



Leibniz-Institut für  
Astrophysik Potsdam

# Astrophotonics

Bringing Integrated Photonic Components to the Telescope

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## innoFSPEC research and innovation center at AIP

### Multi-Channel Spectroscopy

Group leader: Prof. Dr. Martin Roth: [mmroth@aip.de](mailto:mmroth@aip.de)

### Astrophotonics

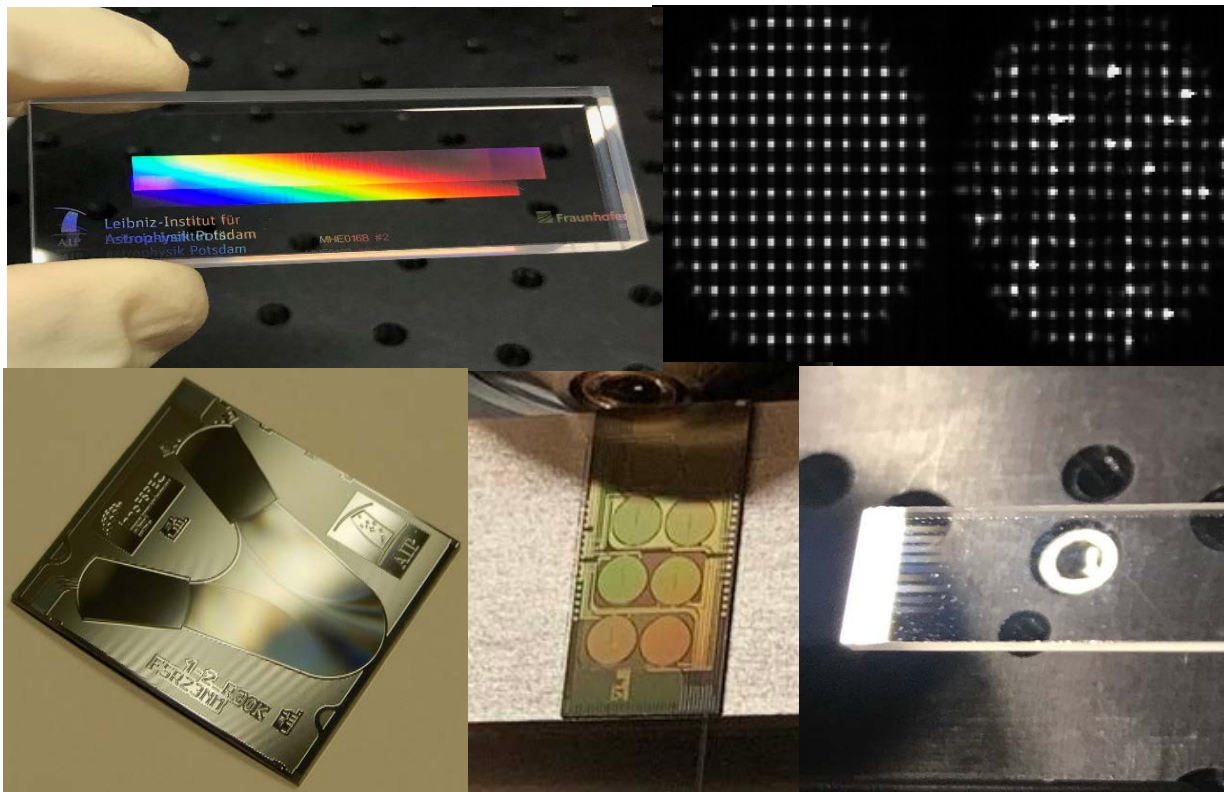
Group leader: Dr. Kalaga Madhav: [kmadhav@aip.de](mailto:kmadhav@aip.de)



