Adam Riess Johns Hopkins University Space Telescope Science Institute





JWST and the Hubble Tension SH_0ES Team and Collaborators

Riess, A.G.+, ApJ, 2024: All JWST Samples, all methods

 Riess, A.+, ApJL, 2023,

 ApJL, 2024, 962, L17: JWST Cepheids

 Anand, G+
 ApJ, 2024, 966, 89: JWST TRGB

 Li, S +
 ApJ, 2024, 966, 20: JWST JAGB

 Li, S+
 ApJ, 2024, 976, 177: JWST TRGB

 Li, S+
 ApJ, 2024, 976, 177: JWST TRGB

 Li, S+
 arxiv 250205259: JWST JAGB 2.0

Data Products, code: <u>https://pantheonplussh0es.github.io</u>, paper zenodo links



1.SH₀ES Overview

2. Systematics and Scrutiny, ~20 years

3.JWST cross-checks

4.H₀ differences from SN Sub-sample selection

HST Cycle 11-32, 23 competed proposals,~1200 orbits, 2 JWST

Keys to SH₀ES: empirical rigor+gold standards: geometry, Cepheids, SN Ia



Brief Review: The SH₀ES Project (since 2005)



SH0ES "DR5"

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Near-Infrared (NIR) + colors minimize dust
- 42 SN Ia in 37 hosts, <u>distance-limited</u> to D~40 Mpc



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cpheid: m-M (ma

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Rung 3: SN Ia

- Largest hi-quality low-z SN data, calibration Pantheon+, survey and host type matched <u>Overall</u>
- Comprehensive error analysis propagation, covariance, systematics: 67 <u>analysis variants</u>
- Only team w/ Public release of data, 10⁷ data #s, code
- 40+ journal papers, >10,000+ citations since 2005
- Brief tour...



HST/WFC3 Geometric Absolute Cepheid Calibration

• 3 Independent types of Geometric measures, consistent, all w/ HST



SN Ia Host Cepheid Measurements-HST/WFC3



Composite Cepheid Light Curves, <u>all periods</u>→ identify

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Host Period-Luminosity relations, reddening-free 3 bands→distance

log Period (days)

SH₀ES Baseline Fit: $H_0=73.04 + / - 1.04$, km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹, w/ systematics



Thorough, Careful, Comprehensive Analysis: 67 variants, bifurcations, etc



- Optical Cepheid data only (72.7)
- Different pec. vel map or none (73.1,72.7)
- SN scatter ind. wave+mass step (73.5)
- No pre-2000 SNe (73.2)
- closest half hosts D<28 Mpc (73.1)
- most crowded half (73.4)
- least crowded half (73.3)
- Skip "local hole" z>0.06 (73.4)
- All host types (73.3)
- include TRGB (<u>consistent</u>) jointly (72.5)
- No metallicity term (73.5)
- Break in PL at P=10 days (72.7)
- Period Cut >10 days (73.2)
- No dust correction (74.8)
- Individual host dust law (73.9)
- Free param dust law (73.3)
- Low $R_V = 2.5$ dust law (73.2)
- Two of three anchors (73.0,73.4,73.2)
- No outlier rejection (73.4)

Exhaustive tests: hard to get below 72, above 74. No single source suspect!



From CosmoVerse paper (500+ authors), arXiv:2504.01669 (EDV+25) in preparation: Consensus "Distance Network"



Iteration, public releases essential for progress. Updates: good, not for "gotchas", use latest!

Errors or New Physics? Hubble Tension Proposals (2013-2023)

Most Frequently Asked-and-Answered Questions

- 1. HST zeropoint/linearity error?
- 2. Dust (weird dust)?
- 3. Cepheid metallicity dependence?
- 4. Not significant?
- 5. Error in the CMB measurements?
- 6. LMC/N4258 distance, Gaia parallaxes wrong?
- 7. Extragalactic Cepheids are different?
- 8. We live in a giant void $(z \sim 0.05)$?
- 9. Problem/difference in SN Ia?

10. Near-infrared Cepheid crowding?

Crowding corrected w/ artificial stars not systematic, but biggest noise



QR Code link to literature checks



https://djbrout.github.io/ SH0ESrefs.html



High Precision JWST PLRs vs HST: ~1000 Cepheids in 5 hosts of 8 SN Ia & N4258

With 2 epochs and multi-color we can recover Cepheid phase, 2.5x less NIR scatter than HST! Crowding (stellar background) reduced by a mean factor of ~6. Remaining << Hubble tension



NEW Cycle 2: Better than low crowding? The **perfect host**, NGC 3447A

SH₀ES host D~25 Mpc is a merging system: Spiral (NGC 3447) + Tidal dwarf (NGC 3447A)

Spiral: Cepheids form on top of old pop (RG), Tidal: burst, no old pop \rightarrow no background!



