

# The Milky Way Galaxy



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*We see the Milky Way as a band across the sky because we're looking at a vast disk of stars from inside.*

# Historical Perspective

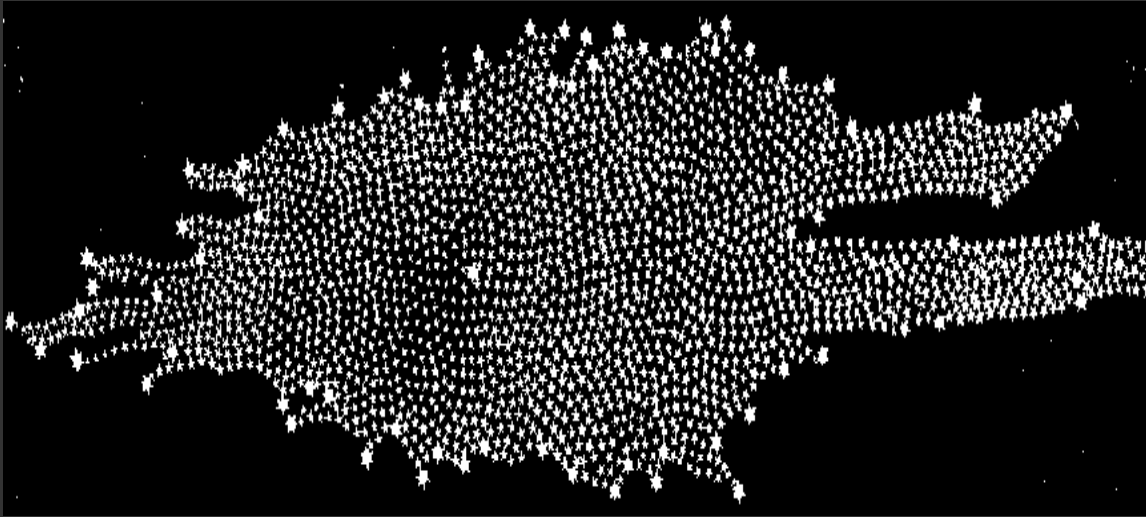
- Heliocentric (Copernicus, 1543)  
accepted in ~ mid 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Galileo (17<sup>th</sup> century) turned his telescope to the Milky Way.
- late 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Single Galaxy (1900-1920)  
Shapley-Curtis debate
- (1920-1930)  
Hubble resolves stars in the Andromeda Galaxy,  
Spectroscopic measurements of  
Slipher & works of Humason & Hubble

# Galaxies: Large collection of Stars, Dust and Gas



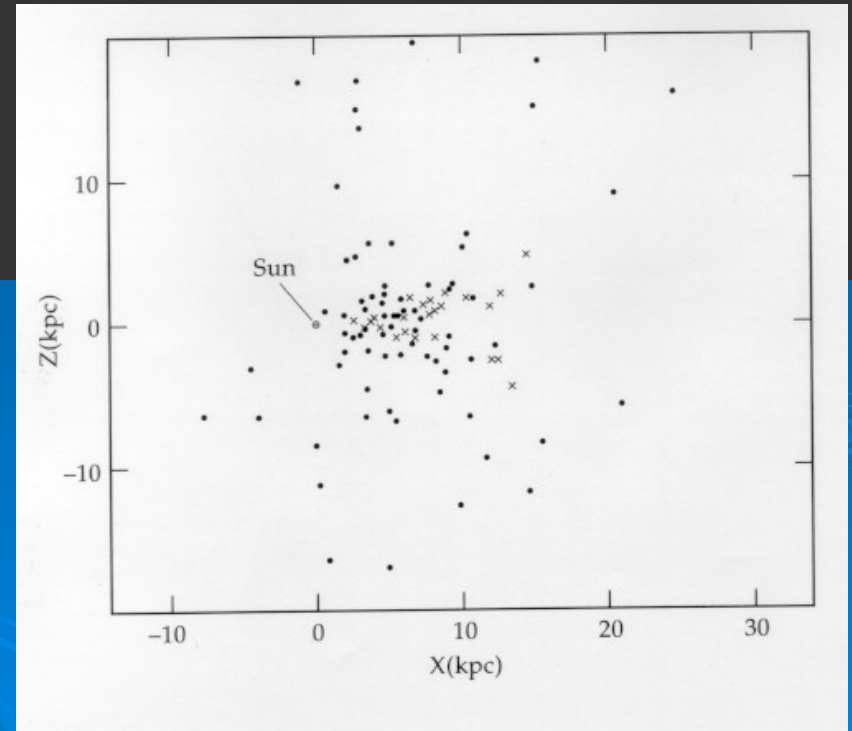
- Typical Mass:  
 $10^9 - 10^{12} M_{\text{sun}}$   
 $M_{\text{sun}} \sim 10^{30} \text{ kg}$
- Typical Size  
30 kpc  
1 kpc = 1000 pc.  
1 pc  $\sim$  3.26 lt. yrs.  
1 lt. yr = distance traveled by light in 1 year.

## 1781: William Herschel Reveals the Shape of our Galaxy



Measured the approximate distance to as many stars as possible. He used the rough approximation that all stars are equally bright. Although today we know that assumption to be wrong, it allowed him to estimate the distance to several hundred stars.

# 1920: Shapley Finds Our Place in the Milky Way



Using the 60-inch reflecting telescope at Mount Wilson Observatory, Shapley was able to identify Cepheid variable stars in 93 globular clusters to map out their distances using the luminosity-period relationship of Cepheids discovered by Henrietta Leavitt

# Extinction

- 1. Reduced *max*
- 2. Reddened & scattered

Diffuse interstellar dust in the plane of our Galaxy is estimated to cause extinction (and reddening) at the rate of **1 magnitude per kpc**

Extinction – interstellar

Evident dark spots in the sky

suspected to be

interstellar

from stars

If we ignore the effects of extinction is to misjudge distances by great amounts!

light

# Extinction errors



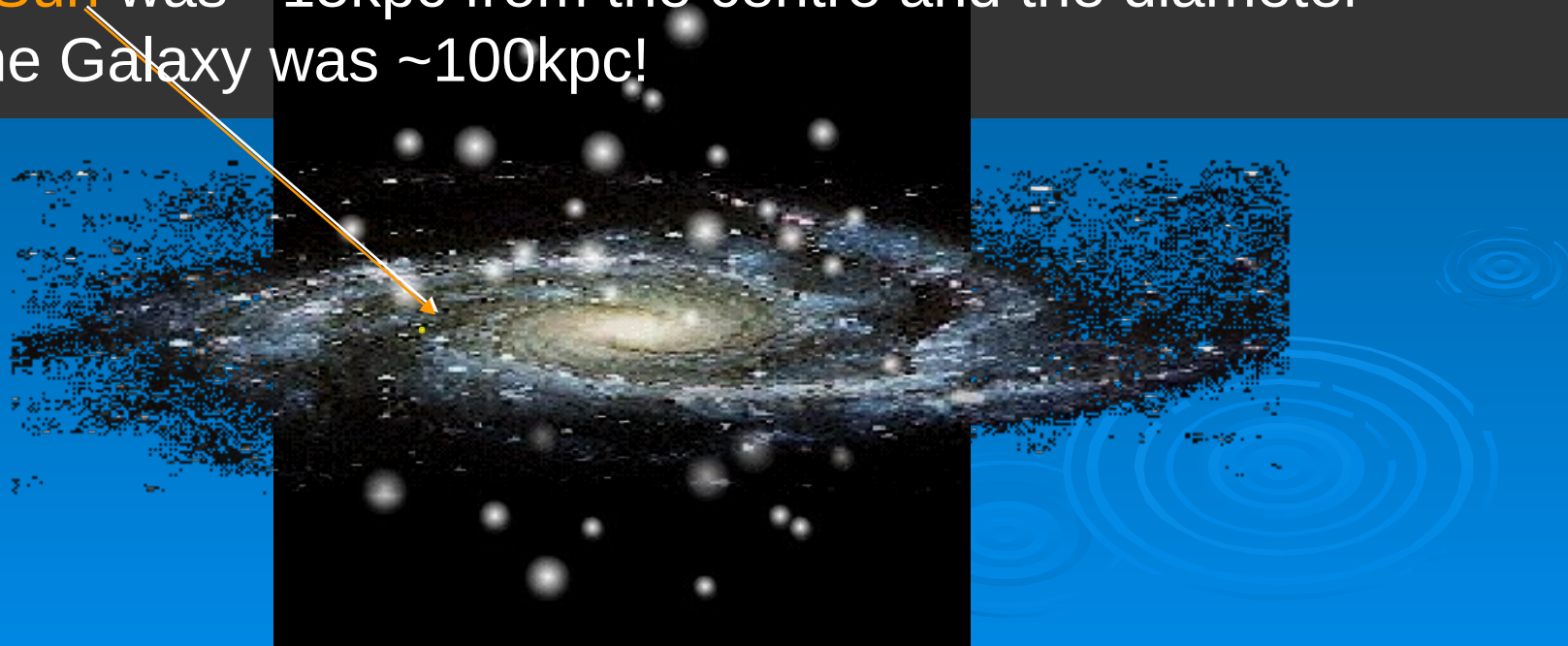
Modern

- Early size estimates of our Galaxy differed wildly.

Kapteyn:  
(20<sup>th</sup> century)

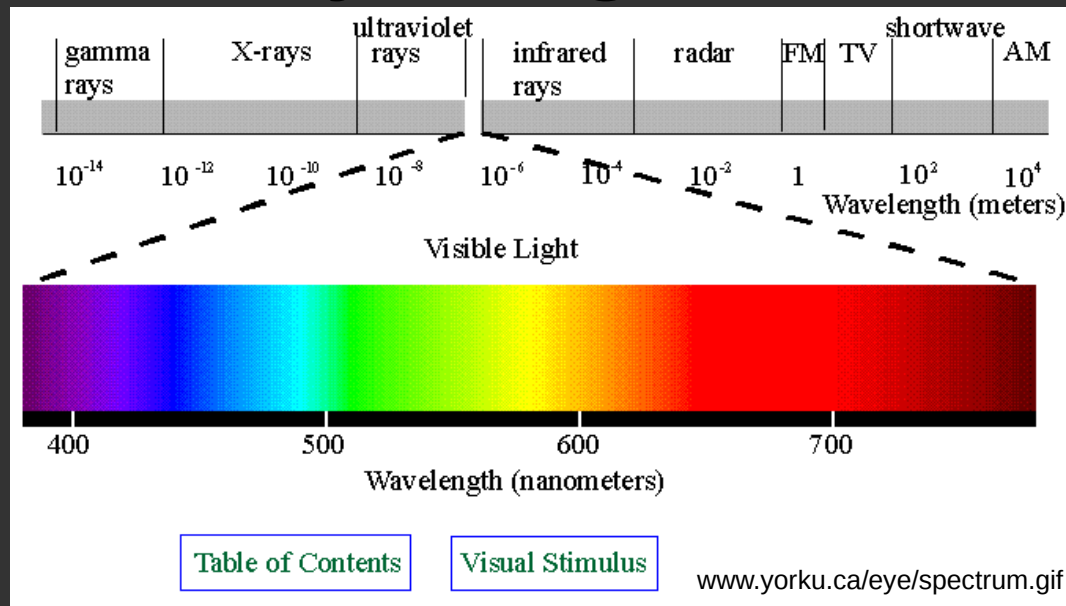


Shapley's (2<sup>nd</sup> decade of 20<sup>th</sup> cent.) use of globular clusters\* to locate the centre of the Galaxy suggested the **Sun** was ~15kpc from the centre and the diameter of the Galaxy was ~100kpc!

