



# Principles for Robust, On-orbit Uncertainties Traceable to the SI

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**NIST**  
National Institute of  
Standards and Technology

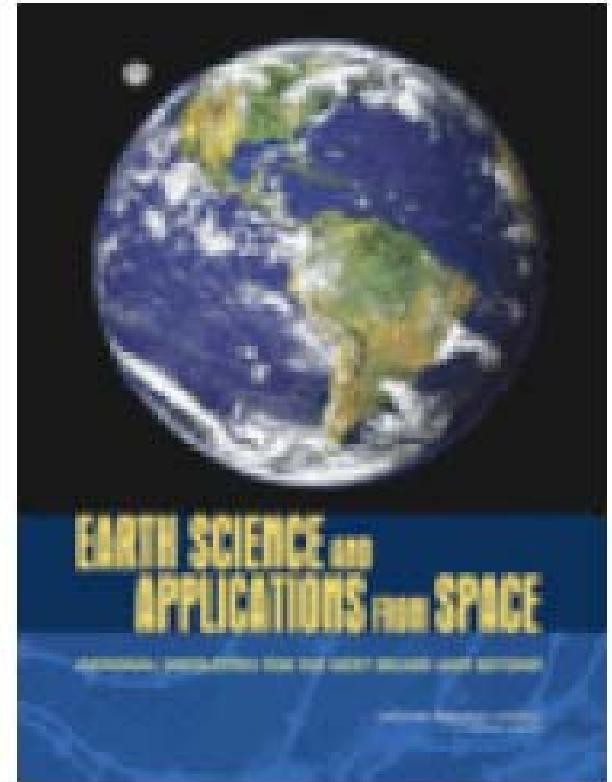
# Principles for Robust, On-orbit Uncertainties Traceable to the SI

## Talk Plan:

- **Setting the Stage—Challenges in Accurate Measurements**
- **The SI and the role for National Measurement Institute (NMIs)**
- **NIST Capabilities, by lab**
  - POWR
  - SIRCUS
  - AAMM
  - HIP
  - CBS3
- **International Inter-comparisons and Challenges**
- **Closing Remarks**

## Motivation:

Stemming, say, from the NRC  
Decadal Survey Report

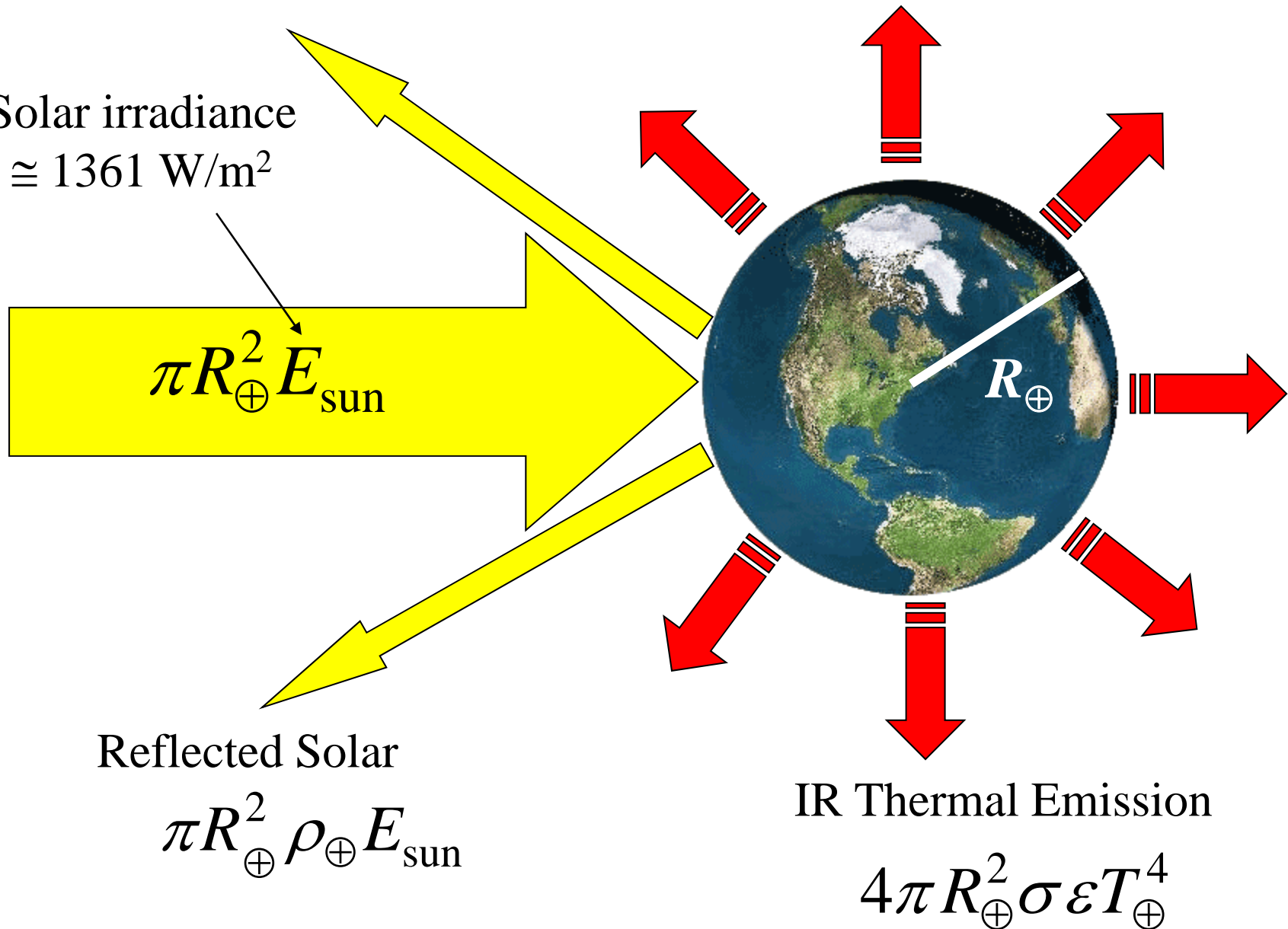


### **A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

*Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. It is also one of the most important challenges for society as it seeks to achieve prosperity, health, and sustainability.*

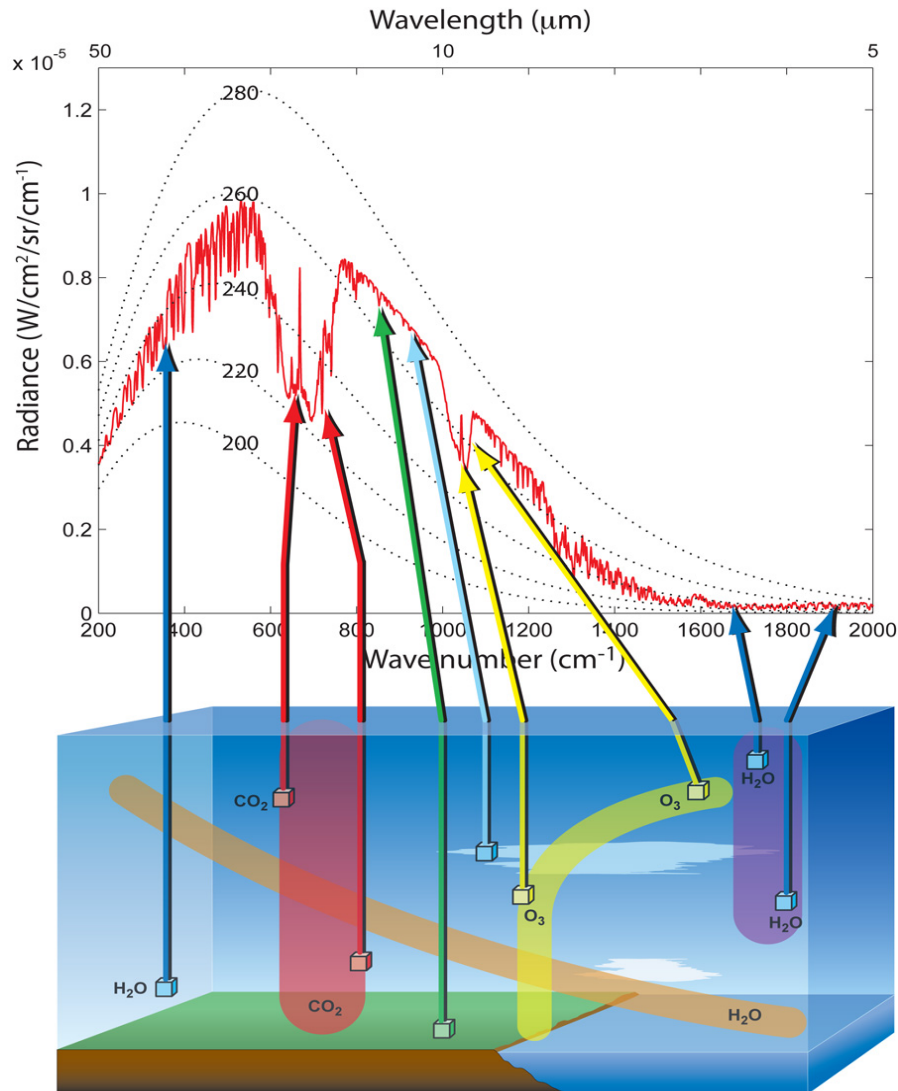
# Earth Radiation Budget:

