

Steve Longmore
Liverpool John Moores University

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Please tell us:

1. Initial gas conditions
2. Final stellar populations
3. Distribution of individual stars and gas cores as a function of absolute time

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For clouds at $z \sim 1 \rightarrow 3$

Fundamental limitations towards end-to-end understanding of star formation as a function of environment

1. Single snapshots → impossible to know simultaneously know initial conditions and eventual fate of a region
2. Different environments → can not causally connect different regions
3. Only place can resolve stars = MW → Environment not representative of that in which most stars in the Universe formed

Star Formation “Time Machines”



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Collaborators

LJMU Group

Jonathan Henshaw

Daniel Walker

J. Rathborne, D. Kruijssen, J. Bally,
L. Testi, J. Dale, A. Walsh, C.
Purcell, N. Bastian, J. Jackson, J.
Foster, J. Alves, Y. Contreras, G.
Garay, C. Battersby, S. Molinari

Star Formation “Time Machines”

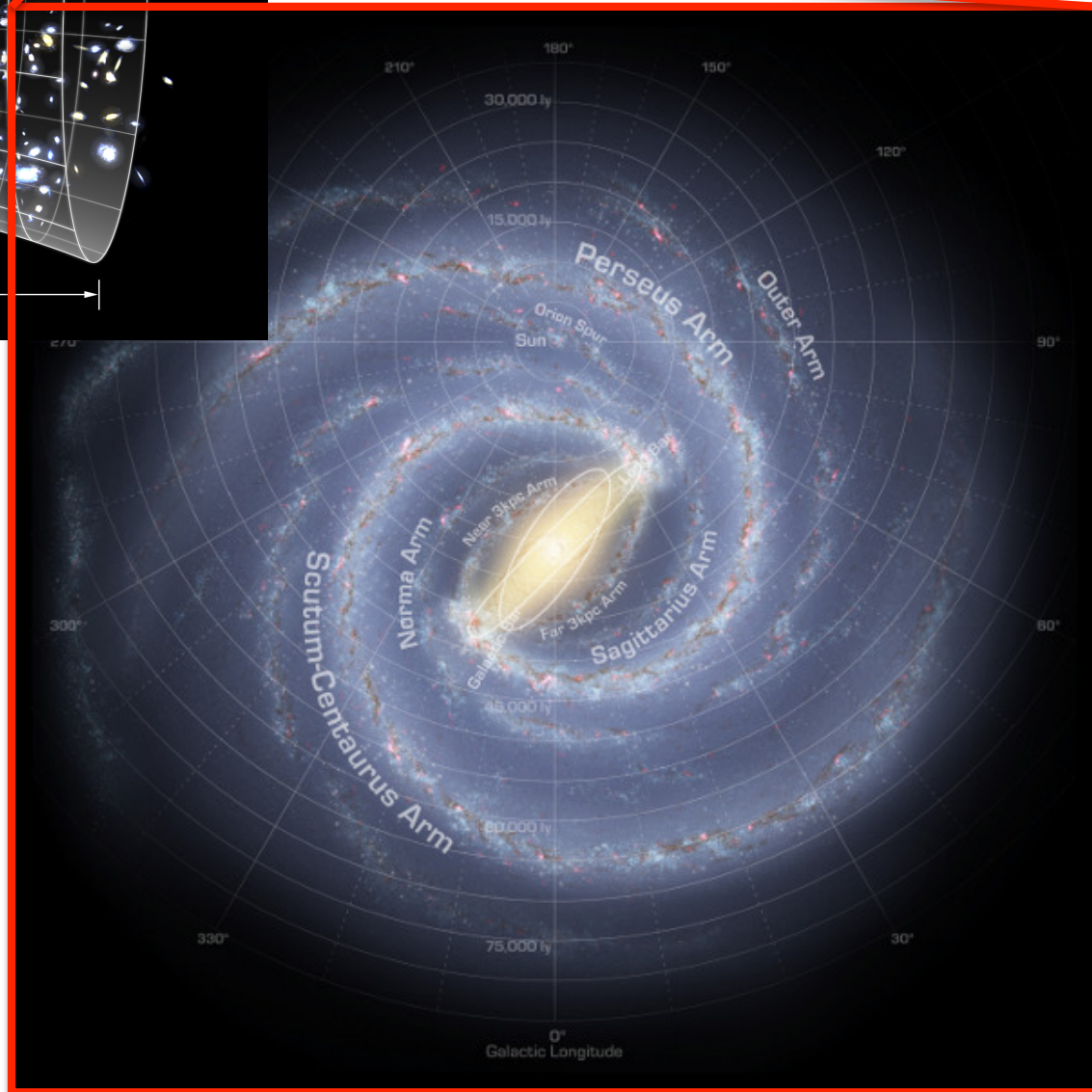
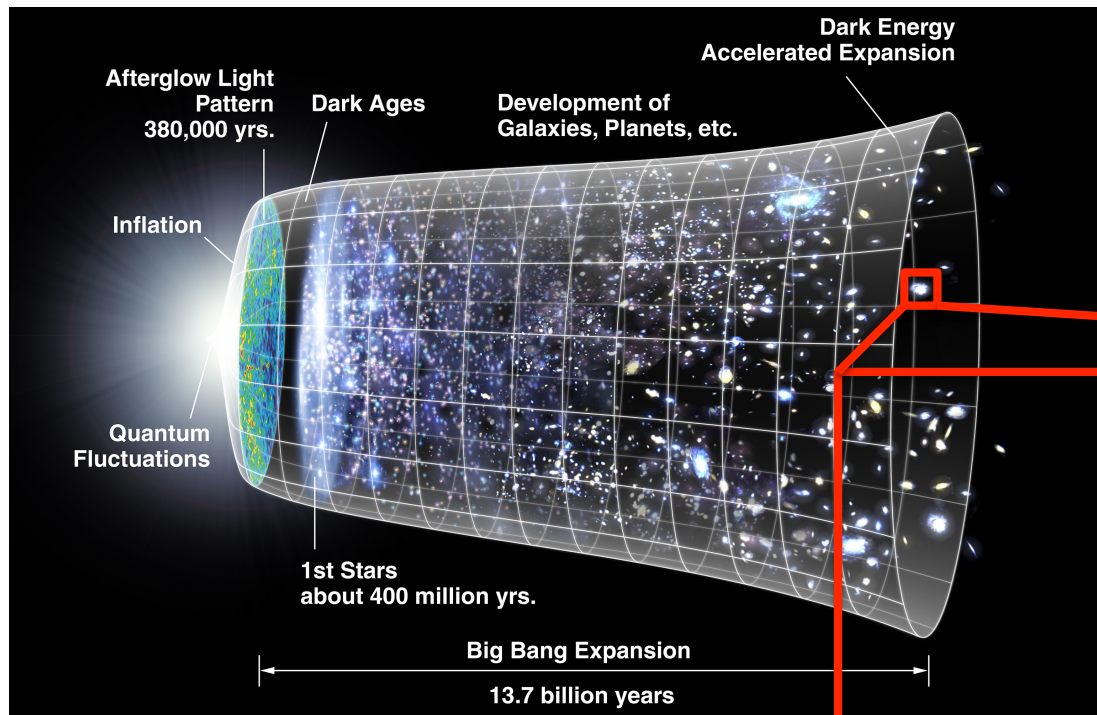


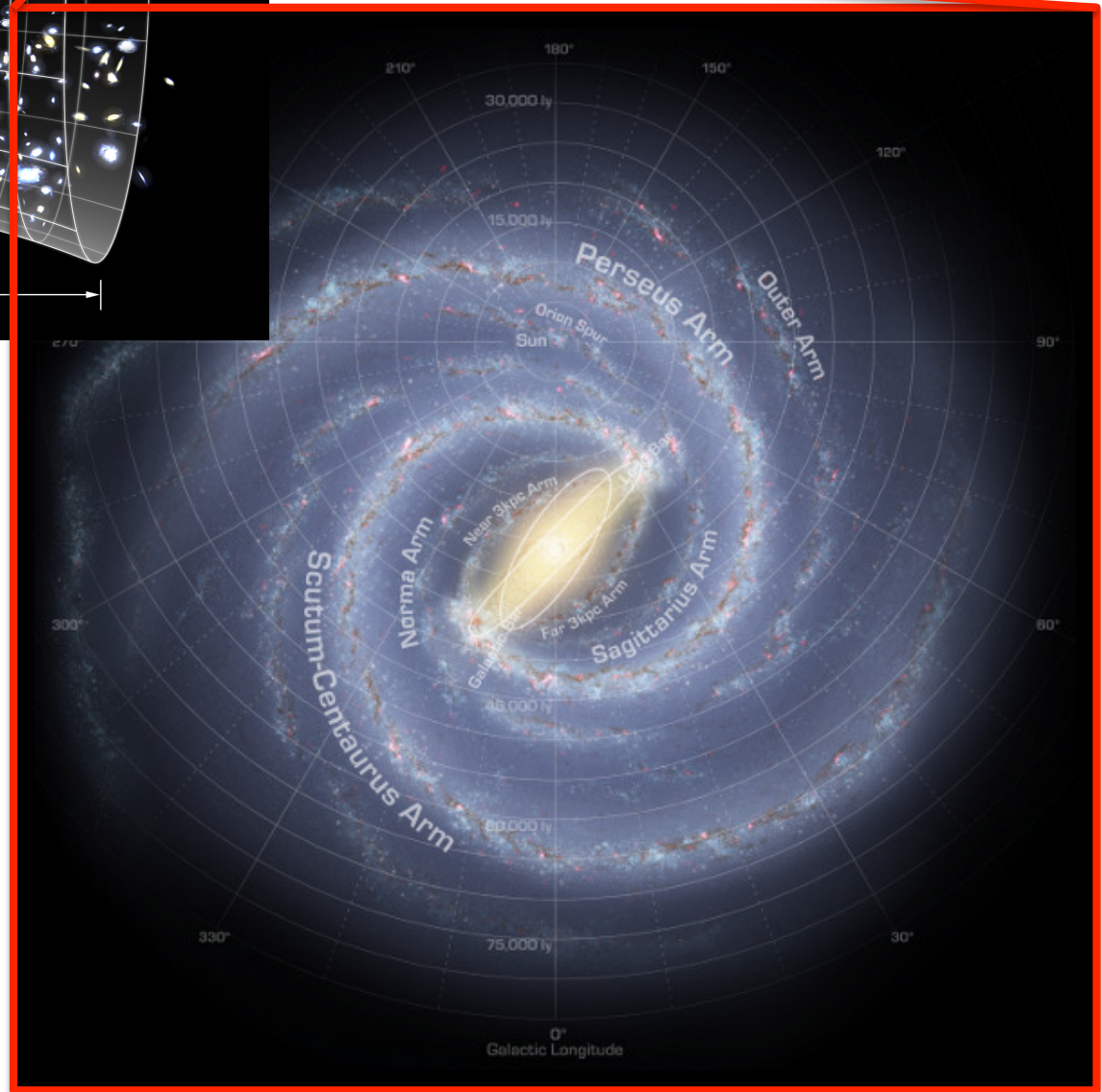
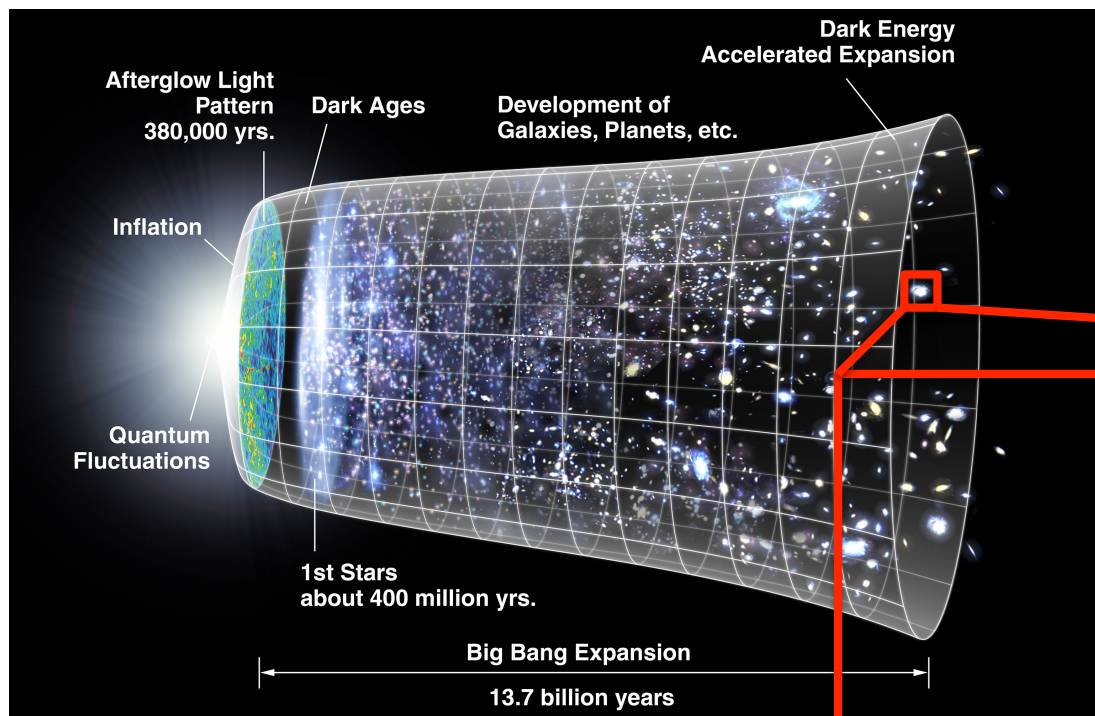
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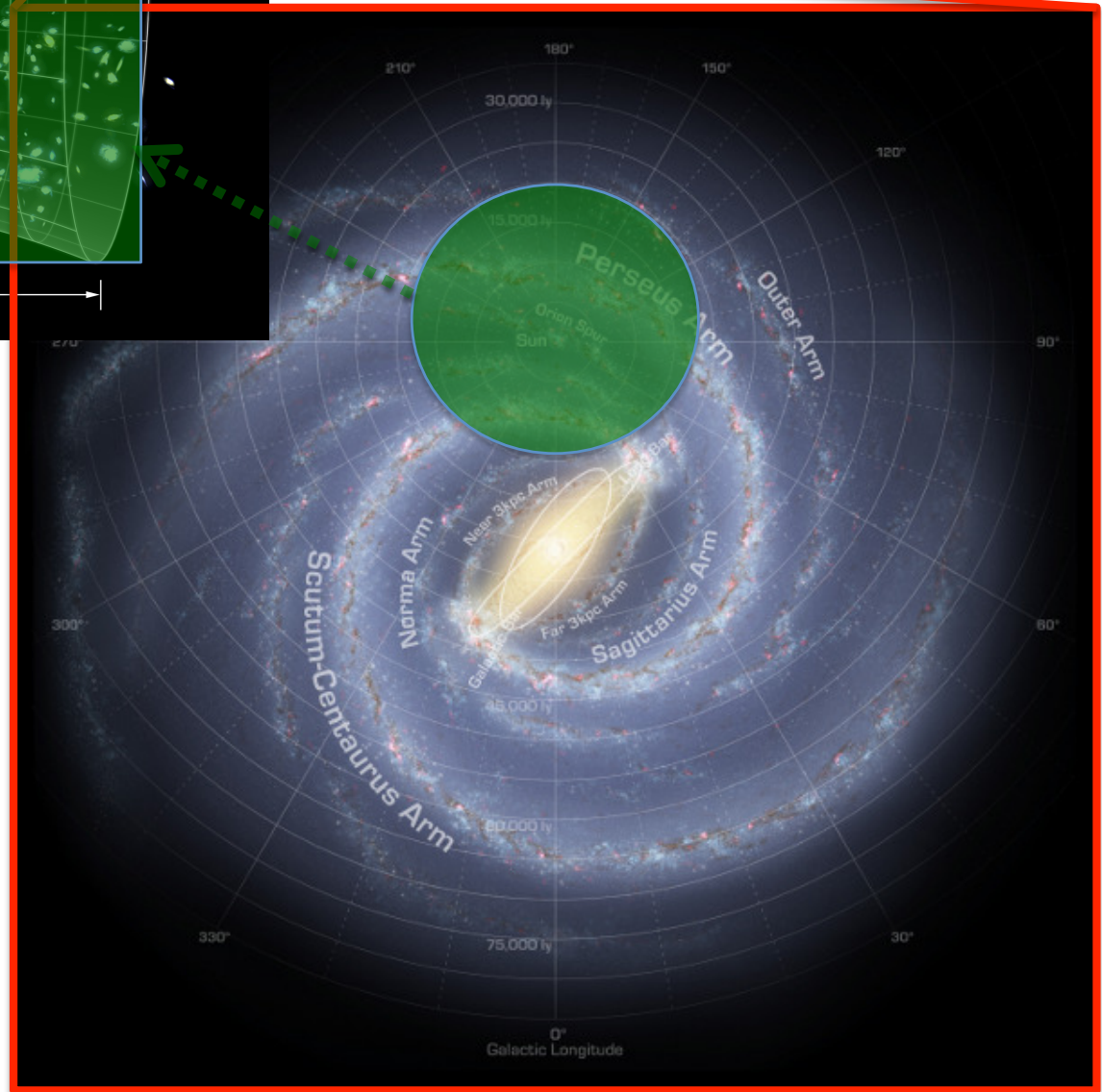
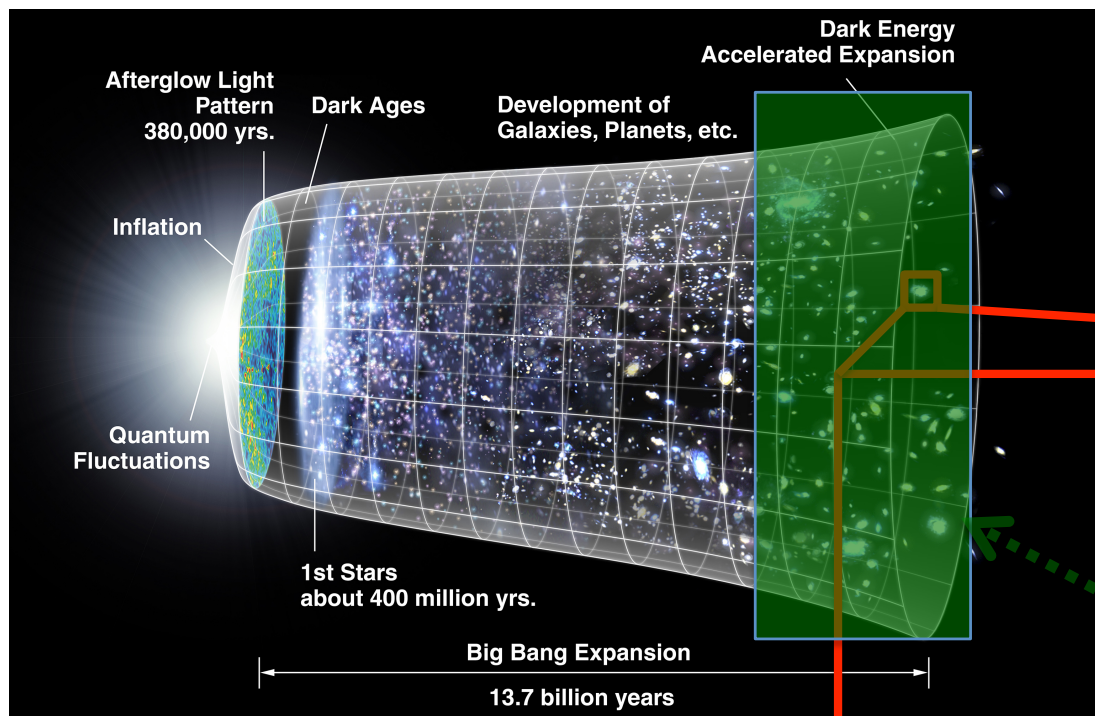


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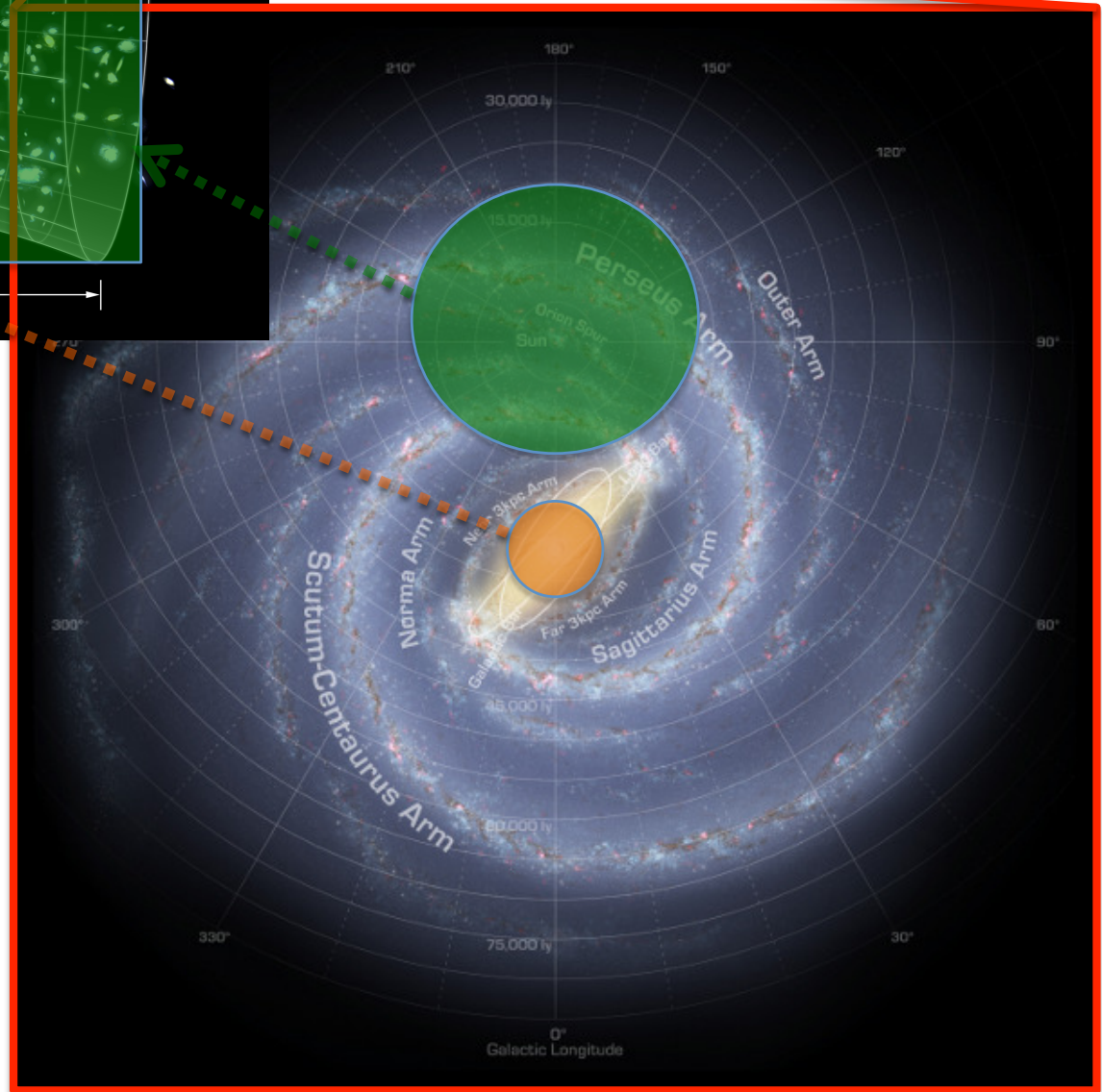
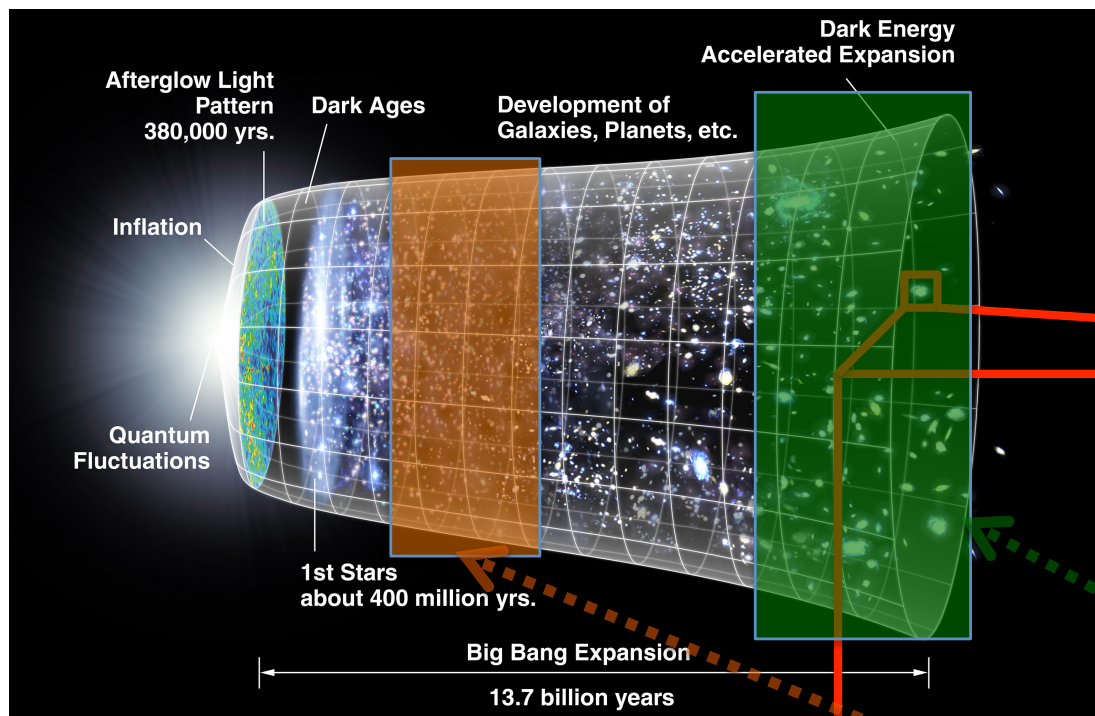




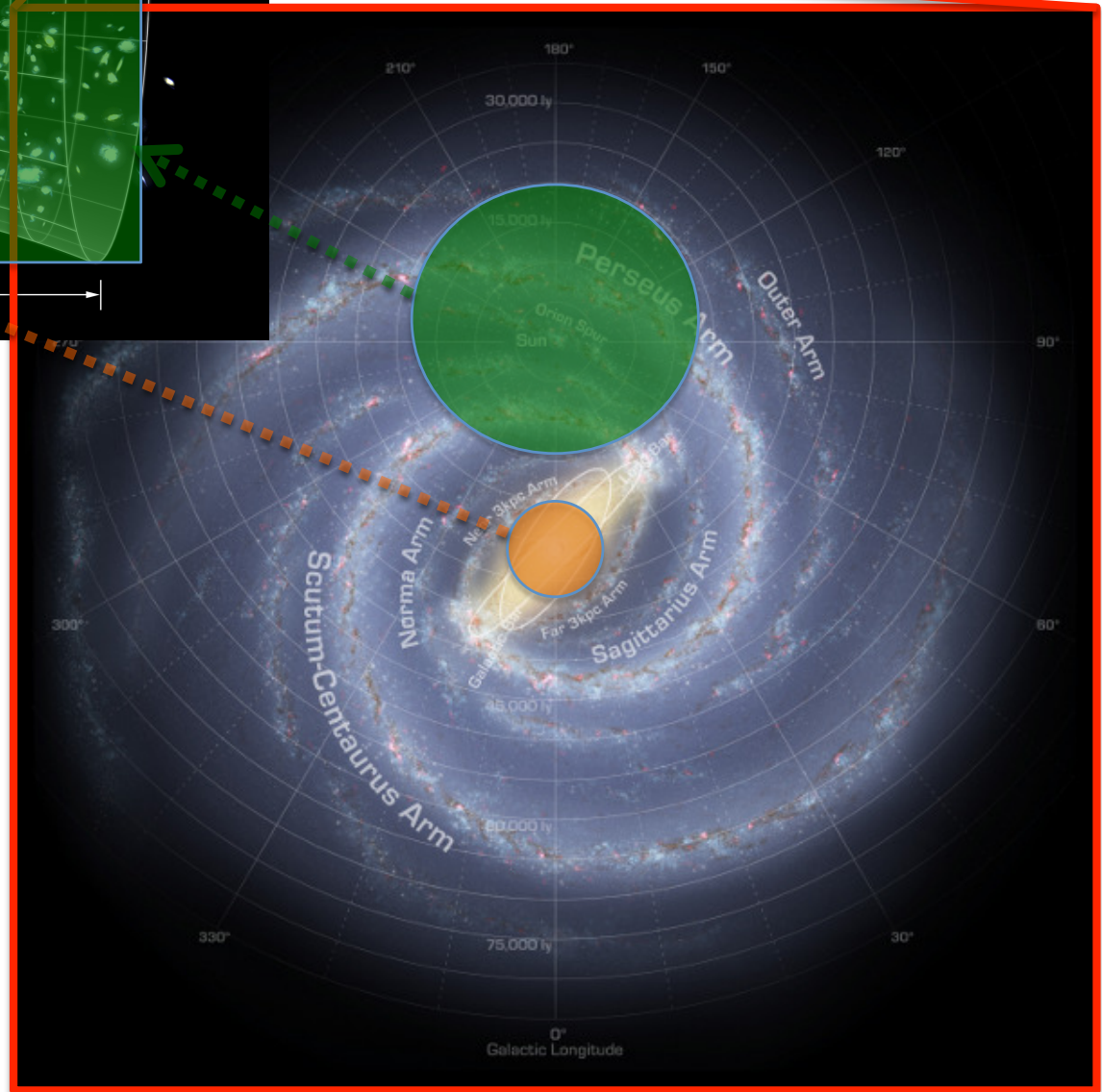
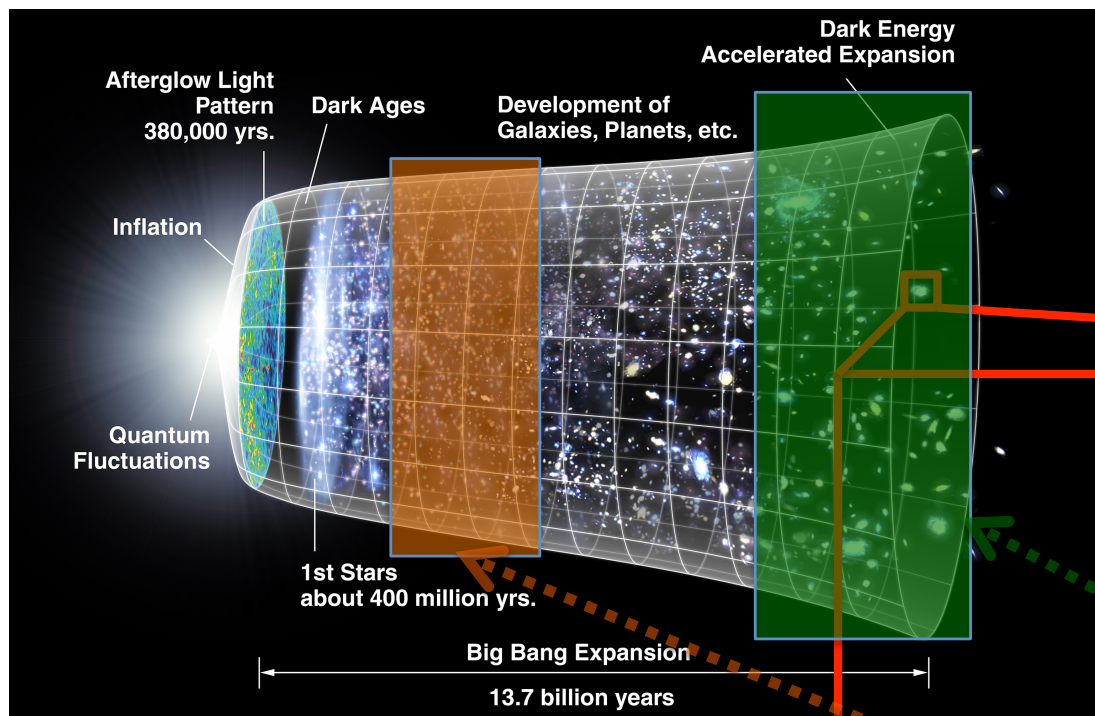
Time Machine 1
 Kruijssen & Longmore 2013,
 MNRAS, 435, 2598.



