

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

Toward a Grand Unified Practice of Astronomical Metadata

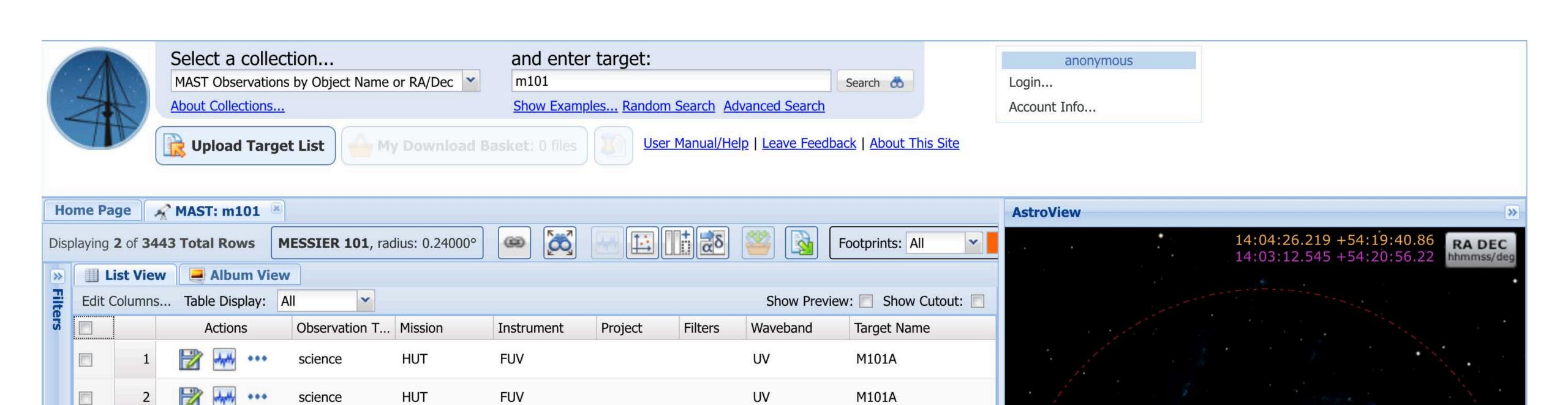
Joshua Peek — Space Telescope Science Institute
Principal Investigator: Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes

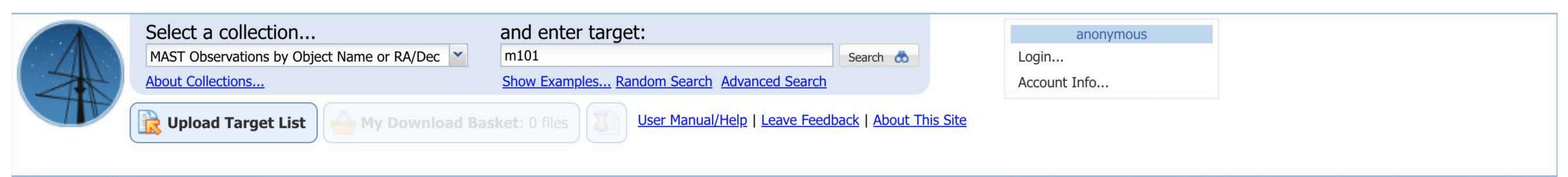
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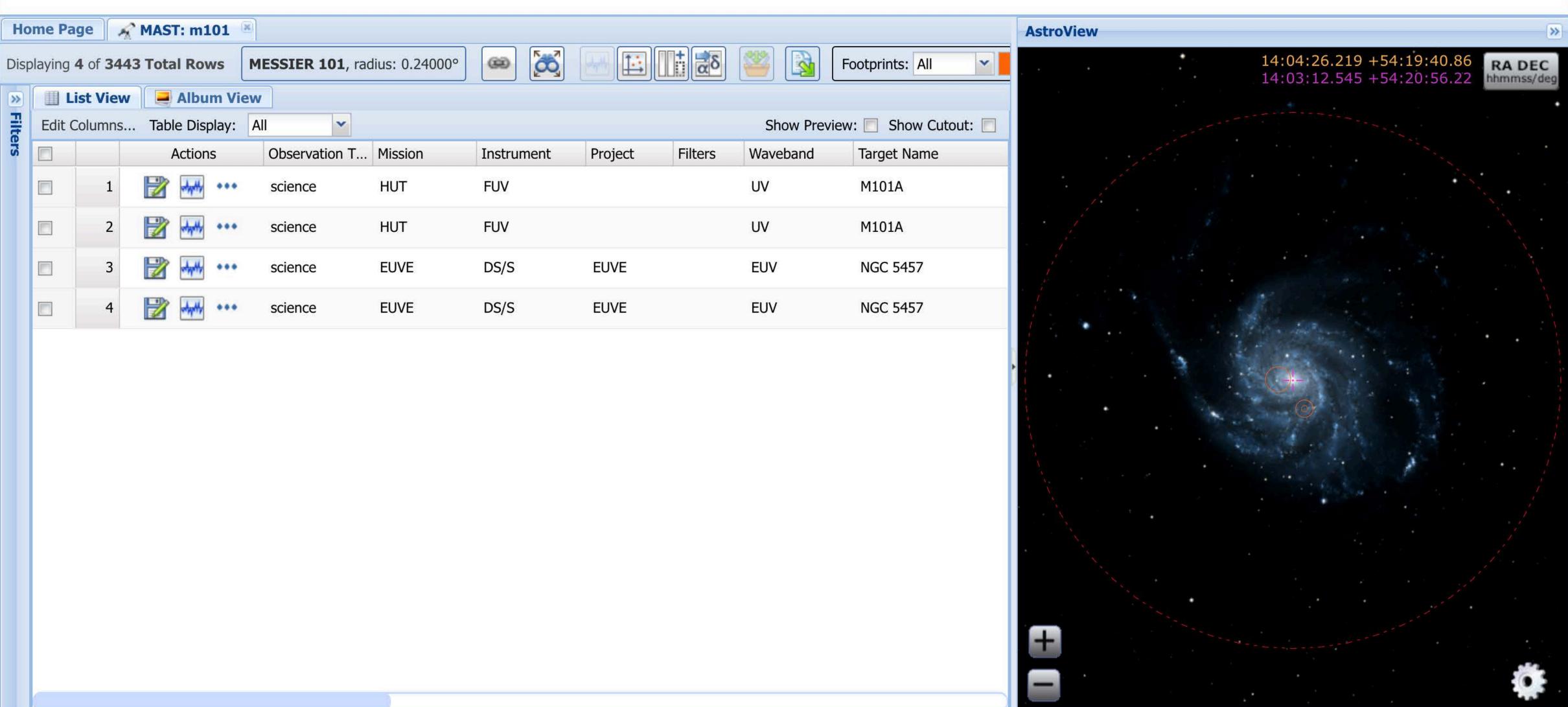
astronomers are good at data*













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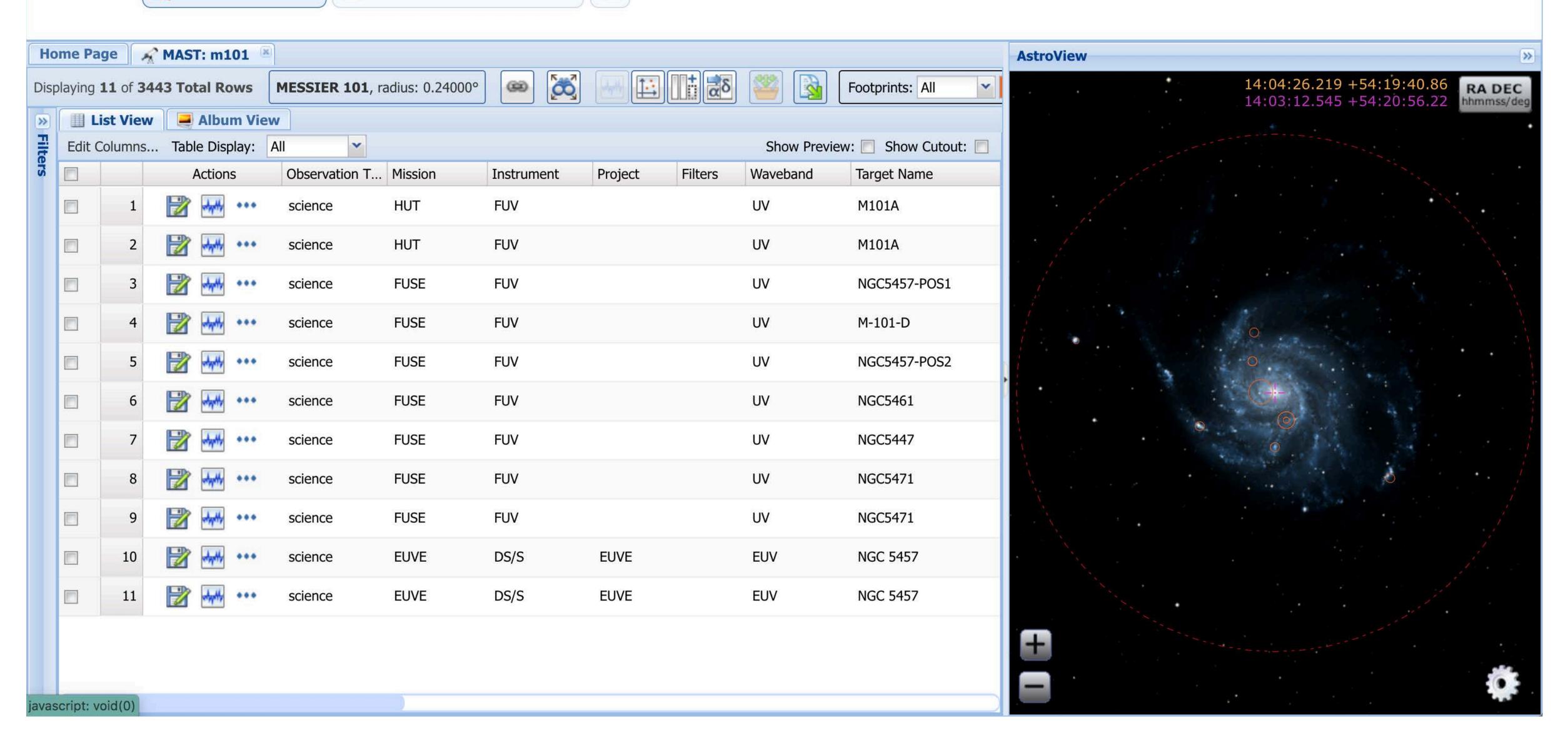
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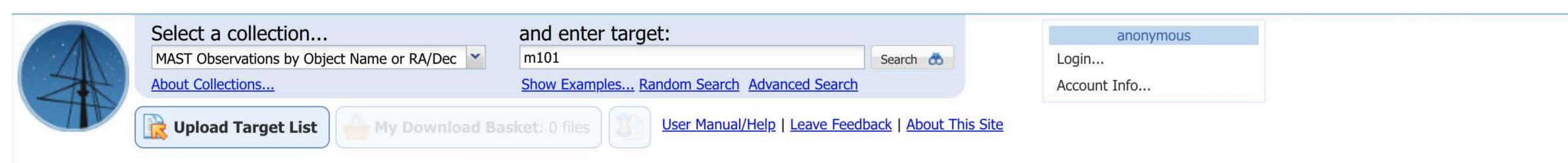
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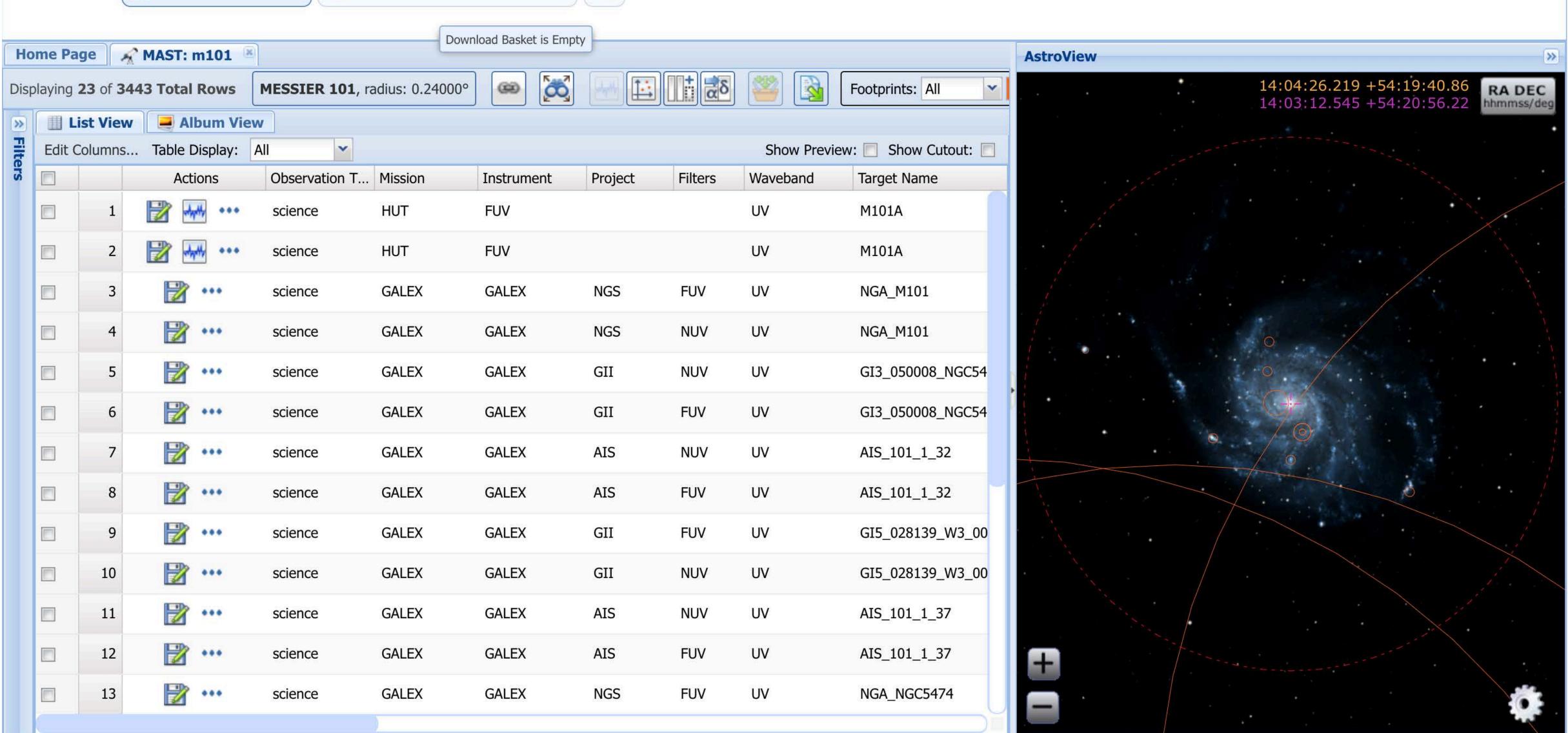
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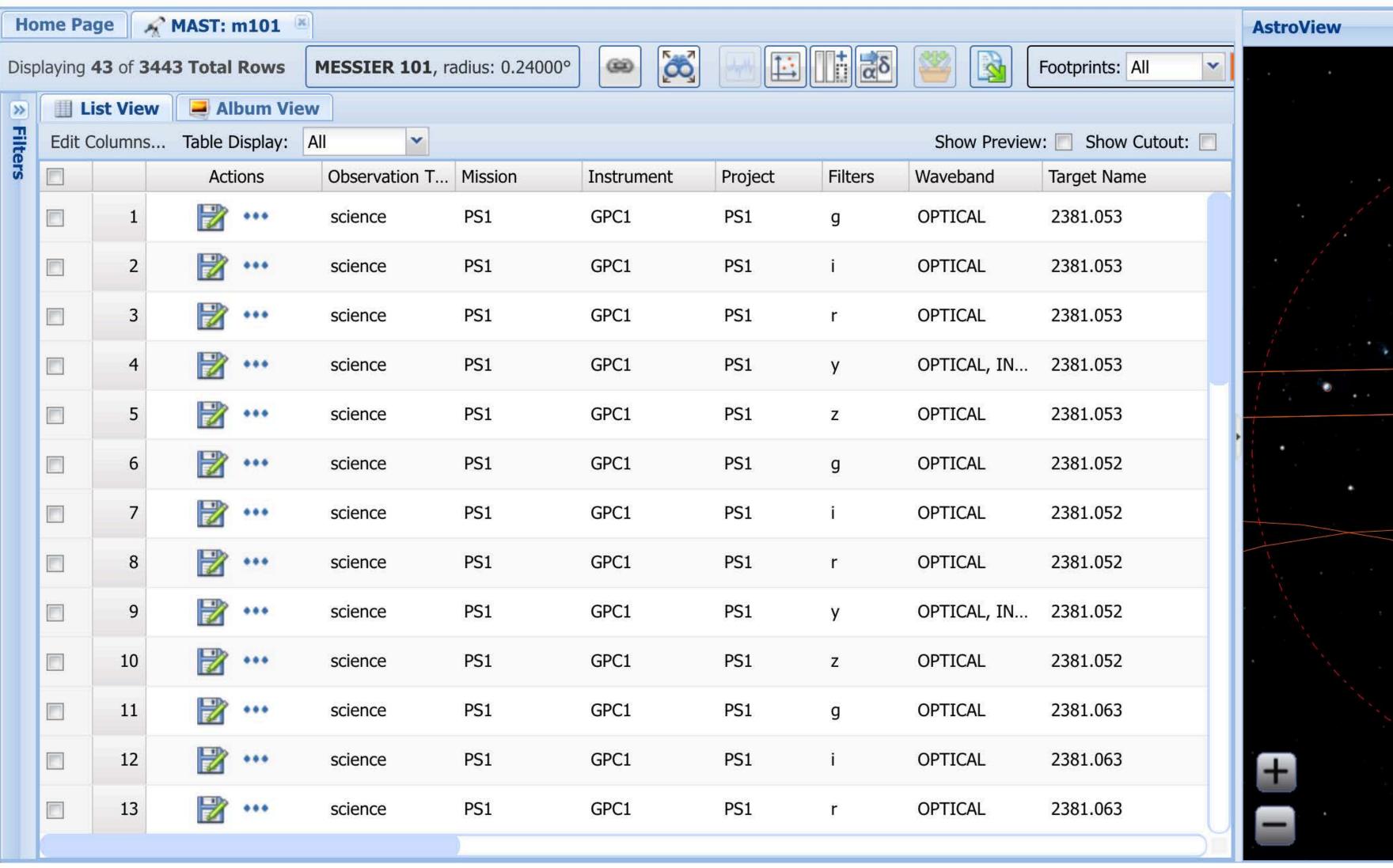
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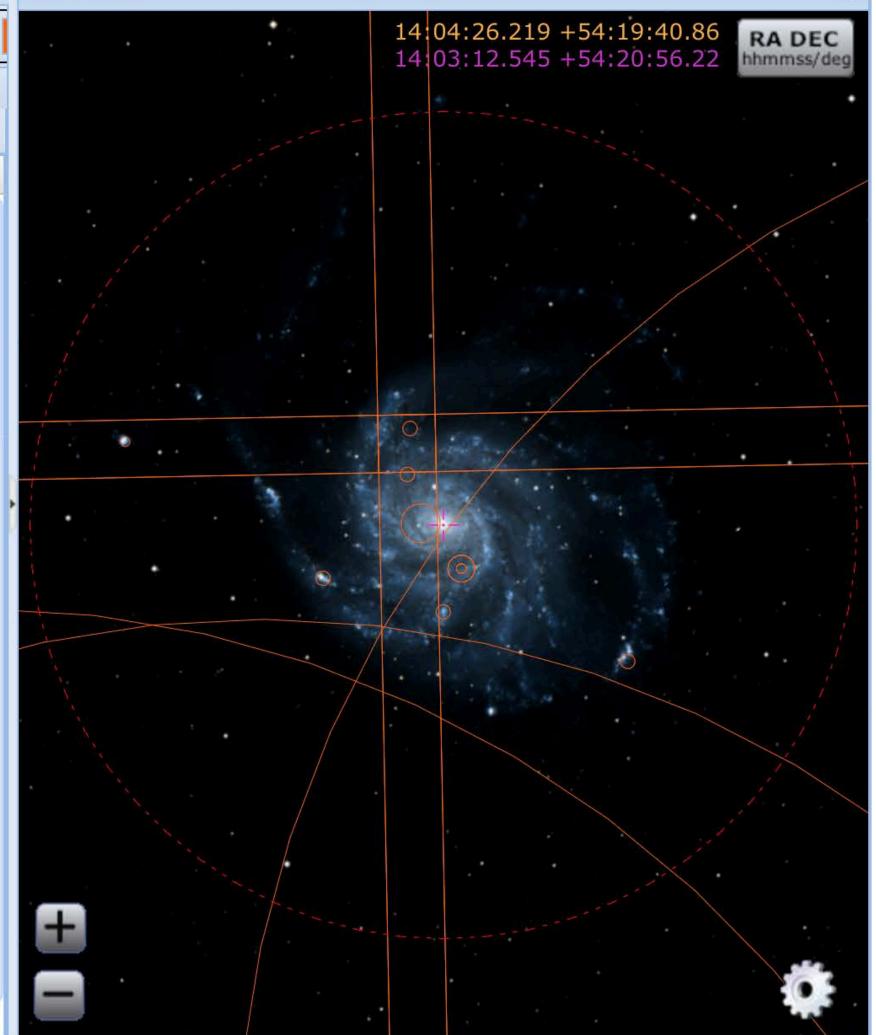
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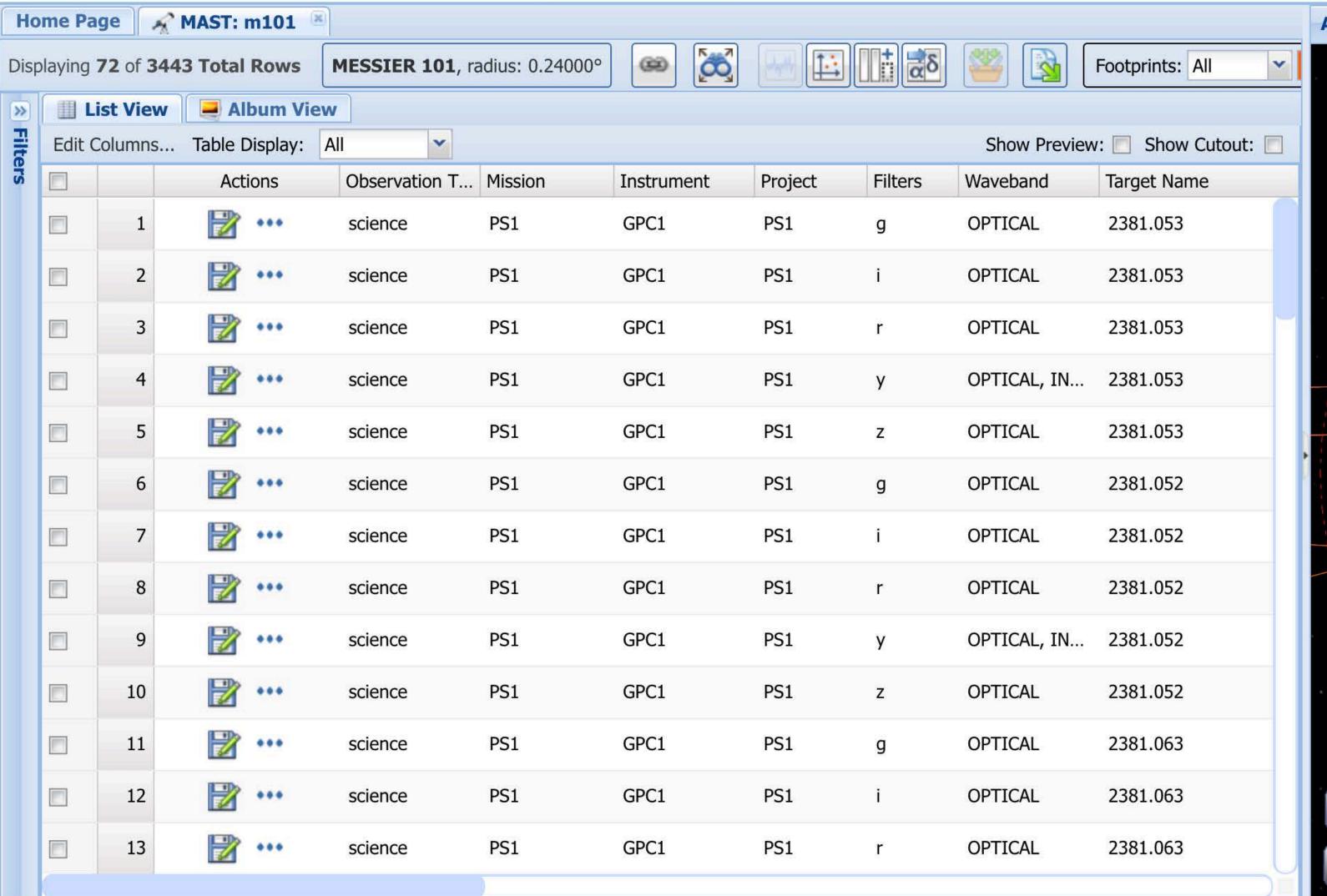
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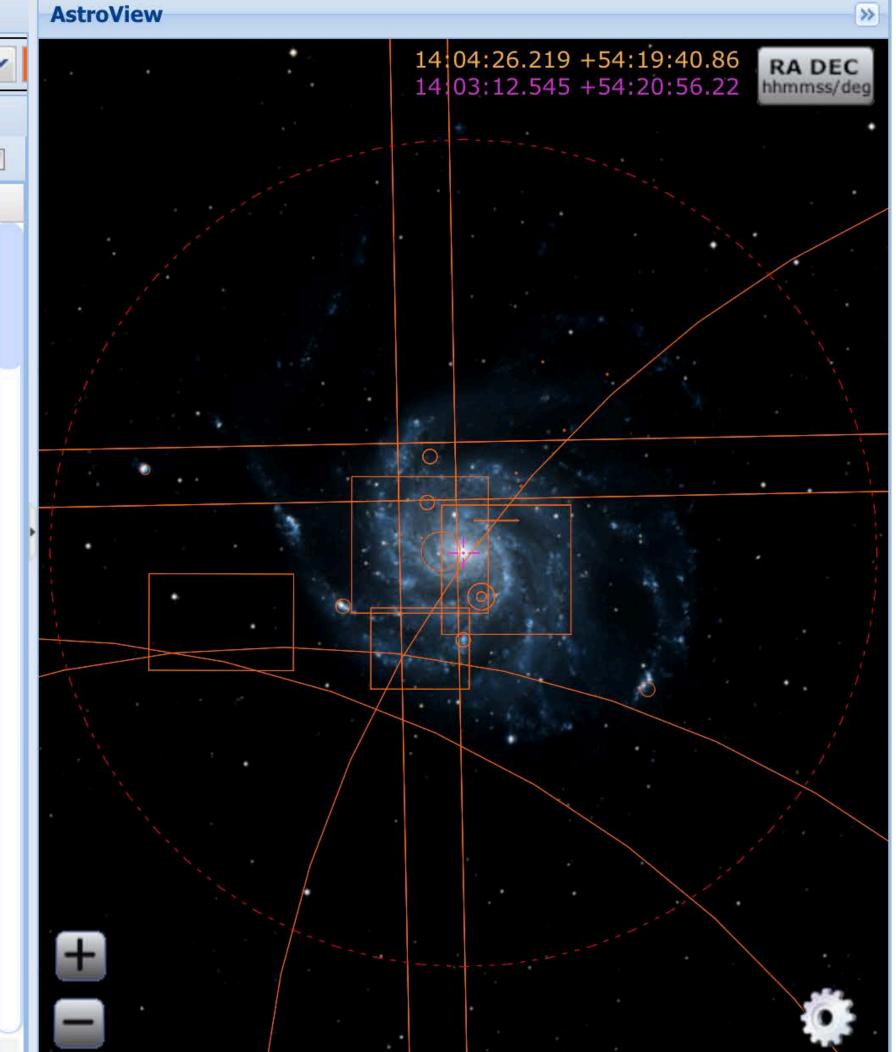
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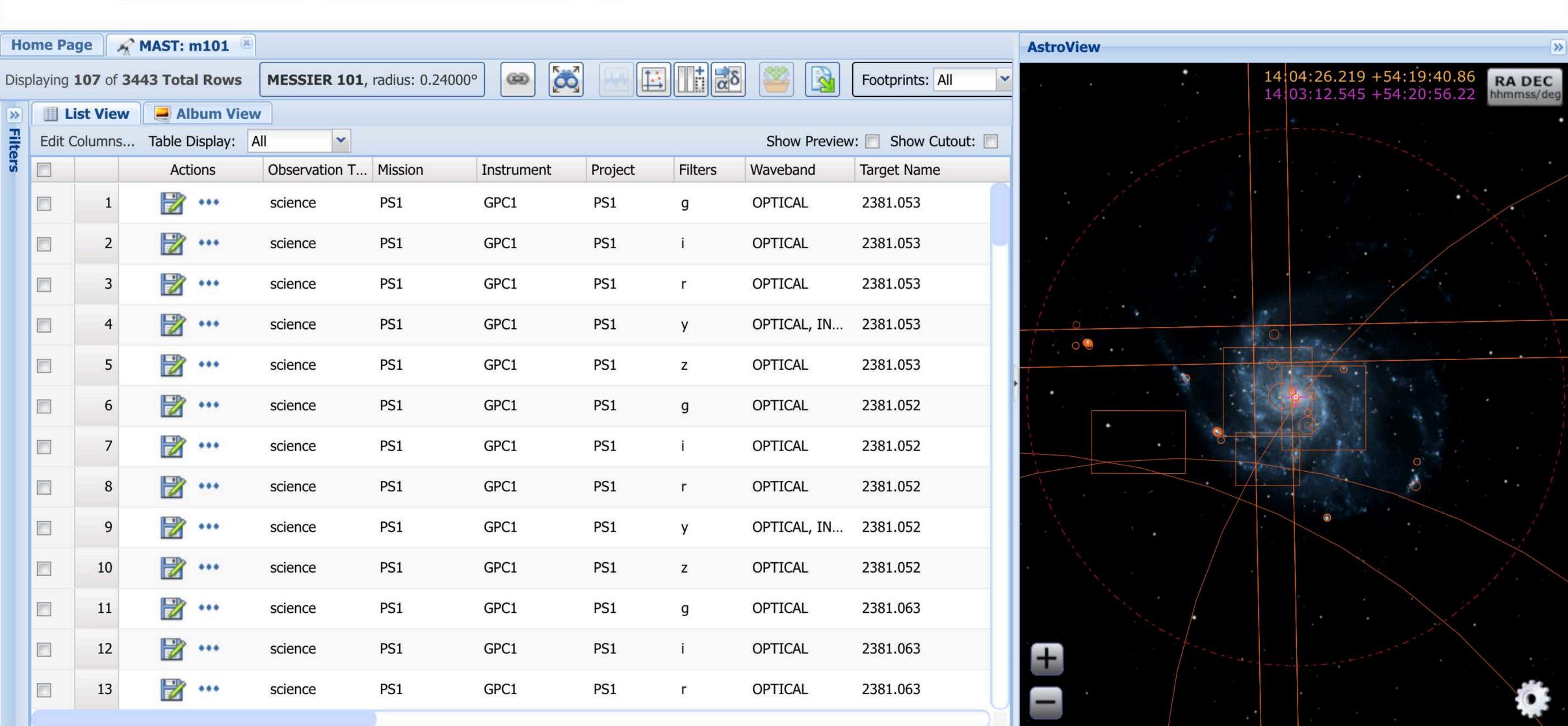
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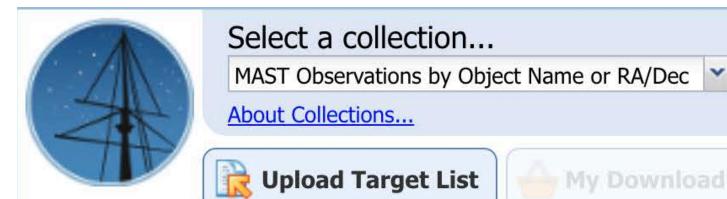




