

# Simulating the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope

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# What are the science questions of the next decade?

## Finding the unusual

Billion sources a night

Nova, supernova, GRBs

Instantaneous discovery

## Finding moving sources

Asteroids and comets

Proper motions of stars

## Mapping the Milky Way

Tidal streams

Galactic structure

## Dark energy and dark matter

Gravitational lensing

Slight distortion in shape

Trace the nature of dark energy



# How do they map to computational challenges?

## Finding the unusual

- Anomaly detection
- Dimensionality reduction
- Cross-matching data

## Finding moving sources

- Tracking algorithms
- Kalman filters

## Mapping the Milky Way

- Density estimation
- Clustering (n-tuples)

## Dark energy and dark matter

- Computer vision
- Weak Classifiers
- High-D Model fitting



# Science is driven by precision and issues of complexity:

## 1. Complex models of the universe

What is the density distribution and how does it evolve  
What processes describe star formation and evolution

## 2. Complex data streams

Observations provide a noisy representation of the sky

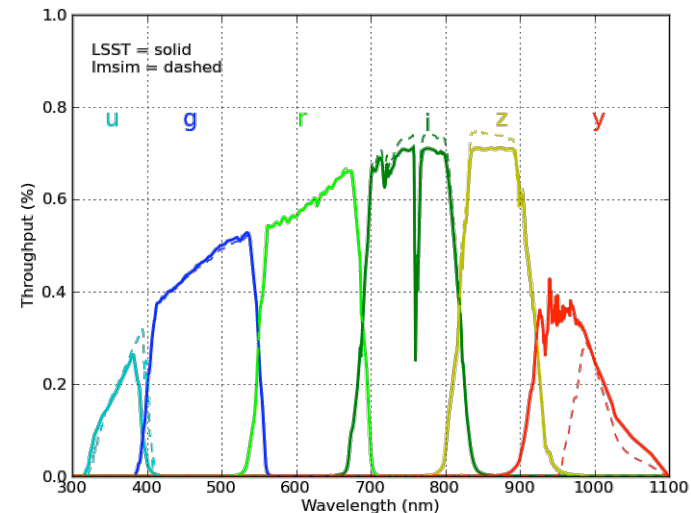
## 3. Complex scaling of the science

Scaling science to the petabyte era

Learning how to do science without needing a CS degree

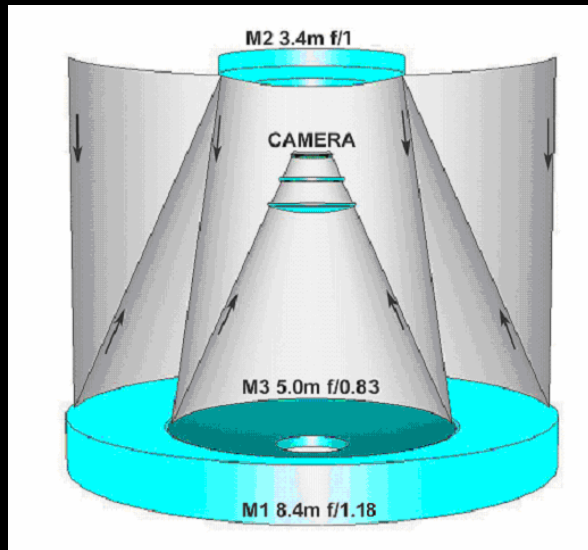
# The LSST drives this complexity

- 6-band Survey: *ugrizy*
  - 320–1080 nm
- Frequent revisits
  - 2x15s, 25 AB mag/visit
- Sky area covered
  - >20,000 deg<sup>2</sup>, 0.2 arcsec/pixel
- Each 9.6 sq.deg FOV revisited
  - ~1000 times
- 10-Year Duration
  - Yields 27.7 AB magnitude @5 $\sigma$
- Photometric precision
  - 0.01 mag absolute; 0.005 mag repeatability

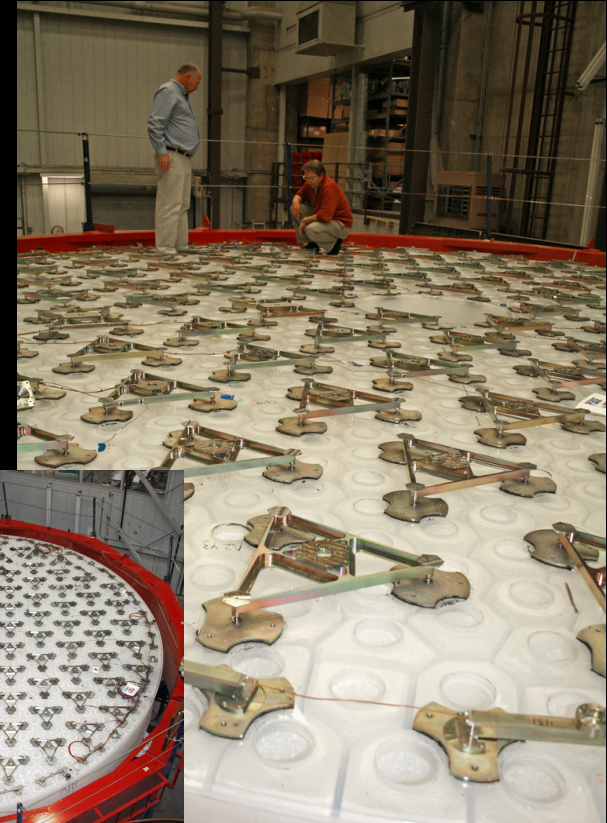


# LSST Optical Design

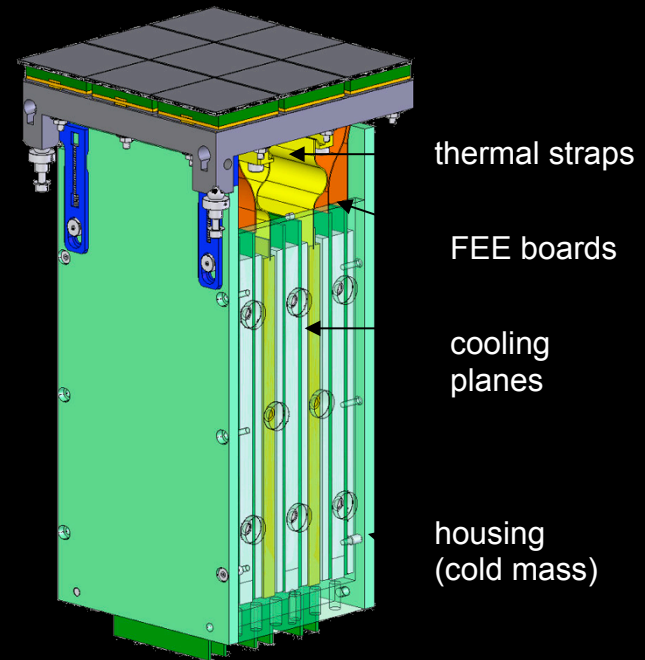
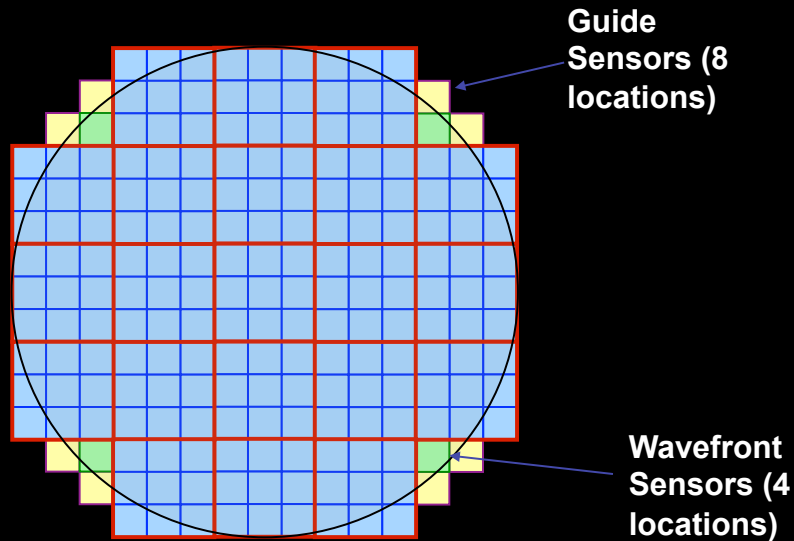
- $f/1.23$
- $< 0.20$  arcsec FWHM images in six bands:  $0.3 - 1 \mu\text{m}$
- $3.5^\circ$  FOV  $\rightarrow$  Etendue =  $319 \text{ m}^2\text{deg}^2$



LSST optical layout



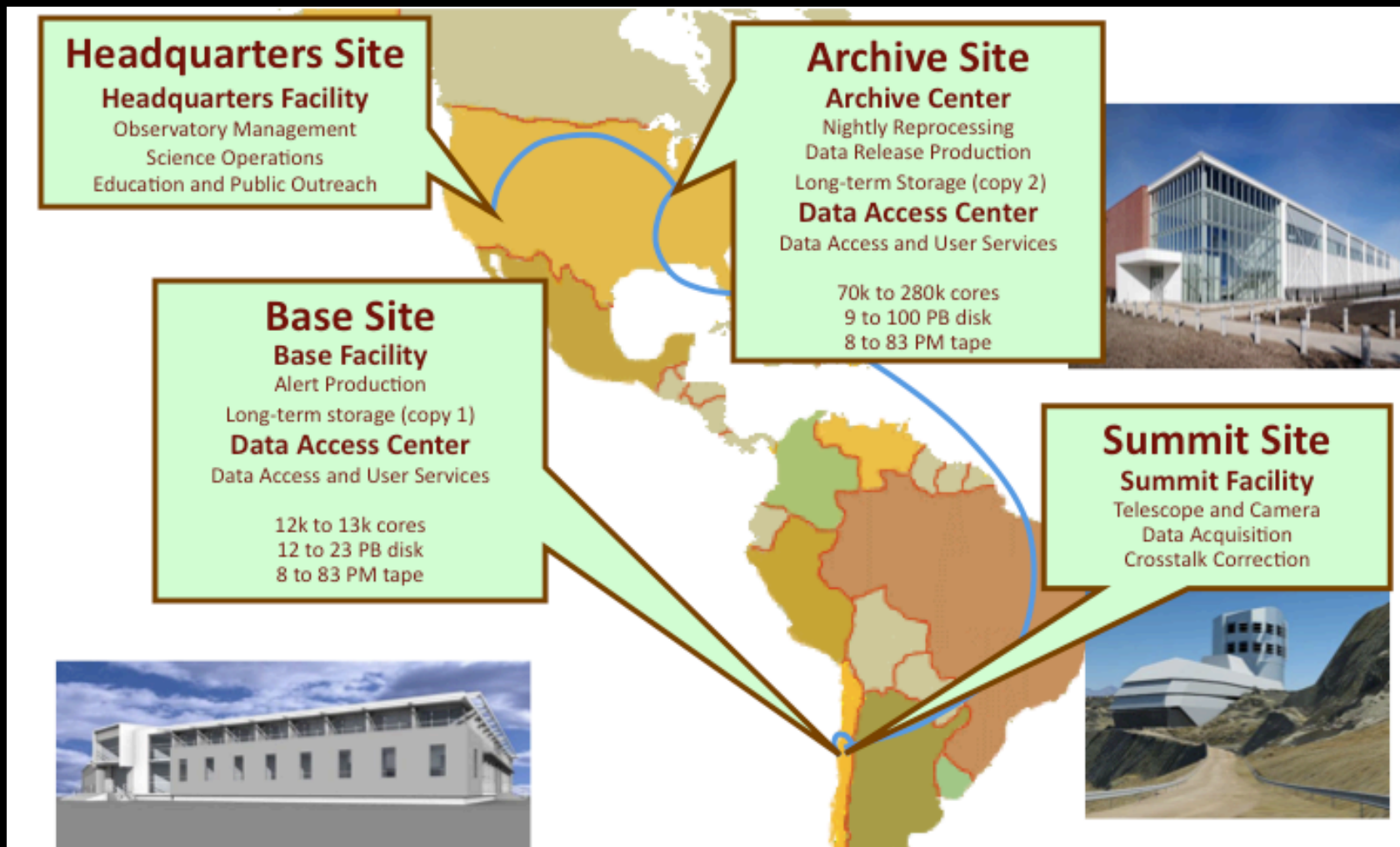
# The LSST Focal Plane - 64 cm in Diameter



