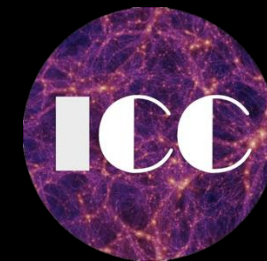
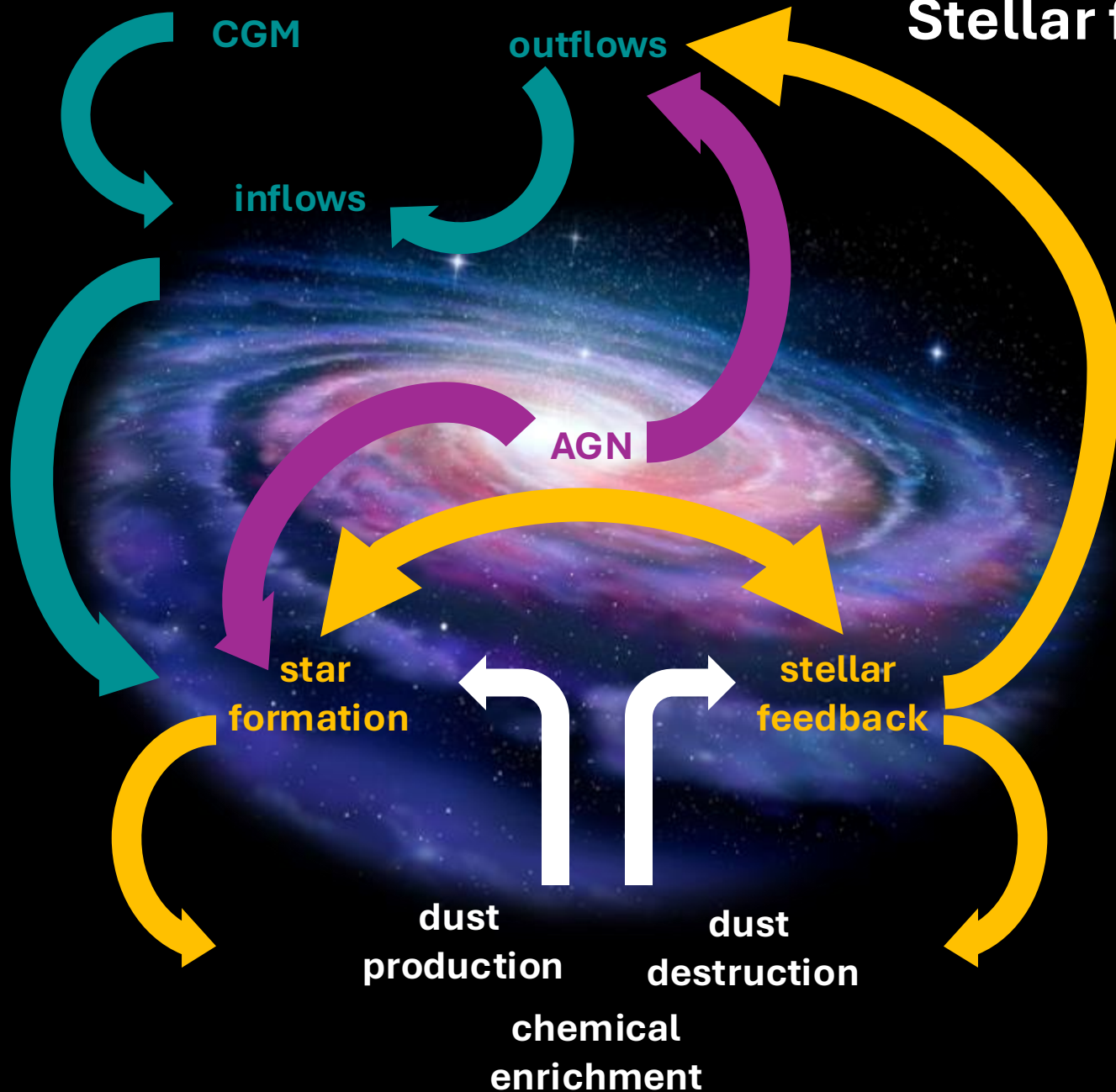


Stellar feedback, population synthesis, and the IMF, across redshifts

Anna McLeod

Assoc. Prof. @ Durham Uni (UK)
ISM summer school, July 2025





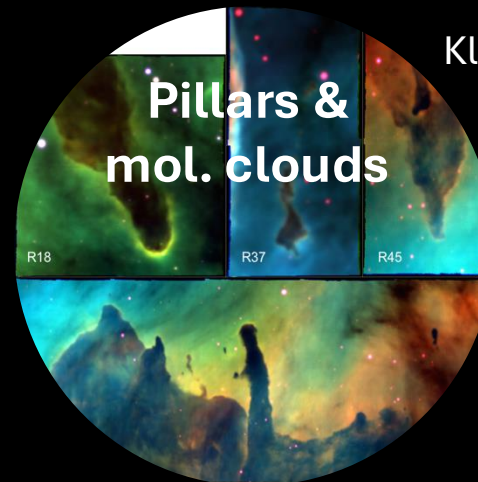
**Stellar
sources**

Zeidler, Sabbi, Gull, Kuiper
ULYSSES-XSHOOTU team
(Geen, Vink, de Koter, Oey, et
al.)



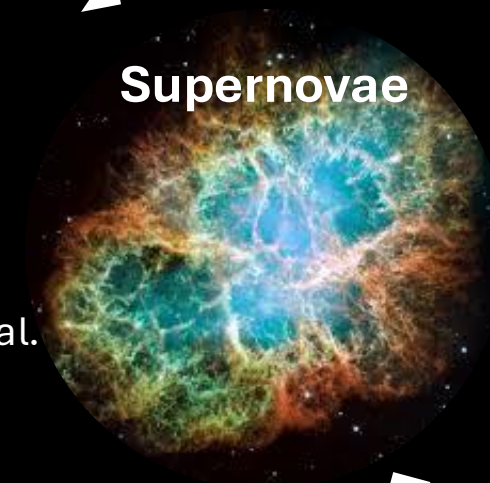
**Proplyds,
globules,
disks**

Reiter, Manara, Haworth, et al.
IrradiatedPPDs team



**Pillars &
mol. clouds**

Klaassen, Reiter, et al.



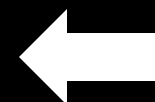
Supernovae

Long, Blair, et al.



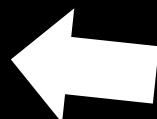
**HII regions &
their stellar
populations**

Ali, Adamo, Teh,
Krumholz,
McKee, et al.
Barnes &
PHANGS team



**Nearby
galaxies**

SIGNALS team,
DWALIN team,
Weisz, Chevance,
Kruijssen, Longmore



**Connection
to
simulations**

EAGLE team, but also
Ali et al., Yuankang Liu (PhD)

**Feedback from
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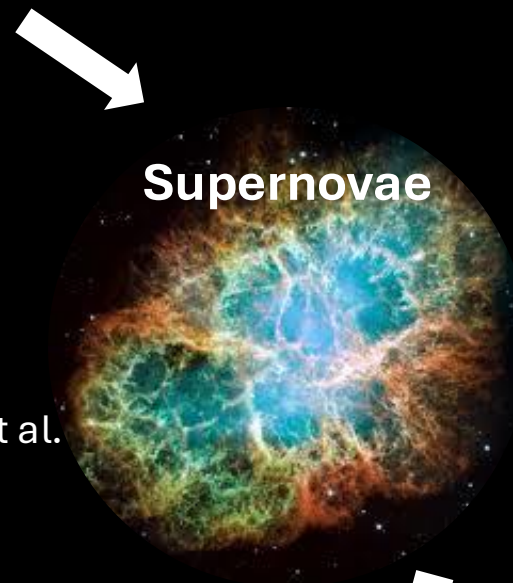


Proplyds, globules, disks



Pillars & mol. clouds

Klaassen, Reiter, et al.



Supernovae

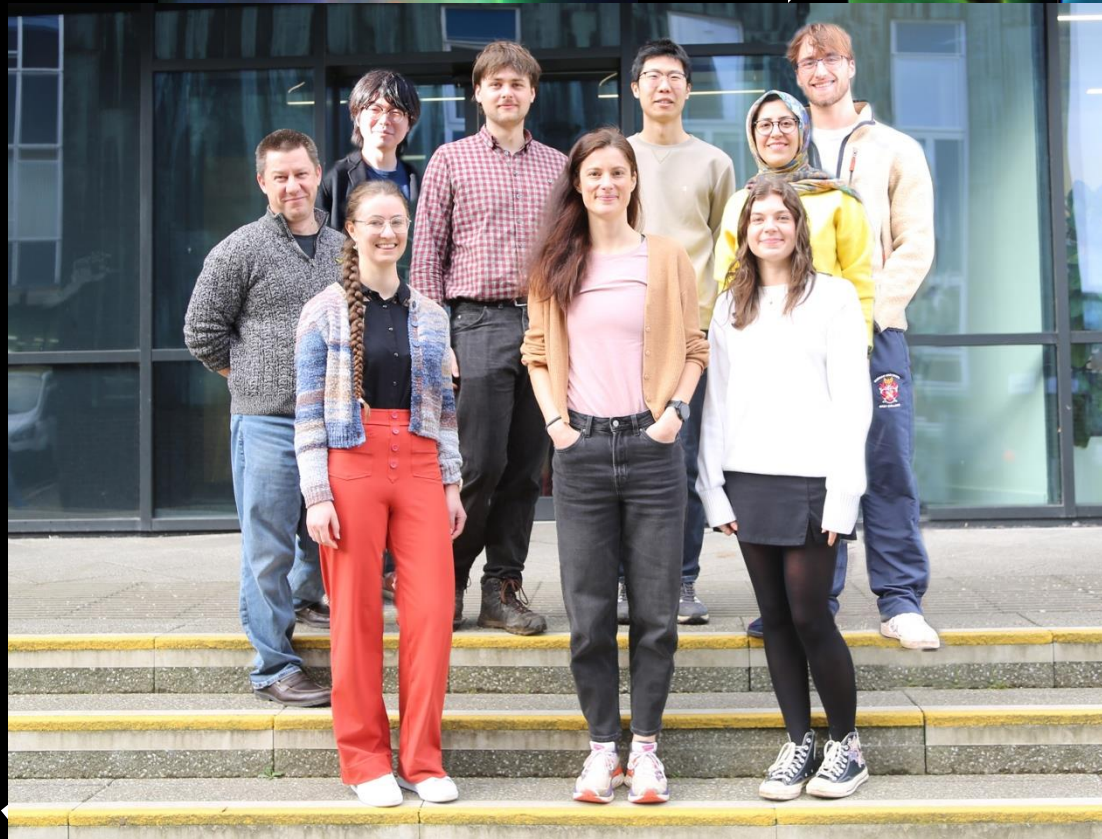
Long, Blair, et al.



HII regions & their stellar populations

Adamo, Teh, Umholz, McKee, et al.

Barnes & **PHANGS** team



galaxies

SIGNALS team,
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Weisz, Chevance,
Kruijssen, Longmore



Today's program

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1. Stellar feedback: a bit of background

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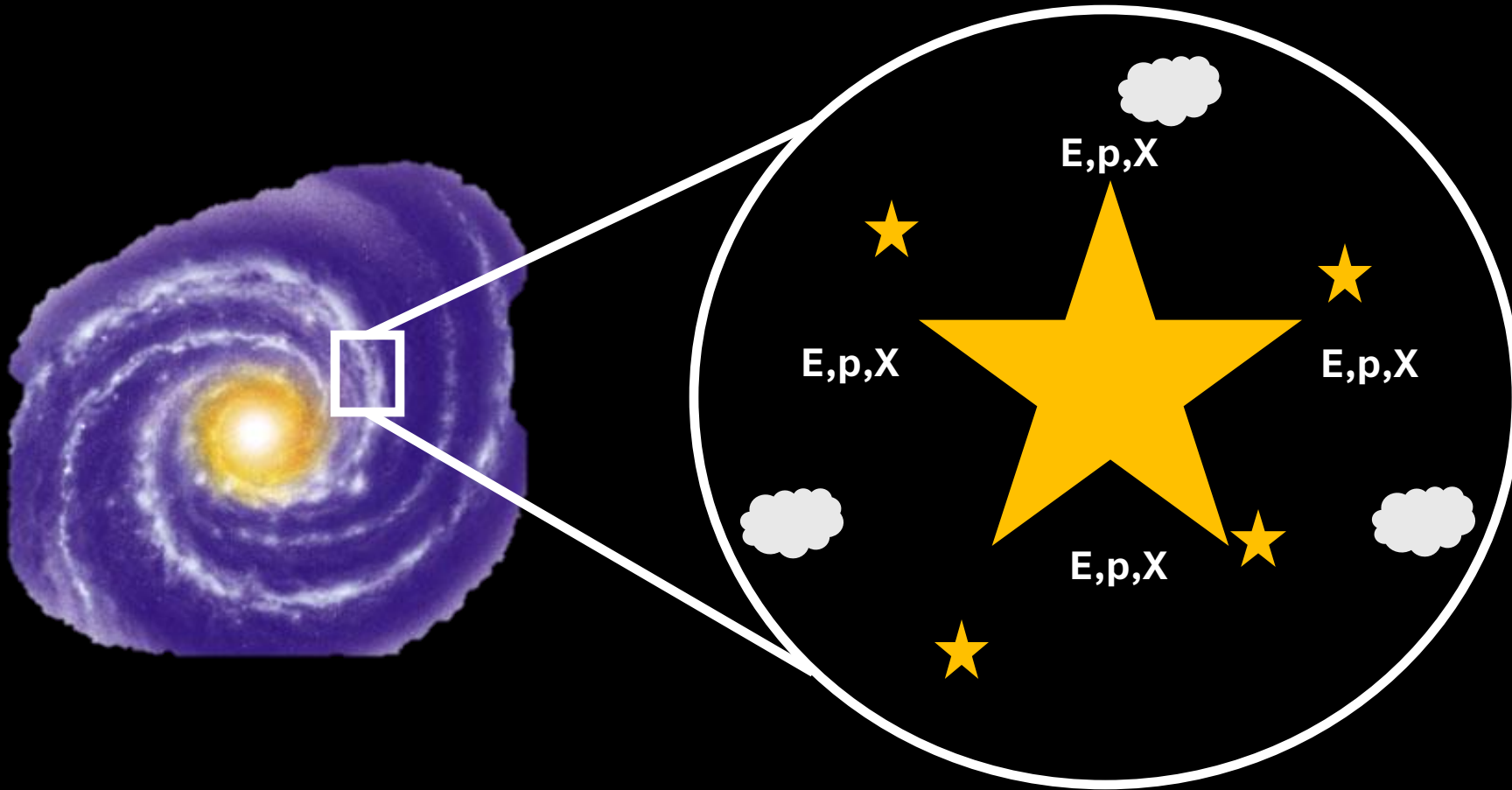
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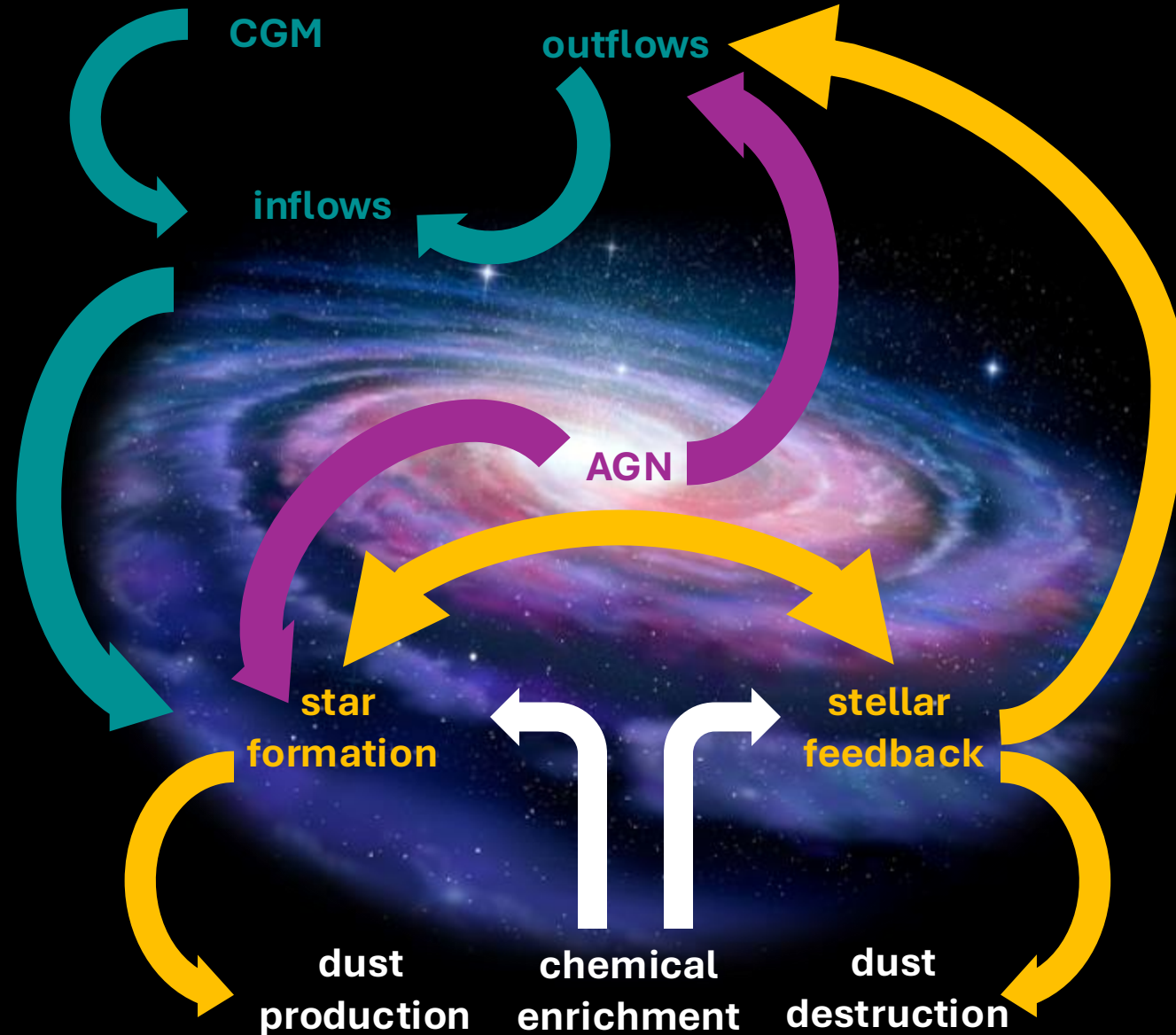
Today's program

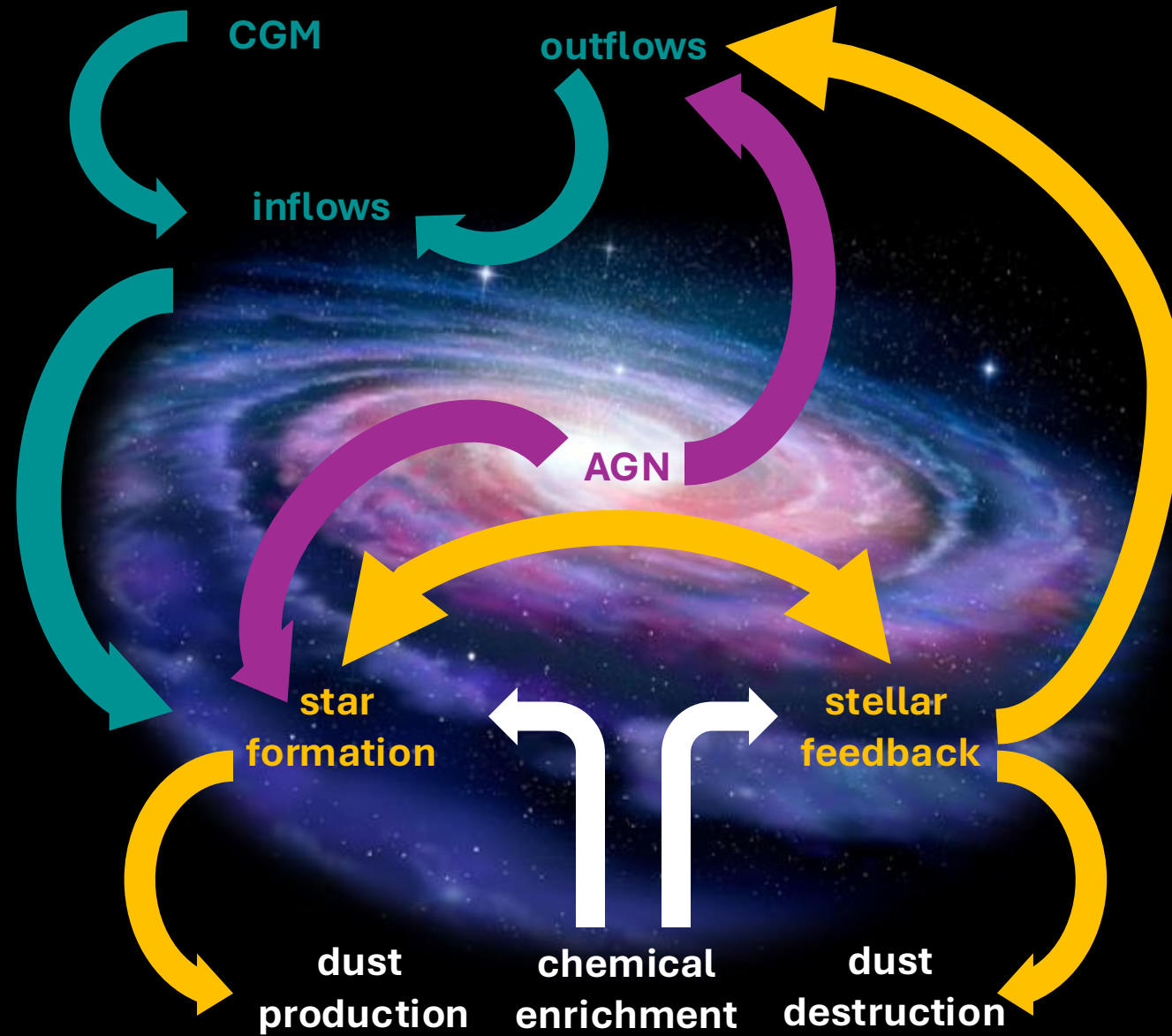
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Feedback = deposition of **energy (E)**, **momentum (p)**, and **metals (X)** into the surrounding medium by **massive ($M > 8 M_{\odot}$) stars**

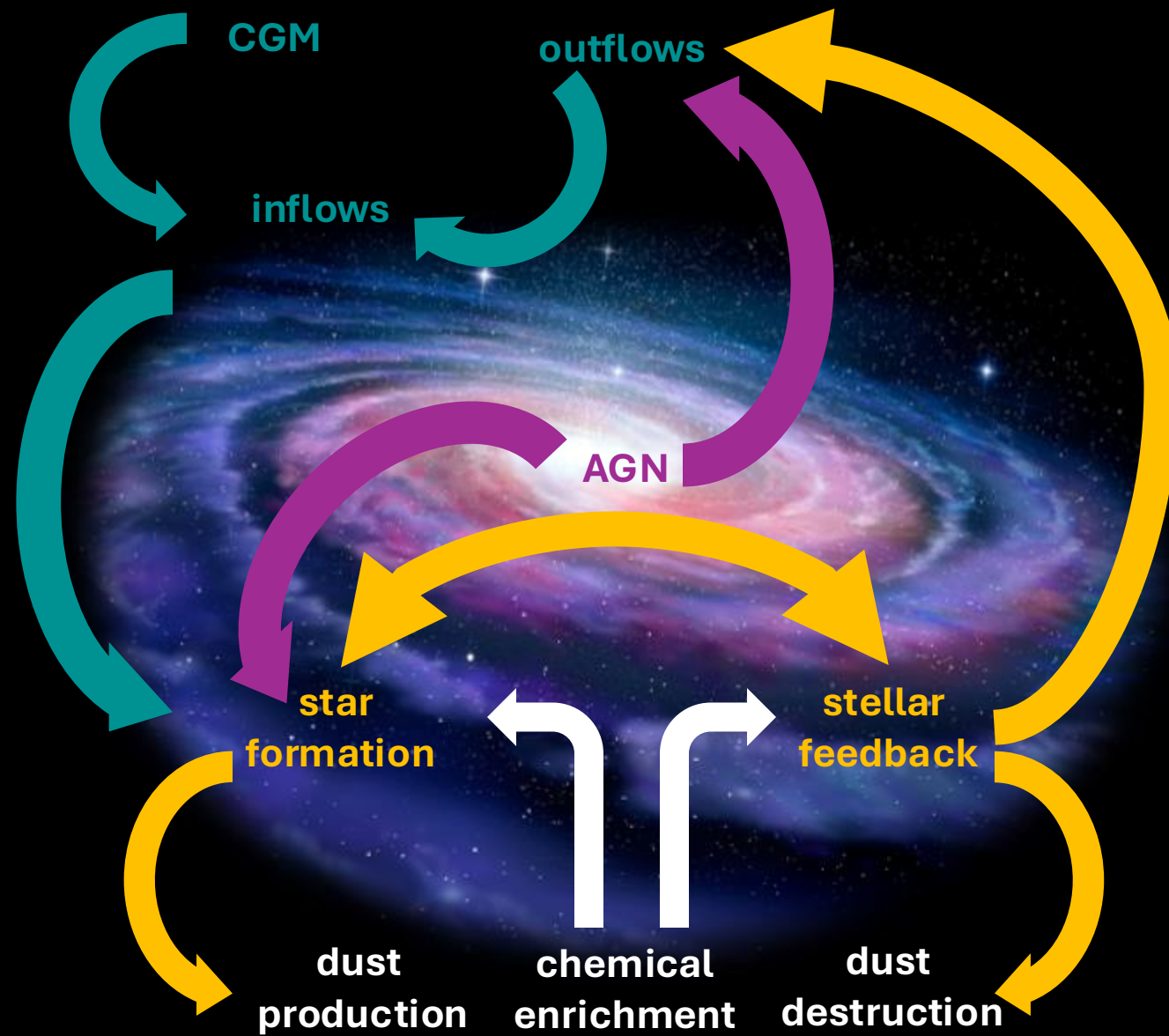


Stellar feedback is a **multi-scale, multi-temporal, multi-phase, and multi-wavelength** phenomenon



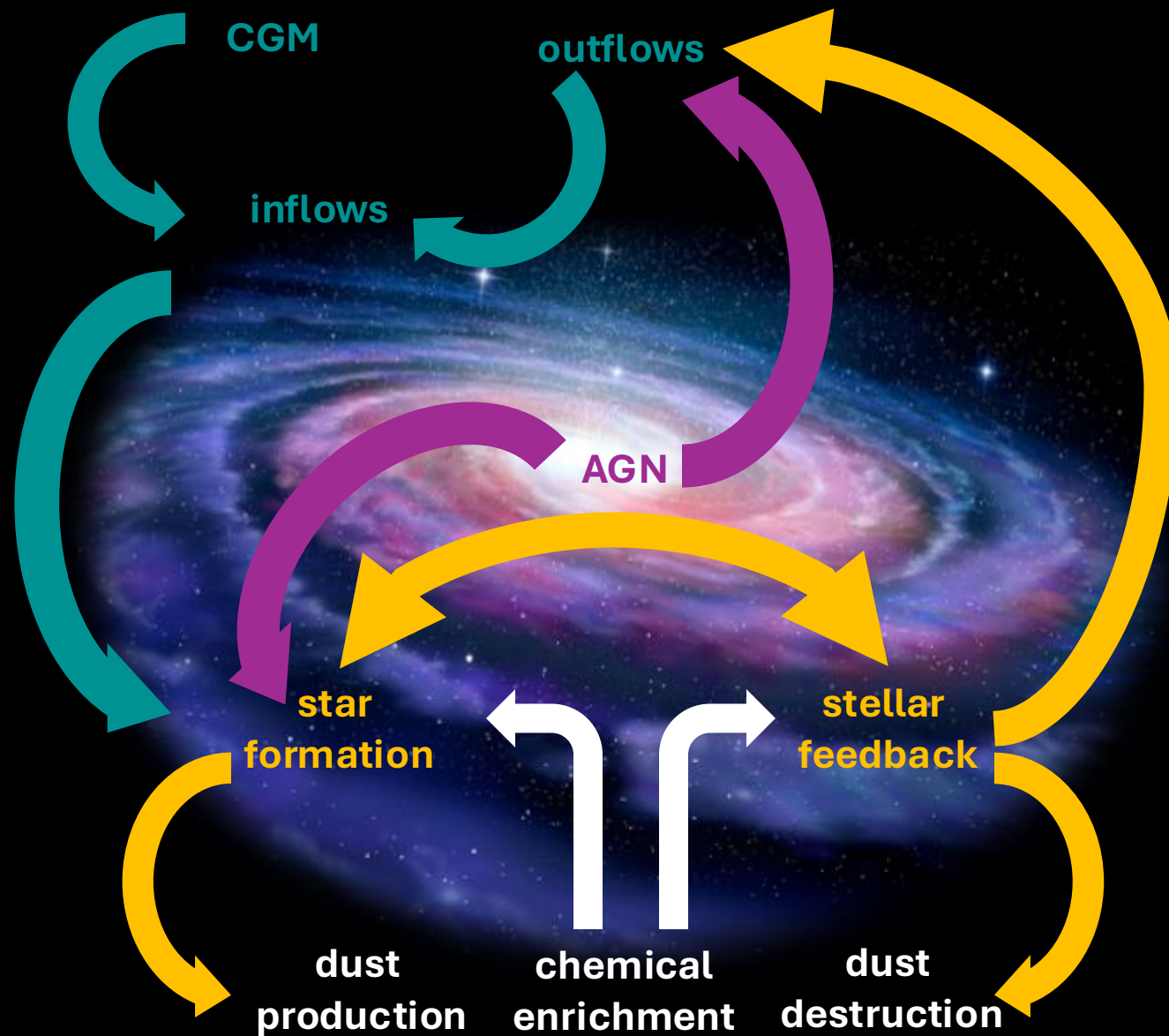


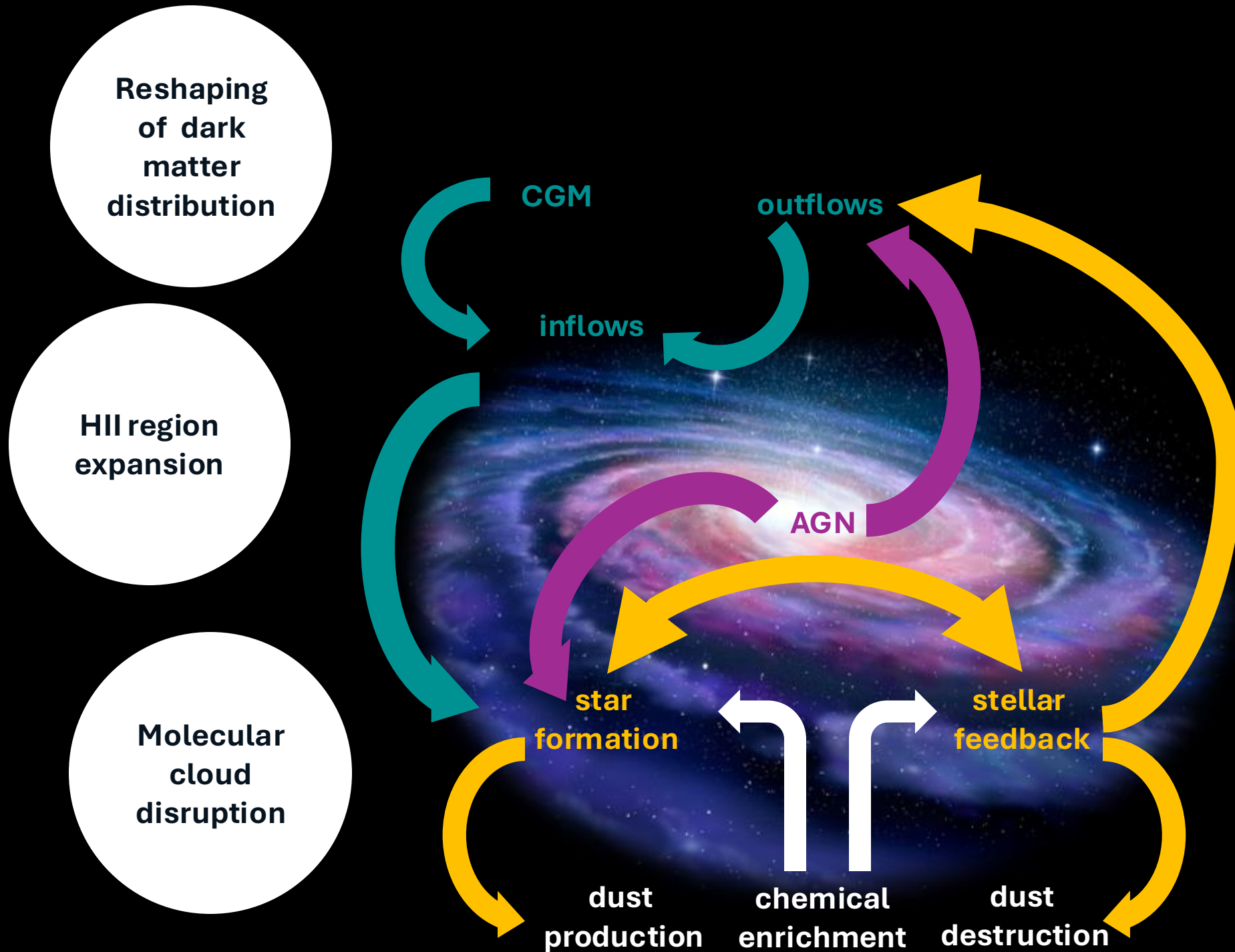
Reshaping
of dark
matter
distribution

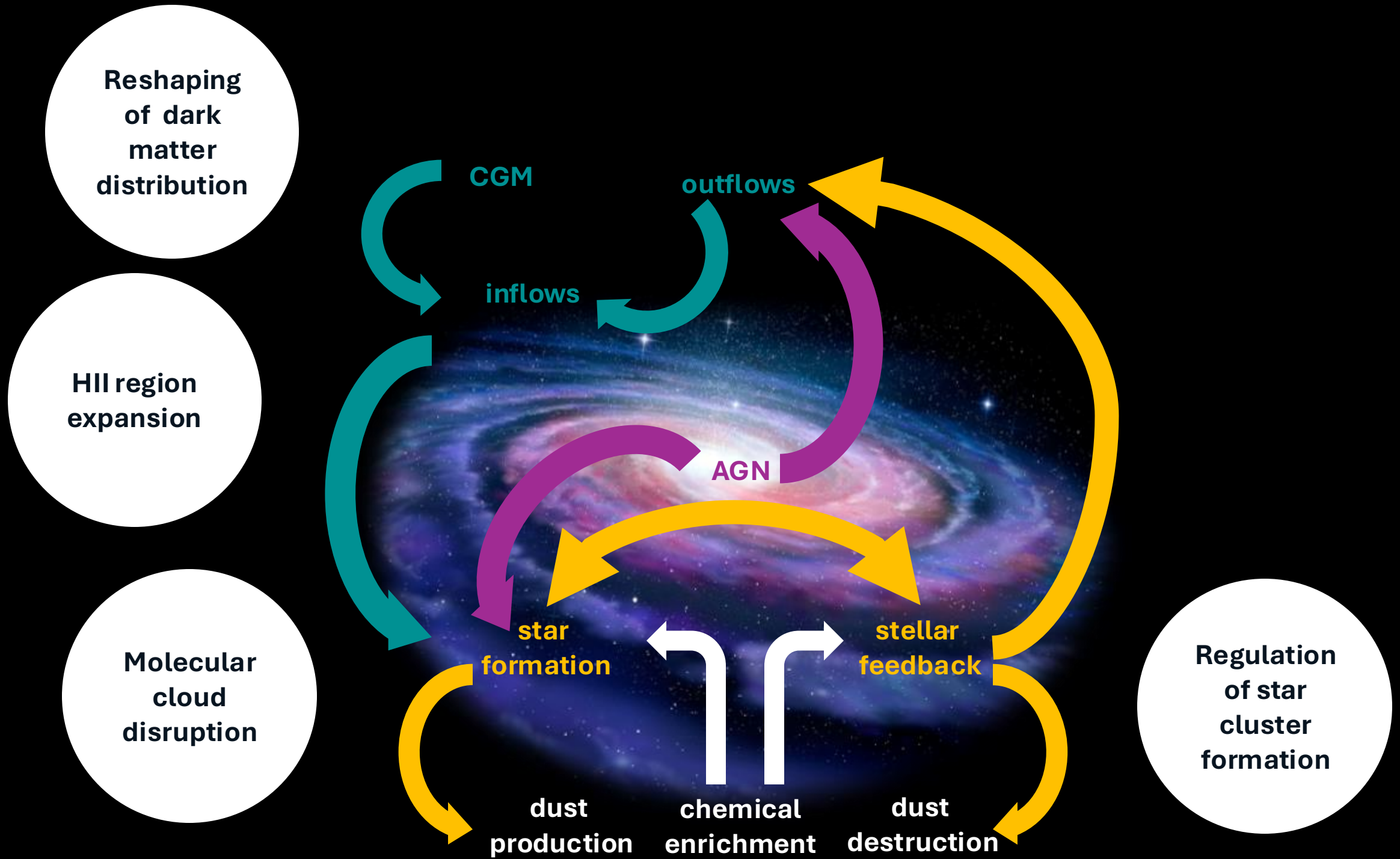


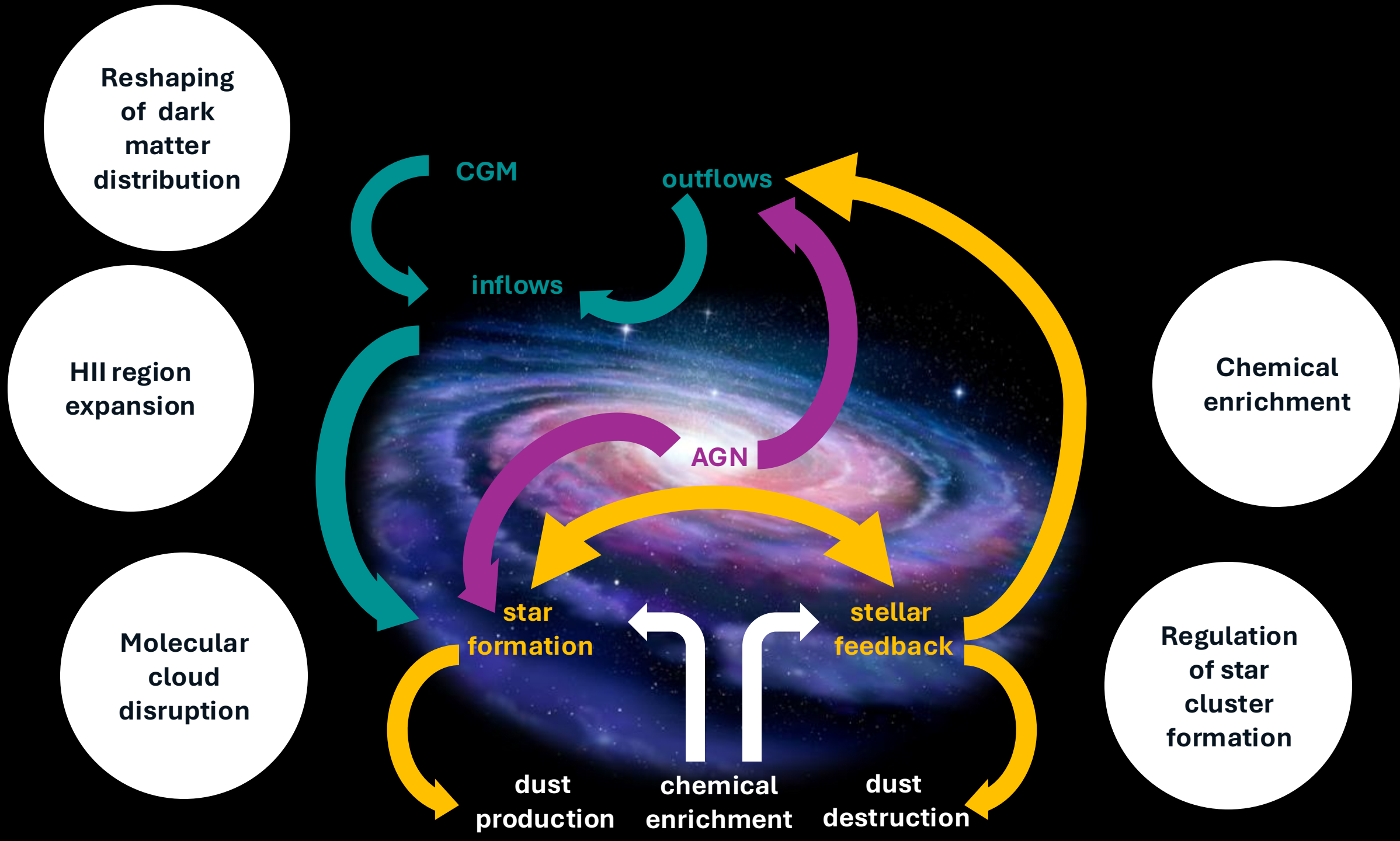
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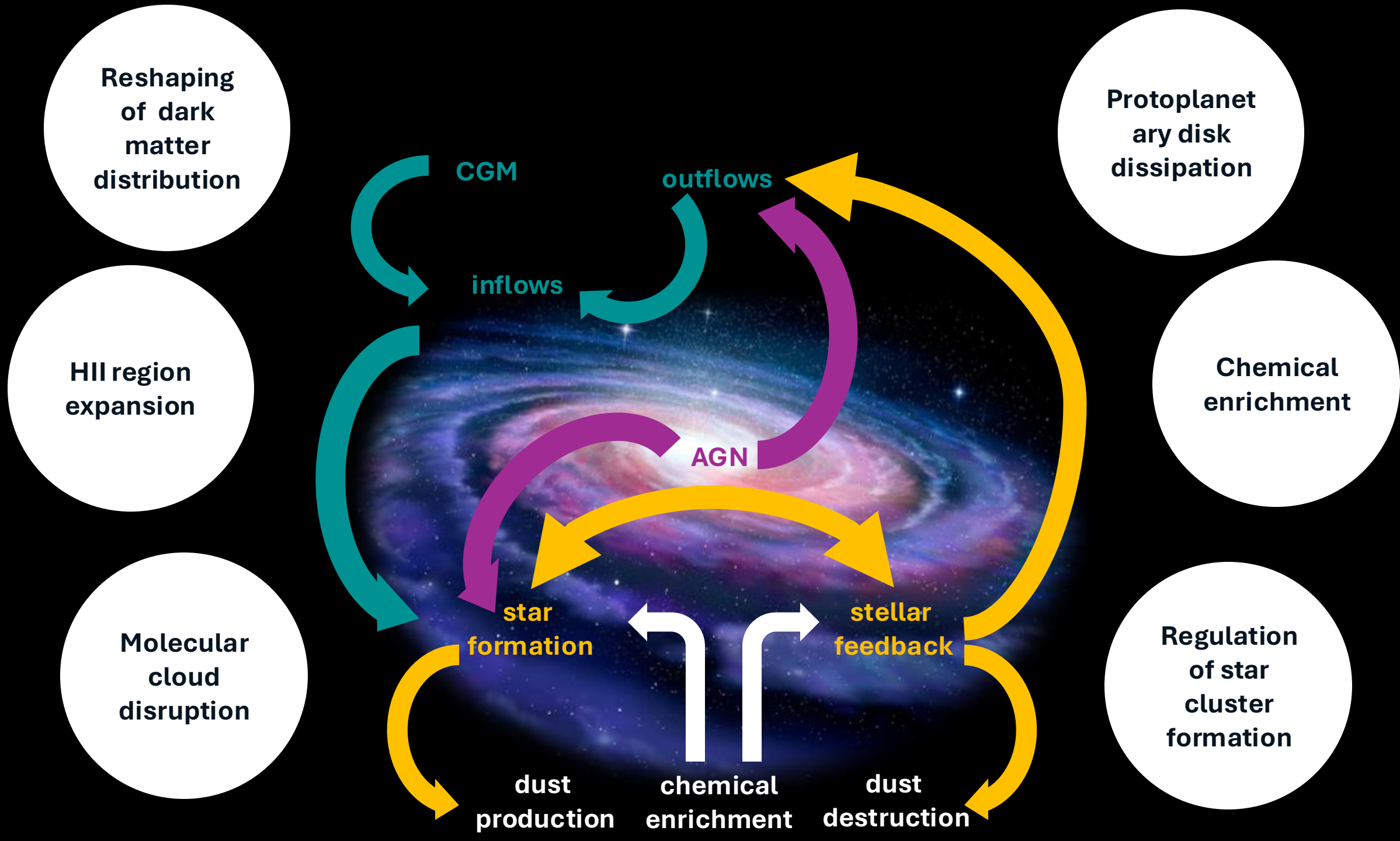
HII region
expansion



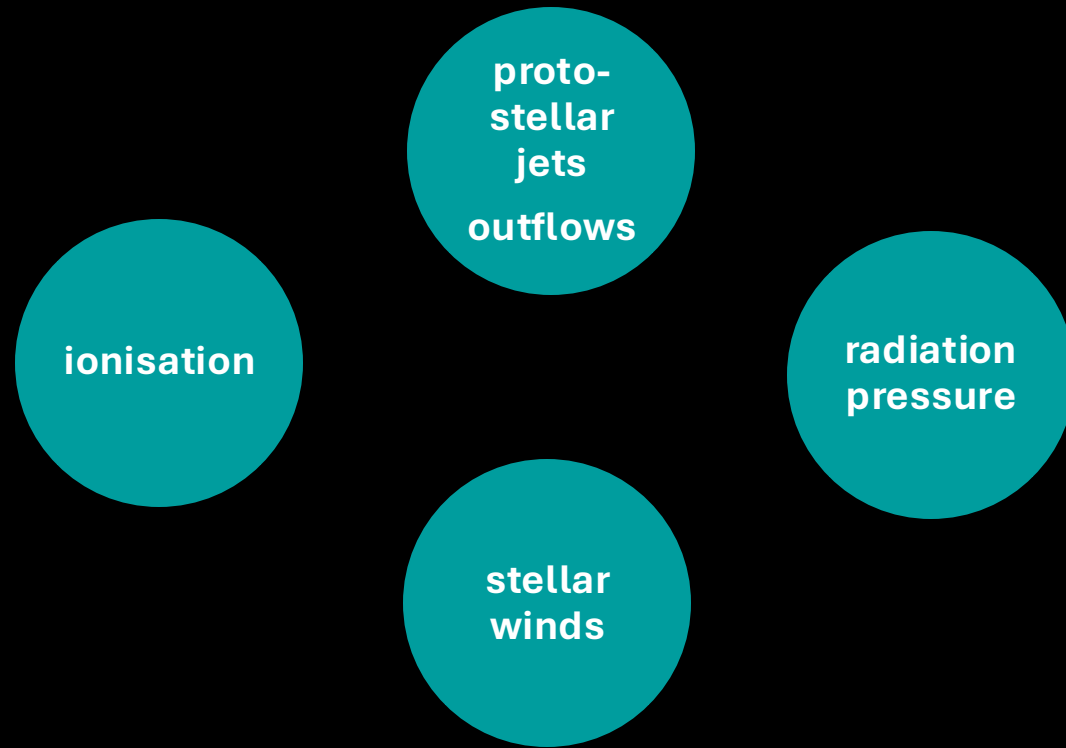




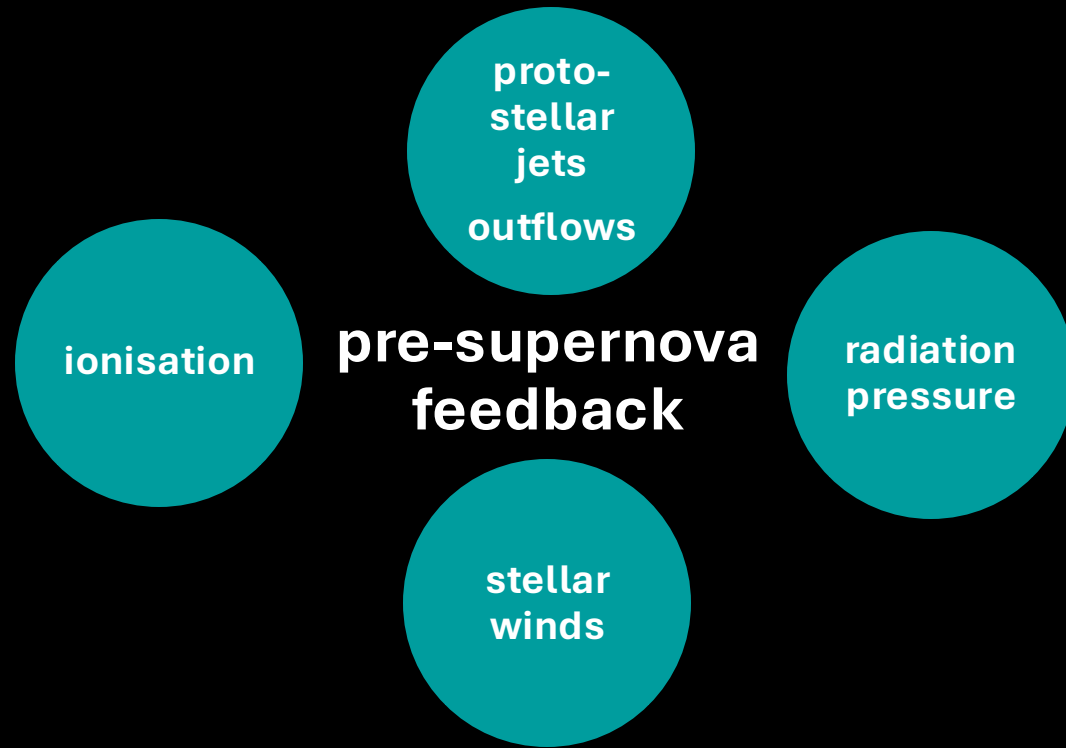




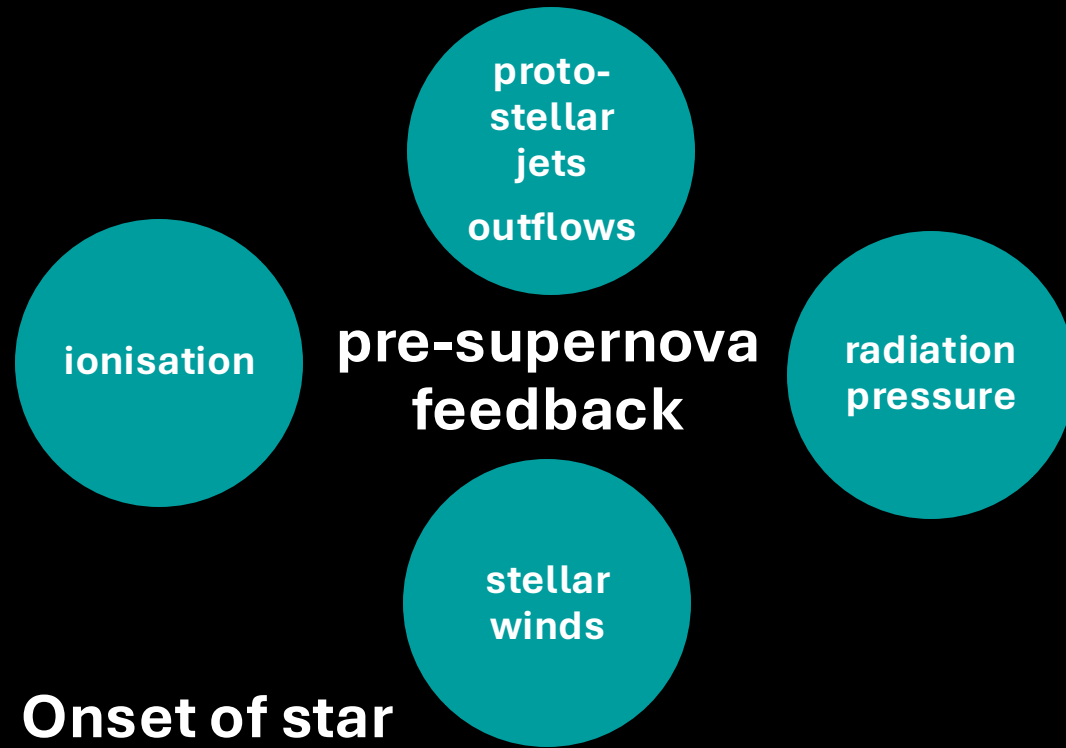
Stellar feedback is an umbrella term



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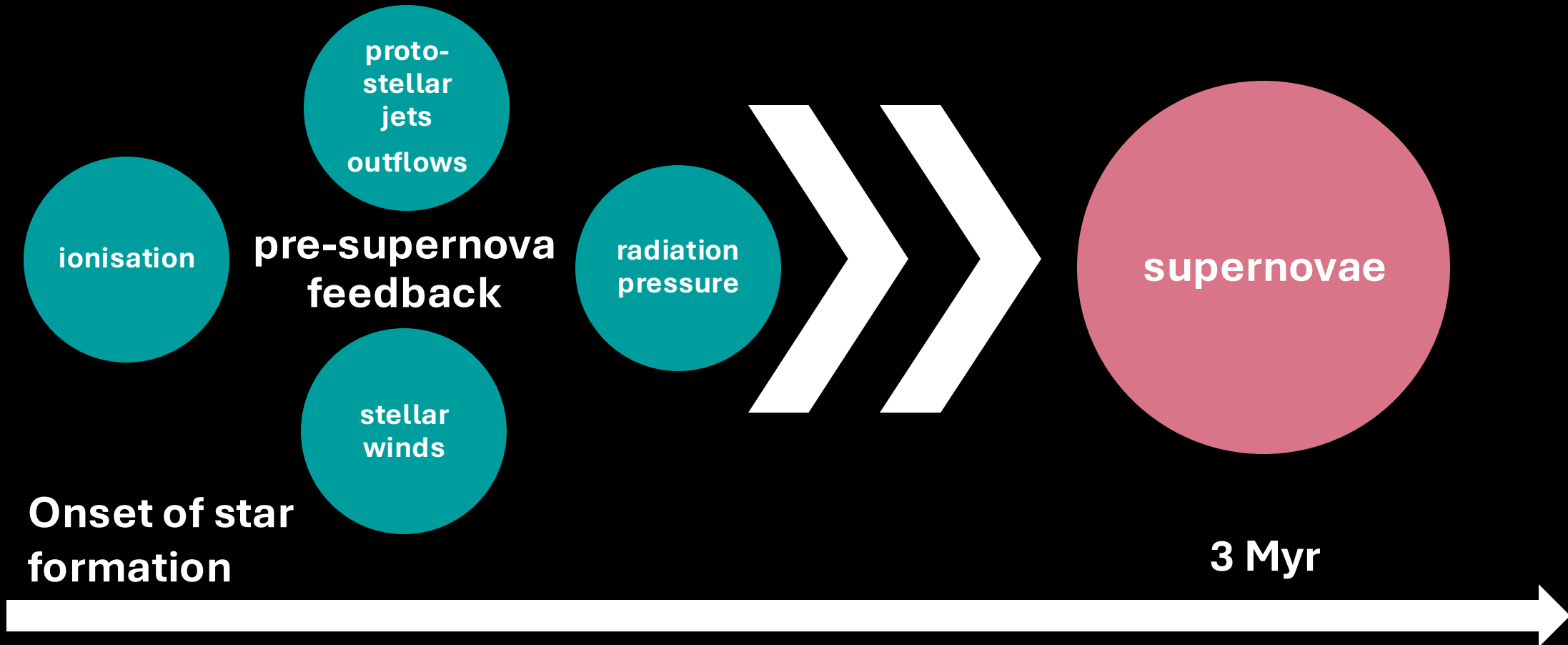


