



The Galactic Center

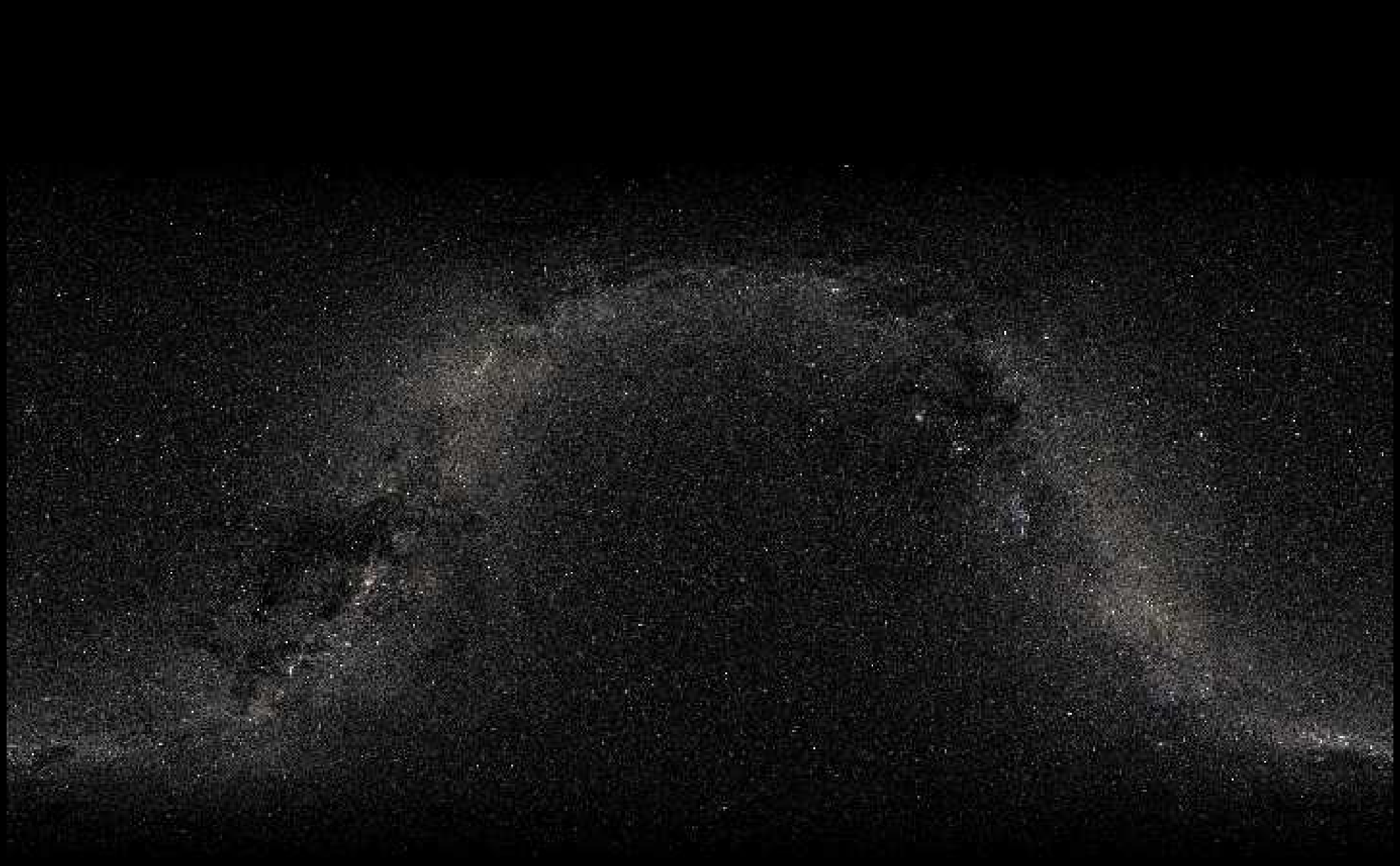
D.Seal/JPL

The Yale Bright Star Catalogue (9110 brightest stars)

A dense field of stars, representing the Hipparcos Catalogue. The stars are scattered across the frame, with varying brightness and colors, though most appear as small white or yellowish points against the black background.

D.Seal/JPL

The Hipparcos Catalogue (118000 stars)



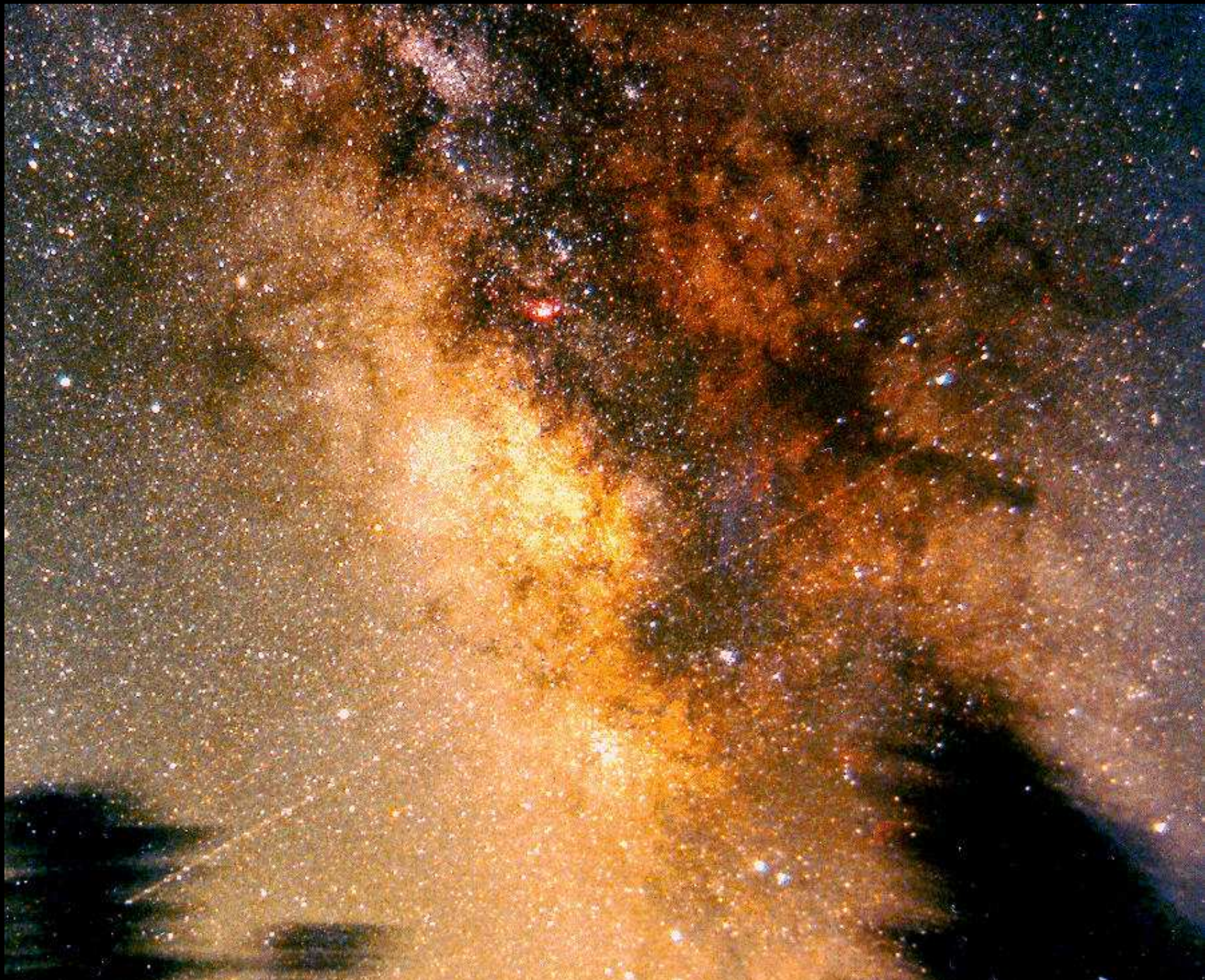
D.Seal/JPL

The second Tycho Catalogue (2.5 million stars)

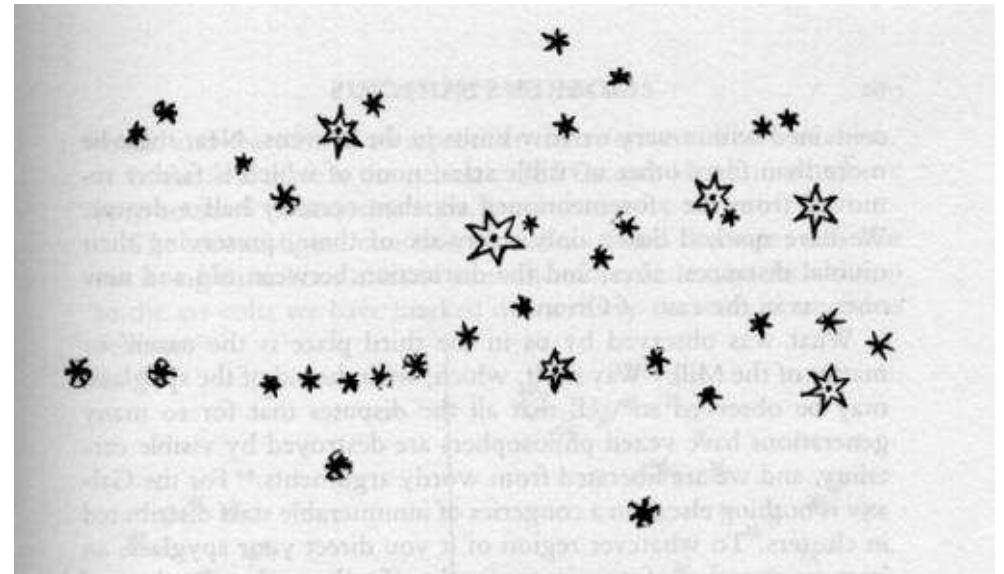
The Deep Sky



© 2000, Axel Mellinger



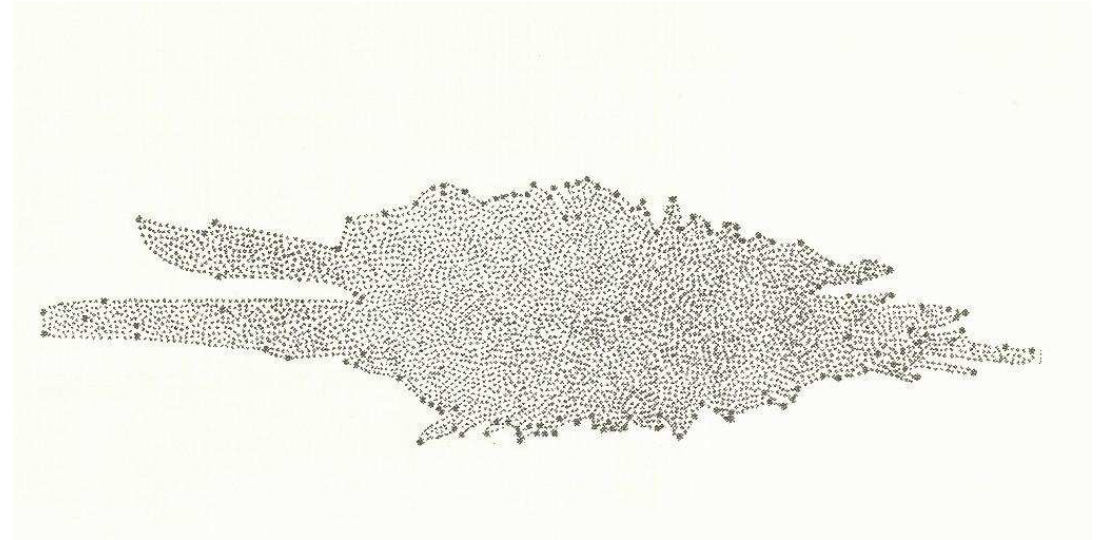
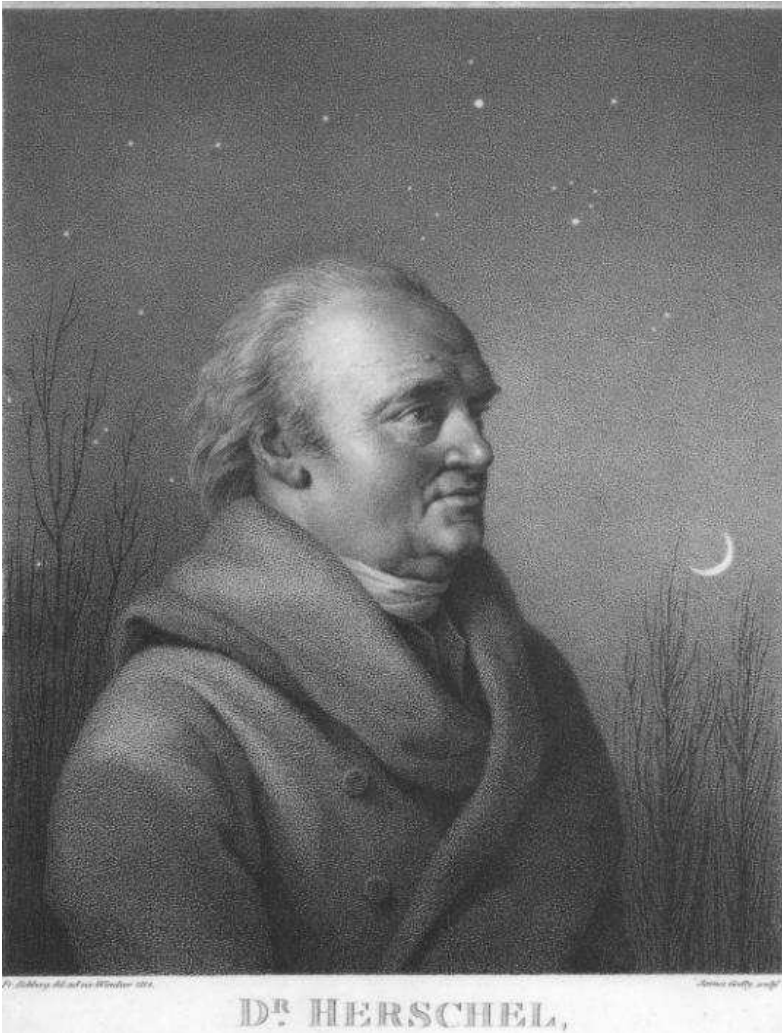
The Night Sky, VI



Galileo Galilei (1564–1642; *Sidereus Nuncius*): Telescope resolves (part of) the milky way in stars, discovers new stars \implies Milky way is not “milky”!



The Night Sky, VII

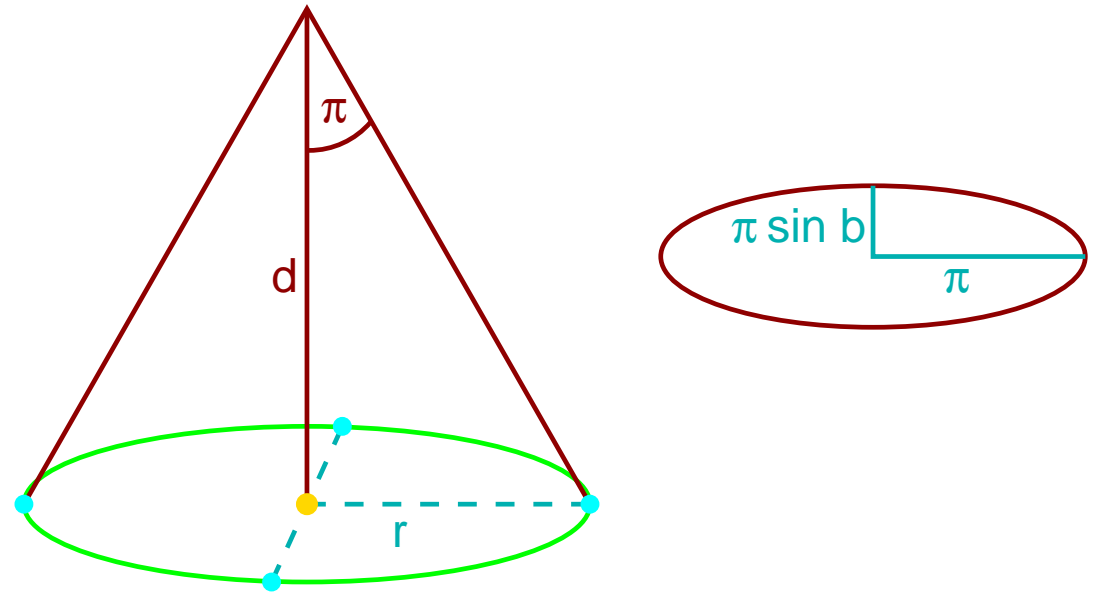


William Herschel (1738–1822): First attempts to determine morphology of the Galaxy.