Images: AIP, AIP/R. Arlt, AIP/A. Dinkelaker,

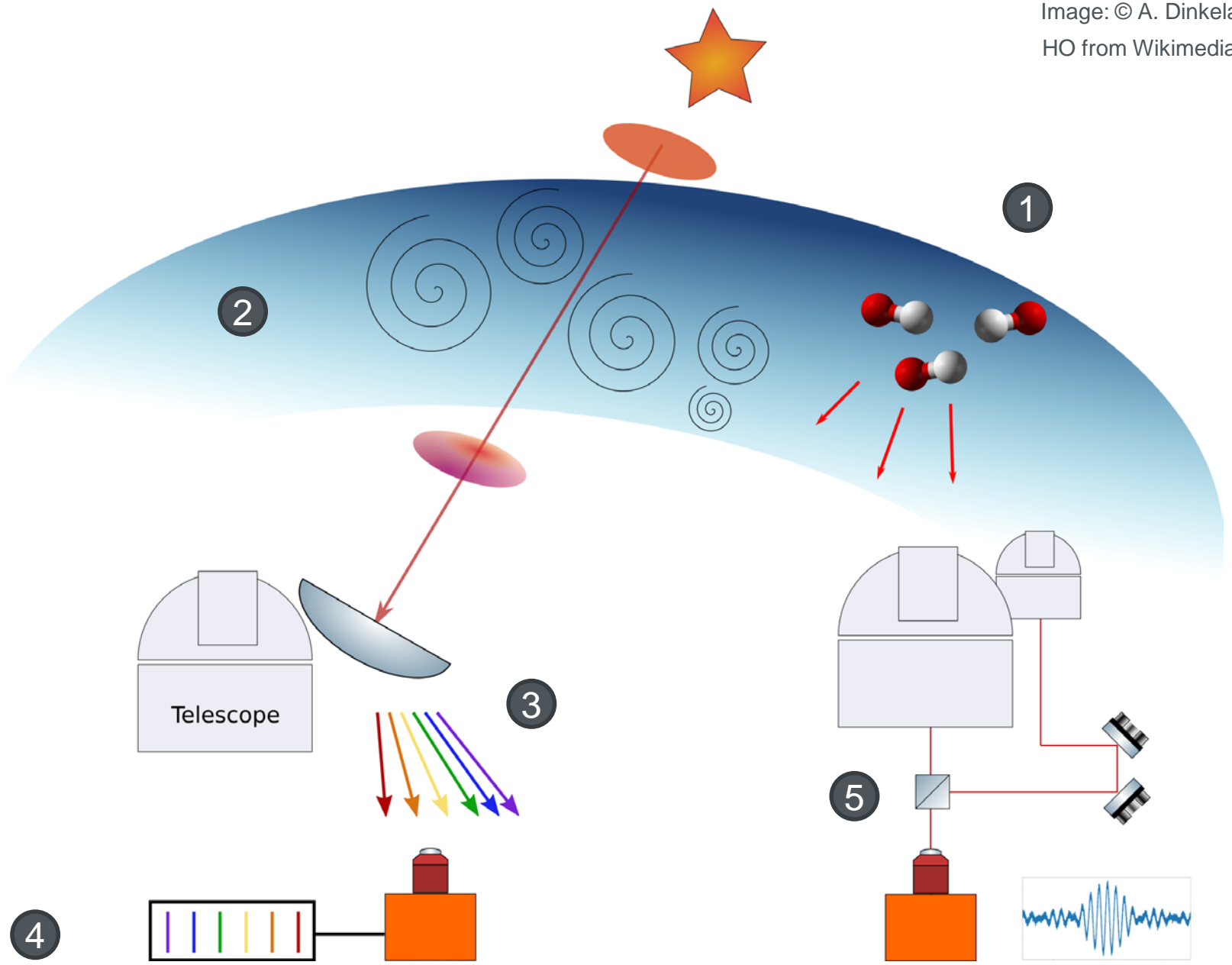
## Astrophotonics at AIP

Fiber and chip based photonics for astronomy, telescopes and telescope arrays

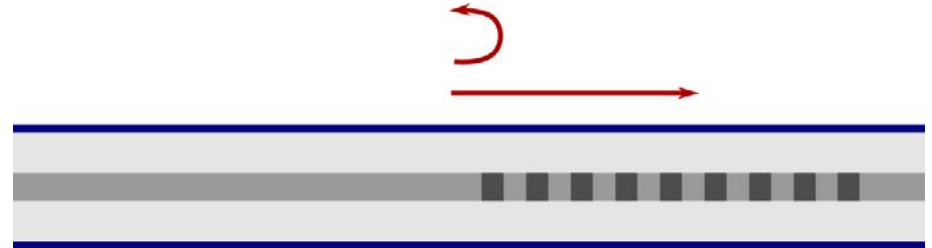
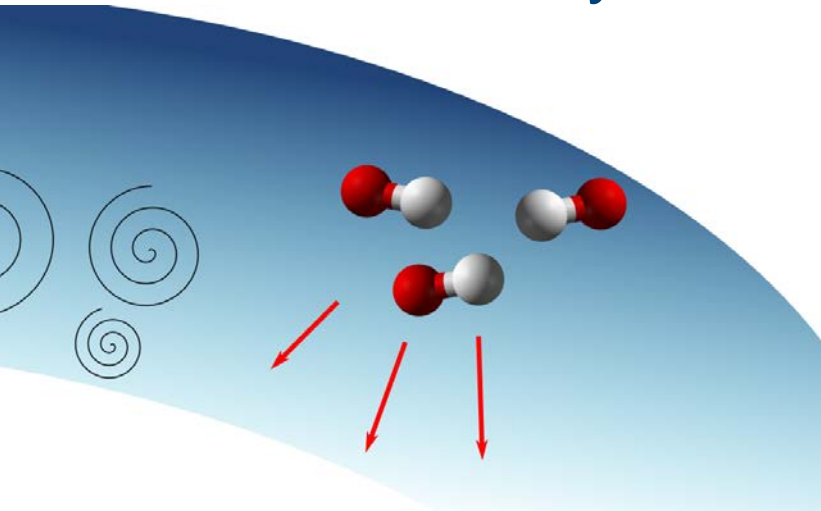


- 1 OH Suppression Filters & Phase Masks
- 2 Adaptive Optics & Photonic Lanterns
- 3 Arrayed Waveguide Gratings
- 4 Frequency Combs
- 5 Pupil Remappers & Beam Combiners

Images from AIP. Top left image from Rahman et al., Optics Express (2020)



# Sky OH-Suppression Filters



Bright OH-emission lines from the atmosphere in NIR

Filter requirements:

- Multi-Notch

- Deep suppression

- Narrow line-width

AIP develops such OH suppression filters using **Fiber Bragg Gratings (FBG)**

Applications e.g. for the multi-object spectrograph ELT-MOS/MOSAIC

Images: © A. Dinkelaker (AIP)

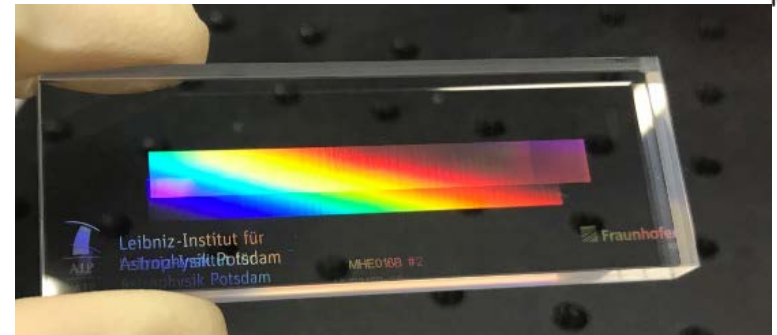
# OH-Suppression Fiber Bragg Gratings

Manufacturing Complex Bragg Grating at AIP using 244 nm UV inscription



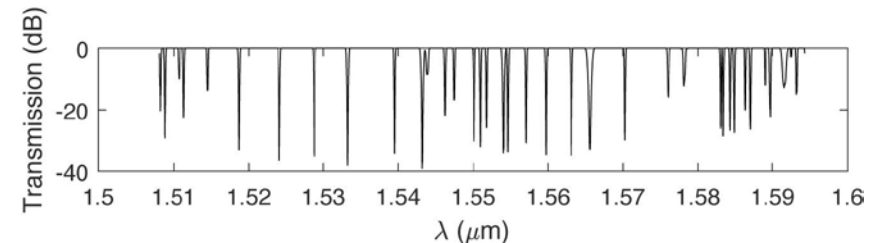
## 1. Complex, aperiodic phase-mask

Design for 37 filter lines  
Fabrication by Fraunhofer IOF  
Repeatable, direct FBG inscription



## 2. Modified Elliptical Talbot Interferometer

Real-time fabrication  
Tunable chirp



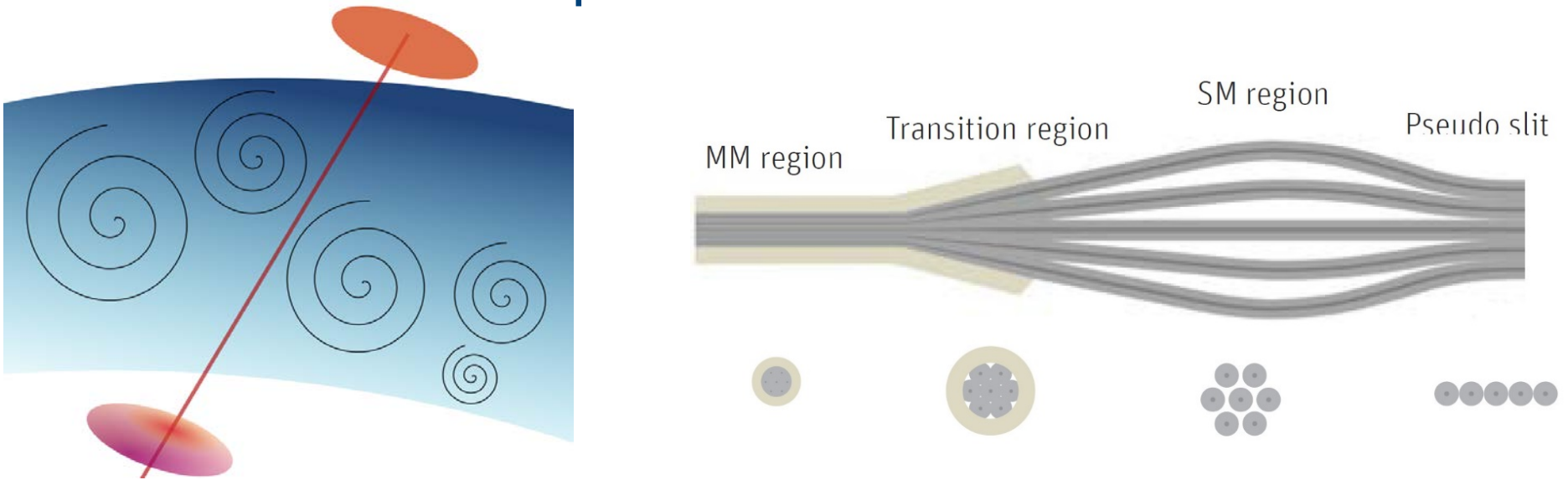
**Contact:**

**Aashia Rahman: [arahman@aip.de](mailto:arahman@aip.de)**

Images: A. Rahman, K. Madhav, and M. M. Roth: "Complex phase masks for OH suppression filters in astronomy: part I: design", Optics Express, Vol. 28, Issue 19, pp. 27797-27807 (2020)



# Adaptive Optics and Photonic Lanterns



Atmospheric turbulence distort the optical wavefront → precludes efficient coupling of light into photonic devices.