Onset of star
formation

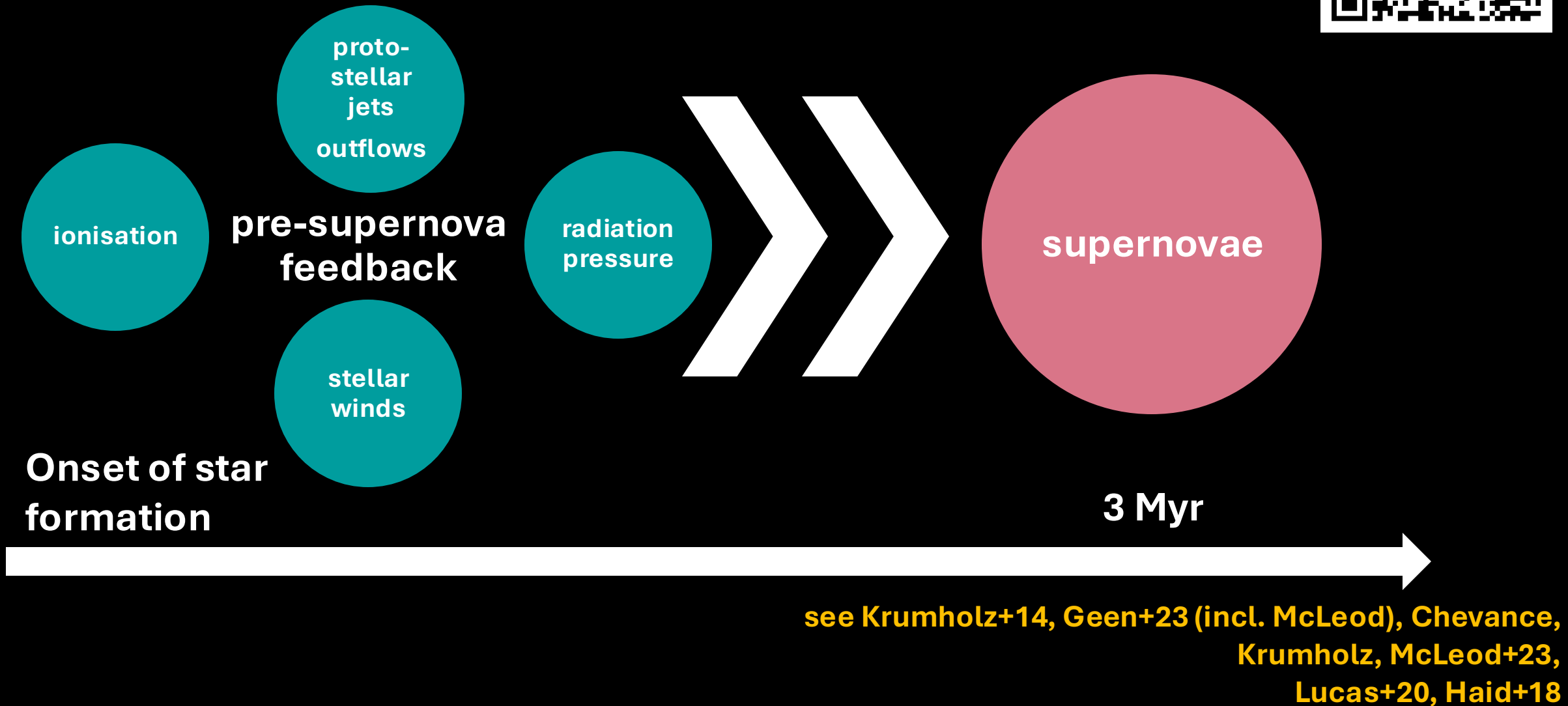
3 Myr



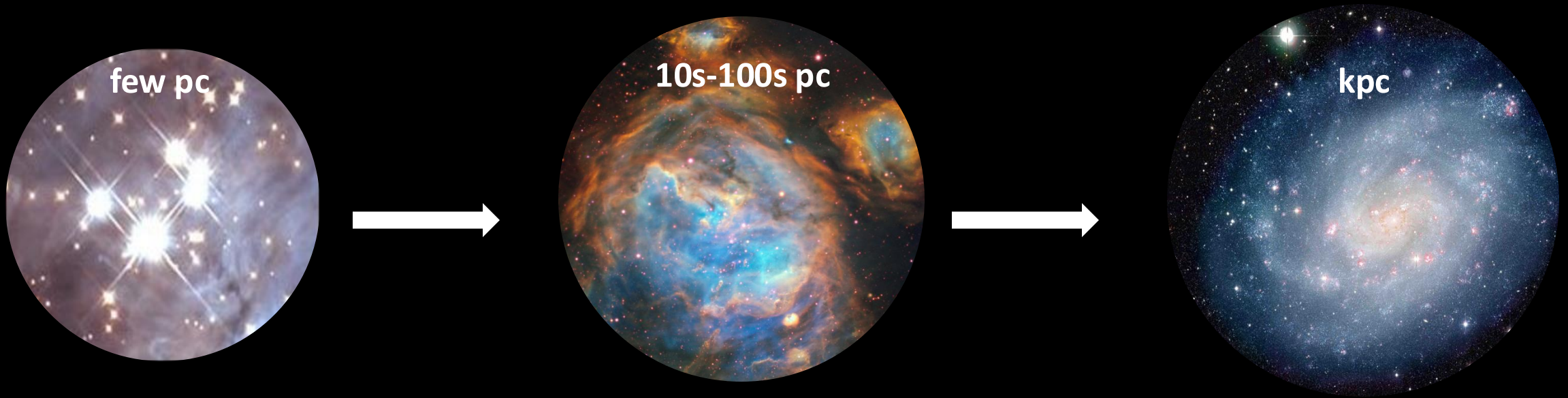
Stellar feedback is an umbrella term



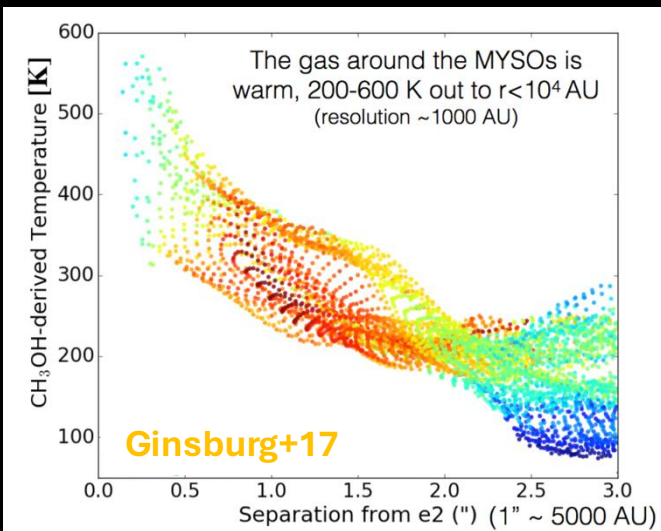
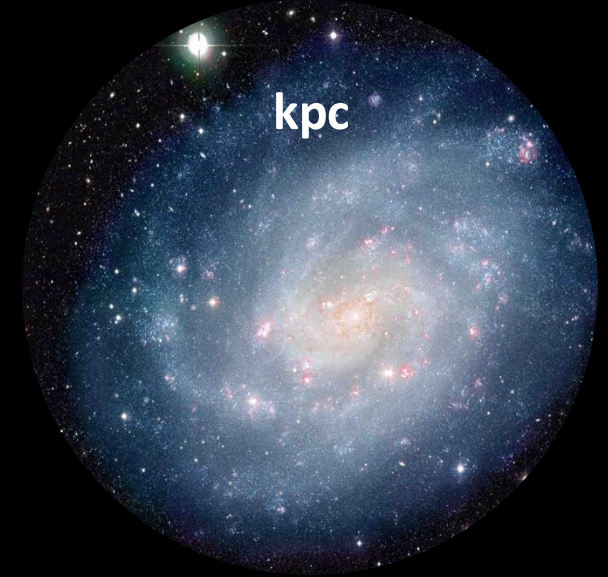
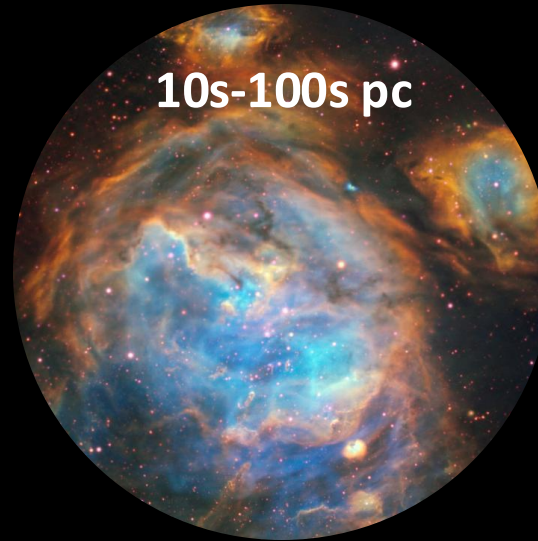
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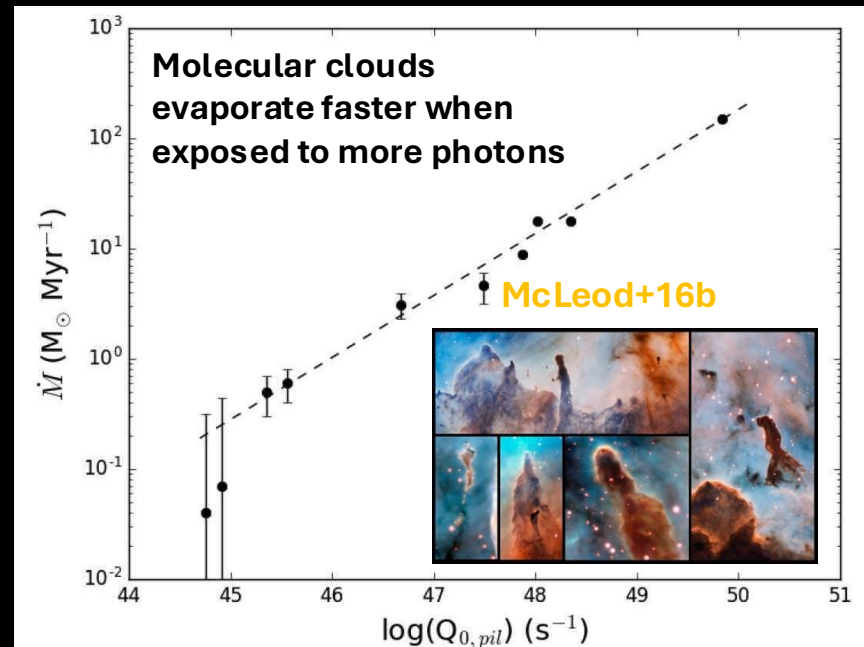
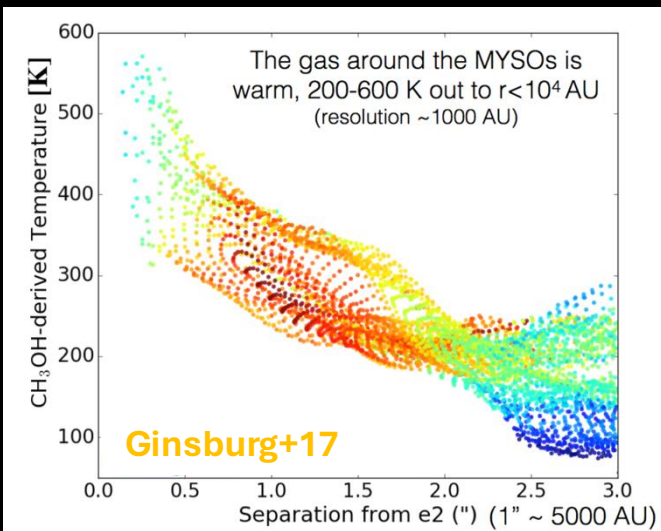
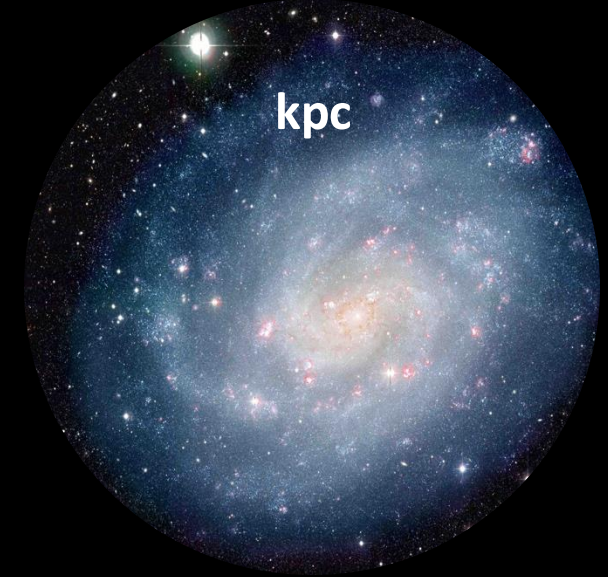
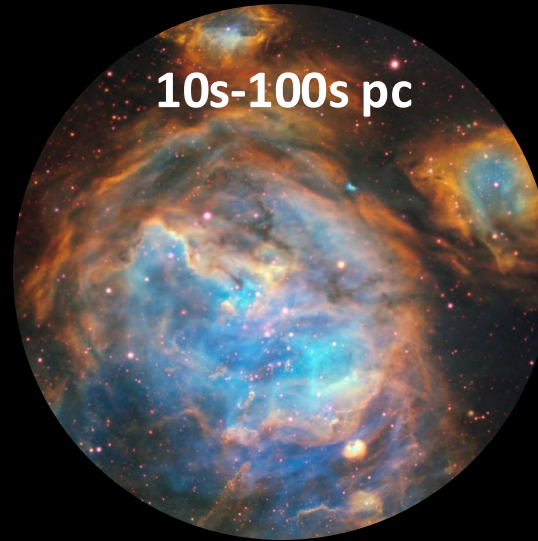
Stellar feedback affects the environment from **sub-pc** to **kpc scales**



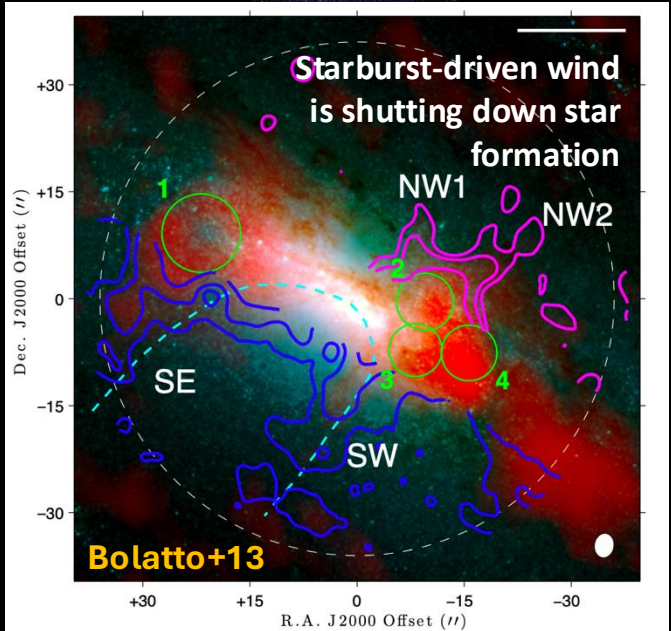
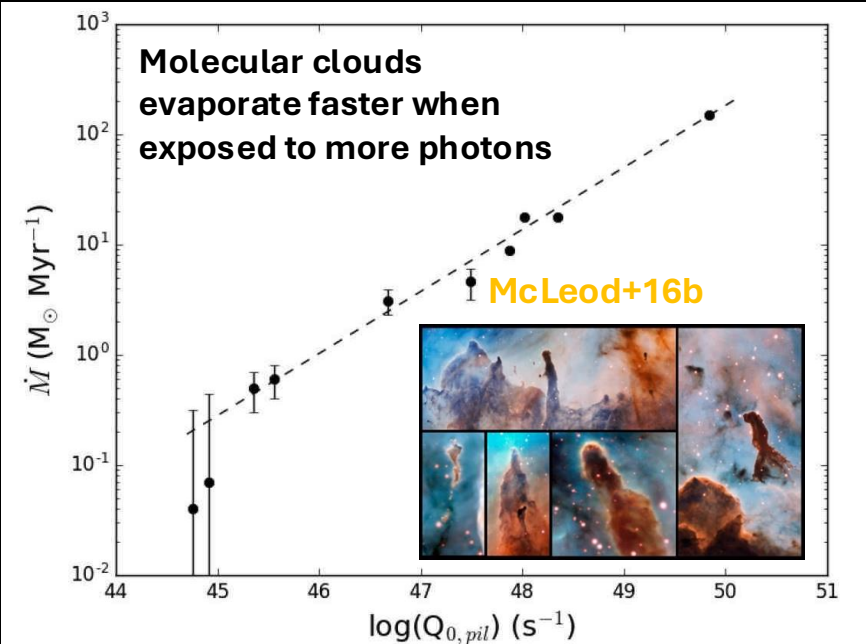
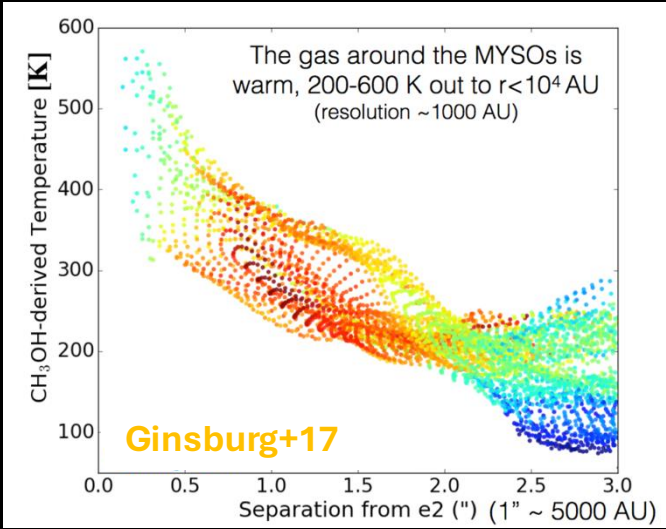
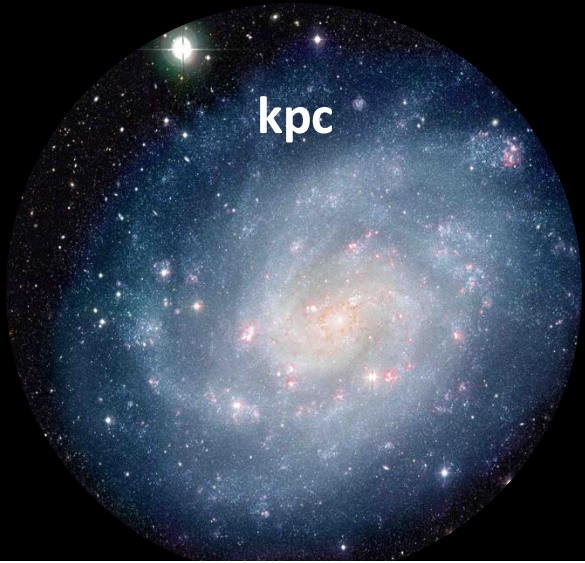
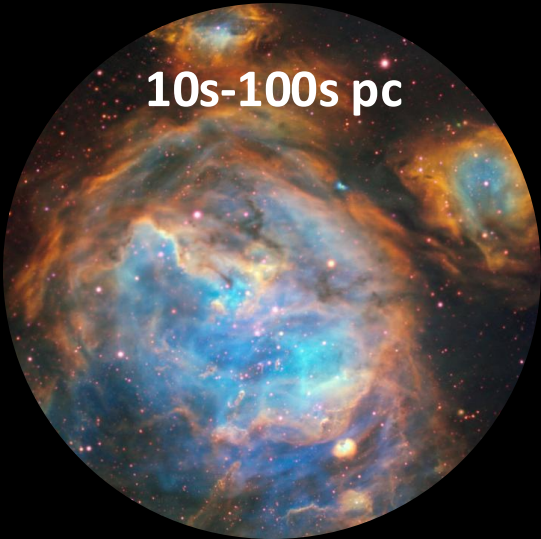
Stellar feedback affects the environment from **sub-pc** to **kpc** scales



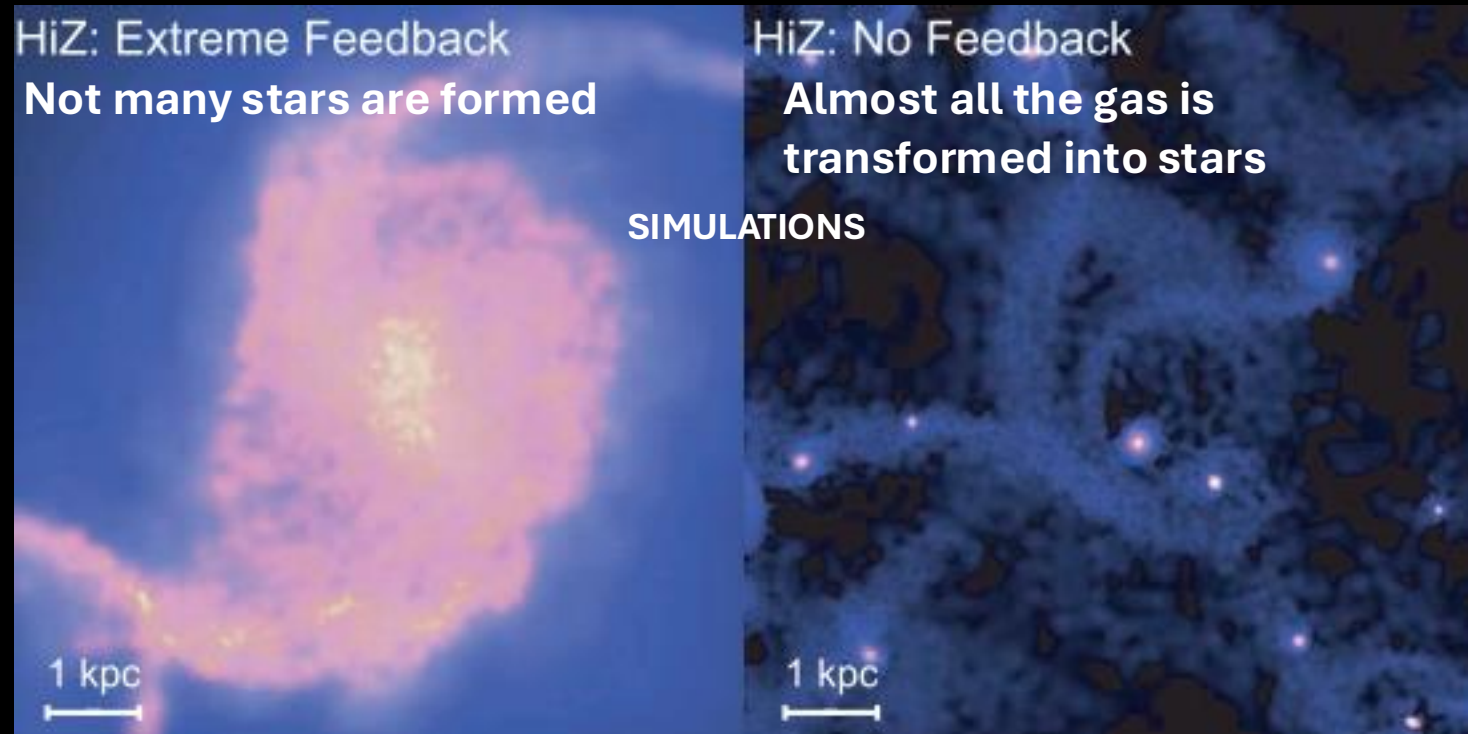
Stellar feedback affects the environment from **sub-pc** to **kpc** scales



Stellar feedback affects the environment from **sub-pc** to **kpc** scales



Without stellar feedback the simulated Universe would not look like the observed.

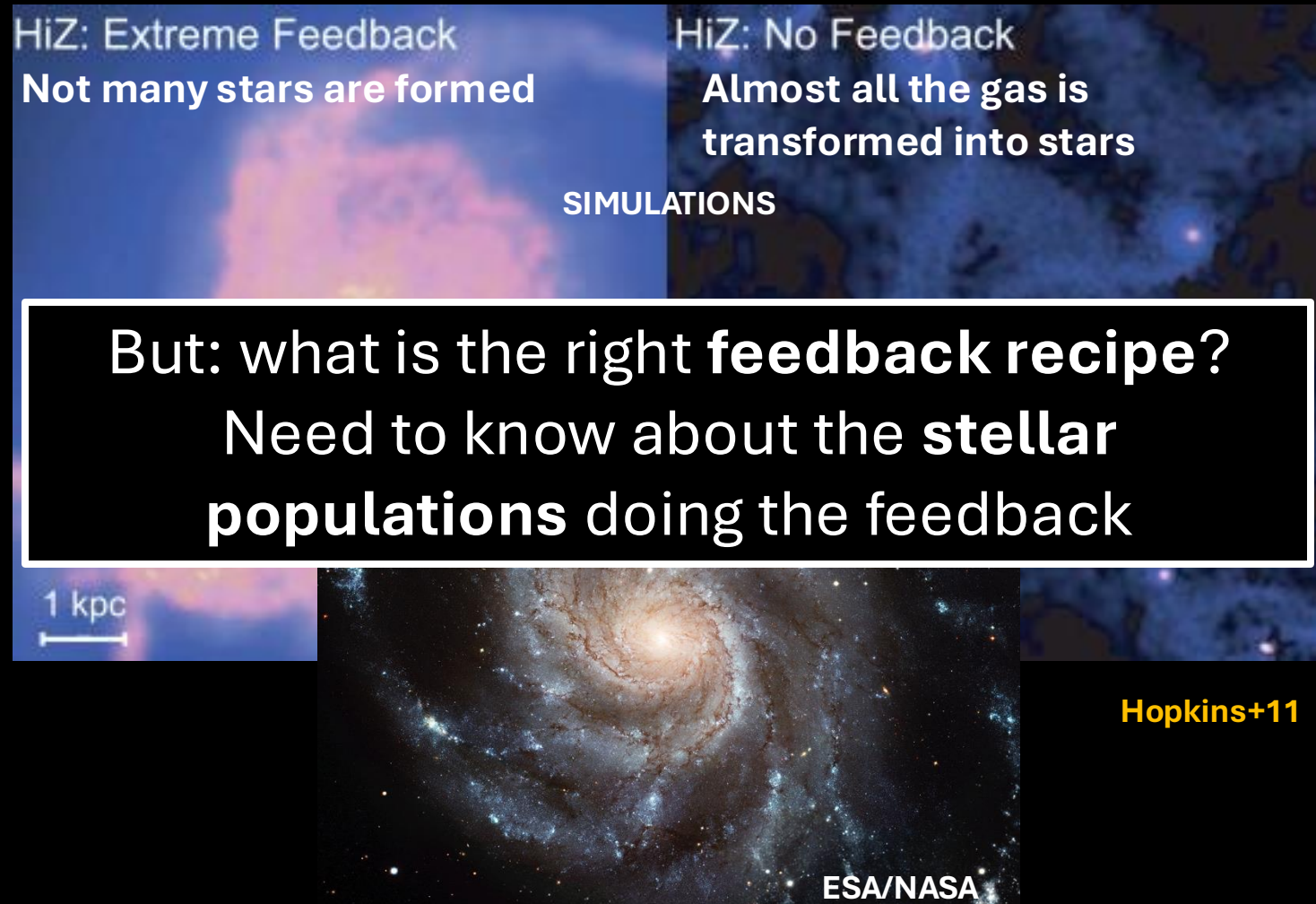


Hopkins+11

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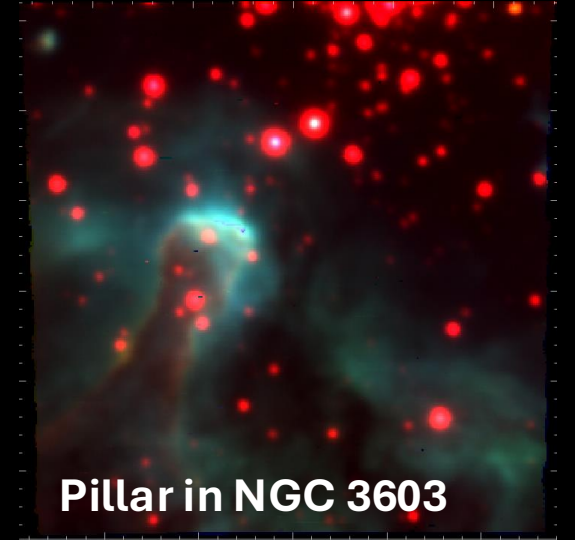
Pillars in Carina



Pillars in M16



Pillar in NGC 3603



We have quantified the photoevaporative effect of **ionizing feedback**

Pillars in Carina

49.02



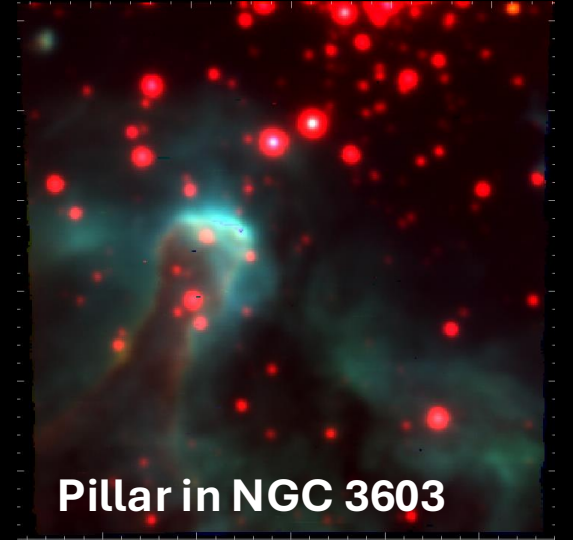
48.
02

49.49

Pillars in M16



Pillar in NGC 3603



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49.02

48.
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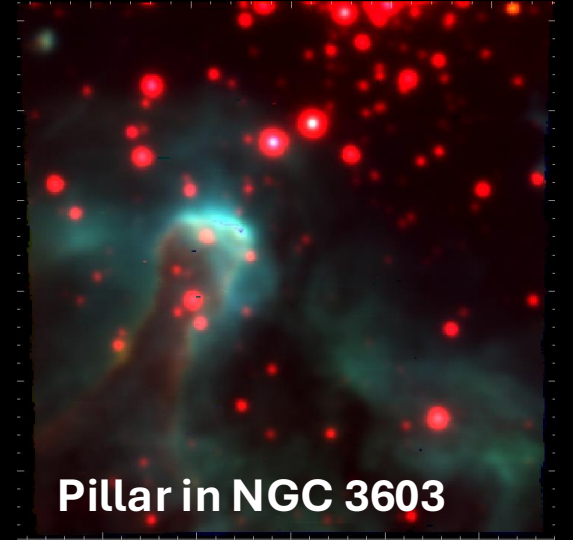
49.49

49.87

Pillars in M16



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49.02

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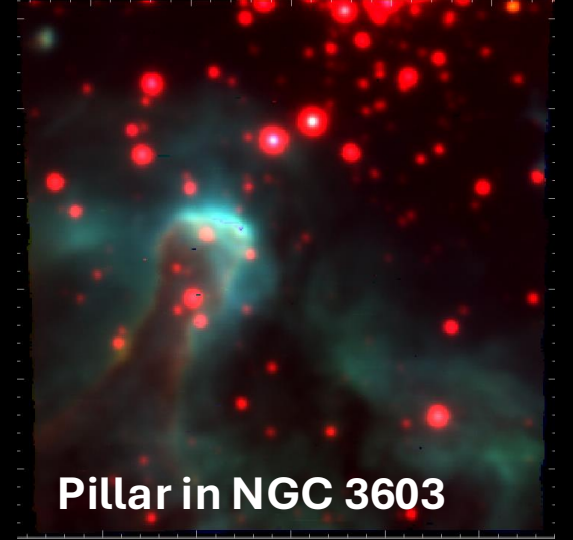
49.87

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50.98

Pillar in NGC 3603



We have quantified the photoevaporative effect of **ionizing feedback**

How? By measure the photo-evaporation rate for pillars in different types of environments

Pillars in Carina



49.02

48.
02

49.49

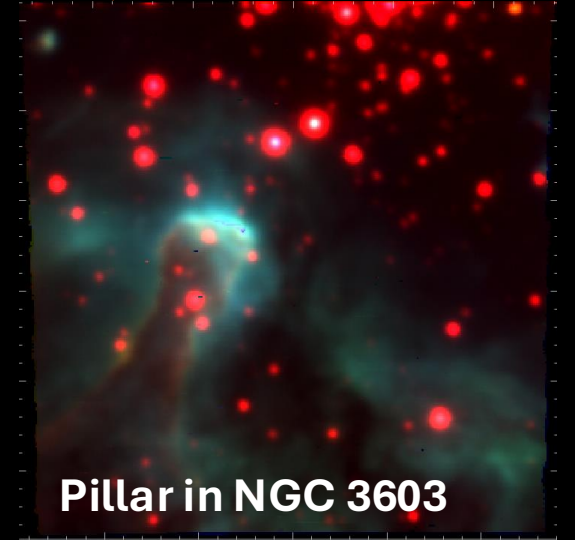
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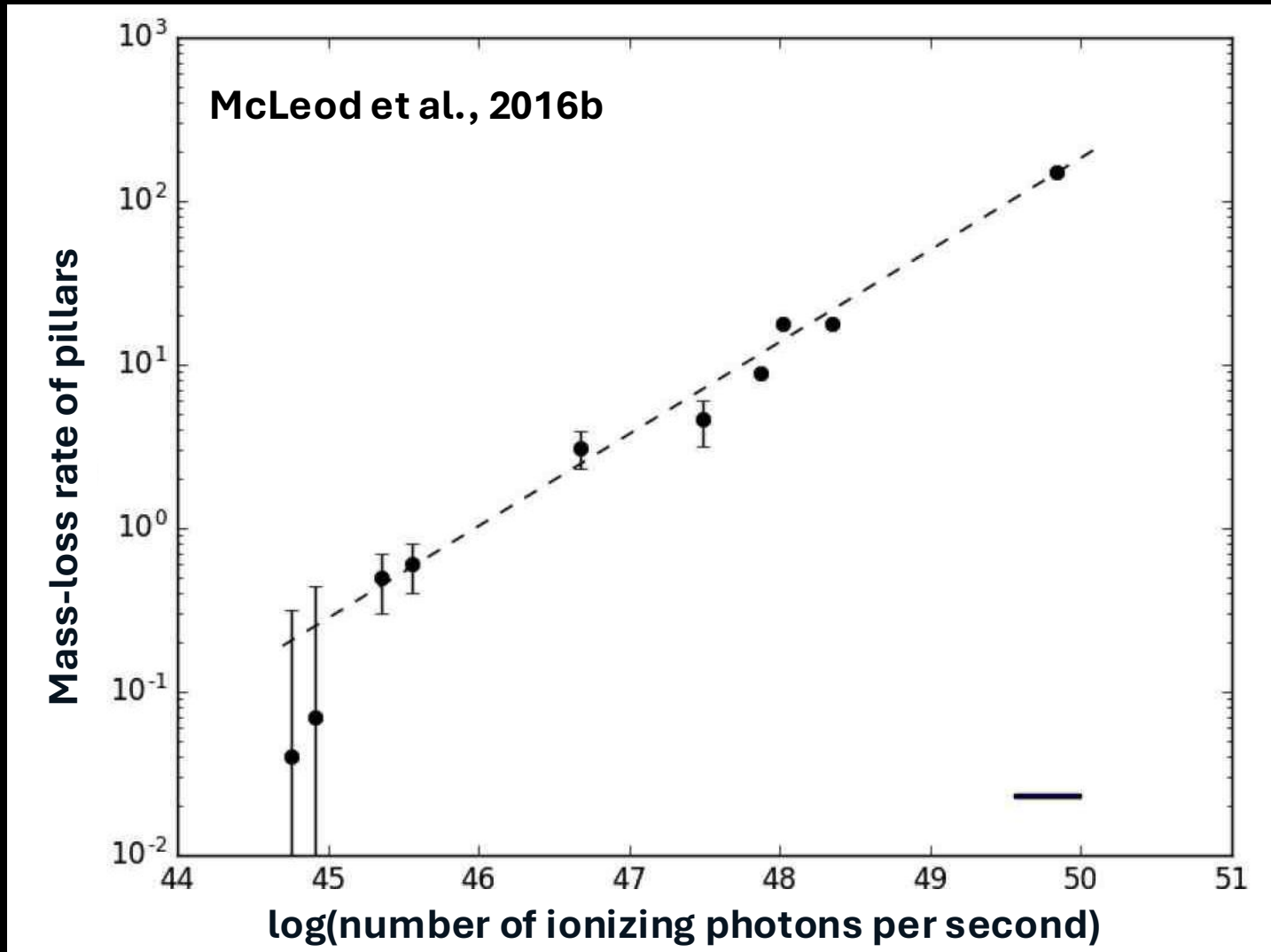


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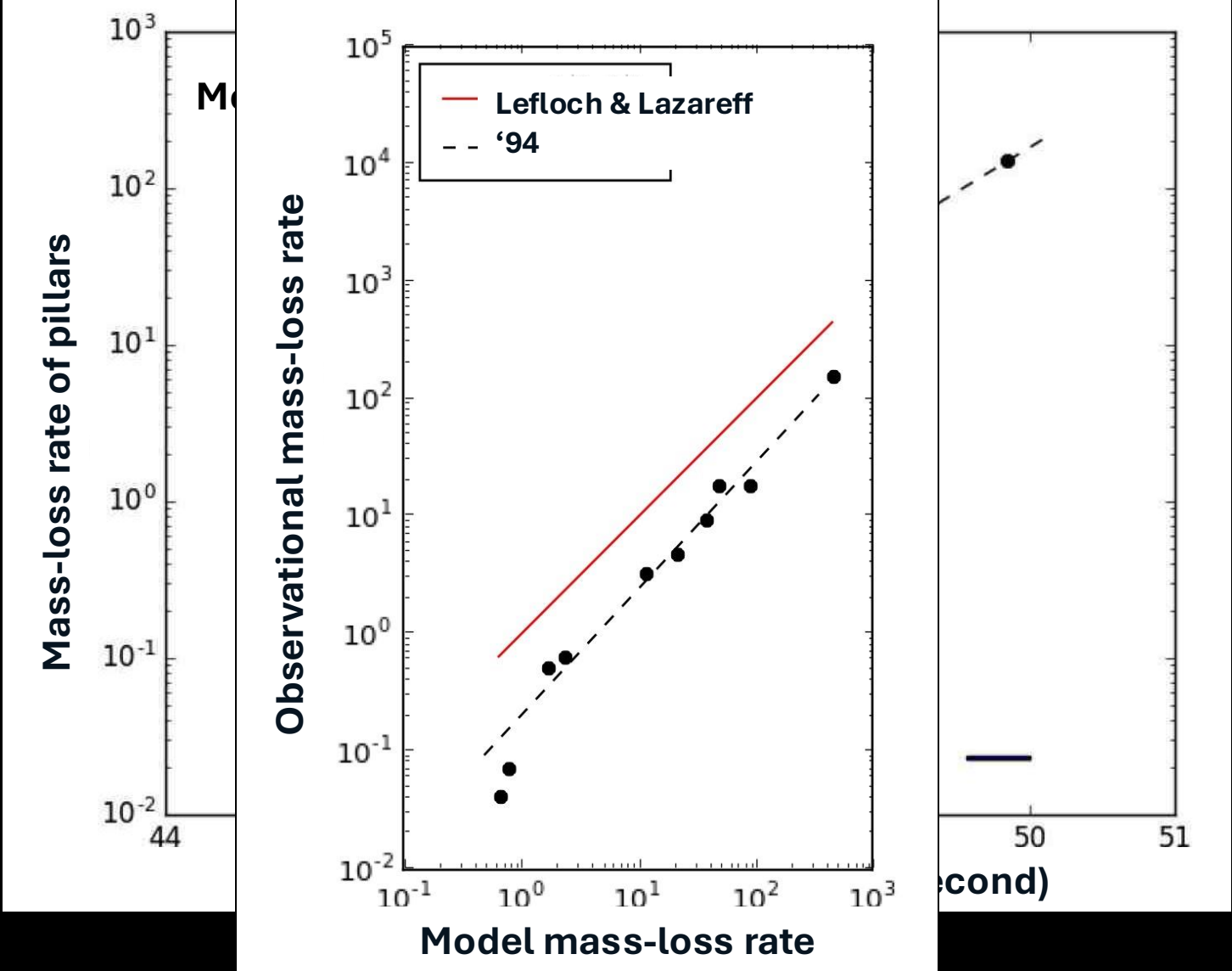
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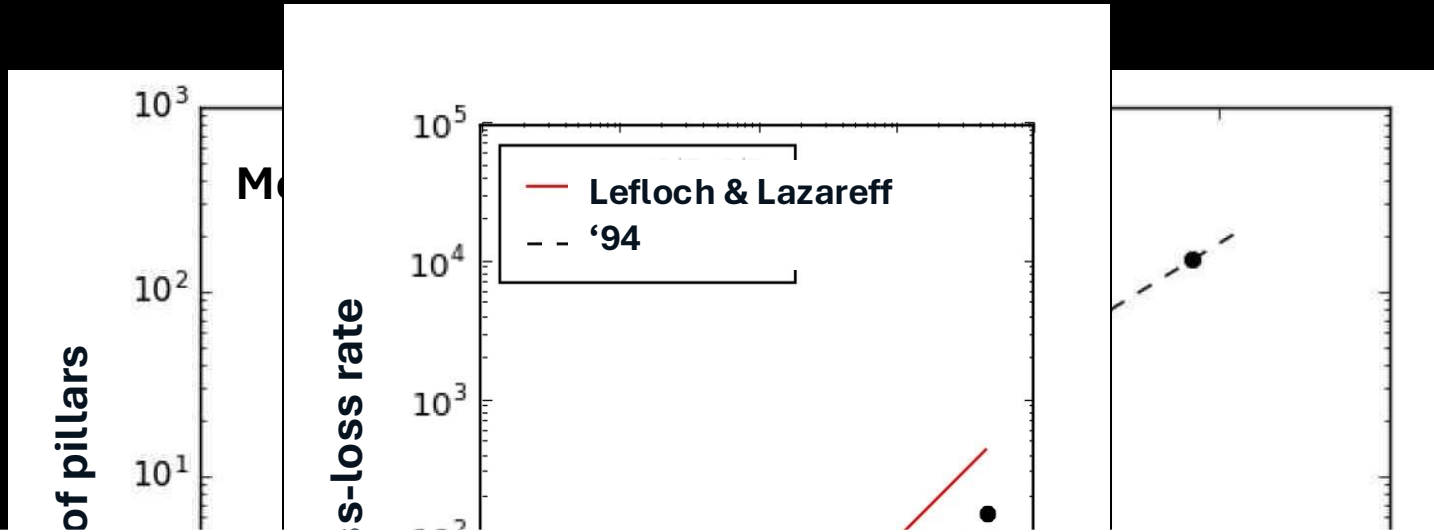
Pillars exposed to more stars (or more massive stars) evaporate faster



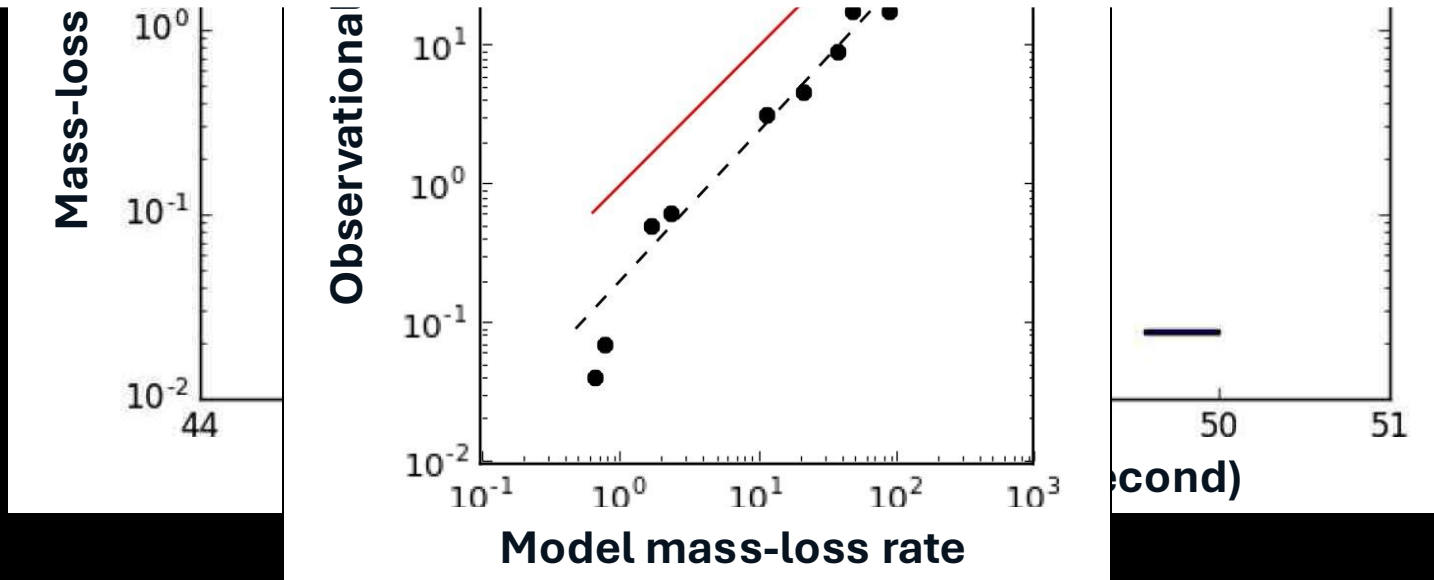
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... but: this is only **ionizing feedback** on **small scales** in the **Milky Way**...



Need large number of observations in different environments to statistically characterize feedback

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Why the Milky Way is not the final frontier of feedback studies:

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Why the Milky Way is not the final frontier of feedback studies:

1. Imaging entire regions is prohibitively expensive



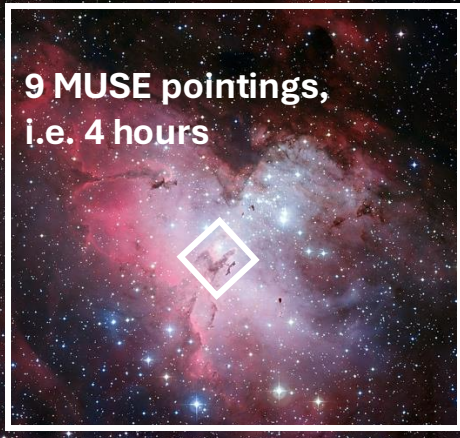
Credit: ESO

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This would require > 180 hours!



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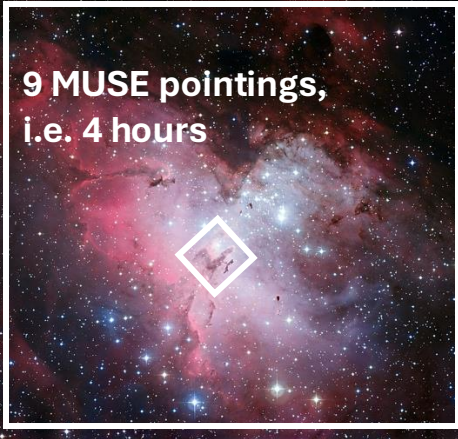
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9 MUSE pointings,
i.e. 4 hours



Credit: ESO

2. Extinction caused by gas and dust limits our view



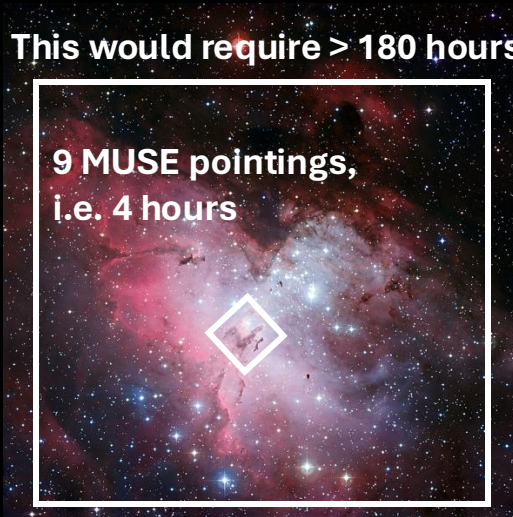
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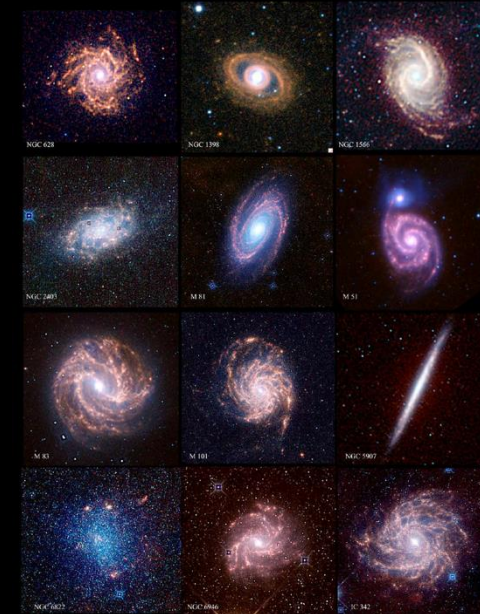


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3. The Milky Way is not representative of feedback across the Universe



Jarrett+12

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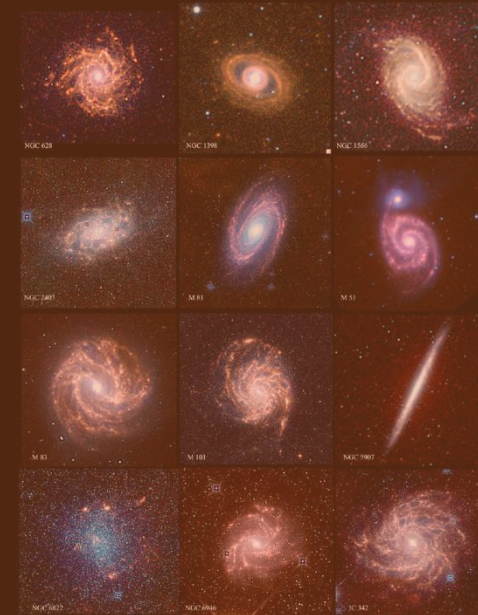


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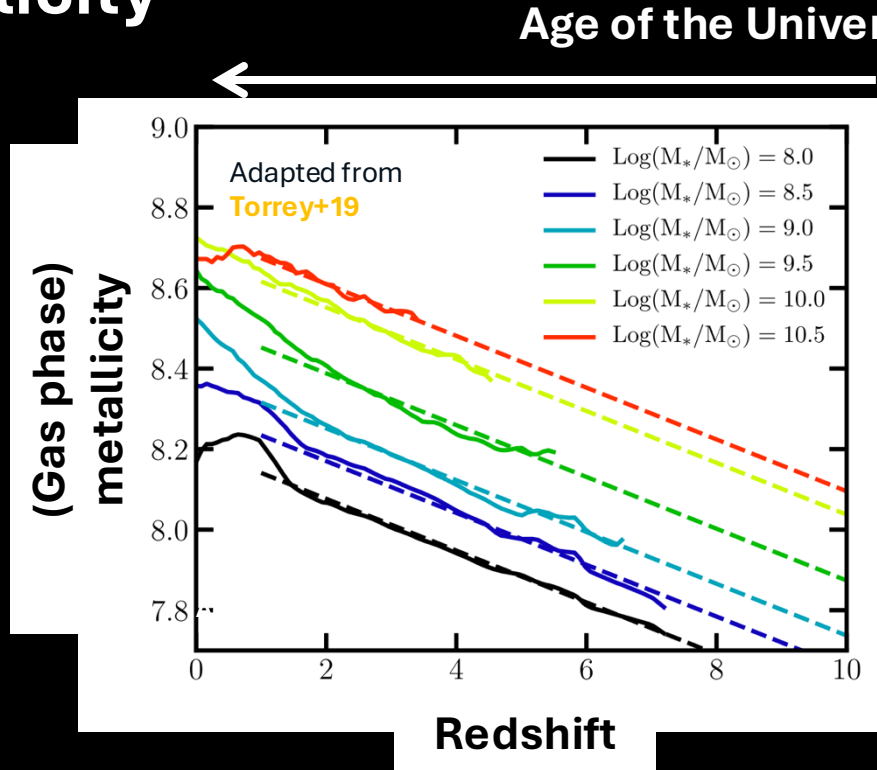
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Jarrett+12

**Conditions in the Universe differ, and vary with Cosmic Time, e.g.,
metallicity**

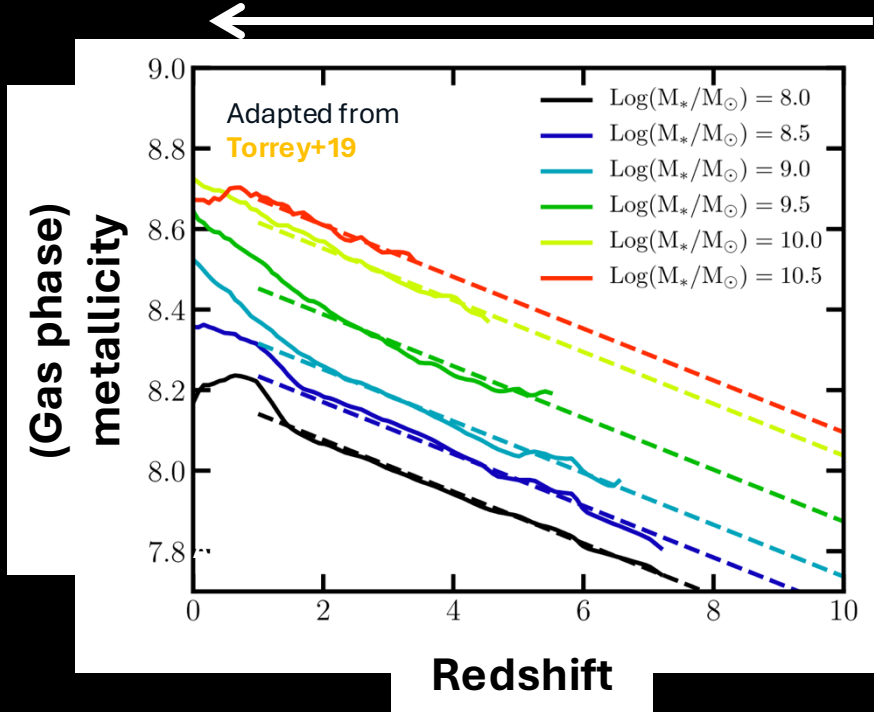
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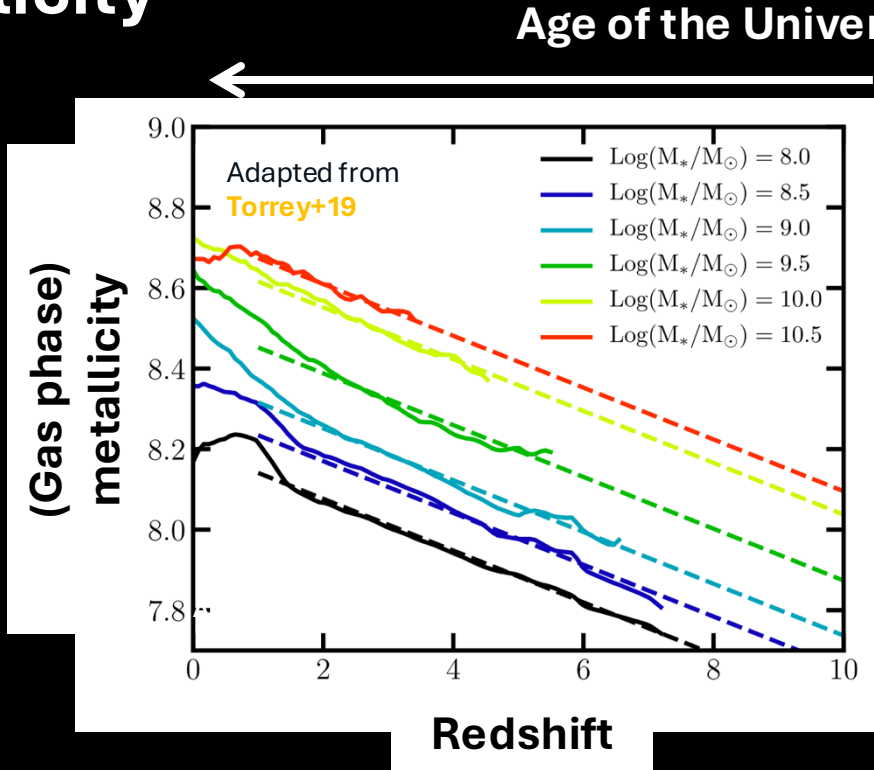
Conditions in the Universe differ, and vary with Cosmic Time, e.g., metallicity

Age of the Universe

Lower metallicity, what does it do?



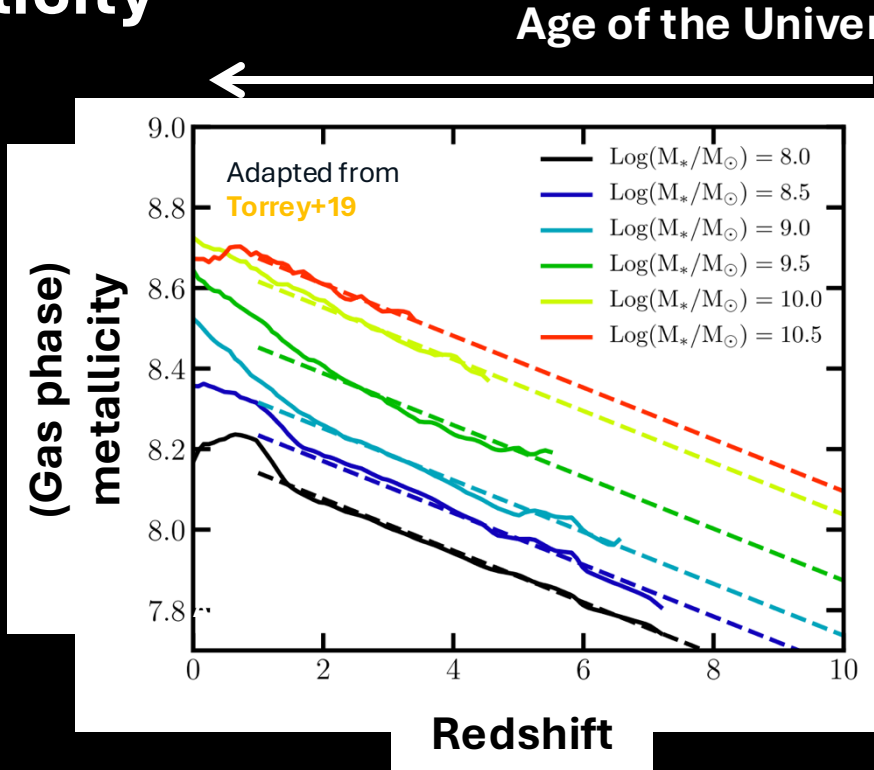
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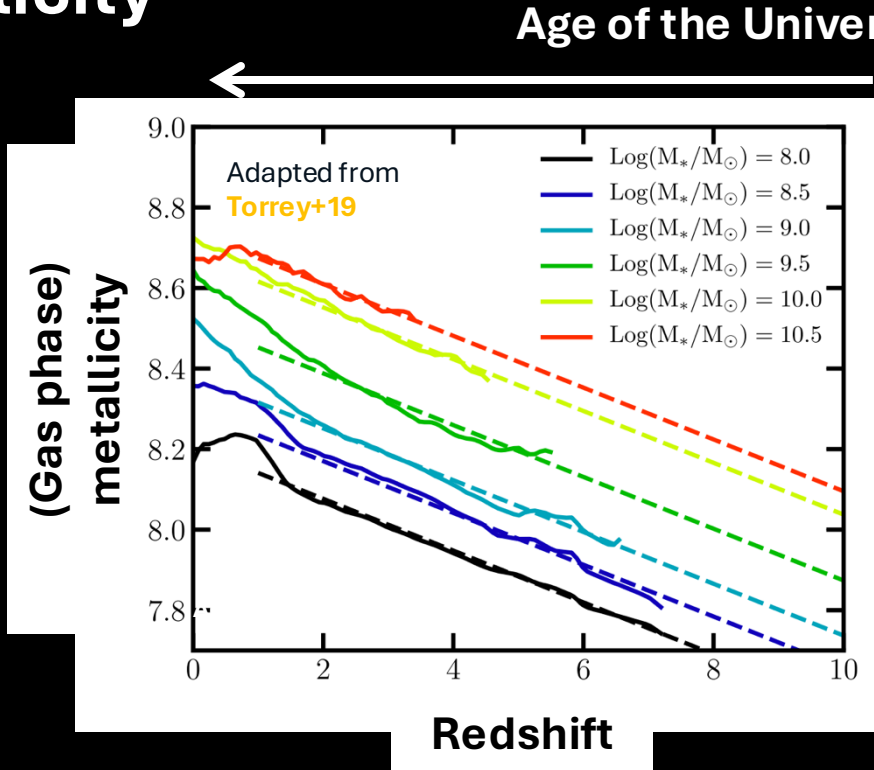


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-> stellar winds are line-driven

-> less lines means less momentum transfer

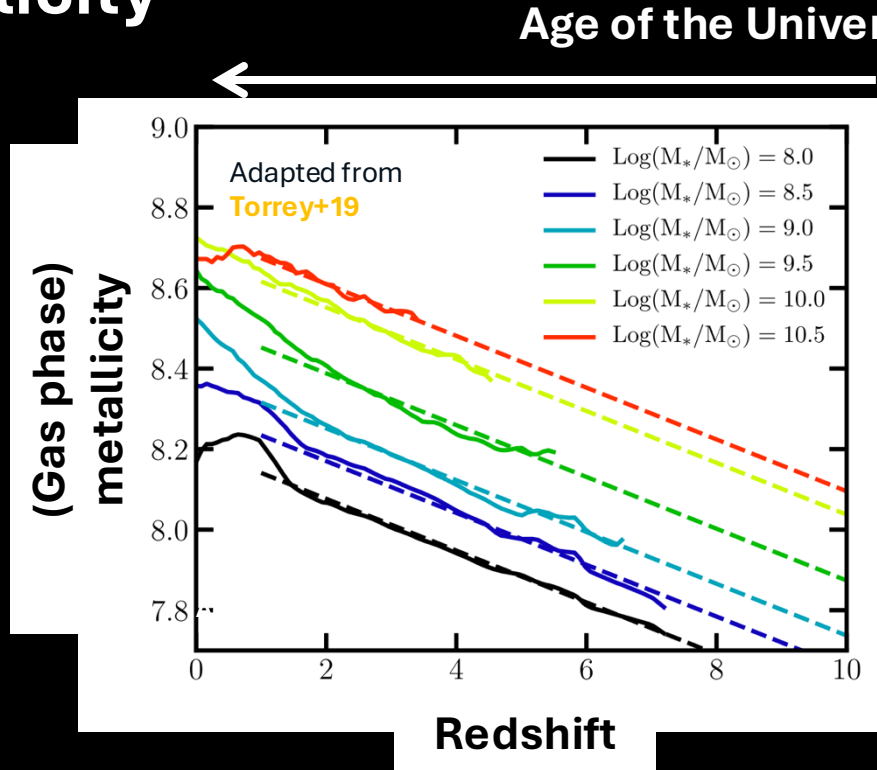
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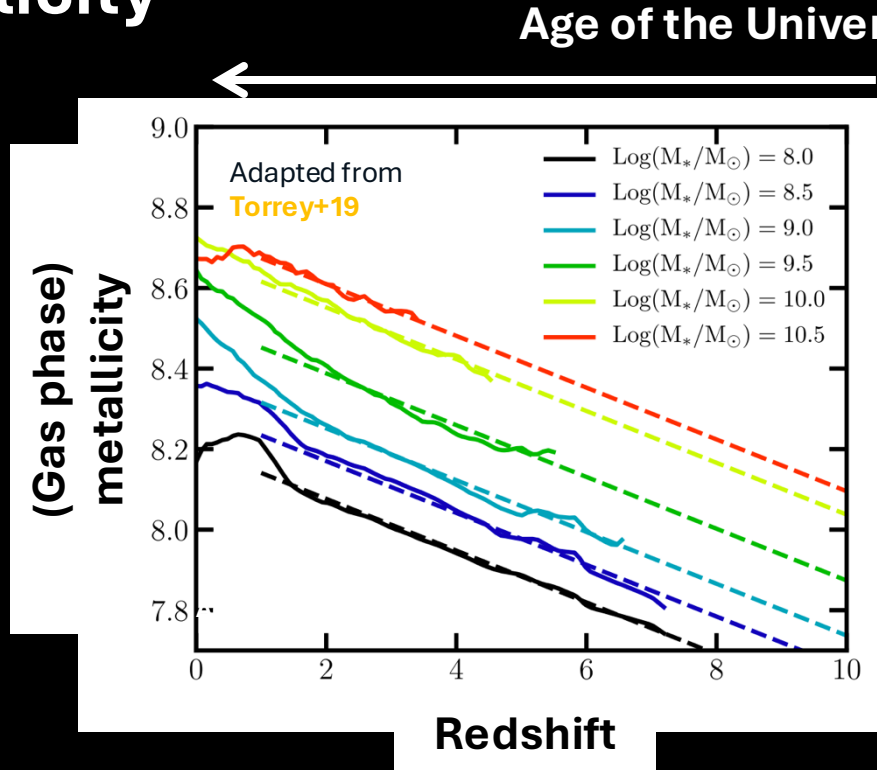
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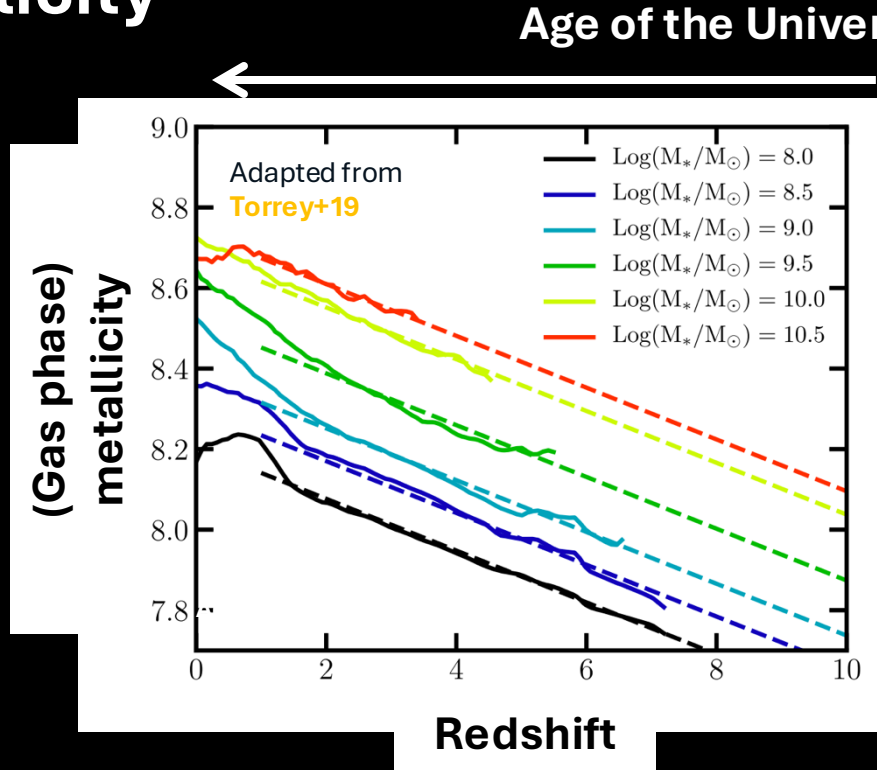
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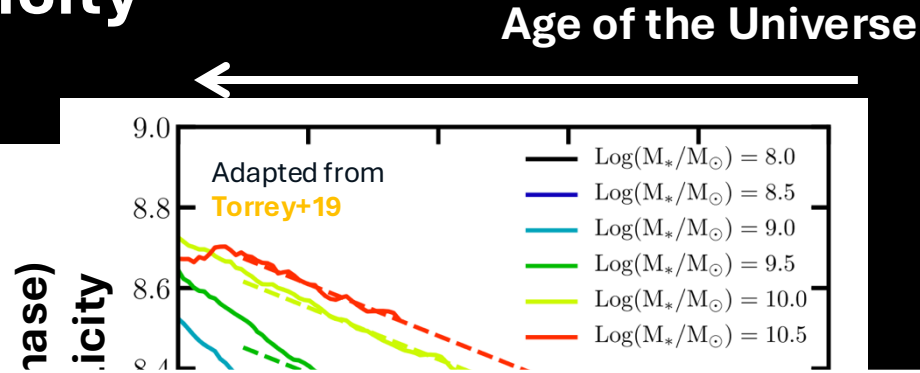
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- > higher radiation pressure from stars at lower metallicities

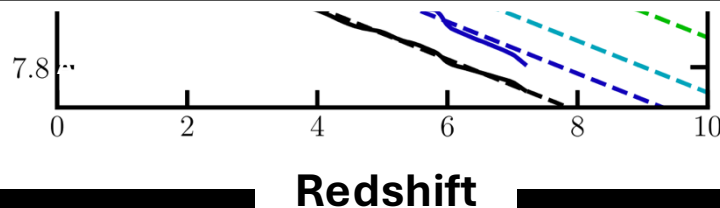
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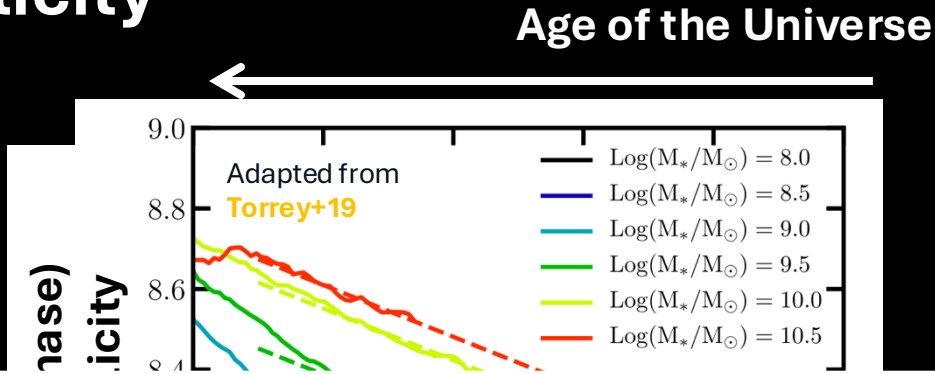
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Need to quantify star formation and stellar feedback in these conditions.



