

Large International Physics Projects: James Webb Space Telescope

John C. Mather

Senior Project Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Chief Scientist, Science Mission Directorate, NASA HQ

Feb. 15, 2008



James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

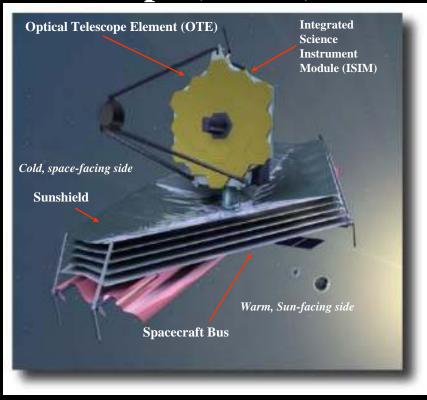
Organization

- Mission Lead: Goddard Space Flight Center
- International collaboration with ESA & CSA
- Prime Contractor: Northrop Grumman Space Technology
- Instruments:
 - Near Infrared Camera (NIRCam) Univ. of Arizona
 - Near Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec) ESA
 - Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) JPL/ESA
 - Fine Guidance Sensor (FGS) CSA
- Operations: Space Telescope Science Institute

Description

- Deployable infrared telescope with 6.5 meter diameter segmented adjustable primary mirror
- Cryogenic temperature telescope and instruments for infrared performance
- Launch June 2013 on an ESA-supplied Ariane
 5 rocket to Sun-Earth L2
- 5-year science mission (10-year goal)

www.JWST.nasa.gov



JWST Science Themes



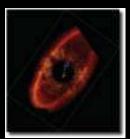
End of the dark ages: First light and reionization



The assembly of galaxies



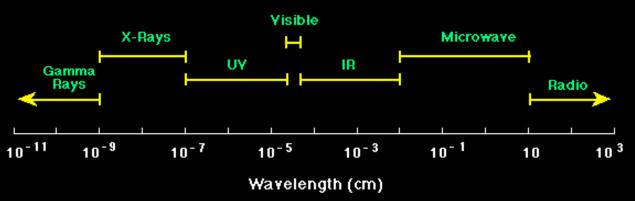
Birth of stars and proto-planetary systems

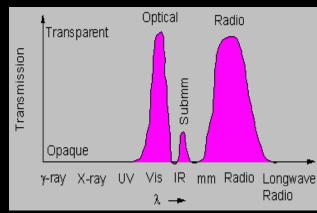


Planetary systems and the origin of life

ight comes in more colors than our eyes can see

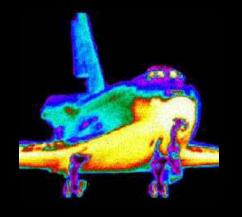
Light from the first galaxies is redshifted from the visible into the infrared.





Infrared is heat radiation

Our eyes can't see it, but our skin can feel it









JWST Project History

- 1989 conference at STScI on future space telesocopes
- 1995 HST and Beyond report, Alan Dressler et al., calls for > 4 m IR telescope, and planet-finding interferometer
- 1995, study begins at GSFC to lead worldwide team
- 1996, Dan Goldin announces to AAS to standing ovation
- 1996, international partnership discussions begin
- 2000, National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey gives highest priority for large projects
- 2001, international agreement with European and Canadian Space Agencies
- 2002, international science team selected
- 2002, prime contract selected (TRW, became Northrop Grumman), JWST name chosen
- 2007, all 10 technologies mature
- 2008, Preliminary Design Review (March) and Non-Advocate Review
- 2013, launch by Ariane 5
- 2014-2019, primary mission
- 2019-2024, extended mission

