

Exoplanet Target Selection and Scheduling with Greedy Optimization

Dean Keithly¹, Daniel Garrett¹, Christian Delacroix², Dmitry Savransky¹

¹Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca NY, United States
²Princeton University, Princeton NJ, United States



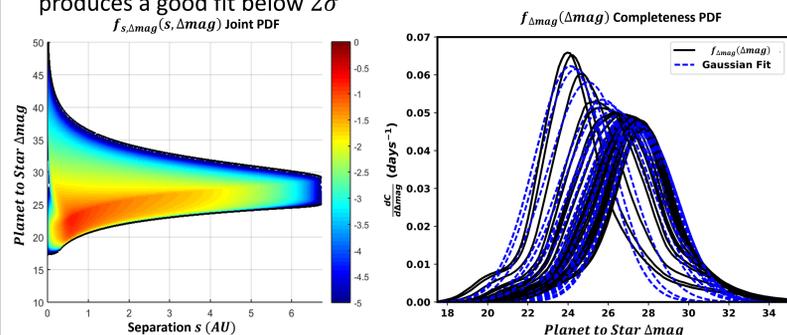
Objectives

Exoplanet detection yield can be (conditionally) maximized by optimizing 3 parameters: which targets to observe, integration time per target, and when to observe them. Our goal is to inform future imaging missions by:

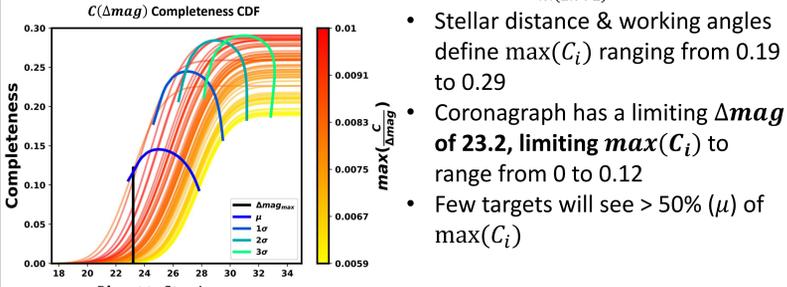
1. Creating fast selection and scheduling algorithms
2. Quantify assumption sensitivity (Zodiacal Light, Overhead Time)
3. Maximizing simulated exoplanet detection yield

Increasing Optimization Speed

- Using Kepler data derived analytical joint probability distribution of completeness $f_{s,\Delta mag}(s, \Delta mag)$, we marginalize over s to find $f_{\Delta mag}(\Delta mag)$ [3]
- Approximating $f_{\Delta mag}(\Delta mag)$ using $Ae^{B(\Delta mag - C)^2} \approx A \sum_{k=0}^{100} \frac{B^k (\Delta mag - C)^{2k}}{k!}$ produces a good fit below 2σ

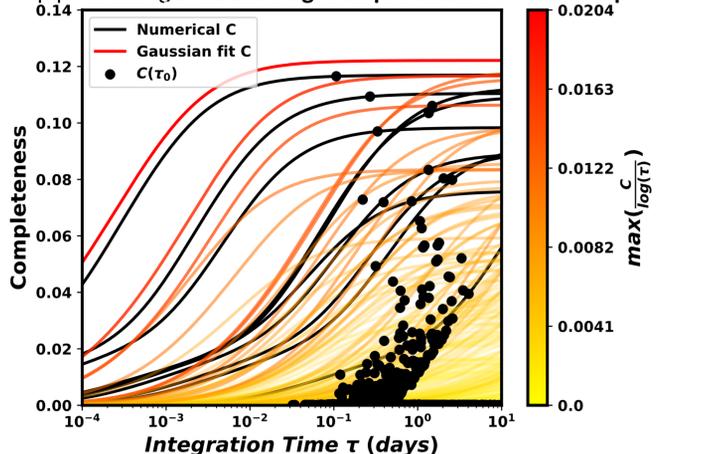


- Integrating $f_{\Delta mag}(\Delta mag)$, we get $C(\Delta mag) = A \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{B^k}{k!(2k+1)} (\Delta mag - C)^{(2k+1)}$