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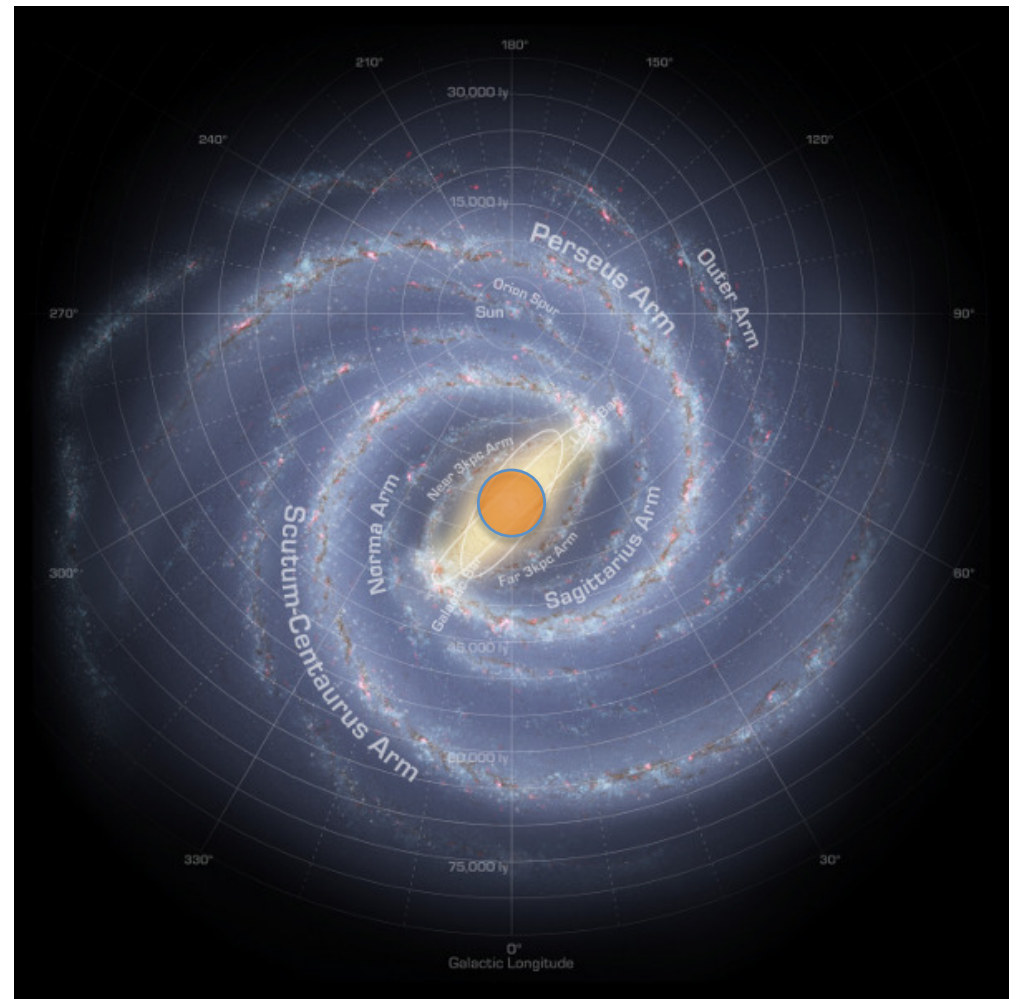
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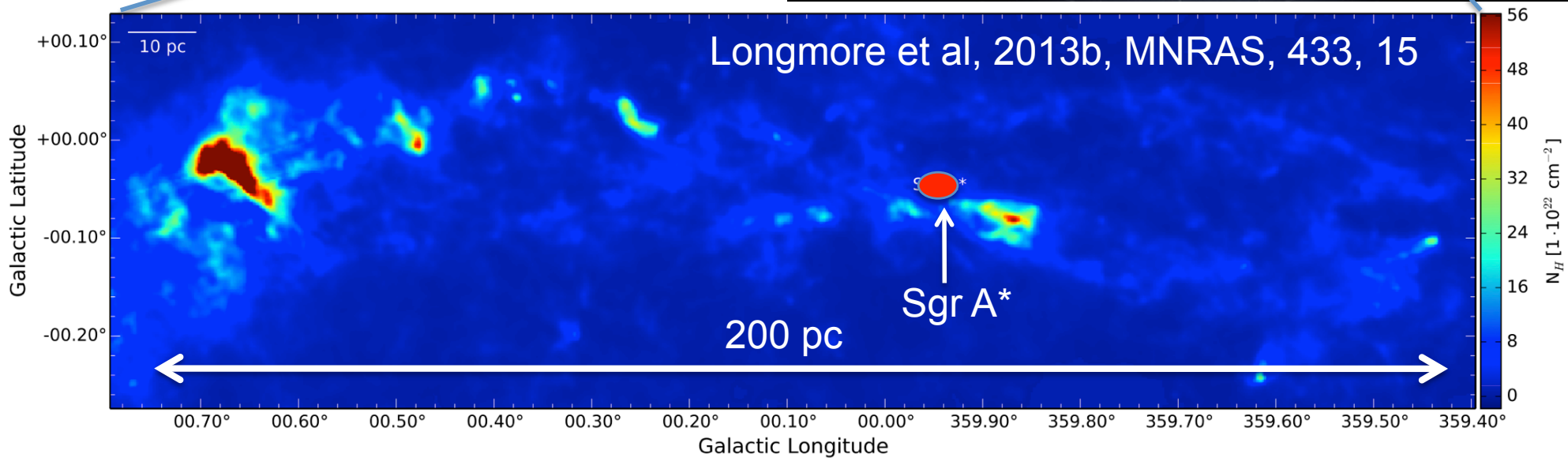
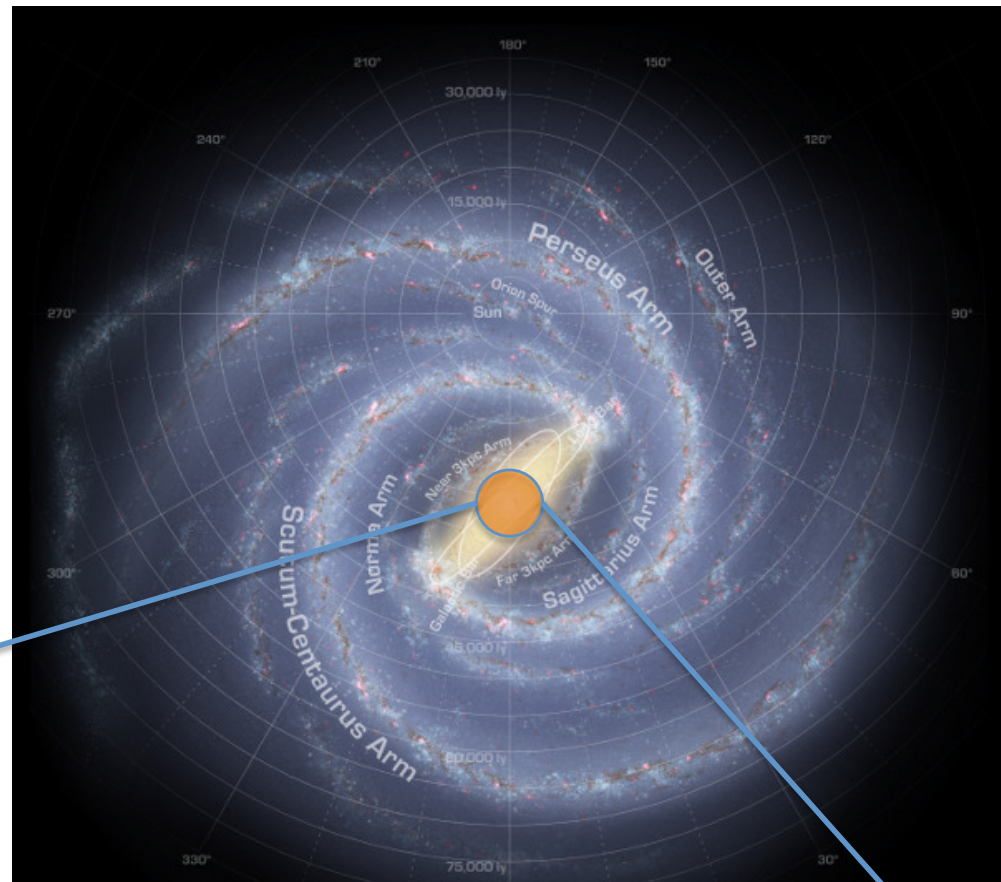
Indistinguishable gas
 conditions 10^5 times
 closer!

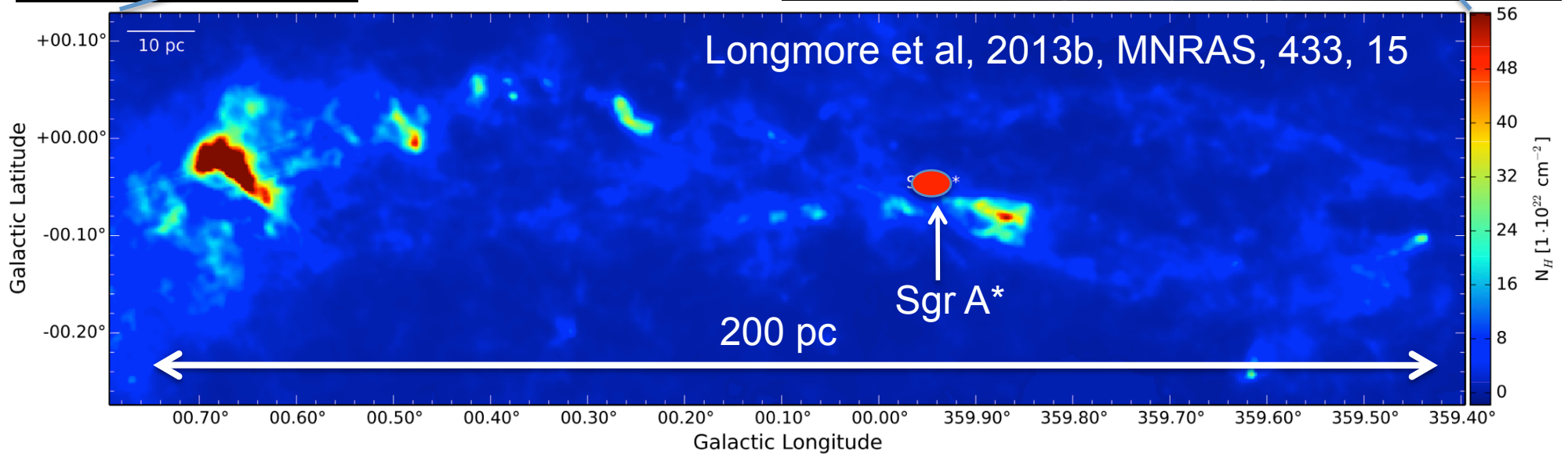
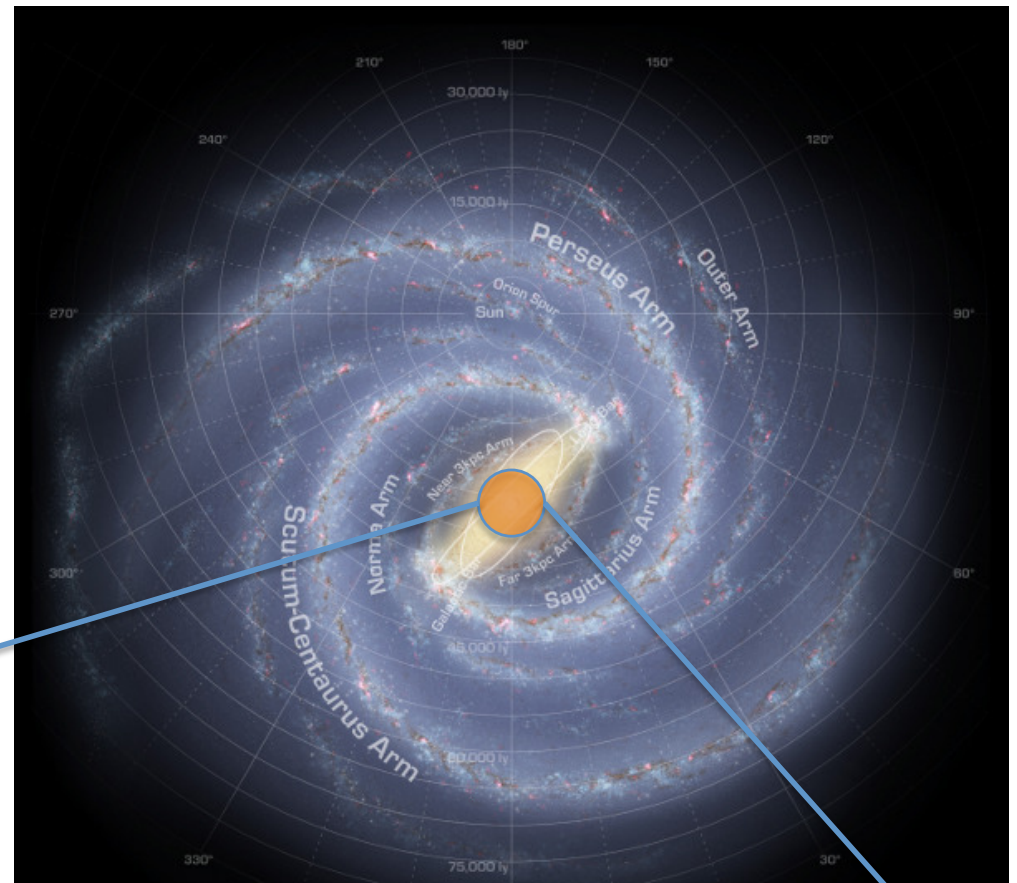
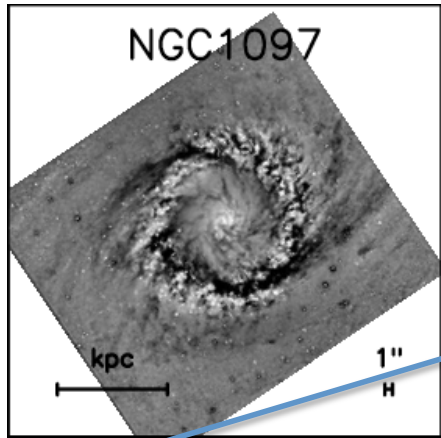
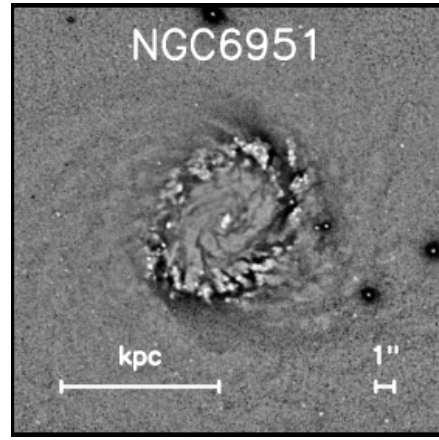
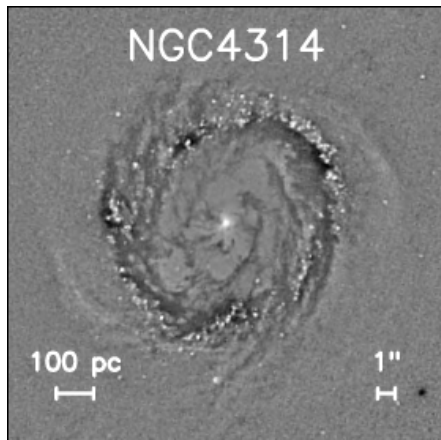
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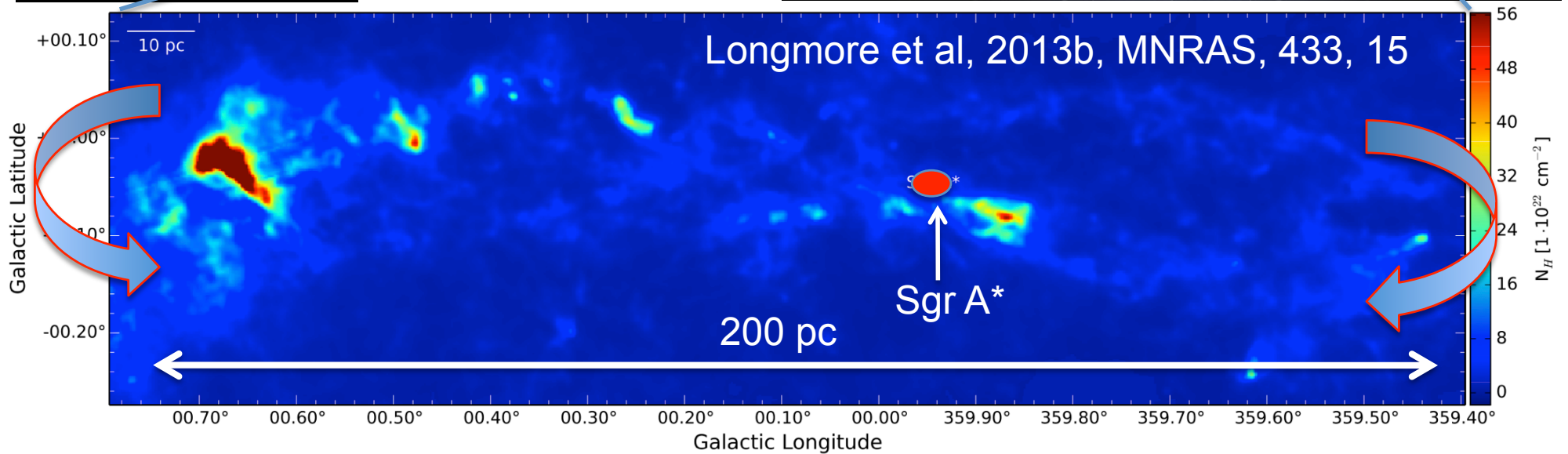
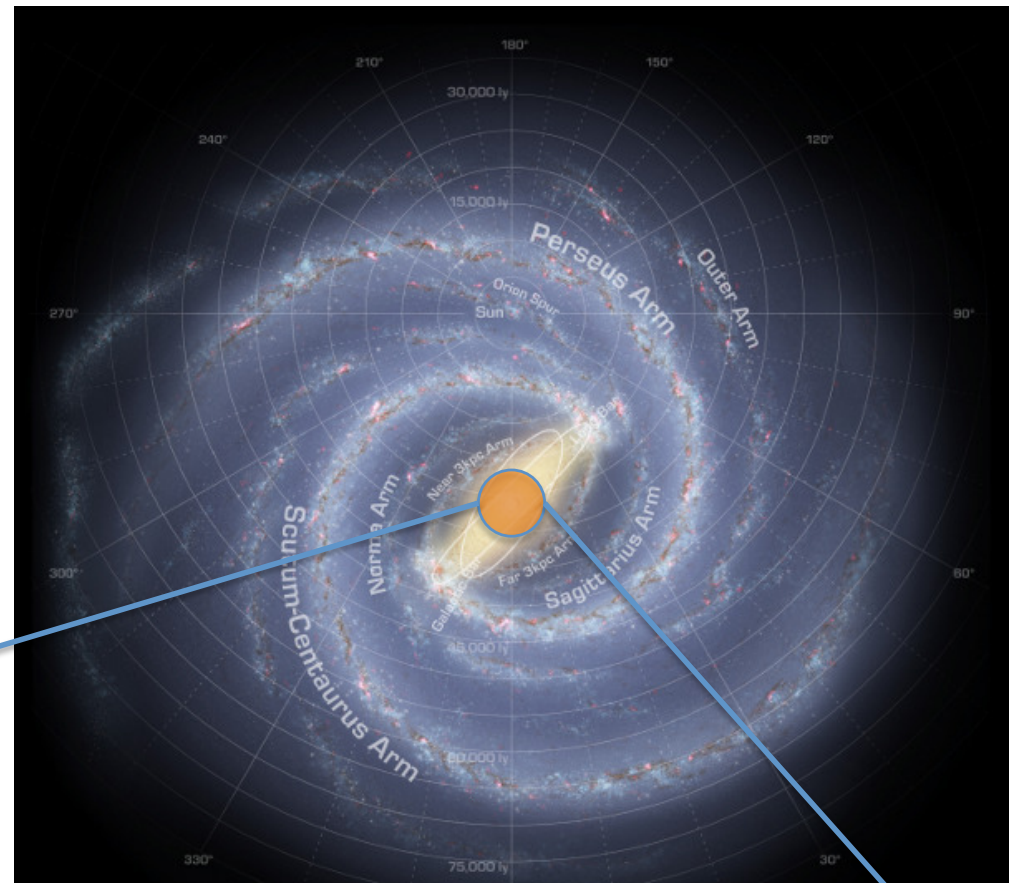
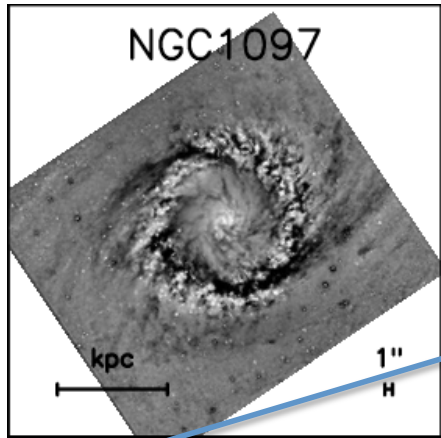
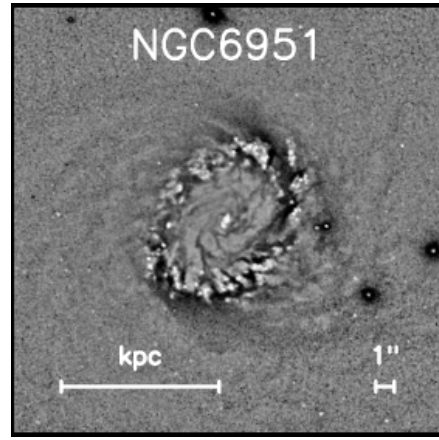
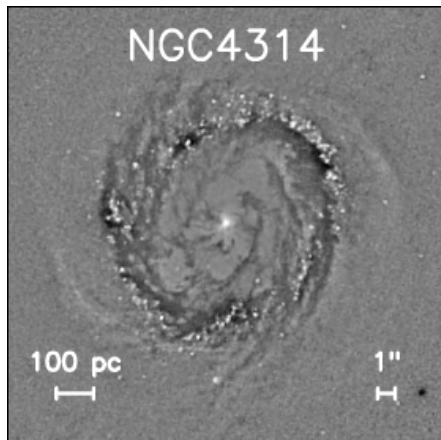


