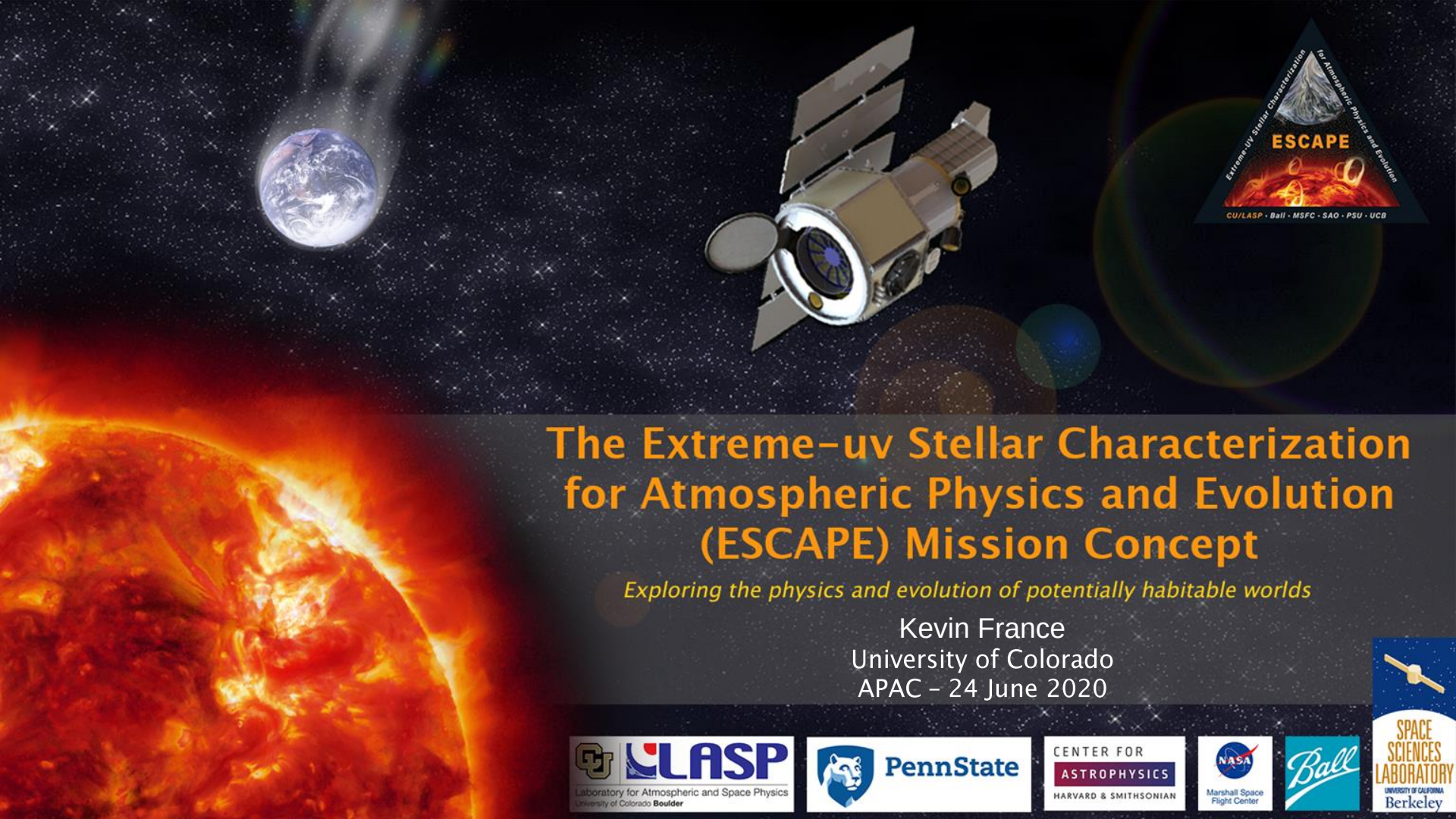


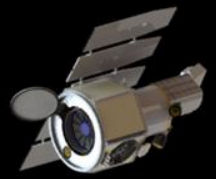
The Extreme-uv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution (ESCAPE) Mission Concept

Exploring the physics and evolution of potentially habitable worlds

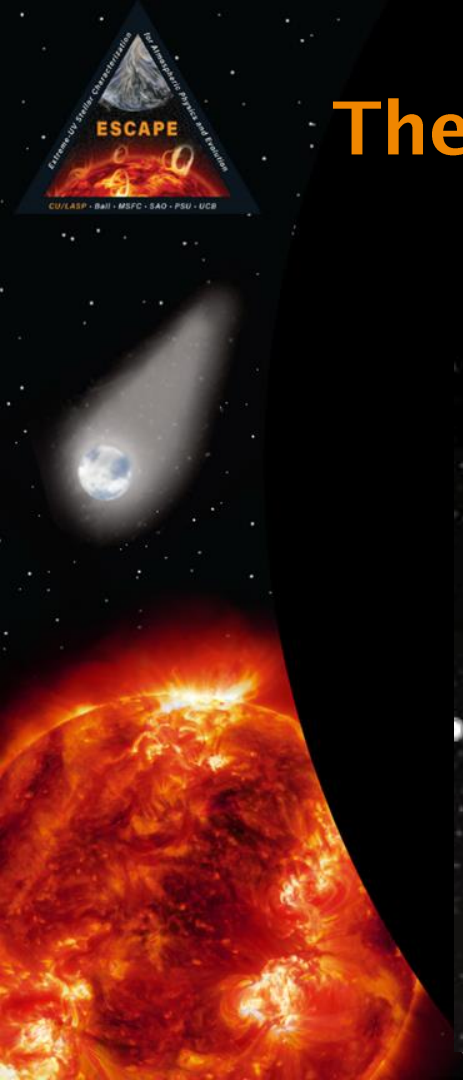
Kevin France
University of Colorado

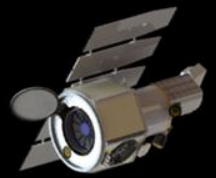
APAC – 24 June 2020

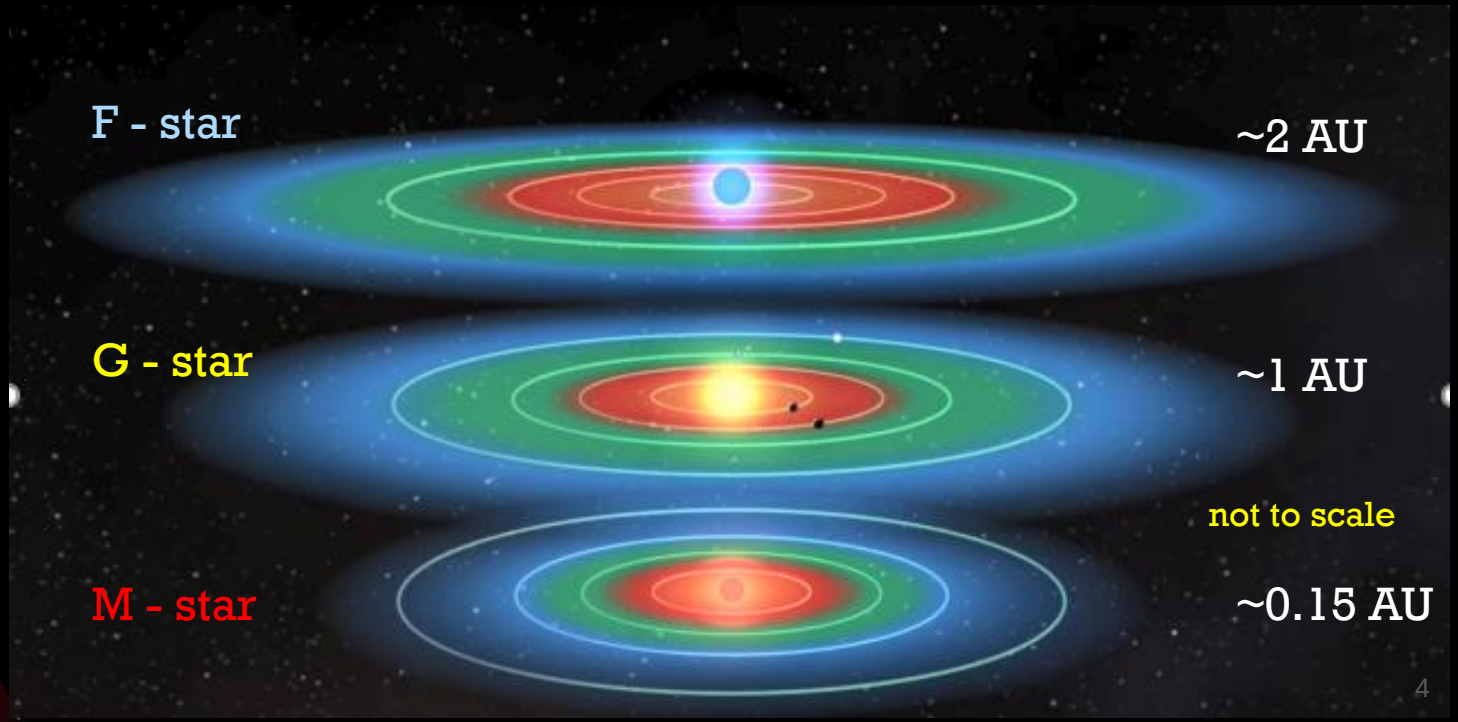
The liquid water “Habitable Zone”



