



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

JWST Astronomical Community Outreach

Macarena Garcia Marin
STScI's JWST Project Scientist

JWST Users Committee Meeting, STScI, December 2-3 2025



Astronomical Engagement and Training Initiatives

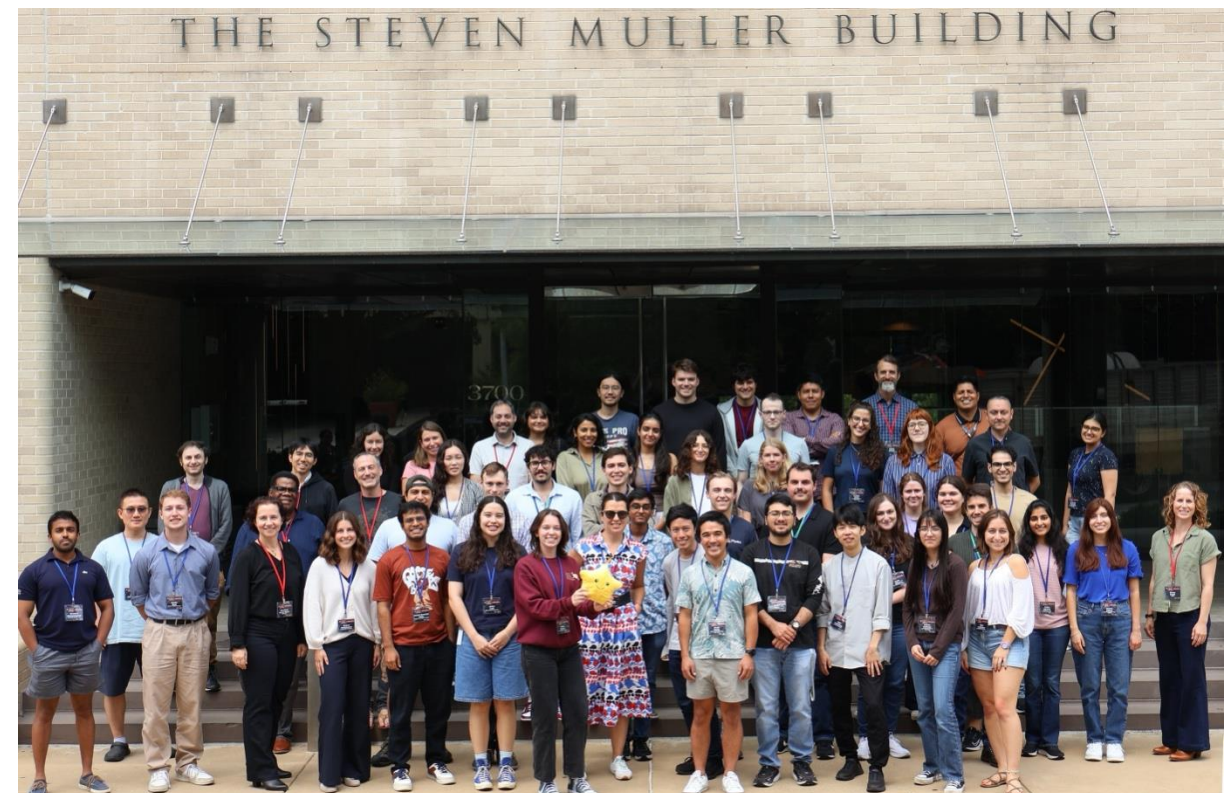
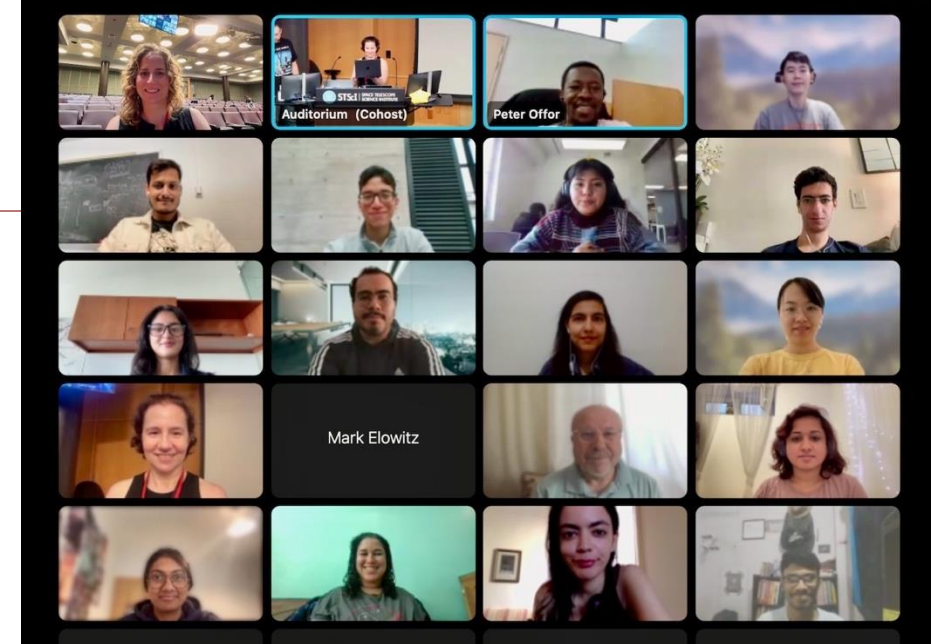
- JWST Summer School
- Webb Office Hours
- JWebbinar series
- Updates to the JDox home page
- JWST Observer News and relevant updates to the space
- JWST's presence at large conferences
- Updates and New Initiatives for Community Outreach

