



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

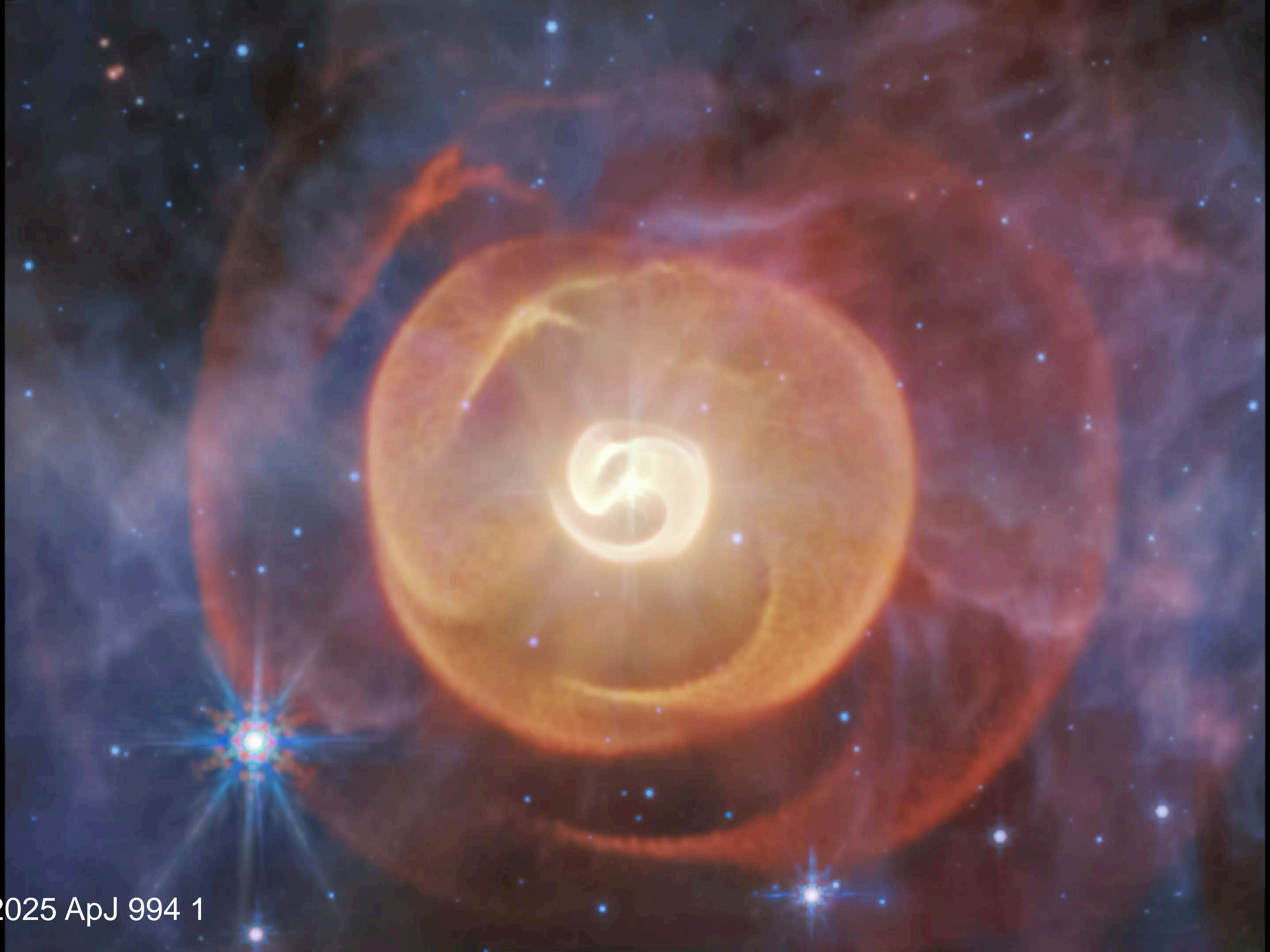
EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

