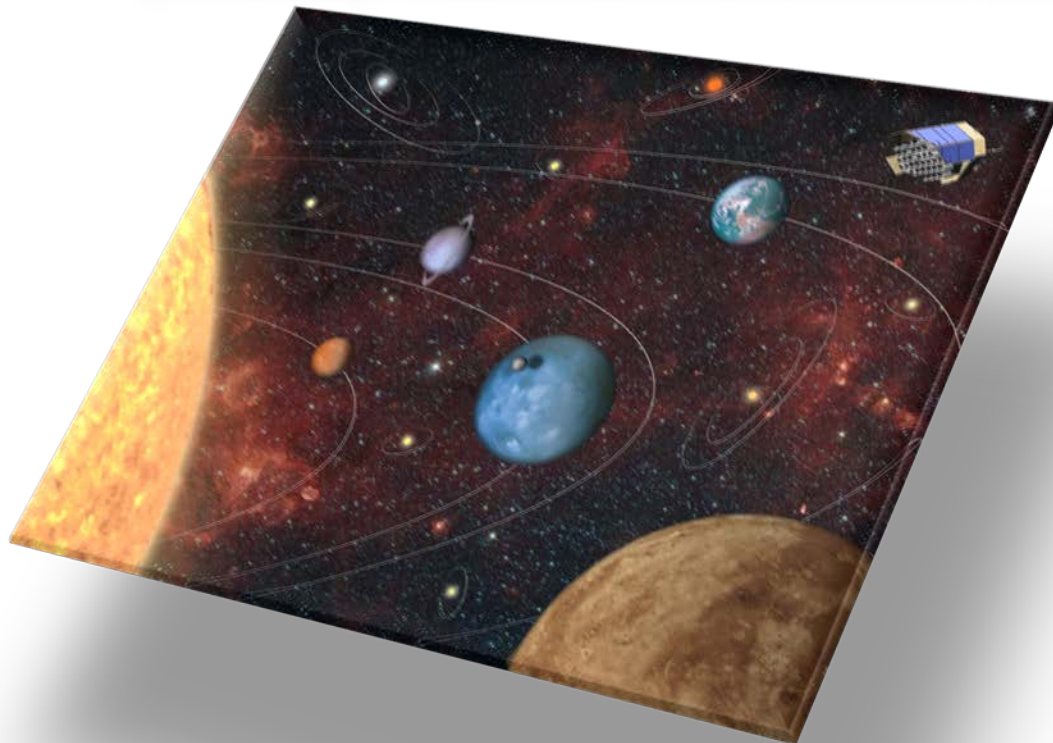




# The Mission PLATO 2.0

(PLANetary Transits and Oscillations of stars)



**Heike Rauer**  
**Institute for Planetary Research, DLR, Berlin**  
**and the PLATO 2.0 Team**



# PLATO 2.0 Scientific Motivation

## PLATO Objectives:

- Characterize planets for their density and age to explore planet diversity and:
  - detect and characterize terrestrial planets in the habitable zone
  - constrain planet formation and evolution processes
- **Stellar science**
- **Complementary science**

# The Method

## Characterize bulk planet parameters

Accuracy around solar-like stars for PLATO 2.0:

- Radius (~2%)
- Mass (~10%)
- Age (~10%)

For bright stars (4 – 11(13) mag)

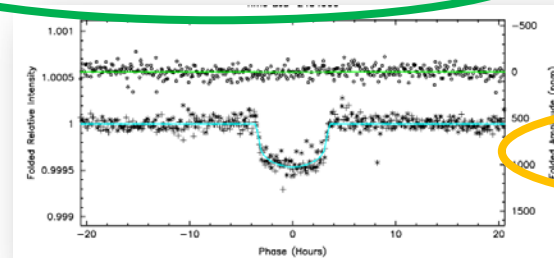
The PLATO mission has two elements:

- Photometry from space
- Spectroscopy from ground

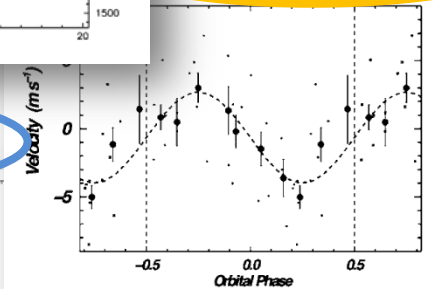
## Techniques

Example: Kepler-10 b ( $V=11.5$  mag)

