Presentation to the NRC NASA Astrophysics Performance Assessment Committee, St. Paul, Aug 14, 2006

Space Interferometry Mission
SIM PlanetQuest

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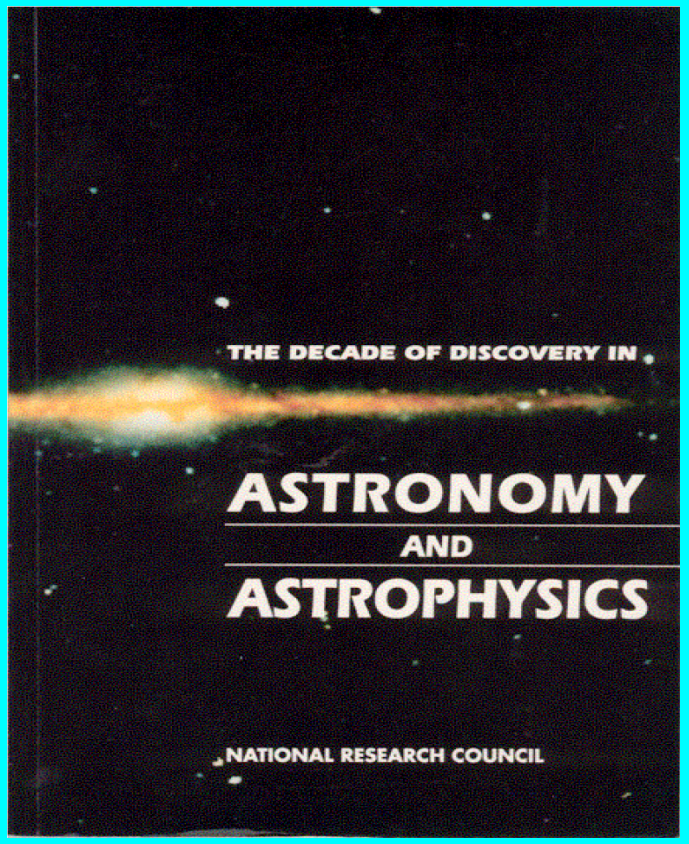
"You understand something truly only when you can measure it precisely." Lord Kelvin

- Measure precise distances -- the basis to physics of stars and physics of the Universe
- Determine the mass makeup of our Galaxy and the Local Group
- Detect earth mass planets in the habitable zone of nearby Sun-like stars
- Obtain insight into the formation & diversity of other planetary systems though orbit measurements

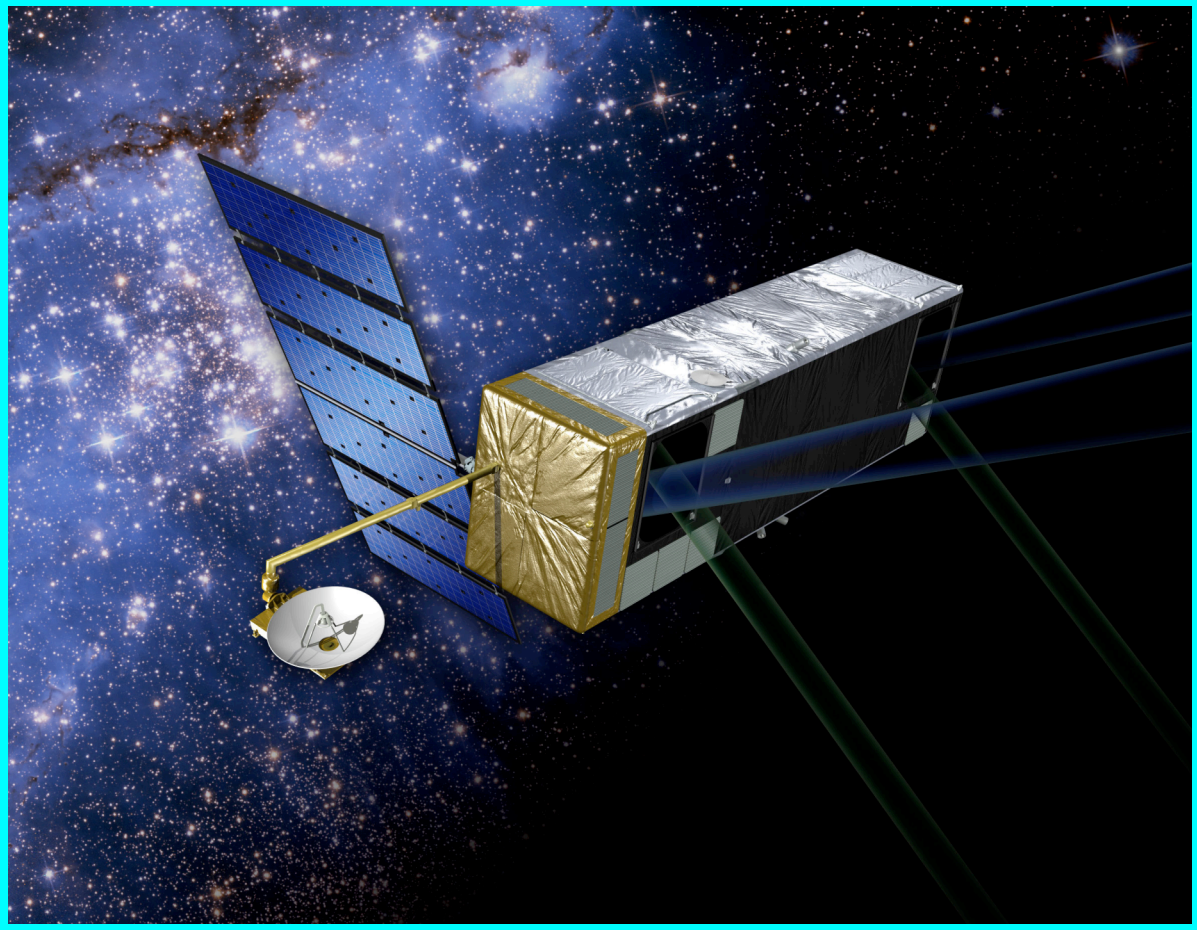
Confucius says "One excellent measurement is better than many mediocre measurements."

1990 & 2000 Decadal Reviews Endorse SIM



"…emphasized the dual capability of SIM, noting that this capability would enable "…*both… detecting planets and … mapping the structure of the Milky Way and other nearby galaxies*."

SIM: An Optical Michelson Interferometer



Global astrometry (5yr mission)

- 4 μas position (inertial)
- **2.5 μas/yr** proper motion
- **4 μas** parallax

Narrow angle astrometry, **1 μas**

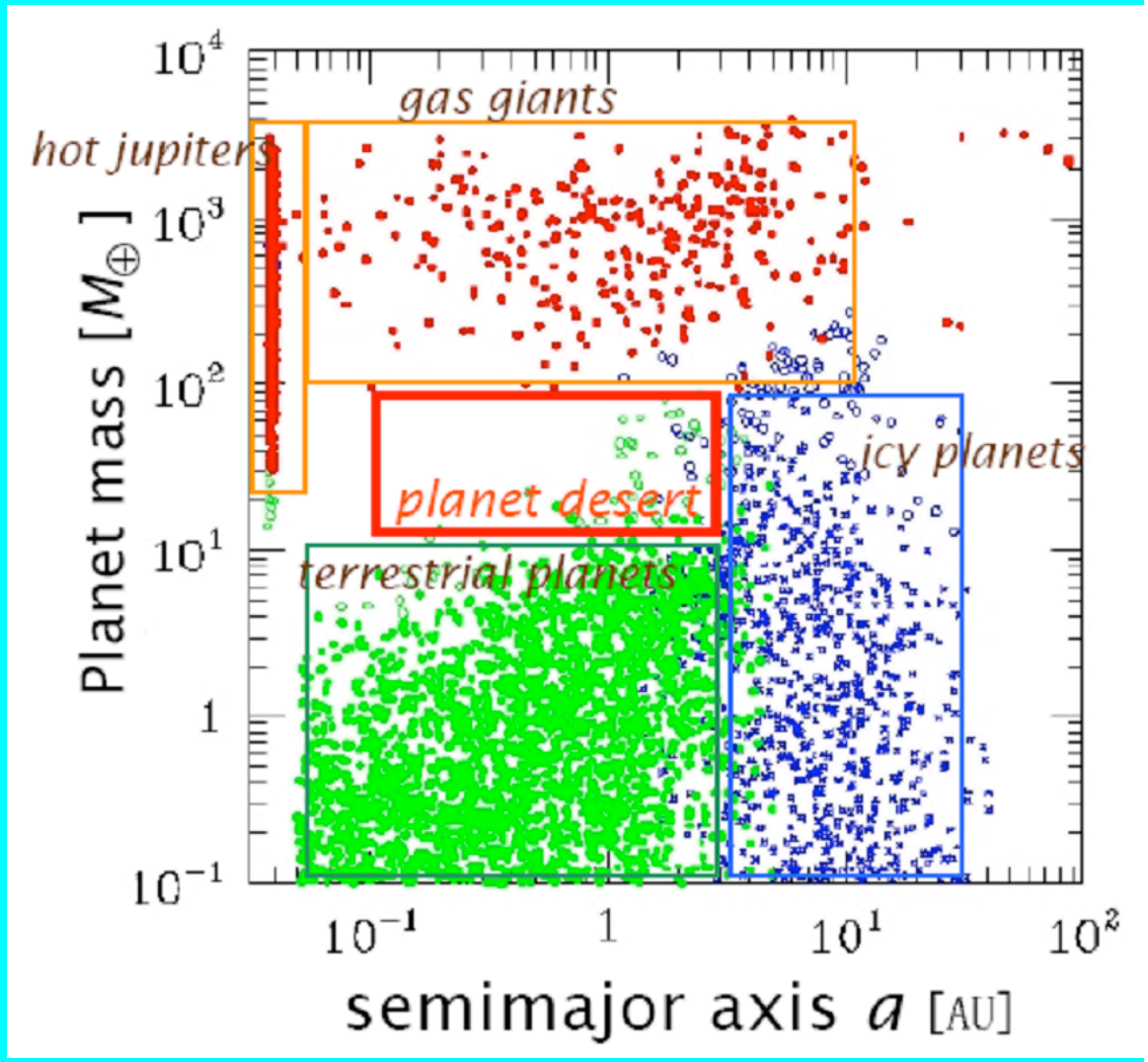
Extra-solar Planets Continues to be a Frontier Area

- Is our solar system rare or common?
- How are planets formed? (bottom up or top down)
- Are there earth-like planets around nearby stars?
- What sorts of planets exist around stars different from our Sun?

