Driving a car to the nearest star at 70 mph would take over 356 billion years.

Over at the Department of Energy’s SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in California researchers have constructed an SUV sized digital camera. This camera is being built for the future Vera C. Rubin Observatory. What is unique about this device is that it has taken the largest photo on record, coming in at 3,200 megapixels. The resulting photo is so massive that to fully view one photo it would require 378 4K TV’s, with the resolution being such that one could view a golfball from 15 miles away. The camera, called the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) Camera, was first tested on a piece of broccoli, which given its very textured surface allowed the camera to show off its capabilities. This camera will go on to earn its name, as it was not just built to view plants here on Earth. Once it is in operation fully, the camera will conduct a 10 year observation of the night sky, taking a panorama of the night sky every few days. This process will acquire detailed imagery of nearly 20 billion galaxies. The hope with this observation is to see how galaxies have evolved over time to observe theories on dark matter and dark energy.

Advanced theories aside, hopefully for the common person we can observe some truly breathtaking photos in the future.


Keep up with the Dome: planetarium.truman.edu @TrumanDome