Solar irradiance  
 $\cong 1361 \text{ W/m}^2$

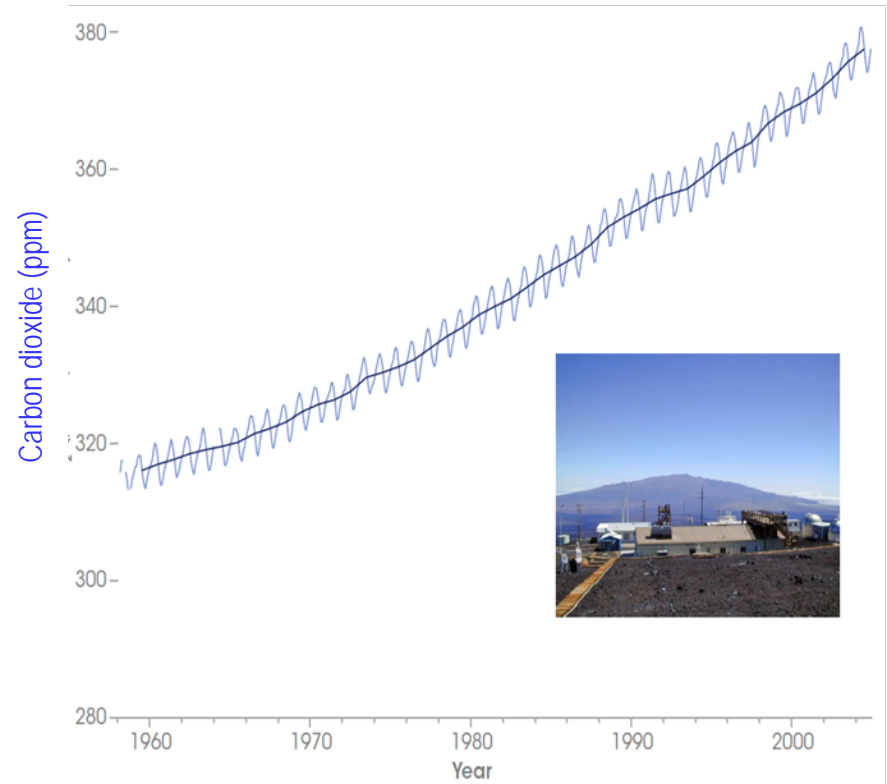


# Earth Radiation Budget: affected by

- Atmospheric constituents
- Earth's albedo

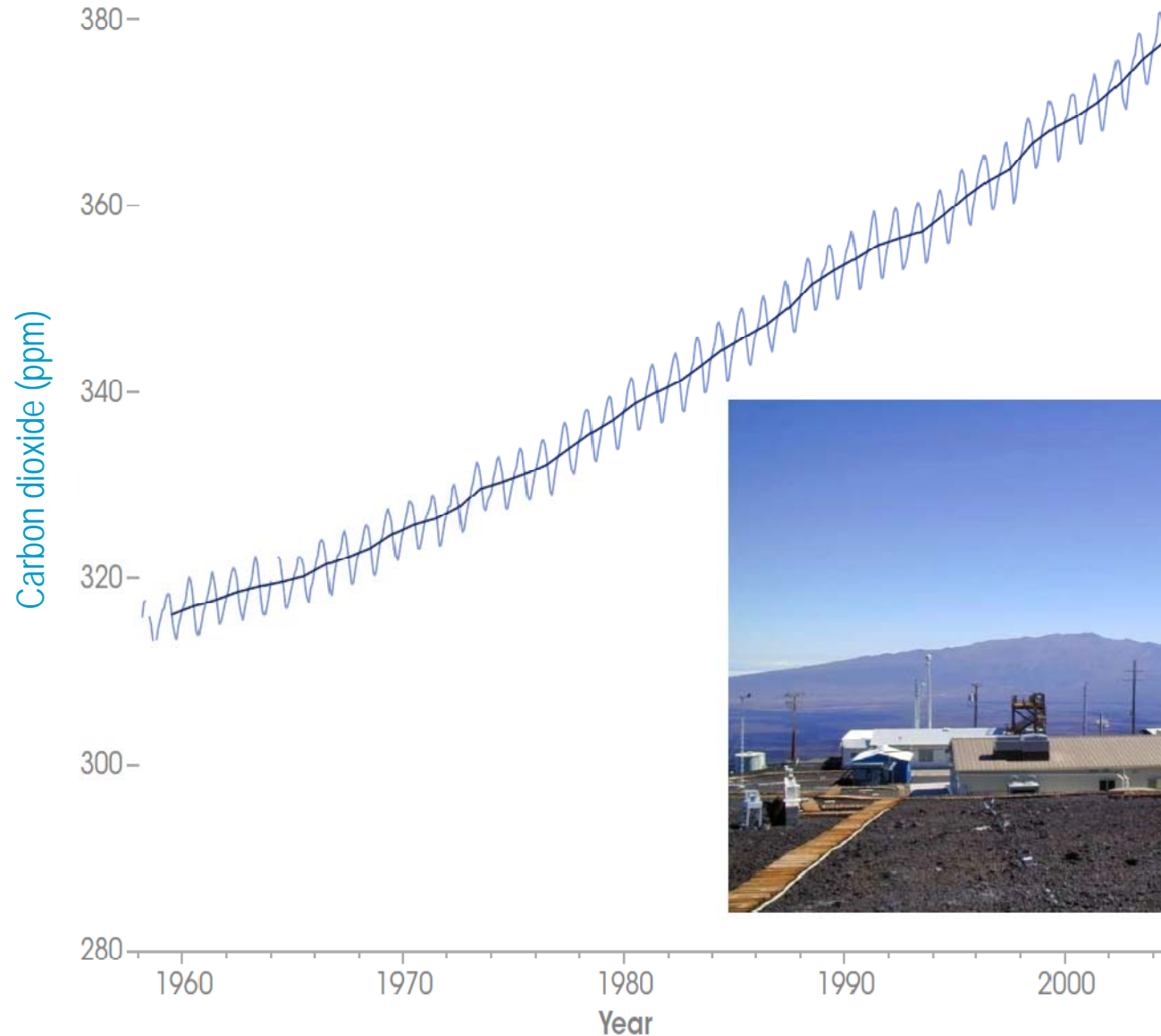


## Keeling curve (atmospheric carbon dioxide fraction):



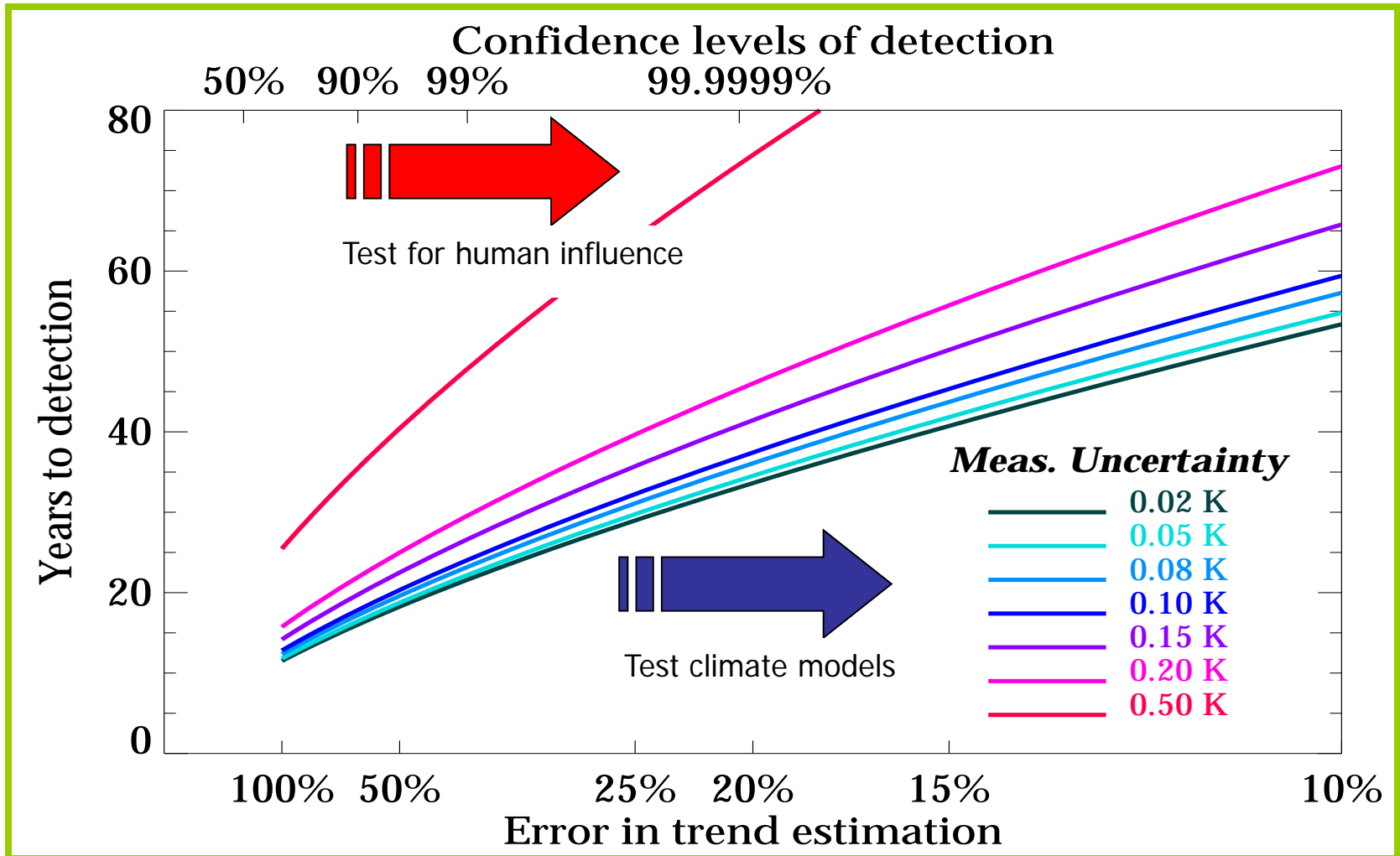
# What do good measurements get us?

Keeling curve as an example– more sure tracking of changes.

