

3-D cosmic maps from DESI and future redshift surveys

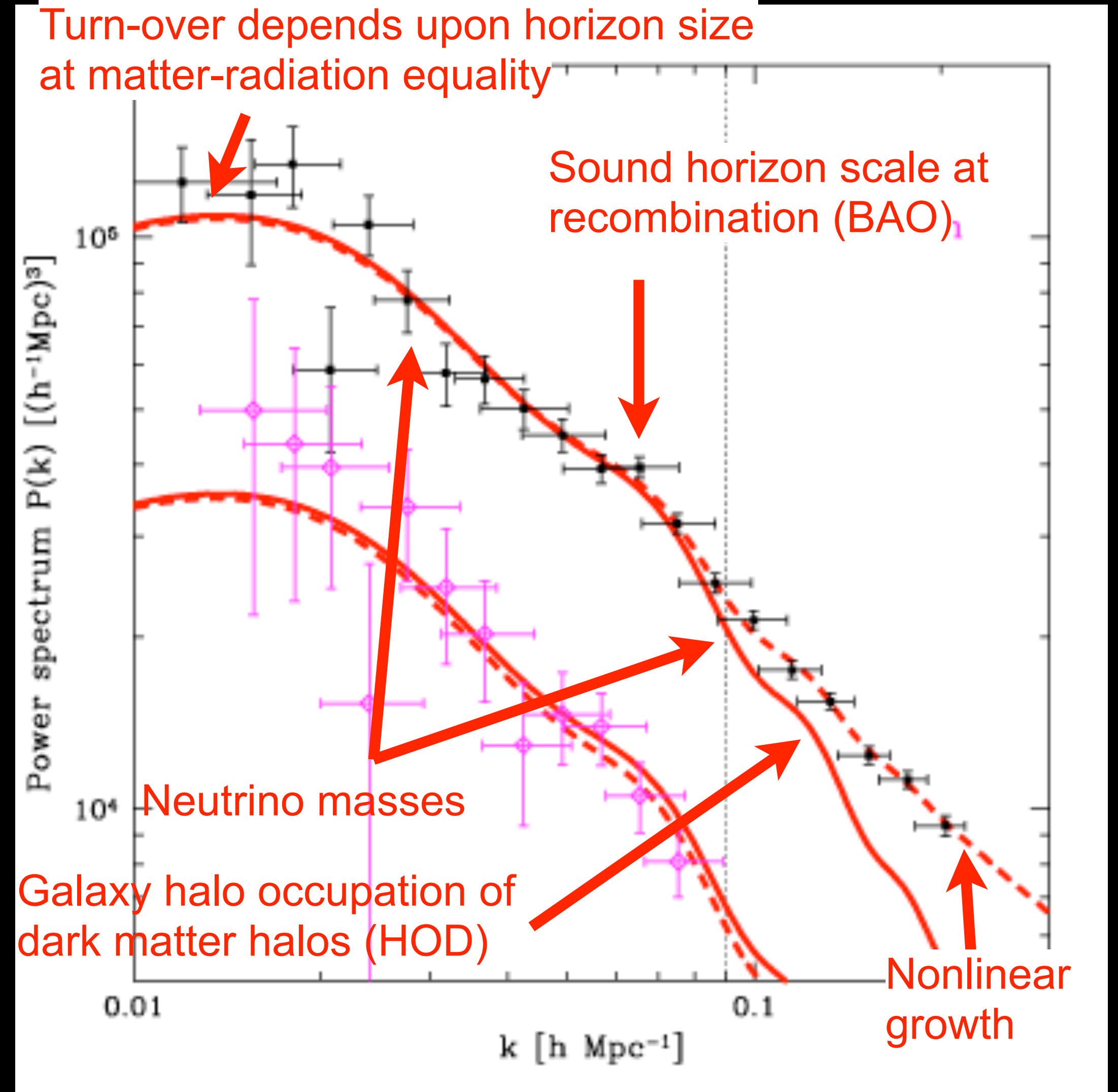
David Schlegel, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

13 July 2025

Light Travel Time ~11 Billion Years

Thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy,
Heising-Simons Foundation, Moore Foundation,
72 participating institutions,
DESI project & science teams

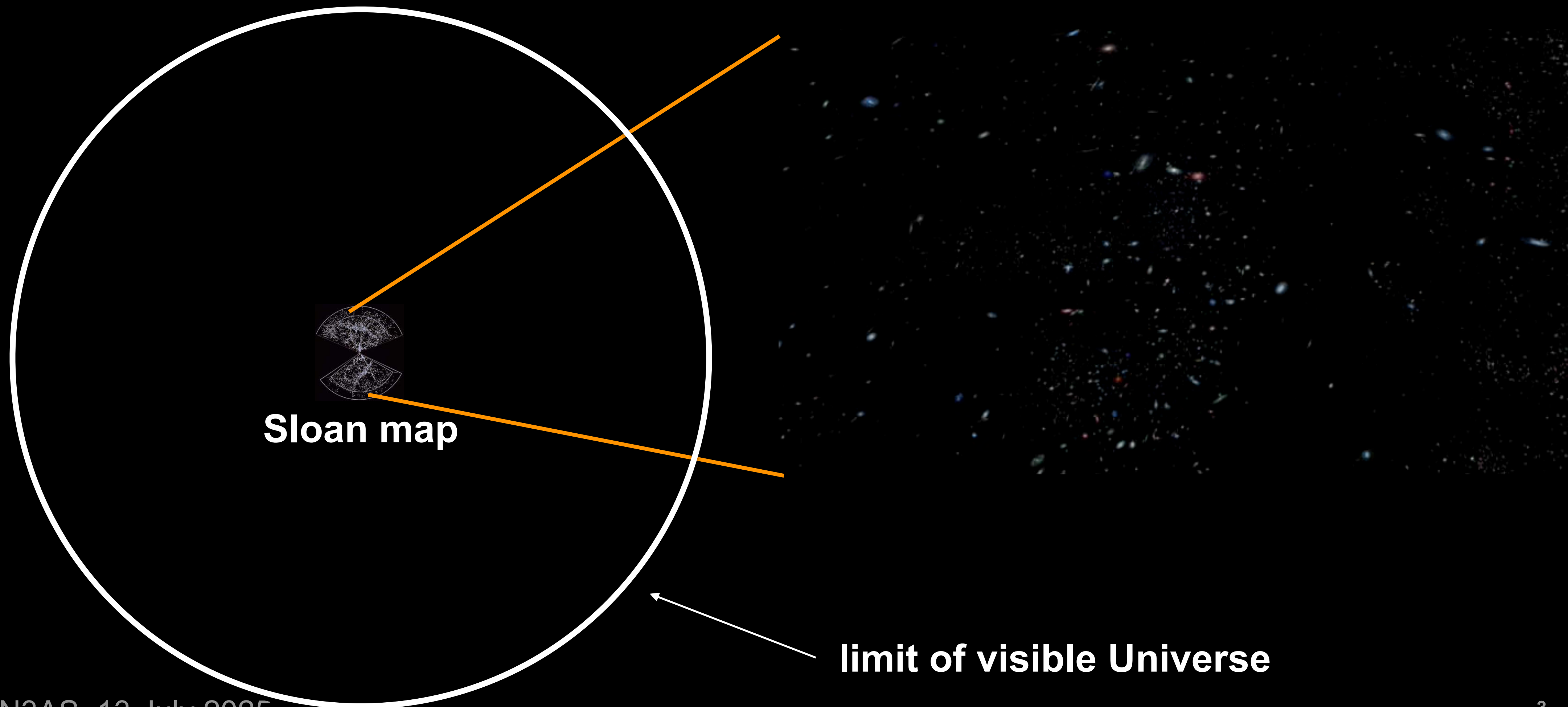
Redshift surveys (3D galaxy maps) have a long, successful history turning the statistics of galaxy clustering \rightarrow cosmology



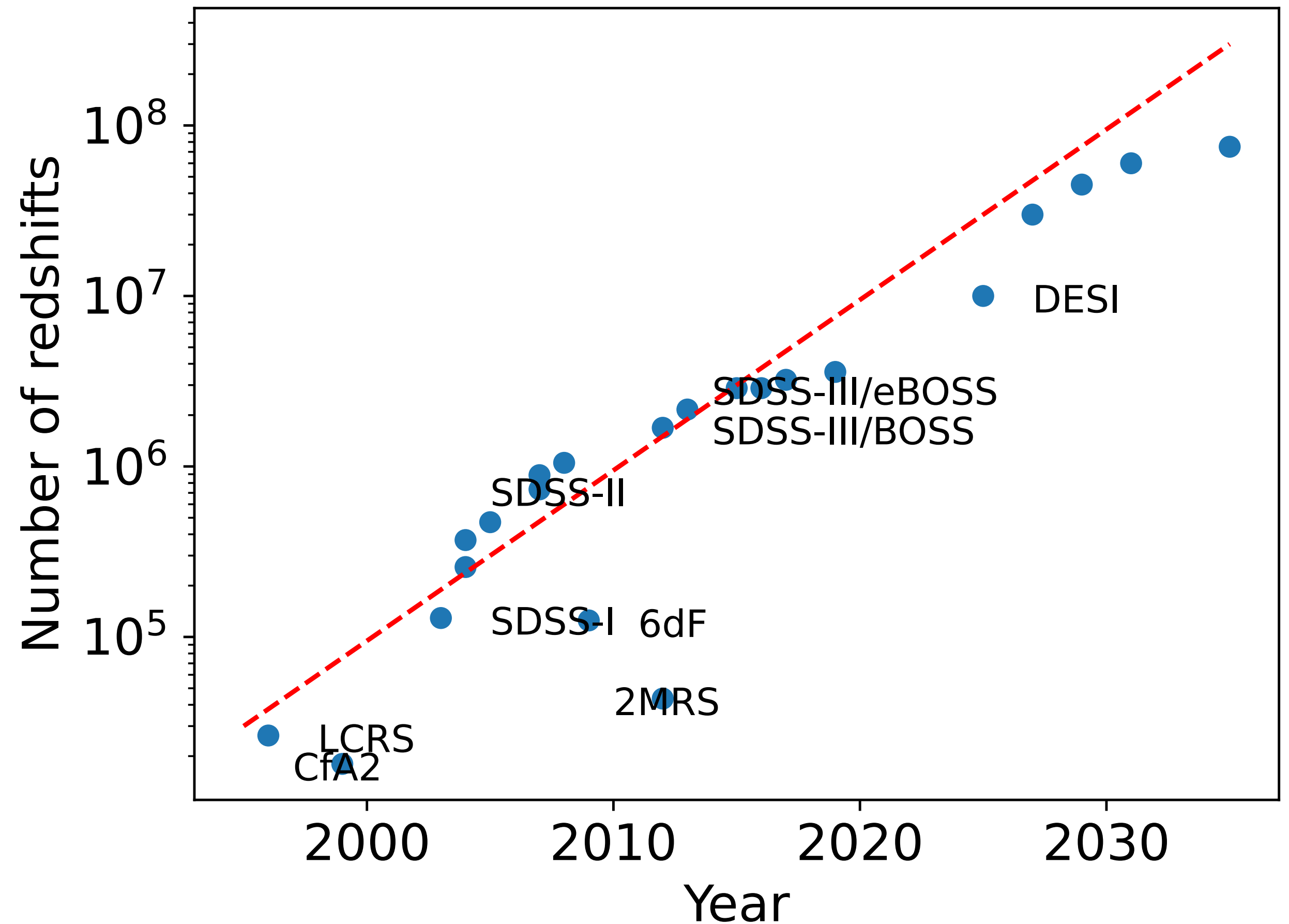
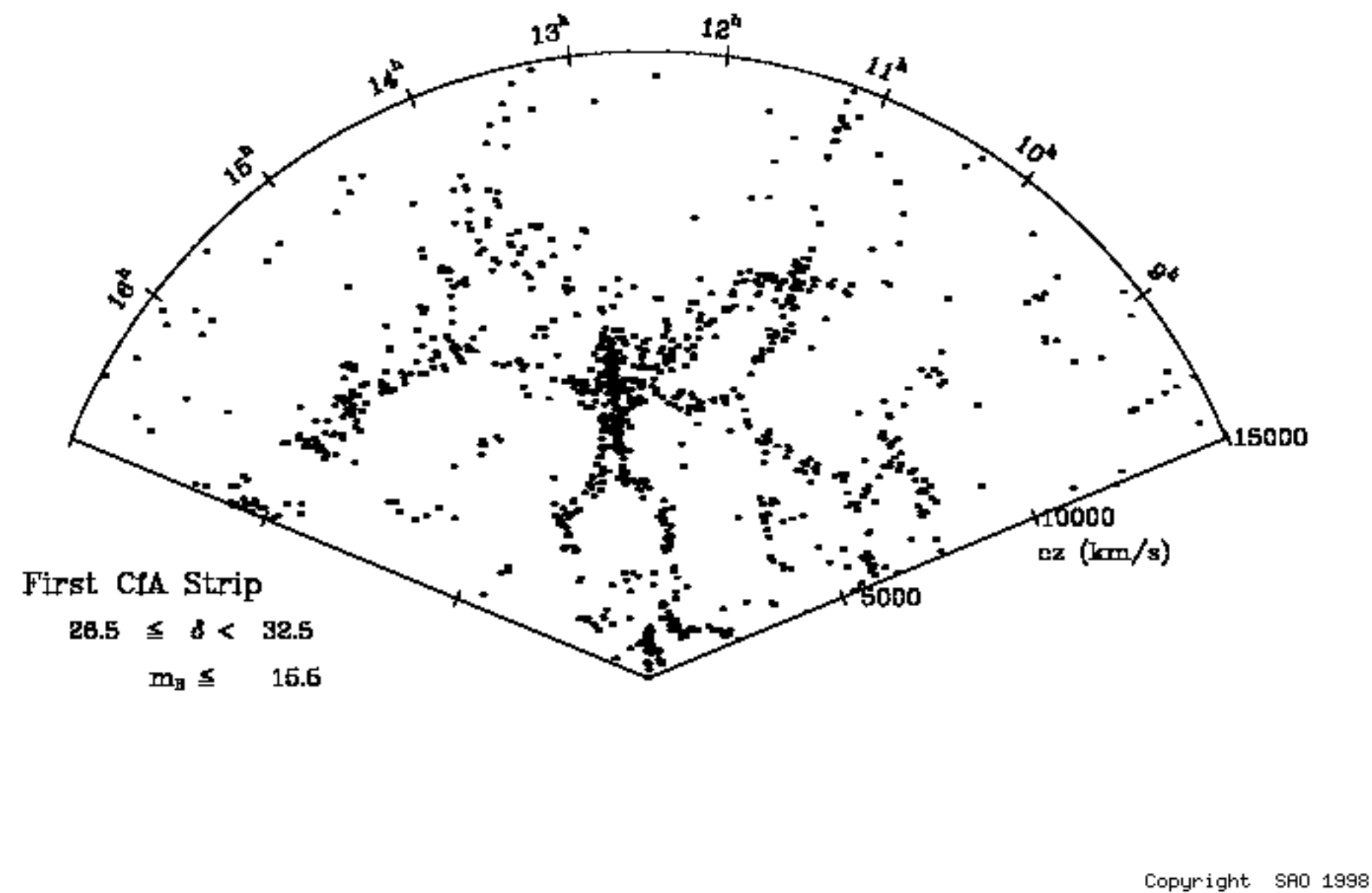
Bigger maps mean better measurements

SDSS: 2.5 million galaxies + QSOs (1999 - 2019)

DESI: 40 million galaxies + QSOs (start May 2021)



Redshift surveys have rapidly progressed — 10X larger every 10 years
+ extending to higher redshift
Enables exploring new physics + known physics at better precision



Technical problem is to cost-efficiently map the sky

Enough (~1000) optical photons from each distant galaxy hits a spherical string theorist in a night to measure redshift

spherical string theorist

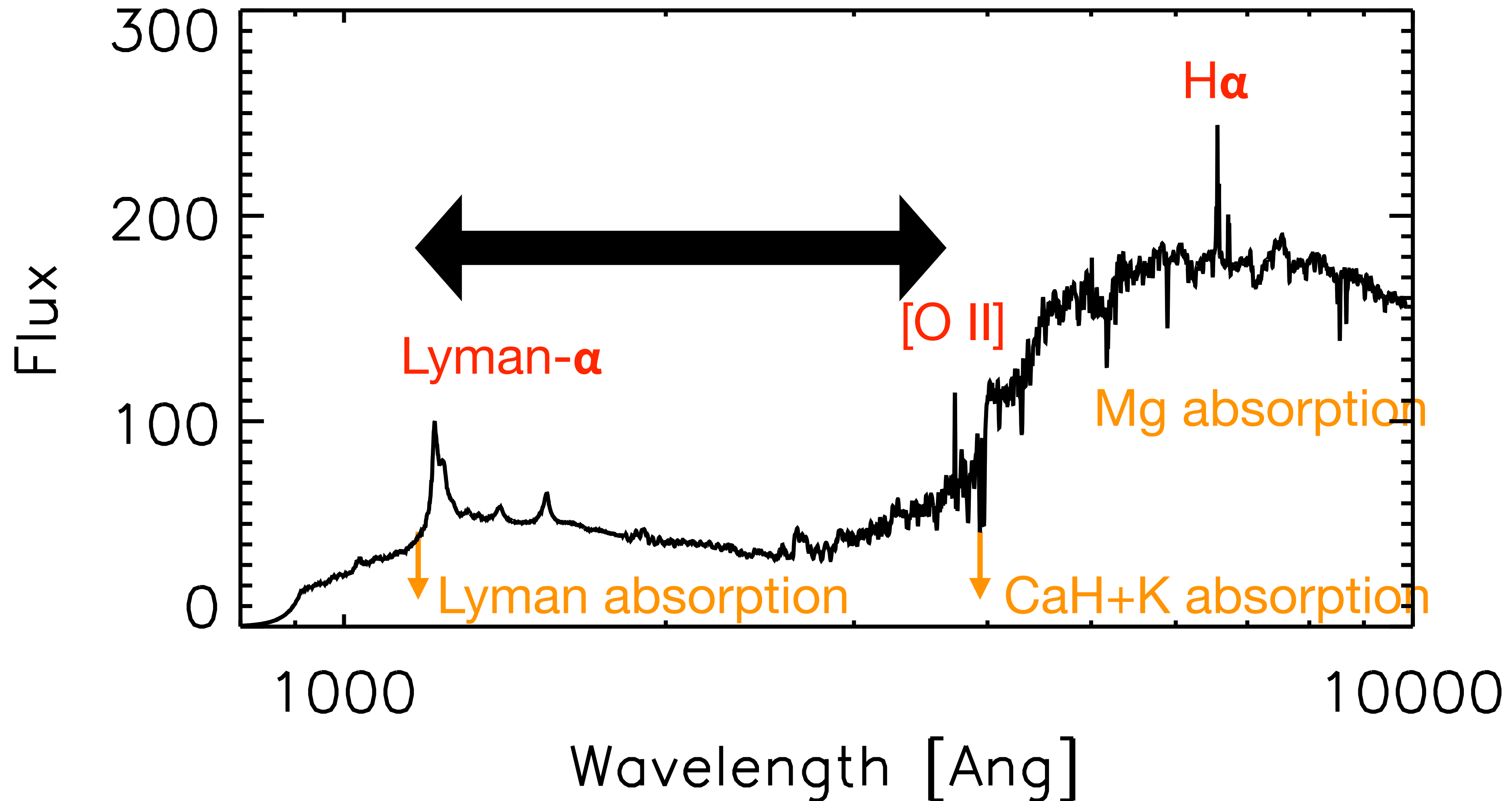


Technically possible to measure redshifts for all galaxies in optical/near-IR

—> Require large wavelength range in spectrographs

$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \lambda_{\text{min}} > 3727/1216$ to have bright emission lines at any redshift

$> 3840/1216$ to have absorption features at any redshift



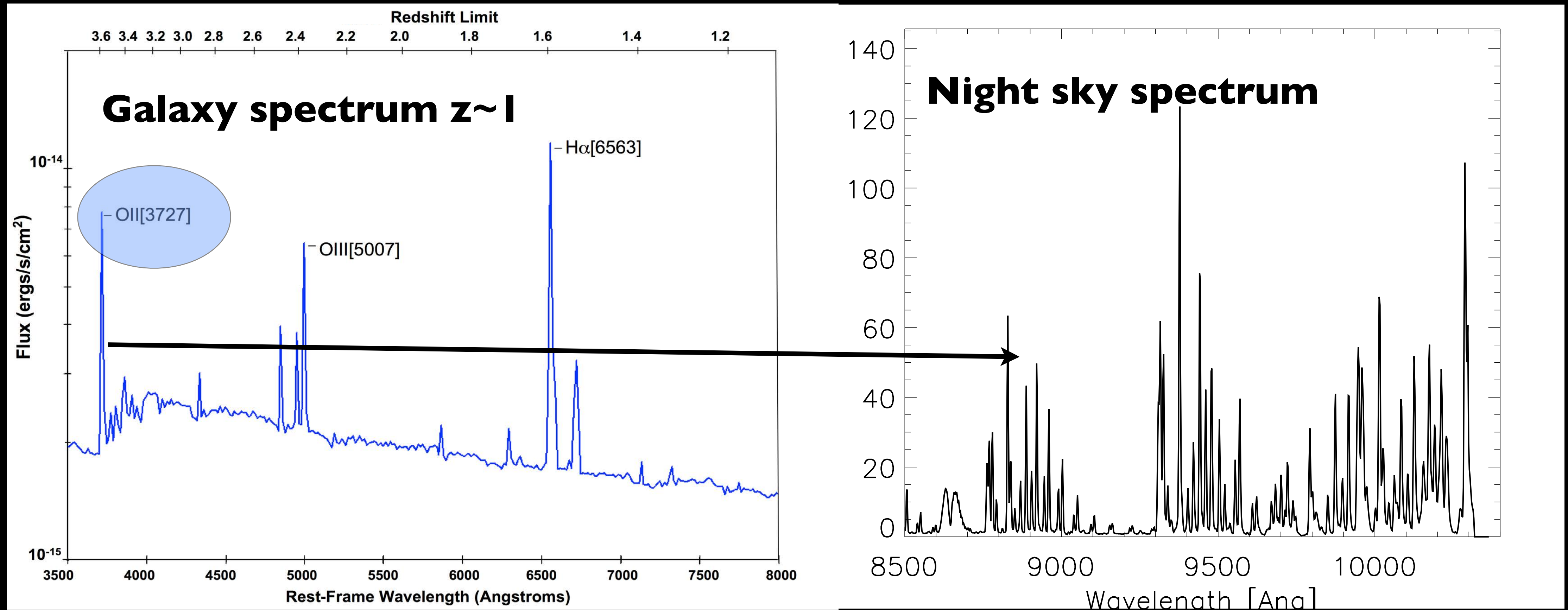
Technically possible to measure redshifts for all galaxies in optical/near-IR

—> Require spectrograph resolution = $\lambda/\Delta\lambda$

Resolution > 300, or losing cosmological modes

Resolution > 2000, or lose signal/noise on spectral features

Resolution > 5000, or not resolving between sky lines (at $\lambda > 5500$ Ang)



Technical problem is to cost-efficiently map the sky

Most telescopes see only a small patch of sky ... and only a few galaxies

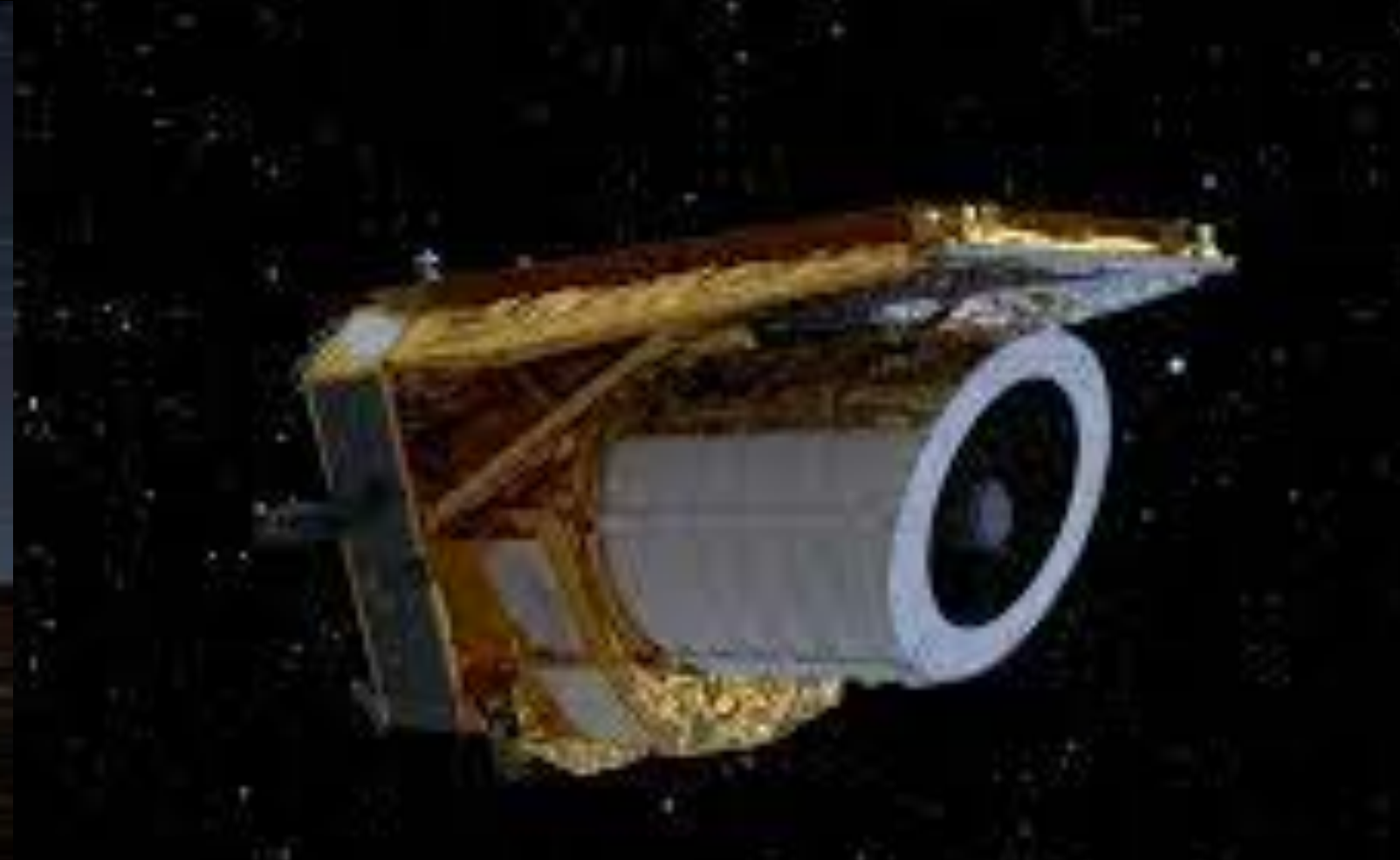
200,000 years to survey sky with the Hubble Space Telescope
(we're not doing this)



Stage 4 redshift surveys in the 2020s



DESI @ Mayall, Arizona
40M redshifts, 2021—



Euclid Telescope @ L2 orbit
~30M redshifts, 2024—



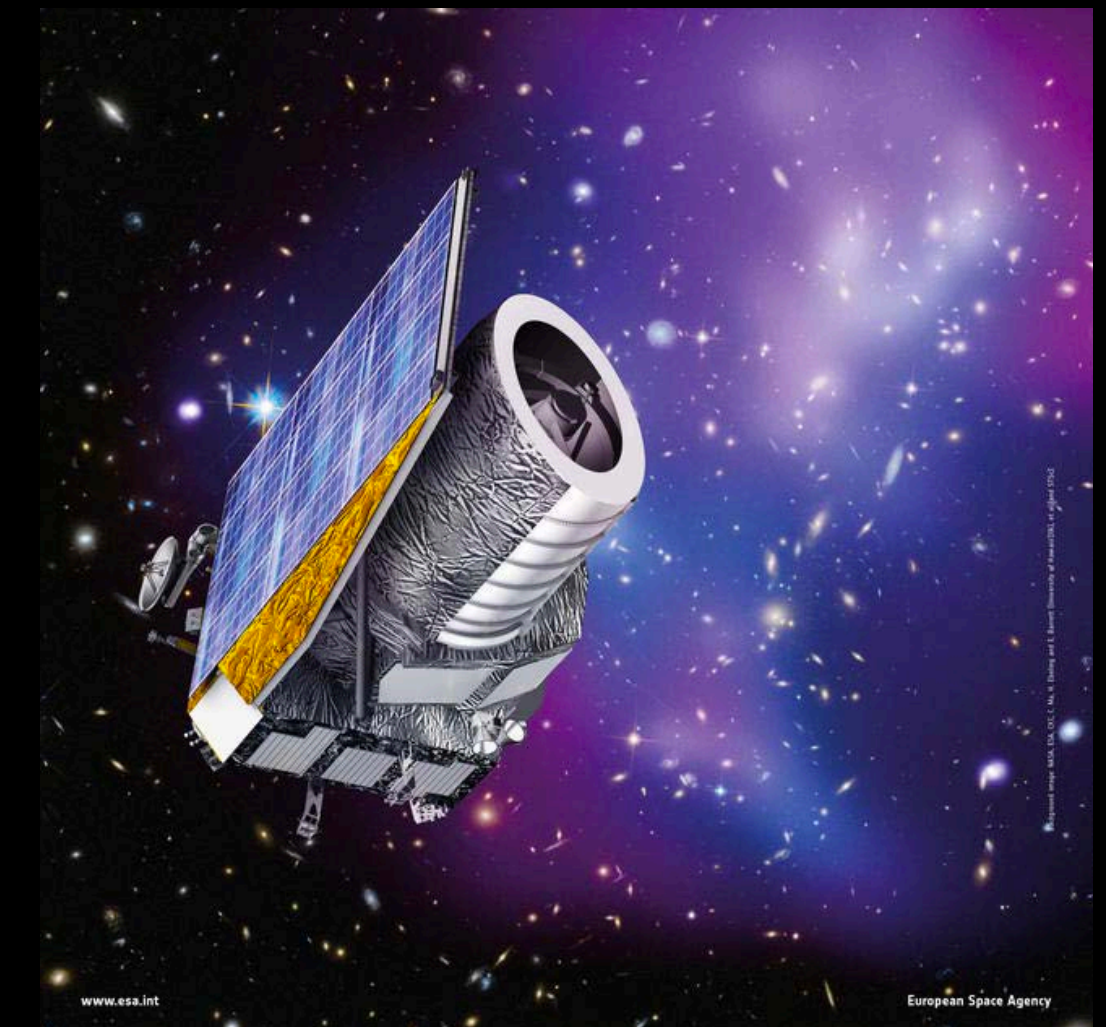
4MOST @ VISTA, Chile
8M redshifts, 2025—



