

The Antarctic Plateau Interferometer

James P. Lloyd¹, Mark R. Swain², Wesley A. Traub³, Chris K. Walker⁴,
Adam Burrows⁴, Peter Lawson², Vincent Coudé du Foresto⁵, Eric Fossat⁶,
Farrokh Vakili⁶, Tony Stark³, Michael Ireland⁷, Peter Tuthill⁷, and John W. Storey⁸
(Email: jpl@astro.caltech.edu)

¹Department of Astronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

²Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California

³Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts

⁴Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

⁵Observatoire de Paris, Meudon, France

⁶Laboratoire Universitaire d'Astrophysique de Nice, Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis,
Nice, France

⁷Astronomy Department, School of Physics, University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

⁸School of Physics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

The Antarctic Plateau offers the best possible sites on earth for infrared interferometry. The Antarctic Plateau Interferometer (API) will be able to make large inroads into the study of exoplanets and other astrophysical problems. A smaller scale science demonstrator, the Antarctic Plateau Interferometer Science Demonstrator (API Phase I) will be able to verify the performance benefits with a modest aperture interferometer. API Phase I will directly test models of jovian planet atmospheres and study the formation of planetary systems. API will enable extensive study of jovian exoplanets and detection of rocky planets. These and other scientific discoveries are enabled by the unique atmospheric characteristics of Dome C, and cannot be achieved anywhere else on the ground.