Extrasolar Planet Phase Space

Current harvest of 200 planets (RV): empirical constraints to planetary system formation.

Jupiter & Neptune appear to be the tip of the "planetary iceberg"



Simulations from Ida & Lin

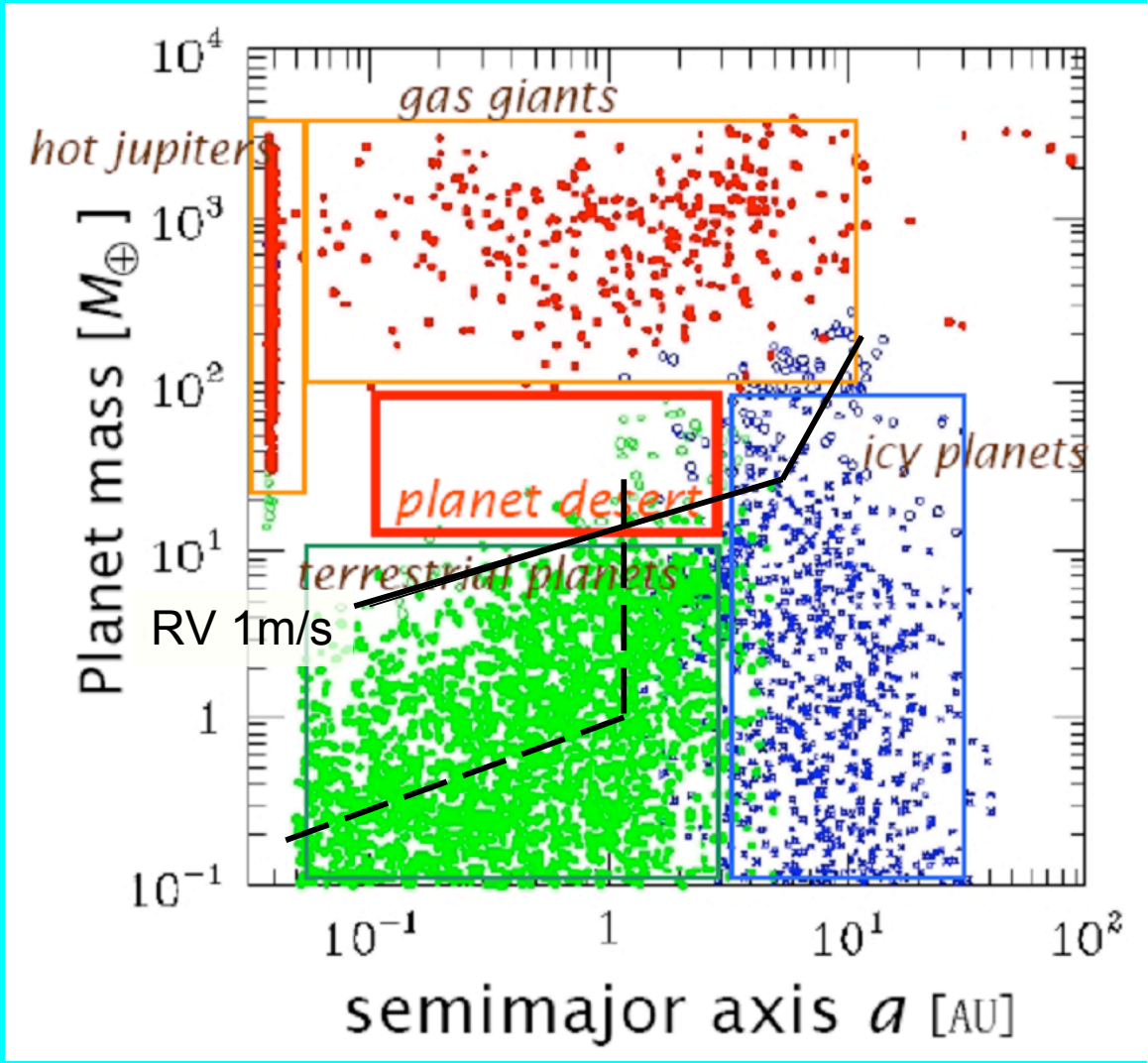
Discovery Space

RV will press on icy planets and close-in planets

Transit & Microlensing will provide statistical census of rocky planets

eg. Kepler, 1 kpc

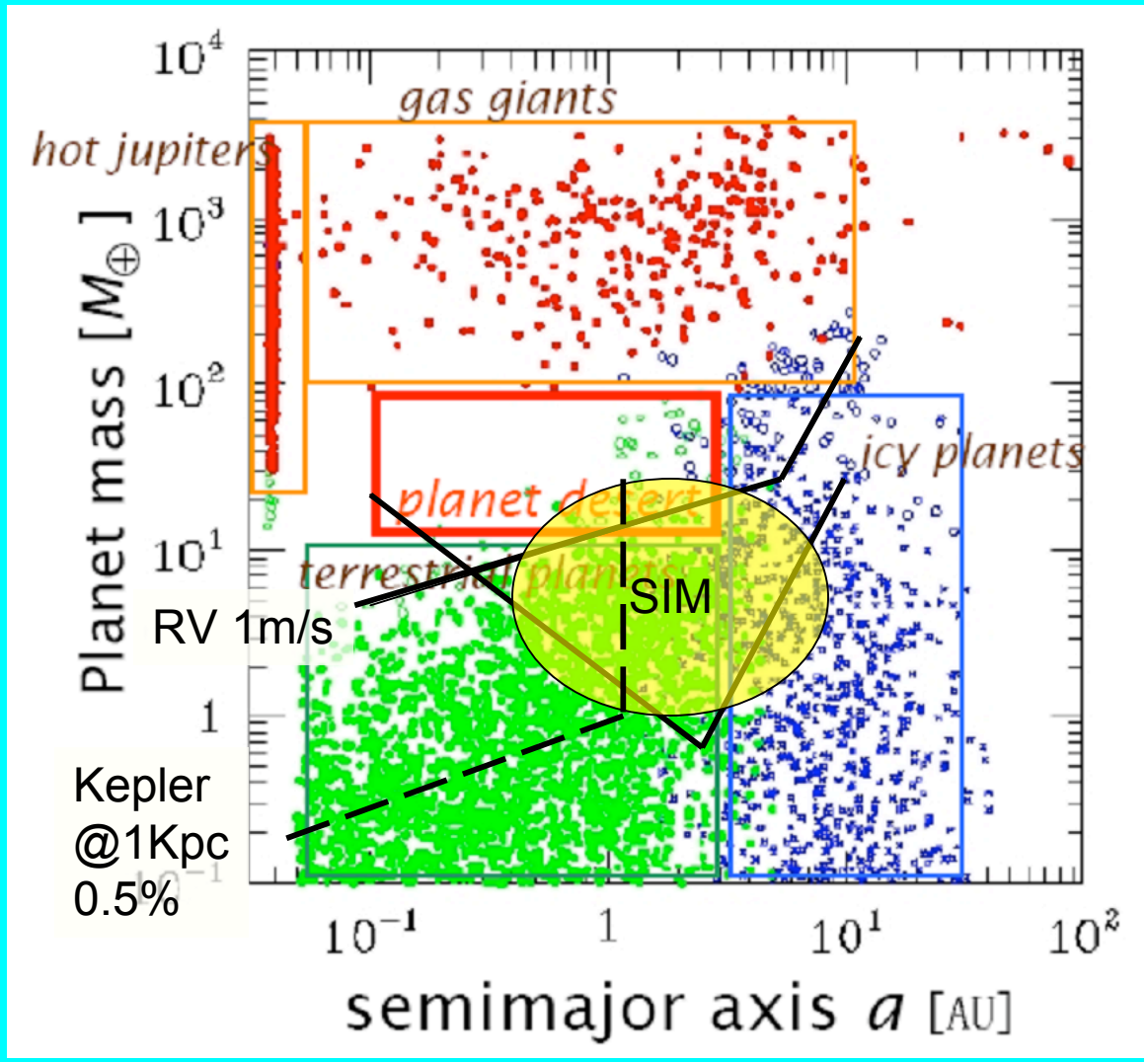
eg. Microlensing, 5 kpc



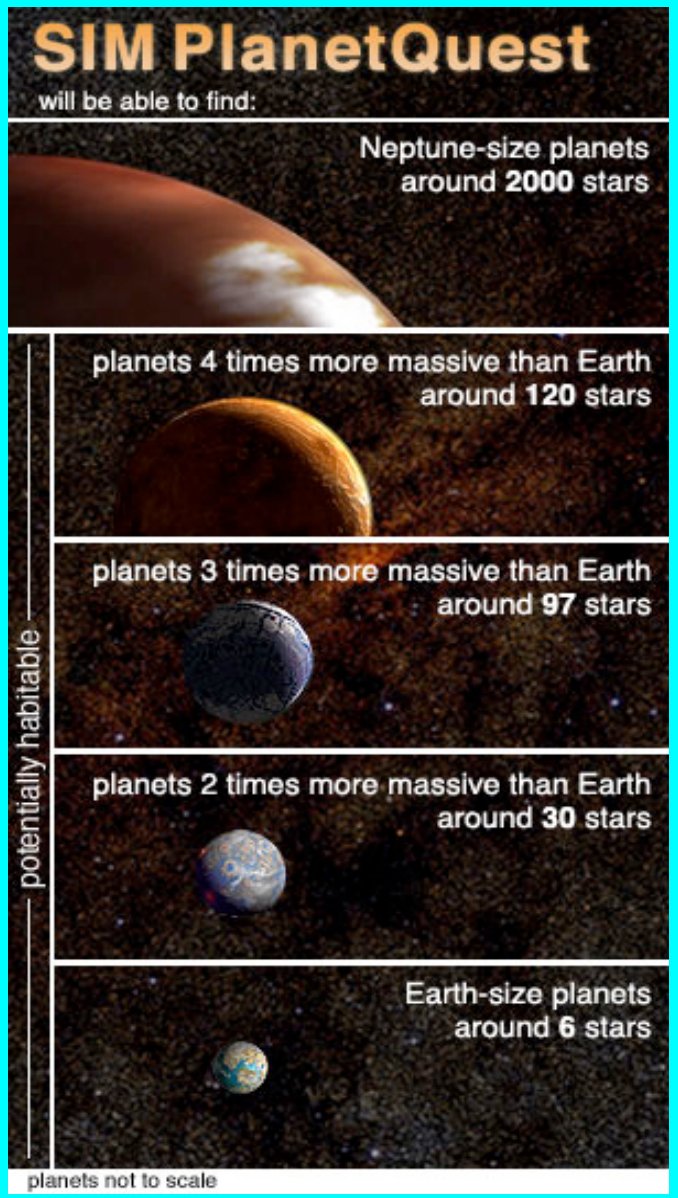
SIM Discovery Space

SIM: uniquely probes
1~10 M_{earth} (0.4~6.0AU)
(for nearby stars)

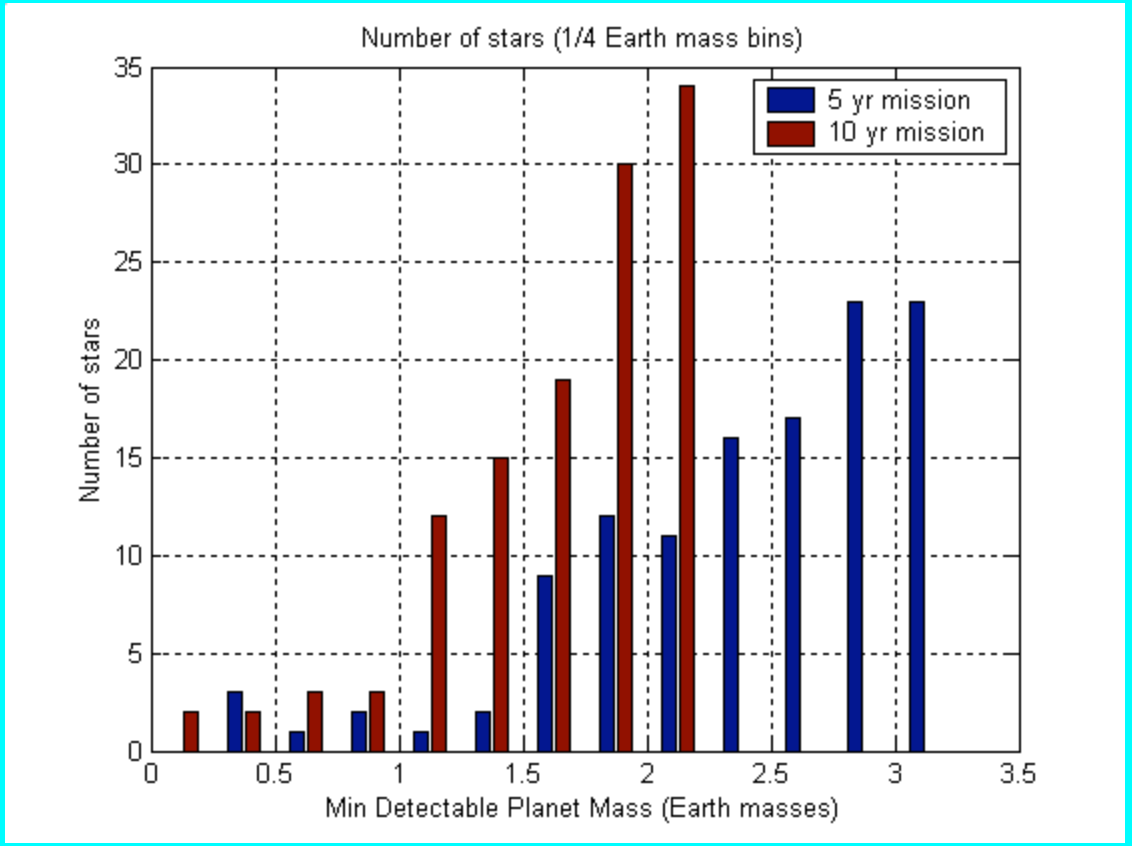
Orbital parameters and mass for RV planets



Deep Search of 120 nearby stars

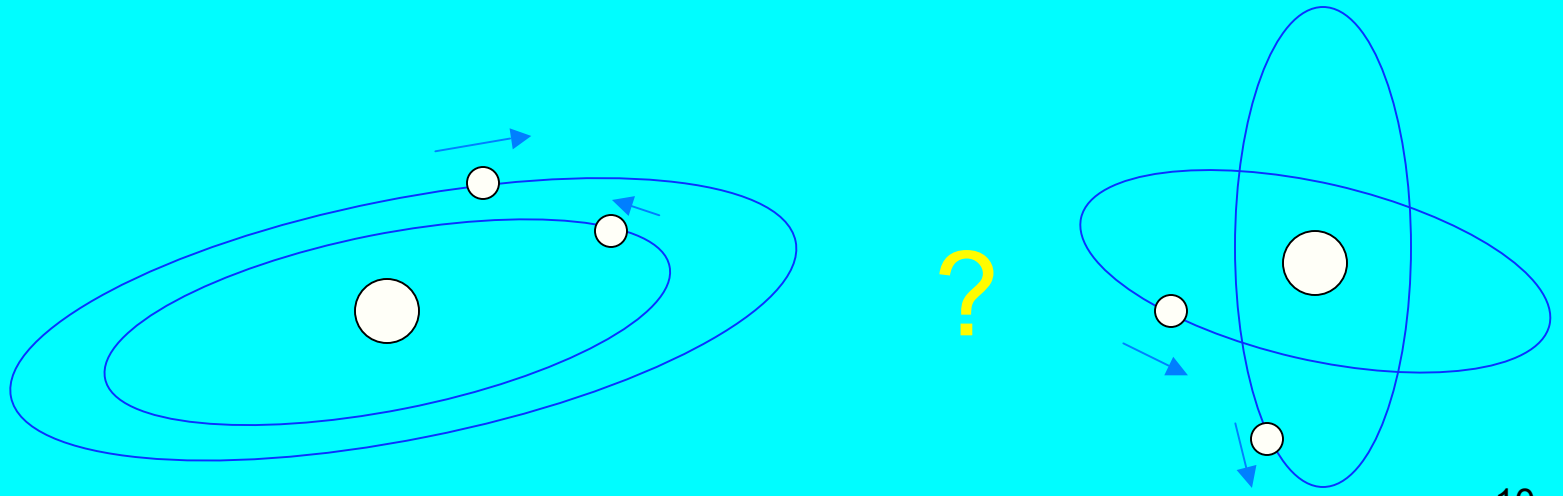


