



Mission target asteroids: thermal-IR characterization from ground

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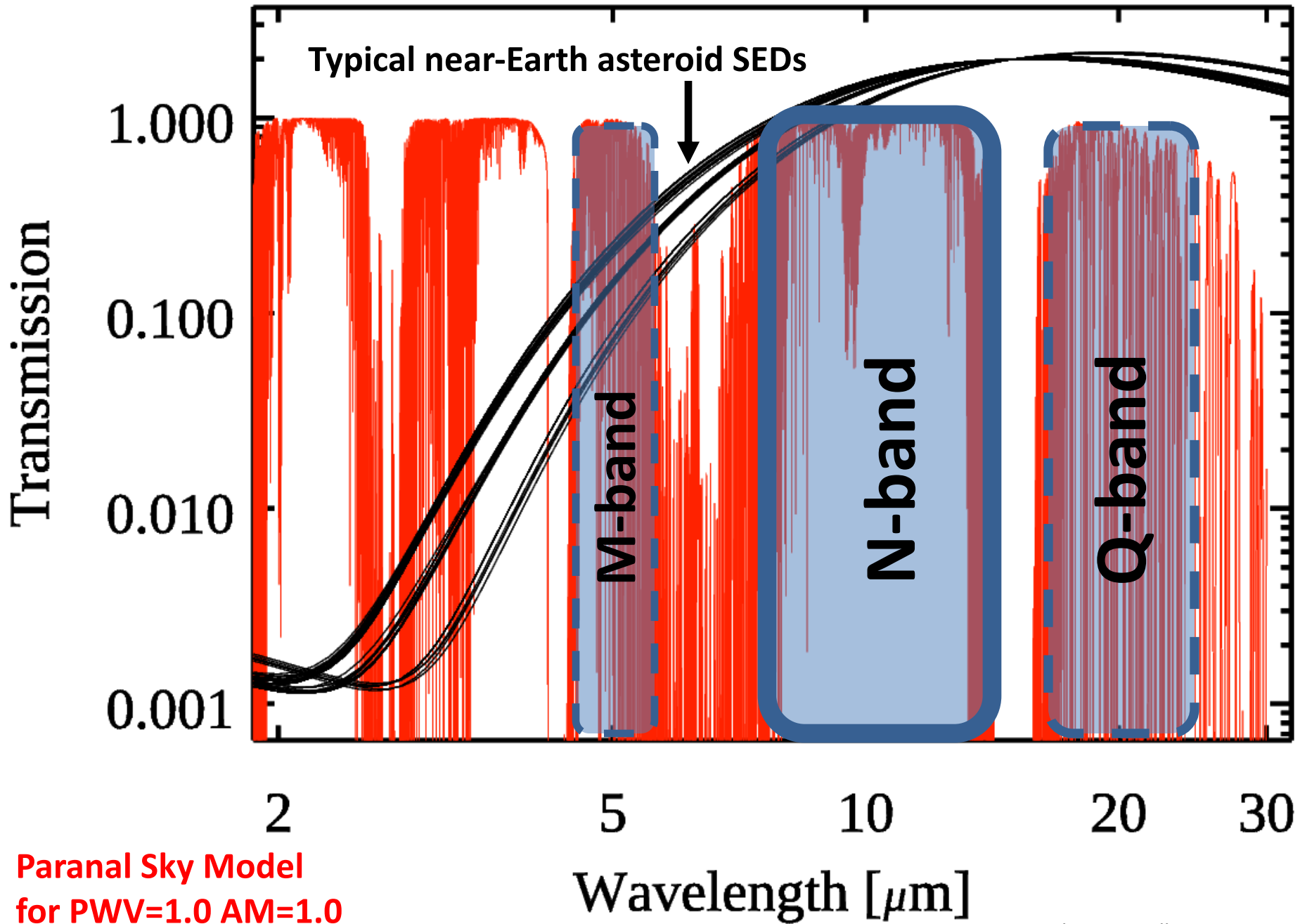
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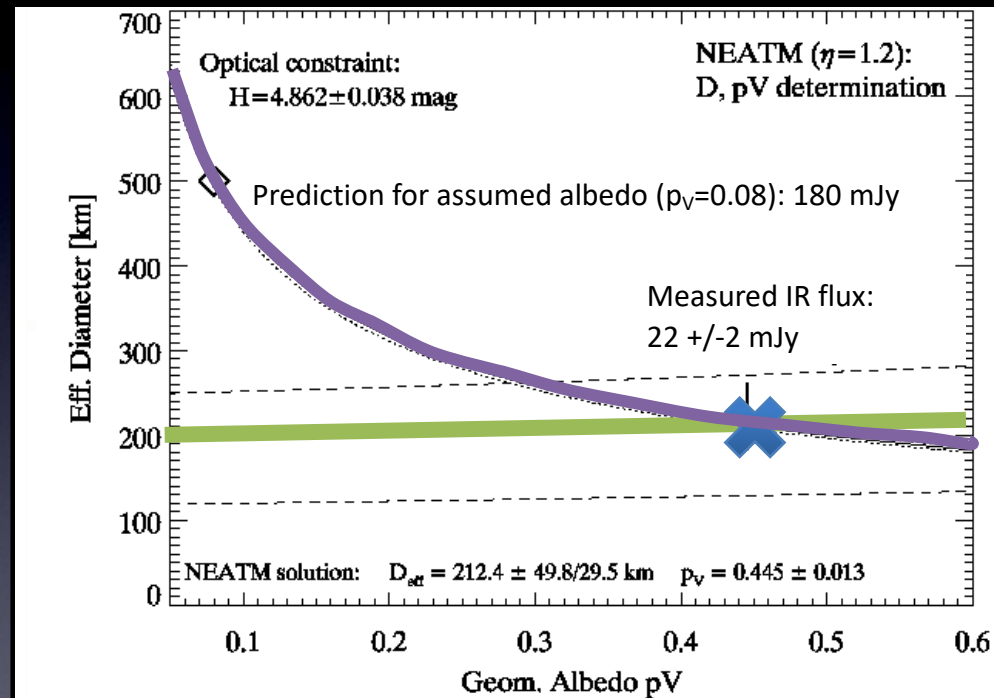
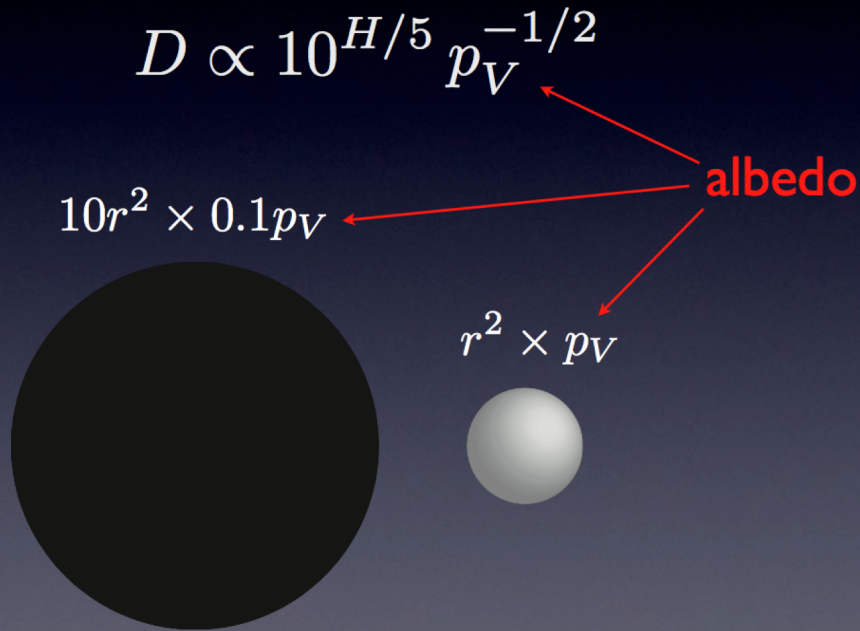
- Thermal-IR photometry to characterize the object (size, albedo, spin-shape solutions, the sense of rotation, thermal & physical surface properties, surface temperatures, etc.)
- To provide input for Yarkovsky, YORP, B-YORP effects (non-gravitational forces which change the object's orbit and rotational properties)
- Deep IR imaging to detect activity (or impact effects) in form of ejected dust clouds or trails
- Ground-based IR to monitor asteroids/comets over time (daily or seasonal changes), over wide phase-angle or helio-centric ranges, to observe closer to the Sun, objects with high apparent motion