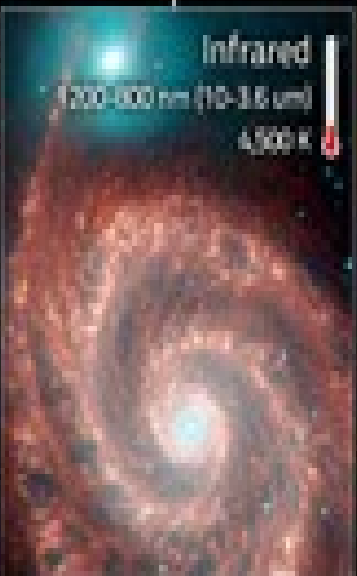
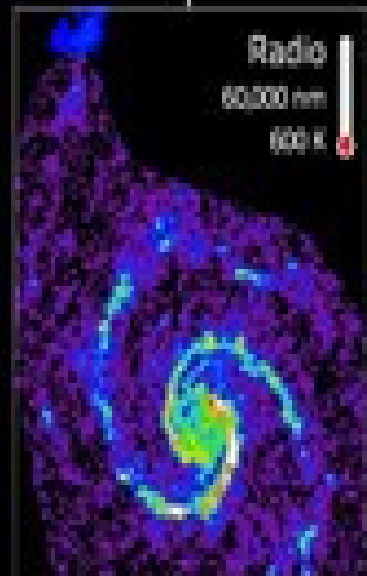
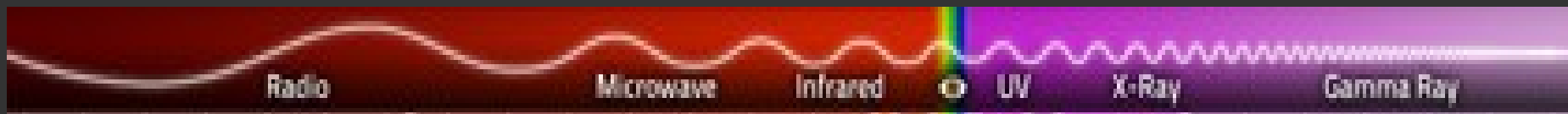




# Not everything is visible...



- Visible light is only a small fraction of the electromagnetic spectrum
- Different physical processes to study objects
- Radio , x-ray, gamma-ray telescopes explore the electromagnetic spectrum.



## Multiwavelength Whirlpool Galaxy

**COLD GAS:** Radio waves reveal regions of gas cool enough for CO<sub>2</sub> molecules to exist.

**COOL STARS:** Infrared shows smaller cool red stars that make up most of the galaxy.

**SOLAR STARS:** Optical light comes from stars around the size of the Sun.

**HOT STARS:** Ultraviolet shows the larger hot blue stars that are less frequent in galaxies.

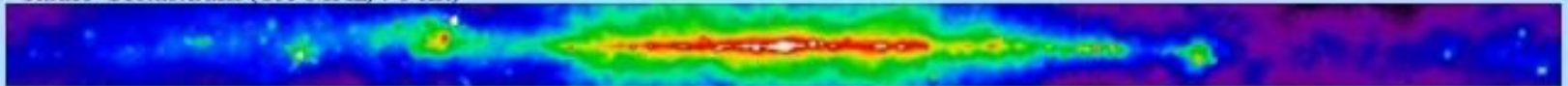
**HOT GAS:** X-rays are emitted from the hottest regions of gas where atoms are ionized.



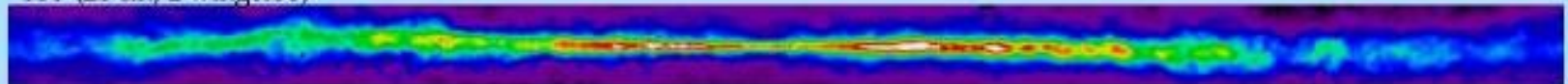
# Multiwavelength Milky Way

(images mainly from GSFC/ADC)

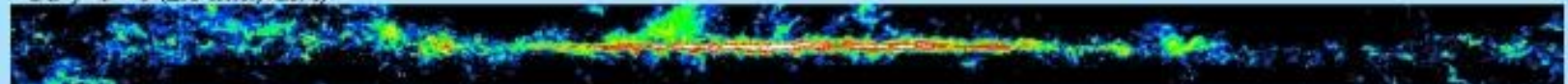
Radio Continuum (408 MHz, 74 cm)



H I (21 cm, Dwingeloo)



CO J=1→0 (2.6 mm, CfA)



Mid-Far Infrared (12-100 μm, IRAS)



Near Infrared (1.25-3.5 μm, COBE)



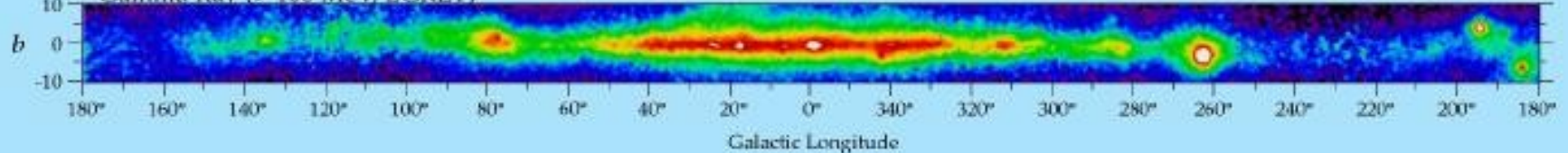
Optical (A. Mellinger Panorama)



X-Ray (0.25 - 1.5 keV, ROSAT)



Gamma Ray (> 100 MeV, EGRET)

