

Course: *Galaxies and Extragalactic Astronomy*

Topic: *The Milky Way and the Local Group*

Konstantinos Kovlakas^{1,2}
(ICE Postdoctoral Fellow)

¹ Institute of Space Studies of Catalunya (IEEC)

² Institute of Space Sciences (ICE/CSIC)

Postgraduate program in *High Energy Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology*

Facultat de Ciències, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

February–March 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS |

5 The Milky Way	3
5.1 Introduction	4
5.1.1 View from Earth	5
5.1.2 History	6
5.1.3 A multi-wavelength view	9
5.2 The components of Milky Way	10
5.2.1 The structure of Milky Way	11
5.2.2 Global parameters	12
5.2.3 The stellar disk	13
5.2.4 The solar neighborhood	21
5.2.5 The bulge	22
5.2.6 The galactic center and Sgr A*	23
5.2.7 The Galactic halo	24
5.2.8 Tidal streams	25
5.3 Models and current developments	26
5.3.1 Milky Way models	27
5.3.2 Star-formation and metallicity history	29
5.3.3 A complicated picture...	31
5.3.4 GAIA observations	32

TABLE OF CONTENTS II

6 The Local Group	37
6.1 Introduction	38
6.1.1 Composition	39
6.1.2 3D view	39
6.2 M31: The Andromeda galaxy	42
6.3 M33: The Triangulum galaxy	44
6.4 The Galaxy's satellites: Milky Way subgroup	46
6.5 The Magellanic Clouds	48
6.6 What we learn studying the local group	51
6.6.1 So close no matter how far...	52
6.6.2 Star-formation histories	53
6.6.3 Cosmology and galaxy evolution studies	55

The Milky Way

The Milky Way

Introduction

THE MILKY WAY

VIEW FROM EARTH



Credit: U.S. Forest Service Coconino National Forest

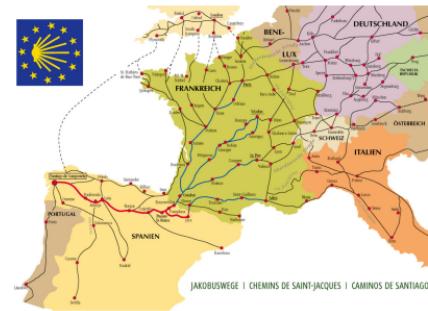
THE MILKY WAY

HISTORY: WHAT IS THE MW?

- ▶ The ‘Galaxy’ (not ‘the galaxy’) ≡ the Milky Way galaxy ≡ ΓΑΛΑΞΙΑΣ ≡ axis of milk
- ▶ Ancient greek philosophers describedcharted the Milky Way.
- ▶ **St. James Path:** guiding the pilgrims in the path of *Saint Jacques de Compostelle* ≡ Santiago de Compostella (legend of Sanctus Iacobus and Campus Stellæ)
- ▶ Galileo Galilei (17th century): the Milky Way is a cluster of many stars!
- ▶ W. Herschel (18th century): proper motions, star counts etc. Stellar distance and kinematic studies are on!



“Jupiter bringing the Hercules child to the sleeping Juno”
(Ca. 1700). **Artist:** Jan Claudius de Cock.



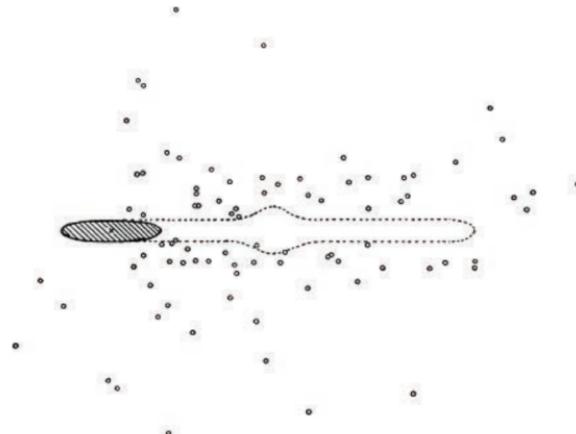
Credit: Manfred Zentgraf

THE MILKY WAY

HISTORY: LET'S DO SCIENCE!

Early 20th century:

- ▶ Jacobus Cornelius Kapteyn: observational campaigns – the Milky Way is a flattened ellipsoid
- ▶ Robert J. Trumpler: study of open clusters, extinction, and globular clusters.
- ▶ Harlow Shapley: distribution of globular clusters and Galactic center at 20 kpc.
- ▶ R. J. Trumpler revised the distance: 8 kpc (1936).
- ▶ ... there are other galaxies (Hubble, 1924)!

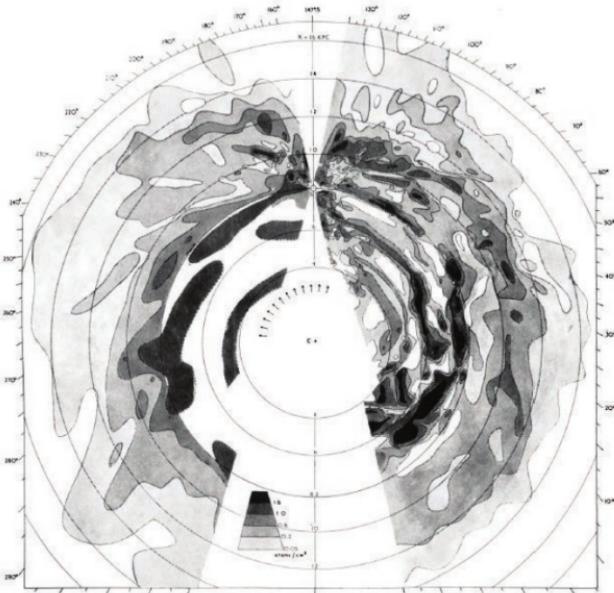


Credit: Trumpler et al. 1941 (PASP, 52, 155–165)

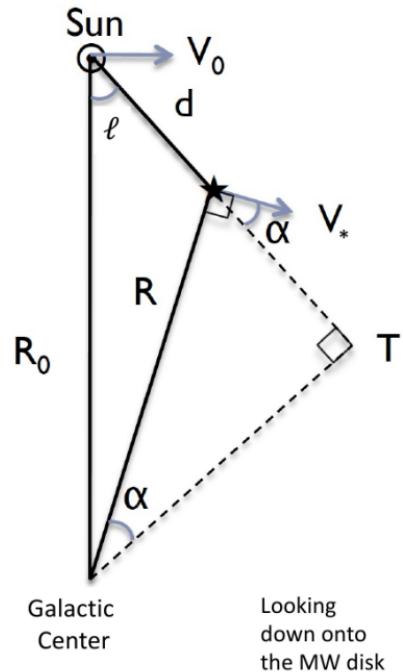
THE MILKY WAY

HISTORY: ROTATION, AND MAP OF THE MILKY WAY

- ▶ J. C. Kapteyn: two stellar streams of opposing directions
- ▶ Jan Oort (1927): differential rotation, Oort constants
- ▶ 21-cm line (50s): mapping the HI in the Milky Way!



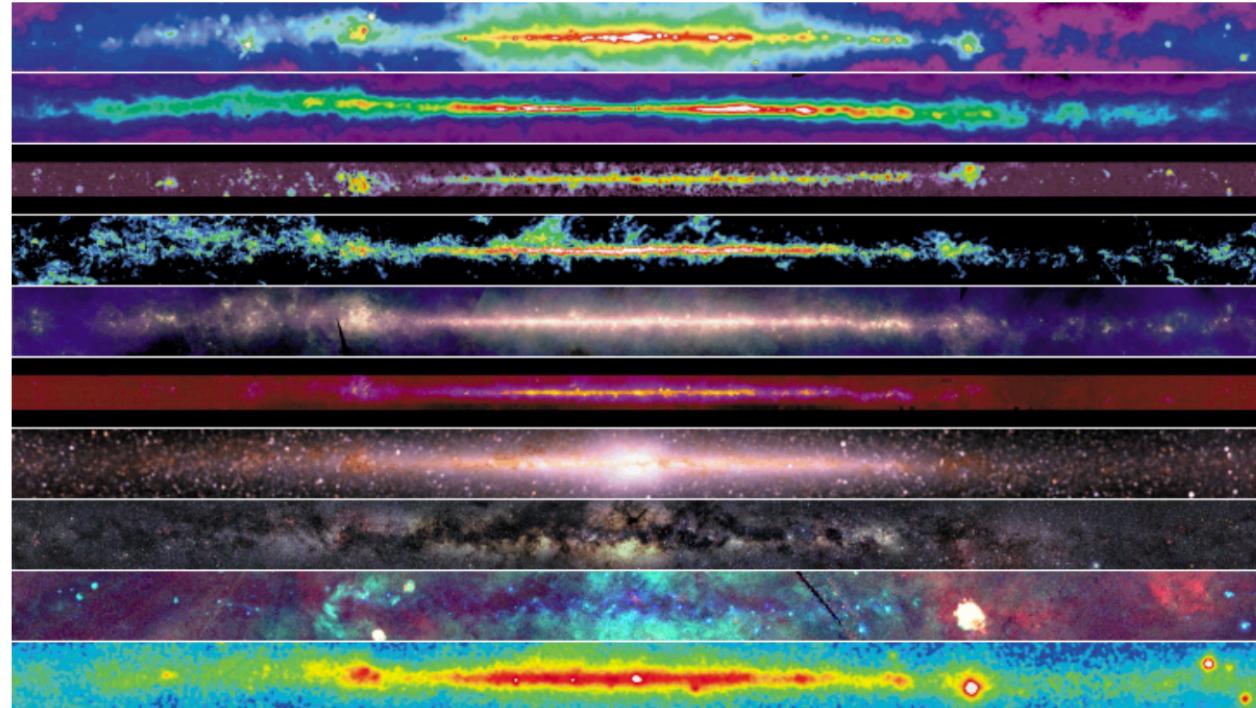
Credit: Oort et al. 1958



Credit: C. Mihos

THE MILKY WAY

A MULTI-WAVELENGTH VIEW



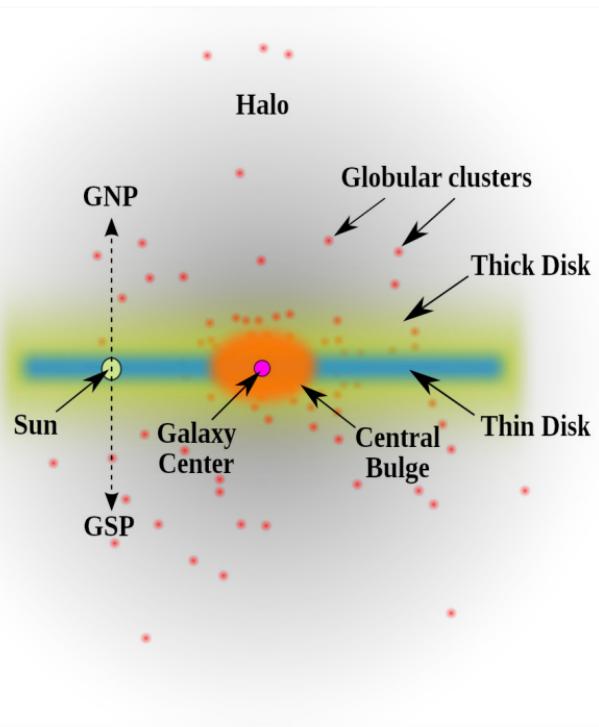
Credit: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. (i) 408 MHz: e^{-1} synchrotron (B -field); (ii) 21 cm emission: HI; (iii) 2.5 GHz: ionized ISM; (iv) 115 GHz: molecules; (v) FIR: dust; (vi) MIR: PAHs; (vii) NIR: stars; (viii) Optical; (ix) X-ray: hot ISM, XRBs; (x) γ -ray: cosmic rays