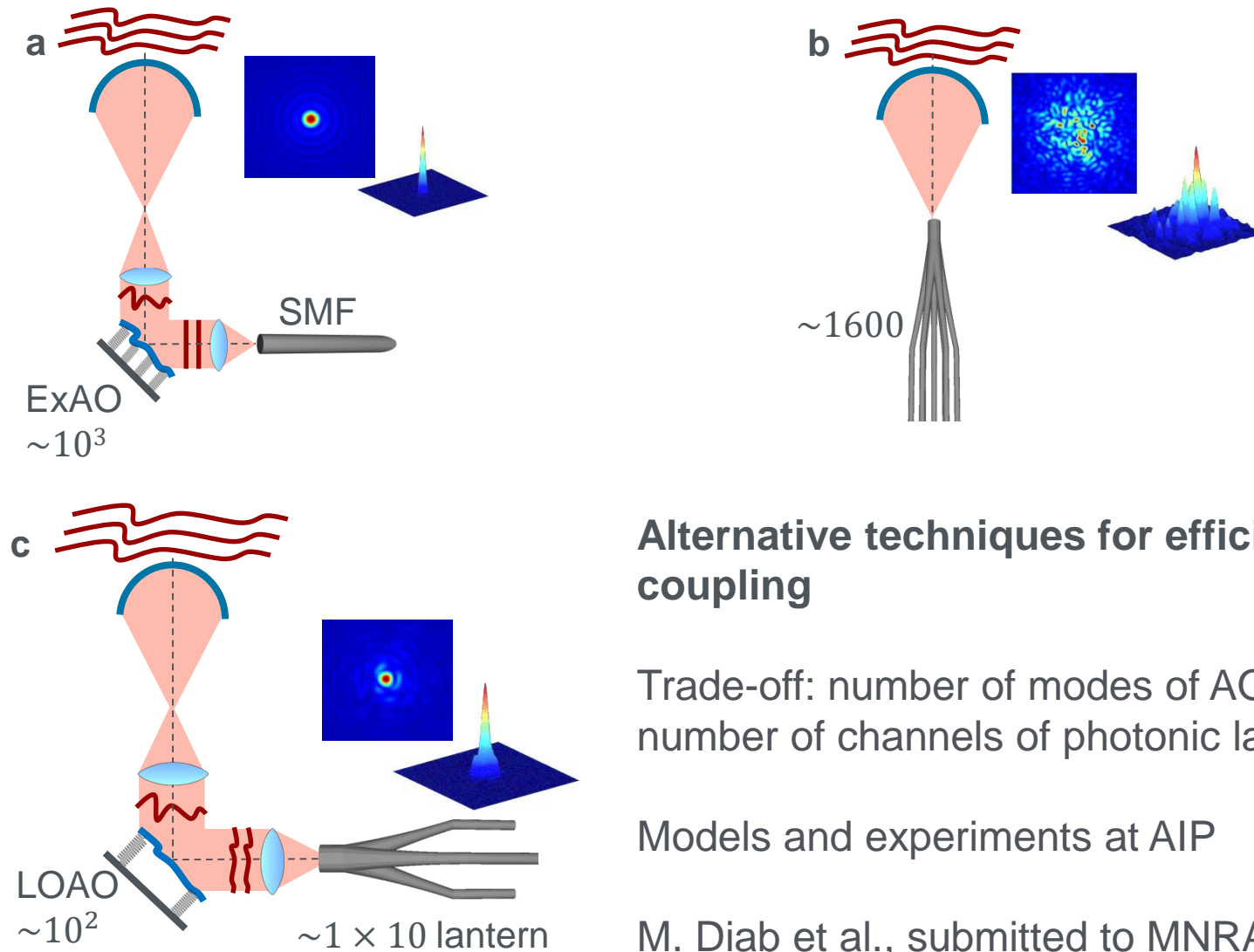
Adaptive optics systems & **photonic lanterns (PL)**.

Transition from a multi-mode (MM) to many single-mode fibers (SM).

Development of photonic lanterns reformatters at AIP.

SMFs are stacked and tapered, where SMF claddings fuse to form the MMF core.

# Adaptive Optics and Photonic Lanterns



## Alternative techniques for efficient SMF coupling

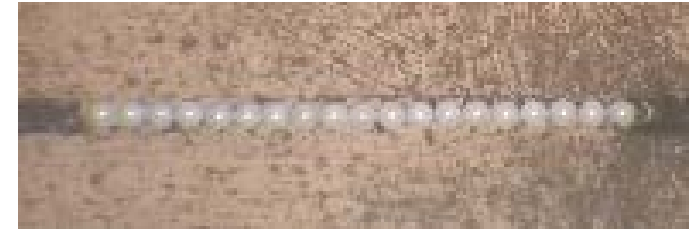
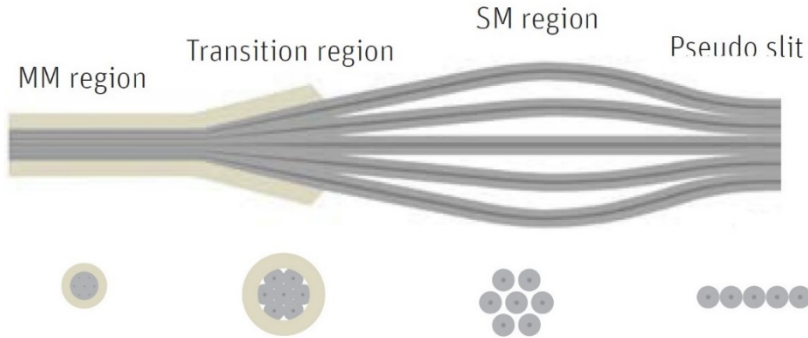
Trade-off: number of modes of AO system & number of channels of photonic lantern

Models and experiments at AIP

M. Diab et al., submitted to MNRAS



# Adaptive Optics and Photonic Lanterns



**On-sky test for MMF–SMF photonic lanterns planned at WHT**

Photonic lanterns can also be used for MMF to MMF

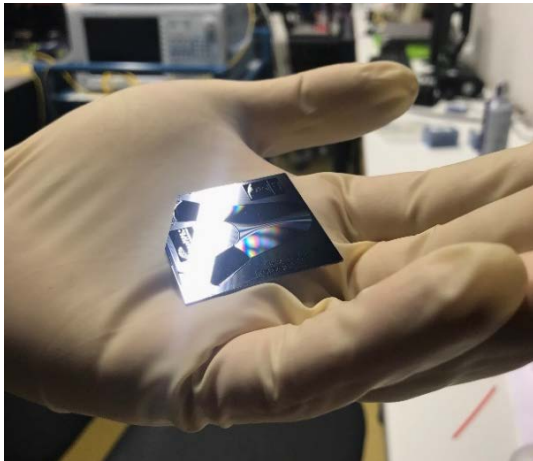
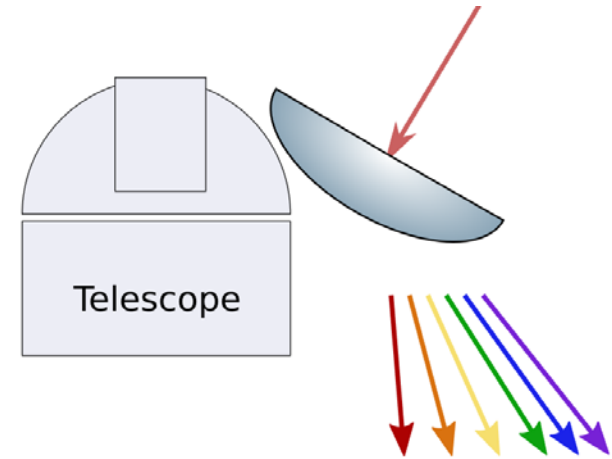
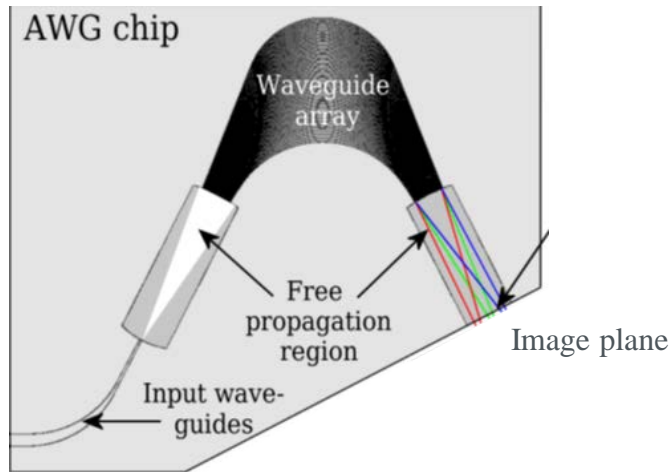
Novel manufacturing method at AIP, patent no.: ePa20188489.7

Application: Combine telescope arrays into single spectrograph for MARCOT.