PFS @ Subaru, Hawaii
~4M redshifts, 2025—



WEAVE @ WHT, Spain
~1.2M redshifts, 2025—



Roman Telescope @ L2 orbit
~30M redshifts, 2027—

DESI instrument maps 5000 galaxies every ~15 minutes

Corrector lenses, 3.2° field

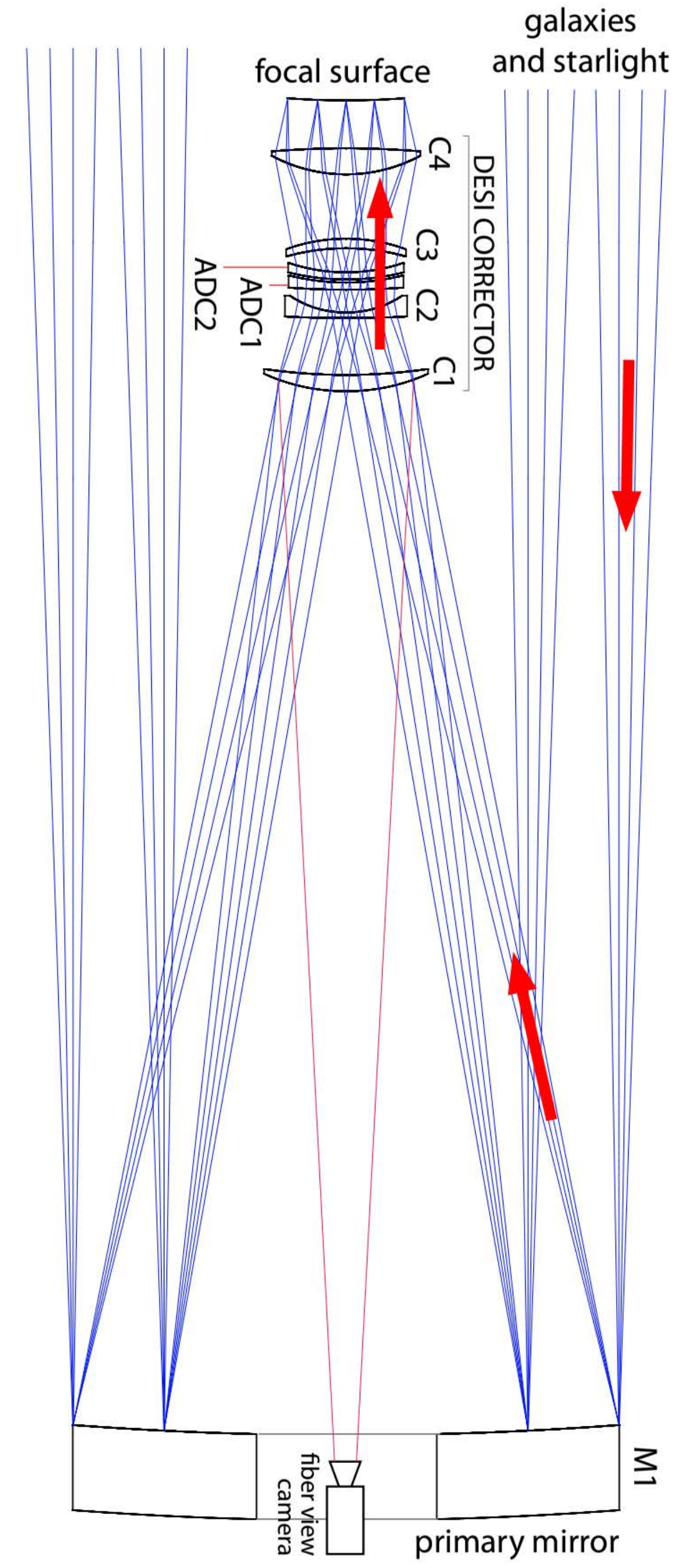
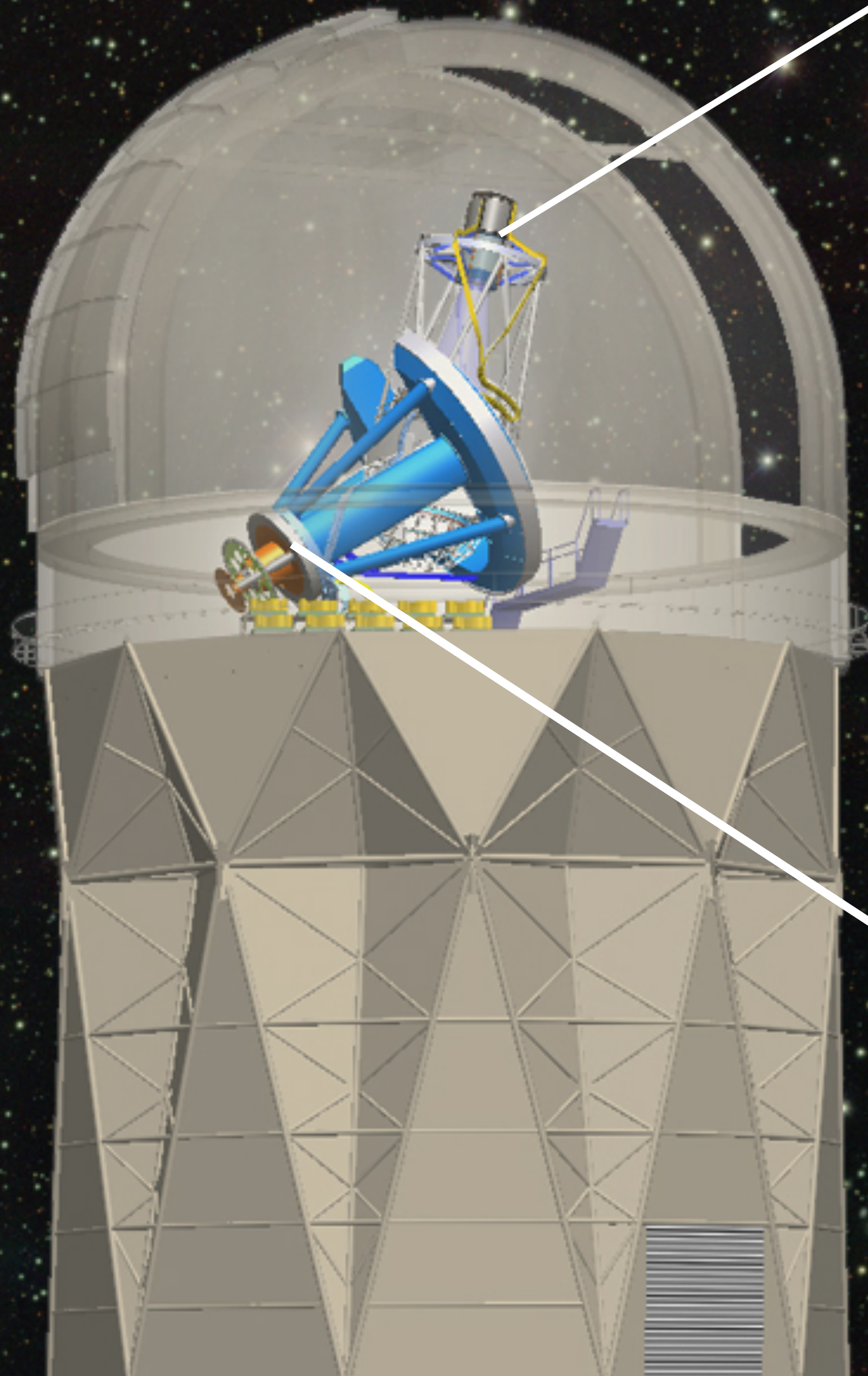
5000 robotic positioners

5000 fibers

4-meter diameter
primary mirror

10 spectrographs
X 3 channels each
= 30 cameras with 30 detectors

**DESI keeps the primary mirror,
replaces everything else**



“Some assembly required”





not me

**August 2017: Existing Mayall dome calibration screen being removed
for replacement with larger screen for DESI field of view**

DESI installation started 2017... completed 2019



Cage and Ring being delivered to the Mayall telescope building, April 2018

4 years 4 months to polish all six lenses for the DESI corrector



June 2017: Stain on side B of ADC2 is seen with a bright halogen light



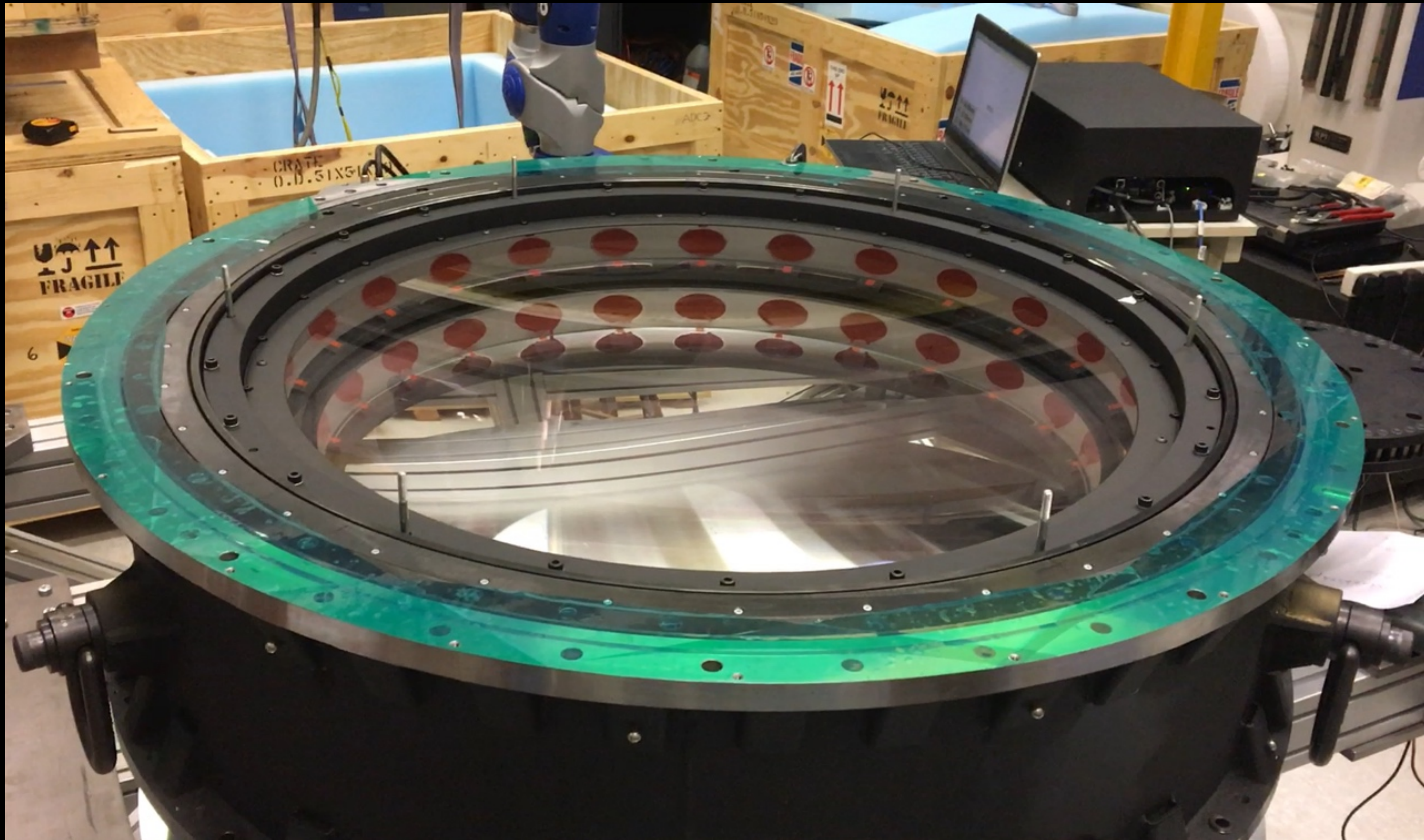
This 1.15-meter diameter lens was the largest on any telescope (until last month)

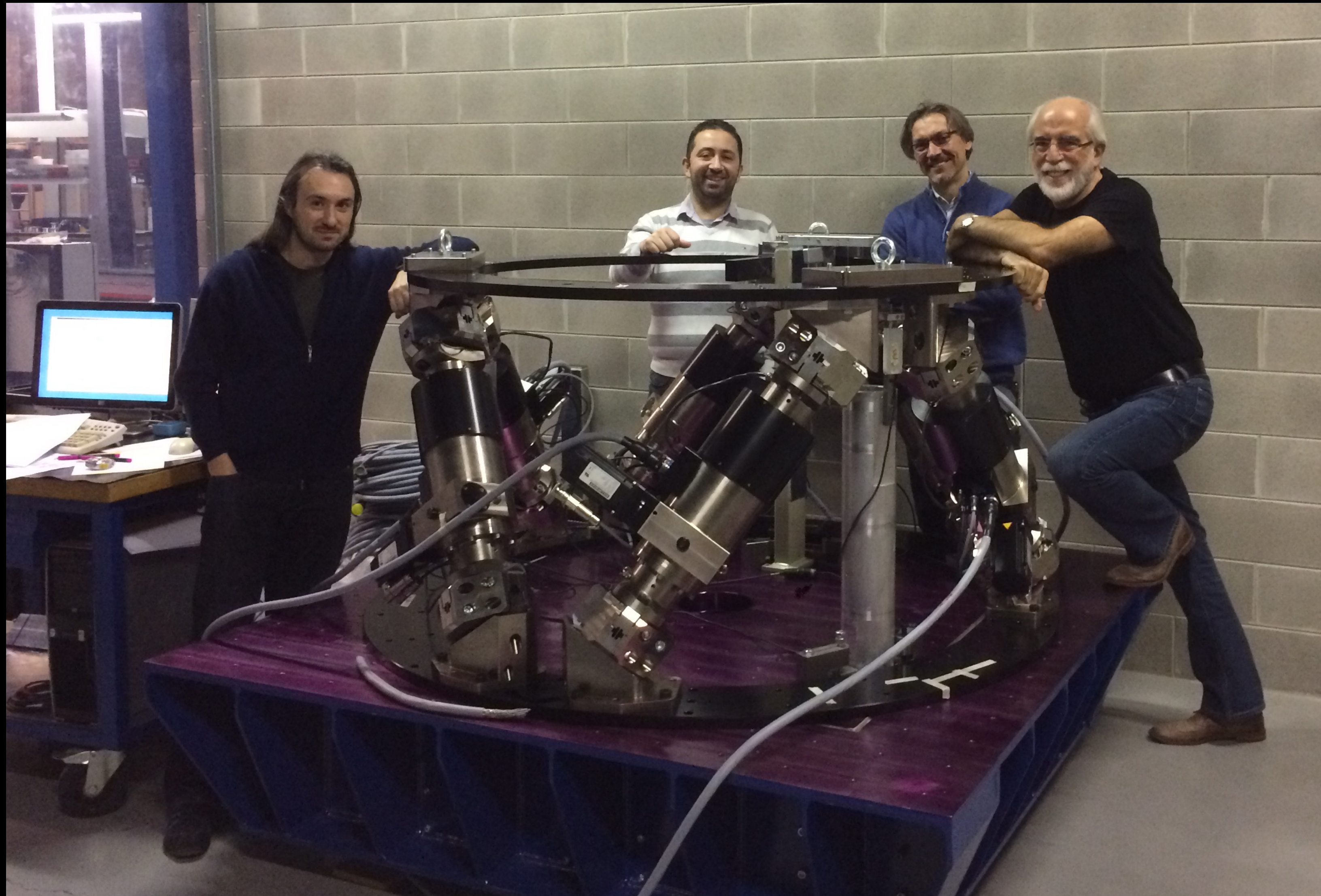
David Schlegel, N3AS, 13 July 2025



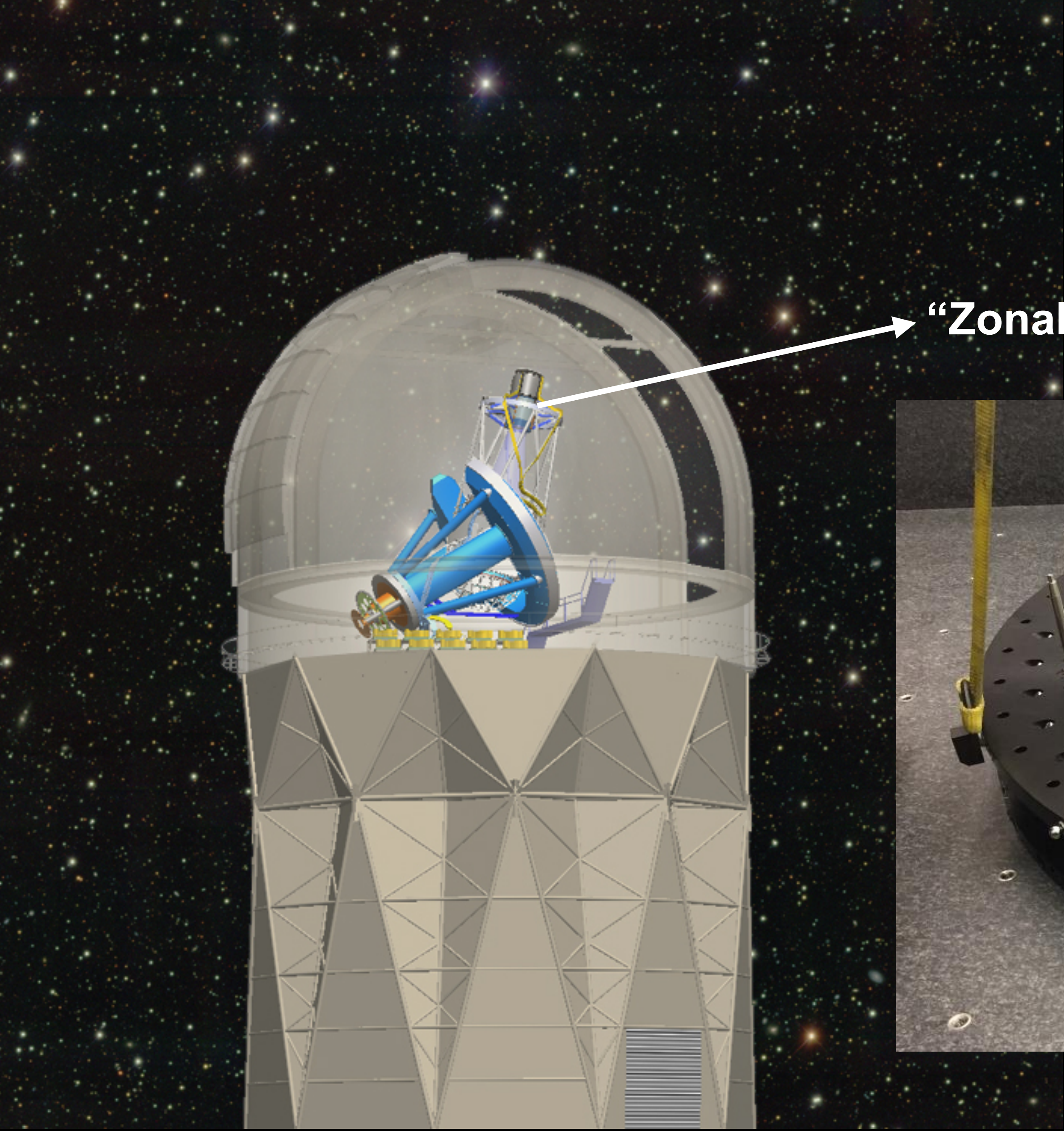
**Nov 2016: Fully assembled corrector barrel at Fermilab aligns
lenses to ~10 microns**

Lenses include an atmospheric dispersion corrector of counter-rotating prisms

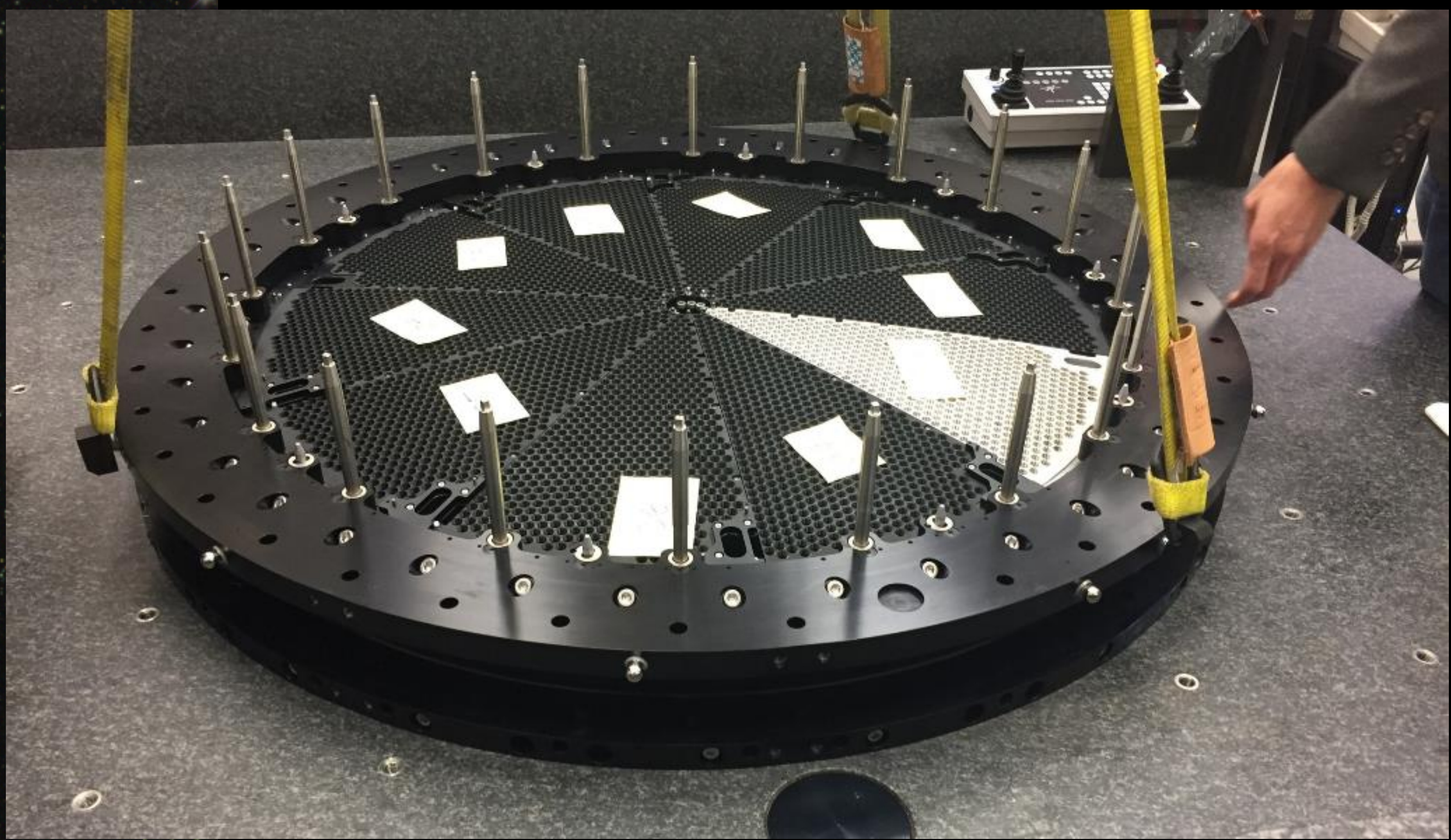


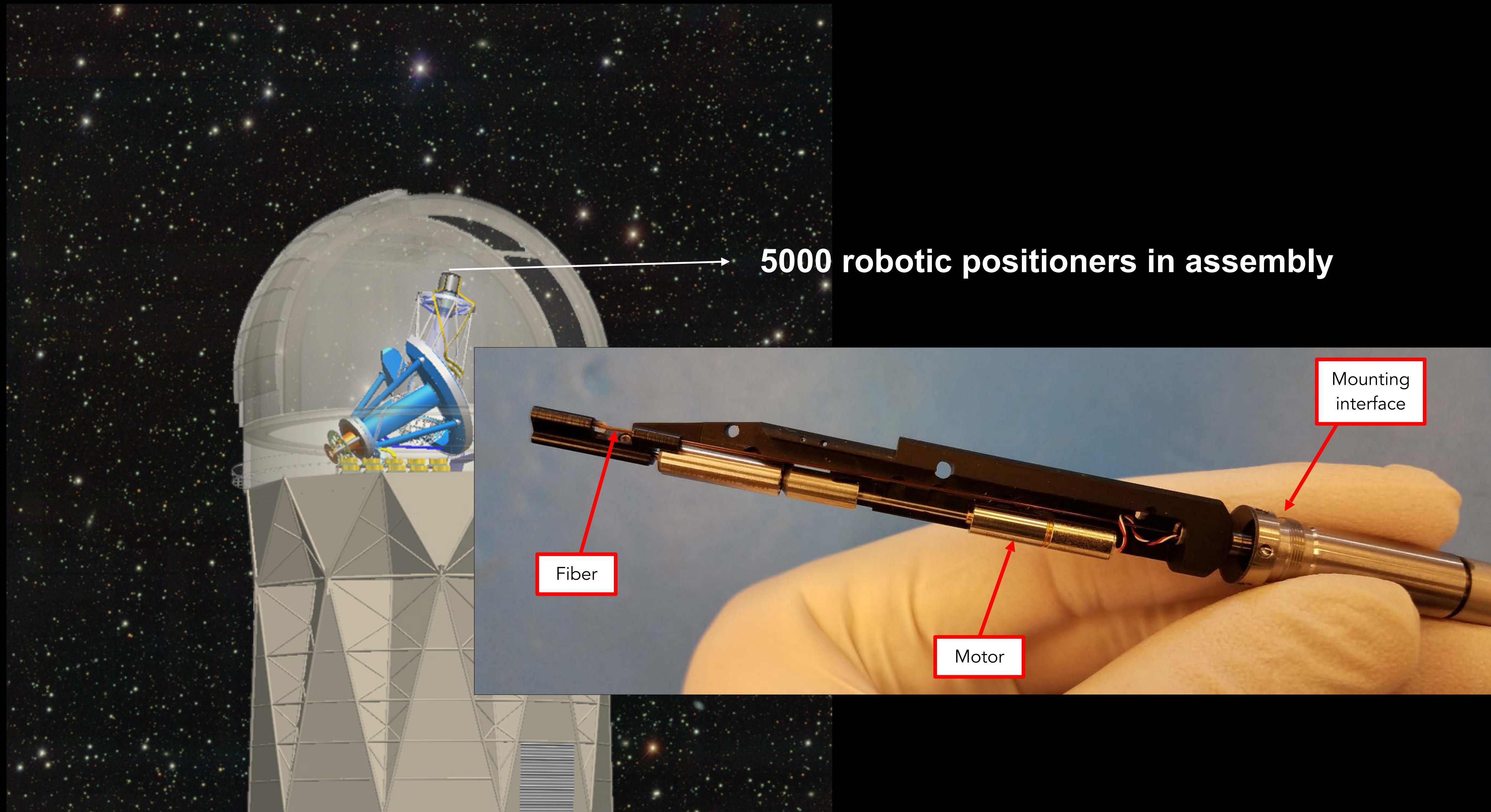


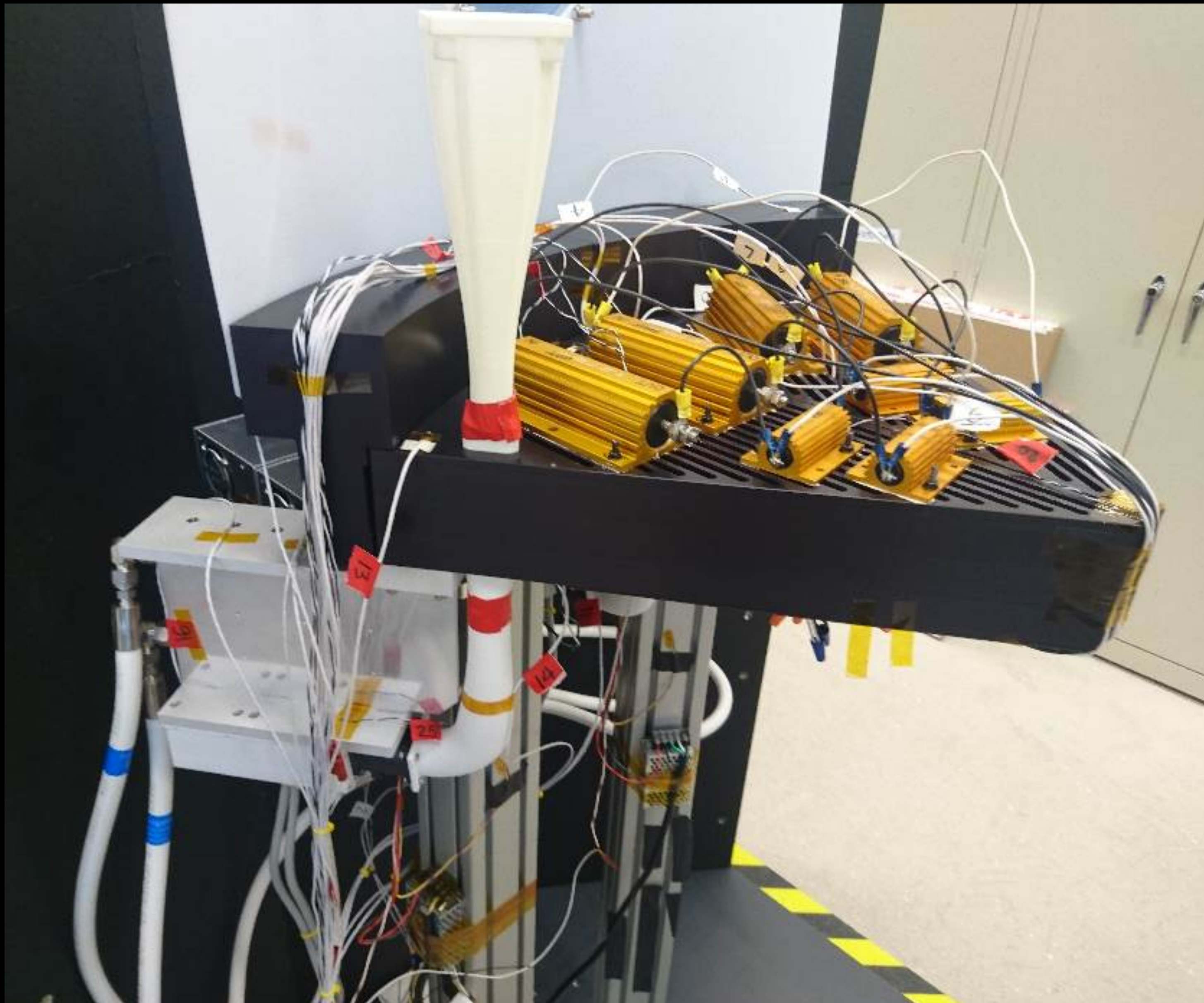
... and a hexapod to actively compensate positioning in 6 dimensions (x, y, z, roll, yaw, pitch) to < 1 micron accuracy



“Zonal” focal plane with 10 wedges







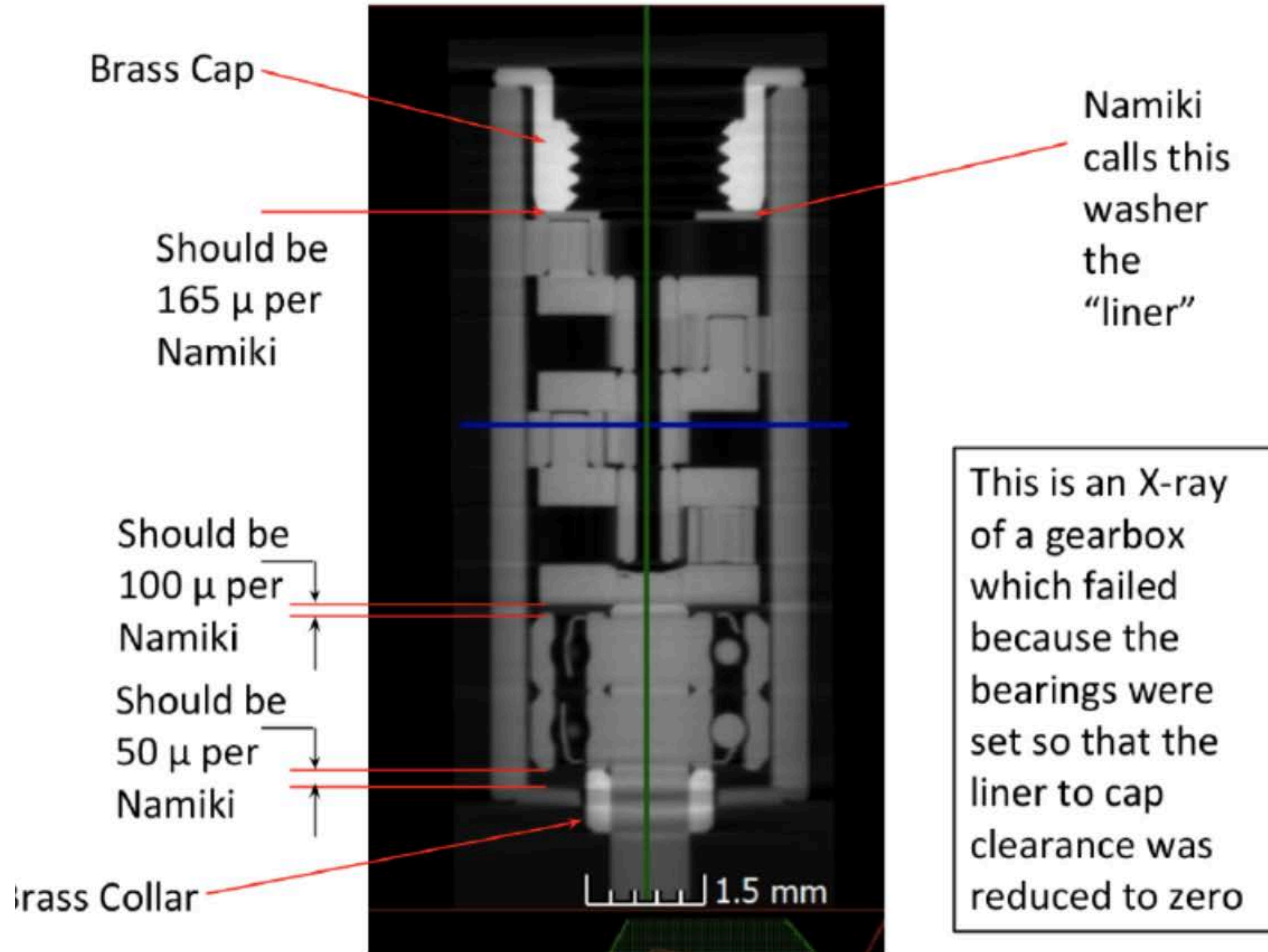
May 2017: Thermal tests, simulating injection of heat from moving 5000 positioners every 15 min

