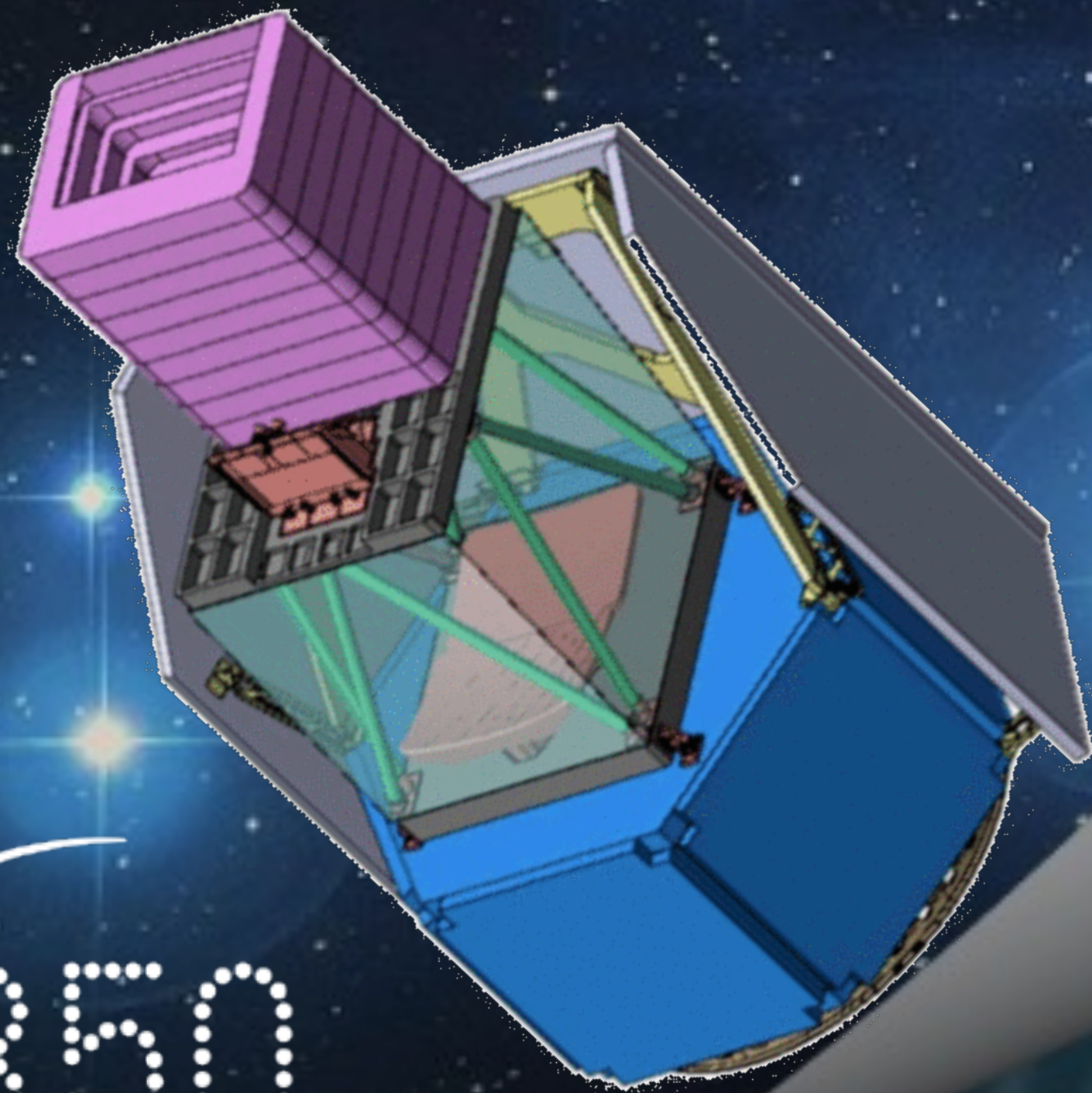


# Darkness revealed

The ultra-low surface brightness universe

*(including optical /UV transients)*



THE MESSIER SURVEYOR

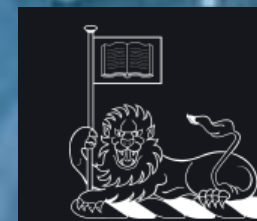
David Valls-Gabaud

CNRS - Observatoire de Paris  
Churchill College, University of Cambridge

First Meeting of LIA ERIDANUS



l'Observatoire  
de Paris

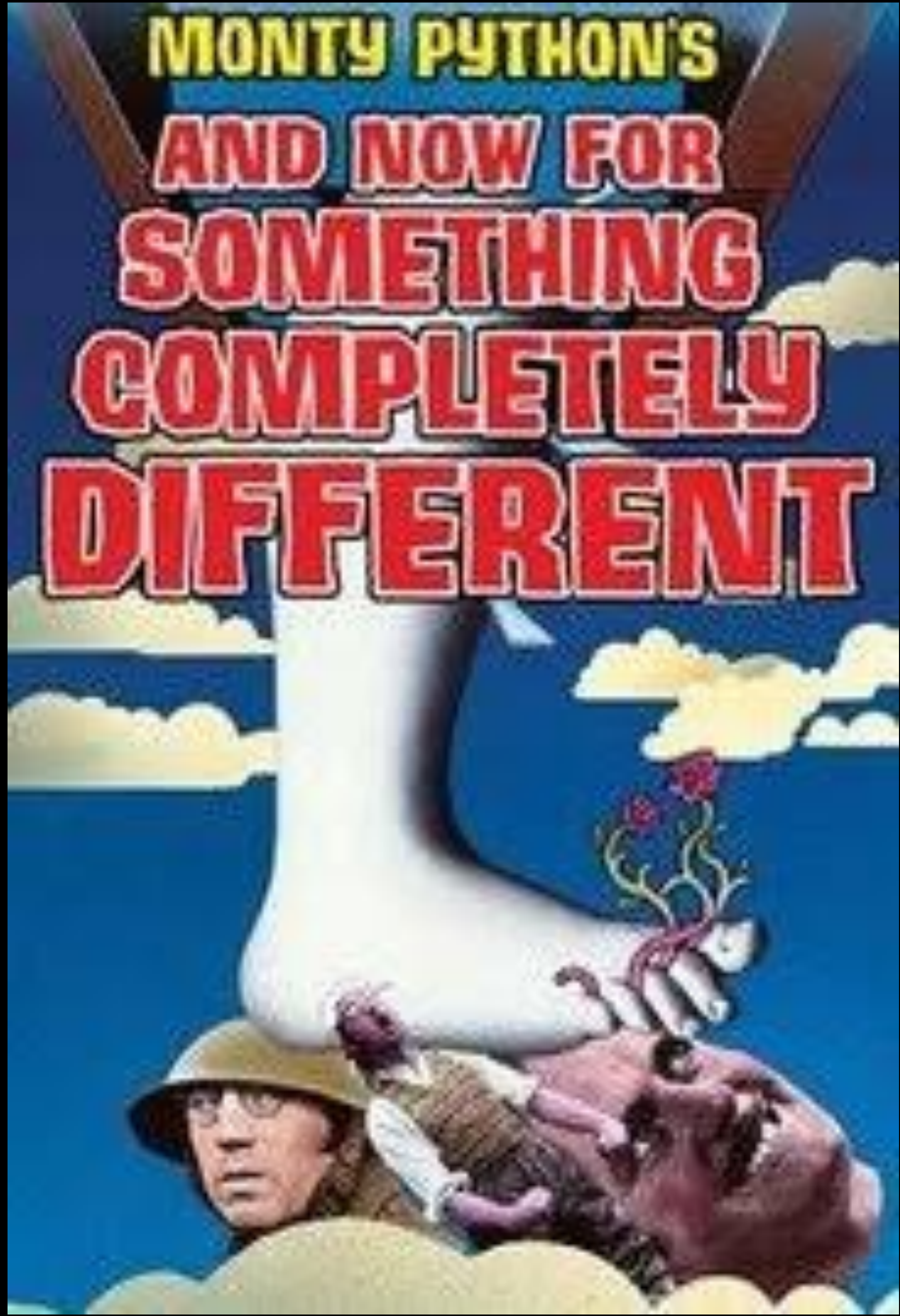


CHURCHILL COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE





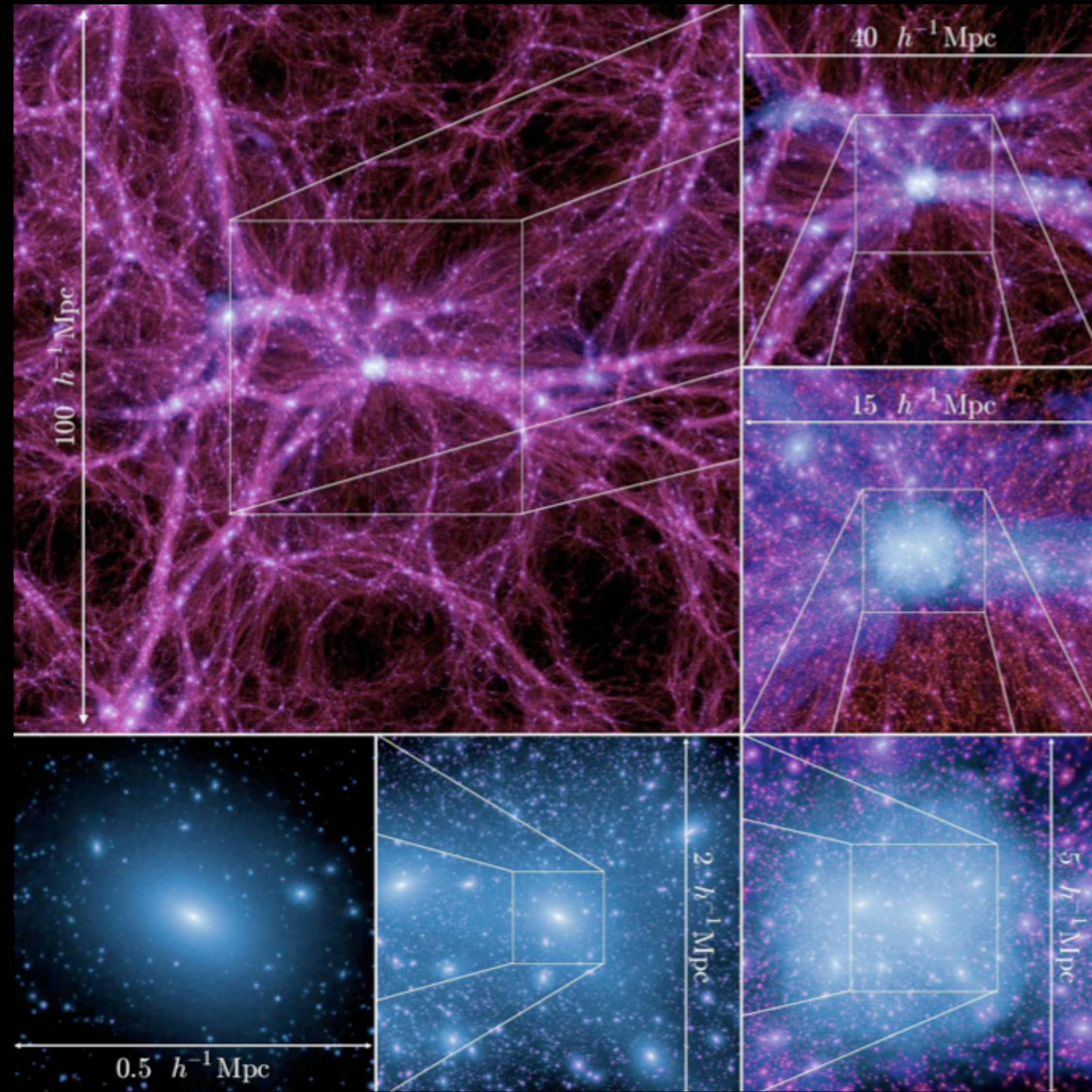
**MONTY PYTHON'S**  
**AND NOW FOR**  
**SOMETHING**  
**COMPLETELY**  
**DIFFERENT**





# Current $\Lambda$ CDM paradigm of cosmological structure formation

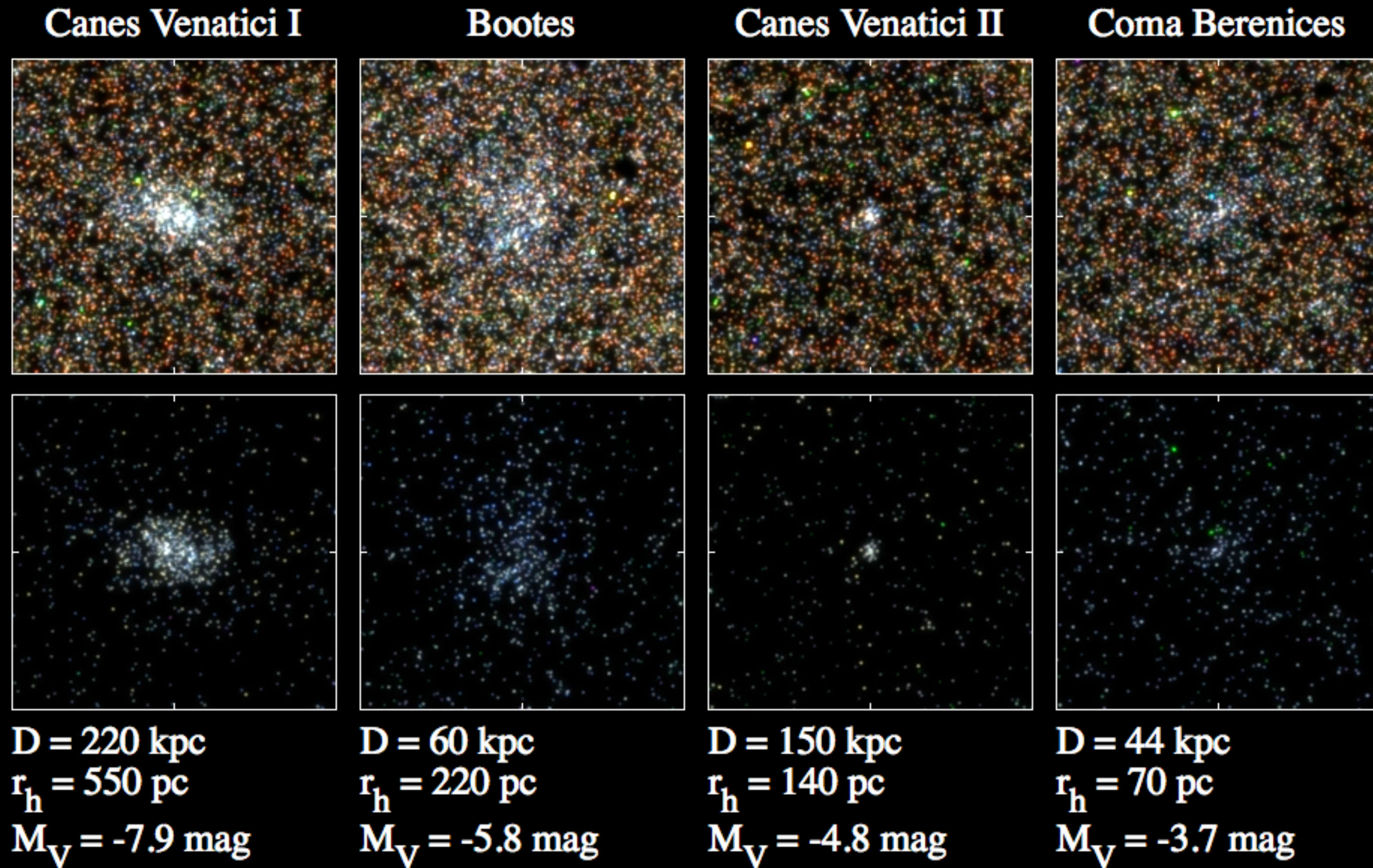
linear  
&  
weakly nonlinear  
scales





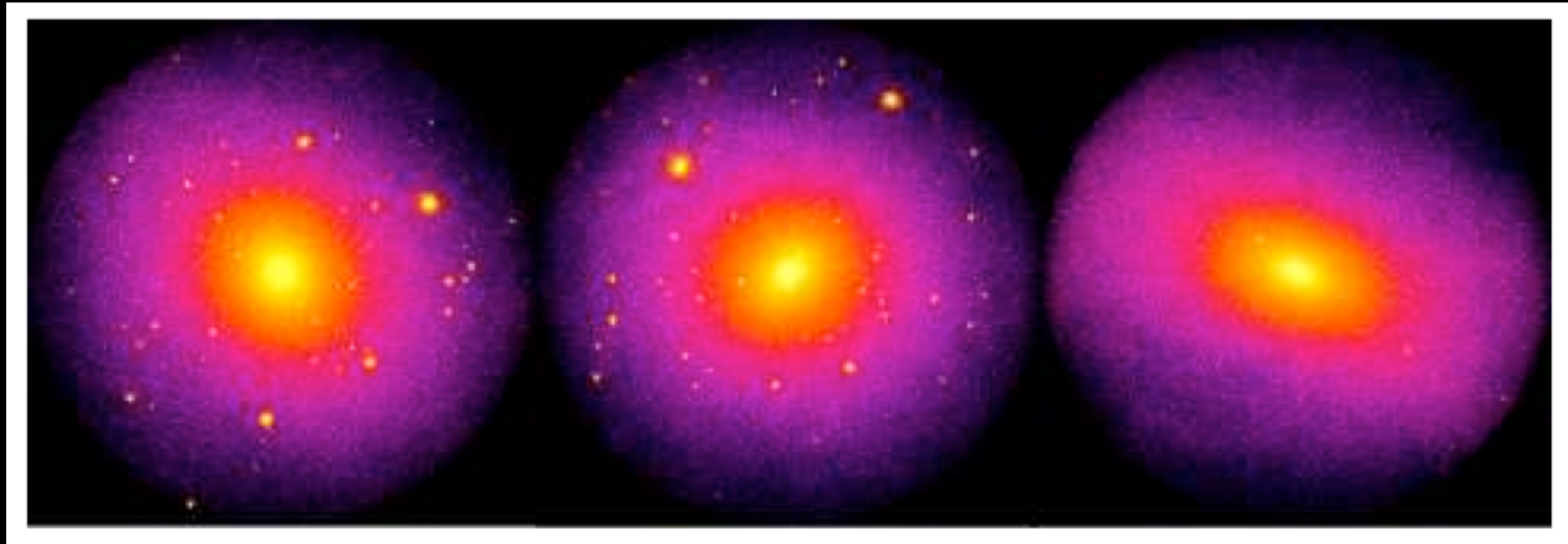
Driving science  
case #1

Key prediction of the  $\Lambda$ CDM paradigm :  
The over abundance of dwarf satellites





# Tension in the CDM paradigm ?



Brooks *et al.* (2014)

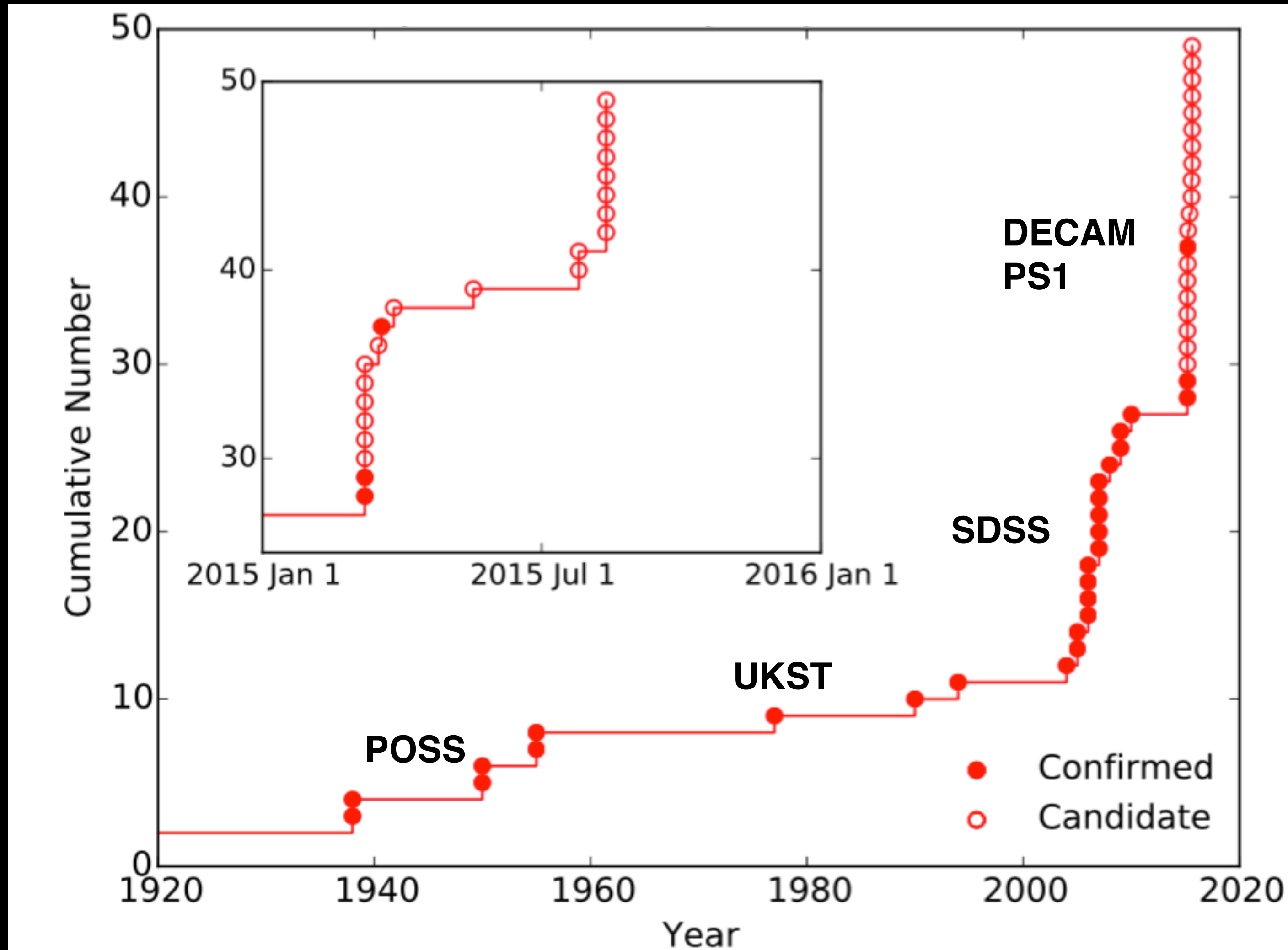
Self-Interacting  
dark matter

Cold  
dark matter

Warm  
dark matter

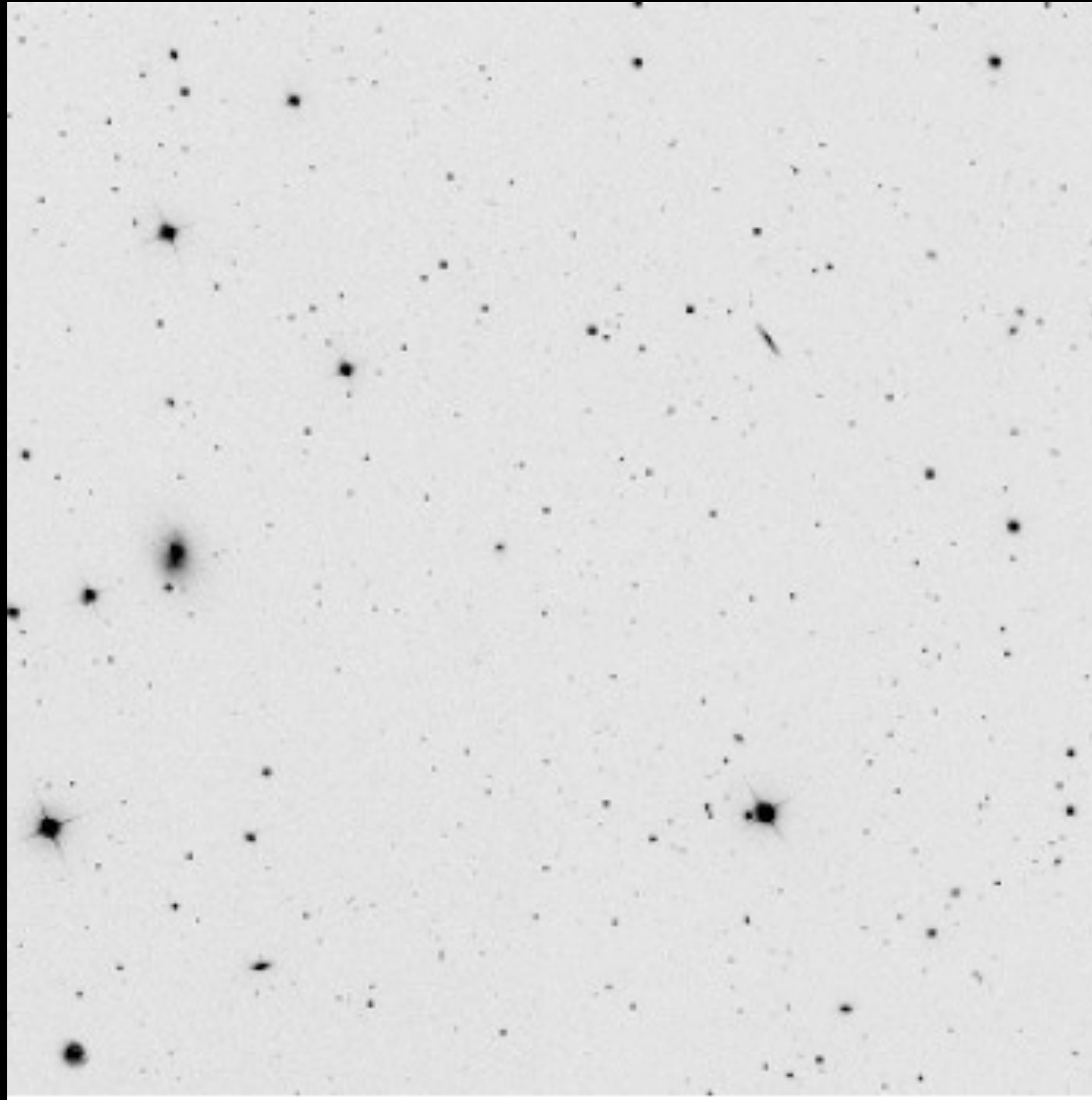


# Discovery rate of Milky Way satellites





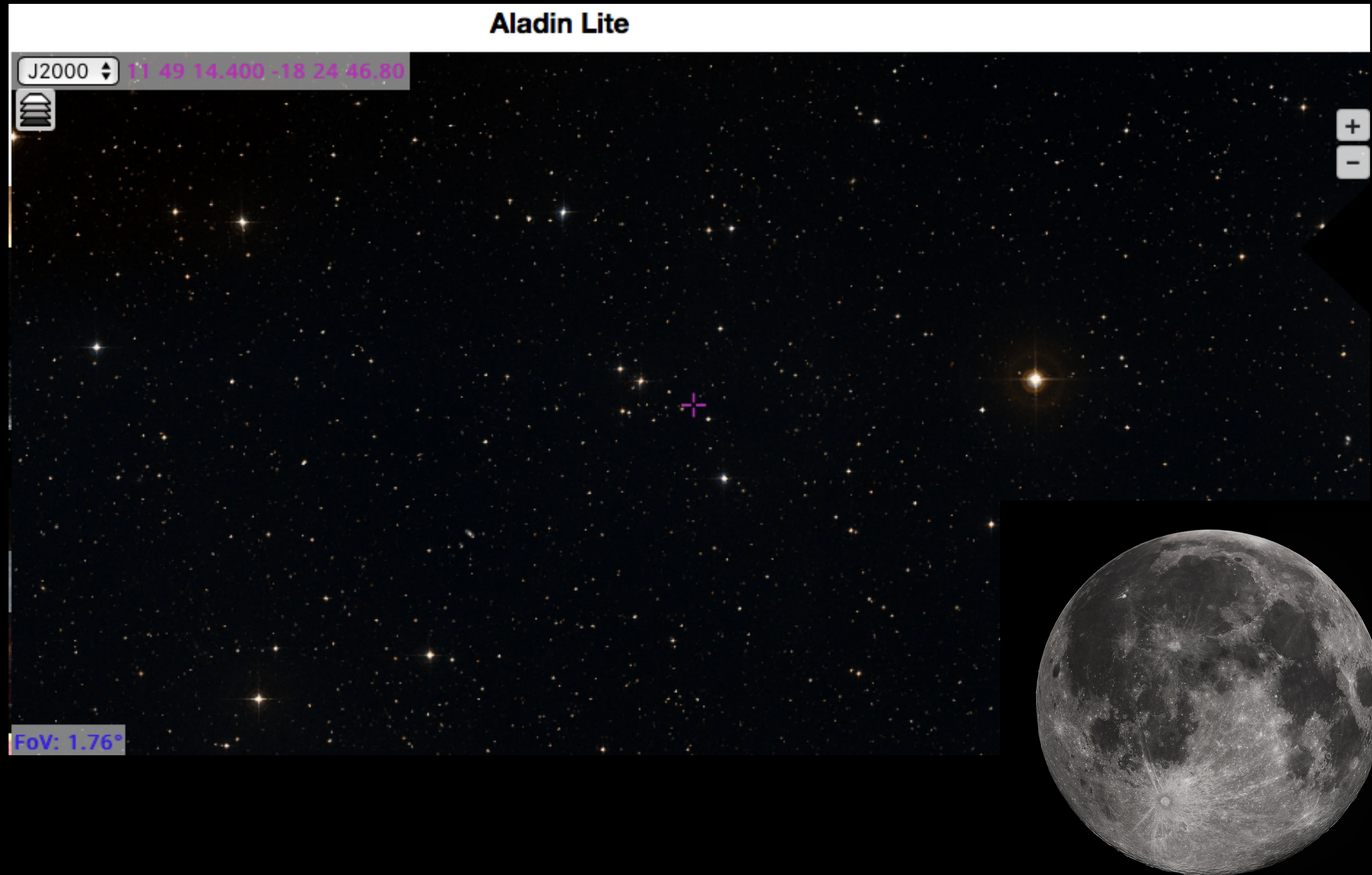
# The case of Segue I



Belokurov *et al.* (2007)