We seek your feedback and ideas to improve communication with the community



JWST Summer School

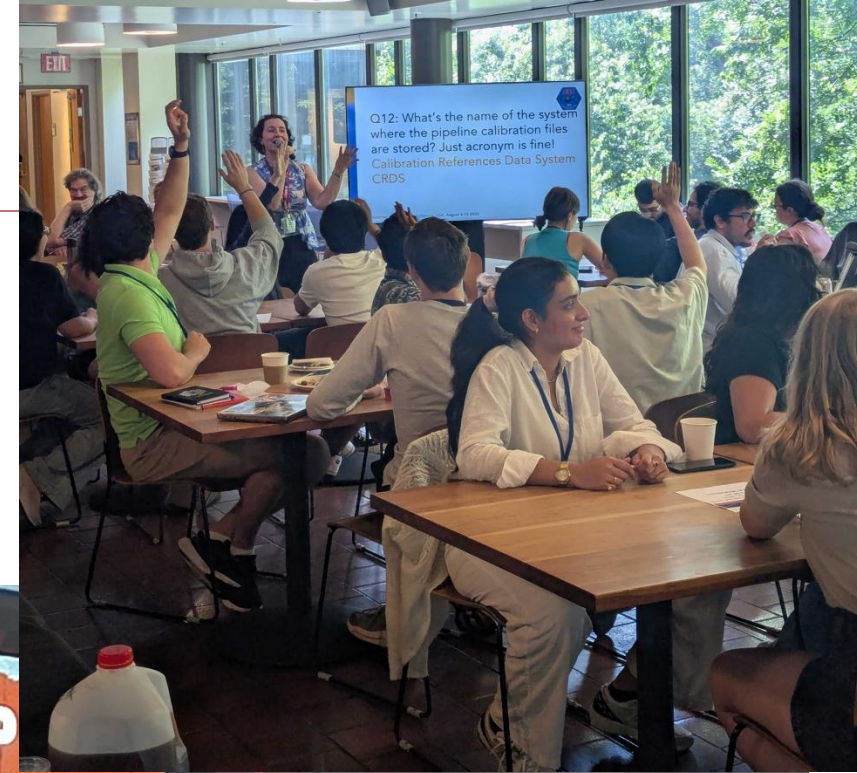
- Hosted between August 4-15
- 45 in-person attendees from 34 different institutions across 14 different countries. Several ESA-sponsored. Mostly graduate students, but also undergrads, postdocs and mid-career researchers.
- 68 virtual participants (first week only) from 53 different institutions across 20 different countries, spanning all ranges of career stage and include at least one citizen scientist and self-declared independent researchers
- Overall, we span 6 continents!
- We have 20 excellent internationally recognized lecturers/trainers, very committed to the school and to sharing their knowledge.





JWST Summer School

- Materials and videos are already public
- Lectures and hands-on work, and a session on science communication
- Building Community: we split participants into teams to facilitate connections. Had lunch quizzes, two social outings, one cookout in the patio, an Orioles game and a raffle!
- Last day dedicated to 1o1 “office hours”, topics ranging from proposal preparation and pipeline to career advice
- Excellent (and thoughtful) feedback from participants





