

The Cosmic Distance Scale

Lecture 1

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 - Sherry Suyu (TUM/MPA)
 - Mónica Taormina (CAMK)



Introduction

- Over the next four days, I plan to present an in-depth overview of the Cosmological Distance Ladder
- I organized this mini-course as follows:

[1] Introduction & Motivation

[3] Alternative distance methods

[1] 1st rung: geometric distances

[4] The Hubble Tension

[2] 2nd rung: standard(izable) candles

[4] Future prospects

[3] 3rd rung: into the Hubble Flow



Organization

- Most slides will have citations to papers on the bottom right
- The full list of cited papers is here: [NASA ADS link](#)
- Please feel free to stop me and ask questions at any time!

Introduction

- How do we measure cosmological distances?
- What can measurements based on different methods tell us about the cosmological model?
- Let us start by considering two types of “observables” that give strong evidence that we live in an expanding Universe



Evidence for an expanding Universe

- Suppose you repeatedly image large areas of the sky for several years and discover a set of transients
- Some are fainter than others, but they share many similar characteristics...

Pan-STARRS telescope,
Haleakala, Hawai'i

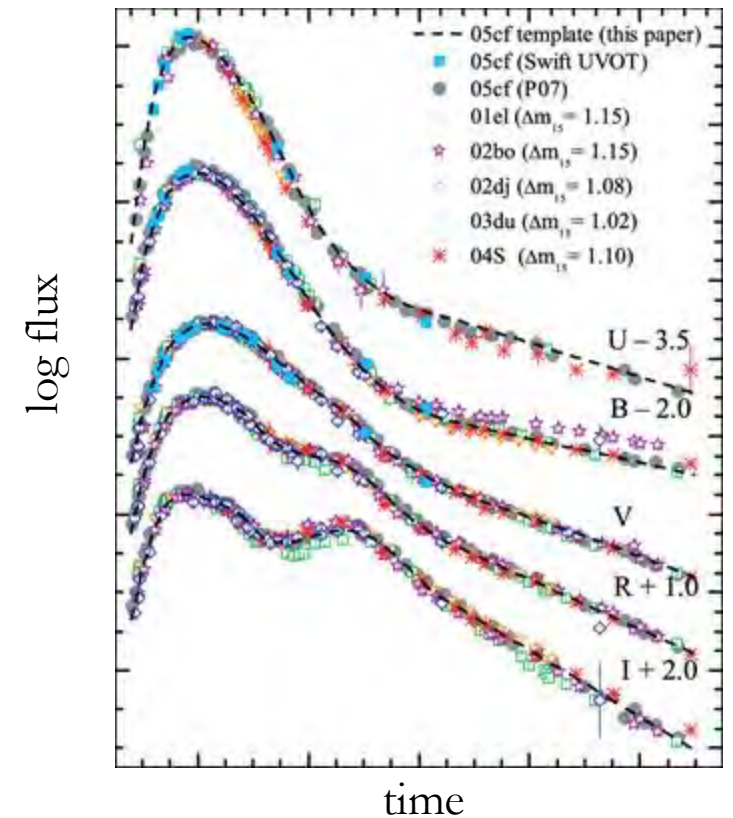
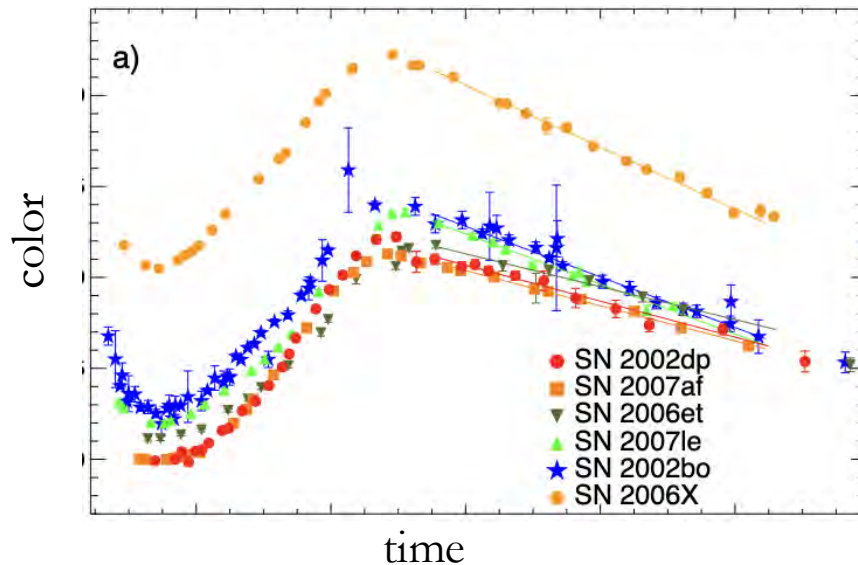


Hubble Space Telescope image of
N4526 and SN1994D



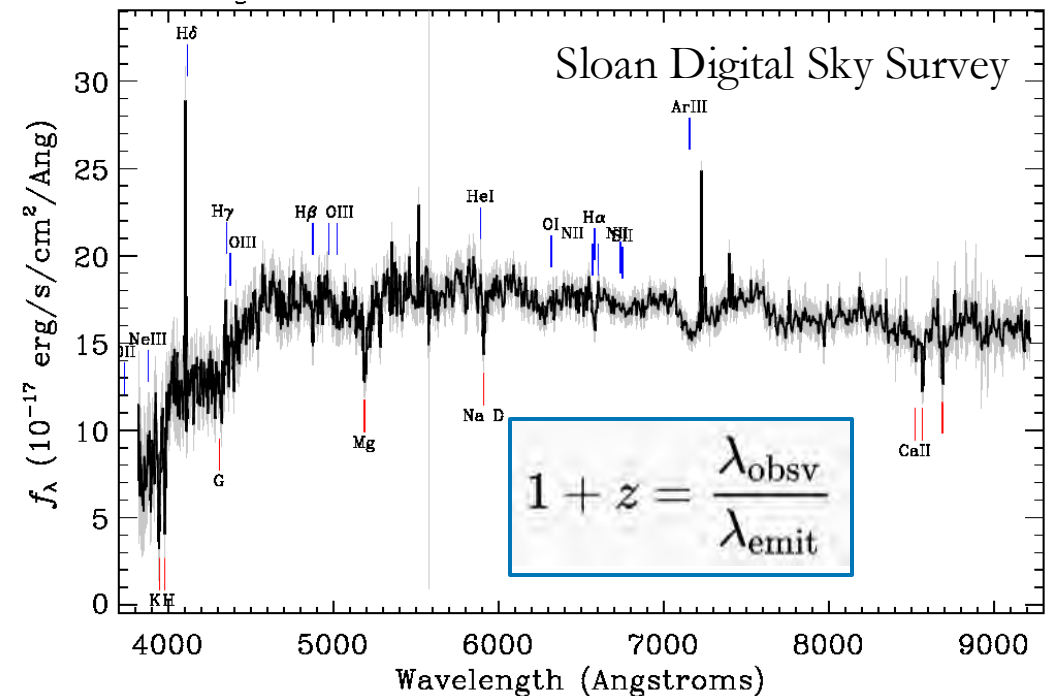
Evidence for an expanding Universe

- This set of transients shows a rapid rise over ~ 2 weeks, followed by a slower decline; similar color evolution
- Could these be the same type of object, seen at different distances?



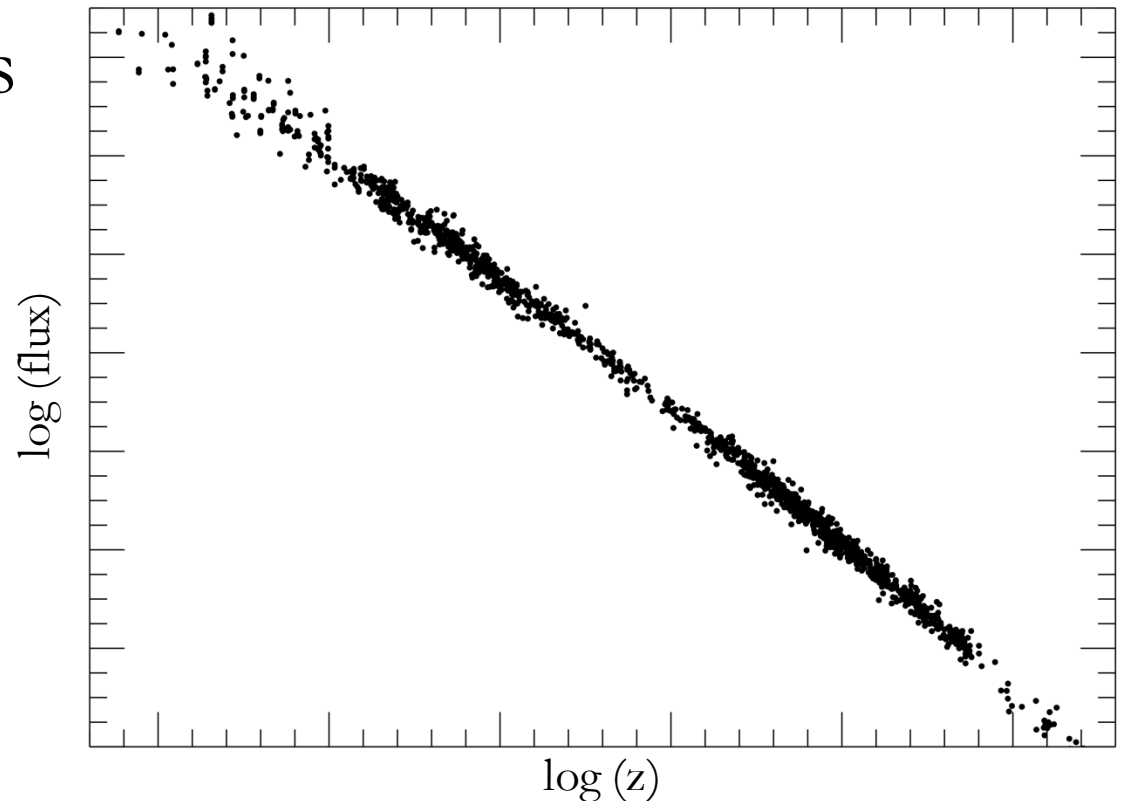
Evidence for an expanding Universe

- Take spectra of the hosts of these transients and you'll notice similar features, although at different wavelengths and consistently shifted to the red of laboratory values...



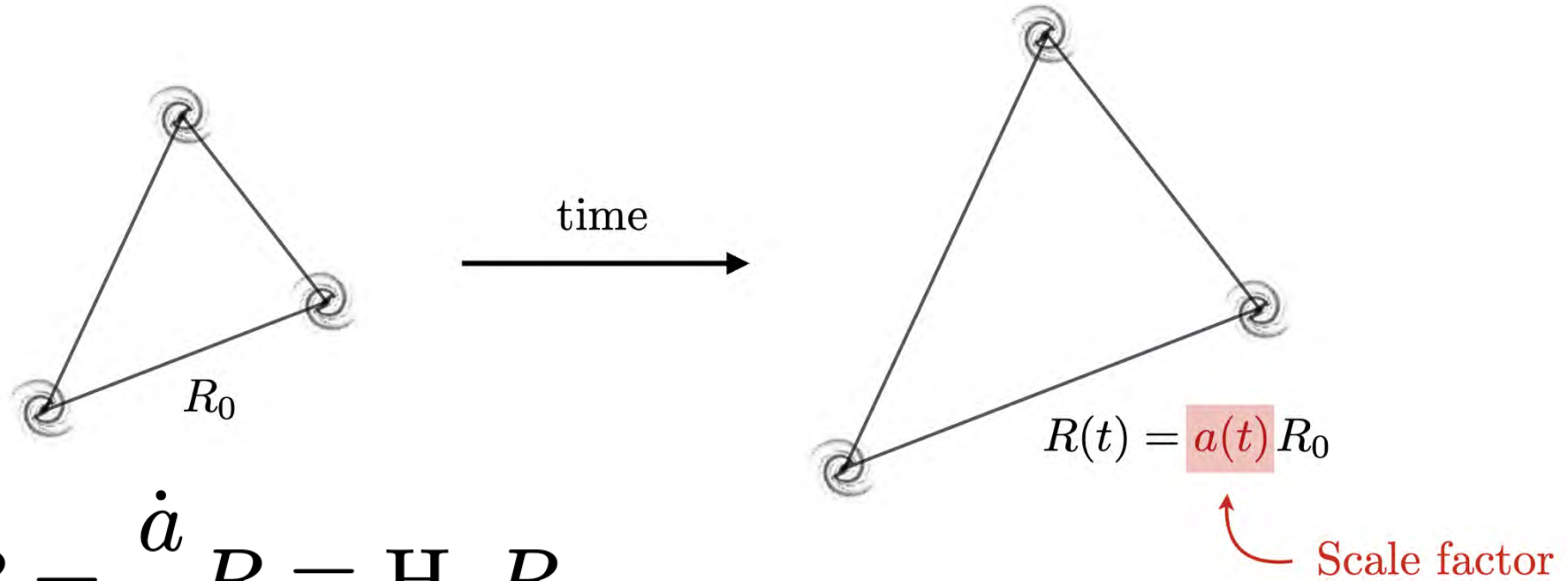
Evidence for an expanding Universe

- Repeat 1700 times, carefully cross-calibrating images and spectra from multiple telescopes (Brout+2022; Scolnic+2022)...
- Fainter transients appear in hosts that have larger values of z
- Very tight correlation between $\log(\text{flux})$ and $\log(z)$
 - Across 10^5 range in flux
 - Slope ~ 2 (inverse sq law!)
 - Scatter $\lesssim 9\%$ in $\log(\text{flux})$



Evidence for an expanding Universe

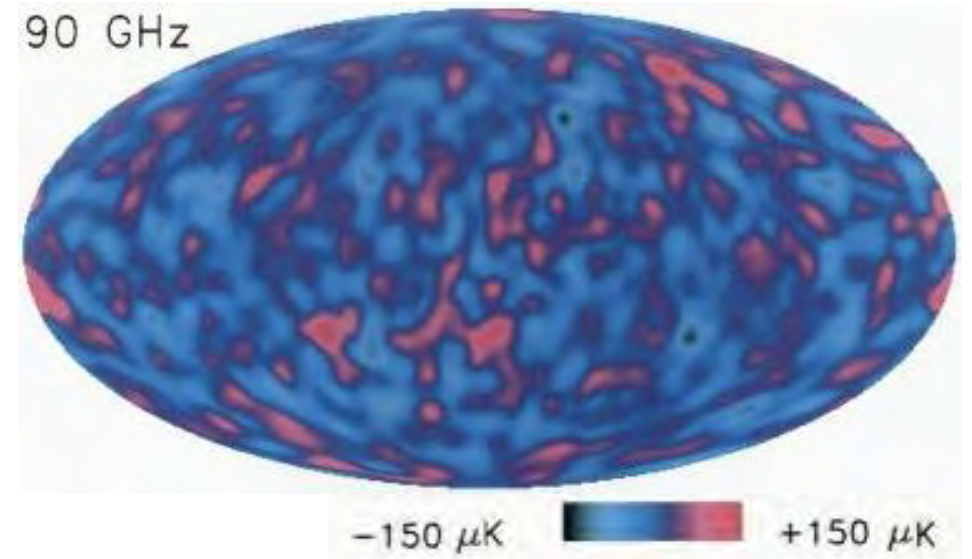
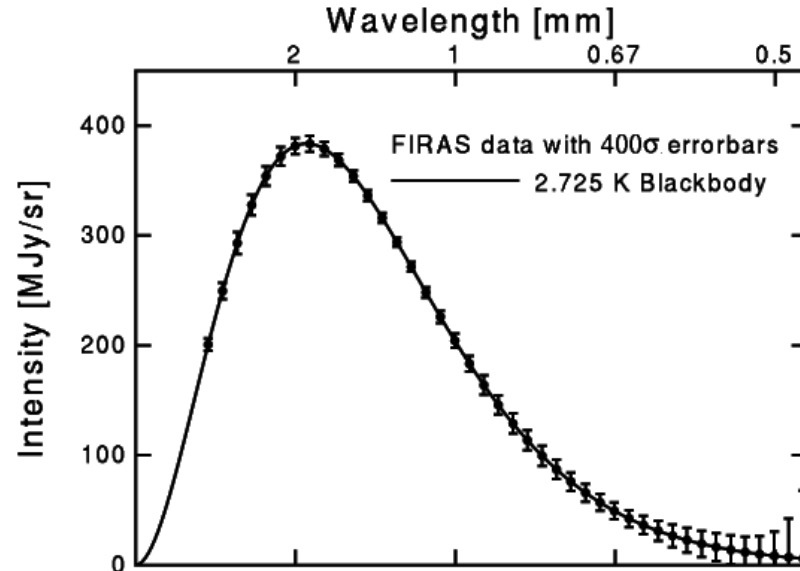
- Under General Relativity, this correlation can be interpreted as being due to the expansion of space



$$cz \equiv \dot{R} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} R \equiv H_0 R$$

Evidence for an expanding Universe

- If the Universe is undergoing expansion, $a(t)$ must have been smaller in the past $\rightarrow$ hotter/denser conditions
- Detect very smooth blackbody radiation from those early times: the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



Evidence for an expanding Universe

- So, two very different types of observations show conclusive evidence of an expanding Universe
- Those transients are, of course, the well-known “Type Ia” supernovae (SNe Ia)
- SNe Ia are an excellent example of *standardizable* candles (more on that later)
- The very small amplitude of temperature fluctuations in the CMB tells us the Universe was very homogeneous and isotropic at early times



The Friedmann Equations

- The expansion of a homogeneous and isotropic Universe can be described by a Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker cosmology, using parameters that describe:
 - Expansion rate, or Hubble constant:
$$H = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$$
 - a : scale factor (today = 1; Big Bang = 0)
 - Global geometry (open, flat or closed)
 - Composition of the Universe
 - Density of atomic & dark matter, photons, neutrinos, etc.
- These parameters are related via the Friedmann equations, a solution of Einstein's General Relativity field equations



The Friedmann Equations

- These equations allow us to calculate the value of the Hubble parameter for any z , relative to the present value (H_0)

$$\frac{H^2(z)}{H_0^2} = \Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_r(1+z)^4 + \Omega_k(1+z)^2 + \Omega_\phi(1+z)^{3(1+w)}$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the Friedmann equation and their physical interpretations:

- $H = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$ (Hubble parameter)
- $\Omega_m(z) \equiv \frac{\rho_m(z)}{\rho_{\text{crit}}(z)}$ (Matter density parameter)
- $\rho_{\text{crit}} = \frac{3H_0^2}{8\pi G}$ (Critical density)
- $(1+z) \equiv a^{-1}$ (Scale factor relation)

Ω_m : matter (baryonic+dark)

Ω_k : curvature

Ω_r : relativistic species

Ω_ϕ : fluid

The Friedmann Equations

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- Equation of state parameter: $P = w\rho c^2$
- If $w=-1$, then we have a fluid with time-independent density, known as “dark energy” or the “cosmological constant”: Ω_Λ



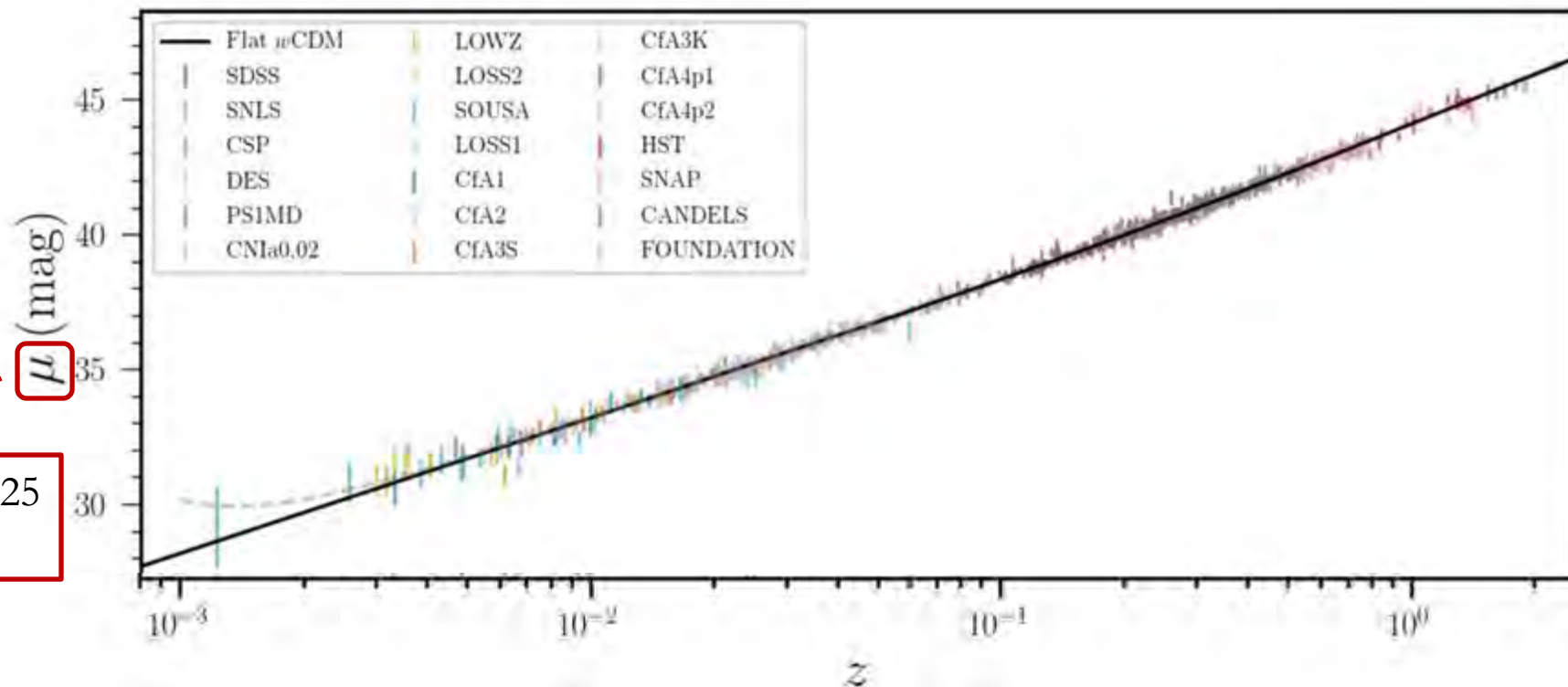
Cosmological probes

- In order to measure the parameters in the Friedmann equation, we need to probe the expansion history of the Universe at different redshifts
- We can do this with standardizable candles such as SNe Ia
- The power spectrum of CMB anisotropies also yields critical constraints on certain parameters or combination of parameters
- As we will see, it is critical to use multiple “cosmological probes” to cross-check results and break degeneracies



Hubble diagram of Type Ia SNe

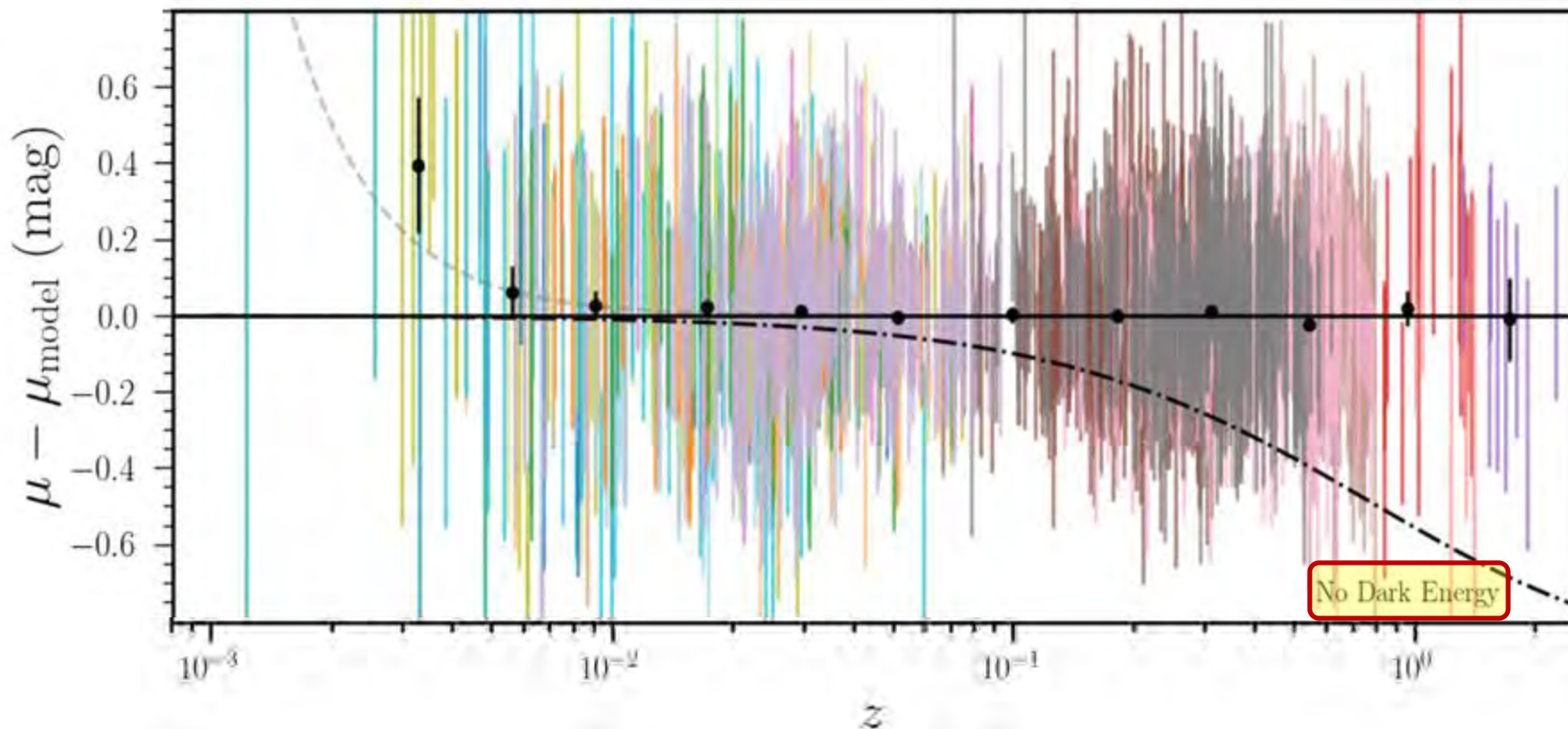
- Using only the relative fluxes (magnitudes) of SNe Ia, we can trace the expansion history and detect the effect of dark energy



$$\mu = 5 \log D \text{ (Mpc)} + 25$$
$$\mu = m - M$$

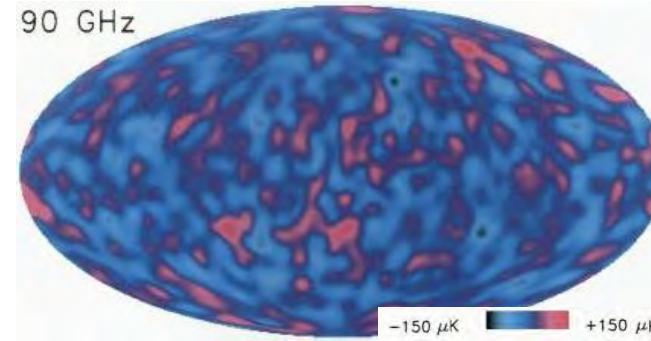
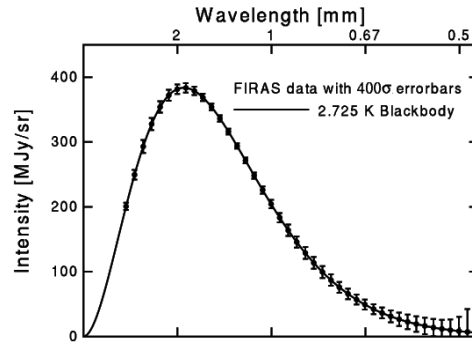
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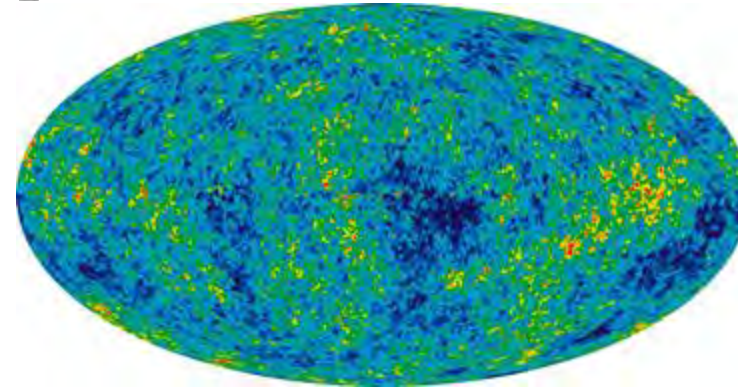
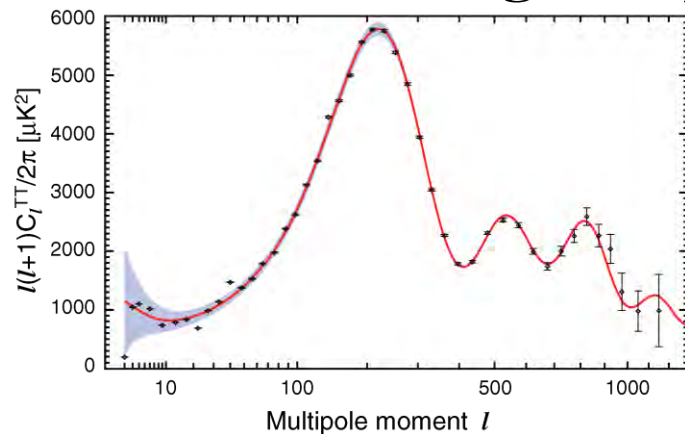


From the CMB to cosmological parameters

- 1994: COBE → CMB blackbody & detection of anisotropy

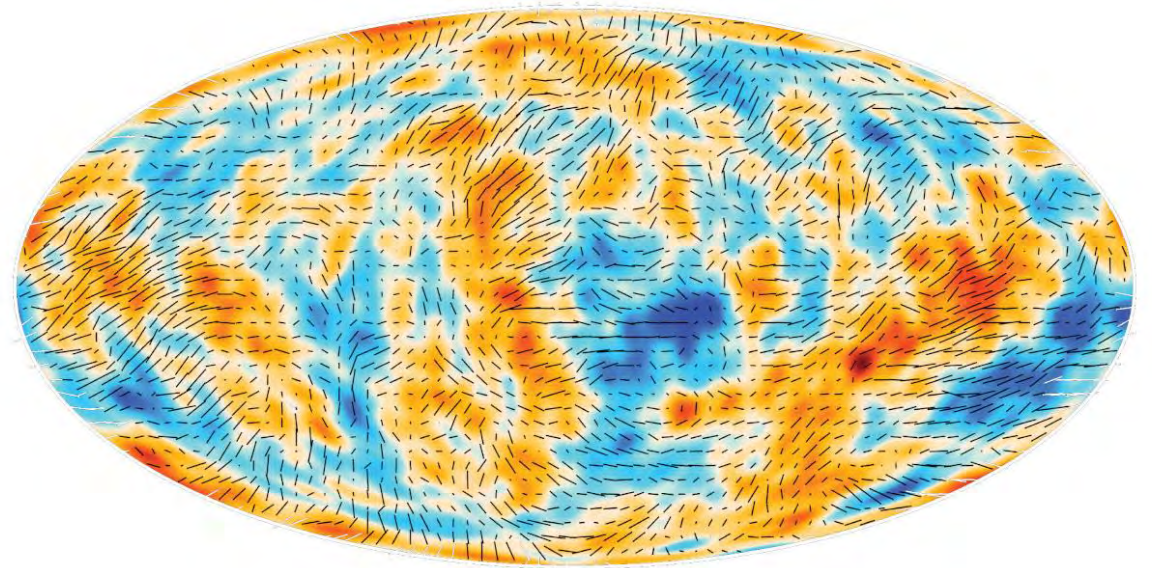
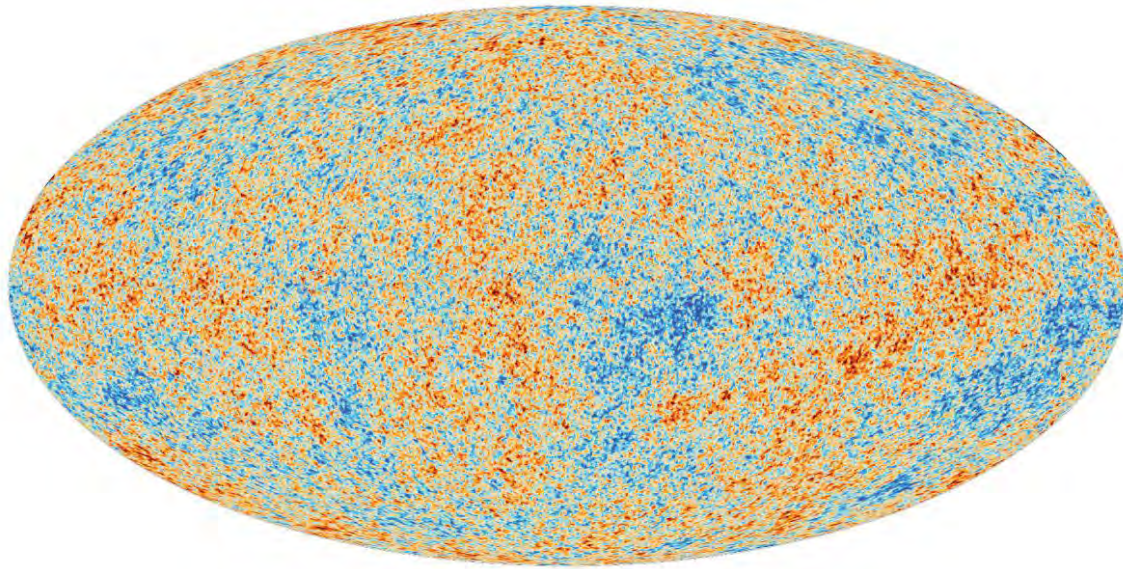


- 2002: WMAP → angular power spectrum of T anisotropies



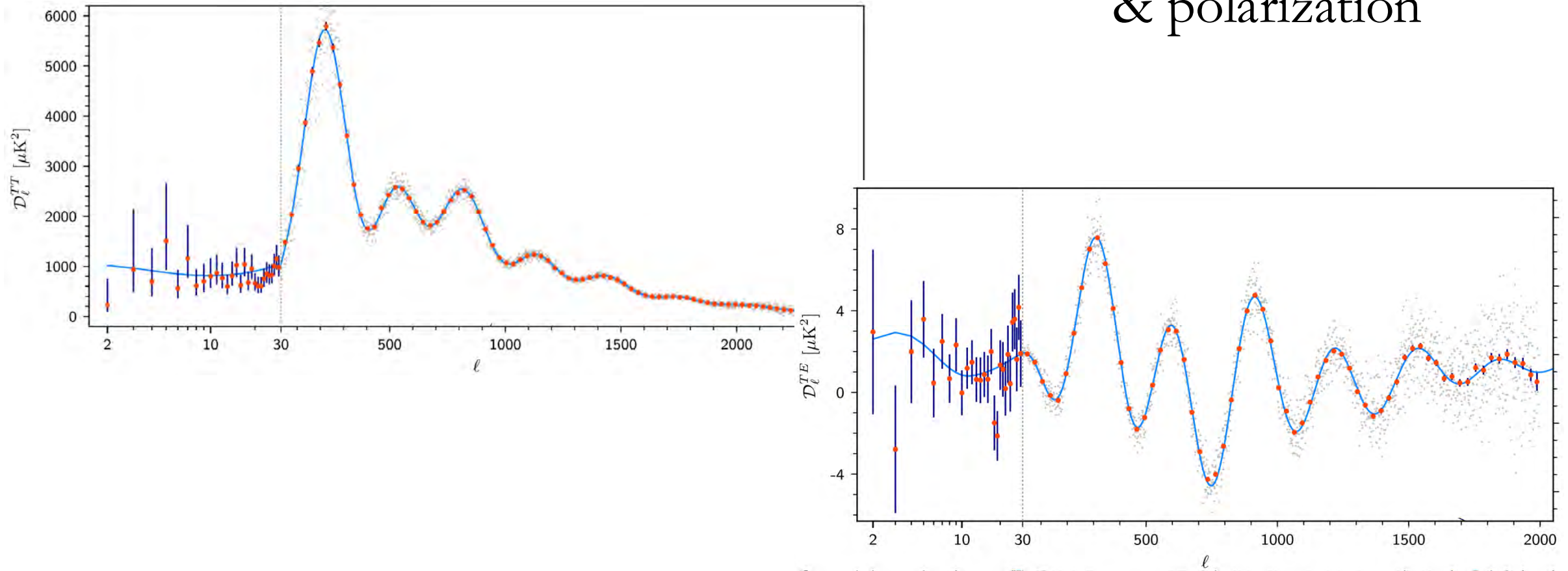
From the CMB to cosmological parameters

- 2013: Planck → angular power spectrum of T anisotropies & polarization

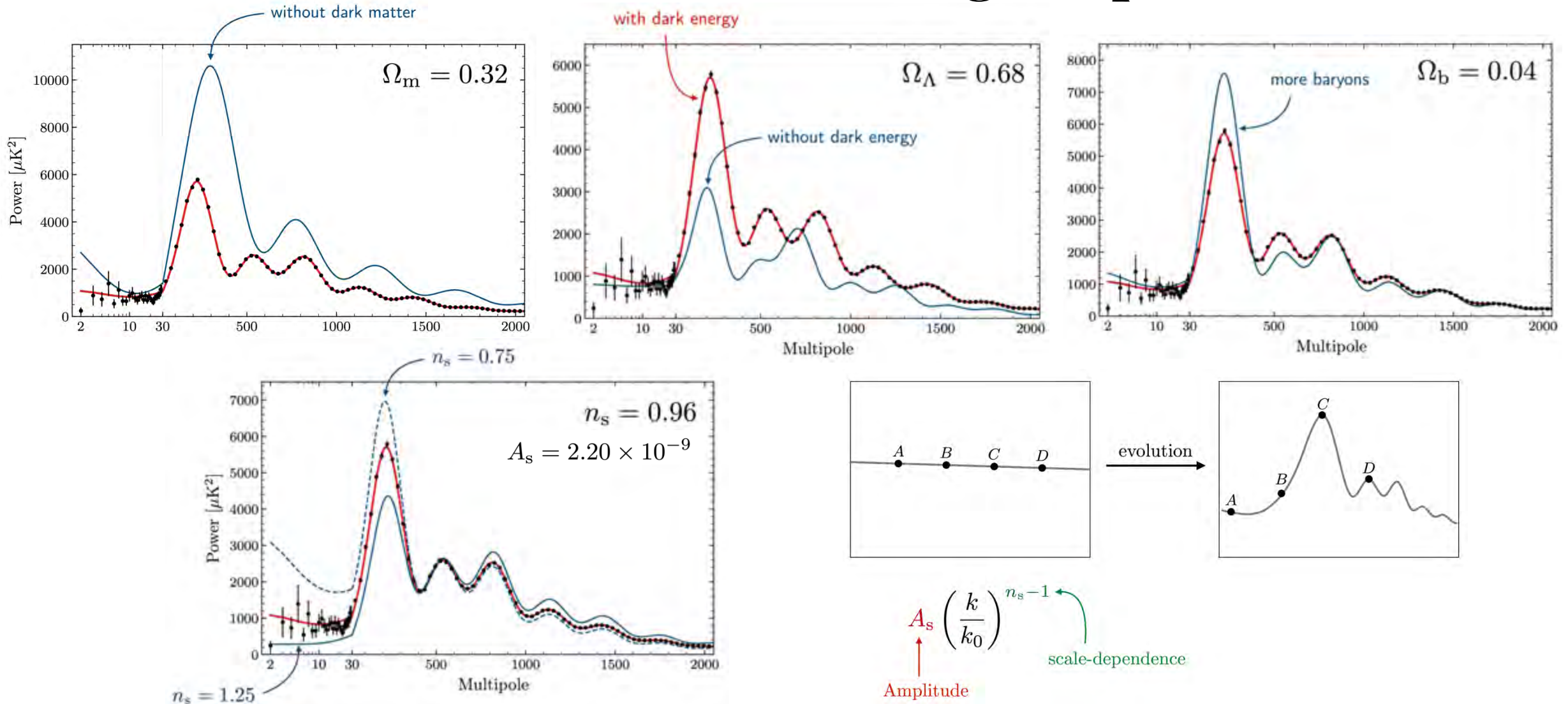


From the CMB to cosmological parameters

- 2013: Planck → angular power spectrum of T anisotropies & polarization



From the CMB to cosmological parameters

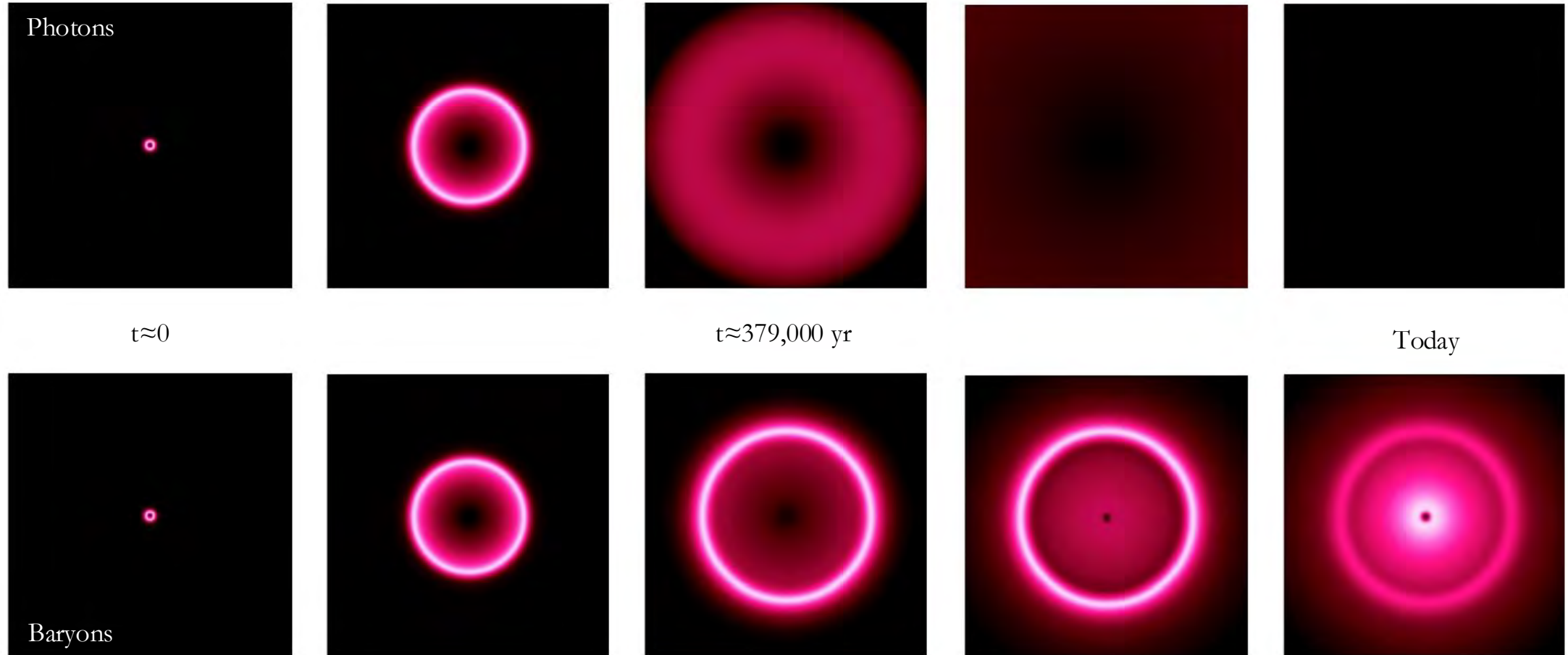


Baryon Acoustic Oscillations

- For the first 379,000 years after the Big Bang, the Universe was filled with a photon-baryon plasma that was reacting to the growing dark matter inhomogeneities
- This left a detectable “imprint” in the distribution of matter that can be used to trace the expansion history
- Independently predicted by Peebles & Yu (1970) and by Sunyaev & Zel’dovich (1970)
- Detected by Cole+(2005) and by Eisenstein+(2005)

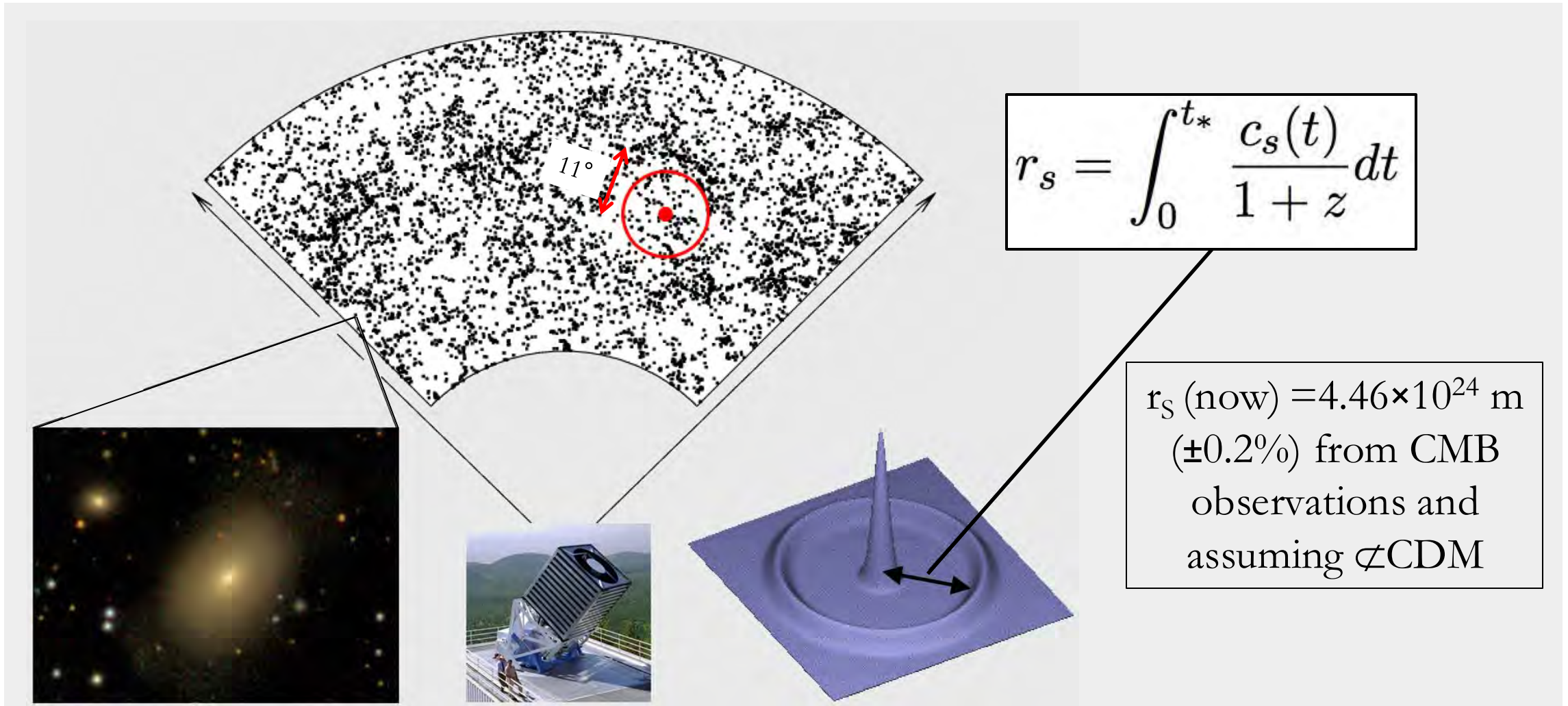


Baryon Acoustic Oscillations

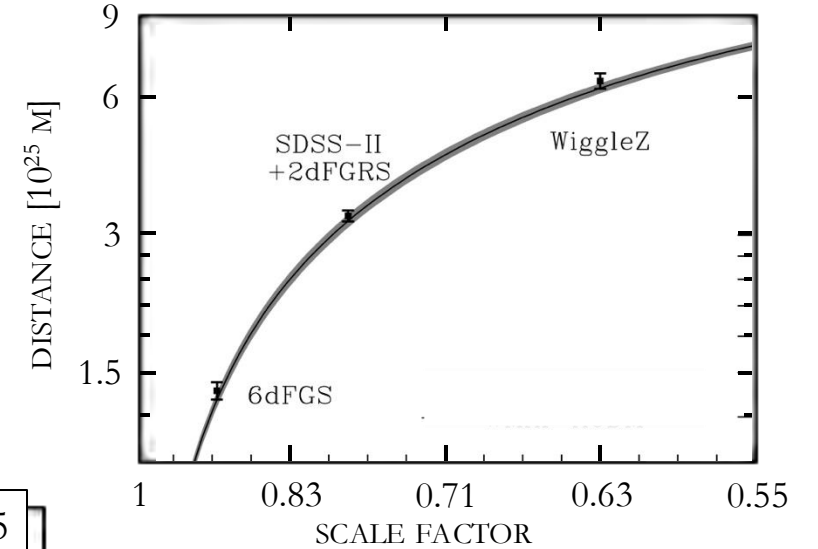
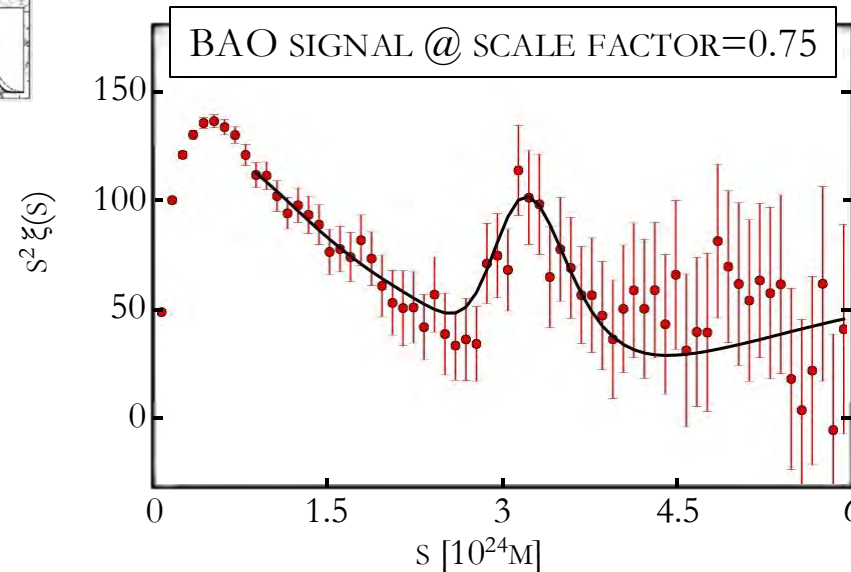
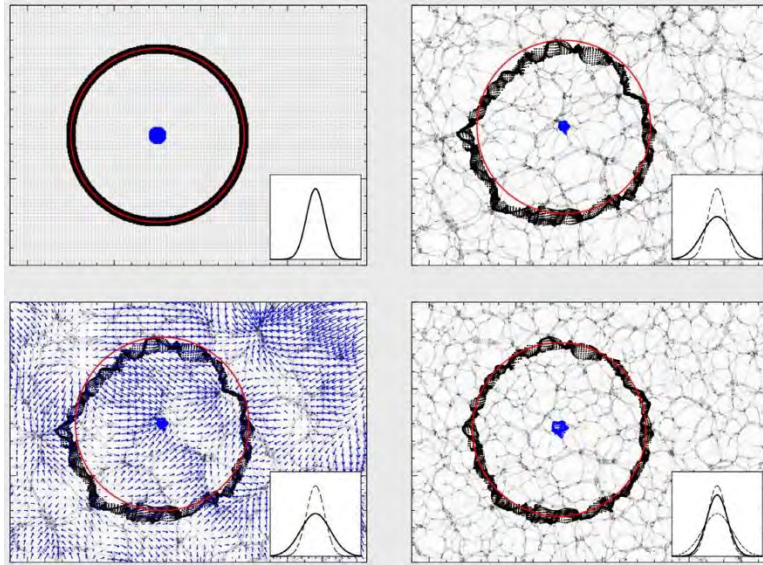


Primordial sound waves in baryon-photon plasma, frozen as density waves at recombination

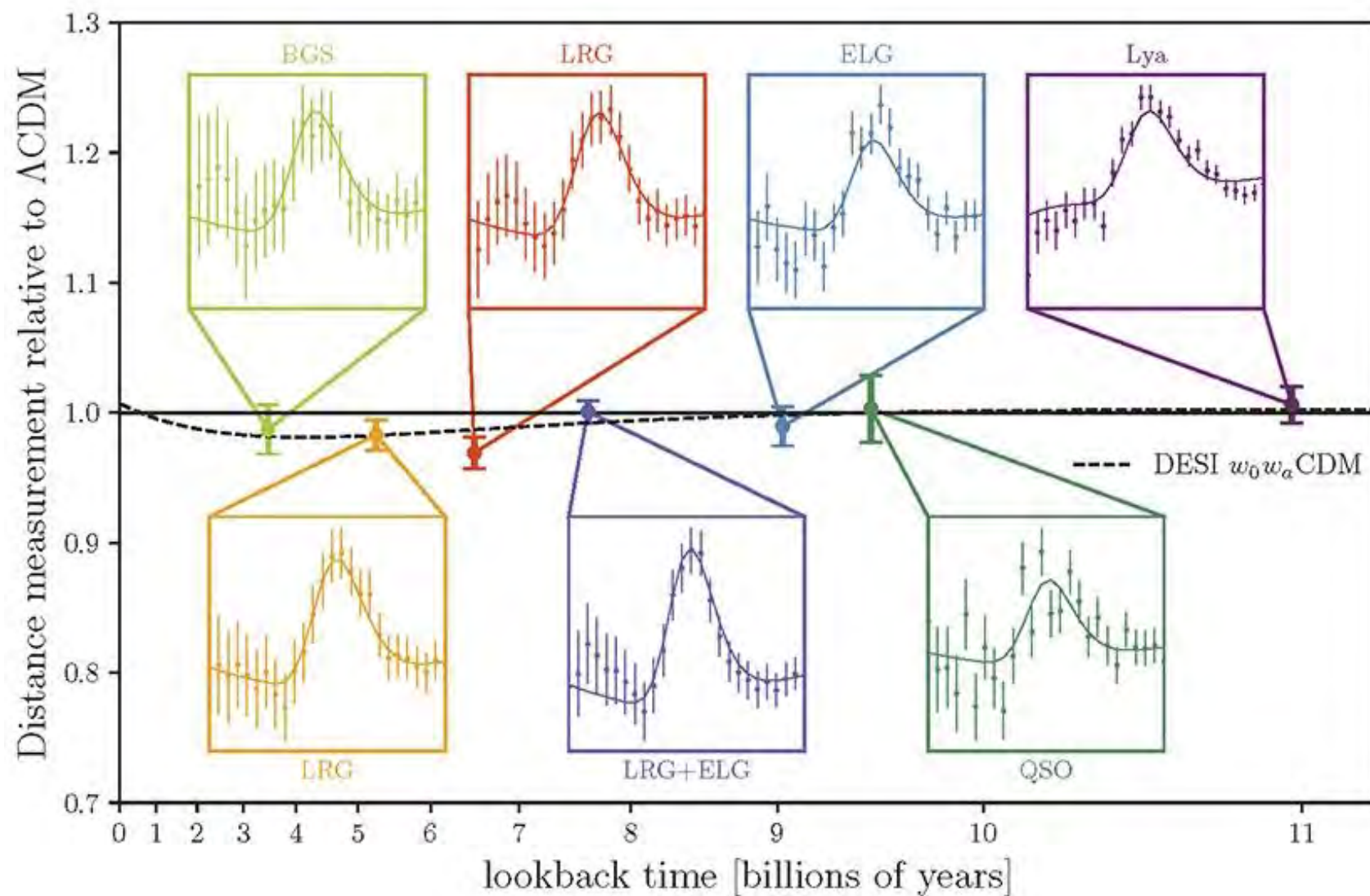
Baryon Acoustic Oscillations



The BAO peak as a “standard ruler”



The BAO peak as a “standard ruler”

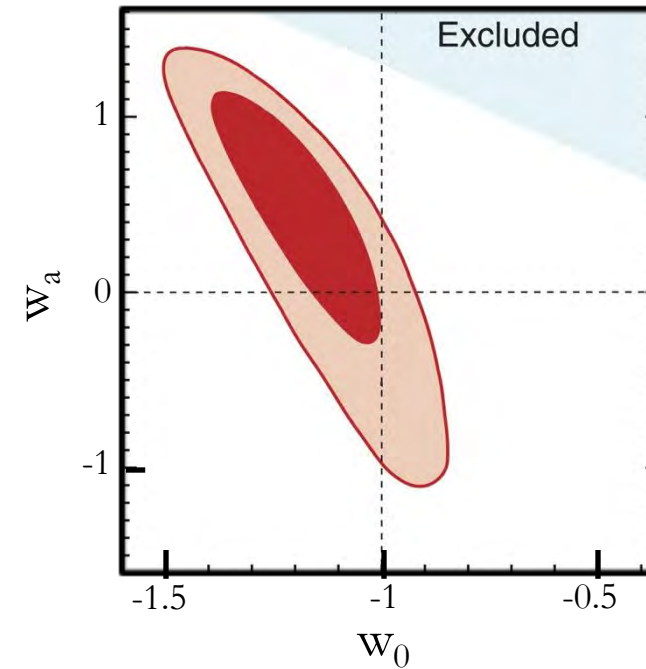
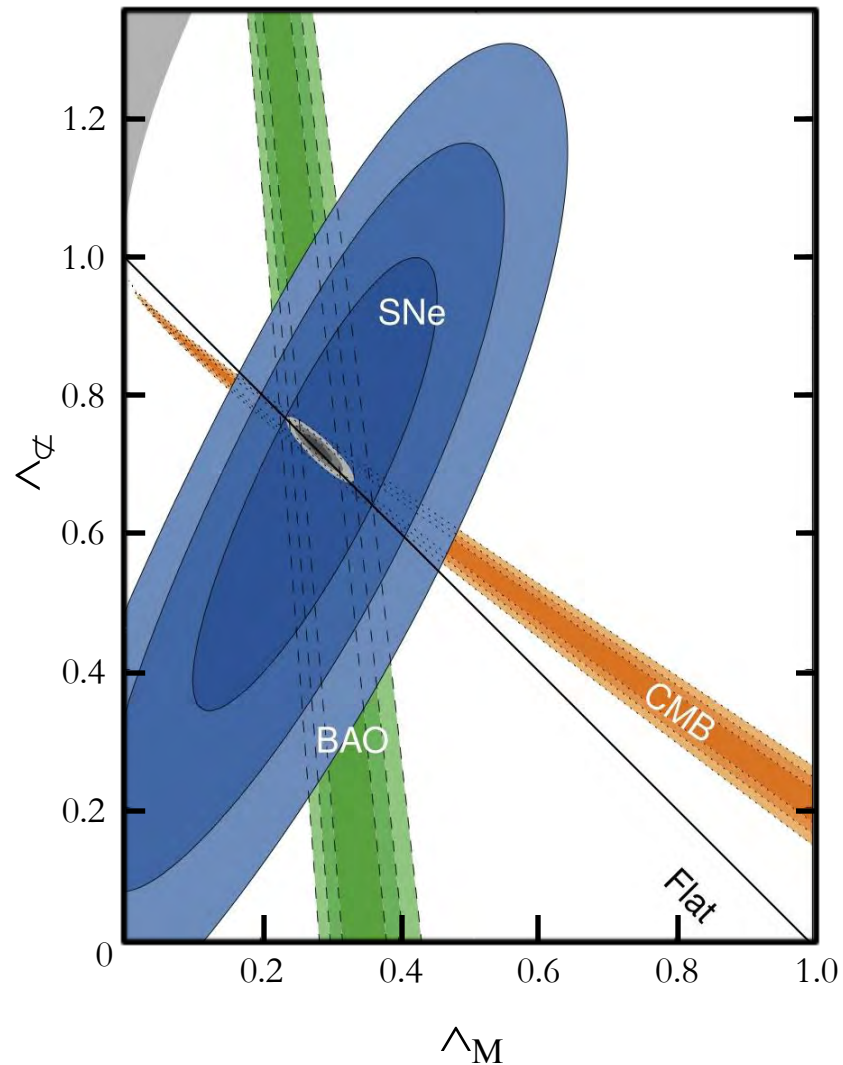


Breaking the degeneracies

- Some of the cosmological parameters derived from the CMB can only be known up to a factor of $h^2 = (H_0/100 \text{ km/s/Mpc})^2$
- Likewise, SNe Ia are mostly sensitive to $\Omega_\Lambda - \Omega_m$
- BAO are mostly sensitive to Ω_m
- Need to combine these probes to break degeneracies
- And... an independent determination of H_0 provides a robust test of the cosmological model (more on this later)



Combining Cosmological Probes circa 2012



$$w = P/\rho c^2$$

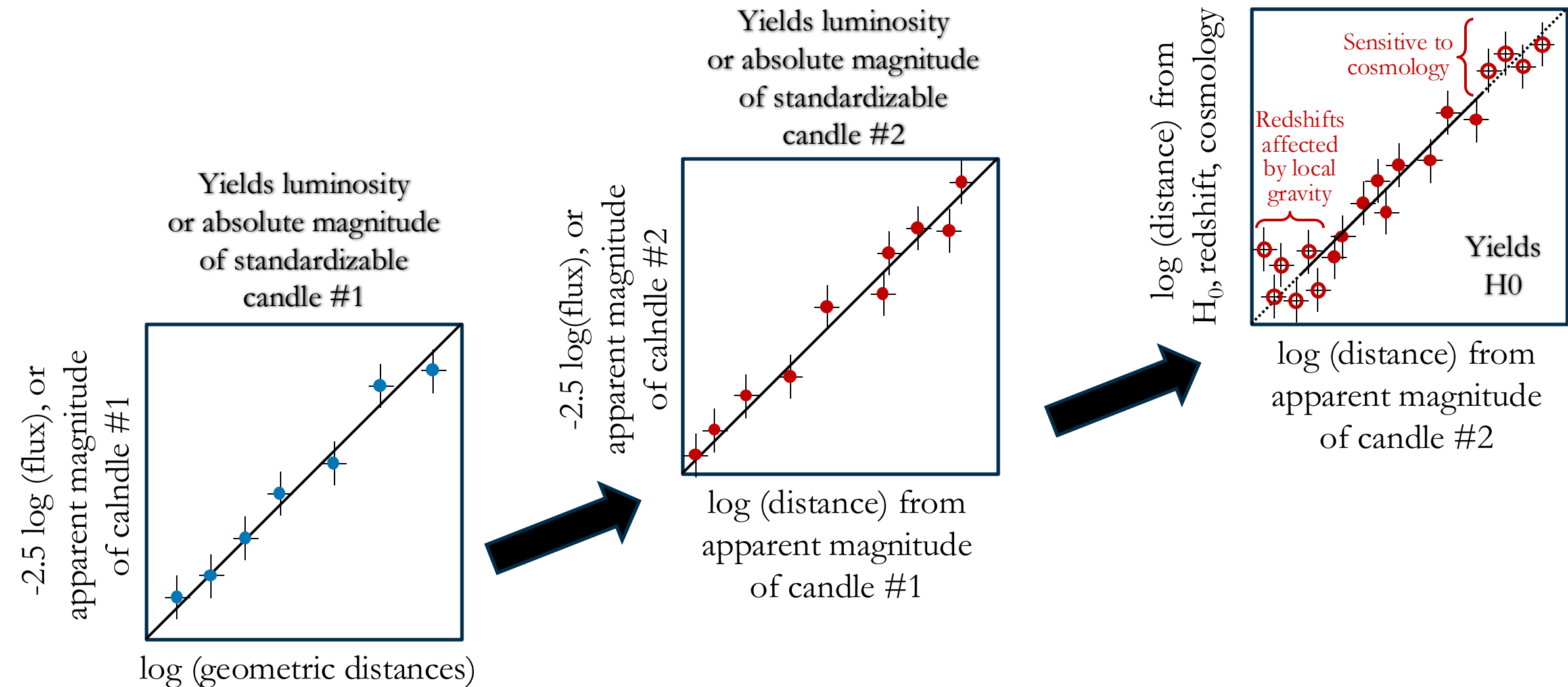
$$w(a) = w_0 + w_a(1-a)$$

The Cosmological Distance Ladder

- In order to measure H_0 locally, we need to construct a distance ladder
- This is because we cannot use a single method across the entire range of distances we need to cover
- Start with geometric methods (nearby) and then rely on the inverse-square law applied to standardizable “candles”

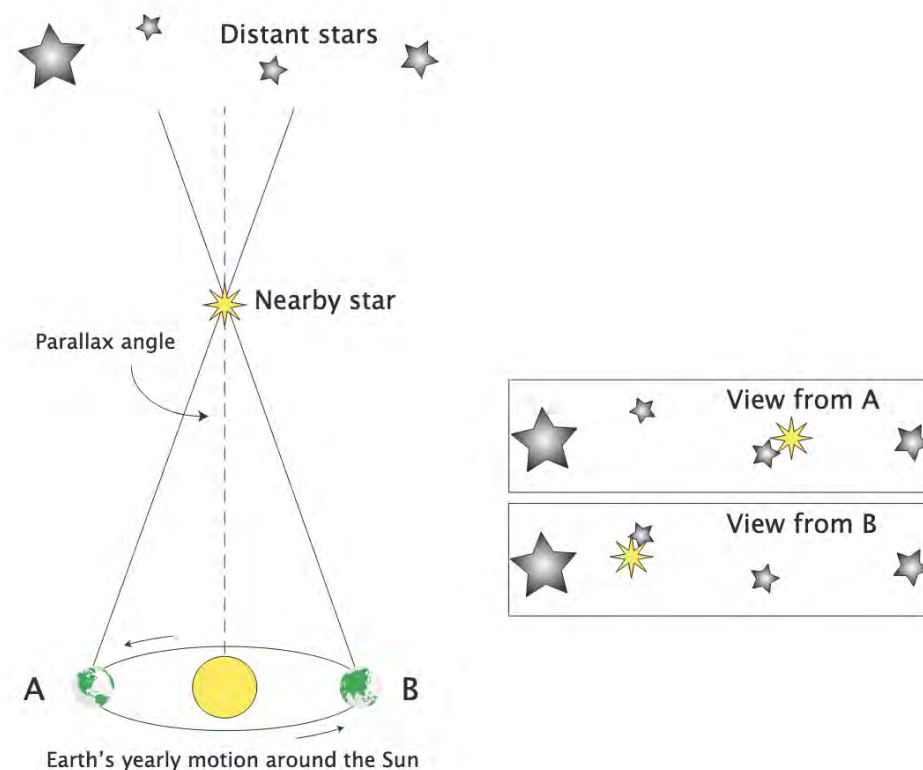


The Cosmological Distance Ladder



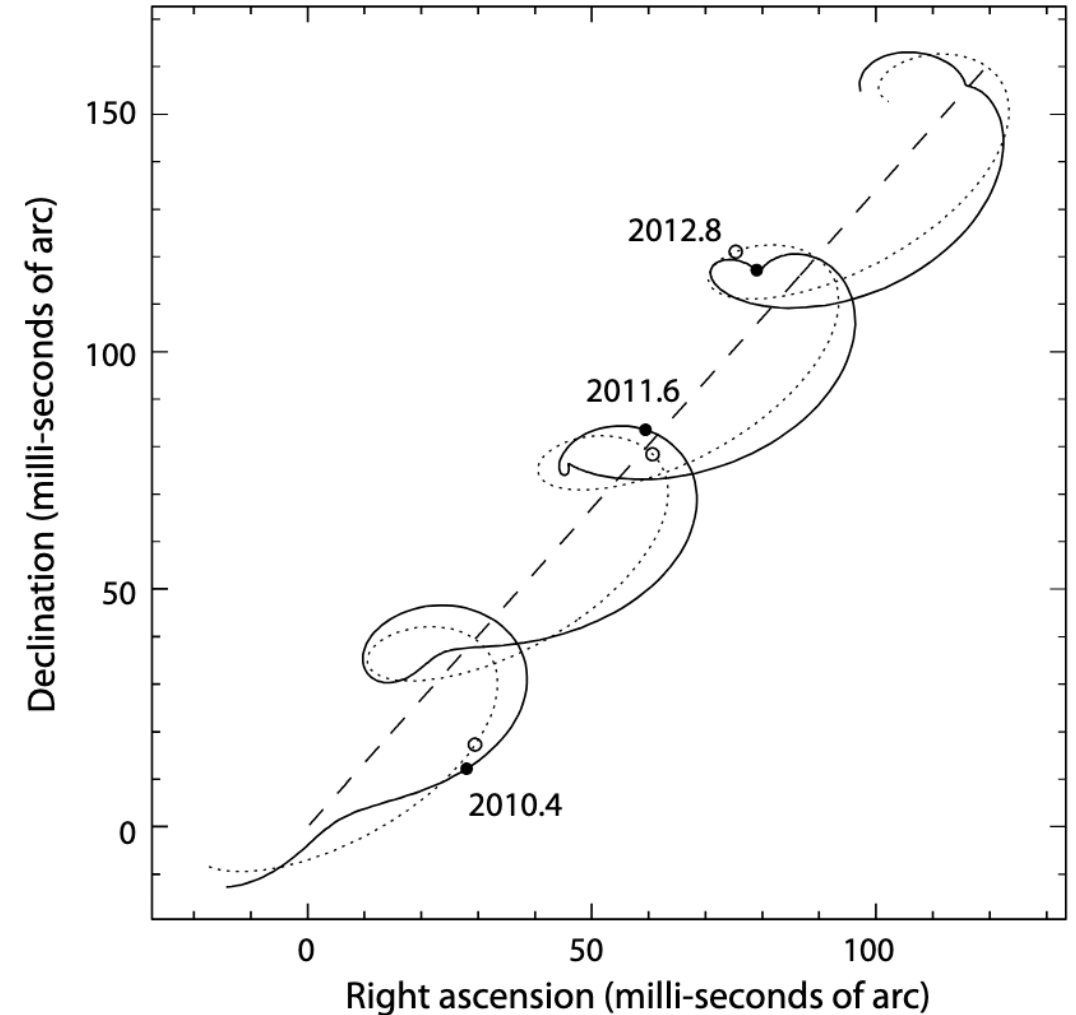
Parallax

- The “gold standard” of primary distance indicators
- Parallax angle π [in milli-arcsec] = 1 / distance [in kiloparsec]
- Requires astrometric measurements with extremely high precision and accuracy
- Best done from space: *Hipparcos*, *Gaia* (ESA missions); *Hubble*
- Can be done globally, or locally with suitable reference stars



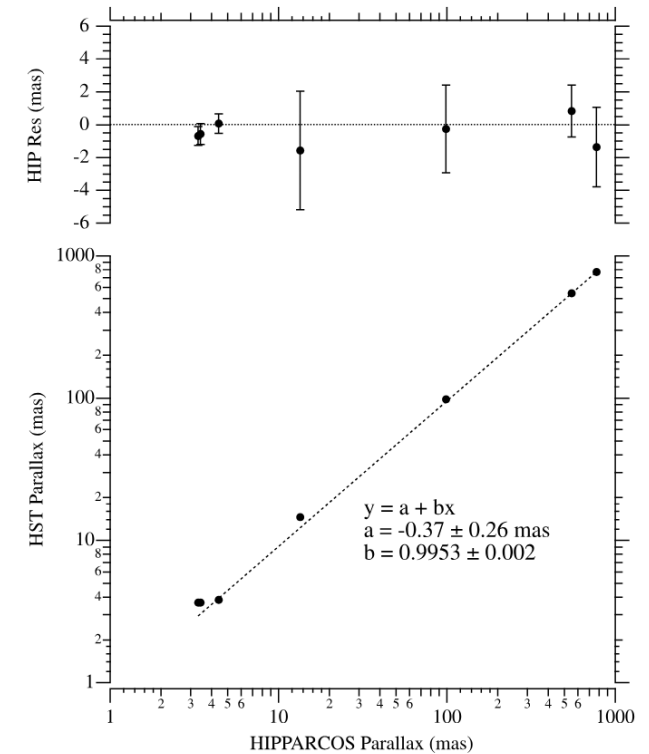
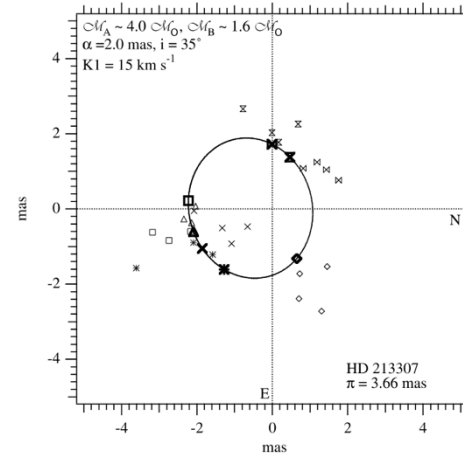
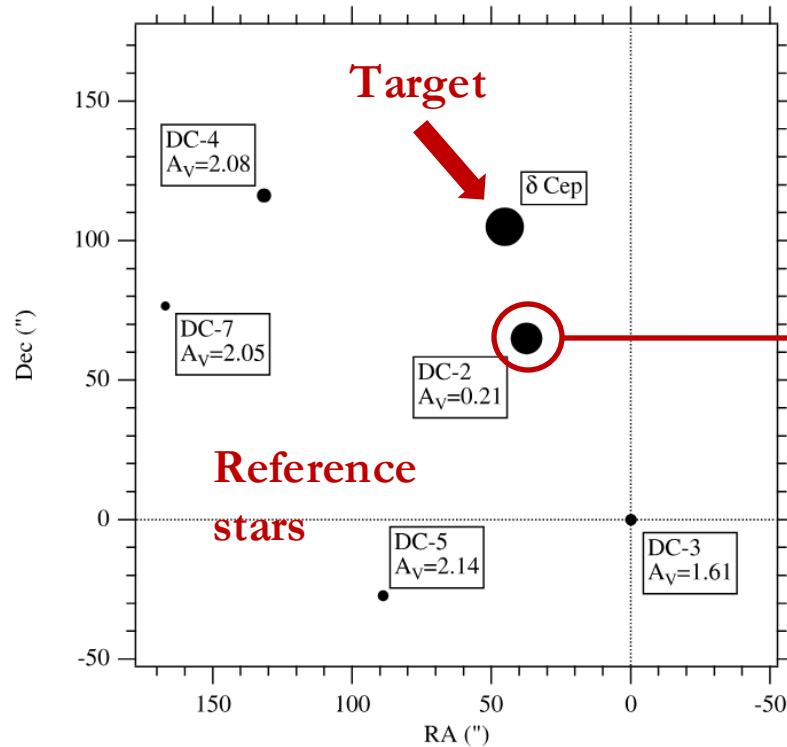
Parallax complications

- Measurements must span at least a few months (or years)
- Must also measure the stellar *proper motion*, due to the spatial velocities of stars wrt Sun
- Many stars of interest will have companions...



