



**STScI** | SPACE TELESCOPE  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

# Hubble Space Telescope Status

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Cycle 27 TAC Presentation

John W. MacKenty

9 June 2019



## Welcome!

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Thank you for serving on the Cycle 27 HST TAC

- The Hubble Space Telescope has now completed 29 years in operation
  - We are now 10 years past Servicing Mission 4
    - At that time, planning was for 5 years of science operations
  - In most respects, Hubble is working now at its very best
    - There is some slight instrument performance degradation
    - But we (GOs and STScI+GSFC) have become smarter in how we use the observatory
- Over the next several days, the team in this room has the privilege and responsibility of defining what Hubble does next





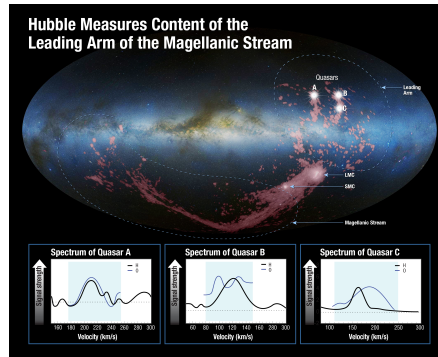
# Hubble is as Powerful as Ever

Deep, precise, stable pan-chromatic imaging

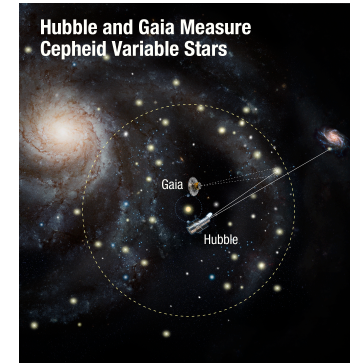
Slitted and slitless spectroscopy, coronagraphy, astrometry