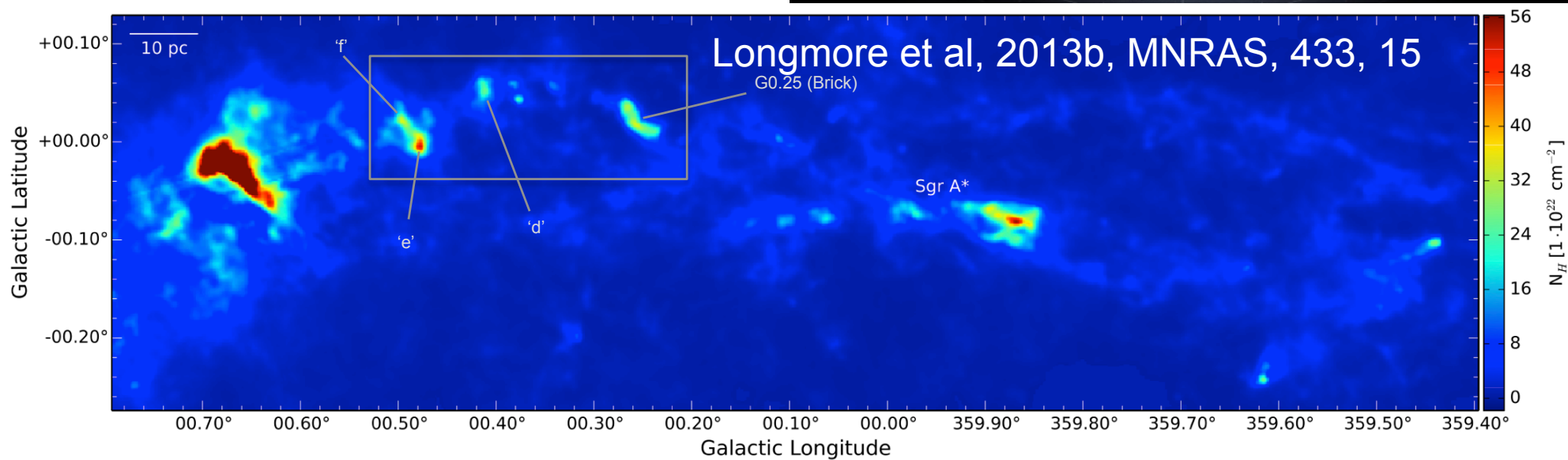
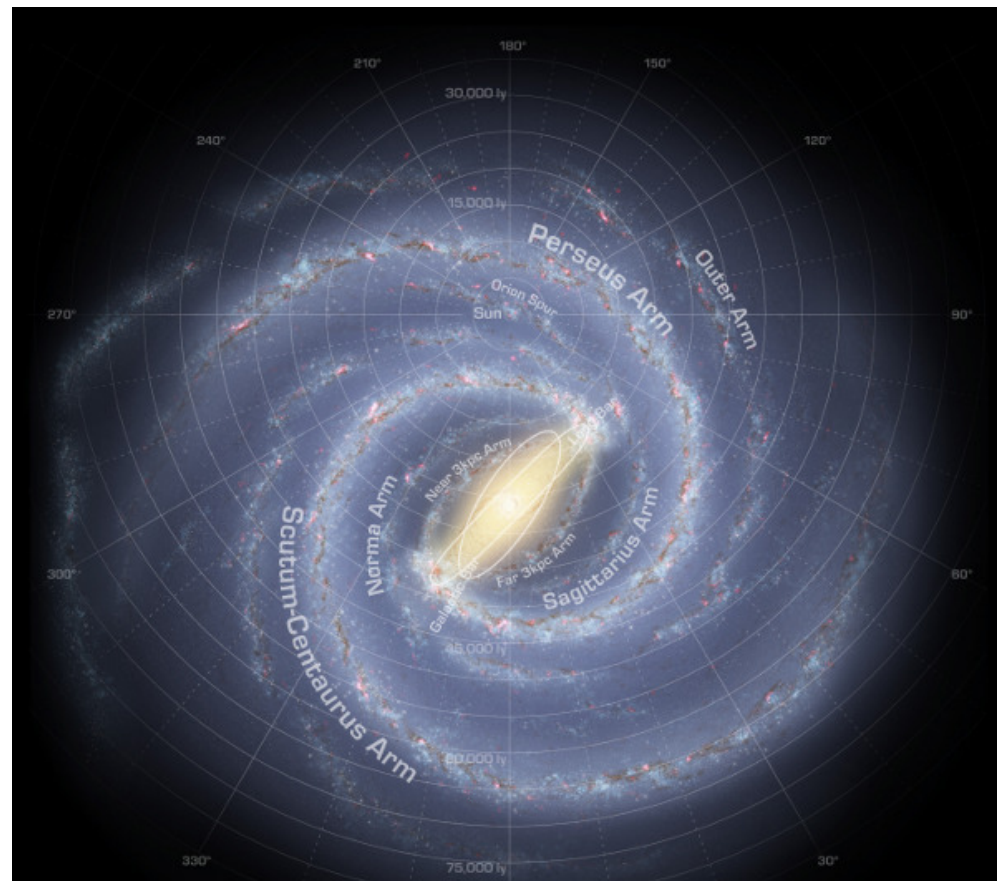
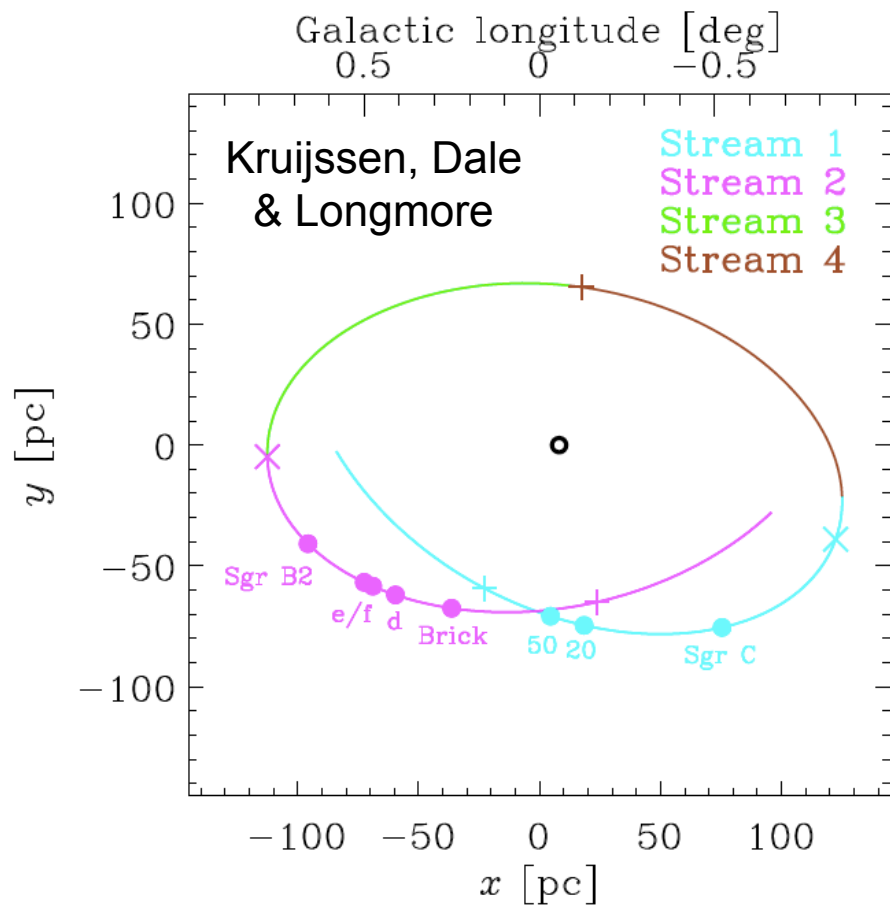
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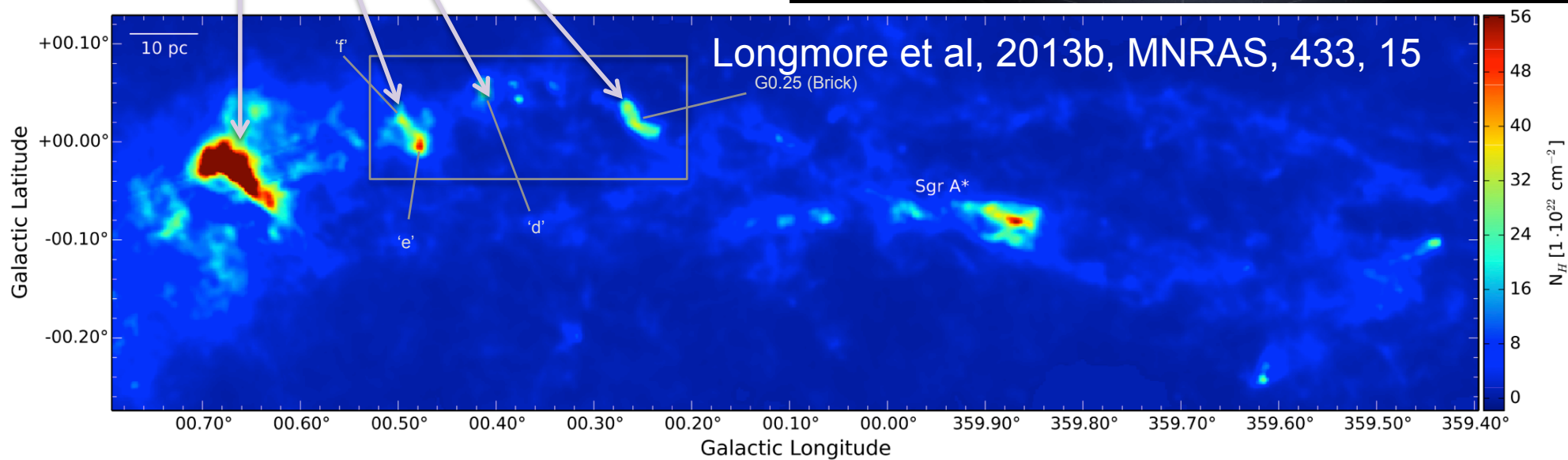
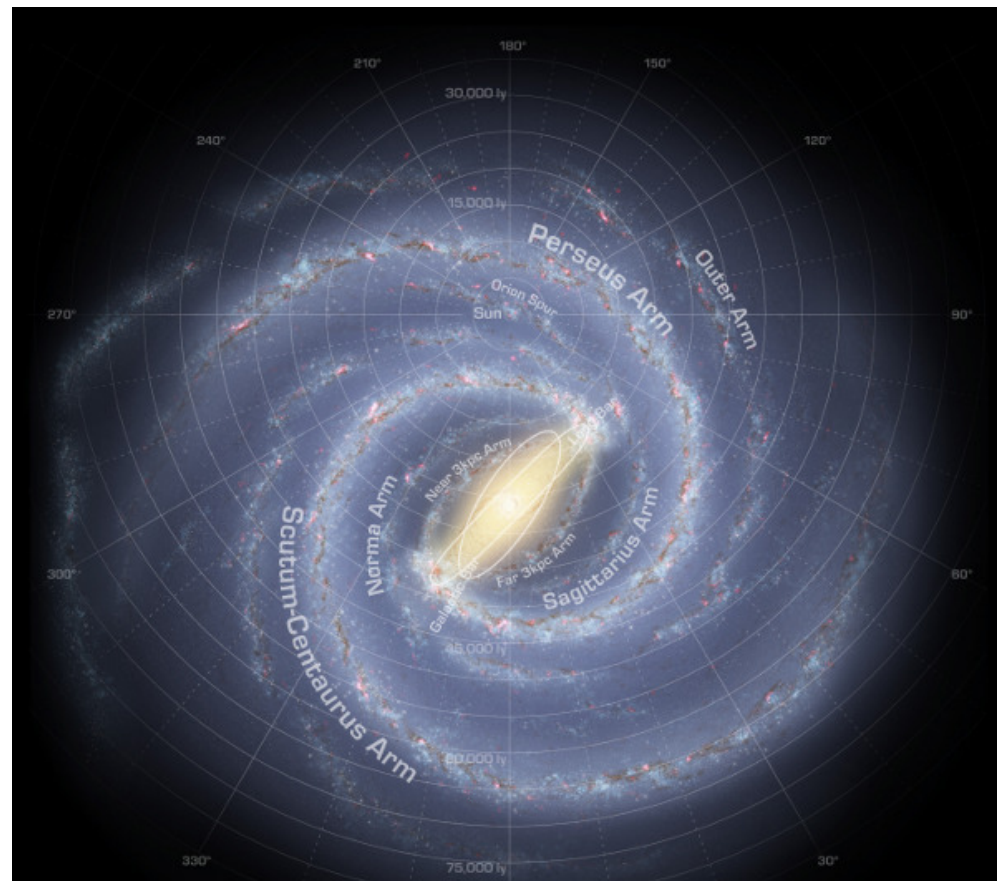
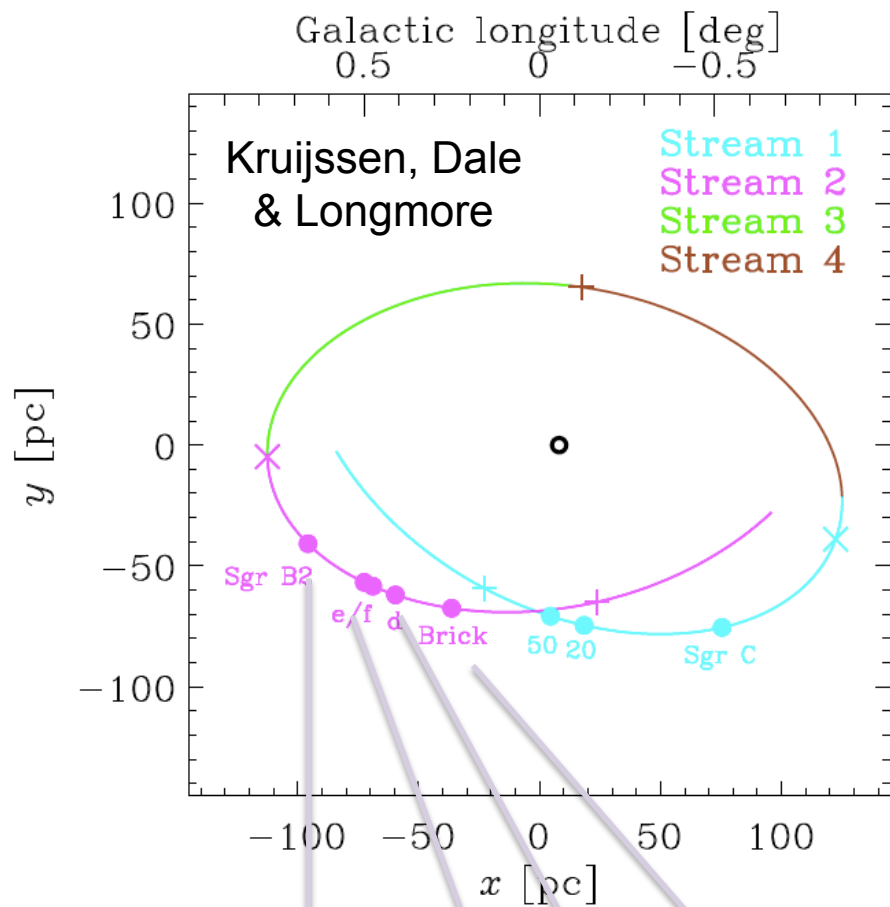


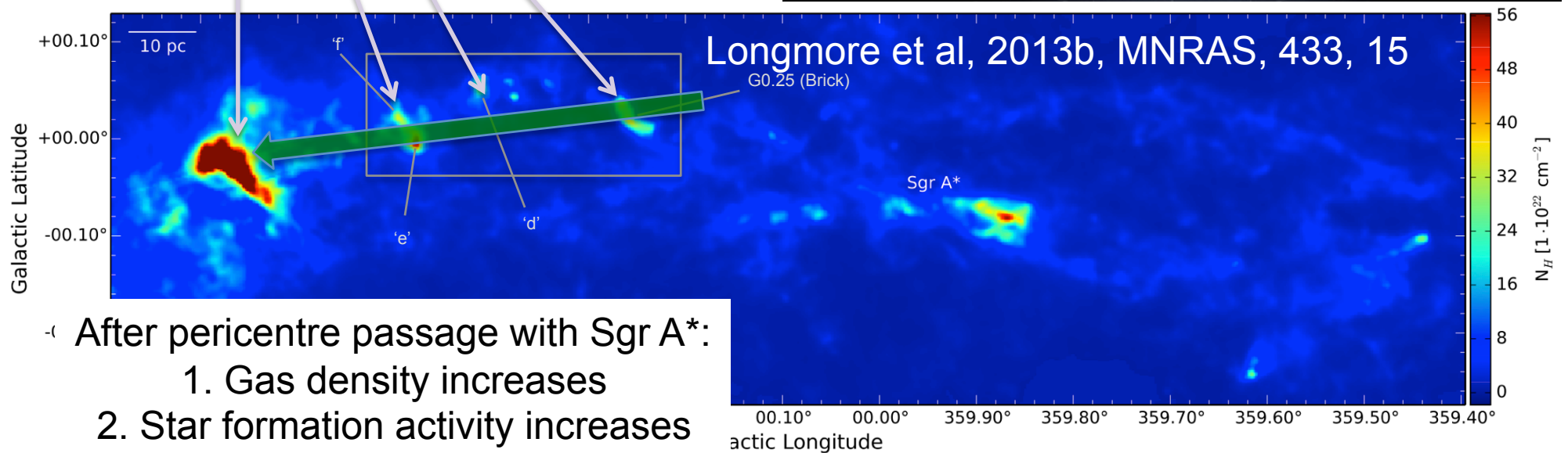
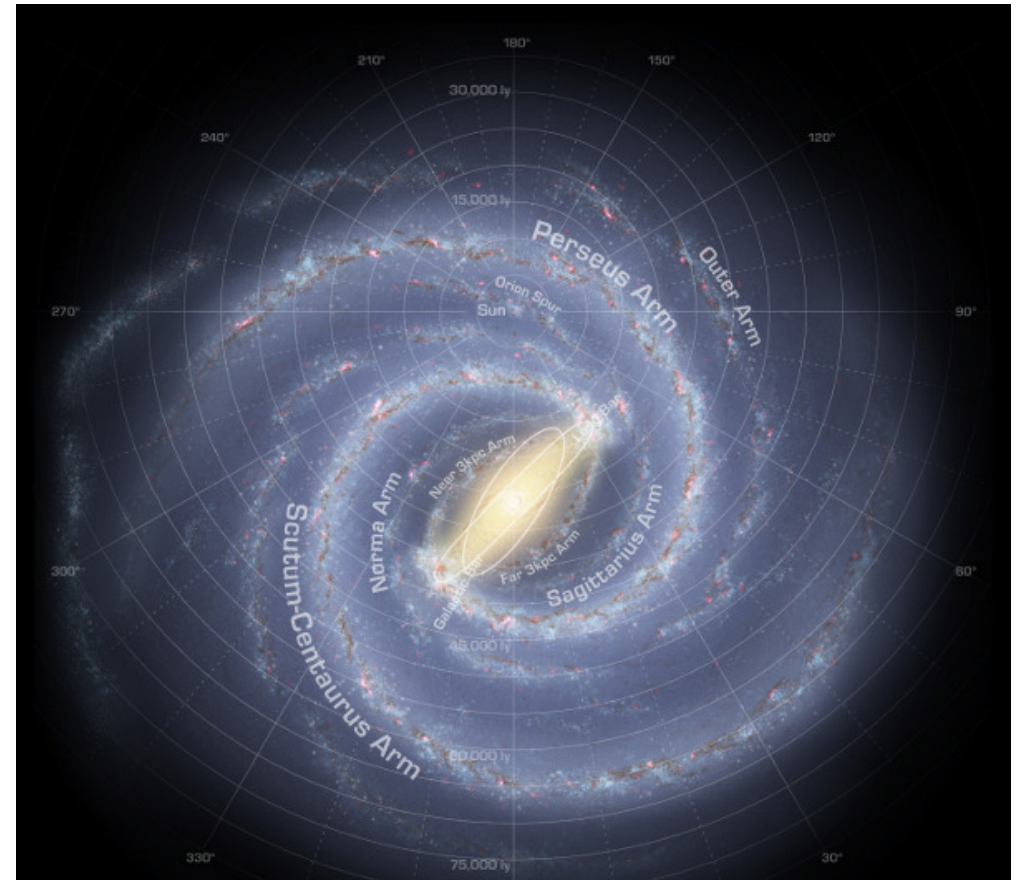
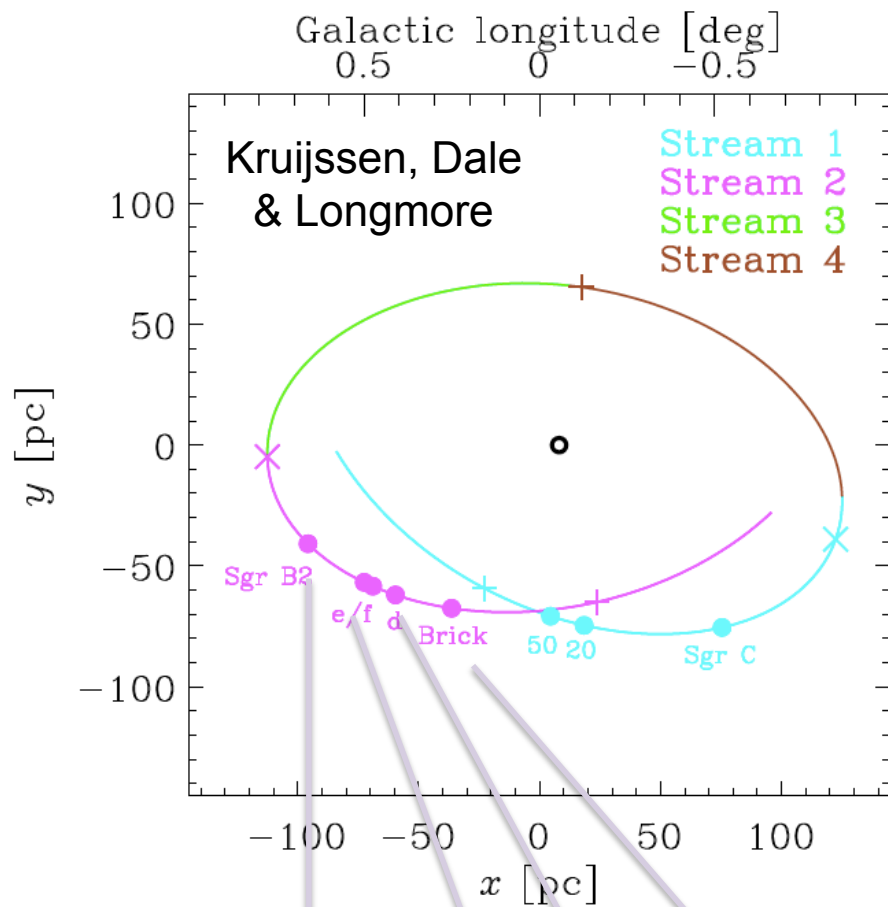


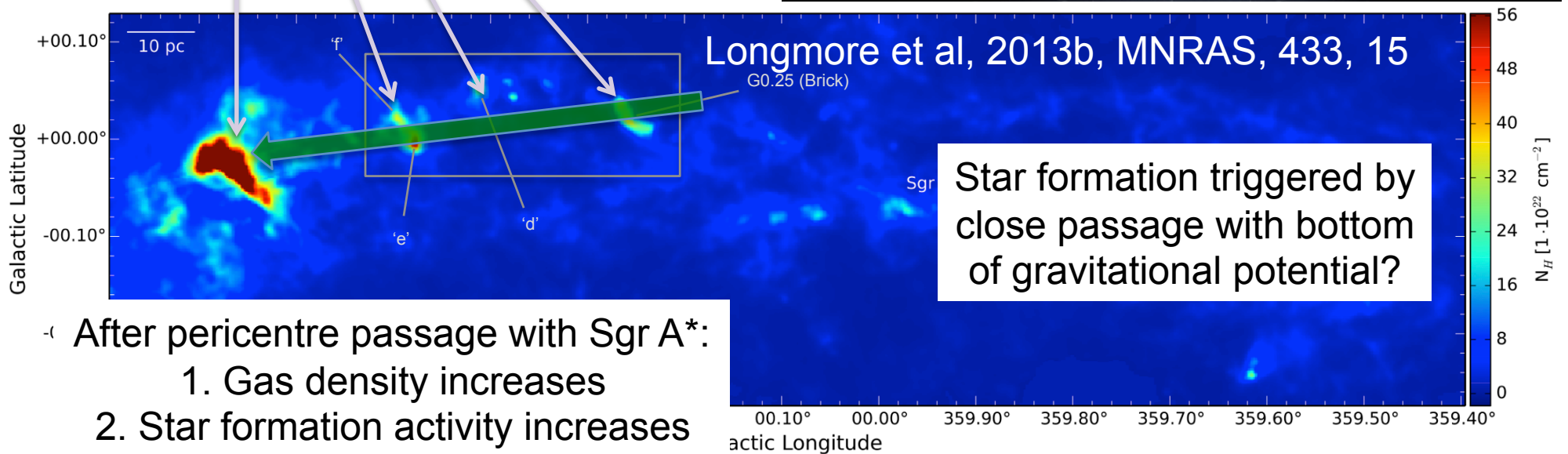
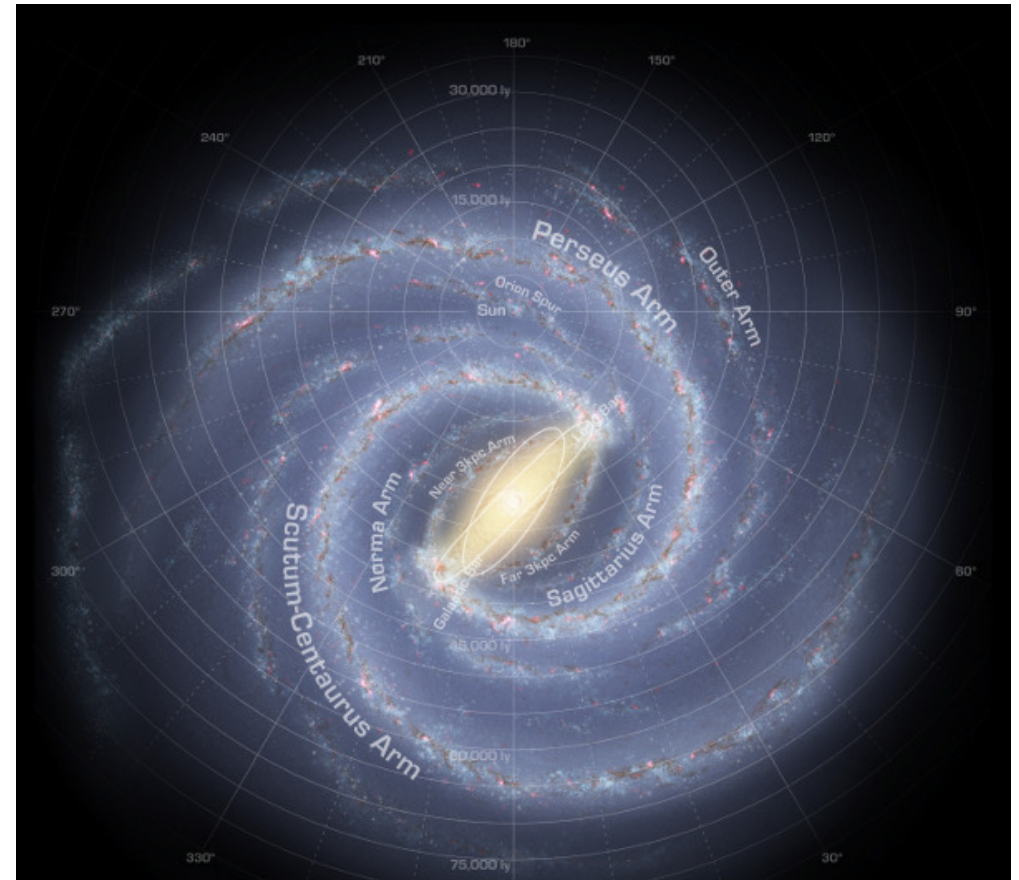
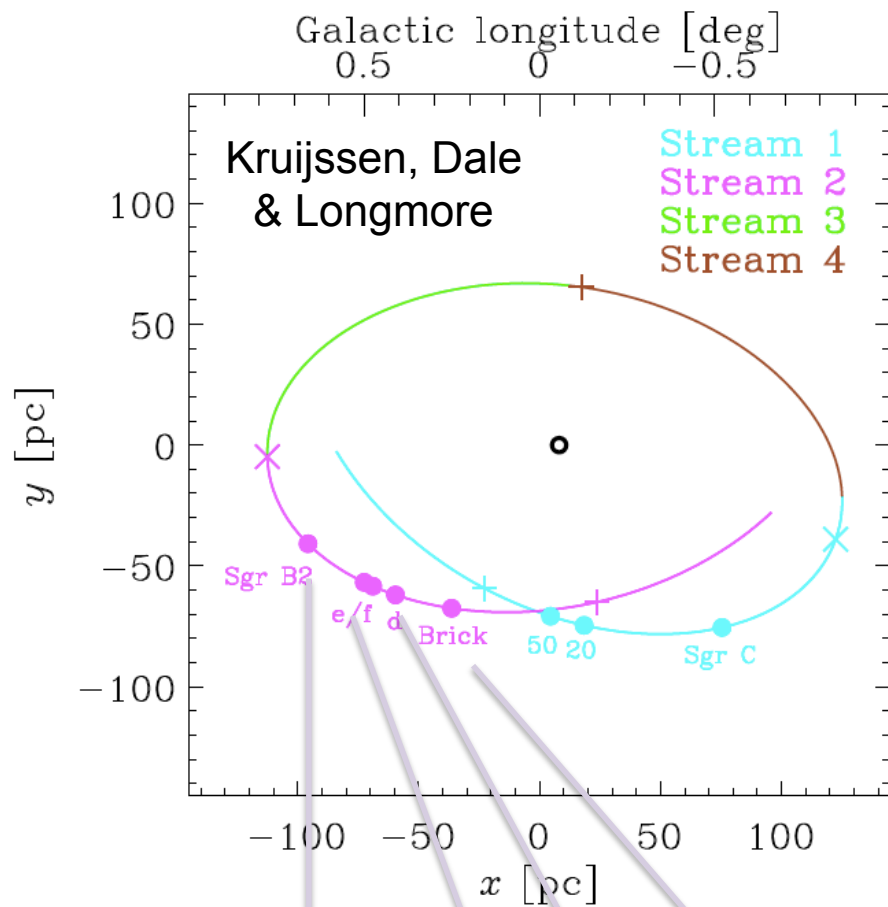




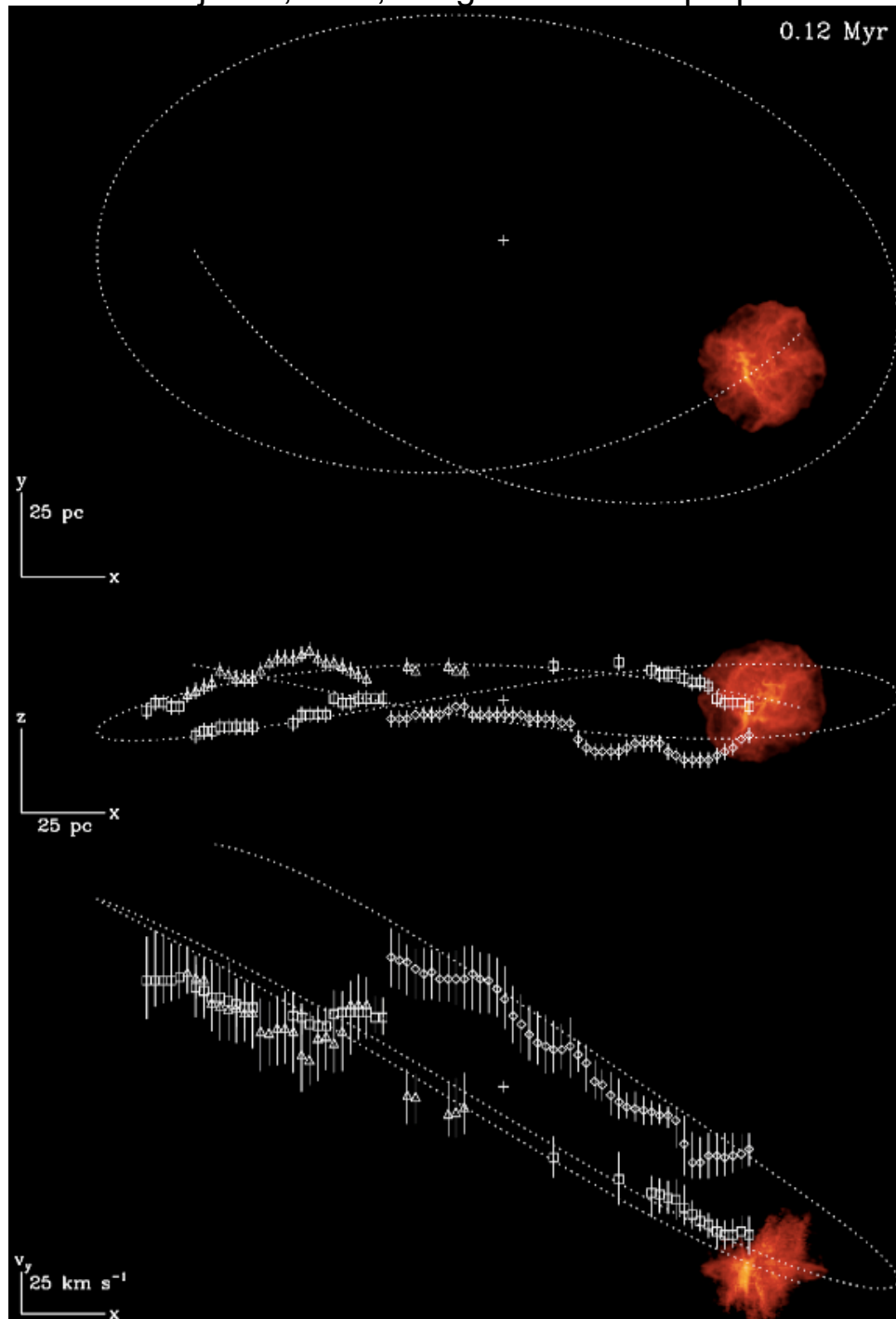








- After pericentre passage with Sgr A*:
1. Gas density increases
 2. Star formation activity increases



SPH simulations of gas clouds on best-fit orbit

Initial conditions:

- Mass = $2 \times 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$
 - Radius = 20 pc
 - $\sigma = 20 \text{ km/s}$
 - 10^5 particles
- } Initial cloud properties