Uncrowded JWST Measurements vs. HST, rules out crowding solution $>8\sigma$

Now 19 hosts of 24 SN Ia (>half) JWST-HST=-0.02 $\pm 0.02 \text{ mag}$, 8 at D>23 Mpc $0.00 \pm 0.03 \text{ mag}$



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Freedman+2019: "[p]ossibly the most significant challenge for Cepheid measurements beyond 20 Mpc is crowding" Efstathiou 2023 (Munich) "This is really convincing! I have changed my perspective on the Hubble tension..." JWST TAC 2025: "the previous JWST work on Cepheids show that there is no large systematic bias due to crowding or reddening: not clear further improving the precision with JWST at this point would lead to new insight as to origin of tension"

Other types of stars--consistent distances: 2nd rung not source of tension

Same anchor (N4258) to same SN Ia hosts

- both HST and JWST
- 4 indicators
- Two teams's data (as given, 8 Combos N=59)



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Test is independent of distance to NGC 4258

- All 8 tests ~0 at ~1 σ , no evidence not 0
- Most +/-0.03 mag, vs 0.18 mag Tension



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*Smaller: Differences in H₀ between CSP I+II vs Pantheon+ & pec vel corr. at ~0.5 level

Not from Pantheon+ SN: replace it with something else, H₀ goes up

Why prefer Pantheon+ vs CSP SN Ia?

- CSP has only observed $\sim 25\%$ of calibrators
- most of CSP (CSP II) remains unpublished



Conclusions

- The local value of H₀ remains inconsistent with CMB+ Λ CDM at >5 σ
- 8 Sets of distance Measurements to SN Ia hosts agree (~1%)
 - Cepheids, TRGB, JAGB, Miras, two telescopes, multiple groups
 - Cepheid crowding not an issue, JWST is incredible !
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 - Cepheid crowding not an issue, JWST is incredible !
- Supernova subsample selection Explains Differences in Estimates of H₀
- Hubble tension remains compelling because:
 - Comes from best tools (HST, JWST, Gaia, Planck), data public
 - Lasted 10 years, steadily growing in significance
 - The model it challenges, Λ CDM, is phenomenological, dark sector

Don't get distracted by critiques, can't **data select** our way out, Hubble Tension demands a satisfying explanation, what are we missing?

Back Up

Do nearer hosts have brighter SN magnitudes?. Not significant

• 1 σ at D=23 Mpc split, 0.5 σ at sample middle, either place no evidence



Do you see Λ CDM or Tension?



SH0ES Publicly Released data (photometry, mean mags, code, etc)

Gagandeep S. Anand et al 2024 ApJ 966 89 (JWST TRGB I): https://github.com/gsanand/anand24_jwst_trgb Louise Breuval et al 2024 ApJ 973 30 (SMC): https://content.cld.iop.org/journals/0004-637X/973/1/30/revision2/apjad630et1 mrt.txt Yukei S. Murakami et al arXiv:2503.09702 (Dust): https://github.com/SterlingYM/sphot Daniel Scolnic et al 2025 Ap/L 979 L9 (Coma): https://github.com/dscolnic/Coma; Zenodo DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14213131 Adam G. Riess et al 2024 ApJ 977 120 (JWST Validates): https://content.cld.iop.org/journals/0004-<u>637X/977/1/120/revision3/apjad8c21t5</u> mrt.txt (compiled from other papers) Adam G. Riess et al 2024 ApJL 962 L17 (JWST Crowding): https://content.cld.iop.org/journals/2041-8205/962/1/L17/revision3/apjlad1dddt2 mrt.txt Caroline D. Huang et al 2024 ApJ 963 83 (M101): https://content.cld.iop.org/journals/0004-637X/963/2/83/revision1/apjad1ff8t4 mrt.txt Adam G. Riess et al 2023 ApJL 956 L18 (Crowded no more): https://iopscience.iop.org/2041-8205/956/1/L18/suppdata/apjlacf769t2 ascii.txt?doi=10.3847/2041-8213/acf769 Yukei S. Murakami et al JCAP11(2023)046 (twins SN): Data drawn from other studies, listed in Table 1 D. Scolnic et al 2023 ApJL 954 L31 (CATs H0): https://github.com/JiaxiWu1018/CATS-H0 Louise Breuval et al 2023 ApJ 951 118 (M33): https://content.cld.iop.org/journals/0004-637X/951/2/118/revision1/apjacd3f4t9 mrt.txt J. Wu et al 2023 ApJ 954 87 (CATs): https://github.com/JiaxiWu1018/CATS-H0 Wenlong Yuan et al 2022 ApJL 940 L17 (First look JWST): https://iopscience.iop.org/2041-8205/940/1/L17/suppdata/apjlac9b27t1 ascii.txt?doi=10.3847/2041-8213/ac9b27 Adam G. Riess et al 2022 ApJ 938 36 (Cluster Cepheids): https://iopscience.iop.org/0004-<u>637X/938/1/36/suppdata/apjac8f24t2_ascii.txt?doi=10.3847/1538-4357/ac8f24</u> Louise Breuval et al 2022 ApJ 939 89 (Cepheid metallicity): Data drawn from other studies, listed in Table 2 Adam G. Riess et al 2022 ApJ 934 7 (Big SH0ES): https://pantheonplussh0es.github.io