JWST Summer School Feedback*

Drop a pin on the country where your institution is

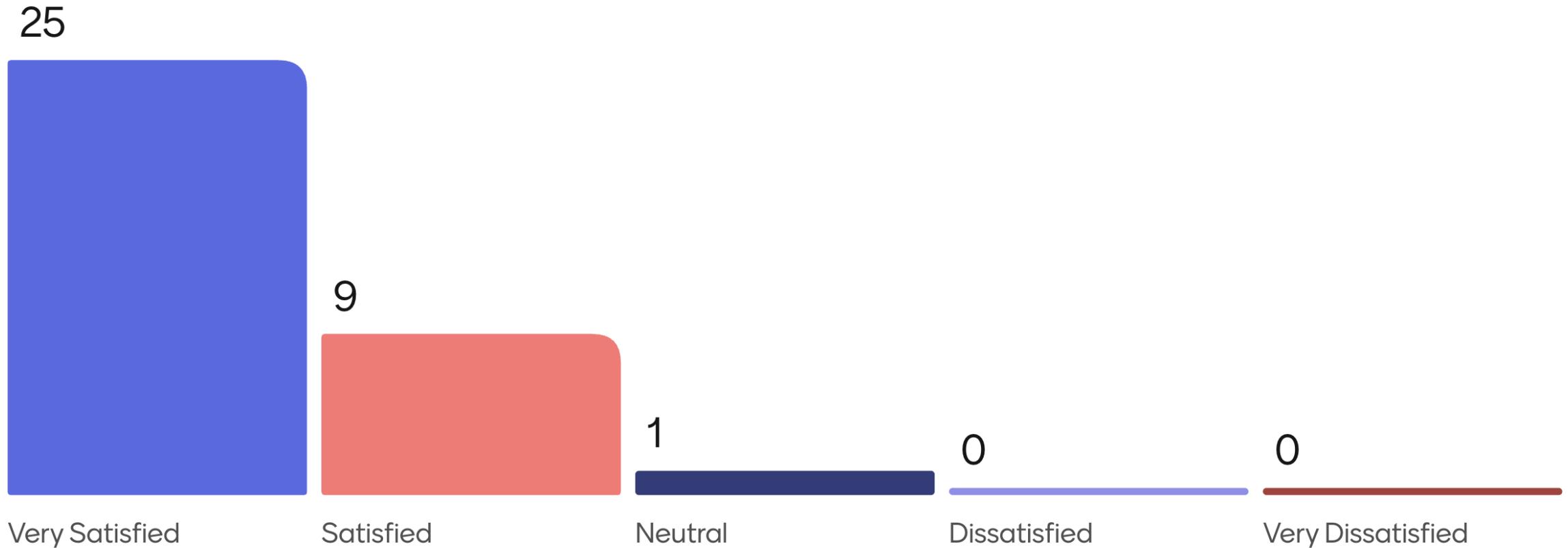


(*) Used Mentimeter. Last day of the school, some participants had already left



JWST Summer School Feedback

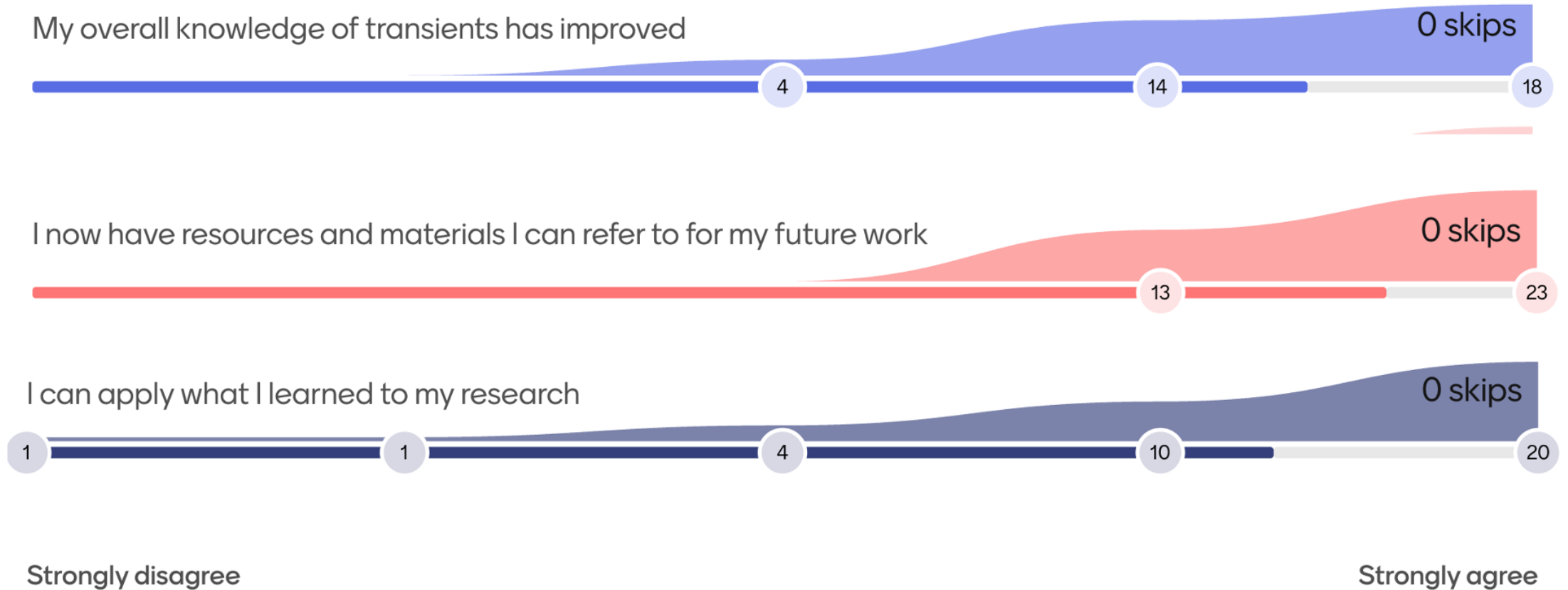
Overall, how satisfied are you with the JWST Summer School?





JWST Summer School Feedback

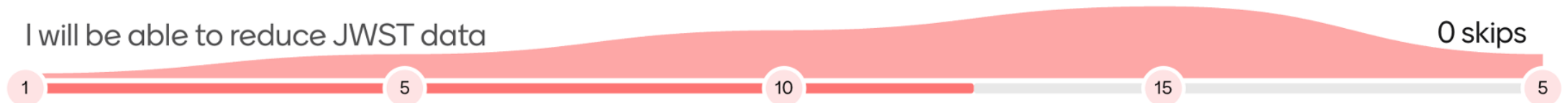
On a Scale of 1-5 (strongly disagree to strongly agree) After the first week of the JWST Summer School:





JWST Summer School Feedback

On a Scale of 1-5 (strongly disagree to strongly agree) After the second week of the JWST Summer School:



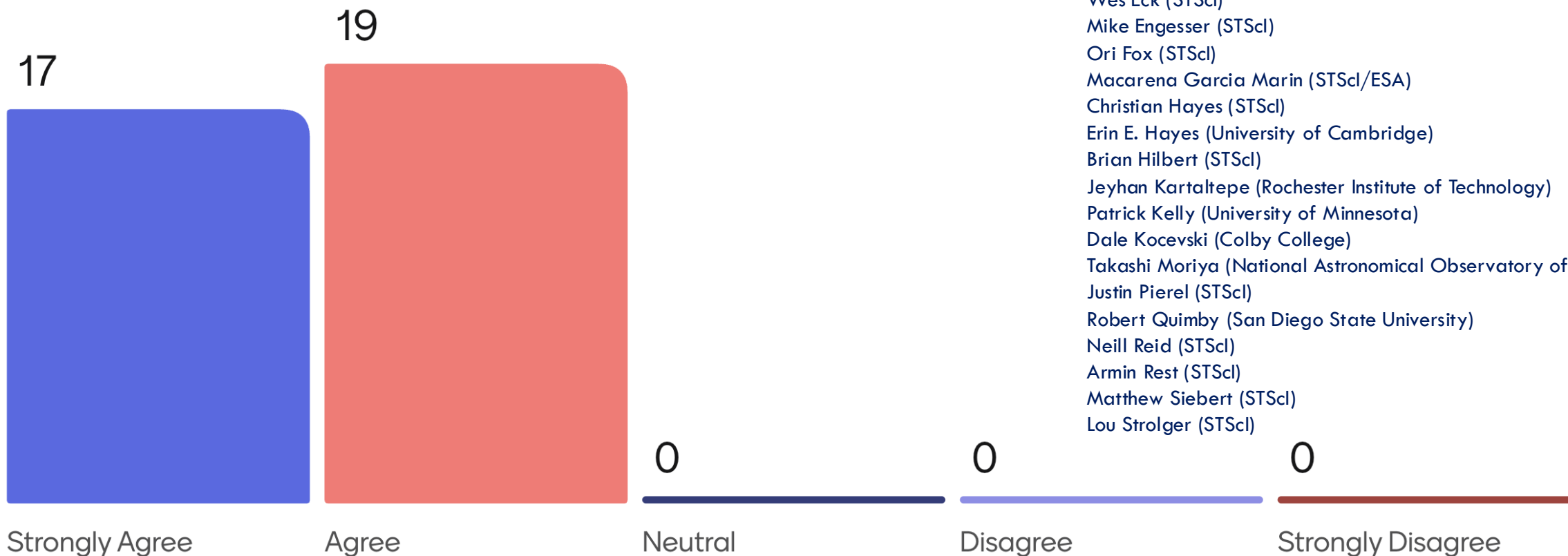
Strongly disagree

Strongly agree



JWST Summer School Feedback

The School Trainers were knowledgeable and engaging

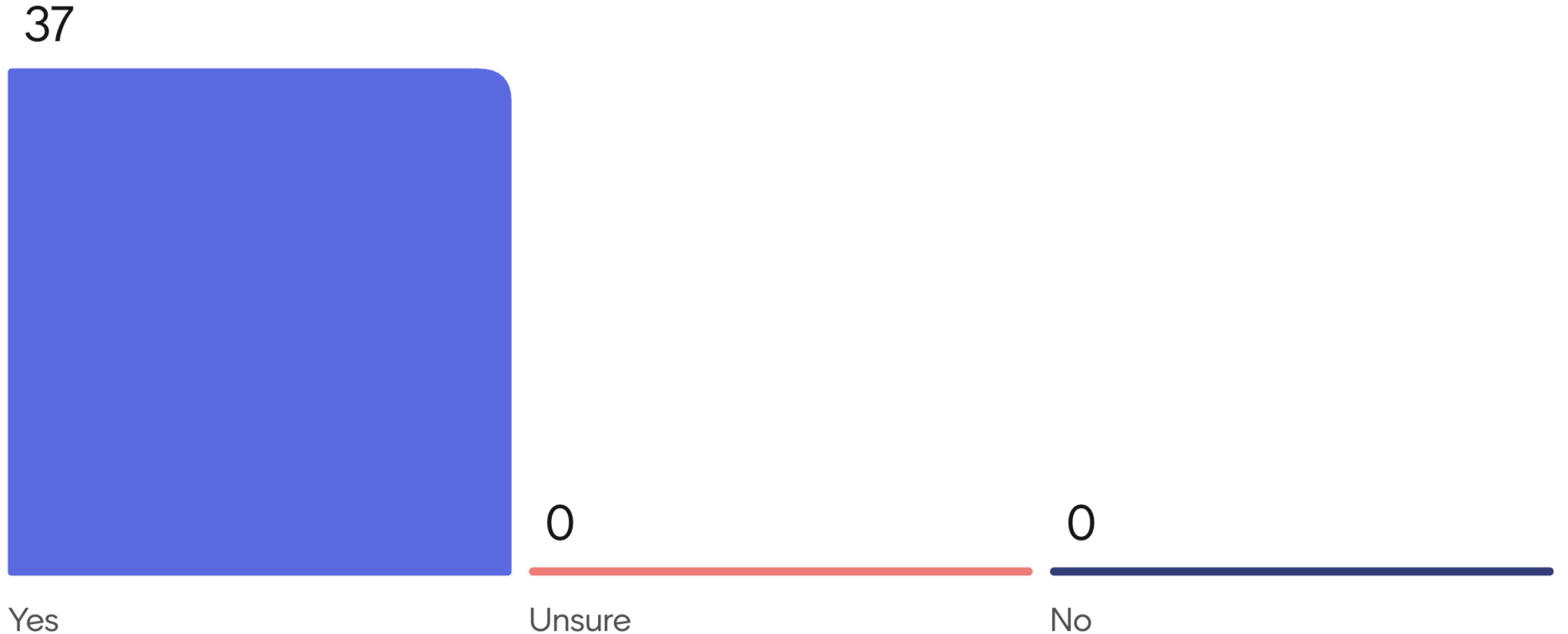


- Iair Arcavi (Tel Aviv University)
- Mic Bagley (NASA)
- Stacey Bright (STScI)
- Alicia Canipe (STScI)
- David Coulter (STScI)
- Christa DeCoursey (University of Arizona, Tucson)
- Wes Eck (STScI)
- Mike Engesser (STScI)
- Ori Fox (STScI)
- Macarena Garcia Marin (STScI/ESA)
- Christian Hayes (STScI)
- Erin E. Hayes (University of Cambridge)
- Brian Hilbert (STScI)
- Jeyhan Kartaltepe (Rochester Institute of Technology)
- Patrick Kelly (University of Minnesota)
- Dale Kocevski (Colby College)
- Takashi Moriya (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan)
- Justin Pierel (STScI)
- Robert Quimby (San Diego State University)
- Neill Reid (STScI)
- Armin Rest (STScI)
- Matthew Siebert (STScI)
- Lou Strolger (STScI)



JWST Summer School Feedback

Would you recommend this experience to your colleagues?





JWST Summer School Feedback

Thoughtful written feedback

Incredible organization and structure

i wish there was some funding offered to help

The Loyola housing was unpleasant, but having a dorm floor all for us let us socialize A LOT. We spent most evenings hanging out, including across rooms. Please don't change that!

Design a single conda environment/ package list that works for all of the notebooks!

It gave me a completely new and serious perspective on working with JWST data. An excellent experience.

The experience was great and I learned a lot. I have new tools that I can use for my science.

A beautiful experience, every activity was useful. I will include a simulation with a final project proposal for each team.

The 2nd week lessons were overwhelming with information. Please don't cut it out, but maybe spread out over more days?



JWST Summer School Feedback

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The Loyola housing was unpleasant, but having a dorm floor all for us let us socialize A LOT. We spent most evenings hanging out, including across rooms. Please don't change that!

Overall, we consider the JWST Summer School a success!

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The JSTUC supports STScI's initiative to have JWST-focused summer schools to train researchers on specific JWST capabilities. The JSTUC encourages STScI to continue these efforts, and to continue to consider how to adjust the scope or focus of future summer schools to include a broad swath of the community.

completely new and
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We plan to organize another JWST Summer School in 2027, and welcome your feedback and ideas

e
ation. Please
spread out

with a final project proposal for each team.



Webb Office Hours

- Started in February 2024, occur 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month
- Announced in several Observer News Items, AAS and EAS, events calendar, and reminders in social media. Also word-to-mouth (very effective!)
- During 2025 we have hosted a total of 20 sessions, with 16 users and 30 questions.
- Relevant Q&A captured on the [JWST events archive](#)
- Those who connect leave very satisfied
- We redirect Help Desk requests to Office Hours as needed





JWebinars (I)

Coordinated by Stacey Bright and Doug Long
Supported by DSMO, Instruments Division and OPO

Since the last JSTUC meeting (27-28 March 2025) we have held 9 unique [JWebinars](#)

Title	Date	# Participants
Special JWebinar -Key Requirements for Submitting a Compliant Cycle 4 Budget Proposal	April 2, 8, 2025	65
40 - NIRCам and MIRI Coronagraphy: An Update 3 Years into Operations	April 3, 2025	22
41 - Exoplanet Time-Series Observations with MIRI: From Pixels to Transit/Eclipse Light Curves to Results	May 5, 2025	23
42 - JWST and the NASA Ames PAH IR Spectroscopic Database	June 4, 2025	150
43 - NIRISS SOSS Multistripe Subarrays	August 28, 2025	32
44 - JWST Pure Parallel Observations	September 3, 2025	22
45 - What's New in JWST Cycle 5	September 10, 2025	123
Special JWebinar - JSTUC Community Forum #1	September 18, 2025	13
Special JWebinar 2 - JSTUC Community Forum	October 27, 2025	38



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The JSTUC recognizes that non-STScI scientists may be effective ambassadors of information about JWST to the community. The JSTUC encourages STScI to consider hosting “JSTUC Webinars” where JSTUC members and possibly extending these to include the PIs of JWST programs. The JSTUC and JWST PIs can discuss what their experience has been, and what they have learned through their role on the JSTUC or by planning JWST programs that they didn’t know previously.