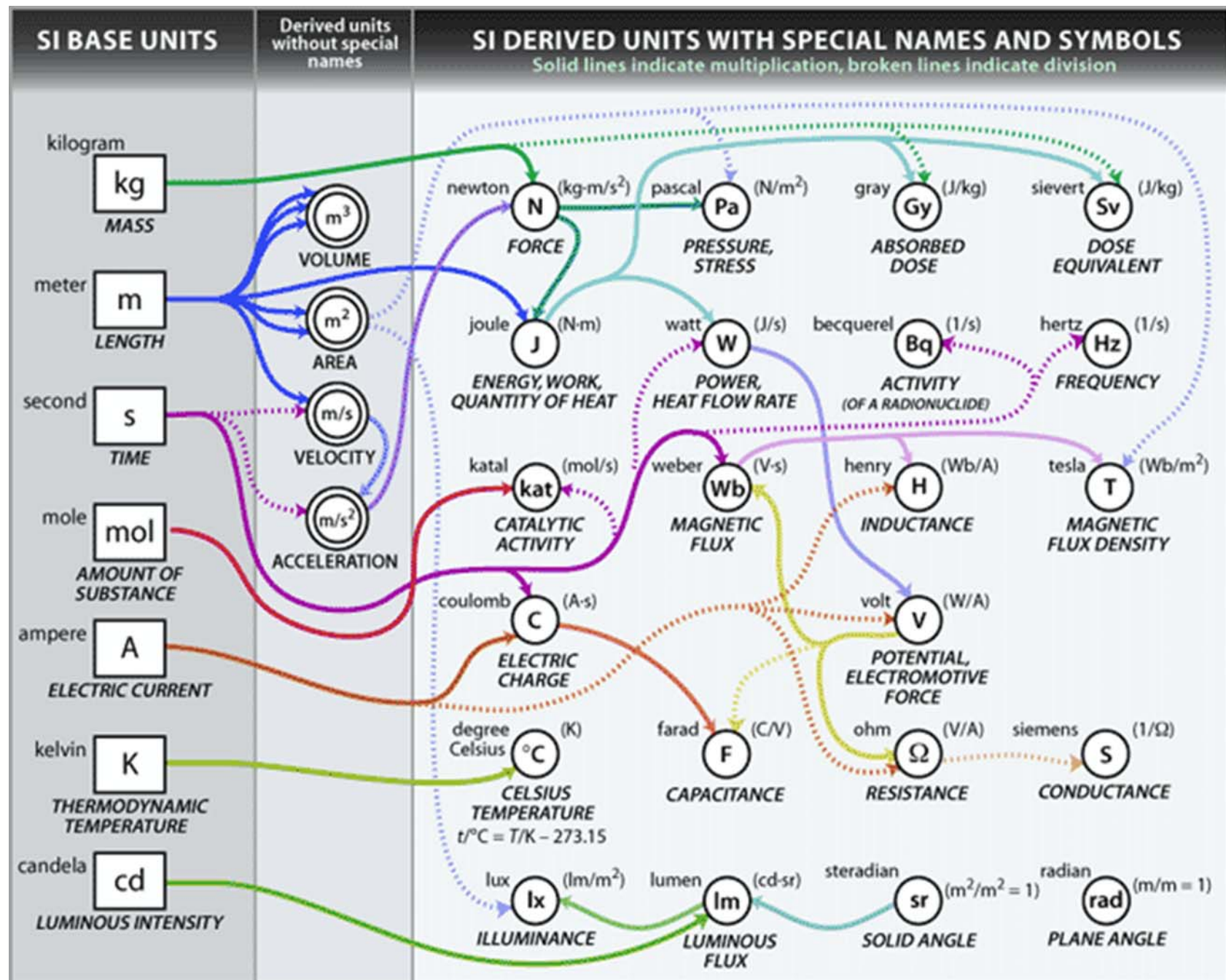


# What do good measurements get us?

Faster time to characterization of climate change, forcings, causes, etc.









# Traceability—Foundation for Accurate Measurements

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Property of the result of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons all having stated uncertainties (VIM, 6.10)

*and defensible!*

Based on the “SI”  
International System of Units

# NIST facilities/capabilities

## **Presented:**

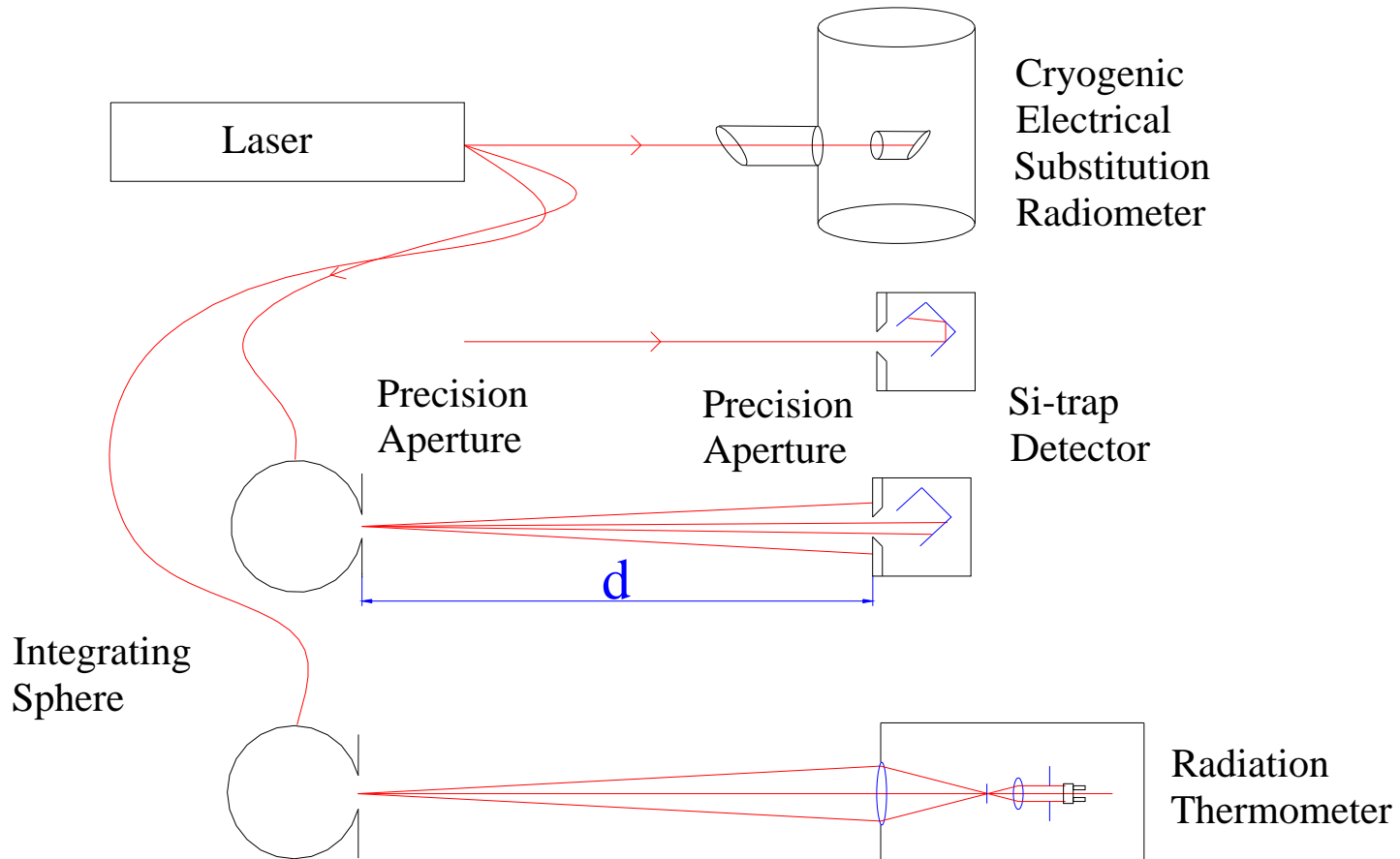
POWR	Primary Optical Watt Radiometer
SIRCUS	Spectral Irradiance & Radiance Calibration using Uniform Sources
AAMM	Aperture Area Measuring Machine
HIP	Hyperspectral Imaging Projector
CBS3	Controlled-Background System for Spectroradiometry and Spectrophotometry

## **Not presented:**

LBIR	Low-Background Infrared Radiometry
RSL	Remote-Sensing Laboratory
R2T	Radiance & Radiance Temp., replacing FASCAL, FASCAL2, Heat Flux Facility
STARR	BRDF facility
IR BRDF	Infrared BRDF Facility
CHILR	For measuring IR reflectance
TXR	Thermal transfer radiometer

# Example of a short traceability chain:

Detector-based temperature realization in SIRCUS

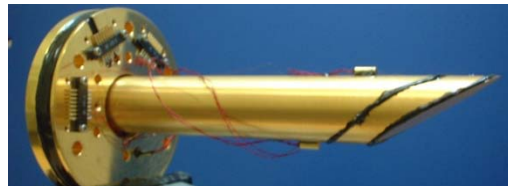
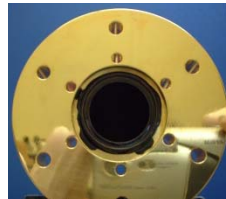
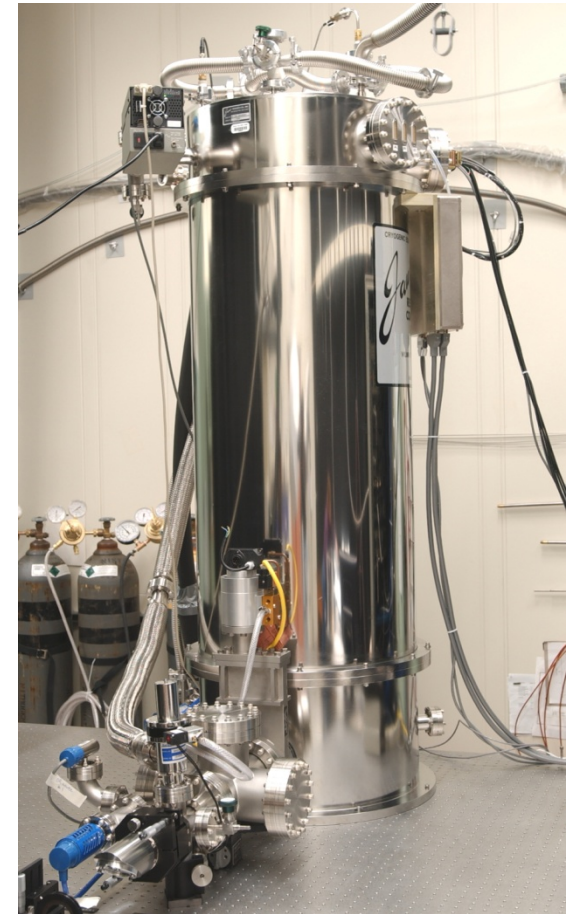
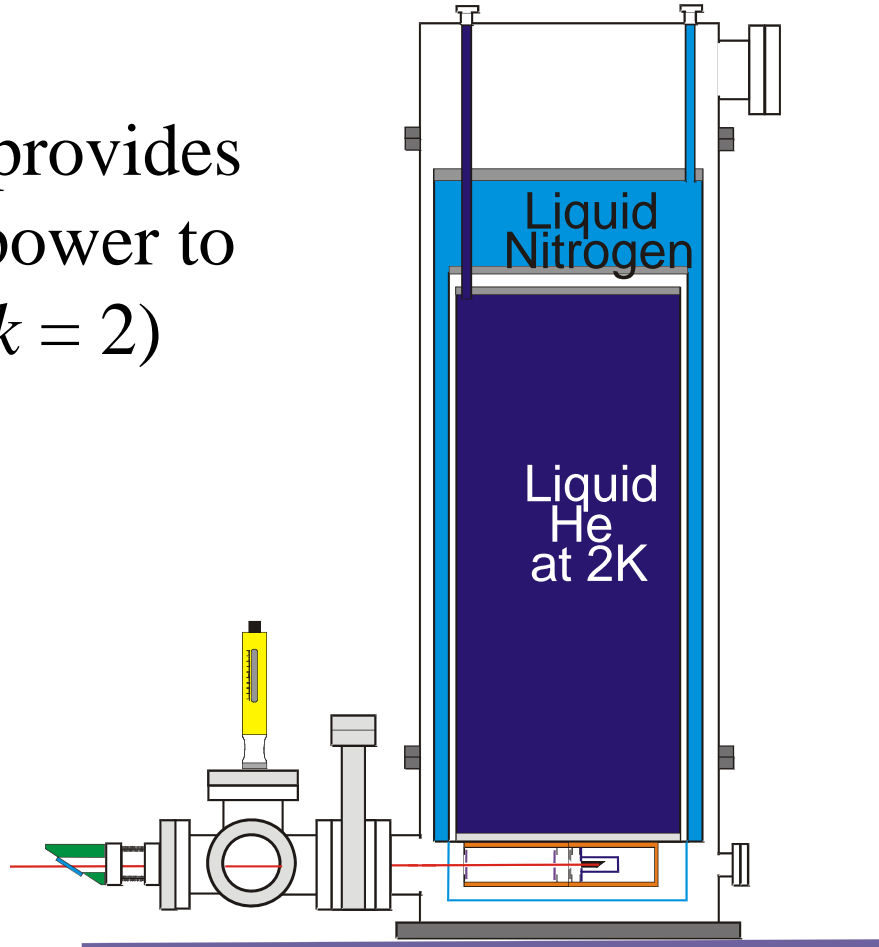


