

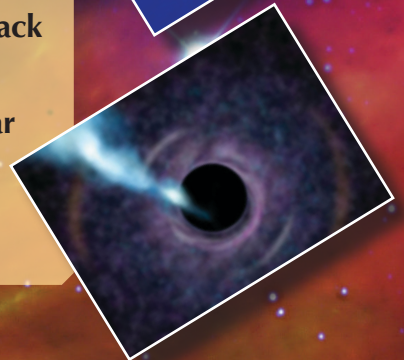
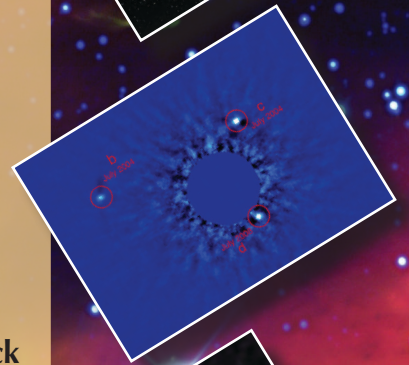
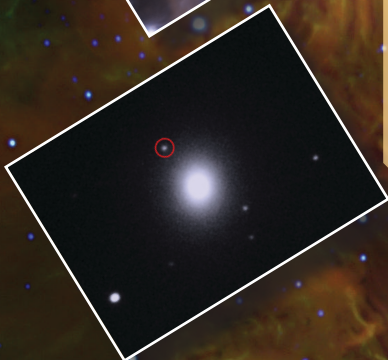
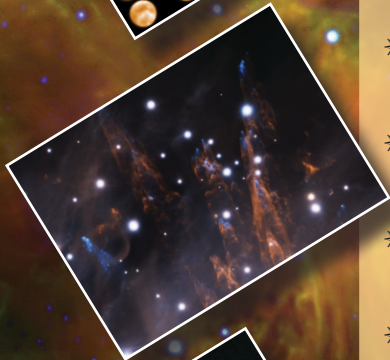
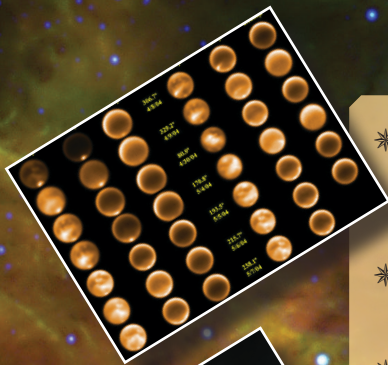
# Gemini Observatory Celebrates Two Decades of Discovery

As Gemini celebrates 20 years of discovery, the astronomical observatory's future shines brightly.

For the past two decades, astronomers using Gemini's twin 8-meter telescopes have made astounding discoveries that have advanced our knowledge of the visible Universe — from nearby objects in our Solar System to violent collisions of neutron stars and black holes at the limits of humanity's vision. Among the scientific achievements, researchers using Gemini have:



Credit: Javier Fuentes



- \* Determined the nature of an unexpected interstellar visitor passing through our Solar System
- \* Tracked weather on other planets and their moons
- \* Recorded the first image of a planet beyond our Solar System
- \* Imaged the birth of stars, and captured planetary systems just starting to form
- \* Measured the mass of supermassive black holes at the cores of galaxies
- \* And, dissected light from a neutron star collision that sent gravitational waves rippling across the Universe.

The promise of many more exciting decades of discovery lie ahead as the Observatory fine-tunes its capabilities for the new era of Multi-Messenger and Time-Domain Astronomy.



Credit: Joy Pollard

From probing rapidly changing distant supernova explosions to chasing fast-moving bodies in our Solar System, Gemini is poised to utilize cutting edge technology to unravel some of the greatest mysteries of the Universe.



Credit: Manuel Paredes

Research at Gemini is also helping astronomers to better understand dark matter and dark energy, and determine if life is possible on planets orbiting other suns.



Credit: Joy Pollard

*Gemini operates twin 8-meter telescopes in both hemispheres — one on Maunakea in Hawai'i and one on Cerro Pachón in Chile — that observe in both visible and infrared light. A flexible suite of instruments operate on a dynamic schedule and can be switched quickly to take advantage of changing sky conditions or targets requiring rapid response observations.*

*The majority of Gemini's funding comes from the US National Science Foundation (~70%), with Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Korea completing the partnership. The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) manages Gemini under a cooperative agreement with the NSF.*