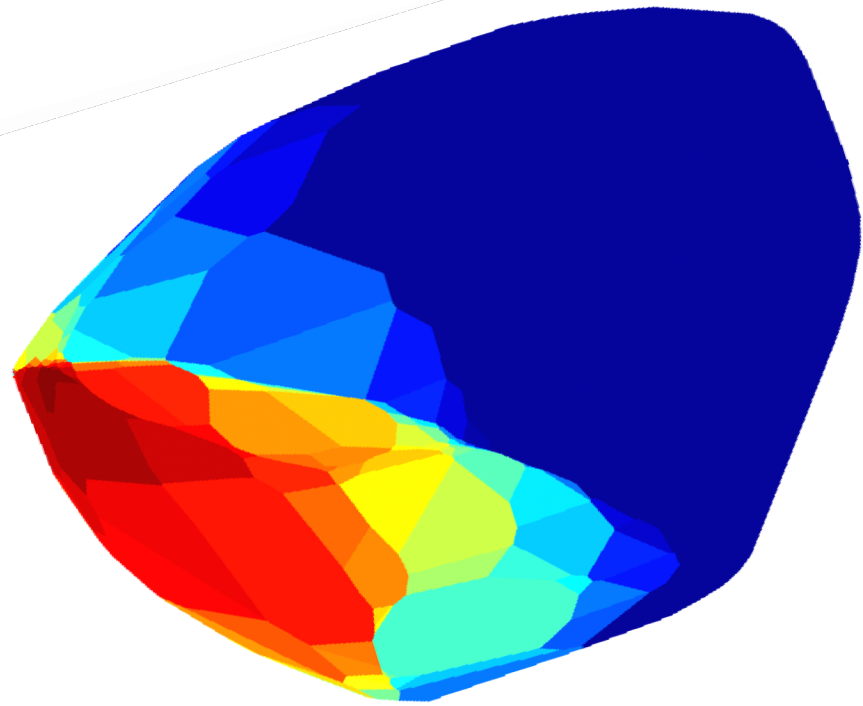
Fundamental Properties: Size & Albedos

- Optical (V-band) measurement to obtain H magnitude
- Infrared measurement for the thermal emission

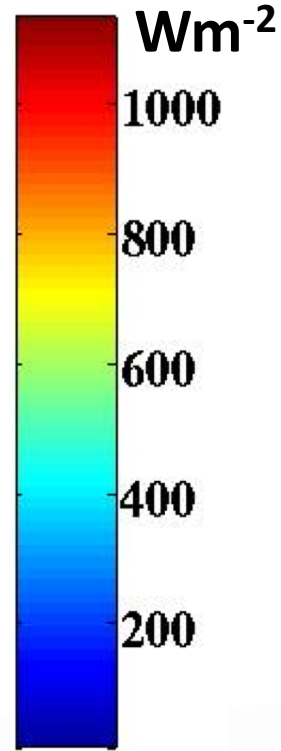


Radiometric method:

- Preferentially multi-band and/or multi-epoch IR measurements
- Using well-tested and calibrated thermal models (NEATM, TPM)
- Solving for size-albedo (with constraints on thermal properties) ³