## TOWER

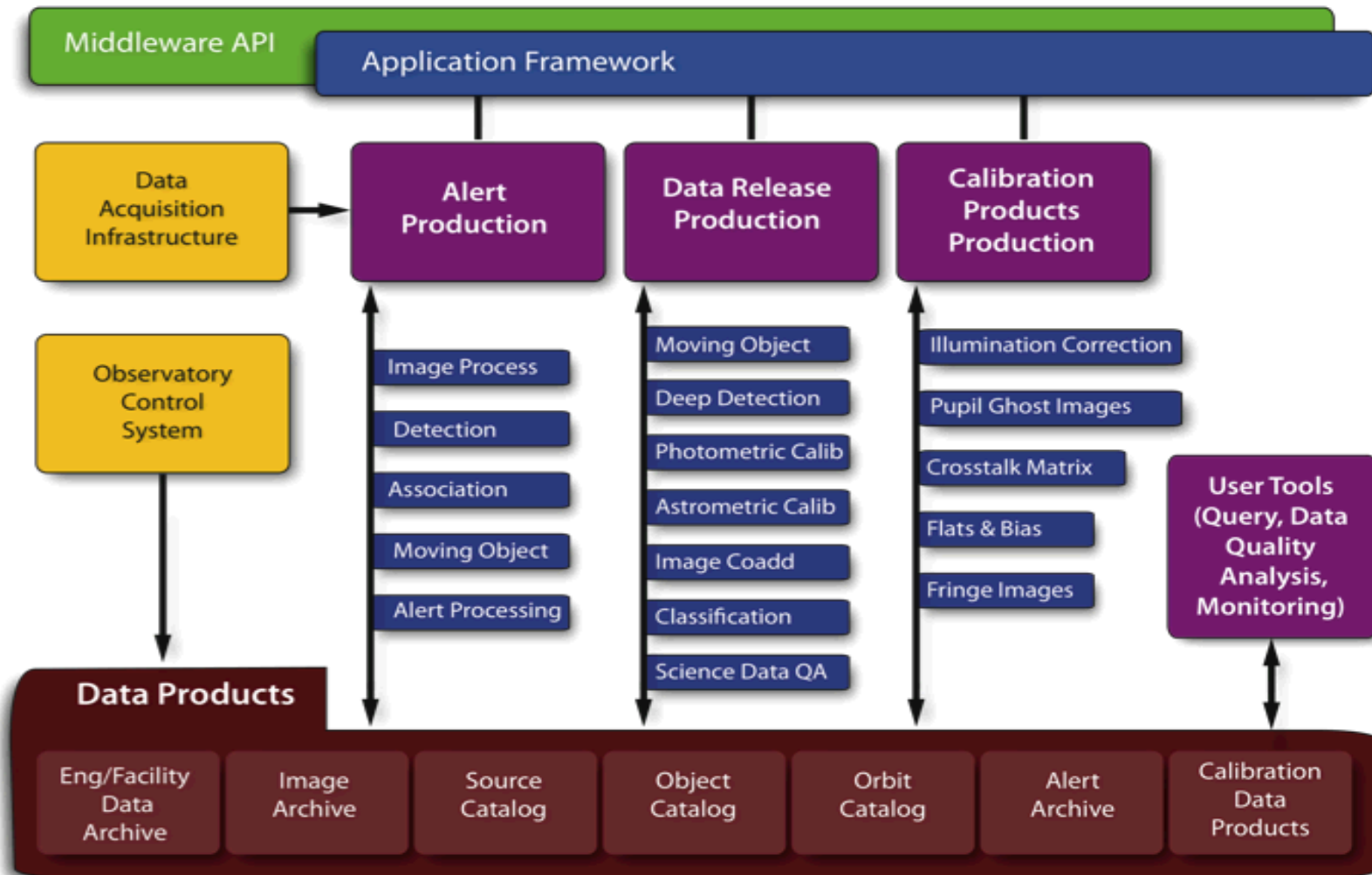
- CCDs + front end electronics
- 180K operation
- An autonomous, fully-testable 144 Mpixel camera

# One System, Two Continents, Four Sites





# Overall Data Management Pipeline Organization



# How do we prepare for and optimize a survey?

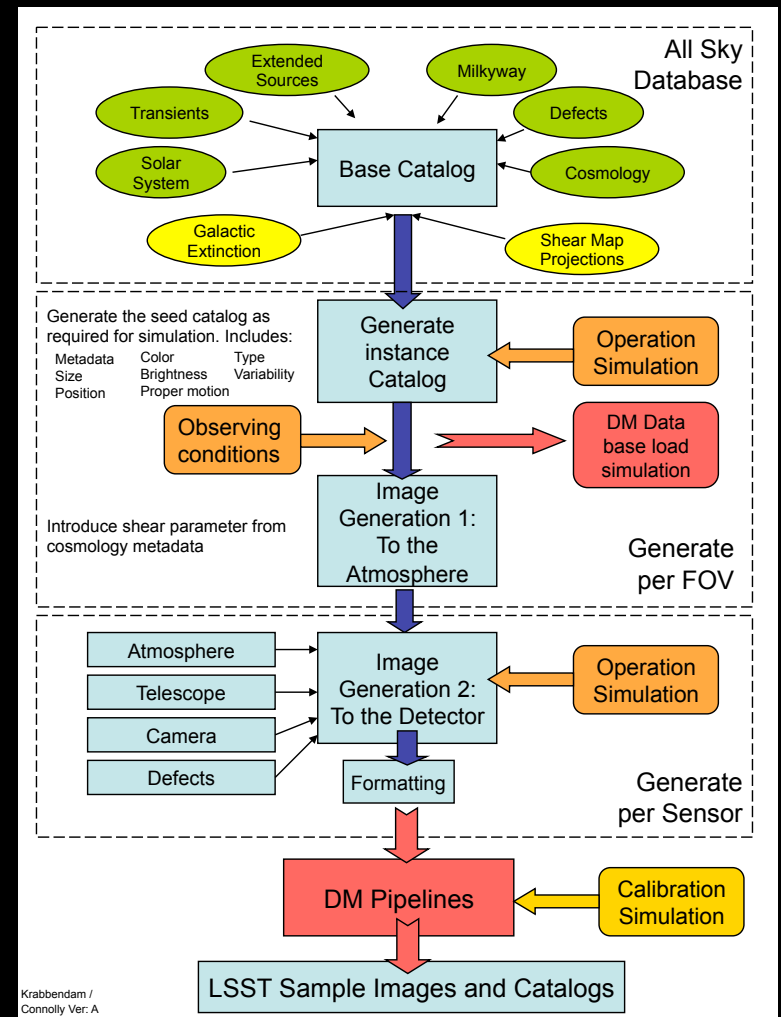
New philosophy of development through high fidelity simulations

## Components:

- Survey strategy
- Source catalogs
- Images
- Processing
- End-to-end processing

## Algorithms:

- Source detection and image subtraction
- Classification
- Linkage of moving sources
- Scalability



# Broad range of sources

## Galaxies (de Lucia et al)

Cosmology from n-body simulations

$10^6$  sources/ sq deg ( $r < 28$ )

Morphology, AGN, lenses, variability

## Stars (Juric et al)

Galactic structure model

Main sequence, giants, dwarfs

Cepheids, flare stars, micro-lensing

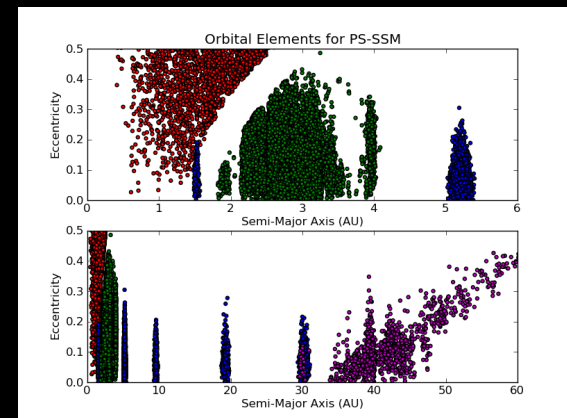
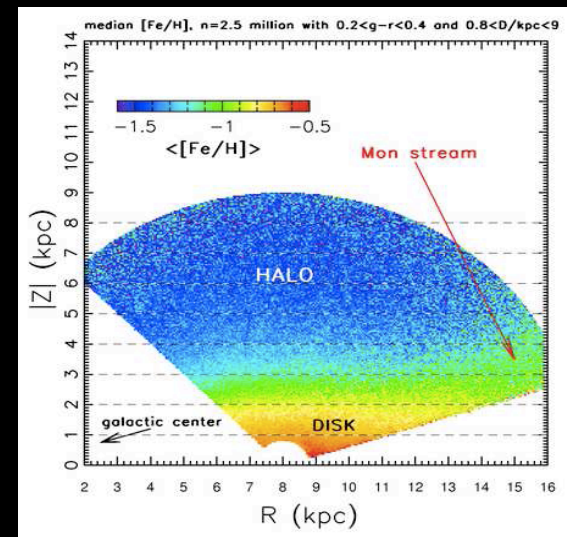
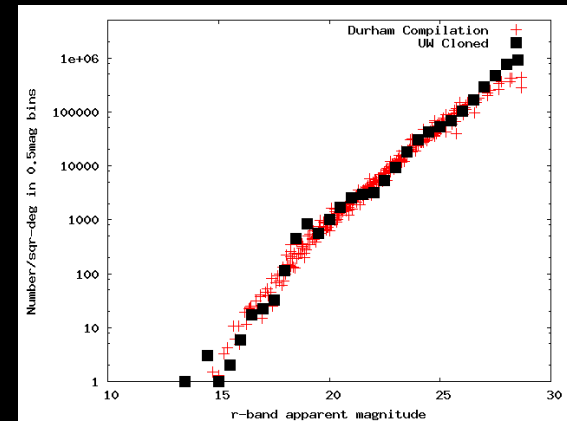
Proper motion, parallax