Parallaxes with HST/FGS

- The first high S/N parallaxes useful for the distance scale were obtained using the Fine Guidance Sensors (FGS) on Hubble

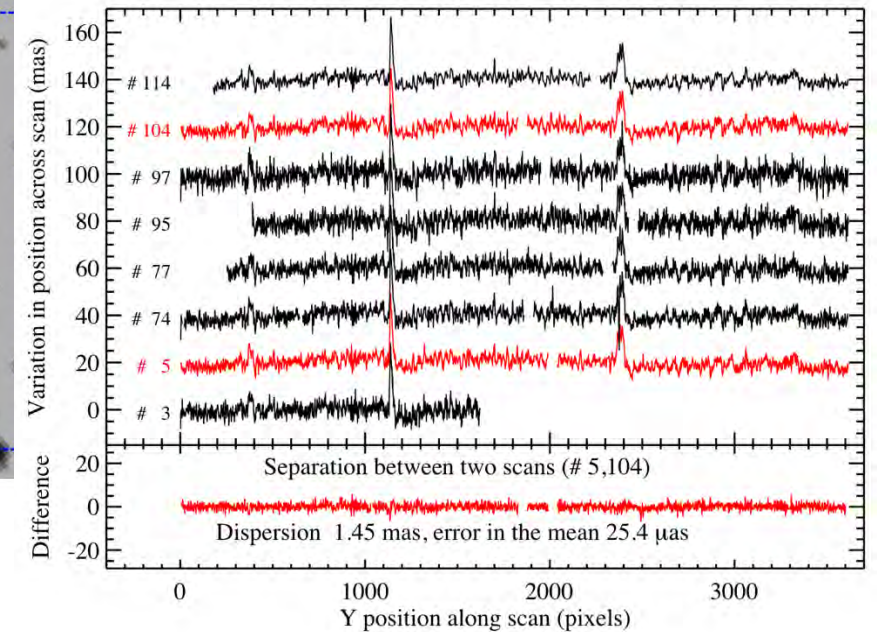
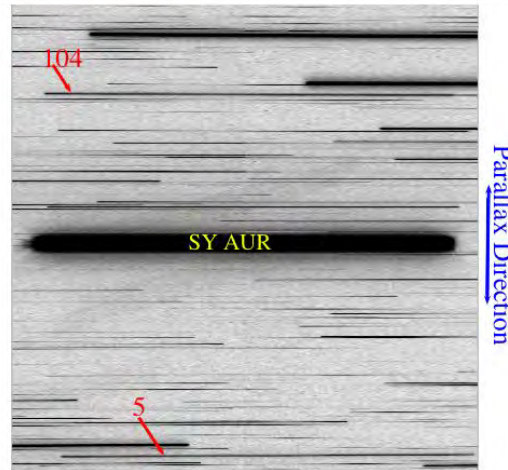
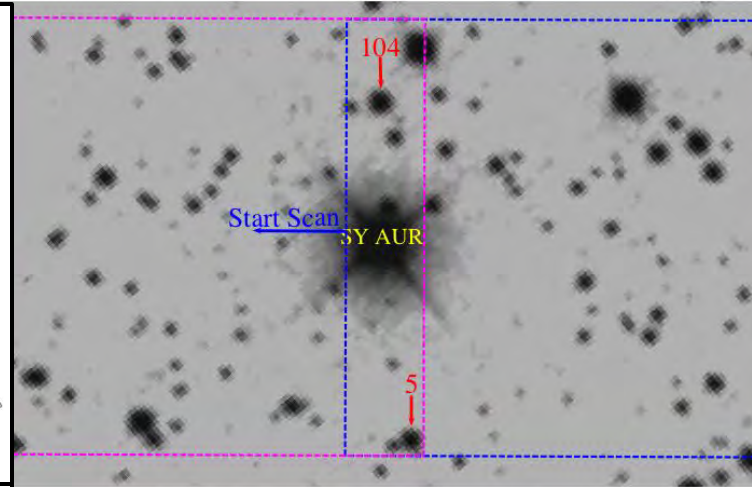
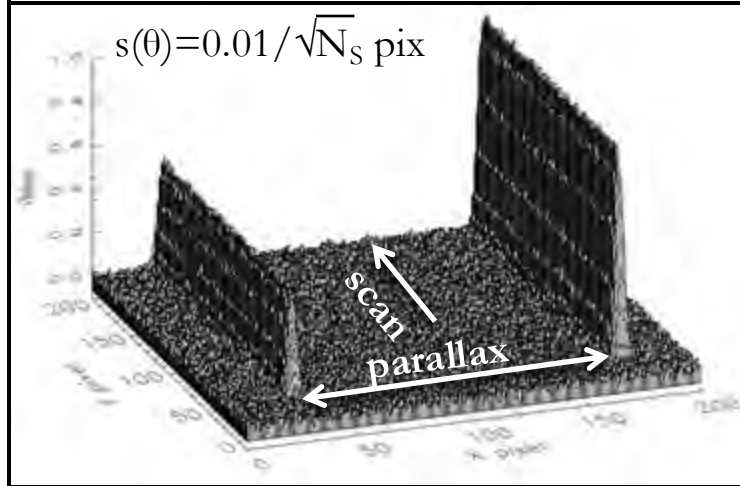
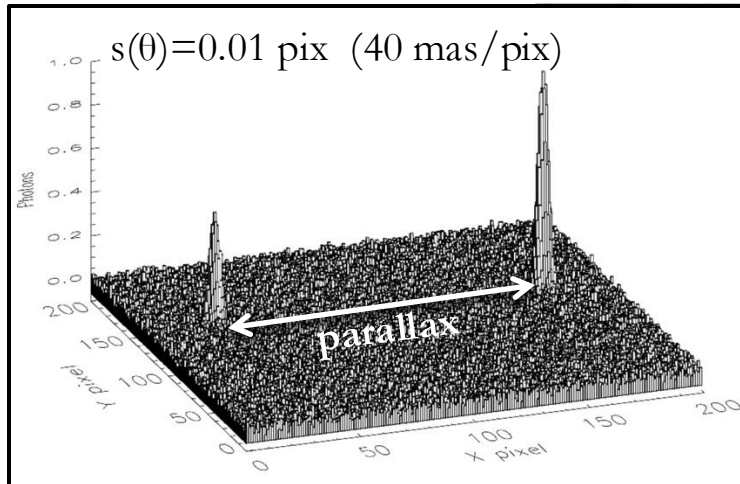


Parallaxes with HST/FGS

- The first high S/N parallaxes useful for the distance scale were obtained using the Fine Guidance Sensors (FGS) on Hubble
- Unfortunately, FGS could only measure parallaxes to ± 0.2 mas, limiting its reach to $D \sim 500$ pc ($\pi = 2$ mas so $S/N \sim 10$)
- The development of a spatial scanning technique on Hubble, using the WFC3 camera, increased its reach $7\times$, to $D \sim 3.5$ kpc



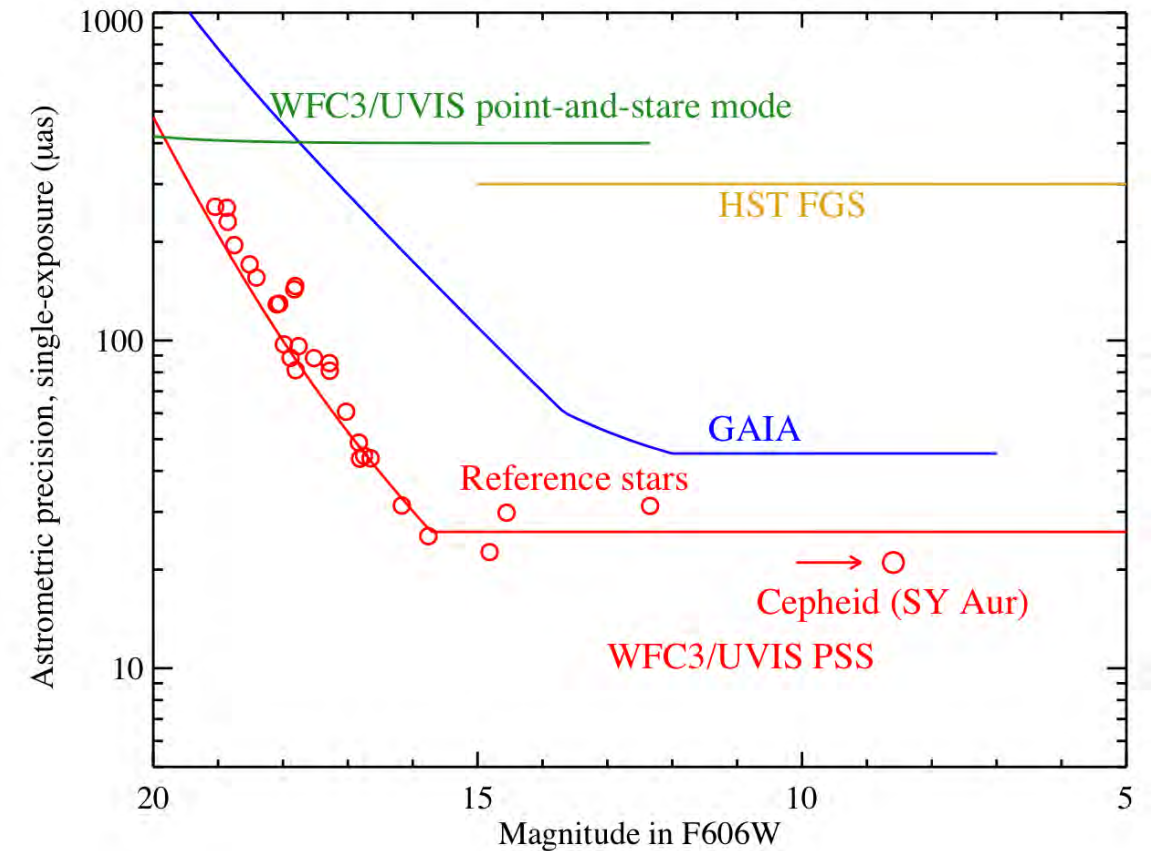
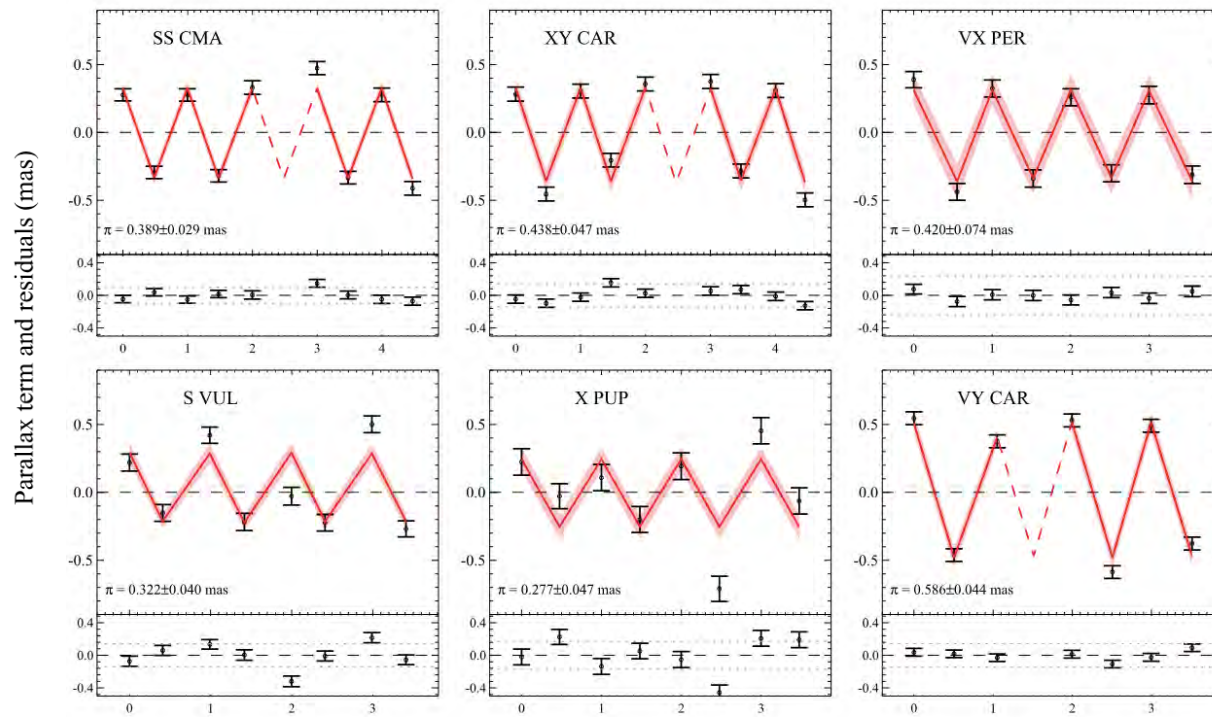
Parallaxes with HST/WFC3 scanning



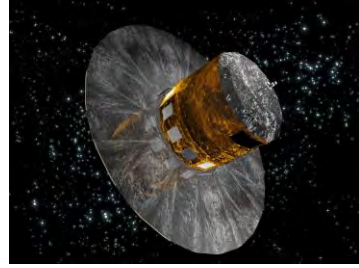
Jitter between lines is *coherent*,
subtracted in line separations
Astrometric precision of 30-80 μas

Parallaxes with HST/WFC3 scanning

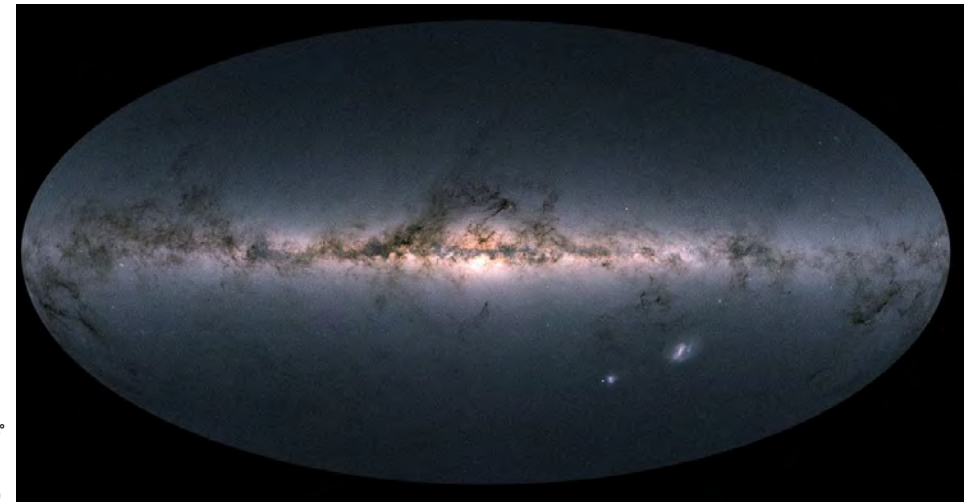
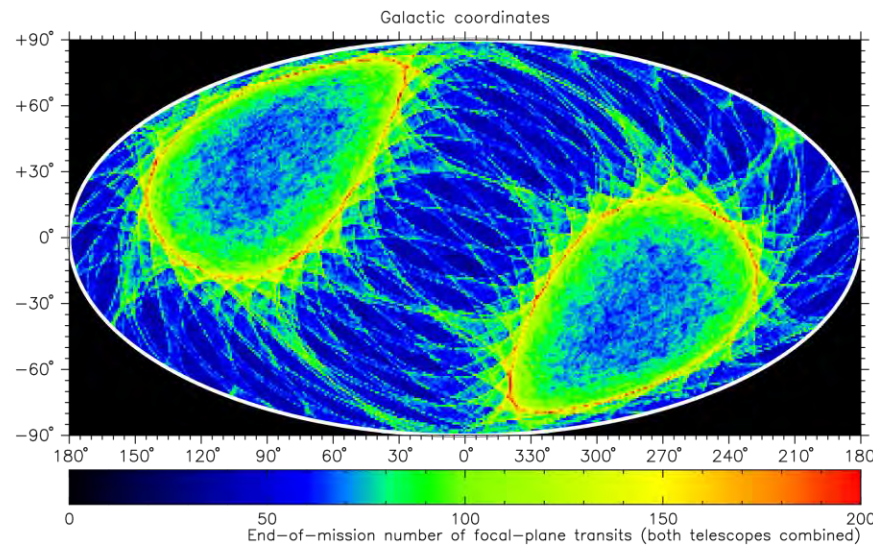
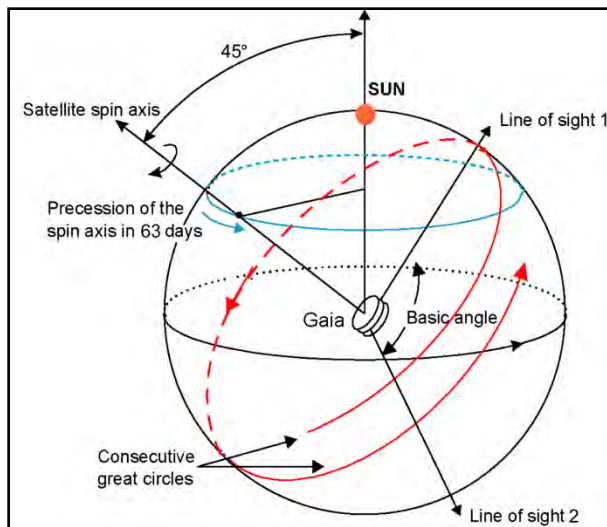
- These observations also yielded homogeneous photometry of the targets (more on that later)



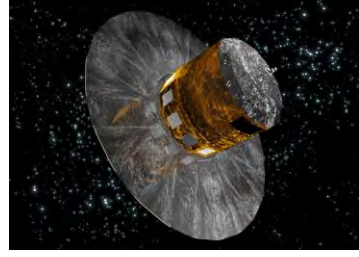
Parallaxes with *Gaia*



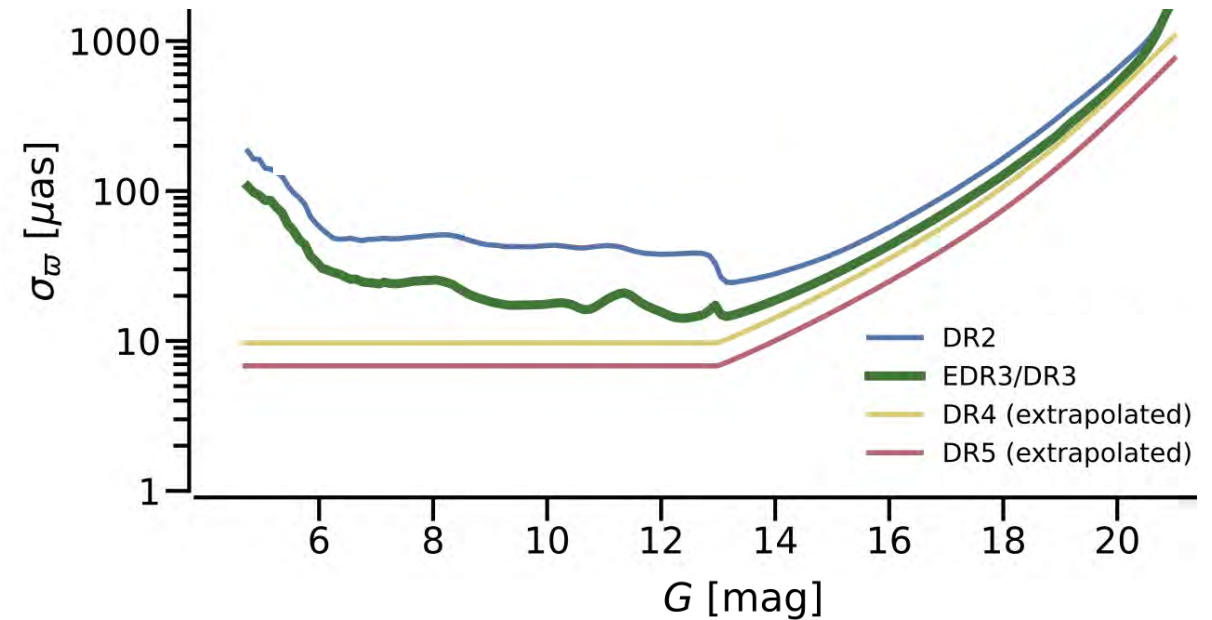
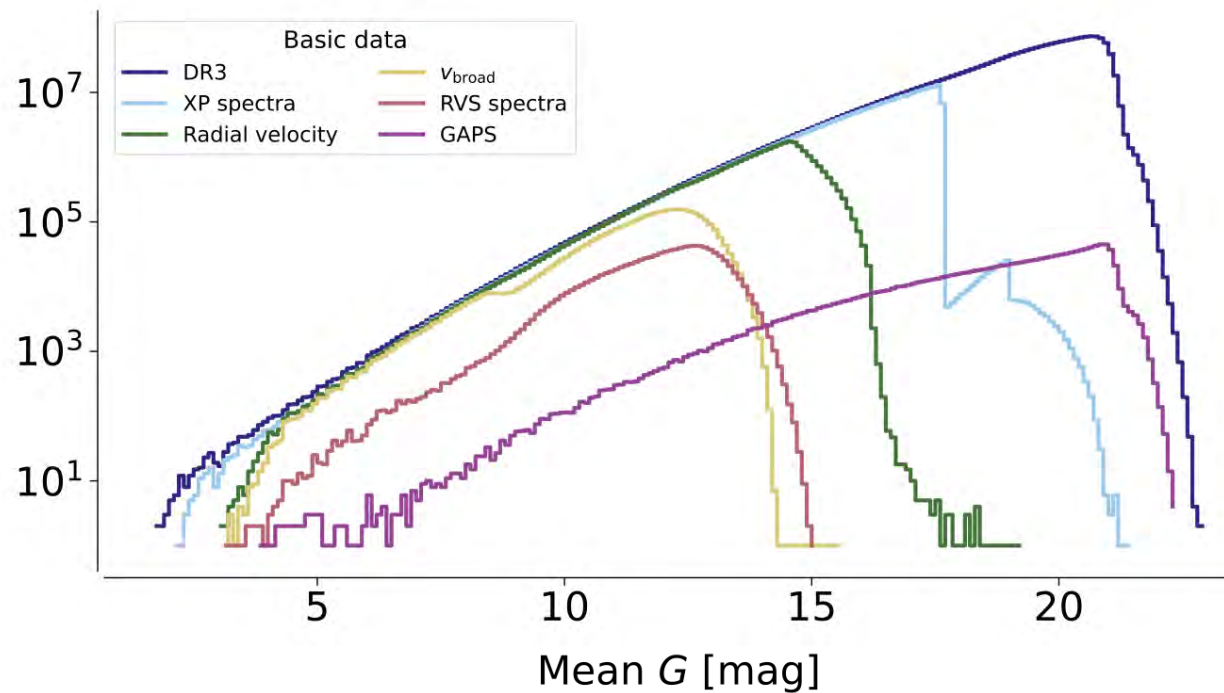
- ESA mission, observing entire sky from L2 since July 2014
- 4 observations in 6h, repeated ~ 14 times per year
- $\sim 2 \times 10^9$ sources to $V \sim 21$ mag; $\sim 3 \times 10^5$ for distance scale
- Parallaxes out to $D \sim 100$ kpc; photometry and spectroscopy



Parallaxes with *Gaia*



- Data Release 3 in June 2022; Data Release 4 mid-2026
- Final Data Release no earlier than Dec 2030



Beyond Parallaxes

- As great as *Gaia* is, it can only measure parallaxes for stars within the Milky Way (and its satellites)
 - Limitations / complications due to large amounts of interstellar dust along the line of sight in certain directions within the Milky Way
 - Low S/N parallaxes for individual stars in MW satellites
- Need other geometrical methods to go beyond $D \sim 100$ kpc with accuracy and precision



The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

- Based on Stefan-Boltzmann Law, and the definitions of luminosity, angular diameter, and bolometric magnitude

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T_e^4$$

$$\log L \propto 2 \log R + 4 \log T_e$$

- R =radius ; T_e =effective temperature; L =luminosity



The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

- Based on Stefan-Boltzmann Law, and the definitions of luminosity, angular diameter, and bolometric magnitude

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T_e^4$$

$$\log L \propto 2 \log R + 4 \log T_e$$

$$M = -2.5 \log L + C$$

$$M \propto -5 \log R - 10 \log T_e$$

- R =radius ; T_e =effective temperature; L =luminosity



The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

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$$0.1M \propto -0.5 \log R - \log T_e$$

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1M - 0.5 \log R$$

- R =radius ; T_e =effective temperature; L =luminosity

The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

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$$\log T_e \propto -0.1M - 0.5 \log R$$

$$m - M \propto 5 \log D$$

$$M \propto m - 5 \log D$$

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1m + 0.5 \log D - 0.5 \log R$$

- R =radius ; T_e =effective temperature; L =luminosity
- D =distance

The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

- Based on Stefan-Boltzmann Law, and the definitions of luminosity, angular diameter, and bolometric magnitude

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T_e^4$$

$$\log L \propto 2 \log R + 4 \log T_e$$

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$$m - M \propto 5 \log D$$

$$M \propto m - 5 \log D$$

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1m + 0.5 \log D - 0.5 \log R$$

$$\phi = 2R/D$$

$$\log \phi \propto \log R - \log D$$

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1m - 0.5 \log \phi$$

- R =radius ; T_e =effective temperature; L =luminosity
- D =distance ; ϕ = angular diameter

The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

- Based on Stefan-Boltzmann Law, and the definitions of luminosity, angular diameter, and bolometric magnitude

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1m - 0.5 \log \phi$$

$$m = V + BC$$

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1(V + BC) - 0.5 \log \phi$$

The Surface Brightness – Temperature relation

- Based on Stefan-Boltzmann Law, and the definitions of luminosity, angular diameter, and bolometric magnitude

$$\log T_e \propto -0.1m - 0.5 \log \phi$$

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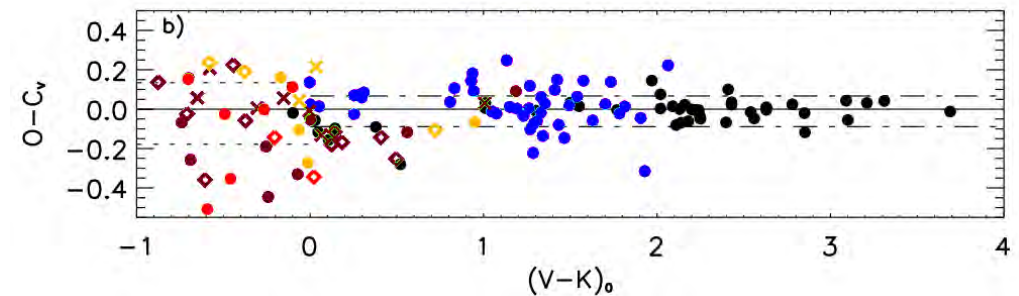
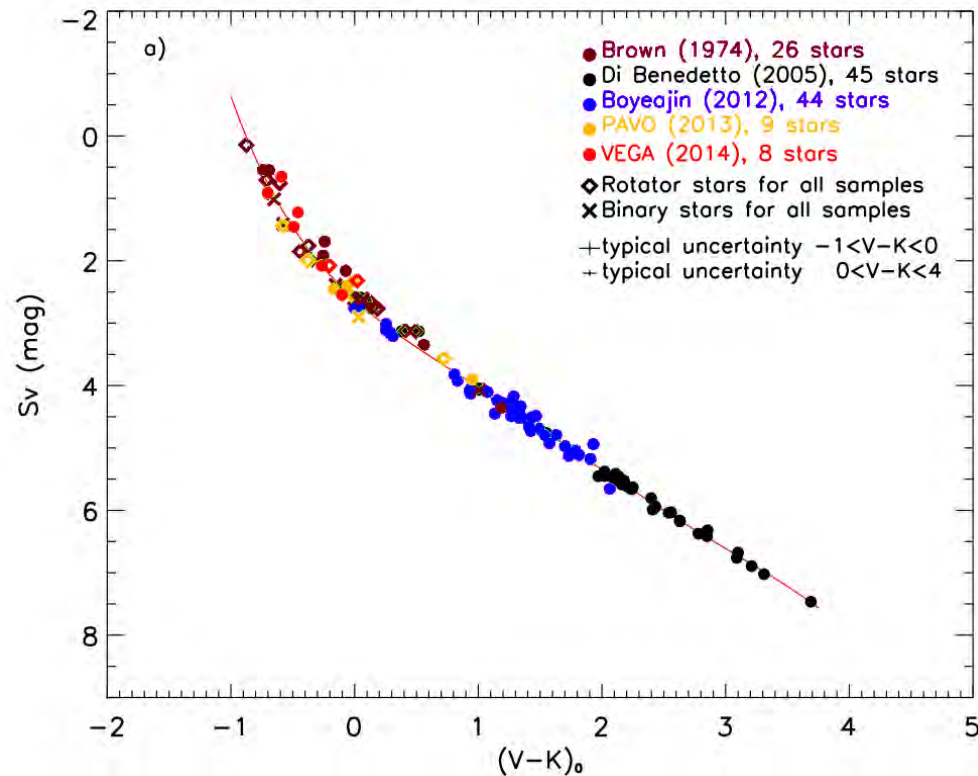
- Initial calibration using the Sun, to arrive at:

$$\log T_e = 4.2207 - 0.1(V + BC) - 0.5 \log \phi$$

- T_e = effective temperature; V = apparent V-band magnitude; BC = bolometric correction; ϕ = angular diameter

The Surface Brightness – Color relation

- Use angular diameters based on interferometric measurements and lunar occultations; replace temperature with (V-K) color

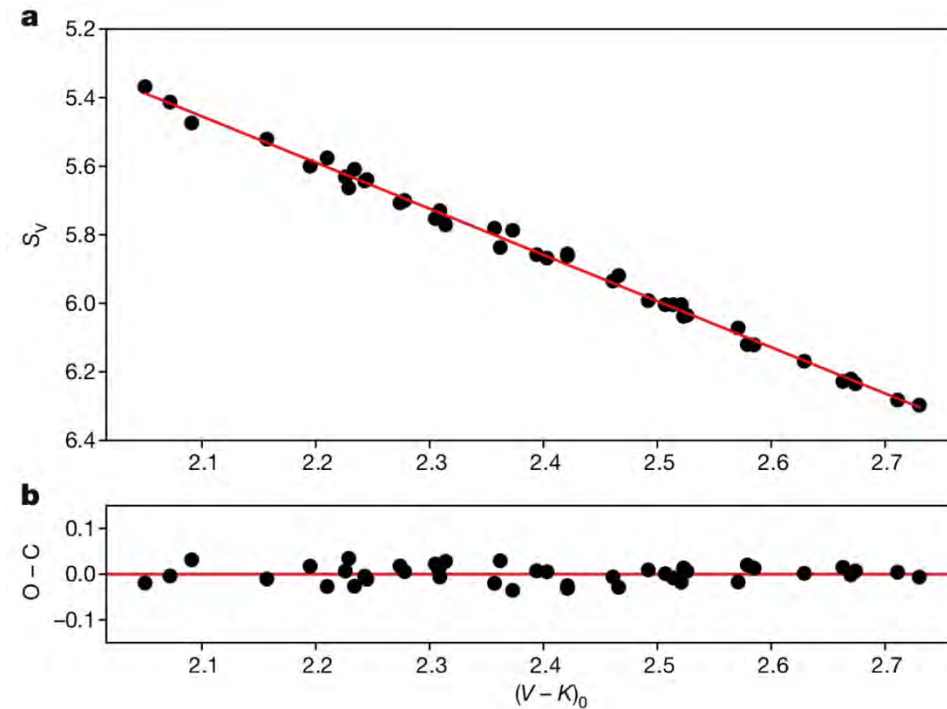


$$S_V = V + 5 \log \phi$$

Large scatter for hot stars, but
promising for cooler ones ($V-K > 2$)

The Surface Brightness – Color relation

- Measure angular diameter of 41 nearby core-He fusing giants to determine a 0.8% calibration of the SBCR



The Surface Brightness – Color relation

$$\log T_e = 4.2207 - 0.1(V + BC) - 0.5 \log \phi \leftarrow$$

- We can use the SBCR to predict angular diameters, based on observed V magnitudes and V - K colors
- If we have an independent method to estimate linear diameters, then we can determine the distance to the stars
- Detached Eclipsing Binaries (DEBs) are ideal systems for this



The Surface Brightness – Color relation



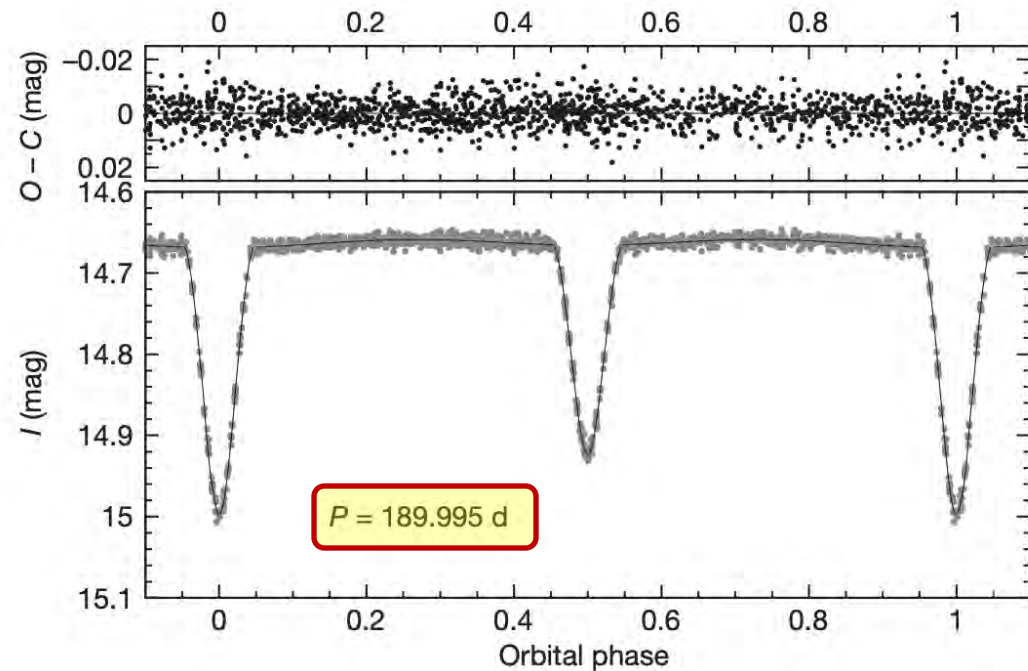
$$S_V = V + 5 \log \Phi = f(V-K)$$

- We can use the SBCR to predict angular diameters, based on observed V magnitudes and $V-K$ colors
- If we have an independent method to estimate linear diameters, then we can determine the distance to the stars
- Detached Eclipsing Binaries (DEBs) are ideal systems for this



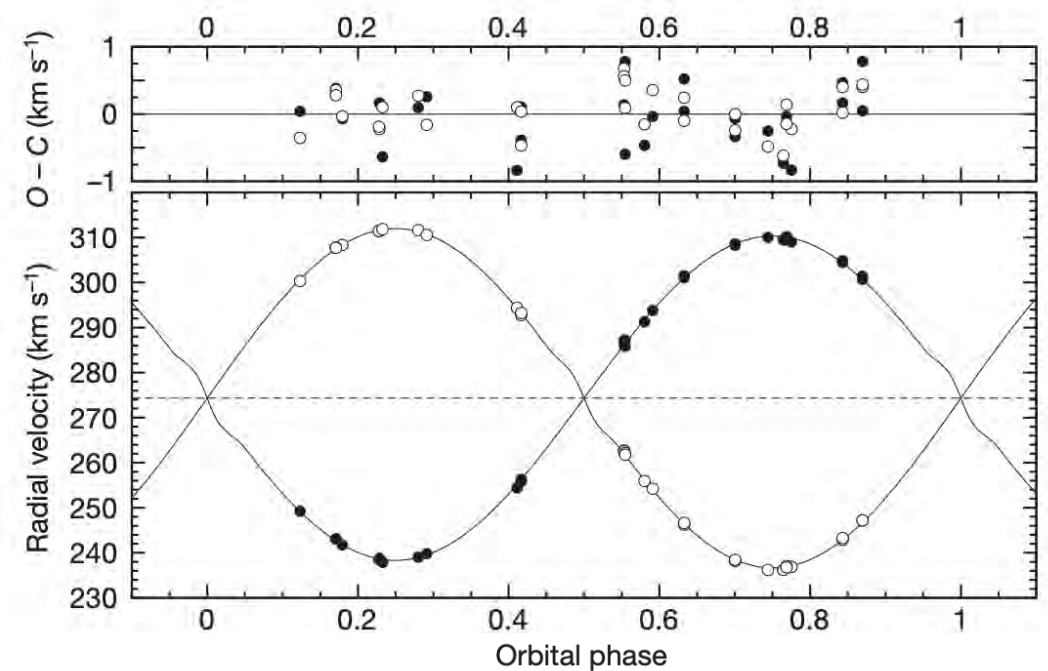
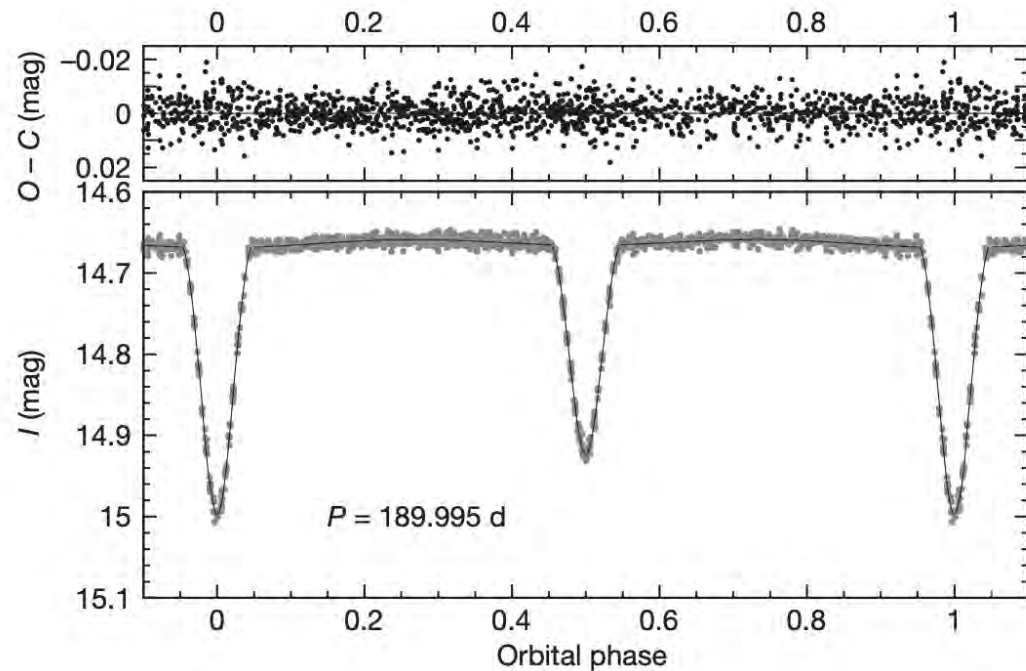
Detached Eclipsing Binaries as Distance Indicators

- Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment: 25+ years of observations of Magellanic Clouds (among other targets)
- Discover suitable binaries composed of red giants



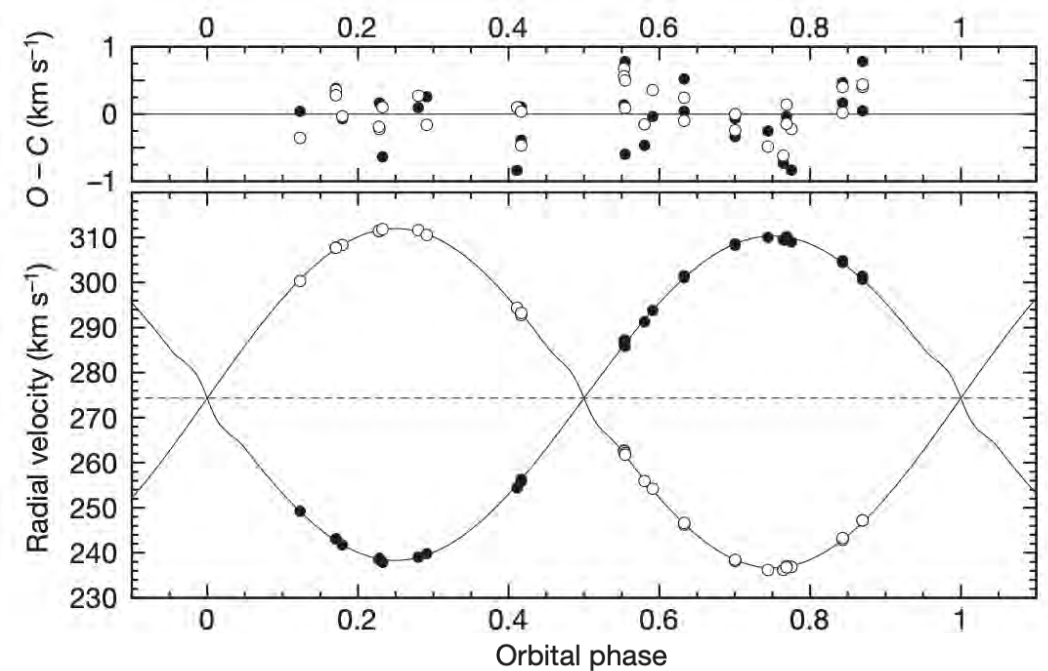
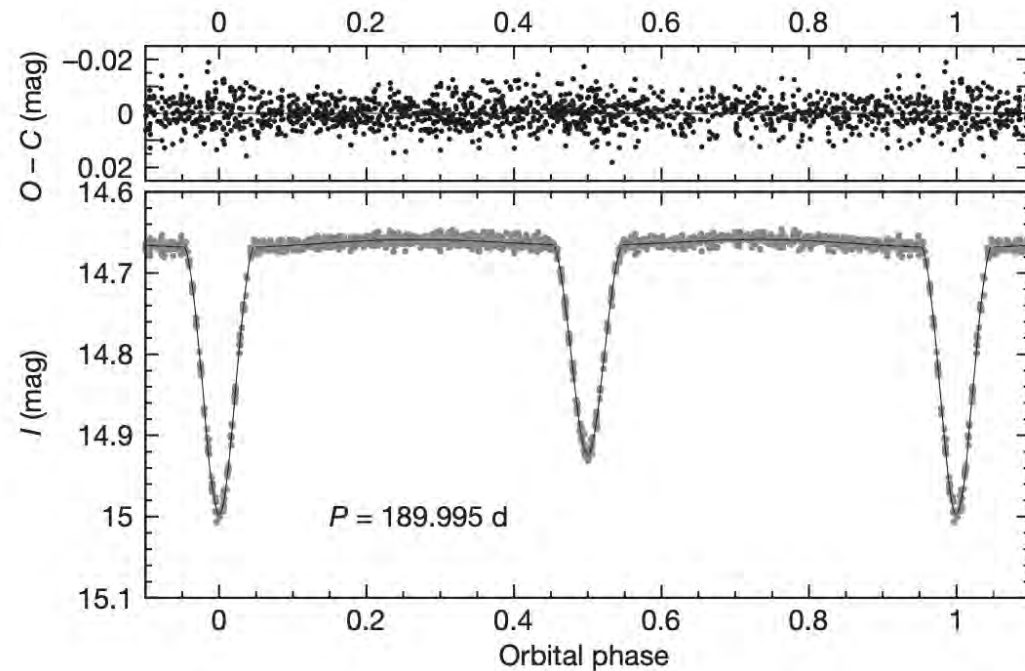
Detached Eclipsing Binaries as Distance Indicators

- Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment: 25+ years of observations of Magellanic Clouds (among other targets)
- Follow-up spectroscopy: T_e , orbital velocities



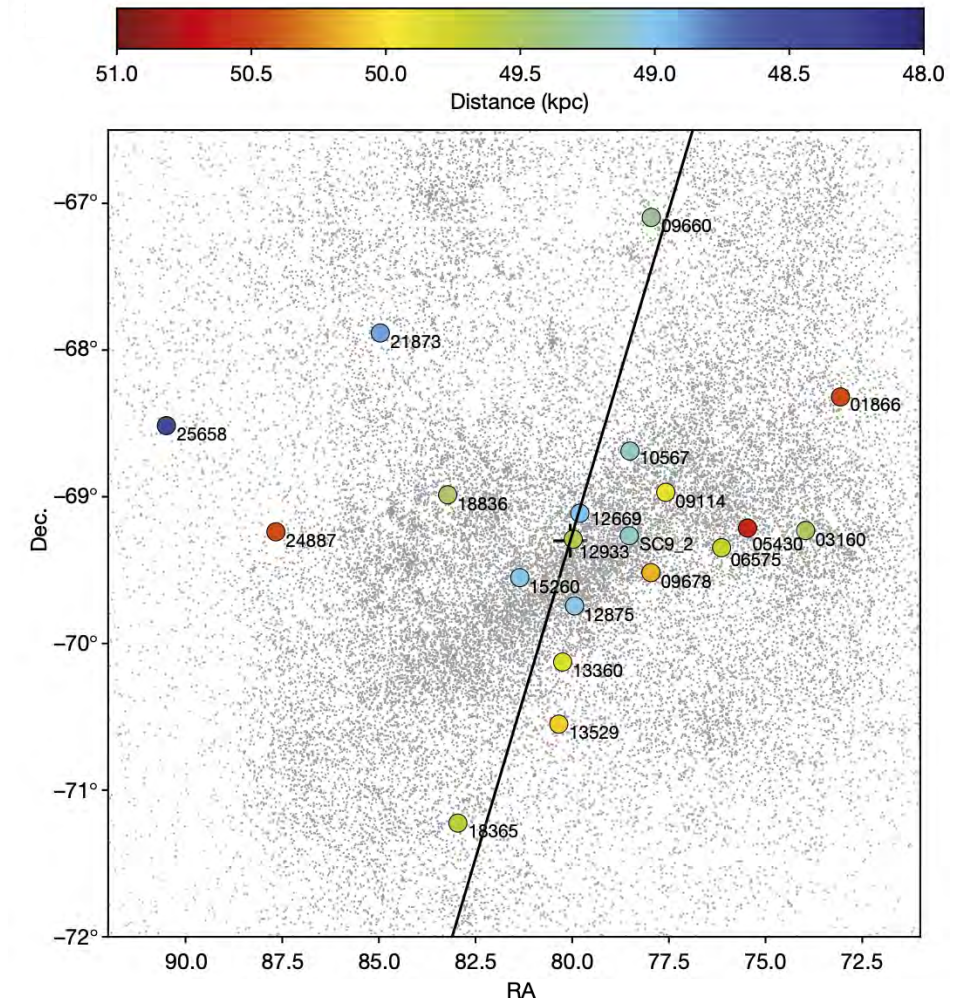
Detached Eclipsing Binaries as Distance Indicators

- Light curves yield stellar radii in units of orbital separation
- Orbital velocities from spectra yield size of orbit in km
- Combine to get radii in km and solve for distance



Detached Eclipsing Binaries as Distance Indicators

- A method so precise that it can map the depth of the LMC!
- $D=49.59\pm0.09(\text{stat})\pm0.54(\text{sys})$ kpc
(total uncertainty of 1.1%)
- Even for the elongated SMC,
 $D=62.44\pm0.47(\text{stat})\pm0.81(\text{sys})$ kpc
(total uncertainty of 1.5%)

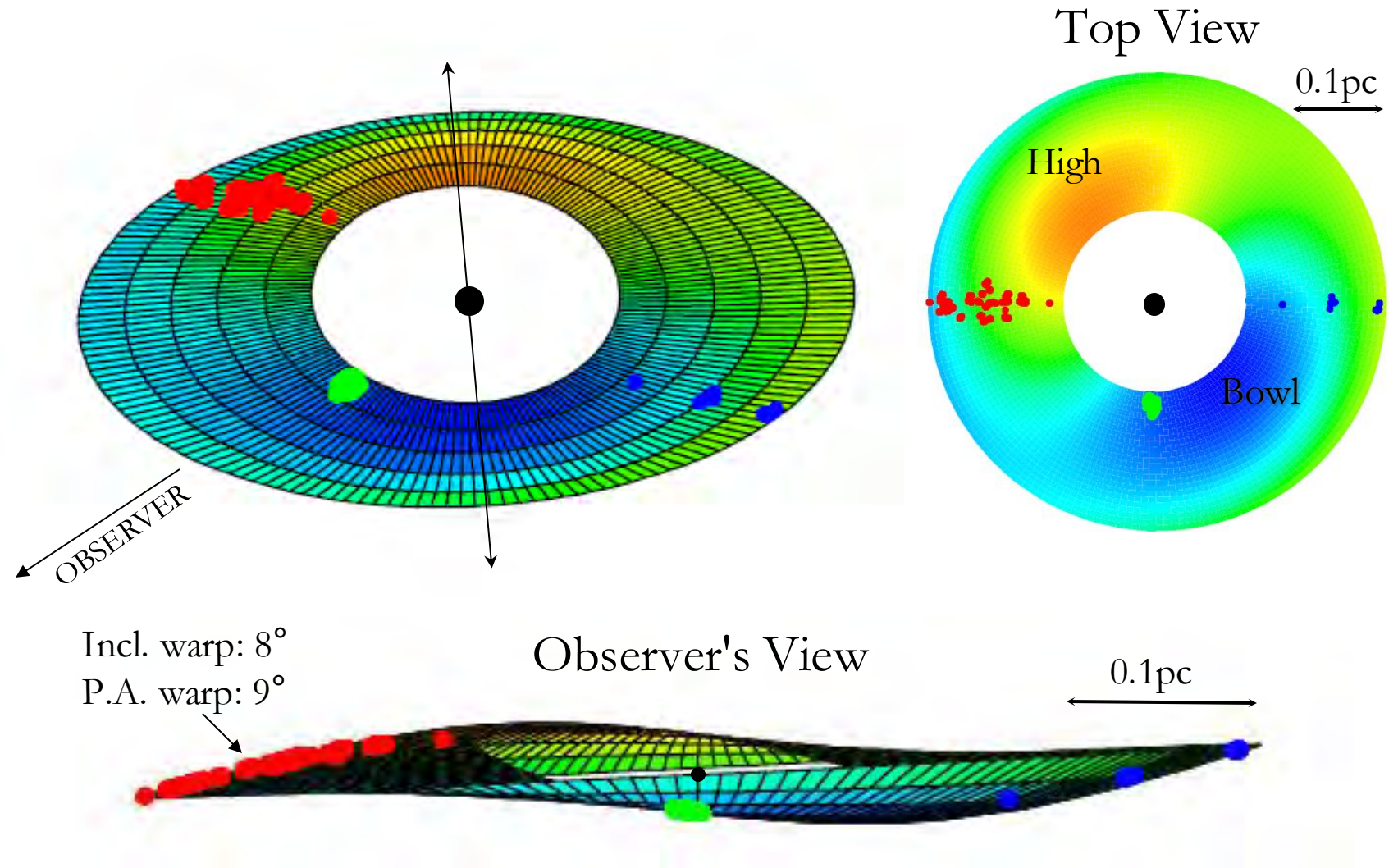


Beyond the Magellanic Clouds: Masers

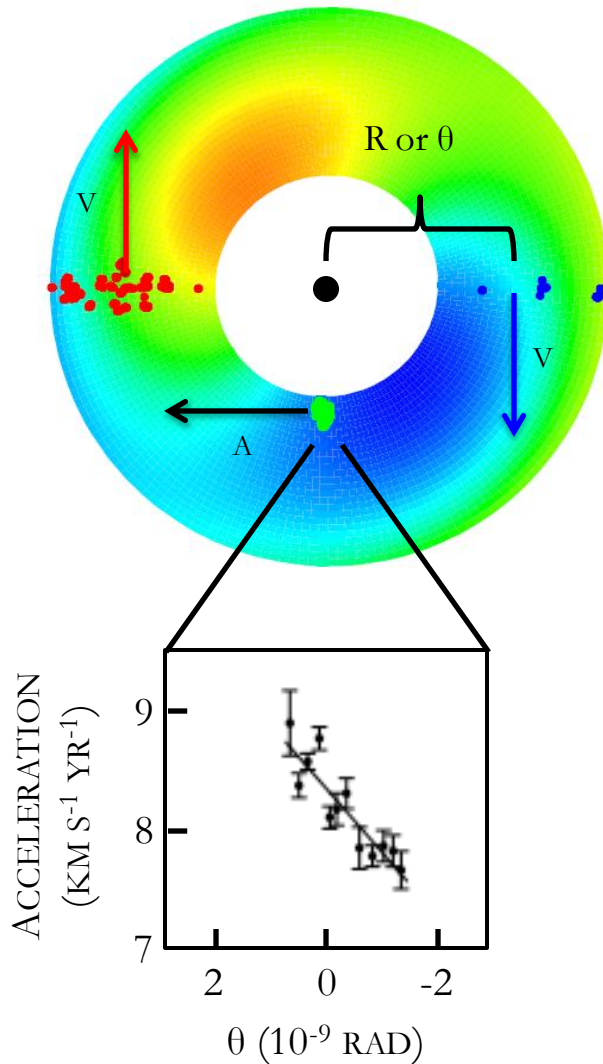
- The next generation of extremely large telescopes may allow us to extend this technique further into the Local Group (M31, M33)
- For now, if we want to go farther, we need another technique...
- Water masers in accretion disks of central massive black holes can also be used to determine geometric distances
- Requires Very Long Baseline Array observations over many years
- Best case: NGC 4258 (Messier 106), only ~ 7 Mpc away



Masers in NGC 4258 (Messier 106)



Masers in NGC 4258 (Messier 106)



Angular diameter distance

- Velocities from tangential masers
- Accelerations from masers in front
- θ from radio map

- $A = V^2 / R$

- $R = D \theta$

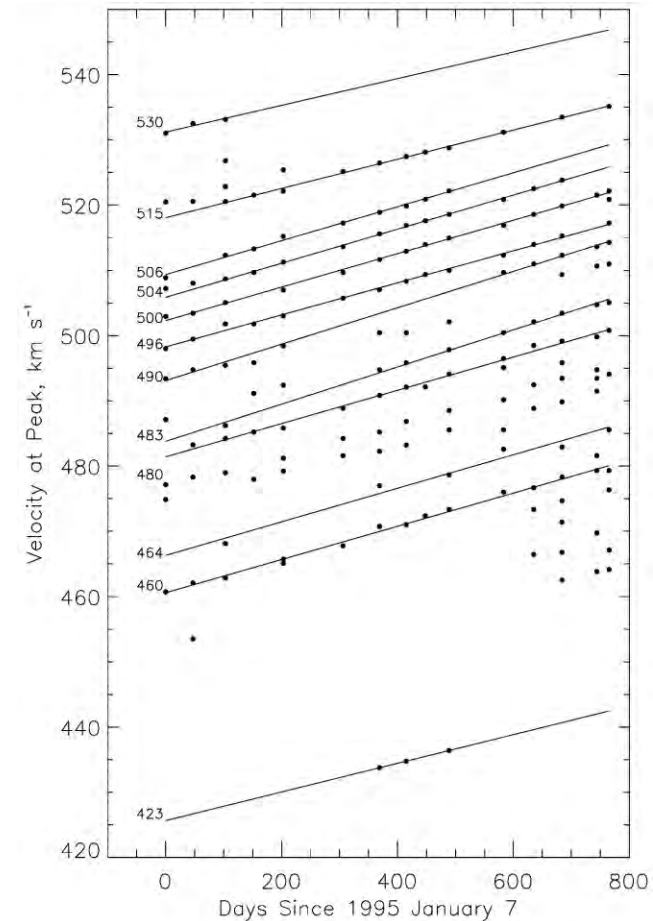
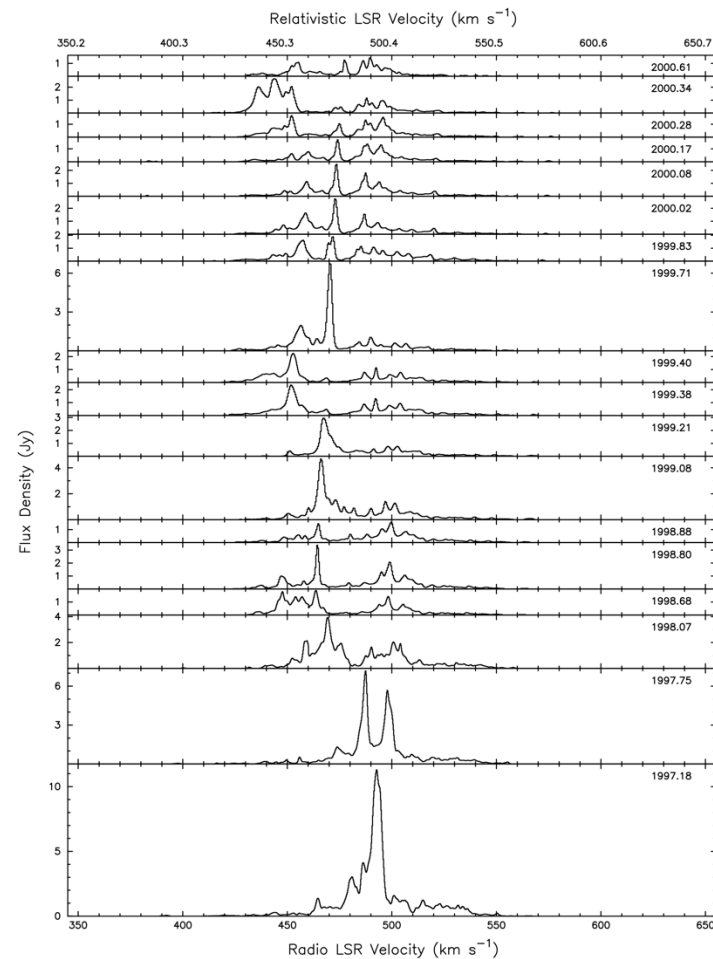
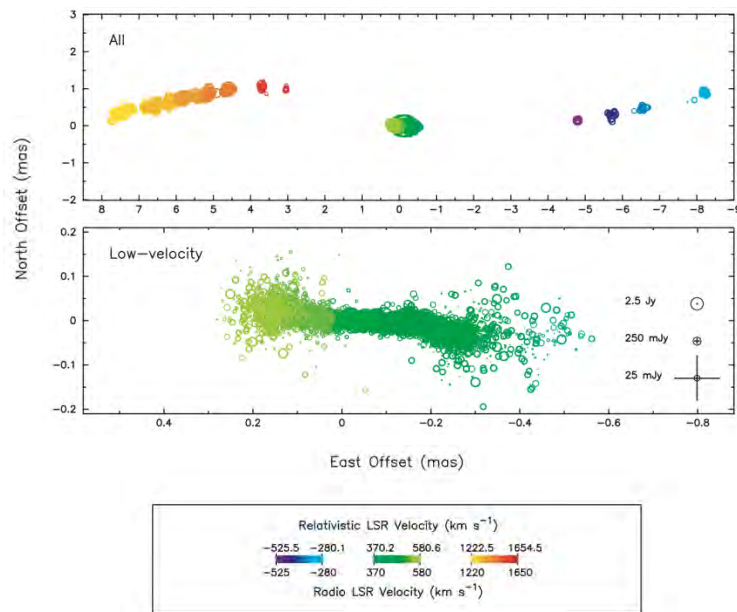
$$D = V^2 / A \theta$$

- $D = 7.58 \text{ Mpc} \pm 1.5\%$

- $\text{Mass} = 3.98 \times 10^7 \pm 1.0\% M_{\odot}$ (Reid+2019)

Masers in NGC 4258 (Messier 106)

- The accelerations are measured by following spectral features from individual masers



Summary – Lecture 1

- Strong evidence for an expanding Universe
- Strong evidence for a homogeneous and isotropic Universe
- Under FRLW metric, $H(z)$ sensitive to cosmological parameters
- End-to-end check of cosmology: local and inverse distance ladders
- Three-rung local distance ladder: geometry, flux, flux
- The first rung: parallaxes, detached eclipsing binaries, masers



The Cosmic Distance Scale

Lecture 2

Lucas Macri

NSF NOIRLab

Escola JPB Cosmo 2024



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- I want to thank the following colleagues, who generously contributed material for these presentations:
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- Adam Riess (JHU/STScI)
- Dan Scolnic (Duke Univ.)
- Sherry Suyu (TUM/MPA)
- Mónica Taormina (CAMK)



Recap – Lecture 1

- Strong evidence for an expanding Universe
- Strong evidence for a homogeneous and isotropic Universe
- Under FRLW metric, $H(z)$ sensitive to cosmological parameters
- End-to-end check of cosmology: local and inverse distance ladders
- Three-rung local distance ladder: geometry, flux, flux
- The first rung: parallaxes, detached eclipsing binaries, masers



Second Rung: from geometry to flux

- At some point, we can't measure parallaxes, proper motions, angular diameters, or obtain spectra / radial velocities...
- Requires move from geometry to flux and reliance on the inverse-square law
- Need to develop standard or standardizable “candles”
- Use distance-independent property (e.g., temperature) to predict a distance-dependent one (e.g., luminosity) $\rightarrow D^2 = L/f$
- We may also be able to use standard “rulers” or “sirens” (more on that later...)

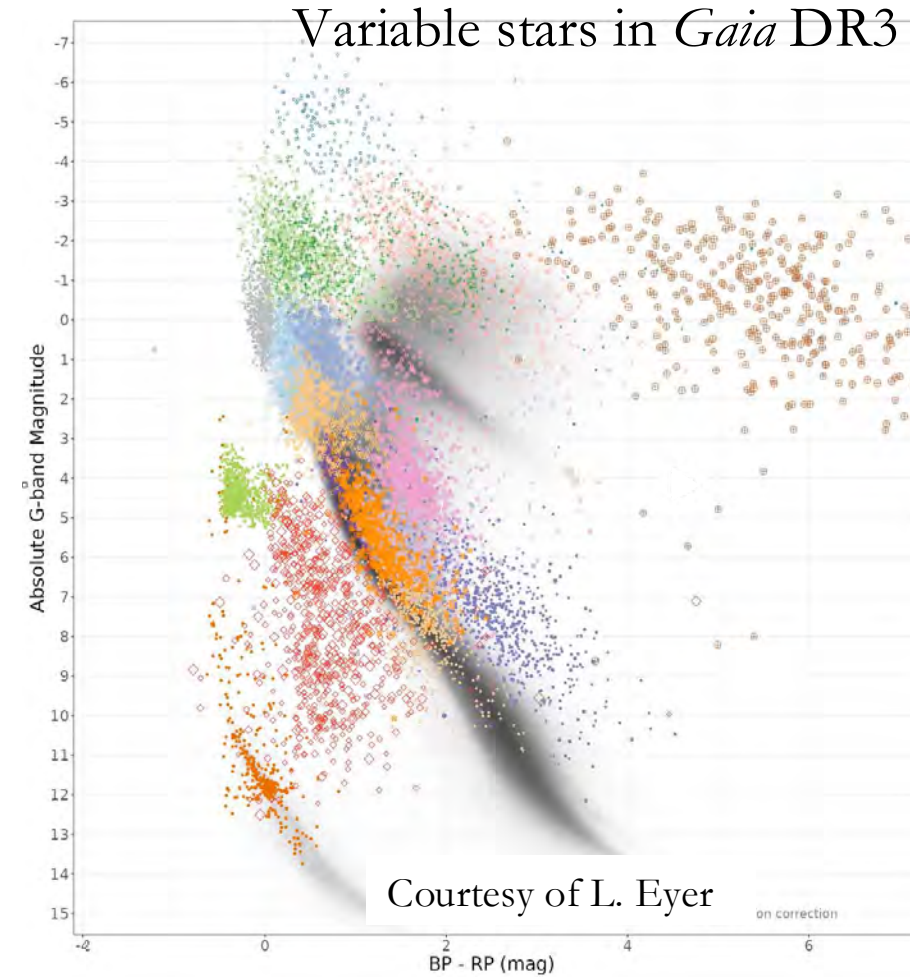
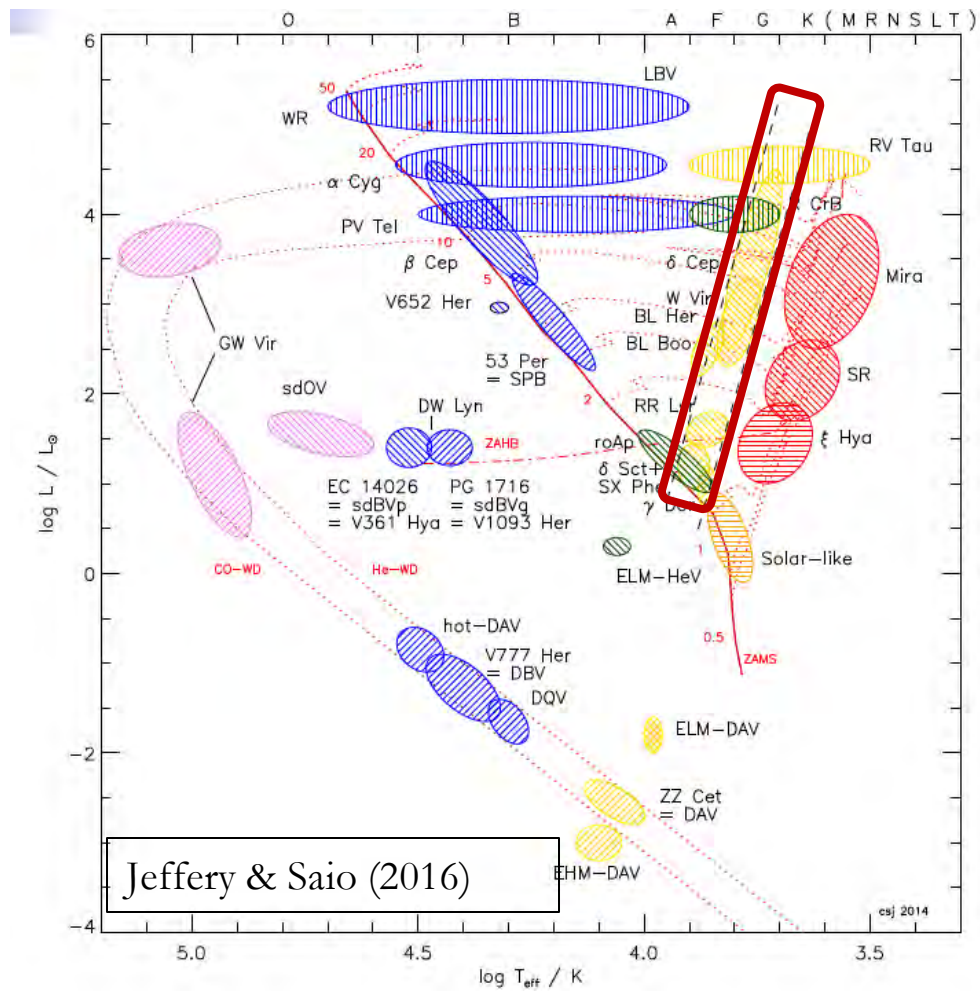


Standard candles in the Color-Magnitude Diagram

- Some types of variable stars may be useful standard candles
 - Regular magnitude changes → relatively easy to identify and classify
 - Period of variability → Distance-independent property
- We may also use the luminosity functions of stars in certain phases of evolution
- We may also use specific stellar types if they can be accurately identified
- Use parallaxes / binaries / masers (MW, MCs, NGC 4258) to calibrate their absolute magnitudes or luminosities

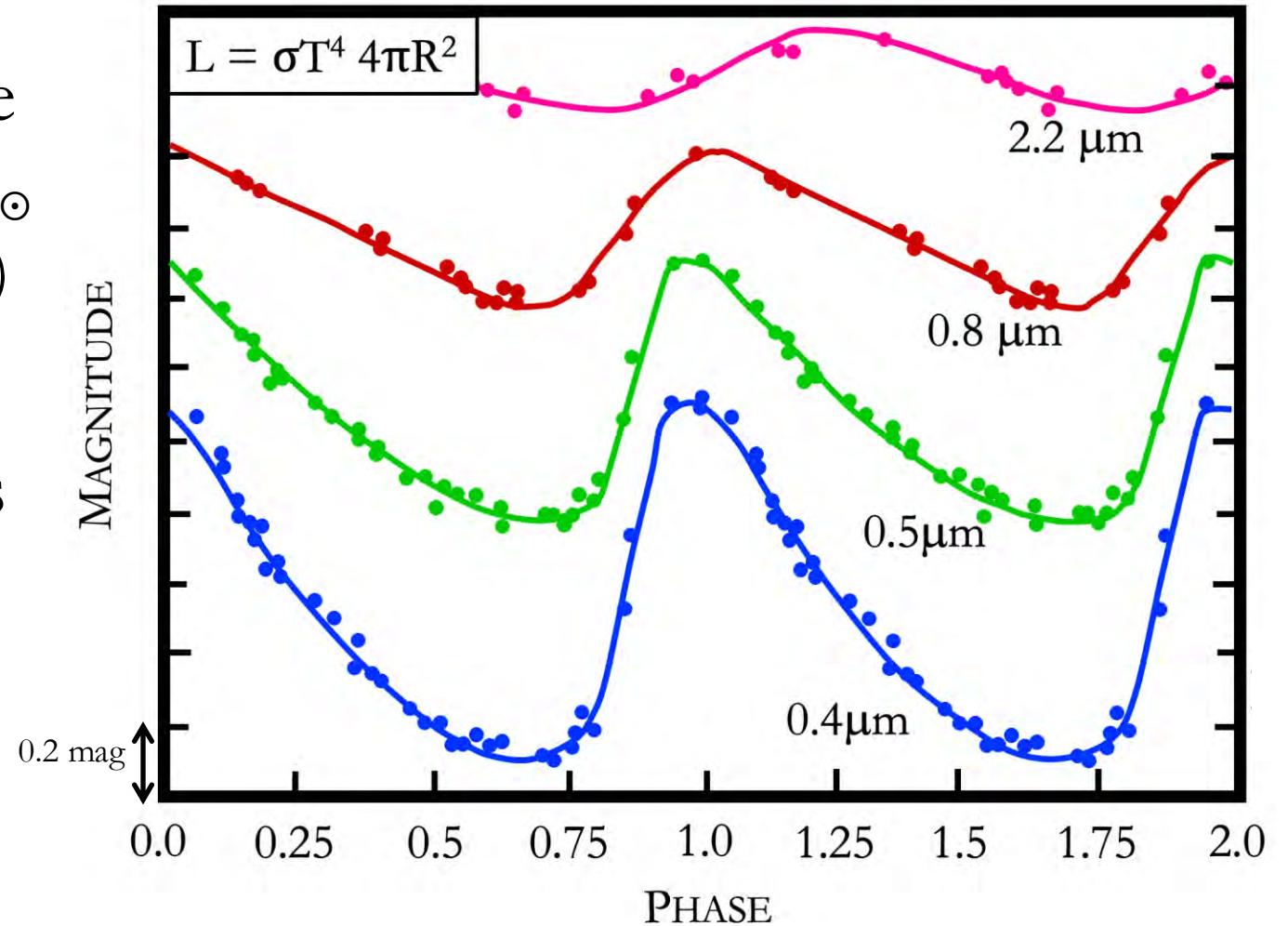


Standard candles in the Color-Magnitude Diagram



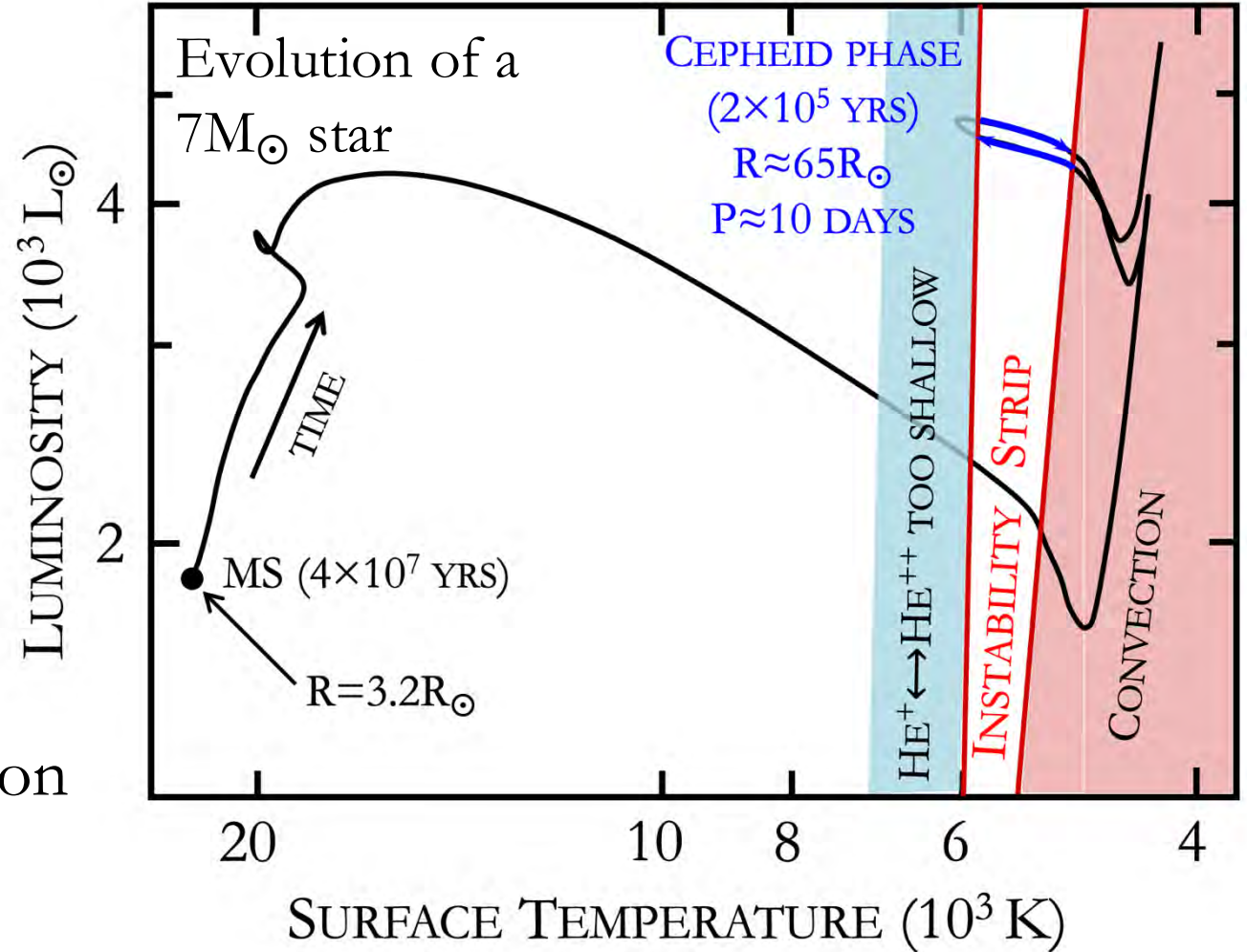
Cepheid variables

- Brief evolutionary phase for stars with $\sim 4\text{--}15 M_{\odot}$ (1% of lifetime, 10^{3-5} yr)
- Regular pulsations with periods of 2 to 100 days
- Oscillations are driven by changes in opacity ($\text{He}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{He}^{++}$)