star formation and its galactic impact

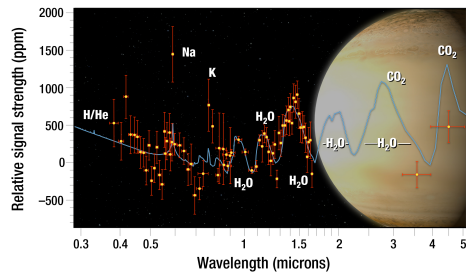


life stories of galaxies

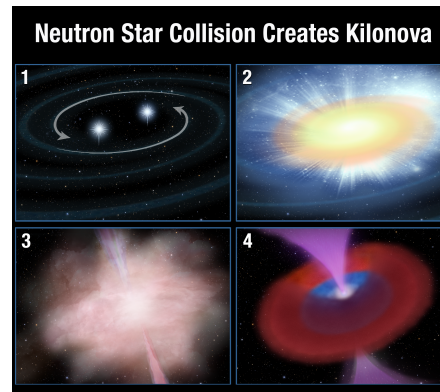


cosmology and fundamental physics

**Comprehensive spectrum of WASP-39b**



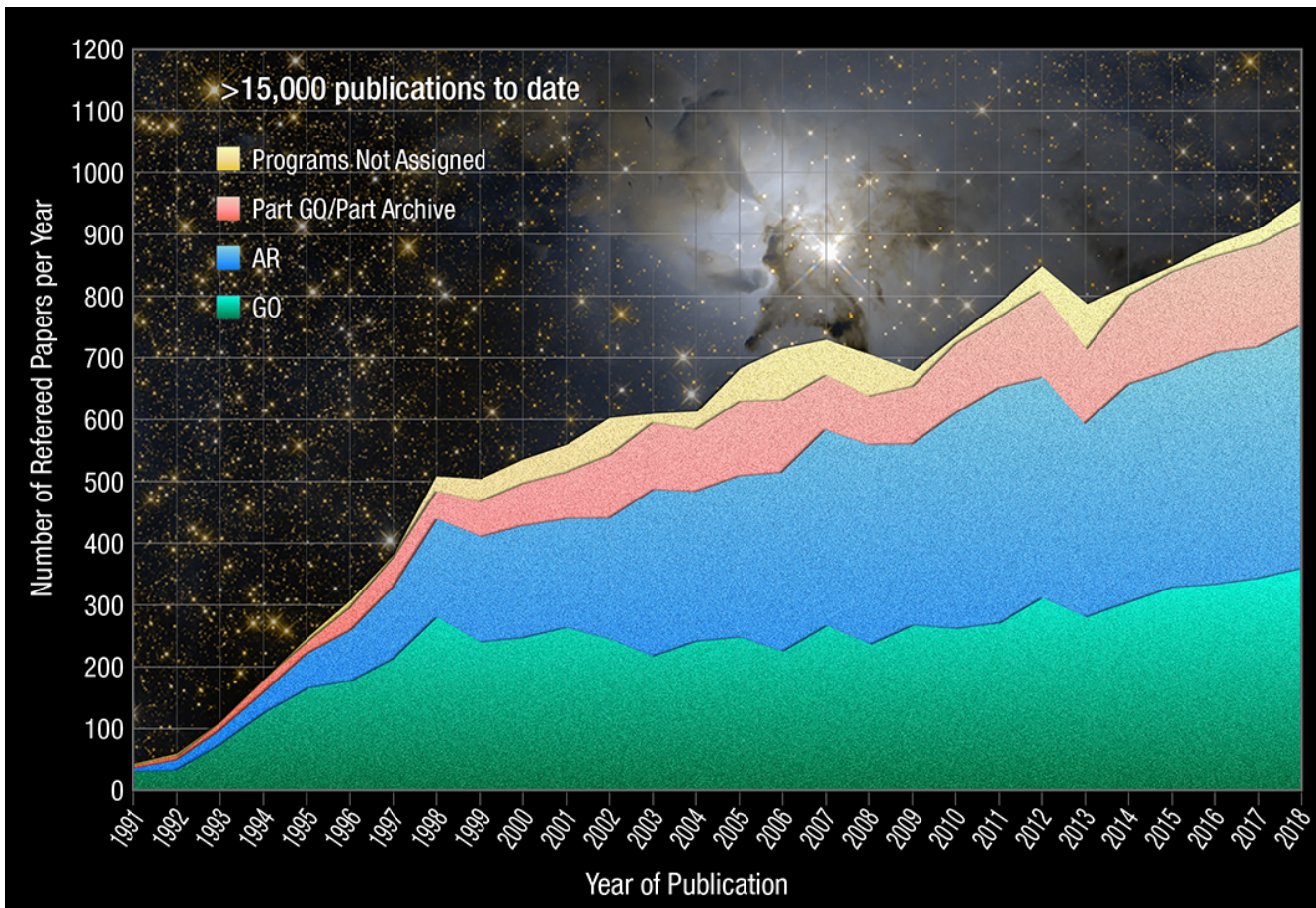
planetary atmosphere characterization



Transient GW Counterpart



## Science Productivity at All Time High



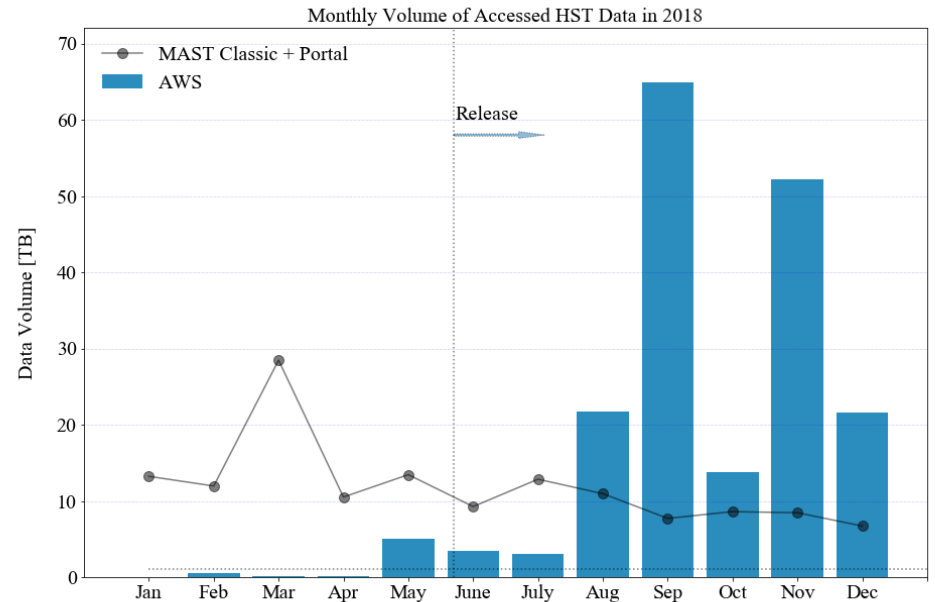
- 950+ refereed science papers a year
- Now 16,000+ refereed science papers to date
- 800,000+ citations
- 600+ PhD theses
  - currently ~1 per week
- 2+ published papers per day
- 1 in 6 astronomy papers influenced by Hubble
- Hubble h-index continues to climb:

year	2016	2017	2018
h-index	257	274	288



## Data from the Programs You Select Will Produce Science for Years to Come

- HST archive size is ~160 TB
- 6-15 TB per month retrieved
- >12,000 registered archive users (85 countries, 50 states)
- HST archive online cache delivers data within minutes to users
- Amazon Web Services is now available for archival research
  - All HST data with very fast local processing on their servers







## 2020 → 2025 Vision

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Operate Hubble out to 2025 and beyond. Expect overlapping science observations with the James Webb Space Telescope, performed in a manner that maximizes the science return of both observatories by taking full advantage of Hubble's unique capabilities and the astronomical community's scientific curiosity.

How long will Hubble continue to operate?

→ As long as it remains scientifically productive

Expect several years of overlap between HST and JWST

What is needed to keep Hubble scientifically productive?