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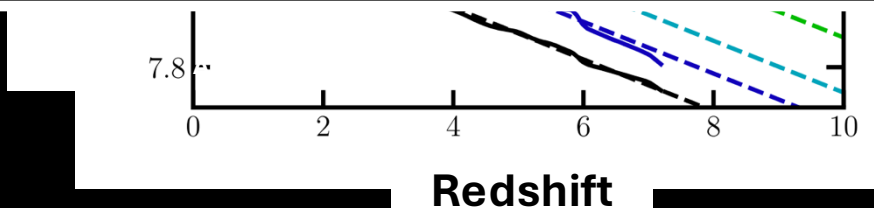
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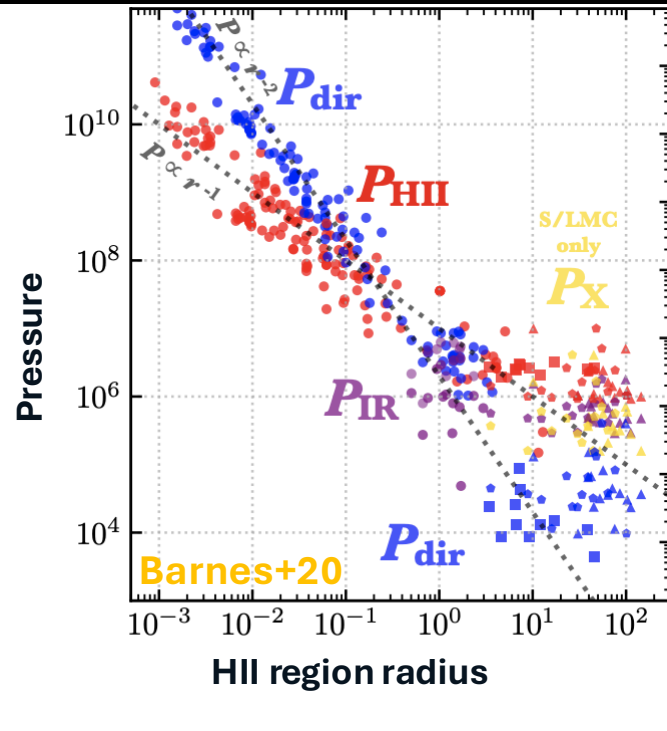
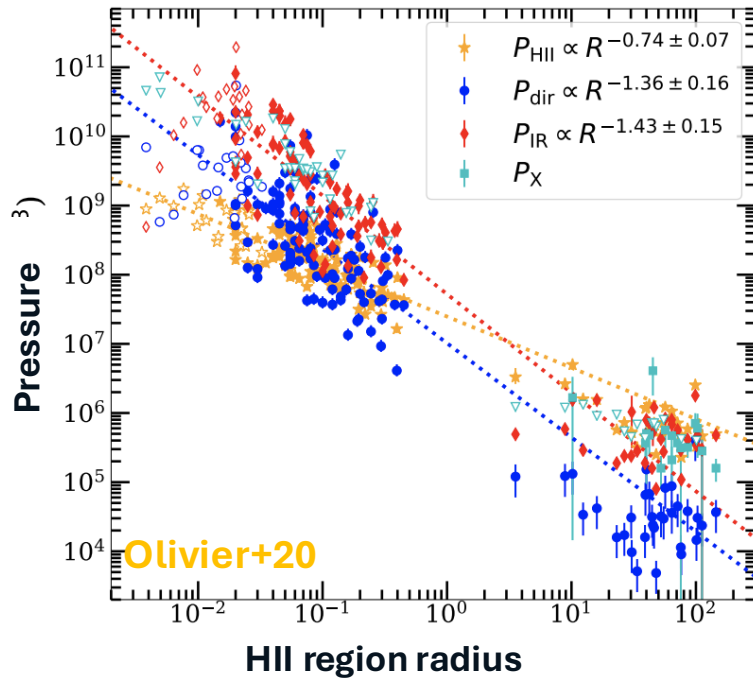
→ Exploit nearby (resolved), metal-poor galaxies to understand feedback at high redshifts (Lopez+14, McLeod+19, McLeod+22, McLeod+24, Rowland+24)

We can quantify stellar feedback using UV/VIS/NIR observations
in different environments \Rightarrow **pressure terms**

- Direct radiation pressure ● Dust-processed radiation pressure
- Pressure from ionized gas ● Pressure of stellar winds



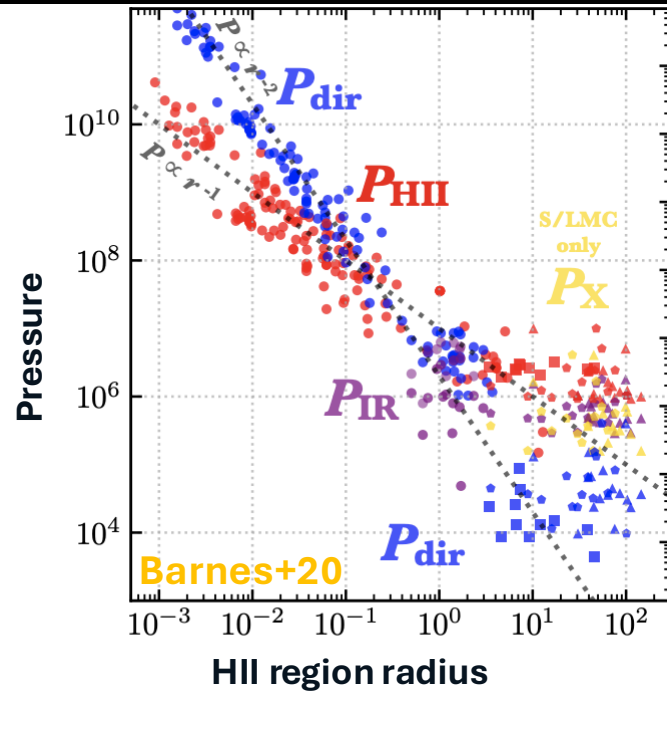
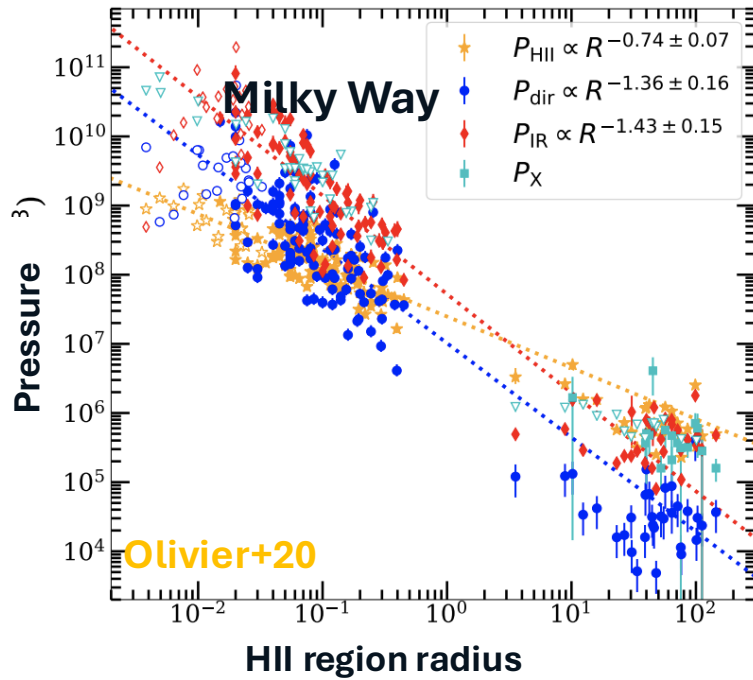
We can quantify stellar feedback using UV/VIS/NIR observations in different environments \Rightarrow pressure terms



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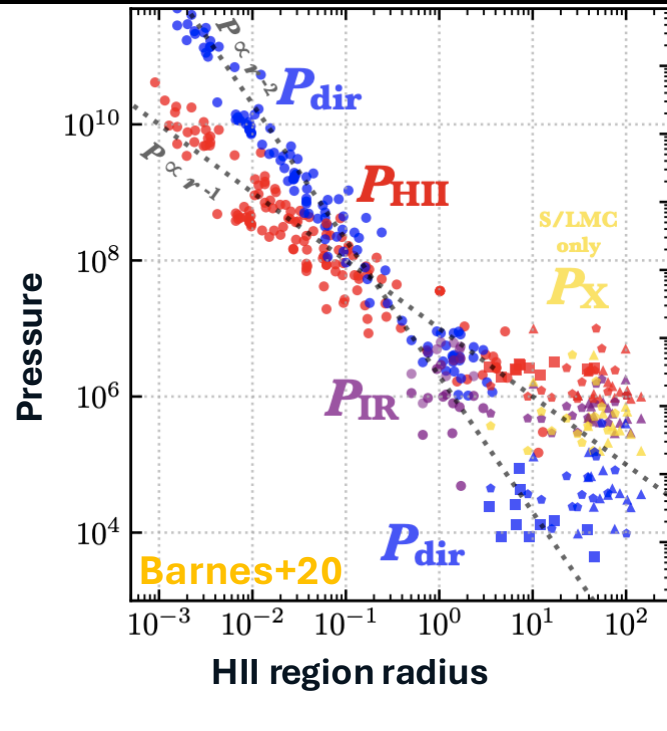
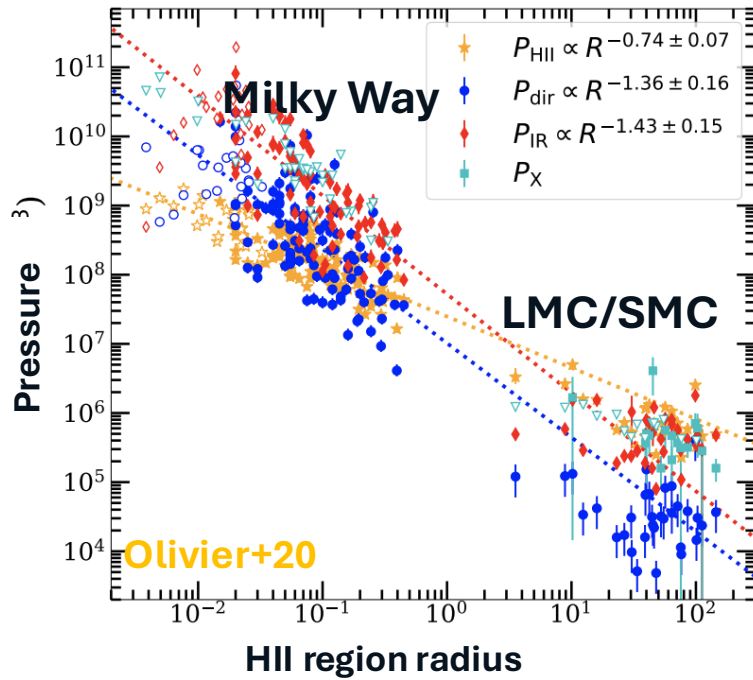
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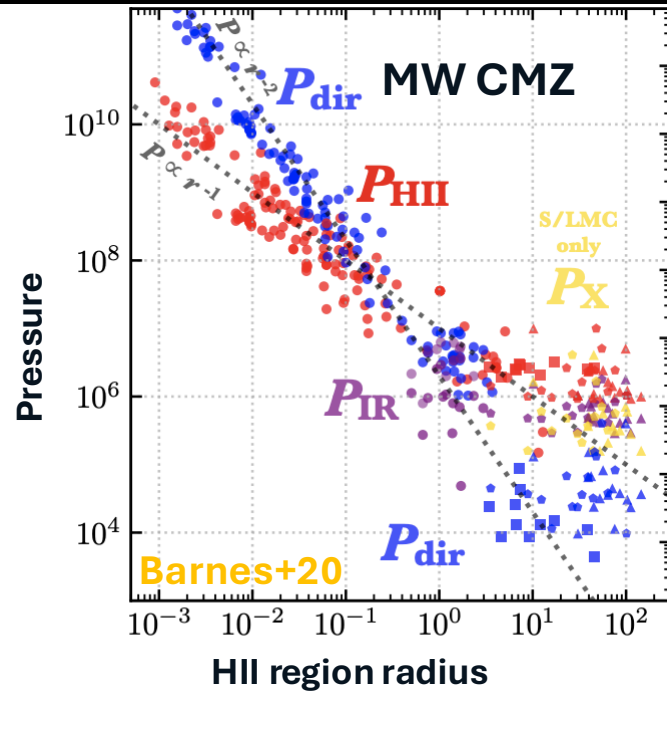
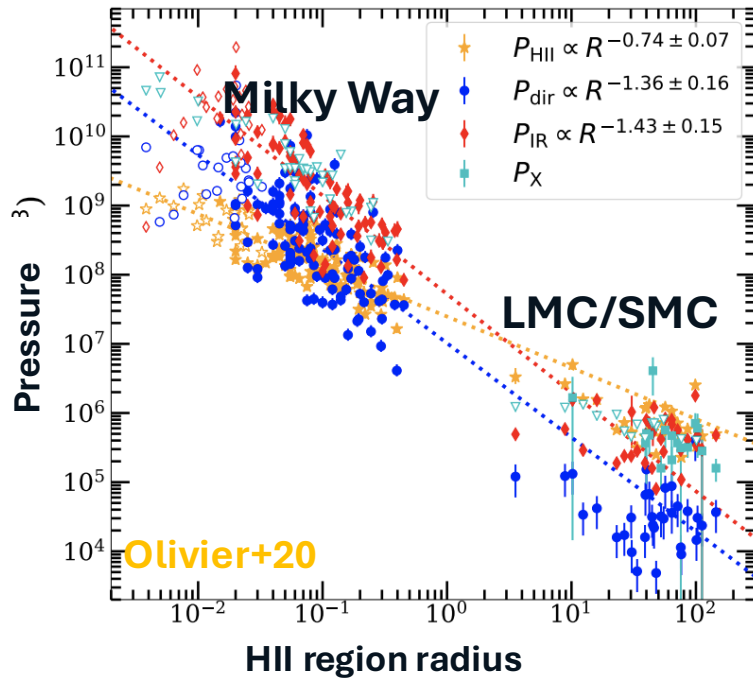
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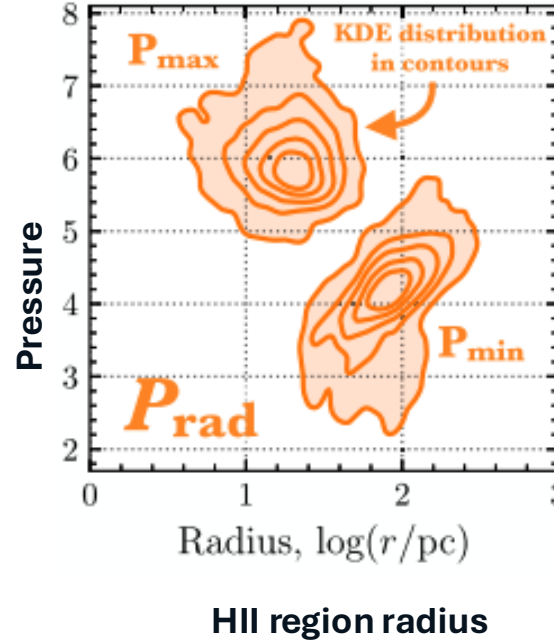
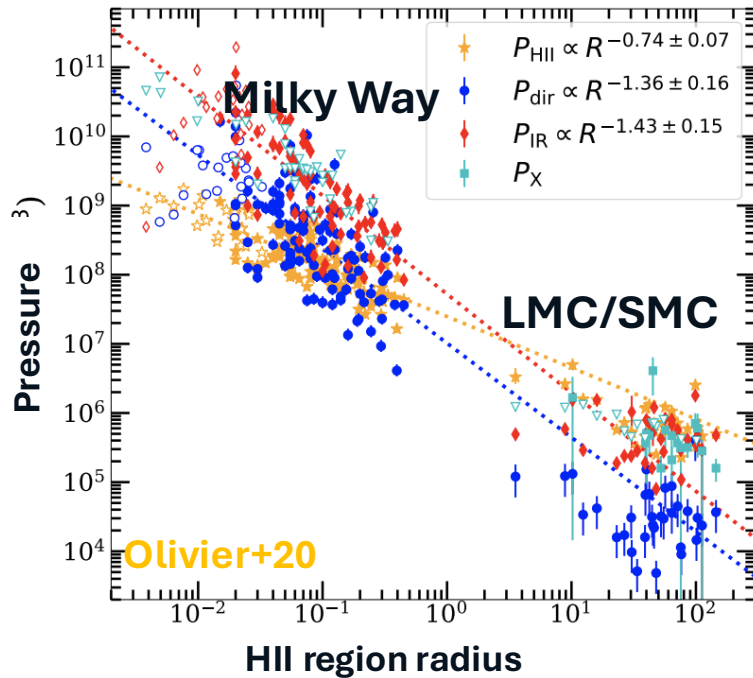
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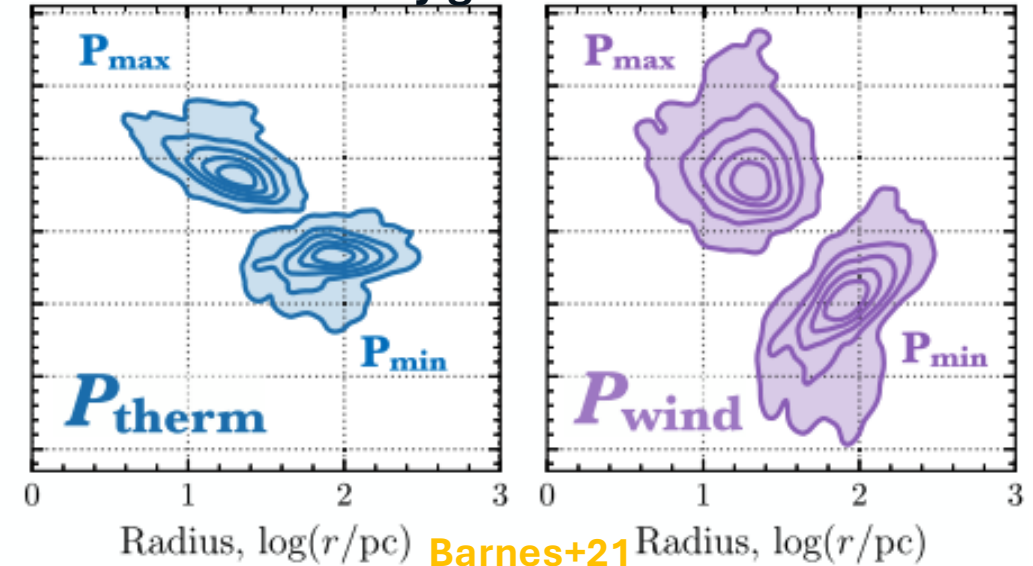
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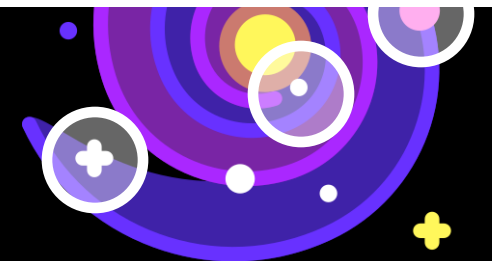
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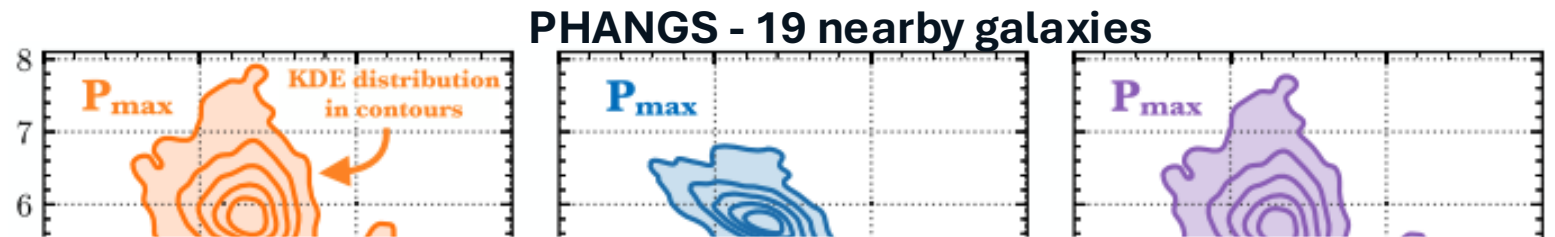
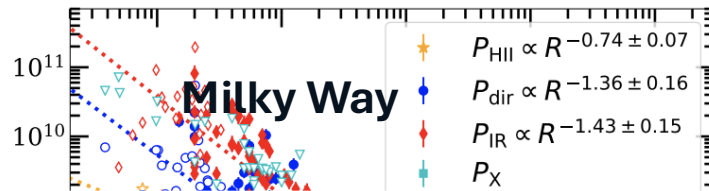
PHANGS - 19 nearby galaxies



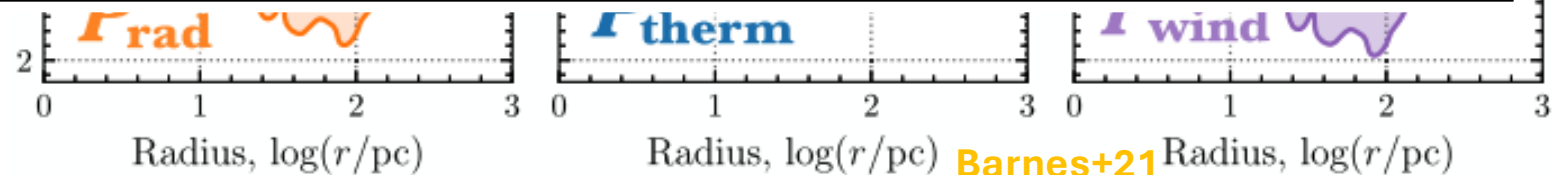
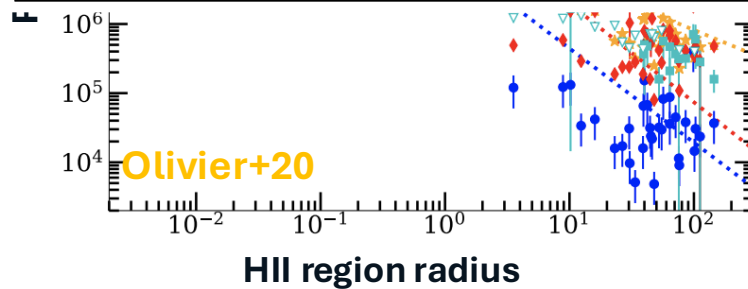
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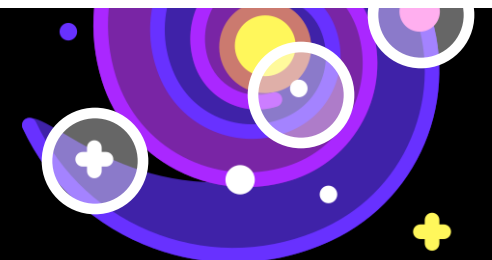
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Use these to explore relations between feedback and
e.g. **metallicity**



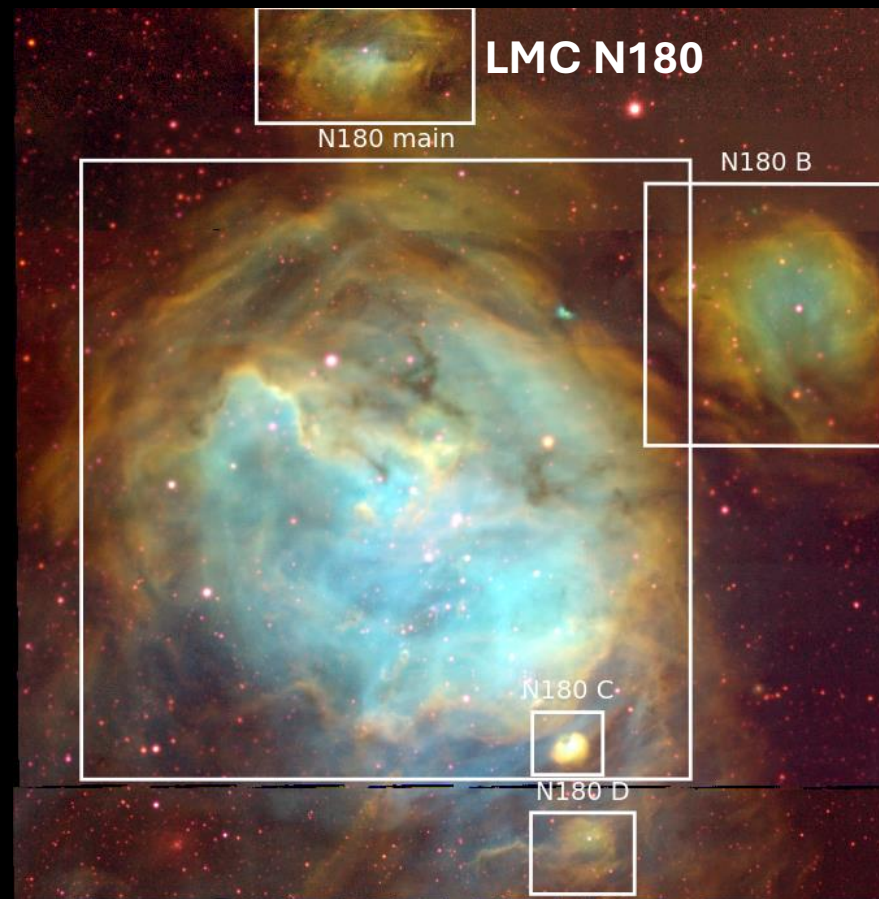
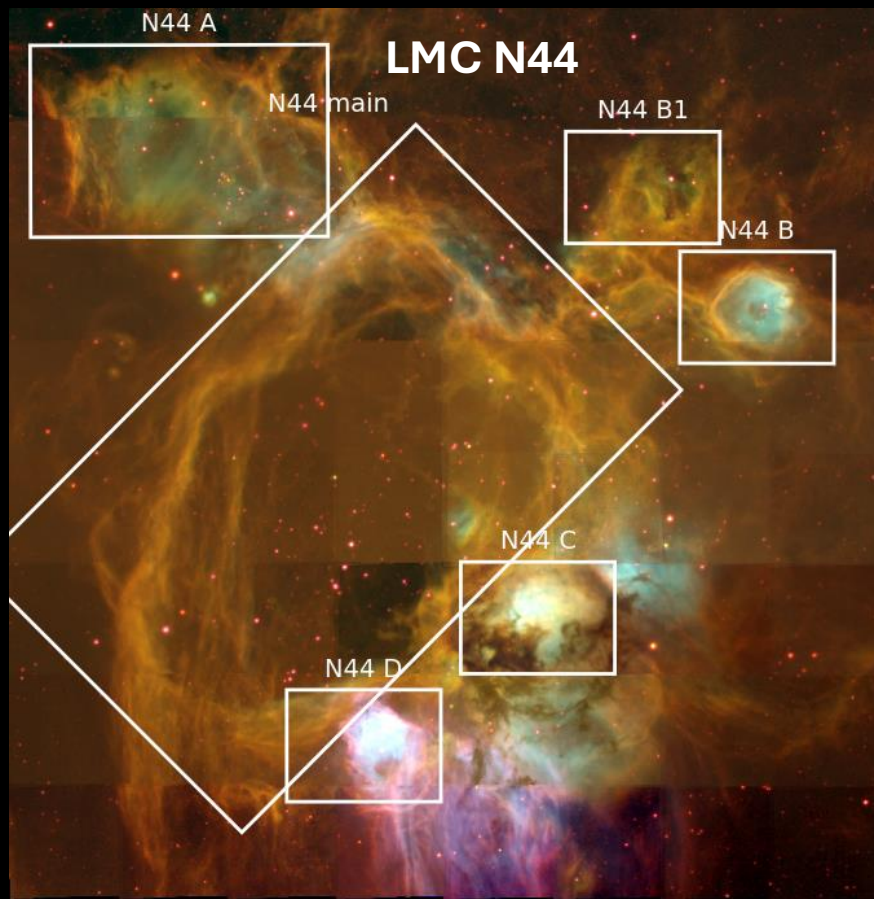
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VLT/MUSE observations

Simultaneous characterization of **individual feedback-driving stars**
and resolved **feedback-driven gas**

> 60 O & WR stars

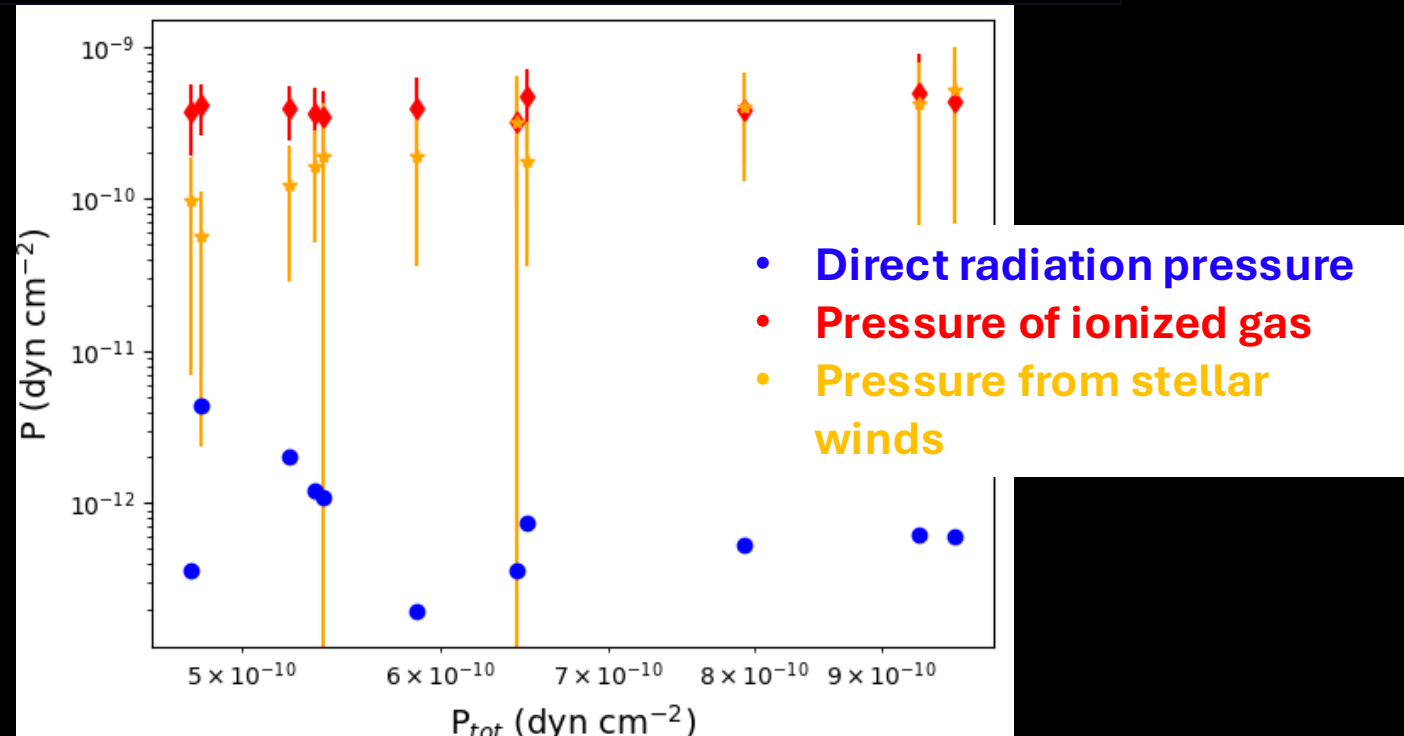


[SII]6717
H α
[OIII]5007

McLeod+18b

Feedback in massive star-forming regions in the LMC: quantify different **feedback mechanisms**

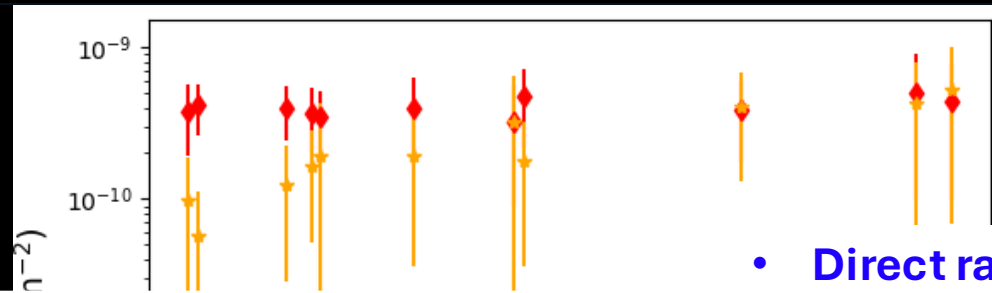
Which feedback mechanisms are dominant?



→ The HII region expansion is mainly driven by **stellar winds** and the **warm, ionized gas** (see also [Lopez+14](#))

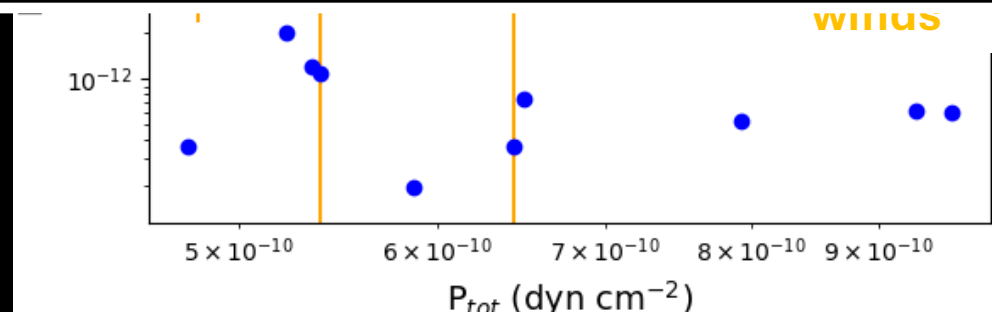
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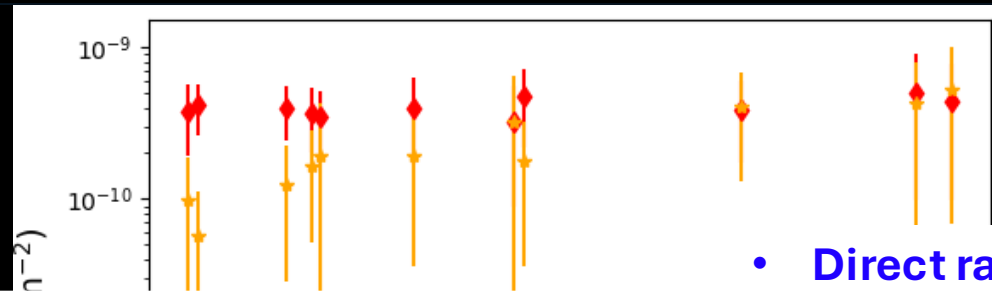
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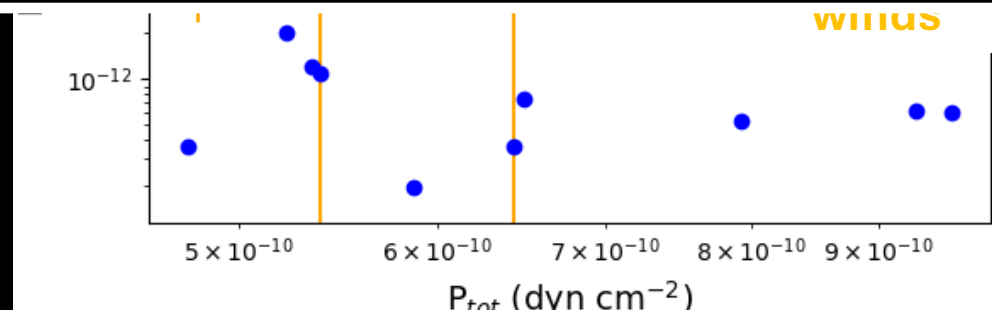
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SMC: Violet-Brace
MSc thesis

MW: Amber Sedgley
MSc thesis

→ The HII region expansion is mainly driven by **stellar winds** and the **warm, ionized gas**
(see also [Lopez+14](#))

Why the LMC (SMC) is not the final frontier of feedback studies

Instead of tens of regions with this level of detail, need hundreds to thousands to statistically characterize feedback



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Imaging 30 Doradus alone would require > 200 hours of MUSE time



~ 40 arcminutes

Why the LMC (SMC) is not the final frontier of feedback studies

Instead of tens of regions with this level of detail, need hundreds to thousands to statistically characterize feedback

Also, this does not sample the environment of different host galaxies

Solution: survey nearby galaxies (beyond the LMC)

Imaging 30 Doradus alone would require > 200 hours of MUSE time

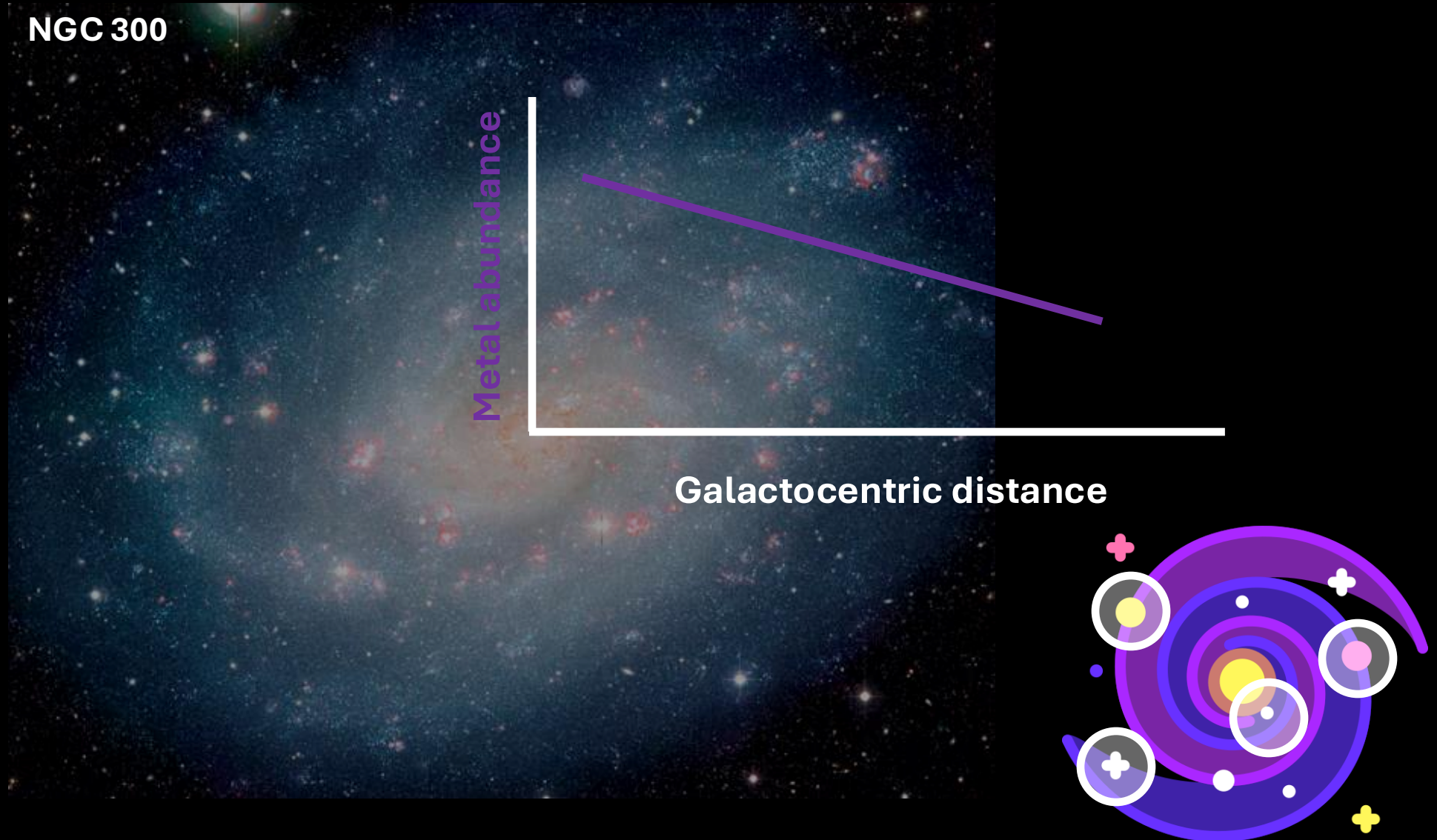


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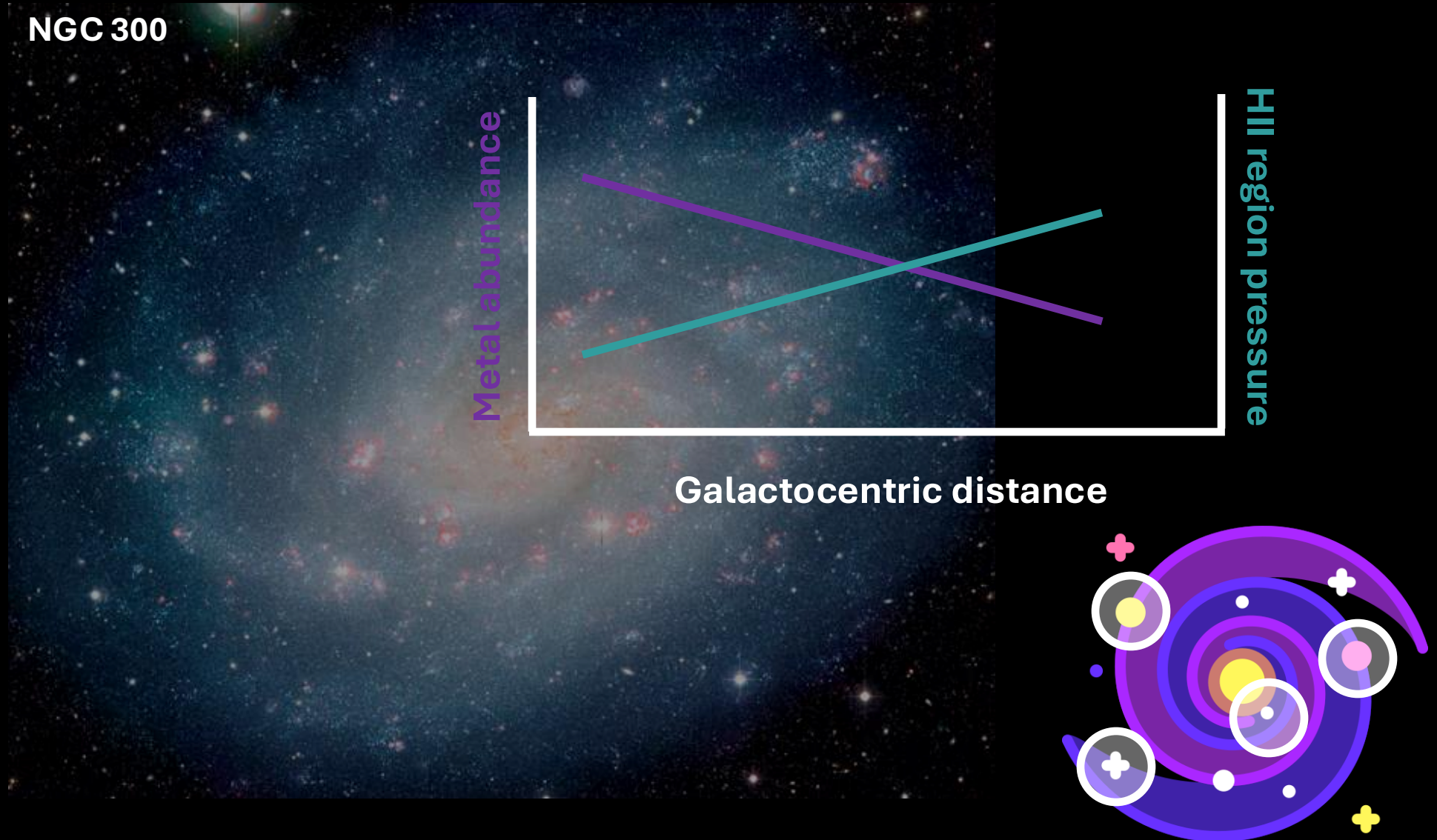
Metallicity-dependent pre-SN feedback in NGC 300



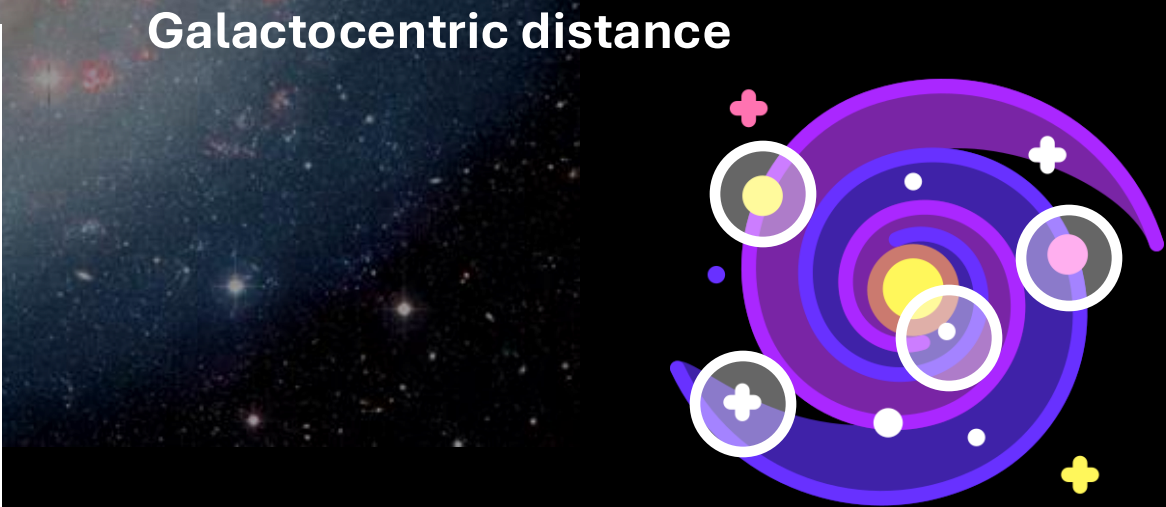
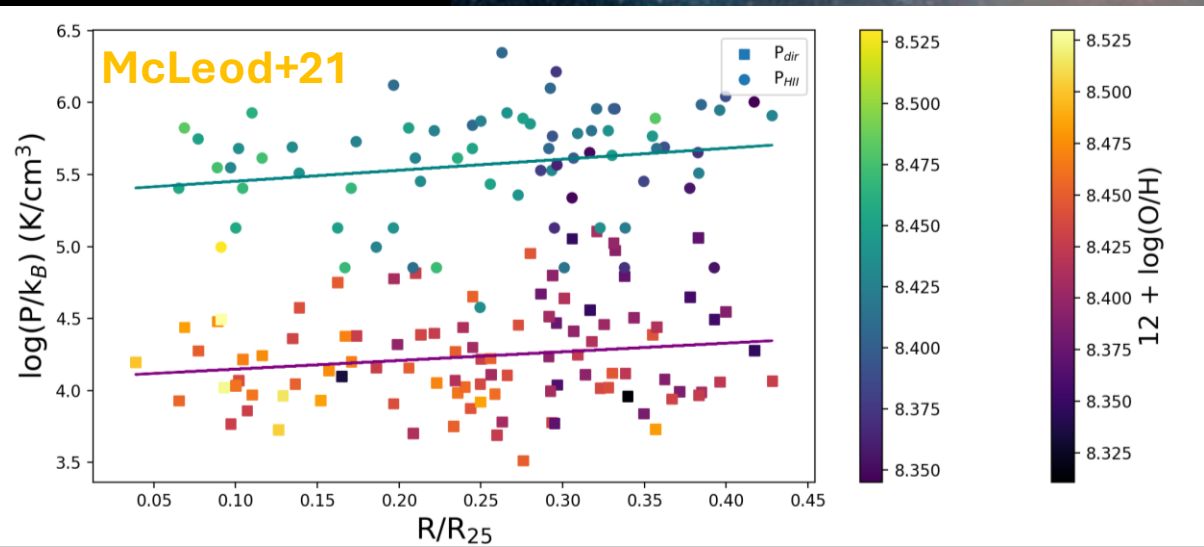
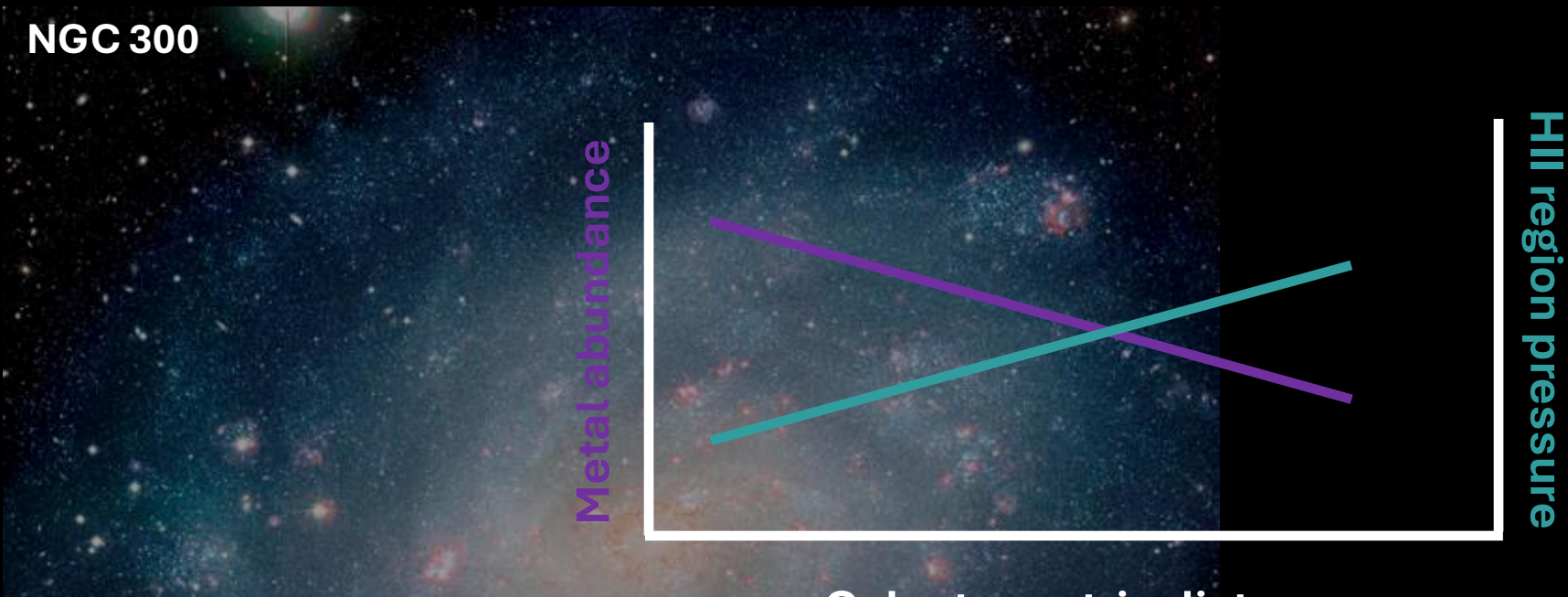
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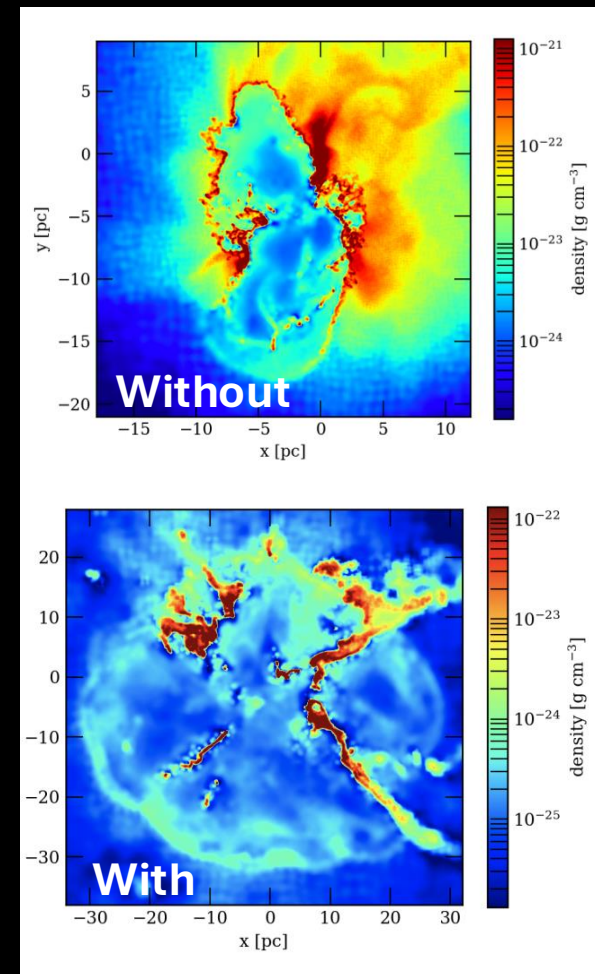
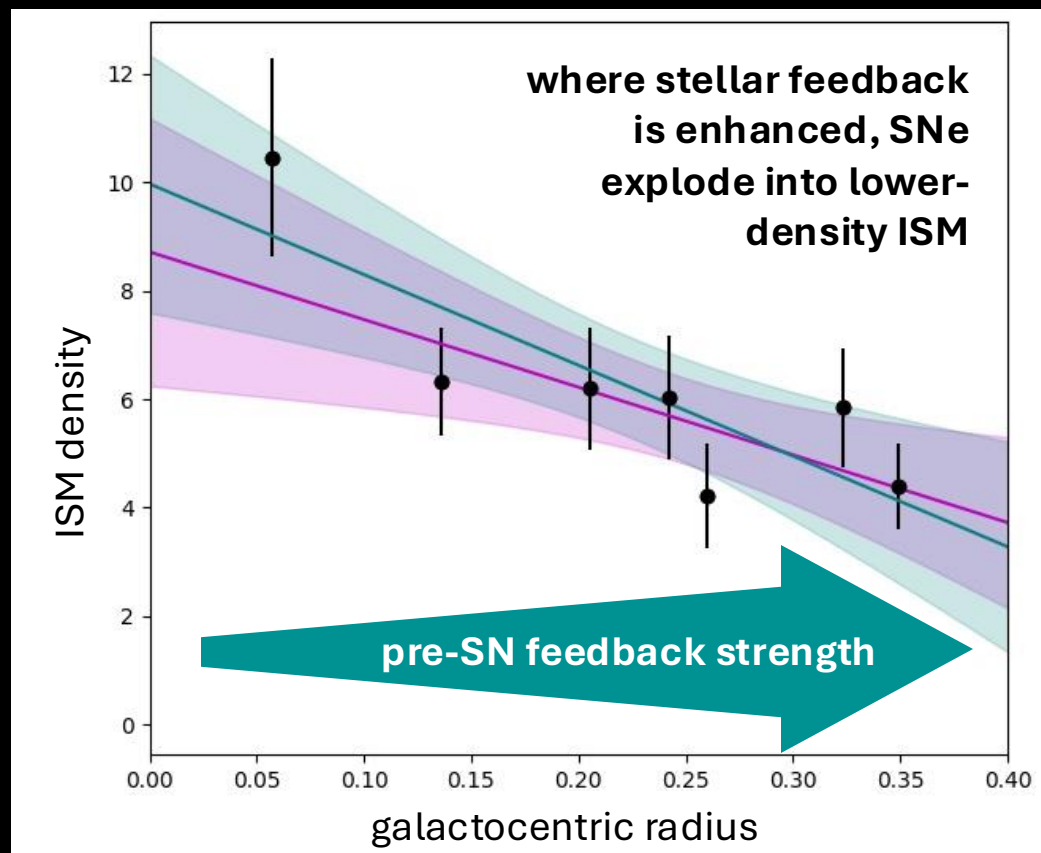
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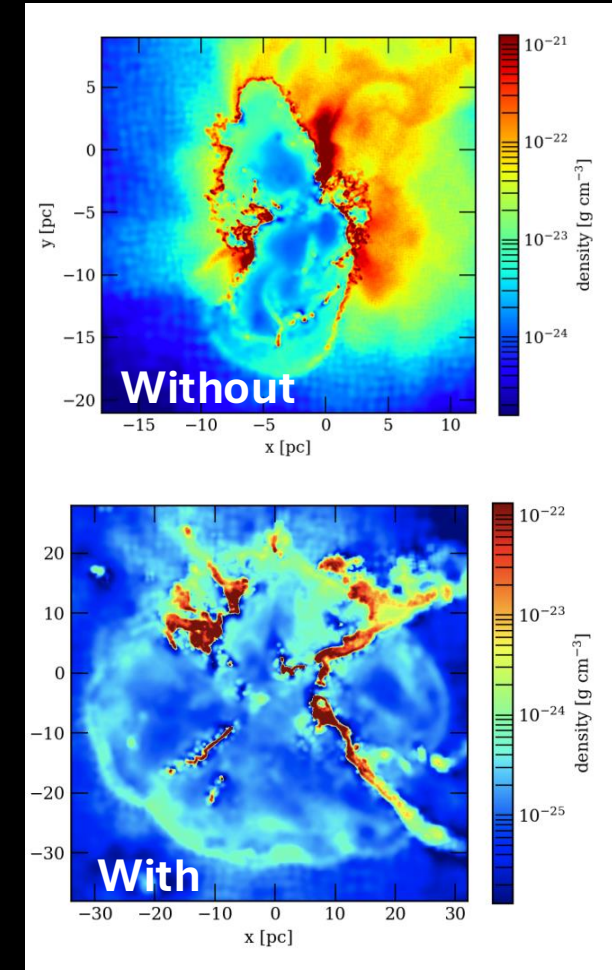
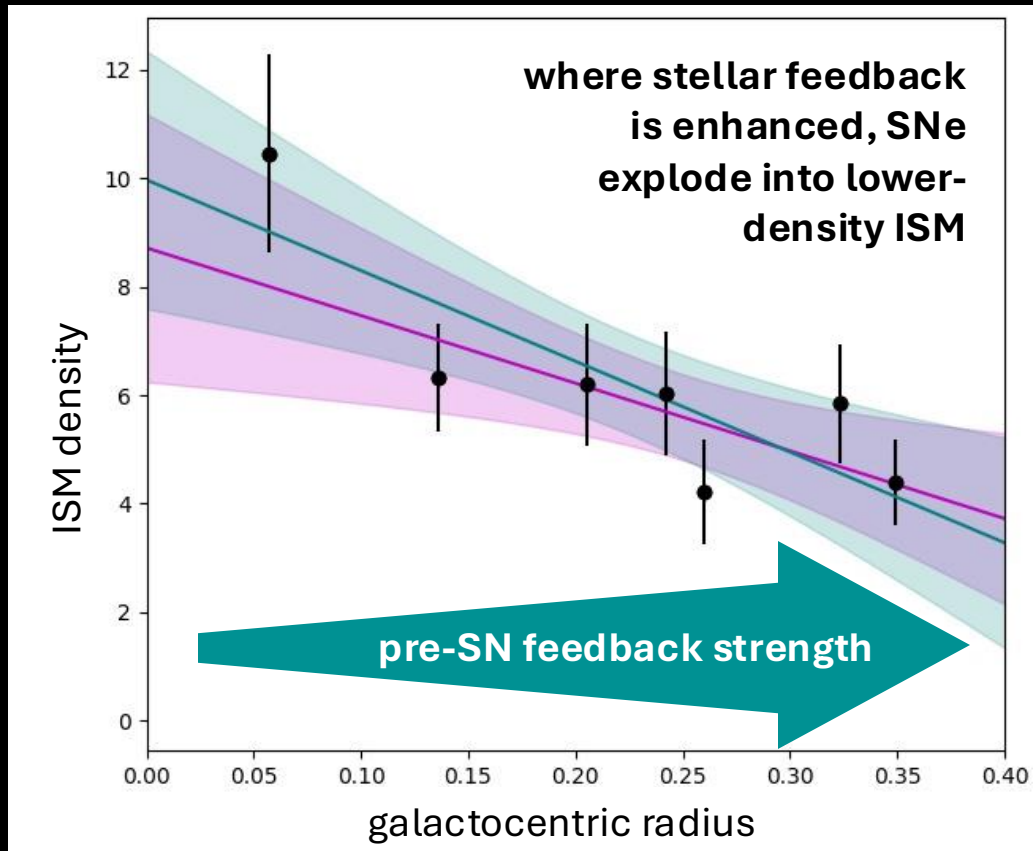
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Pre-SN feedback affects the density and 3D ISM geometry a SN will explode into