Note: heliocentric!



The Night Sky, VIII



Wilhelm Bessel (1784–1846): First determination of a **stellar parallax**

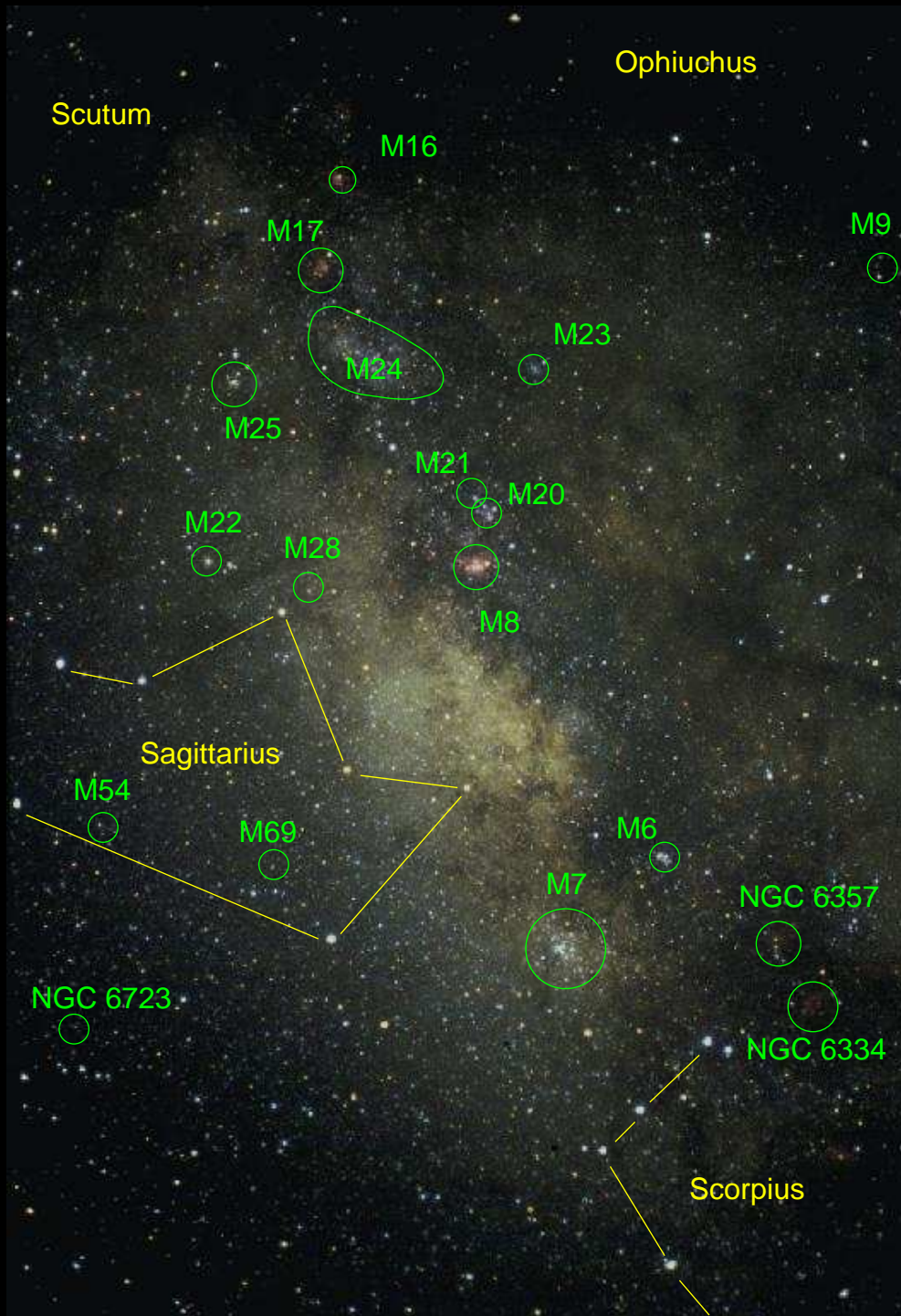
reminder:

$$1 \text{ parsec} = 3.26 \text{ Lj} = 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ km}$$

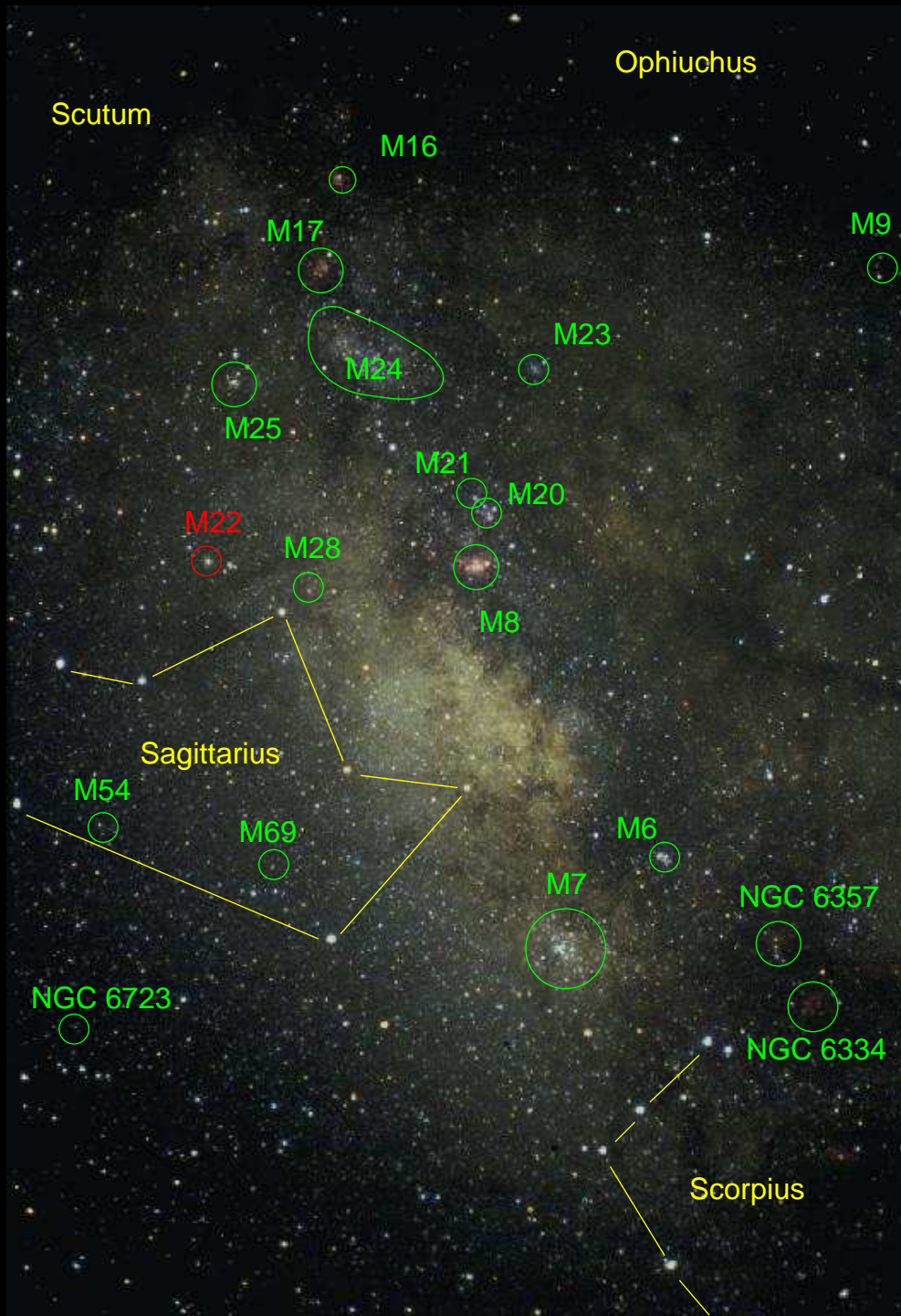


Milky way in Sagittarius
 $27^\circ \times 40^\circ$

W. Keel (U Alabama)



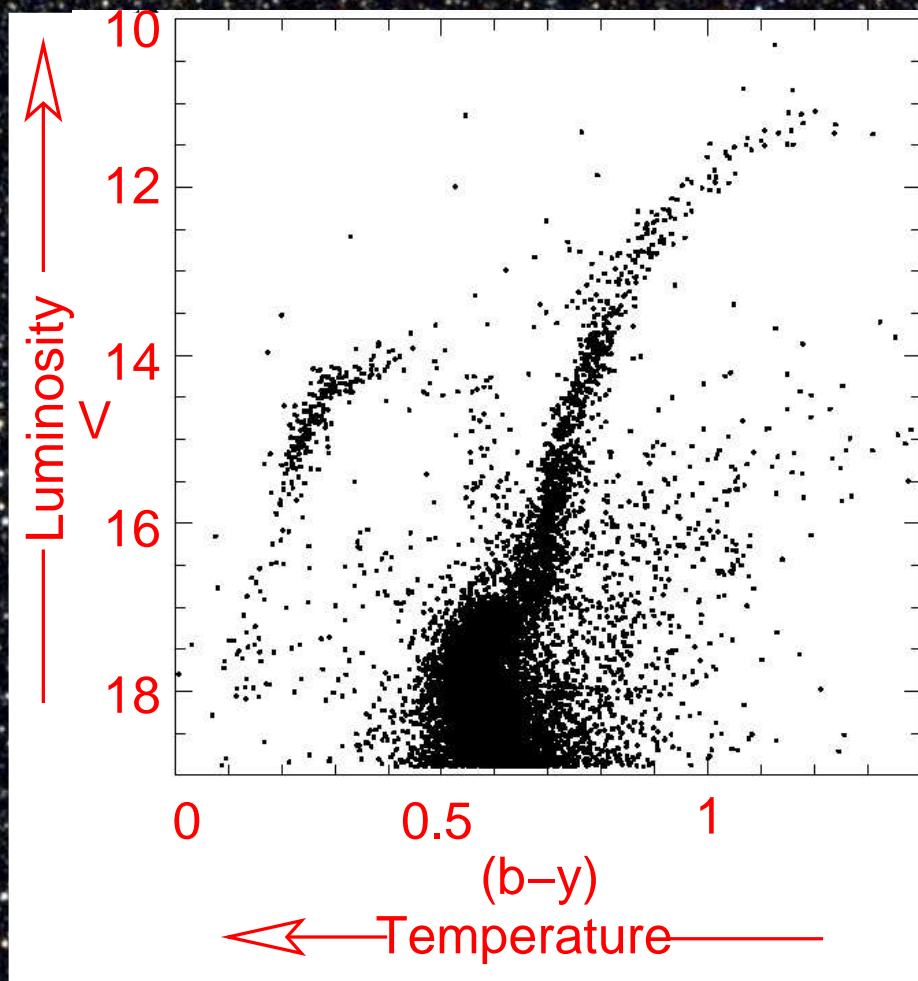
Milky way in Sagittarius
 $27^\circ \times 40^\circ$

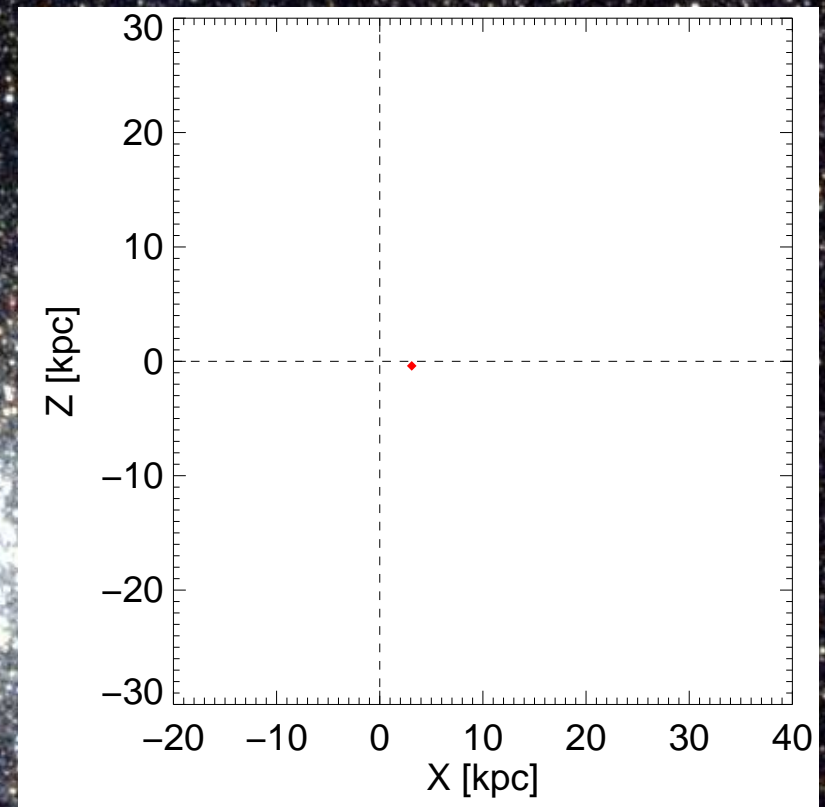
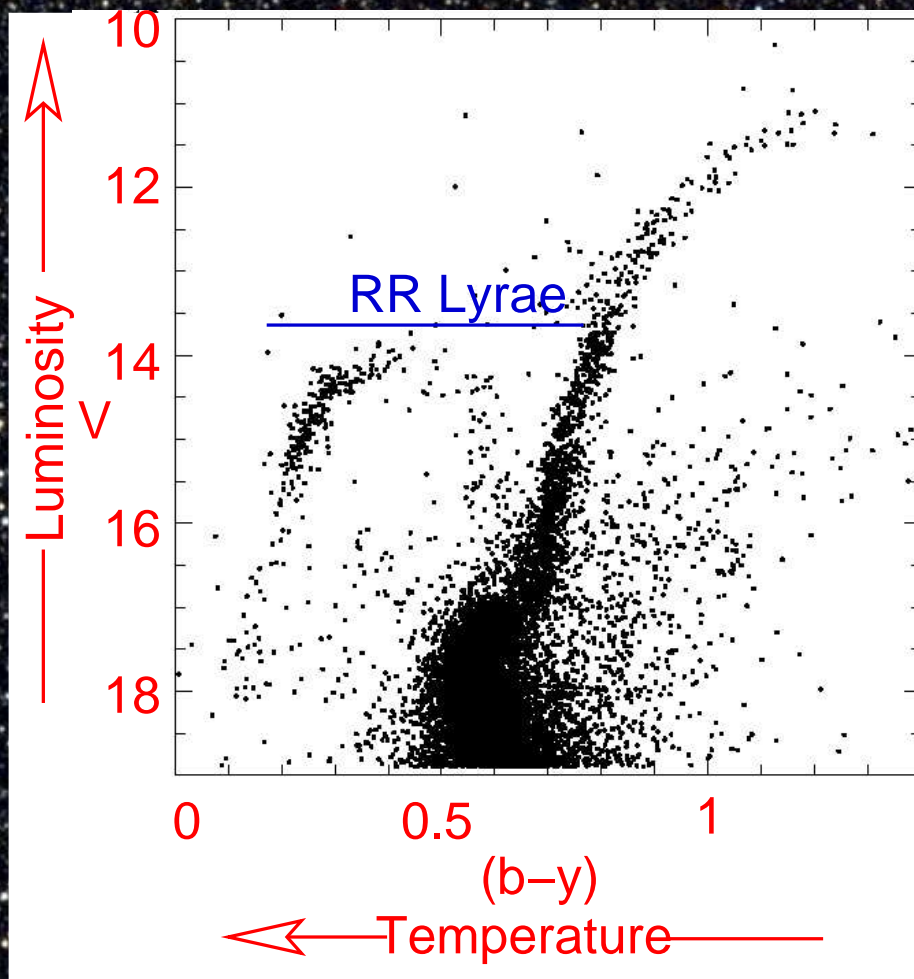


