could not detect Formalhaut-b and so Kalas et al (2008) could not definitively constrain planet model, NICMOS measurements at 1.6μm are hence critical

## Preparing for the Decadal Survey:

- Appoint a committee to craft a report similar to the "HST and Beyond" report (May 1996).
   David Spergel is chair of the committee.
- HST&B Charter: To "study possible missions & programs for UVOIR astronomy in space for the first decades of the 21st century" and "initiate a process that will produce a new consensus vision of the long-term goals" of UVOIR space astronomy.
- HST&B focused on science opportunities with less emphasis on technical capabilities.
- Authored and refereed by prominent members of the community.



### What AURA & STScI Will Do:



- Focus on the long-term, grand scientific vision for space-based astronomy (through 2030) - ensure the legacies of HST and JWST continue.
- Complement to the 2010 Decadal Survey. Should also update assessment of the synergy between space-based UVOIR telescopes with the realistic capabilities of AO+large ground-based telescopes.
- Original HST & Beyond report took 2 years from start to publication. Need to work on much shorter schedule:
  - Begin with community workshop here at STScI on March 26-27, 2009.
  - Prepare "powerpoint" input for NRC Decadal Review Committee by summer.
  - Hardcopy report by fall 2009. Send to NRC DRC.

 David Spergel (Princeton) has agreed to Chair "The Next Steps in UV/Optical/NIR Astronomy" 14