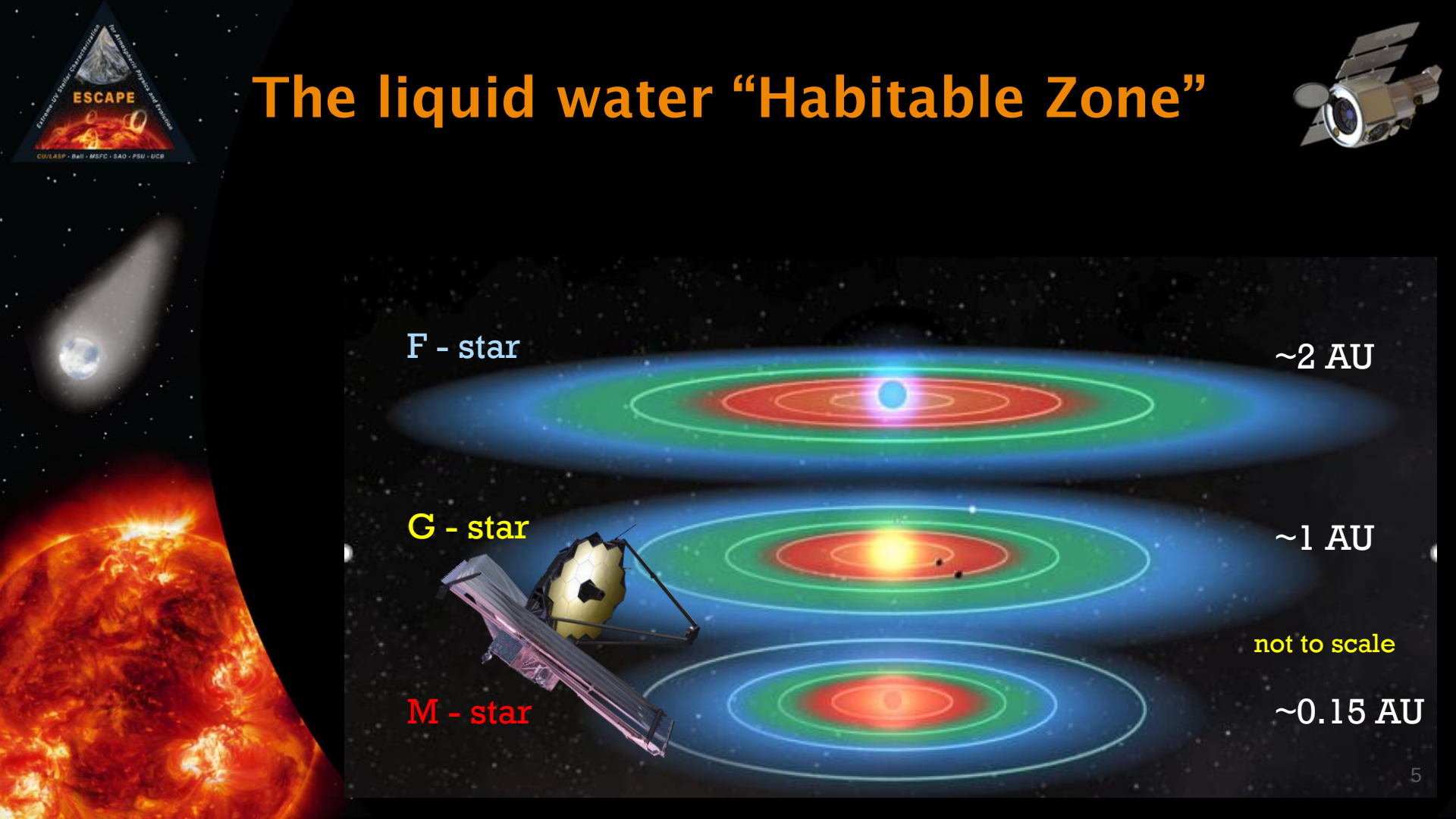
The liquid water “Habitable Zone”



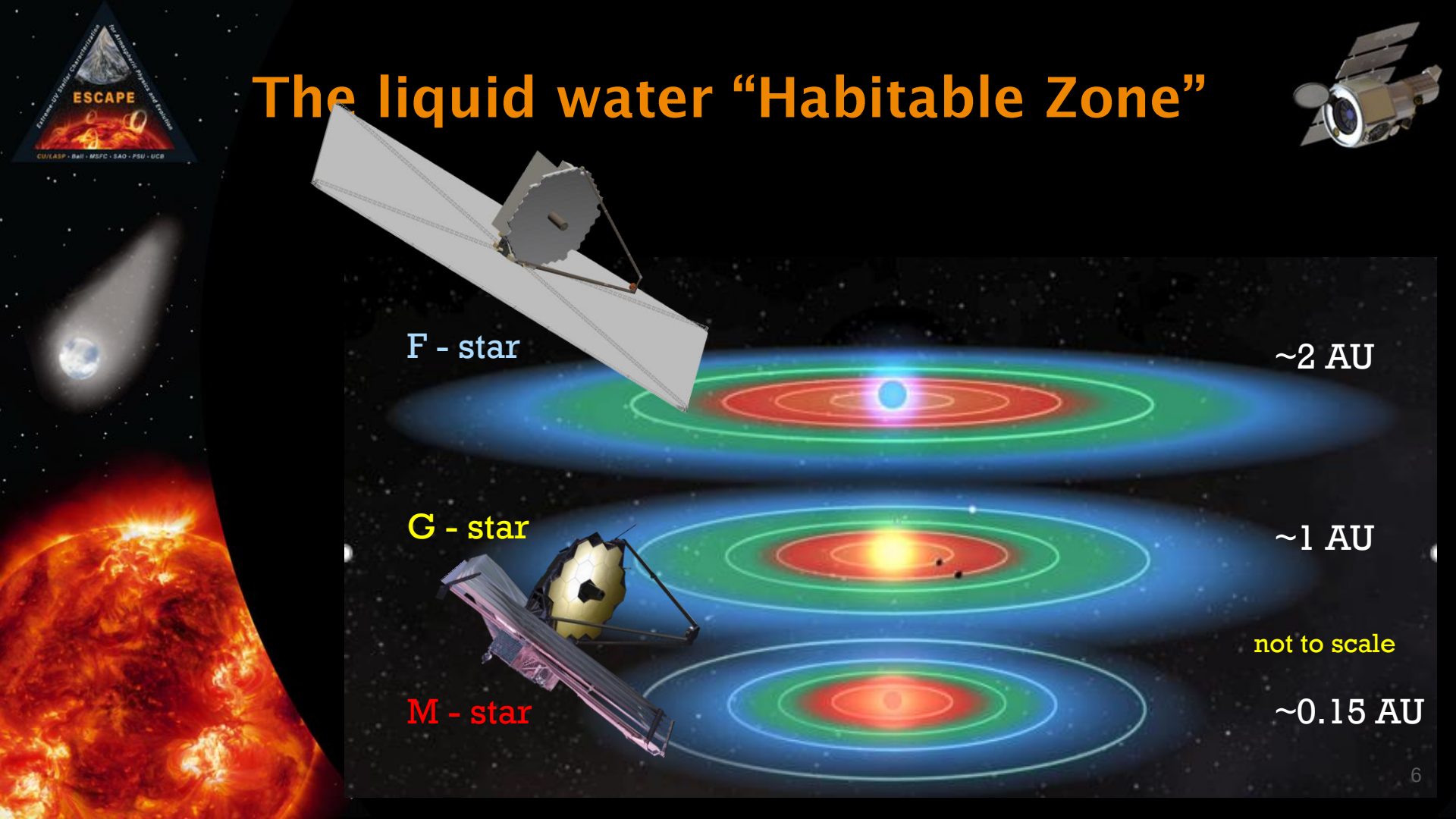




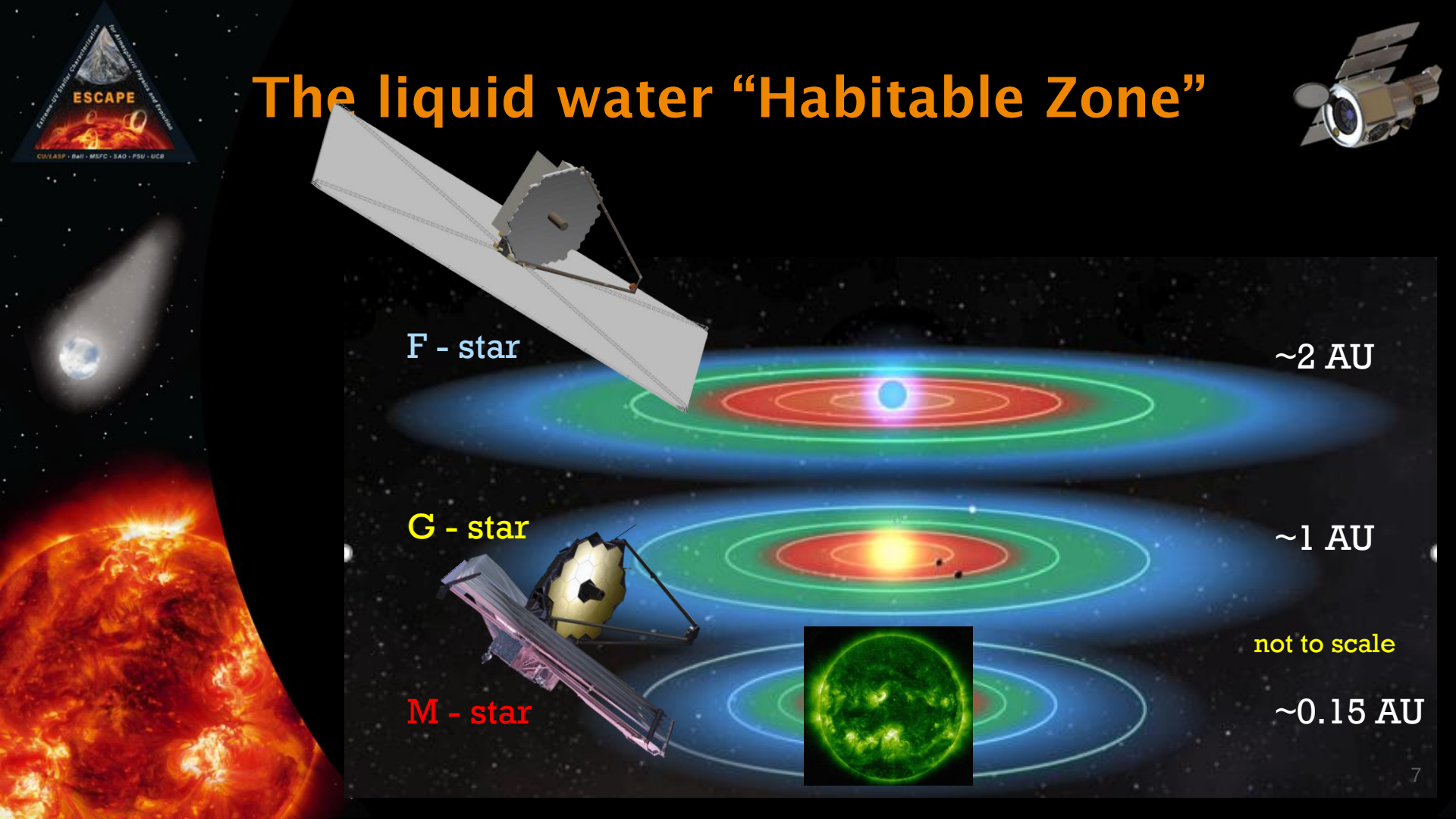
The liquid water “Habitable Zone”