Milky way in Sagittarius
 $27^\circ \times 40^\circ$

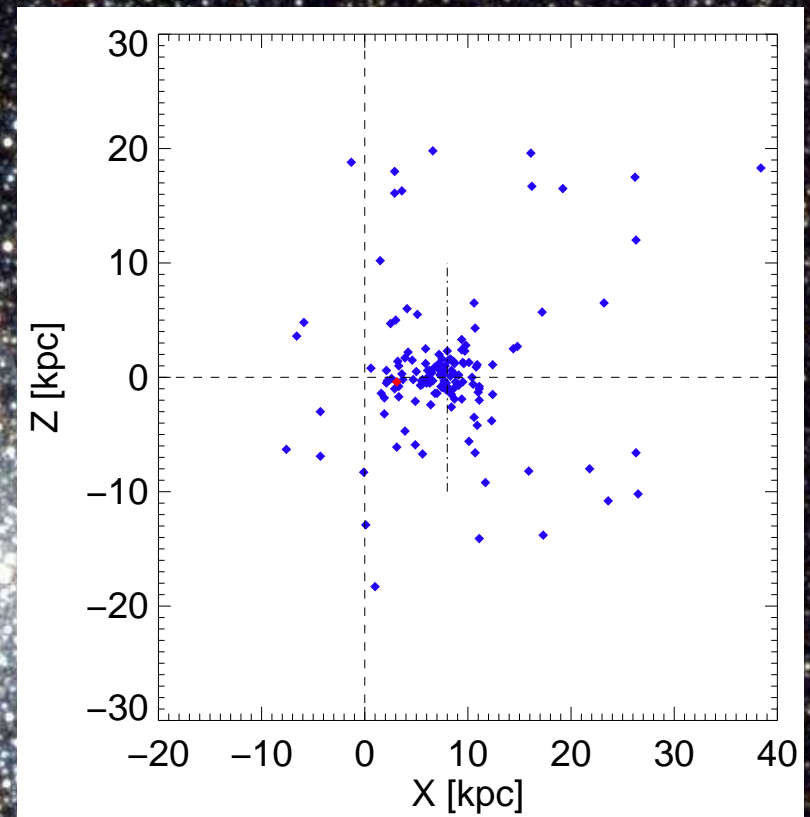
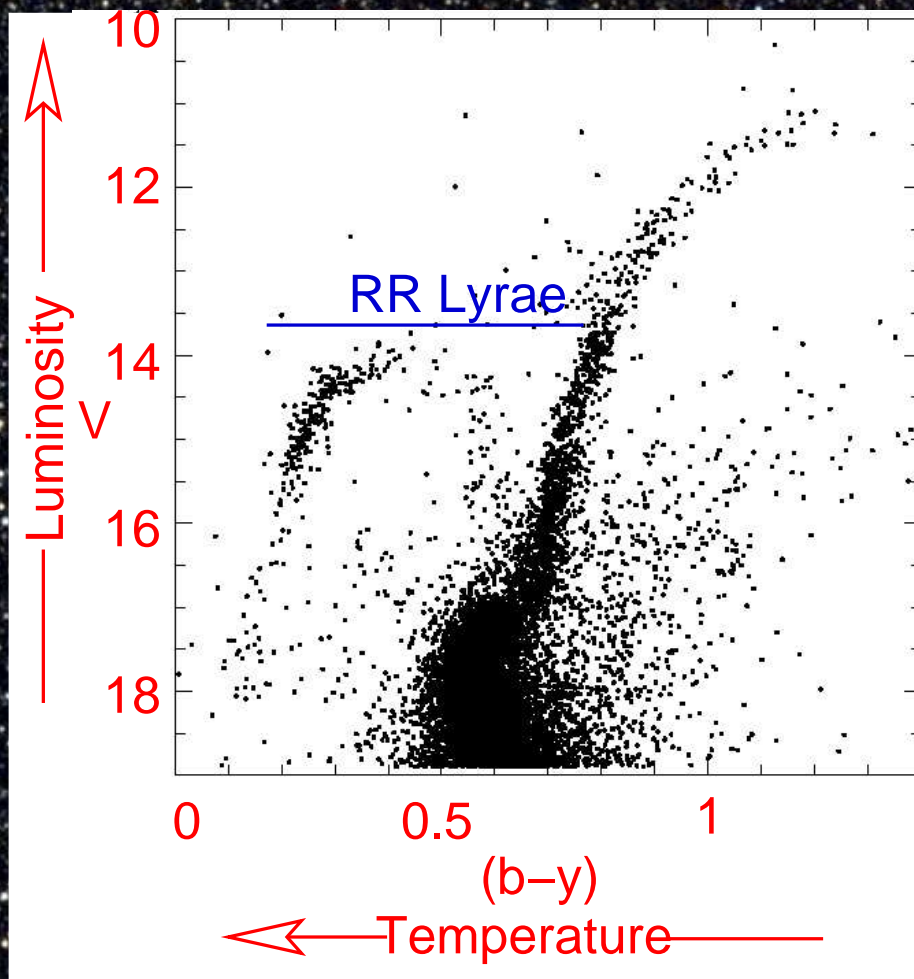


M22, KPNO (N.A.Sharp, REU program/NOAO/AURA/NSF)

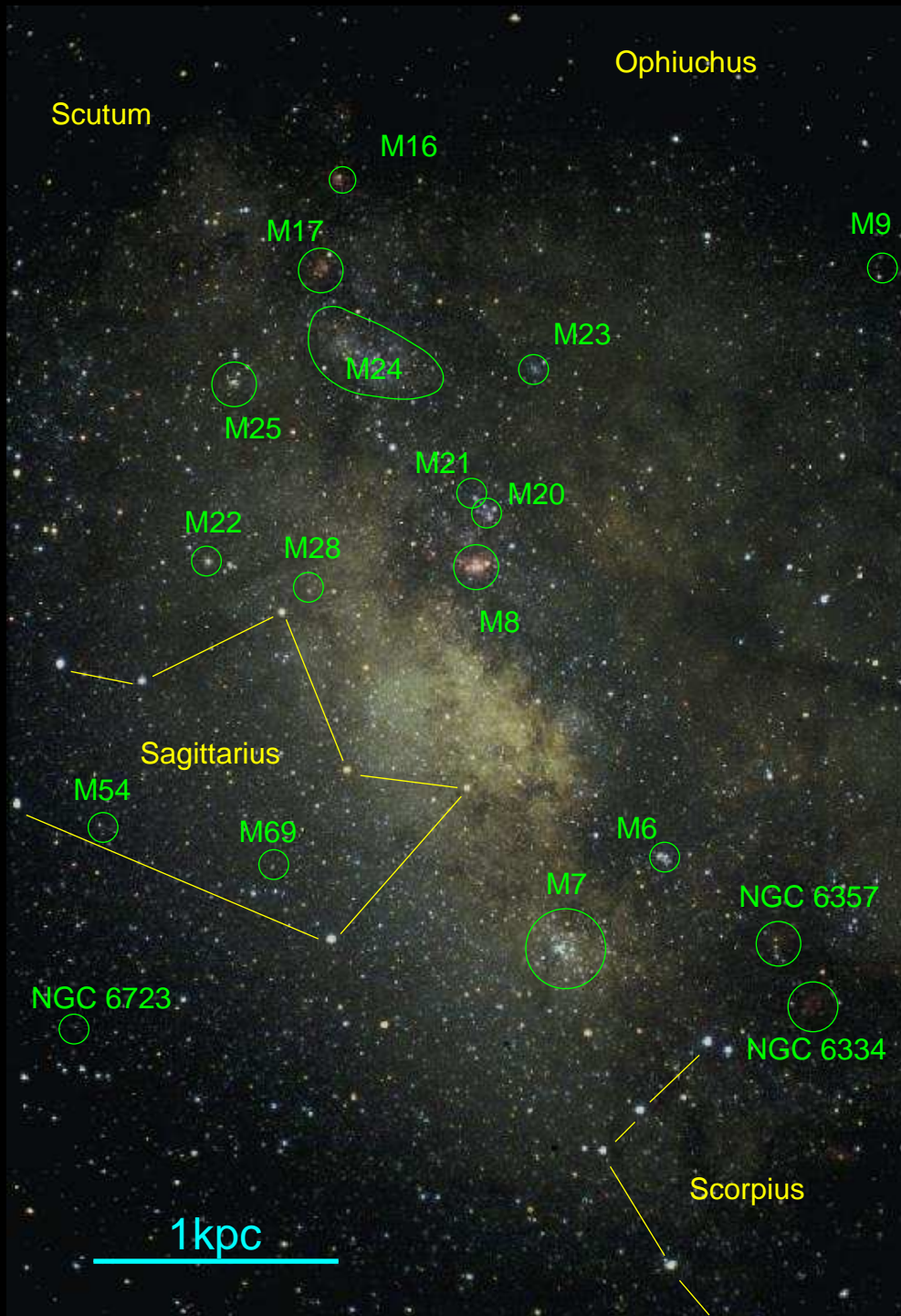




M22 has a distance of 3.2kpc



Galactic center has a distance of 8kpc



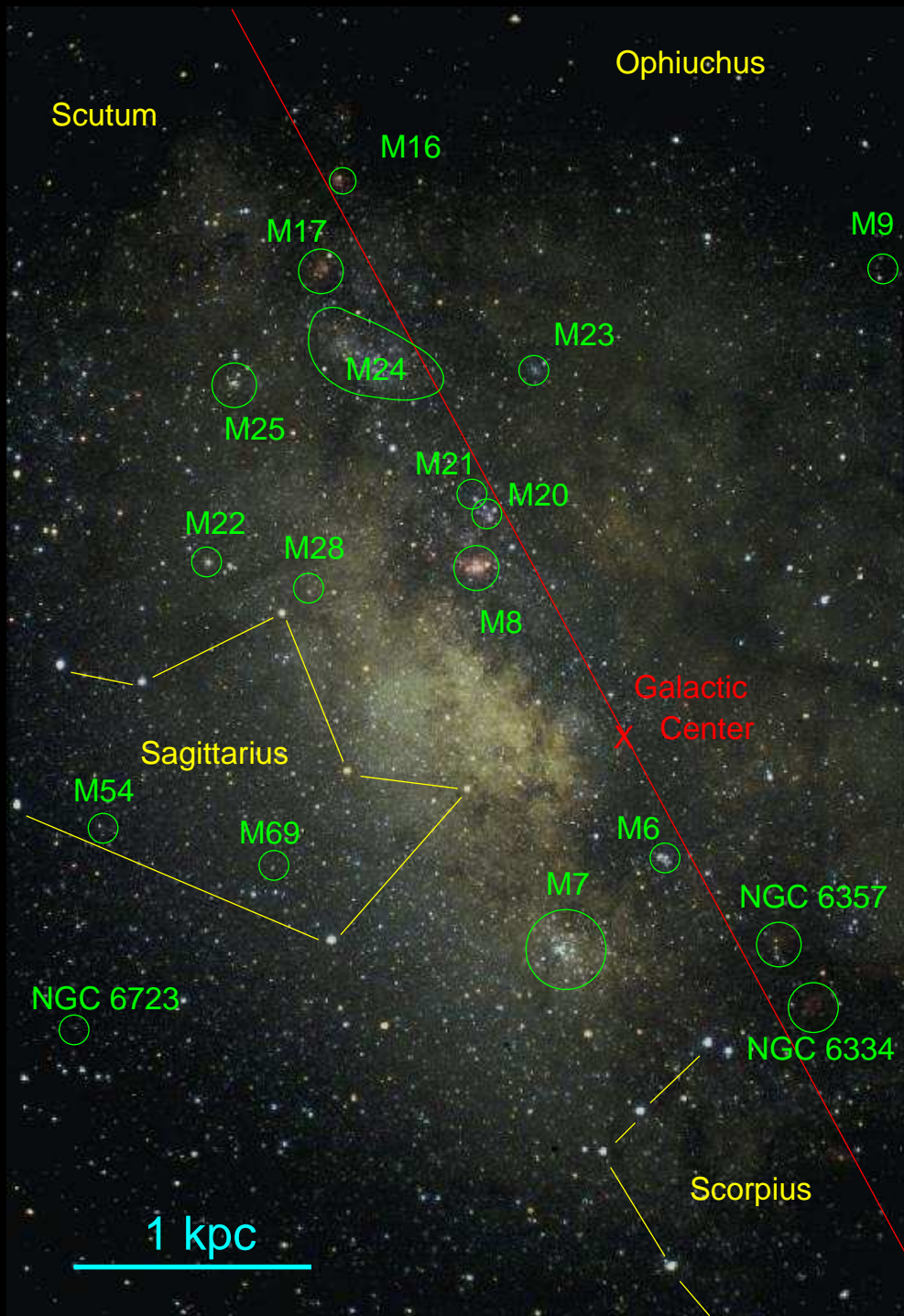
Milky way in Saggitarius
 $27^\circ \times 40^\circ$

Distance: 8 kpc

$\Rightarrow 1^\circ \sim 140 \text{ pc}$

$\Rightarrow 1' \sim 2 \text{ pc}$

$\Rightarrow 1'' \sim 0.03 \text{ pc}$



Milky way in Saggitarius

$27^\circ \times 40^\circ$

Distance: 8 kpc

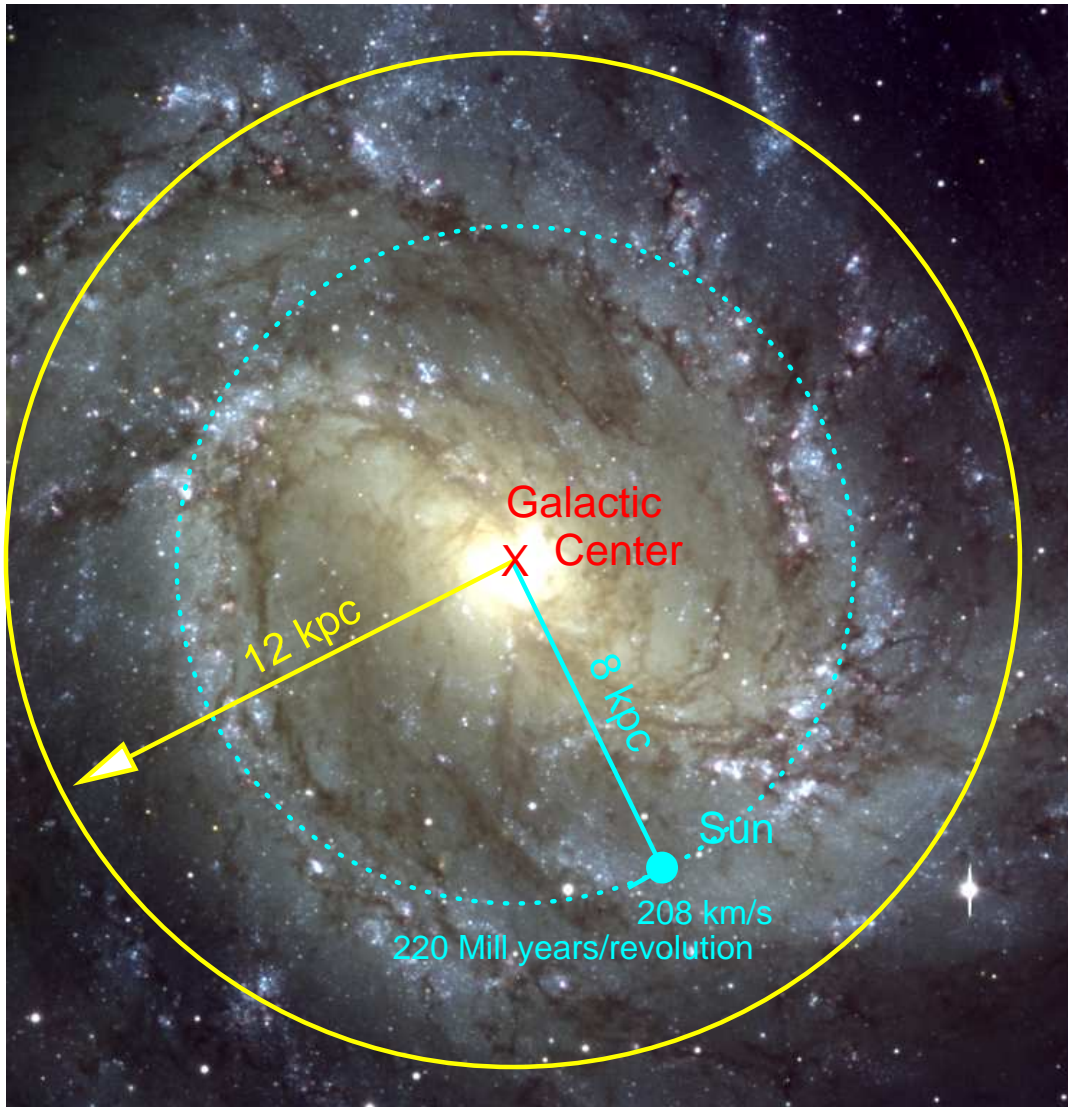
$\Rightarrow 1^\circ \sim 140 \text{ pc}$