$$L(\lambda, T) = \frac{c_{1L}}{n^2 \lambda^5 \left( \exp\left(\frac{hc}{n\lambda kT}\right) - 1 \right)}$$

Realization, dissemination of temperature scales above Ag freezing point

# NIST Optical Measurements are Traceable to the Electrical Watt through the Primary Optical Watt Radiometer (POWR)

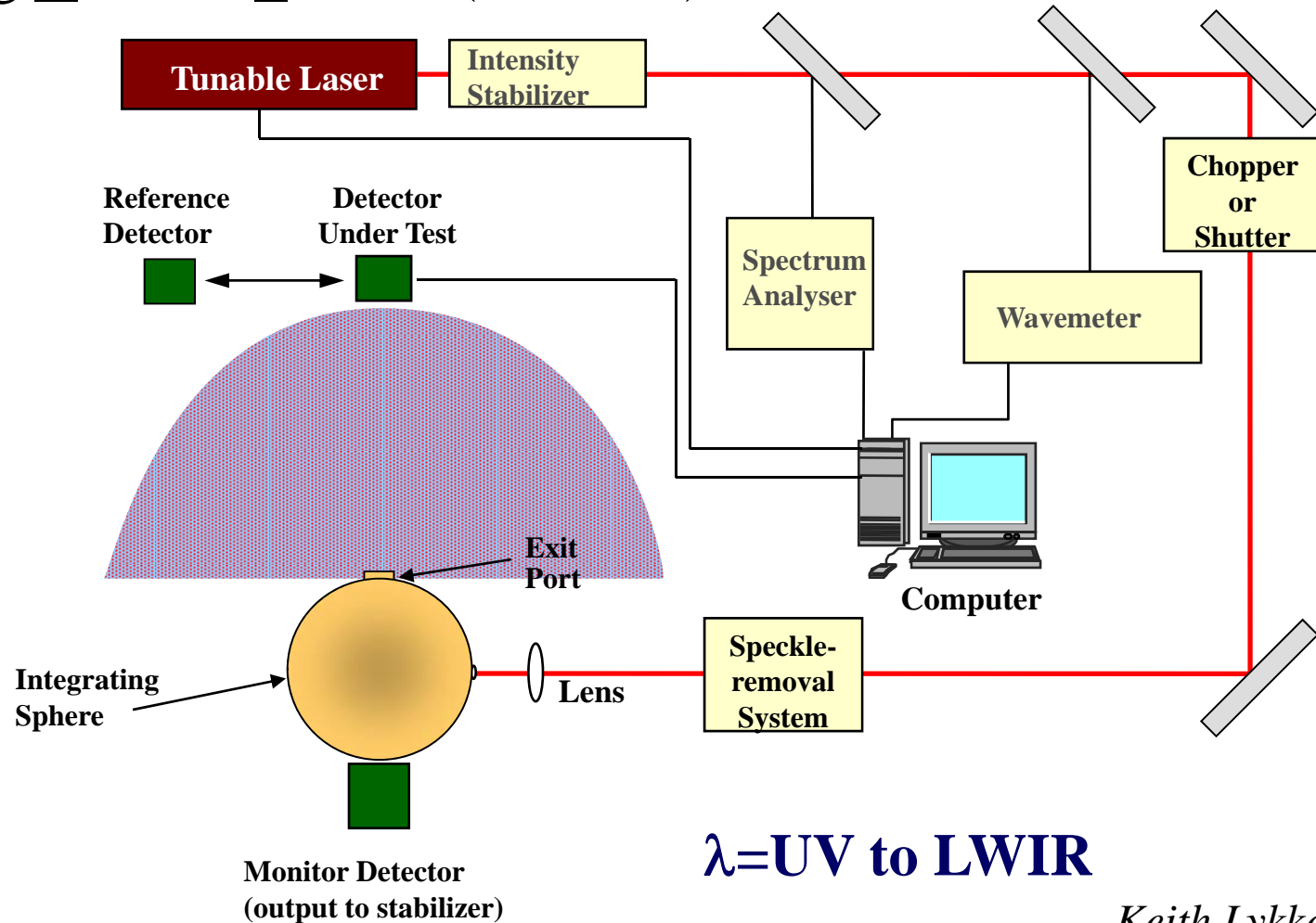
- POWR provides optical power to 0.01% ( $k = 2$ )



*Jeanne Houston*  
*Joe Rice*

# with the aid of SIRCUS

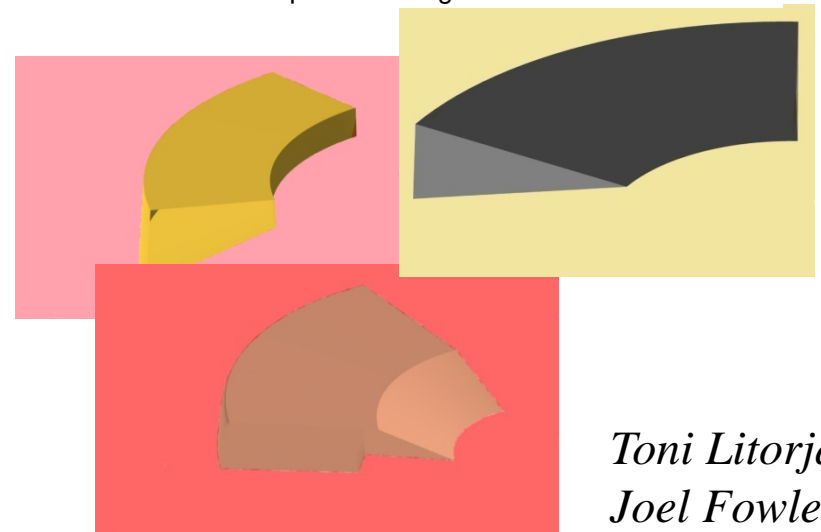
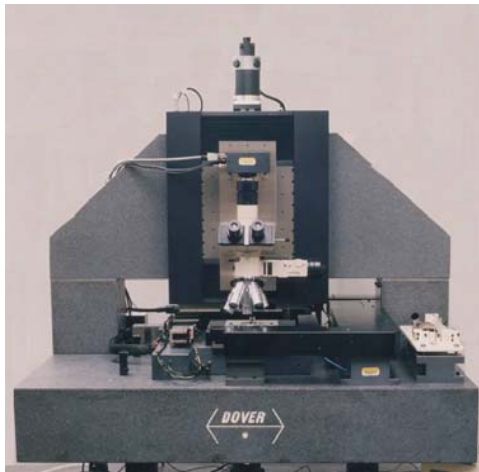
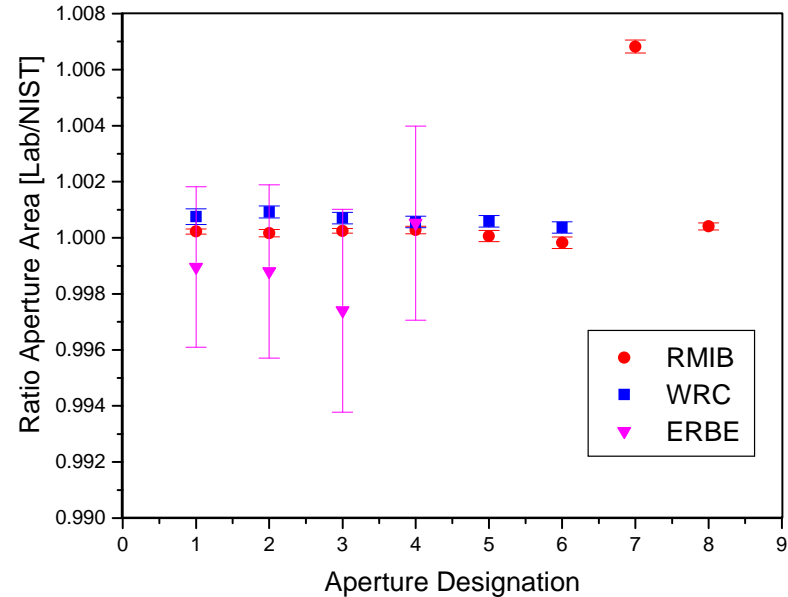
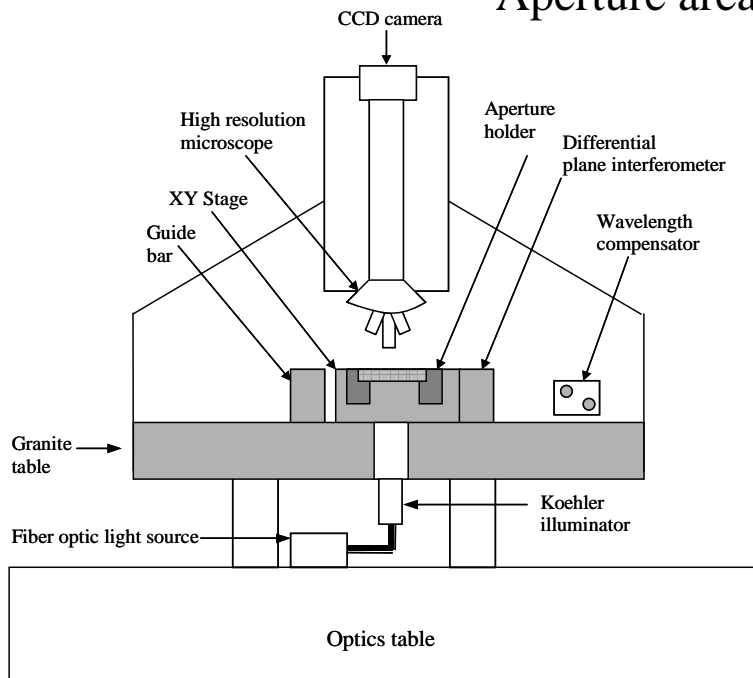
## Spectral Irradiance and Radiance Responsivity Calibrations using Uniform Sources (SIRCUS)