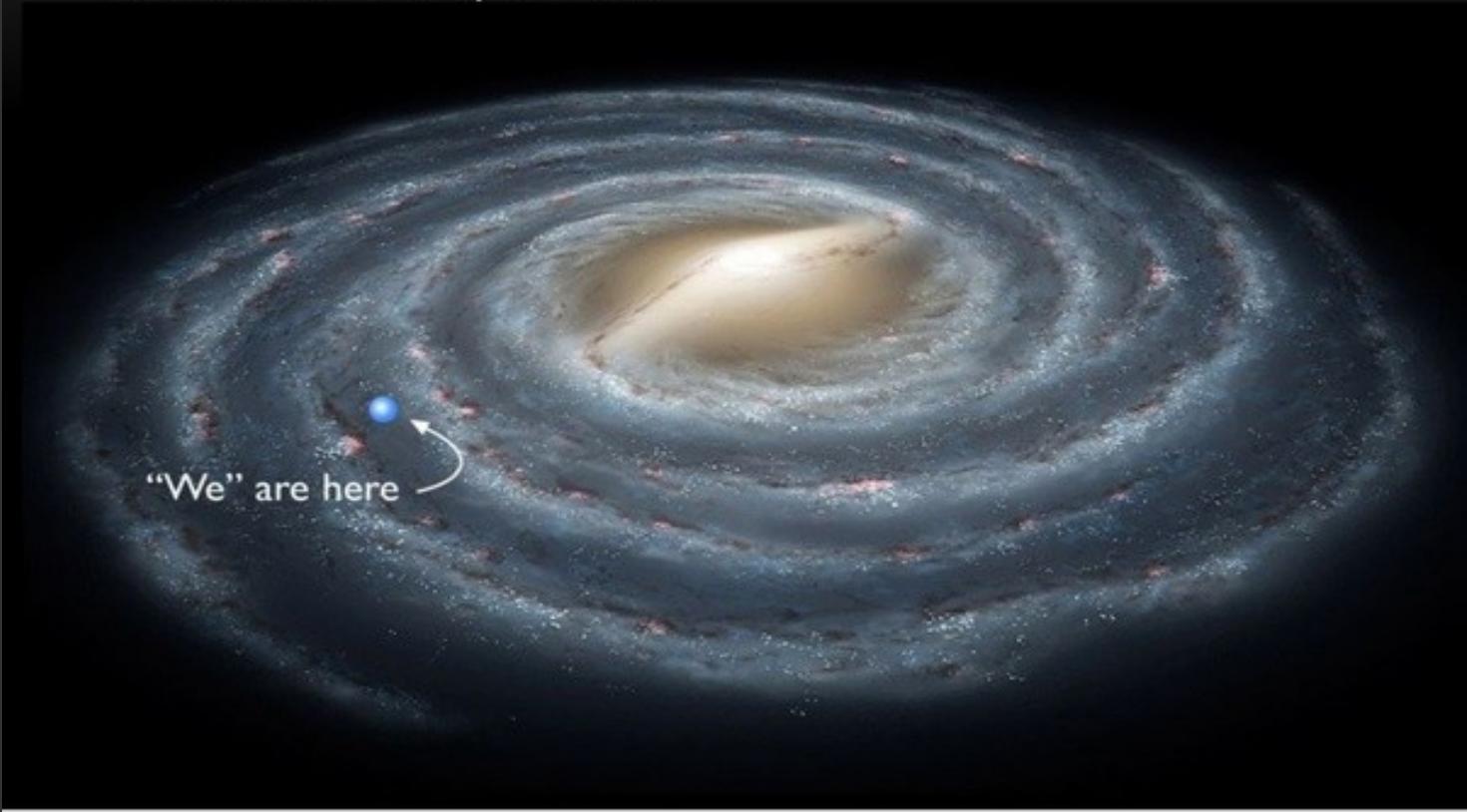


*slide courtesy of T. Dame*

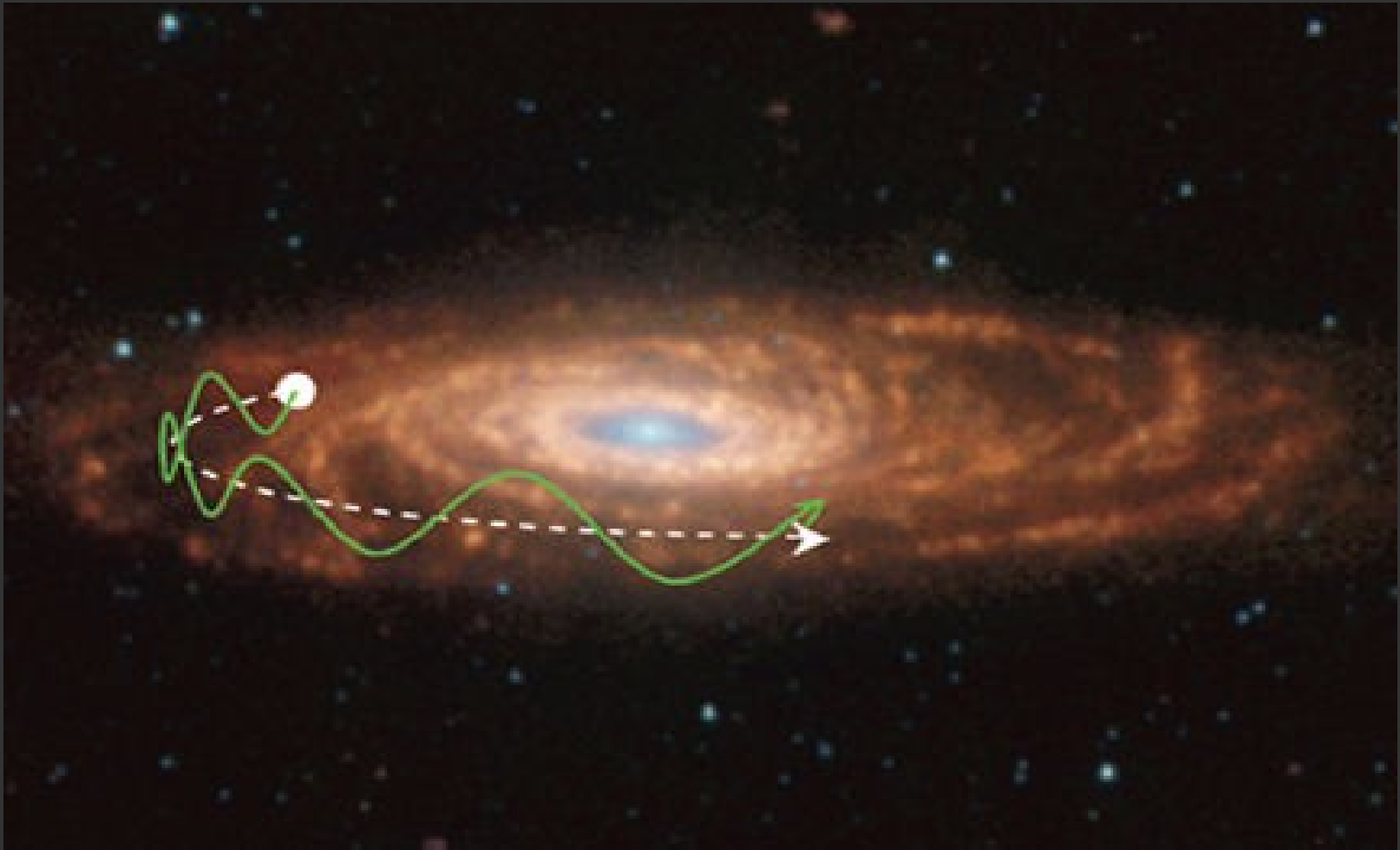
# What is the Galaxy made of?

- Stars
- Stellar remnants
- Clouds of gas & dust
  - 70 % hydrogen
  - 28 % helium
  - 2 % 'other elements'
    - Heavy elements

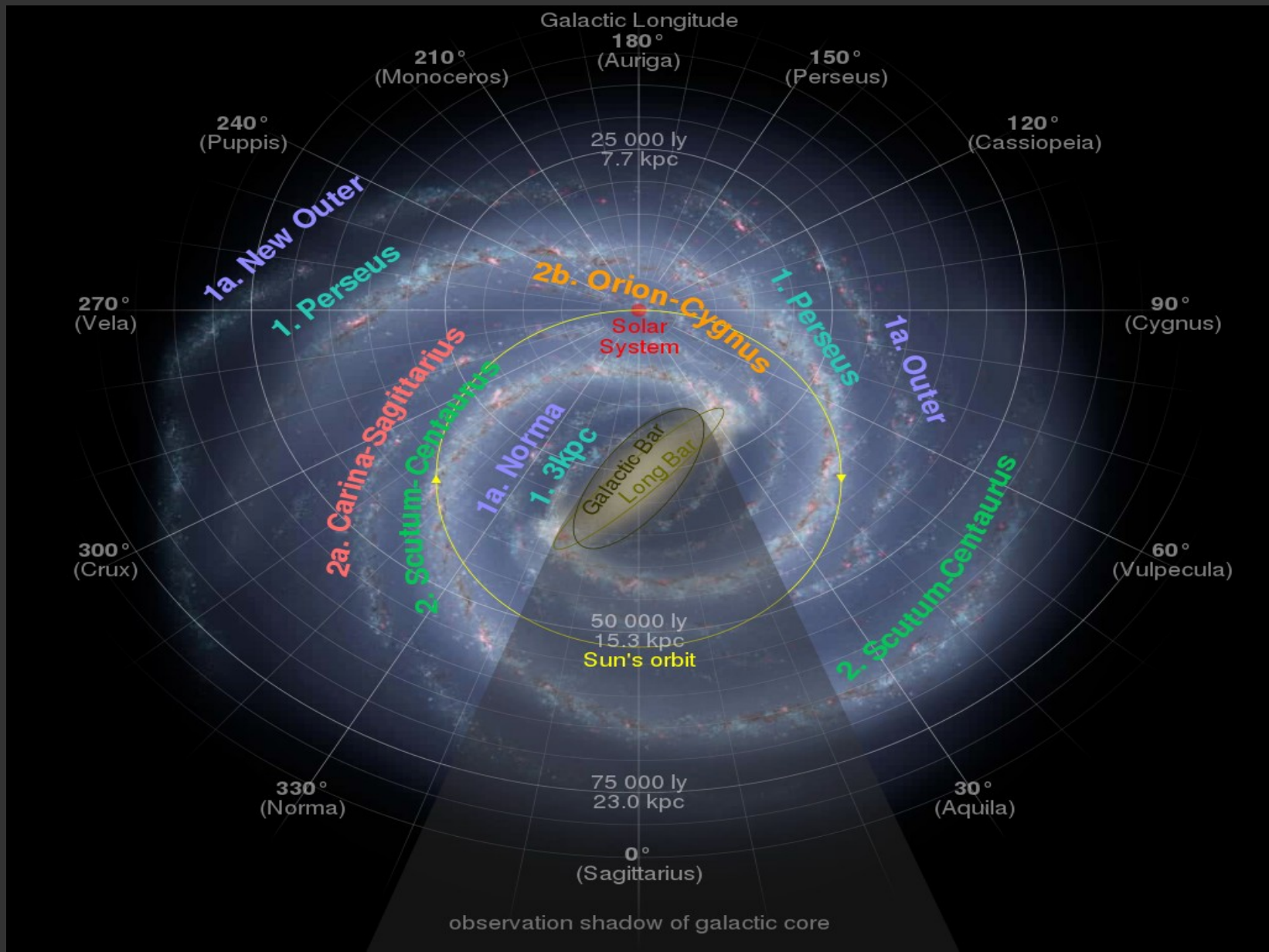
Our Sun (one of a billion stars in the Milky Way), and our solar system is located NOT in the center, and NOT at the edge, but about 2/3 out on a spiral arm.

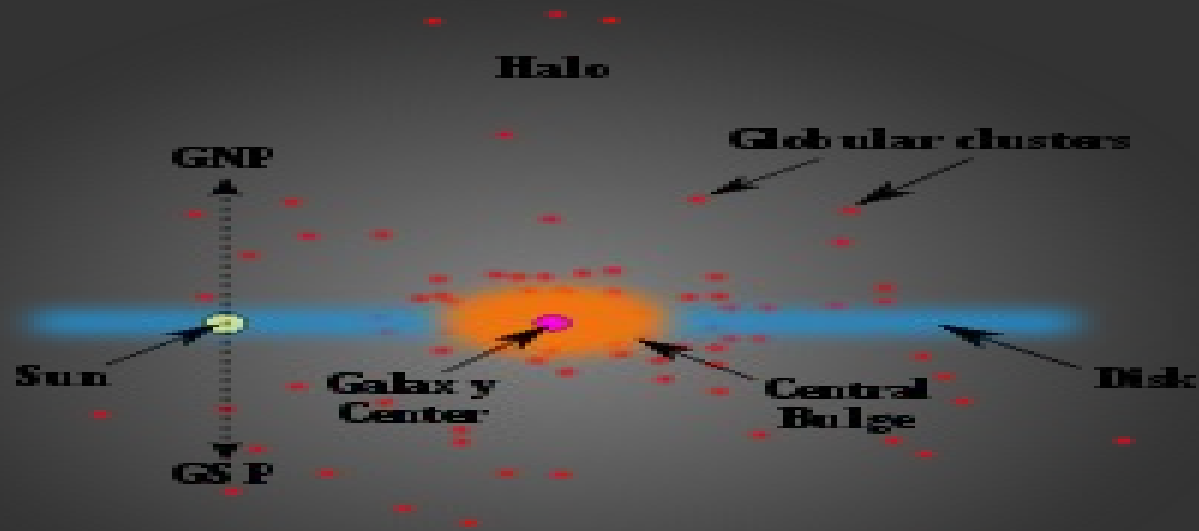


Sun - in fact, our whole solar system - orbits around the center of the Milky Way Galaxy at an average velocity of 828,000 km/hr. It takes us about 230 million years to make one complete orbit around the Milky Way!



The Sun executes oscillations around its mean orbit in the Galaxy, periodically crossing the Galactic plane. The Sun is currently above the plane and moving upwards, and each cycle takes about 70 million years with an amplitude of 100pc (Matese et al. 1995), it will be roughly 30 million years before we cross the plane again.





The MW has three main parts: bulge, disk, & halo



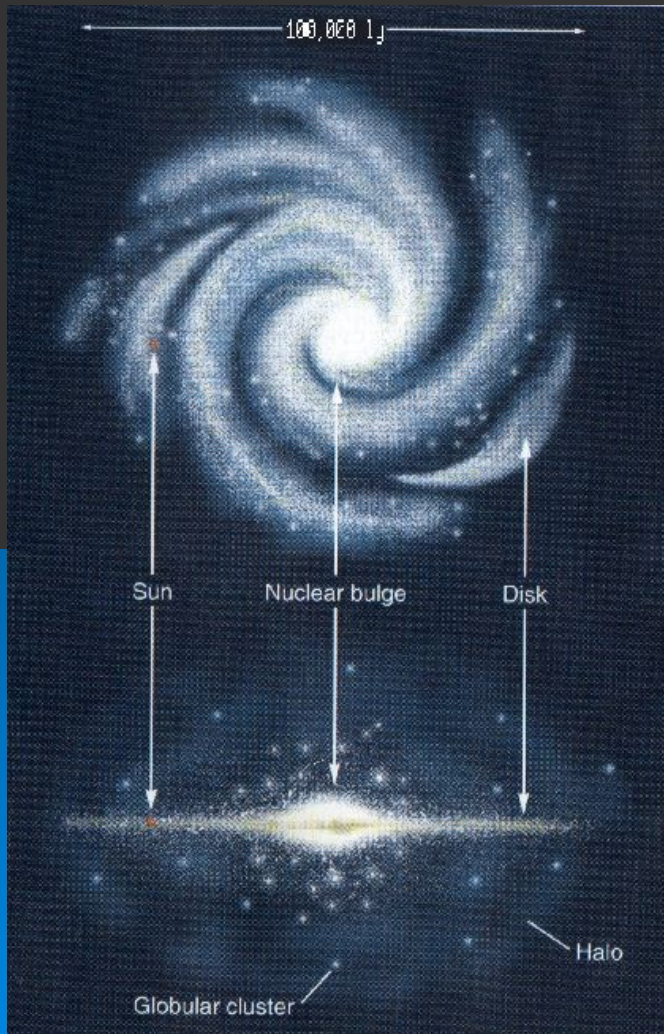
# The disk

- ~ 1 kpc thick
  - Contains:
    - All types/ages of stars, nebulae, etc.
    - OB stars, HII regions, Cepheid variables, open clusters .....
    - Red variables, late type giants ....
- $z \sim 500\text{-}600 \text{ pc}$
- Spiral arms
    - *Not* “where the stars are”
    - Rather, where the *most luminous* stars are
      - *Luminous* stars are *massive* stars
      - *Massive* stars are *young* (they don’t live long)
      - *Spiral arms show recent star formation*

# The halo

- Stars in the halo are mostly old (Pop II)
  - Therefore mostly low mass
- Many are found in globular clusters

# Distribution of clusters in the Galaxy



Halo

Disk

Bulge

Pop I :Spiral arms,  
young, metal rich stars

Pop II: Halo, old, metal  
poor stars



# Star Formation

70 – 90% of stars form in embedded clusters, some of which remain bound and evolve to open clusters, and the remainder disperse and contribute to the Galactic field.

