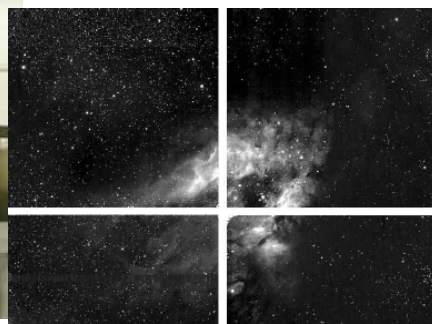
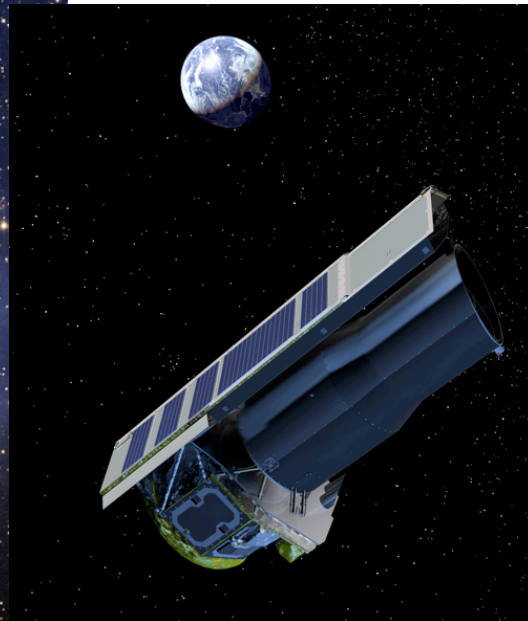




# Star Formation at Infrared Wavelengths

## Infrared imaging and detectors

Jean-Louis Monin





Introduction  
Magnitude systems  
Atmospheric windows and imaging filters  
The basics of detection  
Flat-fielding and Calibration  
Photons, electrons, noise and performances





**Jean-Louis Monin**

## **IR IMAGING and DETECTORS**

**First Constellation school, Florence, may 27-29th, 2008**

This lecture was held in Florence (Italy) during a *Constellation* Network school (May 27-29th 2008 at the observatory of Arcetri)

[The \(PDF\) lecture summary \( DRAFT ! \)](#)

[The \(PDF\) lecture slides \( DRAFT ! 10Mo... \)](#) (updated may 21)

---

**This lecture is based (in part) on the following references :**

*Standard Photometric Systems*, M. S. Bessel, 2005, ARAA, 43, 293

*Model atmospheres broad-band colors, bolometric corrections and temperature calibrations for O - M stars*, Bessel, Castelli & Plez, 1998, A&A 333, 231

**... and has benefited from reading the following PDF files :**

(Some of them from the [lectures of O'Connell](#), University of Virginia :

[Photometric systems](#)

[Spitzer IRAC pocketguide](#)

[Spitzer MIPS pocketguide](#)



## Introduction

IR imagery started in the 80s (with 8x8 then 32x32 arrays) and now reaches 4 Mpixels detectors.

It shares a lot of characteristics with Visible imagery but also shows huge differences.

Although imagery gives access to extended sources brightness (astrometry, proper motion, polarimetry, etc.), this lecture concentrates on PSF (point-like) sources measurements.

NB. For ground-based observations,  
the image quality (seeing  $w$ ) varies with  $\lambda$  :





## Introduction

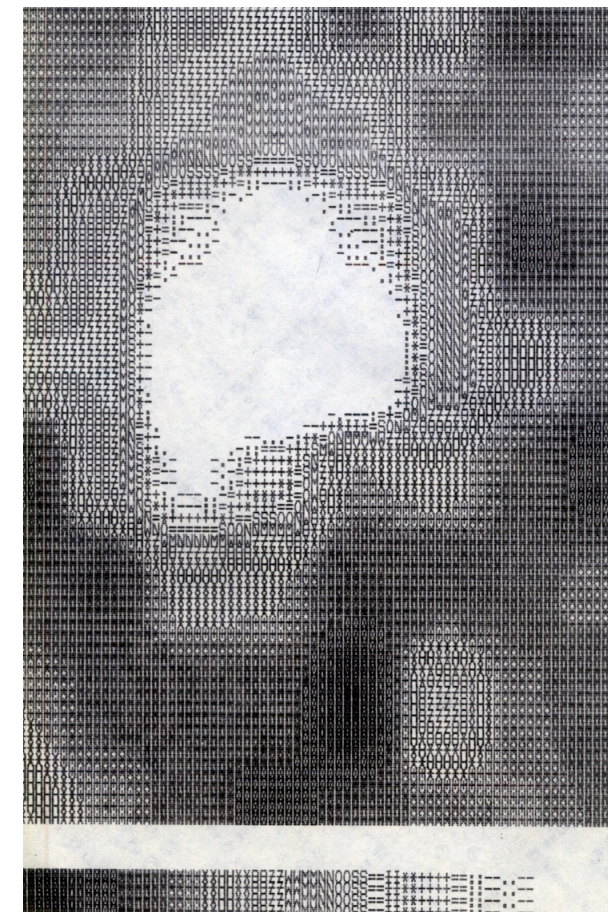
IR imagery started in the 80s (with 8x8 then 32x32 arrays) and now reaches 4 Mpixels detectors.

It shares a lot of characteristics with Visible imagery but also shows huge differences.

Although imagery gives access to extended sources brightness (astrometry, proper motion, polarimetry, etc.), this lecture concentrates on PSF (point-like) sources measurements.

NB. For ground-based observations, the image quality (seeing  $w$ ) varies with  $\lambda$  :

ORION BN  
Nebula  
(8x8)  
TBL 1985





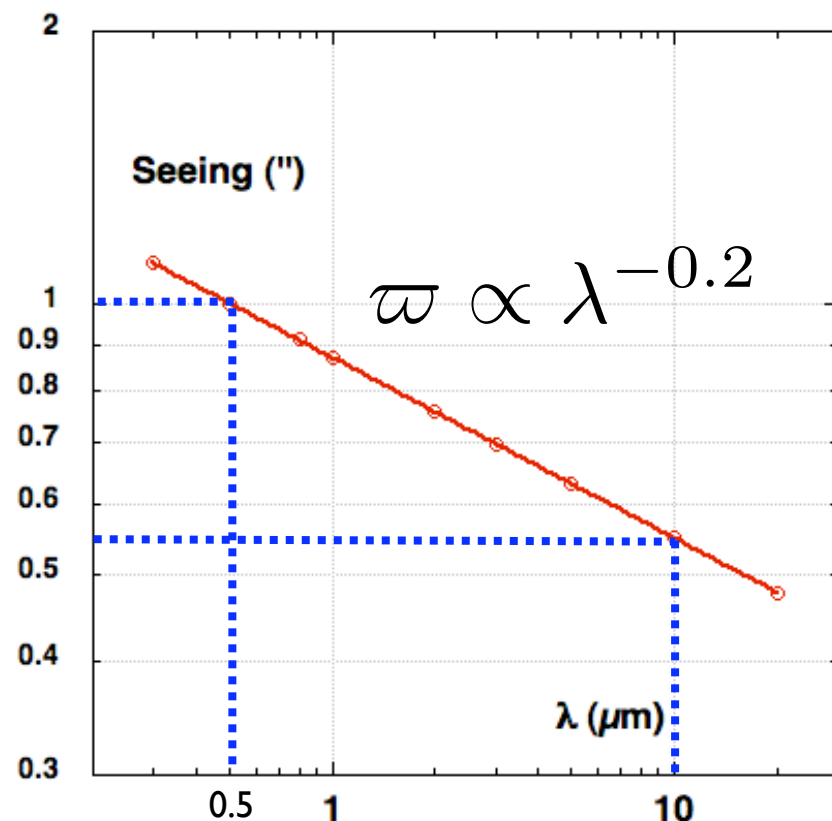
## Introduction

IR imagery started in the 80s (with 8x8 then 32x32 arrays) and now reaches 4 Mpixels detectors.

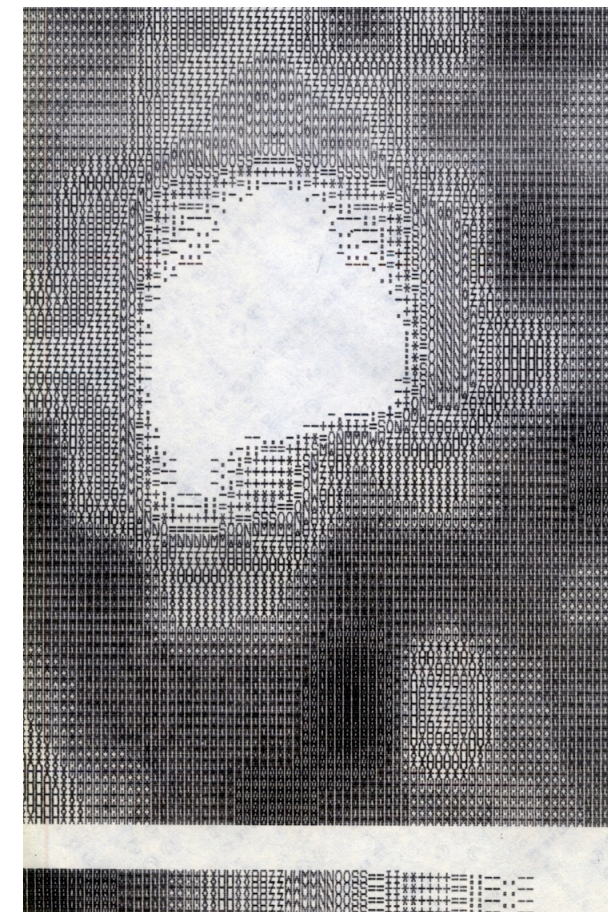
It shares a lot of characteristics with Visible imagery but also shows huge differences.

Although imagery gives access to extended sources brightness (astrometry, proper motion, polarimetry, etc.), this lecture concentrates on PSF (point-like) sources measurements.

NB. For ground-based observations, the image quality (seeing  $w$ ) varies with  $\lambda$  :



ORION BN  
Nebula  
(8x8)  
TBL 1985





# Magnitude systems (above the atmosphere)



# The 2 magnitudes systems : VEGA and AB (ST)

The **Vega** magnitude system uses the A0V star Vega as a reference. By definition, Vega has a magnitude 0 in every band.

The **AB** system doesn't make any reference to a given object.

NB. All the filter / bands position in a spectrum are labelled by their wavelength  $\lambda$  (be it for  $F_\lambda$ , flux per unit wavelength or  $F_\nu$ , flux per unit frequency)

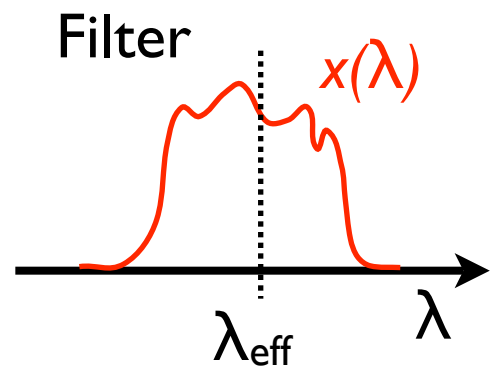
# The 2 magnitudes systems : VEGA and AB (ST)

The **Vega** magnitude system uses the A0V star Vega as a reference. By definition, Vega has a magnitude 0 in every band.

The **AB** system doesn't make any reference to a given object.

NB. All the filter / bands position in a spectrum are labelled by their wavelength  $\lambda$  (be it for  $F_\lambda$ , flux per unit wavelength or  $F_\nu$ , flux per unit frequency)

## The Vega system



Various reference fluxes  $F_o$

$$m_i = -2.5 \log \frac{\int x_i(\lambda) \lambda F_\lambda(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int x_i(\lambda) \lambda F_\lambda^{\text{VEGA}}(\lambda) d\lambda} \quad \text{(photon counting detectors)} \quad N_\lambda = \frac{\lambda F_\lambda}{hc}$$

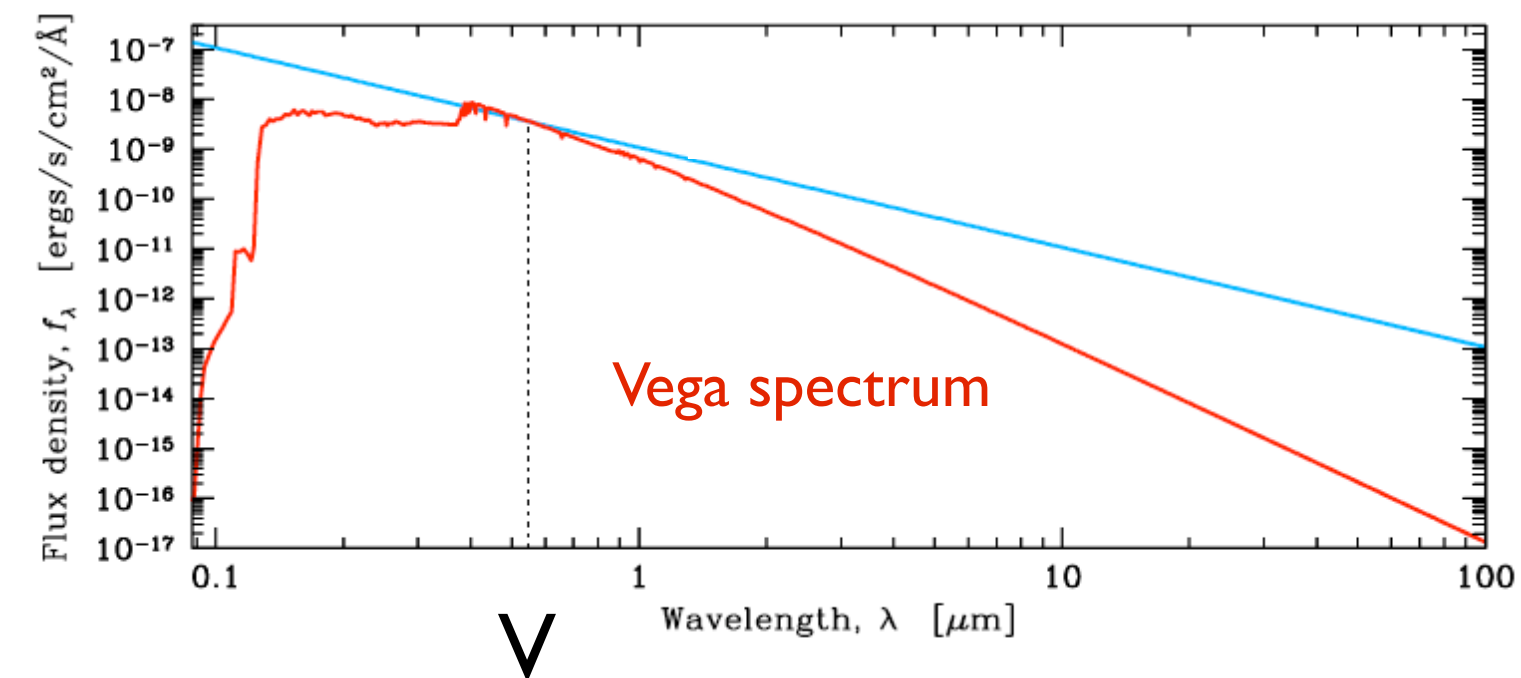
$$m_i = -2.5 \log \frac{\langle F_\lambda(\lambda) \rangle}{F_{\lambda o}(i)} \quad \text{Average flux over the given filter}$$

*Reference flux*

# Reference fluxes from the visible to the infrared in the VEGA system

Zero mag fluxes in the Cousins - Glass - Johnson system (erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s/...)

	V	R	I	J	H	K	Kp	L	L*	M	N	Q
( $\mu\text{m}$ ) $\lambda_{eff}$	0.545	0.641	0.798	1.22	1.63	2.19	2.12	3.45	3.80	4.80	10	20
$\times 10^{-20}$ $f_\nu$ /Hz	3.636	3.064	2.416	1.589	1.021	0.640	0.676	0.285	0.238	0.153	0.037	0.010
$\times 10^{-11}$ $f_\lambda$ / $\text{\AA}$	363.1	217.7	112.6	31.47	11.38	3.961	4.479	0.708	0.489	0.20	0.011	$7.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$

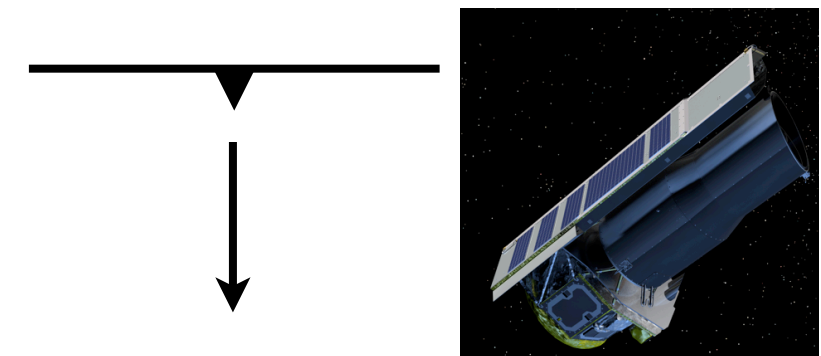
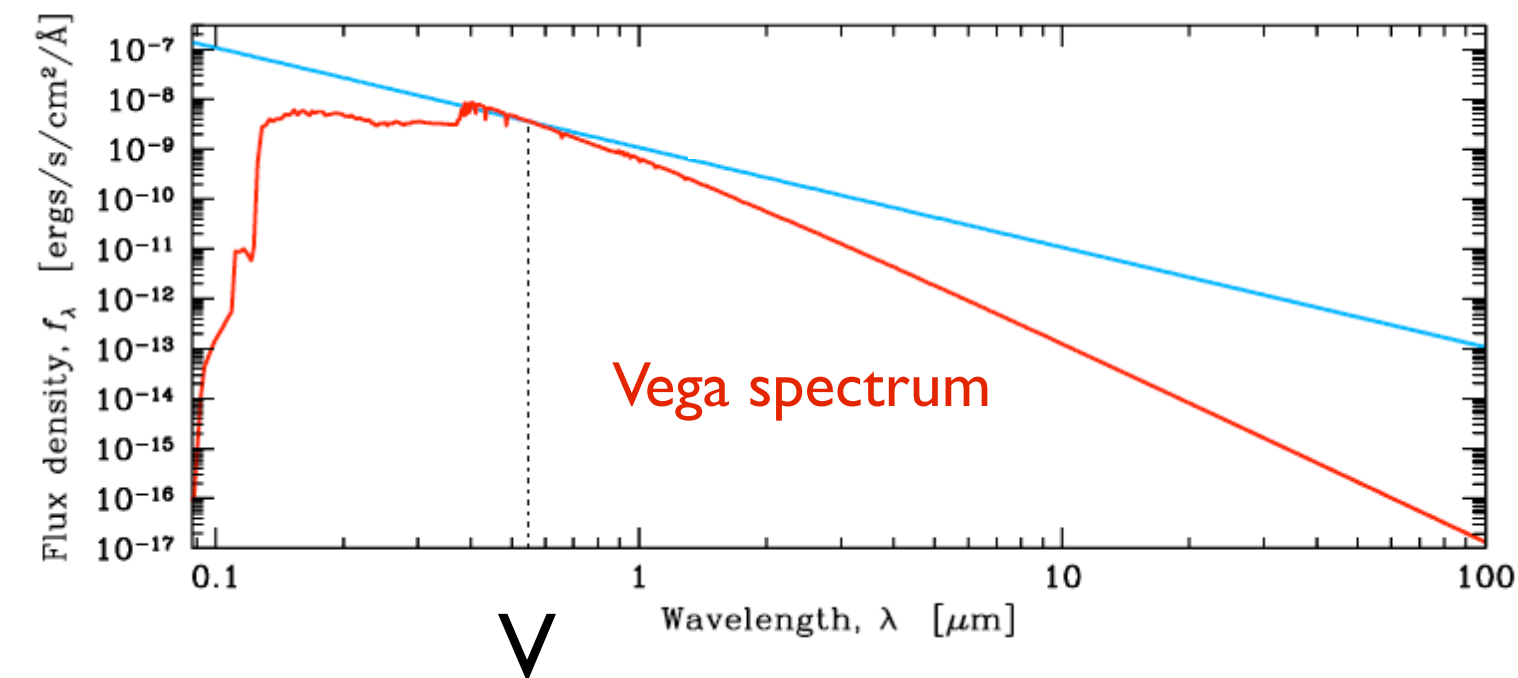




# Reference fluxes from the visible to the infrared in the VEGA system

Zero mag fluxes in the Cousins - Glass - Johnson system (erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s/...)

	V	R	I	J	H	K	Kp	L	L*	M	N	Q
( $\mu\text{m}$ ) $\lambda_{eff}$	0.545	0.641	0.798	1.22	1.63	2.19	2.12	3.45	3.80	4.80	10	20
$\times 10^{-20}$ $f_\nu$ /Hz	3.636	3.064	2.416	1.589	1.021	0.640	0.676	0.285	0.238	0.153	0.037	0.010
$\times 10^{-11}$ $f_\lambda$ / $\text{\AA}$	363.1	217.7	112.6	31.47	11.38	3.961	4.479	0.708	0.489	0.20	0.011	$7.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$



IRAC bands		
#	$\lambda_0$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$F_0$ (Jy)
1	3.550	280.9
2	4.493	179.7
3	5.731	115.0
4	7.872	64.1

(IRAC data handbook)

# The AB (ST) *monochromatic* (spectroscopic) system

Oke & Gunn, 1983, ApJ, 266, 713

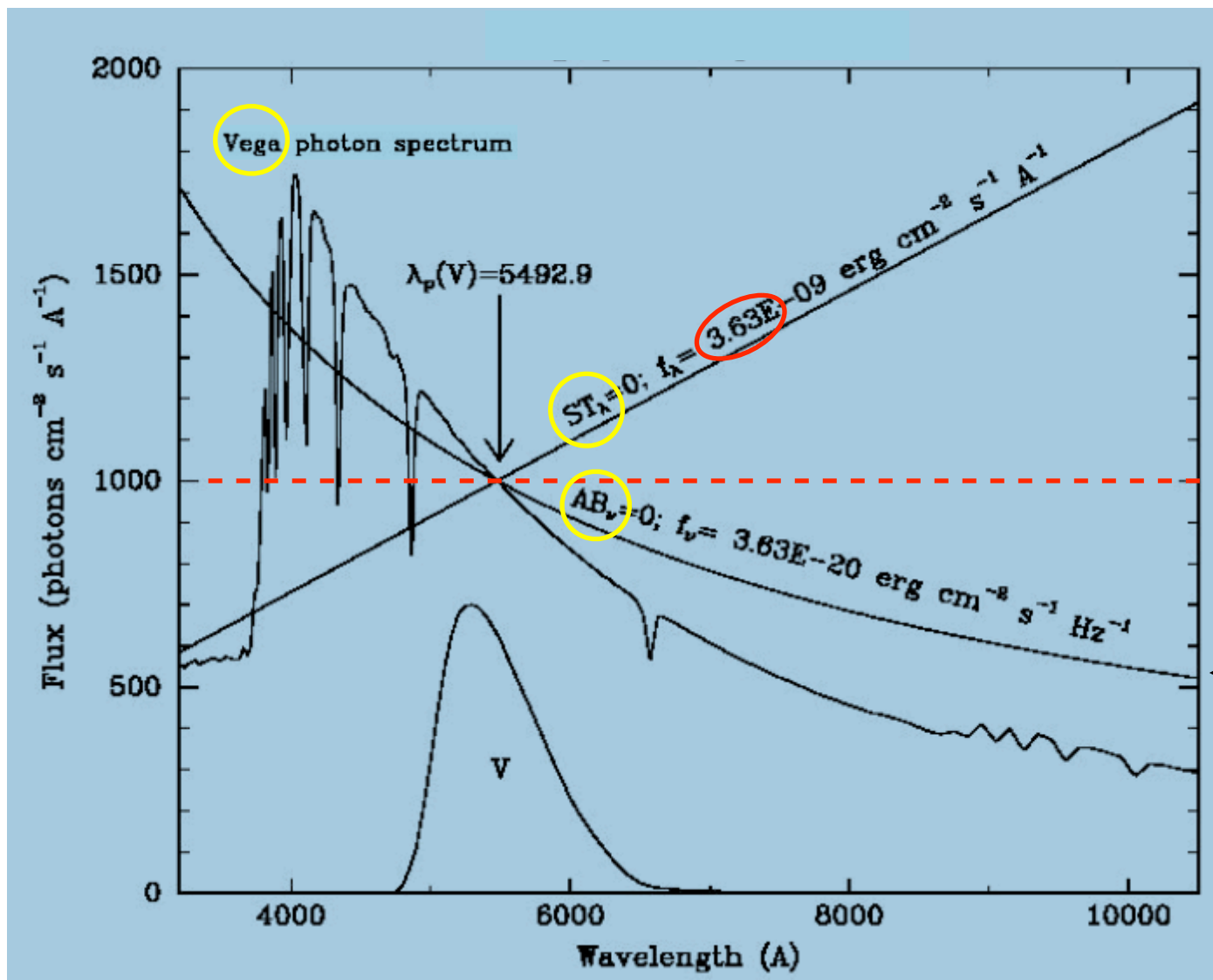
$$\text{AB : } m_\nu(\lambda) = -2.5 \log F_\nu(\lambda) - 48.6$$

$$\text{ST : } m_\lambda(\lambda) = -2.5 \log F_\lambda(\lambda) - 21.1$$

(HST STMAG)



crossing in V



$$1000 \text{ ph/s/cm}^2/\text{\AA} = 3.63 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ erg/s/cm}^2/\text{\AA}$$

