

探索與Catalina實時瞬變調查 的易變的天空

S. G. Djorgovski,

A. Drake, A. Mahabal,

C. Donalek, R. Williams, M. Graham (CIT),

E. Beshore, S. Larson, et al. (UA/LPL),

B. Moghaddam, M. Turmon (JPL),

並且全世界許多合作者

中國討論會全國天文
學觀測所 2011年11月

Exploring the Variable Sky with the Catalina Real-Time Transient Survey

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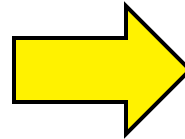
and numerous collaborators world-wide

*NAOC colloquium,
Nov. 2011*

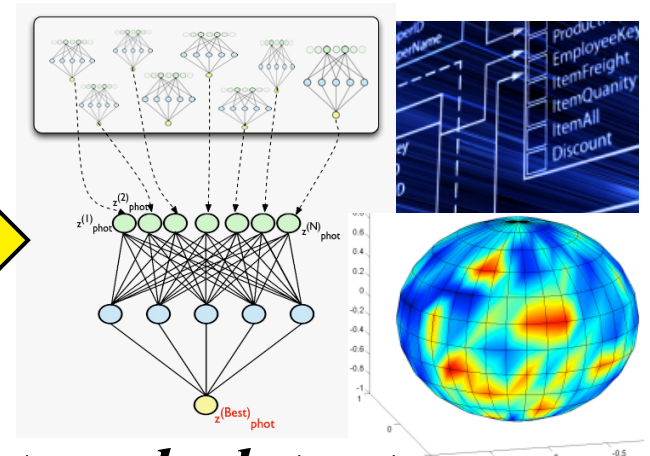
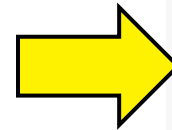
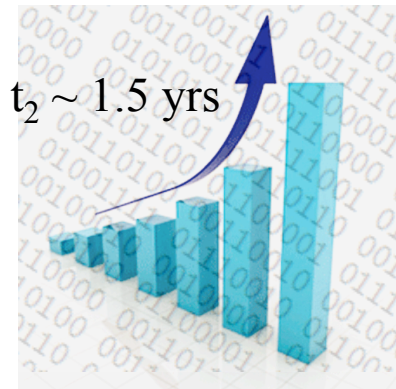
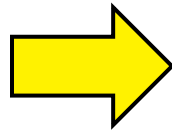
The Evolving Data-Rich Astronomy

From “arts & crafts” to industry

From data subsistence to an exponential overabundance



Astronomy is now driven by the progress in information technology



Synoptic sky surveys: from Terascale to Petascale data streams

Telescope+instrument are “just” a front end to data systems, where the real action is

Time Domain Astrophysics

- Driven by a new generation of synoptic sky surveys
- Rich phenomenology, from the Solar system to cosmology and extreme relativistic physics

Physical causes of intrinsic variability:

- Evolution: structural changes etc., long time scales
- Internal processes, e.g., turbulence inside stars
- Accretion/collapse: protostars, CVs, GRBs, QSOs
- Thermonuclear explosions (SNe)
- Magnetic field reconnections, e.g., stellar flares
- Line of sight changes (rotation, jet instabilities...)

*A broad,
diverse
range of
interesting
physics*

Variability is known on time scales from ms to 10^{10} yr

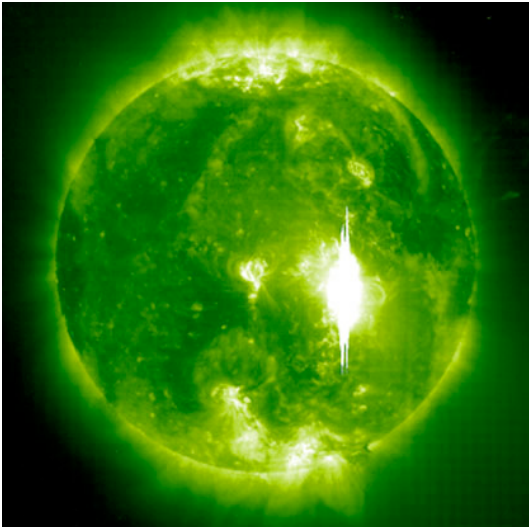
Static \Leftrightarrow Dynamic sky

Sources \Leftrightarrow Events

Synoptic, panoramic surveys \rightarrow event discovery

Rapid follow-up and multi- λ \rightarrow keys to understanding

A Broad Variety of Phenomena



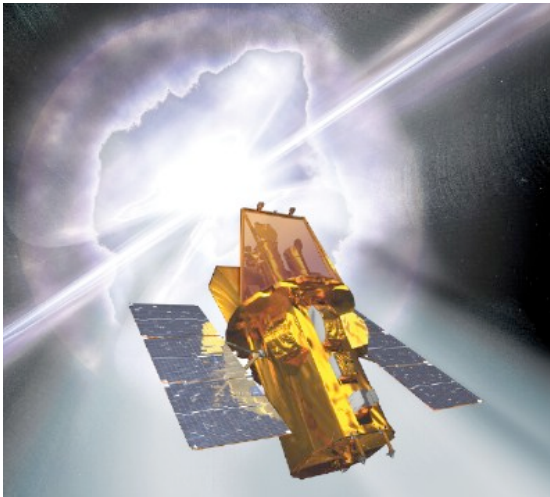
Flaring stars



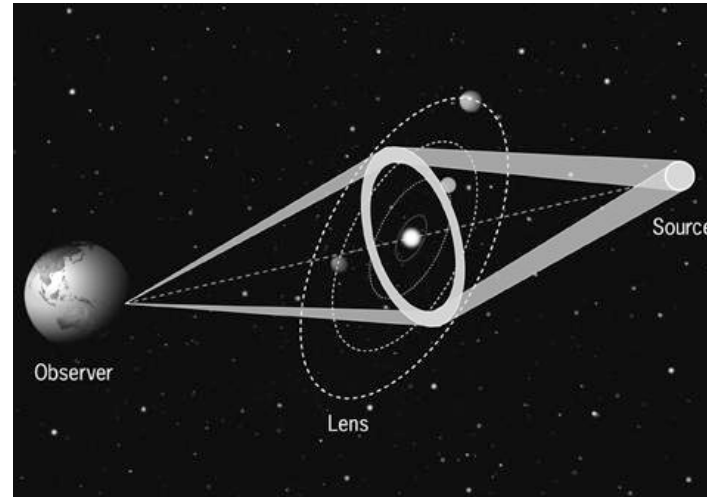
Novae, Cataclysmic Variables



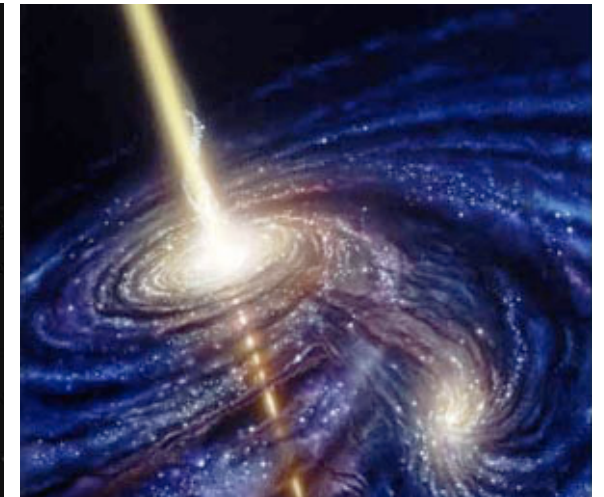
Supernovae



Gamma-Ray Bursts

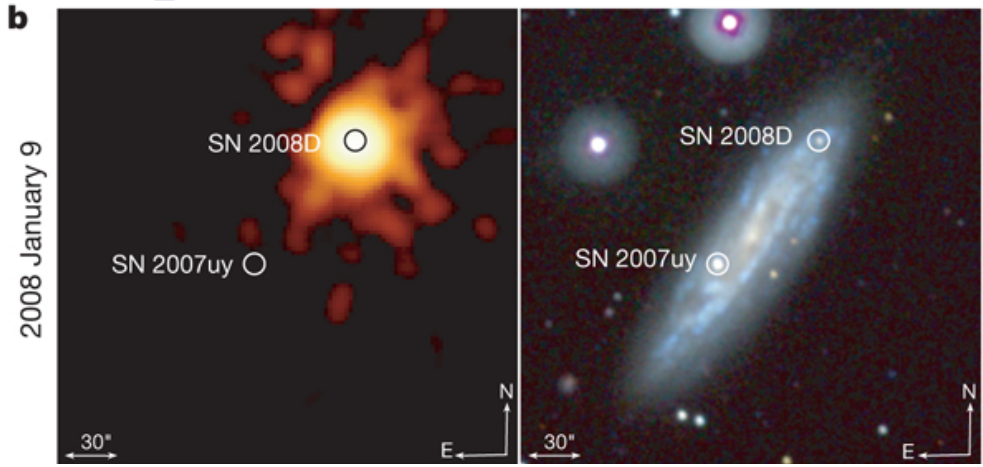


Gravitational Microlensing



Accretion to SMBHs

Supernova breakout shocks



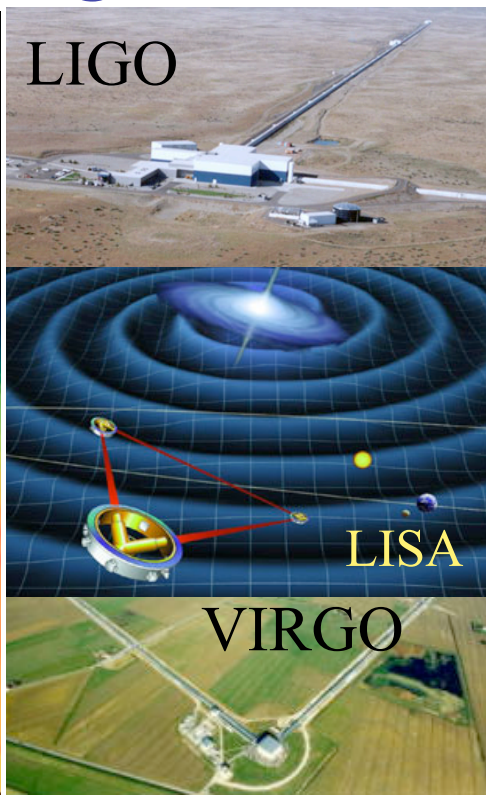
Tidal disruption flares



Future: Super-Massive Black Hole Mergers

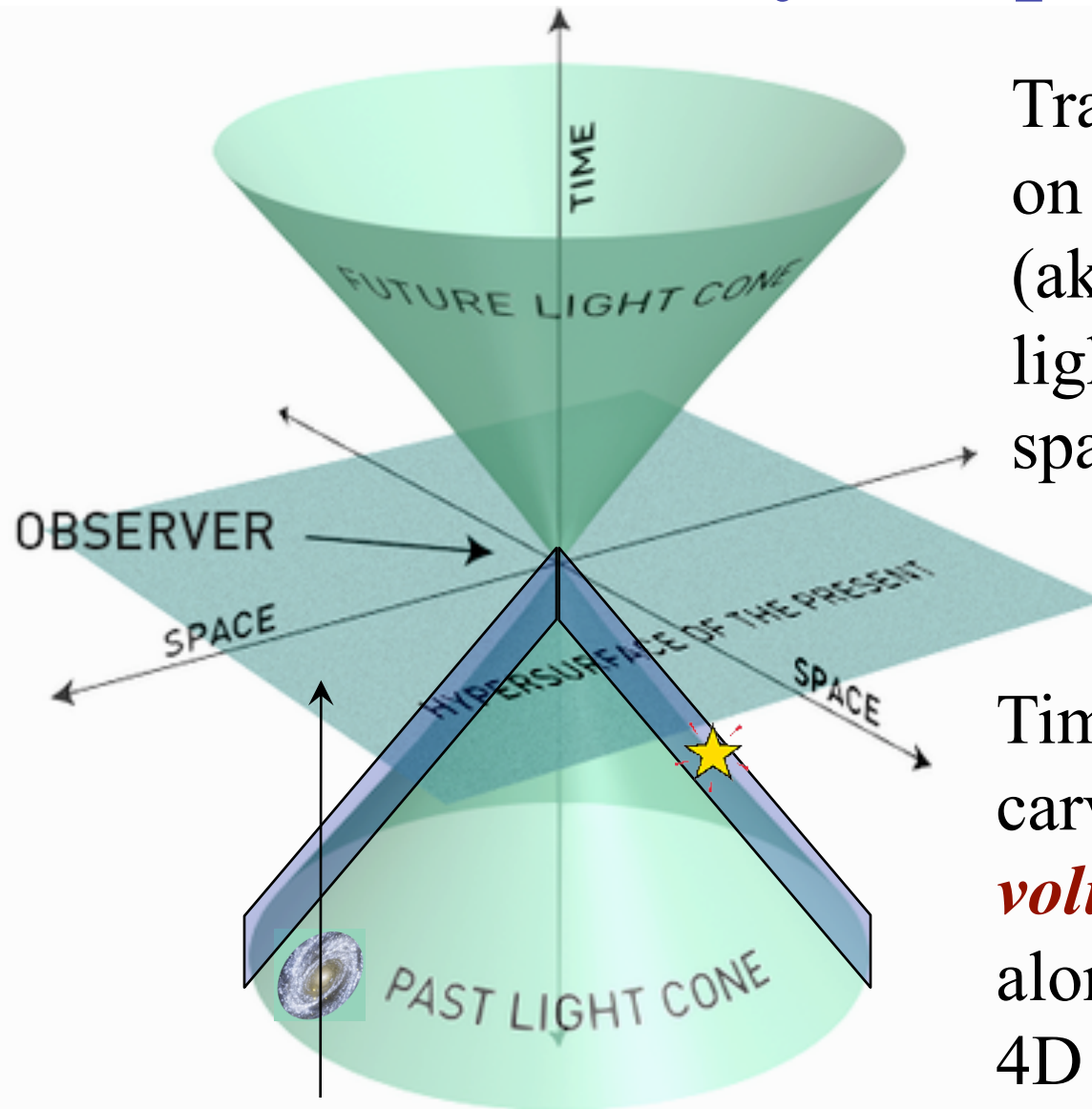
**Expected bursts of
Gravitational Waves**

**... and possibly also
electromagnetic
transients?**



What *can* we observe?

Astronomy in SpaceTime



Traditional astronomy is on the **3D hyper-surface** (aka space) of the past light cone in the 4D spacetime

Time-domain astronomy carves out a **4D hyper-volume** as we move along the time axis of the 4D spacetime

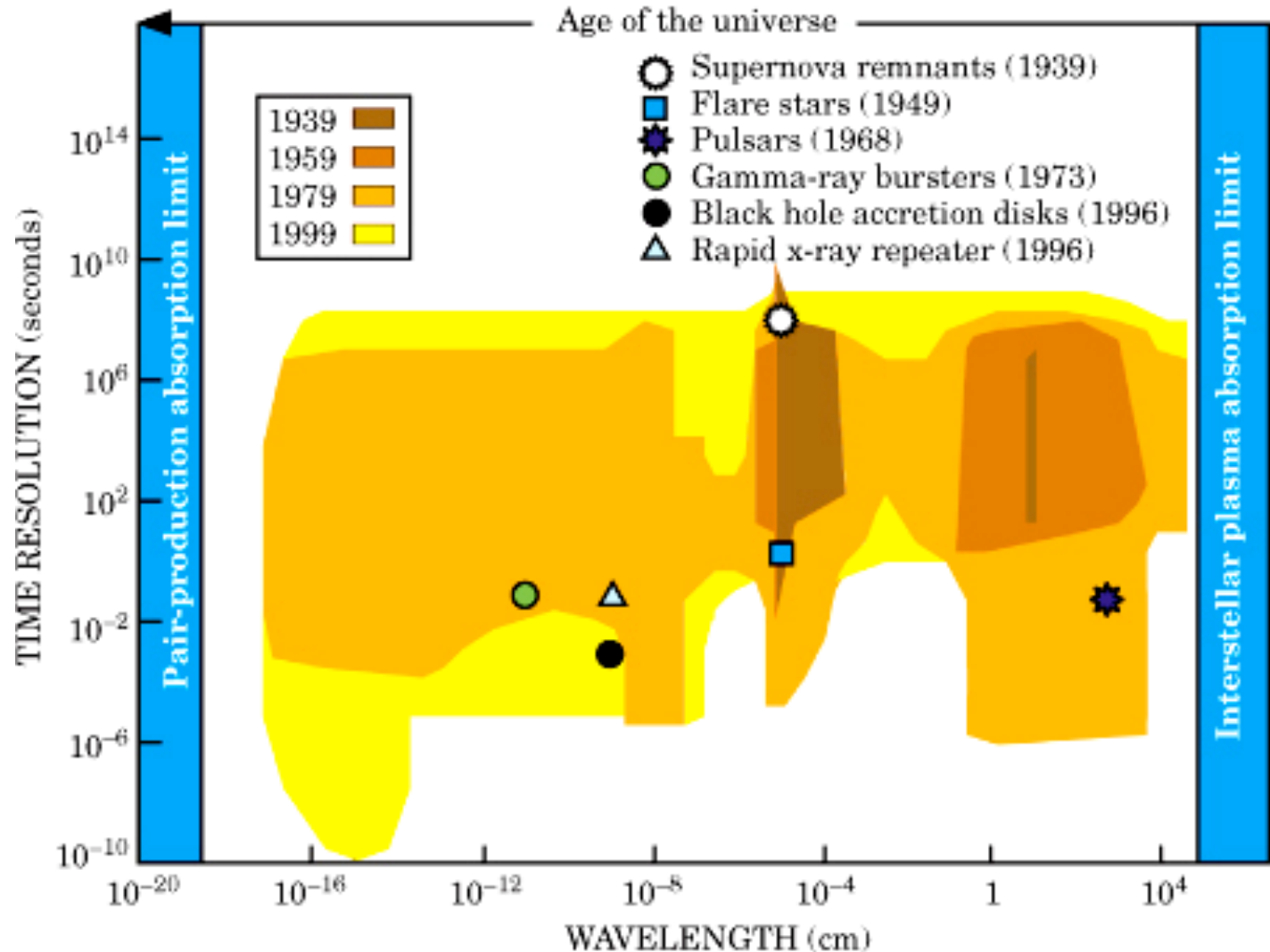
Expanding the Observable Parameter Space

Technology advances → Expanded domain of measurements
→ Discovery of new types of phenomena

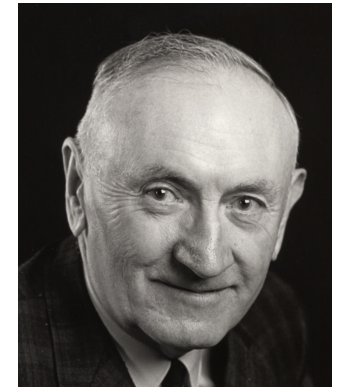
(M. Harwit)



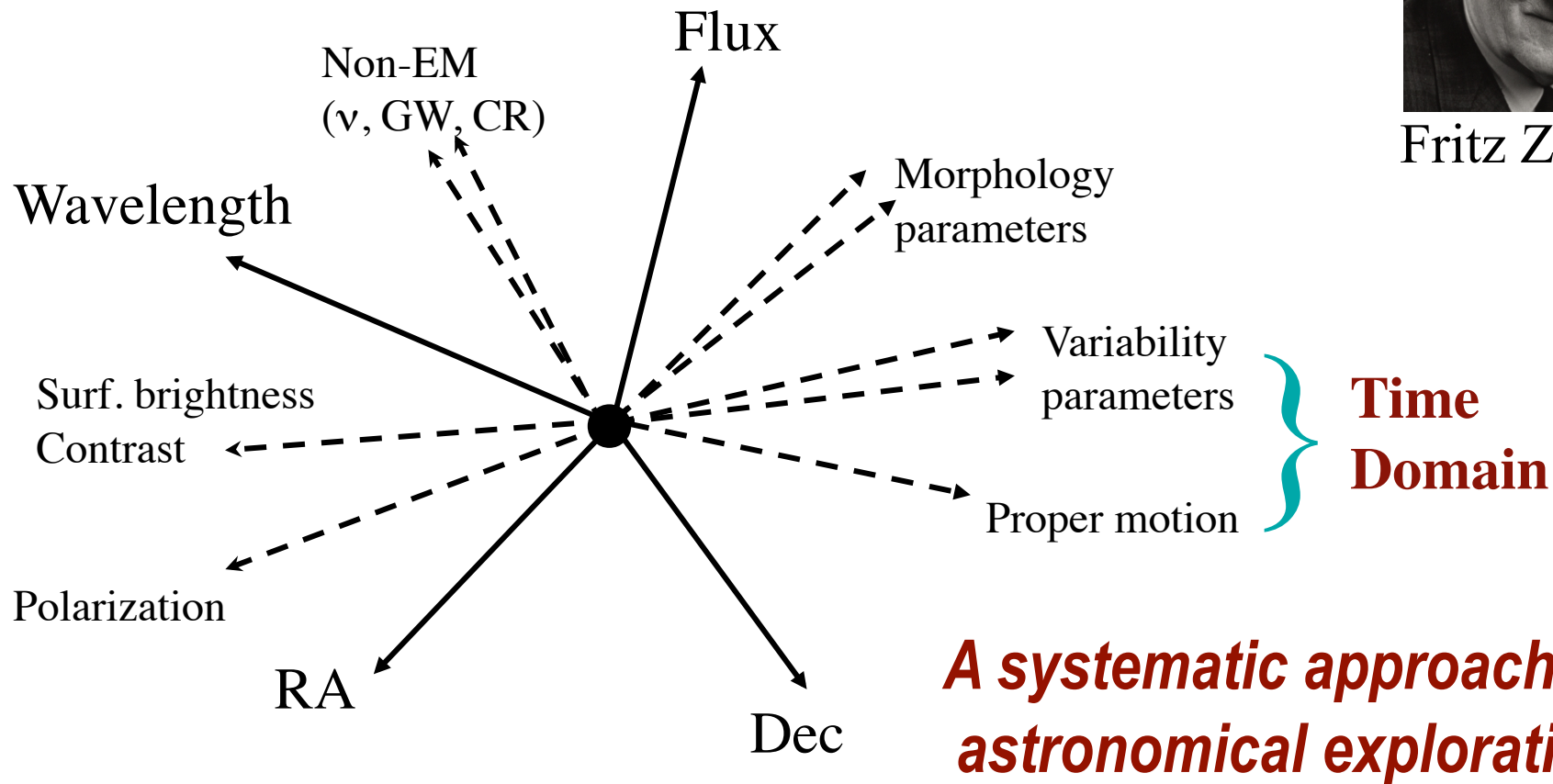
As we open up the time domain, we are bound to discover some new things!



From the “Morphological Box” to the Observable Parameter Space



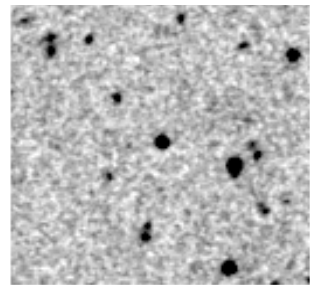
Fritz Zwicky



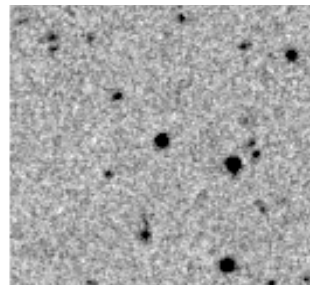
Along each axis the measurements are characterized by the **position, extent, sampling and resolution**. All astronomical measurements span some volume in this parameter space.