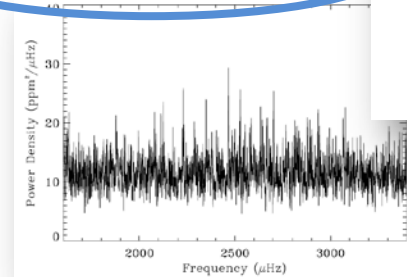
Photometric transit



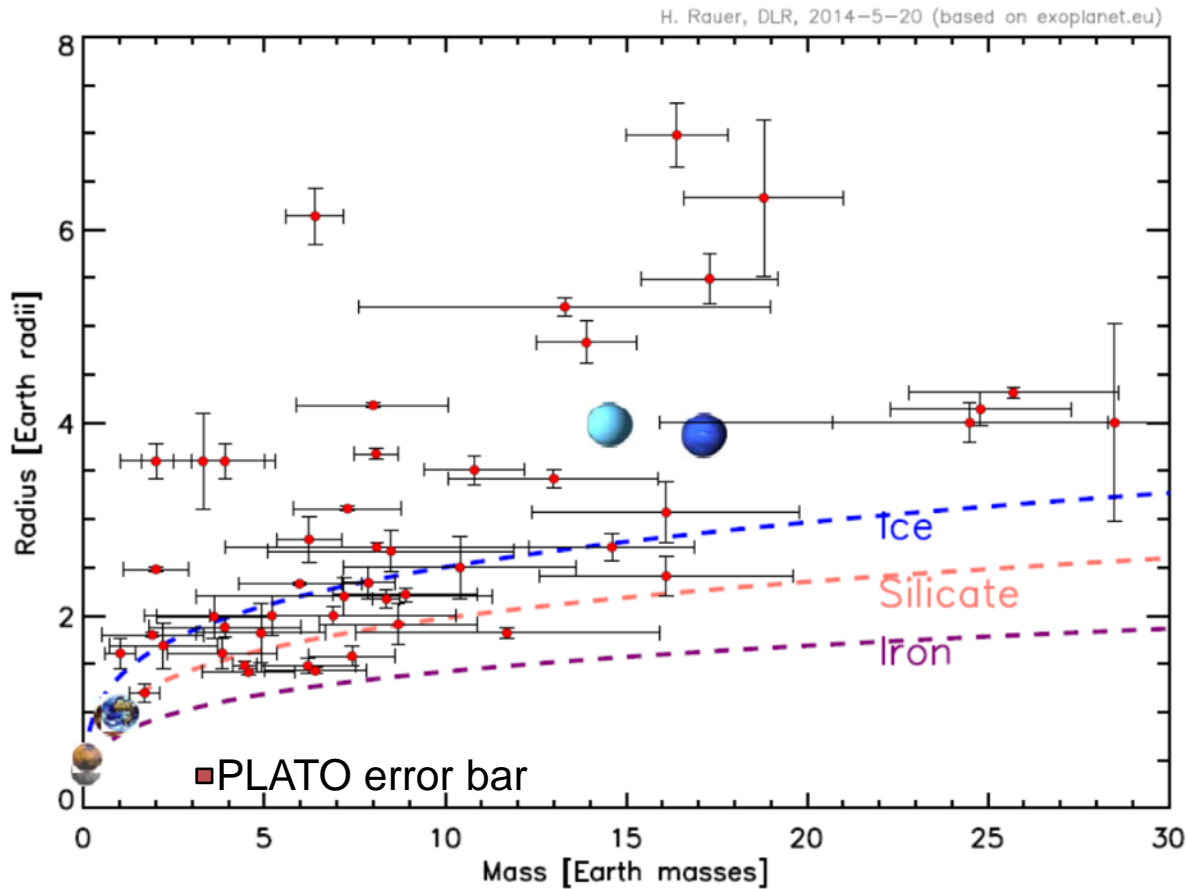
RV – follow-up



Asteroseismology



# Diversity of „super-Earths“



## Status:

- Large diversity in masses and radii
- Individual planets have large error bars

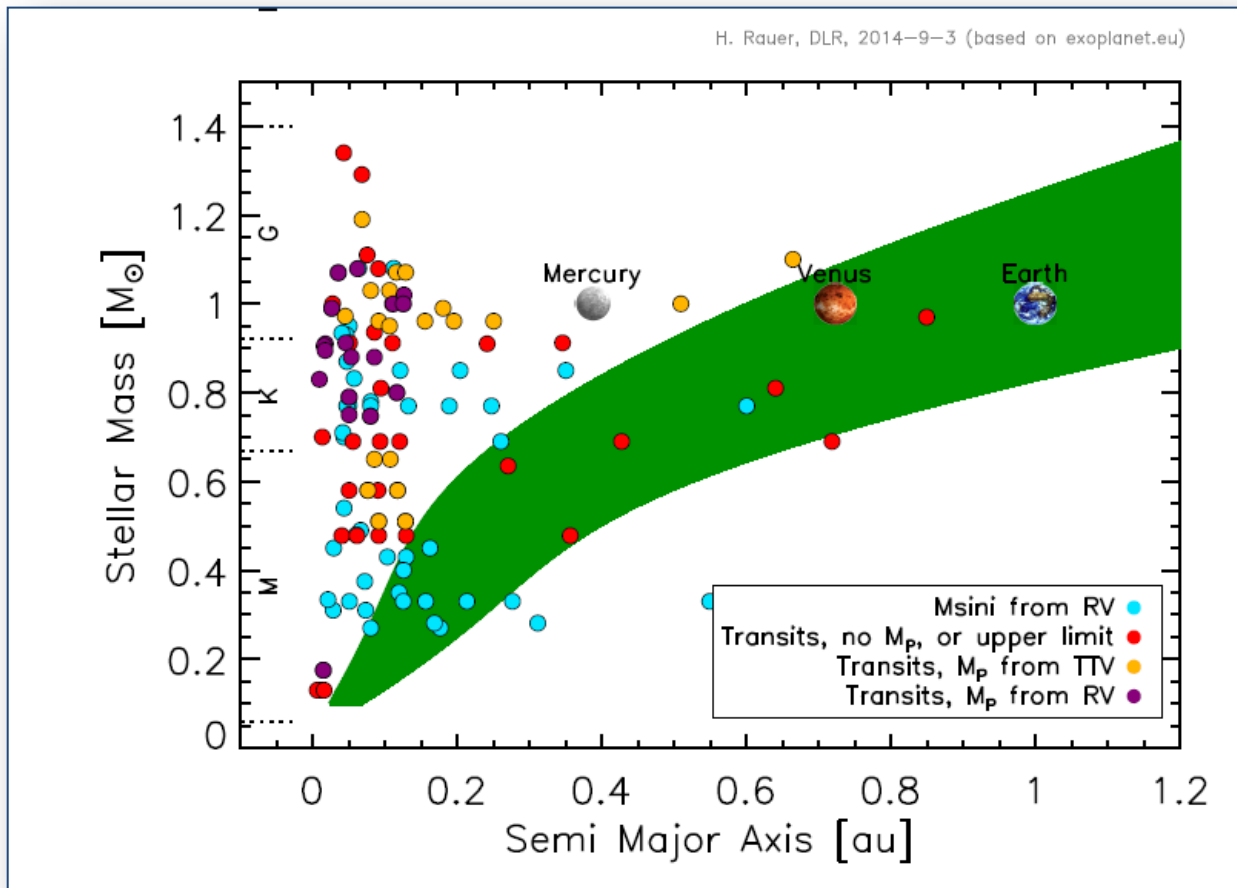
→ PLATO goal:

Masses: 10%

Radii: 2%

# Status: Characterized „super-Earths“ in their habitable zone

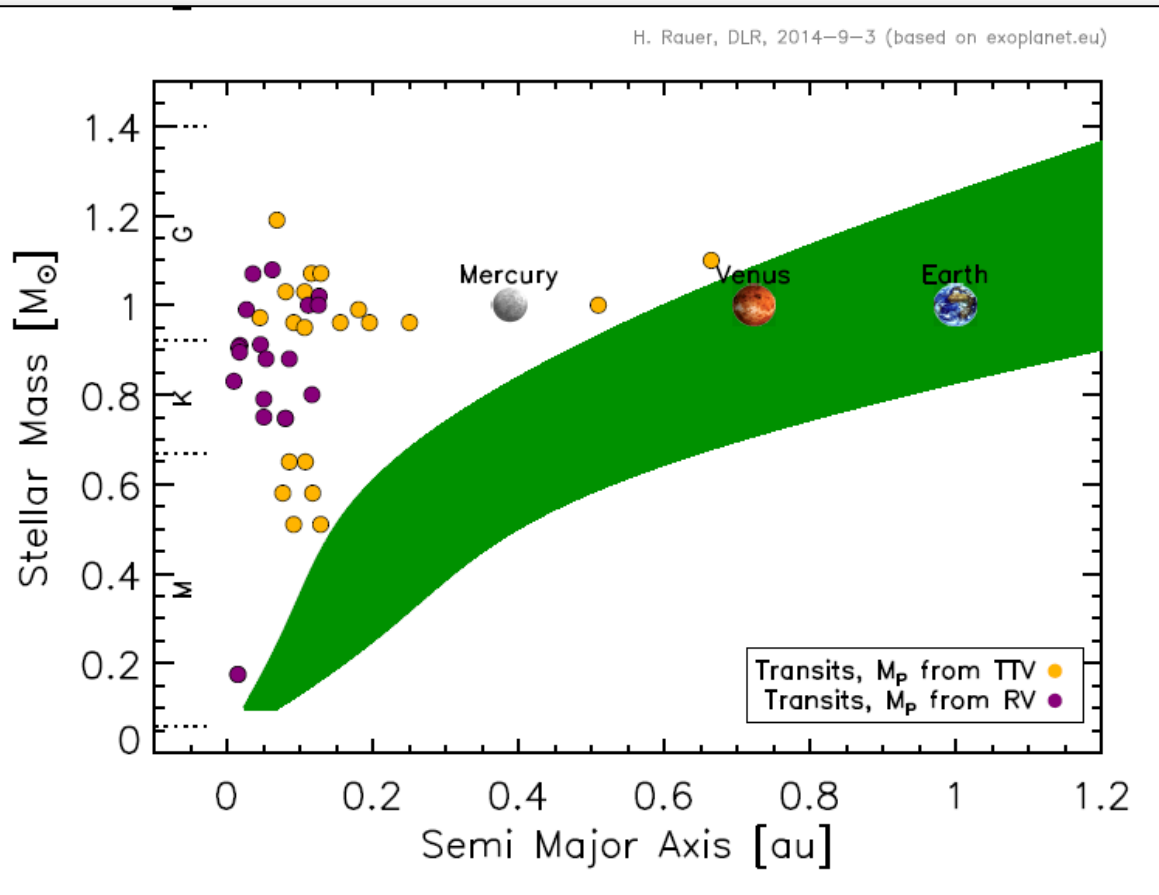
## Detected super-Earths



- Goal: Detect and characterize super-Earths in habitable zones
- Status: few small/light planets in habitable zones detected

# Status: Characterized „super-Earths“ in their habitable zone

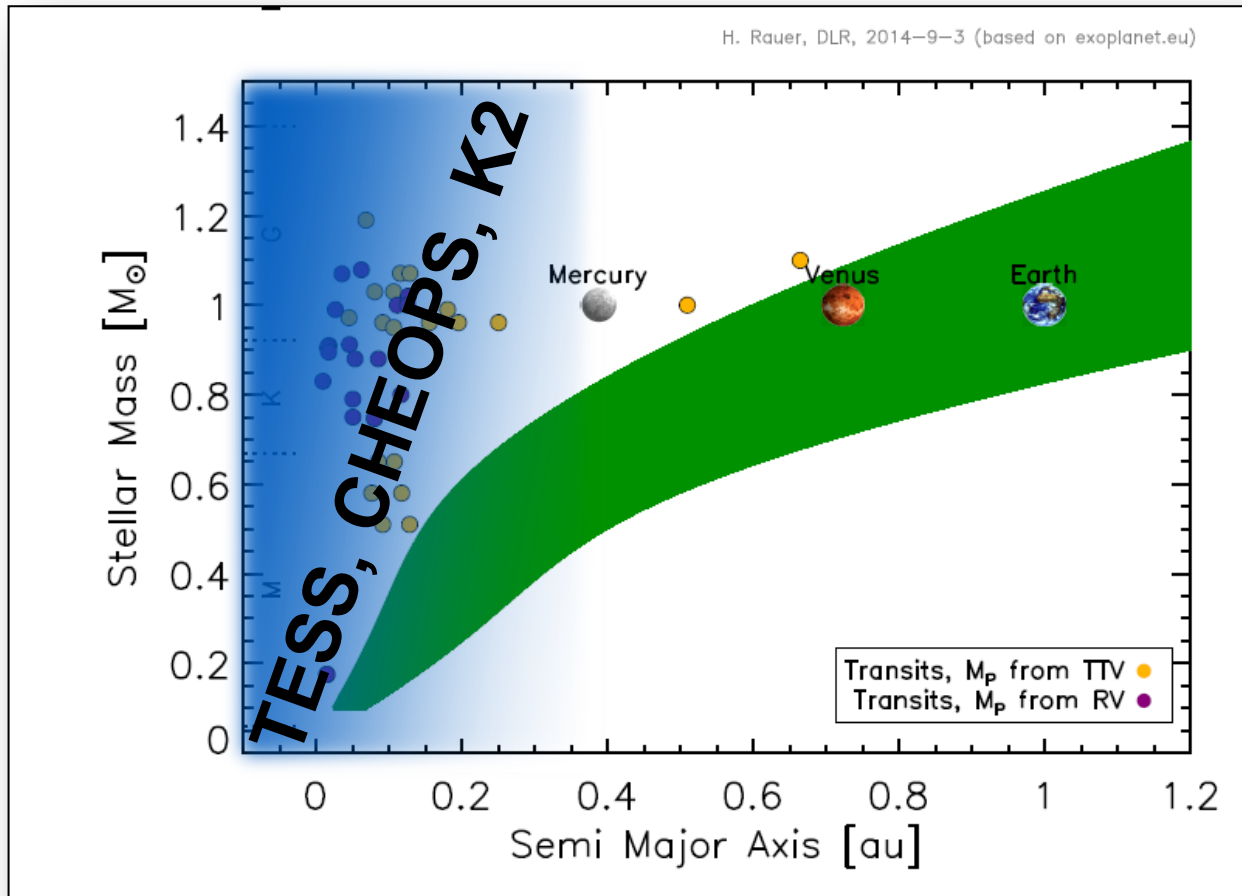
## „Super-Earths“ with characterized radius and mass



- Goal: Detect and characterize super-Earths in habitable zones
- Status: few small/light planets in habitable zones detected