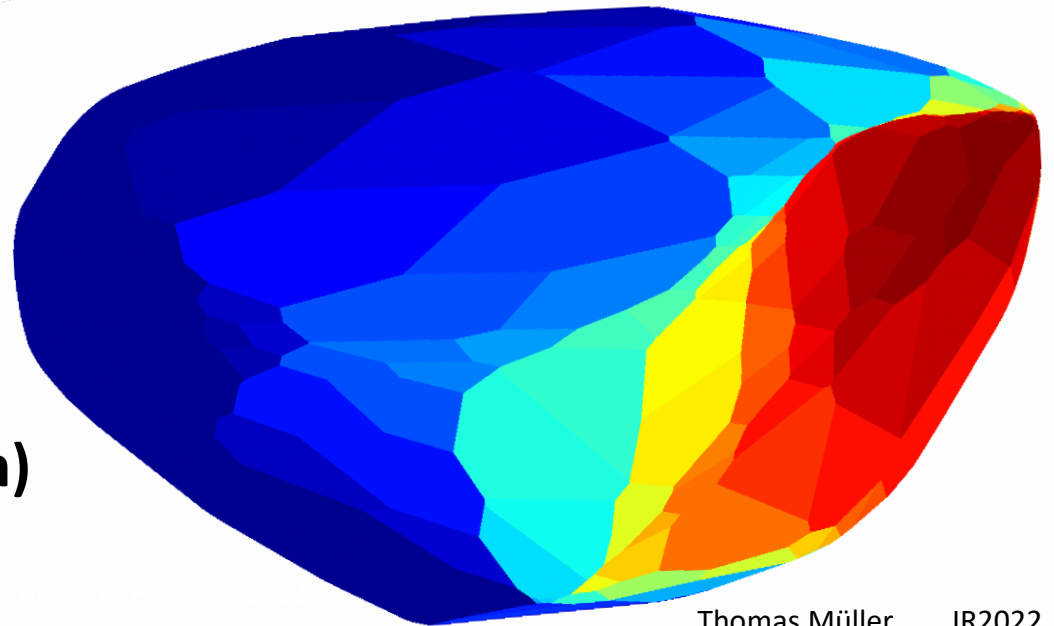


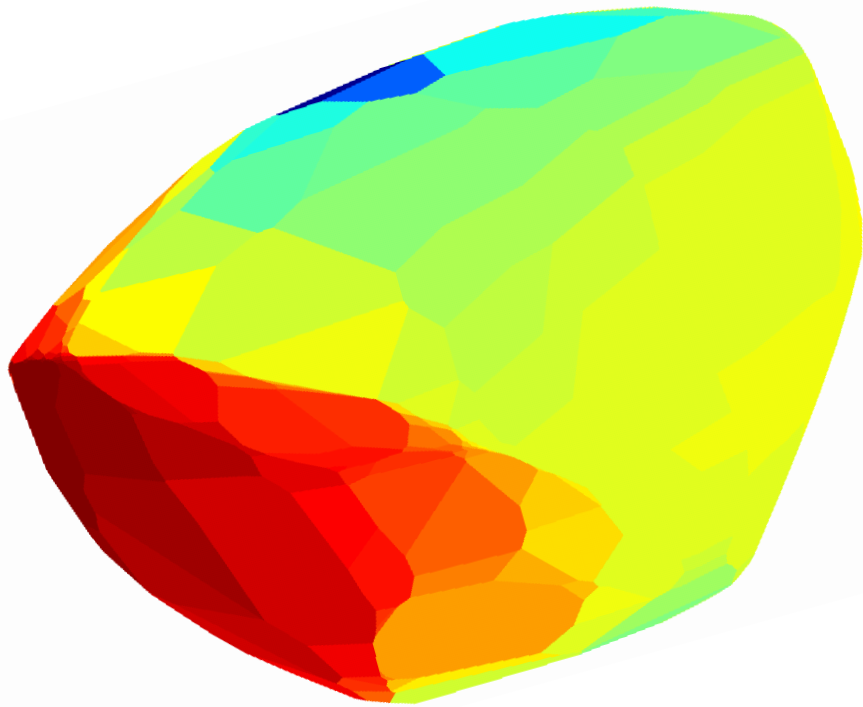
**1st epoch at
 $\alpha = +60.4^\circ$
(before opposition)**



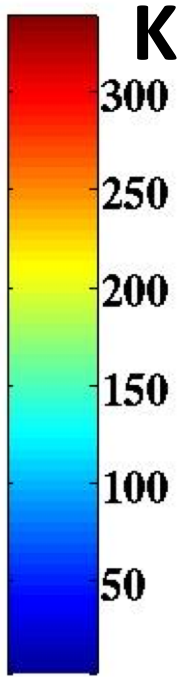
**Apophis (potential OSIRIS-
REx mission target)**