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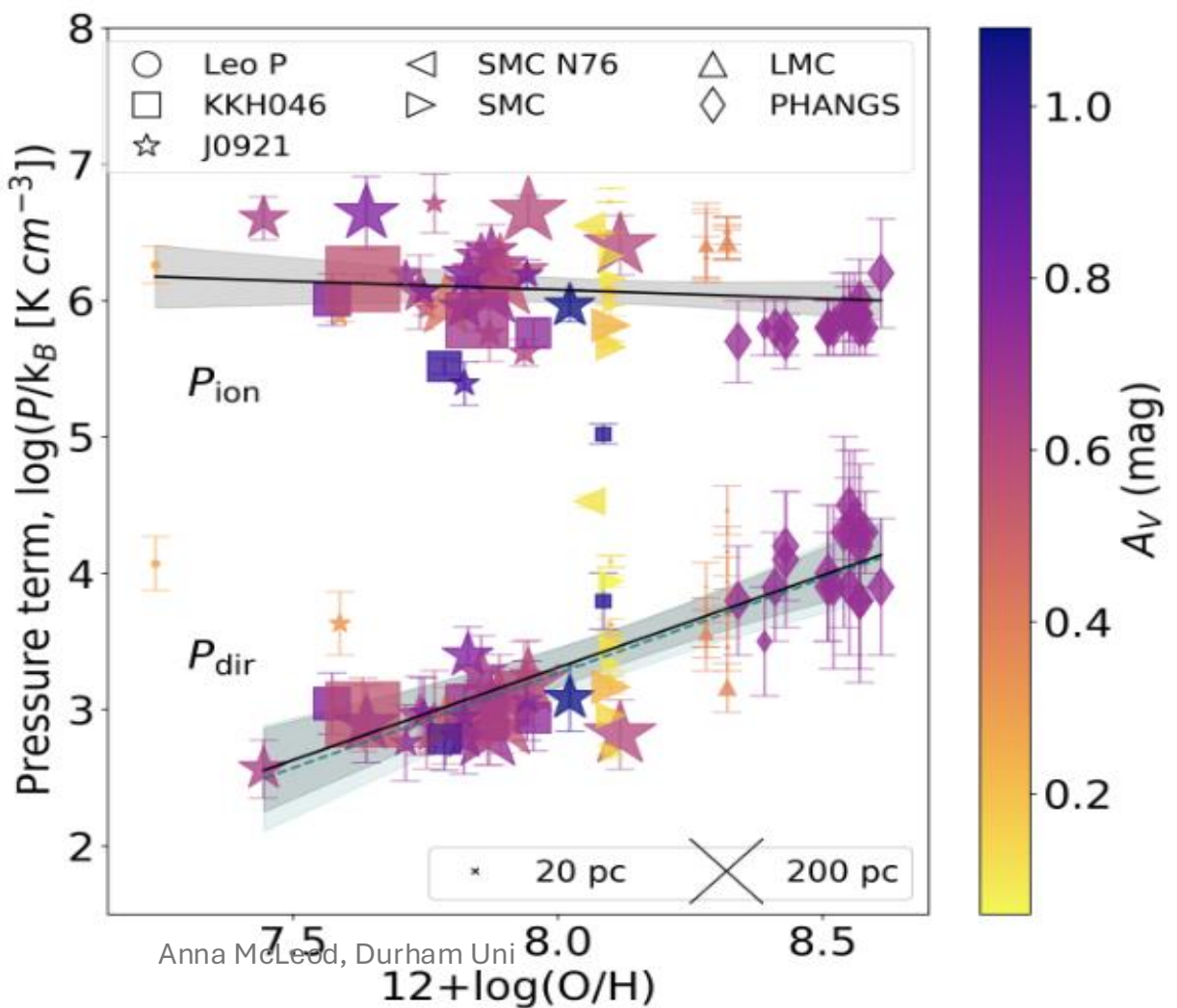
different impact of supernovae with/without early stellar feedback

Lucas+20
McLeod+21

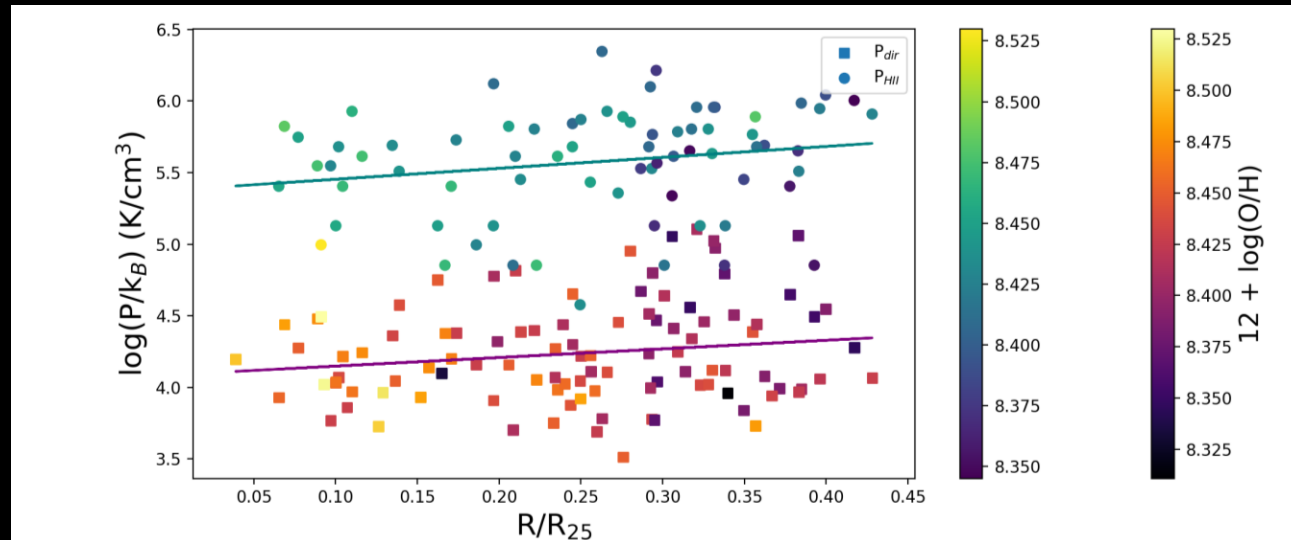
Exploring the very low metallicity regime

Dwarf starburst galaxies

Rowland, McLeod+24
(see also Marasco+23)

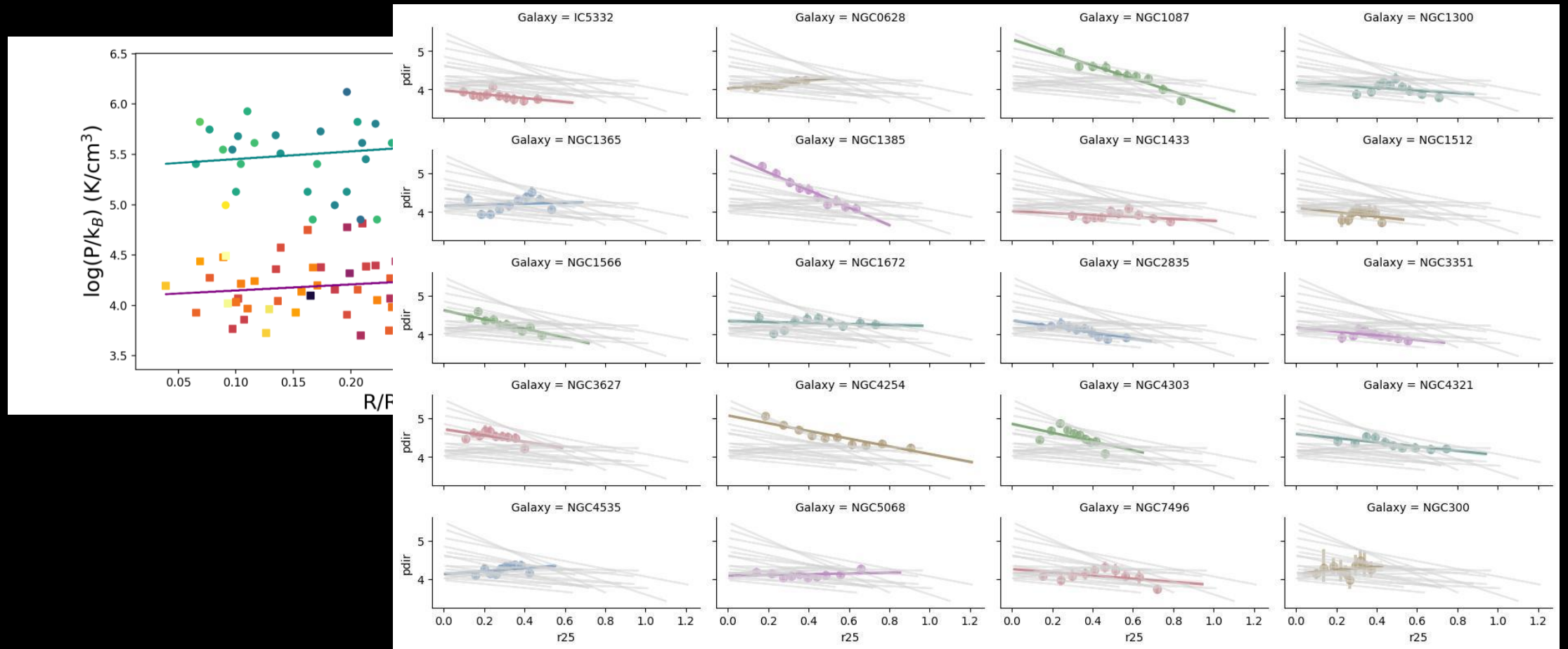


Feedback studies in nearby galaxies



Feedback studies in nearby galaxies

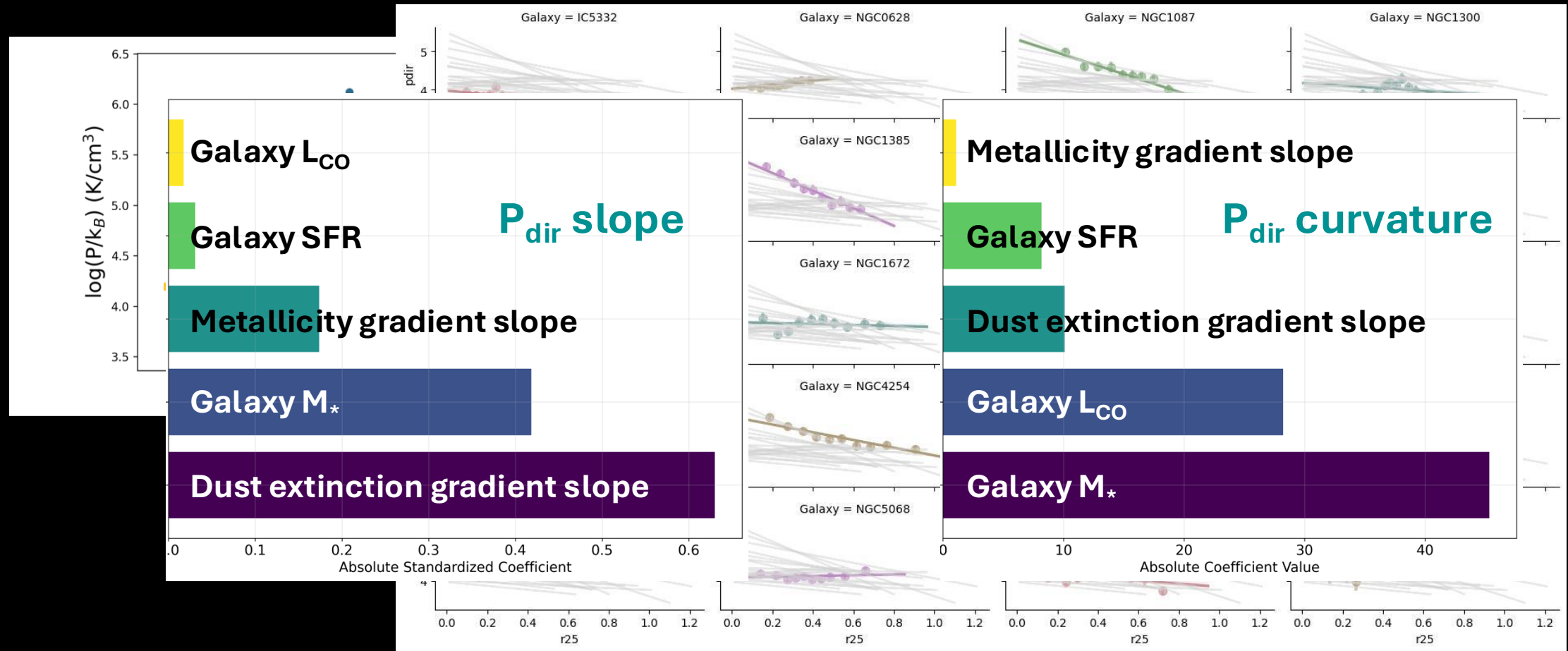
McLeod+in prep.



See also **Barnes+21**

Feedback studies in nearby galaxies

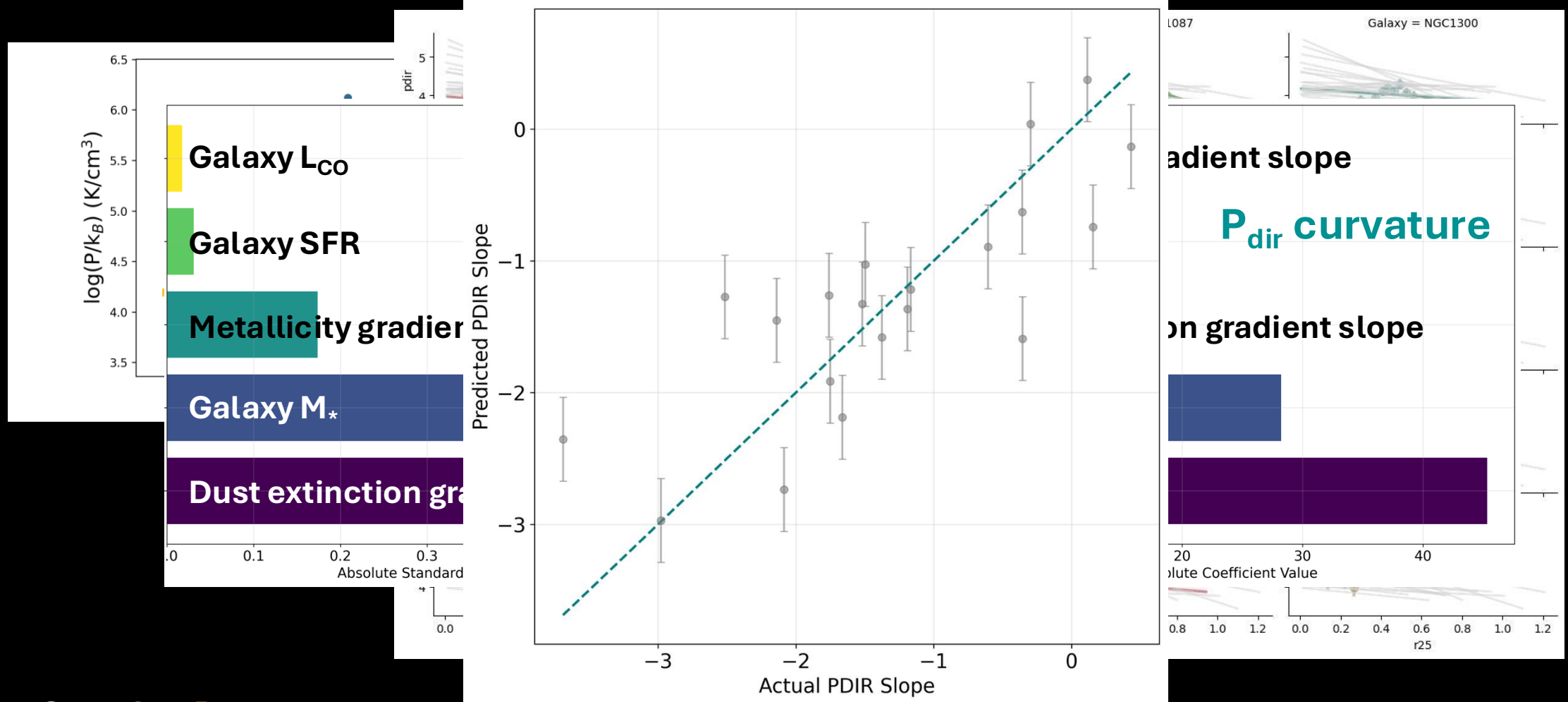
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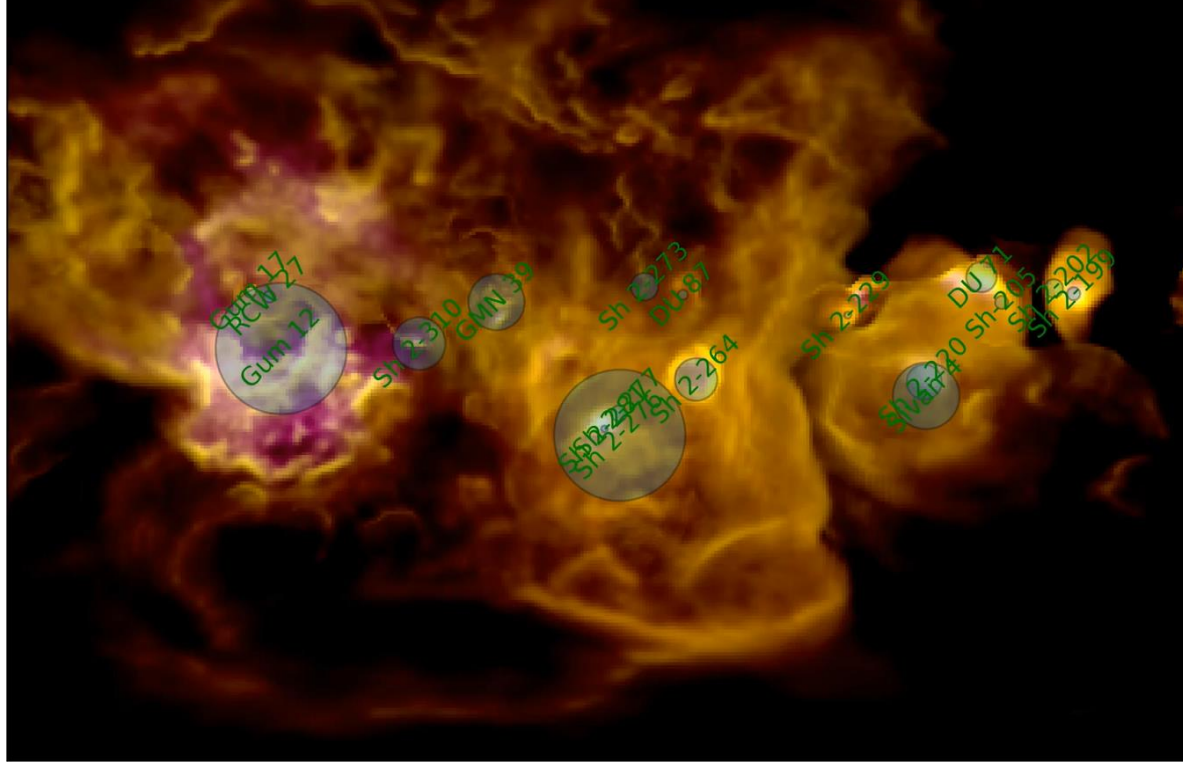
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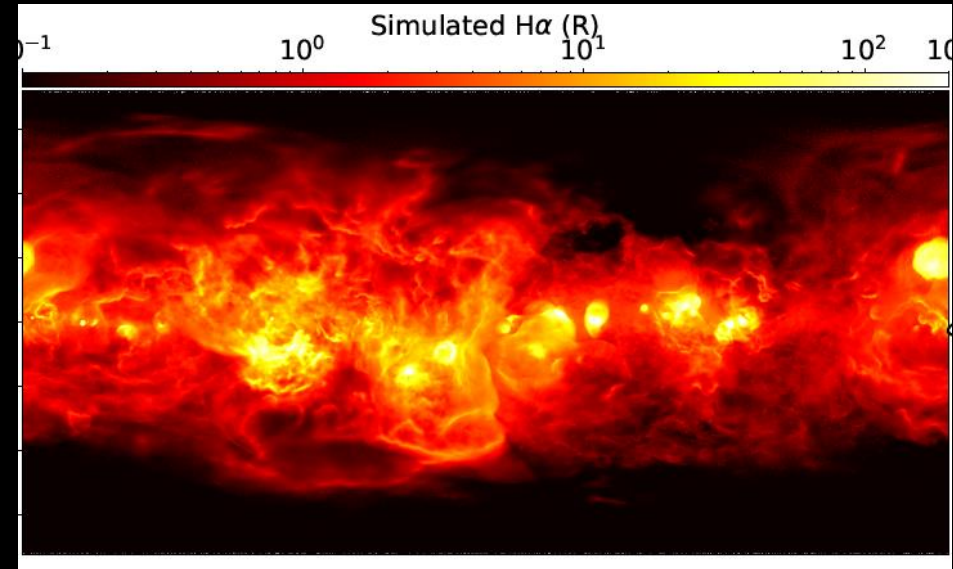
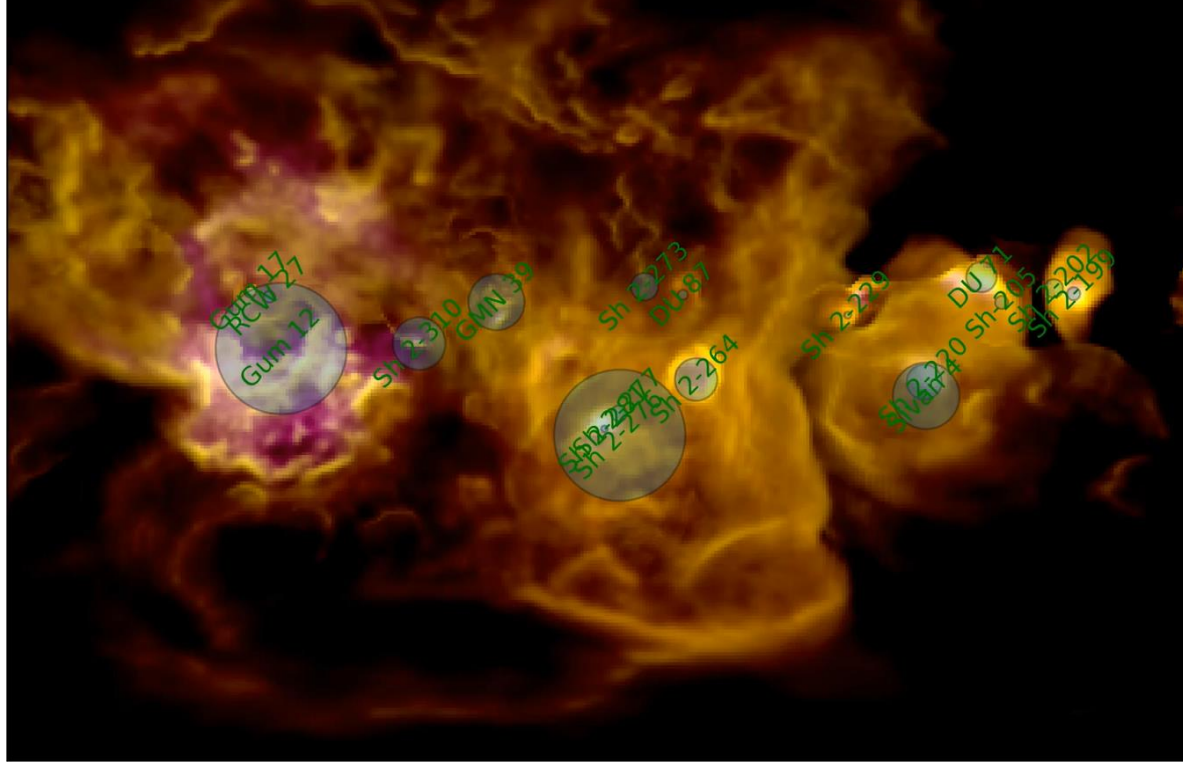
And where are we with simulations?

$d_{\text{O stars}} + \text{dust map of solar 1.25 kpc volume}$
Ly cont. RT sim



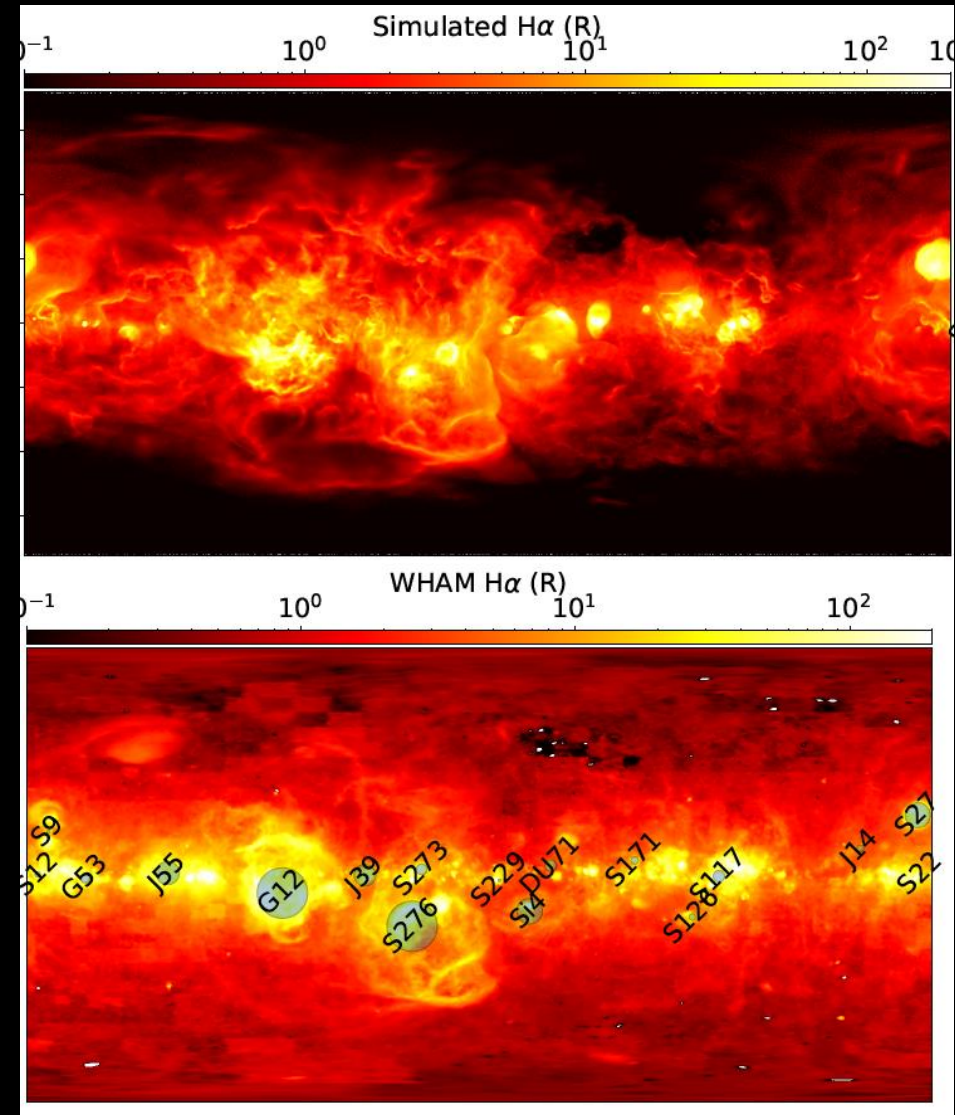
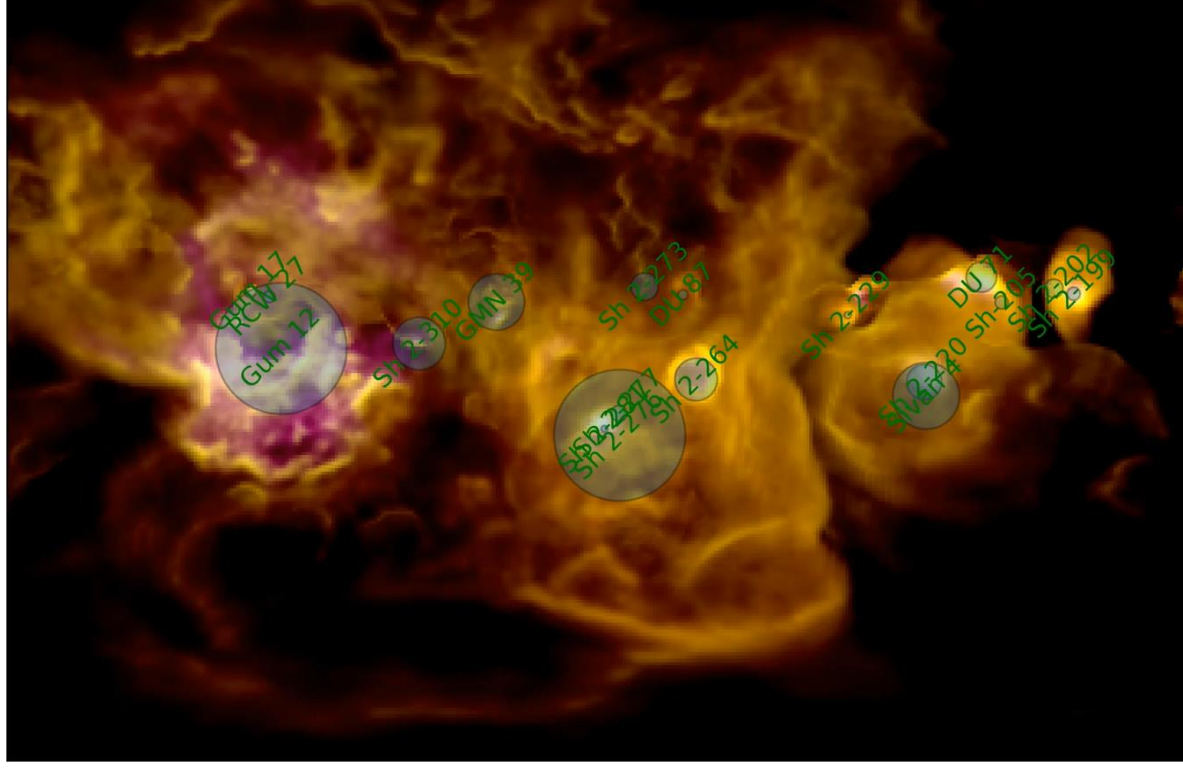
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Let's take a moment to digest

- Stellar feedback is an essential component in regulating star formation and galaxy evolution
- This inherently becomes a cosmic time issue
- To understand the interdependence of the ISM conditions and feedback we must know about the **stars**
- Stars & star clusters in the early Universe are unresolved

Today's program

1. Stellar feedback: a bit of background
2. What have we learned from resolved feedback studies so far?
3. Can we learn something about the early Universe from local studies?
4. Stellar population synthesis & the IMF
5. Connecting the local to the distant Universe

**Can we learn something (about the
high- z Universe) from resolved
massive stars (clusters) in the
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→ use local analogs of high- z galaxies

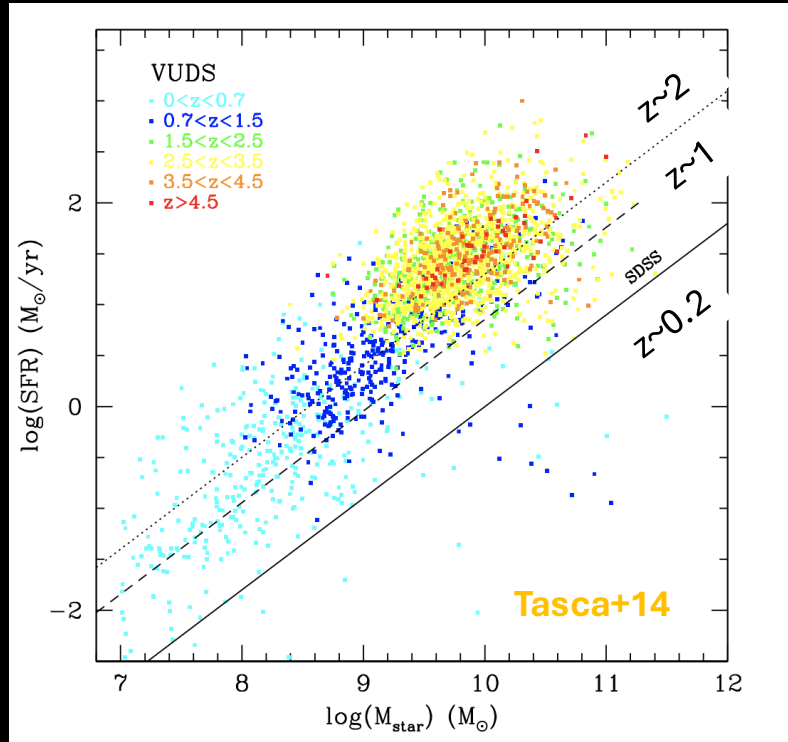
Do local analogs of high- z galaxies exist?

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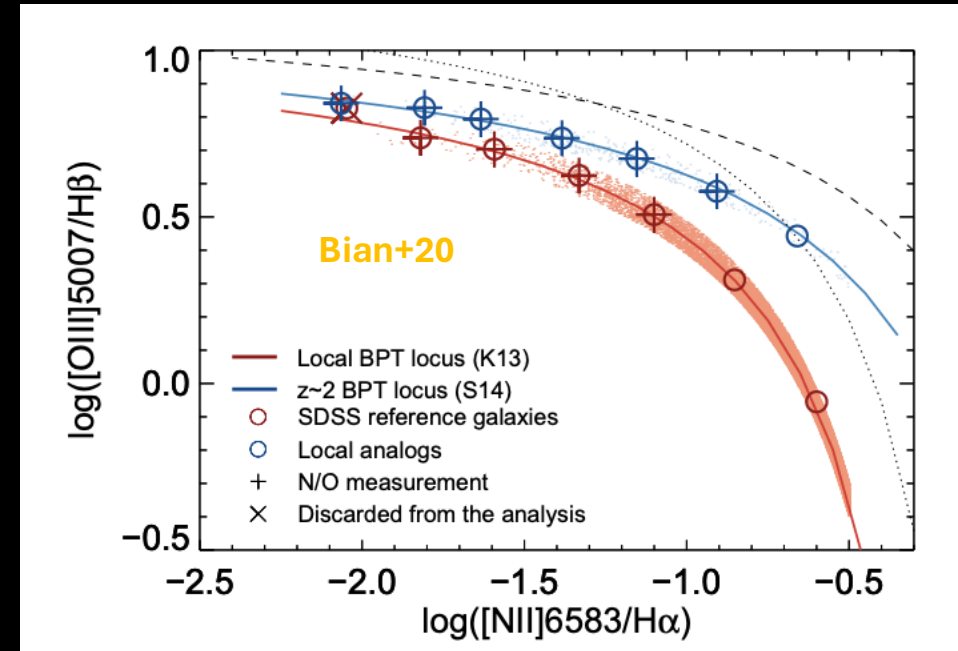
Properties change as a function of redshift, for example:

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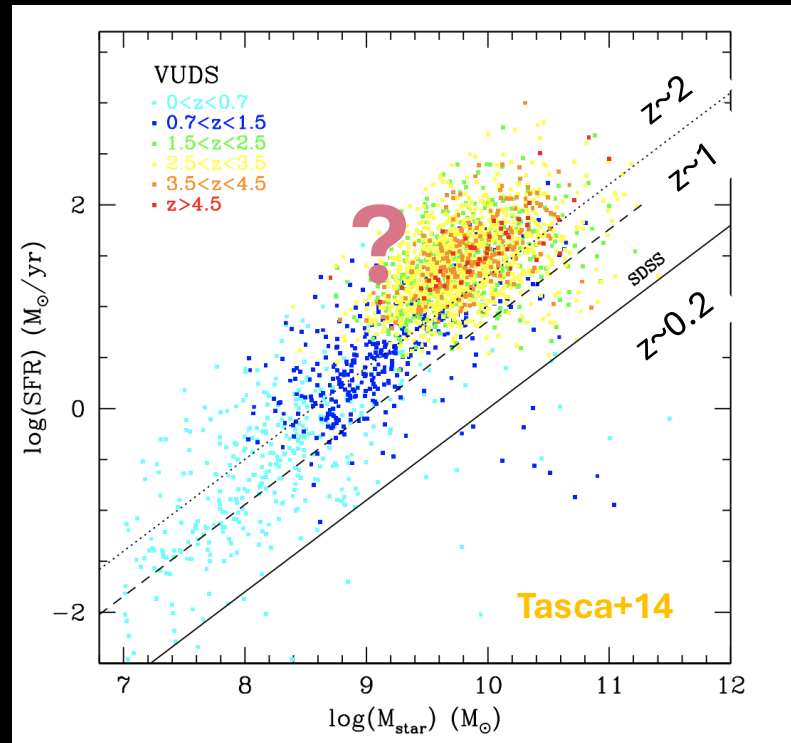
z -evolution of SFR – stellar mass relation



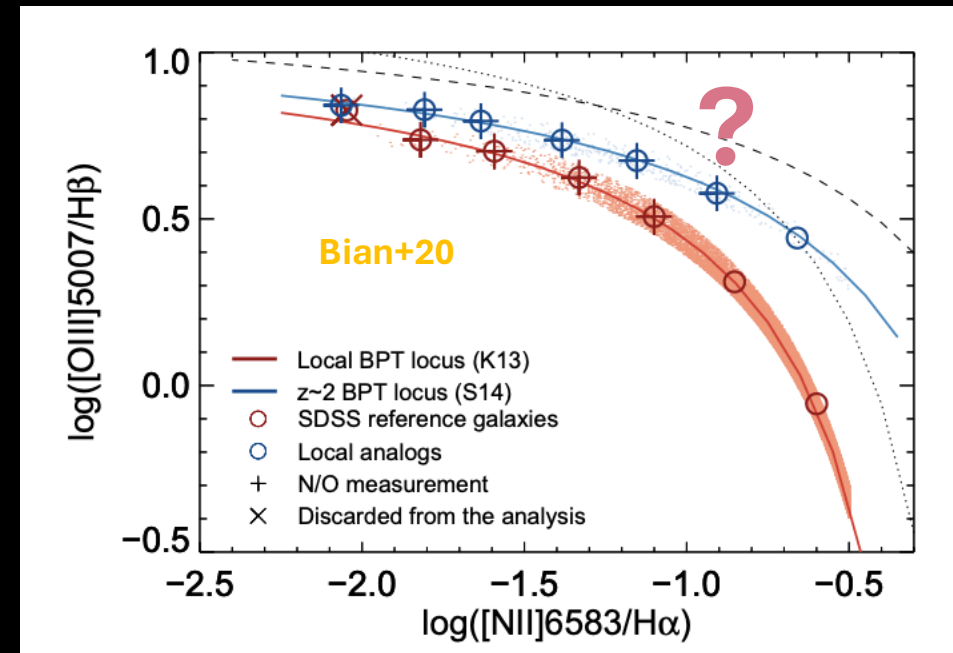
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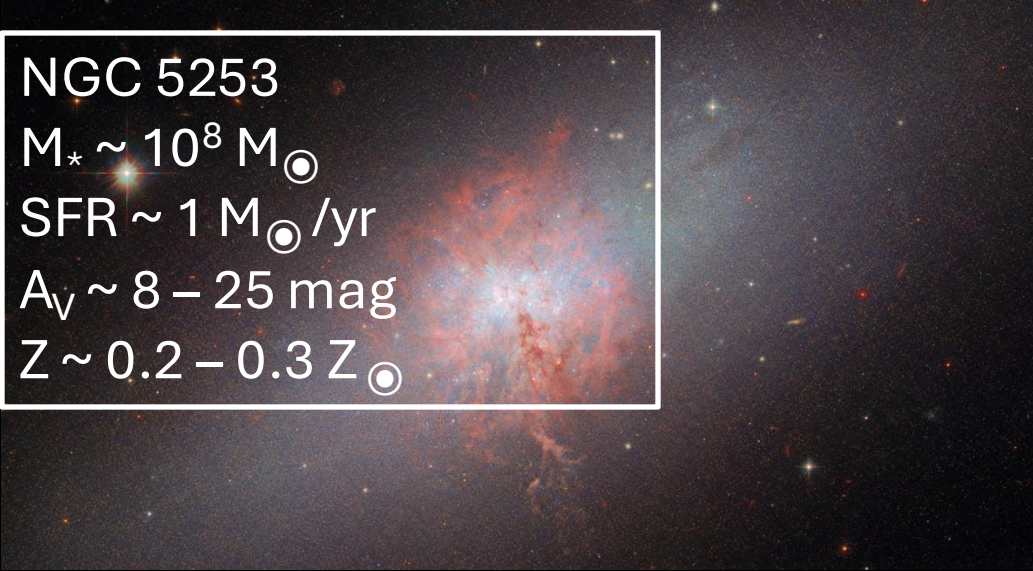
NGC 5253

$M_* \sim 10^8 M_\odot$

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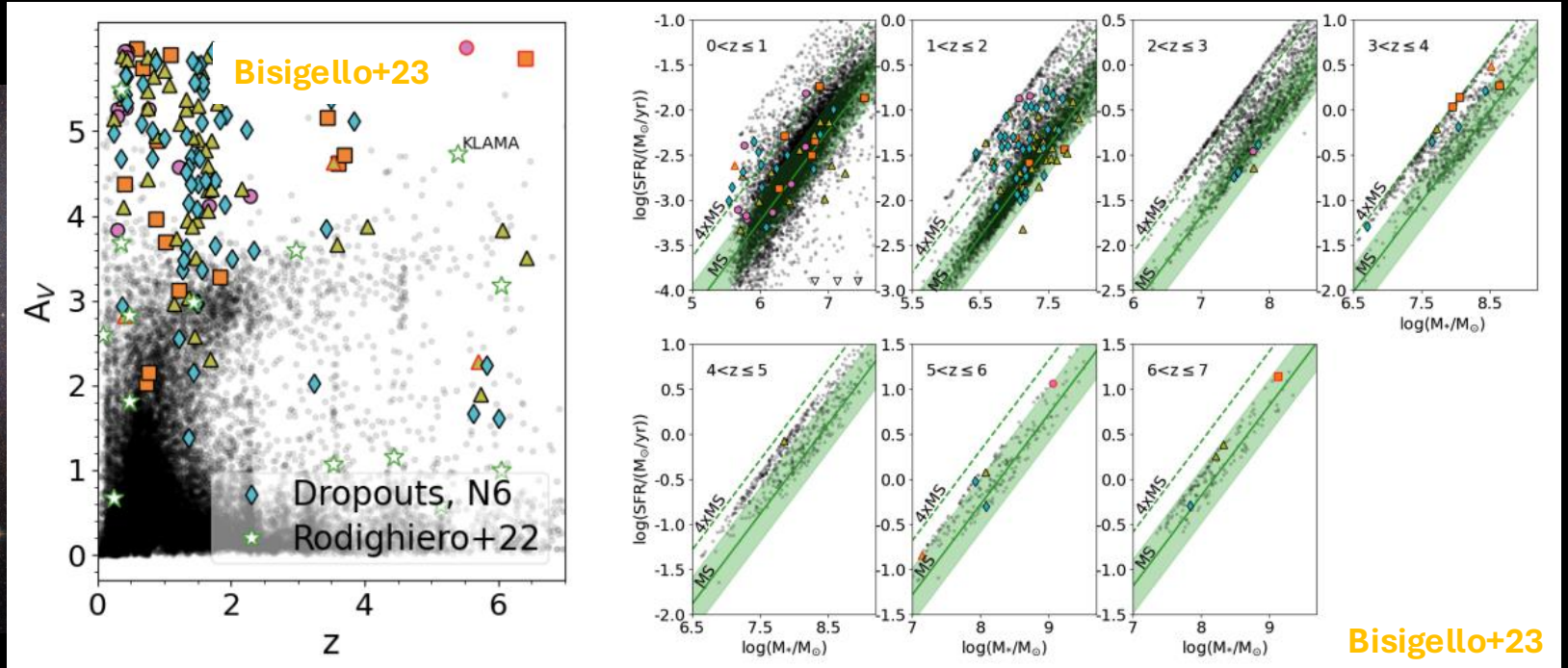
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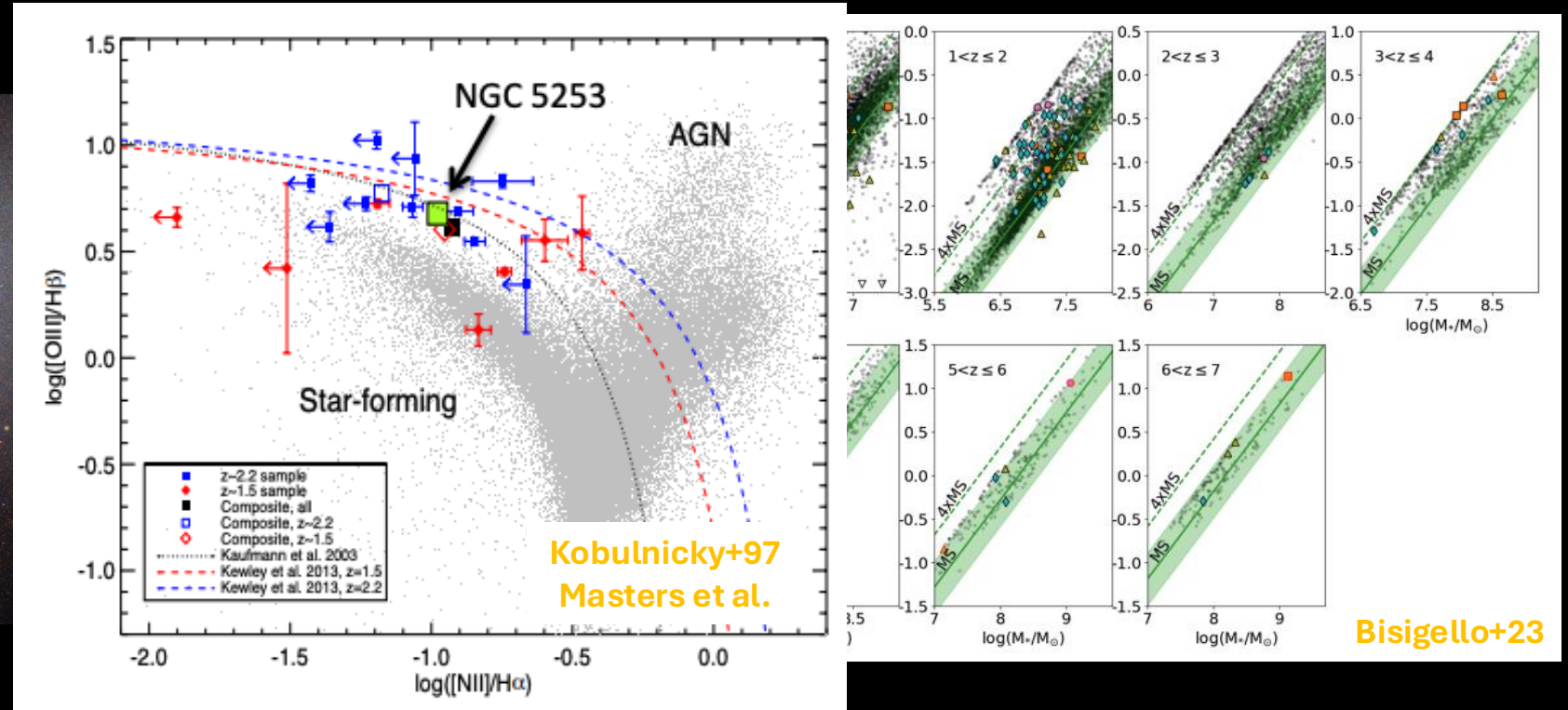
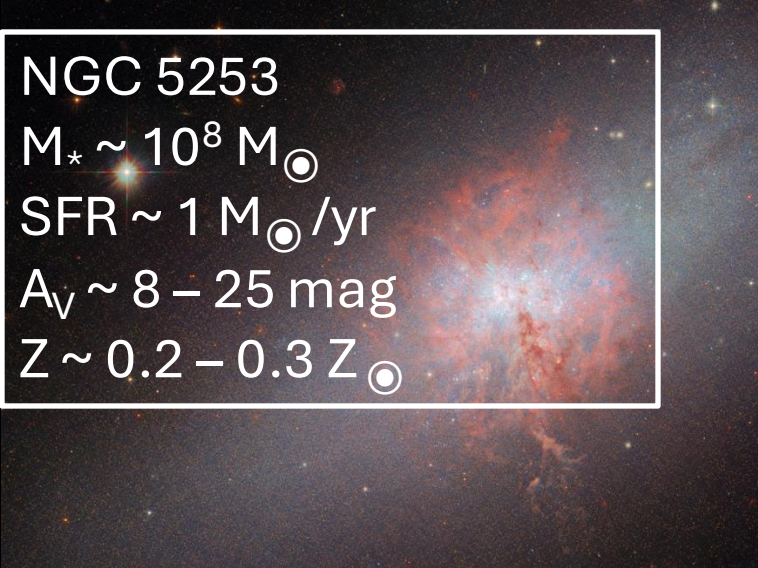
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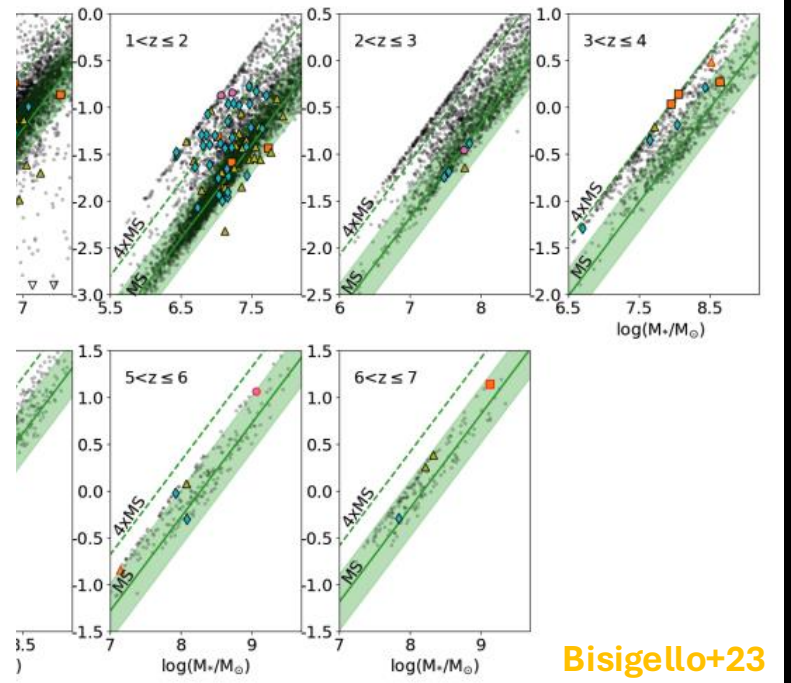
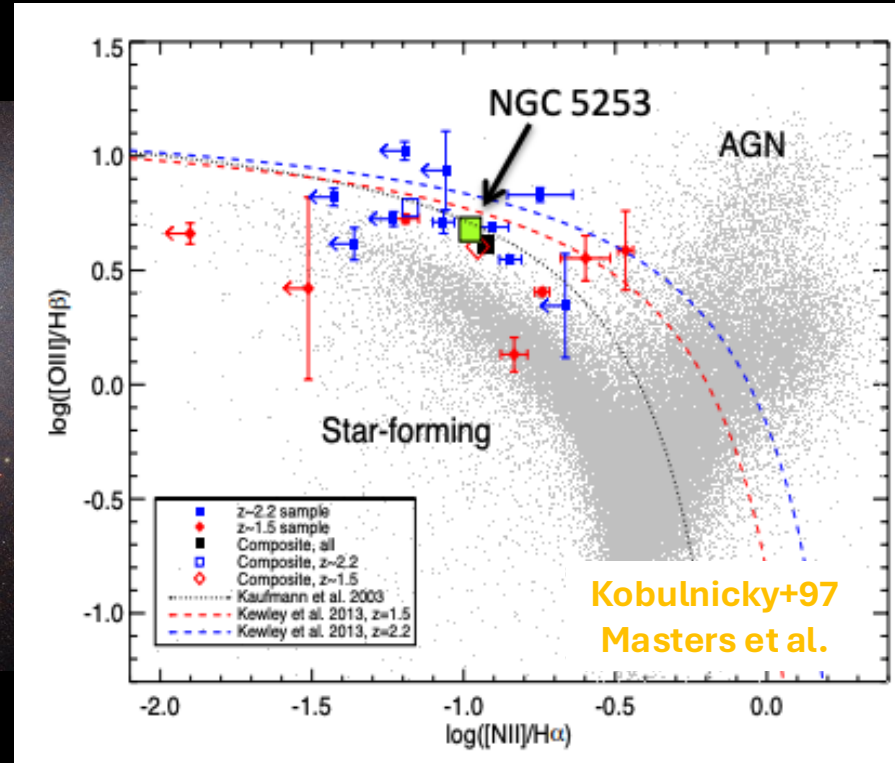
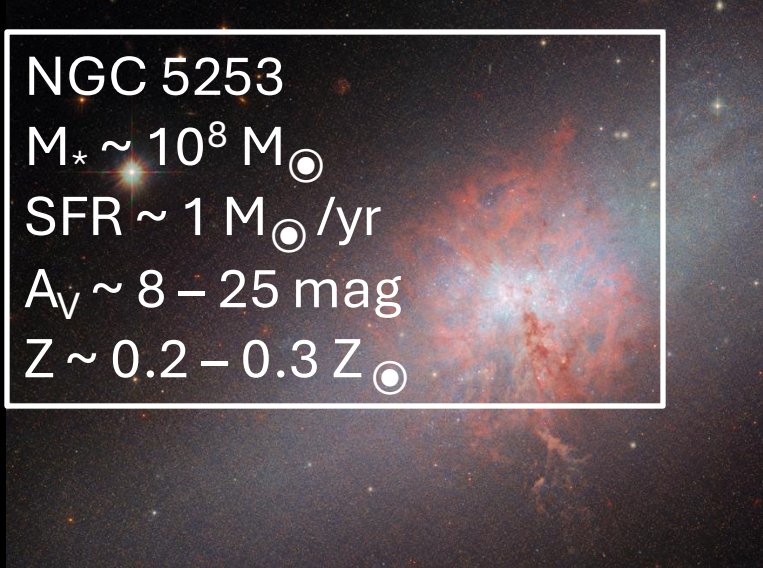
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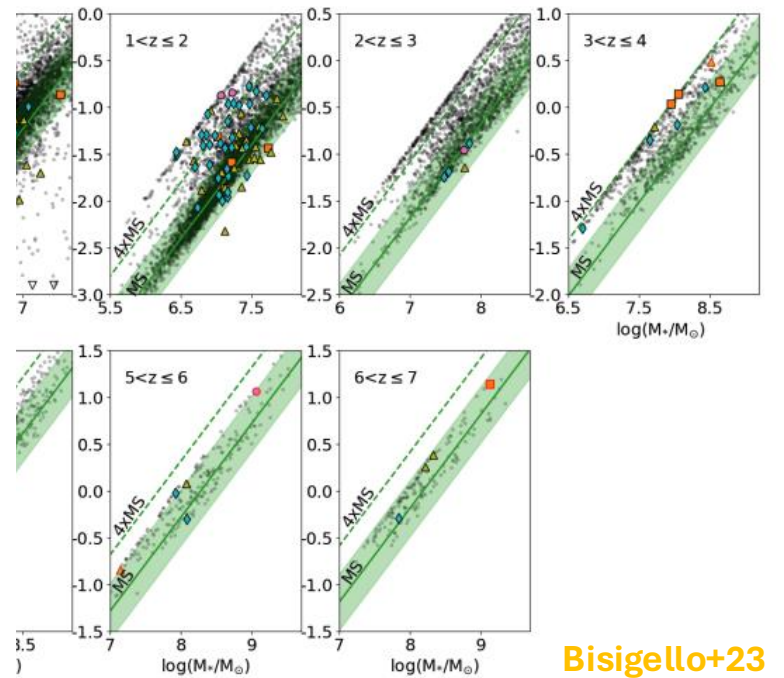
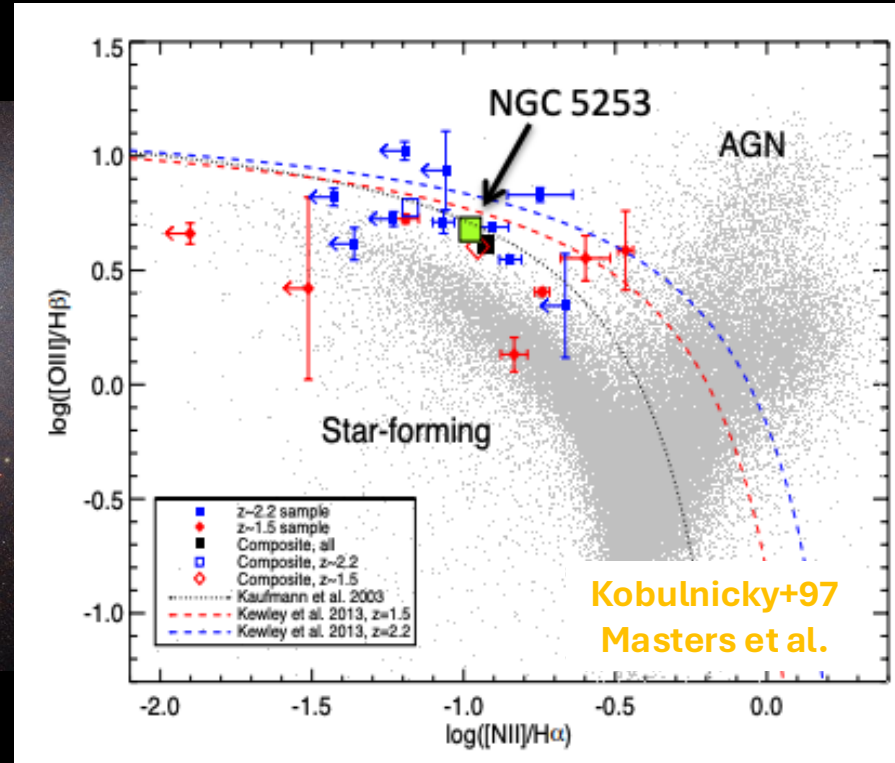
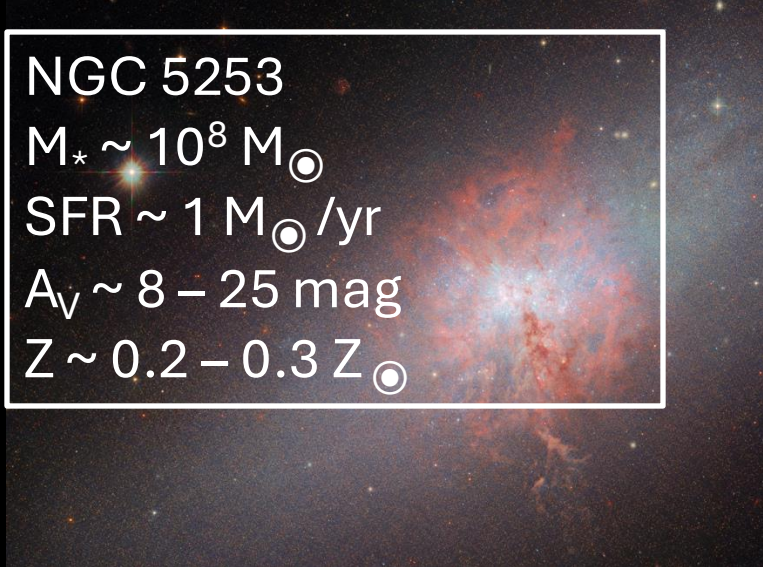
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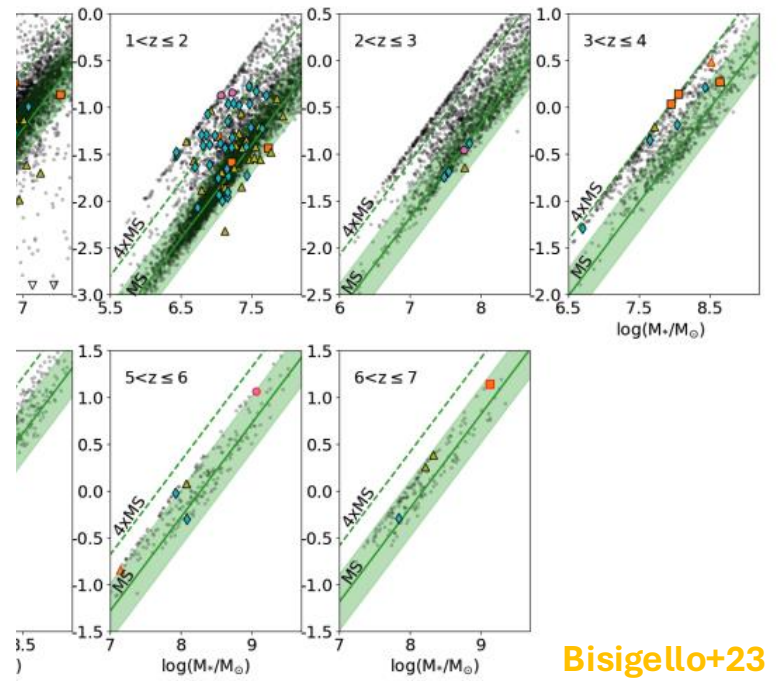
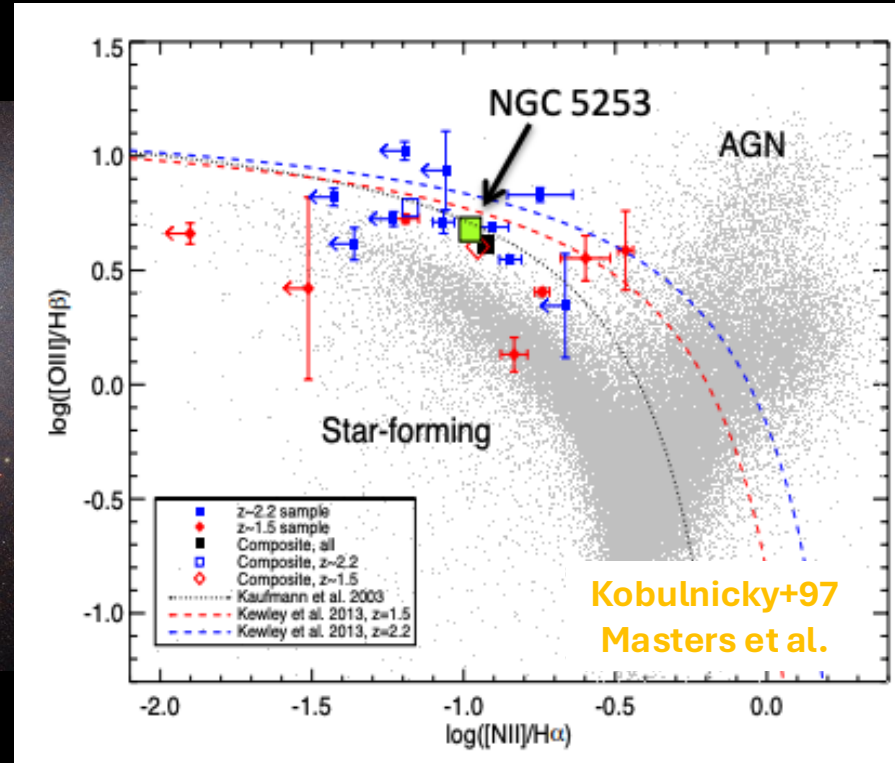
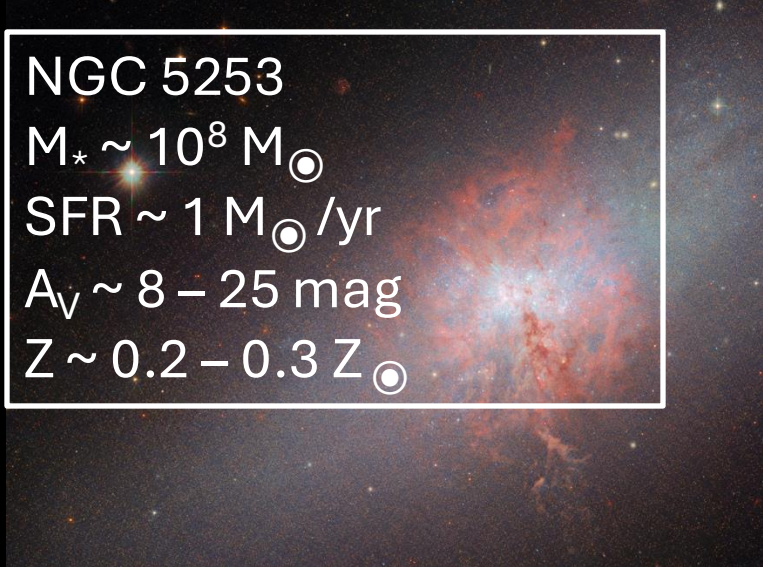


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Maybe they do, but:

- Local analogs typically have higher metallicities
- Other factors to consider
 - E.g., uncertainty of escape fraction evolution with redshift
 - E.g., dynamical states might have been different at high z

Assuming local analogs exist

Assuming local analogs exist

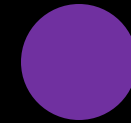


Age
Metallicity
SFR
SFH
Escape fractions
IMF properties

Assuming local analogs exist



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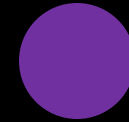


Age
Metallicity
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Stellar pop
synthesis models



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Stellar population synthesis and the IMF

Curtesy of Elizabeth Stanway (U Warwick)

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Feedback is caused by **stars**.