## Asteroids (Grav et al)

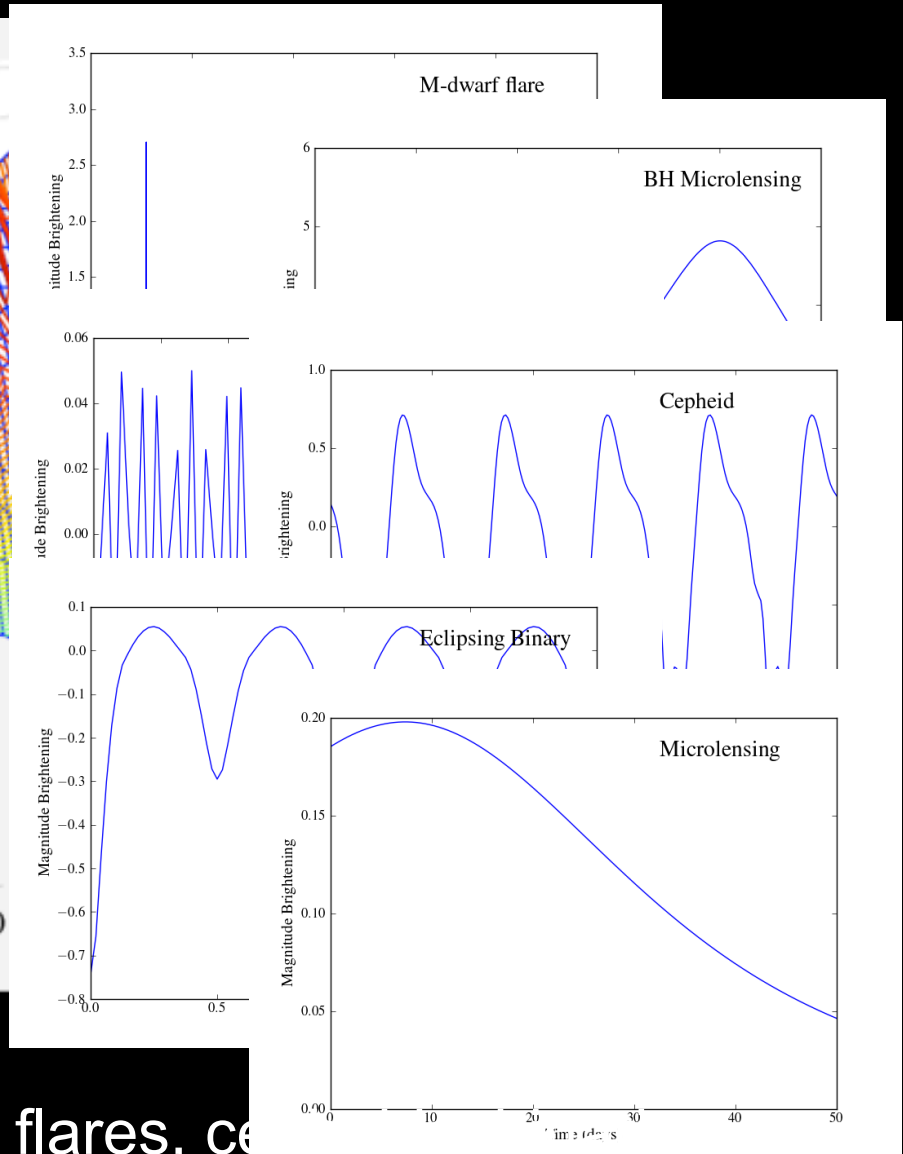
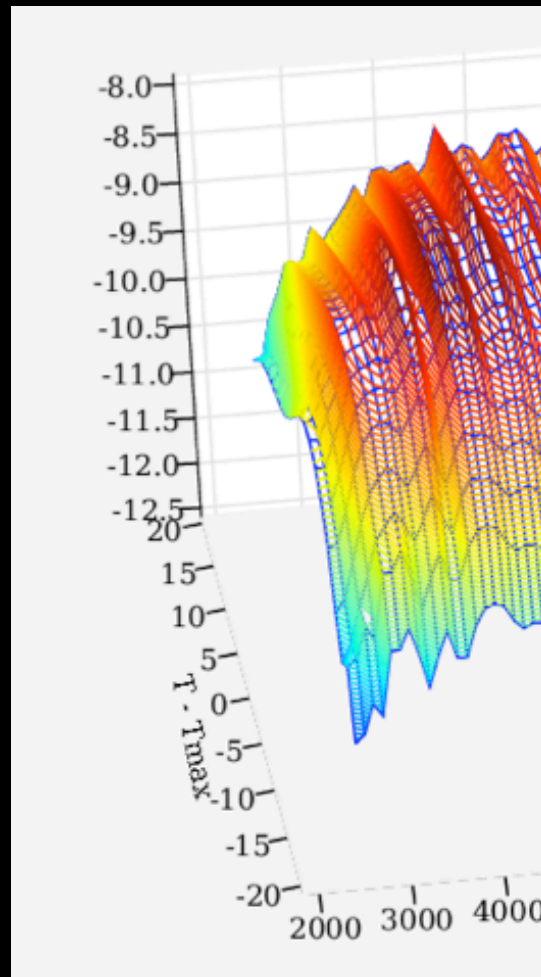
Solar system model

10 million main belt

KBO, TNO, Trojans....

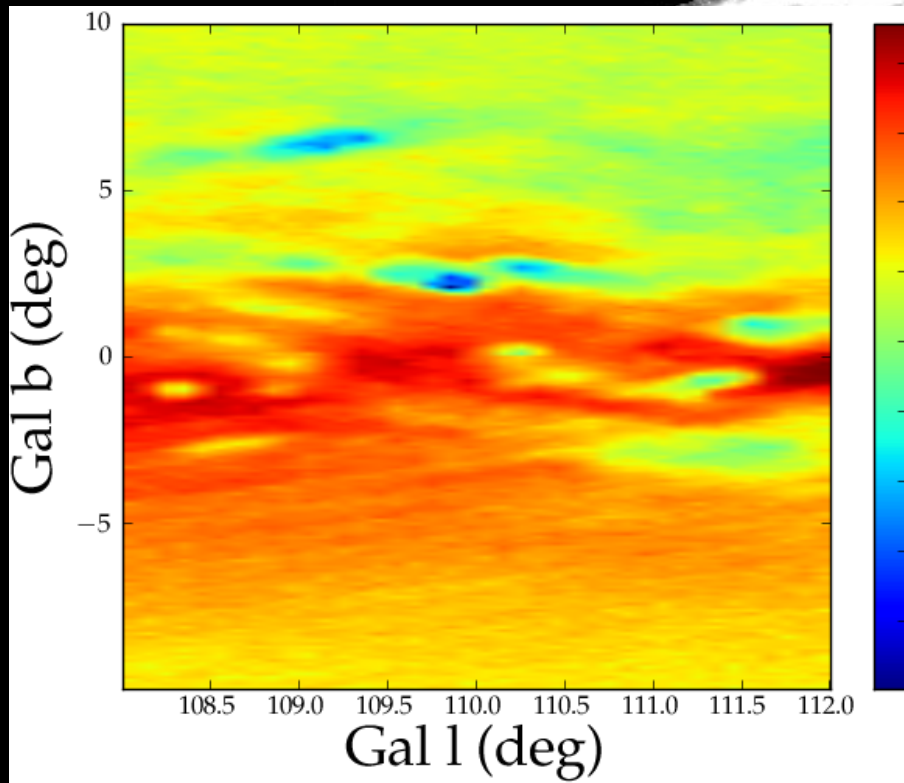


# Variability in the universe



AGN, lensing time delays, flares, cepheids

# Modeling the distribution of dust



## 3D dust distributions

Amores & Lepine (2005)

- Scaled to SFD at 100 kpc
- Generated on the fly

Distance is 1 kpc, compare to SFD98 maps

# “Observing” the LSST simulation

## Reference catalogs

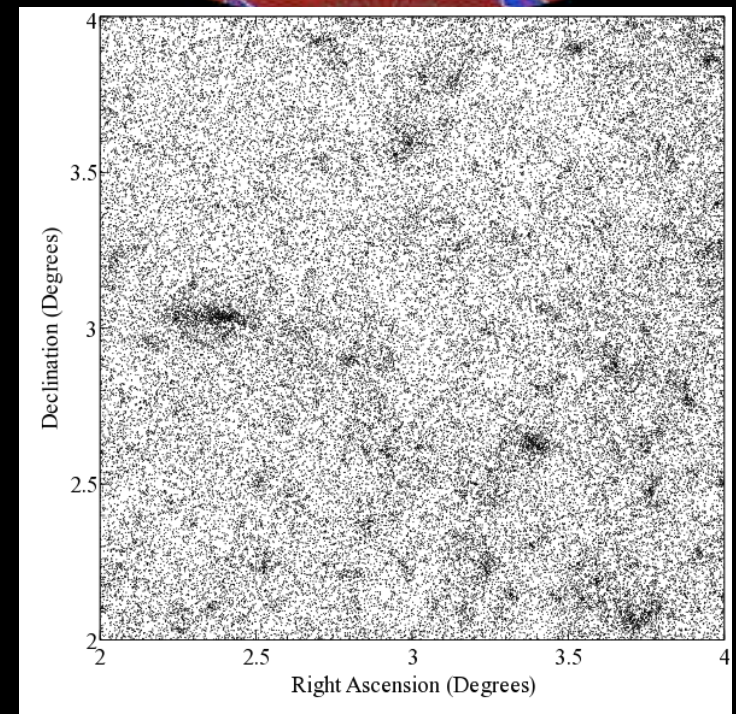
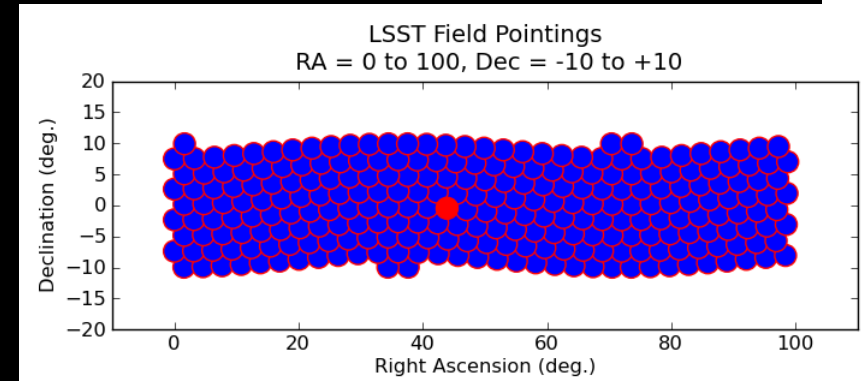
SQL queries return the properties of stars, galaxies (at a common time and airmass)

## Observing sequences

Operations simulator provides lists of pointings with positions, filter, time, airmass, atmosphere...