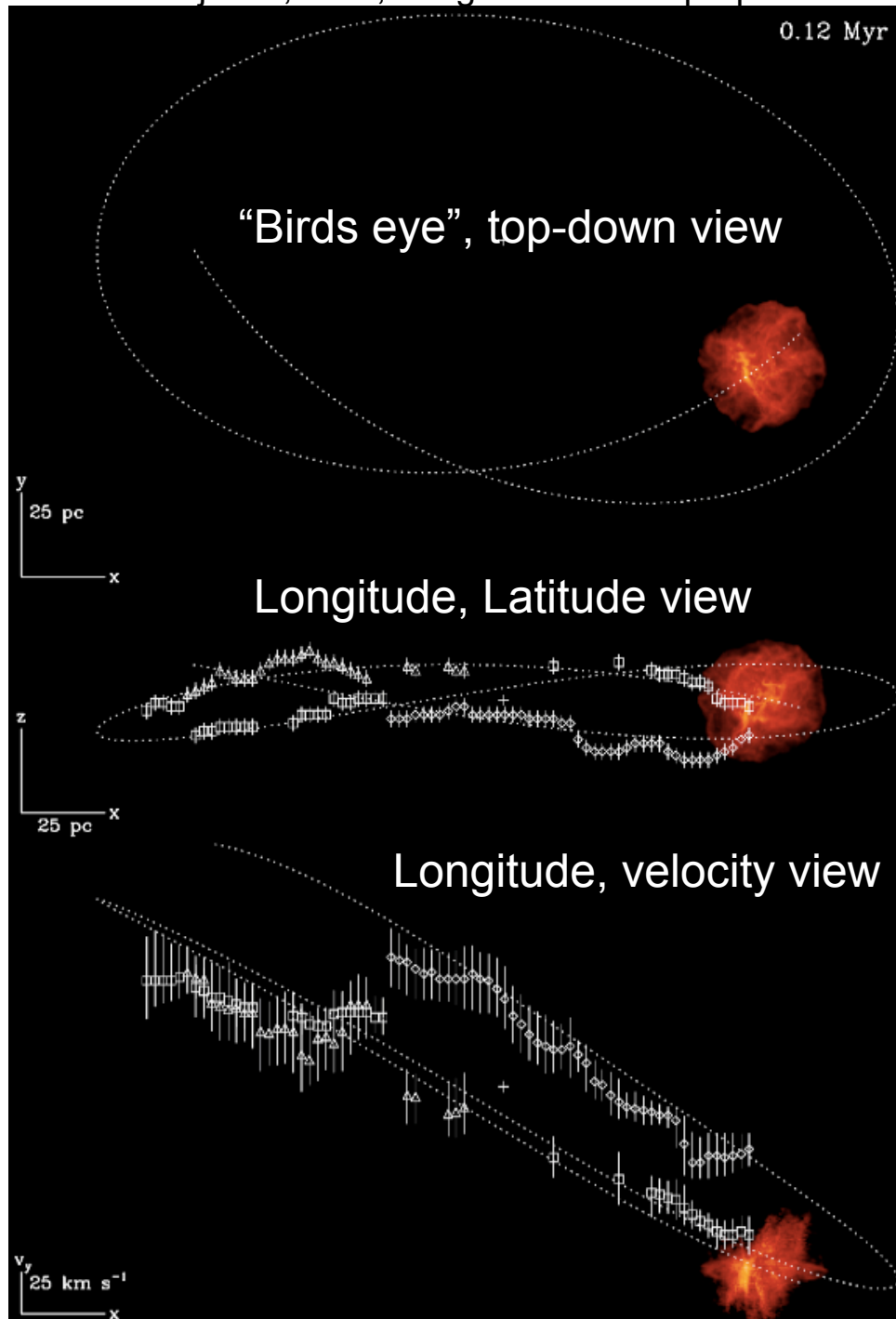
Control run:

- Same cloud properties
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Physics:

- No SF feedback, B, turb. driving
 - turbulent energy dissipates
- gas will always form stars

Goal → see the effect of pericentre passage in controlled setting



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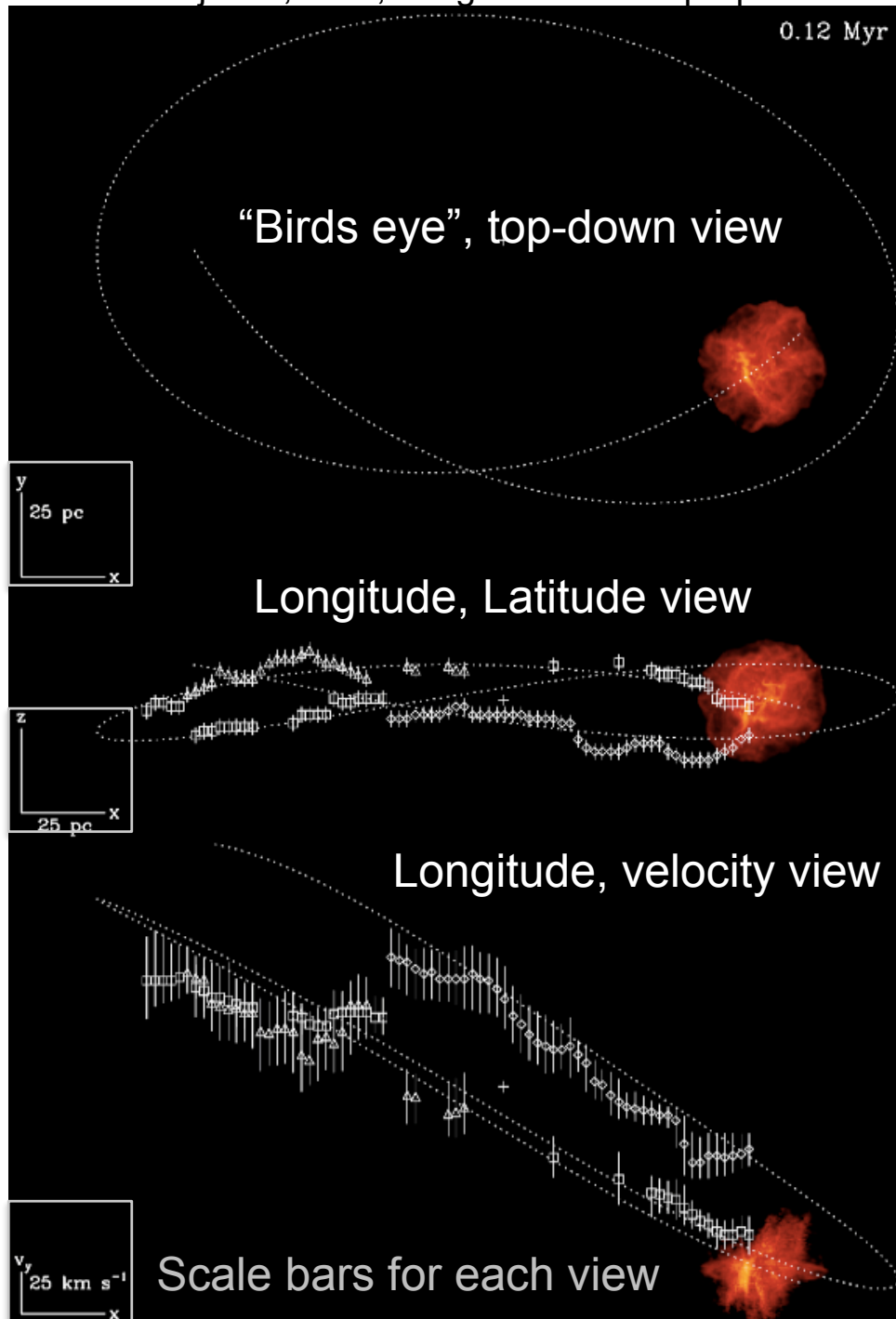
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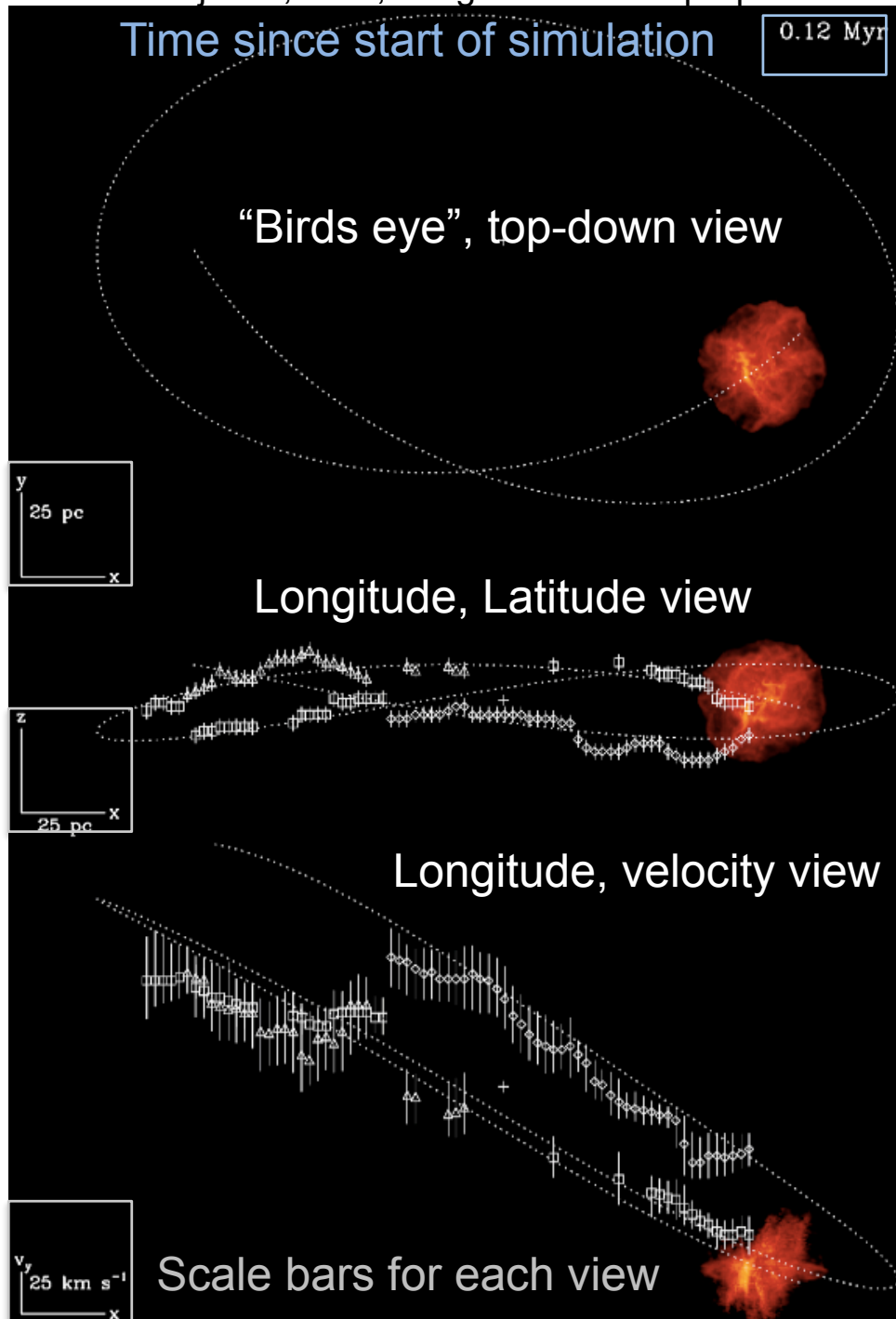
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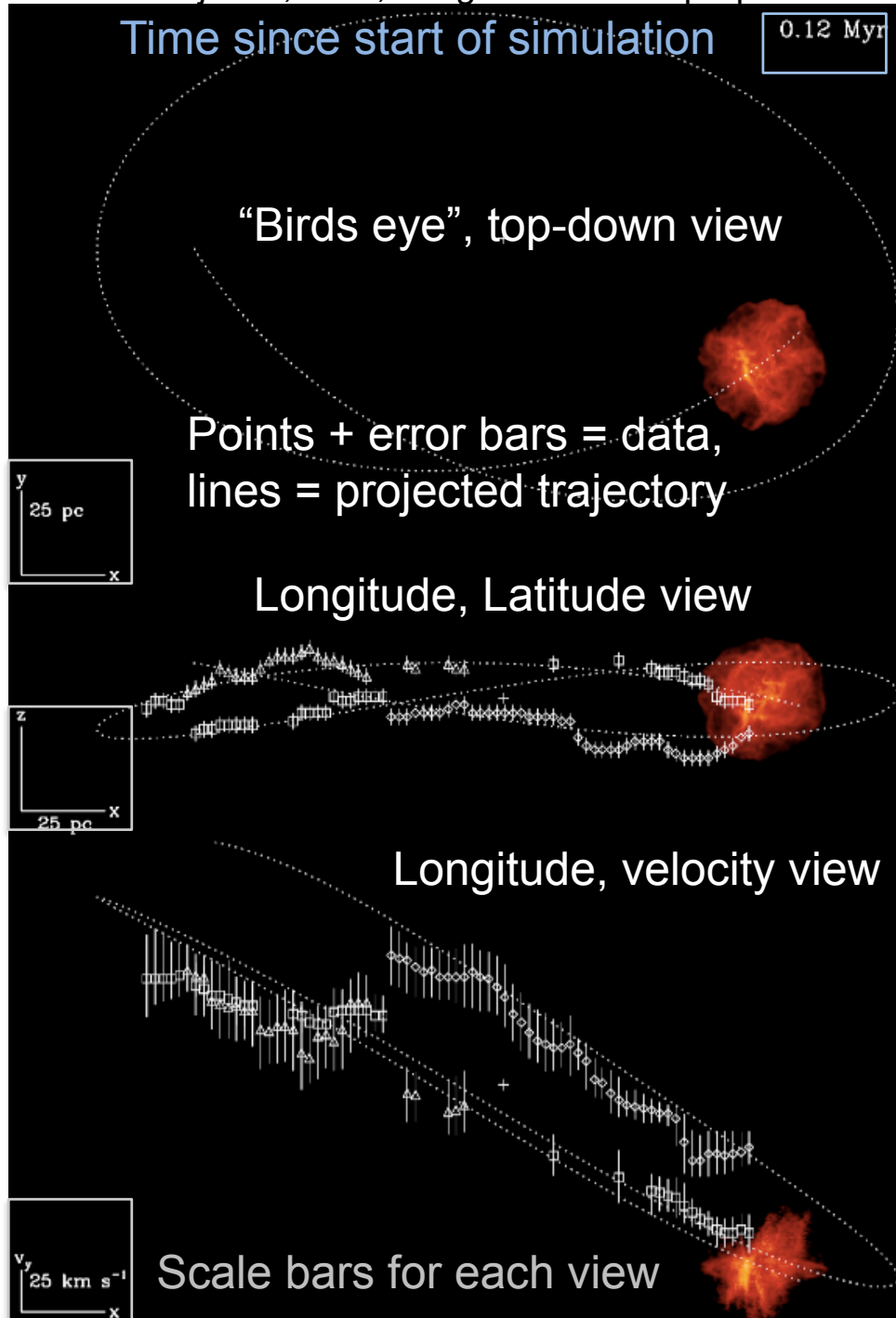
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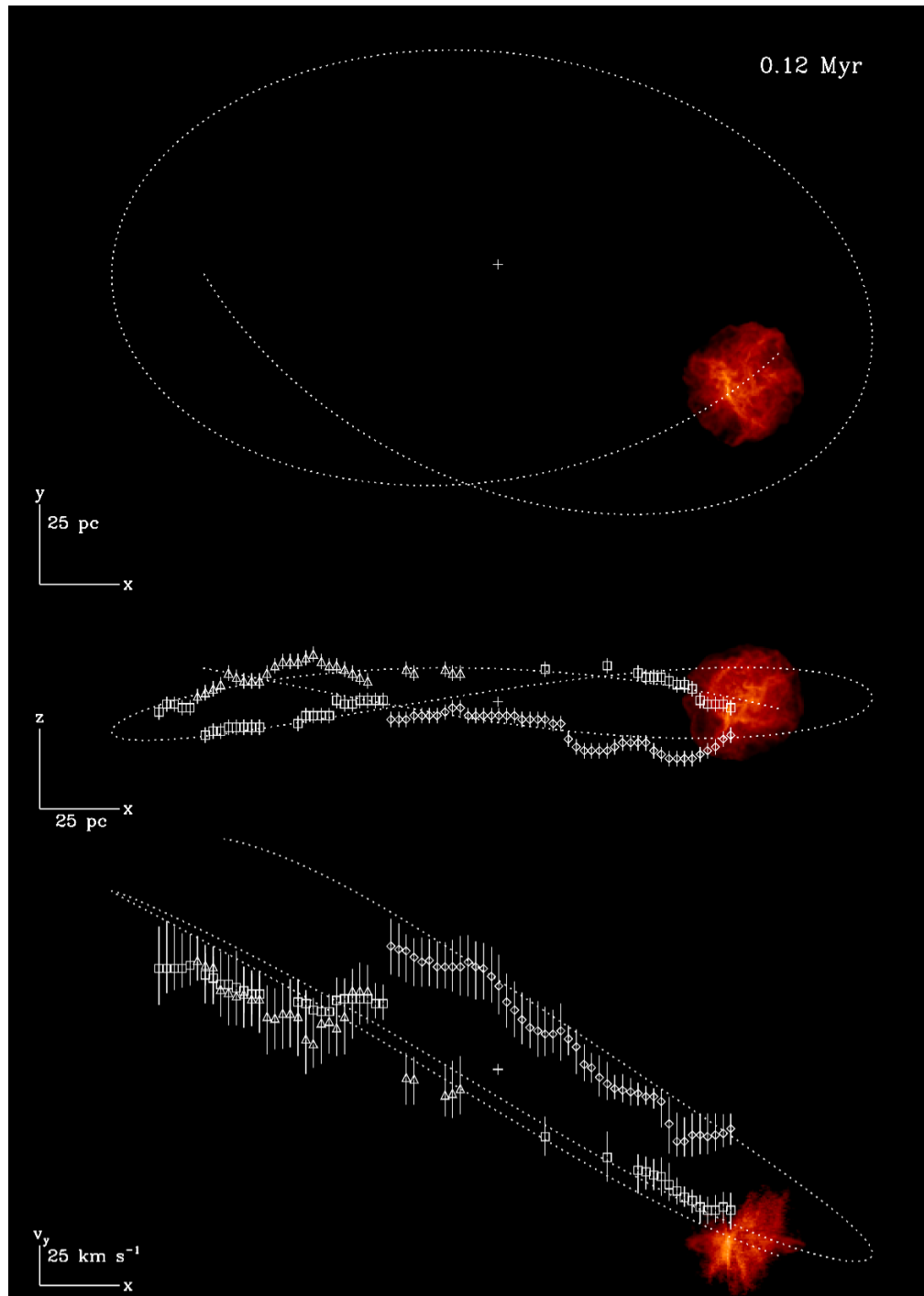
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Hydro simulations of gas clouds on best-fit orbit

- vertical compression at pericentre
- dimensions in plane remain similar
- cloud fragments
→ multiple vel. comp. along L.O.S.
- undergoes **global** collapse
- leads to massive, single clump @ Sgr B2
- Brick position
→ curved, bow-like morphology
→ counter-rotating gas motion due to shear

Star Formation “Time Machines”



We have a causally-linked system of gas clouds with properties indistinguishable from high-z clouds with known time since star formation was instigated

Star Formation “Time Machines”

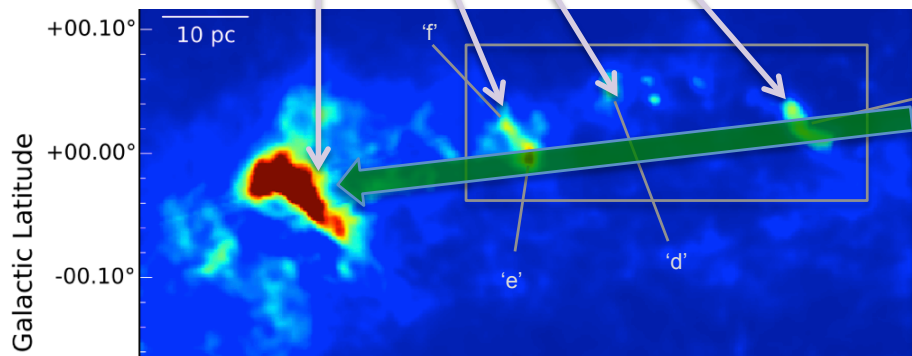
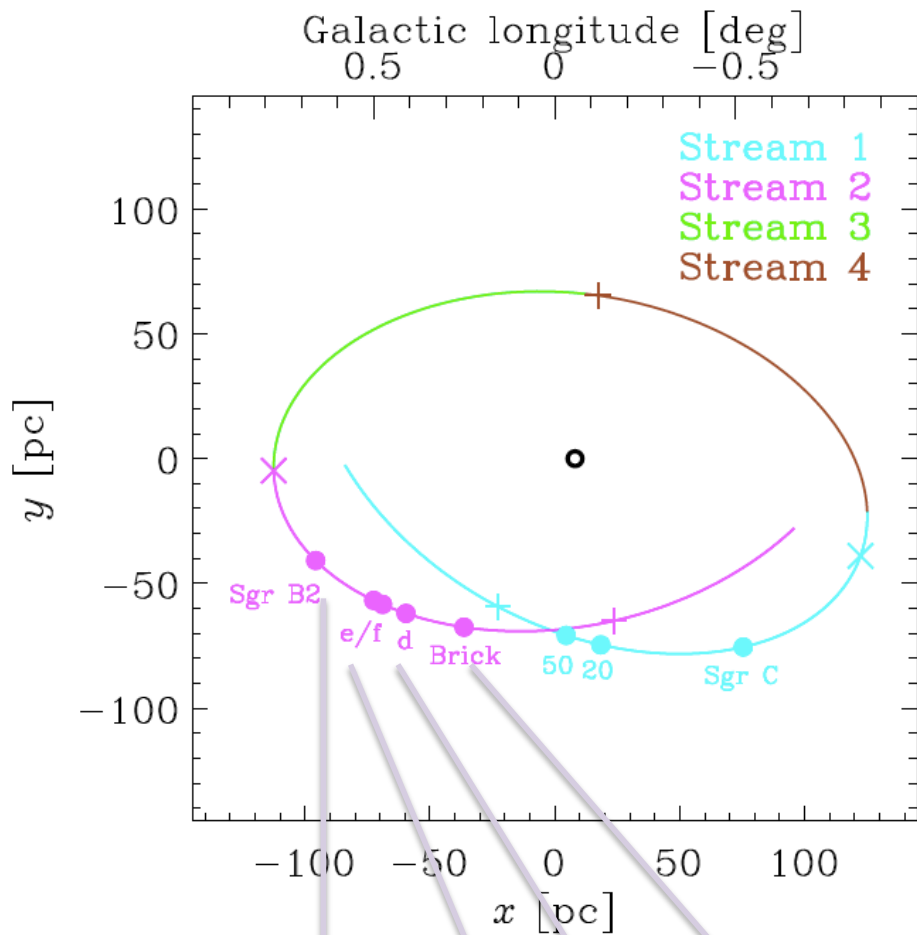


Exploiting the potential

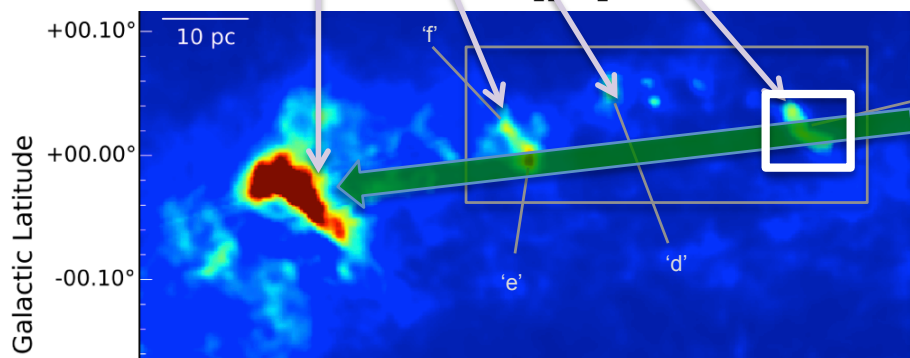
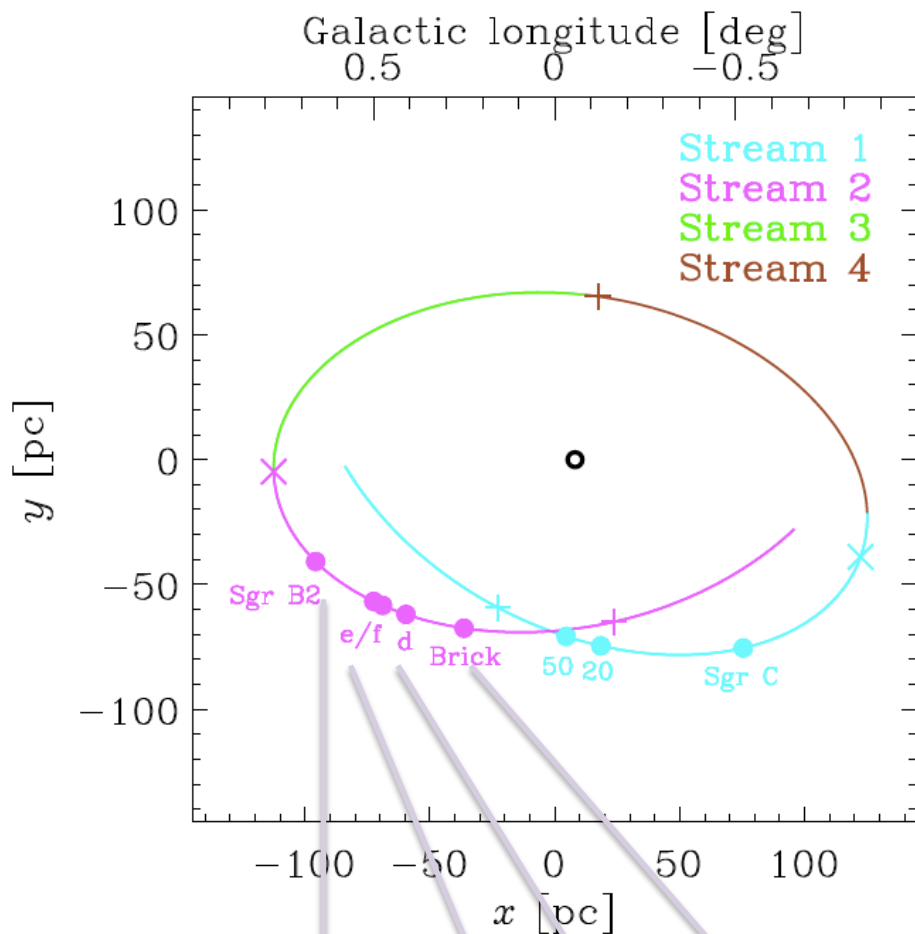
Star Formation “Time Machines”



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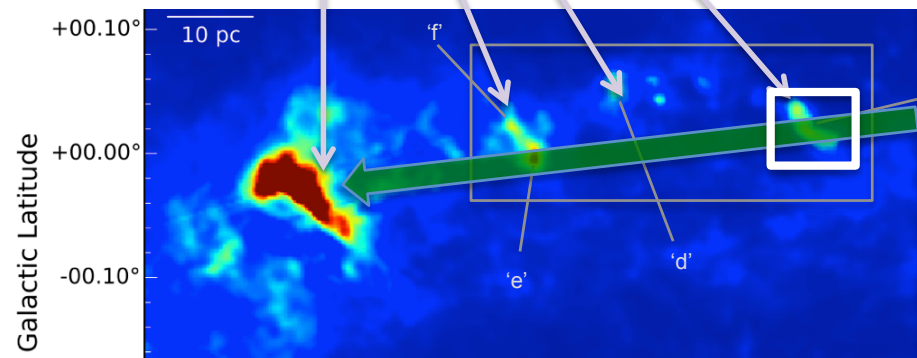
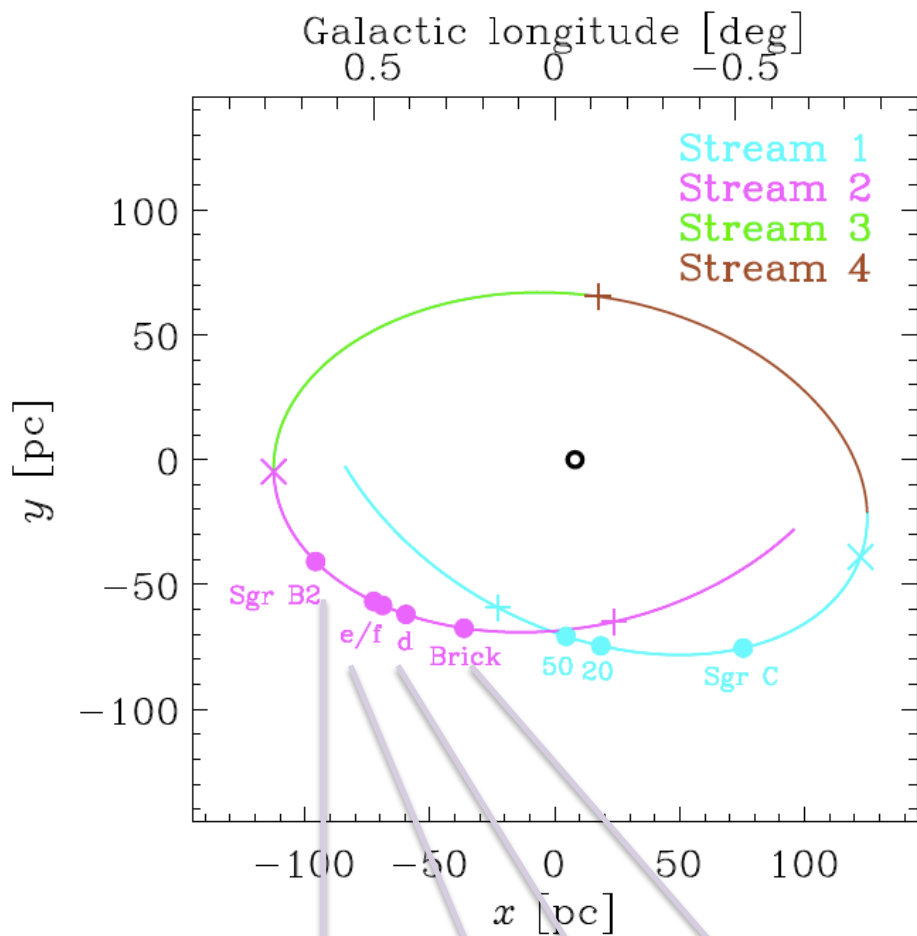