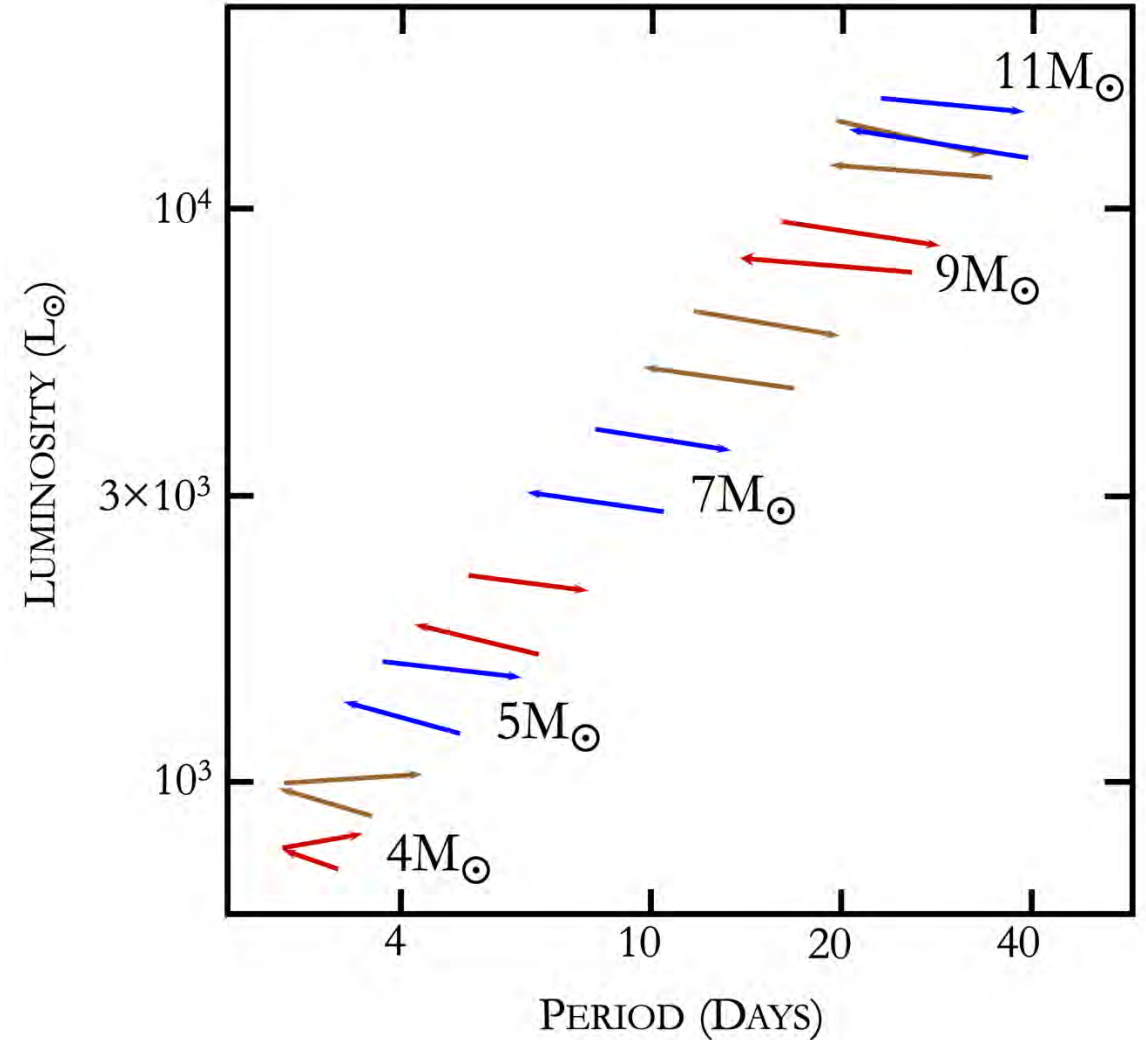
Cepheid variables

- Cepheids follow a “loop” in the CMD as the mean molecular weight of their core changes due to He fusion
- As the radius of a Cepheid changes, so does its density and thus its period of pulsation (Period $\propto \rho^{-1/2}$)



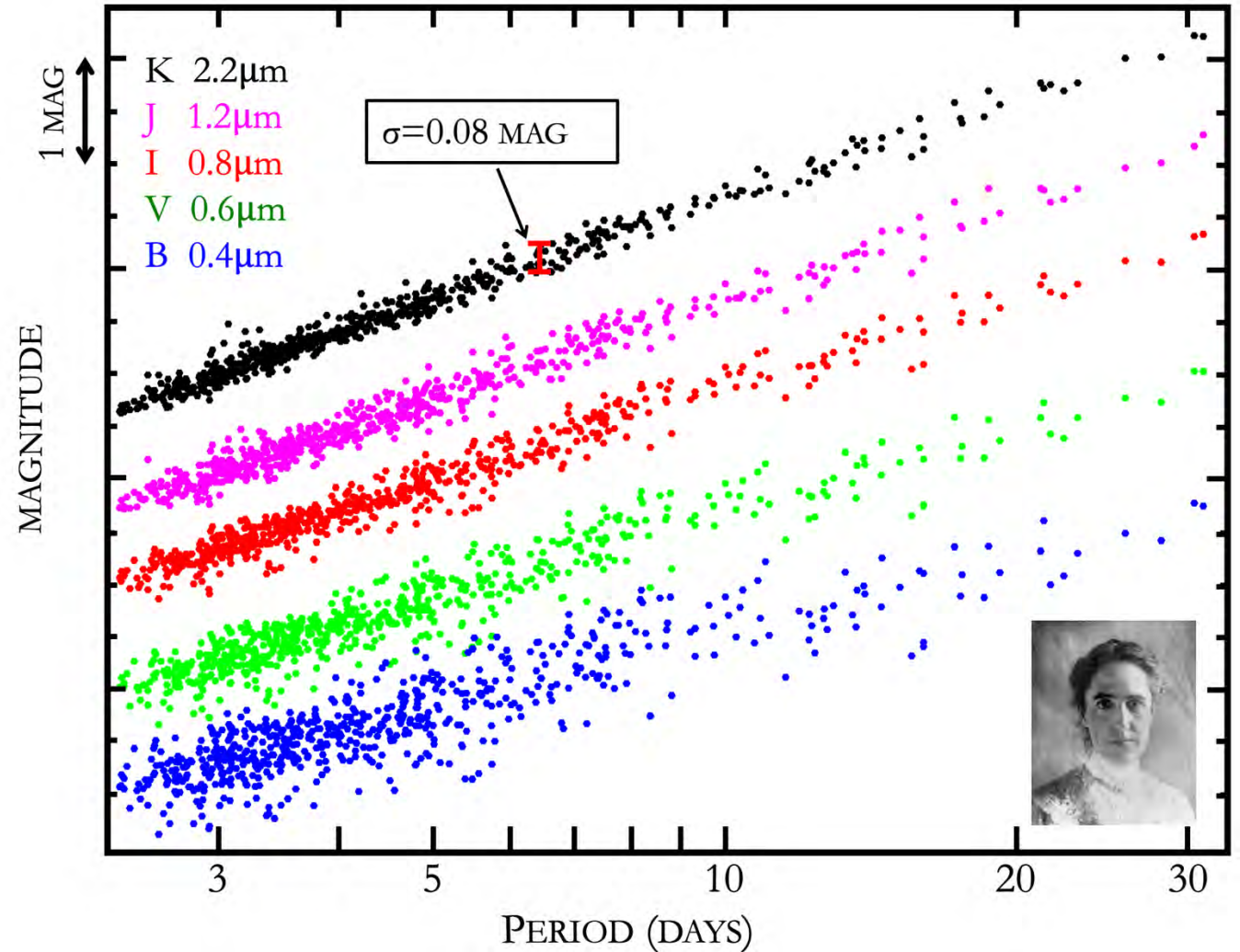
Cepheid variables

- Calculate period of pulsation and luminosity during the “loop” for a series of masses...
- This is the theoretical version of the Period-Luminosity relation



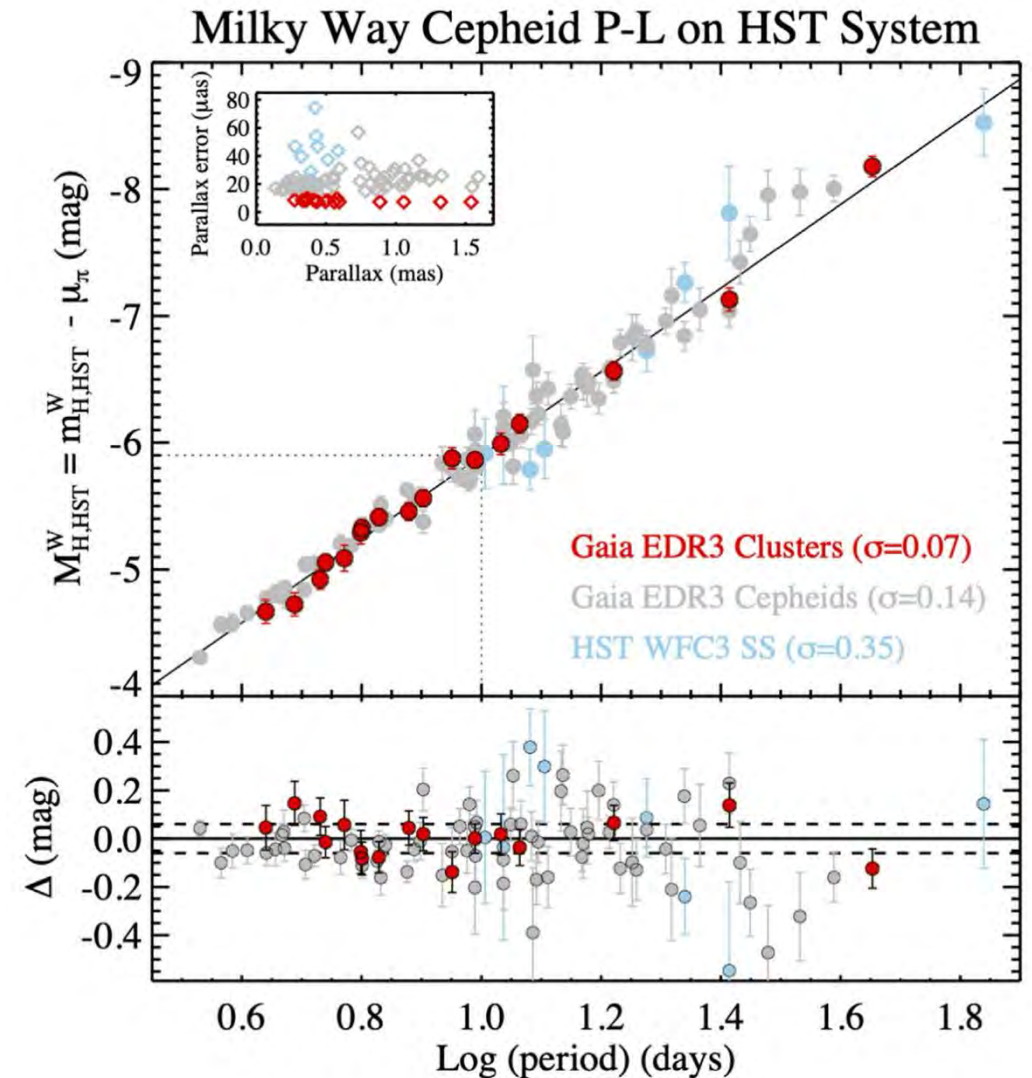
Cepheid variables

- Here are the observed Cepheid P-L relations (PLRs) or “Leavitt Laws” in the LMC
- Cepheids are easiest to discover and phase at optical wavelengths
- They yield PLRs with the lowest dispersion at near-infrared wavelengths



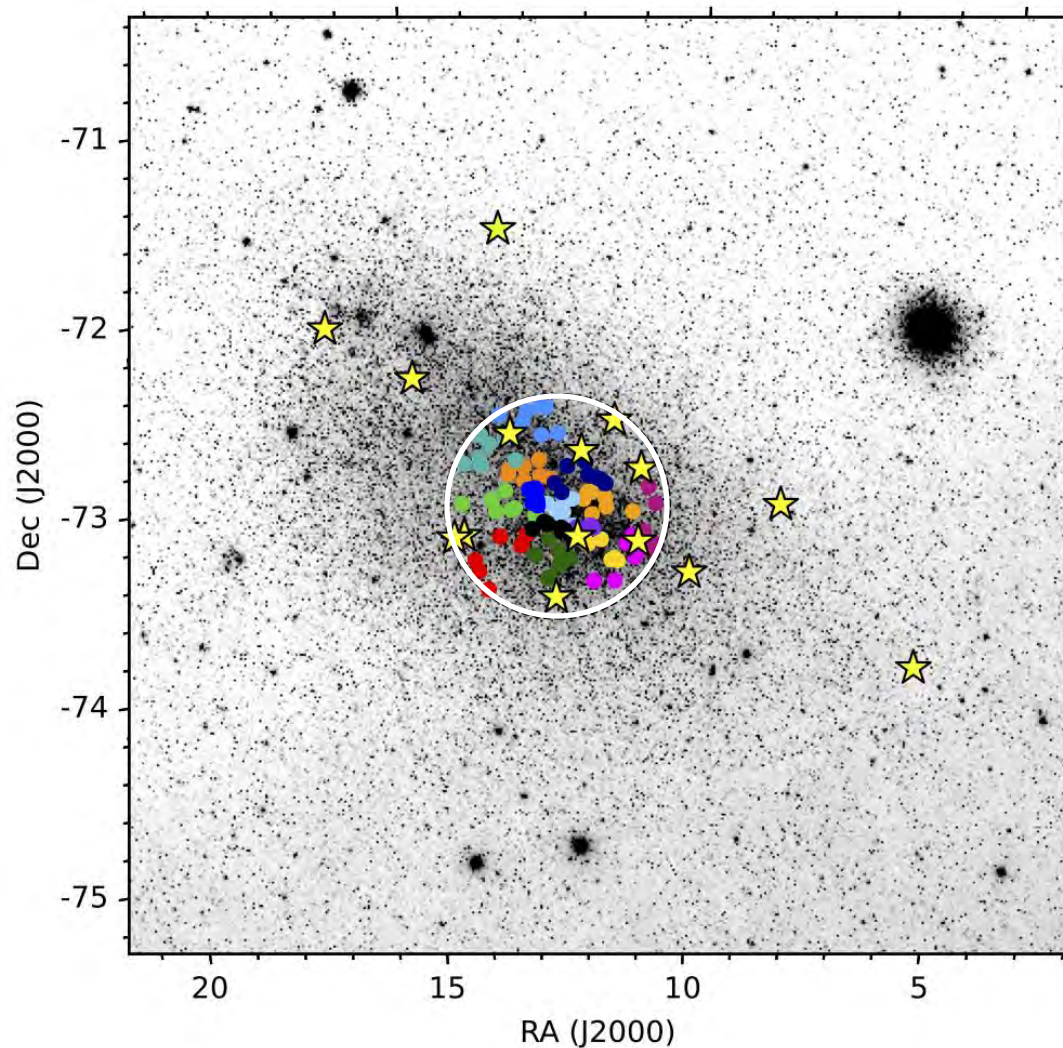
Cepheid variables in the Milky Way

- The calibration of the PLR in the Milky Way relies on parallaxes, since each star is at a different distance
- Currently based on *HST* scanning and *Gaia* parallaxes
- The Cepheids have magnitudes measured with *HST* (critical to avoid systematic uncertainties in zeropoints)



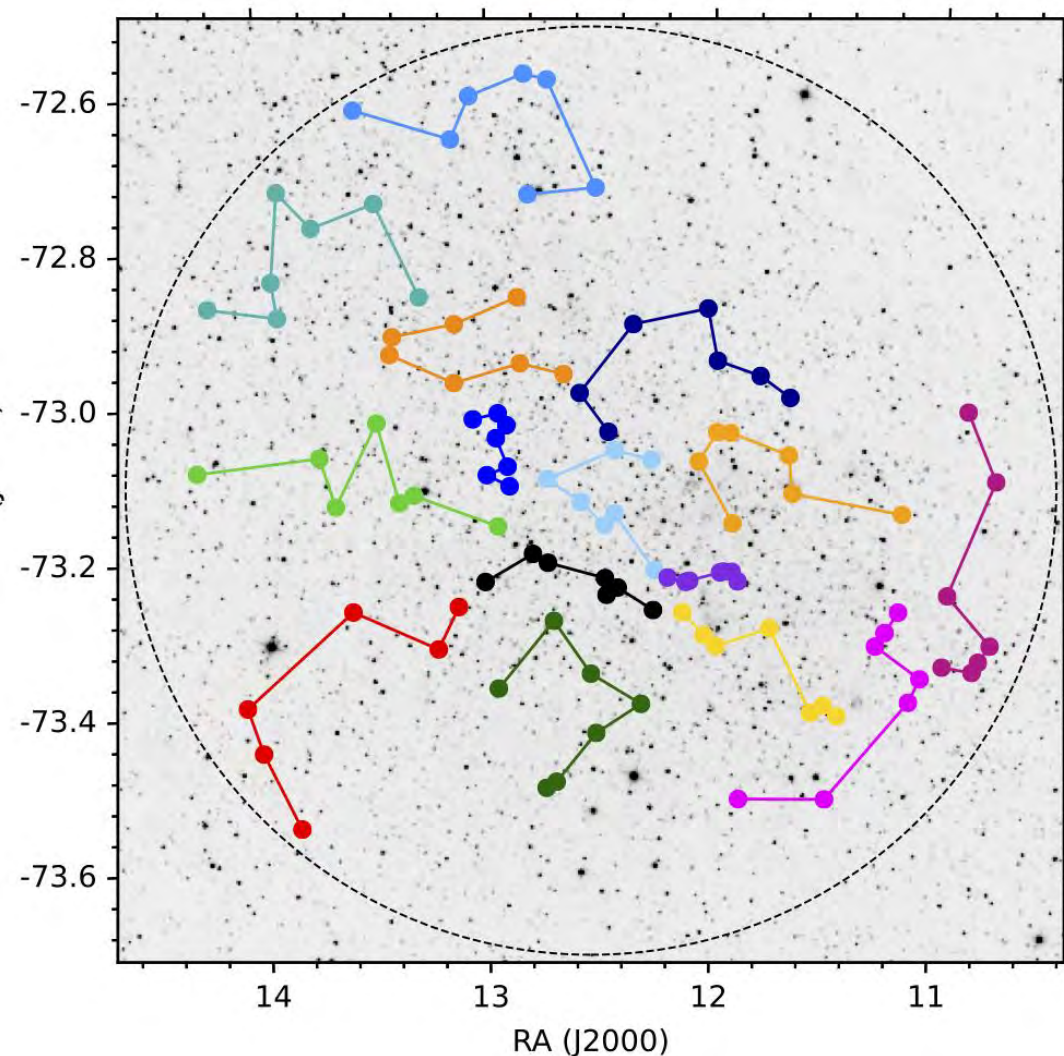
Cepheid variables in the Magellanic Clouds

- The calibration of the PLR in the Magellanic Clouds relies on distances based on DEBs
- The Cepheids have magnitudes measured with *HST* (critical to avoid systematic uncertainties in zeropoints)
- This required the use of a new technique to slew Hubble farther than normally possible



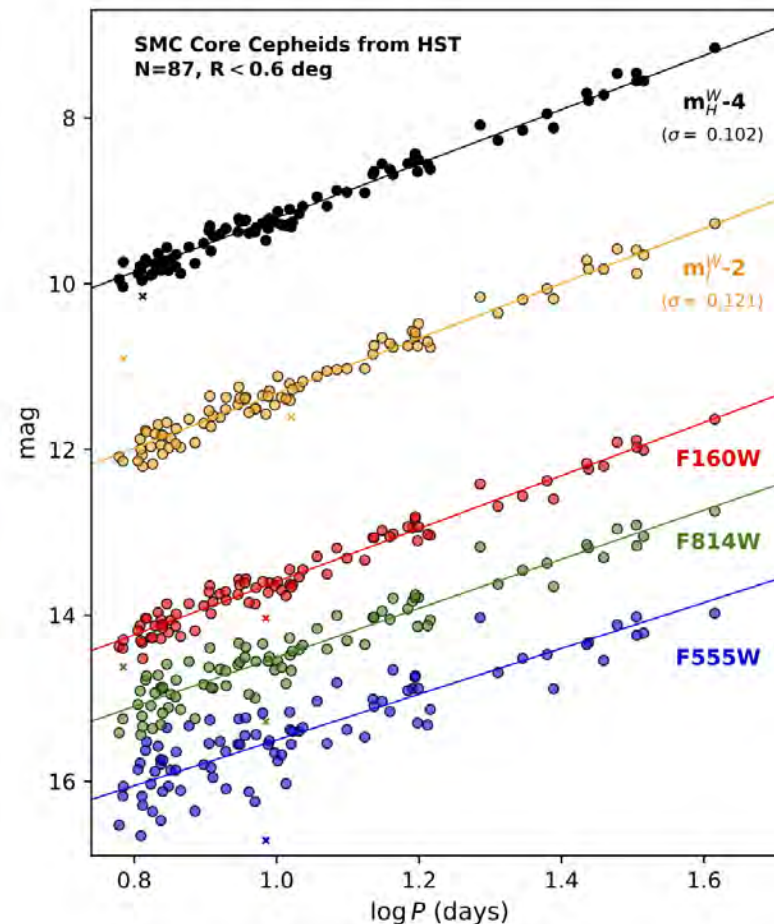
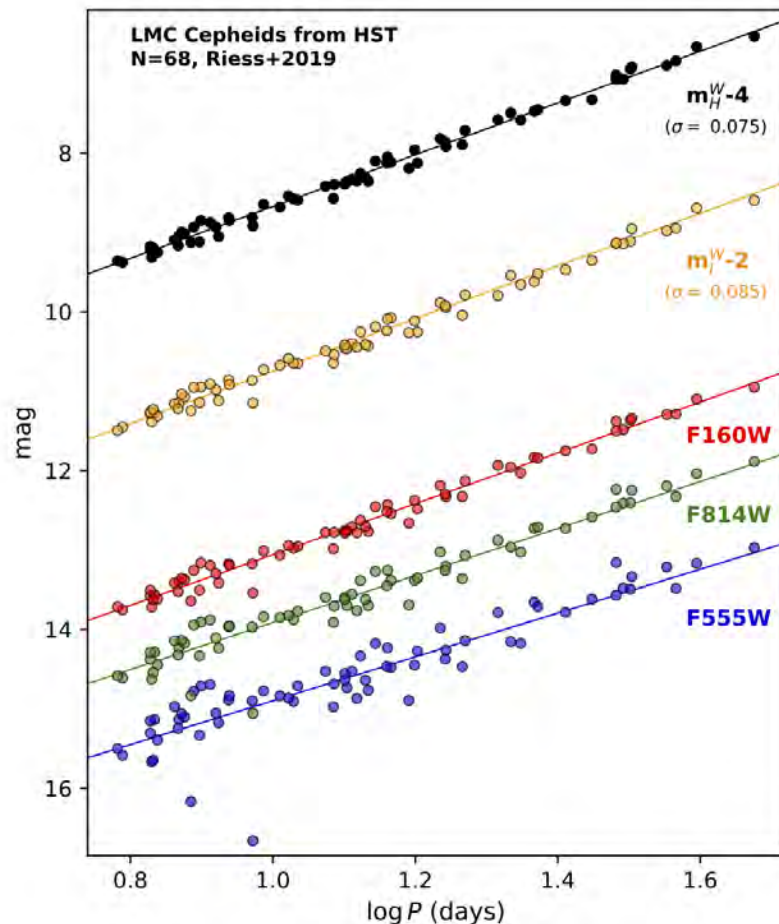
Cepheid variables in the Magellanic Clouds

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- The Cepheids have magnitudes measured with *HST* (critical to avoid systematic uncertainties in zeropoints)
- This required the use of a new technique to slew Hubble farther than normally possible



Cepheid variables in the Magellanic Clouds

- LMC & SMC PLRs based on *HST* photometry

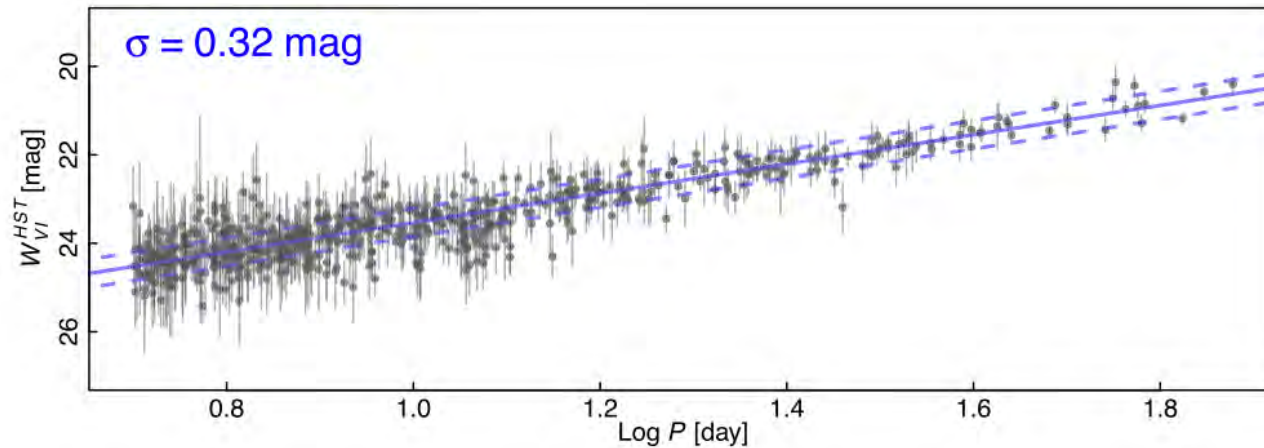
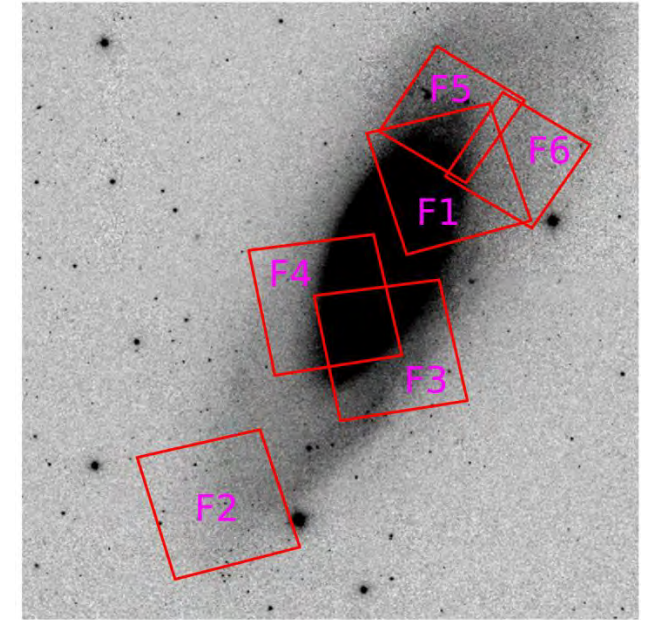
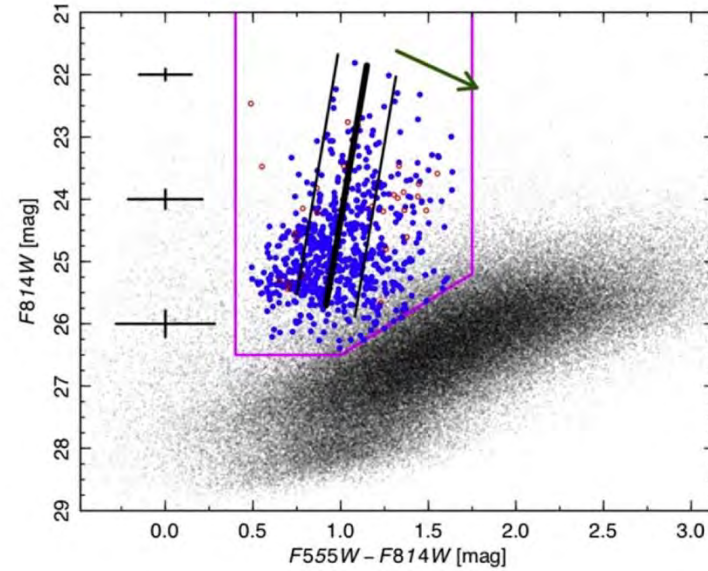
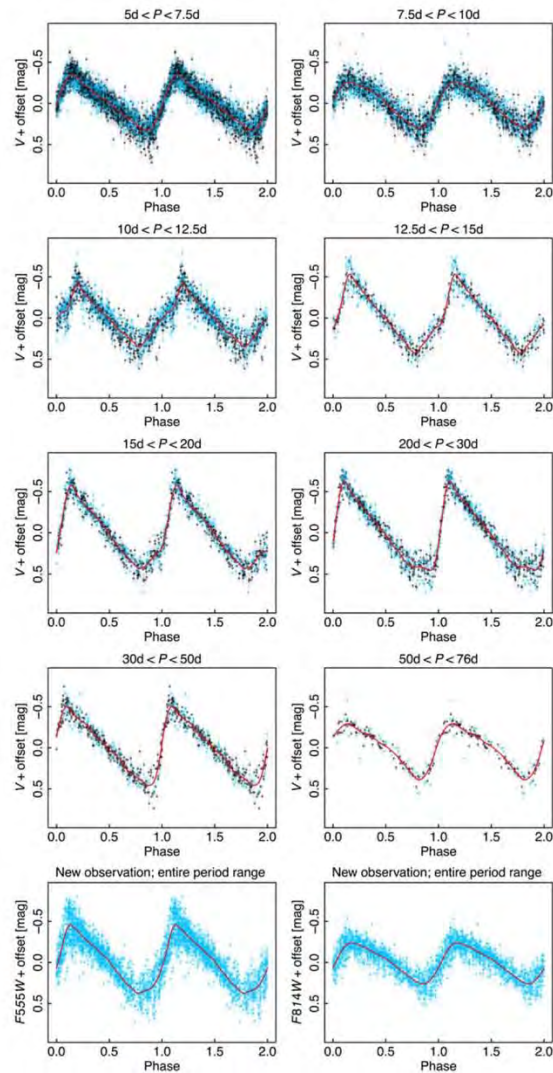


Cepheid variables in NGC 4258

- The calibration of the PLR in NGC4258 relies on the maser-based distance
- Multiple surveys (ground and *HST*) discovered the variables
- The Cepheids have magnitudes measured with *HST* (critical to avoid systematic uncertainties in zeropoints)



Cepheid variables in NGC 4258

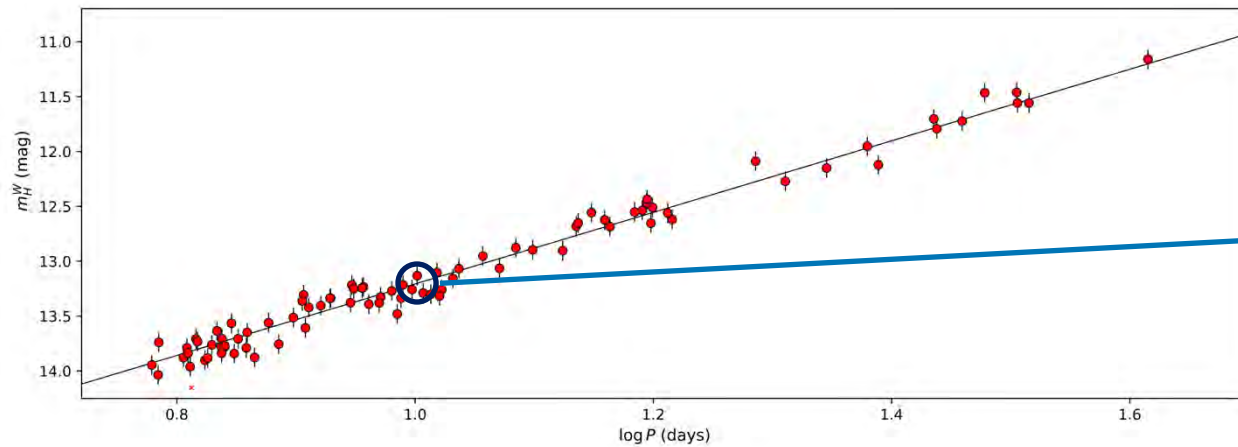


Metallicity Dependence of Cepheid PLRs

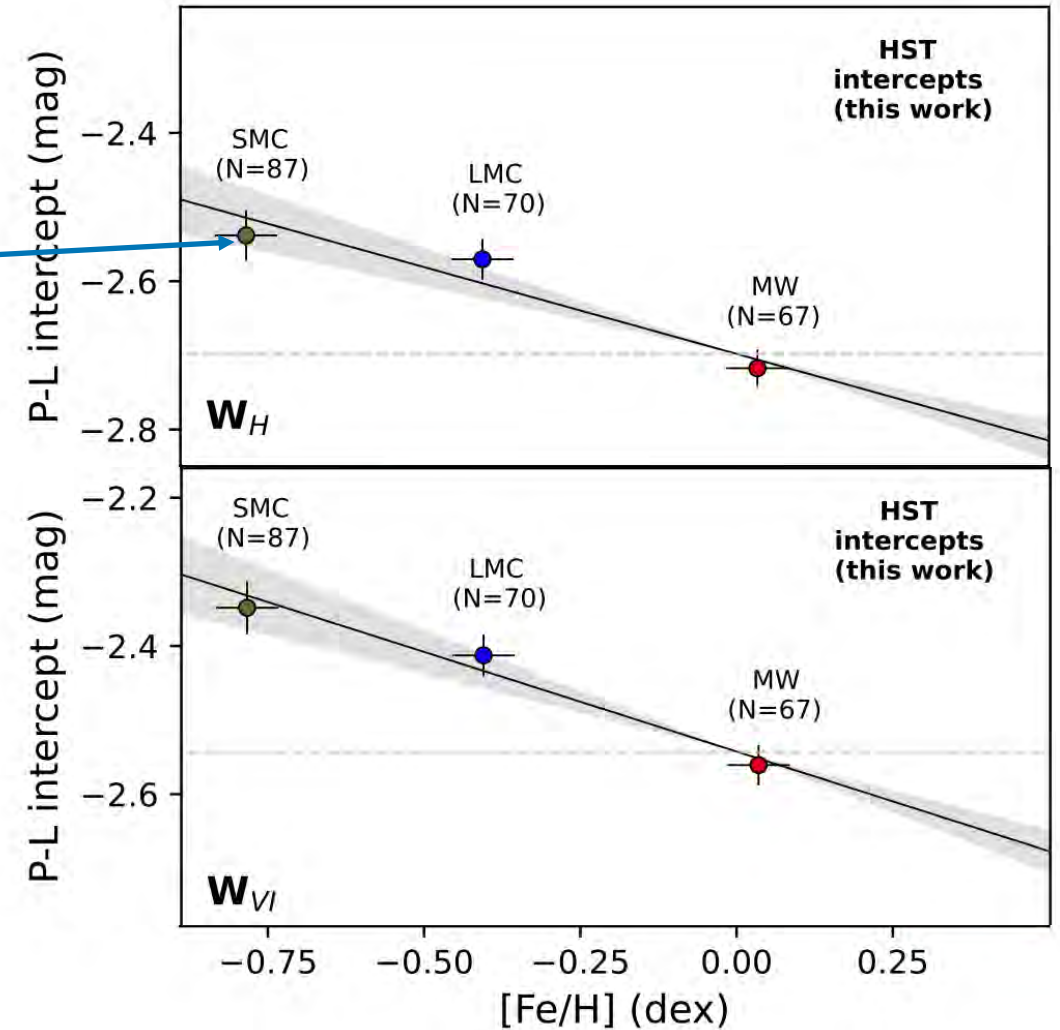
- Theoretical pulsation models indicate that the luminosity of a Cepheid of a given period will depend on its abundances
- This “metallicity dependence” can be empirically measured by comparing the intercepts of the PLRs in the Milky Way and the Magellanic Clouds (and NGC 4258) since their Cepheids span a fairly large range in abundance



Metallicity Dependence of Cepheid PLRs

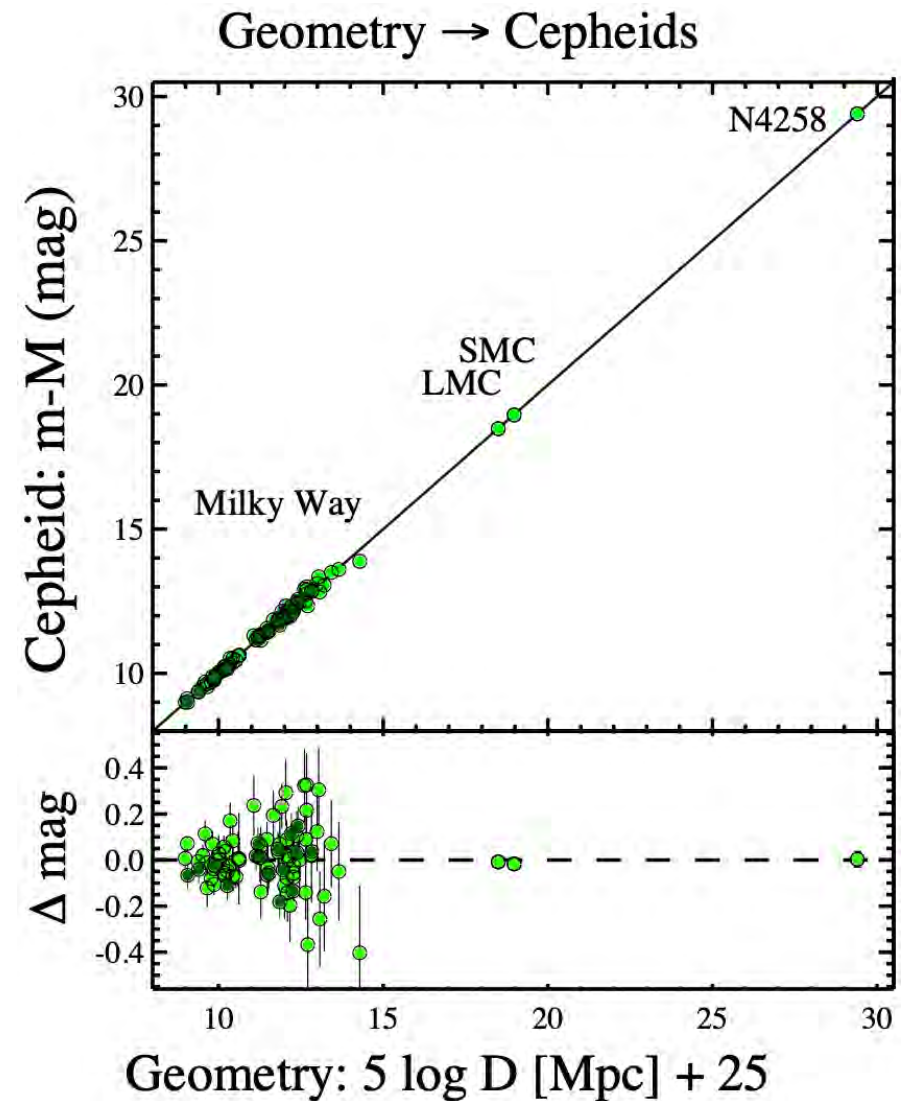


- Most recent determinations:
 $\gamma_{VI} = -0.264 \pm 0.058$ mag/dex
 $\gamma_H = -0.234 \pm 0.052$ mag/dex



Cepheid calibration for the “first rung”

- Putting it all together, here's the state-of-the-art calibration of the Cepheid PLR using geometric distance indicators



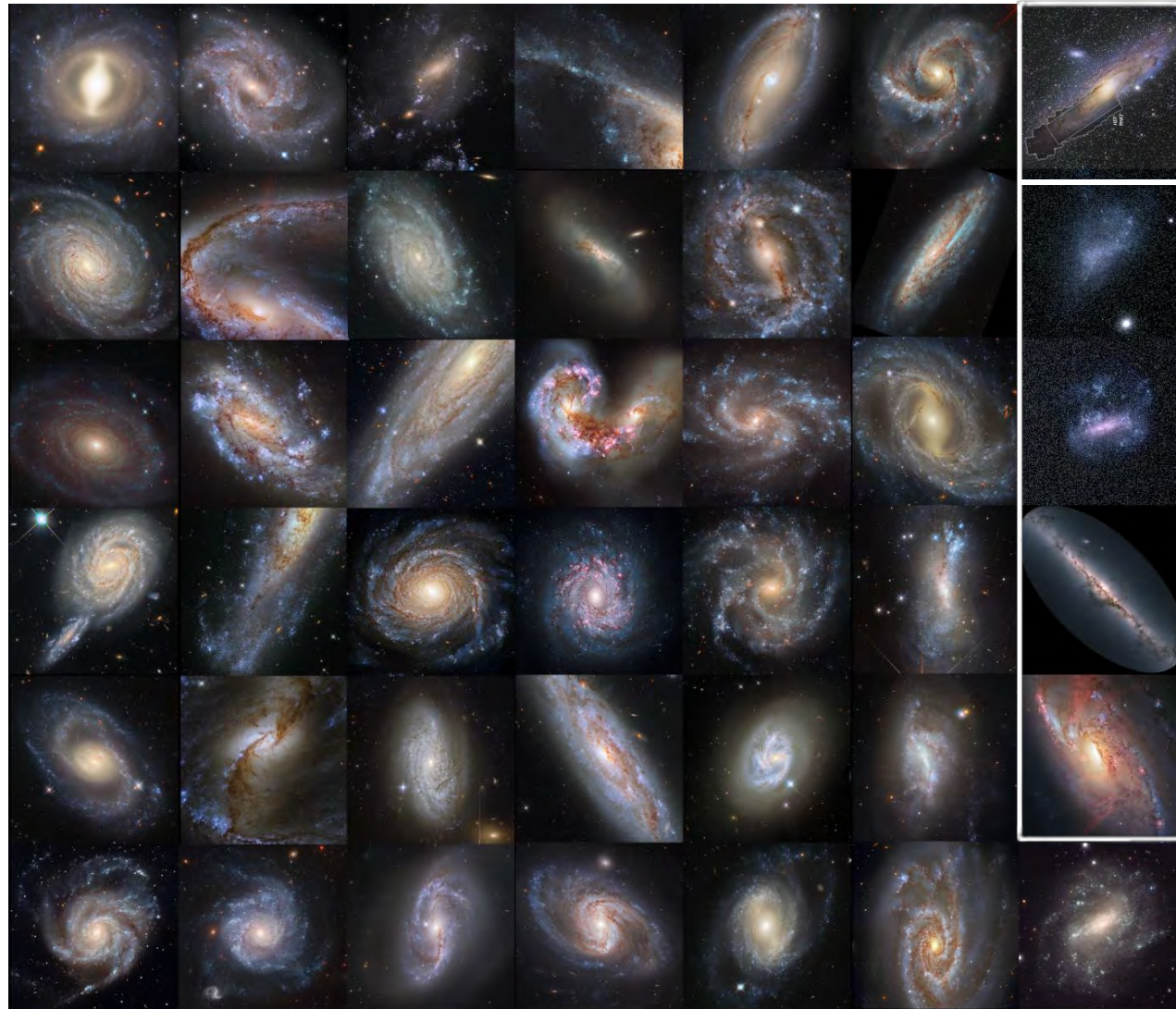
Cepheid variables in the “second rung”

- Now that we have a precise and accurate geometric calibration of the Cepheid PLR based on four “first rung” galaxies, we can apply it to galaxies of interest
- The SH0ES program (PI: A. Riess) has used *Hubble* since 2006 to discover $>3,000$ Cepheids in 37 galaxies out to $D=50$ Mpc
- All Cepheids are imaged with the same telescope and cameras, negating what used to be a large source of uncertainty
- Thorough “artificial star” simulations to correct for expected photometric biases



Cepheid variables in SH0ES sample

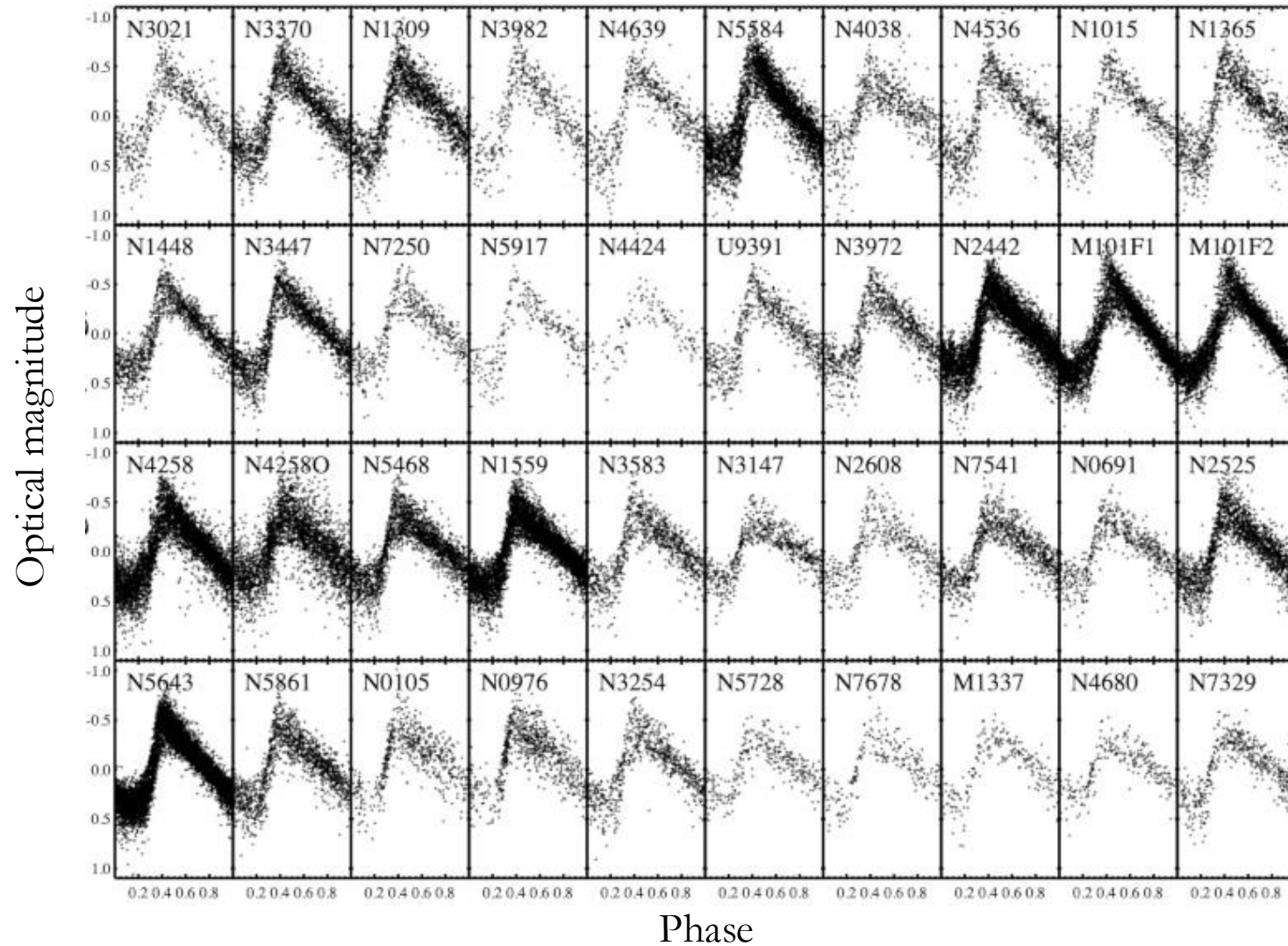
“Second rung”
Targets



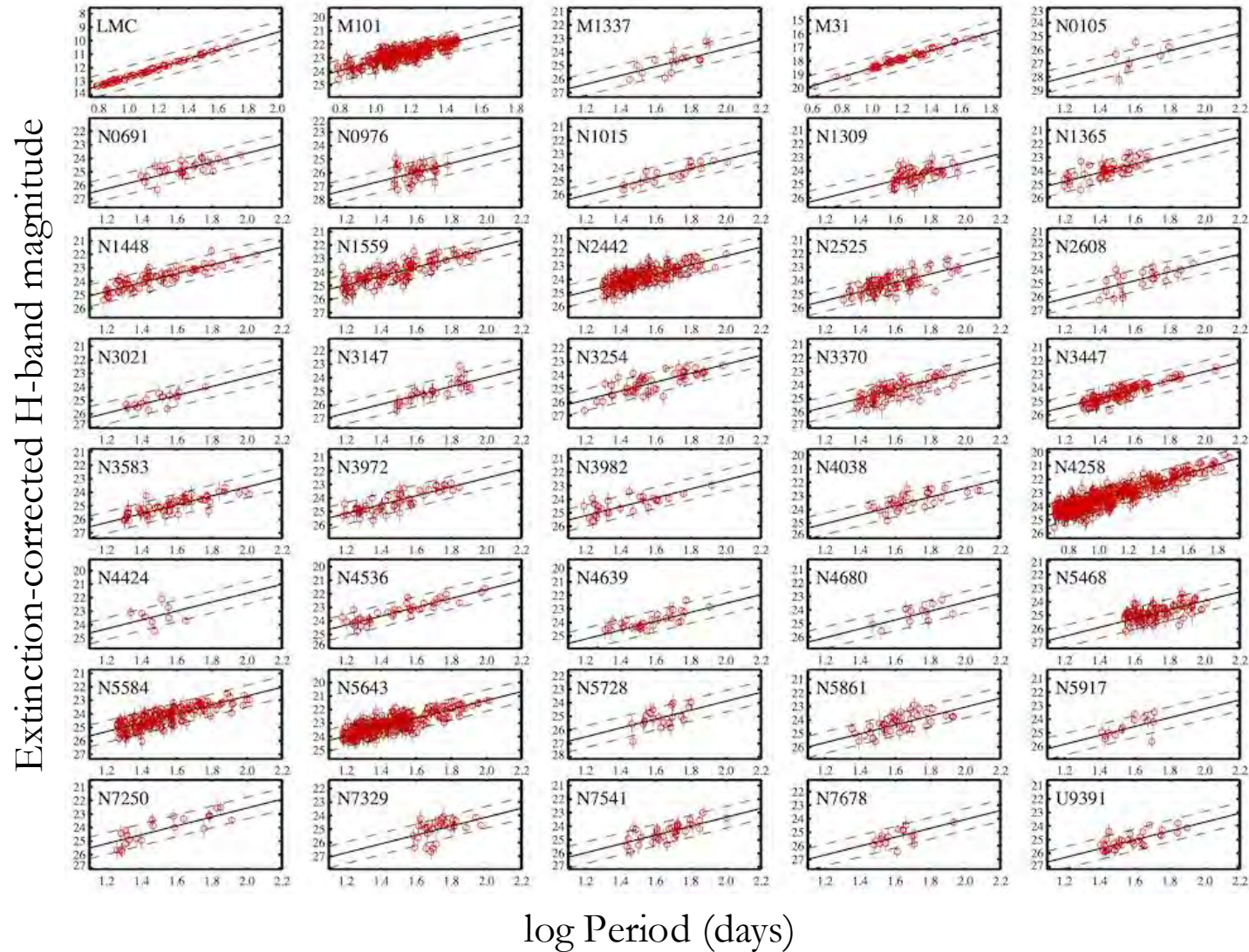
Supporting
role (M31)

“First rung”
Calibrators

Cepheid variables in SH0ES sample



Cepheid variables in SH0ES sample

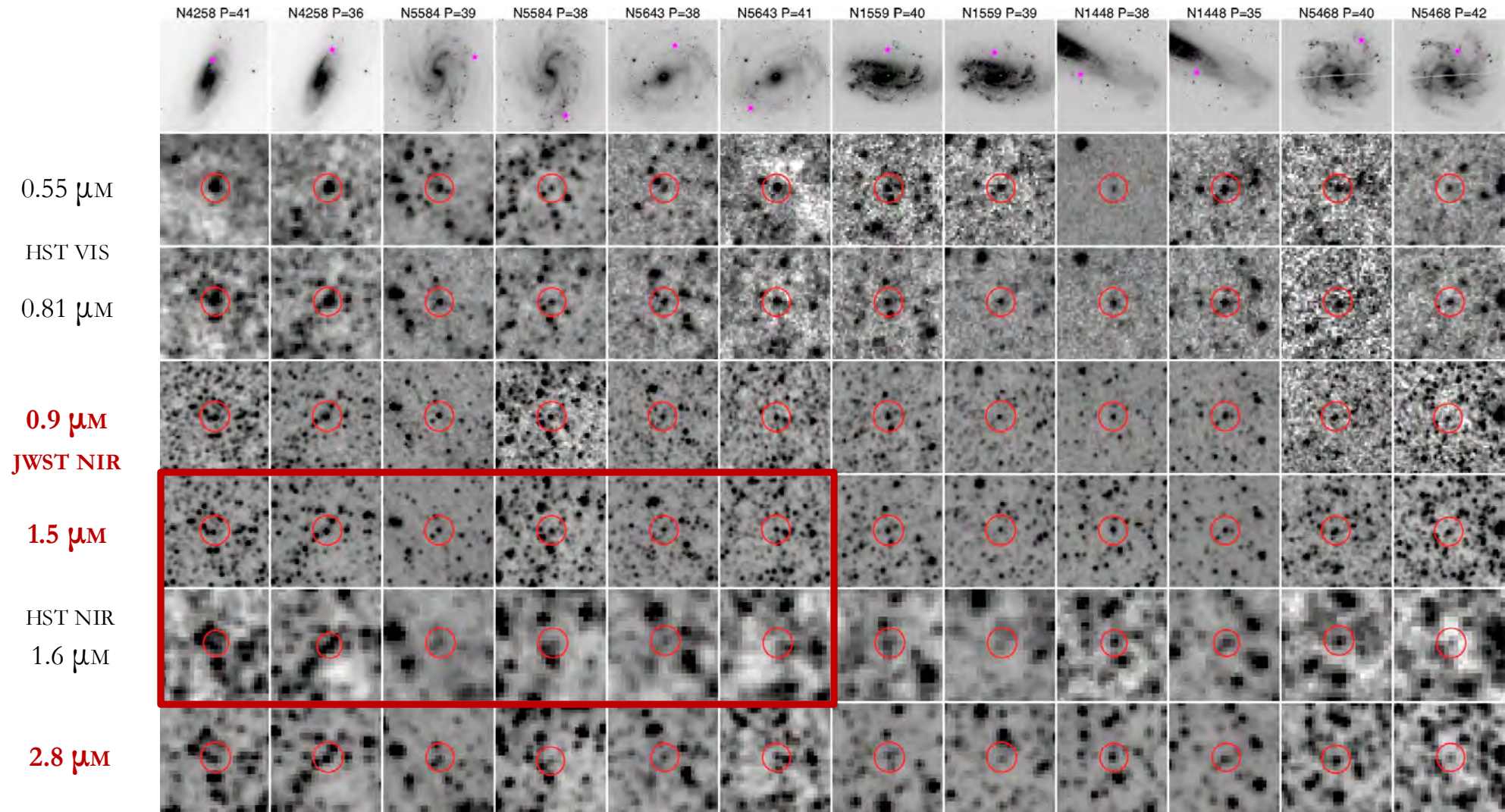


Cepheid variables with *JWST*

- Recent observations with *JWST* in excellent agreement with *HST* – proving photometric biases were properly corrected
- Given the superior resolution of *JWST*, the resulting PLRs have much narrower dispersion than their *HST* counterparts
- *JWST* sample ($N=14$ galaxies) still relatively small compared to *HST* ($N=37$) so it cannot yet deliver a competitive value of H_0

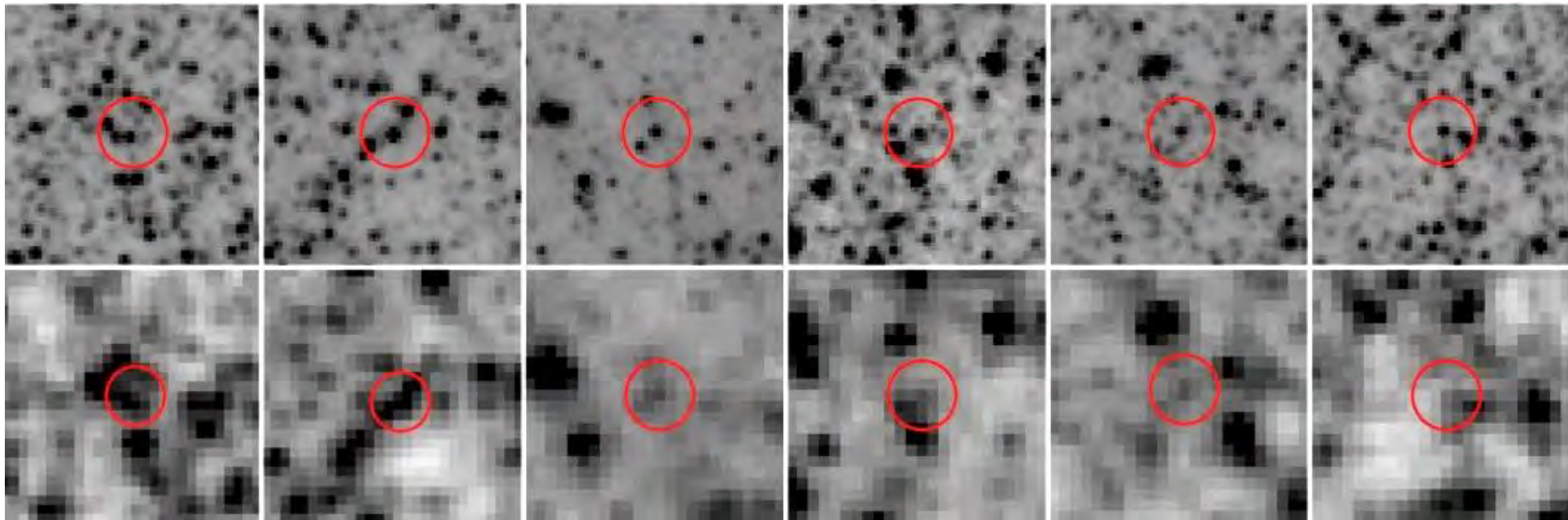


Cepheid variables with *JWST*



Cepheid variables with *JWST*

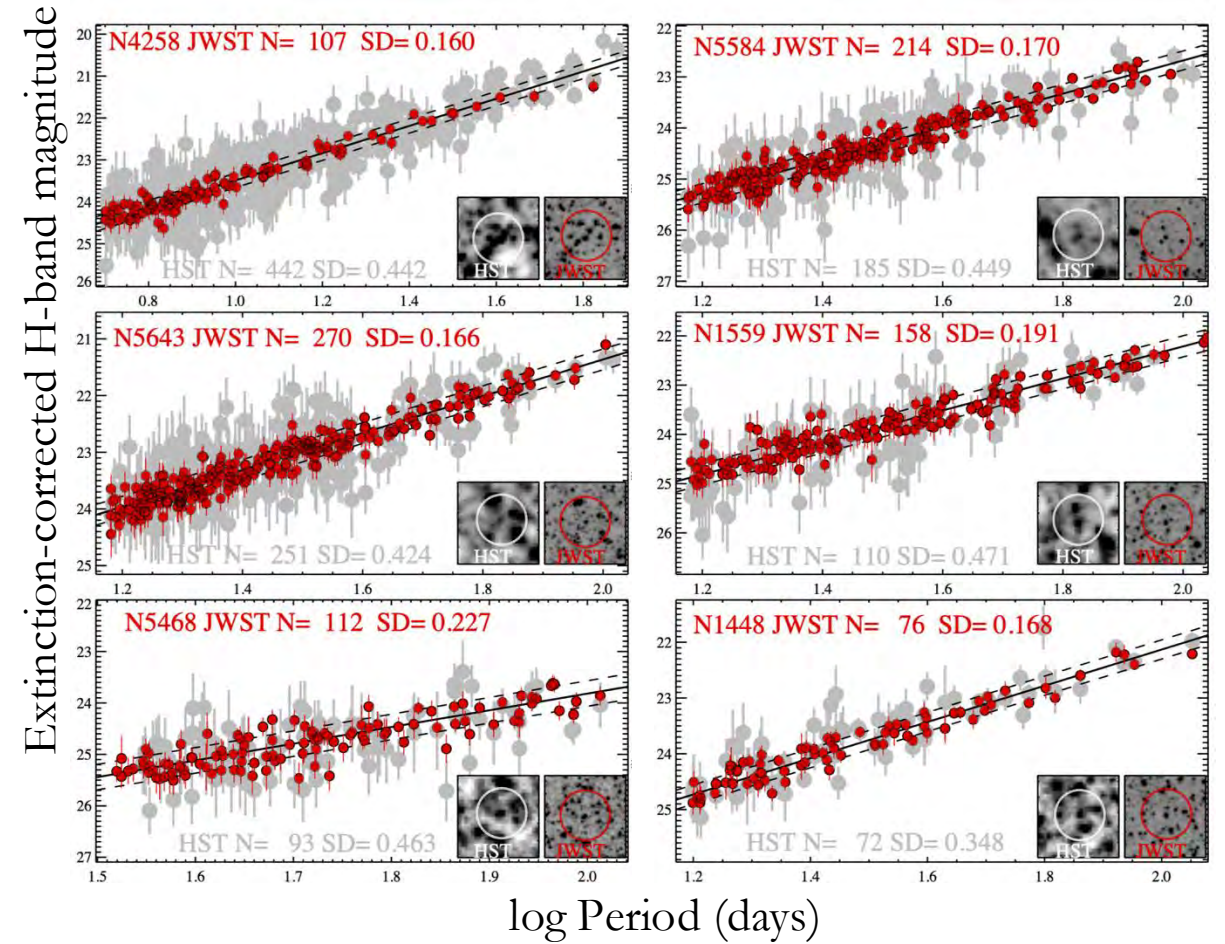
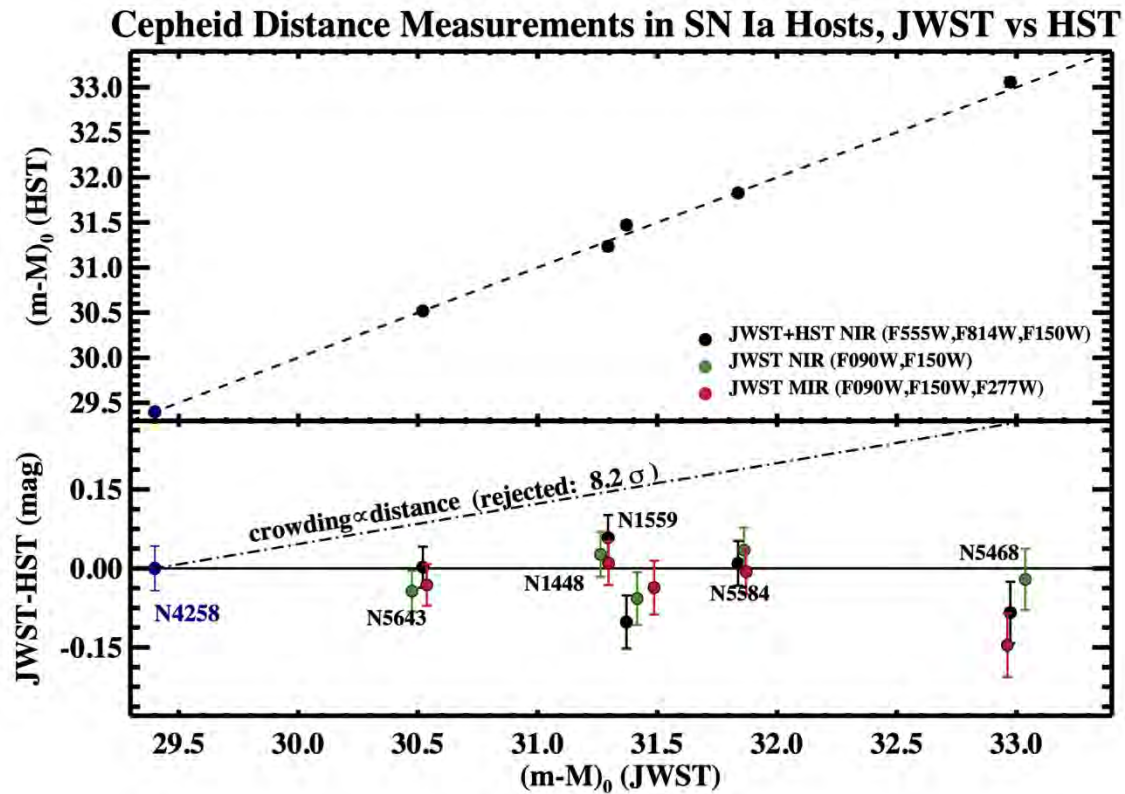
JWST @ 1.5 μm



HST @ 1.6 μm



Cepheid variables with *JWST*



Low-mass stars as distance indicators

- Low-mass stars ($0.5\text{-}2.5\text{ M}_{\odot}$) can also serve as distance indicators during certain phases of their evolution
- We can use luminosity functions (LFs) as well as PLRs
- LFs: Tip of the Red Giant Branch (TRGB)
LFs: J-band Asymptotic Giant Branch (JAGB)
- PLRs: Mira variables
PLRs: RR Lyrae variables



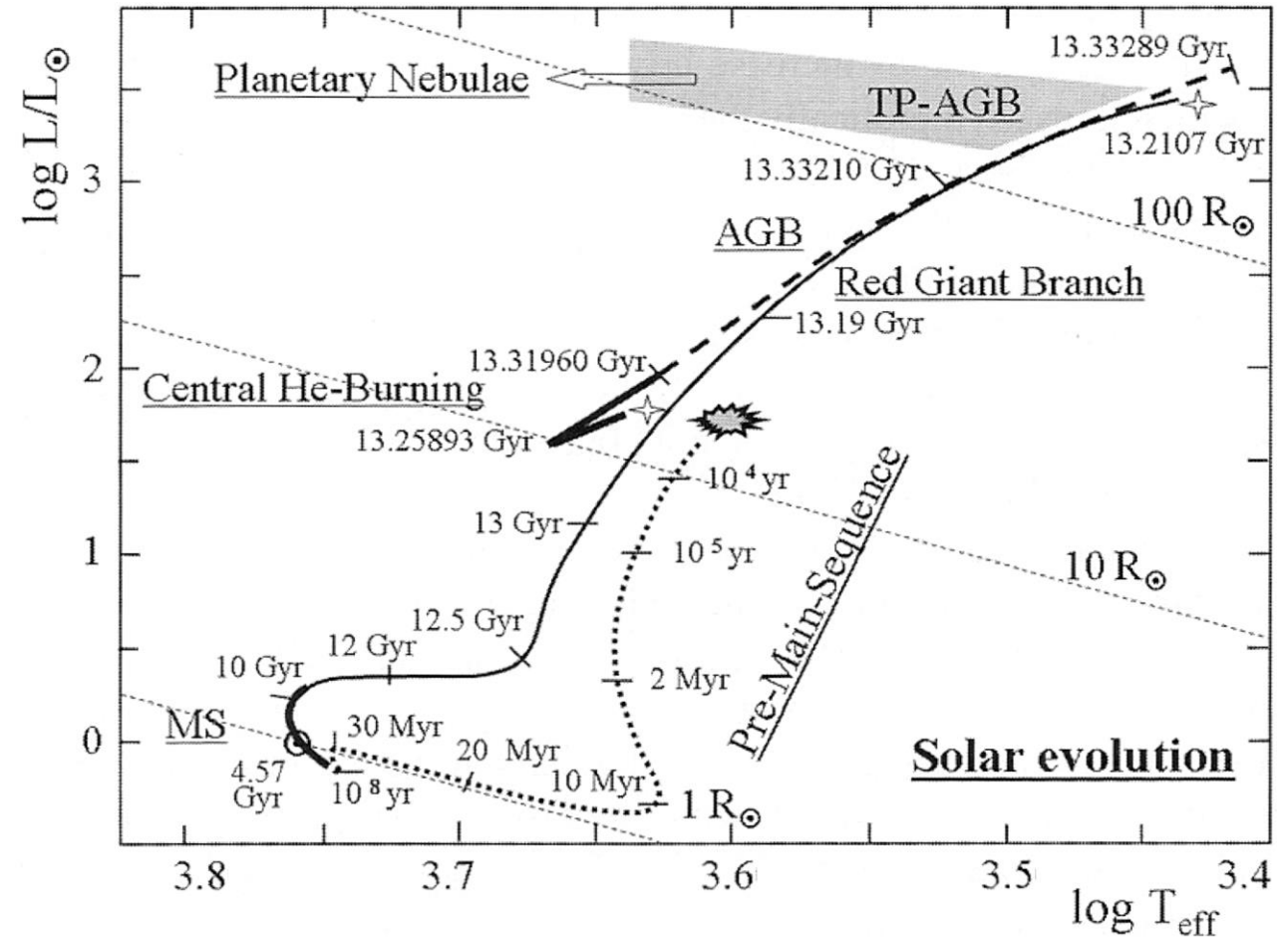
Evolution of low-mass stars ($0.5\text{-}2.5\ M_{\odot}$)

- Main sequence (H core fusion)
- Red giant branch (H shell fusion)
- **Tip of RGB** (He flash, ignition of He core fusion)
- Horizontal branch (He core, H shell fusion): **RR Lyrae**
- Asymptotic giant branch (He & H shell fusion): **JAGB, Miras**
- White dwarfs: **Supernovae Ia**



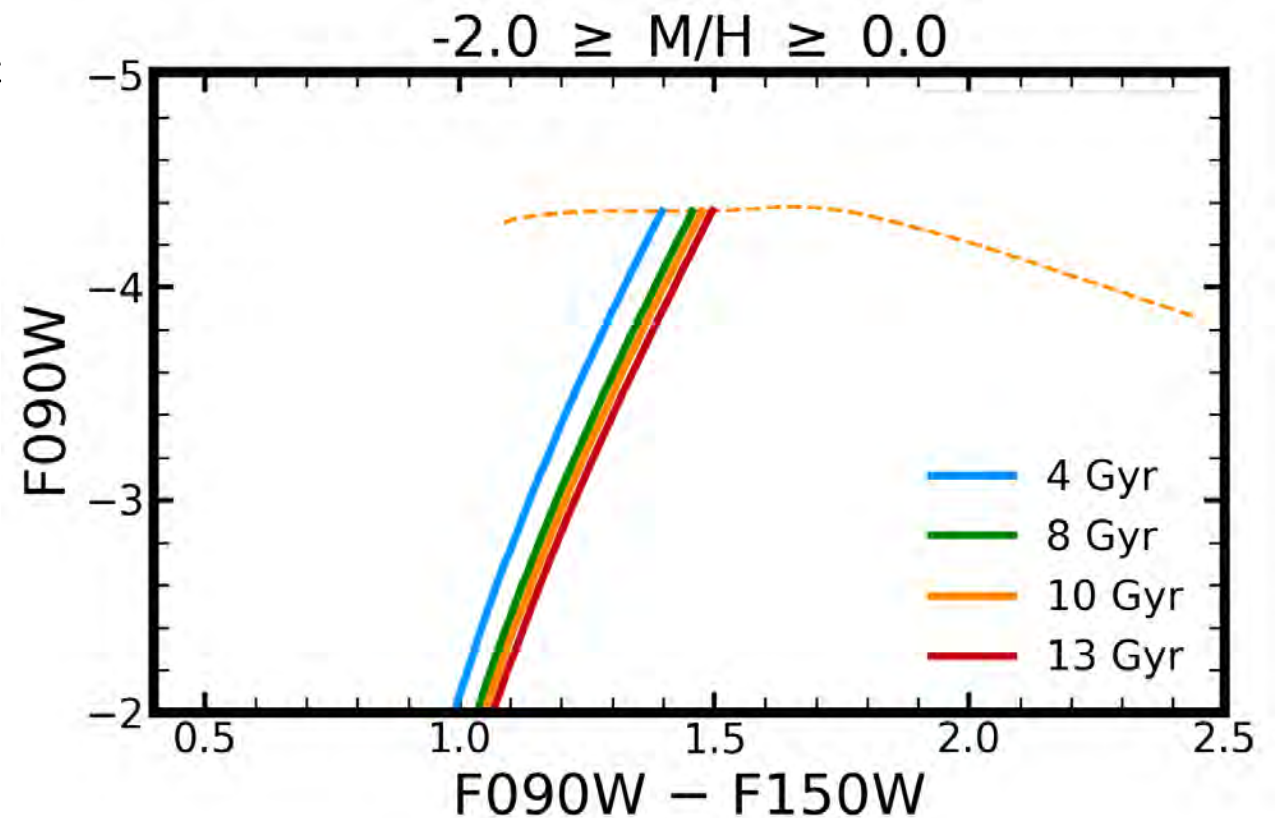
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- All low-mass stars ignite their degenerate He cores at $\sim$ the same luminosity
- The feature can be detected in a well-populated CMD (Frogel+1983, Lee+1993)
- The luminosity depends on stellar abundance and age of population