# Prospects: Characterized „super-Earths“ in their habitable zone

„Super-Earths“ with characterized  
radius and mass

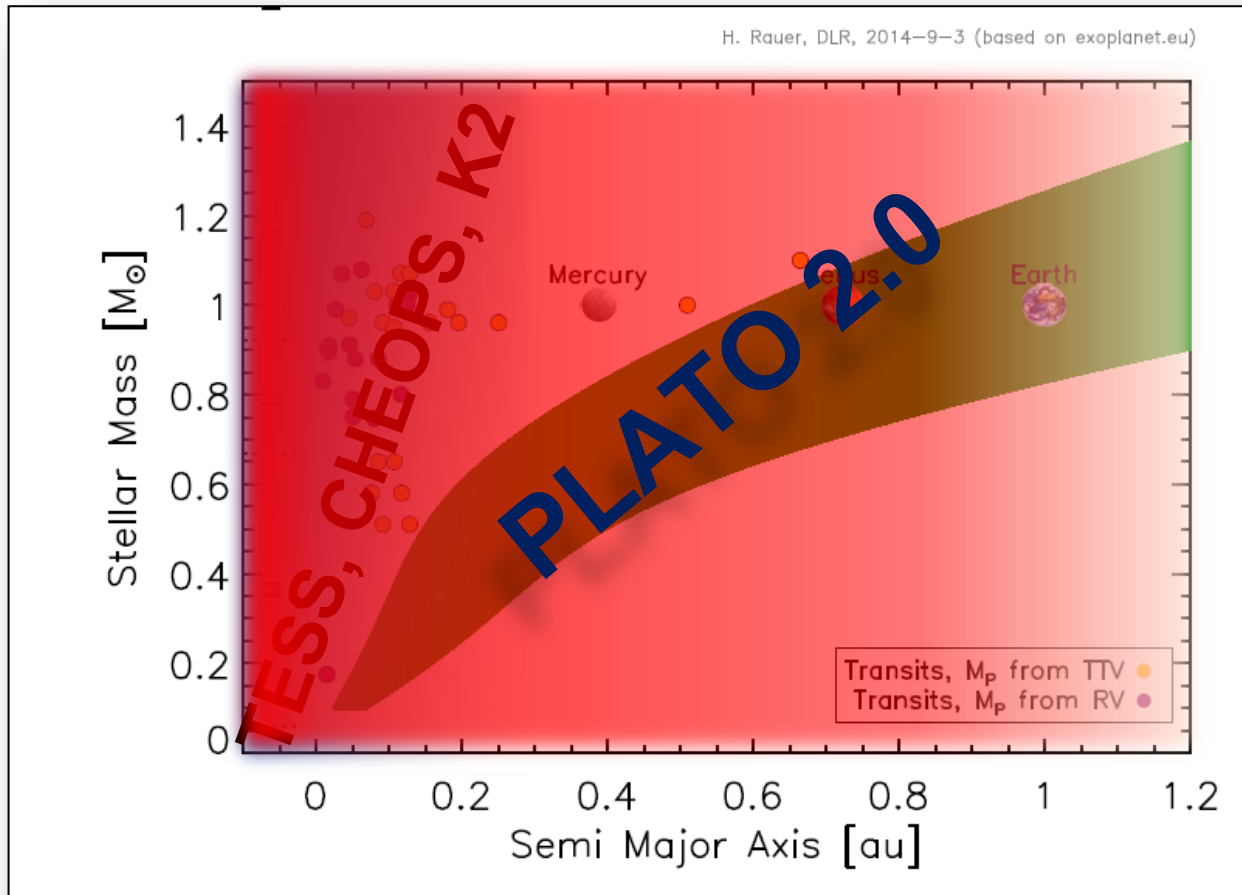


- TESS, CHEOPS, K2 will mainly cover orbital periods up to ~80 days

TESS ecliptic poles

# Prospects: Characterized „super-Earths“ in their habitable zone

„Super-Earths“ with characterized  
radius and mass



- PLATO 2.0 goal: Detect and characterize planets up to the habitable zone of solar-like stars.

TESS ecliptic poles



# Planets, planetary systems and their host stars evolve

→ Need to derive accurate planetary system age

Formation in proto-planetary disk, migration

Loss of primary, atmosphere

Stellar radiation, wind and magnetic field

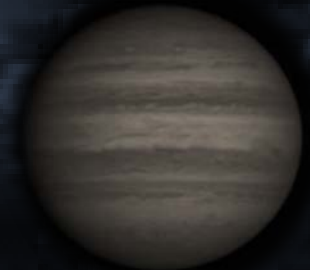
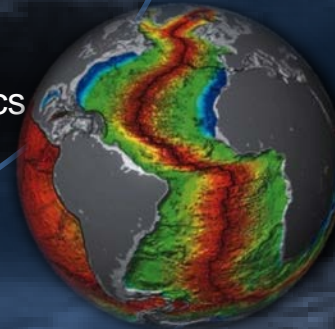
Cooling, differentiation

Cooling, differentiation

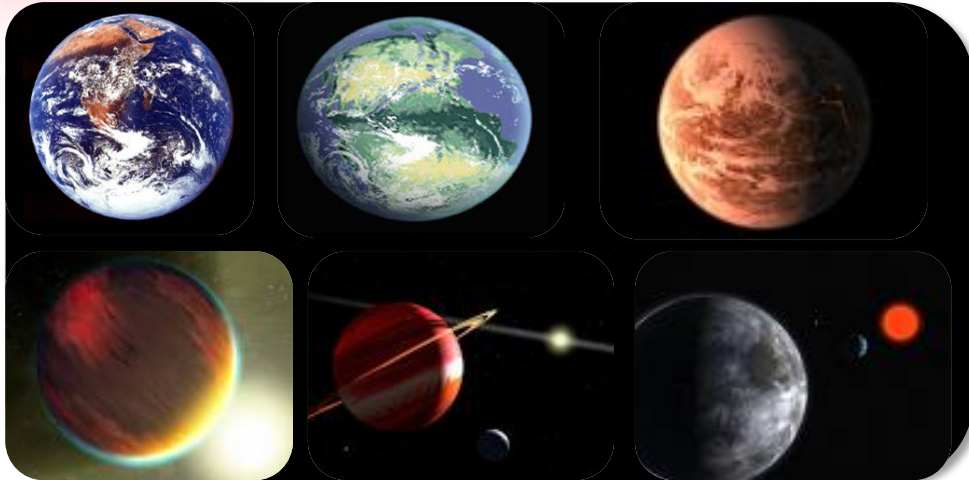
life

Secondary atmosphere

(plate)-tectonics



# PLATO 2.0: Exoplanets and Stars

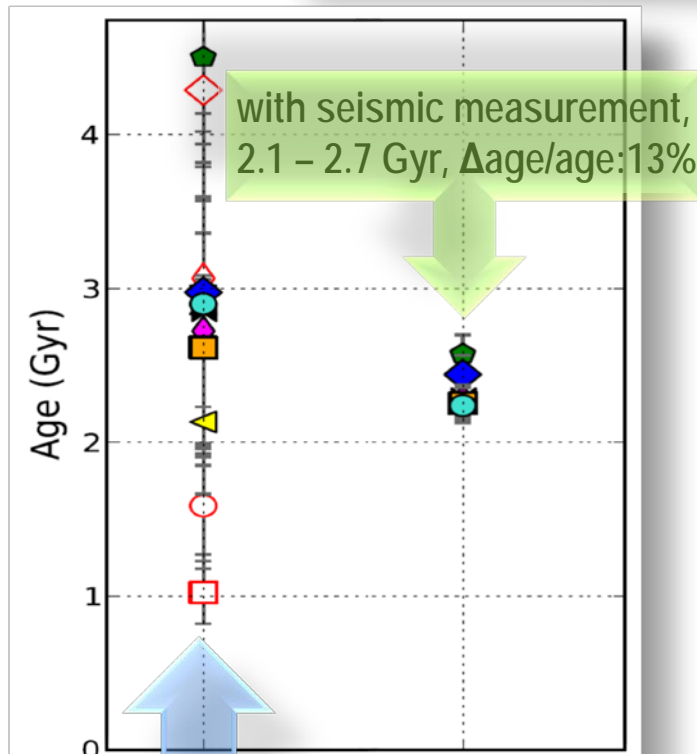


Characterization of exoplanets ... needs characterization of stars

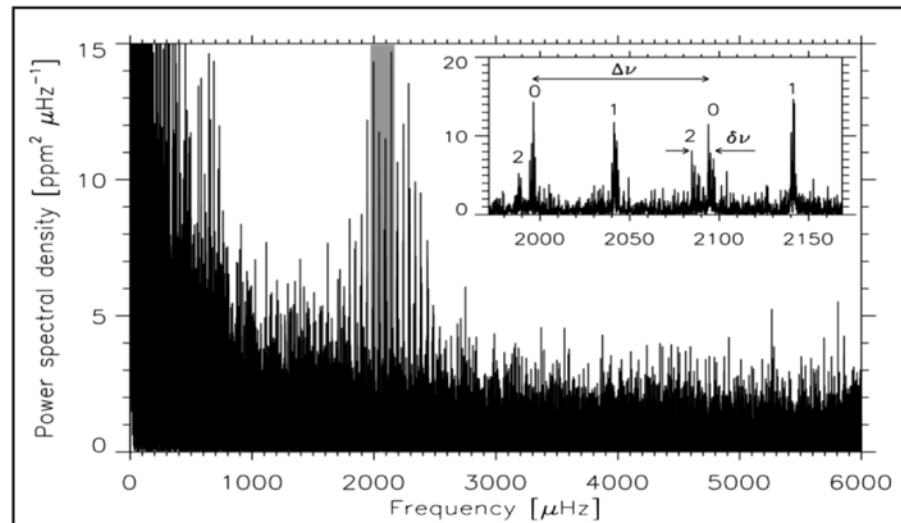
- **Mass + radius** → **mean density**  
(gaseous vs. rocky, composition, structure)
- **Orbital distance, atmosphere**  
(habitability)
- **Age**  
(planet and planetary system evolution)
- **Stellar mass, radius**  
(derive planet mass, radius)
- **Stellar type, luminosity, activity**  
(planet insolation)
- **Stellar age**  
(defines planet age)