The Milky Way

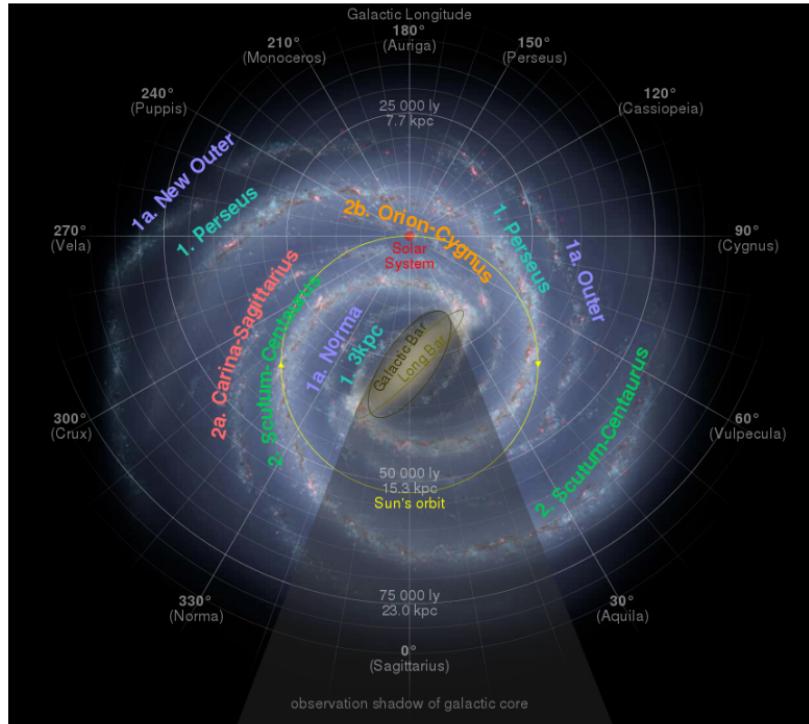
The components of Milky Way

THE MILKY WAY

THE STRUCTURE OF MILKY WAY AND GALACTIC COORDINATES



Credit: R. J. Hall



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/ESO/R. Hurt

THE MILKY WAY

GLOBAL AND COMPONENT PARAMETERS

Mass breakdown

$$\begin{aligned}M &\sim 10^{12} M_{\odot} \\M_{\text{DM}} &\sim 9 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot} \\M_{\star} &\sim 10^{11} M_{\odot} \\M_{\text{gas}} &\sim 10^{10} M_{\odot} \\M_{\text{dust}} &\sim 10^8 M_{\odot} \\M_{\text{SMBH}} &\sim 4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}\end{aligned}$$

Other characteristics

- ▶ SBbc galaxy:
barred, grand-design spiral galaxy
- ▶ Luminosity:
 $L_{\text{MW}} \sim (1-5) \times 10^{10} L_{\odot}$
- ▶ Metallicity:
 $\log \frac{Z_{\text{MW}}}{Z_{\odot}} \sim -0.25$

Component	Approximate mass	Comments
Bulge	$M_{\text{bulge}} = 2.0 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$	$r \sim 2.5 \text{ kpc}$
Disk (thin disk)	$M_{\text{disk}} = 8 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ ~90% of M_{disk}	thin and thick disks $h \sim 350 \text{ pc}$, $\lambda \sim 3 \text{ kpc}$
(thick disk)	~10% of M_{disk}	$h \sim 1.4 \text{ kpc}$, $\lambda \sim 4.8 \text{ kpc}$

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: SUN'S ROTATION

- ▶ Assumption of Keplerian disk - what is the speed at a given radius?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: SUN'S ROTATION

- ▶ Assumption of Keplerian disk - what is the speed at a given radius?

$$u^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$

- ▶ What is M referring to?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: SUN'S ROTATION

- ▶ Assumption of Keplerian disk - what is the speed at a given radius?

$$u^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$

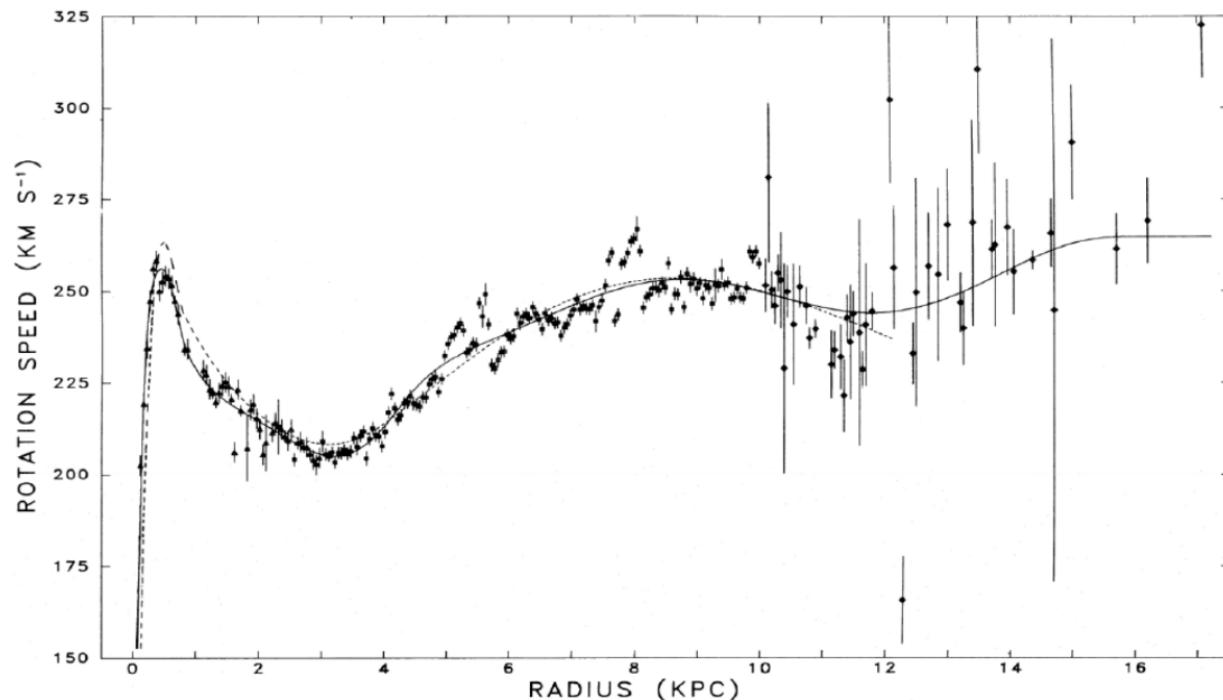
- ▶ What is M referring to?

$$u(r)^2 = \frac{GM(< r)}{r}$$

- ▶ Calculate M if $u_{\odot} = 230 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and $r_{\odot} = 8.2 \text{ kpc}$.

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: ROTATION CURVE (OLD)



Credit: Clemens et al. 1985

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: MASS/DENSITY PROFILE FROM ROTATION

- Keplerian assumption:

$$u(r)^2 = \frac{GM(< r)}{r}$$

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: MASS/DENSITY PROFILE FROM ROTATION

- ▶ Keplerian assumption:

$$u(r)^2 = \frac{GM(< r)}{r}$$

- ▶ What is the mass profile if $u(r)$ is constant?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: MASS/DENSITY PROFILE FROM ROTATION

- ▶ Keplerian assumption:

$$u(r)^2 = \frac{GM(< r)}{r}$$

- ▶ What is the mass profile if $u(r)$ is constant?
- ▶ What is the density profile under the same assumptions?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

- ▶ What should be the velocity curve then?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

- ▶ What should be the velocity curve then?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge of mass M_{bulge} ?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

- ▶ What should be the velocity curve then?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge of mass M_{bulge} ?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge following the Plummer model?

$$\rho(r) = \frac{3M_0}{4\pi a^3} \left(1 + \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)^{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

- ▶ What should be the velocity curve then?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge of mass M_{bulge} ?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge following the Plummer model?

$$\rho(r) = \frac{3M_0}{4\pi a^3} \left(1 + \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)^{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

- ▶ What if we add a supermassive black hole?

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: REALISTIC PROFILE

- ▶ The density decreases far from disk plane and center. E.g.:

$$\rho(r, z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{r}{h_r} - \frac{|z|}{h_z}\right)$$

- ▶ What should be the velocity curve then?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge of mass M_{bulge} ?
- ▶ What if we add a bulge following the Plummer model?