For the nearest solar-type stars hundred stars SIM has the capacity to detect earth mass planets in the Habitable zone



Planetary System Architectures & Diversity

- Comprehensive survey of 2000 stars to probe Jovian/Neptunian planets (metalicity, debris disks, binary systems)
- Search for planets around stars not probed by any other technique (O, B, A, early F, white dwarfs).
- Uniquely probe for planets around young stars and thus provide insight into evolution of planetary systems
- Measure planet masses, eccentricities, orbital direction and mutual orbital inclinations of multiple planet systems



“No Distance, no physics”

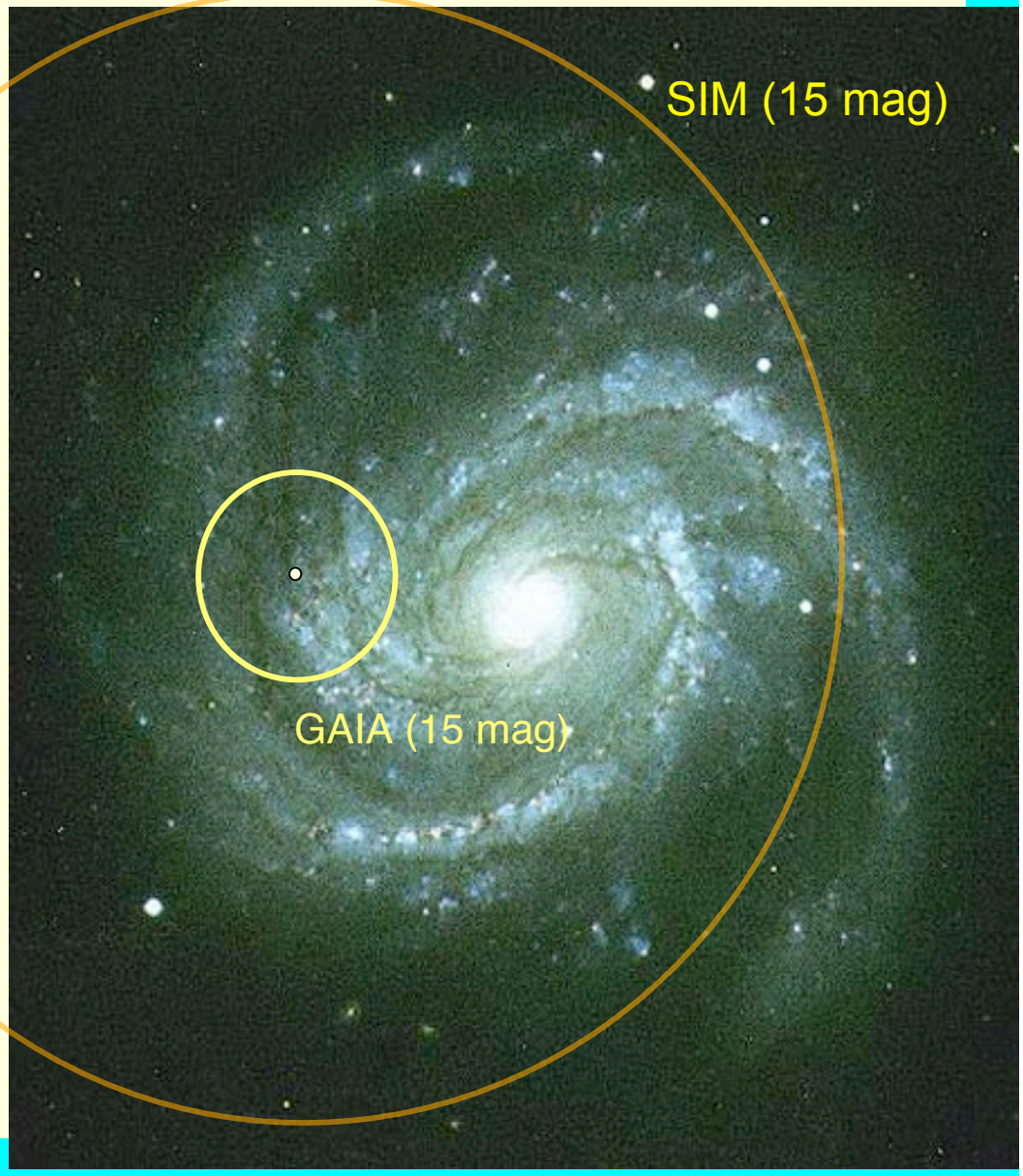
The history of astronomy is entwined with the determination of reliable distances

