

Prospects of brown dwarf and exoplanet research

February 5, 2007

Brown dwarfs

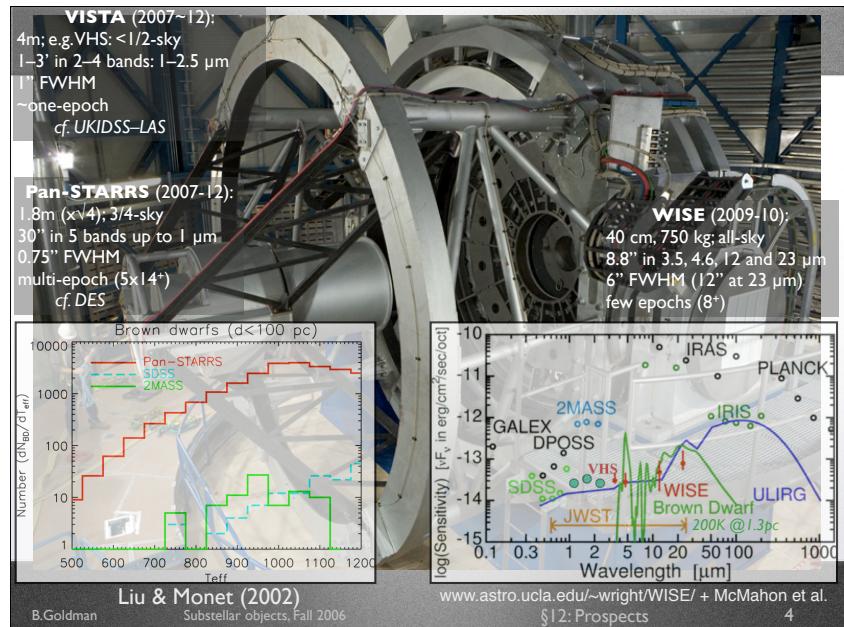
- Theory:
- Atmospheres:
 - 3-D code, time-dependent problems
 - low-metallicity
 - classification
 - Y class modelisation
- Structure:
 - young objects (input from accretion and disk modelling)
 - irradiated objects
- Formation