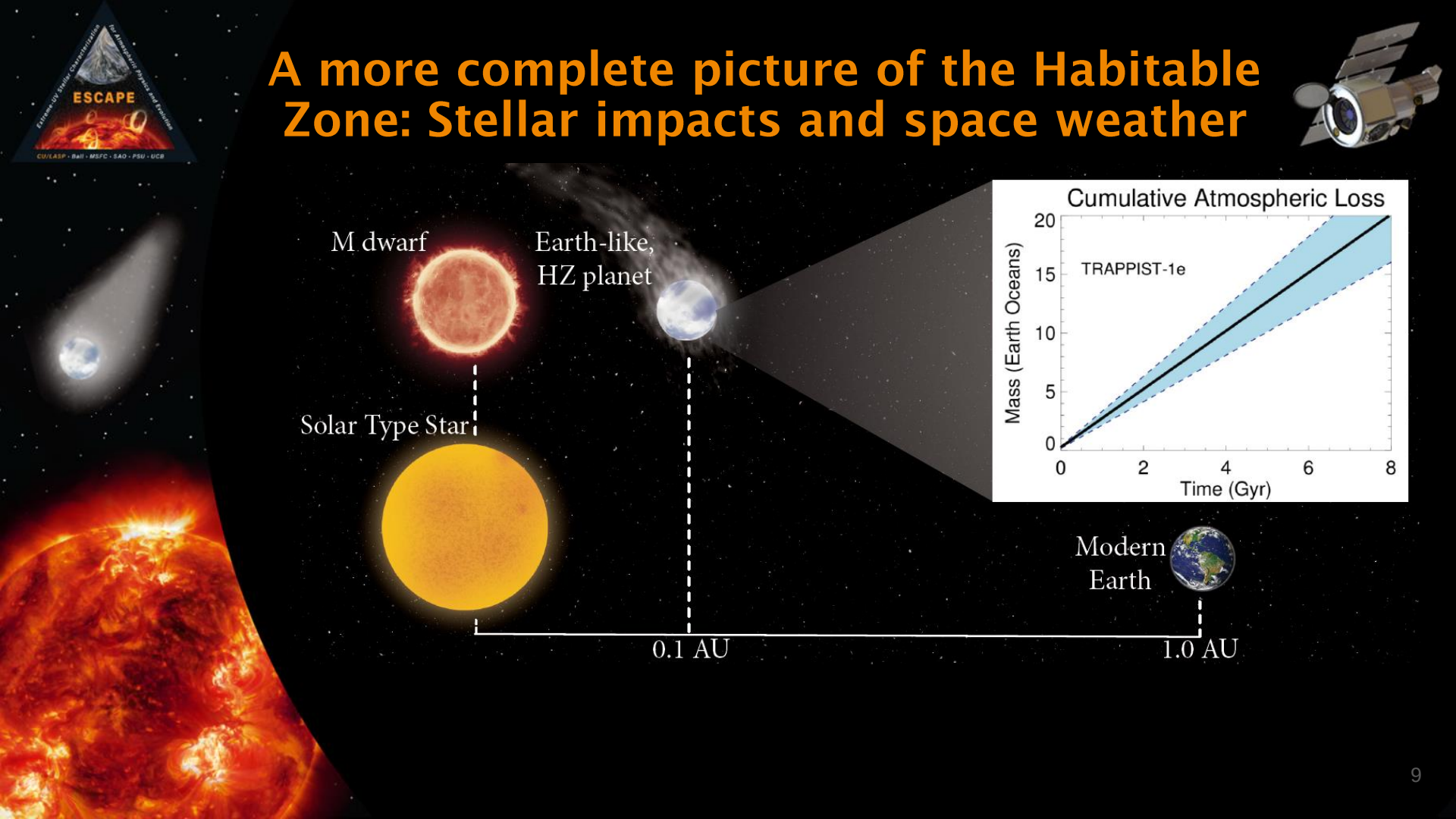
The liquid water “Habitable Zone”



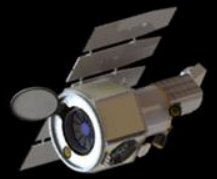
The liquid water “Habitable Zone”

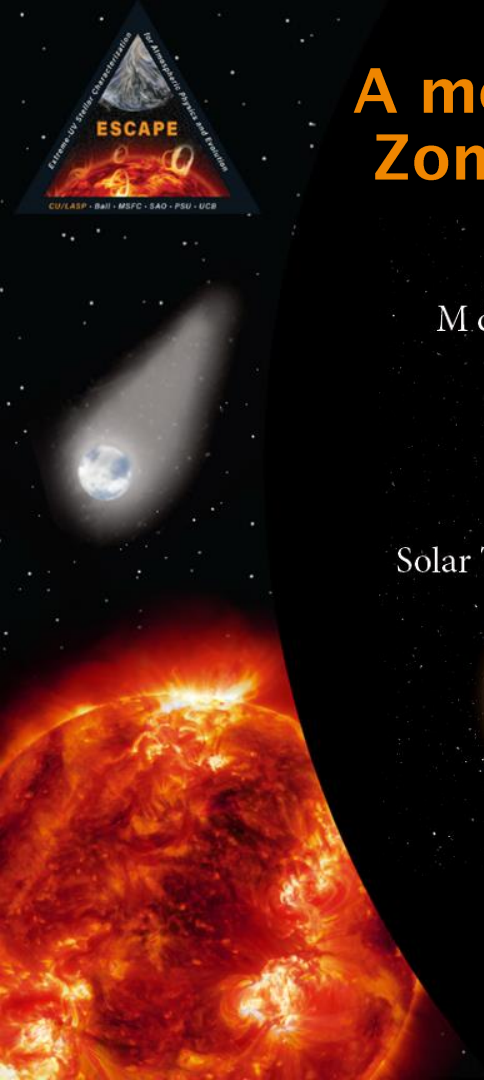


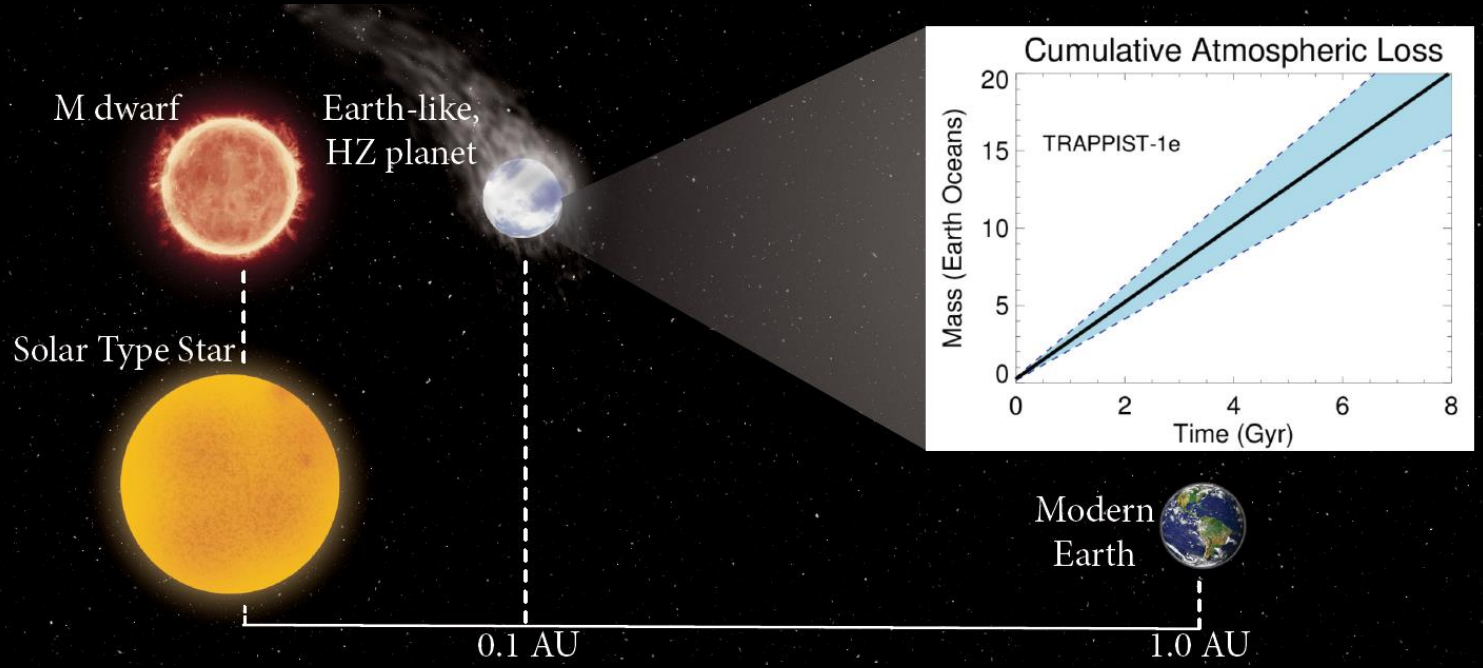
A more complete picture of the Habitable Zone: Stellar impacts and space weather



A more complete picture of the Habitable Zone: Stellar impacts and space weather

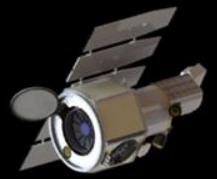




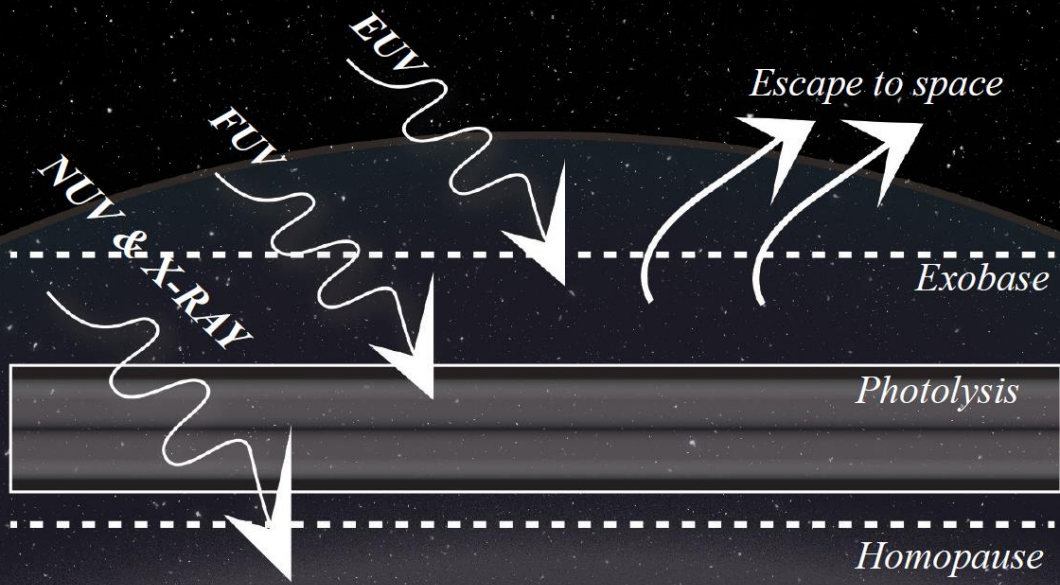


Which star-planet systems are conducive to the maintenance of habitable conditions?
Where should NASA and its partners commit their resources?

