



# Near-IR variability of the bulge stellar population

*Dante Minniti*

*President of The Local Universe*



# IR Surveys

## Spectroscopic IR Surveys

### GALACTIC:

Apogee (Majewski +)  
Moons (Gonzalez +)

### EXTRAGALACTIC:

Moons (Girasuolo +)

## Photometric IR Surveys

### GALACTIC:

2MASS (Skrutskie, Cutri, +)  
UKIDSS GPS (Lucas, +)  
VVV (Minniti, Lucas, +)

### EXTRAGALACTIC:

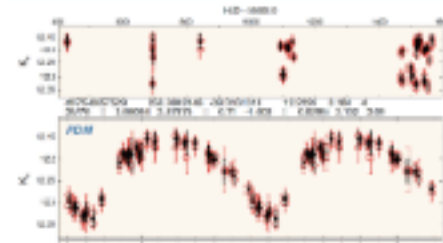
VMC (Cioni +)  
VHS (McMahon +)



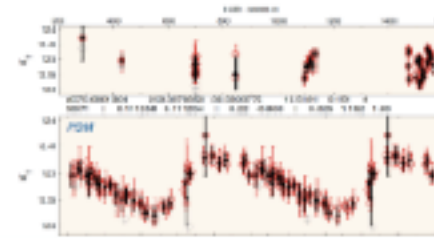
# Near-IR variability of the bulge stellar population

## Outline

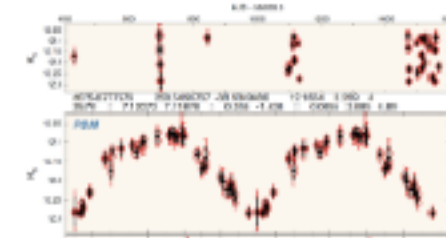
- Introduction
- RR Lyrae
- Classical Cepheids
- Type 2 Cepheids
- Miras and LPVs
- Eclipsing Binaries
- Microlensing
- Novae
- WITs
- Wish List



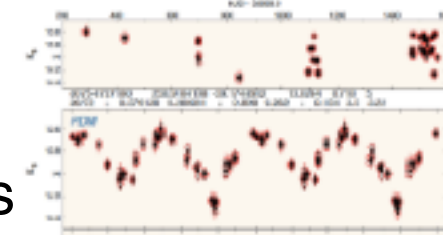
Type II Cepheid



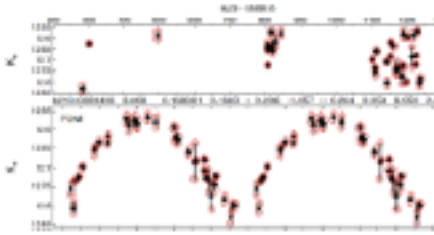
Delta Scuti



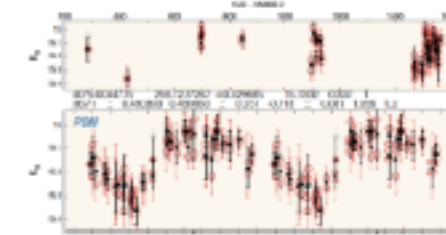
Classical Cepheid



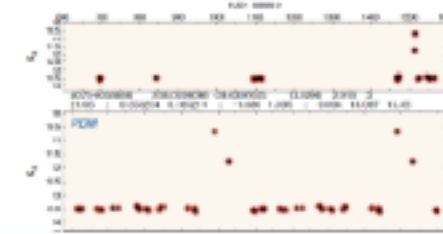
Eclipsing binary



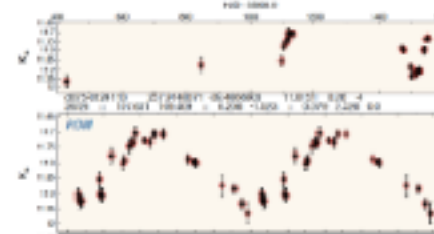
Contact binary



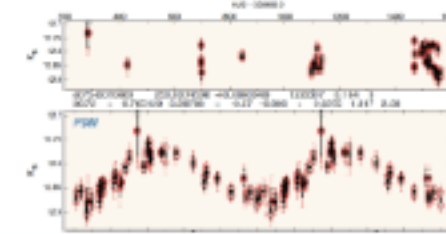
Distant RRab



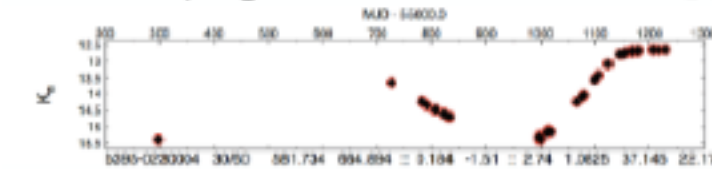
Erupting variable



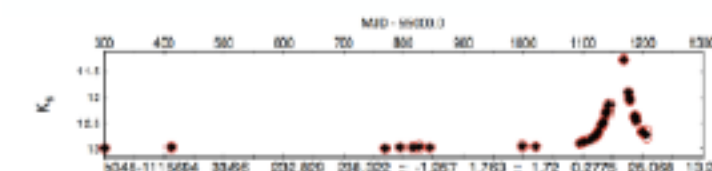
Long period Cepheid



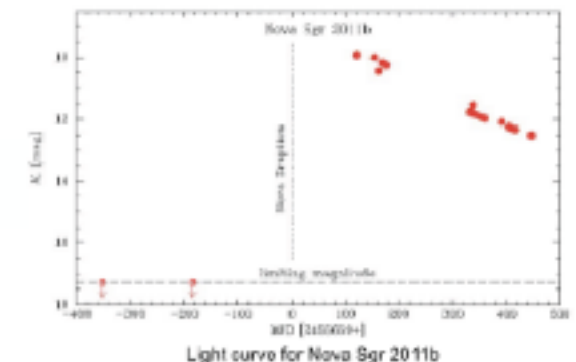
Nearby RRab



Long period variable



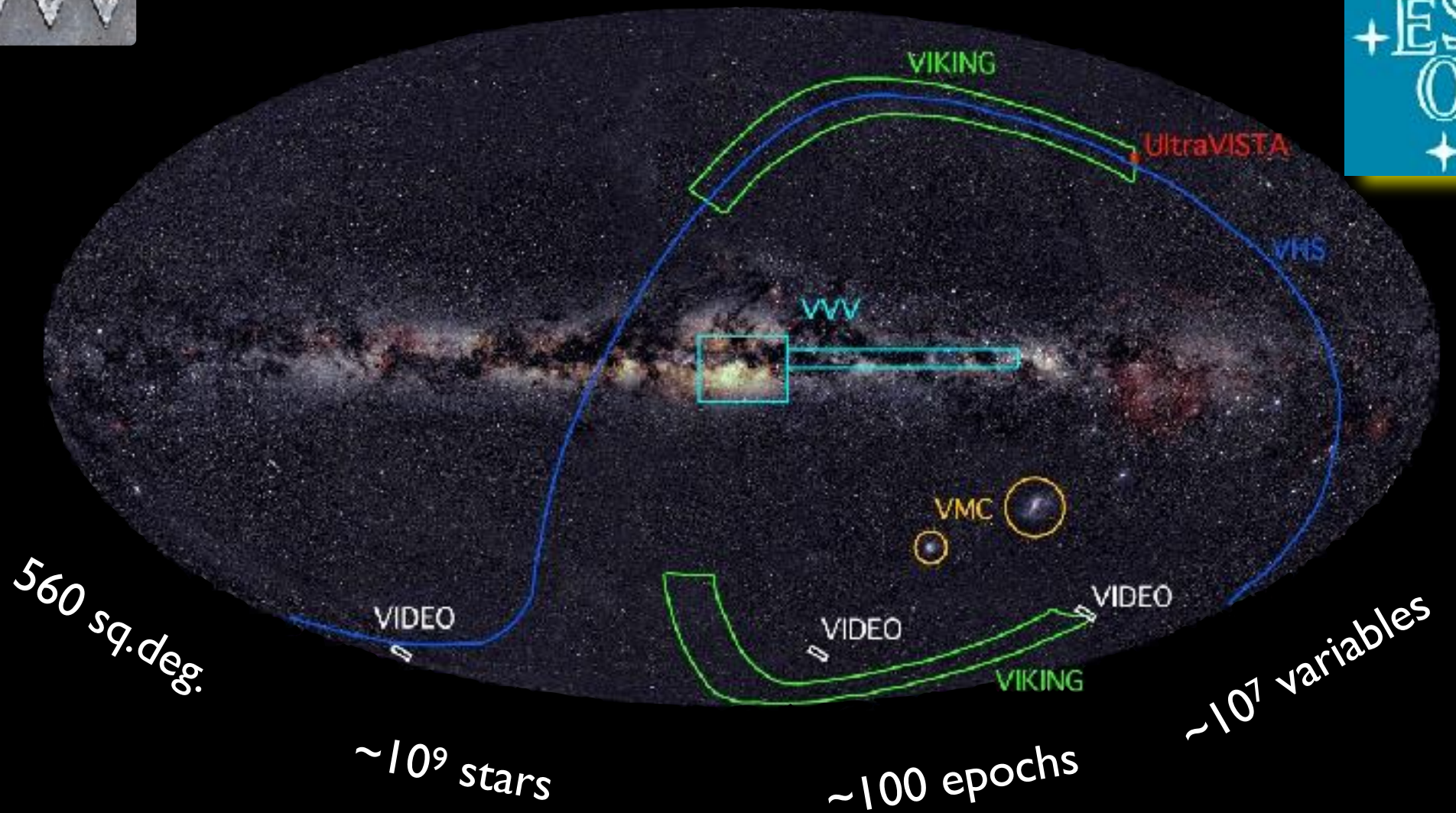
Microlensing event



Discovery of novae in the Galactic disk  
(R. Salto et al. 2014)

# **Introduction: The VVV Survey**





# VISTA PUBLIC SURVEYS

## VISTA VARIABLES IN THE VIA LACTEA (VVV)



# VISTA Telescope

- 4m diameter
- IR optimized
- large field



[vvvsurvey.org](http://vvvsurvey.org)



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C. Bonatto<sup>29</sup>, L. Bronfman<sup>30</sup>, G. Carraro<sup>9</sup>, A. N. Chenè<sup>19,20</sup>, J. J. Clariá<sup>15</sup>, J. R. A. Clarke<sup>20</sup>, C. Contreras<sup>4</sup>,  
A. Corvillón<sup>1</sup>, R. de Grijs<sup>31,32</sup>, B. Dias<sup>25</sup>, J. E. Drew<sup>4</sup>, C. Fariña<sup>26</sup>, C. Feinstein<sup>26</sup>, E. Fernández-Lajús<sup>26</sup>,  
R. C. Gamen<sup>26</sup>, W. Gieren<sup>19</sup>, B. Goldman<sup>33</sup>, C. González-Fernández<sup>34</sup>, R. J. J. Grand<sup>35</sup>, G. Gunthardt<sup>15</sup>,  
N. C. Hambly<sup>8</sup>, M. M. Hanson<sup>36</sup>, K. Helminiak<sup>1</sup>, M. G. Hoare<sup>37</sup>, L. Huckvale<sup>10</sup>, A. Jordán<sup>1</sup>, K. Kinemuchi<sup>38</sup>,  
A. Longmore<sup>39</sup>, M. López-Corredoira<sup>34,40</sup>, T. Maccarone<sup>41</sup>, D. Majaess<sup>42</sup>, E. Martín<sup>34</sup>, N. Masetti<sup>43</sup>,  
R. E. Mennickent<sup>19</sup>, I. F. Mirabel<sup>44,45</sup>, L. Monaco<sup>9</sup>, L. Morelli<sup>46</sup>, V. Motta<sup>20</sup>, T. Palma<sup>15</sup>, M. C. Parisi<sup>15</sup>, Q. Parker<sup>47,48</sup>,  
F. Peñaloza<sup>20</sup>, G. Pietrzyński<sup>18,19</sup>, G. Pignata<sup>49</sup>, B. Popescu<sup>36</sup>, M. A. Read<sup>8</sup>, A. Rojas<sup>1</sup>, A. Roman-Lopes<sup>12</sup>,  
M. T. Ruiz<sup>30</sup>, I. Saviane<sup>9</sup>, M. R. Schreiber<sup>20</sup>, A. C. Schröder<sup>50,51</sup>, S. Sharma<sup>20,52</sup>, M. D. Smith<sup>53</sup>, L. Sodré Jr.<sup>25</sup>,  
J. Stead<sup>37</sup>, A. W. Stephens<sup>54</sup>, M. Tamura<sup>55</sup>, C. Tappert<sup>20</sup>, M. A. Thompson<sup>4</sup>, E. Valenti<sup>5</sup>, L. Vanzì<sup>16,56</sup>, N. A. Walton<sup>7</sup>,  
W. Weidmann<sup>15</sup>, and A. Zijlstra<sup>10</sup>

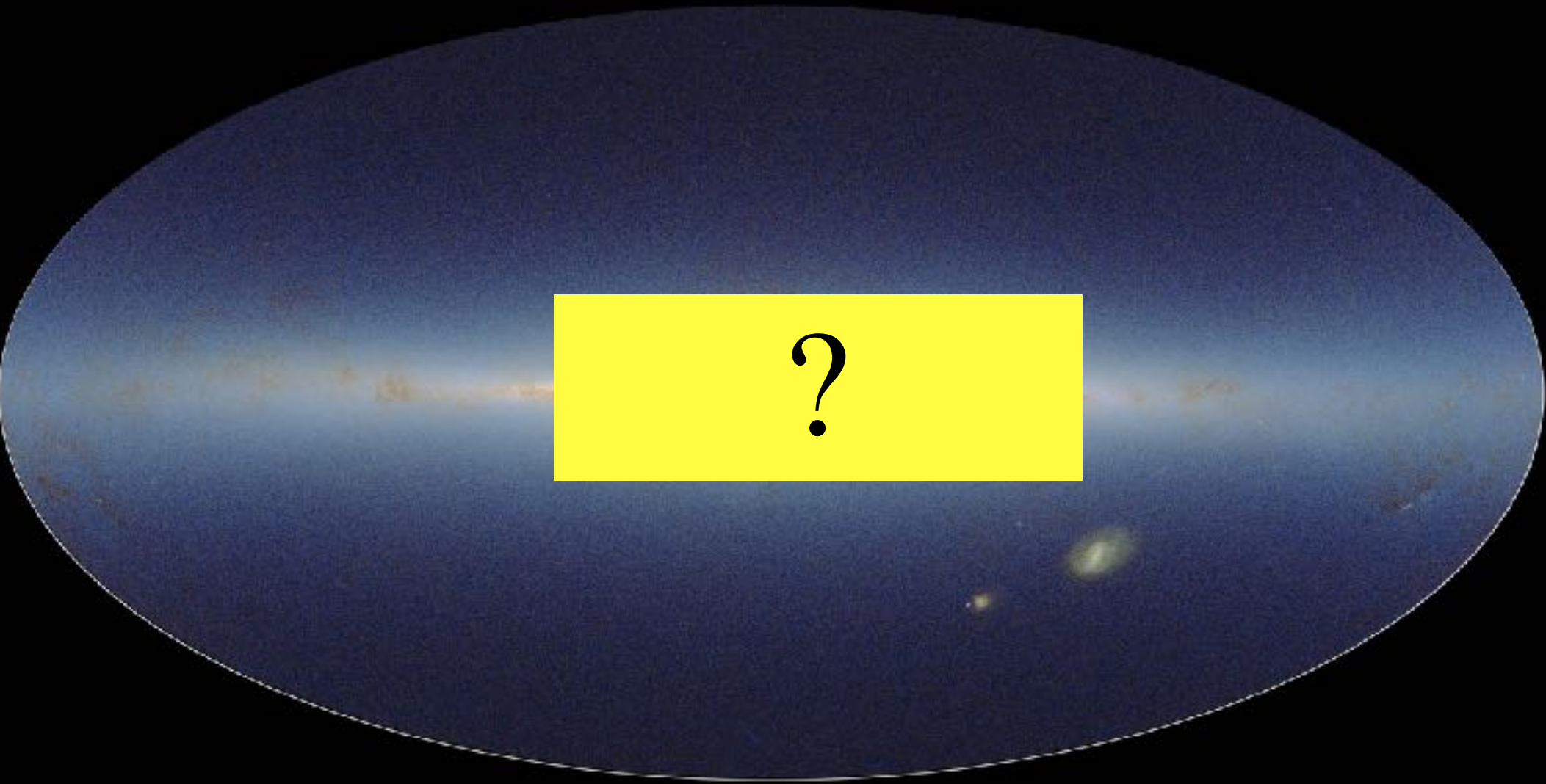
# The VVV Science Team





The photo album of the  
MW is not complete yet!!!

[vvvsurvey.org](http://vvvsurvey.org)



# 2MASS IMAGE OF THE MILKY WAY



# Goal

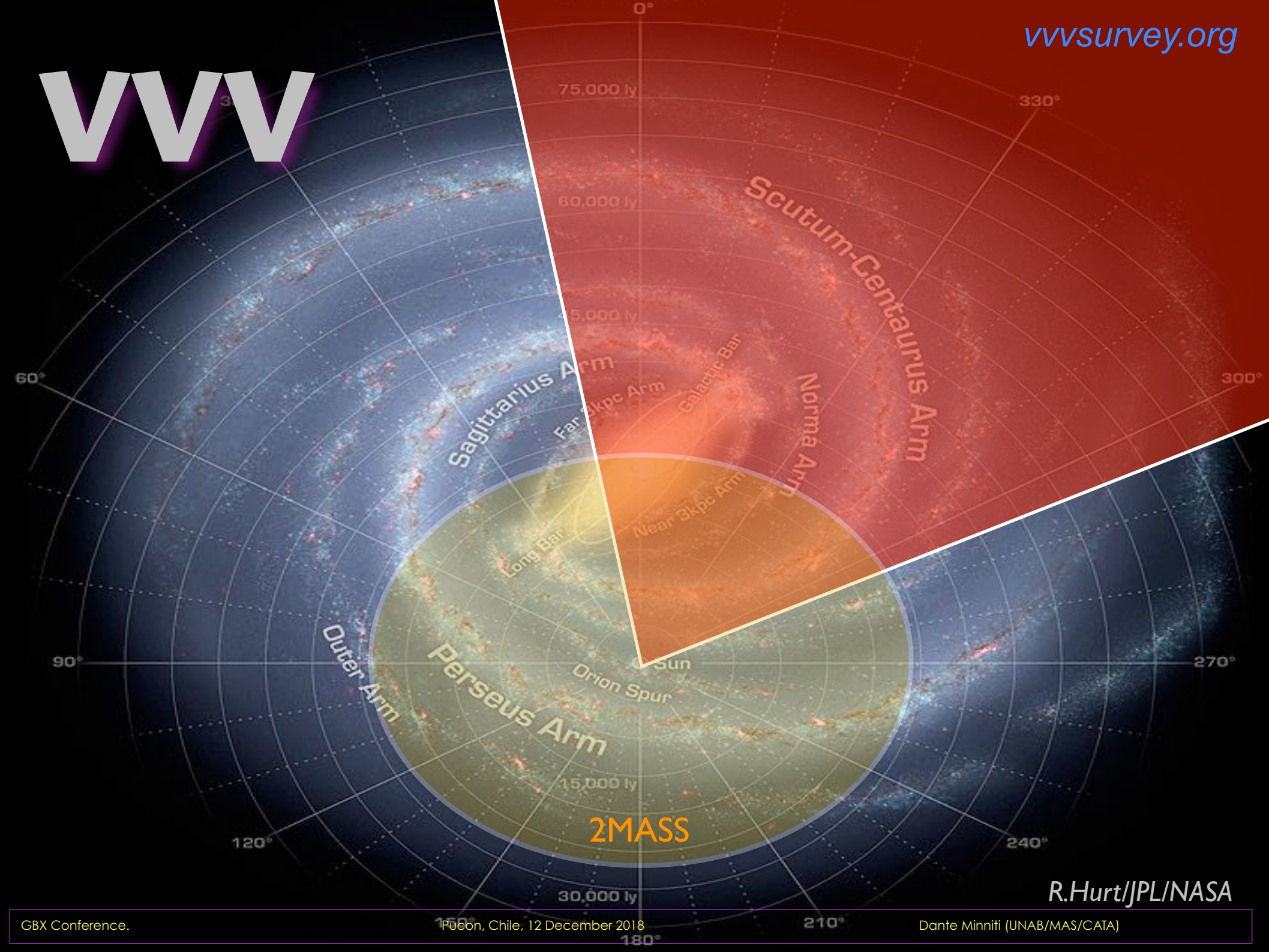
What is the 3-D  
structure of the  
Milky Way



We use RRLyrae, Cepheids and clump giants to investigate this.



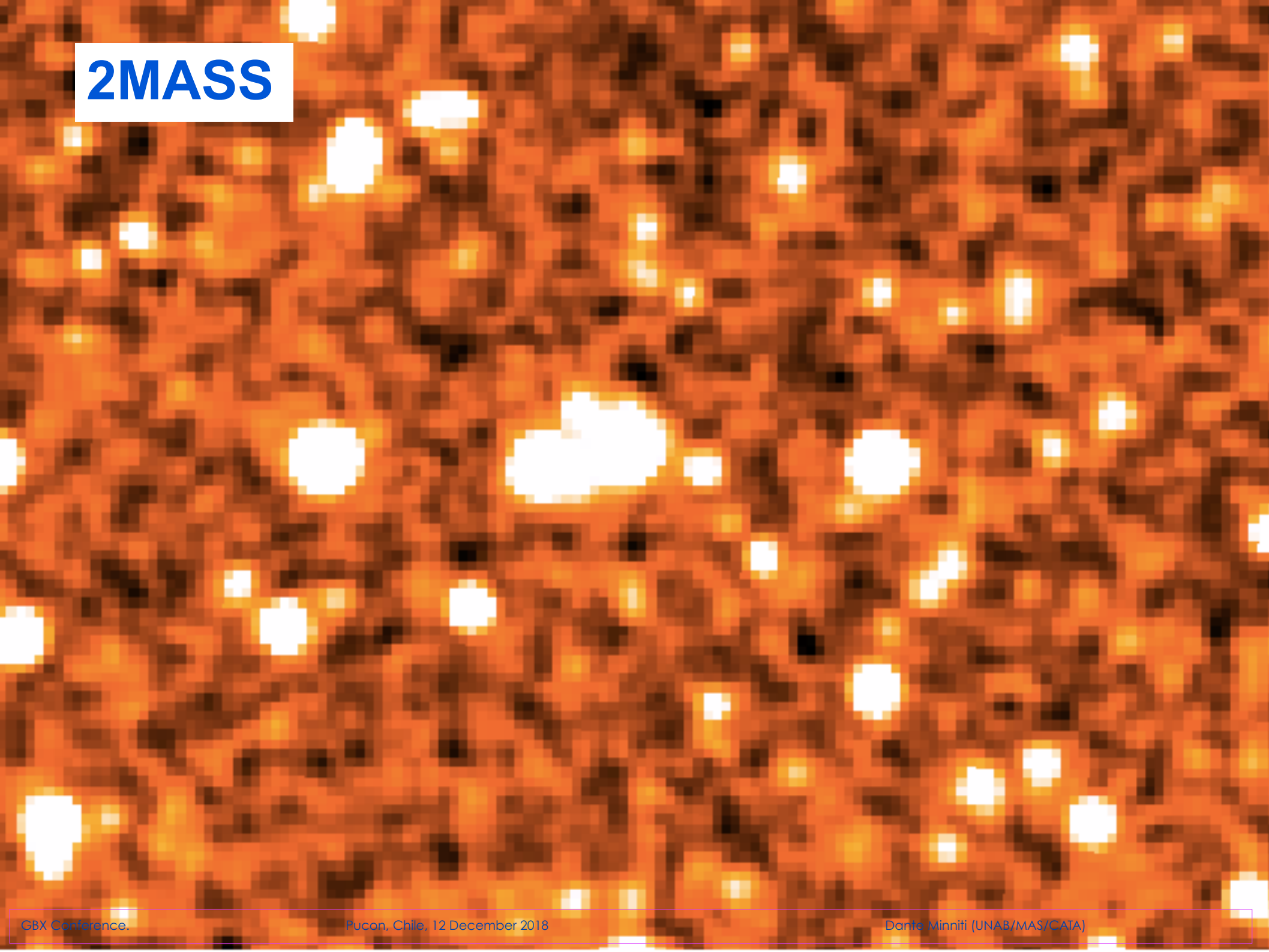
WV



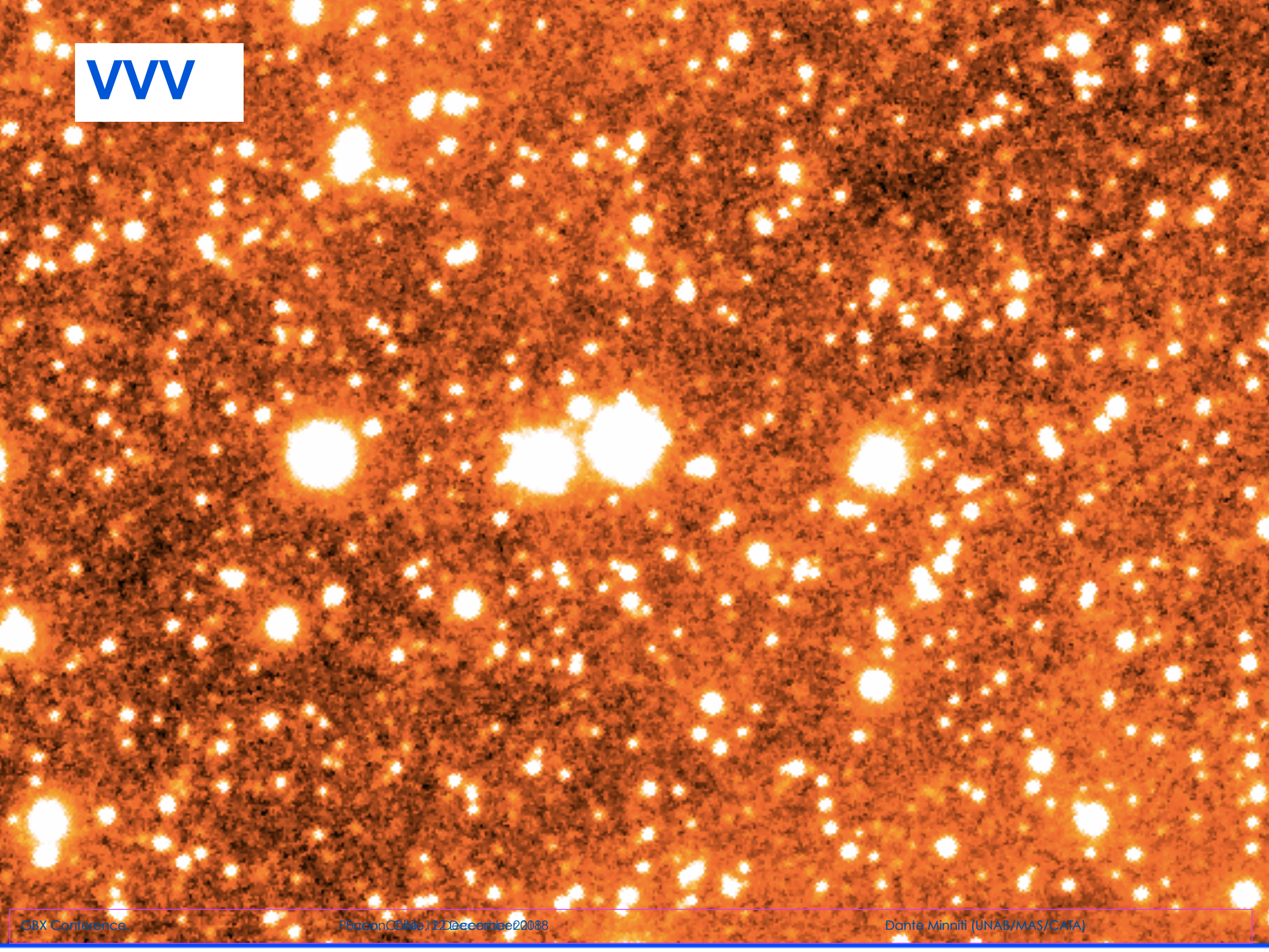
R.Hurt/JPL/NASA



# 2MASS



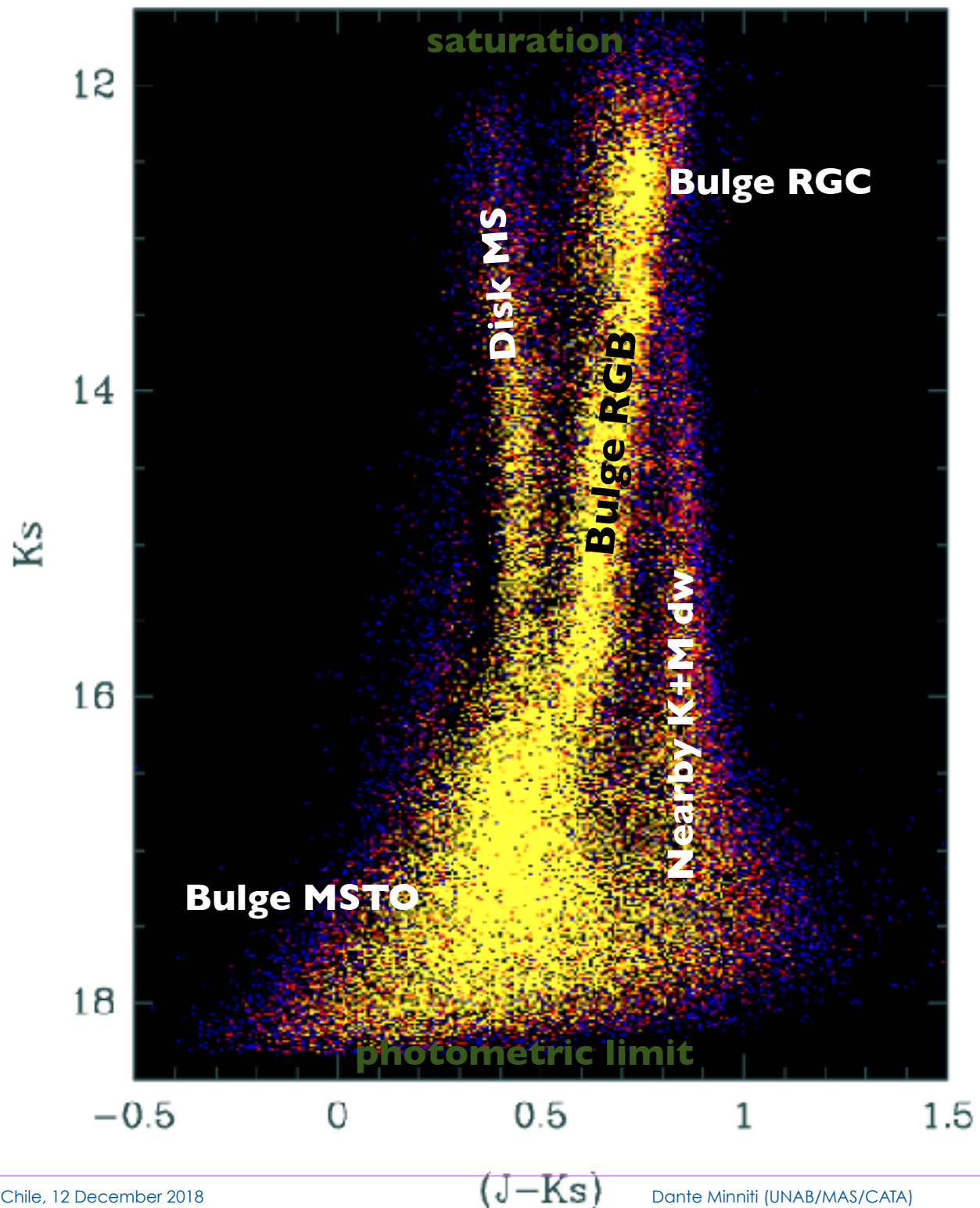






# VVV STARS CMD

outer bulge fields  
b209-b211





20 deg

15 deg

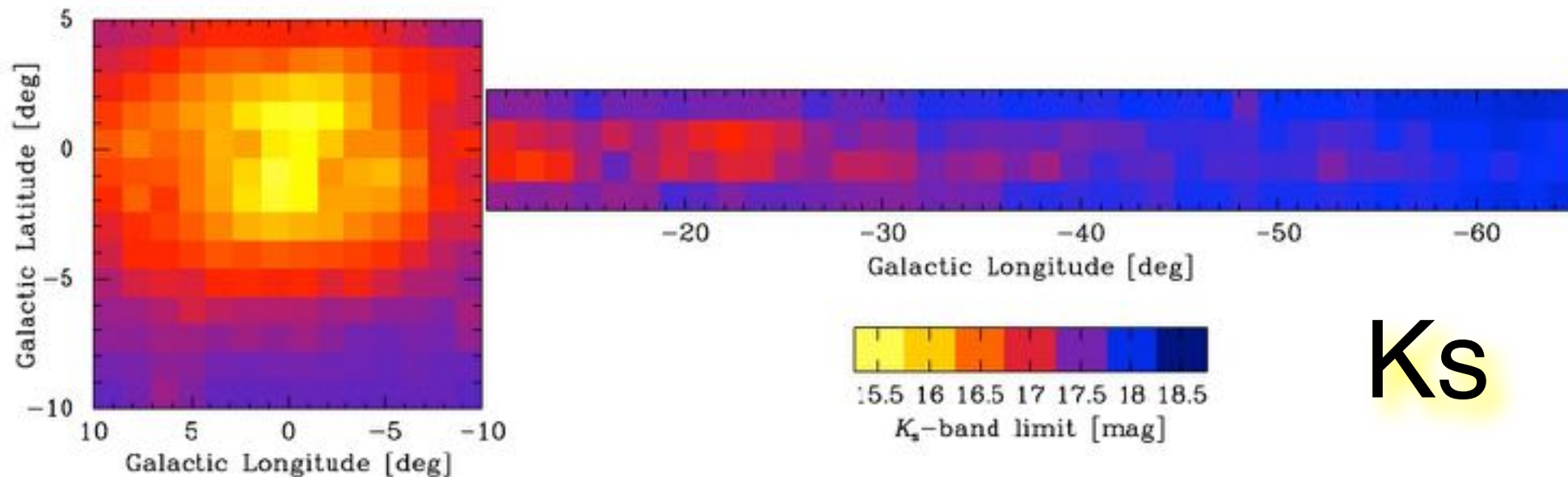
140 Gb single 25.000 Megapix image of  $\sim 300$  sqdeg,  
made of  $\sim 400.000$  images of  $512 \times 512$  pix each,  
scale 1 pix =  $0.4''$ , JHKs filters, by Ignacio Toledo