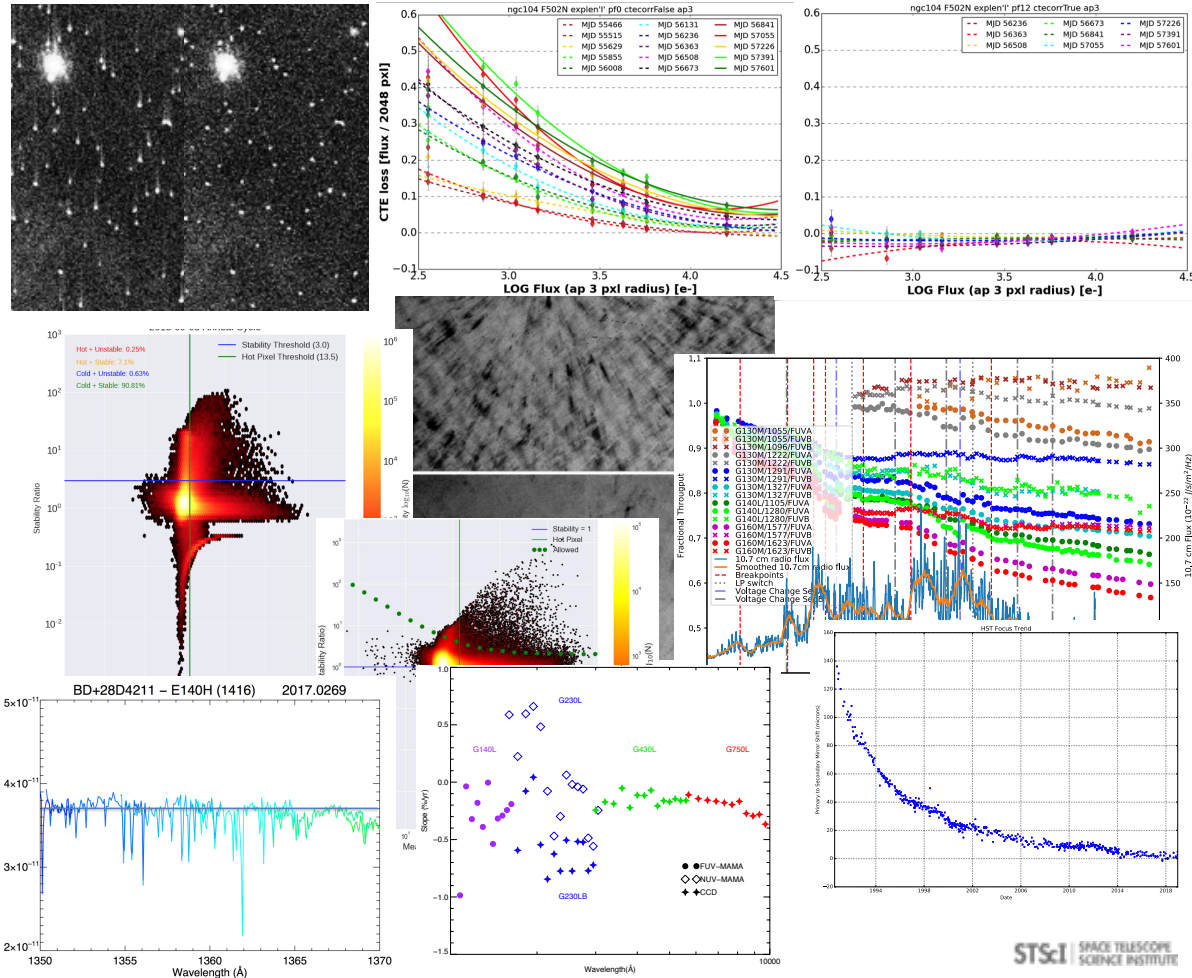


- An operating observatory
- Capable science instruments
- Scientific drivers (demand)
- Adequate staffing and user support
- Appropriate funding
- Common purpose & teamwork



## Graceful Aging of Observatory Largely Mitigated

- Charge transfer efficiency degradation mitigated by flashing and corrected at the pixel level
- Vast majority of defective pixels (warm, hot, dead) mitigated through extensive monitoring, reference files, and appropriate algorithms
- Changes in flat fields and sensitivities monitored and addressed in pipeline
- Drifts in focus and alignment corrected by both mechanism motions and calibration updates

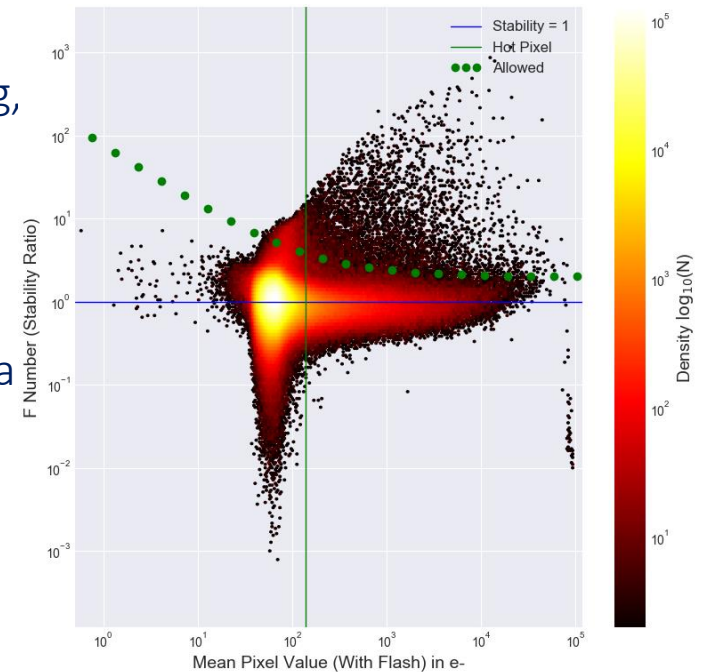




## Advanced Camera for Surveys

### Continued Good Performance

- Updates to CALACS include sink pixel detection, DQ-array flagging, retention of long-term stable warm/hot pixels in DQ array, high dynamic range WFC super darks, Gaia DR2 refinements to WFC Geometric Distortion solution, updates to WFC bias shift correction
- SBC dark current vs temperature characterized with 16 years data
- Updated web tools for WFC Zero-Points and Pixel-Area Maps
- Revised L-flats for WFC, based on 16 yrs of 47 Tuc monitoring
- Analysis of entire pixel history; Vast majority of hot pixels are stable and no longer flagged