DPOSS Plate Overlap Survey

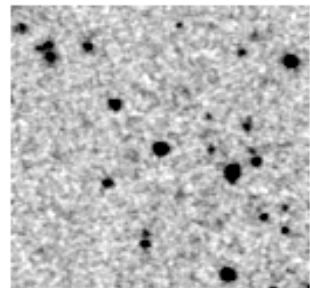
High-amplitude (non-OT) variables, mainly CVs and AGN, over the time baselines \sim a few years



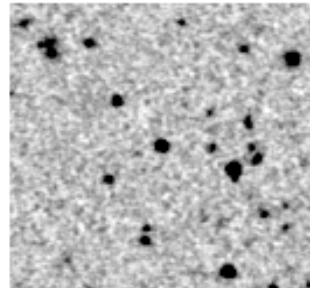
1988.3697



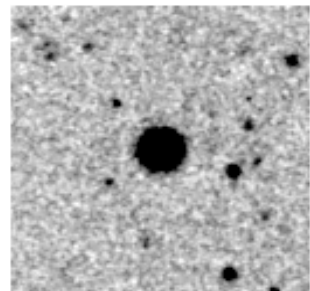
1988.4487



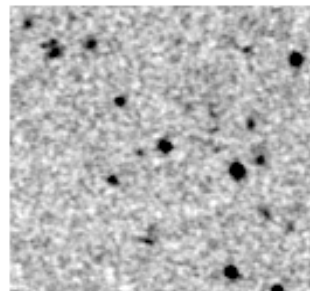
1991.2723



1994.3679

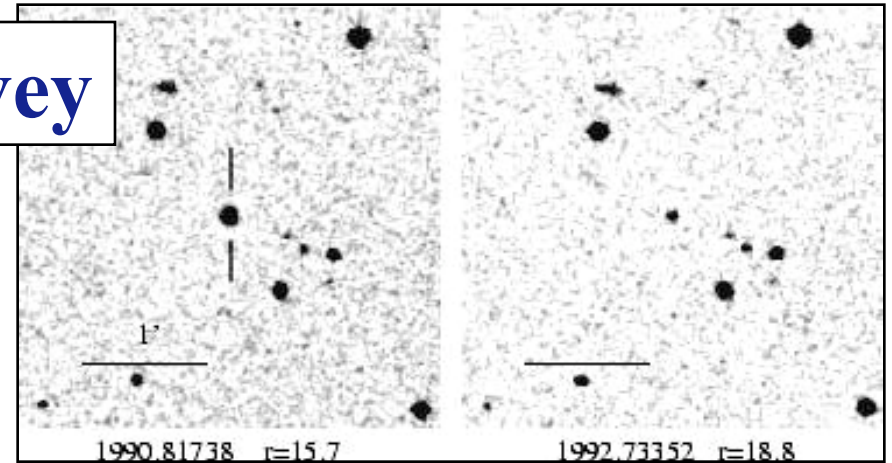


1990.1793

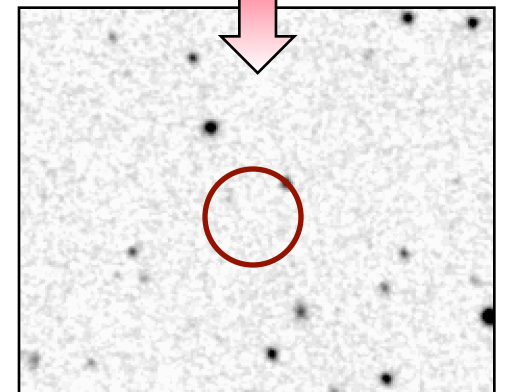
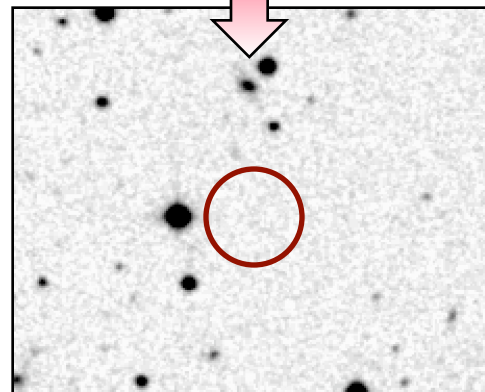
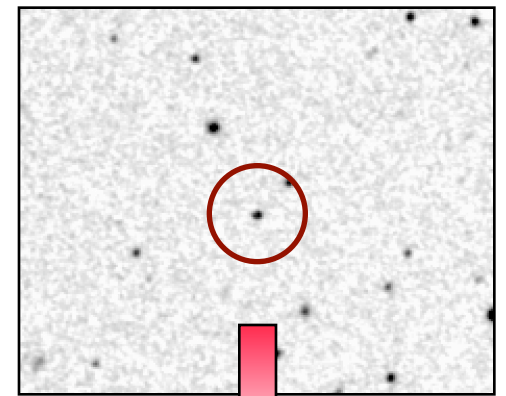
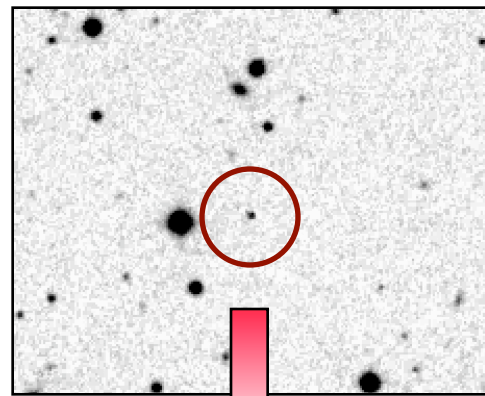


1997.3408

(Mahabal, Djorgovski, Granett 2001, 2003)

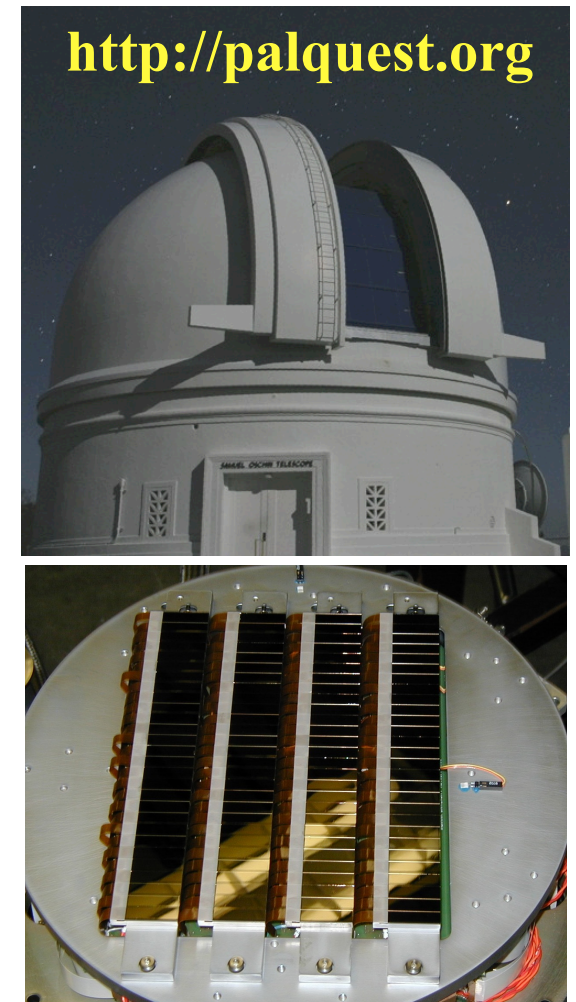
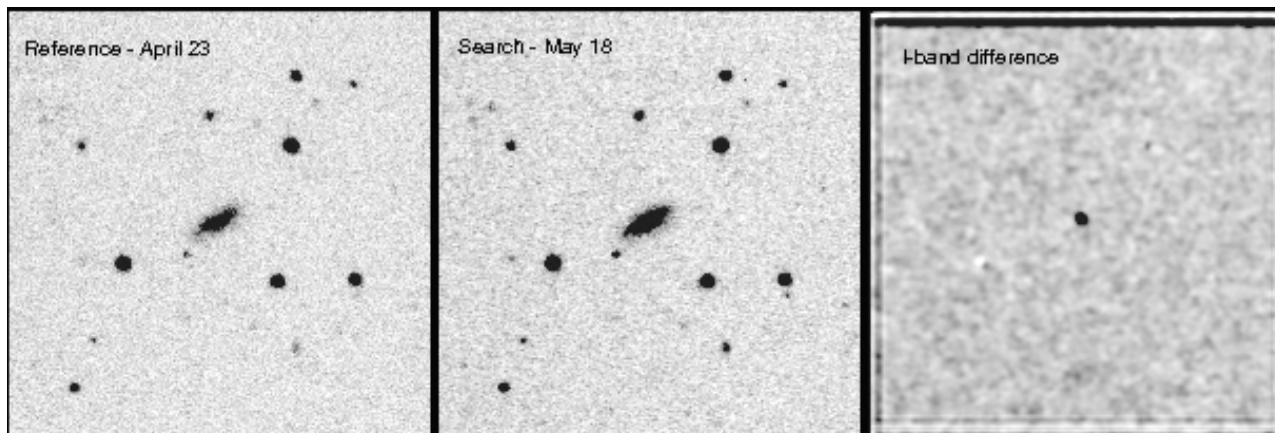


DPOSS Transients



The Palomar-Quest (PQ) Digital Synoptic Sky Survey

- Palomar 48-in. + 112-CCD, 161 Mpix camera
- A Caltech-Yale collab. Co-PIs: C. Baltay & SGD; plus other groups worldwide (LBL, etc.)
- Many passes with up to 4 filters (*UBRI/griz*), time baselines from minutes to years
- Collected > 50 TB of data
- Operated from Aug. 2003 through Sept. 2008
- ***Key goal: Exploration of the time domain***

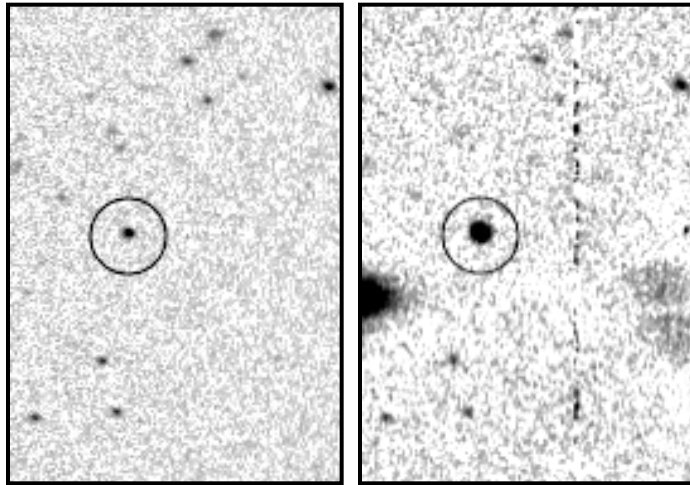


⇐ LBL SNF search
(Nugent et al.)

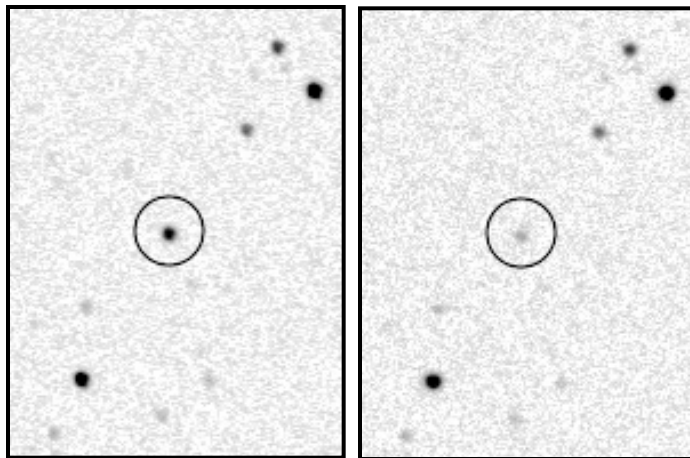
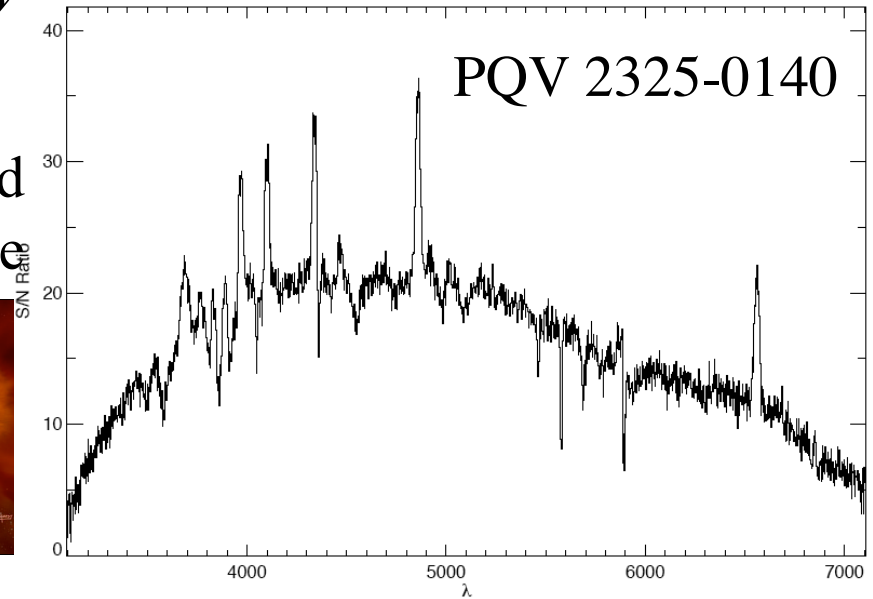
> 700 SNe discovered

The Most Variable Sources on the Sky:

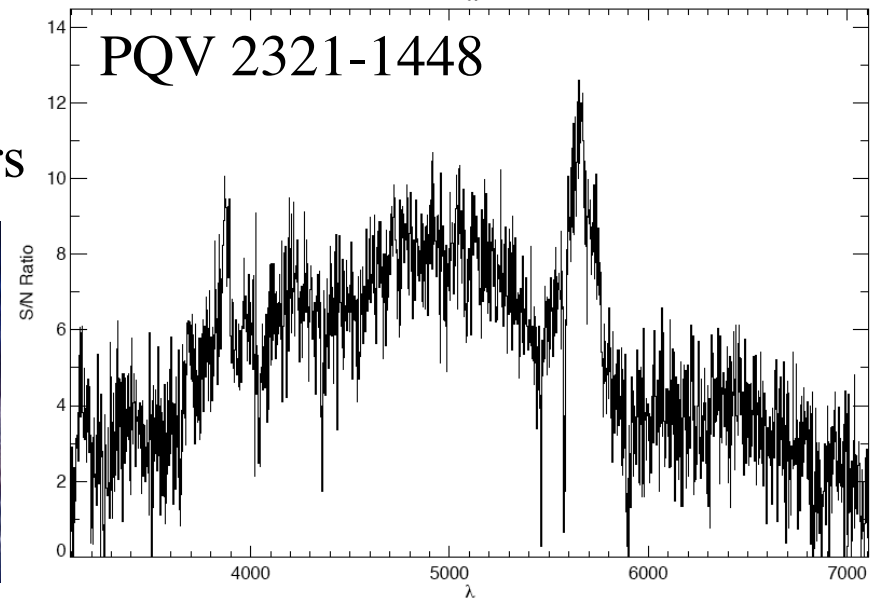
Selected in the Palomar-Quest Survey



Cataclysmic
Variables and
Dwarf Novae



Blazars and
OVV Quasars



The Palomar-Quest Event Factory

Sept.
2006

Detect $\sim 1 - 2 \times 10^6$ sources
per half-night scan

Compare with
the baseline sky

Find $\sim 10^3$ apparent
transients (in the data)

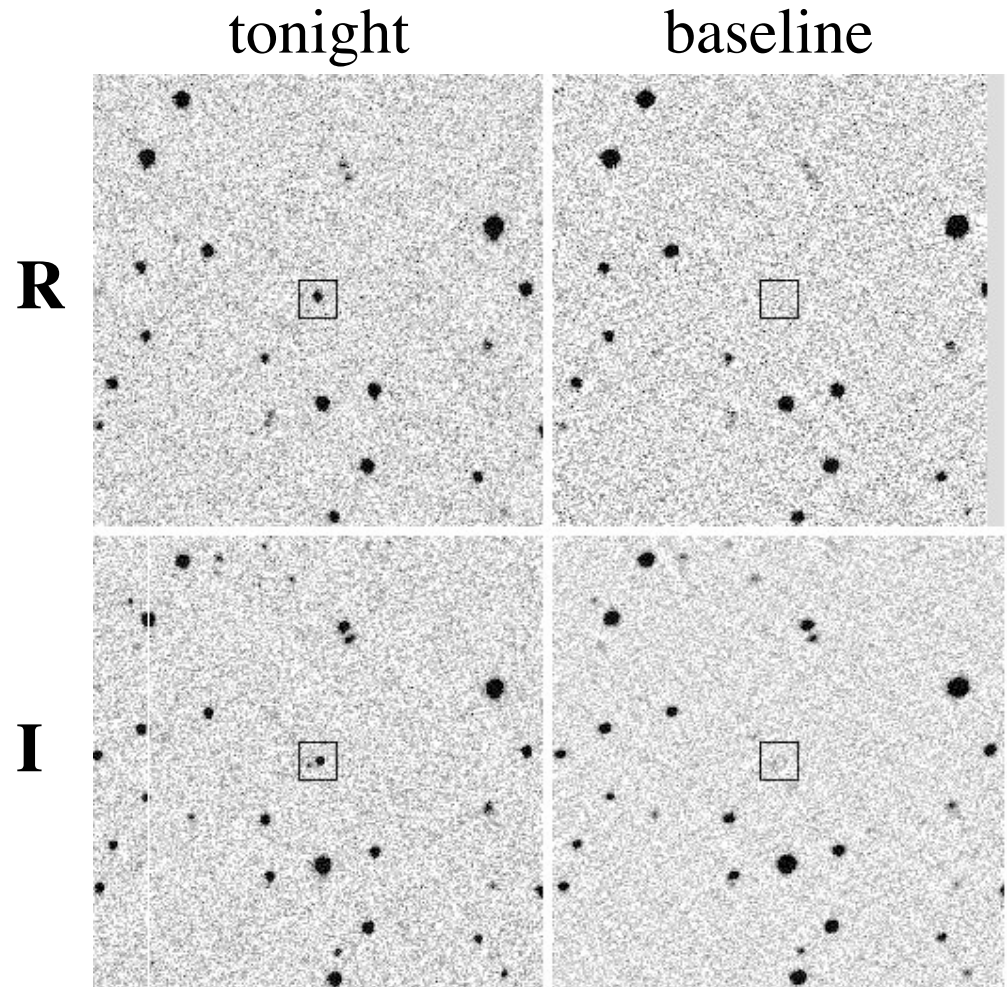
Remove instrum.
artifacts

Identify $\sim 2 - 4 \times 10^2$ real
transients (on the sky)

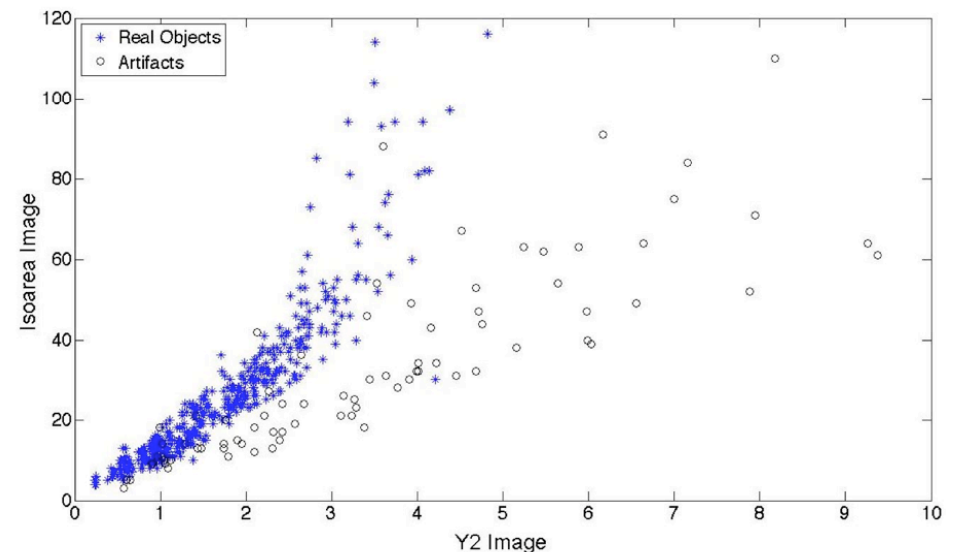
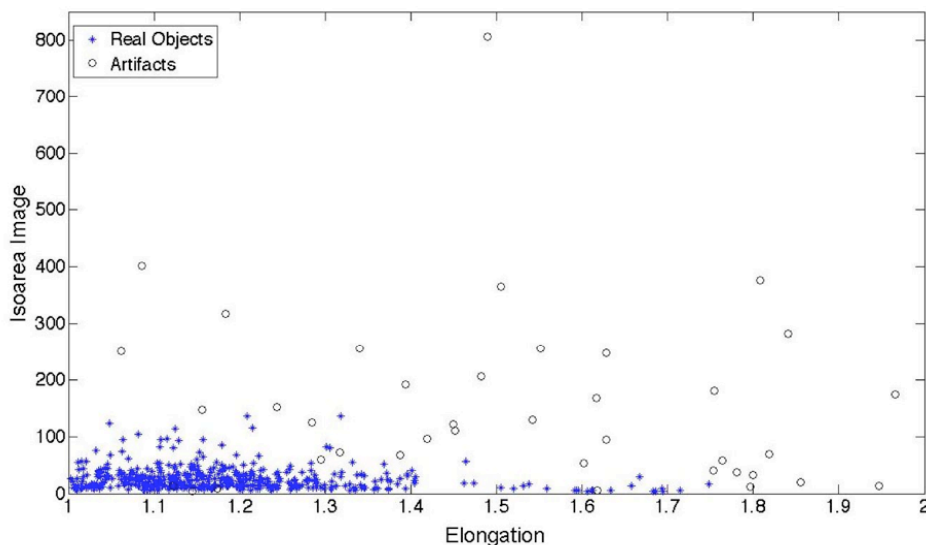
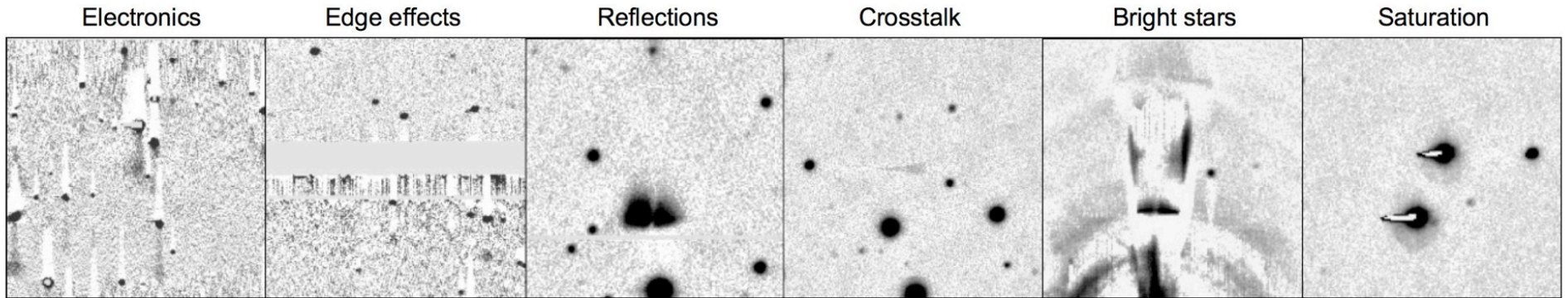
Remove
asteroids

Identify $\sim 1 - 10$ possible
Astrophysical transients

Classification and follow-up



Automated Filtering of Artifacts



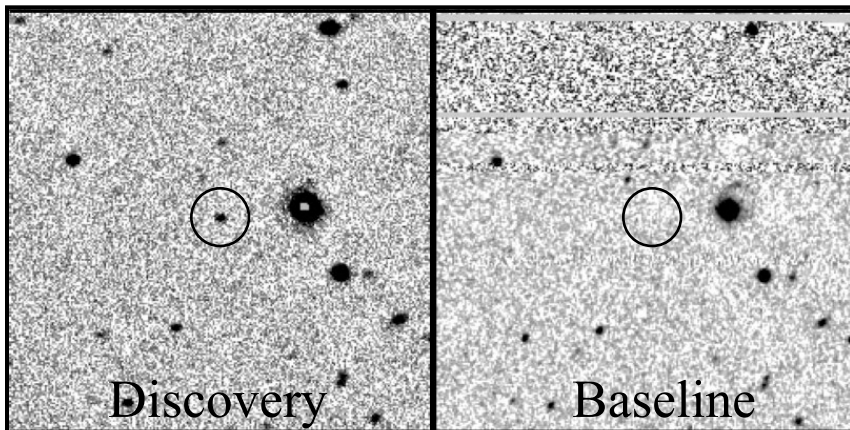
Automated classification and rejection of artifacts masquerading as transient events in the PQ survey pipeline, using a Multi-Layer Perceptron ANN; accuracy $> 95\%$. *(Donalek et al.)*

Examples of PQ Real-Time Discoveries

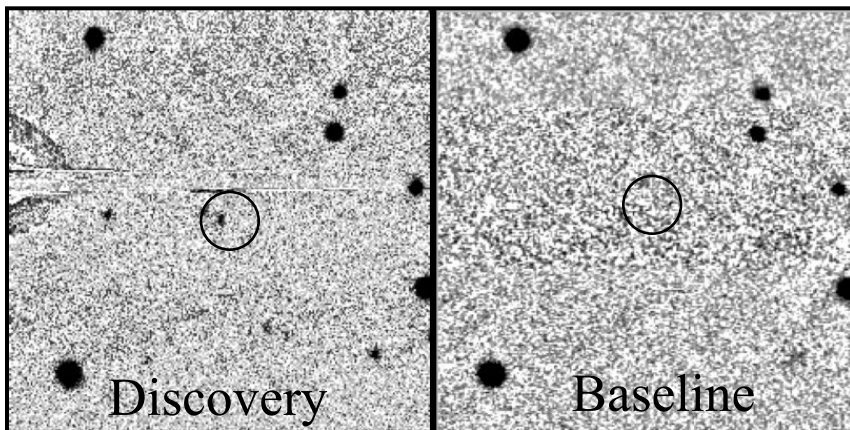
P200 spectroscopy sometimes within
an hour of the initial detection