# BIG DATA





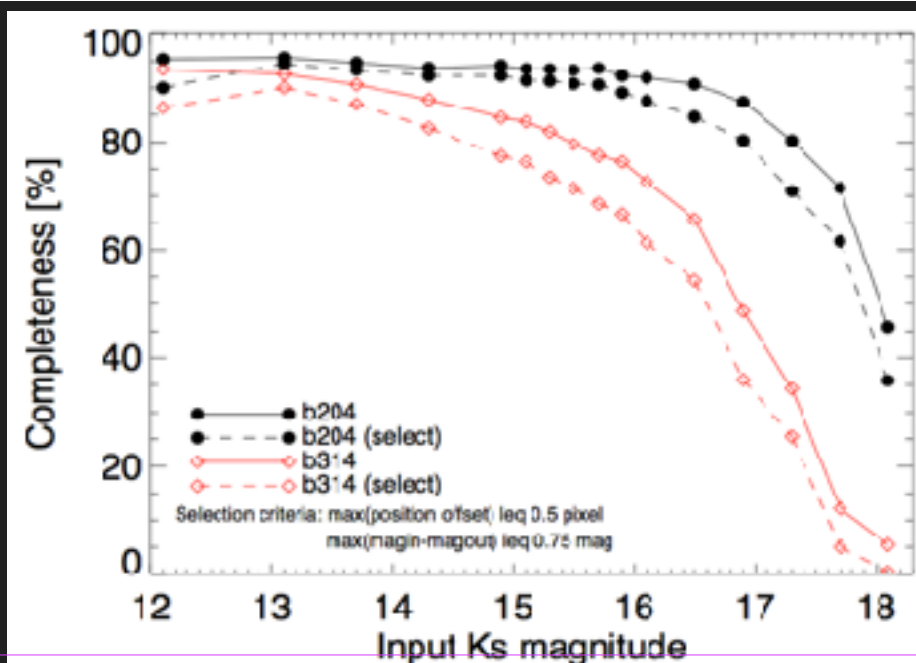
# limiting magnitudes



R. Saito

## Completeness tests

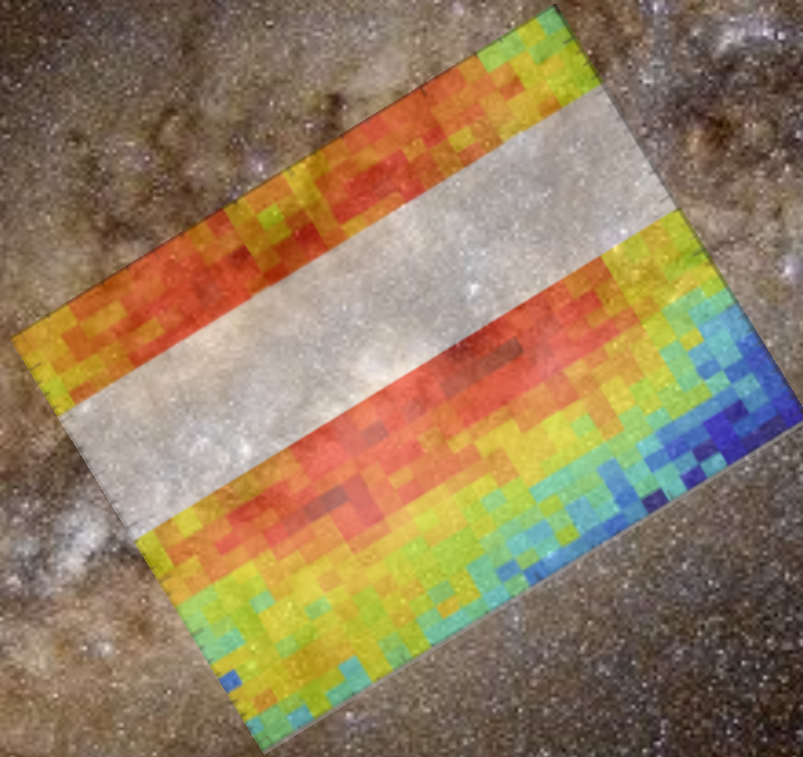
M. Hempel, E. Valenti





# Structure of the Milky Way Bulge

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GIBS Survey: Manuela Zoccali et al.



# Why the Near-IR?

# Why the Near-IR?

The PL relations are tighter in the near-IR

The red giants peak in the near-IR

The Galactic extinction is reduced:  $A_k \sim 0.1 A_v$

Some problems:

- the near-IR background is higher
- the near-IR data rate is larger
- amplitudes are smaller in the near-IR
- variations in the Galactic reddening law:

$A_k = 0.40 E_{j-k}$  for Alonso-García

$A_k = 0.528 E_{j-k}$  for Nishiyama

$A_k = 0.72 E_{j-k}$  for Cardelli



# Dust Distribution and the Reddening Laws

Gonzalez et al. 2012, A&A, 543, 13 (arXiv:1204.4004)

Gonzalez et al. 2013, A&A, 552A, 110G (arXiv:1302.0243)

Gonzalez et al. 2018, MNRAS in press

The global photometric reddening and metallicity maps of the Galactic bulge

Chen et al. 2013, A&A, 550, 42 (arXiv:1211.3092)

Schultheis et al. 2014, A&A 566, 120 (arXiv:1405.0503)

Mapping the Milky Way Bulge at high resolution: the 3D dust extinction, CO and X factor map

Minniti et al. 2015, A&A, 571, A91 (arXiv:1409.5836)

The Great Dark Lane toward the Galactic Bulge

Nataf et al. 2015 ApJ (arXiv:1510.01321)

Interstellar Extinction Curve Variations Toward the Inner Milky Way

Alonso-García et al. (2017 ApJL)

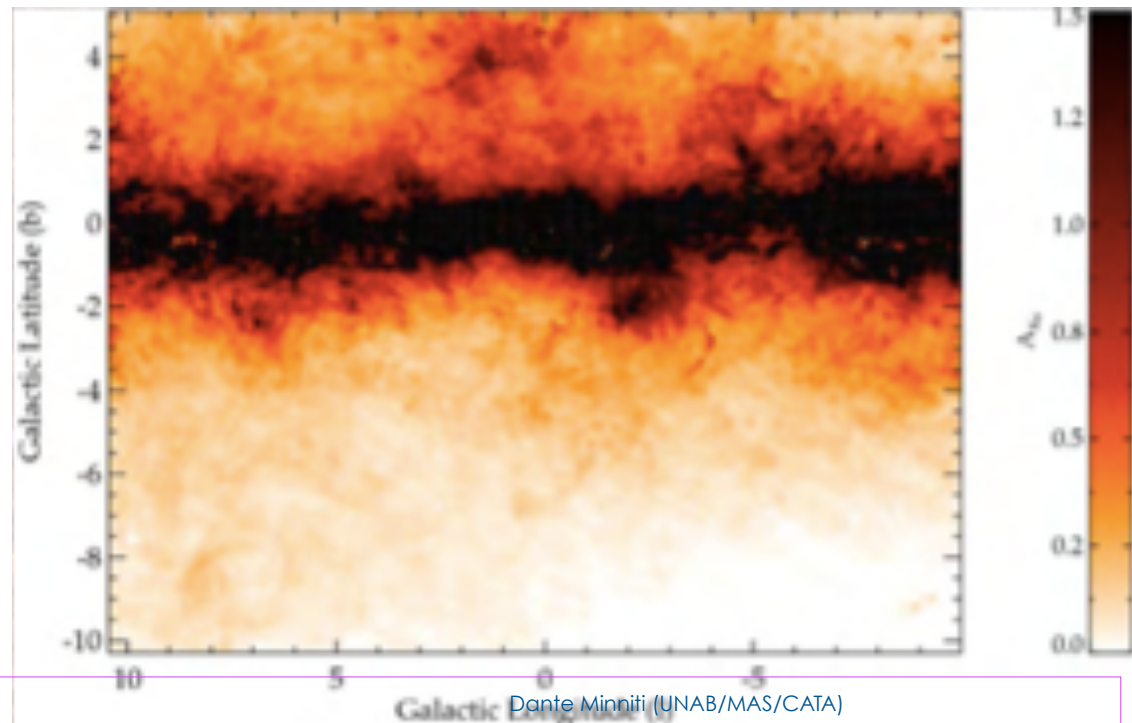
Extinction in the Galactic Centre Region

Saito et al. (2018 A&A in press)

Extinction in the Galactic Centre Region

Surot et al. (2018 A&A submitted)

Extinction in the Galactic Centre Region

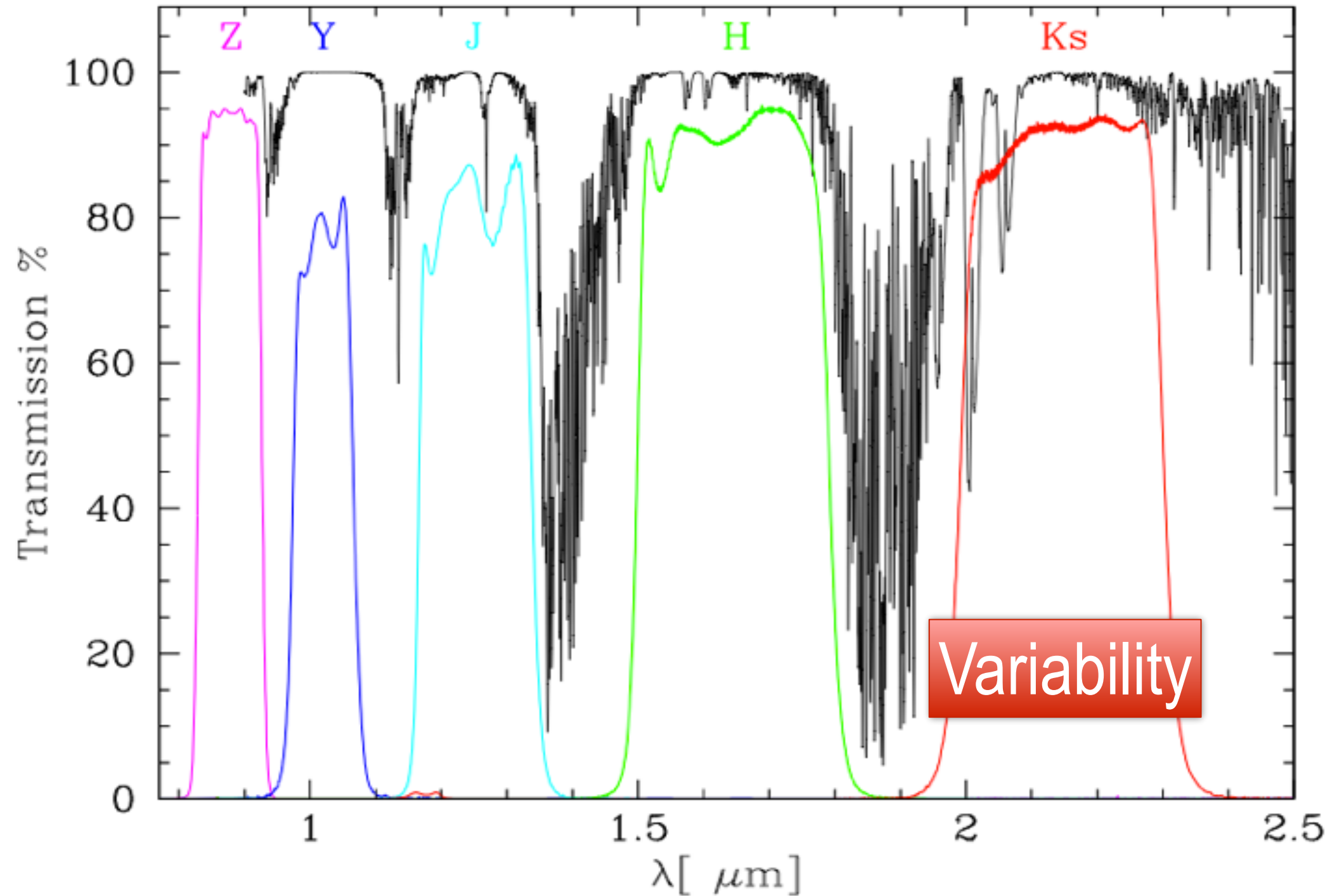


Javier Alonso, Rodrigo Contreras, Istvan Dekany, Tali Palma, Roberto Saito, Marcio Catelan, Gergely Hagdu, Joyce Pullen, Rodolfo Angeloni, Wolfgang Gieren, Daniel Majaess, Manuela Zoccali, Marina Rejkuba, Elena Valenti, Valentin Ivanov, Carlos Ferreira, Nick Cross, Phil Lucas, et al.

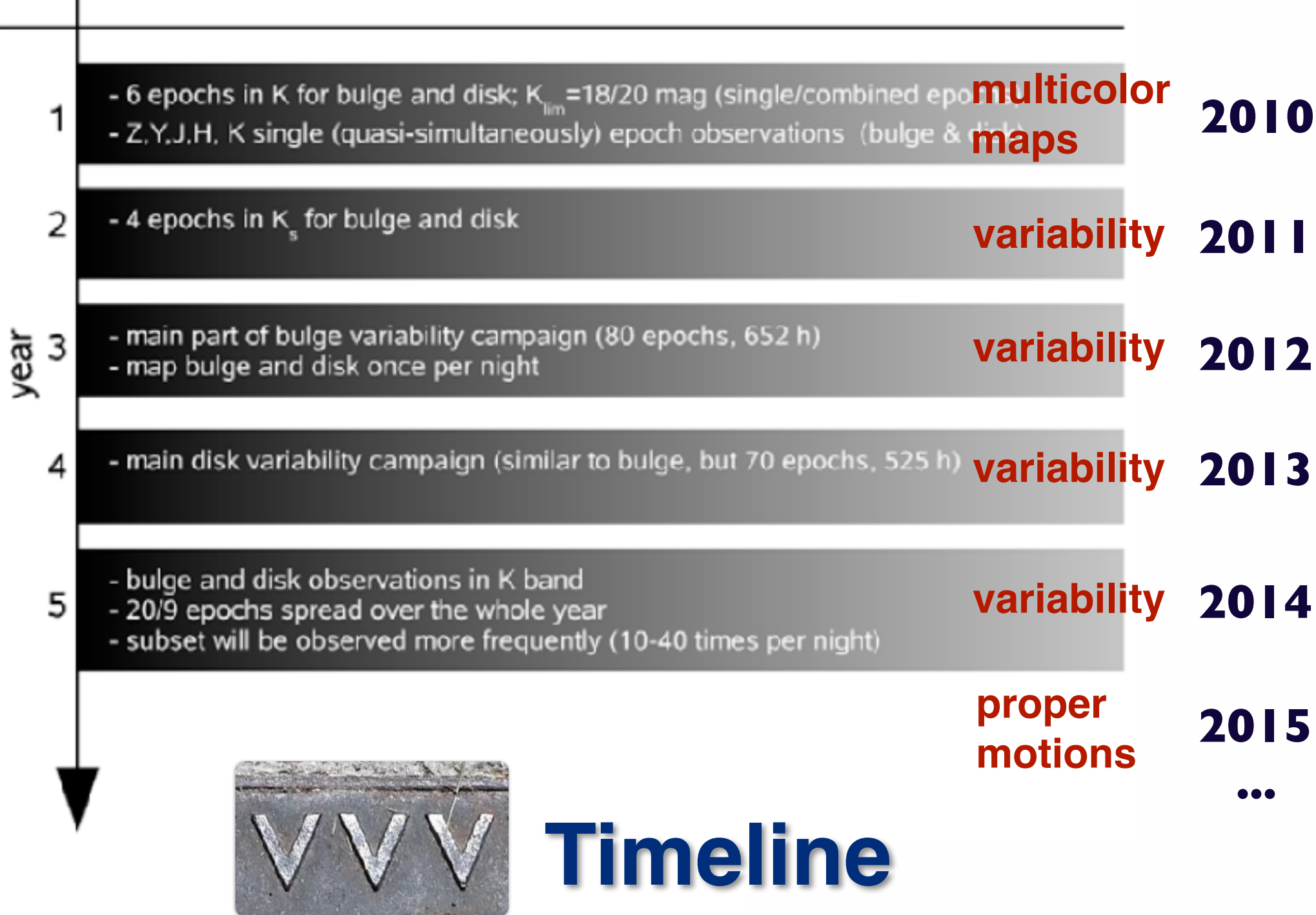
# vvv Variables

N~36 Million (C. Ferreira, N. Cross et al. 2018 in prep.)



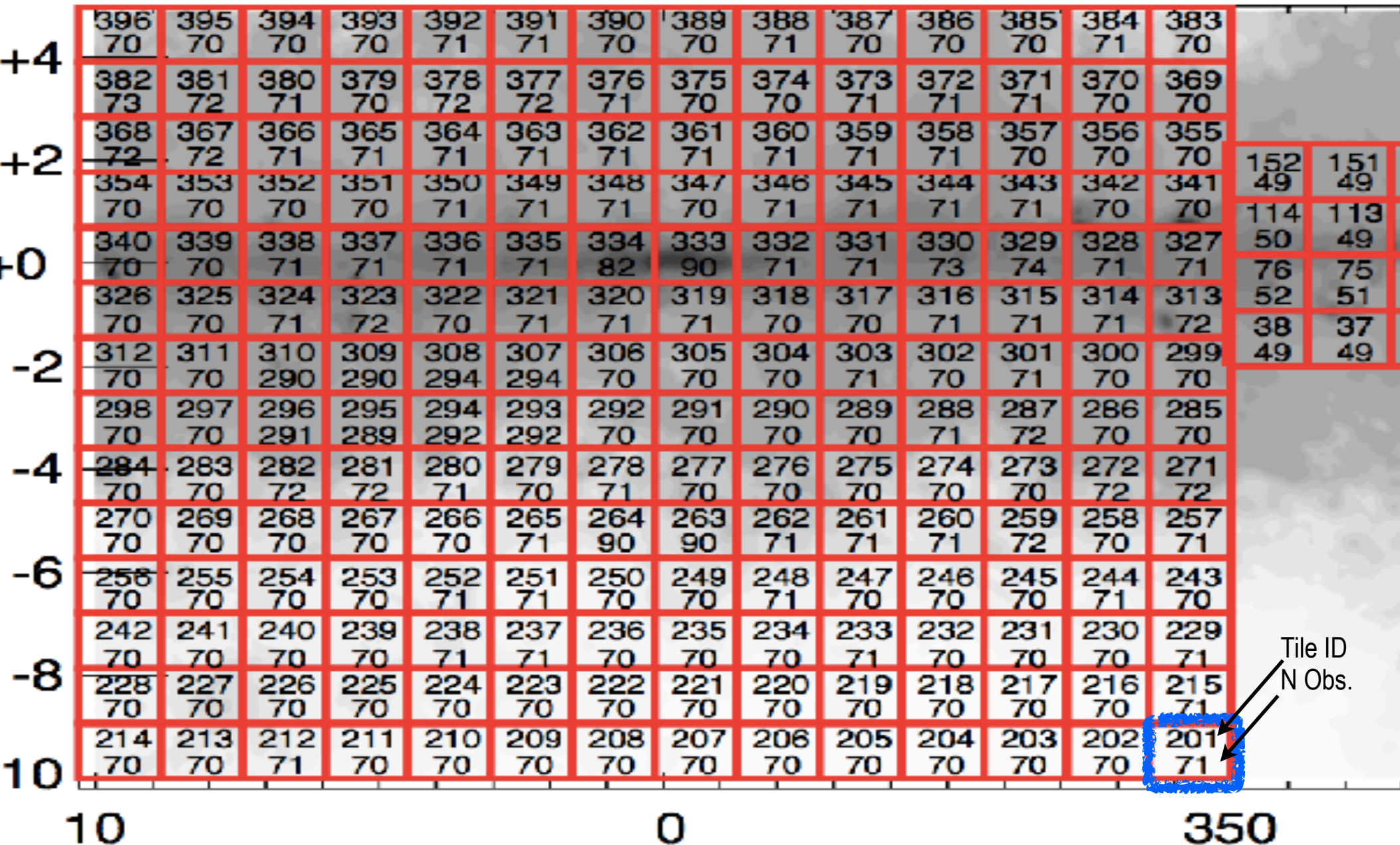


# VISTA filter transmissions





# VVV Survey Area



Number of Epochs: MW Bulge

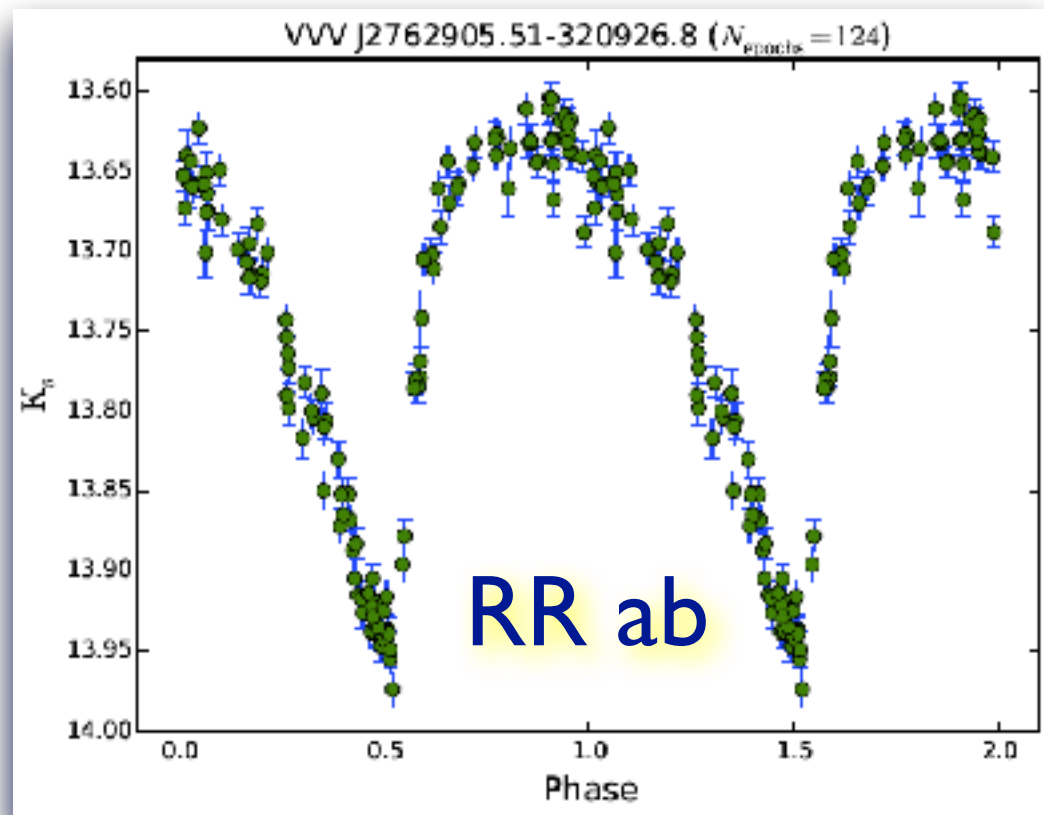
# Template IR Light Curves Database

Angeloni, Catelan, et al. 2014, A&A 567, 100 (arXiv:1405.4517)

The VVV Templates Project Towards an Automated Classification of VVV Light-Curves: Building a database of stellar variability in the near-infrared. Our database contains near-IR light-curves for:

RR Lyrae  
Cepheids  
Eclipsing Binaries  
Delta Scutis  
Cataclysmic Variables  
Miras and LPVs  
etc.

[vvvsurvey.org](http://vvvsurvey.org)





see talks by G. Hagdu, A. Bhardwaj

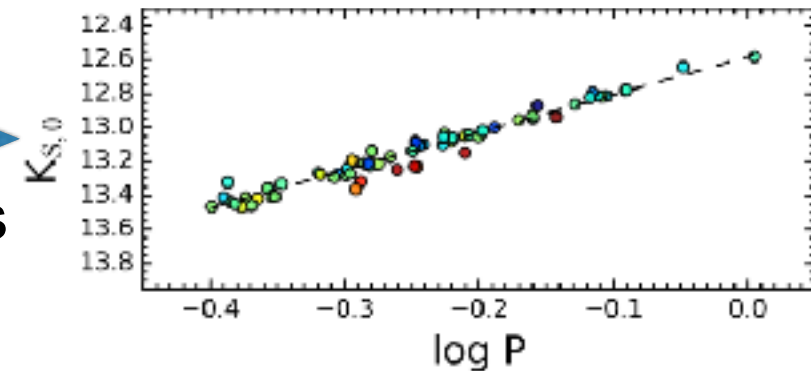
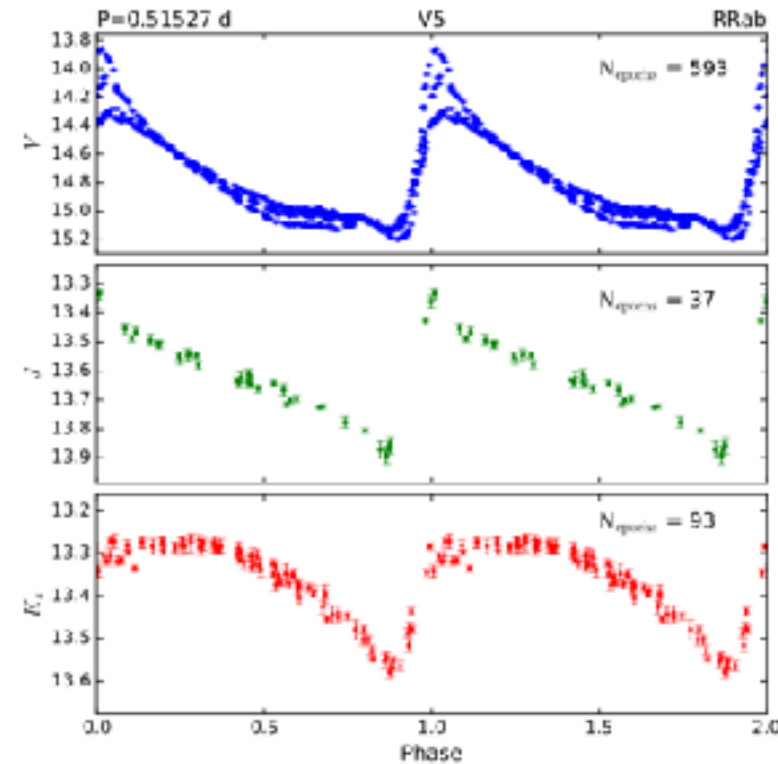
**VVV**

Galactic structure,  
stellar evolution,  
star clusters,  
interstellar medium,  
...