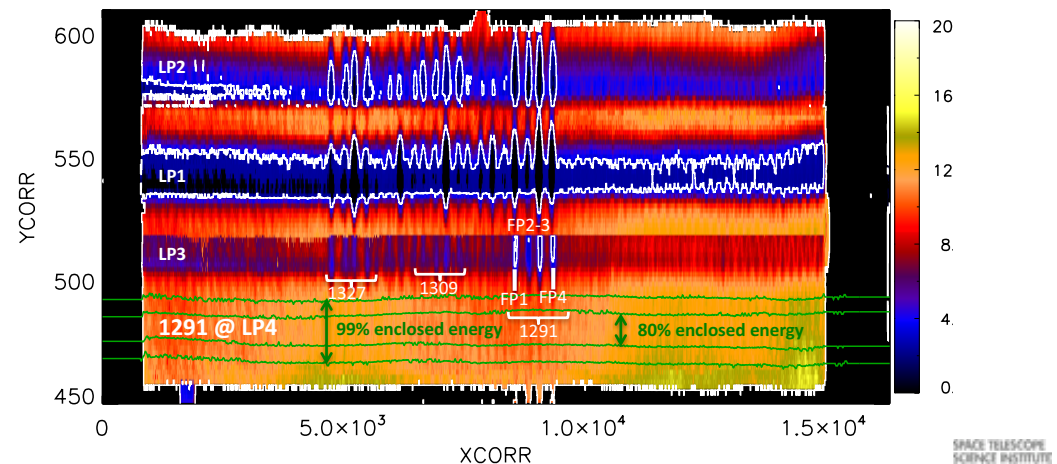
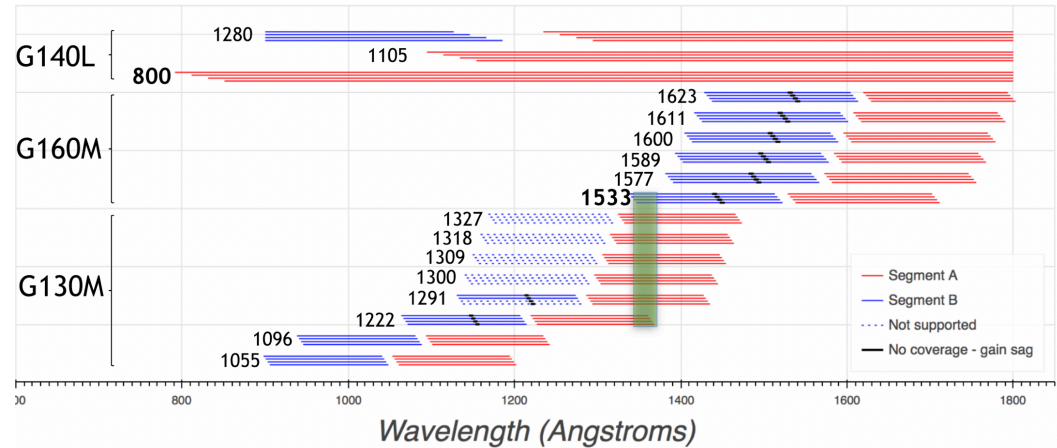




# Cosmic Origins Spectrograph

COS is operating nominally

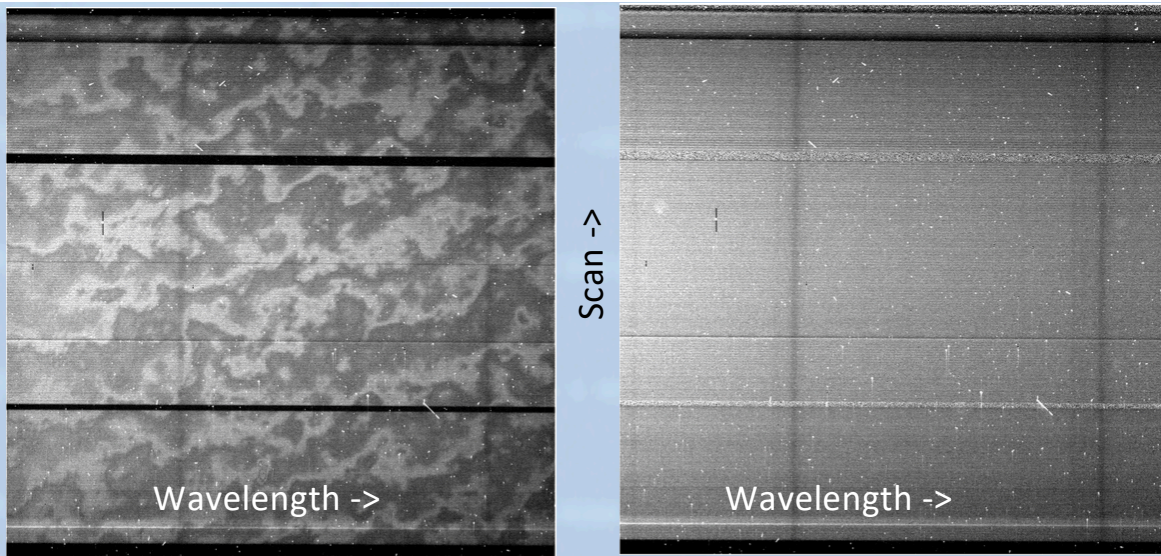
- New FUV observing modes
  - G160M/1533 enables high SNR, medium resolution spectra over a broad range of wavelengths with just 2 settings: G130M/1222 and G160M/1533.
  - G140L/800 provides broad wavelength coverage (800-1950 Å) on FUV segment A with no gaps and lower astigmatic height
- FUV detector at LP4 since Oct. 2017
  - Changes in strategy extend useful LP4 until ~2023
  - Future options for extending COS FUV





# Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph

- STIS status is unchanged; celebrating 22+ years in space
- Spatial scanning mode for moderate resolution, high S/N spectra to observe weak spectral features
  - More photons collected before full well
  - Better averaging over flat field imperfections
  - Better agreement with contemporaneous Tu lamp fringe flat



**Forbes**

1,472 views | Apr 24, 2019, 03:28am

### NASA's Hubble Spots Carbon Buckyballs In The Wispiest Reaches Of Interstellar Space

Bruce Dorminey Contributor @Science  
I cover over-the-horizon technology, aerospace and astronomy.

TWEET THIS

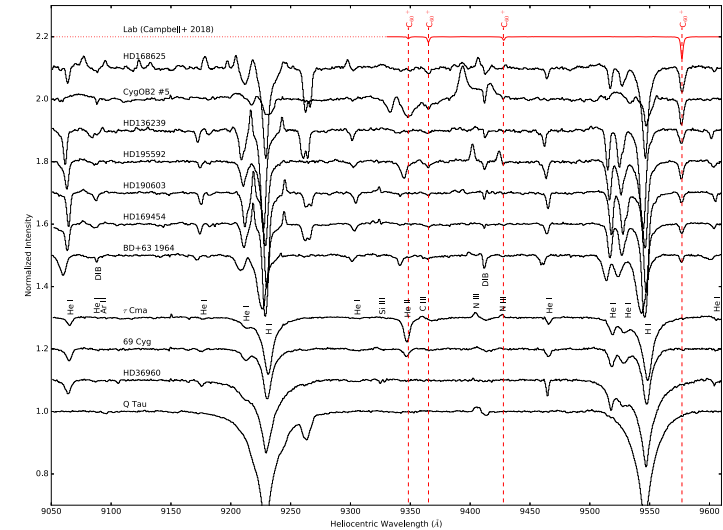
- used near-infrared background light from 11 blue supergiant stars
- amazed at the quality of the spectra that could be obtained

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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO ASTRONOMY

### Hubble Confirms Interstellar Buckyballs

By AAB Nova | April 25, 2019

From a jumble of confusing clues in Hubble observations of interstellar space, scientists have picked out evidence of a celebrity molecule: ionized Buckminsterfullerene, or buckyballs.

