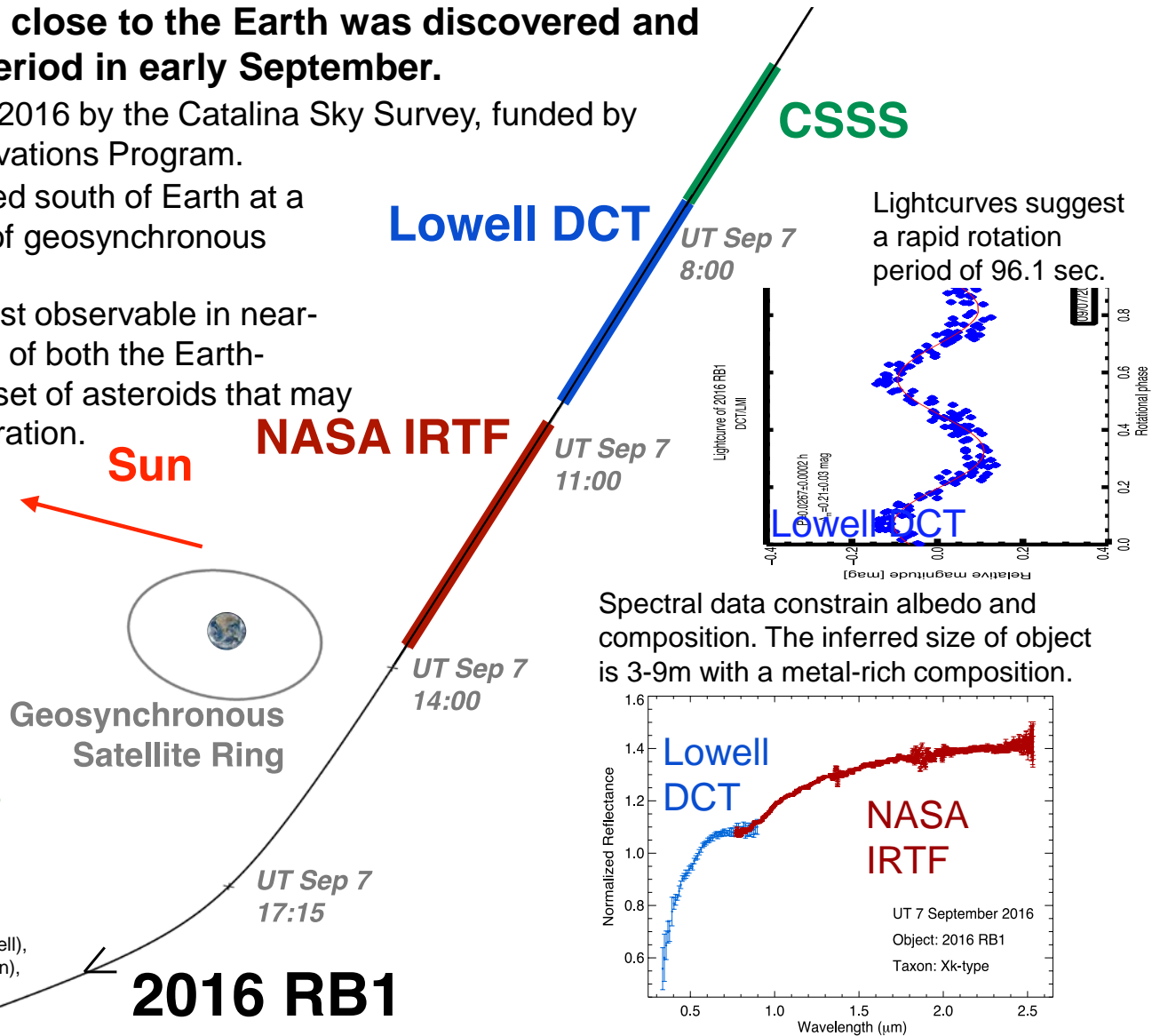


Multi-facility study of asteroid 2016 RB₁ during its near-Earth encounter

A asteroid passing extremely close to the Earth was discovered and observed within very short period in early September.

- 2016RB1 was discovered 5 Sept 2016 by the Catalina Sky Survey, funded by NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations Program.
- Two days later, the asteroid passed south of Earth at a distance comparable to the orbit of geosynchronous satellites.
- This asteroid is among the smallest observable in near-Earth space and is representative of both the Earth-impacting population and the subset of asteroids that may be accessible to spacecraft exploration.
- As it passed close to the Earth, "Target-of-opportunity" observations were conducted from:

- Lowell Observatory's Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT) – AZ
- NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) – HI
- Center for Solar System Studies (CSSS) - CA



Observations & analysis: N. Moskovitz (Lowell), B. Burt (Lowell), T. Burt (Lowell), A. Thirouin (Lowell), D. Polishook (Weizmann), B. Warner (CSSS), V. Reddy (LPL)

2016 RB₁