

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# NASA and Open Source Software

**Dr. Steve Crawford**  
Science Data Officer

Contributions by:

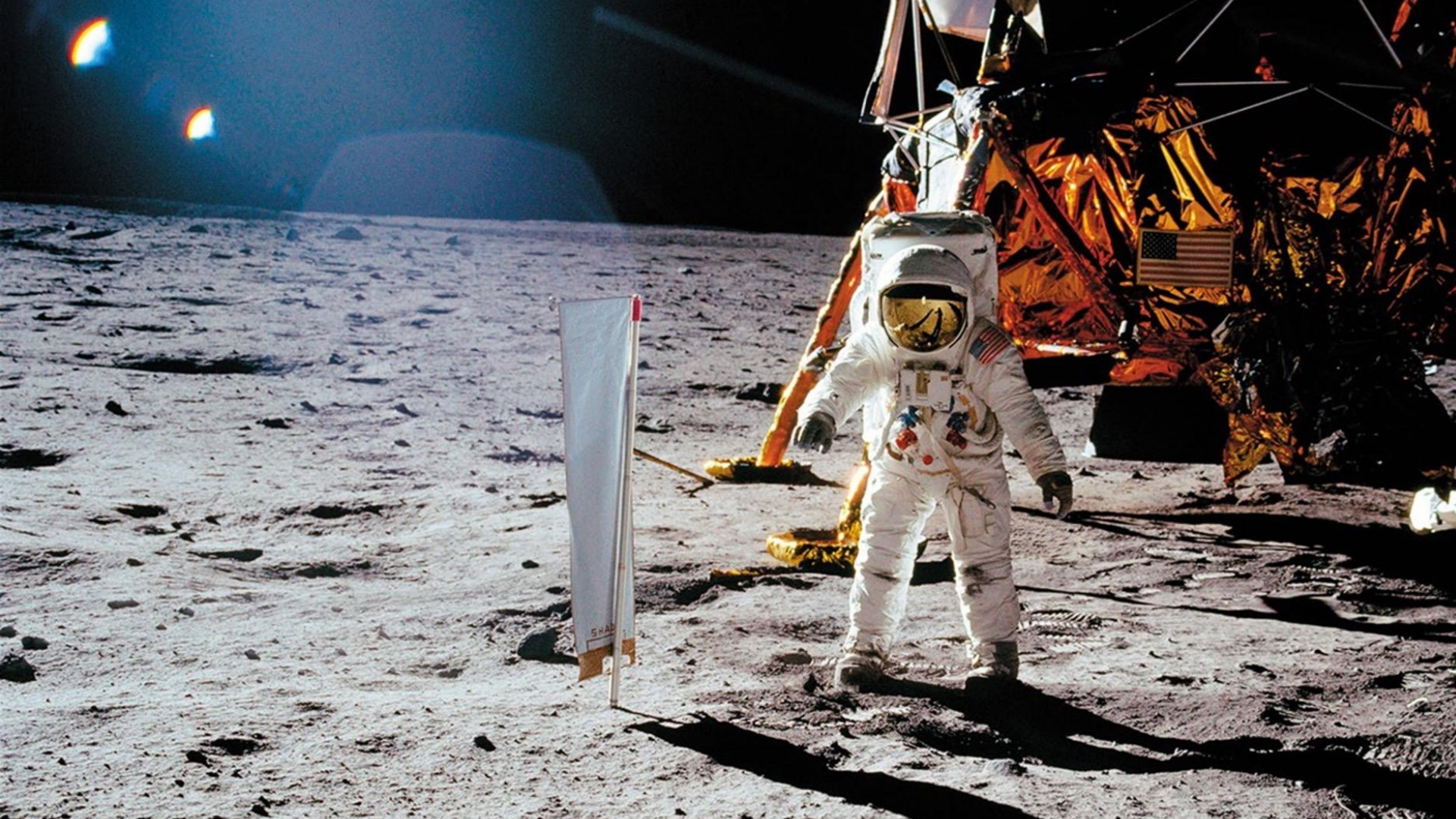
Demetri Muna, Estelle Stokes, Jazmine Wise, Zoe Jenkins,  
Alexandra Lockwood, Chelle Gentemann, Kevin Murphy,  
Katie Baynes, Yaitza Luna-Cruz, Elena Steponaitis, Amy  
(Uyen) Truong, Yvonne Ivey, Cyndi Hall, Isabella Martinez,  
Paige Martin, Rachel Paseka, Kevin Ward, Andi Thomas,  
and many more.



# Agenda

- Software and NASA
- Recent Open Software Success
- Challenges with Open Software
- Open Source Science
- Opportunities









# Apollo Software

```

SAPI ASSEMBLE REVISION 001 OF AGC PROGRAM LMV99 BY NASA 2021172-061 16127 JULY 14,1969 LNYA1
L ATTITUDE MANEUVER ROUTINE USER'S PAGE NO.
R0193 ( 6 7 8)
R0194
R0196 INDEX REGISTER X1 MUST BE LOADED WITH THE COMPLEMENT OF THE STARTING ADDRESS FOR M1, AND
R0198
R0199 LOADED WITH THE COMPLEMENT OF THE STARTING ADDRESS FOR M2. THE ROUTINE USES THE FIRST 20 LOC
R0201 DOWN LIST. THE FIRST ELEMENT OF THE MATRIX APPEARS IN PDD. PUSH UP FOR M.
R0203
R0205
R0206 TRANSPOS
R0207
R0208 THIS ROUTINE TRANSPOSES A 3X3 MATRIX AND LEAVES THE RESULT IN THE PUSH DOWN LIST. I.E.,
R0210
R0211 * * T
R0212 M = M1
R0213 INDEX REGISTER X1 MUST CONTAIN THE COMPLEMENT OF THE STARTING ADDRESS FOR M1. PUSH UP FOR THE
R0215
R0216 SEQUENT COMPONENTS OF M. THIS SUBROUTINE ALSO USES THE FIRST 20 LOCATIONS OF THE PUSH DOWN LIST.
R0218
R0219 CDU TO DCM
R0220
R0221 THIS SUBROUTINE CONVERTS THREE CDU ANGLES IN (IMPAC) TO A DIRECTION COSINE MATRIX (SCALED BY 2) RELATING
R0223 THE CORRESPONDING S/C ORIENTATIONS TO THE STABLE MEMBER FRAME. THE FORMULAS FOR THIS CONVERSION ARE
R0225
R0226 M = COSY COSZ
R0227 0
R0228 M = -COSY SINZ COSX + SINY SINX
R0229 1
R0230 M = COSY SINZ SINX + SINY COSX
R0231 2
R0232 M = SINZ
R0233 3
R0234 M = COSZ COSX
R0235 4
R0236 M = -COSZ SINX
R0237 5
R0238 M = -SINY COSZ
R0239 6
R0240 M = SINY SINZ COSX + COSY SINX
R0241 7
    
```



Mary W. Jackson worked at the Langley Research Center.



Margaret Hamilton with the Apollo software she and her team at MIT produced.



# Sharing our NASA Discoveries since 1958

National Aeronautics and  
Space Act of 1958,  
As Amended



The National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

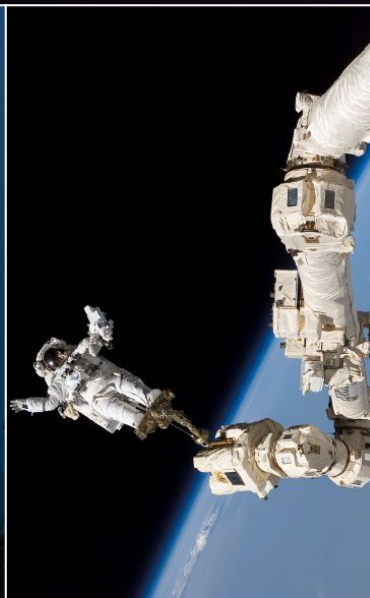
## Section 203(a) of the law that created NASA notes...

### FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 203. (a) The Administration, in order to carry out the purpose of this Act, shall—

- (1) plan, direct, and conduct aeronautical and space activities;
- (2) arrange for participation by the scientific community in planning scientific measurements and observations to be made through use of aeronautical and space vehicles, and conduct or arrange for the conduct of such measurements and observations;
- (3) provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof;
- (4) seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space; and
- (5) encourage and provide for Federal Government use of commercially provided space services and hardware, consistent with the requirements of the Federal Government.<sup>10</sup>

# NASA Mission Directorates



**Exploration Systems  
Development Mission  
Directorate (ESDMD)**

**Space Operations  
Mission Directorate  
(SOMD)**

**Science Mission  
Directorate  
(SMD)**

**Space Technology  
Mission Directorate  
(STMD)**

**Aeronautics Research  
Mission Directorate  
(ARM)**



# Key Science Themes

PROTECT & IMPROVE  
LIFE ON EARTH &  
IN SPACE

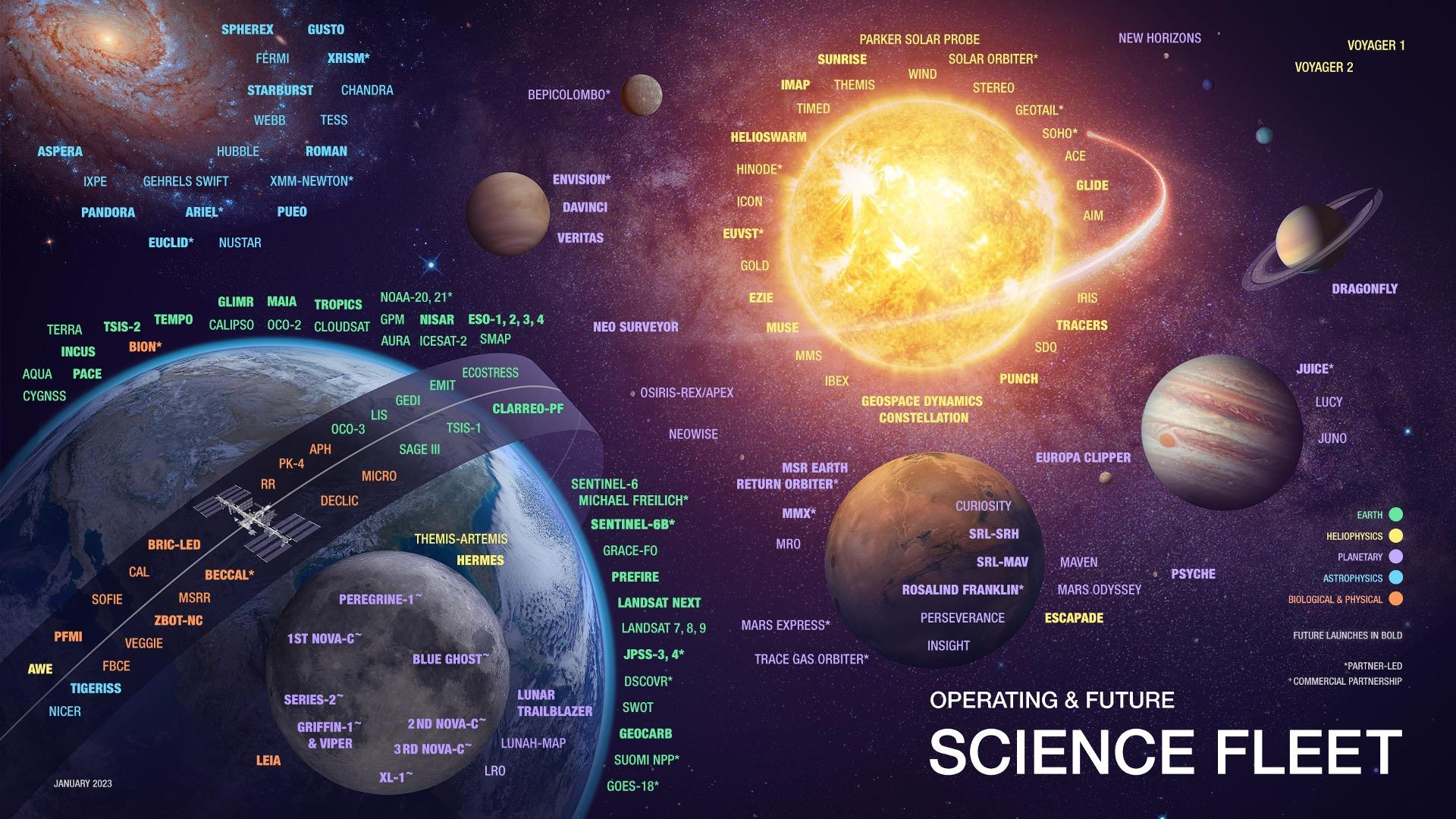


SEARCH FOR LIFE  
ELSEWHERE



DISCOVER SECRETS  
OF THE UNIVERSE





SPHEREX GUSTO

FÉRMÍ XRISM\*

STARBUST CHANDRA

WEBB TESS

ASPERA HUBBLE ROMAN

IXPE GEHRELS SWIFT XMM-NEWTON\*

PANDORA ARIEL\* PUEO

EUCLID\* NUSTAR

GLIMR MAIA TROPICS NOAA-20, 21\*  
CALIPSO OCO-2 CLOUDSAT GPM NISAR ESO-1, 2, 3, 4  
AURA ICESAT-2 SMAP

TERRA TSIS-2 TEMPO INCUS BION\*  
AQUA PACE CYGNSS

EMIT ECOSTRESS  
GEDI LIS GEDÍ CLARREO-PF  
OCO-3 SAGE III  
APH MICRO  
RR DECIC

BRIC-LED  
CAL BECCAL\*  
SOFIE MSRR  
PFMI ZBOT-NC  
VEGGIE  
AWE FBCE  
TIGERISS  
NICER

THEMIS-ARTEMIS HERMES  
PEREGRINE-1~  
1ST NOVA-C~  
BLUE GHOST~  
SERIES-2~  
GRIFFIN-1~ & VIPER  
LEIA

2ND NOVA-C~  
3RD NOVA-C~  
LUNAR TRAILBLAZER  
LUNAH-MAP  
LRO

ENVISION\* DAVINCI VERITAS  
NEO SURVEYOR  
OSIRIS-REX/APEX  
NEOWISE

SENTINEL-6 MICHAEL FREILICH\* SENTINEL-6B\*  
GRACE-FO  
PREFIRE  
LANDSAT NEXT  
LANDSAT 7, 8, 9  
JPSS-3, 4\*  
DSCOVR\*  
SWOT  
GEOCARB  
SUOMI NPP\*  
GOES-18\*

PARKER SOLAR PROBE SUNRISE WIND STEREO

IMAP THEMIS SOLAR ORBITER\*

TIMED GEOTAIL\* SOHO\*

HELIOSWARM HINODE\* ACE

ICON EUVST\* GLIDE

GOLD AIM

EZIE MUSE IRIS

MMS MARS EXPRESS\* TRACERS

IBEX PUNCH SDO

OSIRIS-REX/APEX NEOWISE

MSR EARTH RETURN ORBITER\*

MMX\* MRO

CURIOSITY

SRL-SRH

SRL-MAV MAVEN

ROSALIND FRANKLIN\* MARS ODYSSEY

PERSEVERANCE

INSIGHT

TRACE GAS ORBITER\*

GEOSPACE DYNAMICS CONSTELLATION

EUROPA CLIPPER

PSYCHE

ESCAPADE

NEW HORIZONS

VOYAGER 1  
VOYAGER 2

DRAGONFLY

JUICE\*

LUCY

JUNO

EARTH

HELIOPHYSICS

PLANETARY

ASTROPHYSICS

BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL

FUTURE LAUNCHES IN BOLD

\*PARTNER-LED

\*COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP

# OPERATING & FUTURE SCIENCE FLEET





Ingenuity made its first flight in 2021 as part of the Mars Perseverance.