- After pericentre passage with Sgr A*:
1. Gas density increases
 2. Star formation activity increases

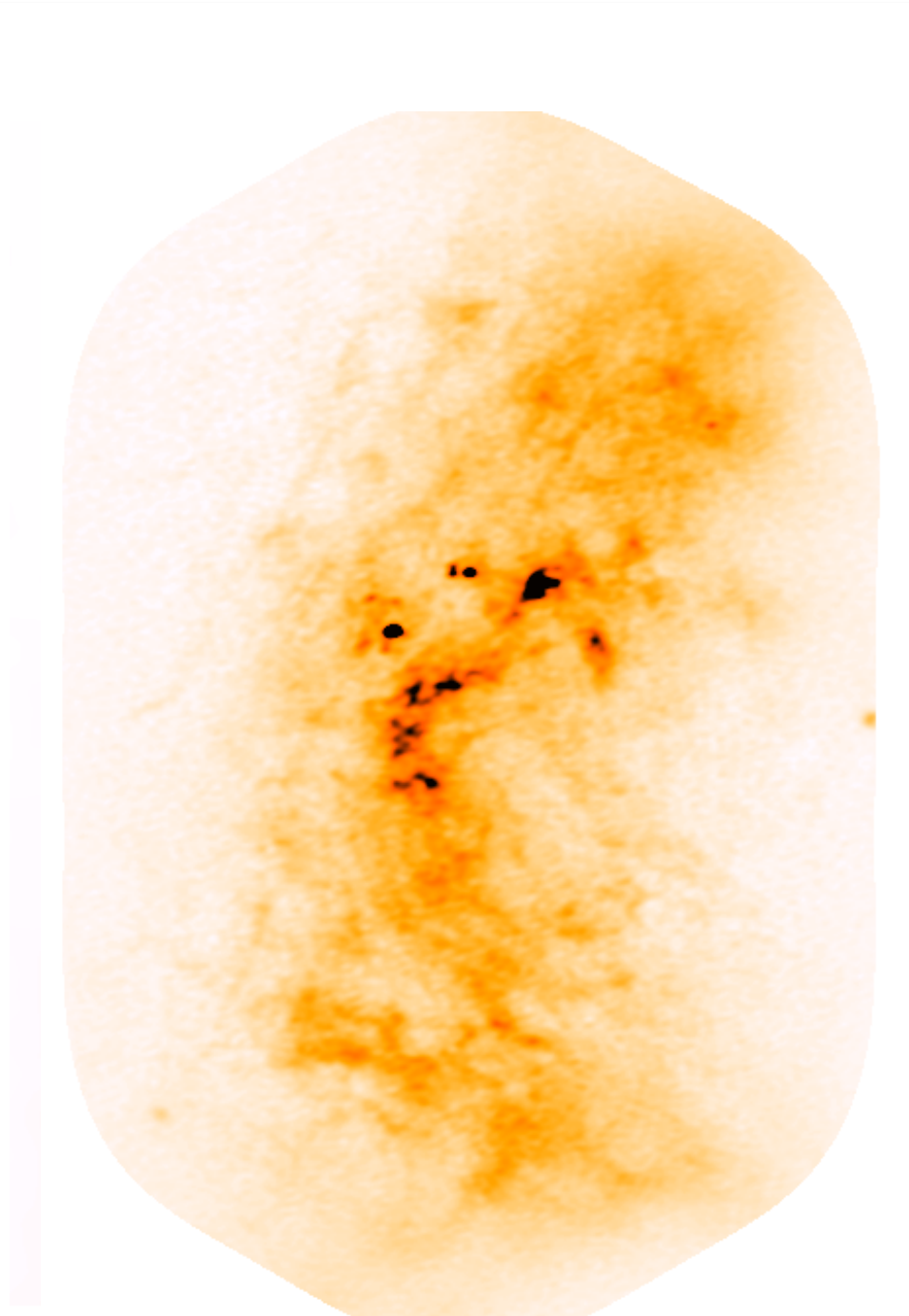


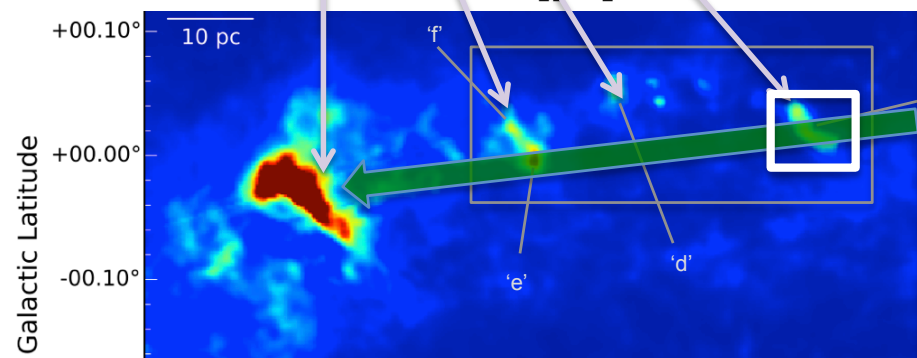
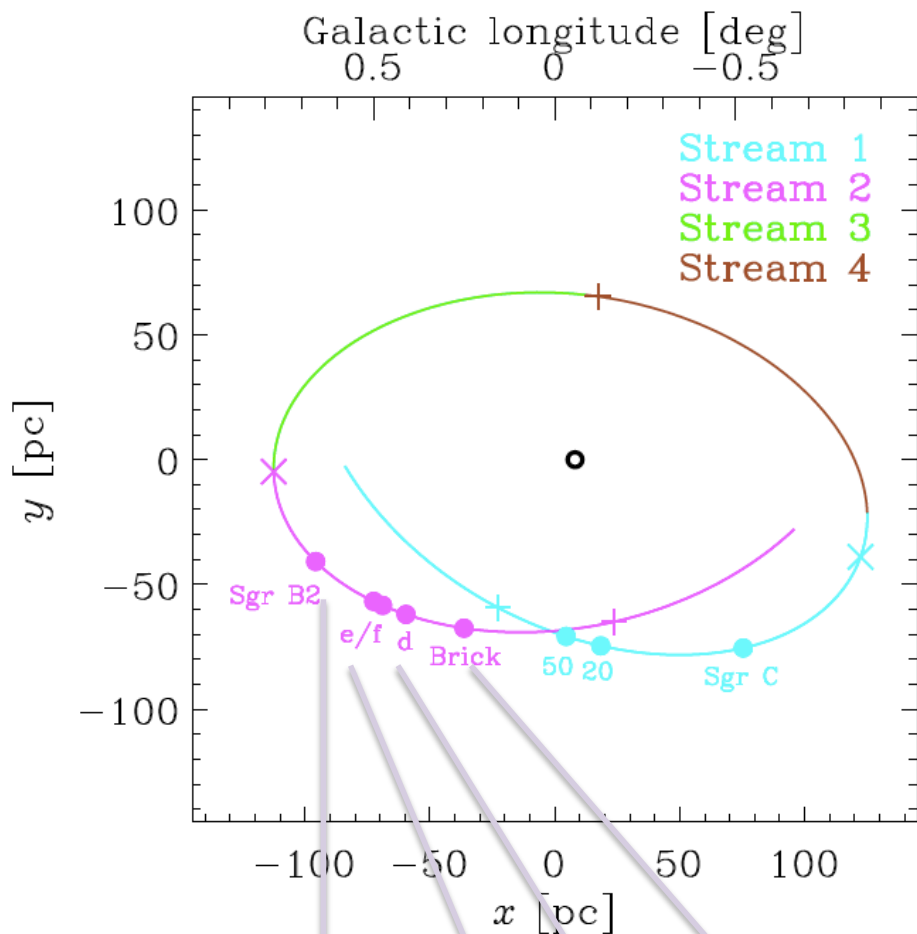
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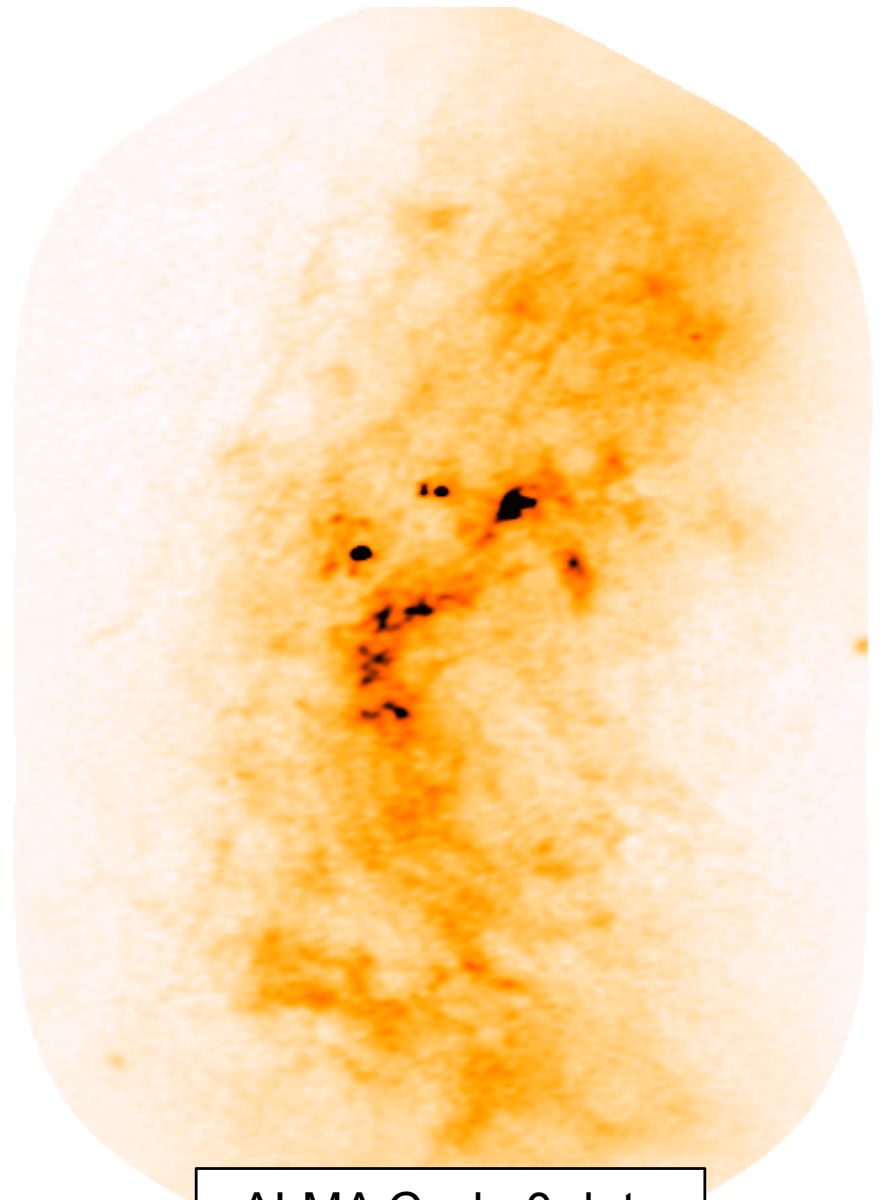


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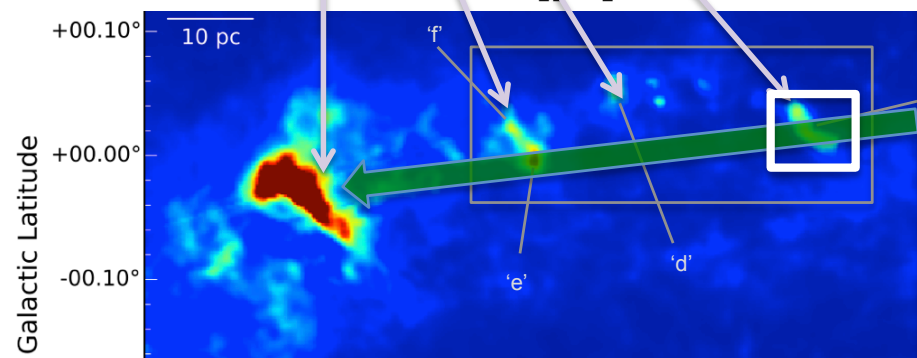
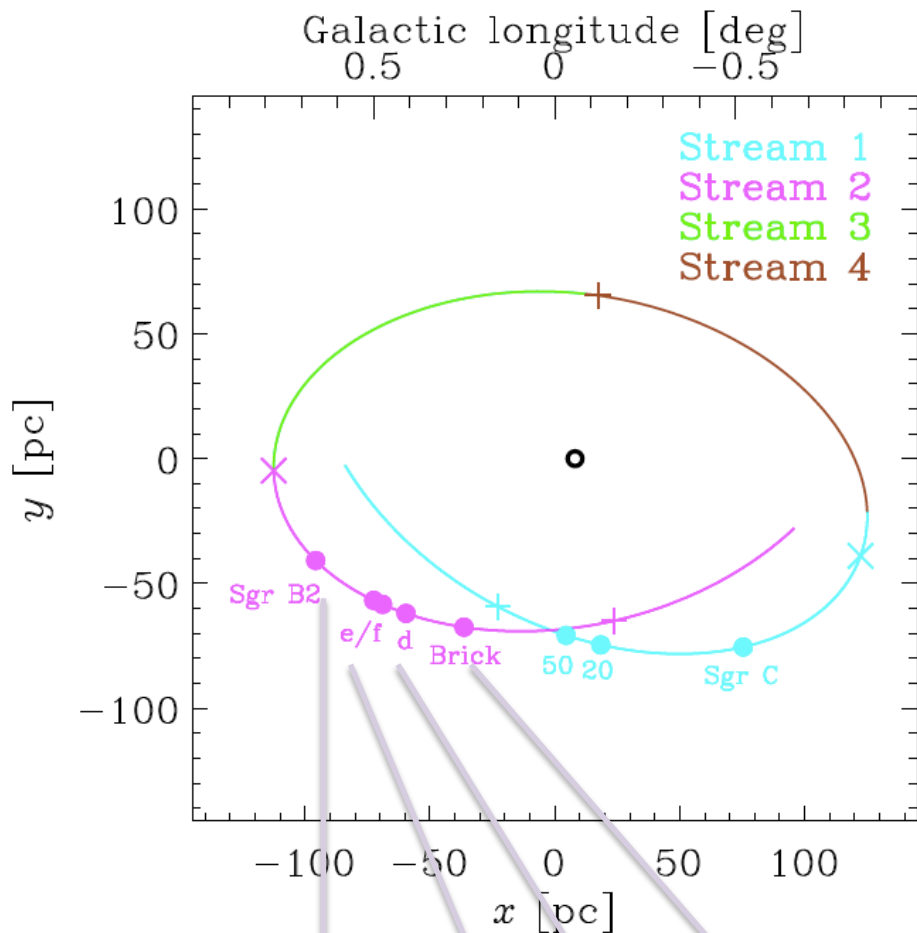




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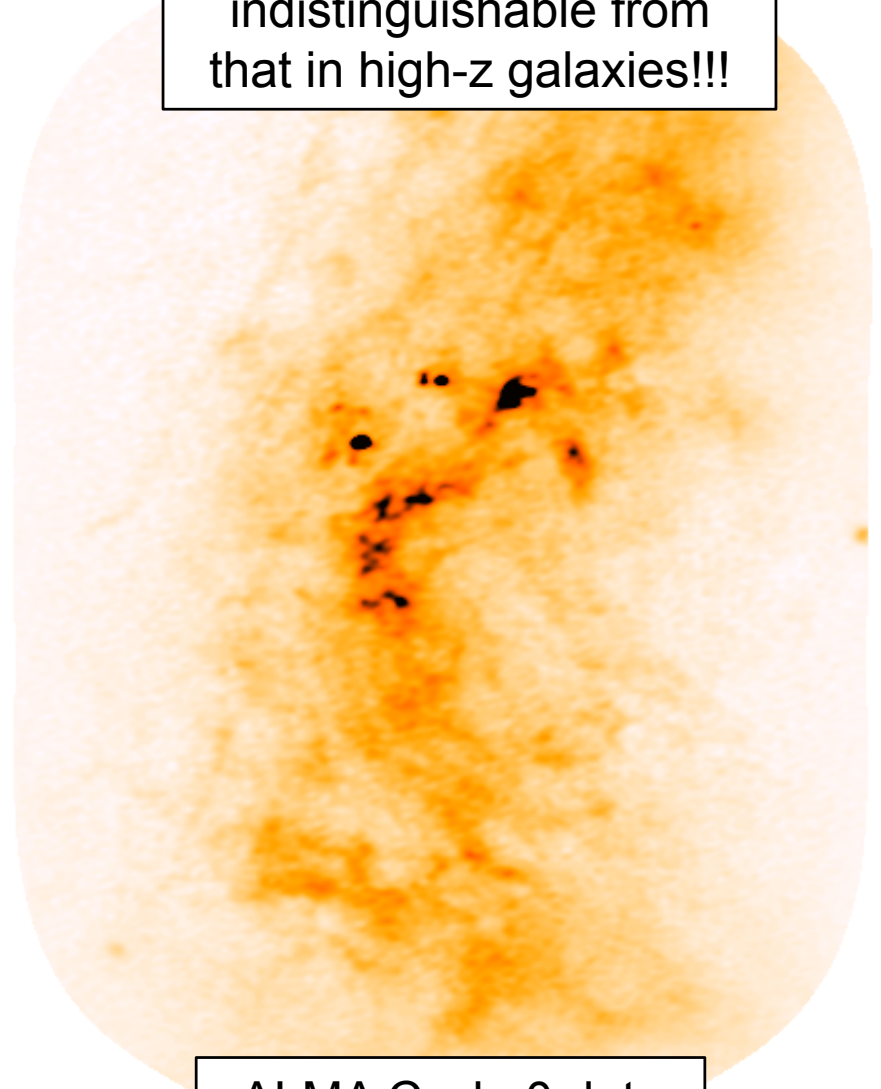


ALMA Cycle 0 data
3mm continuum map
PI Jill Rathborne

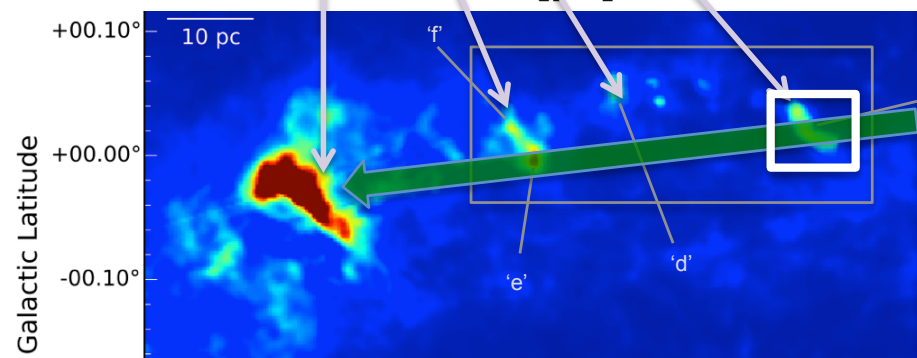
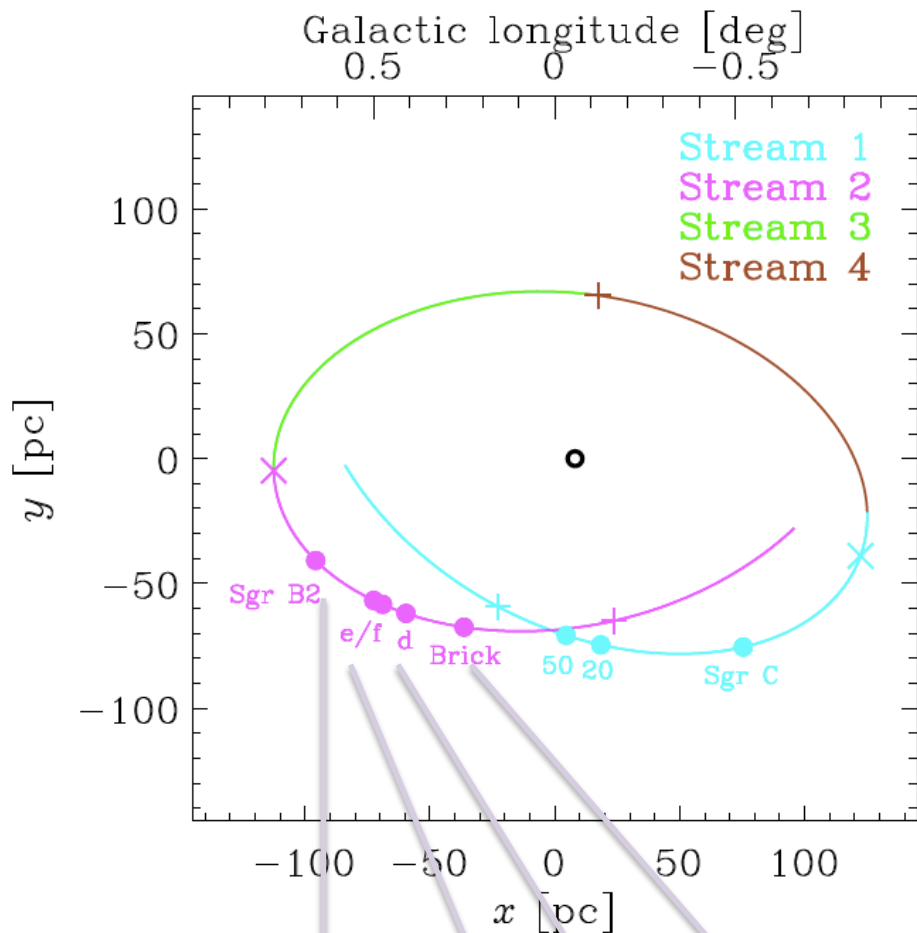


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Individual star-forming
cores in gas
indistinguishable from
that in high-z galaxies!!!



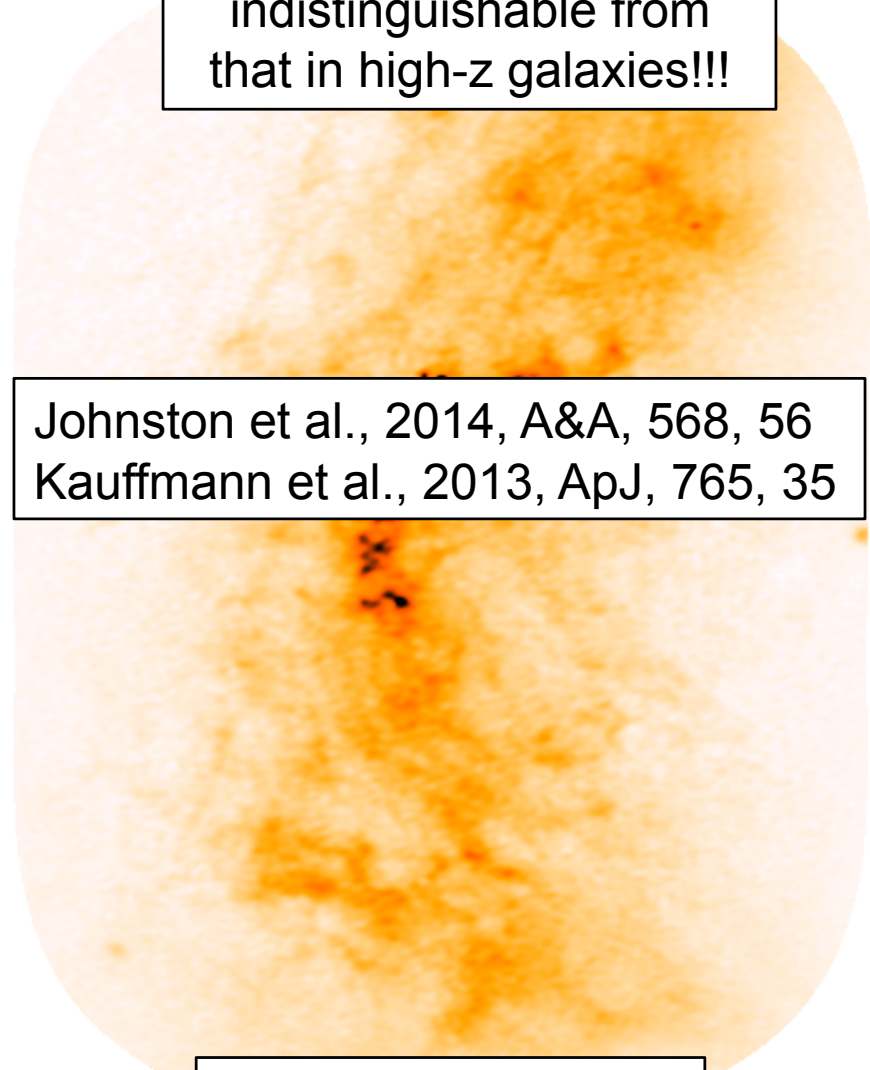
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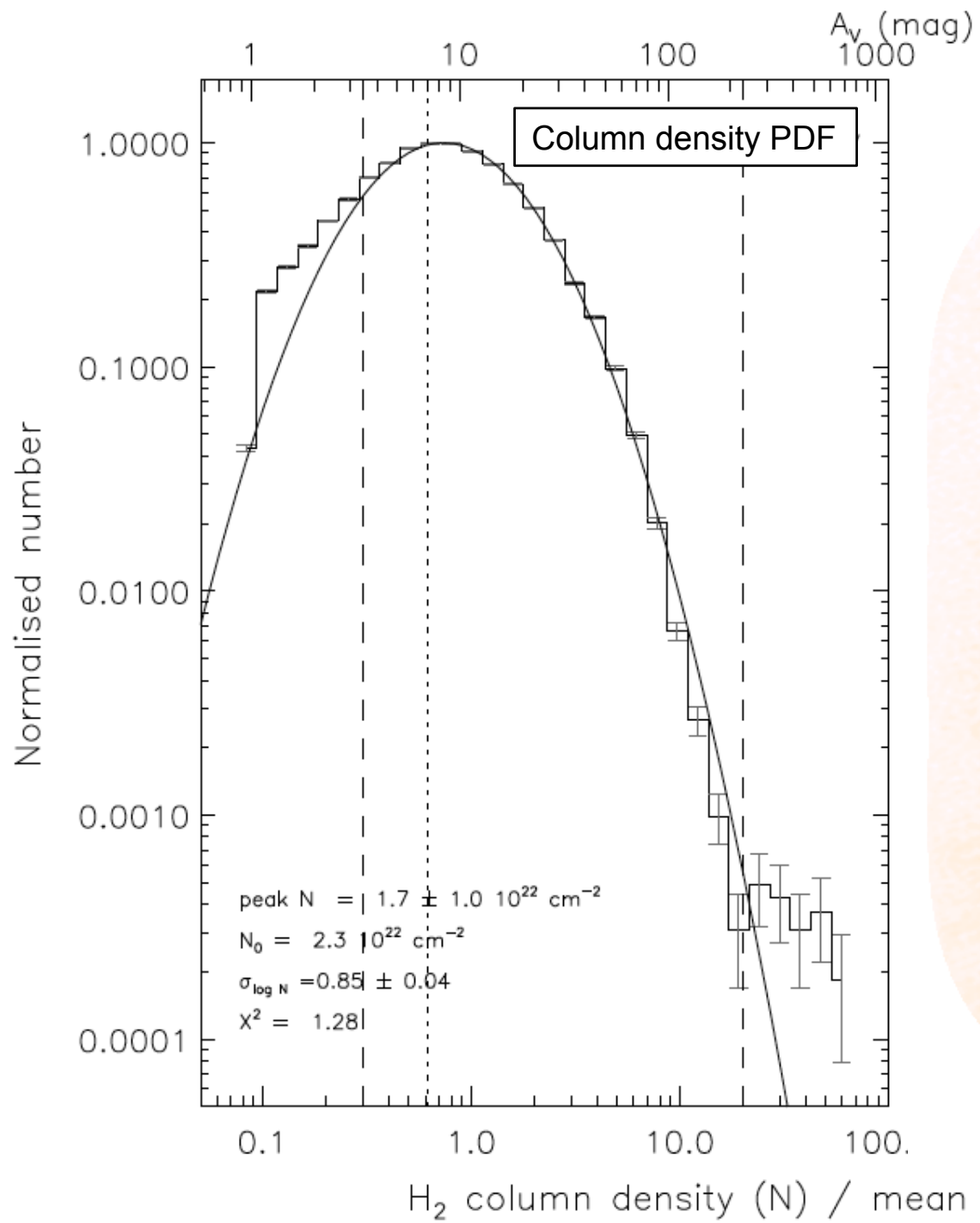
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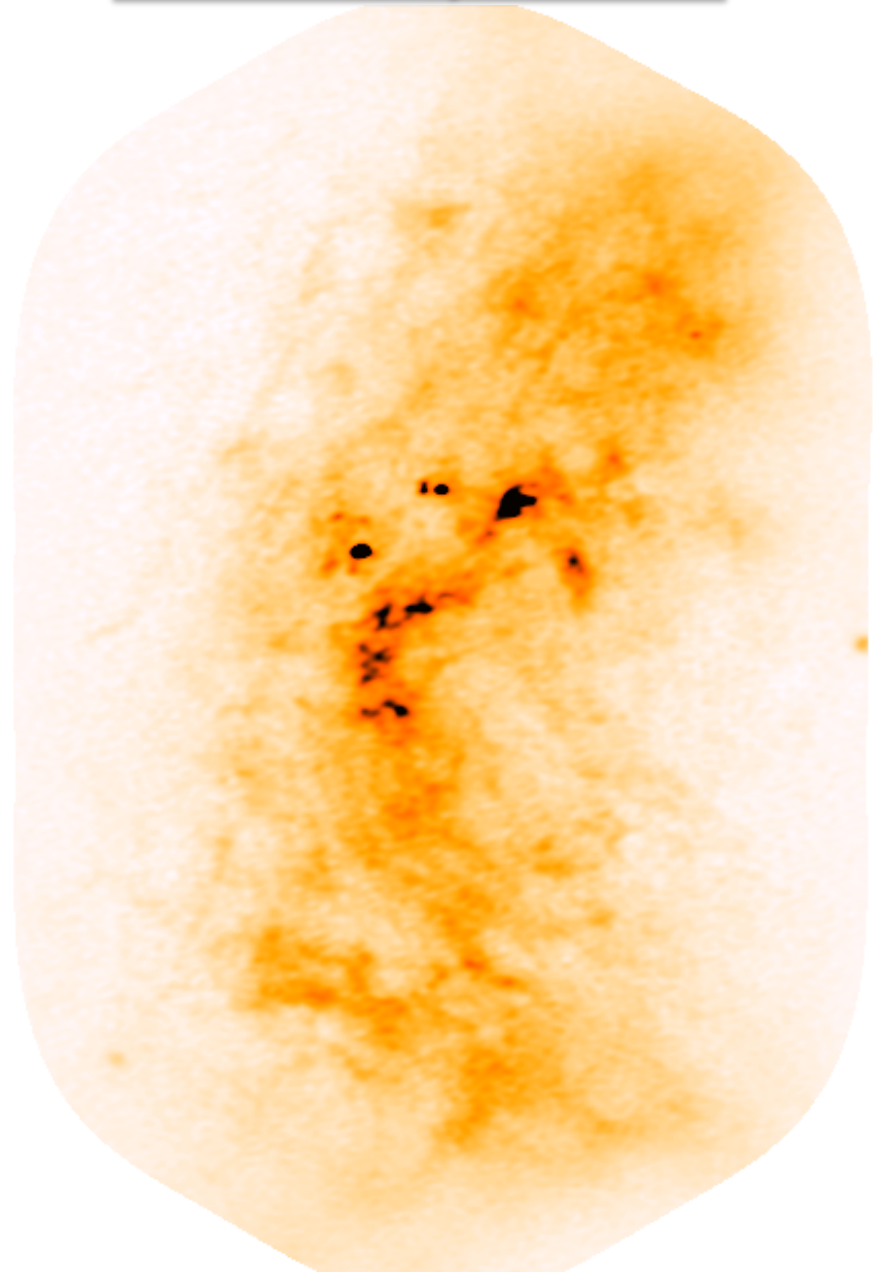
Johnston et al., 2014, A&A, 568, 56
Kauffmann et al., 2013, ApJ, 765, 35