PL Images: © J. Davenport (AIP)

Contact:  
John Davenport: [jdavenport@aip.de](mailto:jdavenport@aip.de)

# Compact Spectrograph – Arrayed Waveguide Grating



First Arrayed Waveguide Gratings (AWG) designed specifically for astronomy at AIP.

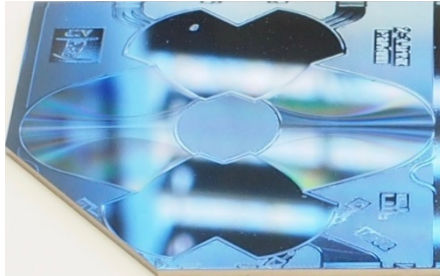
Devices developed for H-band (1500 nm–1800 nm).

Silica-on-silicon technology, <3 dB insertion loss

~500 - 700 waveguides in array

Image AWG: A. Stoll, Z. Zhang, R. Haynes and M. Roth: “High-Resolution Arrayed-Waveguide-Gratings in Astronomy: Design and Fabrication Challenges”, Photonics 2017, 4(2), 30

# Compact Spectrograph – Arrayed Waveguide Grating



## Measurements and laboratory tests:

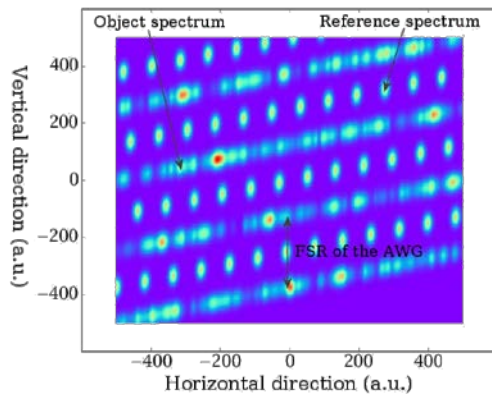
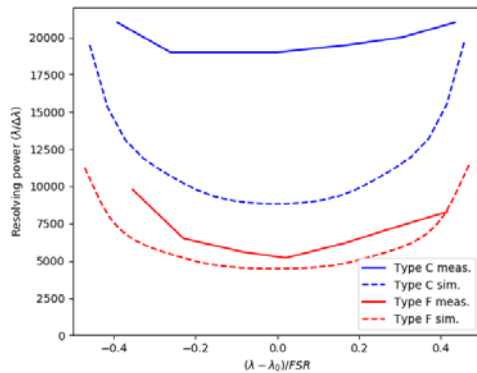
Grating diffraction efficiency: 86%

Spectral resolving power: 5,000 – 20,000

Free spectral range: 16 – 48 nm

Packaging design and integration at AIP to build compact spectrograph.

Calibration source input, require high line density  $\rightarrow$  Frequency comb



Contact AWG:

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Contact compact spectrograph:

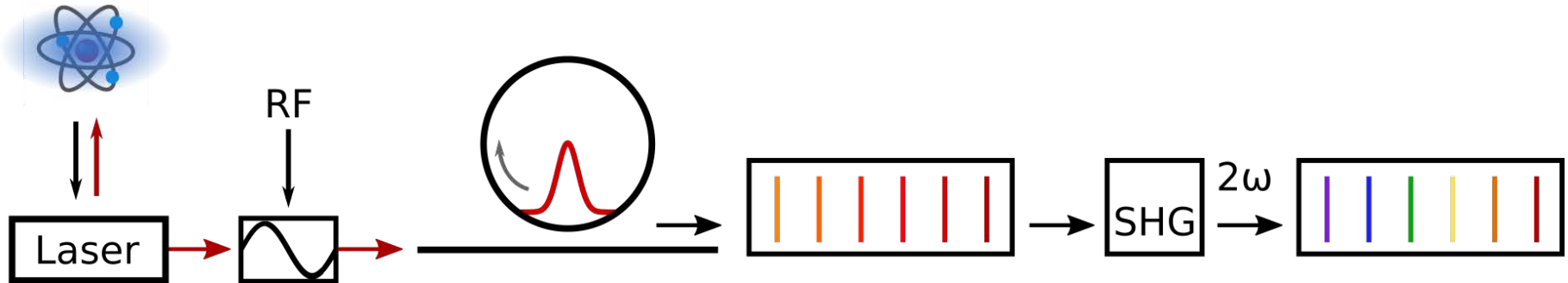
Rafael Luiz Bernardi: [rlbernardi@aip.de](mailto:rlbernardi@aip.de)

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Eloy Hernandez: [ehernandez@aip.de](mailto:ehernandez@aip.de)

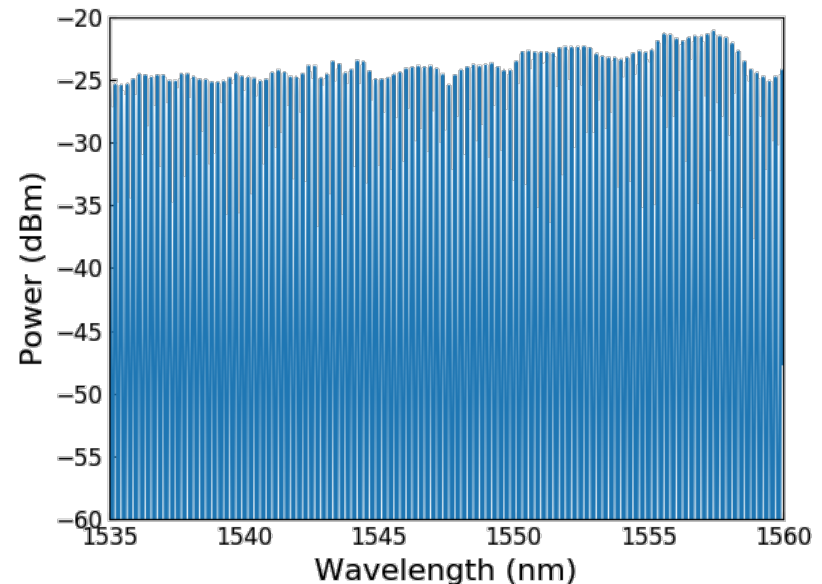
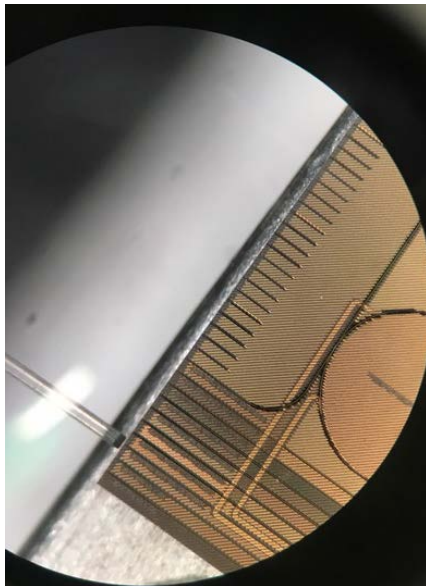
Images: A. Stoll & K. Madhav (AIP). Right: A. Stoll et al. 2018

# Chip-based frequency comb (Astrocomb)



Silicon-Nitride Chip (SiN-Chip)

Spectra with  $f_{\text{rep}}=28.55$  GHz,  
Expected stability  $\Delta f_{\text{CEO}} < 50$  kHz



Comb image and data: D. Bodenmüller & J. Chavez-Boggio (AIP).  
See also: Chavez Boggio et al., Proc. SPIE (2020), Bodenmüller et al.,  
Proc. ANZCOP (2019). Further reading: Lo Curto et al. in The  
Messenger 149 (2012). Schematic: © A.Dinkelaker (AIP)