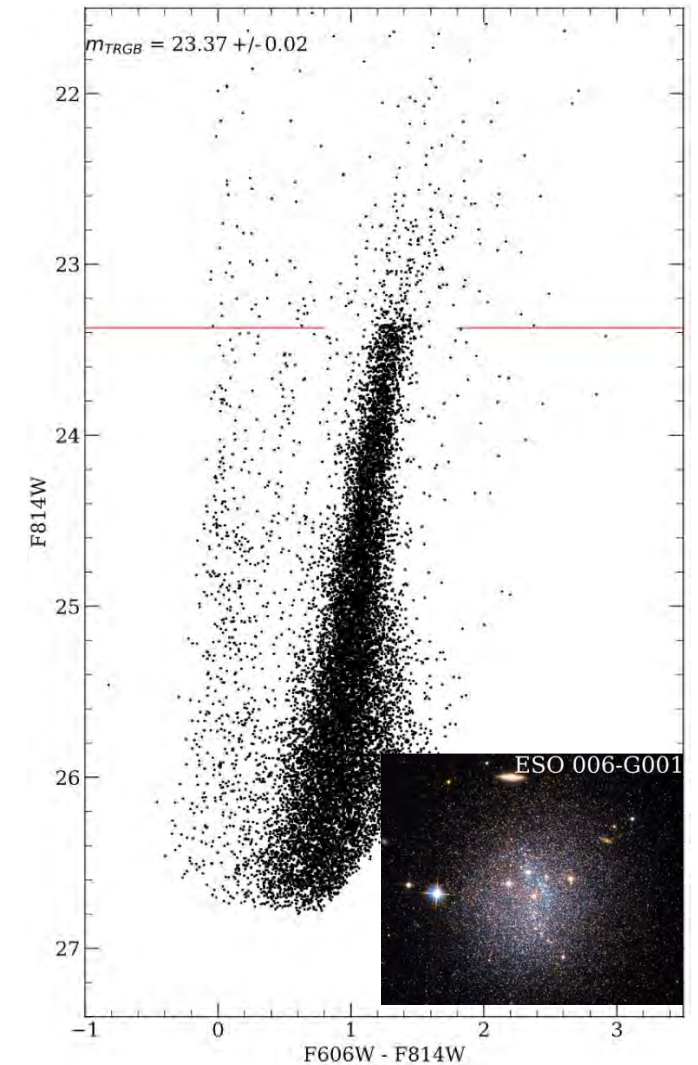
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- Stellar evolutionary models tell us that the TRGB dependence on age and abundance is smallest for magnitudes measured close to $0.8\mu\text{m}$ (I-band)
- At this wavelengths, the TRGB should appear as a horizontal feature in the CMD



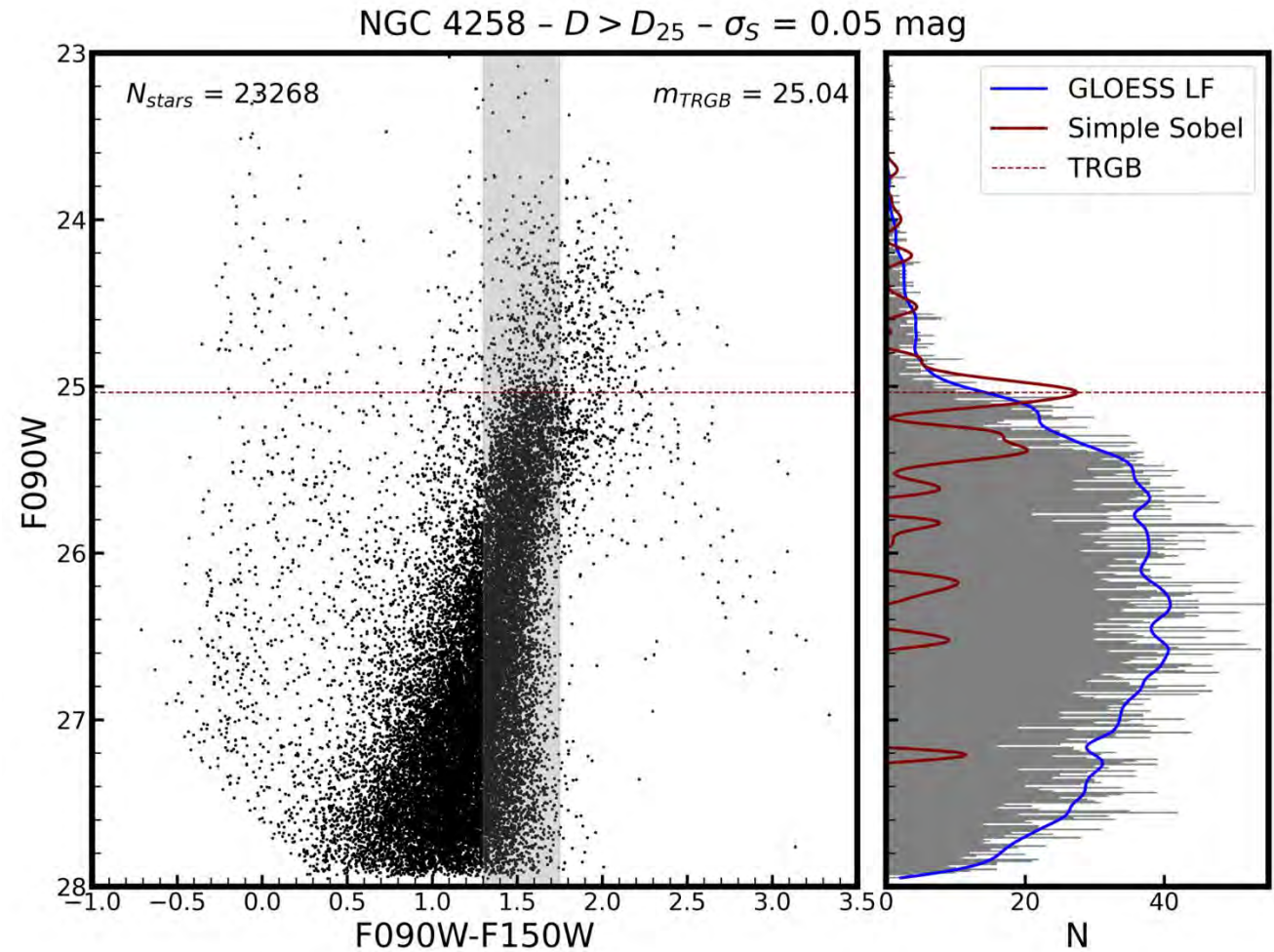
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- Stellar evolutionary models tell us that the TRGB dependence on age and abundance is smallest for magnitudes measured close to $0.8\mu\text{m}$ (I-band)
- Detection of this feature in the RGB LF requires a well-populated CMD
- Contamination by AGB stars can be minimized by observing regions without much recent star formation



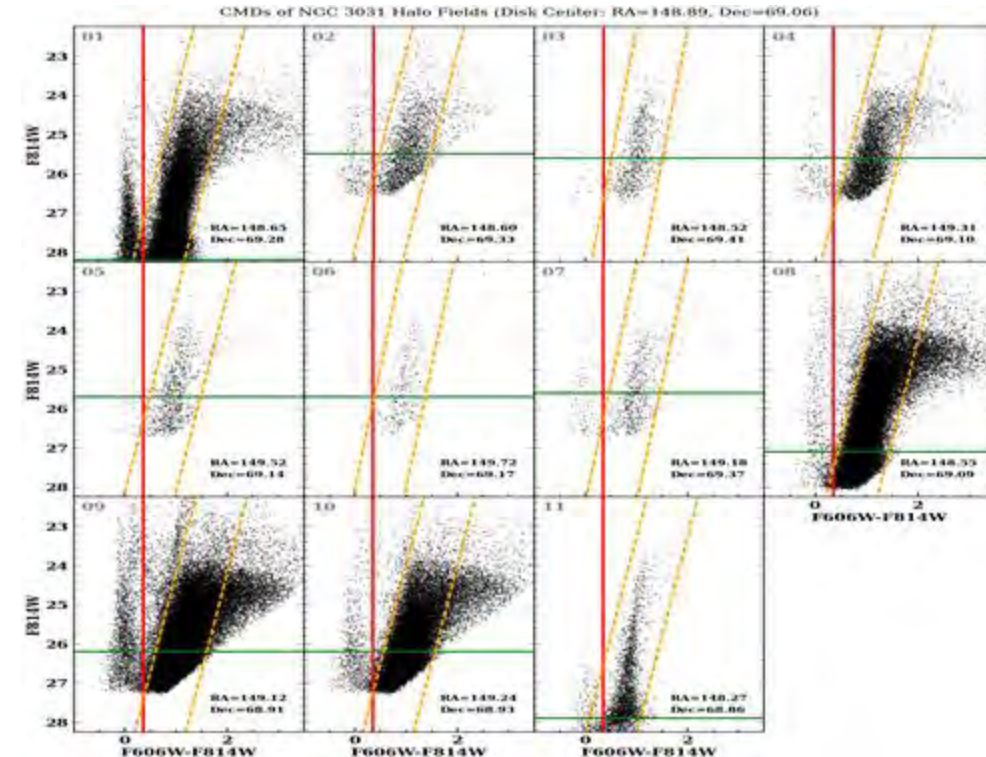
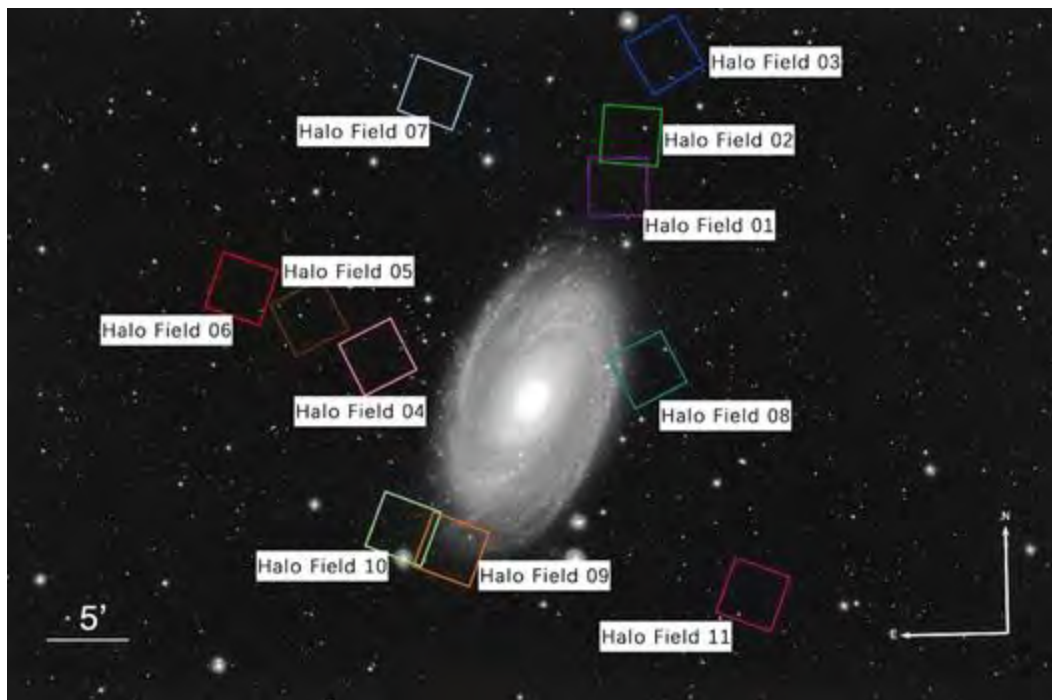
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- Absolute calibration of the TRGB using *JWST* observations of halo fields within NGC4258, coupled to the maser distance
- Also possible in Milky Way and LMC, with some complications (parallaxes, dust)



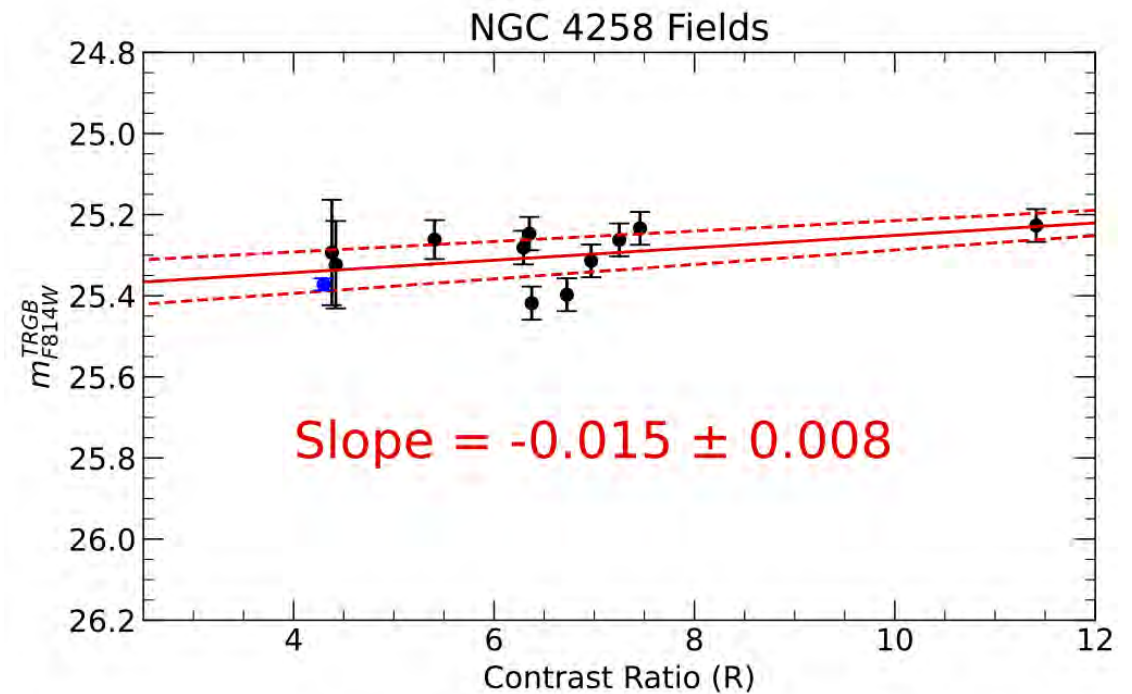
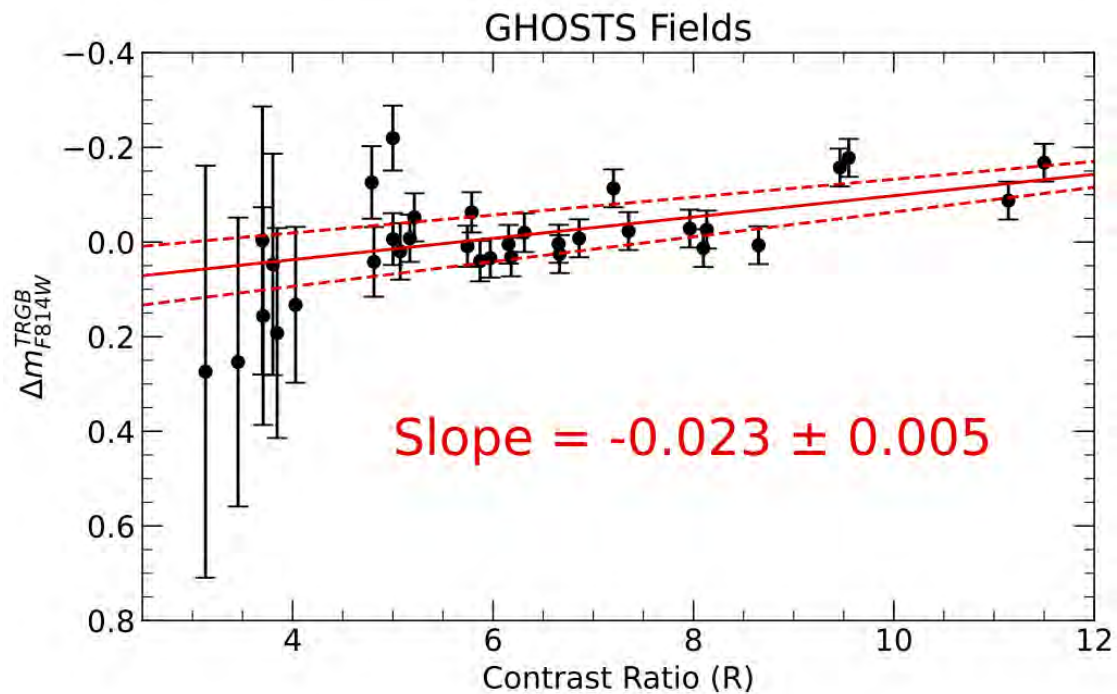
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- Recent development: tip detection is affected by contrast with RGB
- Study based on 50 halo fields across 10 galaxies using various metrics



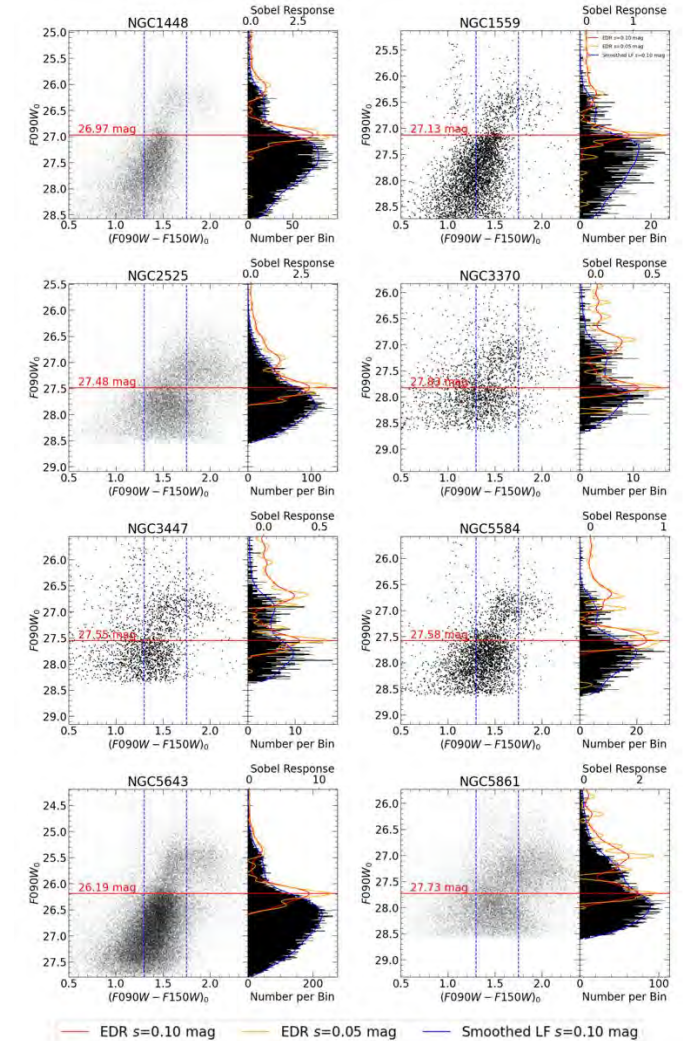
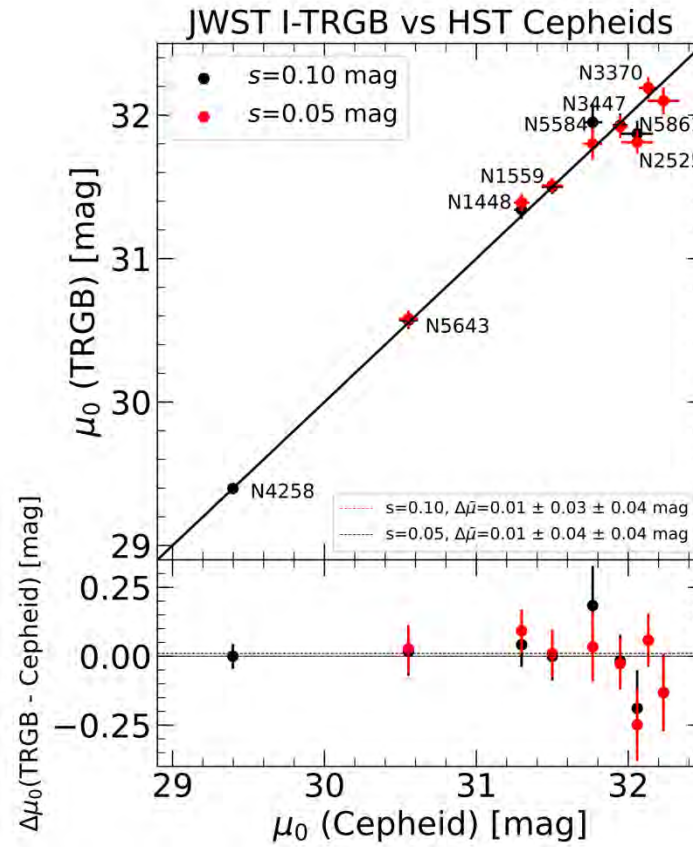
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- Likely caused by further weighting of tip measurements (Anderson+24)
- Tip-contrast relation also seen in NGC 4258 fields



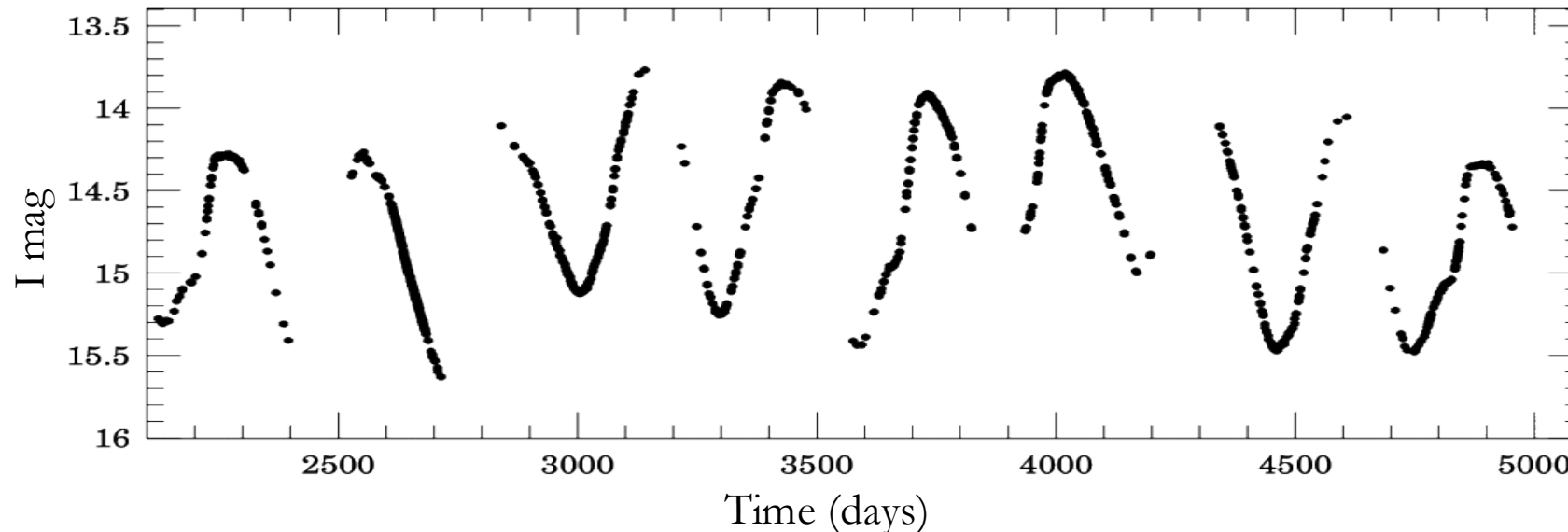
Tip of the Red Giant Branch

- TRGB in halo fields of Cepheid-bearing galaxies shows great agreement between the two methods
- Important check because TRGB can also be used in galaxies without Cepheids (but need to ensure consistency)



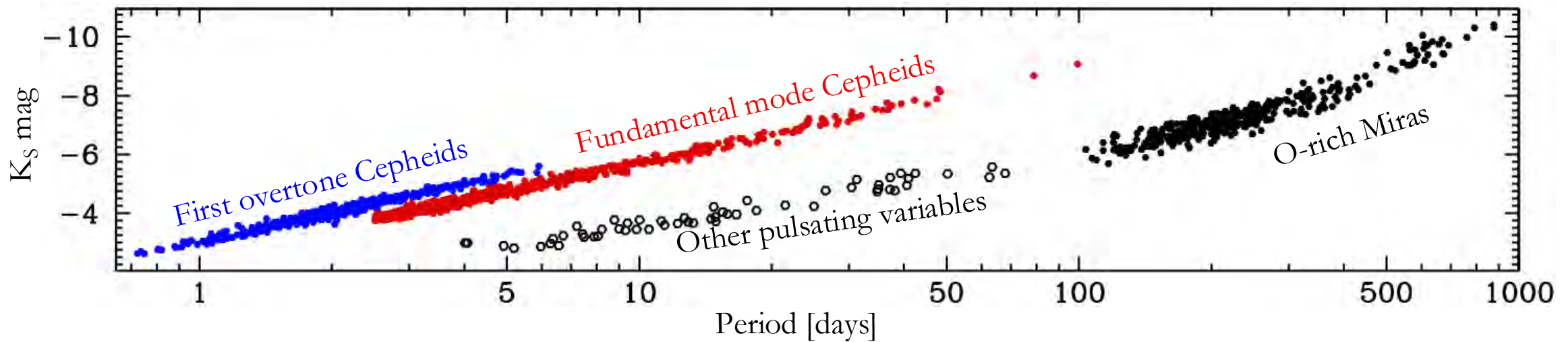
Miras

- Miras originate from stars with $0.5\text{-}4M_{\odot} \rightarrow$ plentiful in all galaxies
- Miras occur during the *Asymptotic Giant Branch* phase and have long-period, large-amplitude pulsations $\rightarrow$ relatively easy to detect (but require long observing campaigns)



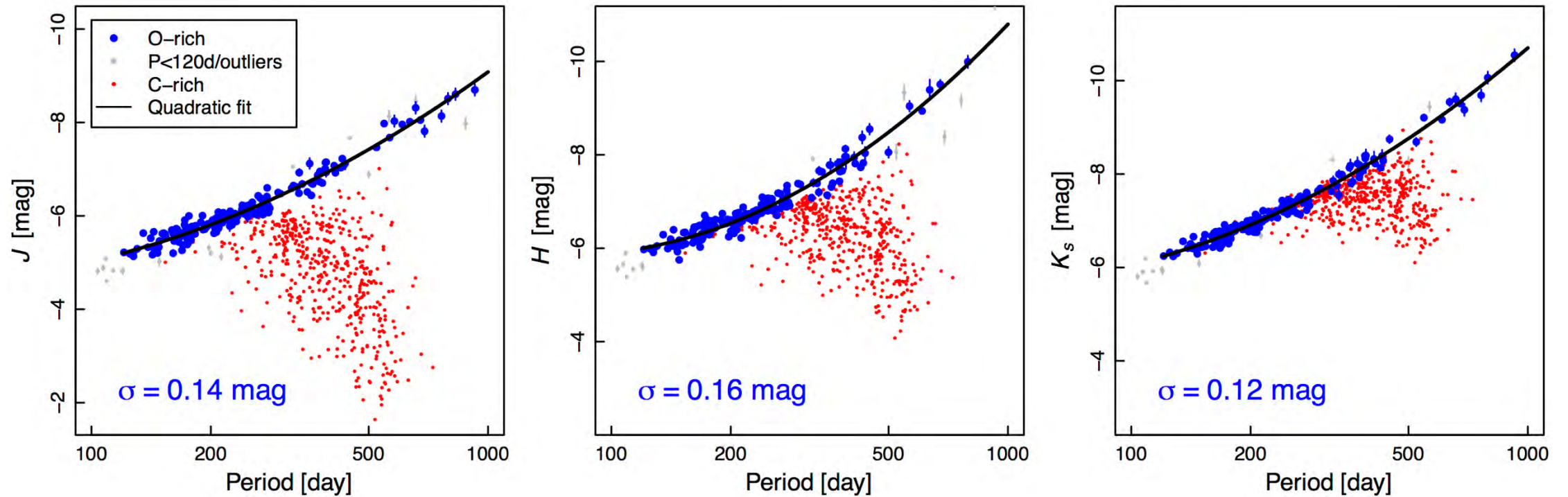
Miras

- Carefully-selected subsets of Miras (with Oxygen-rich atmospheres instead of Carbon-rich ones) are good distance indicators
- O-rich Miras have near-infrared luminosities comparable to or exceeding Cepheids → detectable at large distances



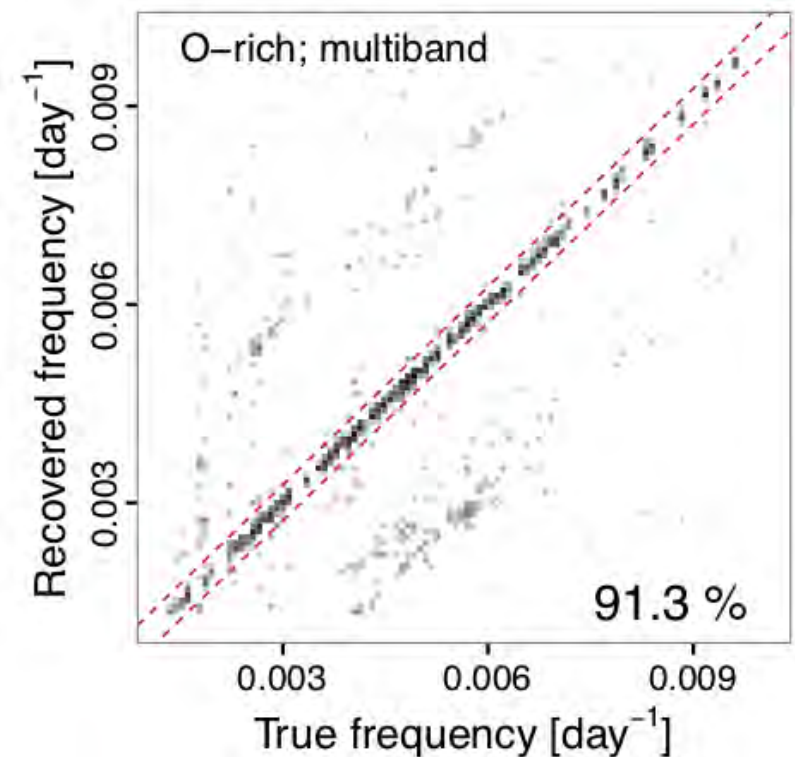
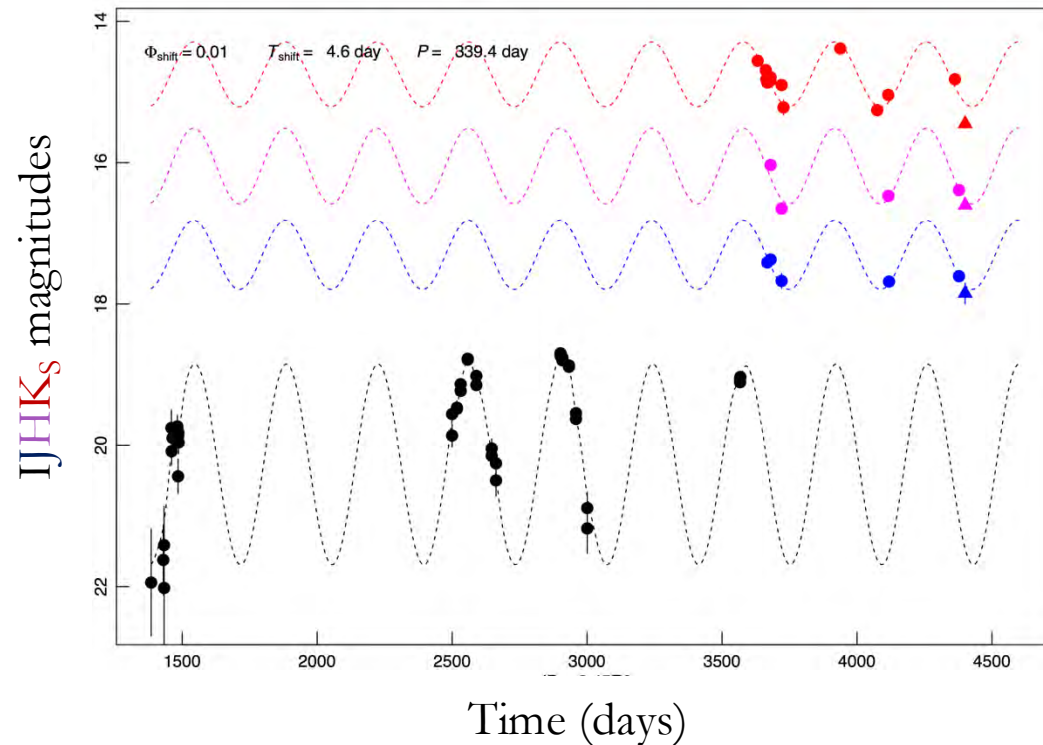
Miras

- Absolute calibration of O-rich Mira PLRs in the LMC with DEBs
- Note C-rich Miras do not follow a useful PLR



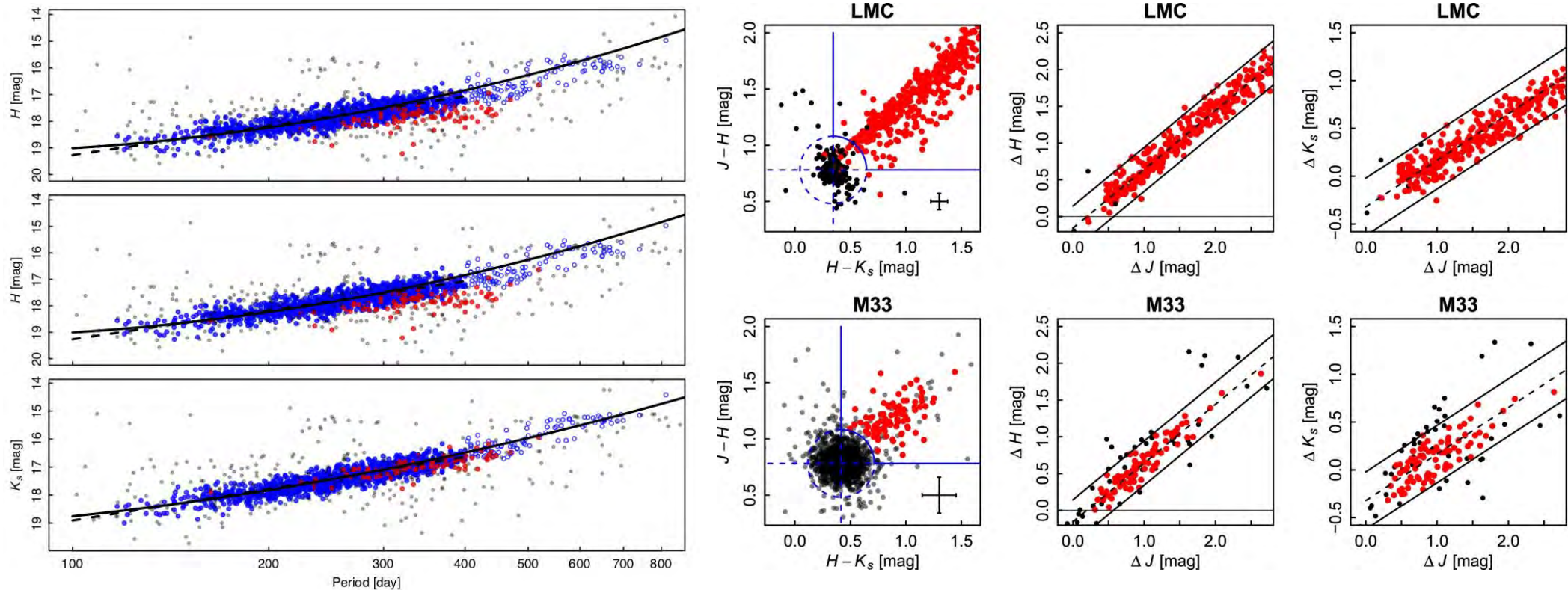
Miras

- Search for Miras in a target galaxy (M33) using ML for classification
- Simulations show good period recovery even with sparse light curves



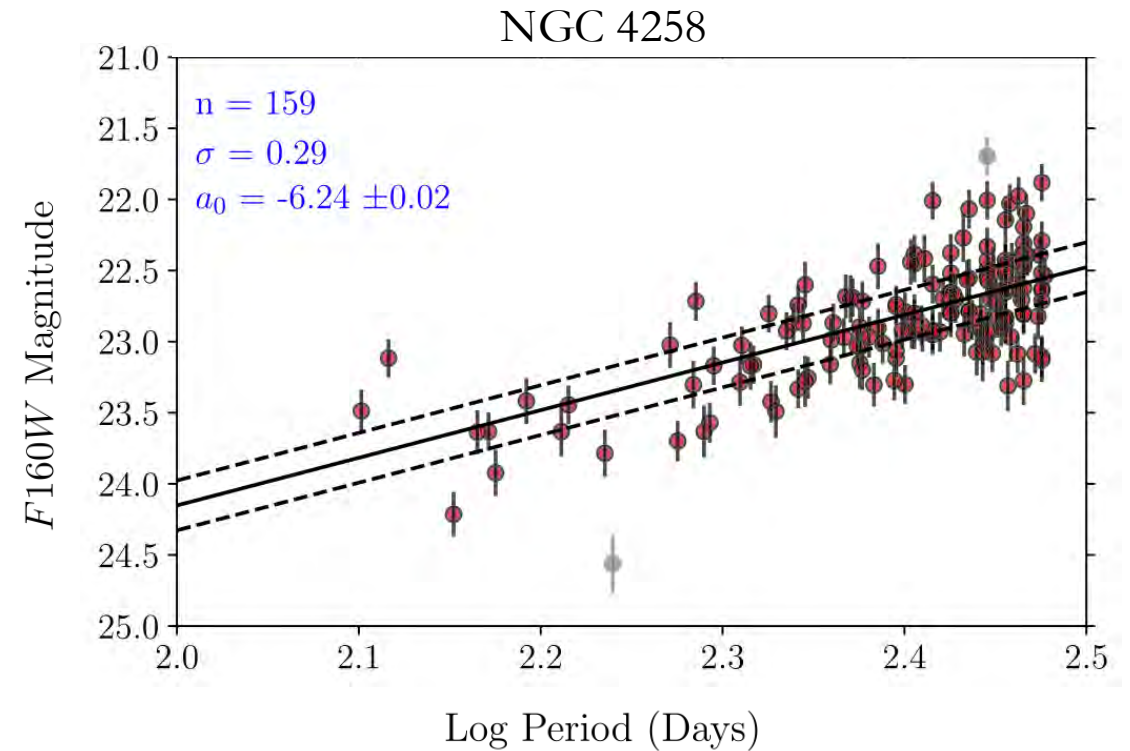
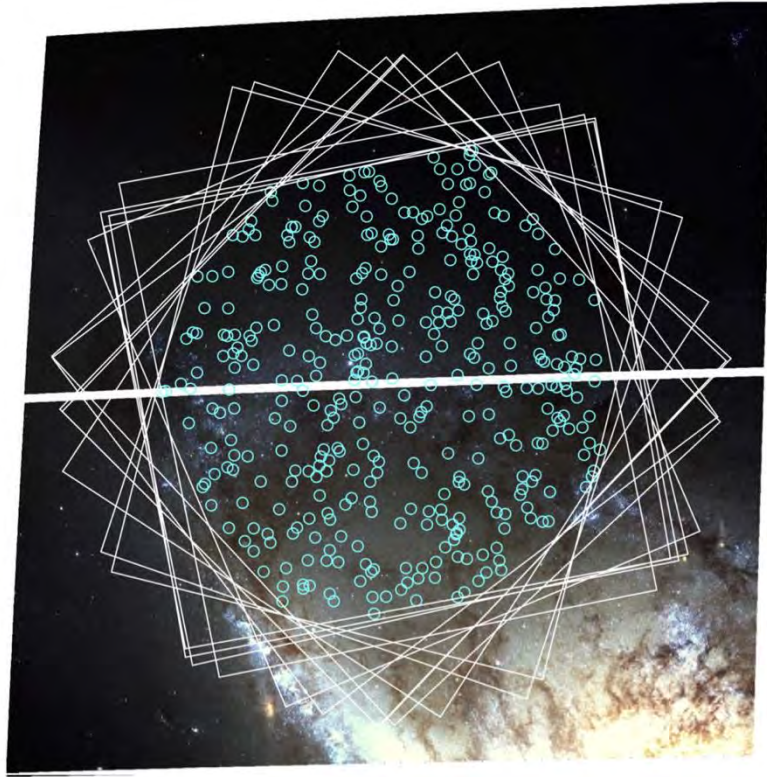
Miras

- O- and C-rich Miras separate fairly well in color-color space
- $P > 400\text{d}$ excluded due to evolutionary effects (“hot bottom burning”)



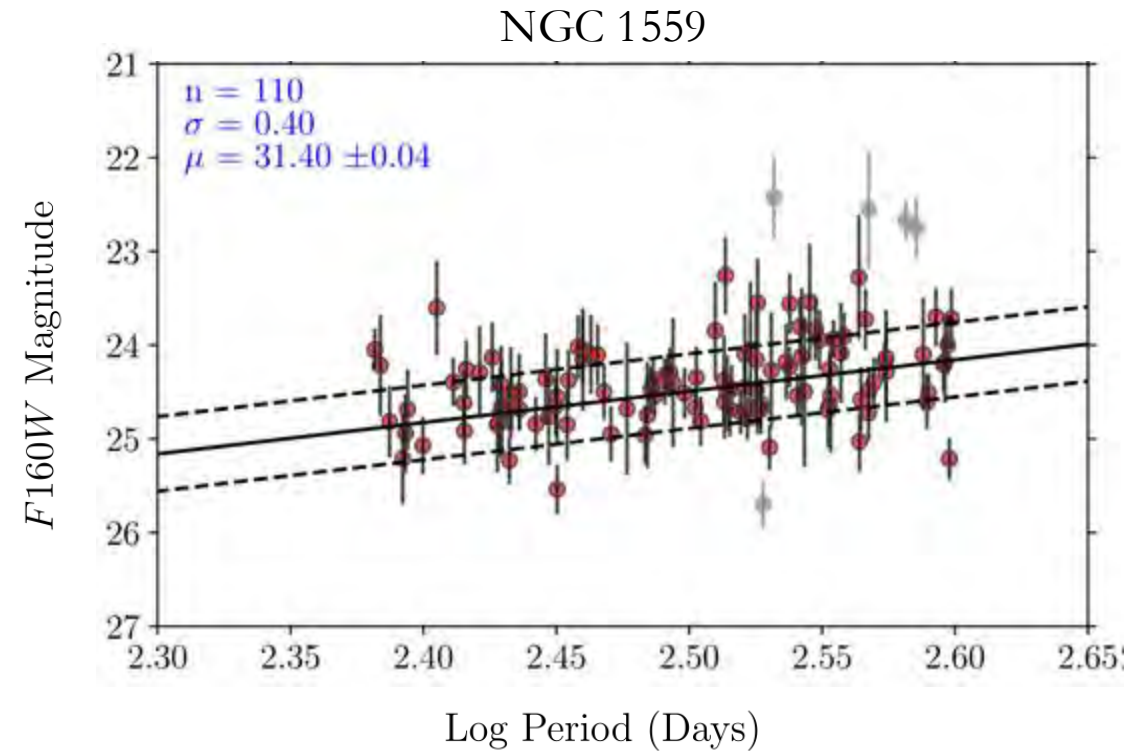
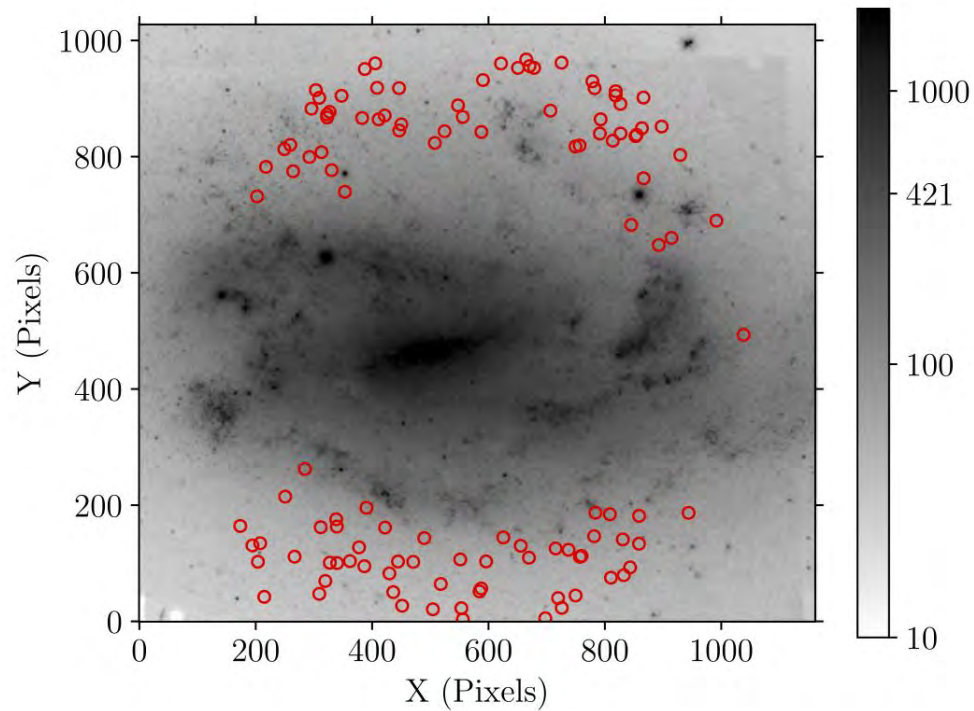
Miras

- Related to the SH0ES project, Huang et al. have obtained Mira PLRs in the anchor NGC 4258 and in two “second rung” galaxies



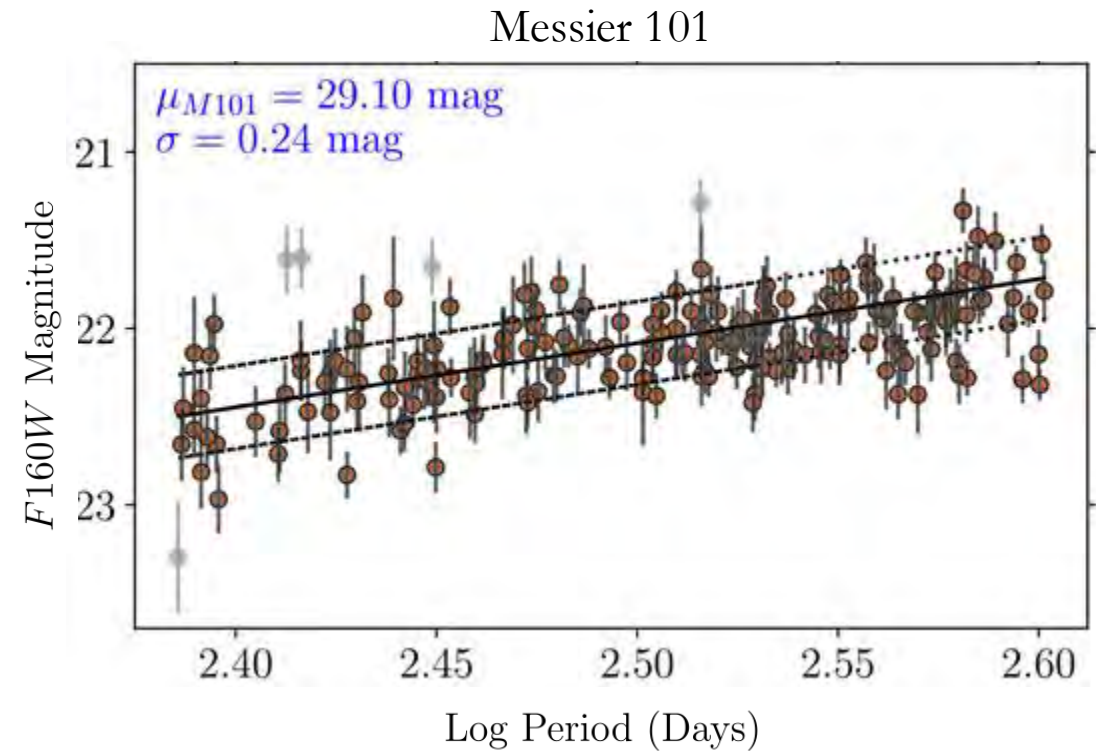
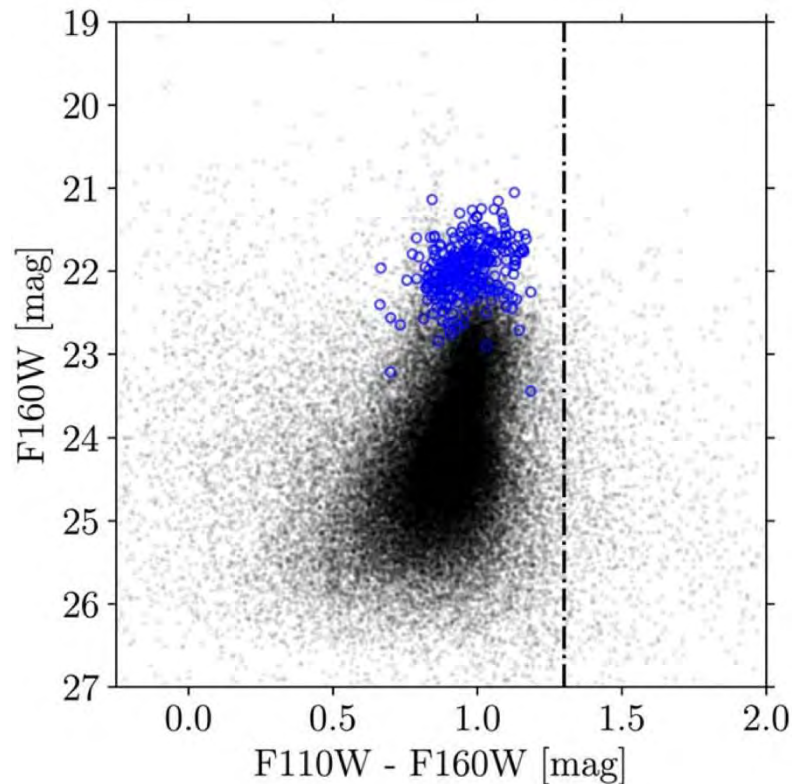
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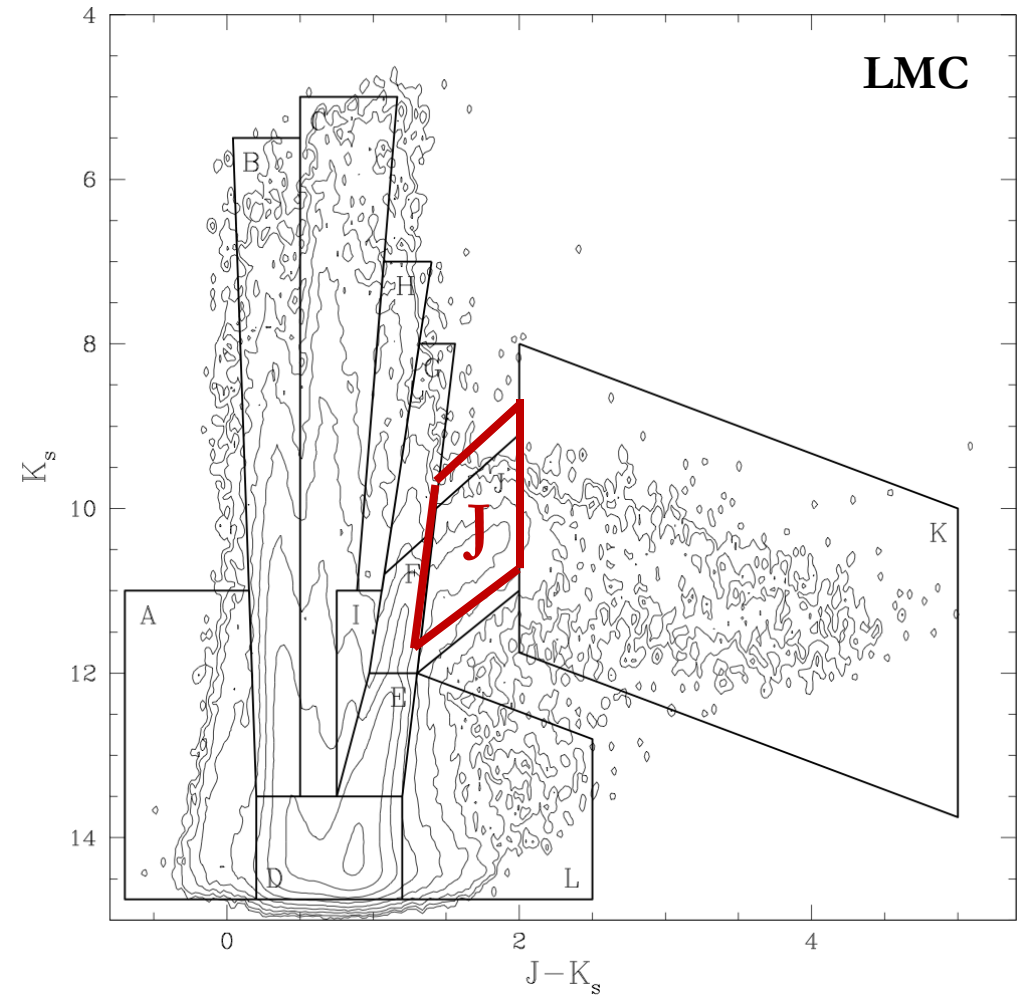
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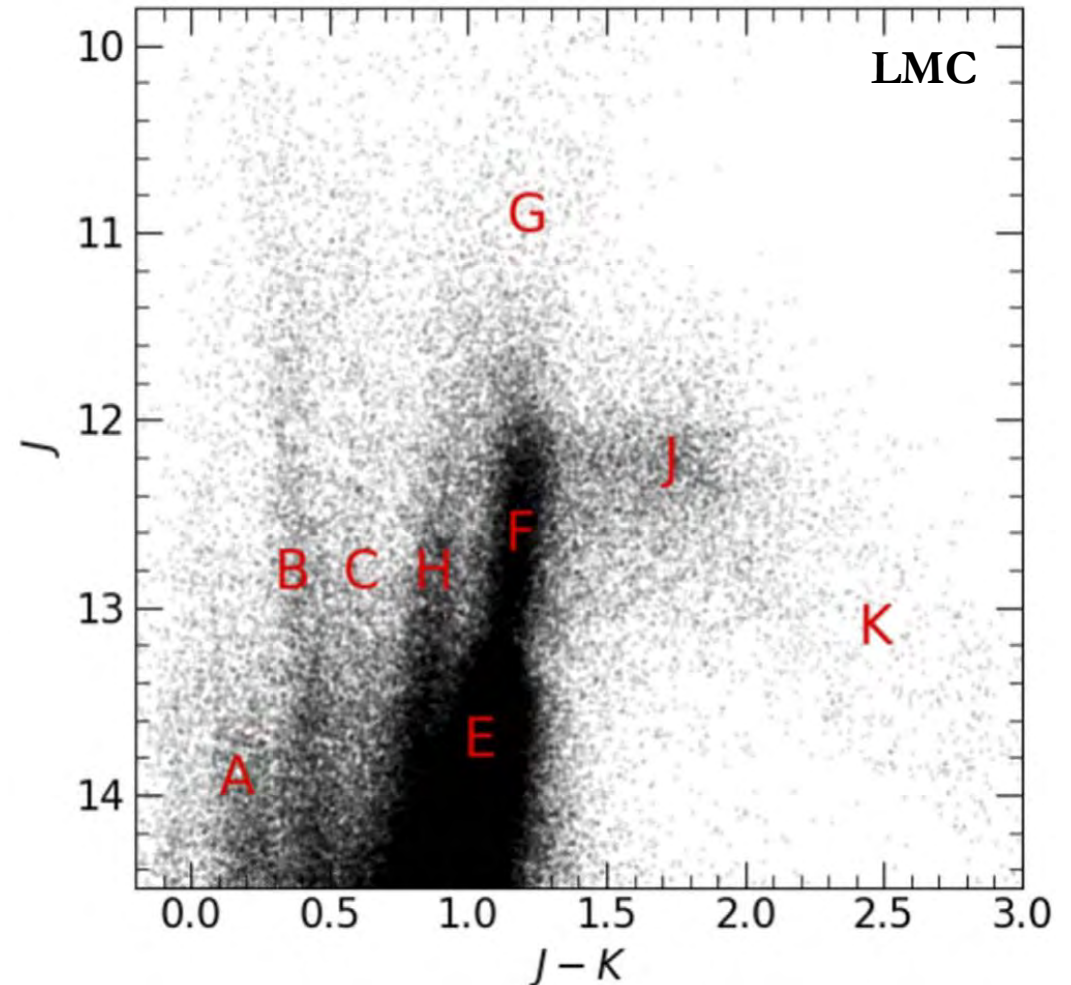
JAGB

- The potential of Carbon-rich thermally-pulsating AGB stars as a standard candle was first recognized in the mid-1980s (Richer+1985; Cook+1986)
- Nikolaev & Weinberg (2000) used 2MASS photometry of the LMC to advocate for the “J” region of the CMD



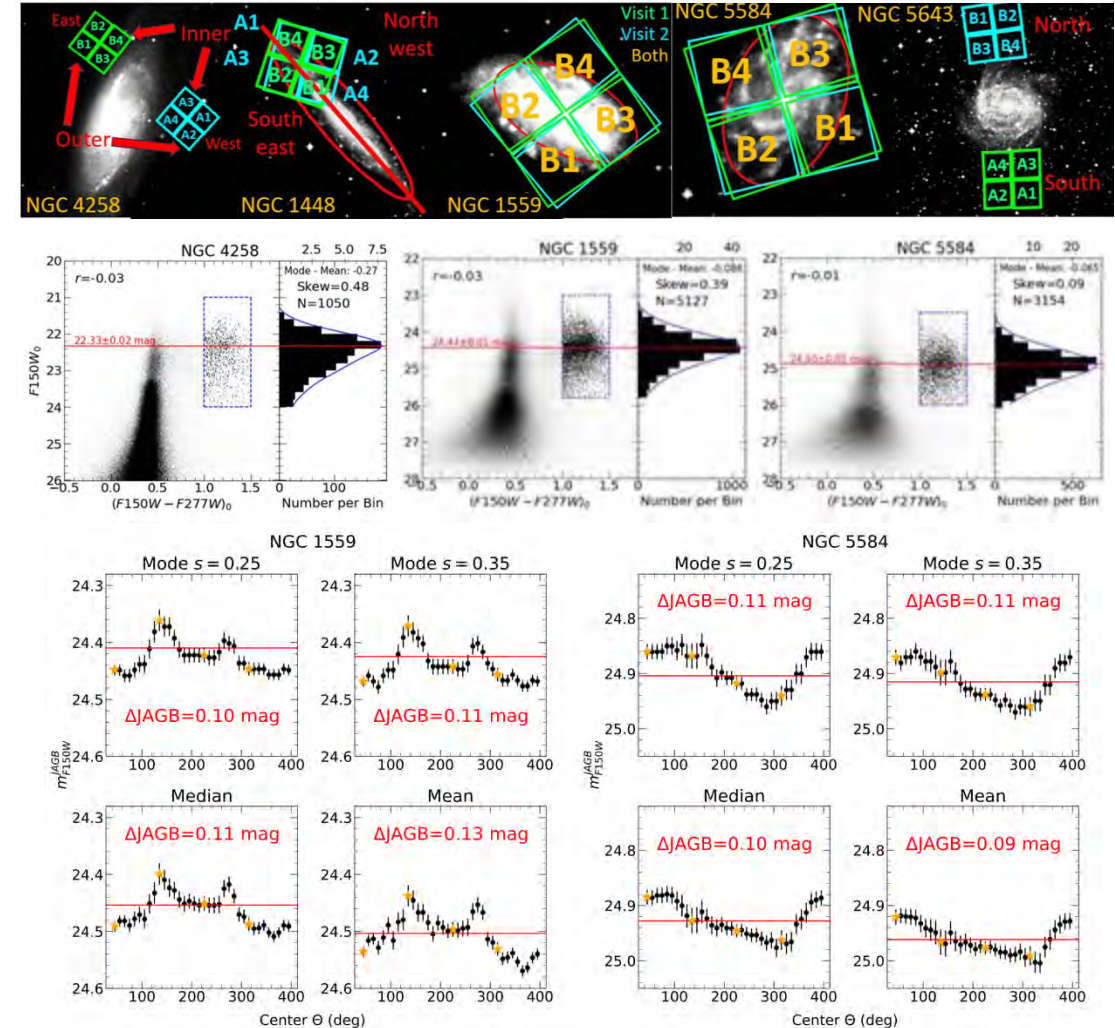
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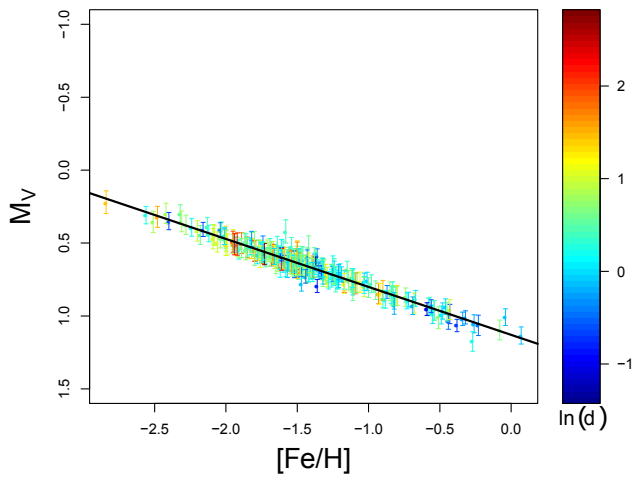
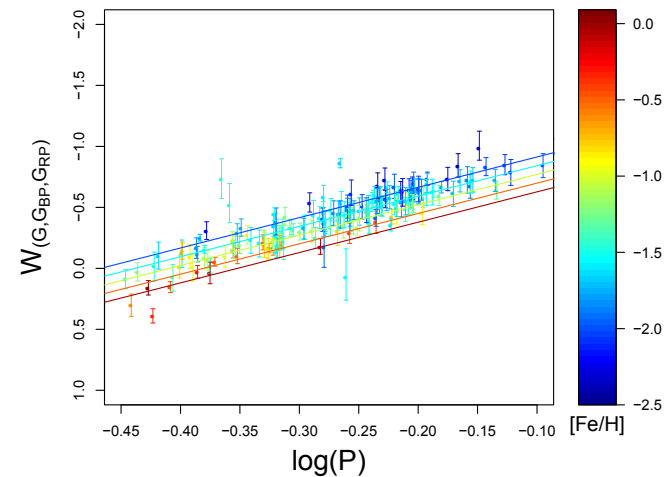
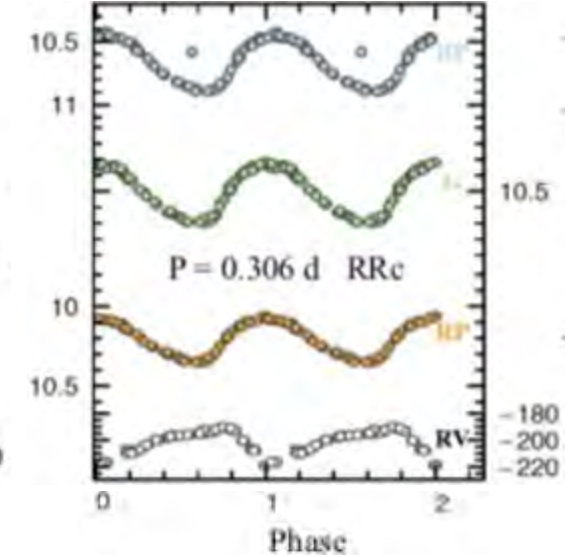
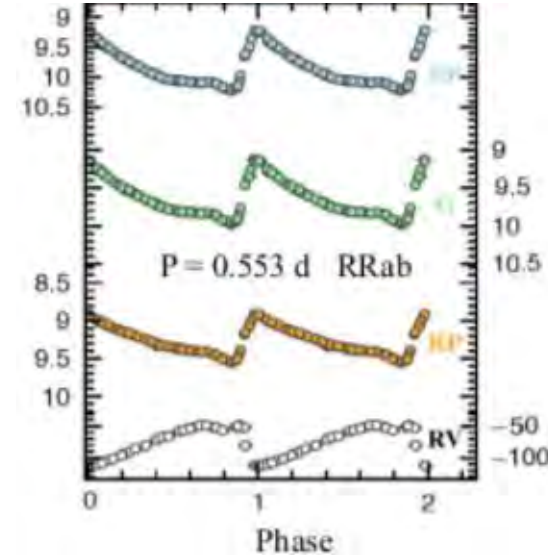
JAGB

- Calibrations in the I & J bands (Battinelli & Demers 2005; Freedman & Madore 2020)
- Application to “second rung” galaxies (Lee+ 2024a, Li+ 2024b)
- Li+(2024b) calibrated in N4258 and found large variations in JAGB magnitude depending on technique and galaxy region



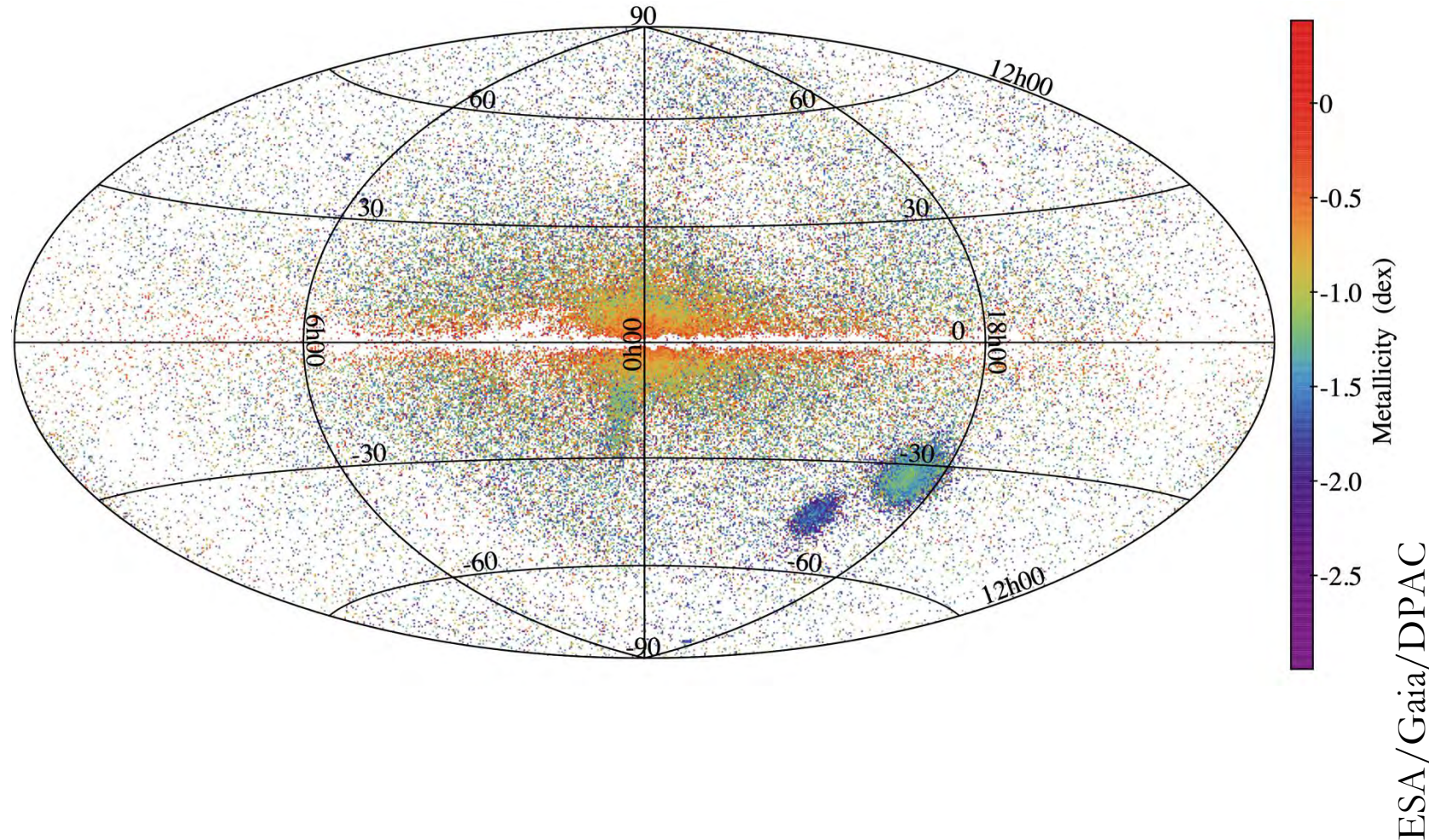
RR Lyrae

- RR Lyrae variables are old (10-13 Gyr), low-mass, metal-poor, He core fusing stars
- Large-amplitude pulsations driven by the same He^{++} mechanism as Cepheids
- They also follow a Period-Luminosity relation with a strong metallicity dependence



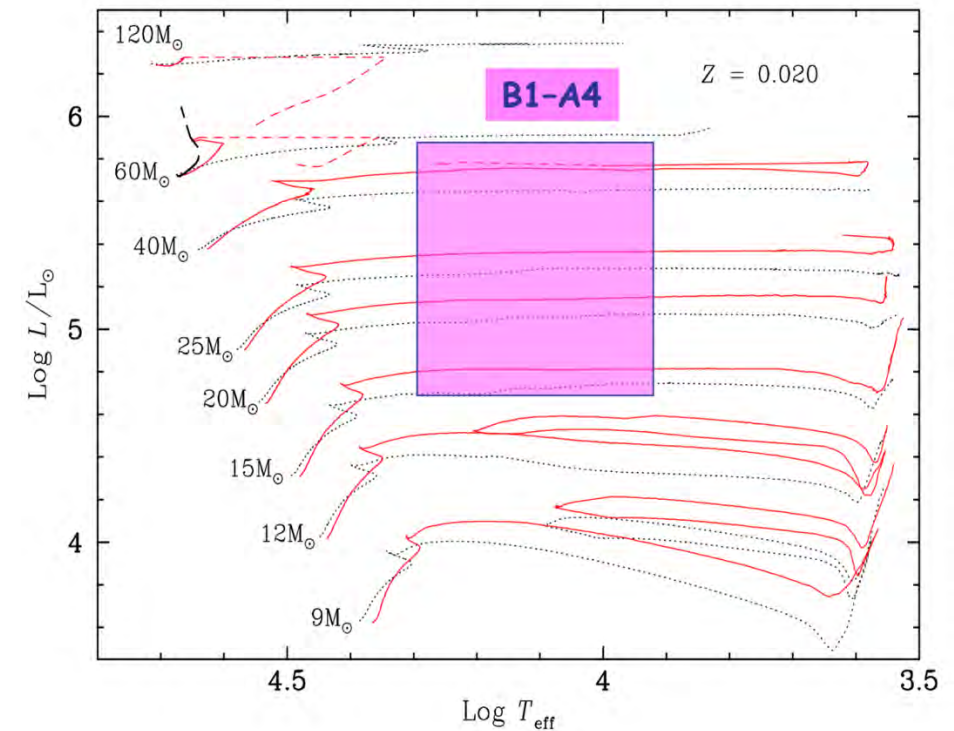
RR Lyrae

- While RR Lyrae are too faint to be useful at large distances (for now), they are excellent tracers of halo substructure within the Milky Way



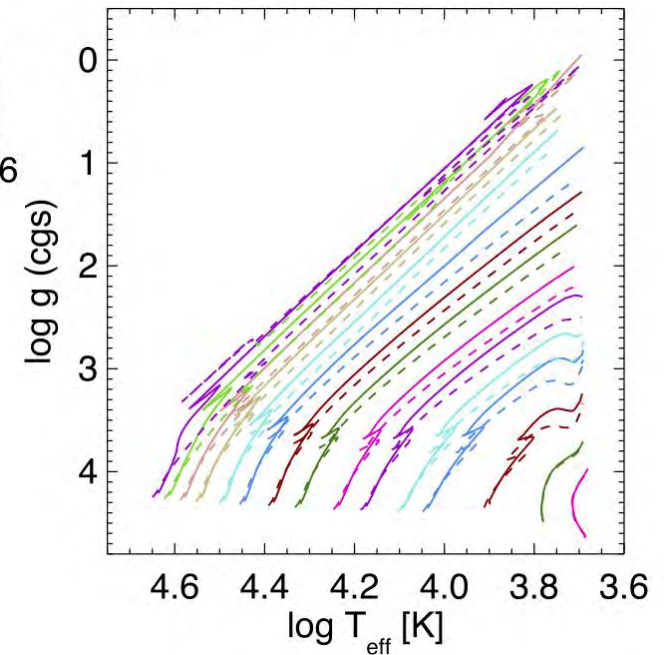
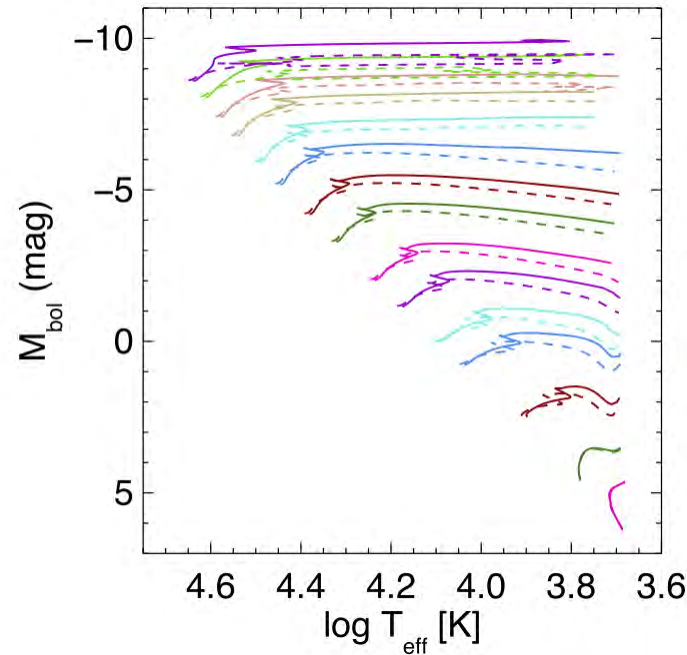
Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- Blue supergiants ($15\text{--}40\text{ M}_\odot$) undergo evolution at constant mass and luminosity for $\sim 10^4$ years after the main sequence
- They are also the most luminous stars at visible wavelengths ($10^{5-6}\text{ L}_\odot$)
- Ideal to determine abundances, extinction laws, and distances
- You can see one tonight!



Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- If stellar evolution proceeds at constant mass and luminosity, then $g_F = \text{surface gravity}/T^4$ (“flux-weighted gravity”) must also be a constant
- Since luminosity $\propto M^x$, we can derive a relation between absolute magnitude and g_F
- g_F is distance-independent, so we have the ingredients for a distance indicator



Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

$$L, M \sim \text{const.}$$

$$M \sim g \times R^2 \sim L \times (g/T^4) = \text{const.}$$

const.

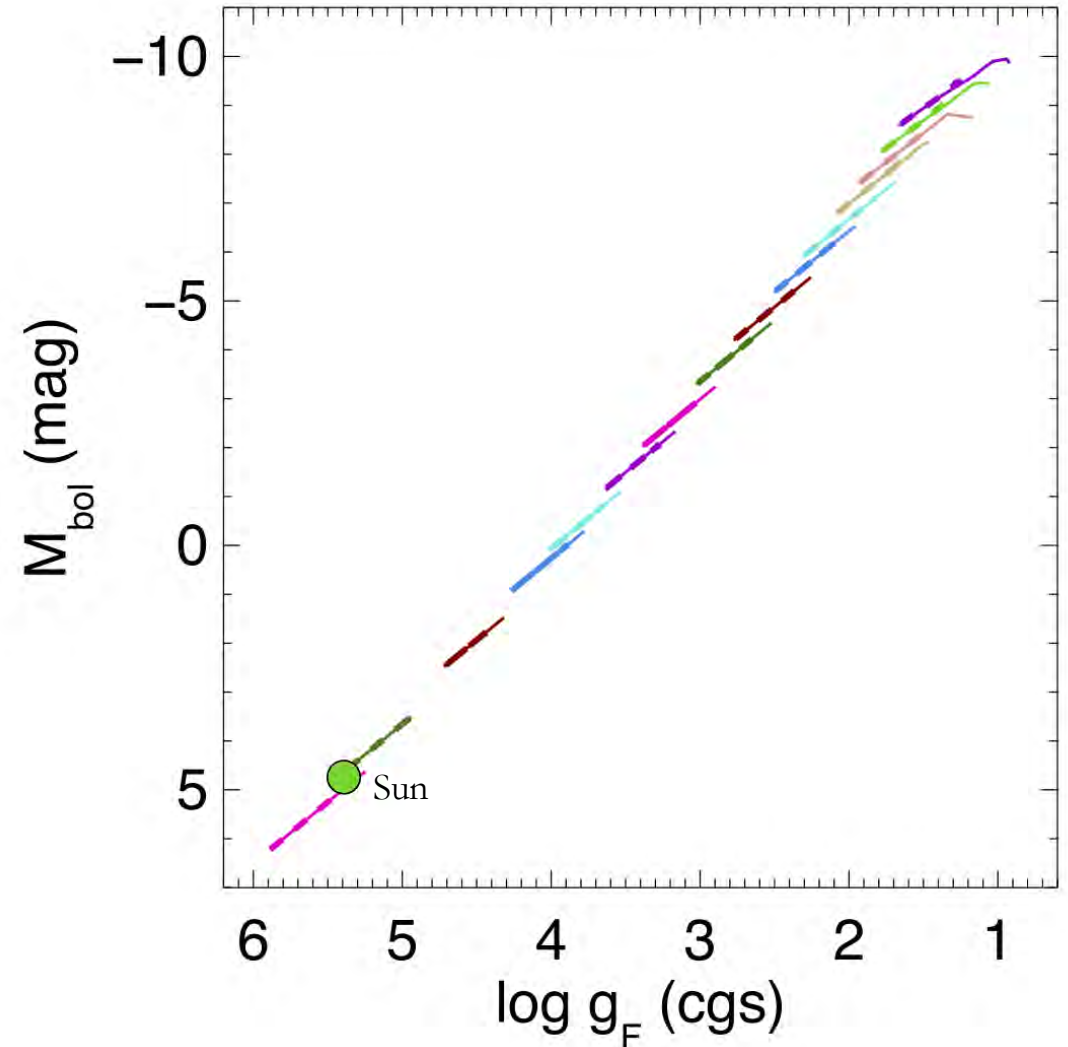
with $L \sim M^x \sim L^x (g/T^4)^x$, $x \sim 3$

$$\rightarrow L^{1-x} \sim (g/T^4)^x$$

or with $M_{\text{bol}} \sim -2.5 \log L$

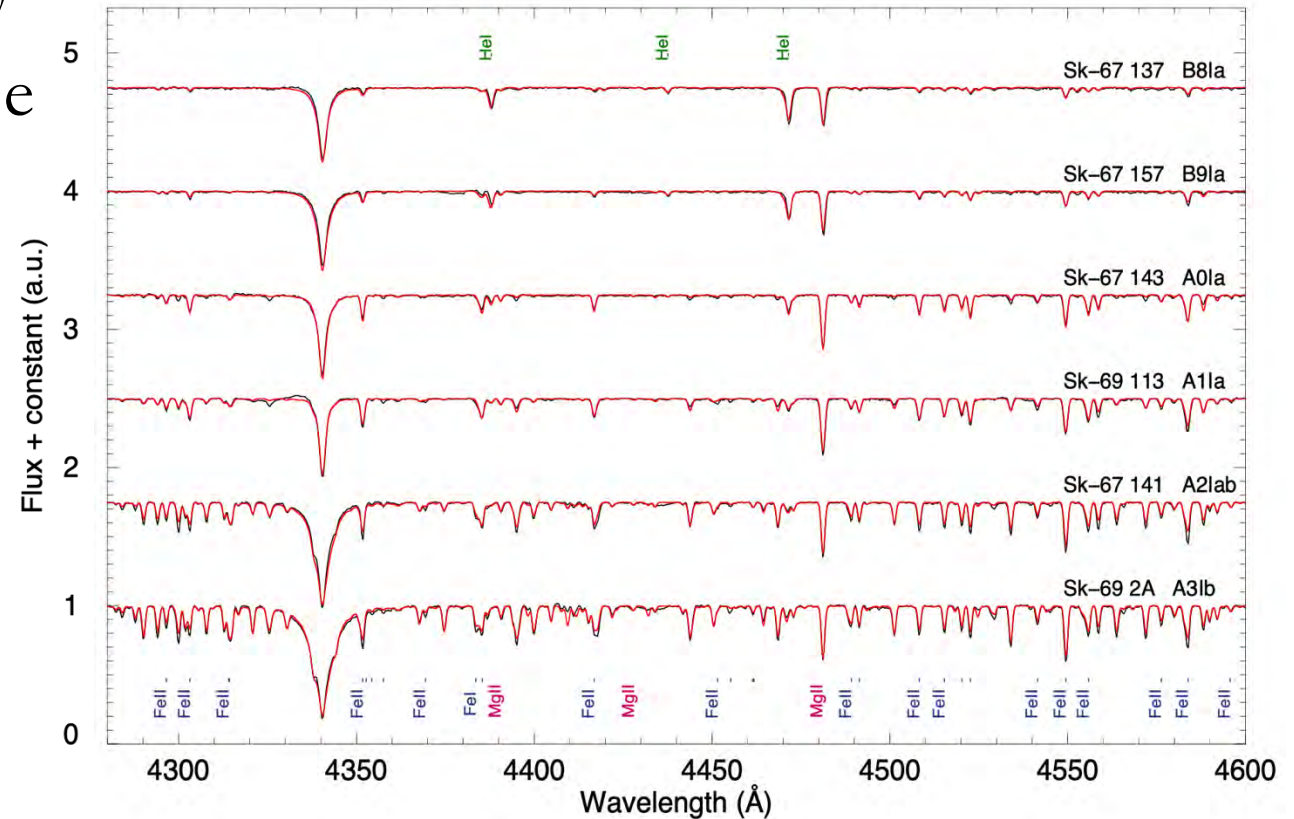
$$M_{\text{bol}} = a \log(g/T^4) + b \quad \text{FGLR}$$

$$a = 2.5 \, x / (1-x) \sim 3.75$$



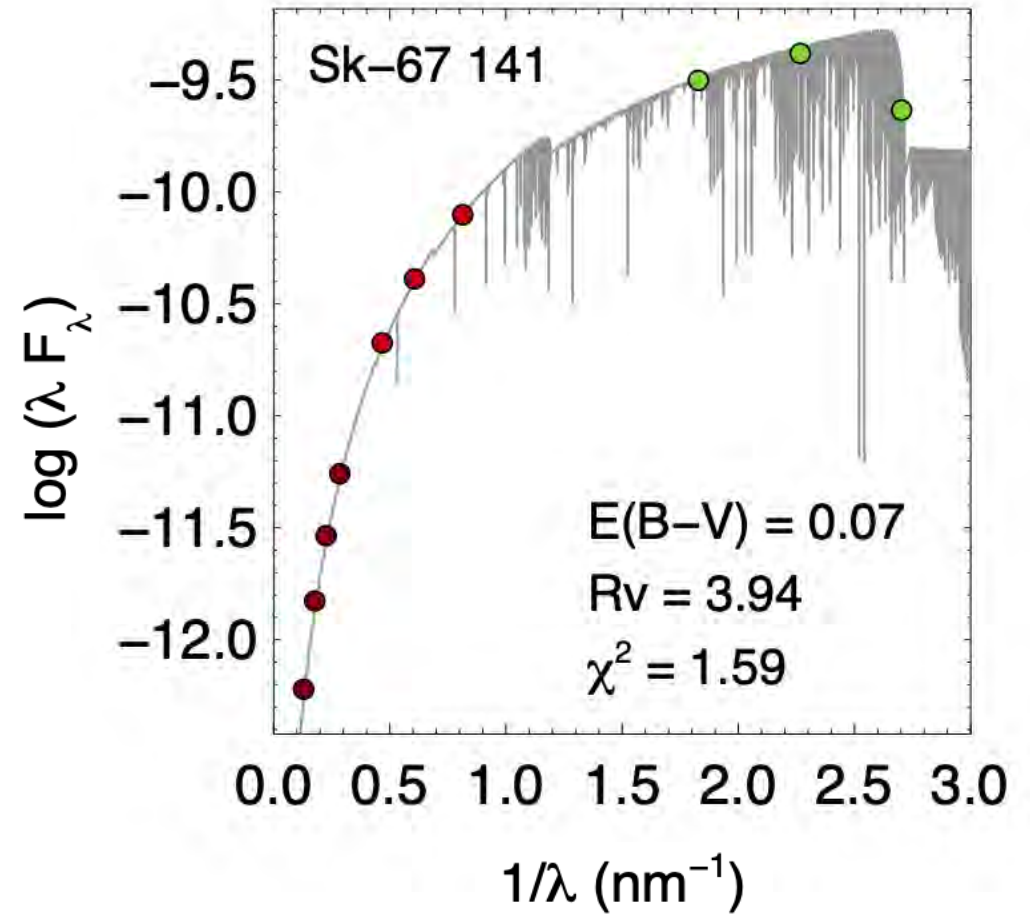
Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- Requires high S/N spectroscopy to determine accurate and precise stellar parameters
- Nevertheless, one of the few ways we have to obtain critical measurements beyond the Milky Way and MCs



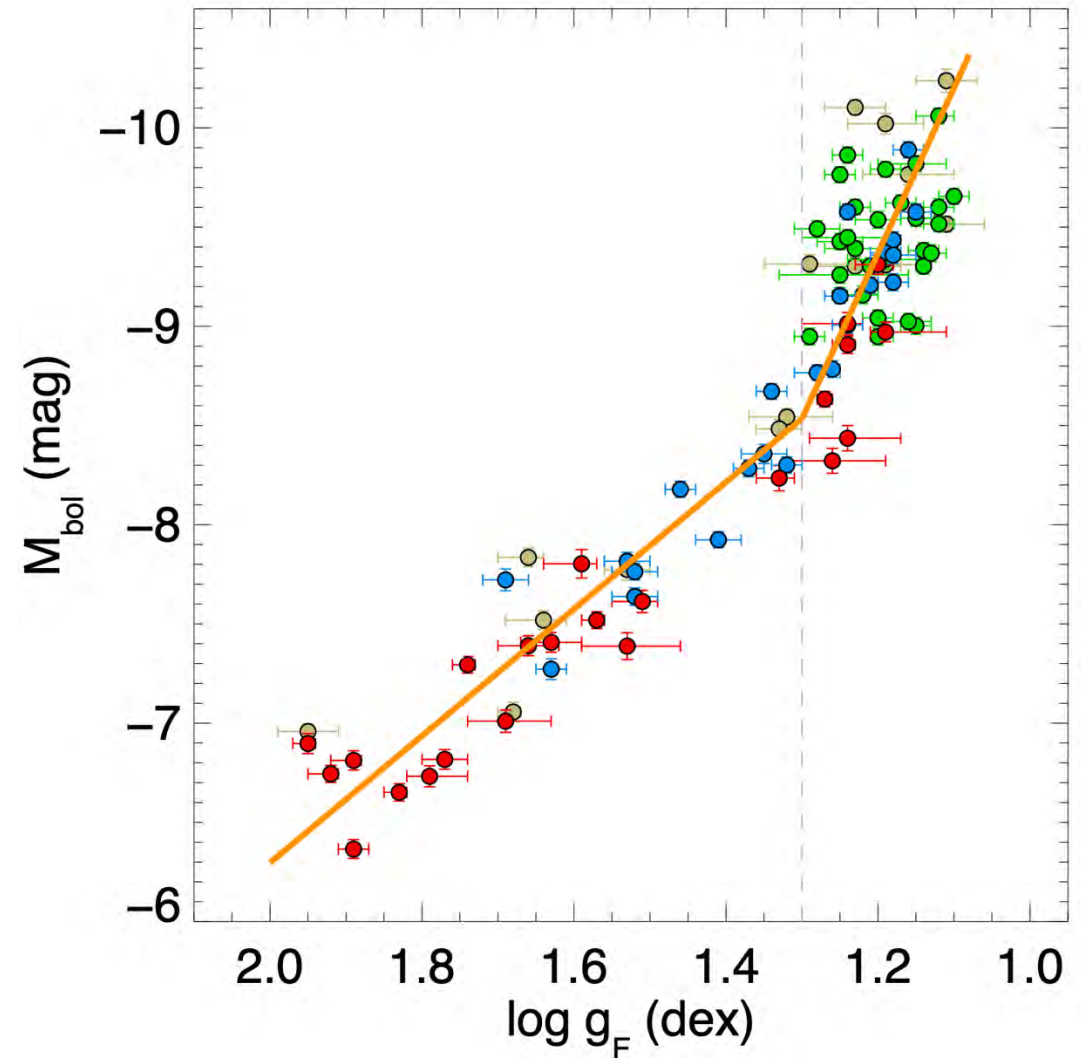
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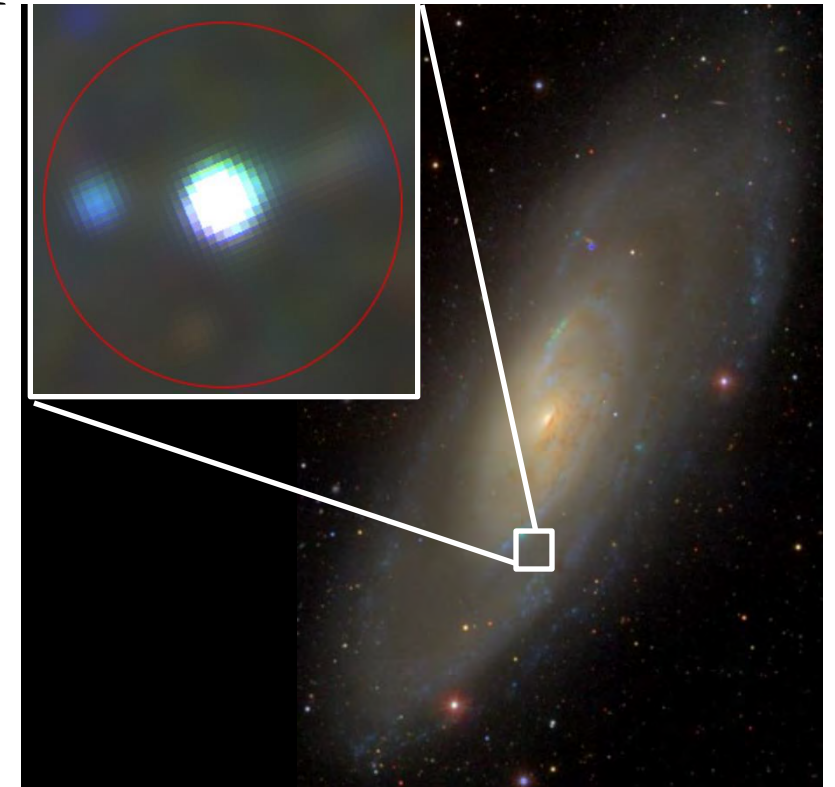
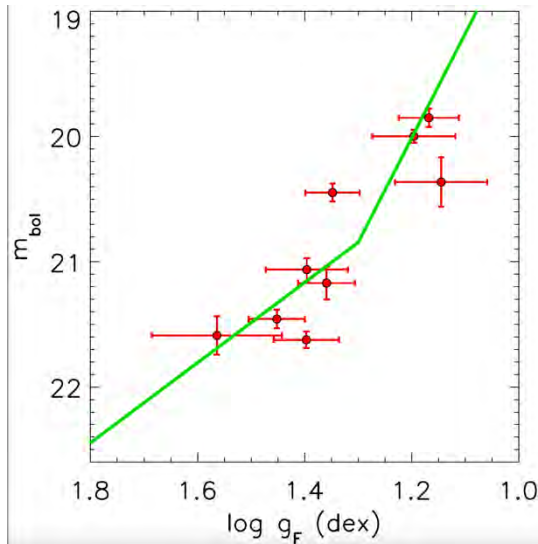
Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- Absolute calibration in Large Magellanic Cloud, based on observations of 90 blue supergiants
- Distance from eclipsing binaries as discussed yesterday



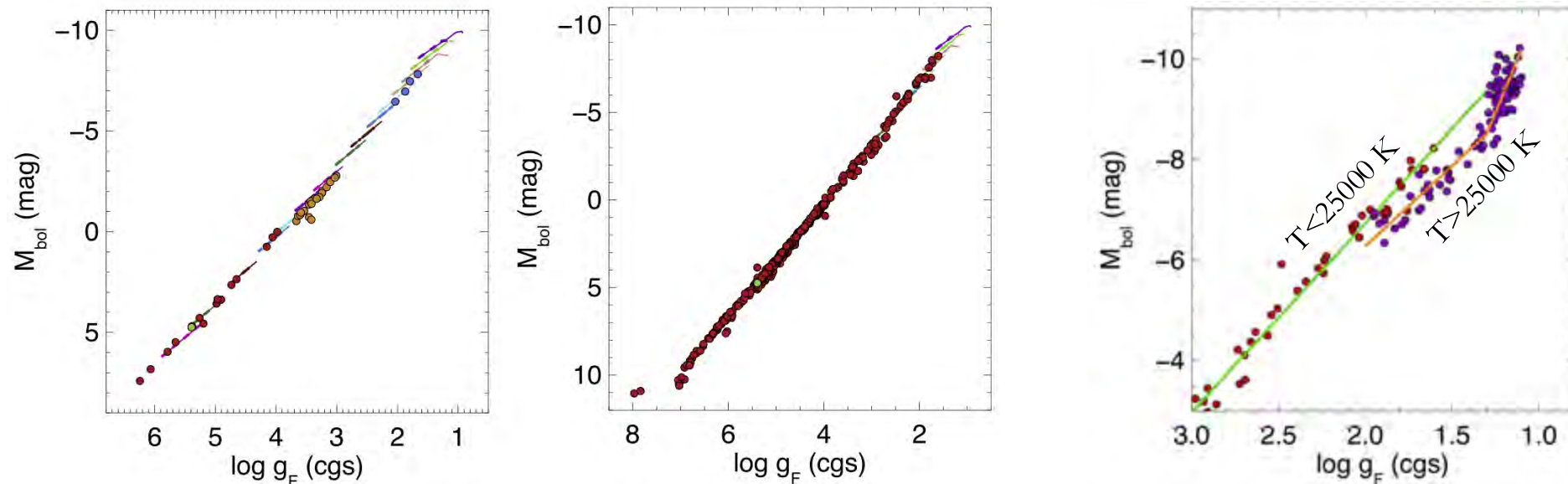
Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- Check FLGR distance to NGC 4258 against maser-based one
- *HST* and *JWST* photometry + Keck spectroscopy
- $D \text{ (Mpc)} = 7.52 \pm 5.3\%$ vs $7.58 \pm 1.5\%$
(Kudritzki+, A&A, submitted)



Flux-weighted Gravity – Luminosity Relation

- In fact, a single FGLR applies to all stars in the main sequence! (except for the most massive, where mass loss is important)
- Stellar evolutionary models verified against *Gaia* benchmark sample and detached eclipsing binaries in Milky Way and LMC



Summary

- Cepheid variables are the “gold standard” for the second rung of the distance ladder – recent *JWST* observations validate *HST* results
- Critical to develop additional standardizable candles with equally robust calibration uncertainties and systematics. Bonus points if they can be found in non-Cepheid bearing galaxies!
- TRGB is another great distance indicator – cannot reach as far, but expands “second rung” galaxies beyond face-on spirals
- Other techniques are potentially useful, but need additional studies for more robust calibrations (Miras, JAGB) or require significant telescope time for spectroscopy (FGLR)



The Cosmic Distance Scale

Lecture 3

Lucas Macri

NSF NOIRLab



Acknowledgments

- I want to thank the following colleagues, who generously contributed material for these presentations:
- Gagandeep Anand (STScI)
- John Blakeslee (NOIRLab)
- Dillon Brout (Boston Univ.)
- Gisella Clementini (INAF)
- Mario Diaz (UT-RGV)
- Joe Jensen (Utah Valley Univ.)
- Rolf-Peter Kudritzki (MIAPbP/UH)
- Casey Papovich (Texas A&M)
- Adam Riess (JHU/STScI)
- Dan Scolnic (Duke Univ.)
- Sherry Suyu (TUM/MPA)
- Mónica Taormina (CAMK)



Recap of Lecture 2

- Cepheid variables are the “gold standard” for the second rung of the distance ladder – recent *JWST* observations validate *HST* results
- Critical to develop additional standardizable candles with equally robust calibration uncertainties and systematics. Bonus points if they happen in non-Cepheid bearing galaxies!
- TRGB is another great distance indicator – cannot reach as far, but expands “second rung” sample beyond face-on spirals
- Other techniques are potentially useful, but require additional studies for robust calibrations (Miras, JAGB)



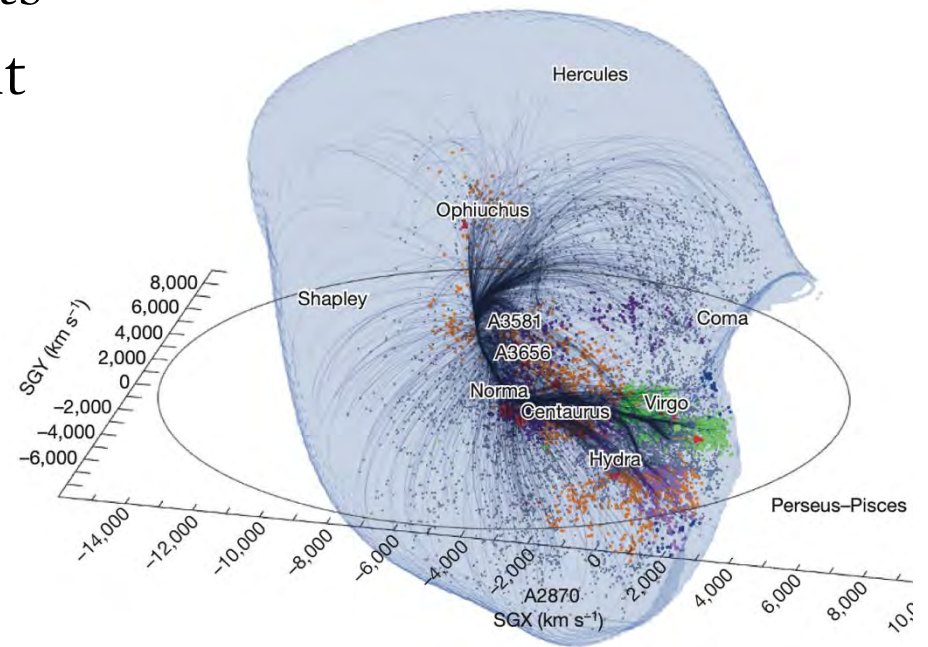
Third Rung: Into the Hubble Flow

- We have standardizable candles (Cepheids, TRGB, etc.) calibrated via geometric distances (parallaxes, binaries, masers)
- Even with *JWST*, we cannot detect these candles beyond $D \sim 100$ Mpc
- We cannot measure $H_0 = cz/D$ accurately if cz 's are affected by gravity!
- Need to calibrate another set of techniques to reach the Hubble Flow

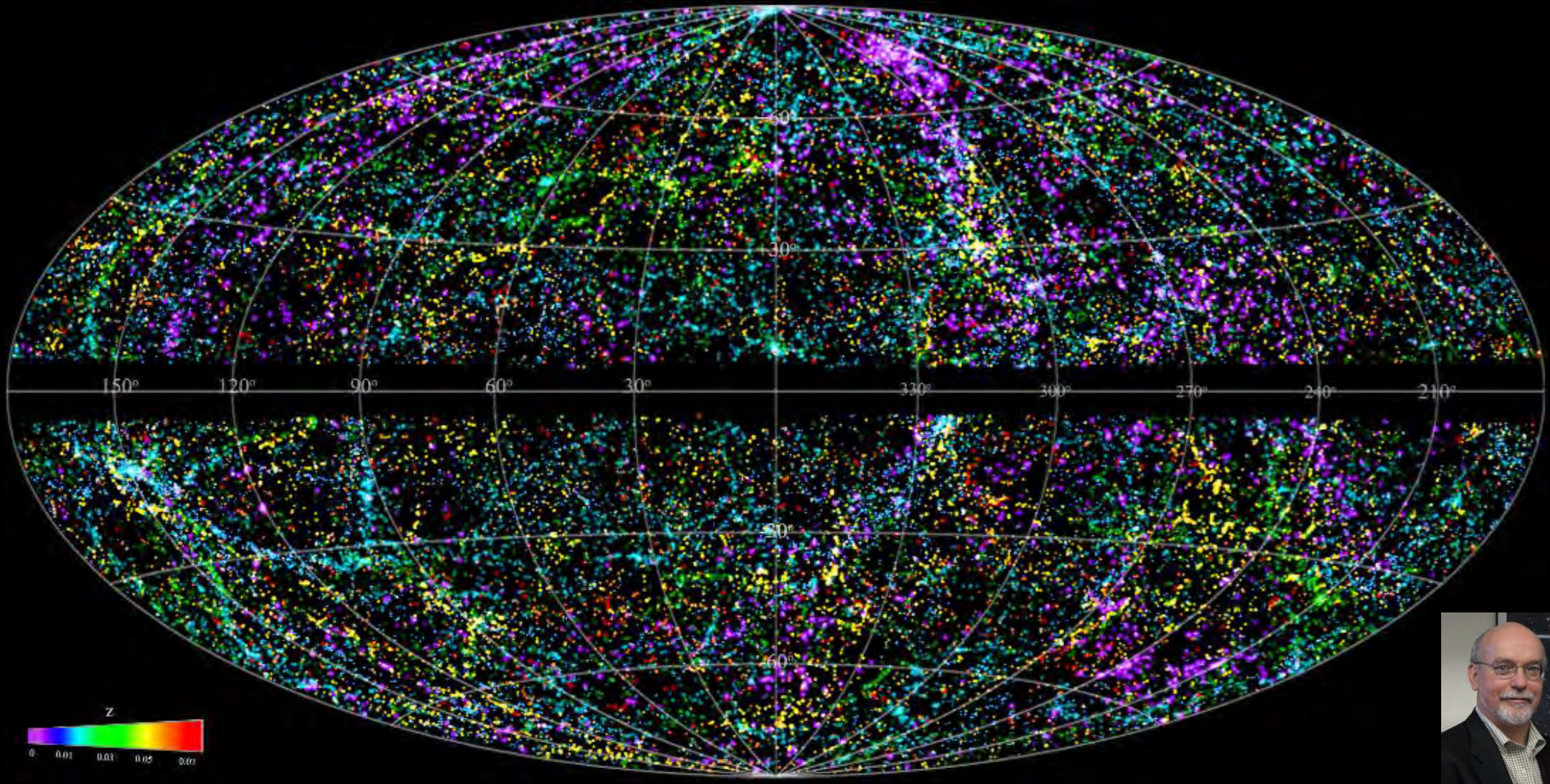


Large-Scale Structure & Peculiar Velocities

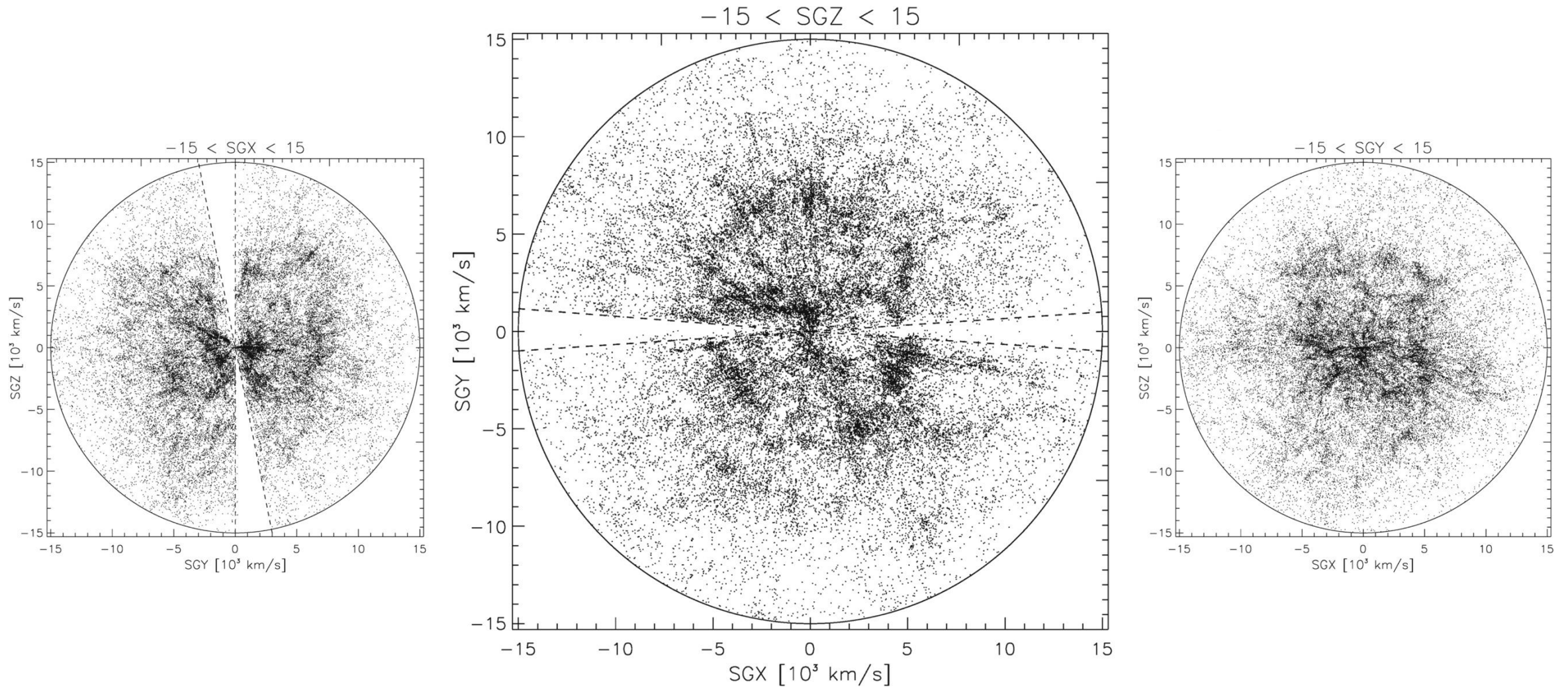
- Since the mid-1980s, galaxy redshift surveys have revealed the large-scale structure of the Universe: groups, clusters, walls, superclusters...
- The gravitational attraction of these objects introduces a non-cosmological component to the redshift: “peculiar velocities”
- Since these velocities can be ~ 300 km/s, we must seek galaxies with $cz > 10^4$ km/s to ensure H_0 is unbiased
→ too far away for Cepheids



Large-Scale Structure & Peculiar Velocities



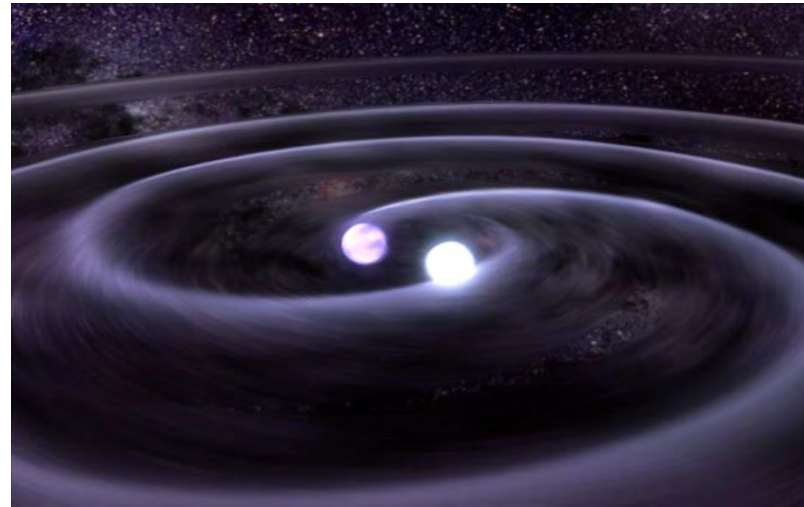
Large-Scale Structure & Peculiar Velocities



Type Ia supernovae

- Earth-sized degenerate C/O stellar core reaches $\sim 1.4 M_{\odot}$
 - Nature of “donor” unknown (merger of 2 white dwarfs, companion star)
 - $T_{\text{max}} > 5 \times 10^9 \text{ K} \rightarrow$ nuclear statistical equilibrium $\rightarrow \sim 0.4 M_{\odot} \text{ } ^{56}\text{Ni}$
- Excellent secondary distance indicator (single SN $\rightarrow \pm 7\%$)
 - Based on empirically-determined corrections to light curve

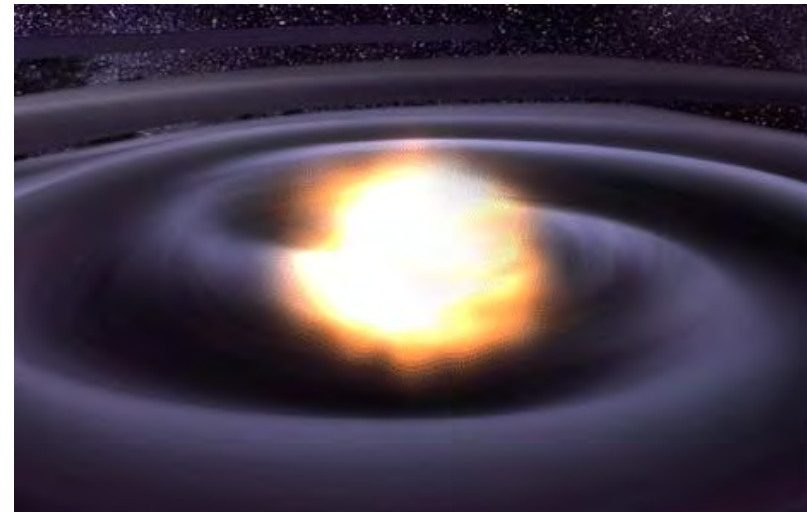
NASA/CXC/Texas Tech/T. Maccarone;
NASA/CXC/M. Weiss



NASA/GSFC/T. Strohmayer
NASA/CXC/D. Berry

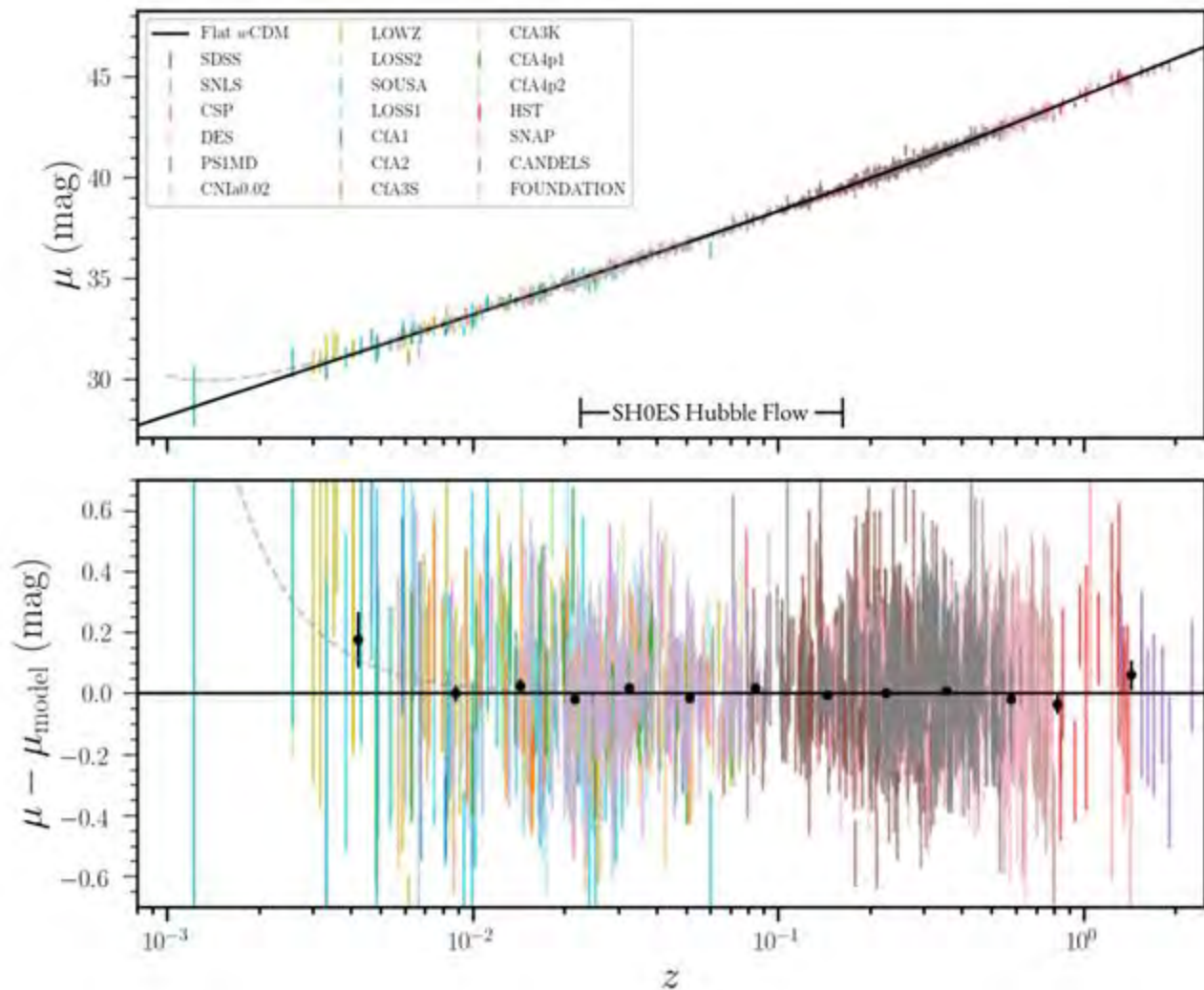
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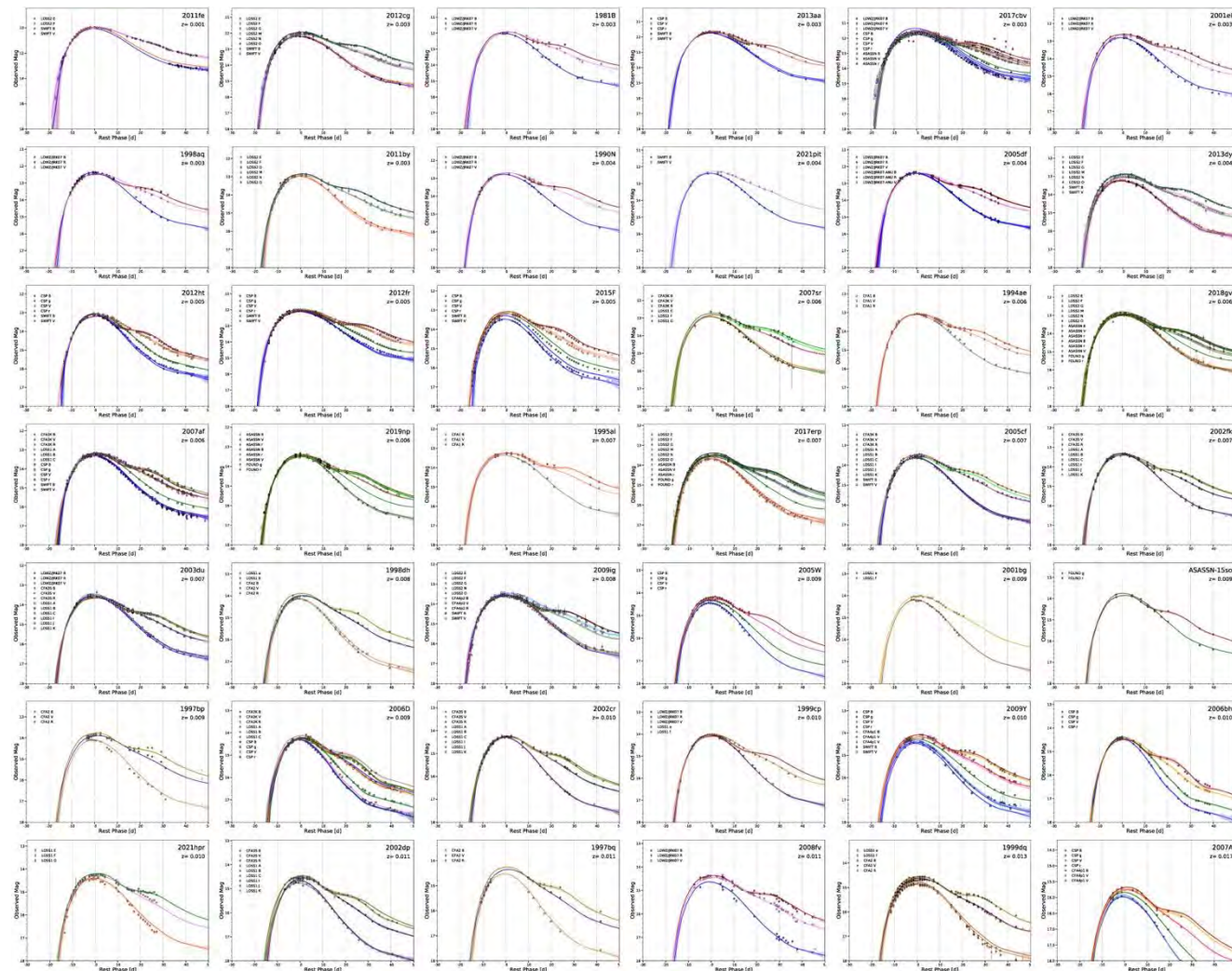
Type Ia supernovae: Pantheon+

- The full Pantheon+ sample has $\sim 1,550$ SNeIa
- All calibrated to the same reference system and with corrections due to light curve shape, dust, ...
- ~ 280 of these are in the redshift range best suited for measuring H_0



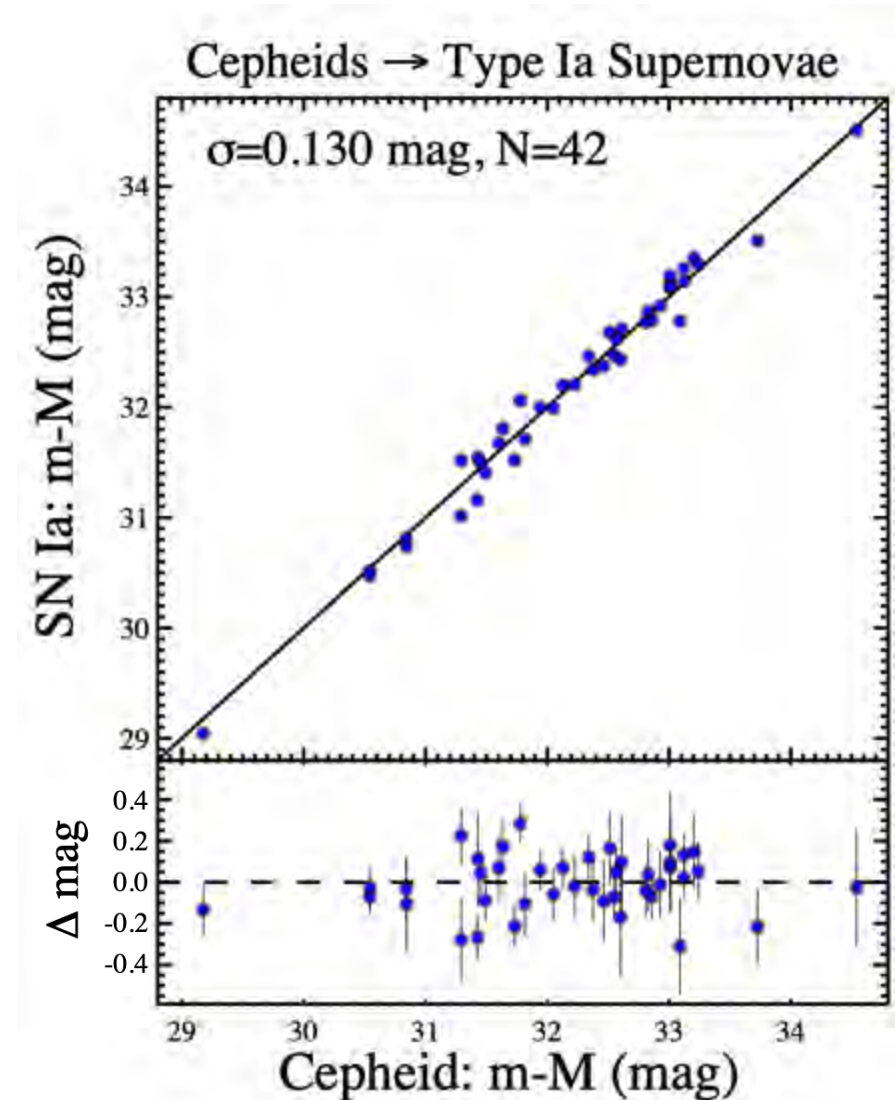
Type Ia supernovae: Pantheon+

- These are the SNe Ia from Pantheon+ that occurred in Cepheid-bearing galaxies
- $N=42$ in 37 hosts with $7 < D \text{ [Mpc]} < 50$



SNe Ia calibration for the “second rung”

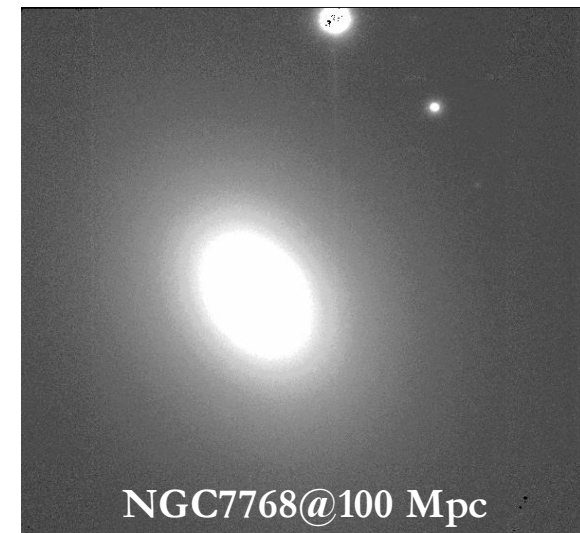
- Here’s the state-of-the-art calibration of SNe Ia luminosity using Cepheid-based distances
- There’s another ~ 15 SNe Ia that could be calibrated using TRGB



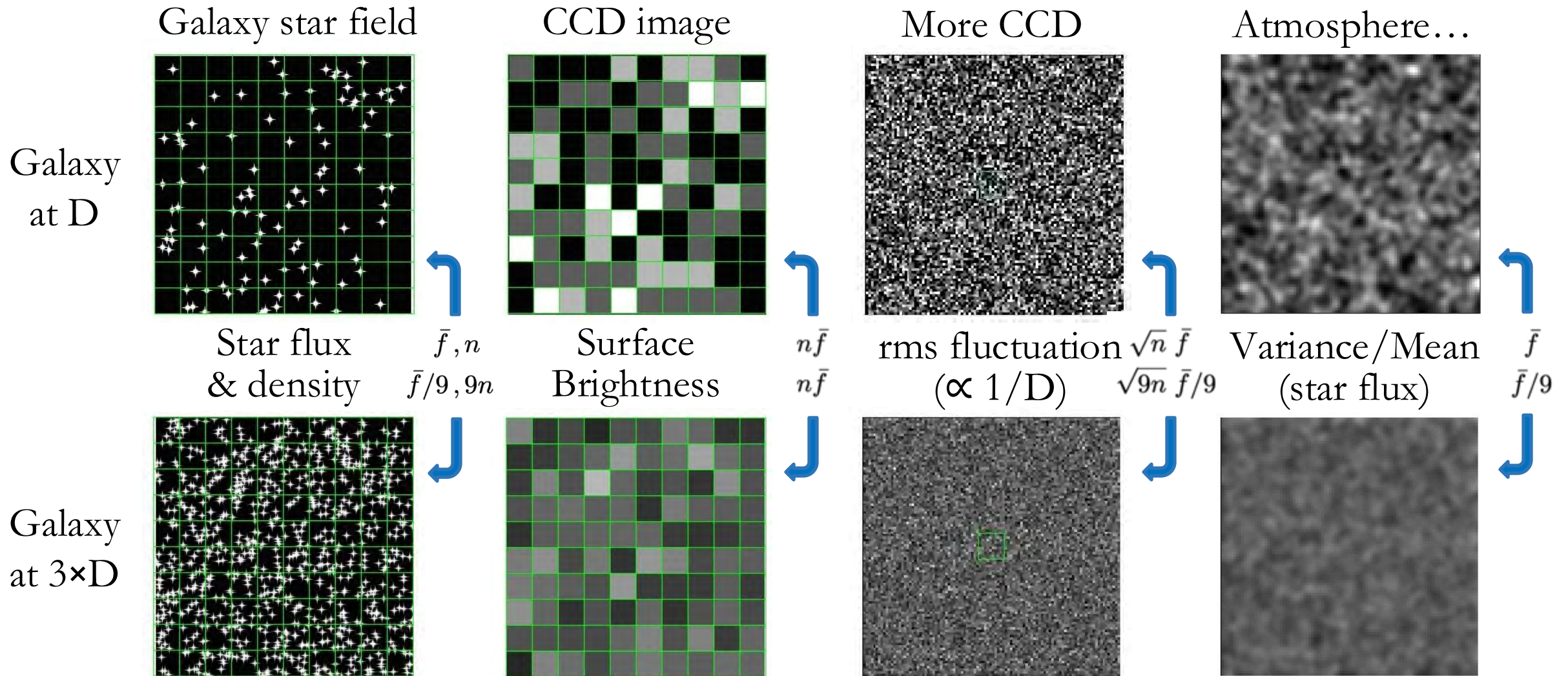
Surface brightness fluctuations

Tonry & Schneider (1988)

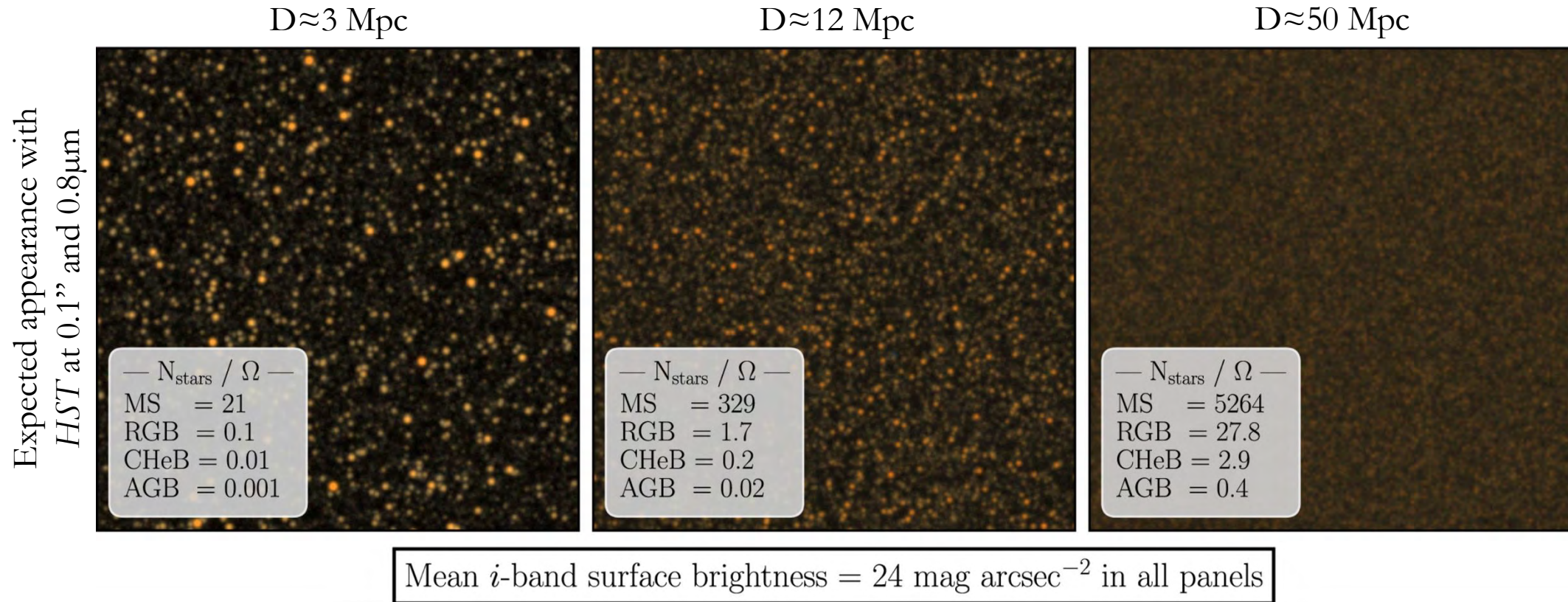
- “A relatively direct technique [which] relies on measuring the luminosity fluctuations that arise from the counting statistics of the stars contributing the flux in each pixel of a high-signal-to-noise CCD image of a galaxy”
- “The amplitude of these fluctuations is inversely proportional to the distance of the galaxy”



Surface brightness fluctuations



Surface brightness fluctuations

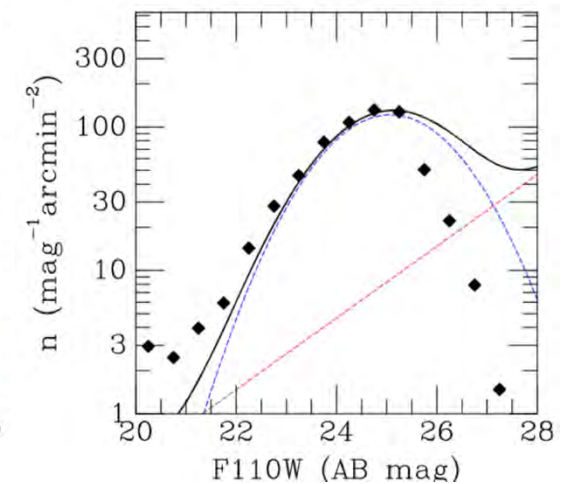
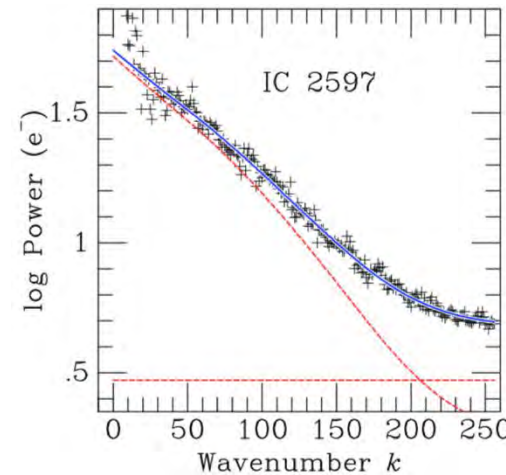
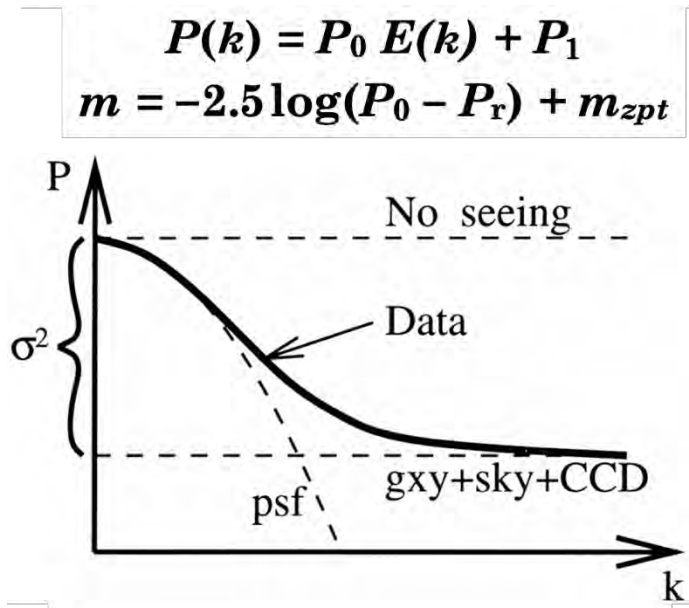
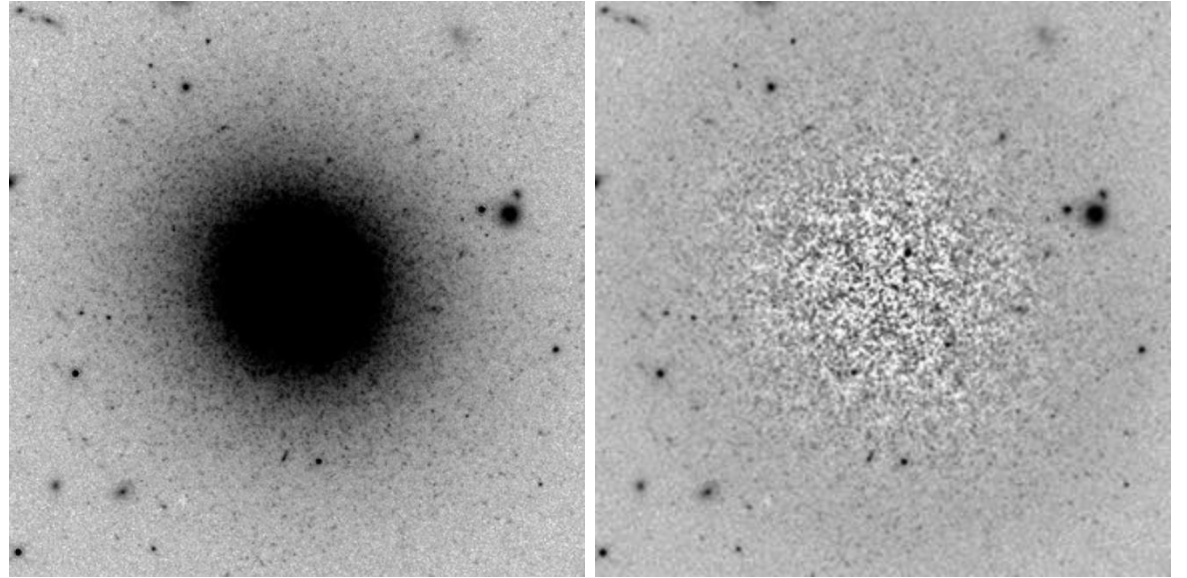


Choose appropriate old, metal-rich populations, to minimize influence of young MS stars and intermediate-age AGB stars.

$$\overline{f} = \frac{\sum_i n_i f_i^2}{\sum_i n_i f_i} \equiv \frac{\overline{L}}{4\pi d^2}$$

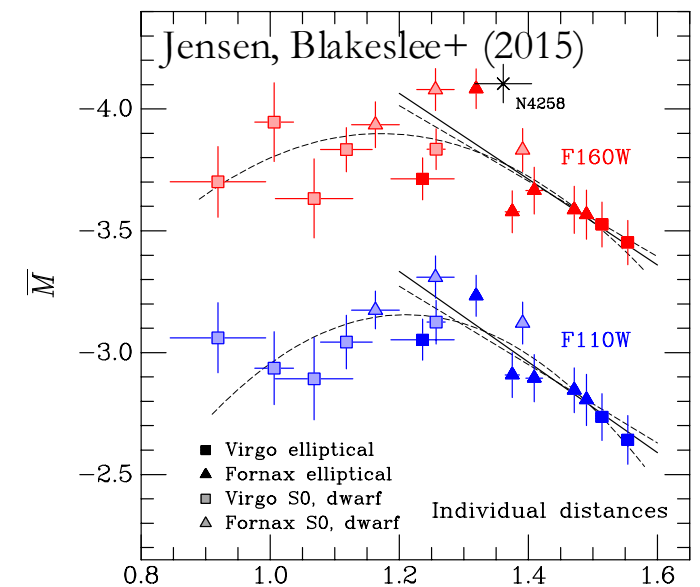
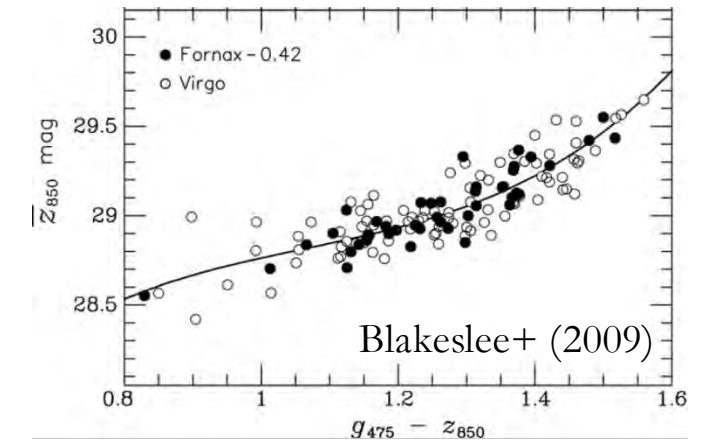
Surface brightness fluctuations

- Definition of “SBF magnitude”
- Subtract galaxy model
- Account for globular clusters



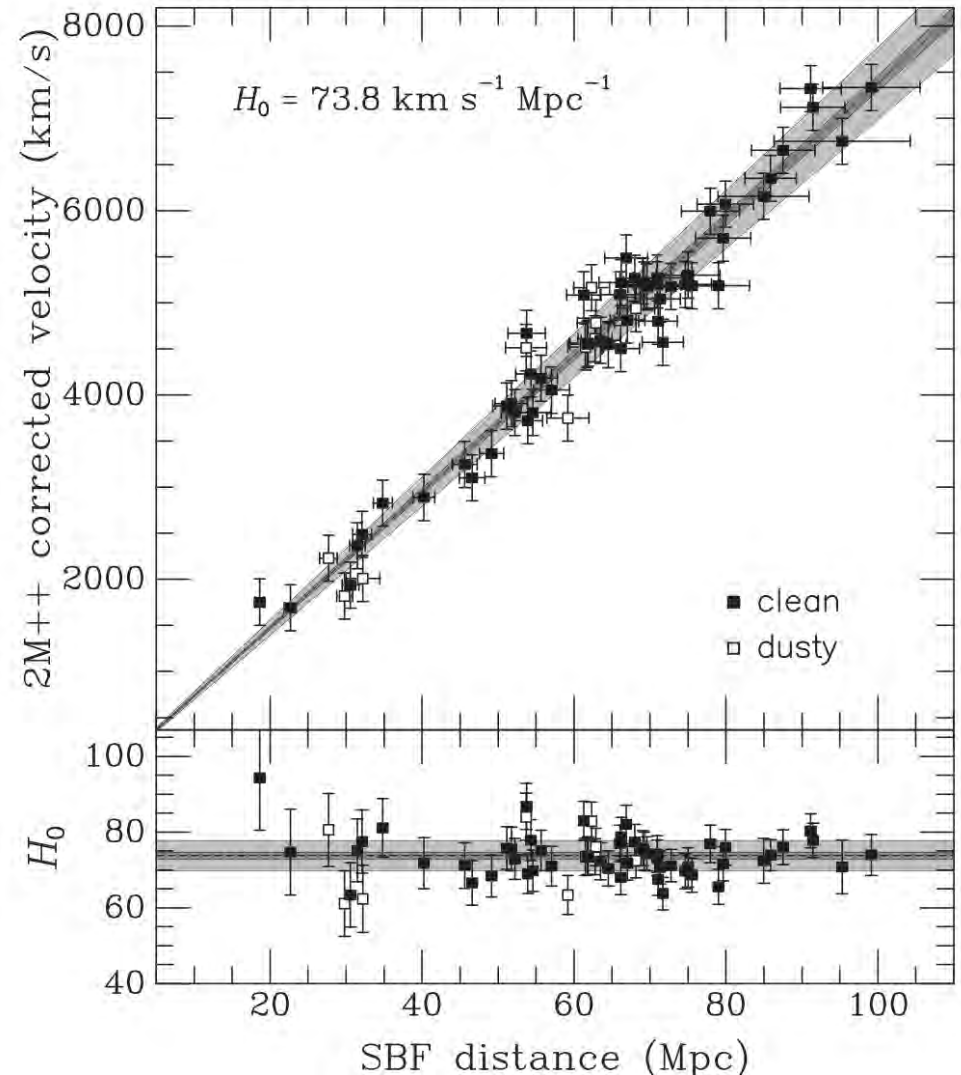
Surface brightness fluctuations

- Empirical SBF calibration has intrinsic scatter of 0.06 mag (z), 0.08 mag (J), 0.11 mag (H)
- Correct for stellar population age and metallicity variations with optical (or sometimes IR) color measurements
- SBF currently calibrated with Cepheid distances to Virgo & Fornax clusters through the LMC
- Ongoing work to replace with TRGB distances to build a pure “Pop II” distance ladder



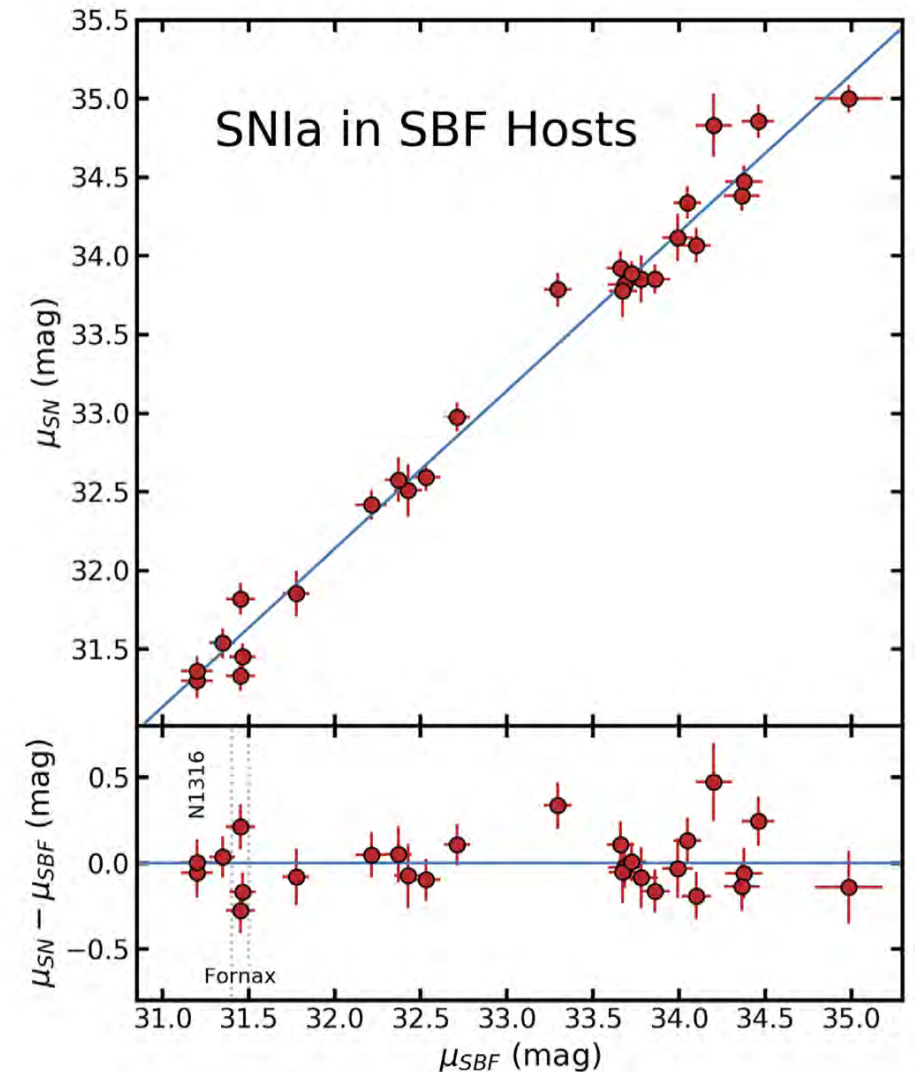
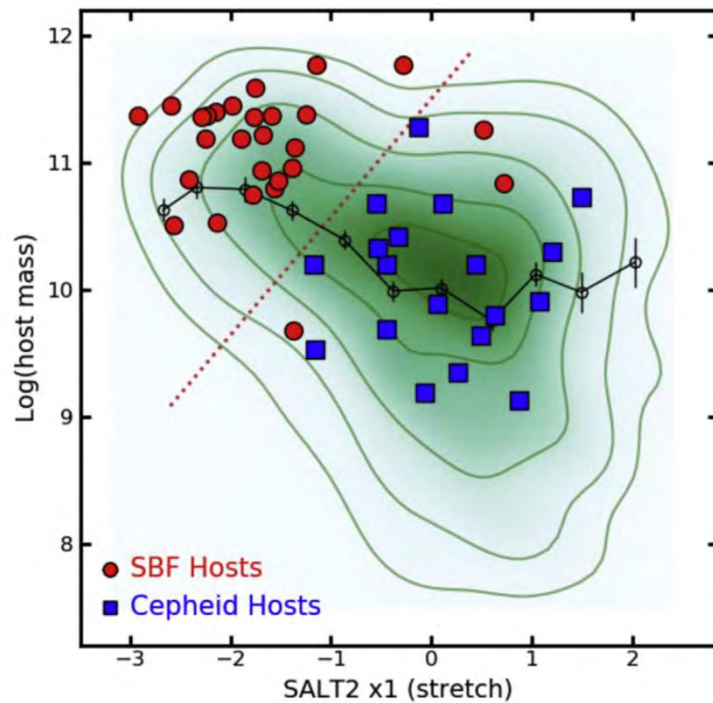
Surface brightness fluctuations

- Hubble diagram based on SBF distances obtained with *HST* in the near-infrared
- SBF zeropoint calibrated using Cepheid distances to Virgo & Fornax clusters through the LMC (Jensen+ 2021)
- Velocities corrected using the flow field derived from 2MRS and other catalogs (Carrick+ 2015)



Surface brightness fluctuations

- SBF can also calibrate SNeIa in elliptical galaxies out to $D \sim 100$ Mpc, complementing the Cepheid-based sample



TRGB & SBF with *JWST*



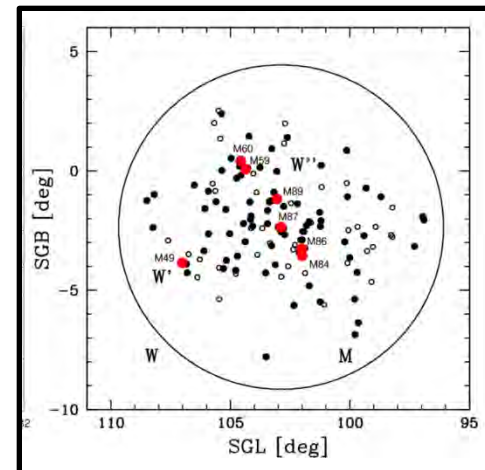
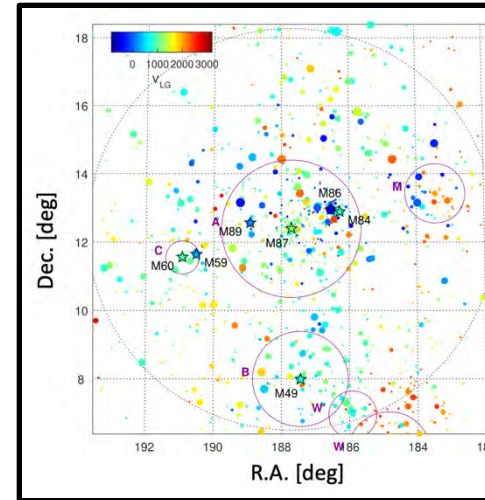
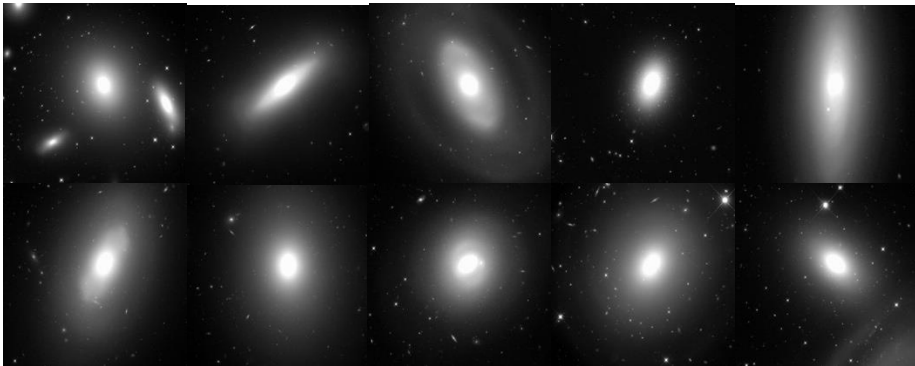
Core of NGC 1380 (Fornax cluster)



