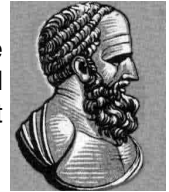


# Sky surveys and deep fields of ground-based and space telescopes



## History

- First systematic survey of all that is visible by the naked eye was performed by [Hipparchus](#) in the 2nd century BC. He drew up a catalog including about 850 stars.



- After almost two thousand years, at the end of the 18th century, French astronomer [Charles Messier](#) published the first catalog including not stars but stellar clusters and nebulae. As we know now, about a third of these nebulae are extragalactic bodies – external galaxies. However, Messier was not interested in the dim fuzzy spots he discovered. He was primarily interested in comets and compiled this catalog in order to distinguish comets from fixed nebulae.



## History

- [William Herschel](#) (1738-1822) was the first to formulate the problem of global sky surveys to study the structure and evolution of the world outside the solar system. To survey stars in the sky, he applied the original method of "star gauging" (counting the number of stars in selected sky areas) and statistical data analysis. This allowed him to establish the general shape of our Galaxy and to estimate correctly its oblateness ( $\sim 1/5$ ). Another great merit of Herschel was the first systematic survey of faint nebulae and an attempt to establish regularities in their large-scale distribution. He discovered more than 2.5 thousand nebulae and star clusters, of which 80% are other galaxies. Herschel was first to attempt to estimate the size of dim nebulae and to measure their distance. His very approximate estimations gave rise to a picture of the Universe where the Milky Way is an ordinary stellar system of an infinite number of other galaxies.



## History

- After [E. Hubble](#) (1889-1953) discovered the extragalactic nature of faint nebulae, it became clear that the Universe is much larger than had previously been thought. In order to study the large-scale structure of the Universe and to understand the nature, origin, and evolution of its principal 'bricks' - galaxies, extensive sets of extragalactic studies had to be compiled and analyzed. This work was started by Hubble himself, as well as by other astronomers (Shapley, Ames, Humason, Lundmark, Bok, etc).





## General characteristics of surveys and deep fields

Sky surveys and so-called 'deep fields' represent different strategies for studying extraterrestrial objects.

Approximate classification:

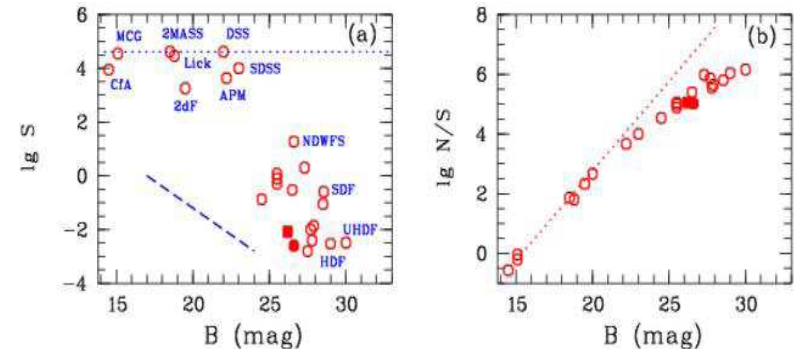
**Sky surveys** include projects performing photometric and/or spectral observations of a significant fraction of the sky (the total coverage  $\geq 10^4$  sq. deg.). The effective depth of surveys is  $z \sim 0.1$  or several hundred megaparsecs (Mpc). Modern sky surveys are carried out over several years by using, as a rule, middle-size specialized telescopes.

**Deep fields** relate to projects devoted to a detailed exploration of relatively small sky areas ( $10^{-3} - 10^1$  sq. deg). Fields are much deeper ( $z \geq 0.5$ ) compared to surveys and observations are performed with large telescopes. The typical exposures of a deep field are  $10^{-3} - 10^{-1}$  year.

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

## General characteristics of surveys and deep fields

### Characteristics of some modern observational projects



$N(\leq 30^m) \sim 1.5 \times 10^6/\text{sq. deg.}$  (1 galaxy per  $3'' \times 3''$ ),  
 $\sim 10^{11}$  galaxies ( $B \leq 30^m$ ).

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

## General characteristics of surveys and deep fields

### Selection of objects

There are basically three different selection methods:

- *Flux-limited selection.*

All the sources with a flux greater than a given threshold are included in the sample.

- *Color selection.*

The method accounts for not only the observed flux but also the color indices (SED). It is widely applied to find the most distant galaxies, because their spectra show a distinctive break near the Lyman limit (912Å).