$\Rightarrow 1' \sim 2 \text{ pc}$

$\Rightarrow 1'' \sim 0.03 \text{ pc}$



Milky Way as a Galaxy



M83: ESO [VLT ANTU+FORS1]

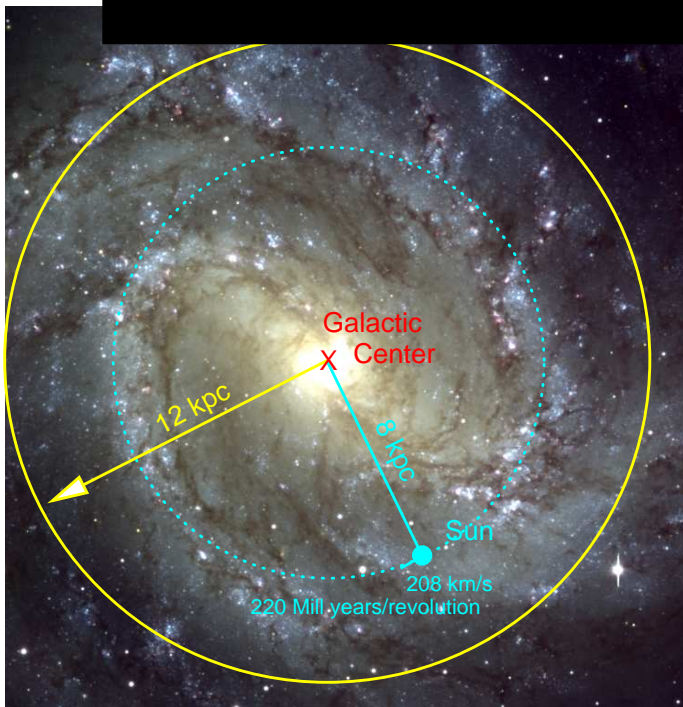
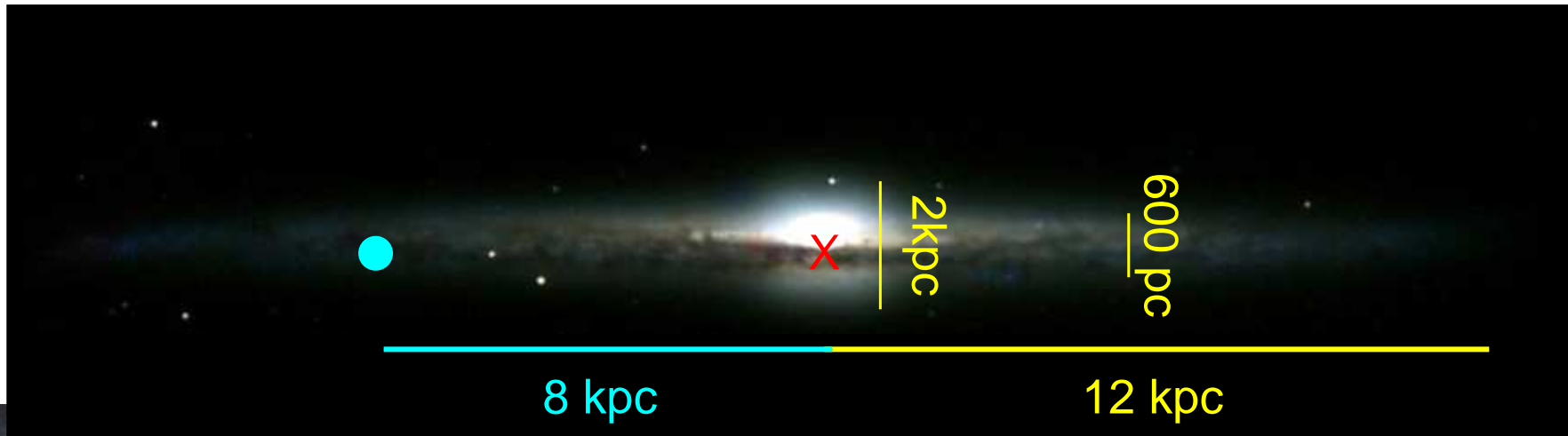
Luminosity: $\sim 2 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot}$
Mass: $\sim 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ (radiating)
 $\sim 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ (total)

Stellar density:
 $\sim 0.3 M_{\odot} \text{ pc}^{-3}$

$1 M_{\odot} = 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ g} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$,
 $1 L_{\odot} = 4 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1} = 4 \times 10^{26} \text{ W}$



Milky Way as a Galaxy



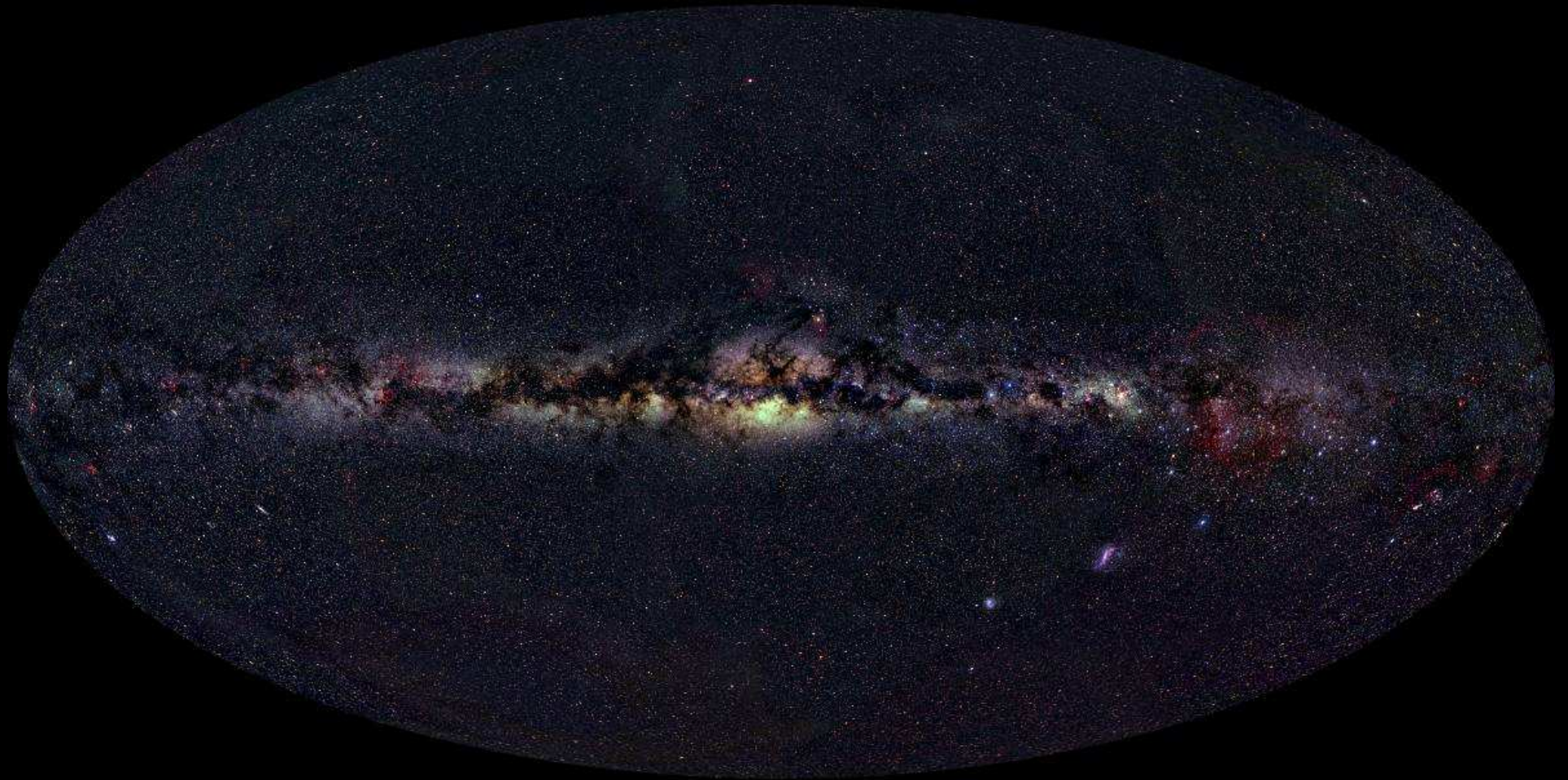
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NGC 4565: W. McLaughlin

The Deep Sky



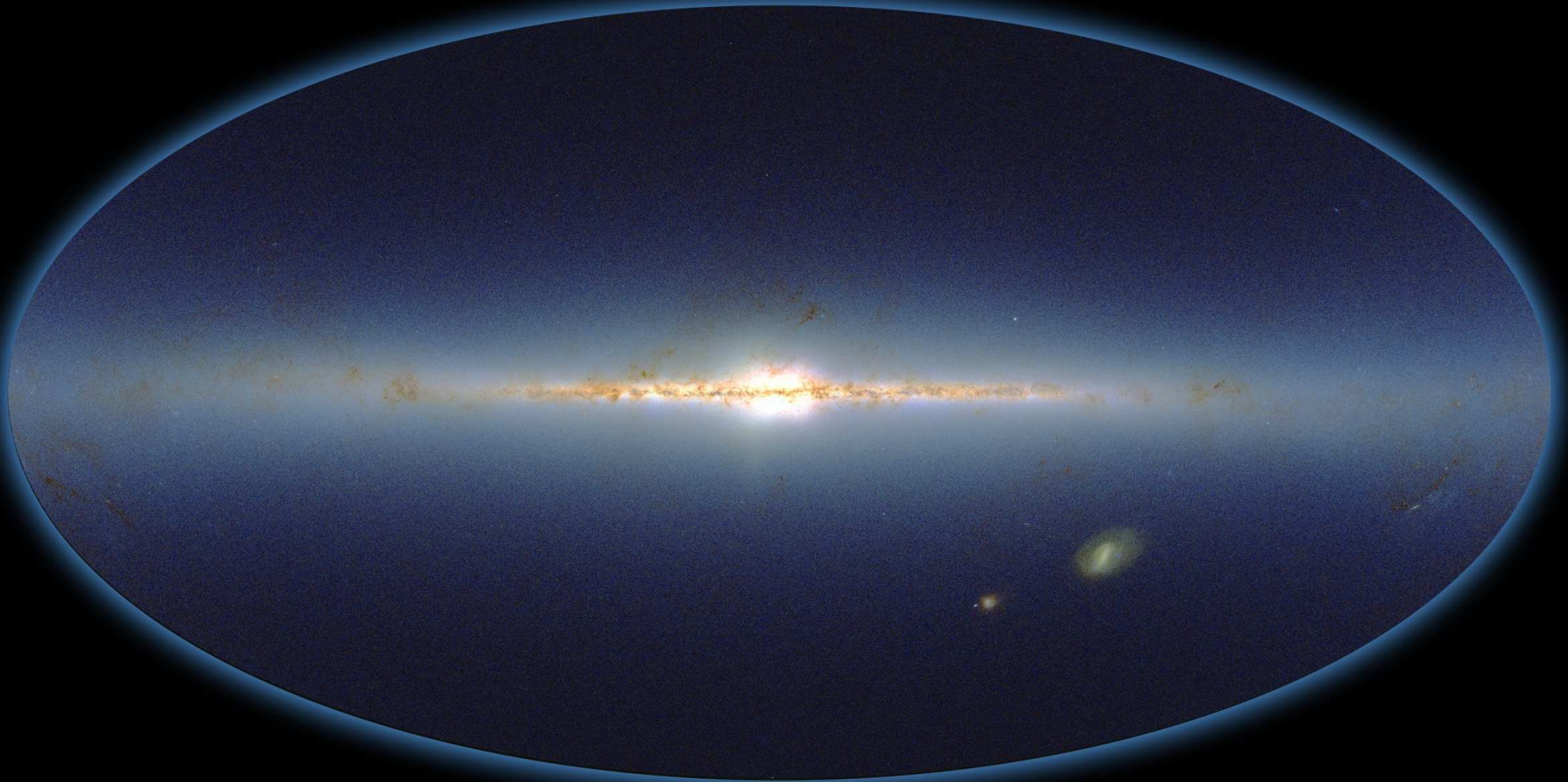
© 2000, Axel Mellinger

Problem: strong extinction due to dust

($A_V \sim 30$ mag: 10^{12} times reduction in the optical!)

⇒ Multiwavelength astronomy!

2MASS Covers the Sky

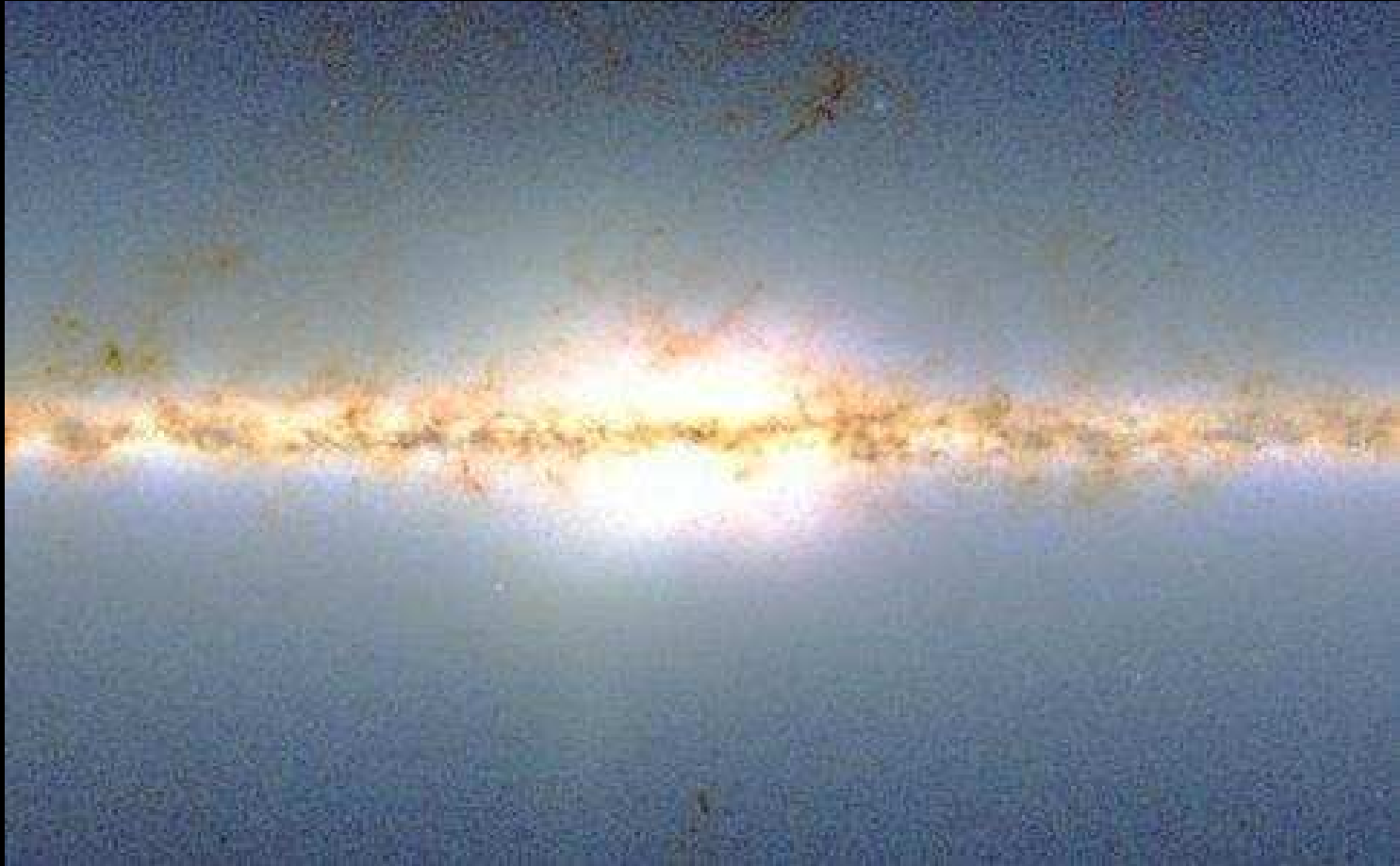


The Two Micron All Sky Survey

Infrared Processing and Analysis Center/Caltech & Univ. of Massachusetts

Infra red: Dust becomes transparent!