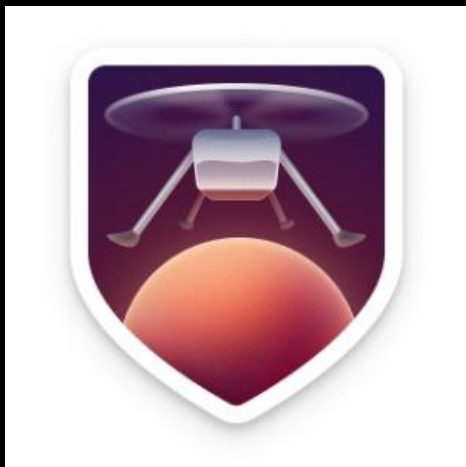
F Prime, its Open Source Flight Control software, was released by JPL in 2017.





# Open Source Drives NASA Missions

To celebrate Ingenuity's first flight, GitHub and JPL recognized the more than 12,000 people that contributed to Open Source dependencies of the project



A screenshot of a GitHub profile for Mariatta Wijaya. The profile includes a circular profile picture of a woman with red hair, a bio, and a list of open source projects she is currently focusing on. The bio mentions she lives in Vancouver and is a public speaker. The list of projects includes CPython, Python Core Sprint, PyLadies, and gidgethub. The profile also shows she has 592 followers and is following 4 people.

Search or jump to... Pull requests Issues Marketplace Explore

Overview Repositories 149 Projects Packages Sponsoring 4

Mariatta / README.md

Hi there 🙌

My name is Mariatta. My pronoun is she/her/hers. I live in Vancouver 🇨🇦 and my timezone is UTC-7.

The open source projects that I'm currently focusing on are:

- CPython, specifically the core-workflow, GitHub bots, Devguide and general documentation
- Python Core Sprint
- PyLadies
- gidgethub

I'm also a public speaker and I co-organize Vancouver PyLadies group.

For my contributions to Python, I've received the Community Service Award from Python Software Foundation. I've also been nominated twice for Google Open Source Peer Bonus program. I'm a PSF Fellow member since 2020. In honor of Ada Lovelace Day in 2020, my story was shared on GitHub README project.

If you find my open source contributions valuable, please consider [sponsoring me](#) on GitHub.

Follow Sponsoring

I am not open / Parts of me are broken

592 followers · 4 following · ☆ 24

Canada

<https://mariatta.ca>

<https://github.com/readme/feature-d/nasa-ingenuity-helicopter>







# Webb – A Product Of The United States, Europe, and Canada

## JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE GLOBAL CONTRIBUTORS



### 3 AGENCIES

NASA, ESA, CSA

### 6 NASA CENTERS

GSFC, JPL, MSFC,  
Ames, JSC, CSA

### 14 COUNTRIES

Austria, **Belgium**, Canada,  
Denmark, France, Germany,  
Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain,  
Sweden, Switzerland, United  
Kingdom, United States of  
America

### 6 ACADEMIC & INDUSTRY PARTNERS

University of Arizona, Ball  
Aerospace, L3Harris  
Technologies, Lockheed Martin,  
Northrop Grumman, The Space  
Telescope Science Institute

### 27 YEARS OF WORK

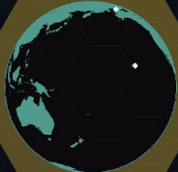
1995 - Present

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



The James Webb Space Telescope will be the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. An infrared telescope, Webb will have a massive 6.5 meter primary mirror, as well as a tennis court-sized sunshield that will protect it from the intense radiation of the Sun, Earth, and Moon, launching on a 47-ton Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana. Webb will orbit the Sun 1.5 million kilometers (1 million miles) from Earth.

Webb is an international project led by NASA with its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and the Canadian Space Agency, along with contributions from many businesses and universities around the globe.





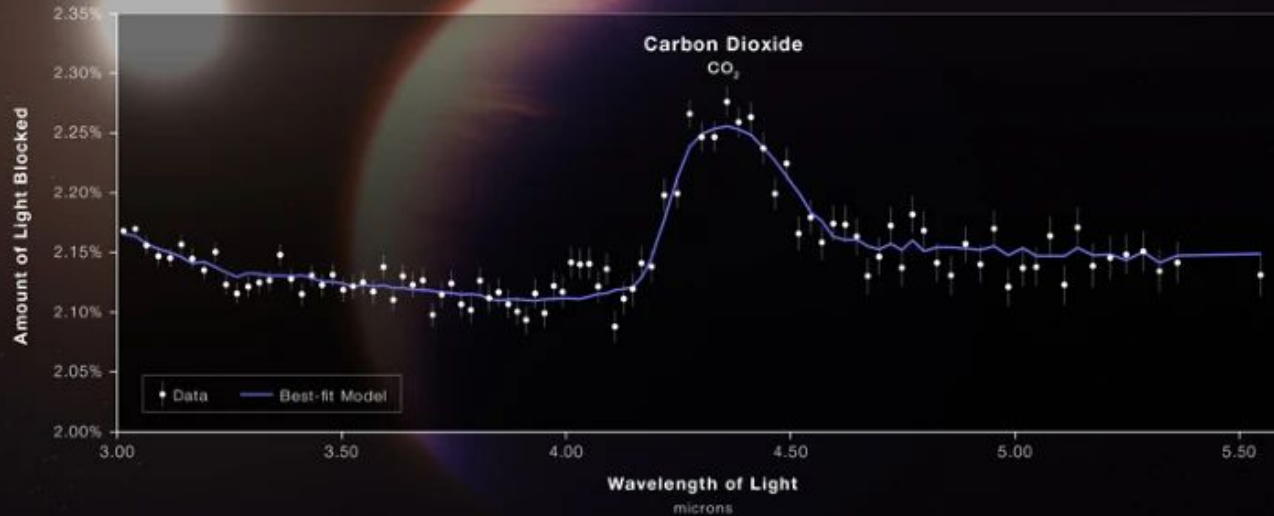




# First evidence of CO<sub>2</sub> in exoplanet atmosphere

HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b  
ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION

NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy



“NASA’s open science guiding principles are centered in our Early Release Science work, supporting an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative scientific process.”

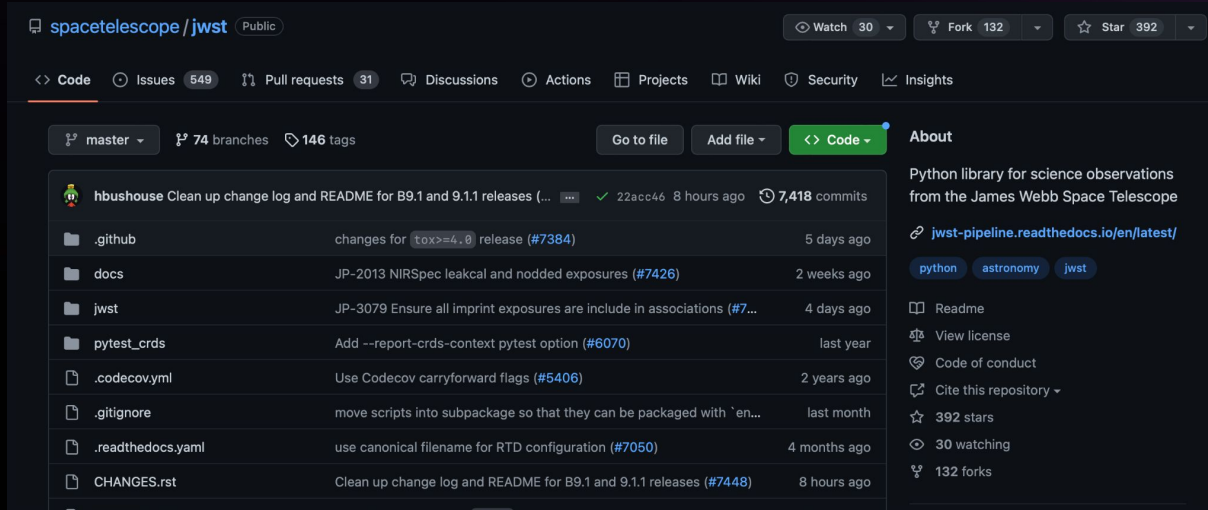
– co-author  
Dr. Natasha Batalha

WEBB  
SPACE TELESCOPE





# JWST Calibration Software



Developed openly  
on GitHub.