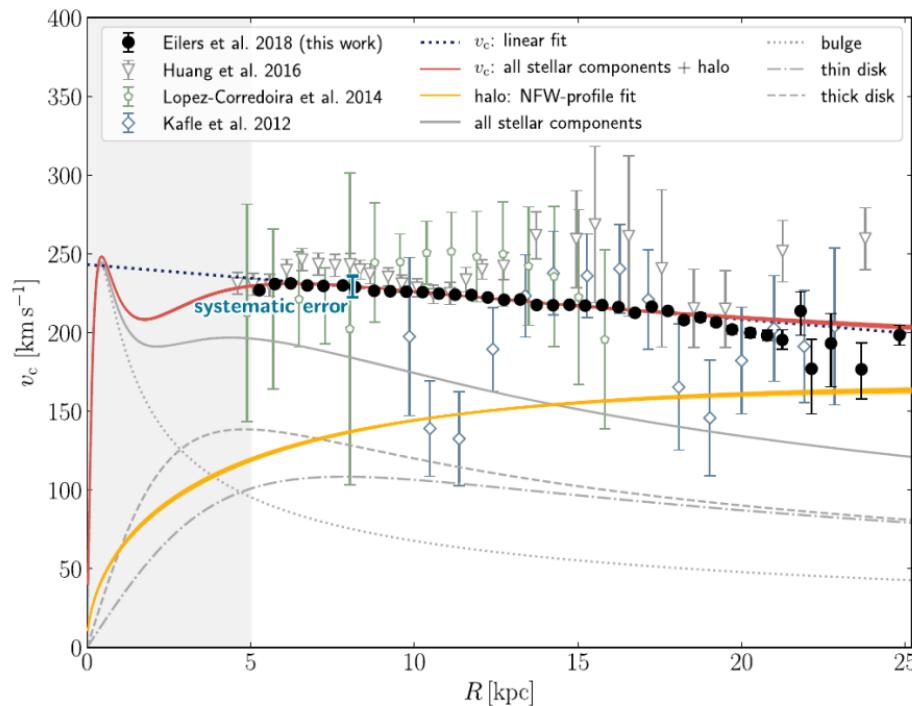
$$\rho(r) = \frac{3M_0}{4\pi a^3} \left(1 + \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)^{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

- ▶ What if we add a supermassive black hole?
- ▶ Adding Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) profile:

$$\rho(r) = \frac{r_0}{\frac{r}{R} \left(1 + \frac{r}{R}\right)^2}$$

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: ROTATION CURVE (NEW)

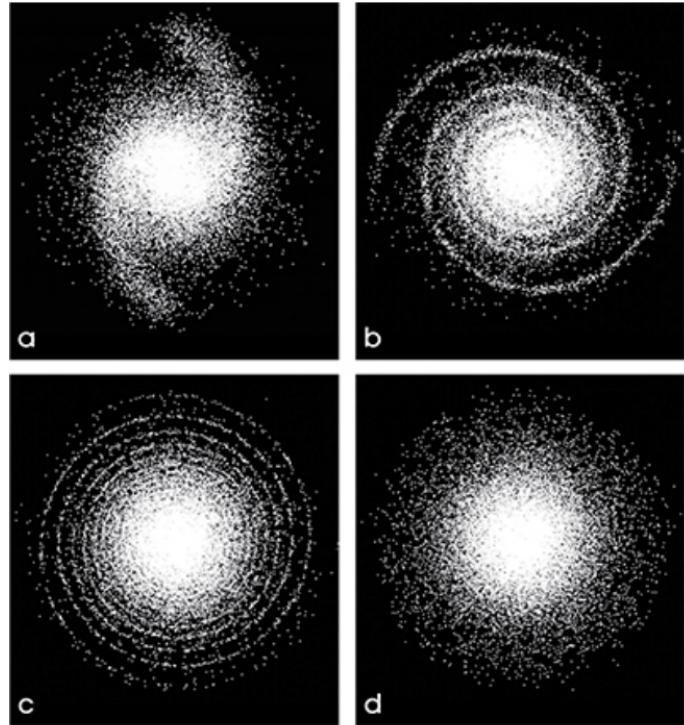


Credit: Eilers et al. 2018

THE MILKY WAY

SPIRAL STRUCTURE: THE WINDING PROBLEM

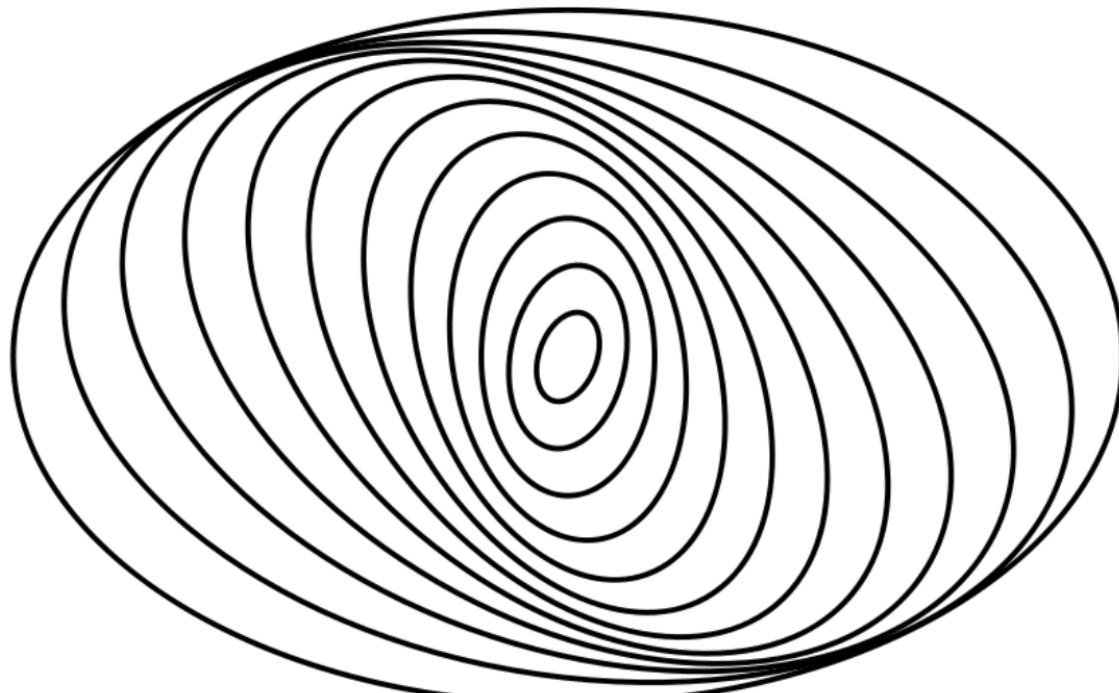
- ▶ Age of Universe: 13.8 Gyr
- ▶ Age of most galaxies: $\sim 10 - 12$ Gyr
- ▶ Sun's revolution: ~ 230 Myr
- ▶ Ten of revolutions of the Milky Way
- ▶ 70% of big galaxies are spirals
- ▶ ...something is not right!



Credit: Jake Hebert

THE MILKY WAY

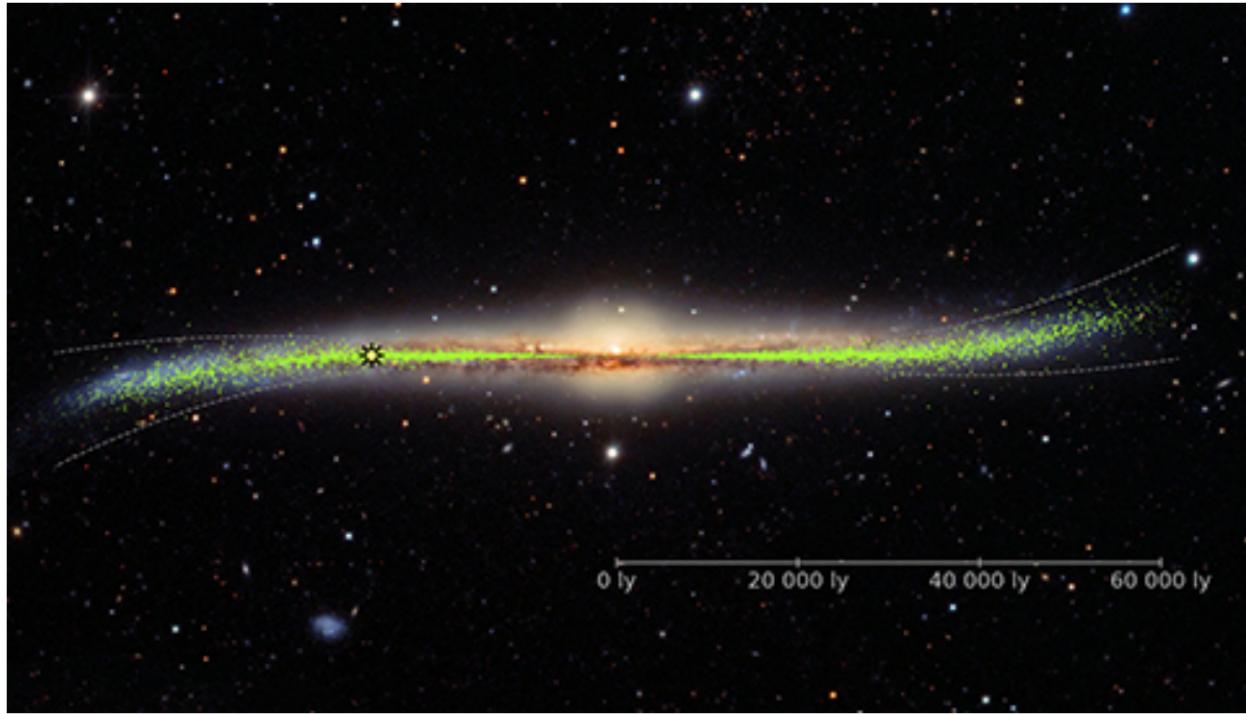
SPIRAL STRUCTURE: DENSITY WAVE THEORY



Credit: Wikipedia. **Density wave theory** (Lin & Shu), also explaining star-formation distribution.

THE MILKY WAY

THE STELLAR DISK: THE WARP

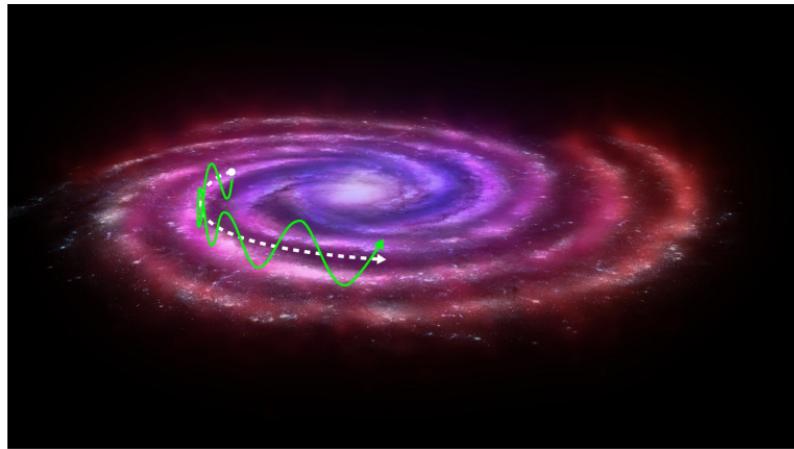


Credit: J. Skowron / OGLE / Astronomical Observatory, University of Warsaw

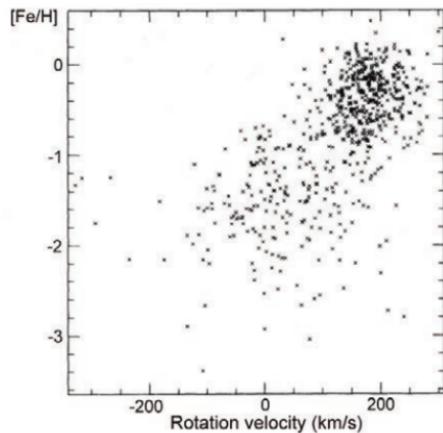
THE MILKY WAY

THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD

- ▶ Stars and gas follow the disk structure **on average**.
- ▶ All stars have their own orbits – some are retrograde! **Local Standard of Rest (LSR)**
- ▶ $\rho_0 \sim 0.08 M_{\odot} pc^{-3}$ from stars, gas, white dwarfs, etc.
- ▶ $\sigma \sim 5 - 20 km s^{-1}$ depending on stellar spectral type
- ▶ Scale height of $\sim 80 pc$ for young stars, and $\sim 300 pc$ for old stars.