AGN

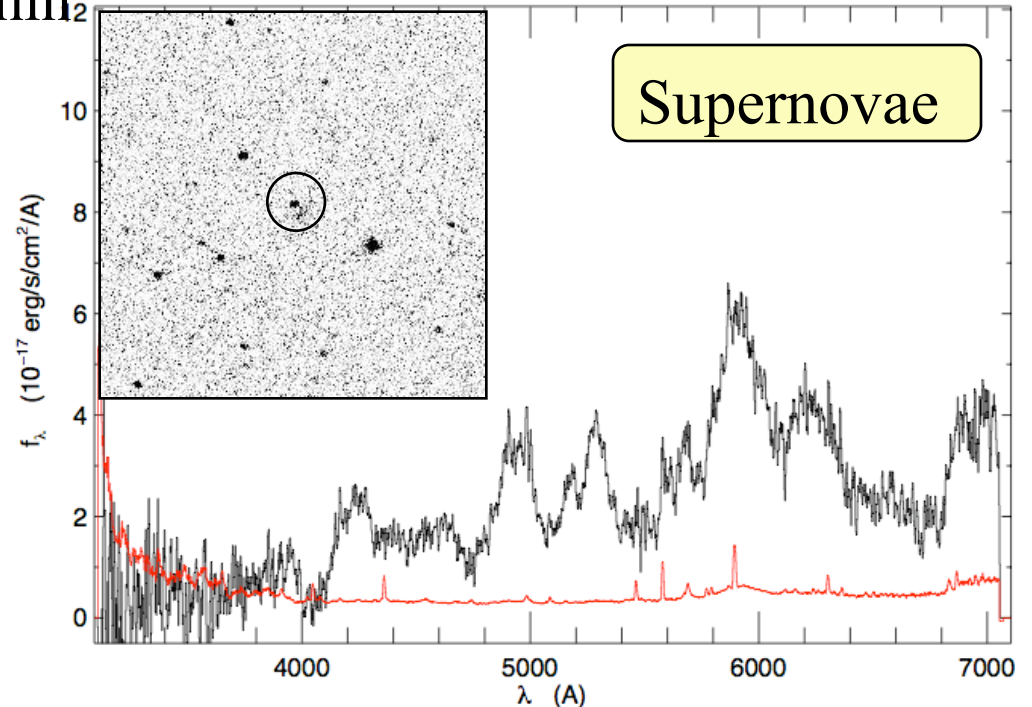
PQT 071010:034520-012111 Blazar



PQT 071011:031515-034914 QSO, $z = 1.26$

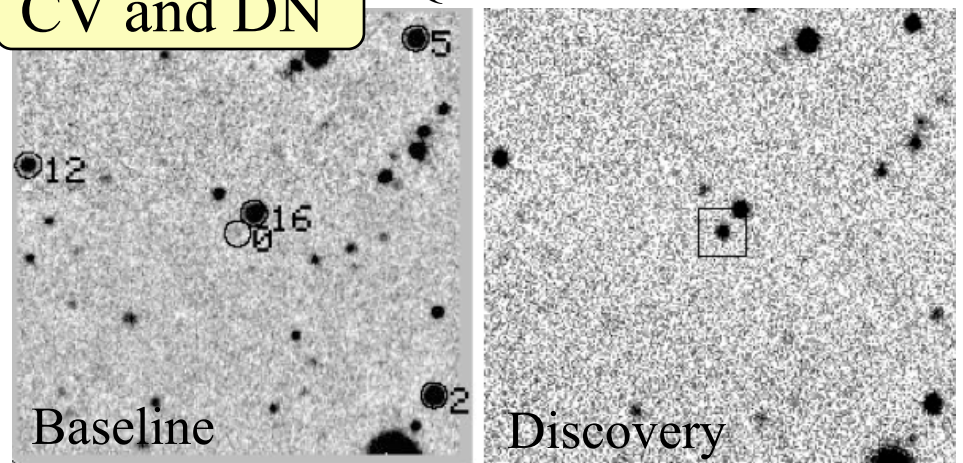


PQOT230627+095342



CV and DN

PQT 080119:091534+081356





<http://crts.caltech.edu>

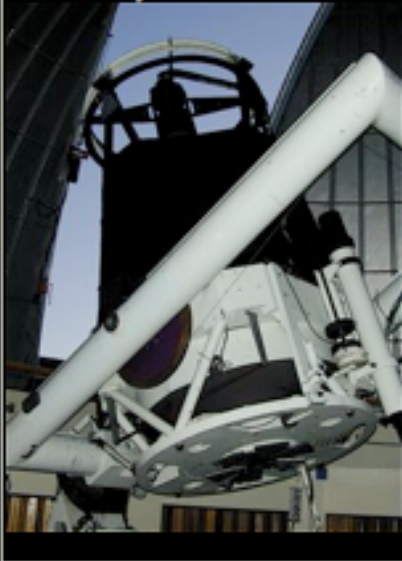
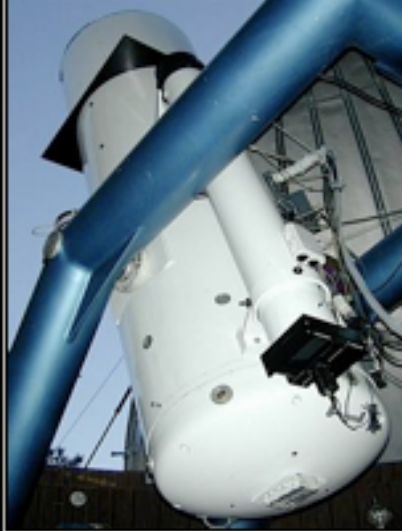

Co-Pis: A. Drake & SGD

- Real-time processing, detection, and publishing of transients
 - Builds on the work started in the PQ survey (science & technology)
 - Focus on astrophysical transients, *a systematic exploration of the time domain*, and the computational infrastructure
 - Public outreach: Google’s Sky, MSR’s WWT, “Citizen Science”
- It is *a fully open survey*: all data are made public instantly, with no proprietary period at all
 - Benefits the entire community and maximizes the follow-up and the resulting science
 - A new “open data” sociology – the shifting focus from the ownership of data to the ownership of expertise

Catalina Sky Survey(s):

NEO survey Co-PI's:
E. Beshore & S. Larson (LPL)

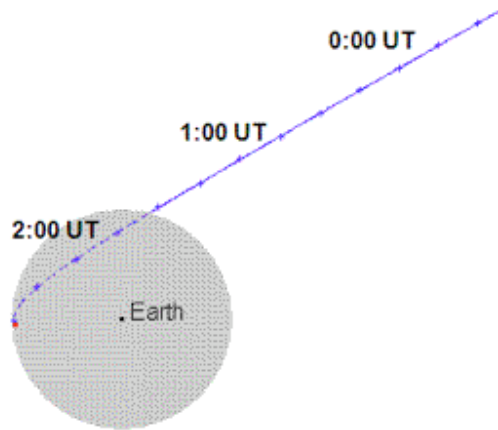
CRTS uses the data from all three Catalina NEO surveys, with a coverage of up to 2,500 deg² / night, and the total area coverage of ~ 33,000 deg²

	MLS The Mt. Lemmon Survey 1.5m Cass	CSS Catalina Sky Survey 0.7m Schmidt	SSS Siding Springs Survey 0.5m Schmidt
			
Survey region (deg)	+/- 5 deg ecliptic	-25 < Dec < +70	-80 < Dec < -25
Field of View (square deg)	1.2	8.1	4.2
Mag limit (V)	21.5	19.5	19.0

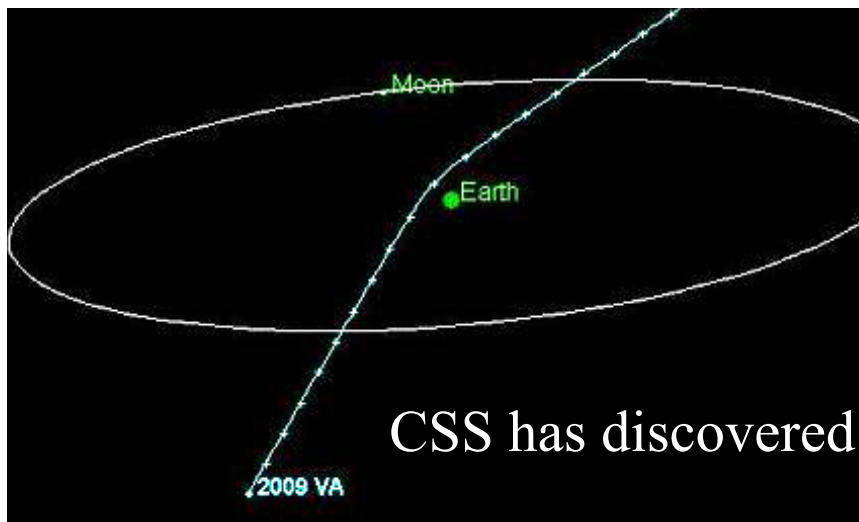
We are processing the Catalina data streams in real time to look for astrophysical transients

CSS Discoveries of Earth-Grazing Asteroids

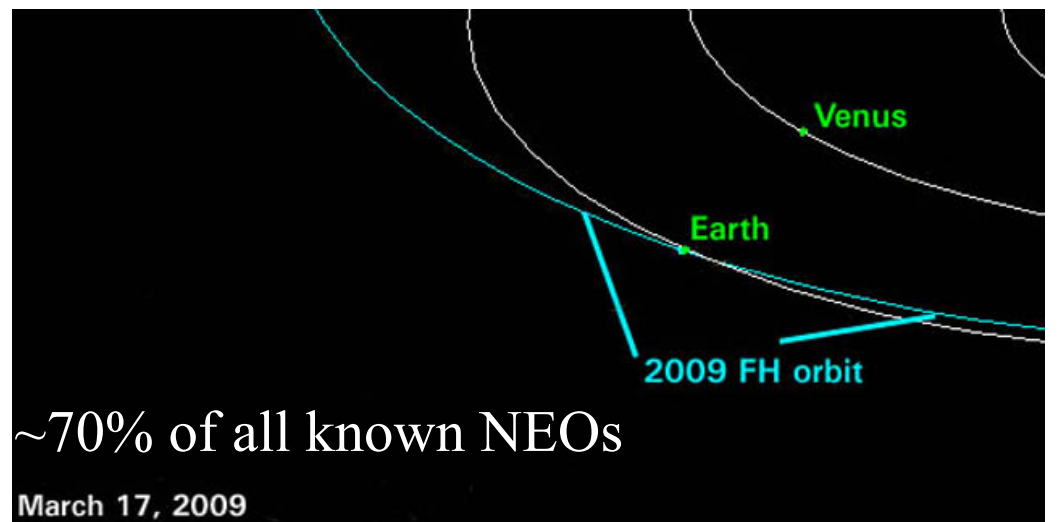
Impact Trajectory of 2008 TC3
on October 7, 2008



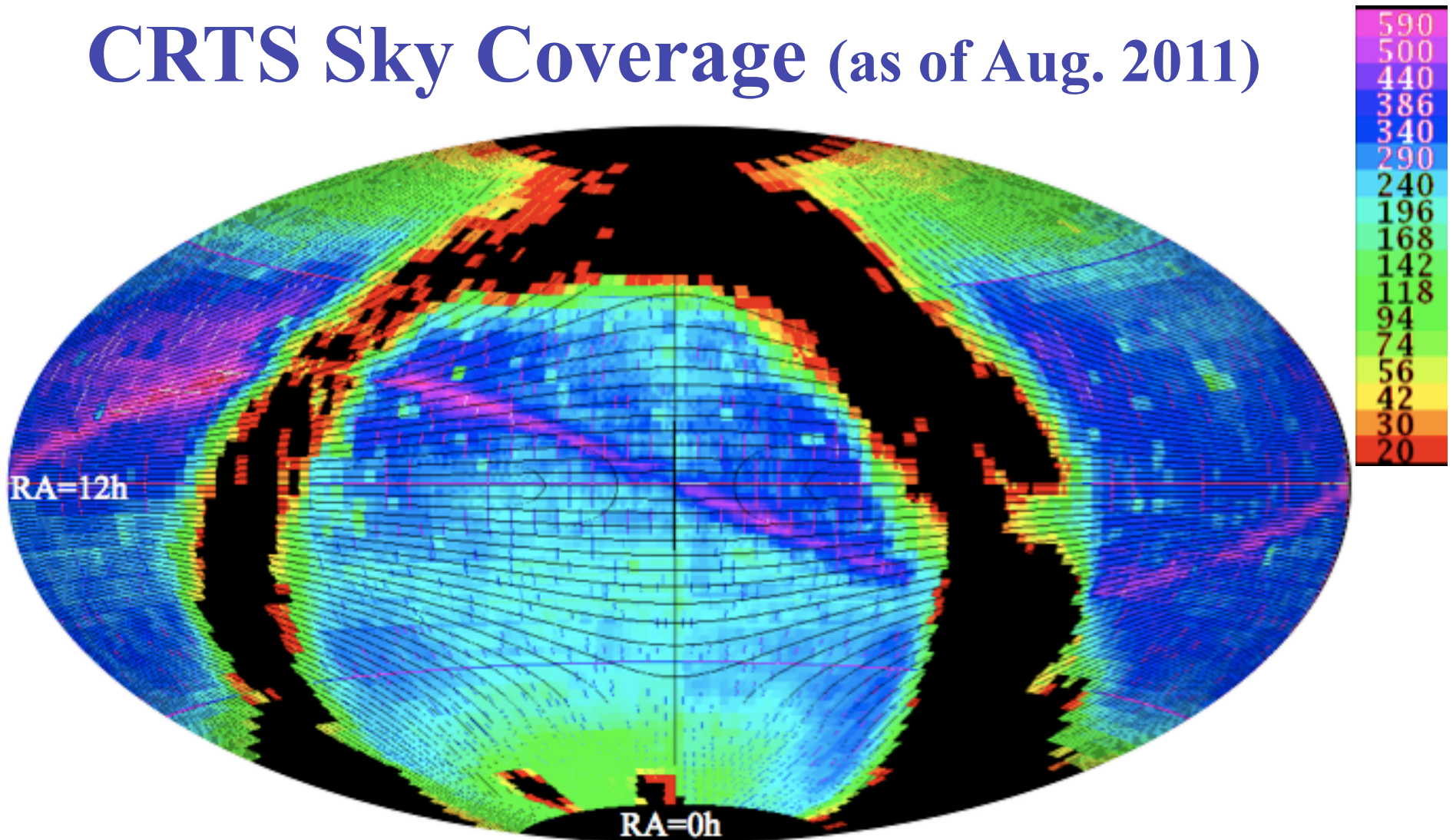
An extremely low cost
“sample return mission”



CSS has discovered ~70% of all known NEOs



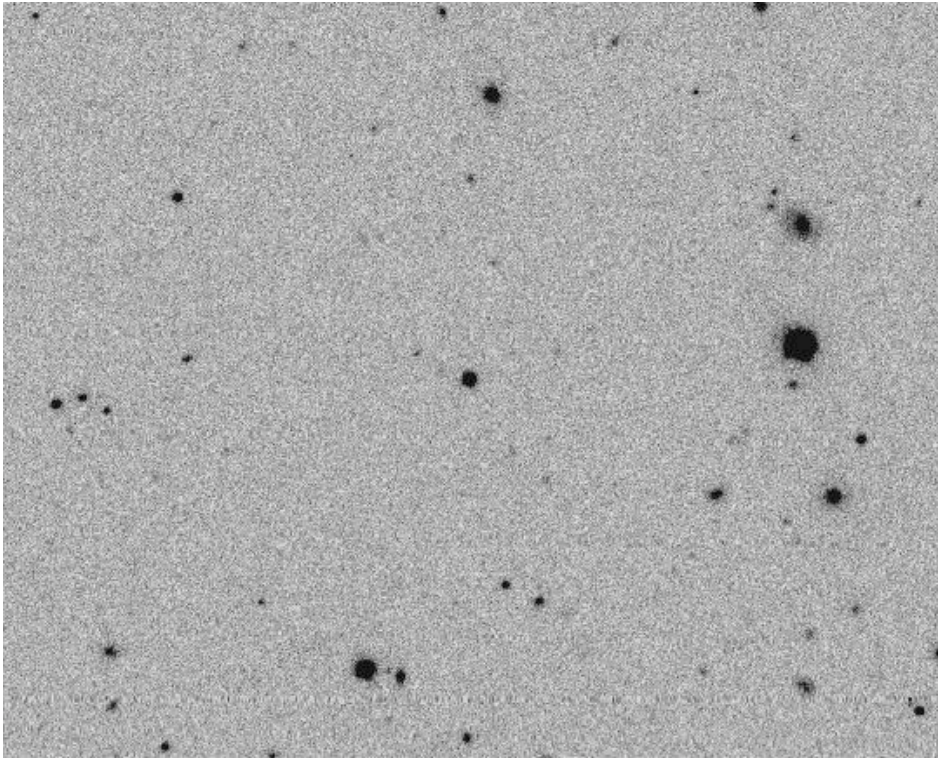
CRTS Sky Coverage (as of Aug. 2011)



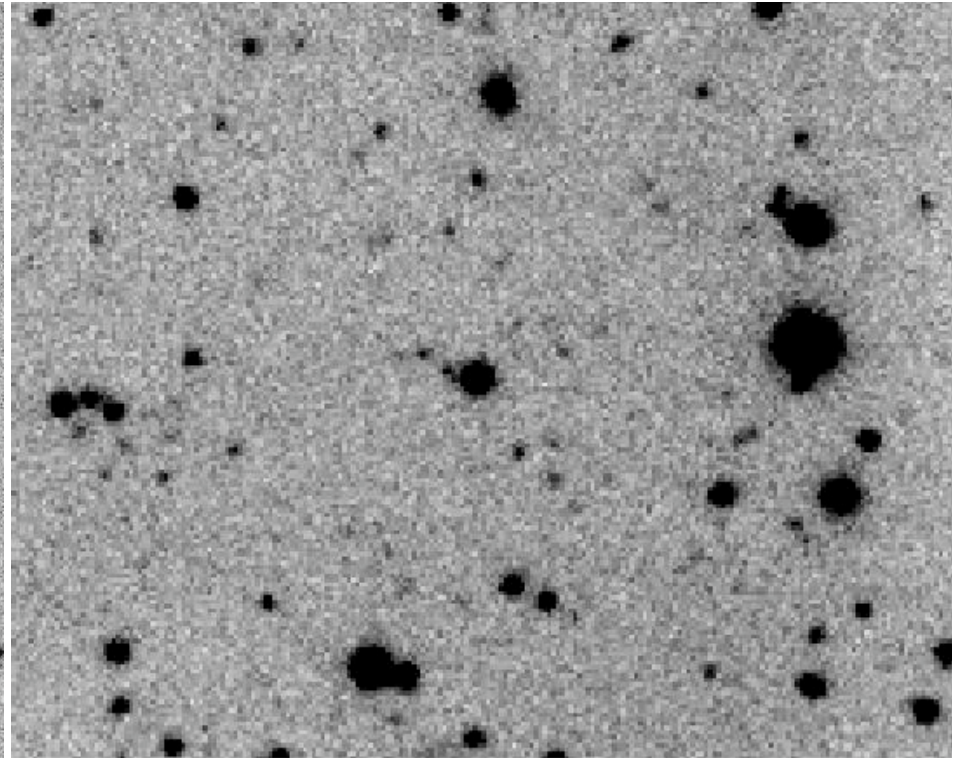
Total $\approx 33,000 \text{ deg}^2 \approx 82\%$ of the entire sky (more than any other survey)
Limiting mags $\sim 19 - 21$ per pass. Image coadds reach $r \sim 24$ mag
Time baselines from 10 min to ~ 7 years (and growing)

Coadded Images From MLS (1.5m)

SDSS



CRTS

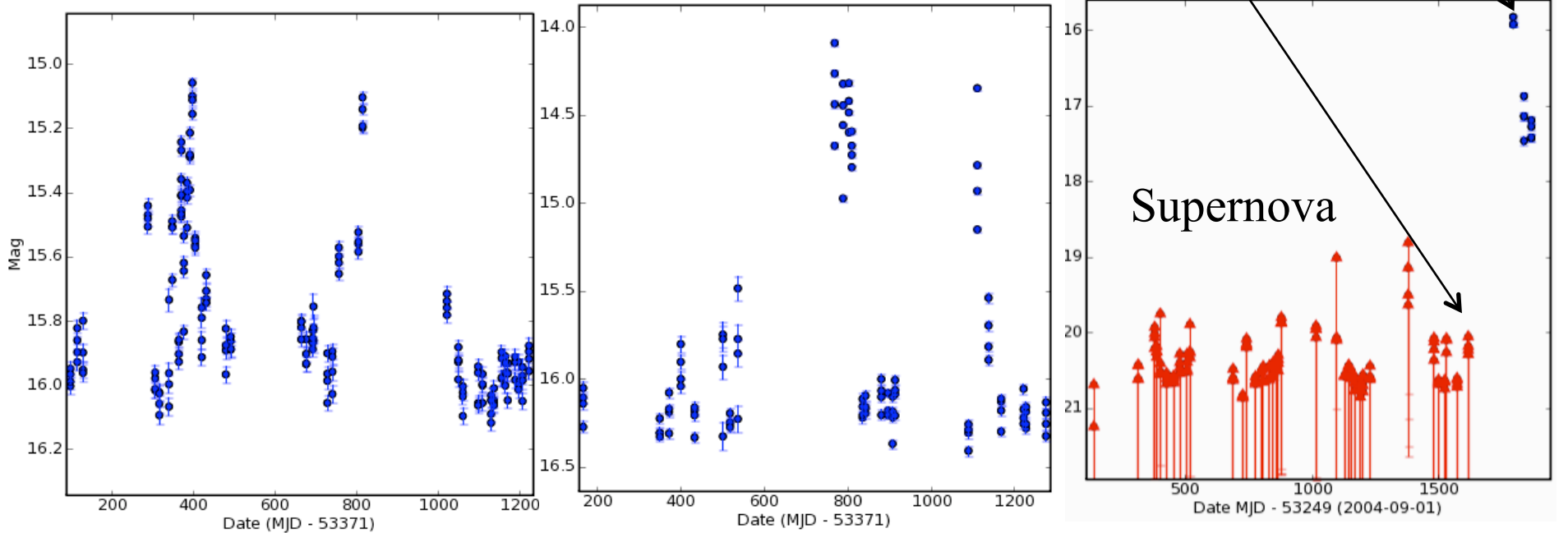


Combining the data from CRTS and PQ (DeepSky), we will have a reference sky coverage of $\sim 3\pi$ sterad to the depth of $r > 23$ mag, and the light curves (detections or upper limits) for all detected sources

Sample Light Curves

Blazar PKS0823+033

CV 111545+425822



The plan is to produce light curves for every detected source in the survey ($> 5 \times 10^8$ sources), make them publicly available, and mine that data set. Light curves are generated on demand for transient sources, blazars, etc.

CRTS Event Detections

Distinct Events Detection Statistics as of October 2011:

Telescope	All OTs	SNe	CV/DN	Blazars	Flares	CV?SN	AGN	Other
CSS	2176	648	536	119	200	295	219	227
MLS	1899	247	37	18	147	381	931	260
SSS	323	39	123	10	5	59	20	70
Total	4398	934	696	147	352	735	1170	557

- Threshold set deliberately very high ($\sim 1 - 2$ mag, $>5 \sigma$), so only the most dramatic transients are pulled out in the real time
- About 1 strong transient per 10^6 source detections
- The rate of significant transients/variables is at least an order of magnitude higher; available for an archival study
- Many events are re-detected repeatedly (not counted above)
 - Many also detected independently by PTF, PS1

Event Publishing / Dissemination

- Real time: VOEvents, Twitter, iApp (thousands of events)
 - Also on SkyAlert.org, feeds to the WWT, GoogleSky
- Next day: annotated tables on the CRTS website

CSS ID	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	Date	Mag	CSS images	SDSS	Others	Followed	Last	LC	Classification
CSS091121:221159+263906	332.99697	26.65153	20091121	18.33	911211261084134848	no	34848	no	2009-11-21	34848	SN/Blazar mag 21
CSS091121:013728+253450	24.36768	25.58061	20091121	17.78	911211260084103595	no	03595	no	2009-11-21	03595	SN/CV
CSS091121:032627+070744	51.61364	7.12902	20091121	16.68	911211070194124436	no	24436	no	2009-11-21	24436	CV mag 21
CSS091121:033232+020439	53.13295	2.07747	20091121	16.93	911211010194134434	no	34434	no	2009-11-21	34434	CV mag 20
CSS091121:085600-051945	133.99922	-5.32906	20091121	18.17	911210040484107252	no	07252	no	2009-11-21	07252	SN CFHT mag 22 gal
CSS091120:100525+511639	151.35223	51.27742	20091120	18.80	911201520354108835	yes	08835	no	2009-11-20	08835	SN SDSS mag 21,9 gal
CSS091120:082908+482639	127.28503	48.44423	20091120	15.69	911201490314109371	yes	09371	no	2009-11-20	09371	CV/SN SDSS mag 21,6 gal?
CSS091120:004417+411854	11.07004	41.31494	20091120	17.00	911201400044145995	yes	45995	no	2009-11-20	45995	Nova M31 2009-11d
CSS091120:001019+410455	2.58044	41.08191	20091120	16.69	911201400014137919	no	37919	no	2009-11-20	37919	CV mag 20,0

- Days/weeks: ATel, CBET for selected transients (> 250 so far)

The Astronomer's Telegram

for reporting and commenting on new astronomical observations

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Present Time: 30 Nov 2010; 8:15 UT

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Flaring Blazars from CRTS

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

CBAT Director: Daniel W. E. Green; Hoffman Lab 20
20 Oxford St.; Cambridge, MA 02138; U.S.A.

e-mail: cbatiau@eps.harvard.edu (alternate cbat@i
URL <http://www.cbat.eps.harvard.edu/index.html>

Prepared using the Tamkin Foundation Computer Netw

SUPERNOVAE 2010jx, 2010jy, 2010jz, 2010ka, 2010kb

A. J. Drake, S. G. Djorgovski, A. Mahabal, M.
California Institute of Technology; T. A. Fatkhull
Moskvitin, V. V. Sokolov, and T. N. Sokolova, Spec
Observatory (SAO), Russian Academy of Sciences; J.
Observatories; M. Catelan, Pontificia Universidad

Real Time Event Publishing via *VOEvents* and *SkyAlert*

<http://skyalert.org>

[See context in WorldWideTelescope](#)

From the [CRTS](#) stream.

Catalina Real-time Transient Survey
 Position is 115.98635,21.1753 ± 0.0012
 This portfolio initiated 2009-11-11 08:35:18

PI: R. Williams



Basic event info

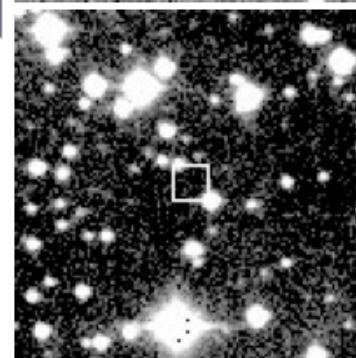
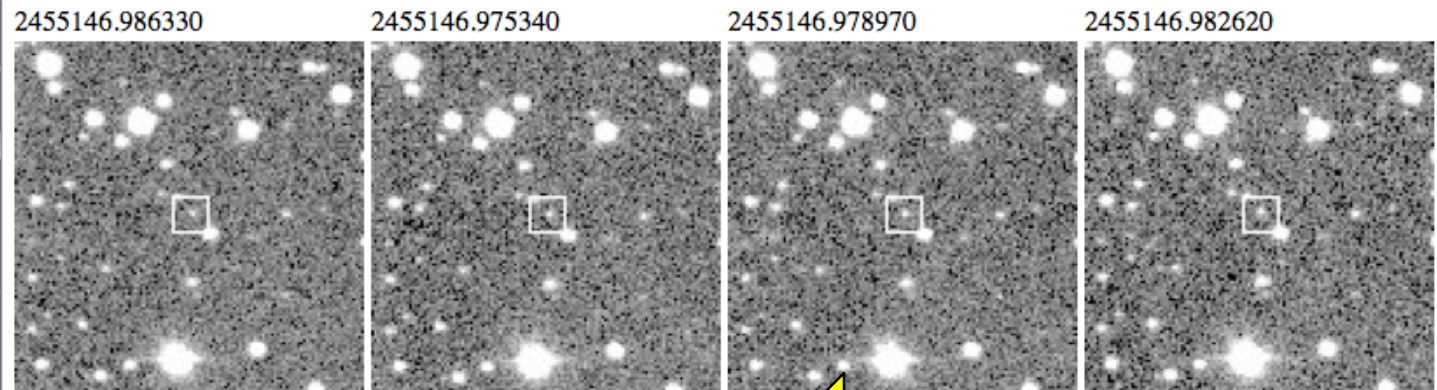
CRTS (Catalina) Event identifier is 911111210394136030 or CSS091111:074357+211031

CRTS
 911111210394136030
 2009-11-11T11:34:58

CRTSCircular
 911111210394136030-2009-
 2009-11-11T16:26:29

SDSS
 observation
 2009-11-11T16:35:19

CatalogArchives
 observation
 2009-11-11T16:35:26



- Finding Chart [Click here](#)
- Past CRTS images [Click here](#)
- Other images [Click here](#)
- Lightcurve [Click here](#)
- SDSS cutout [Click here](#)
- Position (115.98635,21.1753)
- Time 2009-11-11T16:35:19
- Magnitude 18.559
- Magnitude 18.673201

Linked VO/archival data for classif. and follow-up

Dynamically growing portfolio

Subscribe to VOEvents via email, RSS, Atom feed, etc.