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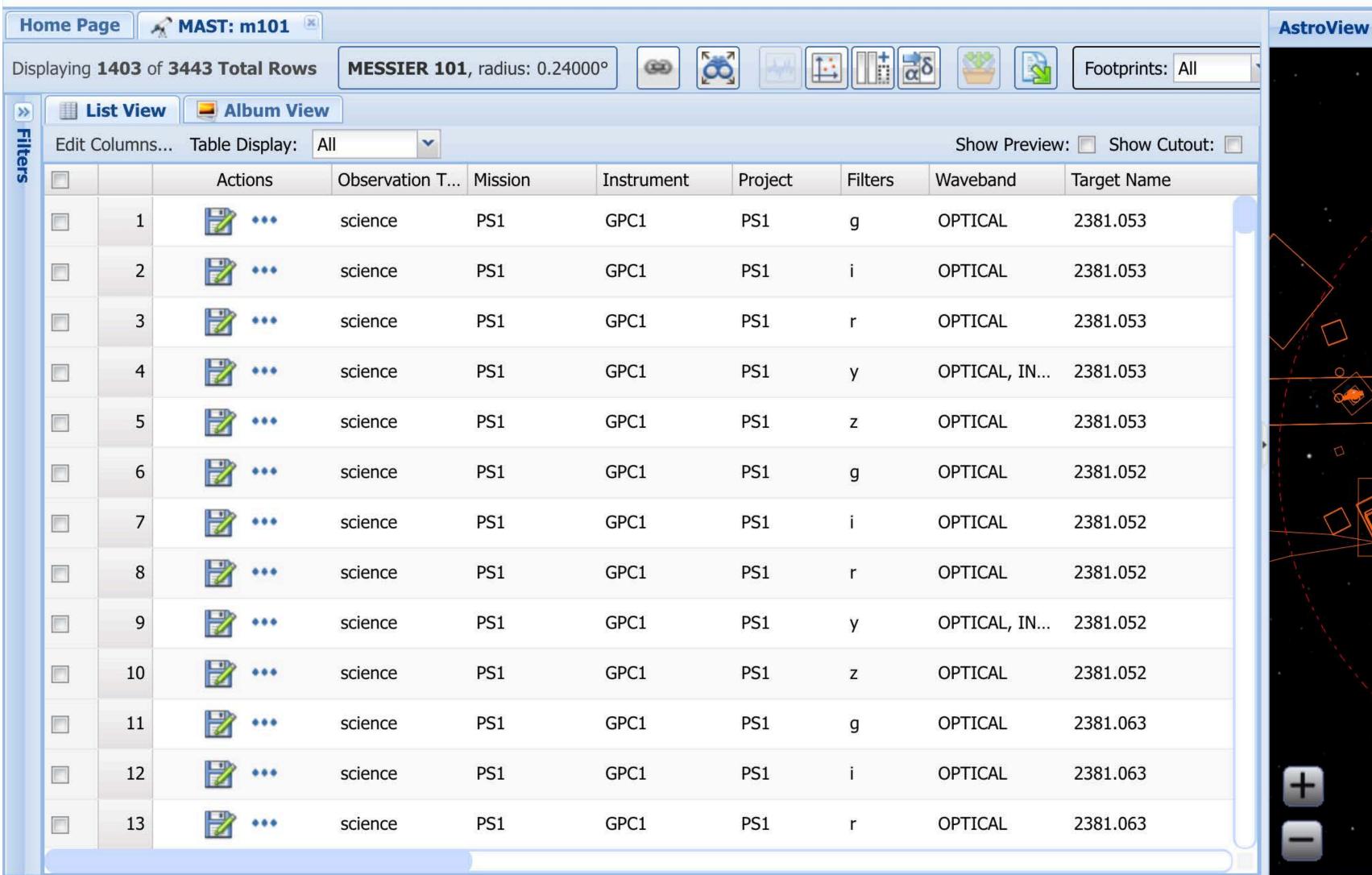
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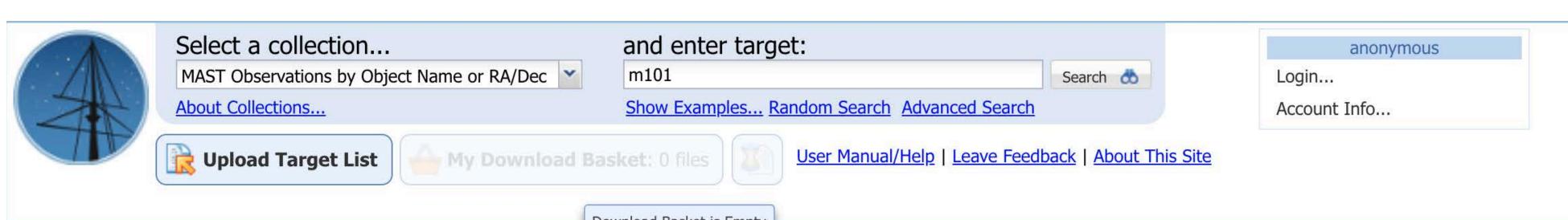
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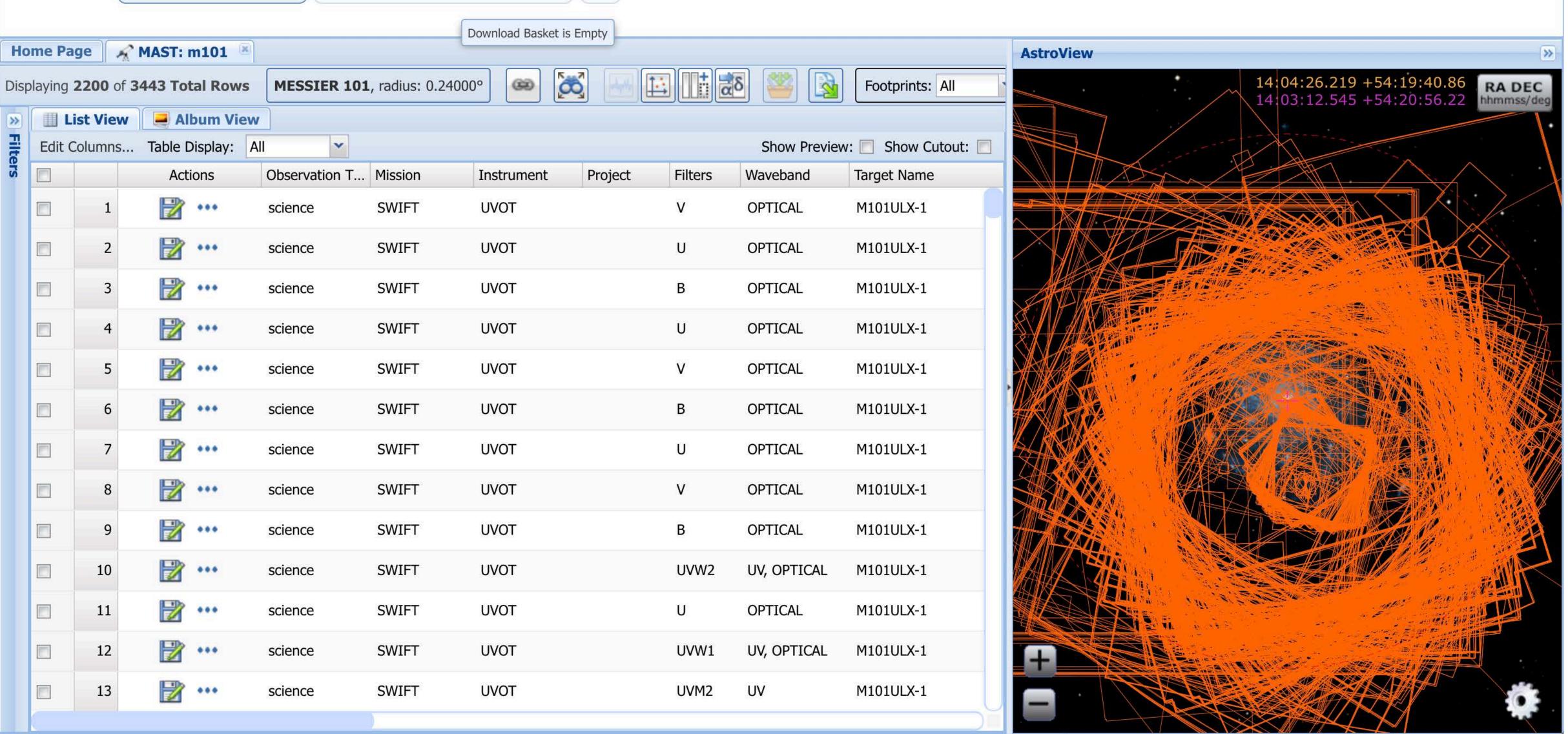
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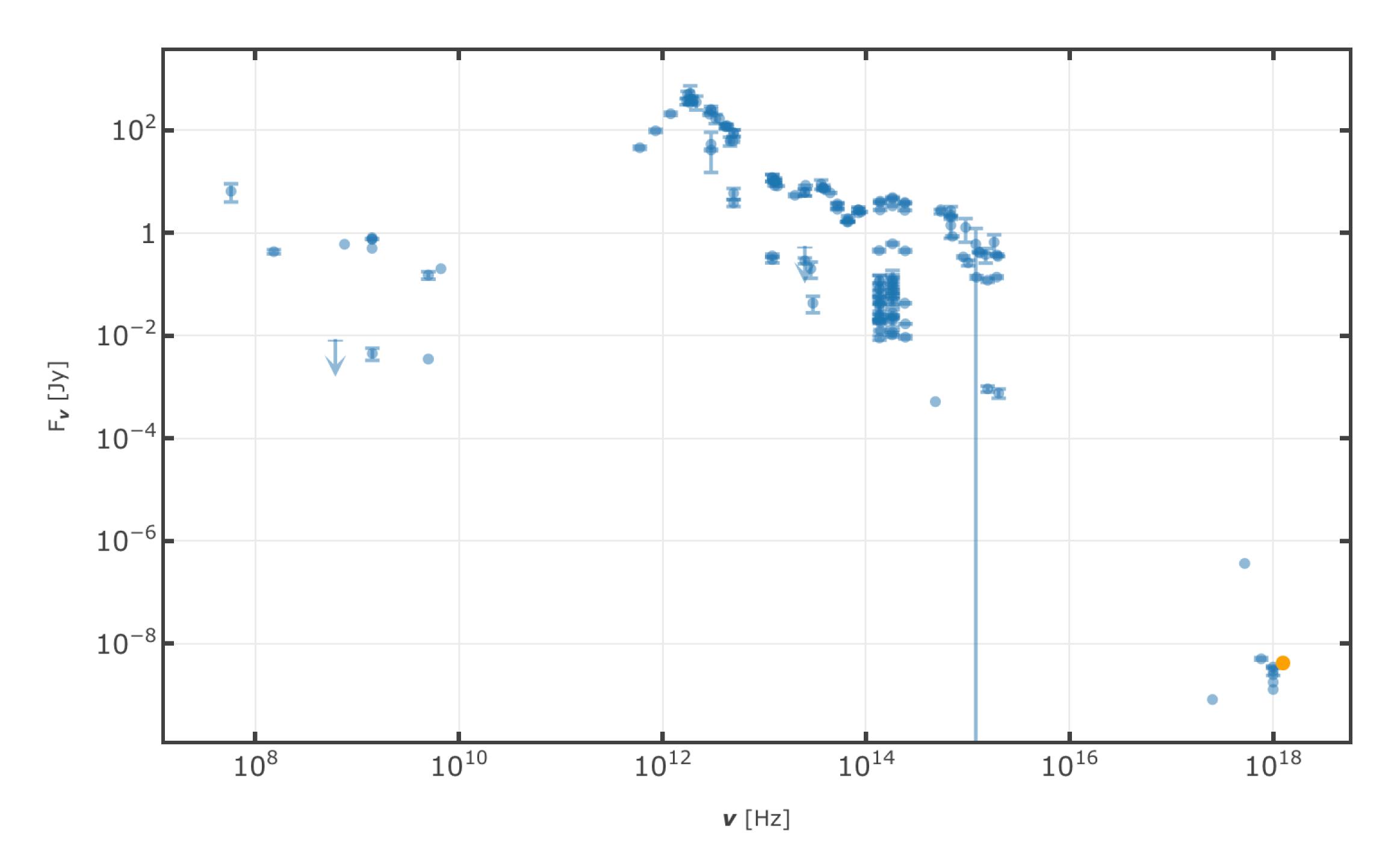
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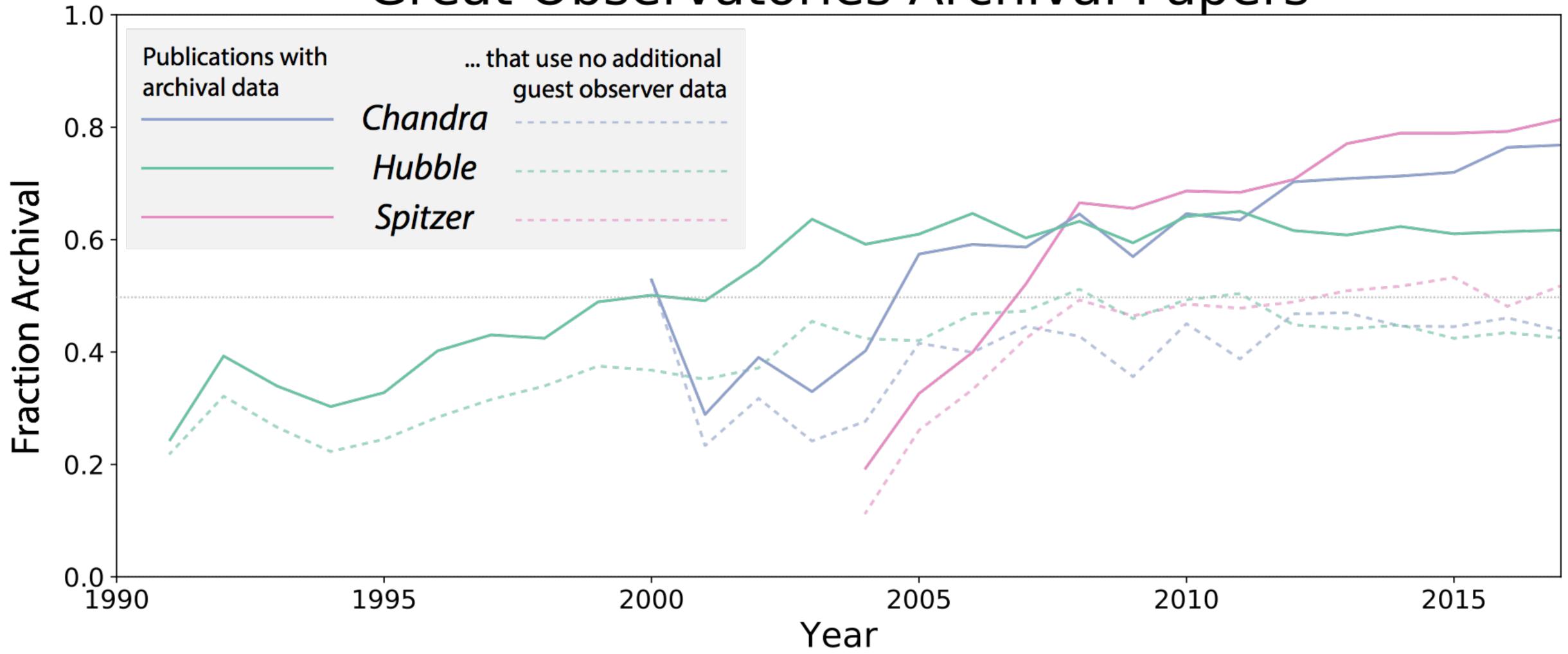