- *Narrow-band filter selection.*

Selection of galaxies that show an excess when observed through a narrow-band filter, as compared to their broad-band flux. Emission line objects – e.g. starbursts, AGN.

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

## Sky surveys

### Photographic surveys

### POSS-I

Photographic surveys performed with Schmidt telescopes had a great impact on the development of astronomy. In the 1950s, a photographic survey of the sky available for observations from California ( $\delta > -33^\circ$ ) was performed using the 1.2-m telescope of the Palomar Observatory.

Almost a thousand plates  $6.^\circ 5 \times 6.^\circ 5$  each were obtained in the blue and red spectral bands. Copies of the Palomar sky survey (in the form of glass or printed copies of the plates) were spread over most astronomical institutes in the world and played a very important role in the development of all fields of astronomy, from solar system studies to remote galaxies and quasars. Objects down to  $B \sim 20^m$  can be distinguished in the Palomar prints, and the structure of tens of thousands of galaxies with  $B \leq 15^m$  can be studied.

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

## POSS-II

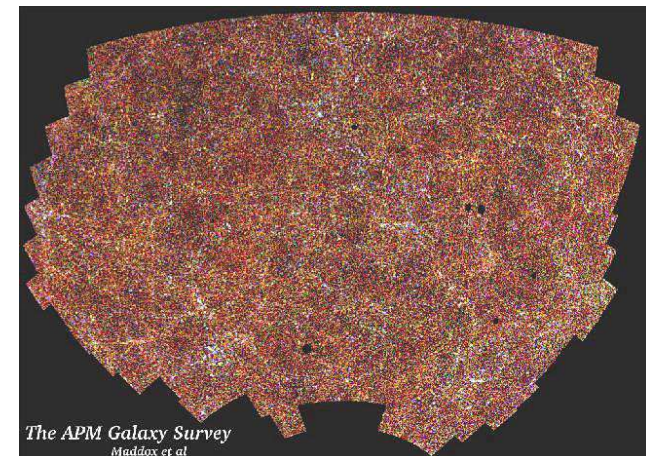
In the 1970s, the success of the Palomar survey stimulated carrying out similar surveys of the southern sky by the 1.2-m British Schmidt telescope (the Anglo–Australian Observatory (AAO), Australia) and the 1.0-m Schmidt telescope of the European Southern Observatory in Chile. Due to great progress in constructing telescopes and improving quality of photographic emulsions, the limiting apparent magnitude of these surveys (ESO/SERC) is by about  $1.^m5$  smaller than in POSS-I. This, in turn, initiated, at the end of the 1980s, re-surveying the northern sky with the modified Palomar Schmidt telescope using improved emulsions, but this time with three filters, including the near infrared band centered on  $\lambda_{eff} \approx 8500 \text{ \AA}$ . This survey was named POSS-II. The limiting magnitude in POSS-II for star-like objects is  $B \approx 22.^m5$ .

One photographic plate taken by a large Schmidt telescope can have  $10^5 - 10^6$  images of stars and galaxies. This restricted earlier works by visual inspection of only small areas of the original plates. The effective reading of information from the Schmidt plates became possible only after high-speed measuring machines were designed that allowed image digitizing and subsequent computer processing. It is in this way that the first digital sky surveys APM and DSS appeared at the beginning of the 1990s.

The microdensitometer **APM** (Automatic Plate Measuring machine) in Cambridge, England, was used to scan 185 plates (the scan step was 0.''5) obtained with the 1.2-m Schmidt telescope of the Anglo–Australian Observatory (Australia) near the southern galactic pole. The plates cover  $\sim 4300$  sq. deg. on the sky. Around  $20 \times 10^6$  objects with  $B \leq 22^m$  were discovered on these plates. For each object, the coordinates, apparent magnitude, and a dozen other parameters characterizing the brightness distribution and shape were determined.

By analyzing photometric brightness profiles, the objects were classified to form a virtually complete sample of extragalactic objects containing  $\sim 2 \times 10^6$  galaxies with  $B \leq 20.^m5$ .