# *Crater II* : The 5<sup>th</sup> largest satellite of the Milky Way





# *Crater II* : The 5<sup>th</sup> largest satellite of the Milky Way



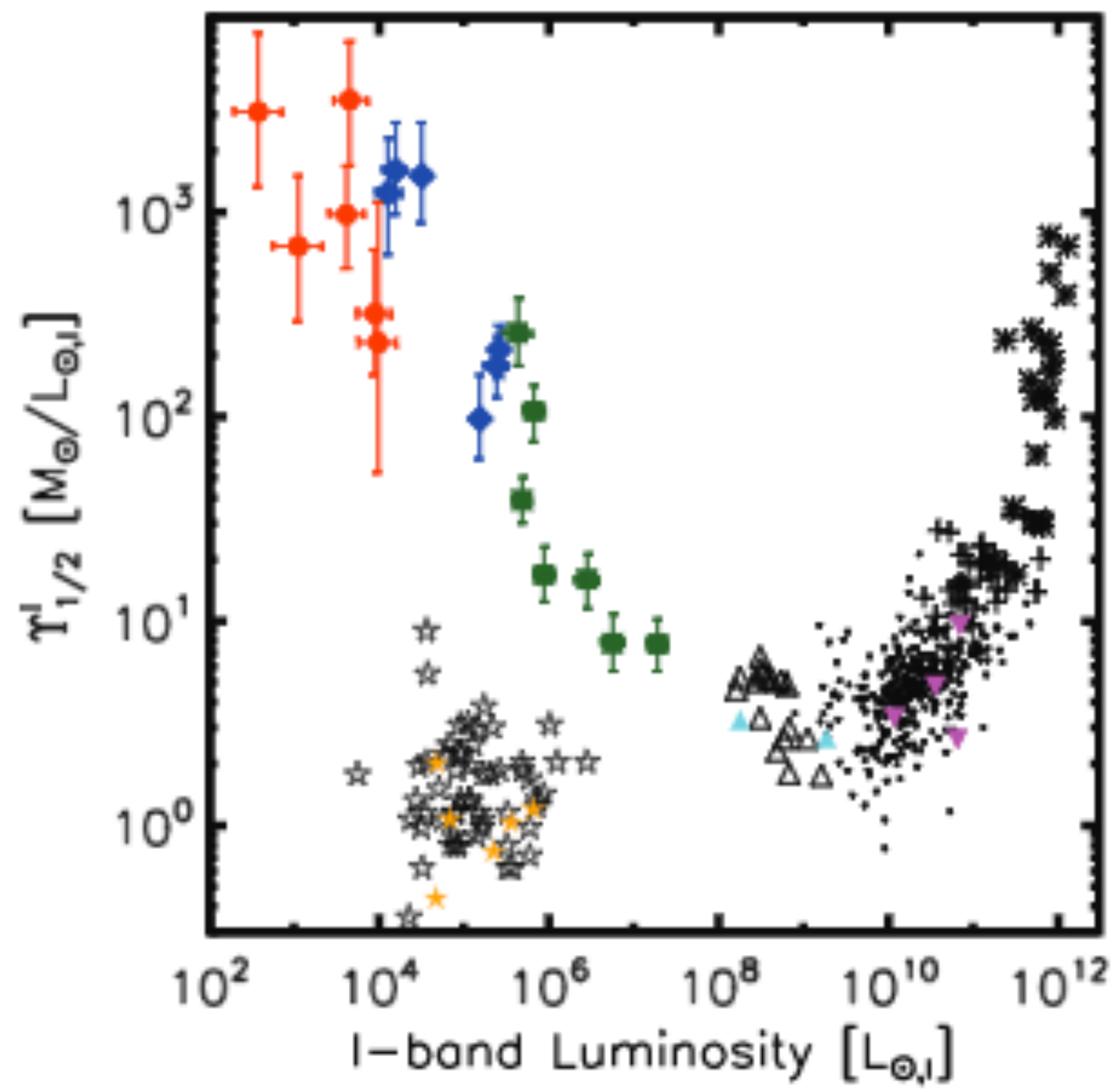
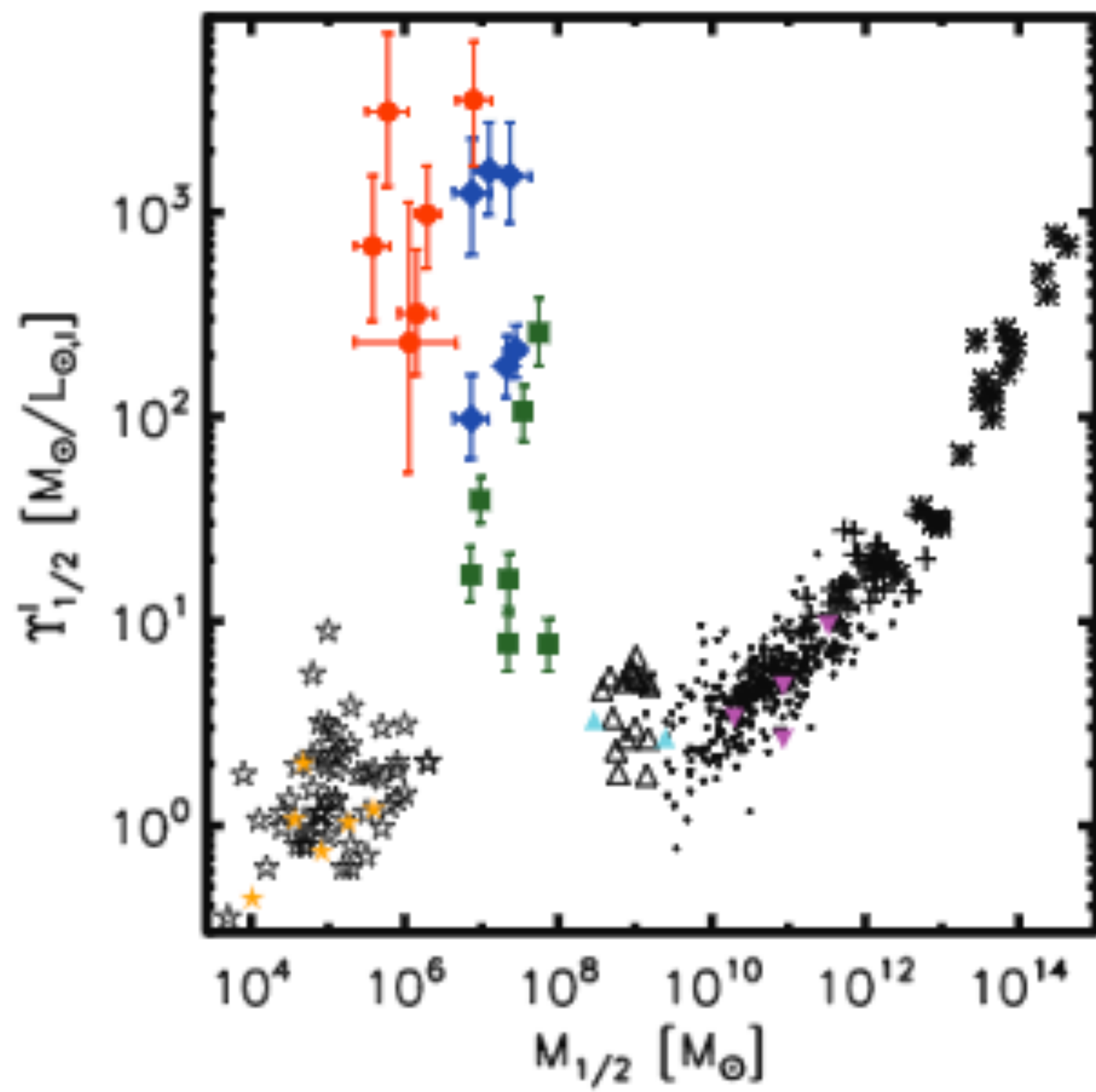
$d = 120 \text{ kpc}$

$r_h = 1.06 \text{ kpc} (31')$

$\mu_V(r_h) = 30.9 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$

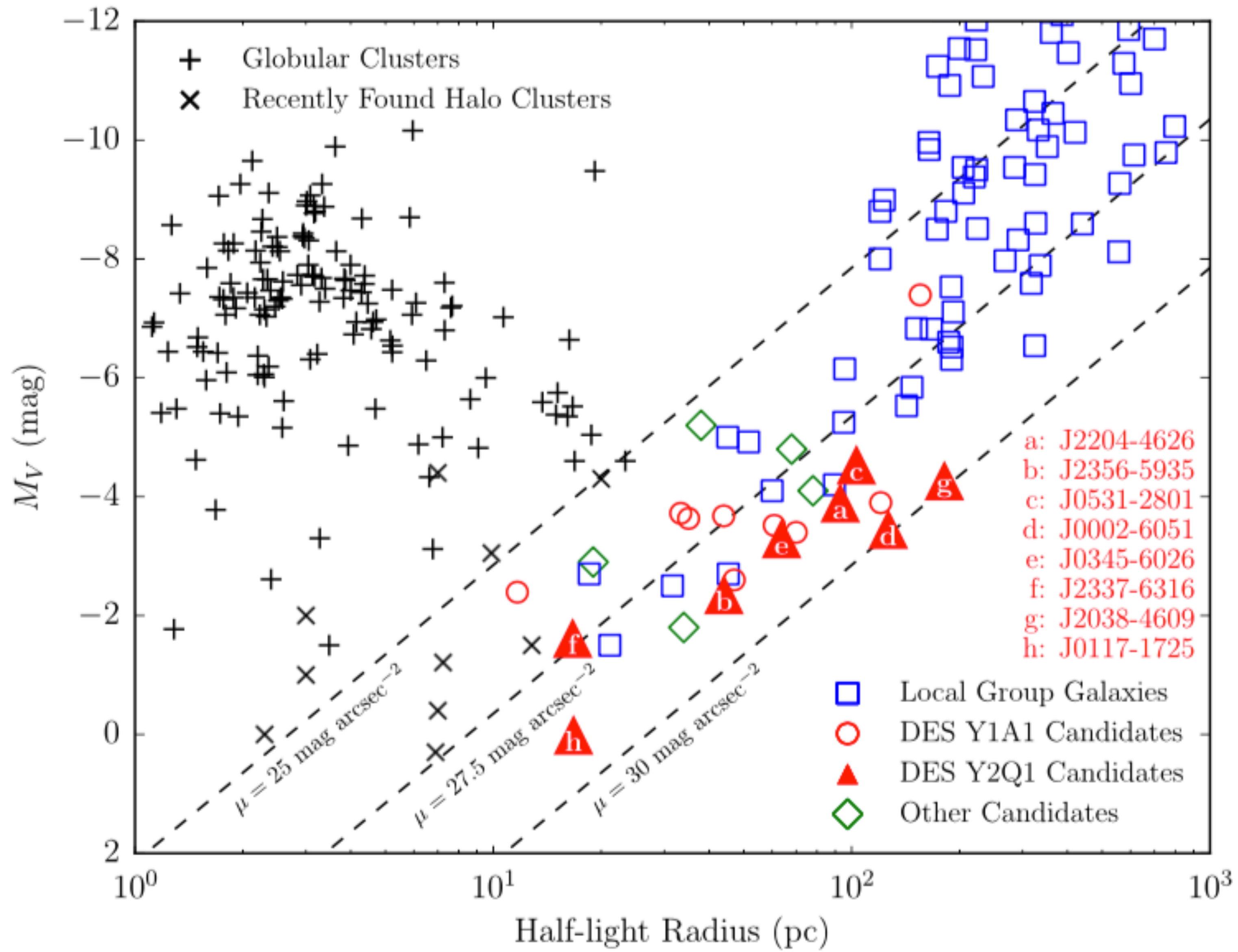
Torrealba *et al.* (2016)





Wolf et al. (2011)







# Current instrumentation is *not* adequate for LSB observations

Flux received from a *point* source:

$$F_{\text{point}} = \epsilon \pi \left( \frac{D}{2} \right)^2 t_{\text{exp}} 10^{-0.4 m}$$

→ drives telescopes with *large* diameters and *large* focal lengths

Surface brightness received from an *extended* source:

$$SB_{\text{extended}} = \epsilon \pi^2 \left( \frac{f}{D} \right)^{-2} t_{\text{exp}} s_{\text{pix}}^2 N_{\text{pix}} 10^{-0.4 \mu}$$

→ requires *fast* optics with *minimal* ( $f/D$ ) ratio



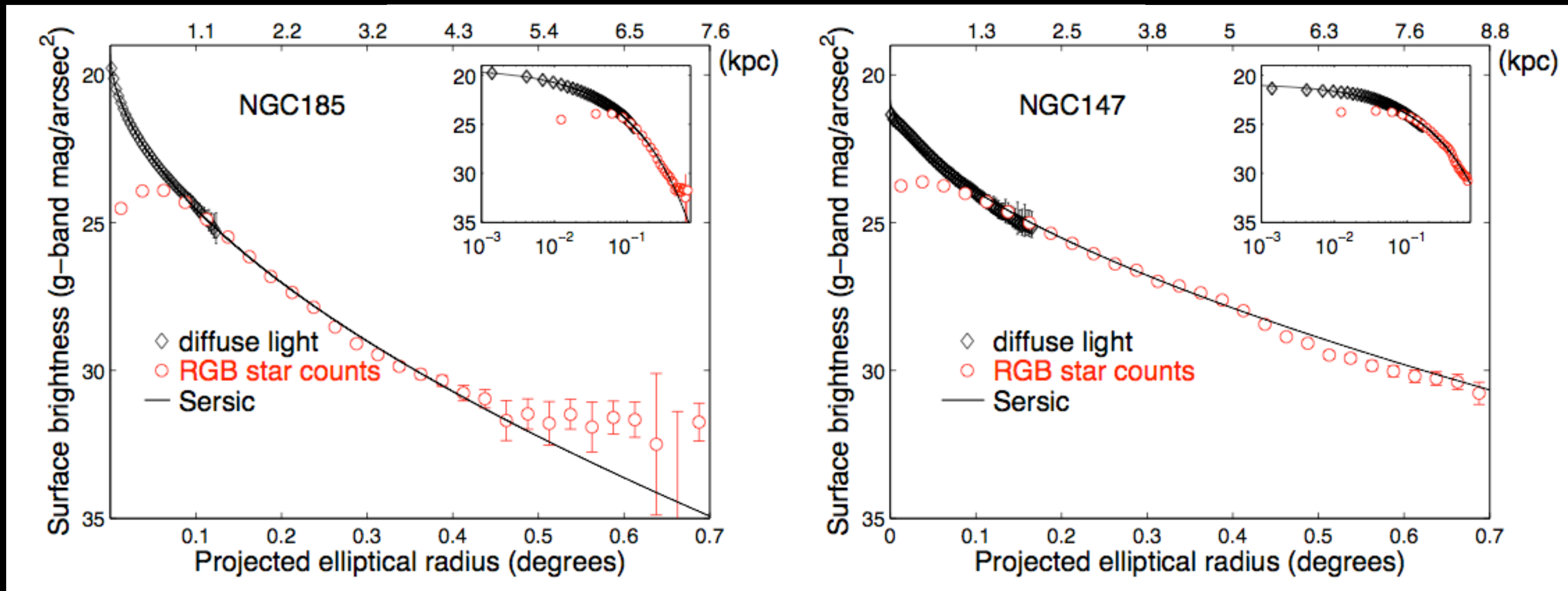






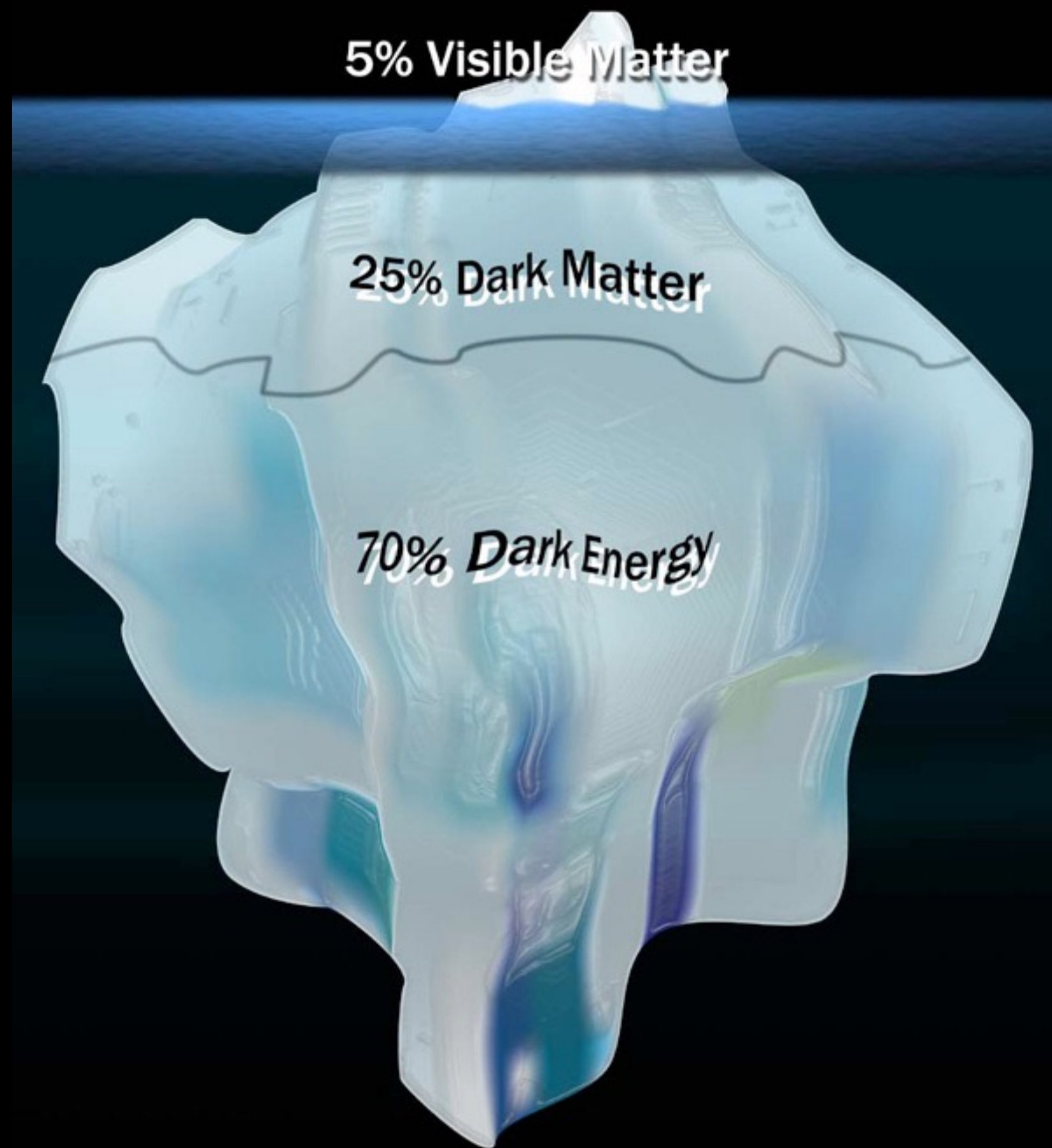


# Resolved star counts vs diffuse light



Crnojević *et al.* (2015)





*[...] galaxies are like icebergs and what is seen above the sky background may be no reliable measure of what lies underneath.*

Michael Disney (1976)



# The unprobed realm of the ultra-low surface brightness universe

$$\mu(V) < 21.5 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$$



Mihos *et al.* (2005)

Limited by *systematics*

- sky variability
- straylight
- flat field accuracy
- extended PSF wings



# The Dragonfly array telescope



Abraham & Van Dokkum (2014)