2MASS: 3 IR Bänder: J ($1.25 \mu\text{m}$), H ($1.65 \mu\text{m}$), K_s ($2.17 \mu\text{m}$)



2MASS: inner $60^\circ \times 45^\circ$

Combined 2MASS–MSX View of the Galactic Center



Two Micron All Sky Survey
– Southern Facility –
2MASS Atlas Image Mosaic

Infrared Processing and Analysis Center & University of Massachusetts



Midcourse Space Experiment
SPIRIT III

2MASS/MSX: Inner $4^\circ \times 2^\circ$

2MASS (J [$1.25 \mu\text{m}$], red), (K [$2.17 \mu\text{m}$], green), MSX (A [$6\text{--}11 \mu\text{m}$], blue)



Naval Research Laboratory

Wide-Field Radio Image of the Galactic Center

$\lambda = 90 \text{ cm}$

(Kassim, LaRosa, Lazio, & Hyman 1999)

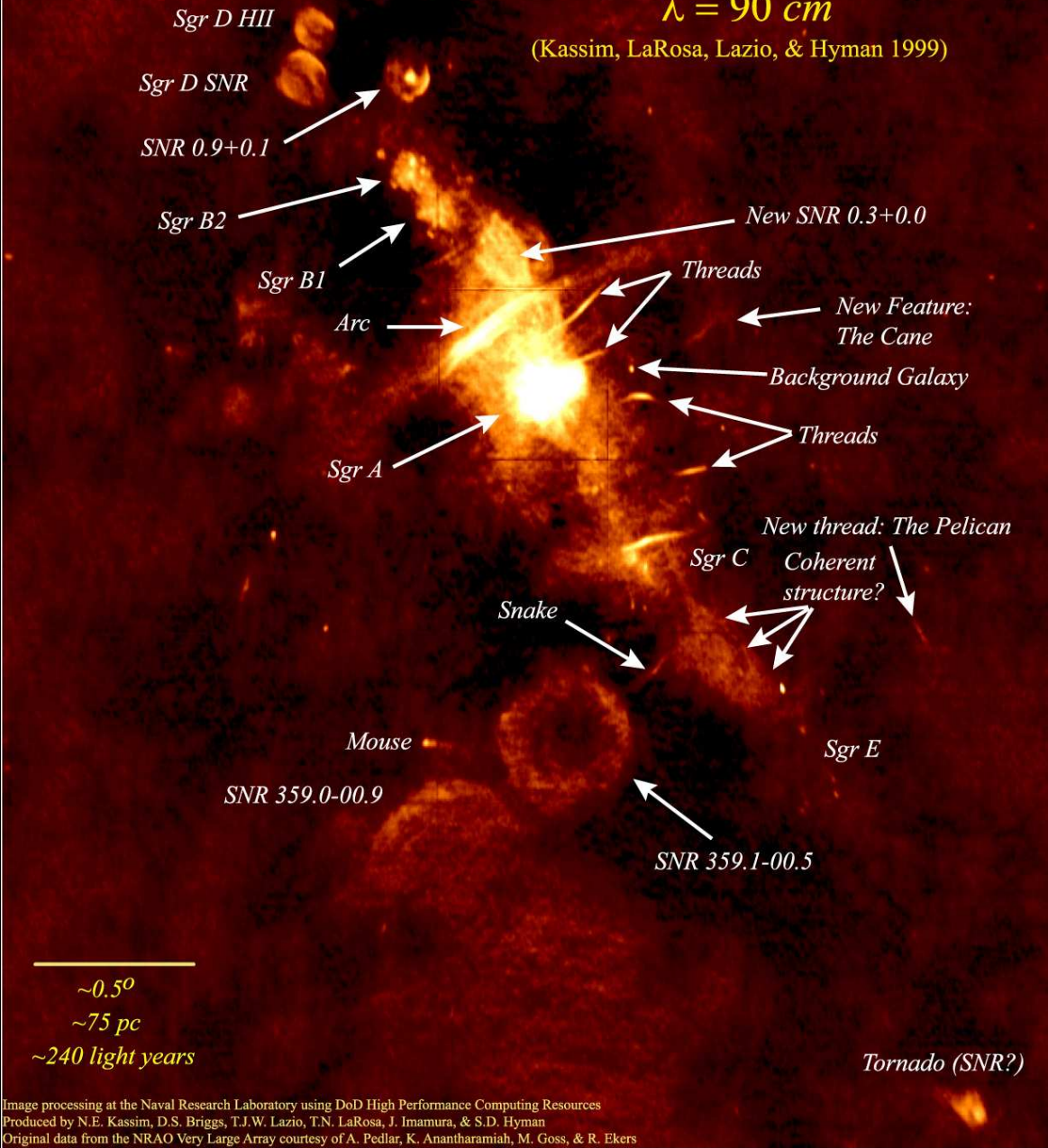
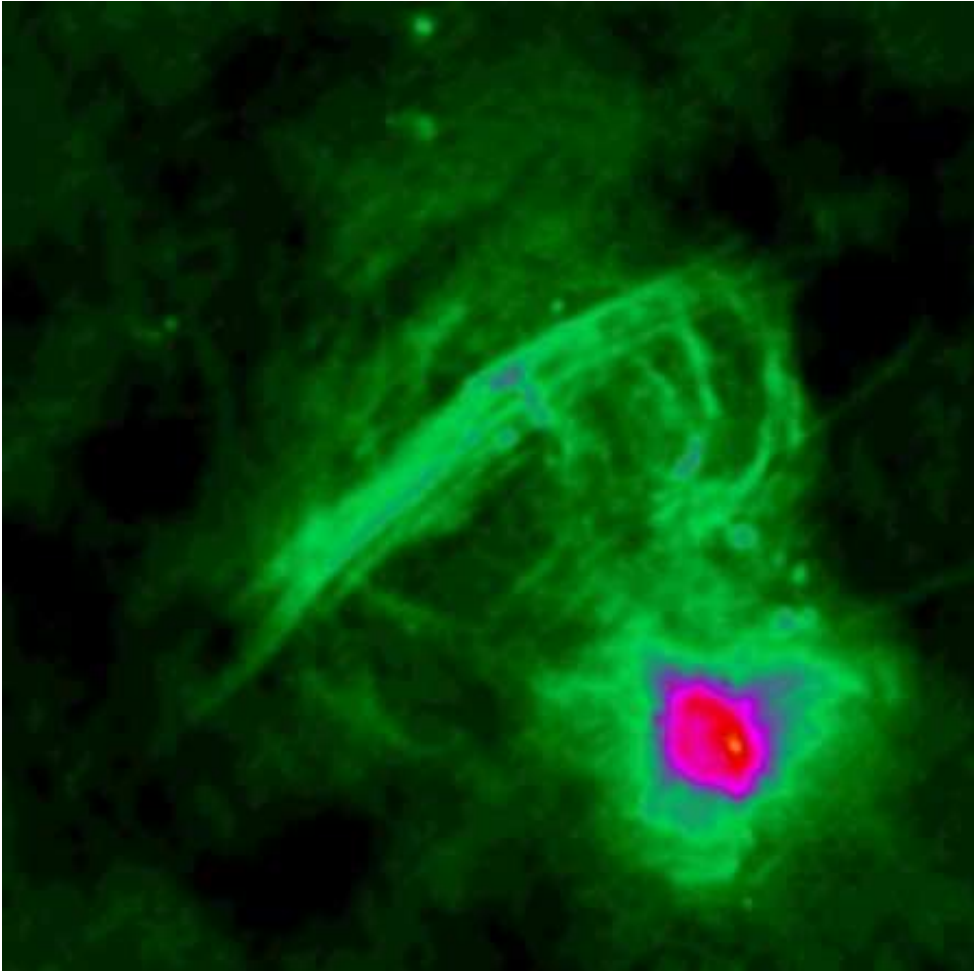


Image processing at the Naval Research Laboratory using DoD High Performance Computing Resources
 Produced by N.E. Kassim, D.S. Briggs, T.J.W. Lazio, T.N. LaRosa, J. Imamura, & S.D. Hyman
 Original data from the NRAO Very Large Array courtesy of A. Pedlar, K. Anantharamiah, M. Goss, & R. Ekers



The Inner kpc



70 pc \times 70 pc, VLA (F. Yusef-Zadeh et al., 1982–1984)

©NRAO/AUI

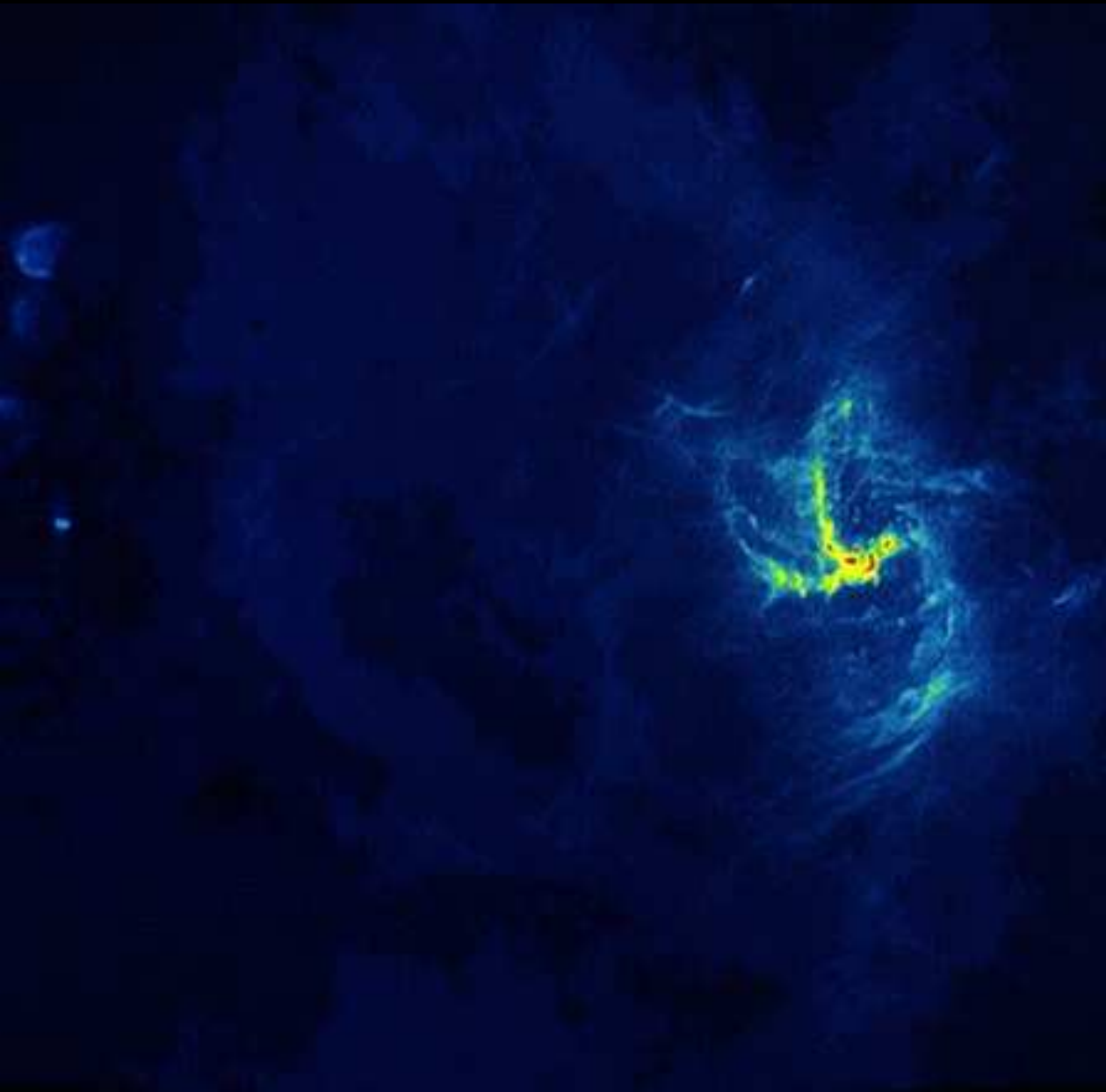
Radio source **Sgr A**:

Sgr A (West) (**Arc**): 5'' (=0.2 pc) broad radio filaments, part of a much larger Ω -shaped structure \perp galactic plane.

polarized, steep radio spectrum \implies

synchrotron radiation (nonthermal electrons; $n_e(E) \propto E^{-p}$)!

caused by shocks from supernovae?



Sgr A West (“spiral”):

2 pc diameter,

$\sim 60 M_{\odot}$ ionized gas, shaped by tidal forces

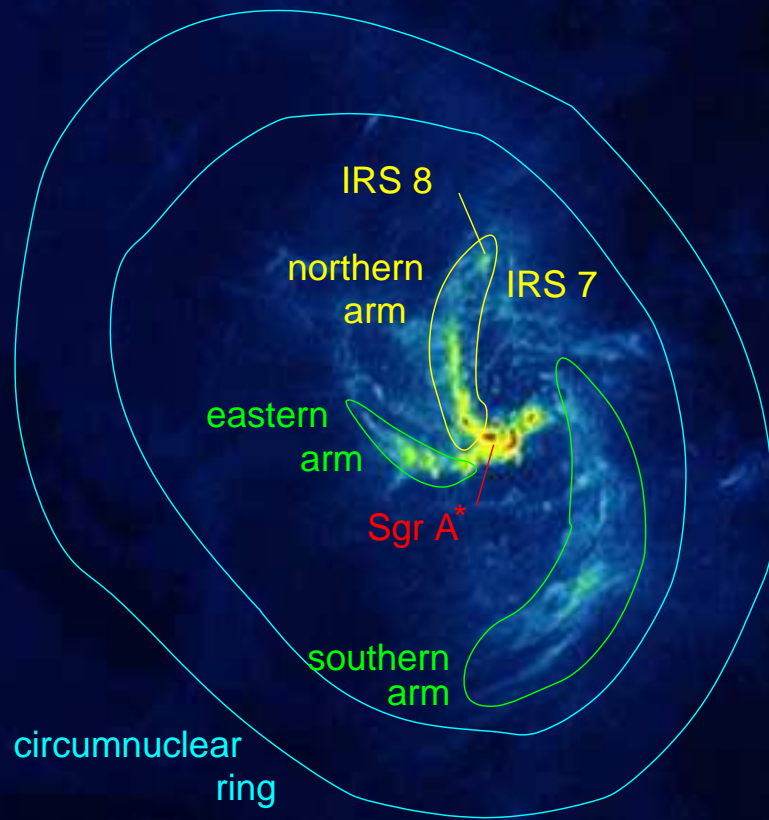
(probably influence of mG B-field), northern arm falls on center, east and south arms rotate.

around Sgr A West: circumnuclear disk of molecular gas, ($r \sim 2$ pc).

total mass accretion rate onto

Sgr A*:

$\sim 3 \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$



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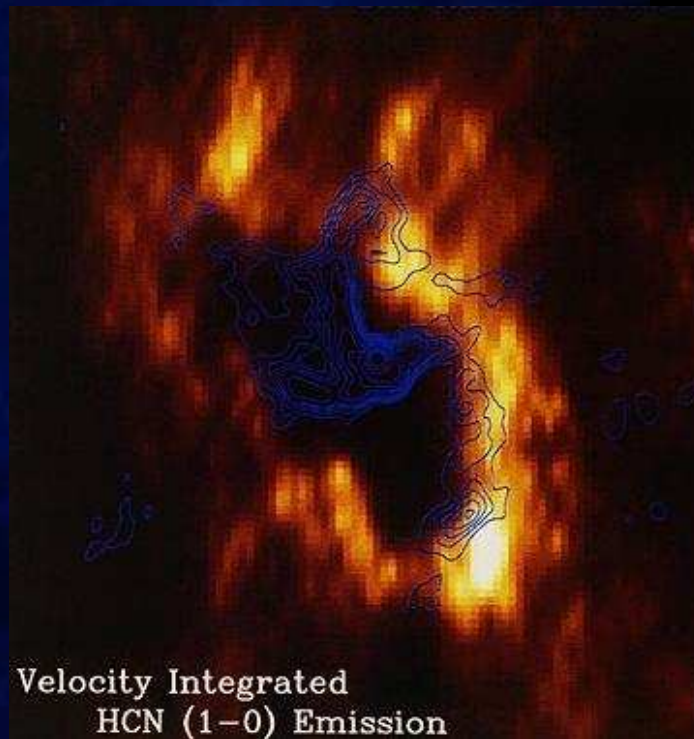
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The Inner Parsec: Central Cluster, I



Center of Sgr A contains **massive and dense cluster**

($> 10^6 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-3}$, compare solar neighborhood: $0.1 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-3}$)

Spectroscopy: Stars are rich in **Helium**, early type (=massive), strong winds

($v_{\text{Wind}} \sim 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$).