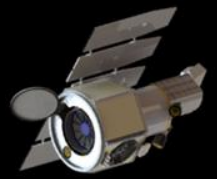
Stellar EUV (10 – 91nm) flux: the driver of atmospheric escape

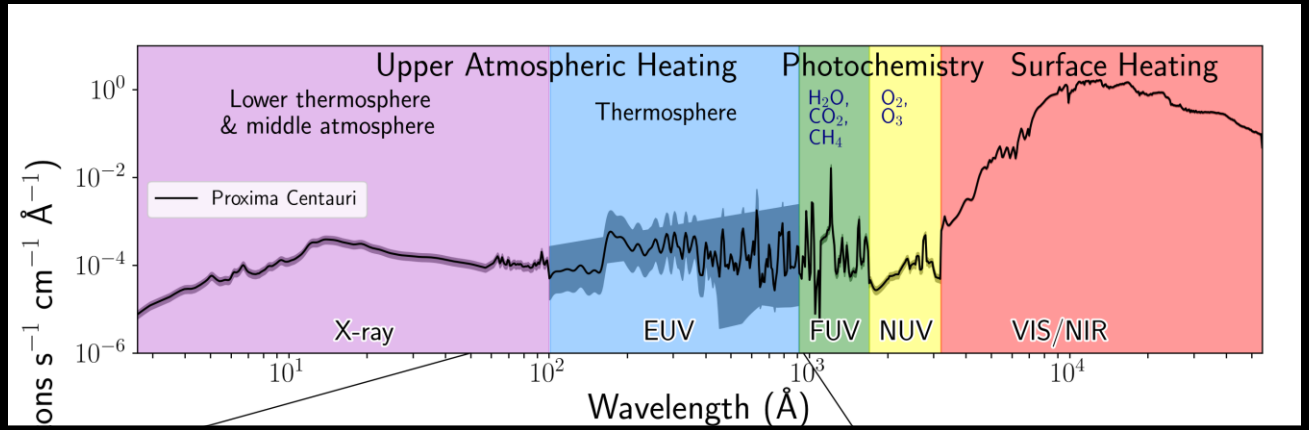


High-energy stellar photons control the atmospheric physics and chemistry of temperate, rocky planets. The EUV dominates heating of the upper atmosphere and drives escape.



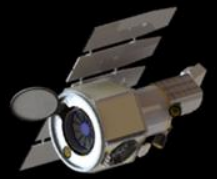
EUV environment is the dominant uncertainty for exoplanet atmosphere survival

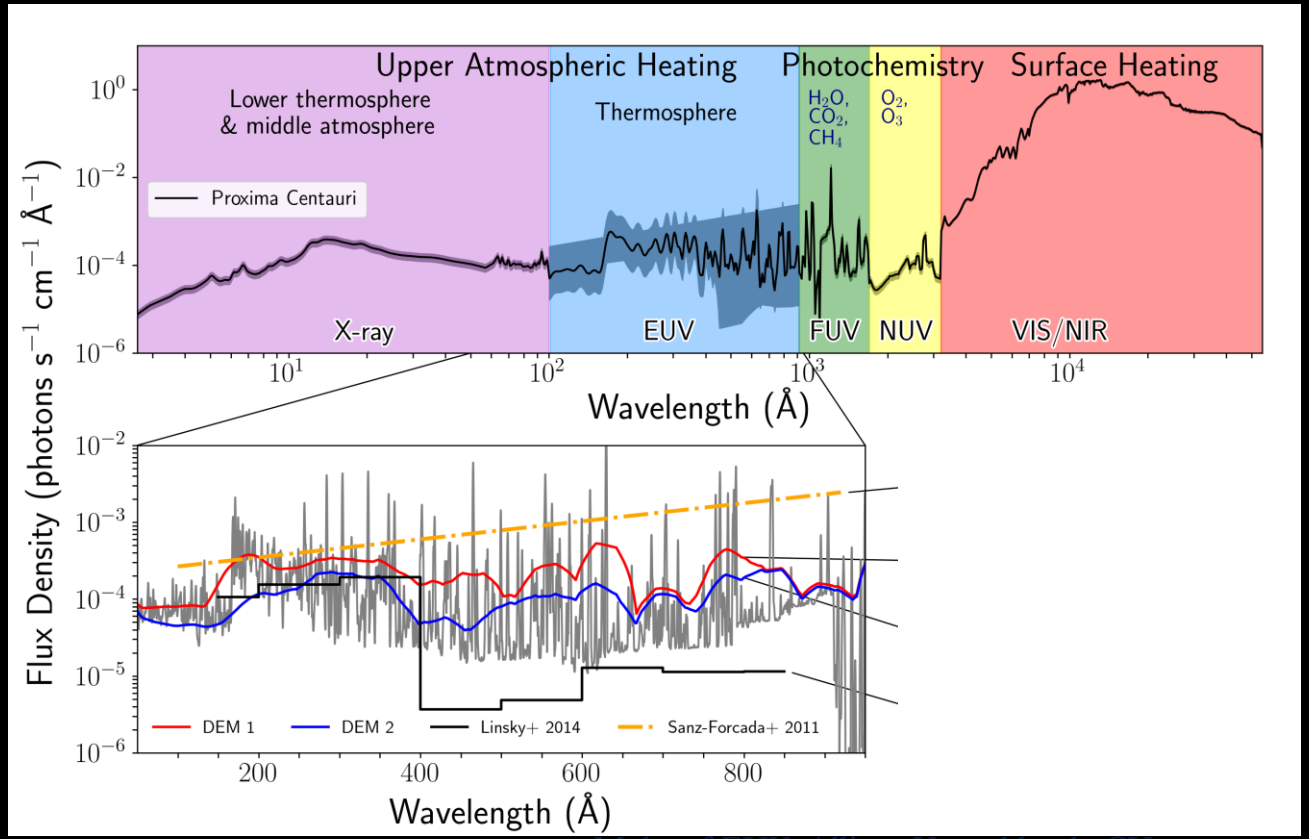




Adapted from France et al. (2016)

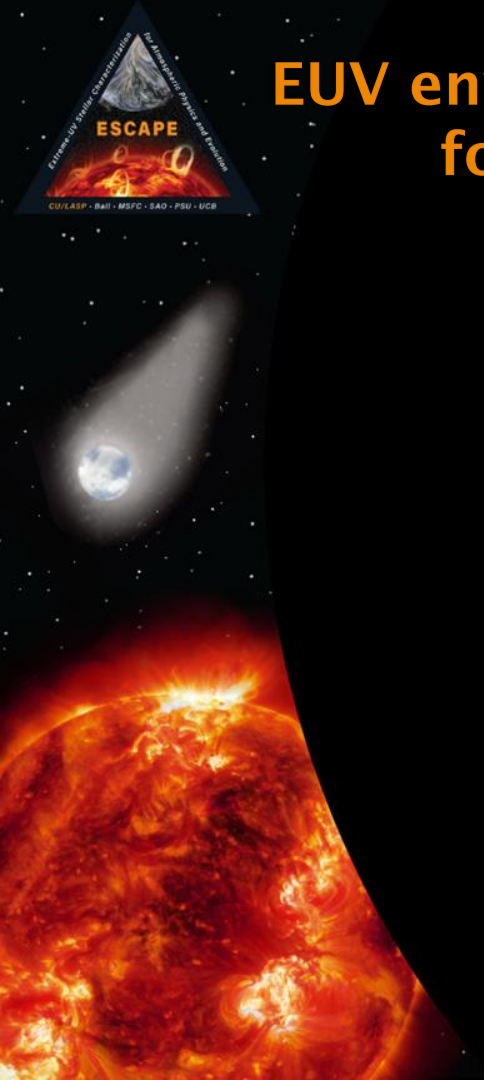
EUV environment is the dominant uncertainty for exoplanet atmosphere survival

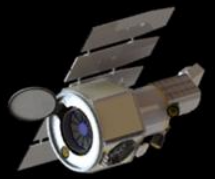


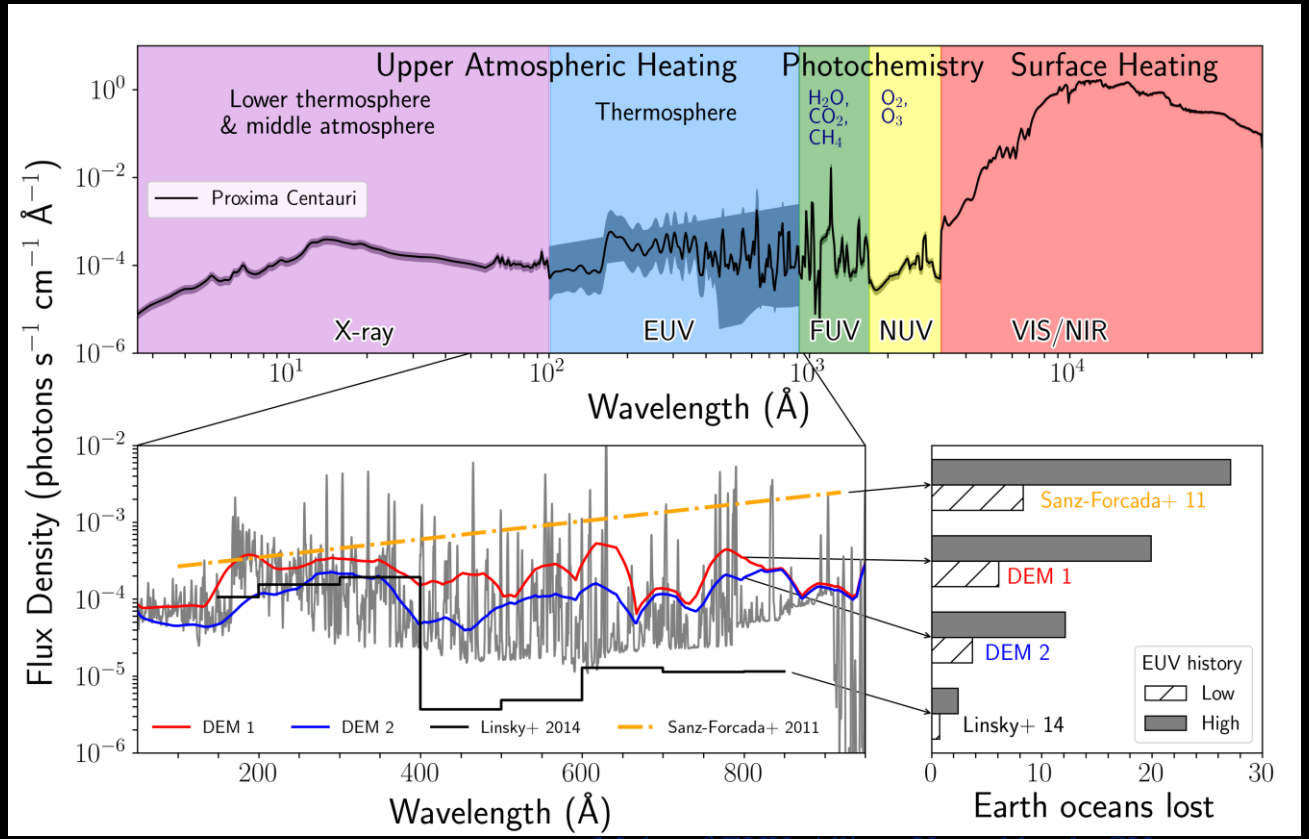


M dwarf EUV: Allison Youngblood - CU

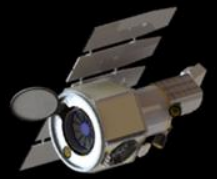
EUV environment is the dominant uncertainty for exoplanet atmosphere survival