About half the stars in the sky have stellar companions, bound together by gravity and in orbit around each other.

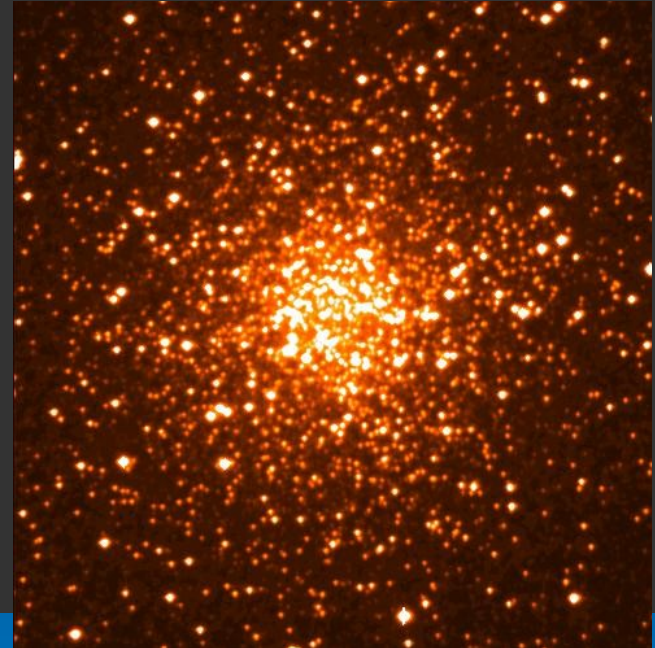
*Multiplicity is the norm.....*

*A star cluster is a sample of stars formed from the same molecular cloud, where all the stars have the same age, chemical composition and are at the same distance, differ only in **mass!!***



# Types of Clusters

- Open Clusters
- Globular clusters
- Associations



Stars formed at the same time, distance, chemical composition.....differ only in mass.

# Globular Clusters



**appearance** compact

**number of stars** 50,000 –  
1,000,000

**Mass**  $10^5 M_{\text{sun}}$

**colors** mostly red

**age** very old,  $\sim 10^{10}$  yrs

**distribution** more broadly  
distributed, are gravitationally  
bound, are spherical in shape

**population** Pop II

**orbits** highly eccentric,  
elliptical

# Open Clusters



**appearance** Loose

**number of stars** 20 – 1000

**Mass**  $10^5 M_{\text{sun}}$

**colors** mostly blue

**age** young  $\sim 10^6$ - $10^8$  yrs

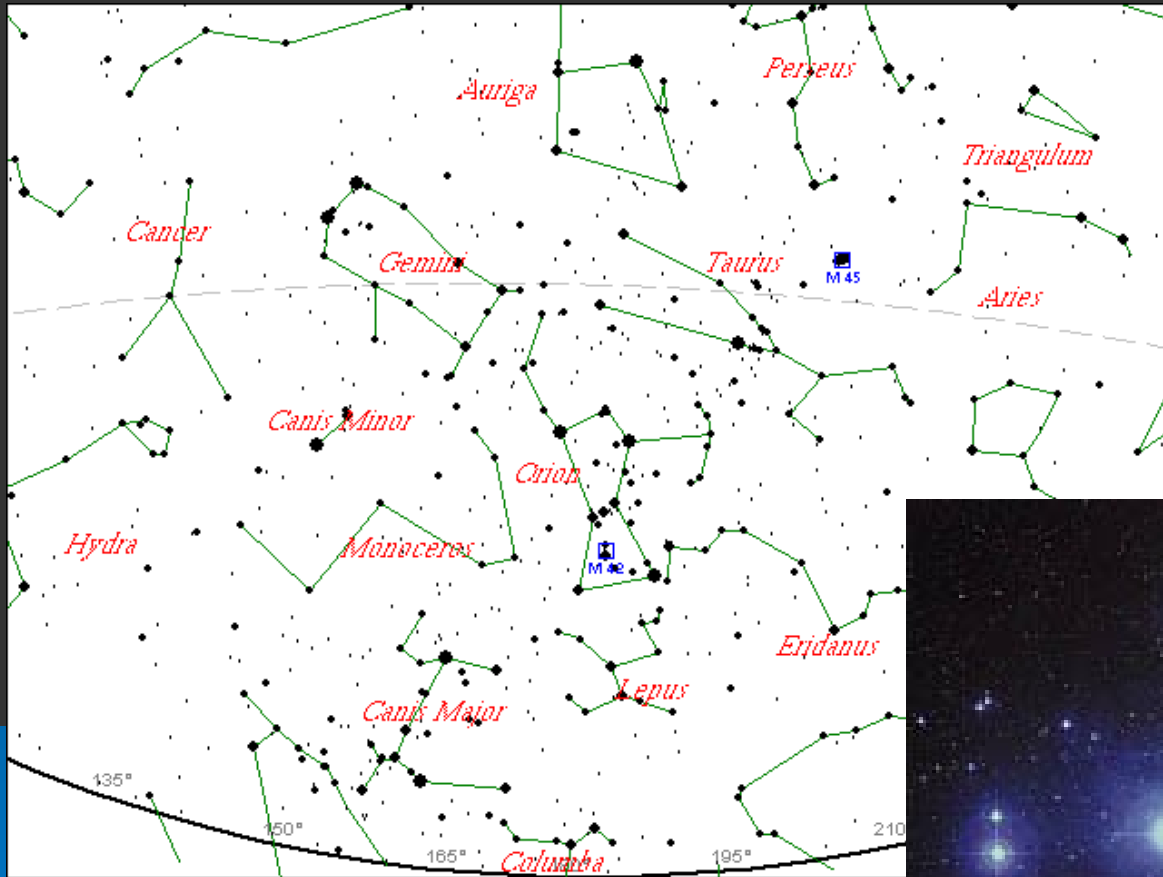
**distribution** close to the plane of the Milky Way, may not be bound by their own gravity, spiral arm tracers

**population** Pop I

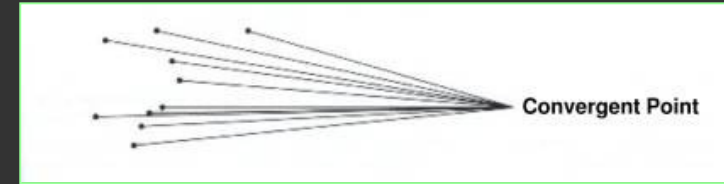
**orbits** Regular, planar



# The Pleiades



# Associations



**O, B Associations**

**T Associations**

**Recently formed stars, not bound gravitationally but are expanding away from some common center, which presumably marks their birthplace.**