**RRLyrae**

# RR Lyrae

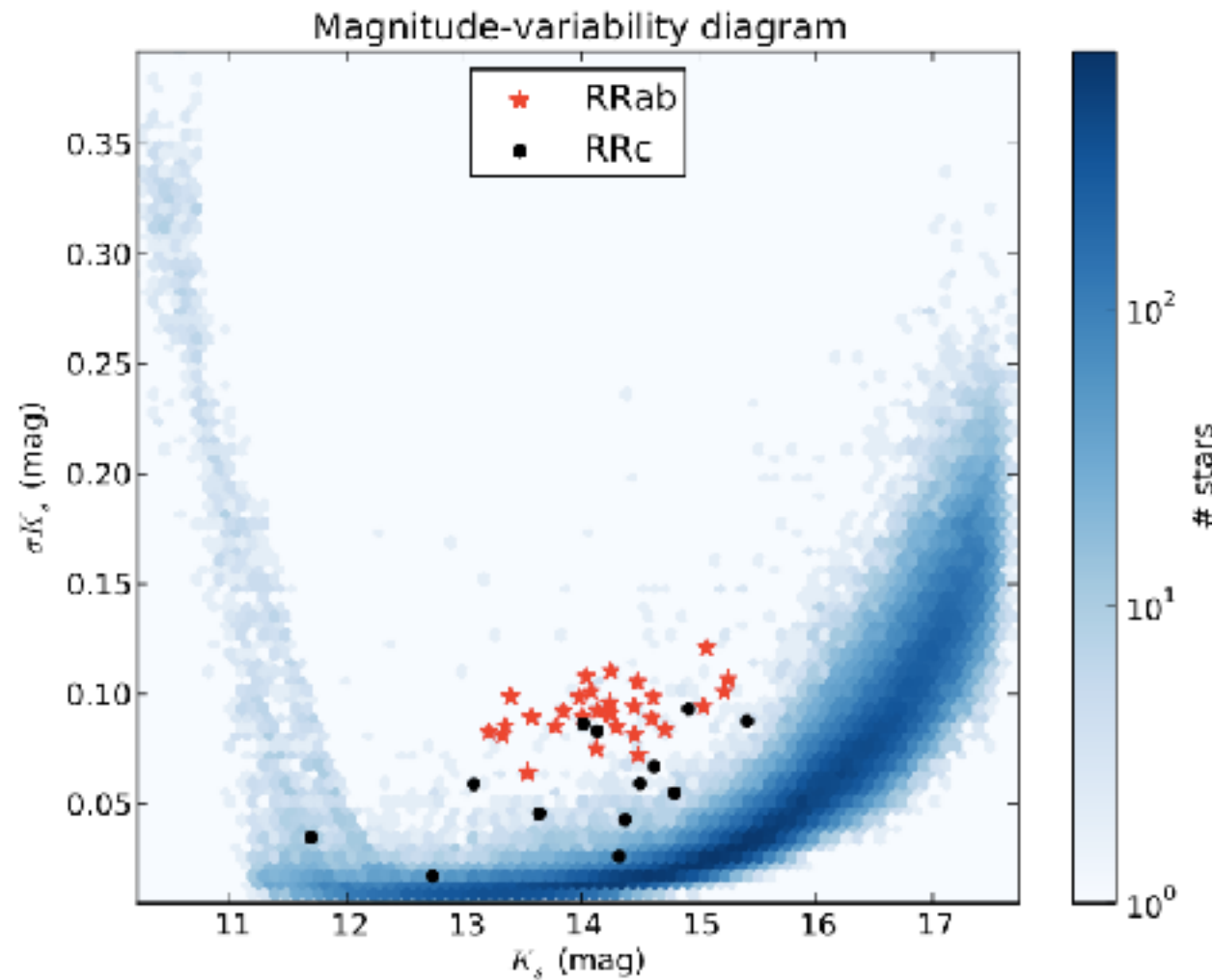
- RR Lyrae are pulsating variable stars.
- They have  $0.2 < P < 1.1$  days
- Their characteristic periods and light curves make them simple to identify. →
- They represent an old and metal-poor population.
- They are present in globular clusters.
- They follow a Period-Luminosity relation →
- RR Lyrae are **primary** distance indicators



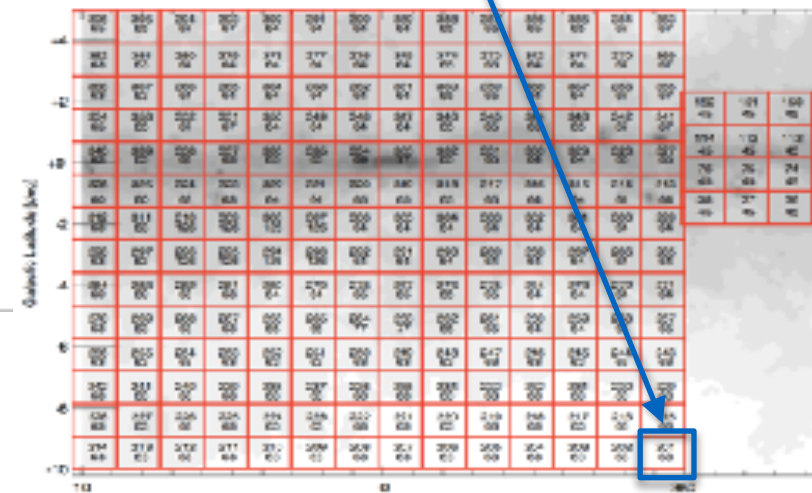
Navarrete et al. 2017  
(arXiv:1706.03899)



*Clump giants represent about 10% of the stars we measure in the bulge, while RR Lyrae represent 0.01% of the stars measured.*

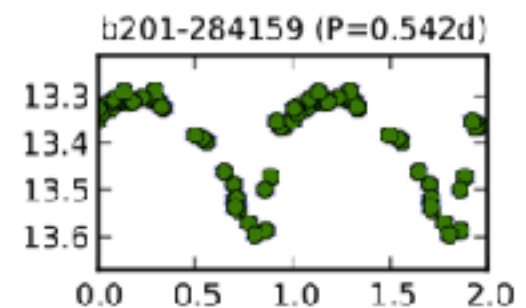
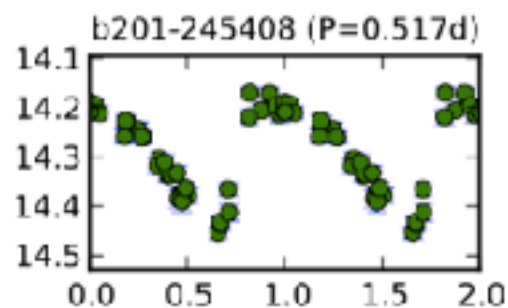
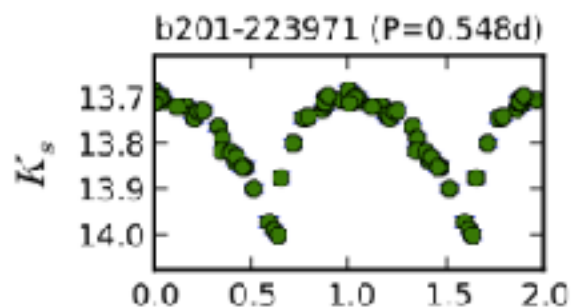
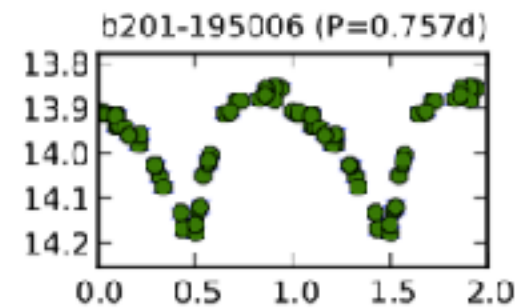
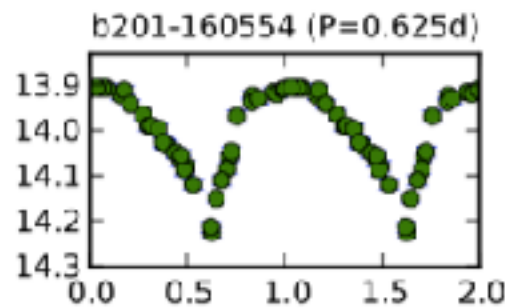
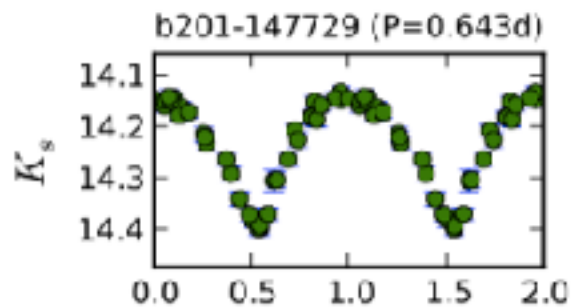
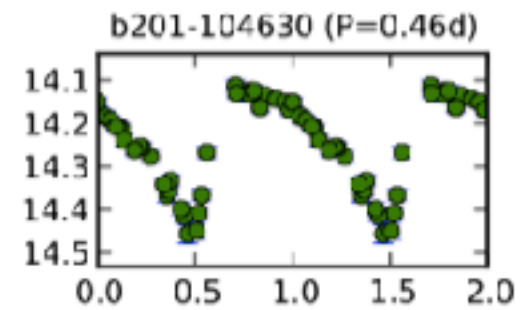
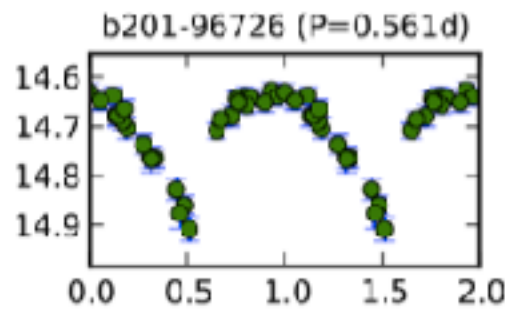
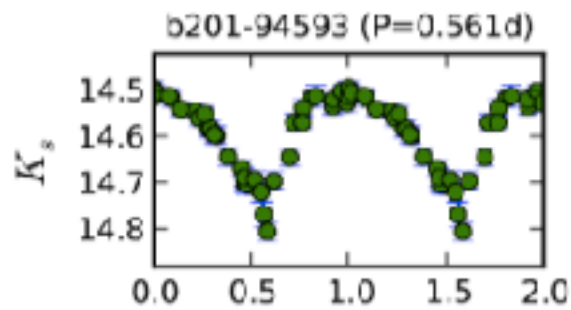
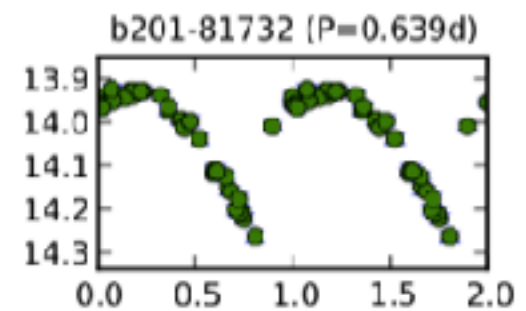
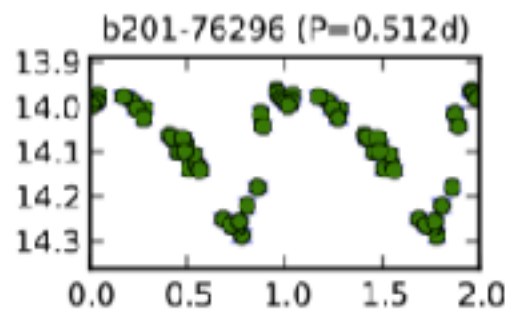
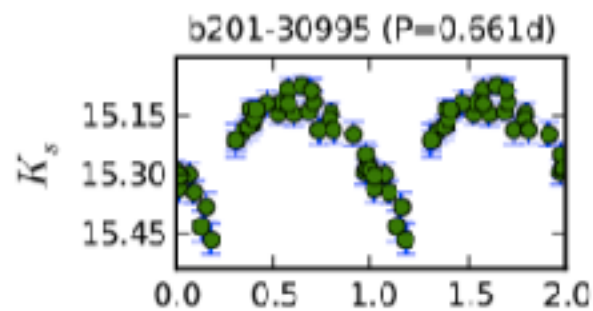


Tile d201



# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

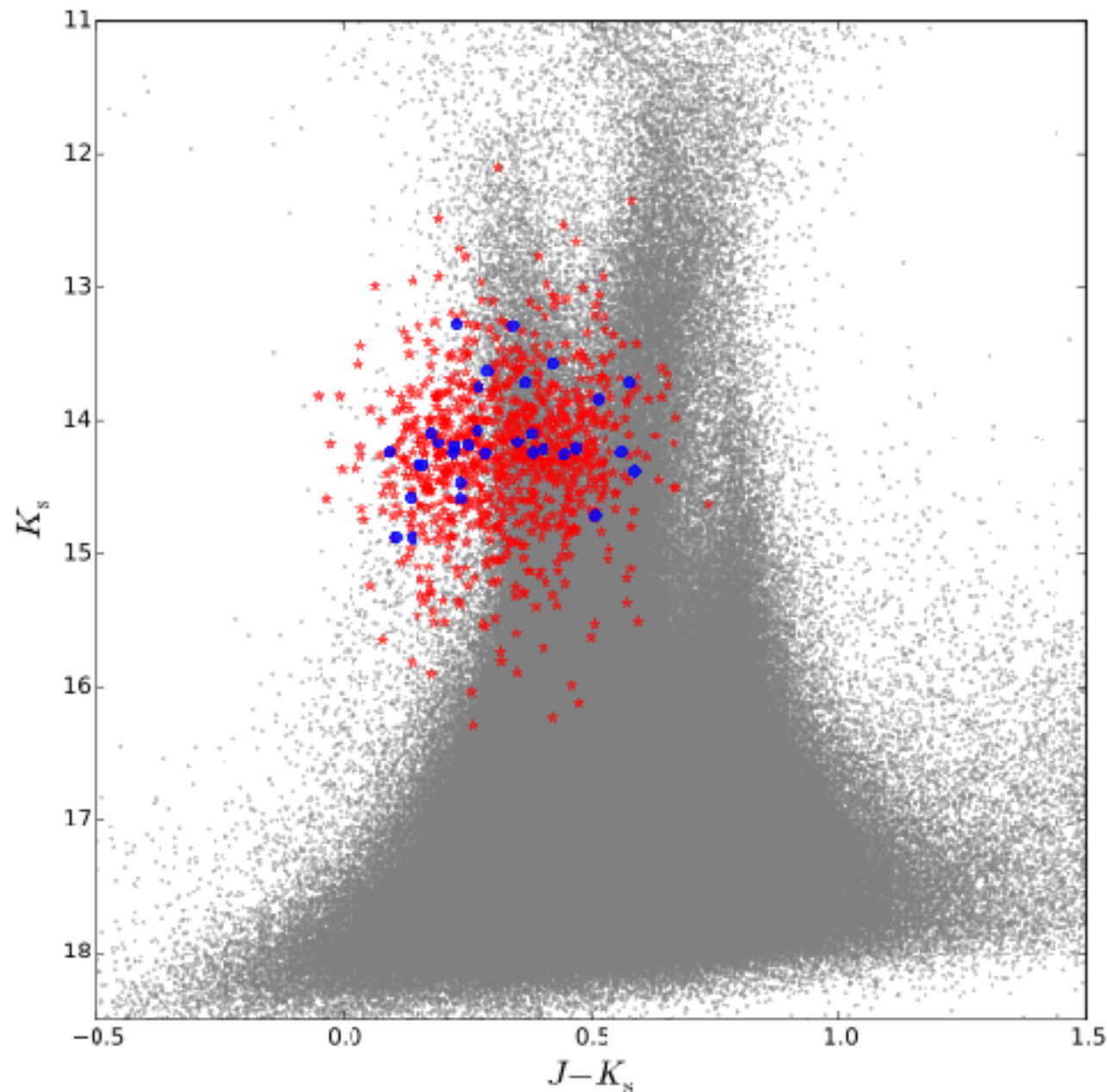
*F. Gran, et al. 2014, A&A*



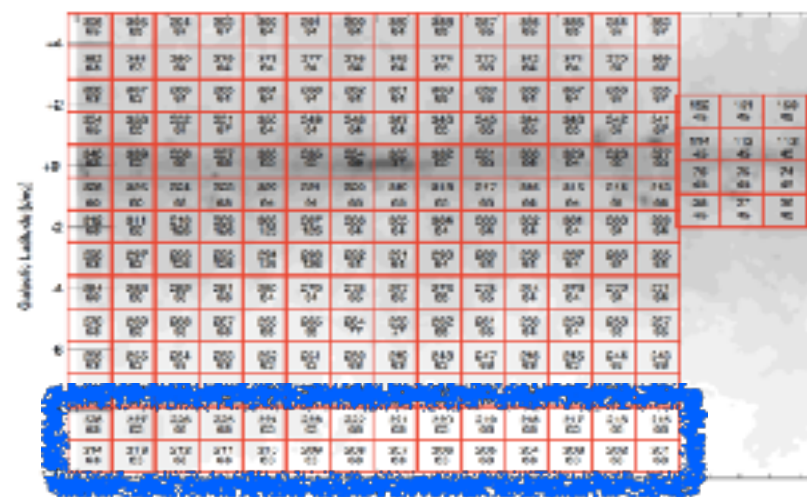
# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

*F. Gran, et al. 2014, A&A*



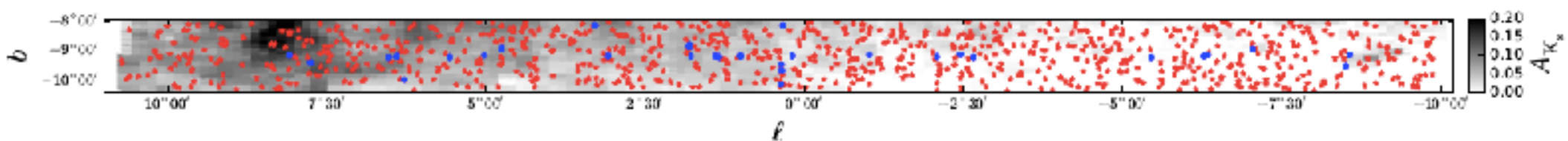
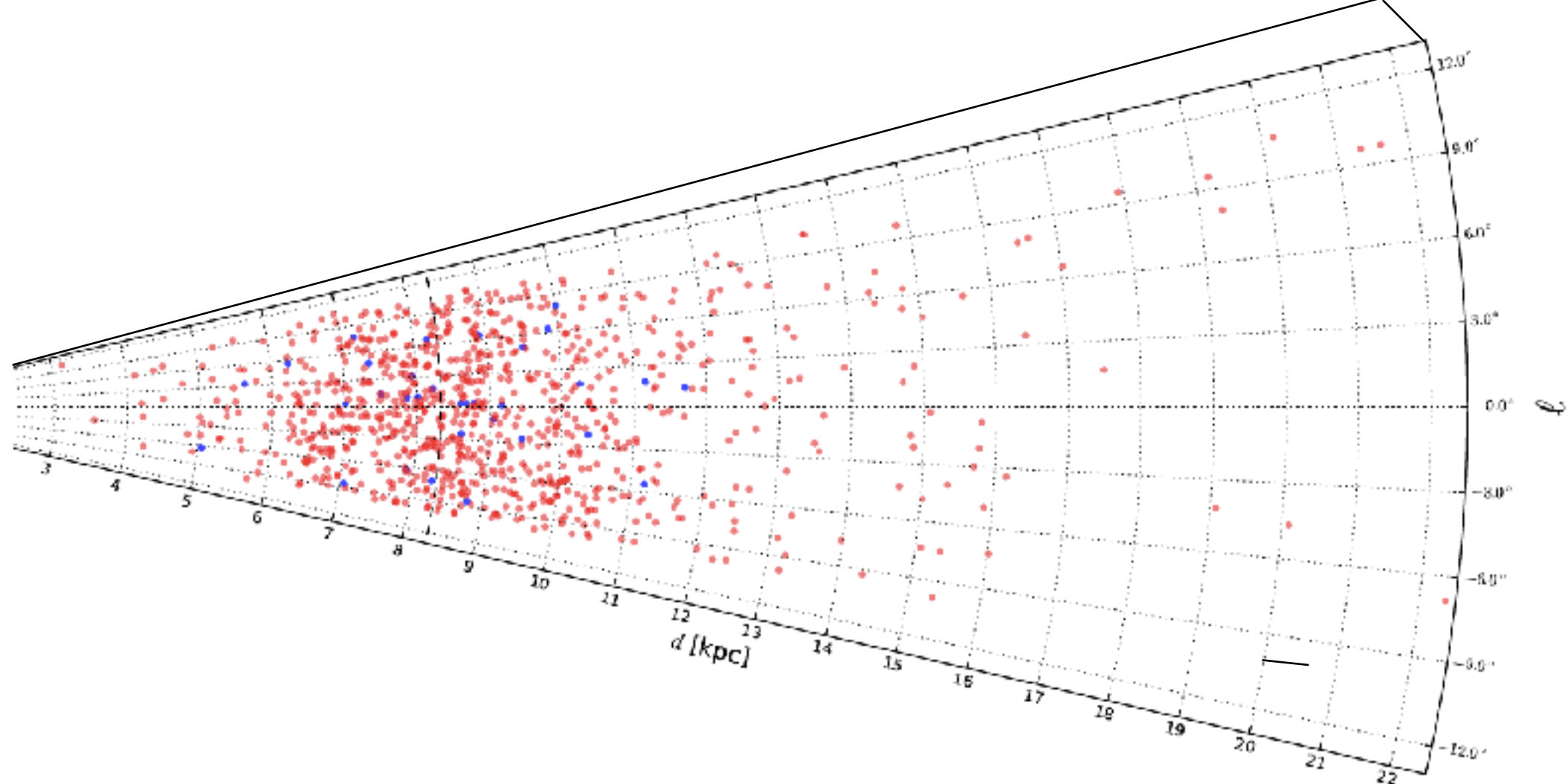


- The RR Lyrae stars represent old and metal-poor stellar populations.
- RR Lyrae are excellent distance indicators.
- They are also excellent reddening indicators.



# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

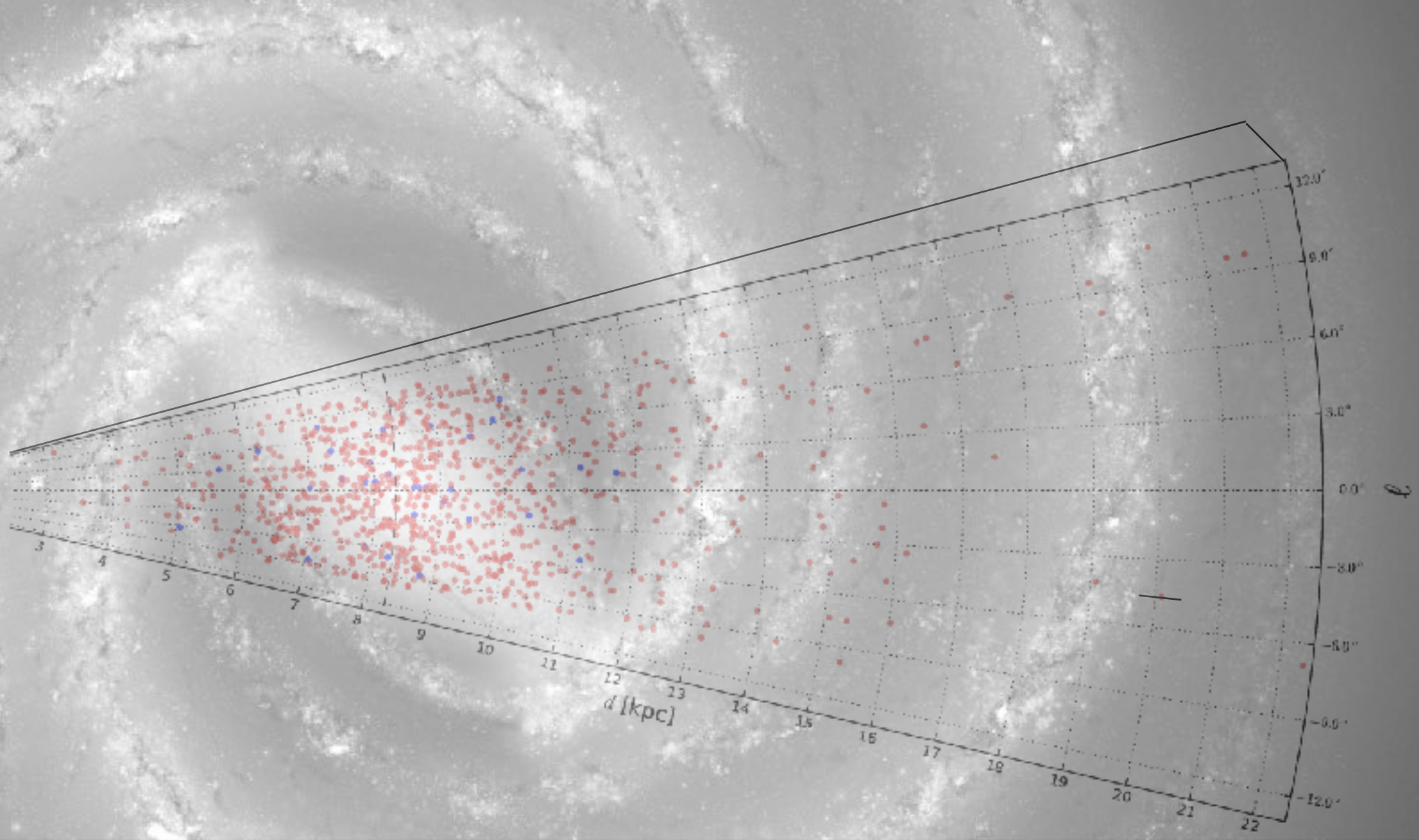
*F. Gran, et al. 2016, A&A*



# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

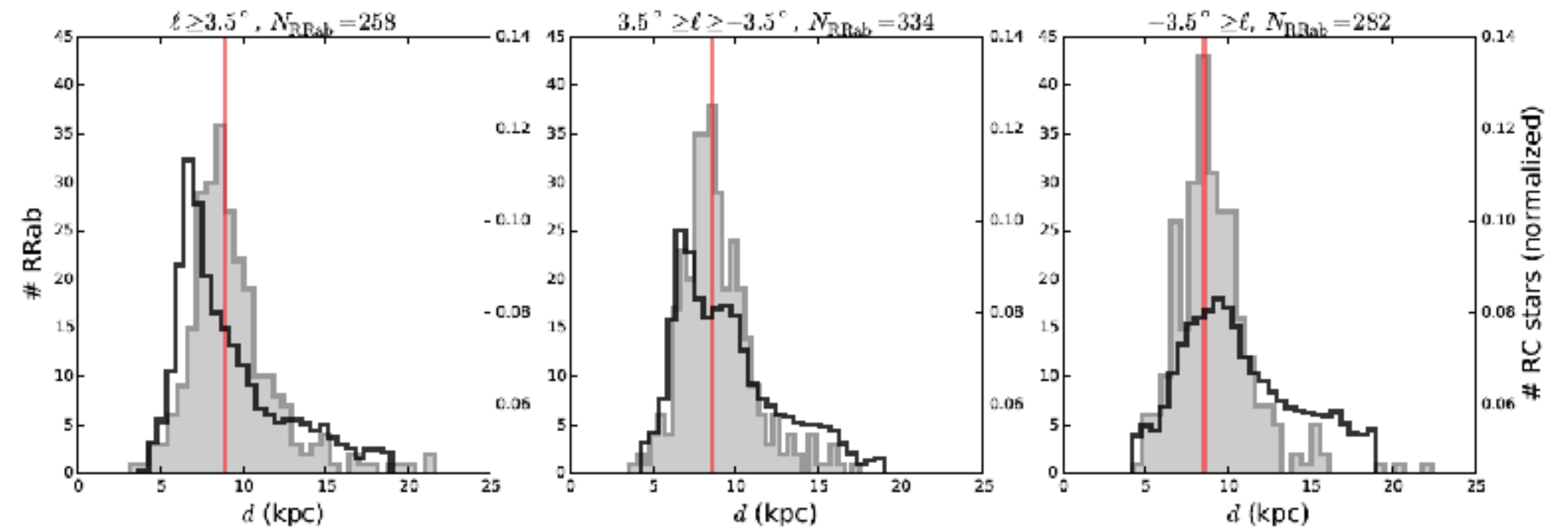
*F. Gran, et al. 2016, A&A*





# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

*F. Gran, et al. 2014, A&A*



**Fig. 8.** Histogram of distances of RR Lyrae (gray filled) and RC stars (black steps) as function of galactic latitude ( $\ell$ ). Since the total number of RC stars in the same areas overwhelms the number of RR Lyrae, the histogram showing their distribution in distance was normalized for visualization purposes. The vertical line represents the RR Lyrae median distance of each region.

The VVV distance distribution of known bulge RR Lyrae is different from the clump giants (Gran et al. 2016). This contrasts with the inner bulge RR Lyrae from OGLE that appear to be barred (Pietrukowicz et al. 2016). Kinematics confirm spheroidal population (Kunder et al. 2016).

# Outer Bulge RR Lyrae

*F. Gran, et al. 2016, A&A*

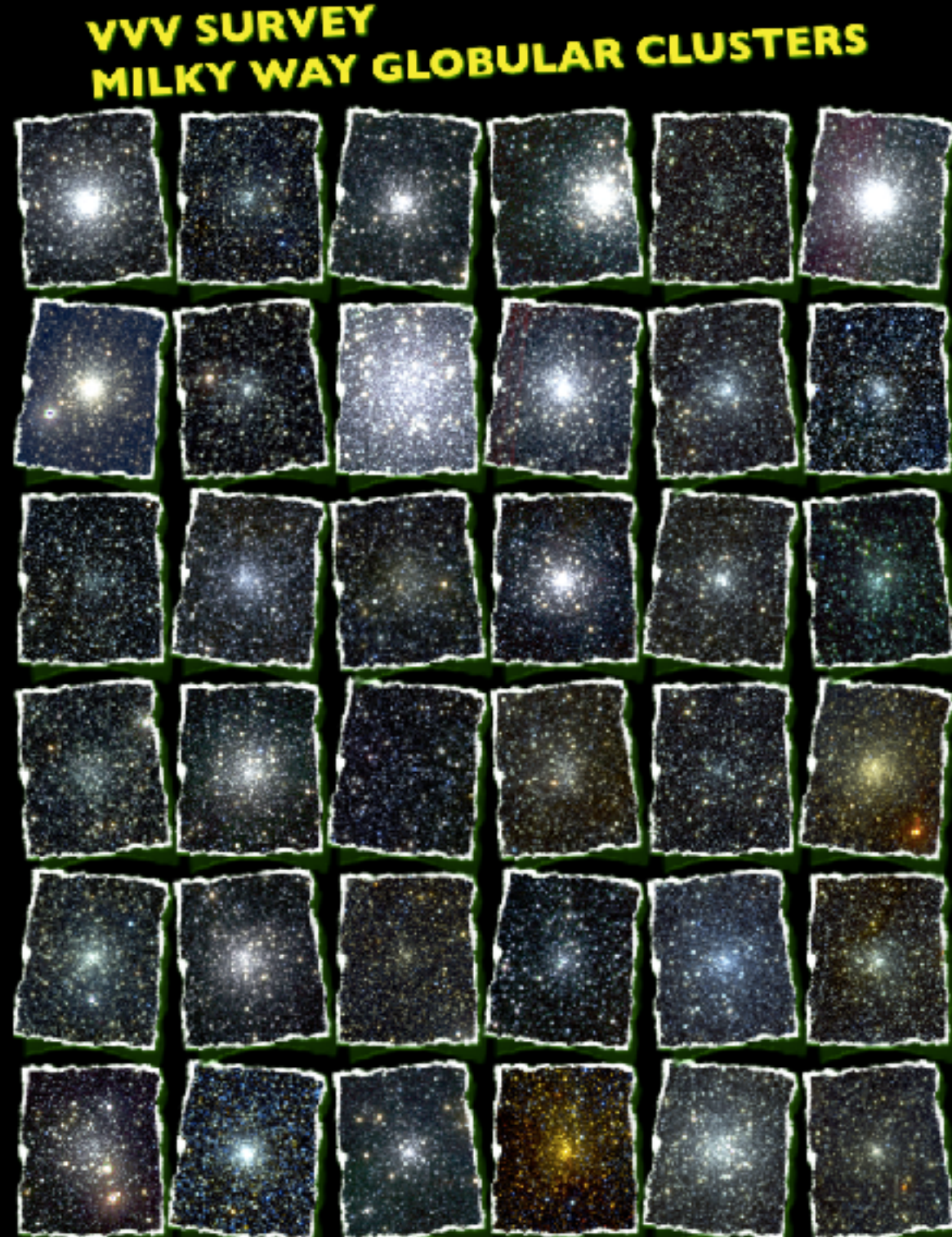
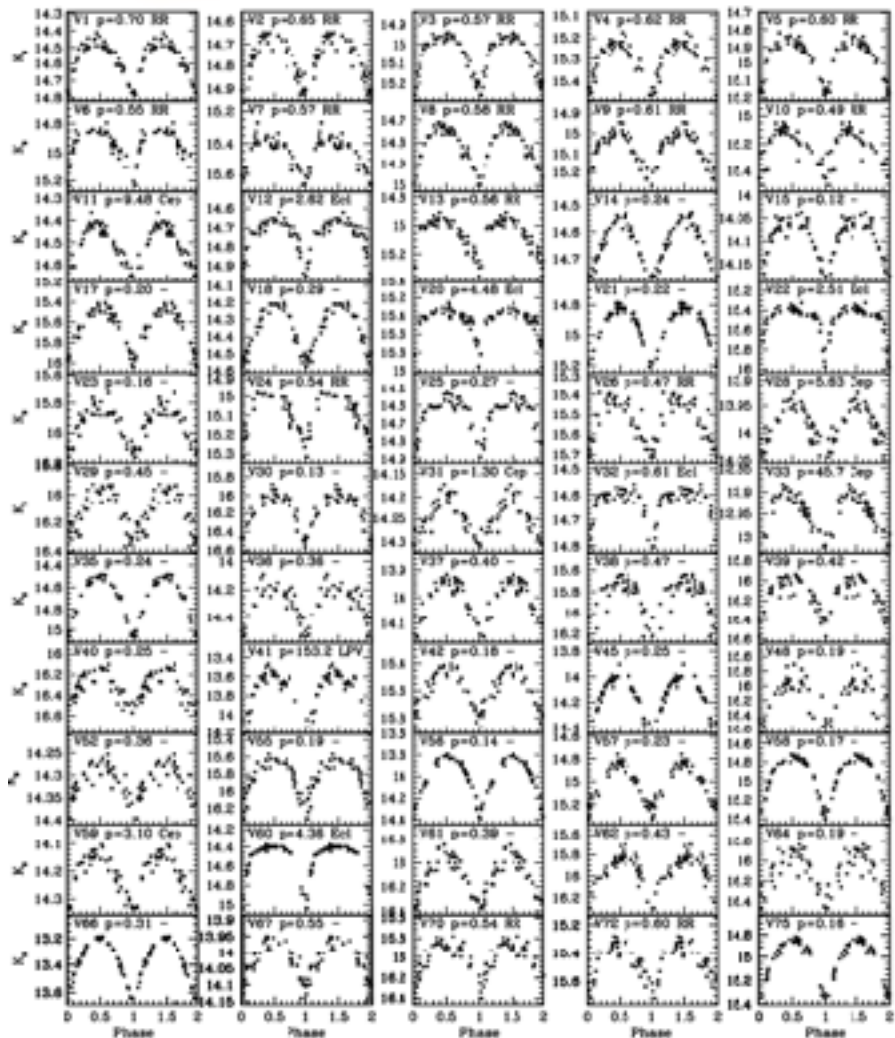
Javier Alonso-García et al. (2016, ApJ)

# RR Lyrae in GCs



Variable stars in the VVV GCs:  
2MASS-GC02 and Terzan 10  
J. Alonso-Garcia et al. (AJ 2014)