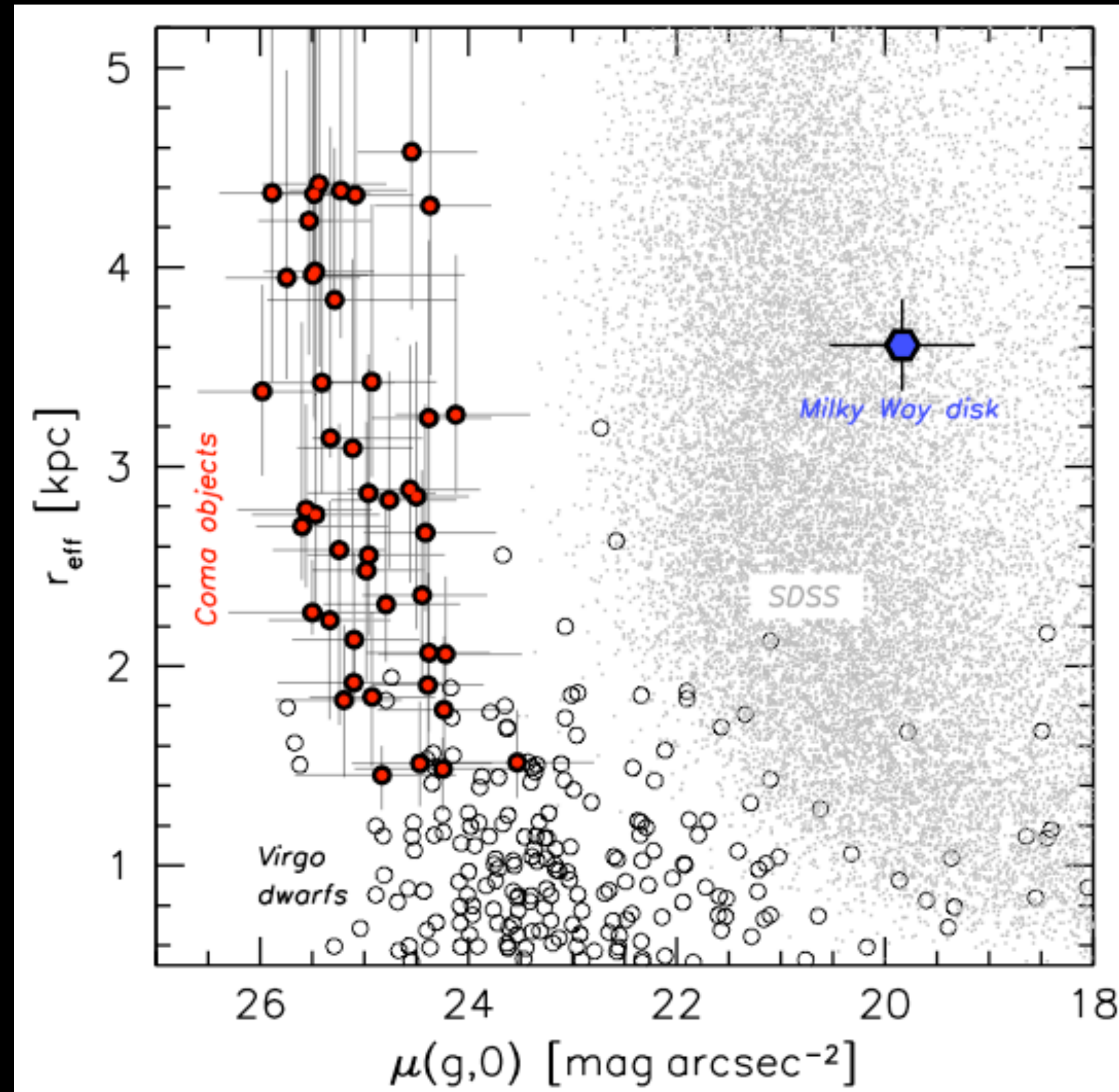


# 47 new Milky Way-sized galaxies in the Coma cluster

26 hours

6" FWHM

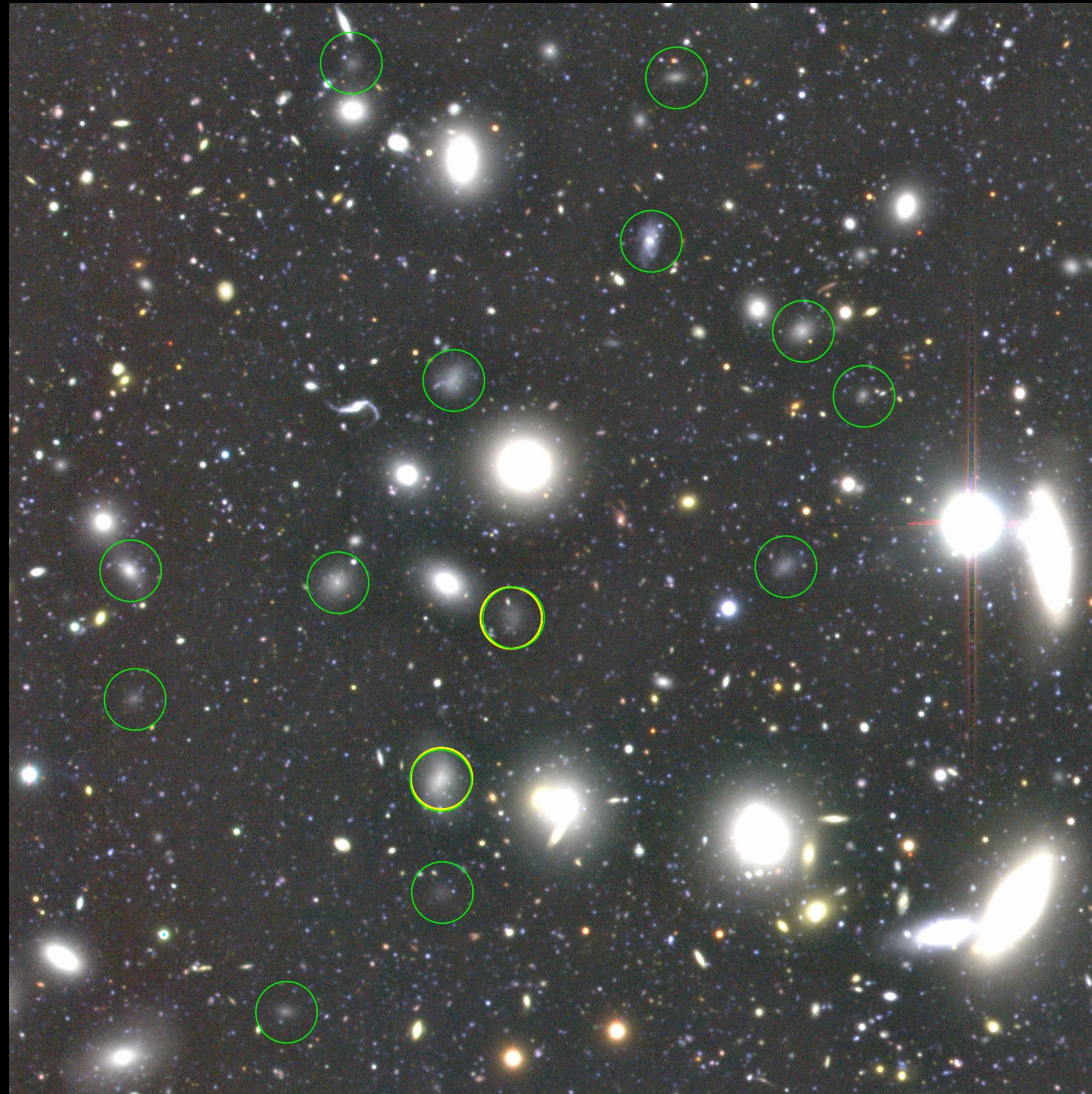
SB(g)  $\sim 29.3 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$  @ 10"



Van Dokkum *et al.* (2015)



## Discovery of $\sim 1000$ new galaxies in the Coma cluster



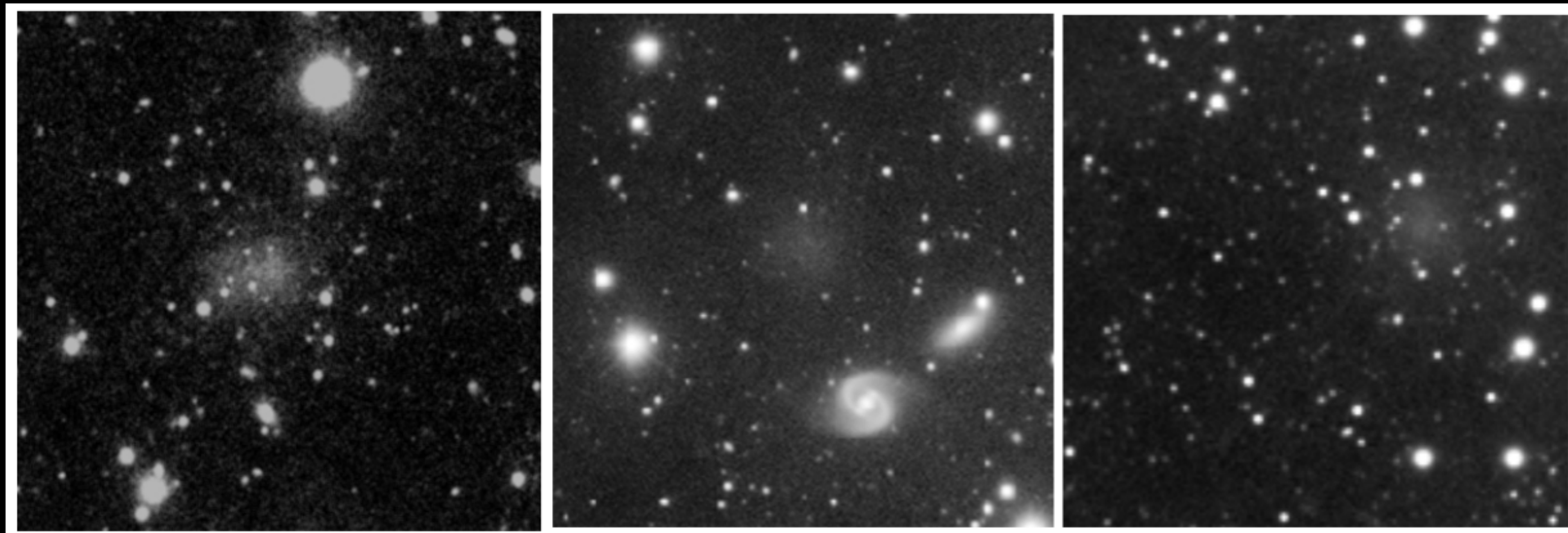
Koda *et al.* (2015)



A new population of hitherto unknown galaxies  
*ultra-diffuse galaxies*

Virgo cluster

Perseus-Pisces filament



Merritt *et al.* (2014)

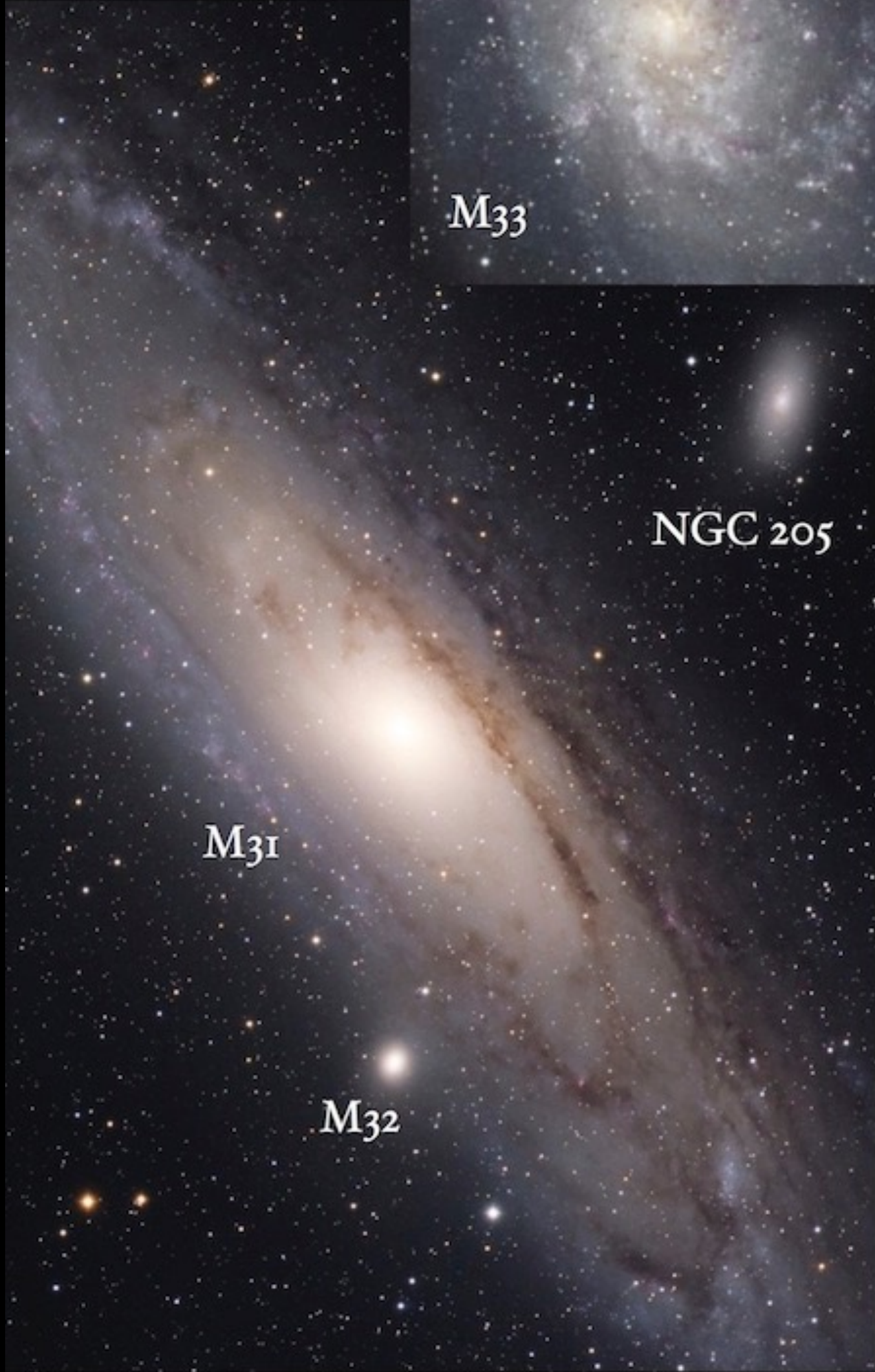
Martinez Delgado *et al.* (2016)



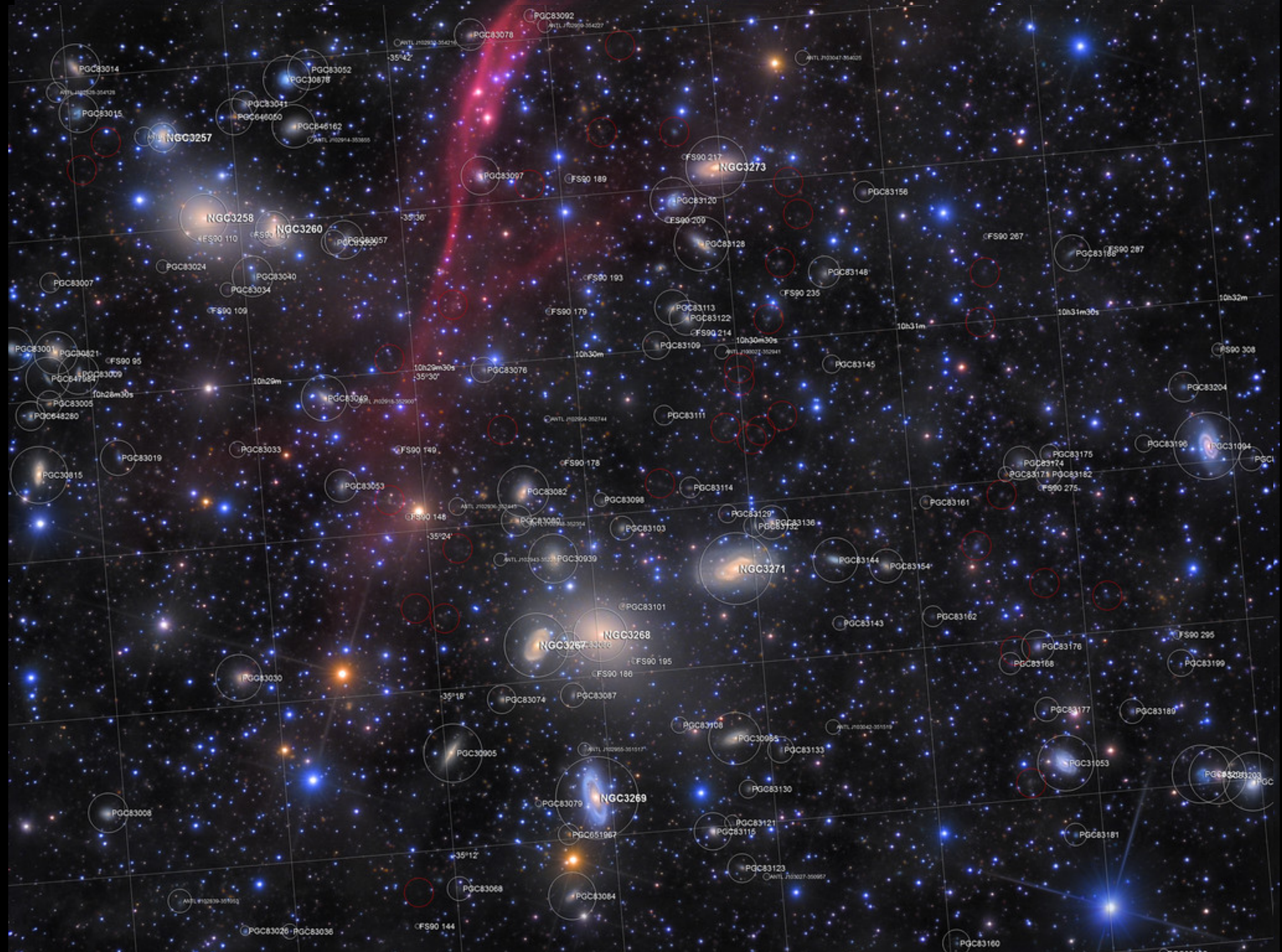
1 kpc



Fornax









DDOTI as a low-surface-brightness discovery machine ?





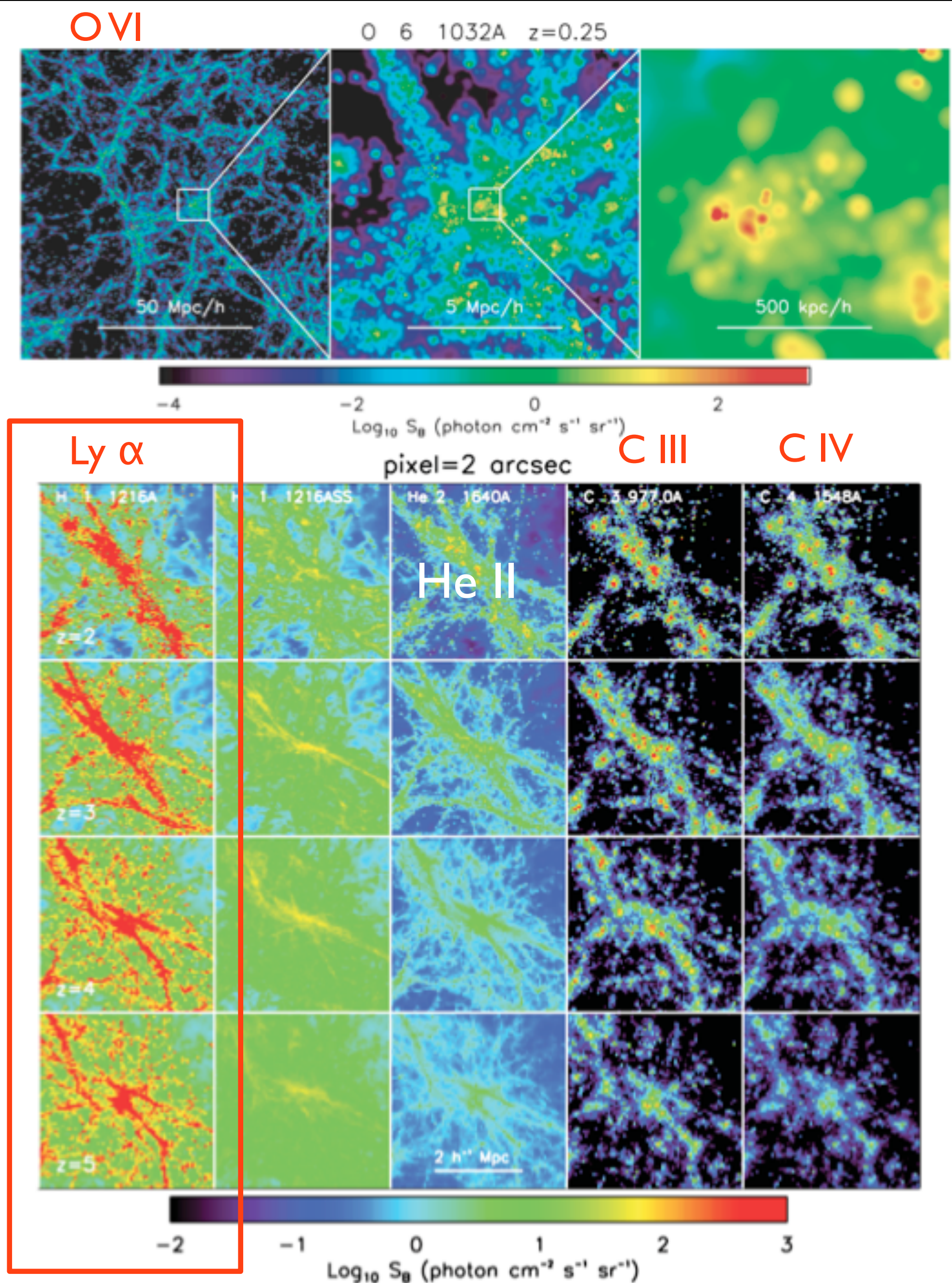
# Driving science case #2

## The Cosmic Web

Strongest in Lyman  $\alpha$   
by  $>1000 \times$

The case for low  $z$   
observations :

- (i) stronger filaments
- (ii) minimise cosmological dimming  $\sim (1+z)^4$
- (iii) efficient UV detectors





# The future of ultra-low surface brightness imaging

## Large telescopes (LSST, GMT, TMT, ELT)

- ✗ not optimal  $f/D$  + lens correctors
- ✗ complex, extended, anisotropic PSF
- ✗ high pressure (TAC)

## Small telescopes (Super Dragonfly, Huntsman)

- ✓ massive array of telephoto lenses
- ✗ low efficiency (Moon, weather)

## Fundamental limits

- ✗ the sky is (very) bright and highly variable
- ✗ high PSF wings due to scattering by atmosphere
- ✗ straylight contamination amplifies surface brightness
- ✗ limits to the flat-field accuracy

## The (obvious) solution:

a space observatory with a purpose-built telescope



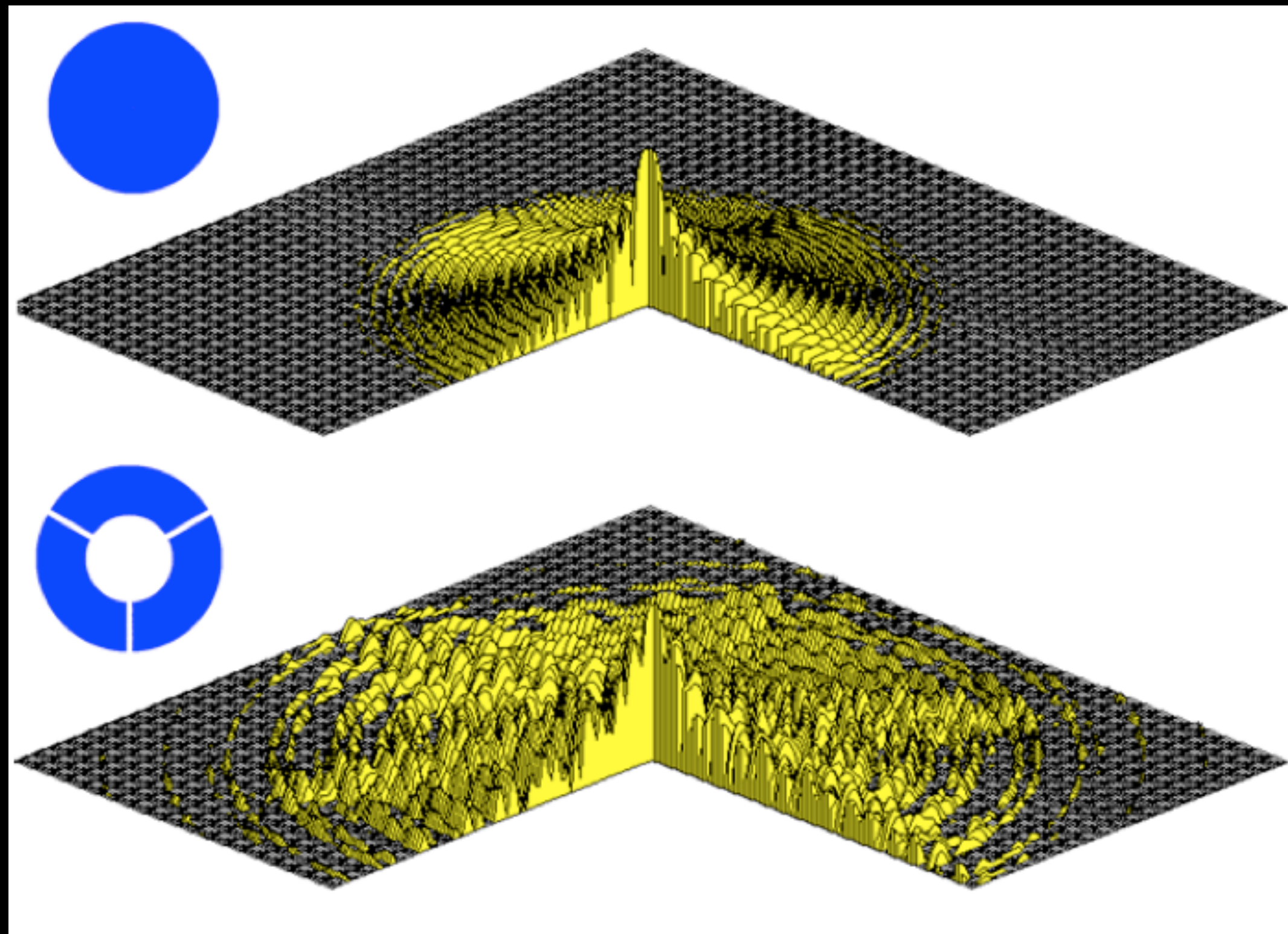


# Top-level design requirements

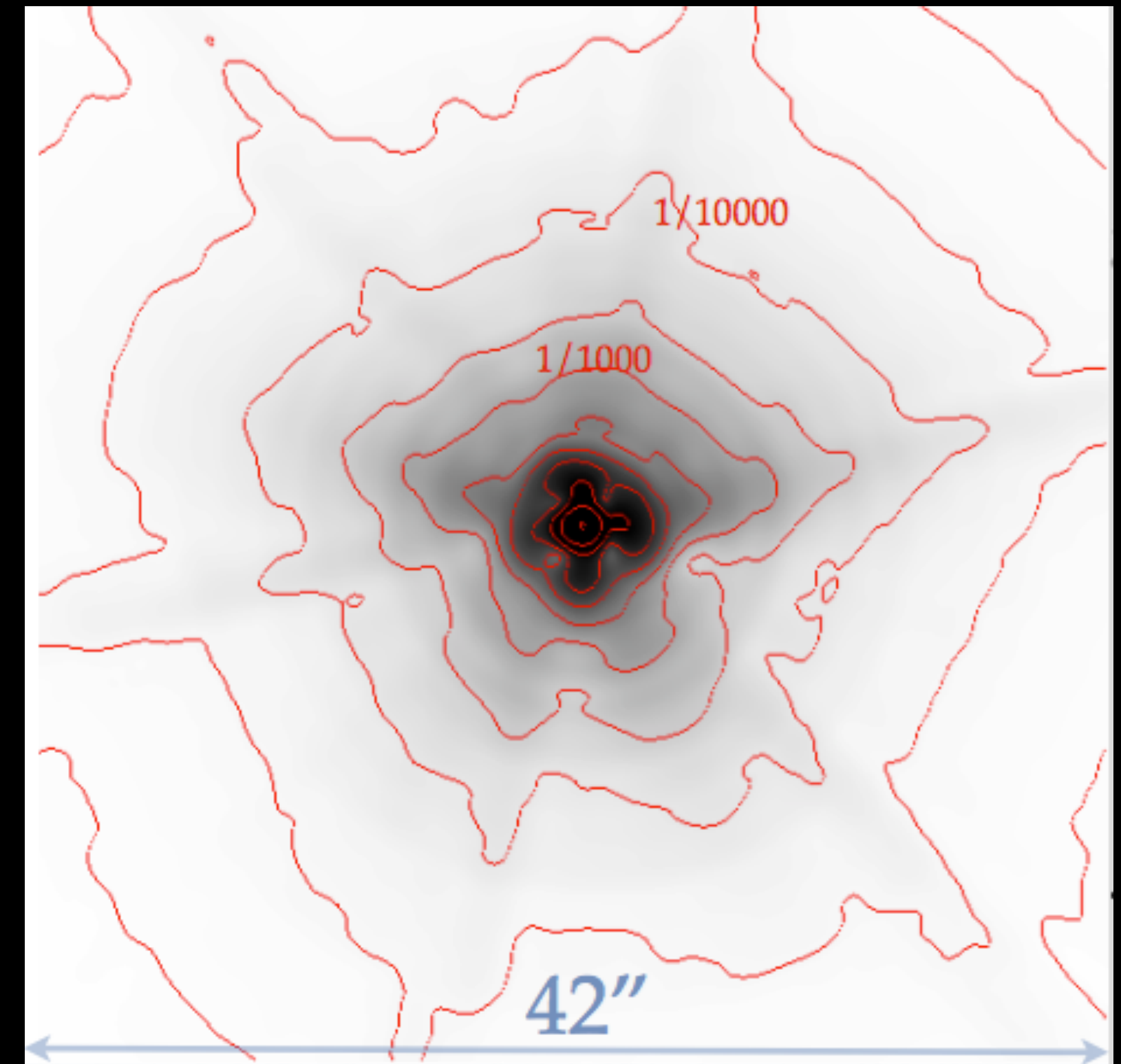
- FOV  $2^\circ \times 4^\circ$  (*lifetime of satellite*)
- Focal ratio  $f / 2$  (*200x better than HST*)
- Central obscuration none (*minimal PSF wings*)
- Spatial resolution  $1''$  per pixel (*matches ground*)
- Roughness  $< 0.5$  nm (*UV to optical*)
- Flat field rms  $< 0.0025\%$  (*TDI / drift scan*)
- Distortion  $< 0.5\%$  (*in one direction*)
- Diameter 50 to 150 cm (*set by platform*)
- Survey all sky (*unique*)