Enables scientists to  
test their projects.

Builds on the scientific  
Python environment and  
contributes back to the  
community.

<https://github.com/spacetelescope/jwst>

<https://github.com/readme/featured/webb-telescope-astropy>







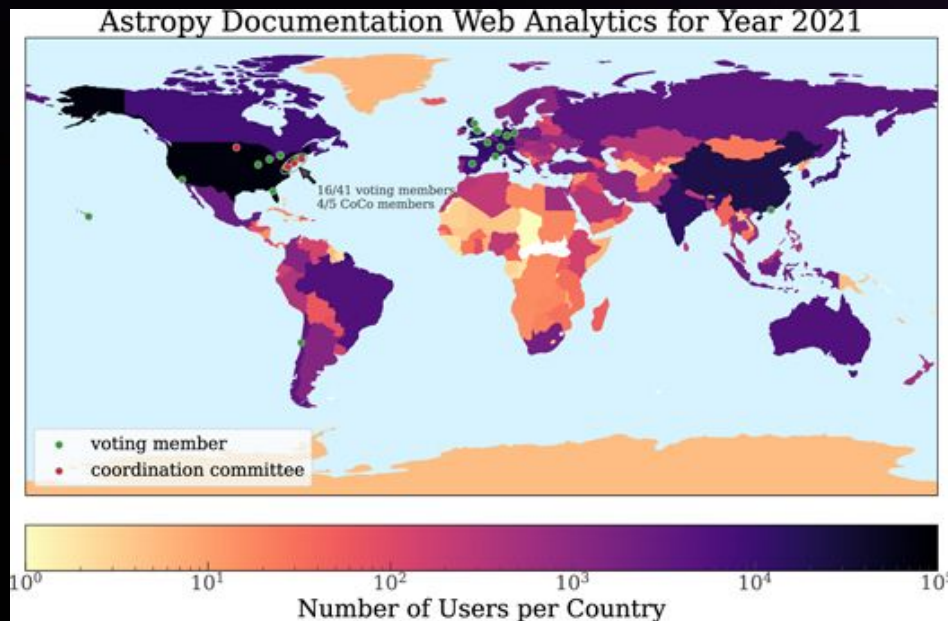
Common Python library for astronomy; builds on NumPy.

Started in 2011 from an astronomy and Python mailing list.

Original contributors include Hubble and Chandra Space Telescopes.

Has been cited over 10,000 publications.

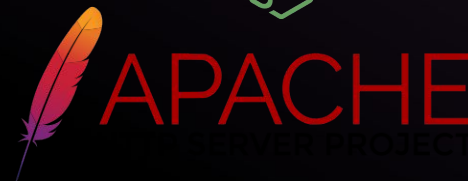
<https://www.astropy.org/>







# Open Source Used by NASA (A Small Sampling!)





# NASA Has a Wealth of Open Source Software

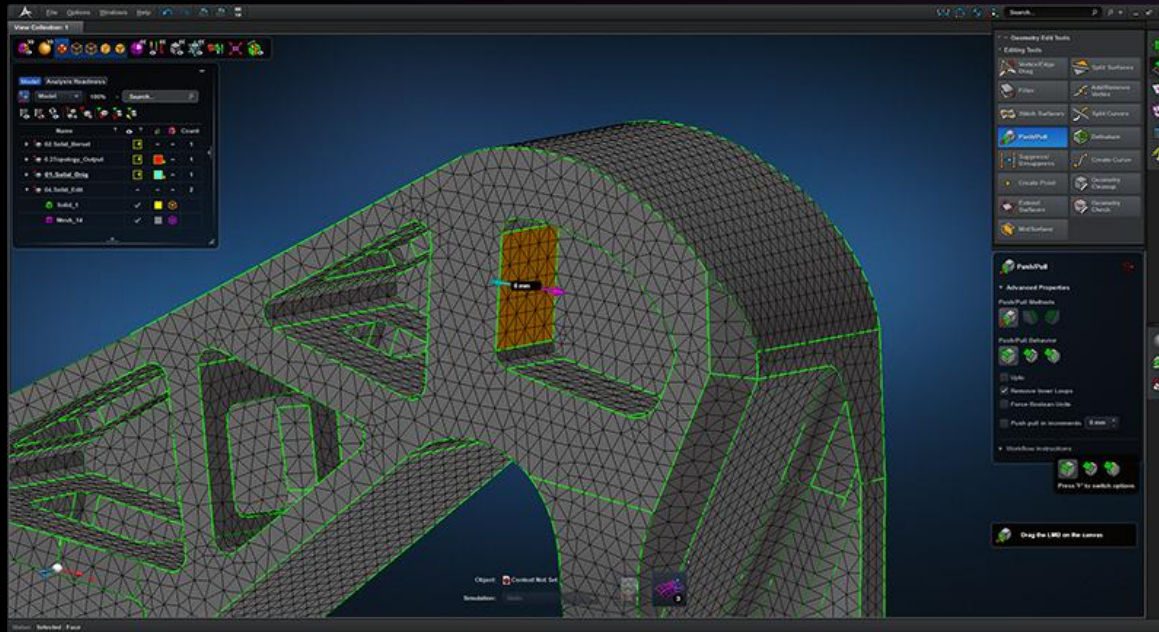
- das2 - space data visualization • <http://das2.org>
- Autoplot - used for analysis of fields & particle space data • <http://autoplot.org>
- Astrogeology - <https://github.com/USGS-Astrogeology/ISIS3>
- Astrogeology Planetary Input / Output (PLIO) • <https://github.com/USGS-Astrogeology/plio>
- PlanetaryPy - Python tools for Planetary Science • <https://github.com/planetarypy>
- NASA Ames Stereo Pipeline (ASP) • <https://github.com/NeoGeographyToolkit/StereoPipeline>
- MHEST - Mixing Height Estimation Toolbox • <https://github.com/NASA-DEVELOP/MHEST>
- NASA-DEVELOP - Earth observation • <https://github.com/NASA-DEVELOP/dnppy>
- VOCAL - visualize satellite data • <http://nasa-develop.github.io/VOCAL/>
- Space Telescope Science Institute code • <https://github.com/spacetelescope>

*...this is just a small sampling!*





# NASTRAN



NASTRAN is a finite element analysis program that was originally developed for NASA in the late 1960s and publicly released in the 1970s.

NASTRAN source code is integrated in a number of different software packages, which are distributed by a range of companies.

# NASA Spin Offs





# JPL SPICE Toolkit

- S** - Spacecraft ephemeris
- P** - Planet, satellite, comet, or asteroid ephemerides
- I** - Instrument information
- C** - Orientation information (“C matrix”)
- E** - Events information

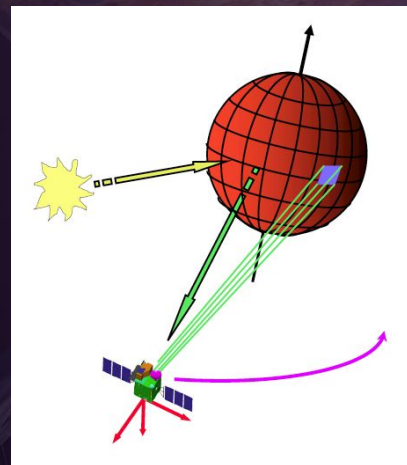
SPICE can determine:

- positions & velocities of planets, satellites, comets, asteroids, spacecraft
- size, shape, orientation of planets, satellites, comets, asteroids
- orientation of a spacecraft and its moving structures
- instruments field-of-view location on a planet's surface or atmosphere

Interfaces for Java, C, FORTRAN, Matlab, IDL, Python. Open source since 1996.

Funded as part of the Planetary Data System.