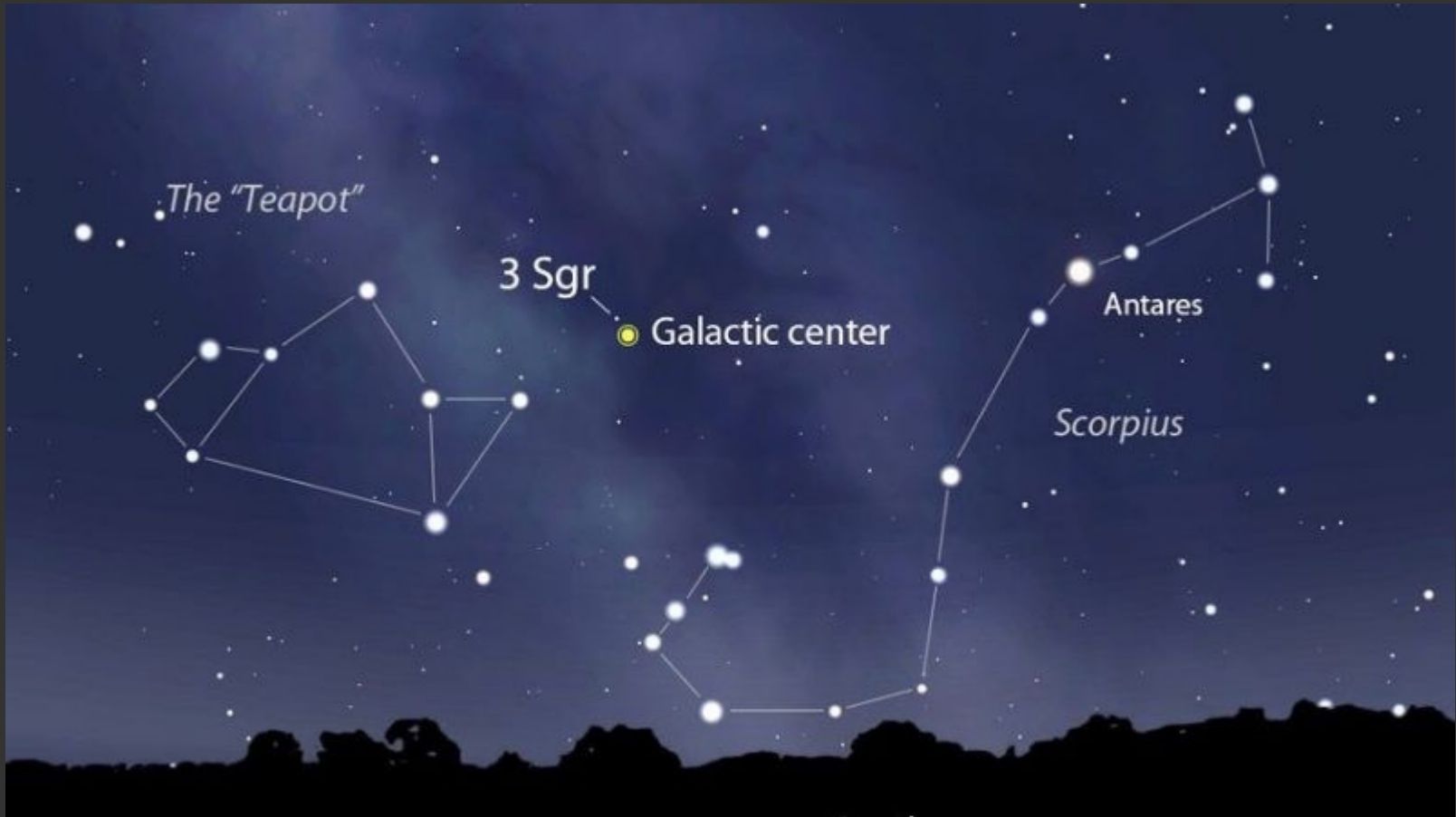
**Plane of the galaxy**

**$10^2$  pc,  $10^6$ - $10^7$  yrs**

**Prodigious sources of energy**

**Stellar winds, ionize ISM**

# The Galactic center



# The Galactic center

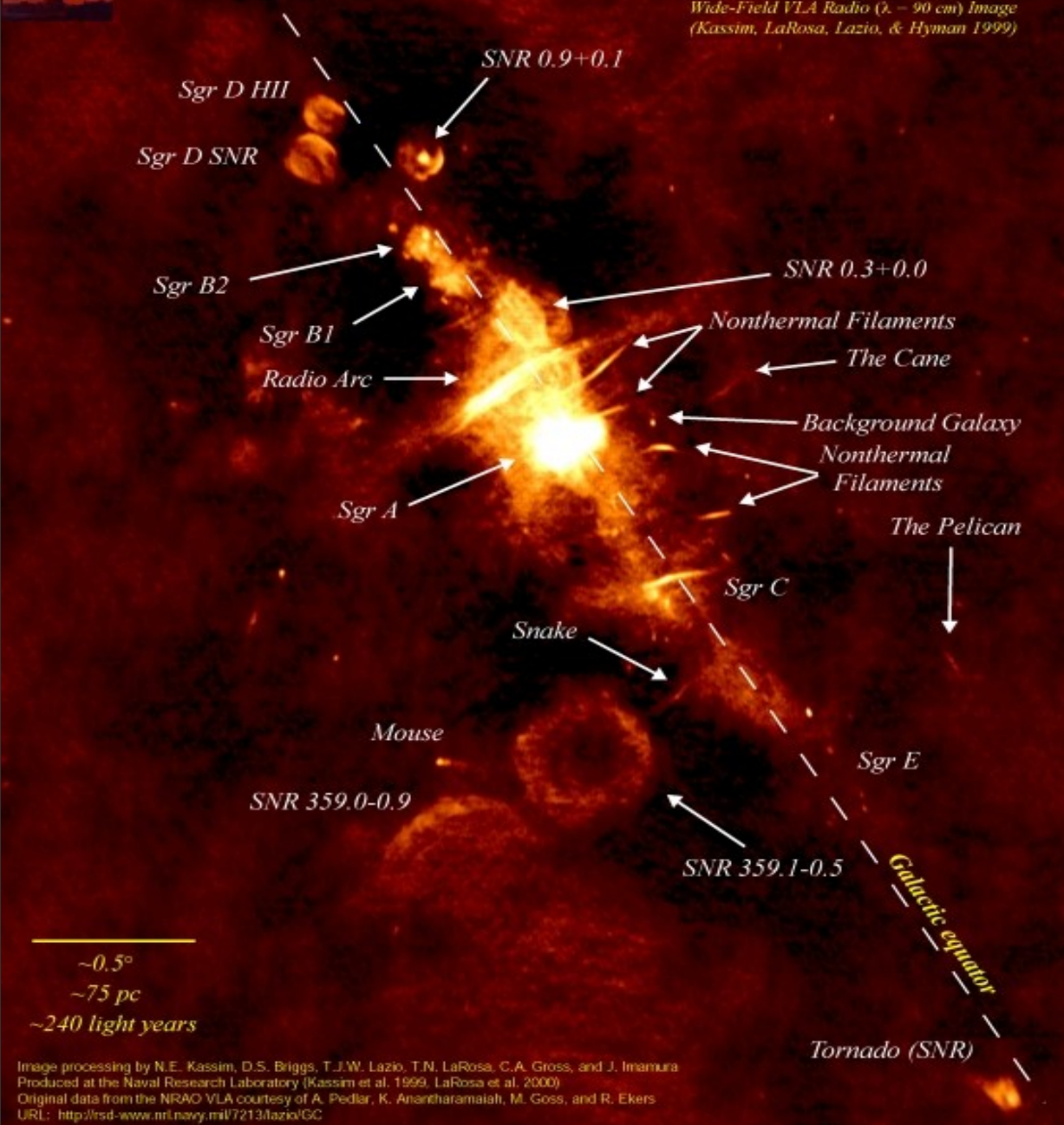
- In the direction of Sagittarius
- Observation:
  - Lots of gas, moving at *very* high speeds, within a very small region
- This requires lots of gravity in a very small space
- Likely explanation:
  - A massive black hole at the center of the galaxy
  - $M \sim 3$  million solar masses



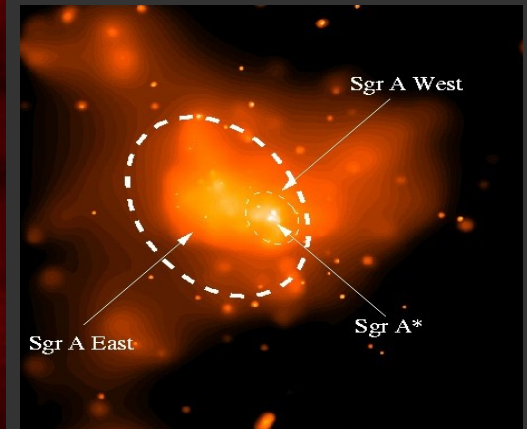
Remote Sensing Division  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Washington, D.C.

# The Galactic Center

Wide-Field VLA Radio ( $\lambda = 90$  cm) Image  
(Kassim, LaRosa, Lazio, & Hyman 1999)

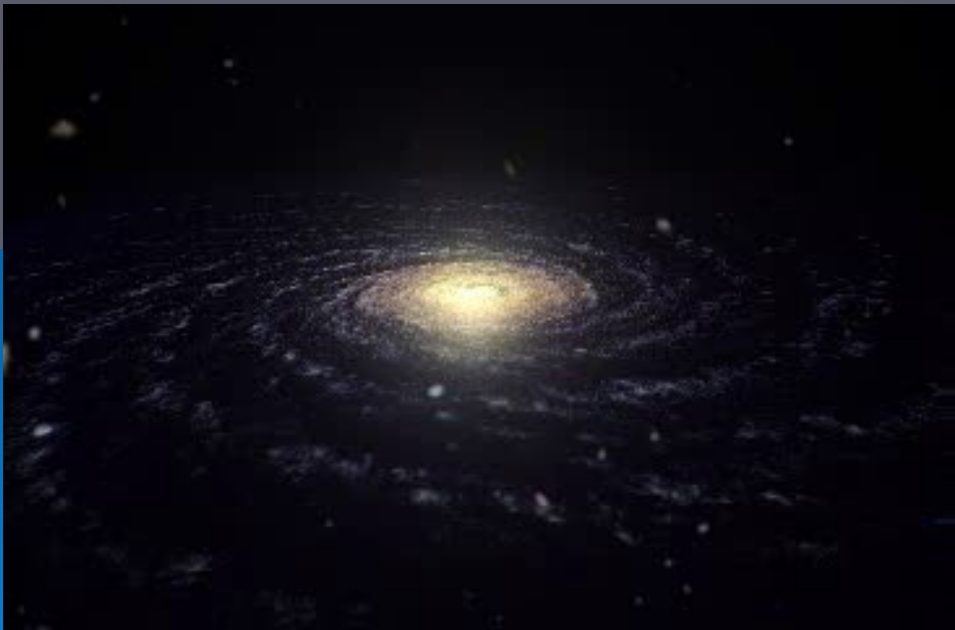


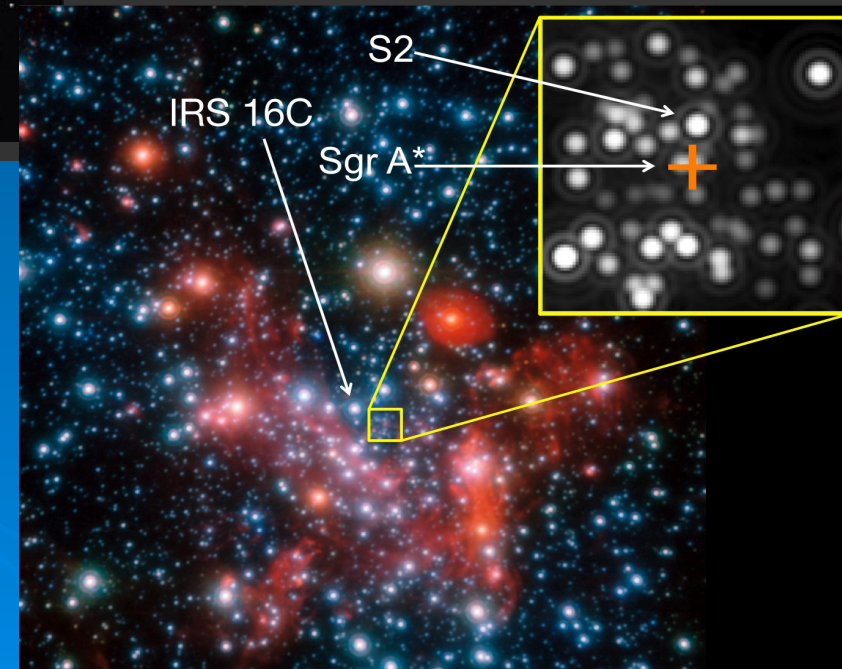
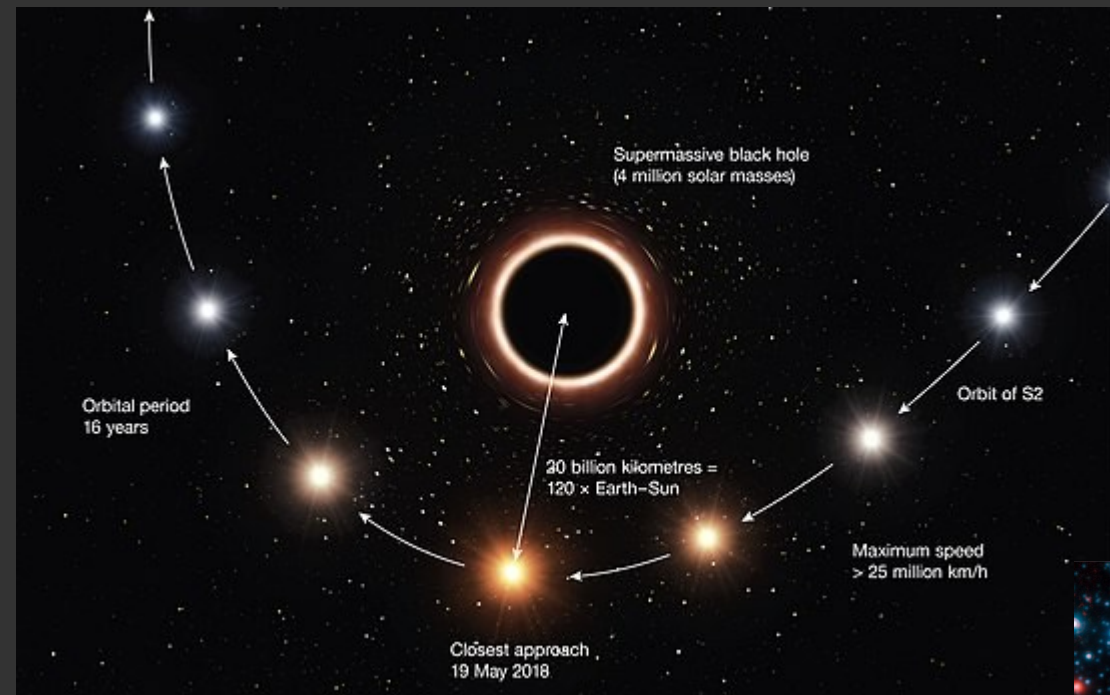
## National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array