Obstruction by secondary mirrors yields very extended, anisotropic and complex PSFs



LSST



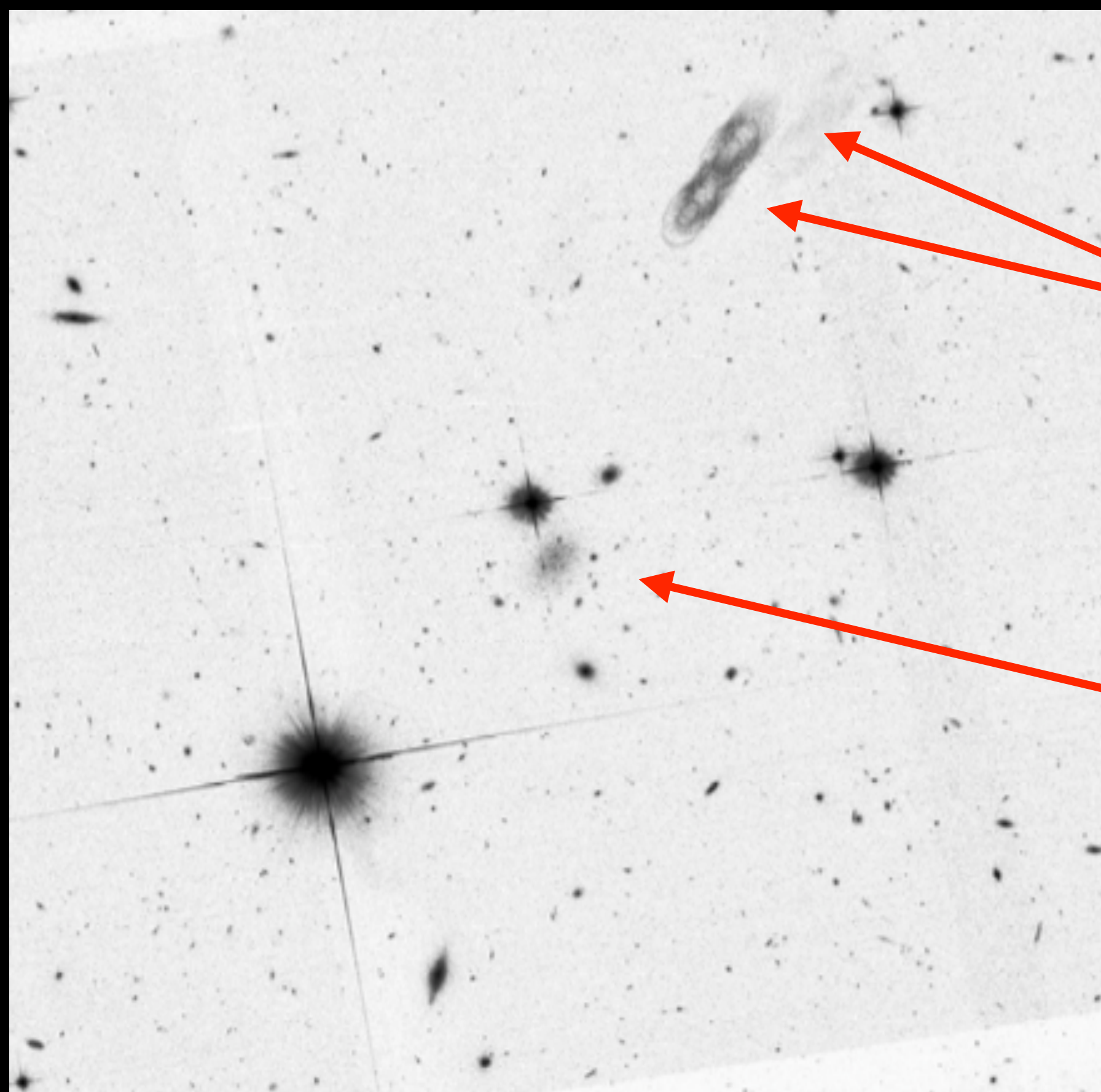
EUCLID



NO LENSES ALLOWED

(1) multiple internal scattering

(2) Čerenkov emission



GHOSTS produced by  
ACS/HST

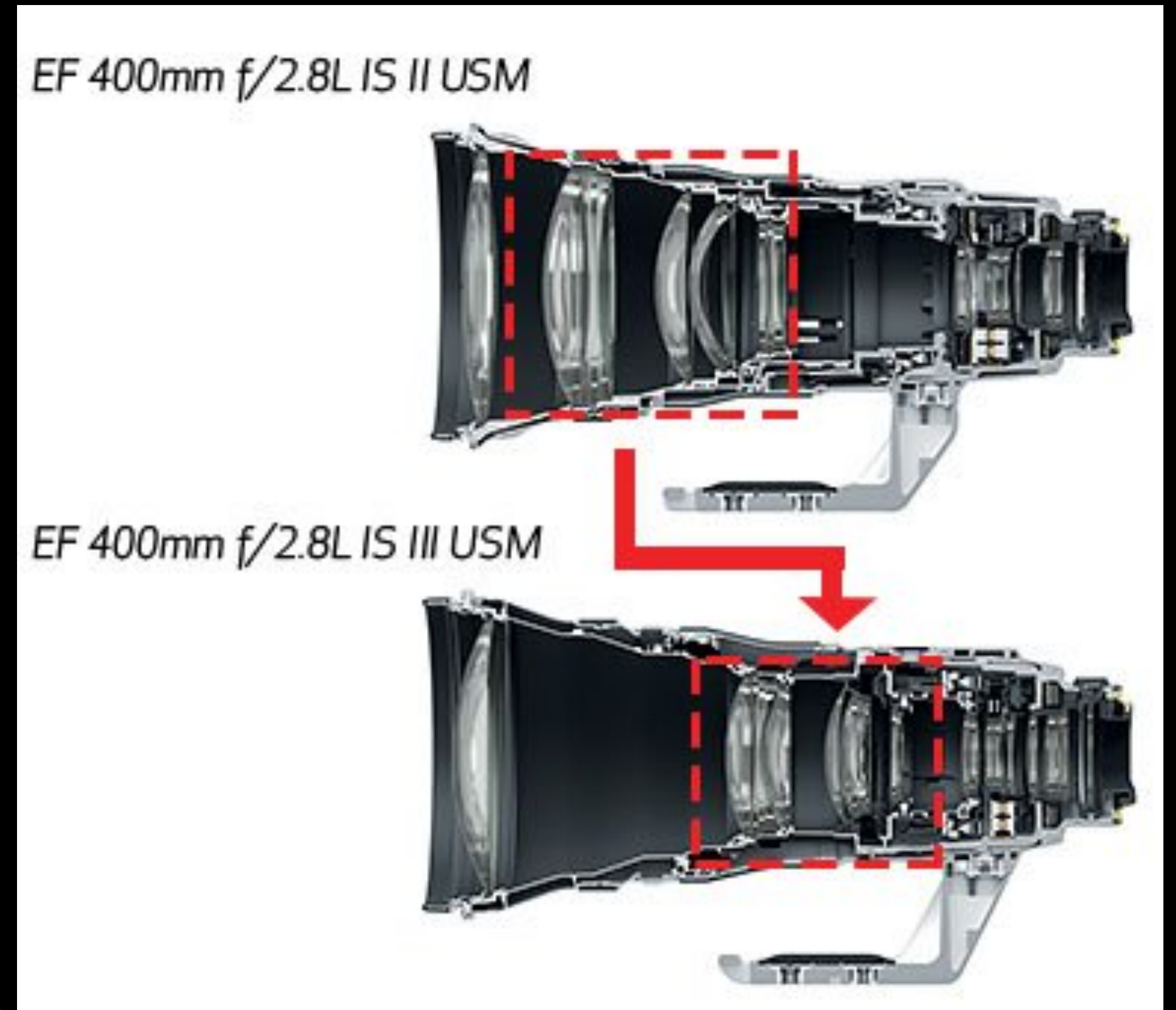
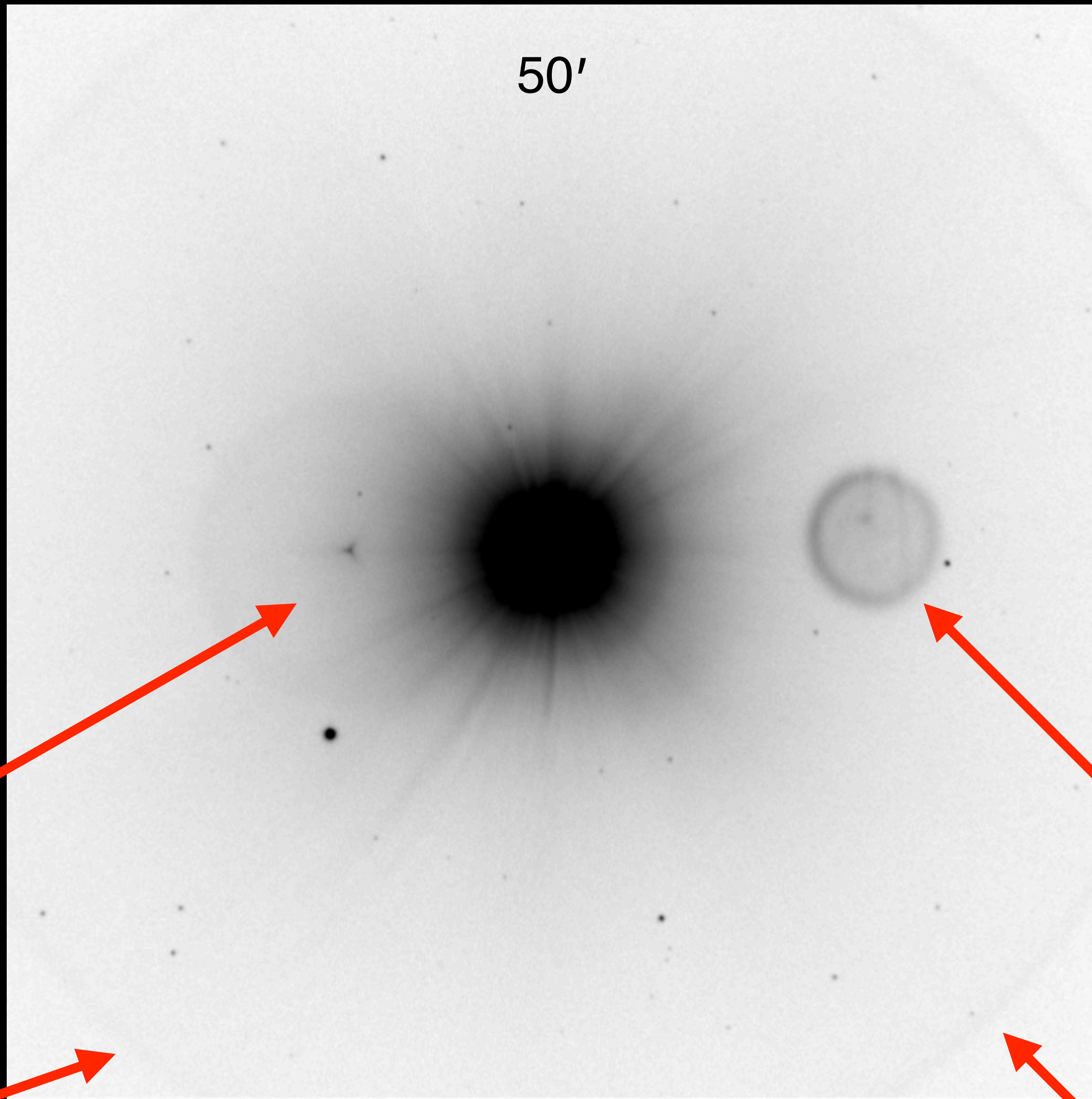
New ultra-diffuse galaxy (2019)  
师冬冬 & 郑宪忠老师  
Shi Dongdong & Zheng Xiangzhong

ACS

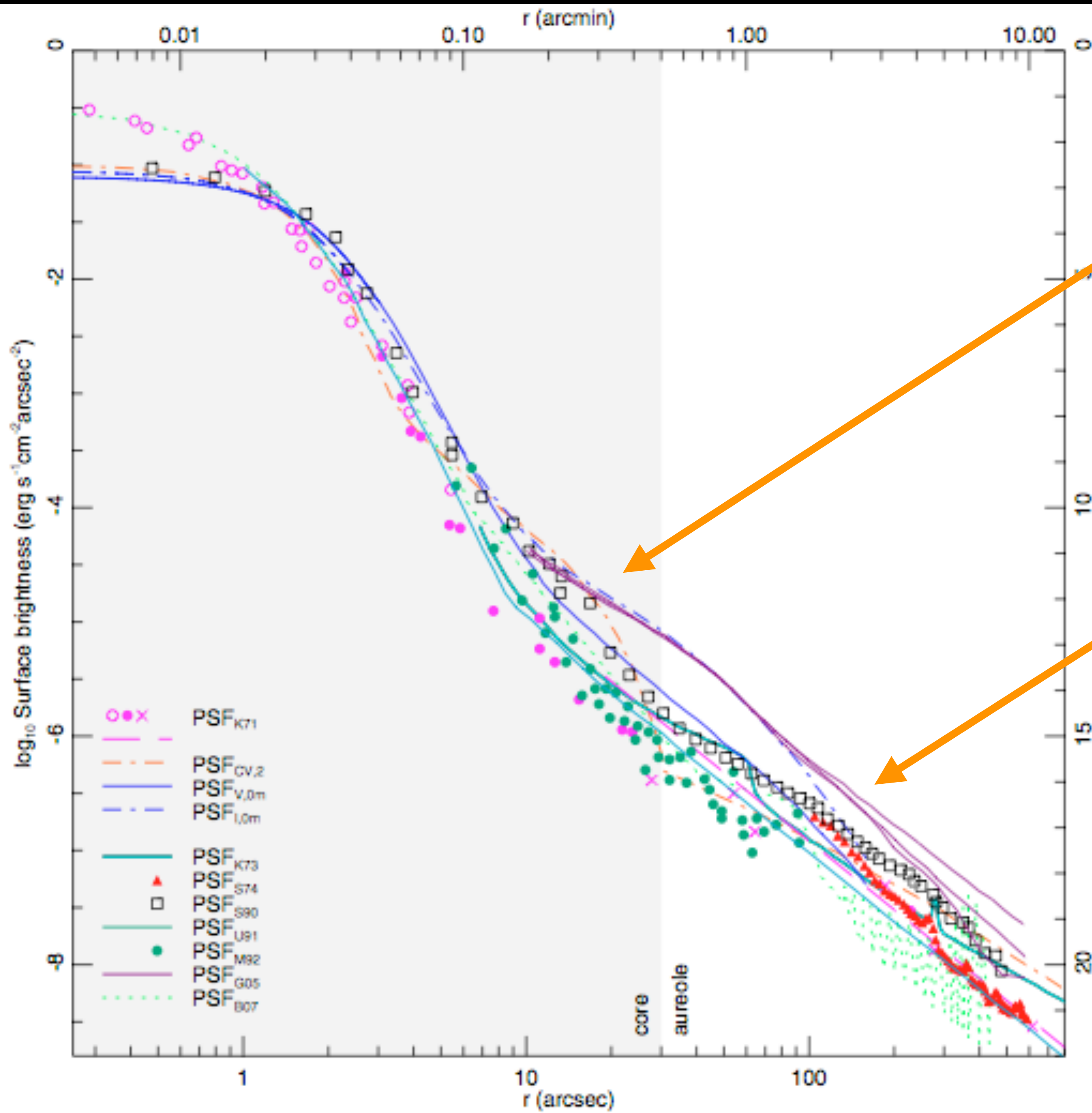


# Dragonfly ghosts

17 optical elements in 13 groups







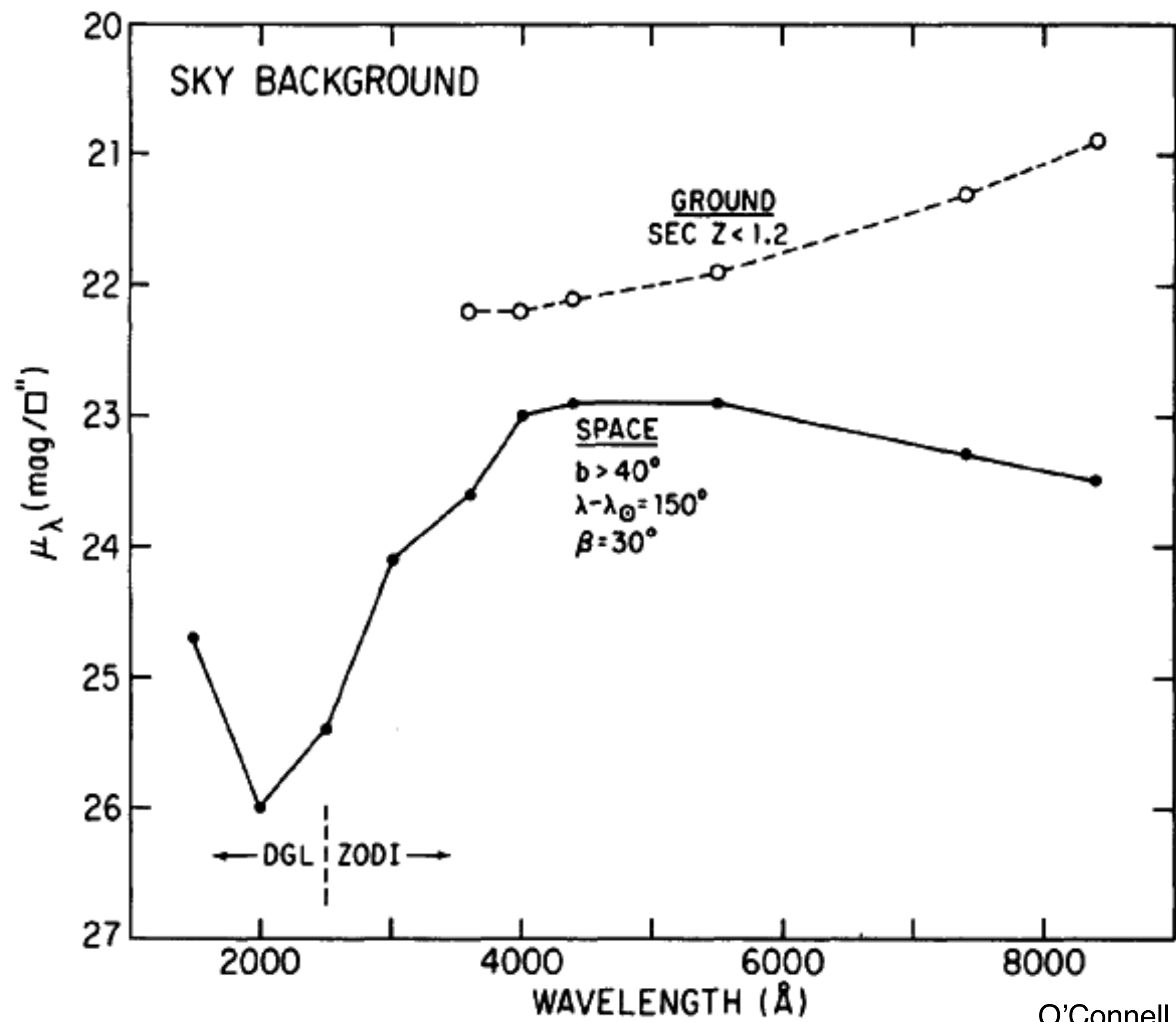
Internal scattering in optics  
(prime focus corrector, filters)

+

Scattering by  
atmospheric molecules

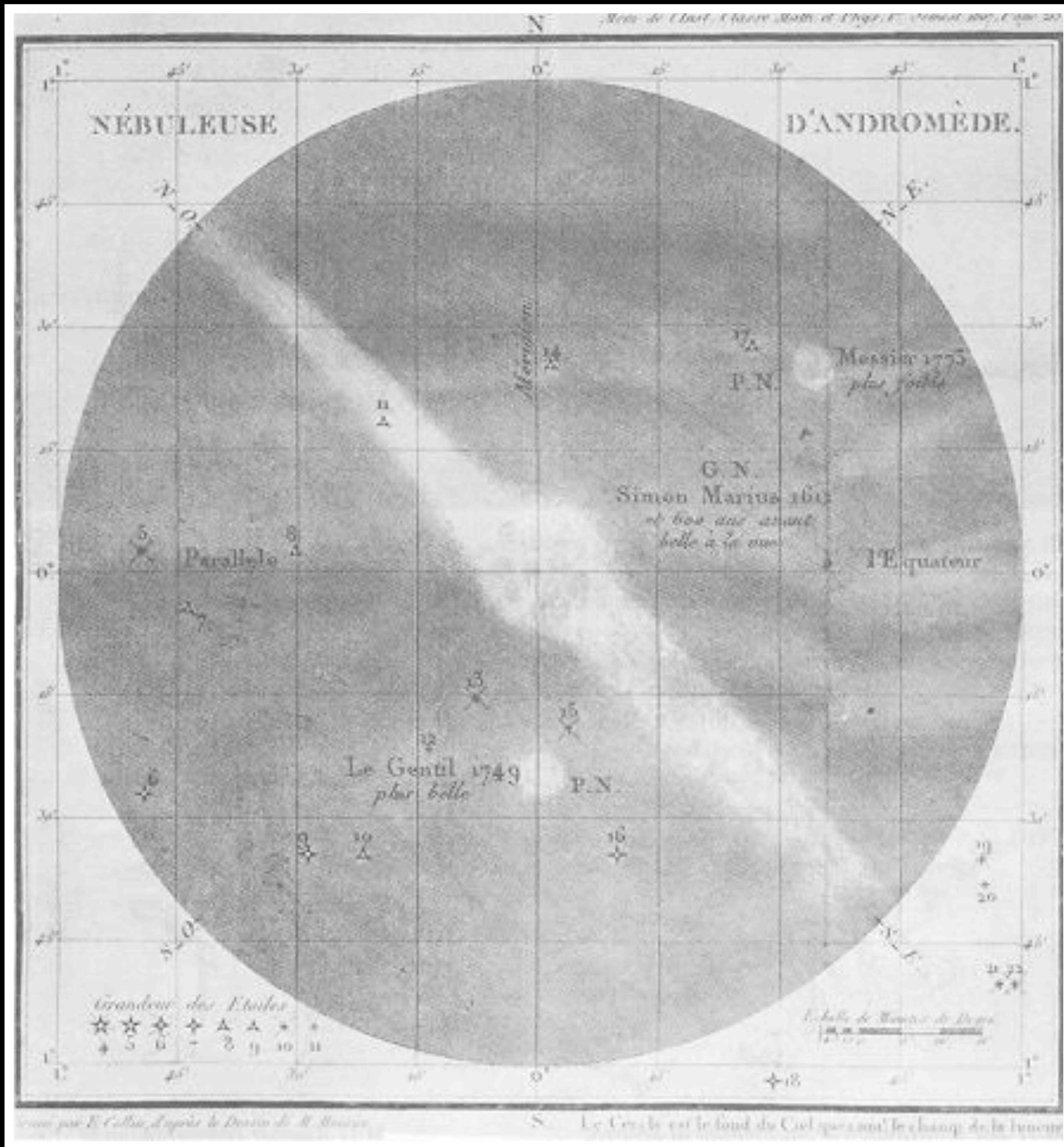
*Major limitations*  
for ground-based detections





O'Connell (1986)