(constant flux  $F_\nu$ )

Bessel, Castelli & Plez, 1998, A&A 333, 231

# ST and AB magnitudes (integrated) through filters

$$m_{\text{ST}} = -2.5 \log \frac{\int \lambda F_{\lambda} d\lambda}{\int 3.6 \cdot 10^{-9} \lambda d\lambda} \qquad m_{\text{AB}} = -2.5 \log \frac{\int F_{\nu} d\nu}{\int 3.6 \cdot 10^{-20} d\nu}$$

## An example in the near IR (CFHT WIRCAM) : AB magnitudes

### Quick WIRCam photometric performance table

Filter (click for details)	Y	J	H	K <sub>s</sub>	Low OH-1	Low OH-2	CH4 Off	CH4 On	H2 v=1-0 S(1)	K continuum
Point source in median sky brightness - MagAB - Optimal ap.	22.8	22.9	22.6	22.5	20.9	21.0	22.0	22.0	21.1	20.9
Field galaxy in median sky brightness - MagAB - 2.2" ap.	22.1	22.3	21.9	21.8	20.2	20.3	21.3	21.3	20.4	20.2
Conversion from AB to Vega magnitude system (mag)	0.66	0.96	1.40	1.99	-0.69	-0.87	-1.35	-1.47	-1.97	-2.08

(10 sigma detection in a 1 hour exposure under 0.7 arcsecond seeing with 1.5 airmass)

From WIRCAM ETC (DIET) :

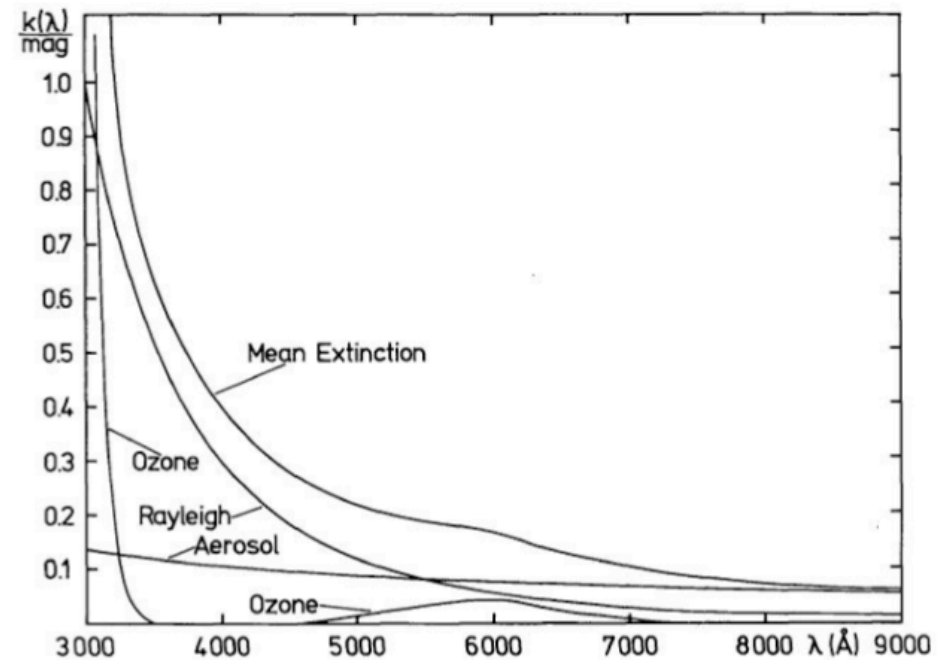
<http://rpm.cfht.hawaii.edu/~wircam/diet/DIET.rpm>

<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/Instruments/Imaging/WIRCam/dietWIRCam.html#P0>



# From under to above the atmosphere

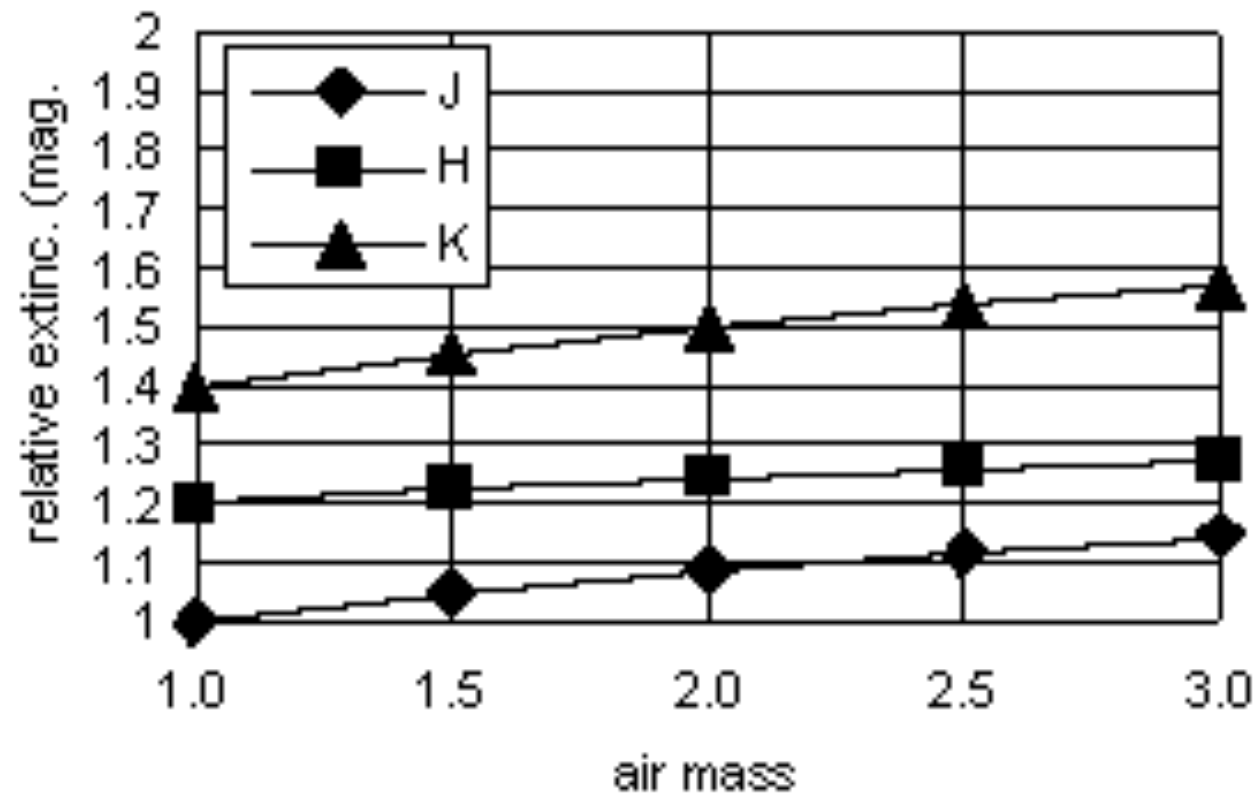
Atmospheric extinction  
can be very high in the visible ...



... and much lower in the infrared

From the Redeye manual  
(CFHT)

$\Delta J$ , or  $\Delta H$ , or  $\Delta K$   
are  $< 0.1$  mag /airmass



# Space based IR imaging

(from Bessel, 2005, ARAA, 43, 293)

IRAS : 12, 25, 60 & 100  $\mu\text{m}$  bands (0.5' - 12' resolution)

Cohen et al., 1992, *Spectral irradiance calibration in the infrared. I - Ground-based and IRAS broadband calibrations*, AJ 104, 1650

ISO : map selected areas. ISOCam : 2.5 - 5.2  $\mu\text{m}$  & 4-18  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Kessler, 2001, ESA-SP, 460, 53

Spitzer : IRAC (3.6, 4.5, 5.8 & 8  $\mu\text{m}$  bands)

MIPS (24, 70 & 160  $\mu\text{m}$  bands)

NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive (IRSA)

<http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/applications/Gator/>



Data Sets
2MASS ▾
COSMOS ▾
IRAS ▾
IRTS ▾
ISO ▾
MSC ▾
MSX ▾
NED Images ▾
SDSS Images ▾
Spitzer ▾
SWAS ▾
BOLOCAM ▾

IRSA CATALOGS	Select
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2MASS (Two Micron All-Sky Survey)	
<input type="radio"/> IRAS (Infrared Astronomical Satellite)	
<input type="radio"/> Spitzer Space Telescope Legacy Science Programs	
<input type="radio"/> MSX (Midcourse Space Experiment)	
<input type="radio"/> COSMOS (Cosmic Evolution Survey)	
<input type="radio"/> DENIS (Deep Near Infrared Survey of the Southern Sky)	



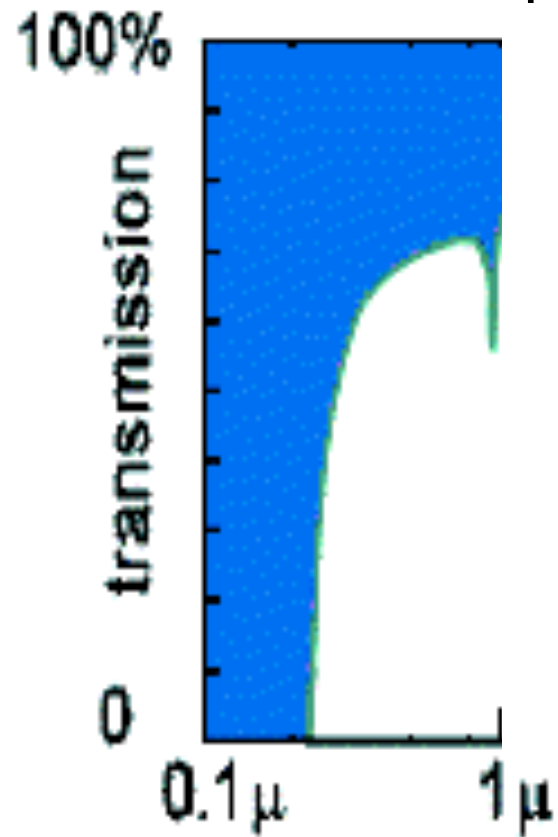


Atmospheric windows and imaging filters



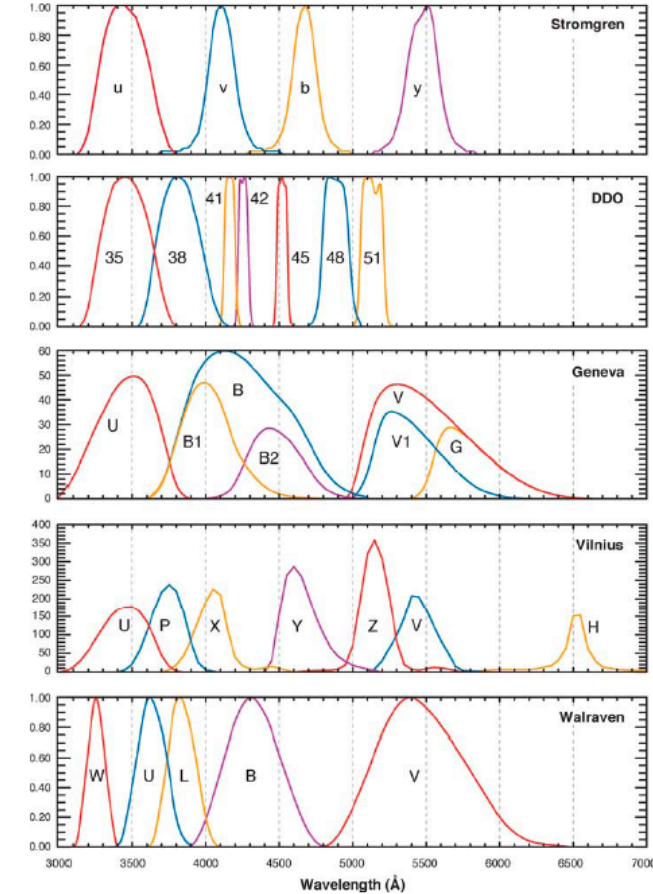
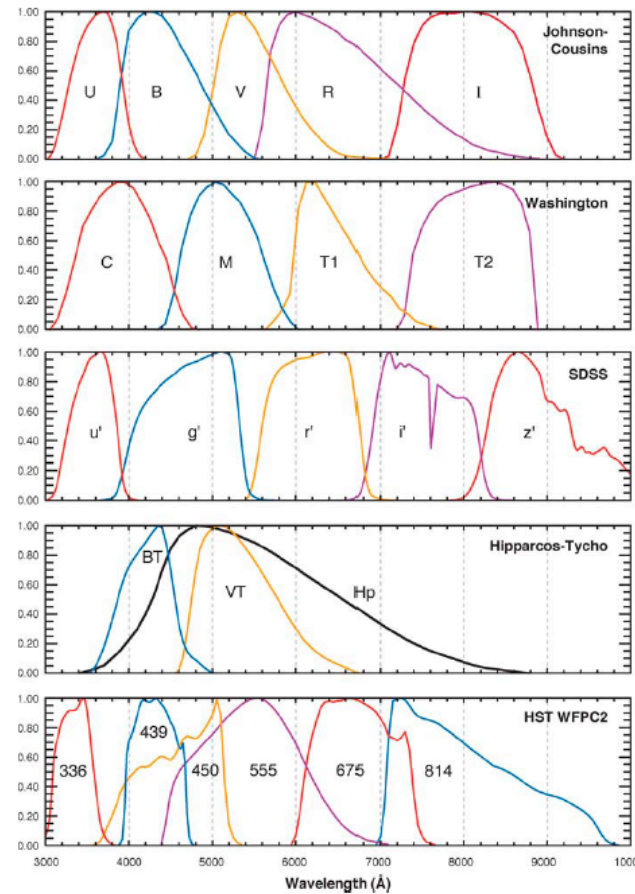
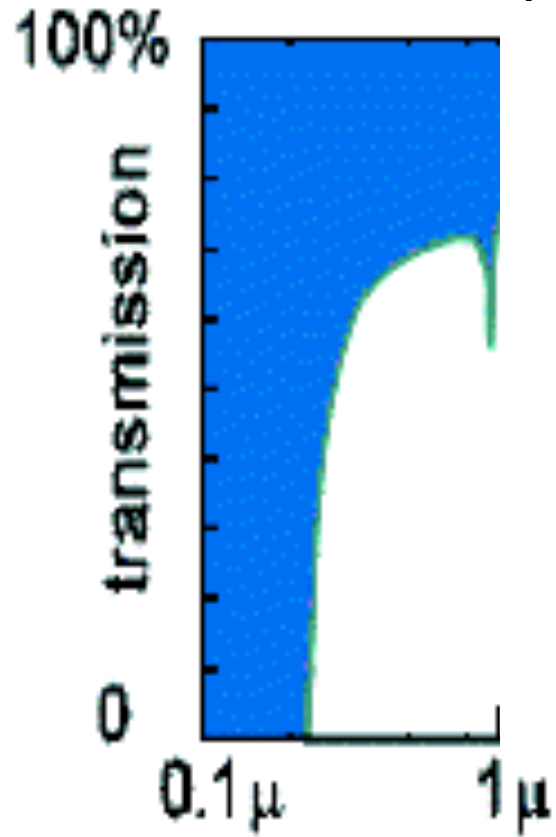
## Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we start from ?

- the atmosphere is “uniformly” transparent from  $0.3\mu\text{m}$  to  $1\mu\text{m}$ .
- A set of filters has been (freely) designed (U, B, V, R, I, z)
- Large detectors (or bootable) exist
- Use of spatial facilities (HST) more for the UV than for the visible.



# Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we start from ?

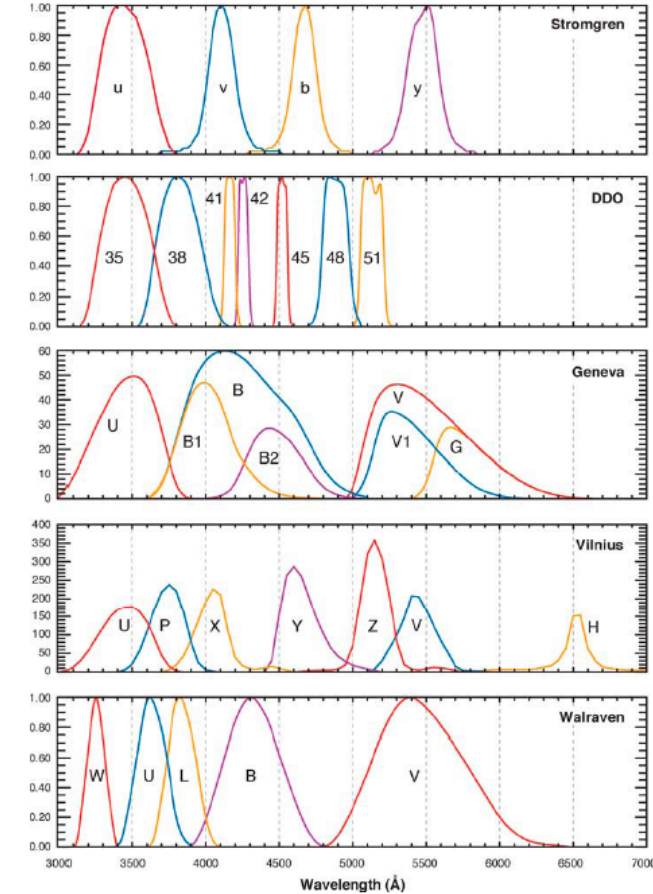
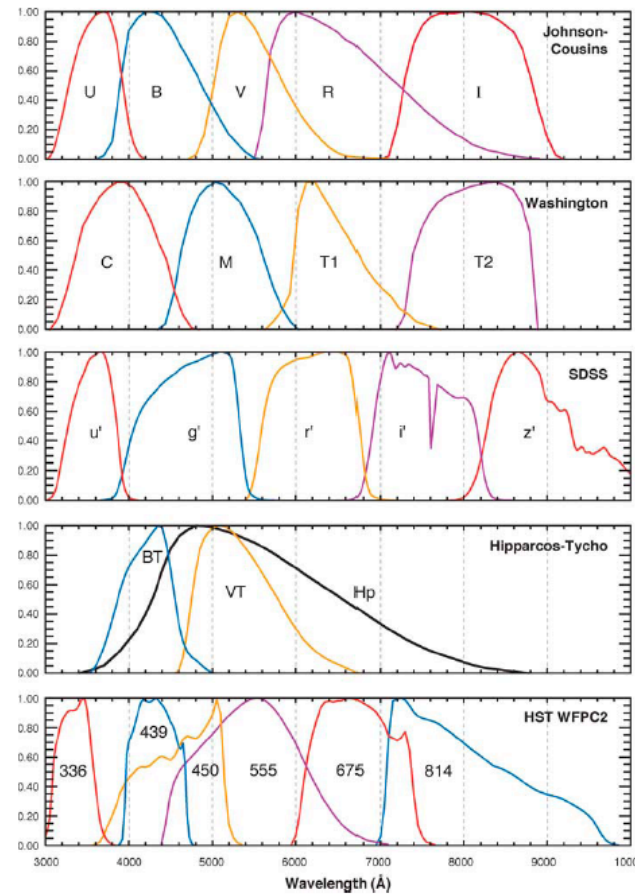
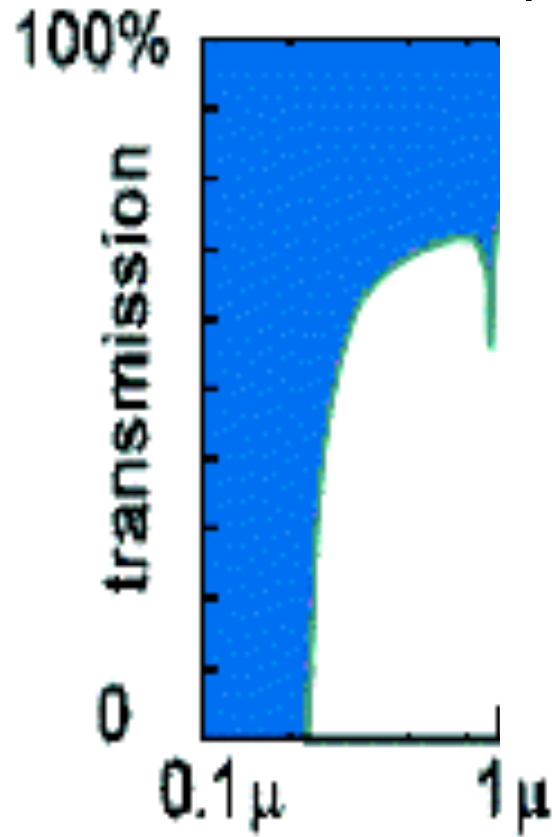
- the atmosphere is “uniformly” transparent from  $0.3\mu\text{m}$  to  $1\mu\text{m}$ .
- A set of filters has been (freely) designed (U, B, V, R, I, z)
- Large detectors (or bootable) exist
- Use of spatial facilities (HST) more for the UV than for the visible.



Bessel, 2005

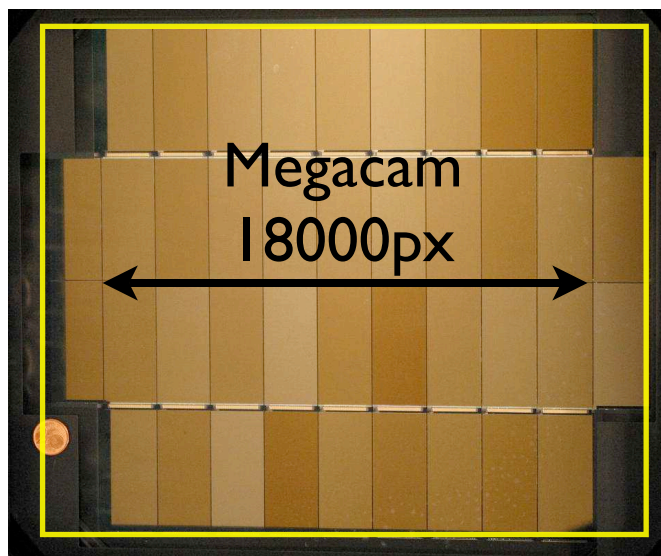
# Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we start from ?

- the atmosphere is “uniformly” transparent from  $0.3\mu\text{m}$  to  $1\mu\text{m}$ .
- A set of filters has been (freely) designed (U, B, V, R, I, z)
- Large detectors (or bootable) exist
- Use of spatial facilities (HST) more for the UV than for the visible.



