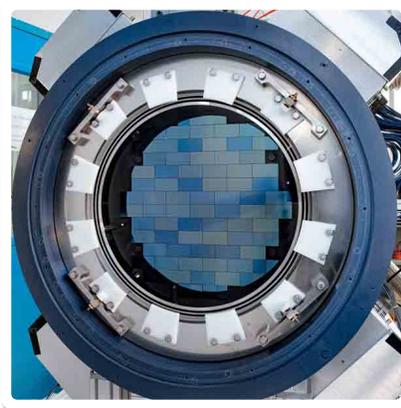


Currents

In this Issue...

COVID-19 Update: In response to the developing situation in Chile, NOIRLab is continuing science operations at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, the SOAR Telescope, and Gemini South as planned, but with reduced staffing at the mountain sites. Additional details are available in a [recent NOIRLab announcement](#).

DECam—Looking Back, Looking Forward: To celebrate 10 years of DECam operations, NOIRLab will hold an in-person community workshop in Tucson **12-14 September 2022**. The workshop will highlight the outstanding DECam science results of the past 10 years, describe the exciting opportunities with DECam as we move into the era of Rubin/LSST and other new facilities, and look further into the future for the NOIRLab 4-m telescopes in the context of NOIRLab investments in technology, instrumentation, and big data initiatives. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to celebrating with you!



Early use of the Rubin Science Platform for Data Preview 0: The Rubin Observatory's Data Preview 0 (DP0) will make simulated LSST-like data products available in the Rubin Science Platform (RSP) to up to 300 "DP0 delegates" from the science community. The application process for data rights holders to request one of these early RSP accounts is now open. Applicants who submit by **30 April 2021** will be notified by 31 May, one month in advance of the release of DP0 on 30 June. Learn more about participating in DP0 at ls.st/clo4798.



From the Gemini e-News cast:

- **Virtual Gemini Science Meeting in August.** The first all-virtual Gemini Science Meeting will be held this August, bridging the gap to the subsequent in-person meeting in Seoul in August 2022. Gemini invites your participation in a [survey](#) to determine the August 2021 meeting dates and times that are convenient for you and the meeting topics of greatest interest. The survey will close on **28 April 2021**. Dates and times will be announced in mid-May.

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[COVID Update](#)

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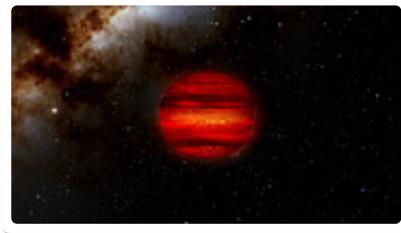
- **Dual Anonymous Review for Fast Turnaround Proposals.** Gemini North and South are once again accepting Fast Turnaround (FT) proposals. Proposals must be consistent with the policies of the new Dual Anonymous Review Process. Further details are available in the [current call for proposals](#). The next deadline is **30 April 2021**.



[Read more in the Gemini e-Newscast](#)

NOIRLab in the News:

- **Caught Speeding:** Astronomers have identified three rapidly rotating brown dwarfs, the most rapidly spinning and likely the most oblate field ultra-cool dwarfs discovered to date. With equatorial velocities of about 100 km/s or more, and rotation periods of about an hour, all three are excellent candidates for auroral radio emission. The results made use of data from the Spitzer Space Telescope and ground-based telescopes including Gemini North. [Read More...](#)
- **Black Hole Pairs Found in Distant Merging Galaxies:** In work carried out with HST and Gaia, two close pairs of distant quasars have been discovered, one of which was spectroscopically resolved with Gemini North. Separated by just over 3 kpc, these double quasars are the closest pairs known at high redshift ($z > 2$). The results, published in *Nature Astronomy*, provide strong evidence for the existence of supermassive black hole pairs as well as crucial insight into galaxy mergers in the early Universe. [Read More...](#)



If you have a NOIRLab-related result that we can help publicize, please let us know! Contact NOIRLab Press Officer Amanda Kocz (amanda.kocz@noirlab.edu) or *Currents* editor Joan Najita (joan.najita@noirlab.edu).



Contact Us

We welcome your input on this issue of *Currents*. Please contact us at currents@noao.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Currents is a spark plug for communication between us and our community. It provides updates—and solicits community input—on observing opportunities and programs and policies on a more rapid timescale than is possible with our *Newsletter*.

The NSF's NOIRLab is the US center for ground-based optical-infrared astronomy and is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), Inc. under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.