Director's Report

JSTUC - December 2025

Jennifer Lotz

Webb

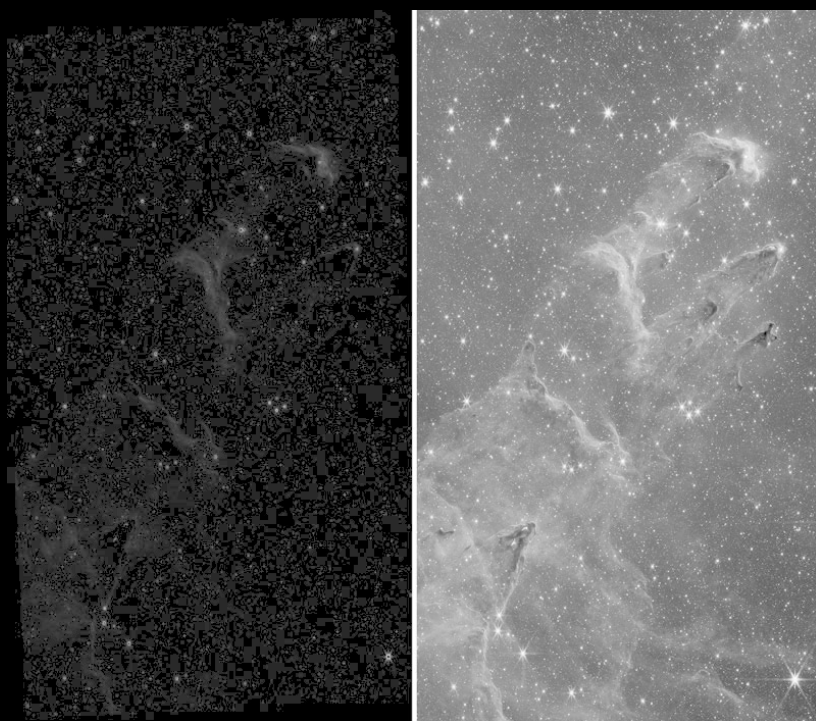




Science Operations for Hubble and Webb at STScI Enable the Research of the Scientific Community

Archive, Grants, & Outreach

- Maintain data archive for researchers
- Distribute and manage research grants
- Scientific outreach to public & scientific community



Data Processing & Calibration

- Turn raw data into well-calibrated science-ready data products

Science Selection

- Solicitation, peer review, & awarding projects from international community



Planning & Commanding

- Work with investigators to turn projects into scheduled telescope operations

International scientific community



Roman Space Telescope - in the home stretch



READY, SET, ROMAN! Training Series

[Virtual Roman Training Series](#) available now

On track for Sept. 2026 launch!!

Call for Proposals delayed by shutdown,
deadline planned for March 2026

STScI Science Operations Center leads planning, scheduling, data pipeline for Wide Field Camera imaging, and hosts the Roman data archive & Research Nexus.

IPAC Science Support Center leads proposal process, grant oversight, data pipeline for WFC slitless spectroscopy, CGI

Thermal Vacuum Test (TVAC) of Spacecraft + Integrated Payload assembly (SCIPA) completed during shutdown in October; included end-to-end testing of data pipeline in coordination with STScI Roman Science Operation Center.

Goddard integrated SCIPA + Outer Barrel Assembly right before Thanksgiving (right)

JWST SUMMER SCHOOL

AUGUST 4-15, 2025
BALTIMORE, MD

High Redshift Transients with JWST



2025 Summer of Science!




Towards the HABITABLE WORLDS OBSERVATORY

VISIONARY SCIENCE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

HWO25 | JULY 28 - 31, 2025

ATMOSPHERIC ESCAPE and REPLENISHMENT in PLANETARY SYSTEMS

NOVEMBER 4-7, 2025



COSMIC CARTOGRAPHY with Roman

JULY 14 - 18, 2025



2025 SASP Space Astronomy Summer Program



STScI Leadership Transitions



Thank you to STScI Deputy Director Nancy Levenson for her service as Deputy since 2016! Nancy starts a science sabbatical in January.

Rachel Osten, former INS Division Head, will step into the interim Deputy Director role in January 2026.

An open search for the permanent Deputy Director will start early next year.



STScI Leadership Transitions



Ray Gauss
Associate Director,
Engineering & Technology



Peter Black
Portfolio Management
Division Head



Denise Smith
Office of Public Outreach
interim Division Head



Continued uncertainty and changing landscape for NASA science

ANALYSIS

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history is over. Here's what you need to know

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 · 5:00 AM ET

Domenico Montanaro



SCIENCE > SPACE · 8 MIN READ

NASA may be quietly gutting an iconic campus with what it calls strategic closures, workers fear

UPDATED NOV 4, 2025

By Ella Nilssen, Jackie Wattles



Policy & Politics

Senate Commerce Committee schedules hearing on Isaacman renomination



Ted Cruz, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, poses with NASA...