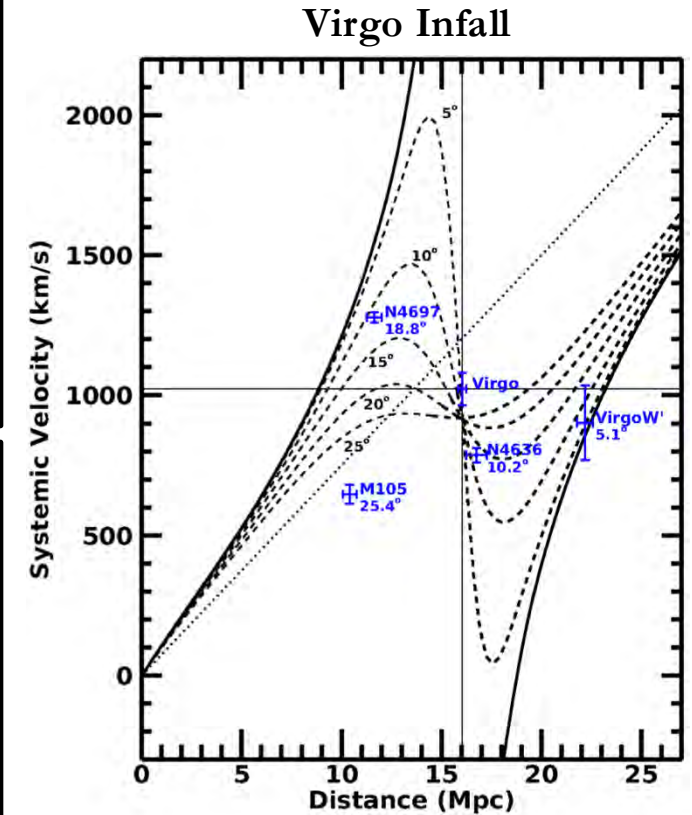
Halo field for TRGB

TRGB & SBF with *JWST*

- Observations of 13 galaxies in Fornax+Virgo clusters
- Approved *JWST* Cycle 3 program with ~ 40 SBF targets in Coma
- Plans for future observations into Hubble Flow and SNeIa hosts

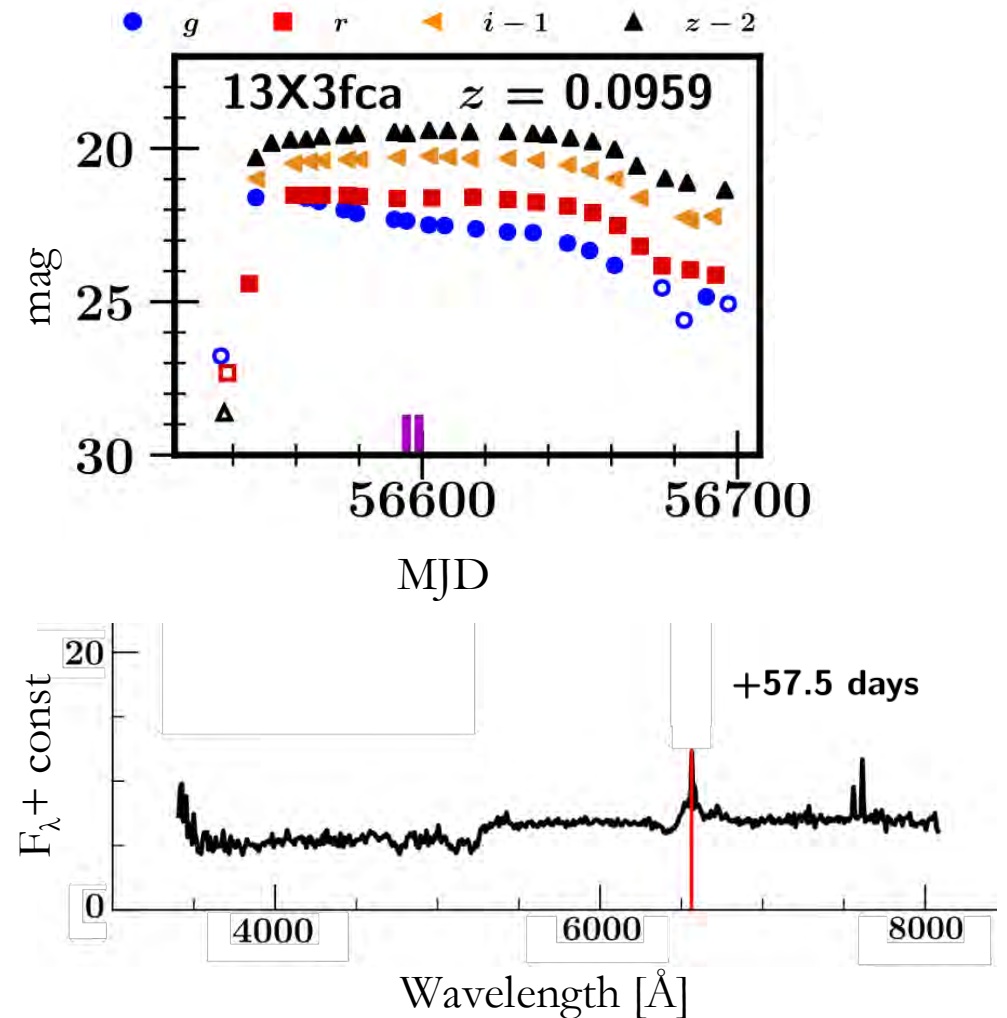


Anand+ (2024b)



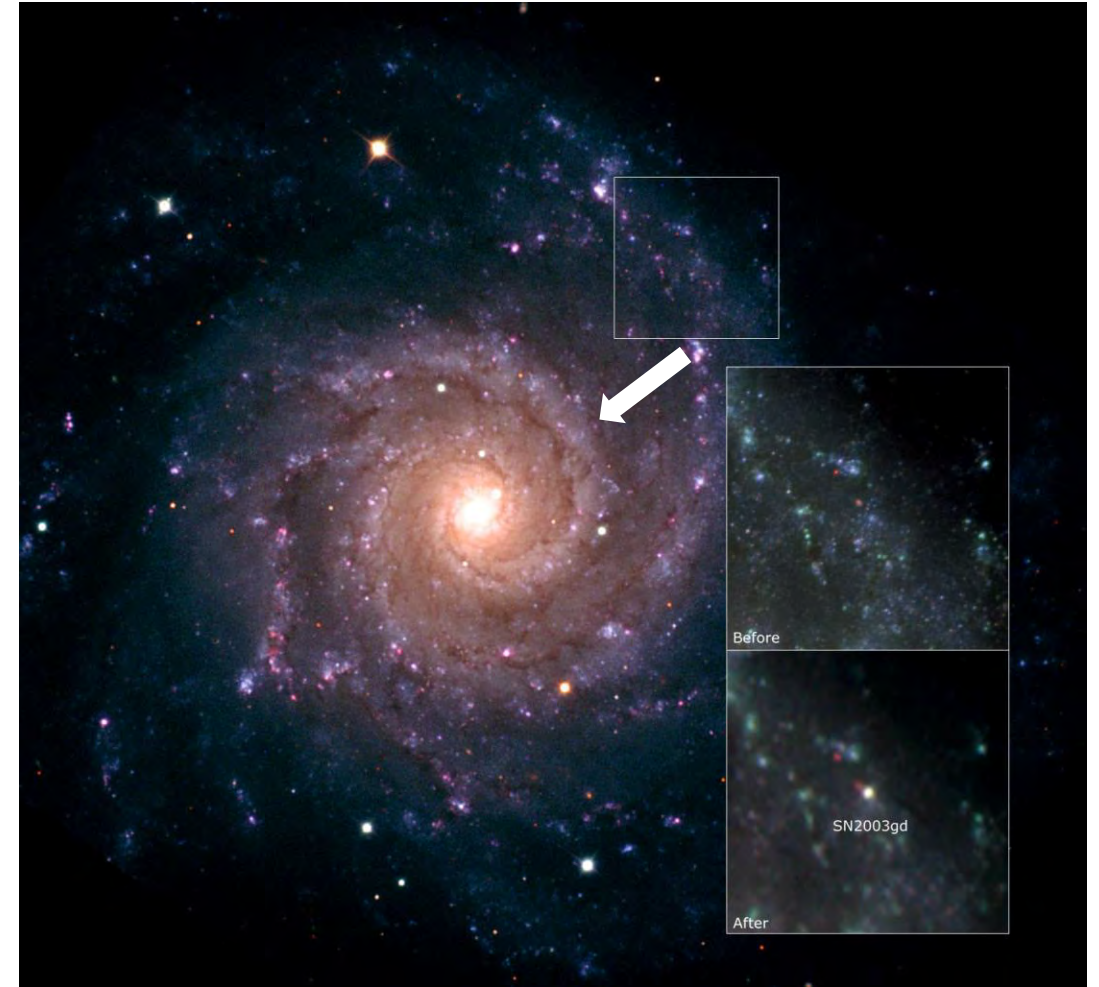
Core-collapse supernovae

- Among core-collapse supernovae, those belonging to “Type II” (with hydrogen lines in spectra) can be used as distance indicators
- Progenitors have been detected!
- Two techniques: SCM (Hamuy & Pinto 2002) is more accurate but requires spectroscopy, while PCM (de Jaeger+ 2015) is purely photometric



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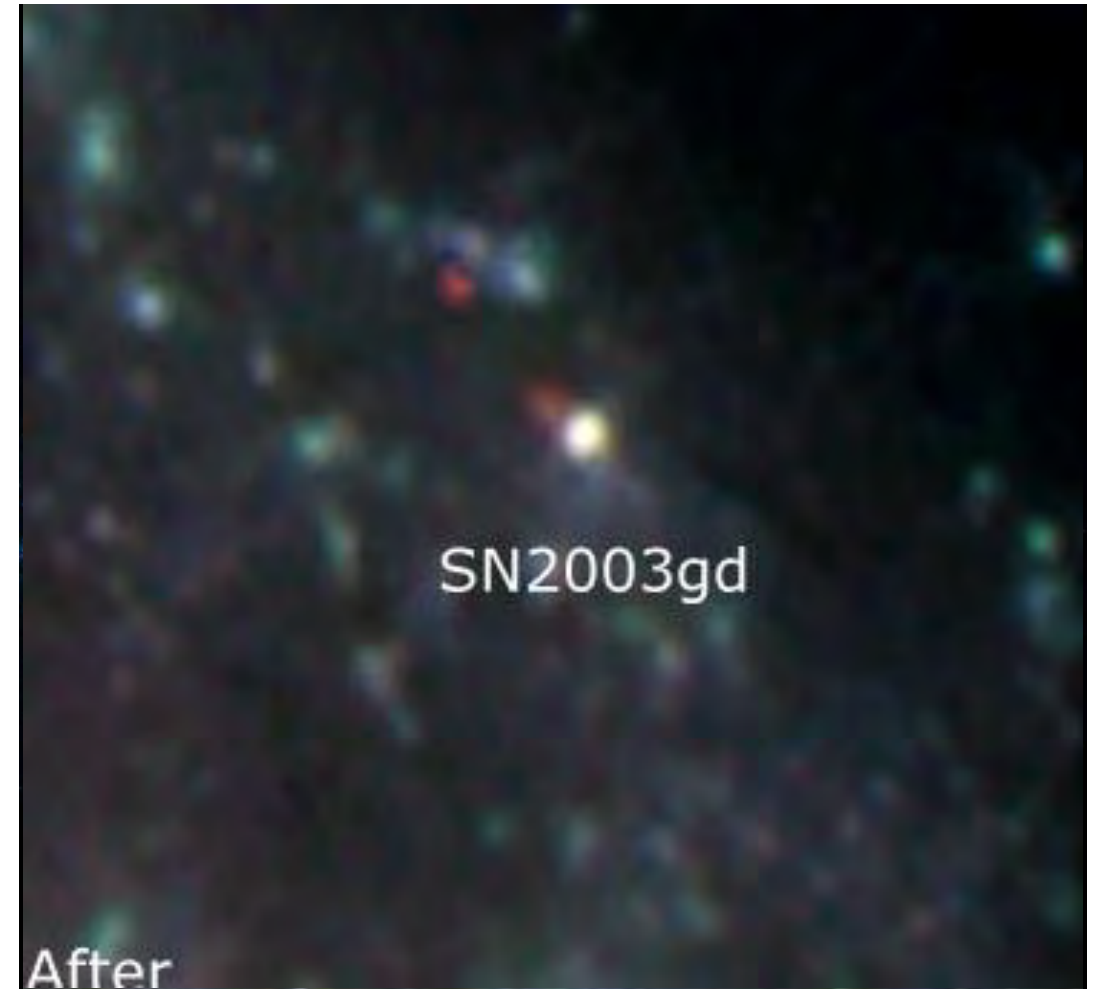
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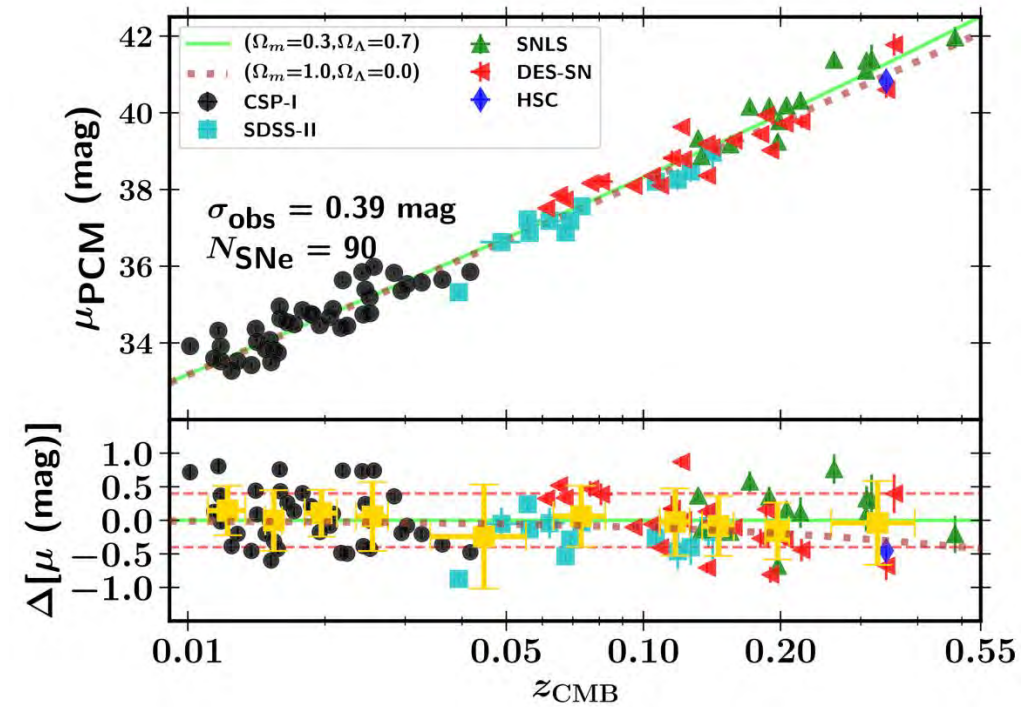
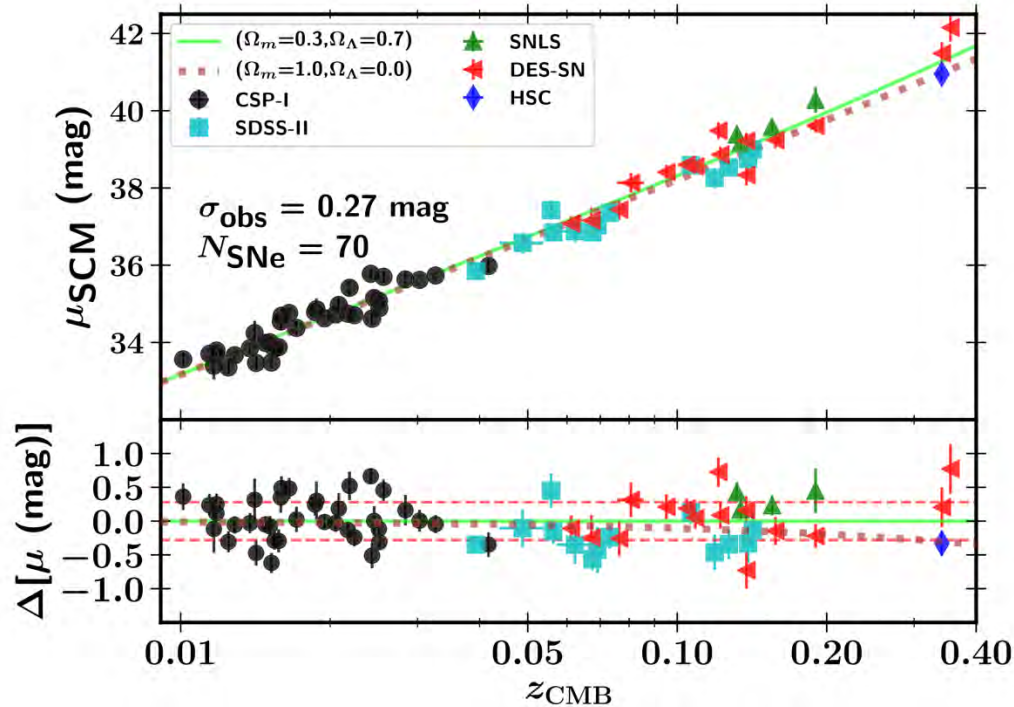
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Core-collapse supernovae

- Hubble diagrams from Type II SNe based on the two techniques
- There should be great progress once LSST starts!



Virial theorem in Spirals and Ellipticals

- The rotational velocity v and velocity dispersion σ in spirals/ellipticals, following the virial theorem, is given by the mass M confined within a given radius – the disk scale length R_0 or the half-light radius R_{eff} :

$$v_{\text{rot}}^2 = \alpha_s G \frac{M(R_0)}{R_0}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \alpha_e G \frac{M(R_{\text{eff}})}{R_{\text{eff}}}$$

- The radial surface brightness distributions follow an exponential disk or a de Vaucoulers (1941) profile:

$$I(r) = I_0 e^{-\frac{r}{R_0}}$$

$$I(r) = I_{\text{eff}} e^{-7.67 \left(\left(\frac{r}{R_{\text{eff}}} \right)^{1/4} - 1 \right)}$$

Virial theorem in Spirals and Ellipticals

- Integrate surface brightness profile to obtain luminosity: $L = 2\pi \int_0^\infty I(r)rdr$:

$$L = 2\pi R_0^2 I_0$$

$$L = 7.22\pi R_{\text{eff}}^2 I_{\text{eff}}$$

- Substitute R_0 and R_{eff} by their definitions from the previous slide and move the v or σ term to the left-hand side, assuming constant M/L

$$L = 2\pi I_0 \alpha_s^2 G^2 \frac{M^2}{v_{\text{rot}}^4}$$

$$L = 2\pi I_{\text{eff}} \alpha_e^2 G^2 \frac{M^2}{\sigma^4}$$

$$v_{\text{rot}}^4 = 2\pi I_0 \alpha_s^2 G^2 \left(\frac{M}{L}\right)^2 L$$

$$\sigma^4 = 7.22\pi I_{\text{eff}} \alpha_e^2 G^2 \left(\frac{M}{L}\right)^2 L$$

Virial theorem in Spirals and Ellipticals

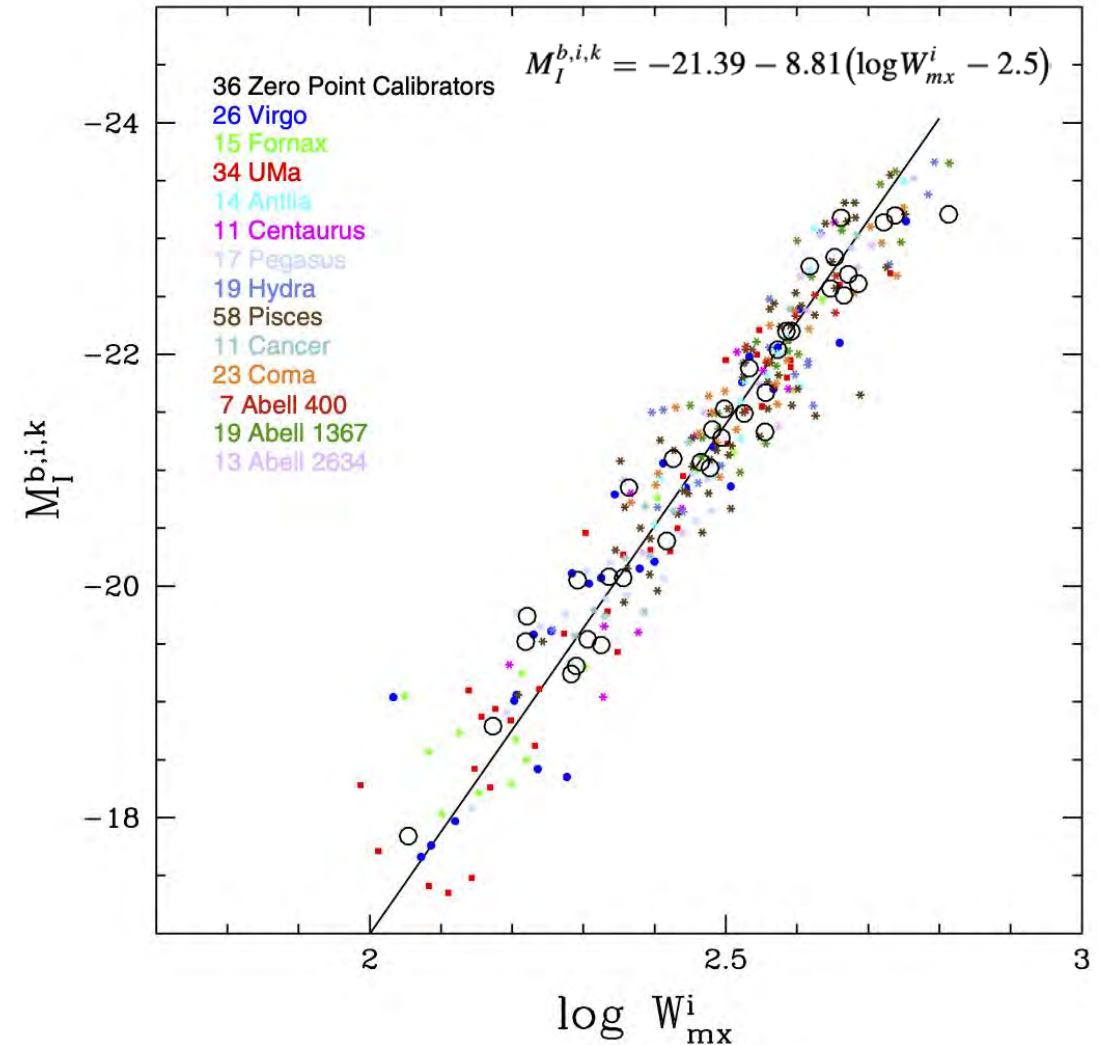
- Recast into absolute magnitudes with $M = -2.5 \log L$ to arrive at

$$M = n \log(v_{\text{rot}}) + C_{TF}$$

$$M = n \log(\sigma) + C_{FJ}$$

with $n \sim -10$

- These relations were derived by Tully & Fisher (1977) and by Faber & Jackson (1976), respectively.



Virial theorem in Spirals and Ellipticals

- The Faber-Jackson relation is now understood to be a projection of the Fundamental Plane relation (Djorgovski & Davis 1987), due to a dependence of M/L on absolute magnitude:

$$\log(\sigma) = \alpha \log(R_{\text{eff}}) + \beta \log \langle I \rangle_{\text{eff}}$$

- Likewise, the Tully-Fisher relation has been recast using baryonic mass instead of absolute magnitude, to take into account the contributions from gas in addition to those from stars (Kourkchi+ 2022):

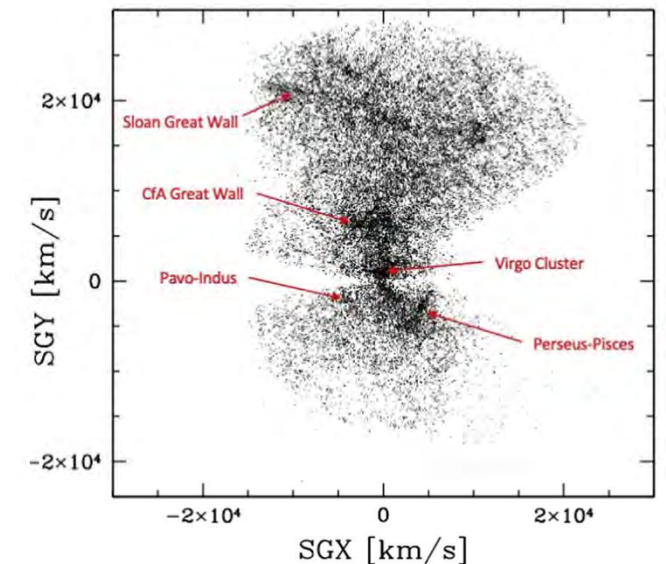
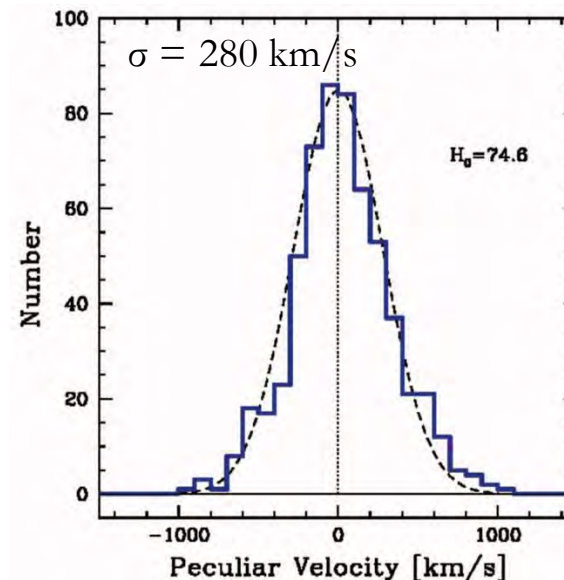
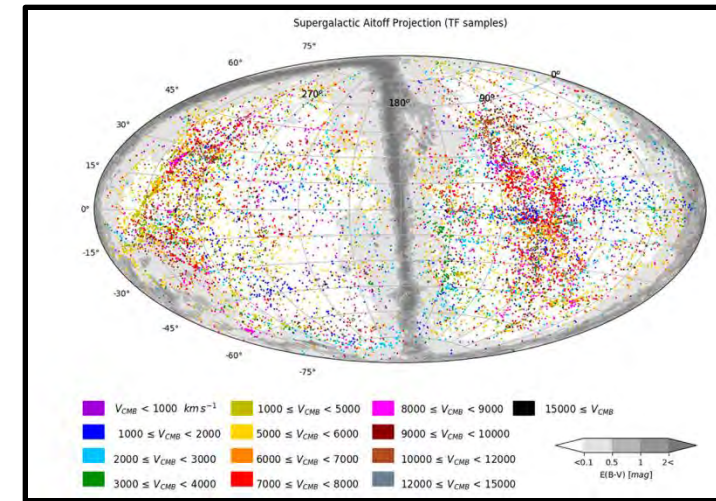
$$\log M_{\text{b}} = \alpha + \beta(\log W_{\text{mx}}^i - 2.5)$$

$$M_{\text{b}} = K_{\text{g}} M_{\text{HI}} + \gamma_{\lambda}^* L_{\lambda}$$



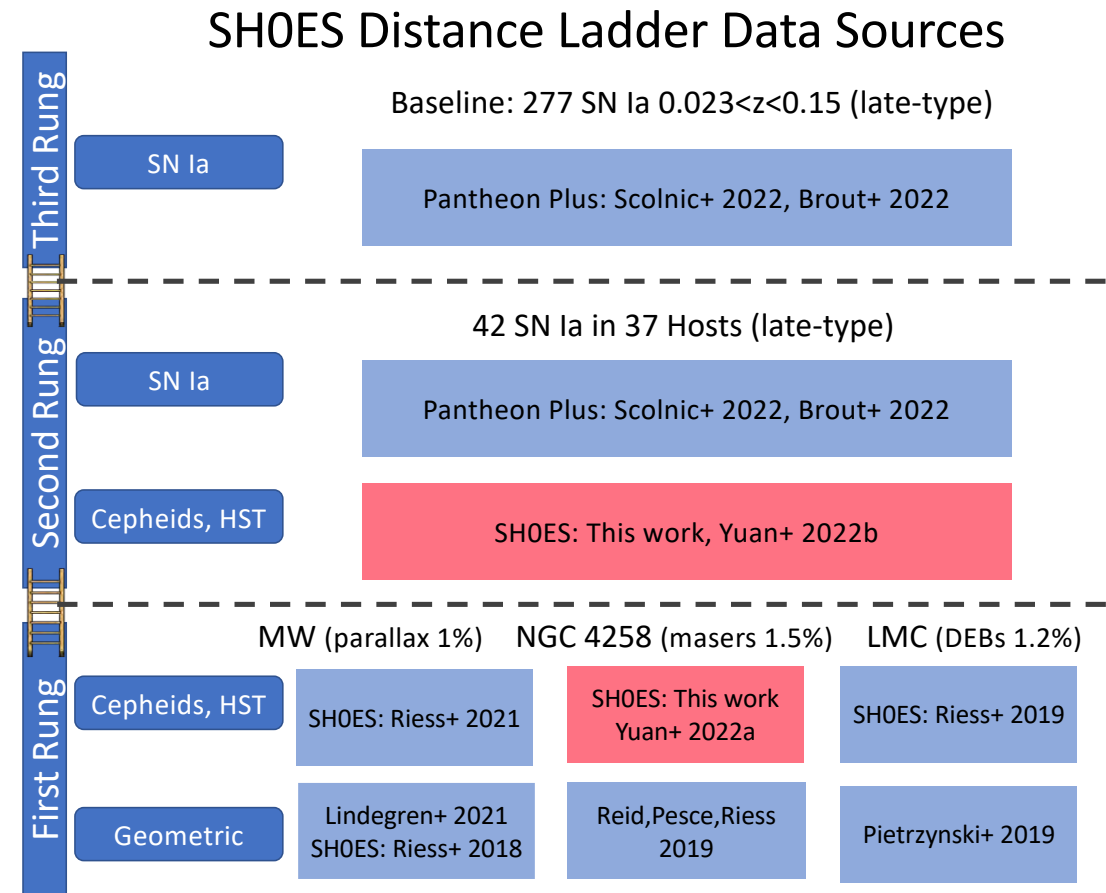
CosmicFlows 4

- Largest homogenized collection of galaxy distances based primarily on Baryonic Tully-Fisher & Fundamental Plane, with important samples based on TRGB, SBF, SNe Ia, etc., plus redshifts
- $N=55,877$ galaxies gathered into 38,065 groups to map structures & large-scale flows



Putting it all together: SH0ES

- SH0ES project: started in 2005 by Riess, Macri and collaborators
- Geometric calibration of Cepheids, Cepheid calibration of SNeIa, SNeIa in Hubble Flow $\rightarrow H_0$
- 18 competed proposals in *HST* Cycles 11-29, $\sim 1,000$ orbits
- 2022: complete sample of SNeIa in Cepheid-bearing hosts with $z < 0.01$

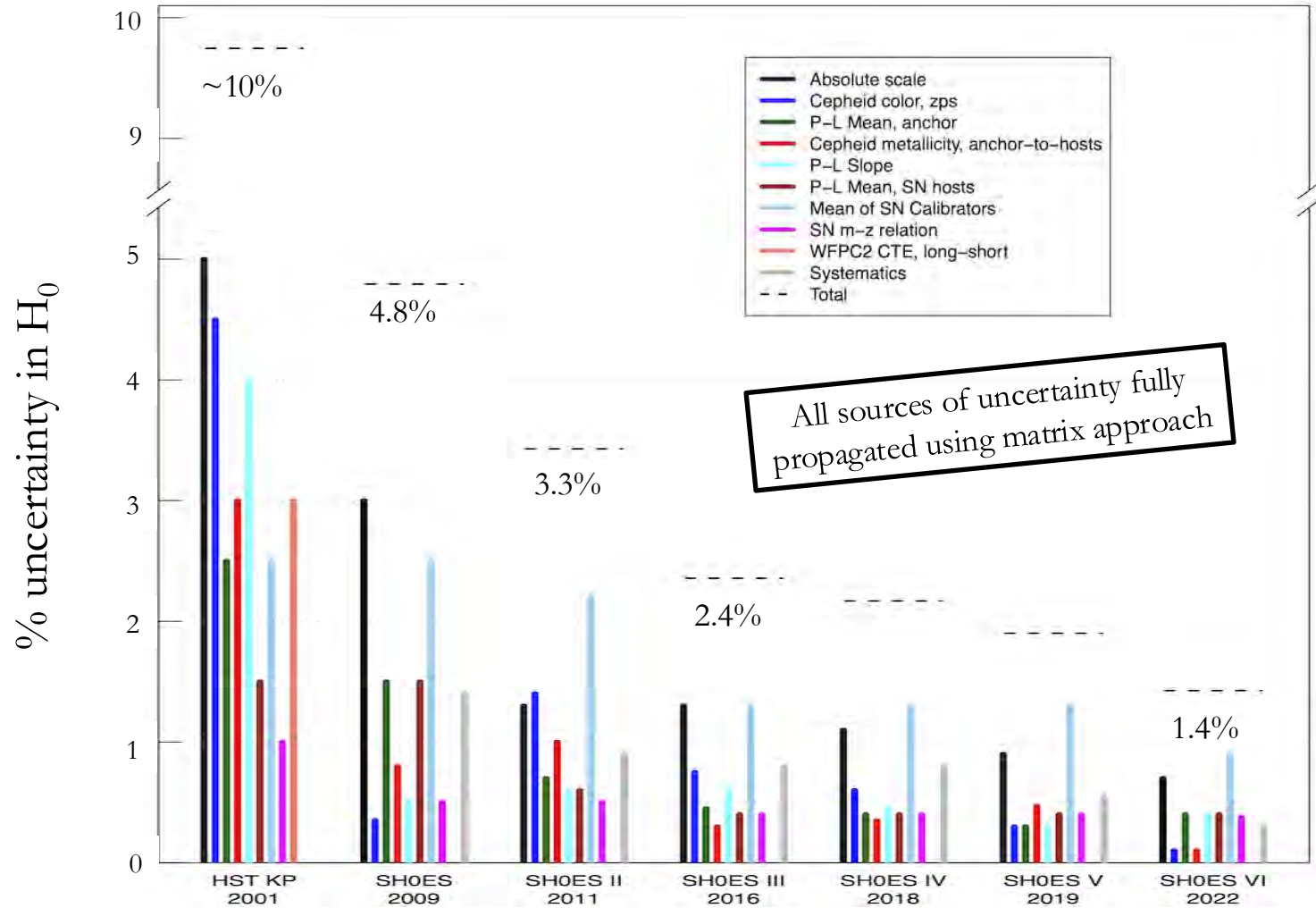


The SH0ES Project

- All Cepheid photometry on *HST* system to negate systematic effects; extensive artificial star simulations to characterize photometric bias
- Combine *H* band ($1.6\mu\text{m}$) with *V-I* colors ($0.55, 0.8\mu\text{m}$) to correct for effects of dust and temperature in Cepheid P-L relation
- All SN photometry (Pantheon+) on same system and fully corrected
- Joint analysis of all photometry using matrix-based approach
- Enables study of many “variants” (different anchors, different dust laws, different Cepheid P-L relations, etc.) → carry into error budget
- Take into account non-diagonal covariance for error budget

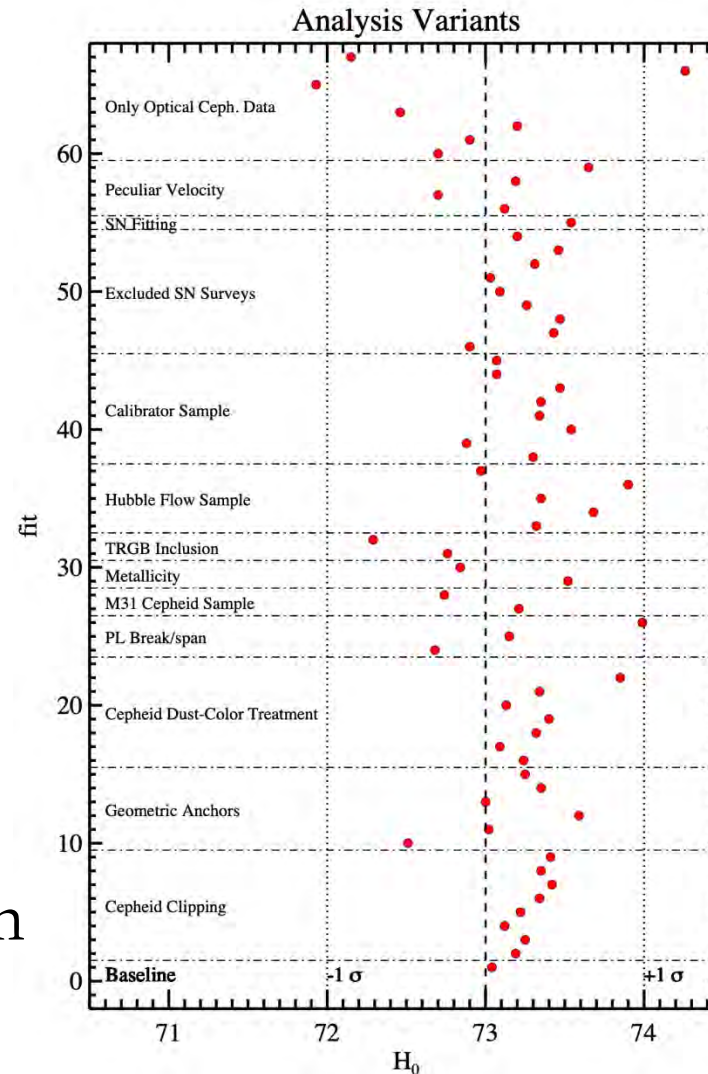


The SH0ES Project



The SH0ES Project

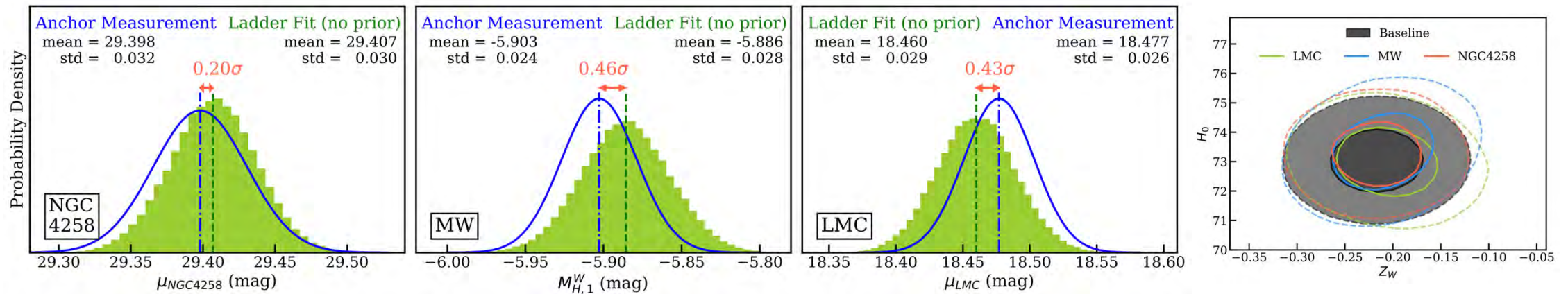
- Analysis variants:
12 categories,
67 variants,
bifurcations,
extensions, etc
- Bottom line: hard
to get below 72.5,
above 73.5
- Propagate dispersion
as extra systematic



- 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 (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 (consistent) jointly (72.5)
- No metallicity term (73.5)
- Break in PL at $P=10$ days (72.7)
- 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)

The SH0ES Project

- Baseline fit: $H_0 = 73.04 \pm 1.04$, km/s/Mpc, including systematics
- Recent addition of SMC as 4th anchor yields 73.17 ± 0.86 (Breuval+ 2024)
- All anchors internally consistent, with Cepheid metallicity dependence



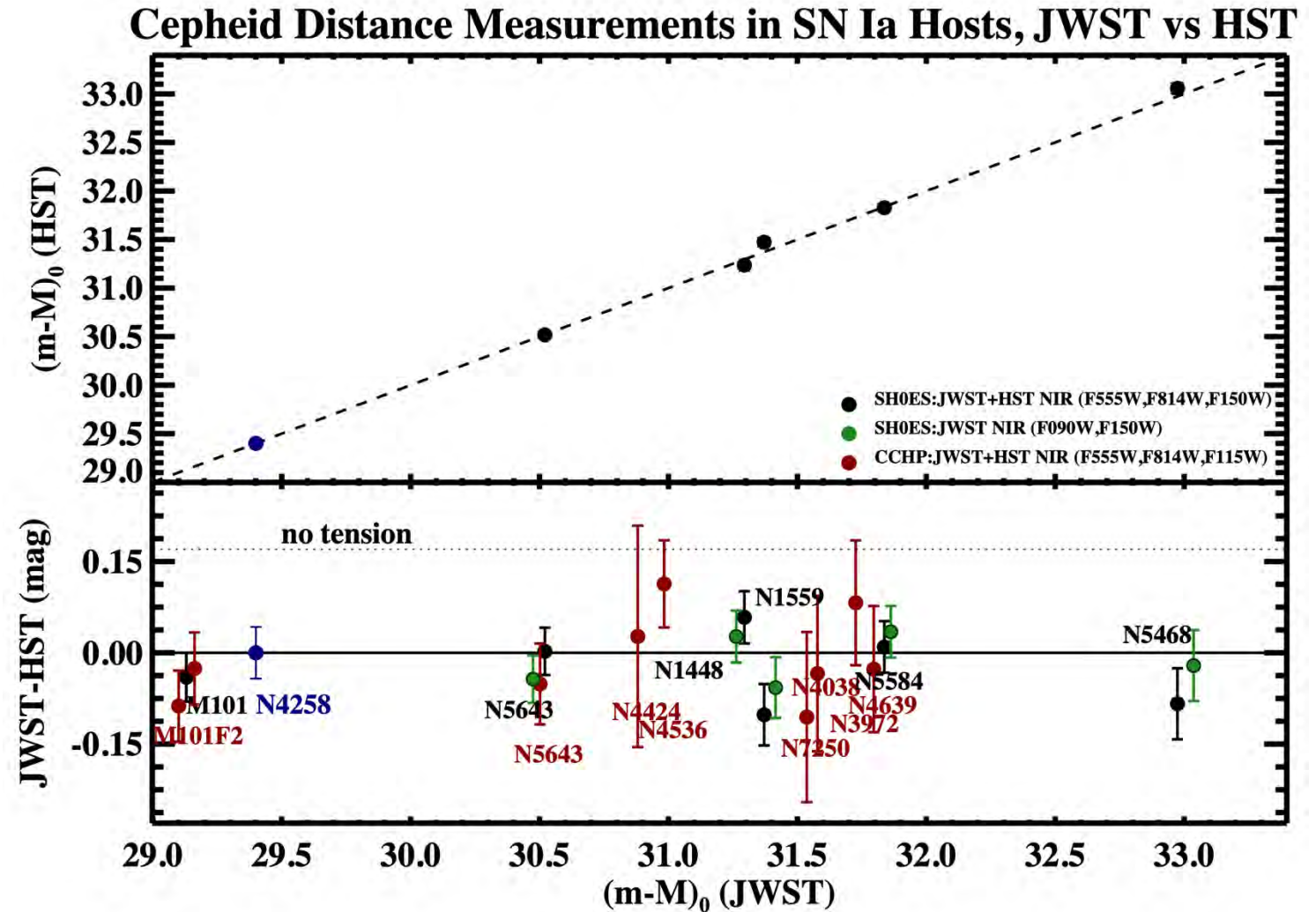
Recent results from *JWST*

- *JWST* imaged 15 SH0ES galaxies (19 SNe) in Cycle 1 [CCHP, SH0ES]
- Cycle 2 program [SH0ES] observed 5 more galaxies (7 SNe)
- 2 additional SH0ES galaxies imaged by other programs in Cycles 1 & 2
- Cepheids, TRGB & JAGB measurements available for most of these (Riess+23; Riess+24a; Li+24a,b; Anand+24a; Lee+24; Freedman+24)
- Riess+24b carried out a detailed comparison of distances to each galaxy obtained by each method with *JWST* and *HST* (adds *I* TRGB, Miras) all anchored to NGC 4258 (no *JWST* observations of MW, MCs yet)



Recent results from *JWST*

- Comparison of *JWST* Cepheid distances to *HST* ones shows excellent agreement and no distance-dependent bias
- Larger errors for CCHP distances because of their choice of filteres

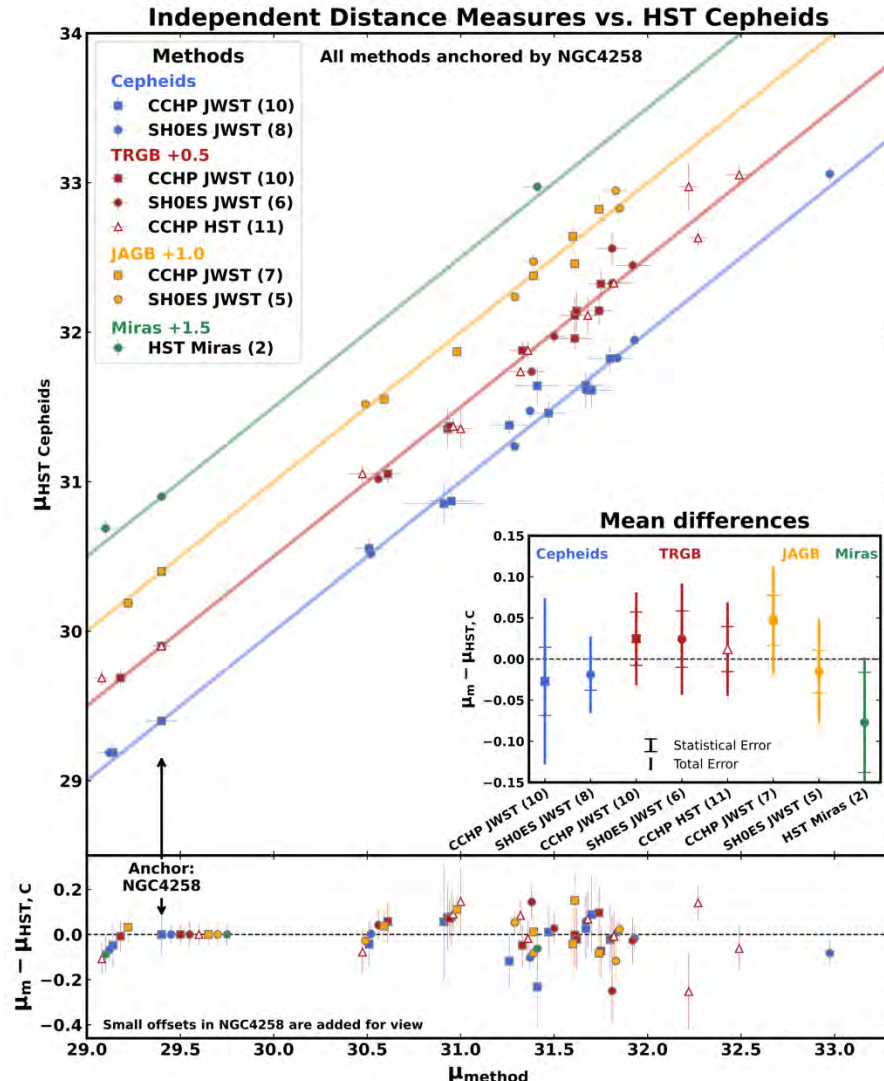


Recent results from *JWST*

All methods agree at 1σ

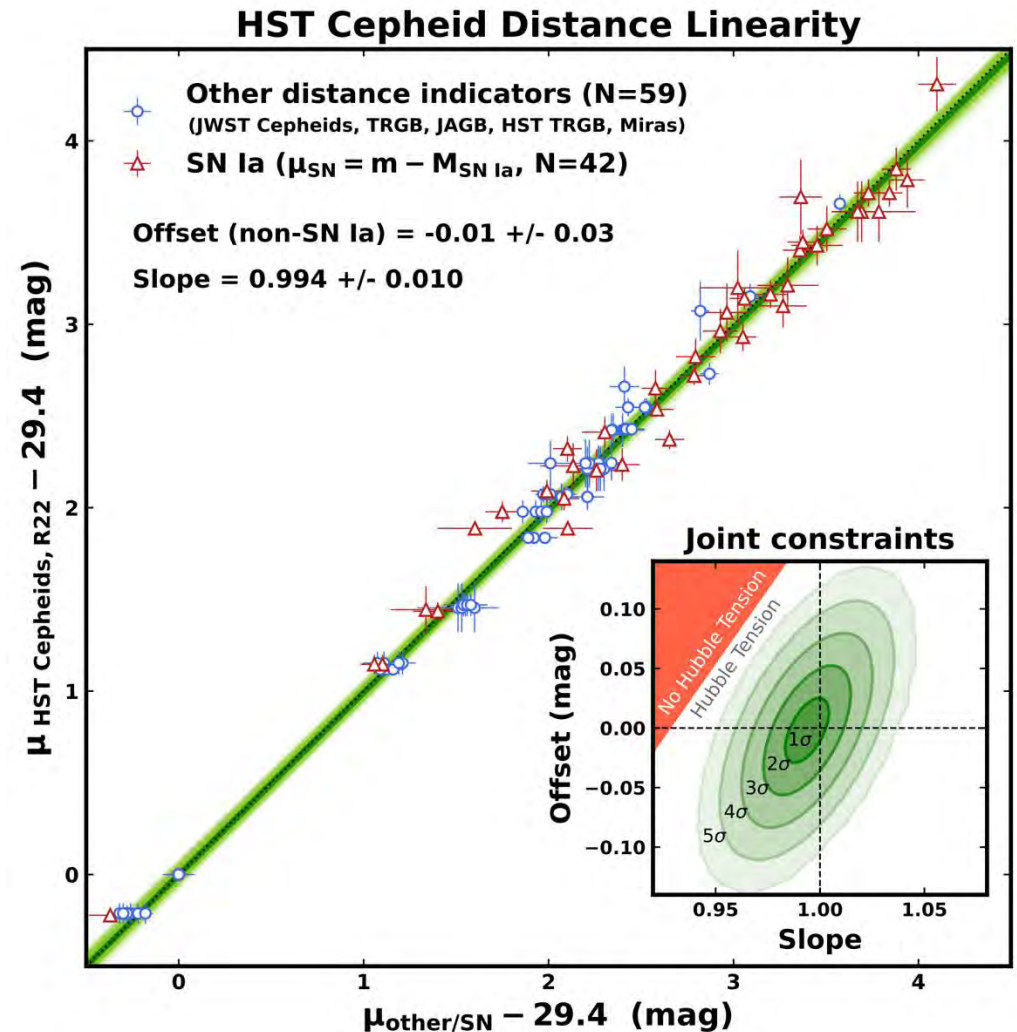
Sample	Team	$\mu_{JWST} - \mu_{HST}$ [mag]	σ
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. <i>JWST</i> Cepheids			
10 Hosts ^a	CCHP	-0.027	0.10
8 Hosts ($D \leq 25$ Mpc)	SH0ES	-0.02	0.03
14 Unique Hosts	Both	-0.02	0.03
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. <i>JWST</i> JAGB			
7 Hosts (mode)	CCHP	0.047	0.066
5 Hosts	SH0ES	-0.015	0.064
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. <i>JWST</i> NIR-TRGB			
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6 Hosts ($D \leq 25$ Mpc)	SH0ES	0.02	0.067
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. I-TRGB			
11 Hosts	CCHP	0.01	0.057
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. <i>HST</i> Miras			
2 Hosts		-0.08	0.078

NOTE—(*): SH0ES $D \leq 25$ Mpc sample includes NGC 4038, M101 and NGC 3447 and excludes NGC 5468 as discussed in text. CCHP distances from F24 Table 2 and including uncertainties in F24 Table 5.



Recent results from *JWST*

- Stringest test to date of *HST* Cepheid distance linearity:
59 comparisons against all other available methods, anchored to N4258
- If there's such excellent agreement, what's the reason for $\Delta H_0 = 2.5$ in Freedman+ (2024)?
- Sample variance!



Choice of specific SNe matters for small samples

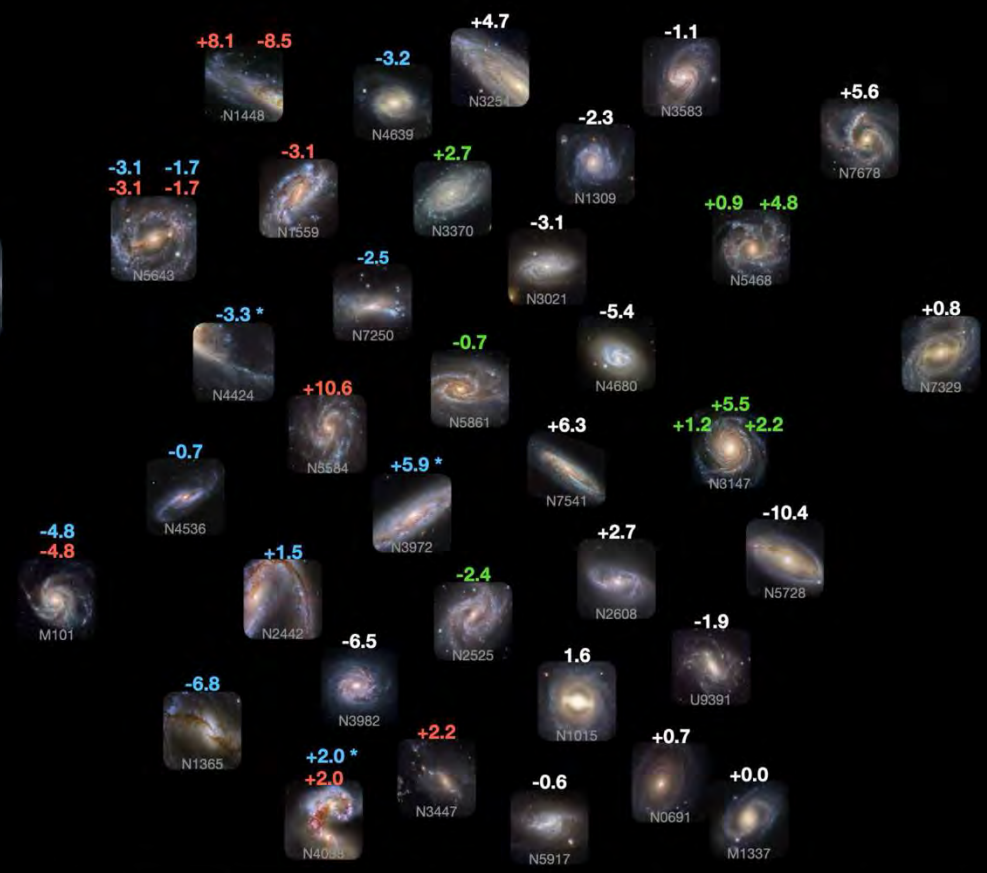
Recent results from *JWST*



Anchors

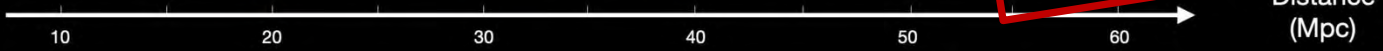


SN Ia hosts



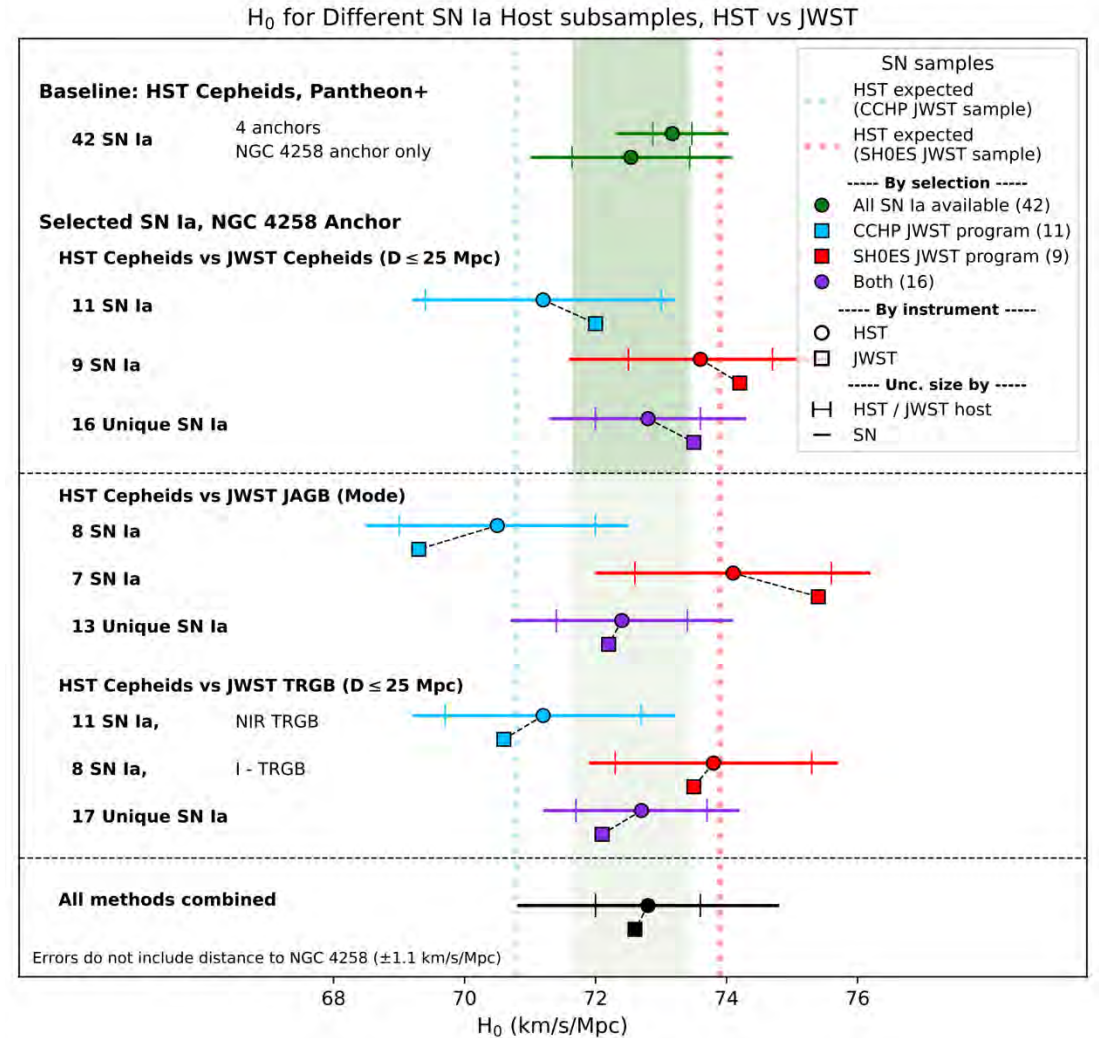
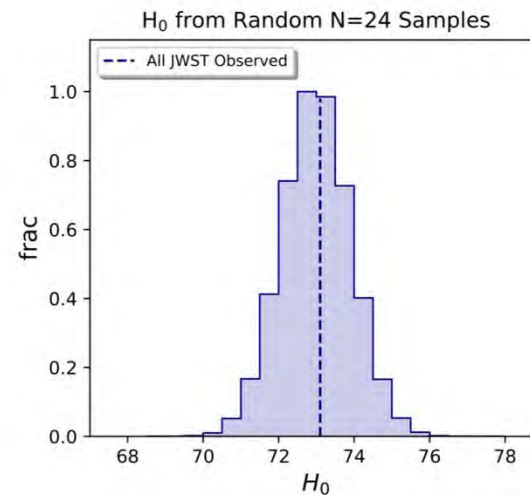
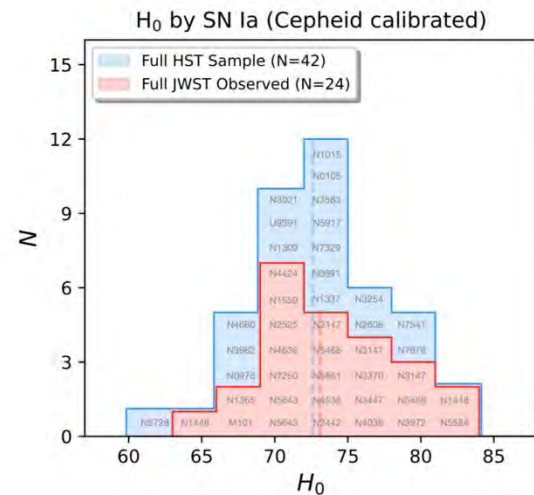
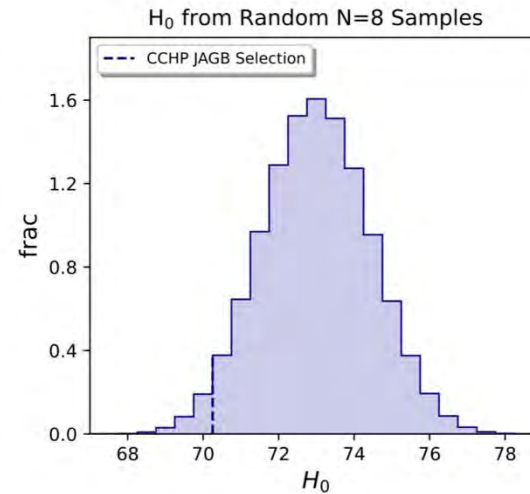
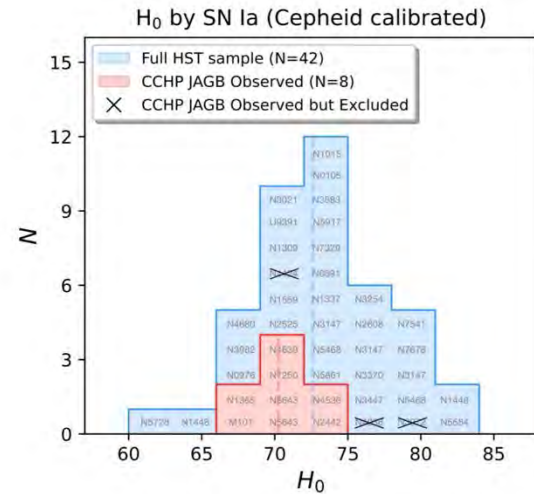
- 4 anchors + 42 SNIa:	~73.2
- CCHP Selected:	~71
* JAGB excluded:	~70
- SH0ES Selected:	~74
(D < 25 Mpc)	
- Both Selected:	~72.8
(D < 25 Mpc)	
- SH0ES (D > 25 Mpc)	

Predictable differences based on HST sample



(ΔH_0)

Recent results from *JWST*



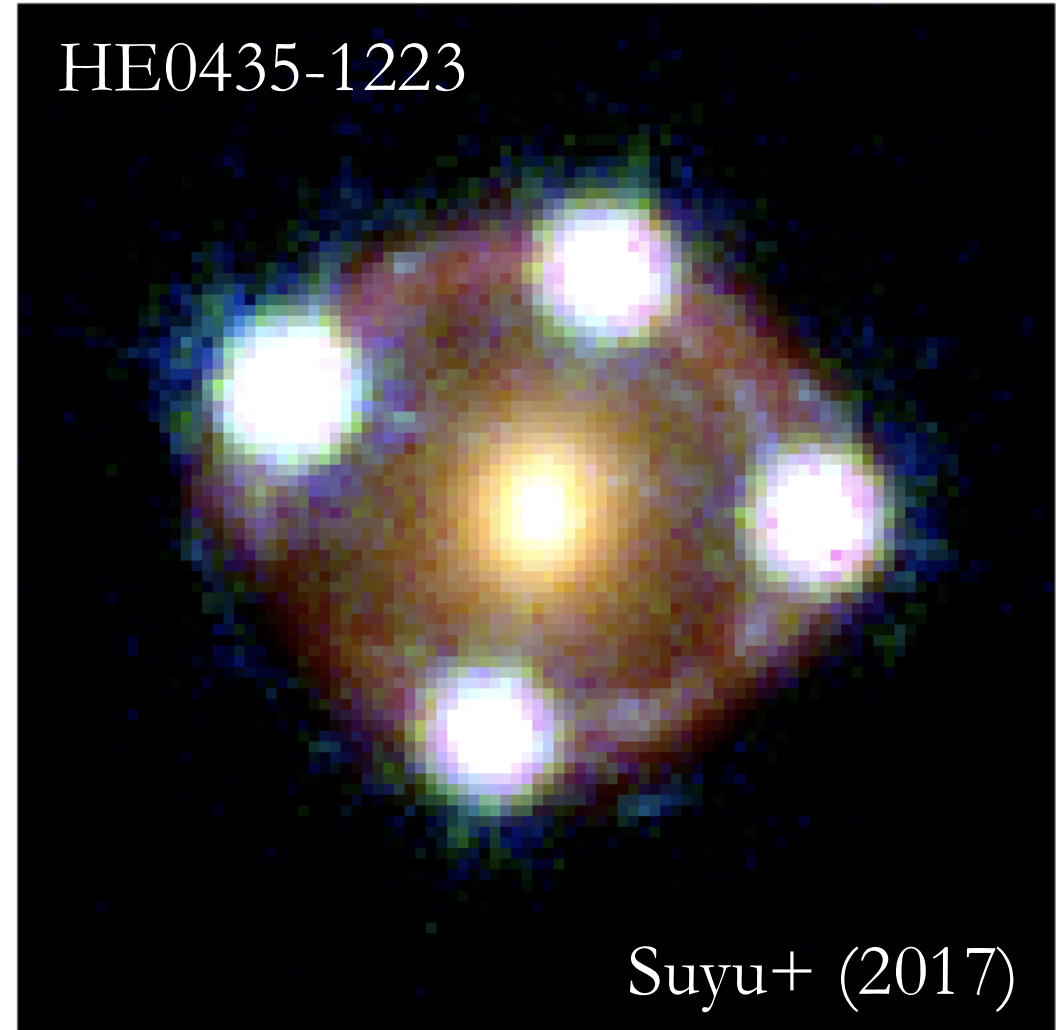
Recent results from *JWST*

- Bottom line: *JWST* samples are still too small to yield competitive H_0
- Nevertheless, they provide an extremely important cross-check and validation of the larger *HST* sample, which it clearly passes
- H_0 from currently available *JWST* sample ($N=17$ SNe): 72.6 ± 2.0 ; expected value for same galaxies with *HST*: 72.8 (full sample: 73.2 ± 0.9)
- CMB analogy: South Pole Telescope observations of $\sim 3,000$ sq deg yielded much larger H_0 values than *Planck* – but they agreed extremely well on the same patches of the sky
- Sample variance again! No reason to discard more robust *Planck* results, but still a critical consistency check



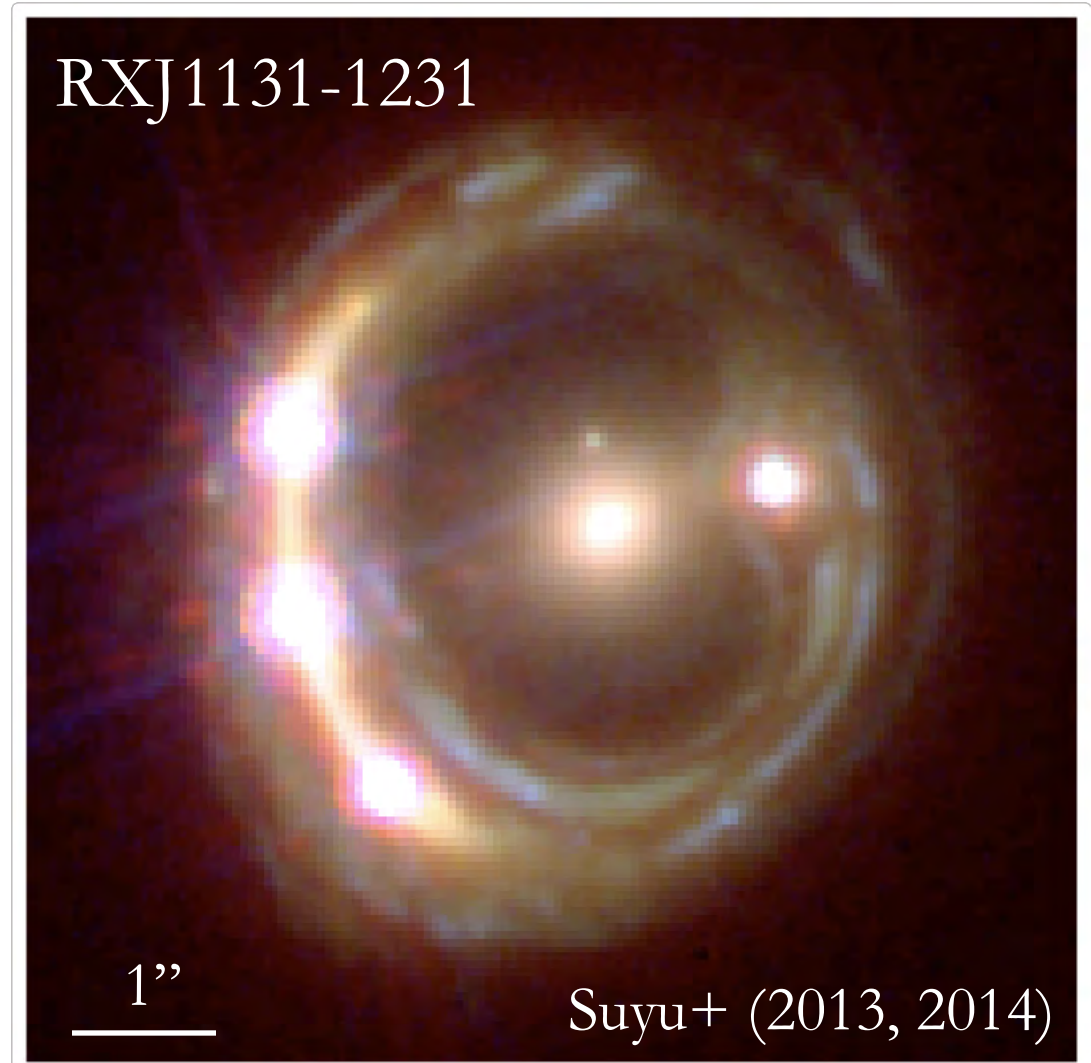
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- Method first proposed by Refsdal (1964)
- Lensing of a quasar by a galaxy along the line of sight yields multiple images with different light travel times
- Relies on variability of quasar emission, as material is accreted onto supermassive black hole



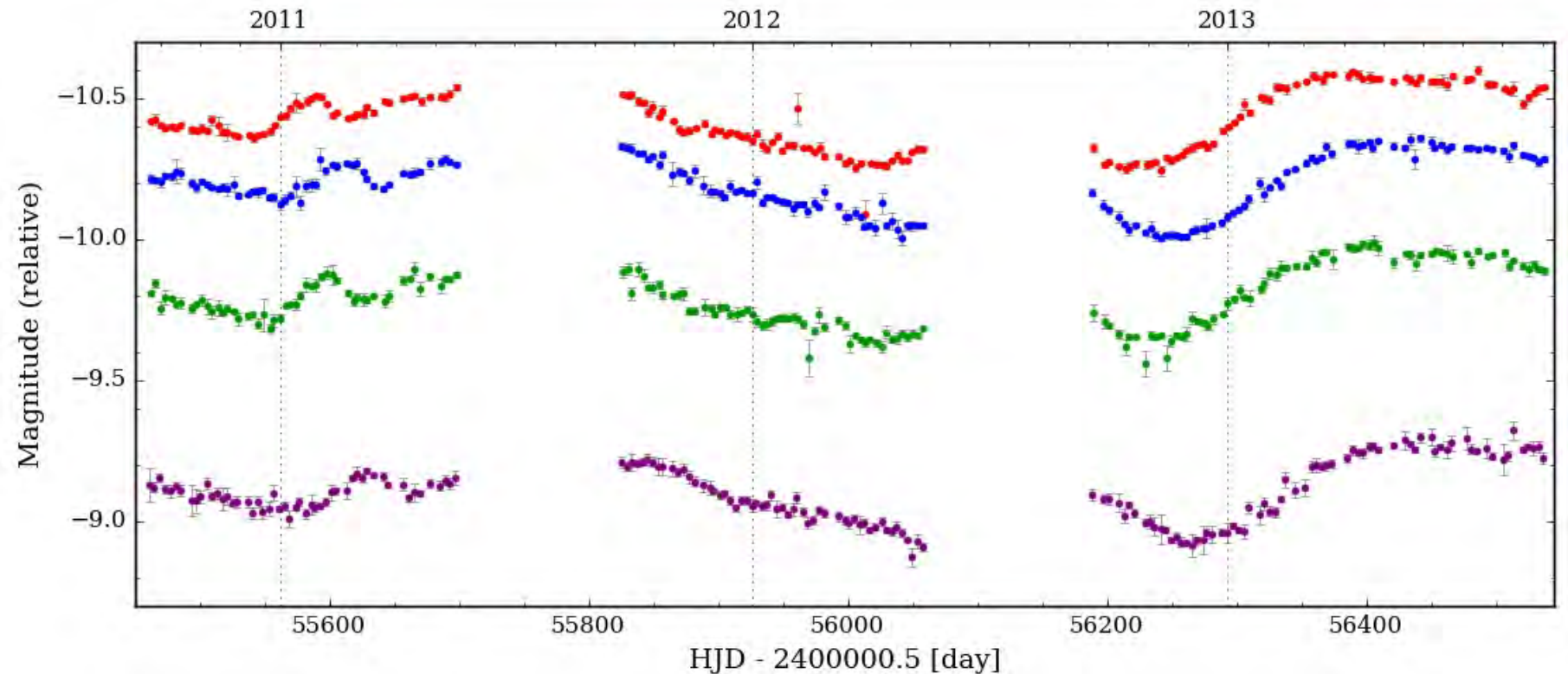
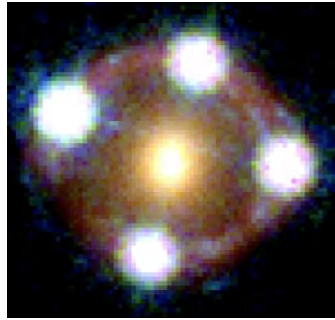
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- Time delay: $t = \frac{1}{c} D_{\Delta t} \phi_{\text{lens}}$
- Time delay distance: $D_{\Delta t} \propto \frac{1}{H_0}$
- To measure H_0 , one needs:
 - (1) Time delays
 - (2) Lens mass model (ϕ_{lens})
 - (3) Mass along the line of sight