Keith Lykke  
Steve Brown  
George Eppeldauer

# ...and to the Meter through Aperture Area Measurements Performed by the Absolute Aperture Area Measurement Machine...

Aperture area to better than 0.01%

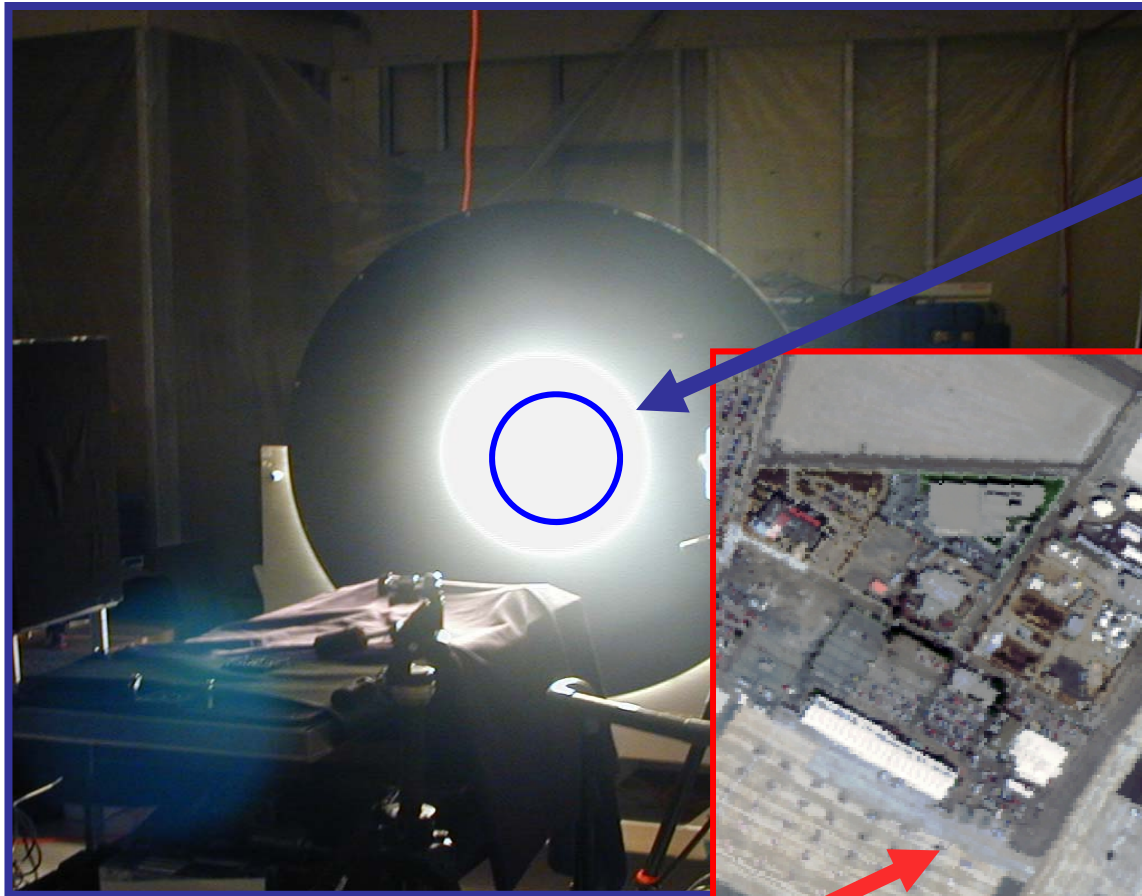


Toni Litorja  
Joel Fowler



# Hyperspectral Imaging Projector (HIP)

Consider the complexity of real-world scenes:



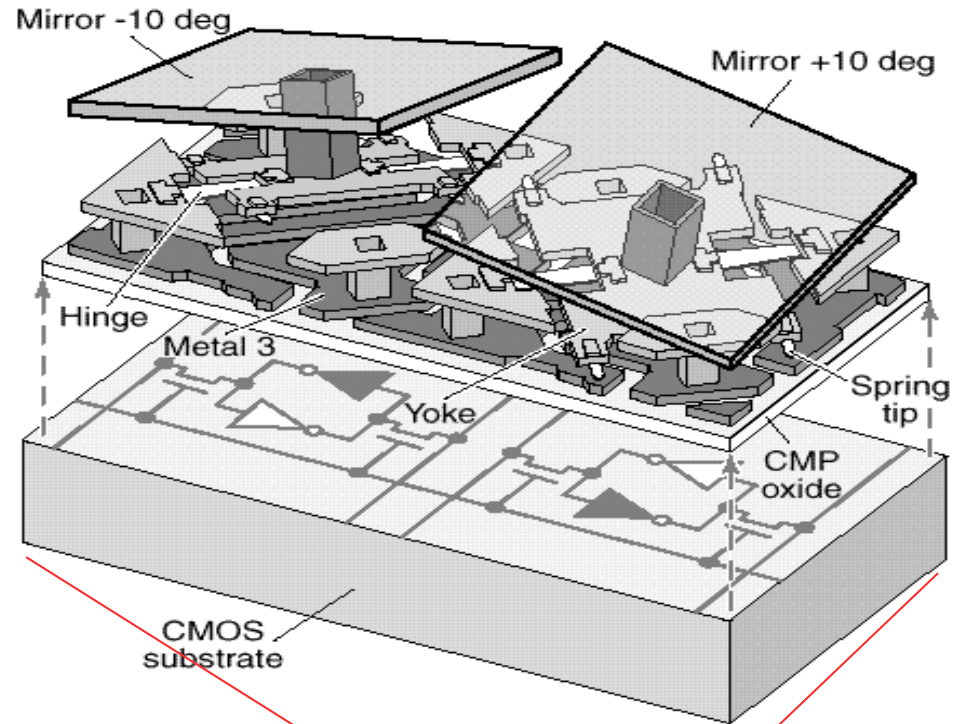
Scene viewed by a  
typical optical sensor  
instrument



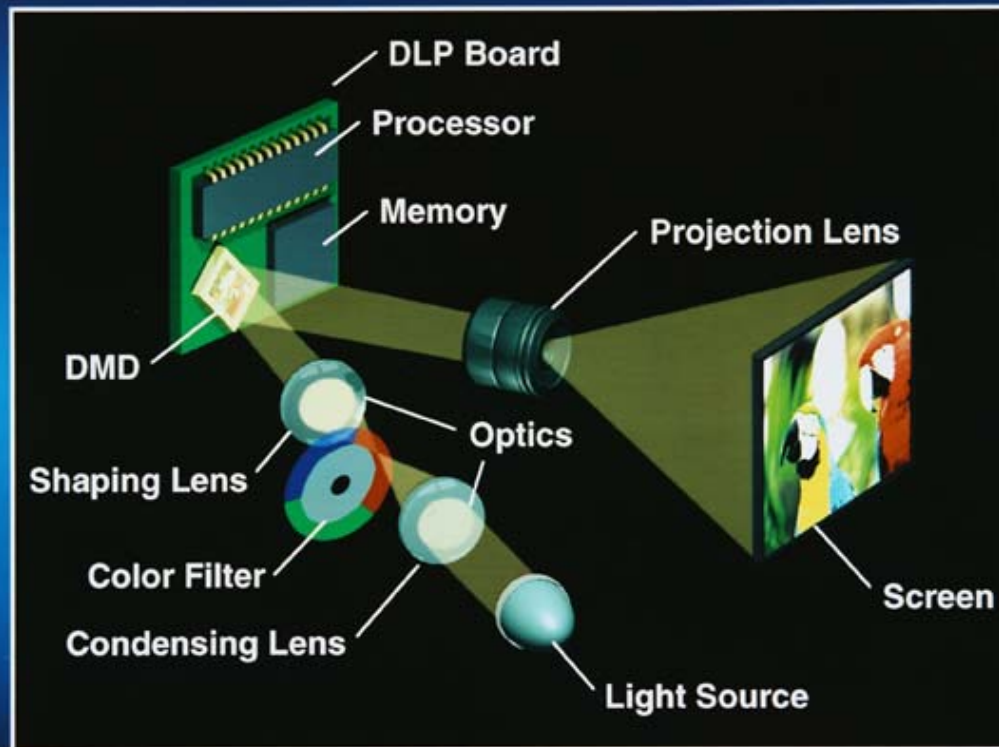
Scene viewed by an  
Imaging instrument  
In practice