## RR Lyrae in GCs





# Variable stars in the VVV globular clusters. 2MASS-GC02

J. Alonso-Garcia et al. (AJ 2014)

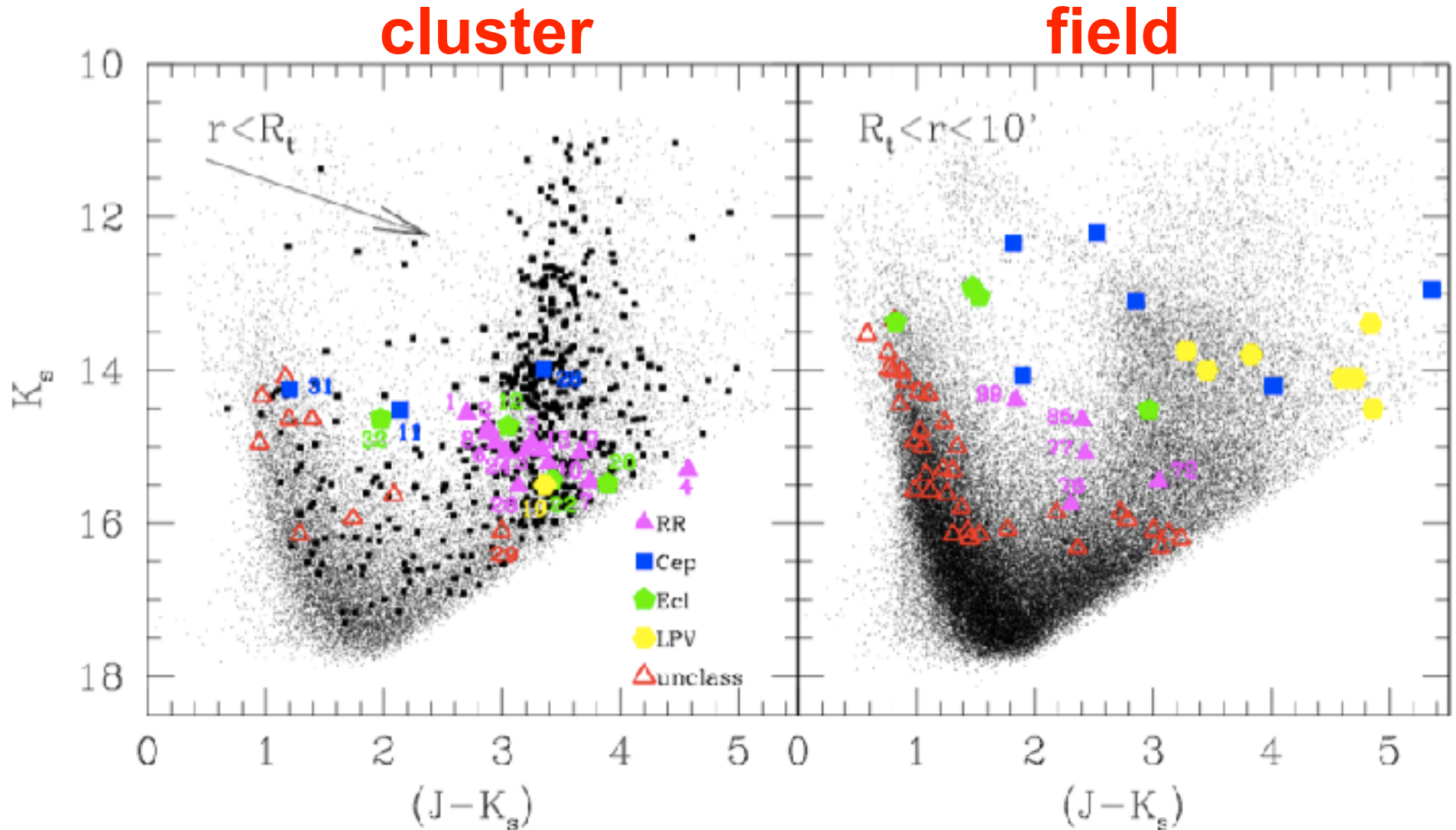


Fig. 1.—  $J-K_s$  vs.  $K_s$  CMDs of 2MASS-GC02, out to its tidal radius  $r_t = 4.9'$  (left), and of its surrounding region (right). The arrow shows the reddening vector according to Nishiyama



# Extremely Reddened Globular Clusters

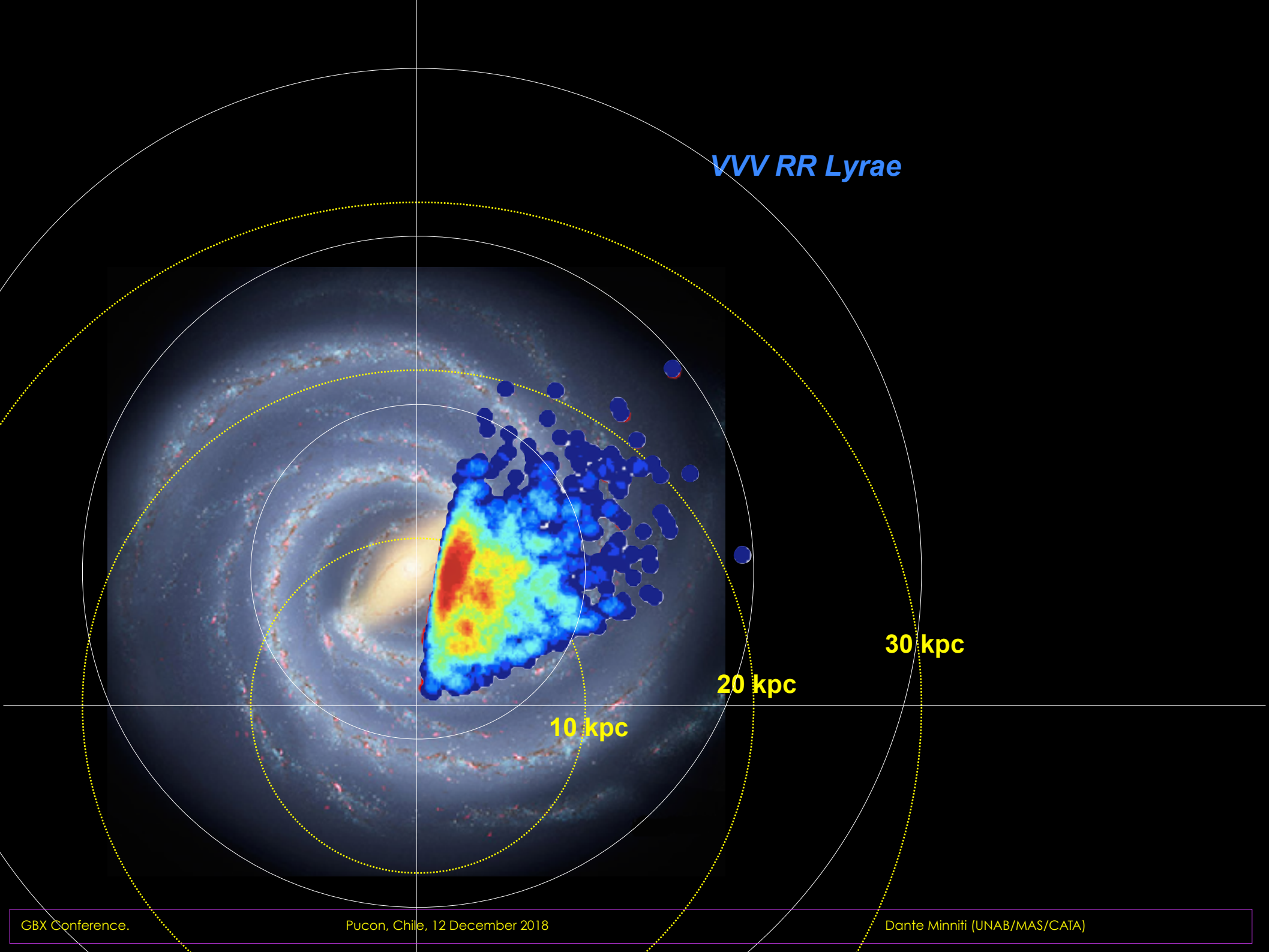
**2MASS-GC02 Distance 4.9 kpc → 7.1 kpc**





see talk by Felipe Gran

# **vvv Star Clusters**



*VVV RR Lyrae*

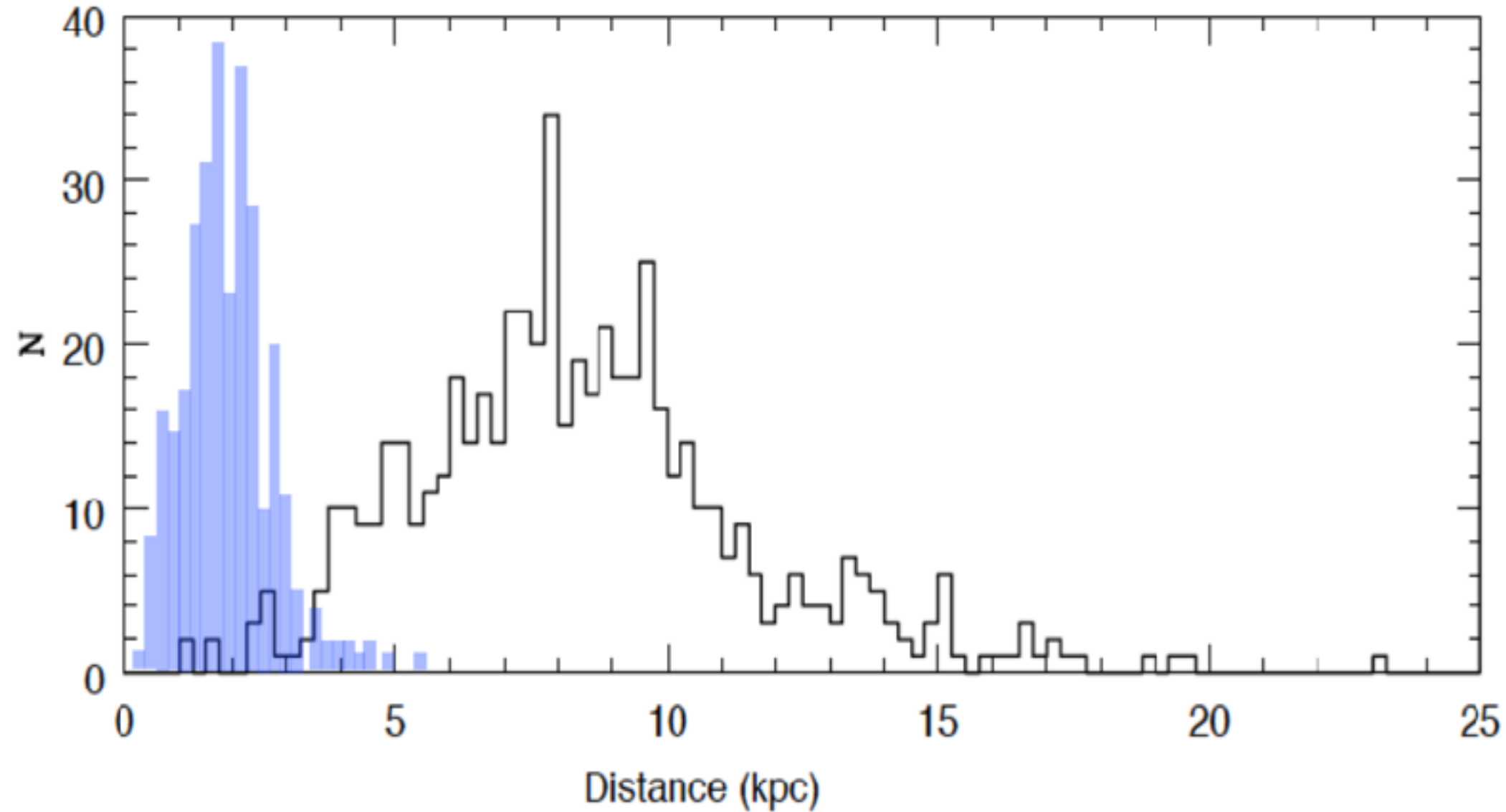
30 kpc

20 kpc

10 kpc

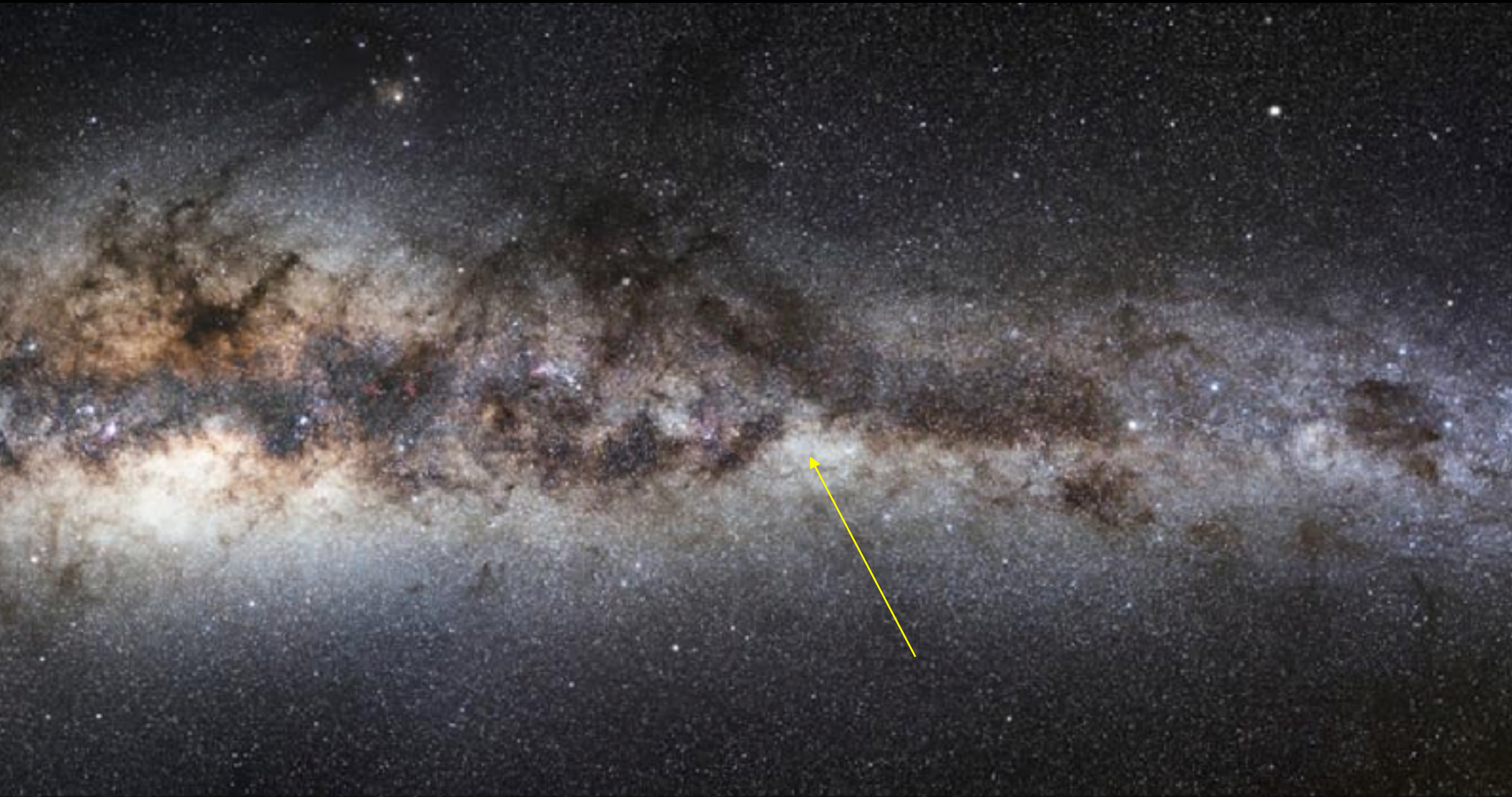
*A. Layden (1994)*

*D. Minniti, T. Palma et al. (2017)*

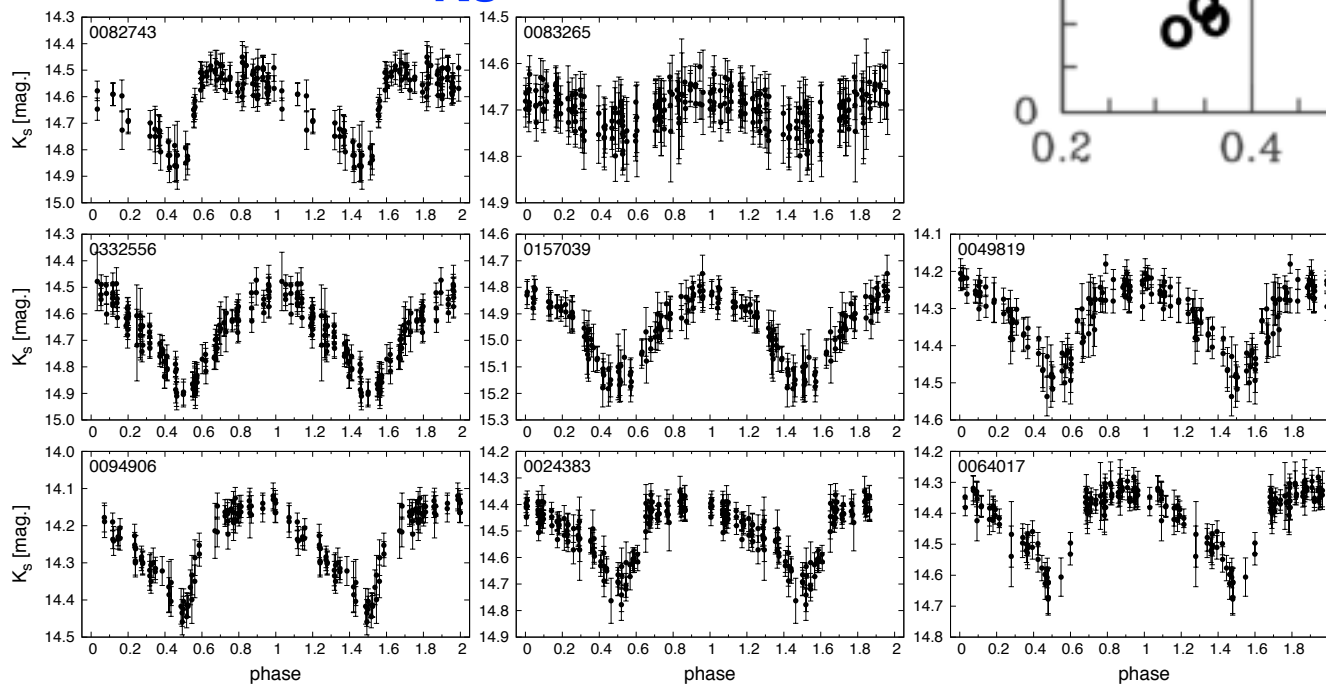
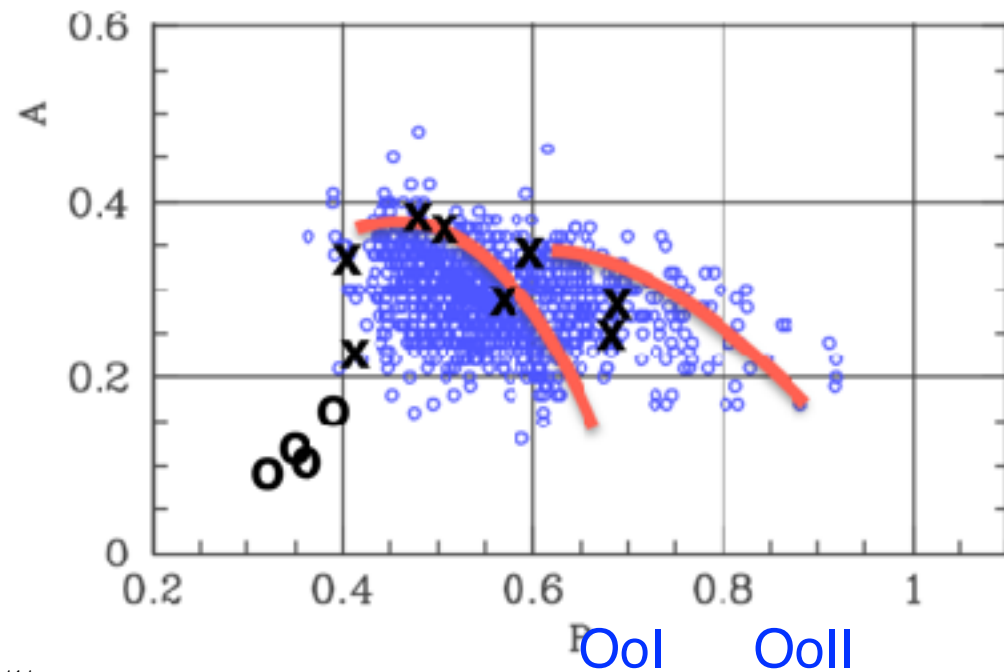
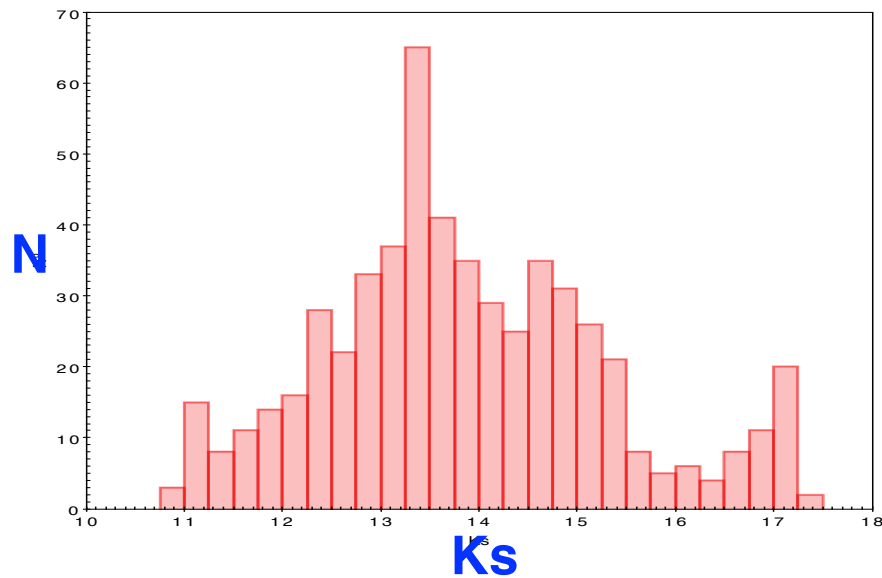


# Disk RR Lyrae Distances





# VVV-GC05



*RR Lyrae*

**VVV-GC05**



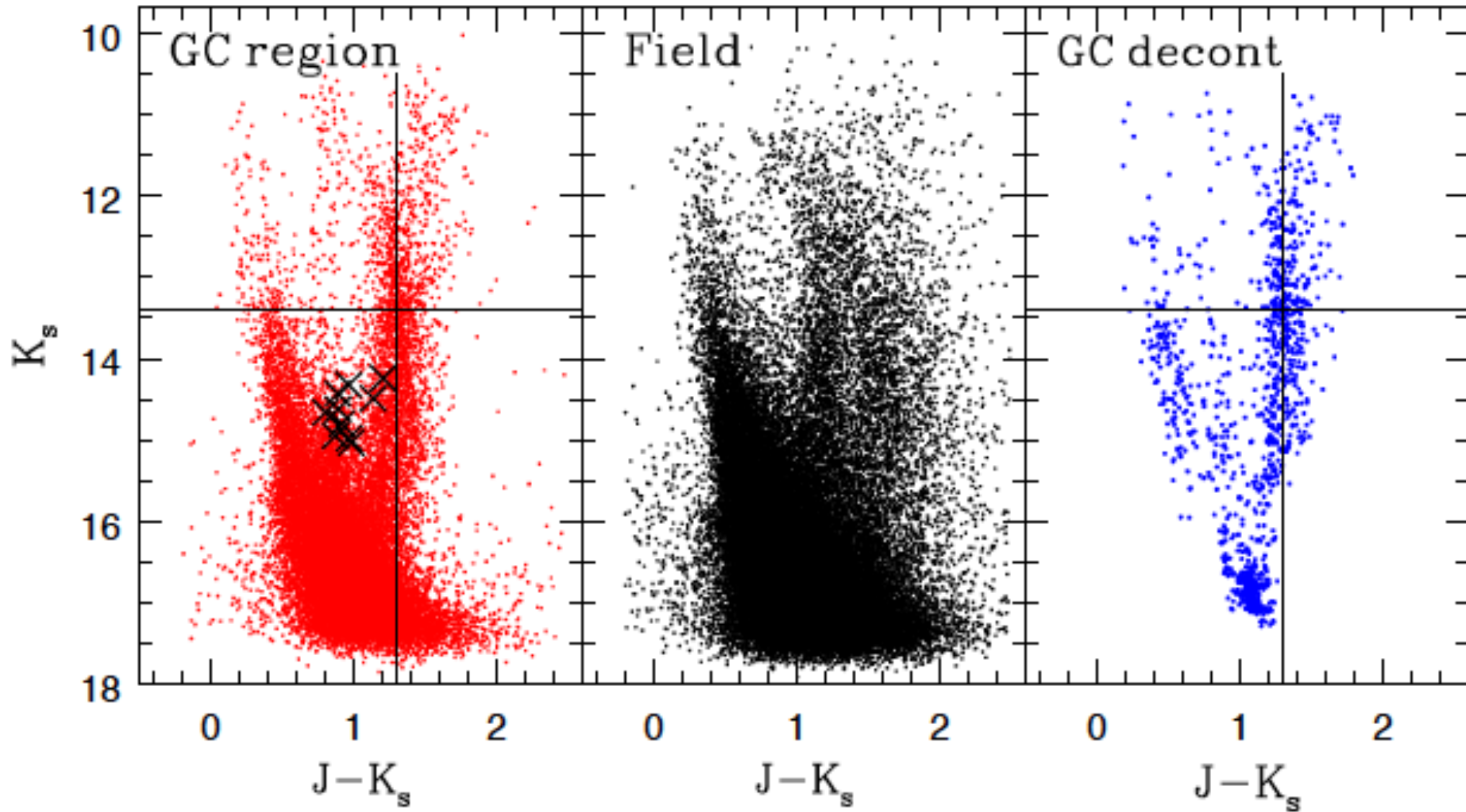


# VVV-GC05



$EJ-K_s = 0.72 \pm 0.02$   
 $AK_s = 0.38 \pm 0.02$   
 $D = 8.0 \pm 0.4$  kpc

Red Clump  
 $K_s = 13.35 \pm 0.04$   
 $J-K_s = 1.30 \pm 0.05$

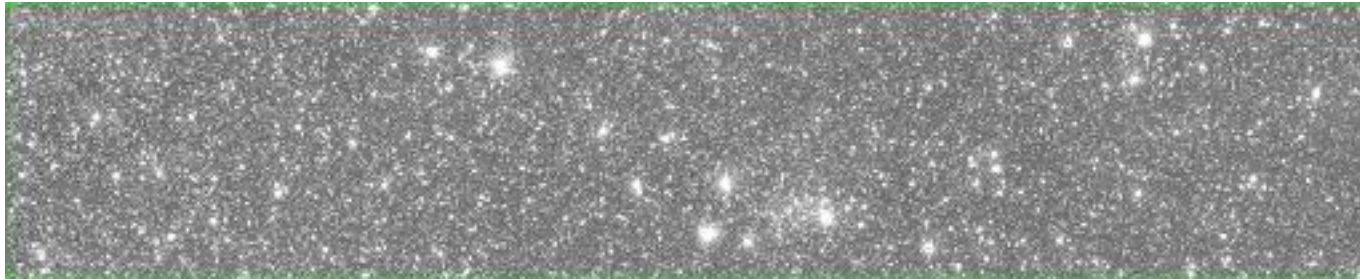


# VVV-GC05

The significance of the discovery is measured using a Koposov (2008) test.

This is a  $>100$  sigma detection with respect to the background.

Ks-band image

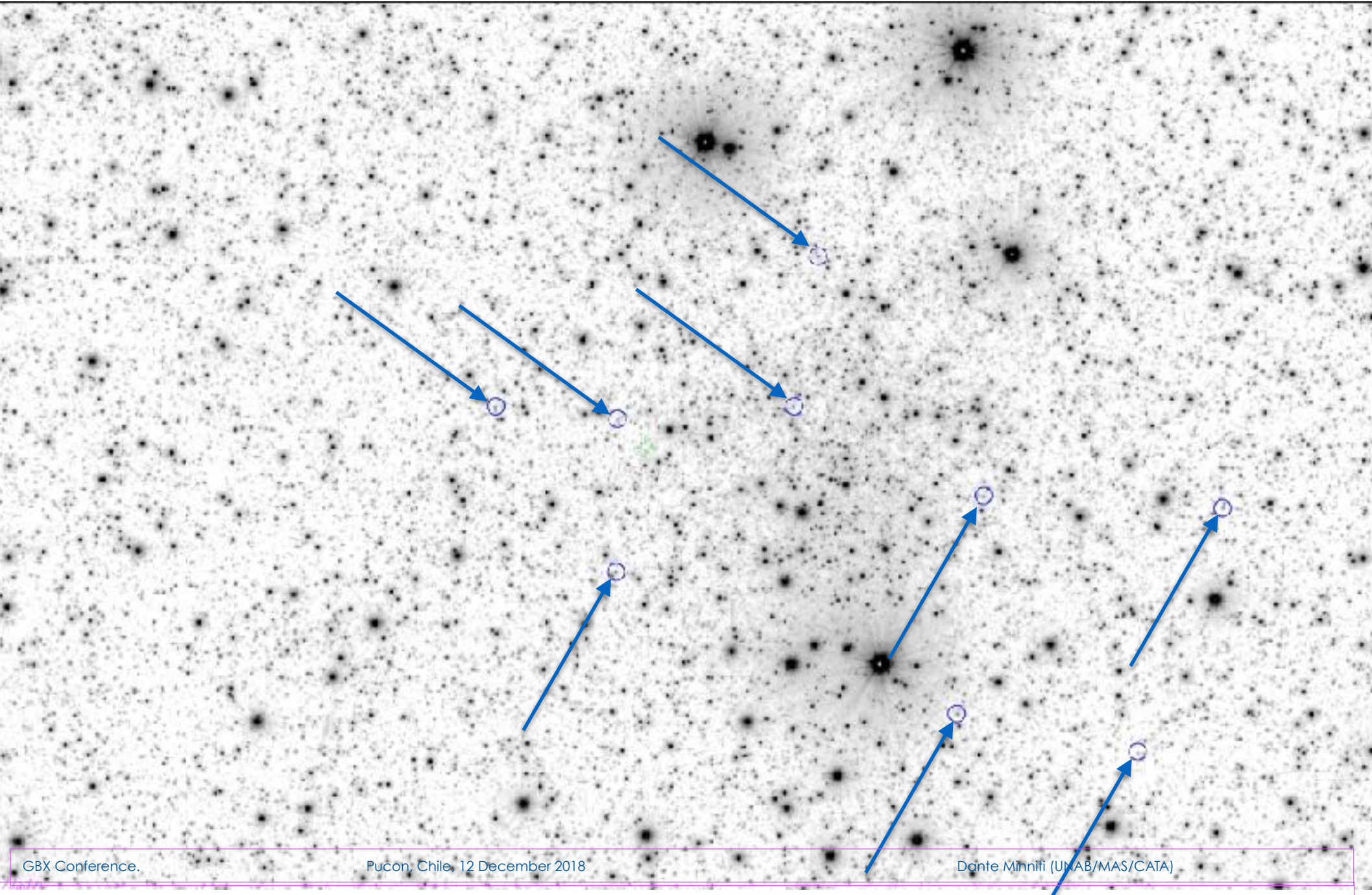


Source density



**VVV-GC05**

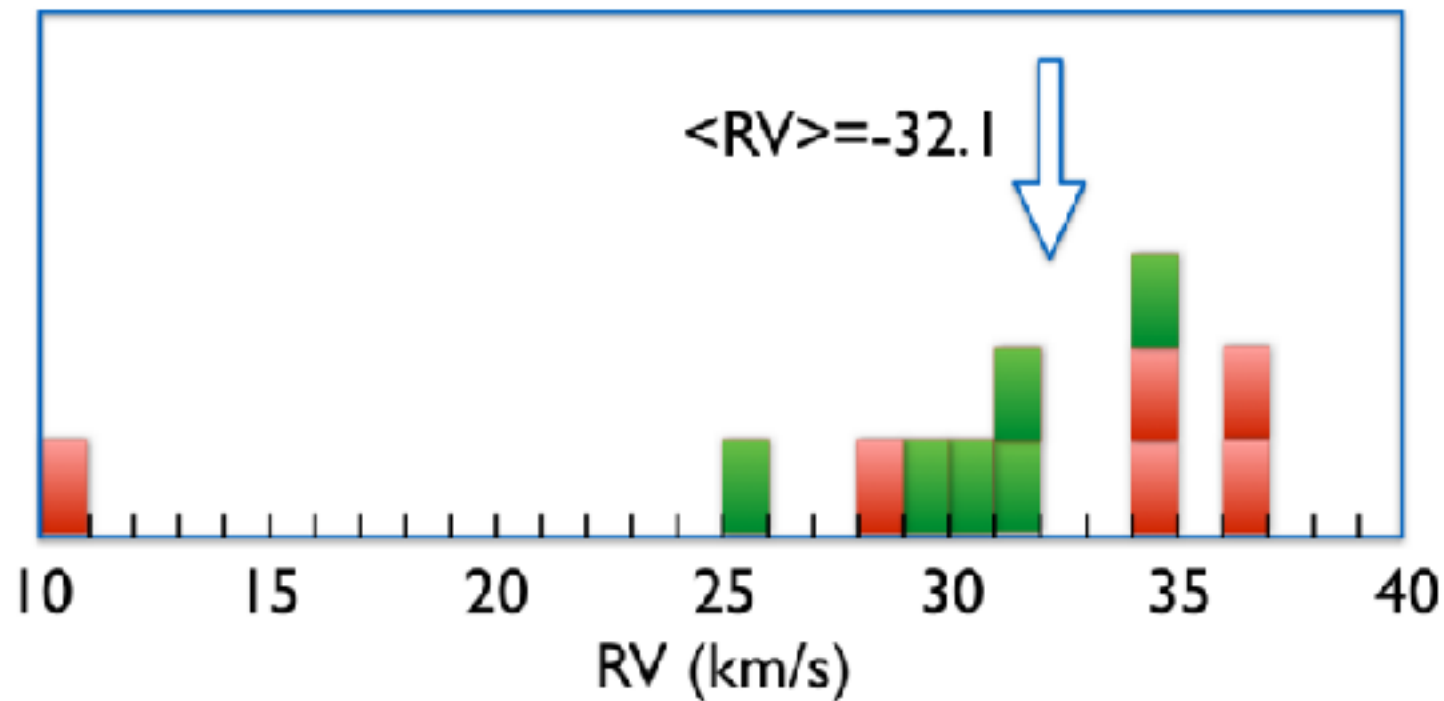




Radial velocities are used to confirm the membership of 11 RR Lyrae.