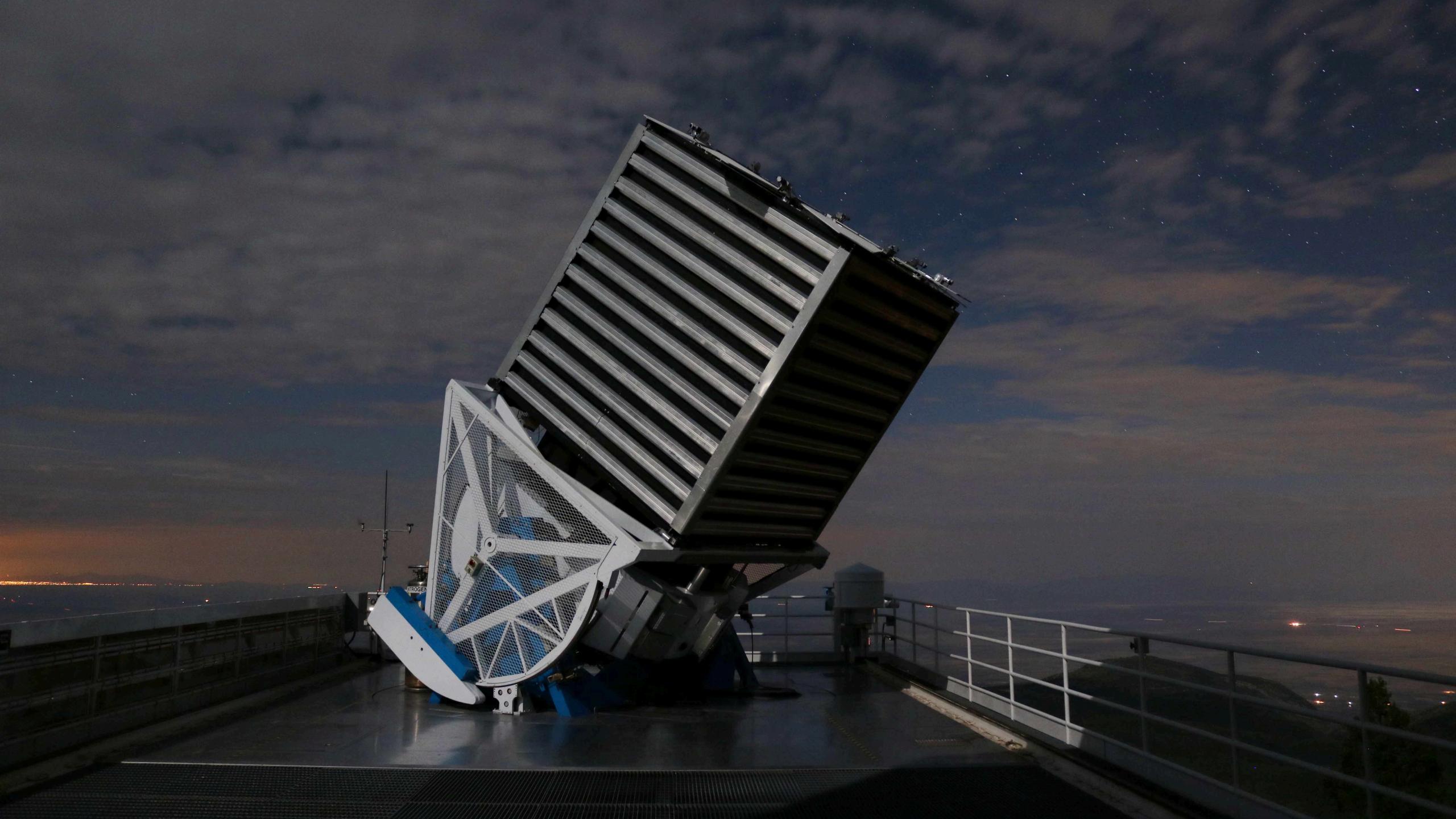


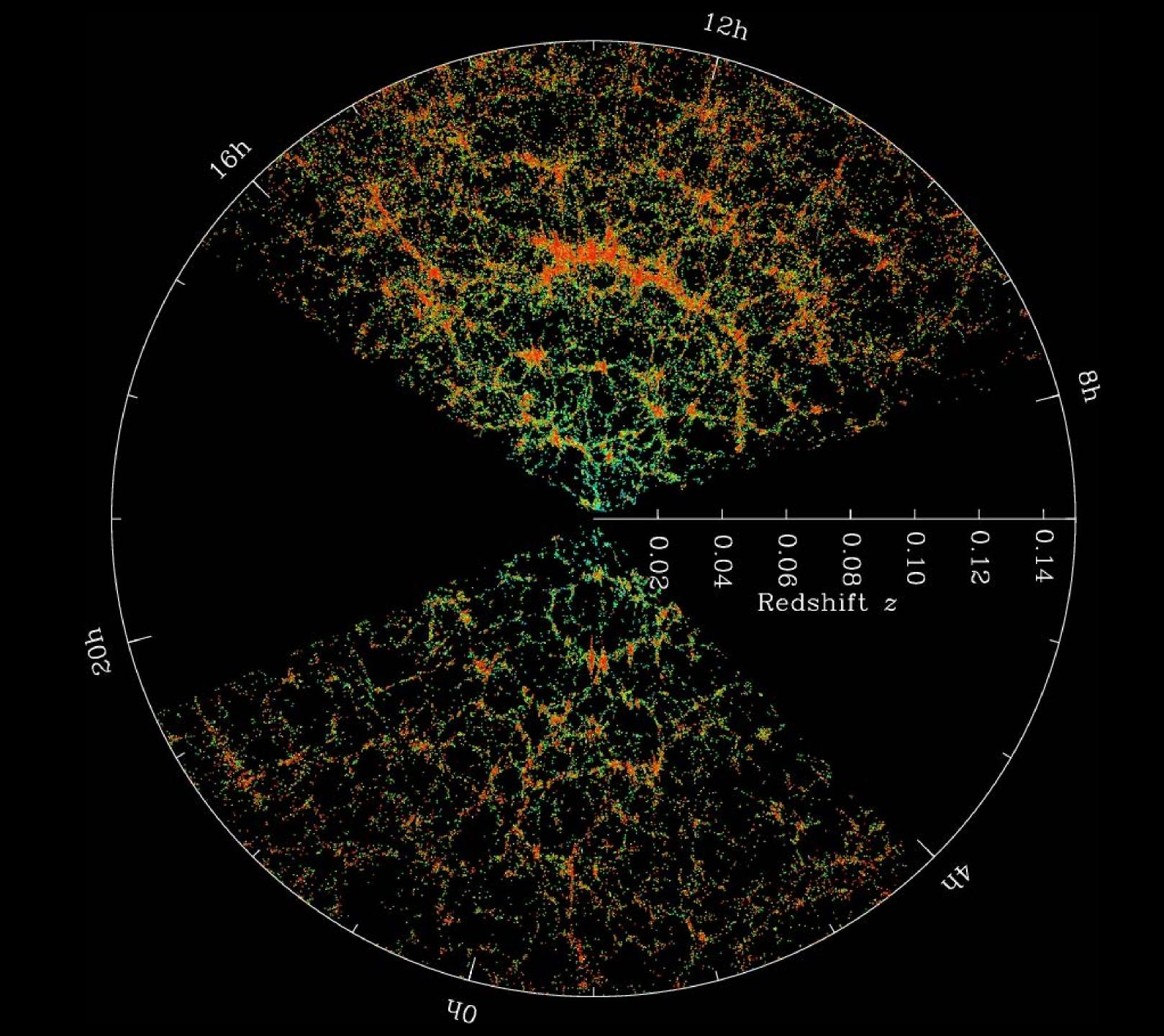












The Virtual Observatory

Common Archive Observation Model

Unified Search



The Virtual Observatory

The Virtual Observatory (VO) is a collective term referring to an ecosystem of standards and the organizations and tools which use those standards in astronomy.

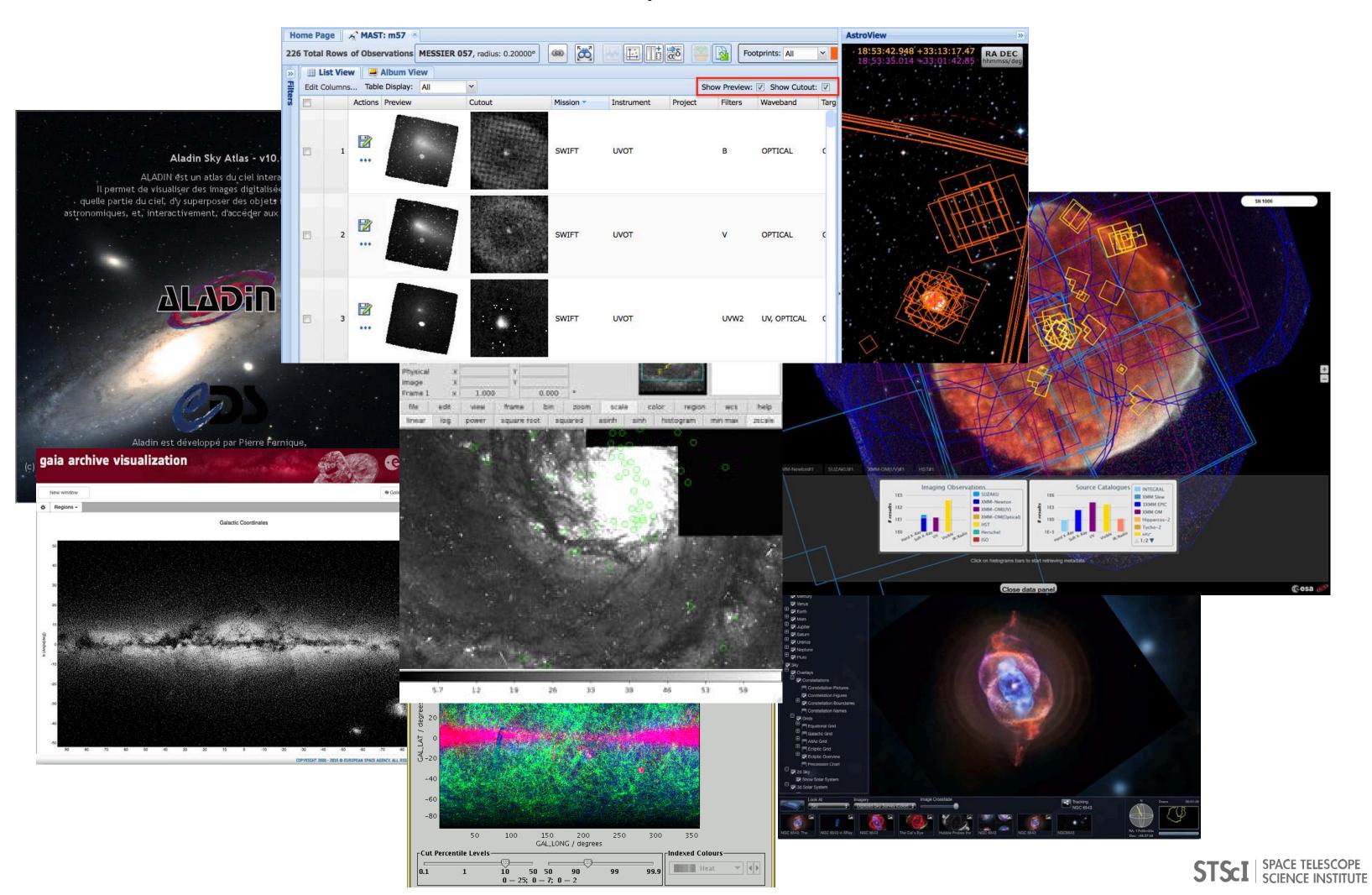
- Note: "The VO" is *not* a single application or web page.
- It is neither Virtual nor an Observatory
- The standards, organizations and tools together enable the discovery and exchange of astronomical data.
- Simple VO Standards define cone searches on catalogs (lists of eg. stars), images and spectral data collections.
- More complex standards define, for example:
 - How to register data services
 - SQL-style database queries
 - Event notification (Something goes boom in the night)
 - Image cutout services (give me a picture of the sky from this data of exactly this shape)
 - Server-side user storage