JWebbinars

*Coordinated by Stacey Bright and Doug Long
Supported by DSMO, Instruments Division and OPO*

All materials and videos are available on the [JWebbinars](#) page

Plans for the 2026 JWebbinar Series are under development. We will organize:

- Additional JSTUC Community Forums
- Budget JWebbinar
- Optical constants Database (NASA Ames)
- Cycle 6 proposal preparation series

- In addition, we are considering the following:
 - Wide Field Slitless Spectroscopy
 - Astrometry/Image Alignment
 - Spectral extraction

JWebbinar





JDox Home Page Updates



- Proposing Opportunities**
 - Opportunities and Policies
 - Call for Proposals for Cycle 5
 - Cycle 4 Director's Discretionary (DD) Time Proposals
 - Director's Discretionary Time
 - General Science Policies
 - JWST Peer Review Information
 - Past Proposal Opportunities
- Observatory**
 - Observatory Hardware
 - Observatory Characteristics and Performance
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 - Mid Infrared Instrument
 - Near Infrared Camera
 - Near Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph
 - Near Infrared Spectrograph
- Proposal Preparation**
 - Getting Started with Planning JWST Observations
 - Understanding Exposure Times
 - JWST General Support
 - Methods and Roadmaps
 - Example Science Programs
 - Recommended Observing Strategies
 - Observation Planning Essentials

JWST User Documentation Homepage

This website holds a comprehensive collection of documentation (known as JDox) on the JWST spacecraft and instruments, proposal preparation, observation planning, data analysis, and other topics. The icons in black below provide access points sorted by JDox topic; icons in red link to a listing of key JWST resources outside of JDox.

Section	Icon 1	Icon 2	Icon 3	Icon 4
Introductions & Key Links	Navigation (Compass)	Getting Started (Person with question marks)	PDF Handbooks (PDF icon)	News (Person with document)
Proposing	Opportunities (Person silhouette)	Proposal Prep (Computer monitor)	Proposal Tools (Laptop)	
Instruments	NIRCam (Star and wavy lines)	NIRISS (Star and wavy lines)	NIRSpec (Star and wavy lines)	MIRI (Star and wavy lines)
Observing & Data	Observatory (Hexagonal pattern)	Observing (Person with telescope)	Data (Star and spiral)	
Resources outside JDox	Person at desk (Red)	Person with document (Red)	Computer monitor (Red)	Star and spiral (Red)

Black icons lead to JDox sections

Red icons lead to relevant resources outside JDox



JDox Home Page Updates

JDox leads: *Shireen Gonzaga, Roeland van der Marel, Dean Hines*
Contributions from all teams across the SOC

Home / Getting Started with Exploring JWST Information

Home About PDFs Helpdesk

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<u>Proposing</u>	Opportunities	Proposal Prep	Proposal Tools	
<u>Instruments</u>	NIRCam	NIRISS	NIRSpec	MIRI
<u>Observing & Data</u>	Observatory	Observing	Data	
<u>Resources outside JDox</u>	Help Desk	Collections	Proposal Prep	Data

Getting Started with Exploring JWST Information



This page provides some suggestions for JWST users for getting started on exploring the vast ecosystem of JWST information.

The JWST documentation repository (JDox) holds a comprehensive collection of documentation on the JWST spacecraft and instruments, preparing observing proposals, and data analysis. Useful entry points to get started include the following:

- Instructions for Navigating, Browsing, Searching, and Accessing JDox
- Opportunities and Policies for Proposing JWST Observations and Archival Analysis
 - JWST Proposal Workflow
 - JWST Guidelines and Checklist for Proposal Preparation
- Getting Started with Planning JWST Observations
- Getting Started with JWST Data Analysis
- Video Tutorials on Various Subjects

There exist also many other resources for JWST information outside of JDox. A listing of key access points is provided at

- Additional JWST Resources

Home / Breaking News

Breaking News



This page provides links to information about JWST recent developments.

The primary reference for the JWST user community about recent developments is:

- The JWST Observer News repository (this link is outside JDox)

Targeted news about specific items is available at:

- The Late-Breaking News section for the latest Call for Proposals
- The JDox Latest Updates page, which provides a listing of new JDox pages and notable page updates

News for general audiences is provided at:

- The NASA JWST site

Collections

- The JWST Pocket Guide provides a top-level summary of the science instrument capabilities.
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- A large collection of Technical Reports provides in-depth analyses that substantiate and expand on much of the information provided in JDox.



JDox Home Page Updates

JDox leads: Shireen Gonzaga, Roeland van der Marel, Dean Hines

Contributions from all teams across the SOC



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<u>Instruments</u>	NIRCam				NIRISS	NIRSpec	MIRI
<u>Observing & Data</u>	Observatory				Observing	Data	
<u>Resources outside JDox</u>	Help Desk				Collections	Proposal Prep	Data

Home / Getting Started with Exploring JWST Information

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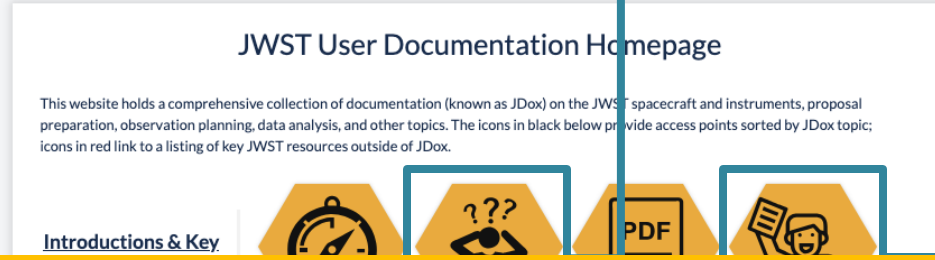