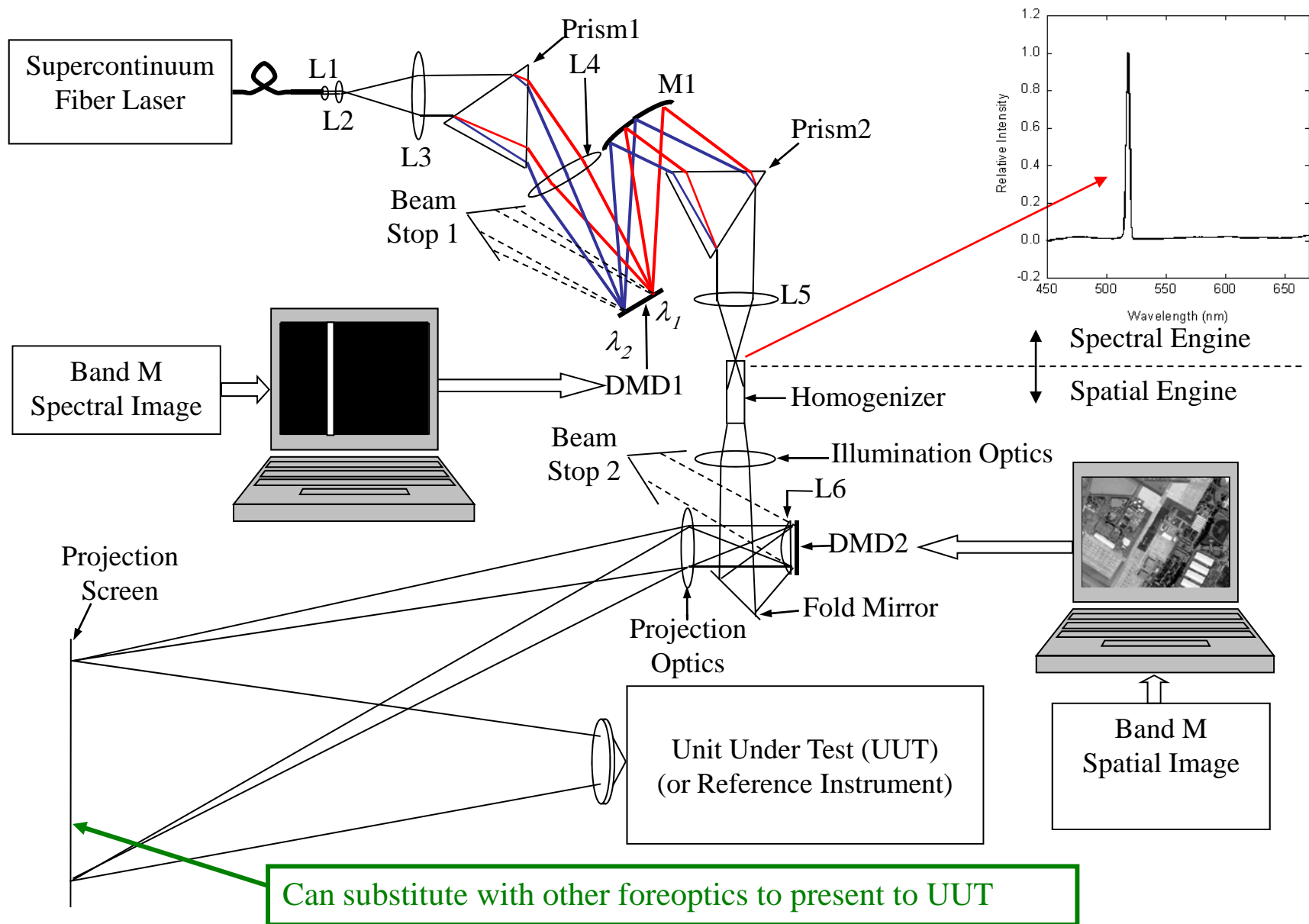
# Digital Micromirror Device (DMD)

- An array of MEMS micromirror elements
- Commercially available:
  - 1024 x 768 elements
  - Aluminum mirrors
  - 13.7 micron pitch
- For visible to 2500 nm applications:  
**commercially available hardware**
- For longer wavelength infrared developments we are using DMDs where the glass window is replaced by a ZnSe window.
- Control algorithms are being written using everyday control software for everyday hardware interfaces and operating systems.

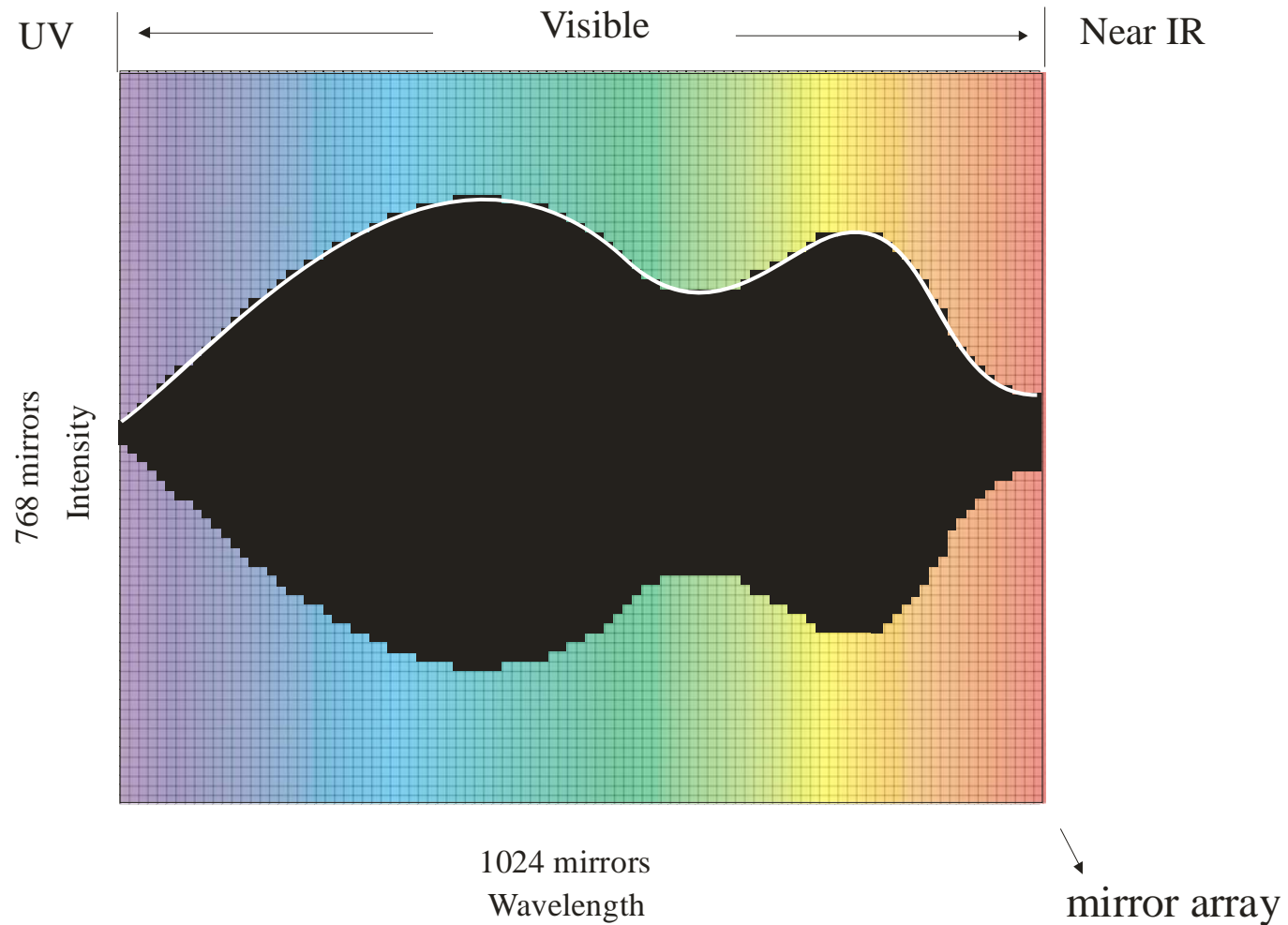


# 1 Chip DLP™ Projection



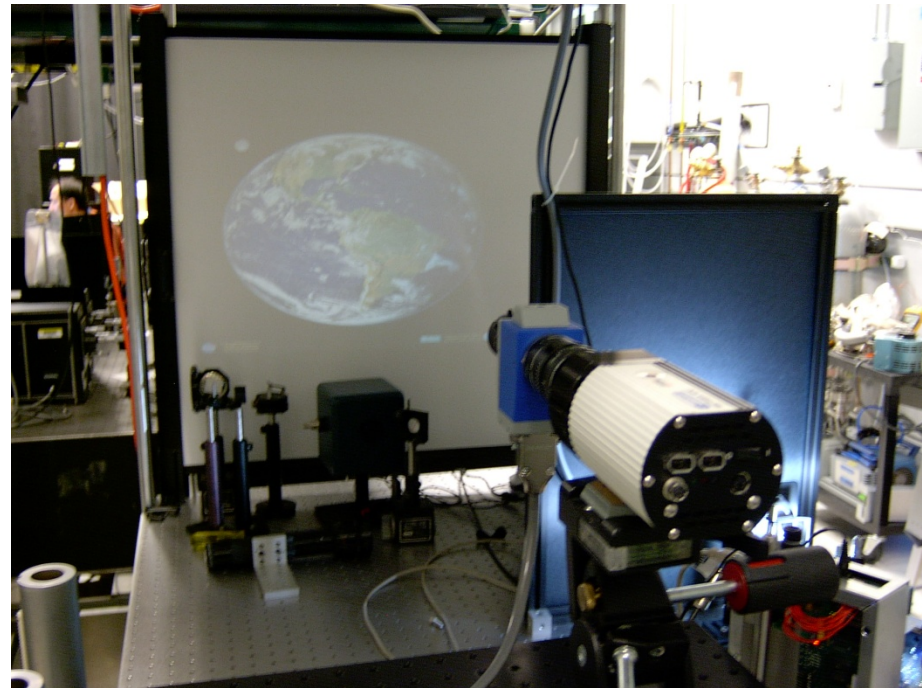


# How the DMD is used to create an arbitrarily programmable spectrum





Example image as projected by the prototype HIP  
onto a white screen and taken using a digital camera





# Relation of Different Components of the Effort Aimed at Establishing of the Thermal and Far IR Spectral Radiance Scales

## Thermal and Far IR Spectral Radiance Scale Realization and Validation

### CAVITY EMISSIVITY MEASUREMENT VIA REFLECTOMETRY

<u>Assumptions:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T distribution is uniform</li> <li>- Measurement geometry identical to the use</li> </ul>
<u>Facility</u>	<u>Method:</u>
CHILR (24 um)	Laser Reflectometer (QCL)
PTB (FIR)	Laser or Synchrotron
CBS3	Variable Background Reflectometer

### THERMOMETRY

<u>Assumptions:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temperature distribution across the cavity is uniform or well known</li> <li>- Thermowell (or crucible) temperature is equal to that of a cavity surface, or an offset can be calculated</li> </ul>
<u>Facility</u>	<u>Implementation:</u>
CBS3	- PRT sensors
	- Surrounding or embedded phase transition cells

### Step 1. Realization

Effective Emissivity

Temperature

#### Planck Equation

$$L_{bb}(\lambda) = \varepsilon(\lambda) \cdot \frac{c_{1L}}{n^2 \lambda^5} \cdot \frac{1}{\exp(c_2 / (n \lambda T)) - 1}$$

### CAVITY EMISSIVITY MONTE - CARLO MODELING

<u>Assumptions:</u>		- T distribution is uniform or known	
		- Coating is uniform	
<u>Software</u>	<u>Input Property Required</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Method:</u>
STEEP3.15	Paint Emittance	NIST Emittance PTB Emittance	Direct (above 100 C only)
		NIST FIRES PTB RBCF	Black sphere reflectometer
Future Code (to be written)	Paint BRDF	NIST CHILR (24 um) PTB (FIR)	IR Gonio Synchrotron