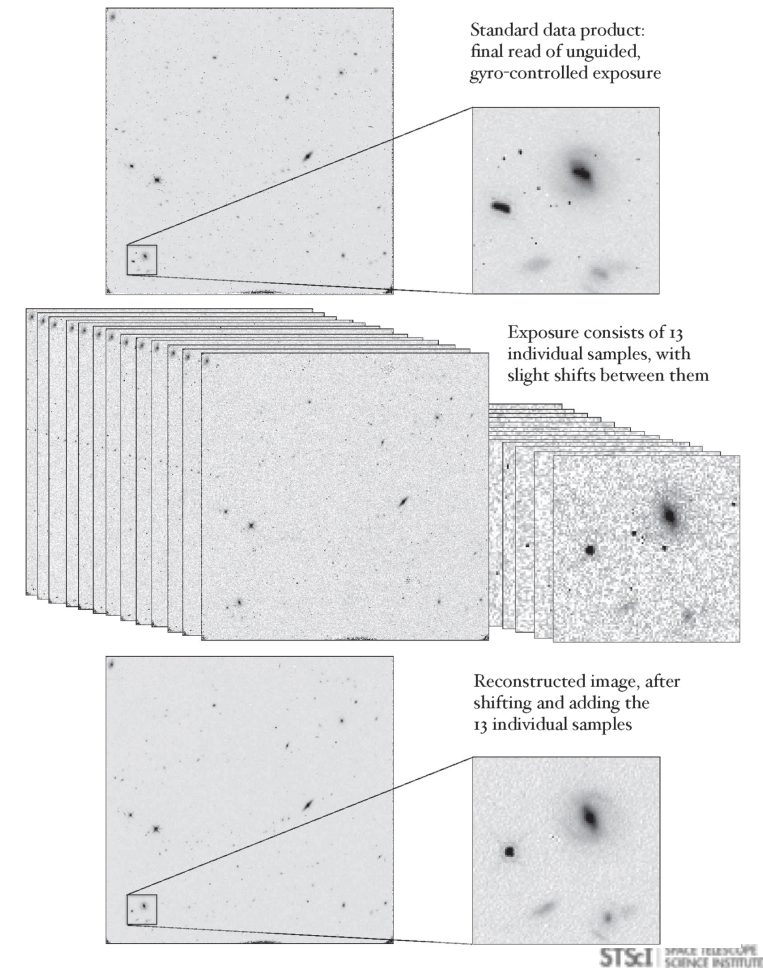


Diffuse interstellar bands C<sub>60</sub> Cordiner et al. (2019)



## Wide Field Camera 3

- Nominal Performance (January 2018 suspend due to SEU – benign event)
- New planning tools for spatial scanning
- Filter-based geometric distortion solution for full-frame broad, medium, narrow band UVIS filters
- PSF library with >20M stars covering all UVIS filters
- Drift and Shift (DASH) observing mode
  - Normally, shifts > 130" require guide star re-acquisition
  - DASH allows imaging under gyro control only
  - Up-the-ramp imaging with WFC3/IR allows image reconstruction that corrects for the drift
  - Allows for tiling up to eight fields (37 sq arcmin) in one orbit instead of two fields (9 sq arcmin)







## Healthy Science Instruments

Subsystem		Summary
Science Instruments (SI)	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACS suspend on 2/28/2019 due to failed checksum during return to science mode following anneal cycle; returned to normal operations status on 3/6; repeated 4/3. Tiger Team investigation identified EEPROM chip exhibiting a temperature dependence – successful mitigation implemented for May 3 anneal</li> <li>• WFC3 January 2019 suspend attributed to Single Event Upset within onboard telemetry collection circuitry – nominal operation resumed. WFC3 performance excellent.</li> <li>• COS moved to 4<sup>th</sup> position 10/2017 began COS 2025 initiative; investigating potential 5<sup>th</sup> lifetime position</li> <li>• STIS repaired instruments (SM4) performing nominally</li> </ul>
Data Management System	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI Control and Data Handling (C&amp;DH) has had 12 lockup recoveries since 6/15/09; most recent was 1/19/18</li> <li>• Developed requirements and operations concept for a rapid recovery from the periodic Science Instrument Control and Data Handling lock up events to reduce return to science from ~24 hours to less than 10 hours; anticipate operational summer 2019.</li> </ul>