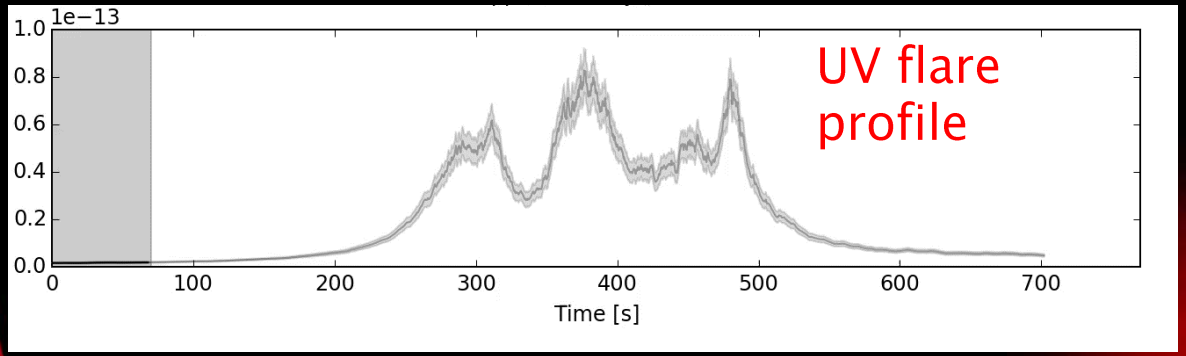


Impulsive Stellar Eruptions Drive Atmospheric Escape



Flares & CMEs

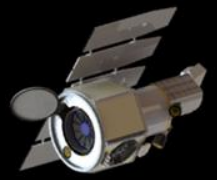
Optically Inactive M star (P_{rot} ~ 40 days).



- Flares may dominate EUV output of active stars
- Stellar particle bombardment drives ion escape, charge exchange, pickup/sputtering loss processes

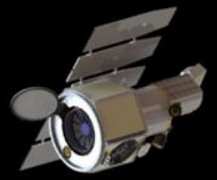
Adapted from Loyd et al. (2018)

ESCAPE Science Objectives



1) Determine if stellar radiation environments permit habitable conditions to exist on rocky exoplanets

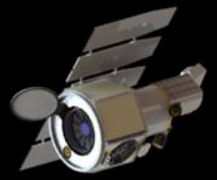
ESCAPE Science Objectives



1) Determine if stellar radiation environments permit habitable conditions to exist on rocky exoplanets

2) Characterize stellar EUV evolution & flares, and their impact on habitable environments

ESCAPE Science Objectives

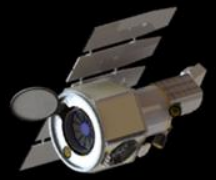


1) Determine if stellar radiation environments permit habitable conditions to exist on rocky exoplanets

2) Characterize stellar EUV evolution & flares, and their impact on habitable environments

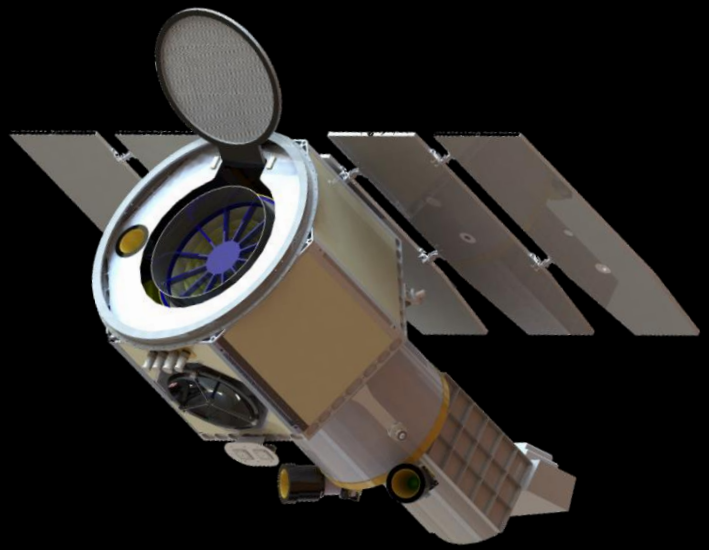
3) Determine the impact of coronal mass ejections on atmospheric mass loss

The ESCAPE Science and Implementation

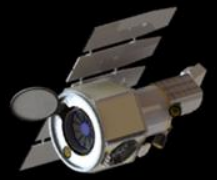


EUV & FUV (7 – 180 nm) spectroscopy of 200 nearby stars, including most promising exoplanet hosts

Atmospheric models using ESCAPE data as inputs quantify atmospheric loss rates and identify the most promising habitable planet targets

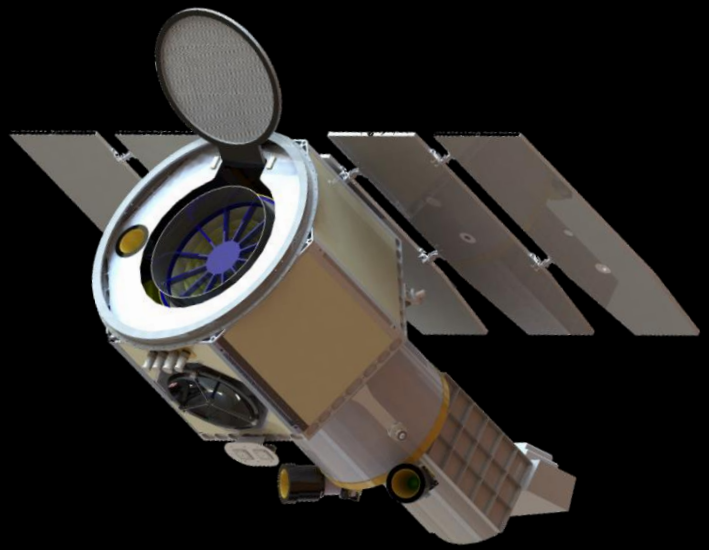


The ESCAPE Science and Implementation

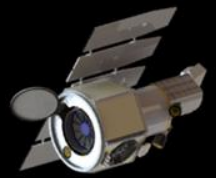


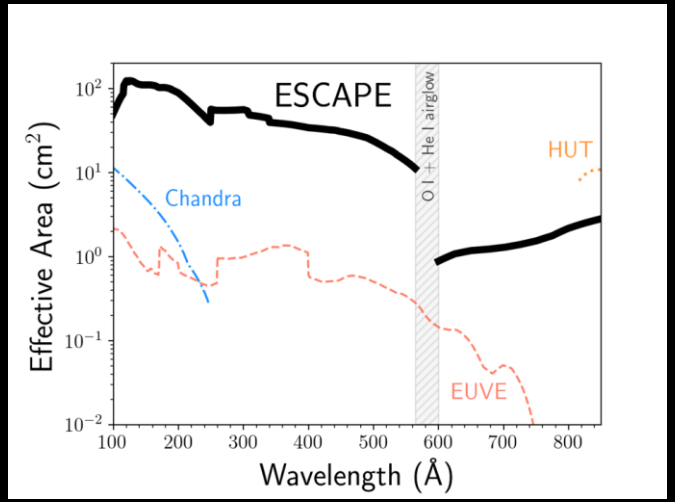
EUV & FUV (7 – 180 nm) spectroscopy of 200 nearby stars, including most promising exoplanet hosts

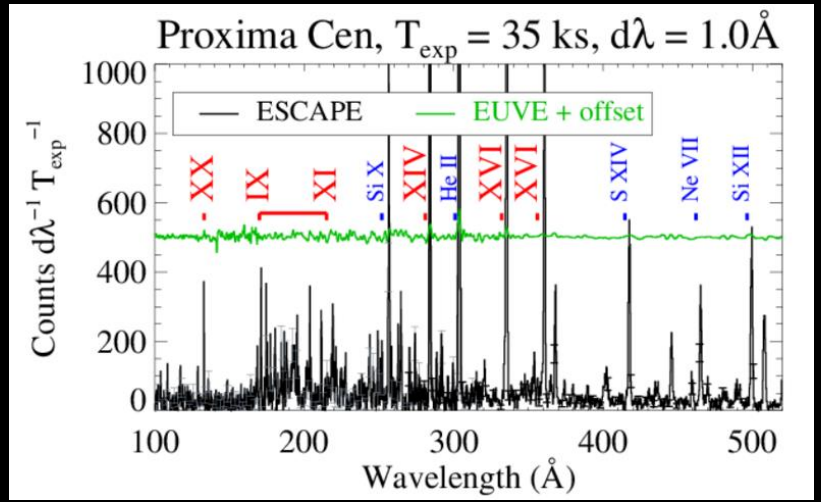
Launch in spring 2025 with a 2 year primary mission



The ESCAPE Science Program



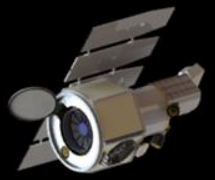


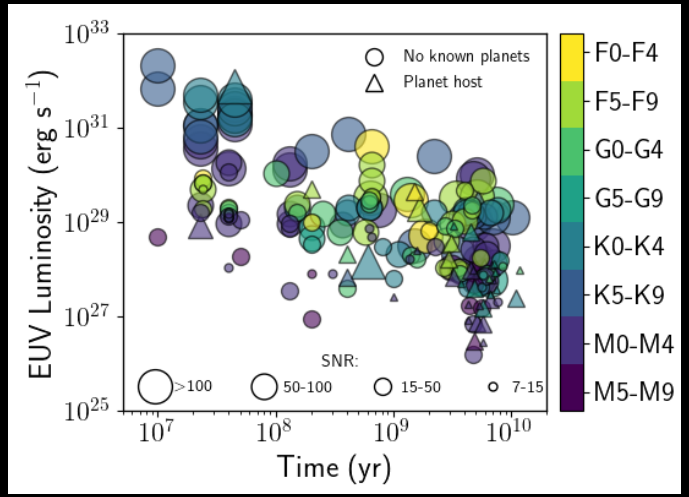


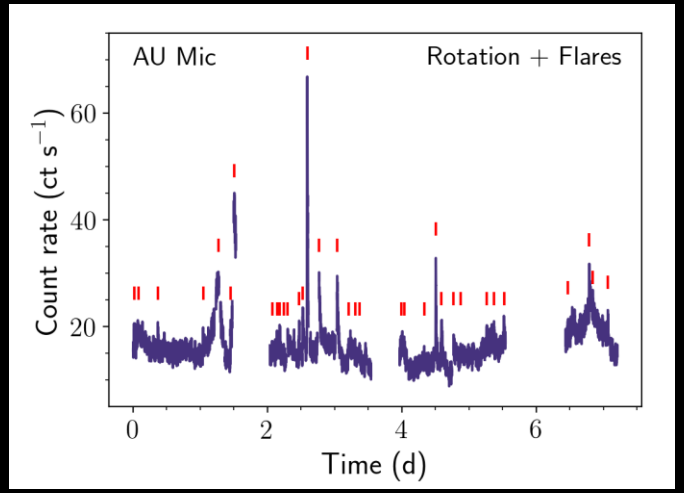
<u>> 100 x sensitivity of EUVE</u>:

First statistical study of EUV irradiance on planet-hosting stars

The ESCAPE Science Program





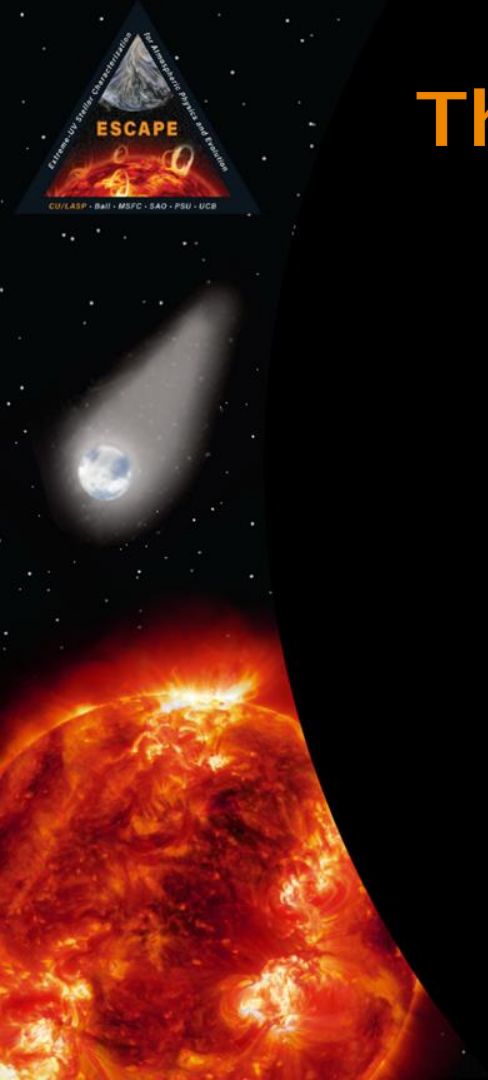


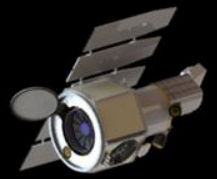
<u>> 100 x sensitivity of EUVE</u>:
First statistical study of EUV irradiance on important stellar/planetary timescales.

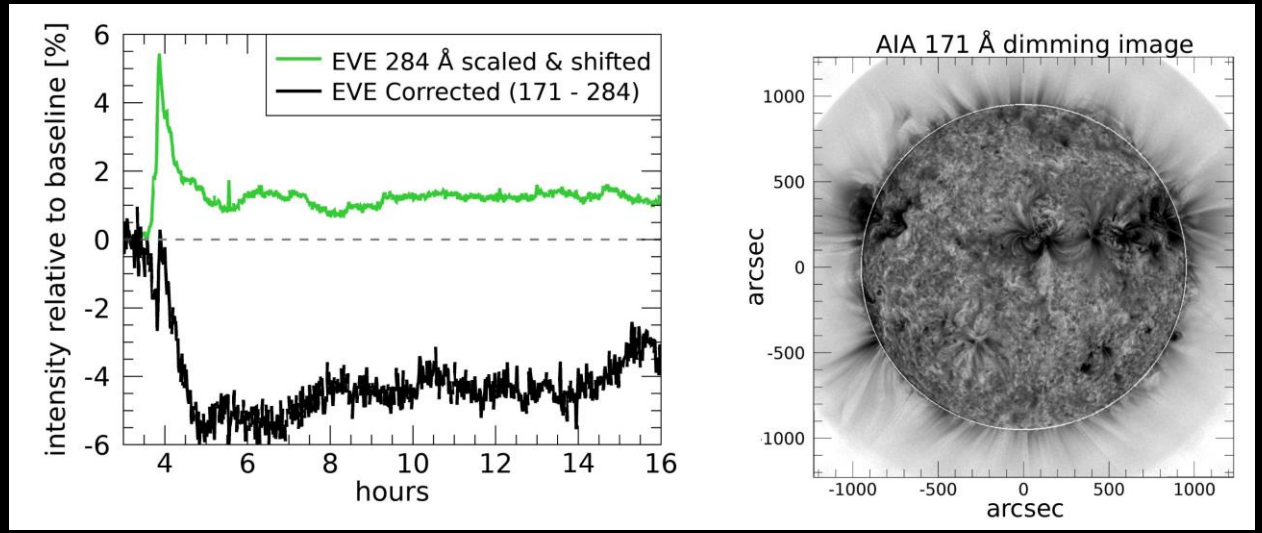
1) Evolutionary (Myr – Gyr)
2) Rotation/Stellar Cycle (days – years)
3) Impulsive (minutes – hours)

AU Mic data dapted from Kowalski et al.

The ESCAPE Science Program







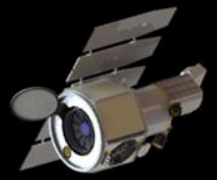
> <u>100 x sensitivity of EUVE</u>:

1) CME frequency distribution via **coronal dimming** (10 – 15 F, G, and K stars)
2) Relationship between flares and CMEs
3) CME kinetic energy for brightest stars

SDO and AIA data adapted from Mason et al. (2016)

The ESCAPE Science Team

(Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



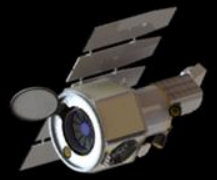
The study of stellar impacts on terrestrial exoplanets is an inherently interdisciplinary endeavor.

The ESCAPE science team combines experts from astrophysics, heliophysics, and planetary science.

Principal Investigator	Kevin France (Colorado)
Project Scientist	Jeremy Drake (CfA/SAO)
Instrument Scientist	Brian Fleming (Colorado)

The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)

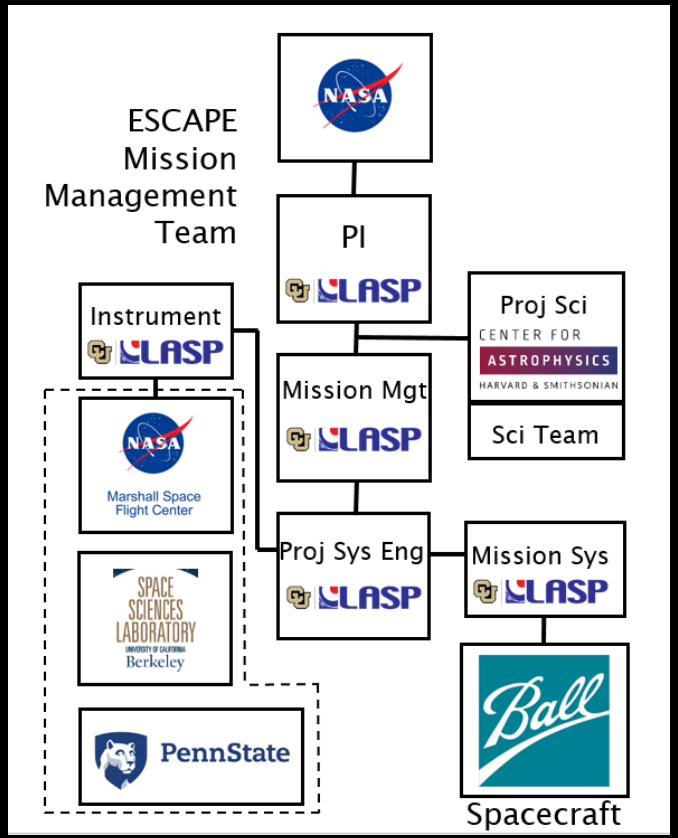


ESCAPE Hardware:

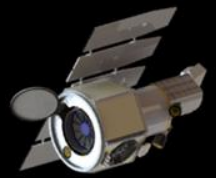
- Instrument, MSFC, UCB, SAO, PSU, LASP
- Instrument I&T, LASP
- Observatory I&T, Ball

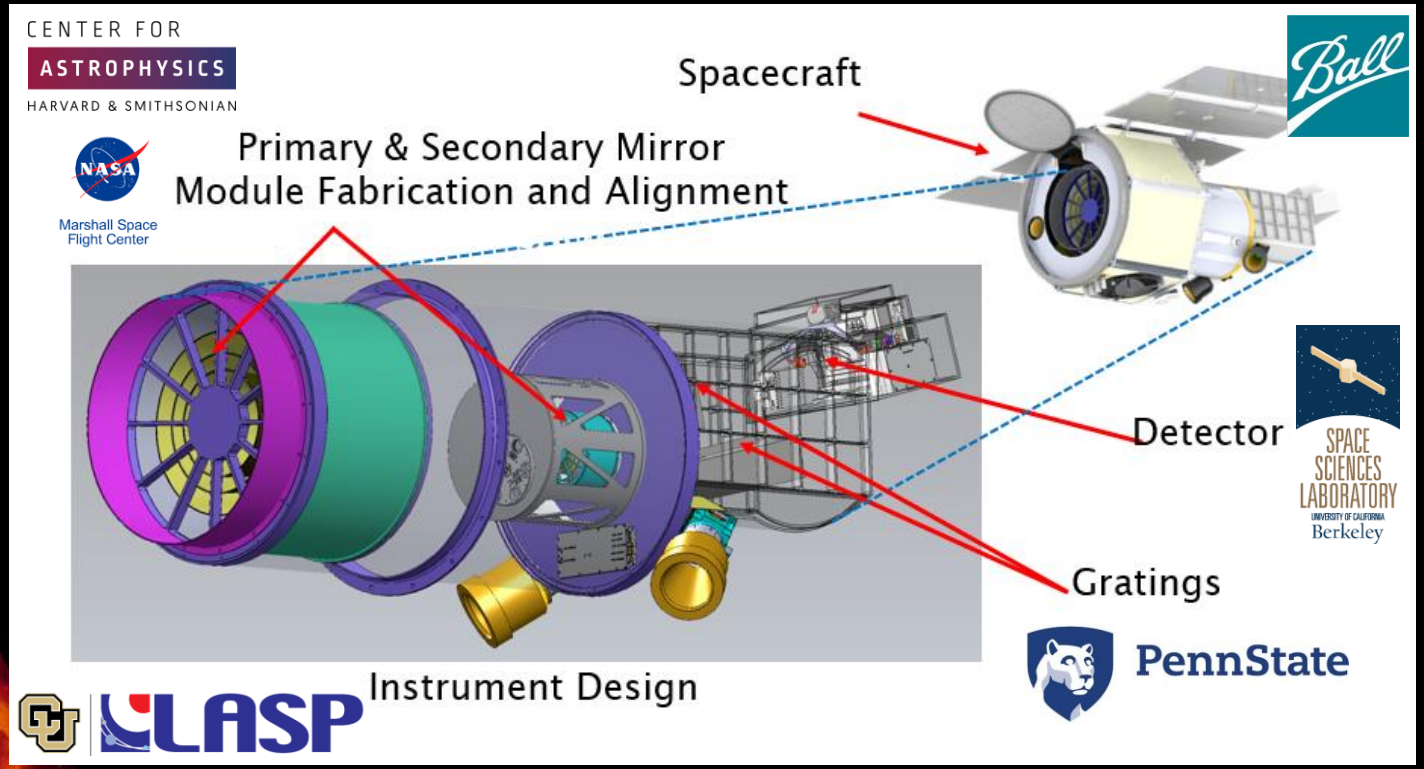
ESCAPE Data:

- Processing, LASP
- Archiving, MAST

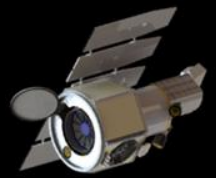


The ESCAPE Instrument





The ESCAPE Instrument

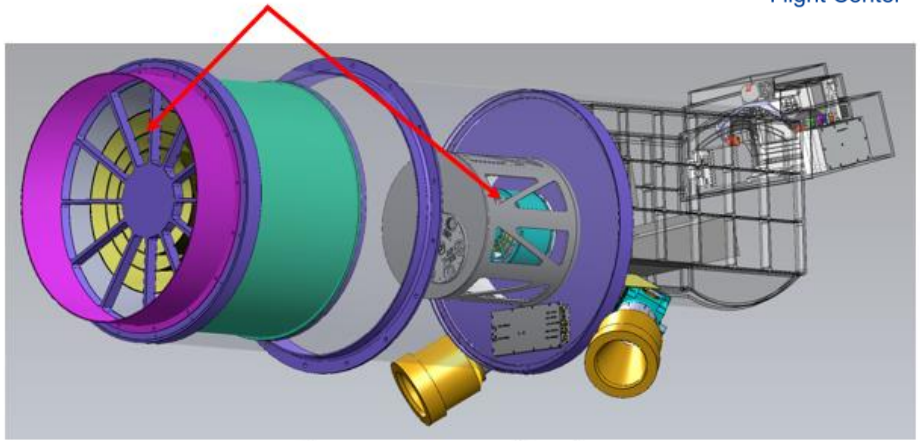


ESCAPE Telescope:

CENTER FOR ASTROPHYSICS HARVARD & SMITHSONIAN

Primary & Secondary Mirror Module Fabrication and Alignment

Marshall Space Flight Center



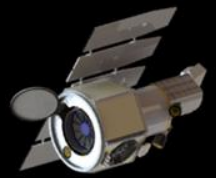
Instrument Design

Fabricated and aligned by NASA/MSFC and SAO, building on X-ray telescope heritage in APD and HPD

- Grazing incidence Hettrick-Boywer design (Gregorian)
- Electroform Nickel Reconstruction

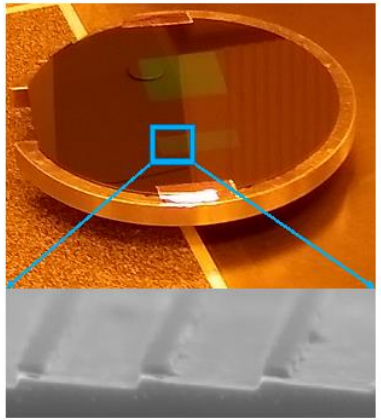
The ESCAPE Instrument

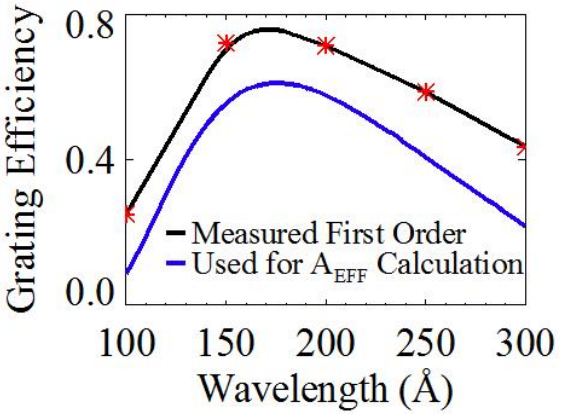
(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



ESCAPE Gratings:

- Grazing and normal incidence gratings
- Electron-beam lithography
- Fabricated by Penn State, building on X-ray rocket and SAT heritage

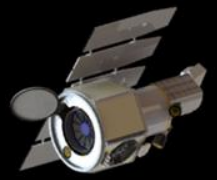




PennState

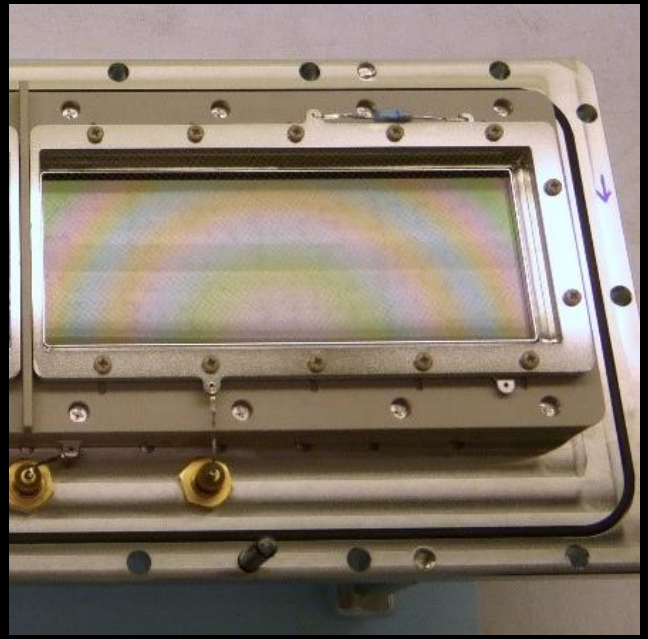
The ESCAPE Instrument

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



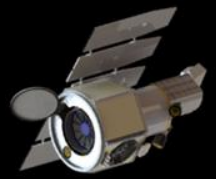
ESCAPE Detector:

- 125 x 40mm MCP, XDL readout, KBr photocathode
- Fabricated by SSL/UCB, building on heritage from Hubble, FUSE, EUVE, and numerous helio and PS missions



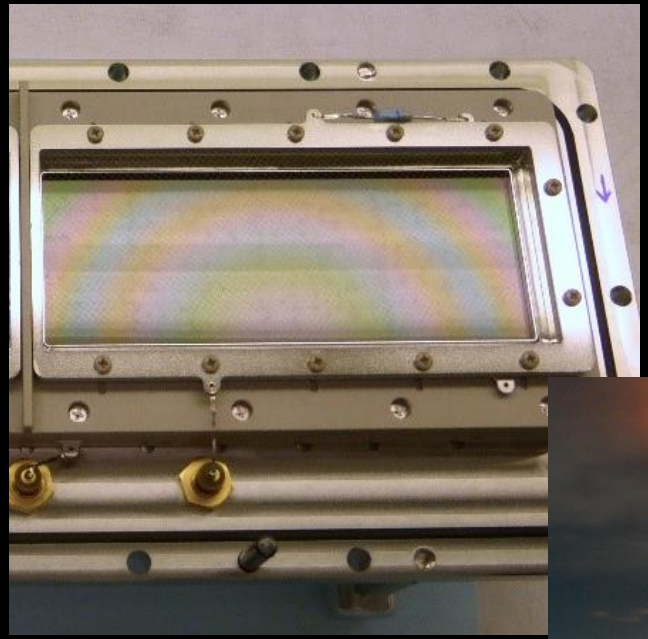
The ESCAPE Instrument

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



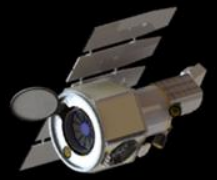
ESCAPE Detector:

- 125 x 40mm MCP, XDL readout, KBr photocathode
- Fabricated by SSL/UCB, building on heritage from Hubble, FUSE, EUVE, and numerous helio and PS missions
- Demonstration system successfully flown on NASA rocket mission in 2019 (SISTINE)



The ESCAPE Instrument

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)

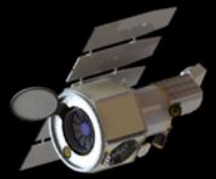


ESCAPE Spacecraft:

- Ball BCP 100 spacecraft
- ADCS system (< 5” pointing stability and < 30” pointing control)
- Ka and S-band comm.
- Fabricated and integrated by Ball, building on heritage from WISE, GPIM, and in development for IXPE and SPHEREx

The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)

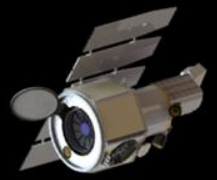


ESCAPE explores the high-energy radiation environments of nearby habitable zones.

kevin.france@colorado.edu

The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



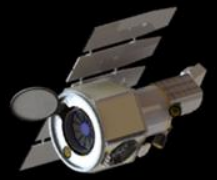
ESCAPE explores the high-energy radiation environments of nearby habitable zones.

ESCAPE provides the essential stellar context for exoplanet habitability and provides a roadmap for future life-detection missions.

kevin.france@colorado.edu

The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



ESCAPE explores the high-energy radiation environments of nearby habitable zones.

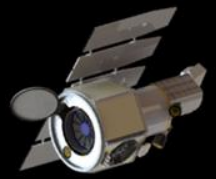
ESCAPE provides the essential stellar context for exoplanet habitability and provides a roadmap for future life-detection missions.

High-throughput grazing incidence optical system and heritage spacecraft enables EUV observations of 200 nearby stars of a range of masses and ages to be surveyed in a 2 year mission.

kevin.france@colorado.edu

The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)



Backup Slides

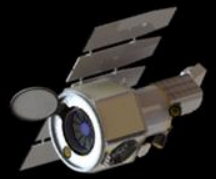
kevin.france@colorado.edu

The ESCAPE Science Team

The study of stellar impacts on terrestrial exoplanets is an inherently interdisciplinary endeavor.