Virtual Observatory Tools

Many existing tools make use of "the VO" for data discovery and access

- MAST Discovery Portal
- ESA Sky
- WorldWide Telescope
- Gaia Archive
- Aladin
- TOPCAT
- DS9



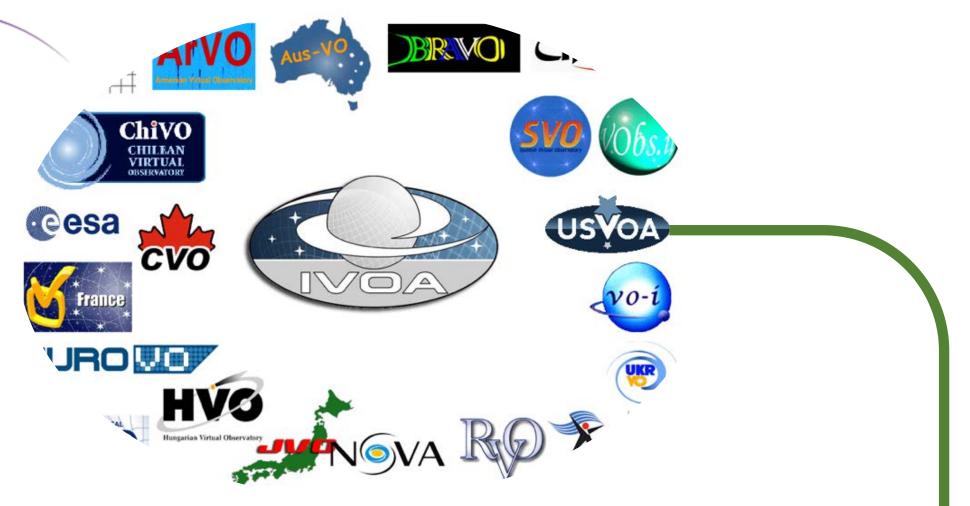


- IVOA defines the standards
- Composed of national-level organizations
- Astronomers and engineers in these organizations form subject matter working groups





VO Organization



























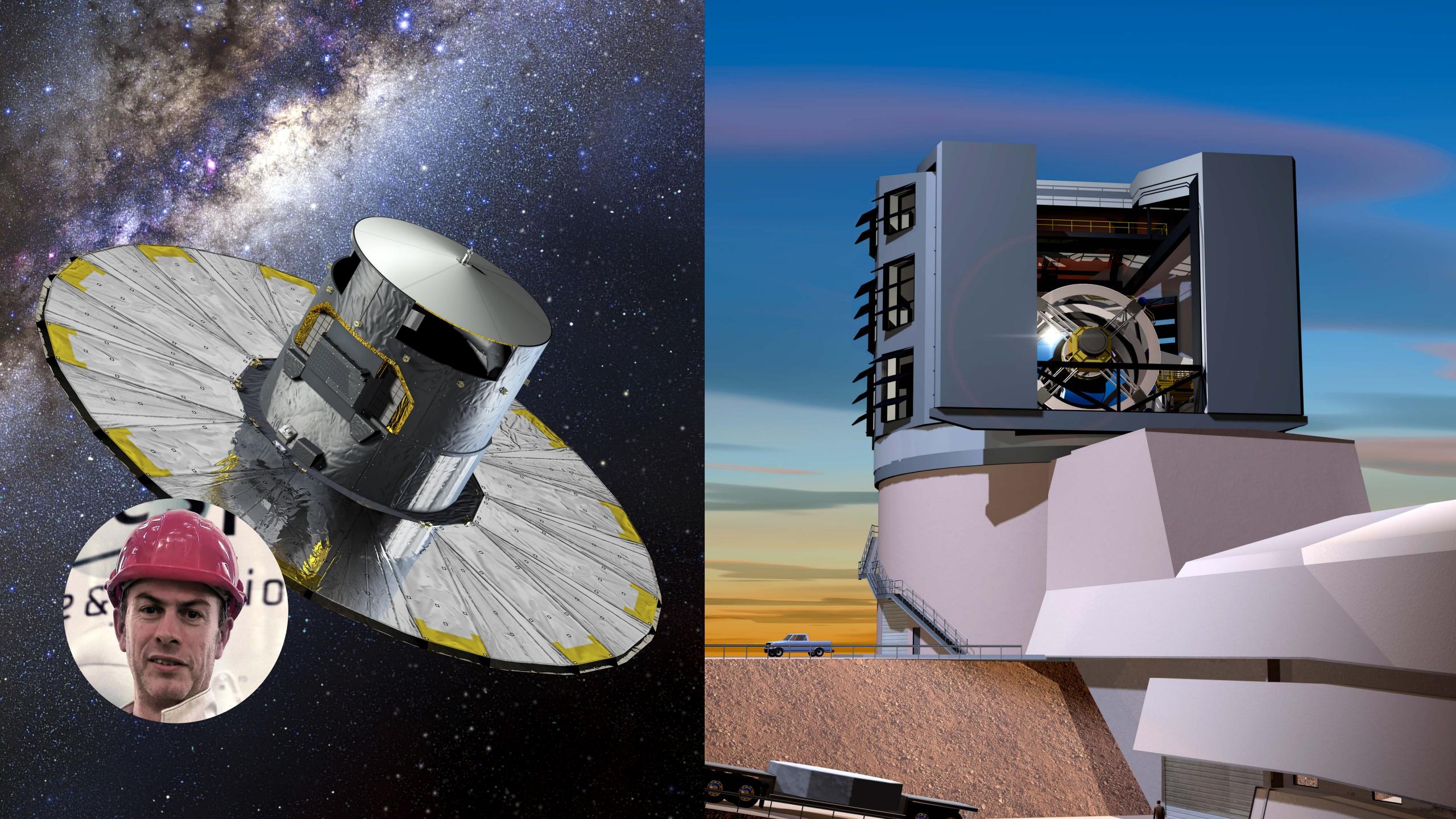
vo "Dirty Laundry"

 Astronomers have very mixed feelings about "the VO"; some think it is a panacea, some think it promised much easier workflows than have been delivered (The Atlantic Effect)



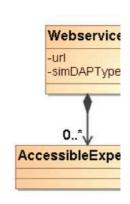


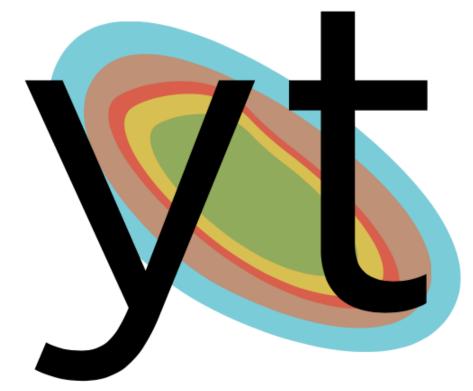
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- The success of the VO depends on technical leads of major projects spending extra effort to make technology "VO-compliant" at various levels (The Wil Effect)





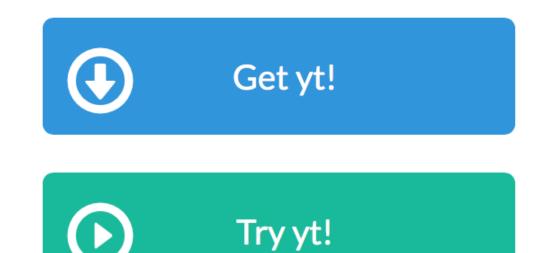
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- Many VO standards have failed to see any uptake in the community (Simulation Data Model Effect)

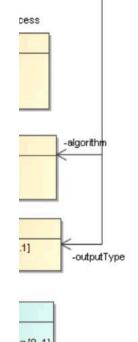




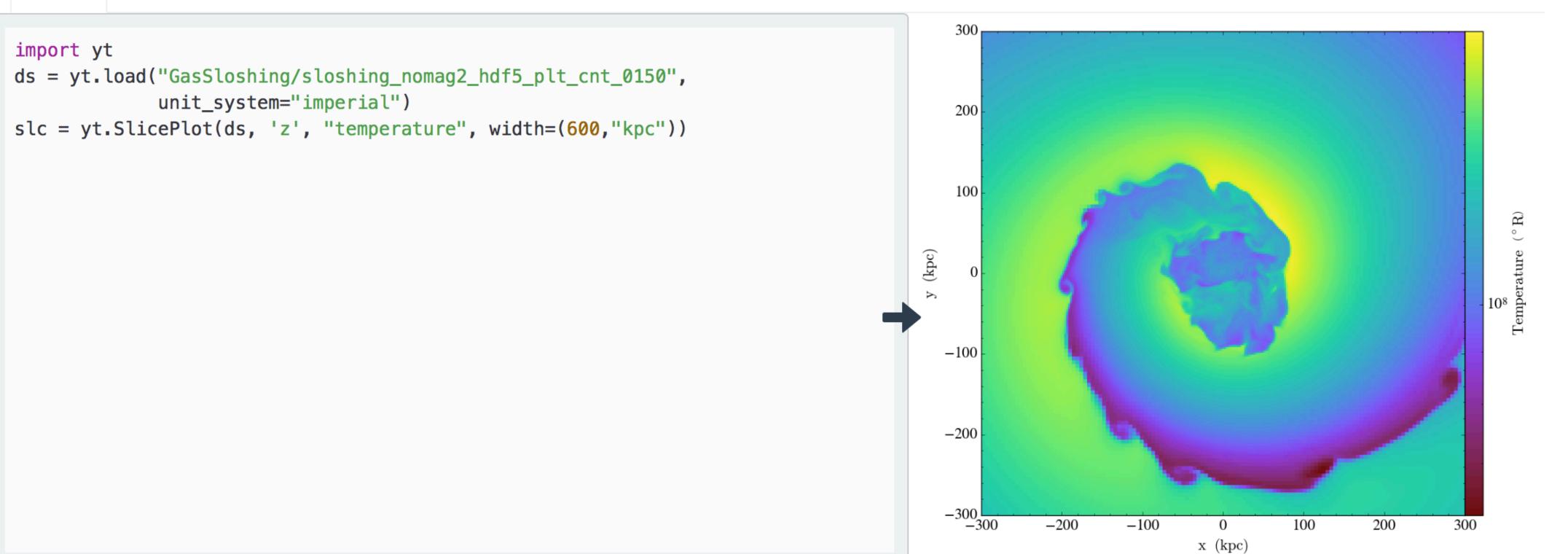
yt is an open-source, permissively-licensed python package for analyzing and visualizing volumetric data.

yt supports structured, variable-resolution meshes, unstructured meshes, and discrete or sampled data such as particles. Focused on driving physically-meaningful inquiry, yt has been applied in domains such as astrophysics, seismology, nuclear engineering, molecular dynamics, and oceanography. Composed of a friendly community of users and developers, we want to make it easy to use and develop—we'd love it if you got involved!





Data → Viz → Analysis →



)MParticle"

VO "Dirty Laundry"

- Astronomers have very mixed feelings about "the VO"; some think it is a panacea, some think it promised much easier workflows than have been delivered (The Atlantic Effect)
- The success of the VO depends on technical leads of major projects spending extra effort to make technology "VO-compliant" at various levels (The Wil Effect)
- Many VO standards have failed to see any uptake in the community (Simulation Data Model Effect)
- The IVOA is Slow, Formal, and Exclusive (The ADASS/dotAstro Divide)

Something designed to work across many implementations

Common

At the level of a center, not at the level of a user

Archive

For astronomy, not reinventing something that could be adopted

Observation

A relatively generic structure,

not just for one data type



Common Archive Observation Model

CAOM is a unified model for metadata for an *observation* for any telescope:

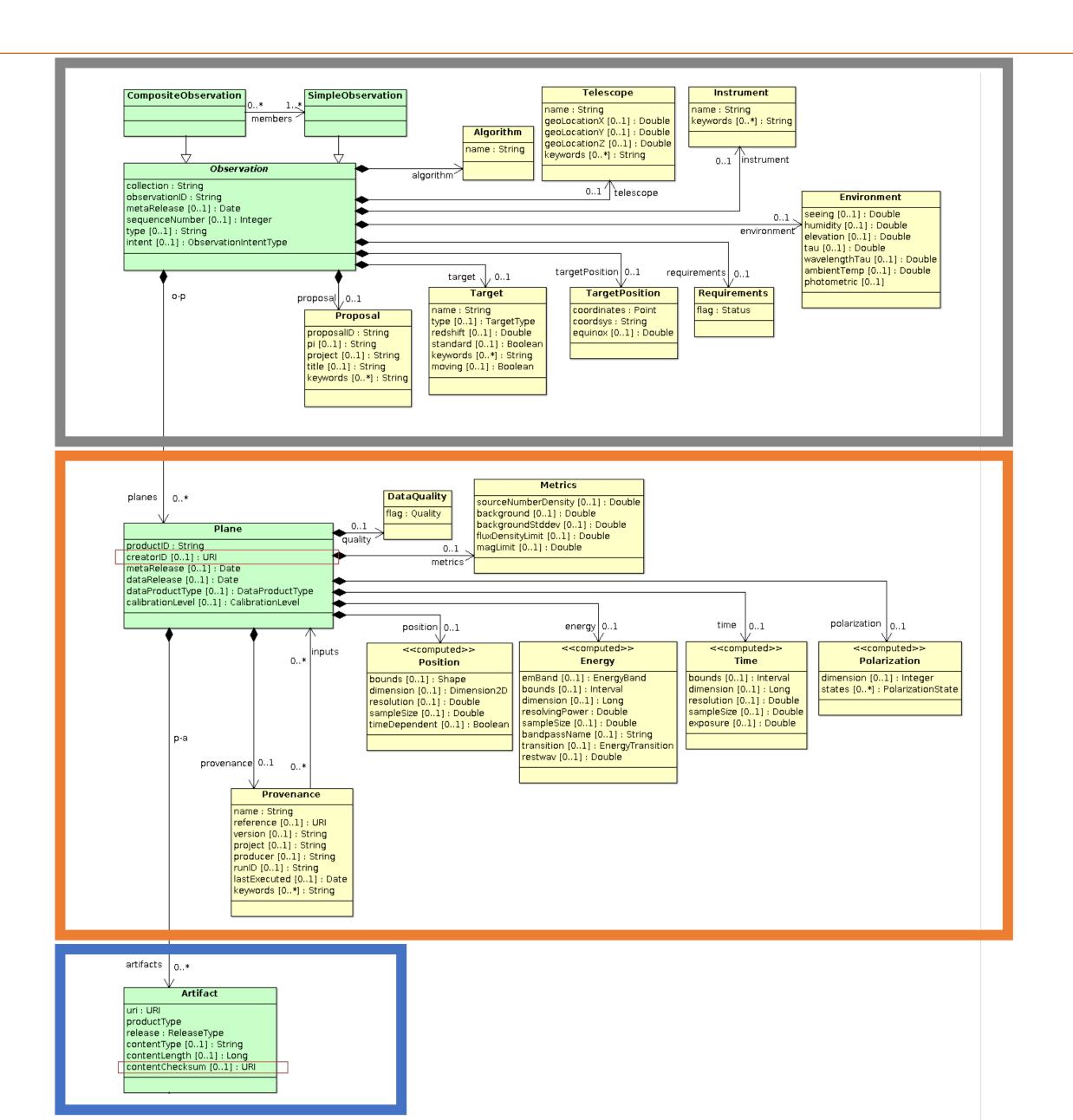
- Standardizes the core parts of an archive implementation
- Enable *cross-mission searches* and enhances scientific value
- Simplify data access with a common set of software
- Model is extensible for mission specific metadata