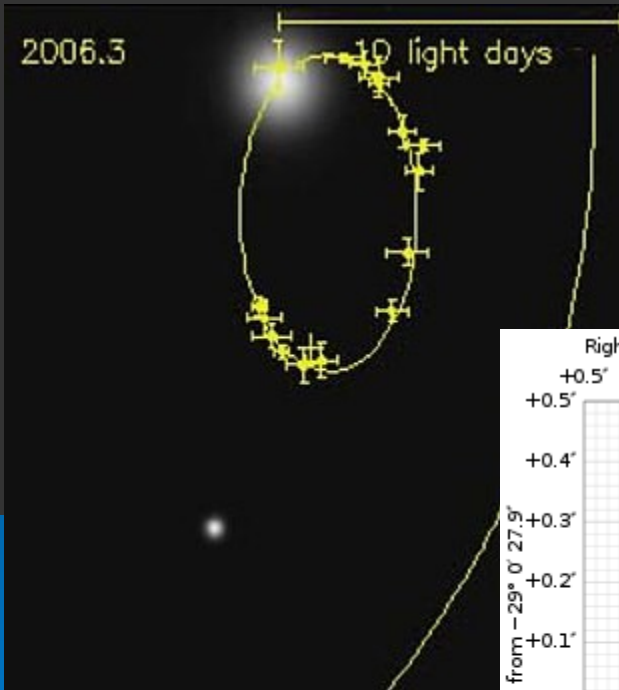
Xrays Chandra Image of Sgr A, including a small point source called Sagittarius A\*.

**Most galaxies have a (super)massive black hole at their centers**

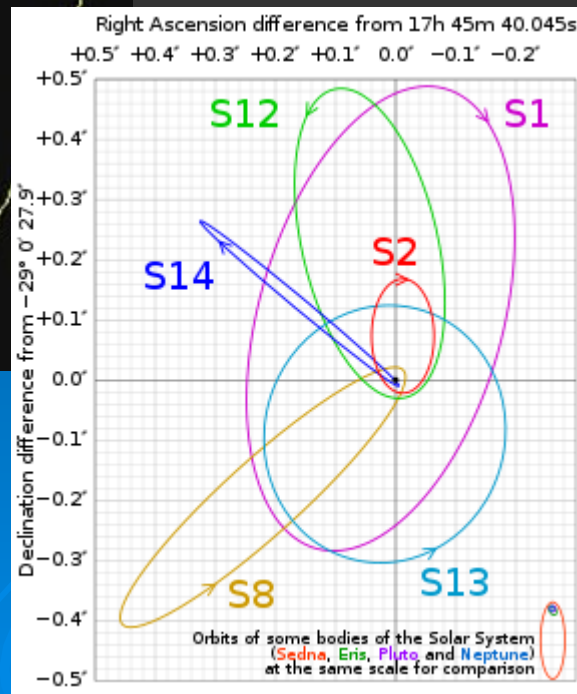




S2, also known as S0-2, is a star that is located close to the radio source, orbiting it with a period of 16.0518 years, a distance of about 970 AU, and a maximum speed of 25 million km/h.

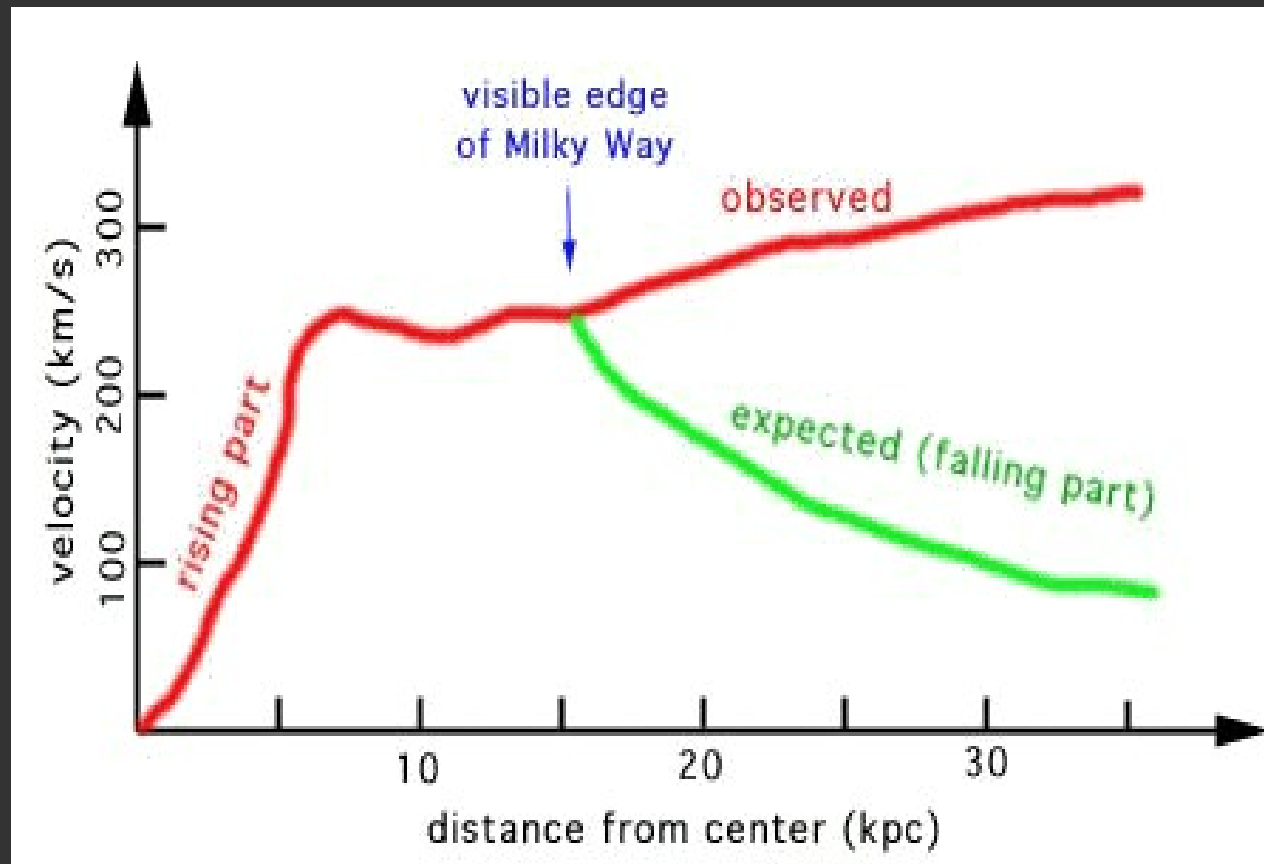


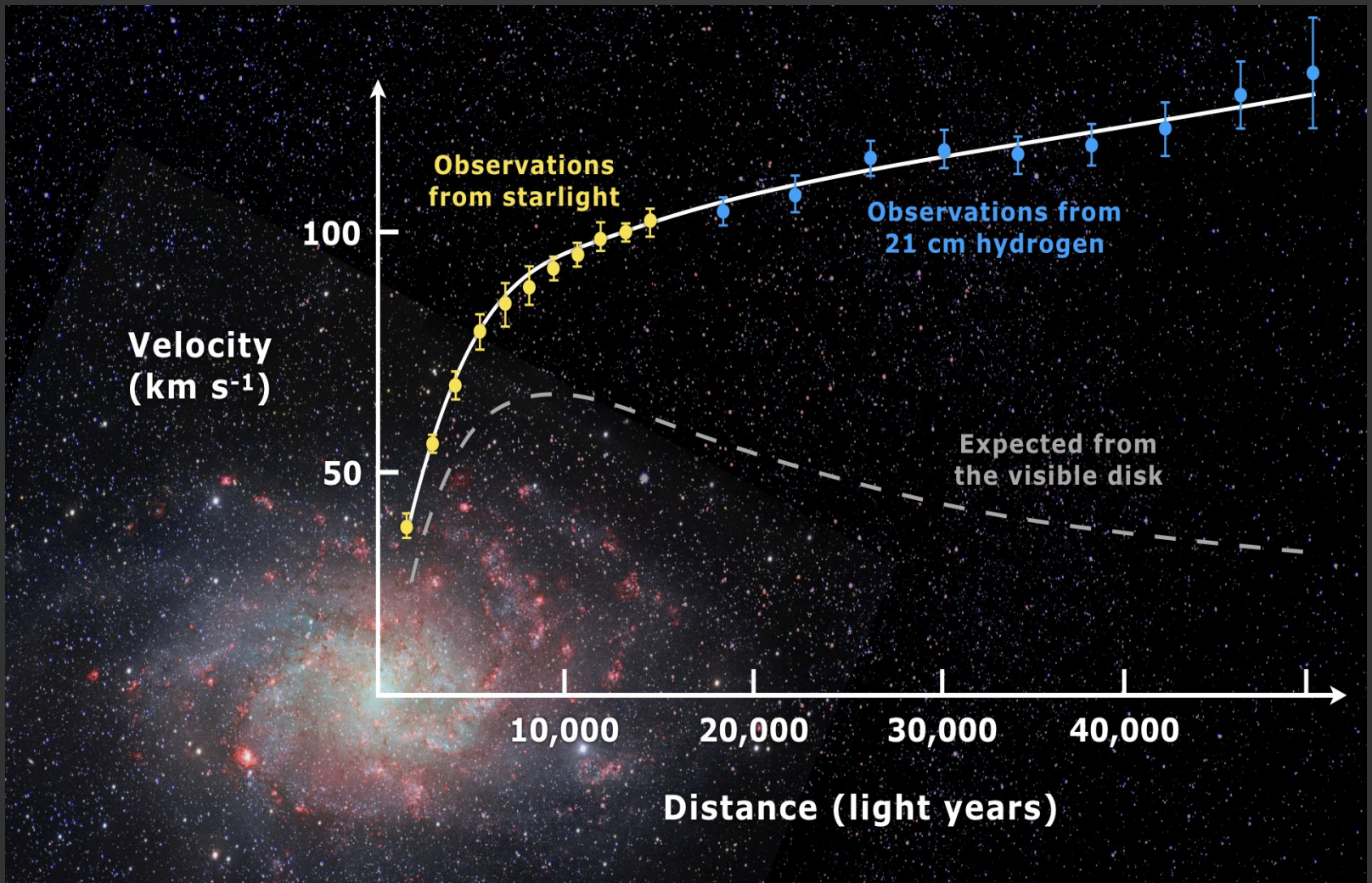
Galactic BH: 4.31 million for the mass of the black hole and S2's close approach, this makes S2 the fastest known ballistic orbit, reaching speeds exceeding 5,000 km/s!