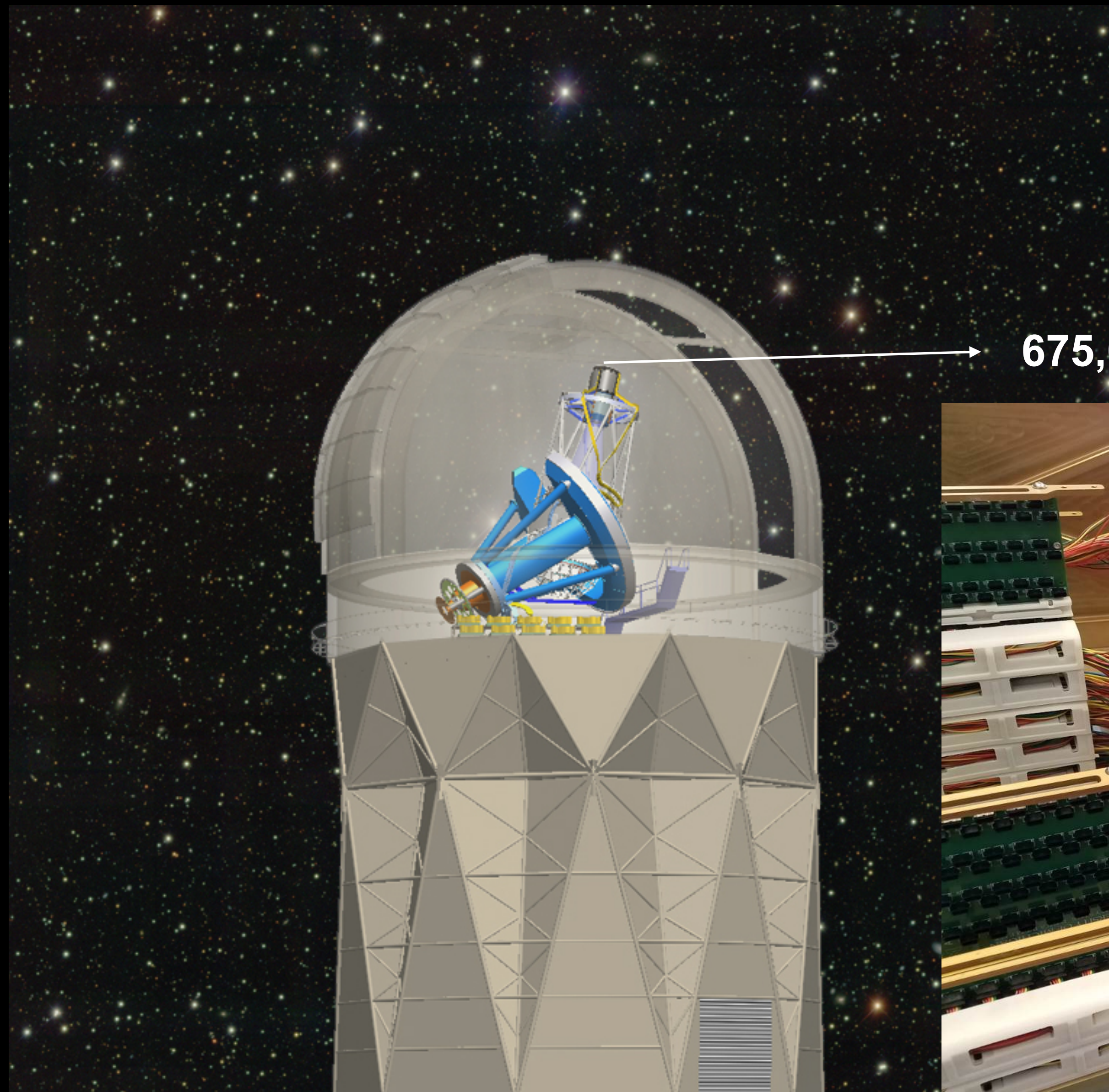


**new fiber
guards**

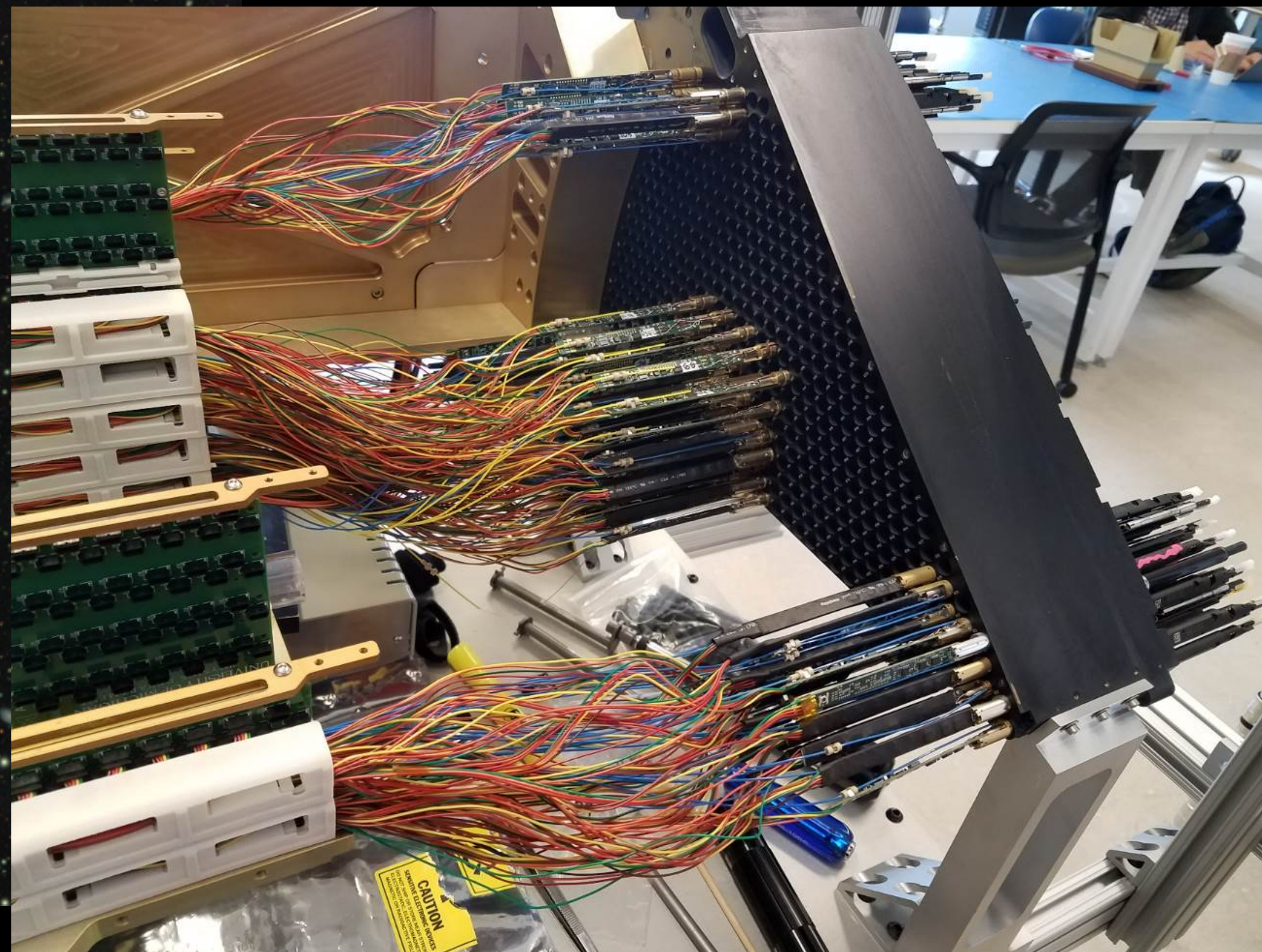
**Fiber positioner production halted several times due to problems in
parts production, assembly tolerances, and operations**

March 2017: Positioner undergoing x-ray analysis to confirm a weld failure in the motor shaft





675,000 total parts on this focal plane

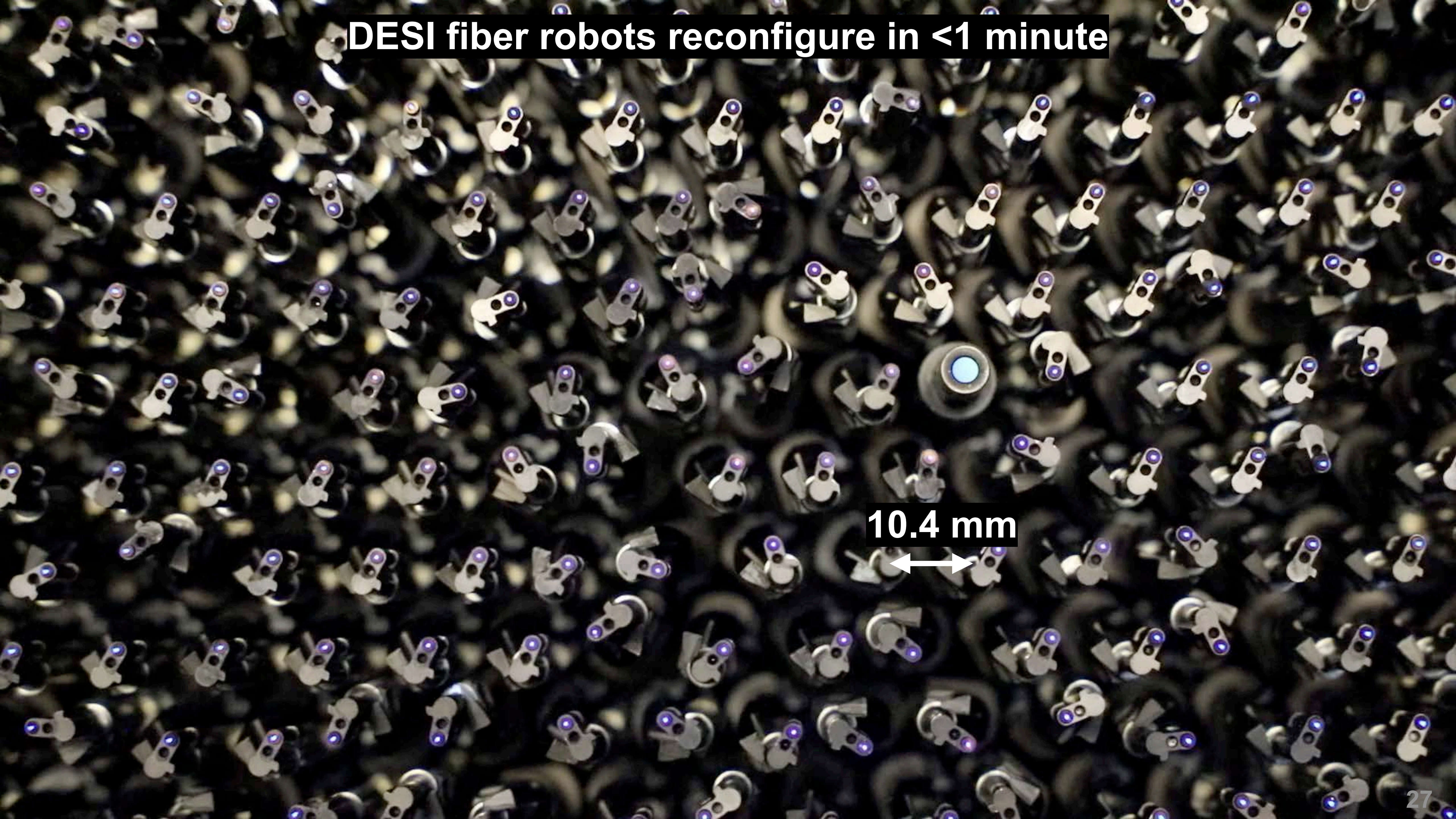


Mission accomplished!



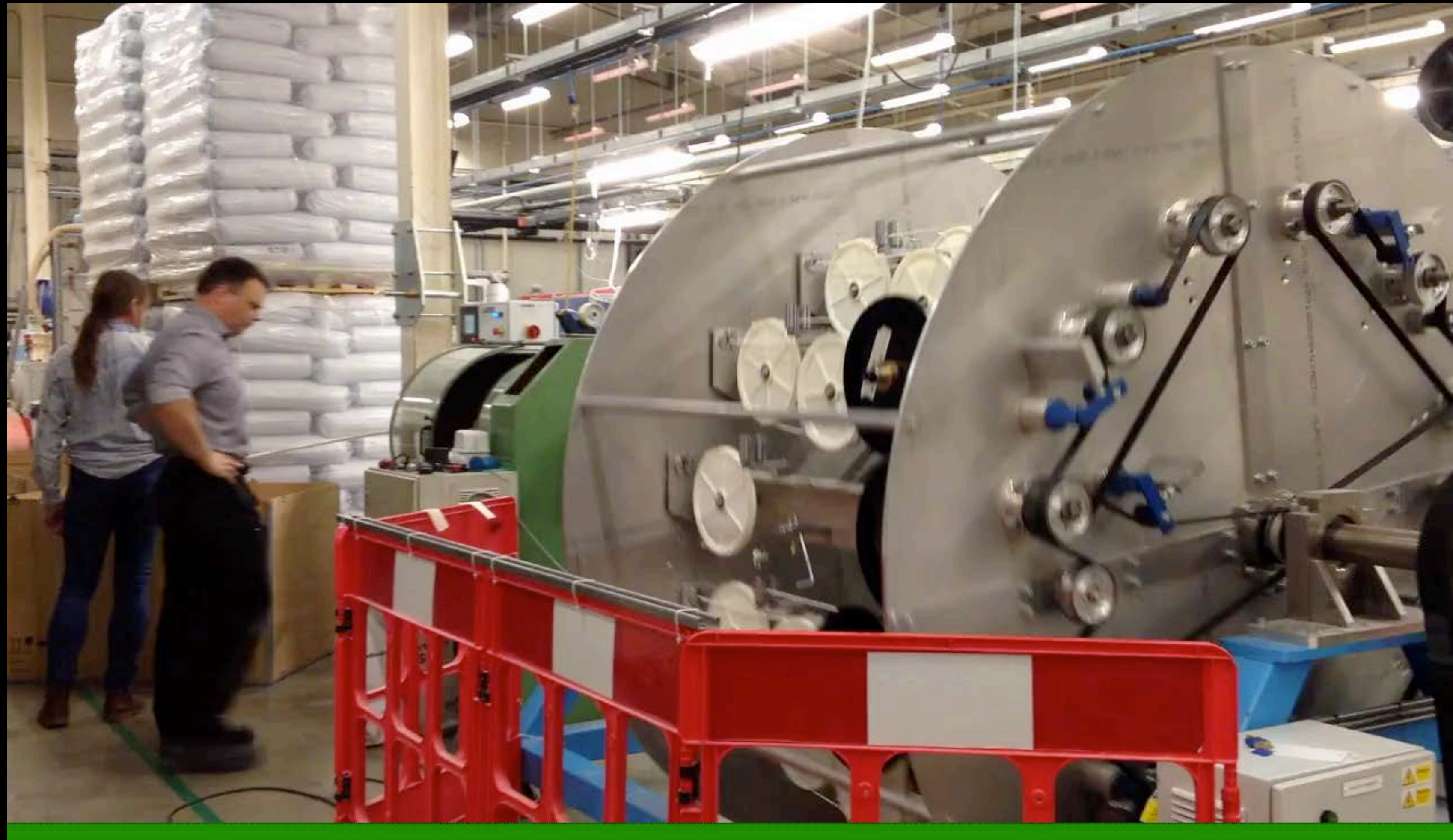
The University of Michigan Positioner Team in commemorative T-shirts celebrating production of enough positioners to populate the complete 10-petal DESI focal plane

DESI fiber robots reconfigure in <1 minute



10.4 mm

**DESI fibers are plasma-spliced, not “connectorized”
to avoid any losses in throughput**



250 km of optical fiber wound in steel-core cables



April 2018: Crated Spectrograph and Cryostats with the Winlight Project Manager, Eric Tournayre, prior to shipment from Pertuis France to Kitt Peak

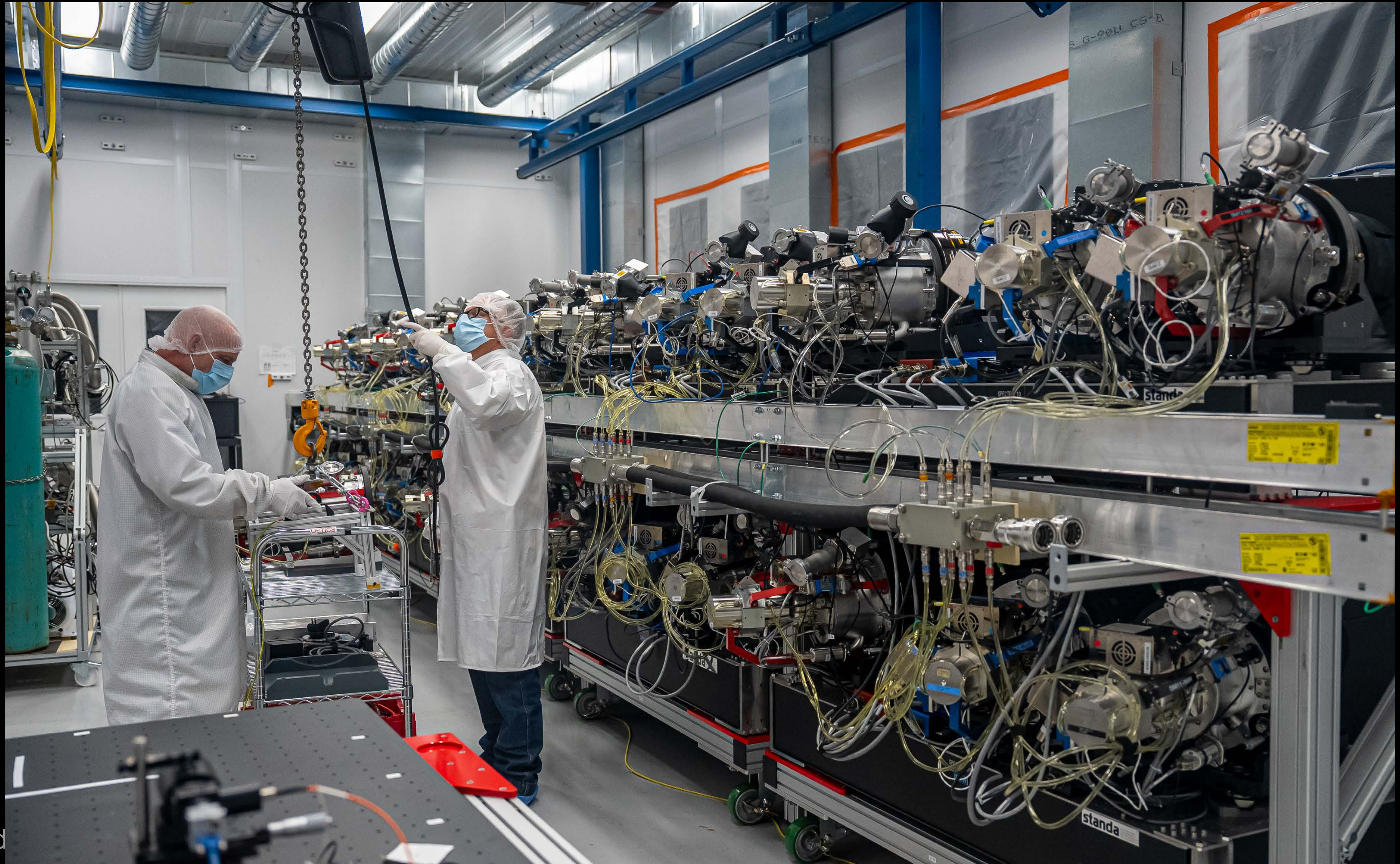


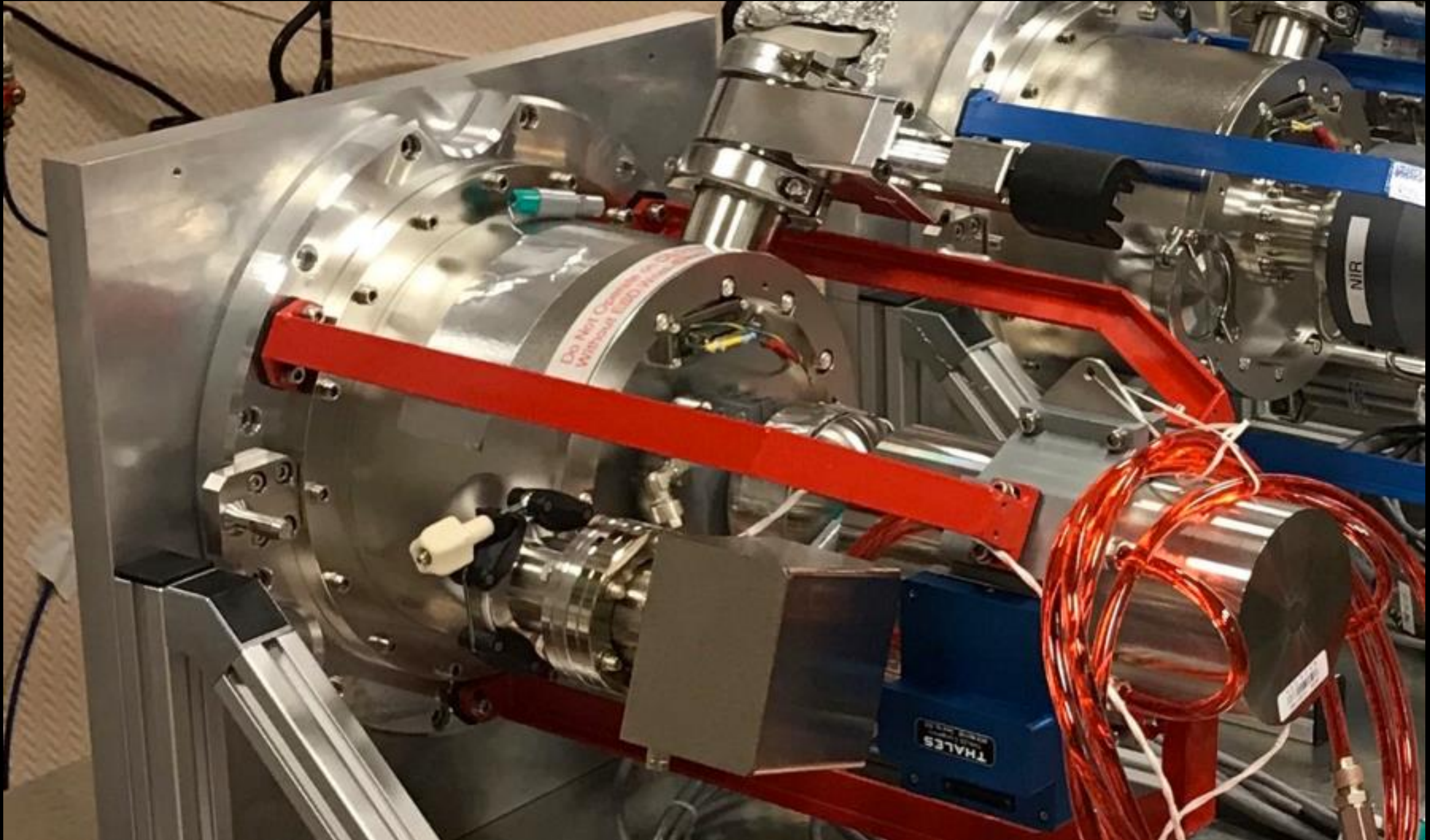
Un-crating the 1st spectrograph at Kitt Peak



... the thing still works.

10 DESI spectrographs measure the light in 12000 channels from 0.36-0.98 μm



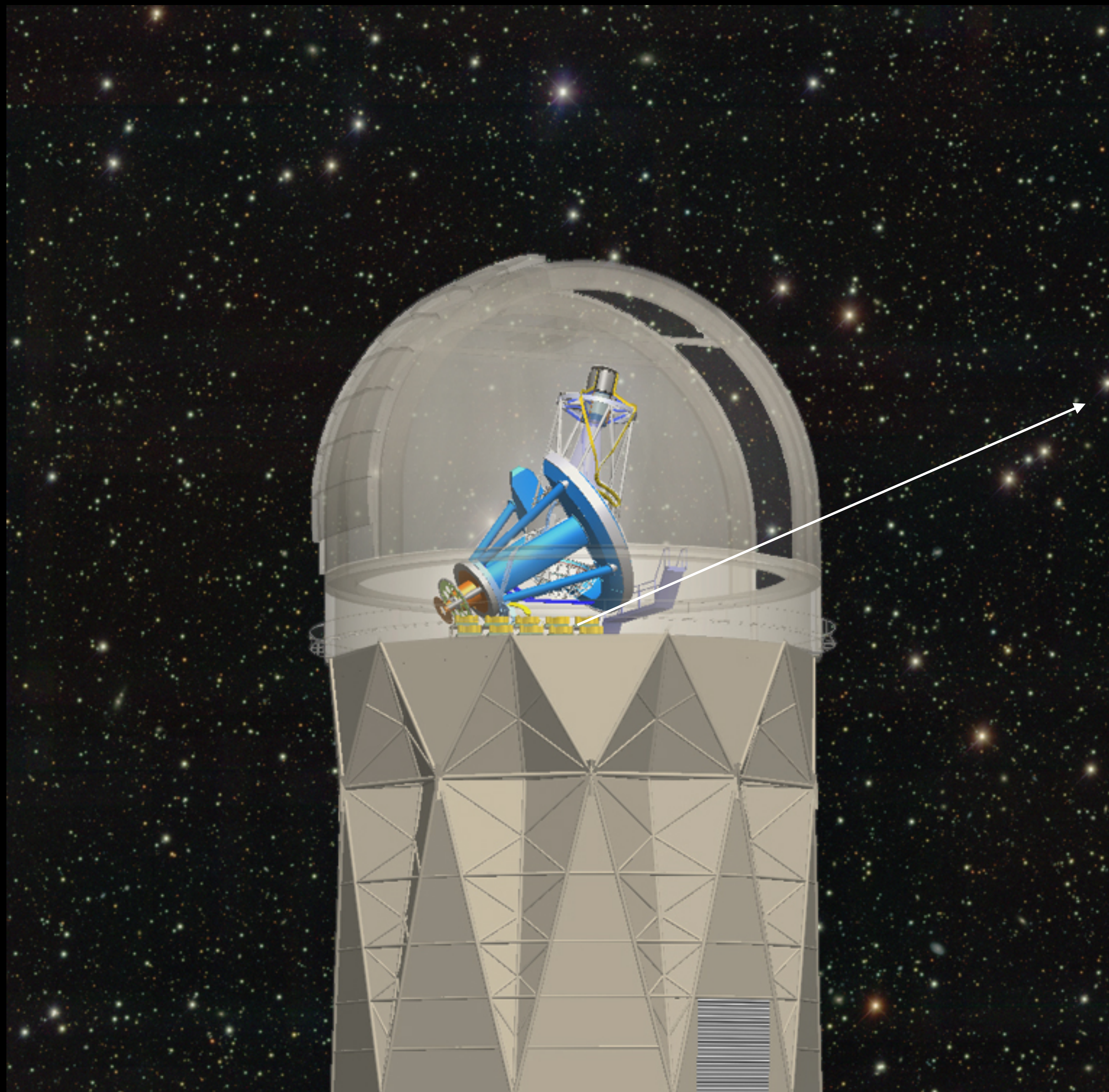


Detector cryostats cooled with linear pulse tubes

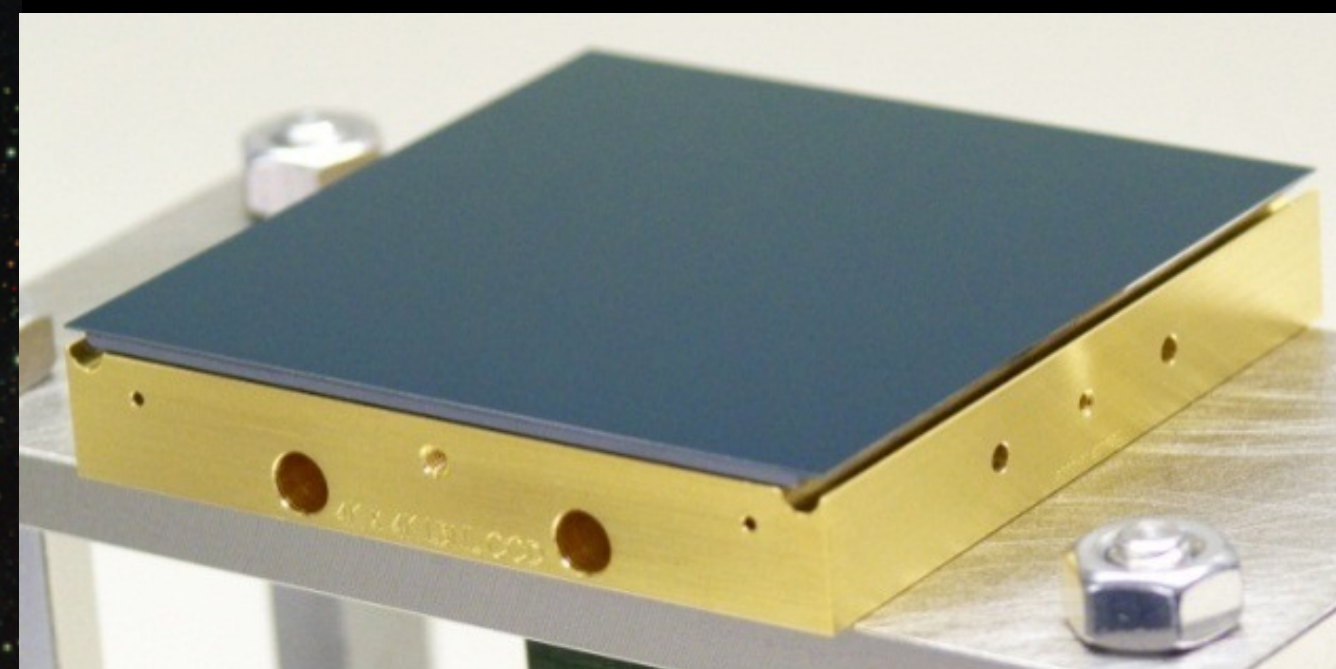
Spectrograph problems: Vibrations from pulse tube coolers were acceptable, until several were running at the same frequency



May 2017: Accelerometer on Spectrograph during vibration testing at Winlight.



**Berkeley Lab “fully-depleted” CCDs,
improved in response, noise, cosmetics
since DECam**

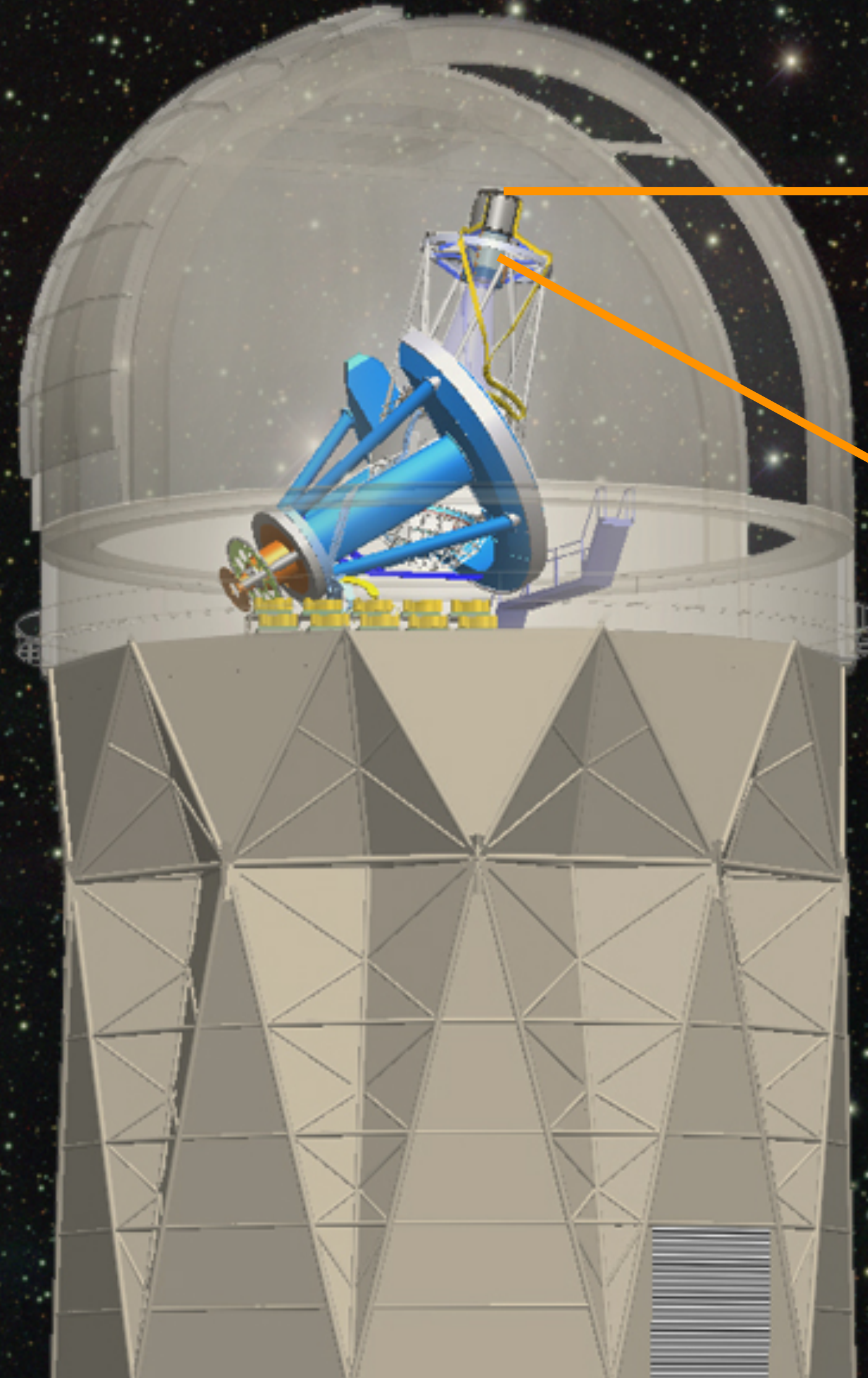


DESI is an international collaboration with components built in the US, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Switzerland



July 12, 2018: Chartered Ukranian An-12 plane to deliver 10 tons of corrector + tooling from the London -> Arizona

Aug 2018: Corrector re-aligned before installation



[D @desiinstallationatthemayal3267](#) [Subscribe](#)

The completed DESI Corrector and the hexapod on 2018 08 03

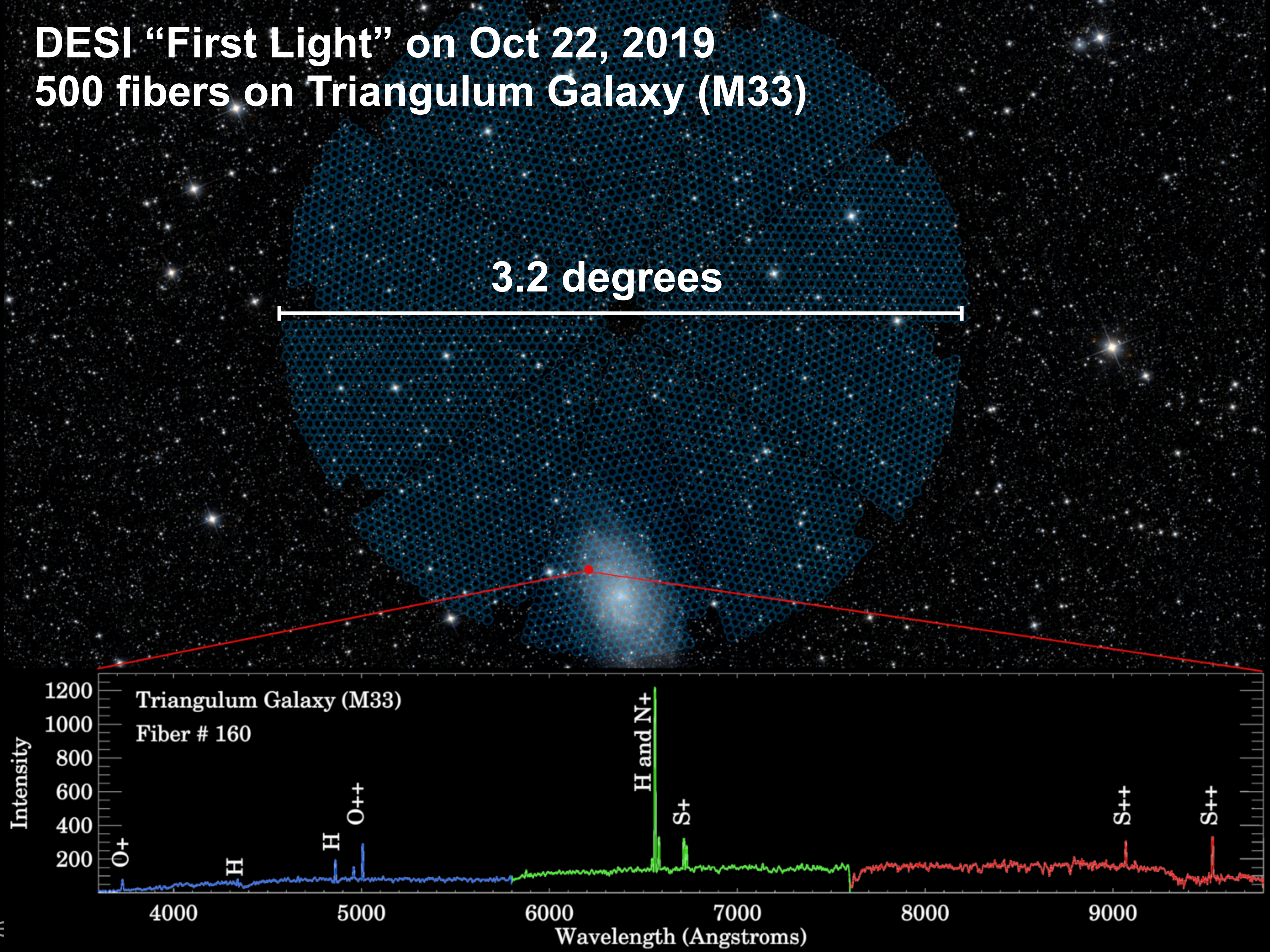
DESI “First Light” on Oct 22, 2019

500 fibers on Triangulum Galaxy (M33)

Moon



3.2 degrees



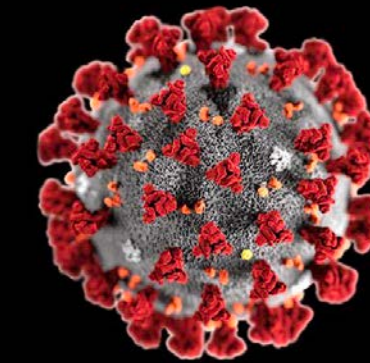
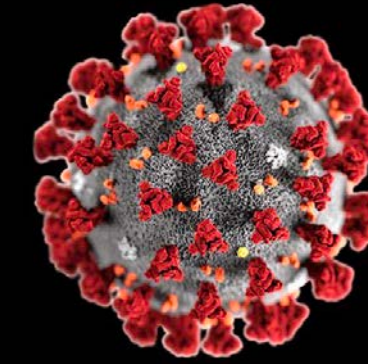
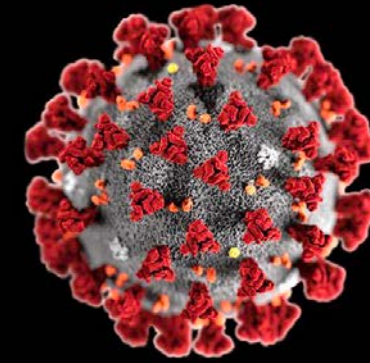
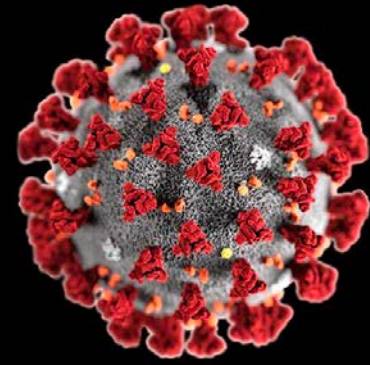
Why the Triangulum Galaxy?