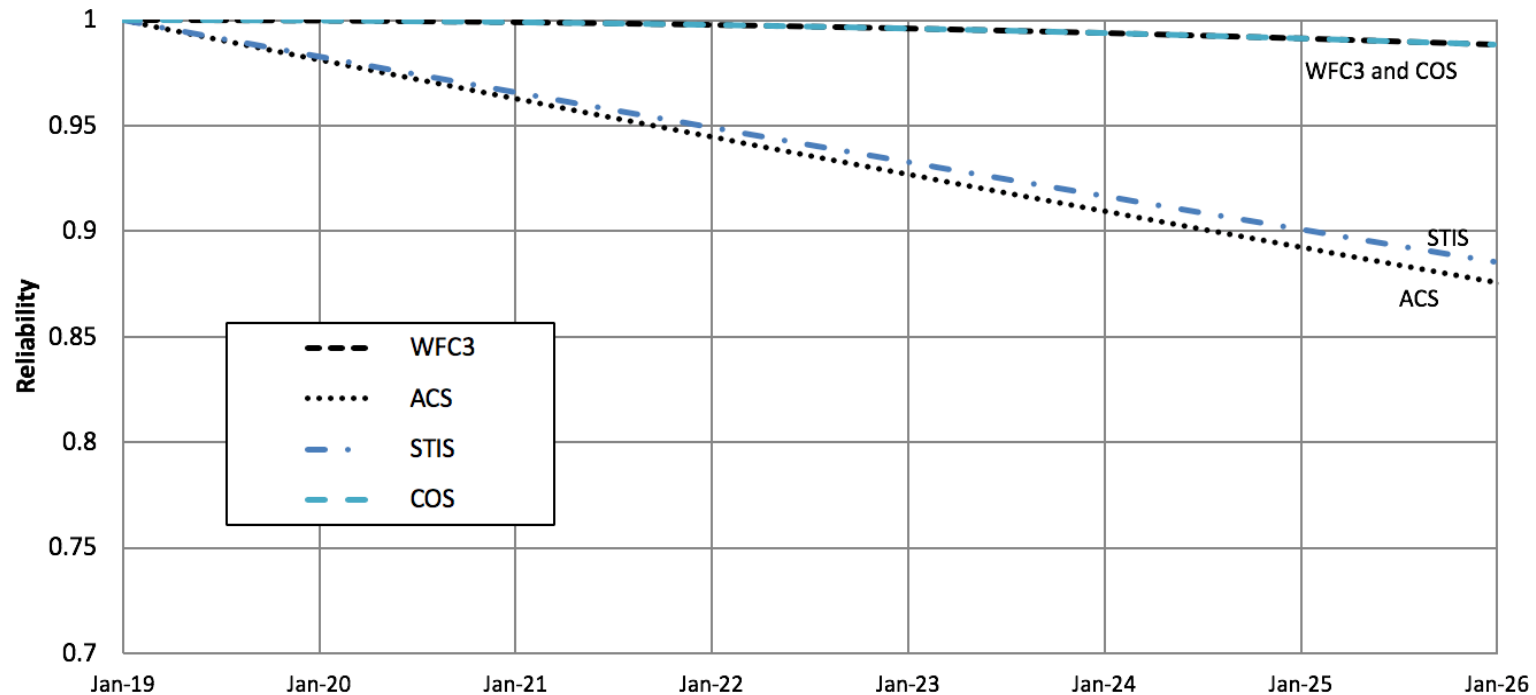


## Instrument Reliability

### Science Instrument reliability remains high

NASA Engineering and Safety Center provided methodology

- Greater than 95% probability for each of WFC3 and COS operating through 2025
- Greater than 85% probability for each of ACS and STIS operating through 2025





## Healthy Spacecraft (main limitation is duration of 3 Gyro operations)

Subsystem		Summary
Electrical Power	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent battery performance; Solar Array 3 performance remains excellent</li> <li>• Solar Array Drive Electronics (SADE) investigation following 2/15/13 SWSP; no further actions</li> </ul>
Pointing Control System	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gyro 6 motor current increased from ~120 mA to ~180mA on 3/21/2019; Gyro 4 similar event 9/2011</li> <li>• Gyro 3 powered on 10/6/2018 – initial high output rates reduced to normal 10/19/2018; (3-4-6 complement)</li> <li>• Gyro 2 failed on 10/5/2018</li> <li>• Gyro 1 failed on 4/21/2018; Gyro 6 powered on 4/21/2018</li> <li>• Gyro 5 failed on 3/7/14; Gyro 6 powered off 3/13/14</li> <li>• Gyro 3 removed from control loop/powered off 2011; Gyro 6 powered on</li> <li>• FGS-3 bearings degraded (~10% duty cycle to preserve life); FGS-2R2 Clear Filter operations 1/2015</li> </ul>
Data Management System	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid State Recorders (SSRs) 1&amp;3 each experienced lock up in 2011 in the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA); SSR3 experienced another lockup in SAA on 1/9/18; Alert monitors detect condition to minimize data loss</li> </ul>
Communications	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Access Transponder 2 (MAT2) coherent mode failed (12/24/2011); Two-way tracking unavailable</li> </ul>
Thermal Protection System	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Outer Blanket Layers (NOBLs) installed on Bays 5,7, and 8 during SM4</li> <li>• Thermal performance is nominal</li> </ul>

