Deconstructing the Milky Way with wide-field surveys



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The formation of disc galaxies

Disc galaxies made of thin and thick discs, bulge, halo

- → when did these structures form?
 → how do they relate to each other?
 → what mass fraction formed *in-situ*?
- ≻ Location inside the Milky Way:
 → properties of billions of stars
 → 3D positions/3D motions

≻ But...



Credit: Swinburne University of Technology

The need for contiguous, wide-field coverage



You are here



John Godfrey Saxe "The Blind Men and the Elephant"

Outline

Part I

Milky Way halo substructures from deep, wide-field imaging

Part II

RR Lyrae stars and the progenitors of the Milky Way halo

Part III

The outer disc and the anticenter "mess"

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The formation of galactic haloes

Searle-Zinn 1978: hierarchical process

- \rightarrow many substructures... most fainter than 30 mag arcsec⁻²
- \rightarrow better seen in star count maps



The SDSS "field of streams"



The SDSS "field of streams"



The Pan-STARRS 3π Survey

Pan-STARRS1:

- 30,000 deg²
- r ~ 22

Bernard et al. 2016

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~8 kpc

~15 kpc

~25 kpc

The Pan-STARRS 3π Survey



The Dark Energy Survey

DES:

- 5,000 deg²
- r ~ 23

DES: Shipp et al. 2018

→ 9 new satellites
→ 11 new stellar streams

The Dark Energy Survey



How smooth is the "smooth halo"?



Bernard et al. 2016



How smooth is the "smooth halo"?



Bernard et al. 2016



→ many stream-like features at the photometric detection limit
→ need LSST depth to answer that question



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Milky Way halo vs. present day dwarf spheroidals



- Halo and present day dSph have different abundance patterns
- > But RGB stars in spectroscopic sample have a wide range of ages
- Purely old stellar tracers needed!

RR Lyrae stars

- Pulsating stars on horizontal-branch
- > 10 Gyr old
- \succ Standard candles \rightarrow accurate distances
- Distance- & reddening-free parameters: period & amplitude
- Present in most environments



0.6

Period (day)

Soszyński et al. 2009

0.8

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Amplitude

0

0.2

0.4

RR Lyrae properties in various environments



Draco, Carina, Sculptor, Leo I, Cetus, Tucana + 11 ultra-faint dwarfs

RR Lyrae properties in various environments

HASP: High-amplitude Short-period P < 0.48 day f ~ 6-8 %

Draco, Carina, Sculptor, Leo I, Cetus, Tucana + 11 ultra-faint dwarfs



Lack of HASPs in dSph is very significant



Galaxies similar to present-day dSph have only contributed ~10-20% of the halo stellar mass

Origin of the HASP?

Shorter period with increasing metallicity

HASPs come from progenitors sufficiently massive to enrich to [Fe/H] > -1.5 by redshift = 2



The halo was built from few massive progenitors



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Comparison between Andromeda and the Milky Way



Different progenitor masses at different radii





Variations in the fractional contribution of the halo progenitors of different masses

Belokurov et al. 2018

RR Lyraes in LSST: 3D map of halo & substructures

R = 400 kpc



Pan-STARRS1: RR Lyrae completeness drops beyond 80 kpc
 LSST: RR Lyraes out to ~400 kpc



Way halo substructures from deep, wide-field

Part II

RR Lyrae stars and the progenitors of the Milky Way halo

Part III

The outer disc and the anticenter "mess"

The anticenter "mess"

- Monoceros ring, galactic anticenter stellar stream (GASS), Canis Major overdensity, Triangulum-Andromeda overdensity,...
 - \rightarrow many names, different structures, same origin?



The anticenter in SDSS



Slater et al. 2014

Remnant of an accreted dwarf galaxy orbiting in the plane?
 Warp/flare of the outer disc due to perturbations?

The anticenter in Pan-STARRS1



Panoramic view favors the disc perturbation hypothesis

Spectroscopic follow-up of M-giants





Bergemann et al. 2018, Hayes et al. 2018

Targeted structures have disc-like rotation and abundances

Spectroscopic follow-up of M-giants



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Summary

Some results from wide-field photometric surveys:

- halo is highly substructured (>50 satellites, >50 streams)
- > main contributors to halo mass were massive satellites (M_v < -12)
- the outer disc is corrugated from satellite interactions

Bright future thanks to synergy with large spectroscopic surveys:

- WEAVE (5Million stars), 4MOST (15M), GALAH (2M), DESI (10M)
- Gaia (150 million stars) + parallaxes, proper motions



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