# Asteroseismology

CoRoT and Kepler have demonstrated that the capabilities of asteroseismology



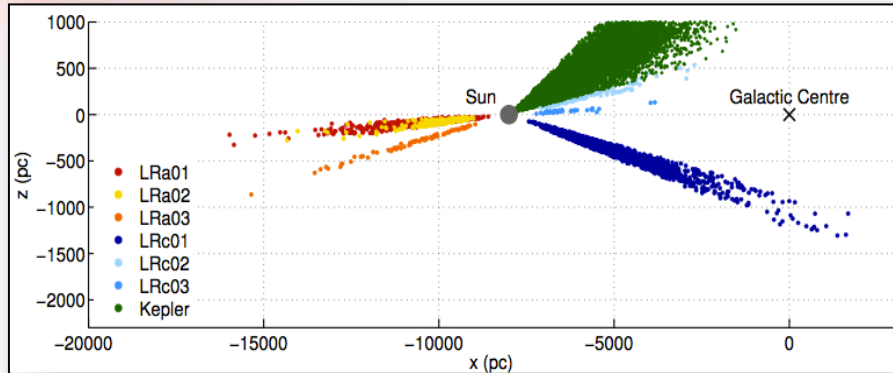
Example: HD 52265 (CoRoT), a G0V type, planet-hosting star, 4 months data



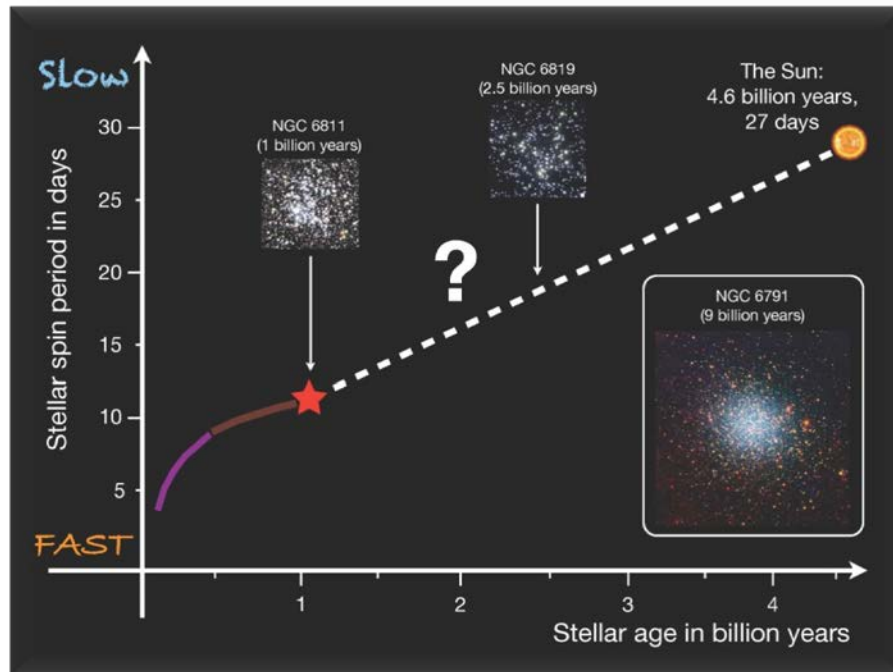
(Gizon et al. 2013)

Seismic parameters: Radius:  $1.34 \pm 0.02 R_{\text{sun}}$ ,  
Mass:  $1.27 \pm 0.03 M_{\text{sun}}$ ,  
Age:  $2.37 \pm 0.29 \text{ Gyr}$

# Structure and evolution of the galaxy with PLATO 2.0



Miglio et al. (2013)



Meibom et al. (2011)

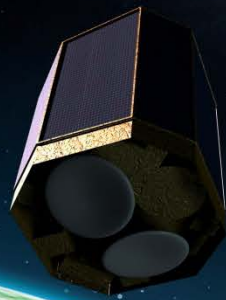
- **Gyrochronology** of stars via age-rotation relationship:  
→ seismic age versus rotation period from spots
  - **PLATO 2.0 & Gaia:**
    - seismic + astrometric distances
    - seismic age-metallicity relations for giants
- Provide accurate ages  
 → Calibrate stellar evolution theories  
 → Calibrate Galactic age-metallicity relationship
- **Probe the structure and the evolution of our Galaxy**



# Stellar, Complementary, Guest observer Science

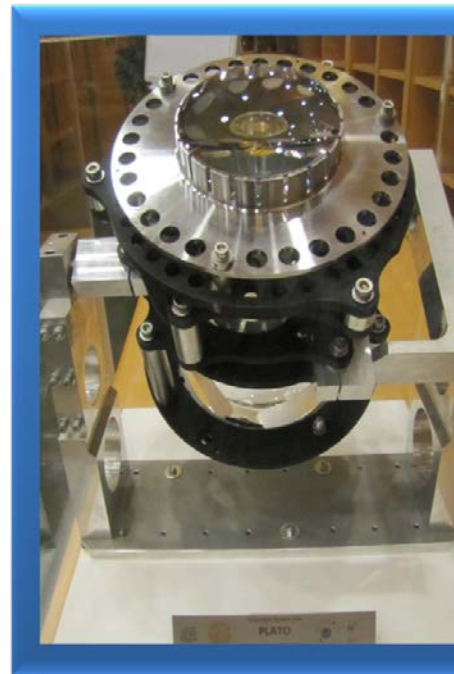
- The core program focusses on getting accurate parameters of exoplanet hosts
- The “core” program includes stellar parameters primarily for main sequence stars (with and without planetary systems) but internal physics of Red Giants is also important in testing models (eg internal rotation).
- Complementary Science – everything to be done with PLATO that is not in the “core” program!
- Complementary Science includes areas such as:
  - 1) Hot star pulsations
  - 2) Red giants as tracers of galactic age
  - 3) CV’s
  - 4) ...
- Complementary science programs will not require re-pointing of the spacecraft or exclusively dedicated observing time. It does not drive the mission design.
- **And: There will be regular calls for guest observer targets!**

# PLATO 2.0 instrument



# The „normal“ cameras

- 32 „normal“ cameras
- 12cm aperture telescopes
- Operate in “white light”  
(500 – 1050 nm)
- Dynamical range:  $\sim 8 \leq m_V \leq 13$
- Total Field-of-View:  $\sim 49^\circ \times 49^\circ$
- Read-out cadence: 25 sec