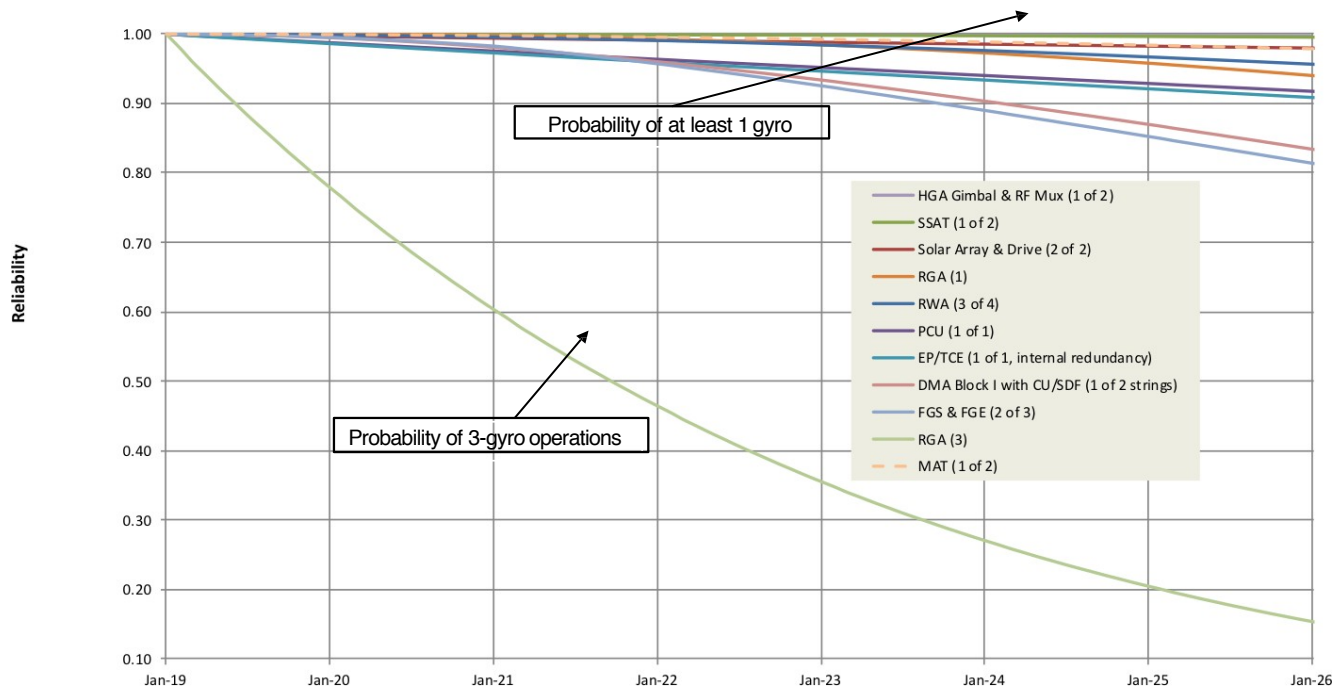




## Spacecraft Reliability

### Critical subsystem reliability remains high

- Greater than 80% probability of critical systems operating through 2025
- Nearly 95% probability of one gyro being available through 2025; 50% probability of 3-gyro operations through late 2021





## Long Range Plan: Current Status (May 2019)

### Cycle 26 averaging 75.4 orbits/week over first 33 weeks

- Without 3-week downtime in fall 2018, 83.0 orbits/week
- Cycle 17-23: 84 orbits/week
- Cycle 24: 82 orbits/week
- Cycle 25: 85 orbits/week

### Previous Cycle Completeness

- Cycle 24: 22 orbits left in plan through fall 2019
- Cycle 25: ~630 orbits remain (due to 1200+ more orbits accepted in Cycle 25)

### Nominal Cycle 26 boundary Oct 1, 2018; delta-TAC led to actual start in January 2019

- ~2200 orbits of Cycle 26 material remain

Cycle	Orbits
24	22
25	632
26	2193
<b>Total</b>	<b>2847</b>

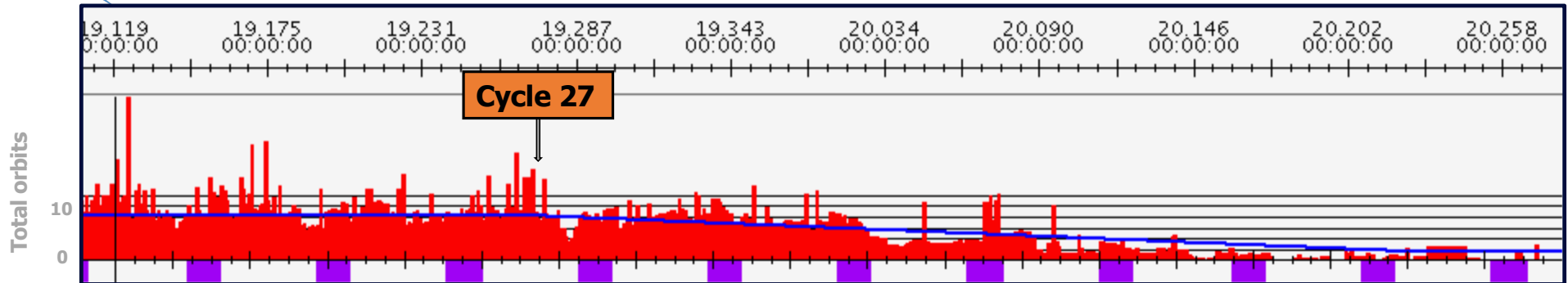
<b>C25 snaps</b>	<b>1367</b>
<b>C26 snaps</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total snaps</b>	<b>1367</b>

Instrument	Orbits
<b>WFC3</b>	<b>1379</b>
<b>COS</b>	<b>615</b>
<b>ACS</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>STIS</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>FGS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2849<sup>(1)</sup></b>

(1) Some programs have more than one prime SI.