**2nd epoch at
 $\alpha = -61.4^\circ$
(after opposition)**



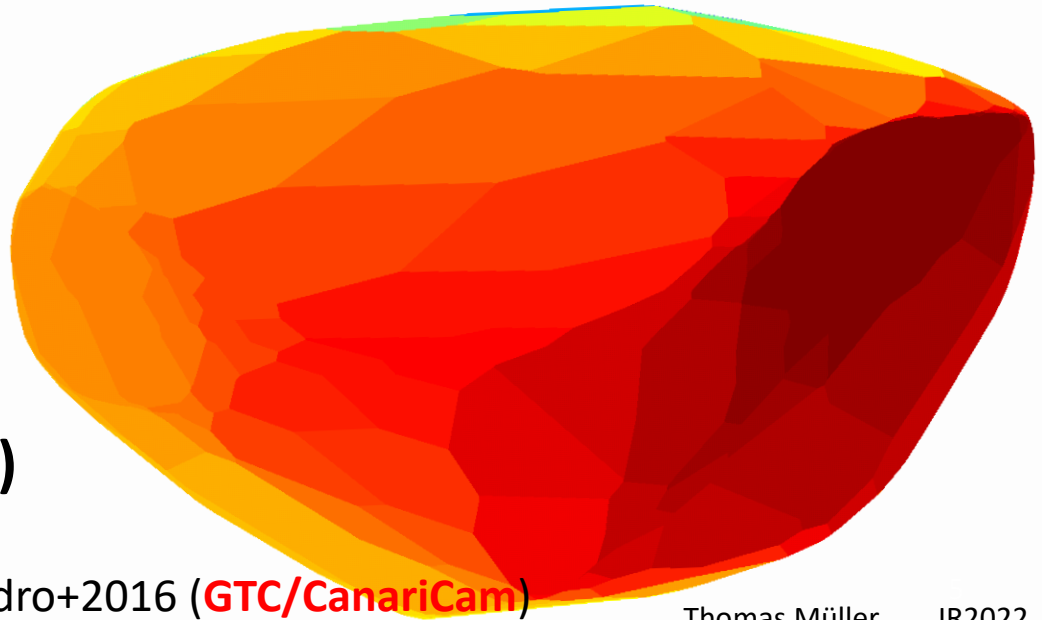


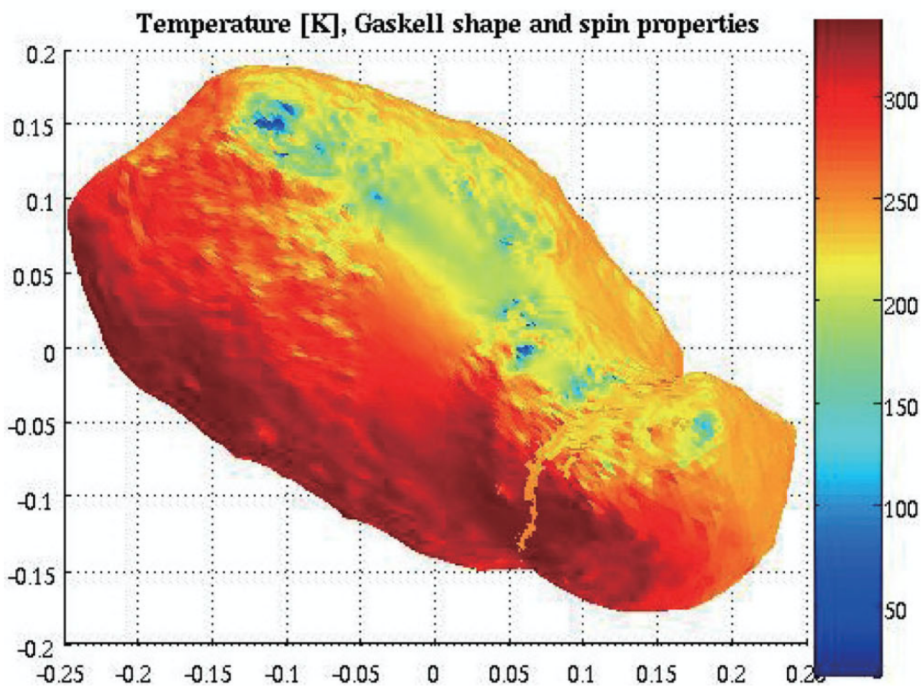
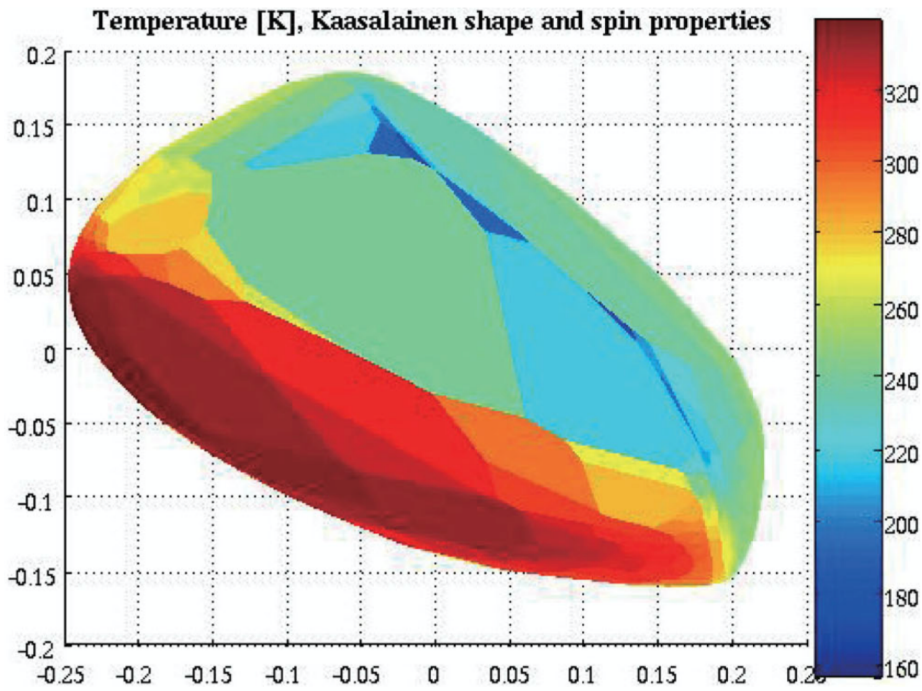
**1st epoch at
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Apophis (potential OSIRIS-REx mission target)

**2nd epoch at
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(after opposition)**





Hayabusa mission target:

Near Earth Objects, our Celestial Neighbors: Opportunity and Risk
Proceedings IAU Symposium No. 236, 2006 © 2007 International Astronomical Union
A. Milani, G.B. Valsecchi & D. Vokrouhlický, eds. doi:10.1017/S1743921307003316