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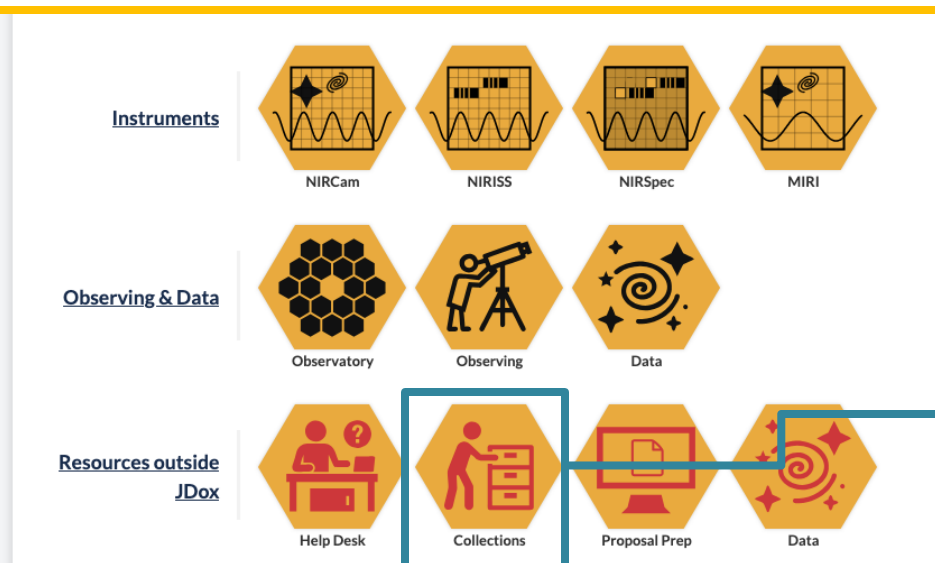
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Contributions from all teams across the SOC



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documentation (e.g., JDOX) as up-to-date as possible. The JSTUC also recommends that STScI provide and update pointers to FAQs or tutorials that link to JDox articles as a way for users to locate top-level information efficiently.



Home / Getting Started with Exploring JWST Information

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JWST Surveys

2025 JWST Community Survey

- Open since October 29th
- Announced via blast email, Observer News Item and social media
- 38 questions covering all aspects of the JWST user experience, plenty opportunities to leave written feedback.
10 min to fill it in
- Results will be analyzed and presented in the next JSTUC meeting

Helpdesk Survey

Overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community

Satisfaction rate:

97.2% since mid July 2024

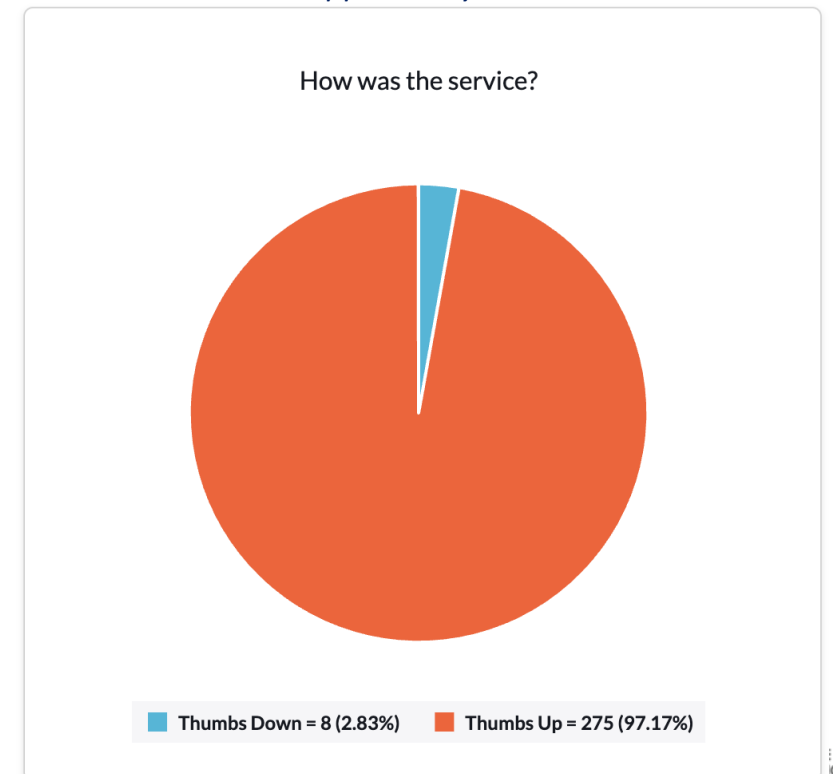
97.6% from November 2024 to October 2025

Response rate:

18.4% since July 2024

17.1% from November 2024 to October 2025

*Help Desk lead: Nicolas Flagey
Supported by all teams across the SOC*





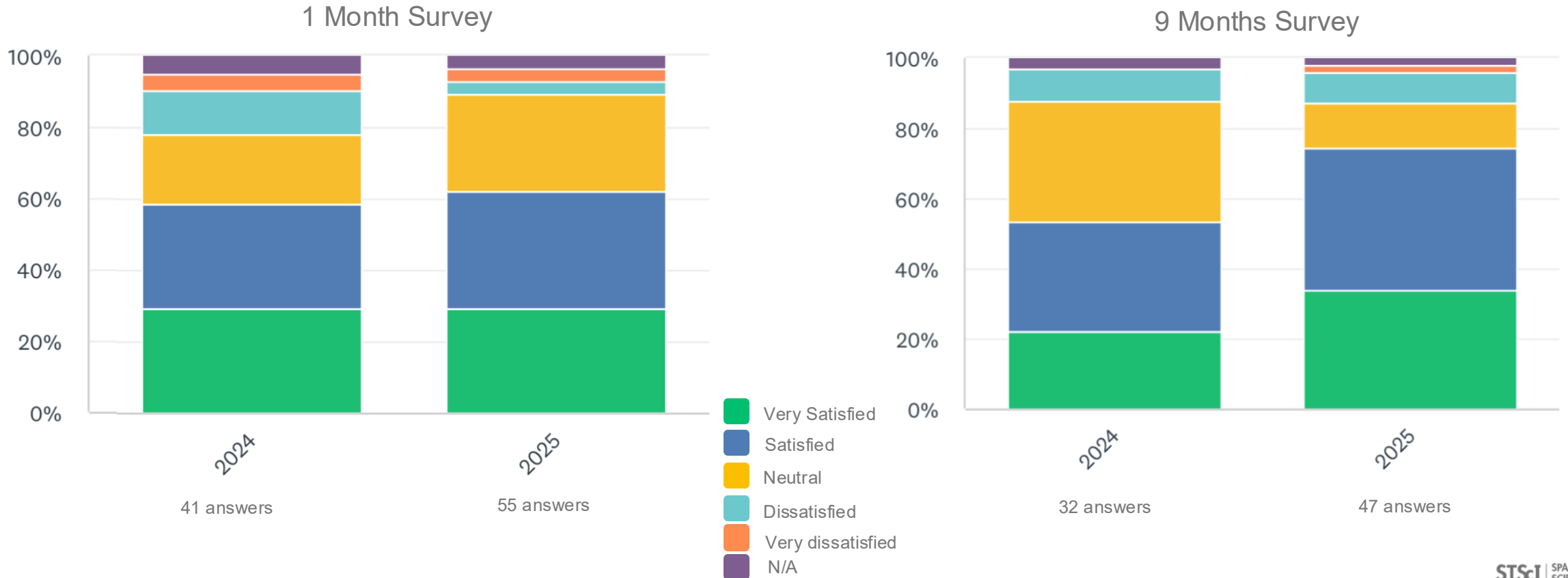
JWST Surveys

Continued Data Quality satisfaction surveys, 1 and 9 months after receiving data

Typical completion rate: 20%

Low statistics, very positive feedback

JWST MAST products satisfaction



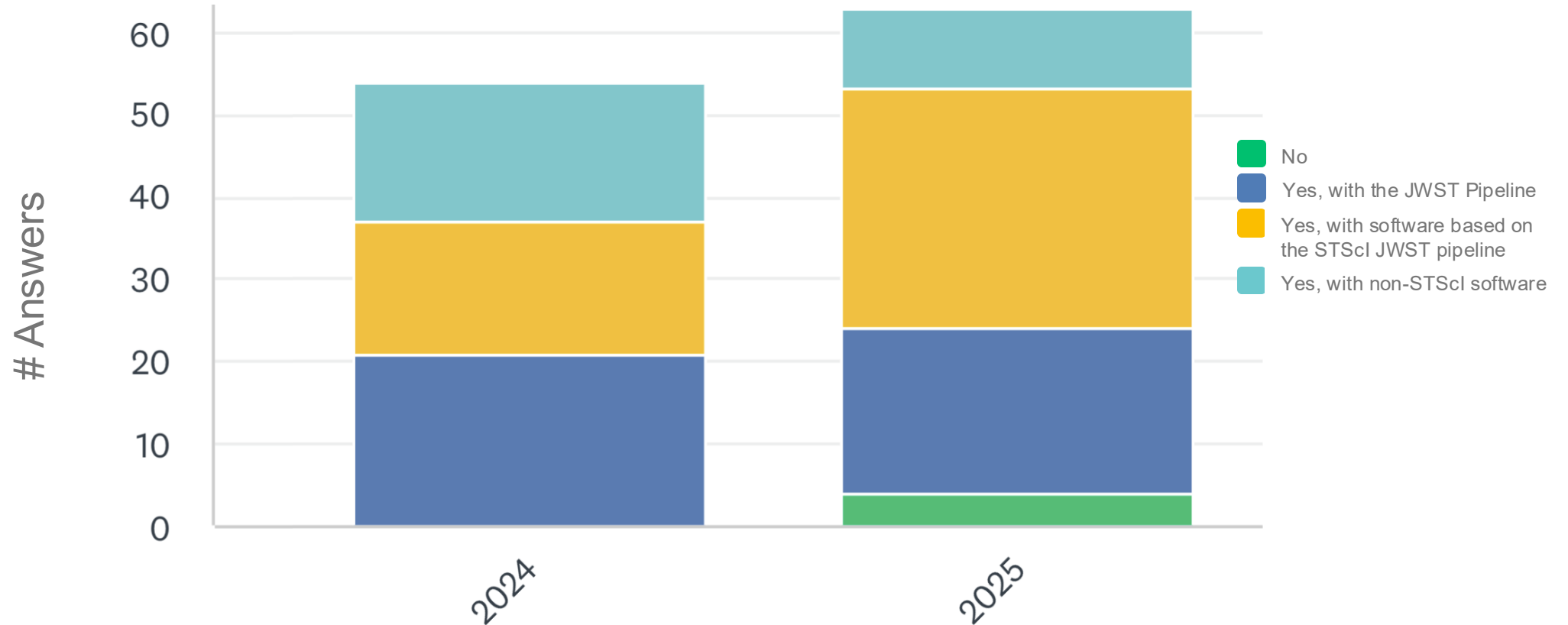


JWST Surveys

Continued Data Quality satisfaction surveys, 1 and 9 months after receiving data

Typical completion rate: ~20%

Did you reprocess the data yourself?
(9 months survey only, multiple choice answer.)





JWST Observer “Ecosystem”



**Since the last JSTUC meeting (27-28 March 2025) :
231,921 total views**

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), NASA's next flagship infrared observatory, developed in partnership with ESA and CSA, successfully launched on December 25, 2021. After deploying in space and alignment and calibration of the mirrors and instruments, JWST began science operations in July 2022.

Accessible to the worldwide scientific community, JWST offers scientists the opportunity to observe galaxy evolution, the formation of stars and planets, exoplanetary systems, and our own solar system, in ways never before possible. This website offers scientists information on proposing for time on JWST as well as the capabilities of the observatory's instruments and modes, data analysis tools and software, and news and events.

Quick Links



JWST Observer News

One of our main communication tools with the community

Since the last JSTUC meeting we have published 24 News Items (as of Nov 4th), covering:

- Pipeline News
- Call for Proposals related news (announcement, resources, Government shutdown, relevant breaking news, results)
- New tools and capabilities
- Summer School
- JWebinars

As of November 4th we have 6,130 subscribers.

- All Cycle 5 successful proposers (PIs, Co-PIs and Co-Is) will be automatically subscribed.
- At the bottom of every News Item email there is an “Unsubscribe” link

Since the last JSTUC meeting: 16,383 views on the Observer News pages



September 25, 2025

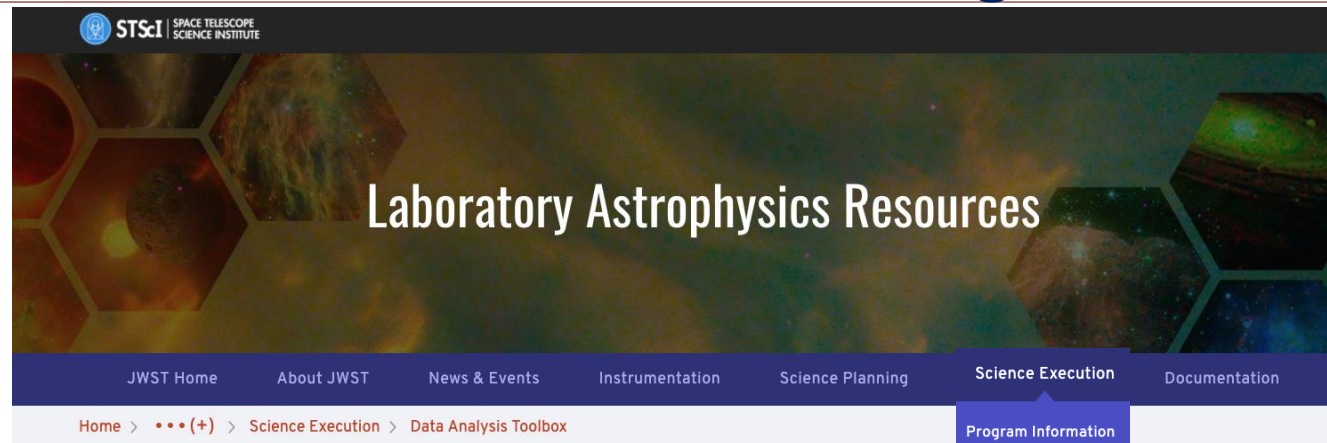
JWST Cycle 5 Deadline Extension in Case of Government Shutdown

In the event of a potential partial U.S. government shutdown, STScI will extend the deadline for JWST Cycle 5 proposals involving scientists who are unable to undertake research during that time.