Twitter and iApp Event Distribution

A. Drake, R. Williams (CIT)
 B. Truax (DLD, LLC)
 J. Myers (LSST)




Name Skyalert
Location Pasadena, California
Web <http://skyalert.org>
Bio Bringing instant notification of astronomical events.

0 following 72 followers 8 lists


Tweets 589

[Favorites](#)
[Following](#)

CRTS event <http://skyalert.org/events/9921> is a likely Supernova. The detection does not exhibit any past outbursts in CSS but is not wel...
 about 10 hours ago via API

CRTS event <http://skyalert.org/events/9919> is a likely Blazar Outburst. The detection exhibits a FIRST radio source match and corresponds...

Help Event List

	UNKNOWN 2010-02-25T02:24:11 Mv=17.4
	CATACLYSMIC VARIABLE 2010-02-19T08:54:17 Mv=16.4
	SUPERNOVA 2010-02-19T07:59:17 Mv=19.9
	UNKNOWN 2010-02-19T04:40:30 Mv=18.2
	CATACLYSMIC VARIABLE 2010-02-19T03:54:12 Mv=15.4
	UNKNOWN 2010-02-19T03:50:01 Mv=18.0

Event List Bookmarks Settings

Event Details

MAGNITUDE LIMIT 23.0 Vmag
 EVENT TYPES
 EVENT AGE 60 Days
 MINIMUM ELEVATION 0°
 RA-DEC FORMAT Hours Min Sec
 VISIBLE OBJECTS ONLY OFF

Event List Bookmarks Settings

ID	RA	Dec (2000)	mag
0	49.70930	33.16015	14.7

New Image 1
 RA= 03:18:50.23 DEC= 33° 00m 9.61s
 Alert Time: 2010-02-16T03:54:38
 Mv= 14.67
 Airmass= 1.20
 Az= 287.55952° Alt= 56.23687

+ Finder Chart



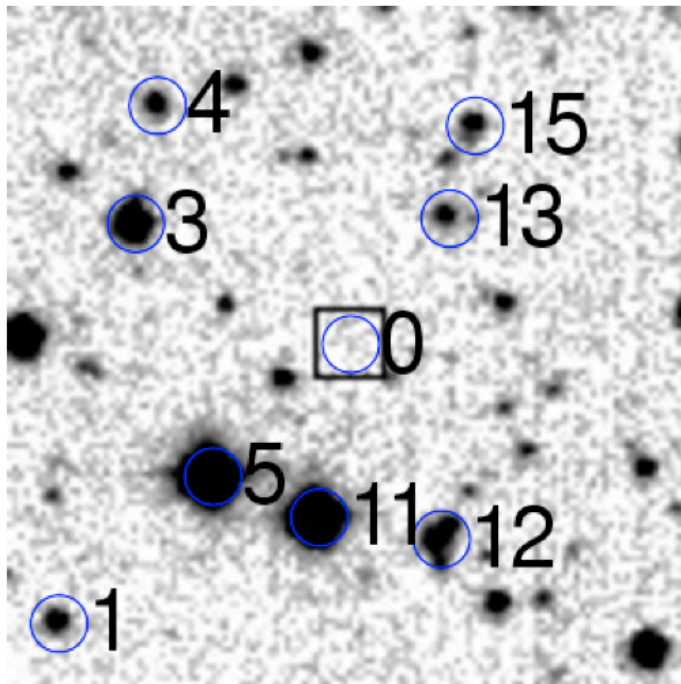
Transient CSS100320:135108+133407

RA Dec (2000)
207.78253 13.56852

Rough Mag:
19.4

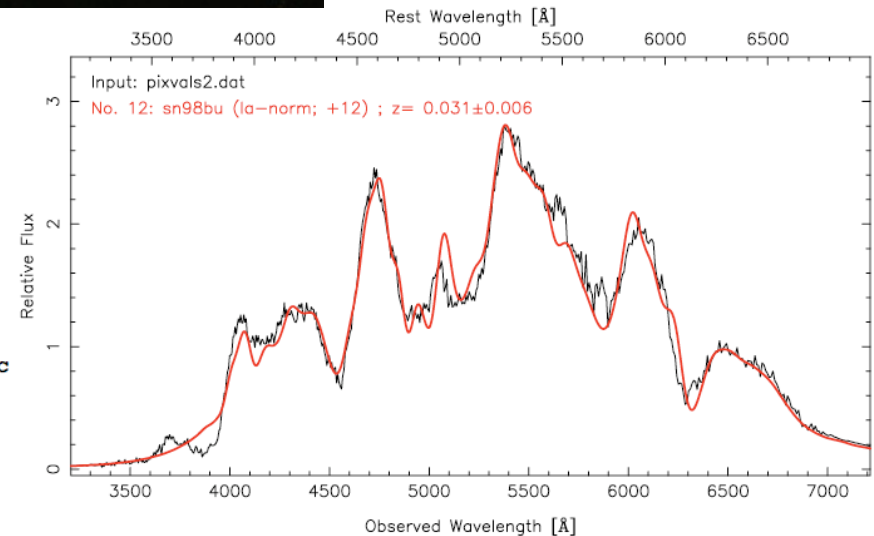
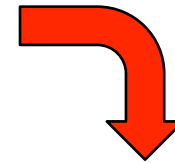
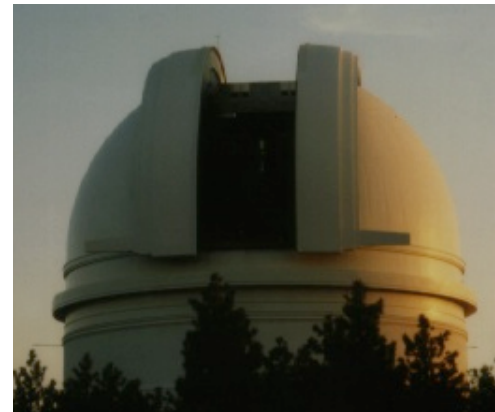
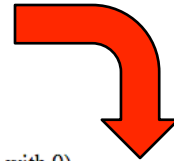
- [Discovery data](#)
- [Current lightcurve](#)
- [Pre and post-discovery CSS images](#)
- [SDSS data](#)
- [Images from other surveys](#)
- [P60 Follow-up](#)

Pre-discovery 5' Catalina Sky Survey coadd image (transient location marked with 0)
N is towards the top and E is to the left.



ID	RA	Dec (2000)	mag	delmag	delra (")	deldec
0	207.78253	13.56852	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	207.81002	13.58293	15.5	-3.9	96.2	51.9
4	207.80724	13.59740	18.4	-0.9	86.5	104.0
5	207.80025	13.55195	12.8	-6.6	62.0	-59.7
8	207.79109	13.56361	18.3	-1.0	30.0	-17.7

Automated Generation of Finding Charts for the Follow-Up Observing



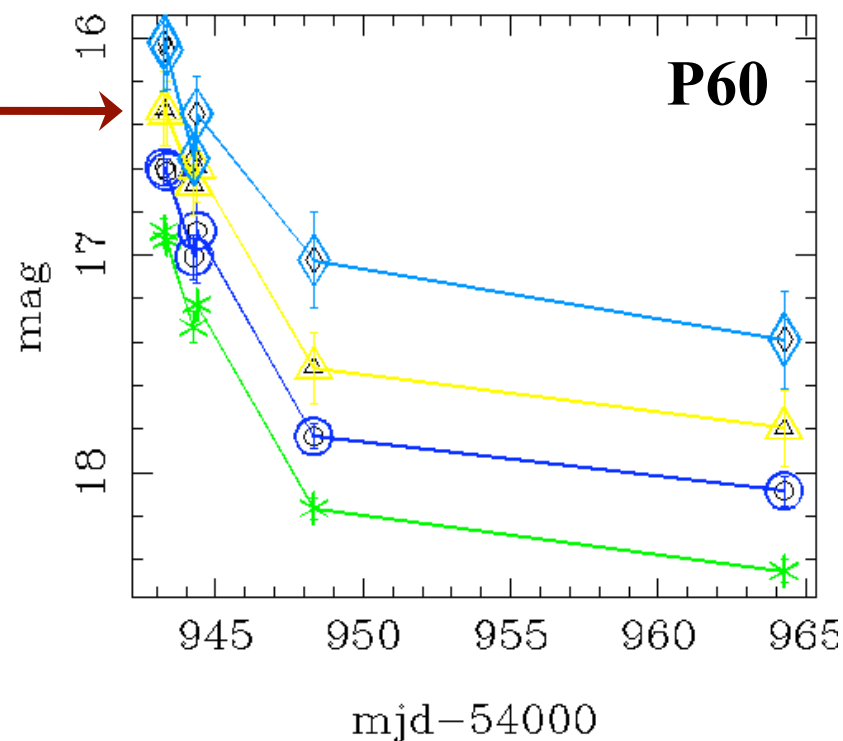
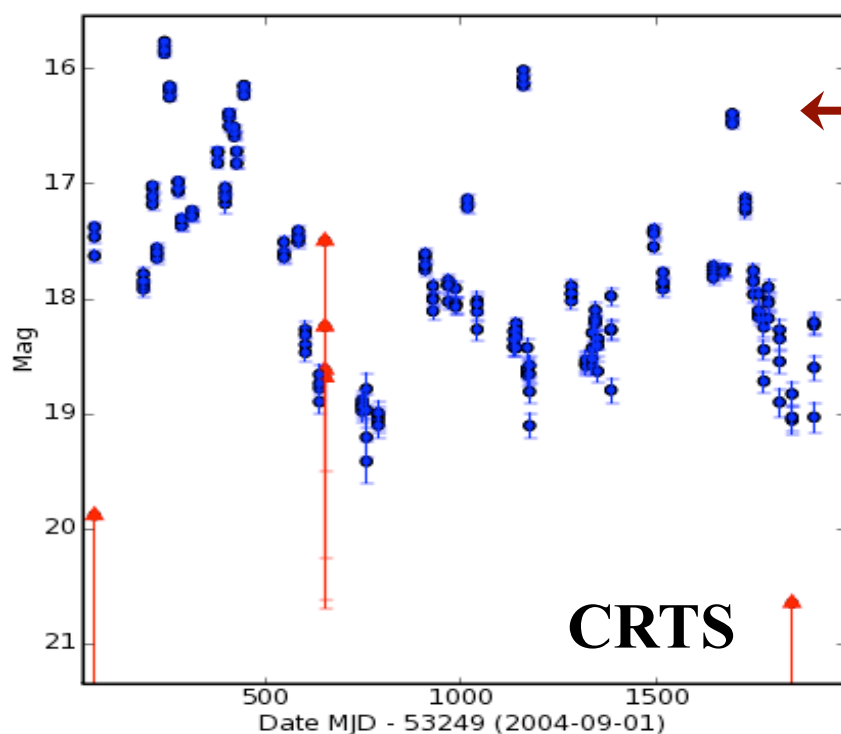
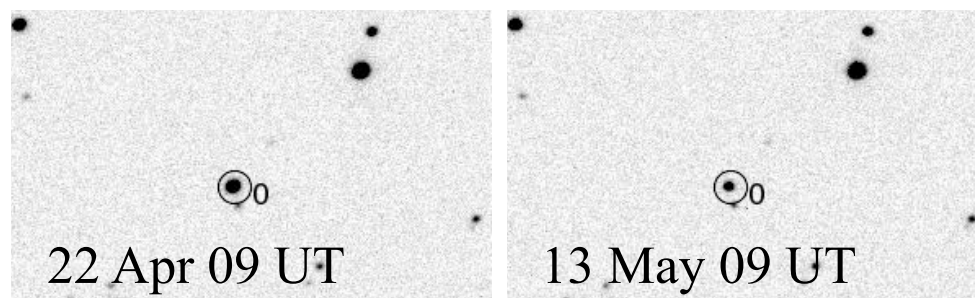
Follow-Up Observations:

Lead: A. Mahabal

- Photometry (P60, NMSU, DAO, HTN, India, Mexico, etc.)
- Spectroscopy (Gemini N+S, Keck, P200, SMARTS, IGO, MDM)

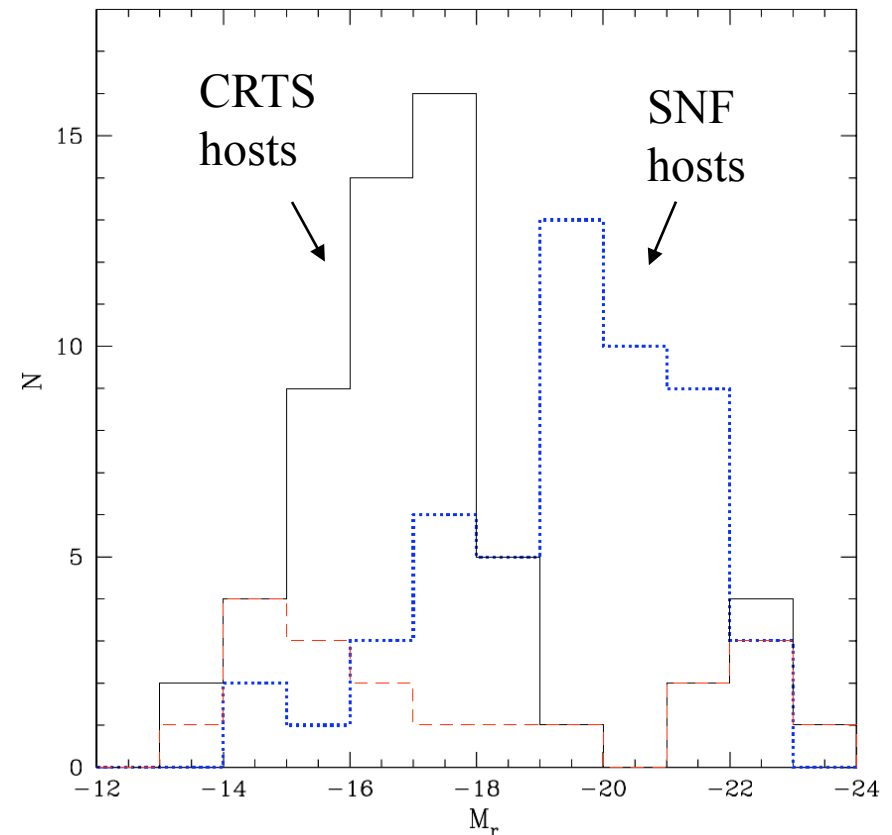
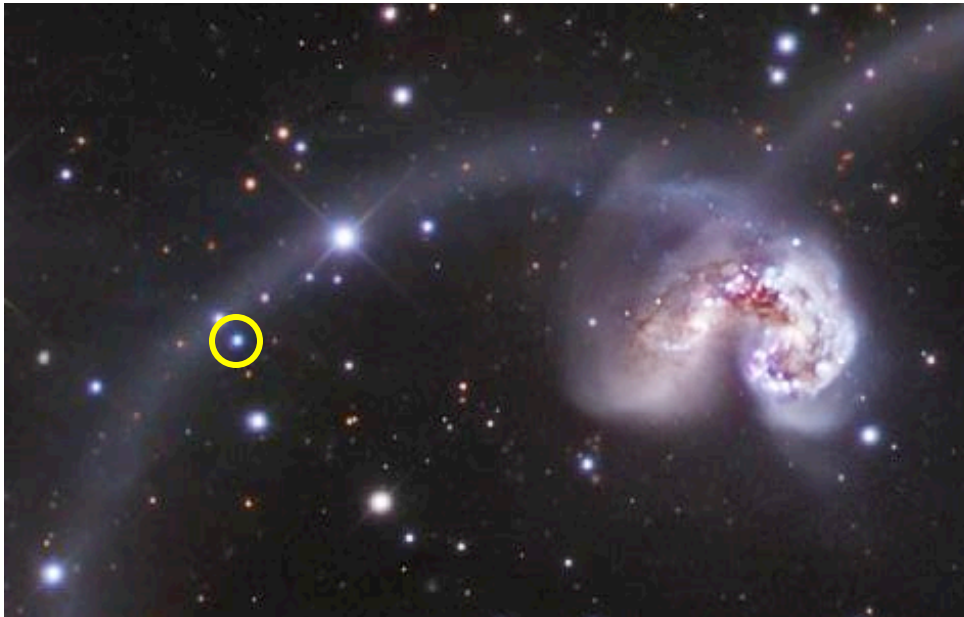
CSS090421:174806+340401

A blazar, also monitored at
OVRO in radio



CRTS Supernova Discoveries

- More SNe published in 2009 and 2010 than any other survey
- Extremely luminous and possible pair-production SNe (e.g., SN 2007bi, 2008fz, 2009jh)
- Extremely long time-scale SNe, e.g., 2008iy
- SNe associated with very faint host galaxies



⇔ CSS 071218:120153-185822 = SN 2007sr: Ia in the Antennae merger

Citizen Science Supernova Hunt

Anybody can help find cosmic explosions!

Images of ESO145-16 RA= 327.29583 Dec= -59.03694

Image Scaling

Brightness:

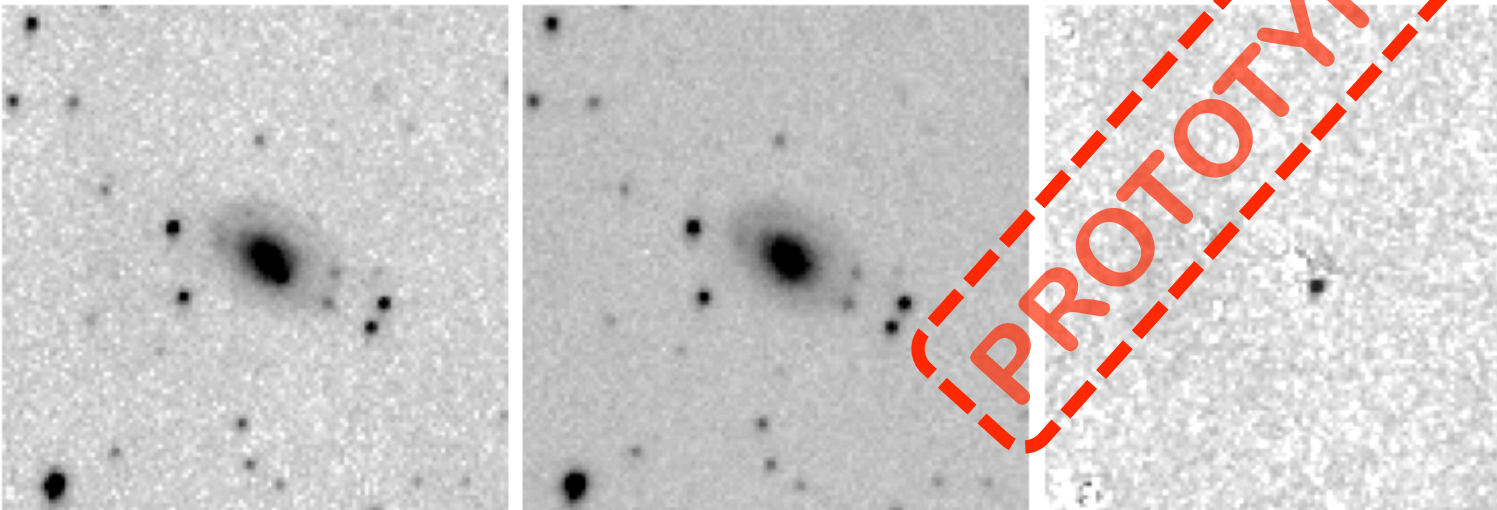
Contrast:

Legacy: Invert:

New:

Reference:

Difference:



RA Dec

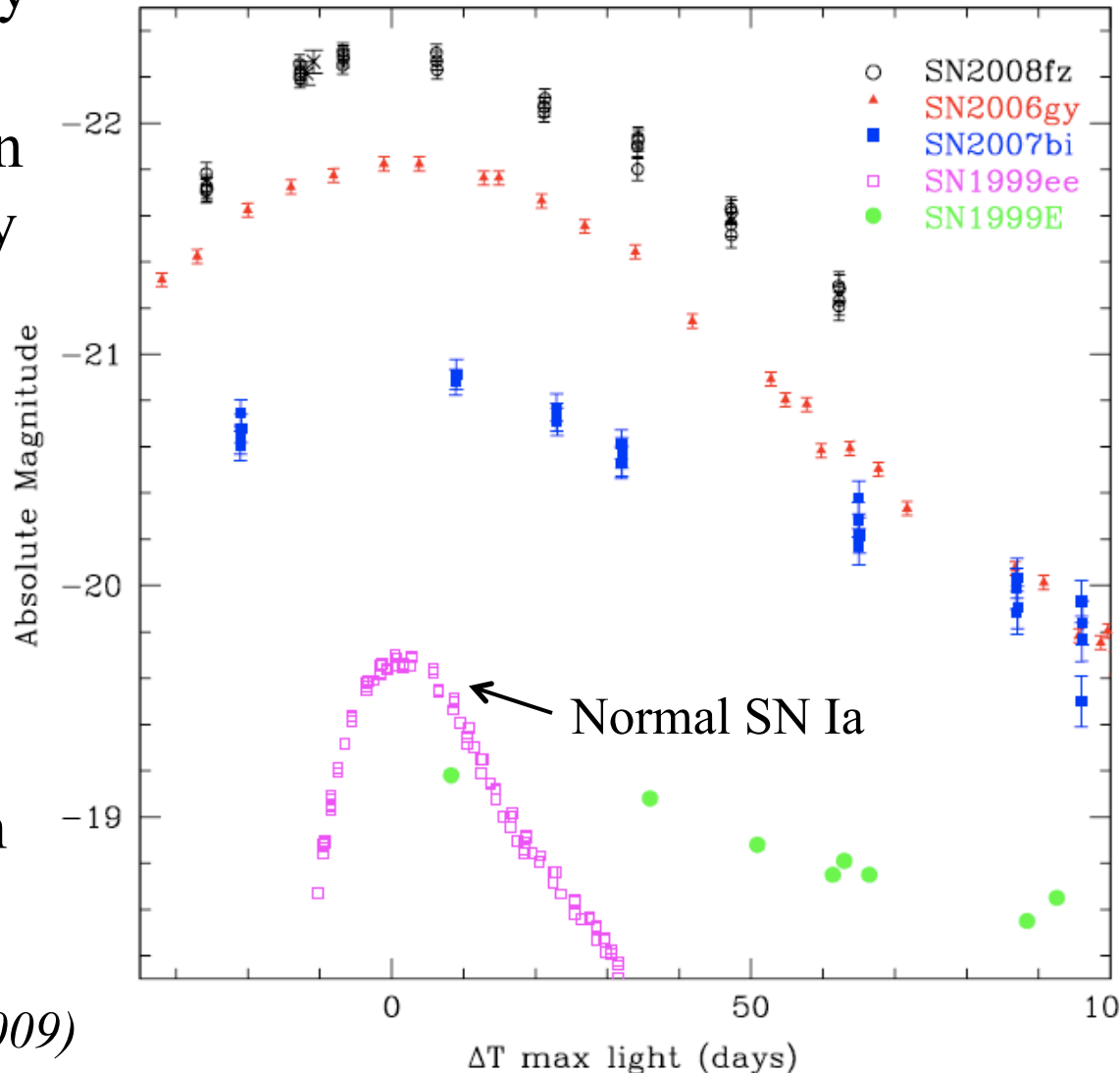
RA Dec

New Image **Reference Image** **Difference Image**

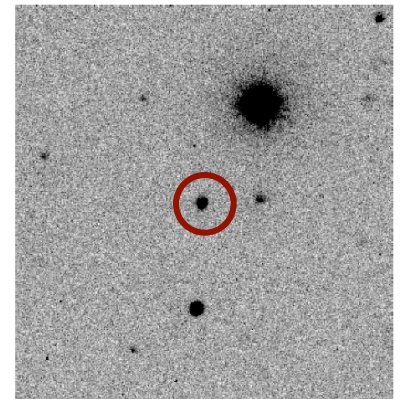
In the ATel #3416 (9 June 2011), Drake et al. reported 27 new SNe from CRTS found from May 7 to June 8, and ... *11 additional* SNe discovered in the SN Hunt by the amateur astronomer S. Howerton

2008fz: The Most Luminous Supernova

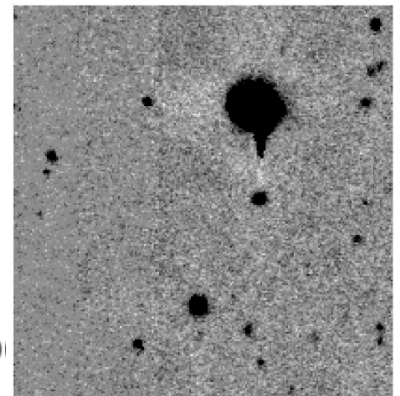
- Brightest type II known (5 times brighter than the Milky Way)
- Host galaxy > 50 times fainter than Milky Way
- A possible example of a pair-production SN?