Enterprise-D will visit there in 2364 during warp field tests



Started Survey Validation March 14, 2020

... COVID shutdown March 16, 2020 ... until Nov 2020



Survey start May 14, 2021

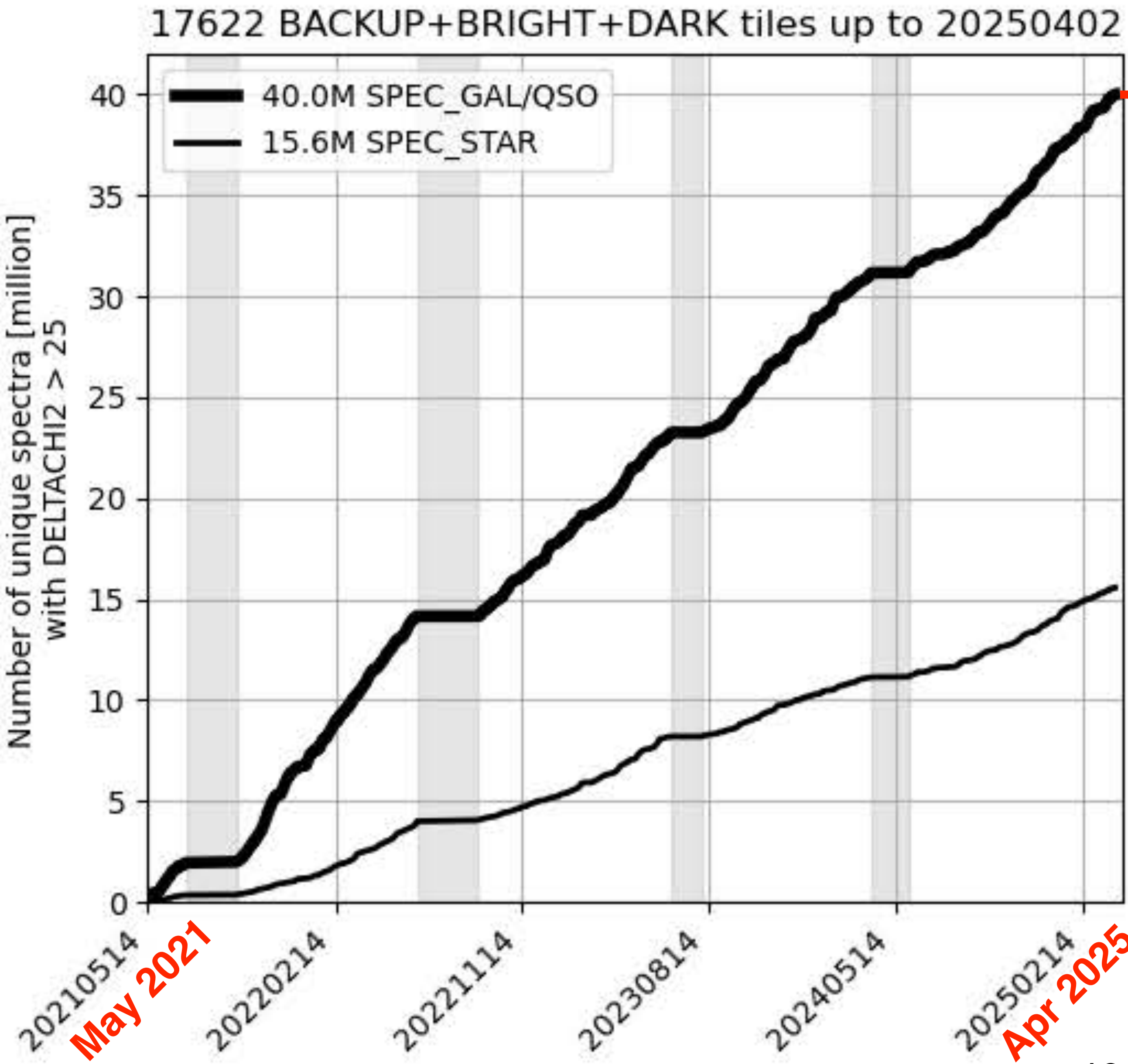
... Contreras Fire shutdown June 14, 2022 ... until Sep 10, 2022



**Pirates shut down computer access to the observatory Aug 9, 2023
... operated for several months with limited connection**



DESI survey ahead of schedule ... despite plagues + fires + pirates



40.0 million galaxies+quasars, far more than all previous projects combined

Year	#Galaxies	Survey
1983	2401	CfA Center for Astrophysics Redshift Survey (CfA) http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1983ApJ...267..541CfA
1988	2028	SSRS http://adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/bib_query?1988ApJ...327..541CfA
1996	26418	LCRS Las Campanas Redshift Survey (LCRS) http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1996AJ...122..1001CfA
1999	18000	CfA2 http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1999PASP..111..438F
2000	15411	IRAS PSCz https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0001117
2003	221414	2dF 2dFGRS Final Data Release https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0306517
2004	23338	2dF QSO https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0403040
2006	13800	2dF 2SLAQ Luminous Red Galaxy Survey https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0608107
2009	125000	6dF Galaxy Survey (6dFGS) http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2009MNRAS...398..1035M
2013	35016	VVDS VIMOS VLT https://arxiv.org/abs/1307.0545
2012	43500	2MRS 2MASS Redshift Survey (2MRS) http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2012MNRAS...421..1035M
2012	38000	DEEP2 Data Release 4 https://arxiv.org/abs/1203.3192
2013	130000	PRIMUS https://arxiv.org/abs/1303.2672
2015	238000	GAMA Data Release 2 https://arxiv.org/abs/1506.08222
2016	86775	VIMOS VIPERS PDR-2 https://arxiv.org/abs/1611.07048
2019	225415	WiggleZ Final Data Release https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.08284
2020	3824313	SDSS Data Release 16 galaxy+QSO samples https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.08284

5.0 million redshifts

Image sky



Select targets



Configure fibers



Observe!



Spectra + redshifts



Make 3-D maps



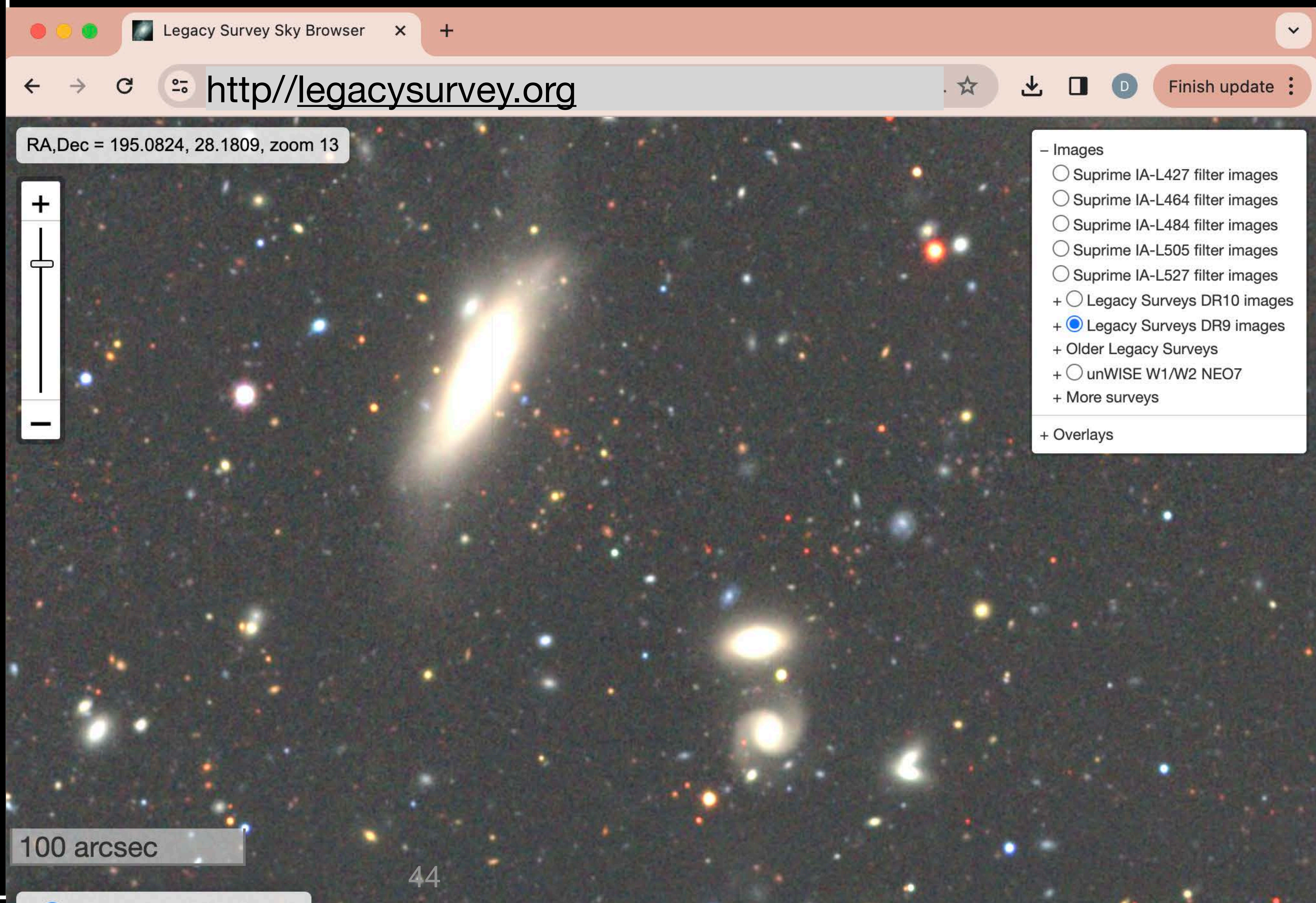
Measure BAO features



Cosmology

Legacy Imaging <http://legacysurvey.org>

using 1400 nights on 3 telescopes from 2013-2019 to map 40% of the sky



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using 1400 nights on 3 telescopes from 2013-2019 to map 40% of the sky**

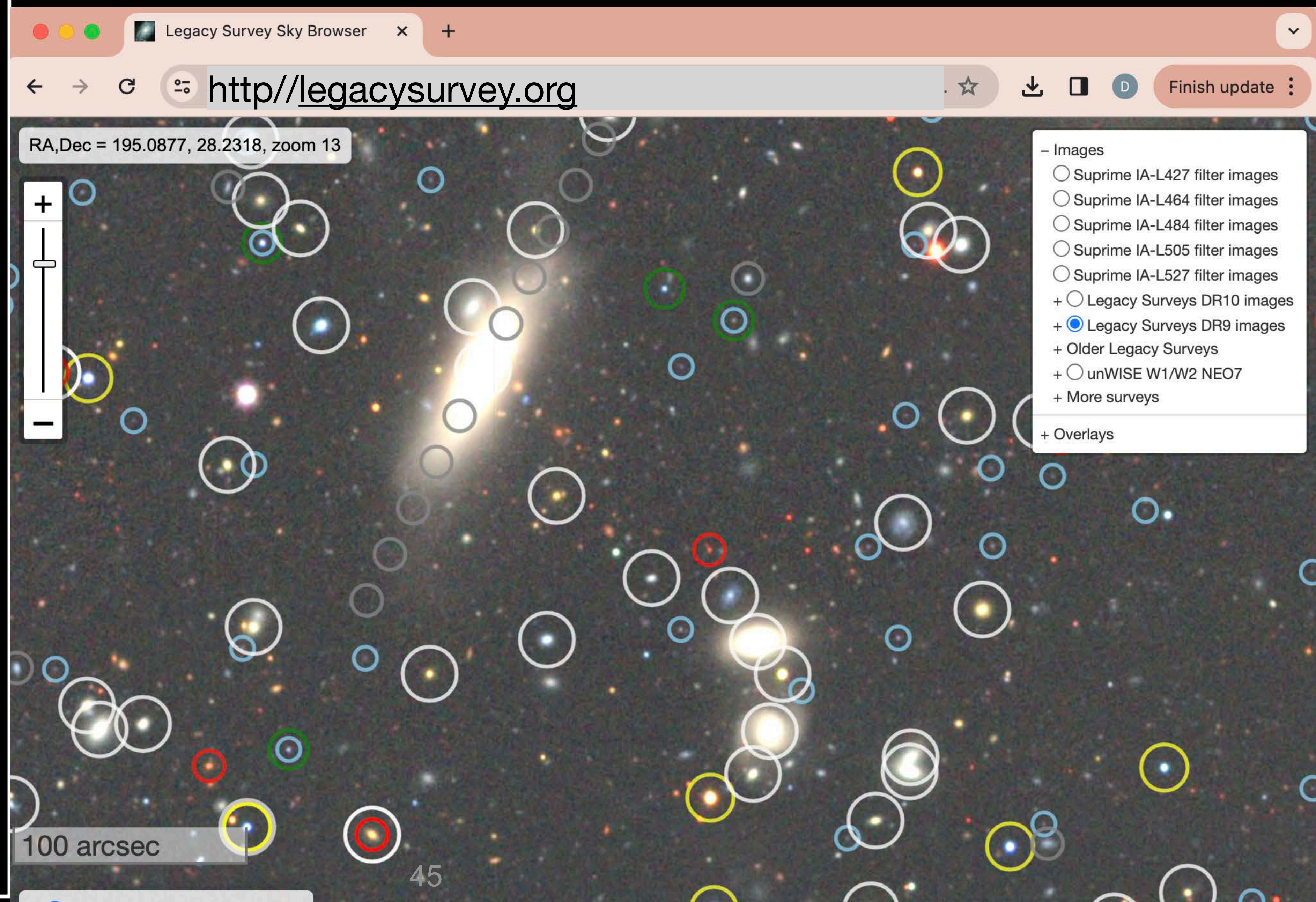


Image sky

Select targets

Configure fibers

Observe!

Spectra + redshifts

Make 3-D maps

Measure BAO features

Cosmology

DESI targets cover 14,000 square degrees:
13.7 million Bright Galaxy Sample (BGS)
7.5 million Luminous Red Galaxies (LRG)
15.7 million Emission Line Galaxies (ELGs)
2.9 million QSOs

Image sky

Select targets

Configure fibers

Observe!

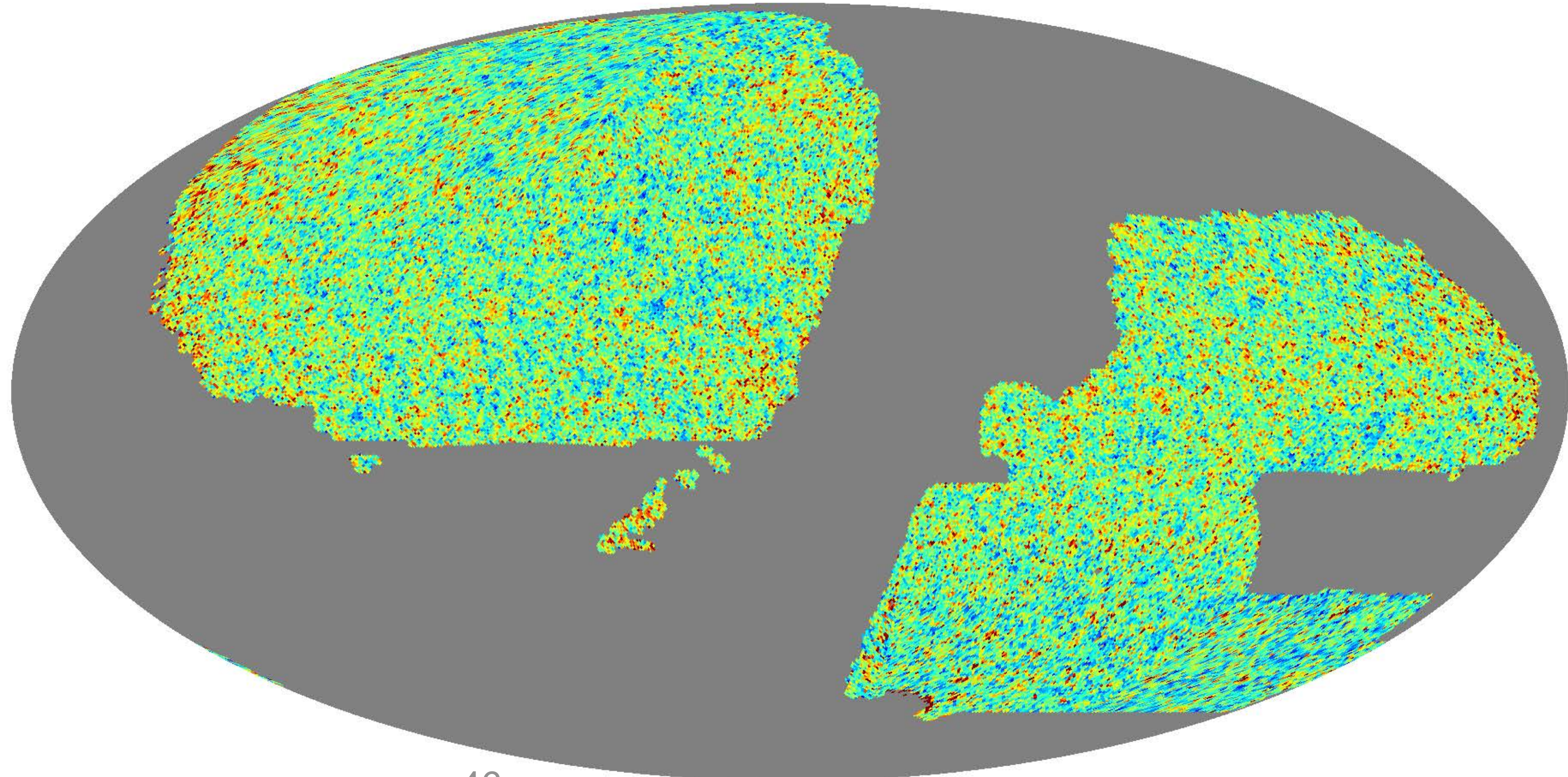
Spectra + redshifts

Make 3-D maps

Measure BAO features

Cosmology

LRG baseline targets



DESI fiber robots reconfigure to point to 5000 targets in 1 minute

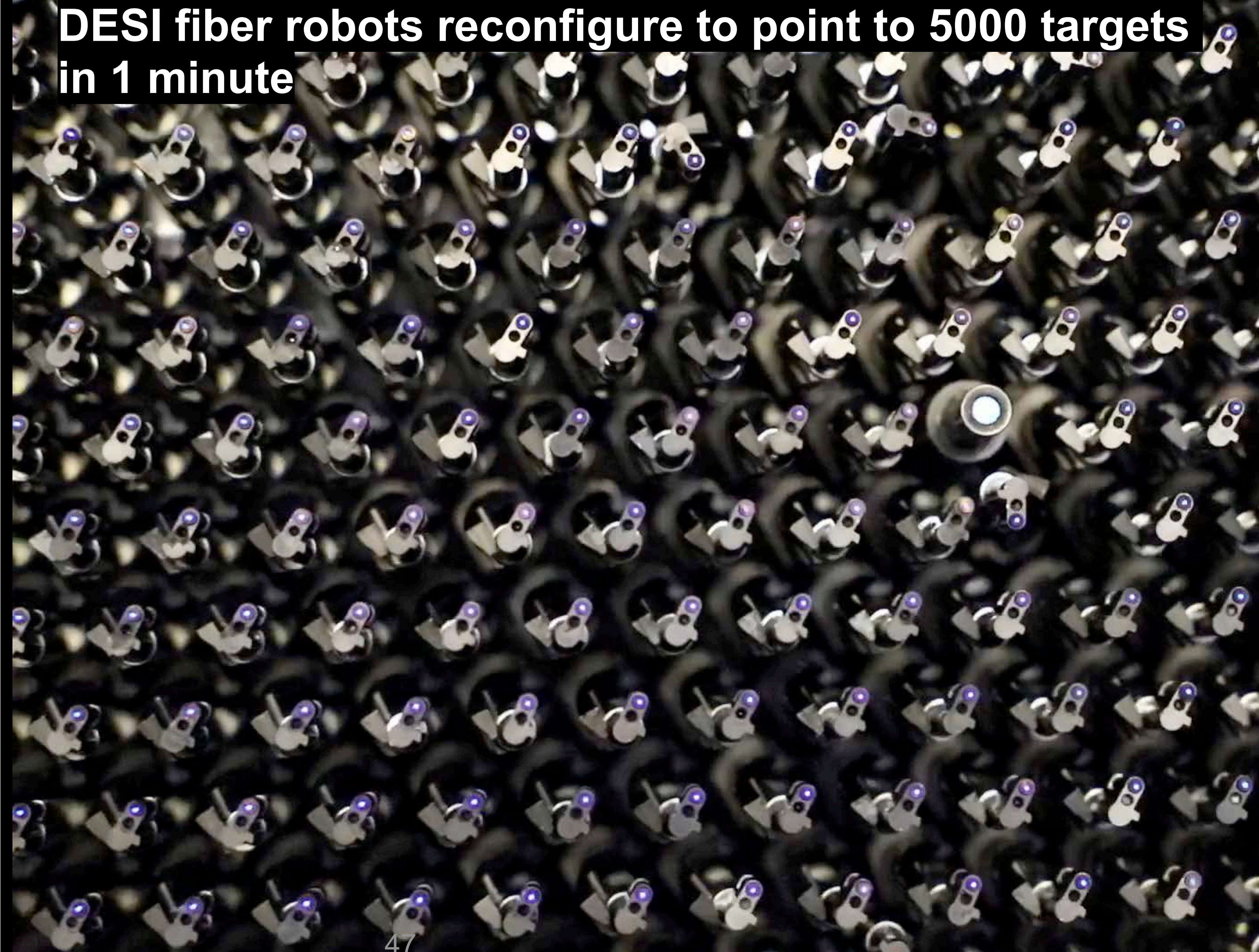
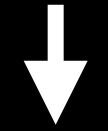


Image sky



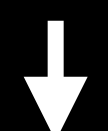
Select targets



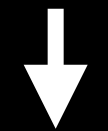
Configure fibers



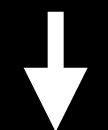
Observe!



Spectra + redshifts



Make 3-D maps



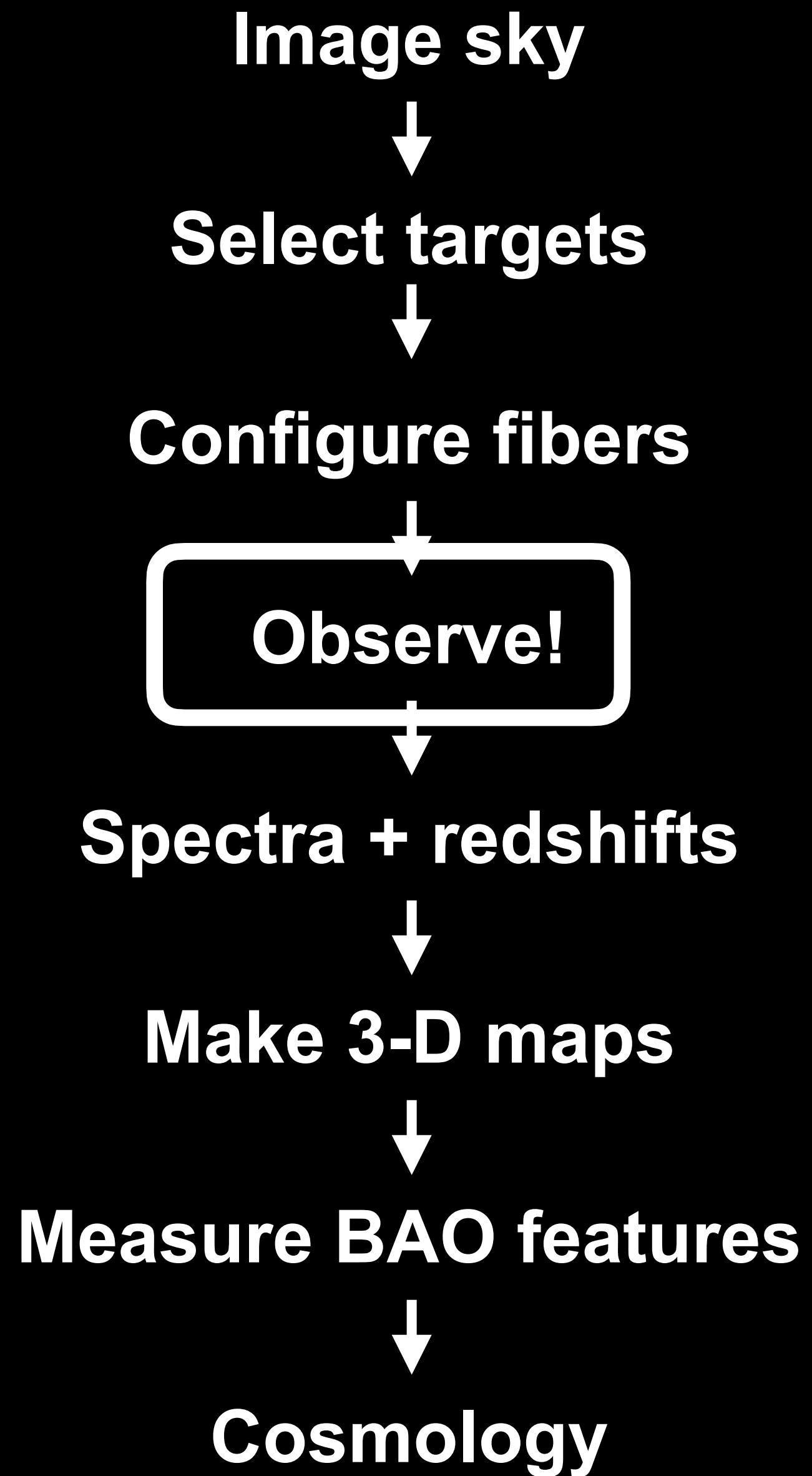
Measure BAO features



Cosmology

DESI control room (pre-COVID)

(now we operate with 2 people on-site + collaborators remotely)



**Mayall Telescope is dedicated to DESI observing
365 nights/year**

Image sky



Select targets



Configure fibers



Observe!