Stellar population synthesis and the IMF

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We need to understand stars before we understand feedback at **any** scale.

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Prediction of integrated light
(color, spectrum, luminosity)
of a stellar population
(cluster, galaxy)

Stellar population synthesis and the IMF

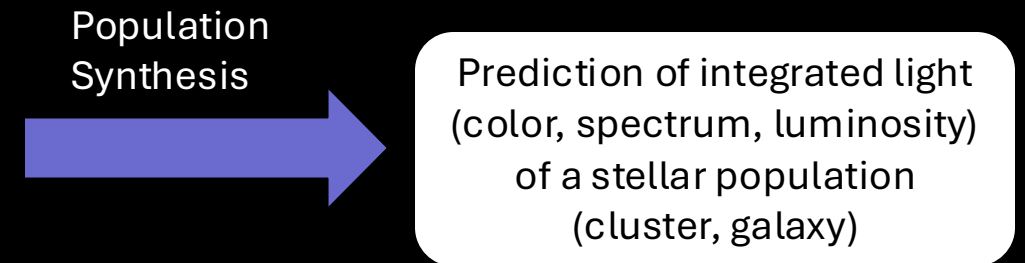
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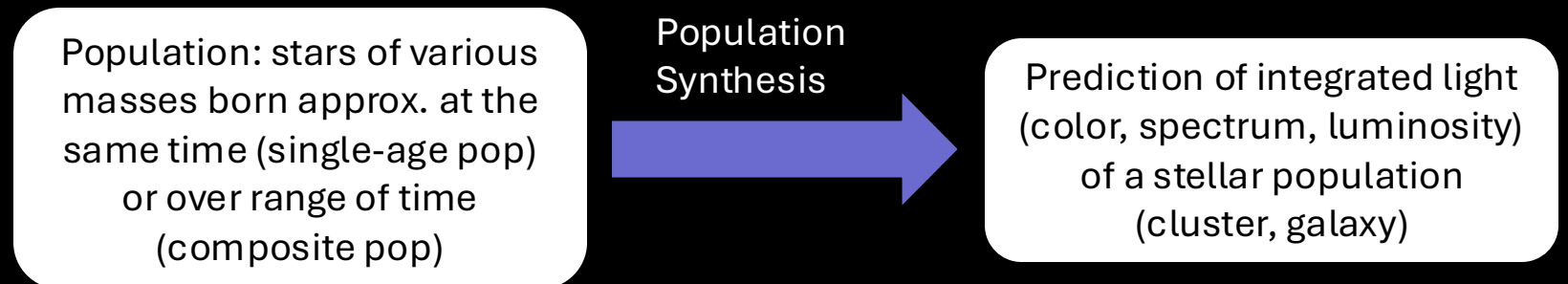
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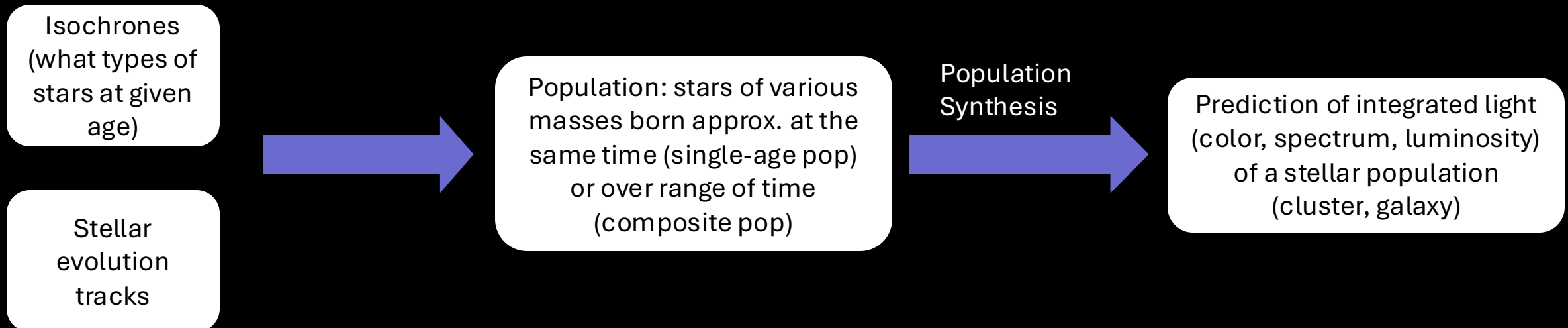
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Stellar
evolution
tracks
(isochrones)

Sun-like
stars



Massive
stars



Post-Main
Sequence



Stellar
remnants



Stellar
evolution
tracks
(isochrones)

Initial Mass
Function

Sun-like
stars



Massive
stars



Post-Main
Sequence



Stellar
remnants

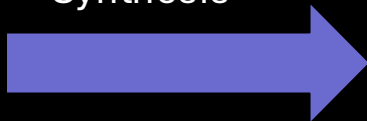


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evolution
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Initial Mass
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Population
Synthesis



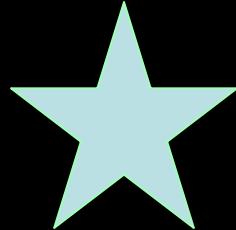
Composite
Stellar
Population
at given
age



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- Stellar type ratios (e.g. WR/O etc)
- Lum-Temp HR diagrams
- Supernova rates
- Stellar mass

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Stellar spectra
(atmospheres
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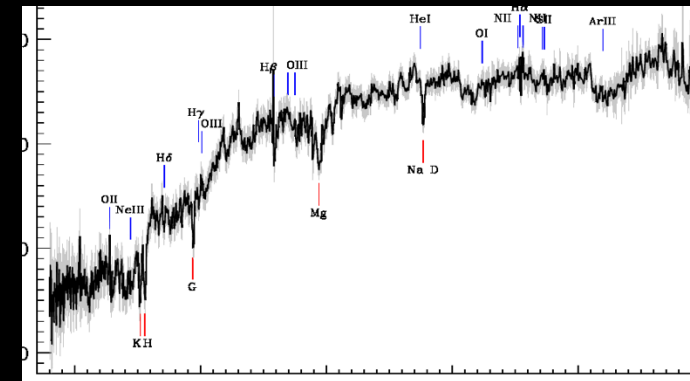


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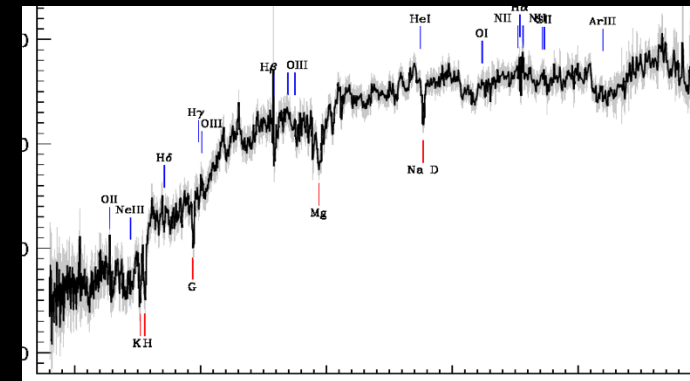
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Spectral
Synthesis



- Composite spectra
- Photometric colours
- Colour-Mag HR diagrams
- Stellar absorption and emission lines

Beatrice Tinsley

The concept of SPS codes can be traced back to New Zealand/American astrophysicist **Beatrice M Tinsley**.



1967 – PhD Thesis:
Evolution of Galaxies
and its Significance
for Cosmology

EVOLUTION OF THE STARS AND GAS IN GALAXIES

BEATRICE M. TINSLEY

The University of Texas

Received March 2, 1967; revised June 12, 1967

ABSTRACT

A numerical computation of evolution starts from gas with Population I composition; then stars are formed at all times, at rates which are functions of stellar mass and mass of gas in the galaxy. Discrete time steps of 10^9 years are used, and 13 stellar masses. The stars are placed on the H-R diagram according to their masses and ages; each star ends as a white dwarf, while its excess mass enriches the interstellar gas. Different evolutionary sequences are constructed by adjusting four parameters of a stellar birth-rate function. Then “galaxies” resulting from each sequence of $10\text{--}12 \times 10^9$ years are compared with observed local galaxies with respect to colors, mass-to-light ratio, relative mass of gas, and types of stars contributing to the light.

“Galaxies” closely resembling all normal types, Im to E, can be formed with a stellar birth rate proportional to the inverse square of stellar mass and to the mass of gas in the galaxy; the types differ in initial rate of gas consumption and in the birth rate of very low-mass stars. These types can all have the same age, and do not form an evolutionary sequence.

It is shown that giant elliptical galaxies may have been so much brighter at short wavelengths a few billion years ago that the observed magnitude-redshift relation can be interpreted in terms of cosmological models that do not suffer from the high density and small age of the conventionally preferred model.

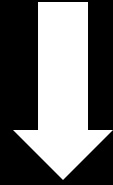
ApJ, 151, 547 (1968)

Image source: wikimedia

Population
of co-eval
stars

+

IMF

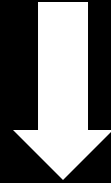


SPS

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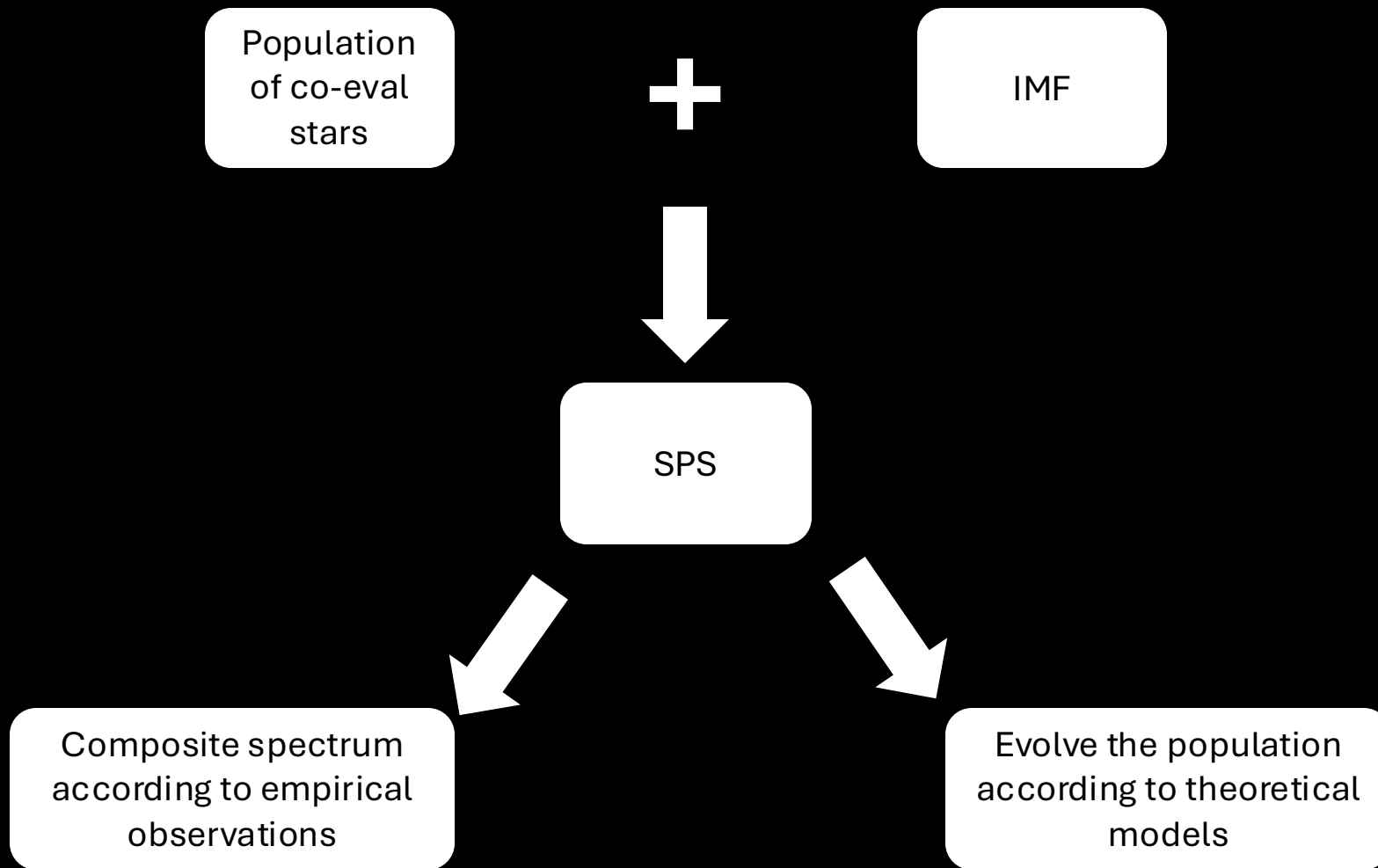
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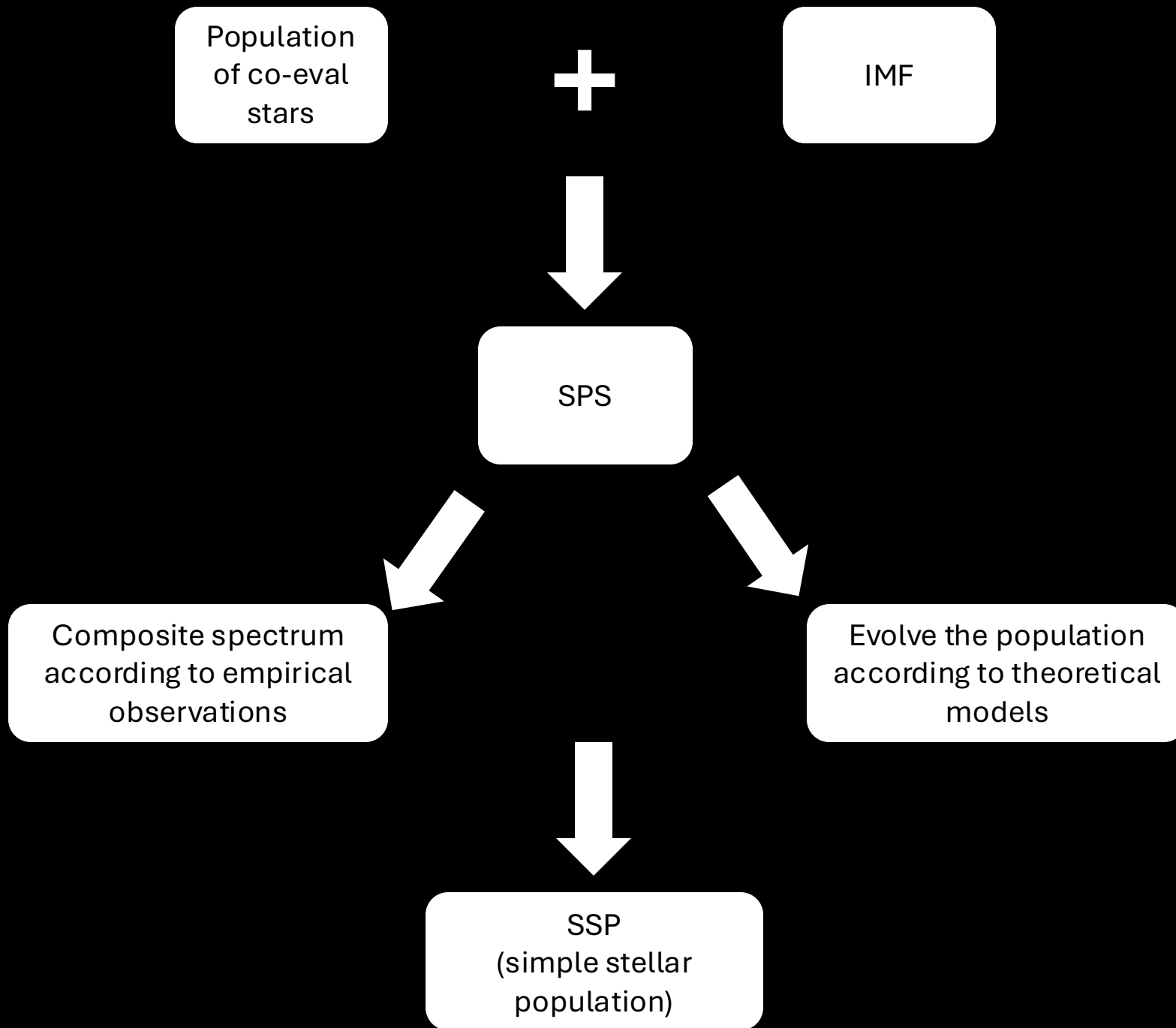


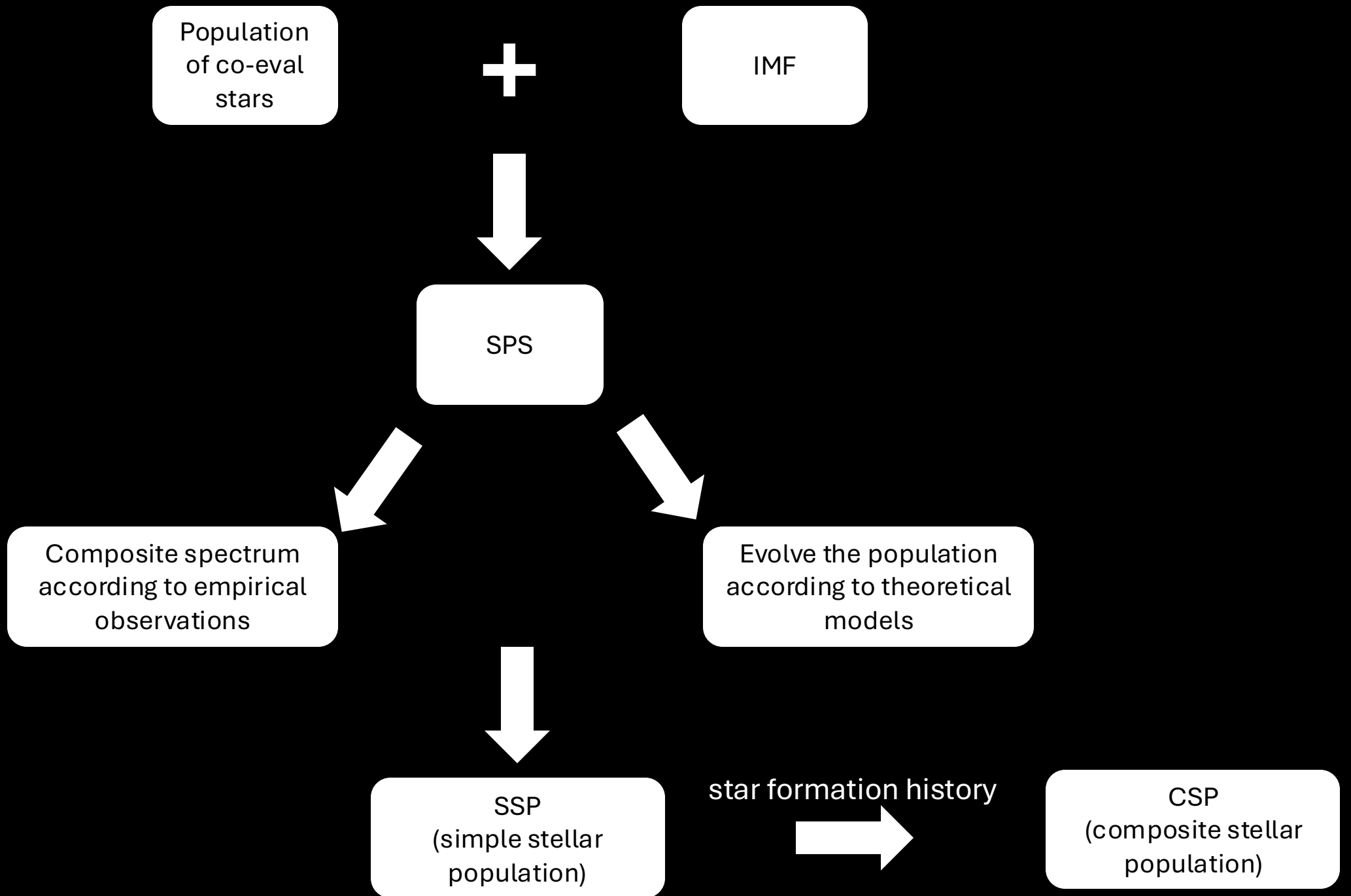
SPS



Composite spectrum
according to empirical
observations







Full SED modeling

Combining SSPs with:

- star formation history
- metallicity history
- nebular gas
- dust absorption and emission

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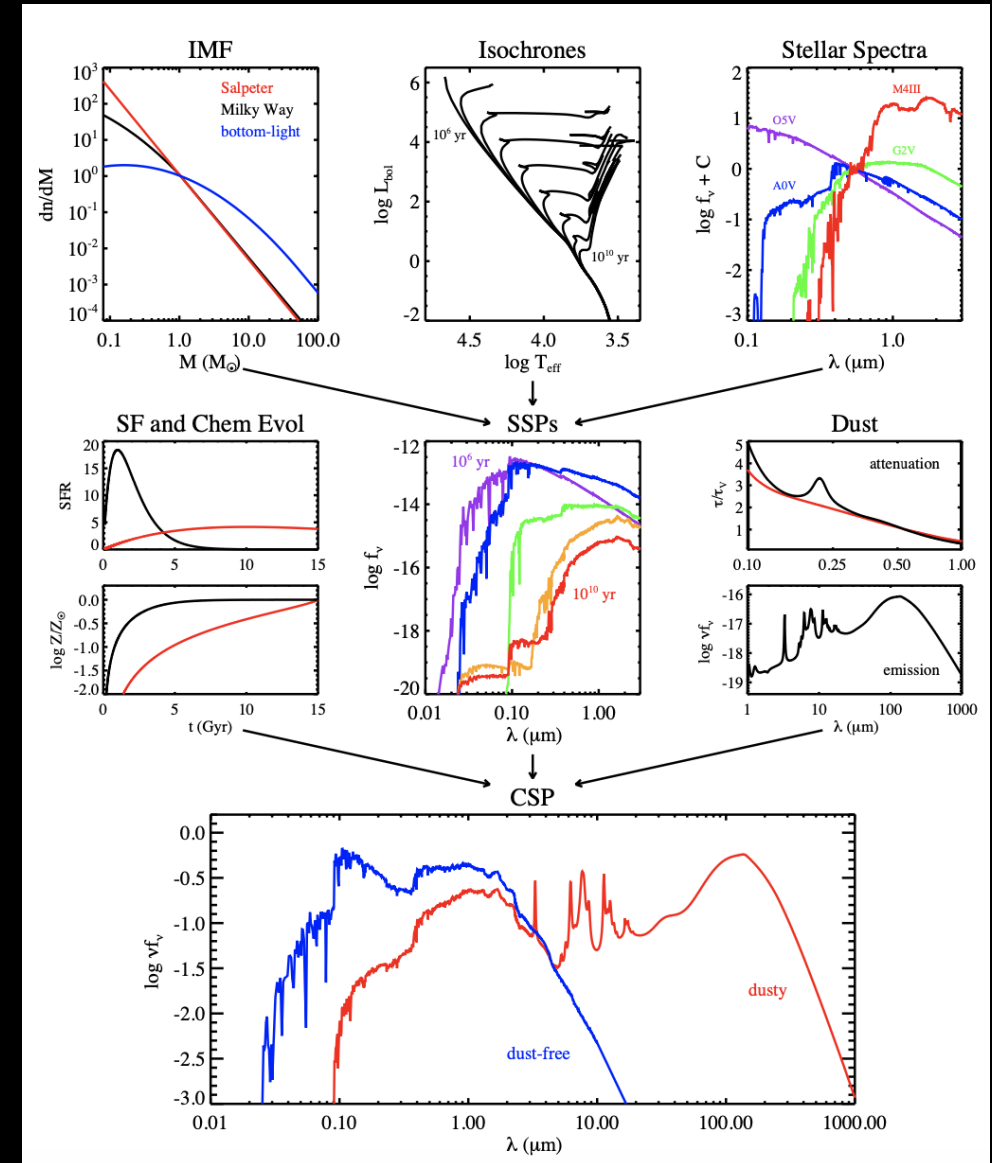
produces a **full synthetic spectral energy distribution** (SED)

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(image: Conroy 2014)

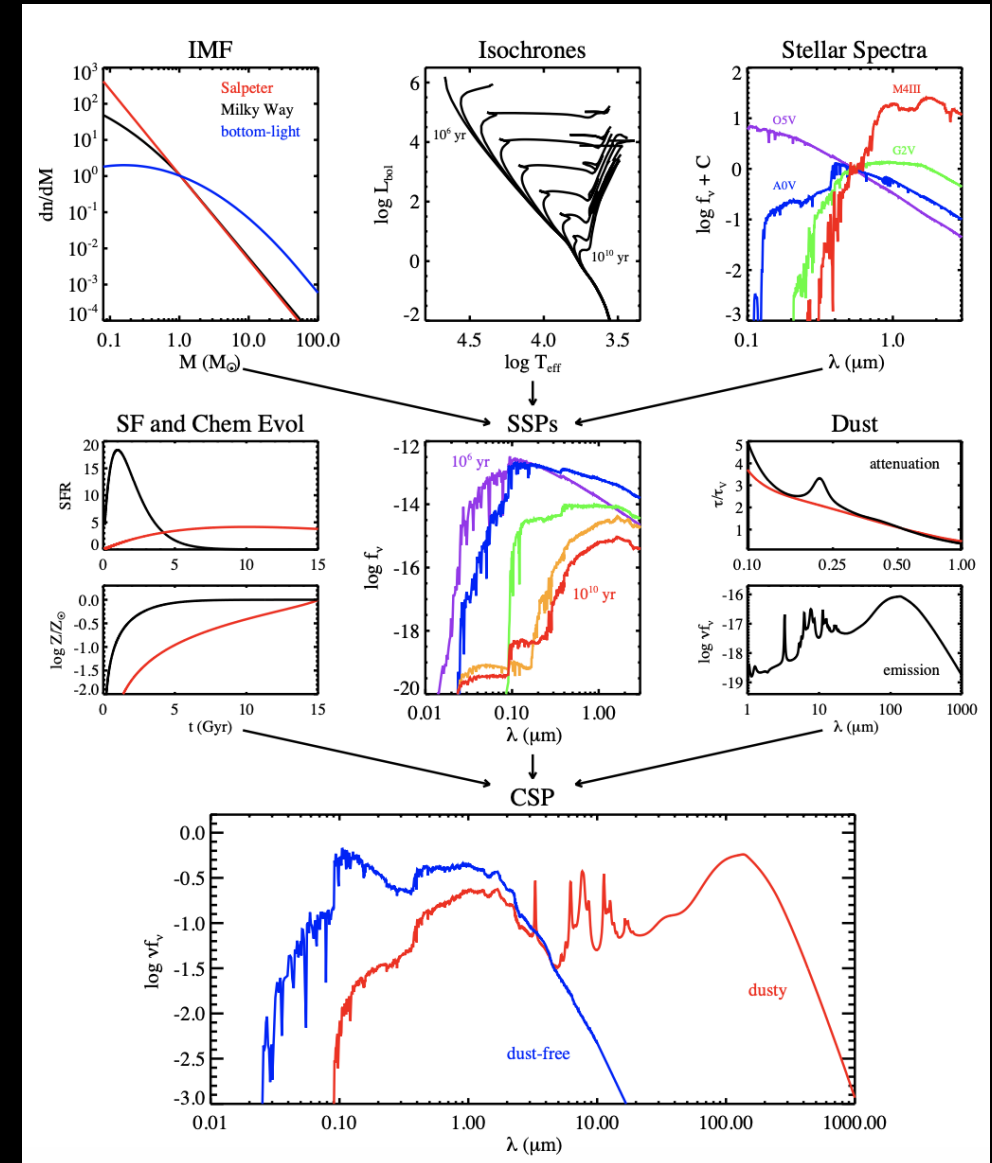
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produces a **full synthetic spectral energy distribution (SED)**

➔ infer key physical properties () **age, star formation rate, metallicity, dust content, and stellar mass** of unresolved stellar populations



(image: Conroy 2014)

Into the 2000s

Leading evolutionary SPS codes (with spectroscopy) include

- GalaxEv (Bruzual and Charlot 2003, CB16)
- Starburst99 (Leitherer+)
- Flexible Stellar Population Synthesis (FSPS, Conroy+)
- the Maraston 2005, 2011 models

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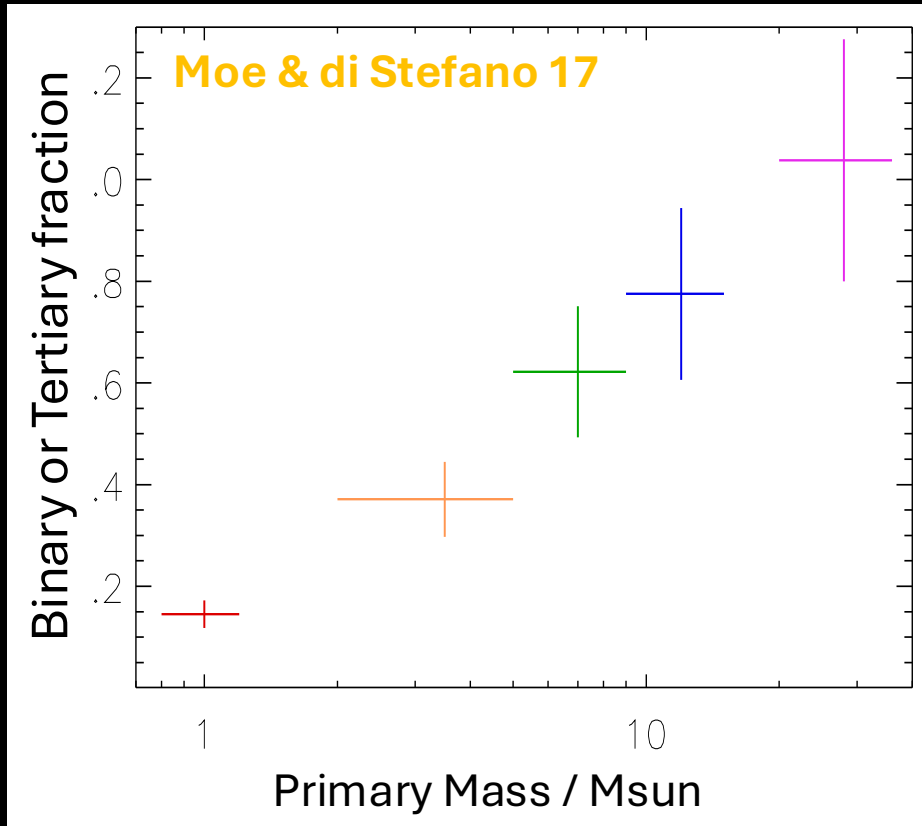
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All of these use primarily isolated, **single star evolution**.

Next: 3 key ingredients to SPS models

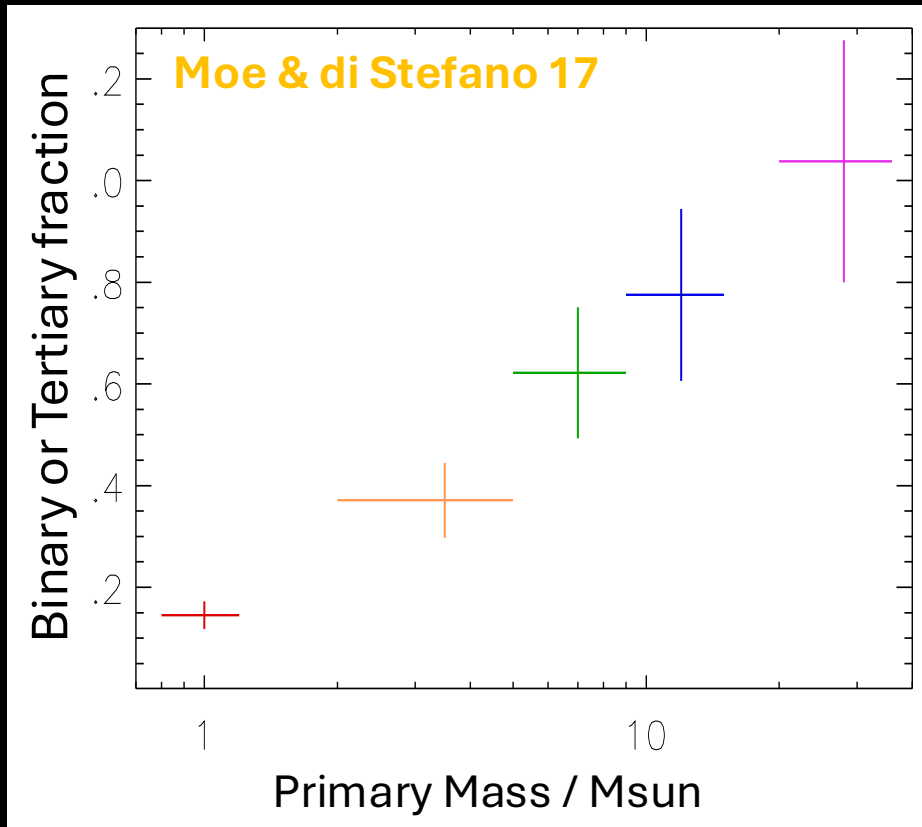
1. Binaries
2. Nebular gas & dust
3. IMF

Binaries in the Universe

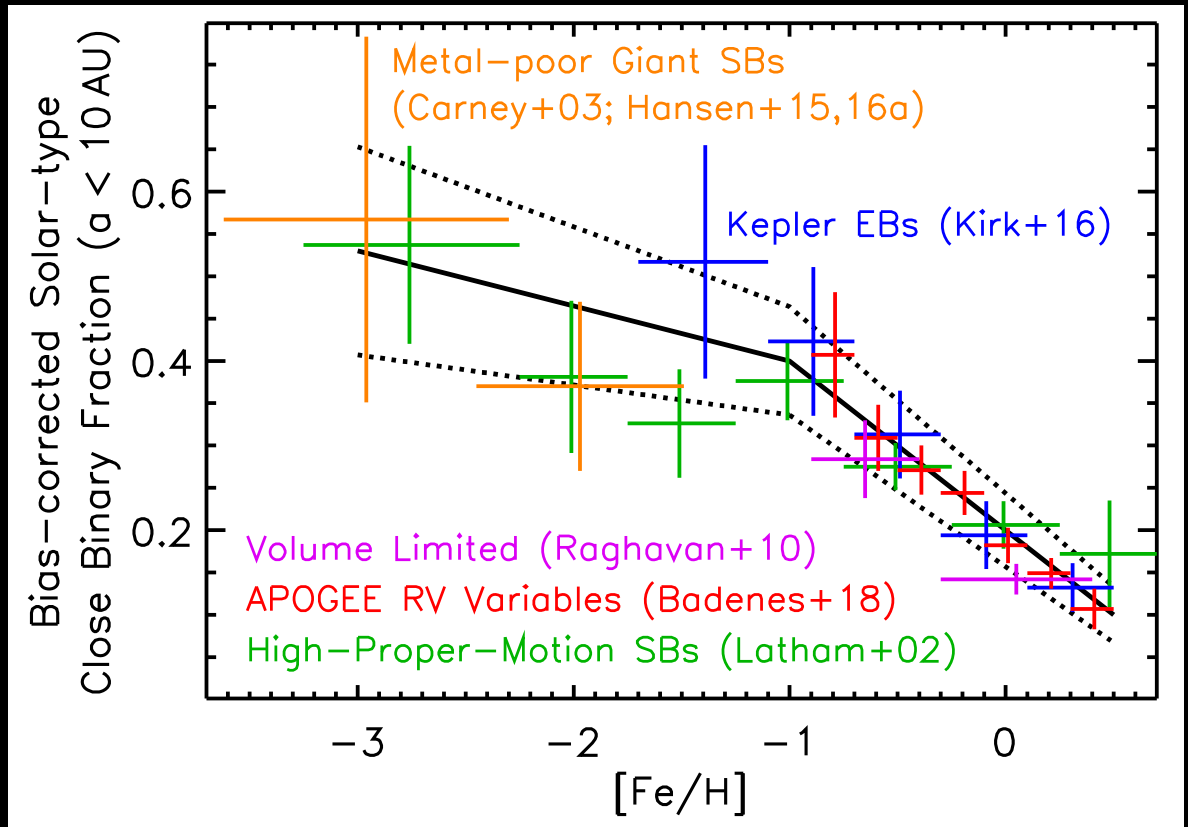


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- binary interactions (mass transfer, mergers, etc.) affect stellar evolution

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“The Close Binary Fraction of Solar-type Stars Is Strongly Anticorrelated with Metallicity”

Moe+19

The need for binary models

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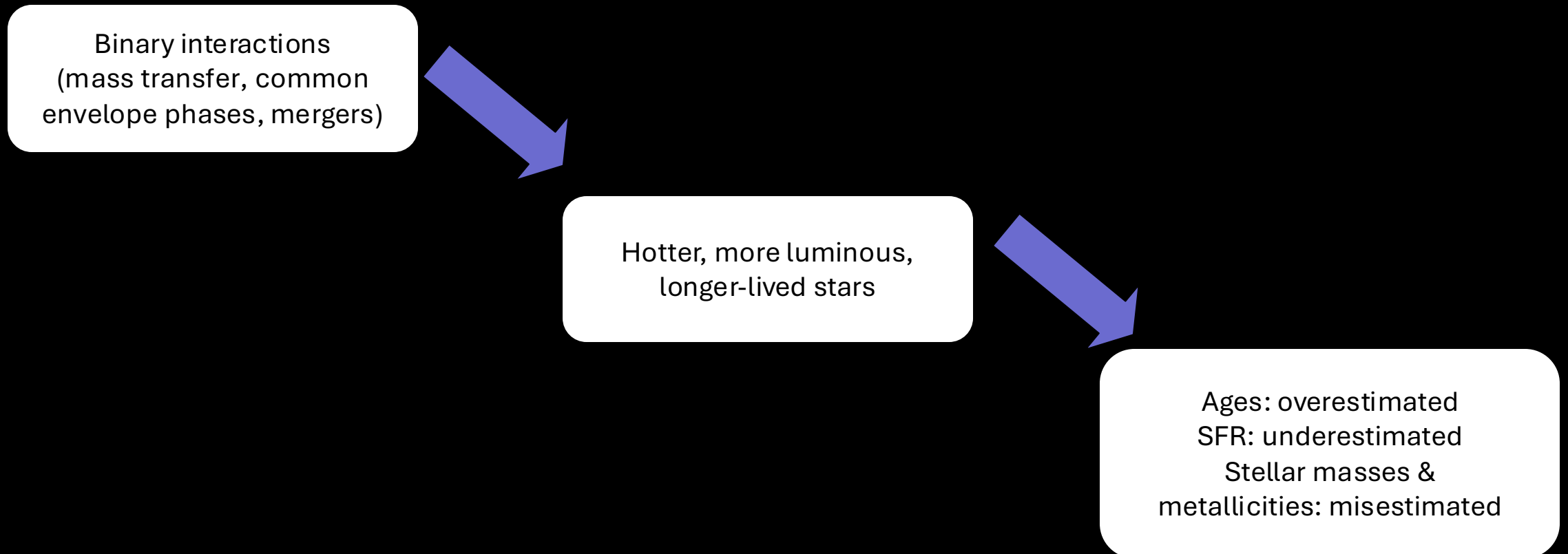
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- The spectra of young stellar populations are dominated by the most massive stars (**feedback!**)
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 - The effects of these interactions are strongest at low metallicities (**early Universe!**): stars are hotter
- **We cannot ignore binaries in emission line galaxies**

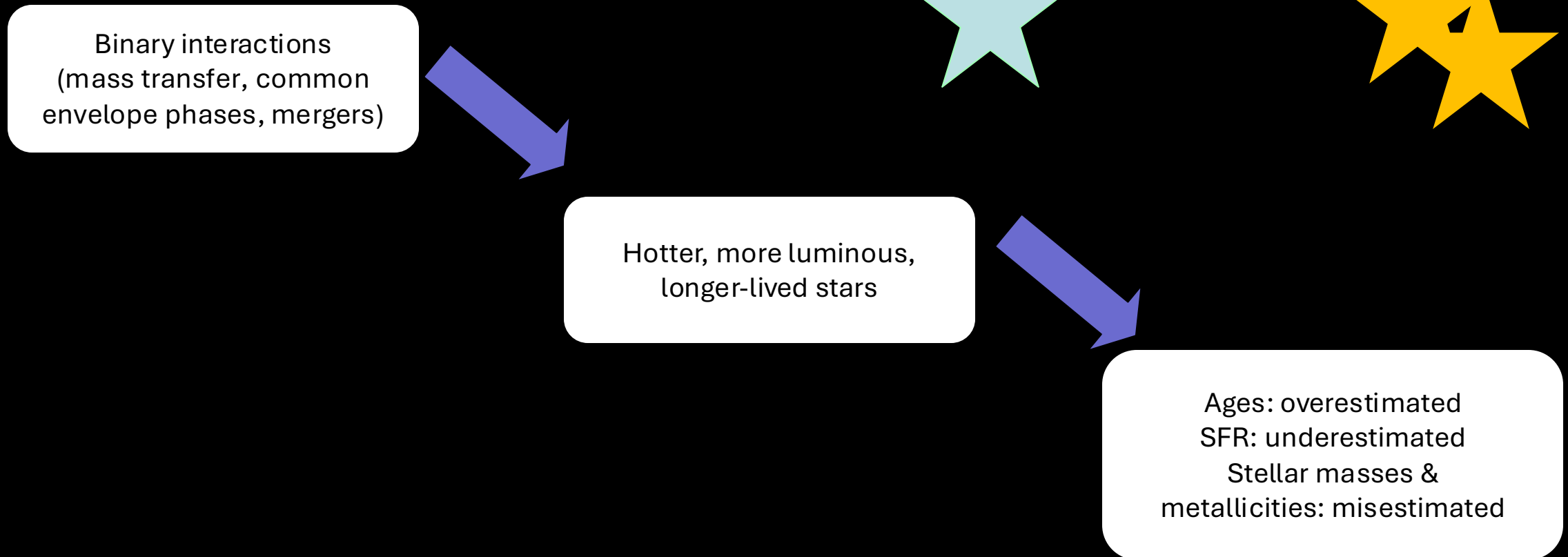
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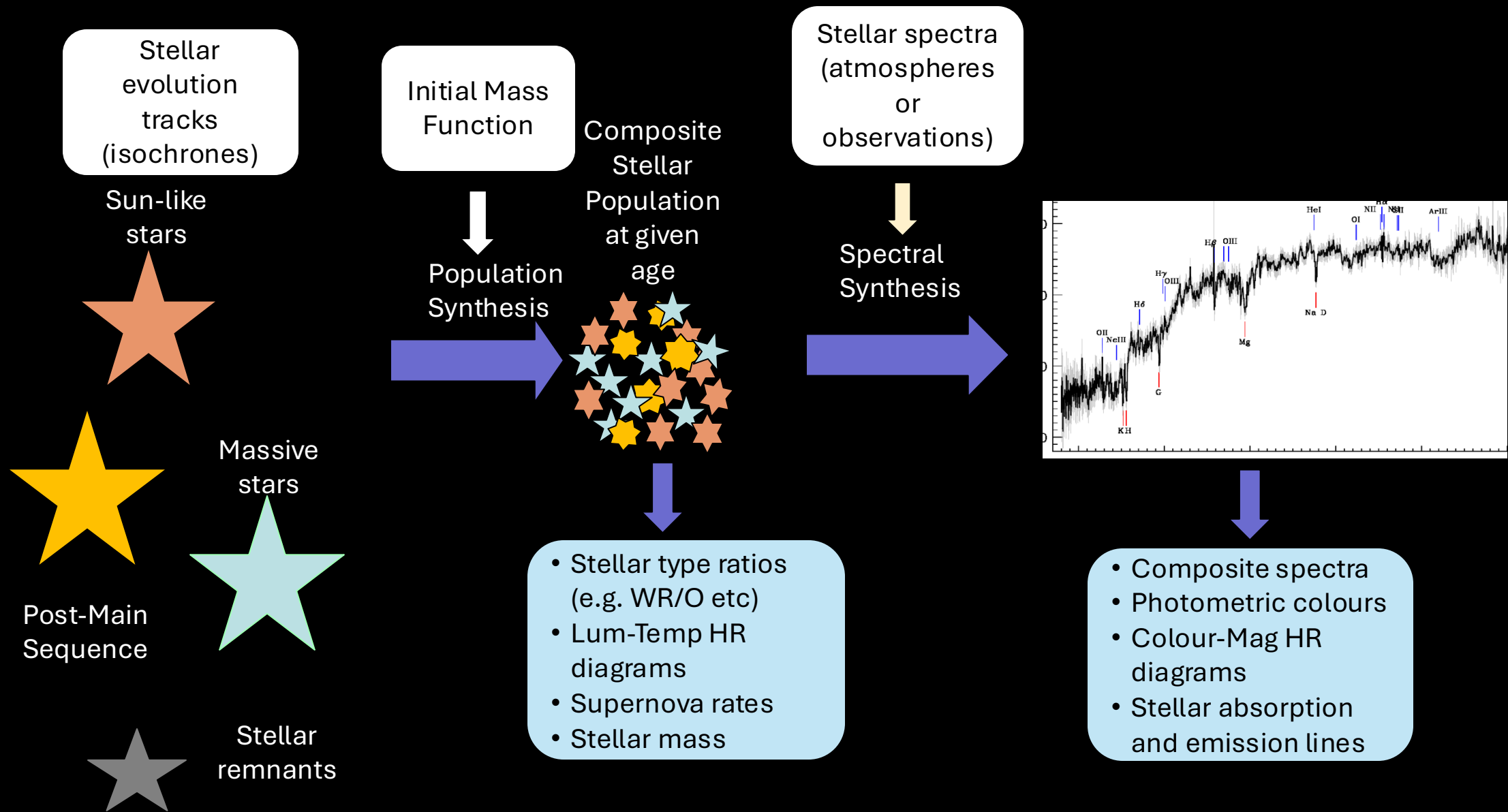
What this means in practice:

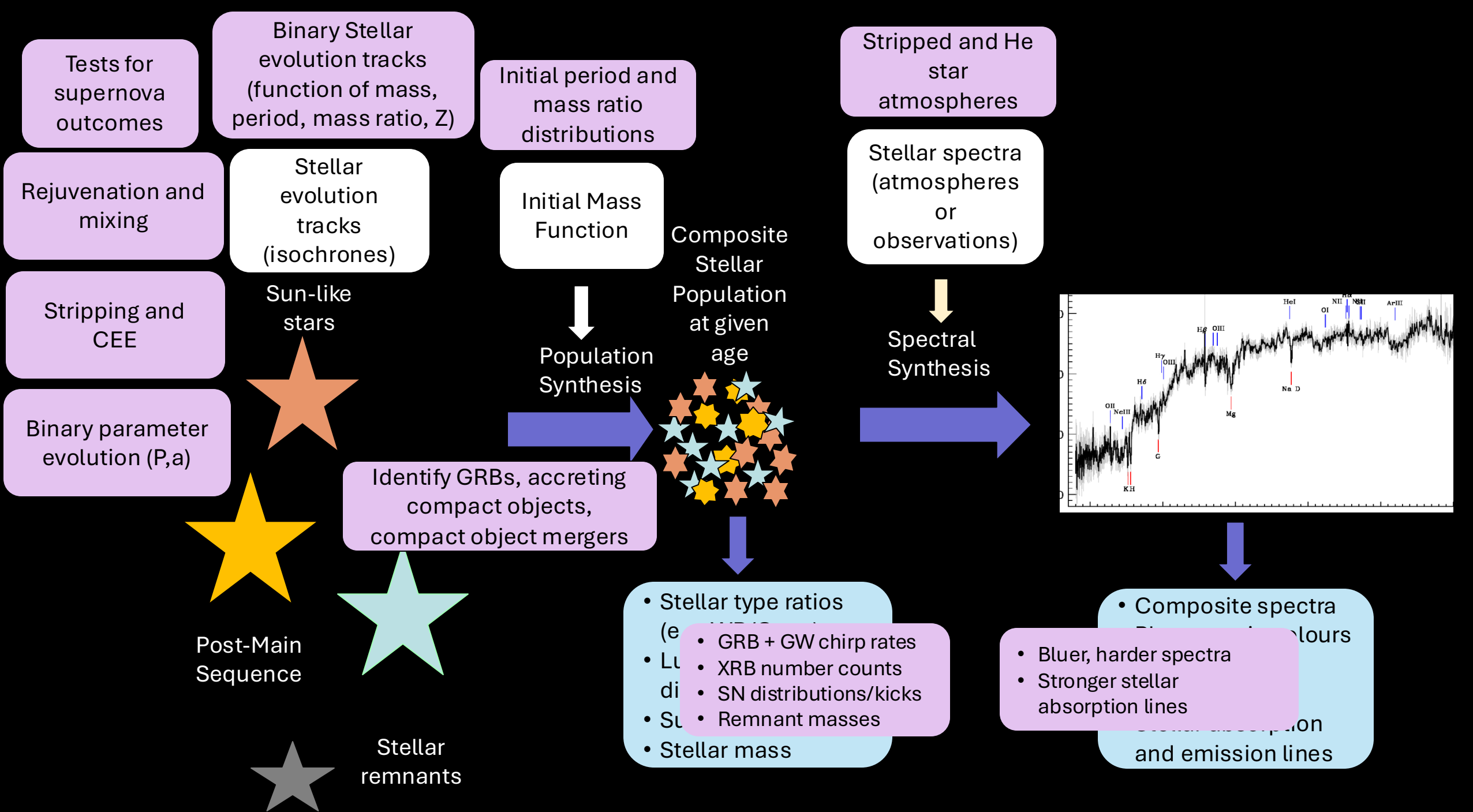


The need for binary models

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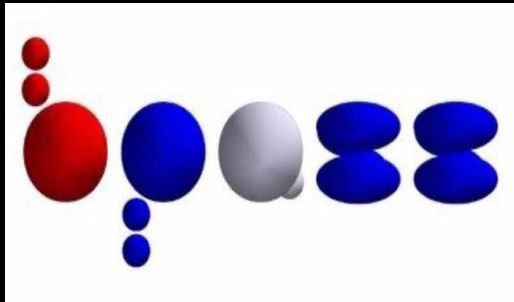






Binary population synthesis

- Binary PopSynth Codes:
 - BSE (Hurley+)
 - StarTrack (Belczynski+)
 - SEVN (Mapelli+)
 - POSYDON (Fragos+)
- Binary Spectral PopSynth Codes:



Eldridge, Stanway+

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Specialist radiative transfer codes (e.g. Cloudy) must be used

Mass functions

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- **Field star IMF** (MF after accounting for cluster dissolution and population mixing)

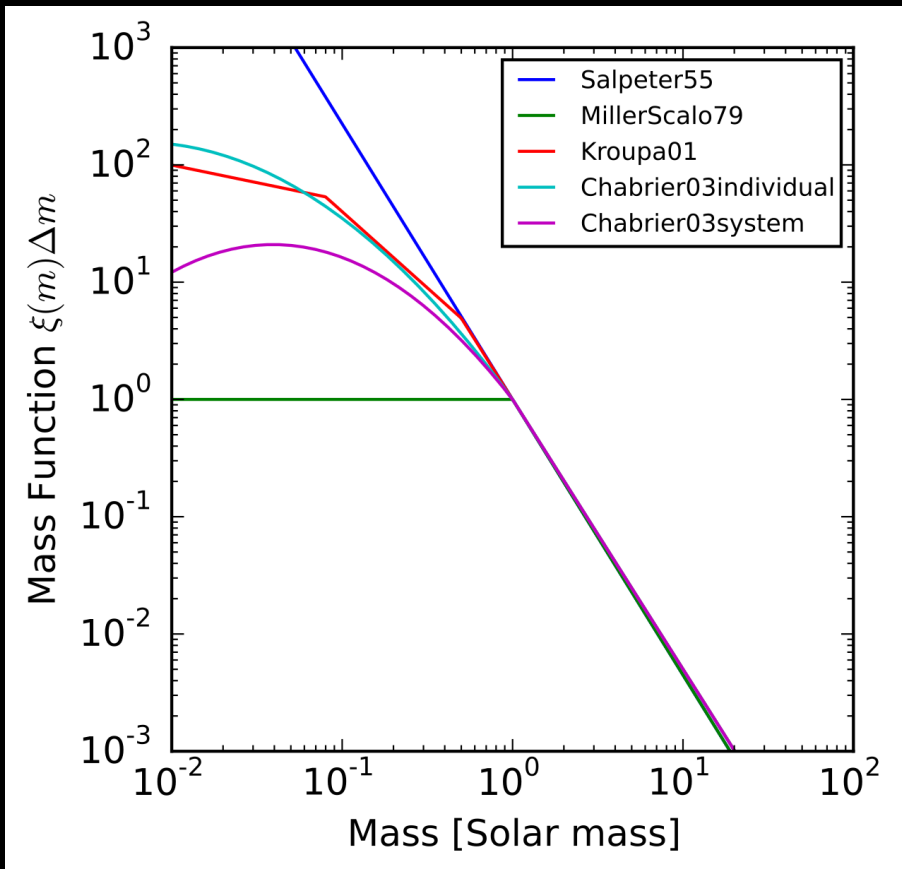
Mass functions

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- **Stellar IMF** (MF at time of starburst)
- **Present Day Stellar Mass Function** (MF after accounting for stellar evolution)
- **Field star IMF** (MF after accounting for cluster dissolution and population mixing)
- **Composite IMFs**, e.g. galaxy-wide IMF, Salpeter IMF
 - stellar cluster mass functions + cluster stellar IMFs
 - e.g. IGIMF theory (Kroupa & Weidner 2003)

Initial mass functions

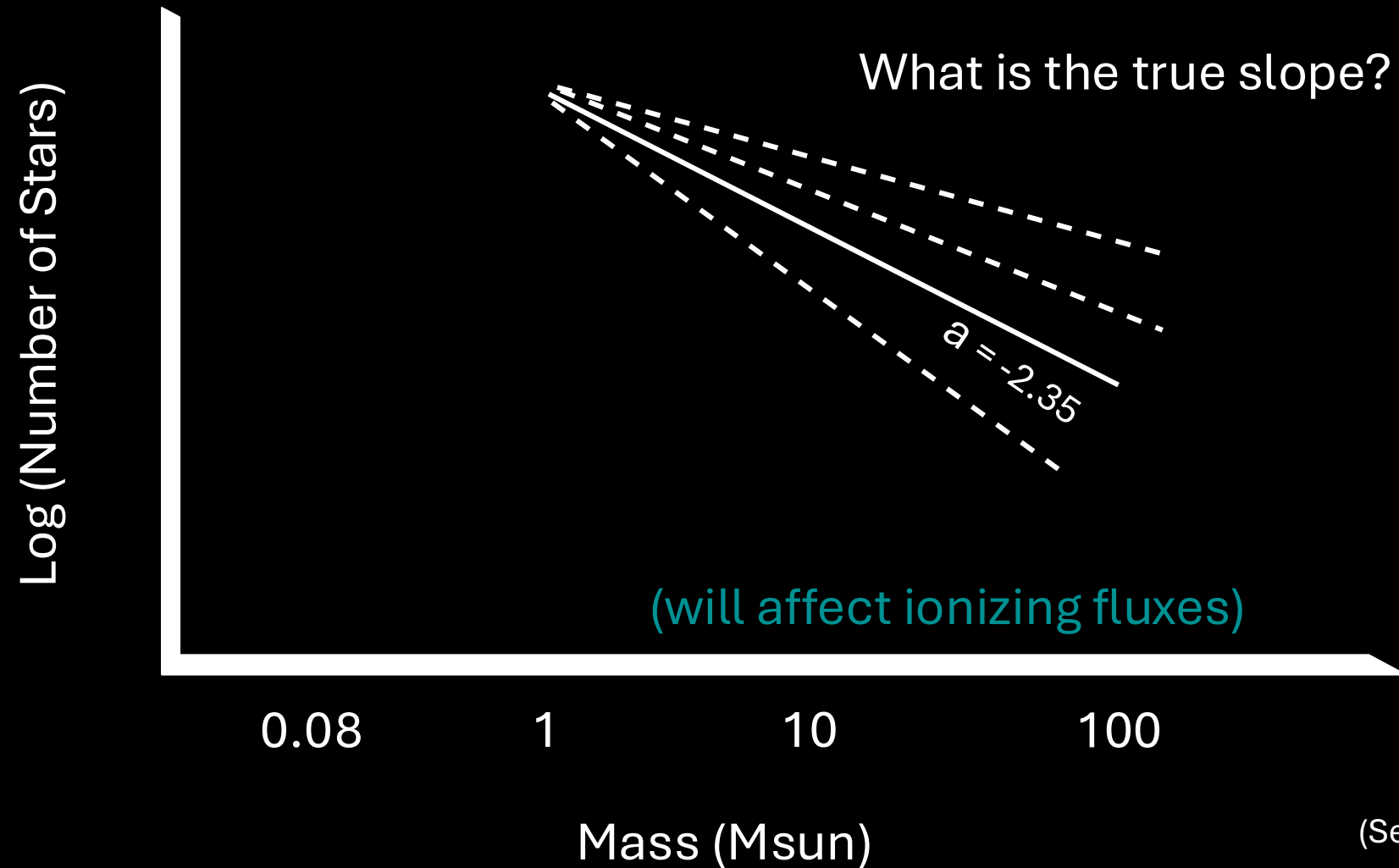
When a starburst occurs, stars of a wide range of masses are formed.