Bessel, 2005

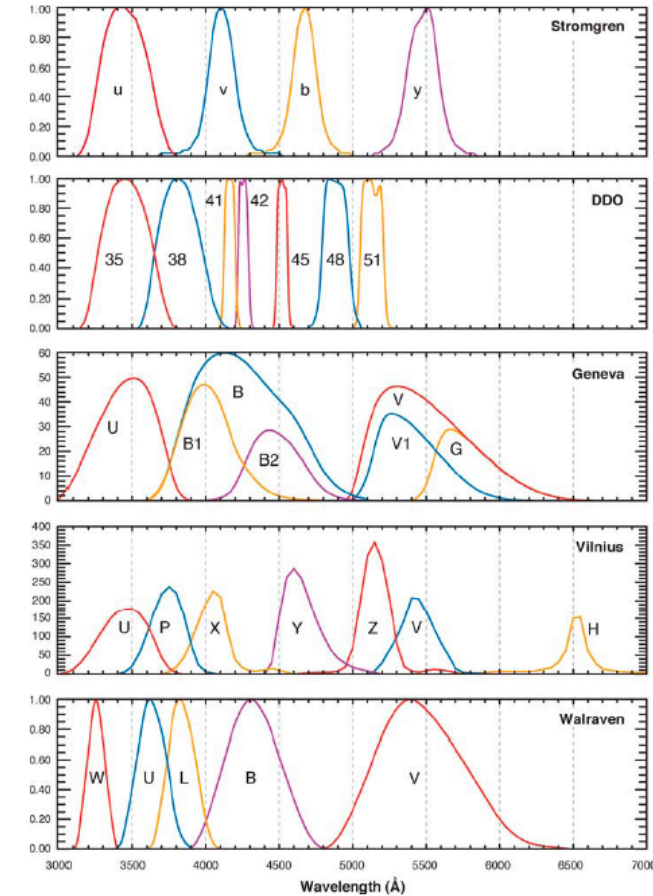
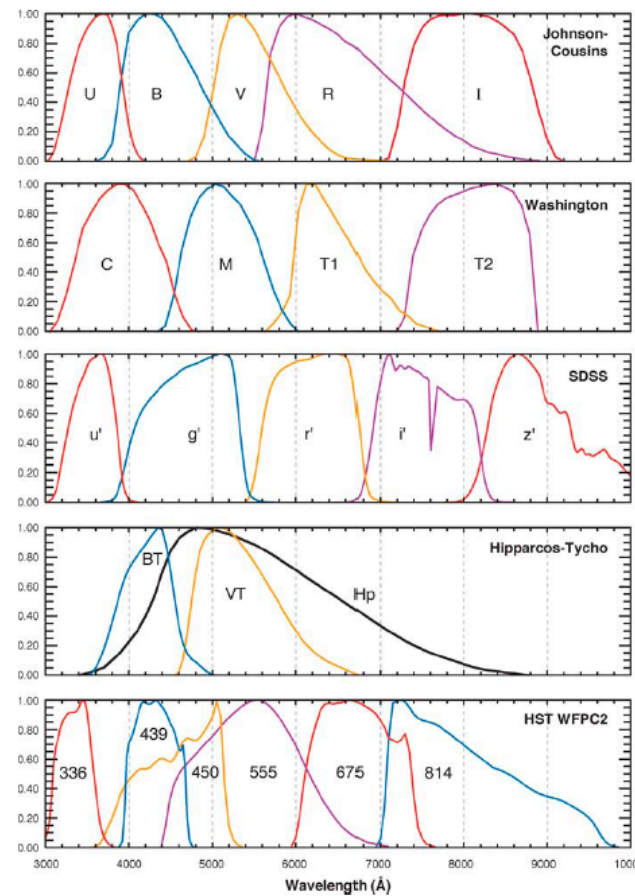
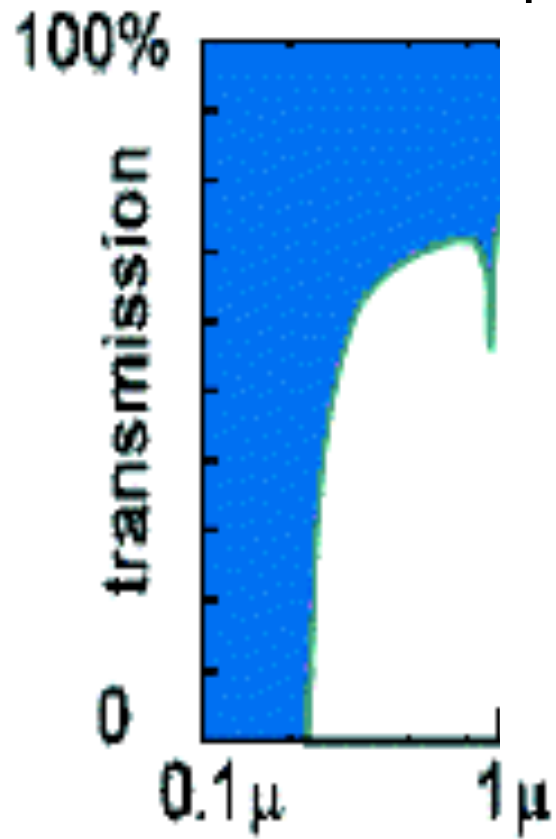
CFHT



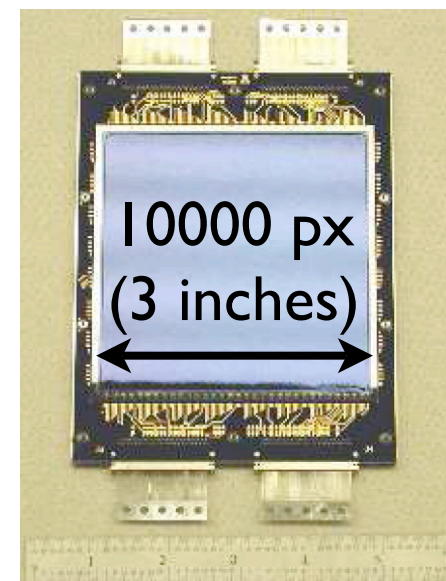
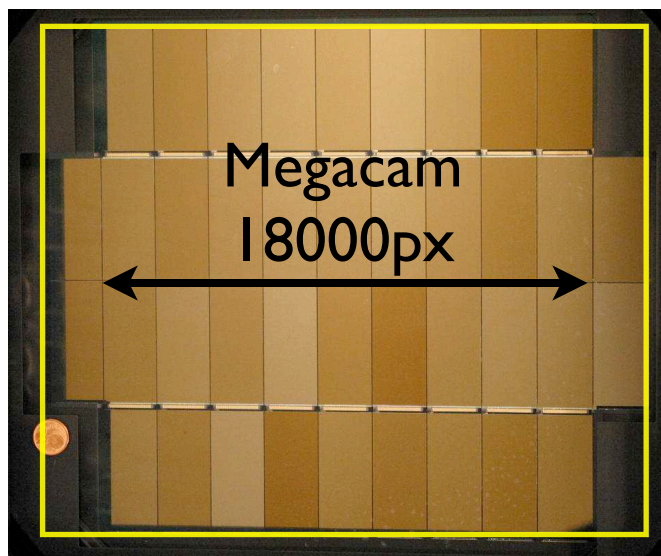


# Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we start from ?

- the atmosphere is “uniformly” transparent from  $0.3\mu\text{m}$  to  $1\mu\text{m}$ .
- A set of filters has been (freely) designed (U, B, V, R, I, z)
- Large detectors (or bootable) exist
- Use of spatial facilities (HST) more for the UV than for the visible.



CFHT

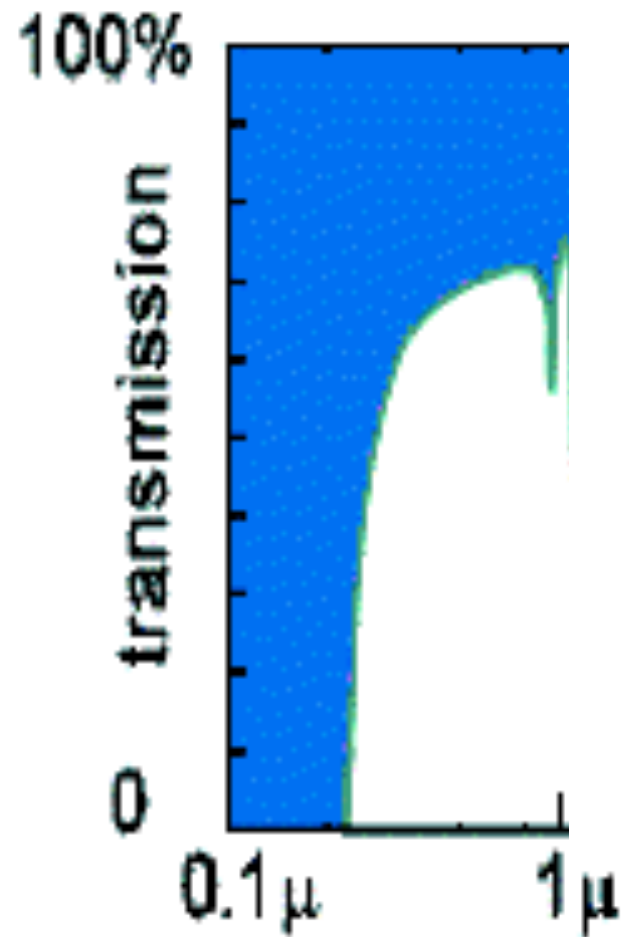


Bessel, 2005



## Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we go ?

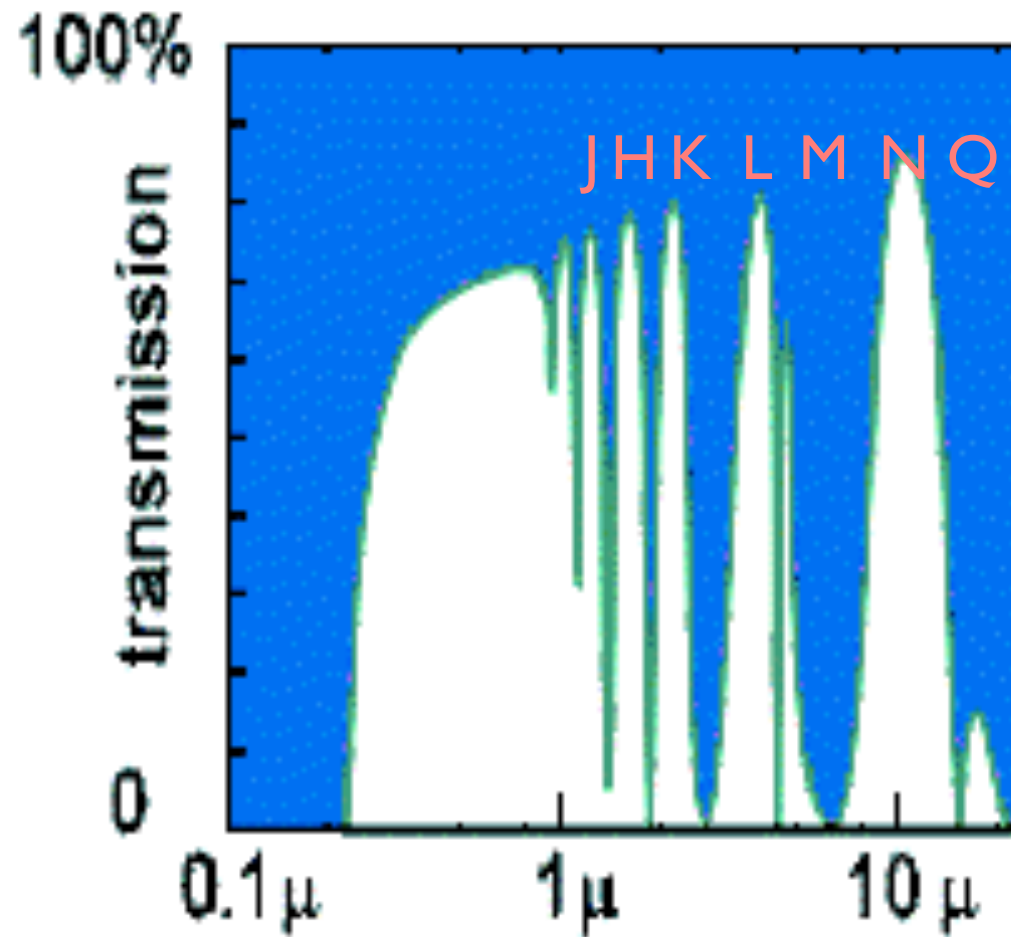
- The atmosphere has transparent windows up to 20 microns, with significant opaque gaps.
- One is not free to choose the filters outside of the transparent windows
- Smaller detectors available



(JWST)

## Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we go ?

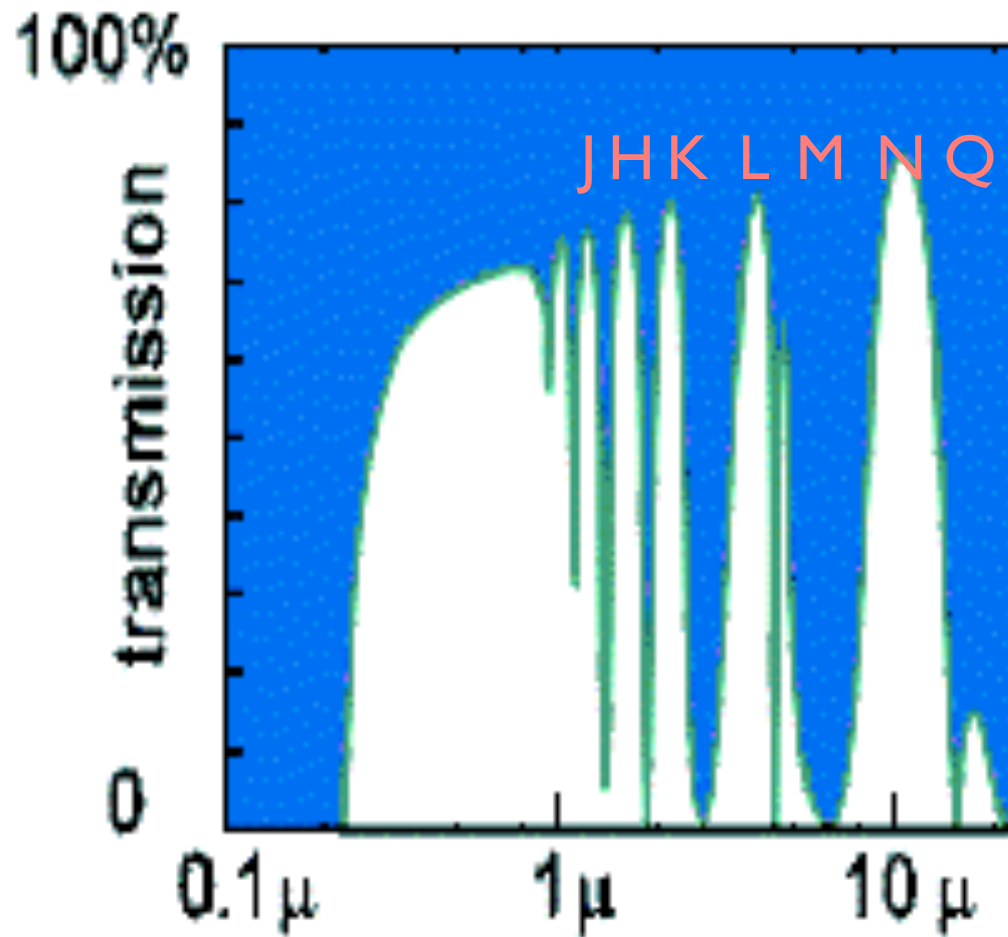
- The atmosphere has transparent windows up to 20 microns, with significant opaque gaps.
- One is not free to choose the filters outside of the transparent windows
- Smaller detectors available



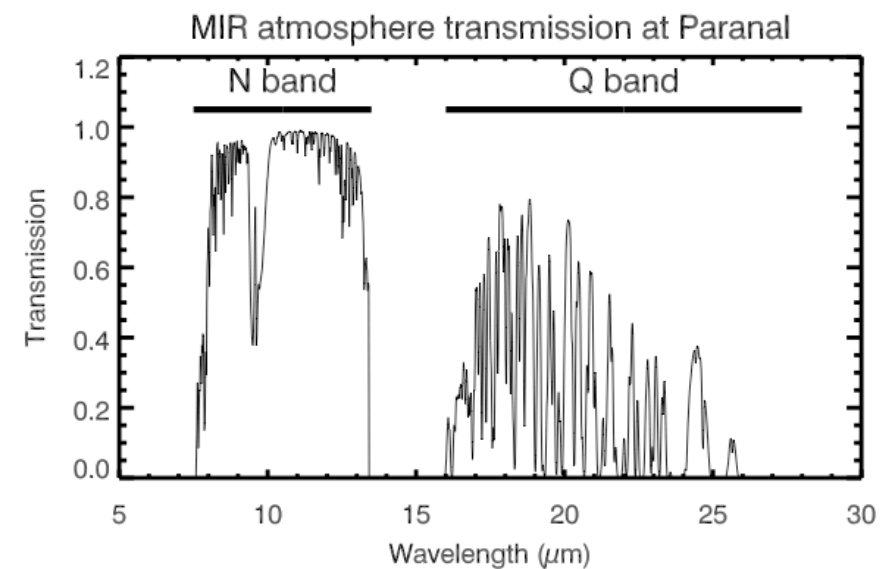
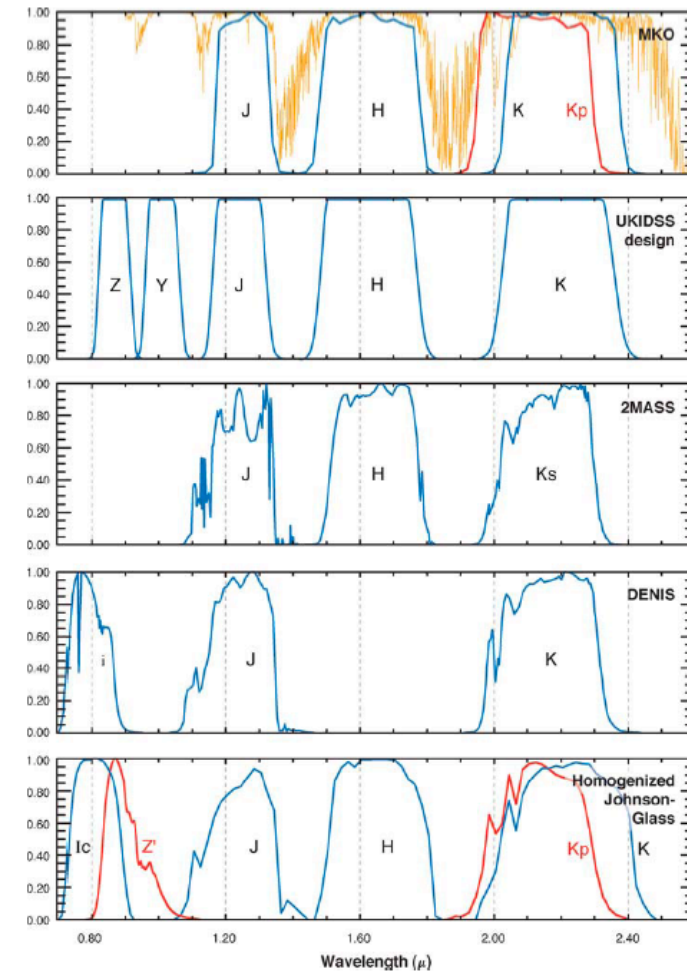
(JWST)

# Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we go ?

- The atmosphere has transparent windows up to 20 microns, with significant opaque gaps.
- One is not free to choose the filters outside of the transparent windows
- Smaller detectors available

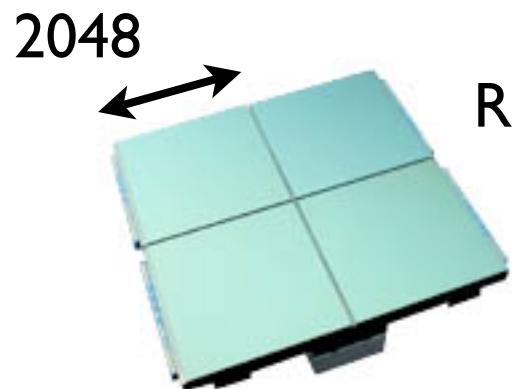
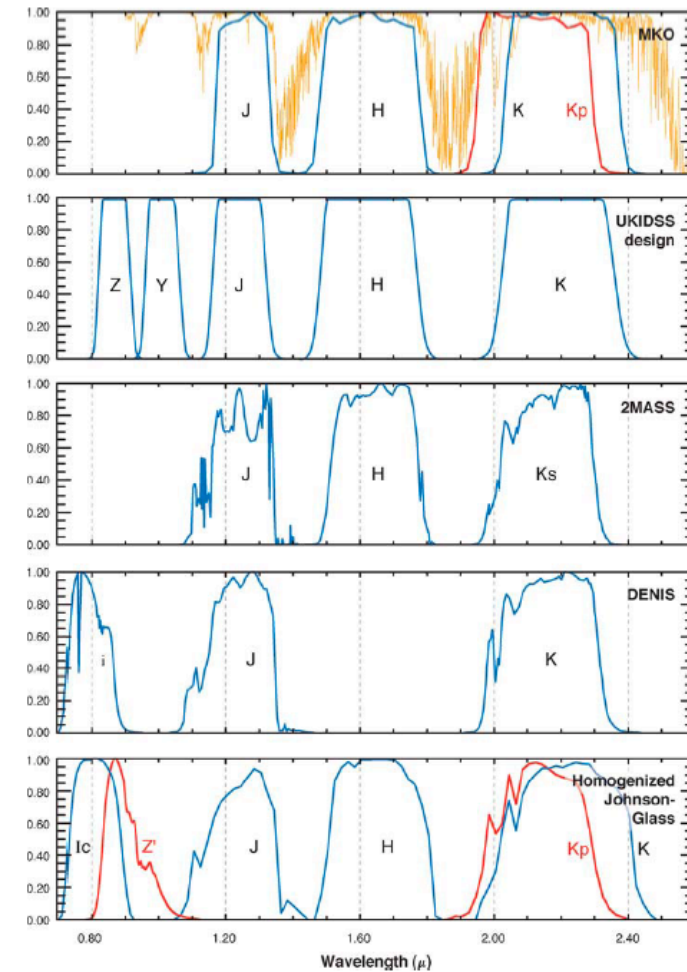
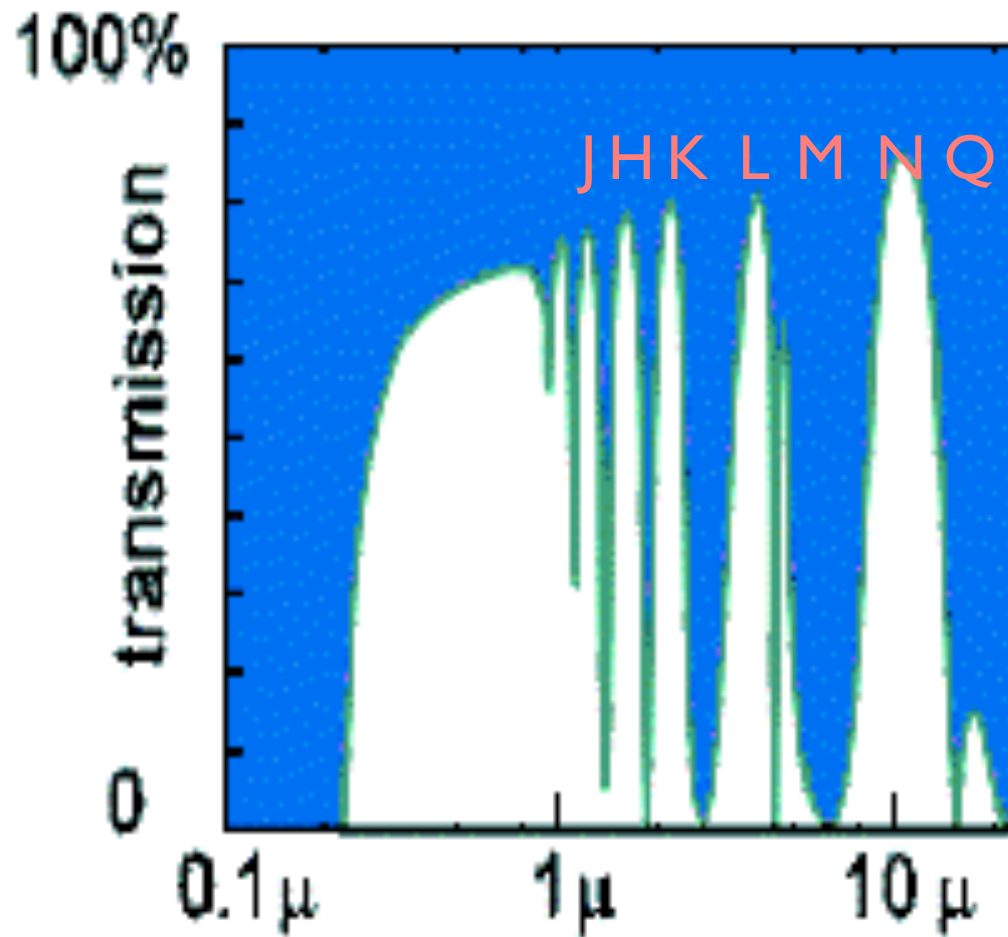


(JWST)



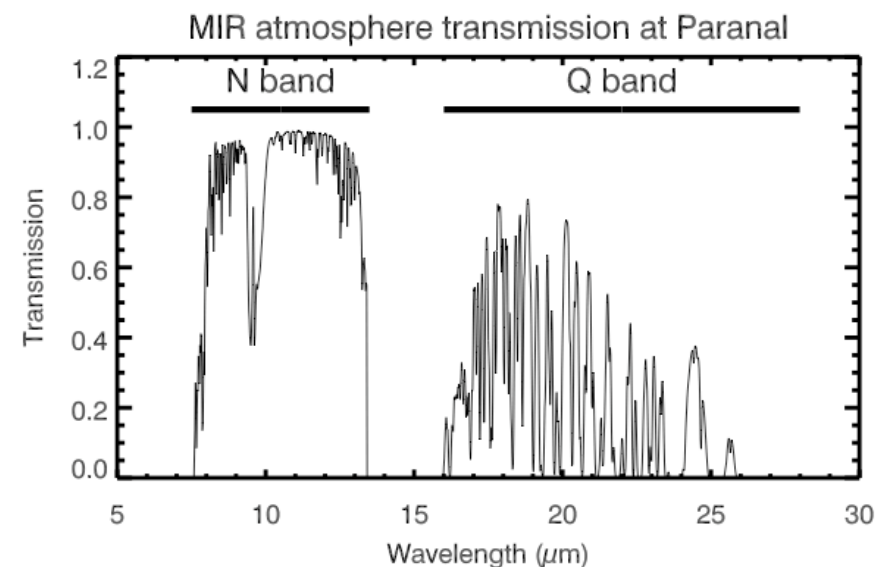
# Ground based Imaging in the infrared : where do we go ?