# Rotation Curves

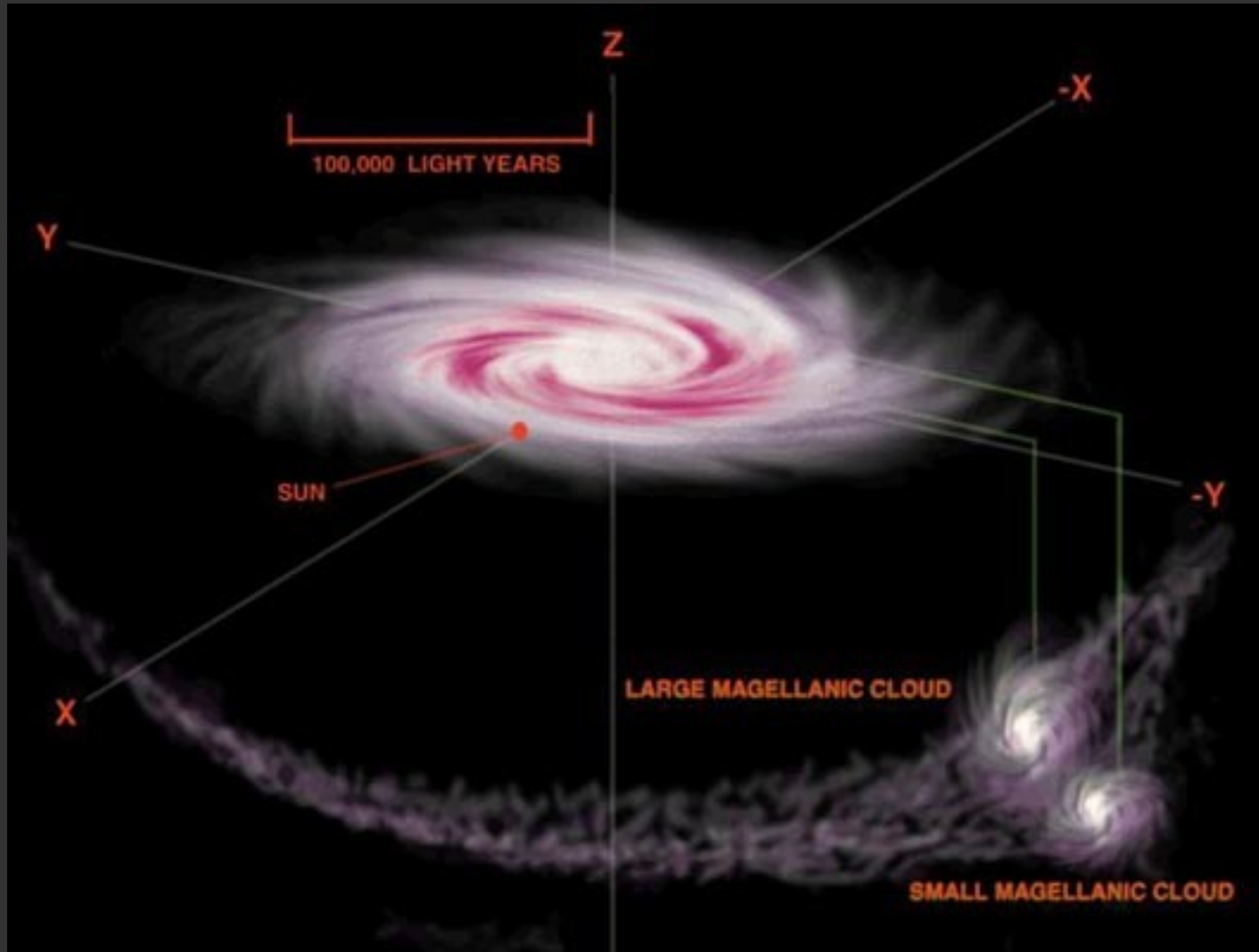


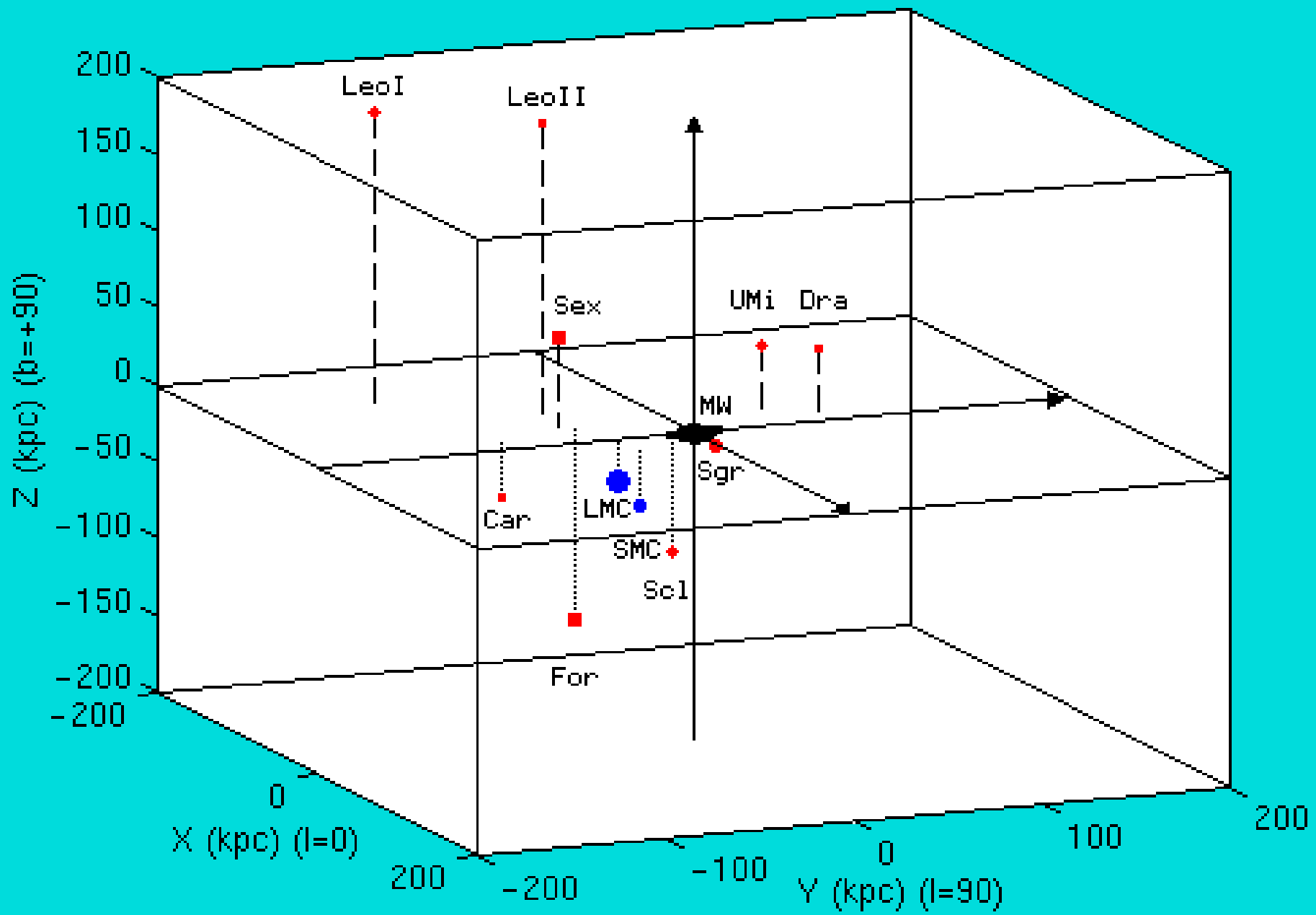


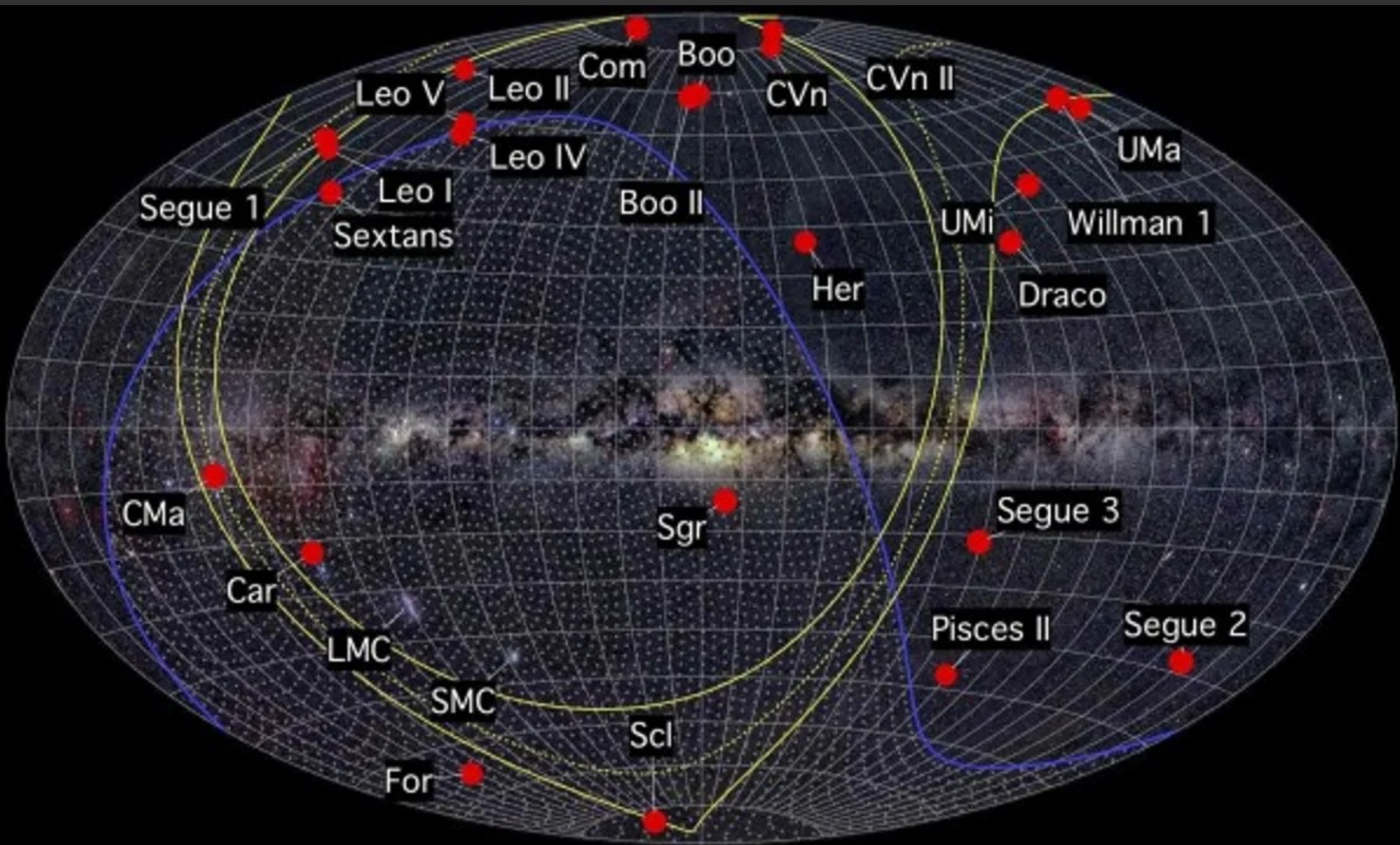
# Dark Matter!