Spectra + redshifts



Make 3-D maps



Measure BAO features

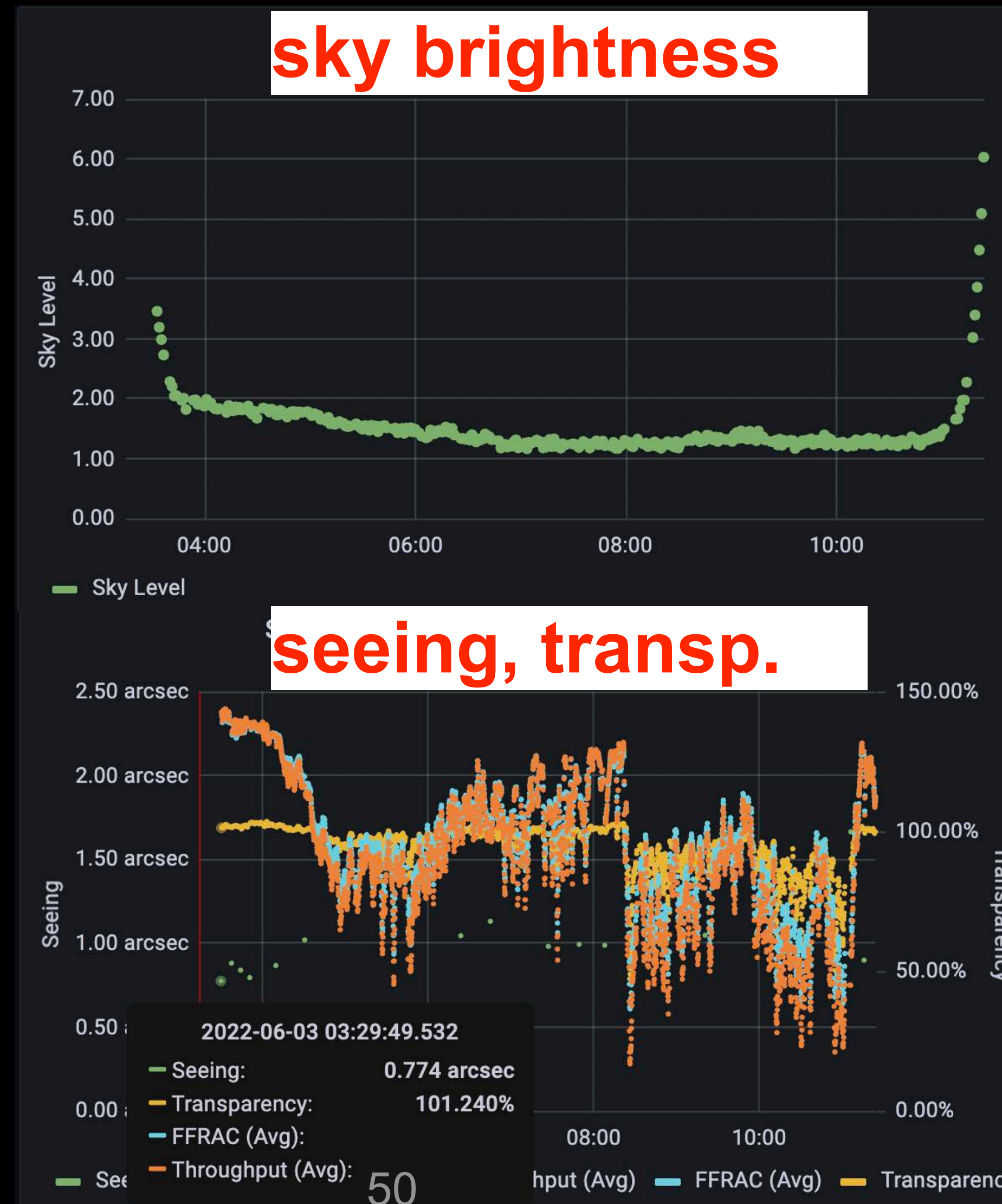
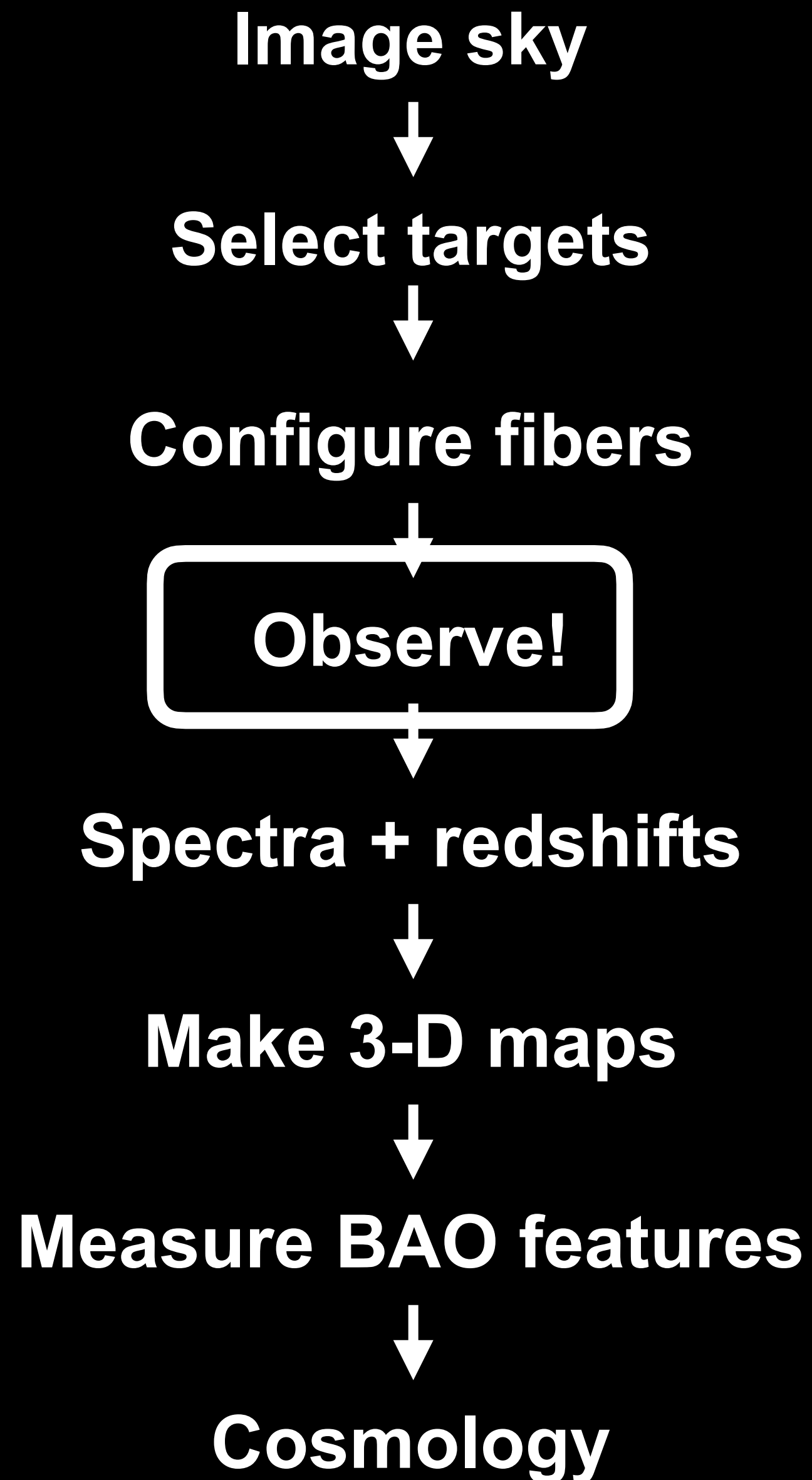


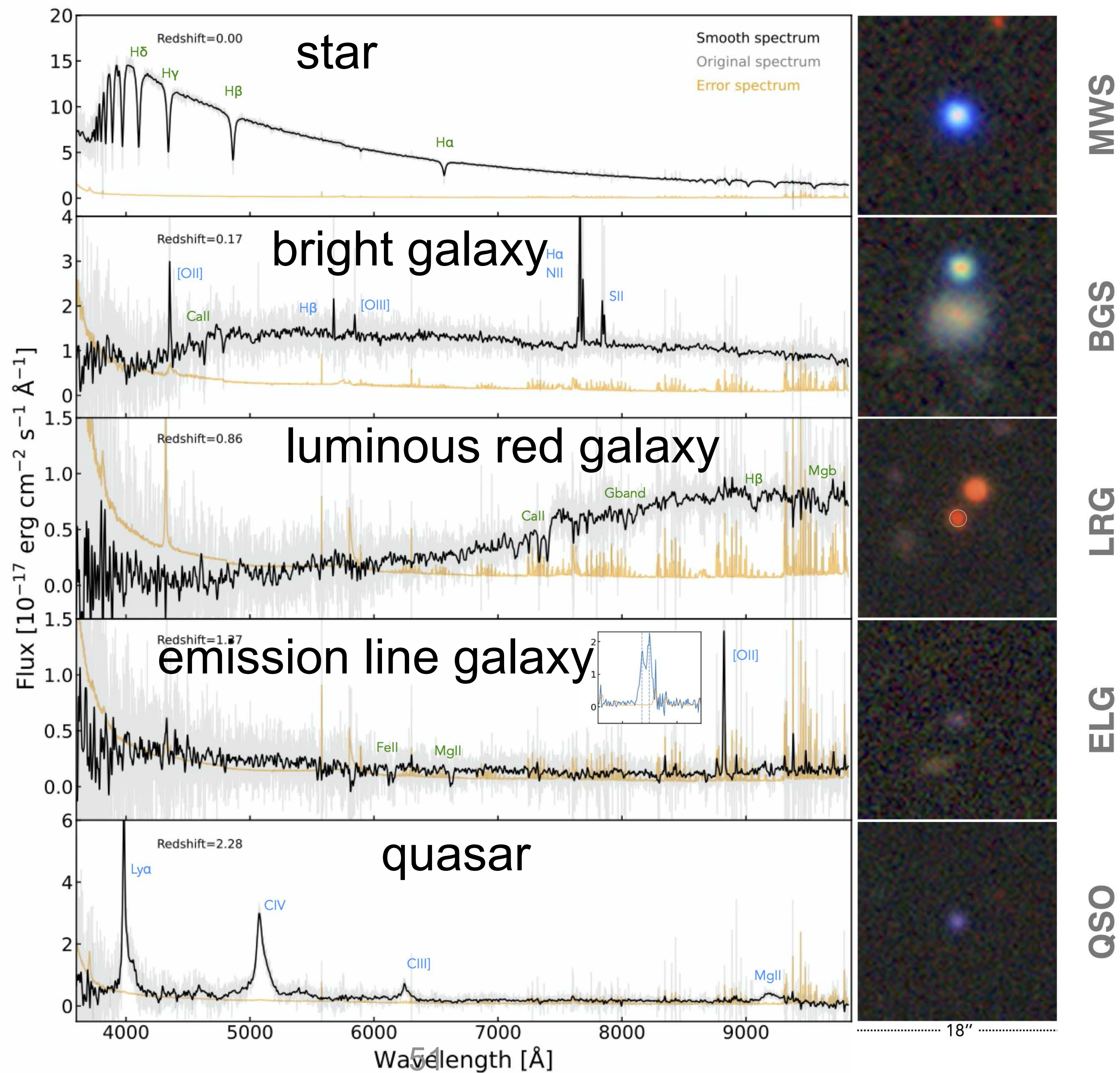
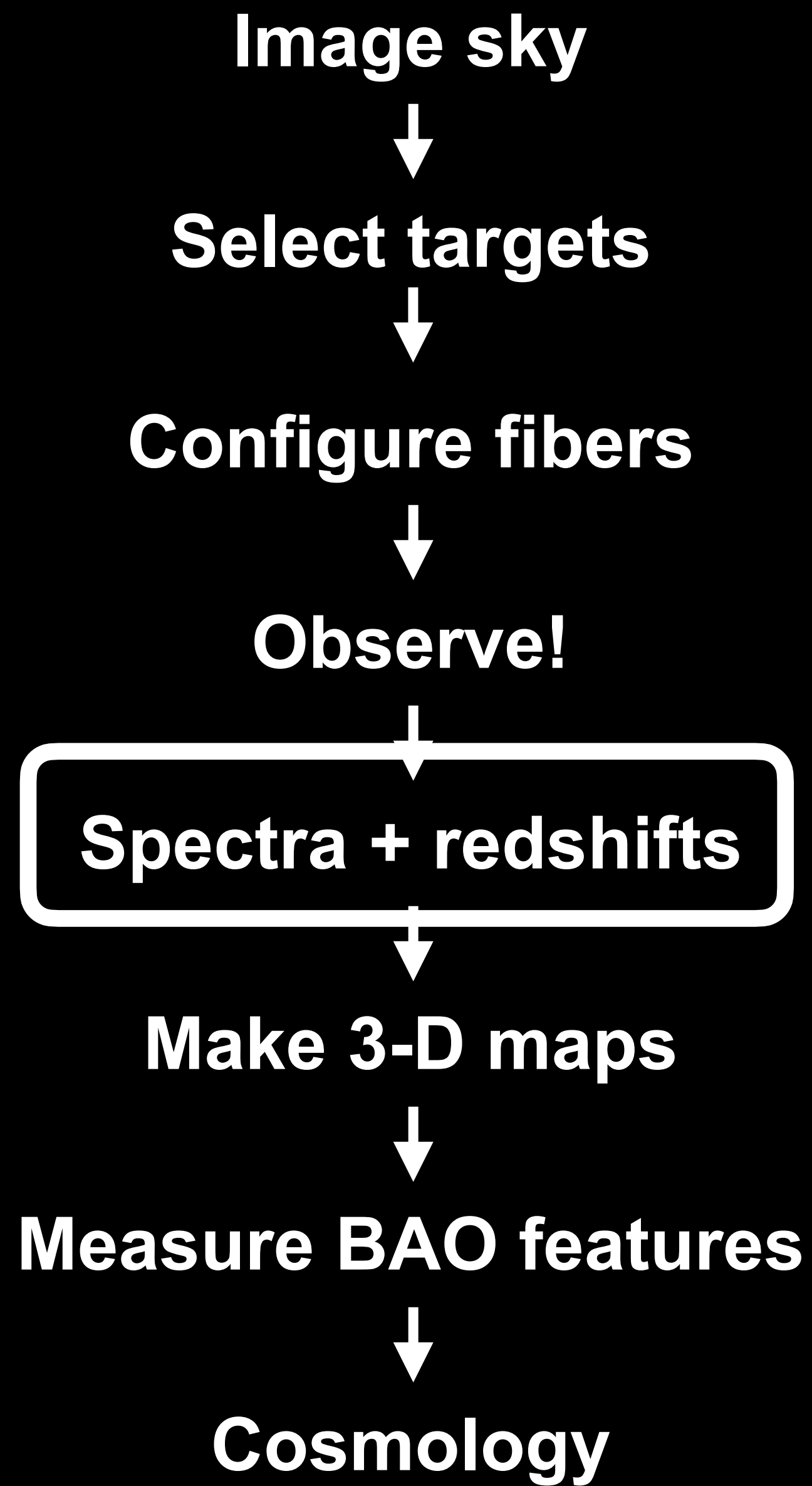
Cosmology



DESI spectroscopy is highly uniform

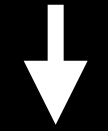
Don't observe to a constant **sky brightness**, observe to a **constant S/N**
- sampling sky, seeing, transparency stopping when $(S/N)^2$ reached



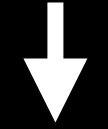


Most DESI galaxies are faint emission line galaxies (ELGs)

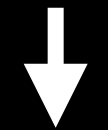
Image sky



Select targets



Configure fibers



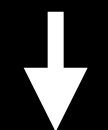
Observe!



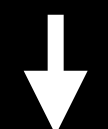
Spectra + redshifts



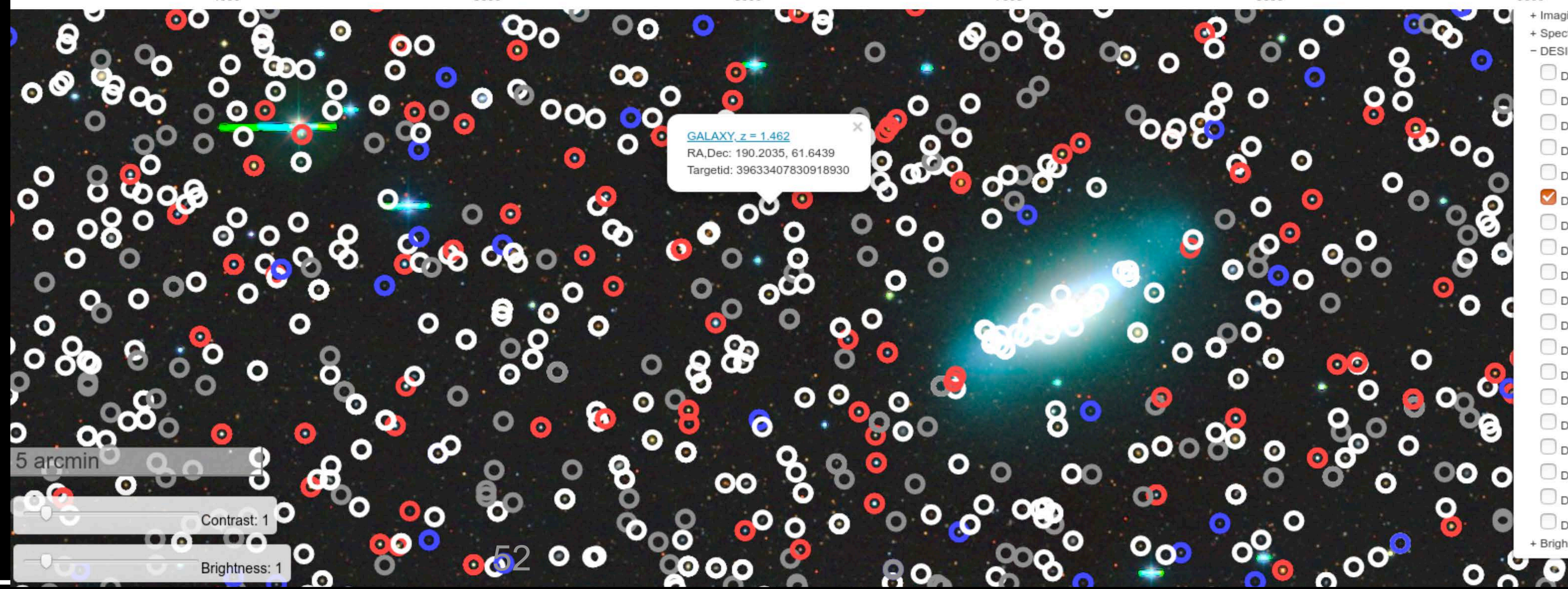
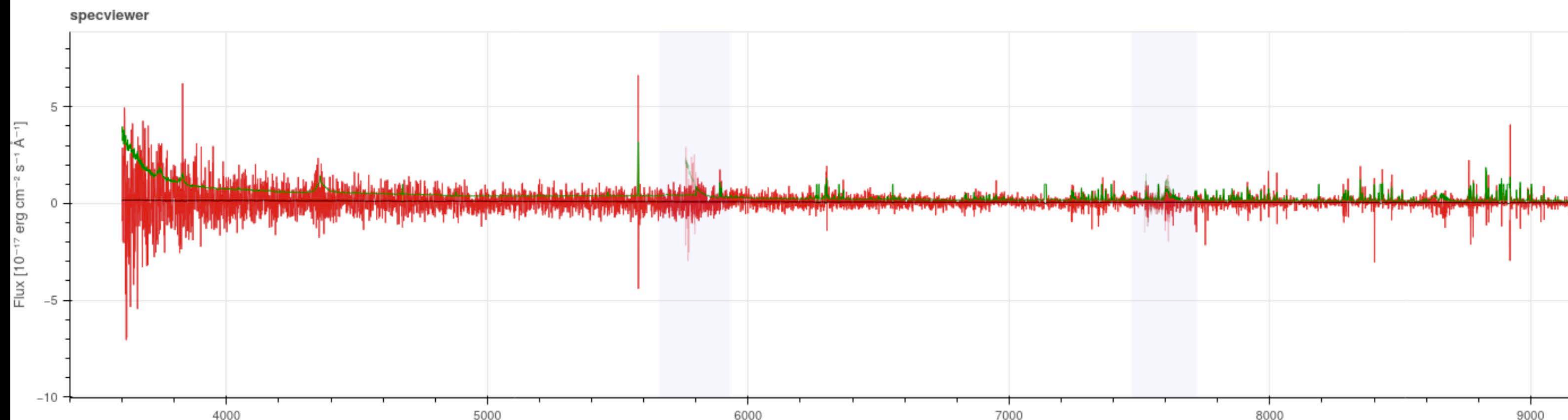
Make 3-D maps



Measure BAO features



Cosmology



Most DESI galaxies are faint emission line galaxies (ELGs)

Image sky



Select targets



Configure fibers



Observe!



Spectra + redshifts



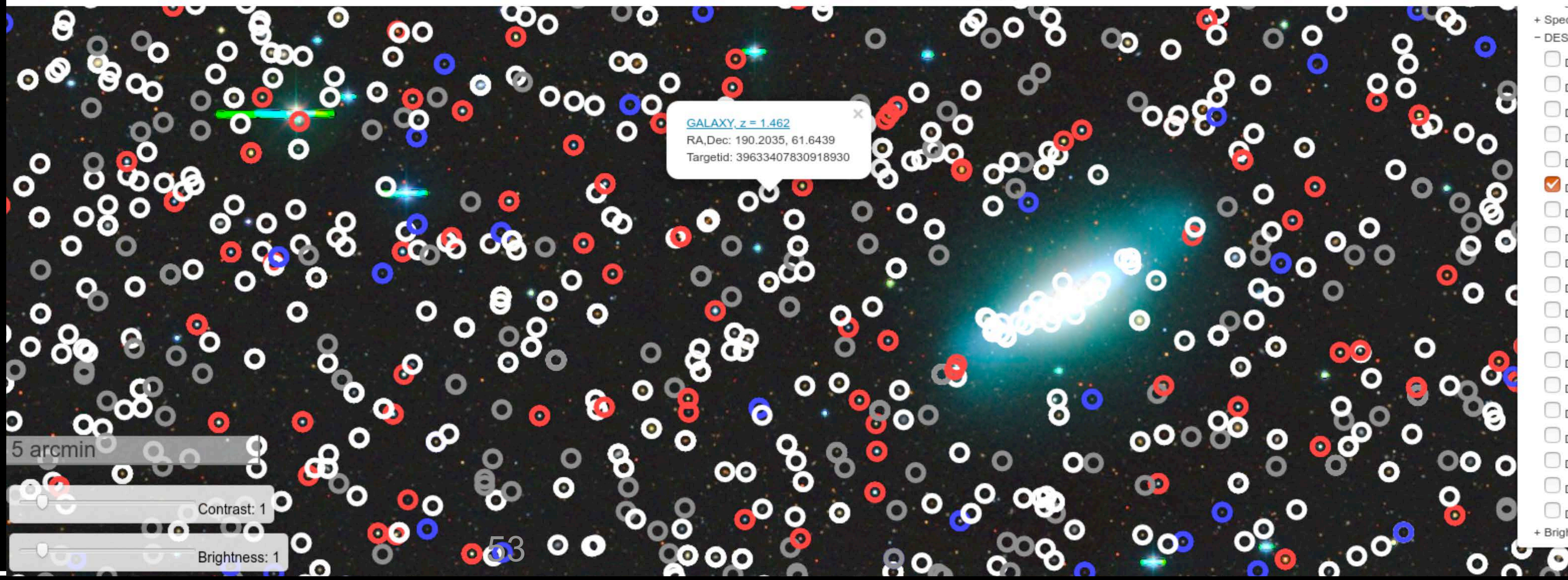
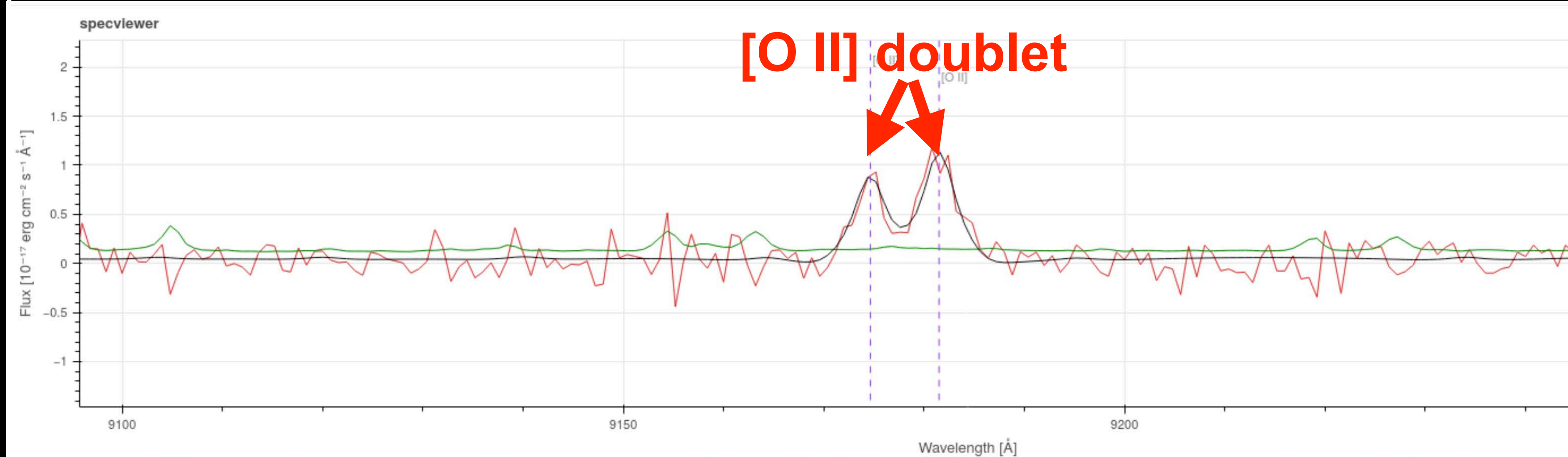
Make 3-D maps

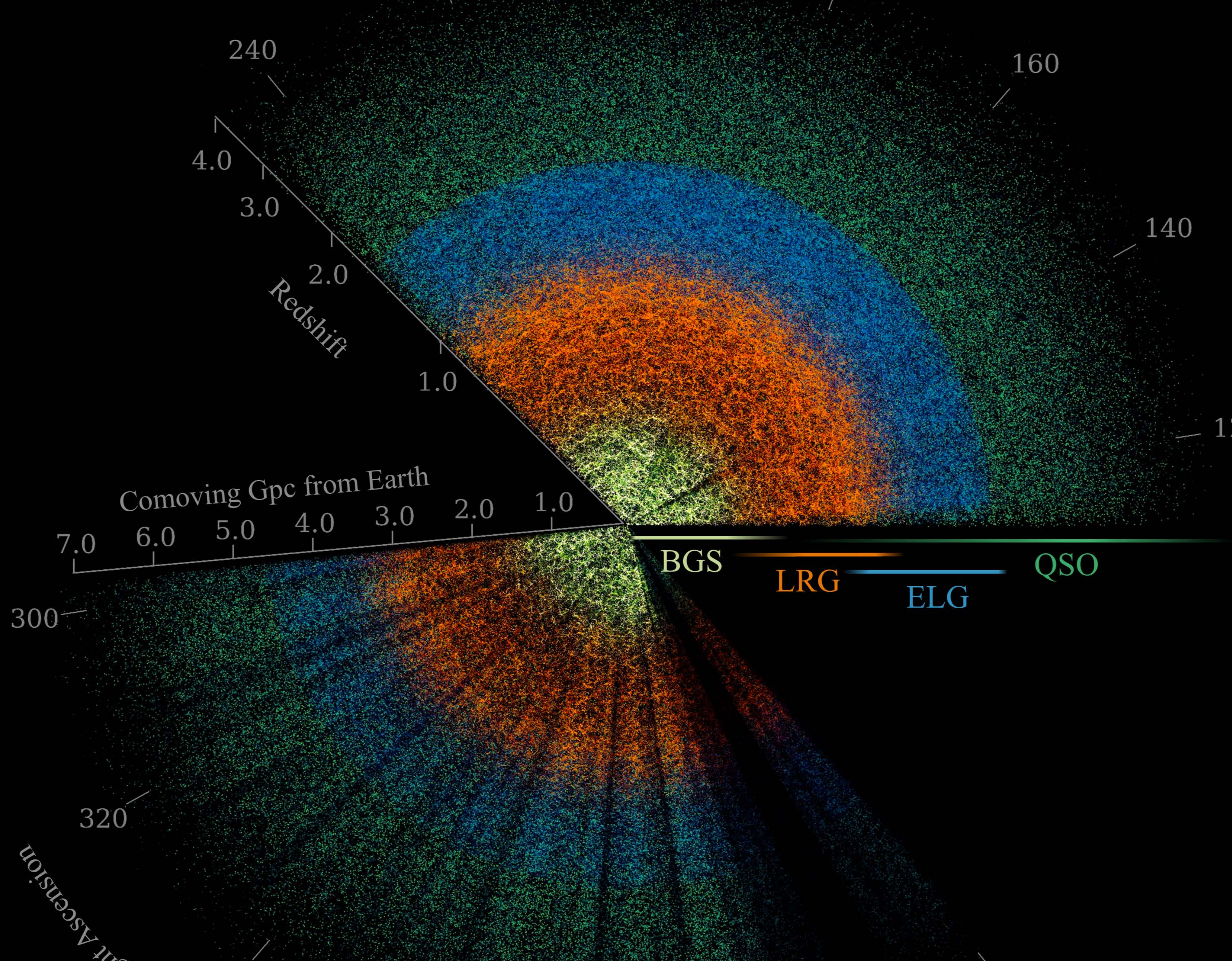
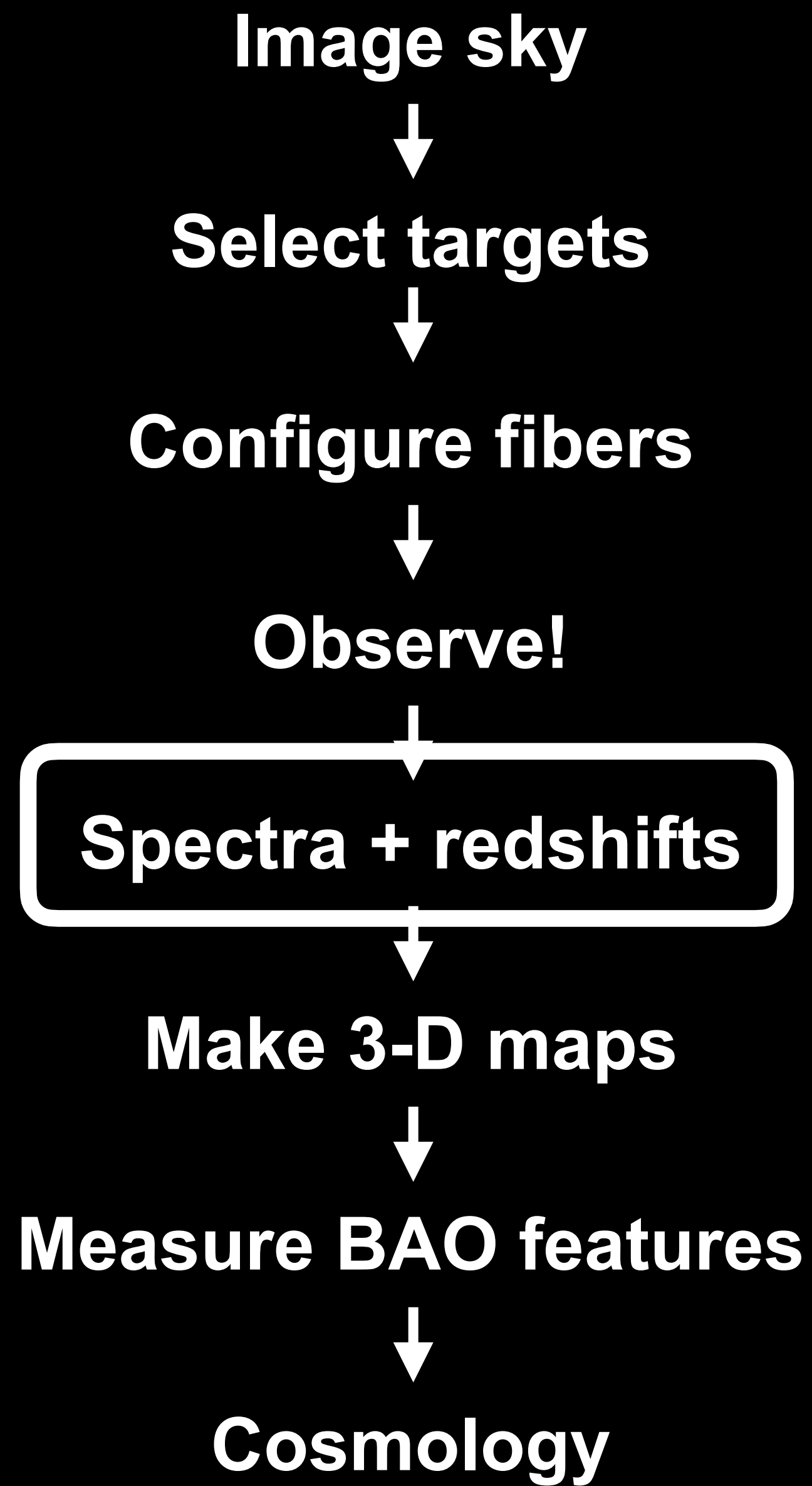


Measure BAO features



Cosmology





Map of 5.7 million galaxies in 1st year of data

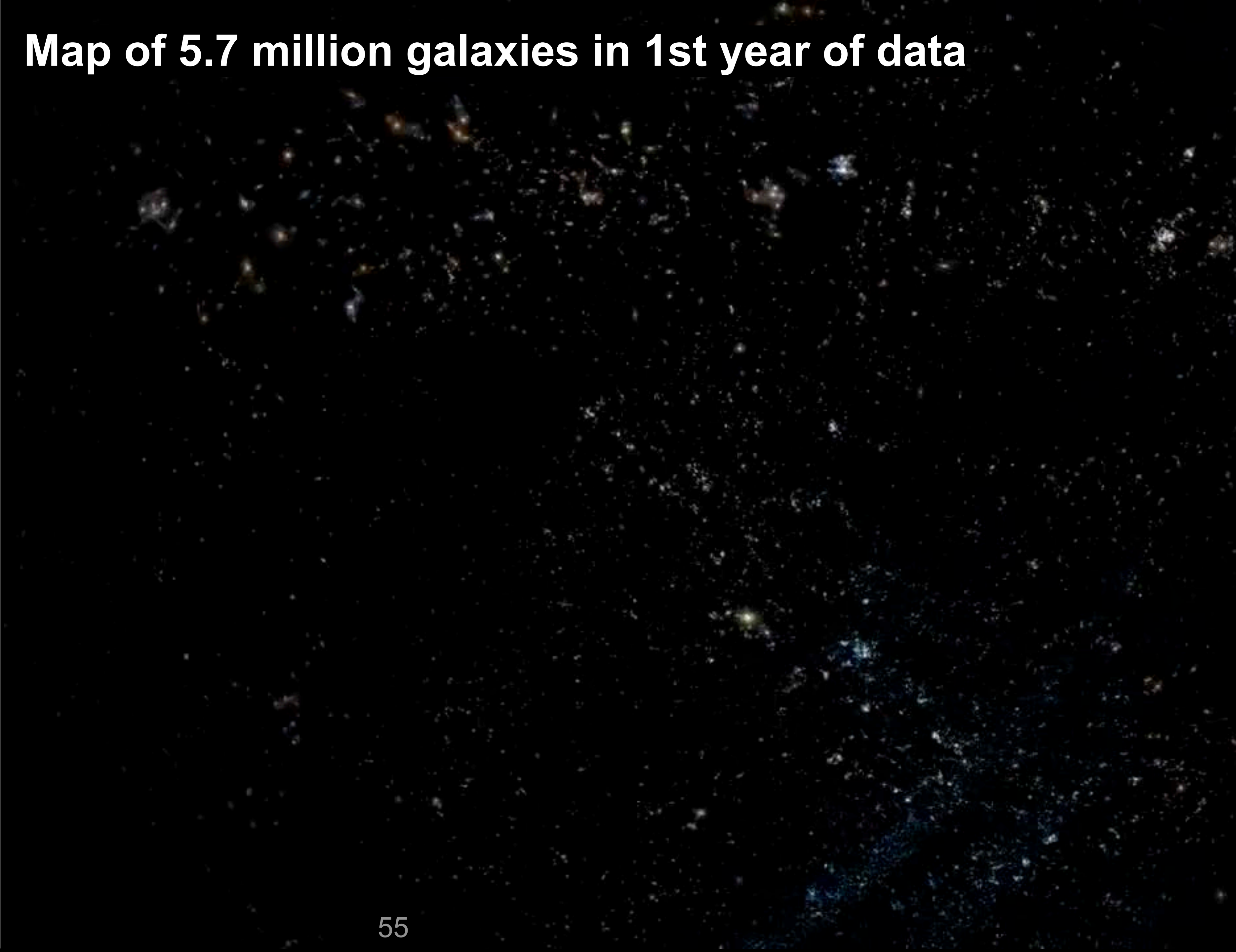


Image sky



Select targets



Configure fibers



Observe!