- Size of the Galaxy
- Size of the Local Group
- Size of the Universe
- Origin of Gamma-ray bursts

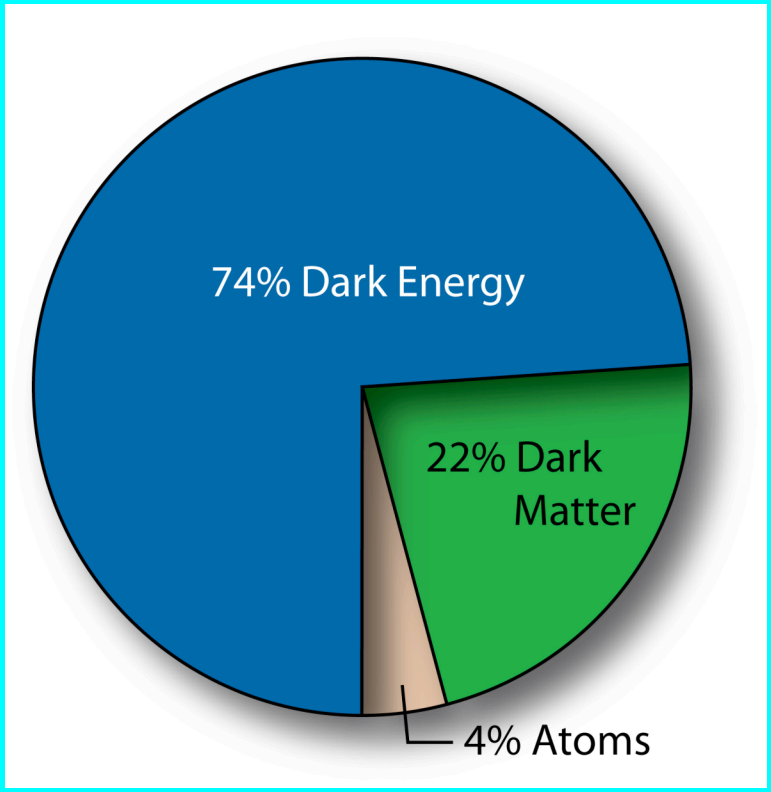
- SIM is a “distance measuring” machine
  - Poorly understood objects
  - New classes of objects, transients (e.g. PanSTARRS, LSST)
  - Rare objects (Neutron Star Systems, Black Hole Systems)
- A “Distance Determination” Key Project will constitute a powerful legacy to astronomy

SIM has a Galactic Reach

	1%		10%
SIM	2.5	kpc	25 kpc
GAIA	0.4	kpc	4 kpc
Hipparcos	0.010	kpc	0.1 kpc



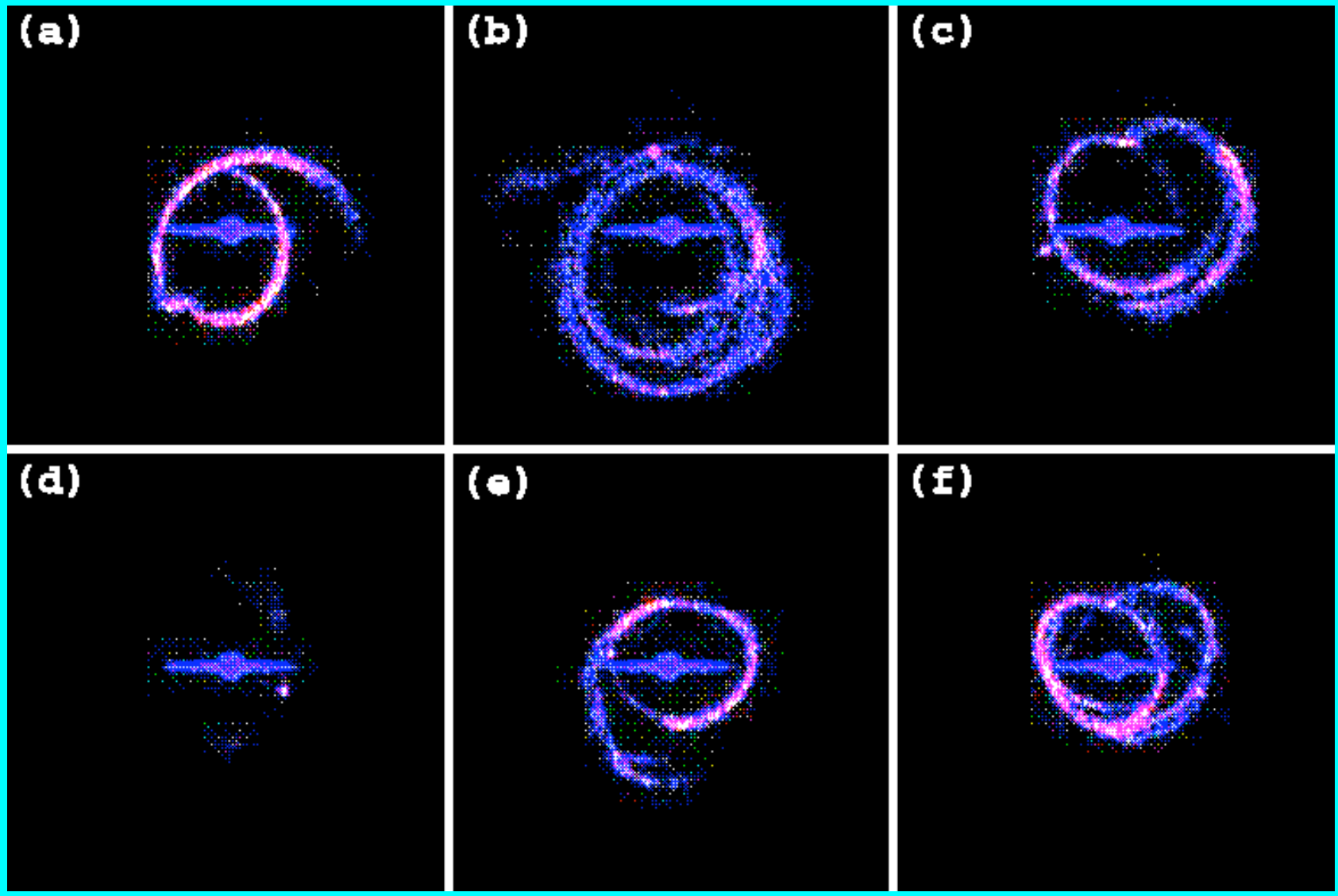
A COSMIC PROBLEM: The Ghost of Hubble (7% is not good enough)