- *Most of the mass of our galaxy is not visible to us!*
- *This invisible mass is called dark matter*
- *No one knows what it is at this time*
- *Makes up as much as 90 % of the Milky Way's mass!*
- *One of the most important questions in modern astronomy*

# Our local neighbourhood



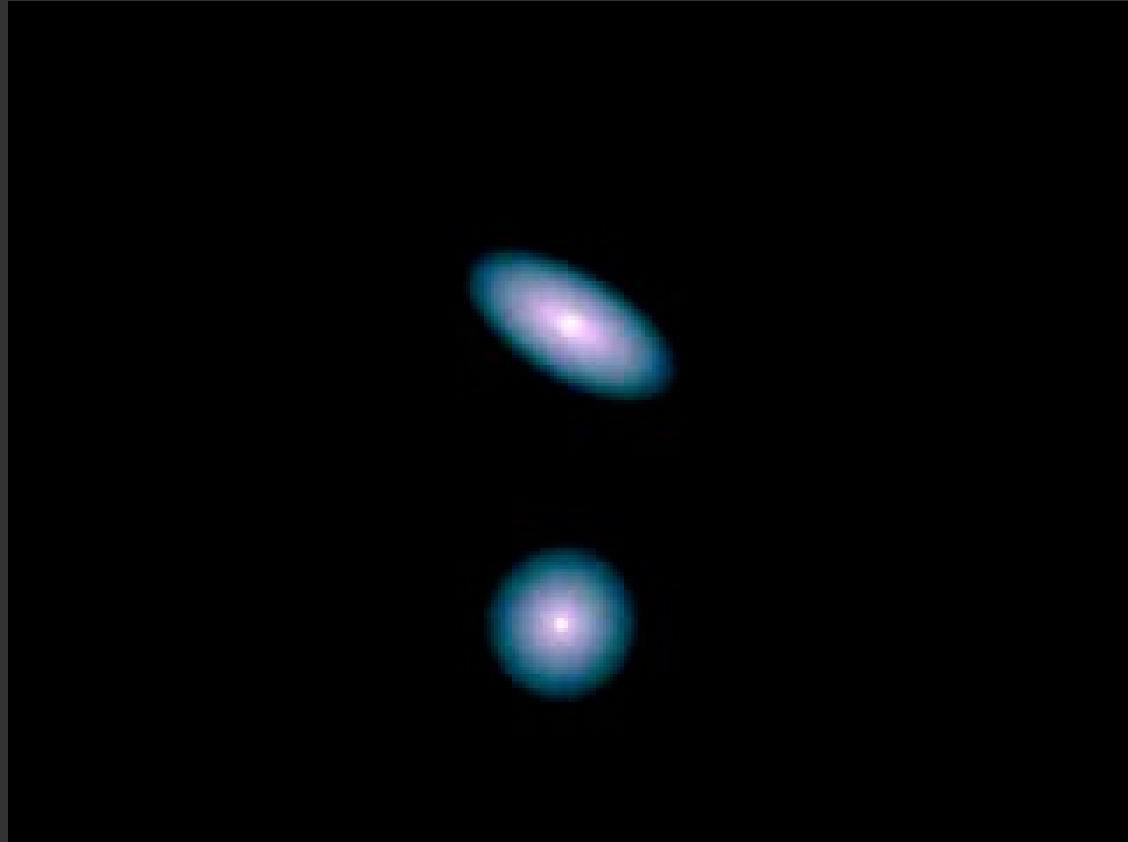




# The fate of our Milky Way

Andromeda Galaxy is approaching the Milky Way at about 110 kilometres per second as indicated by blueshift.

- Collision after ~4.5 billion years
- merge to form an elliptical galaxy after 1 billion years



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4disyKG7XtU>

# Milkomeda or Milkdromeda



The resulting object will be a large lenticular galaxy depending on the amount of remaining gas in the Milky Way and Andromeda.

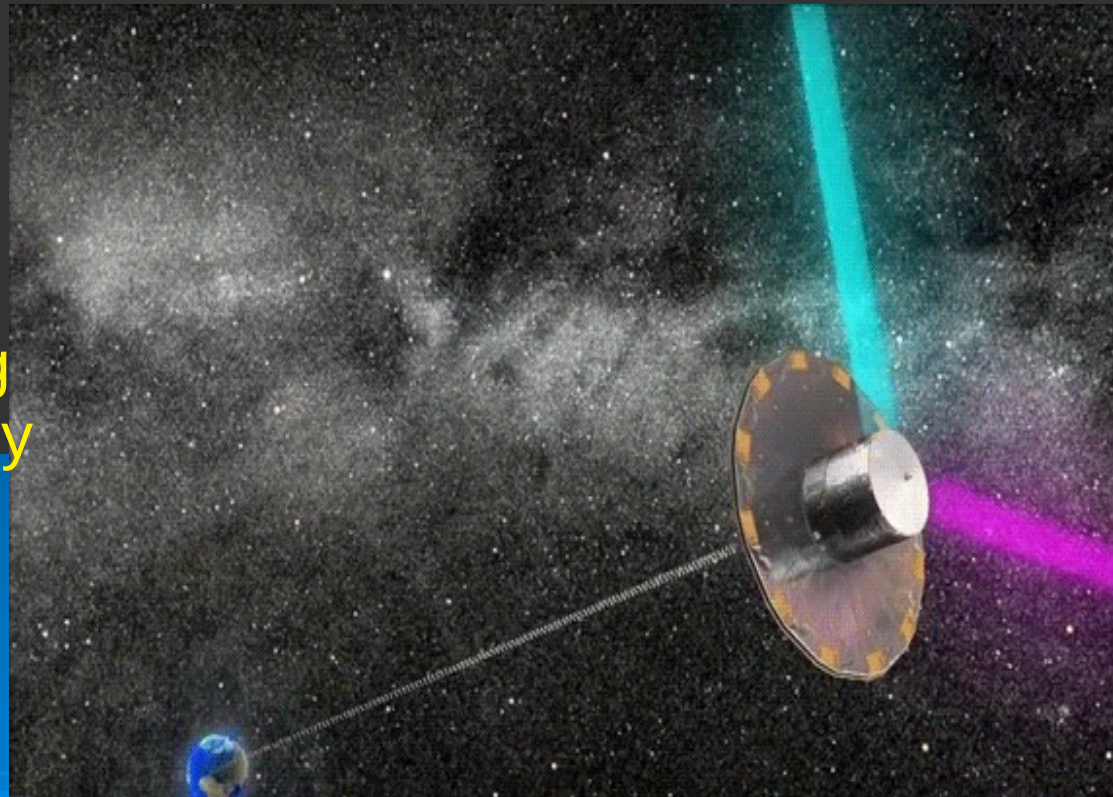
Roughly 150 billion years from now, the remaining galaxies of the Local Group will coalesce into this object, that being the next evolutionary stage of the local group of galaxies



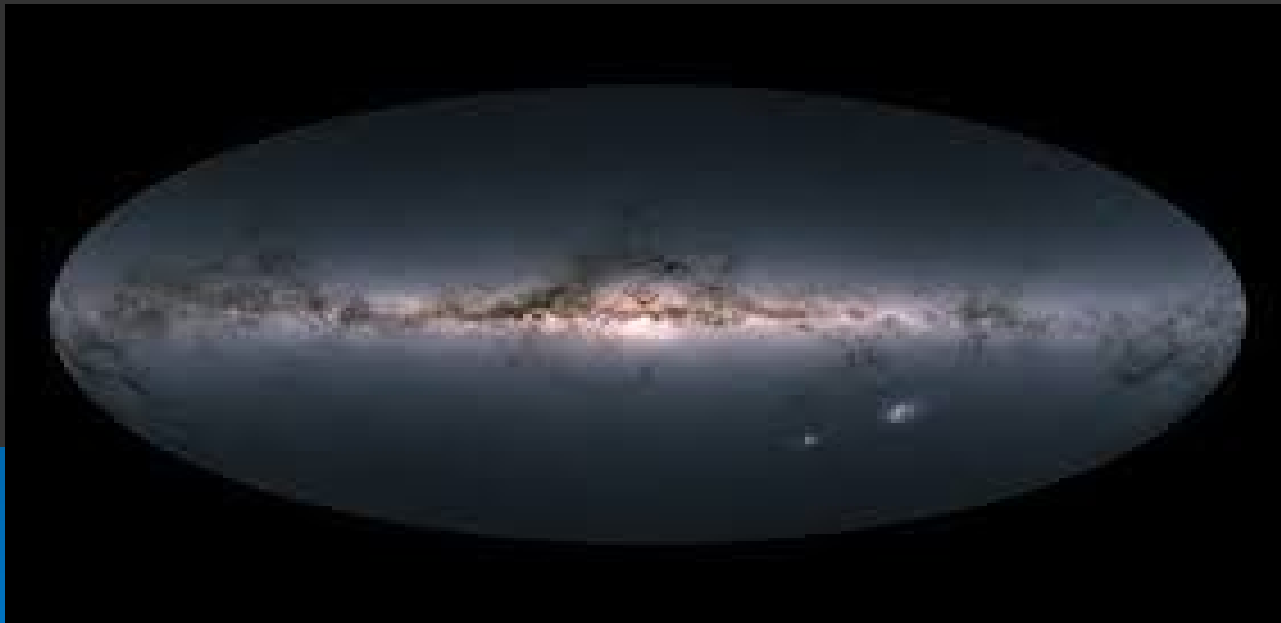
# GAIA: 6D revolution

RA, Dec, parallax, RV, pmra, pmdec

Two identical, three-mirror anastigmatic (TMA) telescopes, with apertures of  $1.45 \text{ m} \times 0.50 \text{ m}$  pointing in directions separated by the basic angle ( $\Gamma = 106^\circ .5$ )  
Accuracy of 24 microarcsec = 42 kpc,  
0.06 arcsec pixels



# The Milky Way Gaia



Thanks..



# Natures produces a variety of Black Holes....

## Black hole classifications

Class	Mass	Size
Supermassive black hole	$\sim 10^5 - 10^{10} M_{\text{Sun}}$	$\sim 0.001 - 400 \text{ AU}$
Intermediate-mass black hole	$\sim 10^3 M_{\text{Sun}}$	$\sim 10^3 \text{ km} \approx R_{\text{Earth}}$
Stellar black hole	$\sim 10 M_{\text{Sun}}$	$\sim 30 \text{ km}$
Micro black hole	up to $\sim M_{\text{Moon}}$	up to $\sim 0.1 \text{ mm}$