Spectra + redshifts



Make 3-D maps

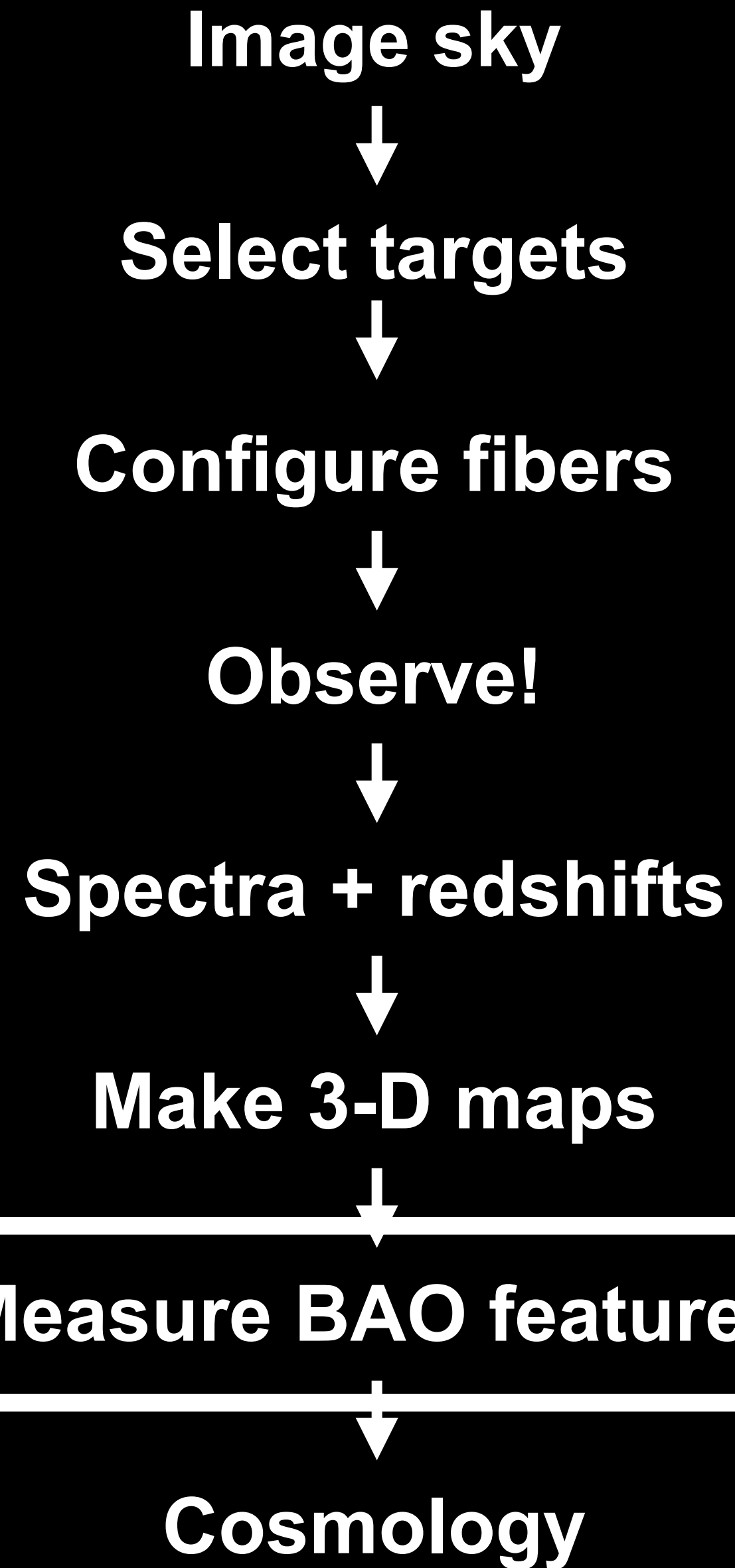


Measure BAO features

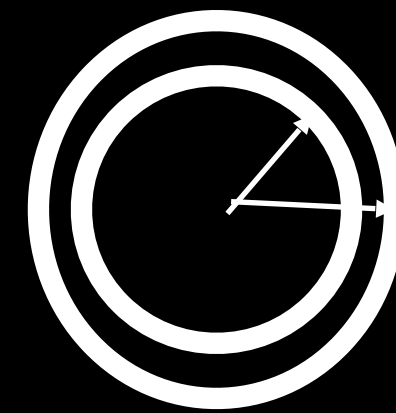


Cosmology

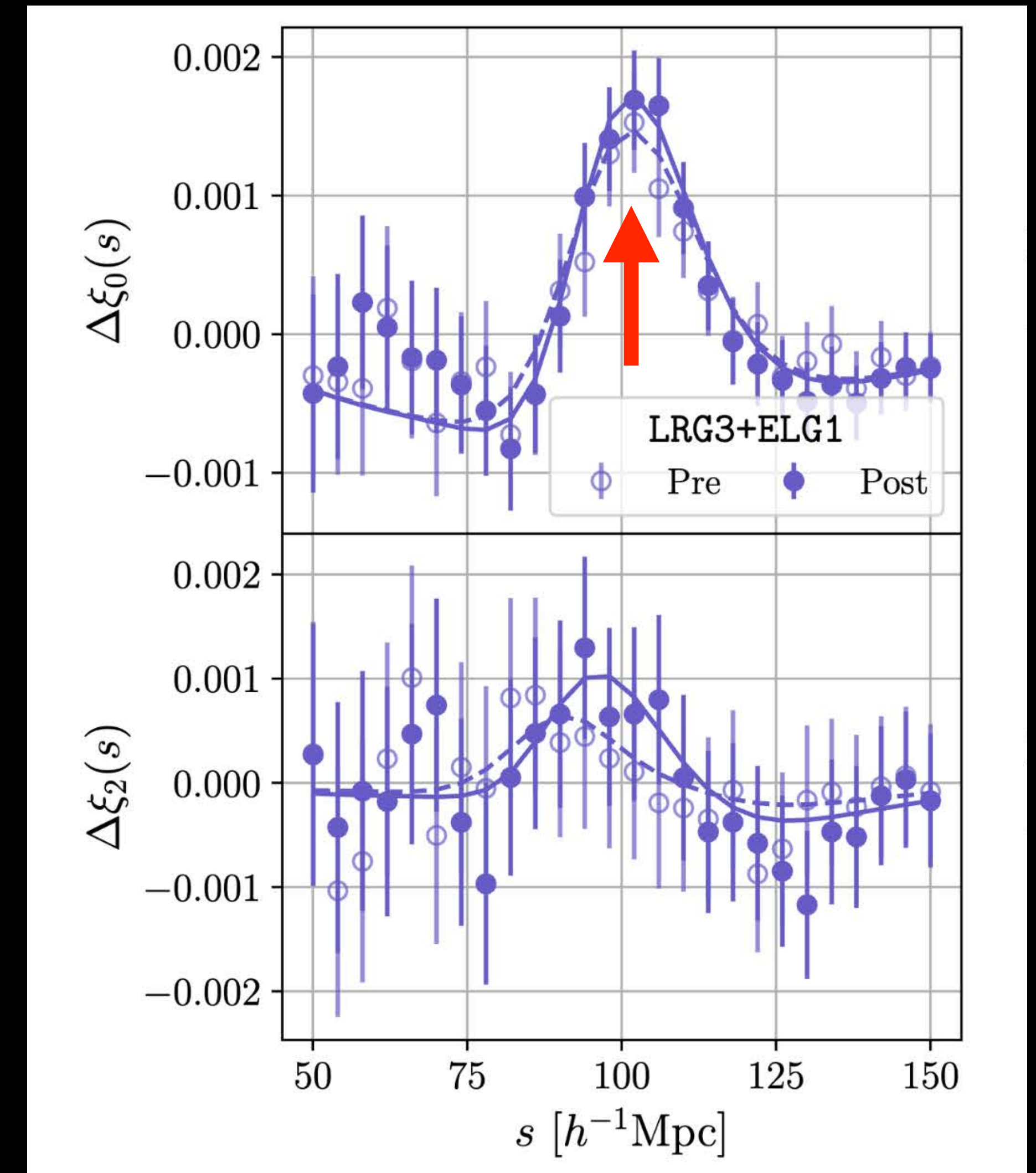
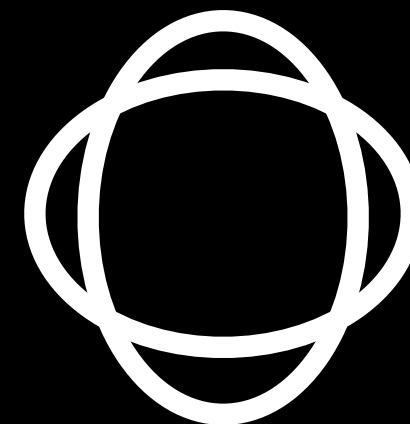
BAO distance scale measured in configuration space



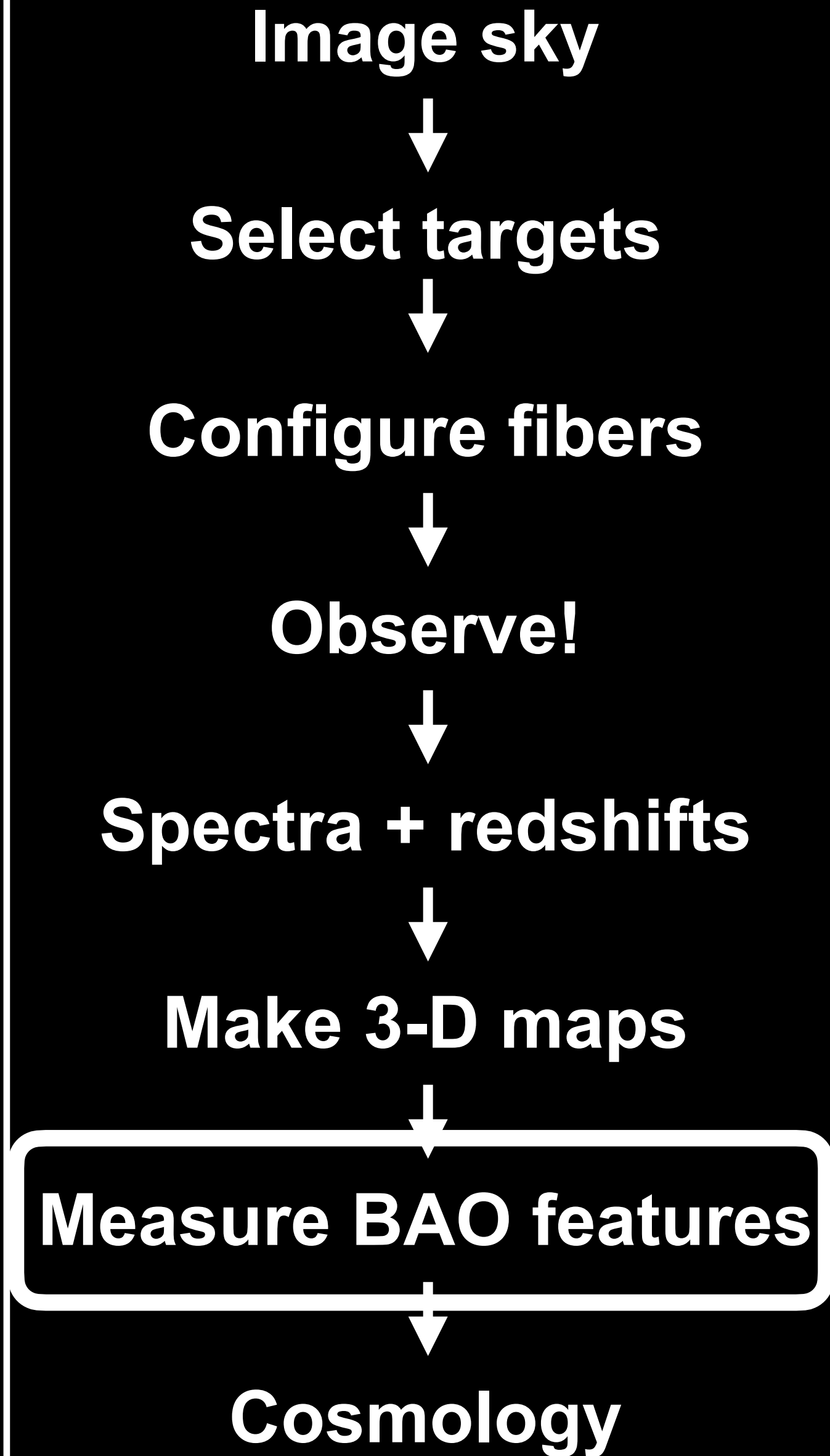
Overall BAO size



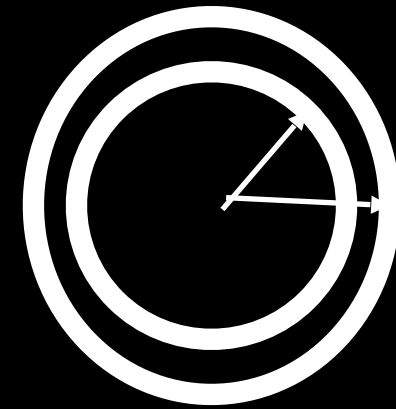
BAO anisotropy



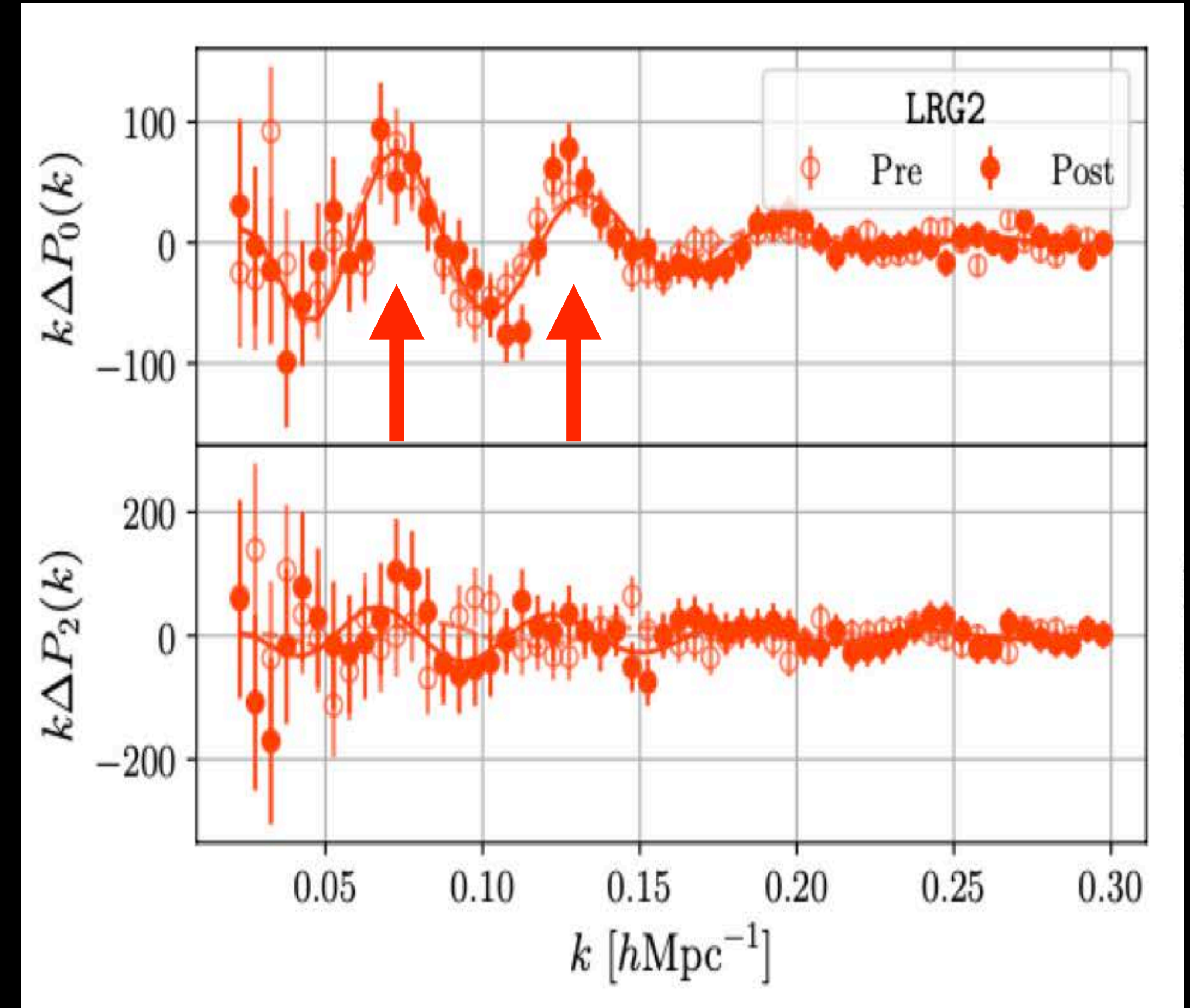
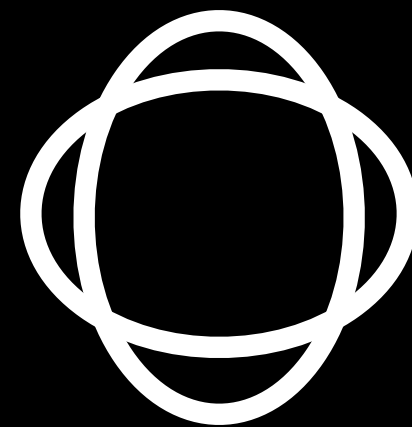
BAO distance scale measured in Fourier space



Overall BAO size

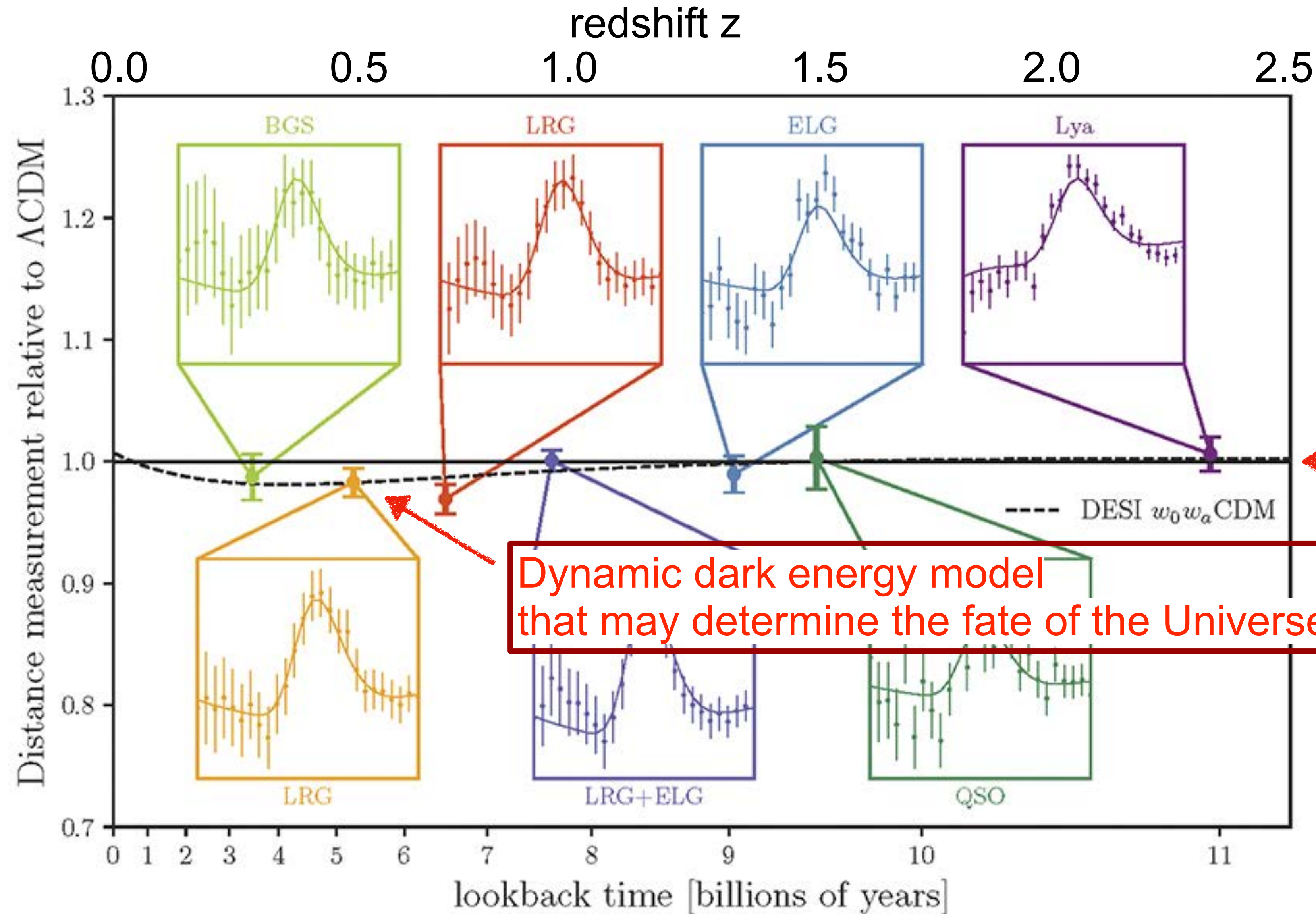


BAO anisotropy



DESI analyses were all conducted blinded

BAO feature well-measured in 7 samples

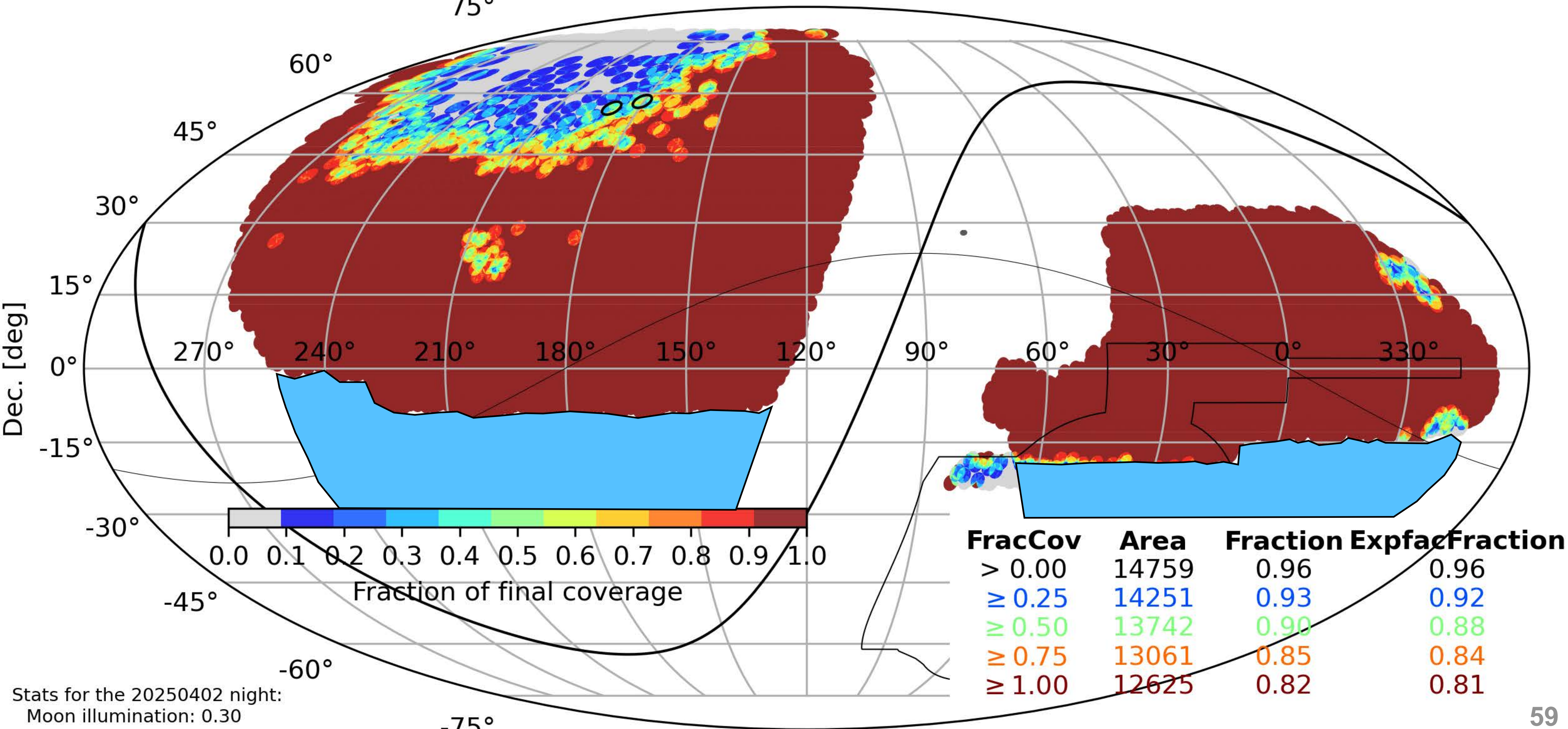


Best-fit cosmology
prior to DESI

Dynamic dark energy model
that may determine the fate of the Universe!

DESI is expanding its footprint to ~ 20,000 deg² to confirm dynamic Dark Energy independent of supernova data

Main/DARK : 9075/10160 completed tiles up to 20250402 (=89%, weighted=88%)

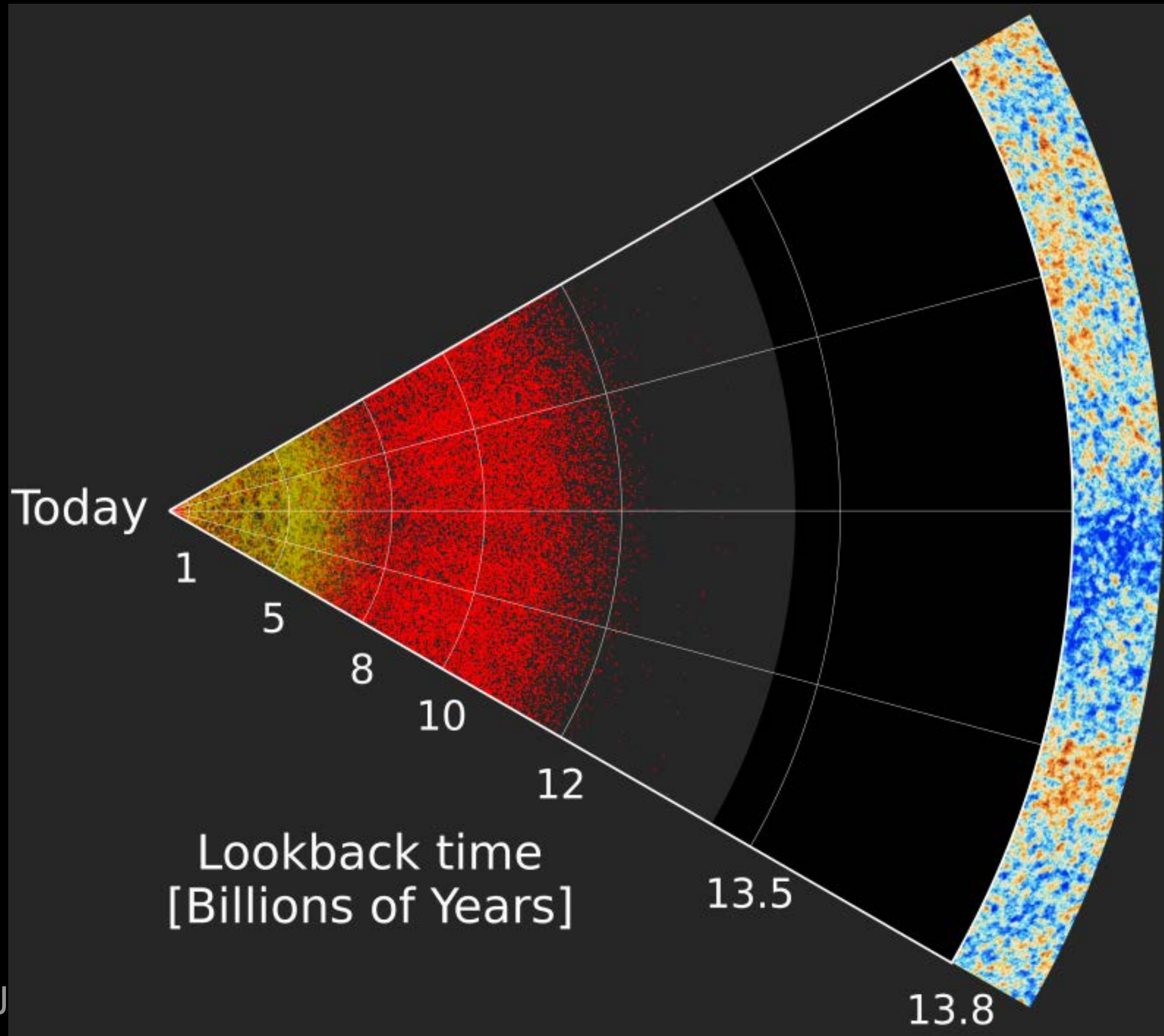


What's next?

DESI + Euclid + PFS + 4MOST will only map a fraction of linear modes

75% of modes at $z < 0.4$, 10% at $z < 1.5$, 0.1% at $z < 4$

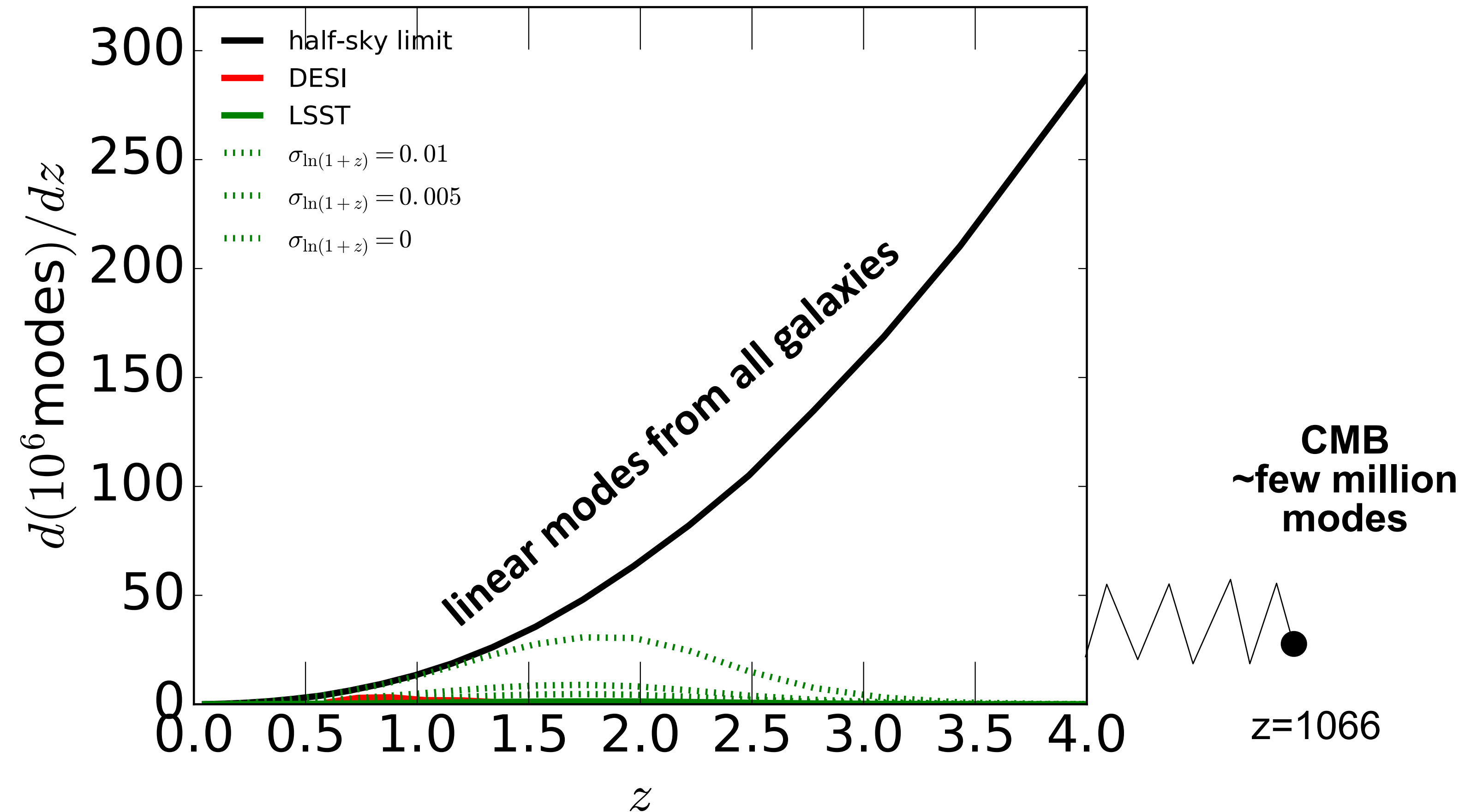
Approx. 2 billion linear modes at $0 < z < 4$



DESI + Euclid + PFS + 4MOST will only map a fraction of linear modes

75% of modes at $z < 0.4$, 10% at $z < 1.5$, 0.1% at $z < 4$

Approx. 2 billion linear modes at $0 < z < 4$



What instrument what we like?

Enough (~1000) optical photons from each distant galaxy hits a spherical cow in a night to measure redshift



What instrument what we like?

The “perfect instrument” on Rubin Observatory

*Time-tag, energy-tag every photon with energy resolution of ~ 5000
over 9.6 deg^2 focal plane, 100 % quantum efficiency
 6.9×10^{16} photons/night \rightarrow 550 PB/night*

Would map all linear modes at $z < 5$ in several years
... if we could build it



What instrument is realistically next?