Messier (1771) *Mem. Acad. Sci. Paris*  
 Messier (1780) *Conn. Temps*



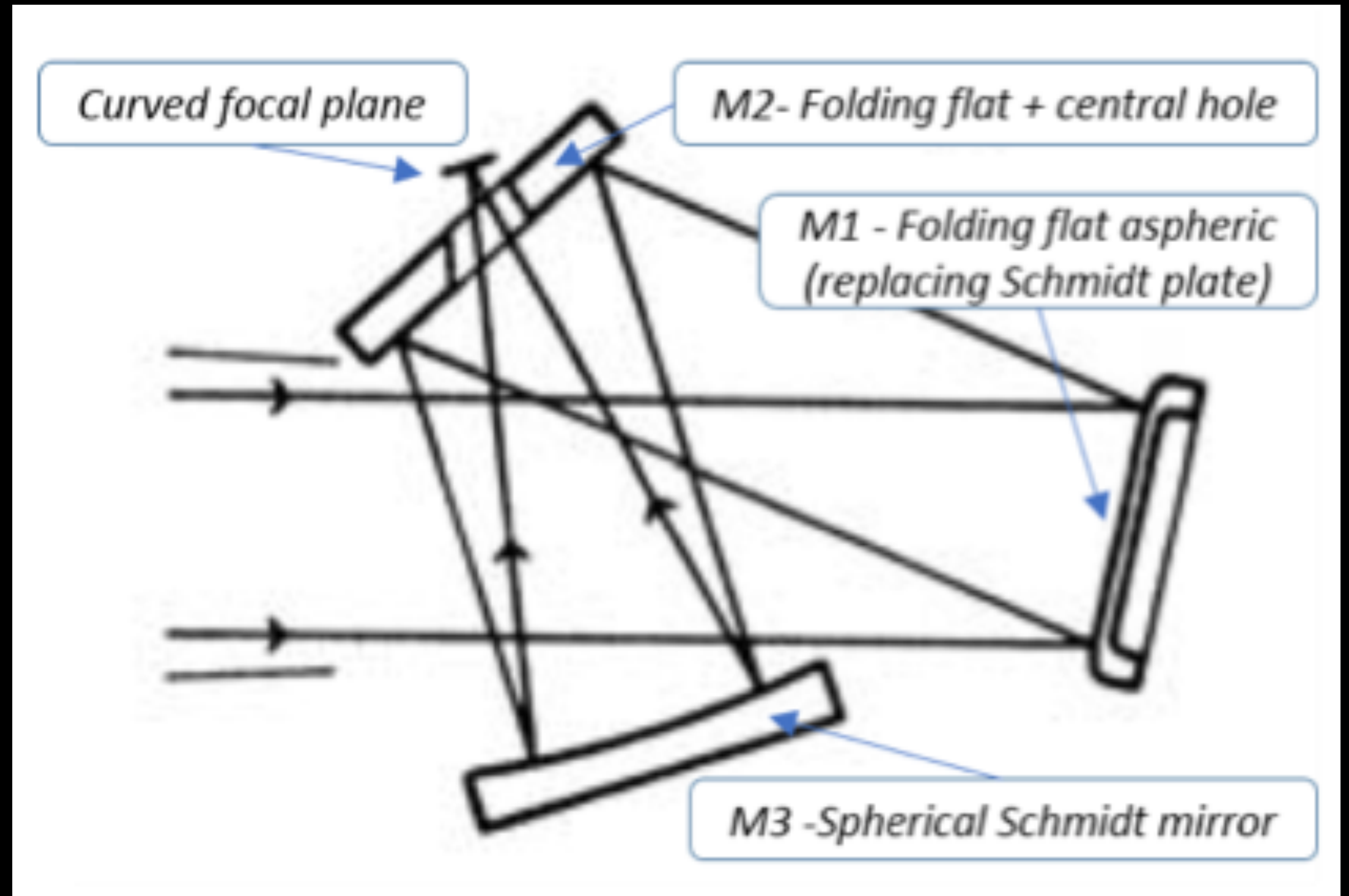
## Key additional requirement for MESSIER :

- no lenses (to avoid internal scattering and Čerenkov radiation)
- ~~flat focal plane~~

Optimal off-axis  
mirror-only solution

*curved focal surface  
tiled with curved CCDs*

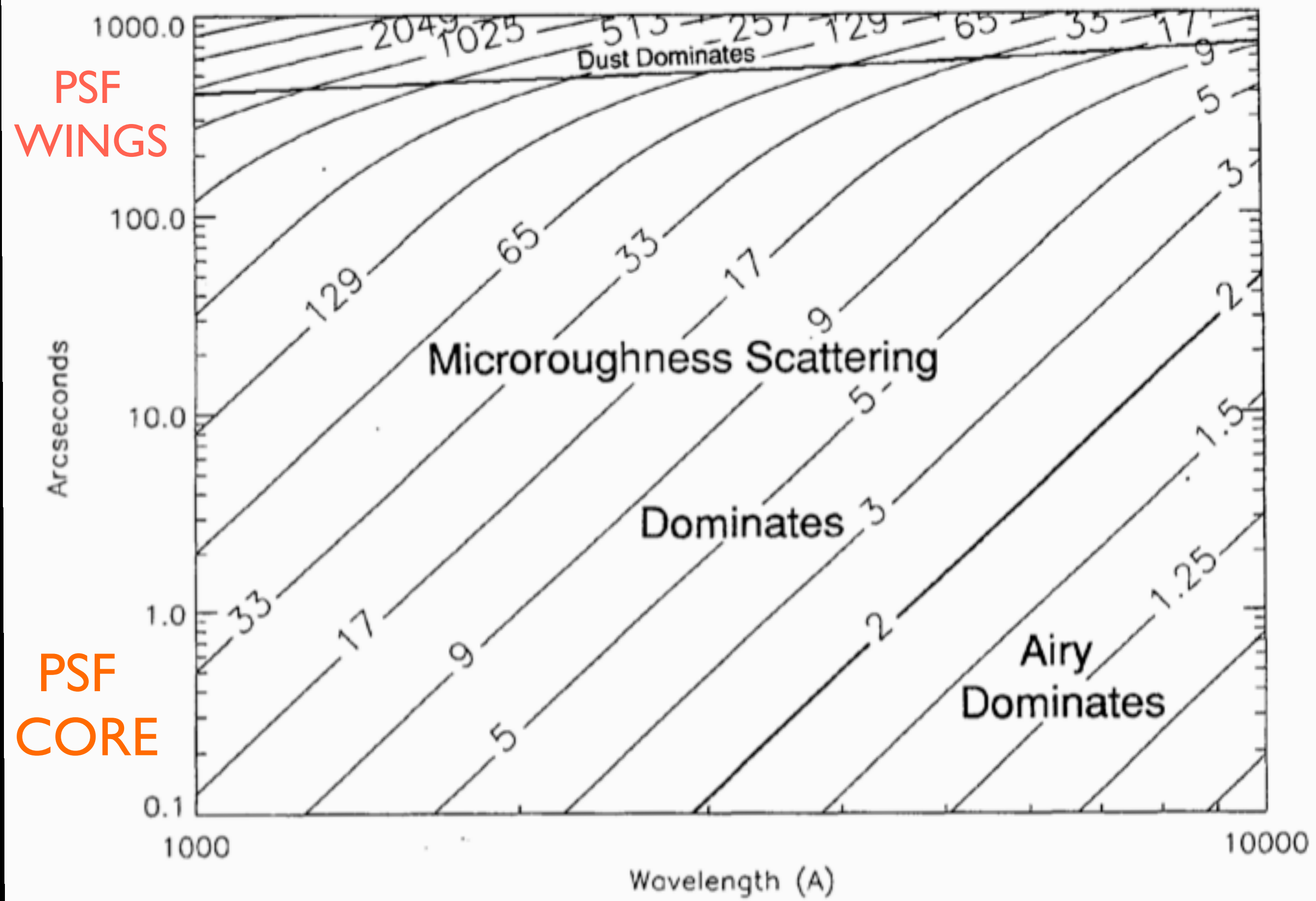
*Space Surveillance Telescope  
by MIT for DARPA (\$75M)  
(but huge obscuration by M2)*



Muslimov, Valls-Gabaud, Lemaître et al. (2017)

**TWO DISRUPTIVE BREAKTHROUGHS : Off-axis purely reflective Schmidt  
Curved CCDs**



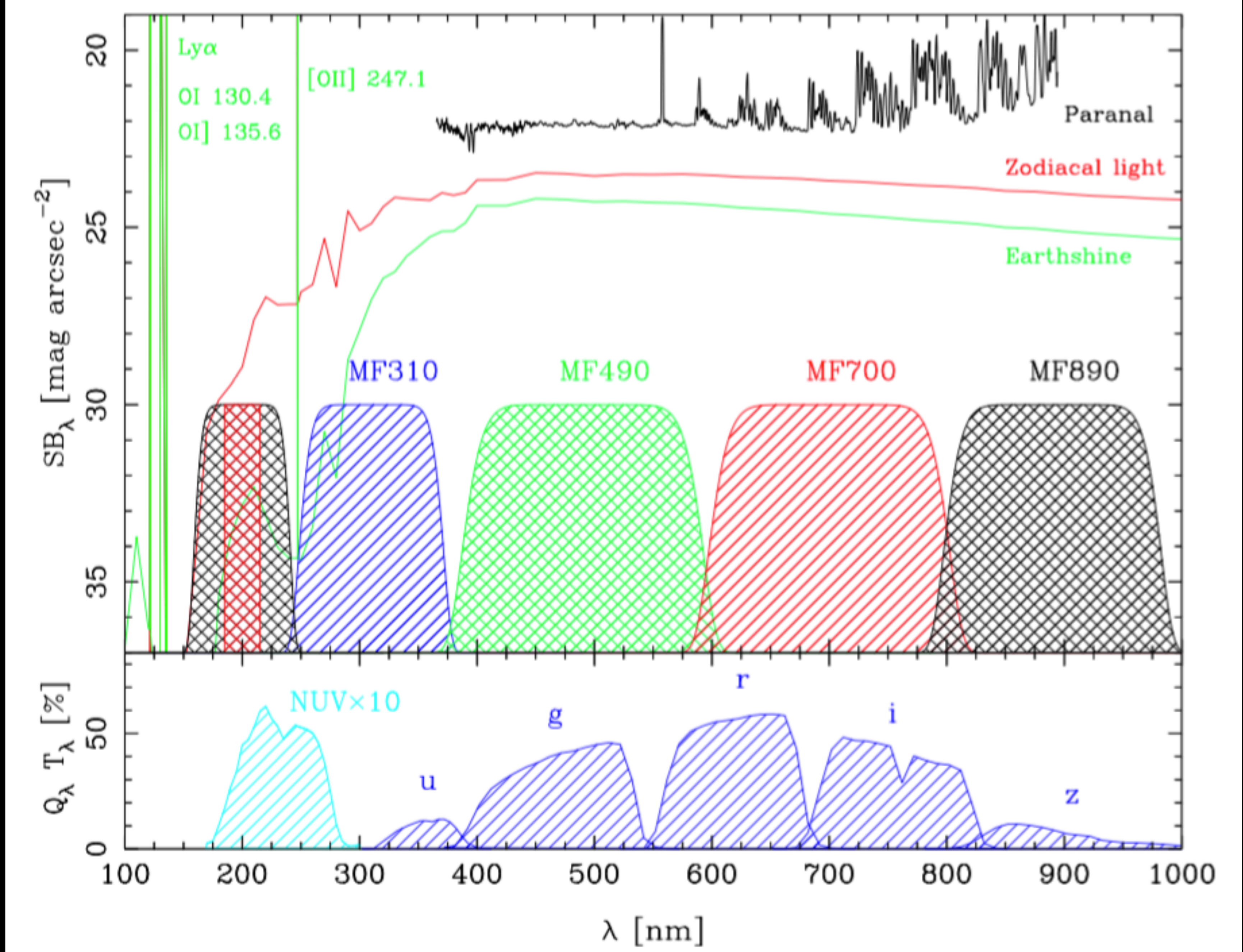




# Requirements for filters

Broad filters :  
characterise SEDs of  
stellar populations

Narrow + broad filters :  
Lyman- $\alpha$  intensity  
mapping



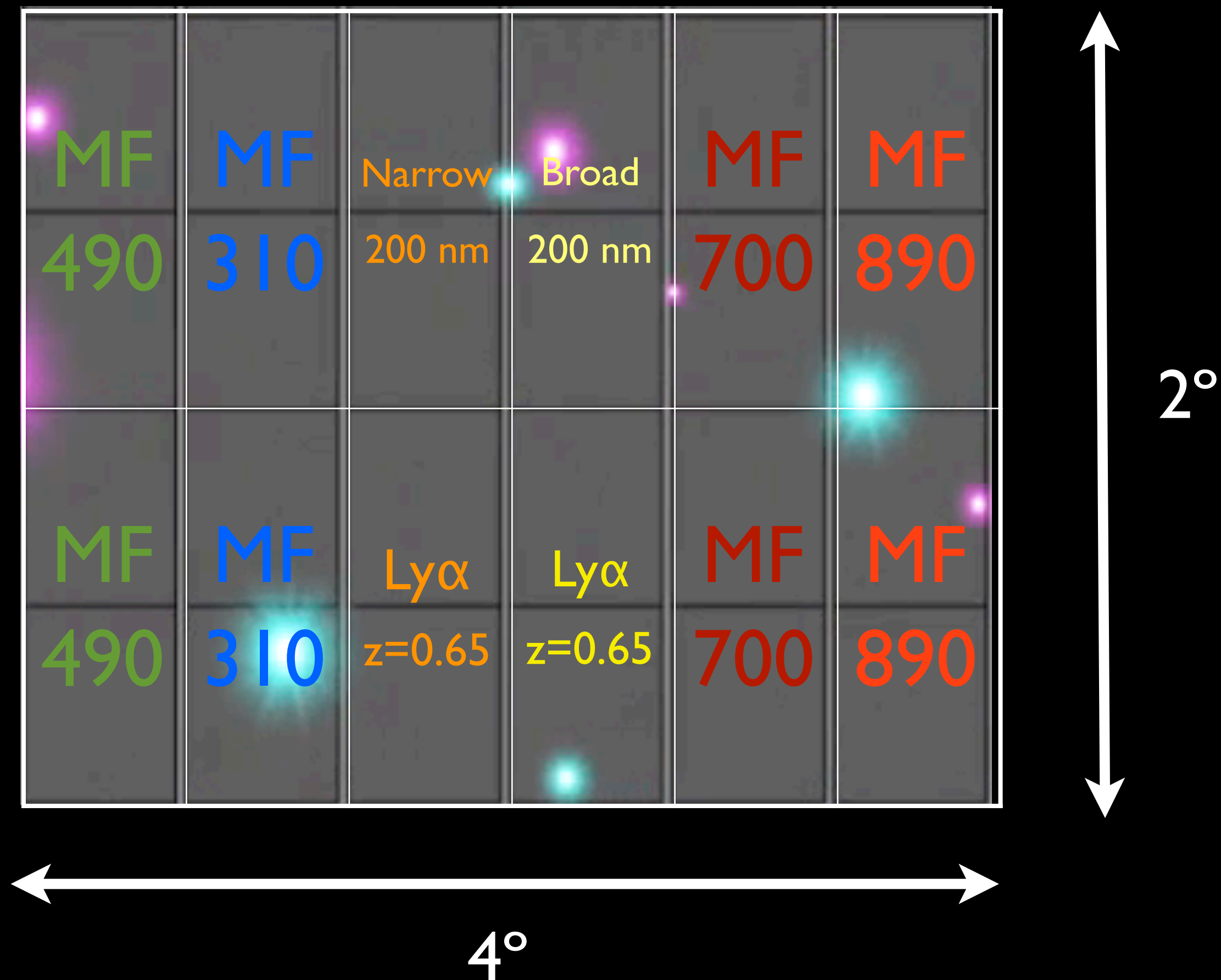


# Curved focal surface configuration

6 x 2 independent controllers in drift-scan mode, coatings as filters

QE of each curved CCD optimised for each filter (TQ>85%)

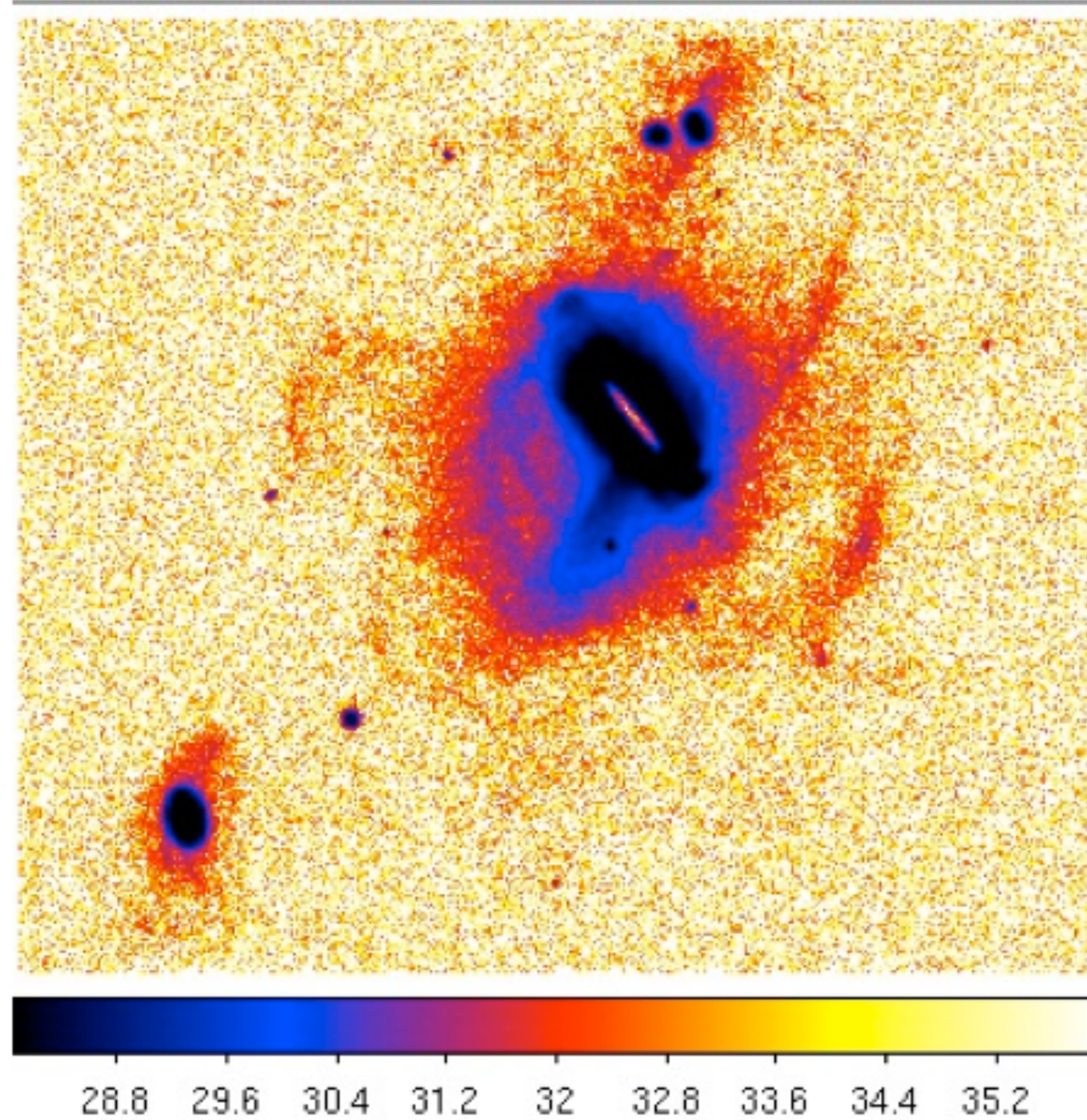
Highly efficient: *no moving parts, passive cooling*



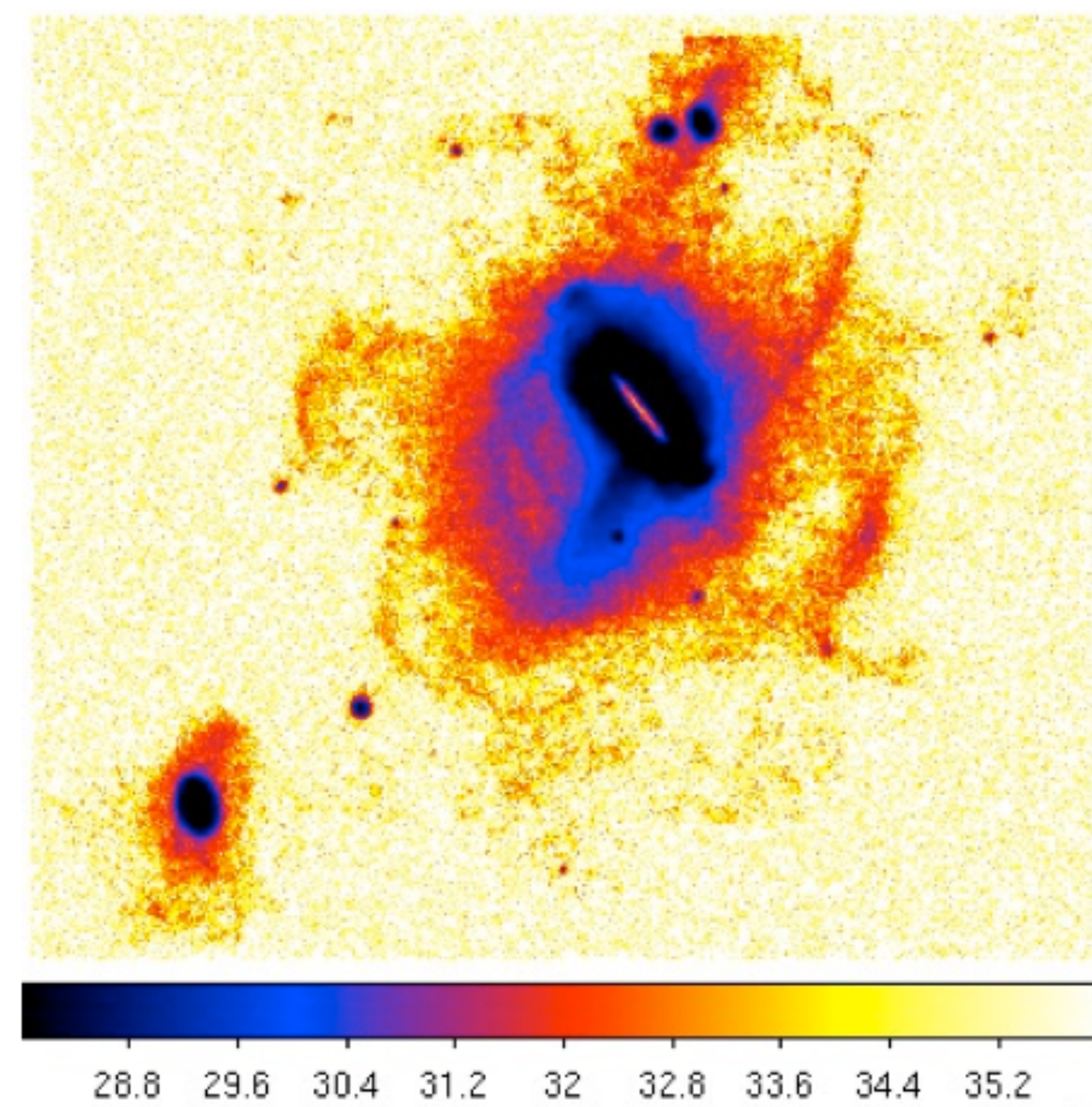


# Expected performances - I Optical bands

Simulated MESSIER images of a real galaxy (M31) seen at 150 Mpc



1 Msec

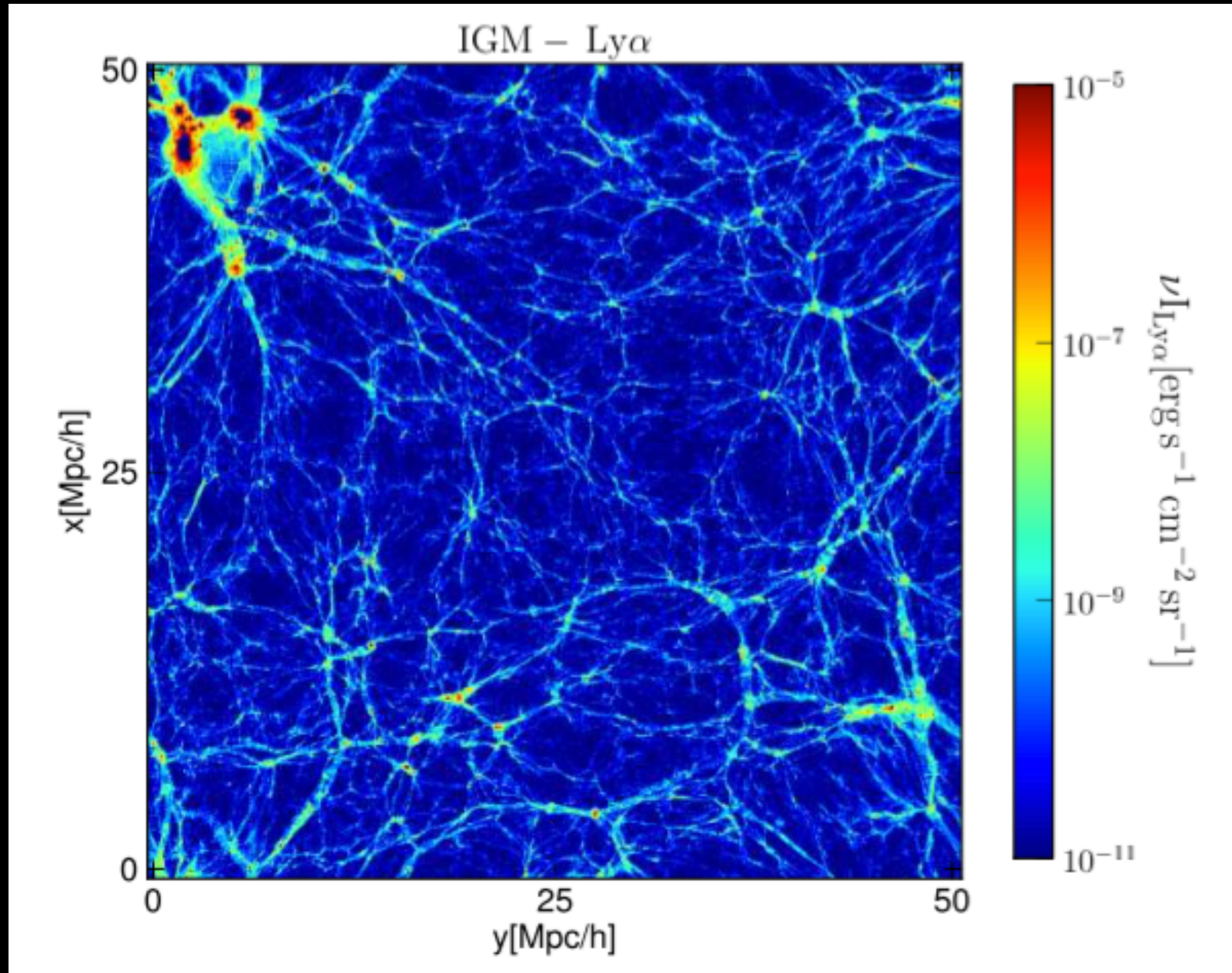


10 Msec

R. Ibata



# Expected performances - II UV bands



Credit: J. Fonseca & M. Silva / F. van de Voort & J. Schaye



# MESSIER Overview of Subsystems

## Thermal Subsystem

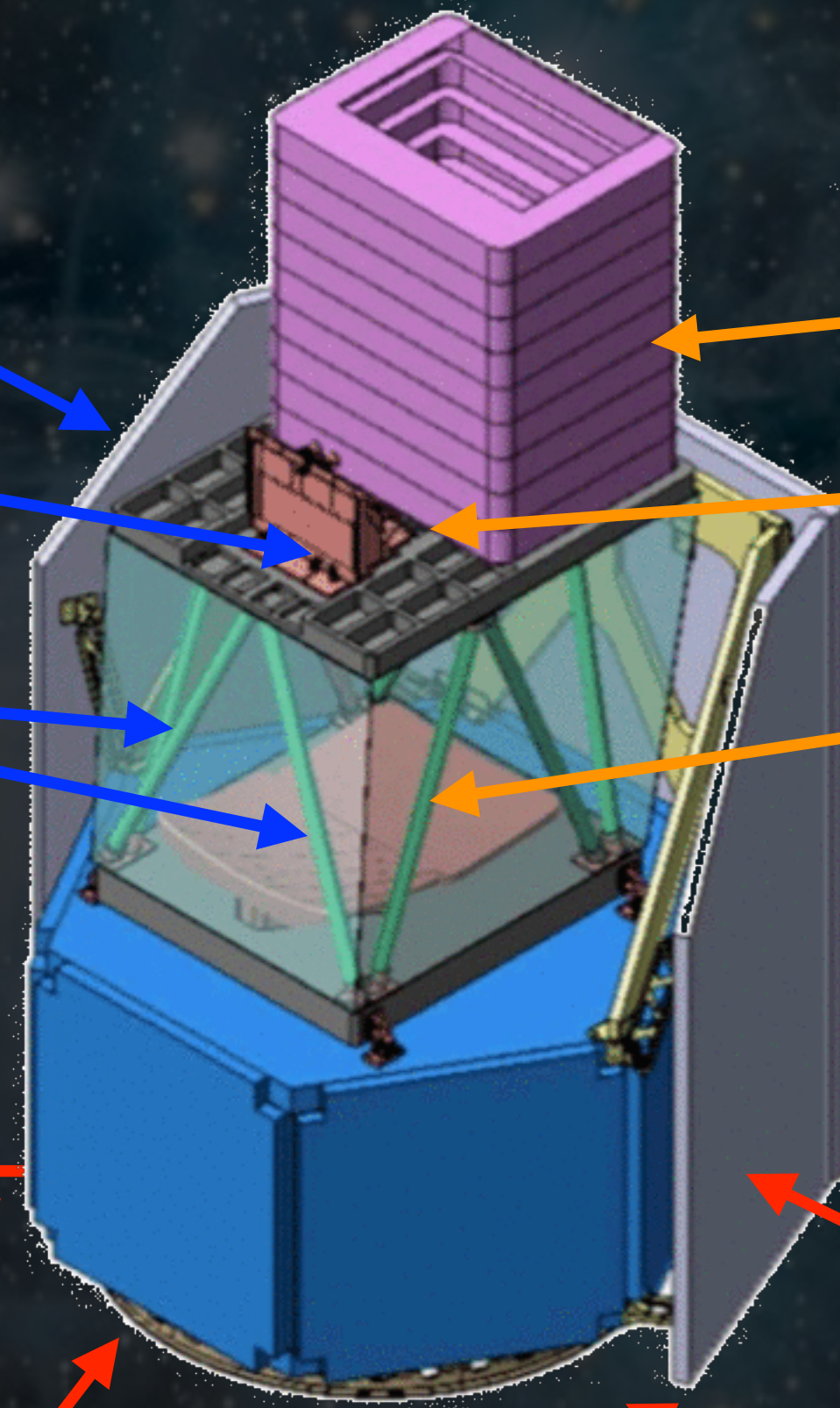
- Shield
- Focal plane radiator
- Bipods
- 3-Stage Radiators (not shown)