Does SH0ES H₀ Vary So Little, 74.2 to 73.0 in ~15 years?

Answer: Our measurements are **cumulative**, beating down errors in 10 categories. Simulate accumulation w/ random errs



External Testing

MNRAS 000, 1-17 (2025) Preprint 19 March 2025 Compiled using MNRAS LATEX style file v3.0 Consistencies and inconsistencies in redshift-independent distances José Antonio Nájera⁹¹* and Harry Desmond⁹¹† ¹Institute of Cosmology & Gravitation, University of Portsmouth, Dennis Sciama Building, Portsmouth, PO1 3FX, UK 2025 19 March 2025 Mar ABSTRACT Redshift-independent distances underpin much of astrophysics, and there exists a plethora of methods to estimate them. However, the extent to which the distances they imply are consistent, while crucial for the integrity of the distance ladder, has been little explored. We construct a statistical framework to assess both internal (between measurements with the same method) and external (between-method) consistency by comparing differences between distances to their quoted statistical uncertainties in the NASA /IPAC Extragalactic Database of Distances (NED-D)

Abstract: We also investigate consistency of Cepheid distances in the SH0ES 2022 catalogue, finding no evidence for unaccounted-for systematics.

Test: Fig. 5 and the top row of Table 3 indicate that the SH0ES 2022 catalogue agrees well with the null hypothesis of statistical consistency. The two galaxies used for the first rung that calibrates the PL relation are also consistent with the null hypothesis. Indeed, we find the Cepheids in the SH0ES 2022 catalogue not to exhibit significant problems. This supports the findings of Riess et al. (2022) that the dispersion in the Cepheid measurements agrees with the fiducial uncertainties without any unexplained variance.



Figure 5. Top: Normalized probability distribution function (pdf) of the difference in units of Δ_{ij} for the SH0ES 2022 catalogue. We show the theoretical pdf of the standard half-normal for comparison. Bottom: Histogram for the mock KLD values generated under the null hypothesis of consistency compared to the KLD value of the real data.

Do nearer or lower-error-hosts have brighter SN magnitudes?



The empirical differences are $\sim 1 \sigma$ so not significant

SH0ES 2016 to 2022 differences



Distance: up 0.038+/-0.022 mag (Gaia EDR3 rel. HST FGS) SN m_B: up 0.031 +/- 0.036 mag (P+, more LCs)

SN M_B: down 0.008+/-0.043 mag Pantheon+ HF up 0.007 mag

Net down 0.002 mag for H0 Changes well understood and Explained in 2022



Figure 24. Comprehensive error budgets for six iterations of the SH0ES measurement of H_0 including this one (2022) and the Key Project from 2001 (Freedman et al. 2001). The greatest improvement here is realized by the increase in the number of SN calibrators, to decrease all terms to <1%. The combined error is indicated by horizontal dashed lines.

No evidence of past scale difference-SH0ES Cepheids vs CCHP TRGB

CCHP Claim: $< \Delta \mu > =$ 0.06 mag [2.8%] (Change in distance moduli between 2016 and 2022)

F19 comparison, only 5 of 28 a direct comparison (w/ SH0ES circa 2016), Δ =-0.01 +/- 0.03 mag



• Glad distances agree but we were never far apart

Updates between R16 (DR4) and R22 (DR5)

Each iteration improves on last, with better statistics lower threshold for systematics **2016:** H_0 error 0.052 mag, 3σ tension, **2022** : H_0 error 0.030 mag, 5σ tension