## Customized views

Different physics and populations can be selected (Solar System sources or the effect of aberration) and for large areas and volumes



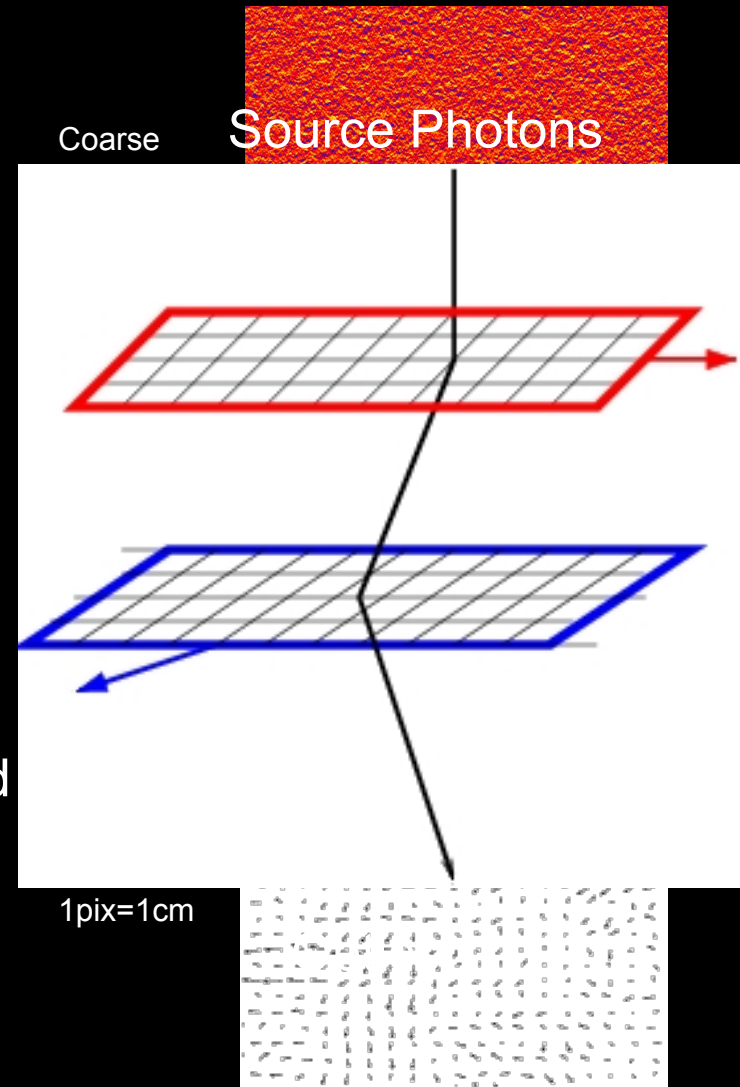
# From points to pixels (and back)

## Generating images

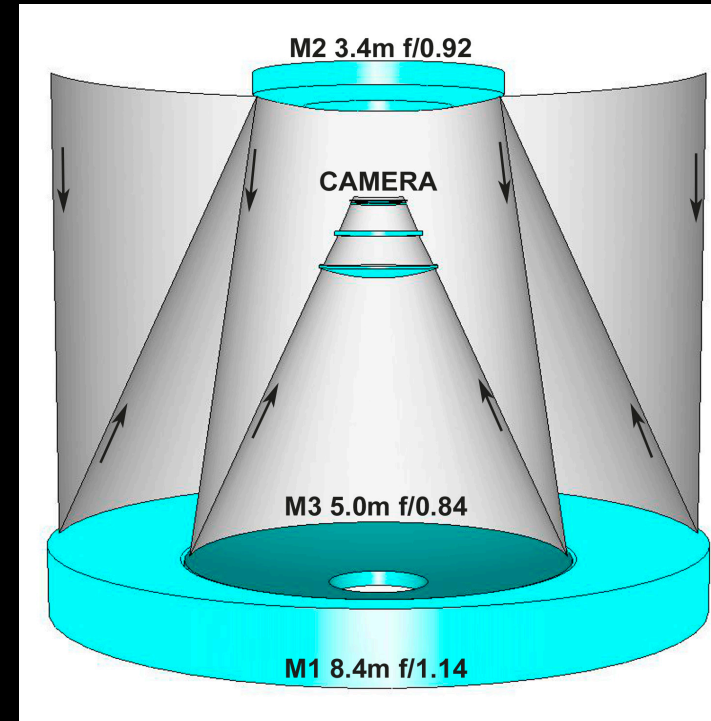
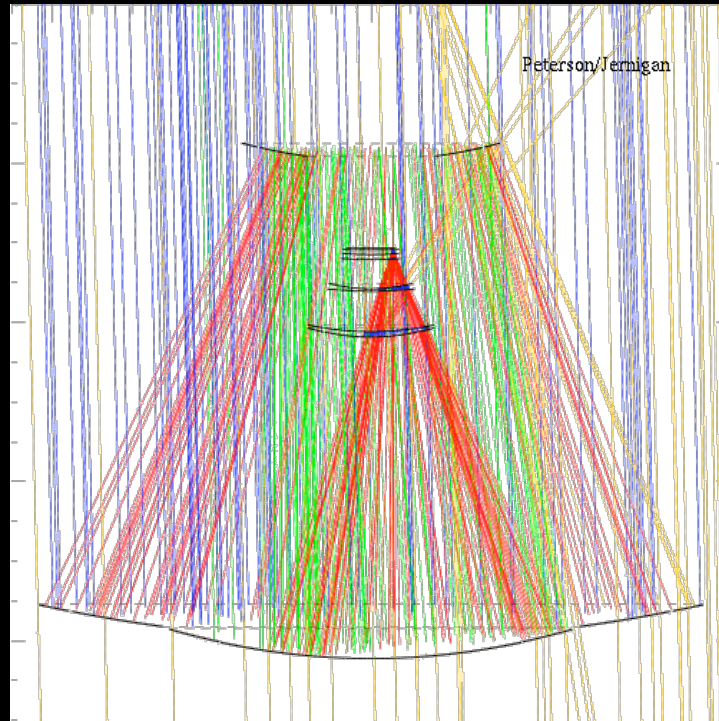
From a parameterized view above the atmosphere to the distortions from the atmosphere, telescope and camera

## Turbulent atmosphere

Modeled as a series of frozen screens moving at 20m/s, refracting light based on the wavelength, cloud scattering and atmosphere.