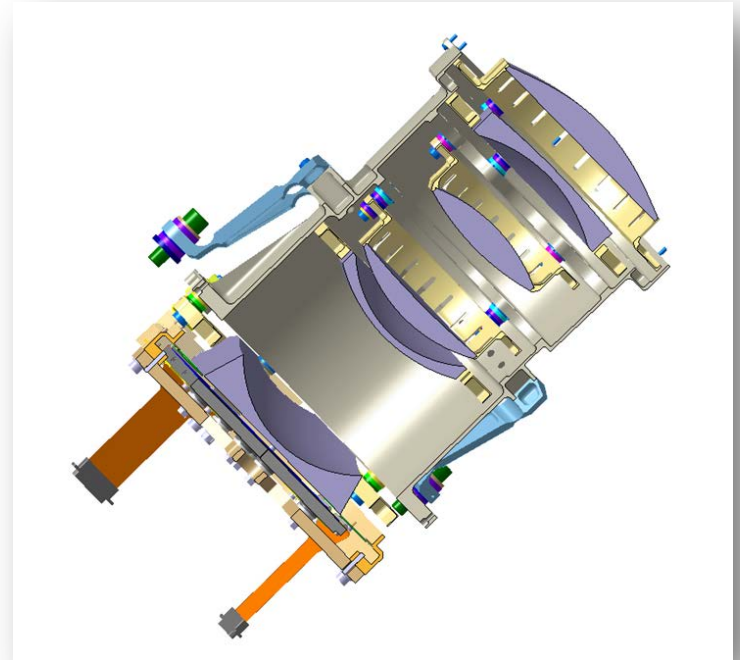


**BreadBoard of one  
PLATO 2.0  
Telescope**

- Aspheric feasibility demonstrated
  - CaF lenses demonstrated
  - Alignment in warm demonstrated
- 
- Lightcurve sampling: 25, 50, 600 sec, depending on stellar sample
  - Provide a sample of  $\sim 1\,000\,000$  lightcurves over the total mission life time

# The „fast“ cameras

- 2 „fast“ cameras
- Each telescope has one broadband filter: one „red“ and one „blue“ telescope; exact filter bandpasses are tbd.
- Otherwise optics identical to normal cameras
- Purpose:
  - **Fine guiding**
  - Photometry of the brightest stars (<~8 mag)
- Read-out cadence: 2.5 sec in frame transfer mode
- Provide a sample of ~400 stars



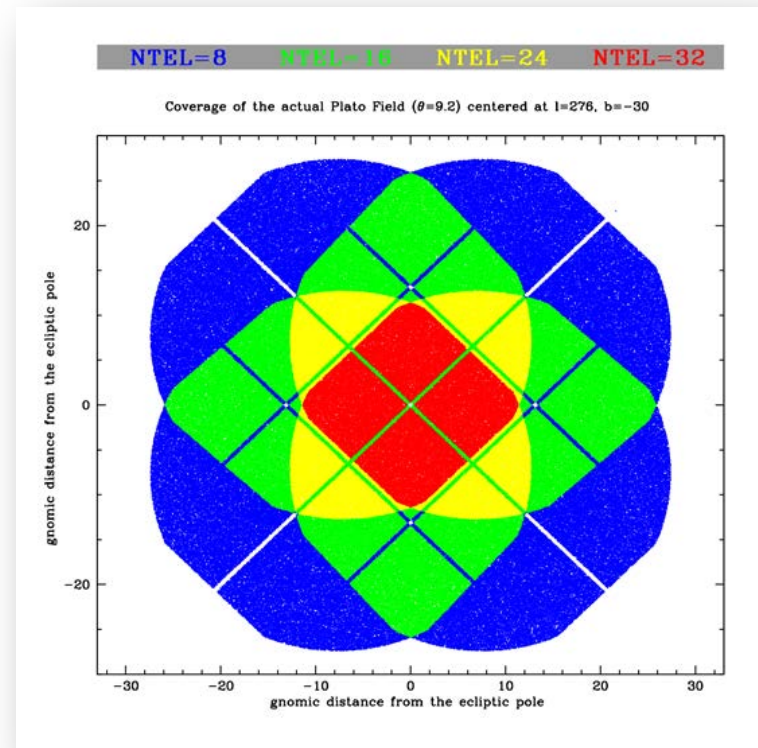
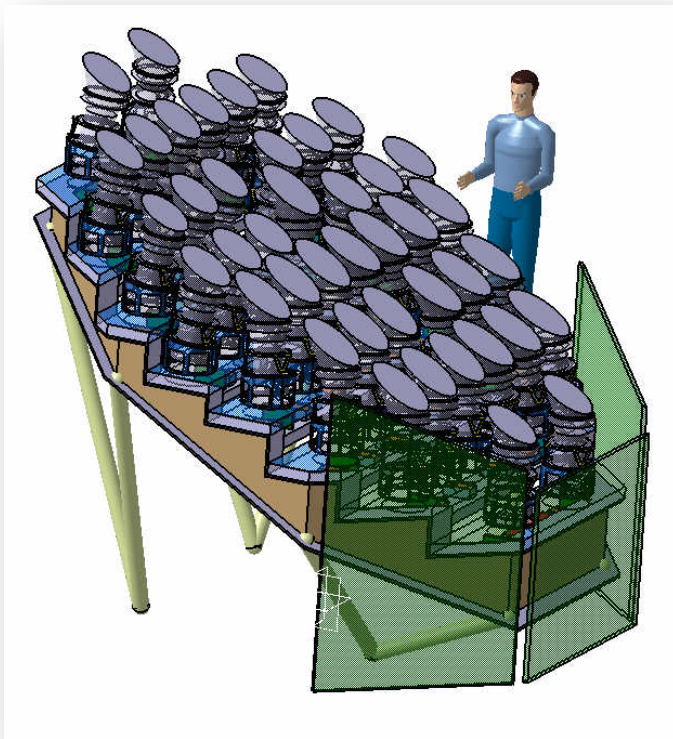
R. Ragazzoni



# PLATO 2.0 Instrument

Mounting on optical bench,  
Design study (final tbd):