Stage 5 Spectroscopic Survey (**Spec-S5**)
with 15X the mapping speed of DESI

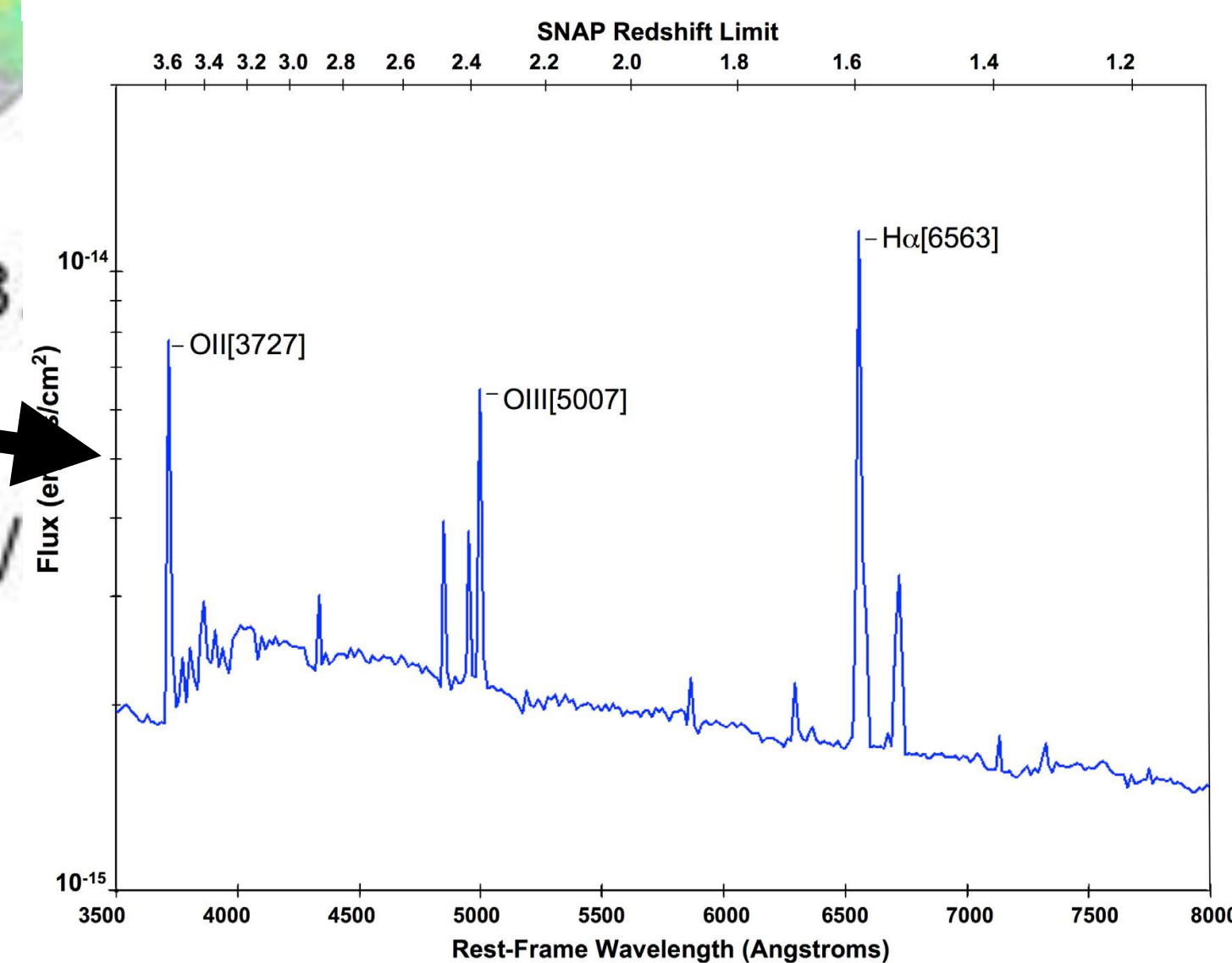
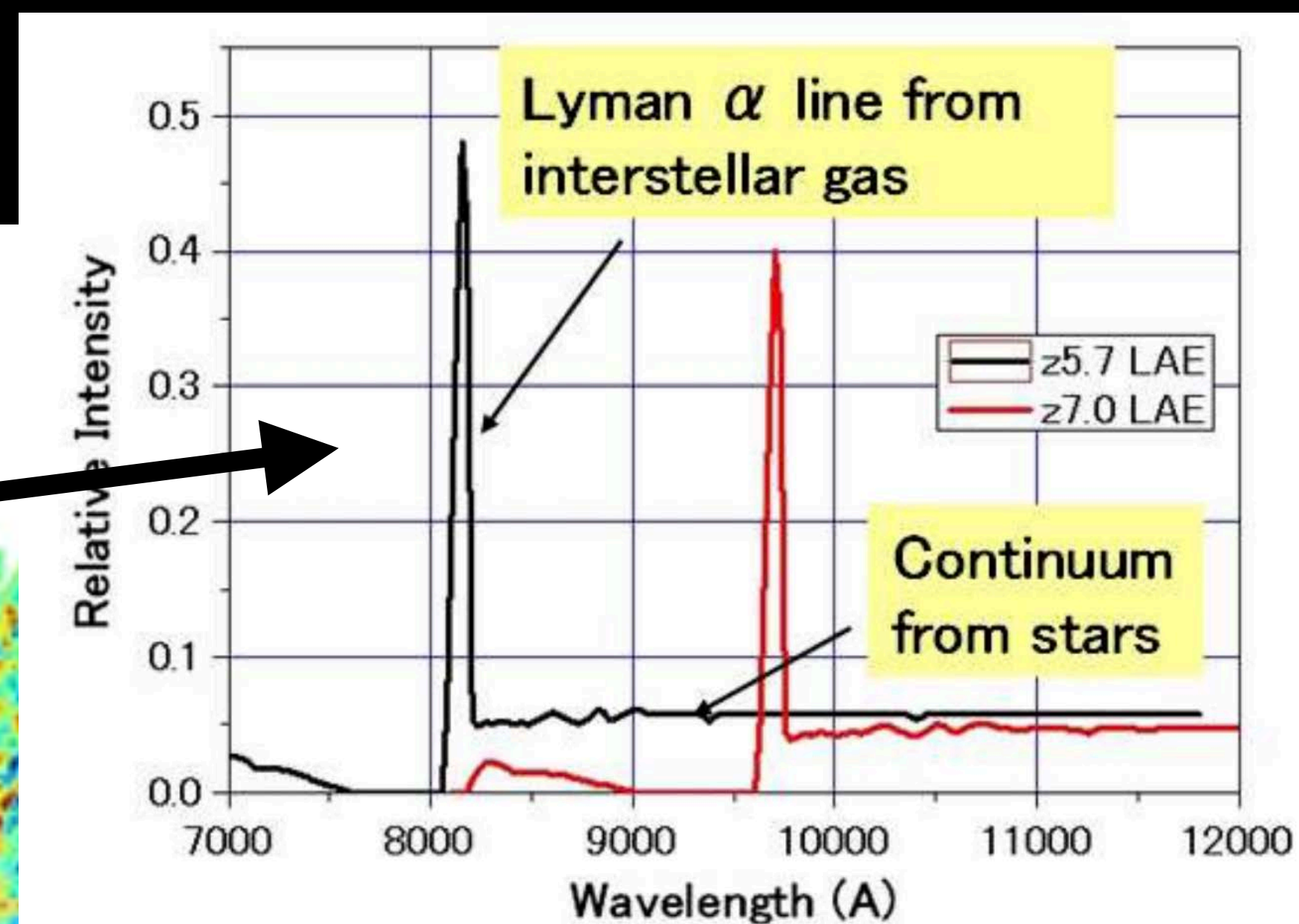
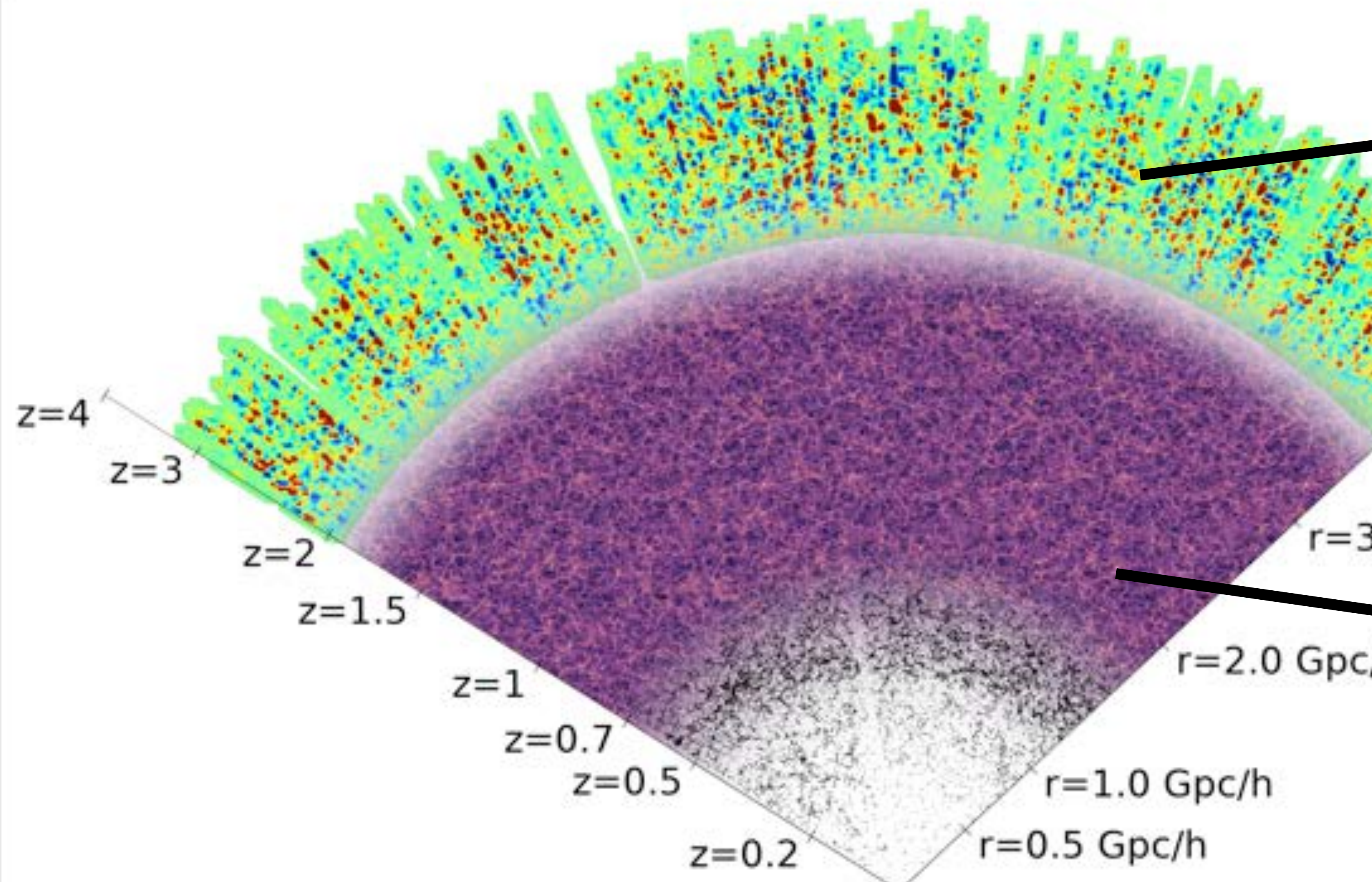


Mayall Telescope (Arizona)



Blanco Telescope (Chile)

The Universe has been kind providing compact galaxies to $z=5$ and beyond

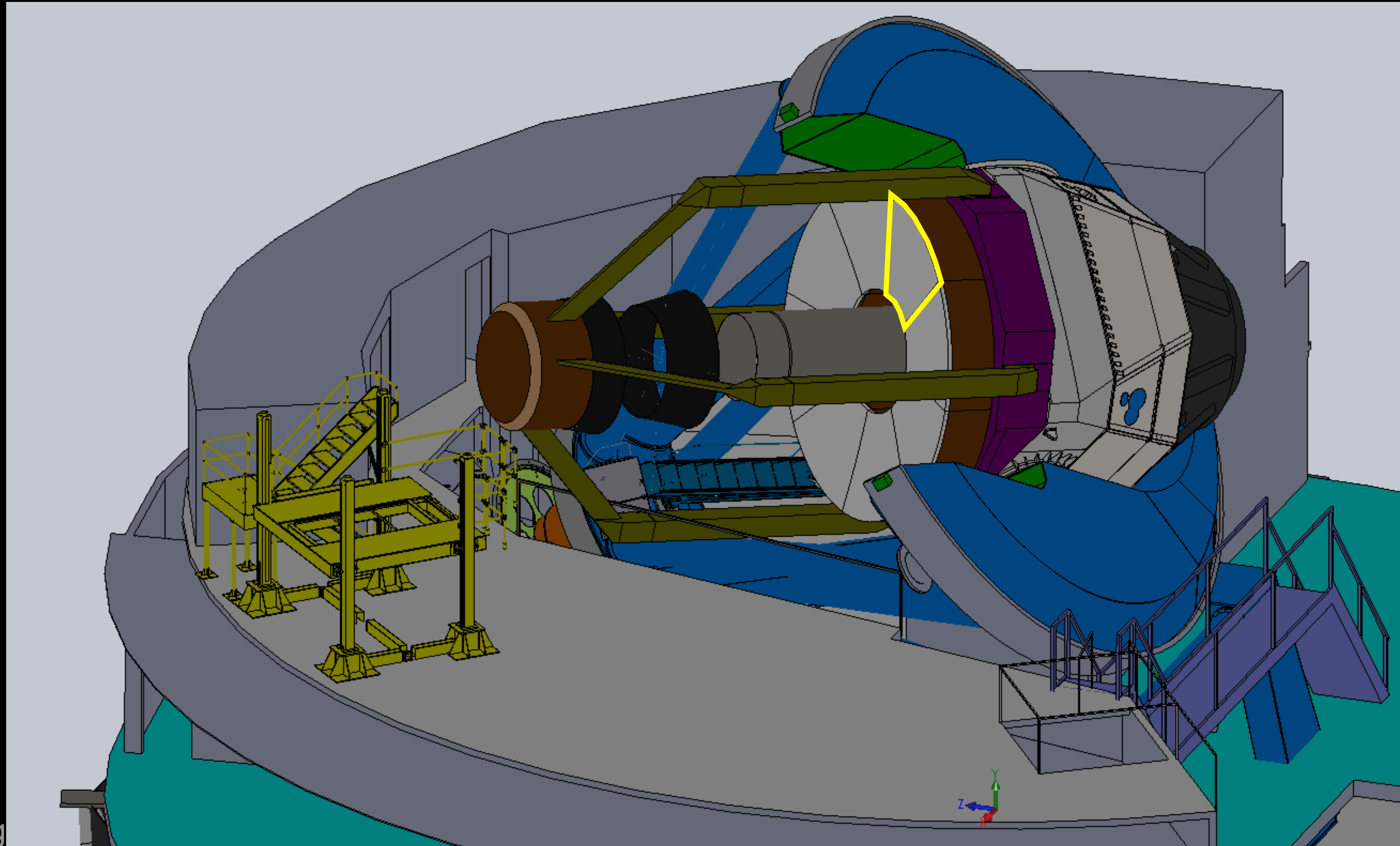


Spec-S5 will have >15X the mapping speed of DESI:
Upgrade **2 existing telescopes**: Mayall (Kitt Peak), Blanco (Chile)
to each have **6-meter** collecting mirror, **26,000 fiber robots** (total), **46 spectrographs** (total)



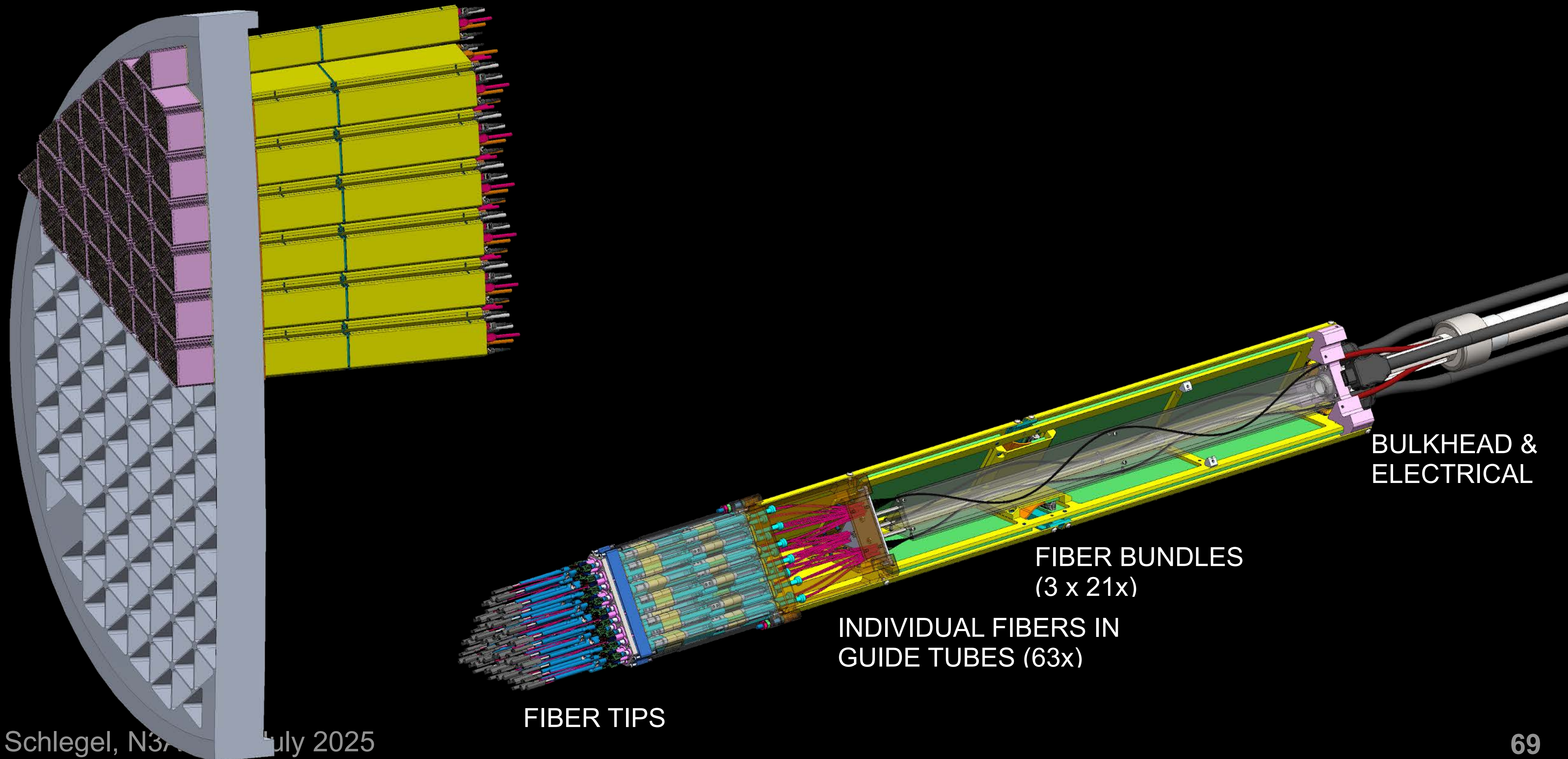
Spec-S5 technology development: Segmented primary mirror

Segmented 6-meter primary mirror, annular shaped, equatorial mount gravity loads
Allows re-use of existing telescopes that can support these massive instruments



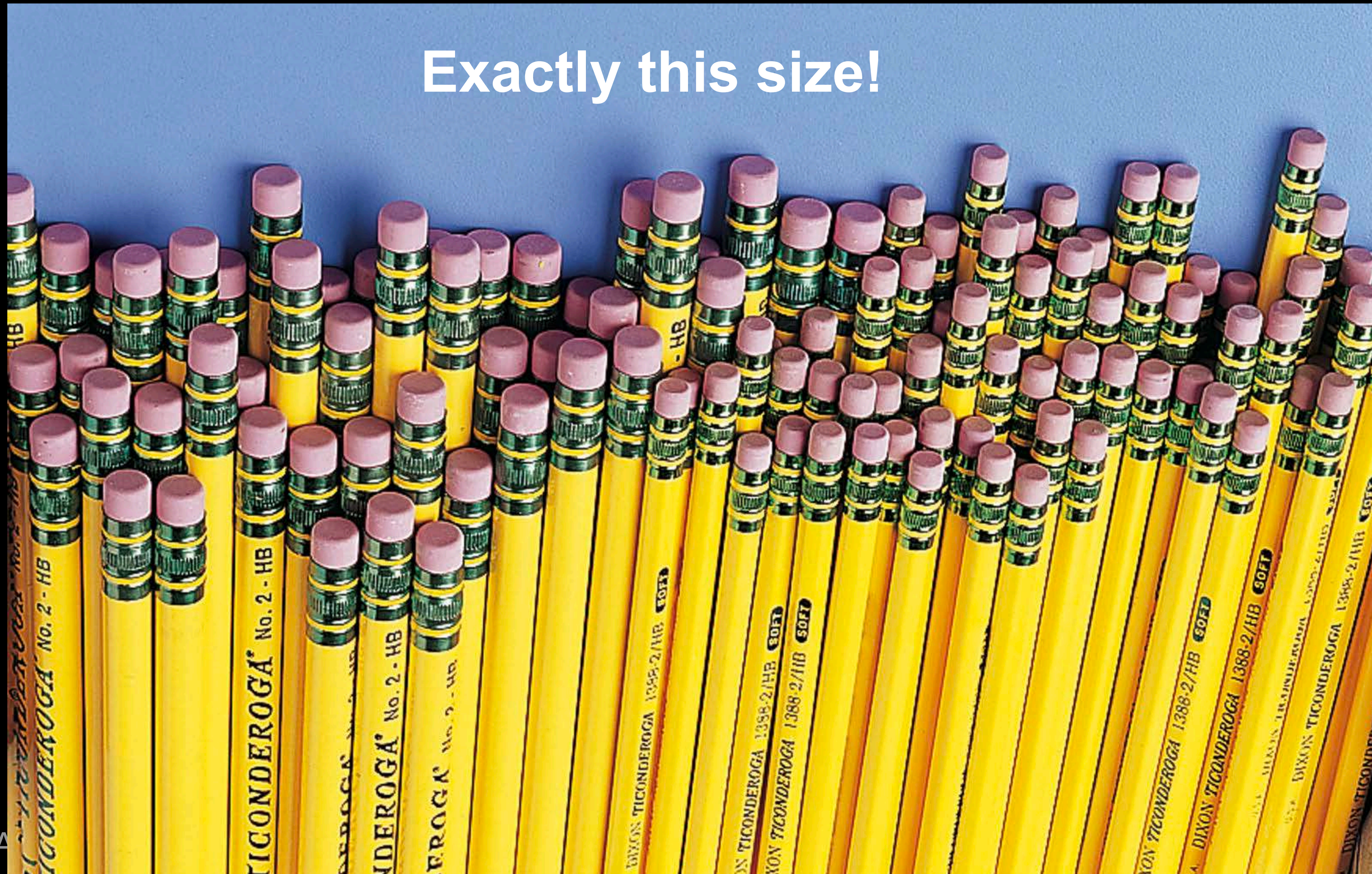
Spec-S5 technology development: Miniaturized fiber robots

Robots further miniaturized to 6-mm center-to-center to fit 13,000 robots on a focal plane
63-robot “rafts” commercially manufactured for cost-effectiveness



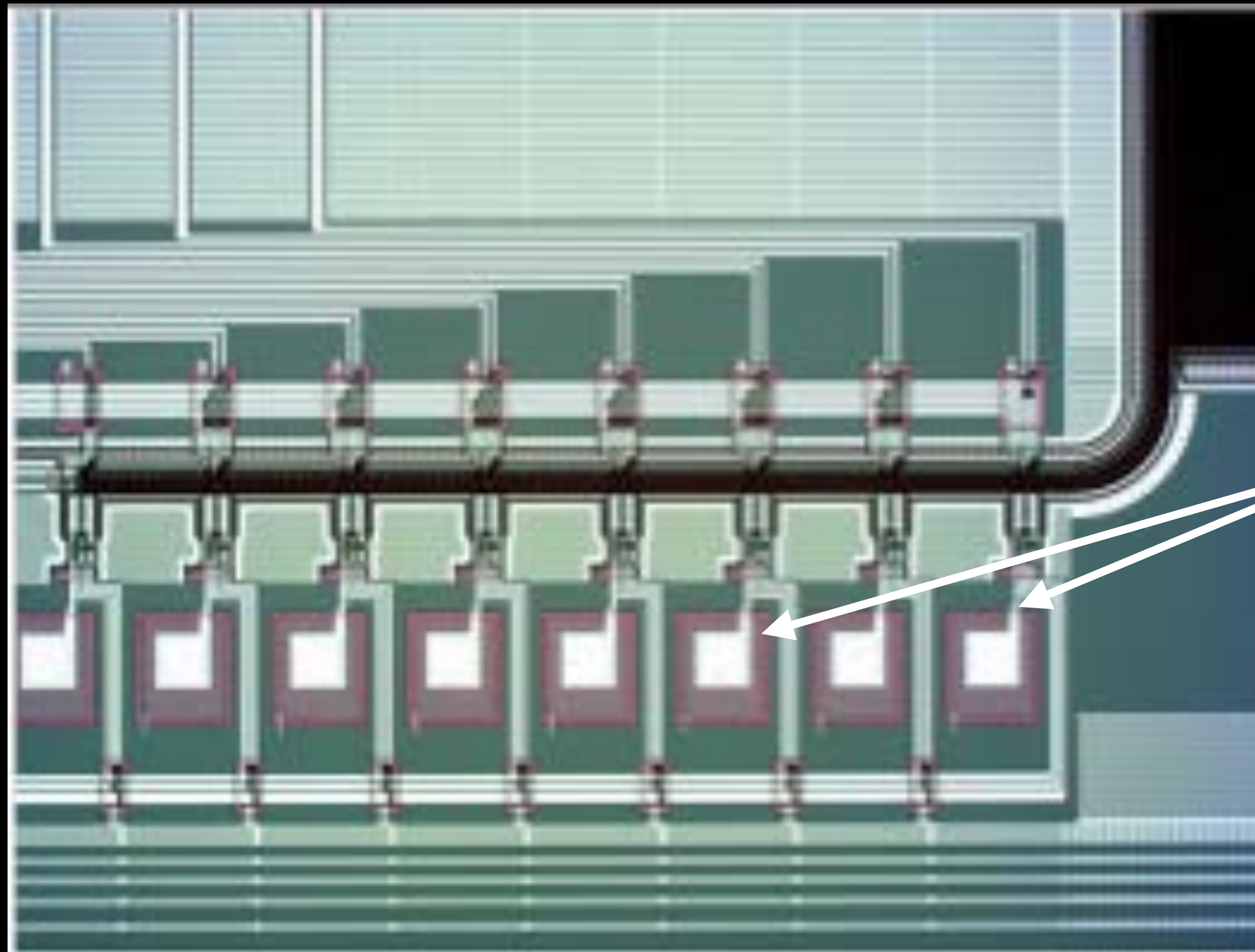
Spec-S5 technology development: Miniaturized fiber robots

Robots further miniaturized to 6-mm center-to-center to fit 13,000 robots on a focal plane
63-robot “rafts” commercially manufactured for cost-effectiveness



Spec-S5 technology development: MAS CCD detectors

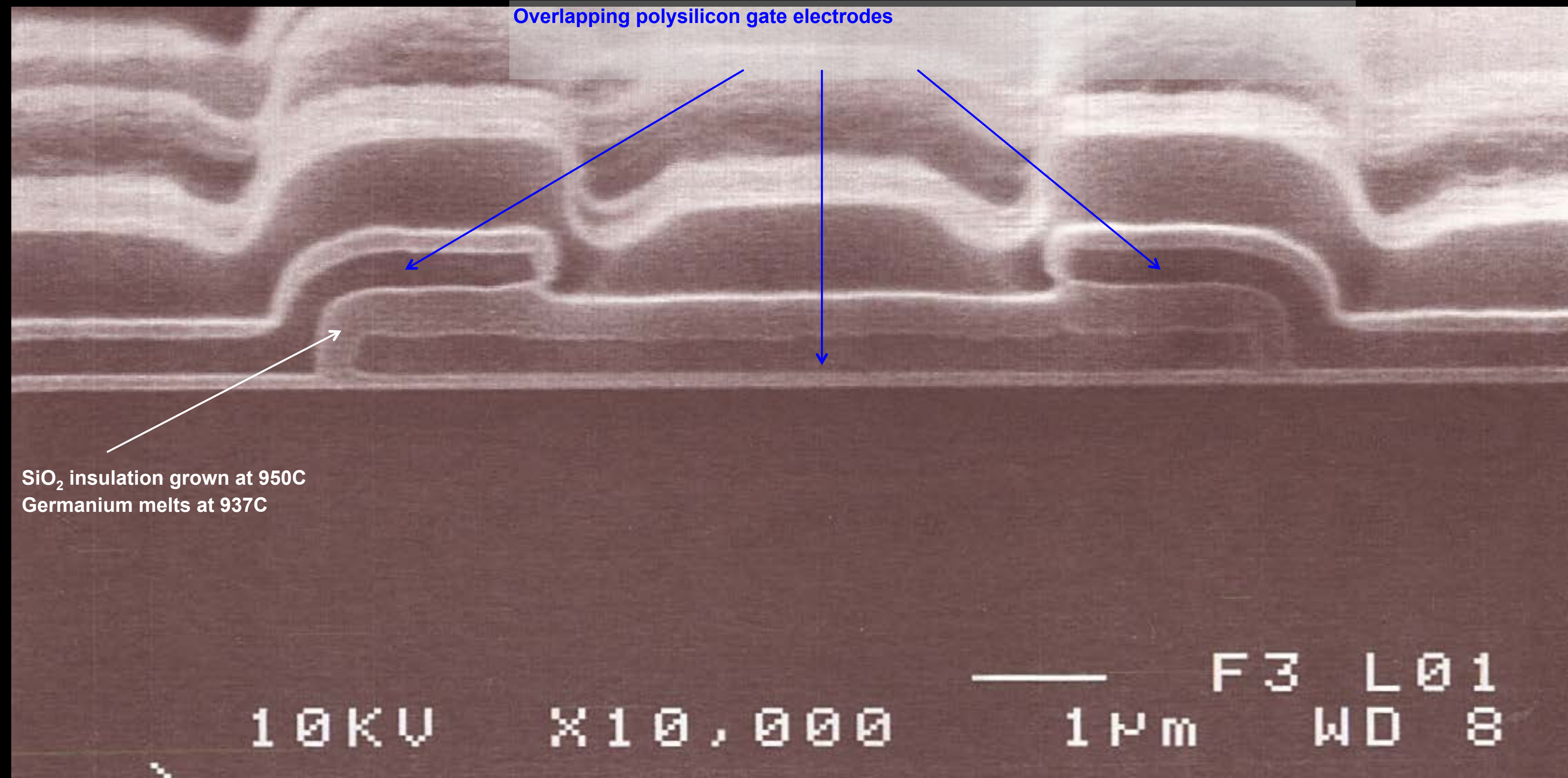
Multi-amplifier sensing CCDs with essentially no read noise → photon counting
Planned to be deployed on DESI before 2030



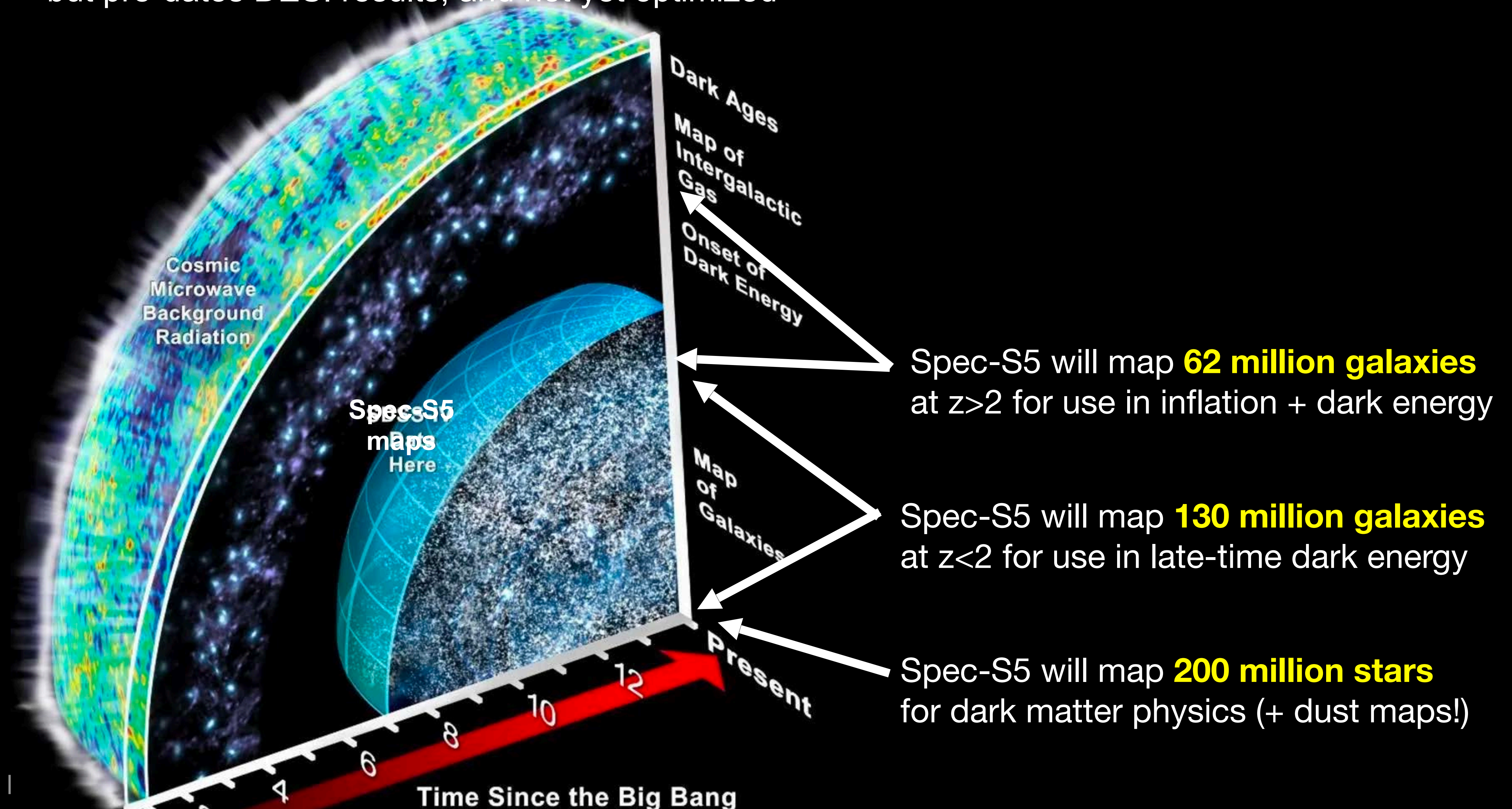
32 Skipper amplifiers
(on one corner of the CCD)