12

R. CONTRERAS RAMOS ET AL.



**Figure 5.** Radial velocities for red giants in the field of the globular cluster VVV-GC05, showing the velocities measured by Koch et al. (2017) in green, and those measured in this work in red.

R. Contreras Ramos, J. Fernandez-Trincado, et al. (2018 ApJ)

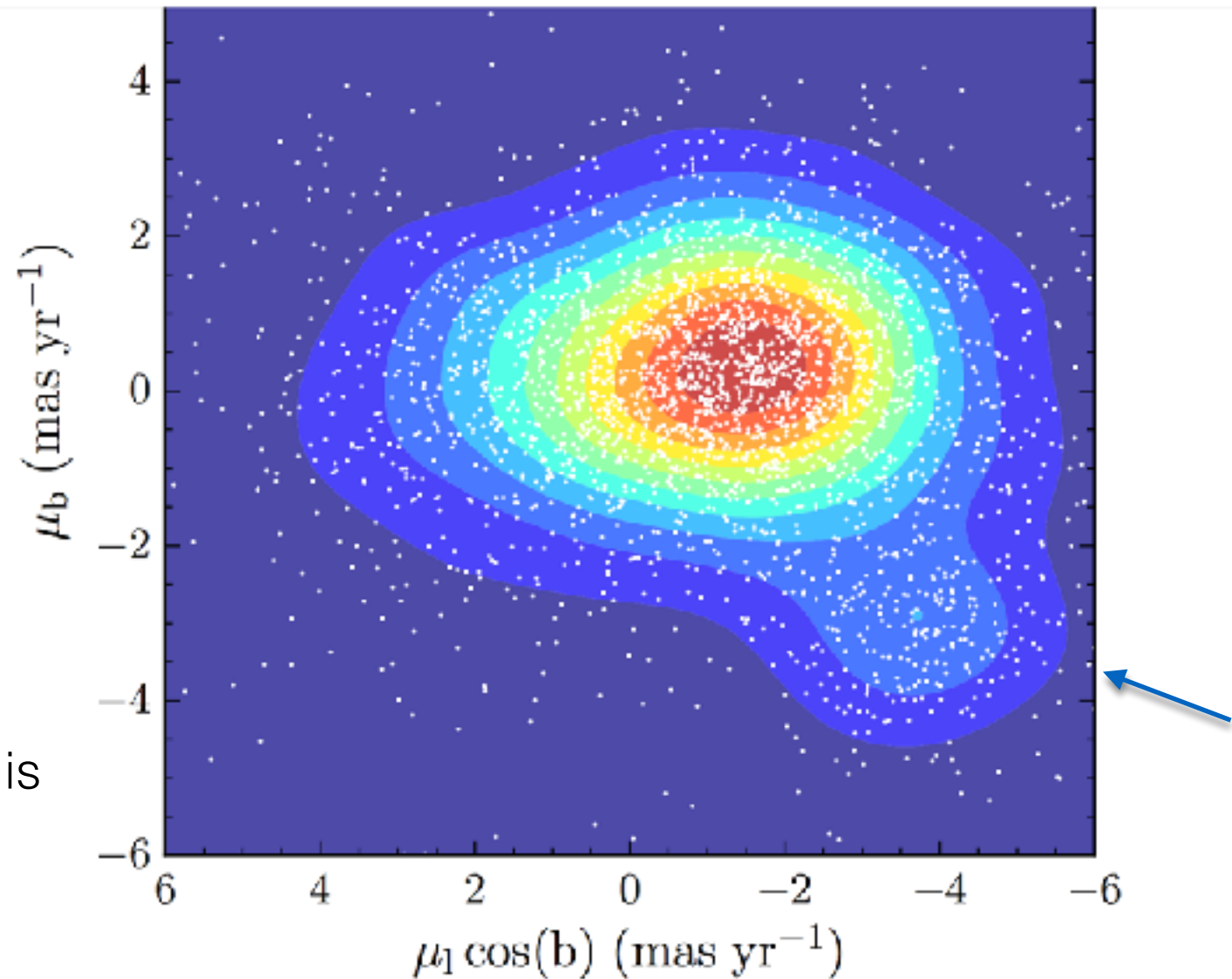


# VVV-GC05

## Proper Motions

Proper motions can be used to discriminate cluster members from field stars.

We find that the cluster is quite flattened.



**Figure 1.** Smooth VPD for all the stars with  $K_s < 15$  mag. Likely stars belonging to VVV-GC05 in the lower right corner clearly separate from the disk stars. The cloud of disk stars in the center appears elongated due to the disk rotation.

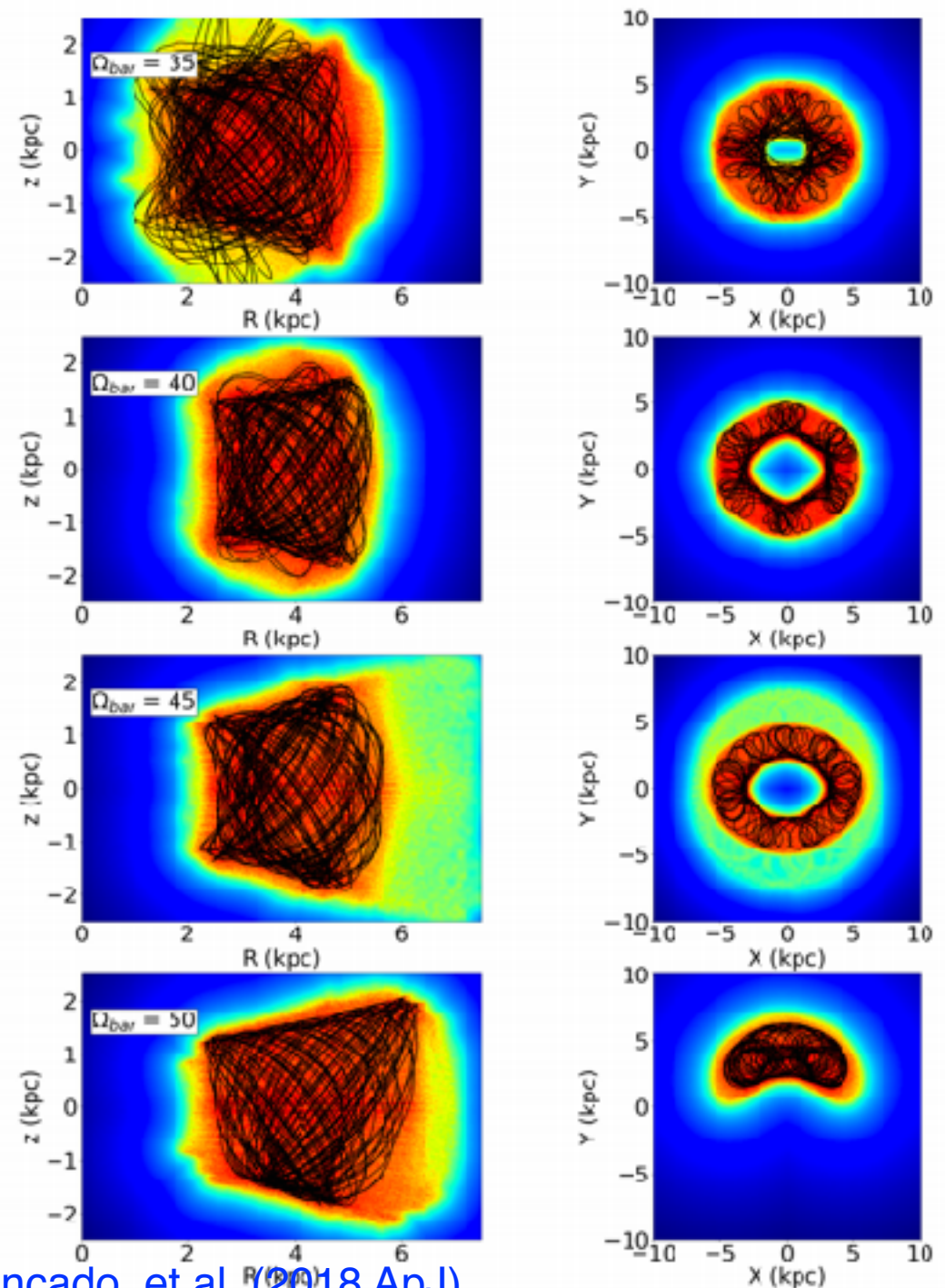
R. Contreras Ramos, J. Fernandez-Trincado, et al. (2018 ApJ)

## Orbital parameters

Having radial velocities and proper motions we can compute the orbit.

Regardless of the the choice of a Galactic potential, the cluster orbit is confined to the Galactic plane.

Thus, this cluster must suffer from disruption processes (dynamical friction, disk shocking).



R. Contreras Ramos, J. Fernandez-Trincado, et al. (2018 ApJ)



# Globular clusters are astrophysically very important!

Age of the Universe,  
Chemical evolution Universe,  
Stellar evolution,  
Galactic structure,  
Formation of the Milky Way,  
Distance scale,  
Collisionless systems,  
Interstellar medium,

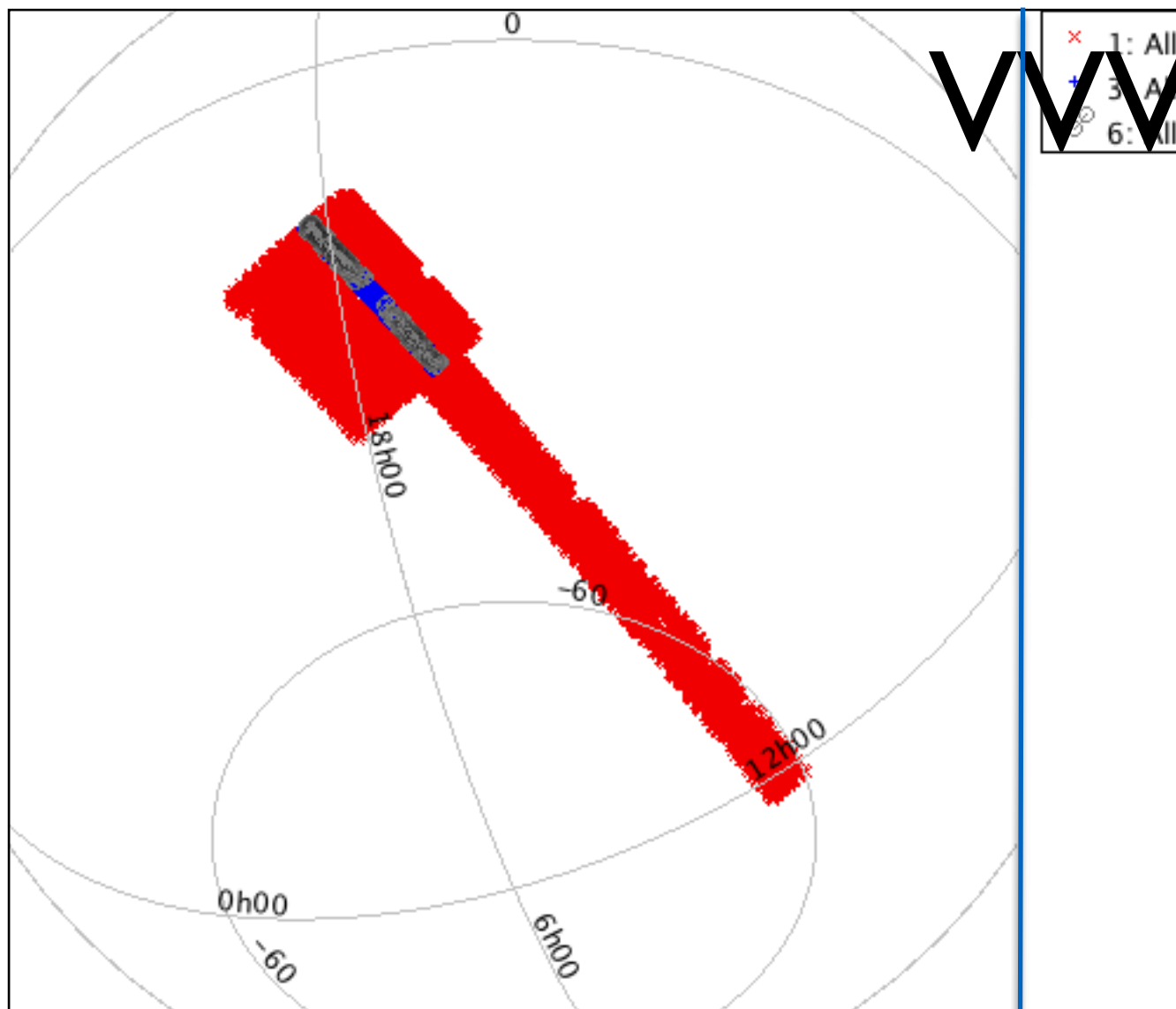
...

Tali Palma, Jura Borissova, Rudy Kurtev, Rodolfo Barbá, Sebastián Ramírez, Javier Alonso-García, Christian Moni-Bidin, Roberto Saito, Roger Cohen, Rodrigo Contreras Ramos, Felipe Gran, Maren Hempel, Marcio Catelan, Doug Geisler, Francesco Mauro, Charles Bonatto, Eduardo Bica, Daniel Majaess, et al.

Daniel Majaess et al. (2018)

**VVV**

**RR Lyrae**



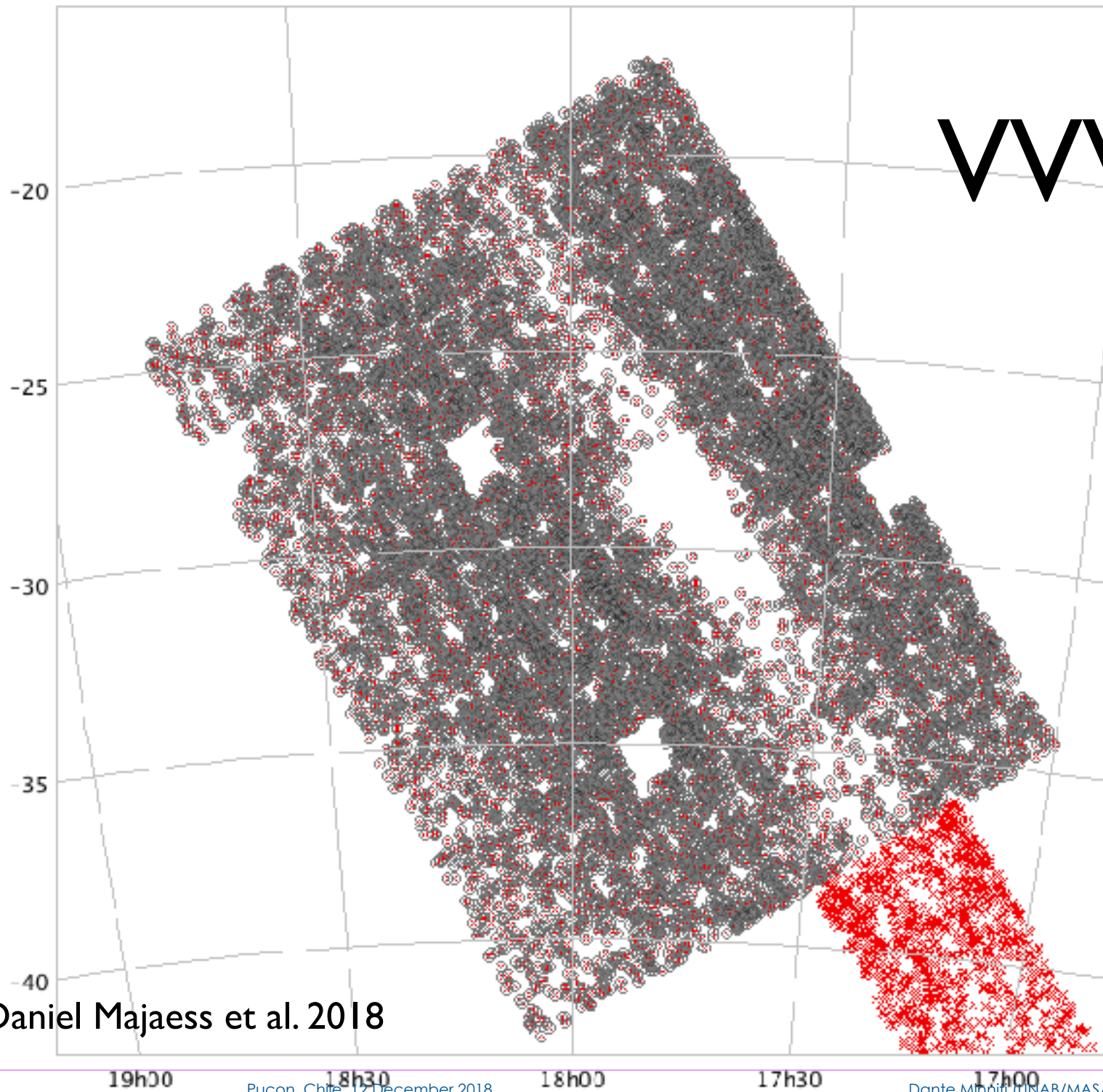
vVall

Daniel Majaess et al. 2018

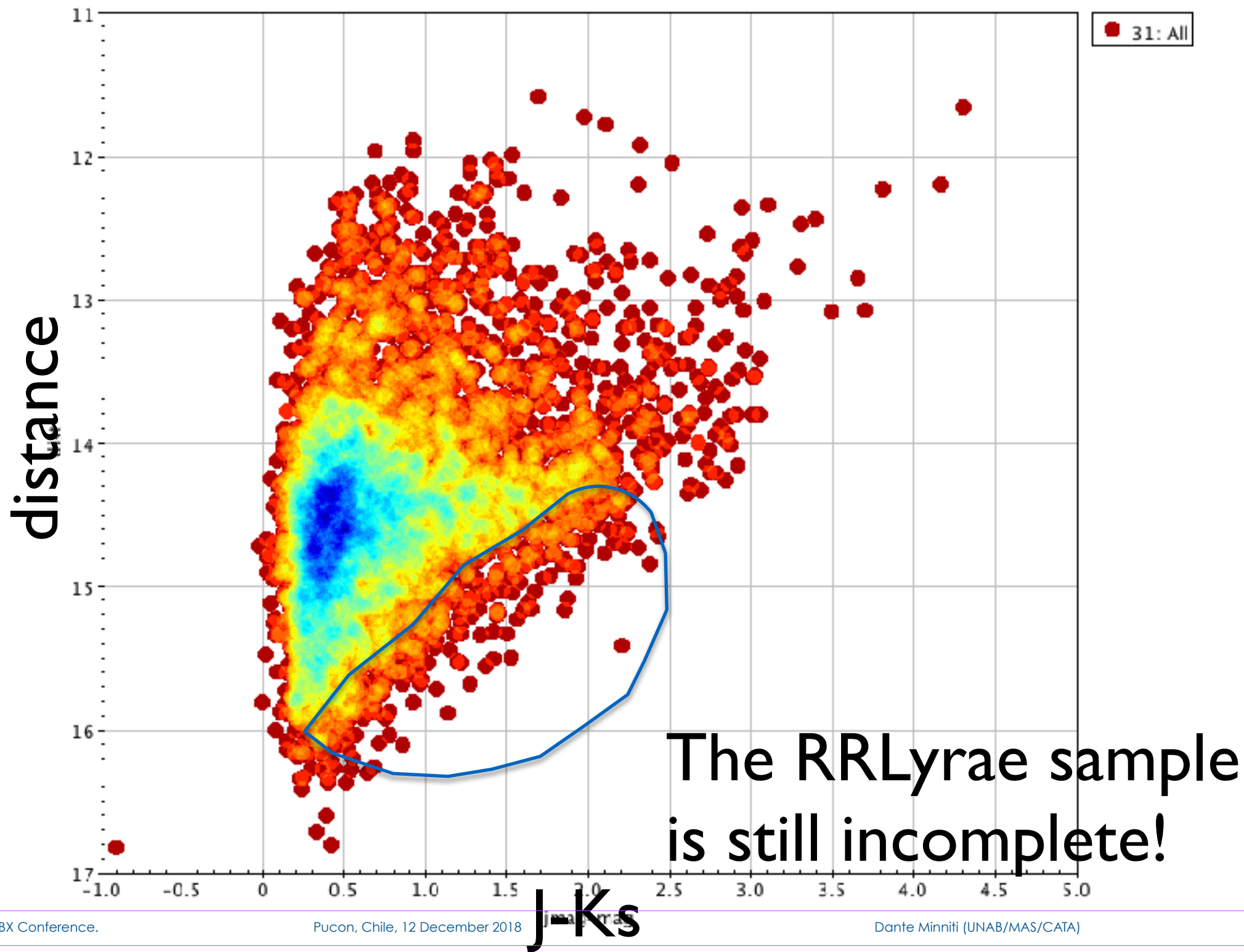


x 24: All  
o 25: All

# VVall



Daniel Majaess et al. 2018

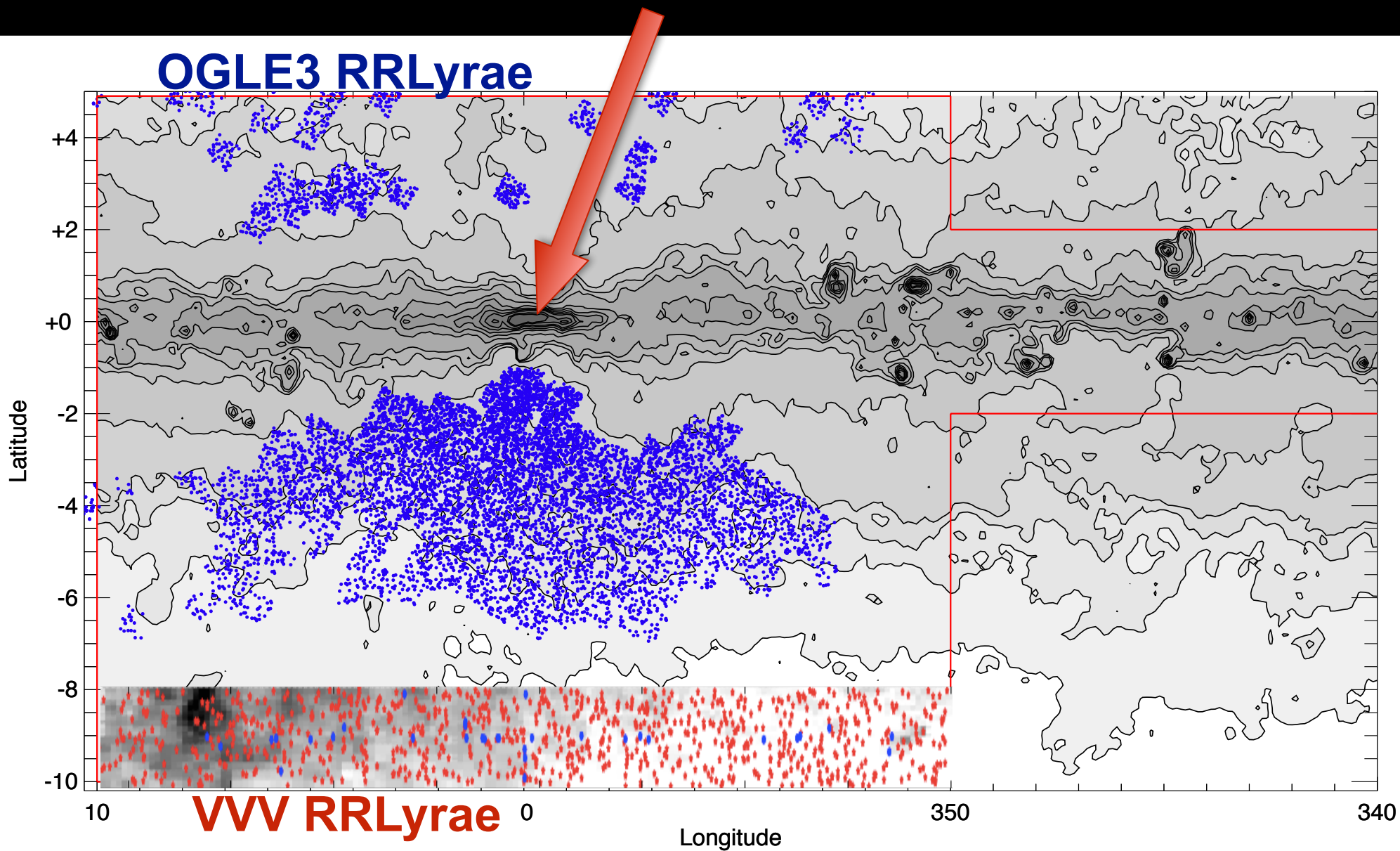


Rodrigo Contreras et al. (2018 ApJ)  
Dante Minniti et al. (2016 ApJL)

