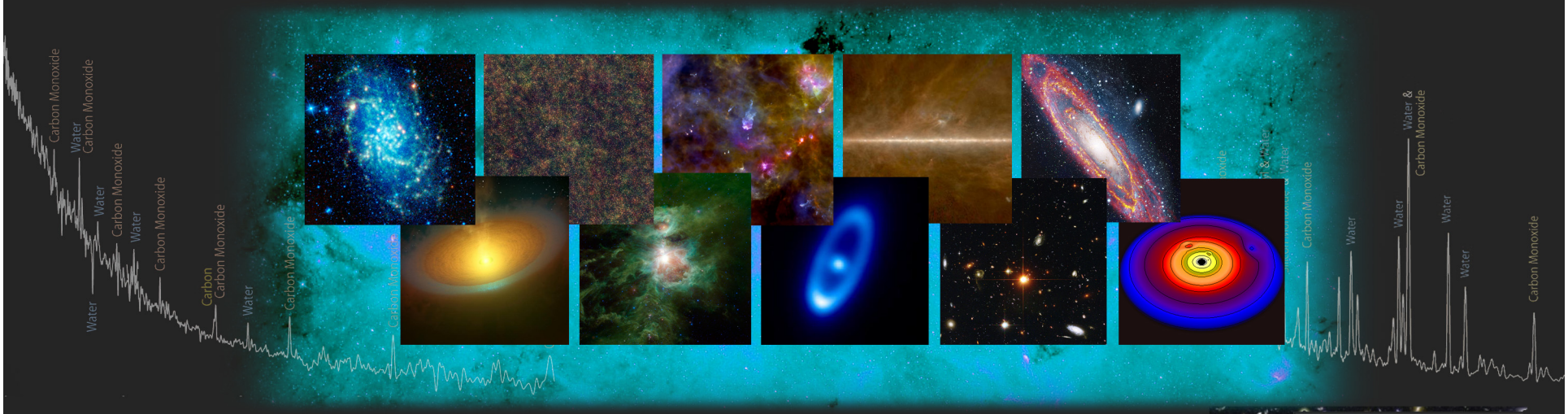
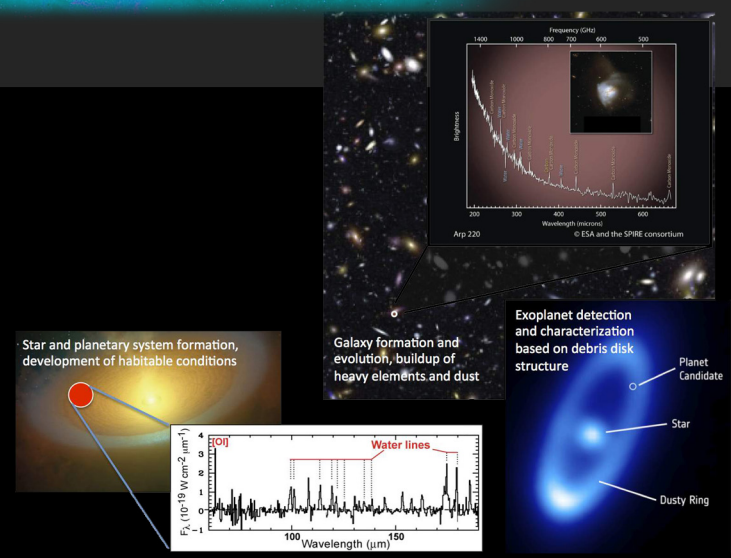
Bringing Fundamental Astrophysical Processes Into Focus: A Community Workshop to Plan the Future of Far-Infrared Space Astrophysics



Orientation, Logistics, and Introductory Remarks (abridged version)

Dave Leisawitz

NASA/GSFC



Why are we here?

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- summarize recent successes in science and technology,
- identify the most pressing science questions that a far-IR space mission is best placed to answer,
- inform the community about technical and programmatic status and optional future directions, and
- renew consensus regarding the future of far-IR space astrophysics.