- The atmosphere has transparent windows up to 20 microns, with significant opaque gaps.
- One is not free to choose the filters outside of the transparent windows
- Smaller detectors available



HAWAII-2RG  
Rockwell (Teledyne) detector

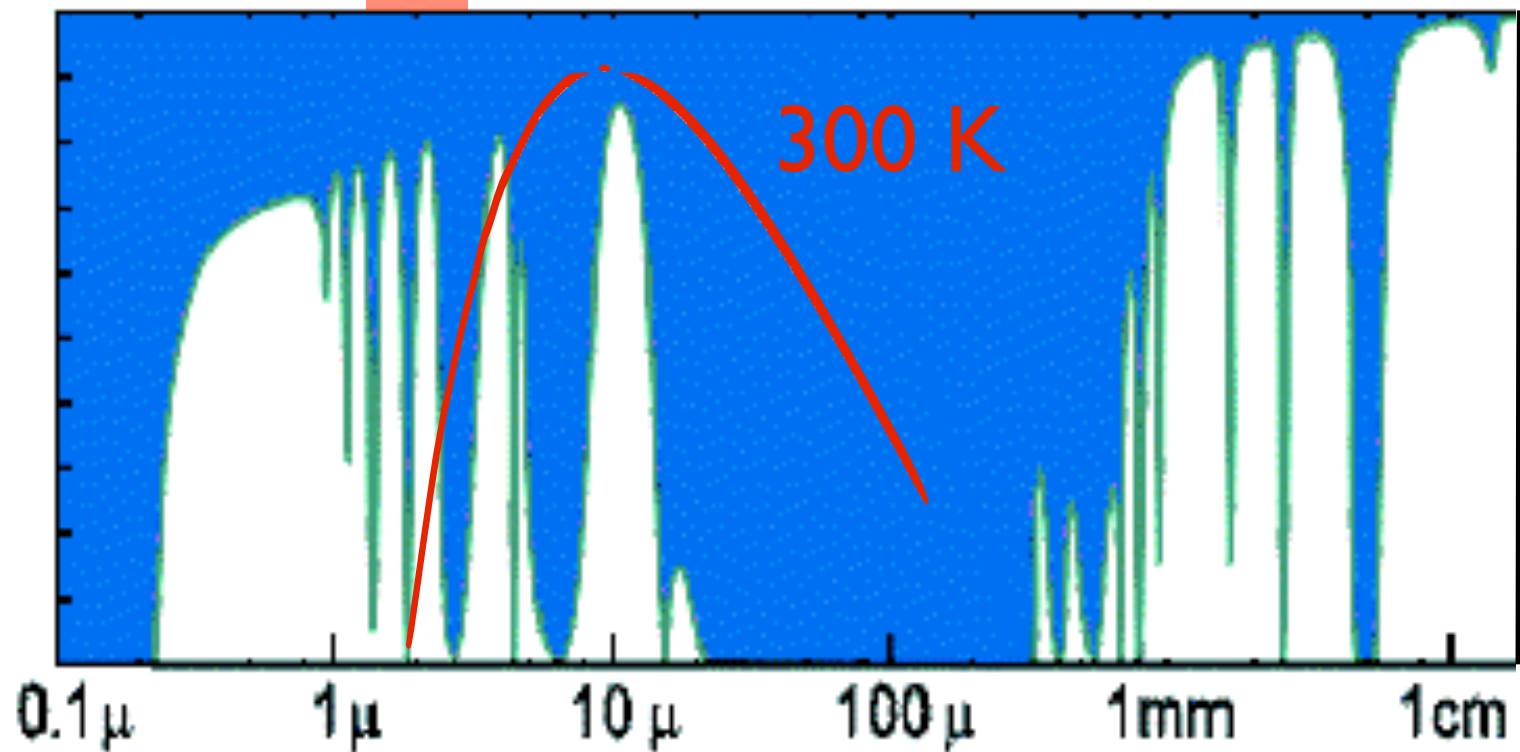
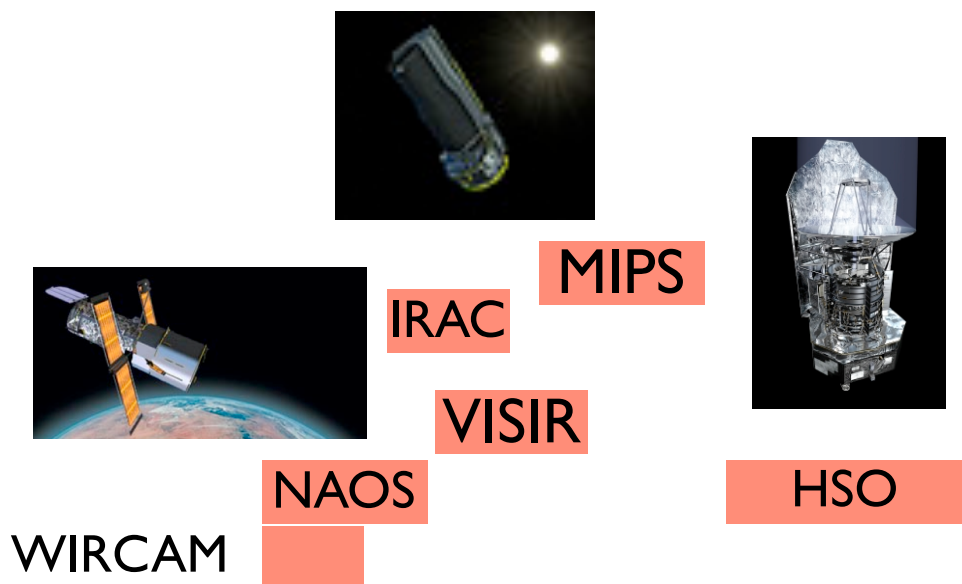
(JWST)





# From ground-based to Spatial imaging

- Longward of  $2\mu\text{m}$  : the atmosphere begins to “glow”
- Huge opaque “wall” exist between  $20$  and  $500\mu\text{m}$
- (note : Upward  $300\mu\text{m}$  -> *sub-millimeter*)



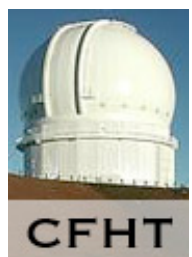
UV    Vis.    IR    Radio



VLT



IRAM



CFHT



UKIRT

K  
O

# From ground-based to Spatial imaging

- Longward of  $2\mu\text{m}$  : the atmosphere begins to “glow”
- Huge opaque “wall” exist between 20 and  $500\mu\text{m}$
- (note : Upward  $300\mu\text{m}$  -> *sub-millimeter*)



MIPS



HSO

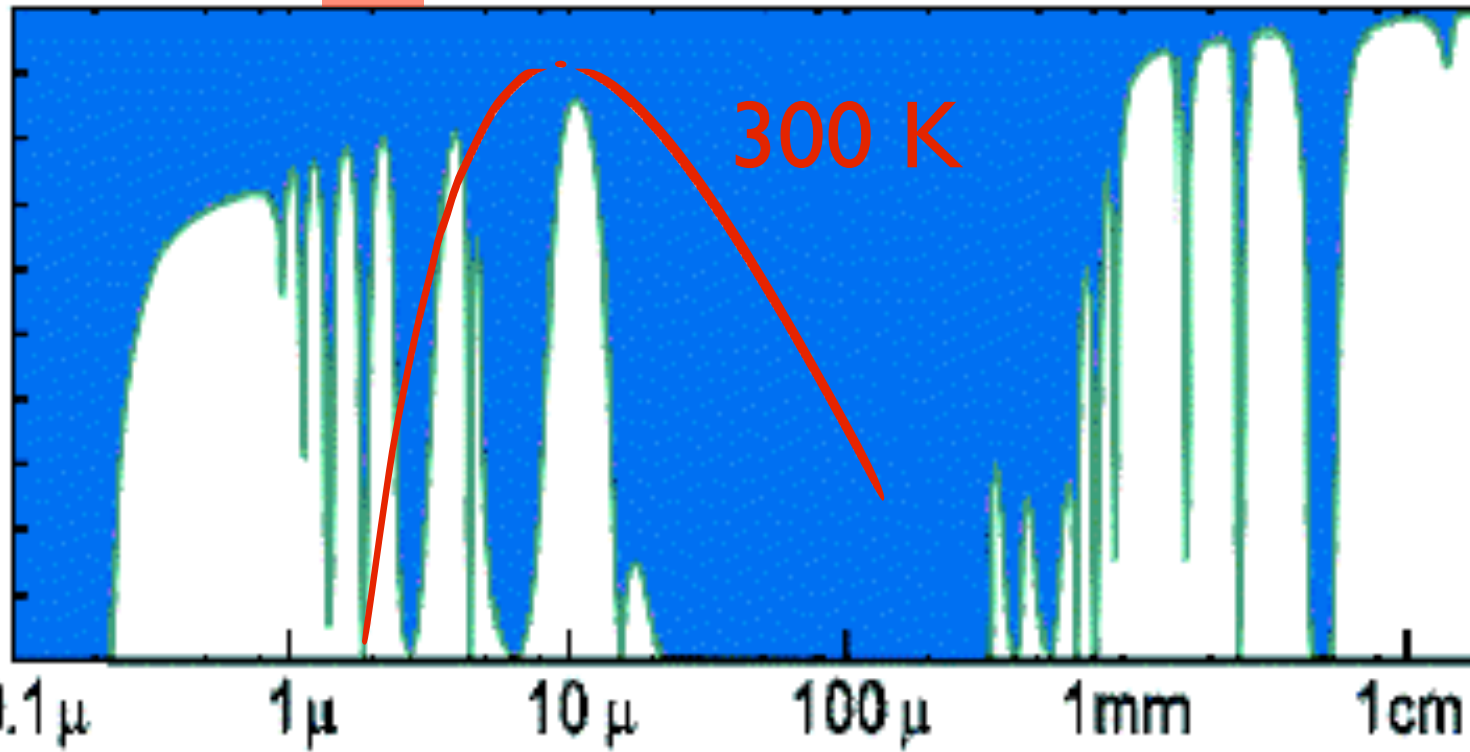


IRAC

VISIR

NAOS

WIRCAM



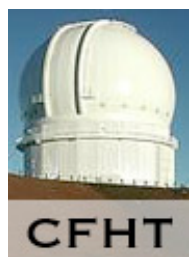
UV    Vis.    IR    Radio



VLT



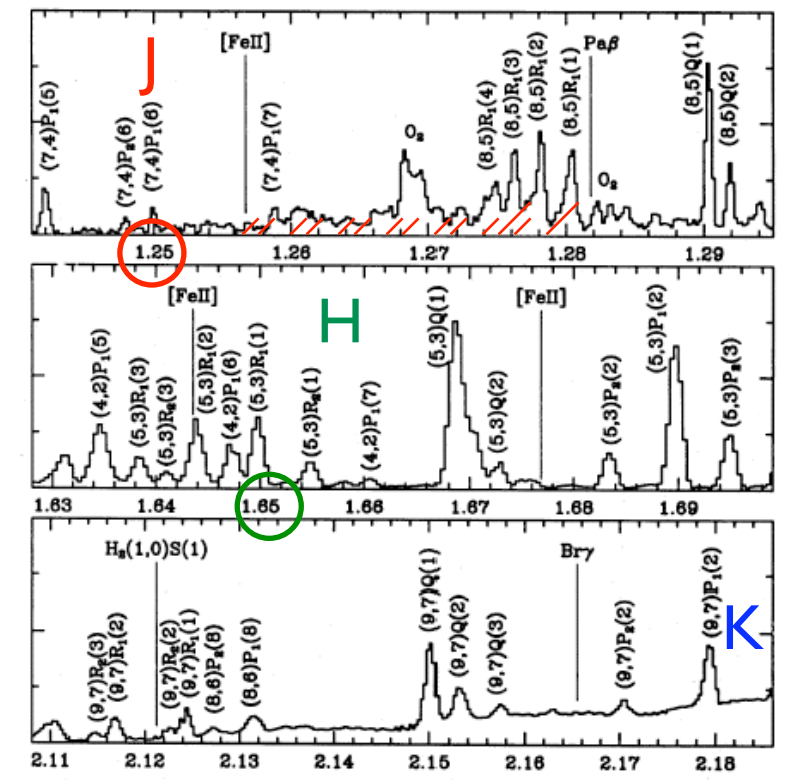
IRAM



CFHT



UKIRT



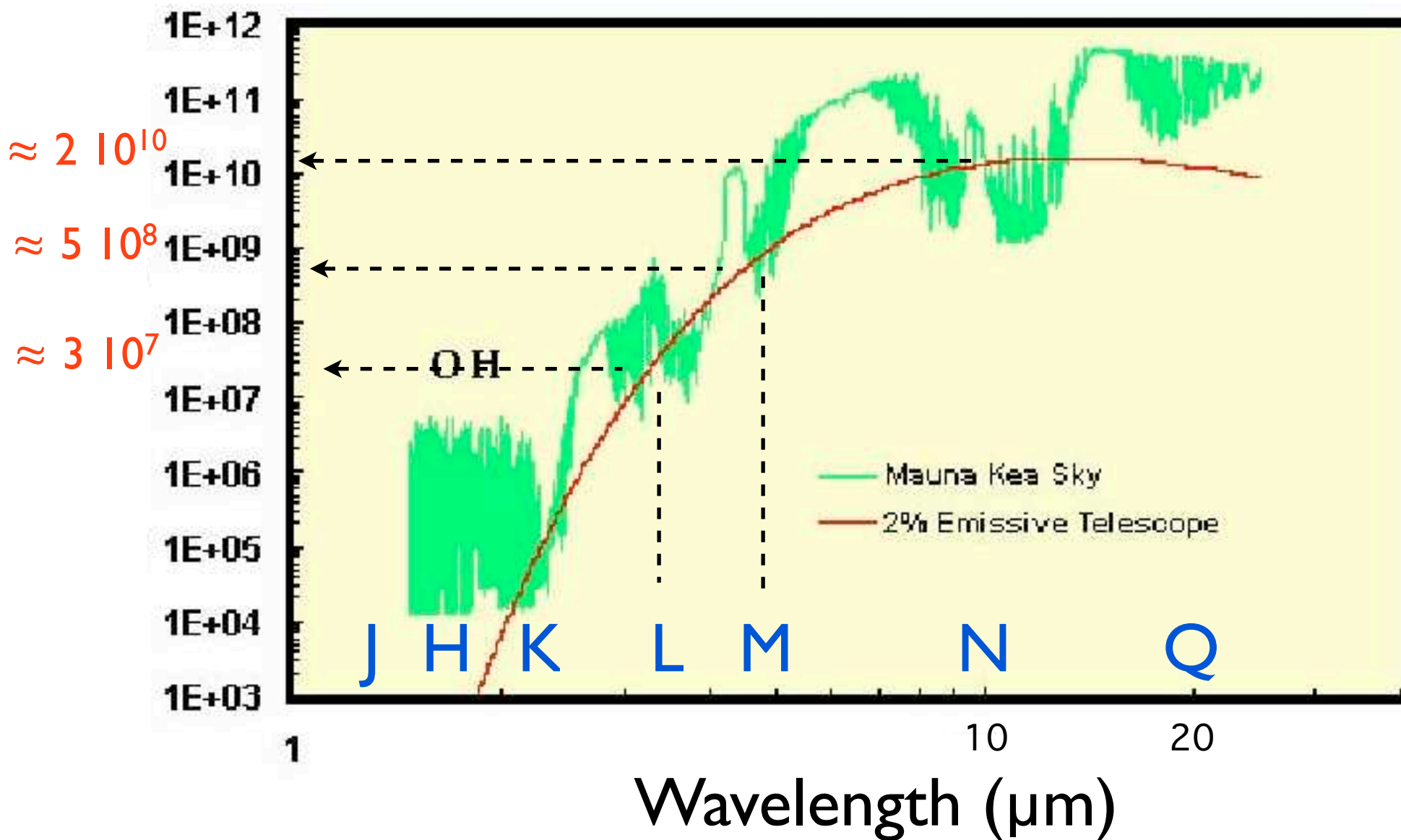
Oliva and Origlia (1992),  
A&A 254, 466

# Looking through the atmosphere : transmission AND emission

Brightness  
(ph/s/ $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^2/\text{arcsec}^2$ )

Mauna Kea Atmospheric emission

La Silla



Band	Mag/" <sup>2</sup>
U	22
B	23
V	22
R	21
I	20
J	15.2
H	13.6
K <sub>S</sub>	12.7
K	12.3
L	<u>4.3</u>
M	<u>0.2</u>

N -6.4  
Q -8.5

(Vega mag)

(cf. Roche, 2003, ASR 34, 583)

$$I(\tau) = I_o e^{-\tau_{atm}} + B(1 - e^{-\tau_{atm}})$$



# Background photons from sky magnitude/arcsec<sup>2</sup> : La Silla vs. Mauna Kea

L	<u>4.3</u>
M	<u>0.2</u>

**L band** ;  $\lambda = 3.5 \mu\text{m}$  ;  $h\nu = hc/\lambda = 5.7 \cdot 10^{-20} \text{ J}$

La Silla brightness : 4.3 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.

From Bessel et al., 1998 :

$$m = 0 \rightarrow f_\lambda = 0.708 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ erg/s/cm}^2/\text{\AA} = 0.708 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ W/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (1)$$

$$m = 0 \rightarrow N_\lambda^o = 1.2 \cdot 10^9 \text{ ph/s/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (2)$$

$$m = 4.3 \rightarrow N_\lambda^m = 10^{-4.3/2.5} \times 1.2 \cdot 10^9 = 3 \cdot 10^7 \text{ ph/s/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (3)$$

**M band** ;  $\lambda = 4.8 \mu\text{m}$  ;  $h\nu = hc/\lambda = 4.1 \cdot 10^{-20} \text{ J}$

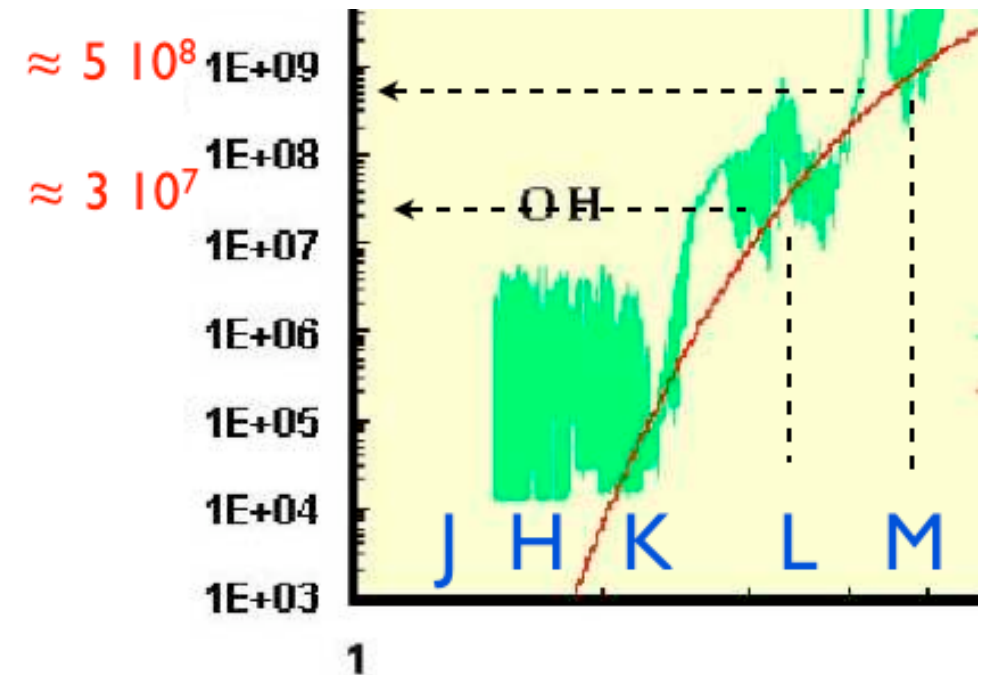
La Silla brightness : 4.3 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.

From Bessel et al., 1998 :

$$m = 0 \rightarrow f_\lambda = 0.20 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ erg/s/cm}^2/\text{\AA} = 0.20 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ W/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (4)$$

$$m = 0 \rightarrow N_\lambda^o = 4.8 \cdot 10^8 \text{ ph/s/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (5)$$

$$m = 0.2 \rightarrow N_\lambda^m = 10^{-0.2/2.5} \times 4.8 \cdot 10^8 = 4 \cdot 10^8 \text{ ph/s/m}^2/\mu\text{m} \quad (6)$$



# Comparing source photons with background photons

Band	Mag/'' <sup>2</sup>
U	22
B	23
V	22
R	21
I	20
J	15.2
H	13.6
K <sub>S</sub>	12.7
K	12.3
L	<u>4.3</u>
M	<u>0.2</u>
N	-6.4
Q	-8.5

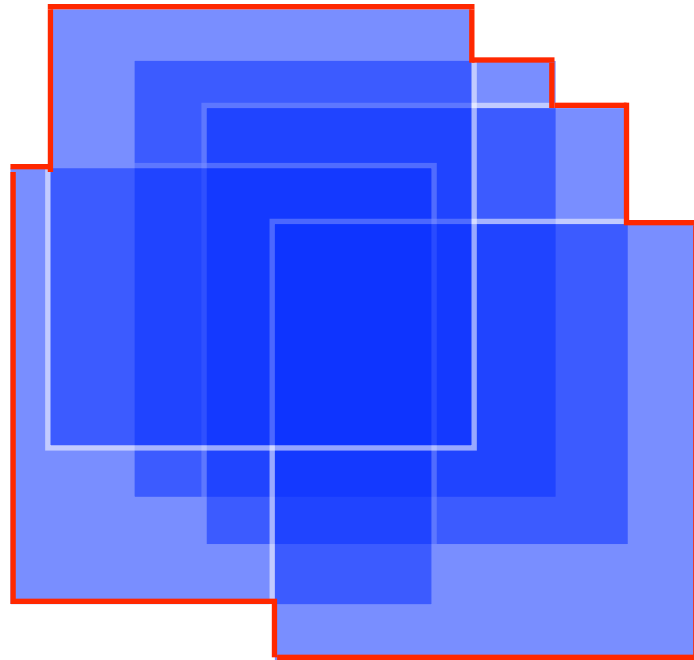
This table gives the needed magnitude of a source with a PSF  $\approx 1$  arcsec<sup>2</sup> to provide the same number of photons than the sky background.