Discovery

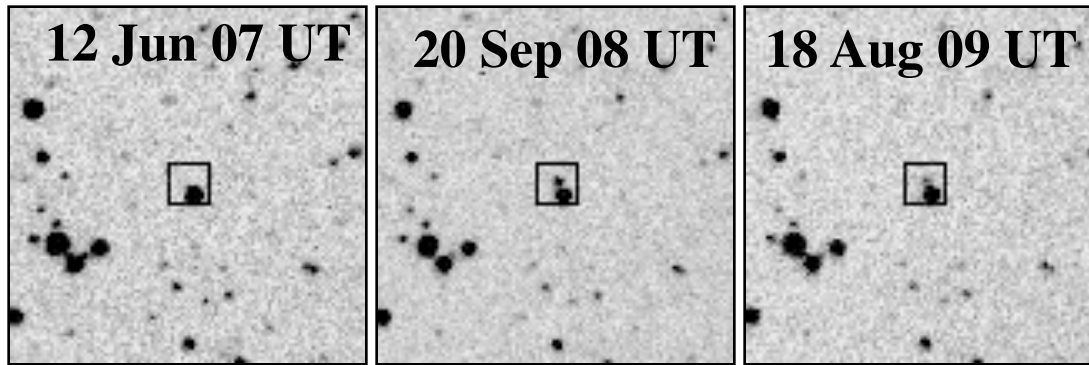


Comparison



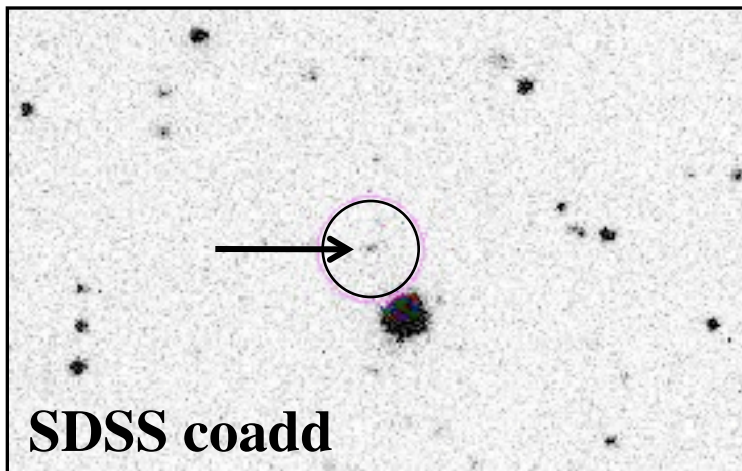
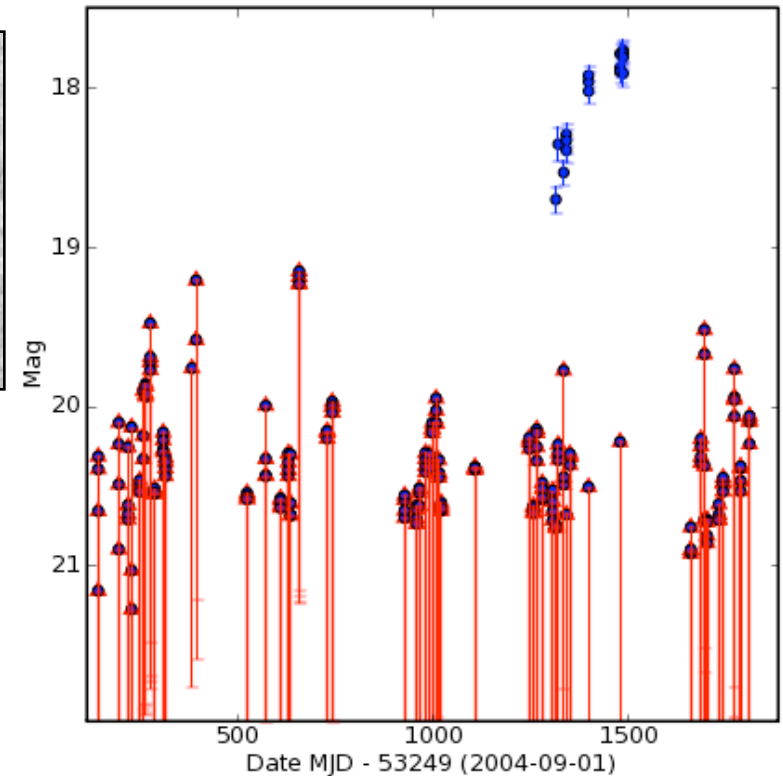
(Drake et al. 2009)

The Ultra-Slow SN 2008iy = CSS080928:160837+041627

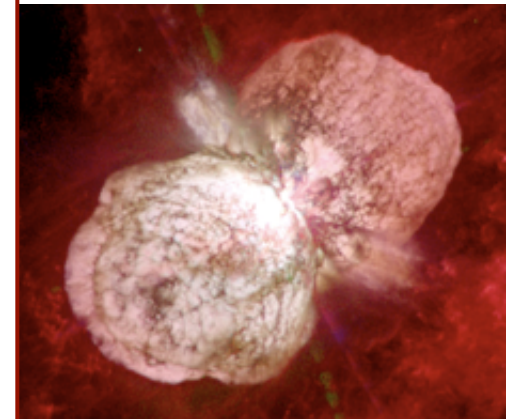


Longest-lasting type IIn at $z = 0.041$
it took **> 400 days** to reach the peak!

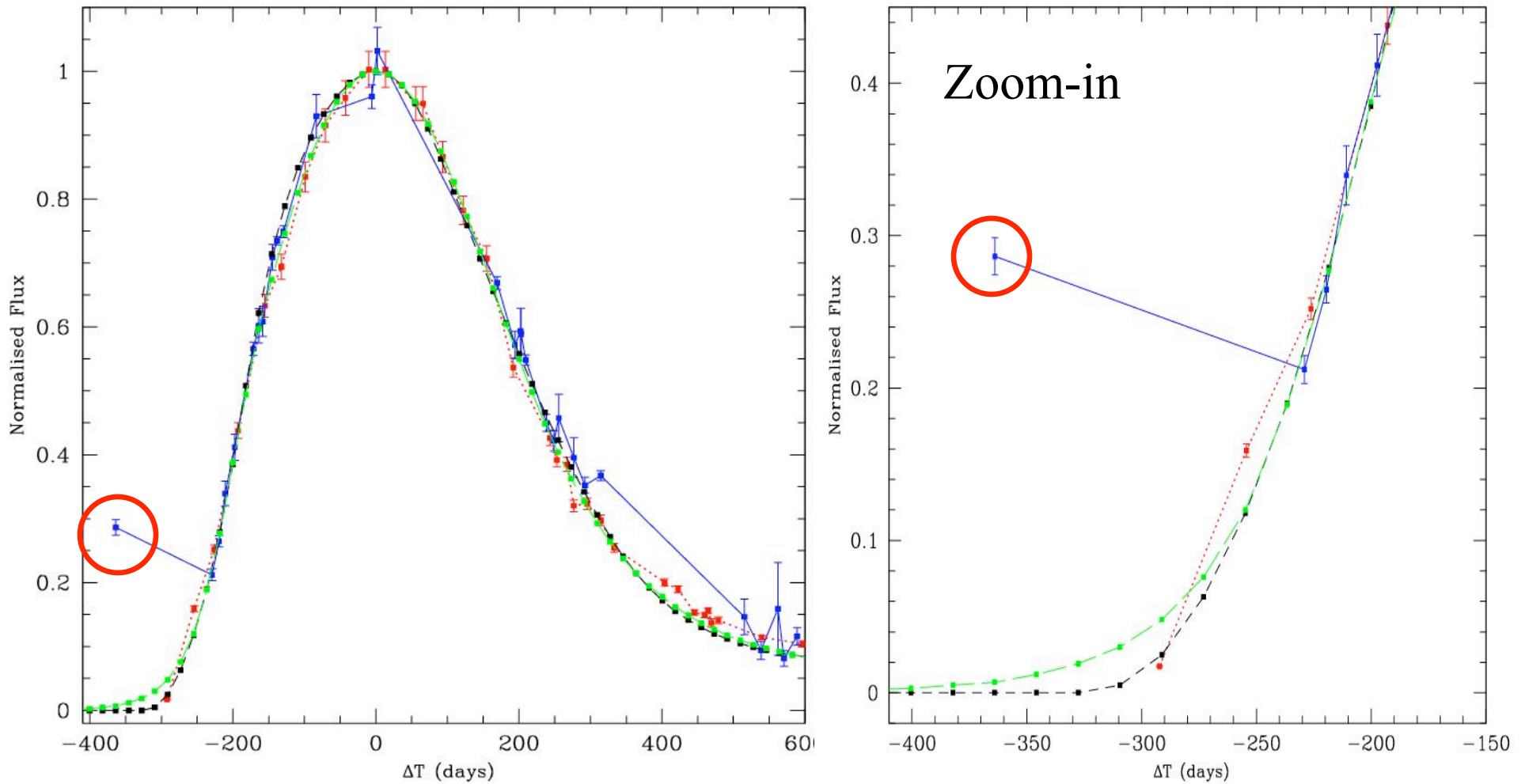
Host galaxy **> 500 times fainter**
than the Milky Way ($M \approx -13$)



Possibly from an
 $\sim \eta$ Carinae type
progenitor: expanding
SN interacts with the
material from past
outbursts



Shock Breakout in SN2008iy



Normalized flux curves of 2008iy compared to stretched SN 2006gy and other SNe.

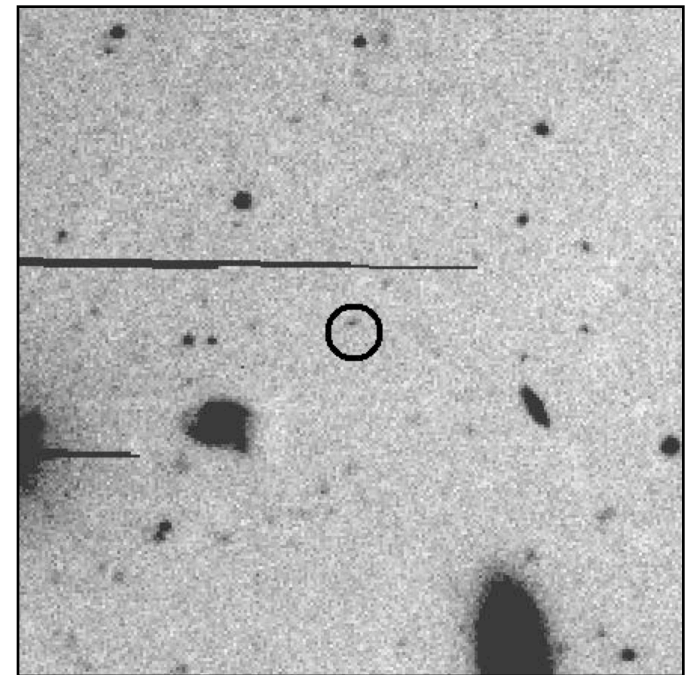
Luminous SNe in Underluminous Hosts

- A number of SNe discovered in extremely faint dwarf galaxy hosts ($M \approx -12$ or -13), e.g., 2008fz, 2008iy, 2008hp, 2009aq, etc.
 - ⇒ Huge specific SN rates (per unit stellar mass)
- Many are hyperluminous SNe ⇒ massive star progenitors?
- Low mass host ⇒ Low metallicity ⇒ Top-heavy IMF ??
- Possible connection with GRB hosts? Local Pop. III analogs?



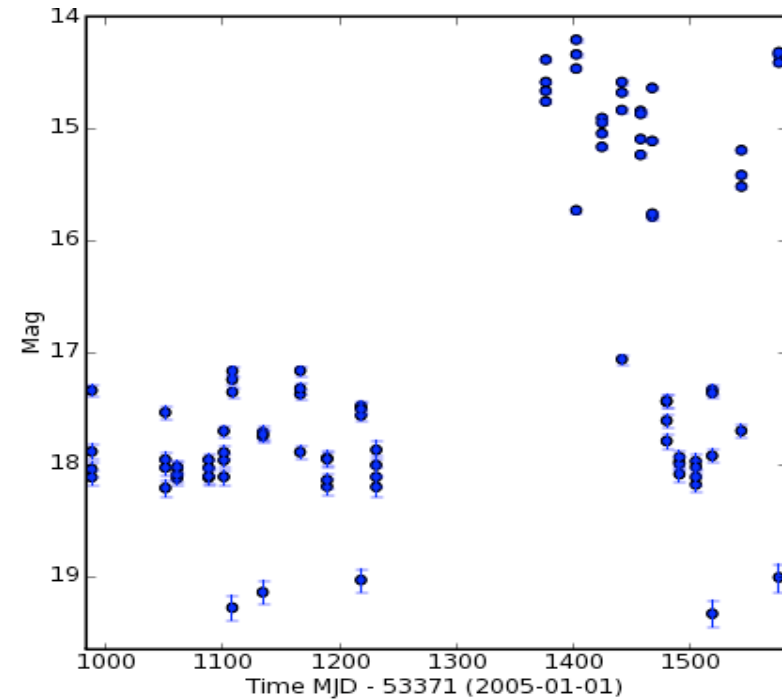
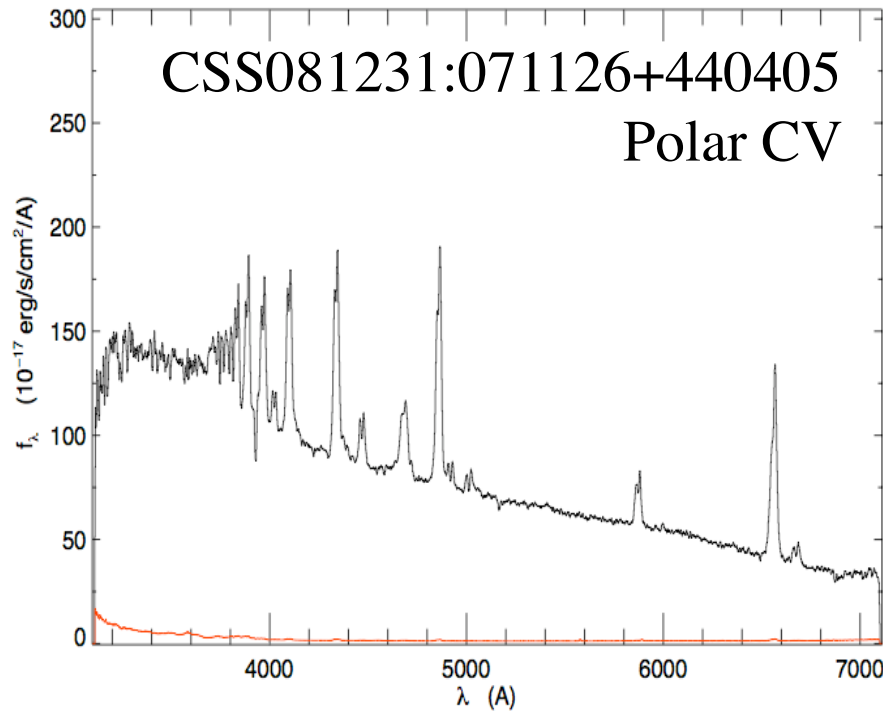
⇔ SN 2008hp
Host $M_r \approx -12.4$

SN 2009aq ⇒
Host $M_r \approx -13$

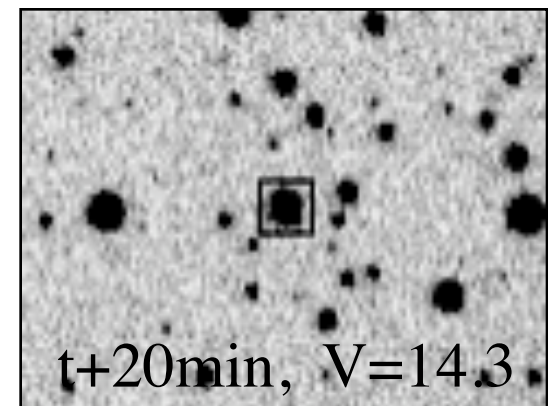
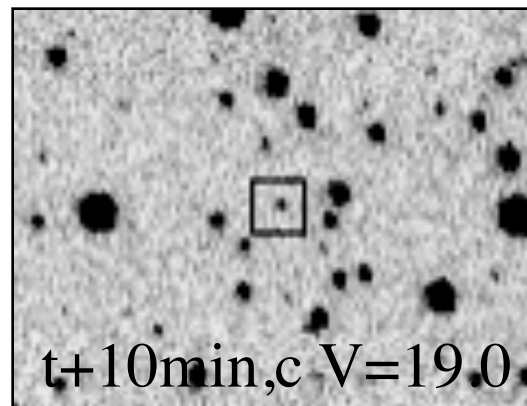
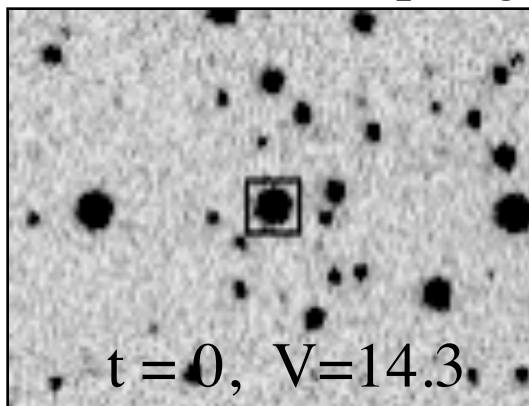


Cataclysmic Variables and Dwarf Novae

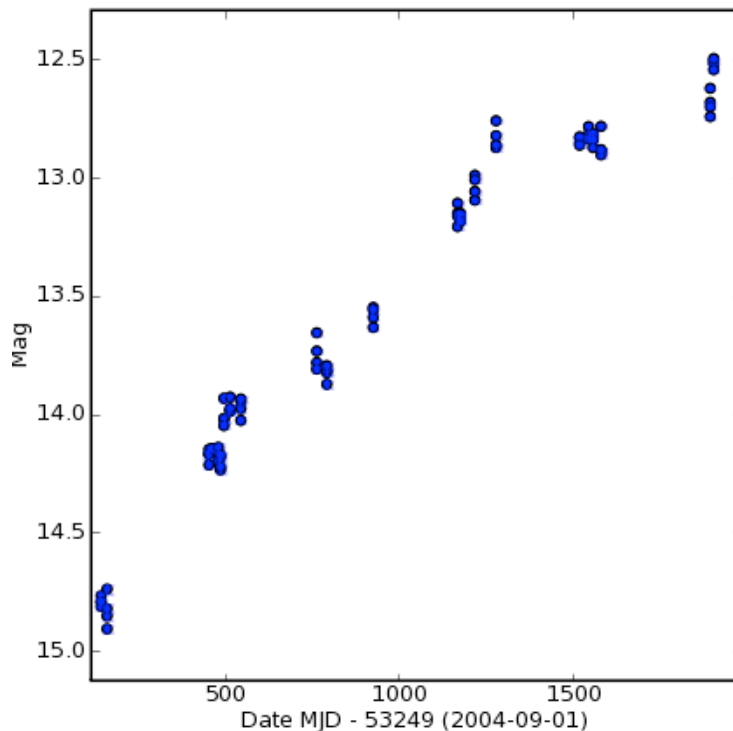
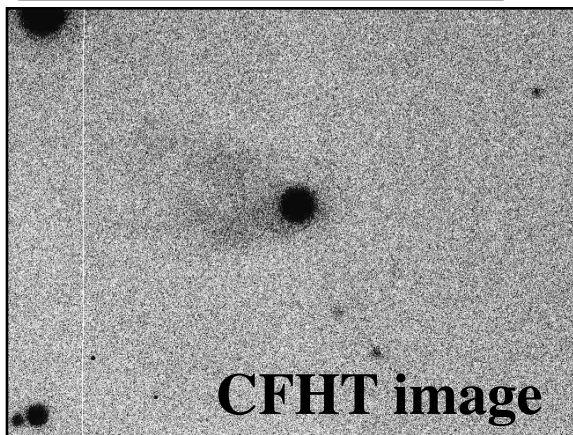
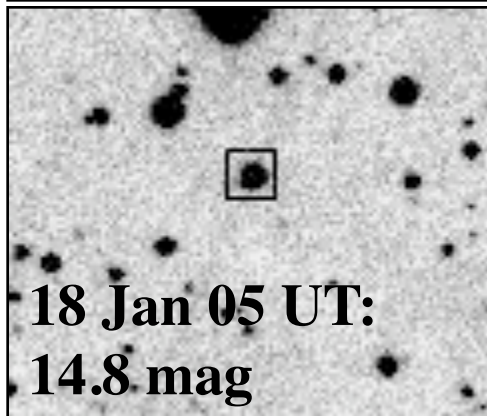
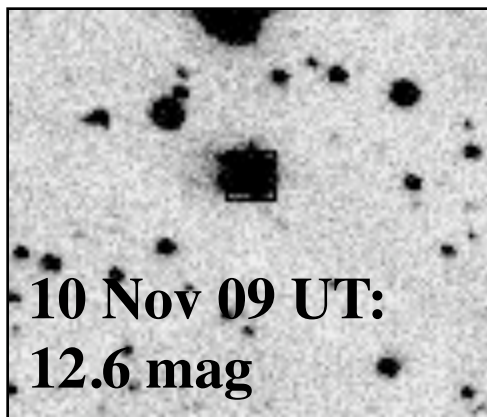
~ 1,000 detected so far, > 75% are new discoveries



Eclipsing Polar CSS081231:071126+440405

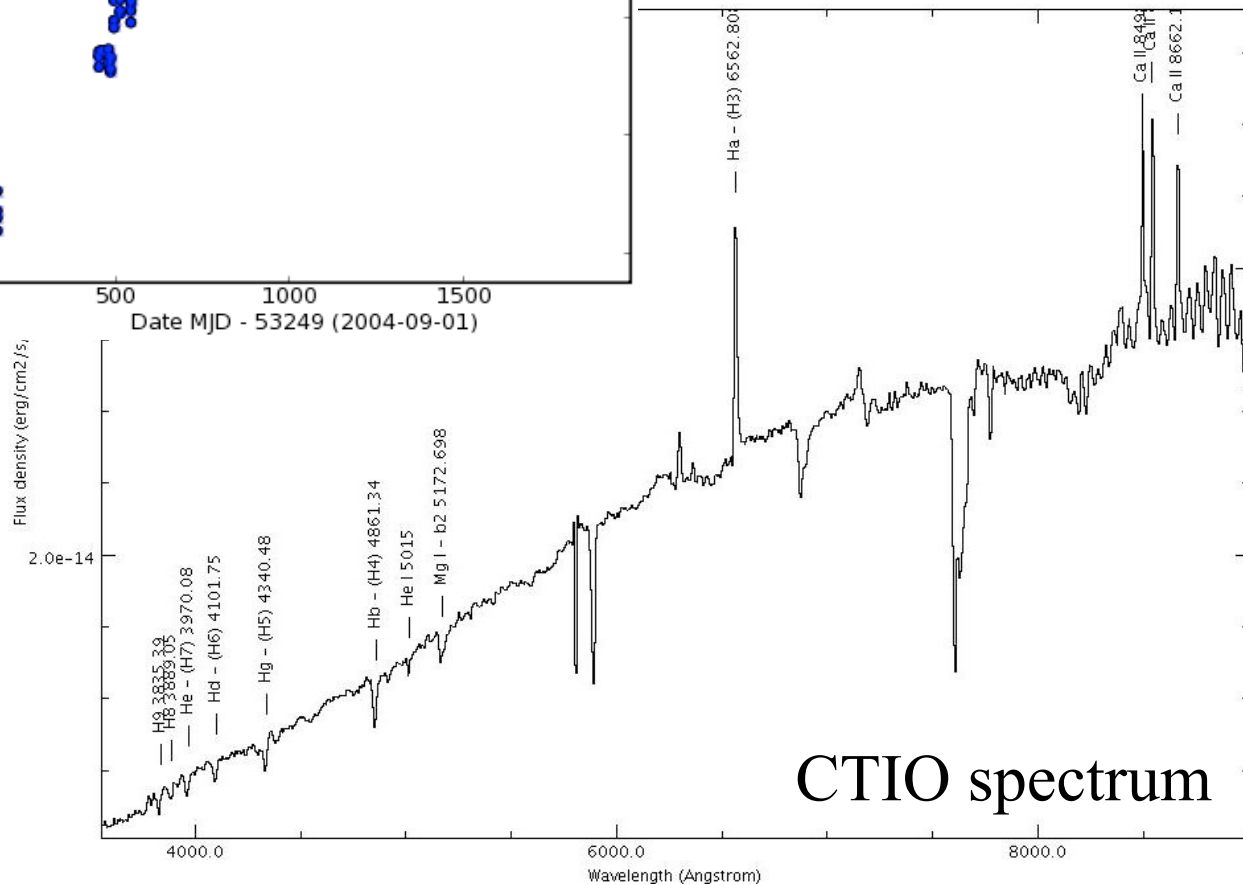


Discovery of a New FU Ori Object



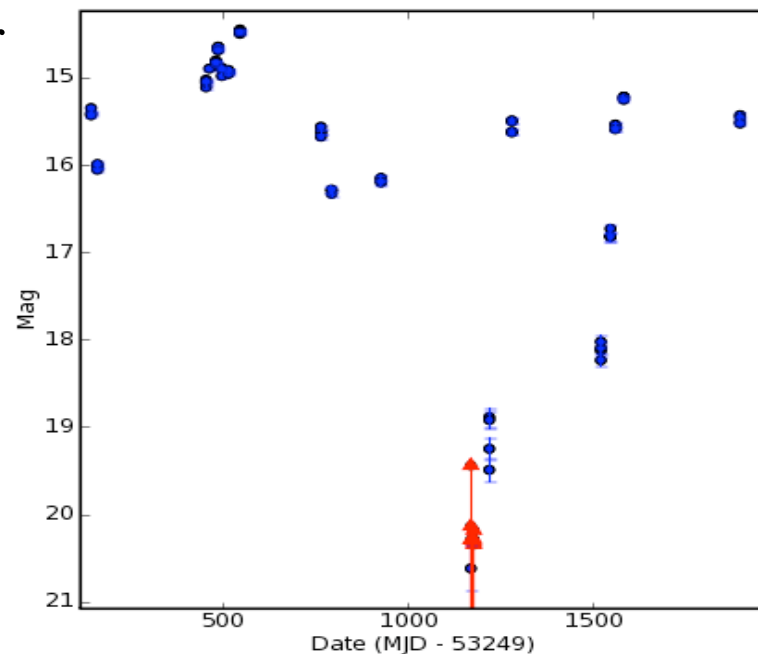
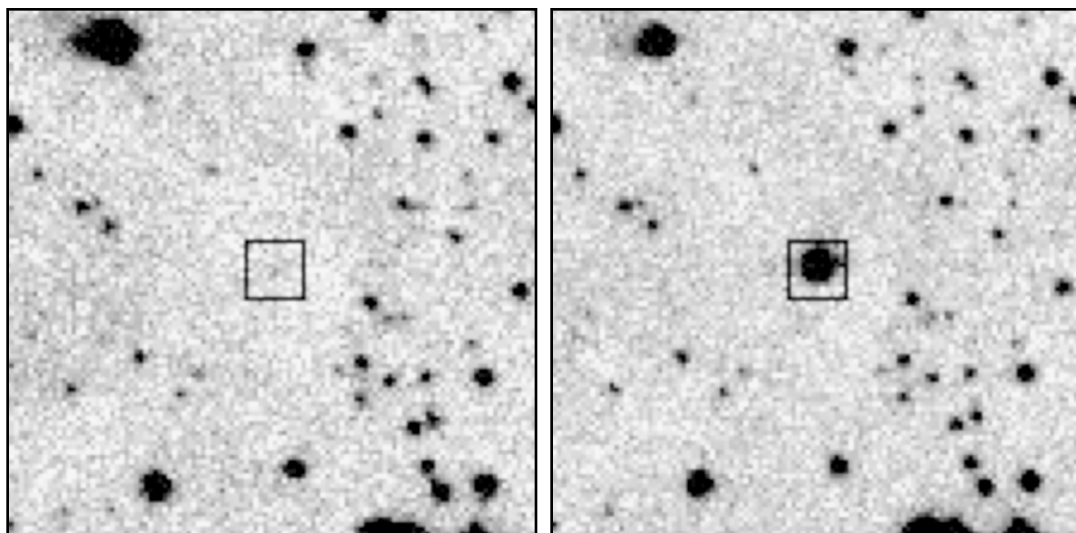
IRAS 06068-0641 =
CSS091110:060919-064155