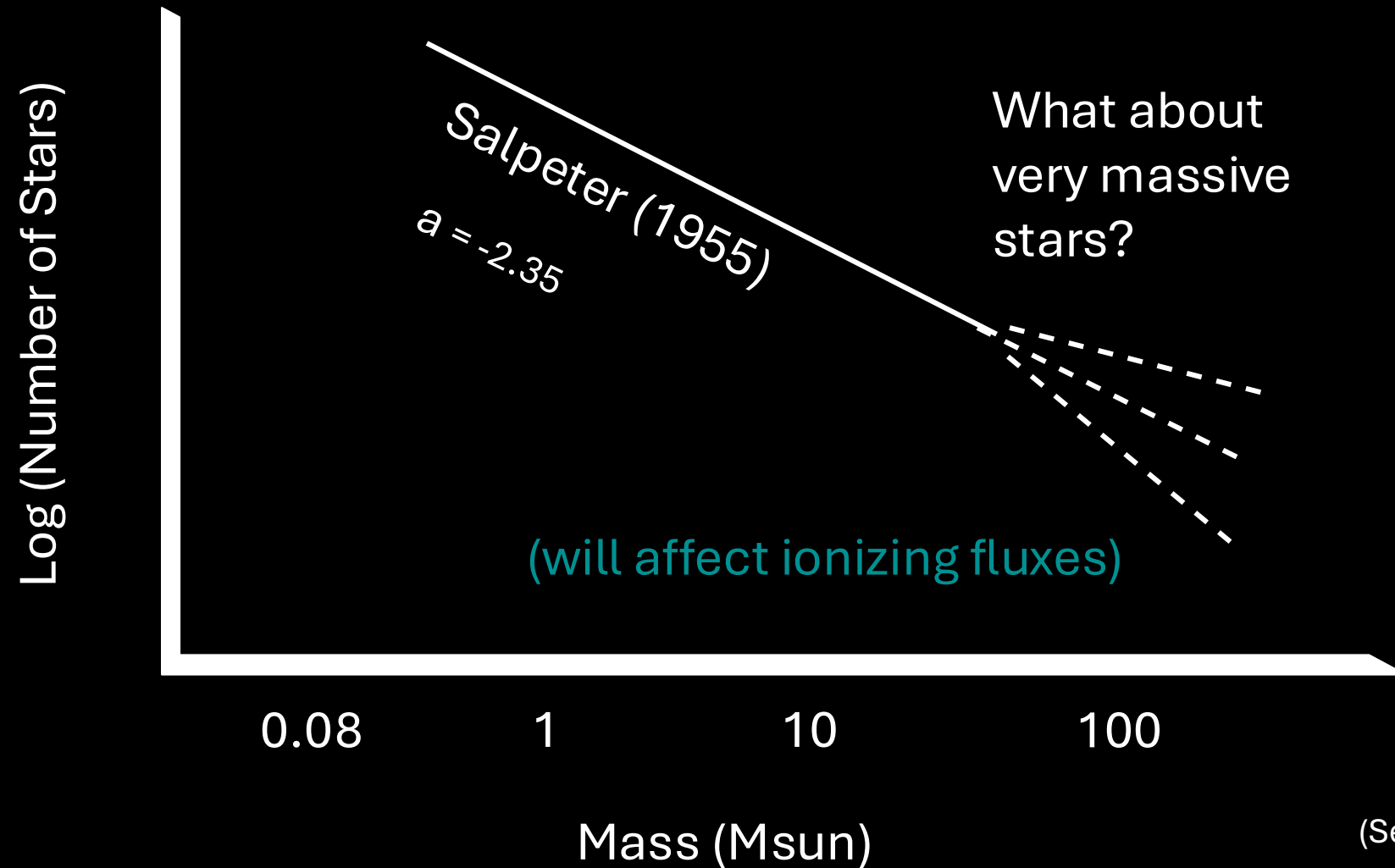
We now know that the Salpeter law (single powerlaw) overpredicts the number of low mass stars and needs a cut-off (e.g. [Chabrier 2003](#), [Kroupa 2001](#))

(See e.g. [Hopkins, Dawes Review, 2018](#))

Initial mass functions

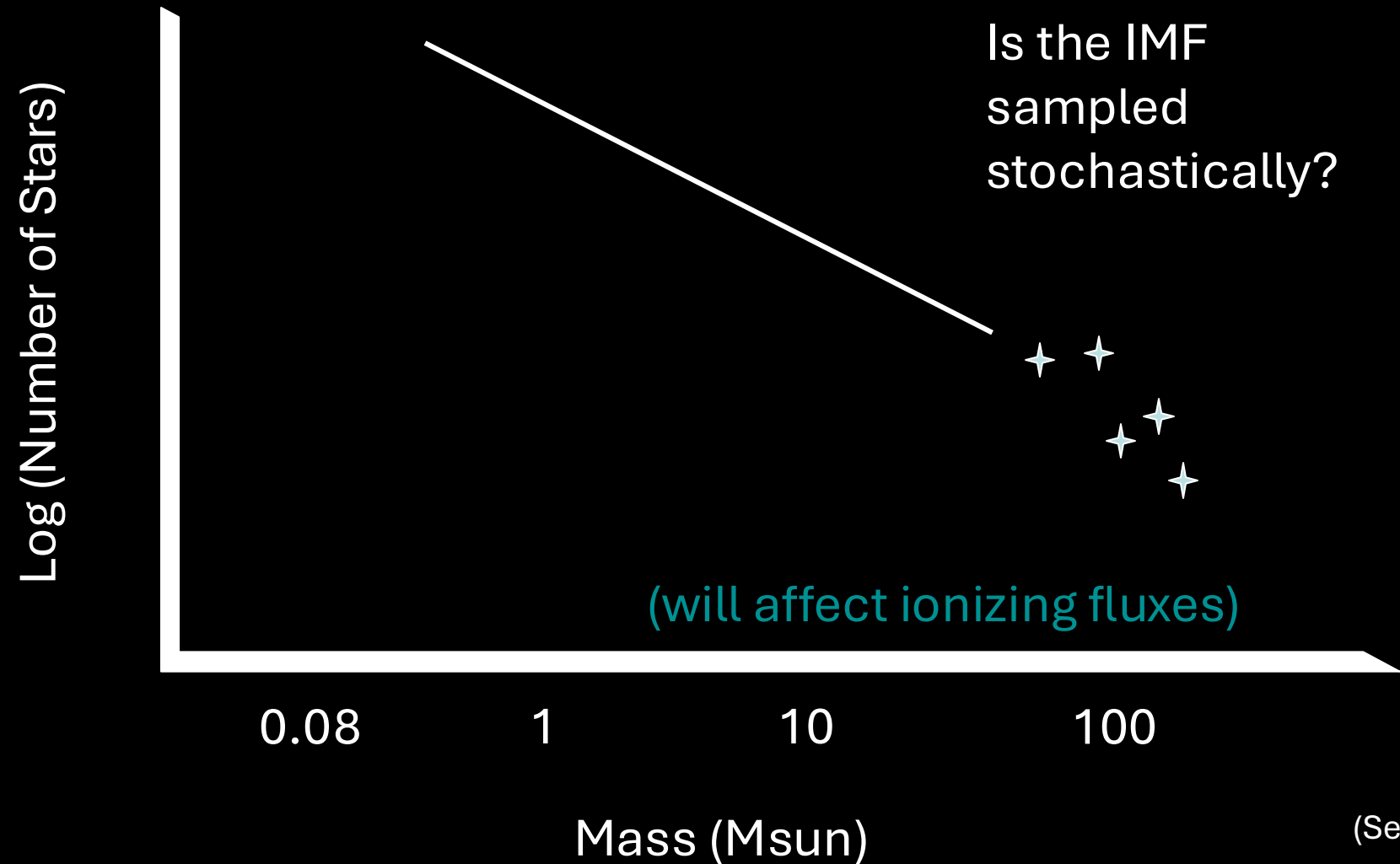


Initial mass functions



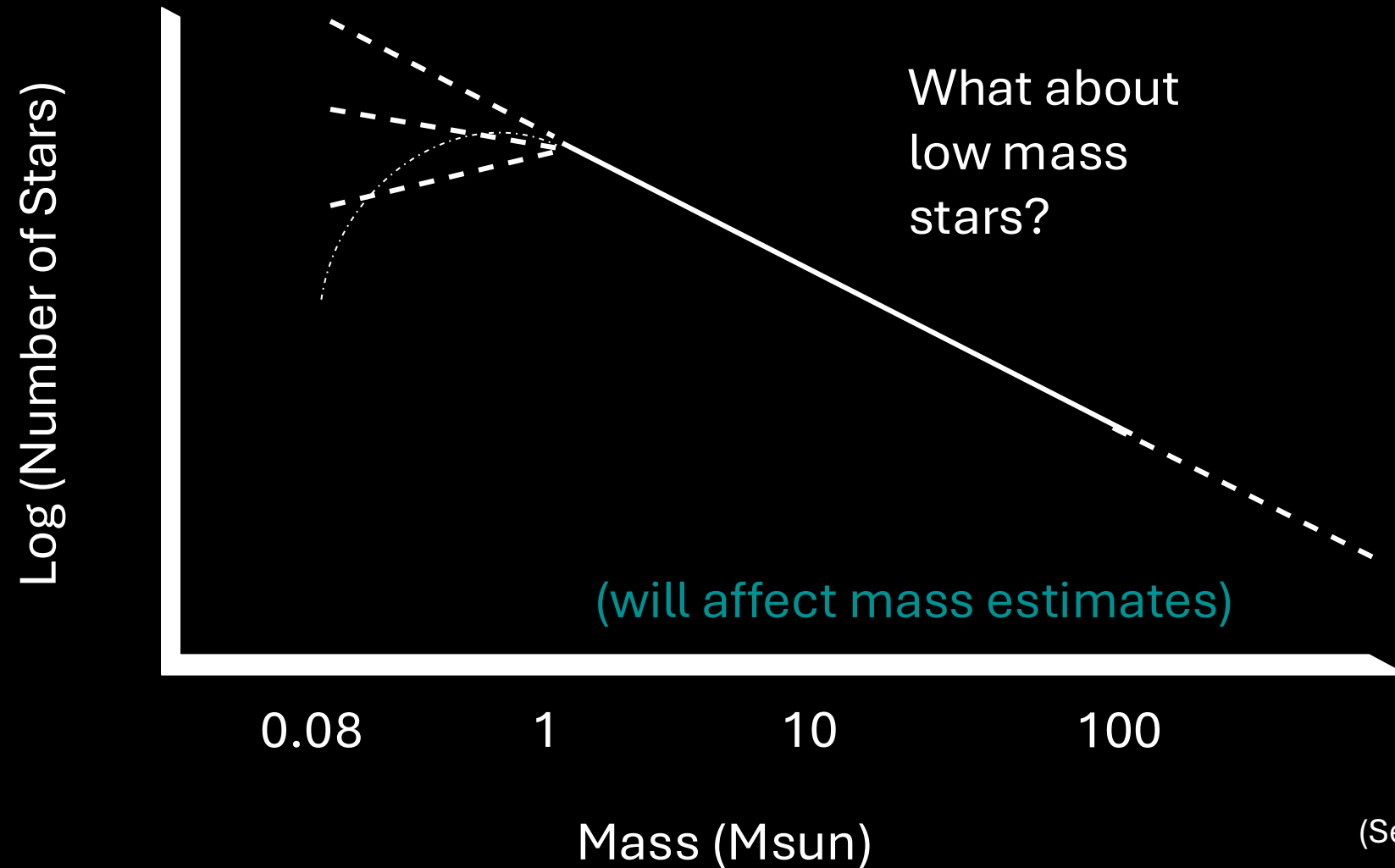
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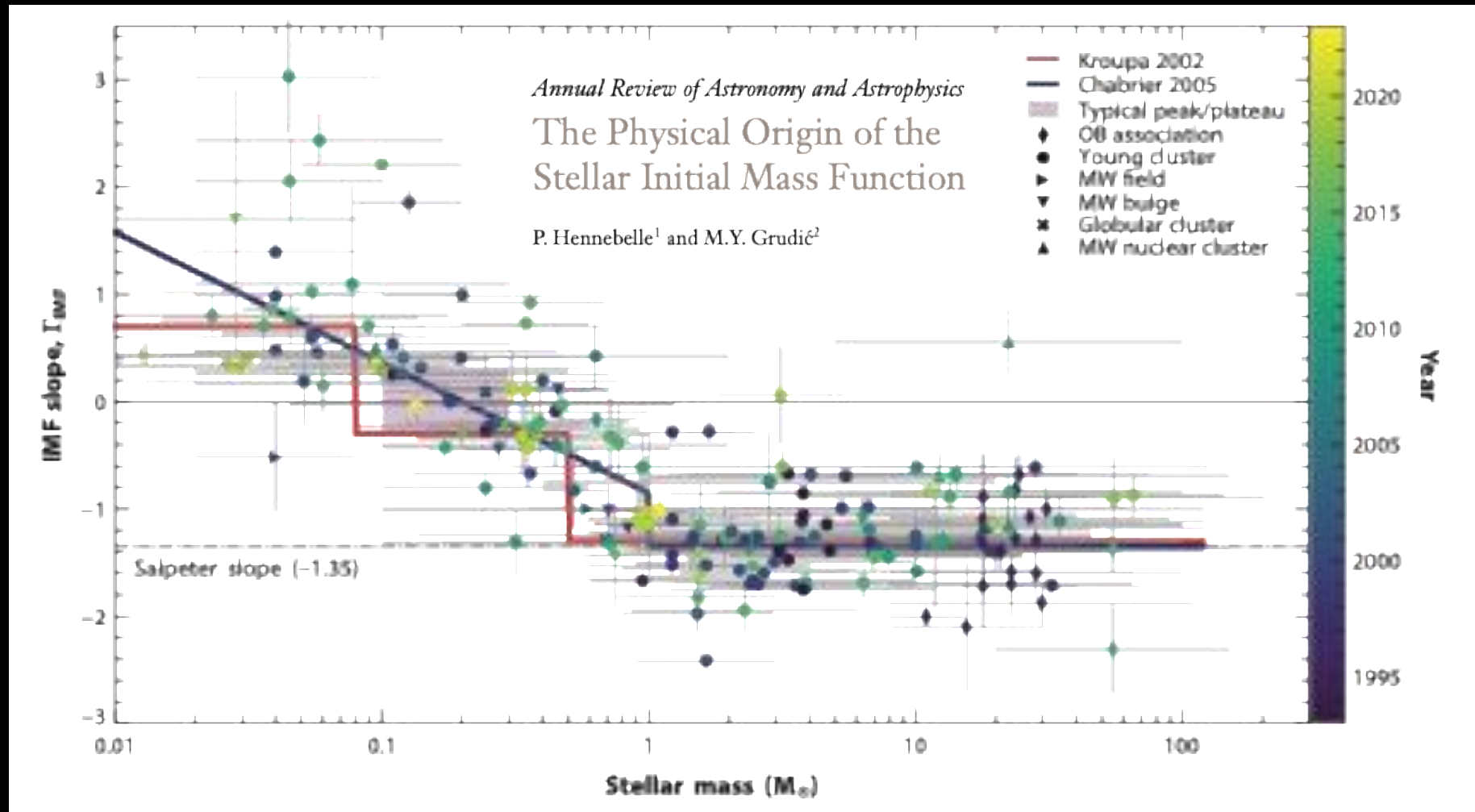
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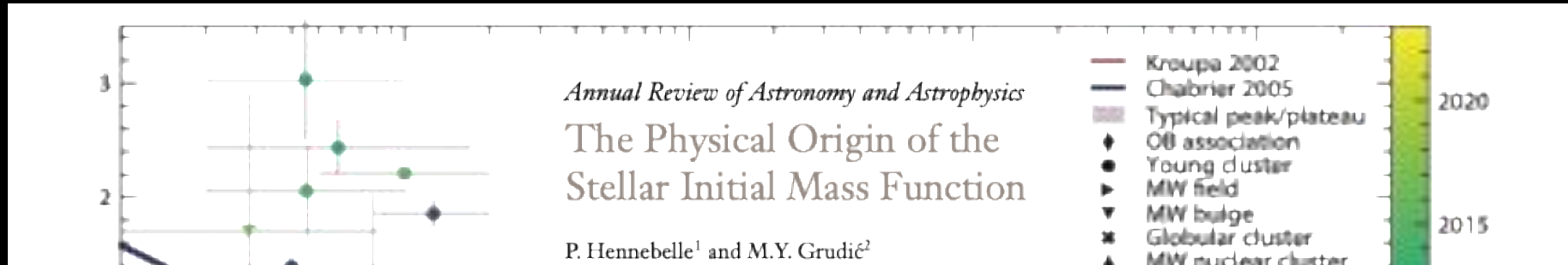


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Initial mass functions: universality?

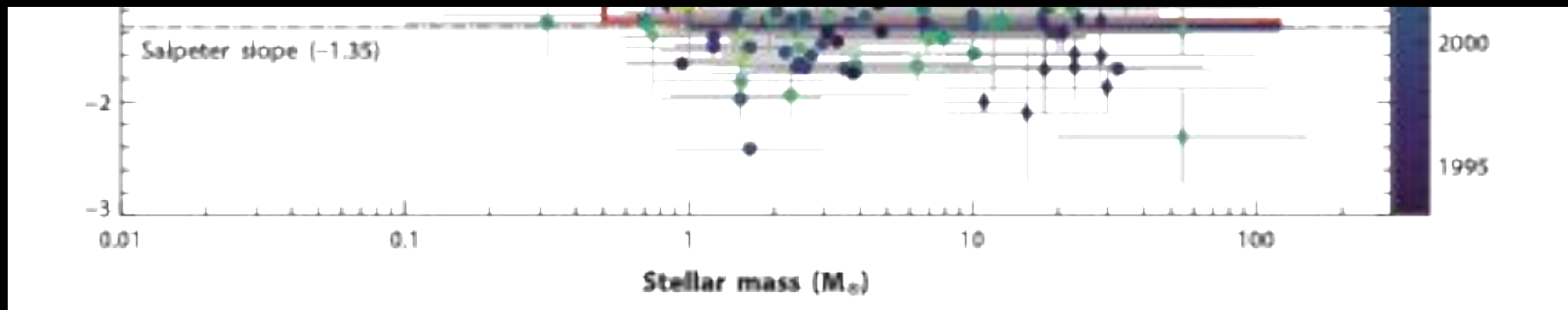


Initial mass functions: universality?



“Studies comparing these [Kroupa, Chabrier] models have generally found them to be similarly compatible with observations, as well as other parameterizations [...]. However, **it is not possible to draw a single curve through all data points [...]** that avoids tension with all measurements; [...]

The strong hypothesis of a true IMF universality is unlikely.



Let's take a moment to digest

So, you're using an SSP? You should ask what it's using for:

- Stellar evolution models
- Stellar atmosphere models
- Initial mass function and model mass range
- Initial composition/metallicity
- Binary parameters
- Nebular gas or dust assumptions

Today's program

1. Stellar feedback: a bit of background
2. What have we learned from resolved feedback studies so far?
3. Can we learn something about the early Universe from local studies?
4. Stellar population synthesis & the IMF
5. Connecting the local to the distant Universe

SPS models need validation



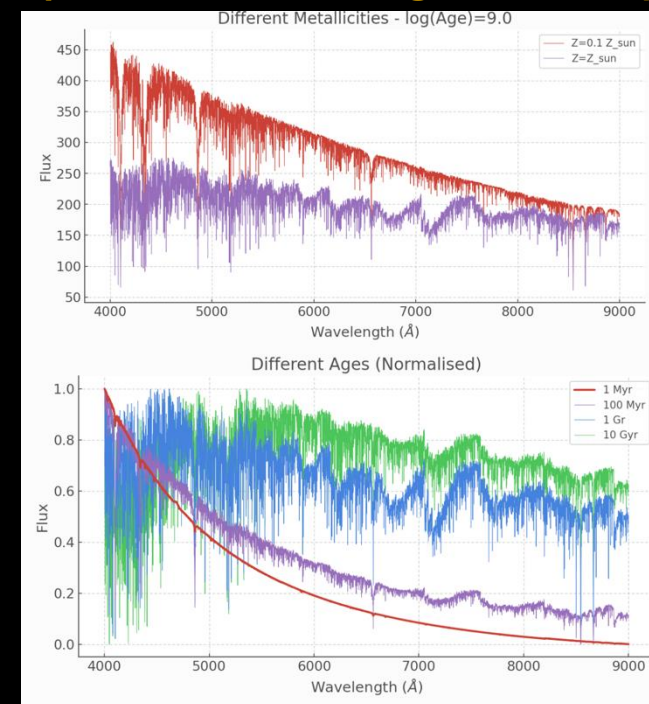
Age
Metallicity
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SPS models need validation

Age
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BPASS+hoki
(Stevance, Eldridge, Stanway)

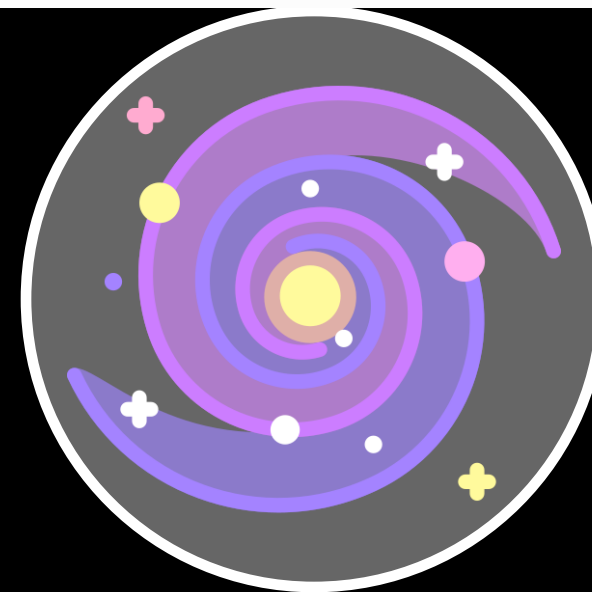
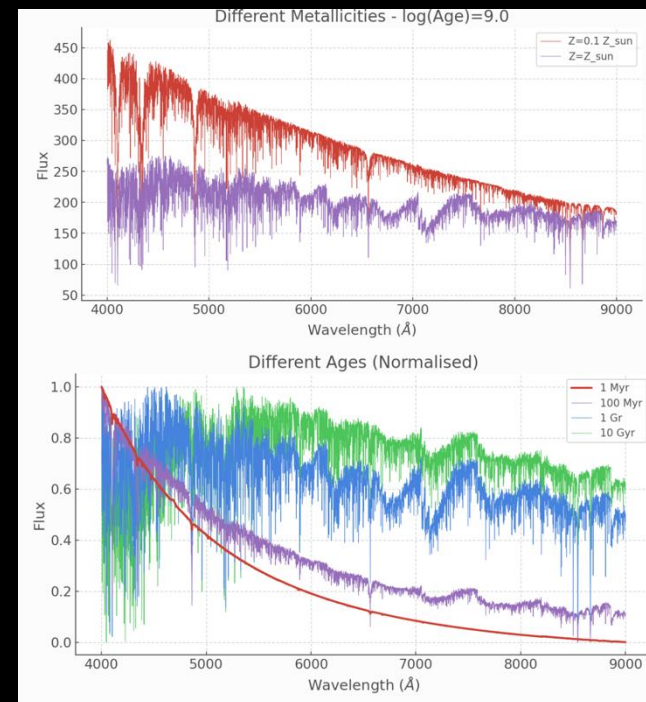


SPS models need validation

Age
Metallicity
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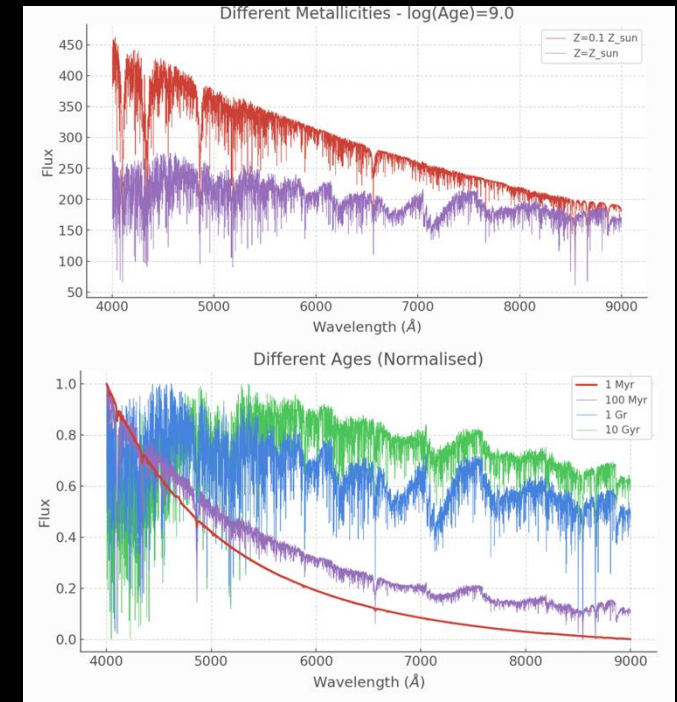


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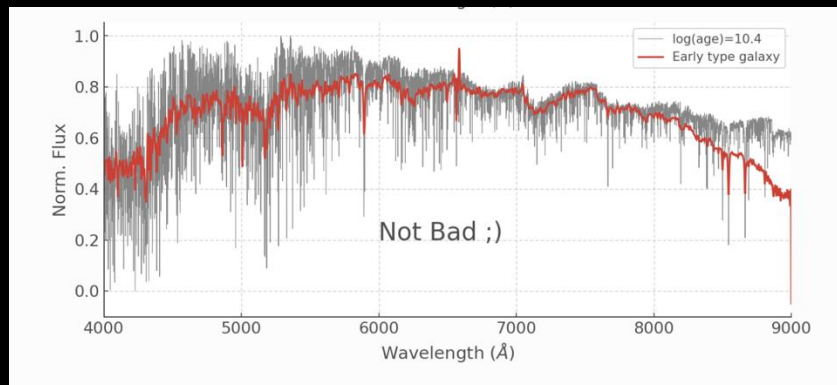
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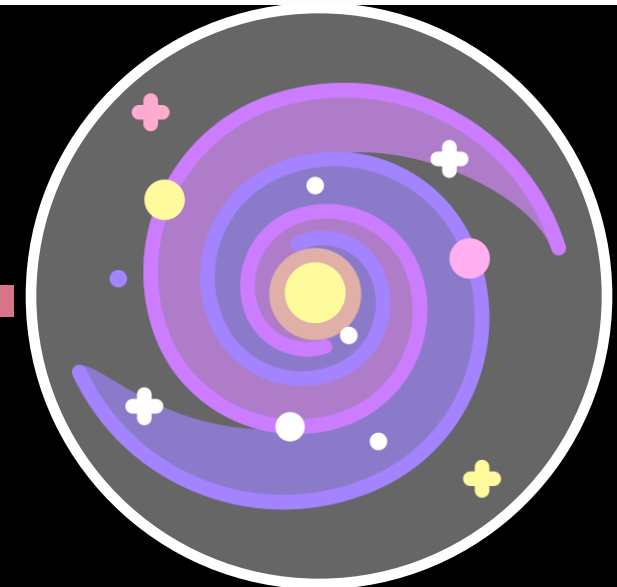
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Age
Metallicity
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Degeneracies!
(Pforr+12, Maraston+10)



SPS models need validation

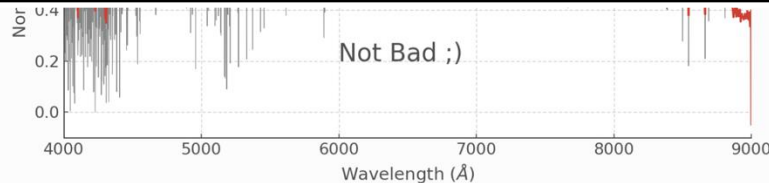
Age
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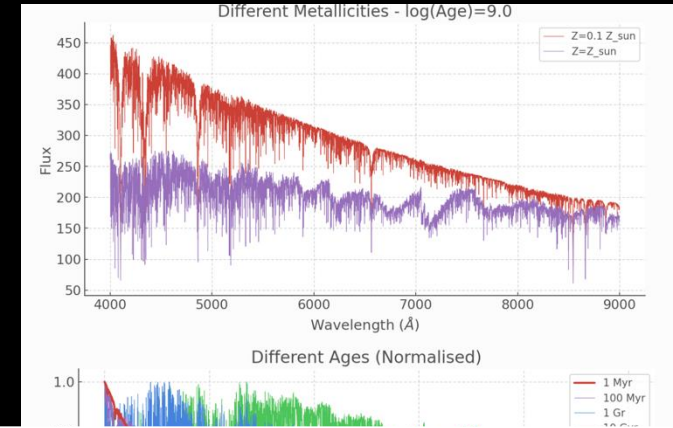
→ Validate via apples-to-apples comparison
resolved + integrated observations
vs
resolved + integrated models
at known O/H and spatial variations

“Knowing what goes in to trust what comes out”

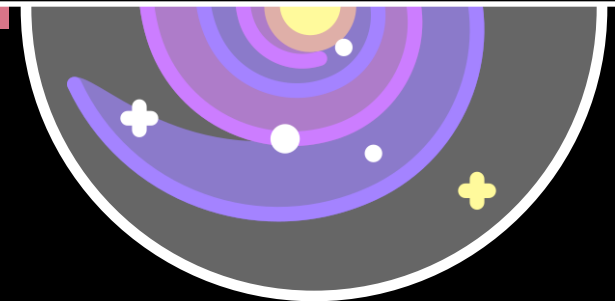
Age
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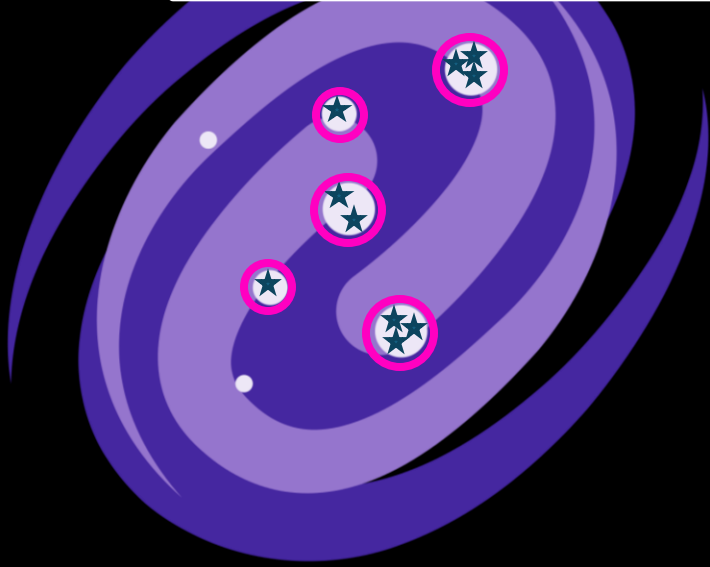
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Degeneracies!
(Pforr+12, Maraston+10)



The Spatial Resolution Project



Individual stars and HII regions

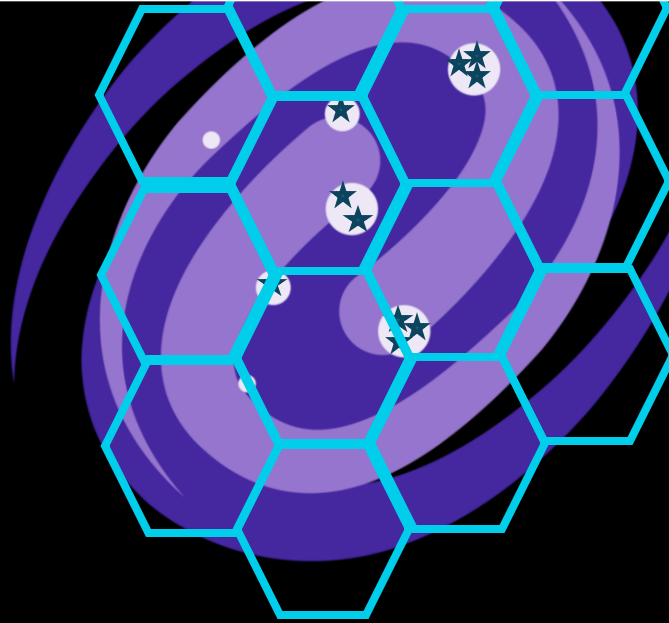
Aim:

- Characterise the feedback-driving stars and the feedback-driven gas
- Quantify the star/gas interplay

Method:

- IFU+HST method (as proven in McLeod+20, 21)

1-10s pc scales



GMC scales

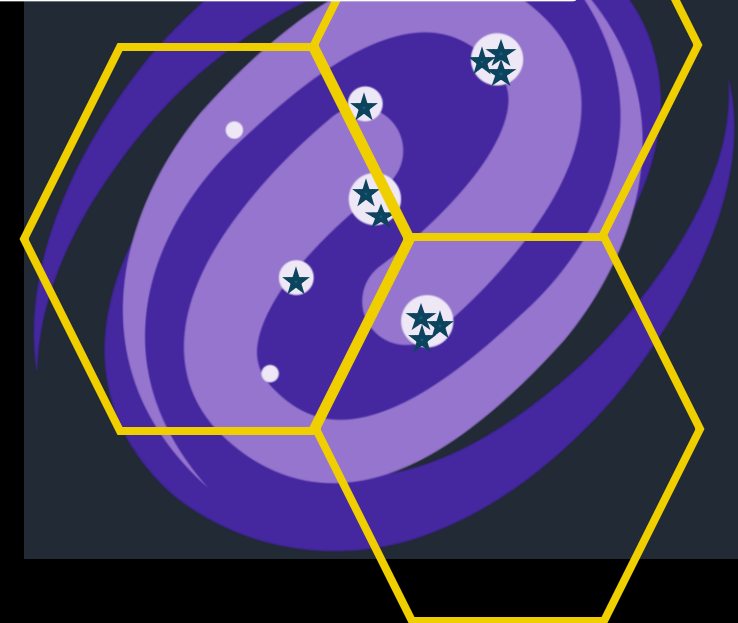
Aim:

- Measure spatially resolved SFHs, SFRs, chemical enrichment
- Ground-truth SPS models

Method:

- Fit HST CMDs with MATCH
- Fit IFU integrated spectra with PROSPECTOR

100 pc scales



Kiloparsec scales

Aims:

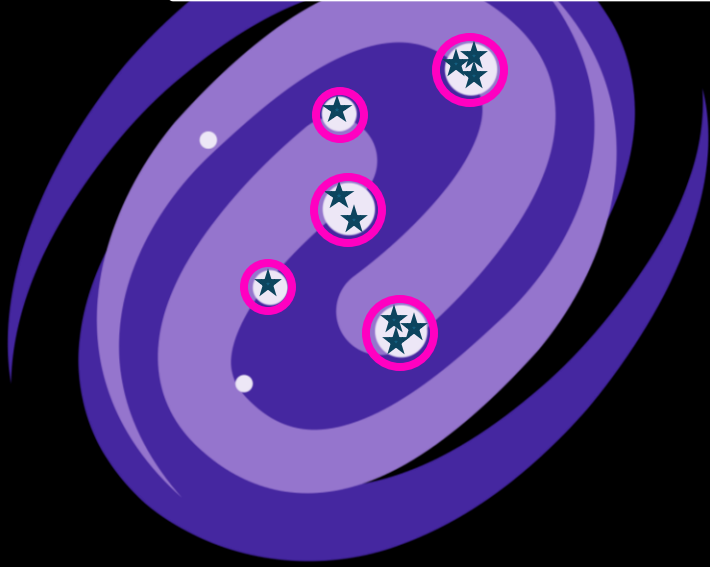
- Quantify effect of spatial resolution on galaxy properties
- Connect the local to the high-z Universe

Method:

- Convolve observations to lower and lower spatial resolution

kpc scales

The Spatial Resolution Project



Individual stars and HII regions

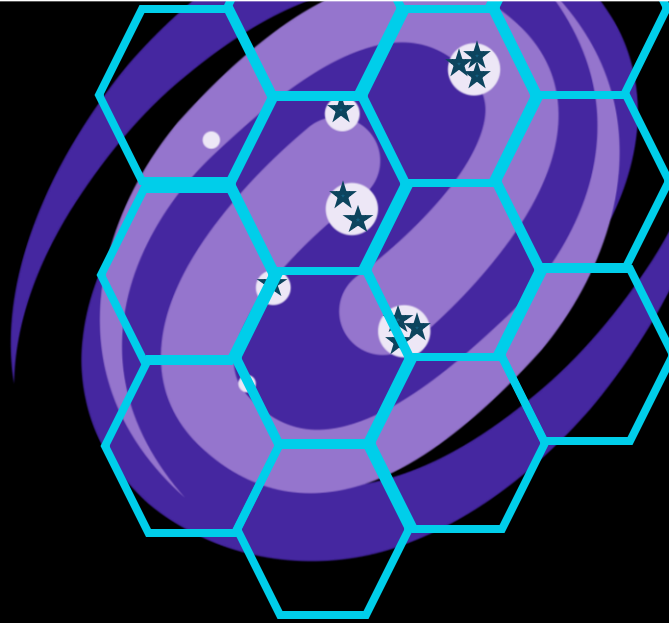
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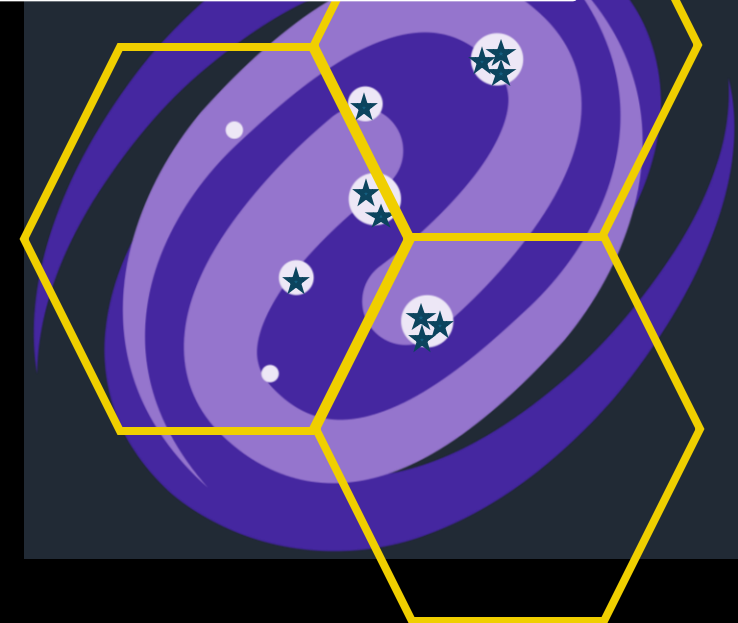
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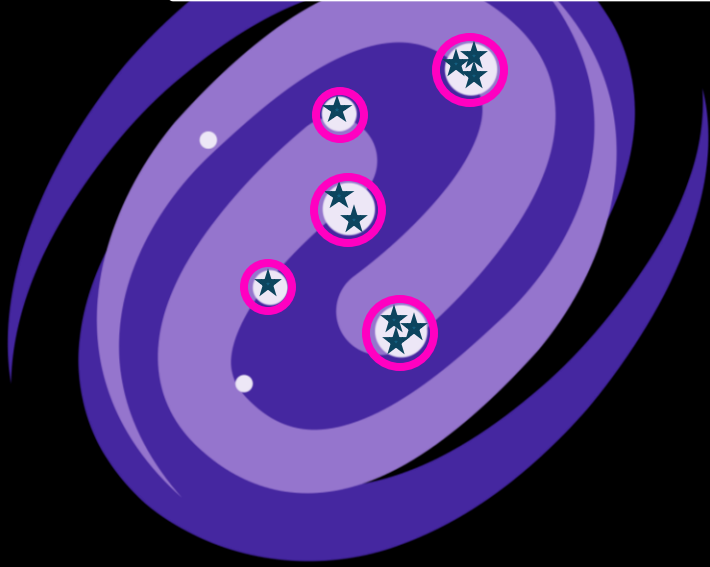
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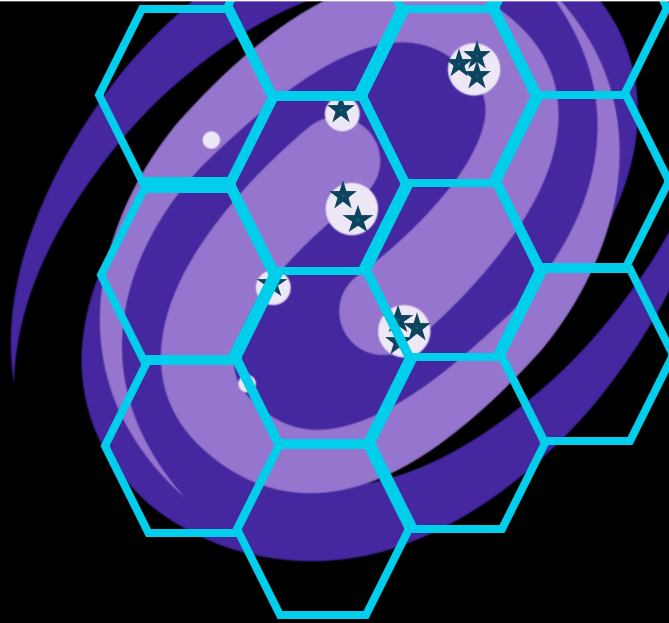
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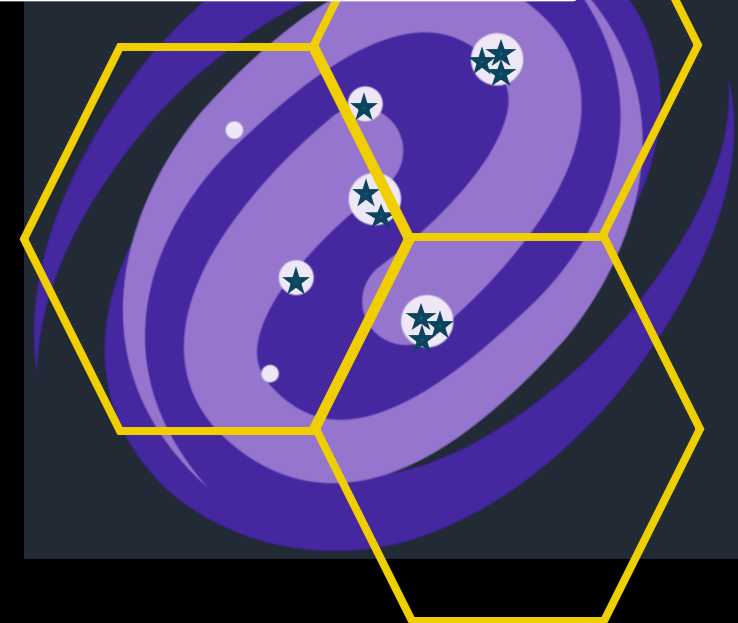
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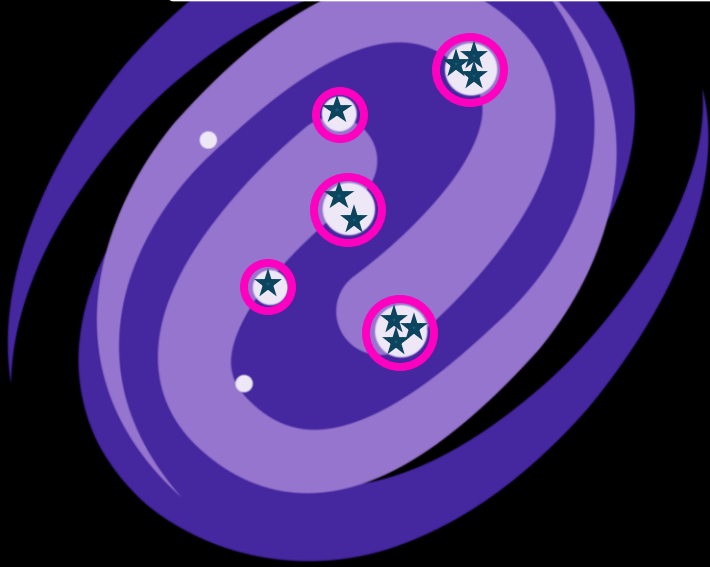
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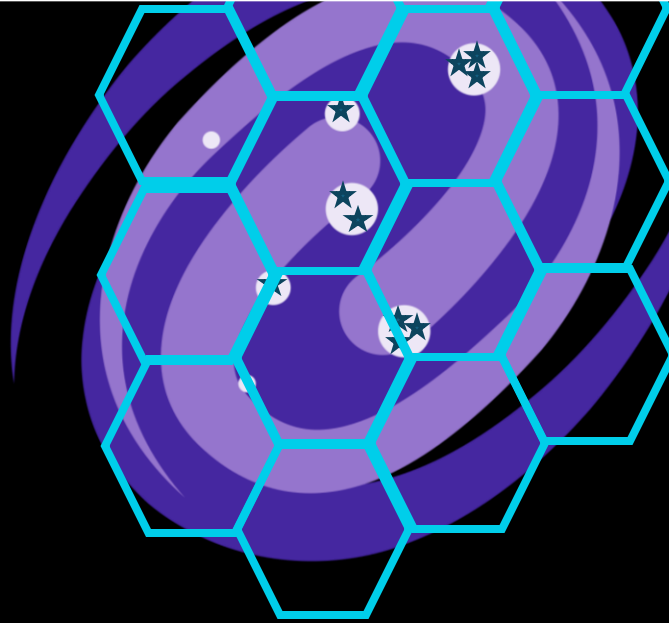
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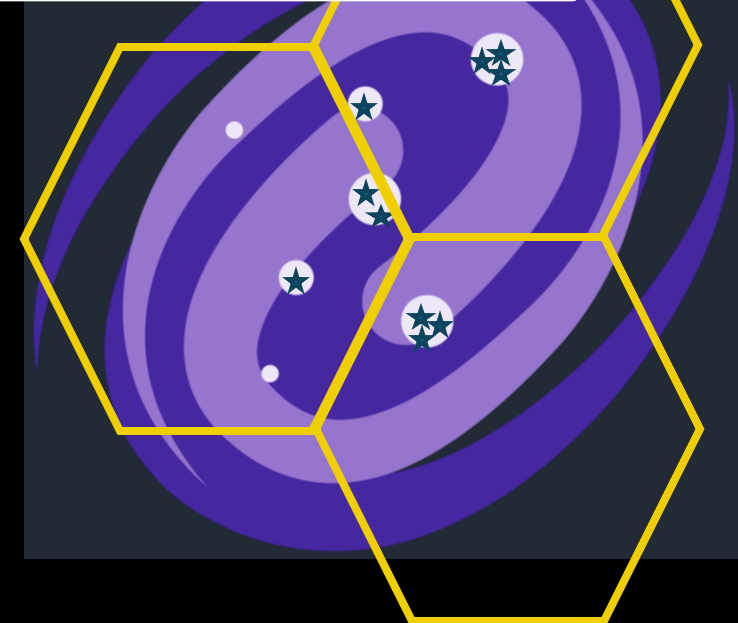
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Kiloparsec scales

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The Spatial Resolution Project

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- IFU+HST method (as proven in McLeod+20, 21)



Bjarki Björngvinsson

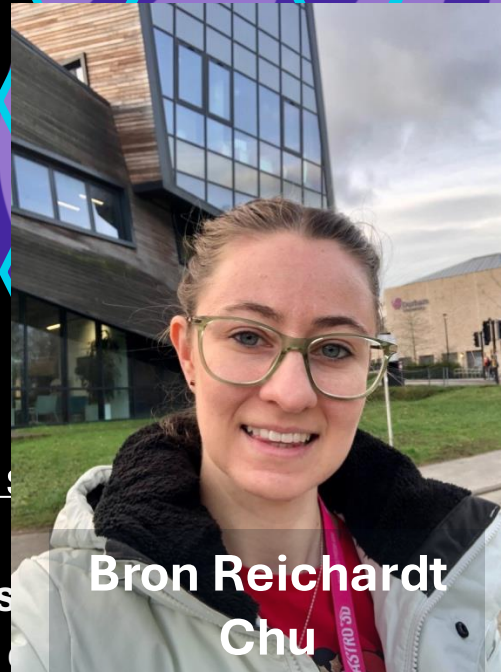
GMCs

Aim:

- Measure SFRs, SFHs, and
- Ground-truth SPS models

Method:

- Fit HST CMDs with MATCH
- Fit IFU integrated spectra with PROSPECTOR



Bron Reichardt

Kiloparsecs

Aims:

- Quantify the local star formation rate
- Connect the local to the high-z Universe

Method:

- Convolve observations to lower and lower spatial resolution



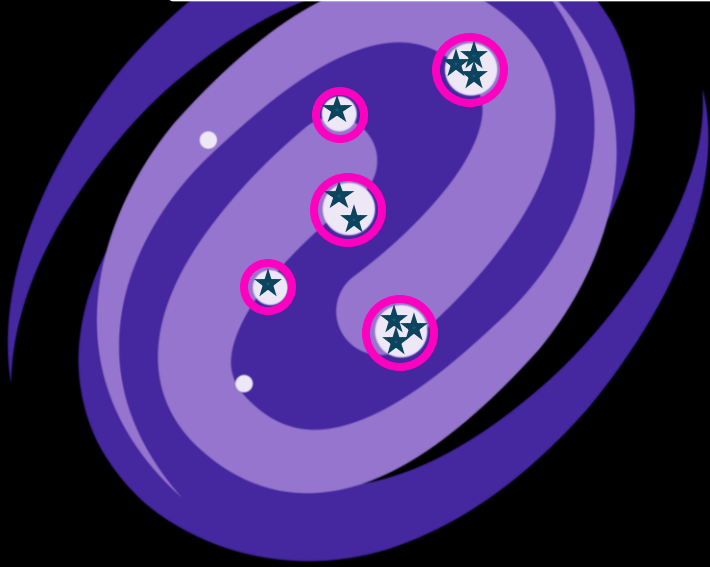
Zefeng Li

1-10s pc scales

100 pc scales

kpc scales

The Spatial Resolution Project



Individual stars and HII regions

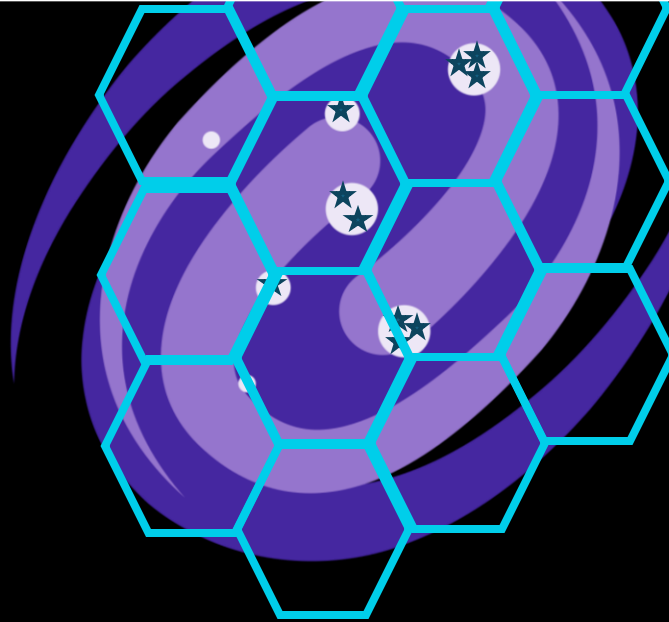
Aim:

- Characterise the feedback-driving stars and the feedback-driven gas
- Quantify the star/gas interplay

Method:

- IFU+HST method (as proven in McLeod+20, 21)

1-10s pc scales



GMC scales

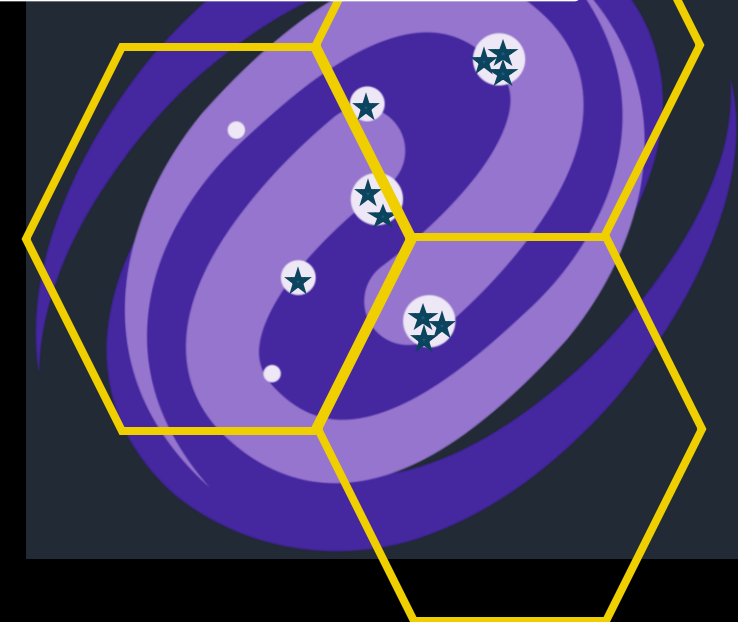
Aim:

- Measure spatially resolved SFHs, SFRs, chemical enrichment
- **Ground-truth SPS models**

Method:

- Fit HST CMDs with MATCH
- Fit IFU integrated spectra with PROSPECTOR

100 pc scales



Kiloparsec scales

Aims:

- Quantify effect of spatial resolution on galaxy properties
- Connect the local to the high-z Universe

Method:

- Convolve observations to lower and lower spatial resolution

kpc scales

SPS model validation workflow

Resolved

Unresolved



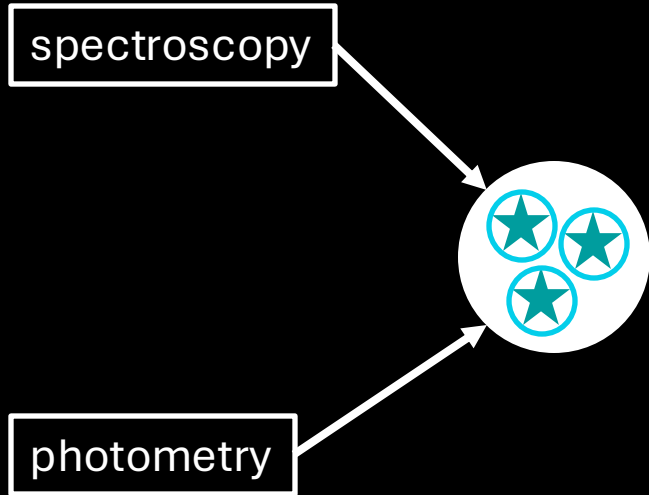
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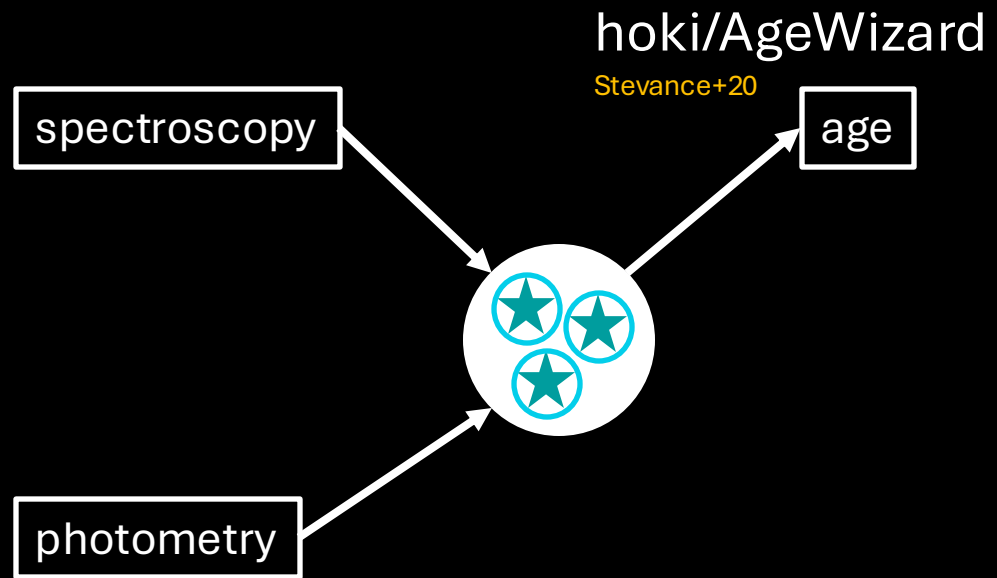
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Resolved