# The impact of optics



## Telescope model

Three mirror modified Paul-Baker design

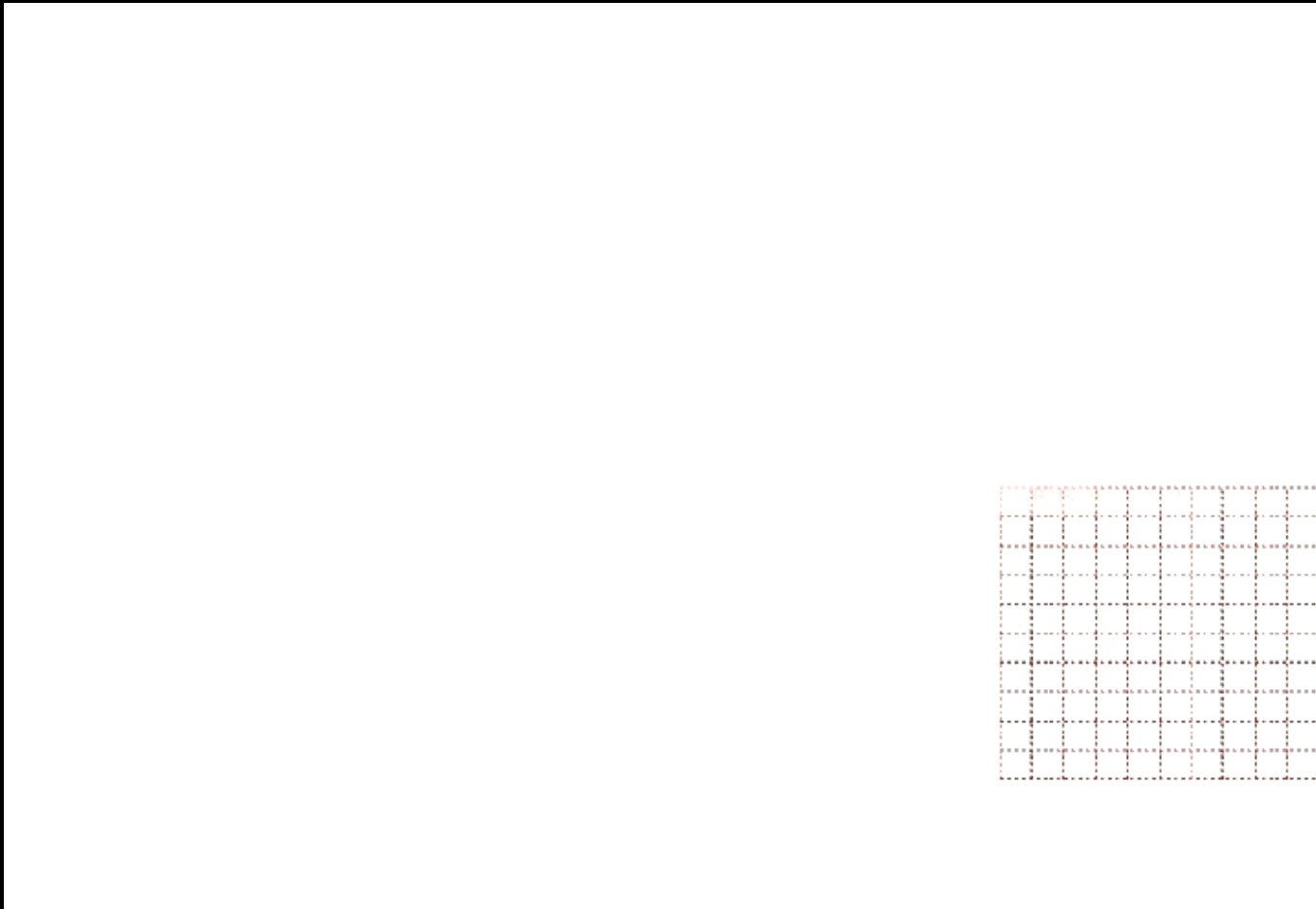
Fast ray-trace algorithm

Perturb the surfaces (1300) to determine the impact of control system

Conversion of photons to electrons



# Following the photon flow...



Optics



+Tracking



+Diffraction



+Detector  
Misalignments &  
Perturbations



+Lens Misalignments



+Mirror Misalignments  
Perturbations,  
& Micro-roughness



+Detector



+High Altitude  
Atmosphere



+Mid Altitude  
Atmosphere



+Low Altitude  
Atmosphere

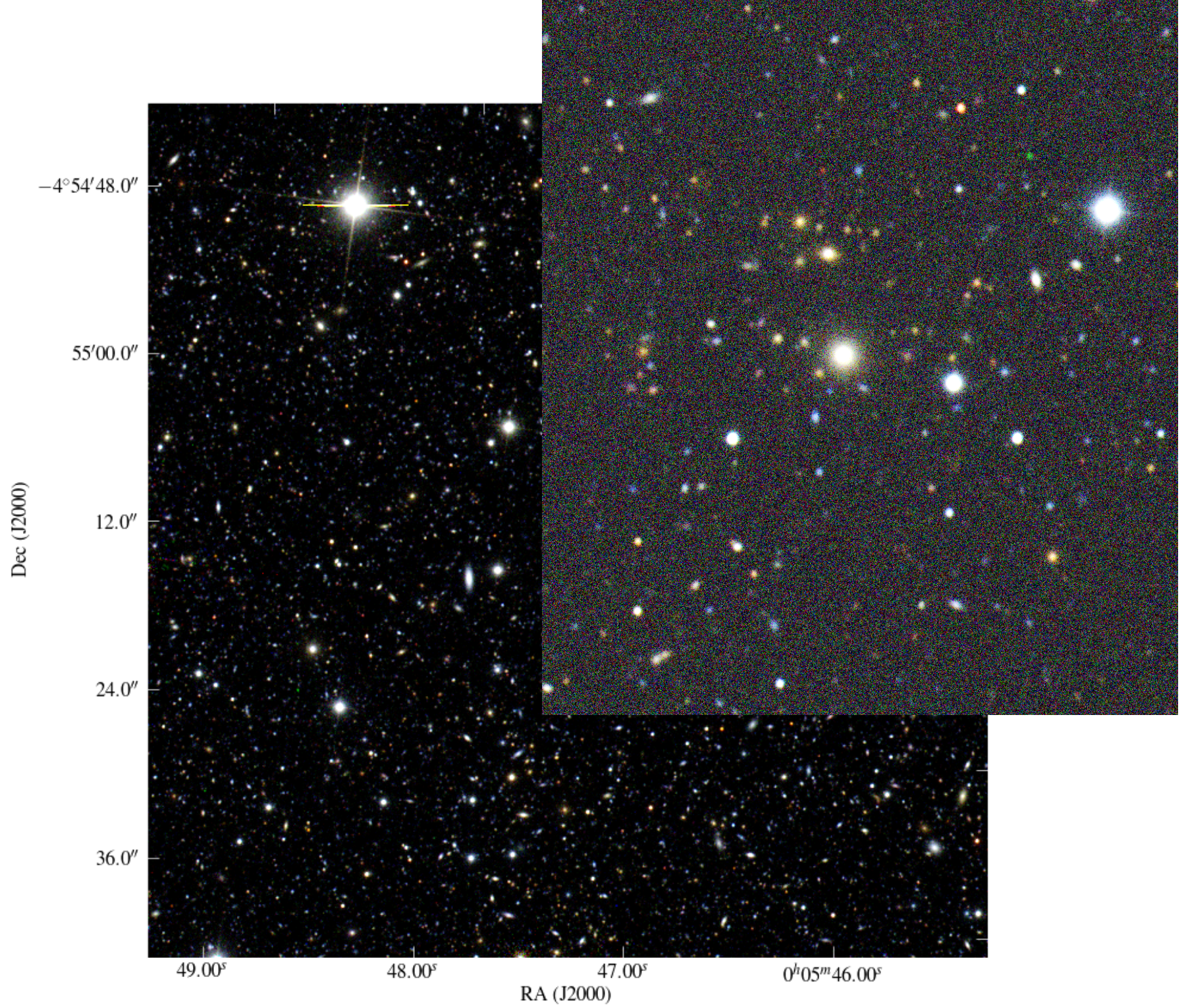


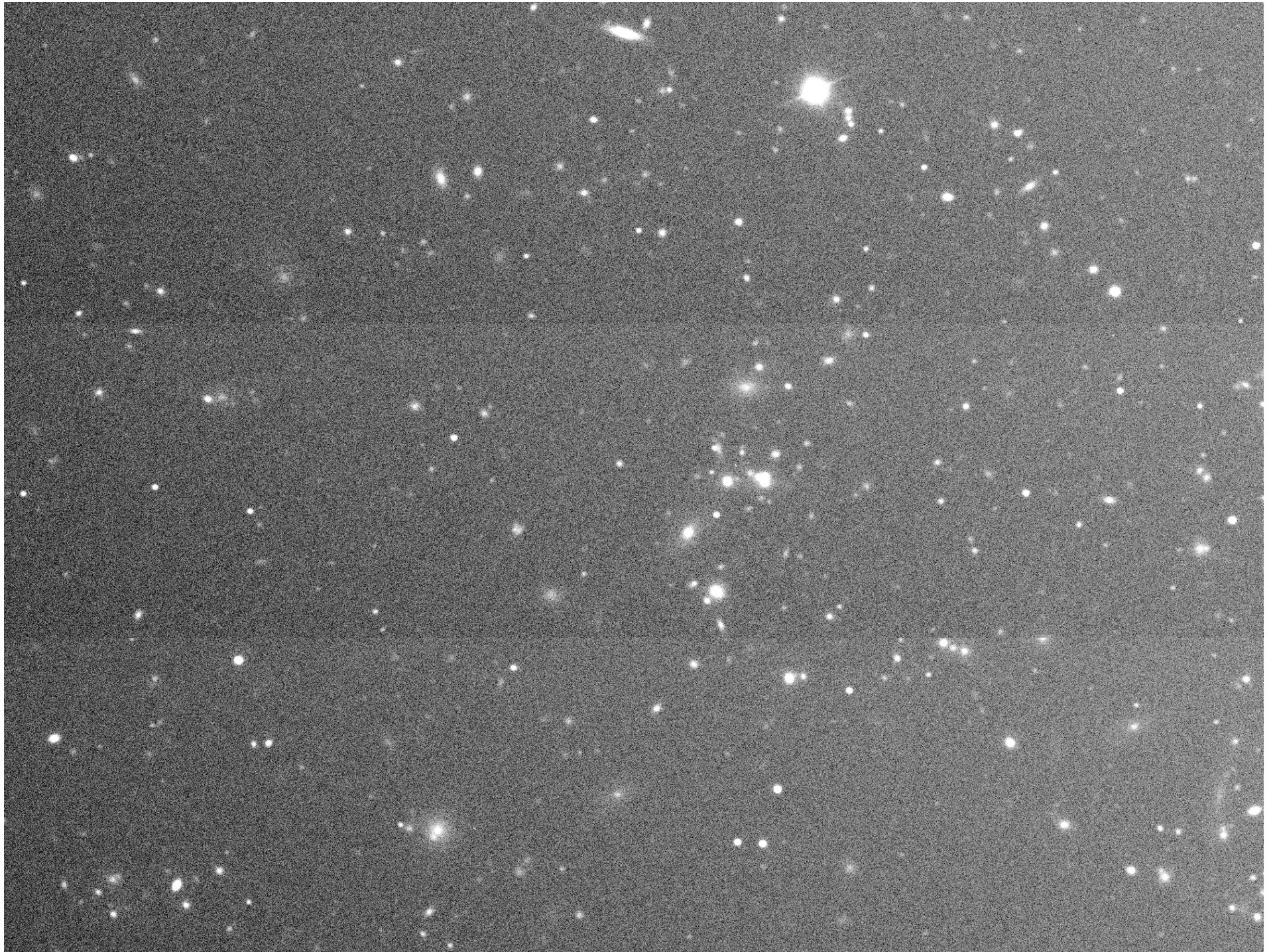
+Pixelization

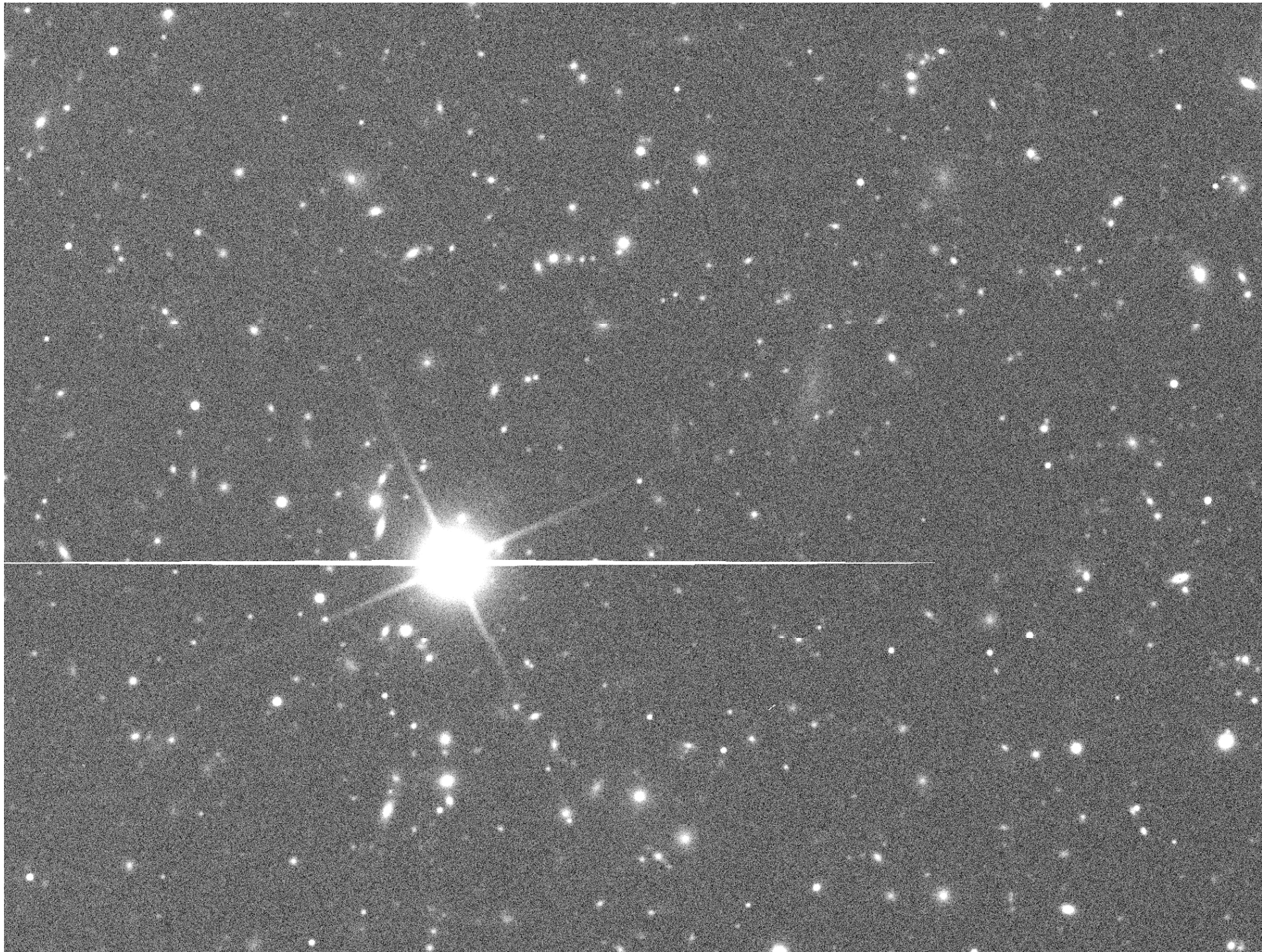


+Saturation &  
Blooming





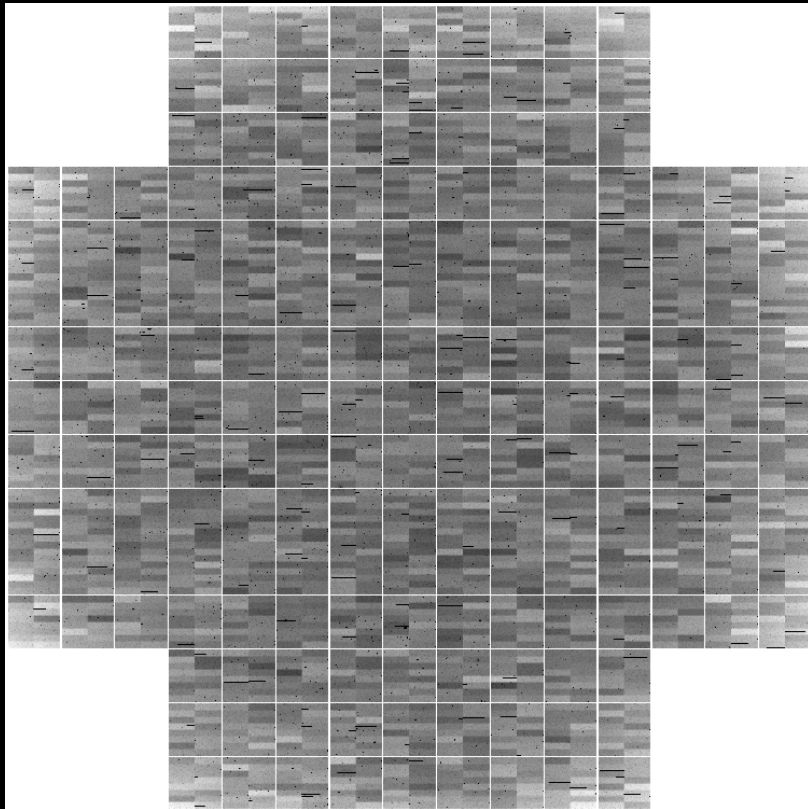








## A full end-to-end system



**189 CCDs**

**16 amplifiers per CCD**

**$10^{10}$  photons**

**2.5 hrs per CCD**

**Science at the scale of the LSST**

**With the same cadence and similar systematics**

**Catalogs, images and scalable science**



# Producing a Simulator Run

## Generating runs

600,000 CPU hrs (DC3b), 2.5 millions hours for next data challenge