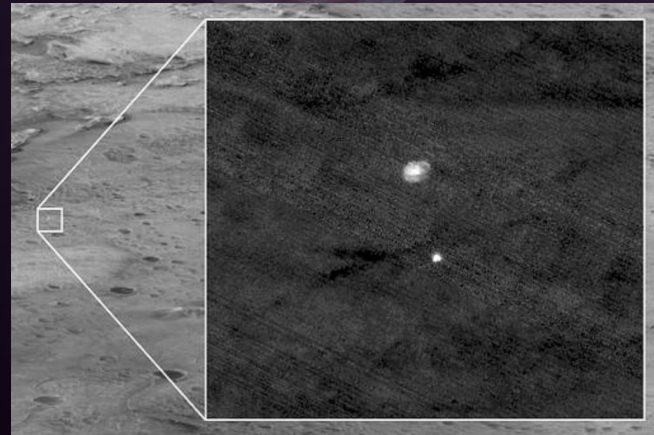
<https://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/toolkit.html>



# SpiceyPy - Python Wrapper for SPICE Toolkit

Created by Andrew Annex, used by:

- Cassini
- Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to capture an image of the Perseverance rover landing
- Parker Solar Probe
- Maven (Mars orbiter)
- Europa Clipper Mission
- Work to locate Kuiper Belt objects / New Horizons
- Used by ~80% of SPICE users
- Many missions using ISIS3 Astrogeology / USGS
- many more!



*Perseverance rover descent stage*

<https://github.com/AndrewAnnex/SpiceyPy>

# SpiceyPy - Python Wrapper for SPICE Toolkit

SPICE's usage and audience was greatly extended beyond the authors' original vision because it was accessible.

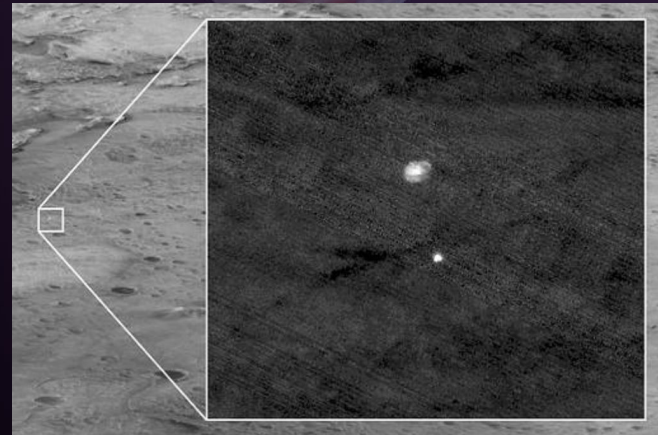
SpiceyPy was started by Andrew as undergraduate (!) student working on the Cassini mission... "I wanted to use SPICE in Python."

Andrew continued development for two years *in his spare time* while no longer working as an astronomer.

(Don't worry; he's currently a postdoc at CalTech.)

Open source success! – heavily used by community, documented, full code coverage in testing, CI/CD, but...

... no direct funding, limited recognition (e.g. citations).



*Perseverance rover descent stage*



# Challenges

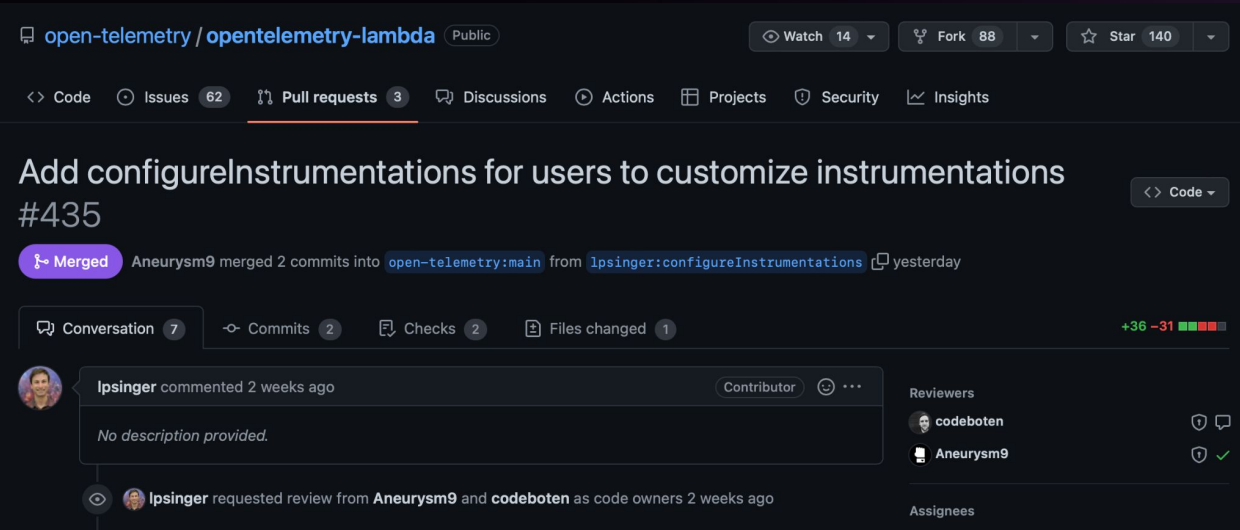




# Contributing to Open Source

NASA has contributed to many open source projects...

...but that is often done on the side (not in an official capacity) or without clear instructions.



# Licensing Open Source



NASA created the NASA Open Source Agreement in 2003 to enable the release of software by civil servants...

...but it isn't widely used in the community, recognized by Free Software Foundation, and complicates the reuse of NASA software.





# Bureaucracy at NASA



daniel:// stenberg://  
@bagder

I keep getting emails from NASA where they request I inform them about curl. They can land on Mars, sure, but I think they have some other issues left to sort out...

Good afternoon Daniel,

My name is [REDACTED] and I work for the NASA Commercial IT Acquisition Team. In compliance with Section 208 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116-94, enacted December 20, 2019, I am required to obtain Country of Origin information from the Company that develops, produces, manufactures, or assembles any product defined as "Information Technology" by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Please provide an email response or a formal document (a PDF on company letterhead is preferred, but a simple statement is sufficient) specifically identifying the country, or countries, in which the **curl** is developed and maintained.

If the country of origin is outside the United States, please provide any information you may have stating that testing is performed in the United States prior to supplying products to customers.

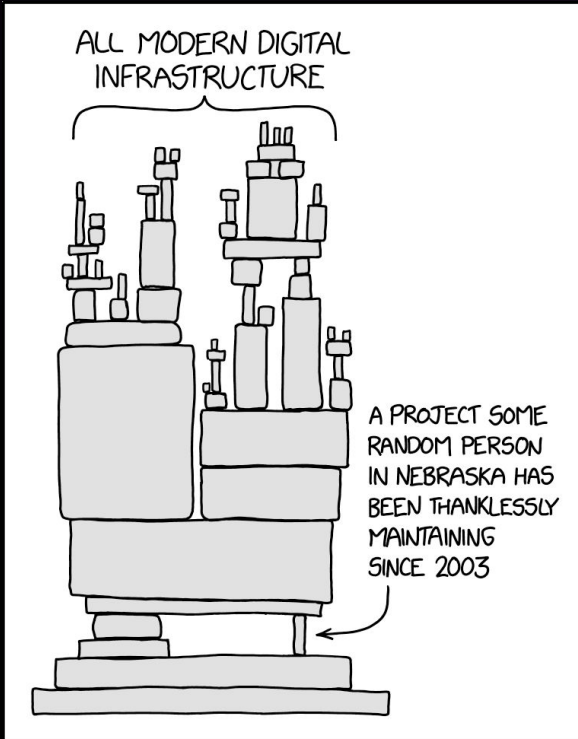
Additionally, if available, please identify all authorized resellers of the product in question.

4:44 PM · Apr 7, 2021

NASA has over 500 officially released open source packages but the process can be long.

NASA does not always engage well with the open source community.

# Sustainability of Open Source



Open source software has a range of support modes and sustainability is often an open question.

NASA needs reliable and secure software, especially for space operations.