# Galactic Center RRLyrae



# Galactic Center RR Lyrae





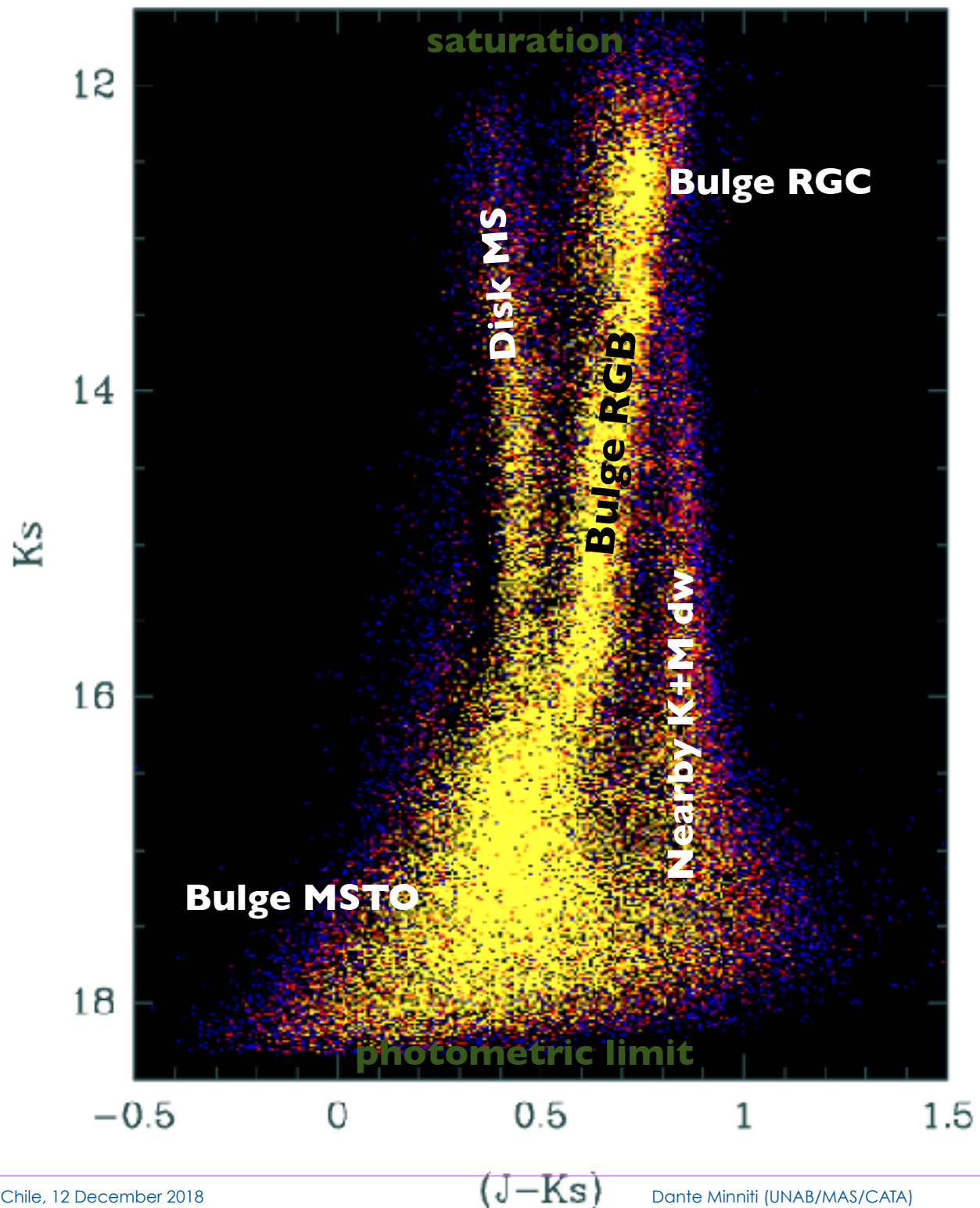


# VVV Image of the Galactic center

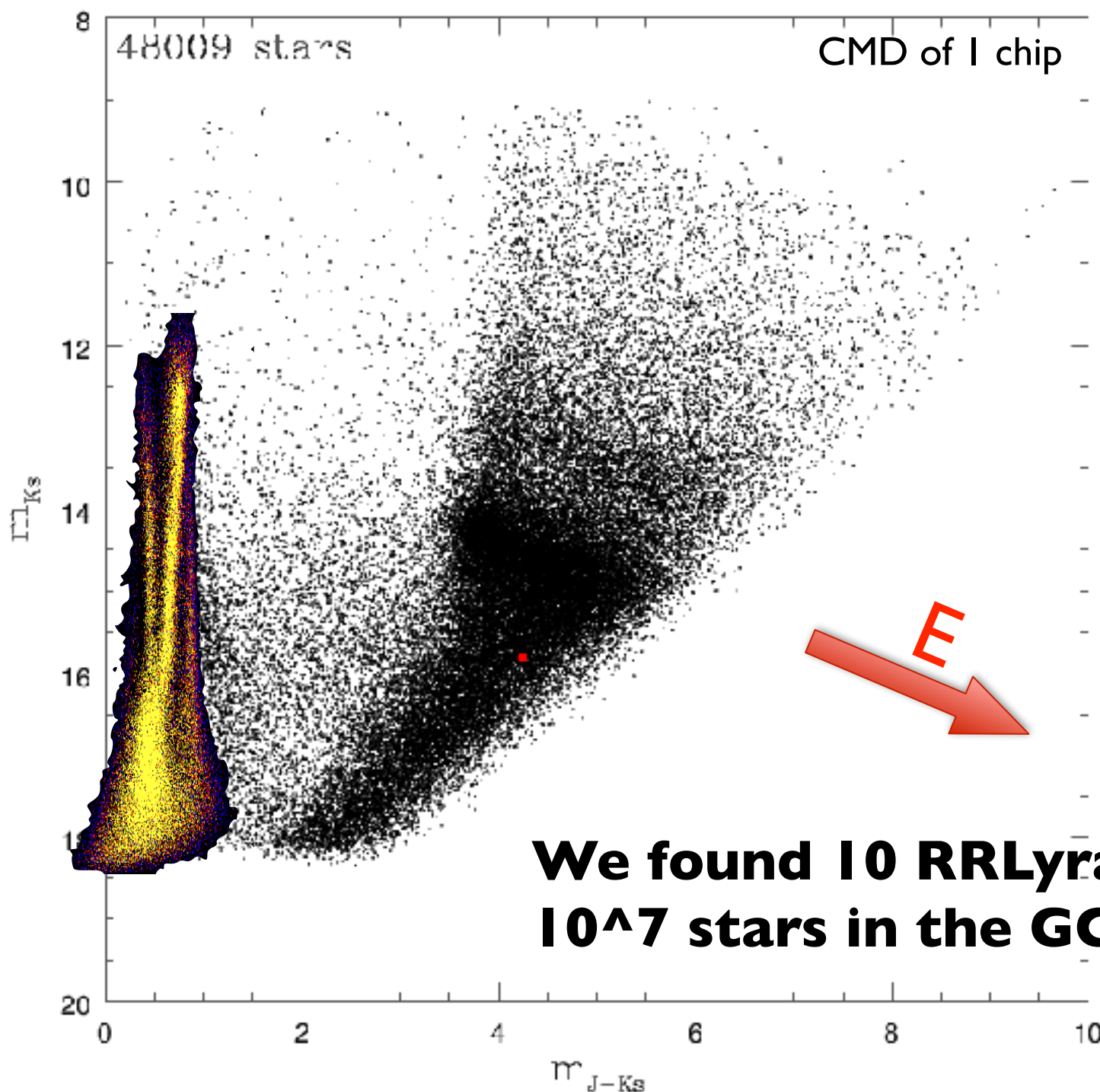


# VVV STARS CMD

outer bulge fields  
b209-b211

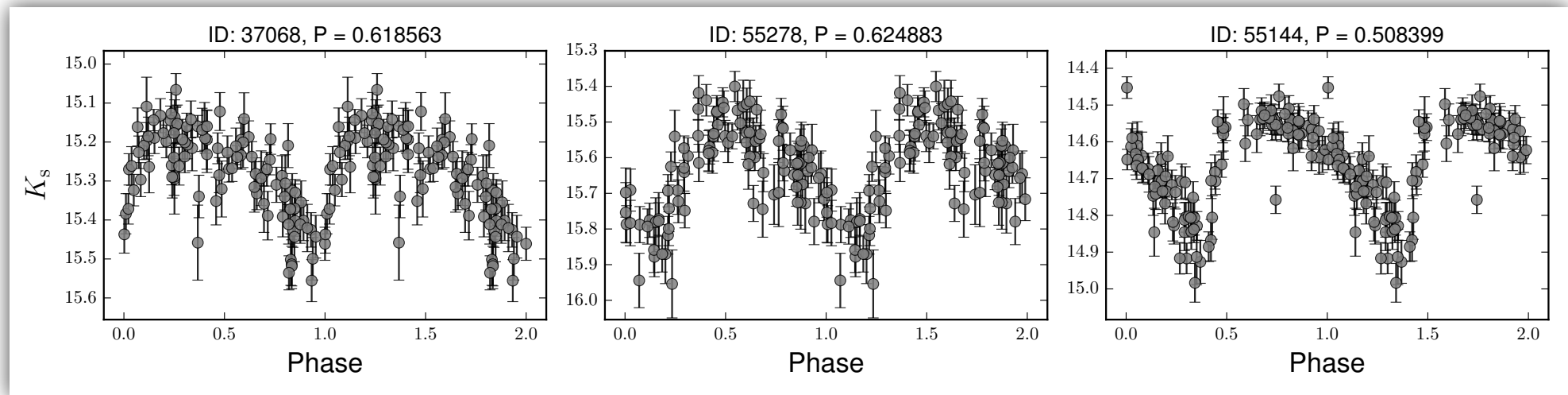






**We found 10 RRLyrae out of  
 $10^7$  stars in the GC region**

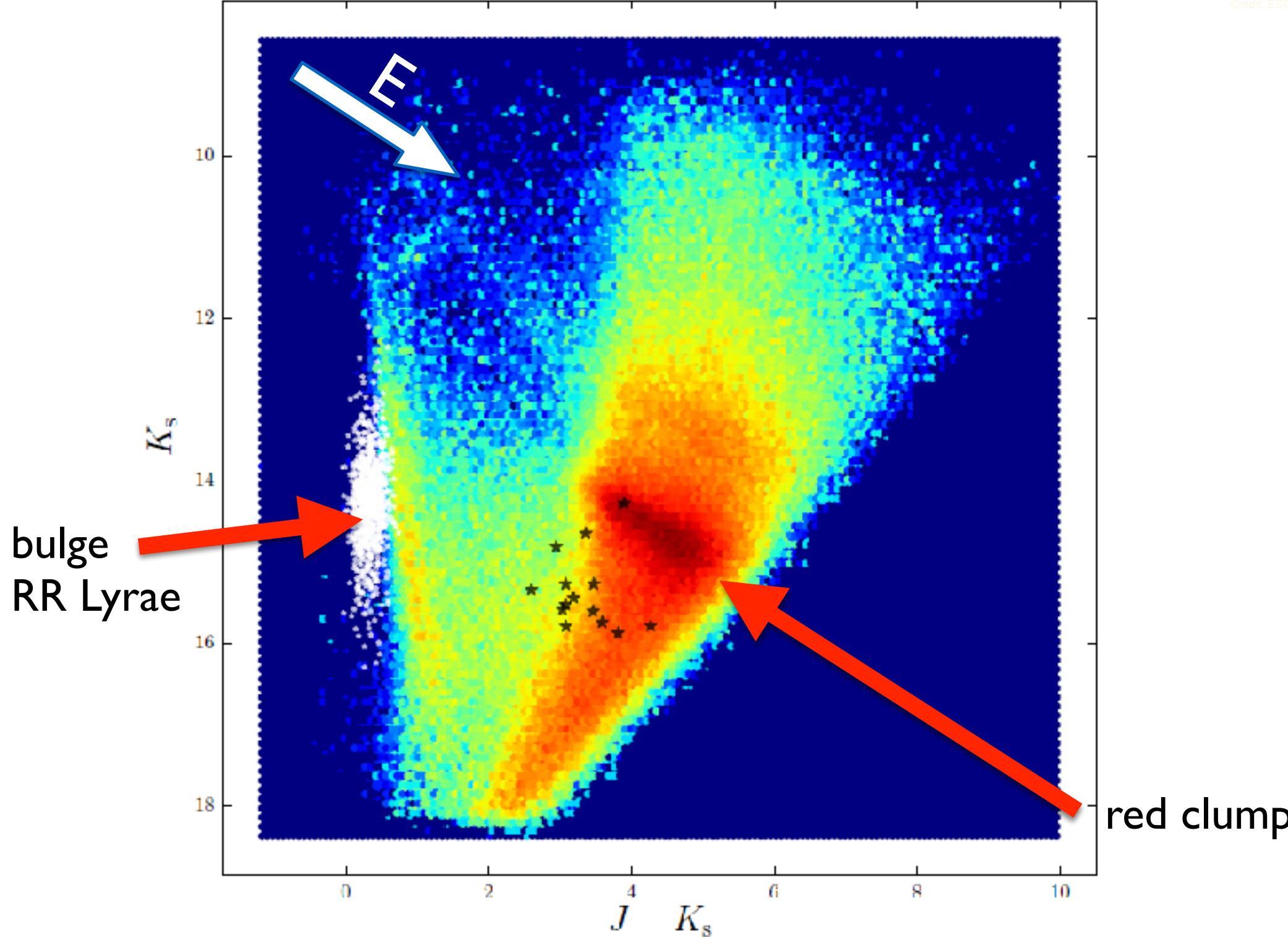
# Galactic Center RR Lyrae



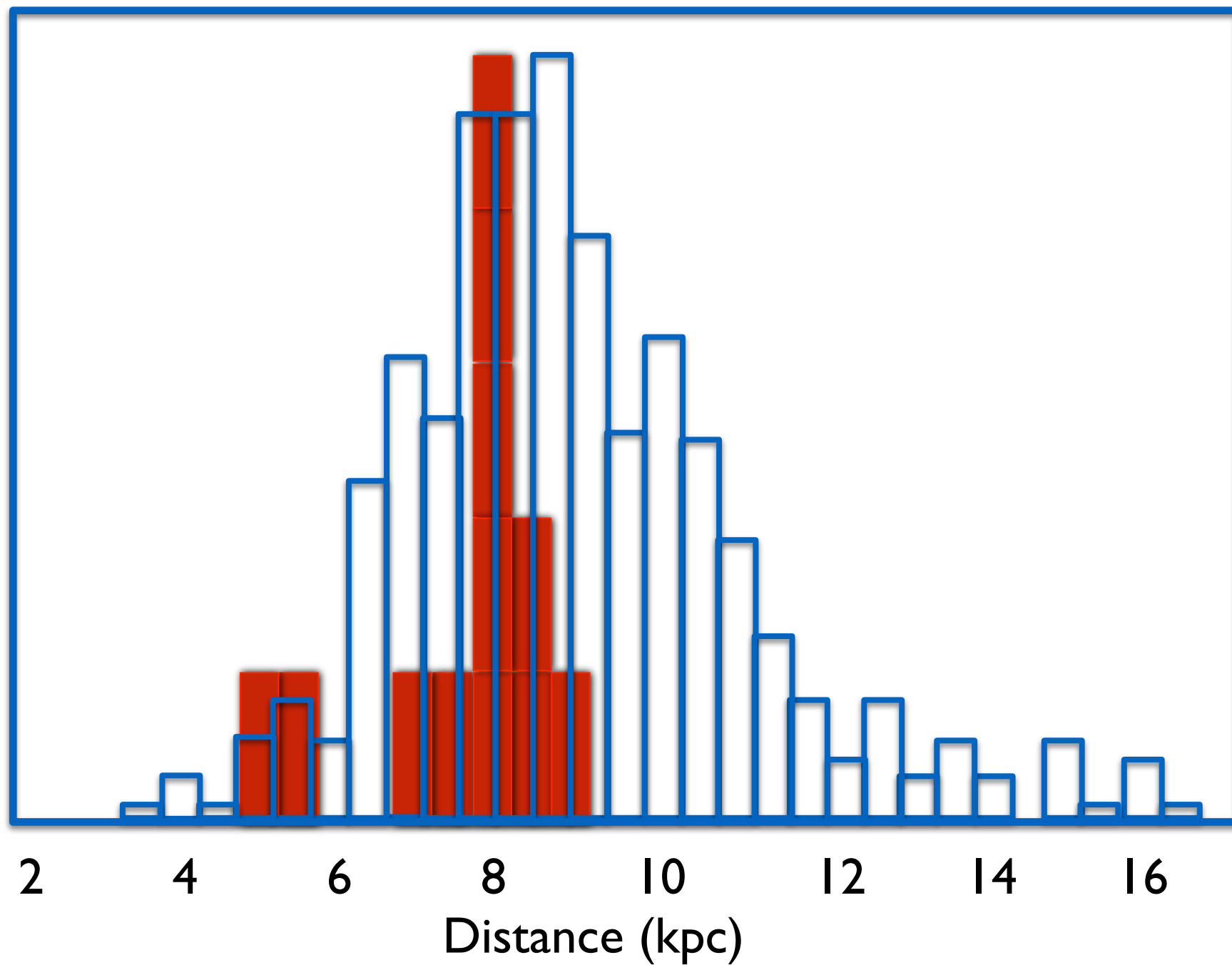
## Typical light curves

- clear discrimination from contact binaries
- somewhat noisier than typical VVV bulge RR Lyrae
- period distribution indicates an Oosterhoff type I population

# Galactic Center RR Lyrae







# Galactic Center RR Lyrae



The image is a deep-field astronomical photograph of the Galactic Center. It features a dense field of stars and interstellar dust. Two concentric white circles are overlaid on the image. The inner circle is centered on a bright, yellowish-white point, representing the nuclear star cluster. The outer circle is larger and encompasses a wider area of the stellar bulge. Several blue stars with white outlines are scattered throughout the image, mostly within the outer circle. The text 'nuclear stellar bulge' is located at the top right, and 'nuclear star cluster' is centered within the inner circle. At the bottom, the title 'Galactic Center RR Lyrae' is displayed in large white letters.

nuclear stellar bulge

nuclear star cluster

# Galactic Center RR Lyrae



# Galactic Center RR Lyrae

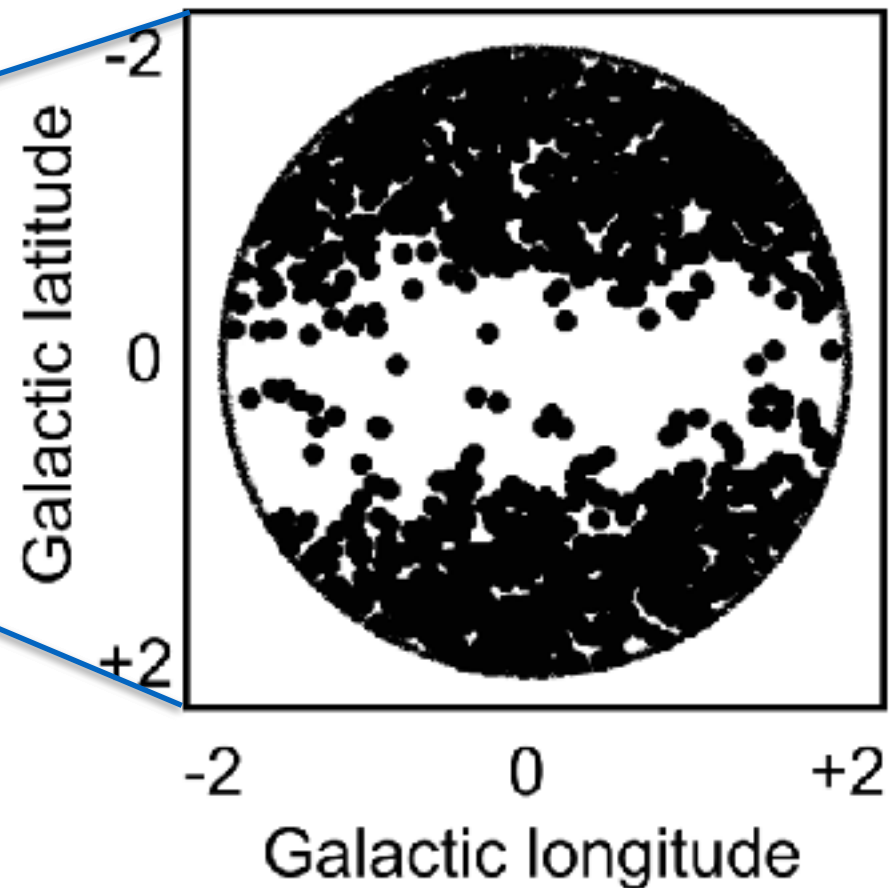
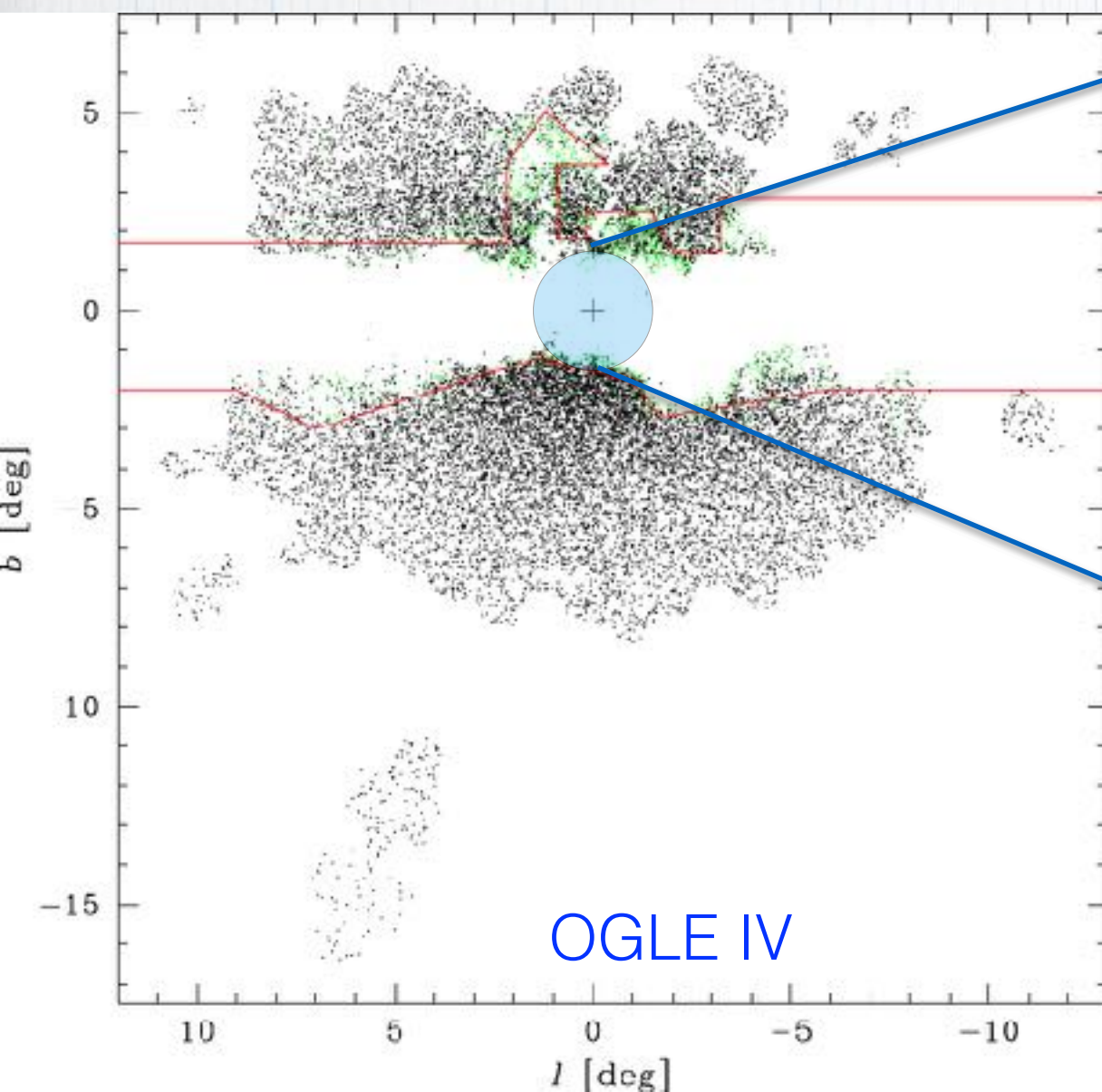
- We report the discovery of a dozen RR Lyrae ab-type stars in the nuclear stellar bulge of the Milky Way.
- This suggests that Galactic center contains an old and metal-poor population, detected here for the first time.
- One implication is that the Galactic center is very old.
- The merger of primordial globular clusters may have contributed to building up the high stellar density in the Galactic center, as proposed by R. Capuzzo-Dolcetta (1993).
- What next?
  - 1. Make a full census.
  - 2. Measure proper motions.
  - 3. Obtain spectra.

*D. Minniti, et al. 2016, ApJL*

*see also Dong et al. 2017, ApJ*

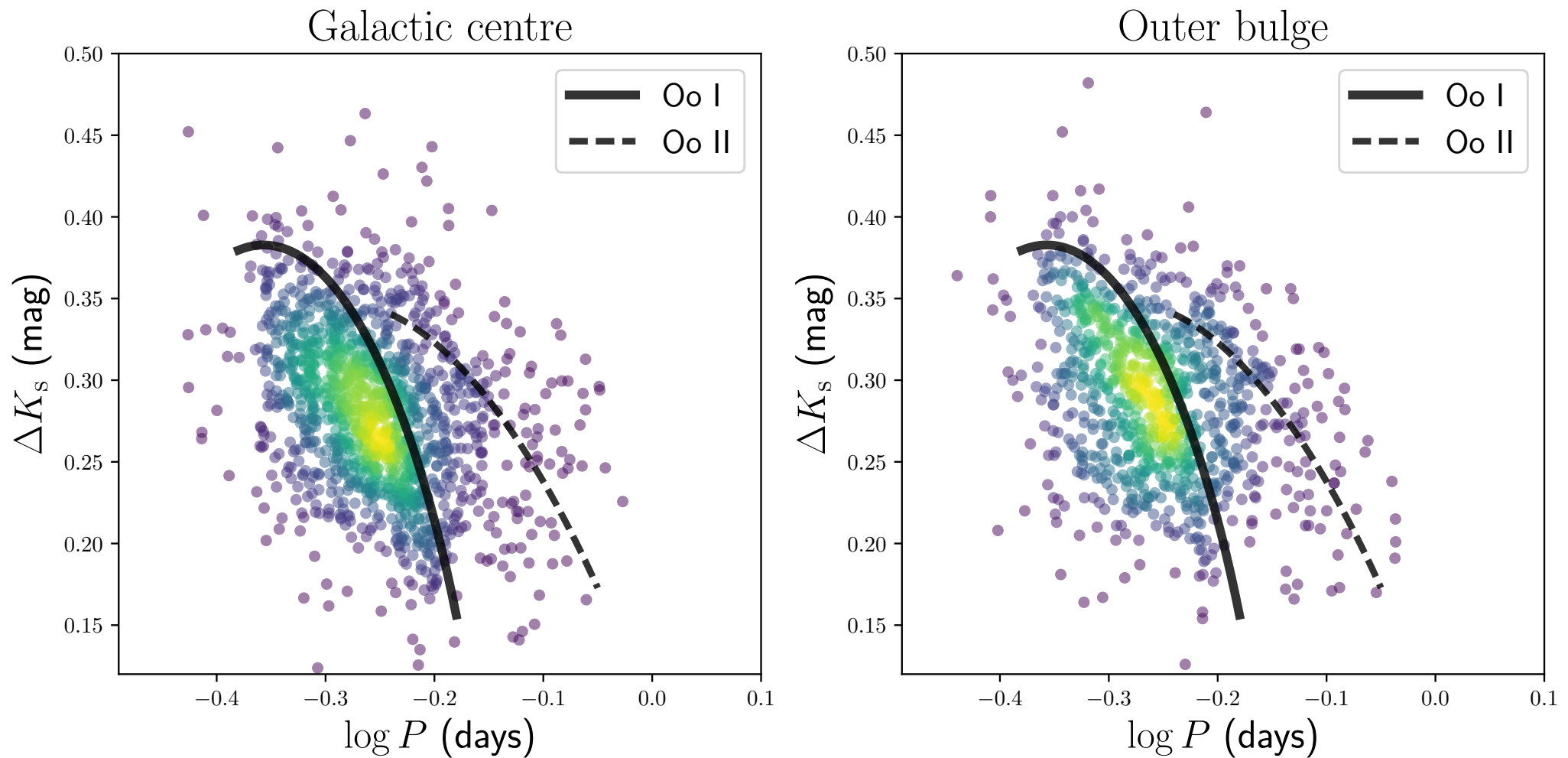
*R. Contreras-Ramos, et al. 2018, ApJ*





Completing the census of  
Galactic centre RR Lyrae:  
~1000 new R Rab  
(Contreras Ramos et al.  
2018)

# The Galactic centre RR Lyrae appear to belong to an extreme OoI population (Contreras Ramos et al. 2018)



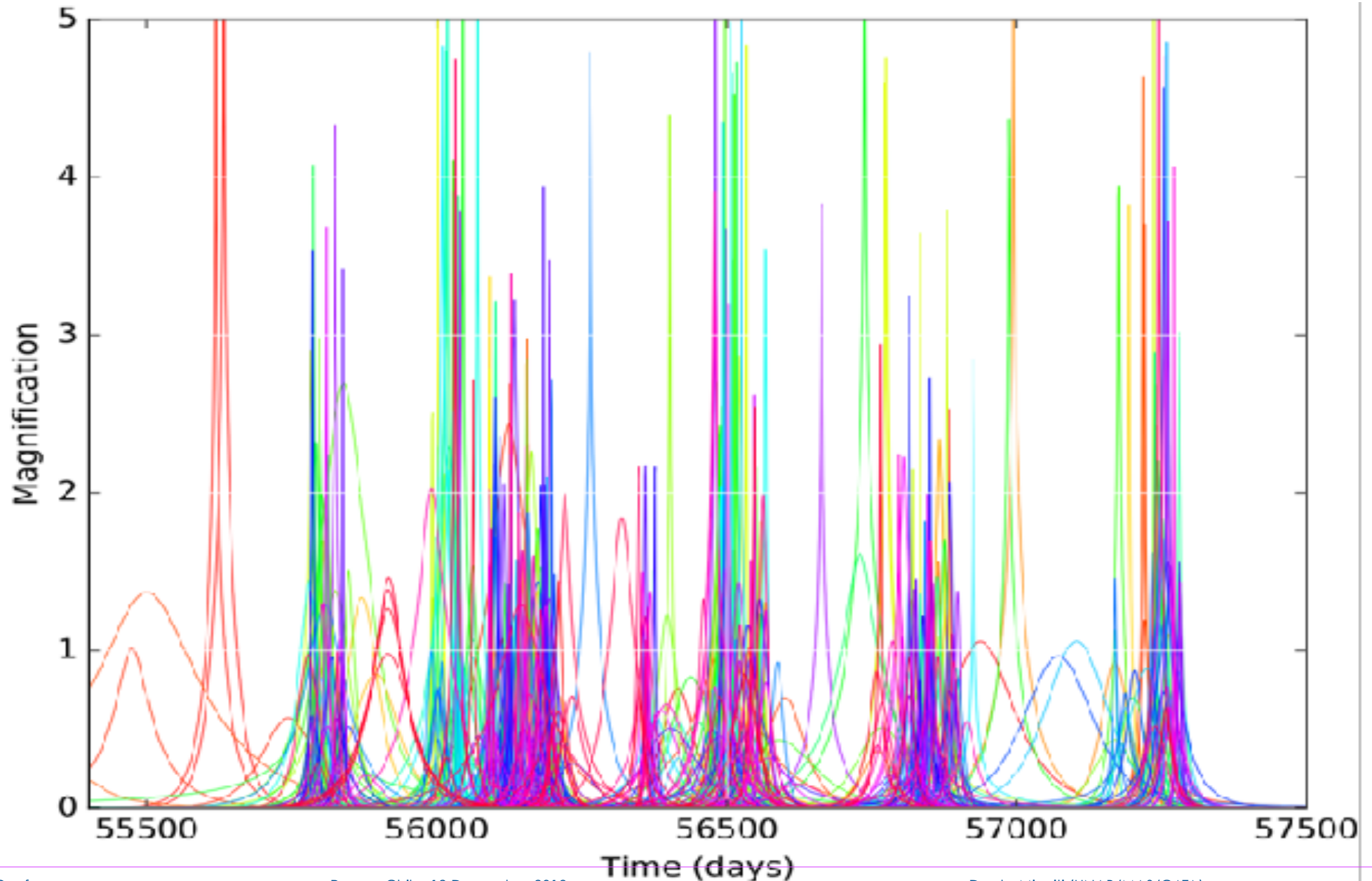


See talk by Gabriela Navarro

# Microlensing

# Microlensing events

G. Navarro et al. 2016 ApJL,  
G. Navarro et al. 2017 ApJL,  
G. Navarro et al. 2018 ApJ submitted



see talk by V. Braga

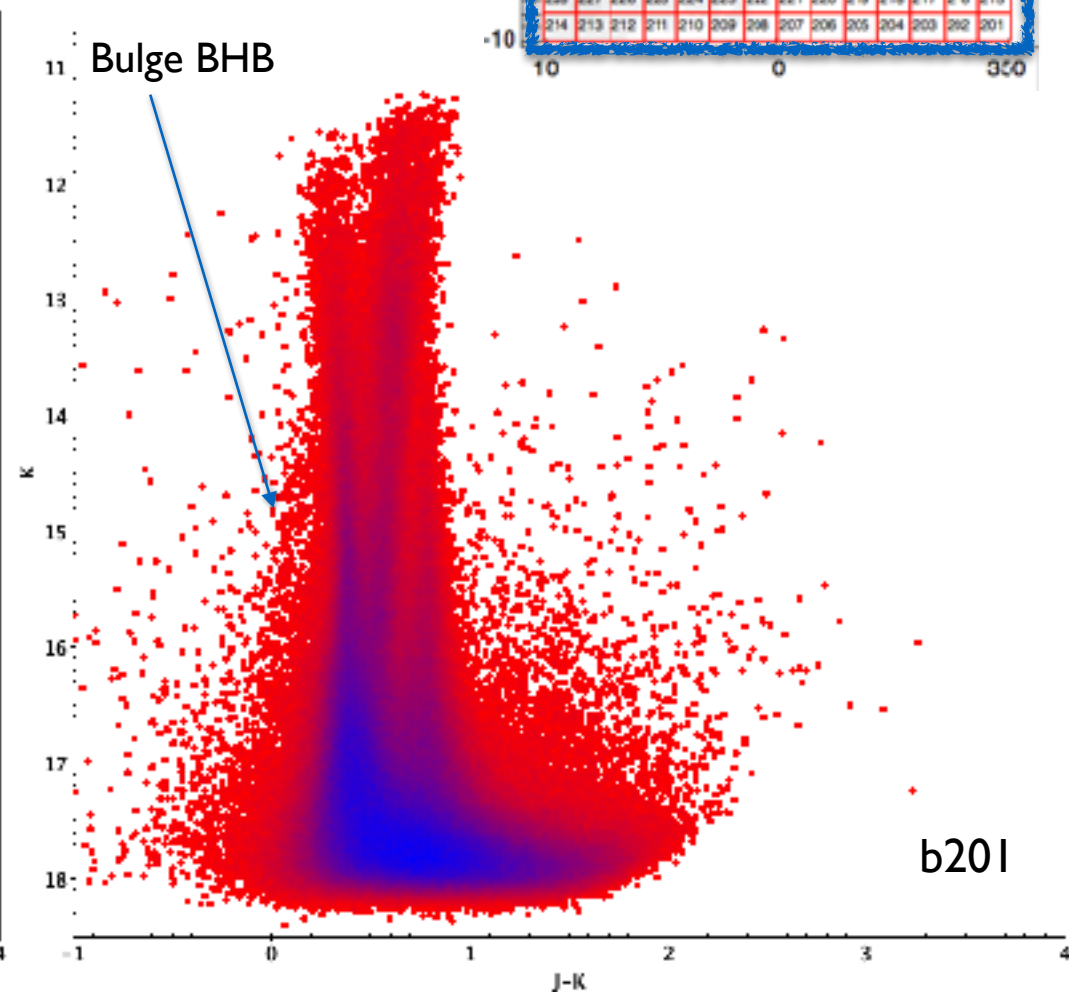
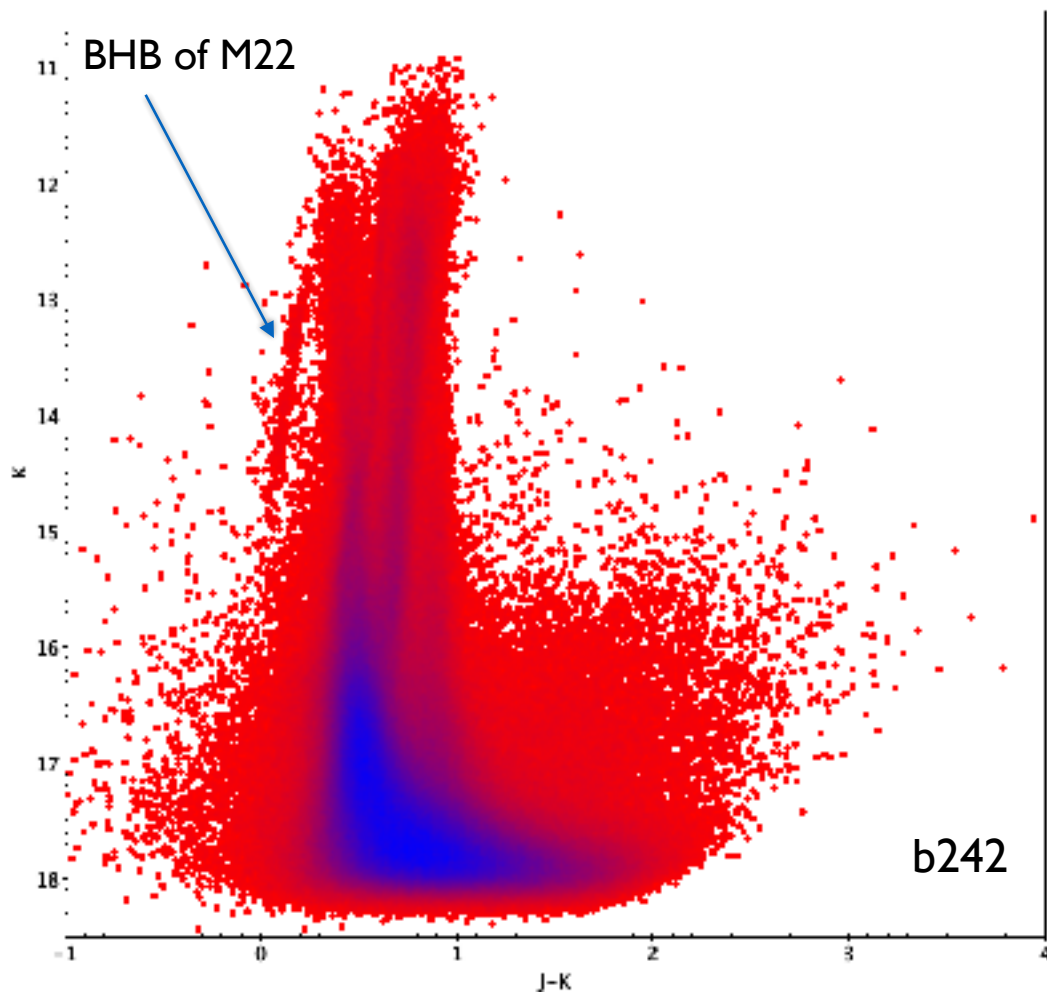
# Miras and LPVs



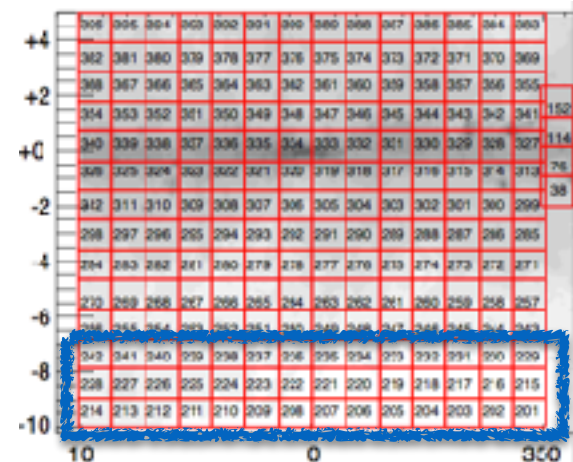
K. Montenegro et al. 2018  
see poster by L. Gramajo

# Eclipsing Binaries

# Bulge BHB star selection from deep VVV bulge photometry by Javier Alonso-García

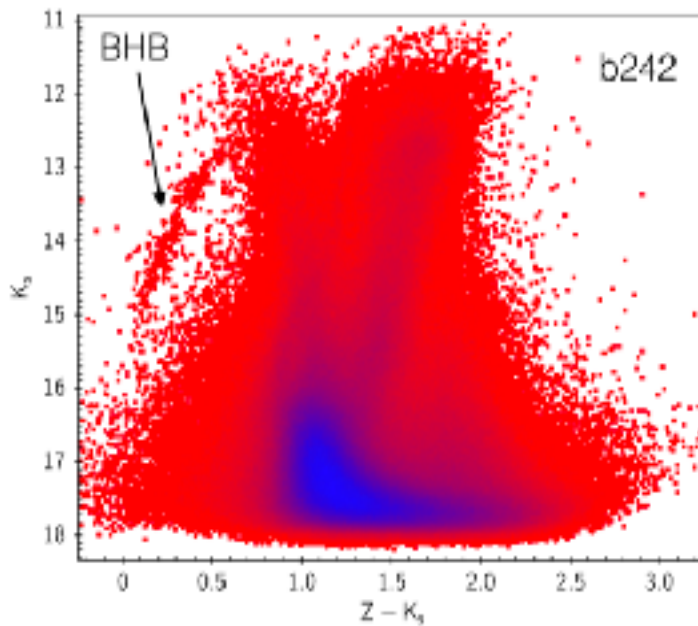


## J-Ks



# EBs among bulge BHB stars

## K. Montenegro et al. 2018 ApJ



- EA (Algols): This type of eclipsing binary exhibits a flat light-curve in the regions where we cannot see eclipses, because they have spherical or slightly ellipsoidal components. From inspection of the light-curve it is possible to clearly see the beginning and end of the eclipses, although the secondary eclipse may be less visible.