This yields a very strong constraint on the observing procedure when sources are faint :  
Jitter, Chopping & Nodding



# Subtracting (weak) sky emission I :

Jitter



N (odd) frames,  $\alpha$  &  $\delta$  offsets

Median filtering  $\rightarrow$  sky emission

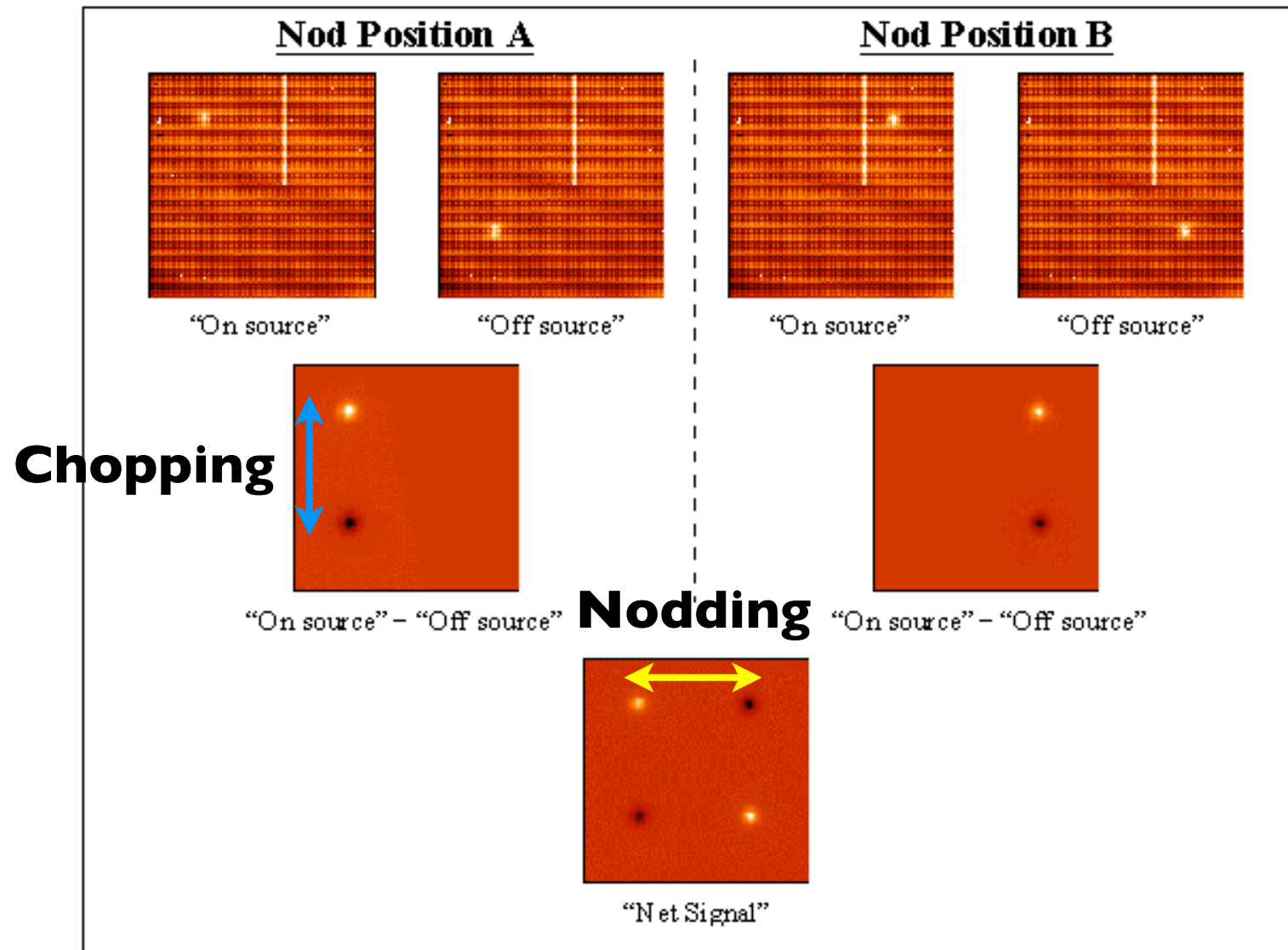
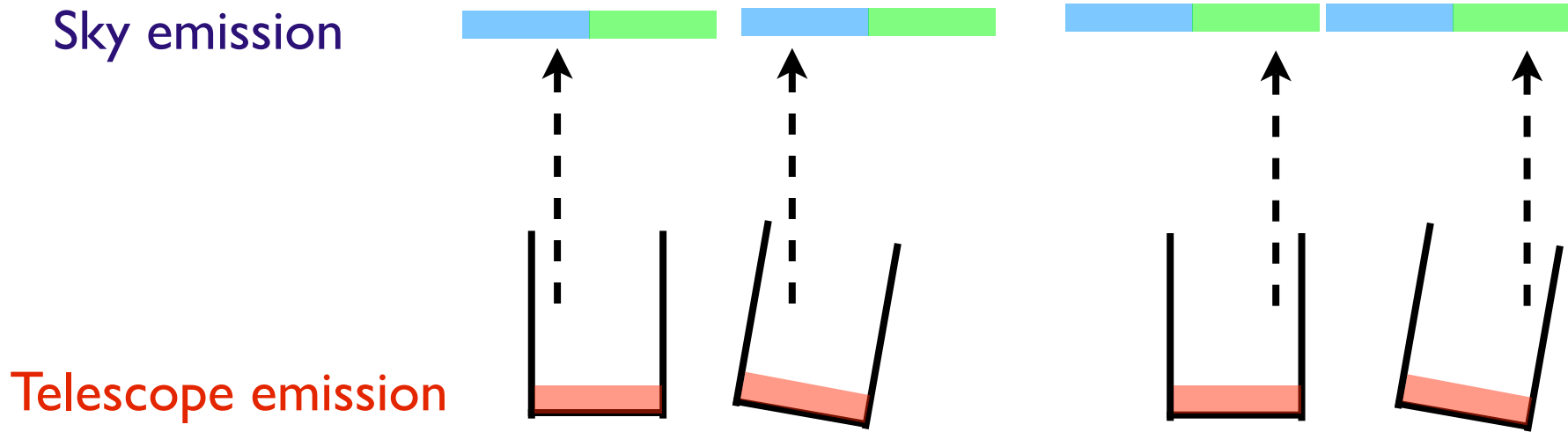
Sky subtraction

! SNR is not uniform across the total field

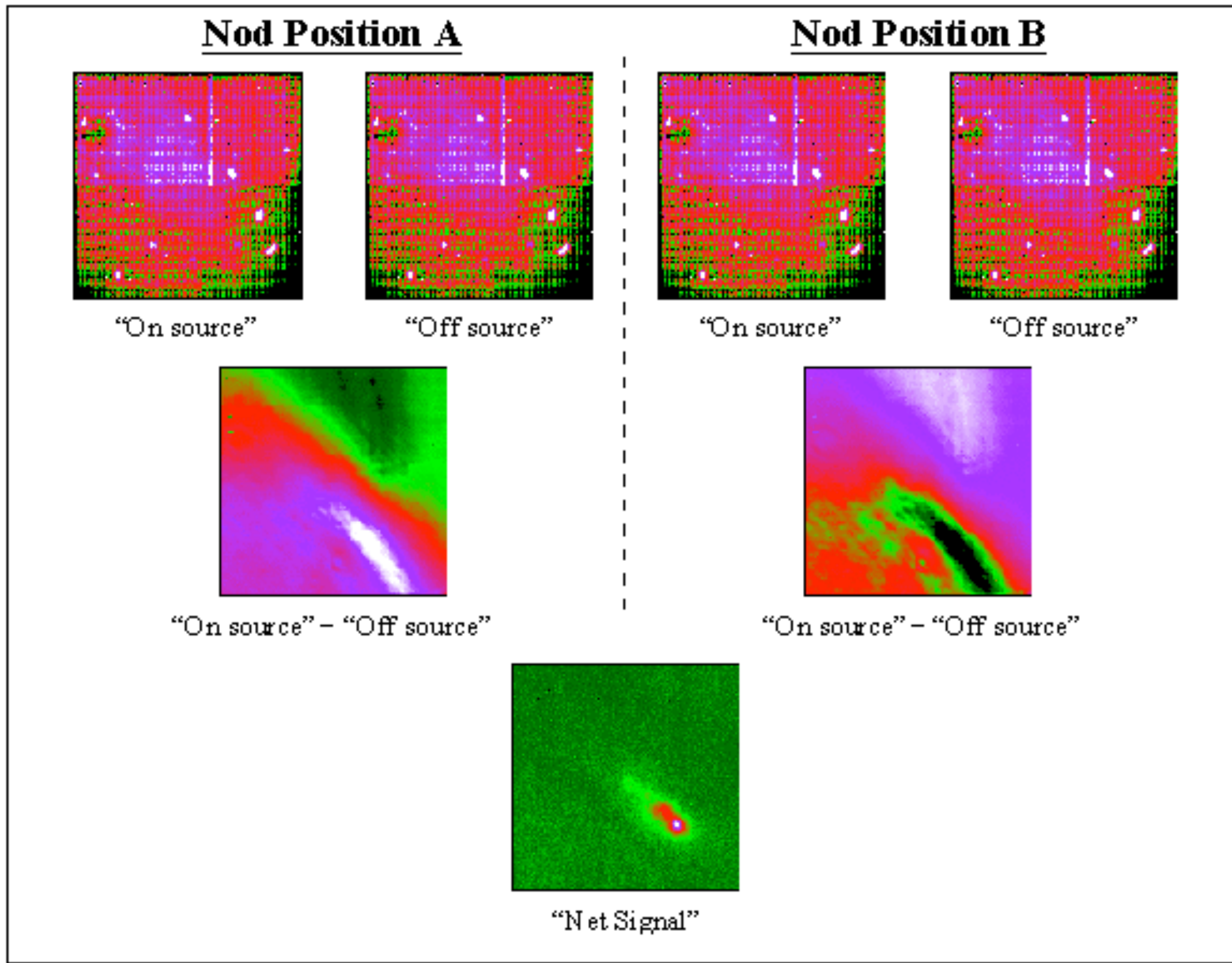


# Subtracting sky (and telescope) strong emission II :

## Chopping and Nodding on a bright source (star)



# Subtracting sky (and telescope) strong emission III : Chopping and Nodding on a faint source (galaxie)





# Infrared detectors and imaging Surveys

## The basics of detection

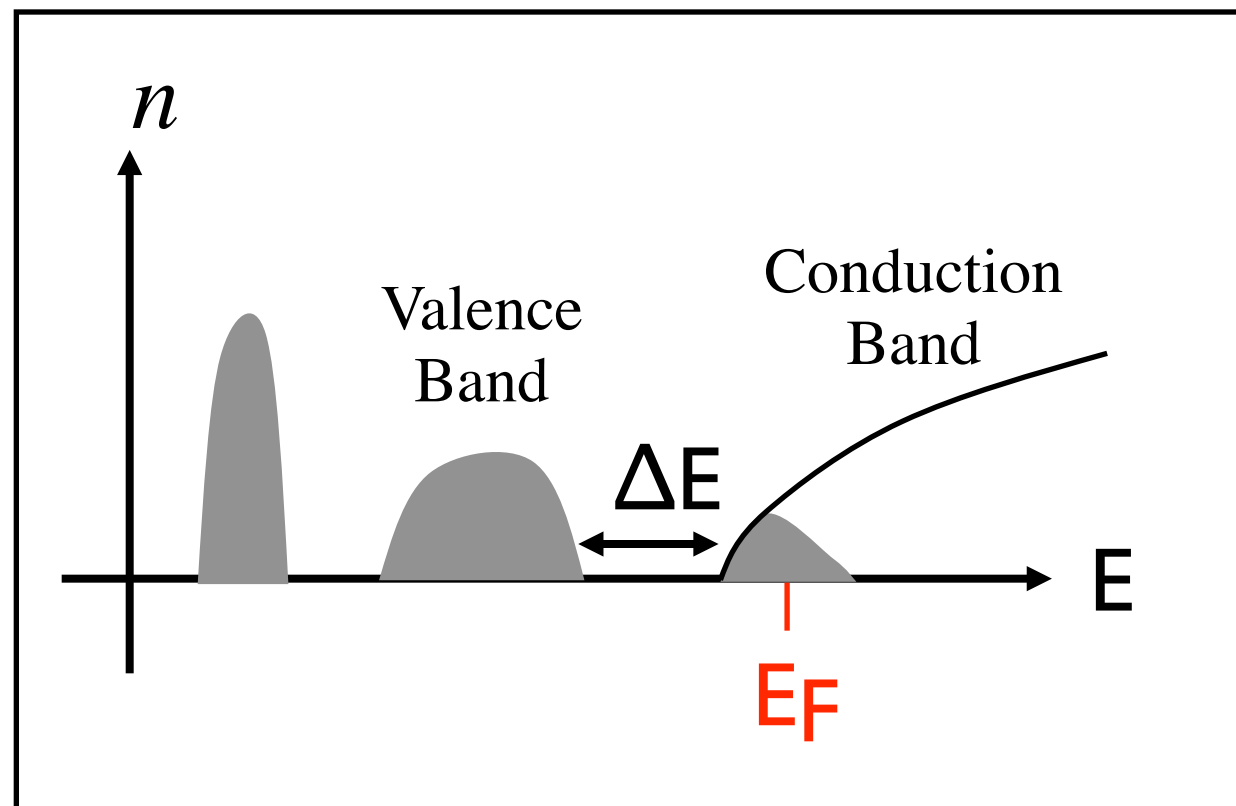
Interaction of photons with atoms in a cristal



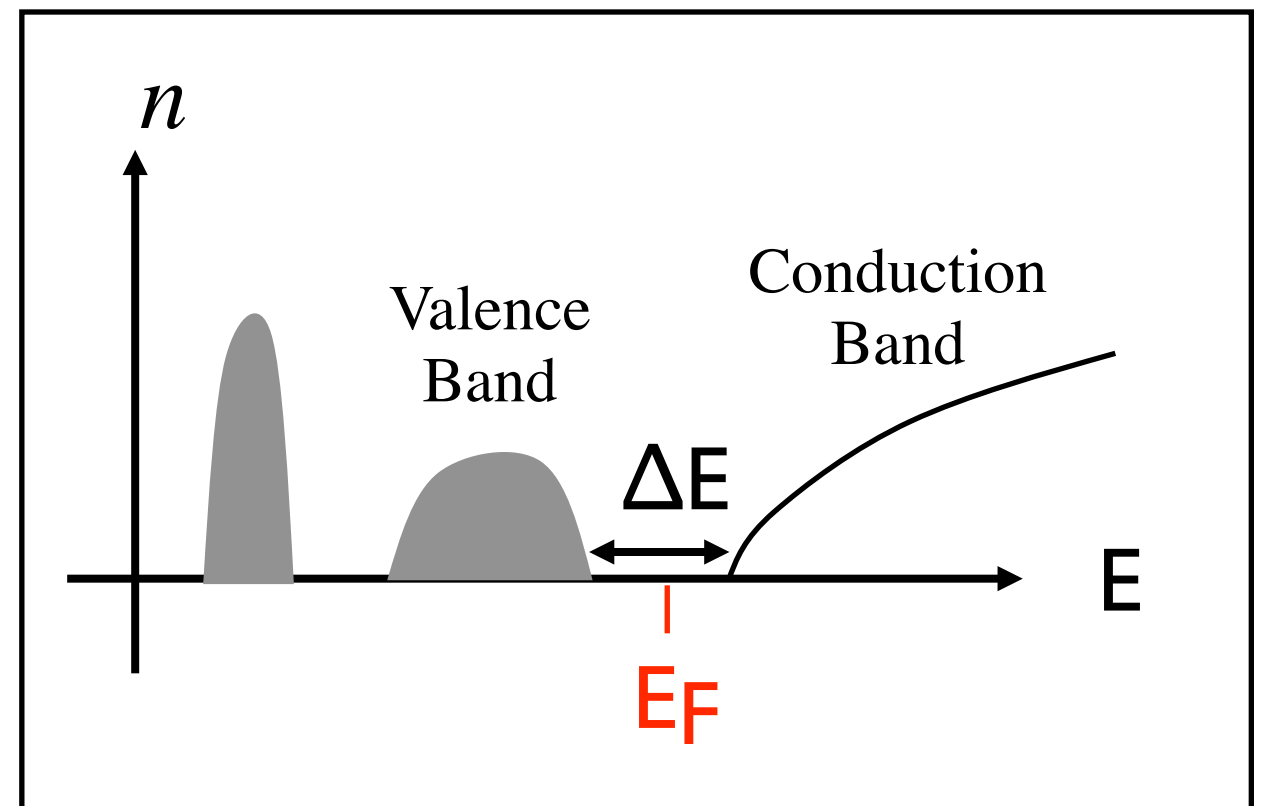
# Photoconductive effect in crystals

## Cristal :

- atoms in a periodic network
- Energy levels  $\rightarrow$  Energy bands
- distinction between metals / semi-conductors



métal : conductor @ 0 K

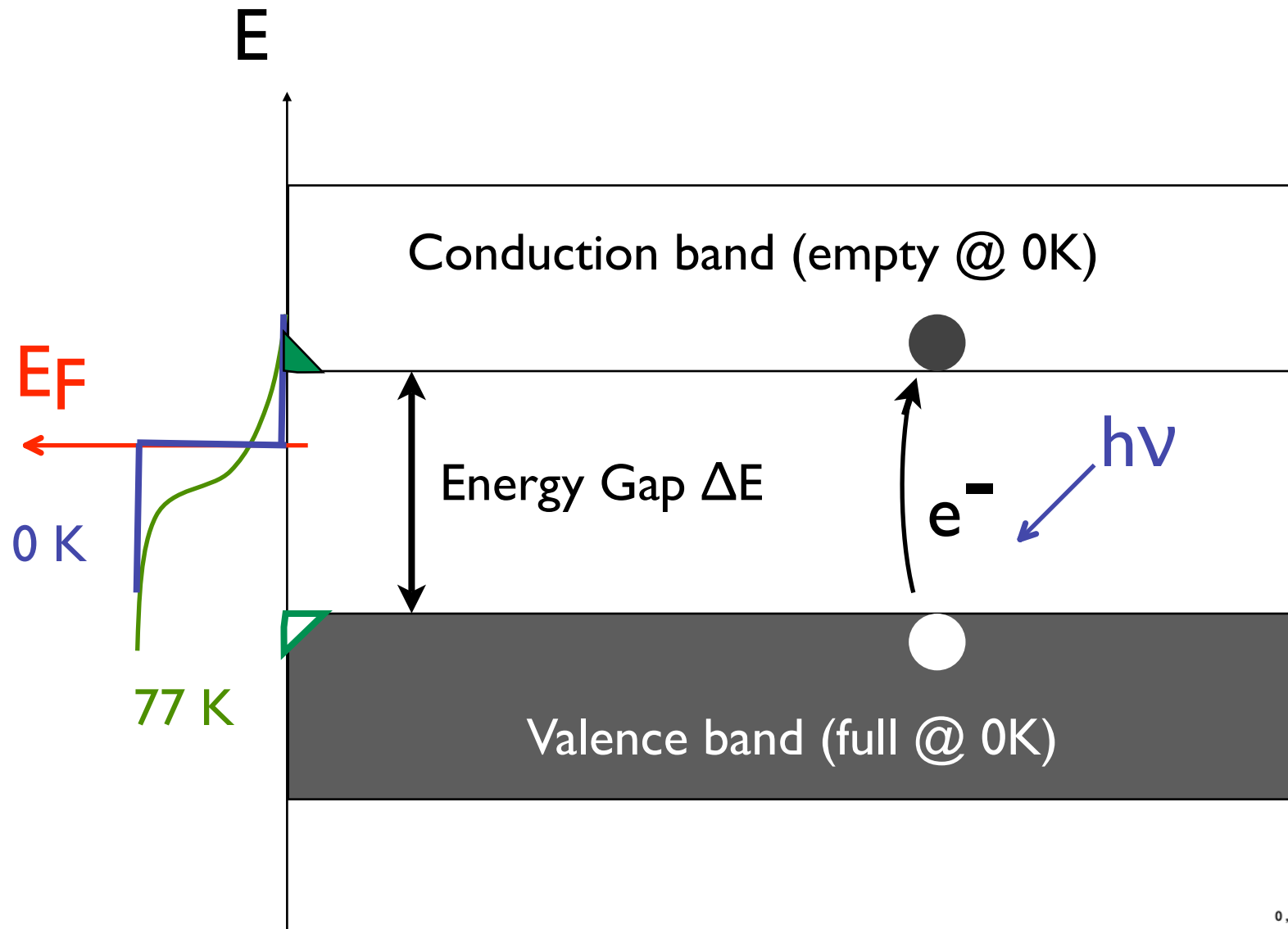


semiconductor : insulator à 0 K

# From Visible to Infrared detection

## Photoconductive effect in semiconductors

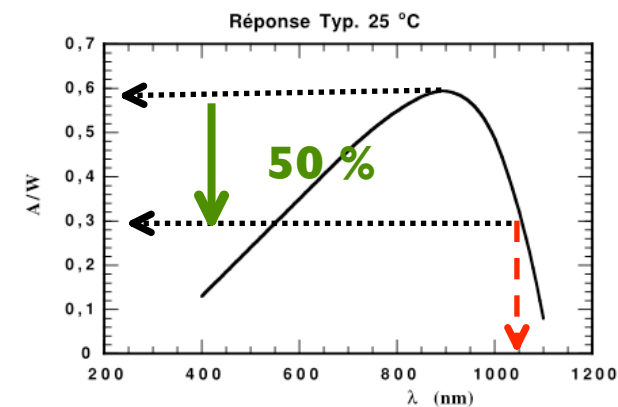
	III	IV	V	VI
5	B	C	N	O
13	Al	Si	P	S
30	Zn	Ga	Ge	As
48	Cd	In	Sn	Sb
80	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi
				Po



$$\Delta E = h\nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

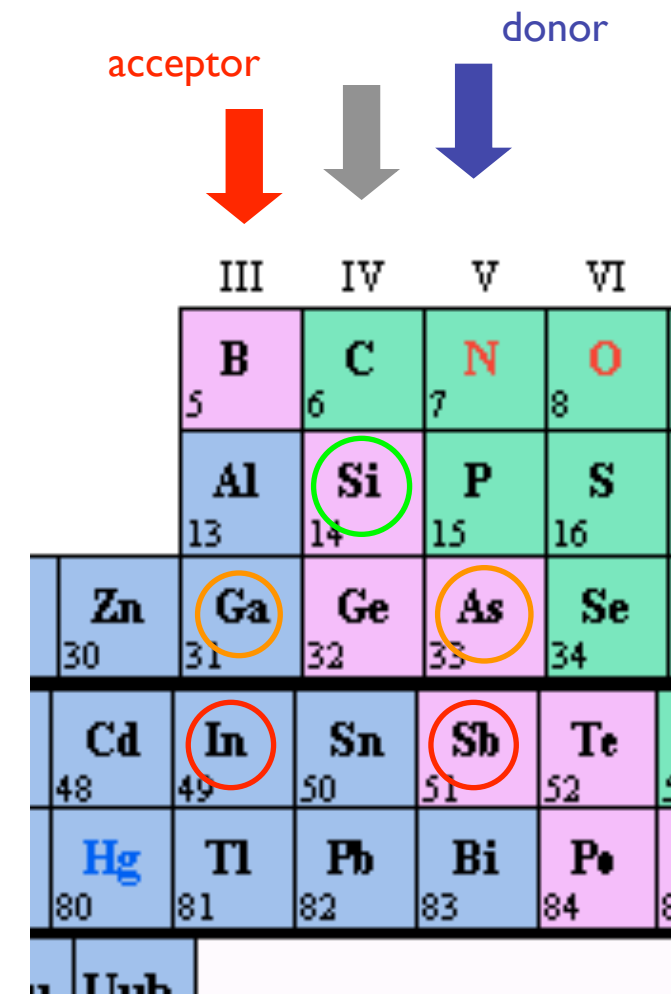
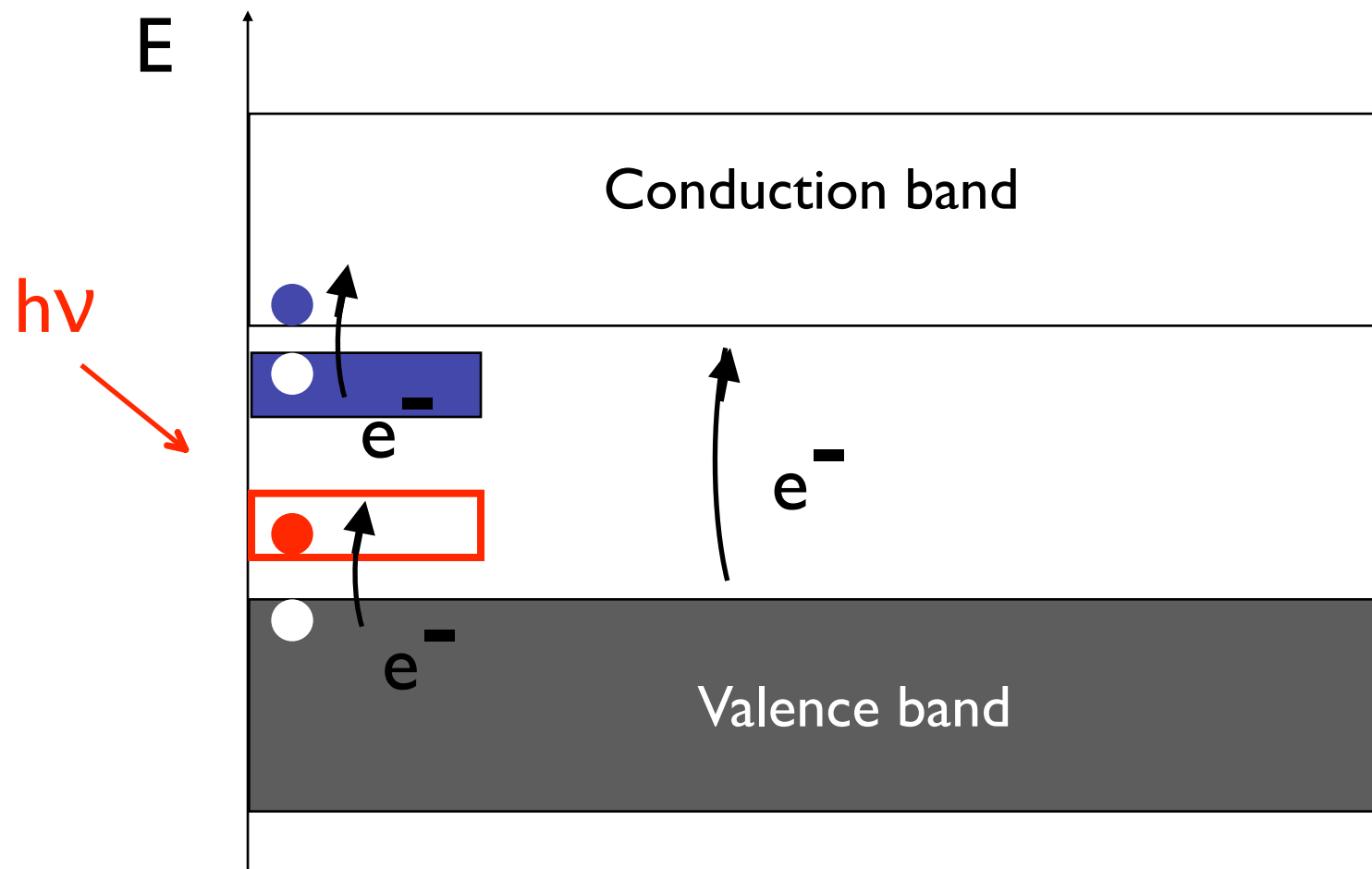
Si : 1.08 eV  $\Leftrightarrow$  1.14  $\mu\text{m}$   
 Ge : 0.66 eV  $\Leftrightarrow$  1.88  $\mu\text{m}$