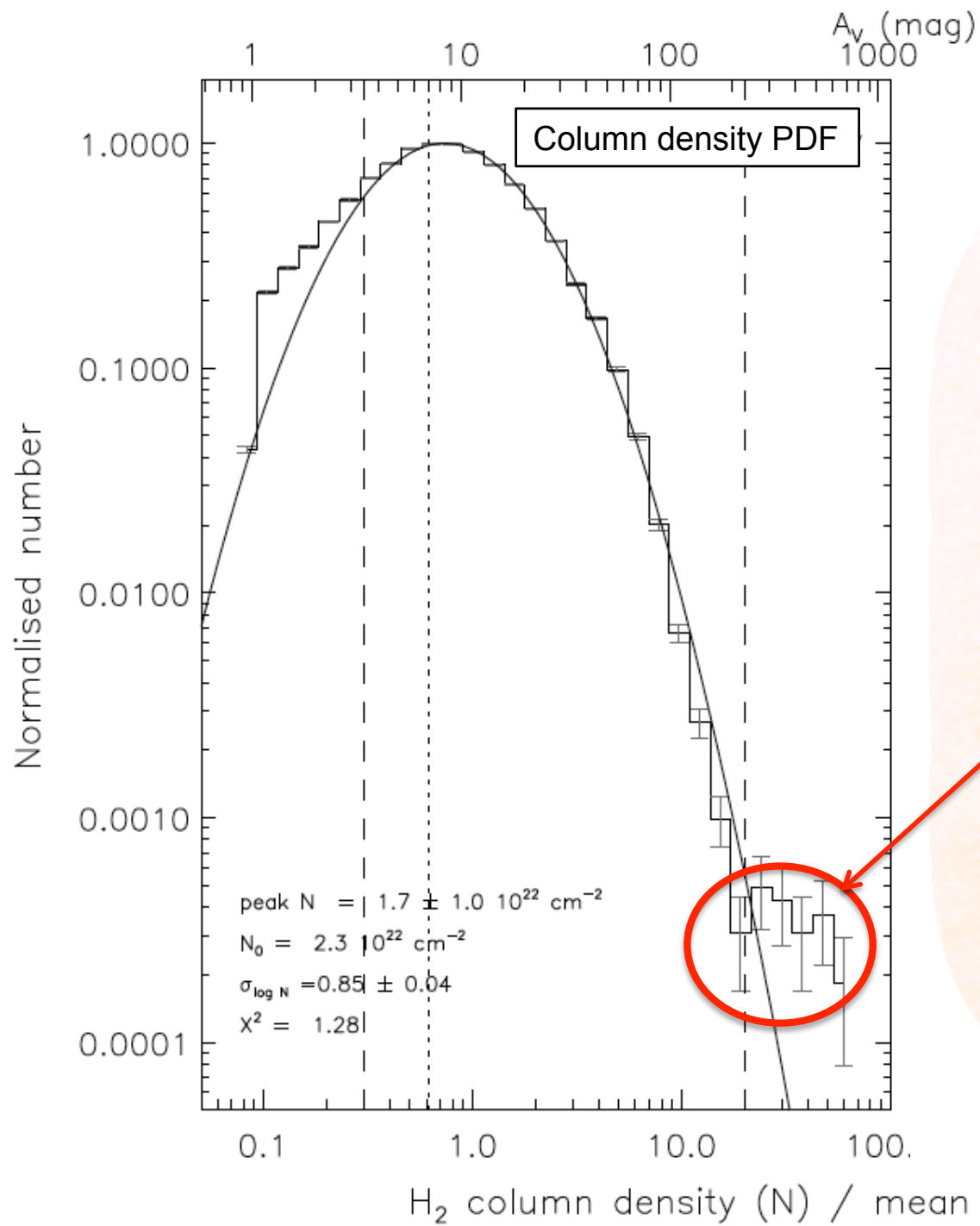


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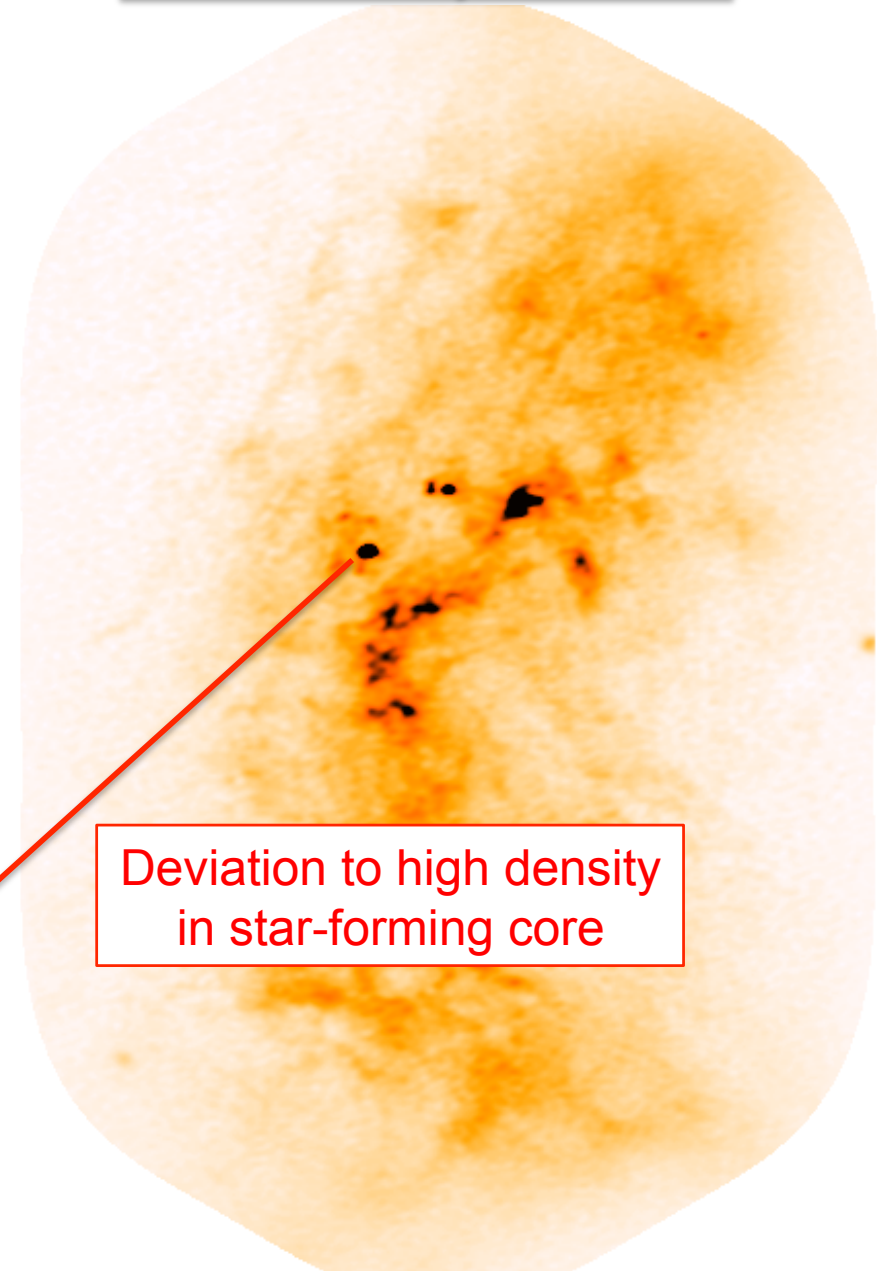


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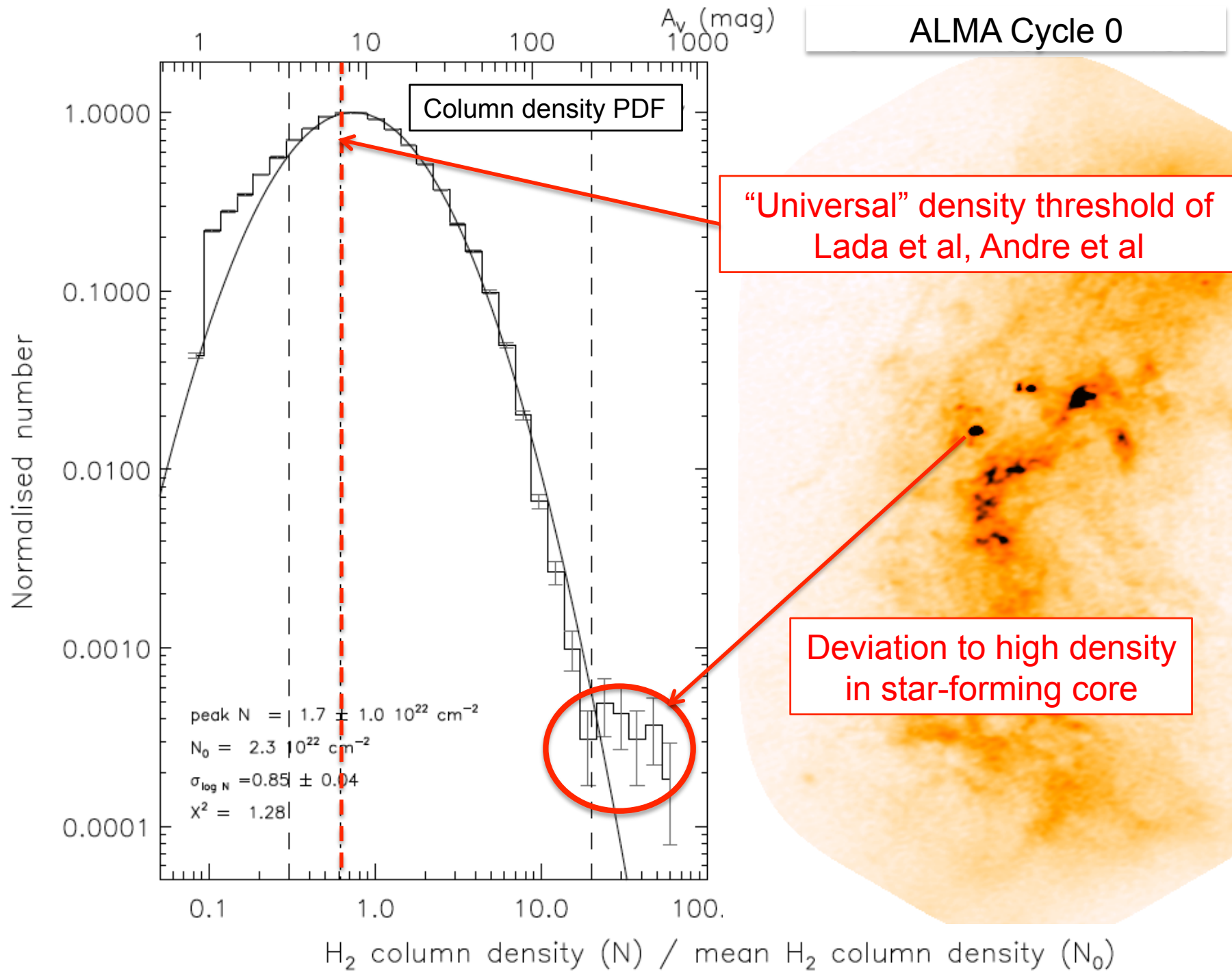




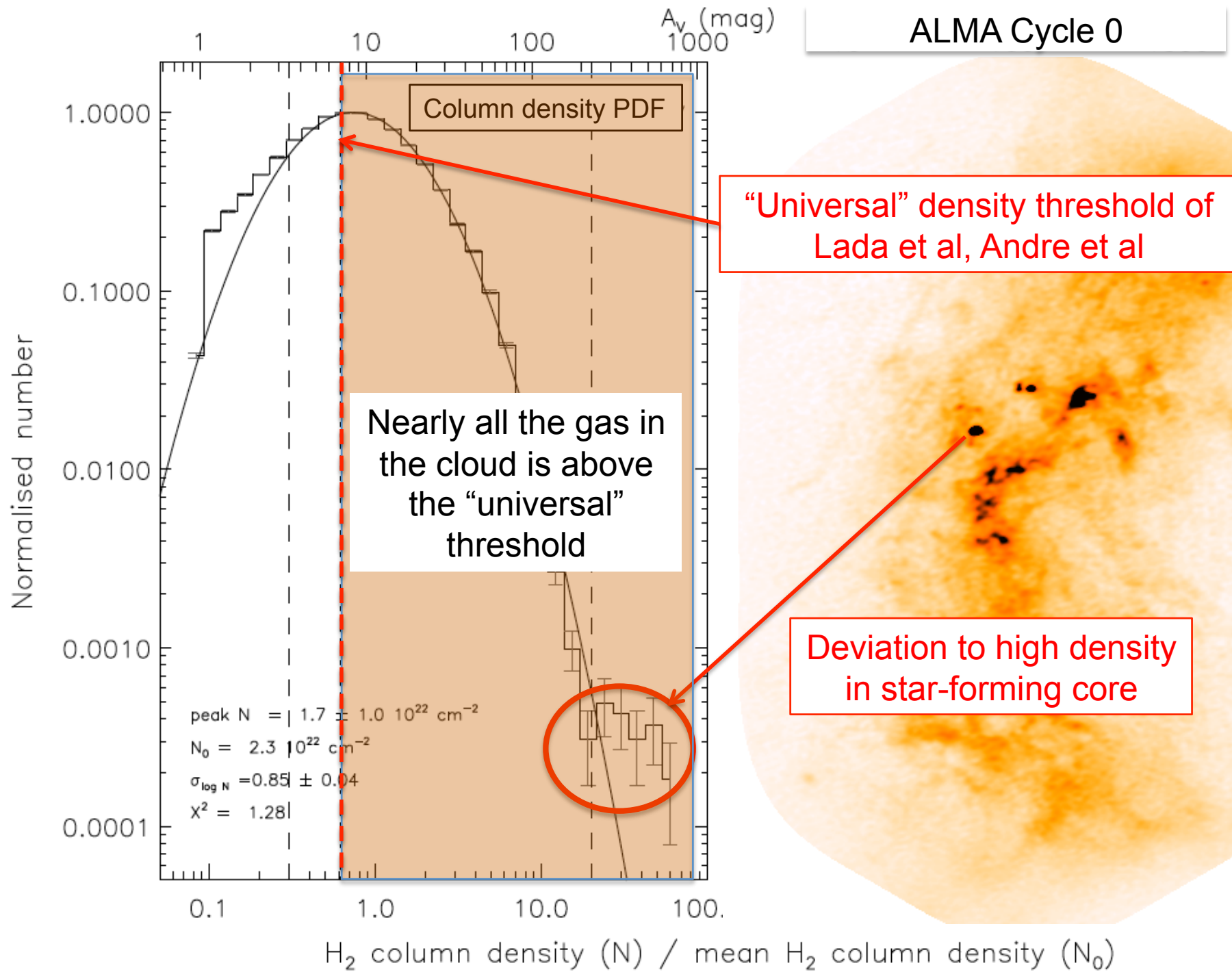
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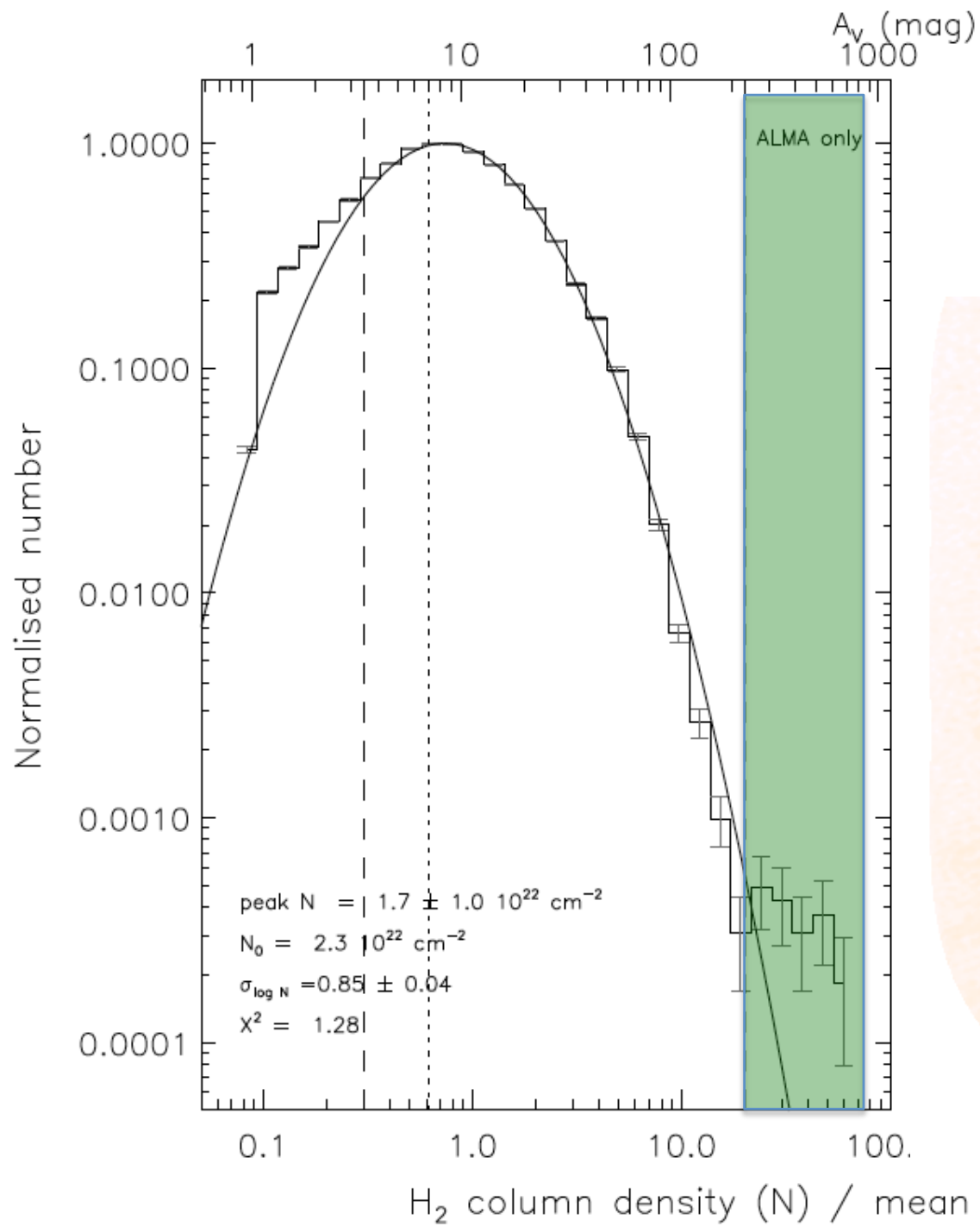


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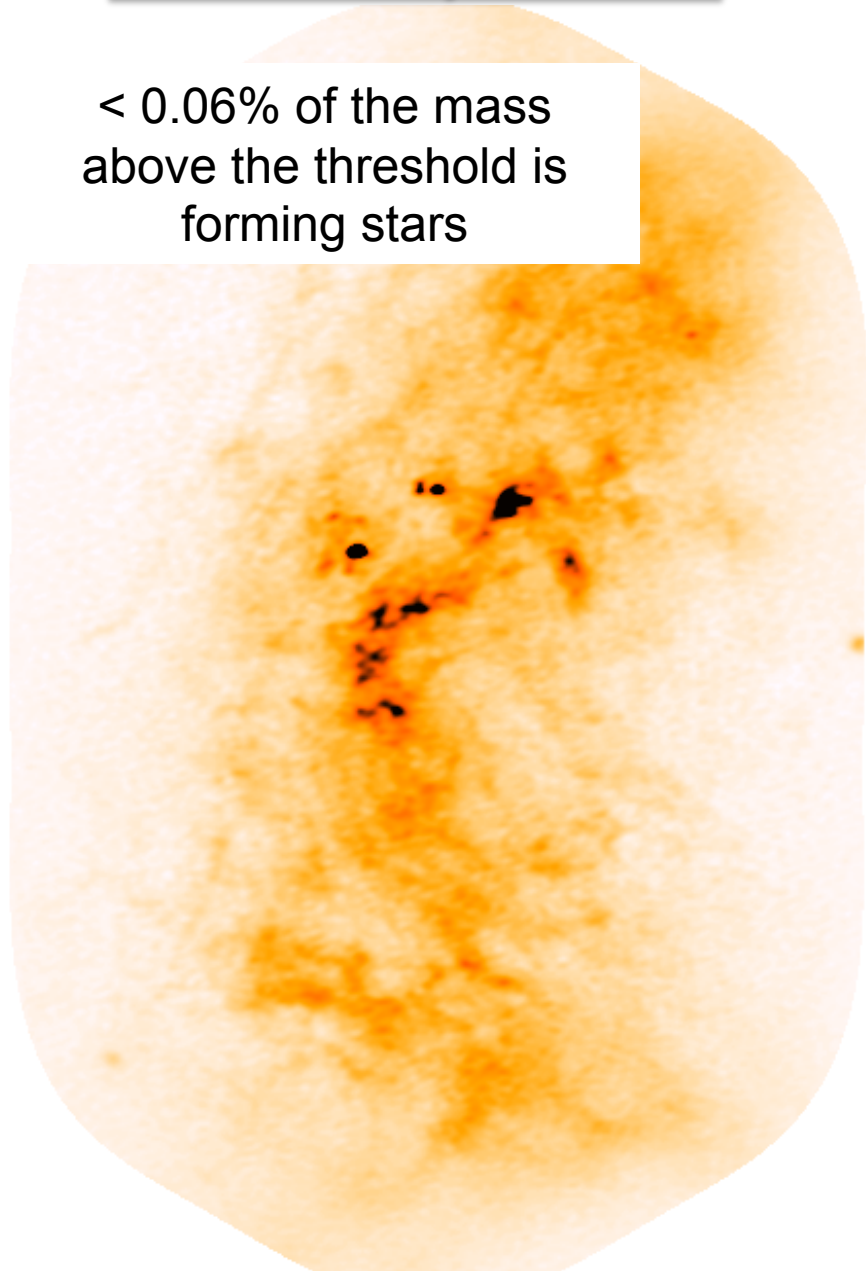


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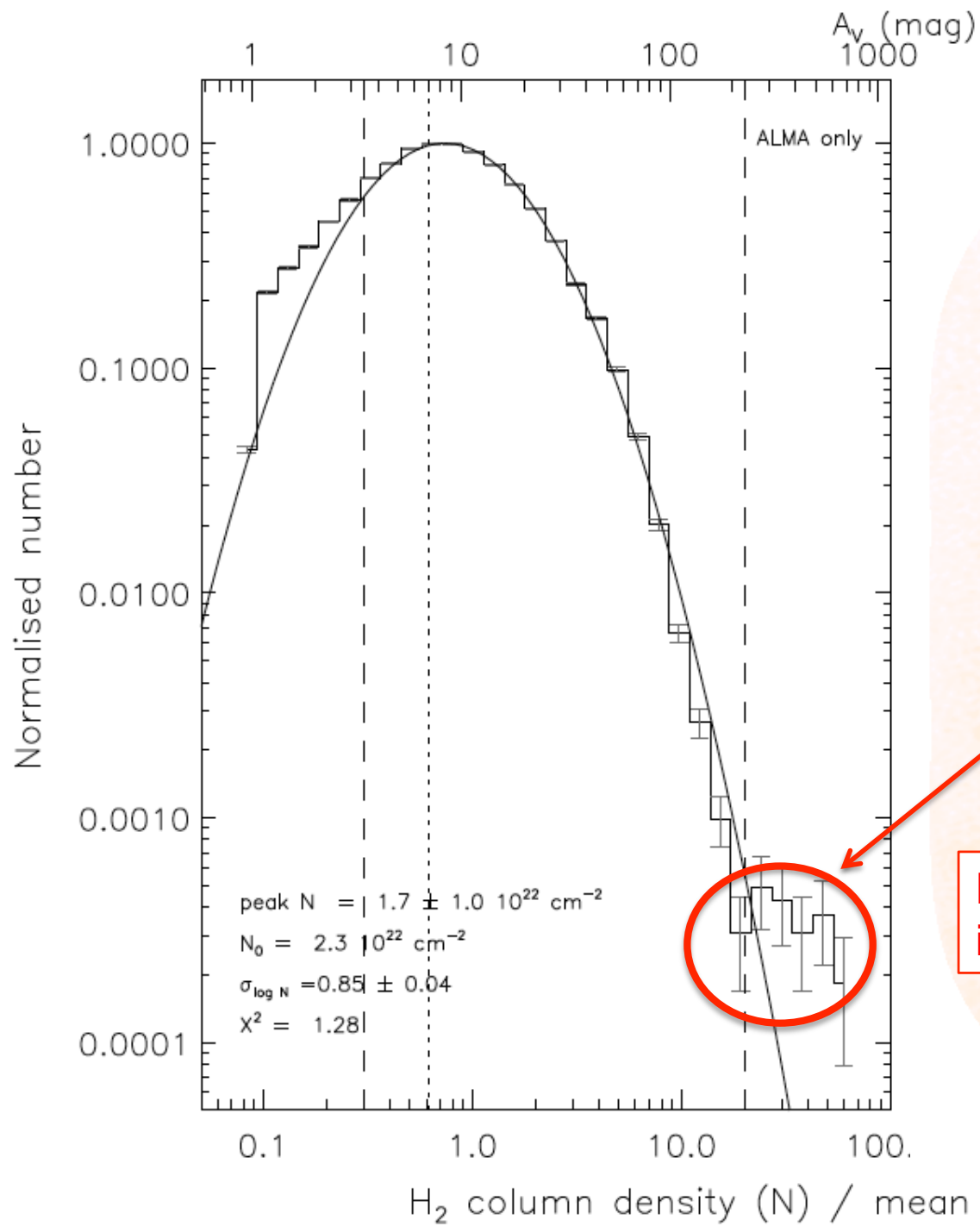
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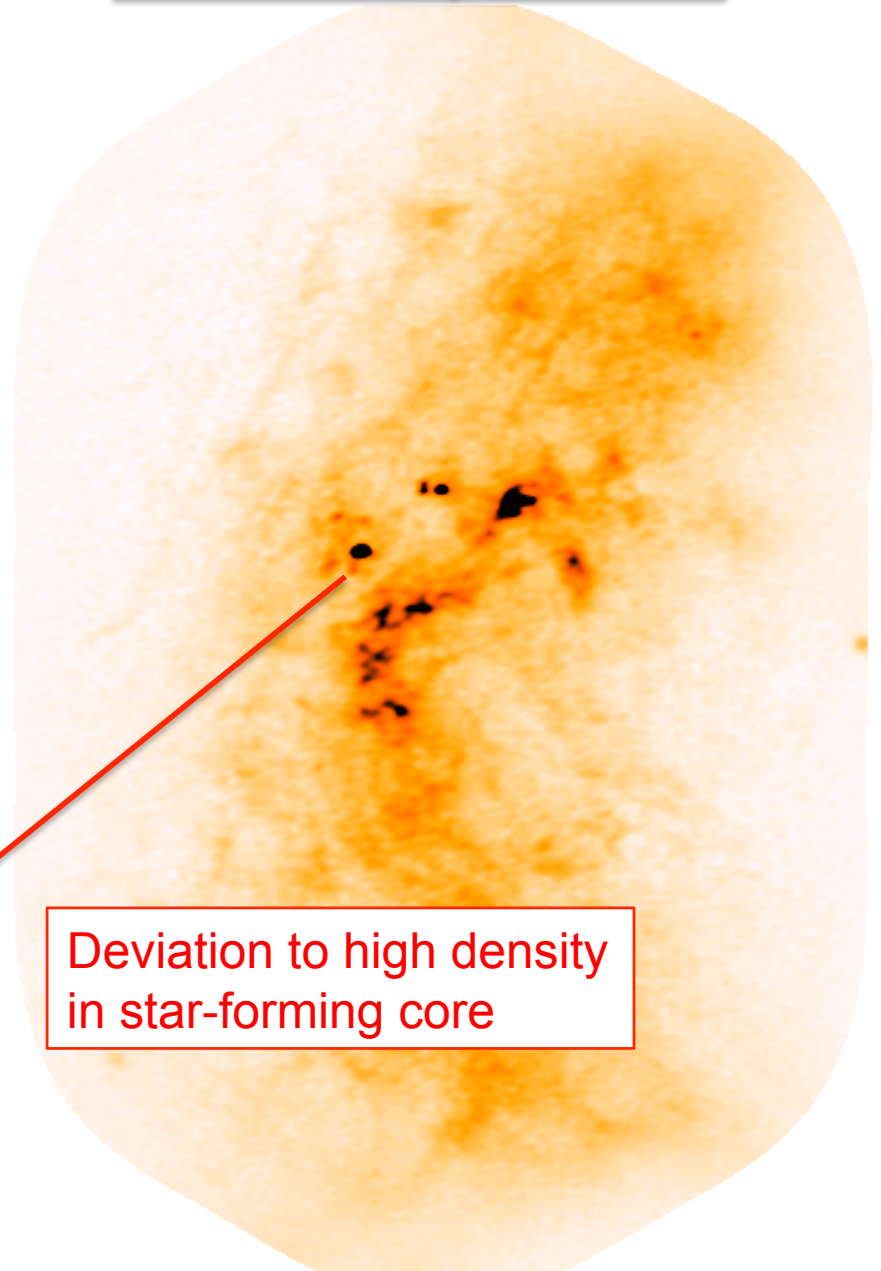
< 0.06% of the mass above the threshold is forming stars