**Contact:**

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Daniel Bodenmüller: [dbodenmueller@aip.de](mailto:dbodenmueller@aip.de)

# Frequency Comb for STELLA Échelle Spectrograph



STELLA: two robotic telescopes on Tenerife to monitor stellar activity

STELLA Échelle Spectrograph (SES): upgrade planned with high-resolution spectrograph in VIS (390 nm – 870 nm)

- $R \sim 55000 \rightarrow \sim 8.6$  GHz per resolution element
- Desired Doppler accuracy  $\sim 2$  m/s  $\rightarrow \Delta f \sim 3.2$  MHz
- Frequency comb for calibration

**On-sky test at STELLA in 2021**

Image: M. Weber, K.G. Strassmeier and T. Granzer: „The STELLA échelle spectrograph, five years of robotic high-resolution spectroscopy”, Second Workshop on Robotic Autonomous Observatories ASI Conference Series, 2012, Vol. 7, pp 165 – 170, see also: M. Weber, T. Granzer, K.G. Strassmeier: "STELLA: 10 years of robotic observations on Tenerife", Proc. SPIE 9910, Observatory Operations: Strategies, Processes, and Systems VI, 99100N (15 July 2016), and <https://www.aip.de/en/research/facilities/stella/>

# Photonic Beam Combiners for Interferometry

High angular resolution astronomy

“virtual” large telescope with  $\Delta\theta \propto \lambda/B$

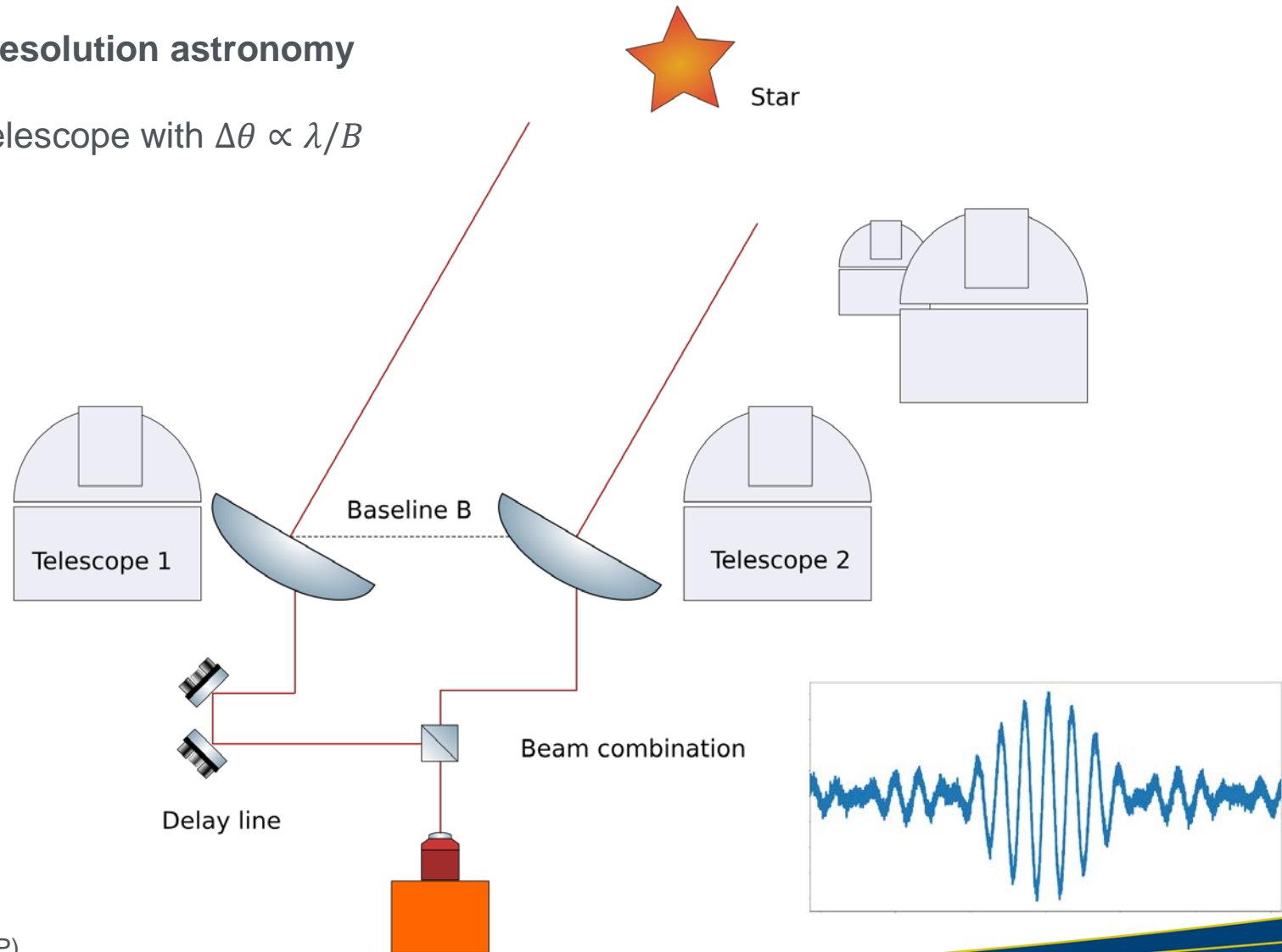


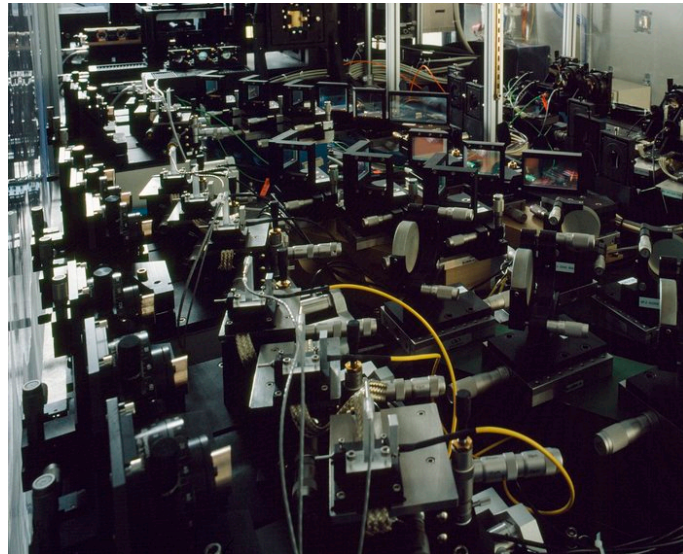
Image: © A. Dinkelaker (AIP)



# Photonic Beam Combiners for Interferometry

## Free space optics

*Beam combination at the AMBER instrument*



## Integrated optics

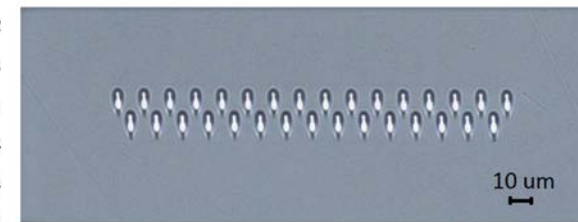
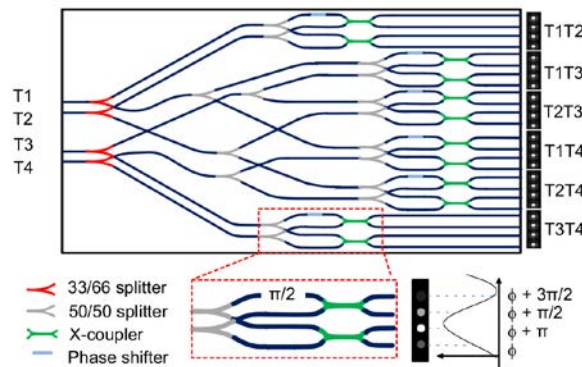
### 2D