## Optical Subsystem

- Pop-up Baffle
- Focal Plane Assembly
- Optical Bench

- Star trackers
- S-band antenna
- Solar panels
- X-band antenna

Spacecraft bus

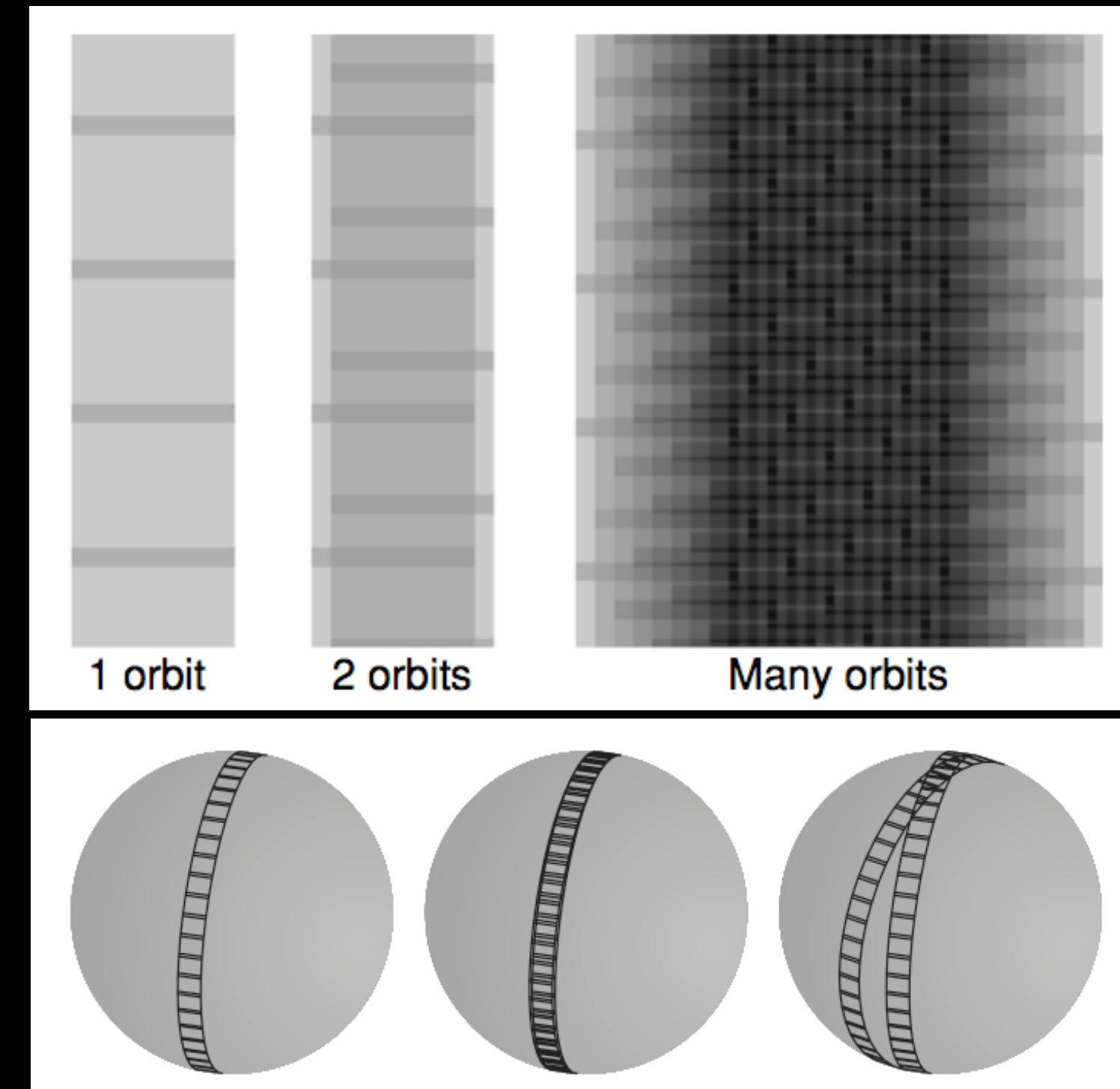
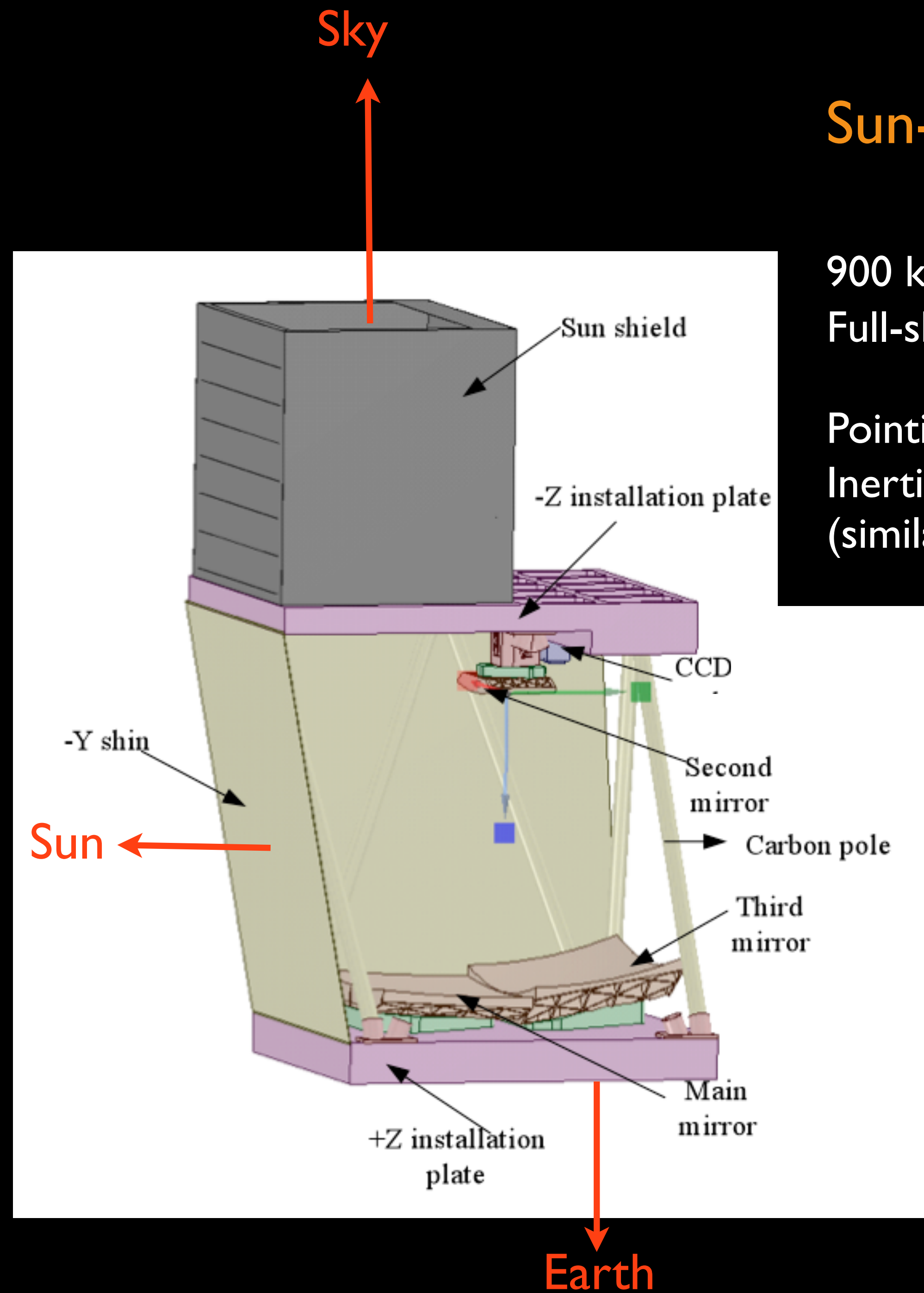




# Sun-Synchronous Orbit

900 km, 98° inclination, LTAN 6h  
Full-sky survey in 6 months

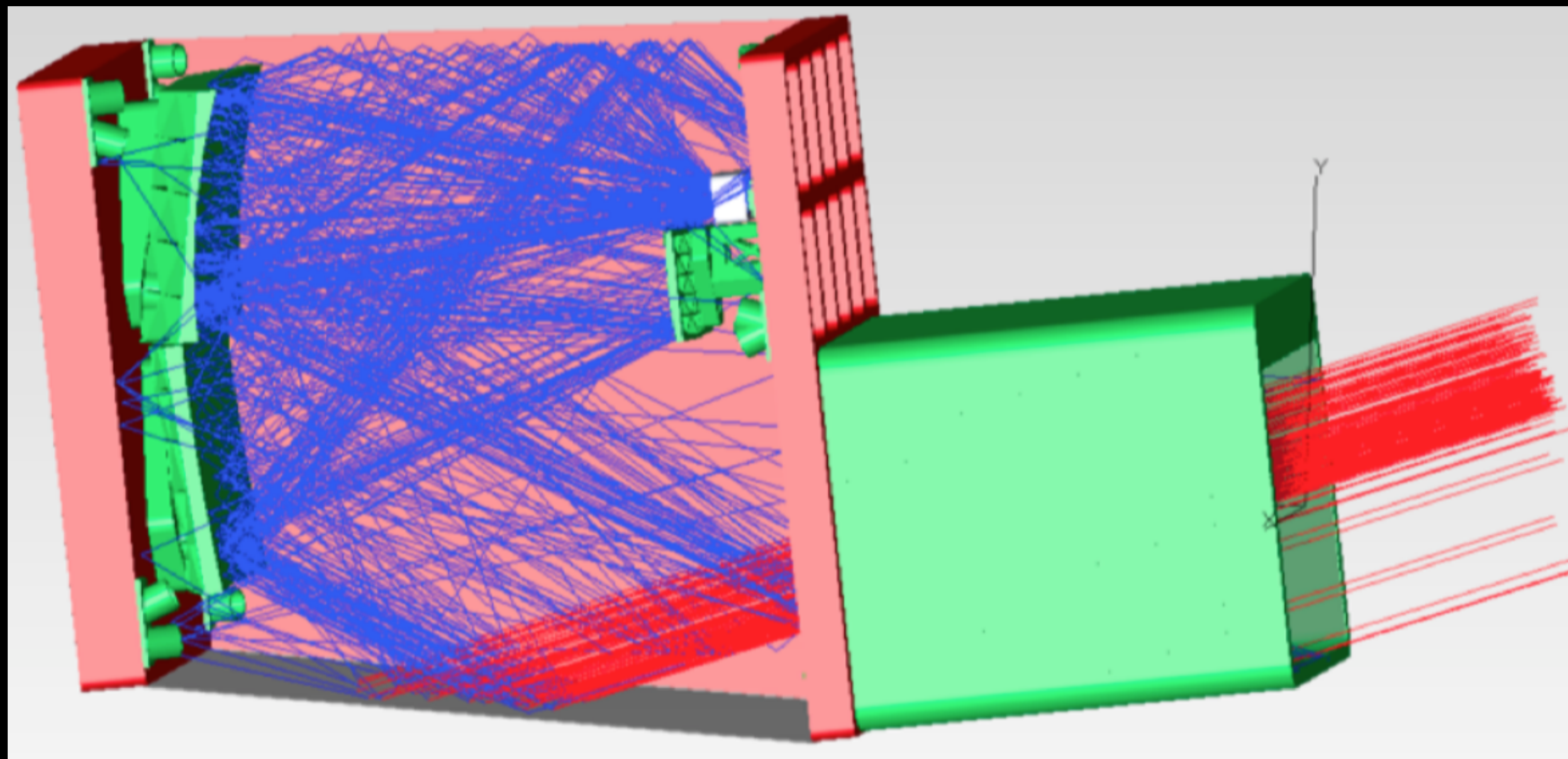
Pointing  $\perp$  Sun-Earth direction (no Earthshine)  
Inertial great-circle drift scan centred at the Sun  
(similar to COBE, WISE, PROBA-V)





# Straylight analysis

| Items                               | Absorption | Mirror reflection | Mirror refraction | Scatter |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| mechanical arm                      | 0.095      | 0.01              | 0                 | 0.04    |
| Optical mirror face                 | 0.05       | 0.9487            | 0                 | 0.0013  |
| The edge of reflector and back face | 0.1        | 0.05              | 0                 | 0.85    |



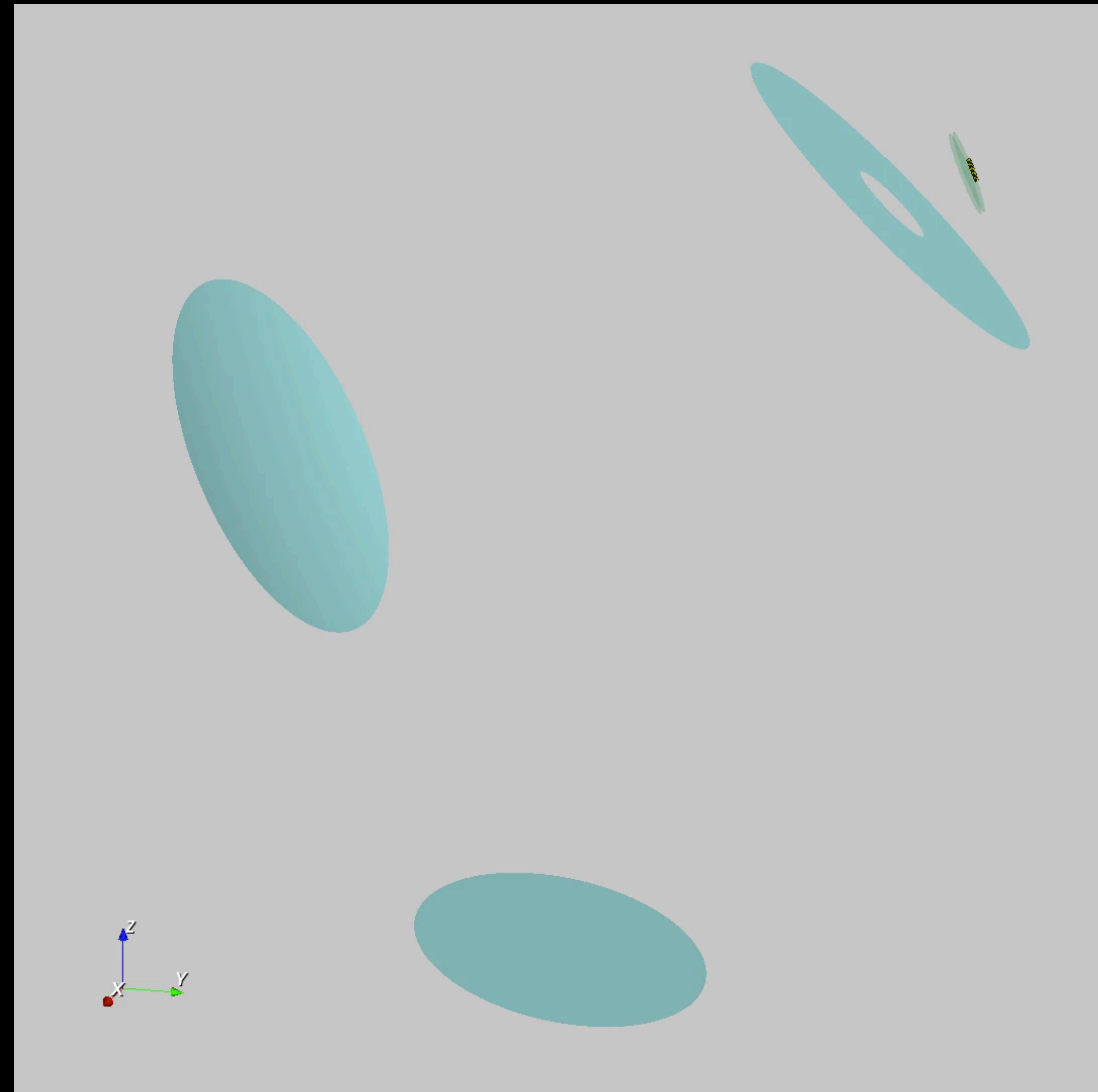


# Photon Monte Carlo Simulations

Allows for the detailed modelling of *all* the physical processes involved

End-to-end simulation

Quantifies the variability of the wings of the PSF across FOV





# CSC Collateral Science Cases (*free by-products*)

## Solar System

- Comet tails, interplanetary and cometary dust grains

## Stellar physics

- The extent of mass loss in giant and massive stars
- Debris discs + exozodi (optical/UV scattering by dust grains)
- Nature of orphan SN and GRB
- Time-domain stellar astronomy: simultaneous multi-wavelength variability tidal disruption events, SNIa, GW UV counterparts
- *Legacy*: Ultimate multi-band photometric full-sky survey of point sources

## Interstellar medium

- Properties of interstellar dust grains + Interstellar radiation field

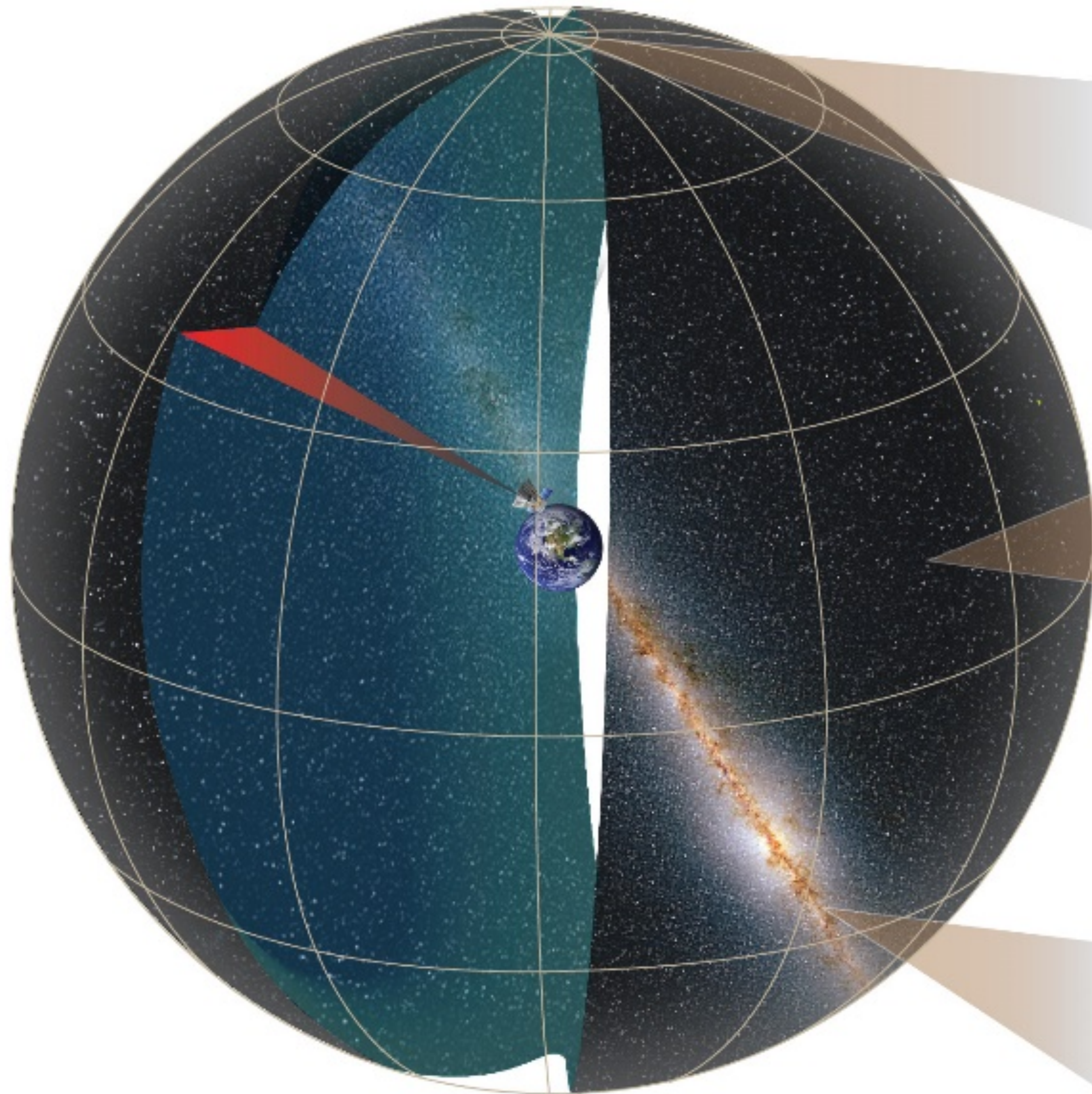
## Extragalactic

- What is the true luminosity function of galaxies ?
- What is the warm molecular content of galaxies in the low-z universe ?
- What is the role of intracluster light and the accretion history in clusters ?