Unresolved

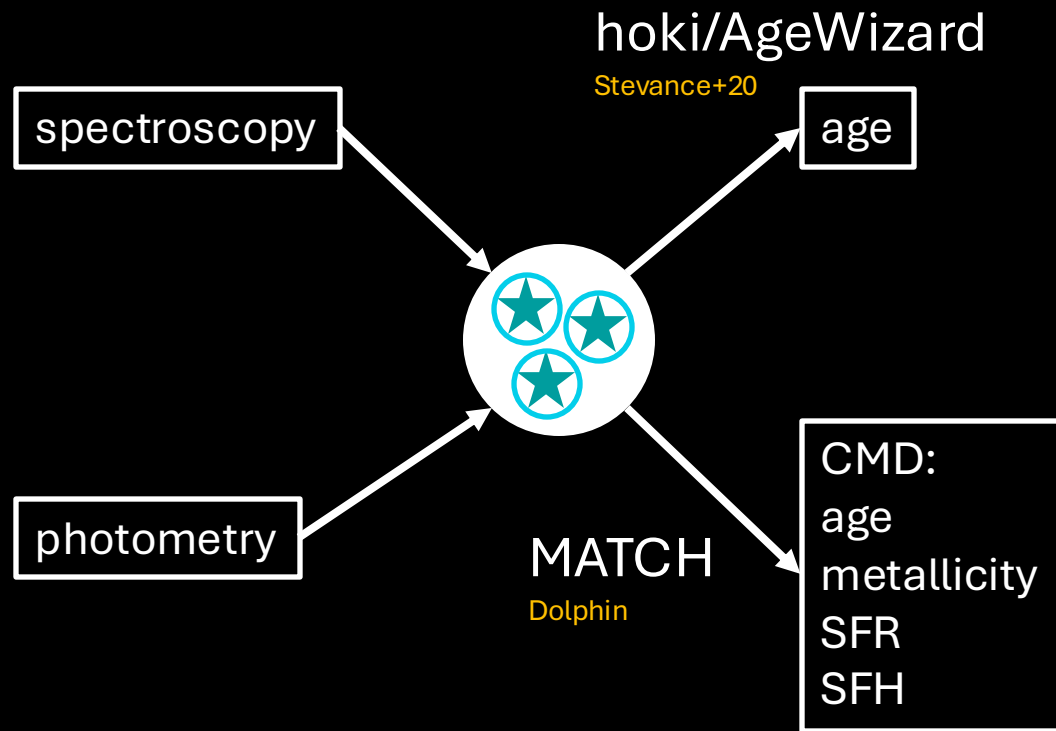


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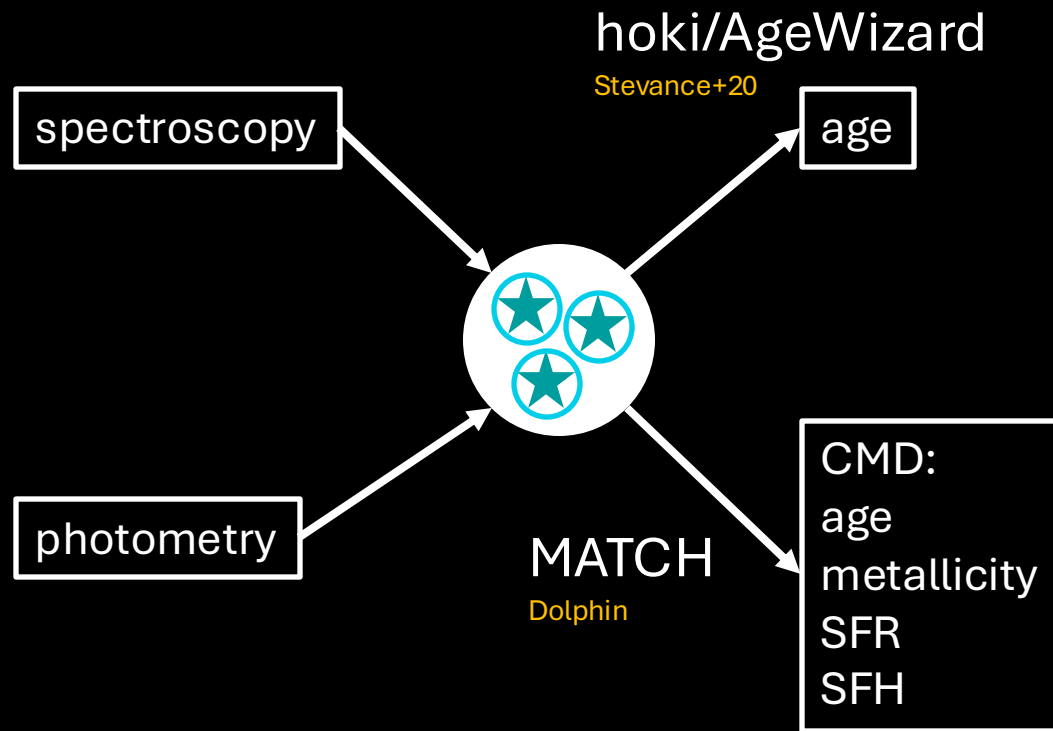
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Resolved



Unresolved

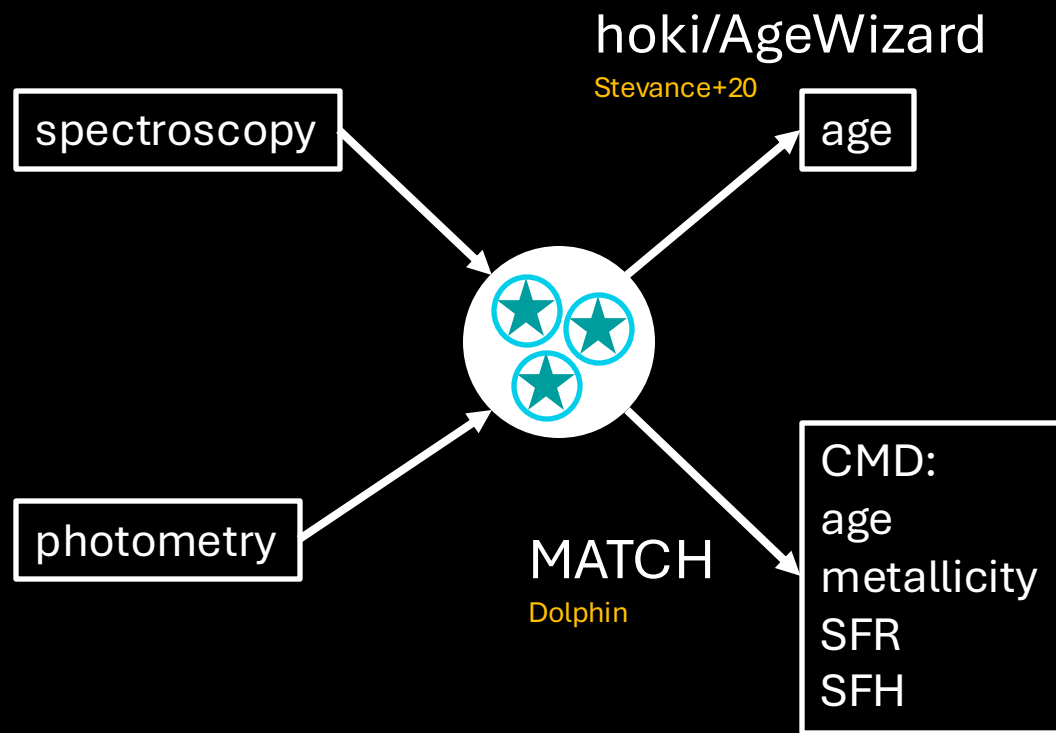
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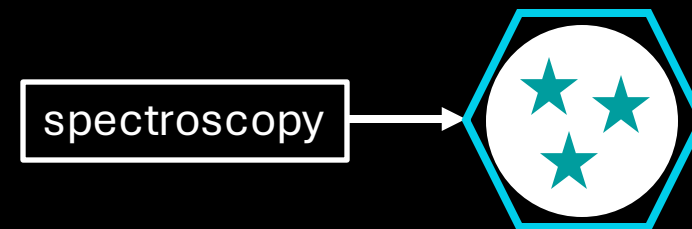
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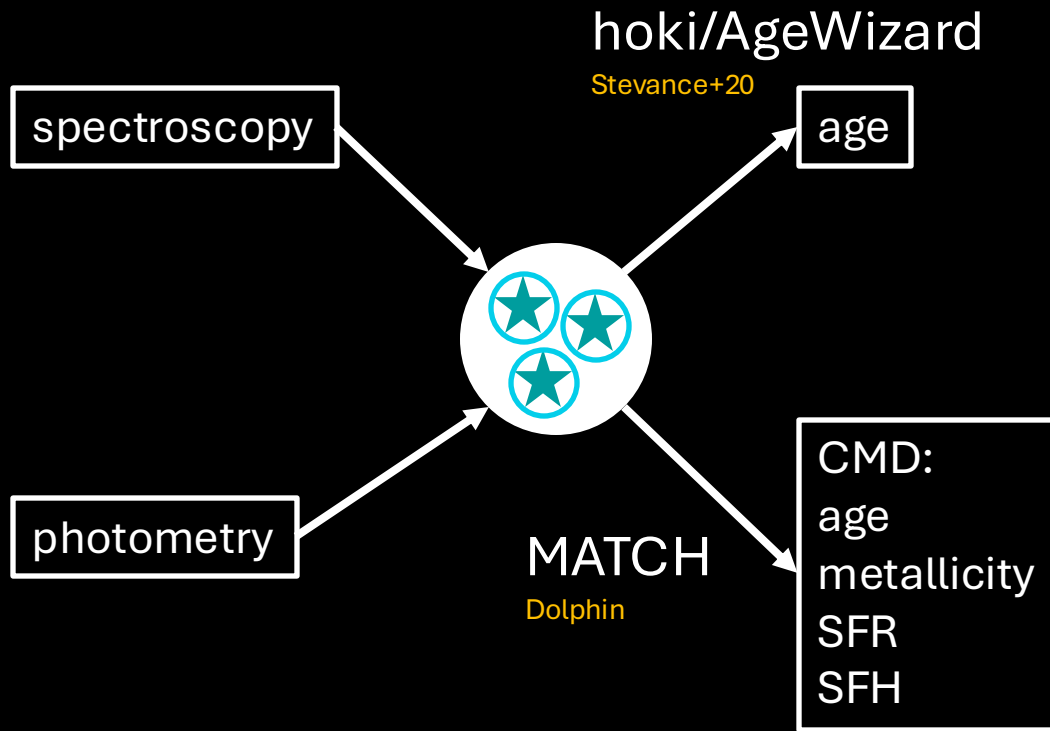
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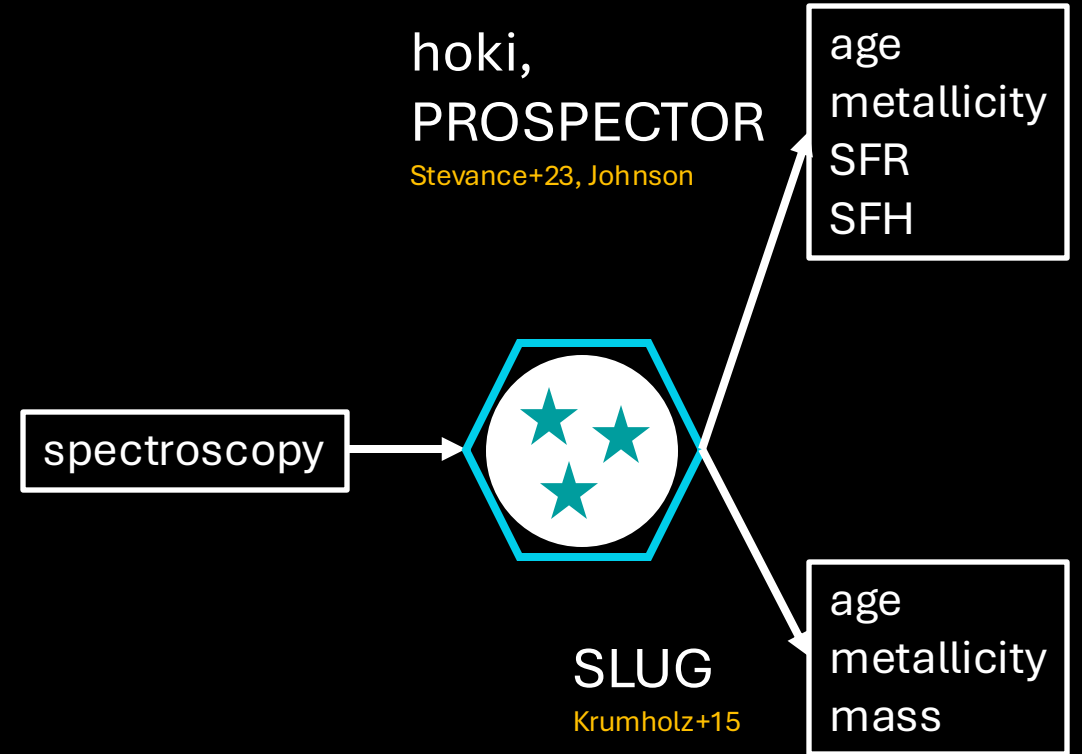
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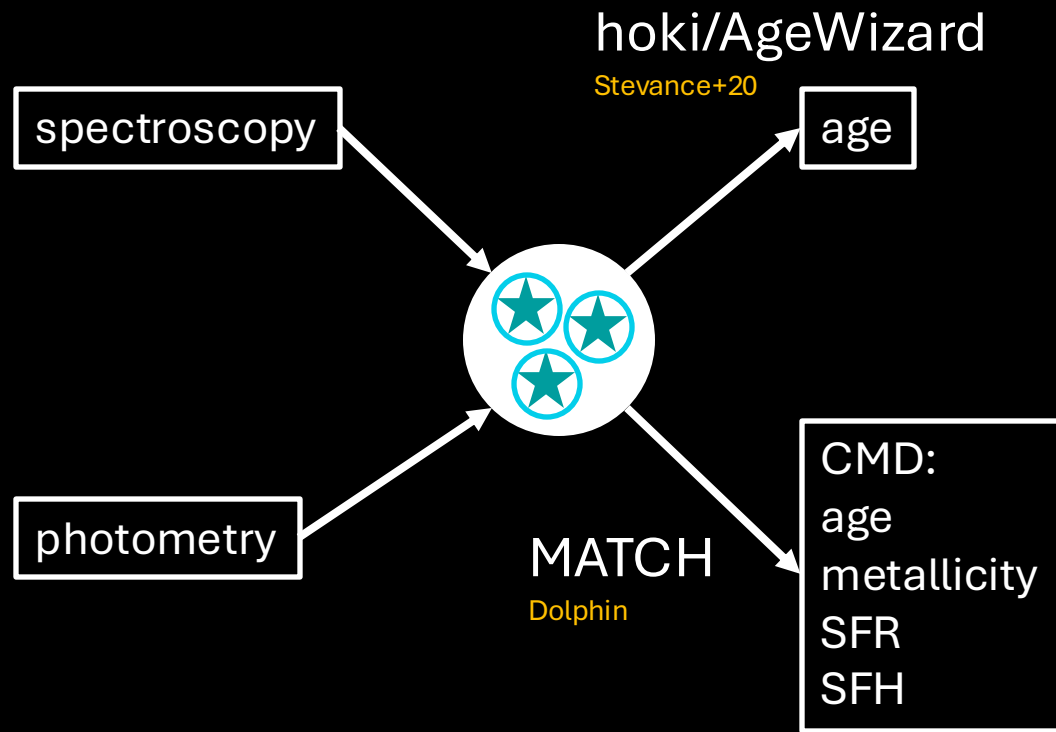
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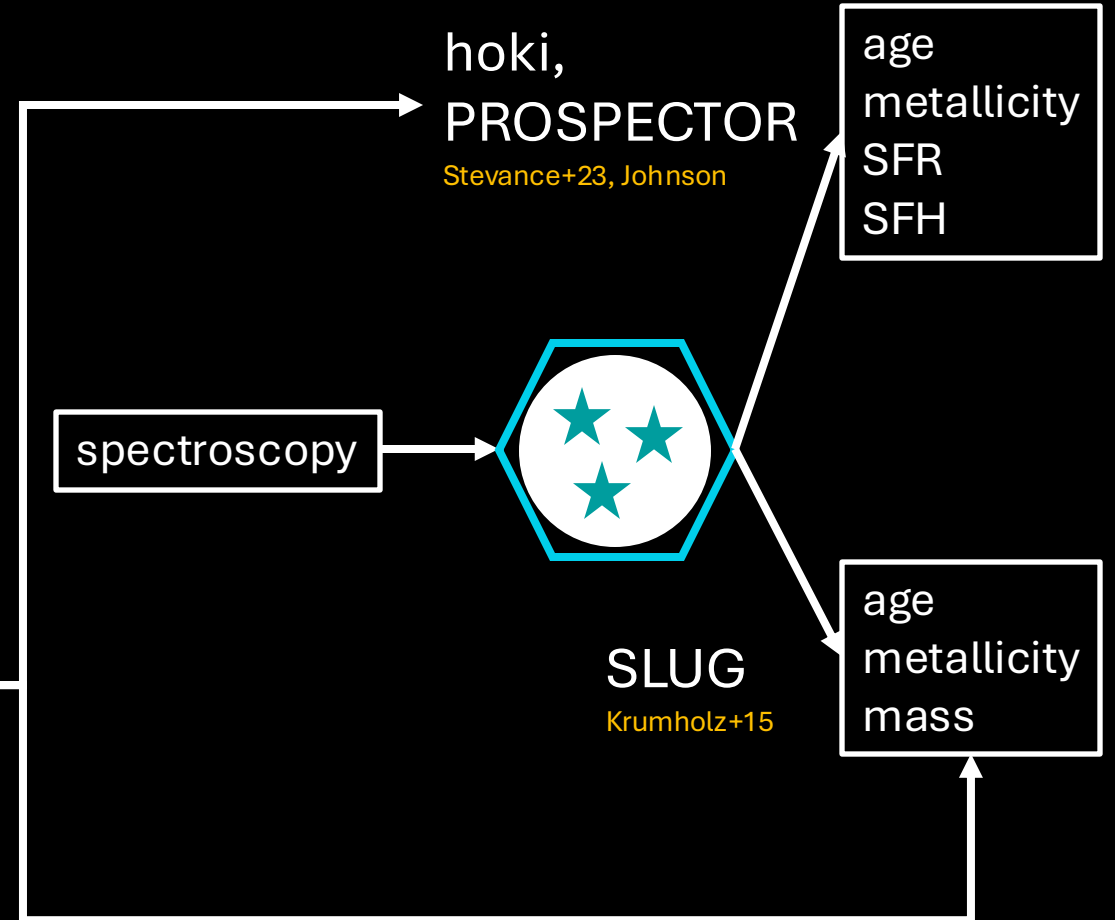
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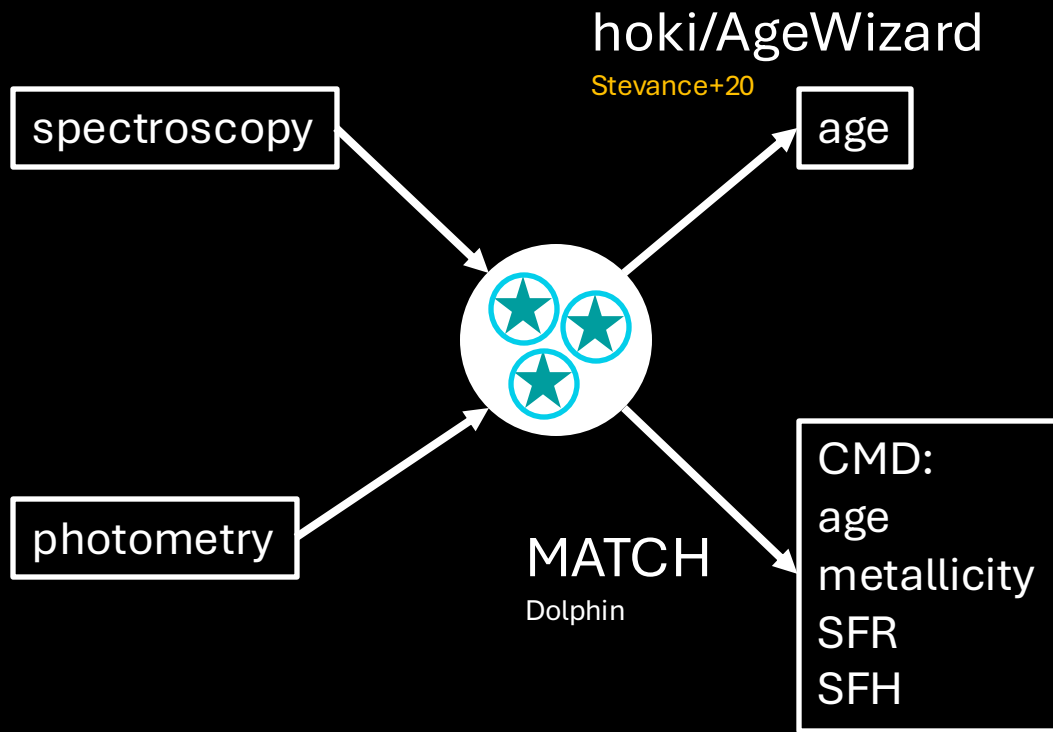
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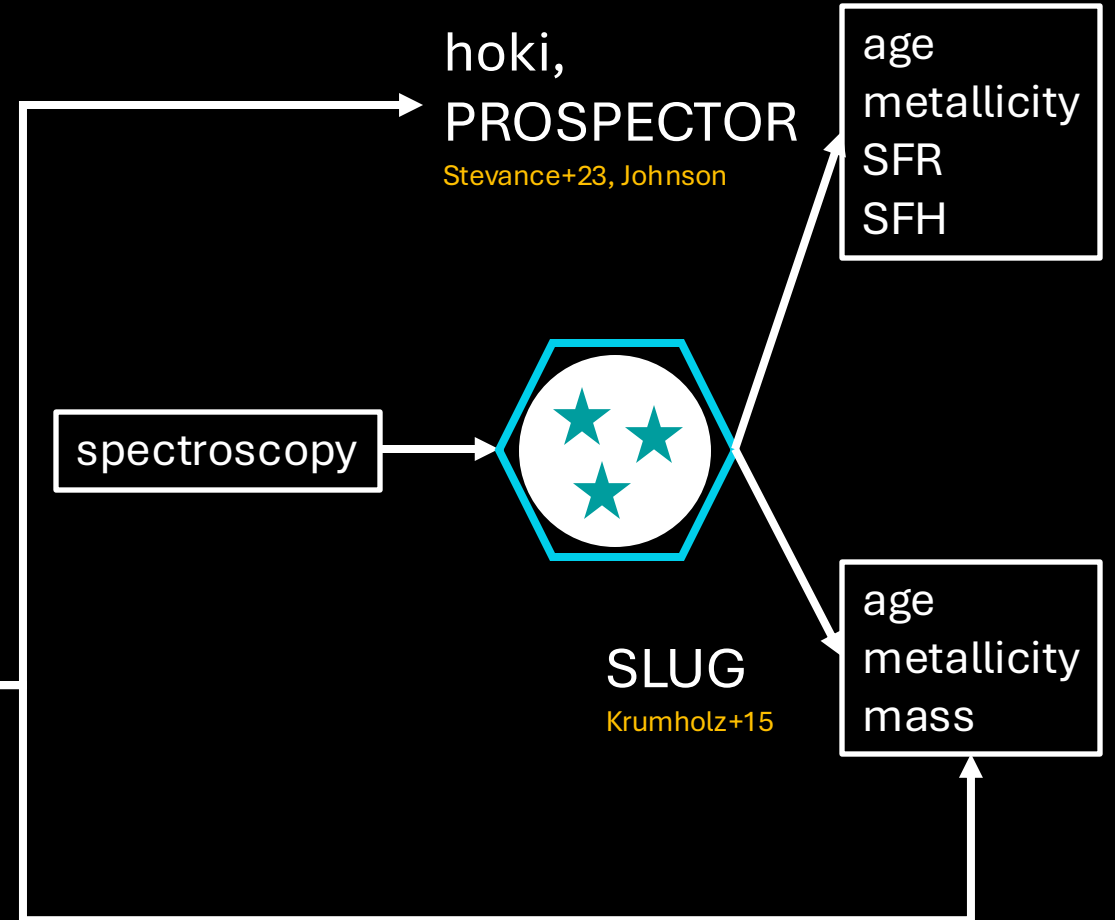
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Resolved

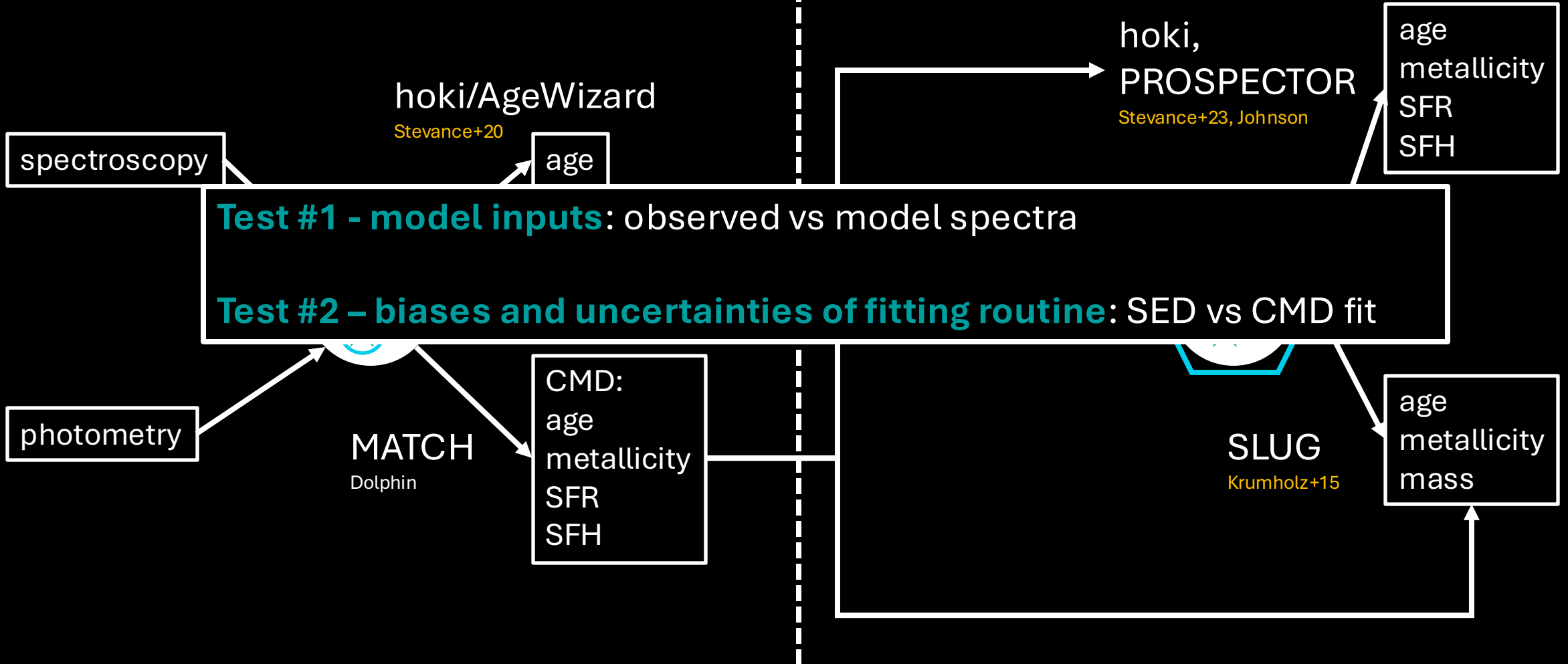


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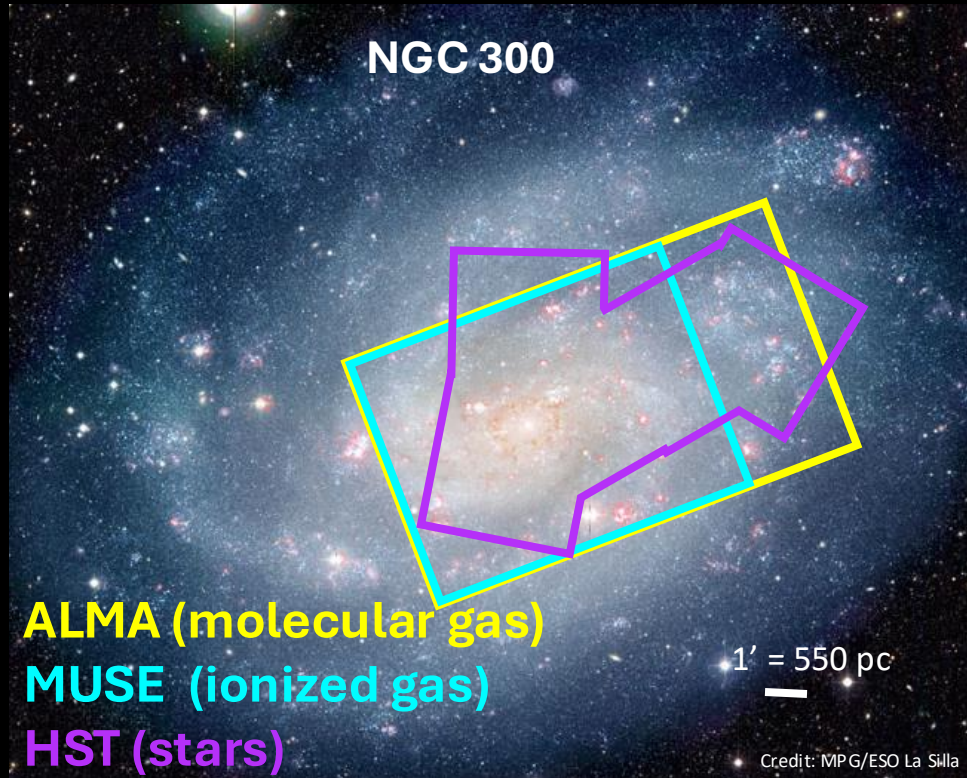


Resolved

Unresolved

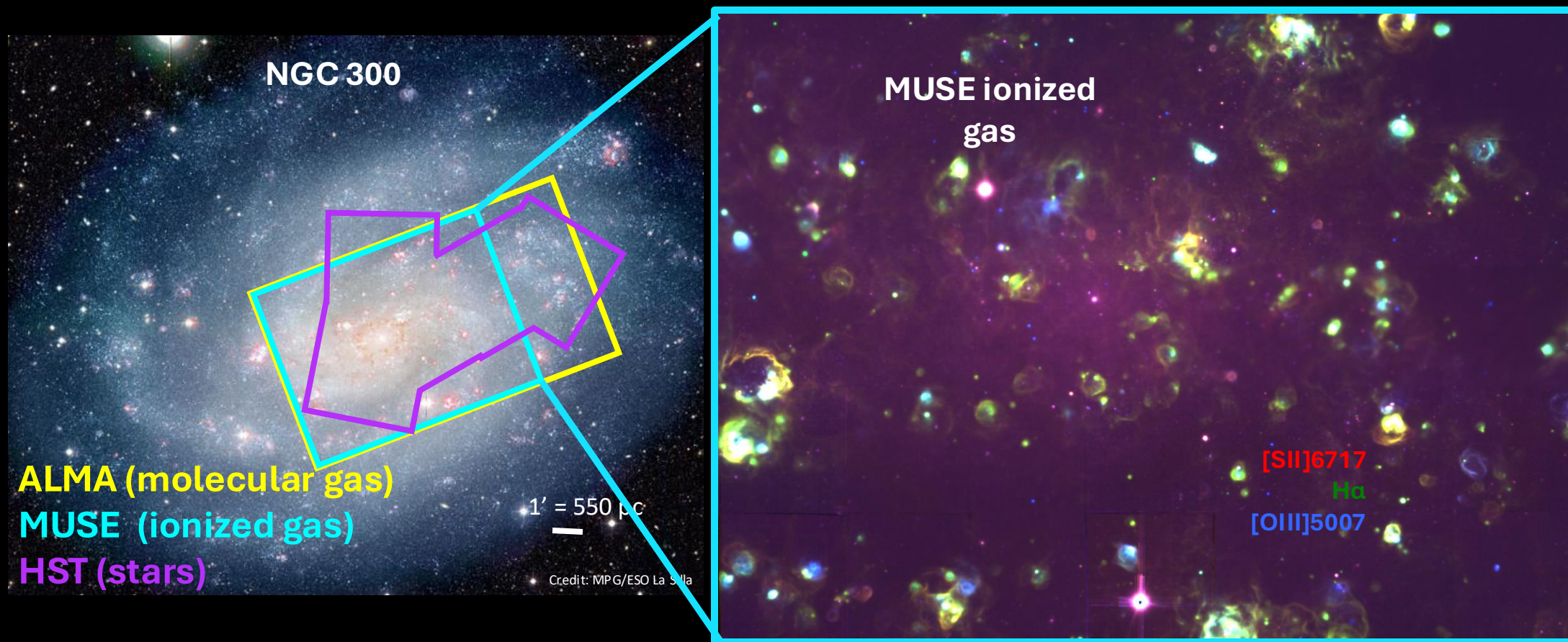


The nearby galaxy NGC 300 (2 Mpc) gives us access to > 100 star-forming regions & their stars simultaneously



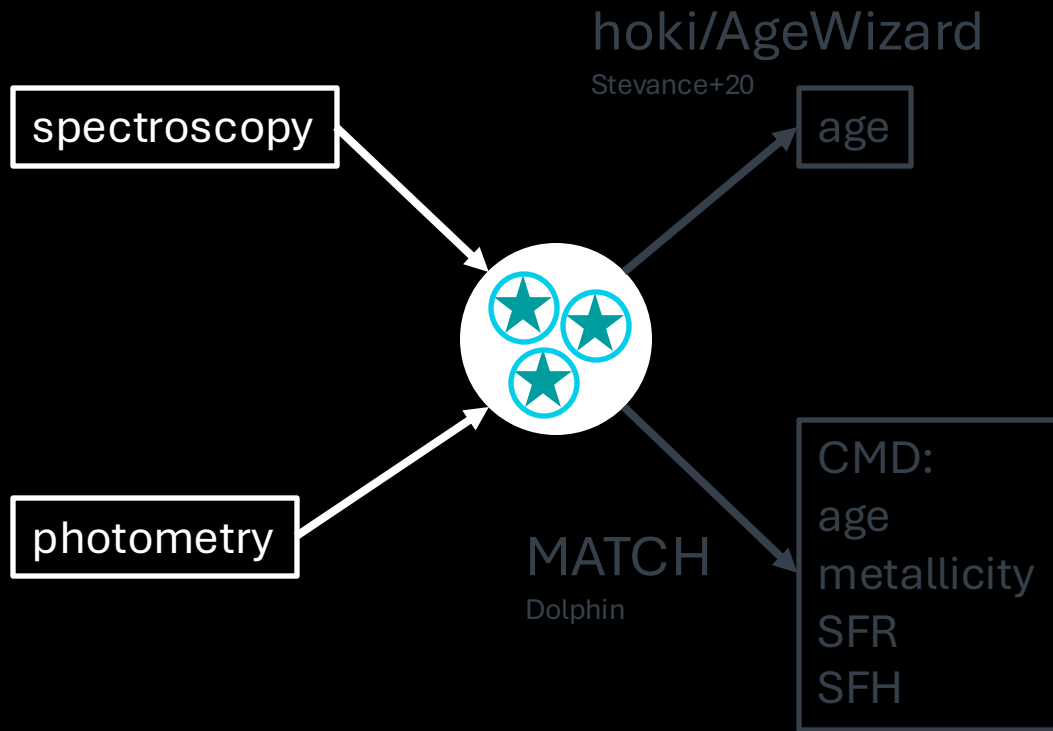
See also **Kruijssen+19 (incl. McLeod)**

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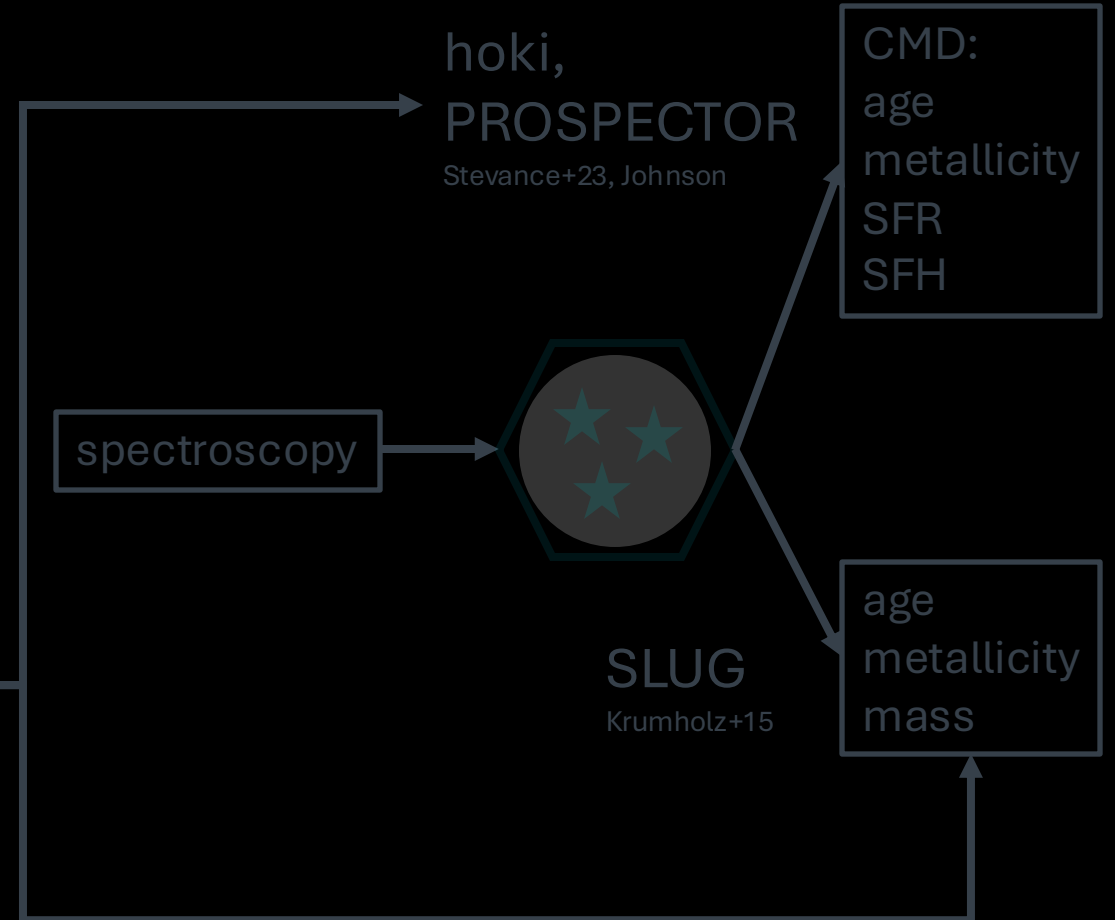


See also [Kruijssen+19 \(incl. McLeod\)](#)

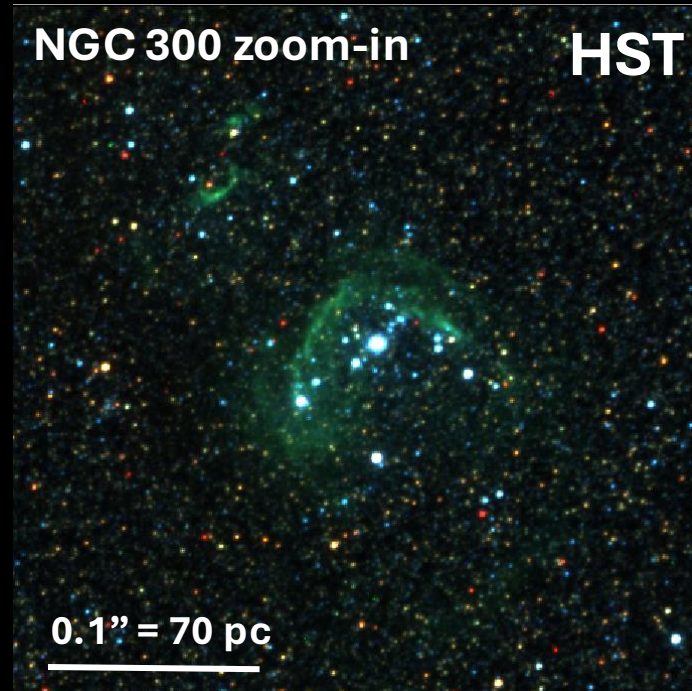
Resolved



Unresolved

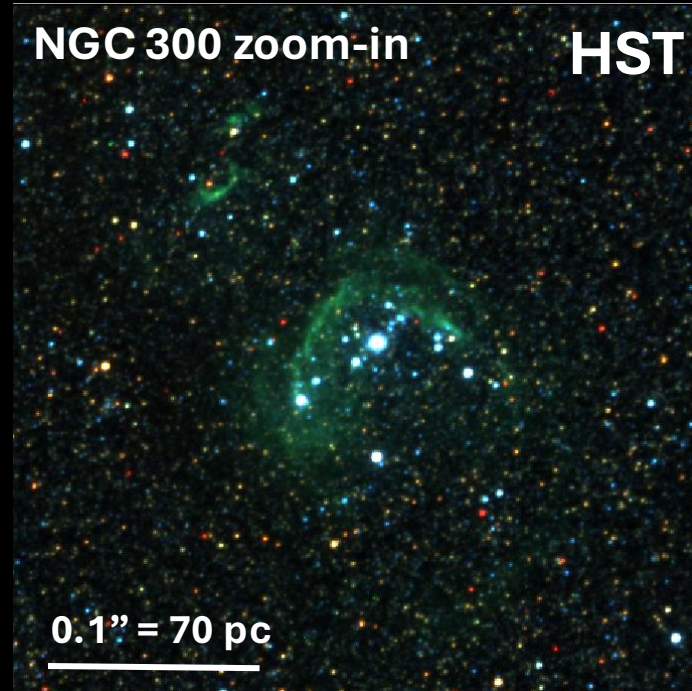


Resolving single stars at Mpc distances with IFUs



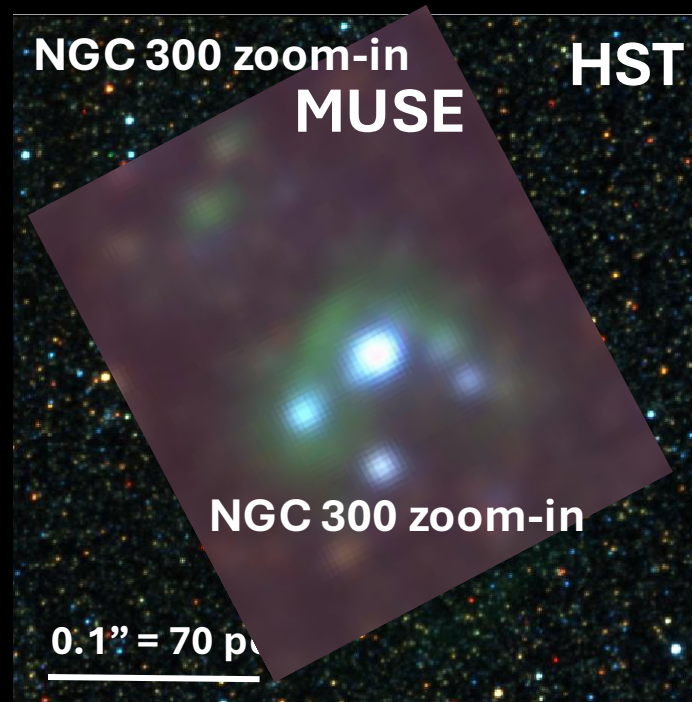
Resolving single stars at Mpc distances with IFUs

exploiting high spatial resolution photometry from the Hubble Space Telescope



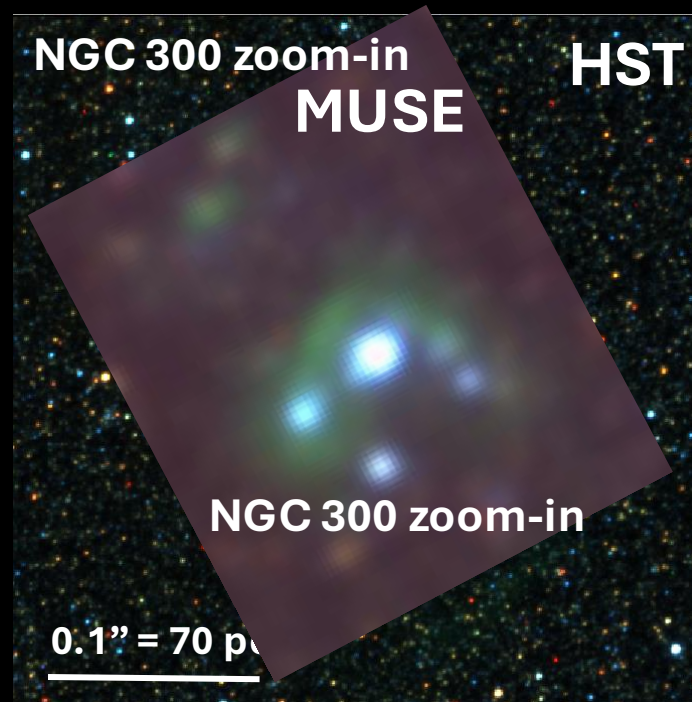
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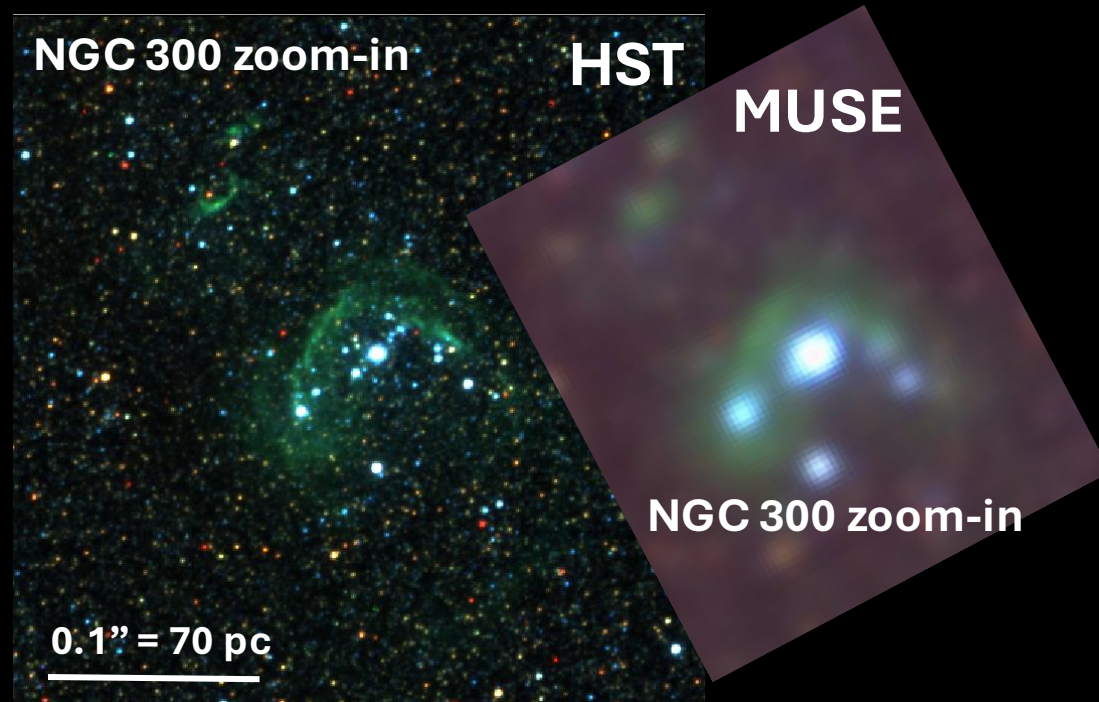
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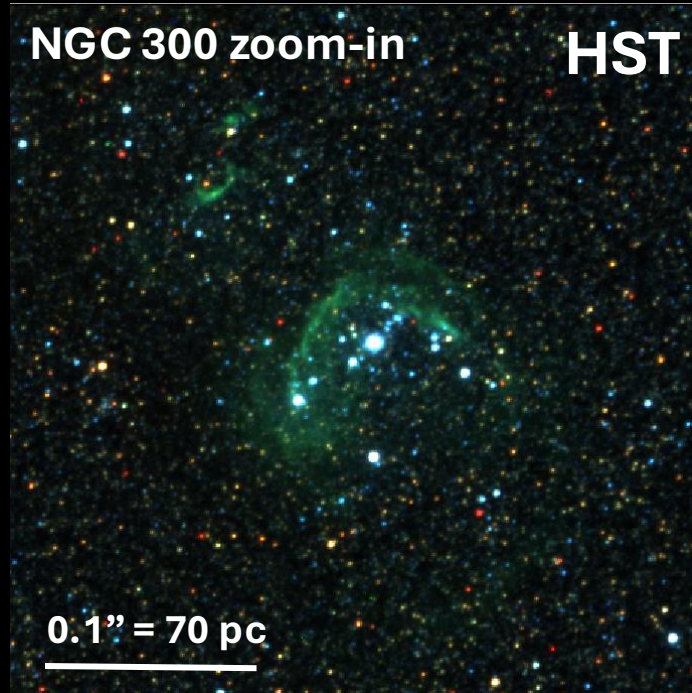
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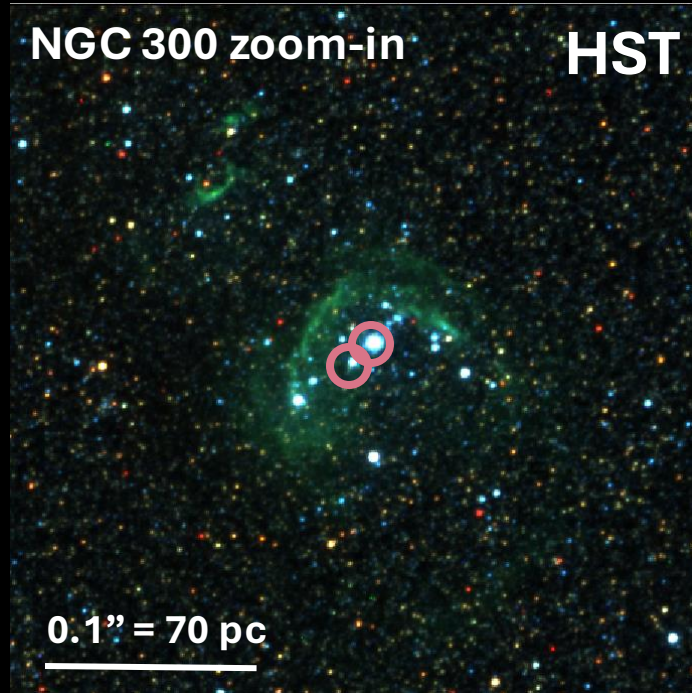
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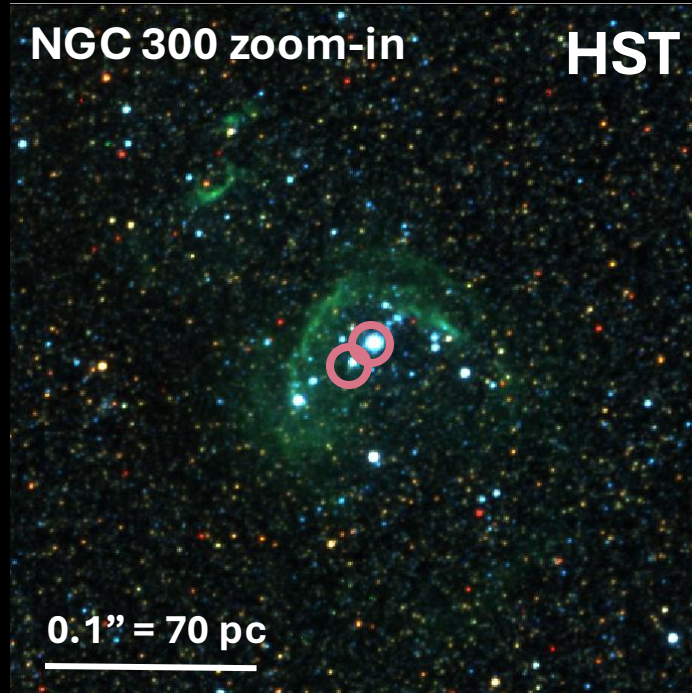
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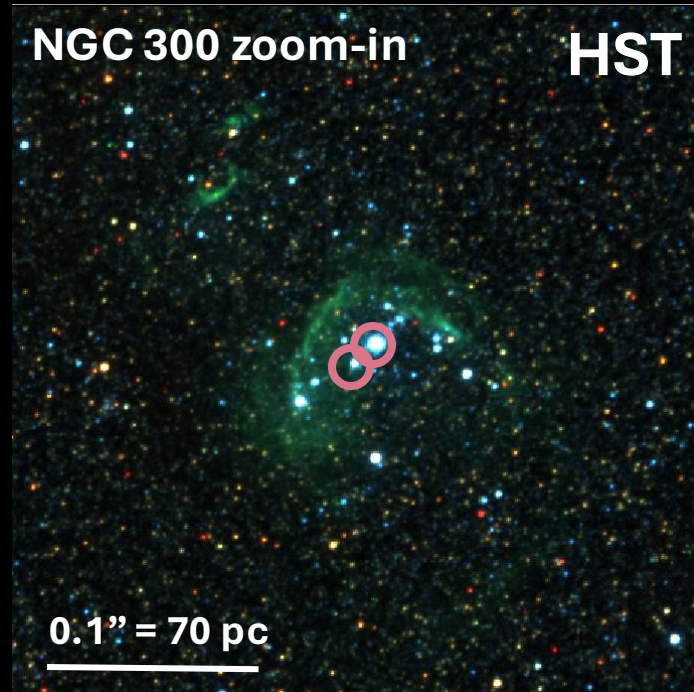
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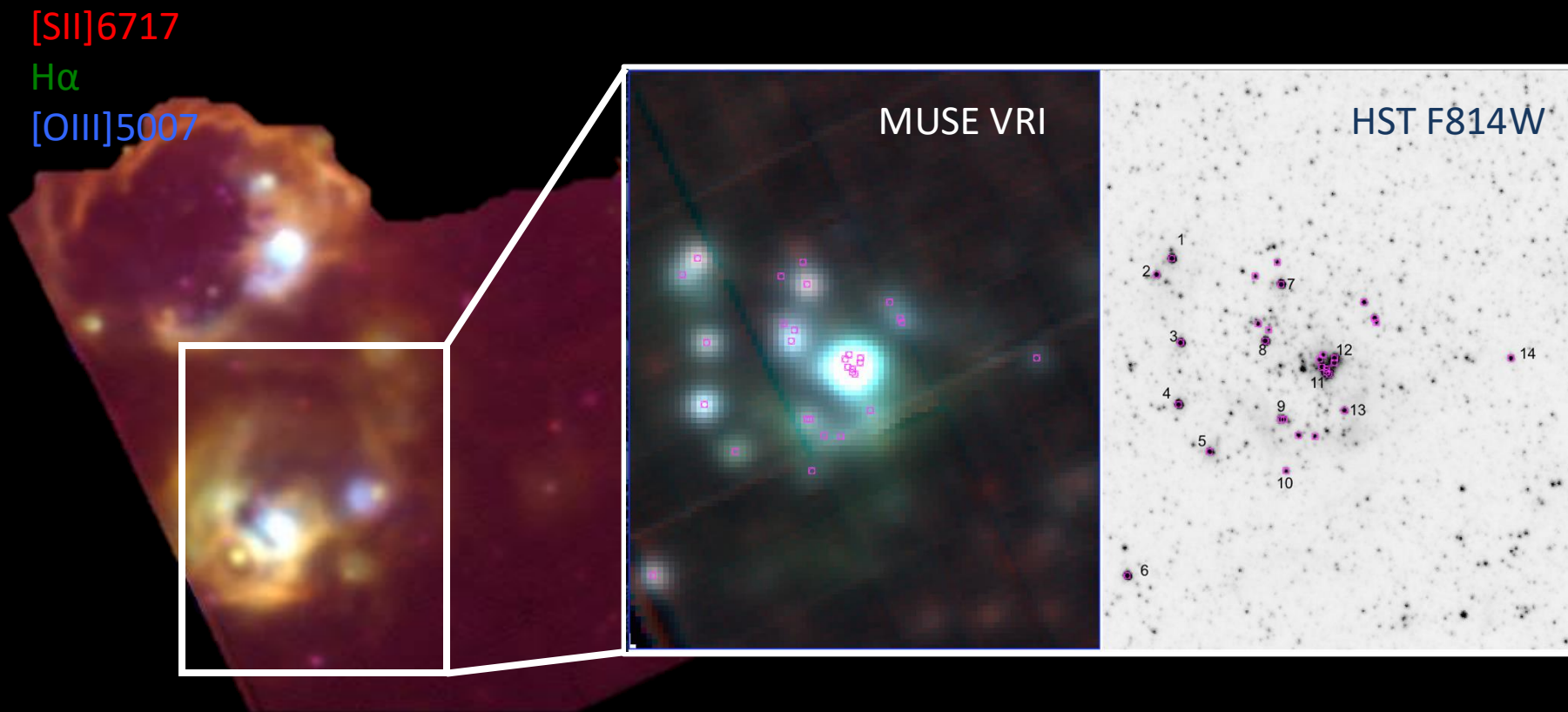
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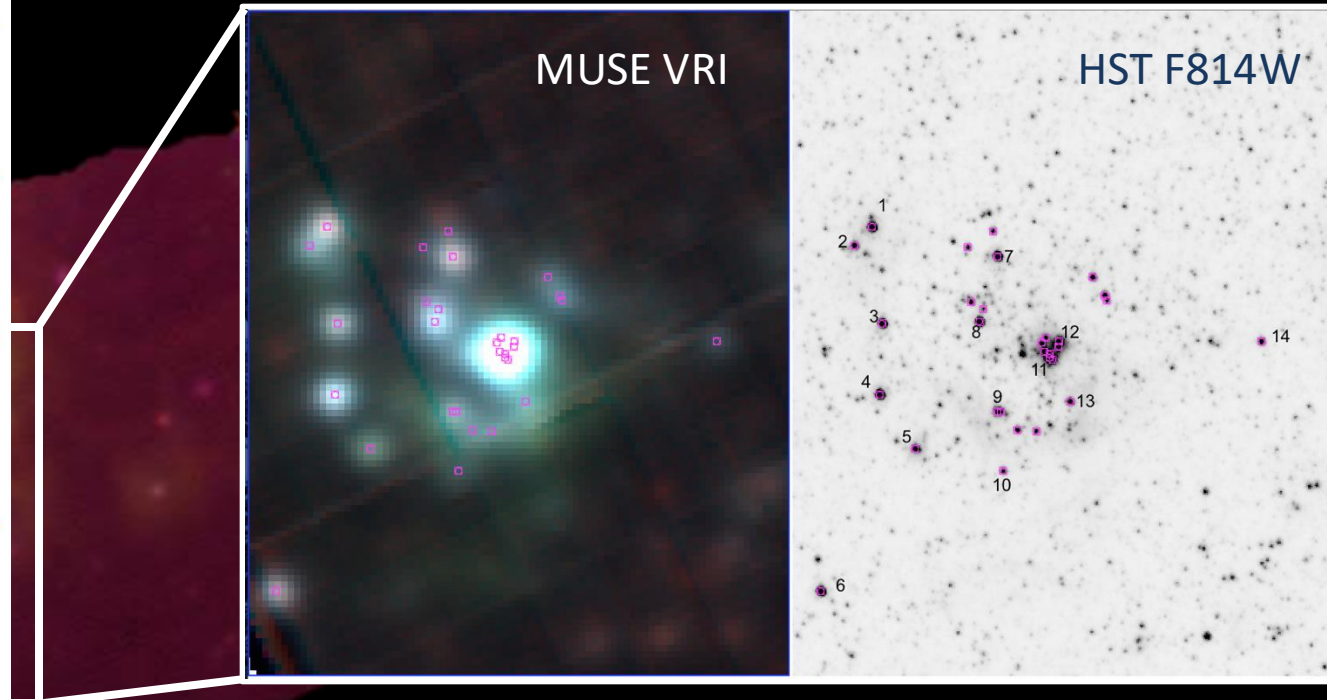
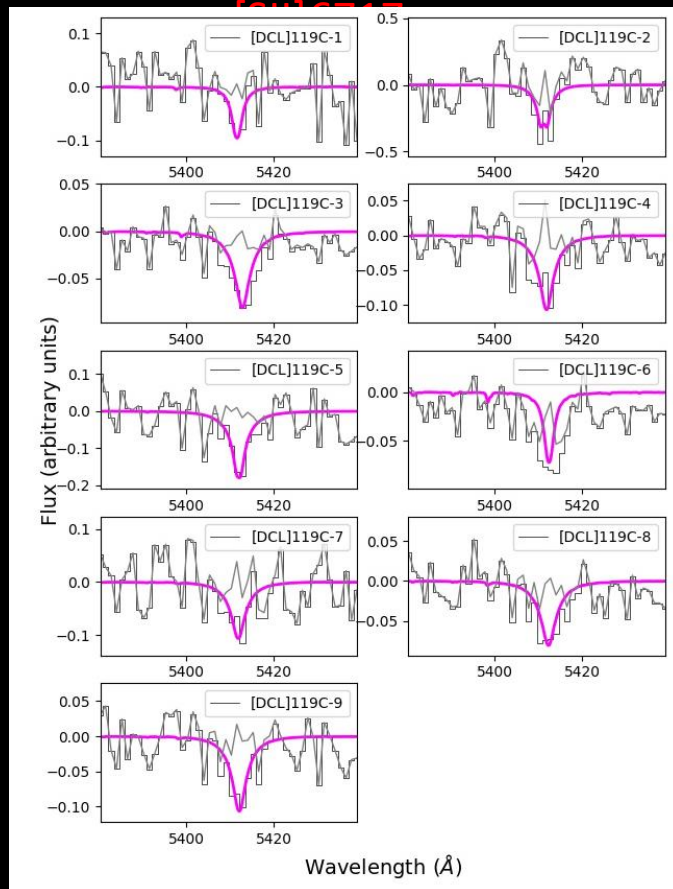


→ Accurate PSF fitting allows enhanced spectral extraction at large distances / in crowded fields (as demonstrated in **Kamann+16**)