The Inner Parsec: Central Cluster, II



Observations are difficult because
of **astronomical seeing**
($\sim 0.7'' = 0.2 \text{ pc}$)

Gemini North/AURA



The Inner Parsec: Central Cluster, III



Gemini North/AURA

Observations are difficult because of **astronomical seeing**

($\sim 0.7'' = 0.2 \text{ pc}$)

... which can be corrected by

adaptive optics

\implies resolution: **diffraction limit!**

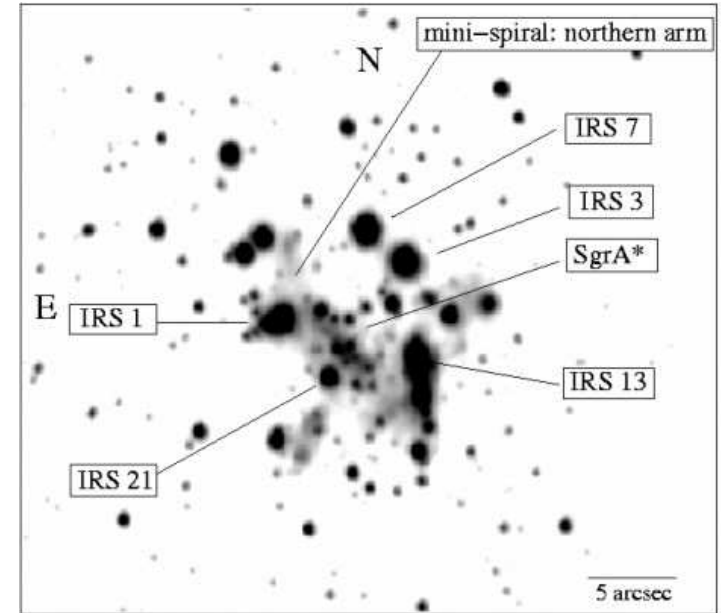
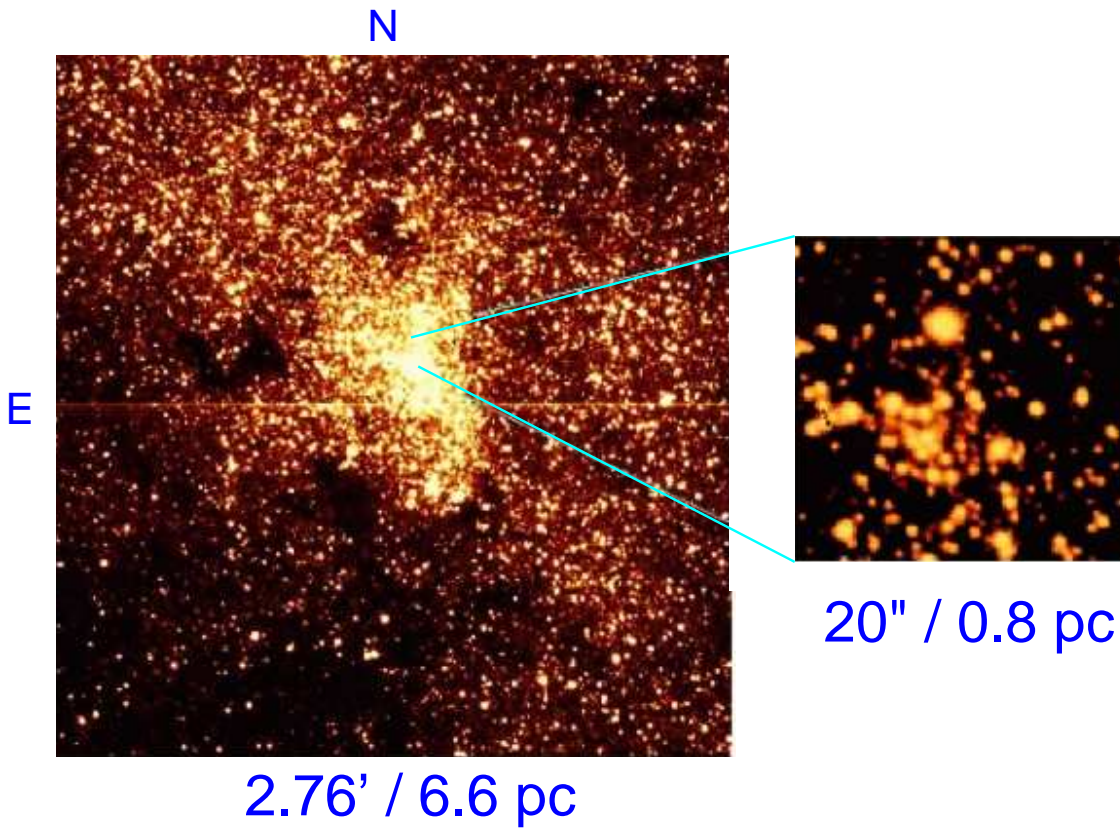
$$\theta = 1.22 \text{ rad} \cdot \lambda/d \sim 1 \text{ mas}$$

(for $d = 8 \text{ m}$, $\lambda = 2.2 \mu\text{m}$)

\implies **140 AU for gal. center!**

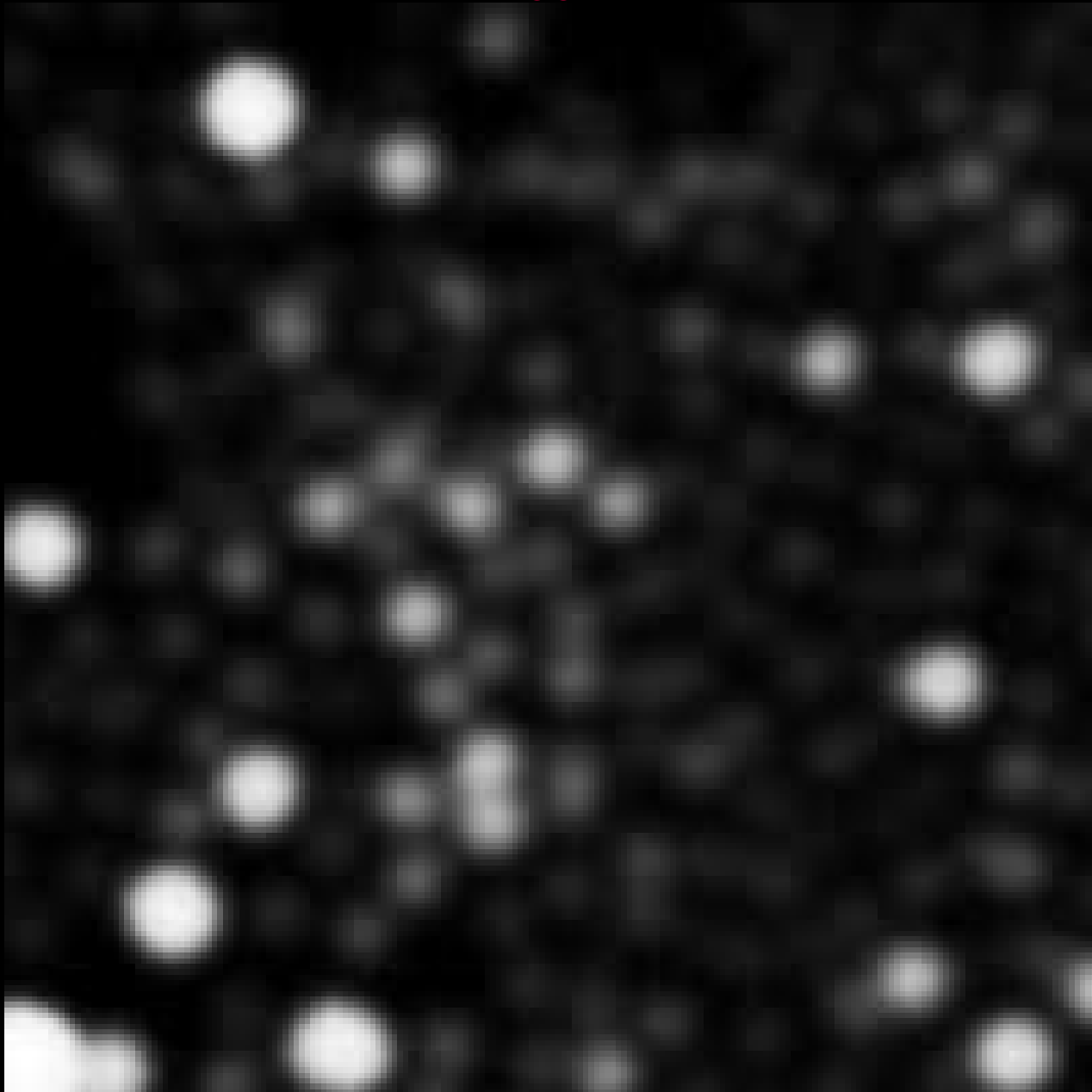


The Inner Parsec: Central Cluster, IV



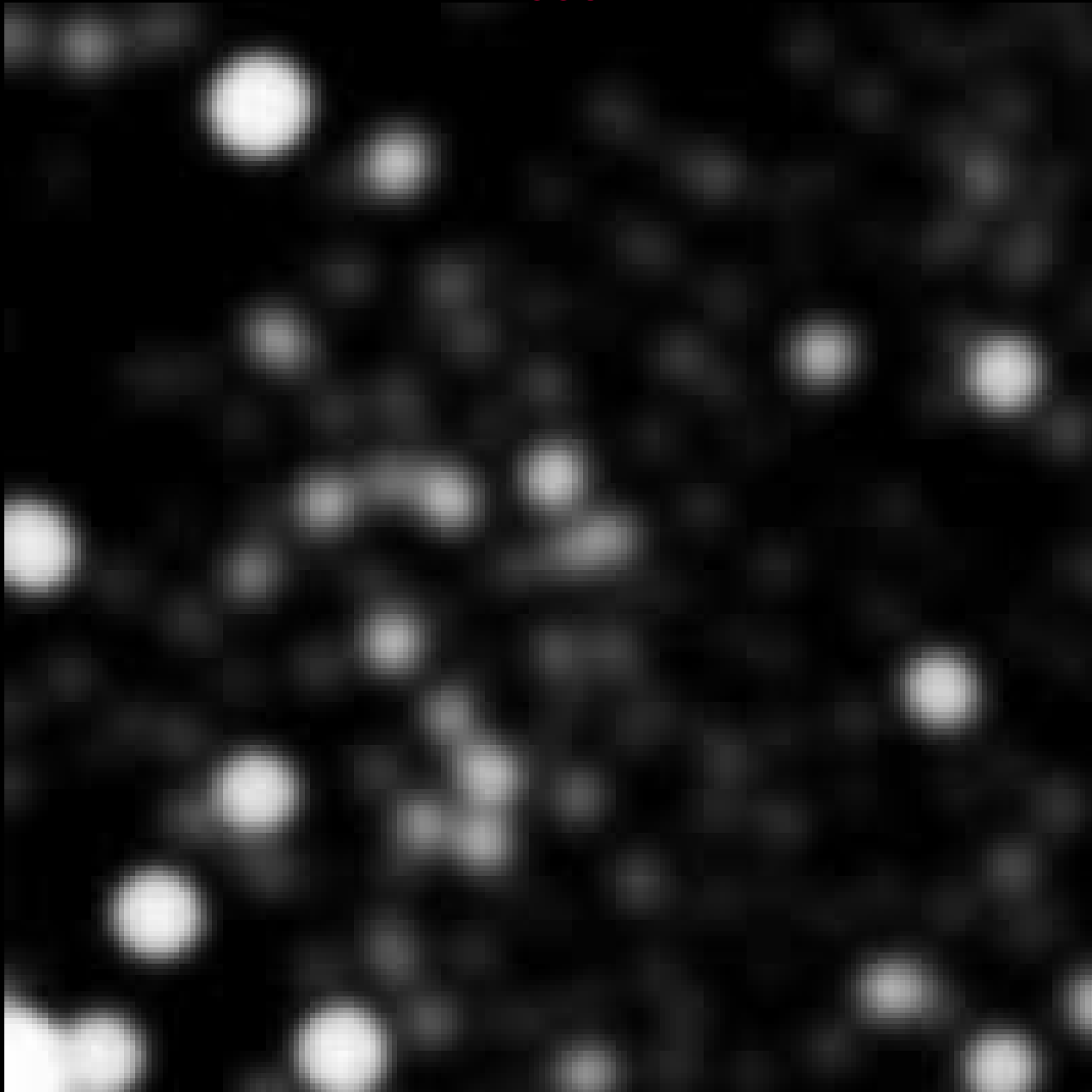
VLT ISAAC K-Band ($2.2 \mu\text{m}$) (Genzel/Eckart)