*GRAVITY beam combiner*



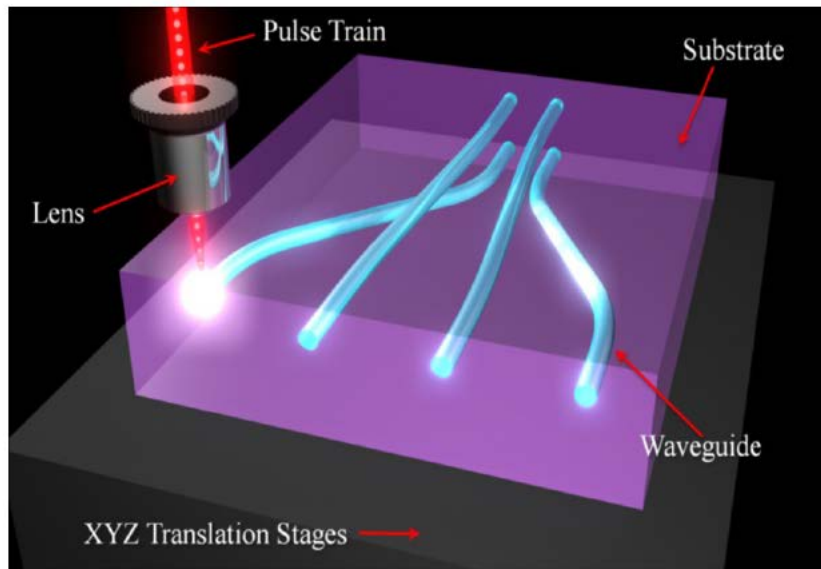
### 3D

*Discrete beam combiner at AIP*

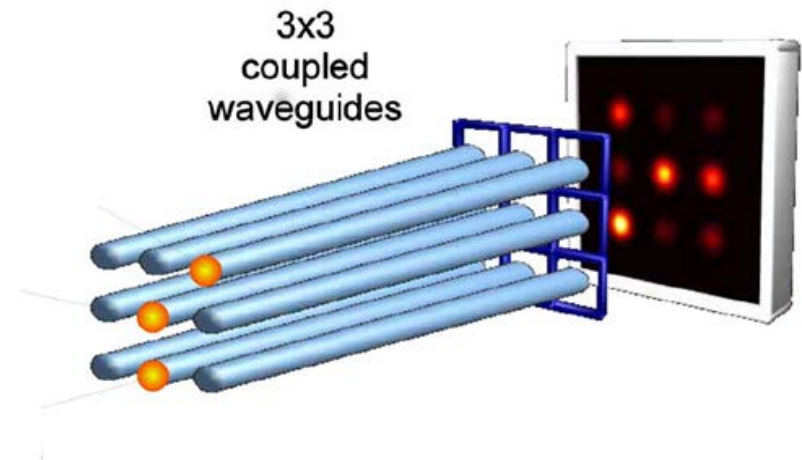


AMBER: Image credits: ESO, <https://www.eso.org/public/images/eso0706a/>, GRAVITY: Image credits: GRAVITY collaboration, "First light for GRAVITY: Phase referencing optical interferometry for the Very Large Telescope Interferometer"; A&A 602, A94 (2017), 3D Beam combiner: manufactured by Politecnico Milano, Image credits: top: AIP/Dinkelaker, bottom: Pedretti+ 2018 (arxiv 1809.01260v1)

# Ultrafast laser inscription

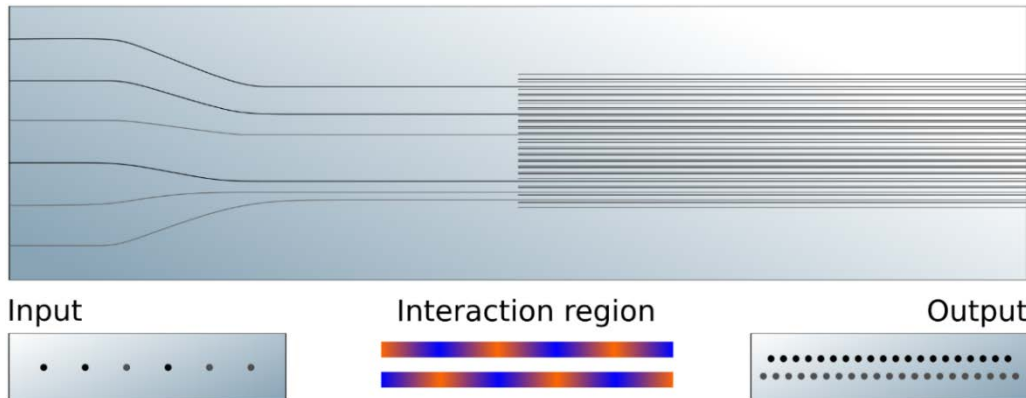


## Astrophotonics containing 3D waveguide structures and arrays



Picture: Lee+ 2012: "Performance of volume phase gratings manufactured using ultrafast laser inscription". For ULI see also: Thomson+ 2011 (Opt. Express, 19, 5698). Waveguide array image (modified) from: Minardi+ 2010 (Opt. Lett. 35, 3009).

# Discrete Beam Combiners (DBC)



Reformatter at input

Array of evanescently coupled waveguides

For  $N$  telescopes:  
 $N$  inputs and  $M > N \times N$  outputs

Can simultaneously retrieve the complex visibility of each baseline

Devices for J- (1250 nm) and H- (1550 nm) Band

*Contact:*

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*Abani Nayak: [anayak@aip.de](mailto:anayak@aip.de)*

Photograph of a chip with laser-written 3D beam combiners (image: AIP / Dinkelaker, Chip fabricated by Politecnico Milano). Image of schematic: © A. Dinkelaker (AIP). For ULI pupil remapper, see also: Jovanovic+2012 (MNRS). For multi-telescope ULI beam combiners, see also: Diener+2017 (Optics Express), Pedretti+2018 (arxiv 1809.01260v1), Saviuk+2013 (Applied Optics), Minardi+2010 (Opt. Lett. 35, 3009).

# Discrete Beam Combiners (DBC)



## Characterization of 6-input beam combiners

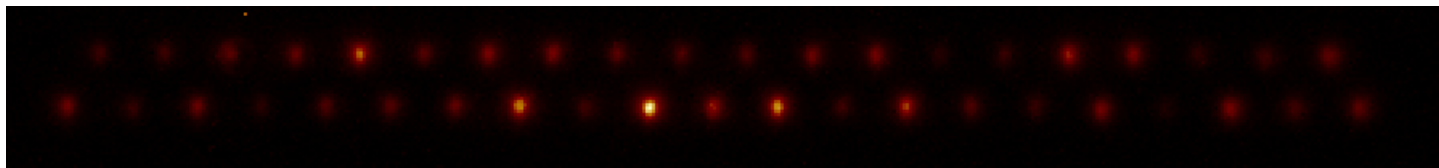
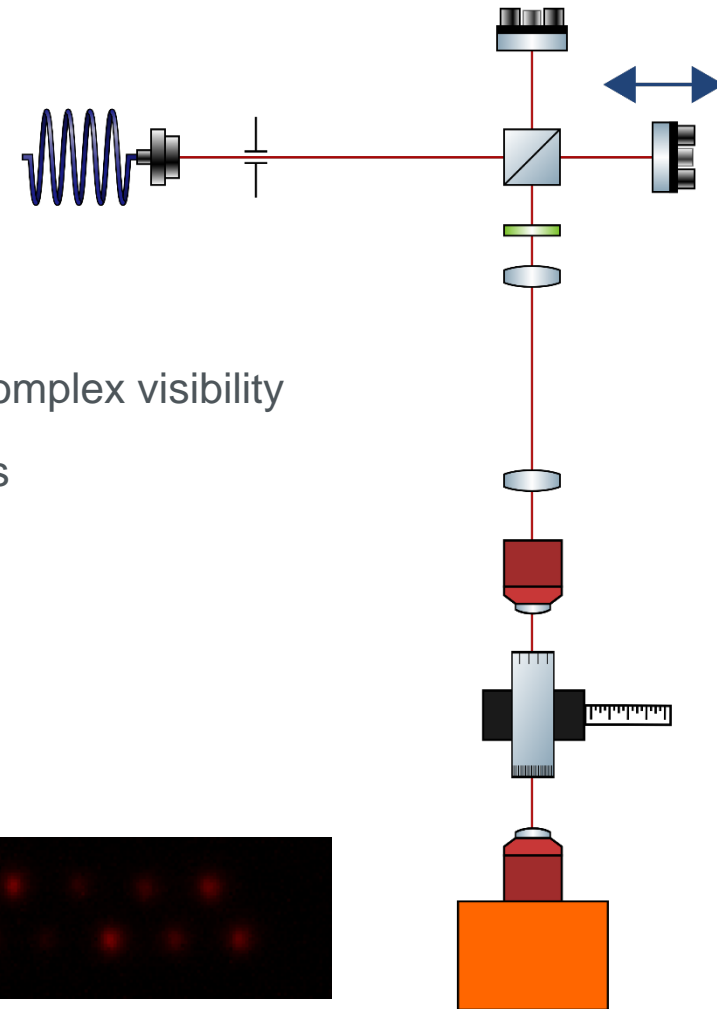
### Michelson interferometer