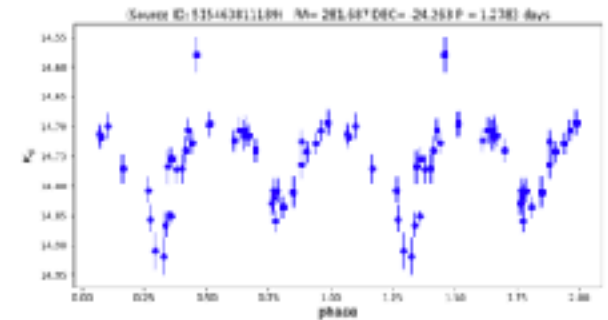
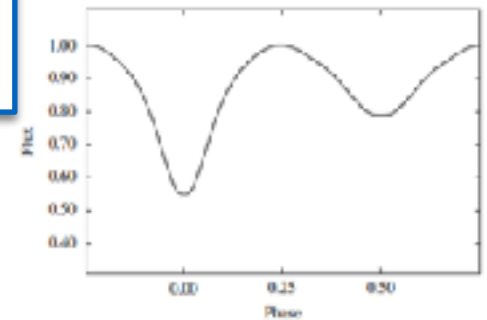
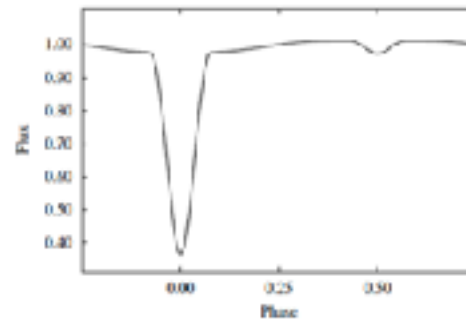


Figure 14. EB eclipsing binaries. A synthetic light-curve (obtained from ?) in the top panel can be compared with one of our EB light-curves in the bottom panel.

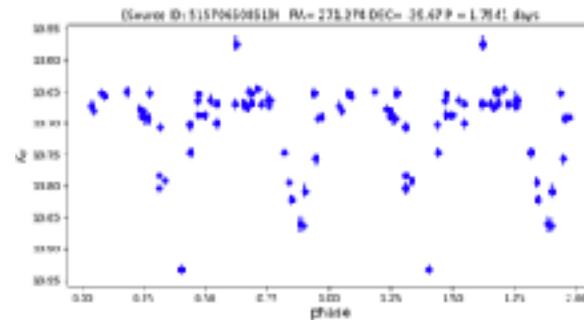
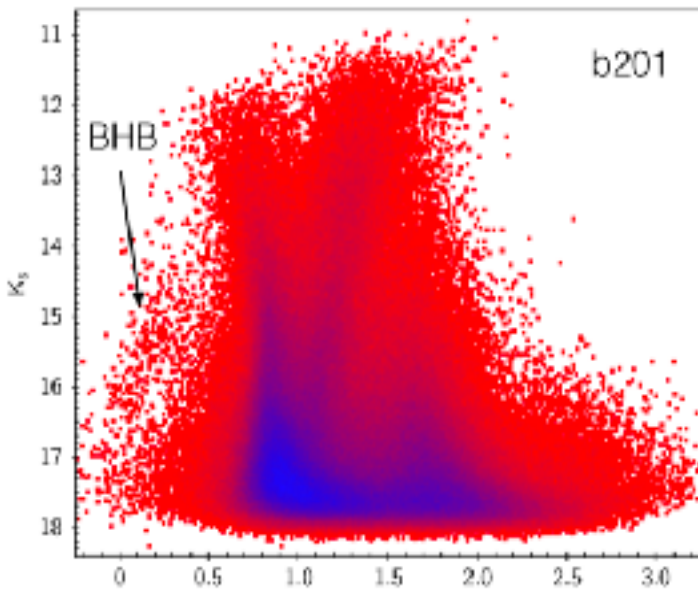
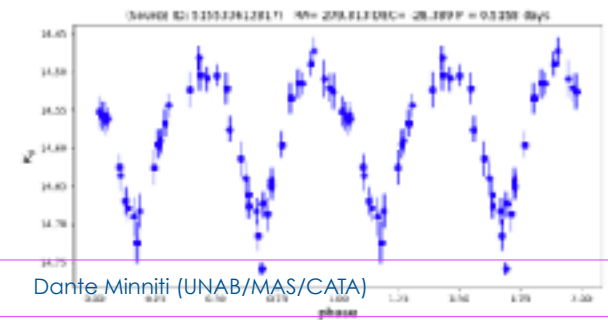
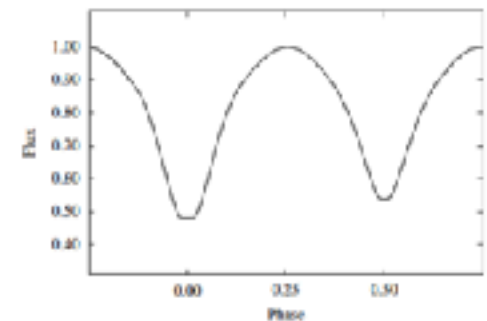


Figure 13. EA eclipsing binaries. A synthetic light-curve (obtained from ?) in the top panel can be compared with one of our EA light-curves shown in the bottom panel.

- EB ( $\beta$  Lyrae): The light-curve is continuously variable, with a large difference in the depths of the eclipses due to their components being ellipsoidal. The secondary eclipse is always clearly observed.
- EW (W Ursae Majoris): The ellipsoidal components are in contact, and present very similar eclipses. They have a light-curve that is contin-



**Z-K<sub>s</sub>**



see talk by J. Minniti, A. Bhardwaj

**vvv**

Galactic structure,  
stellar evolution,  
star clusters,

...

# **Classical Cepheids**

# Classical Cepheids

- Classical Cepheids are pulsating variable stars.
- They have  $1.0 < P < 200$  days
- Their characteristic periods and light curves make them easy to identify.
- They represent a very young and metal-rich population.
- They are present in young open clusters.
- They follow a P-L relation
- They are **primary** distance indicators.

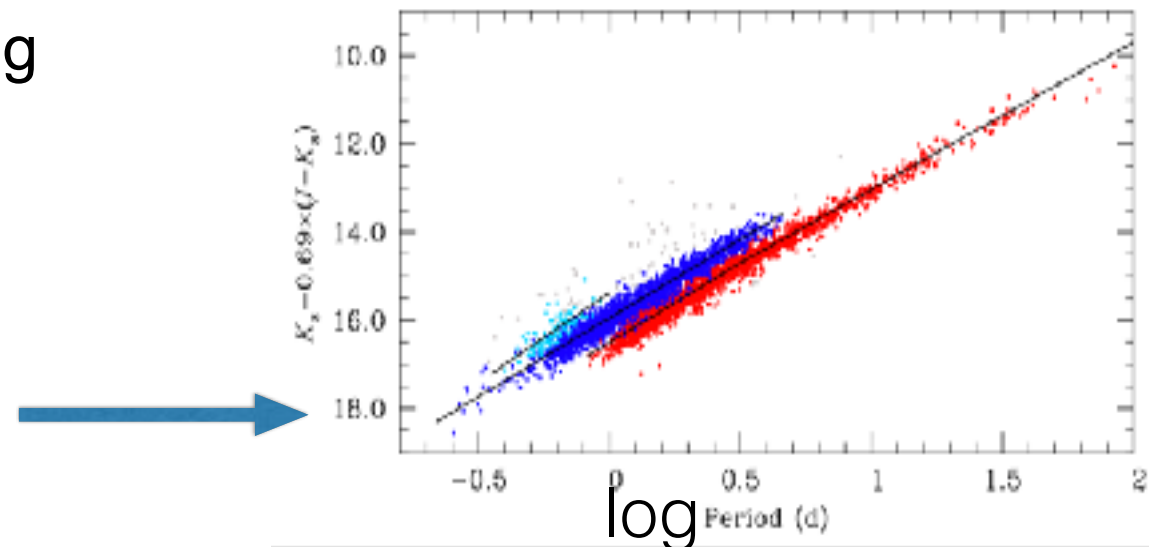
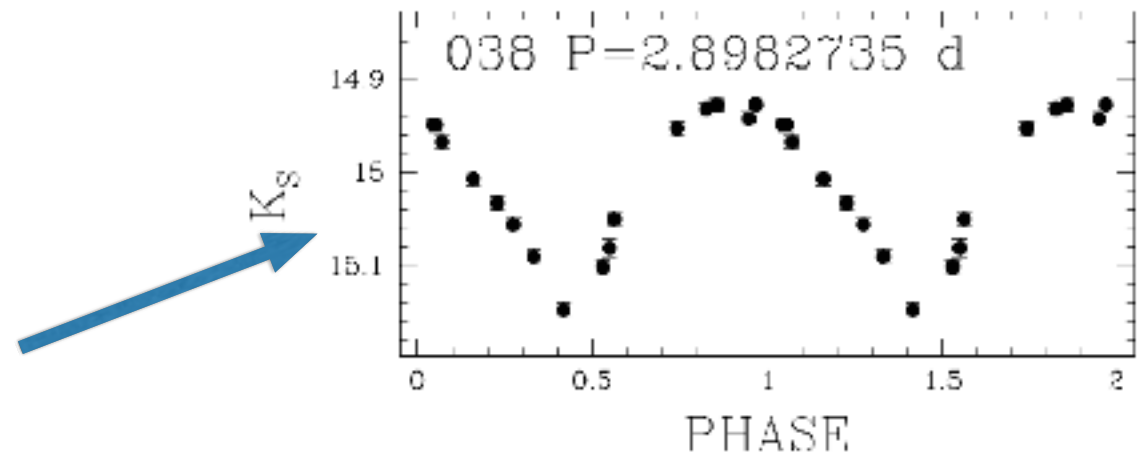
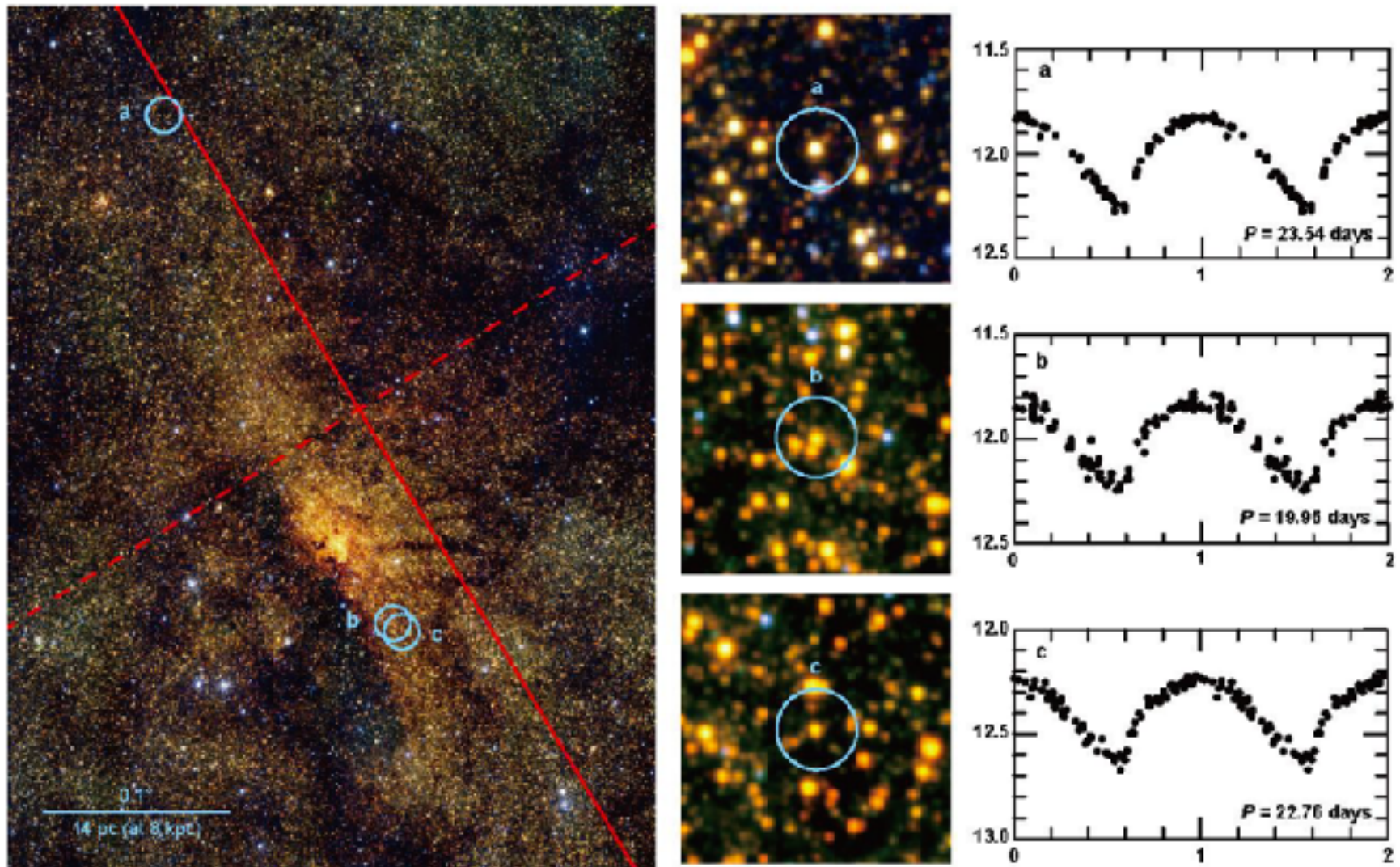


Figure credit Ripepi/Cioni/Moretti 2017

# Three Classical Cepheids in the Galactic Bulge

Noriyuki Matsunaga, et al., Nature 2016



**Figure1 | The classical Cepheids discovered in the nuclear bulge.**

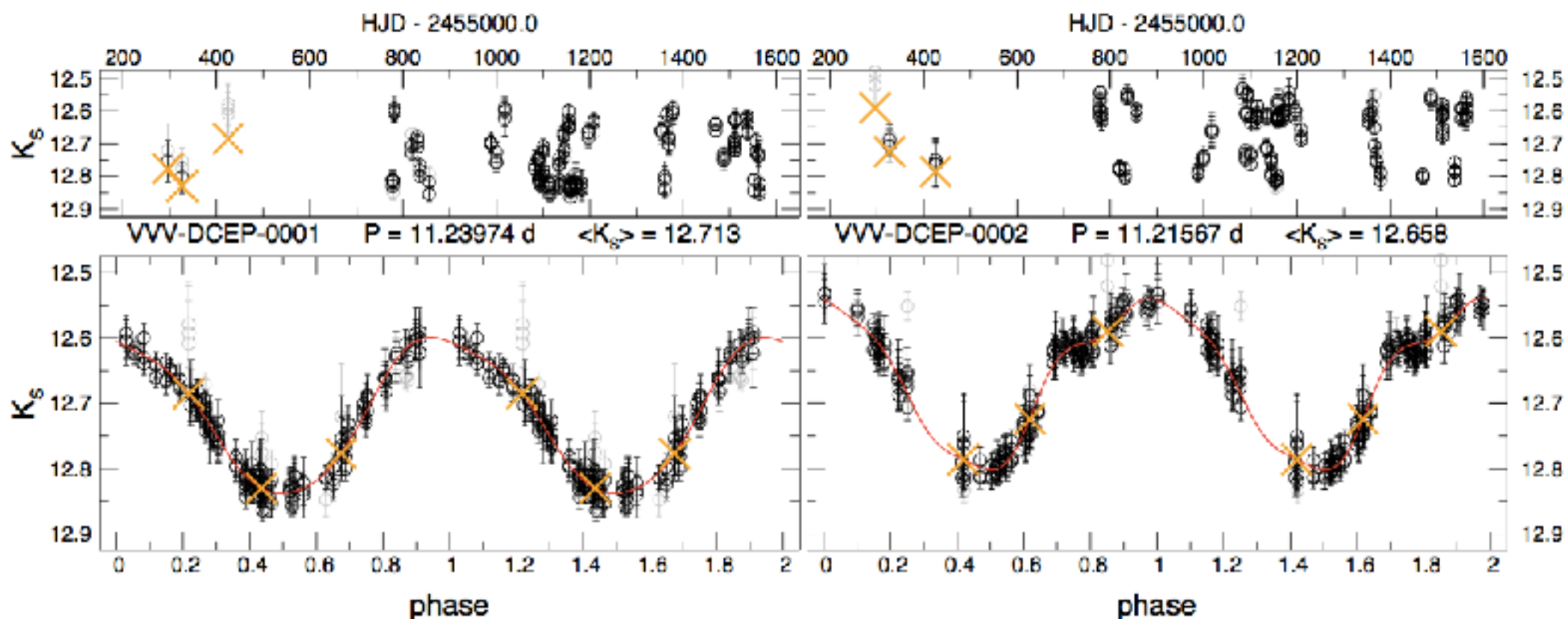


# VVV Cepheids

A deep-field astronomical image showing a dense field of stars. The stars are of various colors, including blue, yellow, and red. In the center of the image, there is a small cluster of stars. Four specific stars in this central cluster are highlighted with white dashed lines, forming a small square. These highlighted stars are the VVV Cepheids.

# Cepheids in the Inner Bulge

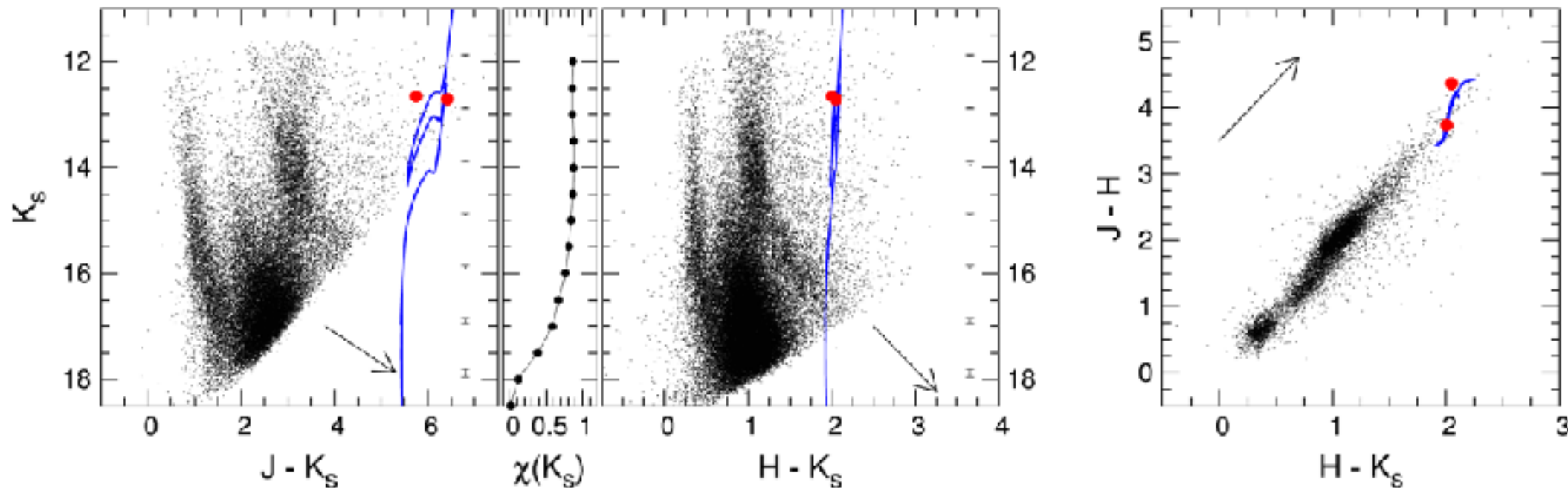
Star	$\alpha$ [hms]	$\delta$ [dms]	$l$ [deg]	$b$ [deg]	period [d]
C1	18:01:24.49	-22:54:44.6	6.99047	0.00055	11.23974
C2	18:01:25.09	-22:54:28.3	6.99555	0.00079	11.21567



The VVV Survey reveals a couple of classical Cepheids that trace a young and massive stellar cluster located behind the Galactic bulge.

# Cepheids in the Inner Bulge

Star	$\alpha$ [hms]	$\delta$ [dms]	$l$ [deg]	$b$ [deg]	period [d]
C1	18:01:24.49	-22:54:44.6	6.99047	0.00055	11.23974
C2	18:01:25.09	-22:54:28.3	6.99555	0.00079	11.21567

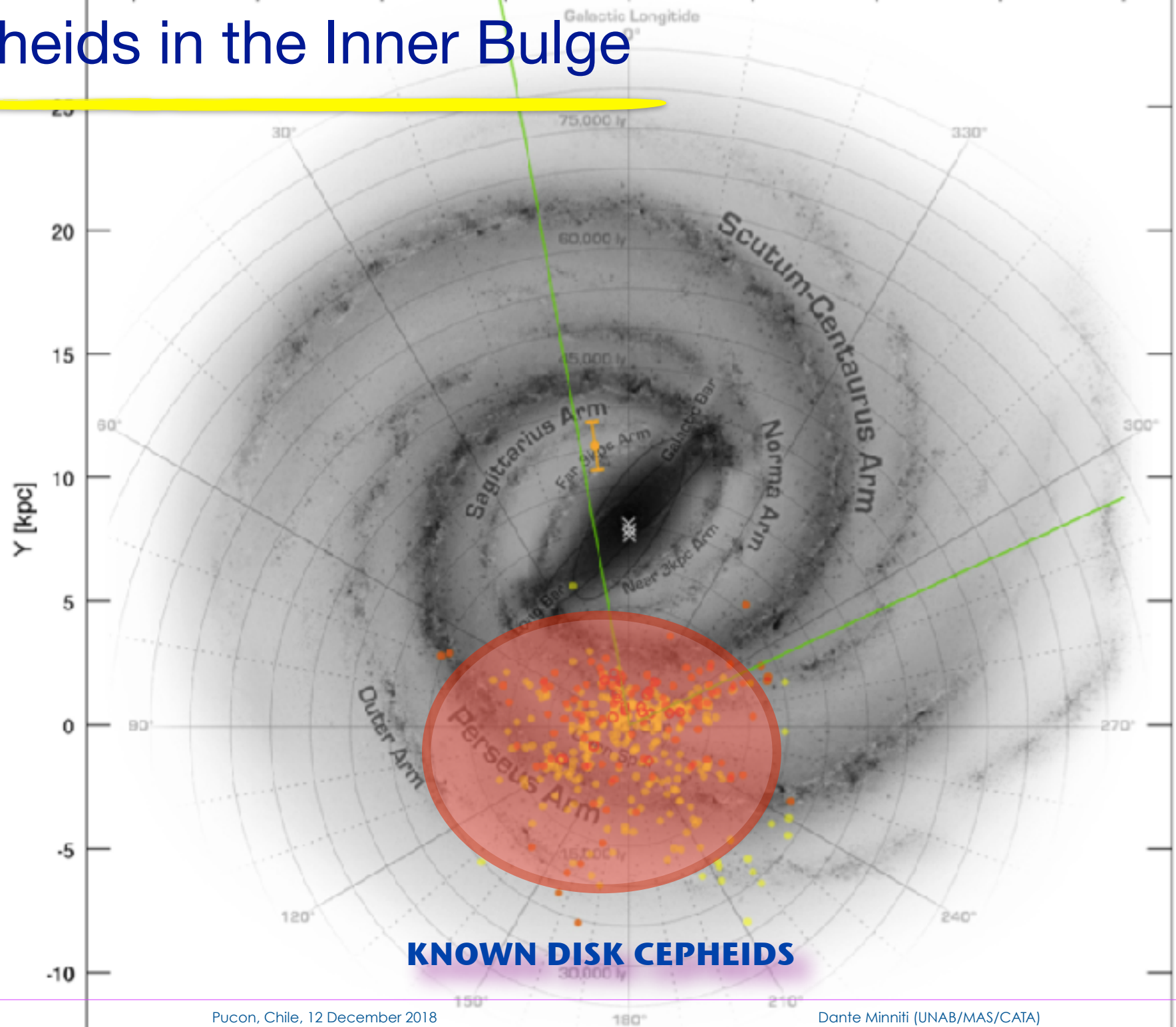


The VVV Survey reveals a couple of classical Cepheids that trace a young and massive stellar cluster located behind the Galactic bulge.