### Step 2. Validation

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Method: INTERNAL COMPARISONS</u>
NIST CBS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comparison of BB with different geometry, coating and thermometry principles</li> <li>- Varying aperture size and ambient background for one of two compared Bbs</li> </ul>
NIST CBS3 PTB (RBCF)	<u>Method: INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS</u>
	- Comparison via Transfer Standard Blackbody Source

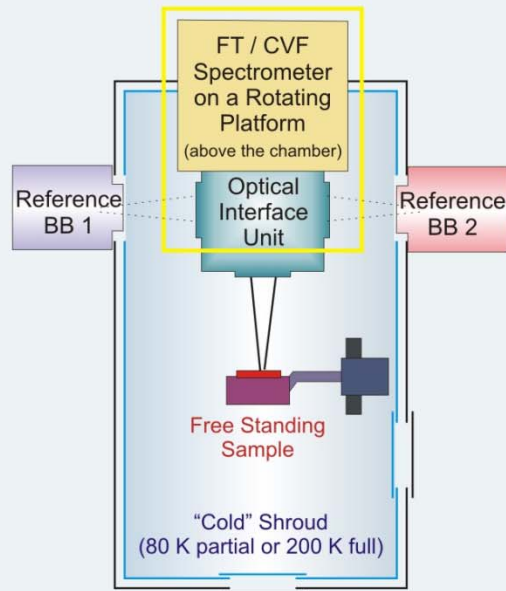
Support includes Spectral Radiance Realization (1), Validation (2) , and Transfer (3) Steps. The Transfer Step (not shown) includes calibration of the CLARREO Transfer Standard BB

# Optical Property Metrology Modes of CBS3



## CBS3 Facility: Primary Realization of Spectral Directional Emittance and Hemispherical-Directional Reflectance in the Thermal and Far Infrared

### OPTICAL MATERIALS AND COATINGS CHARACTERIZATION

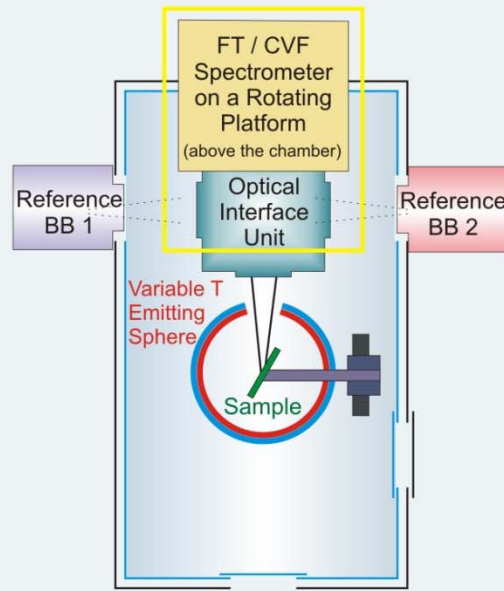


Configuration 1

#### Sample Emissometry

Unit: Spectral Directional Emmissivity  
Sample at: 250 K to 520 K

Works best for: Hot black targets



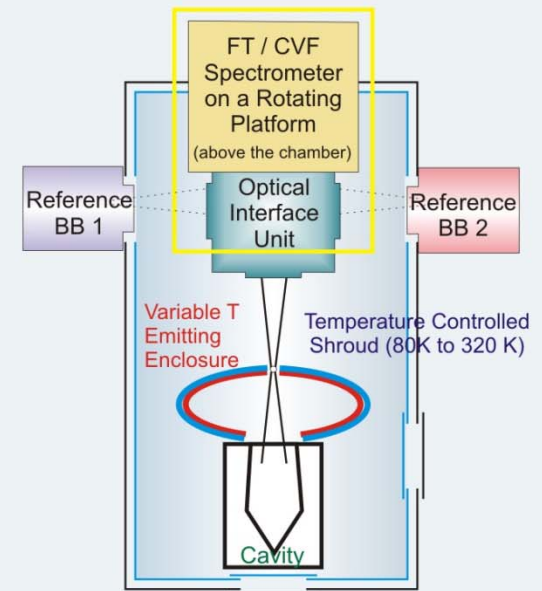
Configuration 2

#### Sample Reflectometry

Scale: Hemispherical-Directional Reflectance  
Sample at: 80 K to 350 K

Works best for: Cold grey targets

### BLACKBODY CAVITY CHARACTERIZATION



Configuration 3

#### Cavity Reflectometry in Mid/Far IR

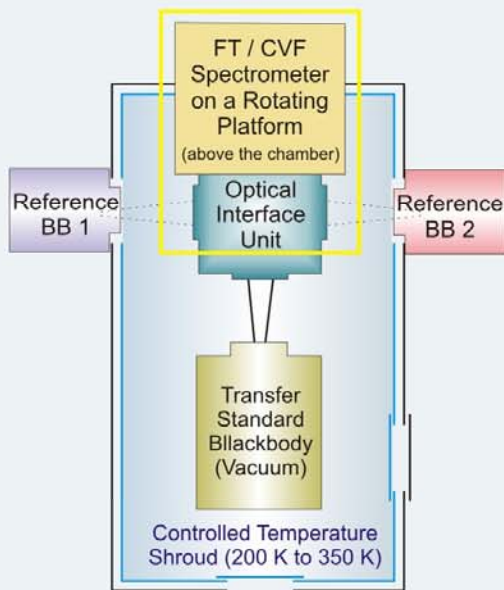
Scale: Hemispherical-Directional Reflectance  
Cavity at: 80 K to 200 K

# Radiance Temperature Modes of CBS3



## CBS3 Facility: Primary Realization of Radiance Temperature and Spectral Radiance in the Thermal and Far Infrared

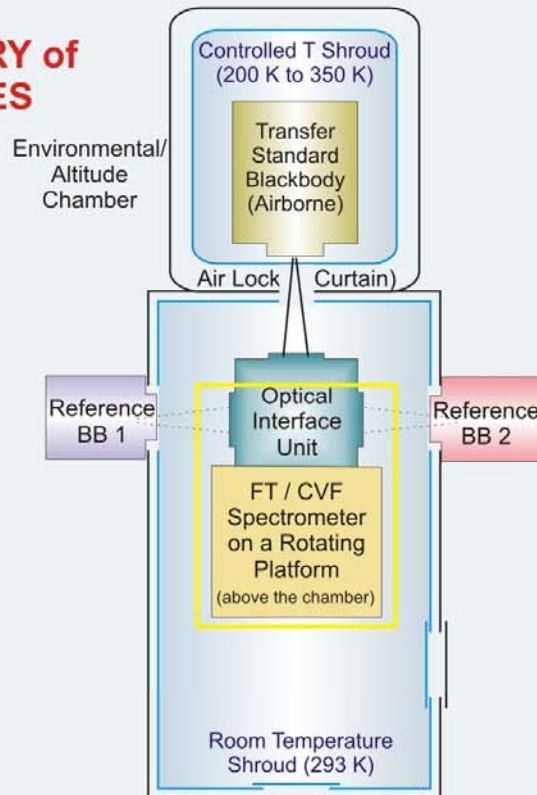
### **SPECTRORADIOMETRY of INFRARED SOURCES**