## Cosmology

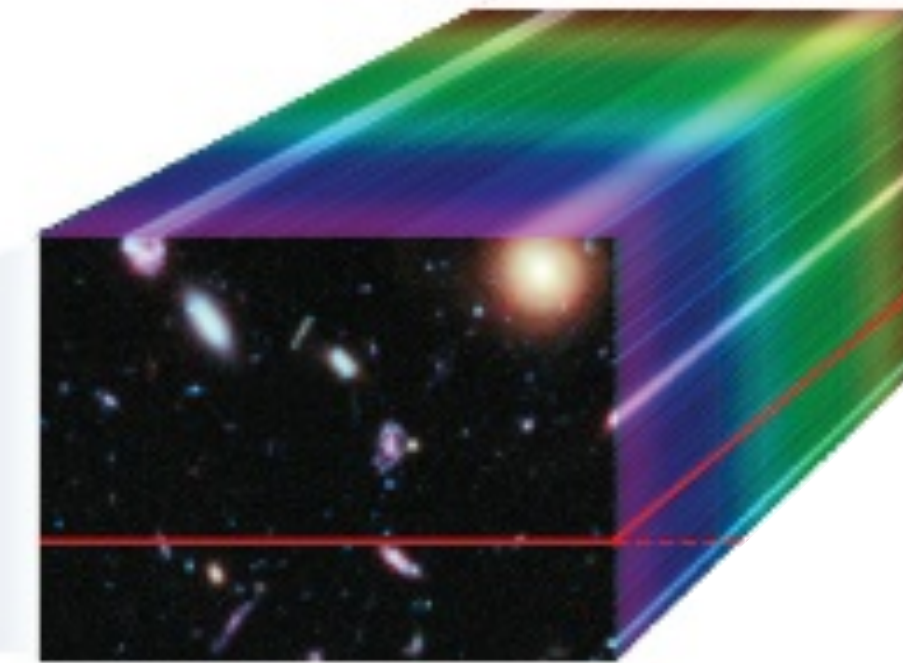
- The fluctuations of the optical / UV cosmological background radiation
- Calibration of the cosmological distance ladder with Surface Brightness fluctuations
- Baryonic acoustic oscillations with  $3 \times 10^6$  galaxies in a thin shell at  $z=0.65$





**The Baryonic  
Cosmic Web**

**BAO**



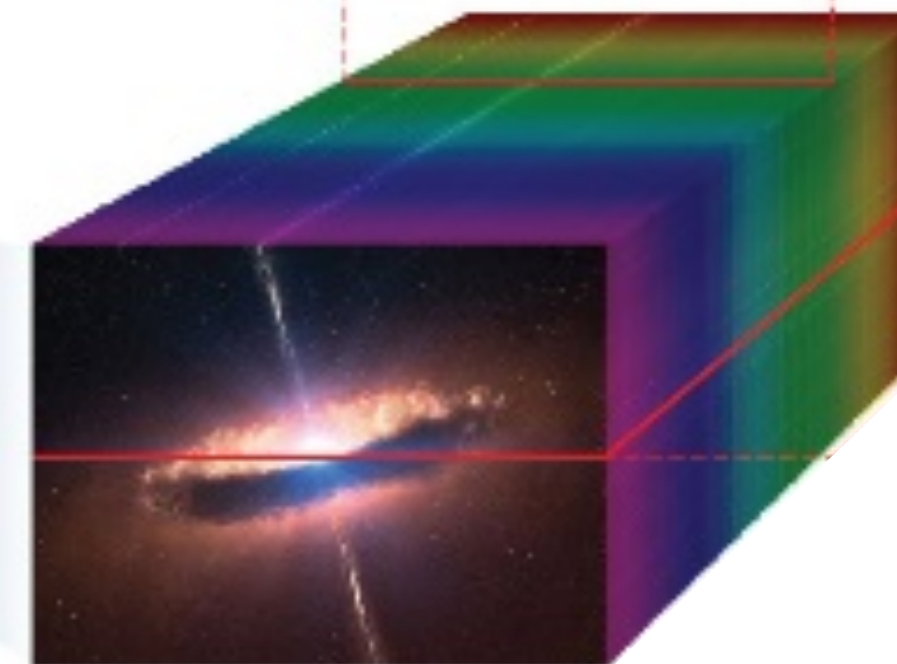
**Panchromatic  
Unbiased  
Inventory of Galaxies**

**Intra-cluster light**



**Debris discs, exo-zodi**

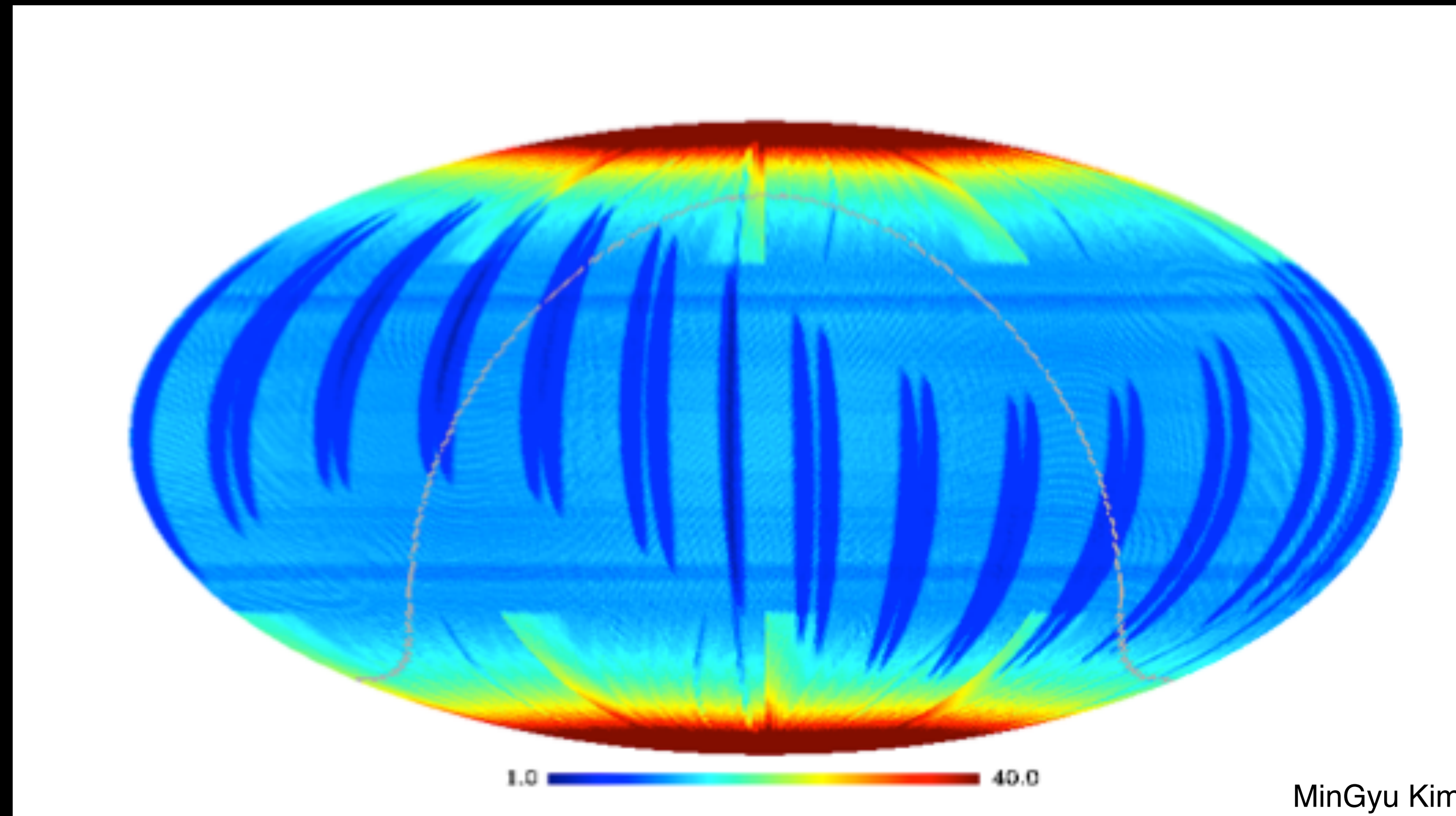
**Mass-loss episodes**



**Time-domain astronomy  
AGN, SN,  
GRBs, TDE, GW**



## Complete sky coverage every 6 months



Includes Moon avoidance angle (35 degrees) and South Atlantic Anomaly

### Time sampling

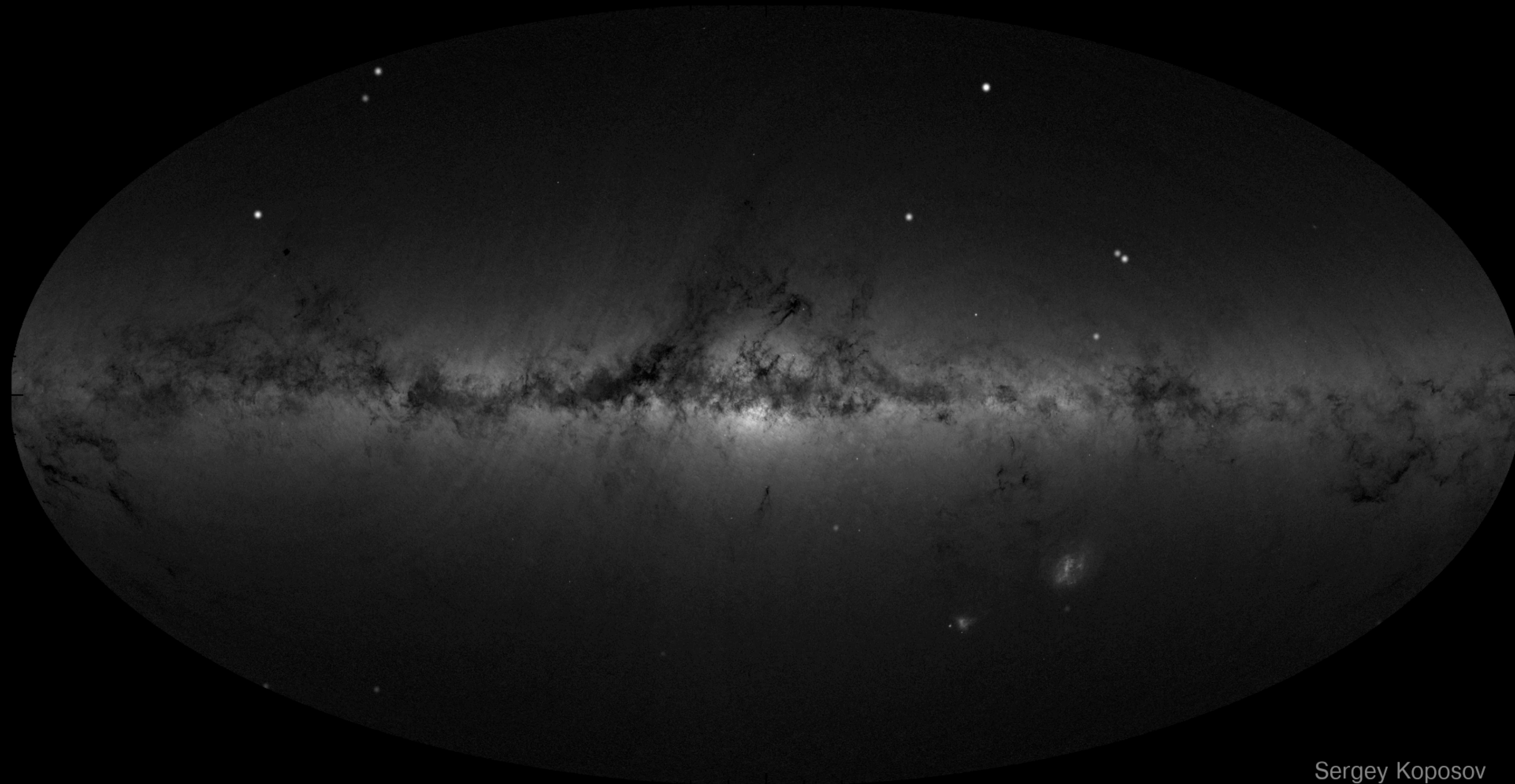
One UV-optical measure per pixel every 90 minutes for 2 days at  $\beta = 0$

One UV-optical measure per pixel every 90 minutes at  $|\beta| \geq 80$  at all times



CSC 9 Time-domain astronomy  
Variability and transients *simultaneously* from the UV to the optical