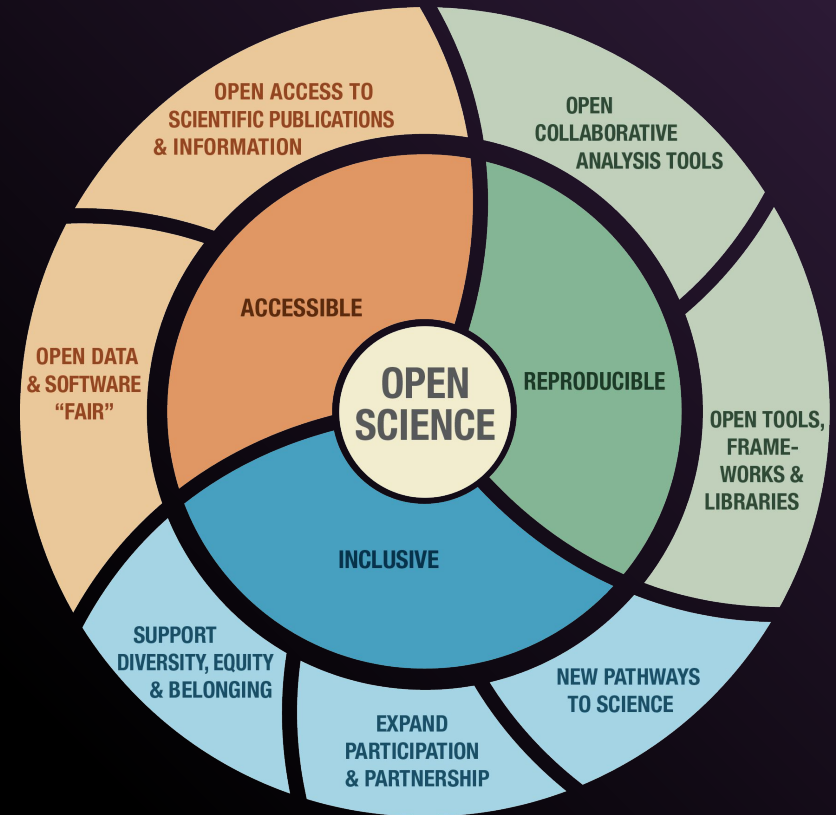
# Open Source Science Initiative





# What is Open Science?

Open Science is the principle and practice of making research products and processes available to all, while respecting diverse cultures, maintaining security and privacy, and fostering collaborations, reproducibility, and equity.



# Open-Source Science in Practice

- **Open** the entirety of the scientific process, *from start to finish*
- **Broaden** community involvement in the scientific process
- **Increase** accessibility of data, software, & publications
- **Facilitate** inclusion, transparency, and reproducibility of science



NASA is supporting scientists to integrate open science principles into the entire research workflow.

**Infrastructure**

**Policy**

NASA's  
Open-Source  
Science  
Initiative

**Funding**

**Community**





# SMD's new policy on Scientific Information

*As open as possible, as restricted as necessary, always secure*

- Publications are made openly available with no embargo period.
- Research data and software are shared at the time of publication.
- Mission data are released as soon as possible and is freely available.
- Unrestricted mission software is developed openly.
- Recognizes software as a scientific product.
- Data should be released with Creative Commons Zero and software with permissive, commonly used licenses
- Encourages using and contributing to Open Source Software.

**[Scientific Information Policy Website & FAQ](#)**





## Lowering Barriers for Open Source Software

NASA is working to make it  
easier to

- contribute,
- release,
- use

open source software.

# Sustaining Open Source Software

NASA selected 16 proposals in 2021-22 supporting 22 different open source projects to provide sustainable support.







# NASA's Transform to Open Science

NASA's Transform to Open Science (TOPS) is a \$40 million 5-year mission to accelerate adoption of open science

## TOPS' Strategic Goals:

- Support 20K researchers to earn NASA's open science badge
- Double the participation of historically excluded groups across NASA science
- Enable five major scientific discoveries through open science principles



**Engagement**



**Capacity Sharing**



**Incentives**



**Coordination**



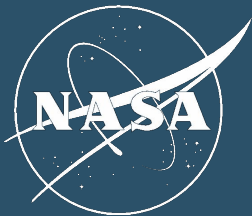
*Join us as we embark on the 2023 Year of Open Science*

# Opportunities









# EARTHDATA

OPEN ACCESS FOR OPEN SCIENCE



End User Average  
Distribution Volume

**281.45**  
**Terabytes/Day**



End User Distribution  
Files Including  
from Cloud  
**3 Billion**



End User Distribution  
Files from Cloud Only  
**290.03 Million**



Distinct Users of  
EOSDIS Data &  
Services  
(Google Analytics)  
**3.64 Million**



Average Archive Growth  
**49.15**  
**Terabytes/Day**



Unique  
Datasets  
**15,360**



**Open APIs for  
Data Access**



Total Archive  
Volume Including  
in Cloud  
**71.64**  
**Petabytes**



Total Archive  
Volume In Cloud Only  
**20.2 Petabytes**



# The POWER Project

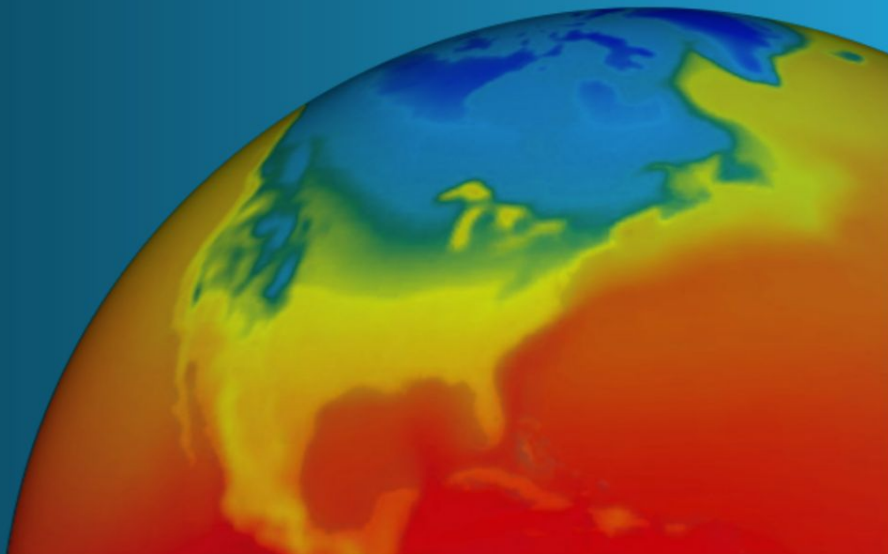
Provides solar and meteorological data sets from NASA research for support of renewable energy, building energy efficiency and agricultural needs.

Supported by NASA Earth Science's [\*Applied Sciences Program\*](#)

## POWER's Web-Based Docs Pages

- > [Data Methodology](#)
- > [Data Services Documentation](#)
- > [Data Access Tutorials](#)