Configuration 3

#### **Internal Source Calibration**

Spectral Radiance / Emissivity  
180 K to 520 K

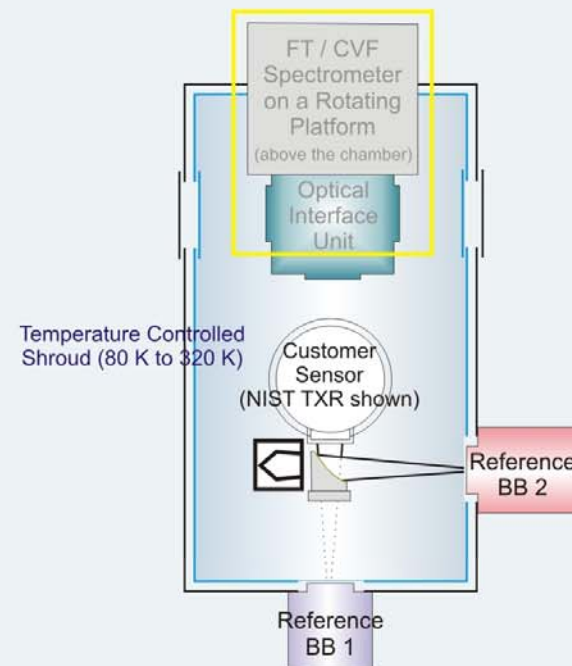


Configuration 4

#### **External Source Calibration**

Spectral Radiance / Emissivity  
180 K to 520 K

### **INFRARED SENSOR CALIBRATION**



Configuration 5

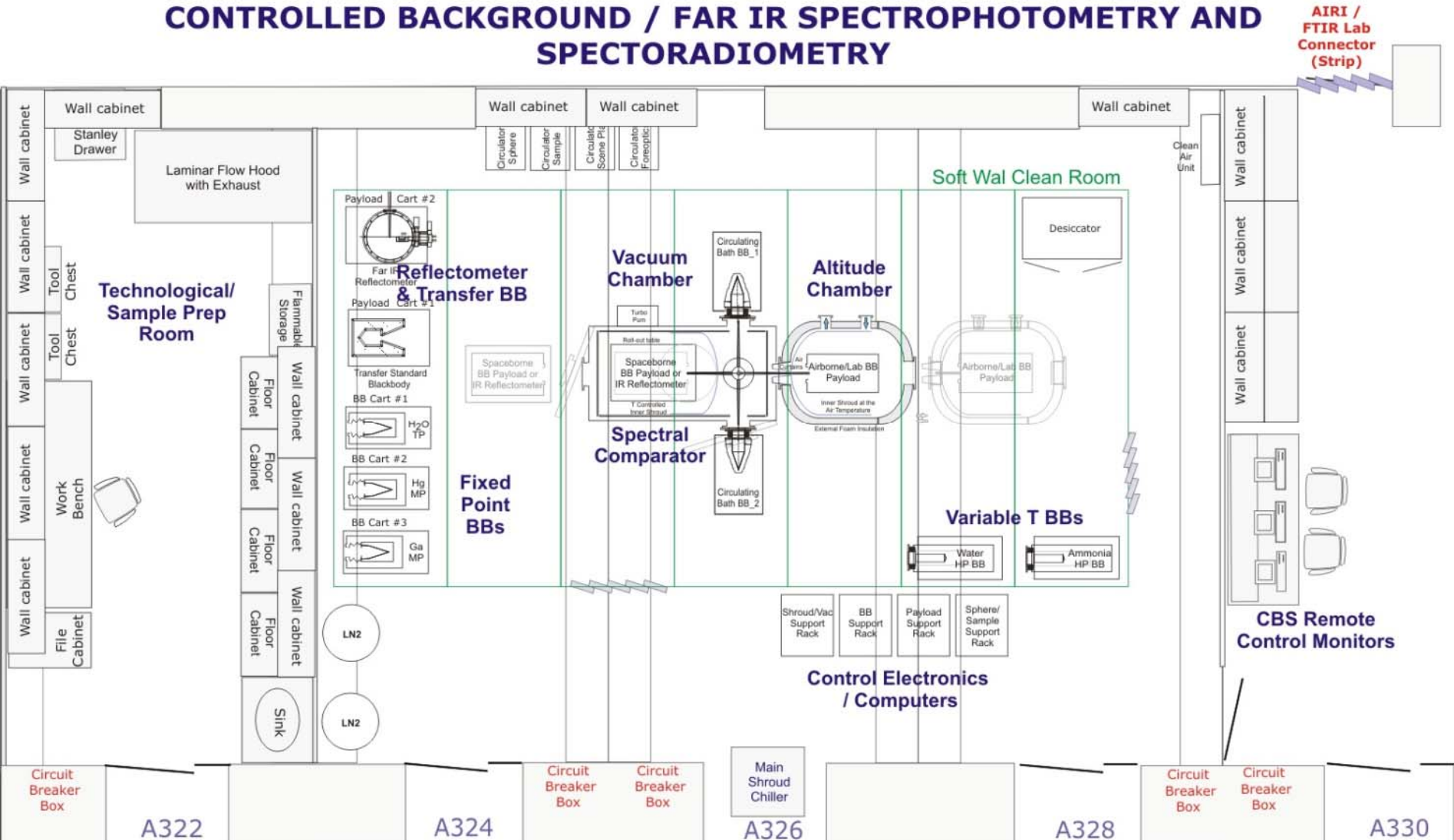
#### **Internal Sensor Calibration**

Radiance Temperature  
180 K to 520 K



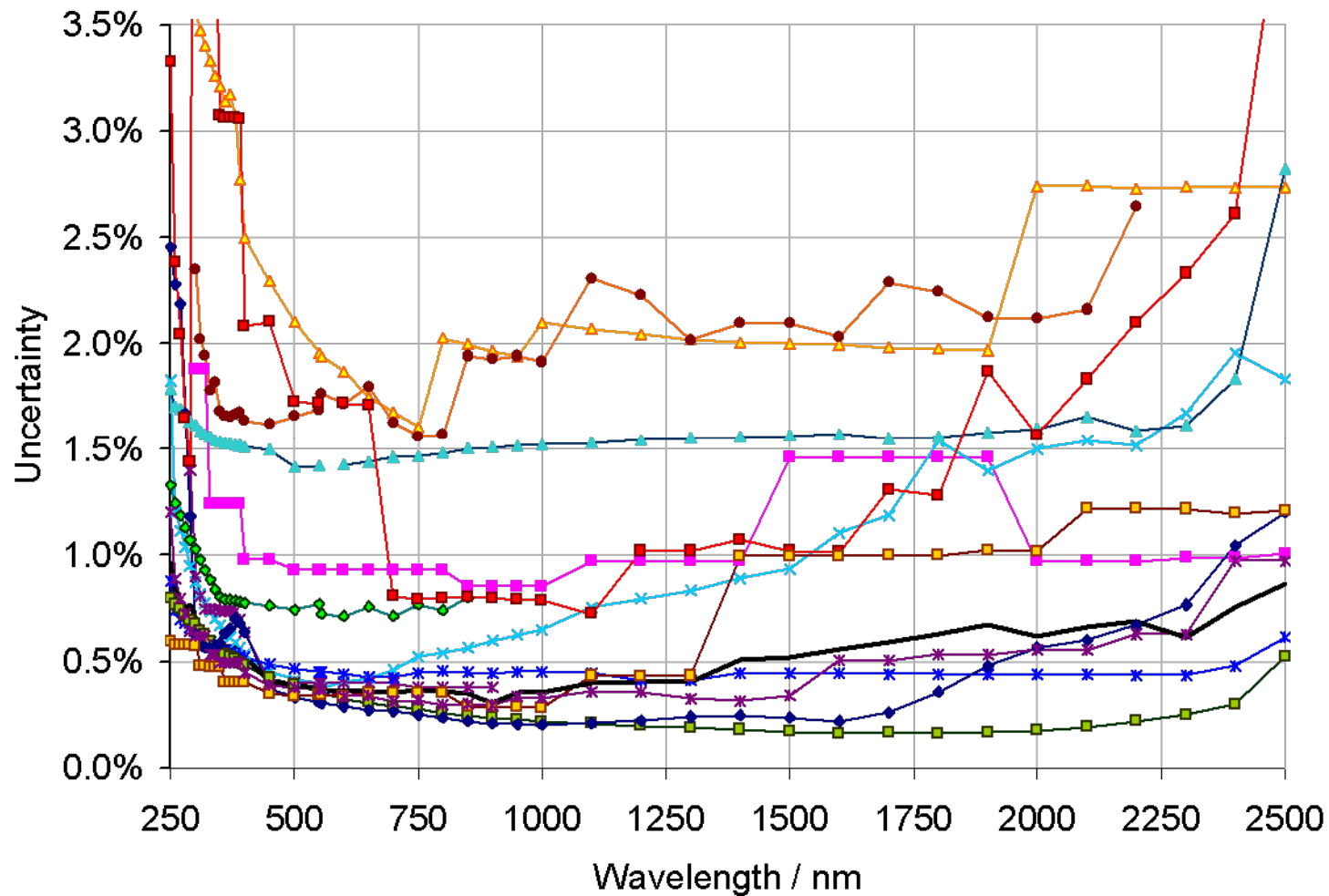
# CBS3 System Lab Space

## CONTROLLED BACKGROUND / FAR IR SPECTROPHOTOMETRY AND SPECTORADIOMETRY



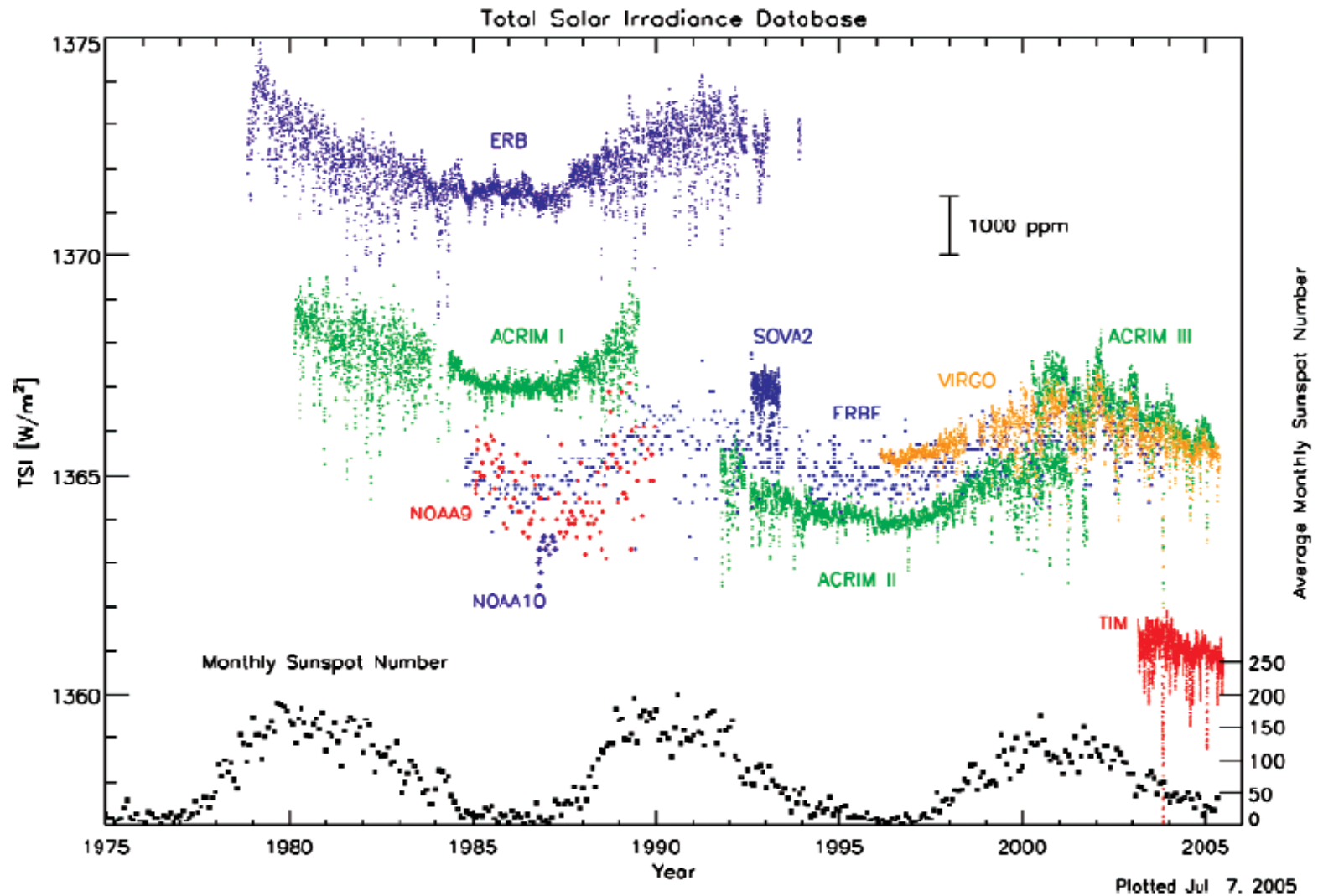
## Validity of NMI measurements: uncertainties stem from

- Intercomparisons between NMIs (and other entities)
- NMI participation in the open scientific literature



## Are we *there* yet?

No, but we are getting closer (e.g., it is desirable to be able to measure a 200 ppm decadal variability of TSI).





# Closing Remarks

## Robust Uncertainties

- Documented
- Defending measurements' validity
- Assigning quantitative significances to measurements
- In principle, helpful for inter-calibration analysis
- Can be amended in retrospect (if documented!)

## For On-orbit Measurements

- On-board calibration systems
- Multiple & redundant methods of indefinite instrument calibration, validation
- “Self-calibrating instruments” concept

NIST is willing to work, along with the wider scientific community, to support measurements relevant to climate.