- Movable mirrors
- Delay line

Couple 2 inputs ( $I_1$ ,  $I_2$ ) simultaneously

Monitor fringes at all 41 output waveguides and extract complex visibility

Characterize transfer function of the DBC for all baselines



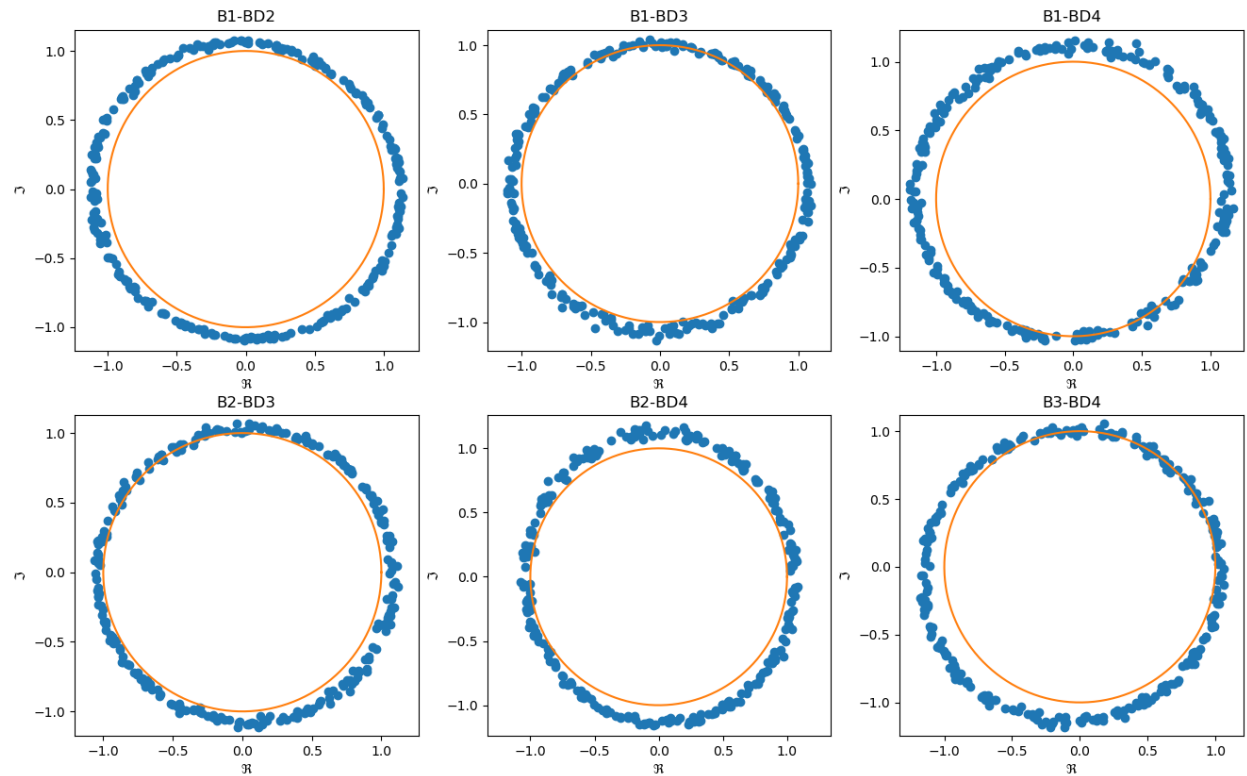
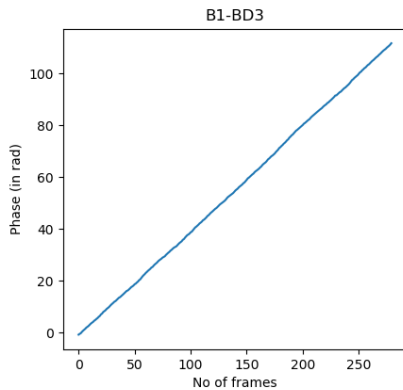
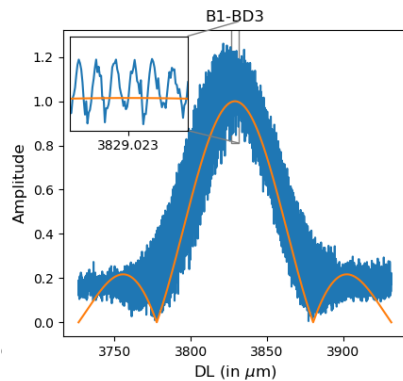
See also Lacour+ 2008: "Characterization of integrated optics components for the second generation of VLTI instruments"  
Images: A. Dinkelaker (AIP)

# Discrete Beam Combiners (DBC)



## 4-telescope DBC for H-Band

Characterize V2PM in lab. Inverse (P2VM) allows extraction of visibilities for science targets



See also Lacour+ 2008: "Characterization of integrated optics components for the second generation of VLTI instruments"  
Data and plots: A. Nayak (AIP)



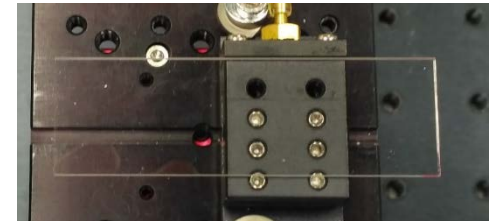
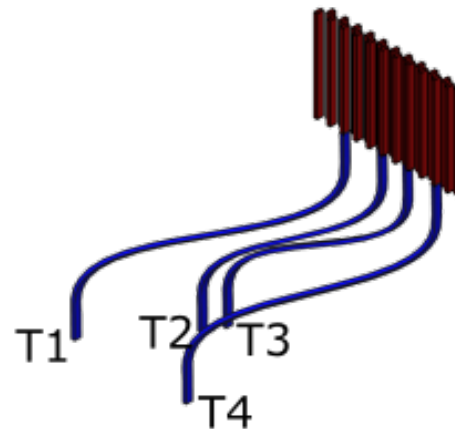
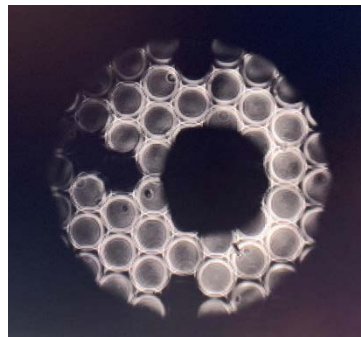
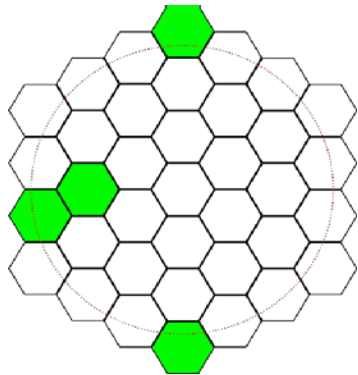
# Pupil remapping with DBC