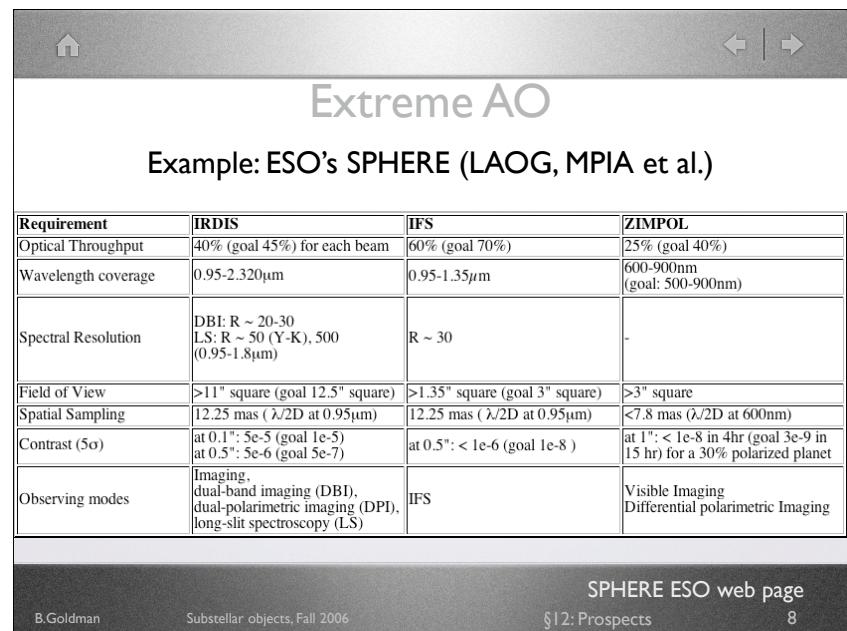
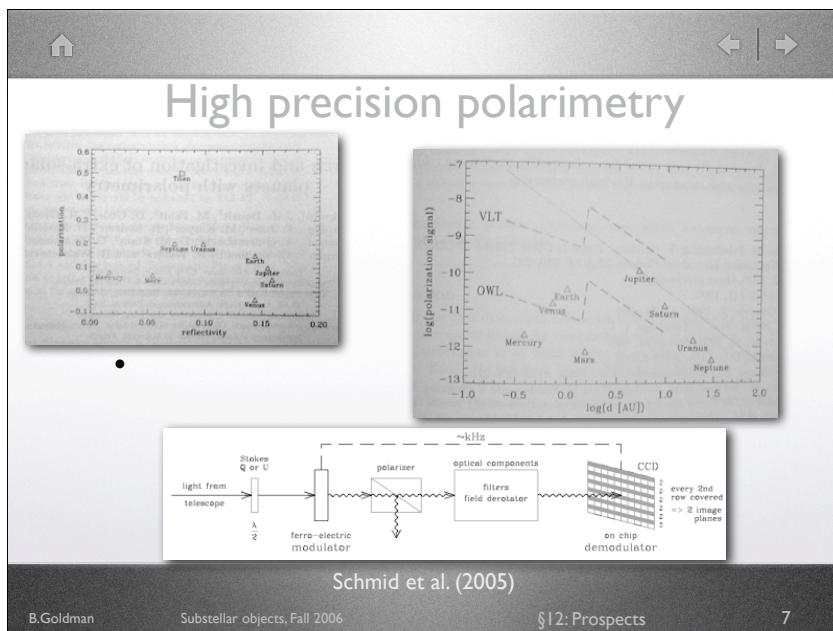
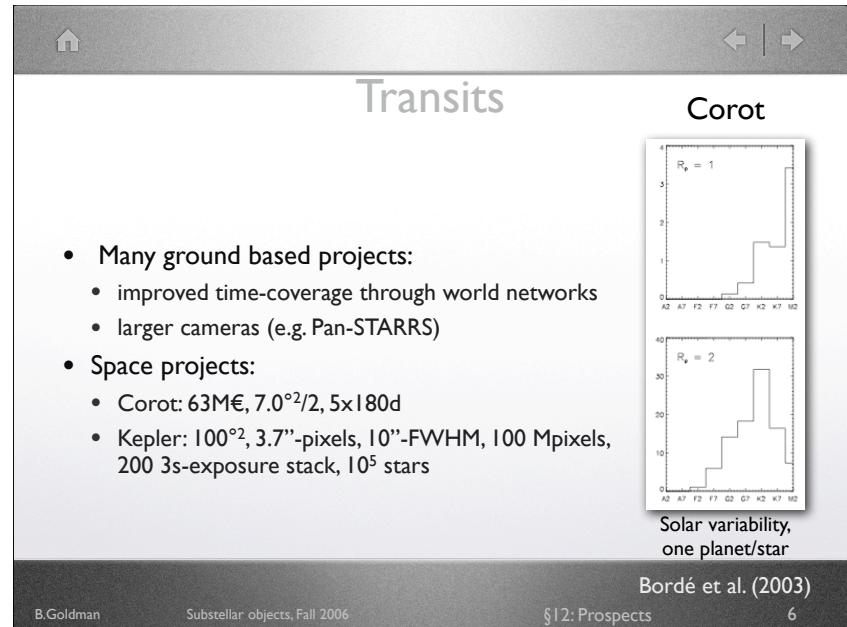
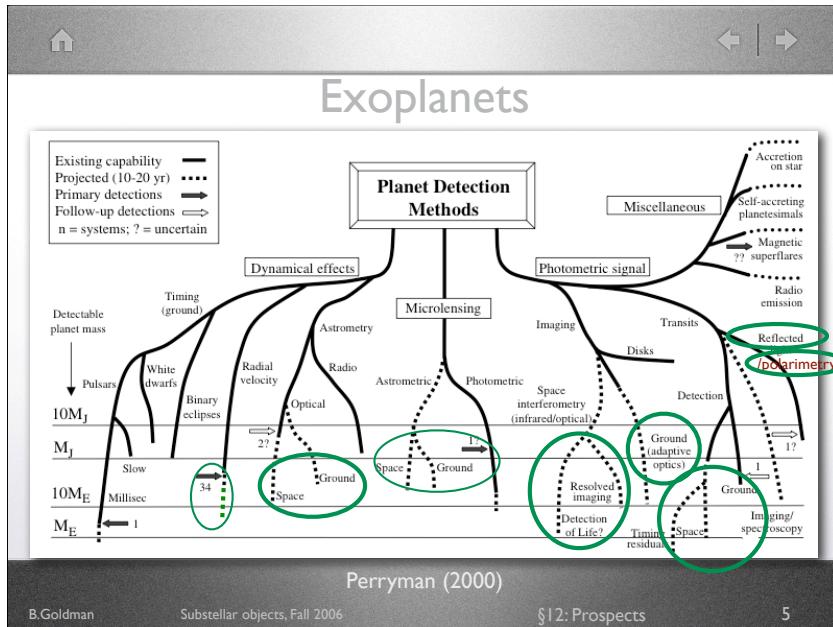
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Brown dwarfs