Changes: Bolded are externally imposed

- Pixel-based CTE, new flat fields, time-dependent sensitivity (STScI)
- 2021 STScI pipeline geometric distortion
- More iterations (CPU time) for host background
- Use of Covariance (Cepheid metallicity, background)
- New optical pipeline (Hoffmann \rightarrow Yuan)
- Gaia EDR3 replace FGS parallax, HST MW phot (-0.08 mag) (1 anchor of 3)
- LMC DEBs (+0.02), HST LMC photometry (+0.03)
- Revised NGC 4258 distance (Reid+2019), 3x Cephs (-0.02)
- SN Supercal \rightarrow Pantheon+, multiple LCs per cal. (+0.025)
- <u>All discussed in Appendix B of 2022 paper</u>
- Mean differences between DRs have been $\leq 1 \sigma$

Progress thrives on iteration, open data, and refining methods—not on over attachment to first/past results. Confidence builds from following iterative process. Updates good!

Welcome to scrutinize and nitpick but for progress most attention to latest, greatest DR.

with Pantheon+ SN Ia, NGC 4258 as sole anchor...



HST Expect H0~71 (TRGB/Cepheids), 70* (JAGB) (~72 w/ NIR) Freedman et al 25 (JWST TRGB): ~70

HST Expect H0~74 JWST (R24, 3 methods): 74.5 HST Expect (Cycle 1 sample) 72.8, JWST all methods (Cycle 1): 72.6 (at D<25 Mpc, D's from teams, R24)

Distance methods converged, H_0 (?) because CCHP only uses their SN selections and do not use other SN samples

* CCHP use of CSP SN (not larger Pantheon+) lowers by ~0.6, mode lowers by 1.2, expect $H_0 \sim 68$ (JAGB)

From: George Efstathiou <ge12@cam.ac.uk> Subject: astrophysicist Date: August 1, 2023 at 8:55:47 AM EDT To: Adam Riess <u>ariess@stsci.edu</u> Hi Adam

This is really convincing!

Thanks for showing me these results in Munich. They have changed my perspective on the Hubble tension, though I am no closer to finding a plausible theoretical explanation.

> Regards George

George Efstathiou FRS

The H₀ Distance Ladder Network: a de-correlated, consensus framework

 ISSI Workshop 03/2025: 36 Experts from all data areas participation widely invited Casertano, Anand, Anderson, Beaton, Bhardwaj, Blakeslee, Boubel, Breuval, Brout, Cantiello, Csörnyei, De Jaeger, Dhawan, Di Valentino, Emre, Galbany, Gil-Marin, Graczyk, Huang, Jensen, Kervella, Khaled, Leibundgut, Lengen, Li, Nota, Ozulker, Pesce, Cruz, Reyes, Riess, Romaniello, Schöneberg, Scolnic, Sicignano, Skowron, Uddin, Verde



Data releases, iterations, progress (or Are we doomed to hold to the the past?)

Table 1. Parameters of the base ACDM cosmology (as defined in PCP13) determined from the publicly released nominal-mission Planck 2018 CamSpec DetSet likelihood [2013N(DS)] and the 2013 full-mission CamSpec DetSet and cross-yearly $(Y1 \times Y2)$ likelihoods with the extended sky coverage [2013F(DS) and 2013F(CY)]. These three likelihoods are combined with the WMAP polarization likelihood TT,TE,EE+lowE+lensing+BAO to constrain τ . The column labelled 2015F(CHM) lists parameters for a CamSpec cross-half-mission likelihood constructed from 68% limits the 2015 maps using similar sky coverage to the 2013F(CY) likelihood (but greater sky coverage at 217 GHz and different point 0.02242 ± 0.00014 0.11933 ± 0.00091 source masks, as discussed in the text). The column labelled 2015F(CHM) (Plik) lists parameters for the Plik cross-half-mission 1.04101 ± 0.00029 likelihood that uses identical sky coverage to the CamSpec likelihood. The 2015 temperature likelihoods are combined with the 0.0561 ± 0.0071 *Planck* low Plikelihood to constrain τ . The last two columns list the deviations of the Plik parameters from those of the nominal- 3.047 ± 0.014 mission and the CamSpec 2015(CHM) likelihoods. To help refer to specific columns, we have numbered the first six explicitly. The 0.9665 ± 0.0038 high- ℓ likelihoods used here include only TT spectra. H_0 is given in the usual units of km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹. 67.66 ± 0.42