H_2 column density (N) / mean H_2 column density (N_0)

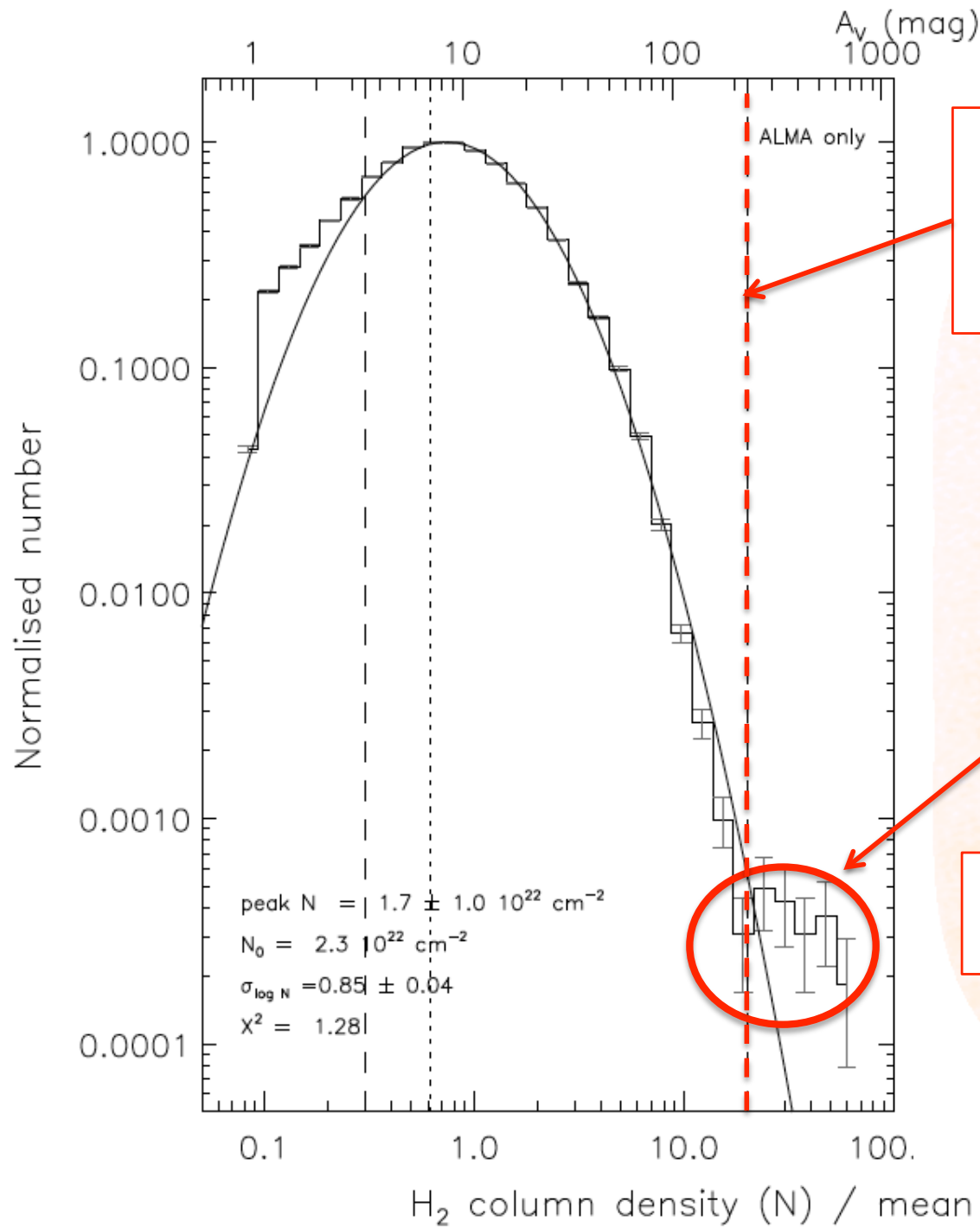
“Universal” column density threshold
for star formation ruled out



ALMA Cycle 0



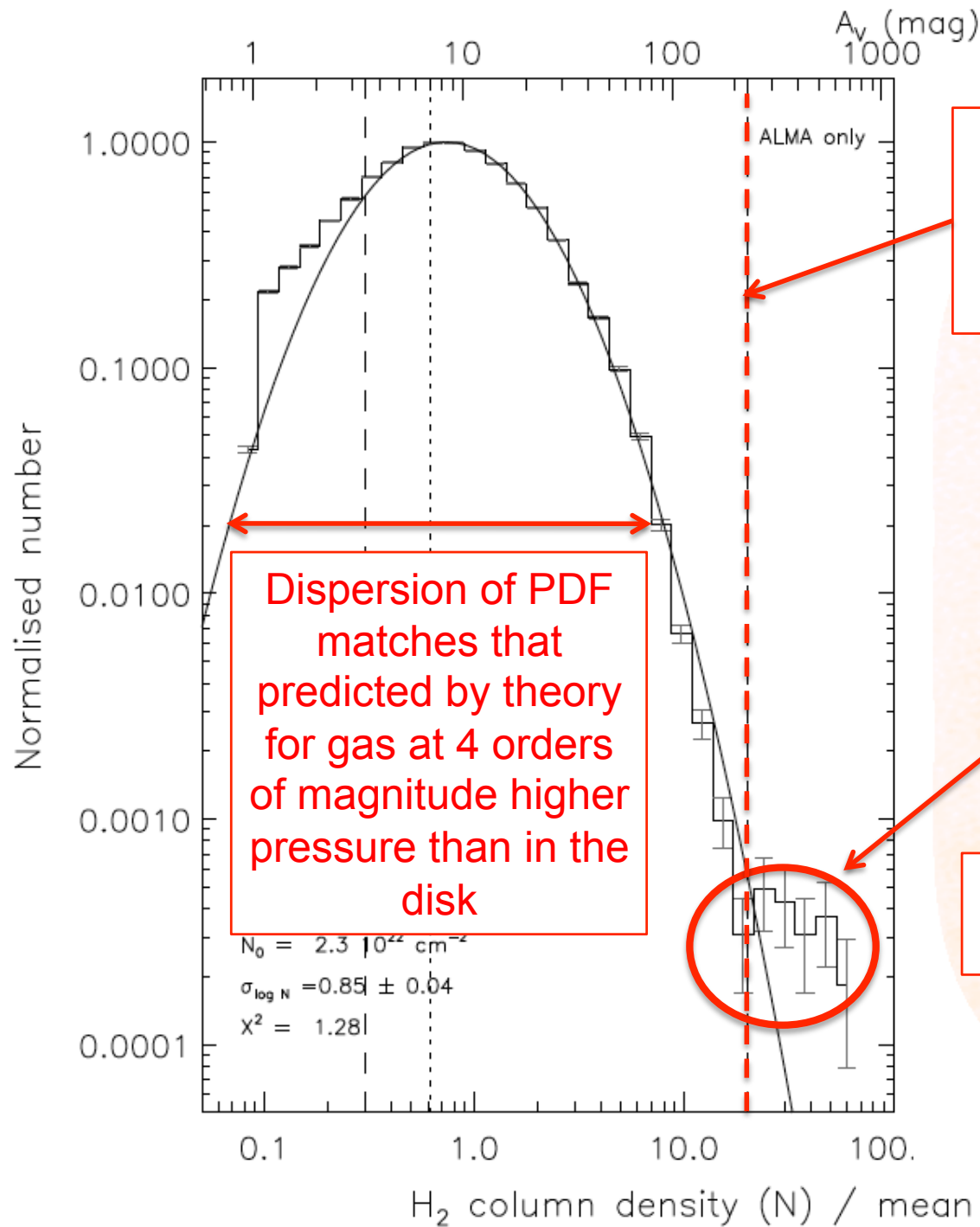
ALMA Cycle 0



Density threshold matches that predicted by theory for gas at 4 orders of magnitude higher pressure than in the disk

Deviation to high density in star-forming core

ALMA Cycle 0



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Deviation to high density in star-forming core

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Environmentally-dependent density
threshold for star formation matches
theoretical predictions

Star Formation “Time Machines”

Rathborne, Longmore, Jackson, Kruijssen et al – arXiv:1409.0935



First test of SF theory in high-z-like environment

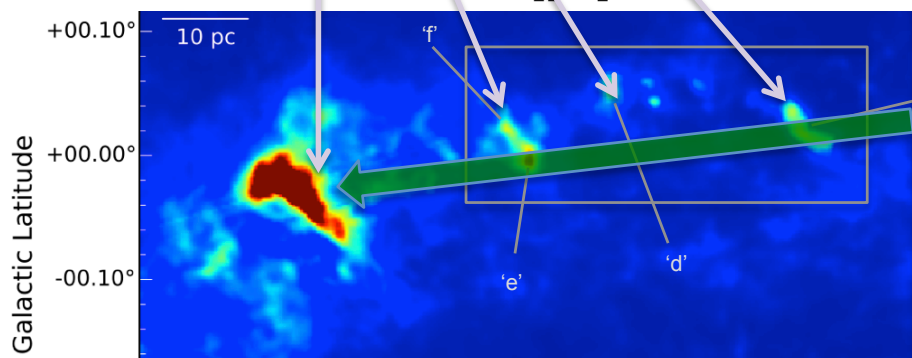
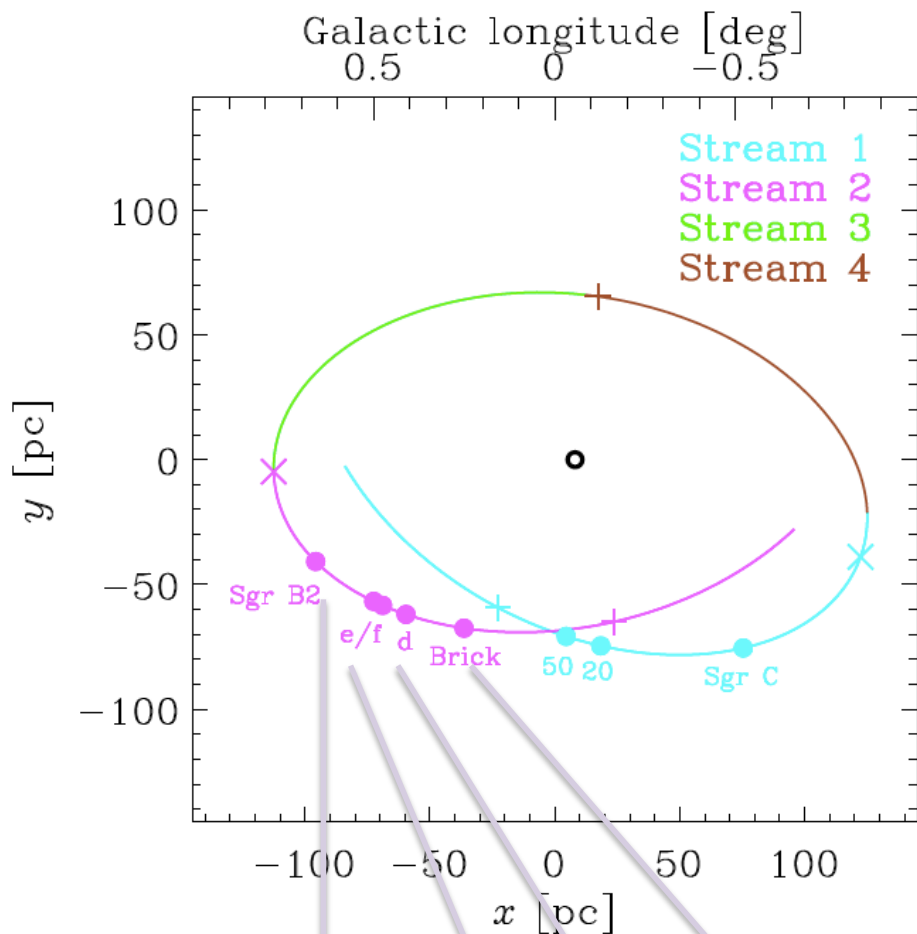
Rule out “Universal” density threshold



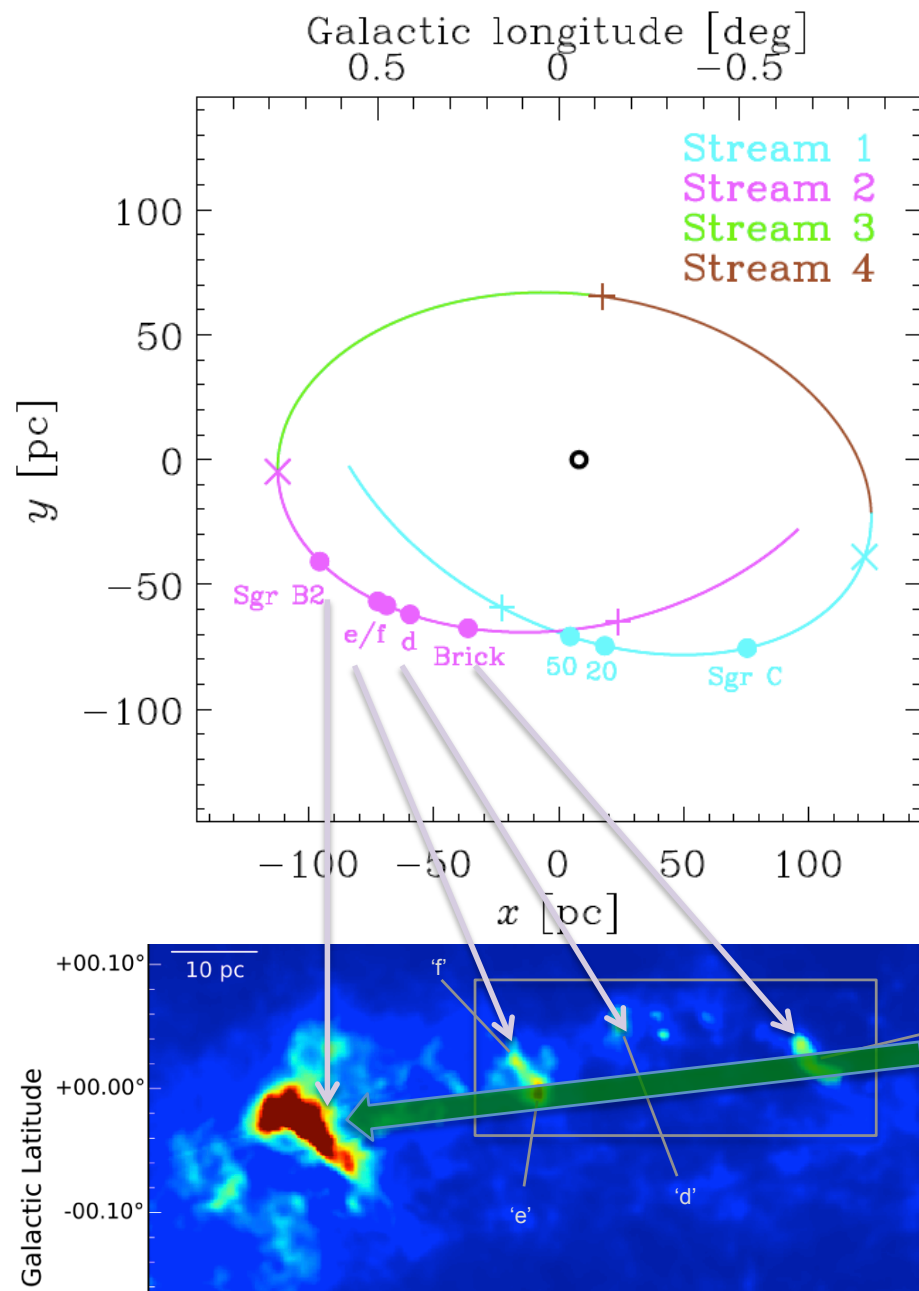
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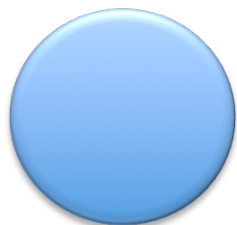


Use this to answer fundamental open question in the formation of young massive clusters

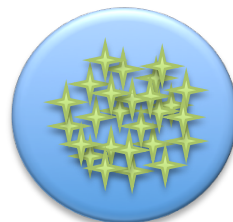
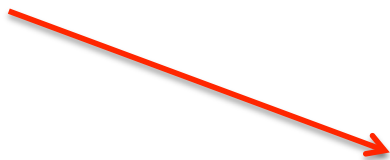
- After pericentre passage with Sgr A*:
 1. Gas density increases
 2. Star formation activity increases

$$R_{gas}^{initial} < R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} > \rho_*^{final}$$

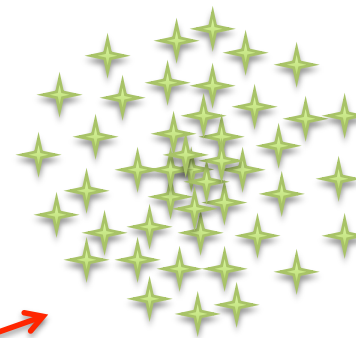
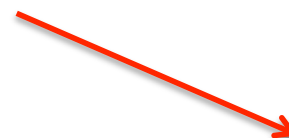
i)



Centrally-condensed, compact stellar population forms

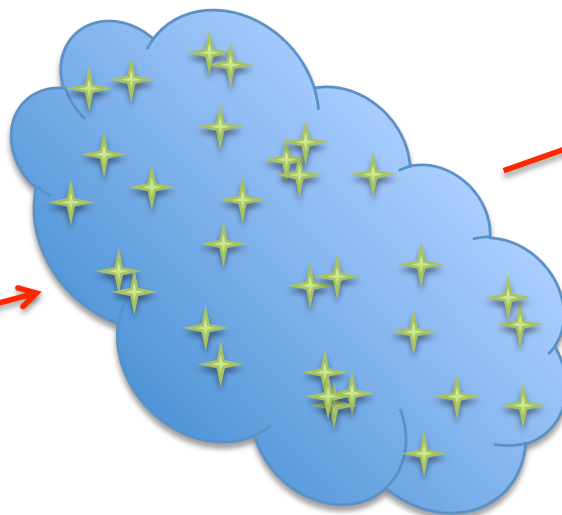


Feedback > Gas Expulsion > Expansion due to diluted potential



ii)

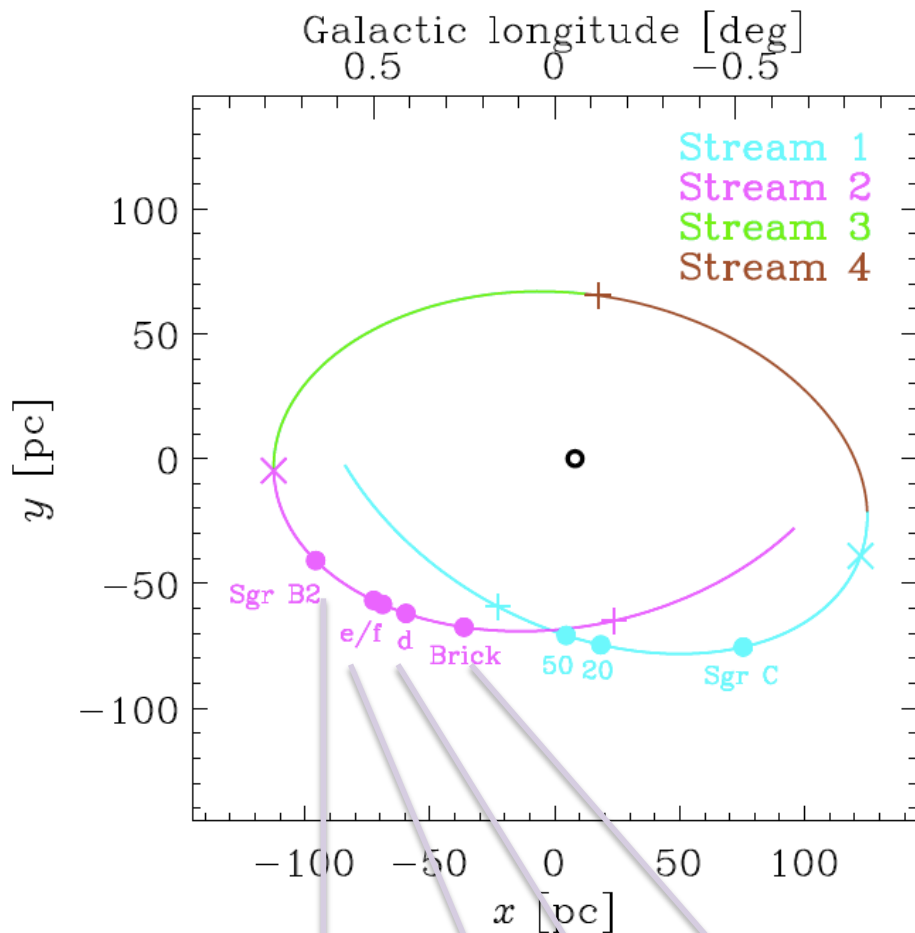
$$R_{gas}^{initial} > R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} < \rho_*^{final}$$



Stars and sub-clusters form throughout the spatial extent of the natal gas cloud



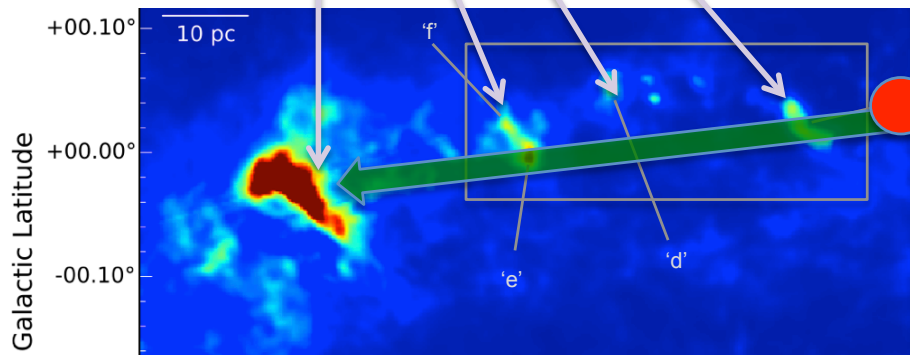
Stars decouple from the gas > Merging of stellar condensations > Centrally-condensed stellar cluster



We have:

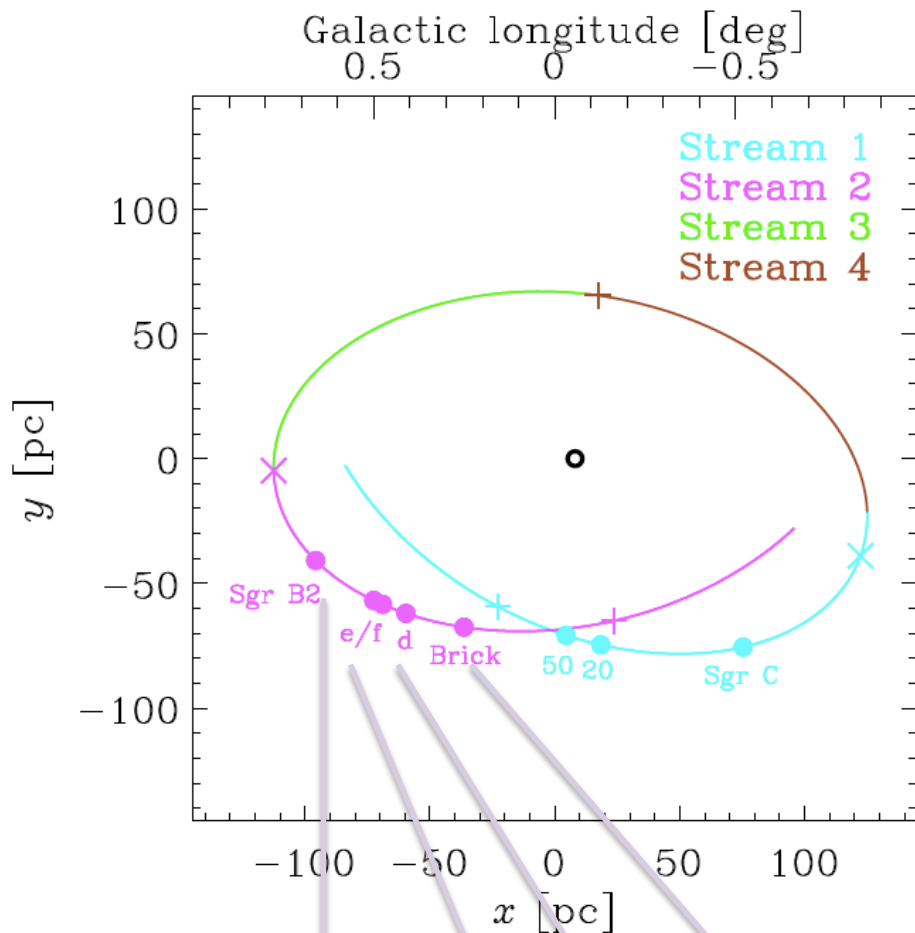
- 4 likely YMC progenitor clouds
- 1 Proto YMC (Sgr B2)
- 1 YMC (Arches)

All in the same environment



Arches Cluster

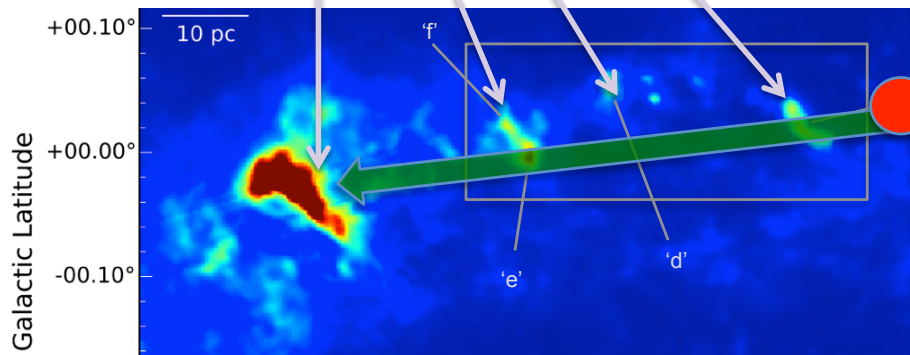
- After pericentre passage with Sgr A*:
 1. Gas density increases
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We have:

- 4 likely YMC progenitor clouds
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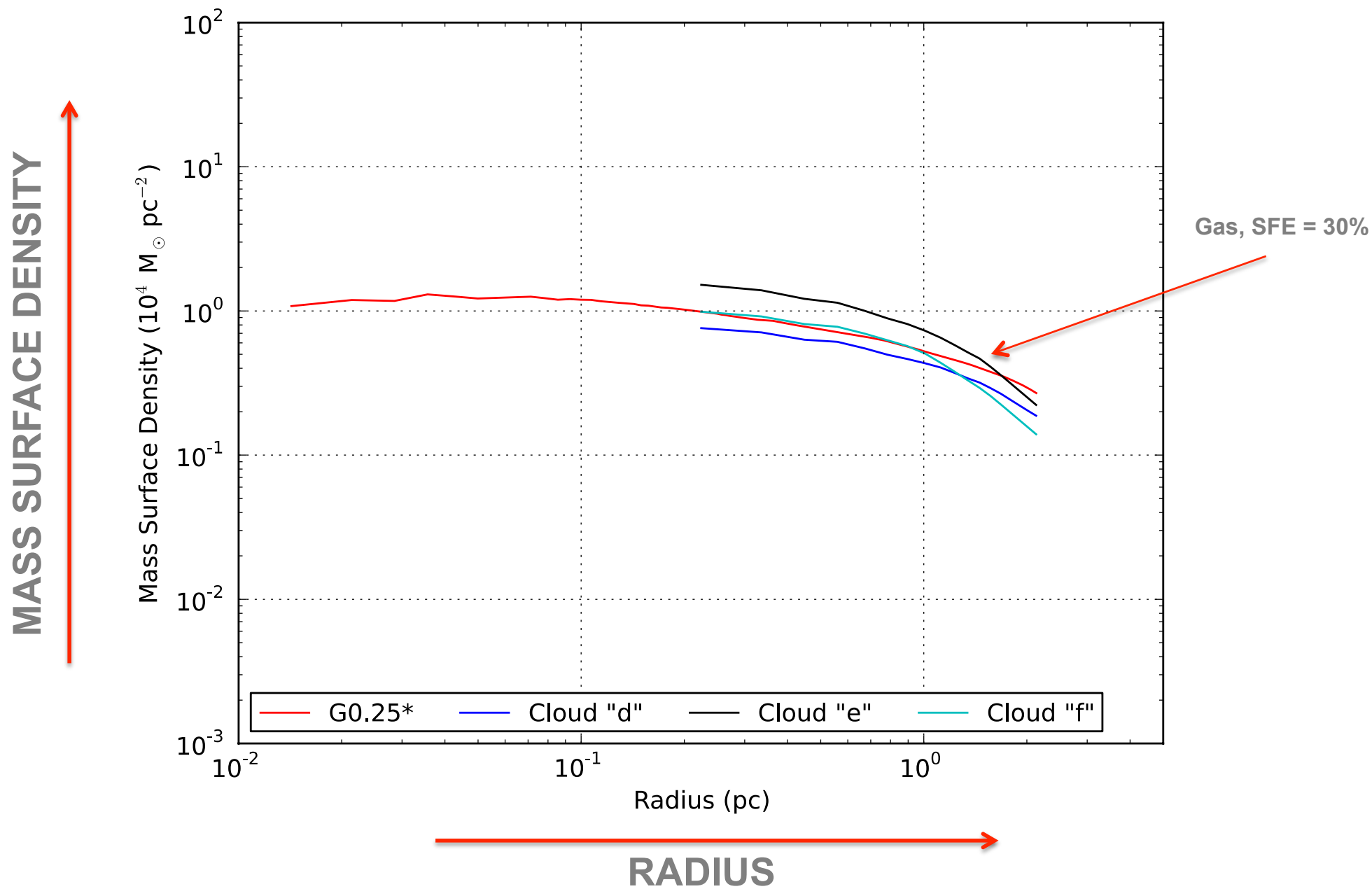