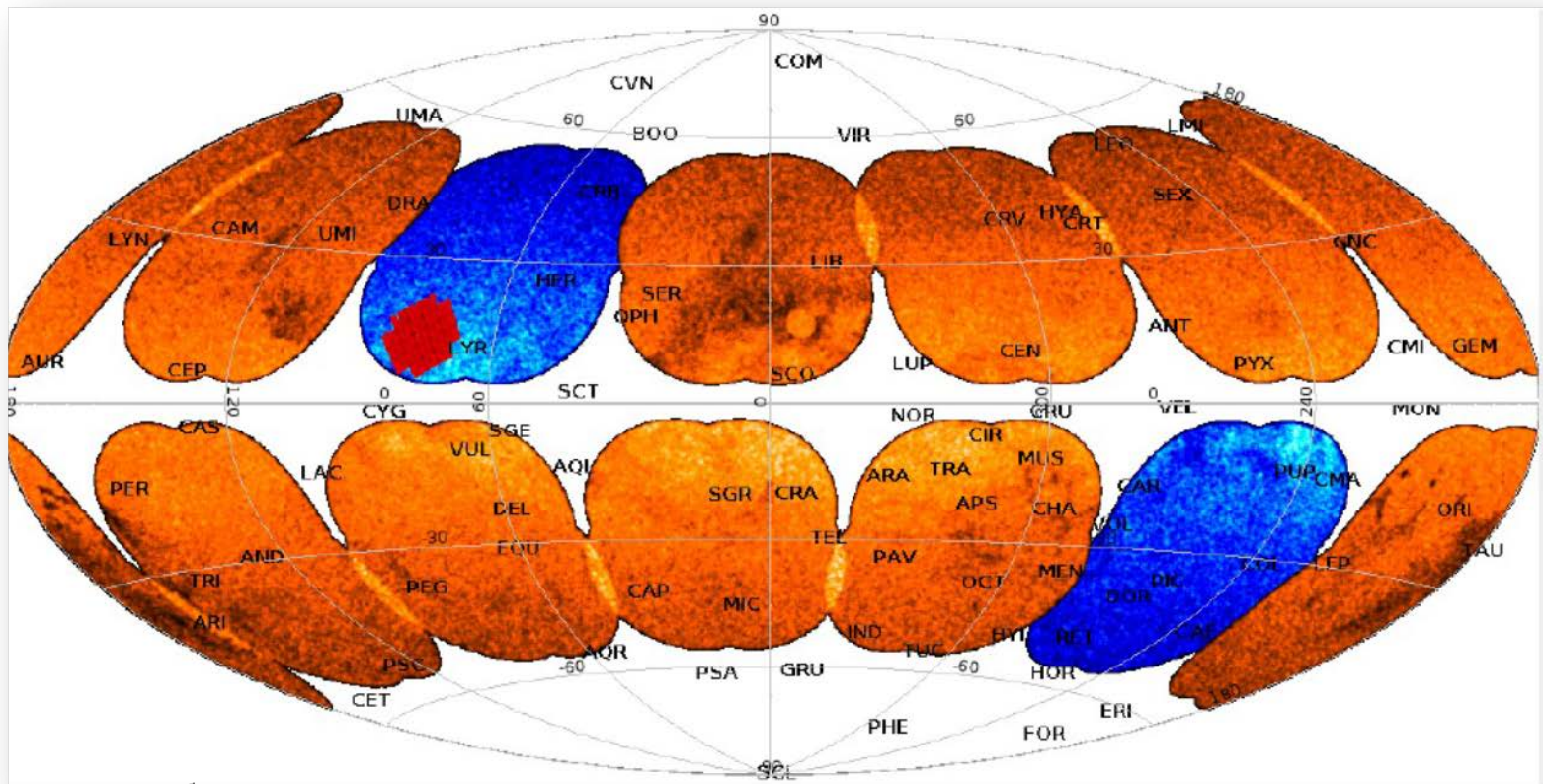
Field-of-view:



Launch into L2 orbit foreseen in spring 2024.

# PLATO 2.0 Sky

- A baseline observing strategy has been defined for mission design:
  - 6 years nominal science operation:
    - 2 long pointings of 2-3 years
    - step-and-stare phase (2-5 months per pointing)
- The final observing strategy will be fixed ~3 yrs (tbd) before launch.



# Total Stellar Samples requirements

long pointings	step & stare	mag	Noise in central field	spectral type
P1: 20 000 stars	P1: 66000 stars	V<11	34 ppm	F5/K7
P2: 1 000 stars	P3: 3 000 stars	V<8	34 ppm	F5/K7
P4: 5 000 stars V<16	5000 stars V<15	V<15 V<16	800 ppm	M
P5*: 245 000 stars	P1: 881000 stars	V<13		F5/K7

 No requirements; adding these leads to ~1,000,000 lightcurves total

# Total Stellar Samples requirements

long  
pointings

step &  
stare

mag

Noise  
in central  
field

spectral  
type

P1: 20 000 stars

P2: 1 000 stars

Exoplanet characterization  
and asteroseismology

P4: 5 000 stars  
V<16

M dwarf host star sample

P5\*: 245 000 stars

Exoplanet statistics and  
stellar science

No requirements, adding these leads to ~1,000,000 lightcurves total



# Latest developments

- Previous design assumed downlink of data using X-band.
- In March 2015 ESA decided that K band should be used.
- This results in an increase of transmitted data volume by factor ~4.
- New telemetry distribution currently under study:
  - Downlink imagerie for P1-P4 samples (full 25sec resolution)
  - Most P5 sample remains with 600 sec sampling, but for 10% increase to 50 sec sampling after transit alarm
  - Good budget for guest obser targets