**Data is also freely available in the [AWS Public Data Registry](#).**



# EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATORY

OBSERVATORY

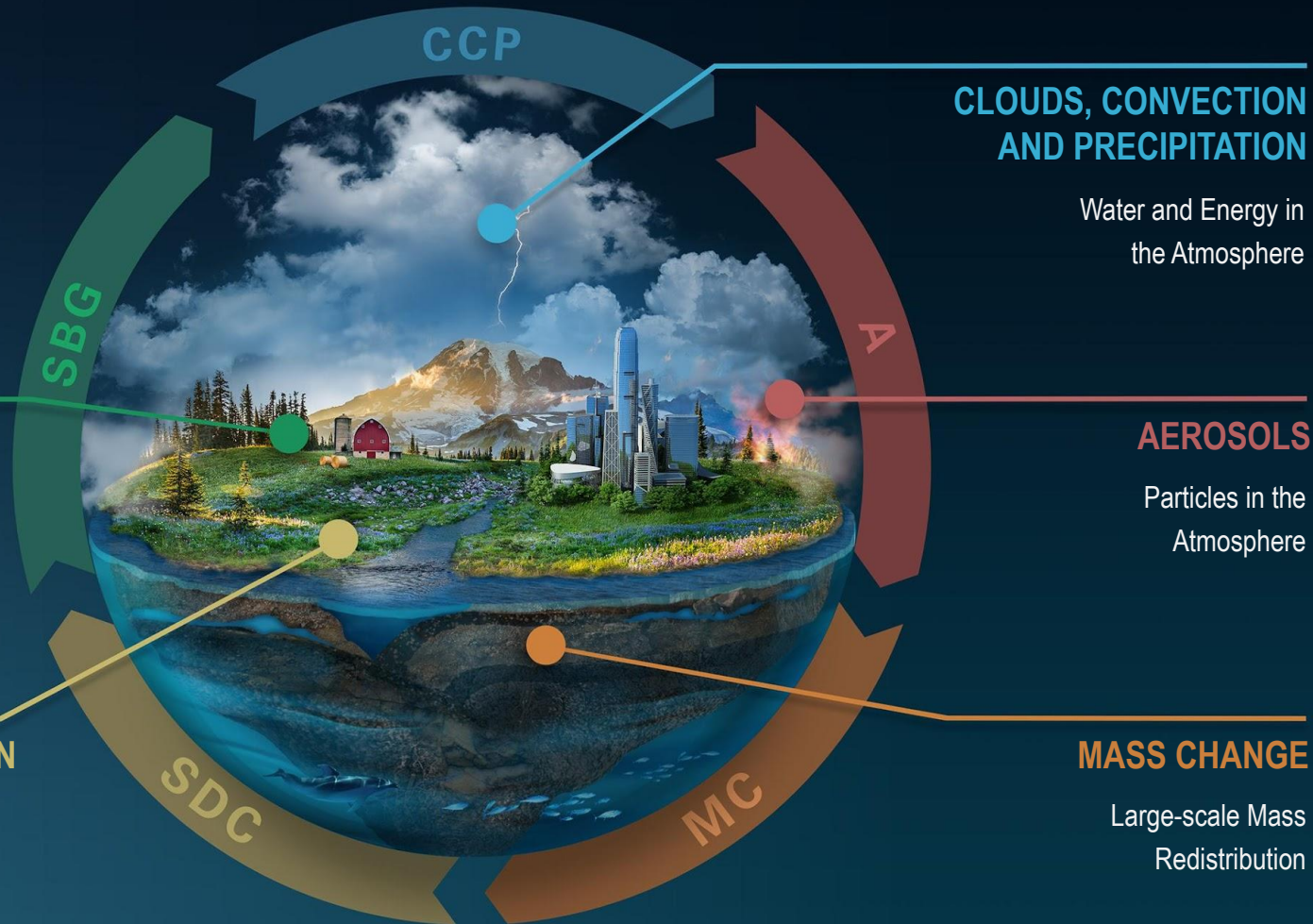
INTERCONNECTED CORE MISSIONS

## SURFACE BIOLOGY AND GEOLOGY

Earth Surface & Ecosystems

## SURFACE DEFORMATION AND CHANGE

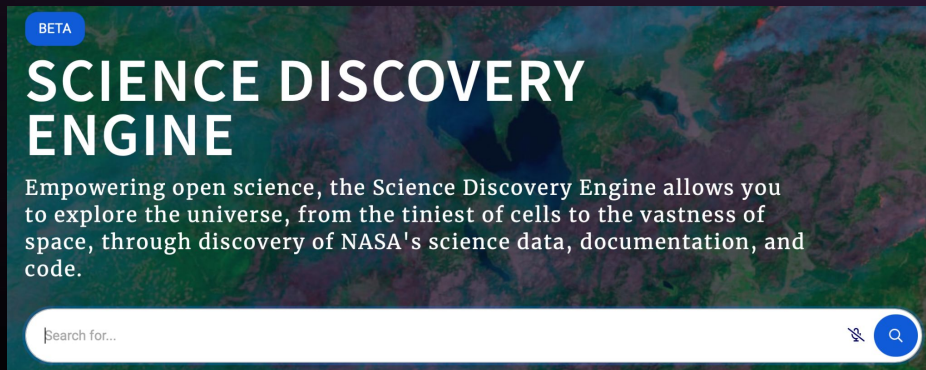
Earth Surface Dynamics







# Discover NASA Software



[SOFTWARE CATALOG](#)



[NASA GitHub](#)



[Astrophysics Data Service](#)



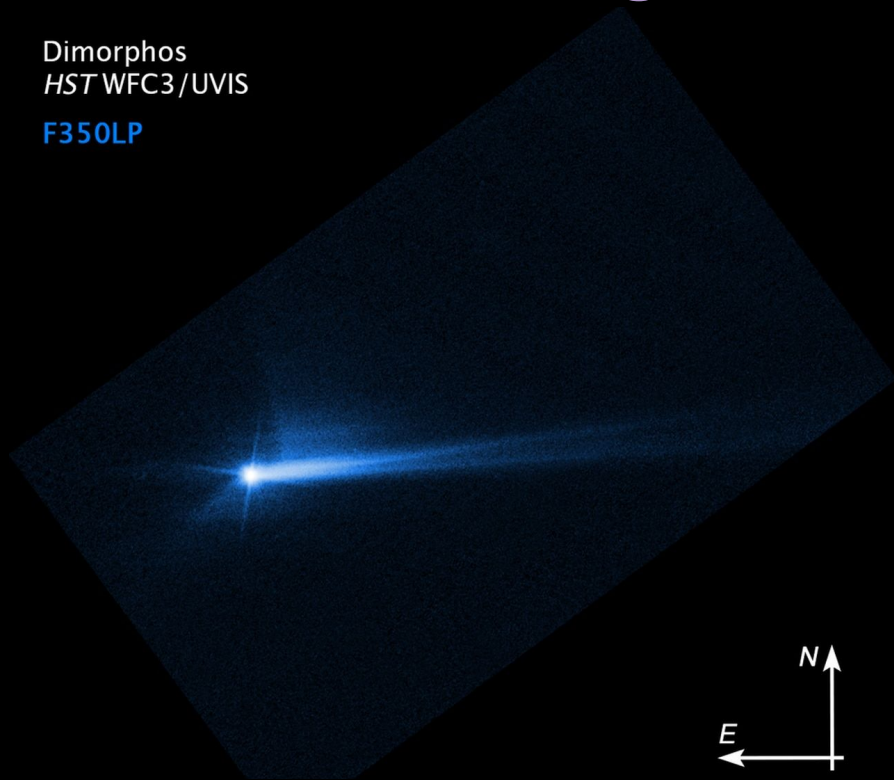
[Software Heritage](#)