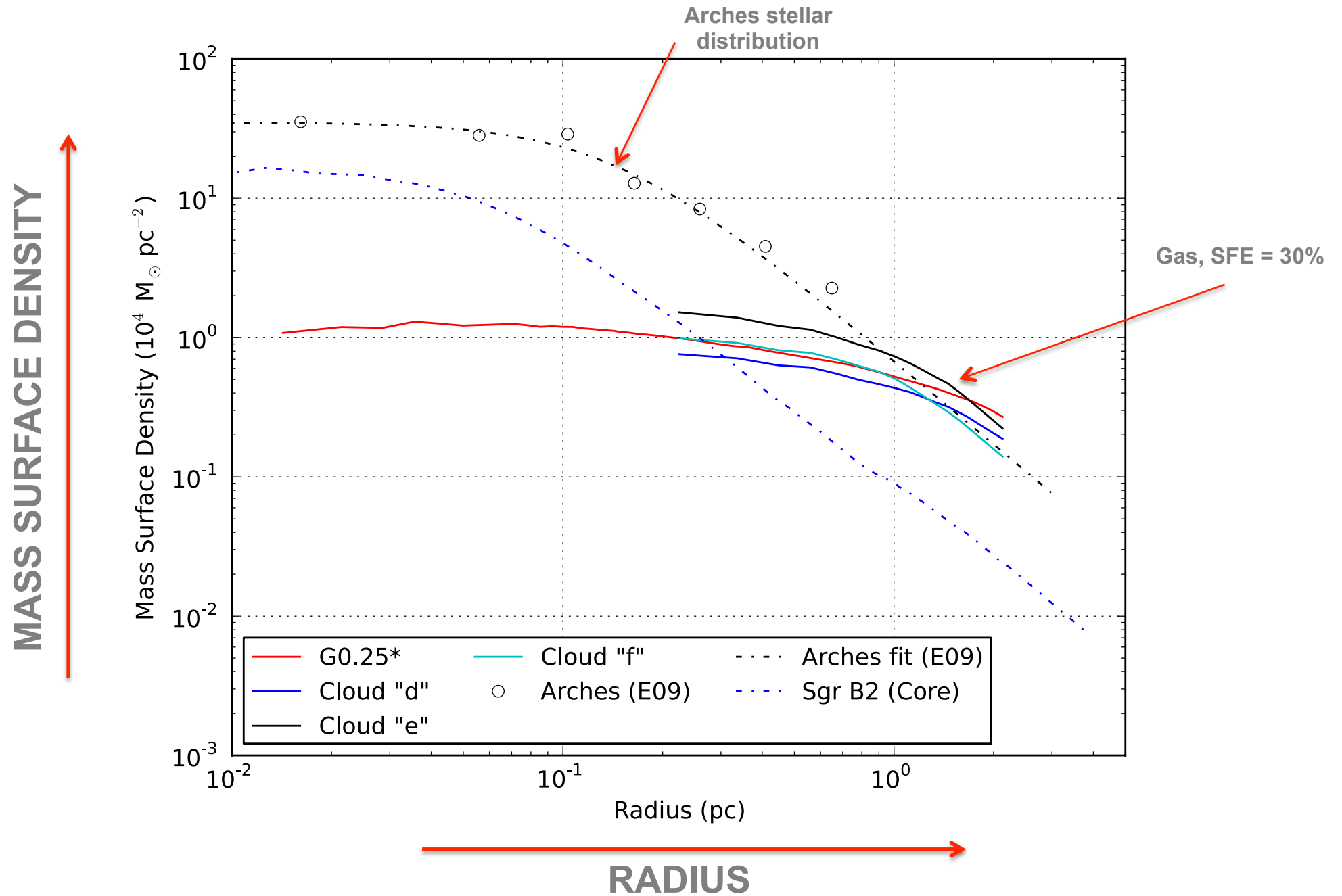
- After pericentre passage with Sgr A*:
1. Gas density increases
 2. Star formation activity increases

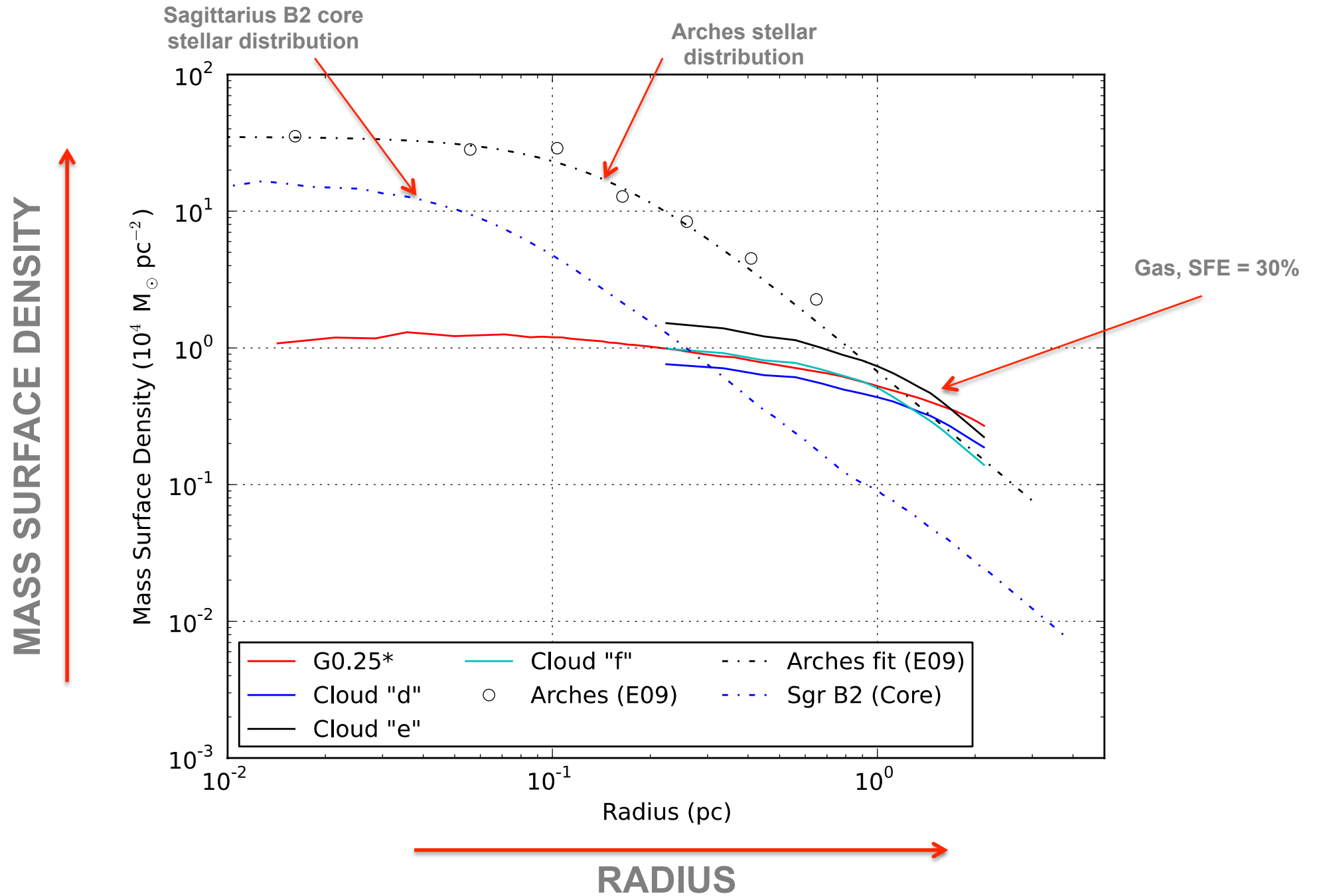
How does their mass distribution vary with time?

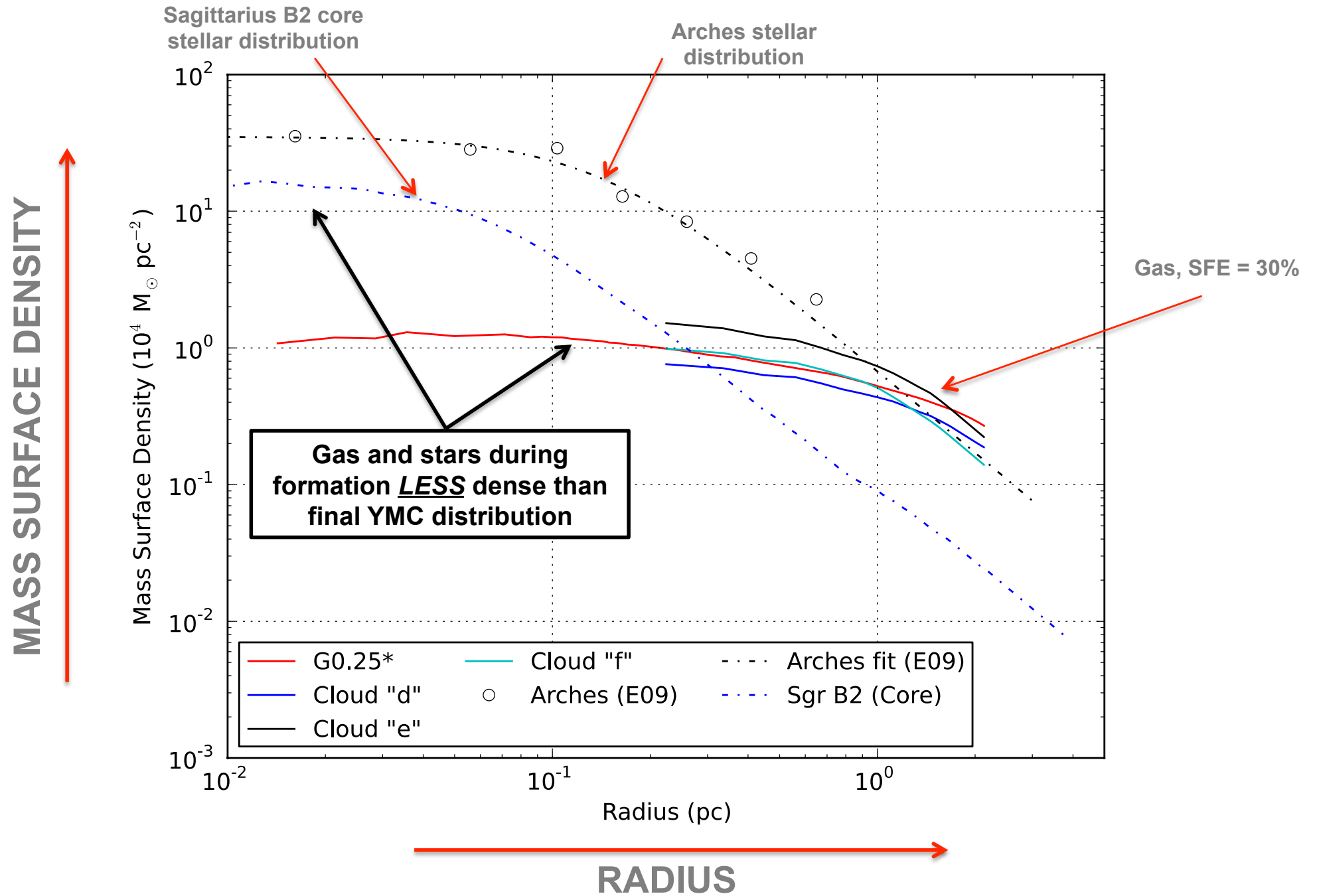
Walker, Longmore et al. submission next week

Walker, Longmore et al. submission next week



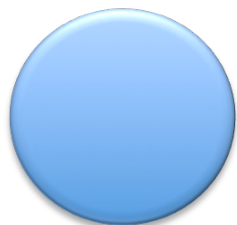




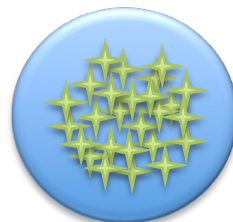
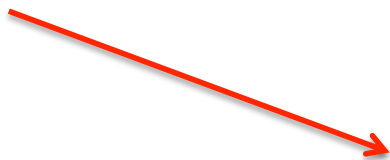


$$R_{gas}^{initial} < R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} > \rho_*^{final}$$

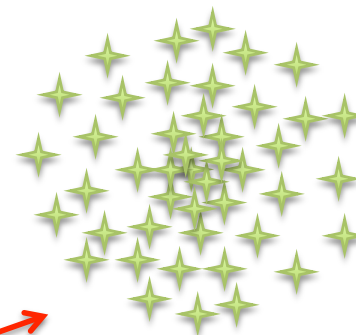
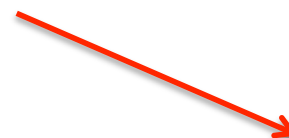
i)



Centrally-condensed, compact stellar population forms



Feedback > Gas expulsion > Expansion due to diluted potential

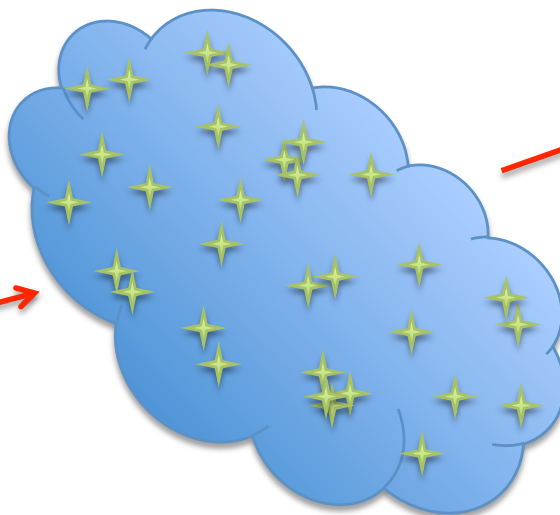


ii)

$$R_{gas}^{initial} > R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} < \rho_*^{final}$$



Stars and sub-clusters form throughout the spatial extent of the natal gas cloud

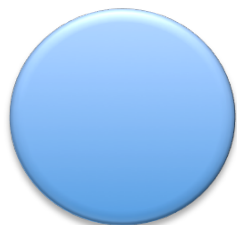


Stars decouple from the gas > Merging of stellar condensations > Centrally-condensed stellar cluster

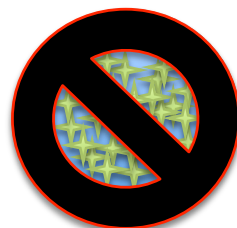


$$R_{gas}^{initial} < R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} > \rho_*^{final}$$

i)



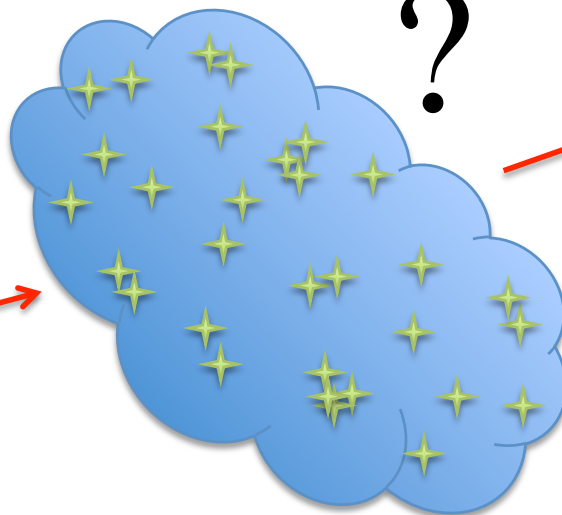
Centrally-condensed, compact stellar population forms



Feedback > Gas Expulsion > Expansion due to diluted potential

ii)

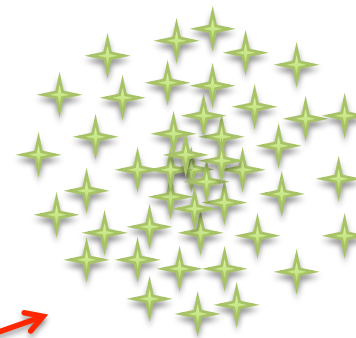
$$R_{gas}^{initial} > R_*^{final}, \rho_{gas}^{initial} < \rho_*^{final}$$



?

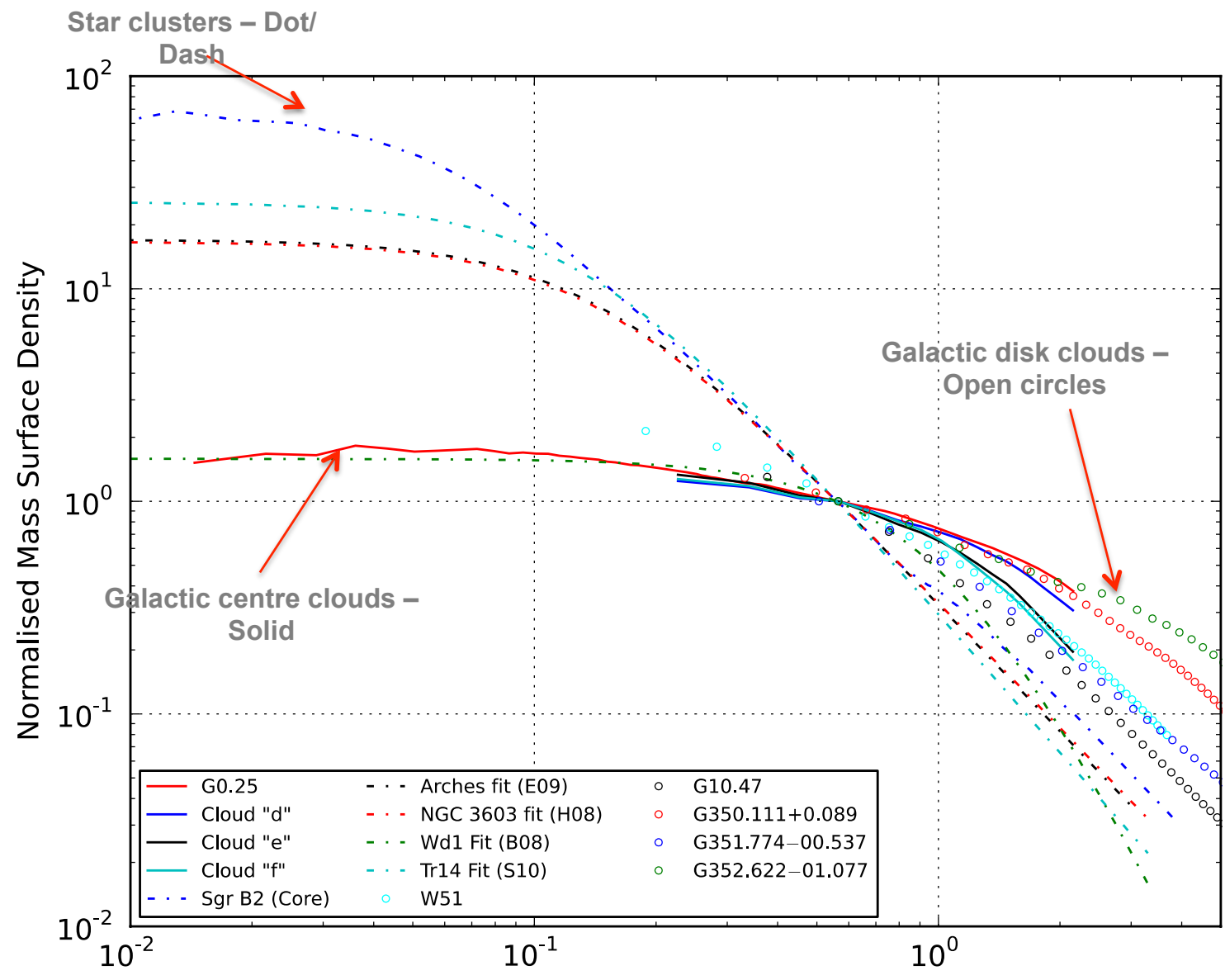
Stars decouple from the gas > Merging of stellar condensations > Centrally-condensed stellar cluster

Stars and sub-clusters form throughout the spatial extent of the natal gas cloud



Does this only apply at the Galactic centre?

NORMALISED MASS SURFACE DENSITY



RADIUS

Star Formation “Time Machines”



Stars in YMCs do not form at their final stellar densities

Looking to the future

- Directly follow CMF \rightarrow IMF
- Watch the mass assembly process of the most massive ($>100M_{\text{sun}}$) stars
- See how the most massive and dense clusters in the Galaxy (e.g. Arches) assemble their mass
- Directly test predictions of different turbulent star formation theories
 - Can directly measure SFE_{ff} for observed M_{S} , M_{A} , α , β

Spectacular laboratory for future SF studies!

SMA Galactic Centre Legacy Survey

PIs: Eric Keto, Cara Battersby

- 500 hours of time with SMA to map the dense gas structure at 0.1pc resolution
- Sub-compact + compact + single-dish to recover all spatial scales
- SWARM correlator → 8GHz bandwidth = many spectral lines!
- Large amount of data already taken

Star Formation “Time Machines”



First test of SF theory in high-z-like environment

Rule out “Universal” density threshold



Stars in YMCs do not form at their final stellar densities

References

- “Brick” papers:
 - Longmore et al., 2012, ApJ, 746, 117
 - Rathborne, Longmore et al., 2014, ApJ, 786, 140
 - Rathborne, Longmore et al, 2014, accepted MNRAS, arXiv:1409.0935
 - Rathborne, Longmore et al, submitted MNRAS
 - Bally, Rathborne, Longmore et al., accepted ApJ
 - Johnston et al., 2014, A&A, 568, 56
- “Time Machine” papers
 - Longmore et al., 2013b, MNRAS, 433, 15
 - Kruijssen & Longmore, 2013, MNRAS, 435, 2598
- “Young Massive Cluster Formation” papers
 - Longmore et al., PPVI, arxiv:1401.4175
 - Walker, Longmore et al, submitted MNRAS
- “Central Molecular Zone” papers
 - Longmore et al., 2013a, MNRAS, 429, 987
 - Kruijssen, Longmore et al., 2014, MNRAS, 440, 3370

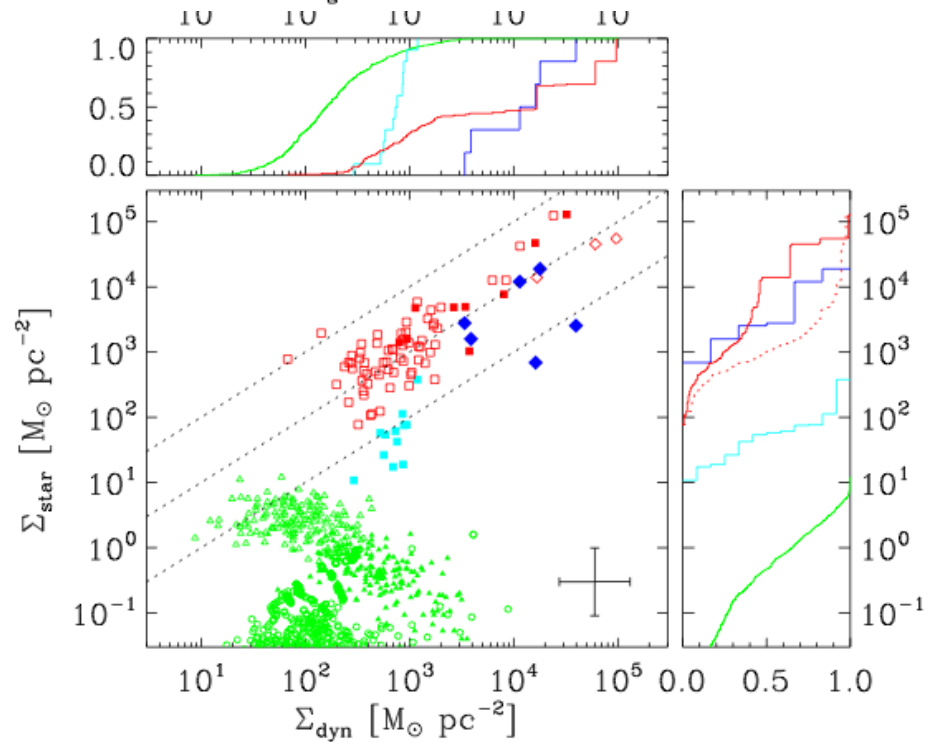
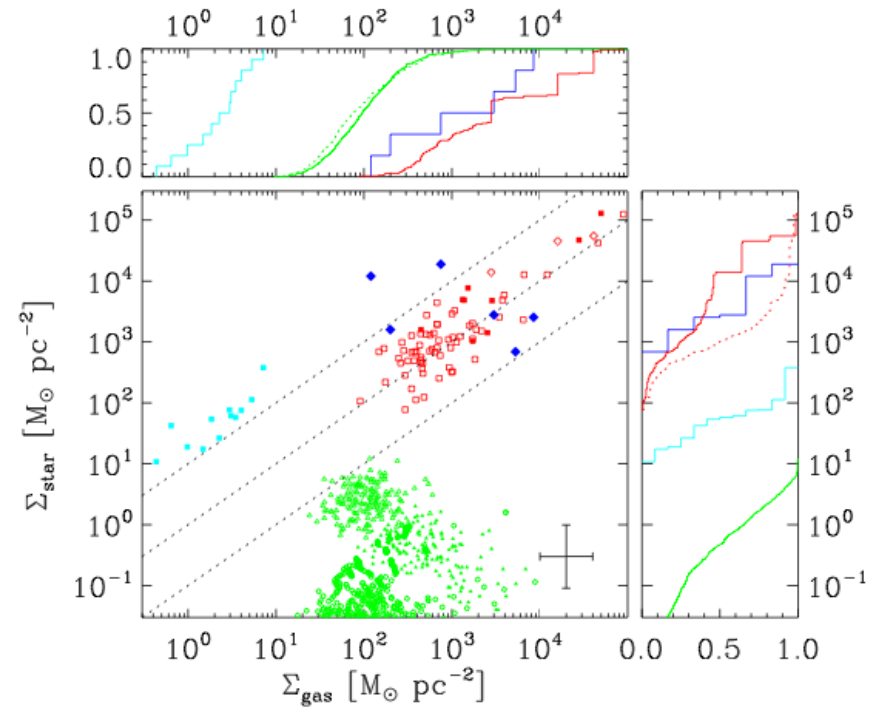
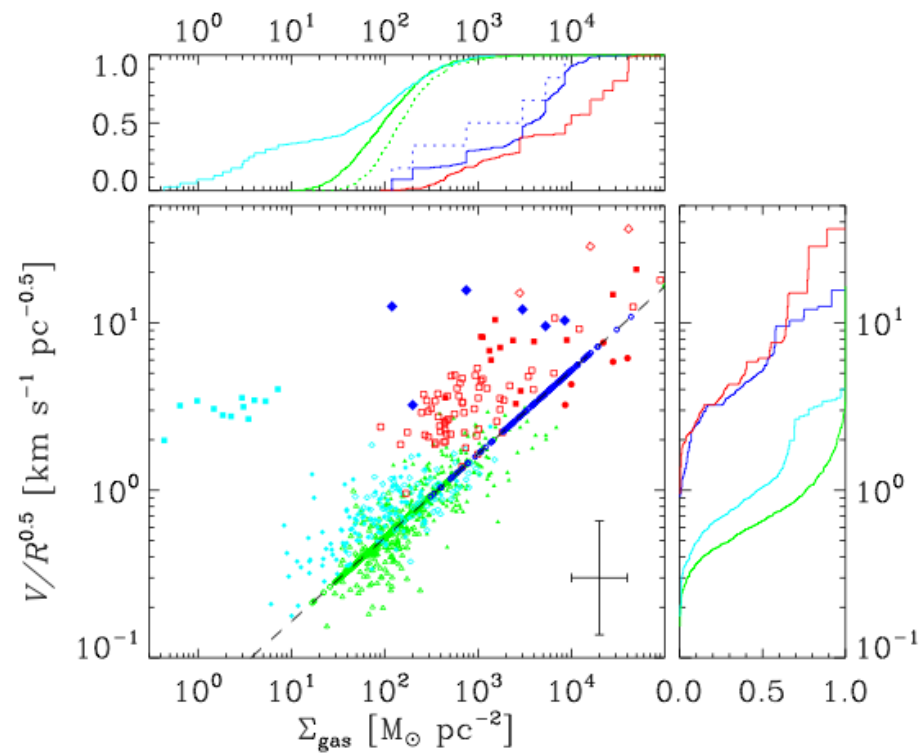
How similar is the gas in the Milky Way to other star formation environments across cosmological timescales?

Kruijssen & Longmore 2013, MNRAS, 435, 2598

- Problems to overcome (many!)
 - Heterogeneous data sets
 - Different observational tracers
 - Large range in spatial resolution
- Approach
 - Identify properties that can be most robustly compared
 - Limited by most distant sources (high-z galaxies)
 - $R, \Delta V, M_{\text{gas}}, M_{\text{star}}$
 - $R, \Delta V, \Sigma_{\text{gas}}, \Sigma_{\text{star}}$ (normalise by spatial area)
 - Break sample in to four groups
 - Disks of nearby spirals
 - Centre of the MW
 - Starburst systems
 - High-z galaxies



Plot everything against everything else and see if can find unique properties to separate gas in the groups



Local clouds?
 Nearby galaxies?
 High-z clouds/galaxies?
 CMZ clouds/regions?