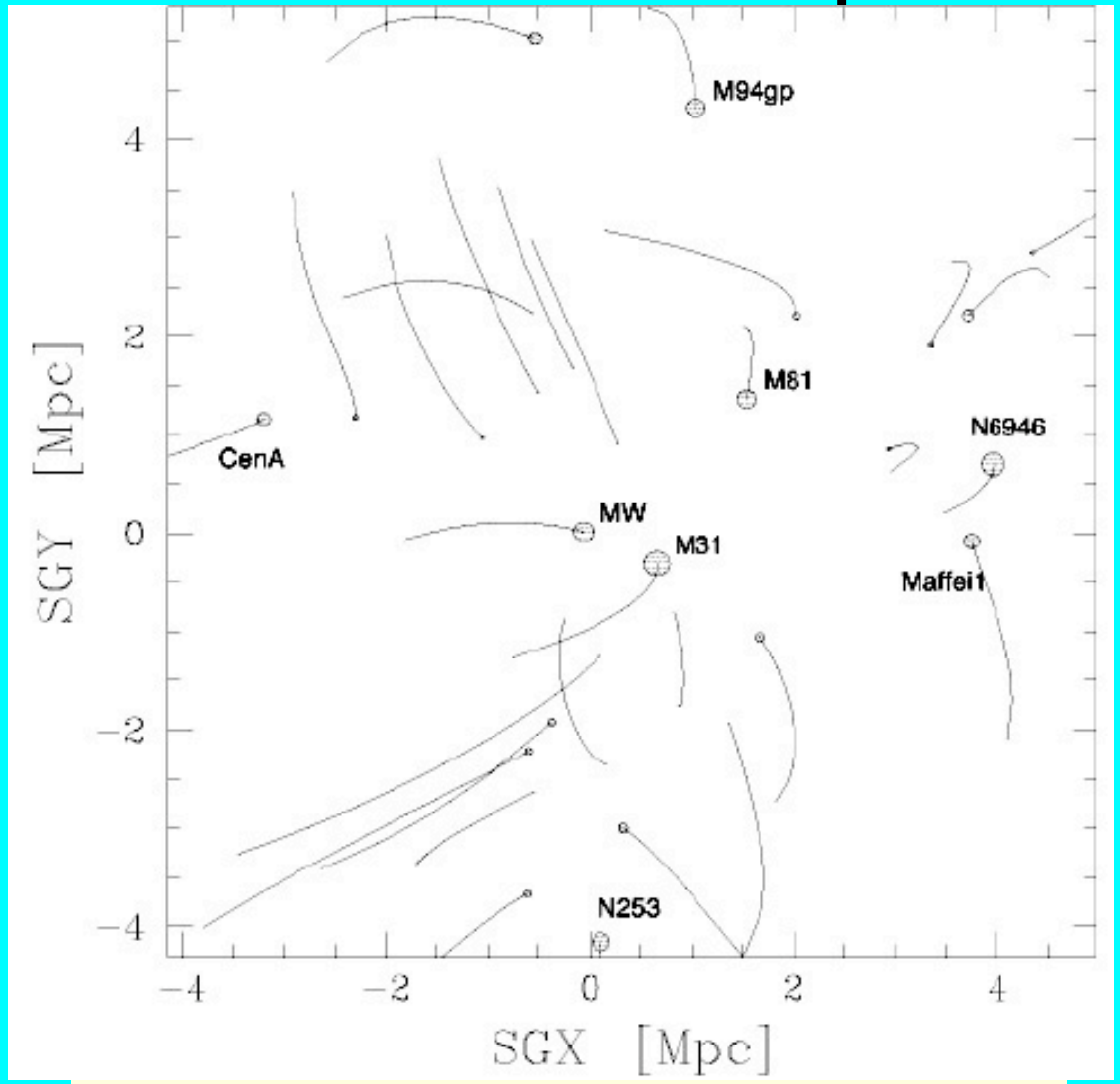
Precision cosmology is limited by precision (and accuracy) of Hubble's constant

- SIM can undertake a thorough calibration of Galactic Cepheids
- SIM can measure the distances to M31 and M33 (rotational parallax)
- SIM can provide an independent determination of the age of the globular clusters

The Shape of our Galaxy



Matter Distribution of the Local Group



Simulated 1 Gyr trajectories of our neighbours

Fundamental Astronomy & Fundamental Physics

- SIM is uniquely suited to probe the true mass spectrum of our Galaxy
  - Microlensing+SIM = mass spectrum
- SIM has the ability to determine masses of neutron stars and black holes
  - Stellar black holes .. Lab for strong gravity and lab for jet formation
  - Neutron stars … Lab for dense matter (e.g. Vela X-1 and equation of state)

SIM: Mature, Robust, Affordable

- SIM is technically ready to launch in 2011
  - Result of $500M (over a 10-year period) technology and design investment
- Run out cost meets NASA target for a 2011 launch
  - Through launch $1,560M (FY06)
  - Operations $ 370M (FY06) [5.5-yr ops + 1.5-yr archive)
- Development plans extraordinarily robust
  - Conservative Phase C/D budget reserves (43%) with appropriate schedule and technical margins
- A 2015 launch adds cost to phase B and risks loss of investment in technical team's knowledge

The Message

- SIM addresses two timely major areas in astronomy & physics:
  - Planets
  - Universe
- SIM - the first true interferometer in space - is ready to be built
- SIM has unrivaled precision

- The team is ready to build for a 2011 launch
- Delay merely adds cost and delays timely science

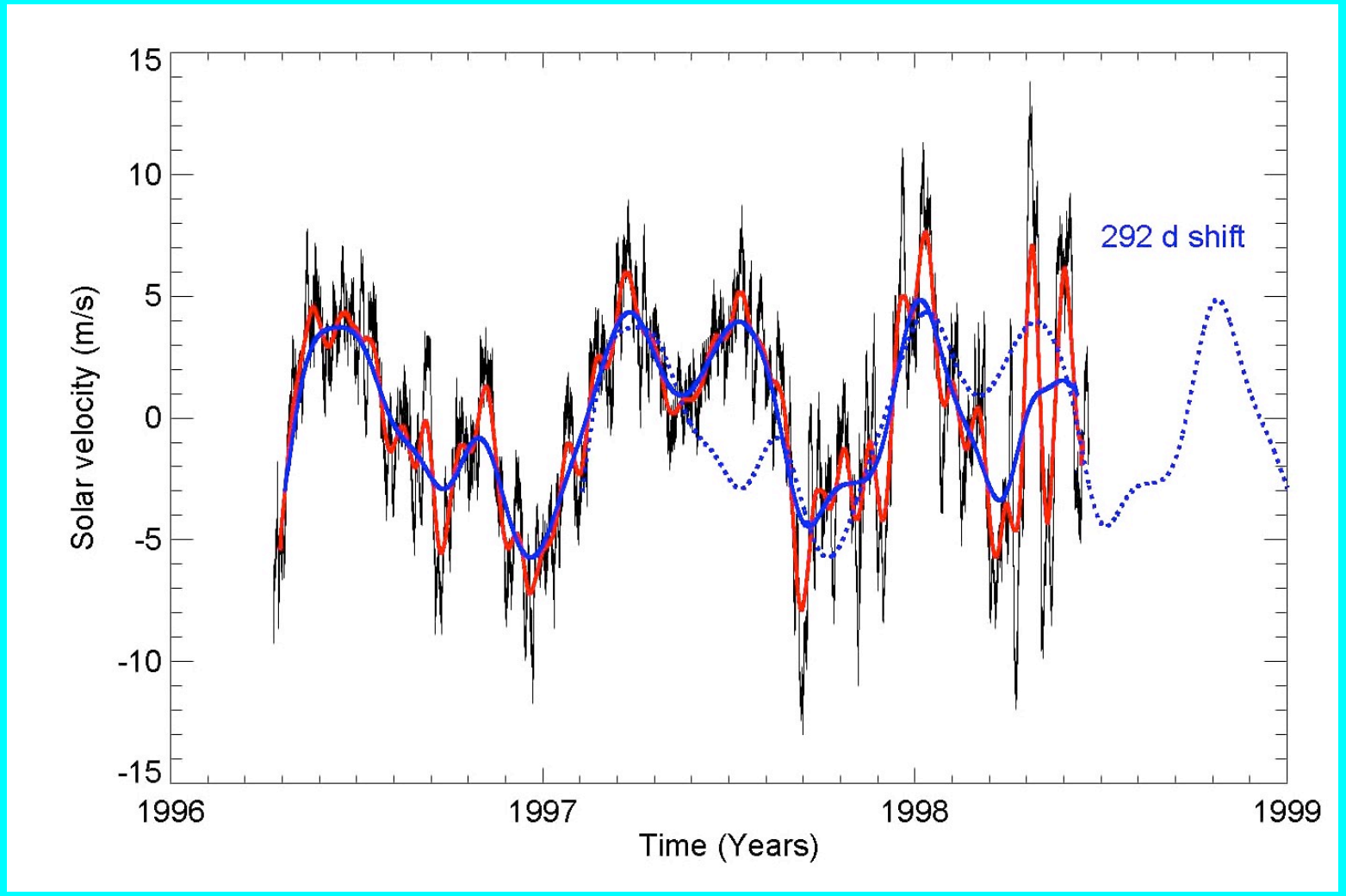
- 50% of SIM time is available for community (along with adequate funding)

- McKee-Taylor in preface to Major Mission recommendations

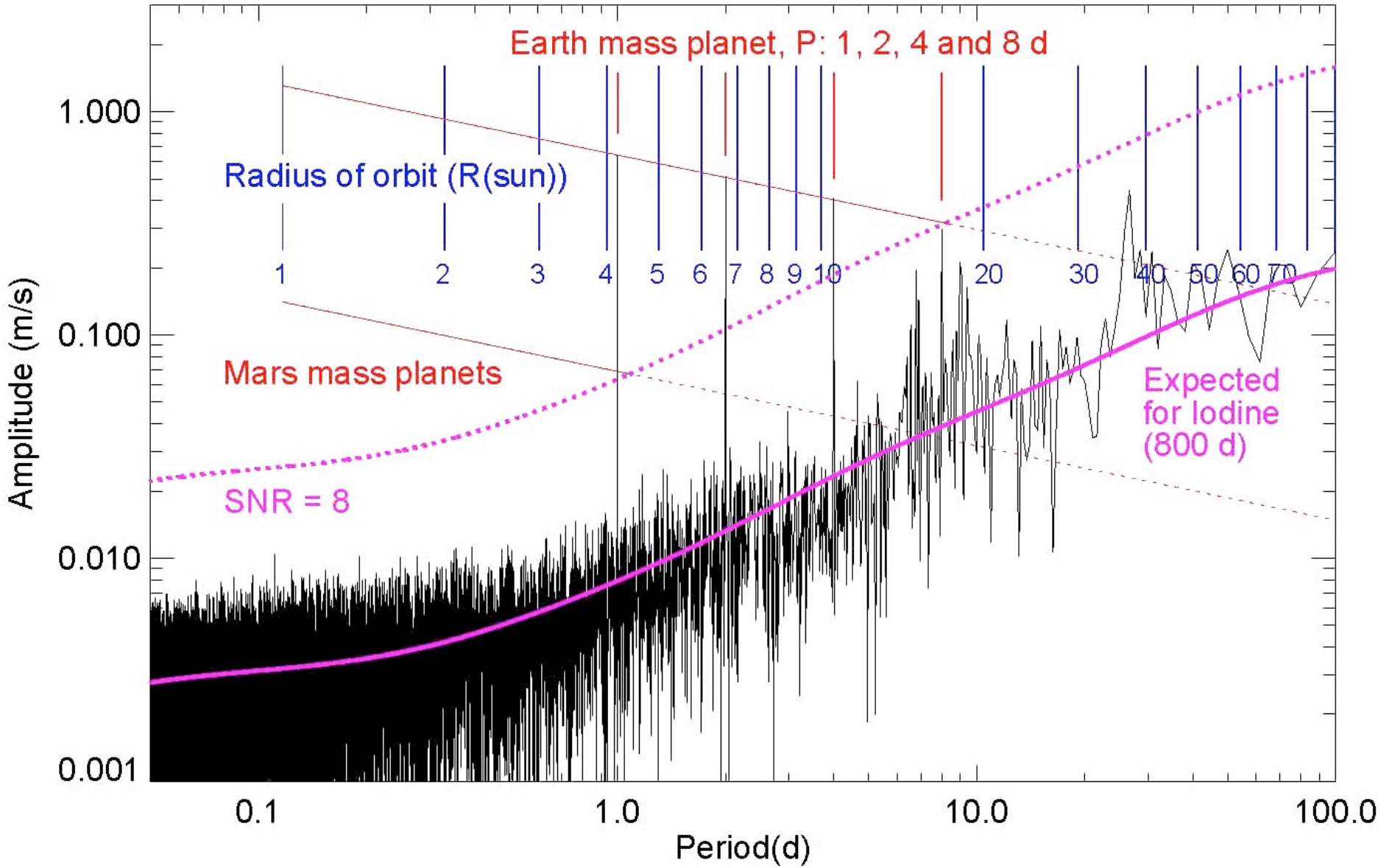
  "… assumed that the Space Interferometry Mission (SIM), one of the initiatives recommended in the 1991 survey report, will be flown …"