[1] Parameter	[2] 2013N(DS)	[3] 2013F(DS)	[4] 2013F(CY)	[5] 2015F(CHM)	[6] 2015F(CHM) (Plik)	$([2]-[6])/\sigma_{[6]}$	$([5] - [6]) / \sigma_{[5]}$
100 <i>θ</i> _{MC}	1.04131 ± 0.00063	1.04126 ± 0.00047	1.04121 ± 0.00048	1.04094 ± 0.00048	1.04086 ± 0.00048	0.71	0.17
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.02205 ± 0.00028	0.02234 ± 0.00023	0.02230 ± 0.00023	0.02225 ± 0.00023	0.02222 ± 0.00023	-0.61	0.13
$\Omega_c h^2$	0.1199 ± 0.0027	0.1189 ± 0.0022	0.1188 ± 0.0022	0.1194 ± 0.0022	0.1199 ± 0.0022	0.00	-0.23
H_0	67.3 ± 1.2	67.8 ± 1.0	67.8 ± 1.0	67.48 ± 0.98	67.26 ± 0.98	0.03	0.22
<i>n</i> _s	0.9603 ± 0.0073	0.9665 ± 0.0062	0.9655 ± 0.0062	0.9682 ± 0.0062	0.9652 ± 0.0062	-0.67	0.48
$\Omega_{\rm m}$	0.315 ± 0.017	0.308 ± 0.013	0.308 ± 0.013	0.313 ± 0.013	0.316 ± 0.014	-0.06	-0.23
σ_8	0.829 ± 0.012	0.831 ± 0.011	0.828 ± 0.012	0.829 ± 0.015	0.830 ± 0.015	-0.08	-0.07
T	0.089 ± 0.013	0.096 ± 0.013	0.094 ± 0.013	0.079 ± 0.019	0.078 ± 0.019	0.85	0.05
$10^9 A_8 e^{-2\tau} \ldots$	1.836 ± 0.013	1.833 ± 0.011	1.831 ± 0.011	1.875 ± 0.014	1.881 ± 0.014	-3.46	-0.42

Planck 2013-2018 -4.5*σ*

 0.6889 ± 0.0056 0.3111 ± 0.0056 0.14240 ± 0.00087 0.09635 ± 0.00030 0.8102 ± 0.0060 0.825 ± 0.011 0.6051 ± 0.0058 7.82 ± 0.71 2.105 ± 0.030 1.881 ± 0.010

From Freedman CCHP Talk last month

Comparison of TRGB Distances: CCHP TRGB (HST+JWST) vs SH0ES Cepheids (2024)



TRGB distances (JWST+HST): WLF et al. (2019), (2024)

Cepheid distances (HST+JWST): Riess et al. (2022), (2024)

Agreement at 0.02 mag level or 1% in distance

Can Pantheon + Reduce H0 and DESI Tension?



Let's say P+ point is too bright/close—so we move it 0.02 mag to match Union. SH0ES H0 goes down from $73 \rightarrow 72.2$. But Early Universe H0 also goes to 65.91. We do not gain! $w_0 w_a CDM$

DESI+CMB+Pantheon+	0.3114 ± 0.0057	67.51 ± 0.59
DESI+CMB+Union3	0.3275 ± 0.0086	65.91 ± 0.84
DESI+CMB+DESY5	0.3191 ± 0.0056	66.74 ± 0.56

What do many recent measurements of H₀ show?

What you take from these depends on how/why they were compiled.

Reviews of H_0 show ~15-20 Local measures, good consistency! CMB papers highlight consistency of CMB, excludes most local measures, hides local consensus





Steer (2024, unpublished) does not separate early/late, higher "Cepheid" values are consistent with Hubble tension, not high relative to other local

Good agreement between different measures of TRGB and TRGB vs Cepheids

TRGB vs TRGBTRGB vs Cepheids



Comparing SN on <u>different rungs</u> cannot test a sample difference, because they align *by construction*, we make them match to measure H_0



A *sub-sample difference* is between sub and full sample on <u>same rung</u>, measured same way see red



HST SN Ia Calibrators: Sub-sample Differences

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 934:L7 (52pp), 2022 July 20



Figure 25. Histogram of the 42 SN Ia absolute magnitudes of SNe Ia calibrated from Cepheids in 37 hosts. The 9 SNe Ia in 7 hosts for which a TRGB distance is available from both EDD and CCHP are shown in green (calibrated here with Cepheids), and the 33 SNe Ia in 30 hosts without a TRGB measure from both in blue (calibrated here with Cepheids). The difference in their means of 0.08 ± 0.05 mag is consistent with the shot noise of the SN samples as discussed in Section 7.2, and combined with other differences between the TRGB calibrator set (lines 6–8) produce a net difference in H_0 of 1 km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ (0.03 ± 0.05 mag) as shown in Table 8, which is less than 1 σ from the shot noise of the two samples.