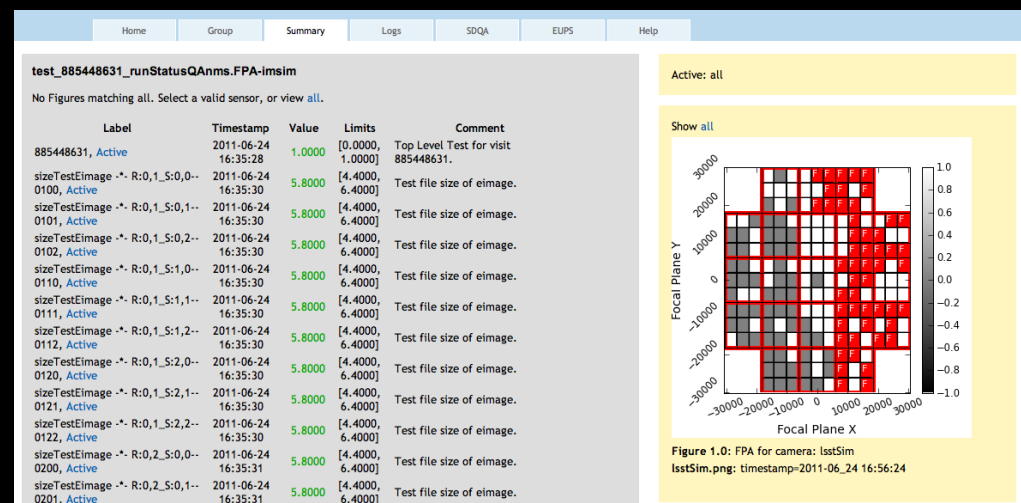
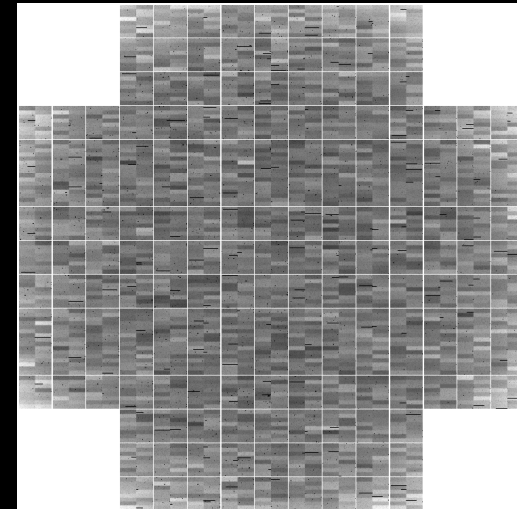
Google Exacycle program

## Optimizing production

Utilize grids (OSG, Teragrid), clusters, Condor (Purdue)

CPU and GPU

Runs tracked with pipeQA interface



# **Users and Contributors**

## **Contributions of Physics**

Science Collaborations (variability, solar system model, astrometry test cases, AGN, lensing, SNe, LSB galaxies)

## **Requests for Simulations**

MOPS, Stellar Pops SC, Weak Lensing SC, Strong Lensing SC, Transients and SNe SC, Astrometry

Requests from outside of LSST (New Horizons missions)

## **Data Management and end-to-end testing**

449 visits, ~60 sq degrees, 142 day time span  
g(59 visits), r(134), i(160), z(70), y(26) filters

# Measuring the shape of hardware response

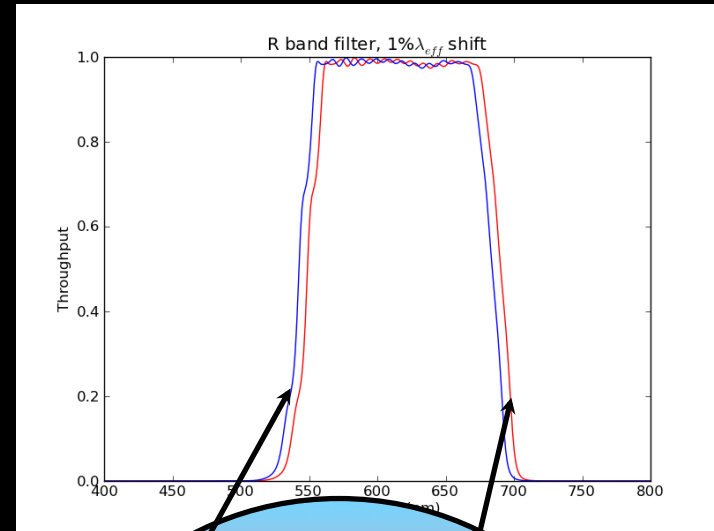
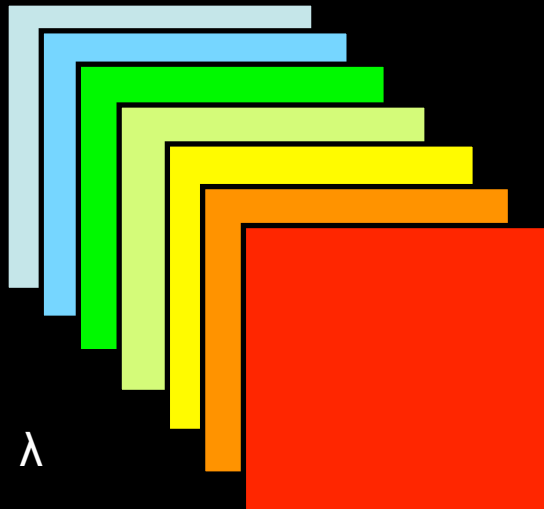
## Narrow-band flat fields

Correct for wavelength-dependent effects (shape of hardware throughput)

Filter non-uniformity, coating changes with age ..