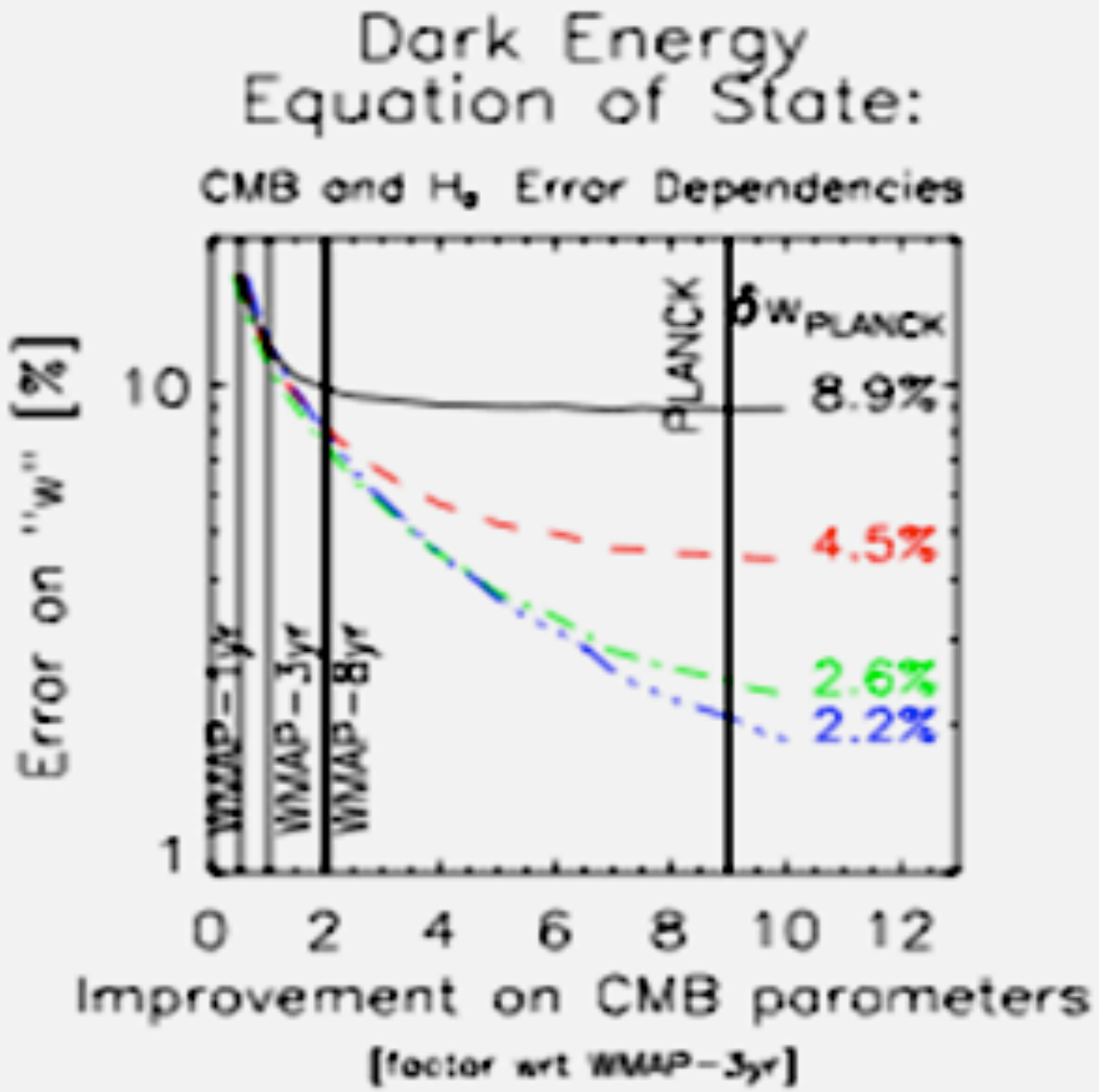
Backup

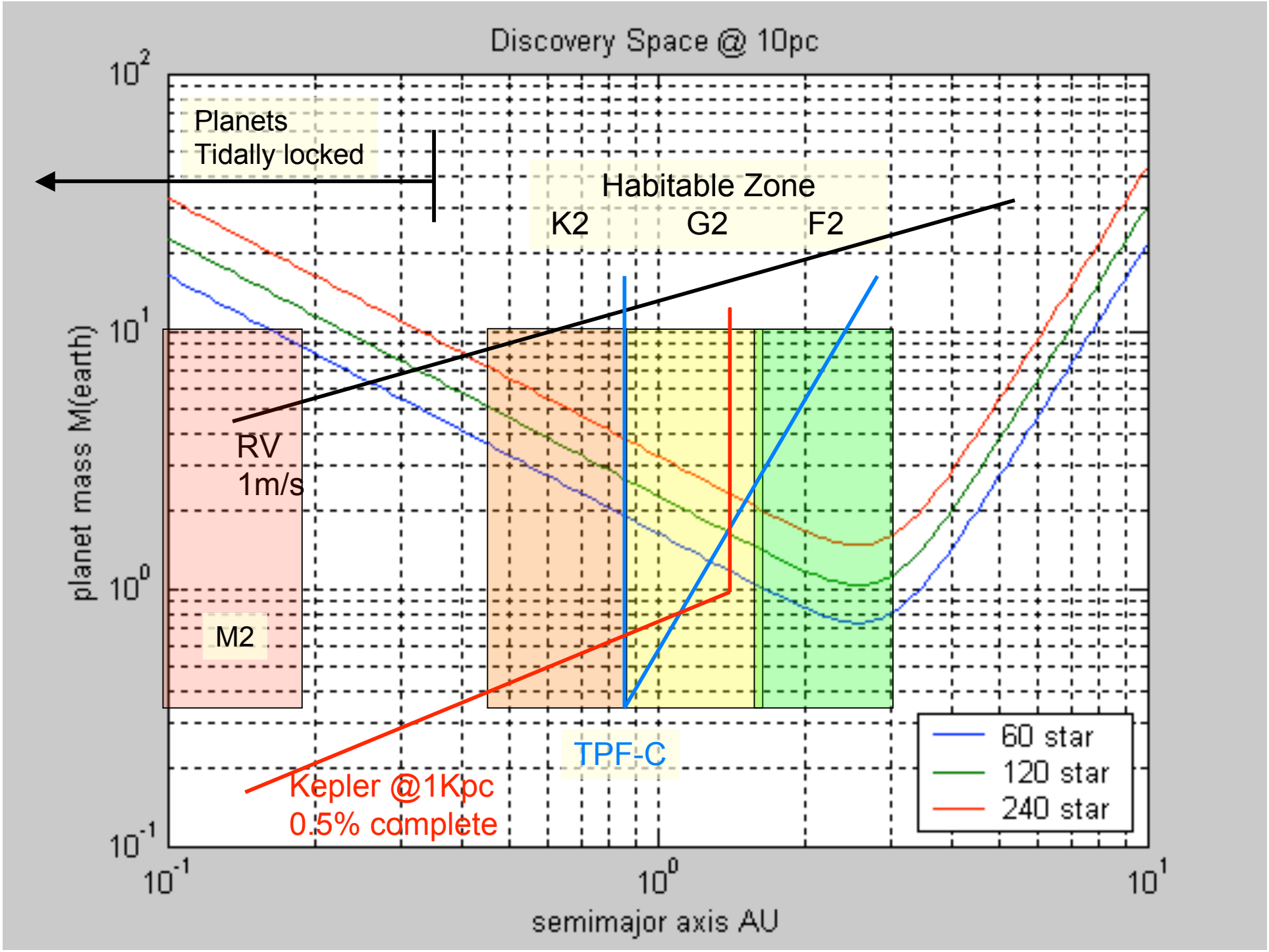
Full disk velocity of the Sun (800 d)



SoHo data (Kjeldsen)


Earth mass planet, P: 1, 2, 4 and 8 d
Radius of orbit (R(sun))
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
Mars mass planets
SNR = 8
Expected
for Iodine
(800 d)
1.000
0.100
0.010
0.001
Amplitude (m/s)
0.1
1.0
10.0
100.0
Period(d)