Policy & Politics

ESA raises more than 22 billion euros at ministerial

by Jeff Foust November 27, 2025



SA Director General Josef Aschbacher presents the outcome of the 2025 ministerial conference Nov. 27 in Bremen, Germany. Credit: ESA/Ph. Servent



Top-level FY2026 proposed NASA budget scenarios

Program	Operating Plan 2024	Presidents Budget Request 2026	Senate CJS 2026	House CJS 2026
NASA Overall				
NASA Top Line	24.9B	18.8B	24.9B	24.9B
NASA Science	7.33B	3.91B	7.3B	6.0B
Astrophysics	1.53B	520M	1.6B	1.485B
STScI Relevant Programs				
HST	93.3M	85M	98.3M	88.9M
JWST	187M	140M	208M	187M
Roman	407M	157M	300M	376M
HWO Tech Maturity	17.5M	3.3M	150M	
Astrophysics Research	297.8M	82.7M	300M	
Astrophysics Data Curation and Archival	31M	20M	??	
Science Activation	52M	2M (new funding paused)	52M	
SCaN (TDRS & DSN)	522M	395M	572M	

Both Senate & House support JWST funding at current levels or above.



meanwhile — JWST work at STScI continues

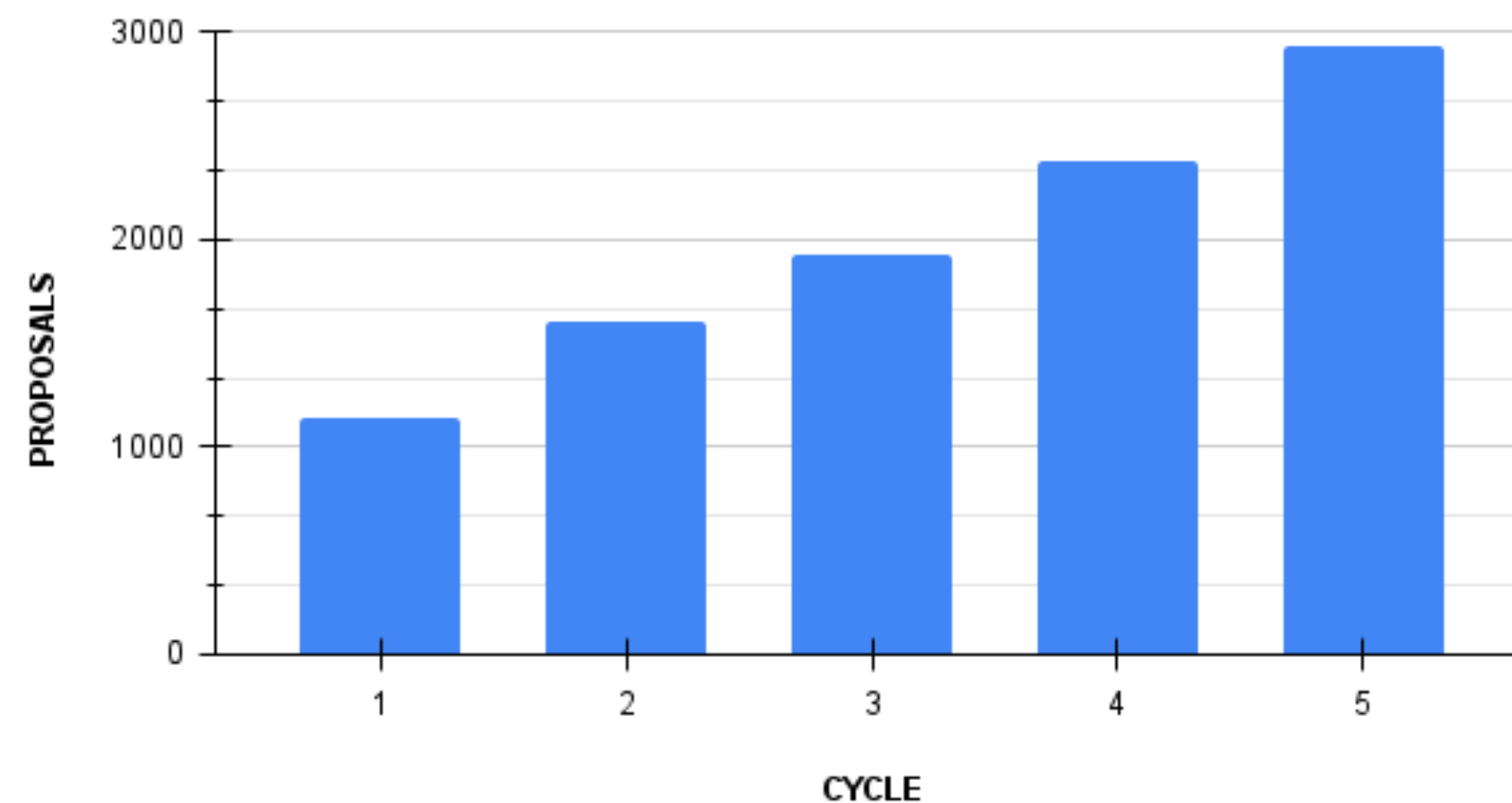
Highlights from past year:

- Another record-breaking proposal response: >2900 proposals, 7000 investigators
- 1st JWST Summer School
- Improved JWST ETC performance for Cycle 5
- Near-perfect record for guide star acquisition in Galactic Center
- JWST pipeline dramatically speed up, other critical improvements
- Several new observing JWST modes on offer for Cycle 5
- Target list for Rocky Worlds DD program finalized, 1st data released
- STScI grants team implements formula for JWST Cycle 4

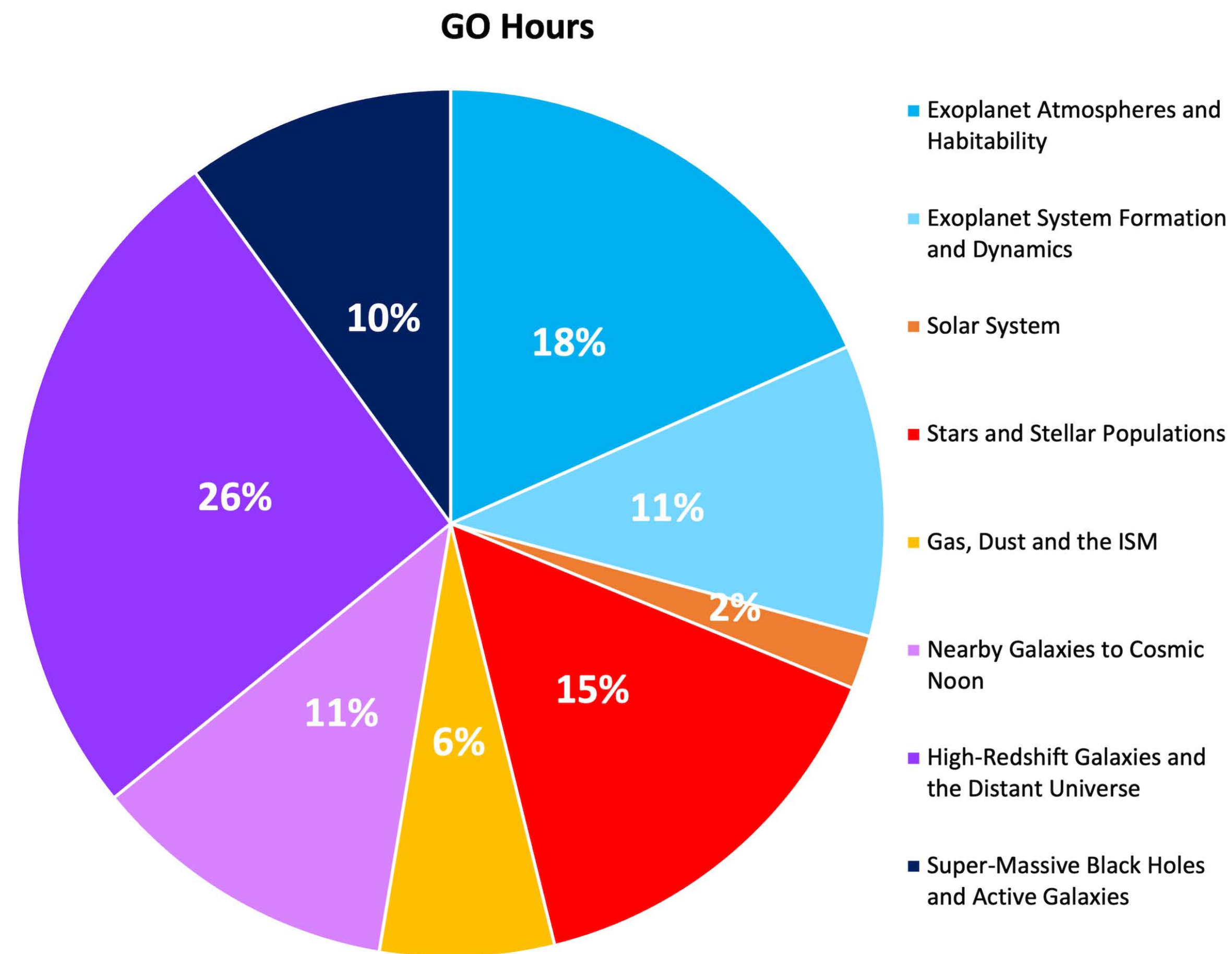
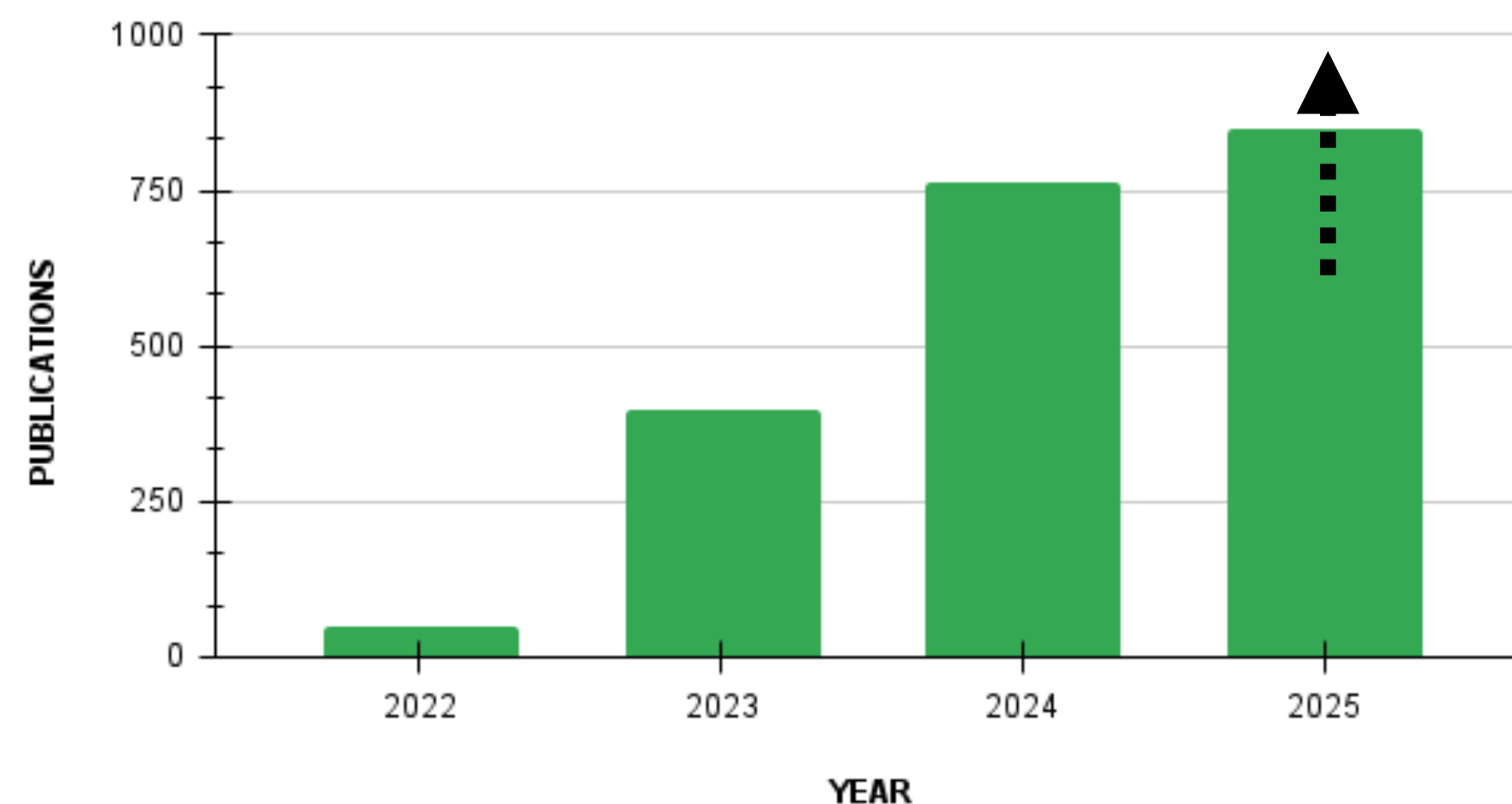