Advantage : the detecting and the readout circuits are the same (made of Silicon)



1.05  $\mu\text{m}$

As always : dope to increase performances ... with wavelengths  
 Add energy levels to give weaker photons a leg up

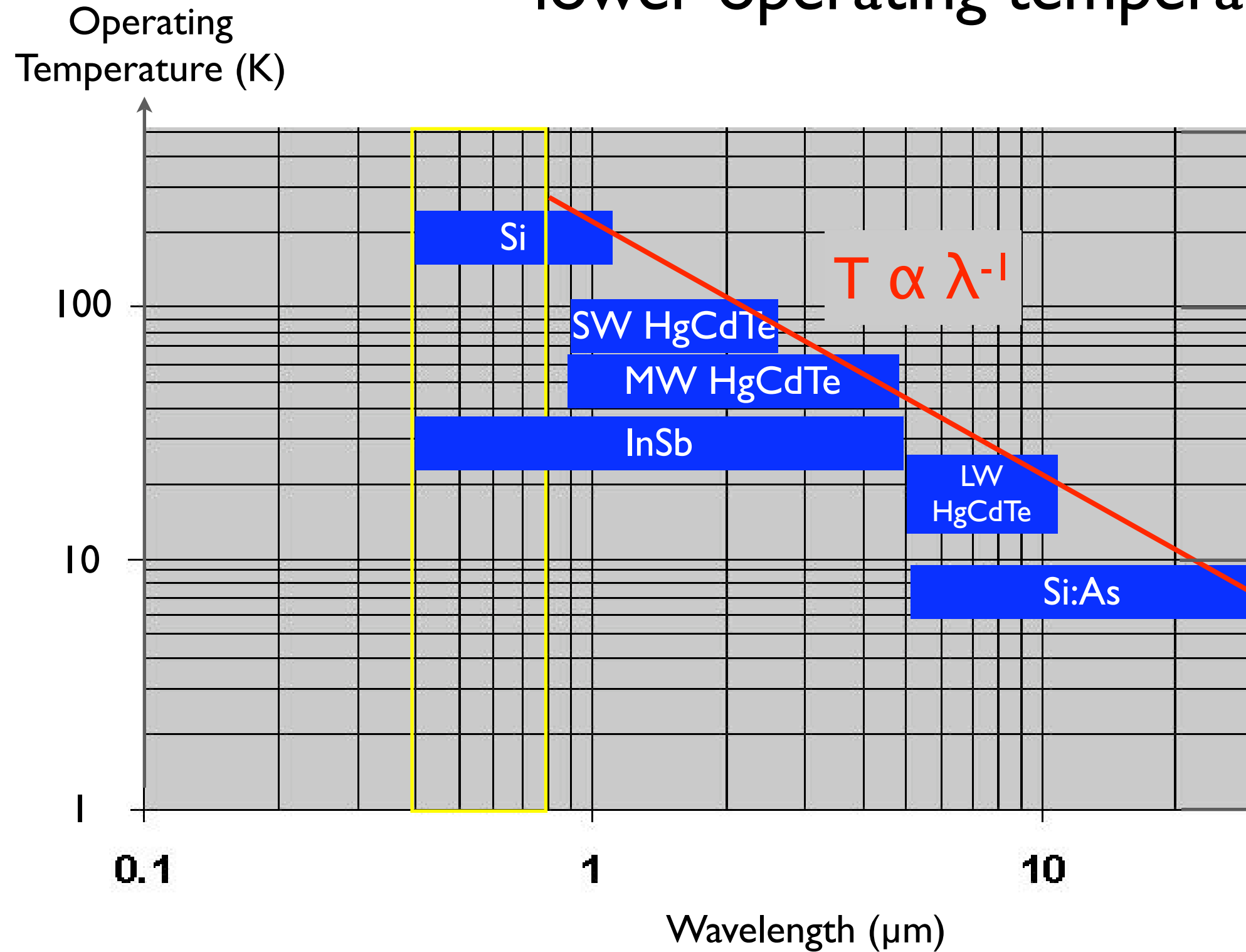


Element(s)	Cutoff $\lambda$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Si	1.1
Ge	1.8
Si:In	7.4
Si:Ga	17.8
Si:As	24
Ge:Ga	120
In Sb	5
$\text{Hg}_{(1-x)}\text{Cd}_{(x)}\text{Te}$	$\lambda(x) < 20 \mu\text{m}$

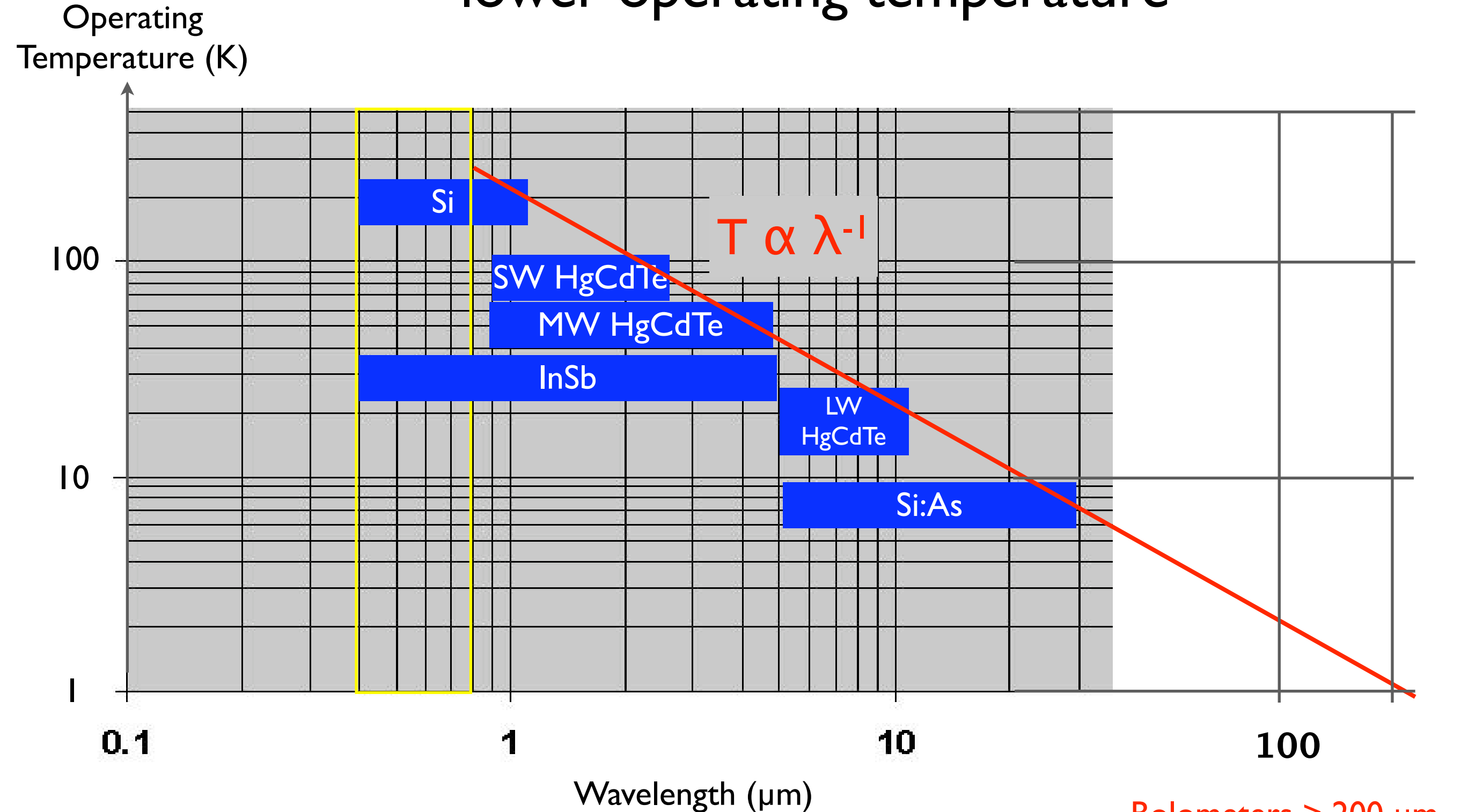
**IRAS : 12 - 25 - 60 - 100 $\mu\text{m}$**   
*Si:As      Ge:Ga*

**Spitzer : 3.6 - 5.8  $\mu\text{m}$  ... 24 - 70  $\mu\text{m}$**   
*InSb      Si:As      Ge:Ga*

Higher cutoff-wavelength  
→ lower operating temperature



Higher cutoff-wavelength  
→ lower operating temperature



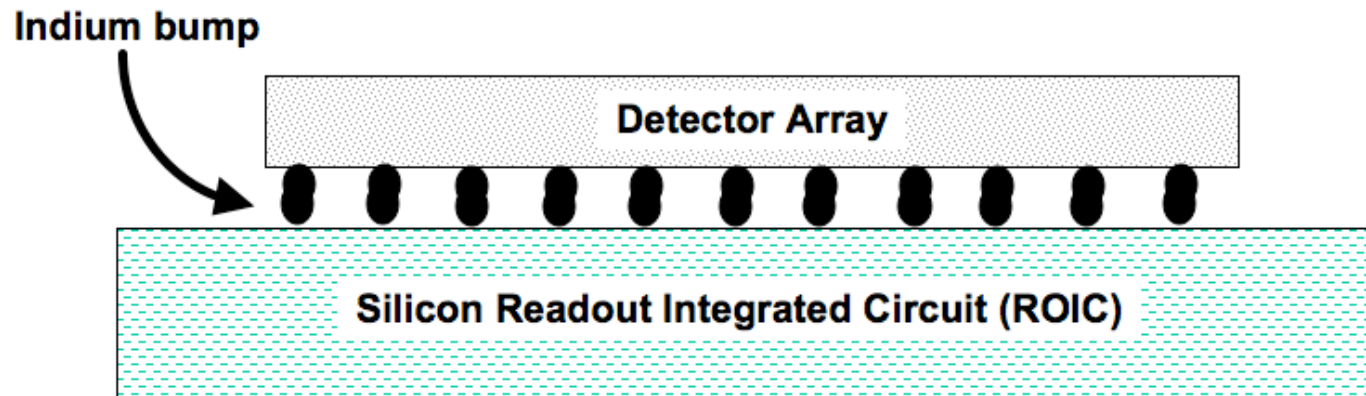
Bolometers > 200 μm  
⇒ xx mK



# What makes Infrared imagery demanding

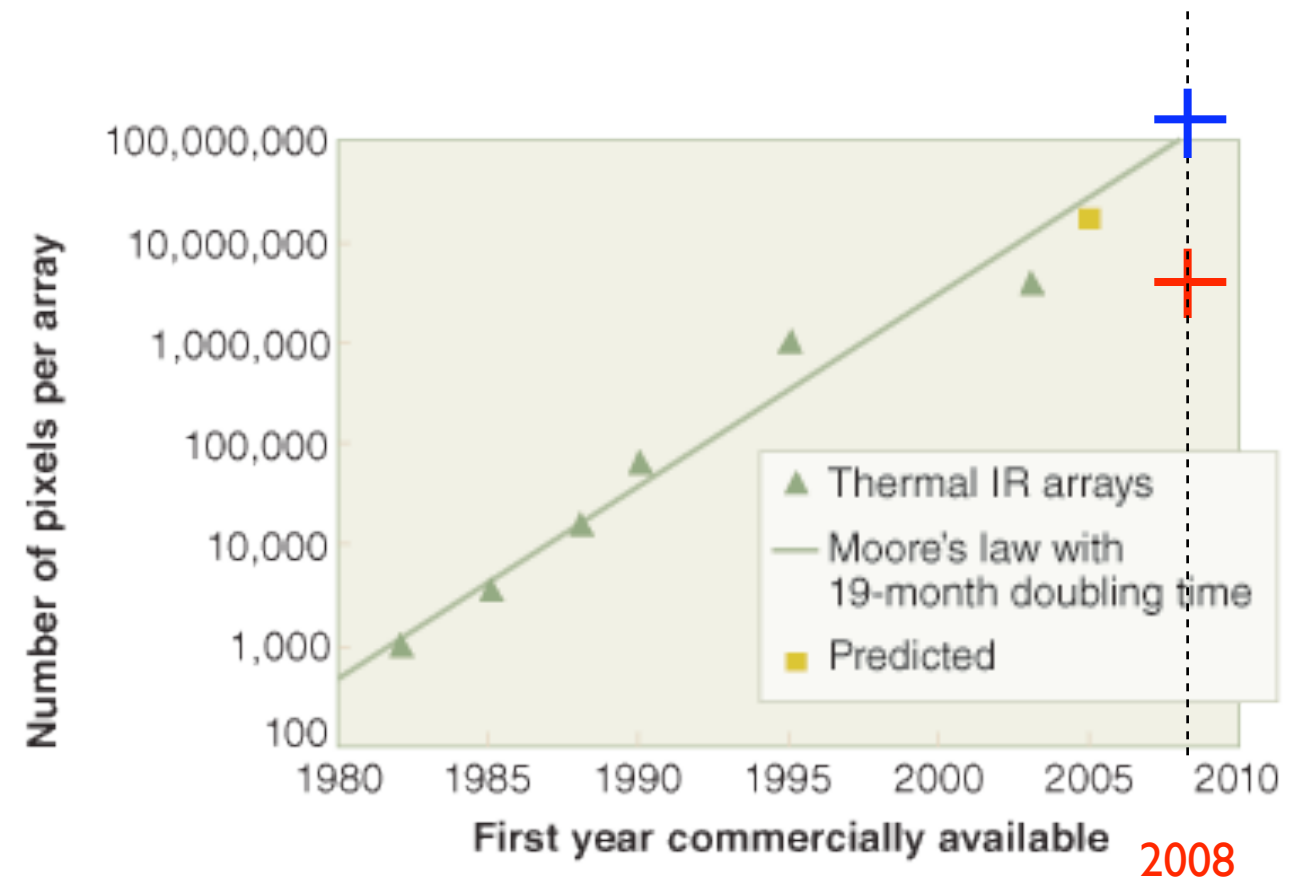
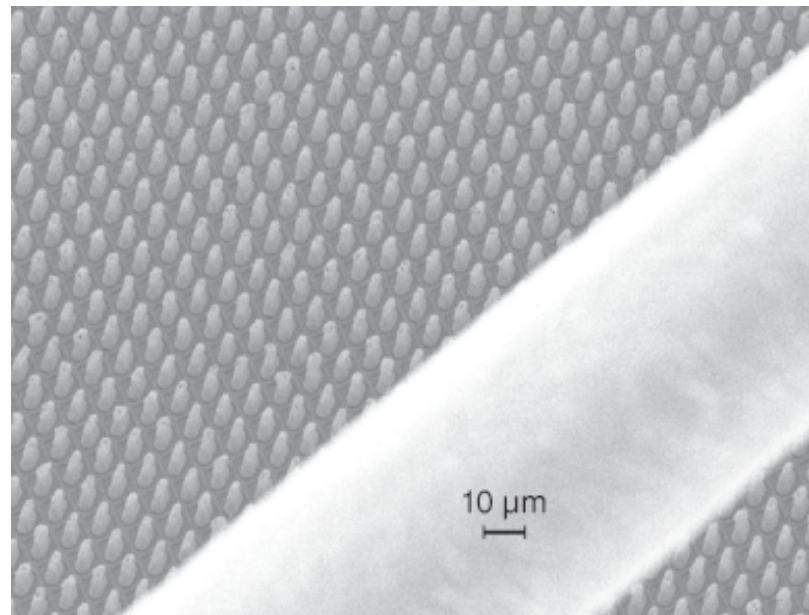
Detection and Readout are built separately and have to be connected together

**Hybridization** between detection & readout



IR sensitive material

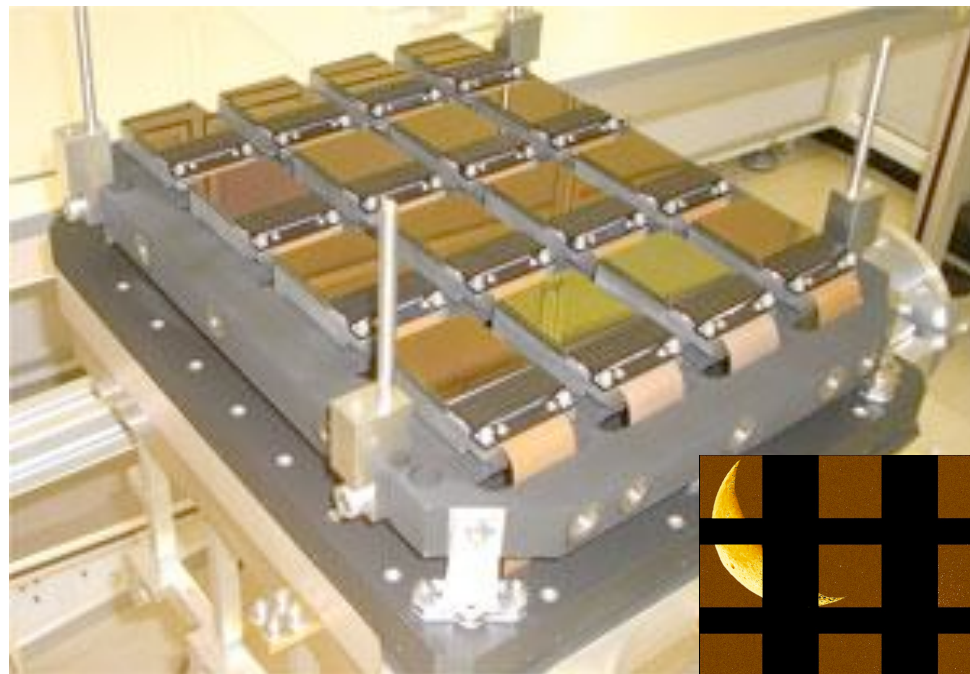
Silicon CCD or CMOS readout



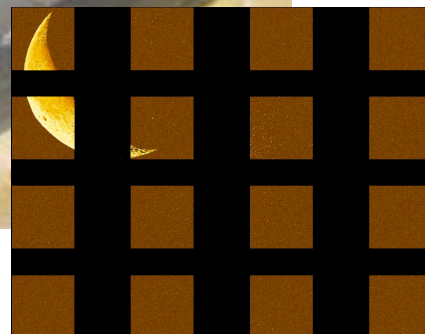
# From small to large (multi-detector) IR arrays



## ESO VISTA array

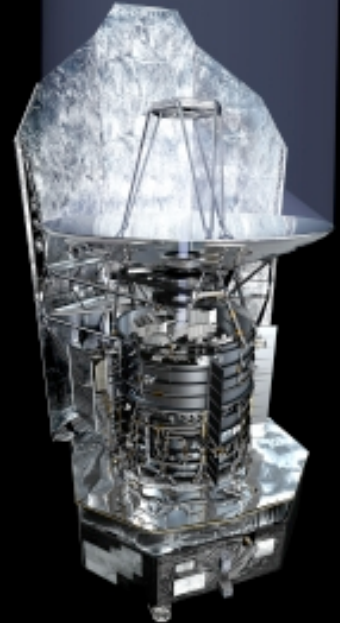


2048  
2048



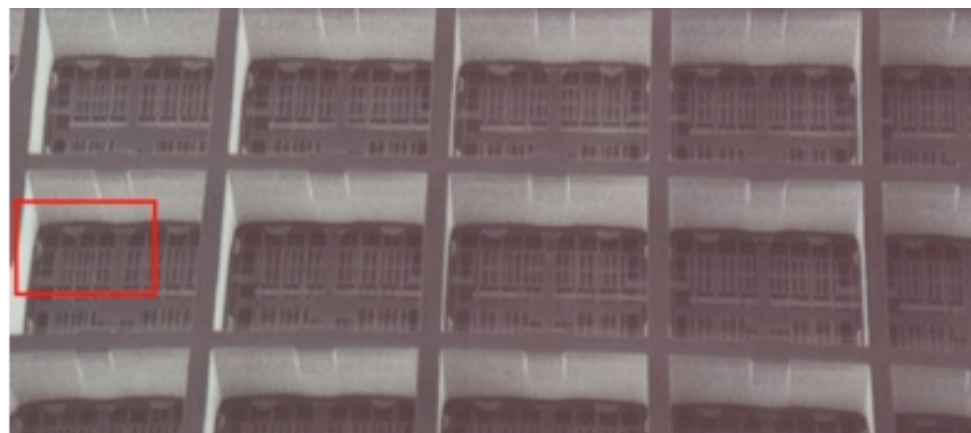


Longer wavelength (space borne) detector are more a collection of bolometers than actual arrays