Energize the community by:

- building awareness of the importance of far-IR astrophysics in the broader context of multi-wavelength astronomy, and
- engaging early-career scientists and technologists in the discussion.

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Goals for Day 1

- Where are we now, and where does the science suggest we should go next?
- What are the key measurement capabilities that will enable us to take the next big step?
- How do these capabilities compare with those available elsewhere in the electromagnetic spectrum?
- Discuss the status of critical enabling technology and plans for technology maturation.

Goals for Day 2

- Identify science "killer apps."
- What are the new ideas?
- Assess the opportunity landscape.
- Identify key decision points and open issues.
- Decide the approach we'll take as a community to choose between alternative future paths.

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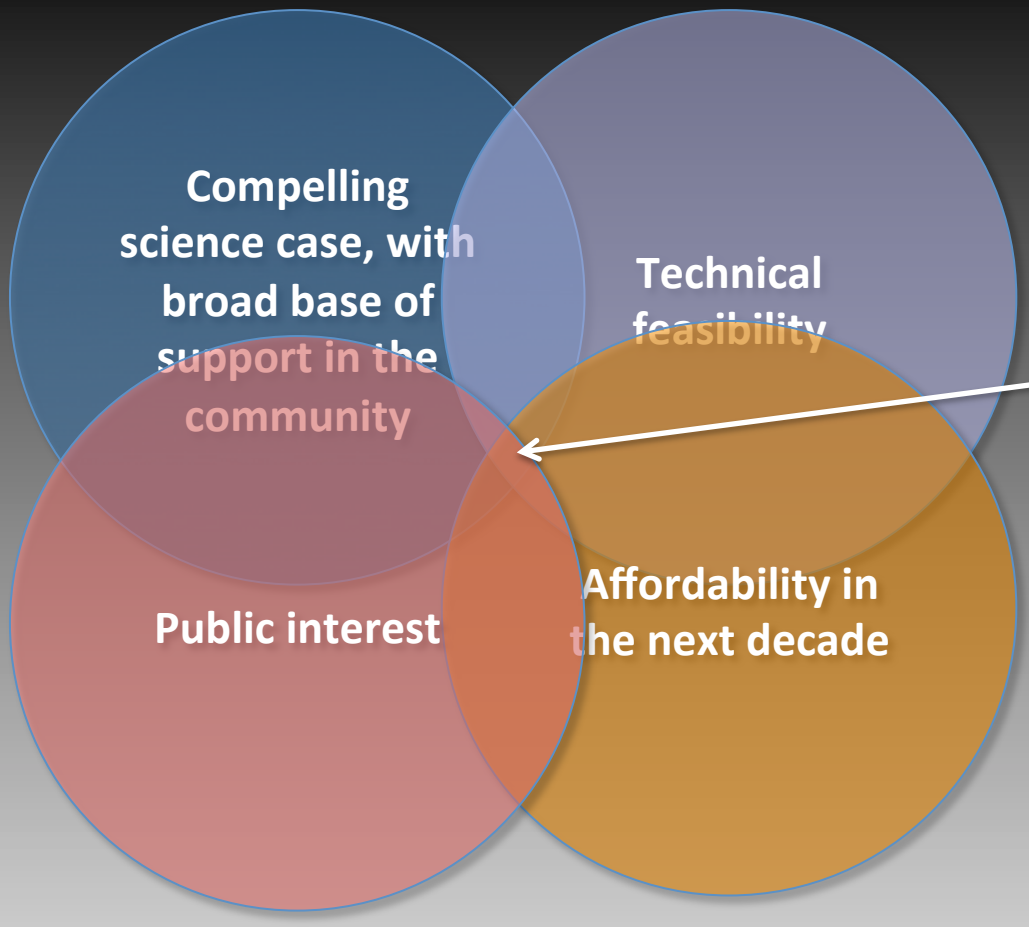
The Sweet Spot



Expensive (Decadal) missions only happen if they live here

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Thanks!

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