Credit: C. Carreau (ESA)

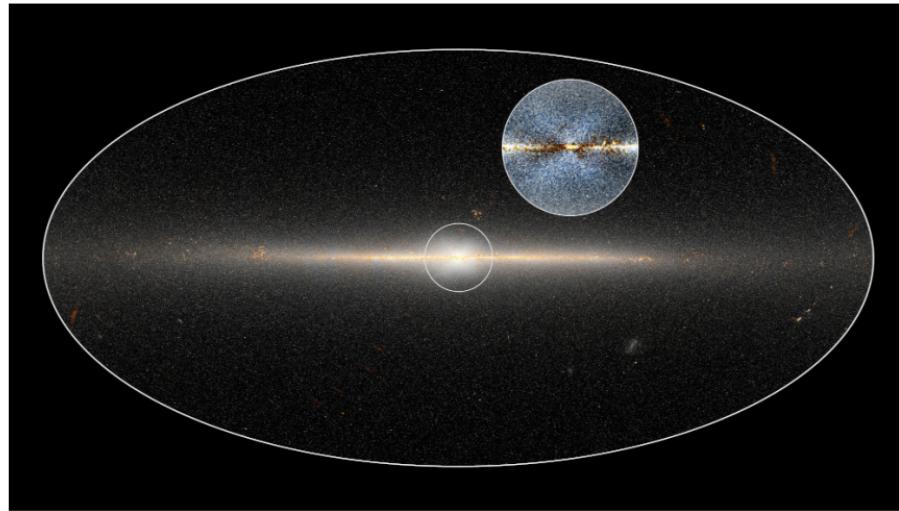


Credit: Nissen et al. 1991

THE MILKY WAY

THE BULGE

- ▶ Typically we consider galactic bulges as flattened ellipsoids.
- ▶ Some galaxies have ‘boxy’ bulges.
- ▶ Infrared observations (e.g., Ness et al. 2016) show an X-shaped Galactic bulge.
- ▶ Dense region of stars (mostly old), gas and dust. Formed by early mergers?

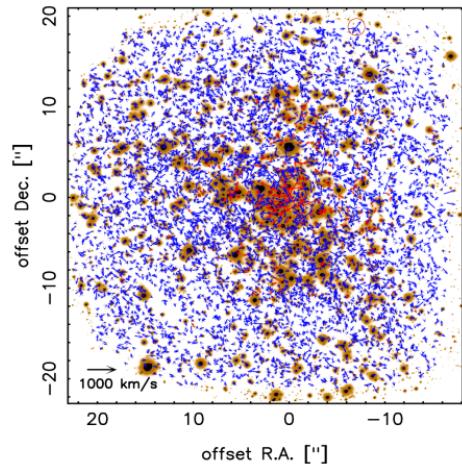


Credit: NASA/JPL, Caltech

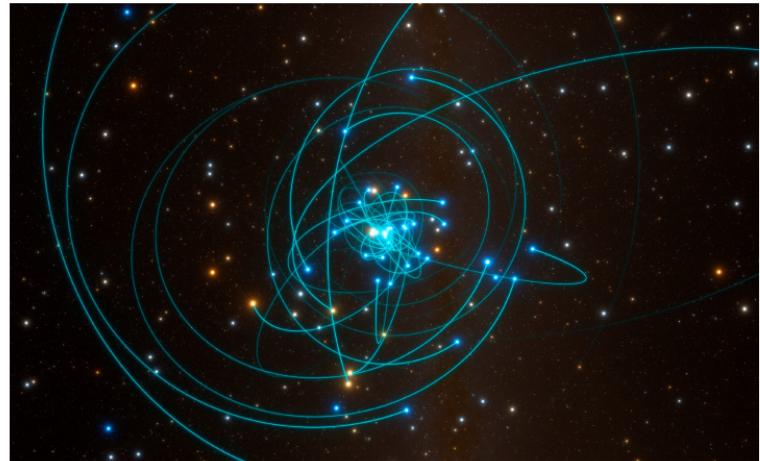
THE MILKY WAY

THE GALACTIC CENTER AND SGR A*

- ▶ At the direction of Sagittarius, inside the bulge the barycenter of the Milky Way.
- ▶ Dense region of old stars (but also some new).
- ▶ Contains the supermassive black hole **Sgr A***, with a *Nuclear Stellar Cluster* around it ($r \lesssim 10\text{ pc}$)



Credit: Schödel et al. 2009

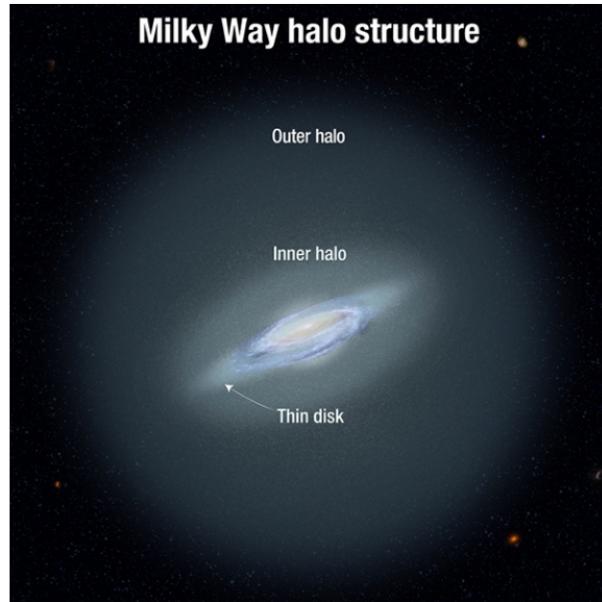


Credit: ESO / L. Calçada

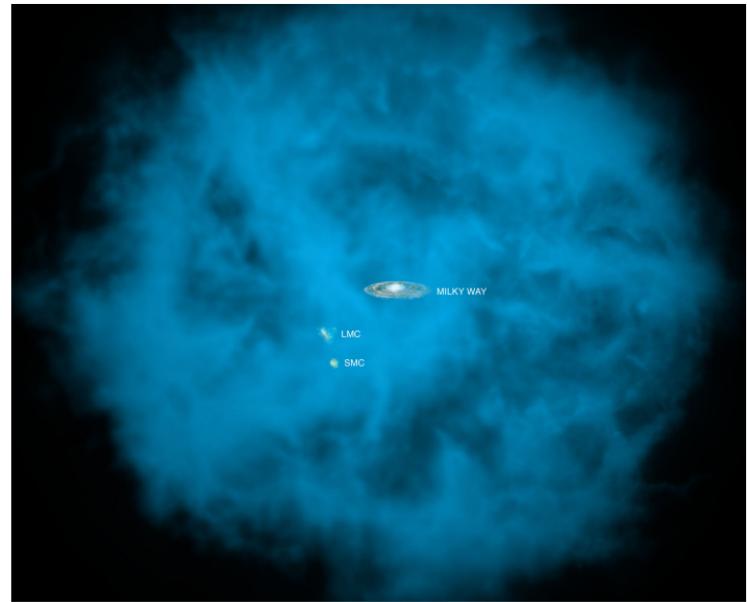
THE MILKY WAY

THE GALACTIC HALO

- ▶ Diffuse, extended region ($R \sim 200\text{kpc}$) of the MW, containing mostly **dark matter** (as in dark matter haloes)
- ▶ More than 150 **globular clusters** (GC; $10^3 - 10^6 M_{\odot}$) and a population of old **halo field stars**
- ▶ X-ray emitting **hot gas** ($T \gg 10^6 \text{ K}$) and **tidal streams** from disruptions of satellite galaxies and GCs



Credit: NASA, ESA, and A. Feild



Credit: NASA/CXC. A. Gupta et al. 2012

THE MILKY WAY

TIDAL STREAMS



Credit: James Josephides and Southern Stellar Stream Spectroscopic Survey

The Milky Way

Models and current developments

THE MILKY WAY

MILKY WAY MODELS

Ingredients:

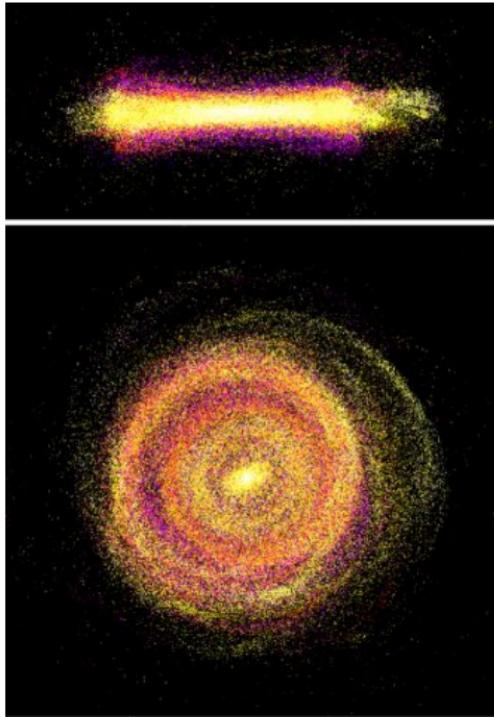
- ▶ Mass models: for the different components
- ▶ Star counts models: luminosity functions of different components
- ▶ Kinematic models: velocity distribution at each location

Formation models:

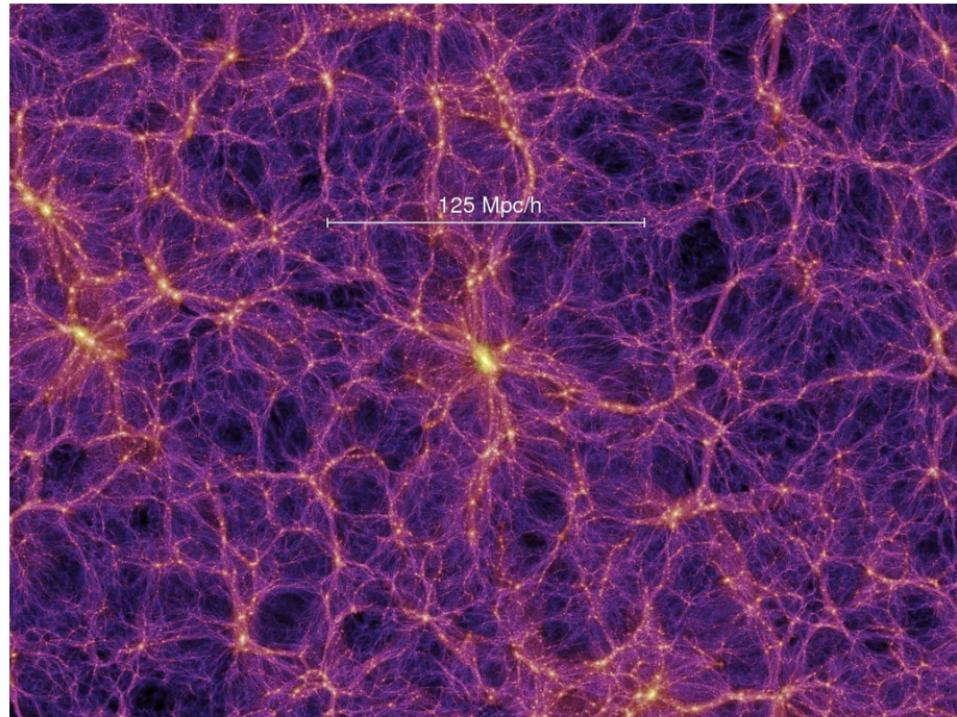
- ▶ Eggen et al. 1962: free-falling metal-free spherical cloud → disk-shaped, eccentric GCs
- ▶ Searle et al. 1977: merging of independently-evolved fragments: complex metallicity distribution
- ▶ We now have simulations!
 - collapse of primordial dark matter and gas: gravitational wells and first stars
 - accretion of more gas and dark matter: structure formation
 - globular cluster system, and galaxy satellite system form
 - angular momentum and dynamical friction → disk forms
 - galaxy mergers and tidal interactions

THE MILKY WAY

GALAXY SIMULATIONS



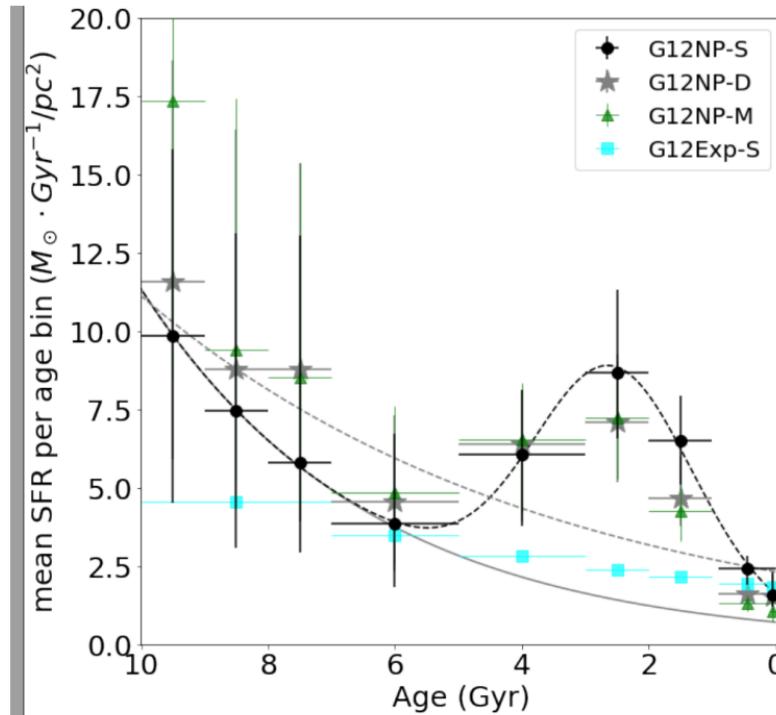
Credit: GUAIX



Credit: Illustris-TNG

THE MILKY WAY

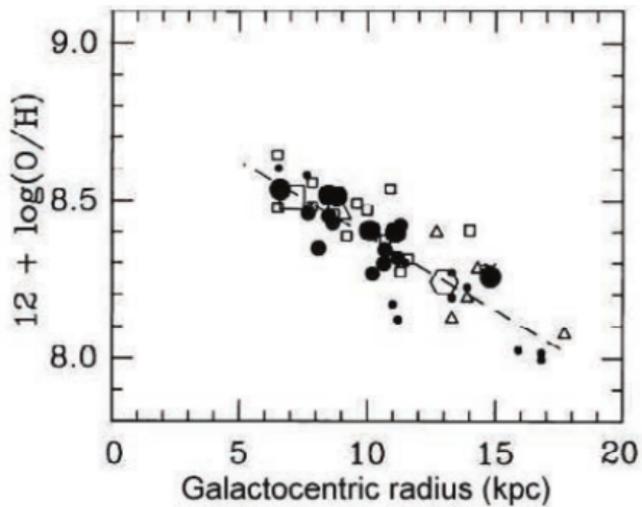
STAR FORMATION HISTORY



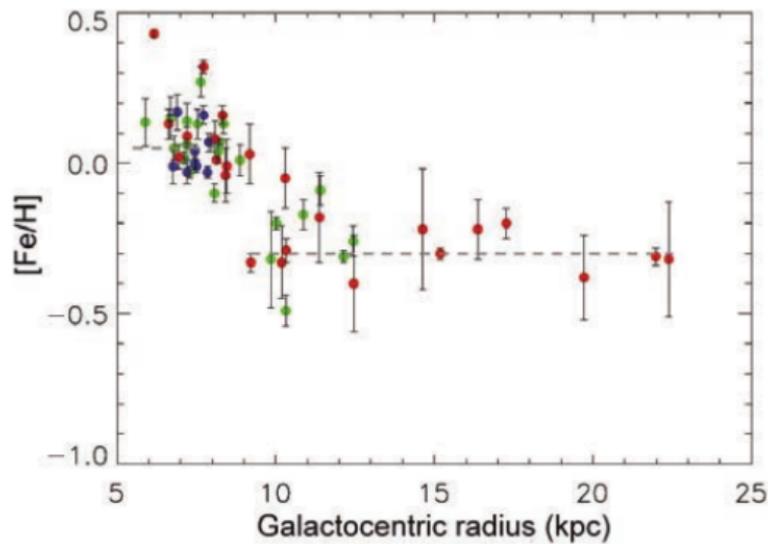
Credit: Mor et al. 2019. Recent burst: Sagittarius dwarf galaxy?

THE MILKY WAY

STAR FORMATION: METALLICITY



Credit: Deharveng et al. 2000

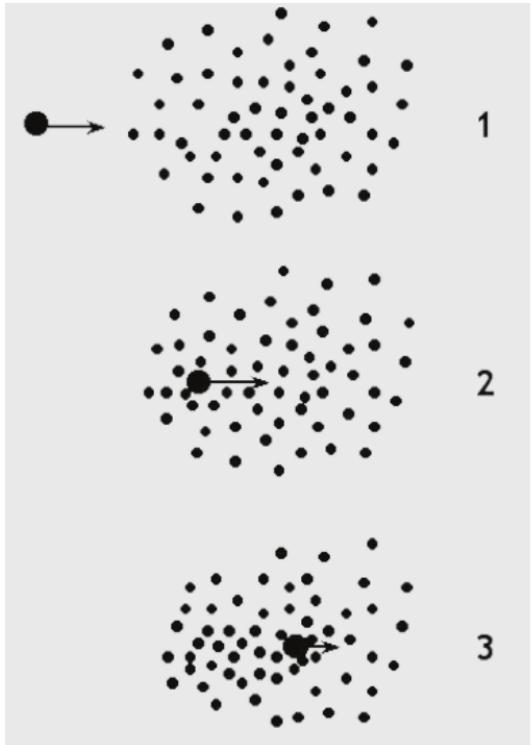


Credit: Lépine et al. 2011

THE MILKY WAY

A COMPLICATED PICTURE...

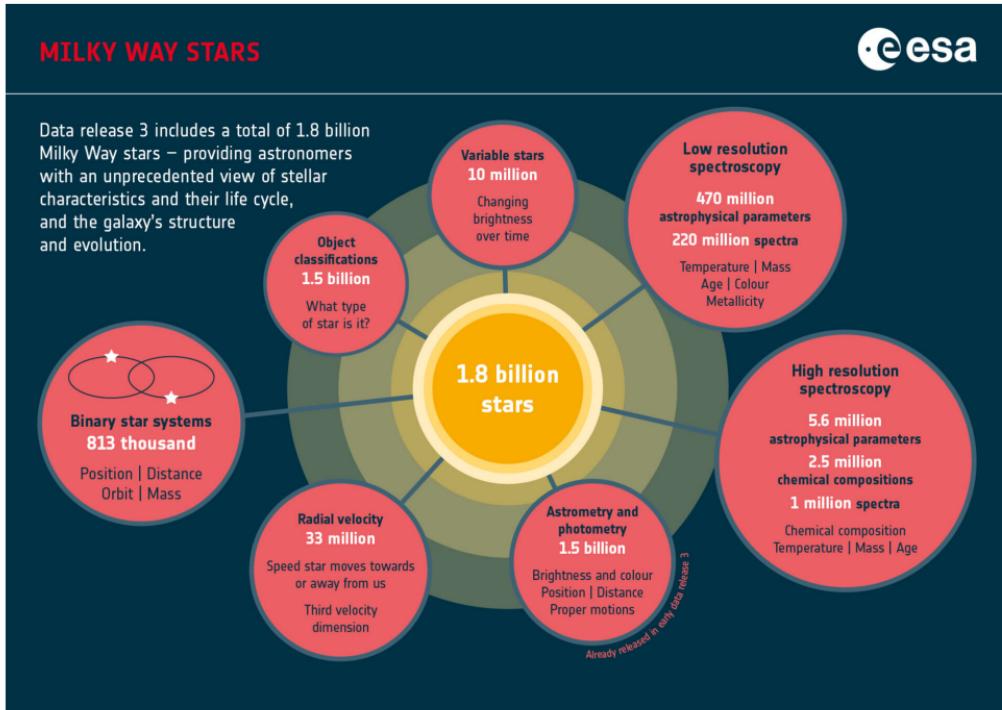
- ▶ Galaxies are the results of mergers
- ▶ Massive black holes form, sink, merge...
- ▶ Dynamical friction
- ▶ Stars do not follow Keplerian orbits
- ▶ Open clusters dissolve, globular clusters penetrate
- ▶ Flybys affect the distribution/velocity of stars
- ▶ Hypervelocity stars are escaping the Galaxy
- ▶ ...