Wils et al. ATel 2307

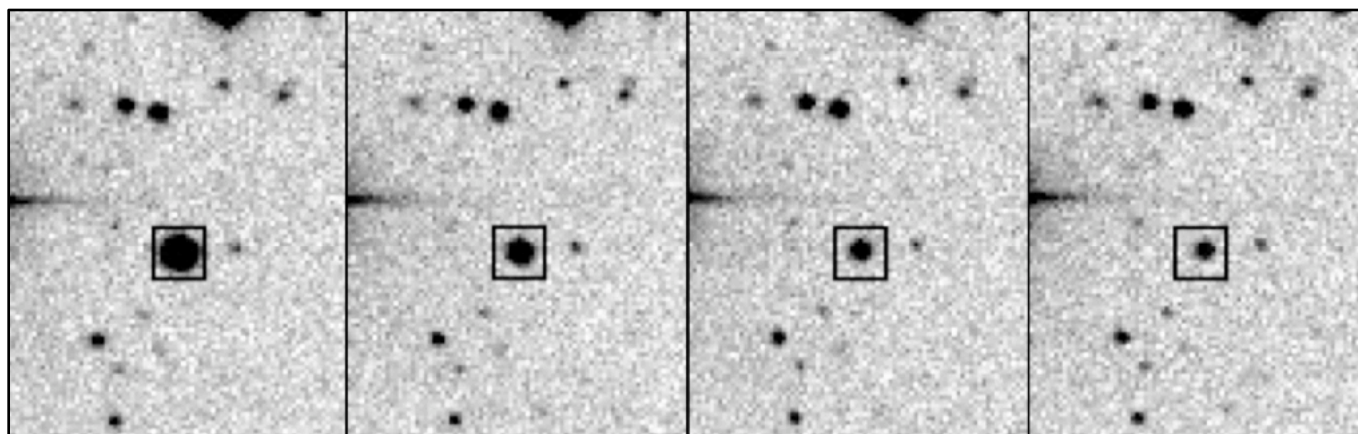


Unsettled Stars

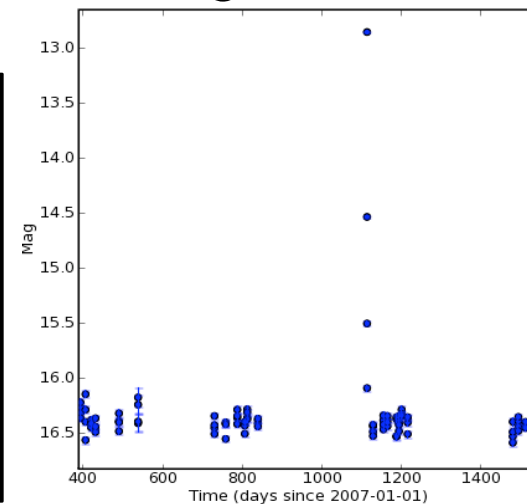
IRAS 06068–0643 (UX Ori type) young star



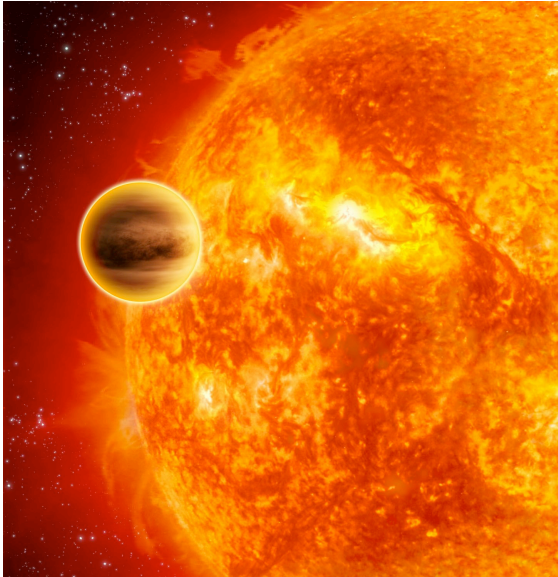
Fast transient (flaring dM), CSS080118:112149–131310
4 individual exposures, separated by 10 min



Light curve

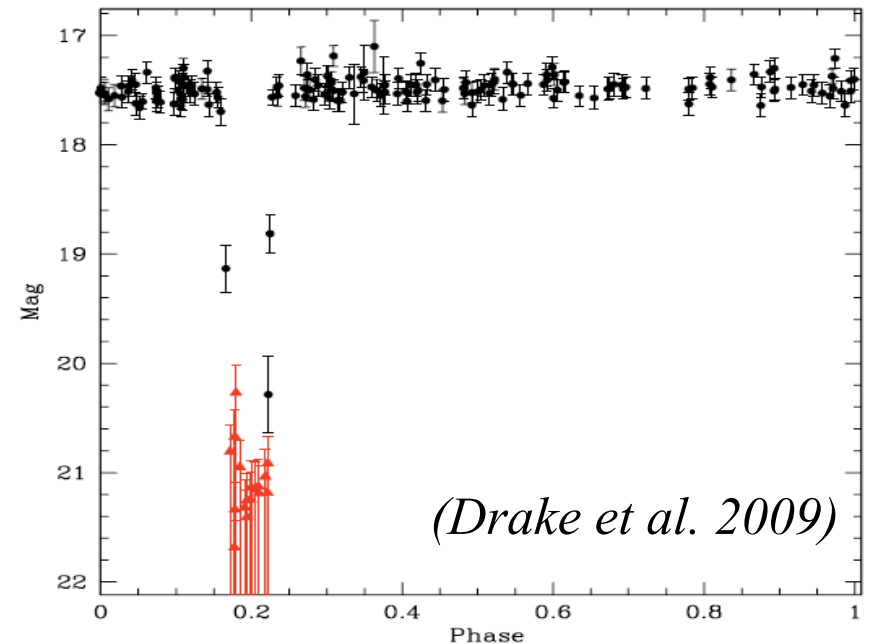
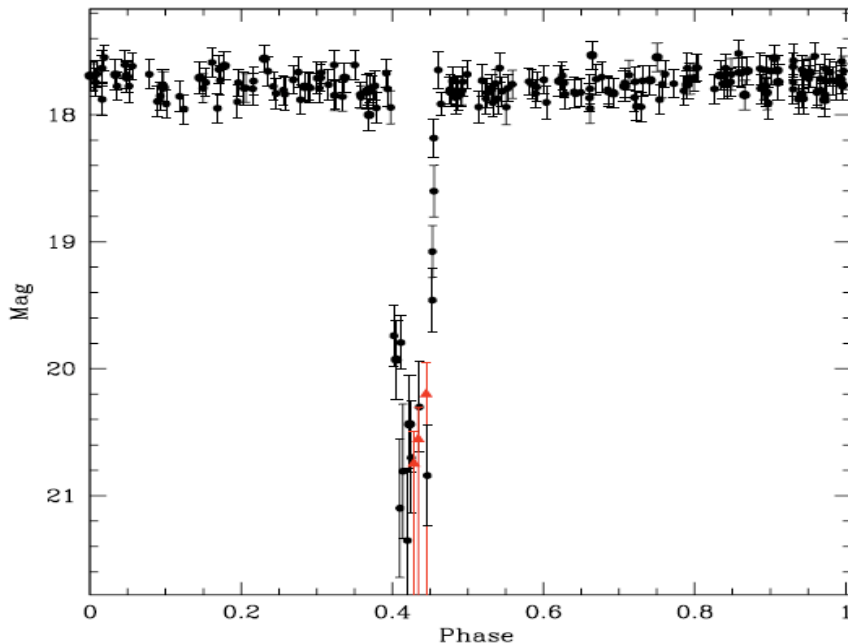
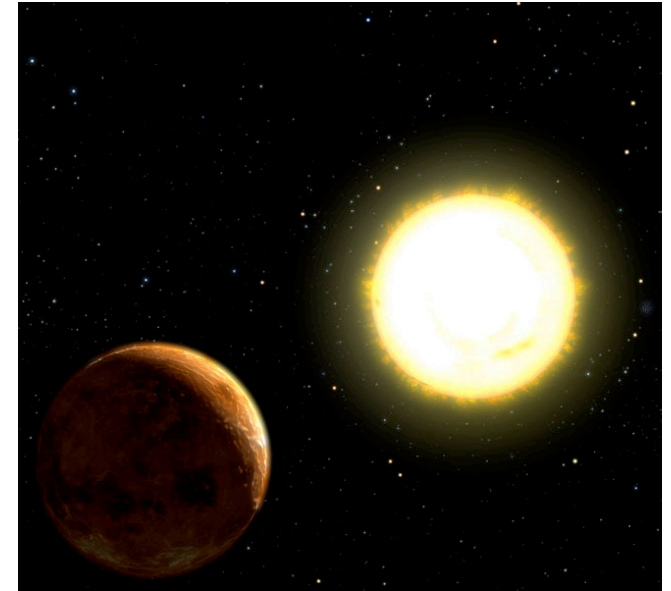


Eclipsing White Dwarfs: Planets?

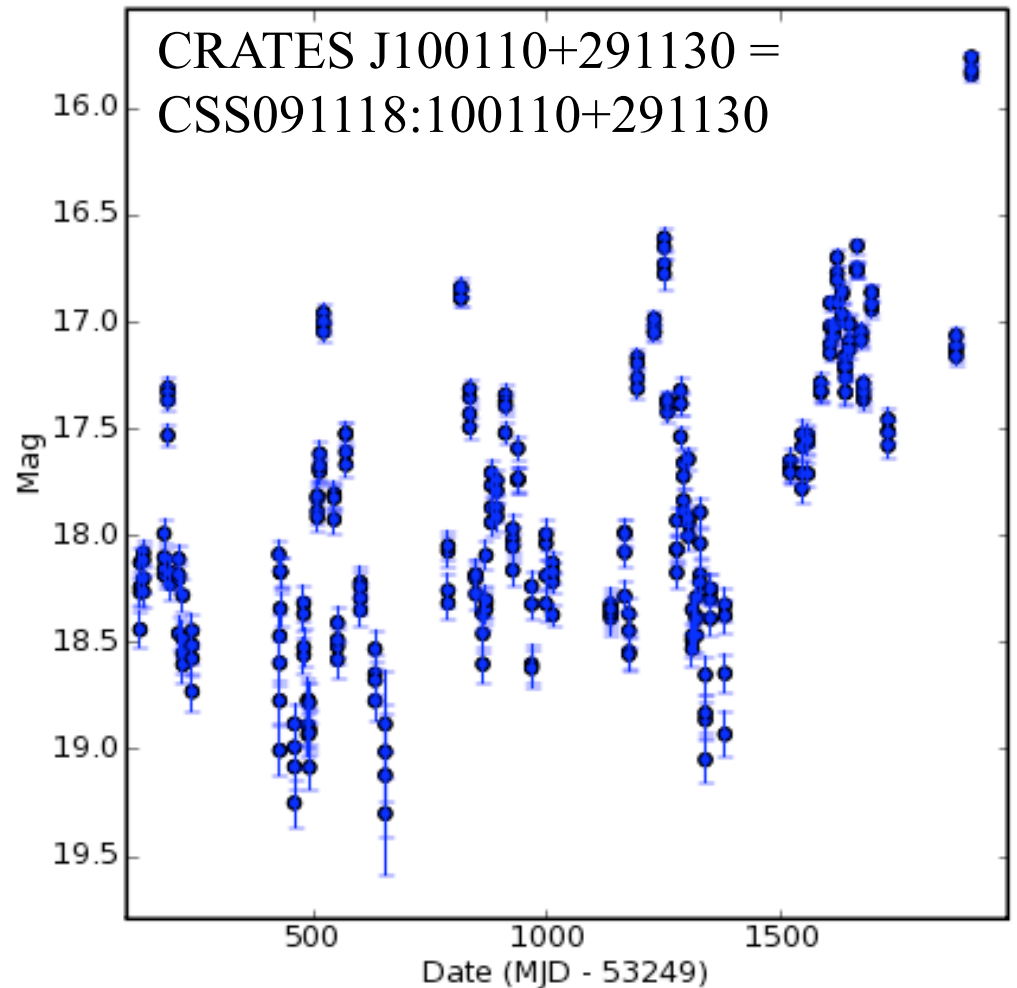
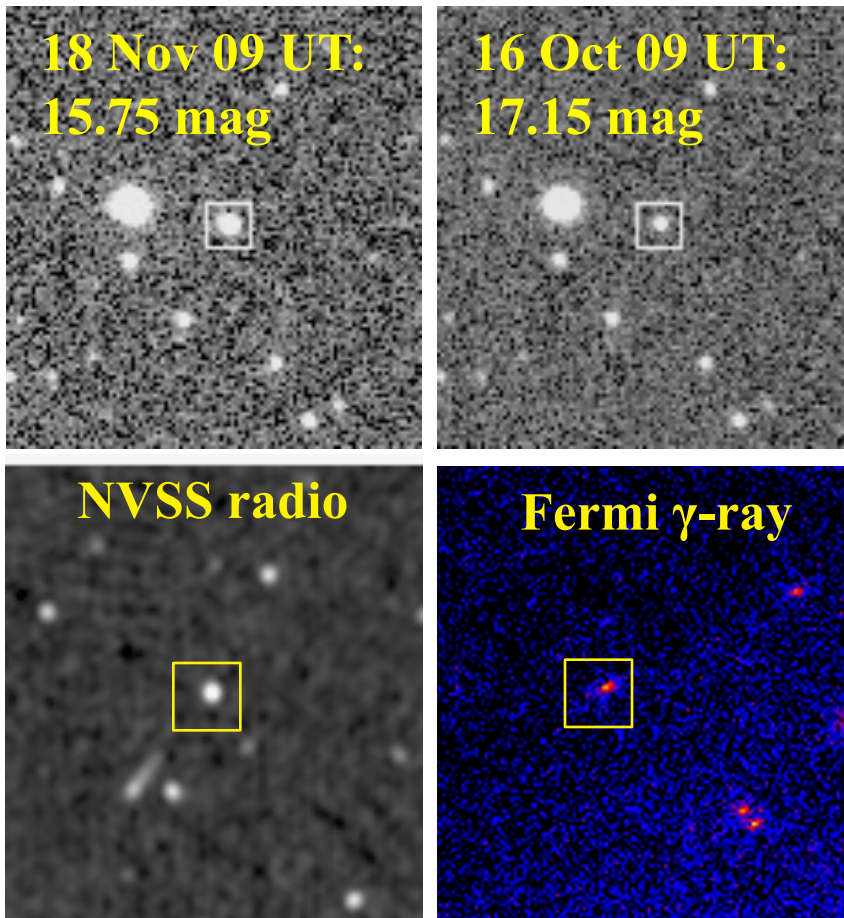


Earth-like planets cause $\sim 10^{-4}$ eclipses for the main-sequence stars...

But it could be $\sim 100\%$ eclipses for the white dwarfs!

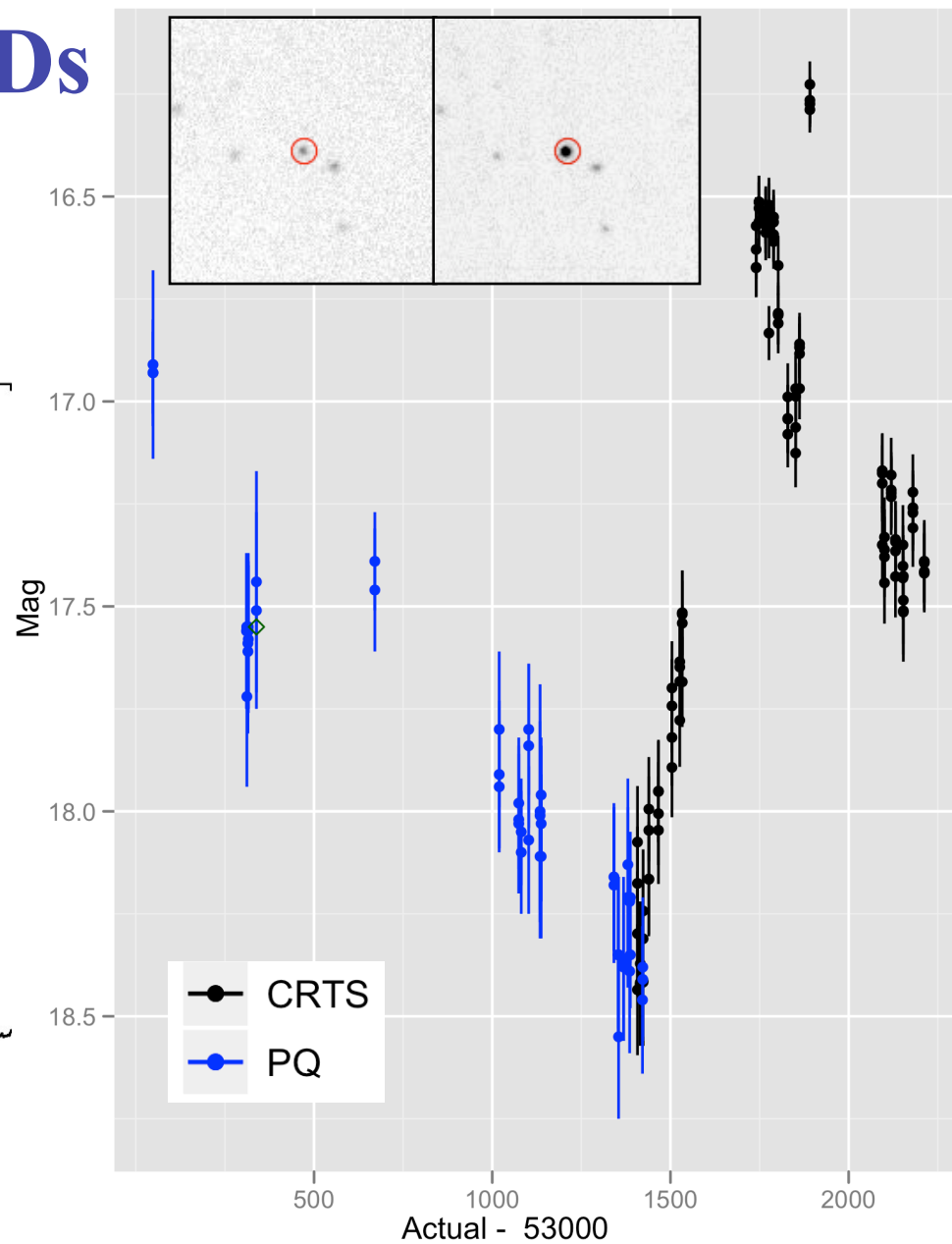
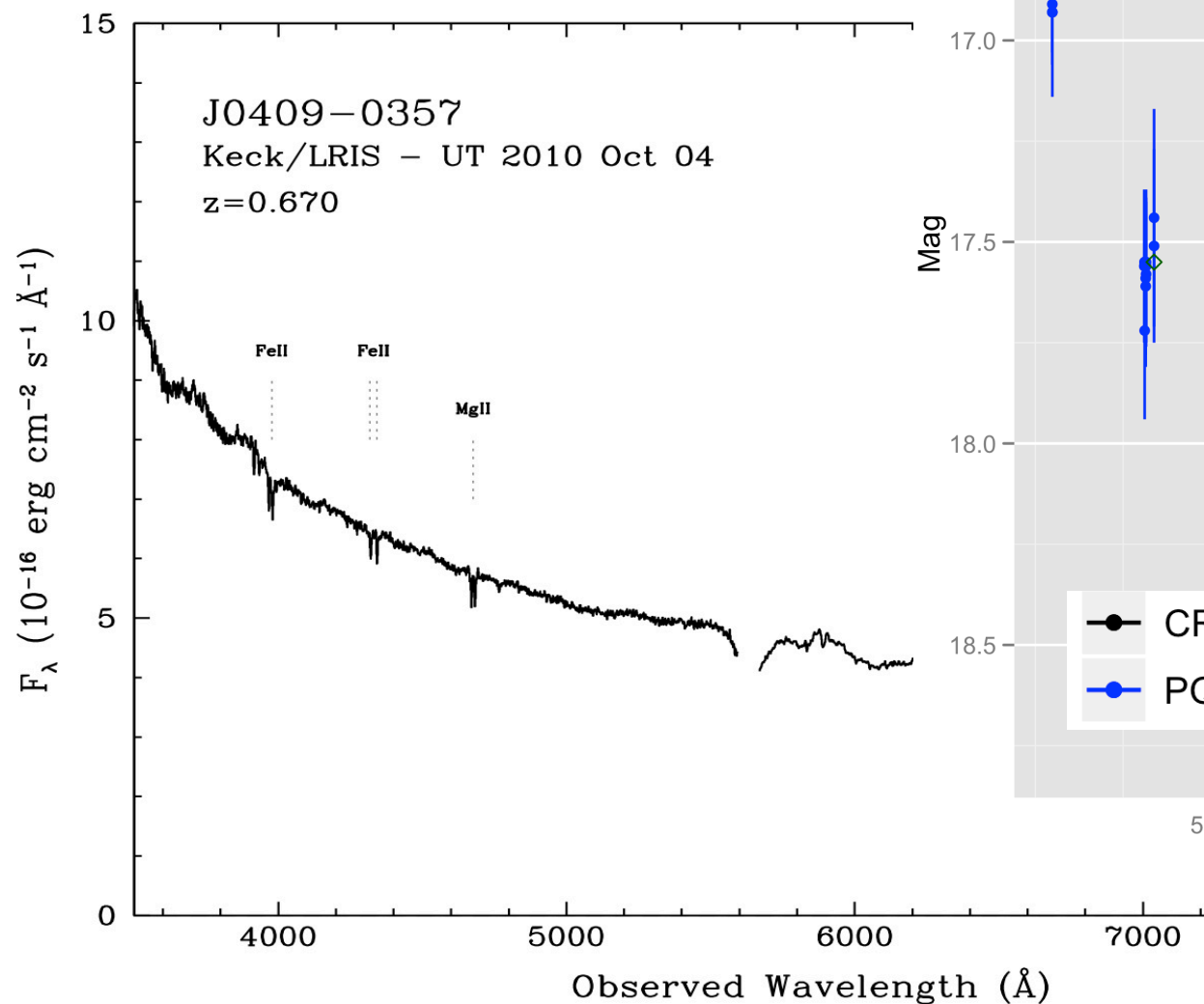


Flaring Blazars from CRTS



- Correlating blazar light curves from the visible, radio, and γ -rays, in order to constrain physical models
- Real-time correlated blazar flare discovery with CRTS+*Fermi*

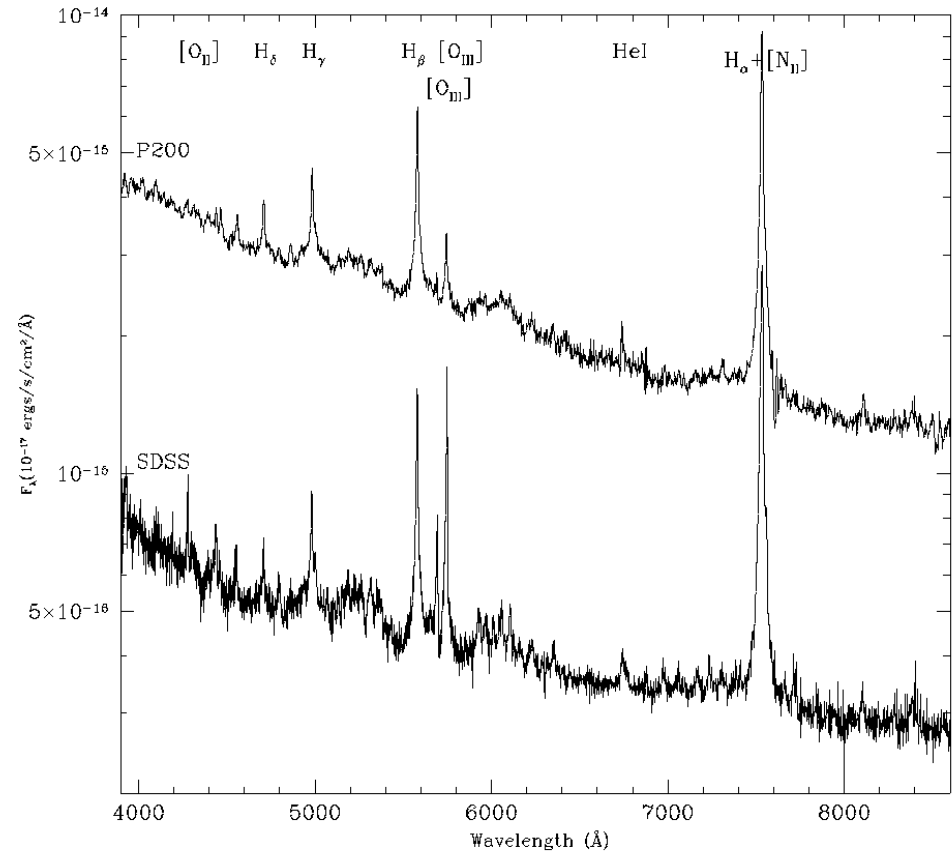
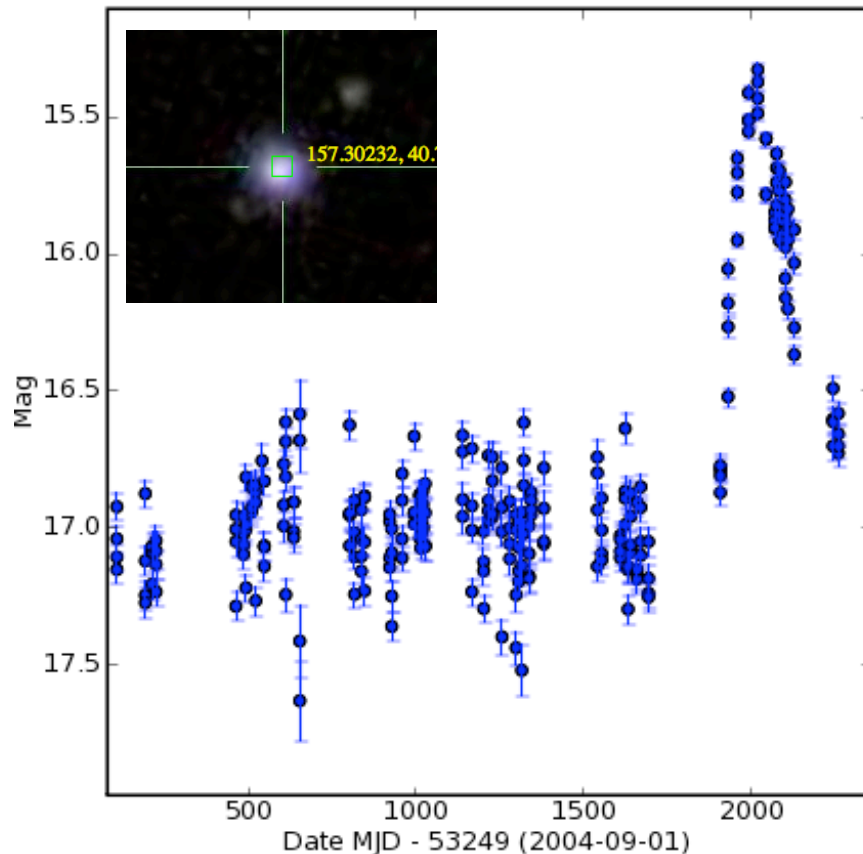
Variability-Selected IDs for the Unidentified Fermi LAT Sources



(Mahabal et al.)