## Long Range Plan: Current Status

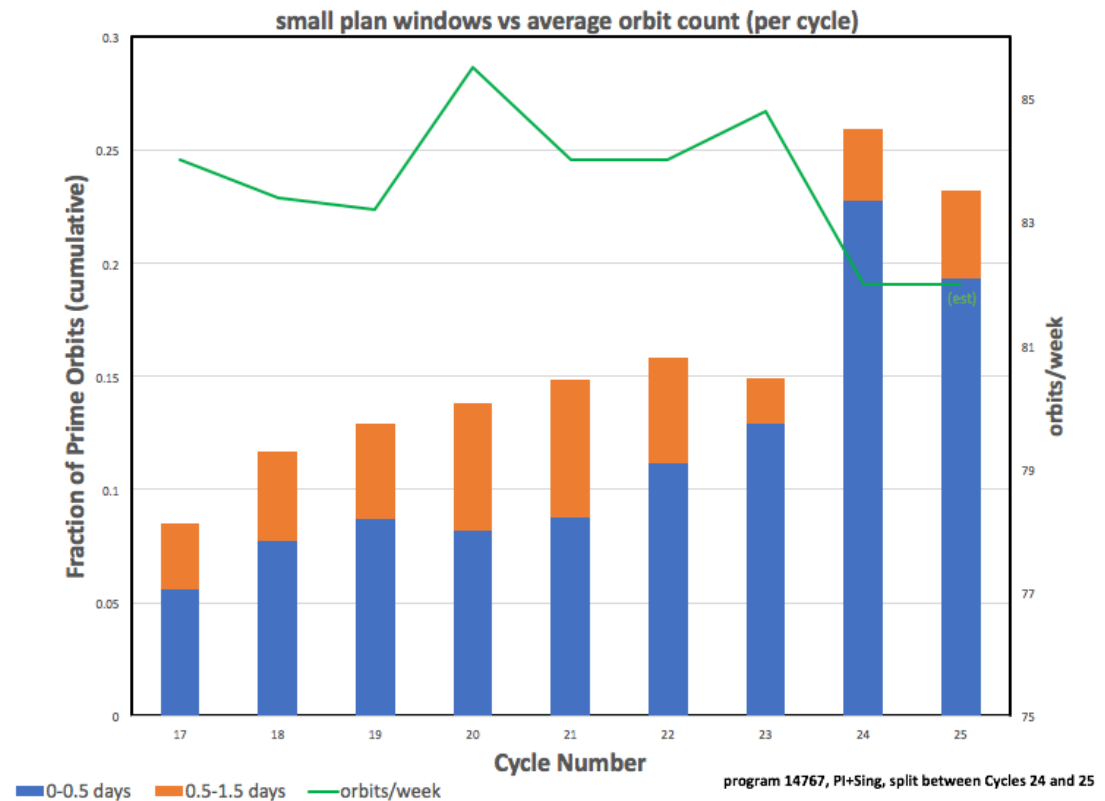


- **While Cycle 26 nominal start was October 2018**
  - Cycle 25 still dominates the current plan
  - Currently, the Cycle 26 tail (Oct 2019 and later) contains ~1500 orbits (2x typical size)



## Challenges to Efficiency – Time Constrained Science Programs

- Approximately 20% of science visits in Cycles 24 and 25 had timing constraints of a few orbits or less
- Creates conflicts between science programs
- Results in fewer flexible visits later in the plan that can be moved forward to fill schedule gaps
- We now build templates of constrained visits in advance to identify conflicts early in the process
- We are now requiring proposers to justify their constraints at the Phase I stage (as of Cycle 26)
- May begin rationing constraints at the TAC in future cycles





## HST GYROs since SM4

- SM4 installed 6 new Gyros
  - 3 with enhanced flex leads(\*)
- Historical HST Gyro lifetimes were ~5 years
- Gyro #2 had high level of jitter in its final year
- Gyro #3 has stability issues
  - Bias drift impacts (re-)acquisitions
- On-going work to accommodate Gyro #3
  - Some efficiency implications including small increases in overheads and scheduling constraints
- Impacts pm Science Operations:
  - Higher rate of acquisition failures → higher HOPR rate impacting LRP stability and efficiency
  - Some failures were assumed when LRP is built but higher rate will be assumed for C27

Gyro	Status	Lifetime (Years)
1	Failed 4/18	5
2	Failed 10/18	5.4
3*	Operating^	>3.1
4*	Operating	>10
5	Failed 3/14	5.9
6*	Operating	>5.1





## **One Gyro Science Mode**

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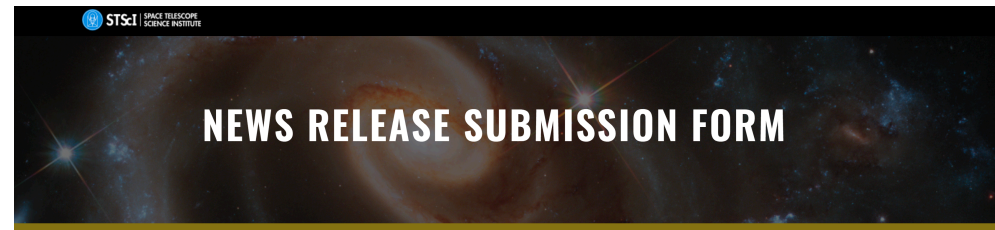
- Hubble is now one gyro failure away from needing to use One Gyro Science mode
- Preparation steps have been completed to minimize the time required to make the transition into OGS and minimize our science down time
- OGM Mode limitations:
  - Reduced Field of Regard (~40% of sky visible at any given time)
  - No GYRO only observations (i.e. no DASH mode)
  - ~73 versus ~84 orbits schedulable per week
  - Limitations on ORIENTS
- Current expectation is the HST will transition to OGM in ~2021
- TAC should assume Three Gyro Mode for Cycle 27



## Please Share Your Science with the Public

- Scientist PR submission form
  - Alerts news chief
  - Automatically logs entry for news team
  - Initiates follow-up from STScI to PI
  - <http://www.stsci.edu/news/scientist-resources/scientist>
- Archive auto-notice
  - Reminds PI of pending “end of program”
  - Encourages communication to STScI about publications and newsworthy results

Congratulations! Your program, GO-12345, “Amazing HST Observations”, is nearing completion. As your program draws to a close, we would like to ask you to coordinate with Space Telescope Science Institute to improve the dissemination of your results and help us better follow HST usage...



[Home](#) > [News Center](#) > [Scientist Resources](#)

### News Release Submission Form

Please contact the news team to share scientific results you believe may be of interest to the public:

\*Select a mission:

HST  JWST  Other

\*Principal Investigator's First Name:

\*Principal Investigator's Last Name:

\*Email:

\*Subject:

\*Brief Description of Result



## Leave the Scheduling and Technical Issues to Us

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- In reviewing Cycle 27 proposals, Panels and TAC should focus on the best science
  - Constraints/Special Requirements must be scientifically justified
  - However, leave scheduling constraints to us to consider in the context of the entire Cycle 27 pool of recommended proposals
  - Also, let us consider the suitability of observing programs if we do not remain to the nominal 3-gyro configuration





## Extending COS Operational Lifetime

- COS has two channels: FUV & NUV
- FUV channel depleted with illumination (mainly Geo-Ly-alpha)
- Prior operational strategy employed a series of ~2.5 year lifetime positions (LPs)
- Active detector area allows for 4 normal LPs (possibly 5 –being studied)
- New approach for LP4 essentially limits number of positions for spectrum
- Ly A burns holes much more quickly but holes limited to much less area
- LP4 lifetime 2x – 3x longer (scientific utility declines in 2023+)