- Stellar distance & working angles define $\max(C_i)$ ranging from 0.19 to 0.29
- Coronagraph has a limiting Δmag of 23.2, limiting $\max(C_i)$ to range from 0 to 0.12
- Few targets will see > 50% (μ) of $\max(C_i)$

- Using SNR from Nemati 2014 [4], we analytically solve for $\tau(\Delta mag)$
- With our approximations we numerically solve $\frac{dC}{d\tau}(\tau_0) = const$
- Gaussian fit approximates $C(\tau)$ knee points but overestimates $\max(C_i)$
- Few top performing stars and large temporal variation in knee points



- AYO now fast enough to run in dynamic schedule Monte Carlo (calculates τ_0 in <30 sec compared to 150 sec in previous versions)
- New method is capable of returning sacrificed stars to observation list without restarting optimization

Altruistic Yield Optimization (AYO)

Calculate $\tau_{i,0}$ $M = \text{list of stars to observe}$ [1]
 $N = \# \text{ stars in } M$

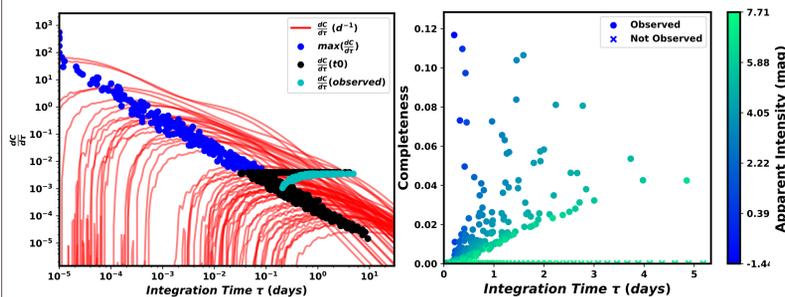
While $N \times (T_{\text{settling}} + T_{\text{overhead}}) + \sum_i^M \tau_i > T_{\text{mission length}}$
 OR
 $\sum_i^M C_i(\tau_i) < \text{last iteration } \sum_i^M C_i(\tau_i)$

Sacrifice star i where $\min(\frac{C_i}{\tau_i})$

$\tau_{\text{sacrificed}} = \tau_i + T_{\text{settling}} + T_{\text{overhead}}$

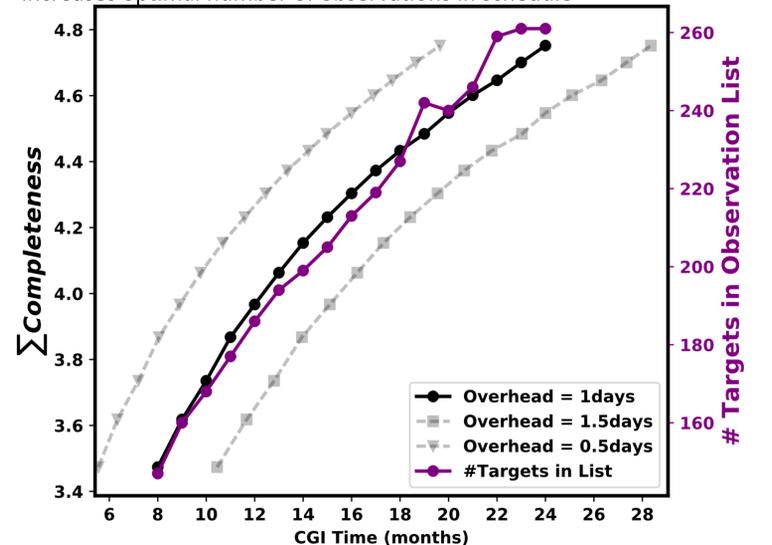
Assign $\tau_{\text{sacrificed}}$ in increments of $d\tau$ to $\max(\frac{dC_i(\tau_i)}{d\tau_i})$

- AYO $\frac{dC}{d\tau}$ reward mechanism produces a horizontal line in the $\frac{dC}{d\tau}$ vs τ
- Many targets have $\max(\frac{dC}{d\tau}) < \frac{dC}{d\tau}(\text{observed})$
- Sacrifice of $\min(\frac{C}{\tau})$ seen in constant $\frac{C}{\tau}$ slope of observed targets
- Higher $\frac{C}{\tau}$ performance of a star \propto Lower apparent star magnitude