JWST continues to have broad scientific importance & impact

JWST Proposal Submission



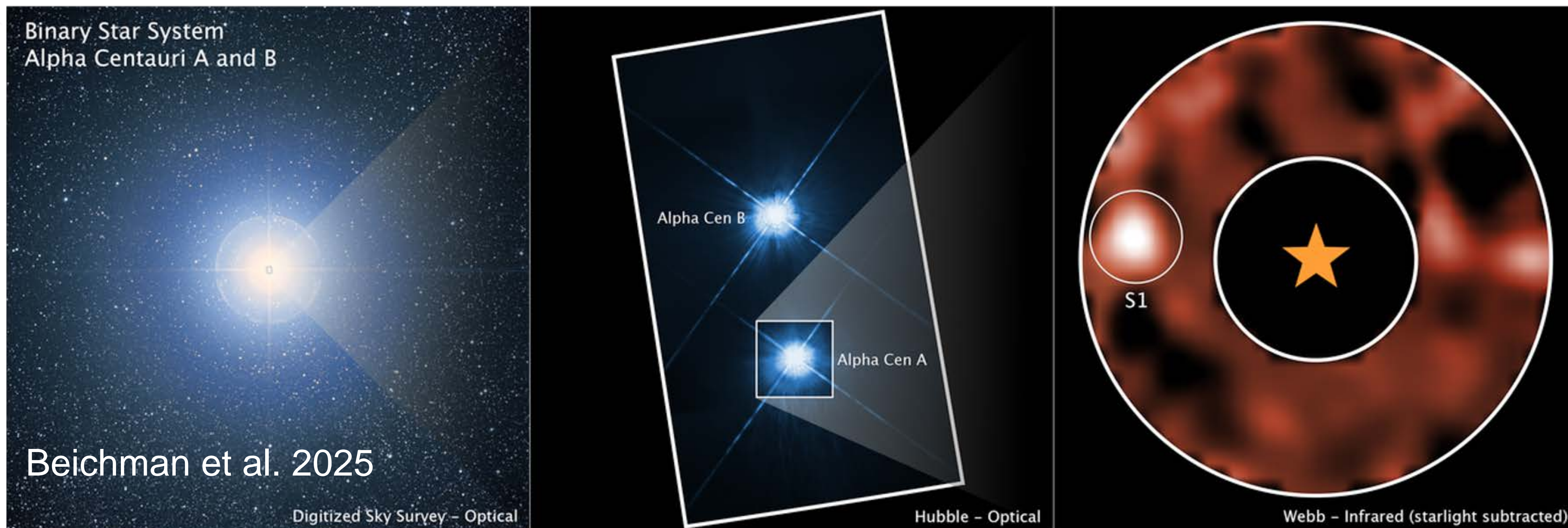
JWST Publications



average #citations for 2022, 2023 papers = 75!