Spec-S5 technology development: Germanium CCD detectors

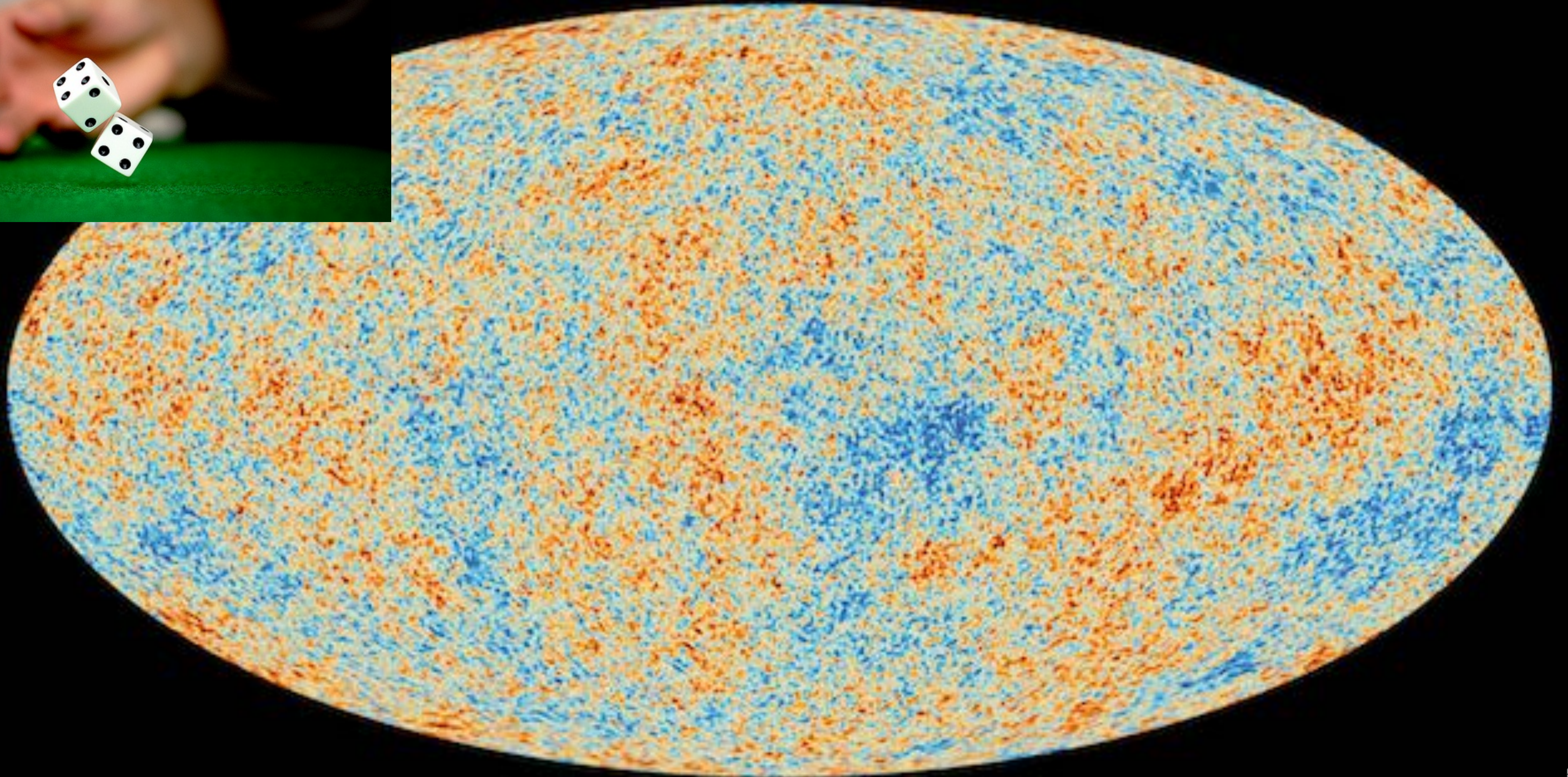
Extend the wavelength range of spectrographs from 1.0 \rightarrow 1.4 micron
(silicon bandgap \rightarrow germanium bandgap)



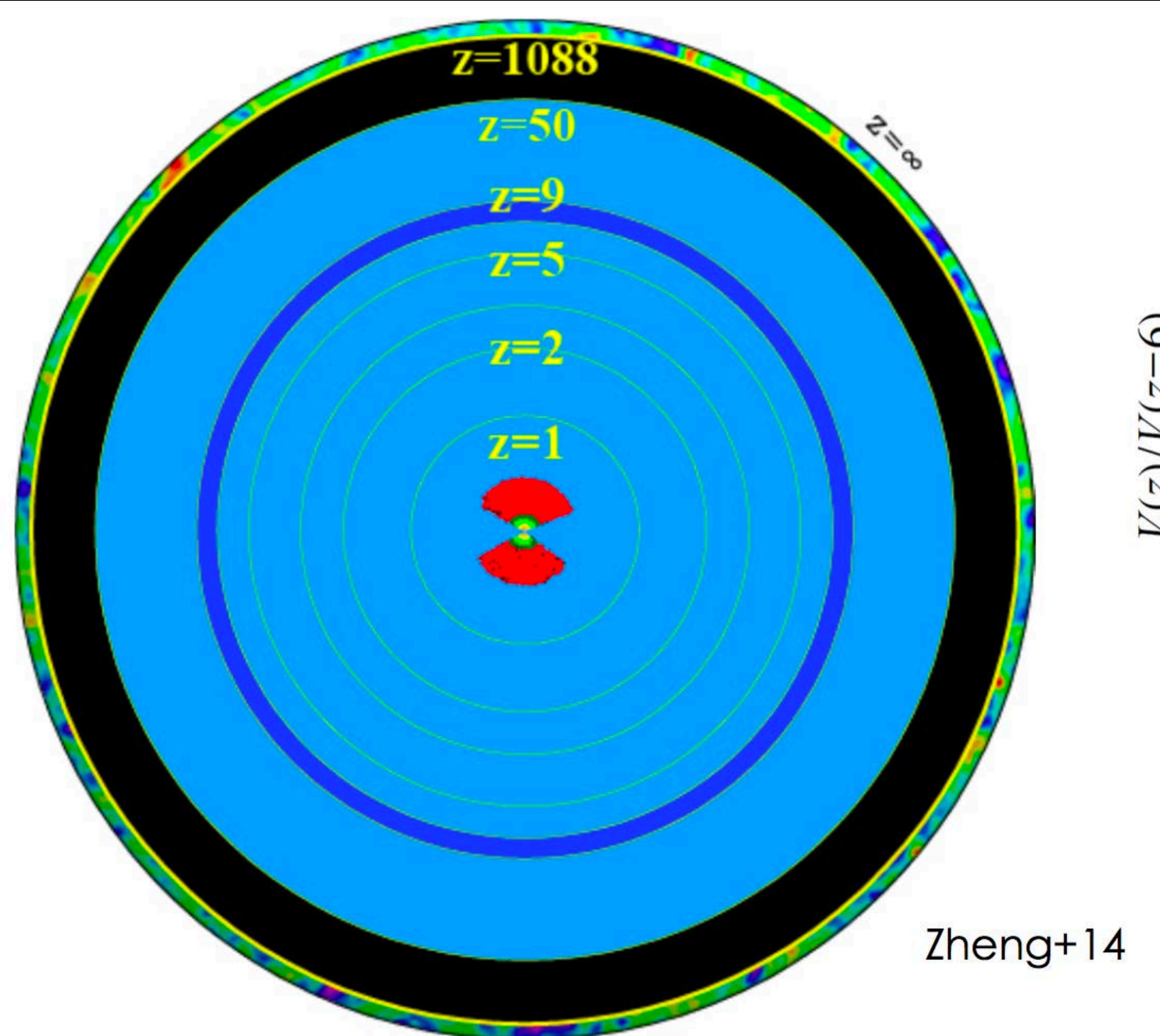
Spec-S5 Reference Mission to address three science cases,
but pre-dates DESI results, and not yet optimized



We've rolled the dice on the CMB...

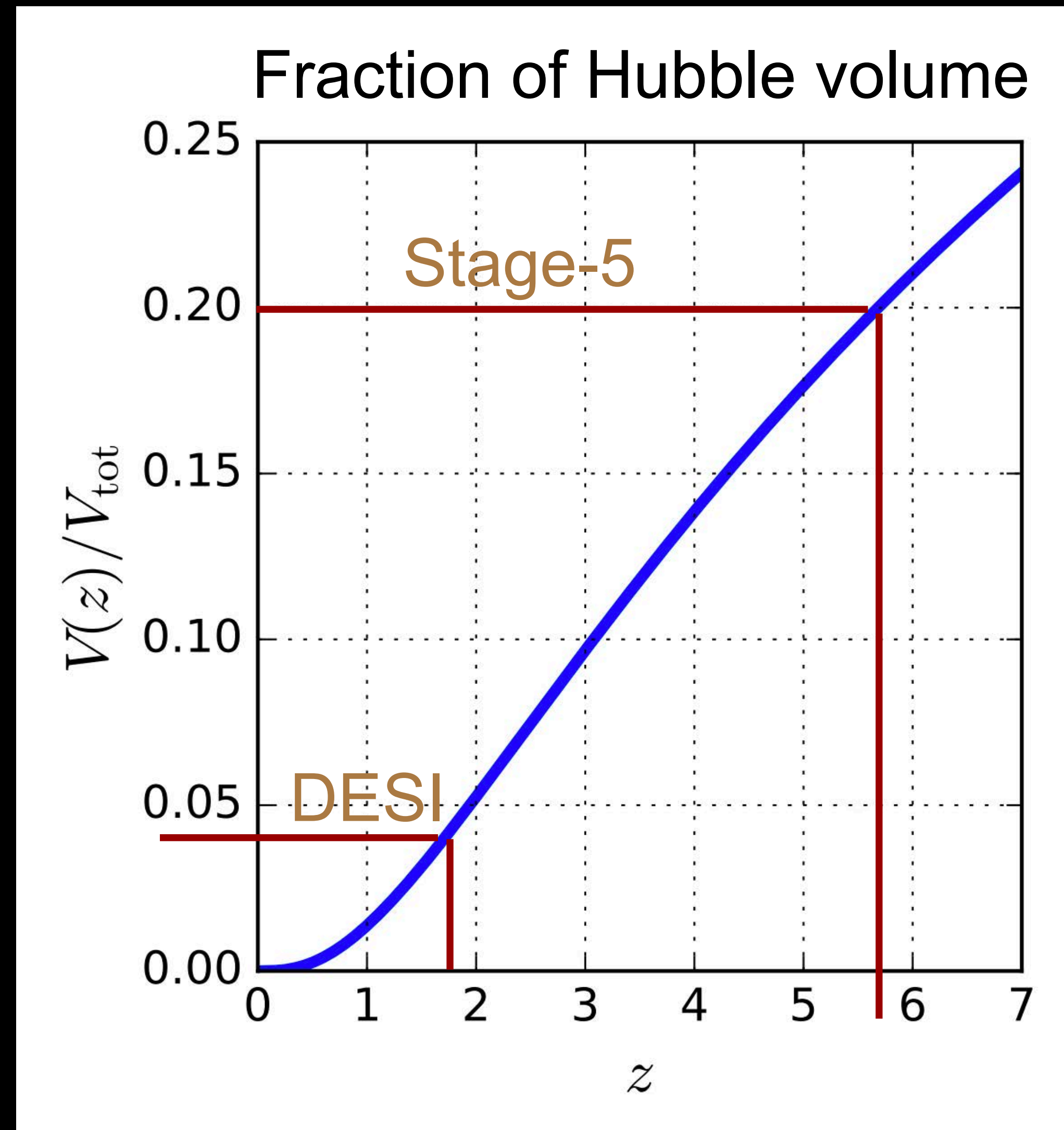


We still have many dice to roll for galaxy maps...



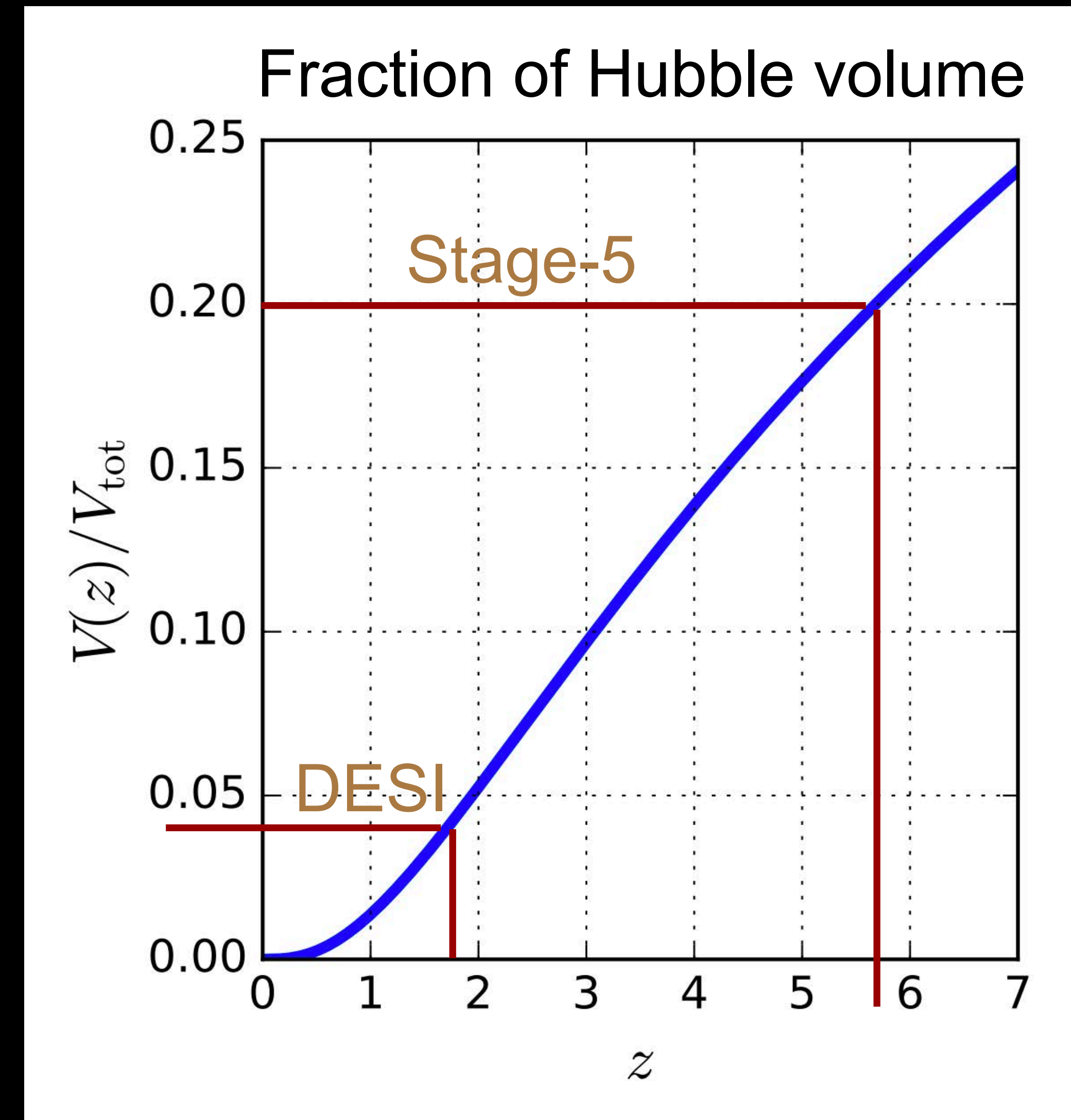
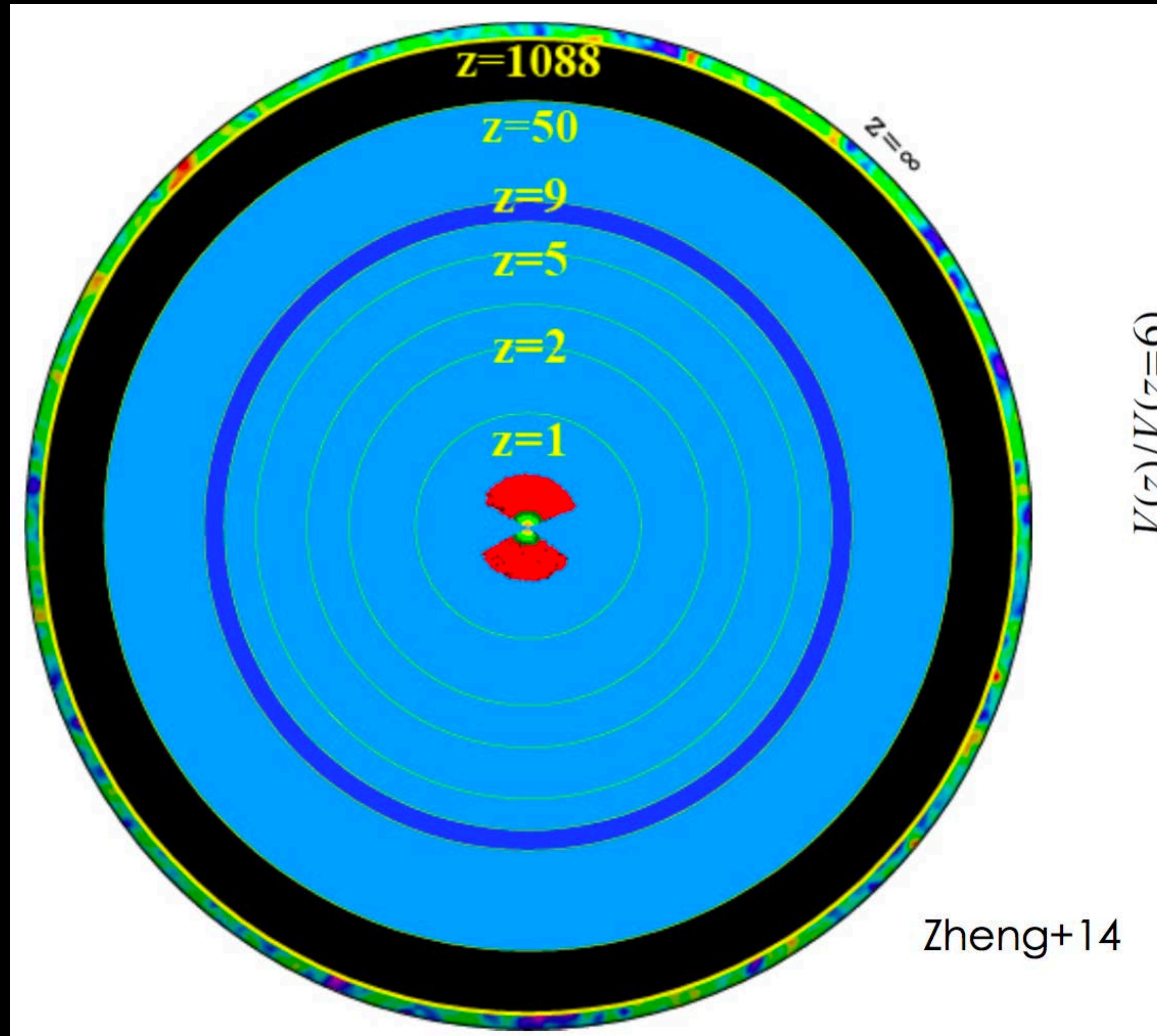
Map more galaxies -> more linear modes -> “primordial figure-of-merit”

- $2 < z < 5$ enormous volume only accessible with spectroscopy (Stage 5)
- $5 < z < 20$ comparable volume from future radio surveys (Stage 6)



Map more galaxies -> more linear modes -> “primordial figure-of-merit”

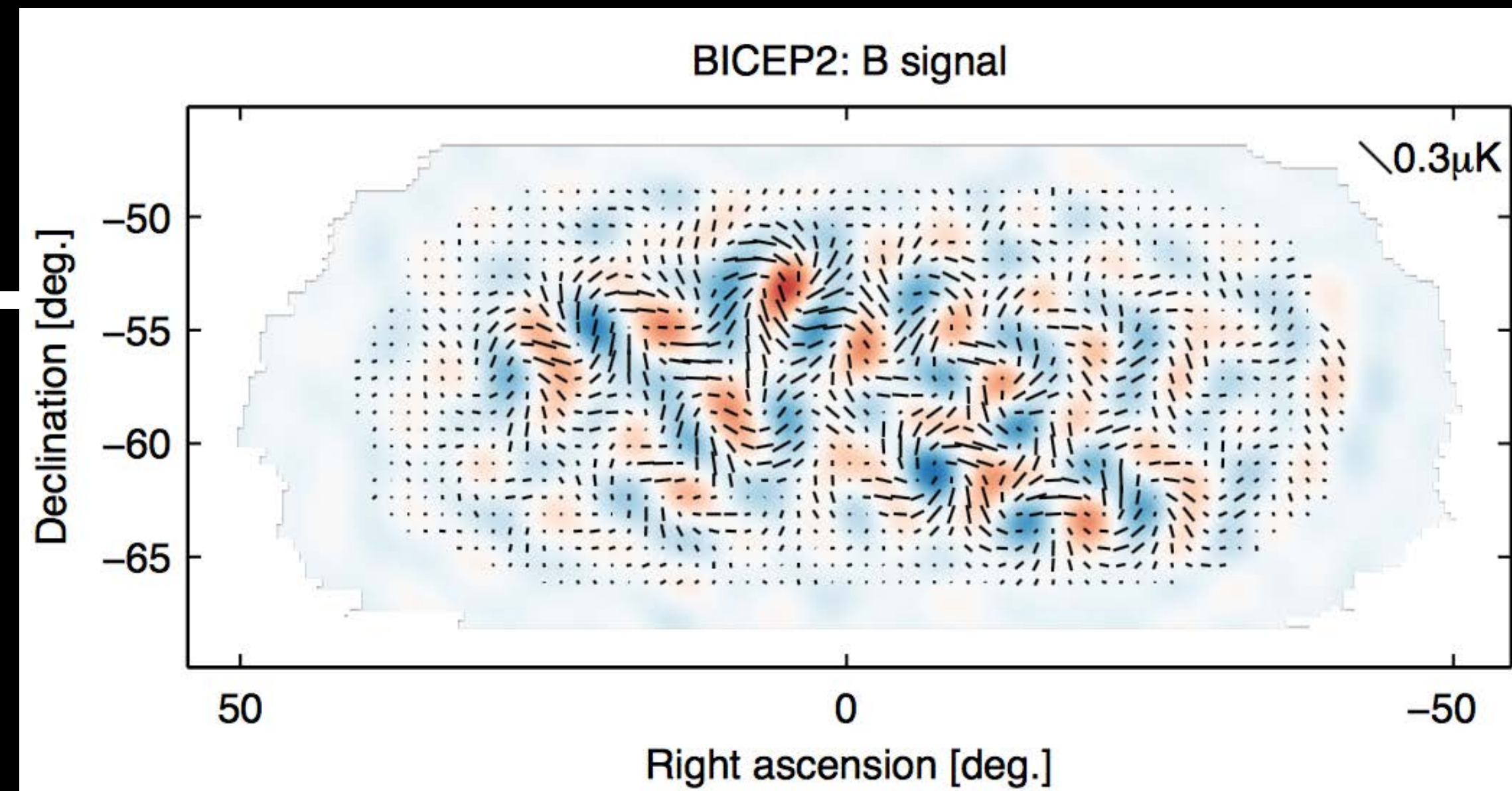
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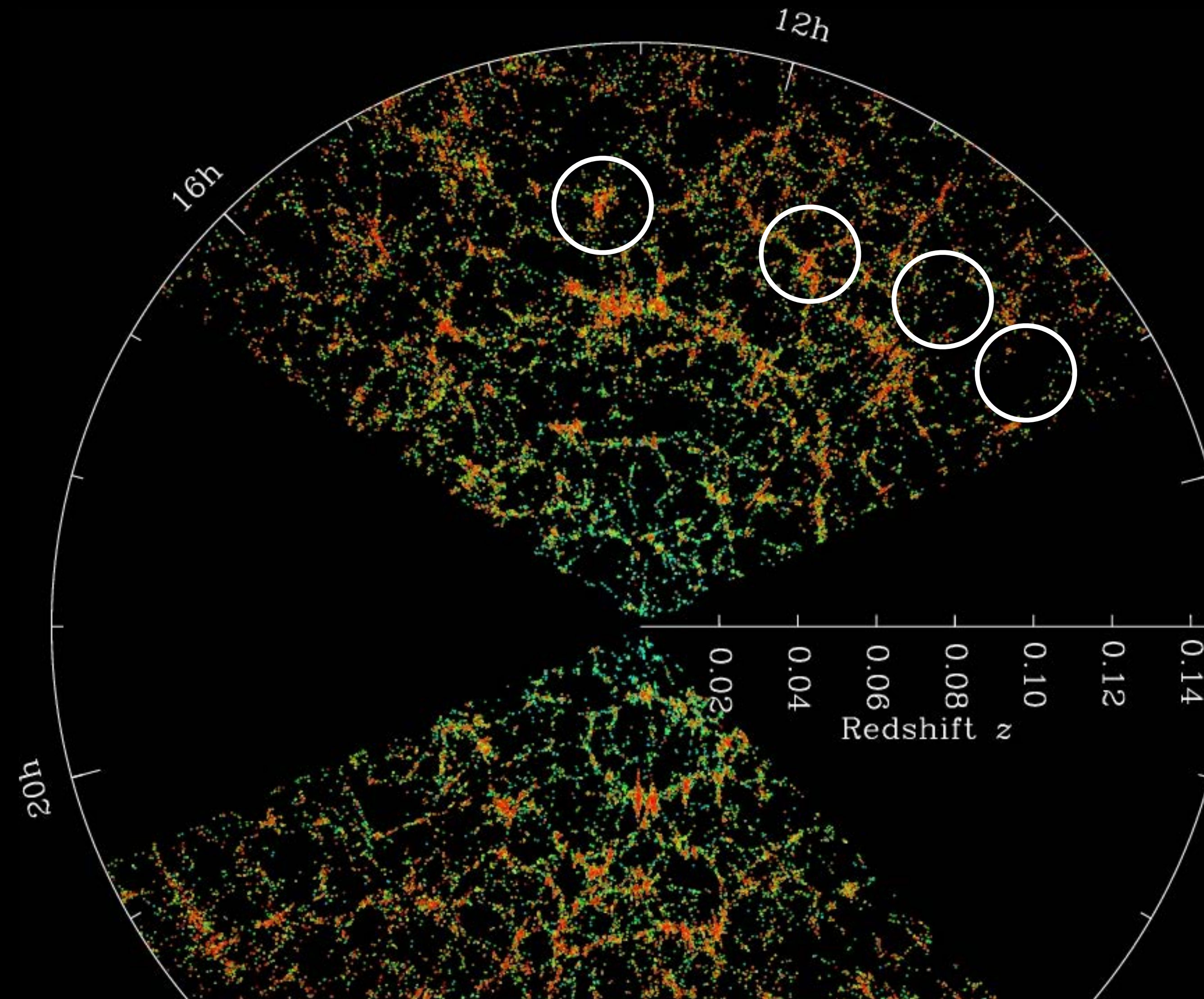
Probing the inflation epoch requires mapping more universe

CMB B-modes if single-field

→ Non-gaussianity otherwise (ie, f_{NL})

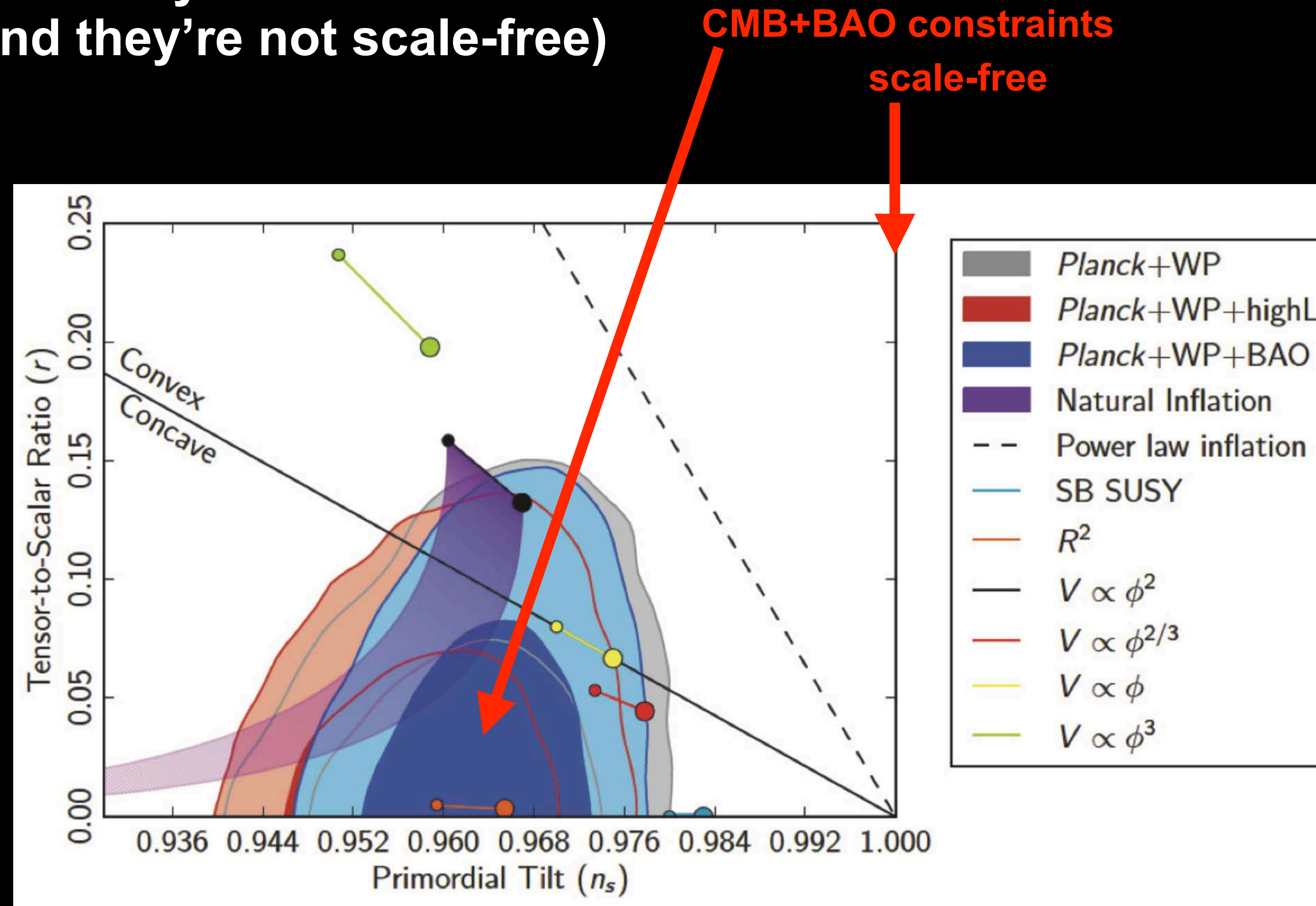


BICEP 2014 (incorrectly-interpreted Milky Way dust)



Probing the inflation epoch requires mapping more universe

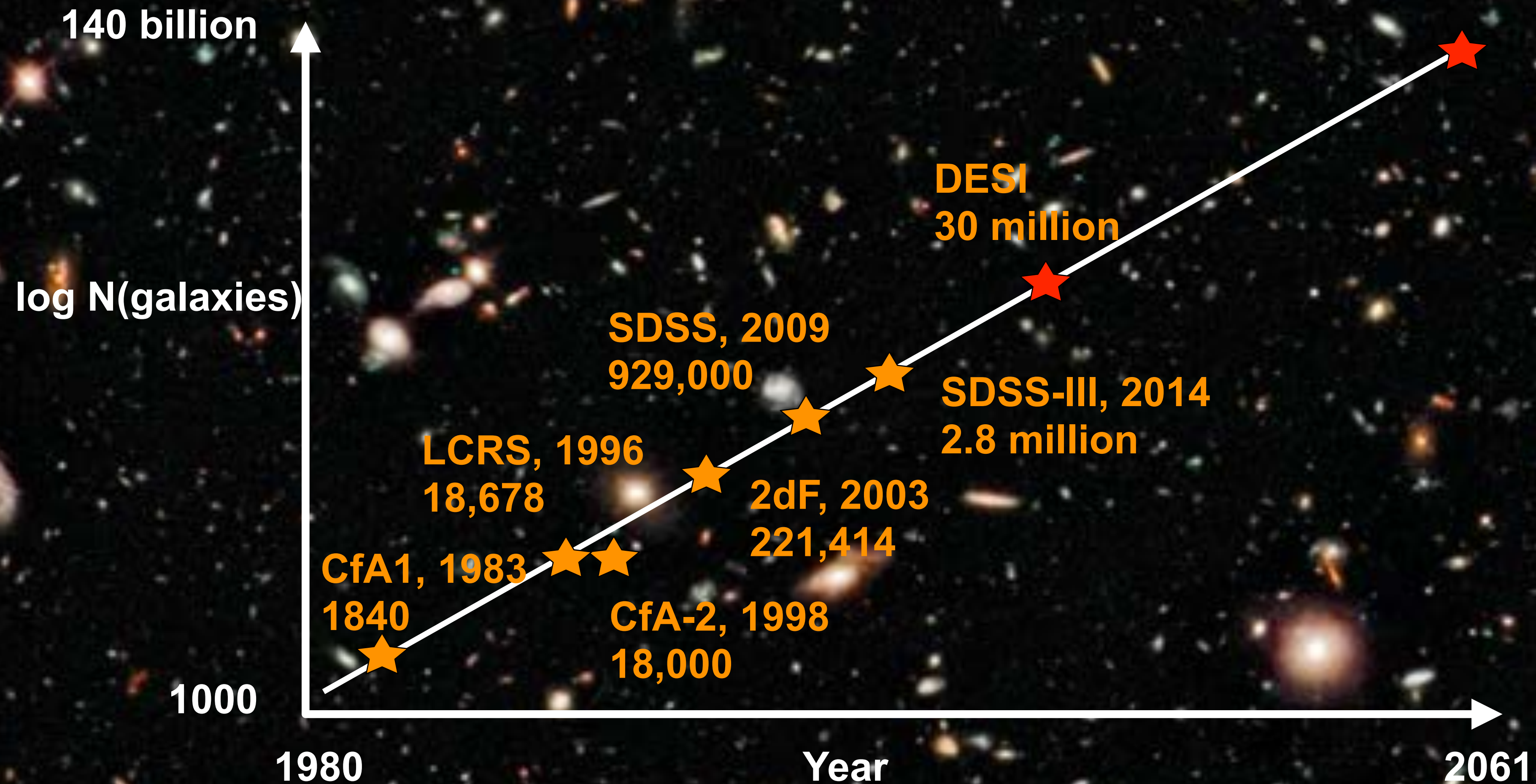
Galaxy maps + CMB have already measured the primordial fluctuations (and they're not scale-free)



Redshift surveys increasing 10X every 10 years

All linear modes mapped by 2043 — 2 billion galaxies

All detectable galaxies mapped by 2061 — 140 billion galaxies



HST Ultra-Deep Field
10,000 galaxies / (11 arcmin²)