Observation

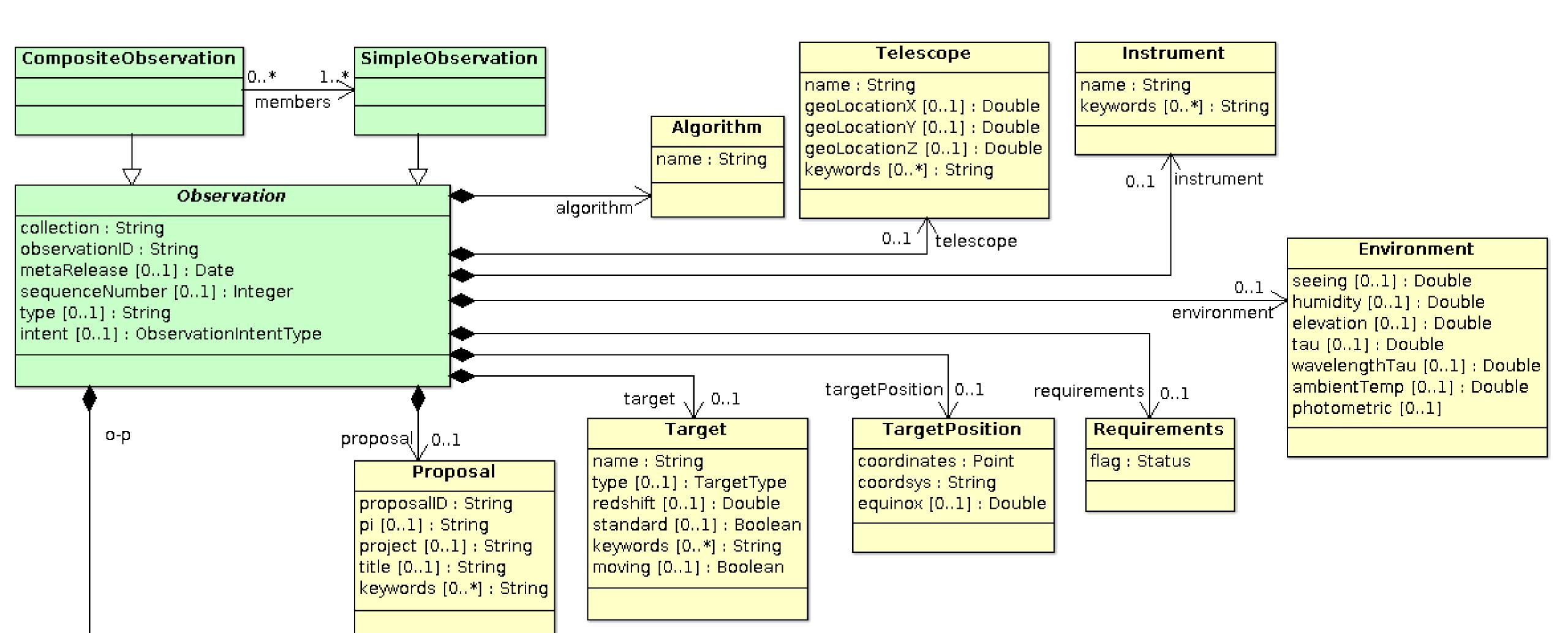
Plane

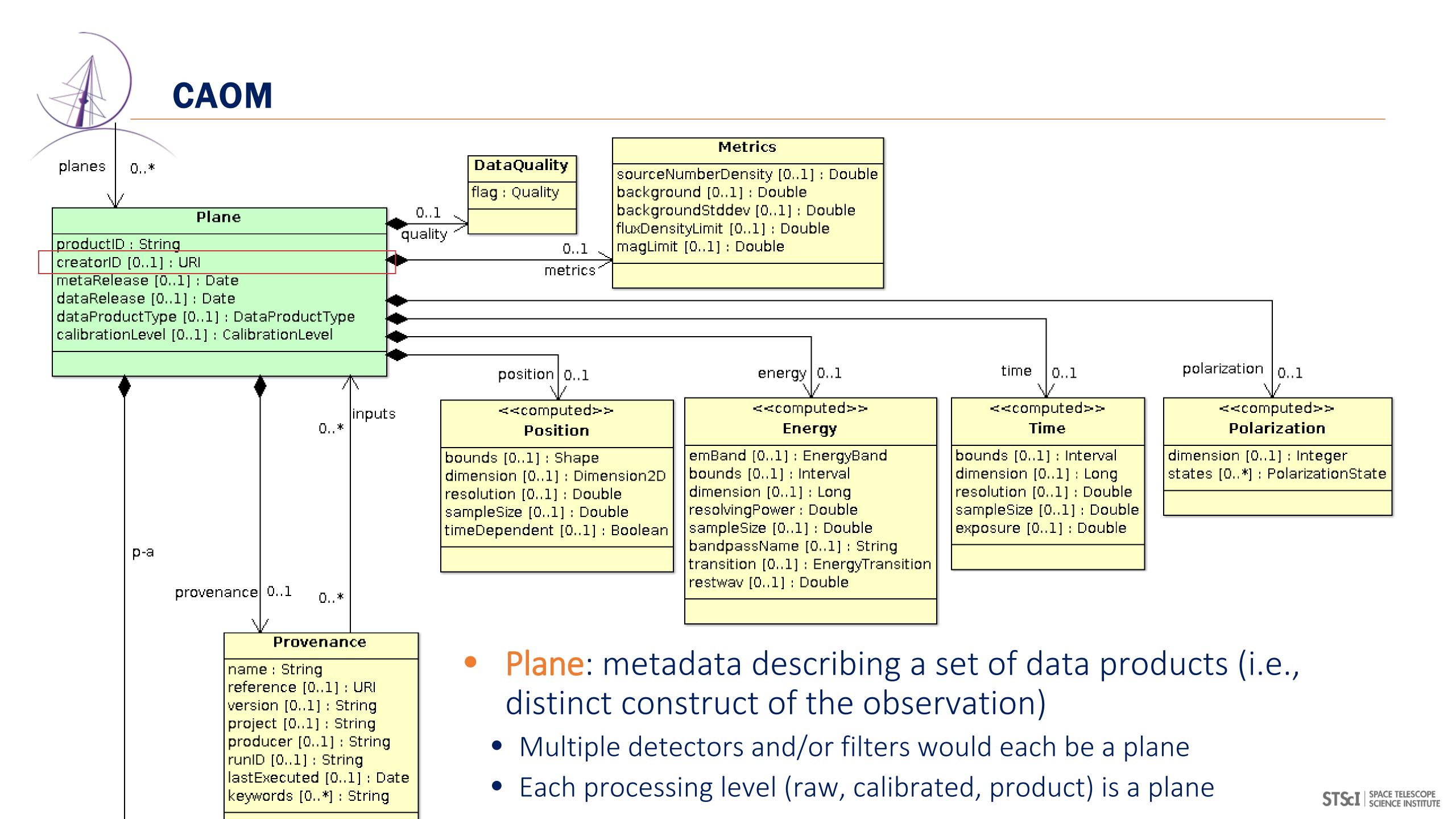
Artifact





• Observation: metadata describing characteristics of an observation

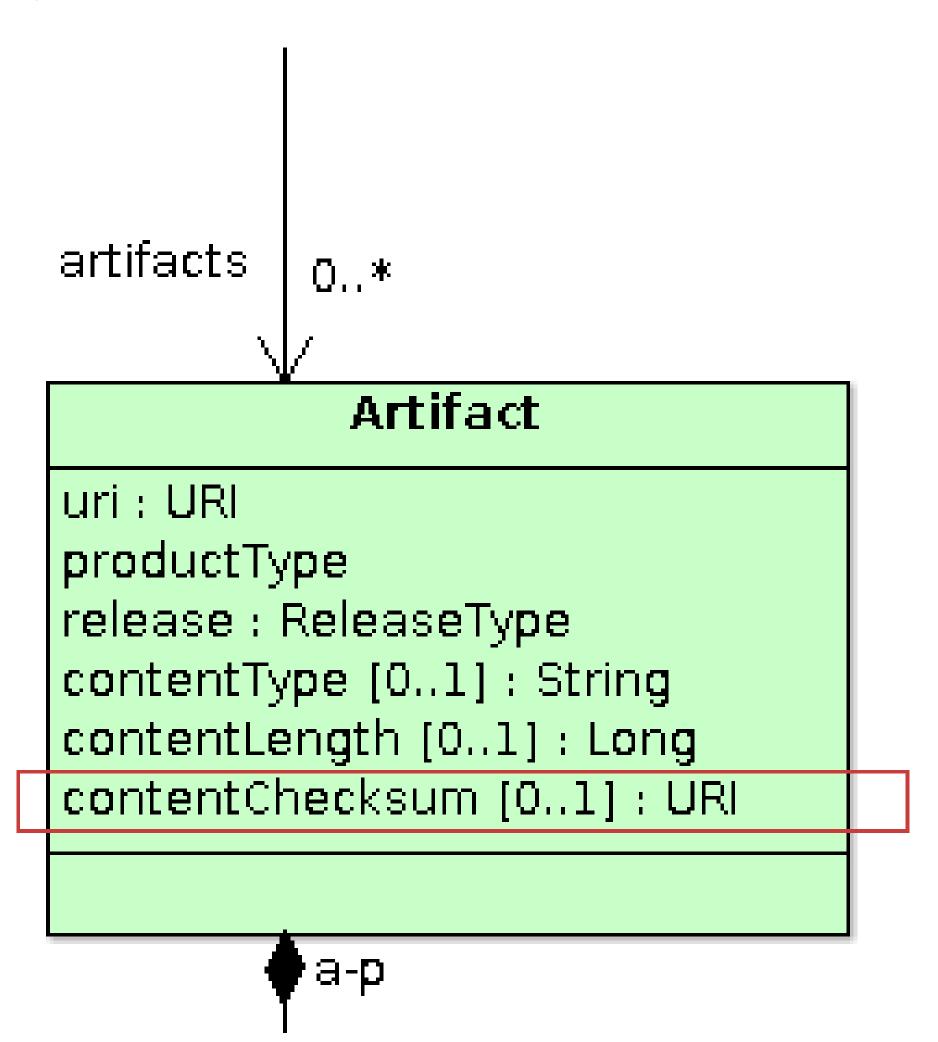


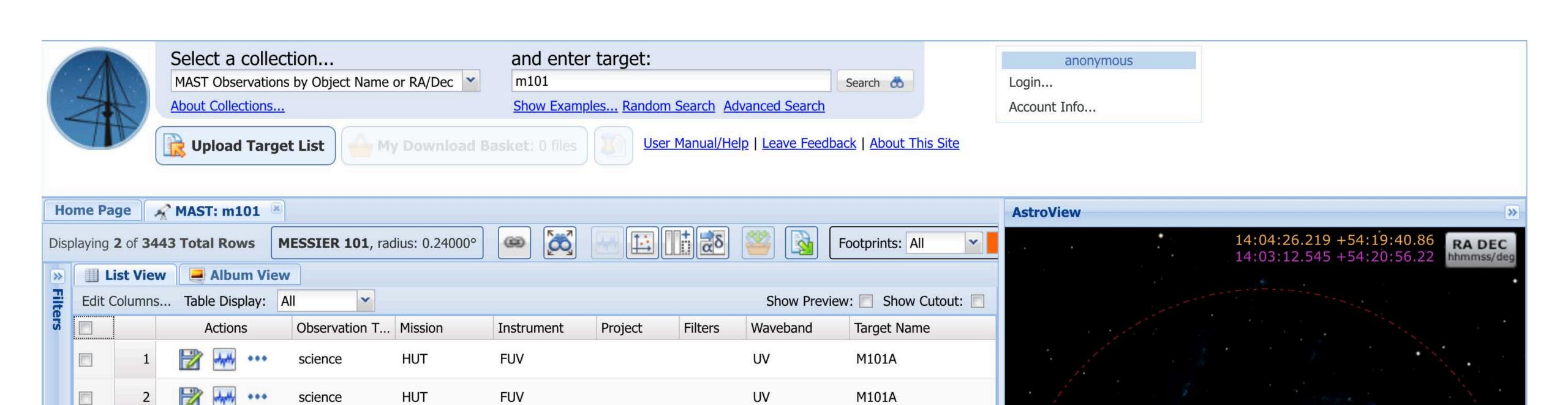


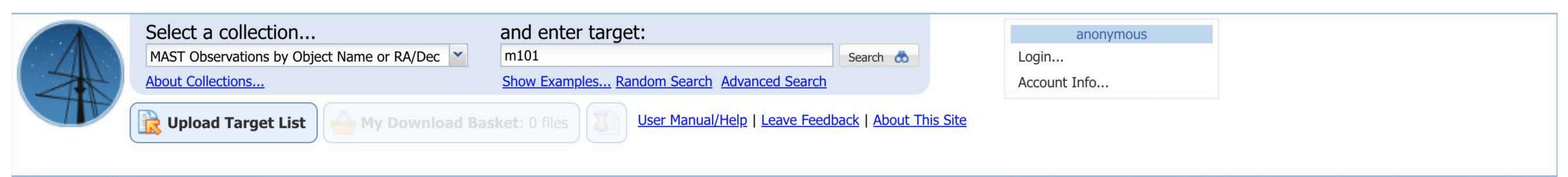


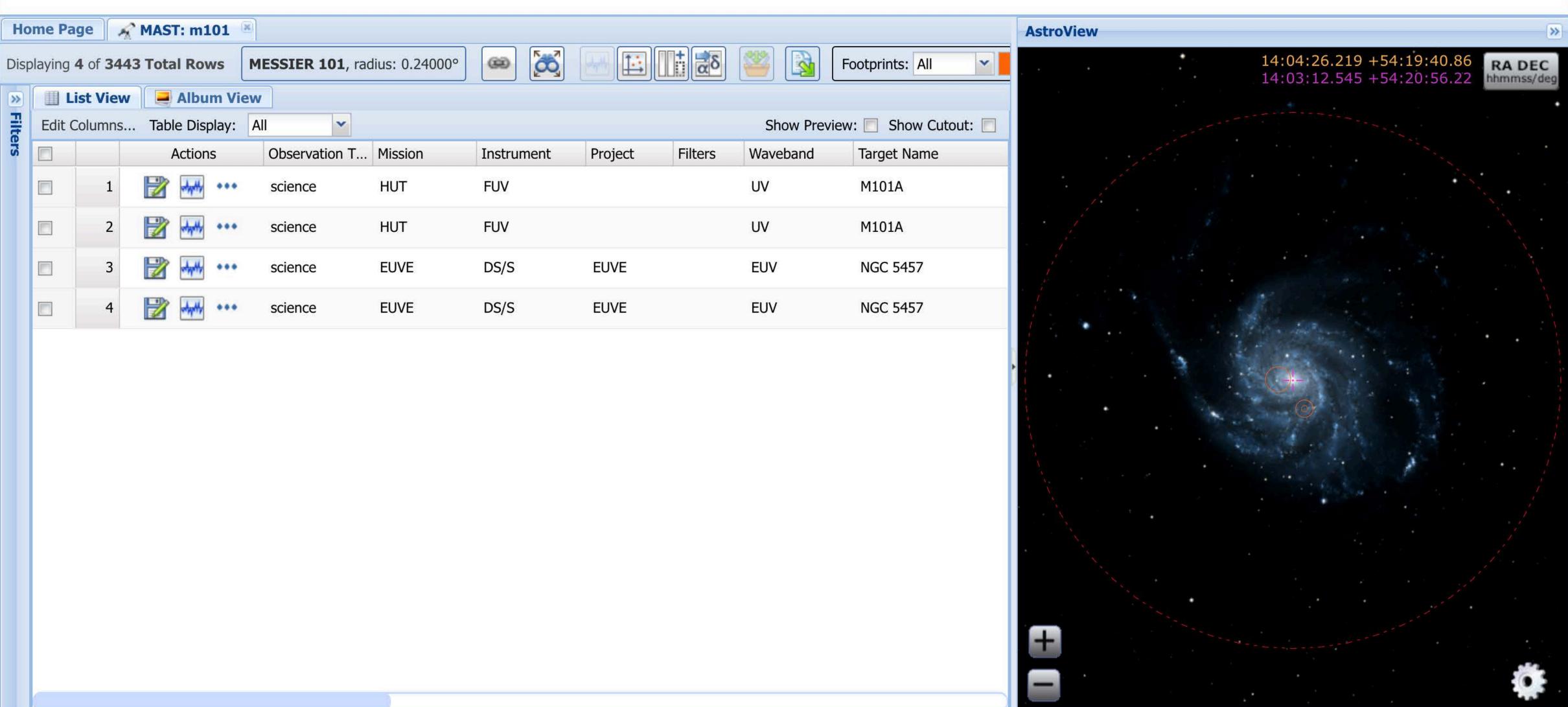
CAOM v2.3

- Artifact: metadata describing a distinct product file
 - Includes pointer (URI) to actual data files