JWST Discovery of Gas Giant Planet around Alpha Centauri A

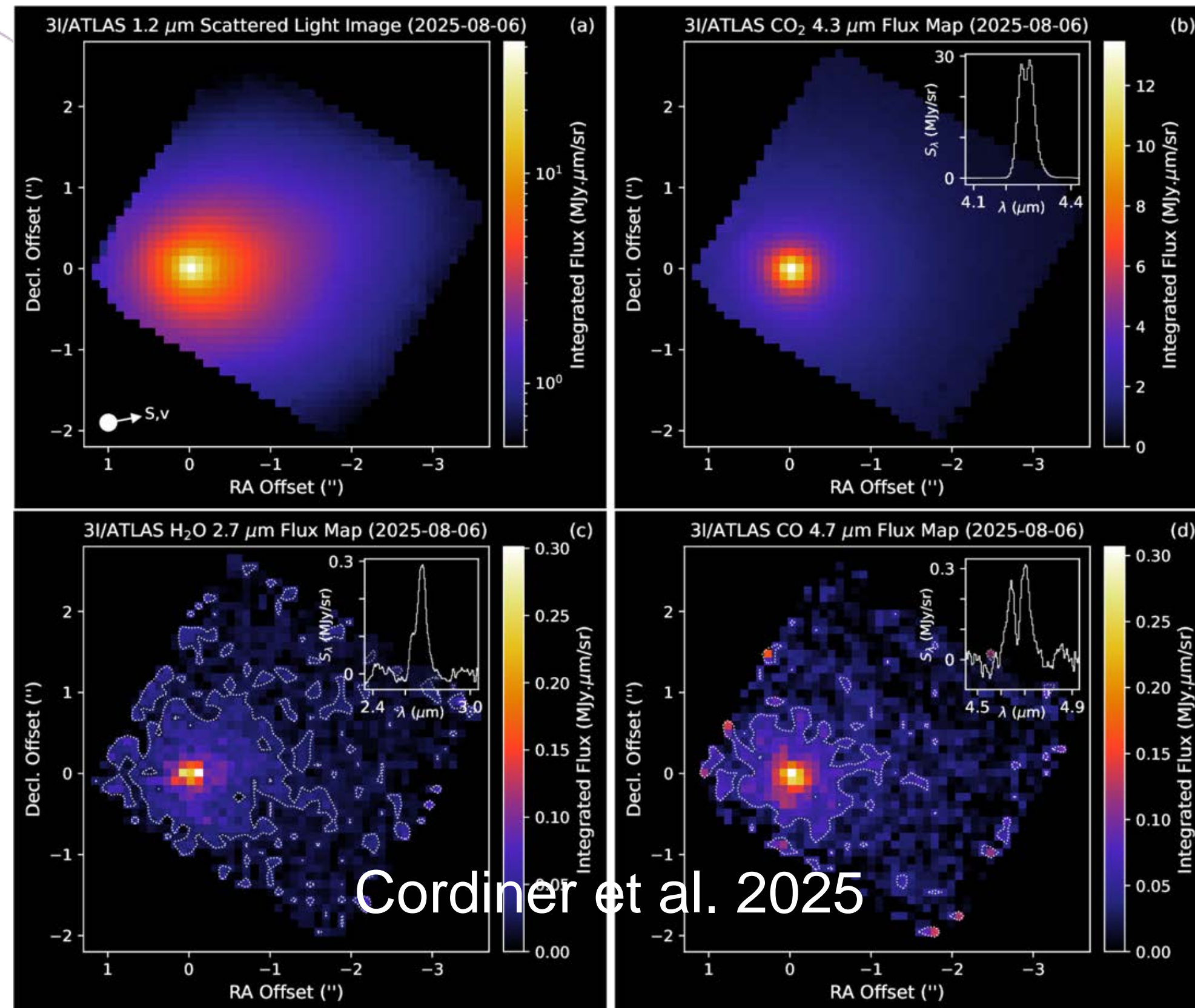


“The STScI support staff provided invaluable assistance in the planning and execution of this program. In particular, we thank George Chapman and the FGS team for their dedicated work in finding and vetting guide stars for this program and Wilson Joy Skipper and the short-and long-range planning teams for their contributions to this challenging observational program. The STScI’s Director’s Office provided strong support for this program, from its initial selection as a high-risk, high-reward project, granting time to conduct test observations needed to validate the target acquisition strategy, to the execution of the follow-up DDT programs.”