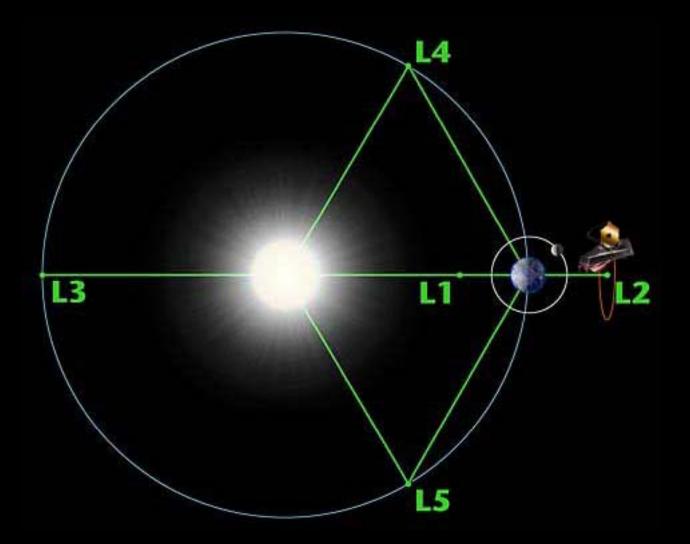


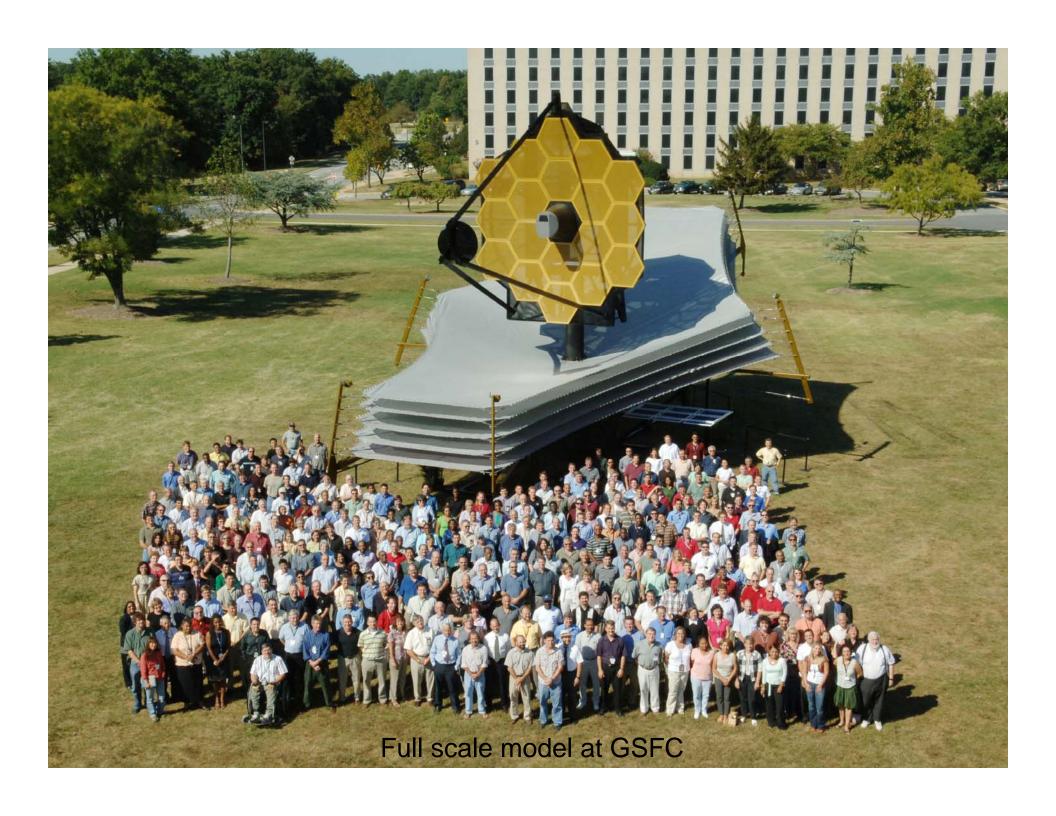
JWST Project Partnerships

- NASA leads partnership
 - NASA GSFC
 - Leads NASA effort
 - ISIM (instrument module)
 - Microshutters for NIRSpec
 - NASA MSFC large optics development and test
 - NASA JSC large test facility
 - JPL optical control algorithms, US half of Mid IR instrument
 - Northrop Grumman prime contractor
 - Ball Aerospace
 - ATK
 - ITT (was Kodak)
 - University of Arizona, NIRCam instrument, with Lockheed Martin
 - IR detectors from Rockwell (now Teledyne) and Raytheon
 - STScI flight and science operations
- ESA contributes Ariane launch vehicle, NIRSpec instrument
- European Consortium contributes half of Mid IR instrument
 - Led by G. Wright at UK ATC in Edinborough
 - 17 nations and organizations contribute; guarantee by ESA
- CSA contributes Fine Guidance Sensor, Tunable Filter Imager

