Searching

In this chapter...

Collections and Metadata

Searching in MAST is performed in the context of a collection. Categorically, the options are:

- **MAST Observations** – The *observations* from all MAST hosted missions. These include HST, JWST, TESS, GALEX, Kepler, and many others; see MAST Data Collection Overview for a complete list of missions.
- **Hubble Source Catalog** – A collection of tens of thousands of visit-based source lists in the Hubble Legacy Archive (HLA) combined into a single master catalog.
- **MAST Catalogs** – MAST-hosted collections of source lists, such as the GAIA catalog.
- **Virtual Observatory** – A worldwide collection of repositories providing astronomical images, catalogs and spectra.
- **Special Collections** – Mission-specific or custom collections.

Depending upon the collection, there may be additional options for searching. This chapter describes in detail the means to search the various collections.