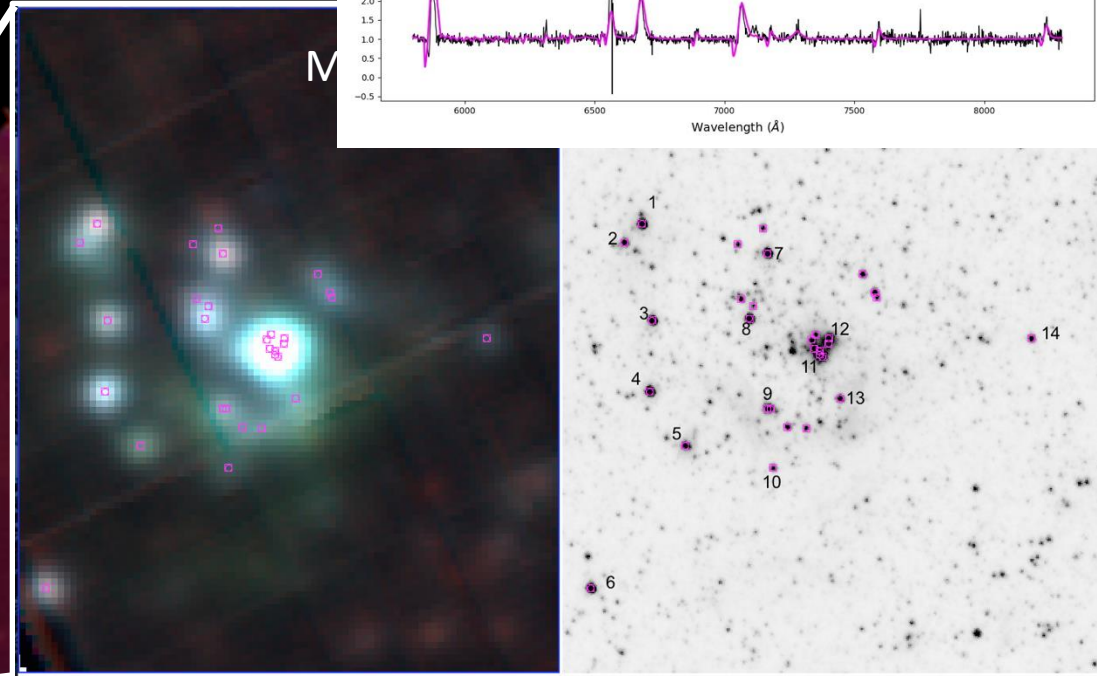
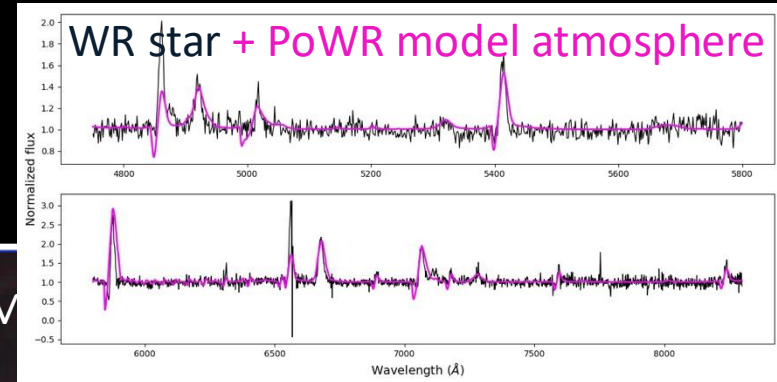
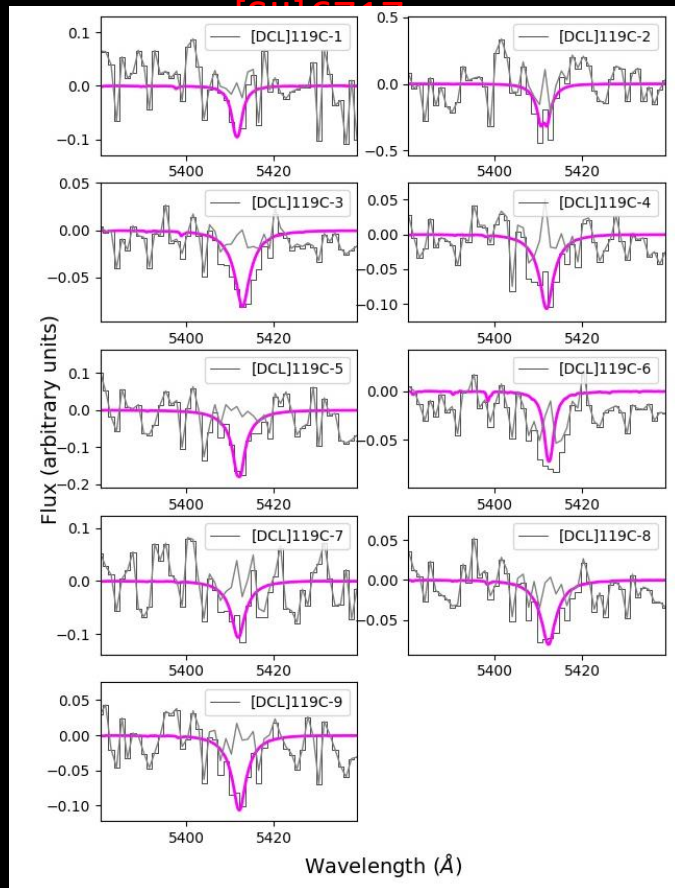
MUSE IFU data + enhanced spectral extraction: identification of 13 O-type and 4 WR stars in an initial study of 5 star-forming regions in NGC 300



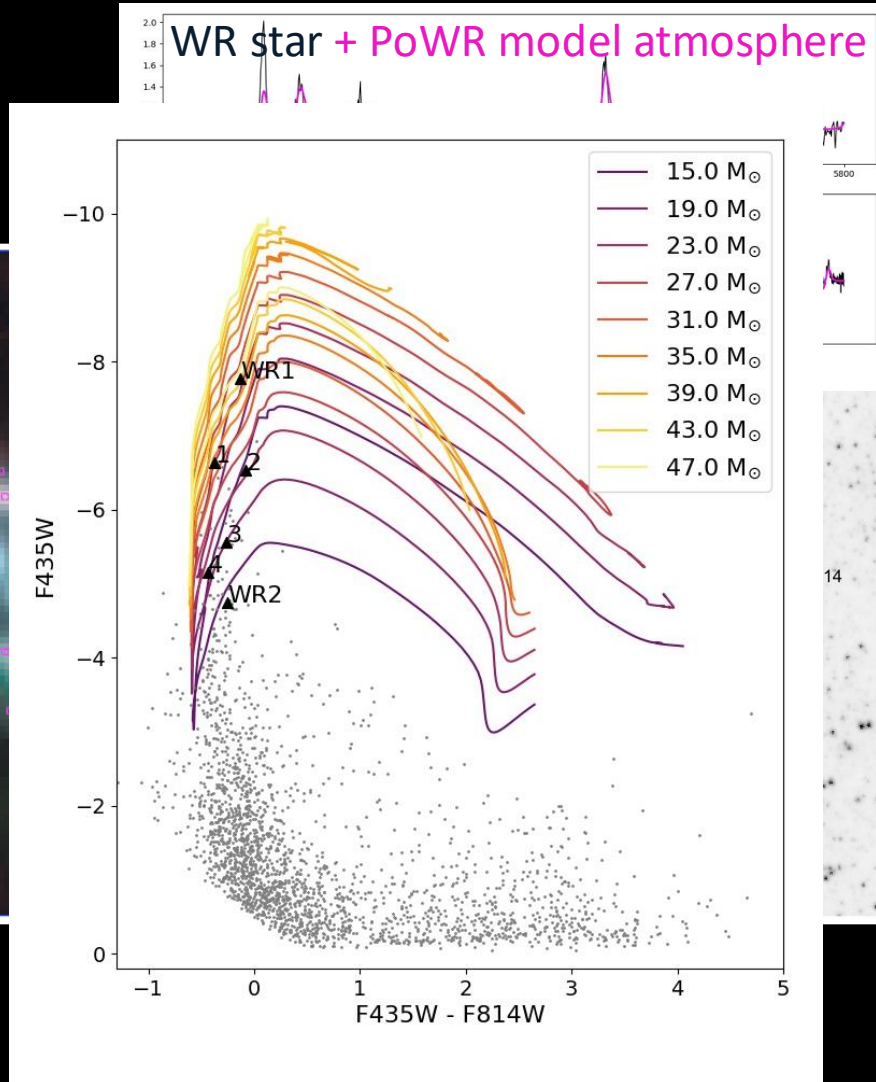
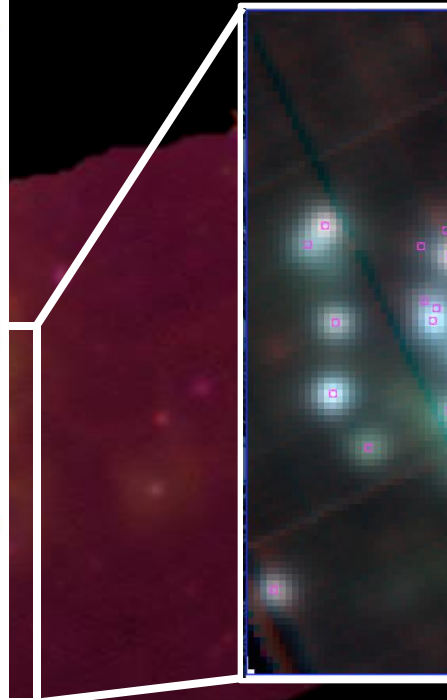
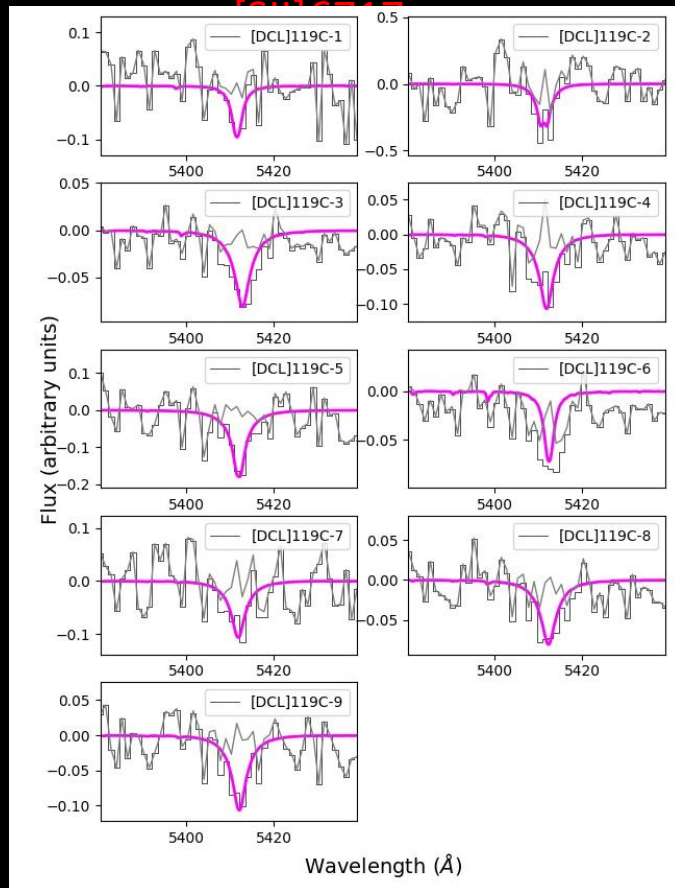
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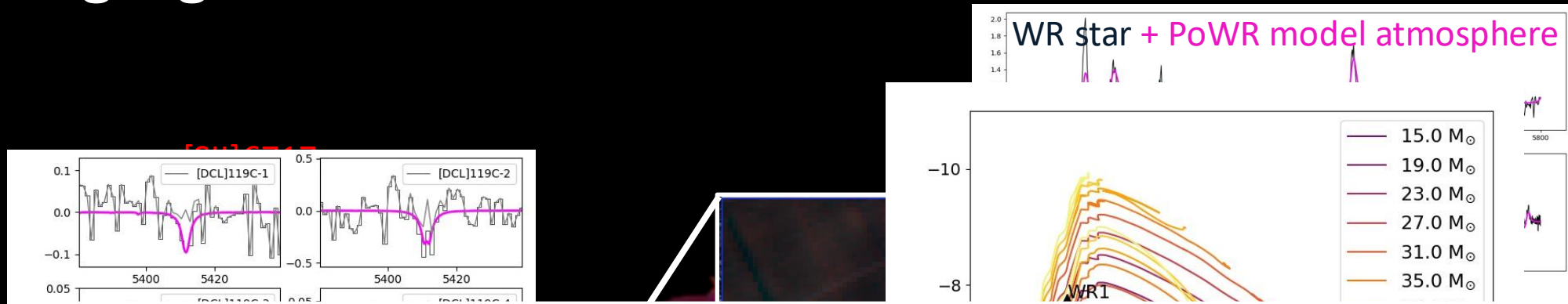
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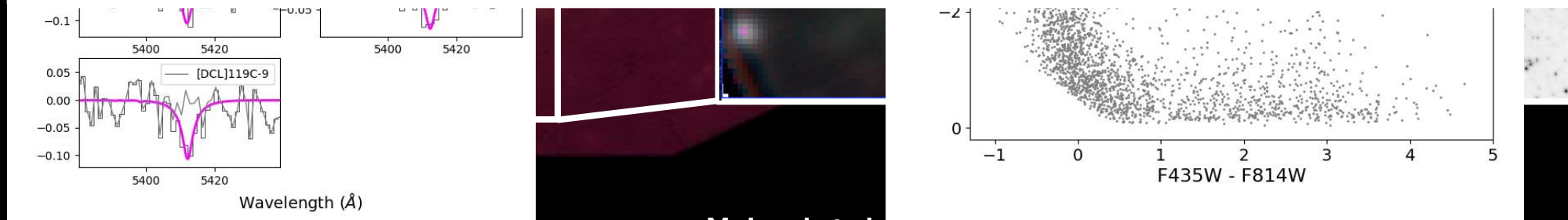


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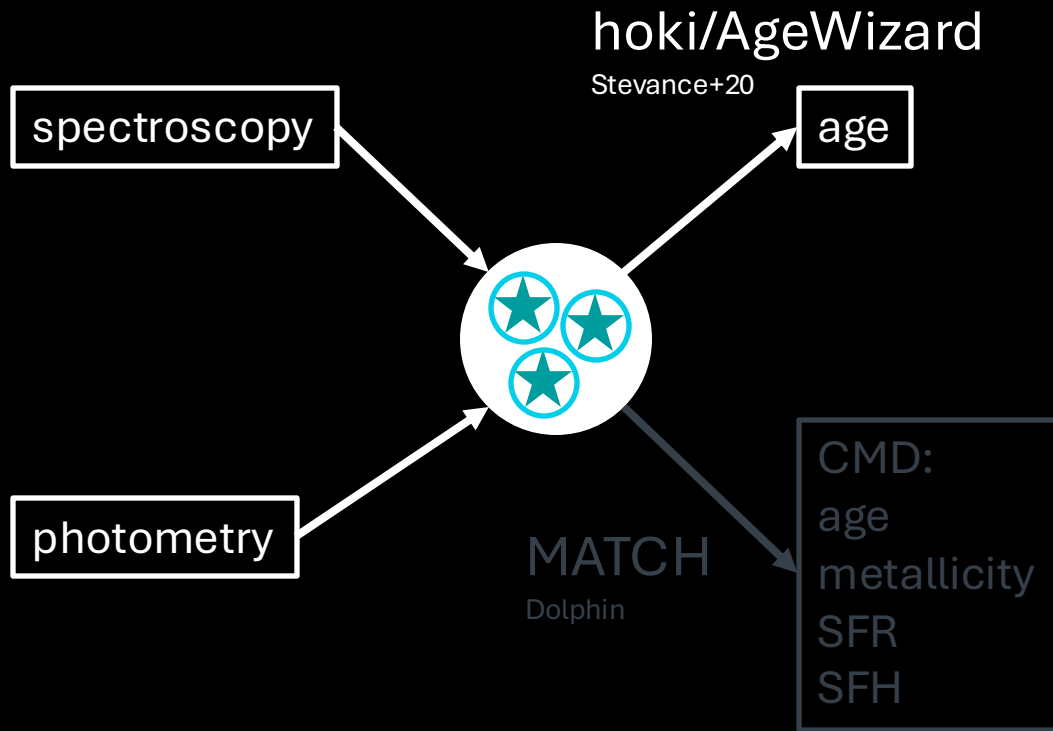


This is a 100% increase from previous census of O stars in these regions

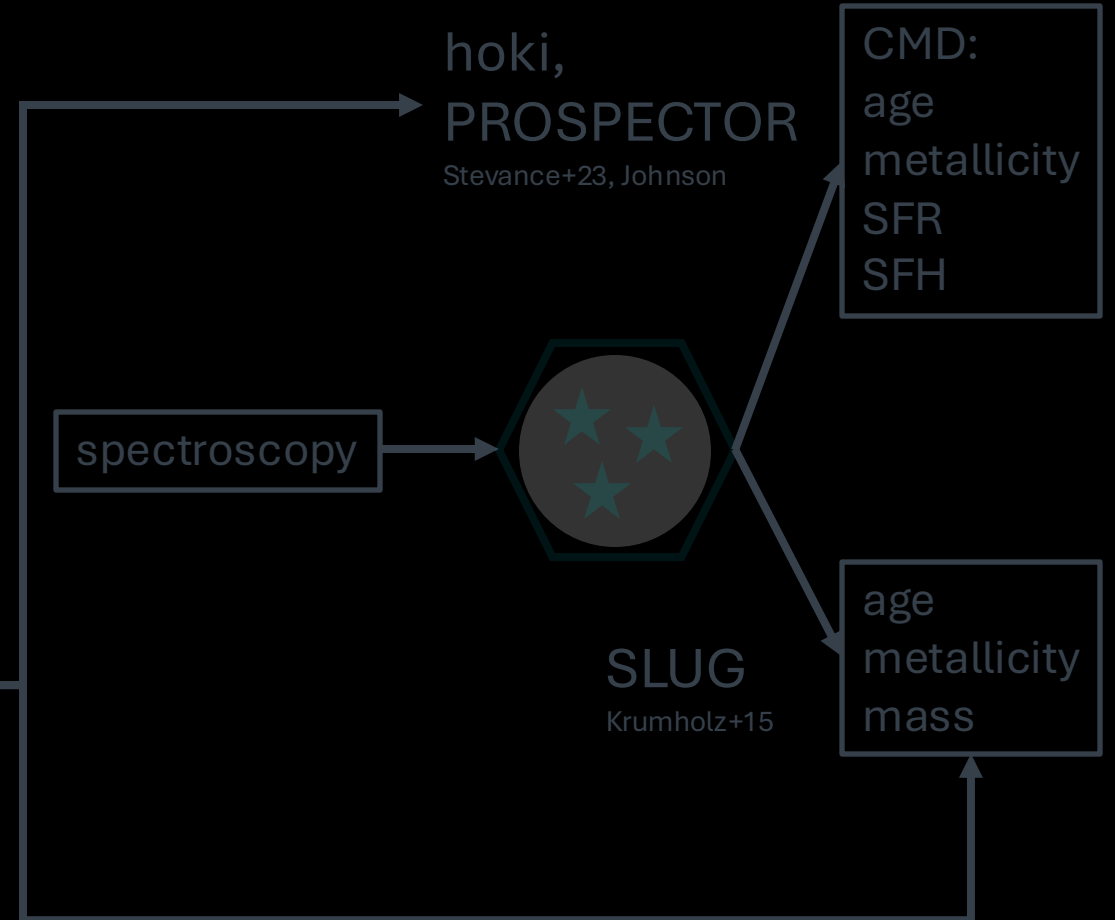
-> detailed feedback analyses in nearby galaxies is feasible



Resolved

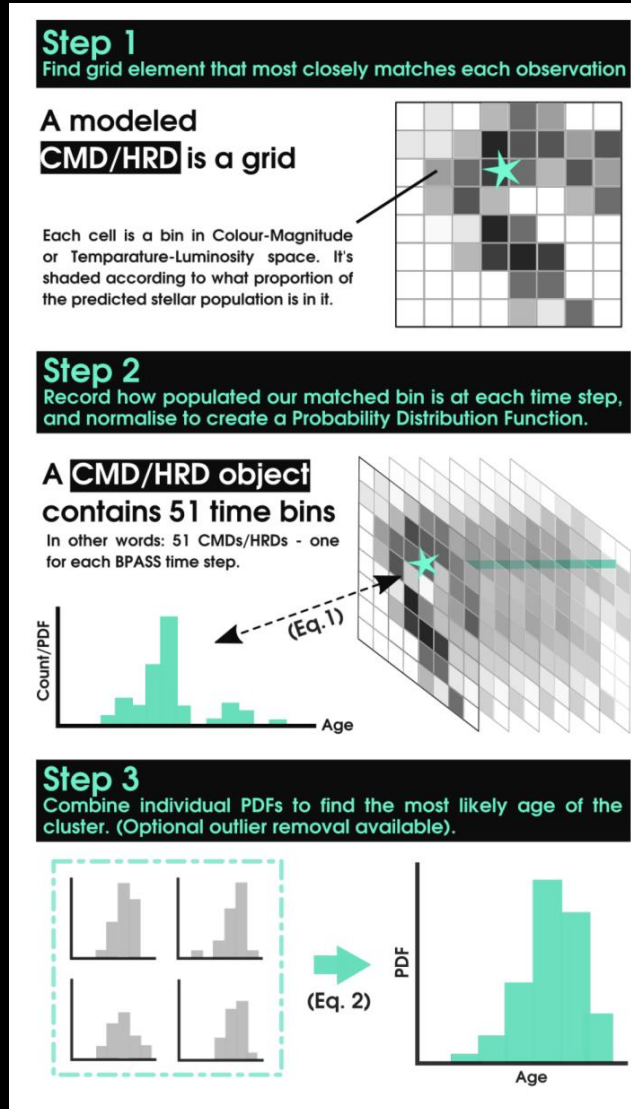


Unresolved



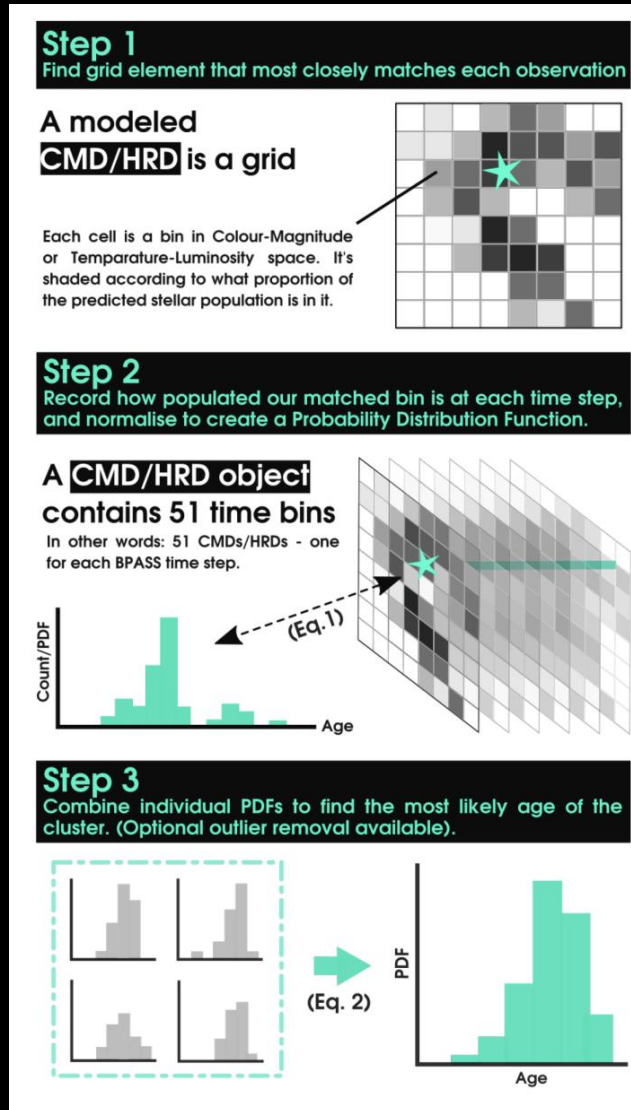
From massive stars on a CMD to cluster ages (not using isochrones)

Stevance, Eldridge, McLeod, Stanway, Chrimes, 2020



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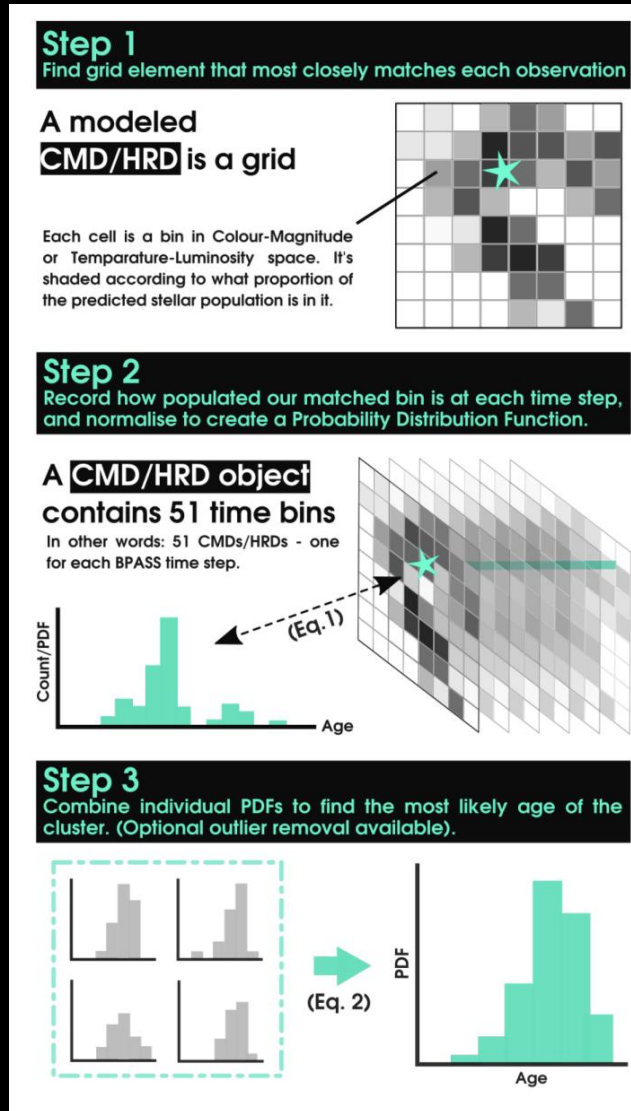
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- Traditional isochrone fitting underestimates ages up to 3 Myr!

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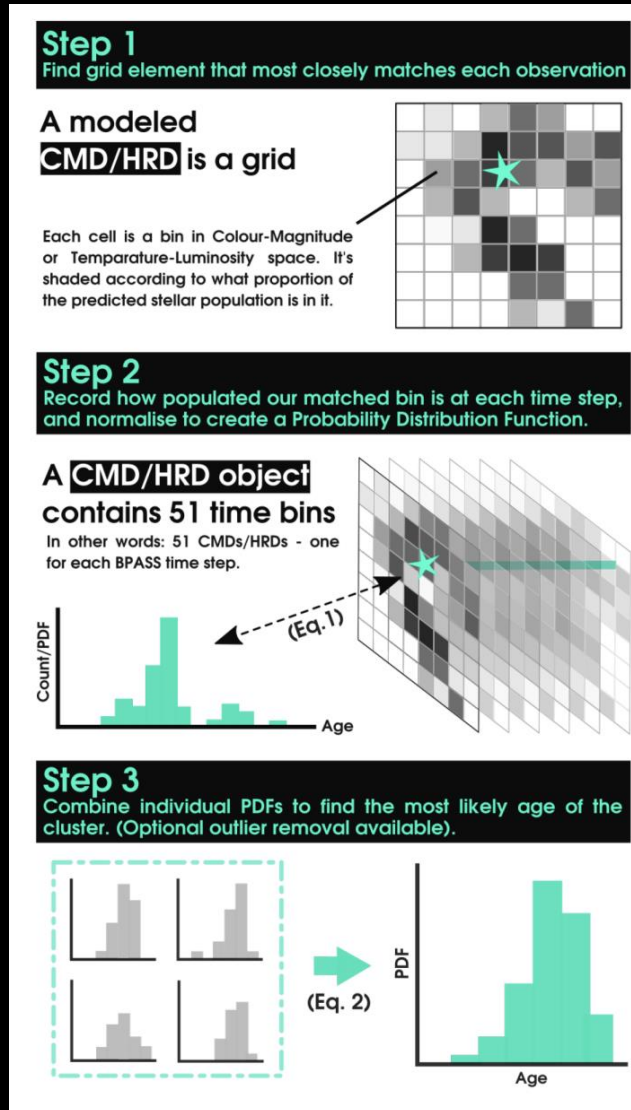
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- Single-star models are unable to predict ~20% of the ages compared to binary models

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Stevance, Eldridge, McLeod, Stanway, Chrimes, 2020



- Traditional isochrone fitting underestimates ages up to 3 Myr!
- Single-star models are unable to predict ~20% of the ages compared to binary models
- Applicable even with small sample sizes

The Spatial Resolution Project

Galaxy	D	Z	IFU	HST
NGC6822	0.5	8.06	SITELLE	archival
IC1613	0.7	7.86	SITELLE	archival
M31	0.8	8.72	SITELLE	PHAT ¹
M33	0.9	8.48	SITELLE	PHAT ²
Leo P	1.6	7.25	MUSE	archival
NGC 300	2	8.40	MUSE	ANGST ³
NGC247	3.3	-	SITELLE	ANGST
NGC4214	2.9	8.20	SITELLE	ANGST
NGC4395	4.2	8.32	SITELLE	LEGUS ⁴

The Spatial Resolution Project

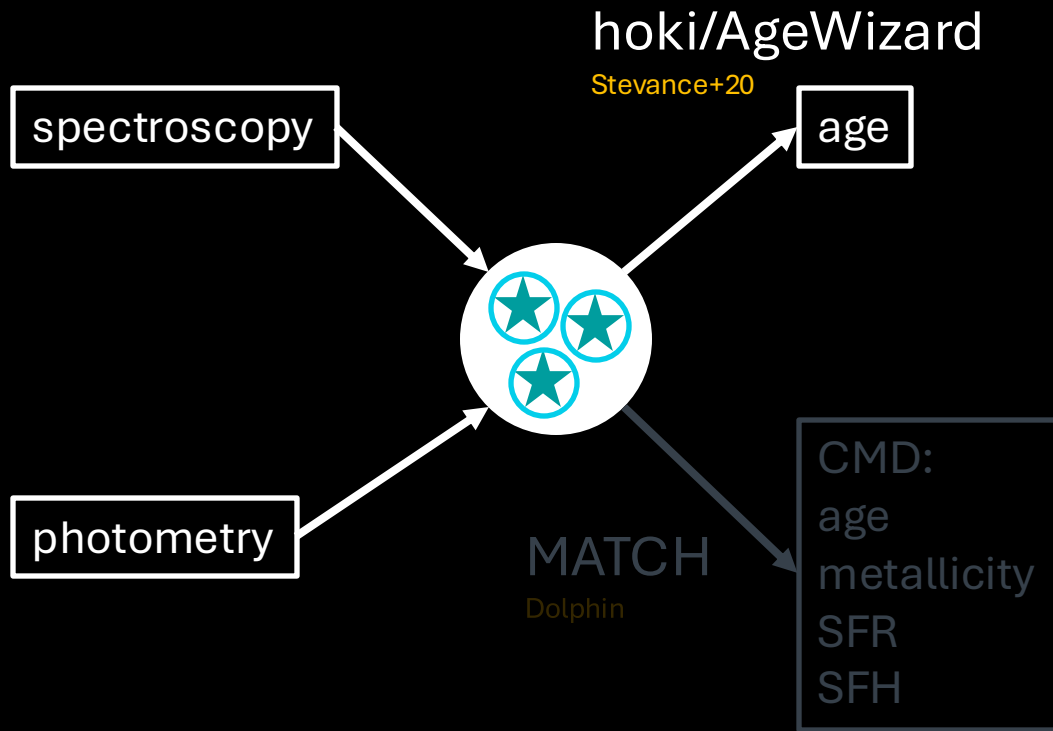
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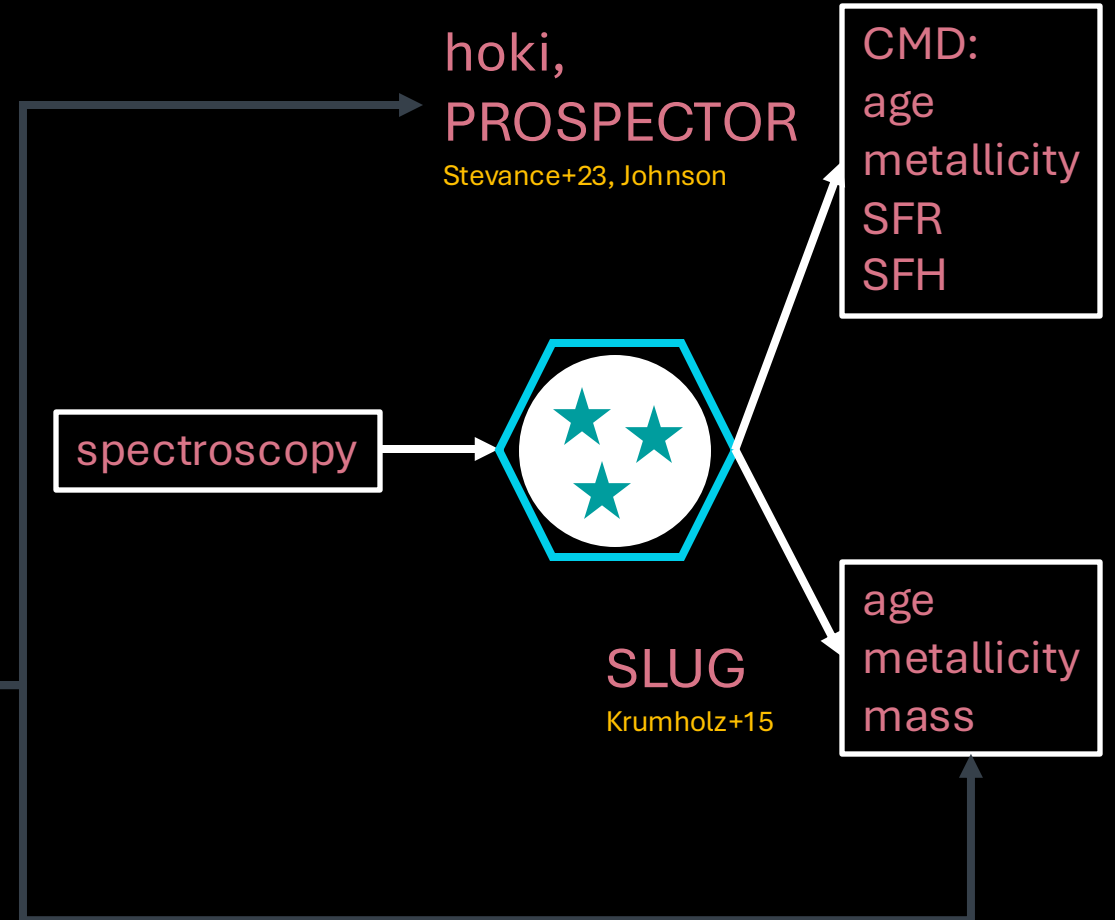
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+ future data (LVM, JWST, ...)
+ simulations (e.g., EDGE)

Resolved

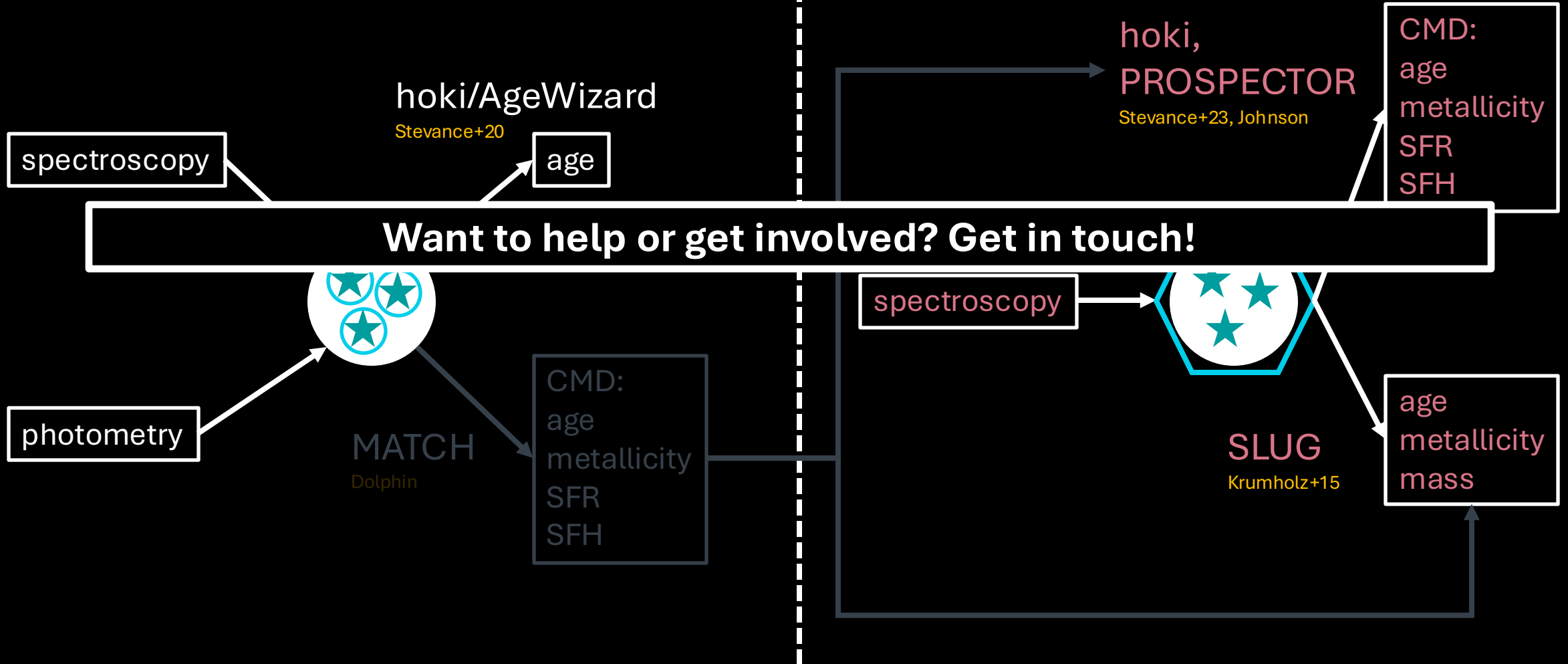


Unresolved



Resolved

Unresolved



**Can we learn something (about the high-z
Universe) from resolved massive stars (clusters)
in the nearby Universe?**

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Bright -> easily detected

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Use them for model validation even if low-mass stars not spectroscopically characterizable

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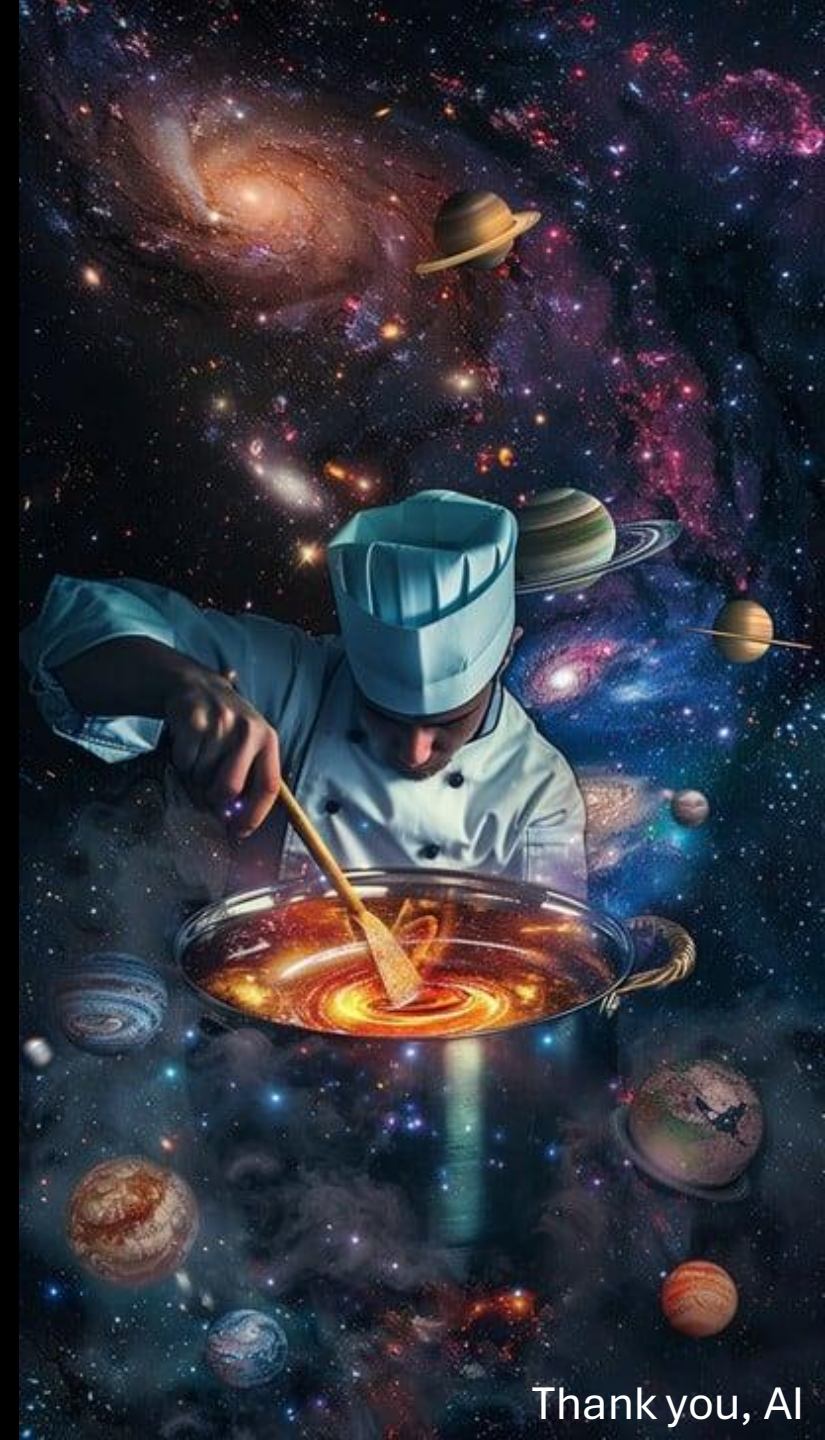
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Use them for model validation even if low-mass stars not spectroscopically characterizable

The massive stars in them are sources of feedback and of escaping photons

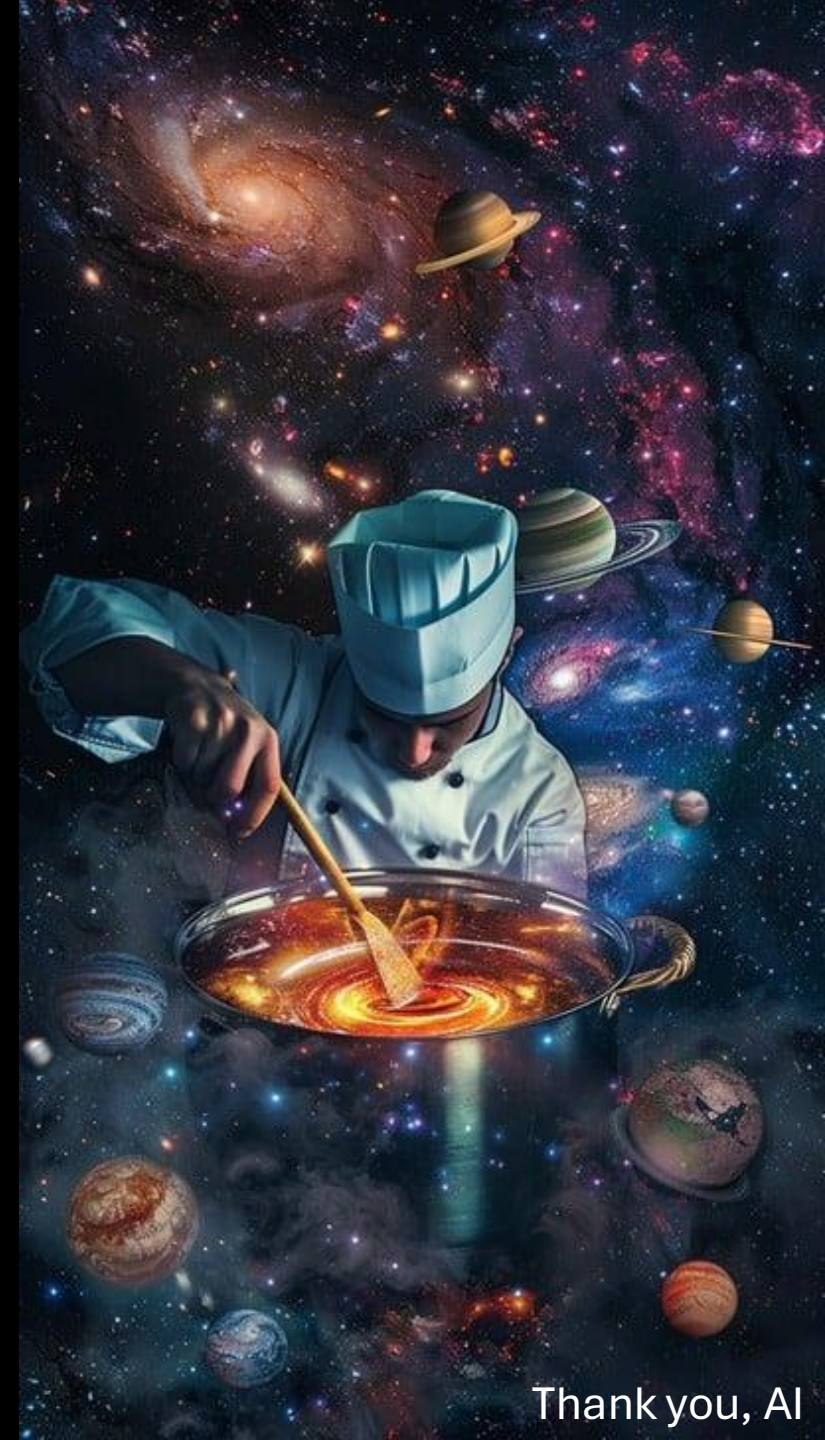
Putting it all together



Thank you, AI

Putting it all together

Stellar feedback is the (not so) secret ingredient

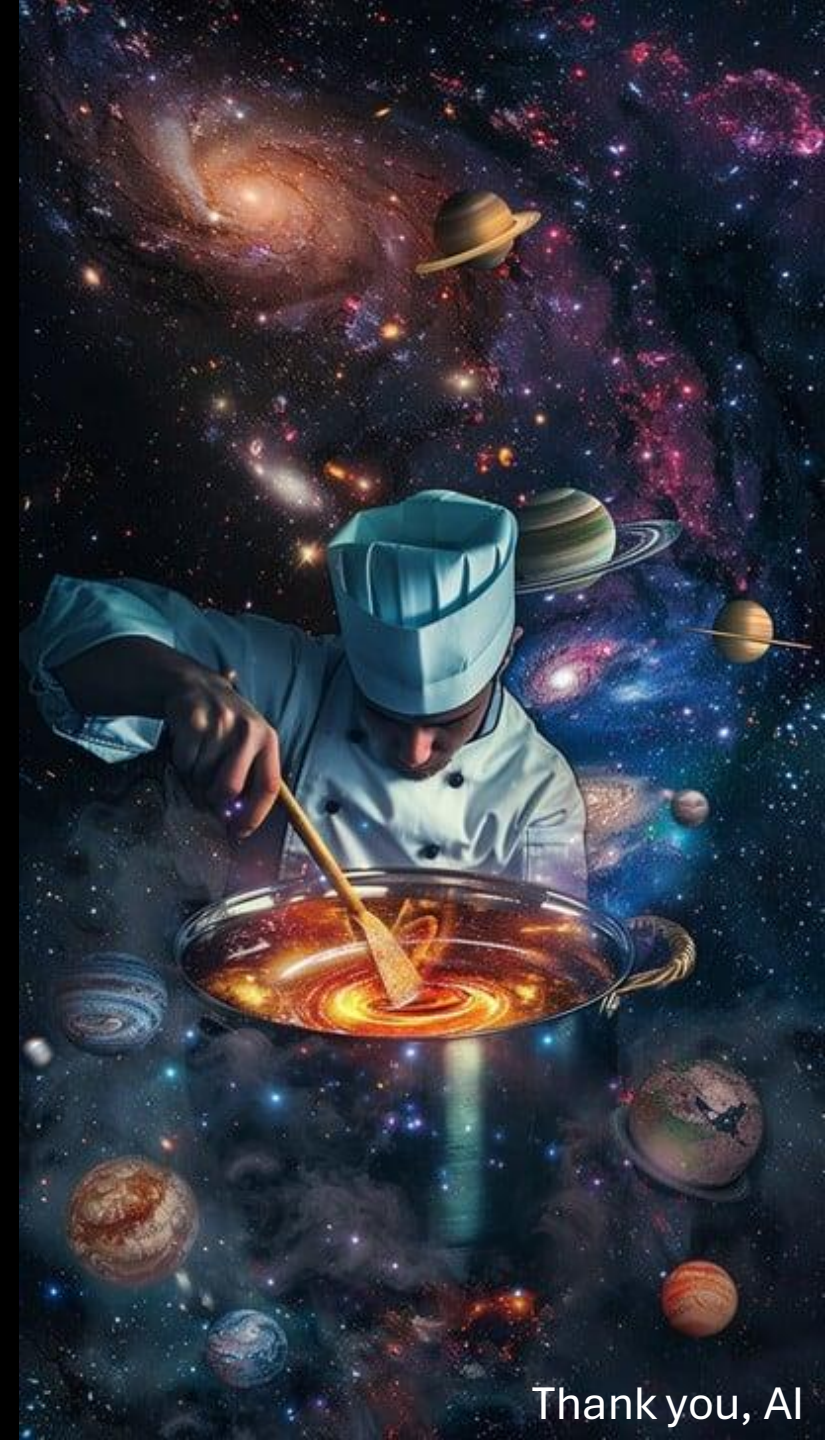


Thank you, AI

Putting it all together

Stellar feedback is the (not so) secret ingredient

Nearby galaxies are key to mastering the recipe



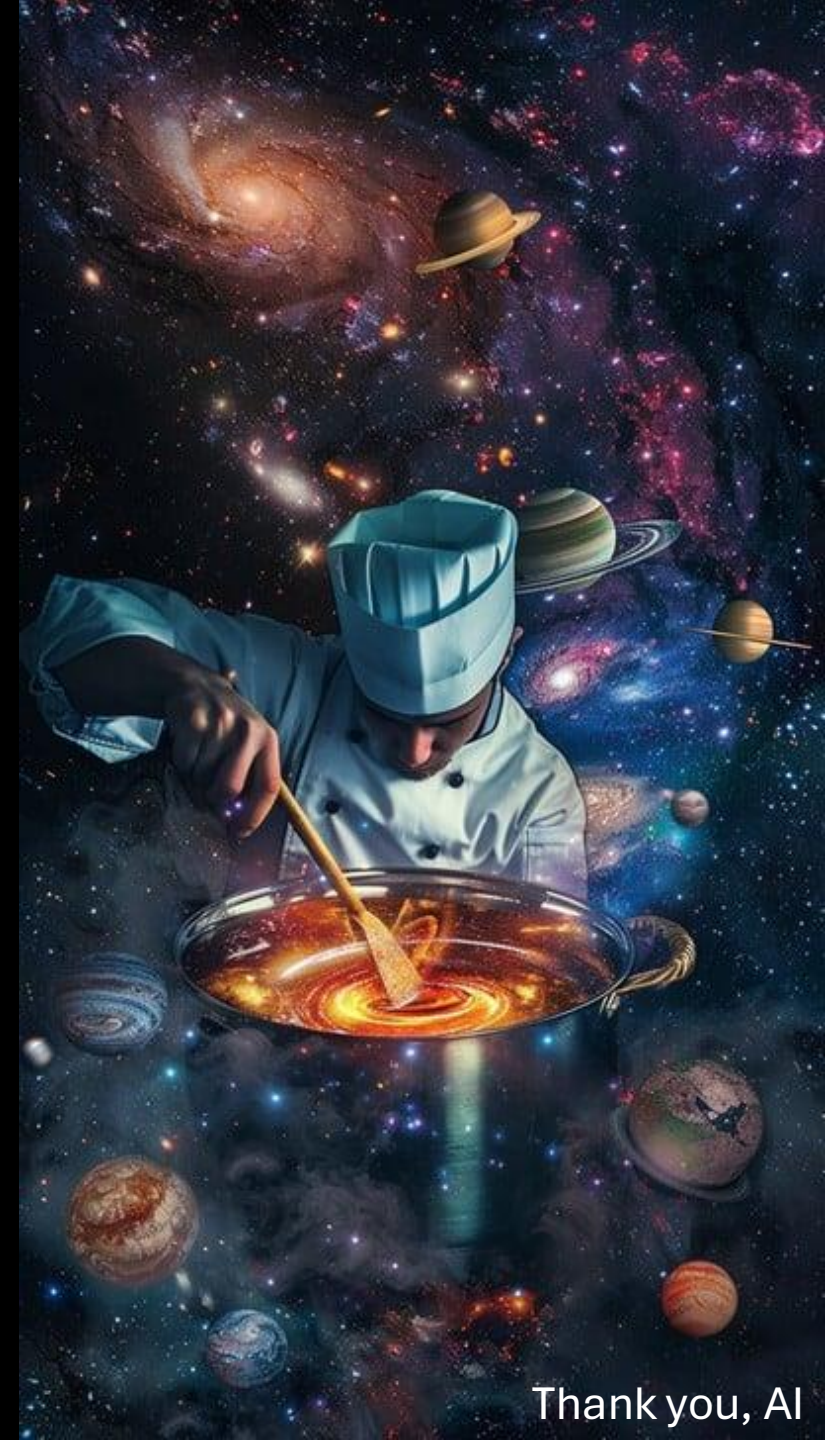
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Distant galaxies require a cookbook (SPS models)



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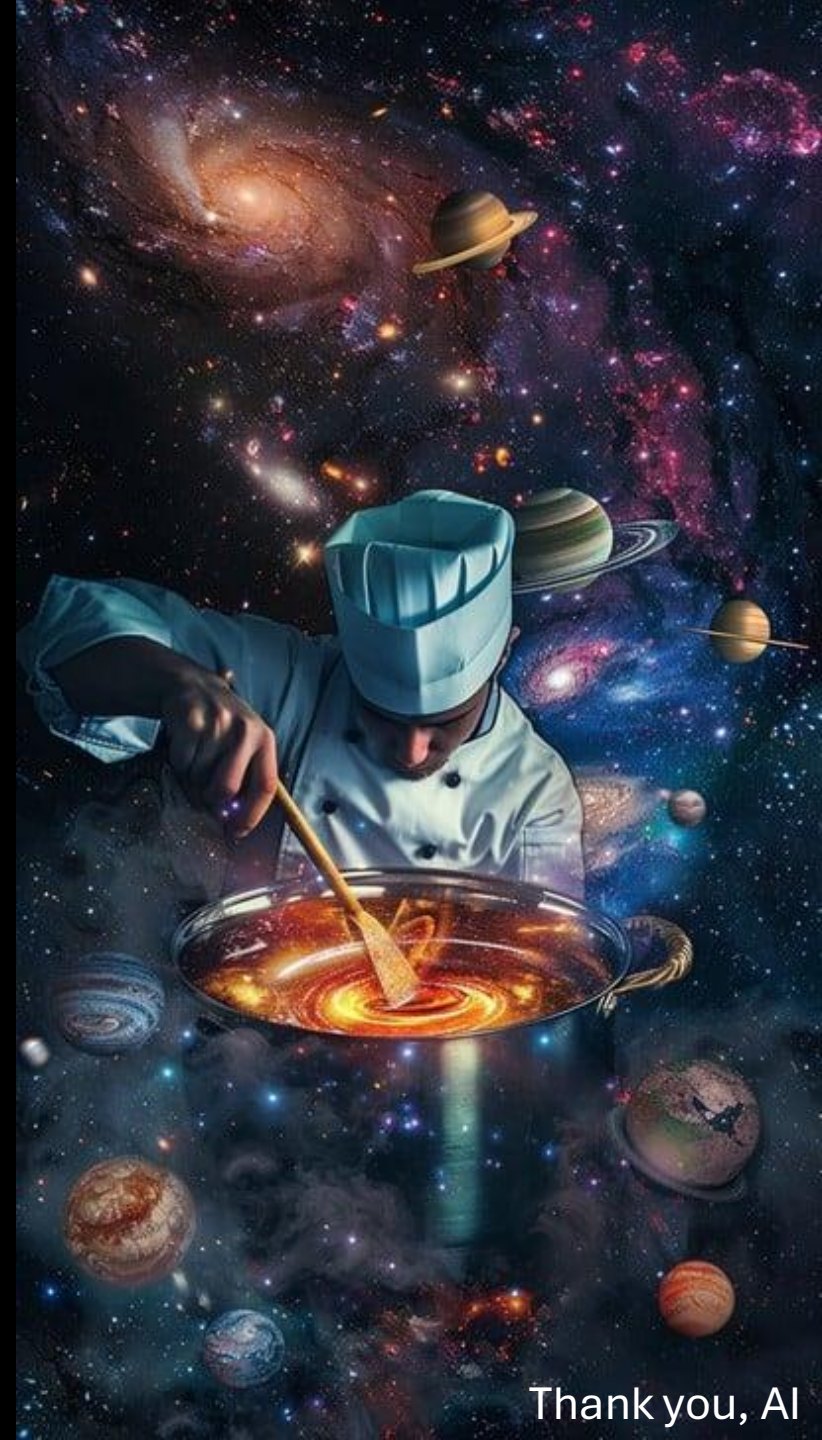
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SPS models: great for food photos, tricky for taste



Thank you, AI

Putting it all together

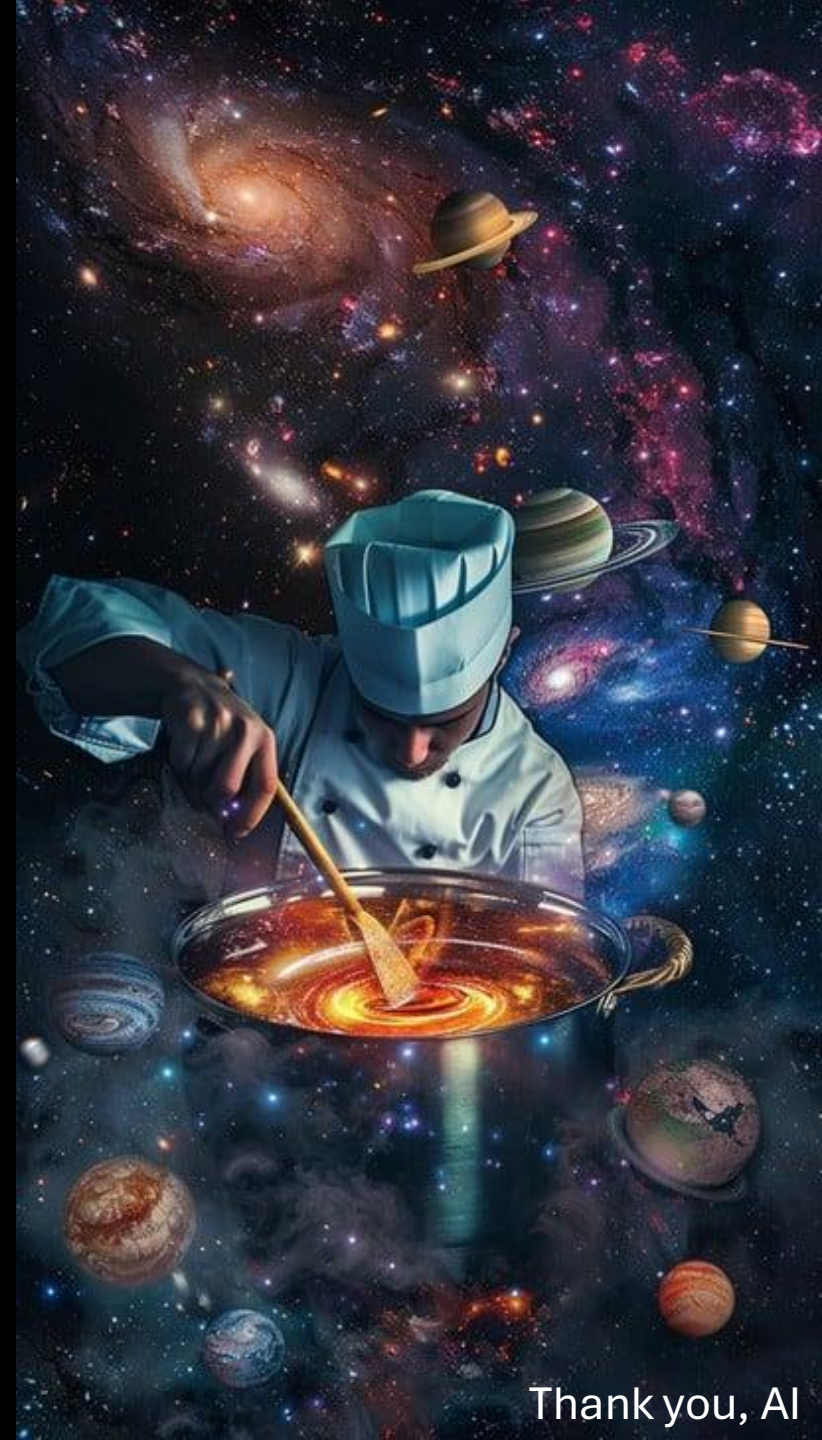
Stellar feedback is the (not so) secret ingredient

Nearby galaxies are key to mastering the recipe

Distant galaxies require a cookbook (SPS models)

SPS models: great for food photos, tricky for taste

Next step: taste-test the recipe



Thank you, AI

THE MANY SCALES OF GALAXY ENVIRONMENTS

July 13-17, 2026
Ascona (Switzerland)



The Local Galactic Ecosystem - Star Formation, AGN, and Feedback in Context

Galaxies in the Cosmic Web - Environmental Drivers of Evolution

Cosmic Time and Environmental Transformation

The Environmental Cascade - Linking Mpc to pc Scales

SOC

Anna McLeod (co-chair)

Benedetta Vulcani (co-chair)

Sandro Tacchella

Giovanni Cresci

Angela Adamo

Robert Feldmann

Allison Noble

Stephanie Tonnesen

Hannah Übler

**There will be sun.
And good food.
And really on time public
transport.**