Itokawa: The power of ground-based mid-infrared observations

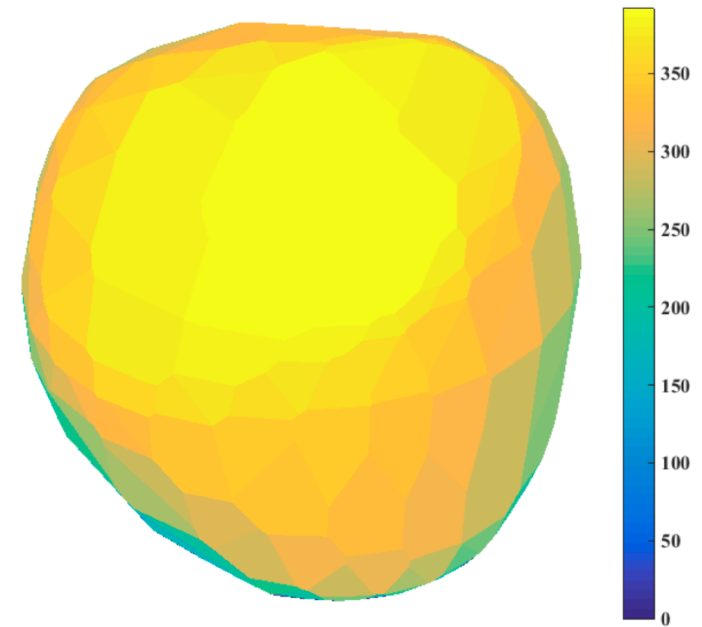
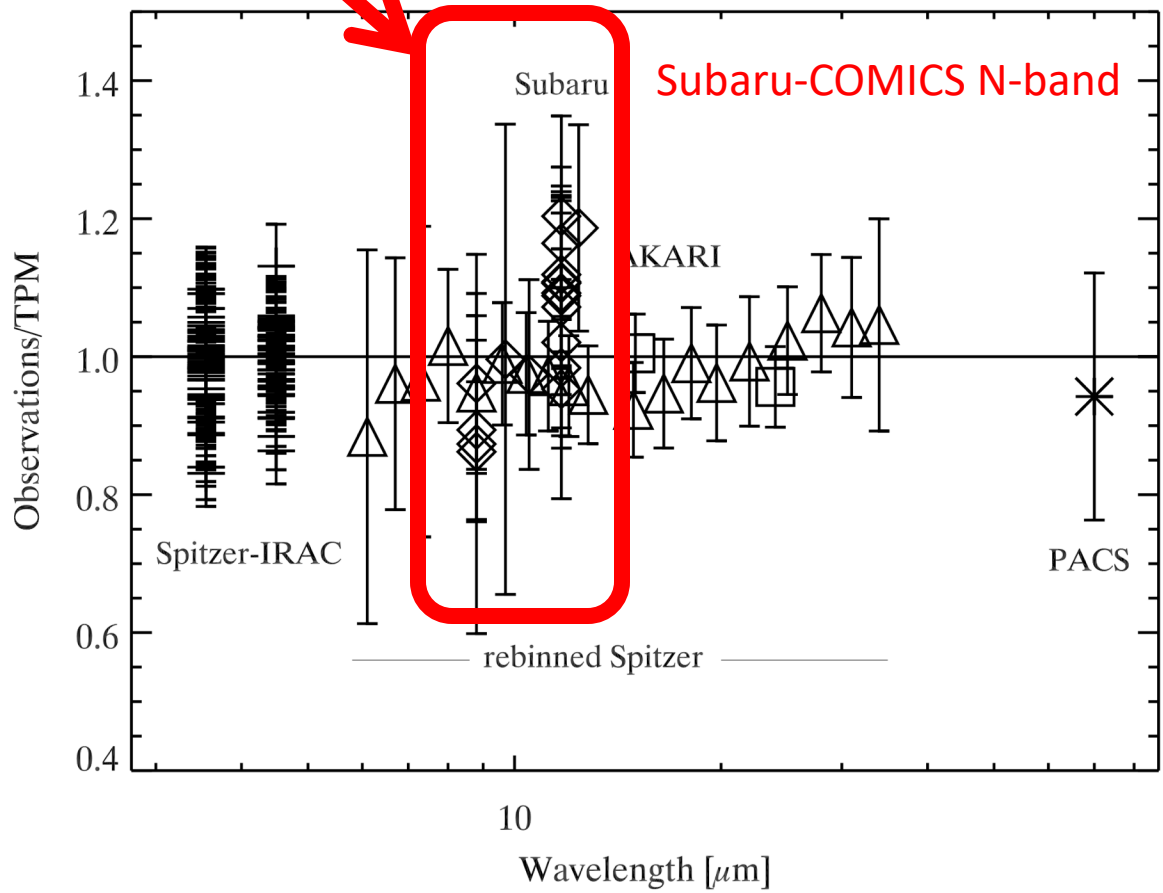
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Thermal comparison between pre-mission (Müller+2005/2007) and in-situ study: “(25143) Itokawa: The power of radiometric techniques for the interpretation of remote thermal observations in the light of the Hayabusa rendezvous results” (Müller+2014):