# NASA is looking ahead at really big challenges

Dimorphos  
HST WFC3/UVIS

F350LP



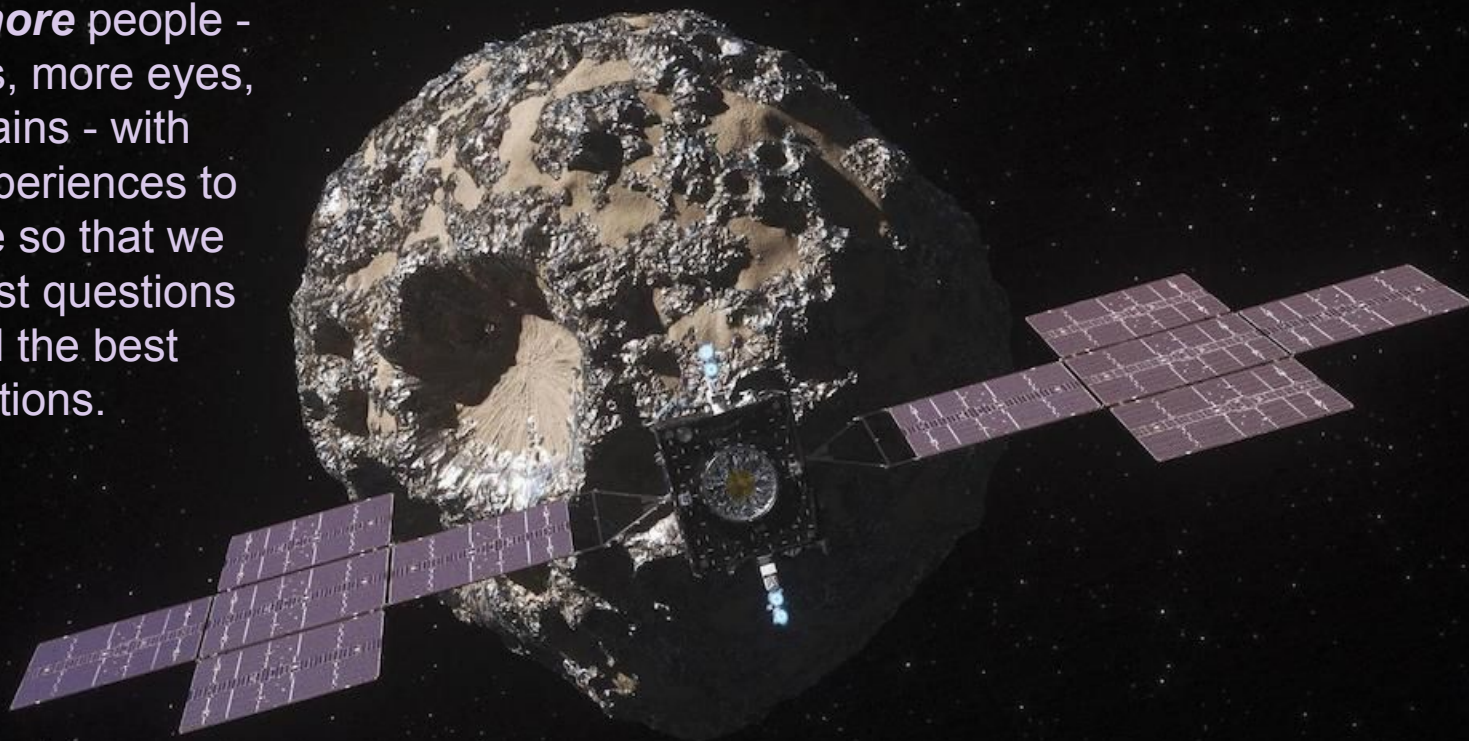
We need *more* WE science rather than ME science<sup>1</sup>—  
openly sharing data, software,  
& results.

1: quote from Harlan Krumholz,  
Yale School of Medicine at 2022 CZI meeting





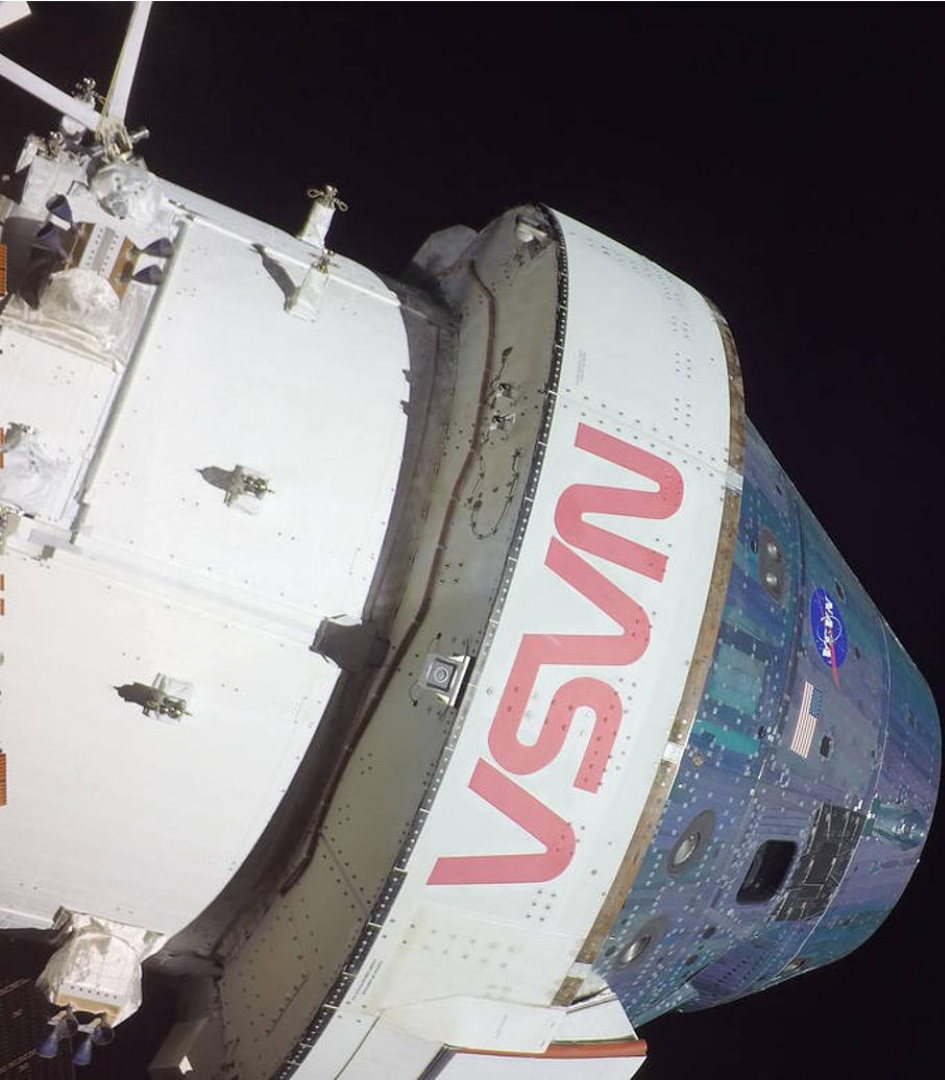
We need *more* people -  
more hands, more eyes,  
more brains - with  
diverse experiences to  
participate so that we  
ask the best questions  
and find the best  
solutions.





# Contribute to NASA Open Source Code





Keep contributing, building,  
and sustaining your code.



**Come work with us!**





PROTECT & IMPROVE  
LIFE ON EARTH &  
IN SPACE



SEARCH FOR LIFE  
ELSEWHERE



DISCOVER SECRETS  
OF THE UNIVERSE





Thank you for contributions.



# Q&A

[Steven.m.crawford@nasa.gov](mailto:Steven.m.crawford@nasa.gov)  
[crawfordsm@mastodon.social](https://mastodon.social/@crawfordsm)

Learn more and  
collaborate with us!



TOPS Website



TOPS Email List





# The White House announces A Year of Open Science 2023

NASA ♦ NSF ♦ NOAA ♦ DOE ♦ GSA ♦ NEH ♦ NIH ♦ NIST ♦ USDA ♦ USGS

Along with other organizations, including CENDI,  
voluntary collaboration among federal managers, and  
HELIOS, a coalition of 80+ universities.

A multi-agency initiative across the federal government to  
spark change and inspire open science engagement  
through events and activities that will advance adoption of  
open science.

Website: <https://open.science.gov/>

WH: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/>

Nature: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-00019-y>





National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# HELIOPHYSICS BIG YEAR

Elizabeth MacDonald\*, Ha-Hoa Hamano, Denise Hill,  
Kelly Korreck, Marc Kuchner\*, Alex Young\*, Nicky Fox

<http://go.nasa.gov/HelioBigYear/>

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# 2023 is NASA's Year of Open Science

TOPS will be energizing and uplifting open science across the scientific community through:



## Visibility

Publishing articles, appearing on podcasts, developing targeted communication that expands footprint

Integrating Open Science into themes at large-scale events and conferences

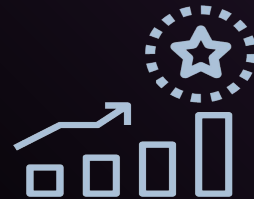


## Capacity Sharing

Producing online, free, Open Science curriculum on Open edX

Hosting workshops, events, cohorts, science team meetings, hackathons

Constructing multiple pathways to Open Science Badge



## Incentives

Developing Open Science Badge/Certification

Sponsoring high profile prizes and challenges

Establishing high profile awards in support of open science research



## Moving toward Openness

Recognizing open science practices

Holding open meetings

Sharing hidden knowledge

Inclusive collaboration





# Breakthrough discoveries: First image of a black hole



“We’re deeply grateful to all the open source contributors who made our work possible.”  
- Dr. Katie Bouman