Credit: F. Combes and J. Lequeux (2016)

THE MILKY WAY

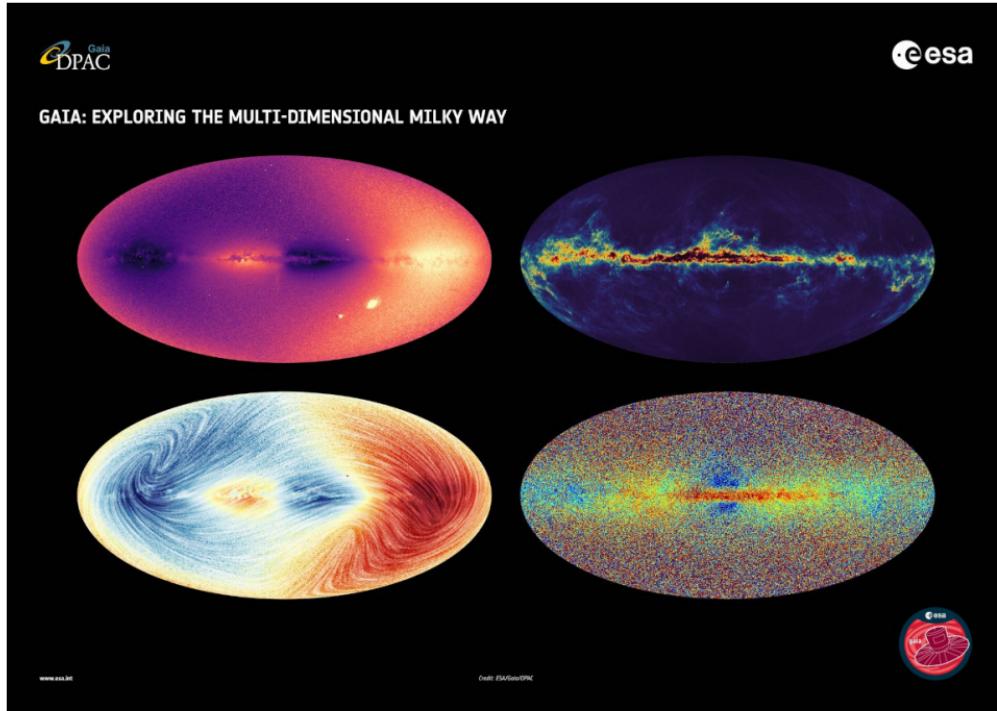
GAIA OBSERVATIONS



Credit: ESA

THE MILKY WAY

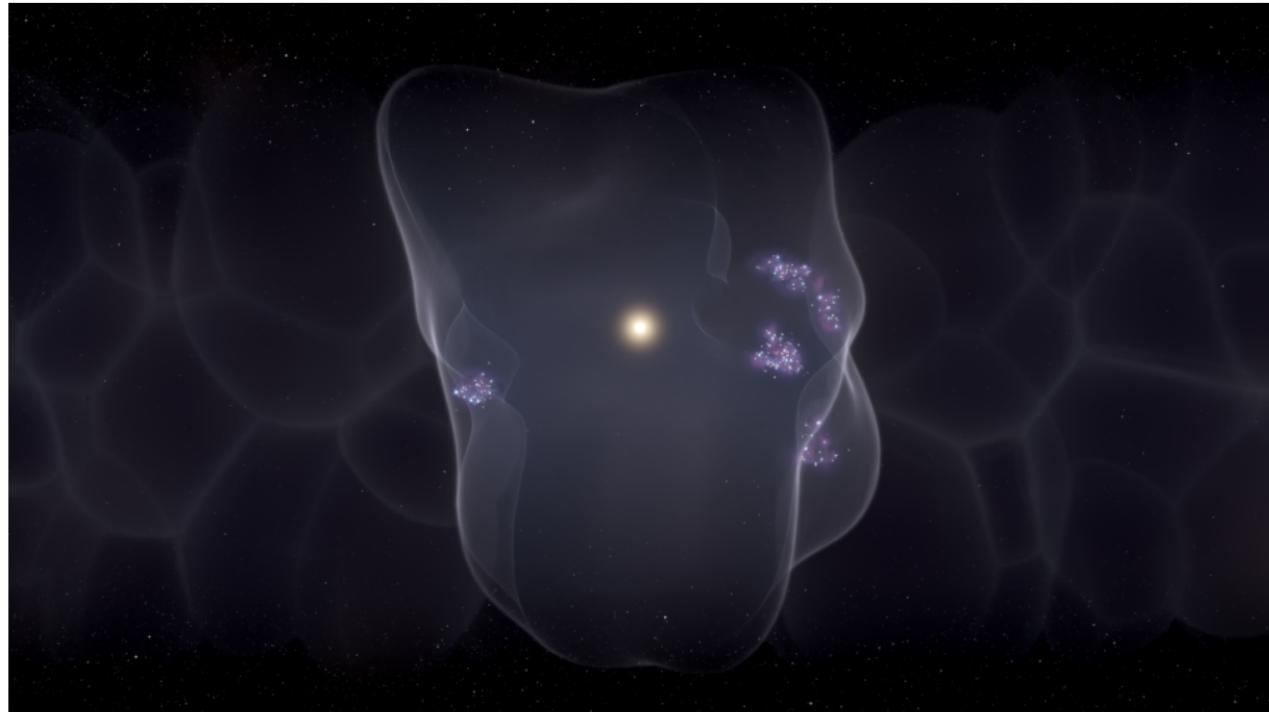
GAIA DATA RELEASE 3



Credit: ESA. **Upper left:** Radial velocity; **Lower left:** Velocity field; **Upper right:** Dust; **Lower right:** Stellar metallicity.