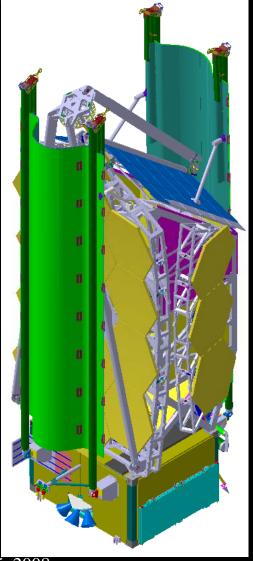


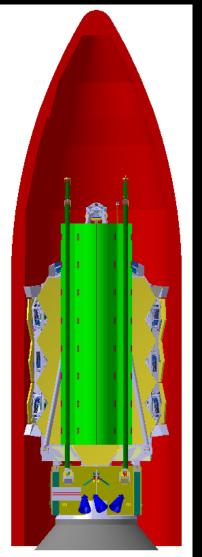
JWST Orbits the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L2

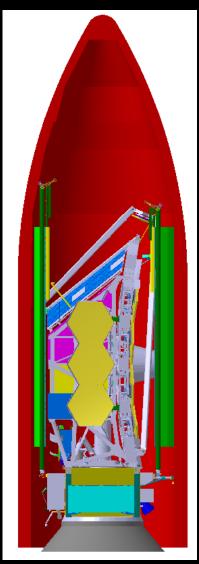




JWST folds up inside ESA-provided Ariane 5







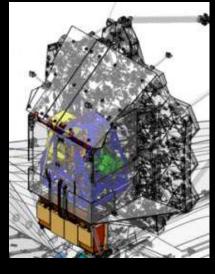
Feb. 15, 2008 Mather AAAS 8

Mirror Phasing Algorithms Beryllium Primary Mirror Segment

JWST Technology

Backplane



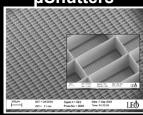


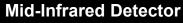
Near-Infrared Detector



Feb. 15, 2008









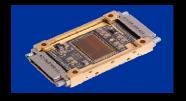
Sunshield Membrane



Cryocooler



Cryogenic ASICs





Testbed Telescope



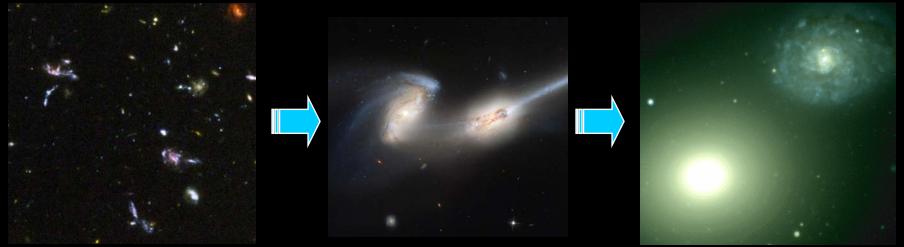


- 1/6 scale model with all the same adjustments
- Proves that all the adjustment procedures work as expected

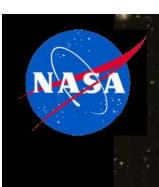


Where and when did the Hubble Sequence form? How did the heavy elements form?