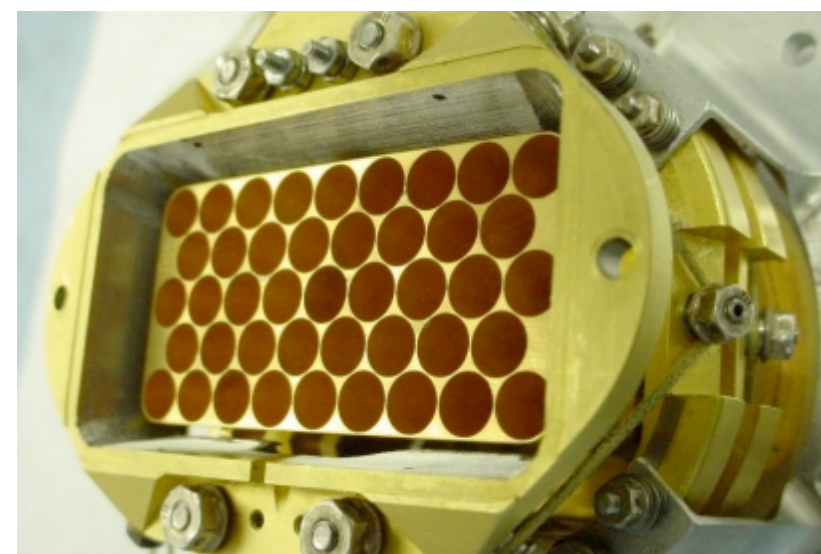
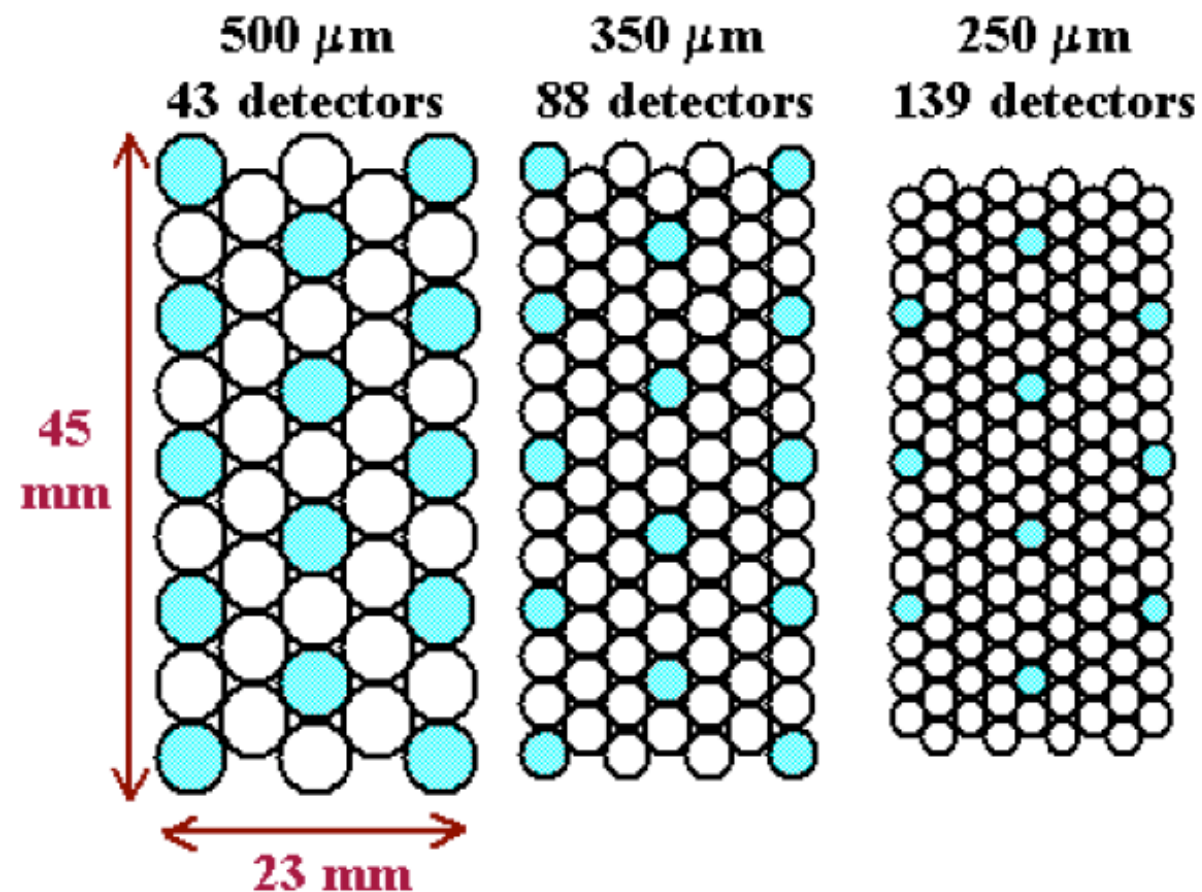


HERSCHEL

PACS



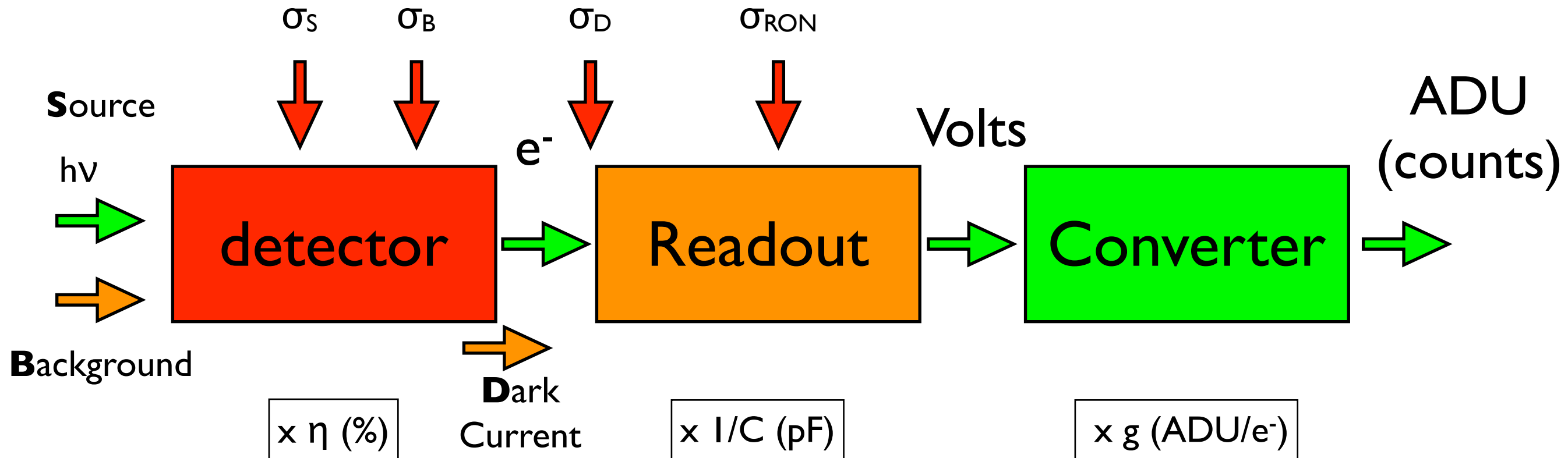
SPIRE





# Photons, electrons, noise and performances

# Imaging detector : what's inside ? (pixel / pixel view)



photons and electrons are quanta

→ Poisson ('shot') Noise

Gaussian, white, independant noises :

$$\sigma^2 = \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 + \sigma_3^2 + \dots$$



# My first SNR computation :

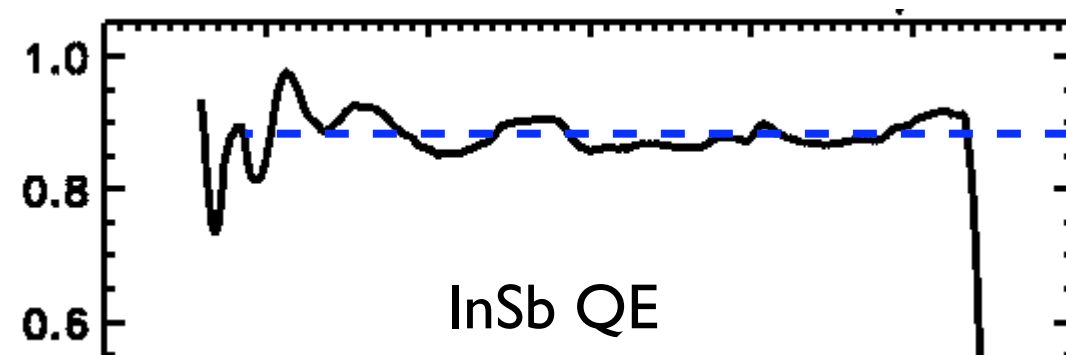
how quantum efficiency (mildly) affects the Signal to Noise Ratio

photons :  $\sigma_{\text{ph}} = \sqrt{N_{\text{ph}}} ; SNR(\text{ph}) = \sqrt{N_{\text{ph}}}$

$$N_e = \eta N_{\text{ph}}$$

electrons :  $\sigma_e = \sqrt{N_e} ; SNR(e) = \sqrt{N_e} = \sqrt{\eta} \sqrt{N_{\text{ph}}}$

$$SNR(e) = \sqrt{\eta} SNR(\text{ph}) \lesssim SNR(\text{ph})$$



$$\sqrt{0.88} \approx 0.94$$

# Global Signal to noise ratio per frame

Good and bad signals :

magnitude == Flux (W/m<sup>2</sup>/Hz) → photon flux → electron flux (**S**ource and **B**ackground)

**D**ark current → electron flux

x Integration time :  $N_S, N_B, N_D$

Varying and fixed noise :

statistical noise :  $\sigma_X = \sqrt{N_X}$

readout noise :  $\sigma_{\text{RON}}$

$$SNR = \frac{N_S}{\sqrt{N_S + N_B + N_D + \sigma_{\text{RON}}^2}}$$

n frames →  $SNR \times \sqrt{n}$

# Global Signal to noise ratio per frame

Good and bad signals :

magnitude == Flux (W/m<sup>2</sup>/Hz) → photon flux → electron flux (**S**ource and **B**ackground)

**D**ark current → electron flux

x Integration time :  $N_S, N_B, N_D$

Varying and fixed noise :

statistical noise :  $\sigma_X = \sqrt{N_X}$

readout noise :  $\sigma_{RON}$

$$SNR = \frac{N_S}{\sqrt{N_S + N_B + N_D + \sigma_{RON}^2}}$$

n frames →  $SNR \times \sqrt{n}$

But  $N_S$  is obtained by

$$N_S = (N_S + N_B) - N_B$$

(subtract the background)

$$SNR = \frac{N_S}{\sqrt{N_S + 2(N_B + N_D + \sigma_{RON}^2)}}$$

(unless B measured with a very high precision)

# Global Signal to noise ratio per frame

Good and bad signals :

magnitude == Flux (W/m<sup>2</sup>/Hz) → photon flux → electron flux (**S**ource and **B**ackground)

**D**ark current → electron flux

x Integration time :  $N_S, N_B, N_D$

Varying and fixed noise :

statistical noise :  $\sigma_X = \sqrt{N_X}$

readout noise :  $\sigma_{RON}$

$$SNR = \frac{N_S}{\sqrt{N_S + N_B + N_D + \sigma_{RON}^2}}$$

n frames →  $SNR \times \sqrt{n}$

But  $N_S$  is obtained by

$$N_S = (N_S + N_B) - N_B$$

(subtract the background)

$$SNR = \frac{N_S}{\sqrt{N_S + 2(N_B + N_D + \sigma_{RON}^2)}}$$

(unless B measured with a very high precision)



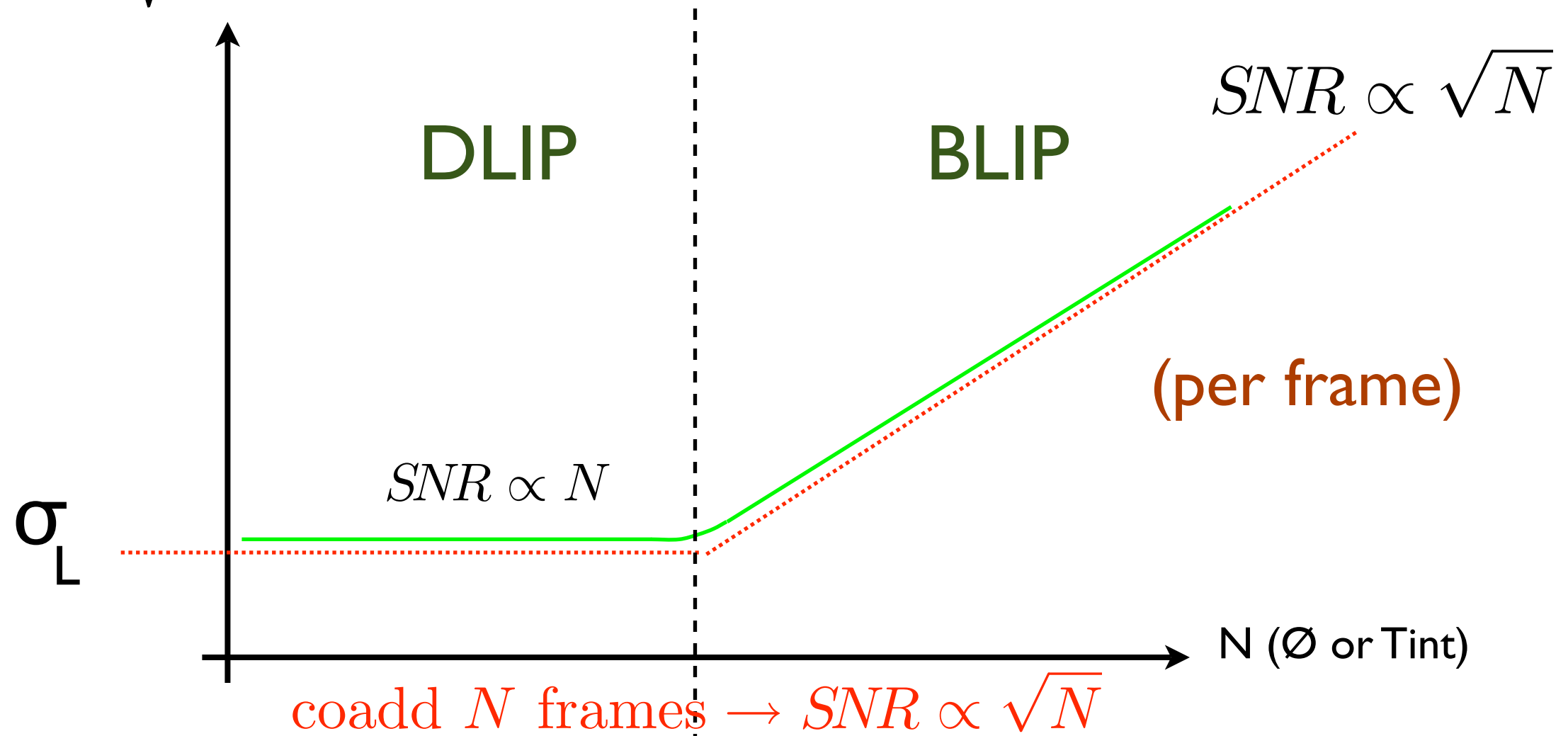
# photon and readout noise(s) :

which one dominates ?

Fixed readout noise :  $\sigma_L$

Variable photon noise :  $\sigma_{ph} = \sqrt{N}$  ( $N = N_S + N_B + N_D$ )  
(VIS) (IR)

$$\sigma_T = \sqrt{\sigma_L^2 + N}$$



$T_{int}$  the longer, the better

(beware of cosmic rays)

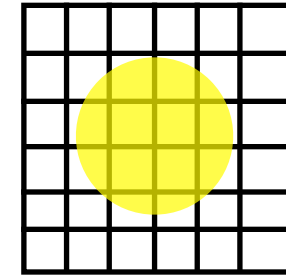
don't care too much about  $T_{int}$

(if observation efficiency is good, take many frames)

# From peak pixel to PSF (N pixels)

**pixel** signal : Random Variable  $(x, \sigma)$

$$SNR_{\text{peak}} = \frac{x}{\sigma}$$



**PSF**  $X = \sum x_i \approx Nx$       $\sigma'^2 = \sum \sigma^2 \approx N\sigma \rightarrow \sigma' = \sqrt{N} \sigma$

$$SNR_{\text{PSF}} = \frac{X}{\sigma'} = \frac{Nx}{\sqrt{N} \sigma} \approx \sqrt{N} SNR_{\text{peak}}$$

# ISAAC SW (ESO) Exposure time simulator (ETC)

<http://www.eso.org/observing/etc/>

## Object Setup

Source type : blackbody  
 Blackbody temperature: 4000 K  
 Source magnitude : 17  
 Source geometry : Seeing limited  
 Seeing : 0.8 arcsec

one frame < DIT

## Atmosphere Setup

Airmass : 1.2

## Sky Setup

Sky magnitude : 14

## Instrument Setup

filter is (wide band) H  
 objective: S2

## Observation Setup

DIT : 10 sec  
 SNR: 20 (+/- 50%)

Total exposure time	: 2.6510 seconds
Number of detector integrations (decimal value)	: 0.27 DCR
Signal-to-noise	: 20.00
Number of pixels for PSF area	: 93.00 pixels
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only)	: 16131.91 e-
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only, 1 DIT)	: 60851.27 e-/DIT
Sky bkg. value with sky lines (e/pixel, 1DIT)	: 23302.69 e-/pixel/DIT
Max. intensity at central pixel per DIT (e-, object+sky)	: 25089.79 e-/DIT
Detector saturation (e-)	: 180000 e-
Detector Readout Noise	: 10.00 e-/pixel/DIT
Plate scale in arcsec/pixel	: 0.15 arcsec/pixel

(no dark current : 1e/s ?)

PSF

$$N_{\text{px}} = 93 \left[ \approx \pi \left( \frac{2 \times 0.8}{0.15} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$S = 16132$$

$$\sigma^2 = 10^2 + 23302 \times 93 \times \frac{2.65}{10} + 16132 = 774^2$$

$$SNR = \frac{16131}{774} = 20.83$$

Peak pixel

$$N_{\text{px}} = 1 (!)$$

$$S = (25090 - 23302) \times \frac{2.65}{10} = 474$$

$$\sigma^2 = 10^2 + 23302 \times \frac{2.65}{10} + 474 = 82^2$$

$$SNR = \frac{474}{82} = 5.77$$

# From magnitudes to e/pixel

Sky emission in H band :  $m_H = 14/\text{arcsec}^2$   
 $\Omega_{\text{px}} = 0.15^2 = 2.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$

← Sky emission is a brightness  
(Jy/sr == mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>)

$$\begin{aligned} F &= F_o(H) 10^{-\frac{m_H}{2.5}} \times \Omega_{\text{px}} \\ N &= \frac{F}{h\nu_H} \times S \times \Delta\nu(H) \times DIT \\ &= \frac{1000 \cdot 10^{-26} \cdot 10^{-\frac{14}{2.5}} \times 2.25 \cdot 10^{-2}}{11.4 \cdot 10^{-20}} \times 50 \times 42 \cdot 10^{12} \times 10 \\ &\approx 10000 \text{ e/px} \end{aligned}$$

ISAAC ETC : 23302.69



# From magnitudes to e/pixel

Sky emission in H band :  $m_H = 14/\text{arcsec}^2$   
 $\Omega_{\text{px}} = 0.15^2 = 2.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$

← Sky emission is a brightness  
 (Jy/sr == mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>)

$$F = F_o(H) 10^{-\frac{m_H}{2.5}} \times \Omega_{\text{px}}$$

$$N = \frac{F}{h\nu_H} \times S \times \Delta\nu(H) \times DIT$$

$$= \frac{1000 \cdot 10^{-26} \cdot 10^{-\frac{14}{2.5}} \times 2.25 \cdot 10^{-2}}{11.4 \cdot 10^{-20}} \times 50 \times 42 \cdot 10^{12} \times 10$$

$$\approx 10000 \text{ e/px}$$

ISAAC ETC : 23302.69

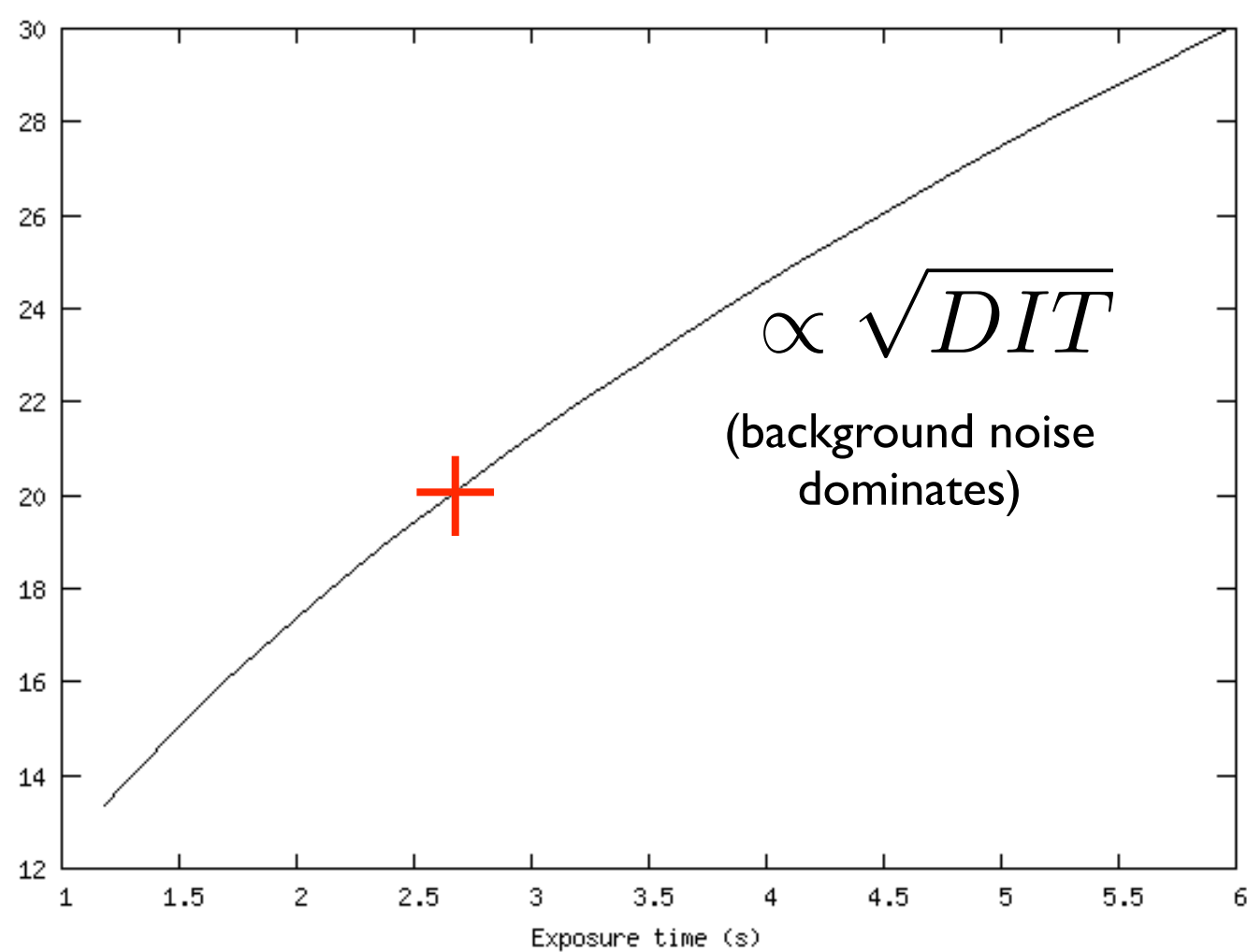
Source magnitude  $m$

← Source emission is a flux spread over a PSF covering  $N_{\text{px}}$  pixels  
 (Jy == mag)

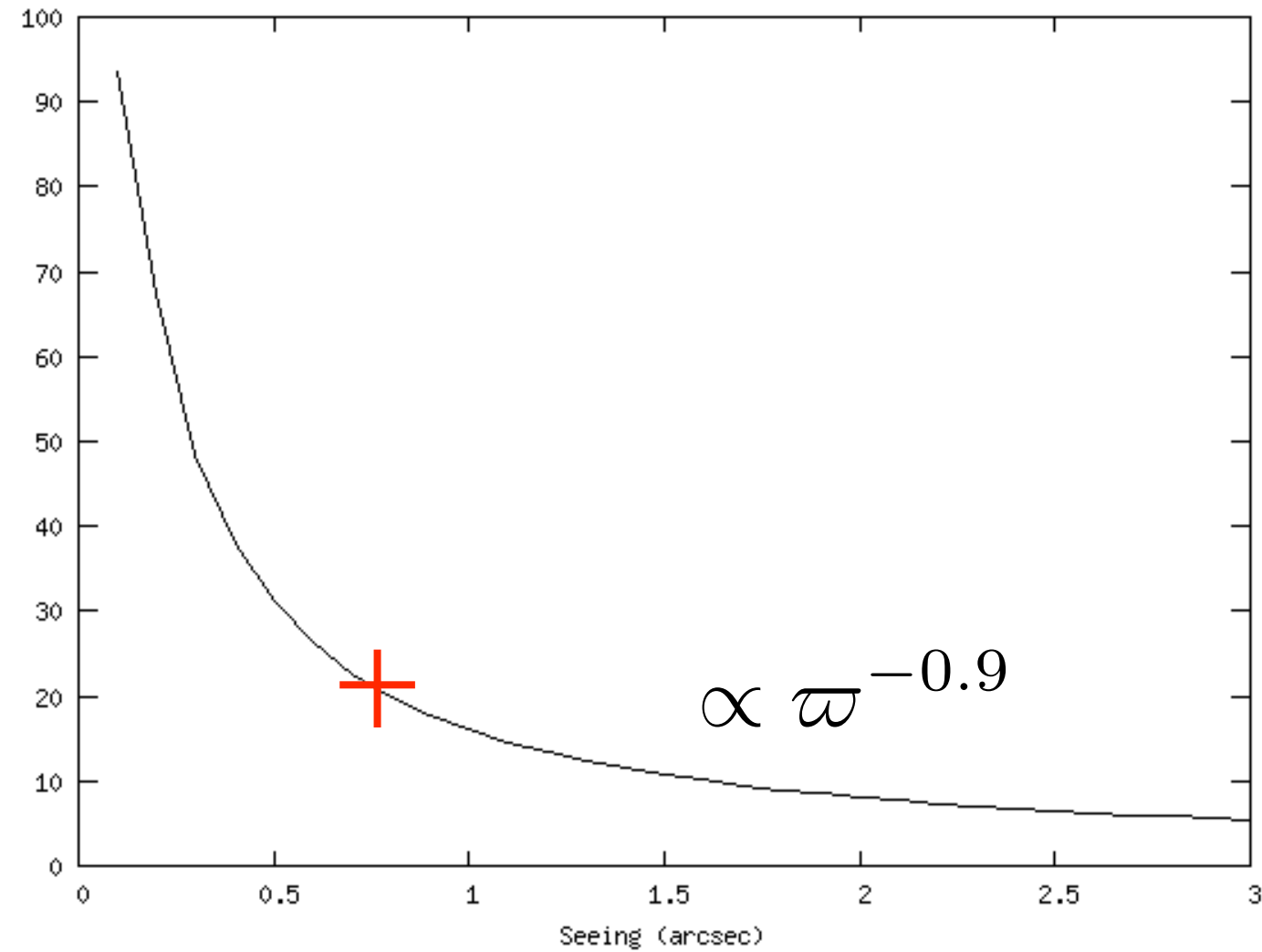
$$SNR = \frac{\frac{F_o}{h\nu} 10^{-\frac{m}{2.5}} \cdot S \cdot \Delta\nu \cdot DIT}{N_{\text{px}} \cdot RON^2 + N_{\text{px}} \cdot DC + \frac{F_o}{h\nu} \cdot S \cdot \Delta\nu \cdot DIT \left( 10^{-\frac{m}{2.5}} + N_{\text{px}} 0^{-\frac{m_B}{2.5}} \right)}$$