THE MILKY WAY

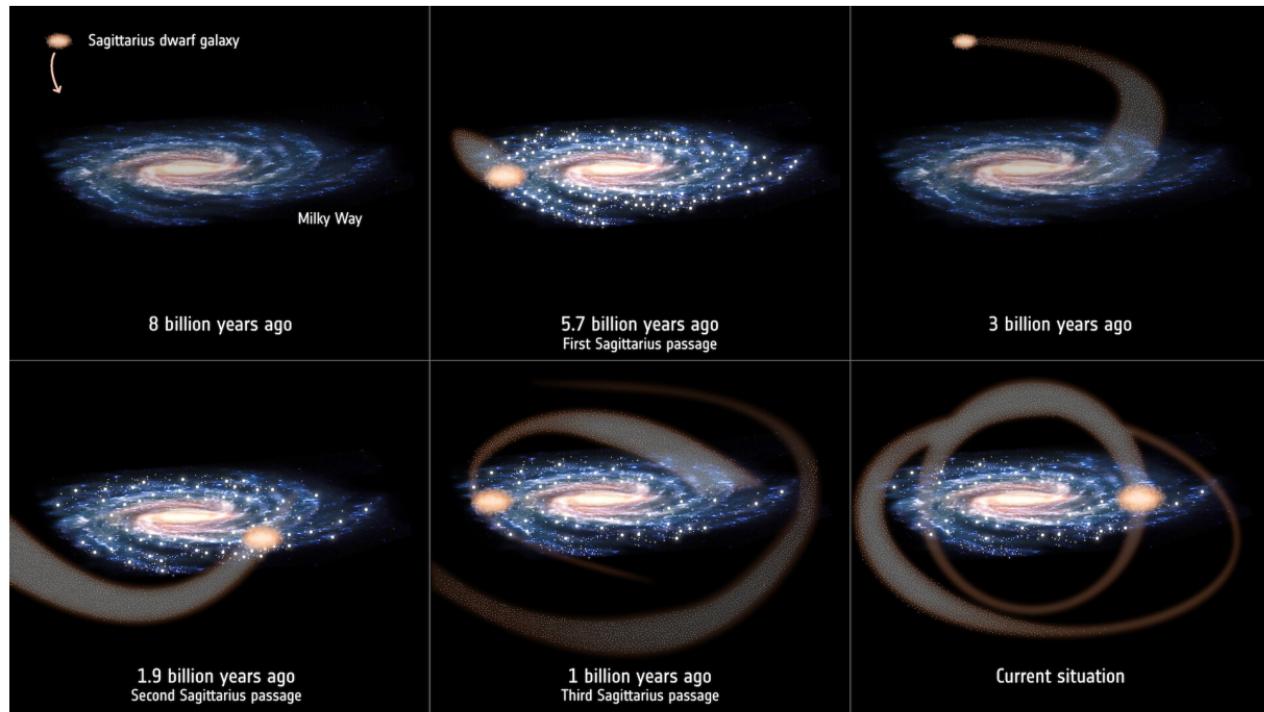
GAIA AND THE LOCAL BUBBLE



Credit: ESA

THE MILKY WAY

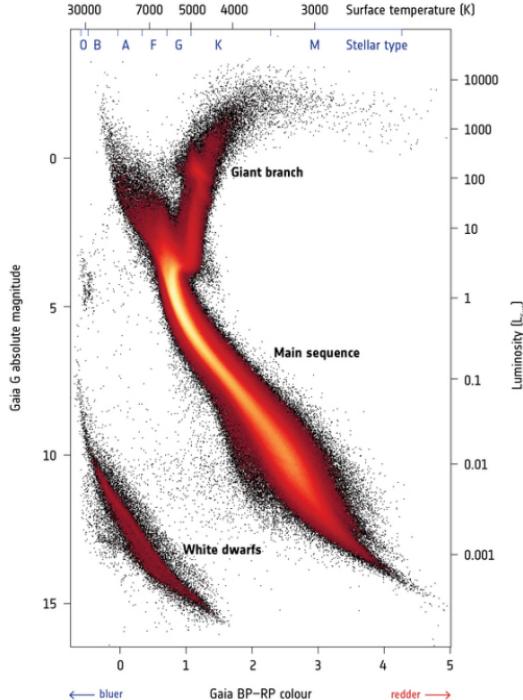
GAIA AND SAGITTARIUS DWARF GALAXY



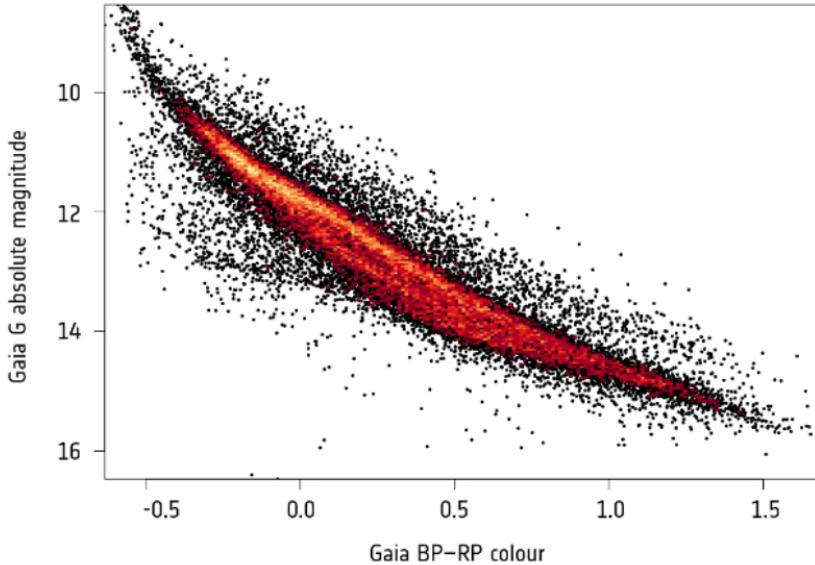
Credit: ESA

THE MILKY WAY

GAIA STELLAR EVOLUTION



Credit: ESA/Gaia/DPAC



Credit: ESA/Gaia/DPAC

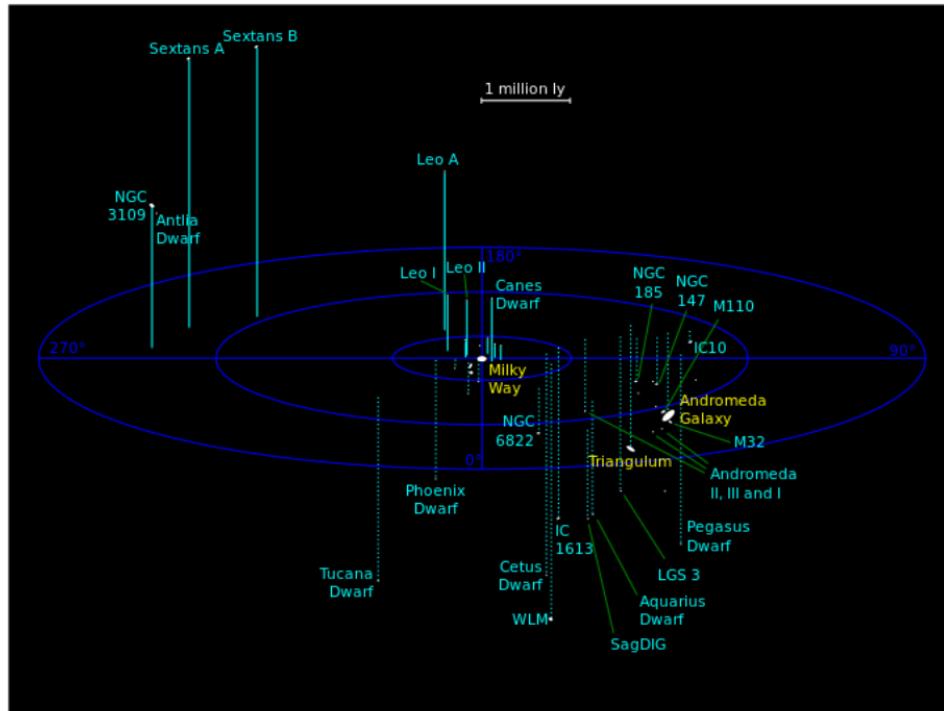
The Local Group

The Local Group

Introduction

THE LOCAL GROUP

3D VIEW



Credit: Richard Powell

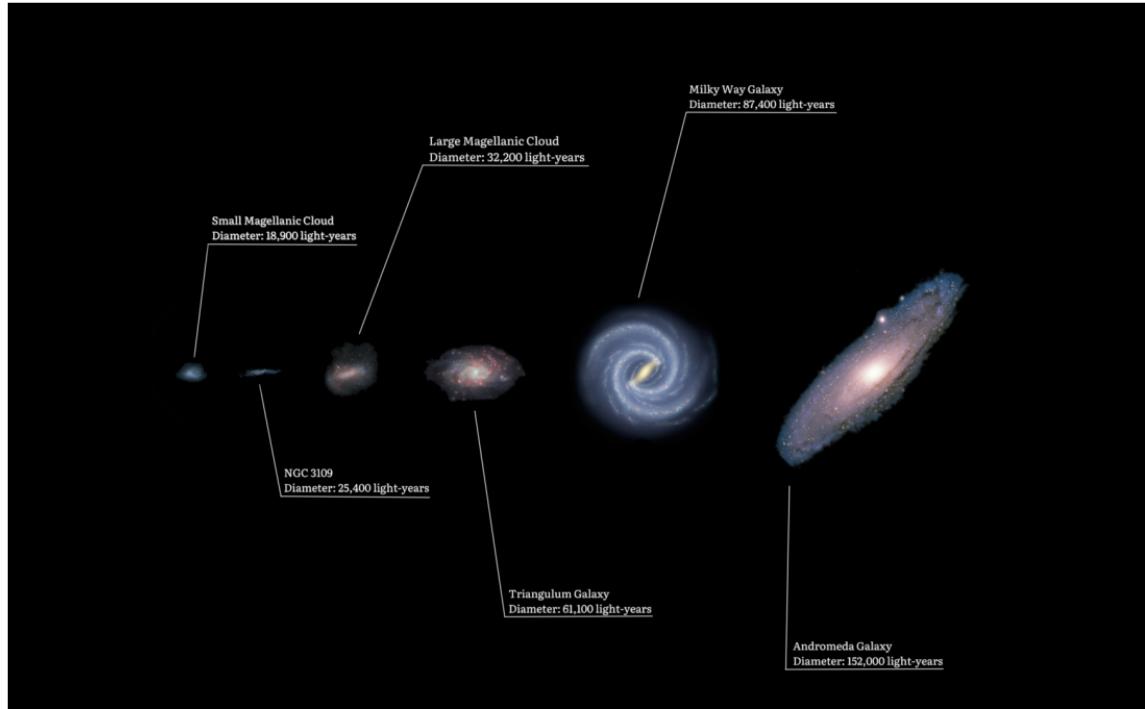
THE LOCAL GROUP

COMPOSITION

- ▶ $R \sim 1.5 \text{ Mpc}$
- ▶ $M \sim 2.3 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ (Peñarrubia et al. 2014)
- ▶ Two main subgroups separated by $\sim 0.8 \text{ Mpc}$: Milky Way and Andromeda subgroups
- ▶ Antlia-Sextans (sub)group?
- ▶ Three big spiral galaxies:
 1. Milky Way: SBbc.
 2. Andromeda galaxy (M31): SA(s)b but barred! A bit larger than MW.
 3. Triangulum galaxy (M33): SA(s)cd – about half as MW, satellite of M31?
- ▶ Three small spiral and elliptical galaxies
 1. Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC): Irr or SB(s)m \equiv Magellanic spiral (one arm) — satellite of MW.
 2. NGC 3109: SB(s)m — in Antlia-Sextans group, interacting with Antlia Dwarf.
 3. M32: cE/E2 — compact elliptical galaxy, warp of M31
- ▶ $\gtrsim 150$ irregular, dwarf spheroidal, and dwarf elliptical galaxies
- ▶ Globular cluster systems, tidal streams, gas, rogue stars, etc.

THE LOCAL GROUP

COMPARISONS



Credit: SkyFlubber, Wikipedia Commons

The Local Group

M31: The Andromeda galaxy

THE LOCAL GROUP

M31: THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY



Credit: HST-Subaru-NOAO-RC-SS



Credit: NASA/ESA

The Local Group

M33: The Triangulum galaxy

THE LOCAL GROUP

M33: THE TRIANGULUM GALAXY



Credit: Robert Gendler

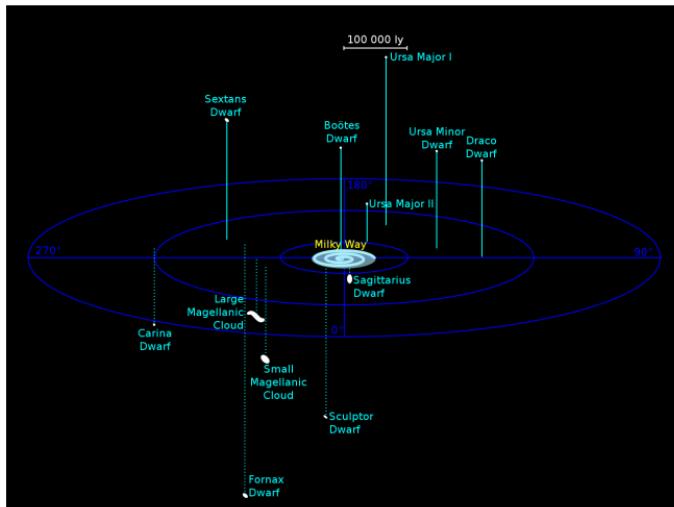
The Local Group

The Galaxy's satellites: Milky Way subgroup

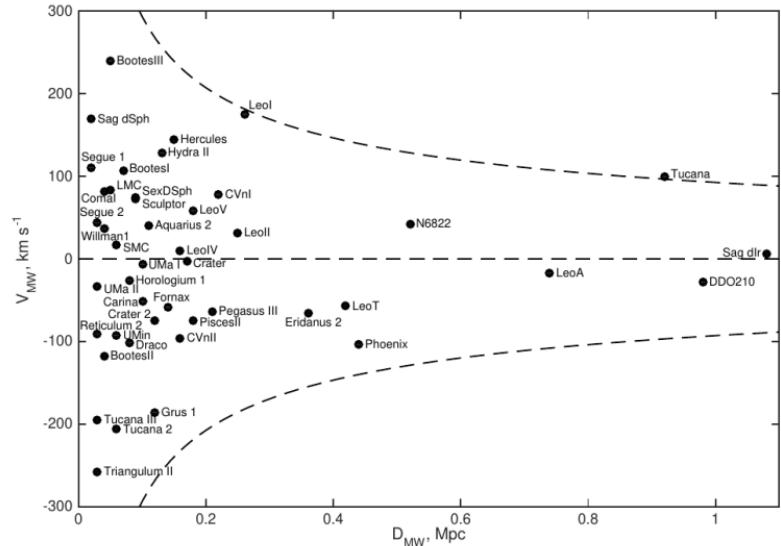
THE LOCAL GROUP

THE GALAXY'S SATELLITES: MILKY WAY SUBGROUP

- ▶ ~60 dwarf galaxies in $D \lesssim 0.4$ Mpc, orbiting around MW or other dwarf galaxies
- ▶ Those closer, have less H: evidence of stripping



Credit: Richard Powell



Credit: Kashibadze et al. 2017

The Local Group

The Magellanic Clouds

THE LOCAL GROUP

THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS: SKY VIEW

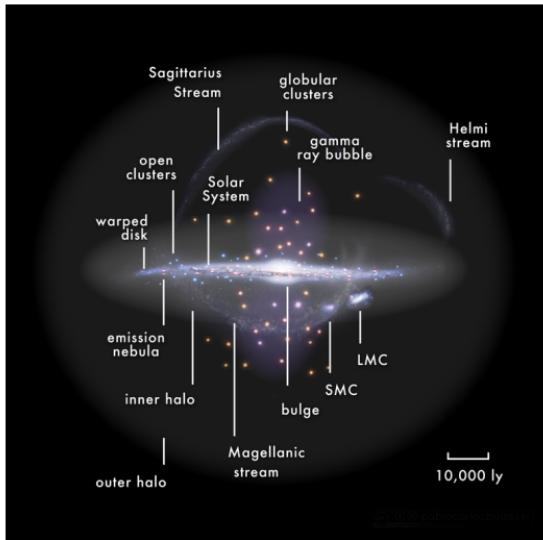


Credit: ESO/Yuri Beletsky.