The galaxy distribution of the APM survey over an area of  $\sim 50^\circ \times 100^\circ$ :





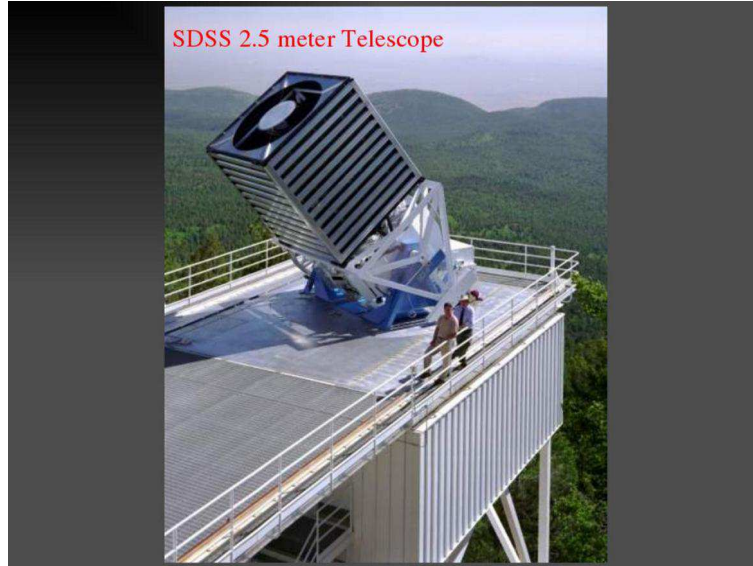


For about 15,000 early-type galaxies evenly distributed over the southern sky,  $z$ -independent distances will be determined using the fundamental plane method. Then, by comparing these distances with those derived from the observed values of  $z$ , it will be possible to estimate the peculiar velocities of galaxies arising due to inhomogeneities in mass distribution. (In this way, the Great Attractor with the mass  $\sim 5 \times 10^{16} M_{\odot}$  in a relatively nearby region of the Universe was found).

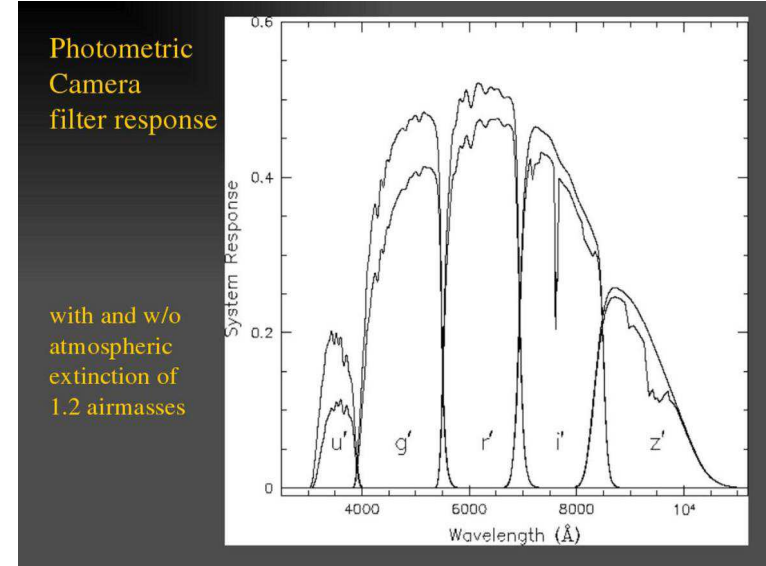




L-SDSS



L-SDSS

 $L_{\text{SDSS}}$ 

Over eight years of operations (**SDSS-I, 2000-2005; SDSS-II, 2005-2008**), it obtained deep, multi-color images covering more than a quarter of the sky and created 3-dimensional maps containing more than 930,000 galaxies and more than 120,000 quasars.

The seventh data release of the SDSS (december 2008):

- includes 11663 deg<sup>2</sup> of imaging data,
- five-band photometry for 357 million distinct objects,
- over 1.6 million spectra in total, including 930,000 galaxies, 120,000 quasars, and 460,000 stars.

 $L_{\text{SDSS}}$ 

Building on the legacy of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) and SDSS-II, the SDSS-III Collaboration will carry out a program of four surveys on three scientific themes:

- Dark energy and cosmological parameters
- The structure, dynamics, and chemical evolution of the Milky Way
- The architecture of planetary systems



The SDSS's 2.5-meter telescope at Apache Point Observatory

Over the next six years (2008-2014), these four surveys will exploit the unique wide-field spectroscopic capability of the Apache Point Observatory's 2.5-meter telescope. The surveys are:

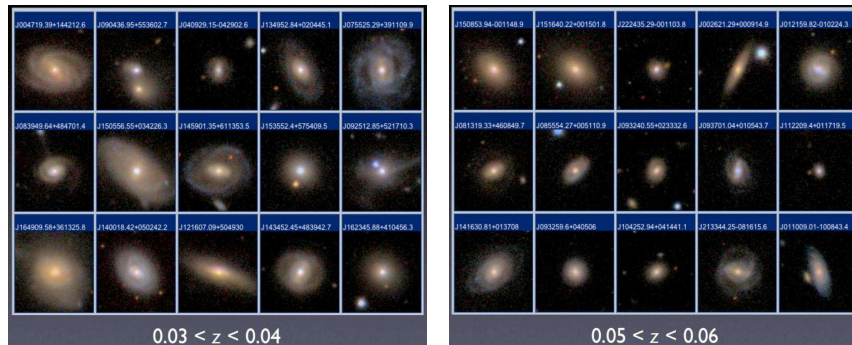
- **BOSS** will measure the cosmic distance scale via clustering in the large-scale galaxy distribution and the Lyman- $\alpha$  forest
- **SEGUE-2** will map the structure, kinematics, and chemical evolution of the outer Milky Way disk and halo
- **APOGEE** will use high-resolution infrared spectroscopy to see through the dust to the inner Galaxy
- **MARVELS** will probe the population of giant planets via radial velocity monitoring of 11,000 stars





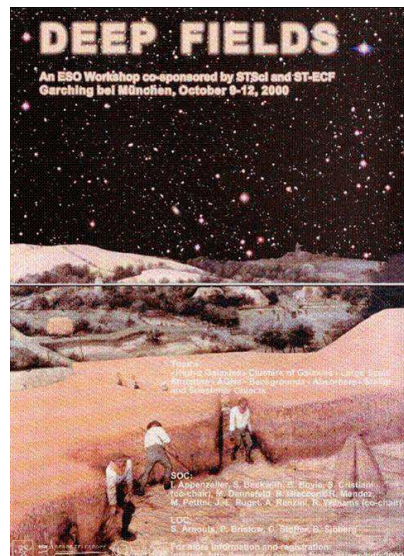
- └ Sky surveys
  - └ SDSS

Several results:

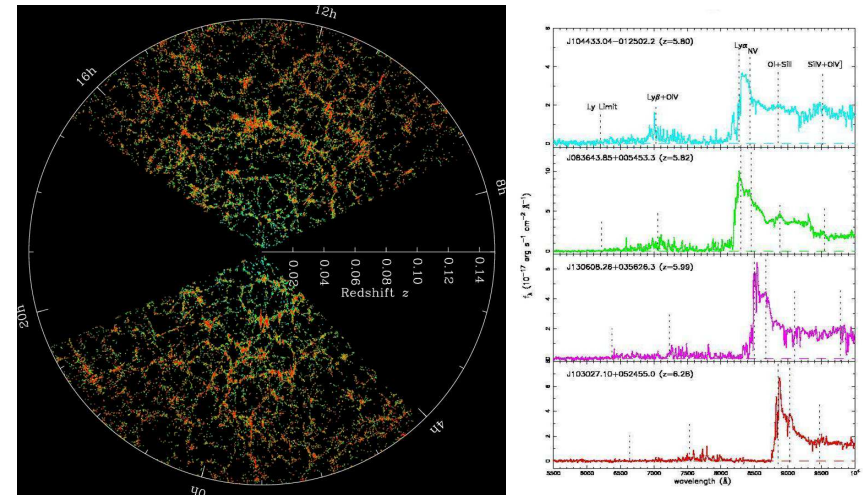


- Deep fields

Let's discuss several remarkable projects to study relatively small ultra-deep areas – the deep fields.



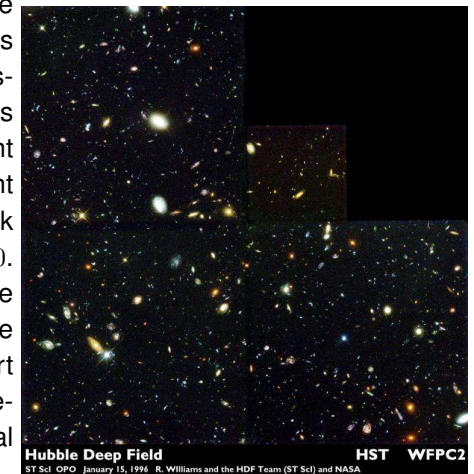
- └ Sky surveys
  - └ SDSS



- Deep fields
  - HDFs

## HDF-N

Observations with the HST (the diameter of the main mirror is 2.4 m, the Ritchey–Chrétien system) in the first half of the 1990s demonstrated that this instrument resolves the structure of distant galaxies and these galaxies look different than those at  $z \approx 0$ . The idea emerged to use some free time at the discretion of the STScI director (at that time, Robert Williams) to obtain an unprecedented deep image of one typical area at high galactic latitudes.