The Mystery Event CSS100217:102913+404220

Drake et al. 2010, *ATel* 2544, and 2011, *ApJ* 735, 106

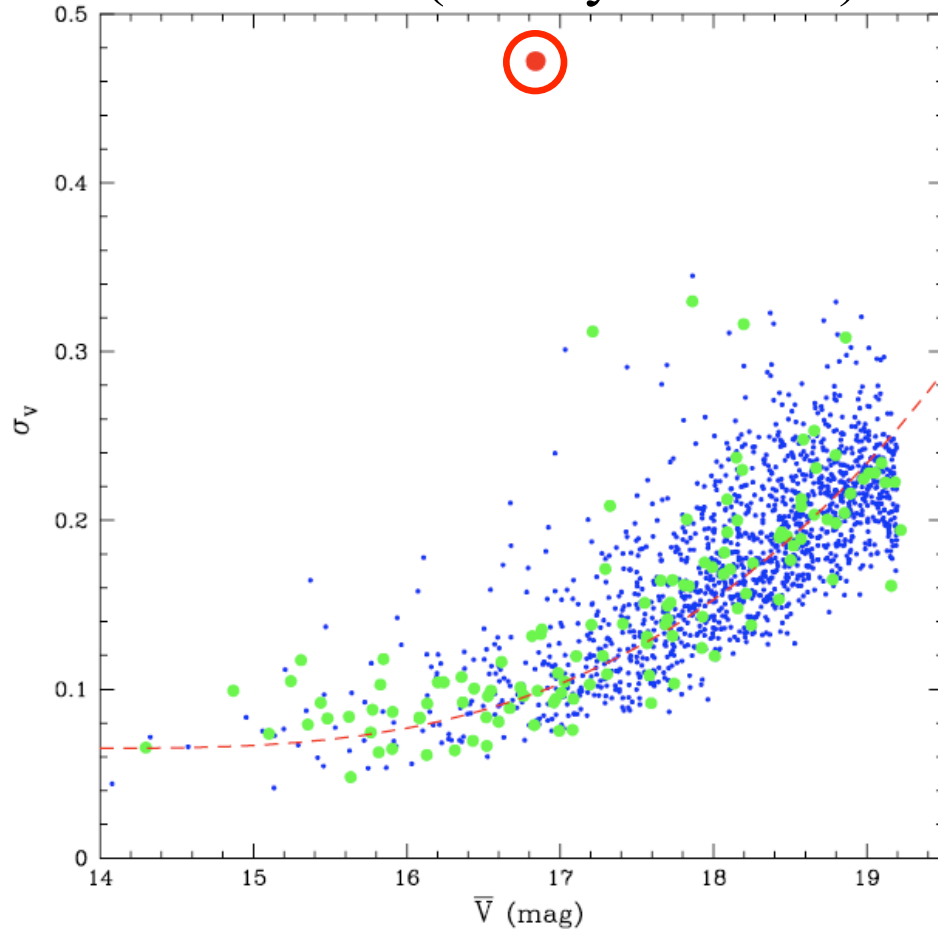


- Transient in a narrow-line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) galaxy at $z = 0.147$
- Peak $M_I \approx -23$ mag, integrated visible luminosity $> 6 \times 10^{51}$ erg
- *SWIFT* and *GALEX* ToO obs. exclude a “traditional” TDE

Could it be just an AGN variability? **No.**

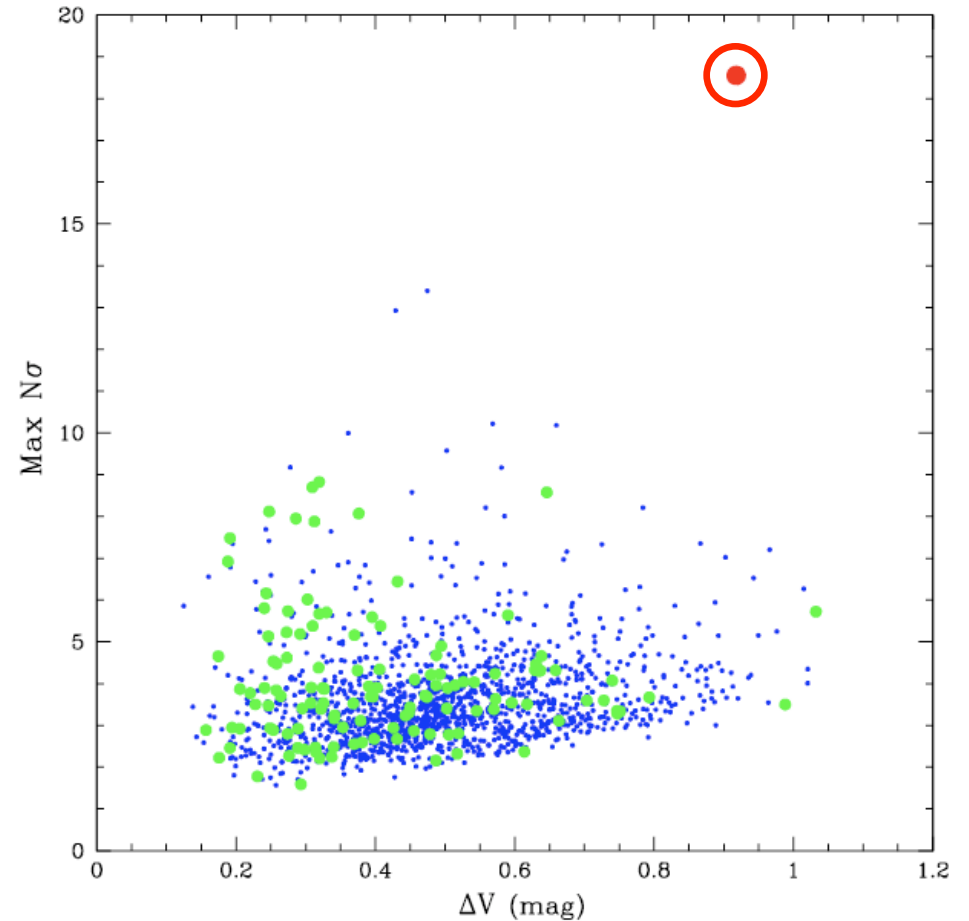
◎ CSS100217 ● Radio-loud NLS1 ■ Radio-quiet NLS1

Variance (90 day window)



Mean magnitude

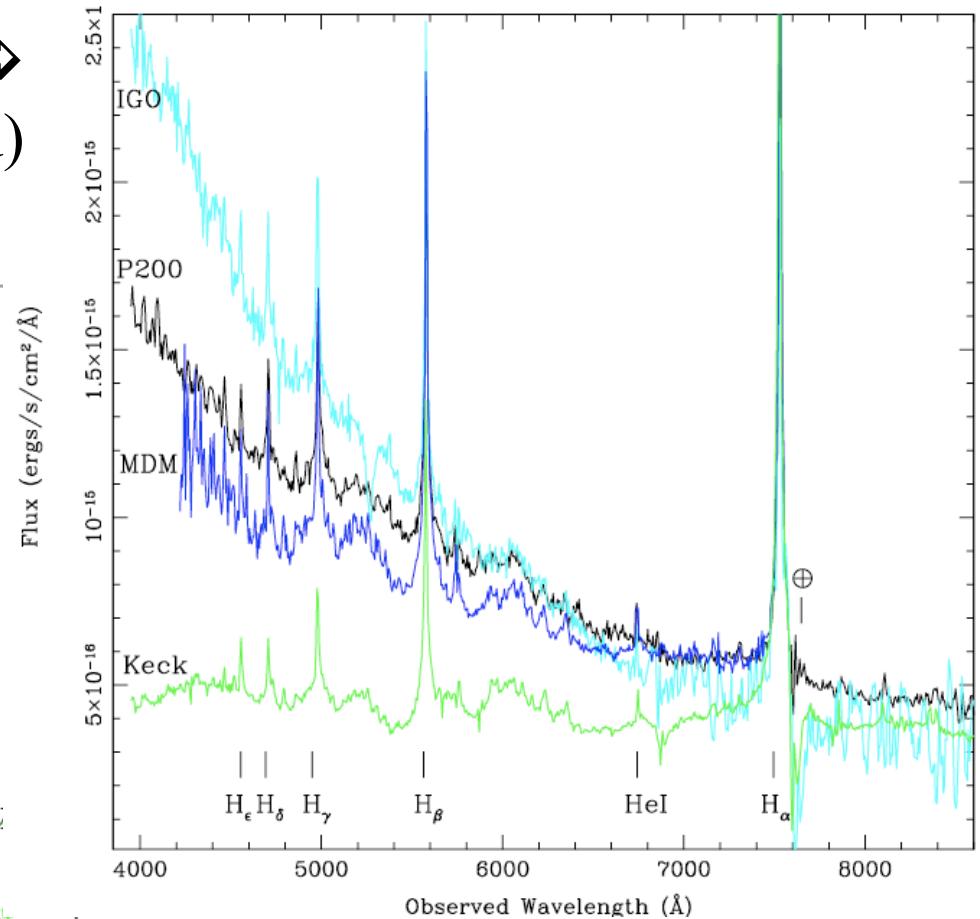
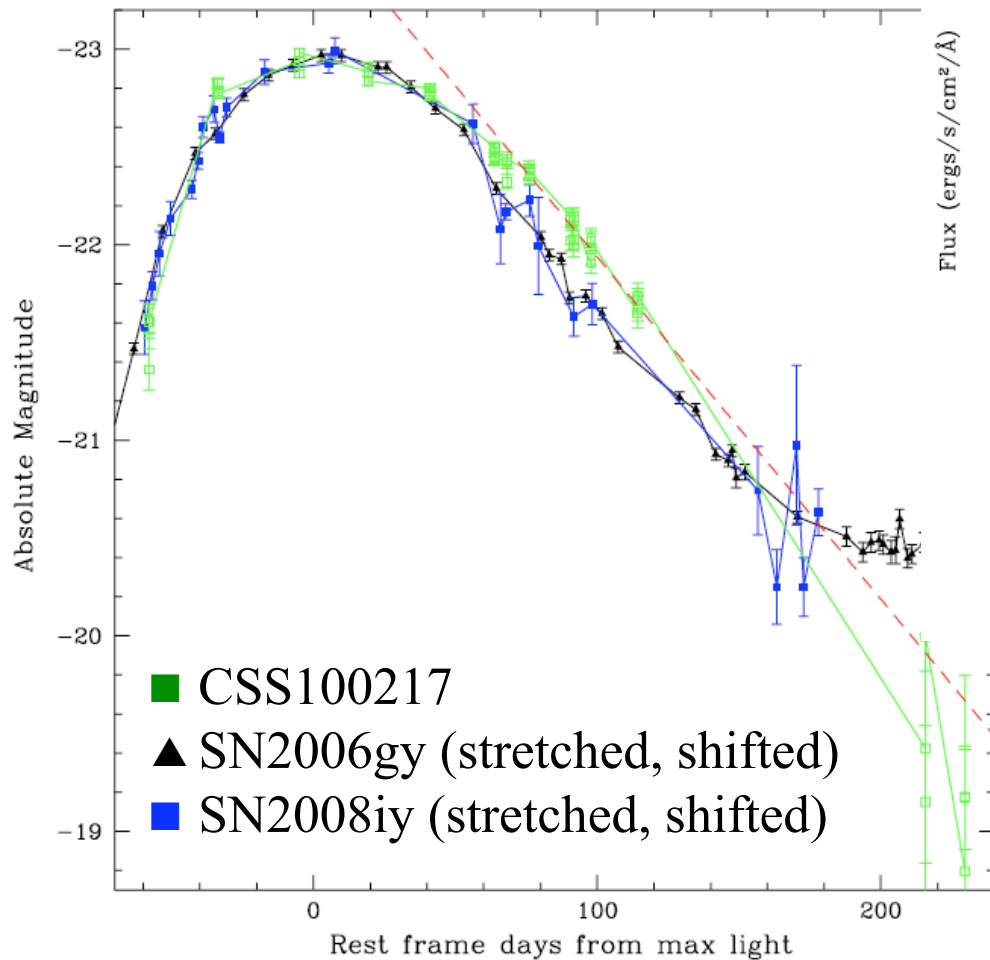
Maximum $N\sigma$ deviation



Maximum magnitude jump

Light curve and spectra typical of a SN IIn

Evolving spectra \Rightarrow
(host & AGN subtracted)



**The most luminous
SN ever seen!**

The Nature of CSS100217

HST ToO and Keck AO+LGS imaging shows a single, unresolved point source

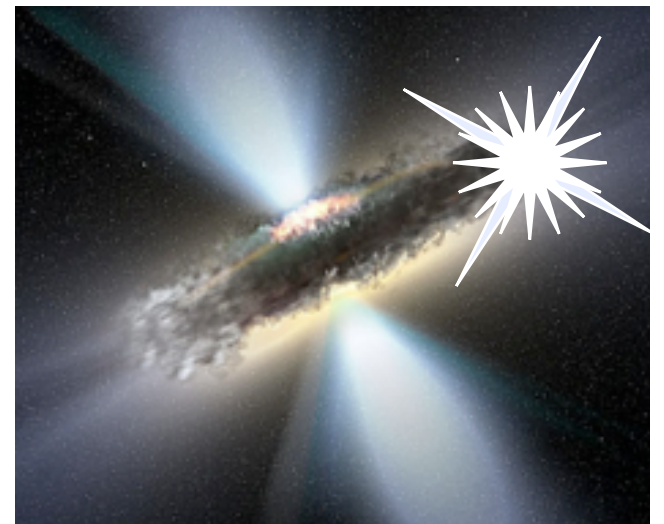
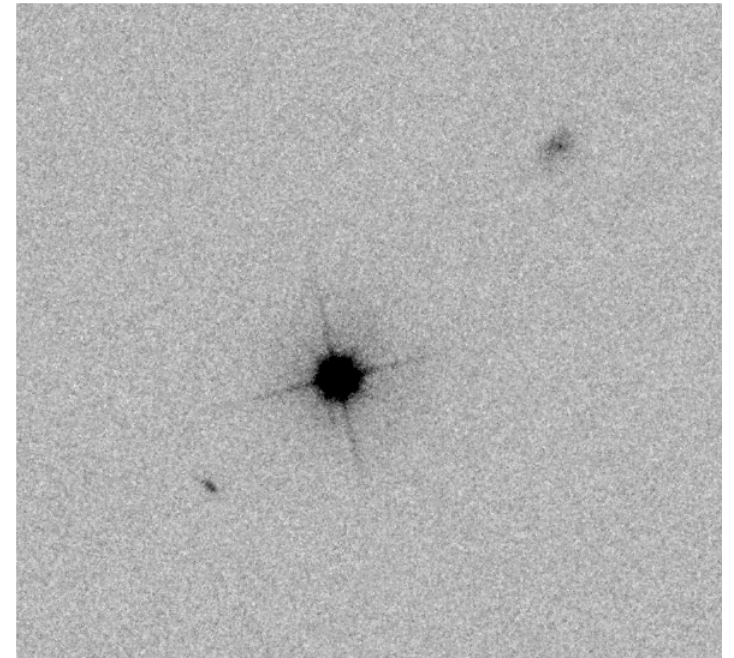
⇒ The event occurred within
~ 150 pc from the AGN

No morphological indications of star forming regions outside of the unresolved nucleus

Vicinity of an AGN is not conducive to star formation, except...

... near the outer edge of the accretion disk, which is shielded from the UVX radiation, and should be violently unstable

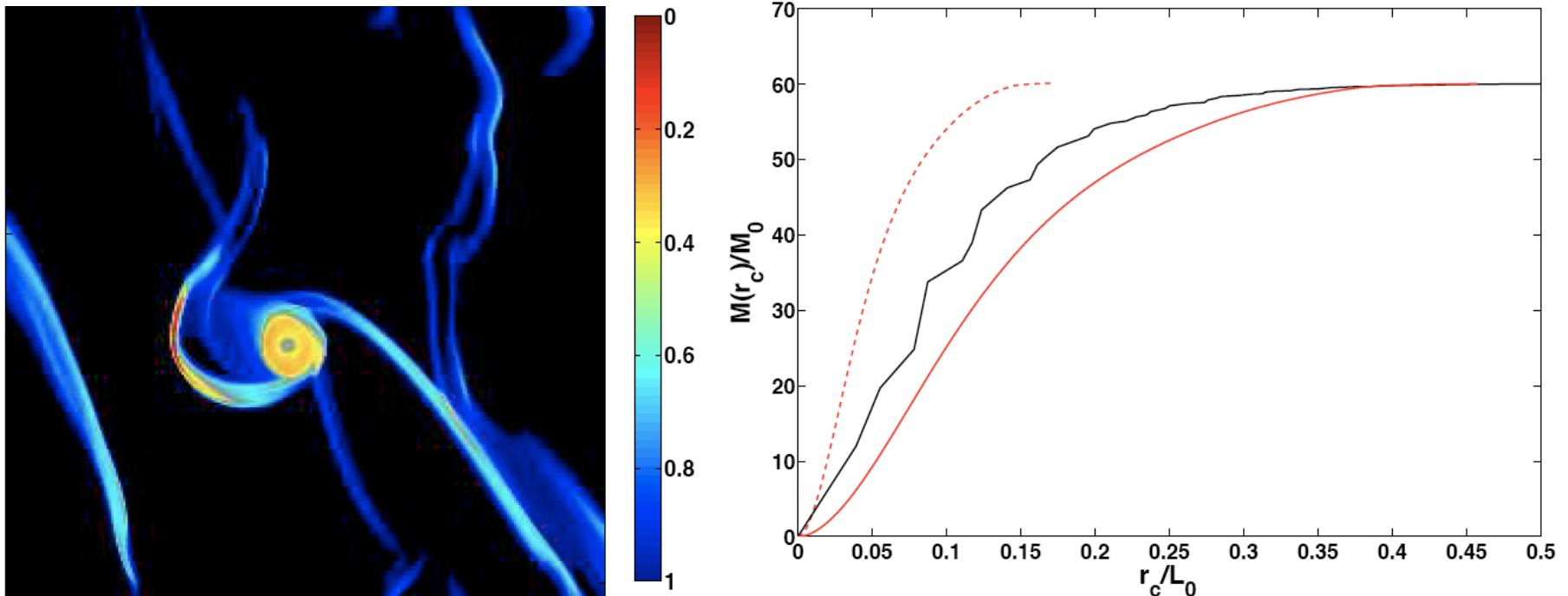
**The first case of a SN from
an AGN accretion disk?**



Star Formation in AGN Accretion Disks

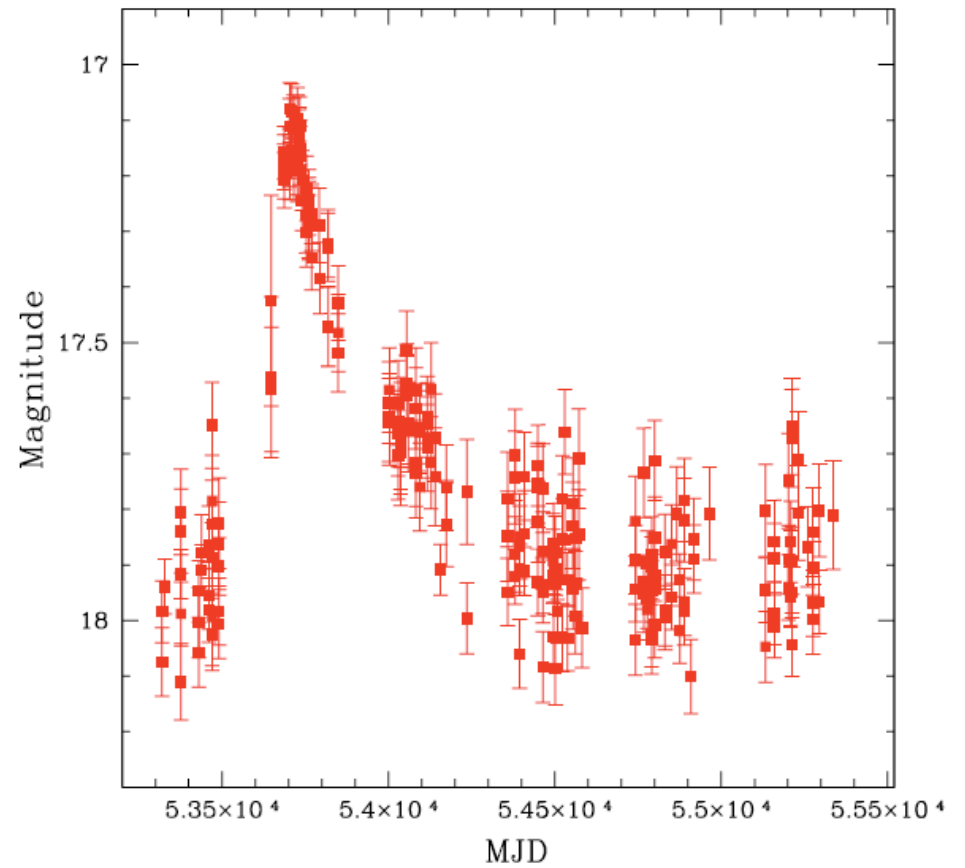
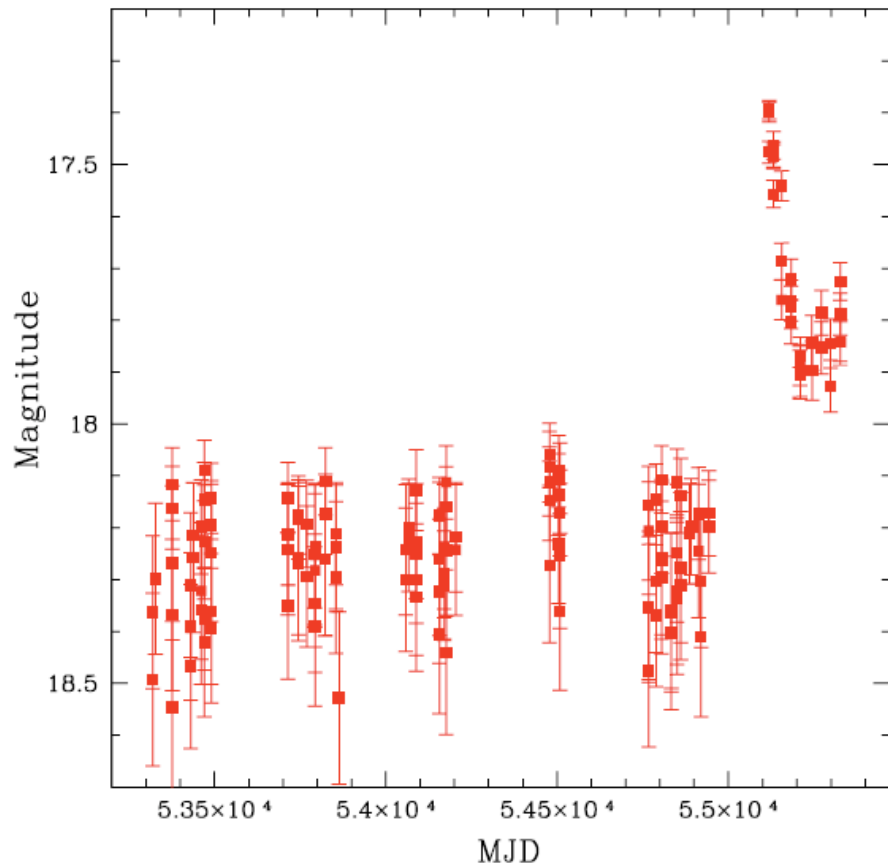
- Predicted by the theory: Shlosman & Begelman (1987, 1989)
 - Possible origin of the young stellar population in the Galactic center
- Supported by the modern numerical simulations (Goodman 2003, Goodman & Tan 2004, Jiang & Goodman 2010)
- Should be relatively common, but traditional SN searches discriminate against any AGN-associated events

Formation of a $\sim 60 M_{\odot}$ star in a QSO accretion disk, from Jiang & Goodman 2010



There May Be More Like This

Possible SN events in low- z NLS1 galaxies

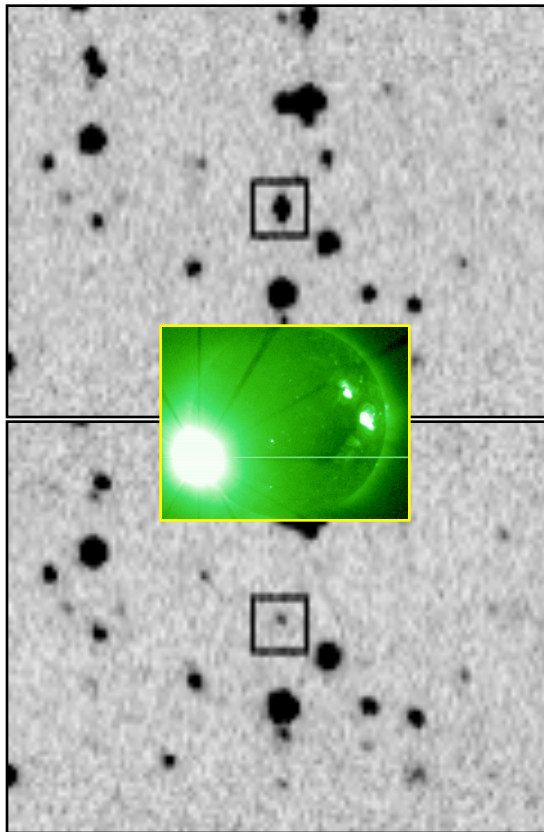


To be continued...