THE LOCAL GROUP

THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS: 3D VIEW

- ▶ Relatively big for the MW?
- ▶ LMC: 50 kpc away. Has its own GCs and satellite galaxies!
- ▶ SMC: 62 kpc away. Used to be a satellite of LMC?



Credit: Pablo Carlos Budassi



Credit: John Rowe Animations

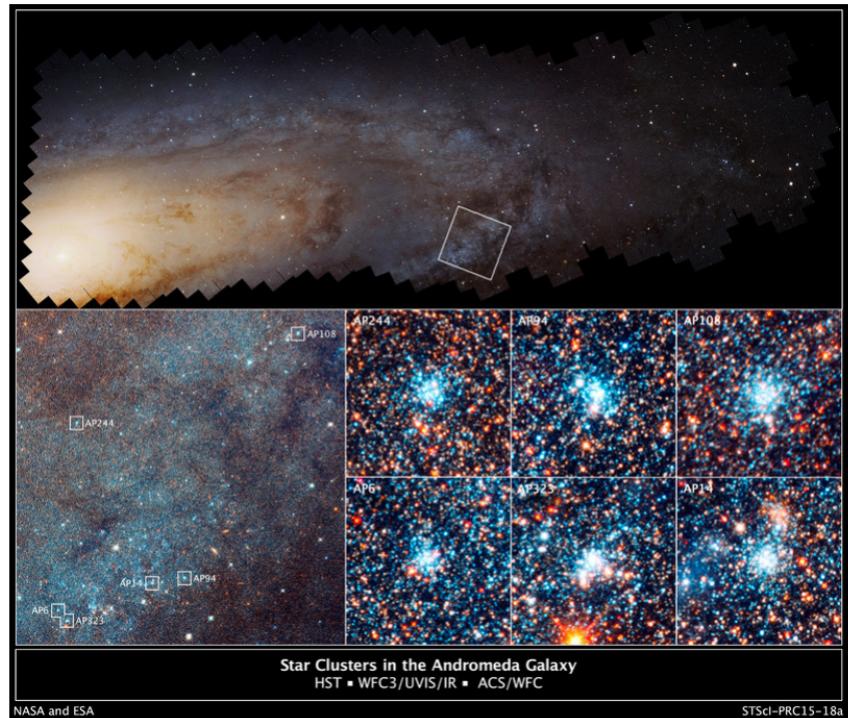
The Local Group

What we learn studying the local group

THE LOCAL GROUP

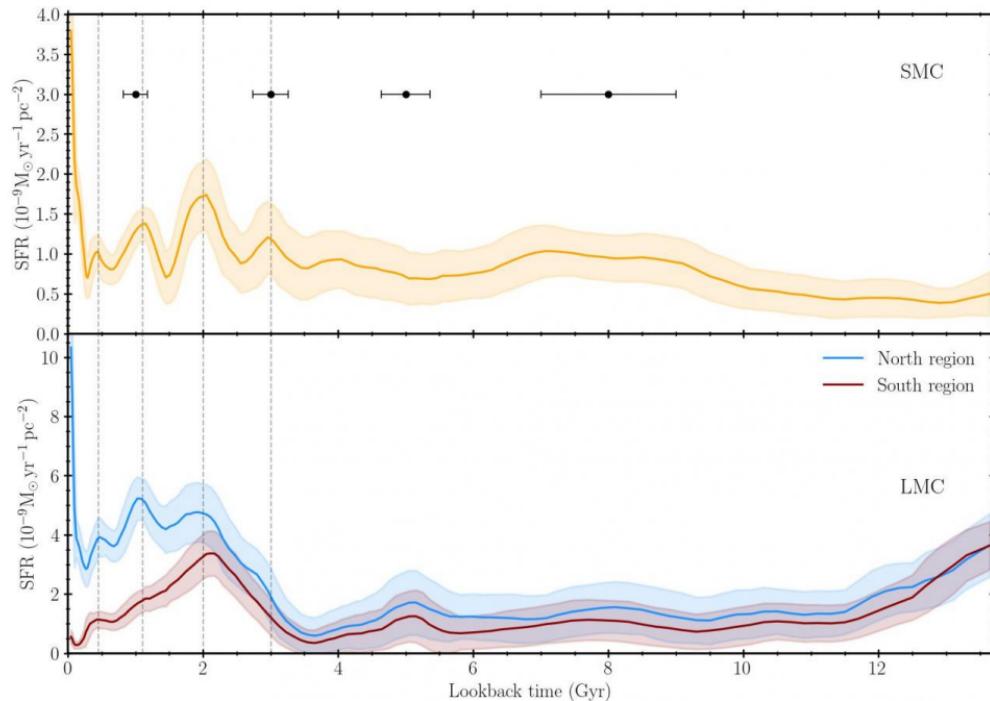
SO CLOSE NO MATTER HOW FAR...

- ▶ Individual stars in LG: how stars evolve in **different environments?**
- ▶ Studying the effect of age and metallicity by spotting star clusters: **star-formation processes**
- ▶ Stellar feedback: stellar winds and supernovæ explosions
- ▶ Small-scale gas, dust and metal distribution



THE LOCAL GROUP

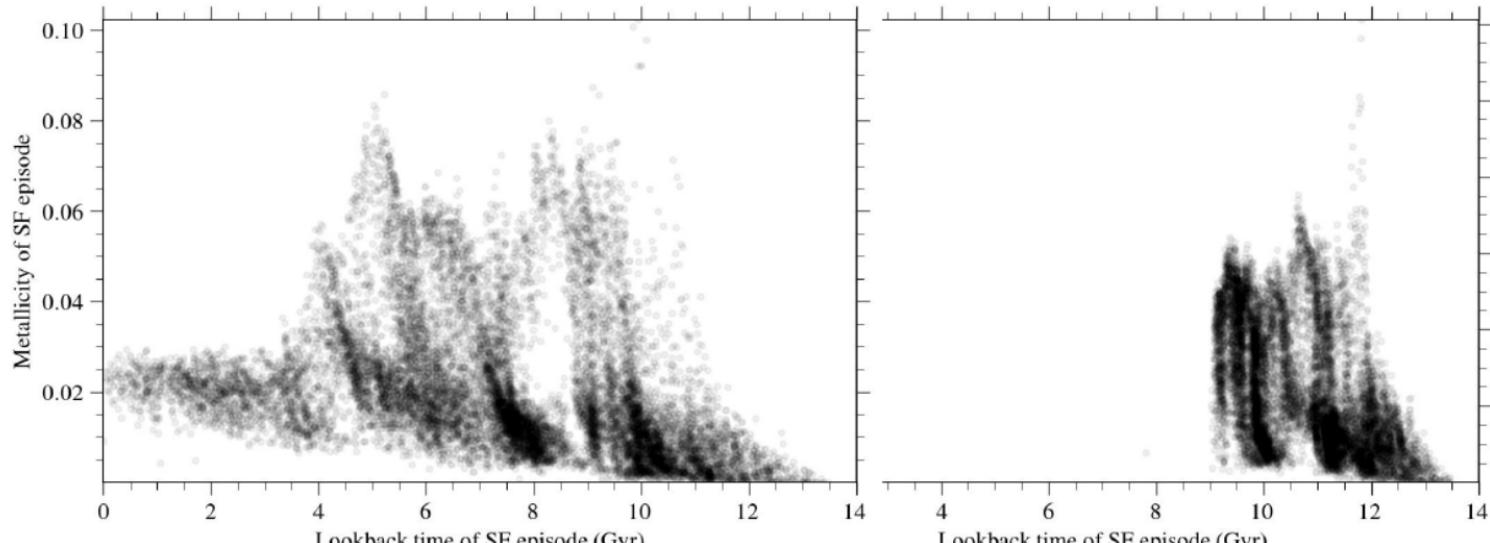
STAR-FORMATION HISTORIES



Credit: Massana et al. 2022

THE LOCAL GROUP

STAR-FORMATION HISTORIES: MODELS



Credit: Kovlakas et al. in prep.

THE LOCAL GROUP

COSMOLOGY AND GALAXY EVOLUTION STUDIES

- ▶ Dwarf galaxies have lower metallicities
- ▶ Dwarf galaxies have more dark matter
- ▶ Irregular galaxies have *bursty* star-formation histories
- ▶ More dwarf galaxies in earlier times
- ▶ Comparisons with simulations: galaxy evolution
- ▶ Missing satellites: reionization & feedback?

REFERENCES AND LITERATURE

RELEVANT YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Milky Way formation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQBzdcFkB7w>

Formation of a galaxy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0674AZ_UKZk

Four interacting galaxies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCbIjZEtmcY>

Collision of Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4disyKG7XtU>

Illustris-TNG zoom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rdd9KAUcvgQ>

Waltzing around: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5t5nYioIgo>

Differences of cosmological simulations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVvarp6bJHU>

REFERENCES AND LITERATURE

RELEVANT BOOKS

- ▶ Françoise Combes & James Lequeux (2016).
The Milky Way: Structure, Dynamics and Evolution.
EDPS Sciences / CNRS Éditions. ISBN: 978-2-7598-1915-7.
- ▶ James Binney & Scott Tremaine. (2008).
Galactic Dynamics.
Princeton University Press. 2nd Edition. ISBN: 9780691130279.
- ▶ James Binney & Michael Merrifield (1998).
Galactic Astronomy.
Princeton University Press. 1st Edition. ISBN: 9780691025650.
- ▶ Sidney van den Bergh (2000).
The Galaxies of the Local Group
Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780511546051.
- ▶ Paul W. Hodge, Brooke P. Skelton & Joy Ashizawa (2002).
An Atlas of Local Group Galaxies.
Springer Dordrecht. ISBN: 978-1-4020-0673-9.

