Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Mission, Operations, and User Tools



Roman Space Telescope

The Mission

- The Roman Project is currently planning for observatory launch in late 2026
- Top large space priority of ASTRO2010 Decadal Survey
- STScI will be the Science Operations Center for Roman, with science support activities shared by GSFC, STScI, and IPAC
- Passed the mission critical design review (CDR) in September 2021

Science

- Dark Energy: Distinct equation-of-state measures
- Exoplanets: Microlensing discovery down to sub-Earth masses;
 Coronagraphic imaging and spectroscopy
- Astrophysics: New observations and archival research programs

 Plescone
- Existing Hubble-size 2.4-m primary, 3-mirror anastigmat
 Wide Field Instrument (WFI)
 - 0.5–2.3 microns, 0.28 degrees² (100× Hubble's FOV)
 - Eight broad-band filters + slitless spectroscopy

Coronagraphic Instrument

• 0.4–1.0 microns, 10⁻⁹ contrast goal

STScl

Space Telescope Science Institute

STScI Science Operations Center

- Create scheduling system, data archive, WFI data processing system, and dark energy survey products
- Technical Reports on various mission topics, available at the STScI Roman Space Telescope Documentation webpage
- · Community engagement and Science Team support
- Questions? Email help@stsci.edu

Software and Simulation Tools for Roman/WFI STScI Science Planning Toolbox includes:

WebbPSF: Provides realistic field-dependent PSF simulations

Pandeia: Produces simulated data, exposure times, and signal-to-noise ratios

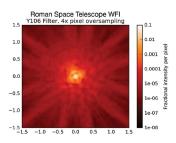
STIPS: Simulates complex astronomical scenes

Field-of-View (FOV) Overlay: Displays FOV footprint on top of DSS, SDSS, or GALEX images

WebbPSF

A customizable multi-mission interface to perform point-spread function (PSF) simulations and calculations

- Simulated PSFs are critical to predict the performance of the observatory and to simulate scenes
- WebbPSF accounts for pupil shapes, source spectral energy distributions, filter bandpasses, and field-dependent aberrations
- WebbPSF contains flexible Python tools for analysis or export of PSFs



Simulated Roman/WFI PSF in the Y106 filter

Pandeia

A multi-mission data cube simulator and signal-to-noise ratio/exposure time calculator (ETC)

- Accounts for the effects of wavelength-dependent PSFs and pixel-to-pixel correlations inherent to modern IR detectors
- Self-contained Python package designed for scripting calculations

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Pandeia provides a GUI as a Jupyter notebook for ease of use

STIPS

A tool designed to produce full-scene pipeline-processed simulated data

- Generate complex astronomical scenes through user-specified inputs (e.g., star cluster structural and population characteristics)
- Possibility to include post-pipeline data reduction residuals



Simulated composite-color Roman/WFI globular cluster image

Field of View Overlay

Quickly and simply display the FOV outline of the Roman instruments over sky images

- Supports overlays on DSS, SDSS, or GALEX images
- Object catalogs can be extracted and shown in a separate window
- Uses functionalities of the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST)
- As MAST Portal functionality expands, tool features will improve



MAST-FOV Overlay of the Roman/WFI field on Barnard 33

NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope was previously known as the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST). Links to tools created by STScI and Roman Space Telescope Partners are available at https://www.stsci.edu/roman/science-planning-toolbox