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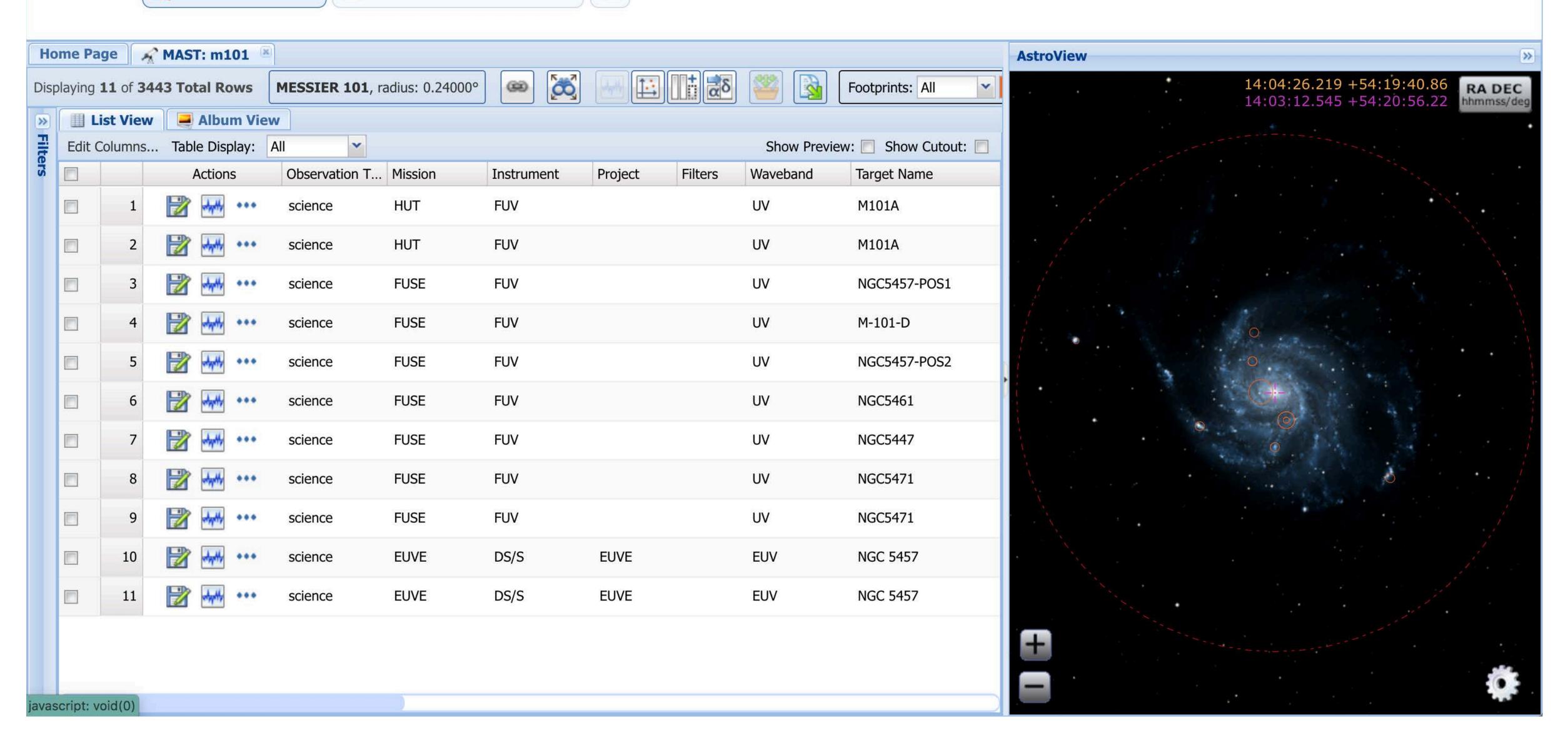
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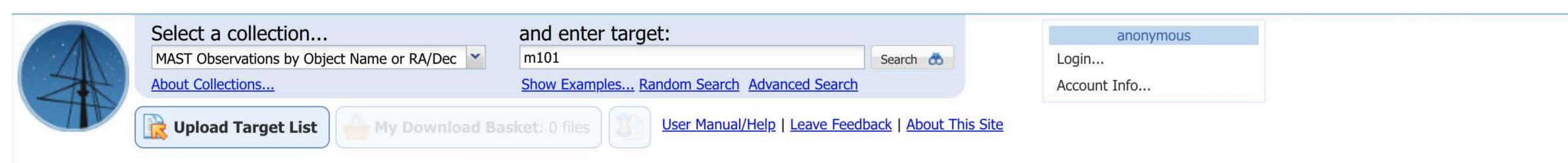
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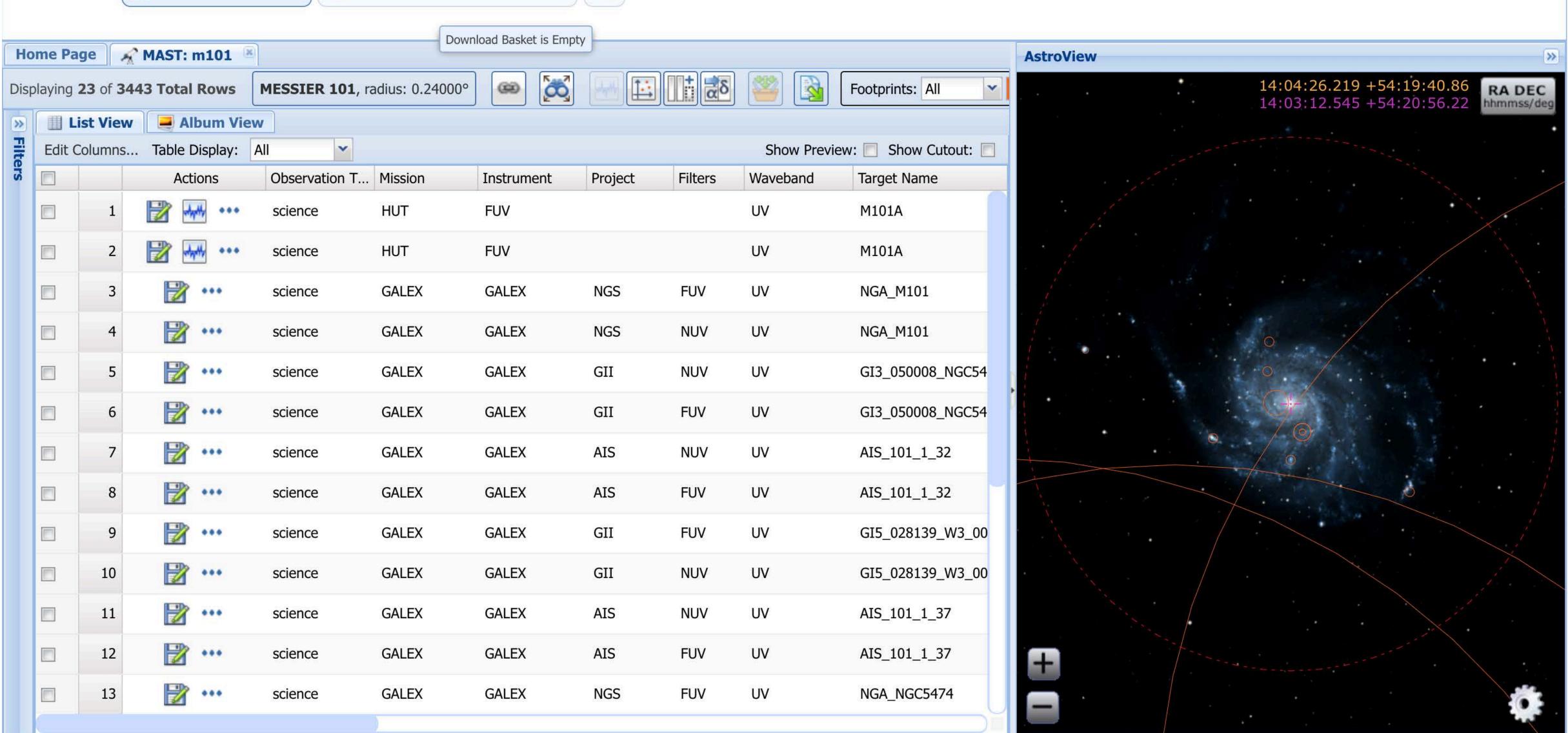
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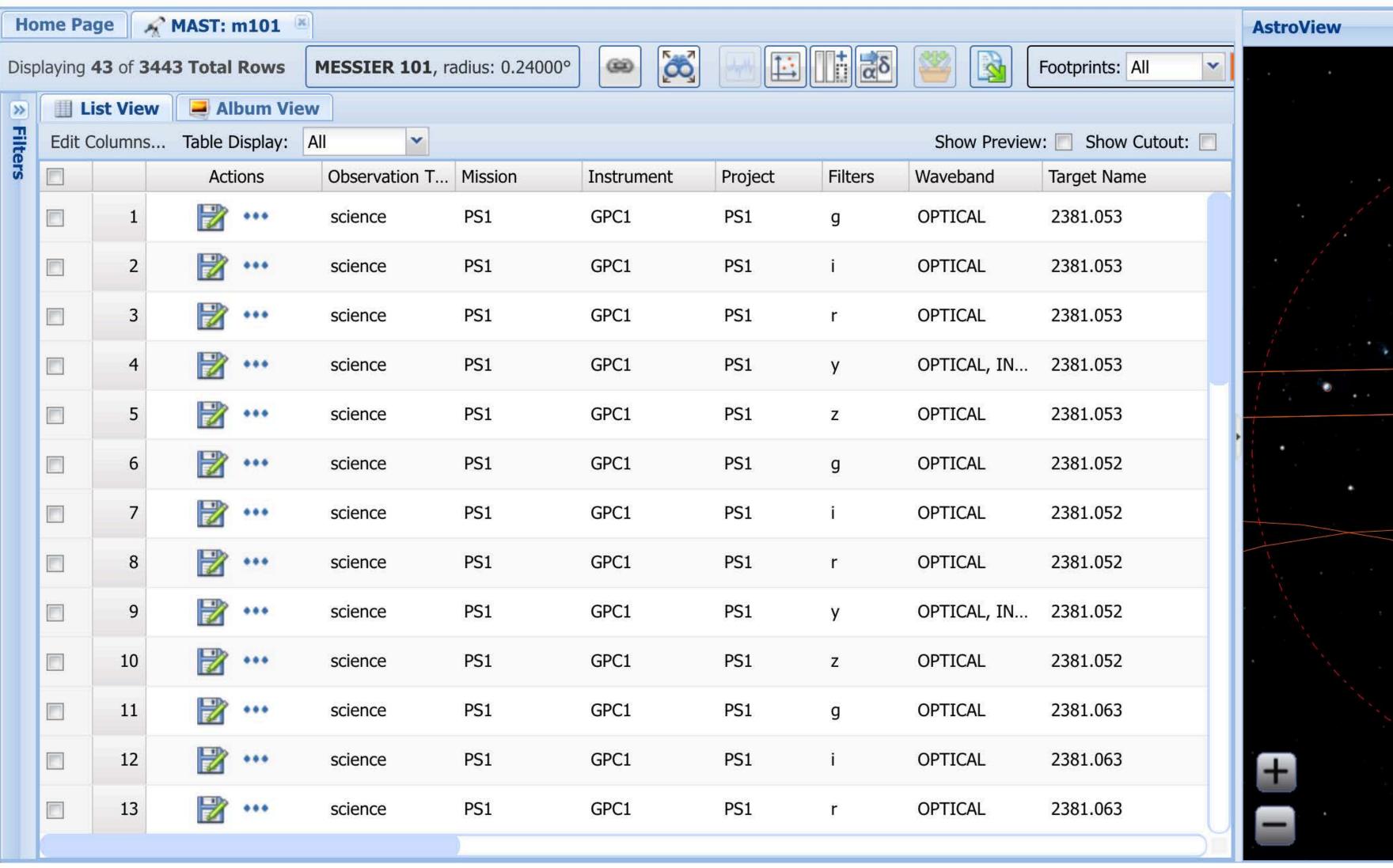
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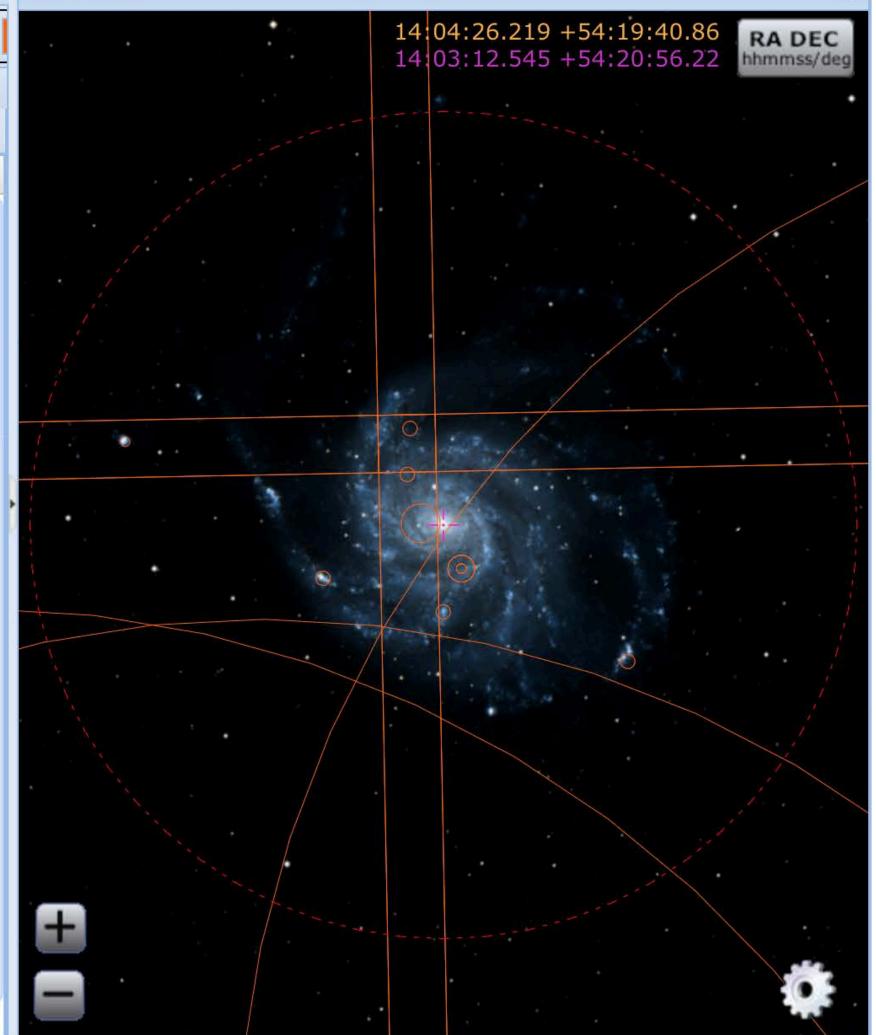
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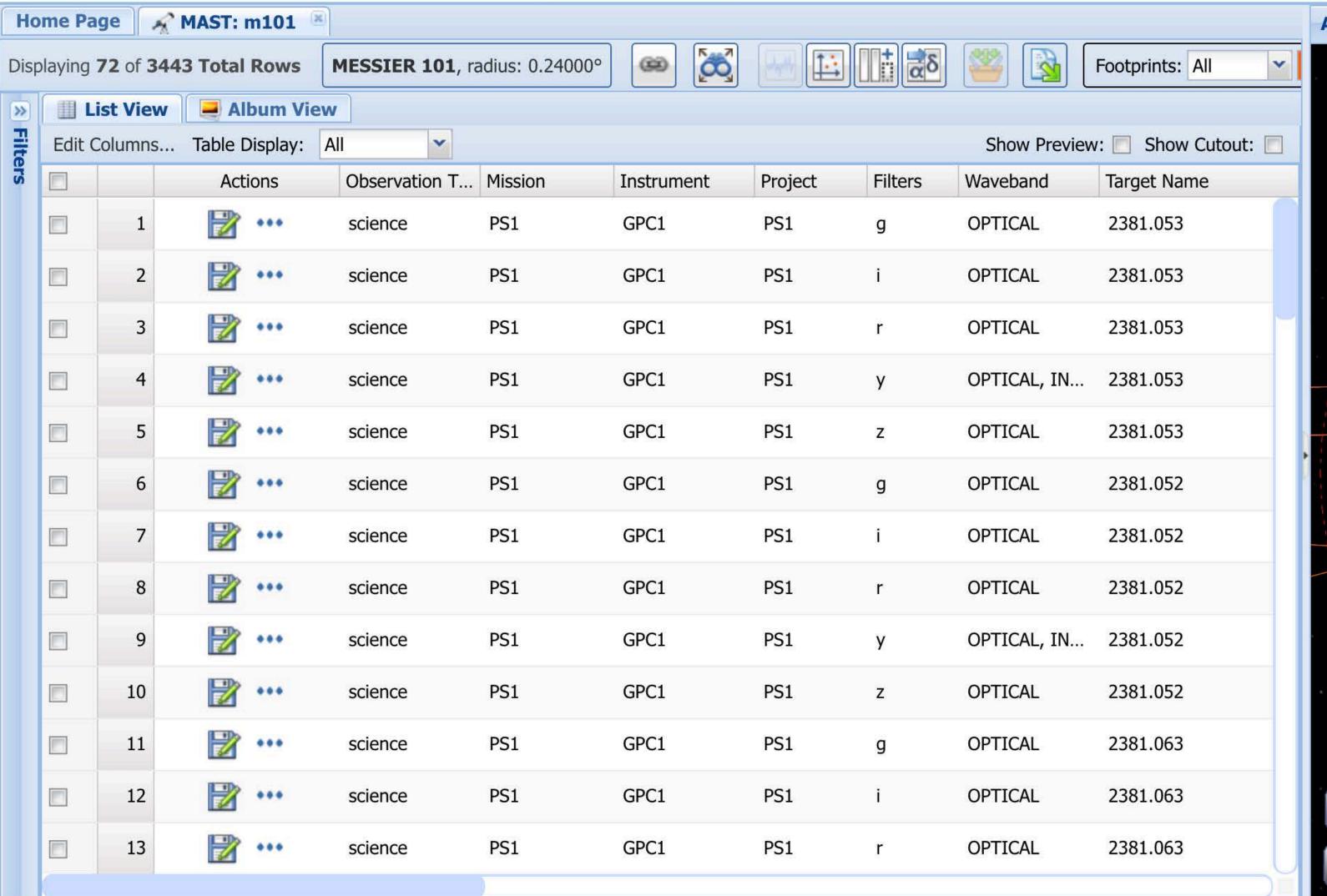
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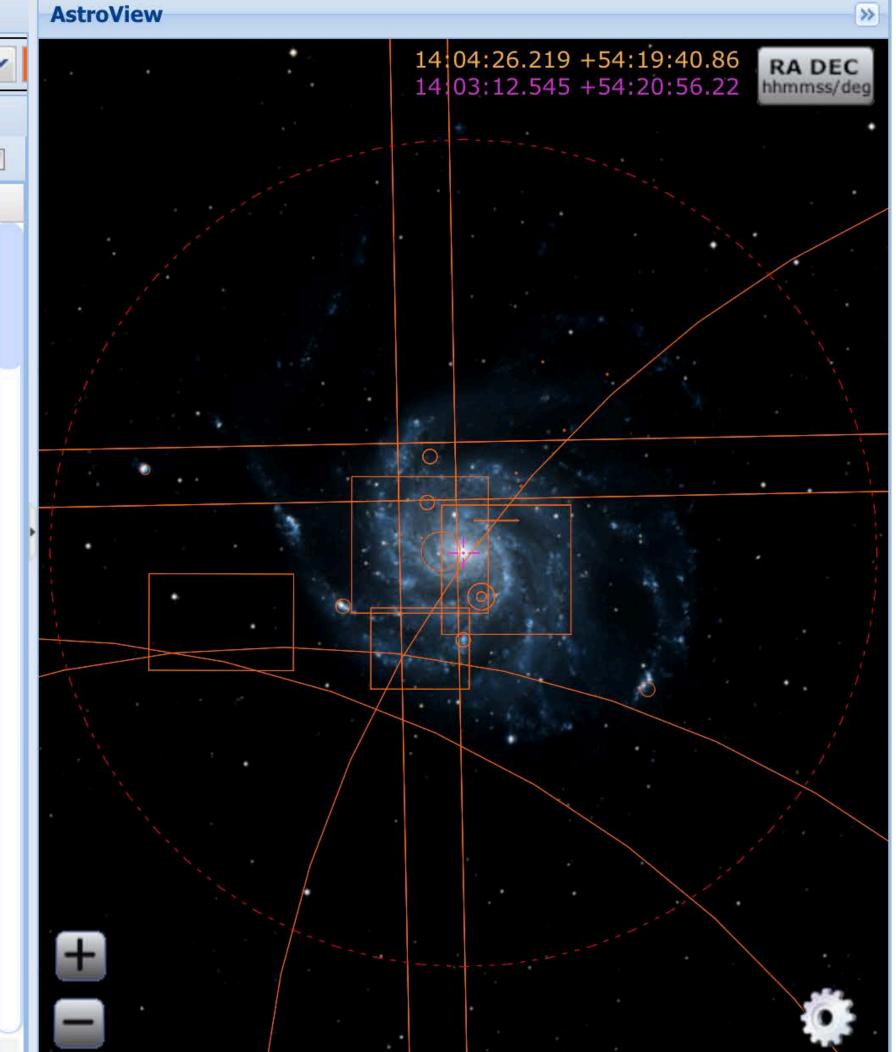
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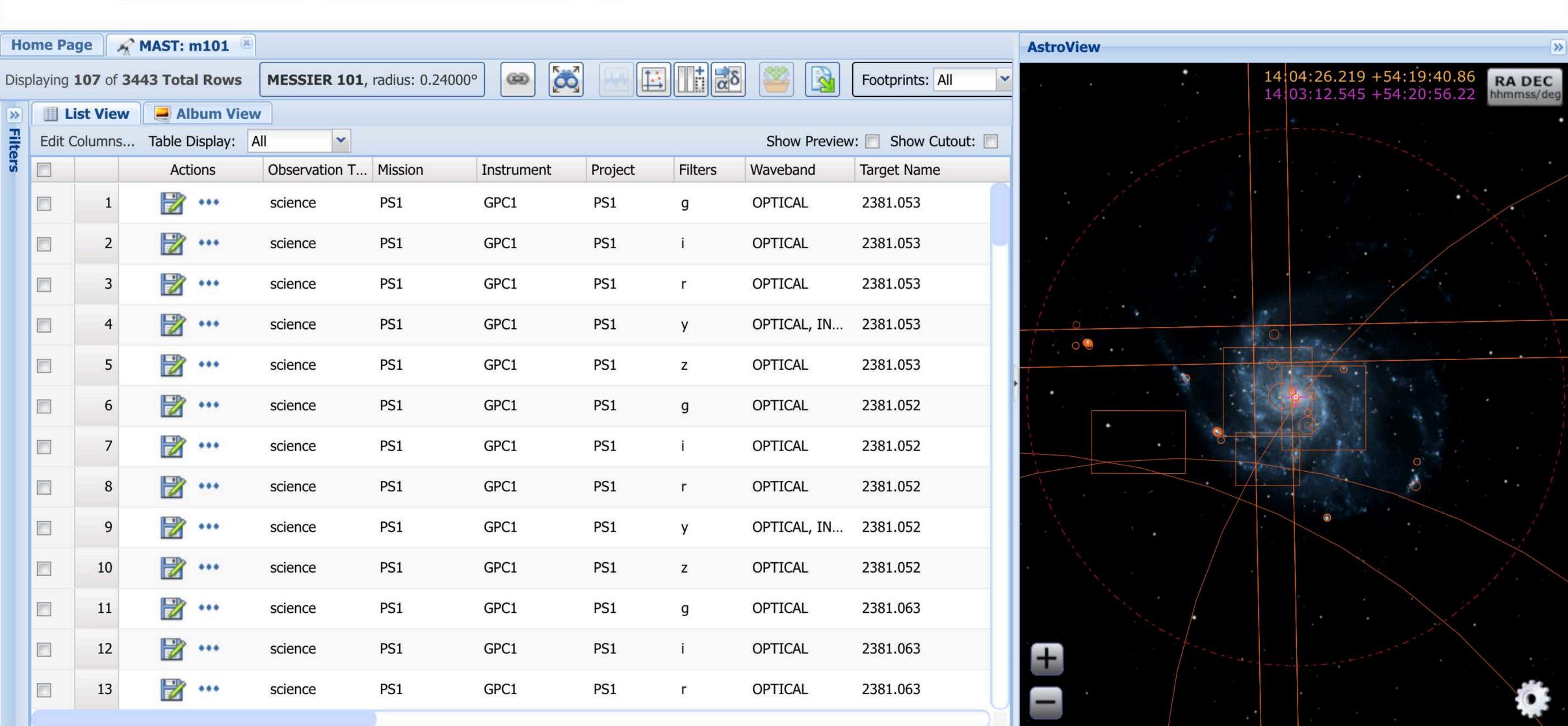
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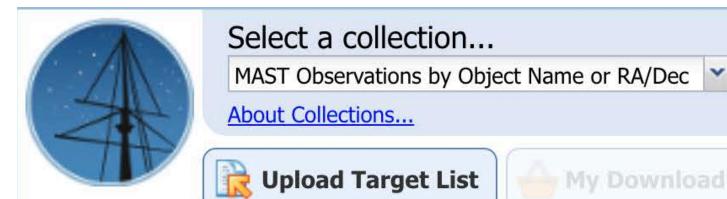