Dark Energy
Equation of State:
CMB and H_0 Error Dependencies
Error on "w" [%]
10
1
WMAP-1yr
WMAP-3yr
WMAP-8yr
PLANCK
δw_{PLANCK}
8.9%
4.5%
2.6%
2.2%
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
Improvement on CMB parameters
[factor wrt WMAP-3yr]

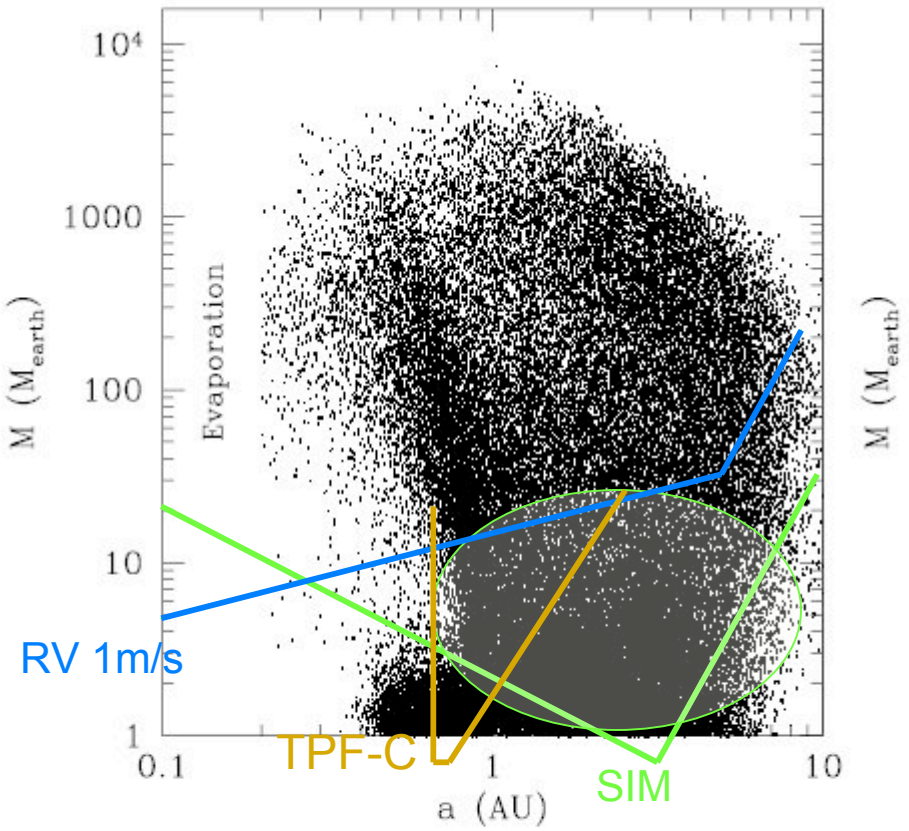

Discovery Space @ 10pc
Planets
Tidally locked
Habitable Zone
K2
G2
F2
RV
1m/s
M2
TPF-C
Kepler @1Kpc
0.5% complete
60 star
120 star
240 star
planet mass M(earth)
semimajor axis AU
10^{2}
10^{1}
10^{0}
10^{-1}
10^{-1}
10^{0}
10^{1}

SIM Detects 1~10 M_{earth} Planets Around Nearby Stars

With the discovery of ~200 planets outside our solar system, this has provided data to constrain models of planetary system formation.

All of these models predict that the Jupiter to Neptune sized planets discovered to date are the tip of the iceberg.

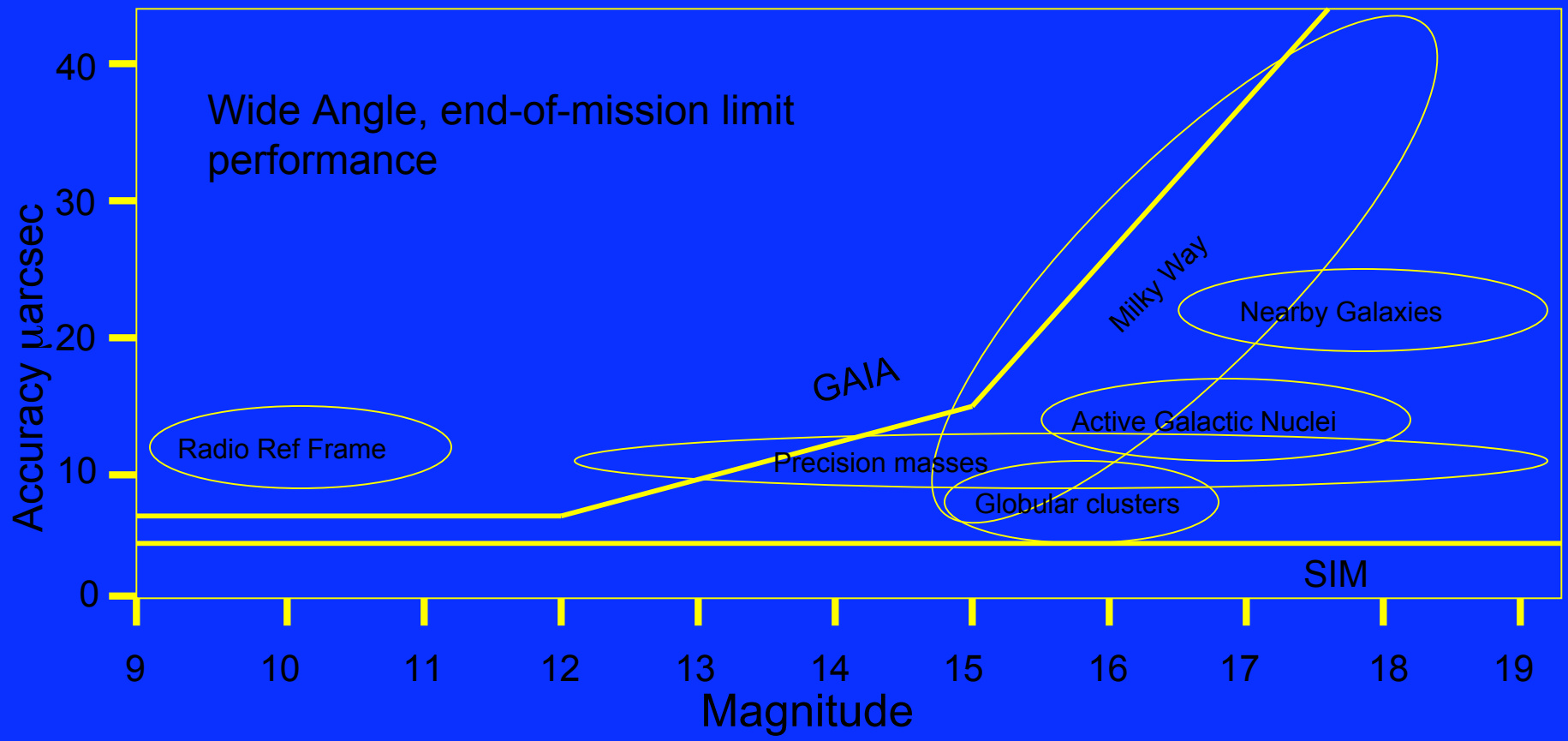
SIM is uniquely position to detect the bulk of these planets, in the 1~10 Mearth 0.4~6.0AU range.

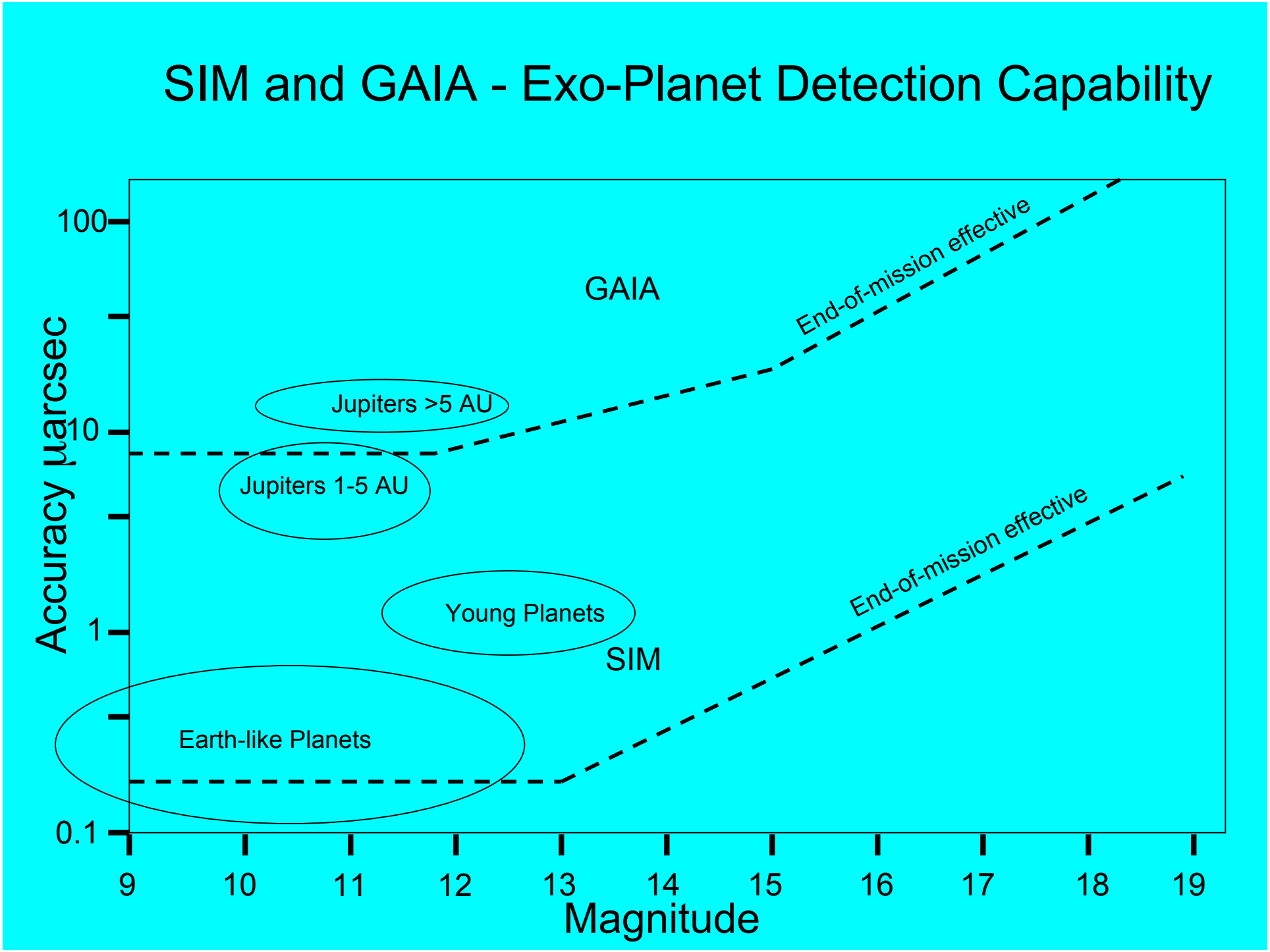


$\Longrightarrow$ the majority of embryos do not become giants

Benz, et al. IAU Coll 200, 2005, p 1.