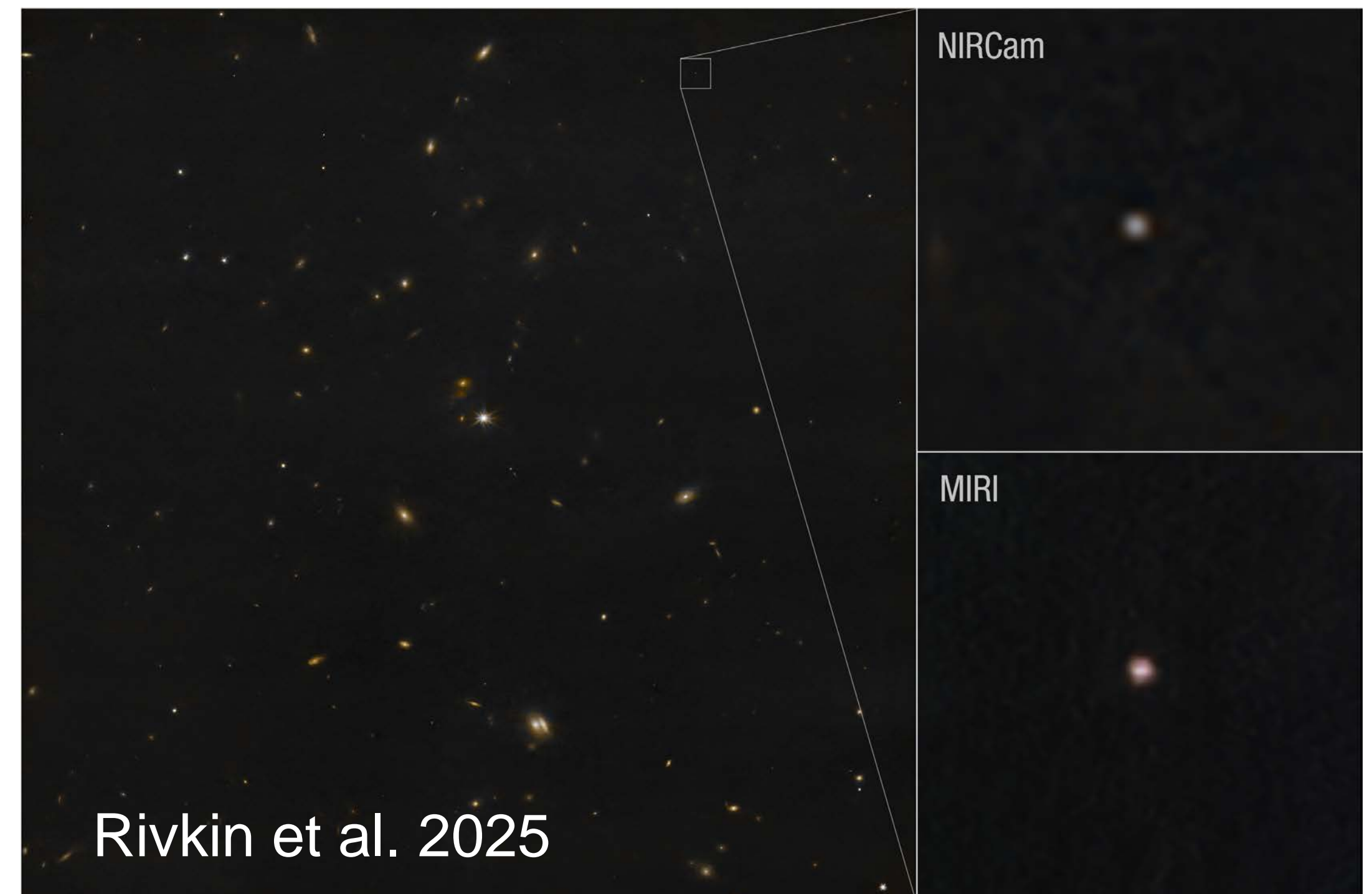
Software: `astropy` (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018, 2022), `matplotlib` (J. D. Hunter 2007), `numpy` (C. R. Harris et al. 2020), `pandas` (W. McKinney 2010; T. p. d. team 2025), `python` (G. Van Rossum & F. L. Drake 2009), `scipy` (P. Virtanen et al. 2020; R. Gommers et al. 2023), `astroquery` (A. Ginsburg et al. 2019, 2024), `scikit-image` (S. van der Walt et al. 2014), `STPSF` (M. D. Perrin et al. 2012, 2014), `jwst` (H. Bushouse et al. 2025), `pyKLIP` (J. J. Wang et al. 2015), `vip` (C. A. Gomez Gonzalez et al. 2017; V. Christiaens et al. 2023), `spaceKLIP` (J. Kammerer et al. 2022; A. L. Carter et al. 2023; A. Carter et al. 2025), and `webbpsf_ext` (J. Leisenring 2025).




JWST is critical for understanding solar system moving targets: YR2024 and 3I/ATLAS



3I/ATLAS: “The spectral images reveal a CO₂-dominated coma, with enhanced outgassing in the sunward direction and the presence of H₂O, CO, water ice, dust, and a tentative detection of OCS. The coma CO₂/H₂O mixing ratio of 7.6 ± 0.3 is among the highest ever observed in a comet.”



YR2024: “The Webb observations constrain the size of the asteroid to about 60 meters, or the size of a 15 story building. Researchers also say the asteroid’s surface may be dominated by rocks that are maybe fist-sized or larger.”



The James Webb Space Telescope is the most powerful telescope ever built, performing better than expected and demanded by over 7,000 scientists around the world.

We have MORE QUESTIONS about the universe than we can possibly explore during JWST's prime mission.

JWST's scientific productivity and impact are on track to be the most scientifically important mission NASA has ever flown — assuming that it is fully supported beyond its prime mission of 5 years.

JWST is unique — and we must protect its future to ensure its legacy.