- Excellent agreement of spin, shape, albedo, and thermal properties
- Volume-equivalent size prediction (based on thermal measurements) was within 2% of the true value!
- Ground-based IR data were taken with ESO’s 3.6-m telescope + TIMMI2

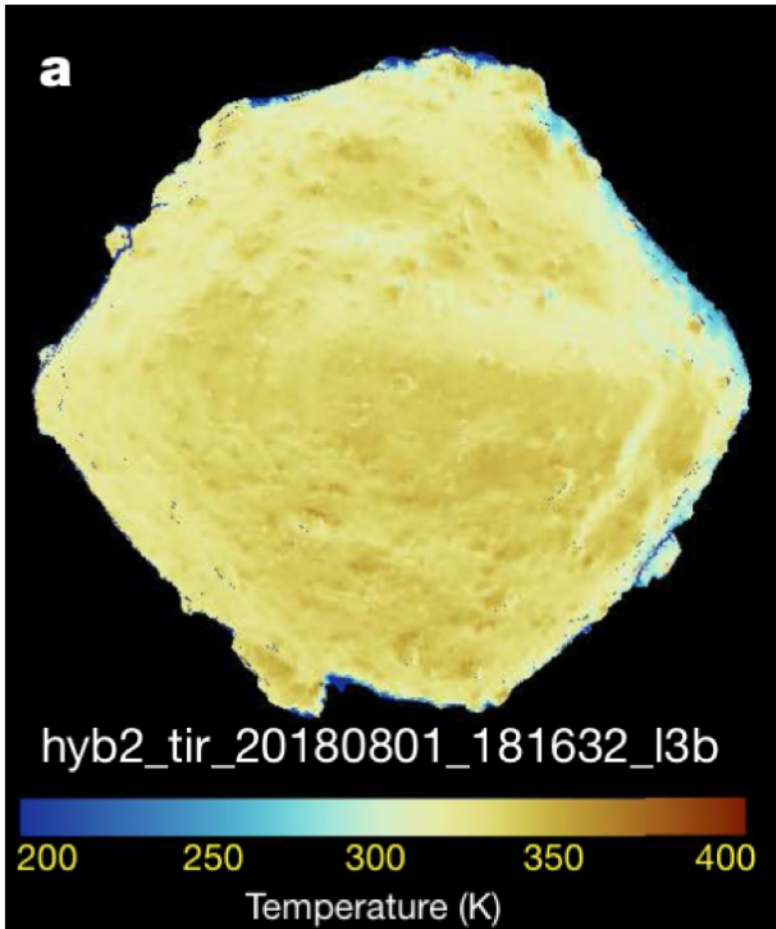
162173 Ryugu (target of the JAXA Hayabusa-2 mission): pre-mission studies included ground-based Subaru-COMICS N- and Q-band observations (Hasegawa+2008; Müller+2011), plus additional IR space data (Müller+2017)