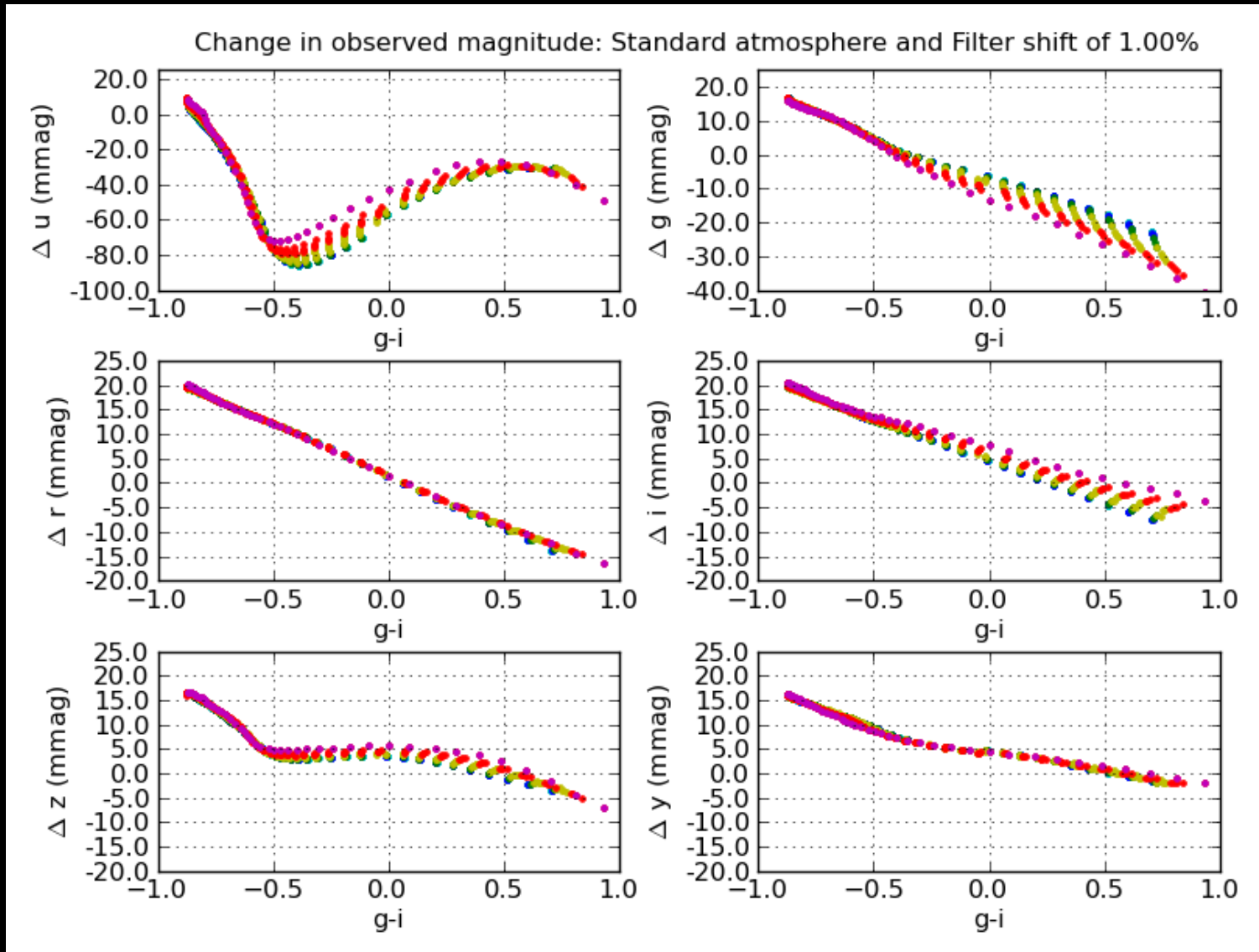
Larger spatial scales

Monthly time scales



Data cube of narrow-band flat fields

# Photometric effect of a shift in filter wavelength



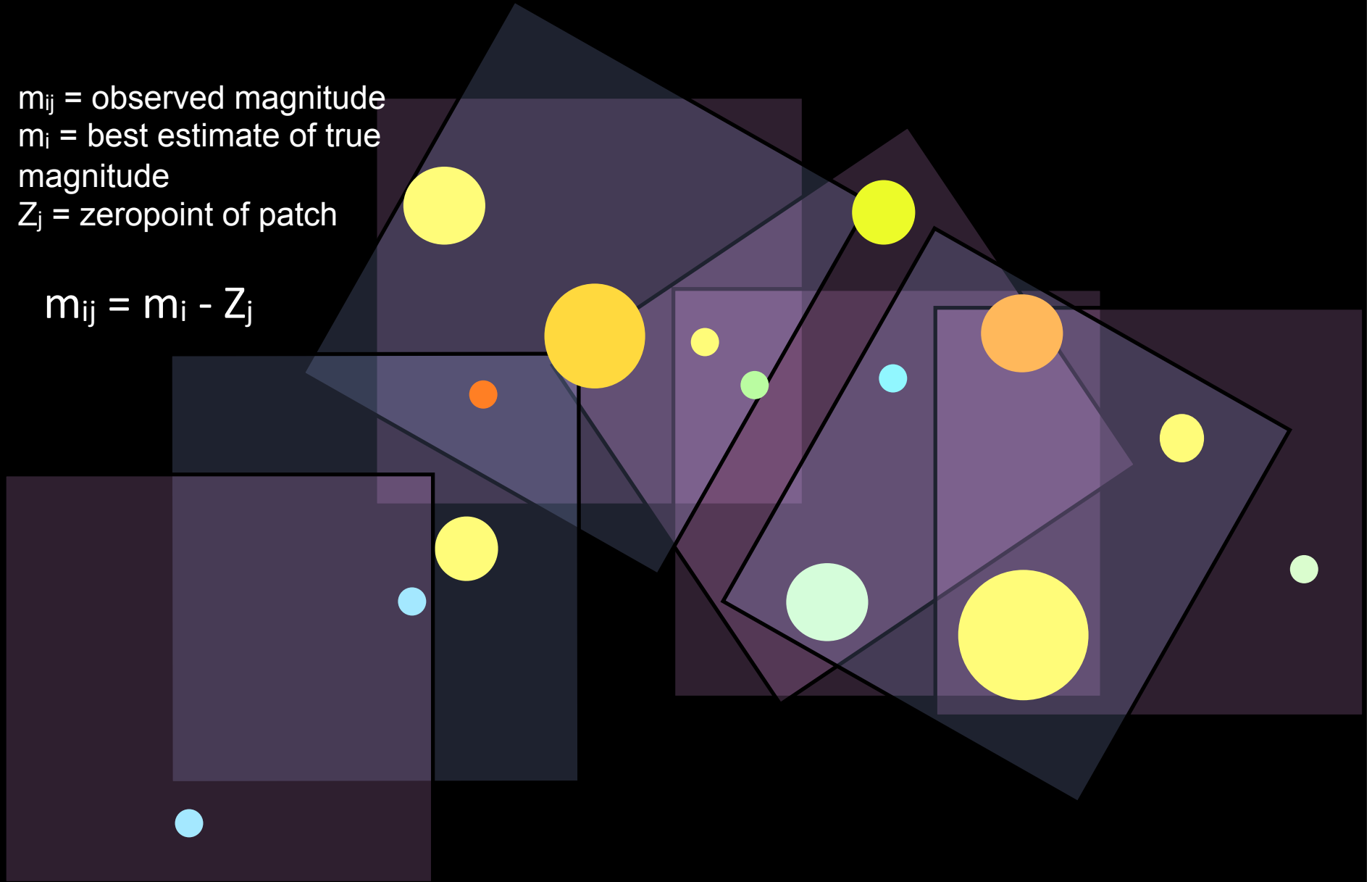
# Self-calibration procedure

$m_{ij}$  = observed magnitude

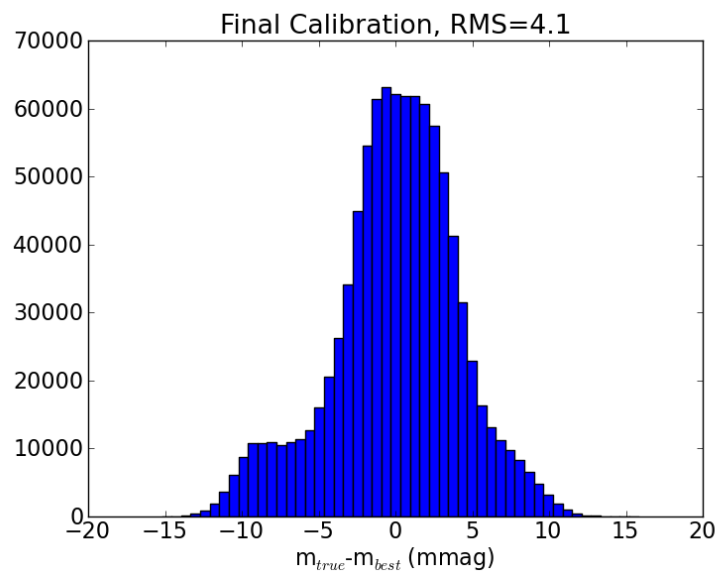
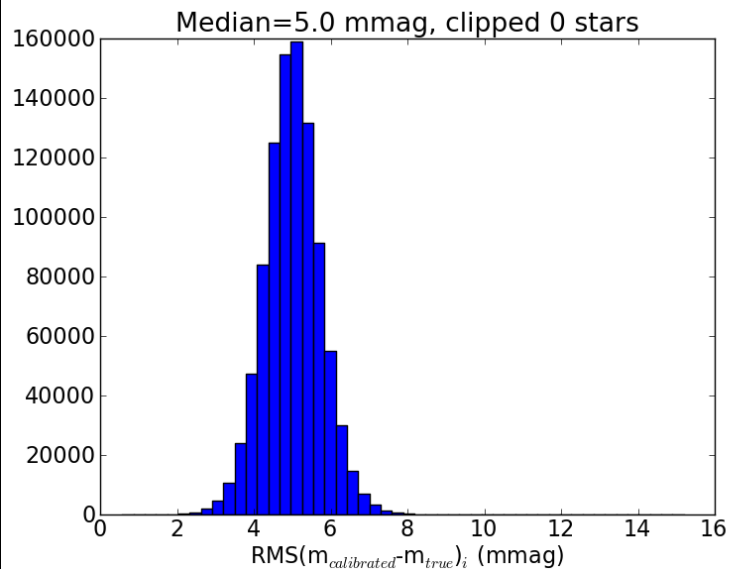
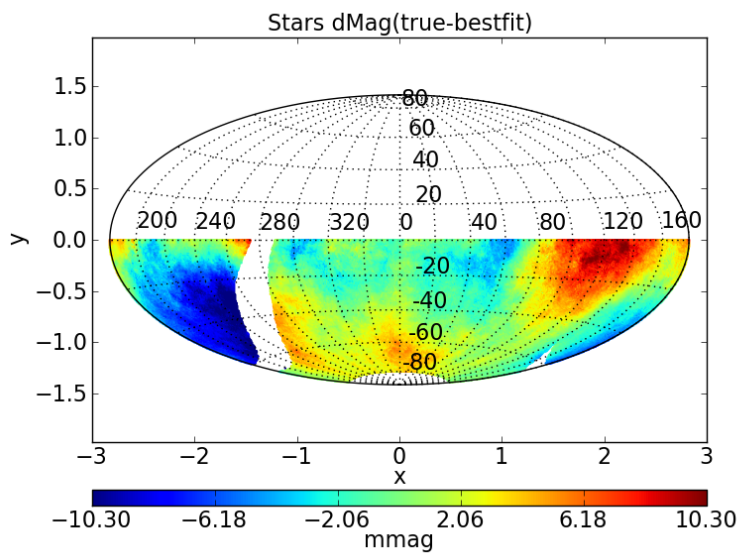
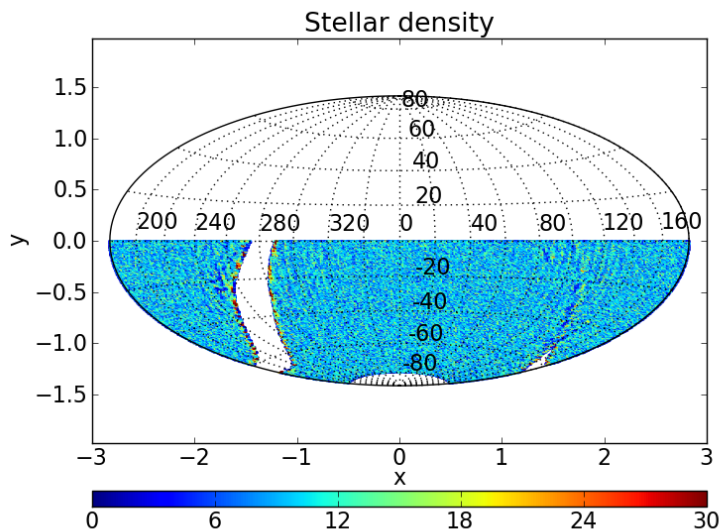
$m_i$  = best estimate of true  
magnitude

$Z_j$  = zeropoint of patch

$$m_{ij} = m_i - Z_j$$



# Self-calibration test results



# Validation Process (review Nov 2011)

## Data flow and consistency

Unit tests and pipeQA

Validation of photometry

## Source Physics

Comparison to observations

Light curves from science collaborations

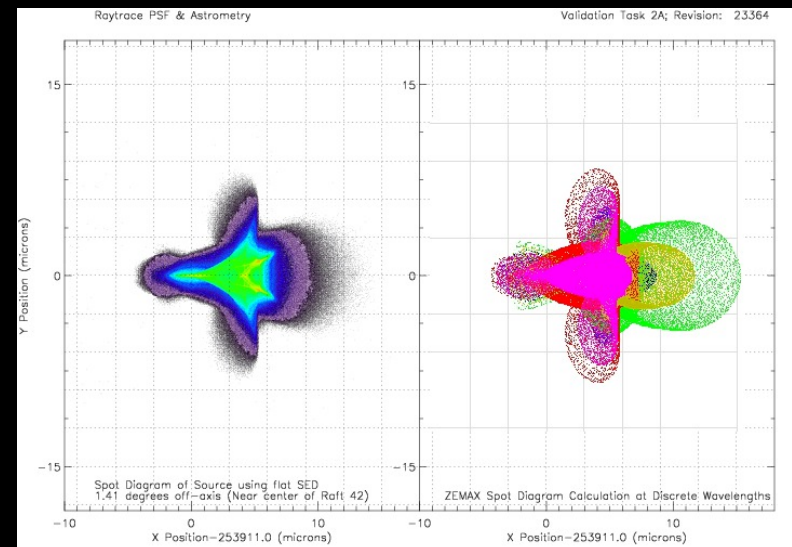
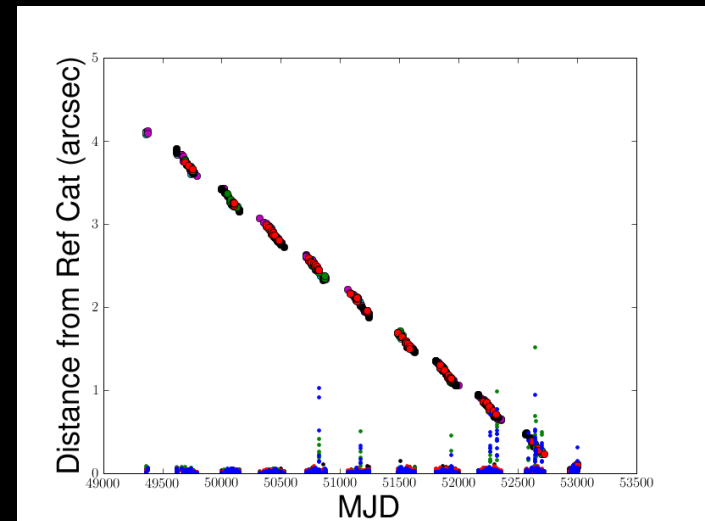
## Optics and Camera

Comparison with Zemax

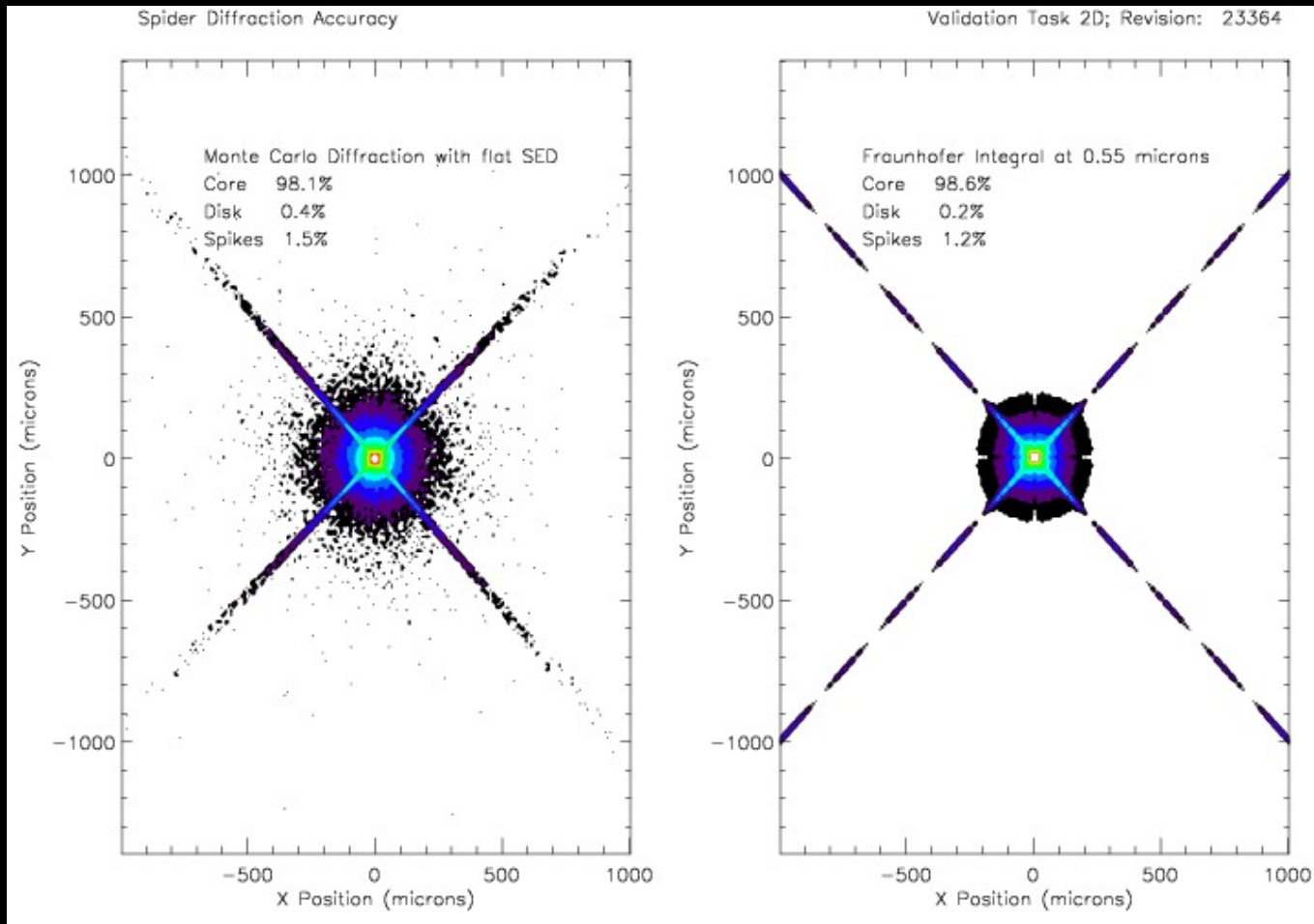
Fast diffraction approximation

## Atmosphere

Comparisons of PSF and image motion with PS and Subaru



# Modeling diffractive effects with photons



Likeness 1977, Freniere 1993



# **What lessons can we learn?**

**Develop in concert with the analysis framework  
(build the complexity to match the analysis)**

**Science requirements are complex, relying on  
multidimensional distributions that are not easy  
to model as a “mean and variance”. Simulations  
can provide the flow down from the requirements.**

**Validate, validate, validate...**

## **Why a Simulated View?**

**Simulations enable the evaluation of the performance of complex systems in a manner astrophysics has not previously embraced**

**Combined with observational data sets simulations should be able to reduce the commissioning time for the next generation of telescopes**

**End-to-end simulations, tied to science requirements, will enable better (and quicker) science from the LSST**

**With thanks to:**

**Garret Jernigan**

**John Peterson**

**Simon Krughoff**

**Rob Gibson**

**Robert Lupton**

**Phil Marshall**

**Mario Juric**

**Lynne Jones**

**Dave Monet**

**Steve Kahn**

**the LSST Collaboration**