

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope

the need for the North Ecliptic Spur survey

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what is the North Ecliptic Spur?

critical science cases:

- asteroid activity
- distant resonant populations
- a planet! maybe?





for the Solar System we have the potential to survey the entire population

astro-lsst-01_2022 all bands: NVisits



cadence: 2018A

Cost: about 5% of all survey time



active asteroids

active asteroids provide insight into collisions, volatiles in the main belt



active asteroids

- one to a few events/year
- longitudinal events for main-belt comets
- full ecliptic coverage is critical





Observer: Clyde Tombaugh

the distant minor planets resonant populations



resonant TNOs become detectable at distinct ecliptic longitudes



50AU

30A

7:4



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Gladman et al. 2012

50A

3:1







Knowing what we don't see is equally important

Discovery bias:

- single epochs will vary in depth
- sky coverage is not the whole sky
 - we need the North Ecliptic Spur to happen!

Tracking (ephemeris) bias:

- unusual orbits are harder to link & can be lost
 - expect the first 1-2 years to be a little patchy

a distant planet?



A solid framework to **test** dynamical ideas

1. Create a model distribution

of Solar System orbits



2. Use a Survey Simulator to **"observe"** your model via precisely calibrated detection sensitivities



3. Choose your statistical test: **Compare** what's
detectable in your model to
the supervised discoveries
Output

semimator axis (AU)

45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

0.0

10 15 20 25 30 35

https://github.com/OSSOS/SurveySimulator



How to make the strangely distant TNOs?

- an extra planet? (Gladman et al. 2002, Brown et al. 2004, Gomes et al. 2006)
 - a rogue: once orbiting, gone now (Gladman & Chan 2006)
 - present-day planet? (Brown 2004, Gomes et al. 2006, Soares & Gomes 2013, Sheppard & Trujillo 2014, Batygin & Brown 2016, half the community in 2016-2017)
- capture from another star's system? ((Kenyon & Bromley 2004; Jilkova et al. 2015)
- a stellar flyby? (Kenyon & Bromley 2004; Morbidelli & Levison 2004, Kaib et al. 2009)
- perturbations in the Sun's birth cluster? (Brasser et al. 2012, Brasser & Schwamb 2014)
- self-gravitation in the planetesimal disk (Madigan & McCourt 2016)
- diffusion from the inner Oort cloud? (Bannister et al. 2017)



Conclusions

We need the North Ecliptic Spur survey.

- ensure good coverage of active asteroids
- only way to map most distant minor planets!
- mitigate many observing biases on TNOs
- confirm:
 - how Neptune migrated
 - the creation of detached orbits: an unseen planet?