Automated Classification of Transients

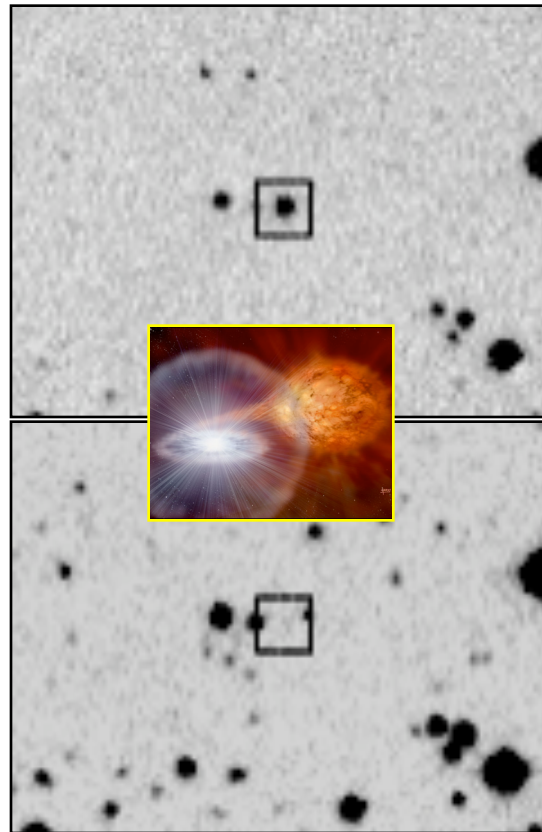
CSS090429:135125-075714

Flare star



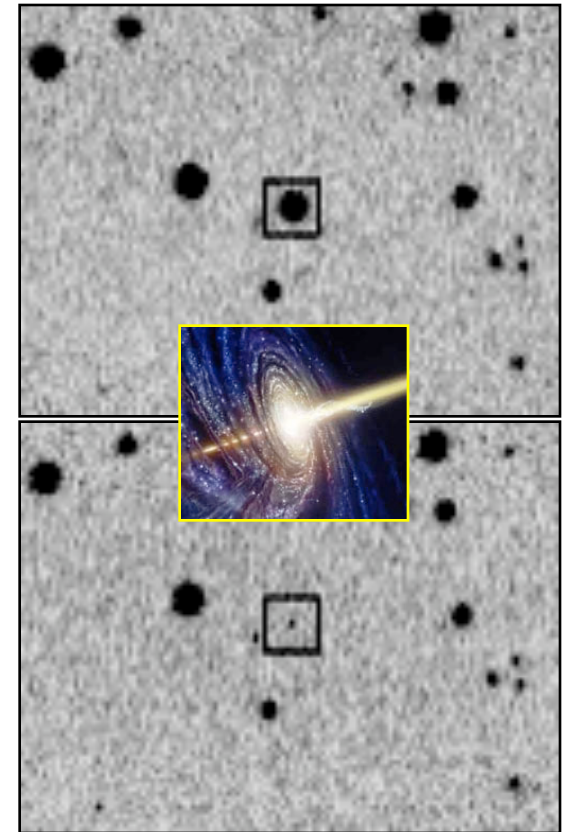
CSS090430:095623-093615

Dwarf Nova



CSS090426:074240+544425

Blazar, 2EG J0744+5438



Vastly different physical phenomena, and yet they look the same!
Which ones are the most interesting and worthy of follow-up?

 ***Rapid, automated transient classification is a critical need!***

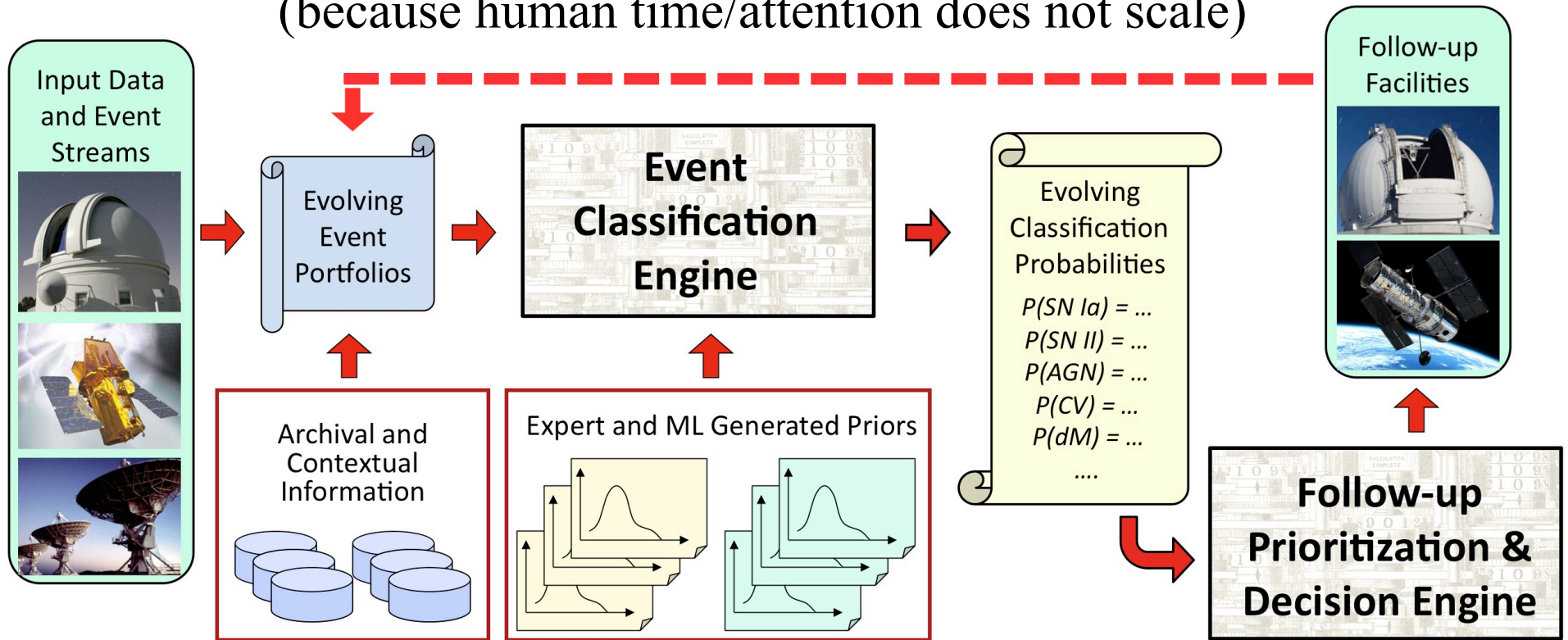
Catching the Fireworks



- So far: data streams of **~ 0.1 TB / night**, **$\sim 10^2$ transients / night** (CRTS, PTF, various SN surveys, microlensing, etc.)
 - ✧ We are already in the regime where we *cannot follow them all*
 - ✧ Spectroscopy is the key bottleneck now, and it will get worse
 - Forthcoming on a time scale $\sim 1 - 5$ years:
 ~ 1 TB / night, **$\sim 10^3 - 10^4$ transients / night**
(PanSTARRS, Skymapper, VISTA, VST, SKA precursors...)
 - Forthcoming in $\sim 8 - 10$ (?) years: LSST, **~ 30 TB / night**, **$\sim 10^5 - 10^7$ transients / night**, SKA
 - So... which ones will you follow up?
 - Follow-up resources will likely remain limited
- A major, qualitative change!**
- Transient classification is essential*

Towards the Automated Event Classification

(because human time/attention does not scale)



- Data are heterogeneous and sparse: incorporation of the contextual information (archival, and from the data themselves) is essential
- Automated prioritization of follow-up observations, given the available resources and their cost
- A dynamical, iterative system

A very hard problem!

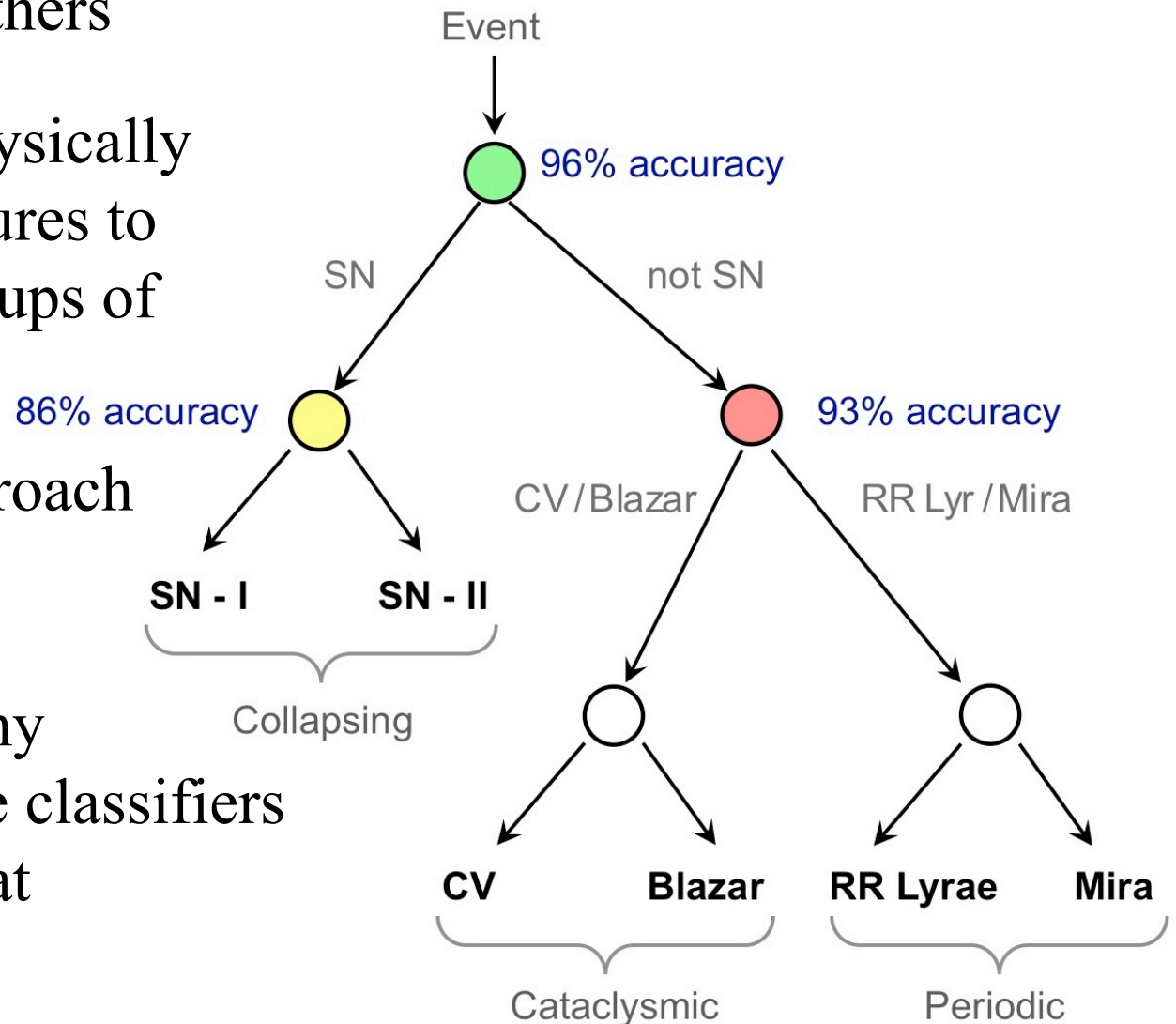
A Hierarchical Approach to Classification

Different types of classifiers perform better for some event classes than for the others

We use some astrophysically motivated major features to separate different groups of classes

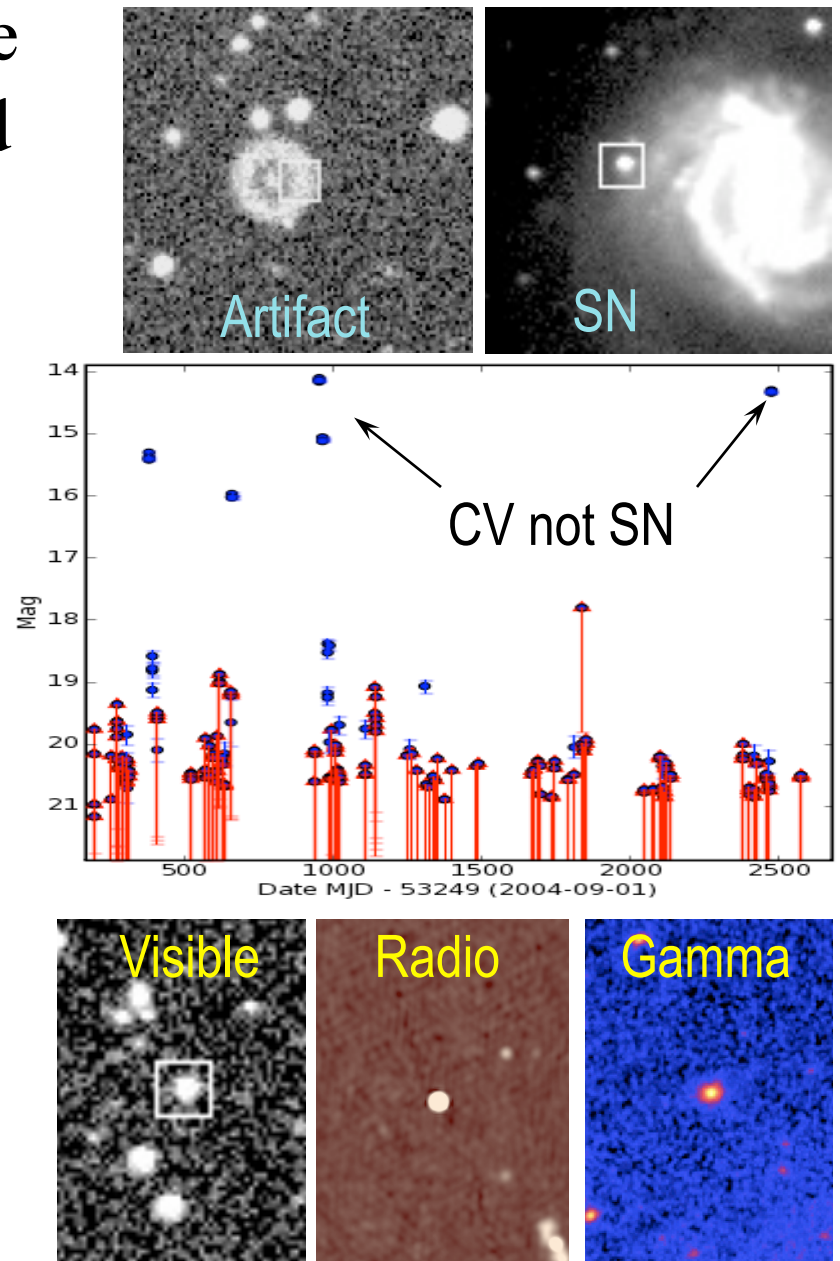
Mostly Bayesian approach

Proceeding down the classification hierarchy every node uses those classifiers that work best for that particular task

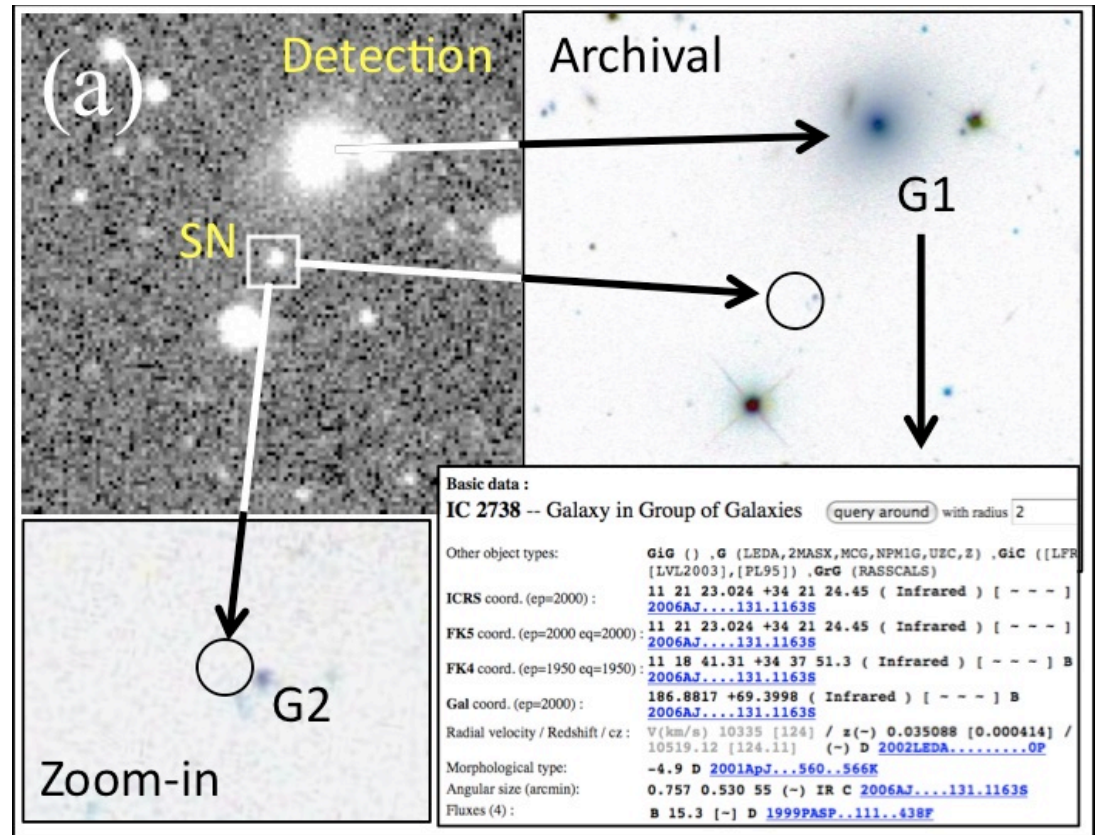


Contextual Information is Essential

- **Visual context** contains valuable information about the reality and classification of transients
- So does the **temporal context**, from the archival light curves
- And the **multi- λ context**
- Initial detection data contain little information about the transient: α , δ , m , Δm , (t_c) .
Almost all of the initial information is archival or contextual; follow-up data trickle in slowly, if at all



Harvesting the Human Pattern Recognition and Expertise



... and turning it into scalable algorithms, using a crowdsourcing “citizen science” approach

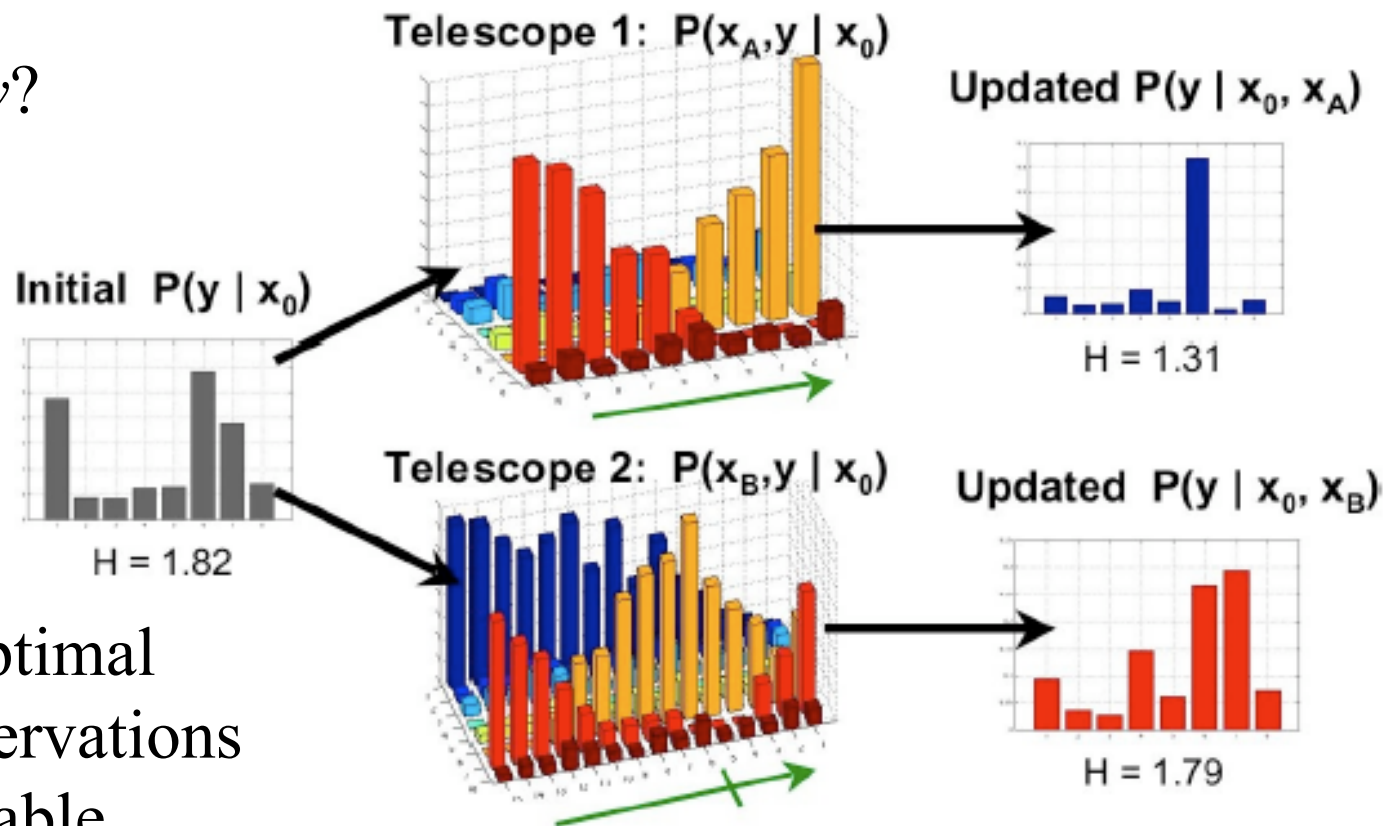
SkyDiscovery.org
 Humans and Machines Working Together

Citizen Scientists Making Discoveries

Home Transients SNHunt My Page Results Community Tutorials Links Contact Us

Automating the Optimal Follow-Up

For the *potentially most interesting events*, what type of follow-up observations a x has the greatest potential to discriminate among the competing event classes y ?



Request the optimal follow-up observations from the available assets that maximize the entropy drop:

$$H[p(y | x_+, x_0)] = - \sum_{y, x_+} p(y, x_+ | x_0) \log p(y | x_+, x_0)$$

The Time Domain Astronomy

... is *here now* (CRTS, PTF, PanSTARRS, ASCAP, *Kepler*, *Fermi*, ...)

– The low-hanging fruit picking season is in a full swing

– Lots of exciting and diverse science already under way

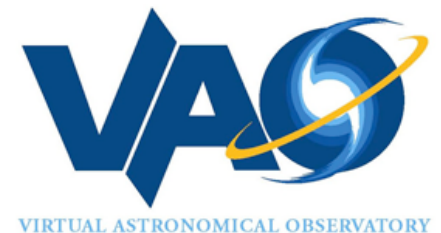
– CRTS data stream is *open* – use it! (and free \neq bad)

... is *astronomy of telescope and computational systems*,
requiring a *strong cyber-infrastructure*

– A growing importance of VO services,
archives, and astrophysics tools

– Automated transient classification is a core
problem; it is critical for a proper scientific
exploitation of synoptic sky surveys

– Data mining of Petascale data streams both
in real time and archival modes is
important well beyond astronomy



Summary

- Time domain astronomy is a vibrant research frontier, from Solar system to cosmology and extreme relativistic phenomena
 - Synoptic survey data streams feed a broad variety of studies
 - Moving to the next generation of surveys, e.g., LSST, SKA
- Catalina Real-Time Sky Survey (CRTS) delivers a steady stream of publicly available transient events in real time
 - Exciting science, especially in the SN studies so far
 - Possible new class of transients: SNe from AGN accretion disks
 - Spectroscopic follow-up is a key bottleneck, and will get worse
 - Automated transient classification is a key challenge
 - A growing importance of VO services and astroinformatics



**We welcome new
collaborations!**