## L-GOODS

Observations have been carried out in two areas  $\sim 160$  sq. min. The fields were observed with the HST by the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) installed in 2002 in four broad-band filters F435W ( $B$ ), F606W ( $V$ ), F775W ( $i$ ), and F850LP ( $z$ ). Observations in  $V$ ,  $i$ , and  $z$  were carried out during five periods delayed by 40–50 days. (Such an observational strategy was adopted to facilitate searches for distant ‘cosmological’ supernovae. As a result, more than 40 supernovae were discovered by the GOODS, with six SN Ia’s at  $z > 1.25$ .)

The limiting magnitude of extended objects in these fields is by  $0.^m5$ – $0.^m8$  worse than in the previous HST deep fields, but the total coverage of the GOODS is 30 times larger than that of the HDF-N and HDF-S taken together. The original HST frames and reduced images are available through the web pages of the GOODS project:

<http://www.stsci.edu/science/goods>



HUDF

More than a hundred individual images were taken in the  $B$  and  $V$  filters (total exposure time  $\sim 40^h$ ). Observations in the  $i$  and  $z$  bands include almost 300 frames (total exposure time  $\sim 100^h$  with each filter).

The final calibrated HUDF images with the step  $0.''03$  (the image size with each filter is 430 Mb) and the catalog of discovered objects can be found on the web page of the project:

**<http://www.stsci.edu/hst/udf>**

The HUDF is by about one magnitude deeper than the HDF. In this field, around 10,000 galaxies up to  $B \sim 30^m$  (!) were discovered.

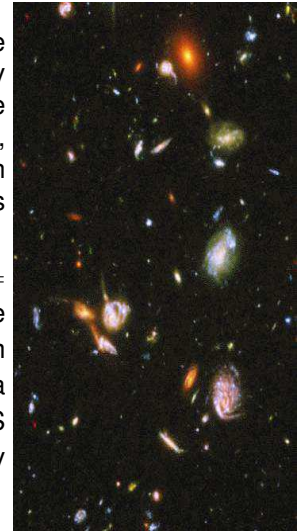
To improve the impact of the ACS data, the central part of the HUDF was also observed by the HST with the NICMOS (Near-Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer) with filters F110W ( $J$ ) and F160W ( $H$ ).



## L-HUDF

The Hubble Ultra Deep Field (**HUDF**) is the deepest optical imaging of a patch of the sky ever made. The authors of the project believe it will remain such in the next several years and, consequently, this field will long remain the main source of information on the most distant objects in the Universe.

The coordinates of the HUDF are  $\alpha(2000) = 3^h 32^m 39^s.0$  and  $\delta(2000) = -27^\circ 47' 29.''1$ . The observations were carried out by the HST from Sept 2003 till Jan 2004 with a wide-field camera ACS with the same four filters as the GOODS observations. The field coverage is relatively small:  $11.5 \square'$ .



- Other projects

- The **LCRS** (Las Campanas Redshift Survey) is a spectroscopic survey of  $\sim 2600$  galaxies with the 2.5-m telescope of the Las Campanas observatory (Chile). The survey covers about 700 sq. deg. and consists of six extended patches  $1.^\circ 5 \times 80^\circ$  each.
- The **CNOC2** (Canadian Network for Observational Cosmology) is a survey covering  $\sim 1.5$  sq. deg. of the sky with the 3.6-m CFHT telescope. The survey is aimed at determining redshifts for  $\sim 6000$  galaxies with the apparent magnitude  $R \leq 21.^m5$  and providing multicolor photometry for  $\sim 40,000$  galaxies with  $R \leq 23^m$ .
- The **DEEP2** (Deep Extragalactic Evolutionary Probe 2) is a spectroscopic survey covering  $\sim 3.5$  sq. deg. of the sky with a multi-object spectrograph on the 10-m Keck-II telescope. Redshifts for  $\sim 60,000$  remote ( $z > 0.7$ ) galaxies will be measured.



- Other projects

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