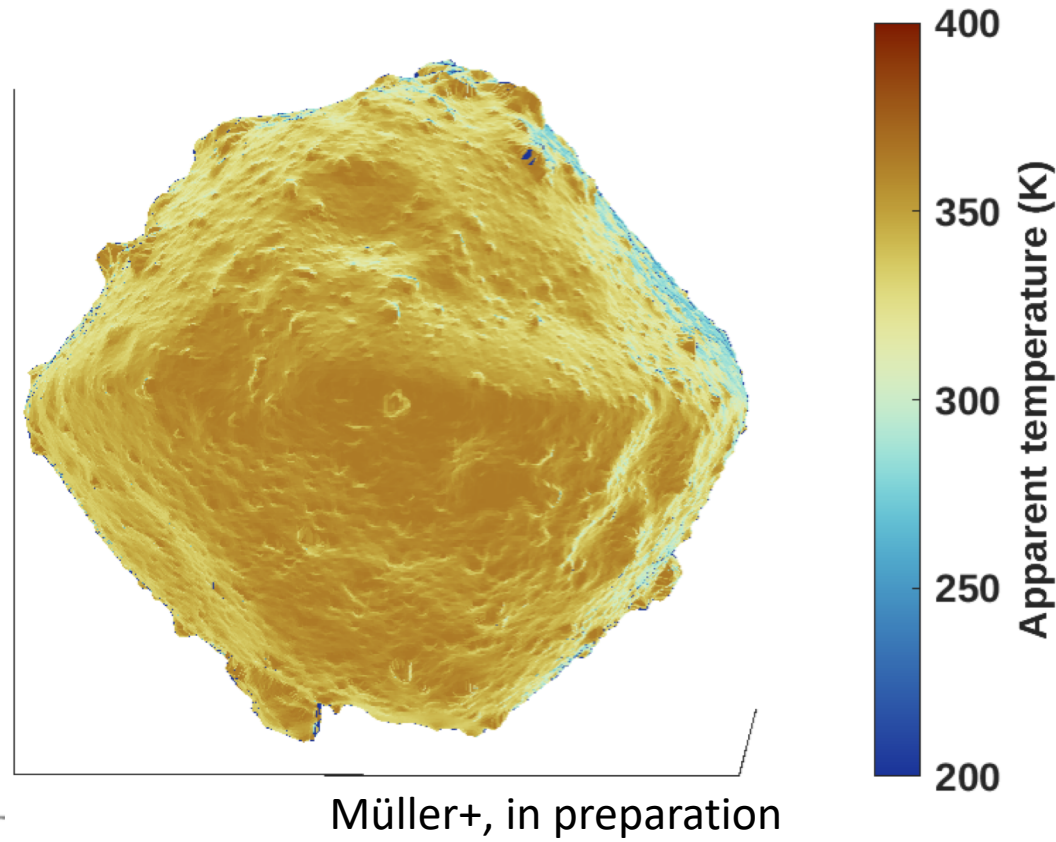
Müller+2017

Near-Earth asteroid Ryugu

Hayabusa2-TIR 10- μm image (from 20 km distance), Okada+2020, Nature



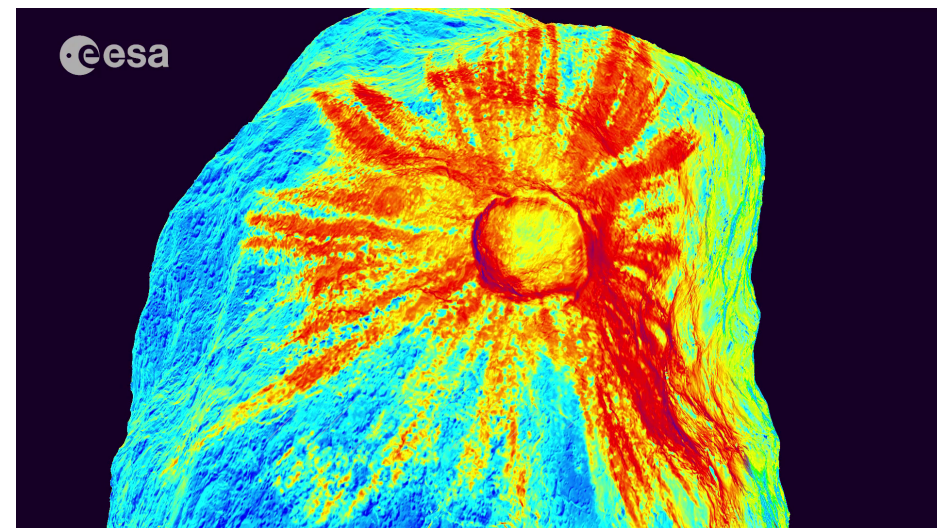
Thermophysical model calculation, based on thermal properties derived from before mission (Wada+2018) and in-situ studies (Shimaki+2020)



Including also Subaru-COMICS N-band

NASA DART (launched: 2021) & ESA Hera mission (launch 2024) to double asteroid system Didymos/Dimorphos

- DART mission with impact Dimorphos in late Sep 2022 (planetary defence test to change Dimorphos' orbit); Hera will characterize the impact structure and the entire system in detail during 2026
- Characterization of system properties, including thermal inertia and surface roughness, with the help of mid-IR photometry and spectroscopy with **VLT-VISIR** in summer 2022 when the object comes close to Earth (PI: S. Green)
- Pre- and post-impact thermal IR studies (VISIR) in Sep/Oct 2022
- Study of the effects of the non-gravitational Yarkovsky force (orbit changes) and YORP torque (spin-axis)
- Thermal emission of impact dust cloud
- Monitoring of dust cloud after impact
- Constraints on dust properties
- Critical for the success of the mission
- Reference for later Hera thermal studies





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Summary

- Thermal and physical characterization of asteroids (size, albedo, spin-shape solutions, the sense of rotation, thermal & physical surface properties, surface temperatures, etc.)
- Important input for orbit and spin evolution (Yarkovsky, YORP, B-YORP non-gravitational forces/effects)
- Monitoring of ejected dust clouds or trails
- Rotational, seasonal, orbital flux changes are indicative of surface properties
- Linking in-situ (small-scale) results to remote (global) measurements, as ground-truth for objects without in-situ data
- Near-Earth asteroid observations are often time-critical and/or require fast turnaround times (DDT channel), special observing techniques (fast apparent motion, at small solar elongation), special care in data reduction & calibration