1994



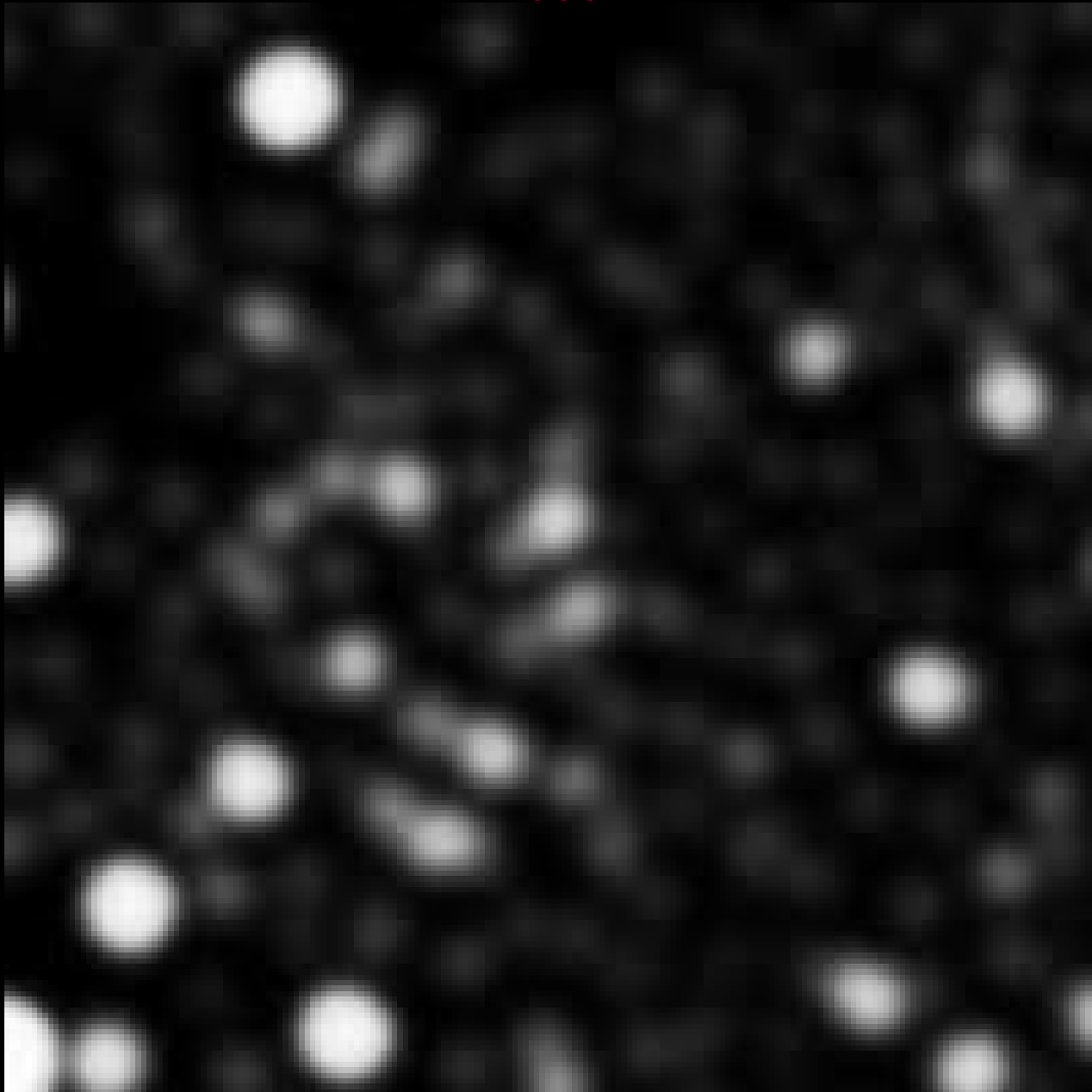
Genzel/Eckart

1996



Genzel/Eckart

2000



Genzel/Eckart

Stellar Proper Motions in the Galactic Center



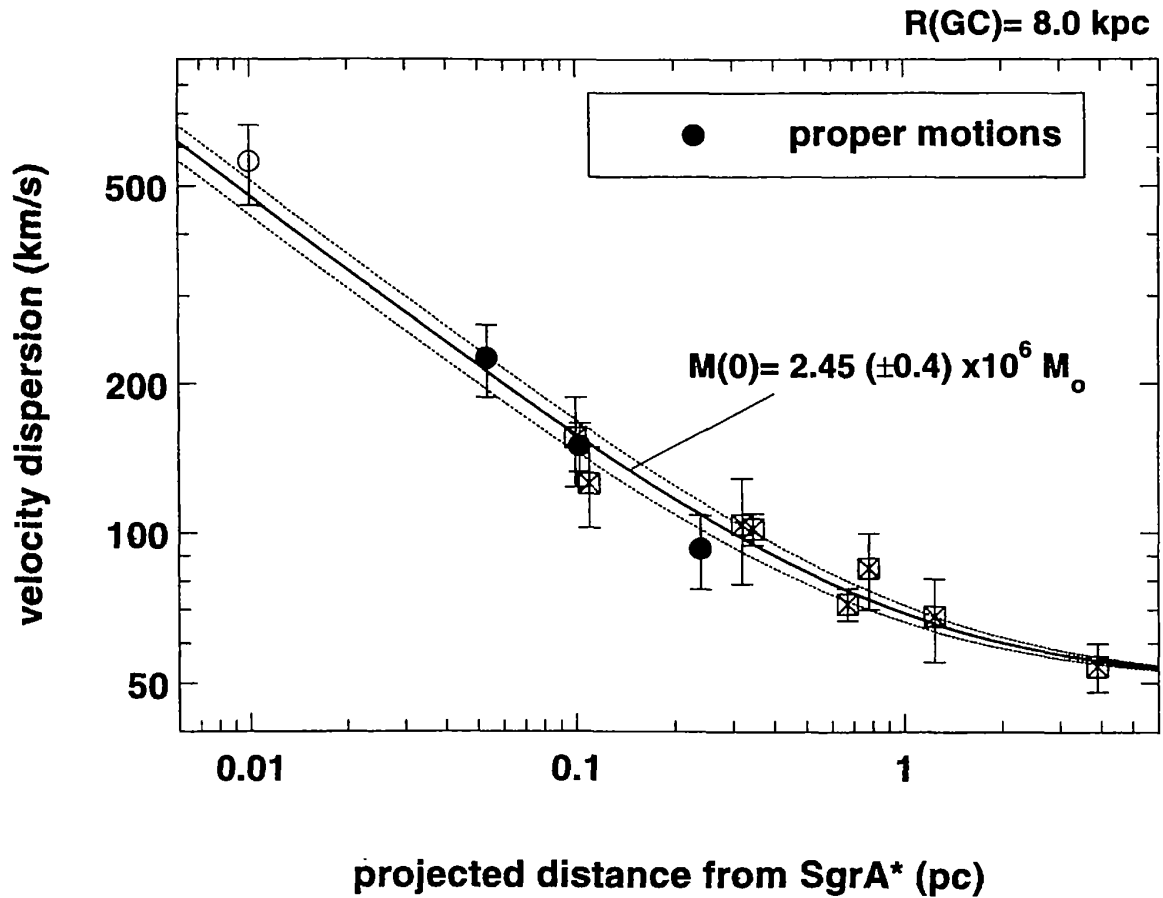
500 km/s

2" (93 light days)



Genzel et al. (MPE)/Ghez et al. (UCLA): dynamical mass determination by measuring the proper motion of ~ 40 stars of the central cluster (Fig.: MPE results 1991–2000).

The inner parsec: mass determination

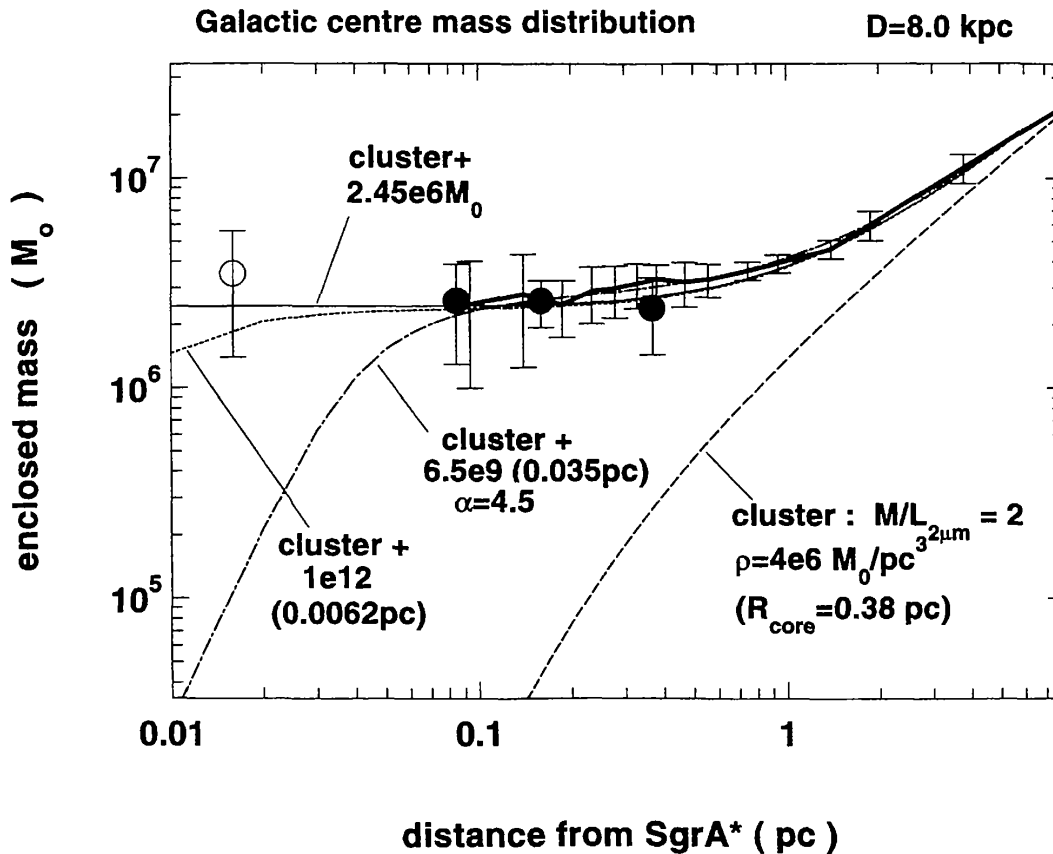


Velocity dispersion in the center
 For $r \geq 0.057$ pc: **Keplerian velocity profile** ($\sigma_v \propto v^{-1/2}$), influenced by cluster at smaller distances

Eckart & Genzel, 1997, MNRAS, 284, 576



The inner parsec: mass determination



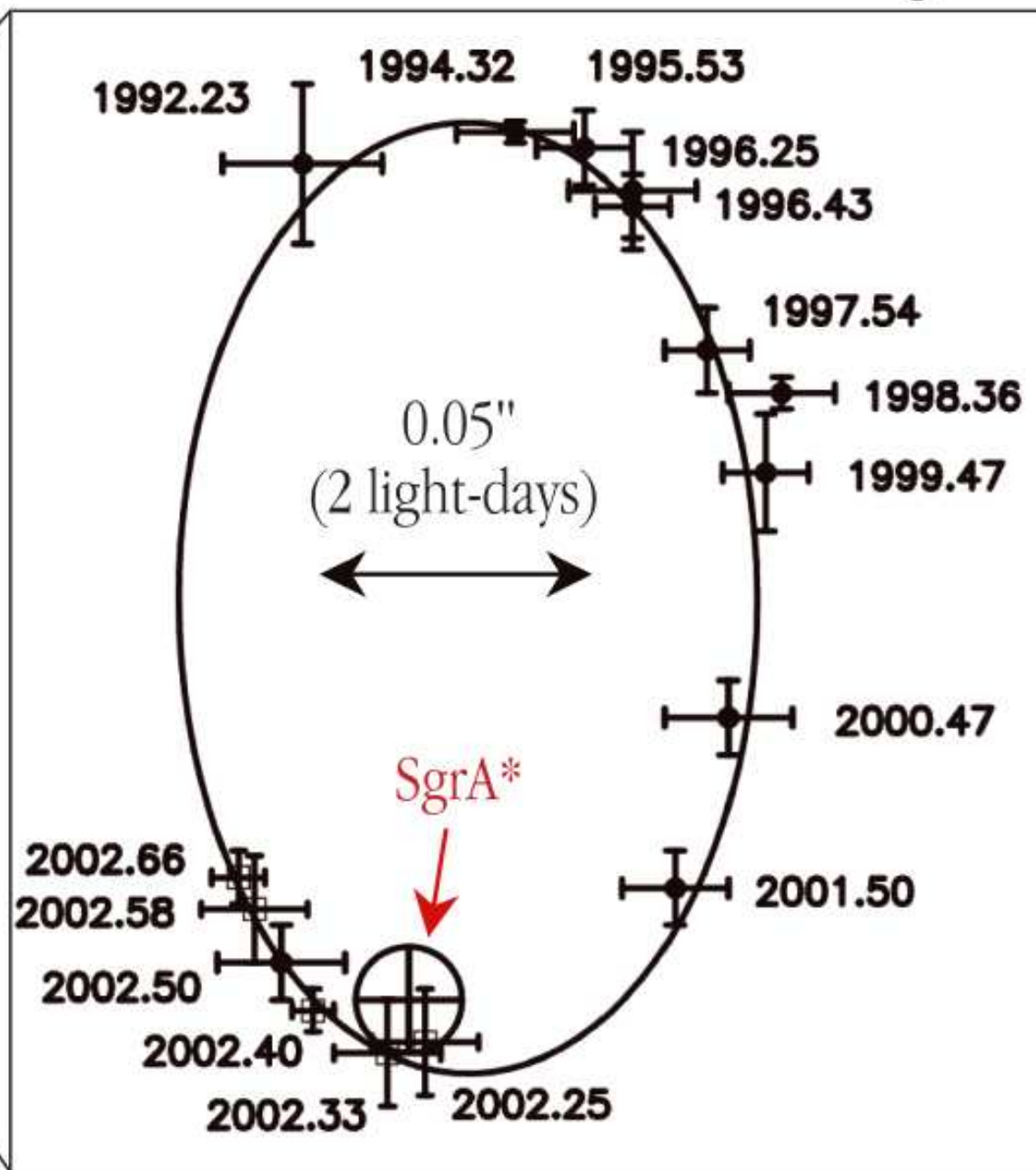
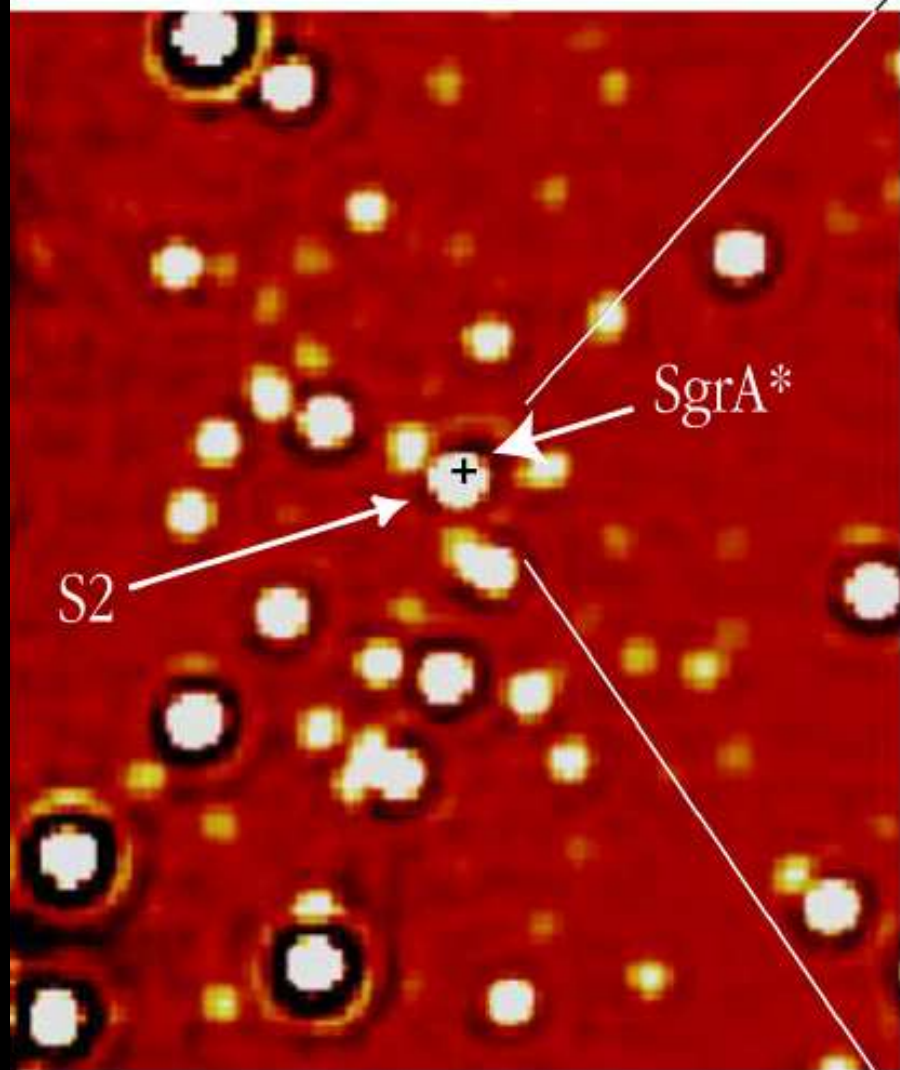
Model: point source plus cluster with a velocity dispersion of $50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \implies$ central mass: $2.4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$.

Eckart & Genzel, 1997, MNRAS, 284, 576

Evidence for a very massive compact object in the Galactic center \implies
Black Hole?