Year 1985.215



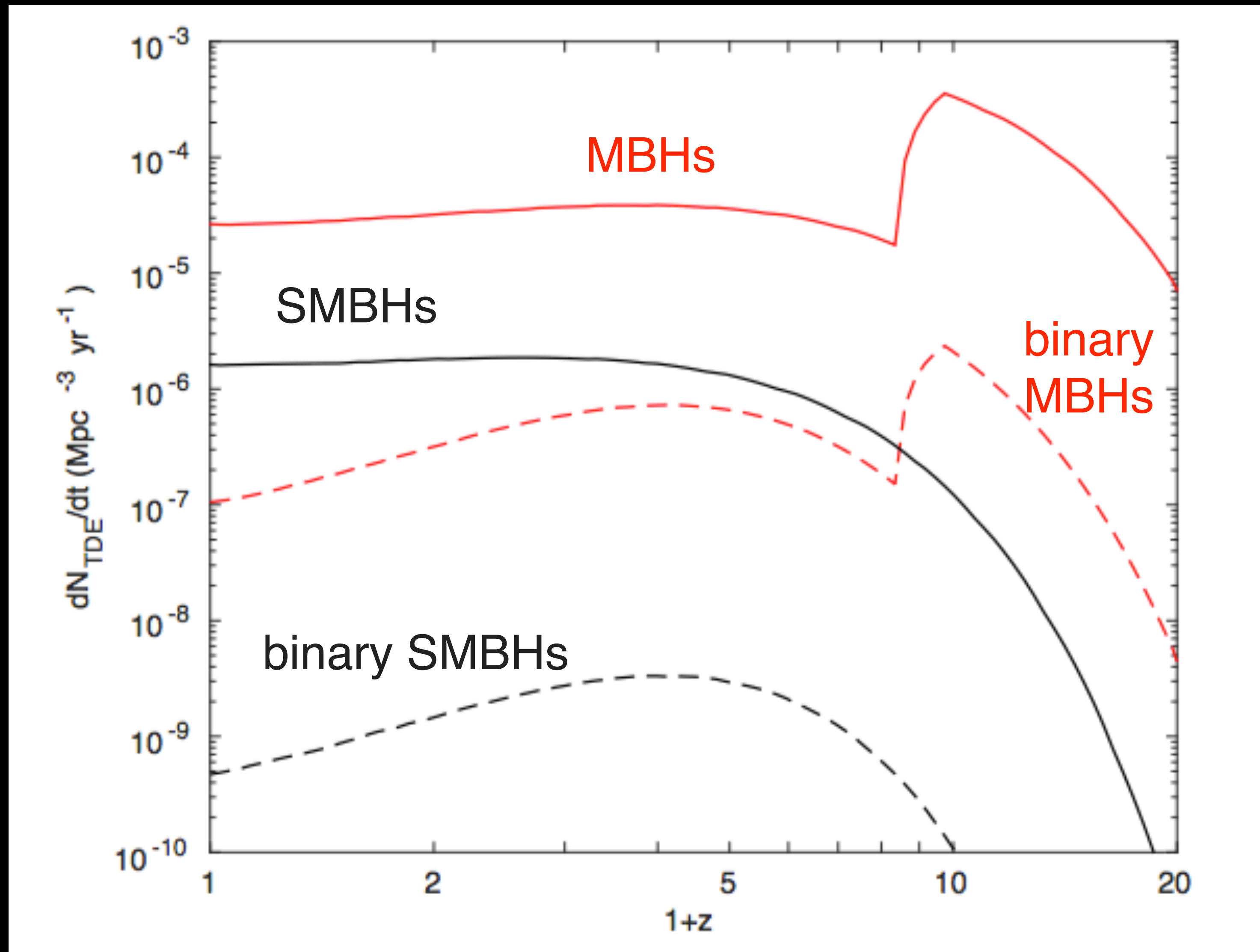
Sergey Kposov

(i) rest-frame UV light curves for SNIa

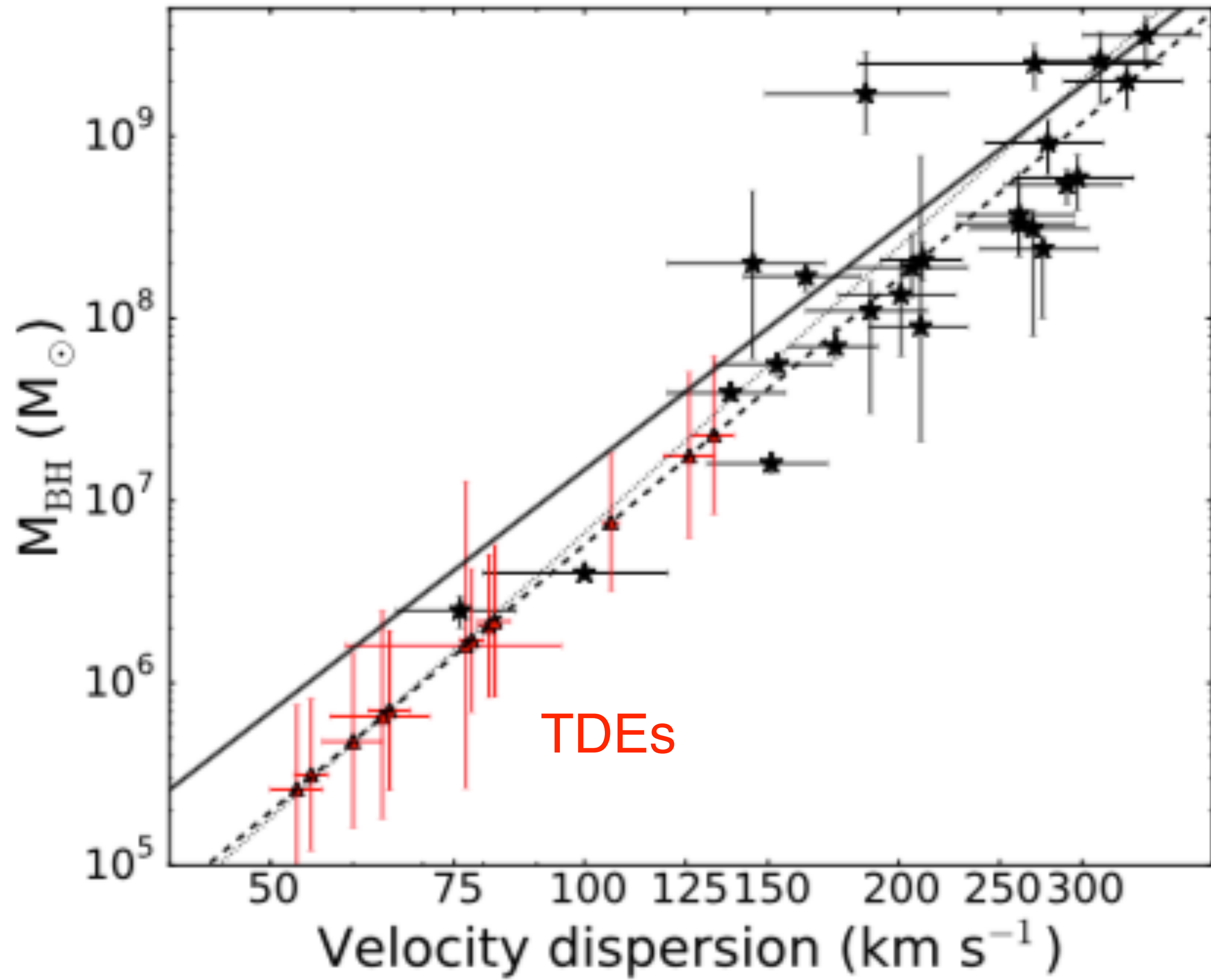


## (ii) Tidal Disruption Events

Rate per  
comoving volume

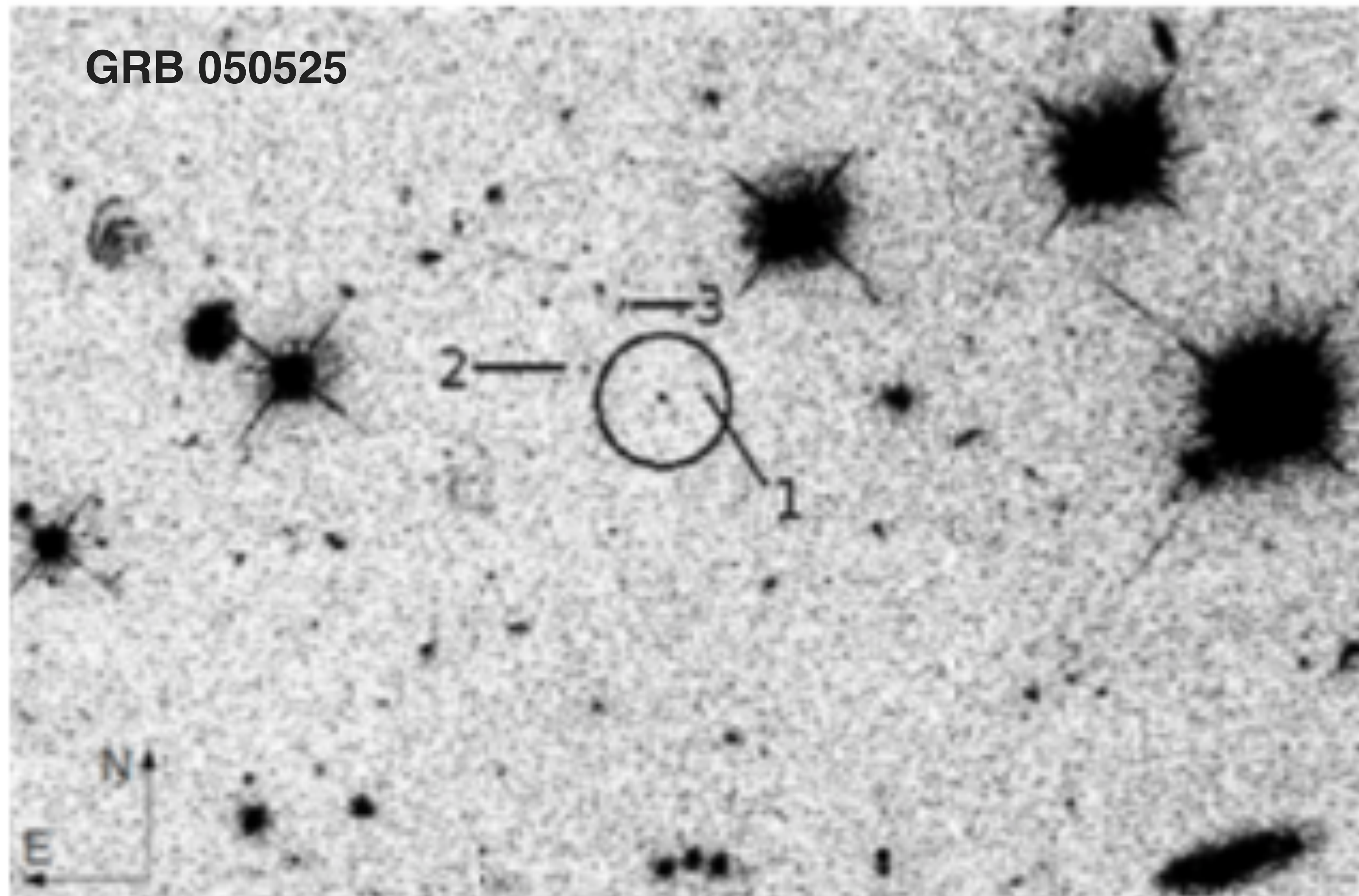




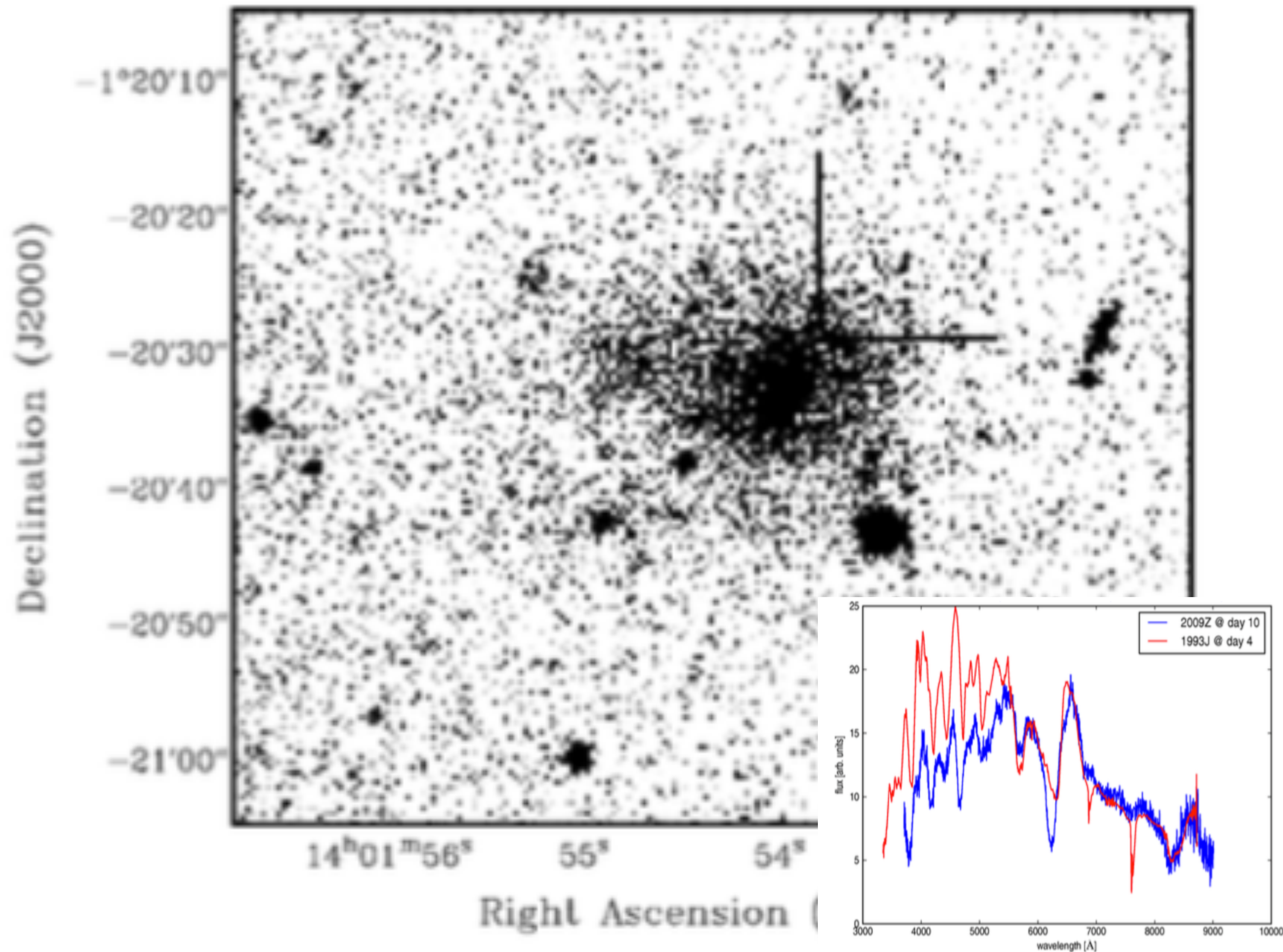




(iii) Orphan SN and GRB

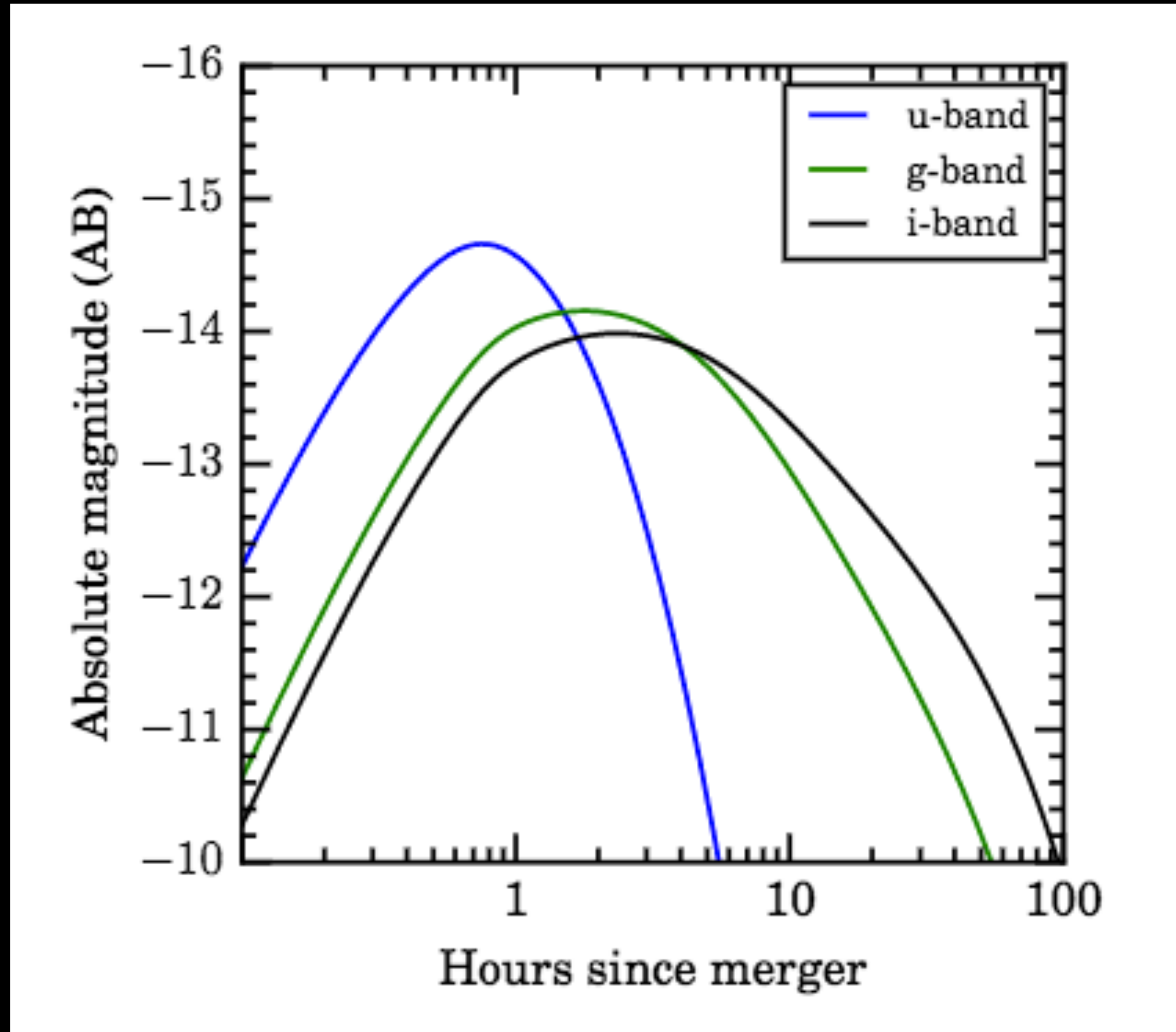




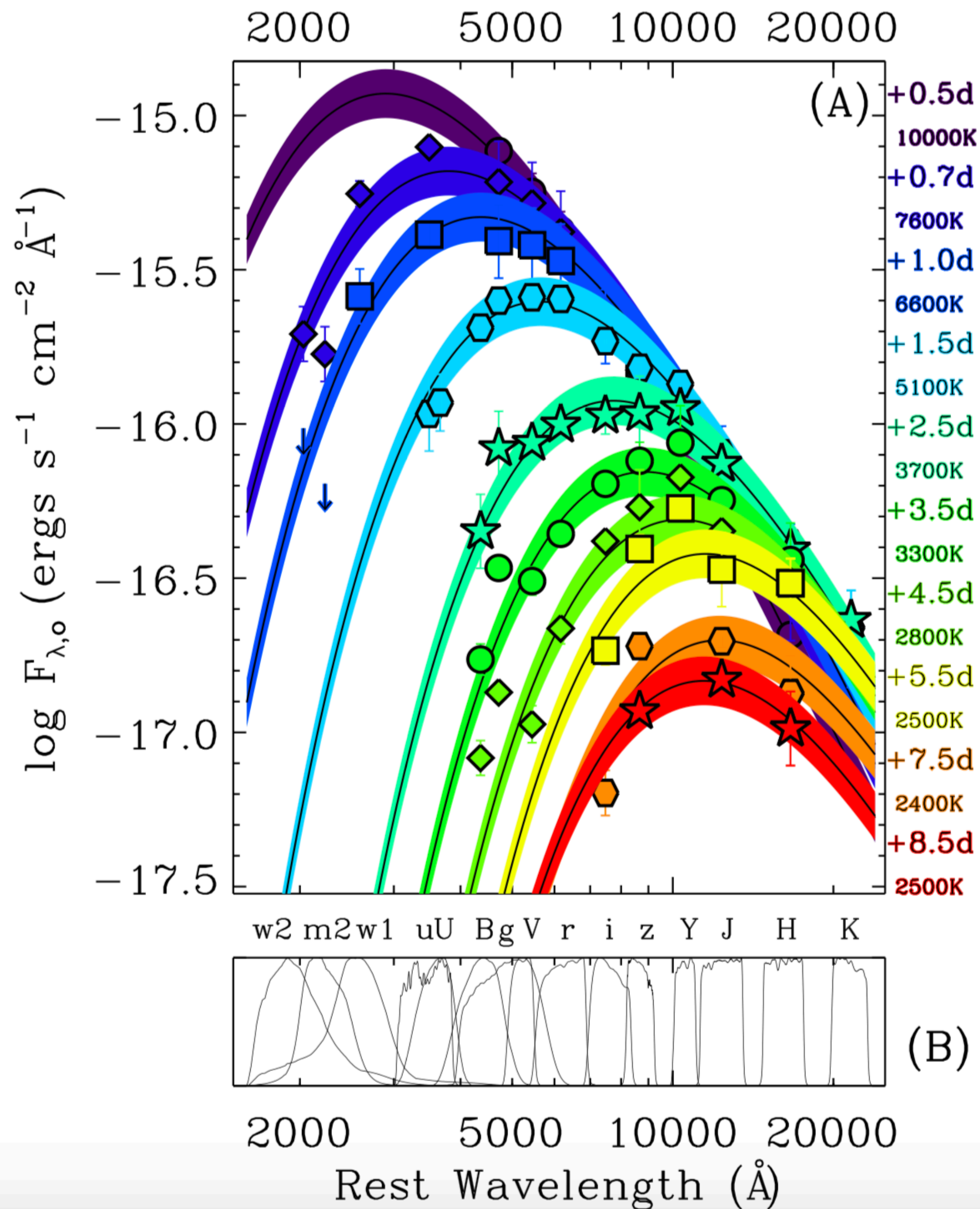




(iv) UV counterparts of gravitational wave events



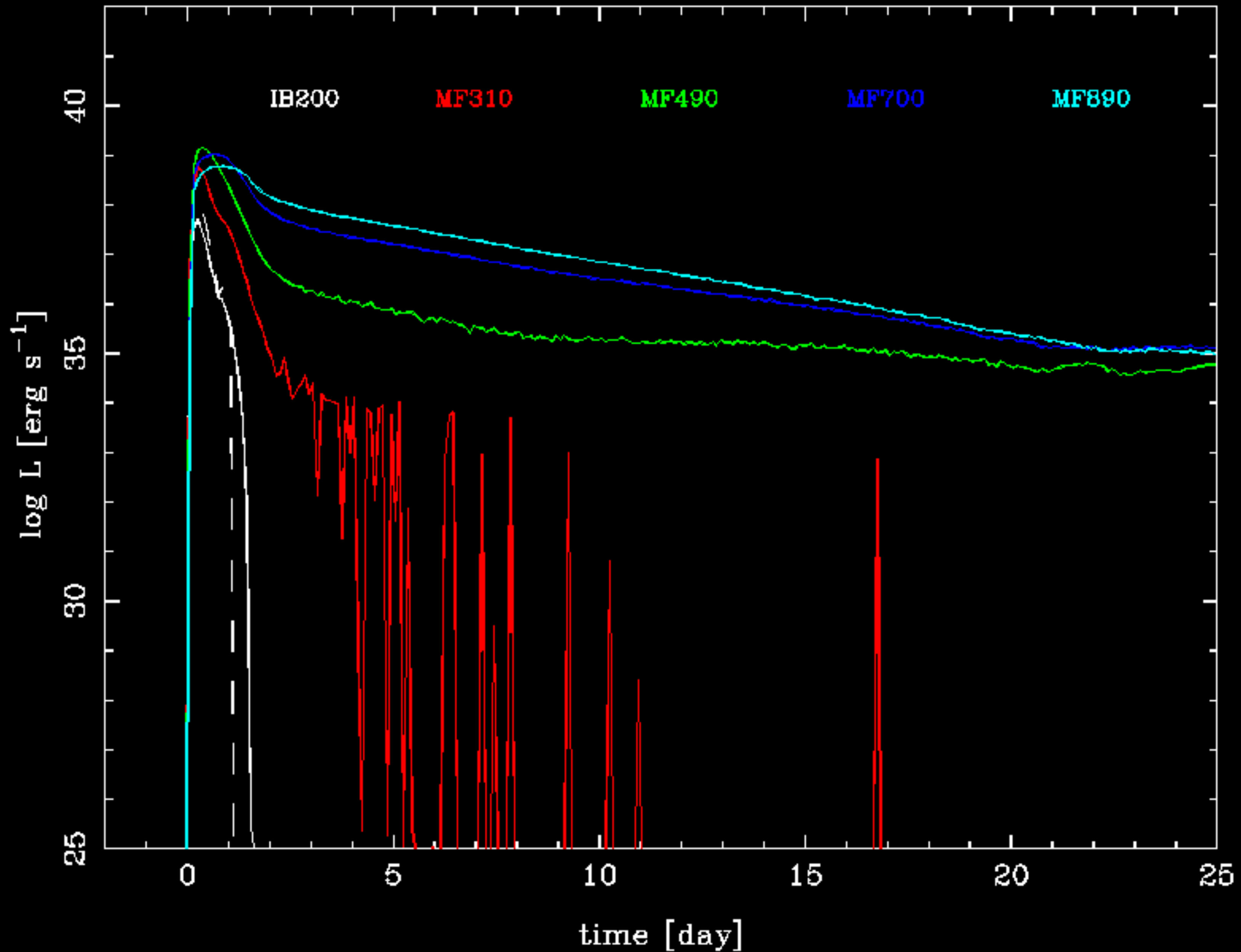




Multiband lightcurves of EM counterparts of gravitational wave events



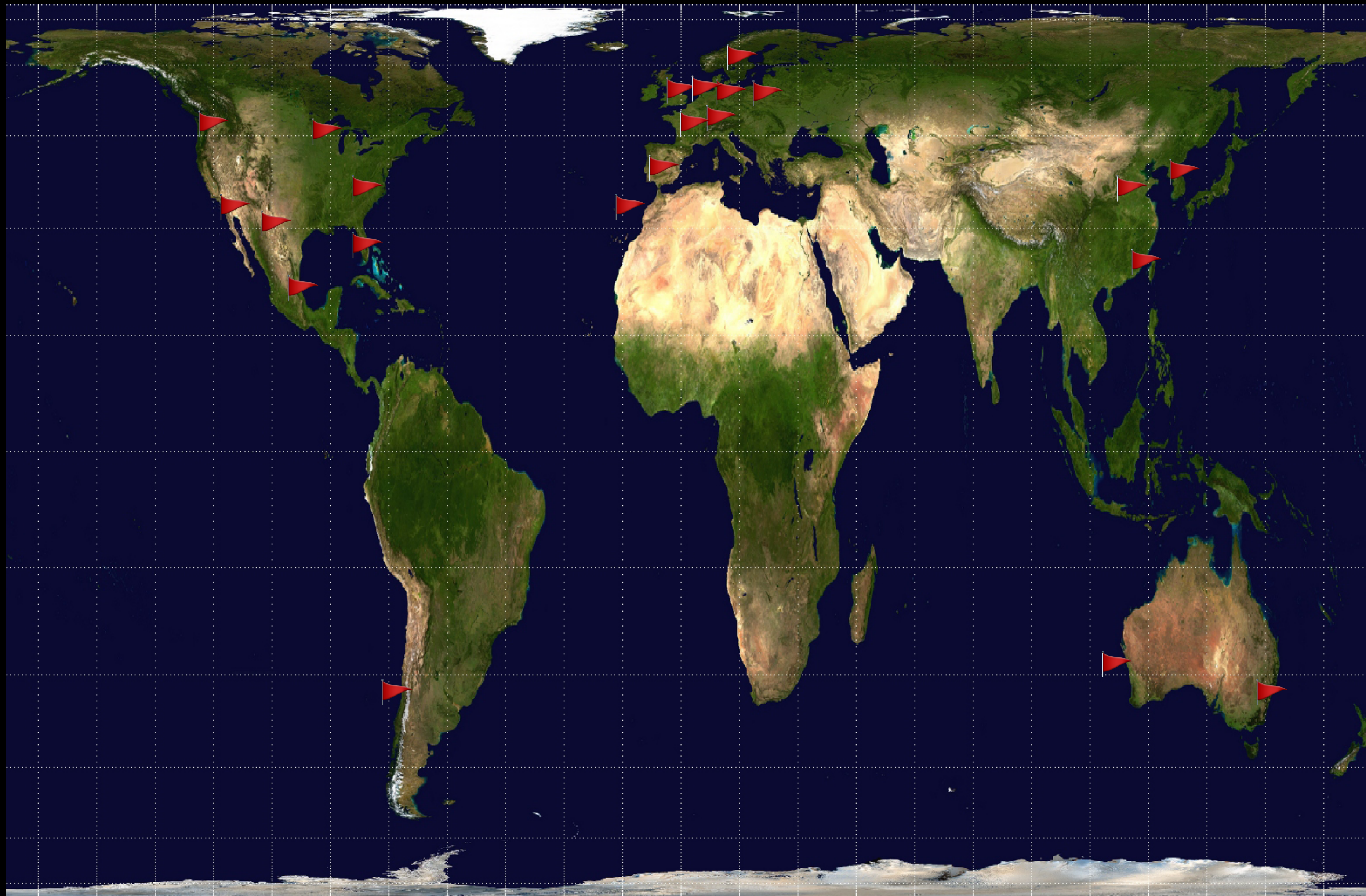
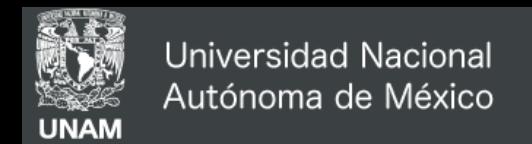
Kilonovae  
observed with MESSIER



Models  
by Kasen *et al.* (2017)



# The MESSIER collaboration

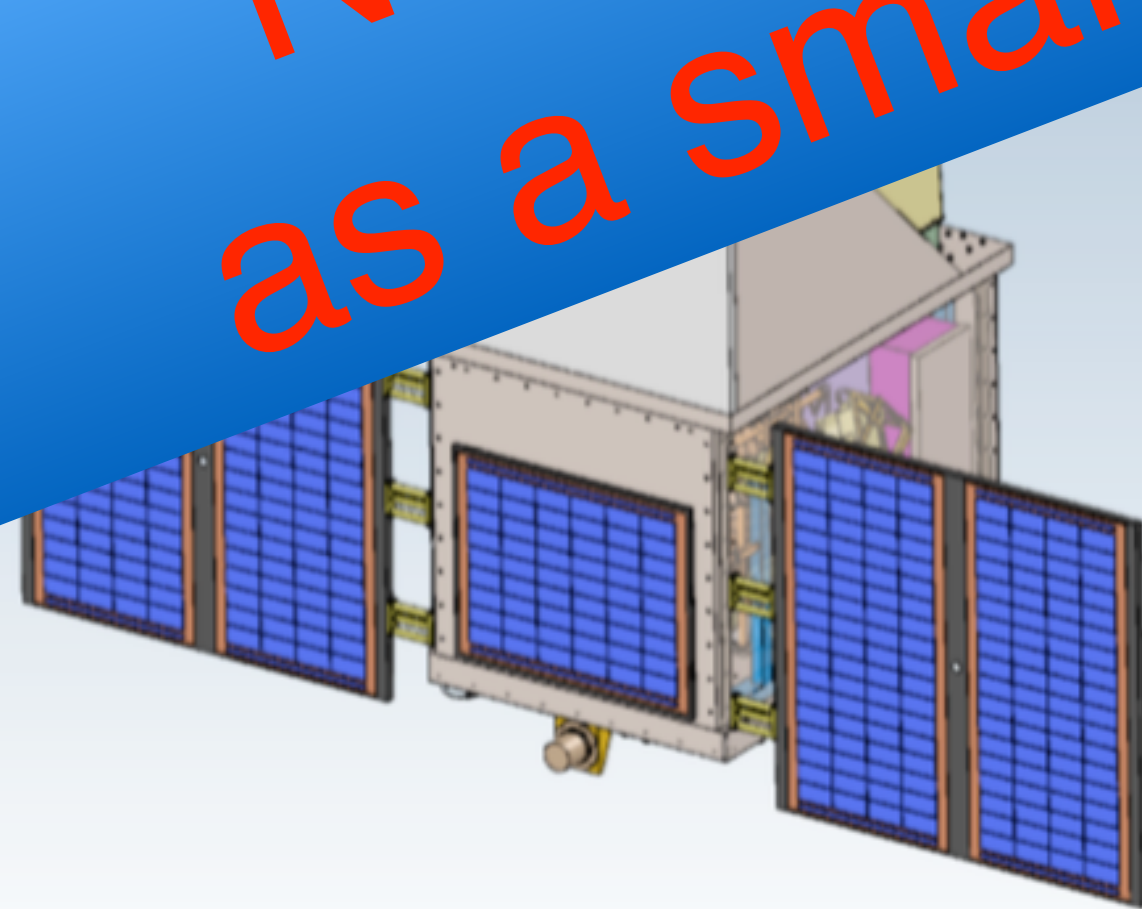




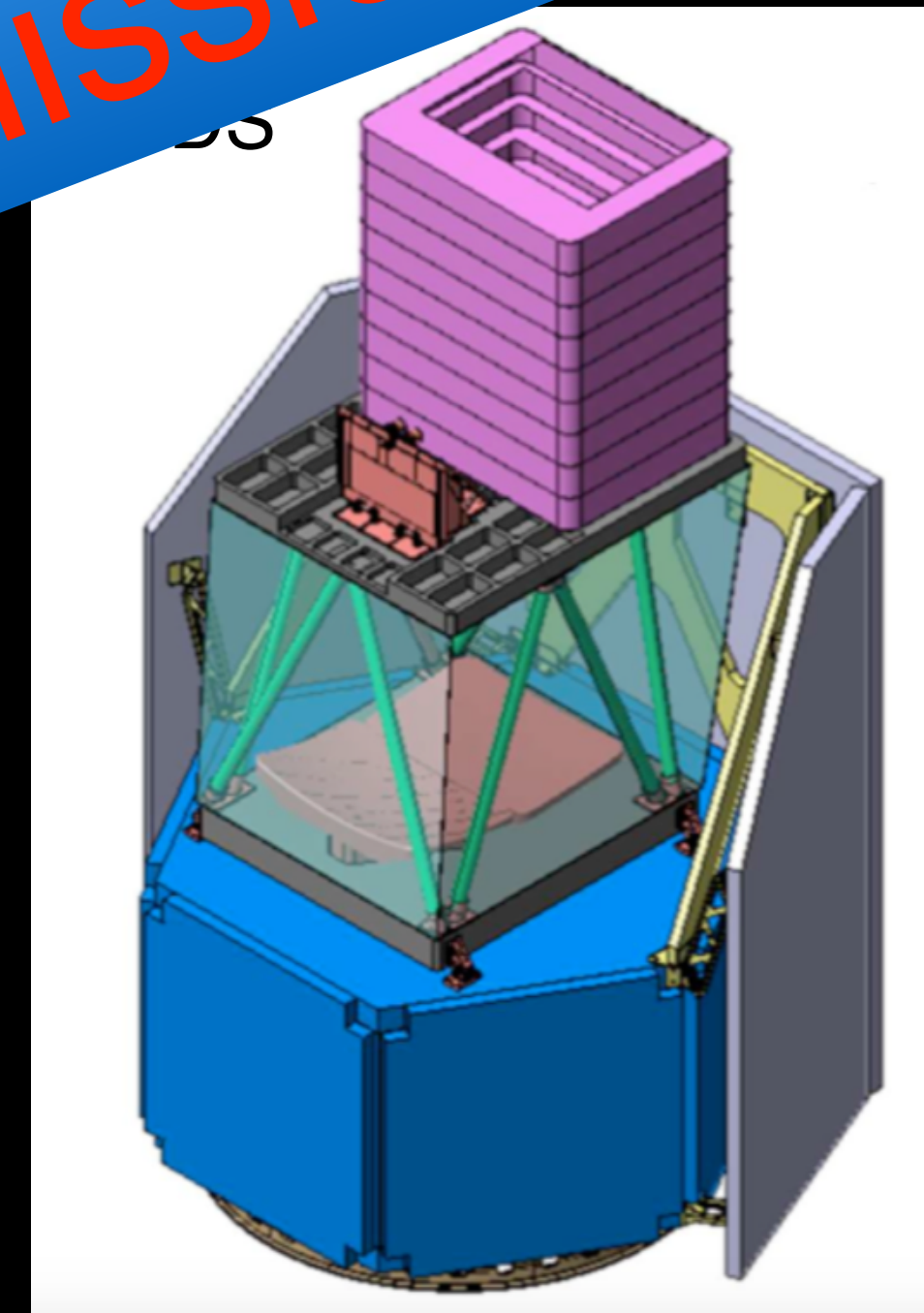
# Designs by two competing industrial contractors (EADS/CASA & QinetiQ)

- Platform : heritage from CHEOPS or PROBA-V
- Payload constraints: 65 kg and 60 W TRL > 6
- Total budget : 120 M€ (cost at completion)
- 150+ scientists in 16 countries

PROBA  
QinetiQ



**QinetiQ**



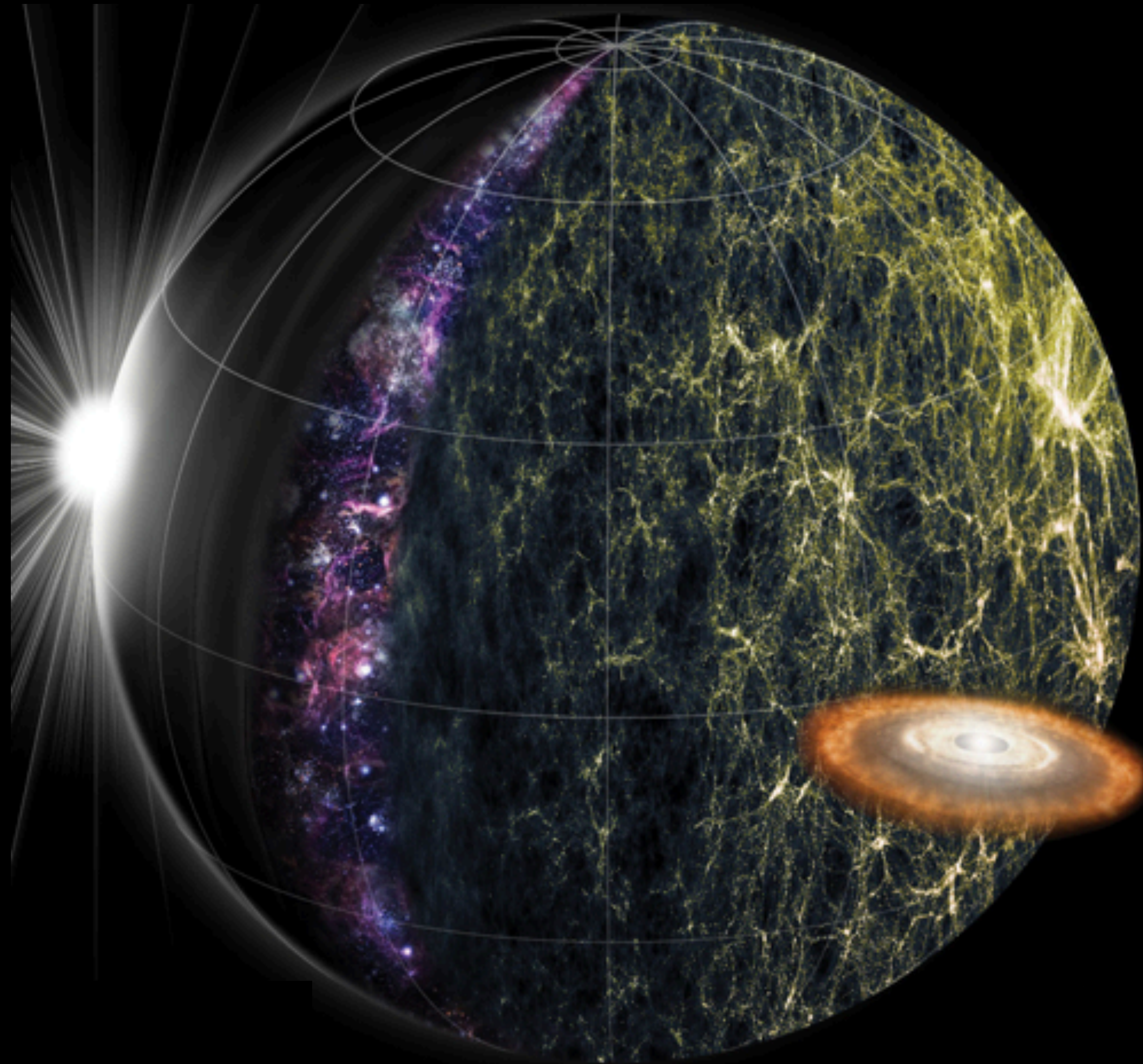
 **AIRBUS**  
DEFENCE & SPACE

 **SENER**

Not selected by ESA  
as a small-class mission



# MESSIER: An All-Sky Ultra-Low Surface Brightness Survey



## Designed for New Science

- The Complete Inventory of Galaxies
- The Baryonic Cosmic Web
- From the Zodiacal Light to the Cosmological Optical/UV backgrounds
- Unique discovery machine

## The First All-Sky Optical-UV LSB Survey

A Unique Legacy Archive for the Astronomy Community with 100s of Millions of Stars and Galaxies

## Low-Risk Implementation

- Single Observing Mode
- No Moving Parts
- Passive Cooling

Further partners welcome !







IAU Symposium 355

*The Realm of the Low Surface Brightness Universe*

Tenerife

8 –12 July 2019

<http://www.iac.es/congreso/iaus355>