[Read More >](#)



Changes to the JWST Observer Pages



PAHdb and OCdb are open access datasets and tools owned and maintained by NASA. They are available to assist in JWST proposals. Feedback and questions about these tools should be submitted directly to them*.

- Program Information
- Approved Programs
- Observing Schedules
- JWebinars
- Data Analysis Toolbox
- Science Publications

The NASA Ames PAH IR Spectroscopic Database (PAHdb)

The NASA Ames Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Infrared (IR) Spectroscopic Database (PAHdb) provides from-the-ground-up means to analyze and interpret the PAH component in JWST observations. It offers the spectroscopic data (both laboratory-measured and quantum-chemically computed) of PAHs, advanced molecular excitation/emission models, ready-to-use software tools, and the comprehensive documentation needed for astrophysical/chemical modeling and/or direct spectral fitting.



The Optical Constants Database (OCdb)

The Optical Constants database (OCdb) is a data repository developed to provide published, peer-reviewed, optical constants of materials relevant to planetary and astrophysical environments to the scientific community for the analysis and interpretation of observational data.

Optical constants are the real and imaginary parts of the complex refractive index, $n + ik$, of a material, which describe how a material interacts with incident light (transmission, reflection, refraction, absorption, scattering). They are fundamental input parameters for models (e.g. radiative transfer, atmospheric, and reflectance spectral models) that are used to interpret observational data.



The goal of the Optical Constants database is to centralize published optical constants data to facilitate their access by the community. We therefore encourage laboratories generating optical constants to contribute their data in order to increase their visibility and availability.



Changes to the JWST Observer Pages: Joint Programs(*)



Programmatic Categories of JWST Science Observations

- [General Observer \(GO\) Programs](#): Observations and archival research proposed by the community and selected by the program manager.
- • [Joint Observing Programs](#): JWST programs using multiple observatories.
- [Director's Discretionary Time \(DDT\)](#): Time-critical observations that cannot be scheduled for a regular proposal cycle.
- [Calibration Programs](#): Observations used to calibrate the science instruments in support of all the other science programs.
- [Director's Discretionary Early Release Science \(DD-ERS\) Programs](#): Observations to be executed within the first five months of science operations and immediately released to the community.
- [Guaranteed Time Observations \(GTO\) Programs](#): Observations defined by members of the instrument and telescope science teams, as well as a number of interdisciplinary scientists.
- [First Image Observations](#): The first observations following commissioning to demonstrate the observatory's capabilities.

(*) with thanks to Tony Roman



Changes to the JWST Observer Pages

JWST Programs Using Multiple Observatories

STScI has reached agreements with several other observing facilities (ALMA, Chandra, HST, NASA Keck, NOIRLab, NRAO, TESS, XMM-Newton) to award time for joint programs in which JWST science is the prime science, but multi-wavelength observations from another ancillary observatory are critical for the science goals of the proposal. Joint JWST programs with more than one observatory are allowed.

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Cycle 4

[\[-\]](#)

ID	Program Title	Principal Investigator	Coordinated With	Allocating TAC	Allocated Hours	Type
9481	Characterizing an ongoing outburst of a rare centaur C/2023 RS61 with joint JWST and HST observations	Eva Lilly	HST	JWST	5.5	DD
9425	PHOENIX: the Emergence of Dust, Obscured Star Formation and ISM Physics at Cosmic Dawn	Sander Schouws	ALMA	ALMA	25.6	GO
9422	An ALMA-JWST View of the Nested CW Tau Disk Wind	Charles Law	ALMA	ALMA	3.3	GO
9418	An ALMA and JWST-MIRI line survey of FUor objects: the chemistry revealed by stellar outbursts	Lucas Cieza	ALMA	ALMA	5.9	GO
9412	Uncovering the mechanism to form a gas-rich, super spiral at z=3	Hideki Umehata	ALMA	ALMA	5.8	GO

of

(*) with thanks to Tony



JWST presence at large conferences



JWST at the 246th American Astronomical Society Meeting

- Summer 2025 AAS: limited JWST presence. Contributions to the STScI Townhall, and STScI booth (interactions with the community, office hours)
- AAS travel was not approved by NASA

- EAS Meeting:

- Supported the ESA-organized **“Special Session on JWST Data Pipeline at EAS 2025”**, by generating materials (i.e. notebooks) and presenting
- Booth support with many 1o1 interactions and proposal preparations support Q&A sessions



JWST at the 247th American Astronomical Society Meeting (Winter 2026)

- Plans for JWST update at the STScI Townhall
- There will be a small STScI booth, no JWST-mission presence
- NASA has not approved AAS travel (at the time of writing these slides)



Future Plans and New Initiatives for Community Outreach

Future Plans:

- Update the Data Surveys to add a few more questions, and share it with all co-Is of the proposals, to increase the pool of recipients (i.e. the feedback)
- Publish Recurrent News Items:
 - Listing the technical reports published on the Observer site
 - Reminding users of the Press-Release solicitation process
- Evaluate cross -links within JDox as appropriate
- Evaluate usage of the Helpdesk Knowledge Based articles
- Begin the preliminary work for the JWST 2027 Summer School. Will invite the JSTUC chair to the Summer School Kick-Off meeting (mid-2026)



Future Plans and New Initiatives for Community Outreach

- In 2023 STScI organized the [Improving JWST Data Products Workshop](#)
- The pipeline team has experience working with community members and using their feedback/experience to improve and test algorithms

New Initiatives:

- We plan to hold focus group discussions with community members who have expertise on specific techniques, tools or scientific topics. Their feedback will be used to inform future work as appropriate.
- Preliminary concept in development, with input from NASA Project.



We are constantly thinking of ways to engage and serve the JWST Community, and welcome your feedback and ideas