SIM and GAIA – Wide Angle Astrometry Science Targets



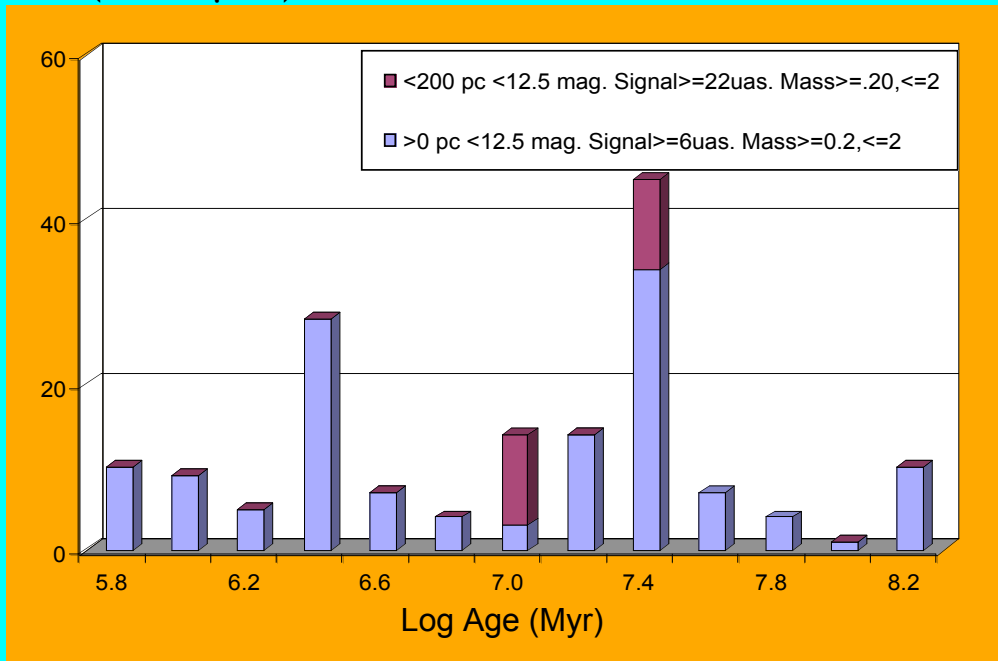

SIM and GAIA - Exo-Planet Detection Capability
Accuracy μarcsec
100
10
1
0.1
GAIA
End-of-mission effective
Jupiters >5 AU
Jupiters 1-5 AU
Young Planets
SIM
End-of-mission effective
Earth-like Planets
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
Magnitude

SIM Science (and fraction accomplished by GAIA)

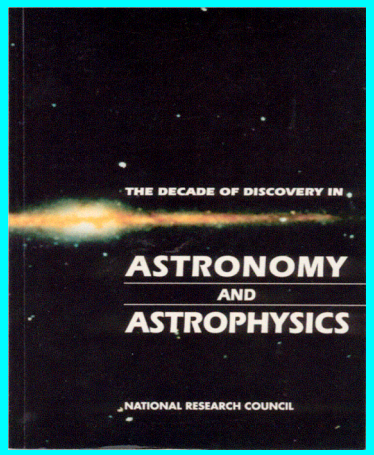
Key SIM Science Project Objectives	GAIA %
Find Earth-sized planets in Habitable Zone	0%
Reconnaissance of young planetary systems	~0%
Unbiased galactic mass function (from microlensing)	0%
Star masses to 1% (SIM program emphasizes difficult types)	~0%
Motion in/of QSO's, AGN's	0%
Exo-Planetary system contents census	>Jupiter
Local Galaxy group mass distribution (from motions)	8%
Age of galaxy (from globular clusters and stellar models)	20%
Structure of Galaxy (size, spiral arms, tidal streams, bulge, halo)	~50%
Coordinate frame tie to cosmological standard of rest (QSO's)	~50%

How Do Planetary Systems Form & Evolve?

- What fraction of young stars have gas-giant planets?
  - Only SIM astrometry can find planets around young stars since active stellar atmospheres and rapid rotation preclude radial velocity or transit searches
- Do gas-giant planets form at the "water-condensation" line?
  - SIM will survey ~200 stars to a level adequate to find Jovian or smaller planets on orbits <1 AU to >5 AU around stars from 25-150 pc
- Does the incidence, distribution, and orbital parameters of planets change with age and protostellar disk mass?
  - Study of clusters with ages spanning 1-100 Myr to test orbital migration theories
  - Correlate with Spitzer results on disks (4-24 μm)
- Where, when, and how do terrestrial planets form ?
  - Understand the formation and orbital migration mechanisms of the giant planets
- ***No other technique can find planets down to Saturn-Jupiter mass within 1-10 AU of parent stars at 25-150 pc***



1990 & 2000 NRC Decadal Reviews



"…emphasized the dual capability of SIM, noting that this capability would enable "*…both… detecting planets and … mapping the structure of the Milky Way and other nearby galaxies.*"

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Astronomy and Astrophysics in the New Millennium: Panel Reports (2001)

Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Applications (CPSMA)

Board on Physics and Astronomy (BPA)

Pg 328

SUMMARY

The following missions are the priority recommendations of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee's Panel on Ultraviolet, Optical, and Infrared Astronomy from Space. All recommendations are a consensus of the panel.

MAJOR MISSIONS

When it prioritized major missions, the panel assumed that the Space Interferometry Mission (SIM), one of the initiatives recommended in the 1991 survey committee report,[1] will be flown and that the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) will operate until 2010.

NEXT GENERATION SPACE TELESCOPE

NGST, ranked by the panel as the top-priority major mission for the decade, will reveal the onset of star and galaxy formation in the early universe. Its combination of scientific breadth and depth make it a compelling successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. It is the first of two logical paths to improved image resolution and sensitivity in space: increase overall aperture size. It should be technologically ready to be launched before 2010.

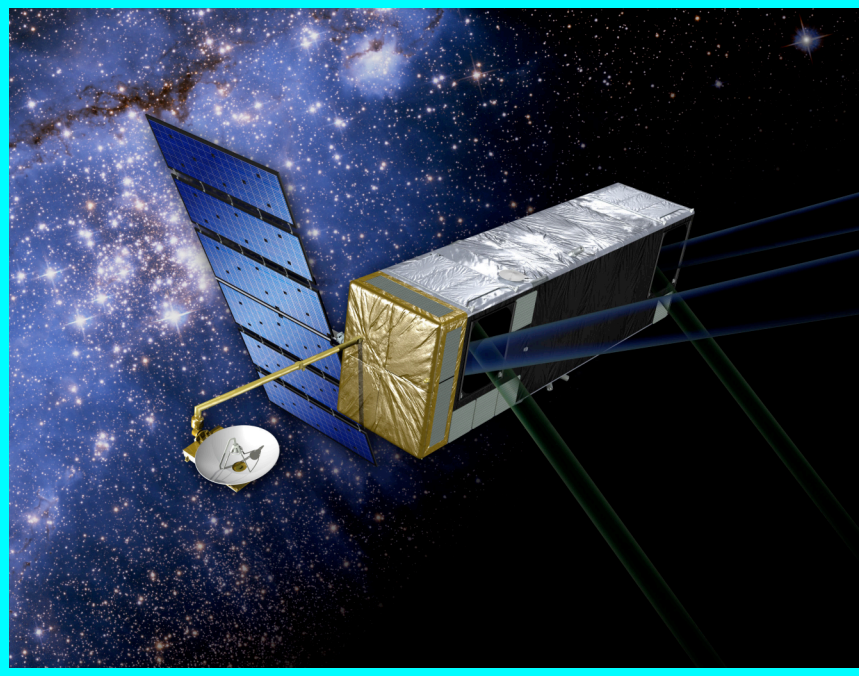
The panel considered extensions of the core mission, currently 1 to 5 μm, and favors an extension to longer wavelengths, beyond 20 μm, for example, as scientifically more useful than extension to shorter wavelengths.

TERRESTRIAL PLANET FINDER

TPF was ranked as the second-priority major mission for the decade. Designed to

SIM, Space Astrometric Interferometer

- 3 stellar interferometers connected by a laser optical truss (picometer accurate)
- 2 Guide interferometers hold the spacecraft attitude (in knowledge) stable at the uas level, while the Science interferometer measures the position of targets within its 15 deg field of regard (1 target at a time)
  - Narrow angle measurements are made over a ~1deg radius field of regard.
- λ 0.45~0.95 um in 80 spectral channels (wavelength synthesis imaging of simple objects)
- Technology development complete July 2005



- Global astrometry (5yr mission)
  - 4 uas position (ref to QSO)
  - **2.5uas/yr** proper motion
  - **4 uas** parallax
- **1uas** Narrow angle astrometry (1 epoch 1100 s integ)
- Mag limit, -1 to 20 mag
- Design margin (~30%)