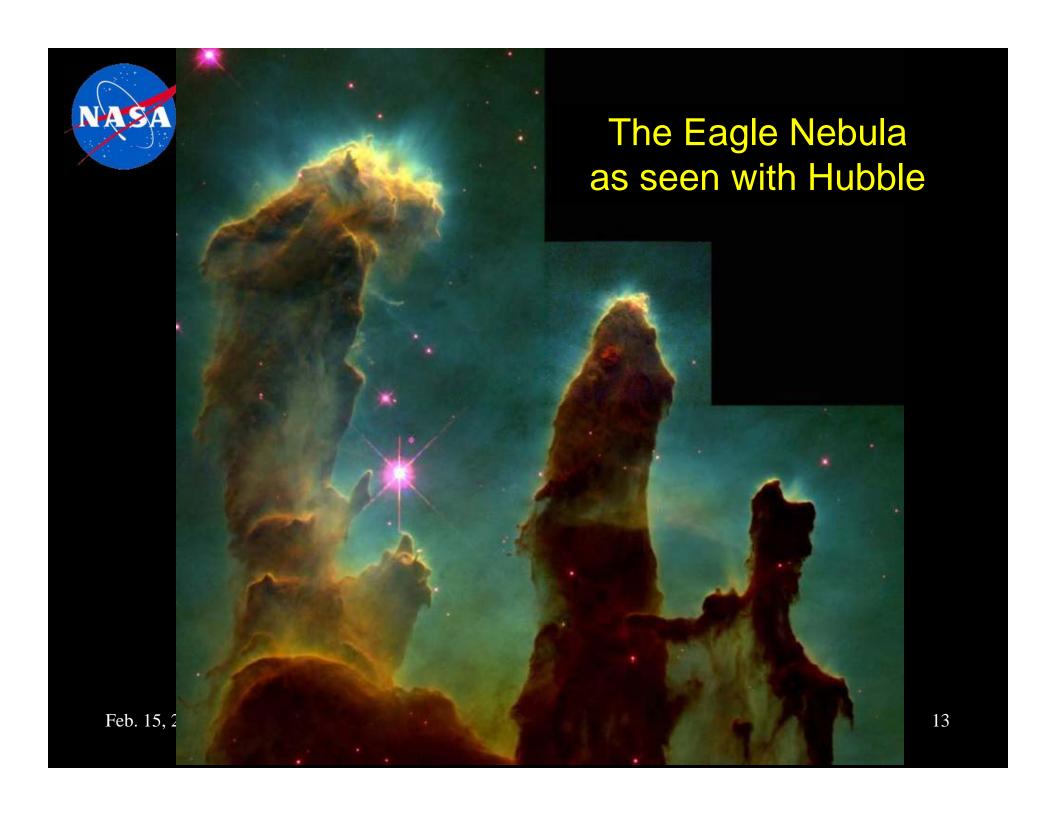


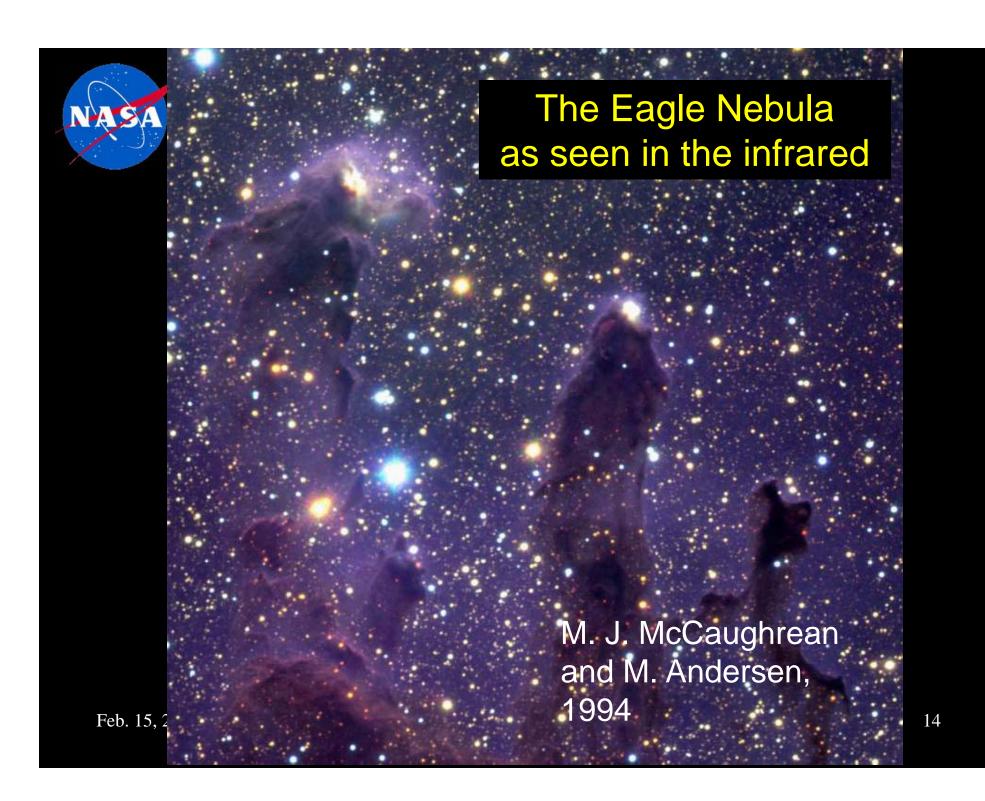
- Galaxy assembly is a process of hierarchical merging
- Components of galaxies have variety of ages & compositions
- Observations:
 - NIRCam imaging
 - Spectra of 1000s of galaxies