## Pupil remapping with a 4-input beam combiner

Deformable mirror for characterization and input selection

Couple 4 inputs simultaneously

Aperture masking and spatial filtering in integrated photonics



**4T beam combiner tested with pupil remapping at William Herschel Telescope**

A.S. Nayak et al., publication in preparation (SPIE)



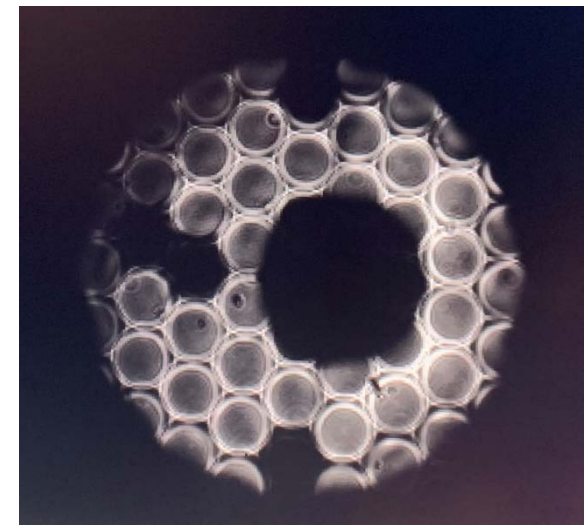
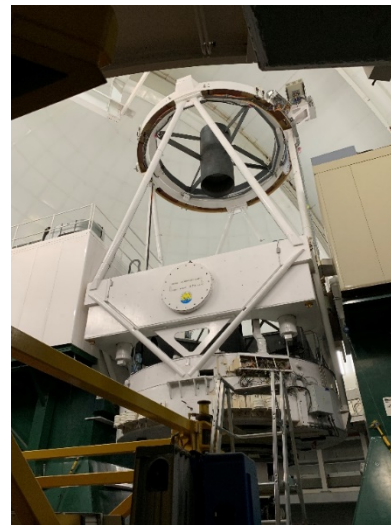
# Pupil remapping at WHT



August 2019: first-light experiments at William Herschel telescope (WHT).

CANARY AO for active adaptive optics (AO) correction.

Stellar light coupled into the device from Vega, Altair, 47Cygni,  $\beta$ Cyg and psiPeg.



**9 August 2019 - First Light of DBC from Vega**

Images: <http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/telescopes/wht/> (left), AIP (center, right)

# Summary

Chip and fiber-based photonic devices can be used at various points in the telescope.

Astrophotonic devices developed at AIP are getting ready for on-sky tests.

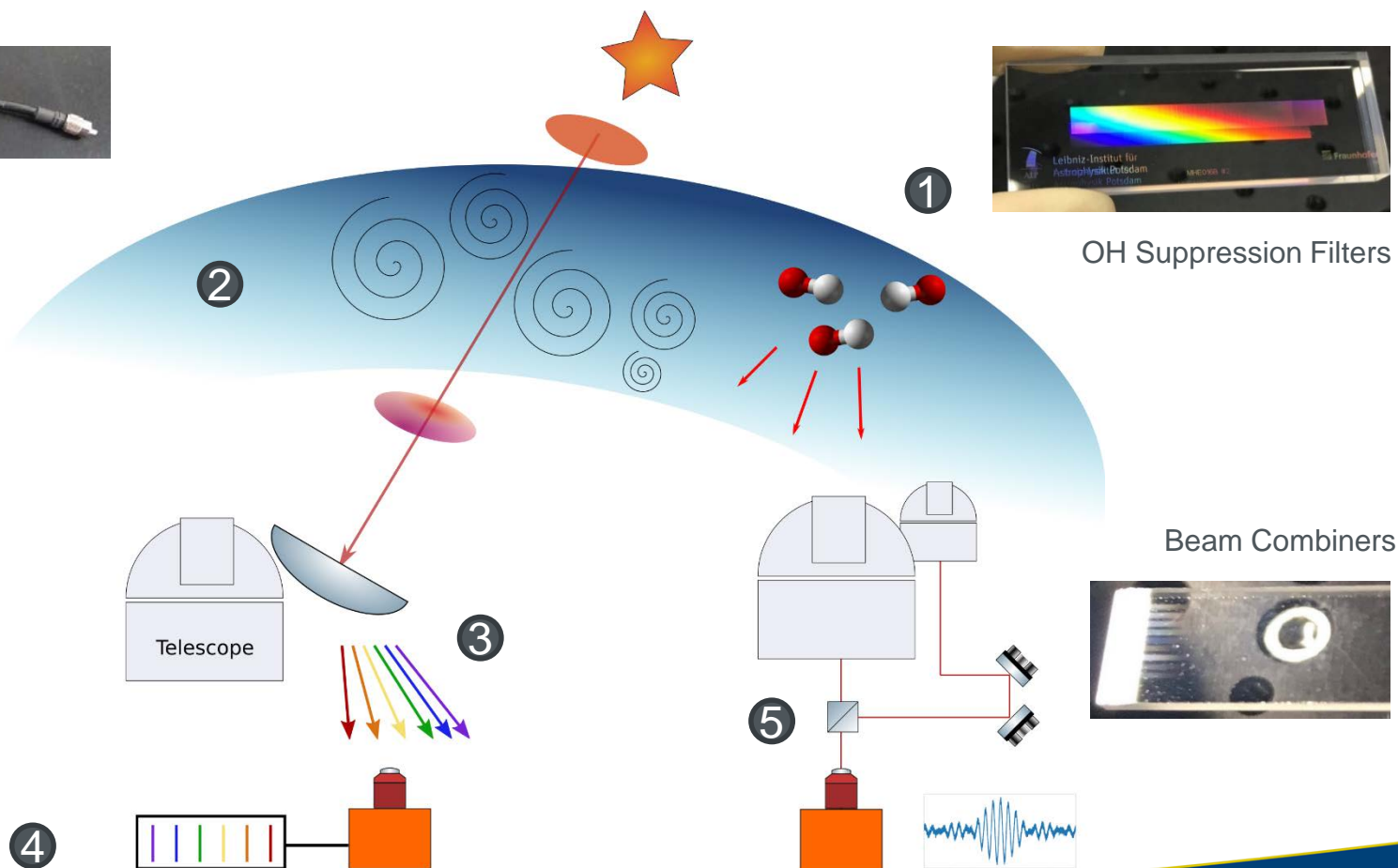


Photonic Lanterns



AWG

Frequency Combs



# Astrophotonics Feature Issue

Submit your astrophotonics papers to JOSA B and Applied Optics

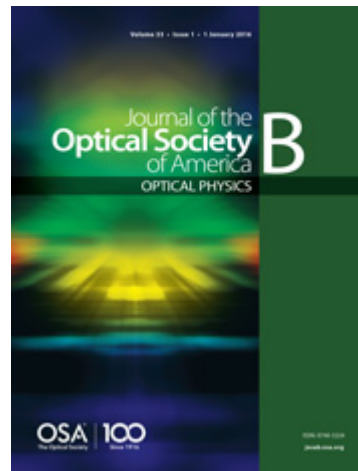
Lead Editor: Joss Bland-Hawthorn, The University of Sydney, Australia

## *Journal of the Optical Society of America B and Applied Optics* Feature Announcement

**Astrophotonics**

**Submission Opens:** 1 November 2020

**Submission Deadline:** 5 January 2021



[https://www.osapublishing.org/josab/journal/josab/feature\\_announce/astrophotonics.cfm](https://www.osapublishing.org/josab/journal/josab/feature_announce/astrophotonics.cfm)

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# Thank you



Leibniz-Institut für  
Astrophysik Potsdam

Astrophotonics Group at innoFSPEC Potsdam, AIP

<https://innofspect.de/en/research-focus/astrophotonics>



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Dr. Aline Dinkelaker: [adinkelaker@aip.de](mailto:adinkelaker@aip.de)



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