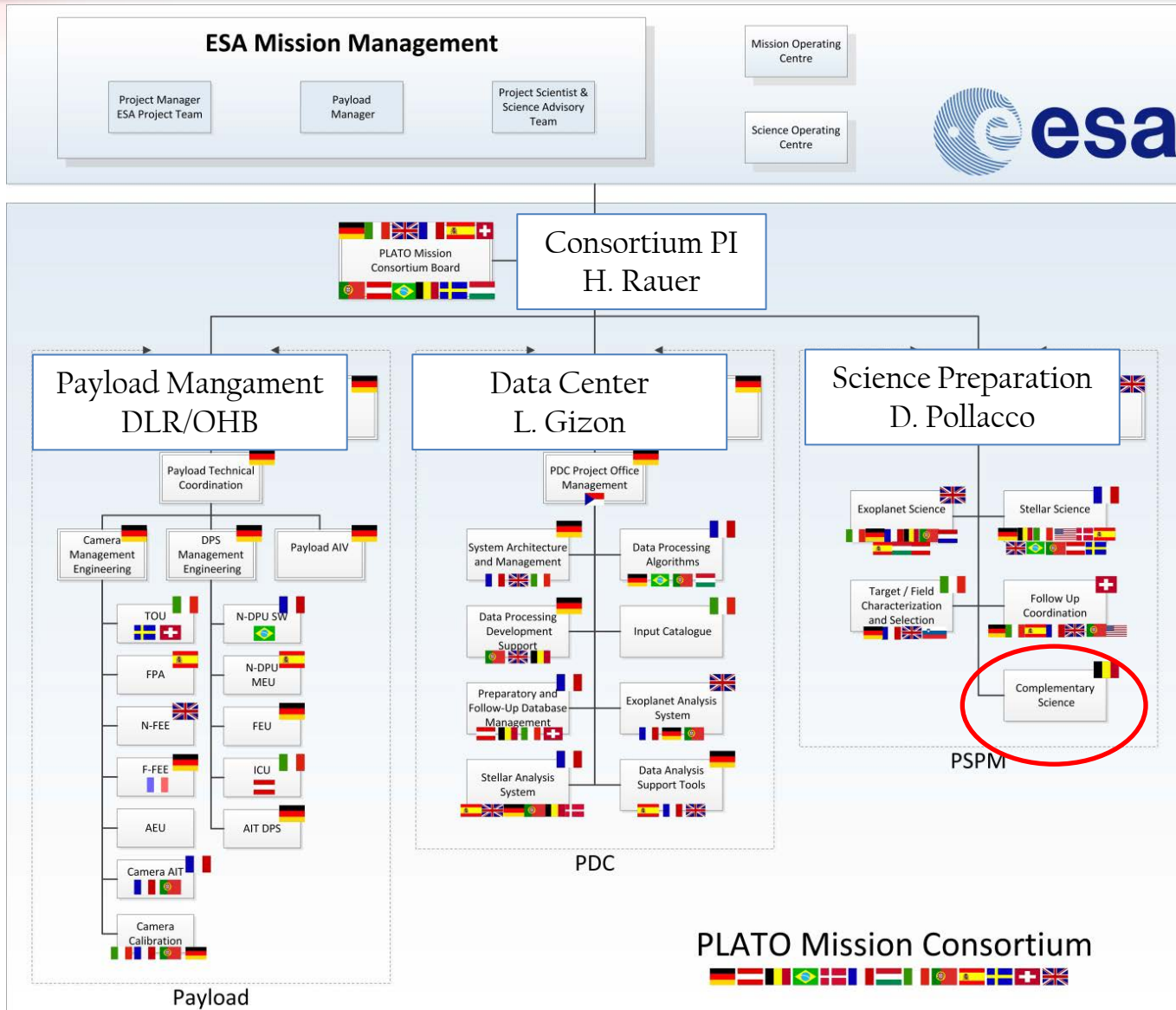


# Data products

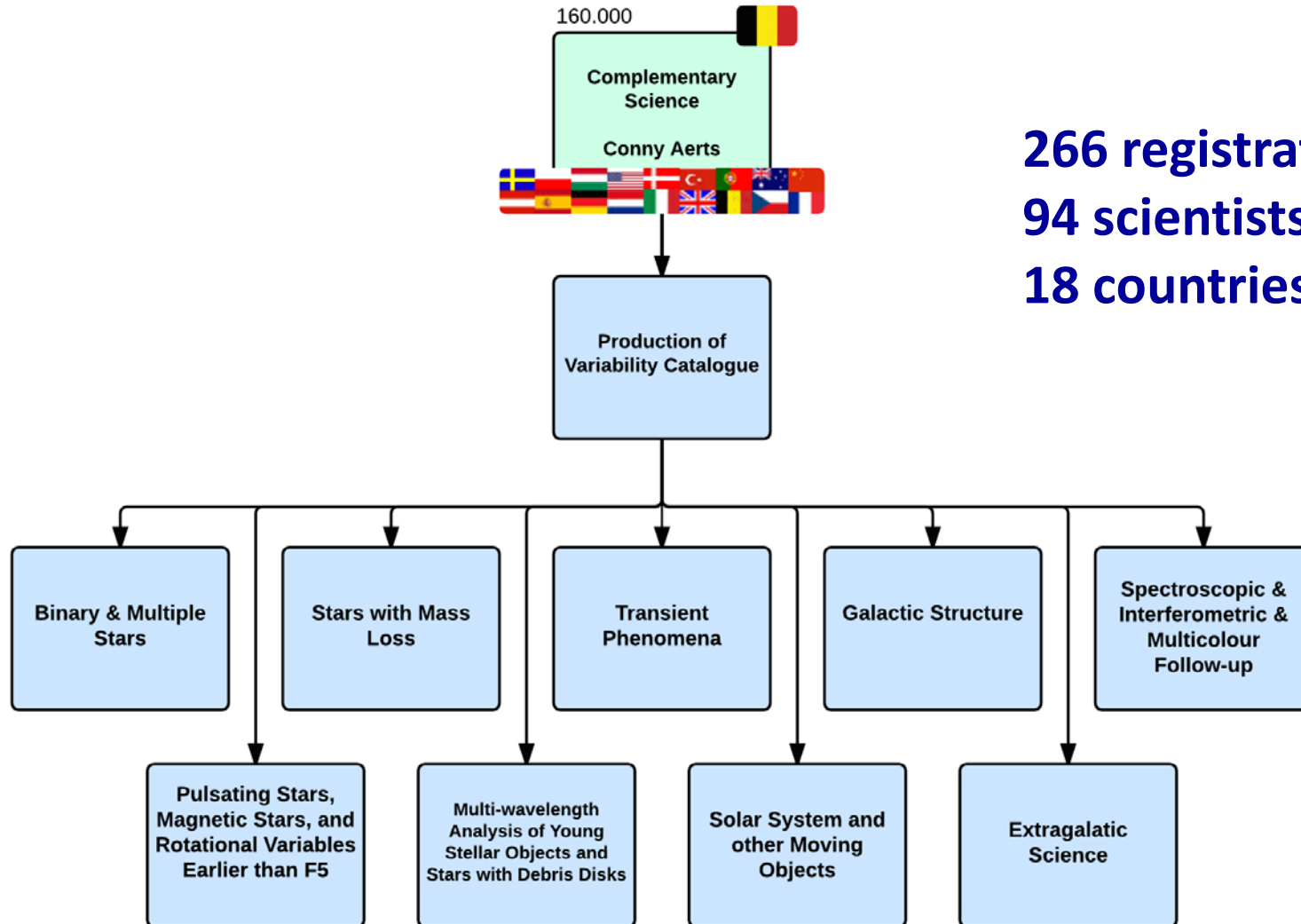
- L0 products: imagettes, lightcurves from 34 telescopes, centroids, house keeping
- L1 products: calibrated lightcurves and centroids
- L2/L3 products: Science results

<b>Calibrated light curves and centroid curves</b>	<b>DP1</b>	<b>L1</b>
<b>Planetary candidate transits &amp; their parameters</b>	<b>DP2</b>	<b>L2</b>
<b>Asteroseismic mode parameters</b>	<b>DP3</b>	<b>L2</b>
<b>Stellar rotation and activity</b>	<b>DP4</b>	<b>L2</b>
<b>Stellar radii, masses and ages</b>	<b>DP5</b>	<b>L2</b>
<b>Confirmed planetary systems and their characteristics</b>	<b>DP6</b>	<b>L3</b>

# The PLATO 2.0 Mission Consortium



# PLATO Complementary Science



**266 registrations**  
**94 scientists**  
**18 countries**



## Recap of philosophy:

- ✓ **does not drive mission design;** advisory role to optimise integration times (fast cadence!, allow # of faint objects), after field/target selection, colours, telemetry, ...
- ✓ **same role in Step-and-Stare phase than long pointings**
- ✓ **GO opportunity occurs in addition to CS**
- ✓ does not have impact on mission cost (i.e., free lance work funded at national level)
- ✓ does (not) have **deliverables at PDC level, but variability catalogue & CS products will be computed** (cf. Kepler/KASC)

## Suggestion for WP leaders:

<https://fys.kuleuven.be/ster/Projects/plato-cs/registration>

- ✓ Production of Variability Catalogue (B, Aerts)
- ✓ Binary & Multiple Stars (UK, Southworth)
- ✓ Pulsating Stars Earlier than F5 (B, Aerts)
- ✓ Multi-wavelength Analysis of Young Stellar Objects (AU, Güdel)
- ✓ Solar System and Other Moving Objects (I, ?)
- ✓ Galactic Structure (D, Hekker) (note: overlap with Miglio, Stellar Science)
- ✓ Extragalactic Science (NL)
- ✓ Spectroscopic & Interferometric & Multicolour Follow-up (F,?)
- ✓ Transient Phenomena (NL)
- ✓ Stars with mass loss (Spain)