# SNR variations with DIT and / or seeing

(PSF) SNR vs. exp. time



(PSF) SNR vs. seeing



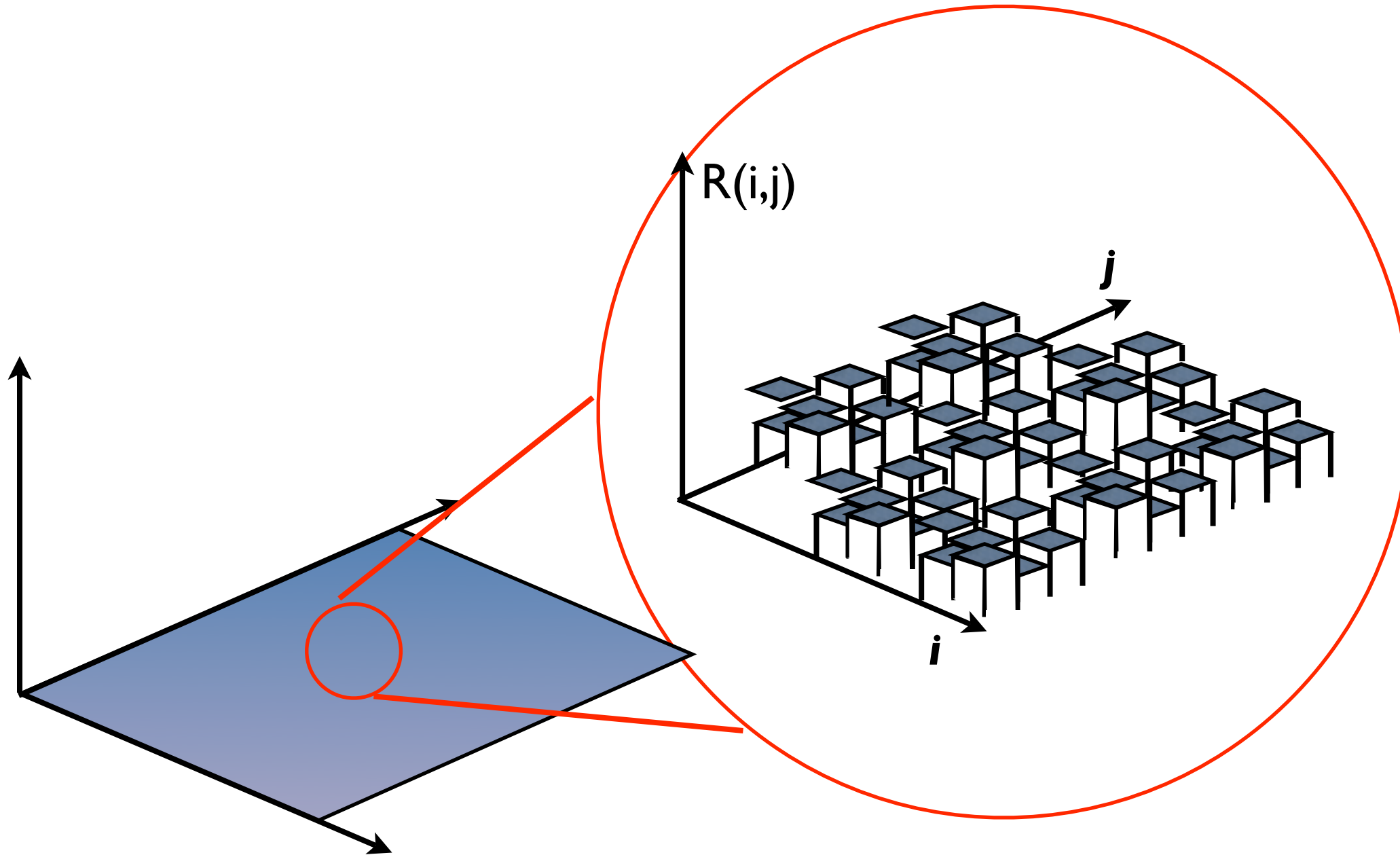
(peak SNR  $\propto \varpi^{-2}$ )



# Flat-fielding and Calibration

# Flat-fielding

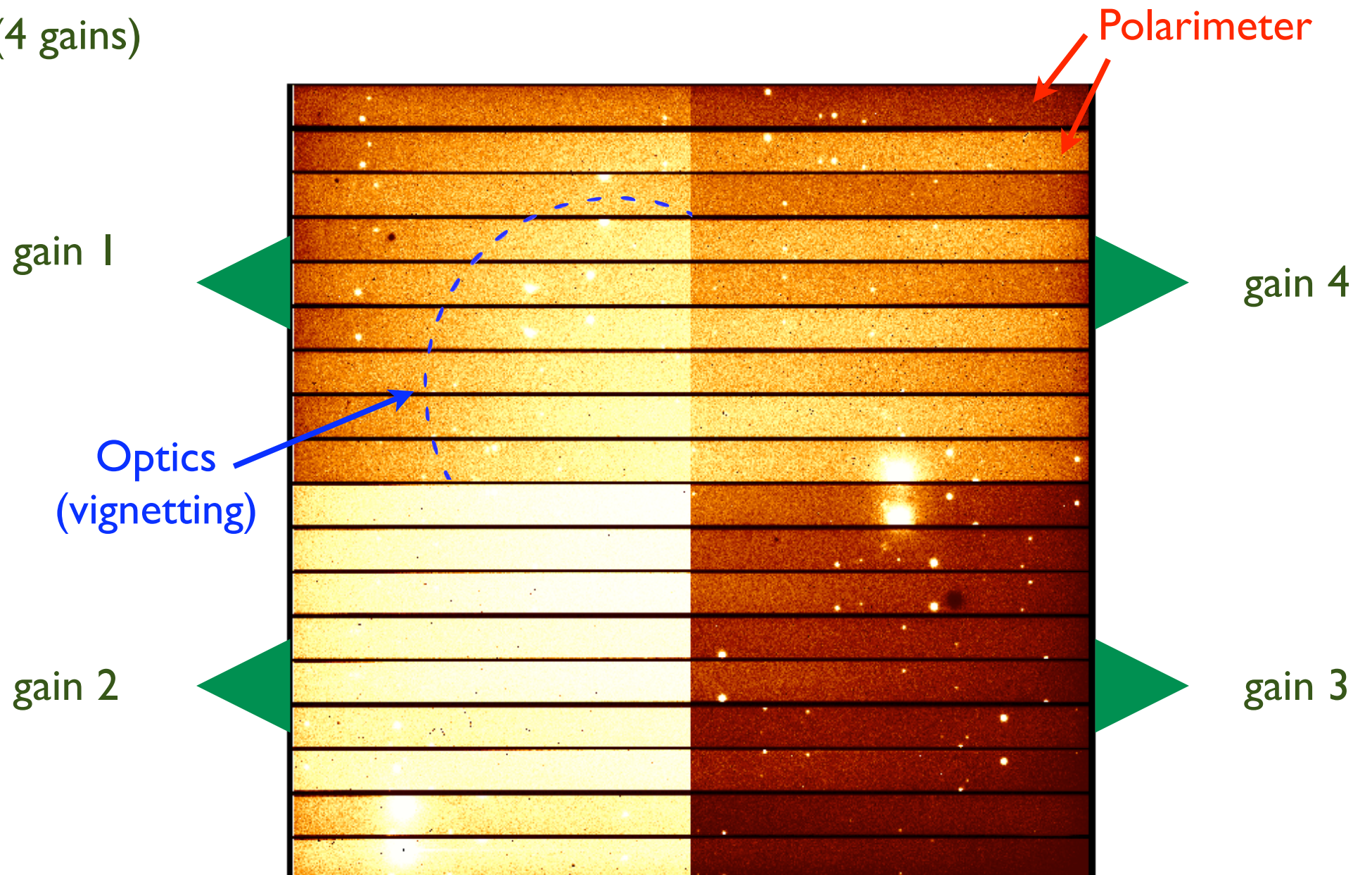
**HF** : pixel to pixel response



# Flat-fielding

## LF : Optics (and electronics)

4 quadrants readout  
(4 gains)





# Photometric Calibrations

O'Connell lectures :

<http://www.astro.virginia.edu/class/oconnell/astr511/lectureindex.html>

## Flat field :

- (unknown) Pixel' response distribution  $R(i,j)$
  - Uniform Source [sky @ dawn, screen, etc.]  $U$
- 1) Measure flat-field  $X(i,j) = U \cdot R(i,j)$
  - 2) Observe complex source :  $S(i,j) \rightarrow Y(i,j) = R(i,j) \cdot S(i,j)$
  - 3) FF calibration  $I(i,j) = Y(i,j)/X(i,j) = S(i,j)/U \propto S(i,j) \forall i,j$

## Photometry

- Pointlike Source : FLUX (one or more pixels) == Jy/pixel
- Extended Source : BRIGHTNESS (ADU/pixel) == Jy/arcsec<sup>2</sup>

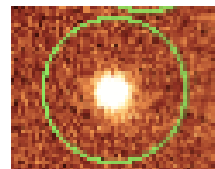
$$\frac{\text{ADU}}{\text{pixel}} = \frac{\text{ADU}}{\text{Jy}} \times \frac{\text{Jy}}{\text{arcsec}^2} \times \frac{\text{arcsec}^2}{\text{pixel}}$$

*measure*

*calibration (unit)*

*optics :  
pixel scale*

$$\sum X_{ij} = X_{(ADU)}$$



$$\int s d\Omega = S_{(Jy, magnitude)}$$

Standard stars : same Airmass, Spectral type, Magnitude

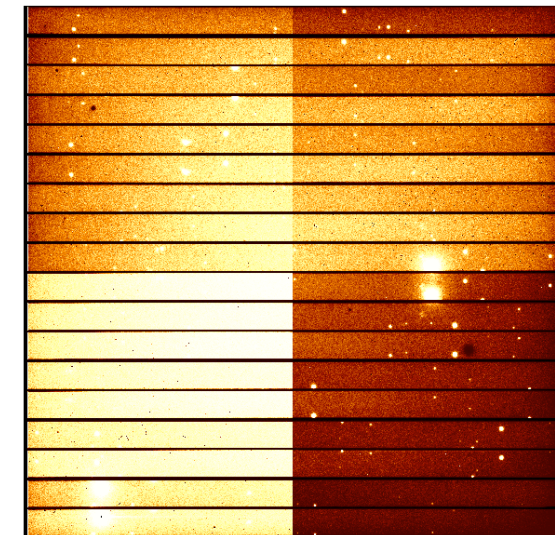
# IR imagery : FITS format

## FITS Header :

SIMPLE = T / Standard FITS format (NOST-100.0)  
BITPIX = 16 / # of bits storing pix values  
NAXIS = 2 / # of axes in data array  
NAXIS1 = 2080 / # pixels/axis  
NAXIS2 = 2048 / # pixels/axis  
ORIGIN = 'ESO ' / European Southern Observatory

$$N_{\text{ADU}} (\text{max}) = 2^{16} = 65536$$

(...)  
DATE-OBS= '2001-12-10T03:49:03.978' / Date of observation  
EXPTIME = 180.0025 / Total integration time  
(...)  
INSTRUME= 'FORSI ' / Instrument used  
TELESCOP= 'ESO-VLT-U3' / ESO Telescope Name  
RA = 64.710280 / 04:18:50.4 RA (J2000) pointing  
DEC = 28.18850 / 28:11:18.6 DEC (J2000) pointing  
(...)  
ST = '04:23:12.811' / ST at start  
AIRMASS = 1.65200 / Averaged air mass  
IMAGETYP= 'OBJECT ' / Observation type  
FILTER1 = 'I\_BESS ' / Filter 1 name



(...)  
HIERARCH ESO **DET** OUTPUTS = 4 / # of outputs

$$SNR(ADU) \neq SNR(e)$$

(...)  
HIERARCH ESO **DET** OUT4 CONAD = 3.26 / Conversion from ADUs to electrons  $\rightarrow N_{e^-} = 3.26 N_{\text{ADU}}$   
HIERARCH ESO **DET** OUT1 RON = 6.07 / Readout noise per output (e-)

HIERARCH ESO : **OBS, TPL, DPR, TEL, ADA, INS, DET**

# Use of various ETC.

# ISAAC LW (ESO)

Source type : blackbody  
Blackbody temperature: 4000  
Source magnitude : 15  
Source geometry : Seeing limited  
Seeing : 0.6 arcsec  
**Atmosphere Setup** Airmass : 1.2  
**Sky Setup** Sky magnitude : 3.9  
**Instrument Setup** wide band L  
objective: L3  
**Observation Setup**  
DIT : 0.11 sec  
SNR: 20 (+/- 50%)

Chopping mode :  $S = (S+B) - B$

Total exposure time	:	<b>6086.9336 seconds</b>
Number of detector integrations (decimal value)	:	<b>55335.76 (chopping) UCR</b>
Signal-to-noise	:	<b>20.00</b>
Number of pixels for PSF area	:	<b>224.00 pixels</b>
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only)	:	<b>38657869.53 e-</b>
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only, 1 DIT)	:	<b>698.61 e-/DIT</b>
Sky bkg. value with sky lines (e/pixel, 1DIT)	:	<b>149454.92 e-/pixel/DIT</b>
Max. intensity at central pixel per DIT (e-, object+sky)	:	<b>149463.54 e-/DIT</b>
Detector saturation (e-)	:	<b>289000 e-</b>
Detector Readout Noise	:	<b>50.00 e-/pixel/DIT</b>
Plate scale in arcsec/pixel	:	<b>0.07 arcsec/pixel</b>

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\text{px}} &= 224 \\ S &= 698 \\ \text{readout} &= 224 \times 50^2 \\ \text{signal} &= 698 \\ \text{background (twice)} &= 224 \times 149454 \\ SNR_{\text{DIT}} &= \frac{698}{\sqrt{224 \times 50^2 + 698 + 2 \times 224 \times 149454}} = 0.085 \\ 0.085 \rightarrow 20 : \times 235 &\rightarrow 235^2 = 55431 \text{ frames} \end{aligned}$$

# Use of various ETC.

# ISAAC LW (ESO)

Source type : blackbody  
Blackbody temperature: 4000  
Source magnitude : 15  
Source geometry : Seeing limited  
Seeing : 0.6 arcsec  
**Atmosphere Setup** Airmass : 1.2  
**Sky Setup** Sky magnitude : 3.9  
**Instrument Setup** wide band L  
objective: L3  
**Observation Setup**  
DIT : 0.11 sec  
SNR: 20 (+/- 50%)

Chopping mode :  $S = (S+B) - B$

Total exposure time	:	<del>6086.9336</del> seconds
Number of detector integrations (decimal value)	:	55335.76 ( <b>chopping</b> ) UCR
Signal-to-noise	:	<del>20.00</del>
Number of pixels for PSF area	:	224.00 pixels
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only)	:	38657869.53 e-
Total number of e- in PSF area (object only, 1 DIT)	:	698.61 e-/DIT
Sky bkg. value with sky lines (e/pixel, 1DIT)	:	149454.92 e-/pixel/DIT
Max. intensity at central pixel per DIT (e-, object+sky)	:	149463.54 e-/DIT
Detector saturation (e-)	:	289000 e-
Detector Readout Noise	:	50.00 e-/pixel/DIT
Plate scale in arcsec/pixel	:	0.07 arcsec/pixel

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\text{px}} &= 224 \\ S &= 698 \\ \text{readout} &= 224 \times 50^2 \\ \text{signal} &= 698 \\ \text{background (twice)} &= 224 \times 149454 \\ SNR_{\text{DIT}} &= \frac{698}{\sqrt{224 \times 50^2 + 698 + 2 \times 224 \times 149454}} = 0.085 \\ 0.085 \rightarrow 20 : \times 235 &\rightarrow 235^2 = 55431 \text{ frames} \end{aligned}$$

# Use of various ETC.

## WIRCAM (CFHT)

**WIRCam Exposure Time Calculator**

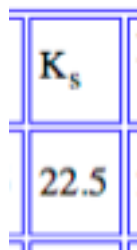
Type:  Filter:  Mag. AB:  SNR:

Seeing:  Sky:     e-/s/pixel Airmass:

Filter=KS    Seeing=0.7 "    SNR di=3.3pix  
Type=point source    Sky=BRIGHT    Bin=1pix  
Mag=22.5    SNR=10.0    Trans=100%  
Airmass=1.5    SNR ap=Optimal

Etime= 1758 **on target**

→ x 2 (= 1 hour) to measure and subtract the background emission



(10 sigma detection in a 1 hour exposure under 0.7 arcsecond seeing with 1.5 airmass)



# Use of various ETC.

## VISIR (ESO)

### Target Setup

Target source flux distribution type : blackbody  
 Parameters : T=3000.0 K  
 Target source flux scaled to : 1000.0 mJy at 17750.0 nm  
 Target source magnitude : Q = 2.14  
 Target source geometry : Point source

### Atmosphere Setup

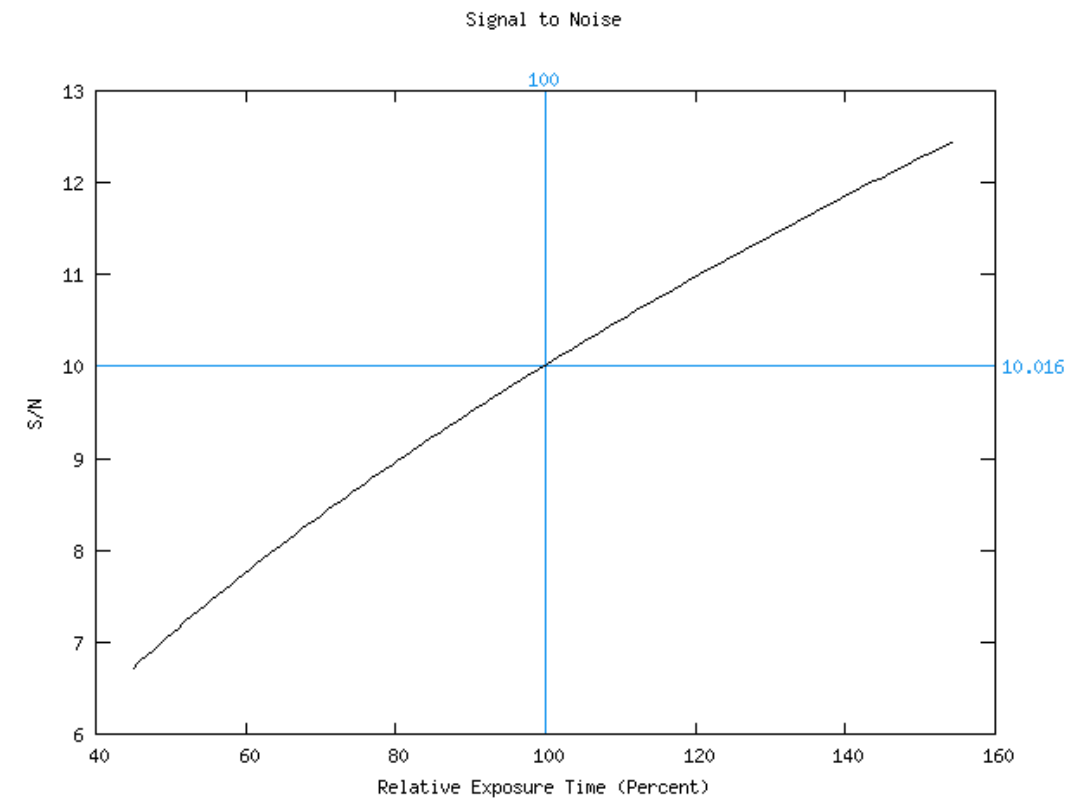
Seeing : 0.80 arcsecs **0.44 arcsec**  
 Airmass : 1.15

### Instrument Setup

Filter : Q1  
 Detector read-out mode : large\_cap  
 Detector parameters : RON = 15.60 e-/pixel/DIT  
 Dark = 7000.00 e-/pixel/s

### Observation Setup

User requested: Exposure Time for a given S/N



Pixel scale	:	<b>75.000 mas/pixel</b>	
Signal-to-noise ratio	:	<b>10.016</b>	
Detector Integration Time for one exposure	DIT :	<b>0.0400 s</b>	
Number of detector integrations (rounded up)	NDIT :	<b>226</b>	
Total exposure time (without overheads)	INT=NDIT*DIT :	<b>9.040 s</b>	
Max. intensity at central pixel per DIT (object+sky)	:	<b>6.92599e+06 e-/DIT</b>	
Detector linearity/flat-fielding limit	:	<b>1.30000e+07 e-</b>	
Detector saturation limit	:	<b>1.80000e+07 e-</b>	
Radius of <a href="#">S/N reference area</a>	:	<b>0.438 arcsec</b>	<b>= 4 x seeing surface @ 10μm</b>
Number of pixels in S/N reference area	:	<b>107 pixels</b>	
Total number of e- in S/N reference area (object only)	:	<b>3.54189e+07 e-</b>	
Total number of e- in S/N reference area per DIT (object only)	:	<b>156721 e-/DIT</b>	
Total sky background signal per DIT	:	<b>6.92198e+06 e-/pixel/DIT</b>	



# A collection of available IR arrays

Telescope	Country	Tel. Diam.	Detector	"/pixel	FOV(deg <sup>2</sup> )	BE (m <sup>2</sup> deg <sup>2</sup> )	date
VISTA	UK	4 m	8k x 8k	0.30"	0.25	3.14	
UKIRT +WFCAM	UK	3.8 m	4k x 4k	0.40"	0.20	2.27	2003-Q1
CFHT + WIRCAM	FR-Can-US	3.6 m	4k x 4k		0.11		
INT + CIRSI	UK	2.5 m	2k x 2k	0.45"	0.062	0.31	1999
VLT +NIRMOS	ESO	8.2 m	4k x 4k	0.21"	0.054	2.71	2002-Q1
2MASS	US	1.3 m (2 of)	(3 x) 256 x 256	2.0"	0.02	0.080	1998
NTT-SOFI	ESO	3.5 m	1k x 1k	0.292	0.0069	0.066	1998
WHT + INGRID	UK+NL	4.2 m	1k x 1k	0.25	0.0051	0.070	2000
VLT-ISAAC	ESO	8.2 m	1k x 1k	0.147	0.00175	0.088	operational mid-1999
Gemini-NIRI f/6	US-UK-Can	8 m	1k x 1k	0.116	0.0011	0.055	2000-Q4
UKIRT+UFTI	UK	3.8 m	1k x 1k	0.05	0.00020	0.0023	1999
VLT+NAOS	ESO	8.2 m	1kx1k	≈	≈	≈	

(JL Beuzit)