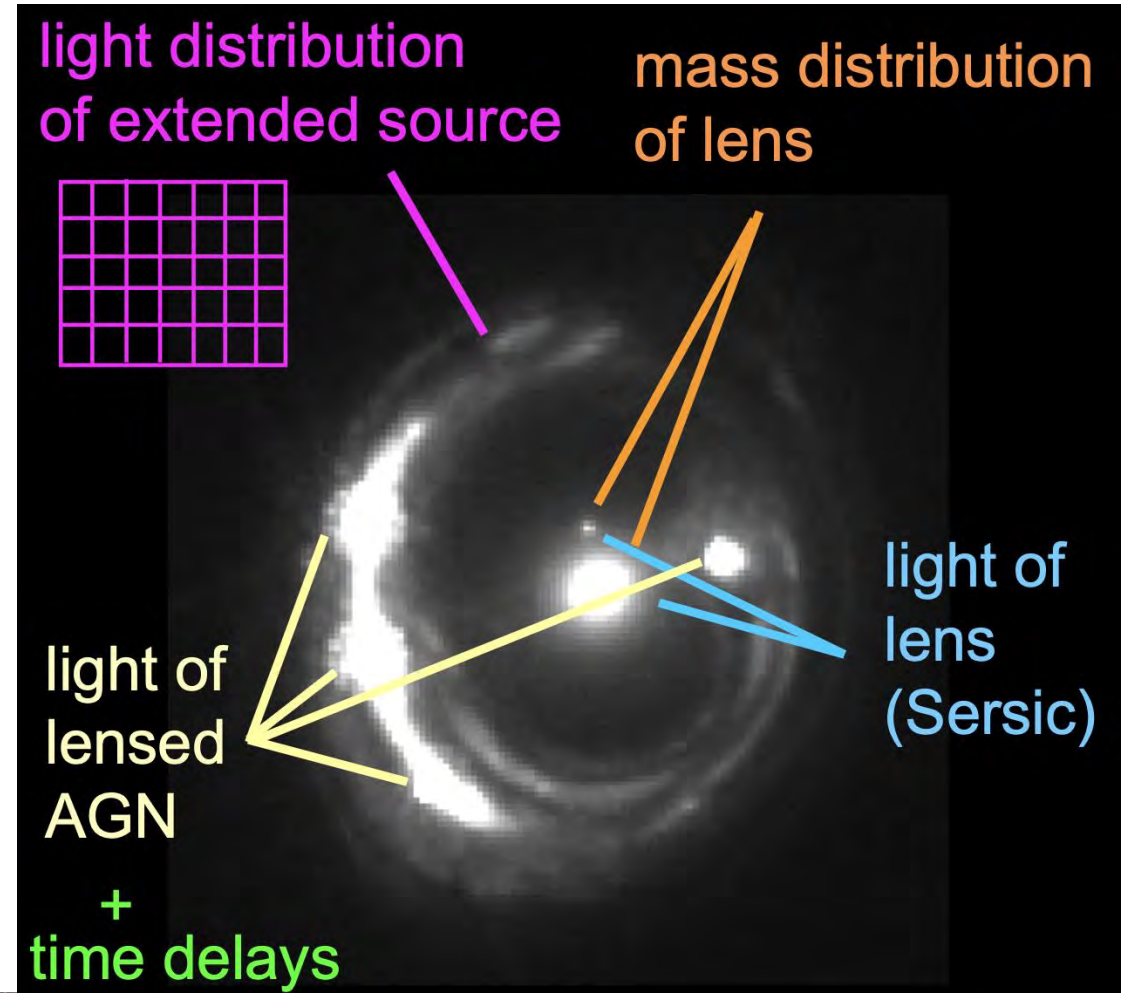
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- COSMOGRAIL collaboration: monitor gravitational lenses over multiple years to determine time delays to $\sim 1\text{-}2\%$



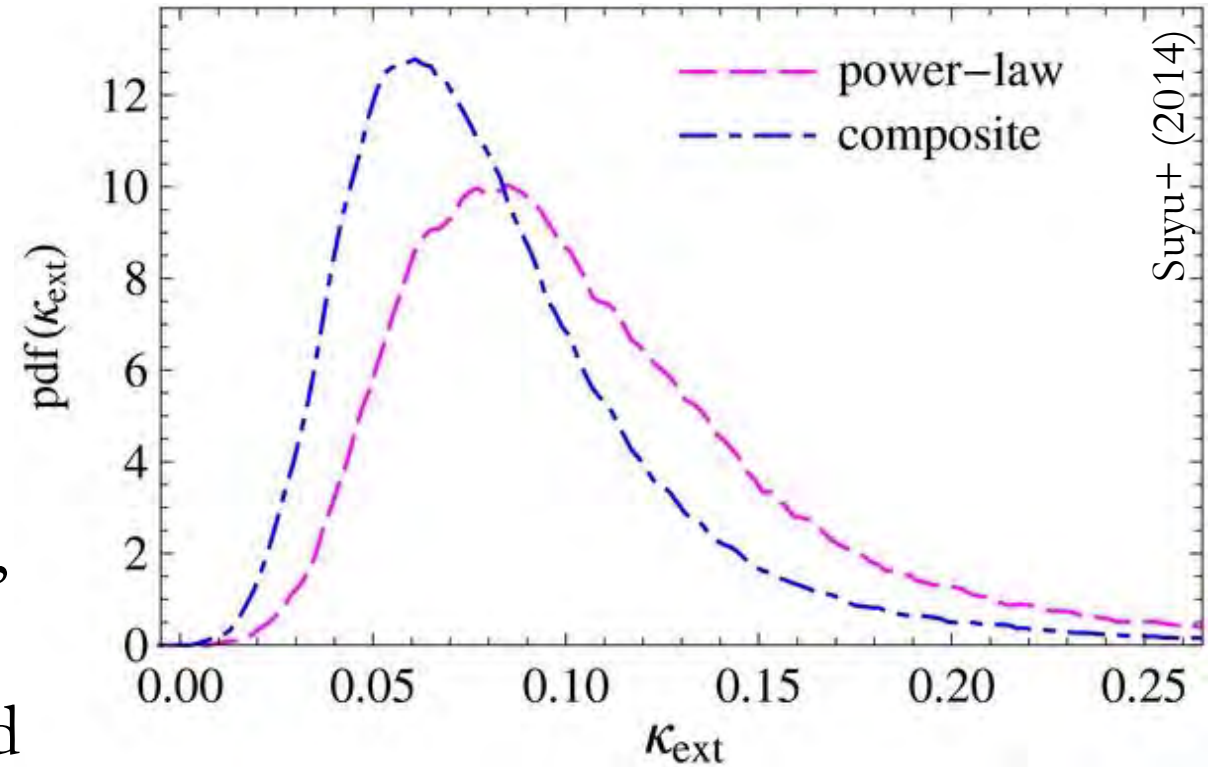
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- Lens mass modeling has moved beyond simply using the AGN positions and now uses the extended images of the host
- This greatly increases the number of constraints that can be placed on the lens model



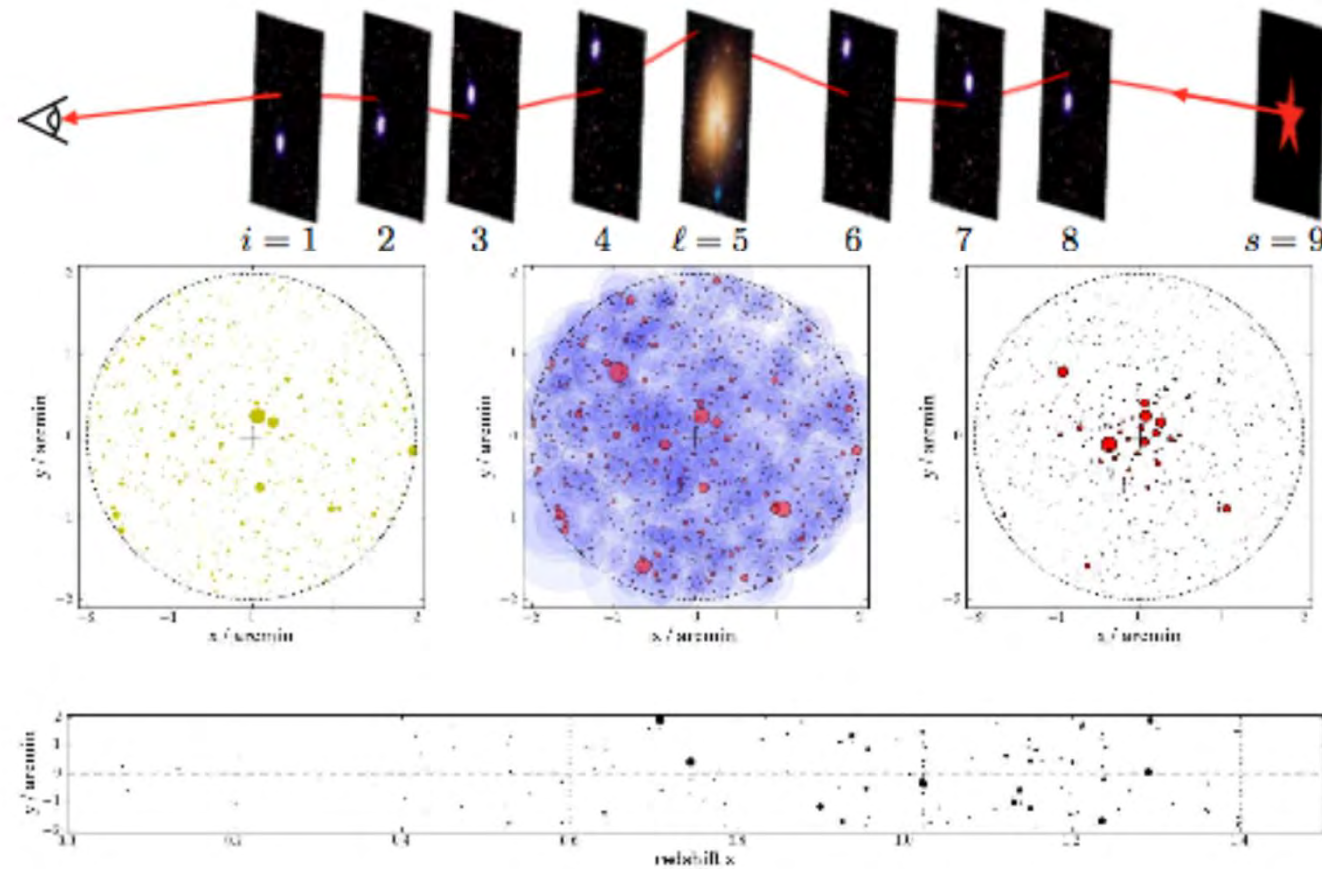
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- External mass can bias $\Delta t \rightarrow H_0$ (dominant source of uncertainty)
- Lens models only account for external shear, γ
- Quantify line-of-sight effects with external convergence in lens plane, K_{ext} (Suyu+ 2010, 2013)
- K_{ext} : statistical correction calibrated to simulations using galaxy number counts (Suyu+ 2010; Fassnacht+ 2011; Greene+ 2013; Rusu+ 2017)



H_0 from gravitational lensing

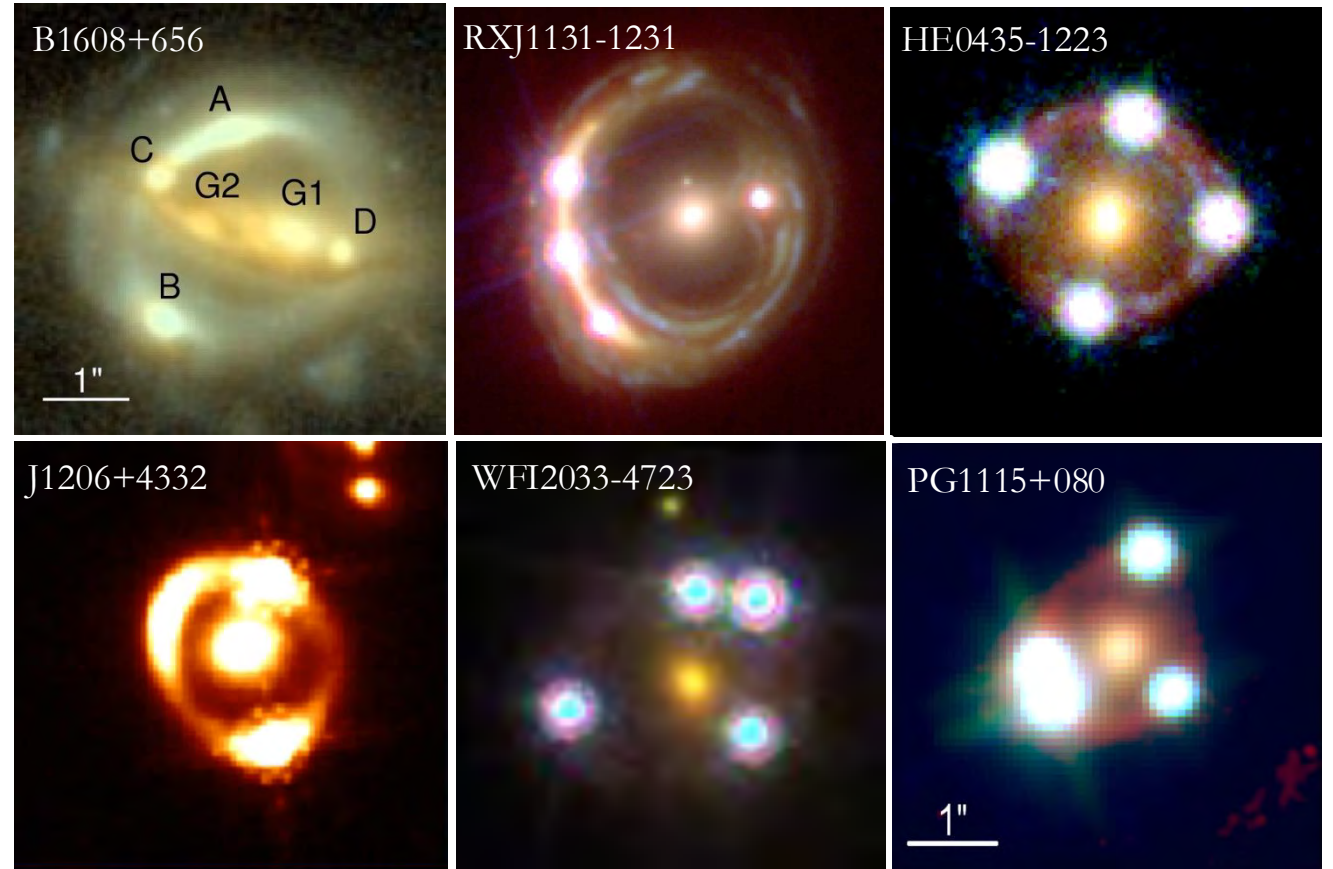
- Some perturbers are more important than others: multi-plane formalism



Mccully+ (2014); Collett+ (2013)

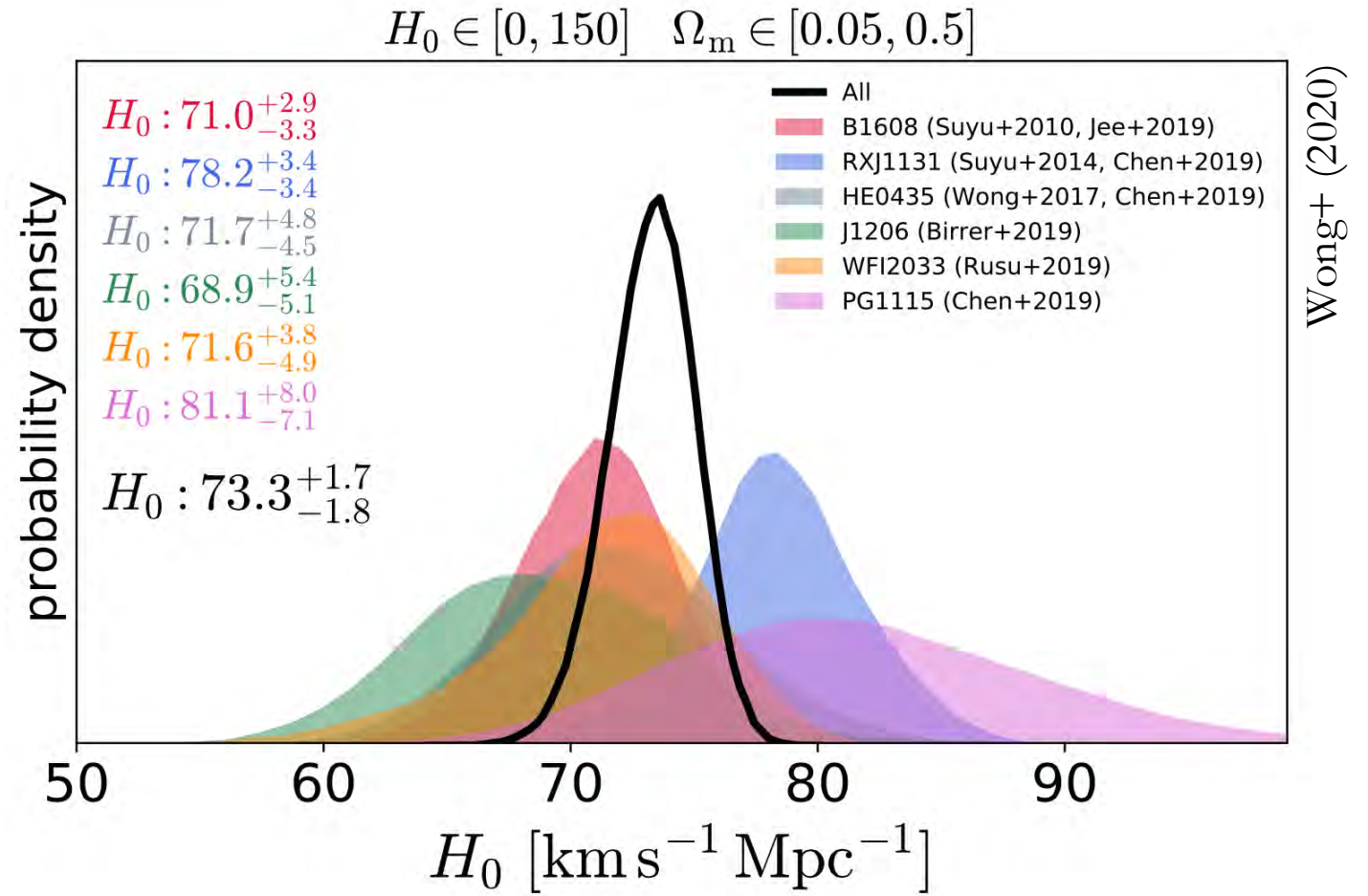
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- H0LiCOW collaboration analyzed 6 lenses with blinded methods
- Well-motivated mass models: galaxies are described by power law/stars and NFW profiles

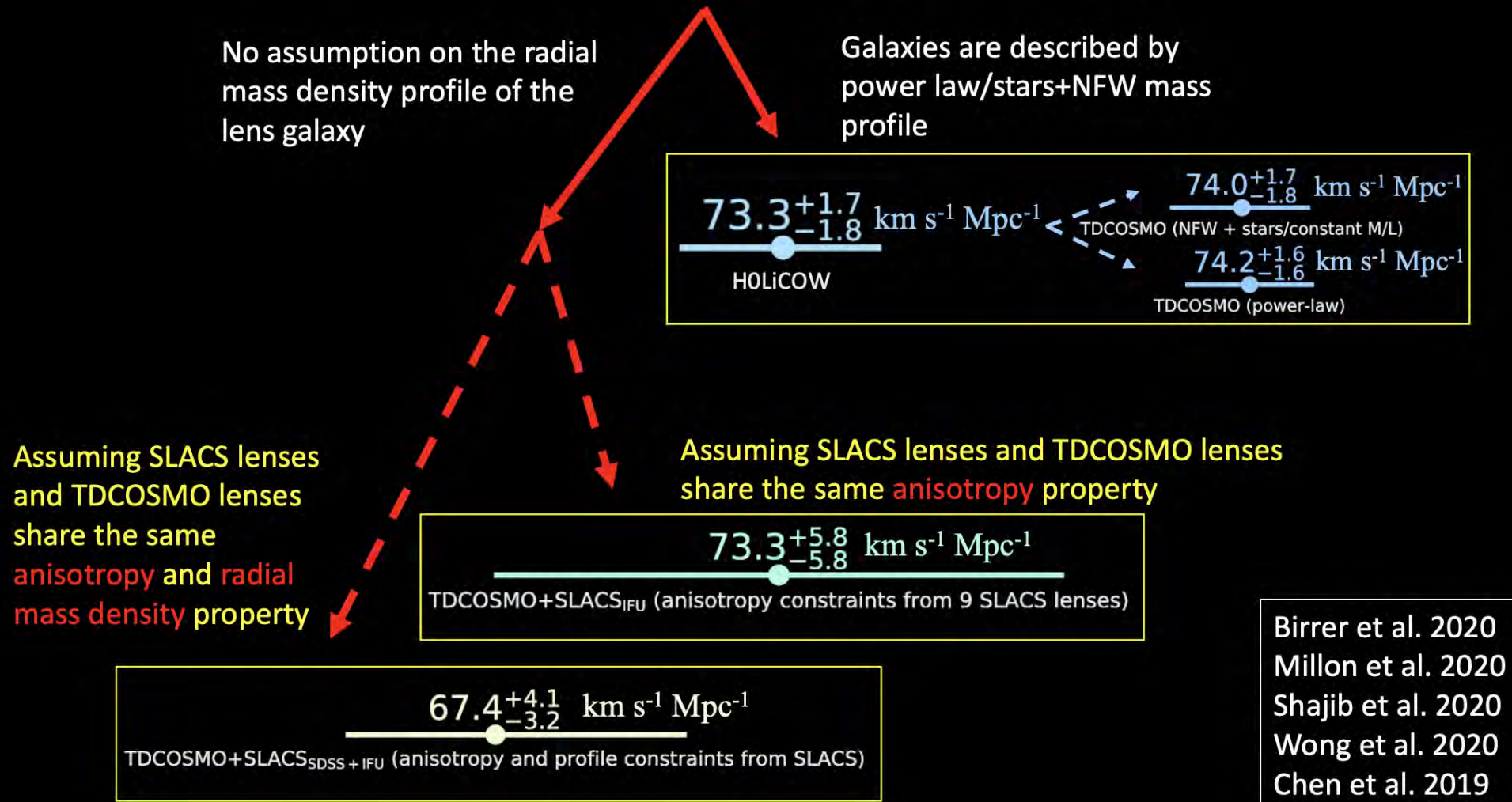


H_0 from gravitational lensing

- H0LiCOW collaboration analyzed 6 lenses with blinded methods
- Well-motivated mass models: galaxies are described by power law/stars and NFW profiles
- $H_0 = 73.3 \pm 1.8$ assuming flat Λ CDM

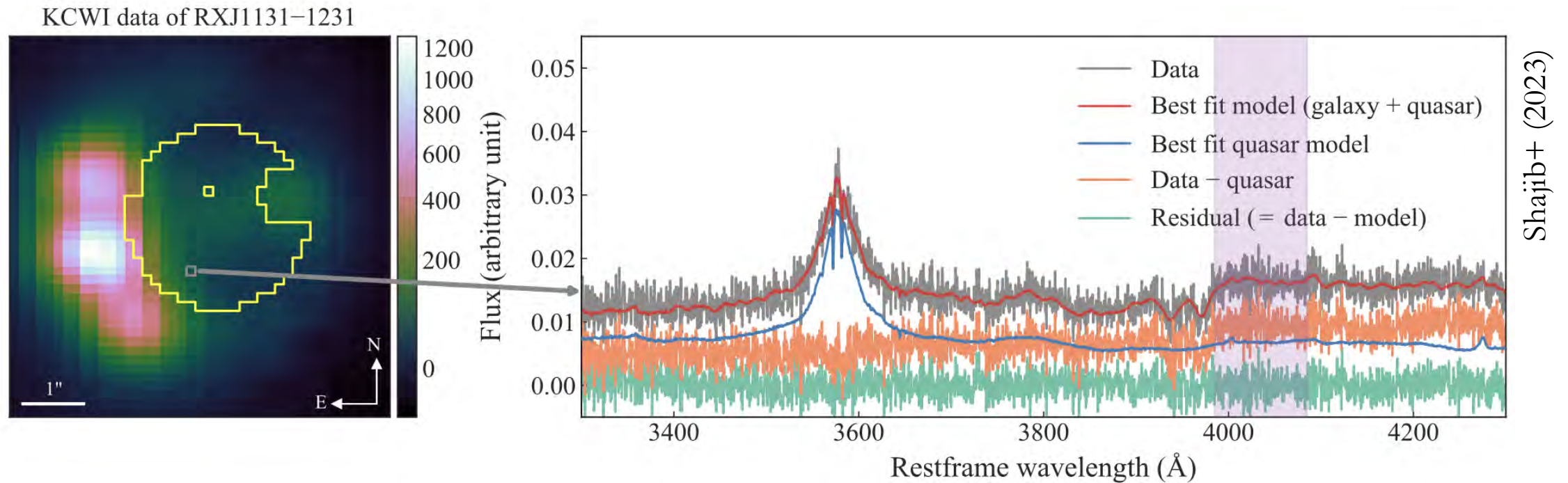


H_0 from gravitational lensing



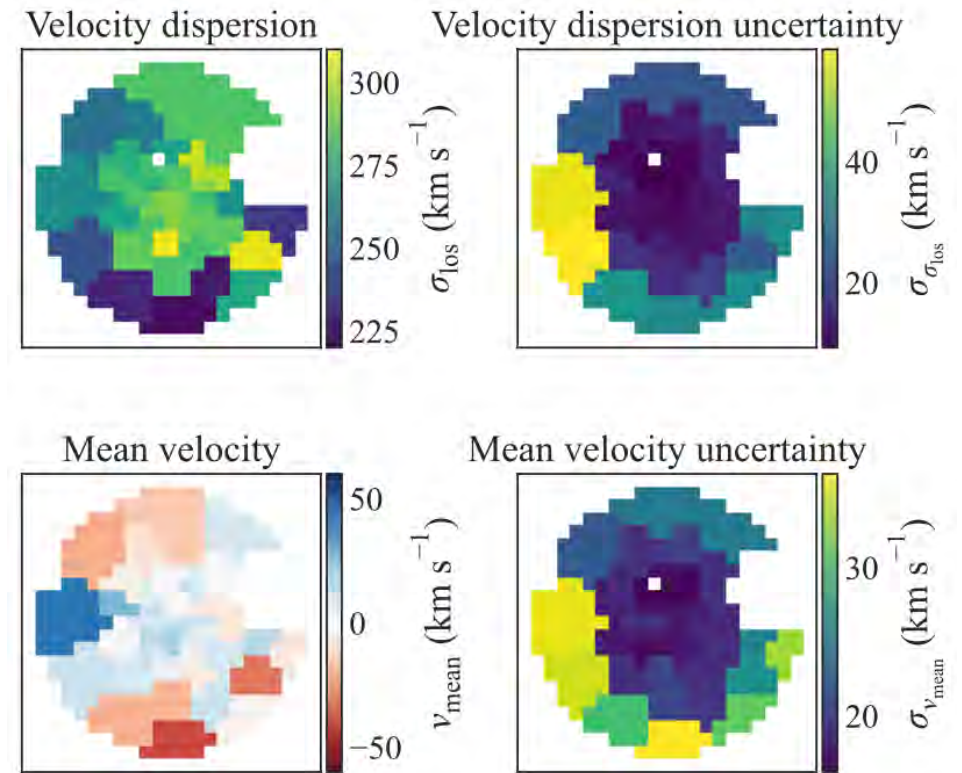
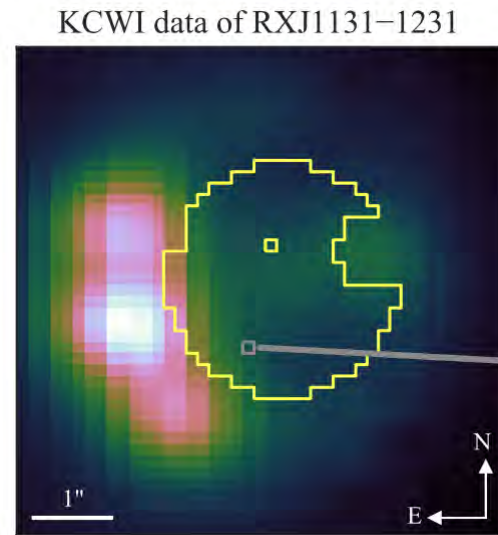
H_0 from gravitational lensing

- Moving forward, spatially-resolved stellar kinematics are key to break model degeneracies and constrain D_{lens}



H_0 from gravitational lensing

- Moving forward, spatially-resolved stellar kinematics are key to break model degeneracies and constrain D_{lens}
- $H_0 = 77 \pm 7$ using flexible mass models



Shajib+ (2023)

Summary

- Cepheids, TRGB, etc. cannot reach into the Hubble flow, needed to minimize impact of peculiar velocities
- Use them to calibrate another set of “standard candles” with much greater reach: SNe Ia, Surface Brightness Fluctuations are best; core-collapse supernovae, virial theorem applications have larger σ
- Current best approach: Cepheids + SNe Ia as implemented by SH0ES with HST; JWST gives critical cross-check but not competitive yet
- Gravitational lensing offers a completely independent approach; need to improve mass models to break degeneracies



The Cosmic Distance Scale

Lecture 4

Lucas Macri

NSF NOIRLab



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- Casey Papovich (Texas A&M)
- Adam Riess (JHU/STScI)
- Dan Scolnic (Duke Univ.)
- Sherry Suyu (TUM/MPA)
- Mónica Taormina (CAMK)



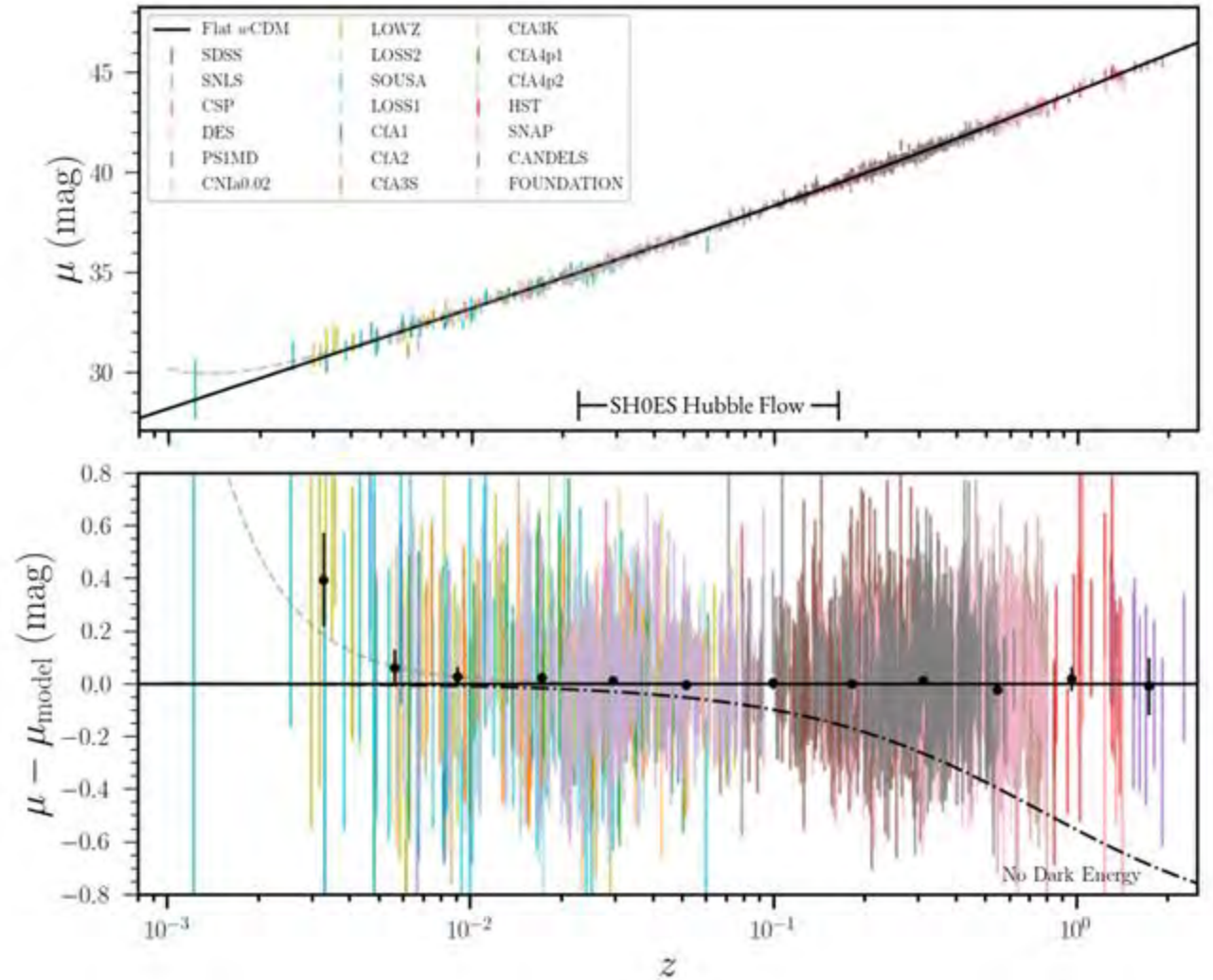
Recap of Lecture 3

- Cepheids, TRGB, etc. cannot reach into the Hubble flow, needed to minimize impact of peculiar velocities
- Use them to calibrate another set of “standard candles” with much greater reach: SNe Ia, Surface Brightness Fluctuations are best; core-collapse supernovae, virial theorem applications have larger σ
- Current best approach: Cepheids + SNe Ia as implemented by SH0ES with *HST*; *JWST* gives critical cross-check but not competitive yet
- Gravitational lensing offers a completely independent approach; need to improve mass models to break degeneracies



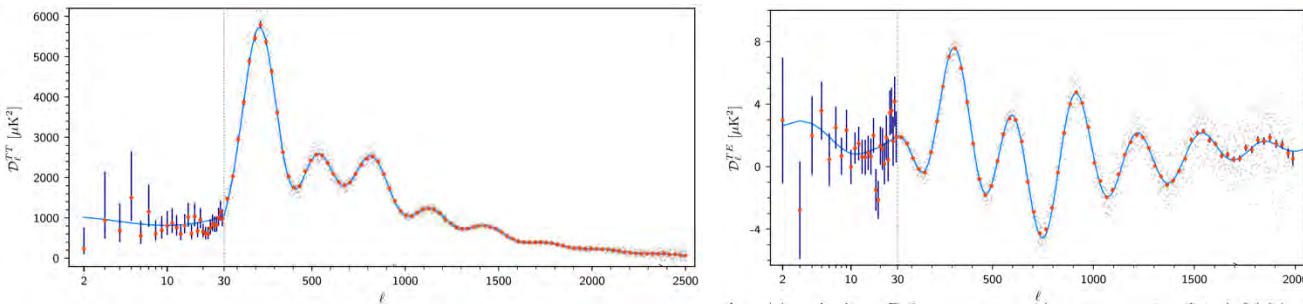
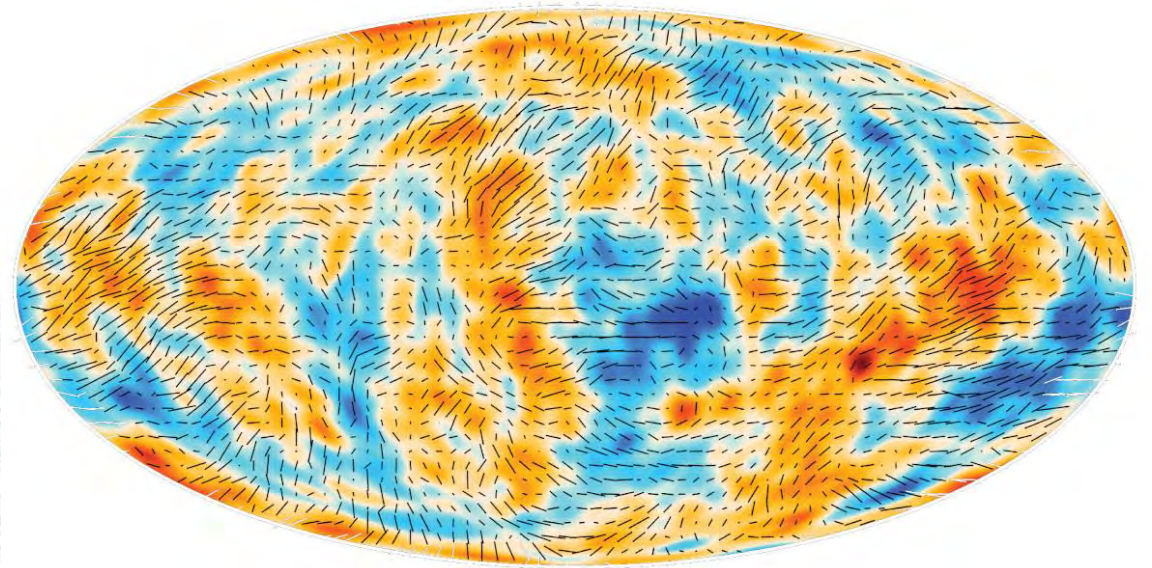
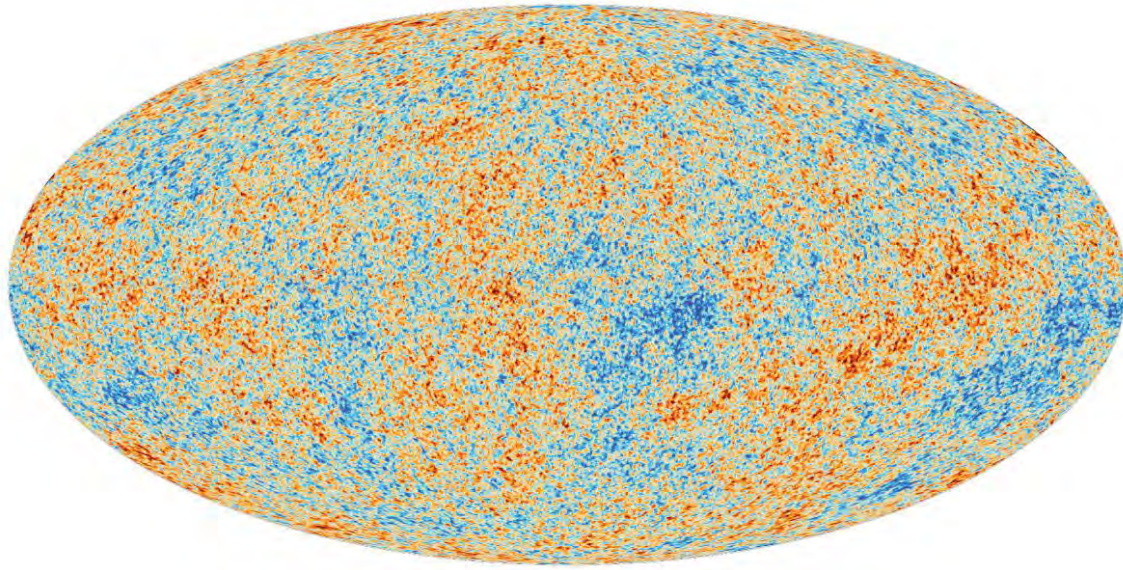
Type Ia supernovae: Pantheon+

- The full Pantheon+ sample has $\sim 1,550$ SNeIa
- All calibrated to the same reference system and with corrections due to light curve shape, dust, ...
- $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.666 \pm 0.018$ for flat Λ CDM

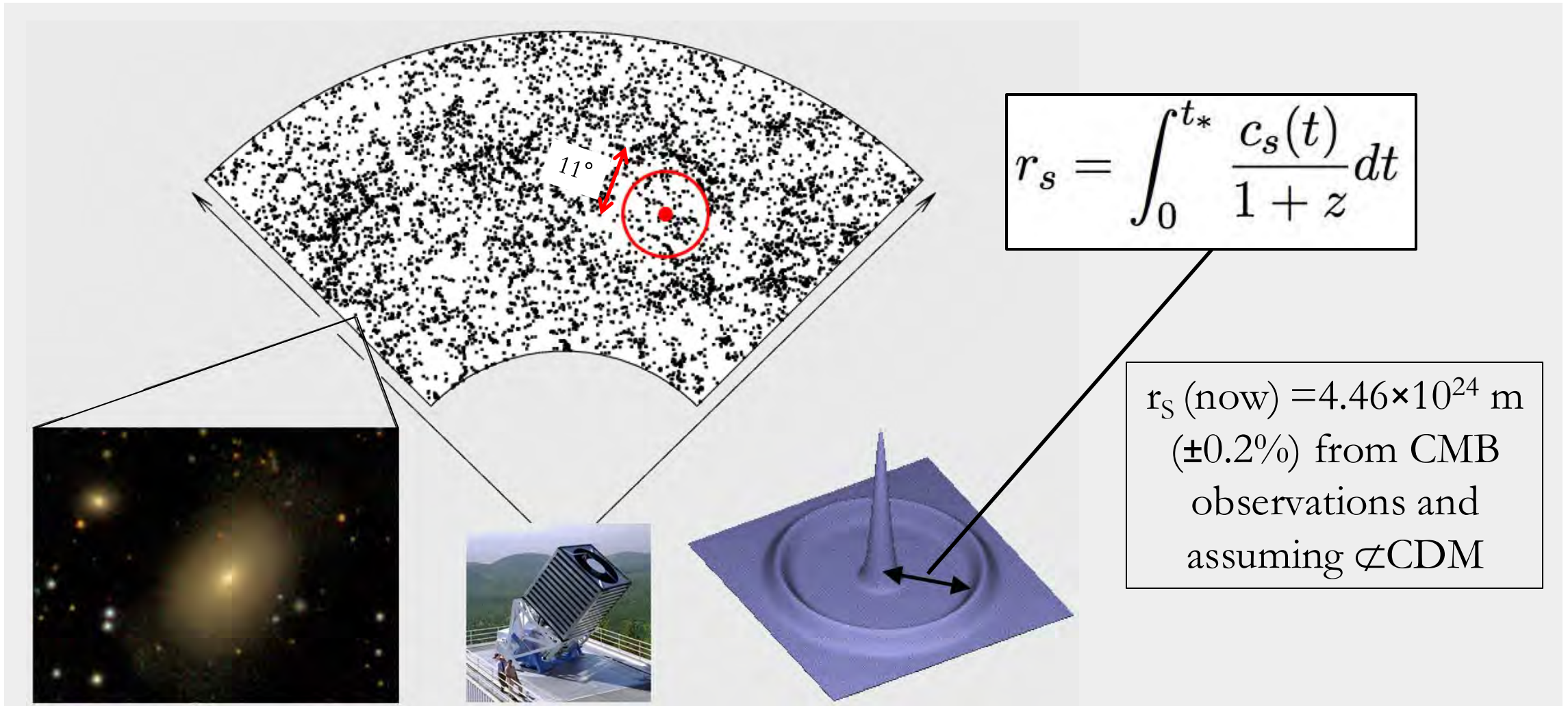


From the CMB to cosmological parameters

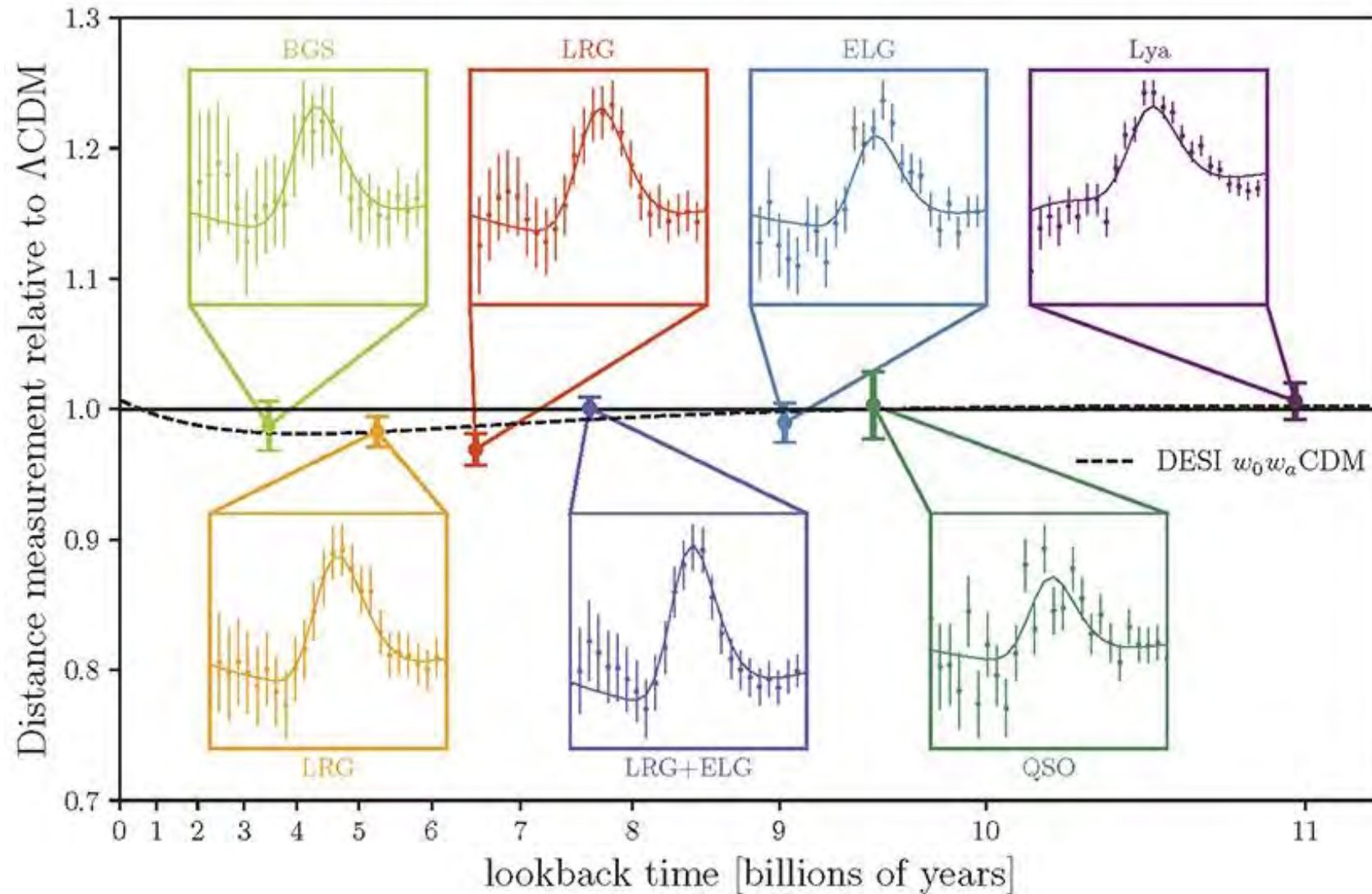
- 2013: *Planck* → angular power spectrum of T anisotropies & polarization



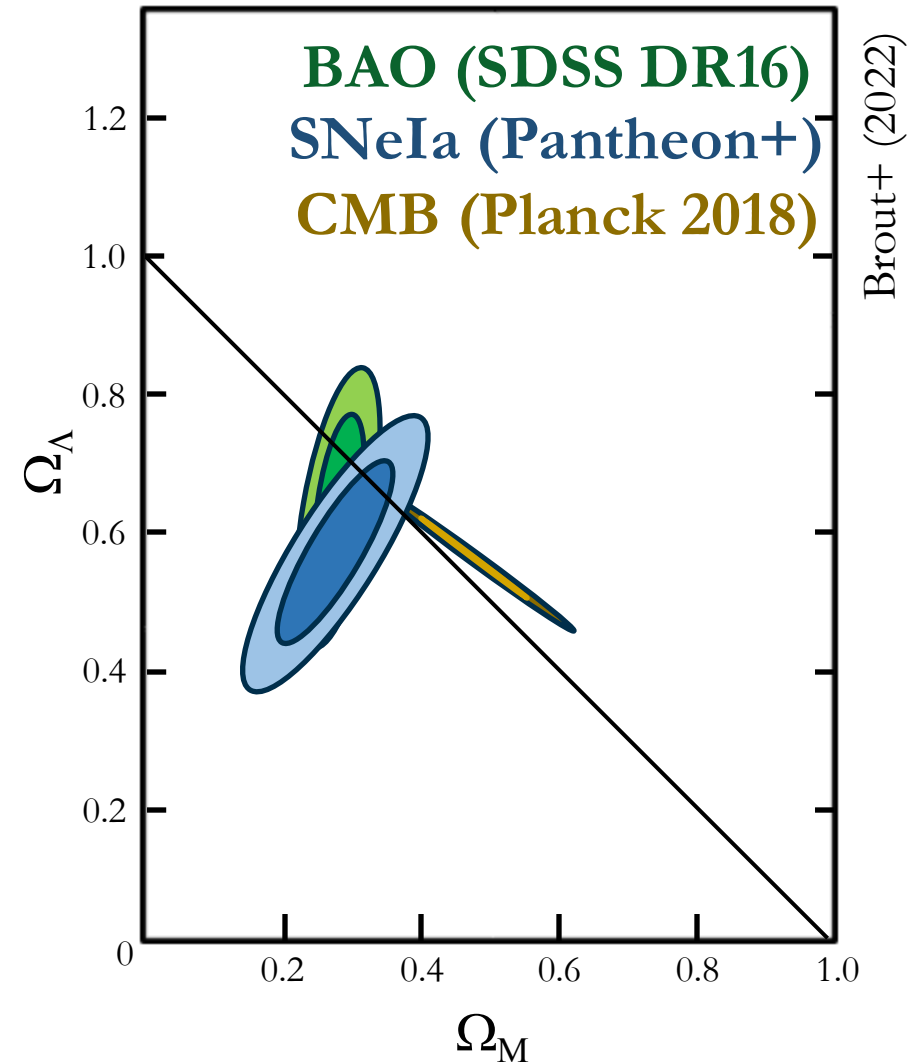
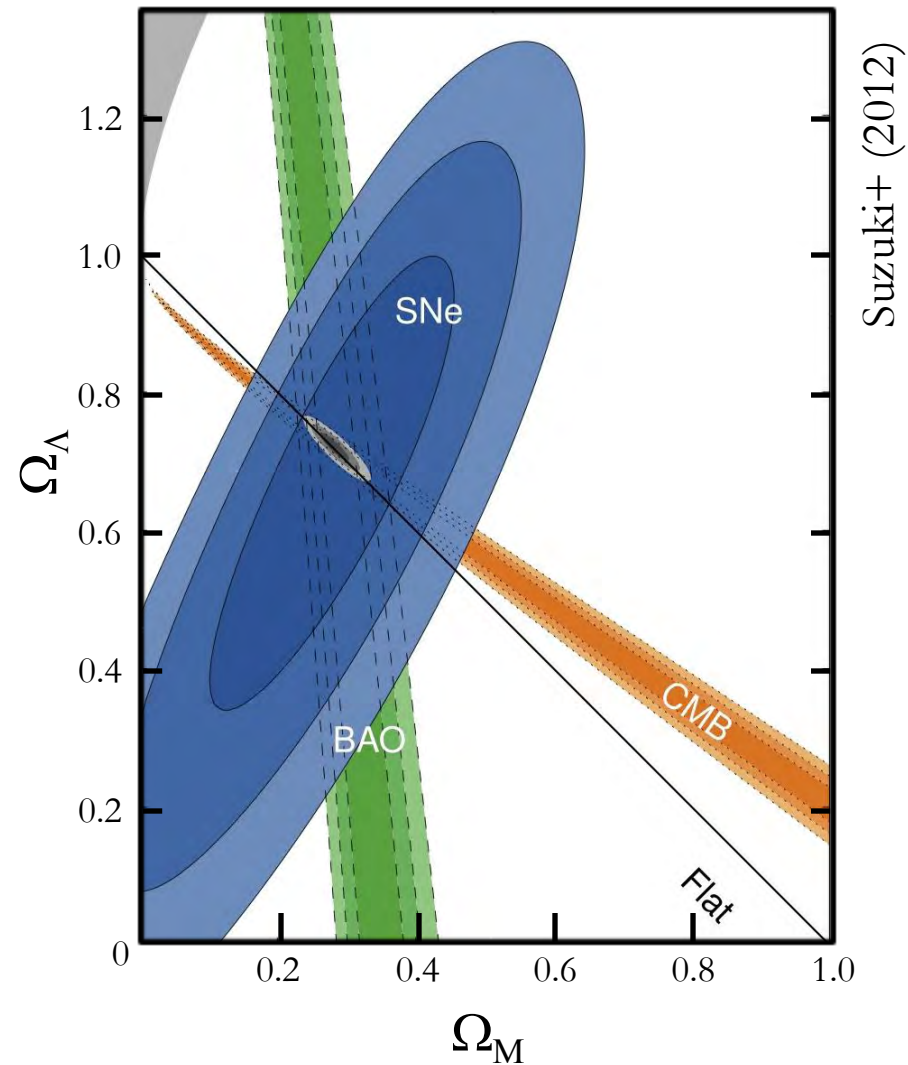
Baryon Acoustic Oscillations



The BAO peak as a “standard ruler”

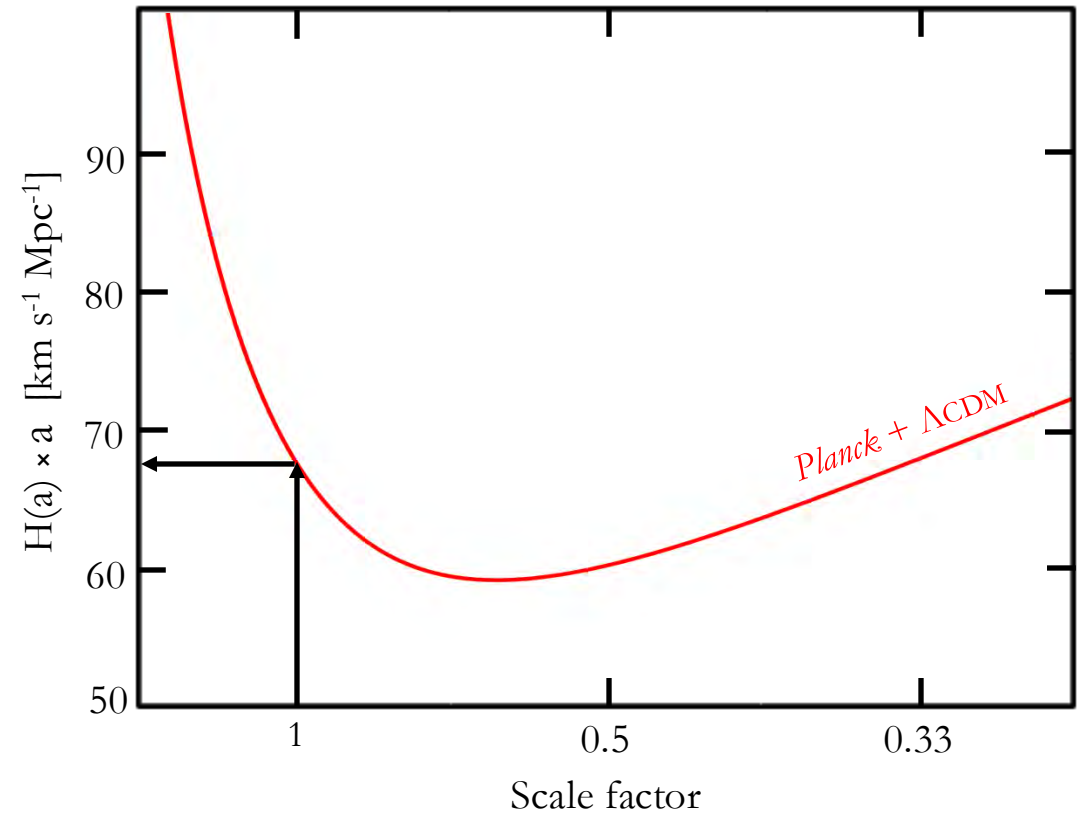


Combining the constraints: 10 years later

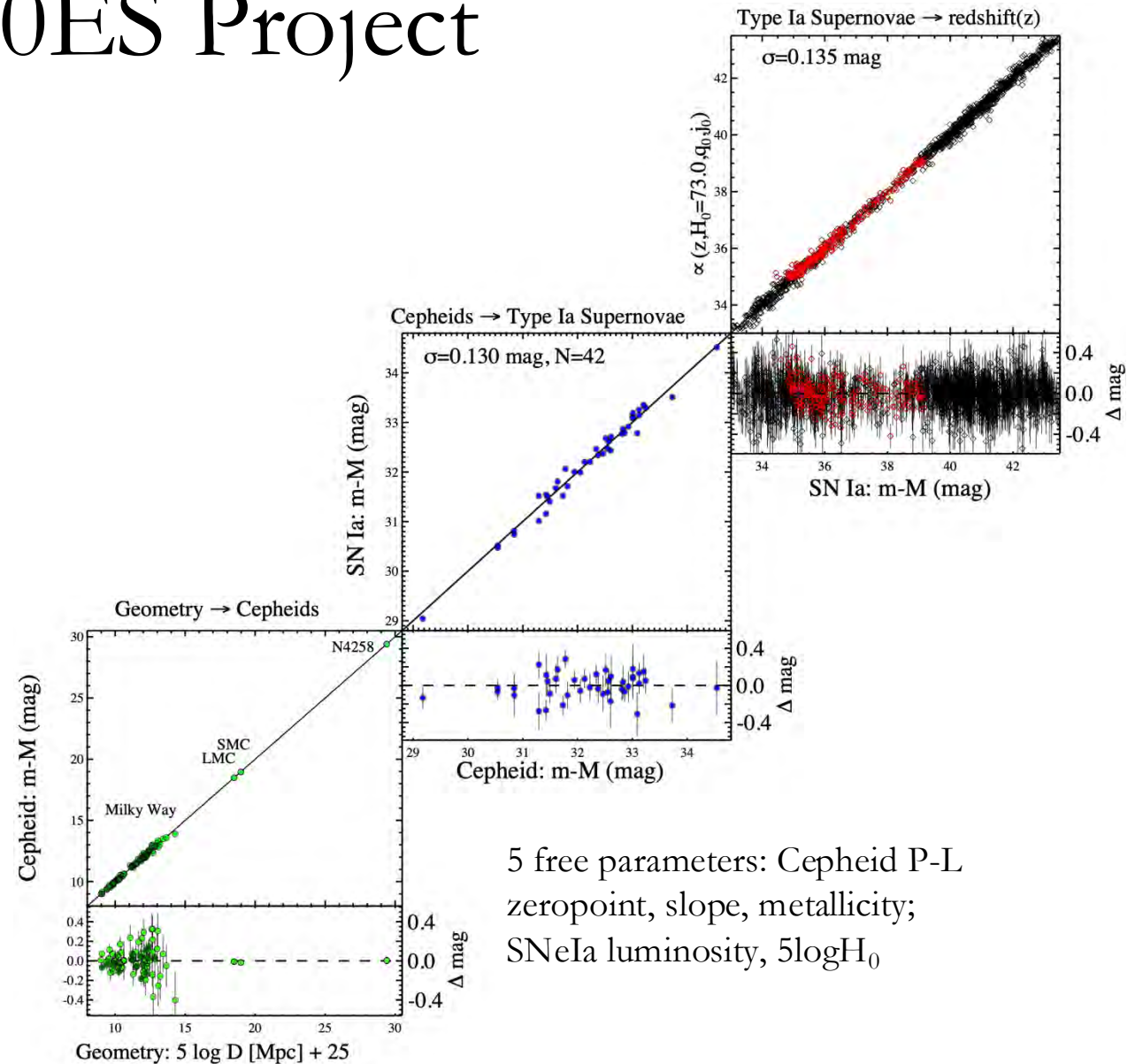


The BAO peak as a “standard ruler”

- BAO, calibrated via CMB, can map $H(a)$ through an “inverse distance ladder”
- Can be used to predict H_0 for an *assumed* cosmology
- Compare with actual local measurements for an “end-to-end” test of the cosmological model



The SH0ES Project

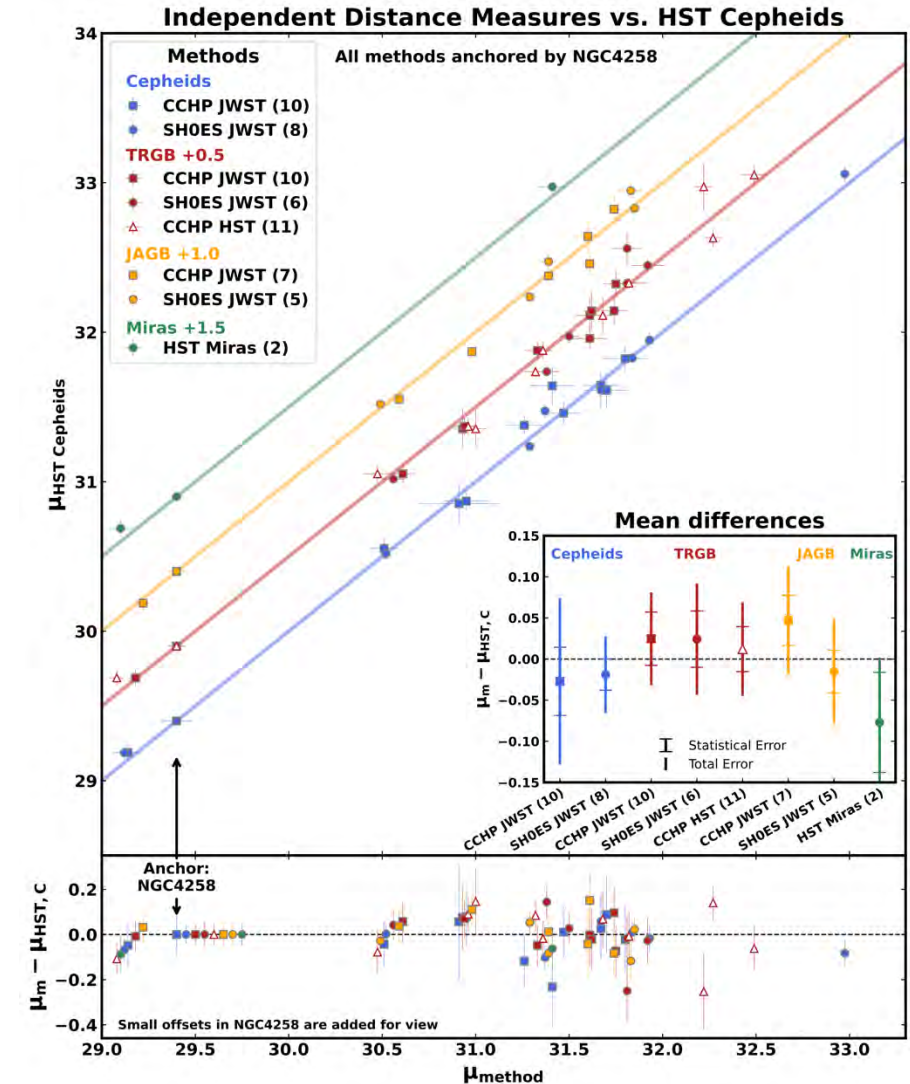


Recent results from *JWST*

All methods agree at 1σ

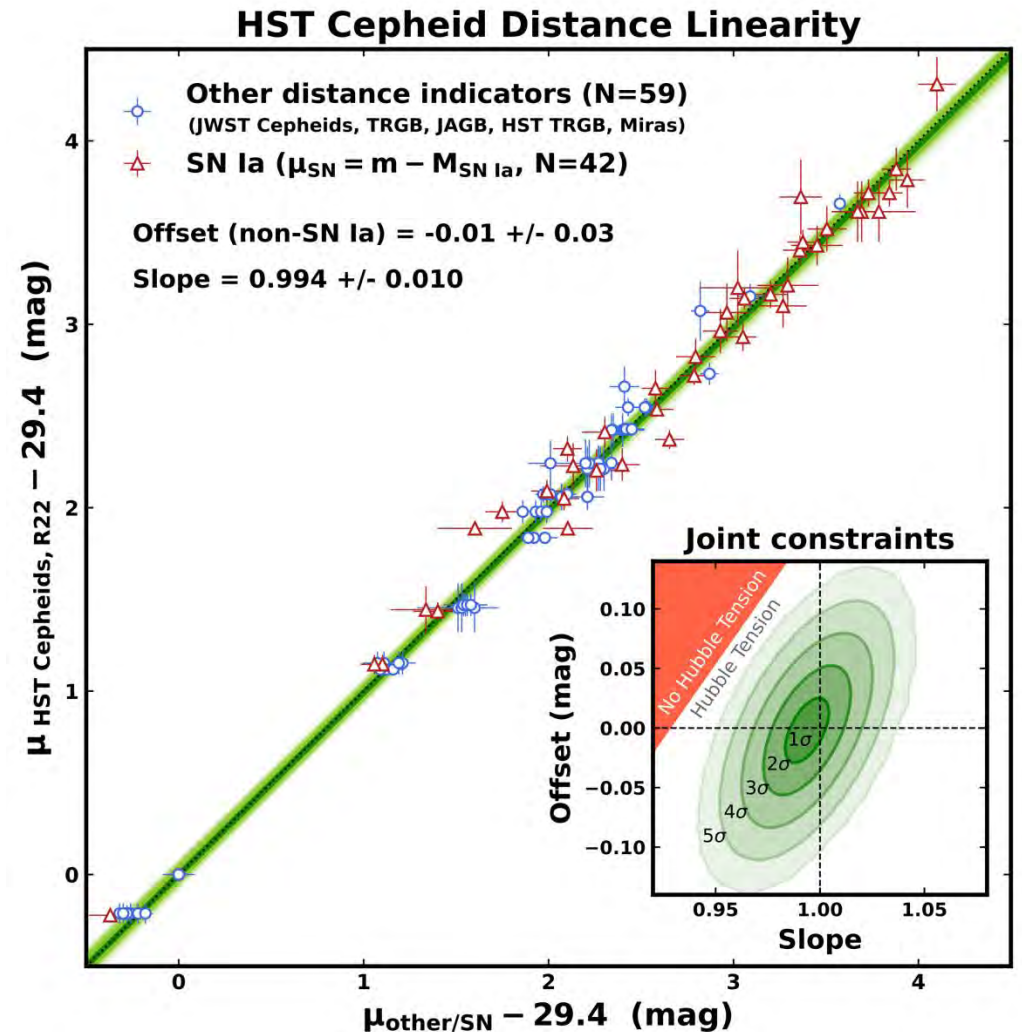
Sample	Team	$\mu_{JWST} - \mu_{HST}$ [mag]	σ
<i>HST</i> Cepheids vs. <i>JWST</i> Cepheids			
10 Hosts ^a	CCHP	-0.027	0.10
8 Hosts ($D \leq 25$ Mpc)	SH0ES	-0.02	0.03
14 Unique Hosts	Both	-0.02	0.03
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NOTE—(*): SH0ES $D \leq 25$ Mpc sample includes NGC 4038, M101 and NGC 3447 and excludes NGC 5468 as discussed in text. CCHP distances from F24 Table 2 and including uncertainties in F24 Table 5.

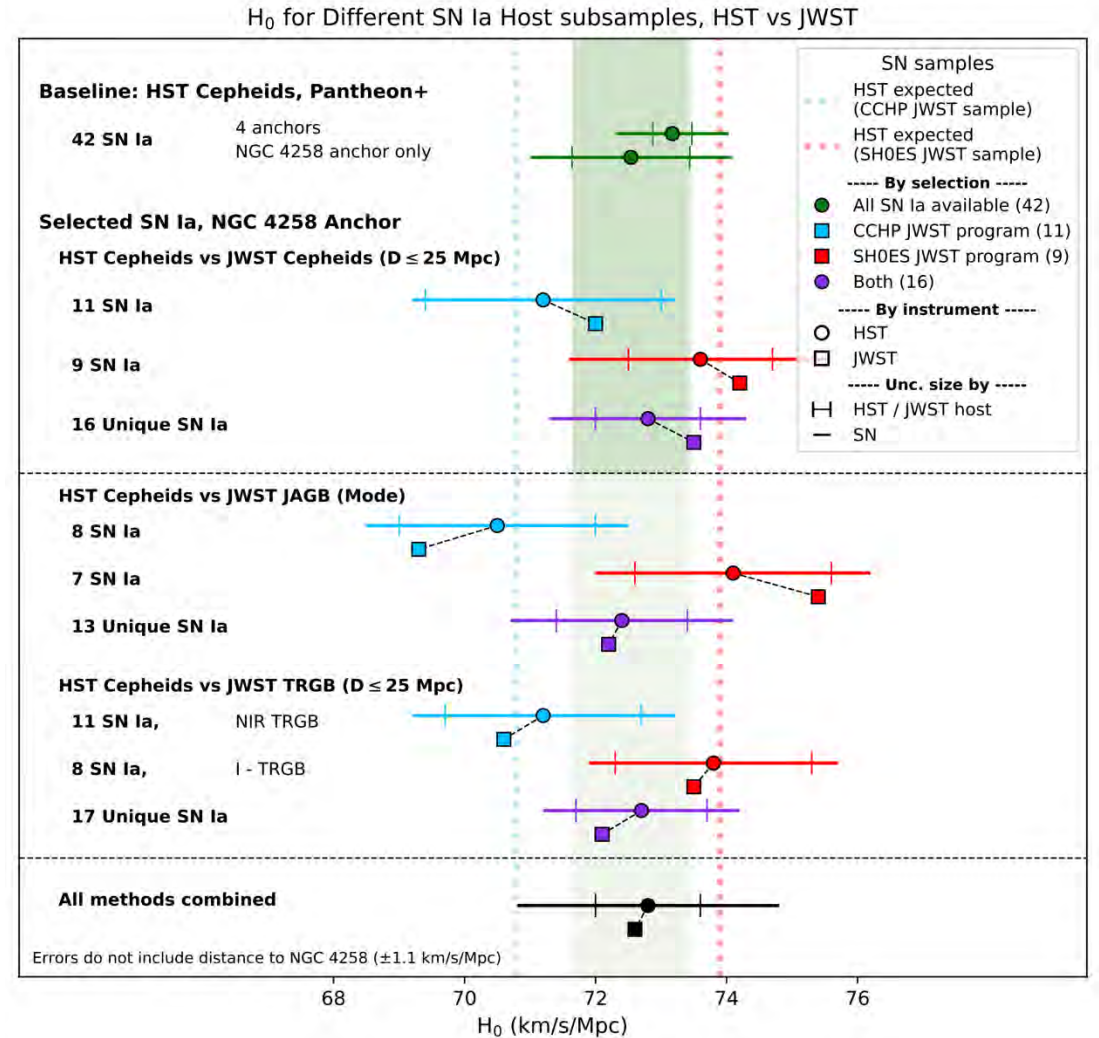
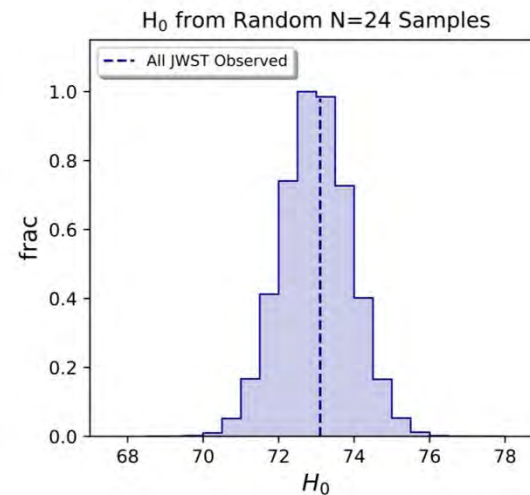
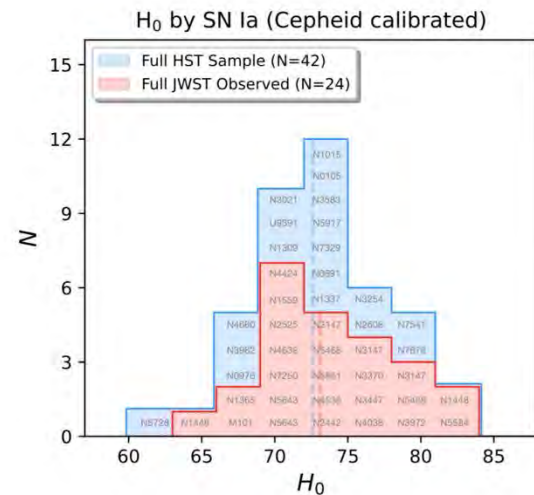
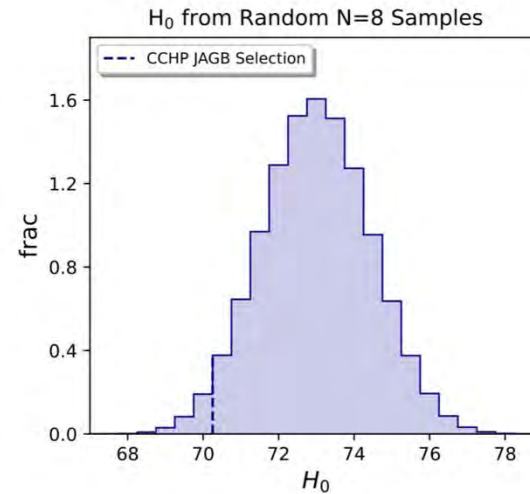
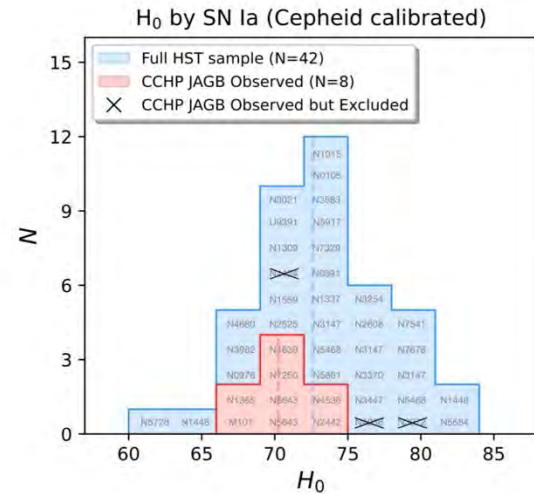


Recent results from *JWST*

- Stringest test to date of *HST* Cepheid distance linearity:
59 comparisons against all other available methods, anchored to N4258
- If there's such excellent agreement, what's the reason for $\Delta H_0 = 2.5$ in Freedman+ (2024)?
- Sample variance!