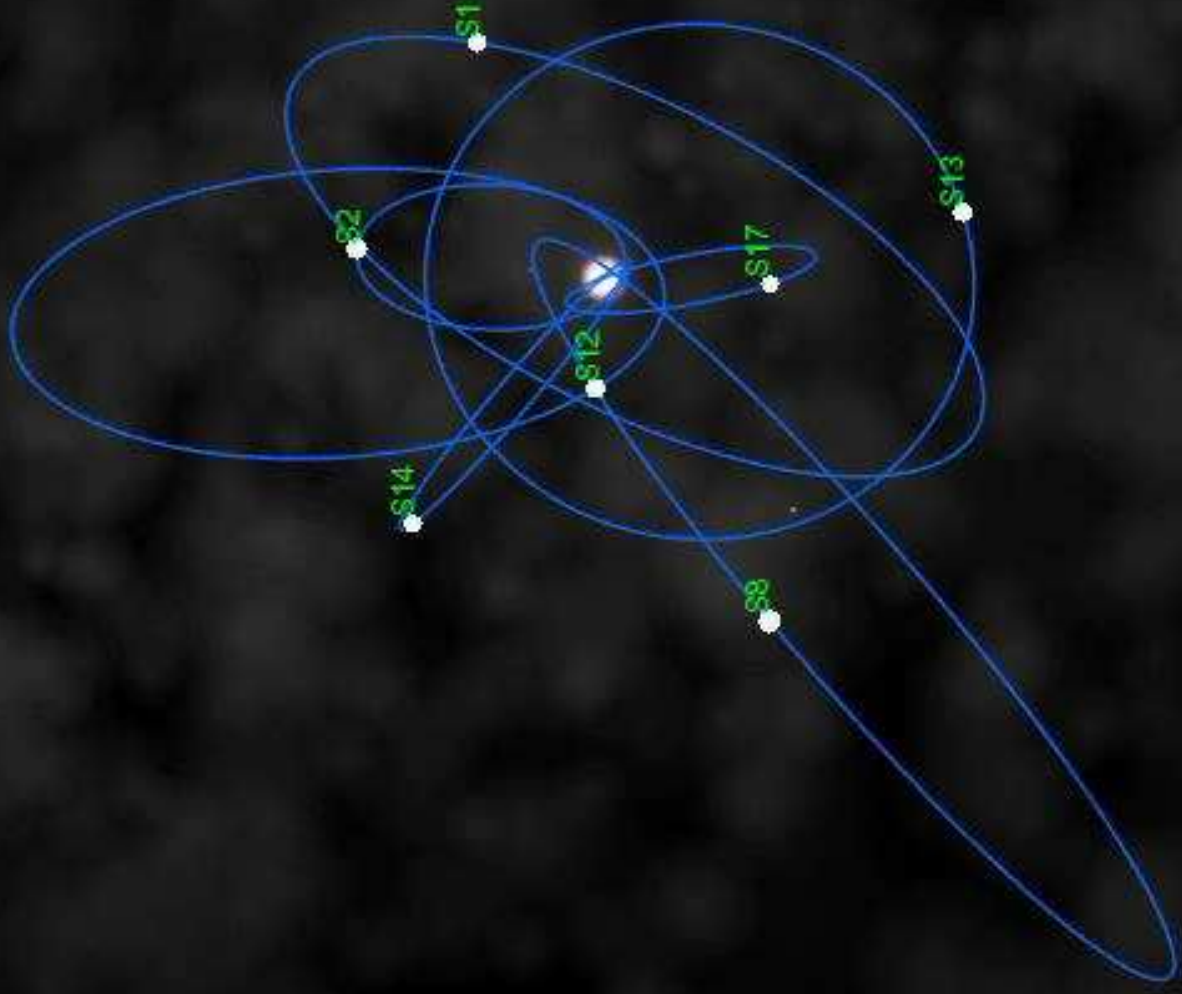
NACO May 2002

S2 Orbit around SgrA*



ESO, Oct 2002

1993 09 09 13:58:59 UTC
45000000x faster



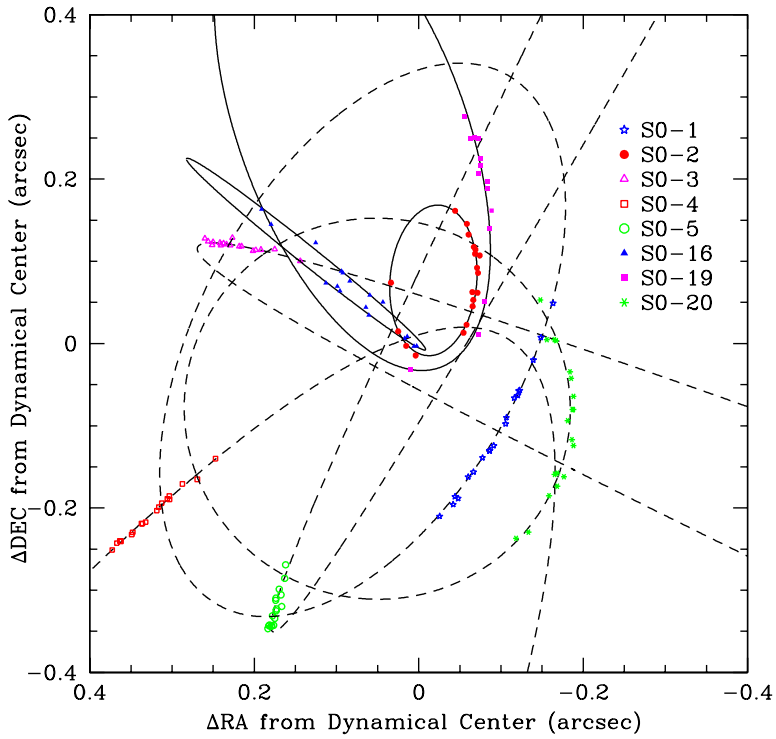
|-10 light days-|

Speed: 0.000 m/s

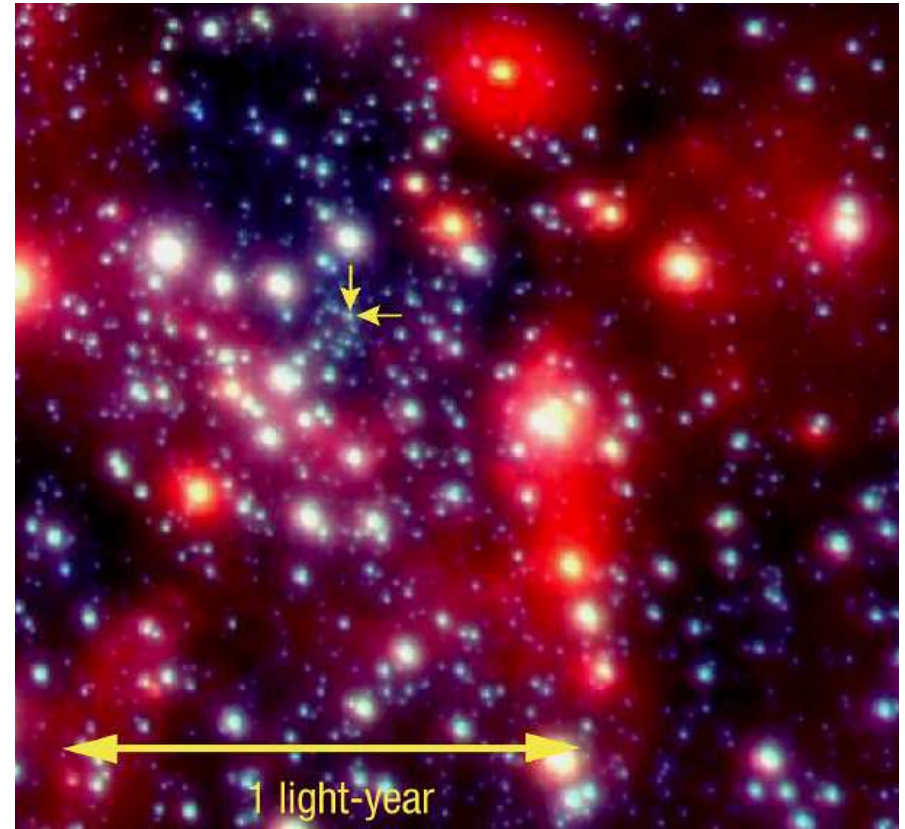
Follow GC
FOV: 13° 59' 60.0" (1.00x)



The inner parsec: mass determination



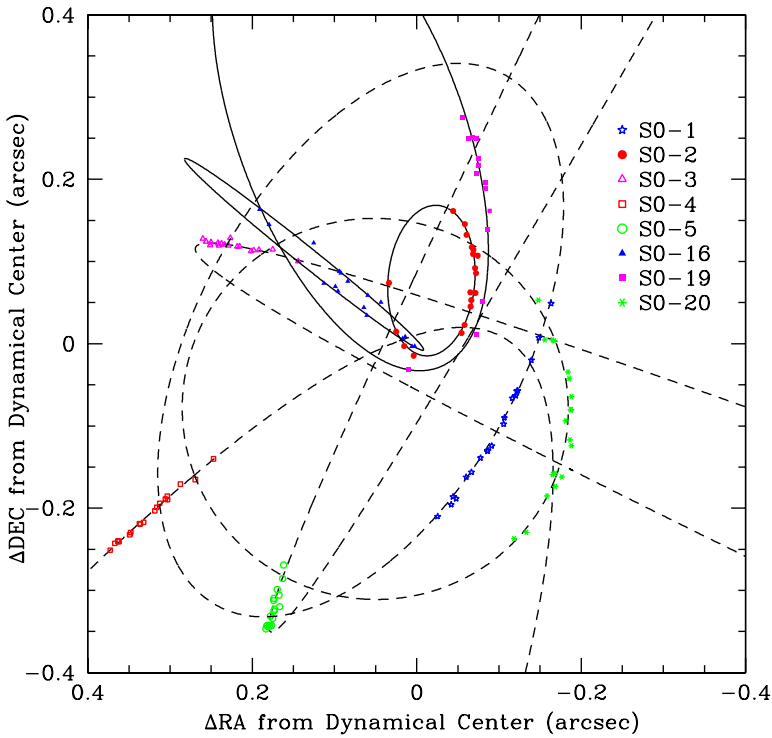
Ghez et al. (2003)



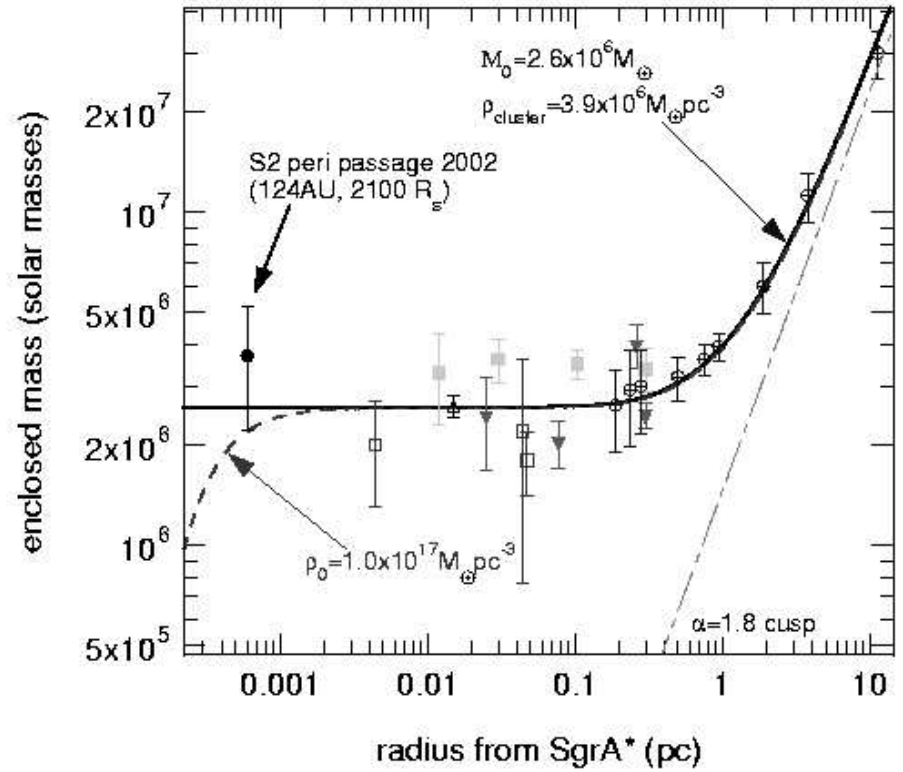
ESO



The inner parsec: mass determination



Ghez et al. (2003)



Schödel et al. (2002)

Mass determination: 3. Kepler

$$a = 5.5 \text{ light days}$$

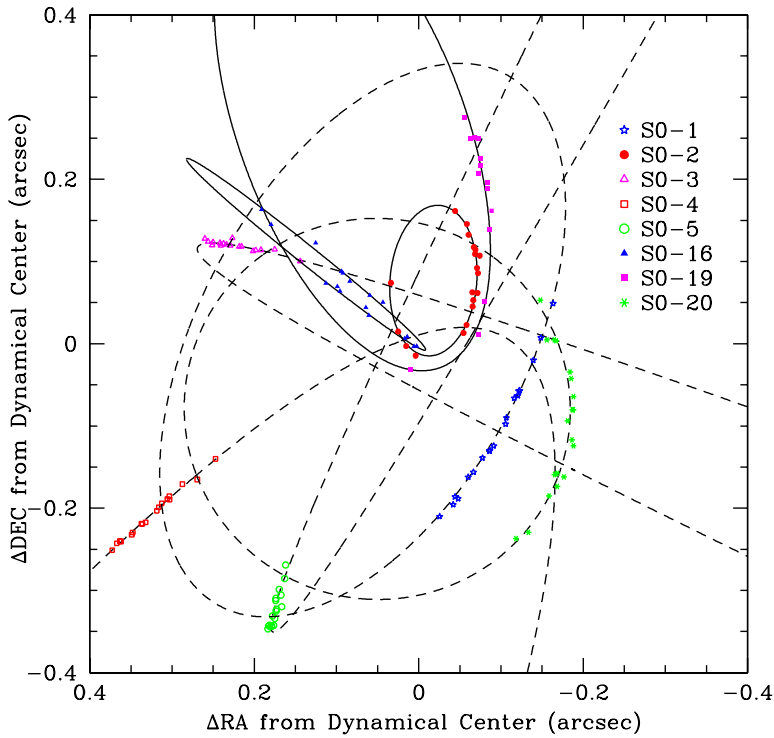
$$P = 15.2 \text{ years}$$



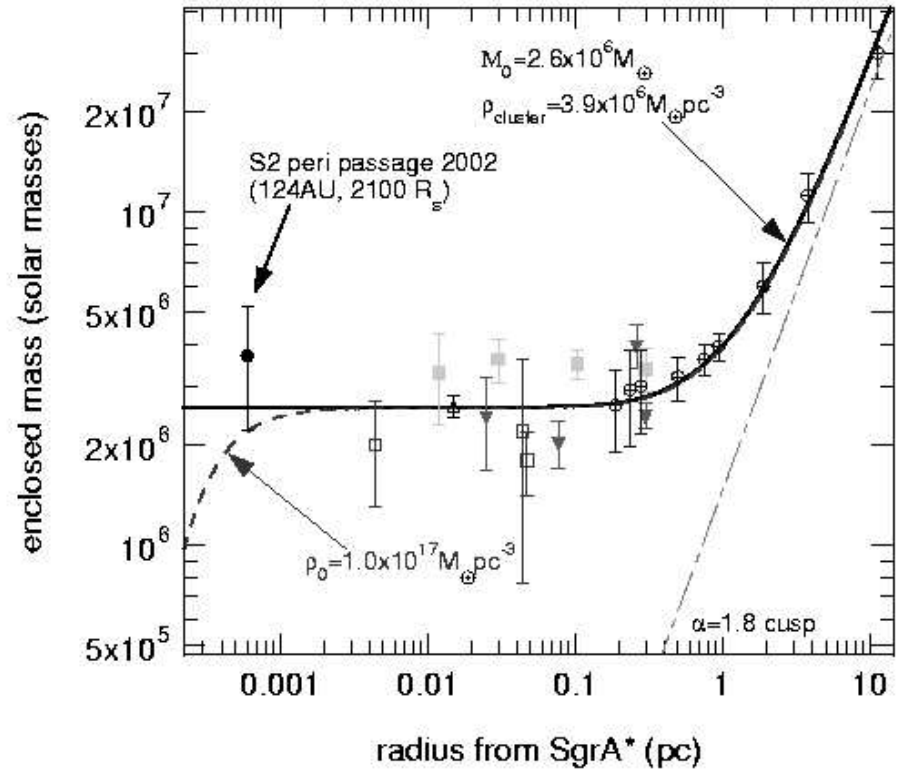
$$\frac{P^2}{a^3} = \frac{4\pi^2}{G(m_* + M_{\text{BH}})}$$



The inner parsec: mass determination



Ghez et al. (2003)



Schödel et al. (2002)

The center of the Galaxy harbors a black hole with

$$M_{\text{BH}} = (3.7 \pm 1.0) \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$$



Galaxies: Classification