Overhead & Settling Time

- $T_{\text{overhead}} + T_{\text{settling}}$ variation of $\pm 0.5 \text{ days} \propto \sum C$ variation of ∓ 0.4
- Overhead variation of $\pm 0.5 \text{ days}$ varies static schedule observation times by $\pm 2 \text{ mo}$, demonstrating the importance of flexible scheduling
- 12mo mission schedules have 186 targets, increasing mission length increases optimal number of observations in schedule

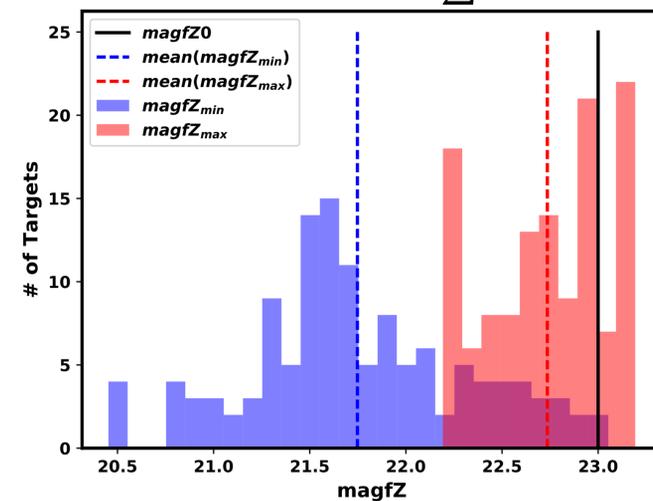


Zodiacal Light

- Observing stars at solely $\text{magfz}_{\text{min}}$ or $\text{magfz}_{\text{max}}$ varies $\sum C$ by 10%

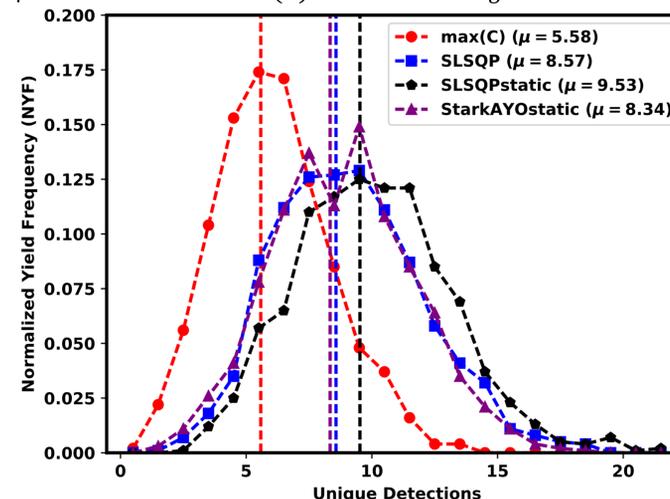
$$\sum C(\text{magfz}_{\text{min}}) = 3.96$$

$$\sum C(\text{magfz}_{\text{max}}) = 3.64$$



Monte Carlo Results

- WFIRST Coronagraphic Instrument should detect 9.5 exoplanets with sequential least squares quadratic programming (SLSQP static), dependent on a contiguous year long mission with Kepler planet populations (will be different for SAG13)
- SLSQP static outperforms dynamic scheduling methods by $\sim 10\%$ without considering Zodiacal Light [2]
- SLSQP and StarkAYO (similar methods) produce similar total yields
- Any optimization is better than no optimization since all schedulers perform better than $\max(C)$ selection at $\Delta mag = 22.5$



Acknowledgements & References

- Research funded under the NASA Space Grant Graduate Fellowship from the New York Space Grant Consortium
- [1] C. Stark, A. Roberge, A. Mandell, T. Robinson, *Maximizing the ExoEarth Candidate Yield from a Future Direct Imaging Mission*, ApJ, 2014
 - [2] D. Savransky, C. Delacroix, D. Garrett, *Multi-Mission Modeling for Space-Based Exoplanet Imagers*, SPIE, 2017
 - [3] D. Garrett, D. Savransky, *Analytical Formulation of the Single-visit Completeness Joint Probability Density Function*, ApJ, 2016
 - [4] B. Nemati, *Detector Selection for the WFIRST-AFTA Coronagraph Integral Field Spectrograph*, SPIE 2014