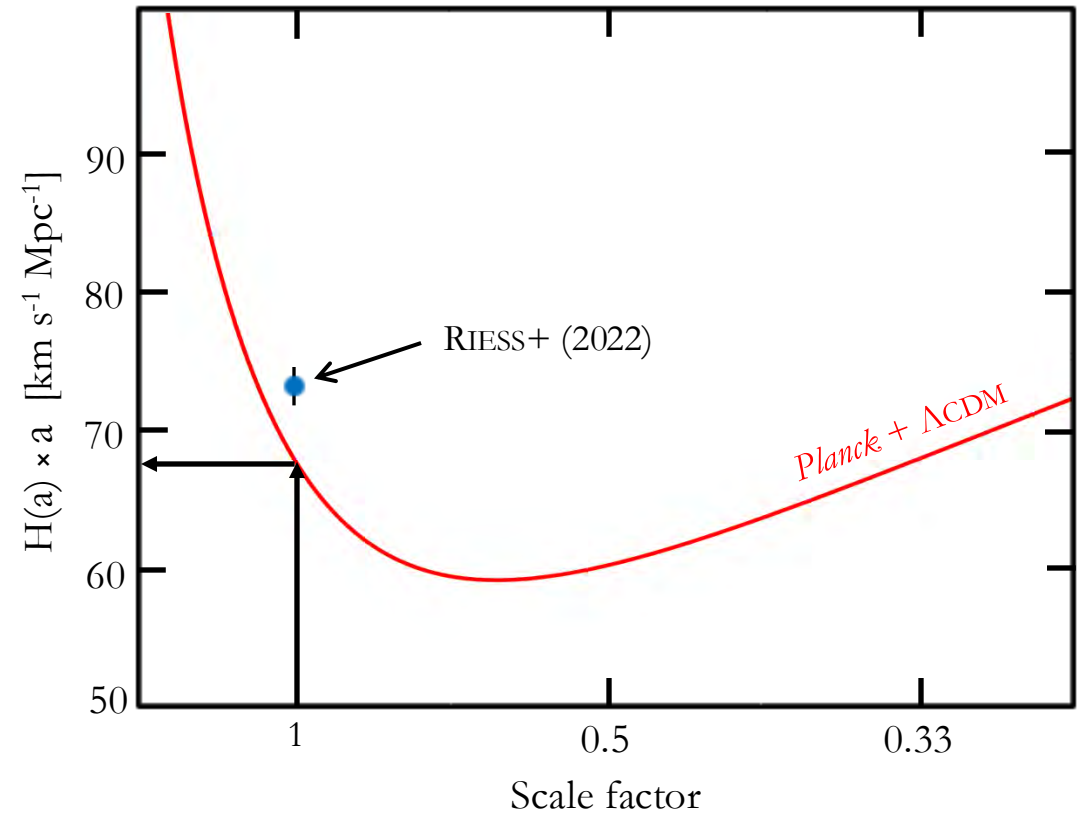


Recent results from *JWST*



The BAO peak as a “standard ruler”

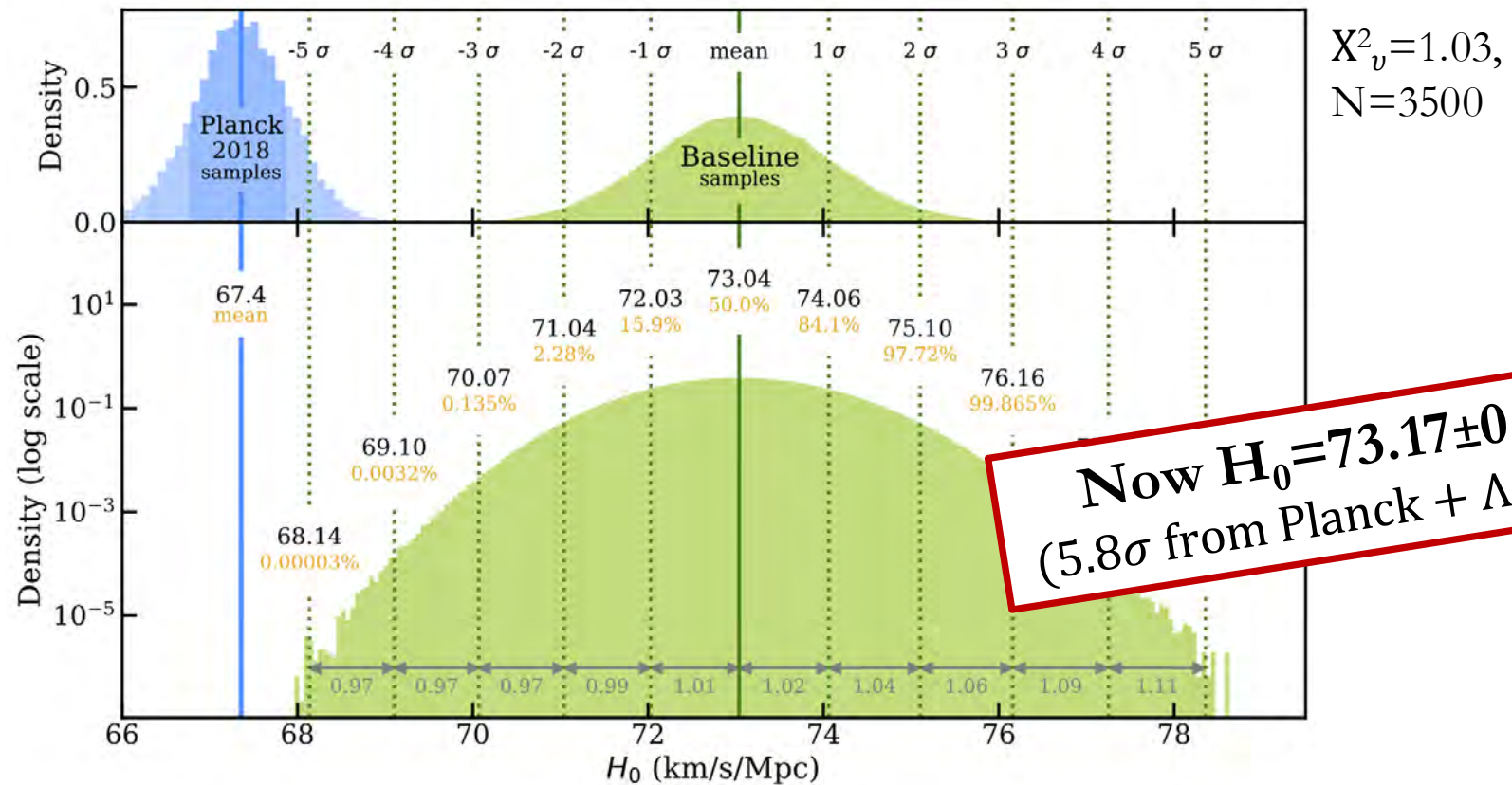
- BAO, calibrated via CMB, can map $H(a)$ through an “inverse distance ladder”
- Can be used to predict H_0 for an *assumed* cosmology
- Compare with actual local measurements for an “end-to-end” test of the cosmological model



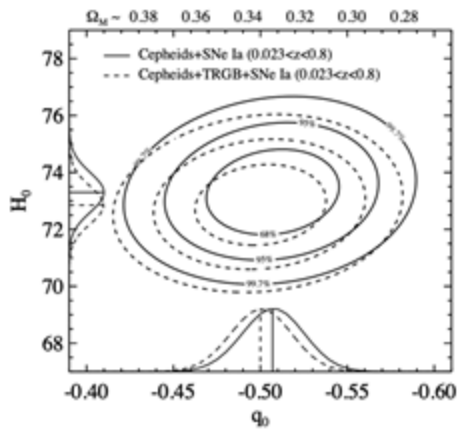
The SH0ES Project

Baseline Fit: $H_0=73.04\pm1.04$, km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹, with systematics

5.0 σ from Planck + Λ CDM

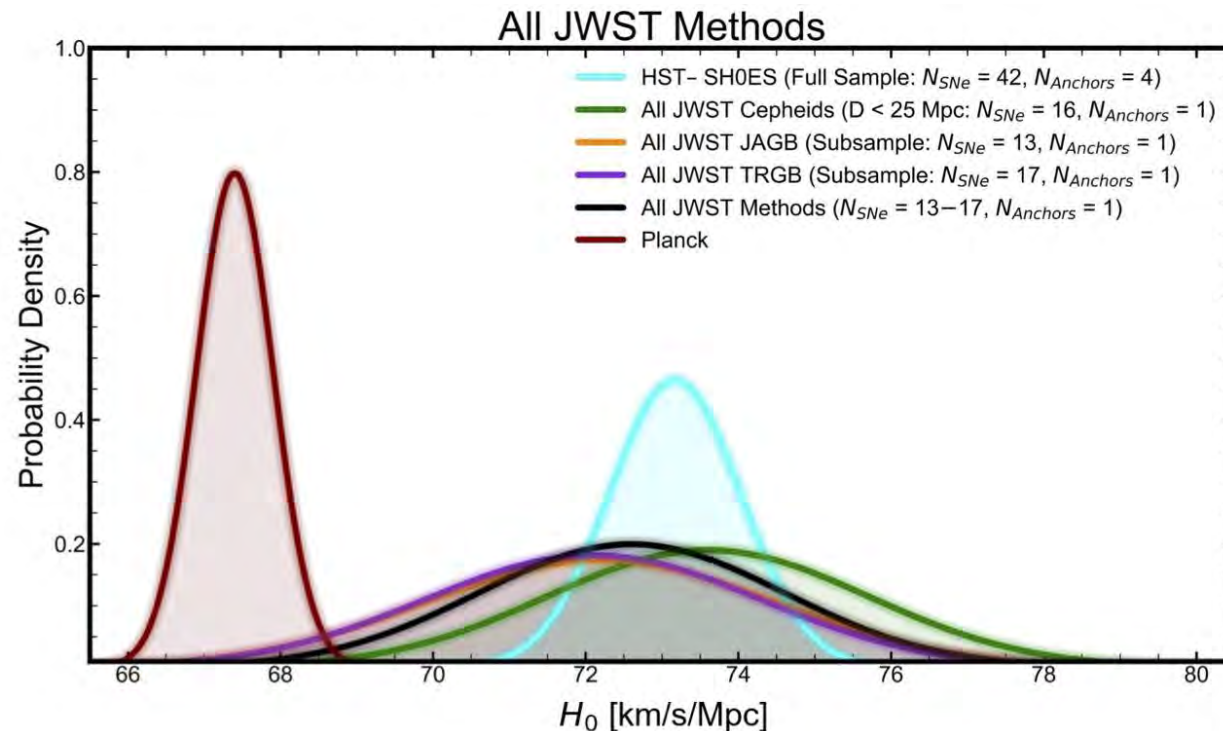


Can also constrain q_0



The Hubble Tension

- As we discussed yesterday, the different methods used for the local distance scale are in excellent agreement when properly calibrated
- JWST samples too small to be competitive, but critical cross-check



The Hubble Tension: is it systematics?

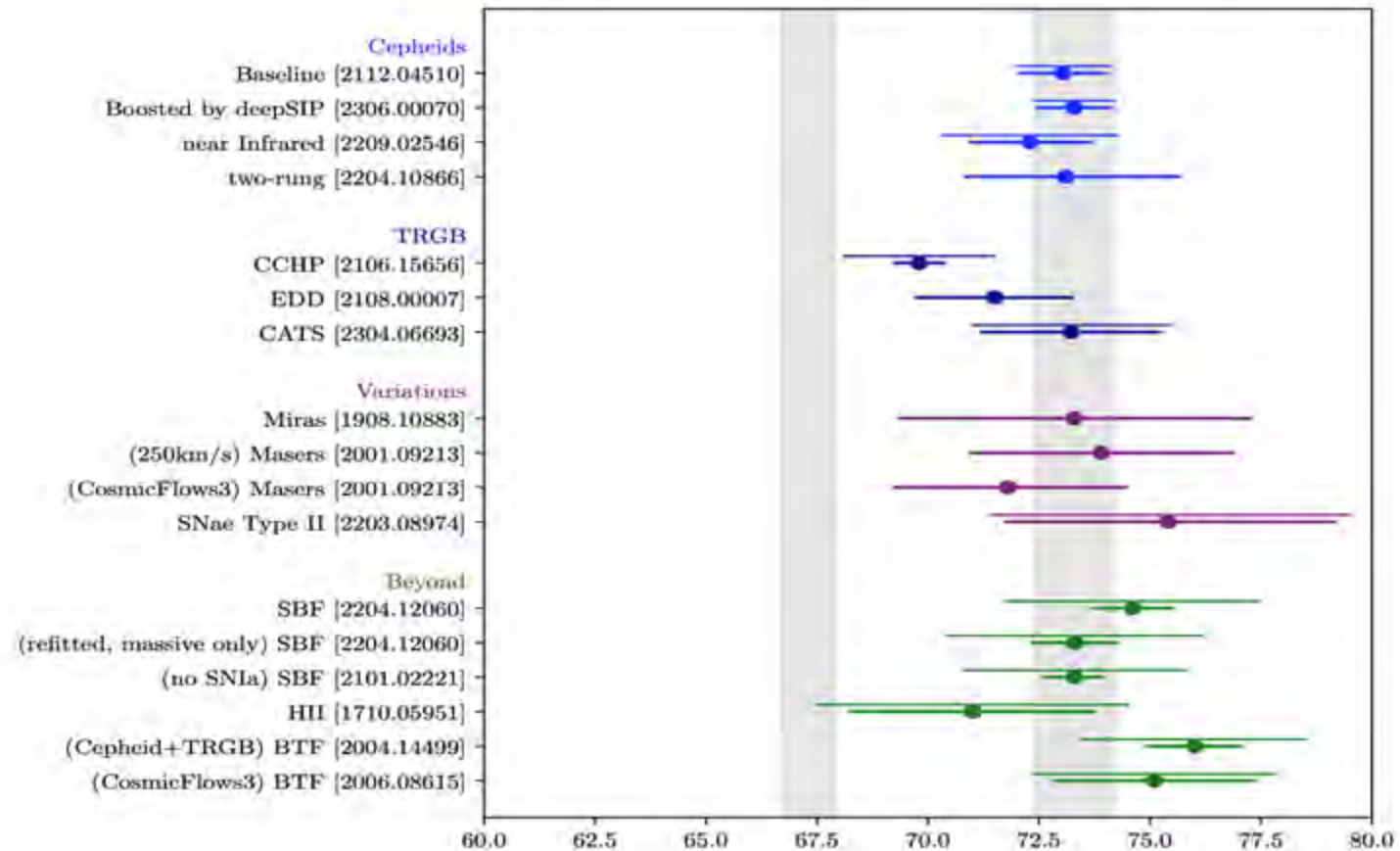


<https://djbrout.github.io/SHOESrefs.html>



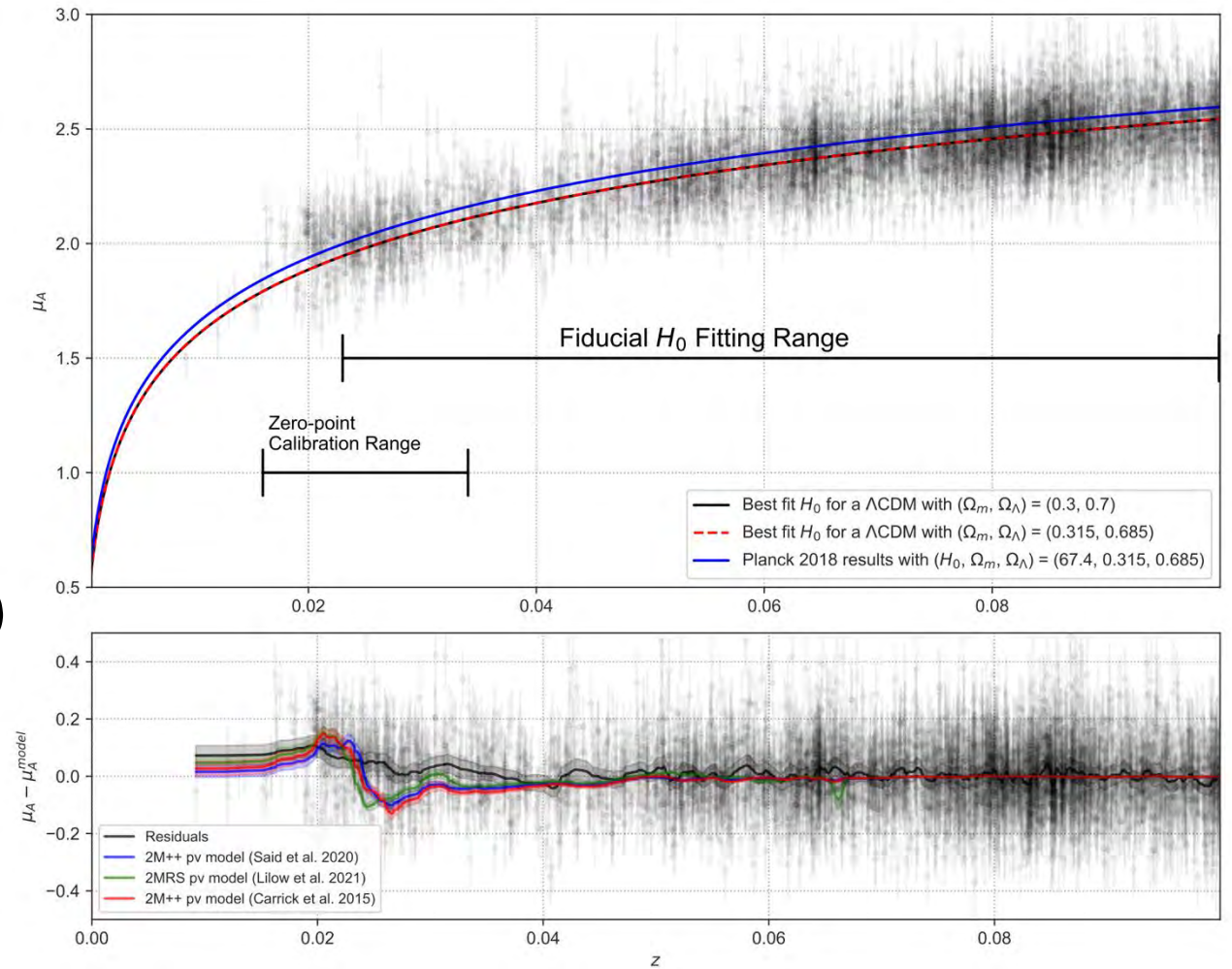
The Hubble Tension

- Redundancy for every part of the ladder



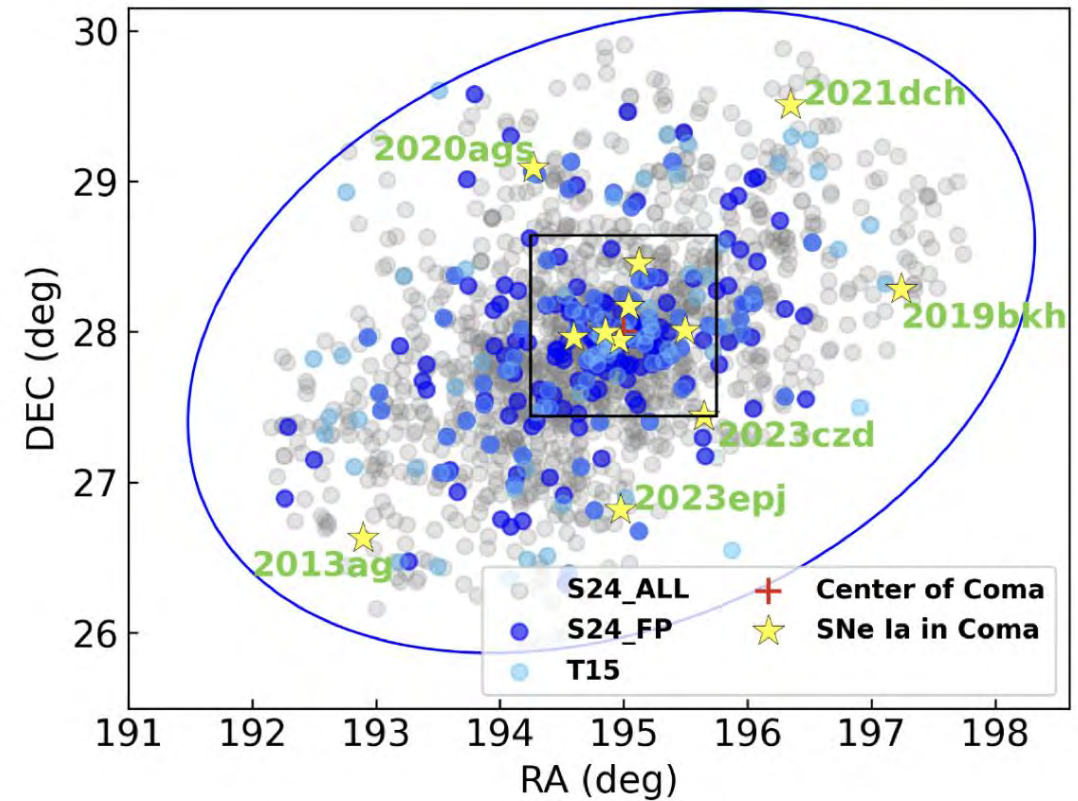
Just posted: A fresh look at the Coma distance

- DESI redshifts and distances (Fundamental-Plane) to 4,191 galaxies in Hubble Flow, plus 226 galaxies in the Coma Cluster (Said+ 2024)
- They find $H_0 = 76.05 \pm 0.35$ (st) ± 0.49 (sy FP) ± 4.86 (FP zp); $H_0 = (76.05 \pm 1.3) \times (99.1 \text{ Mpc} / D_{\text{Coma}})$



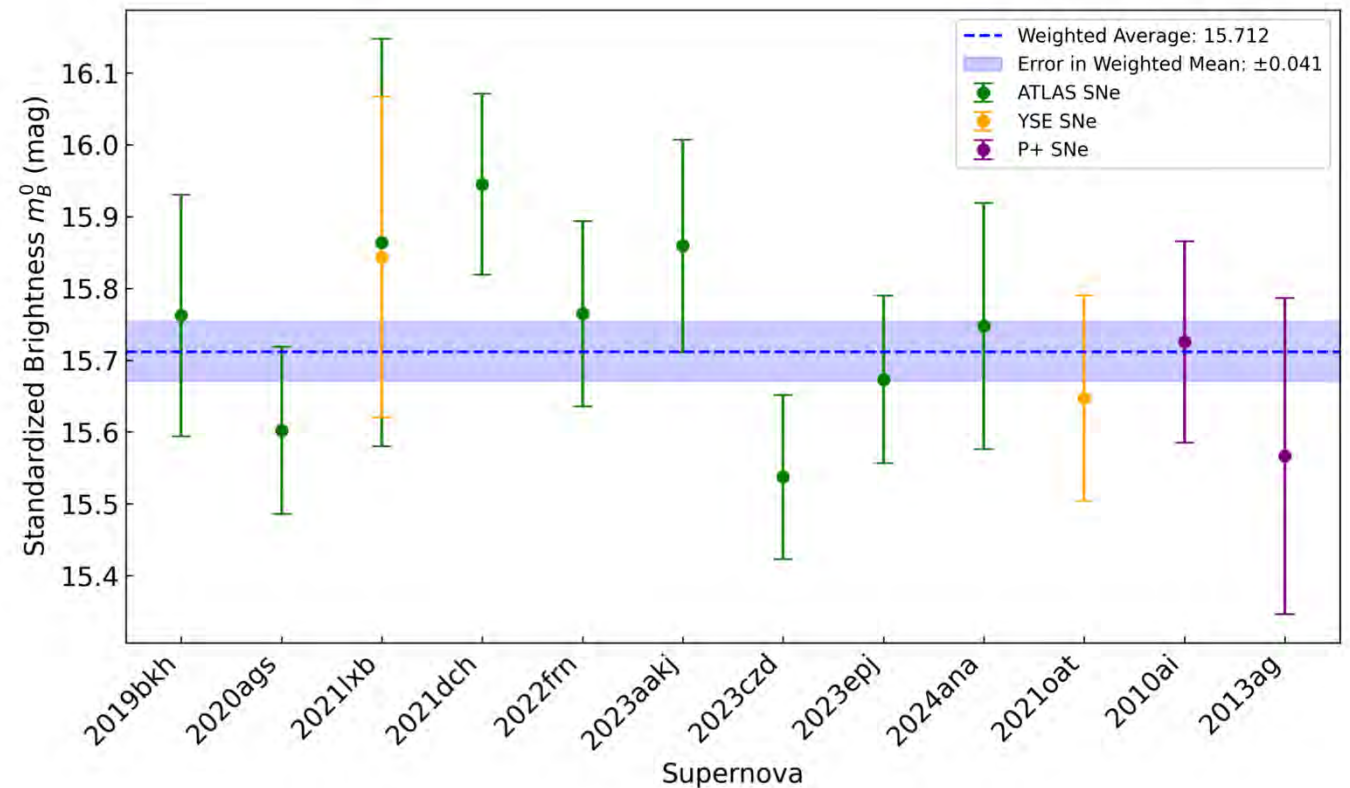
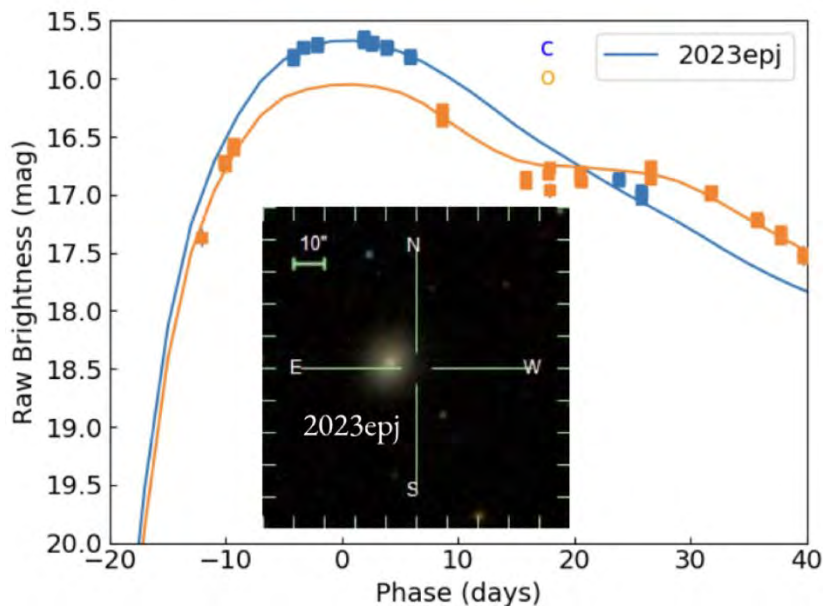
Just posted: A fresh look at the Coma distance

- Uncertainty in the DESI FP H_0 measurement dominated by absolute calibration of the SBF distance to Coma using Cepheids in Virgo & Fornax (Blakeslee+ 2021; Jensen+ 2021)
- Scolnic+ (2024): use Cepheids and SNe Ia to get the distance to Coma



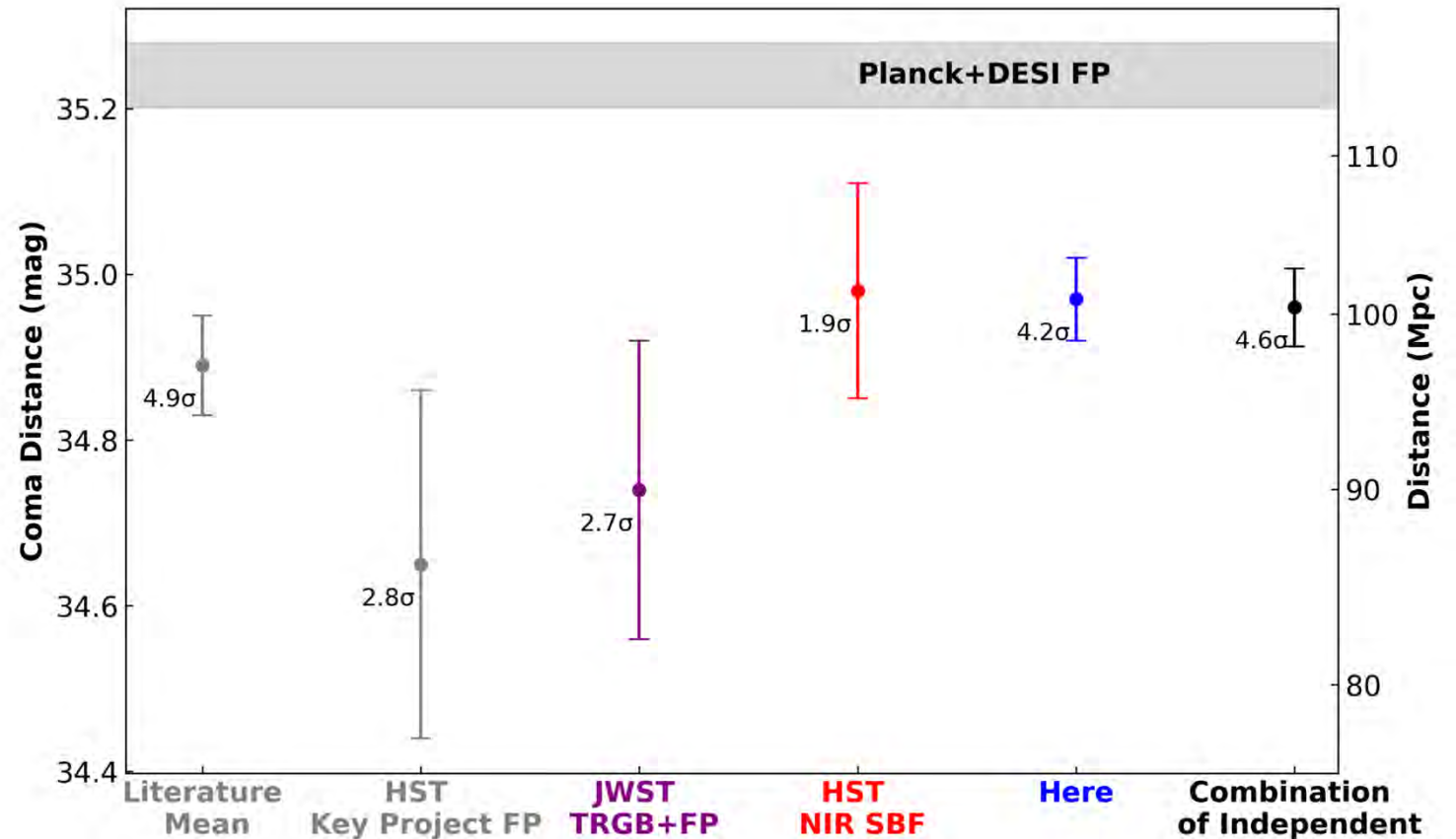
Just posted: A fresh look at the Coma distance

- 12 modern SNeIa identified in Coma, $\sigma=0.12$ mag; in line with Pantheon+ observed scatter in Hubble Flow



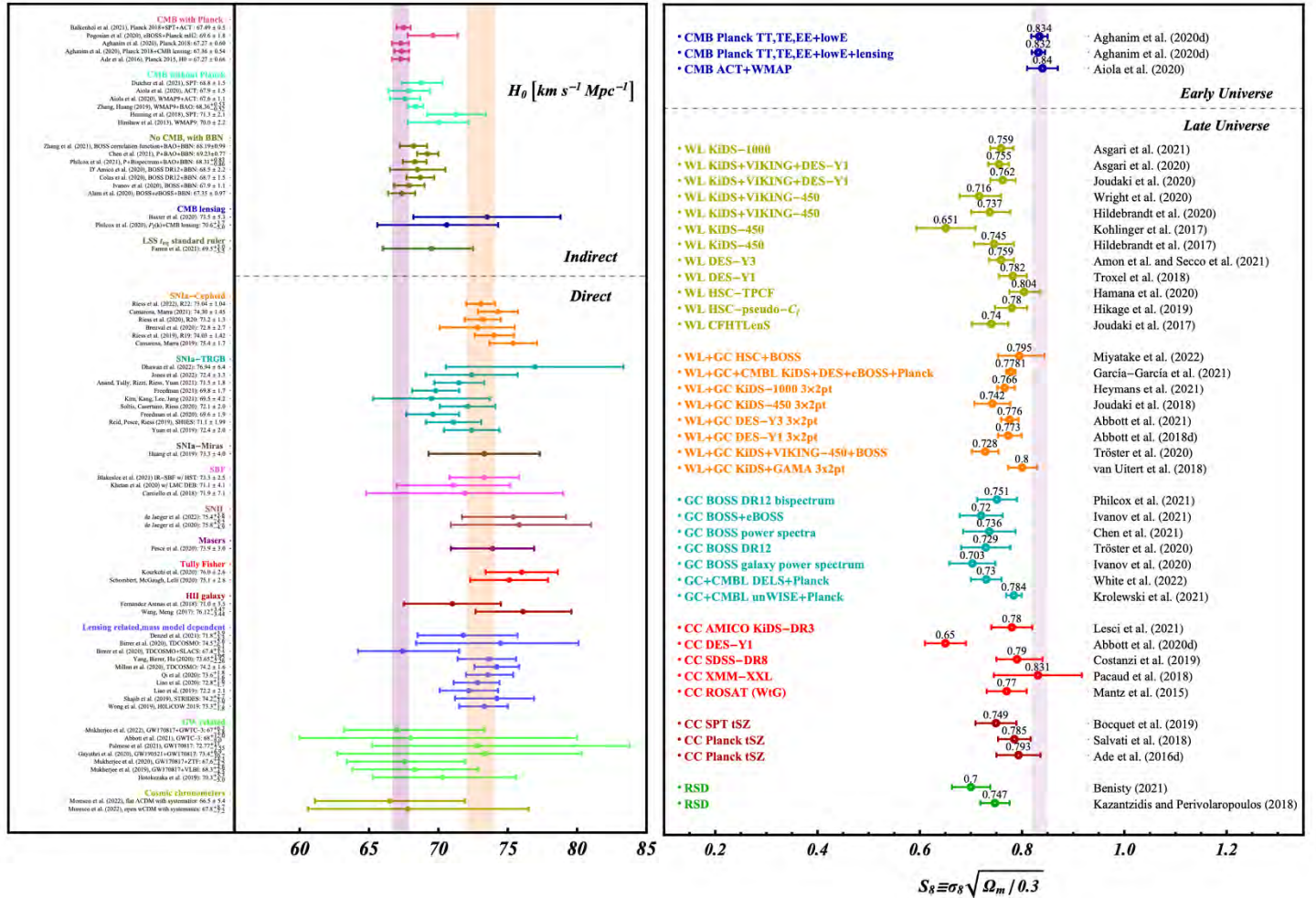
Just posted: A fresh look at the Coma distance

- Yields $D(\text{Coma}) = 98.5 \pm 2.2$ Mpc and DESI FP $H_0 = 76.5 \pm 2.2$ km/s/Mpc
- *Planck* calibration of DESI FP yields a Coma distance that is $\sim 13\%$ too large
- Another manifestation of the Hubble Tension



The Hubble Tension

- A tale of two tensions?
- Why are there no local H_0 values below the *Planck* value?
- Di Valentino+ (2022):
“does not appear to depend on the use of any one method, team or source”



New Physics in the Dark Sector?

Reviews: Schöneberg+ (2022); Di Valentino+ (2021)

“H₀ Olympics”

Model	ΔN_{param}	$\Delta\chi^2$	ΔAIC		One test passed
ΛCDM	0	0.00	0.00	X	X
ΔN_{ur}	1	-6.10	-4.10	X	X
SIDR	1	-9.57	-7.57	✓	✓
mixed DR	2	-8.83	-4.83	X	X
DR-DM	2	-8.92	-4.92	X	X
$\text{SI}\nu+\text{DR}$	3	-4.98	1.02	X	X
Majoron	3	-15.49	-9.49	✓	✓
primordial B	1	-11.42	-9.42	✓	✓
varying m_e	1	-12.27	-10.27	✓	✓
varying $m_e+\Omega_k$	2	-17.26	-13.26	✓	✓
EDE	3	-21.98	-15.98	✓	✓
NEDE	3	-18.93	-12.93	✓	✓
EMG	3	-18.56	-12.56	✓	✓
CPL	2	-4.94	-0.94	X	X
PEDE	0	2.24	2.24	X	X
GPEDE	1	-0.45	1.55	X	X
DM $\rightarrow$ DR+WDM	2	-0.19	3.81	X	X
DM $\rightarrow$ DR	2	-0.53	3.47	X	X

- Not so good: decaying dark matter, $w < -1$, Swampland
- Better: early dark energy, sterile and/or self-interacting ν 's, evolving e^- mass, primordial B fields, early recombination
- Best: <your idea here>

New Physics in the Dark Sector?

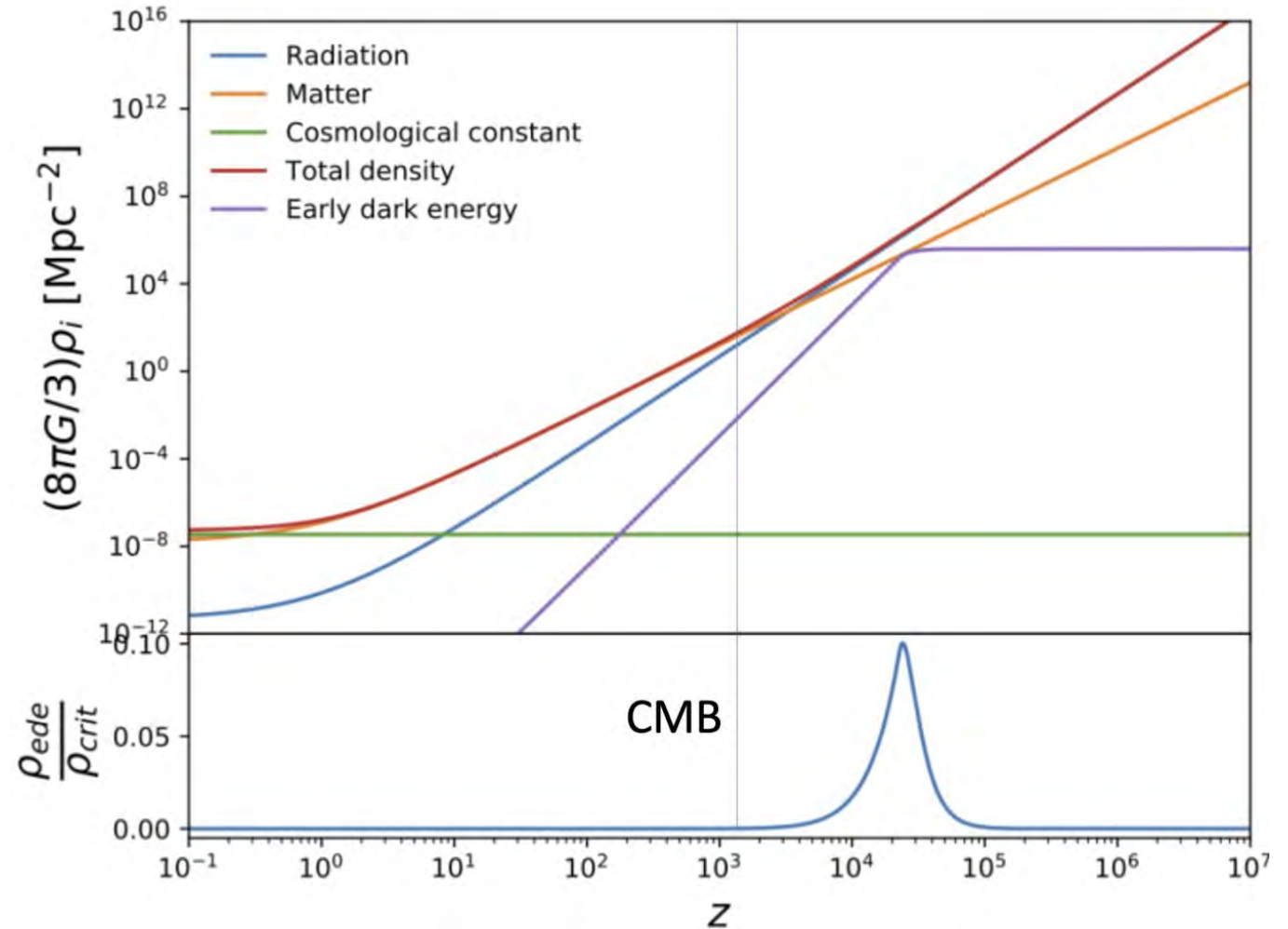
“Hubble Constant Hunter’s Guide” (Knox and Millea, 2020)

- “Most Likely”: Increased expansion rate pre-recombination reduces sound horizon by 5-8%
- Mechanisms: Early dark energy or sterile (and/or self-interacting) neutrinos
- Claims: not worse fit to CMB, should produce new CMB features for next stage



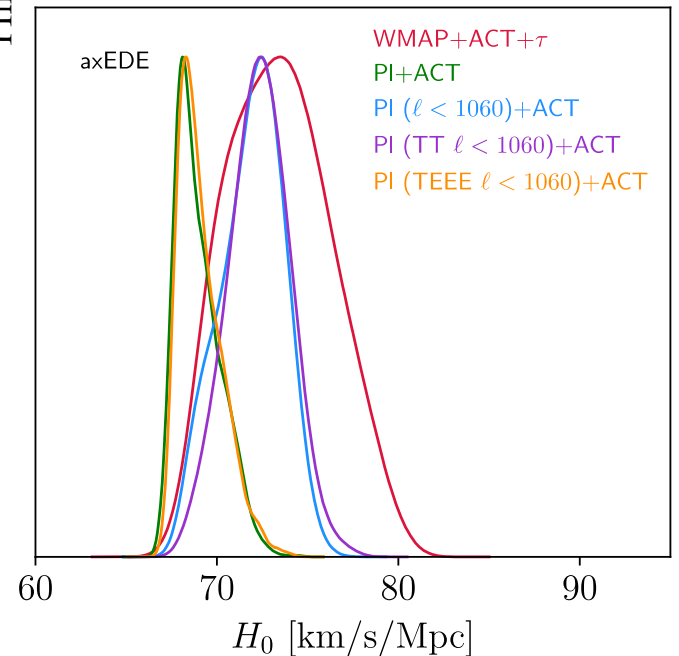
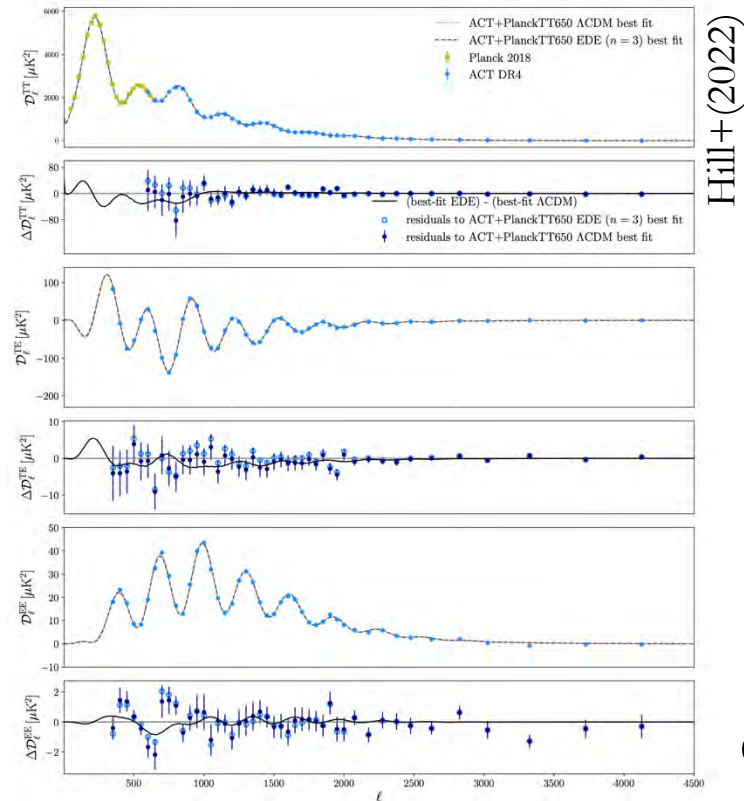
Early Dark Energy?

- Decays and contributes $\sim 10\%$ briefly before recombination
- Energy density later decays faster than radiation, leaving late evolution of Universe unchanged

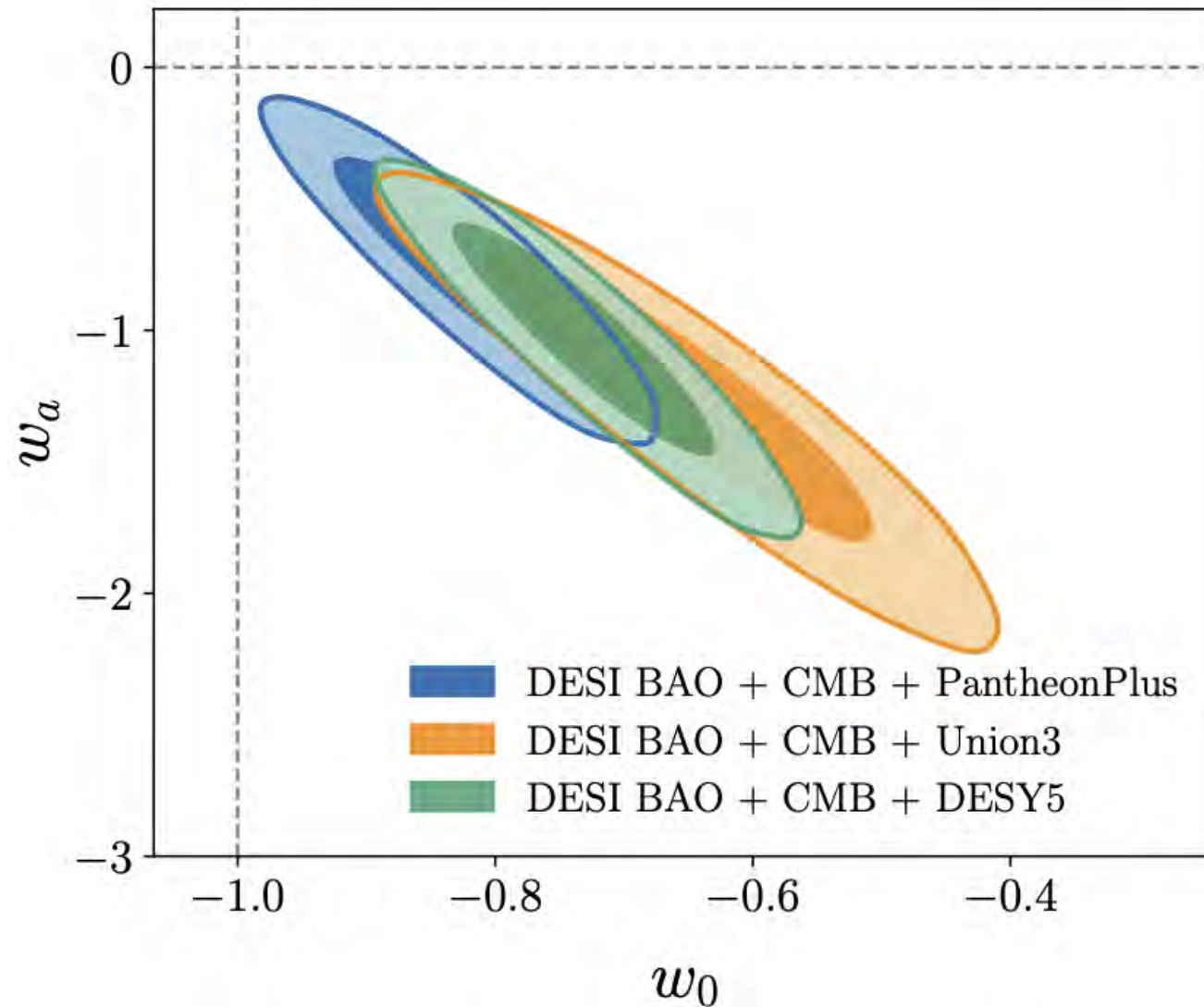


Early Dark Energy?

- Hill+ (2022): 3σ detection of EDE in ACT+Planck+BAO
- Poulin+ (2021): “More accurate TT at $\ell \gtrsim 2500$ and EE at $300 < \ell < 500$ will play a crucial role in differentiating EDE models”
- CMB S4 delayed... ☹️



Time-evolving dark energy?



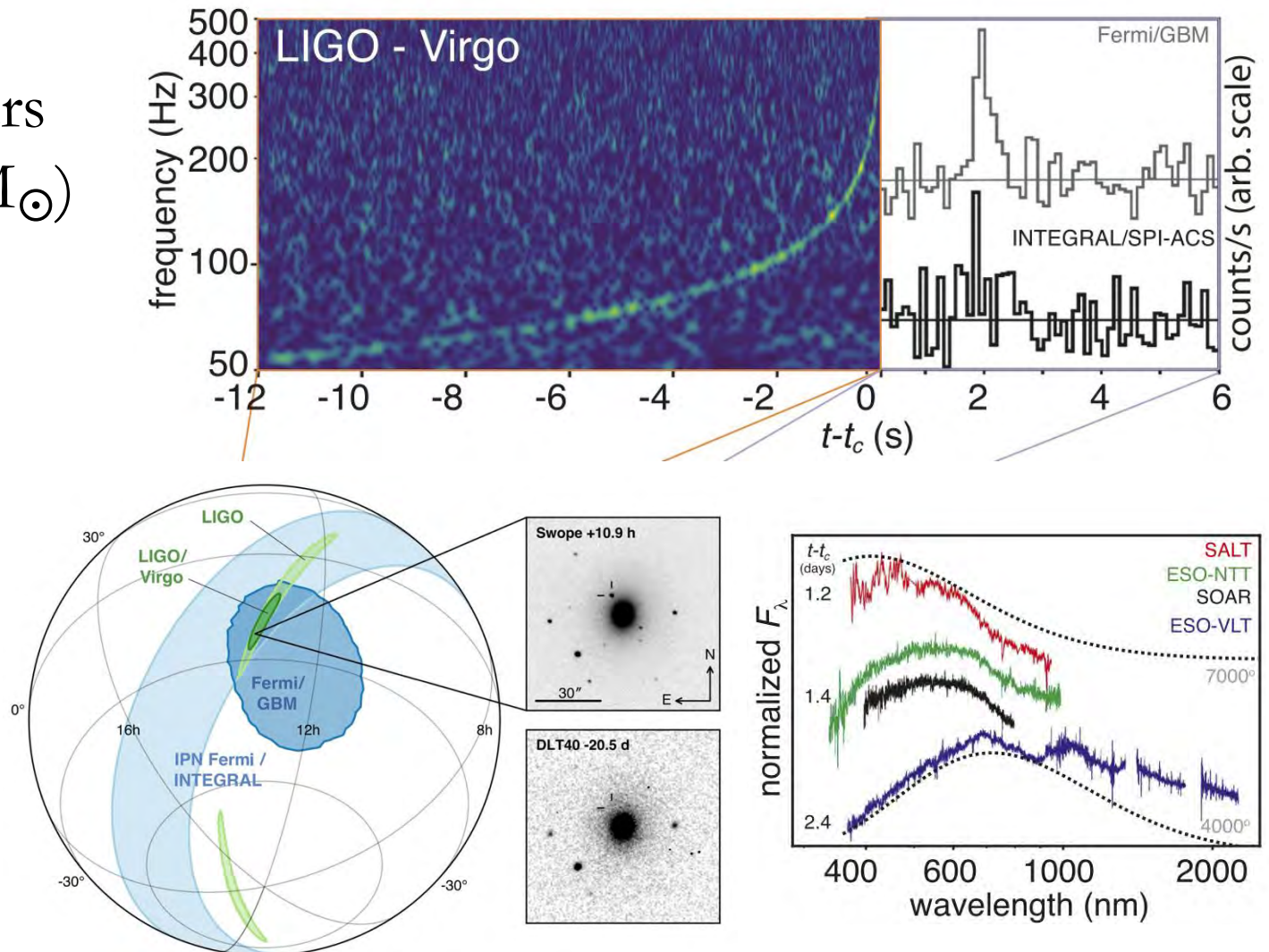
Coming soon: H_0 from gravitational waves?

- The mergers of neutron stars or stellar-mass black holes generate gravitational waves that are detectable by LIGO/Virgo/Kagra
- The amplitude of these gravitational waves can be used to infer the distance to the binary (Schutz+ 1986)
- If there's an electromagnetic counterpart, then the redshift of the host galaxy can be easily obtained
- Otherwise, rely on statistical analysis of galaxy redshifts within the GW localization area



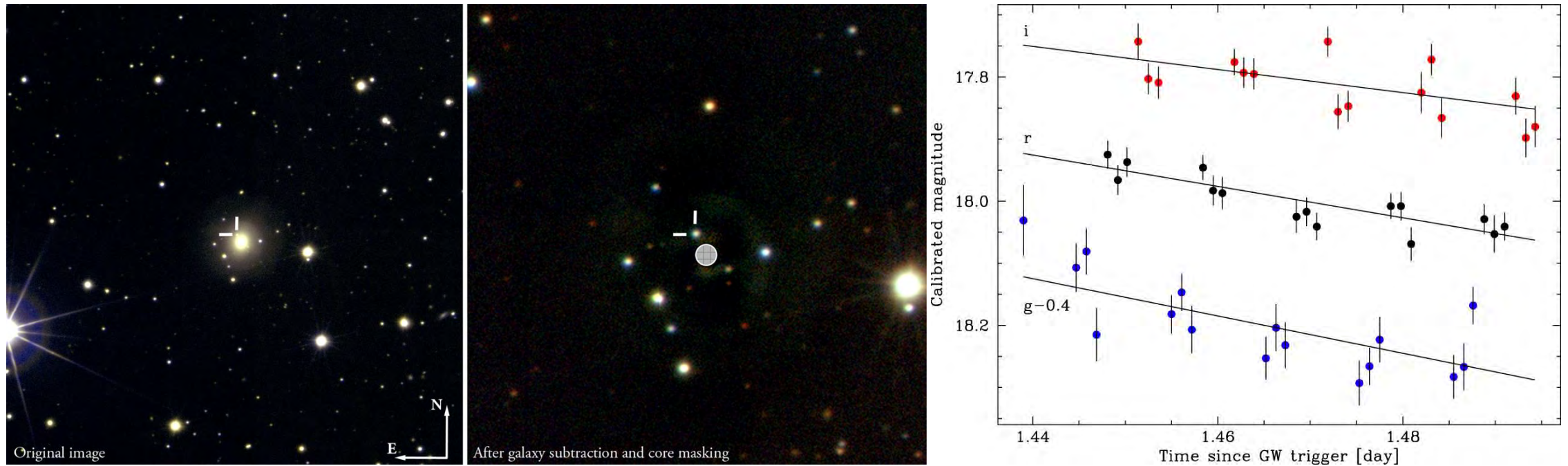
Example: GW170817

- Merger of two neutron stars ($0.86\text{-}1.36$ and $1.36\text{-}2.26\text{ M}_{\odot}$)
- Localized to 28 sq deg (90% probability)
- Coincident GRB
- EM counterpart identified within 11h: “kilonova” in NGC 4993 ($D \sim 40\text{ Mpc}$) including observations from T80-S (Diaz+ 2017)



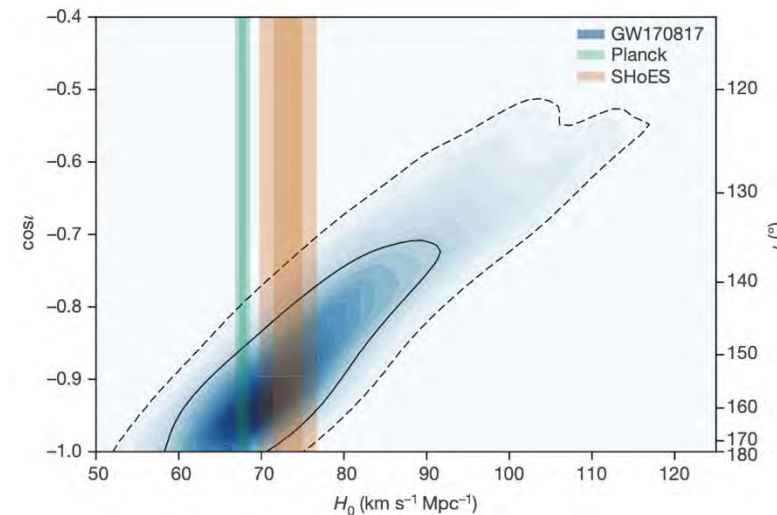
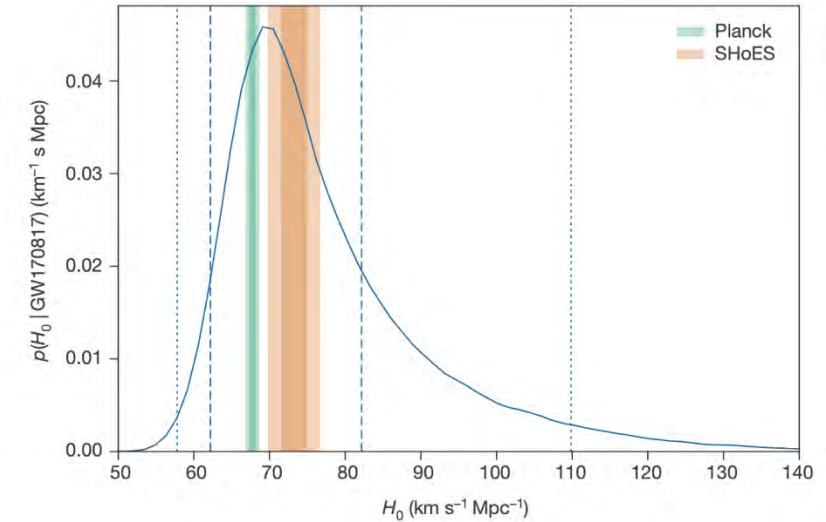
Example: GW170817

- Only one night of observations with T80-S, but still detected rapid decline of the light curves



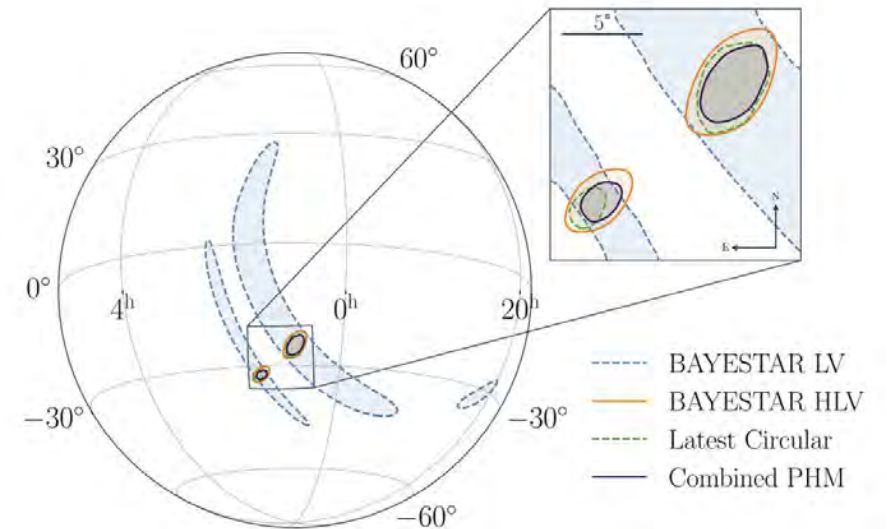
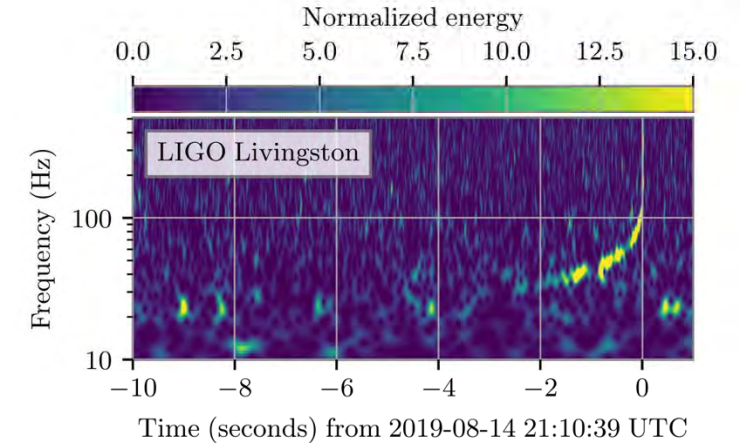
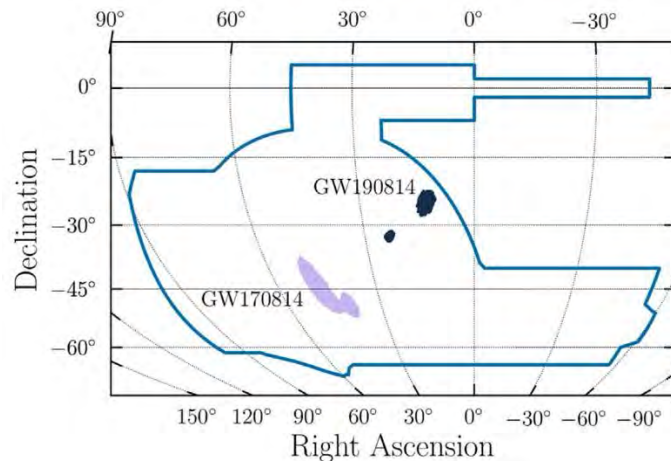
Example: GW170817

- Given the close proximity of GW170817, its redshift is significantly affected by peculiar velocities
- Furthermore, degeneracy between derived H_0 and inclination angle of binary
- Nevertheless, a promising start... need a lot more of these!



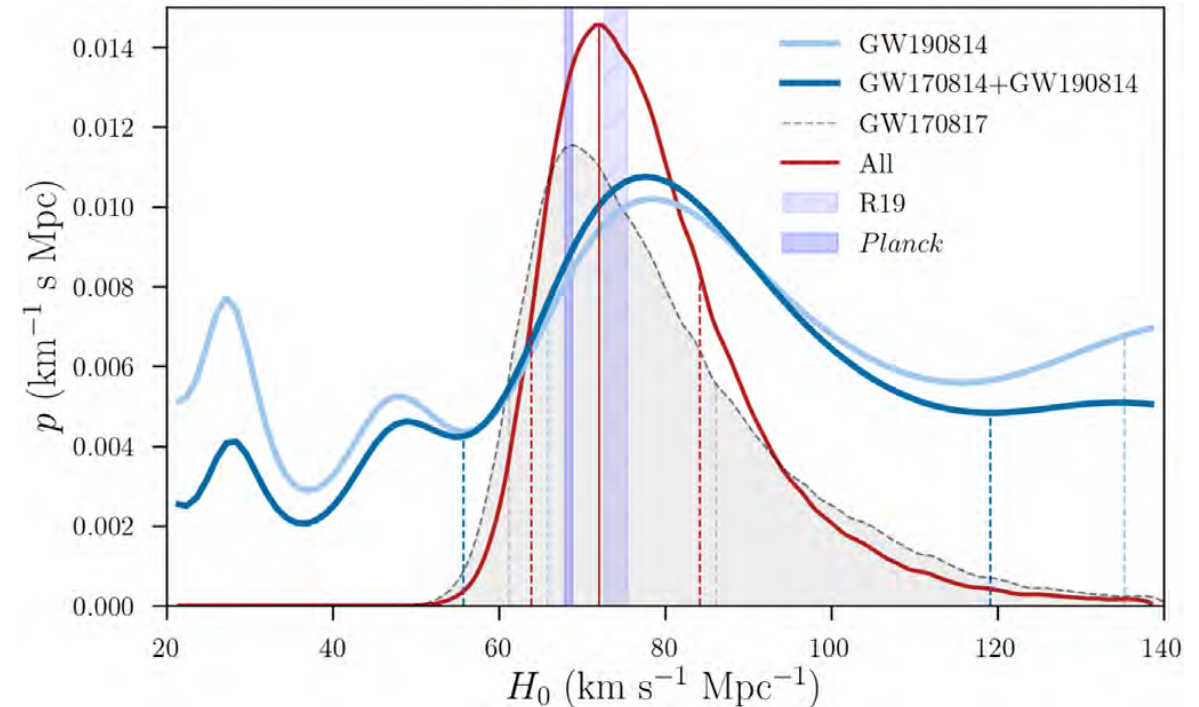
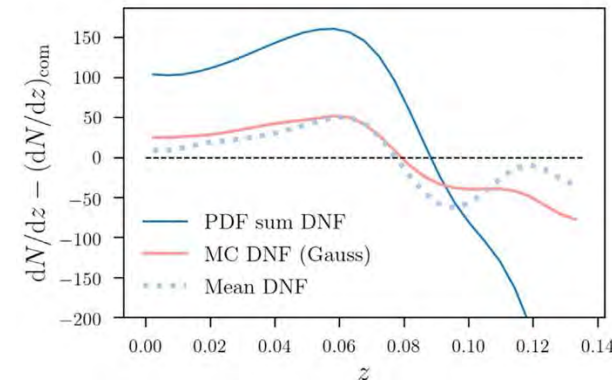
Example: GW190814

- Merger of $23\text{ M}_{\odot}$ BH + $2.6\text{ M}_{\odot}$ compact object
- Localized to 18.5 sq deg (90% probability)
- Extensive search for EM counterpart unsuccessful but it was somewhere within the DES footprint...



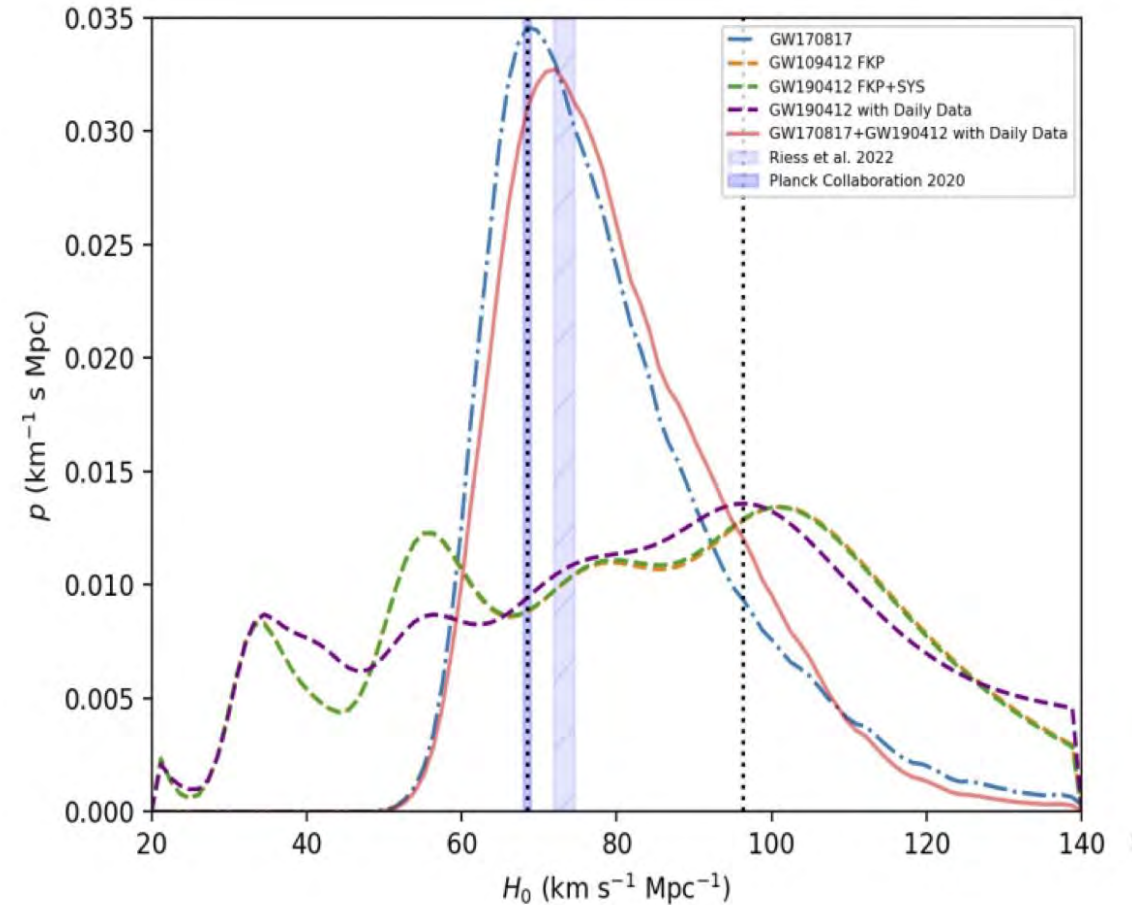
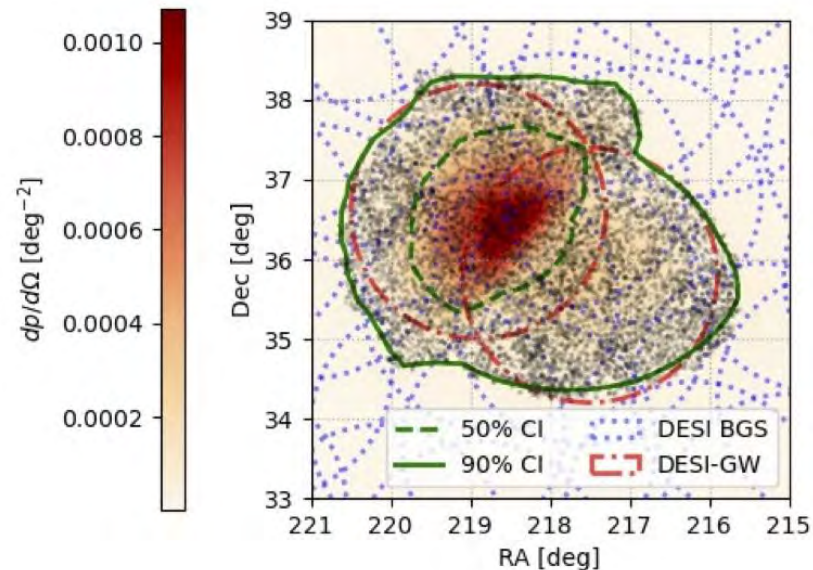
Example: GW190814

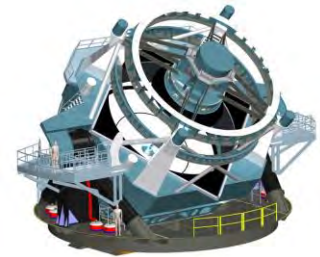
- Identify 2,684 DES galaxies within 90% localization area
- Obtain redshift distribution (mostly photo-z's)
- Combine with GW distance to obtain H_0 distribution
- Include two other “standard sirens” to obtain $H_0 = 72^{+12}_{-8}$



Example: GW190412

- DESI redshifts are now starting to be used for this application
- Recent analysis of GW190412:
 $H_0 = 85^{+29}_{-34}$; $H_0 = 78^{+18}_{-9}$ (combined)



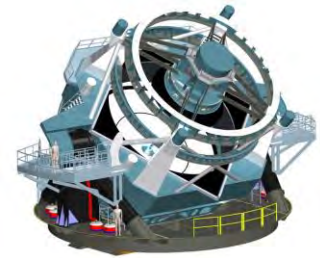


The future: Rubin/LSST and *Roman*



- The Vera C. Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time will survey $\sim 18,000$ sq deg in 6 filters ($ugrizY$) every night for 10 years
- 8.4-m telescope and 2.3 Gpix camera; survey starts $\sim$ Sep-Dec 2025
- Single-visit 5σ depth $g \sim 24.5$, $r \sim 24.0$, $i \sim 23.4$; coadded $g, r \sim 26.9$, $i \sim 26.4$
- Rubin/LSST will detect $>10^5$ Miras in ~ 200 galaxies with $D < 15$ Mpc and $\sim 10^6$ SNeIa with $0.05 < z < 1.1$





The future: Rubin/LSST and *Roman*



- The *Nancy Grace Roman* Space Telescope:
- 2.4-m aperture with 300 Mpix near-infrared camera (100× larger field of view than WFC3 on *Hubble*)
- 5-year nominal mission (+5 year extended?) beginning in 2027
- 1-hr point source 5σ depth $YJH \sim 27.5$; $K_s \sim 25.6$
- *Roman* will detect $\sim 15,000$ SNe Ia with $0.3 < z < 3.0$
- It could be used to efficiently follow up Rubin/LSST Miras



Summary

- Robust determinations of the local value of the Hubble constant provide a critical “end-to-end” test of the cosmological model when compared against predictions based on observations of early Universe
- CMB+BAO predict $H_0=67.4\pm0.5$ under the assumption of Λ CDM
- *HST* Cepheids+SNe Ia measure $H_0=73.17\pm0.86$; solid *JWST* check
- What is the source of this “Hubble Tension”? Early Dark Energy? Time-varying dark energy? Something else?
- Exciting prospects from DESI, *JWST*, GWs, Rubin/LSST, *Roman*!