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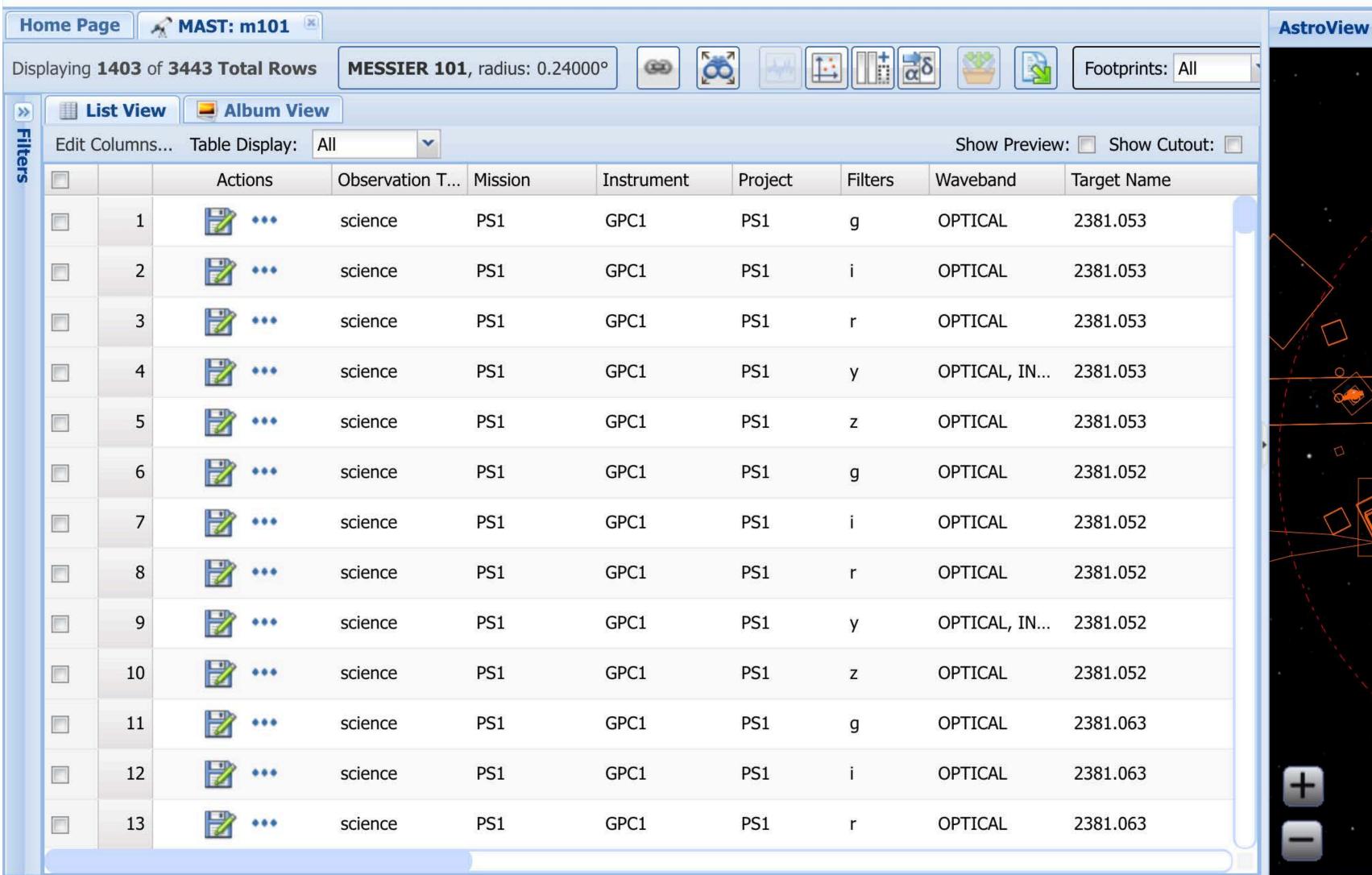
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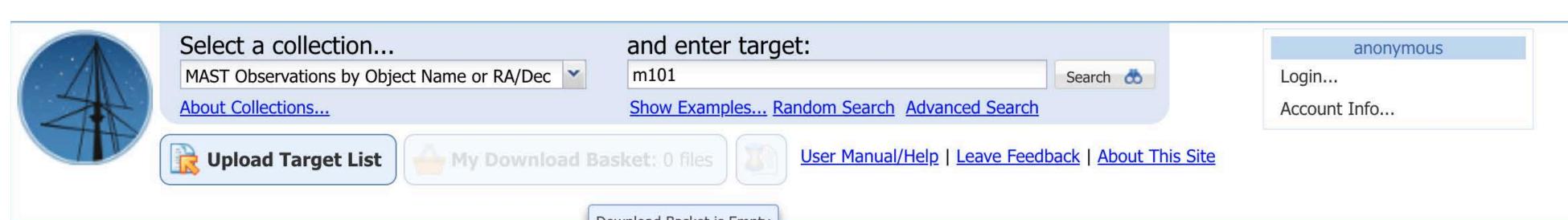
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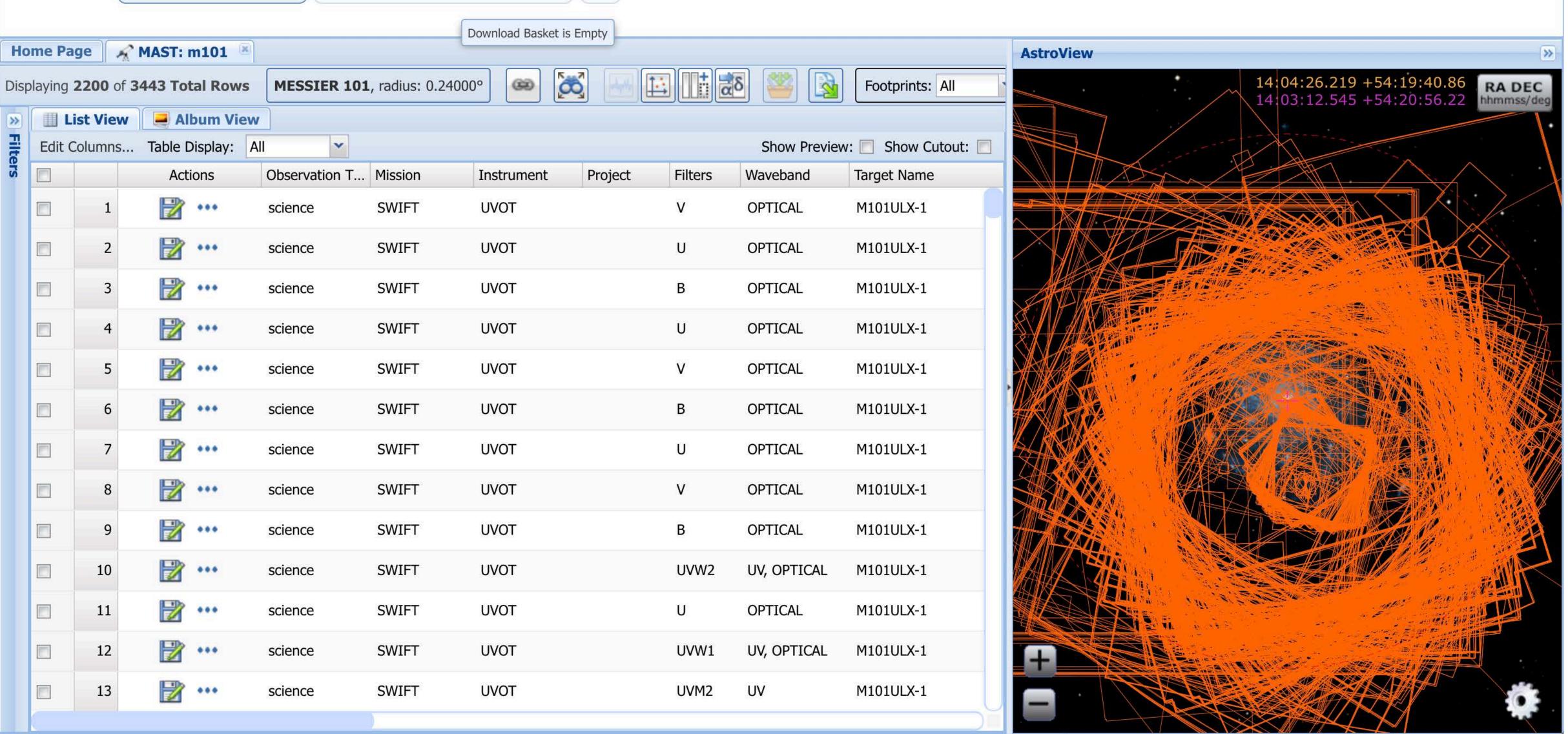
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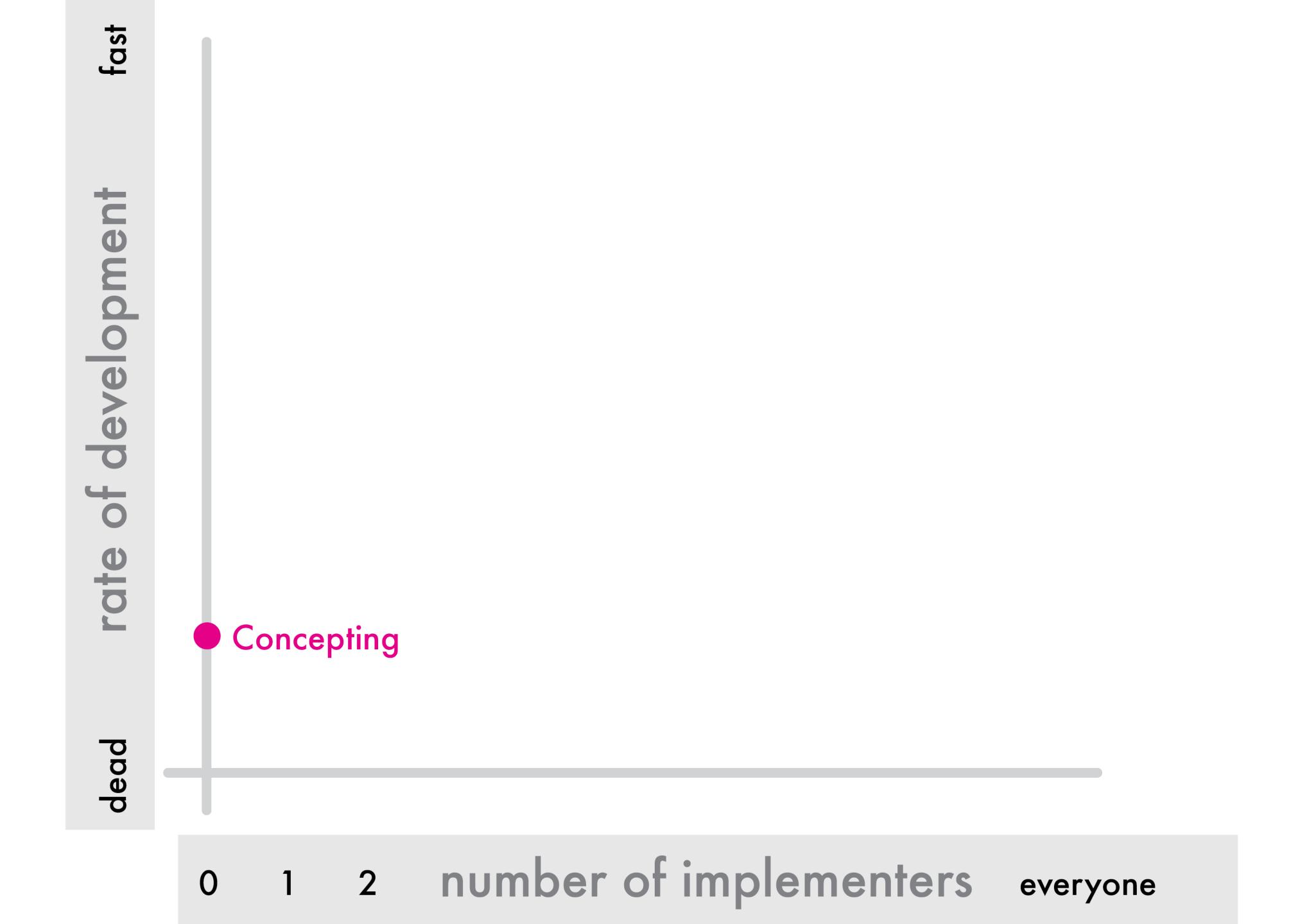
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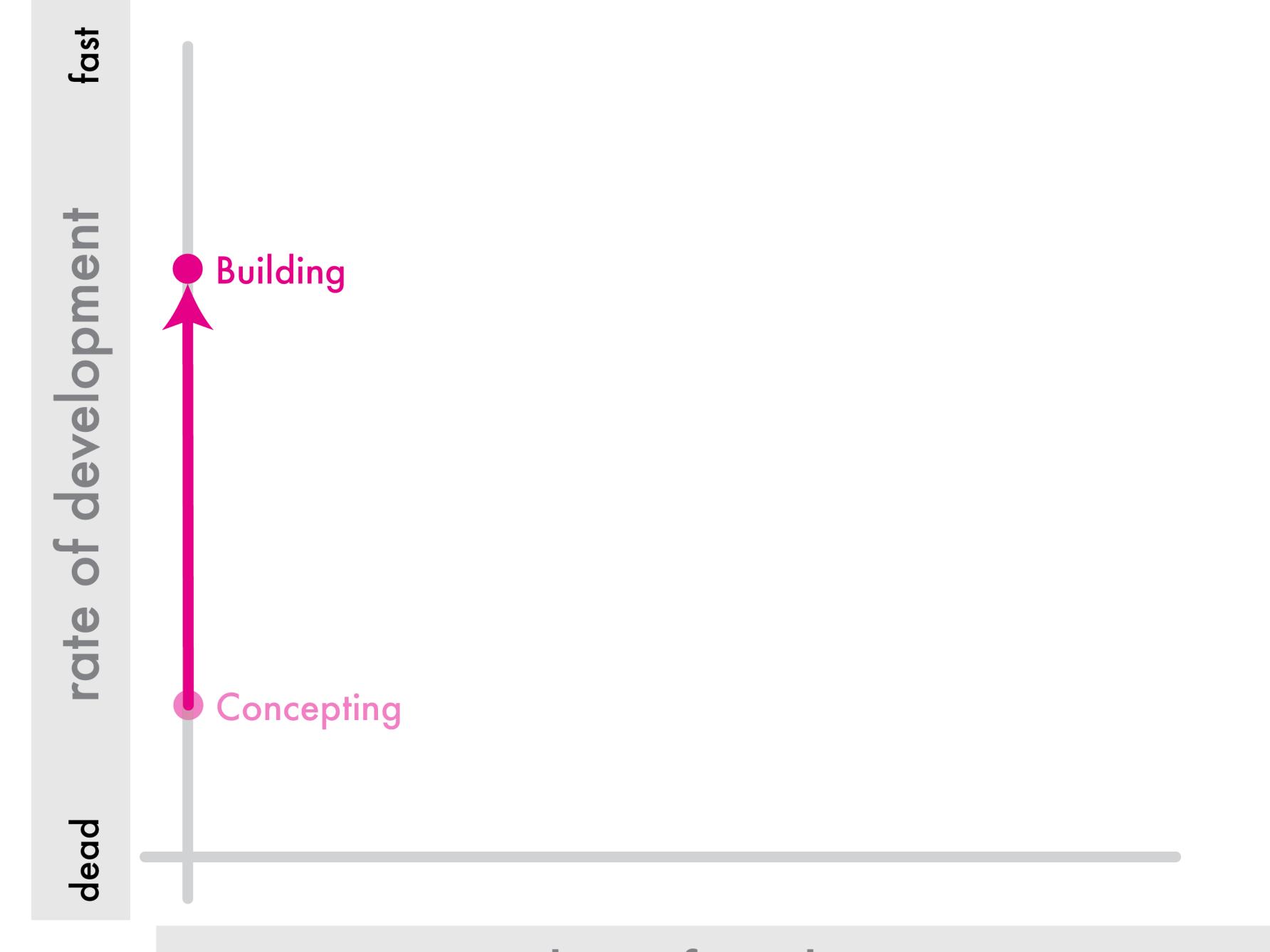