End of the dark ages: first light?

S. Beckwith and HUDF team, 2004







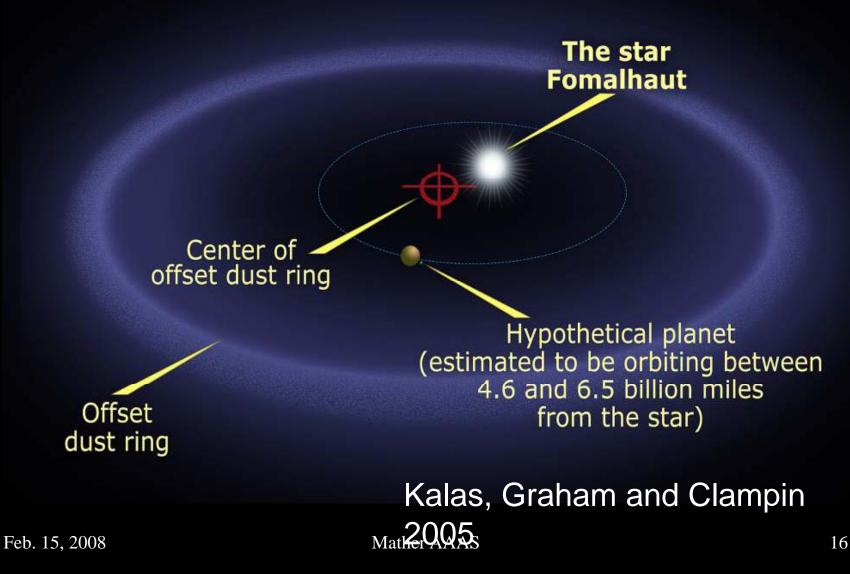
Stars in dust disks in Orion

C. R. Odell et al. 1994

Feb. 15, 2008 Mather AAAS 15



Planetary systems and the origins of life





Primary

Secondary

- Planet blocks light from star
- Visible/NIR light (Hubble/JWST)
- Radius of planet/star
- Absorption spectroscopy of planet's atmosphere
- JWST: Look for moons, constituents of atmosphere, Earth-like planets with water

- Star blocks light from planet
- Mid-Infrared light (Spitzer/JWST)
- Direct detection of photons from planet
- Temperature of planet
- Emission from surface
- JWST: Atmospheric characteristics, constituents of atmosphere, map planets



Summary

- JWST is major international partnership based on mutual interest
- Top priority for large astrophysics projects in US, Europe, and Canada
- Extraordinary advance over Hubble,
 Spitzer, and ground-based telescopes
- Excellent progress towards launch in 2013



The End

And the beginning!