- Observations:
 - Large scale surveys:
 - New nearby extremely cold objects (Y dwarfs)
 - Larger statistics of field L and T dwarfs, rare L and T dwarfs
 - Star forming regions: [2-] Jupiter-mass objects, spatial distribution,...
 - High resolution imaging and spectroscopy:
 - Dynamical masses of more binaries
 - Better accuracy in binary ratio, mass distribution,...

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NWO
The New Worlds
Observer

Cash, Nature 2006

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CESO
The Celestial
Exoplanet
Survey Occulter

Janson, PASP accepted

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Example

**Advantages: Cheap(er), bigger telescopes,
more complex instrumentation**

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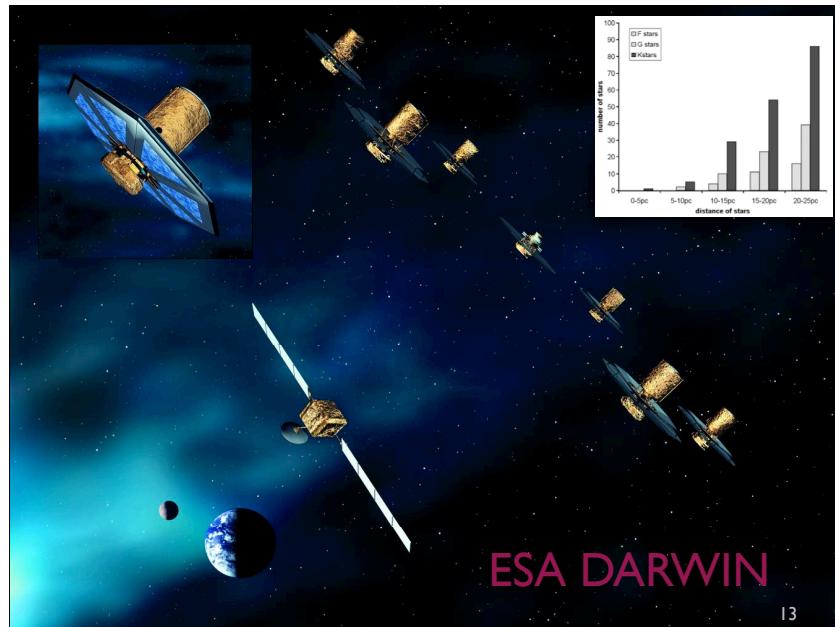
Space interferometry (I) nulling

The 20-foot beam on top of the 100-inch Hooker Telescope on Mt. Wilson in Southern California.

27 h, 1 μm, Solar system @ 10 pc

Guyon & Roddier (2002)

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μ as astrometry Ground interferometers

- Principles:

$$\text{OPD bright} = \alpha^* B + \phi I + A_1 + L_1$$

$$\text{OPD bright - OPD faint} = \Delta \text{OPD} = \Delta S^* B + \phi + \Delta A + \Delta L$$
- Atmospheric problems:
 filled aperture: $\epsilon_\theta \propto \theta^{1/3}$
 interferometer: $\epsilon_\theta \propto B^{-2/3} \theta$

The diagram illustrates the principle of ground-based interferometry. It shows two stars, a primary star and a secondary star, separated by a distance $\Delta S < 60$ arcsec. Light from both stars is collected by a telescope with a filled aperture B . The optical path difference (OPD) between the two light paths is shown as $\text{OPD}(t)$ and $\text{OPD}(0)$. Below the diagram, two sets of waveforms represent the interference patterns for the bright and faint stars respectively.

www.eso.org/projects/vlti/instr/prima/index_prima.html

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