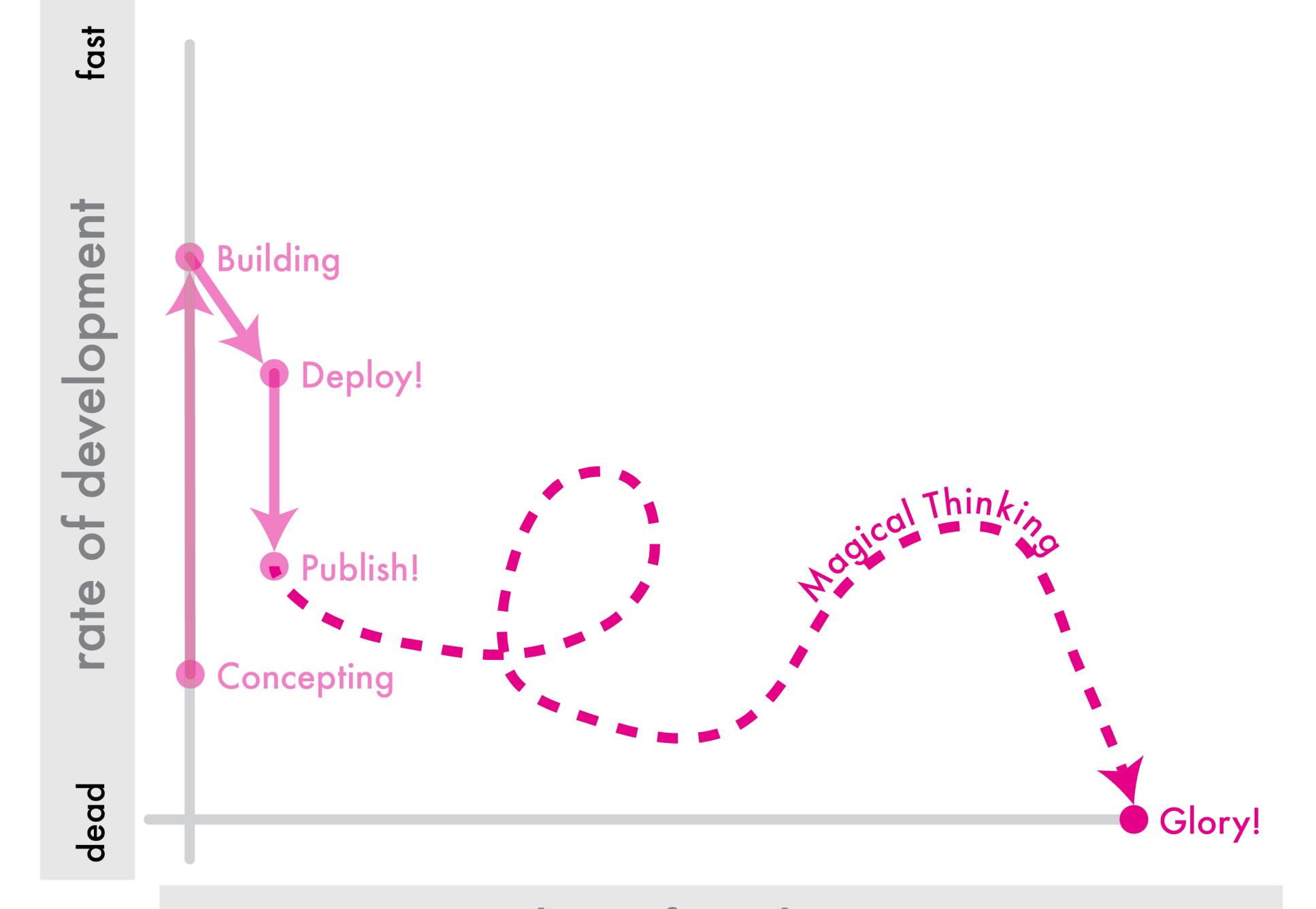


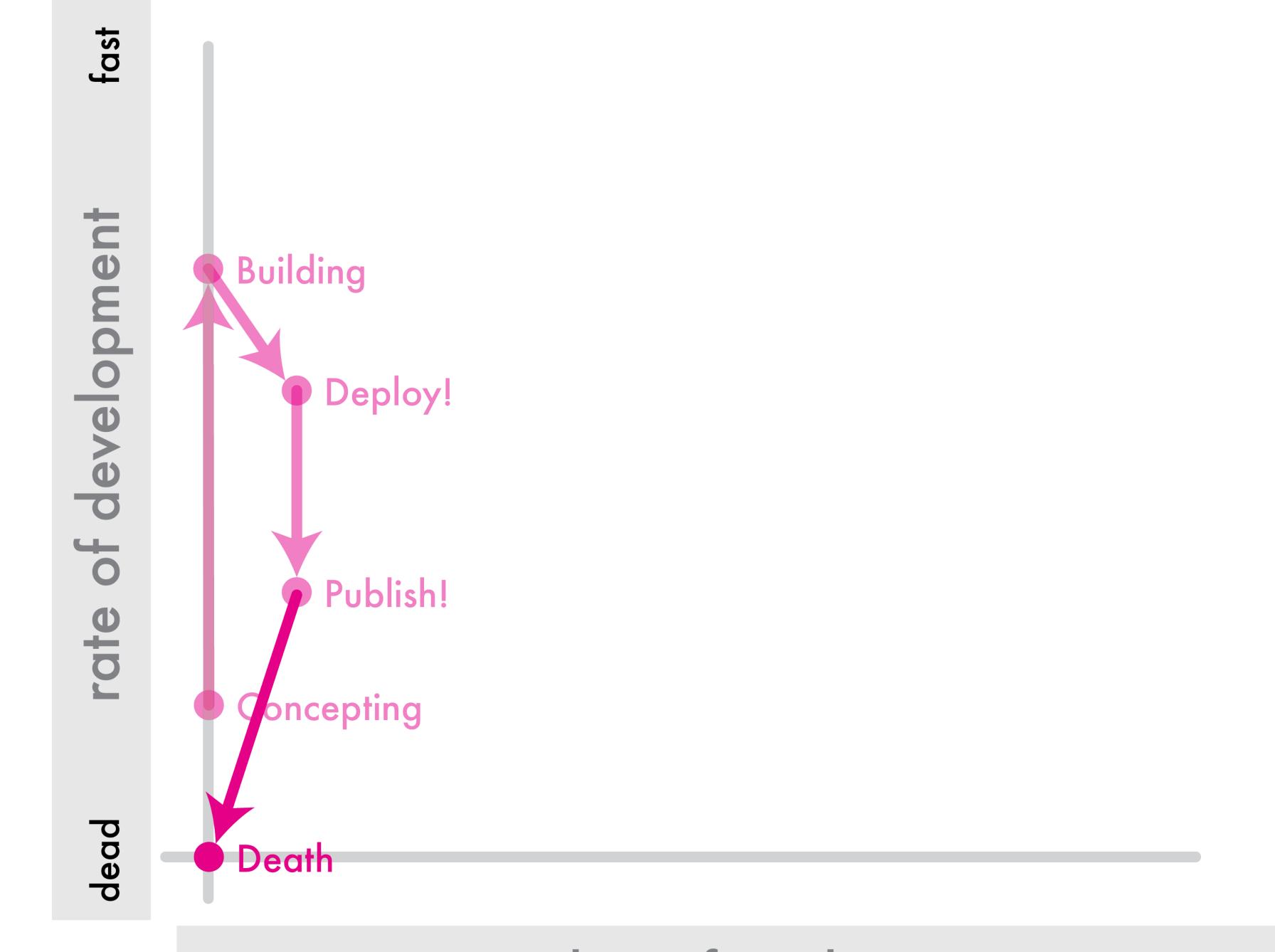


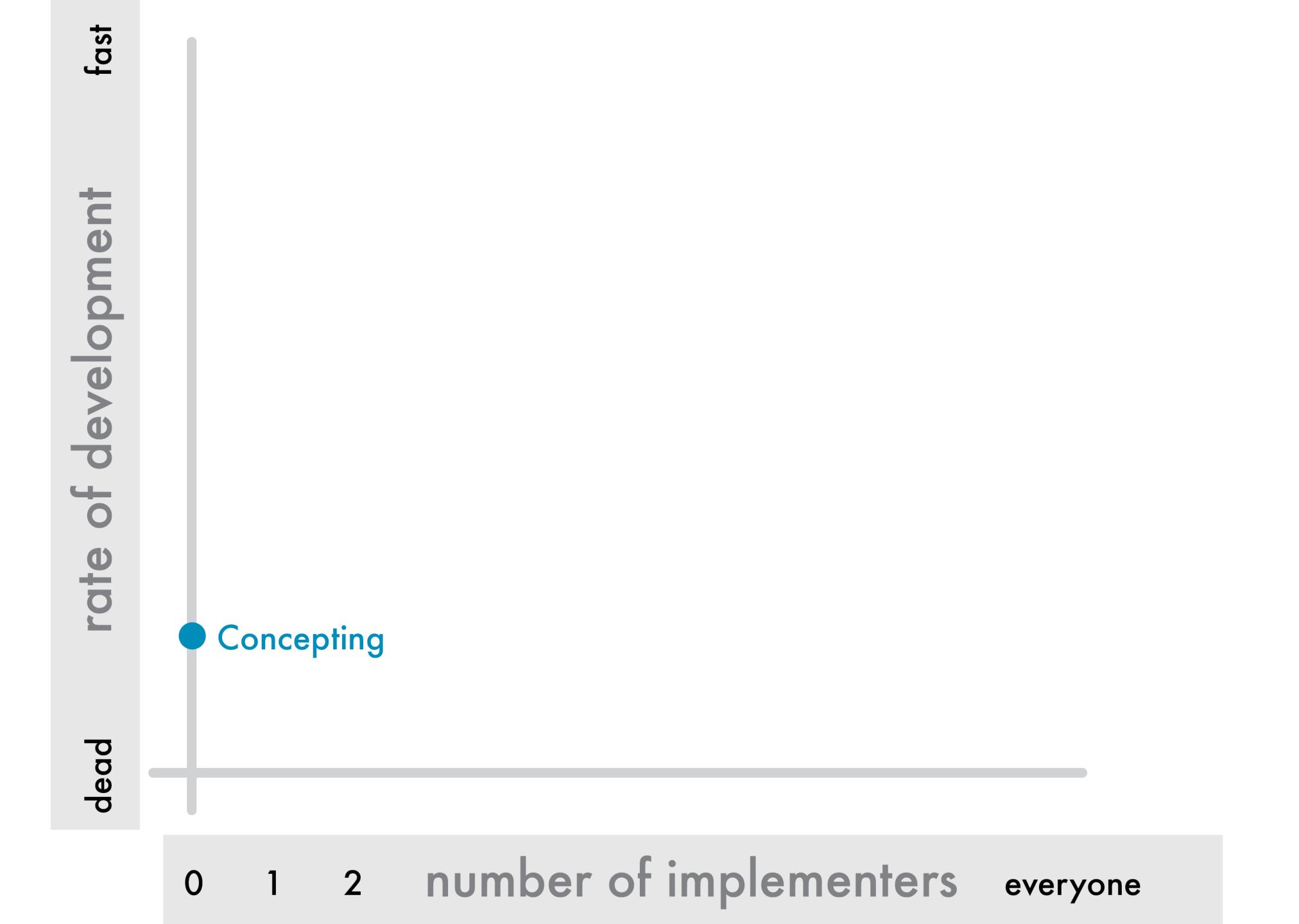


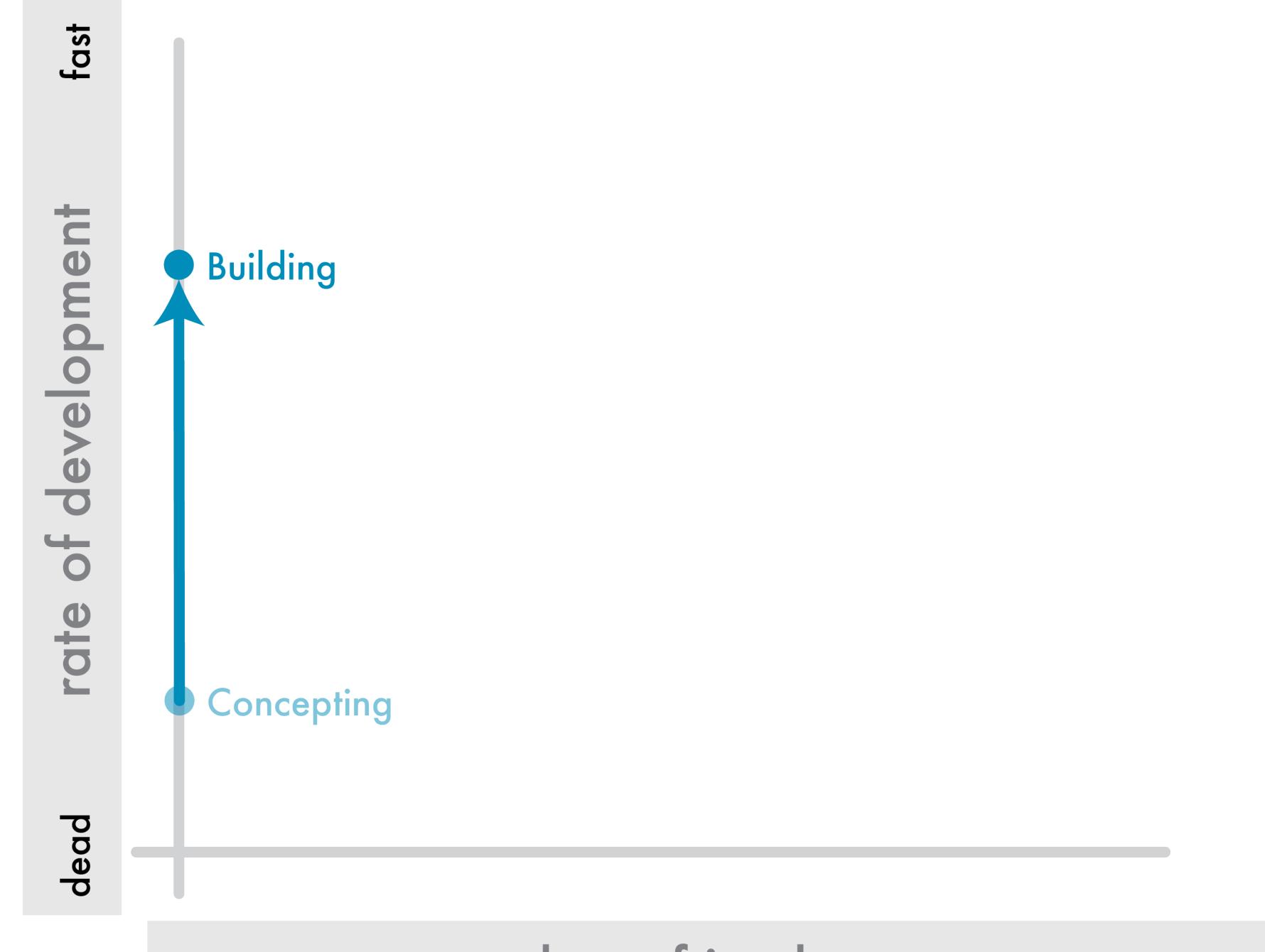


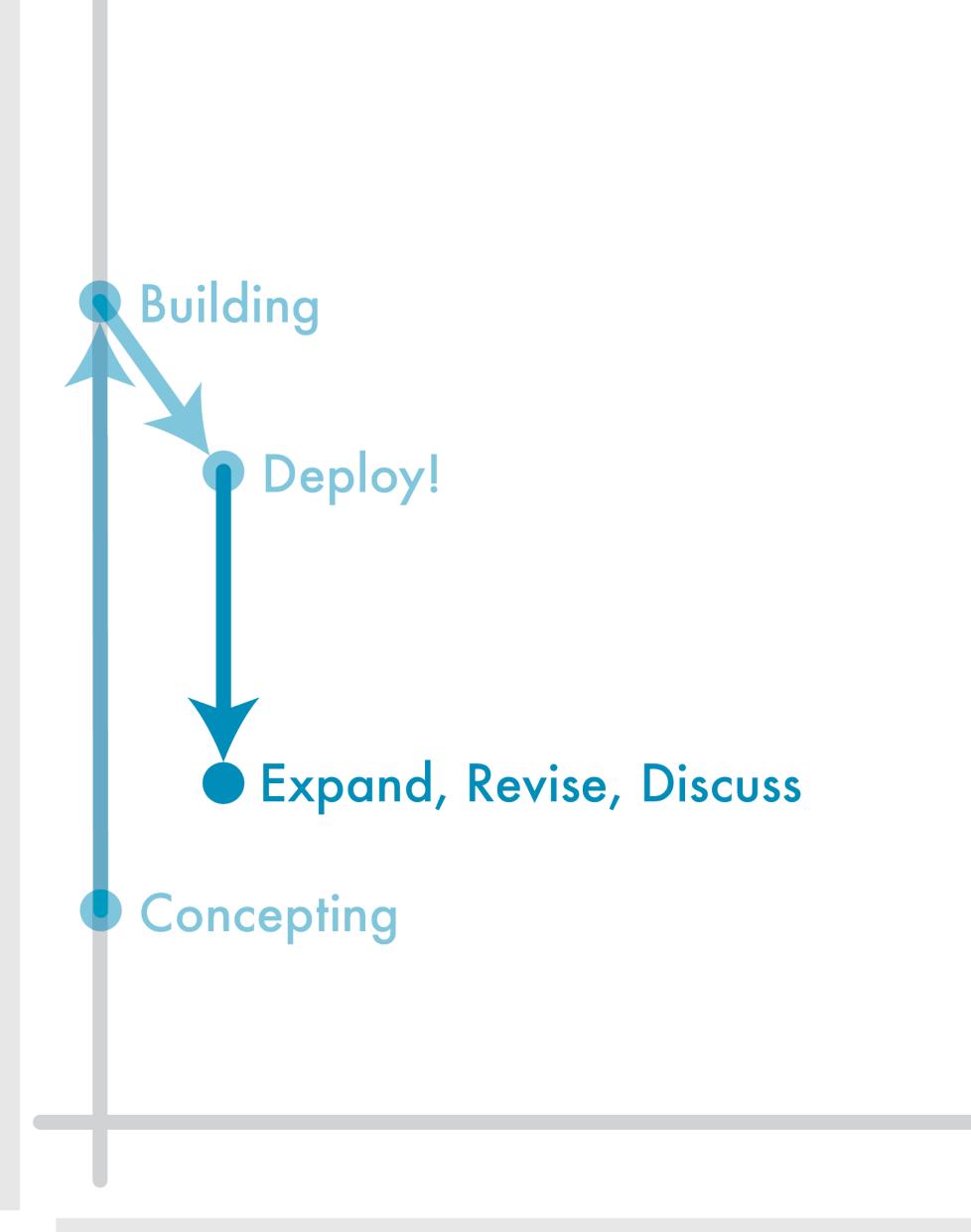


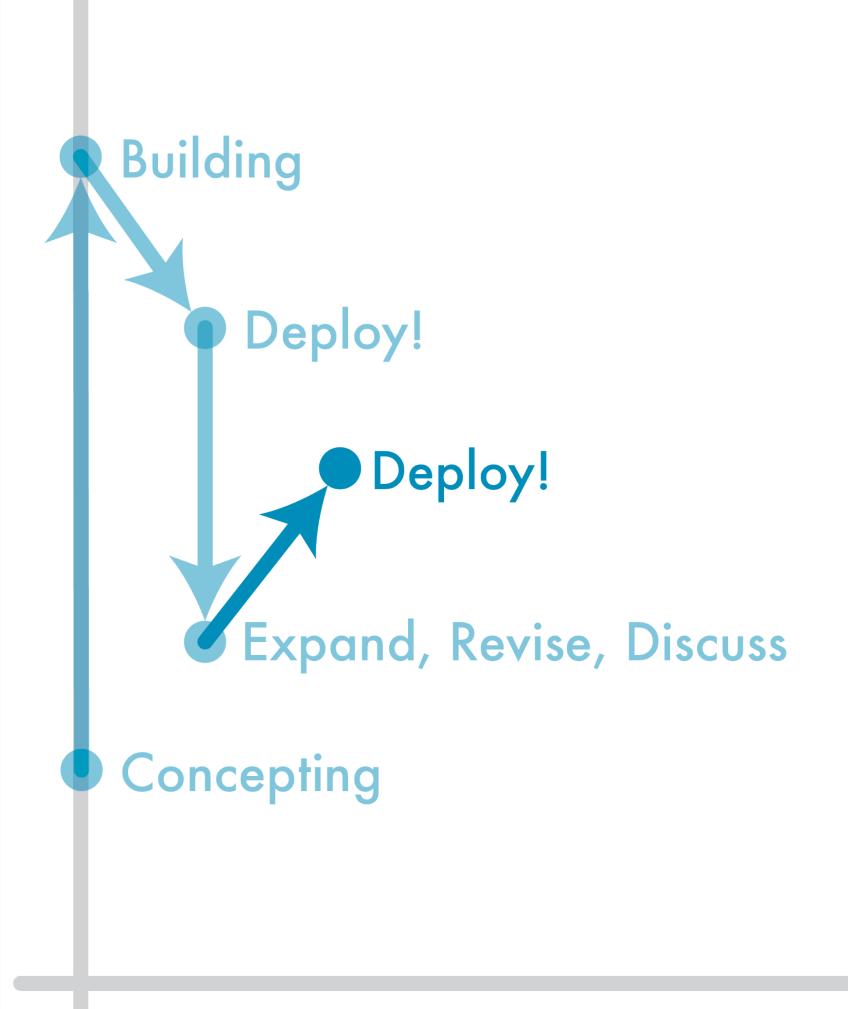


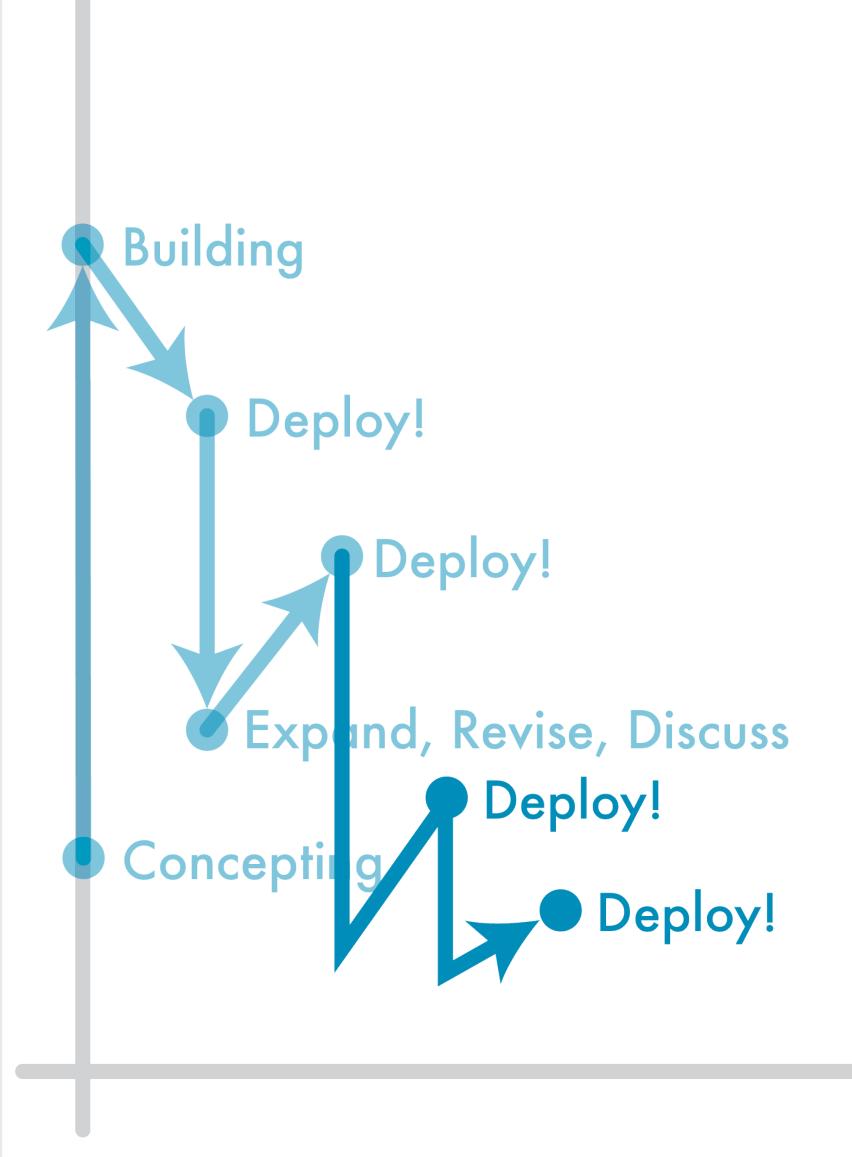












Takeaways for DIMIII

- Find common conceptual "grids" defined by practitioners upon which to build
- The scientific and technical returns from data sharing can be tremendous
- Discovery and physical understanding are both enhanced by data models
- Defining common models is a messy, human process with setbacks
- Standards follow implementations before implementations follow standards
- Standards definition is often successful as a bottom-up (not top-down) process