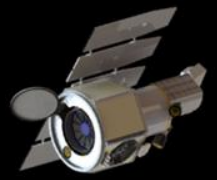
The ESCAPE science team combines experts from astrophysics, heliophysics, and planetary science.

Name	Role (Sci Section)
Kevin France, CU, LASP	*PI; responsible for overall mission success*
Brian Fleming, CU	*IS & DPI; system optical design lead*
Jeremy Drake, SAO	*PS; planning/execution of science program*
James Mason, GSFC	*DPS; dimming analysis lead (D.2.3)*
SCIENCE CONTRIBUTION	
Joel Allred, GSFC	*Co-I; EUV flare modeling lead (D.2.3)*
Ute Amerstorfer, IWF	*Collab.; ion processes modeling (D.2.3)*
Martin Barstow, Leicester	*Collab.: EUV ISM studies lead (D.2.4)*
Zach Berta-Thompson, CU	*Co-I; M dwarf follow-up lead (D.2.1)*
Vincent Bourrier, U Gen	*Collab.; escape observer (D.2.1)*
Luca Fossati, IWF Graz	*Collab.; escape observer (D.2.1)*
Cynthia Froning, UT	*Co-I; FUV observation lead (D.2.1)*
Cecilia Garraffo, CfA	*Co-I; stellar wind modeling lead (D.2.1,3)*
Guillaume Gronoff, LaRC	*Co-I; particle influences lead (D.2.3)*
Meng Jin, LM	*Co-I: dimming modeling lead (D.2.3)*
Tommi Koskinen,. UofA	*Co-I; thermal escape modeling lead (D.2.1)*
Adam Kowalski, CU	*Co-I: stellar flare analysis lead (D.2.3)*
Herbert Lichtenegger, IWF	*Collab.; ion processes modeling (D.2.3)*
Jeffrey Linsky, CU	*Co-I: ISM correction lead (D.2.4)*
Rachel Osten, JHU/STScI	*Co-I: stellar CME & particle lead (D.2.3)*
Sabrina Savage, MSFC	*Co-I: solar contexts lead (D.2.2)*
Allison Youngblood, GSFC	*Co-I; M dwarf EUV analysis lead (D.2.1)*
INSTRUMENT CONTRIBUTION	
Matthew Beasley, SwRI	*Co-I; telescope design scientist*
James Green, CU	*Co-I; EUV calibration lead*
Ken Kobayashi, MSFC	*Co-I: telescope optic scientist (D.2.2)*
Randall McEntaffer, PSU	*Co-I; diffraction gratings lead*
David McKenzie, MSFC	*Co-I: telescope fabrication lead (D.2.2)*
Suzanne Romaine, SAO	*Co-I; optical alignment lead*
Oswald Siegmund, UCB	*Co-I; Detector scientist*



The ESCAPE Mission

(Euv Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution)

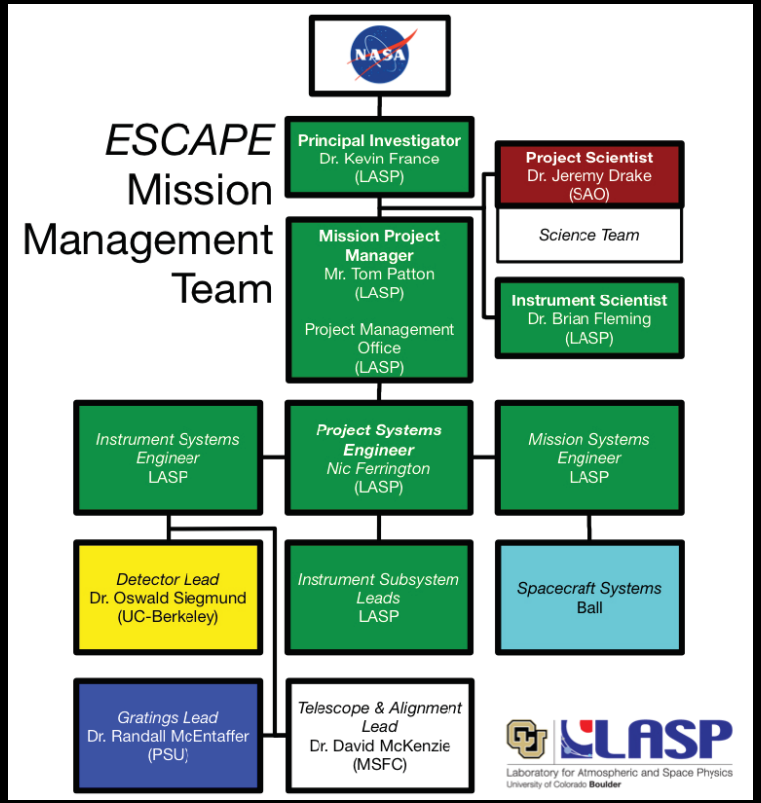


ESCAPE Hardware:

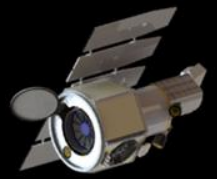
- Instrument, MSFC, UCB, SAO, PSU, LASP
- Instrument I&T, LASP
- Observatory I&T, Ball

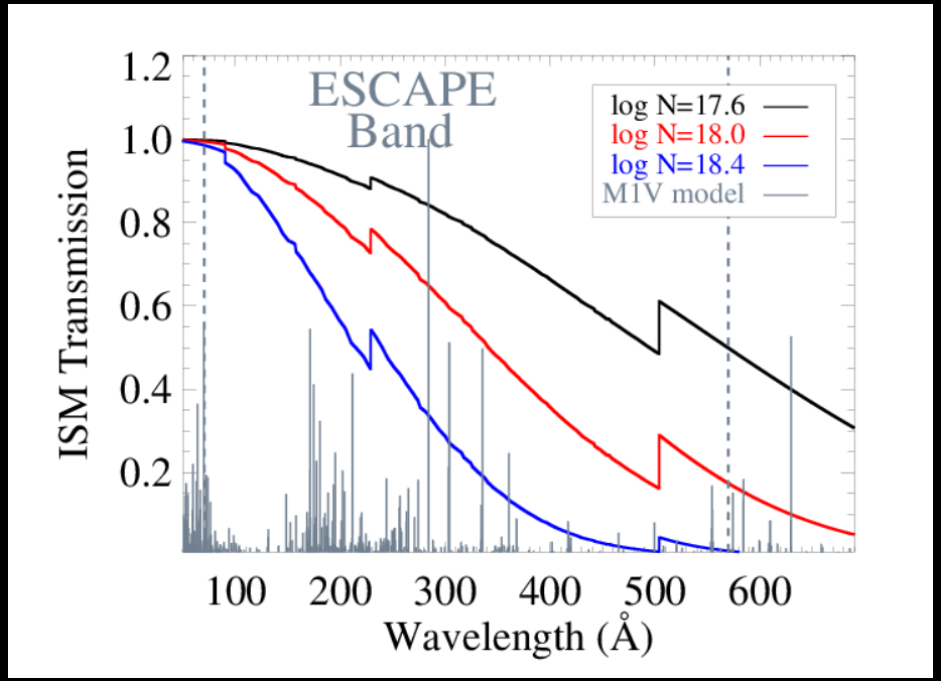
ESCAPE Data:

- Processing, LASP
- Archiving, MAST



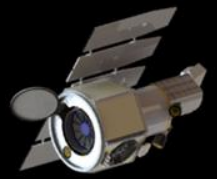
The Local ISM

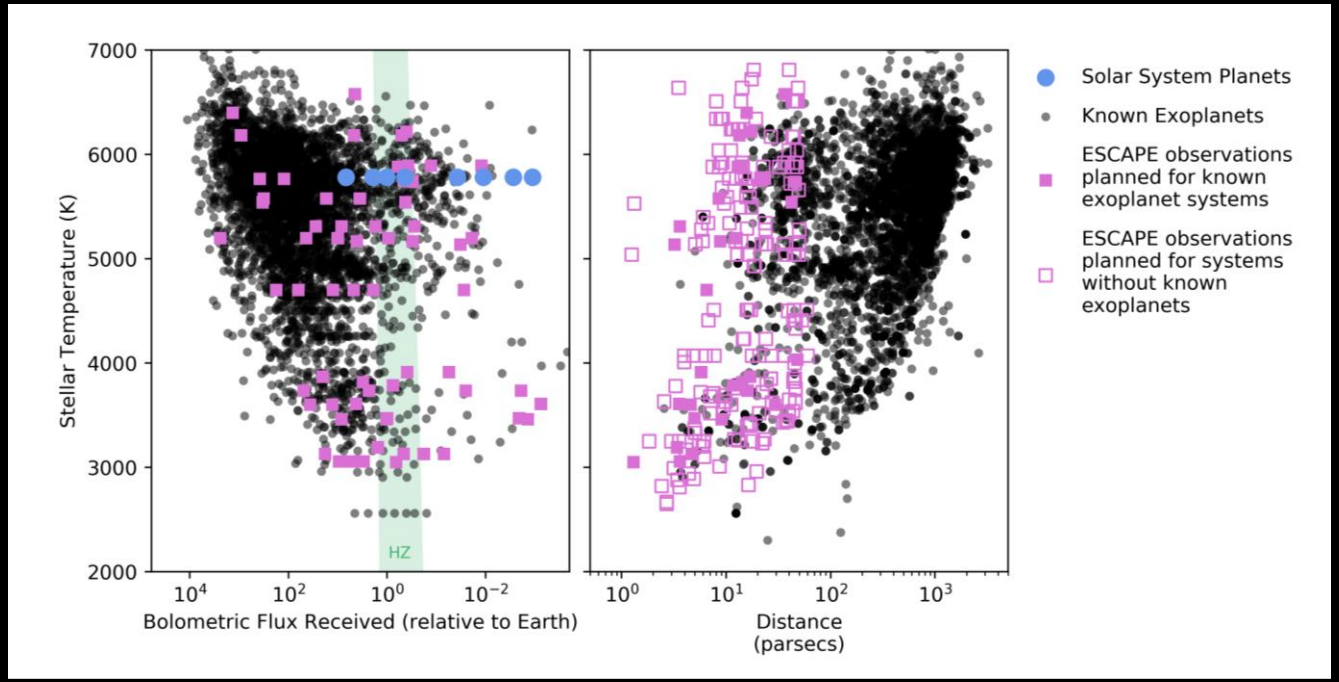




The EUV *is* observable. The challenge has been an observational one, not an astrophysical one.

The ESCAPE Target Sample





Target list will be updated with new RV and transit results during Phases B – D.