Dekany et al. 2015 ApJL



# Cepheids in the Inner Bulge

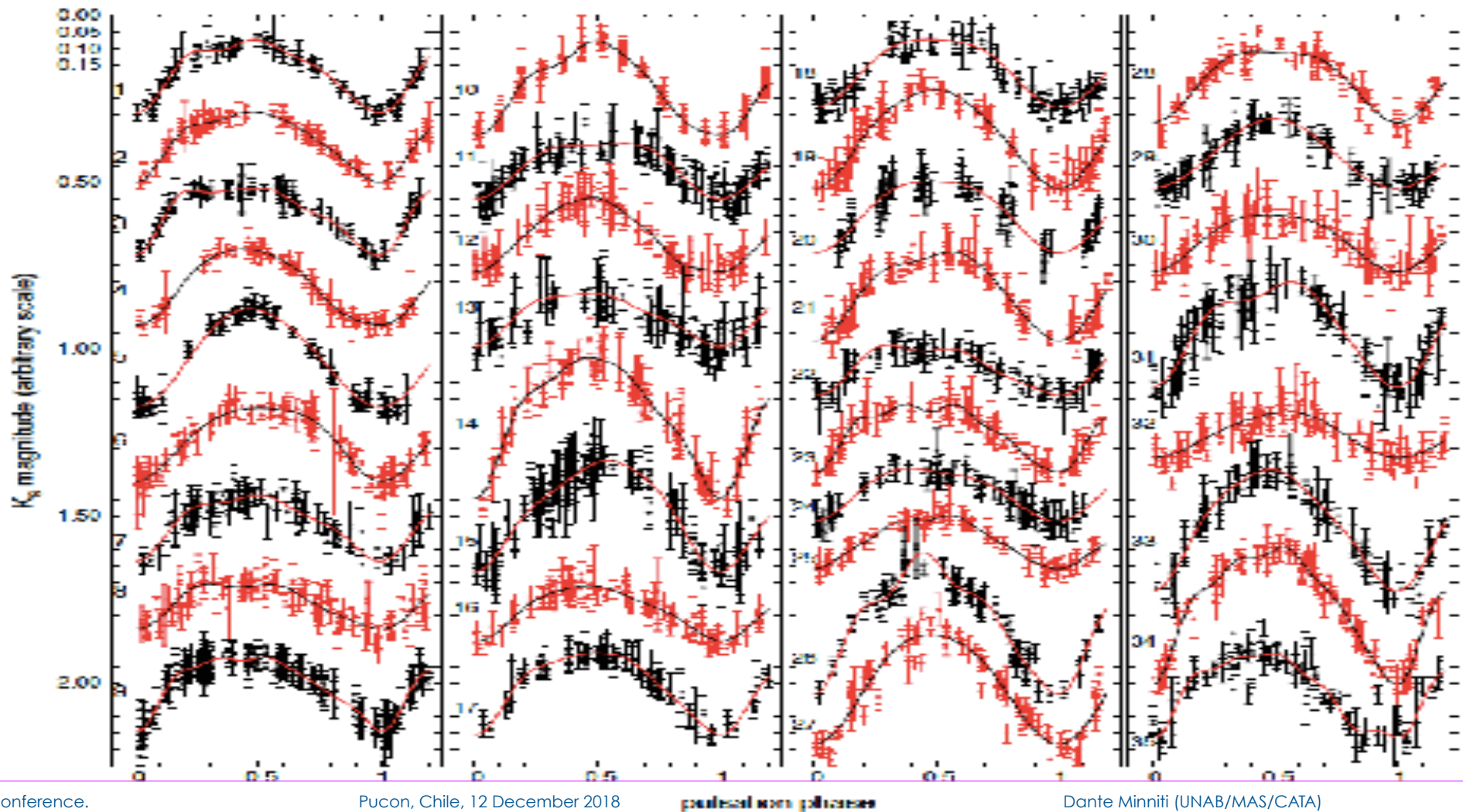


# Cepheids in the Inner Bulge

Dekany et al. 2015 ApJL (arXiv:1509.08402)

## Main problem:

To separate Classical Cepheids from Type 2 Cepheids



see talks by V. Braga, A. Bhardwaj, G. Hagdu

# Type 2 Cepheids



# Classical Cepheids

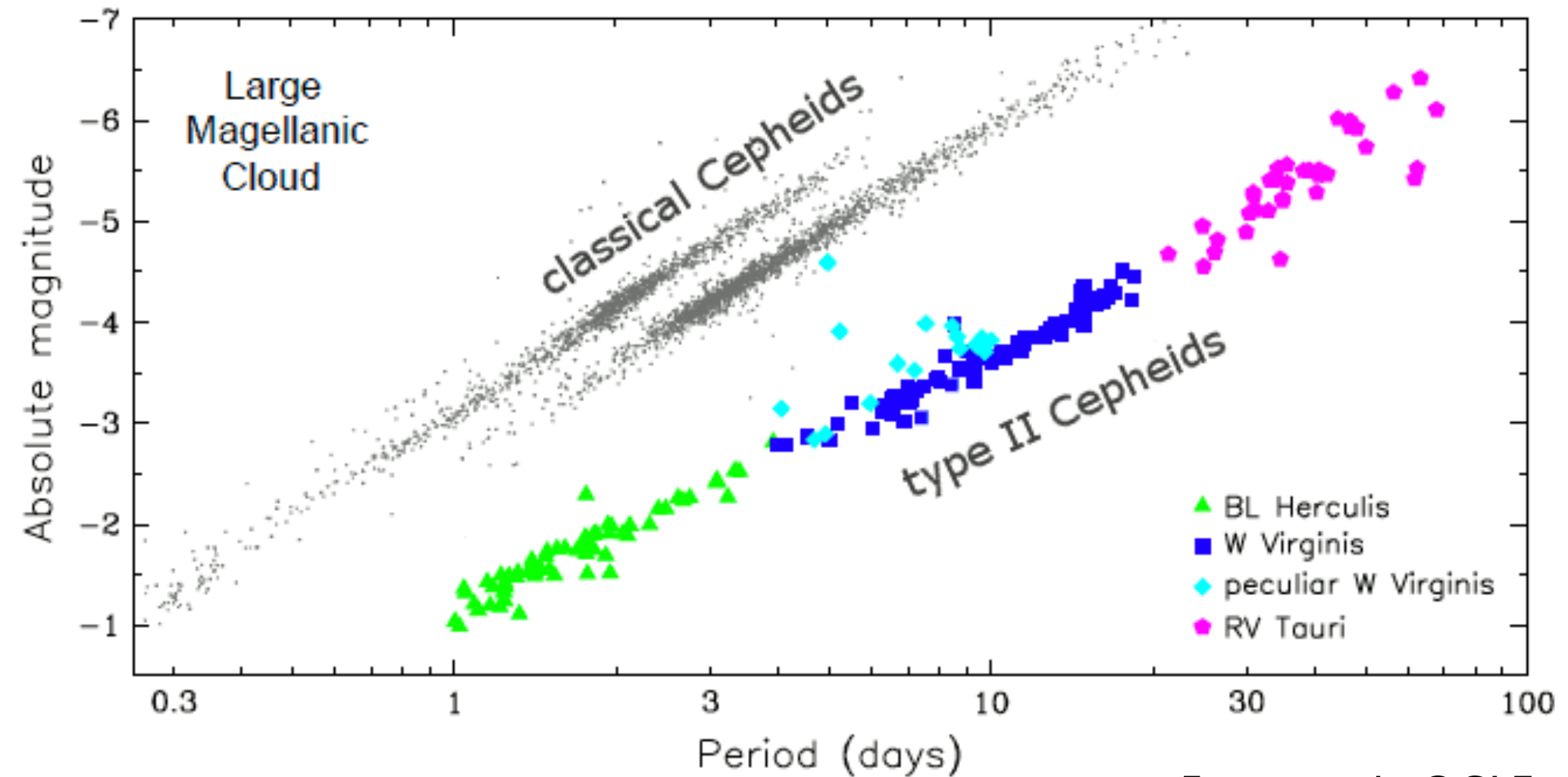
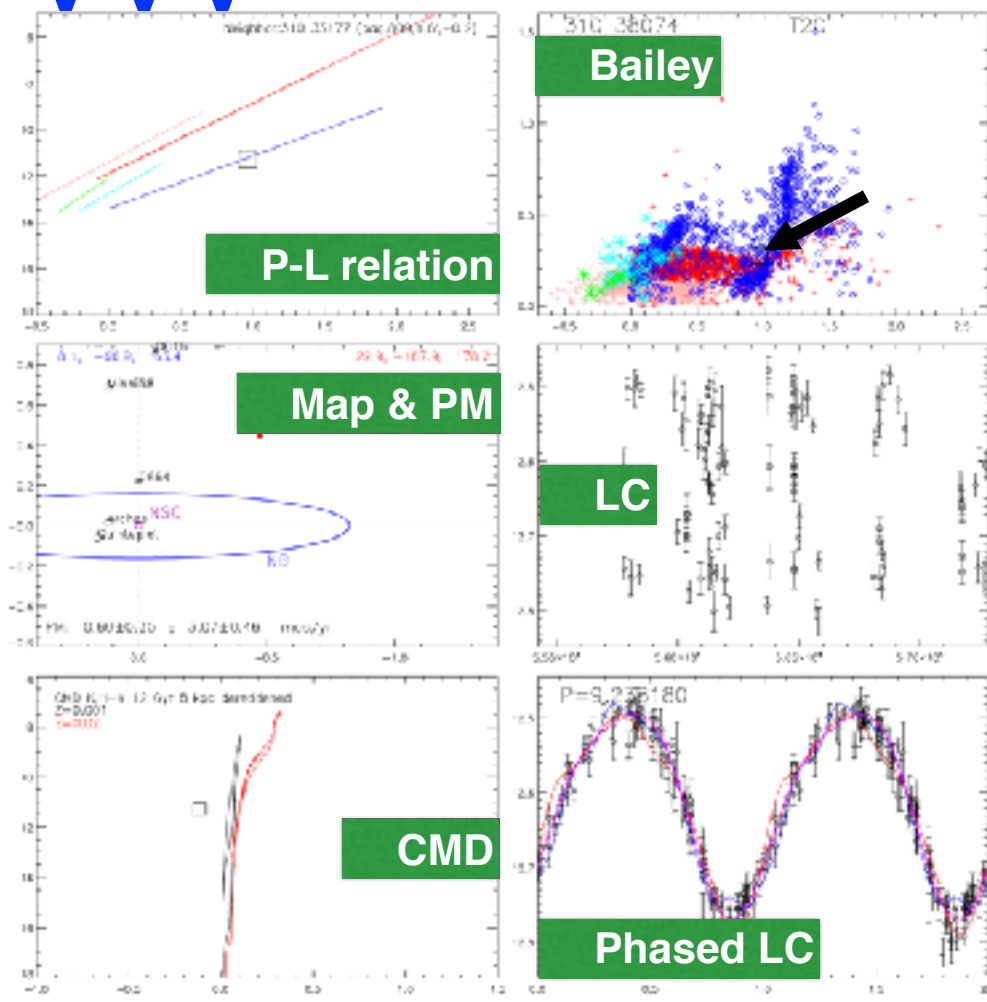


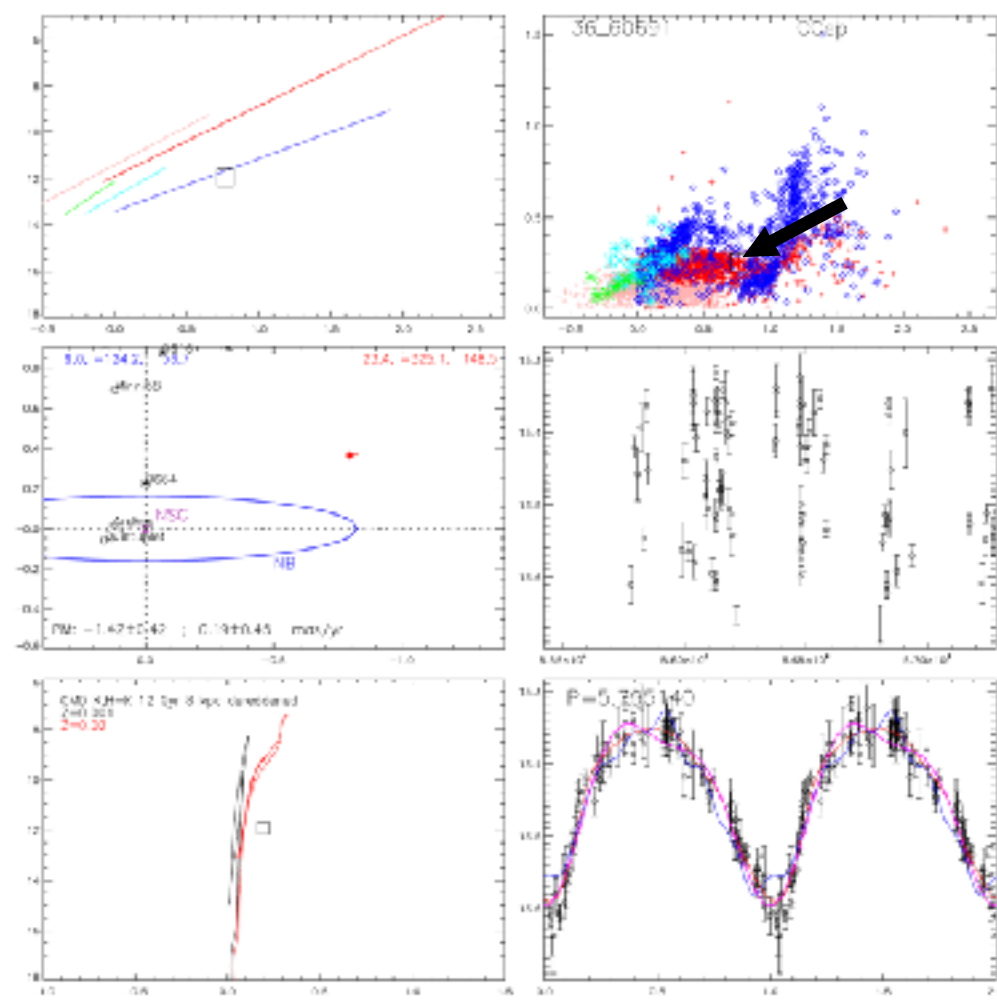
Figure credit OGLE

# VVV

## Type 2 Cepheid



## Classical Cepheid

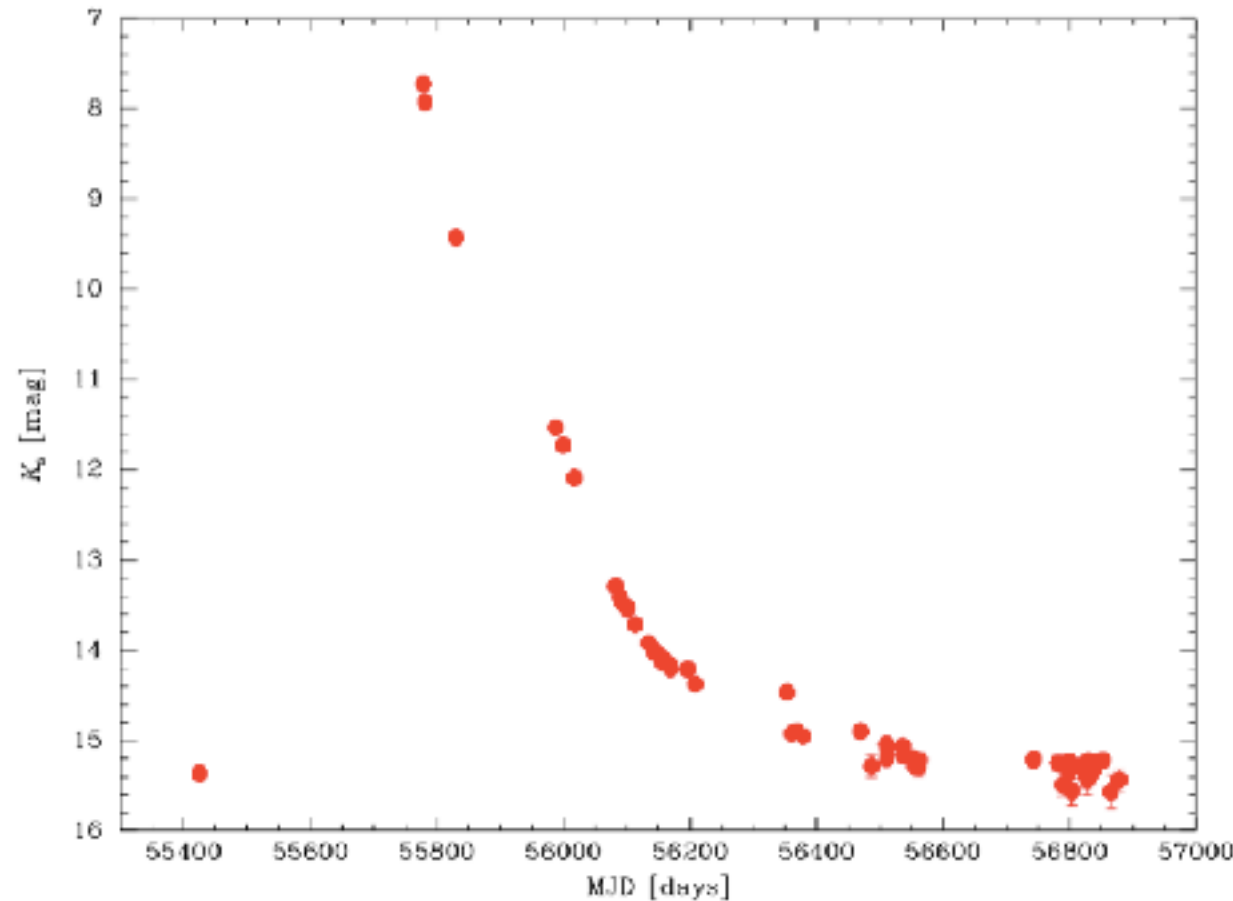


slide credit: Vittorio Braga

# Novae



# VVV NOVA Hunters



The Astronomer's Telegram

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[Credential](#) | [Feeds](#) | [Email](#)

6 Apr 2015; 02:19 UT

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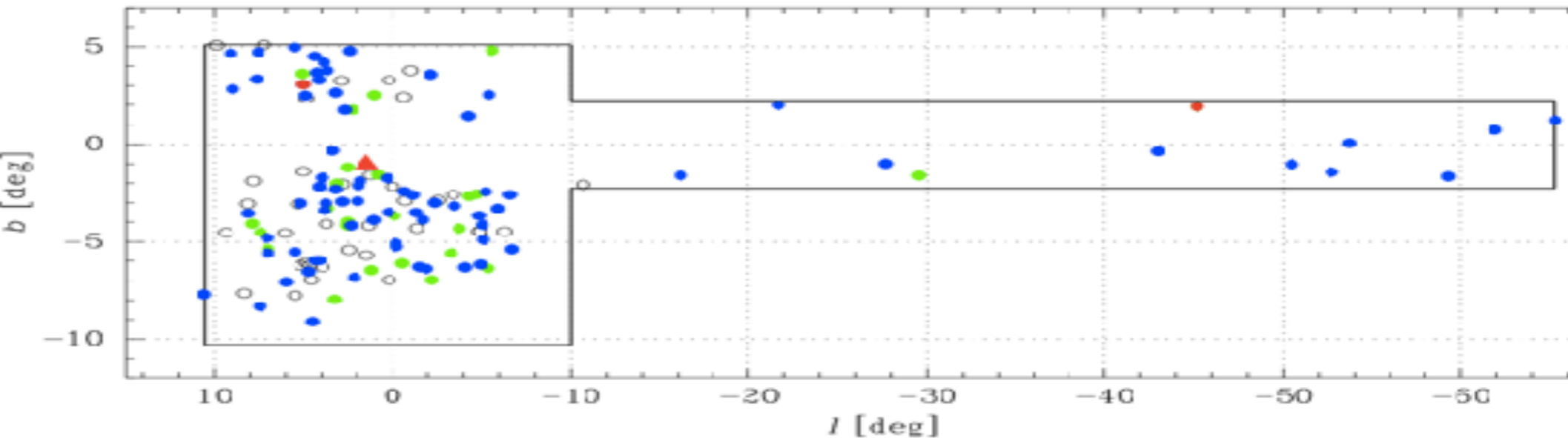
## VVV-NOV-006: the sixth Galactic nova candidate discovered by the VVV Survey

ATel #7241; *K. Montenegro (Universidad Andres Bello), D. Minniti (Universidad Andres Bello, Vatican Observatory, Millennium Institute of Astrophysics), R. K. Saito (Universidade Federal de Sergipe)*

# VVV NOVA Hunters

Catalog of 138 Known Galactic Novae

*Roberto Saito et al. A&A, 2013*



Spatial distribution of known Galactic novae in the VVV area.  
They avoid the Galactic plane, where the extinction is highest.  
We are discovering novae in the most obscured regions of the Milky Way.

**N(VVVNovae) = 20 so far.**

Roberto Saito, Nicola Masetti, Rodrigo Contreras Ramos, Daniel Majaess, Valentin Ivanov, Giuliano Pignata, Marina Rejkuba et al.

# **Transients/ Serendipity**

## **WIT (What is This?)**

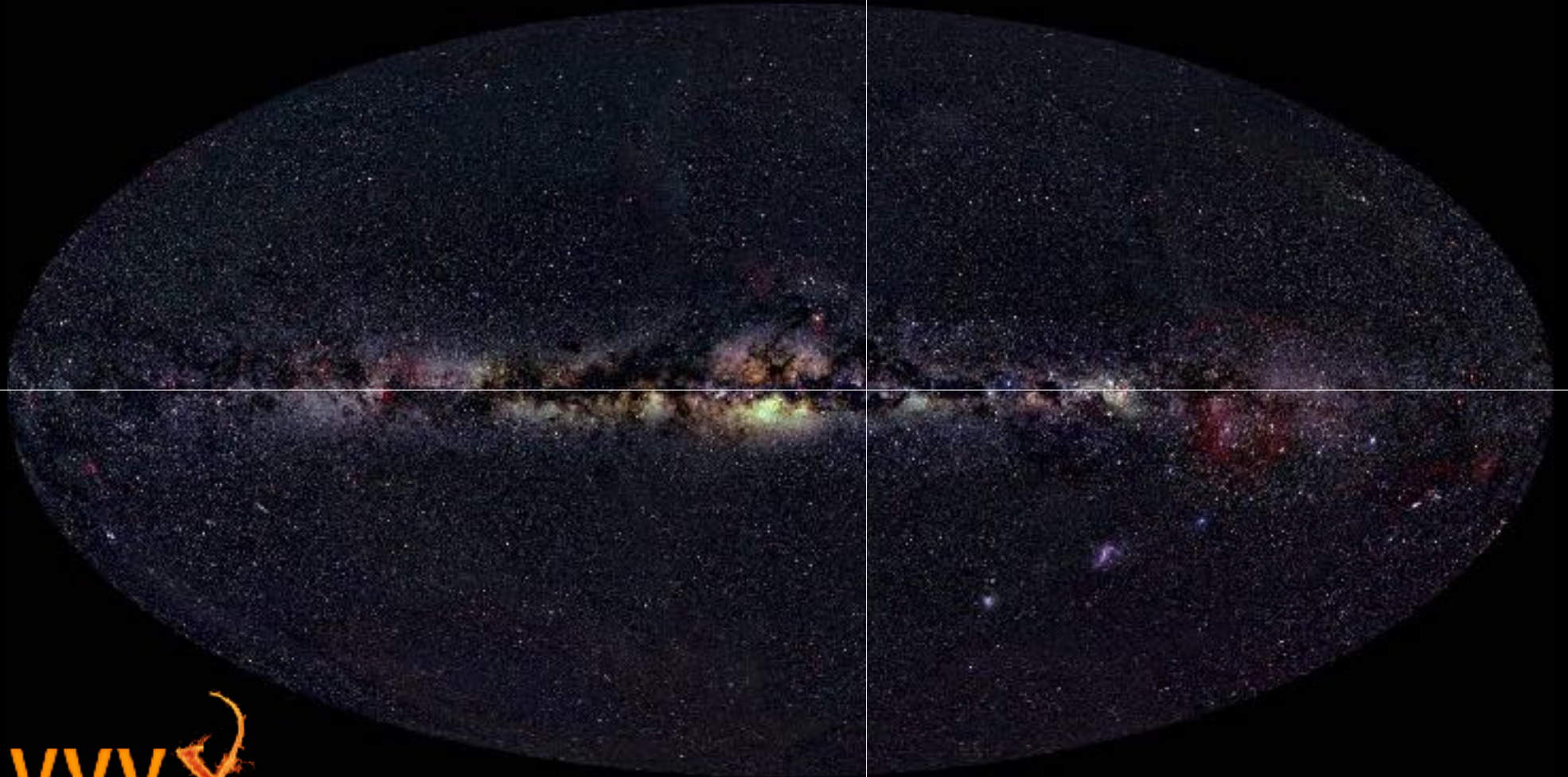


# **WIT** **(What is** **This?)**

VVV-WIT06

with R. Saito et al.

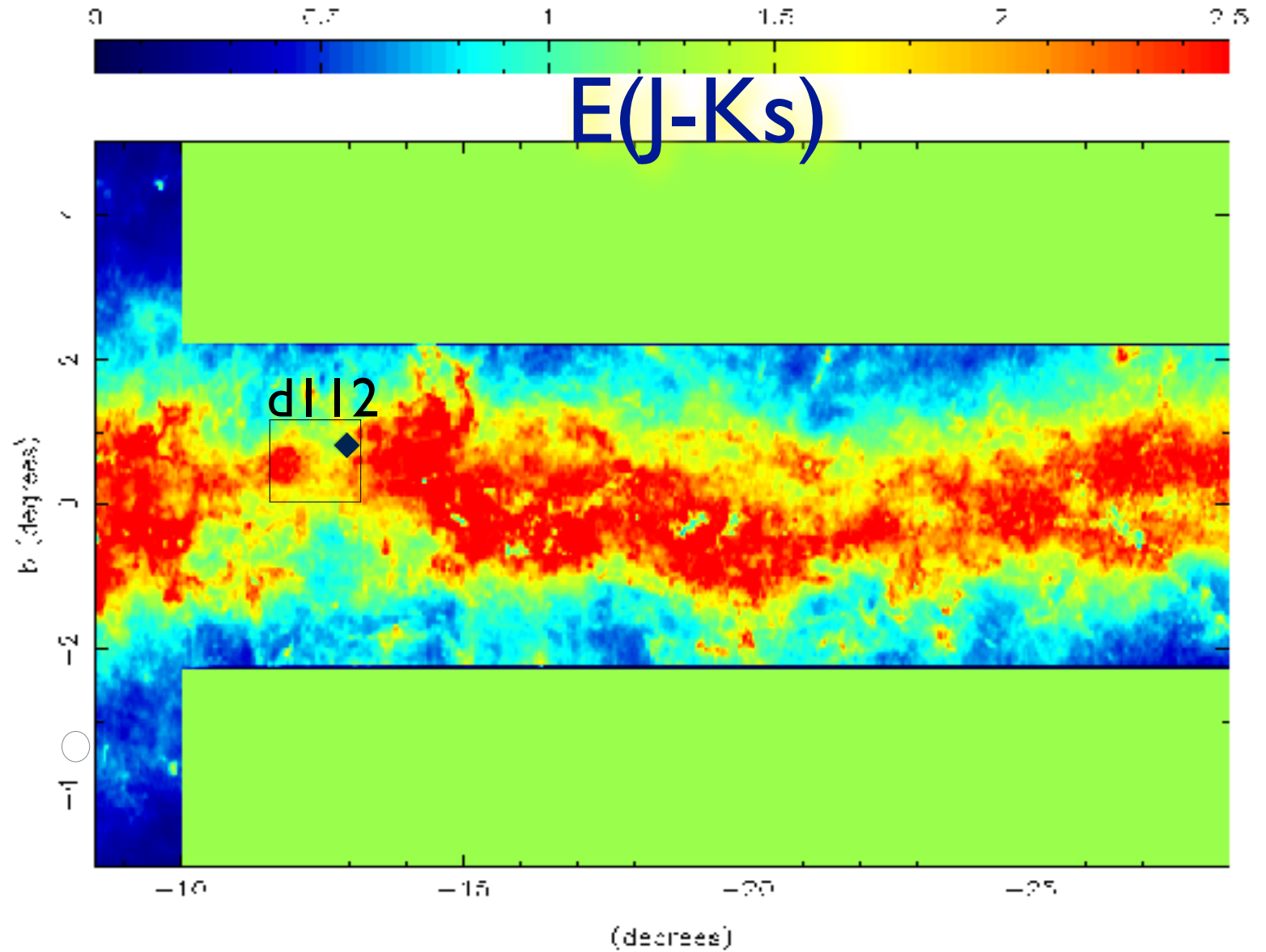
## *The Deep Sky*



**VVV**  
Survey

# VVV-WIT06

with R. Saito et al.



M. Irwin Reddening Map



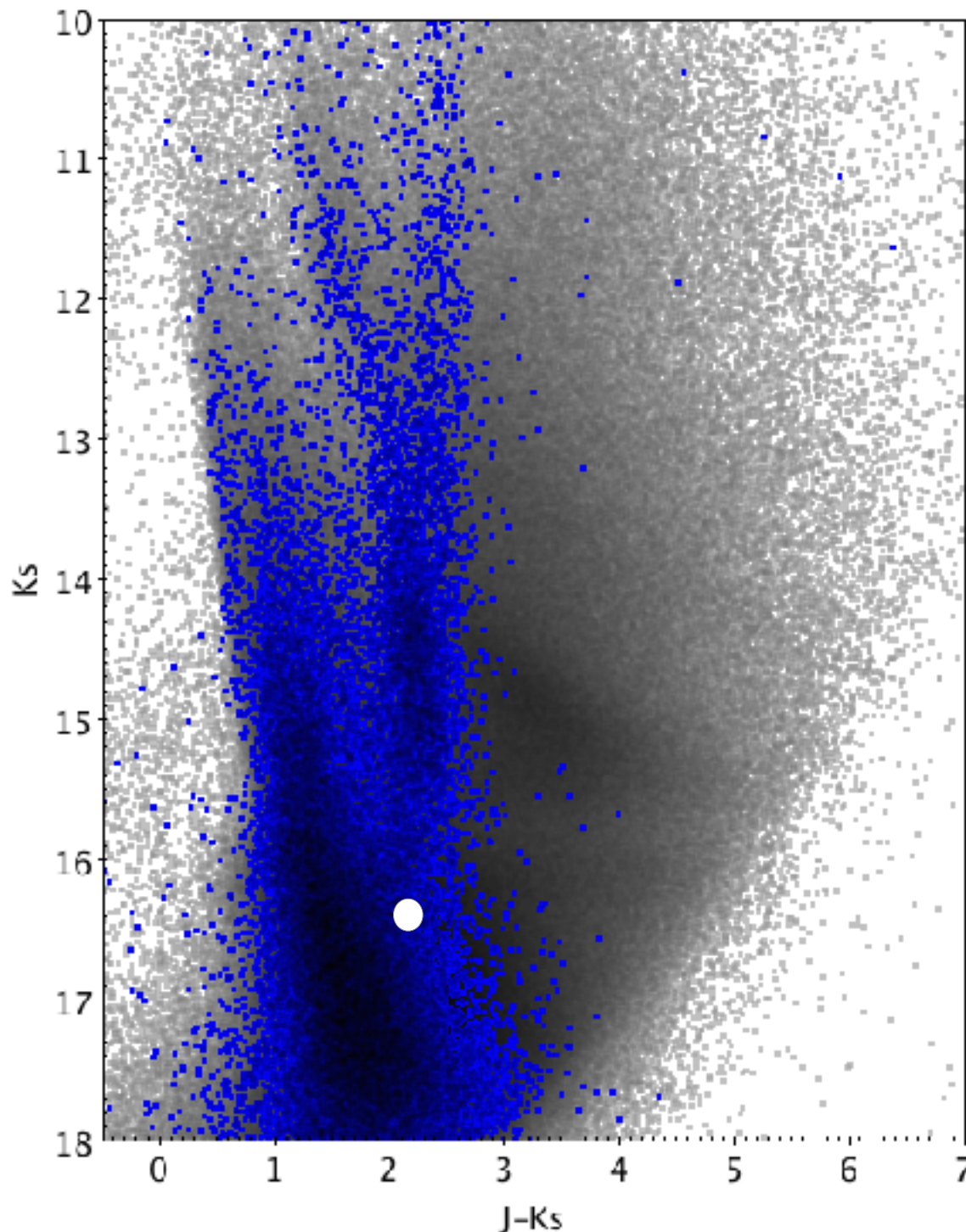
VVV-WIT06

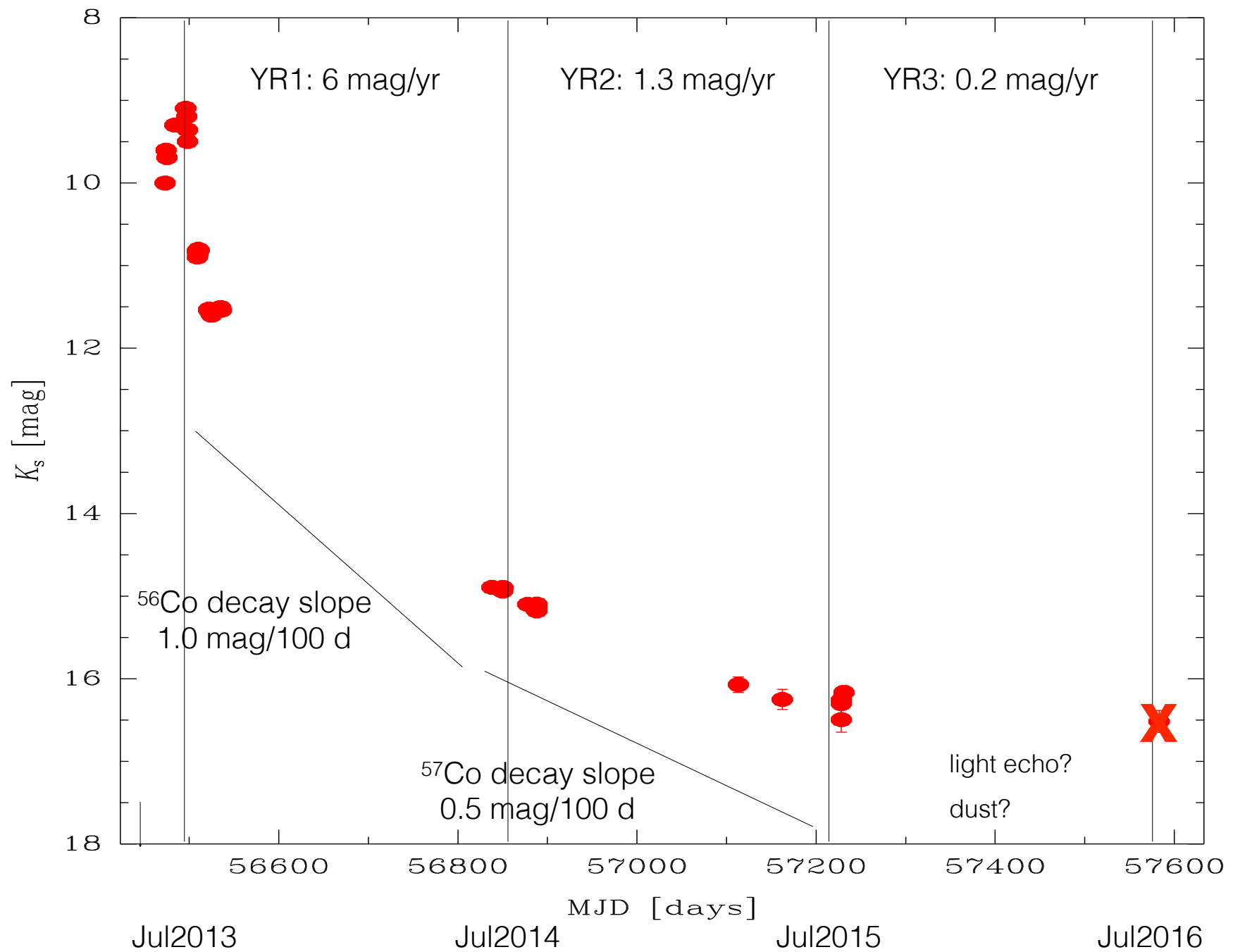
# Deep CMD

(Francisco Surot/  
Elena Valenti)

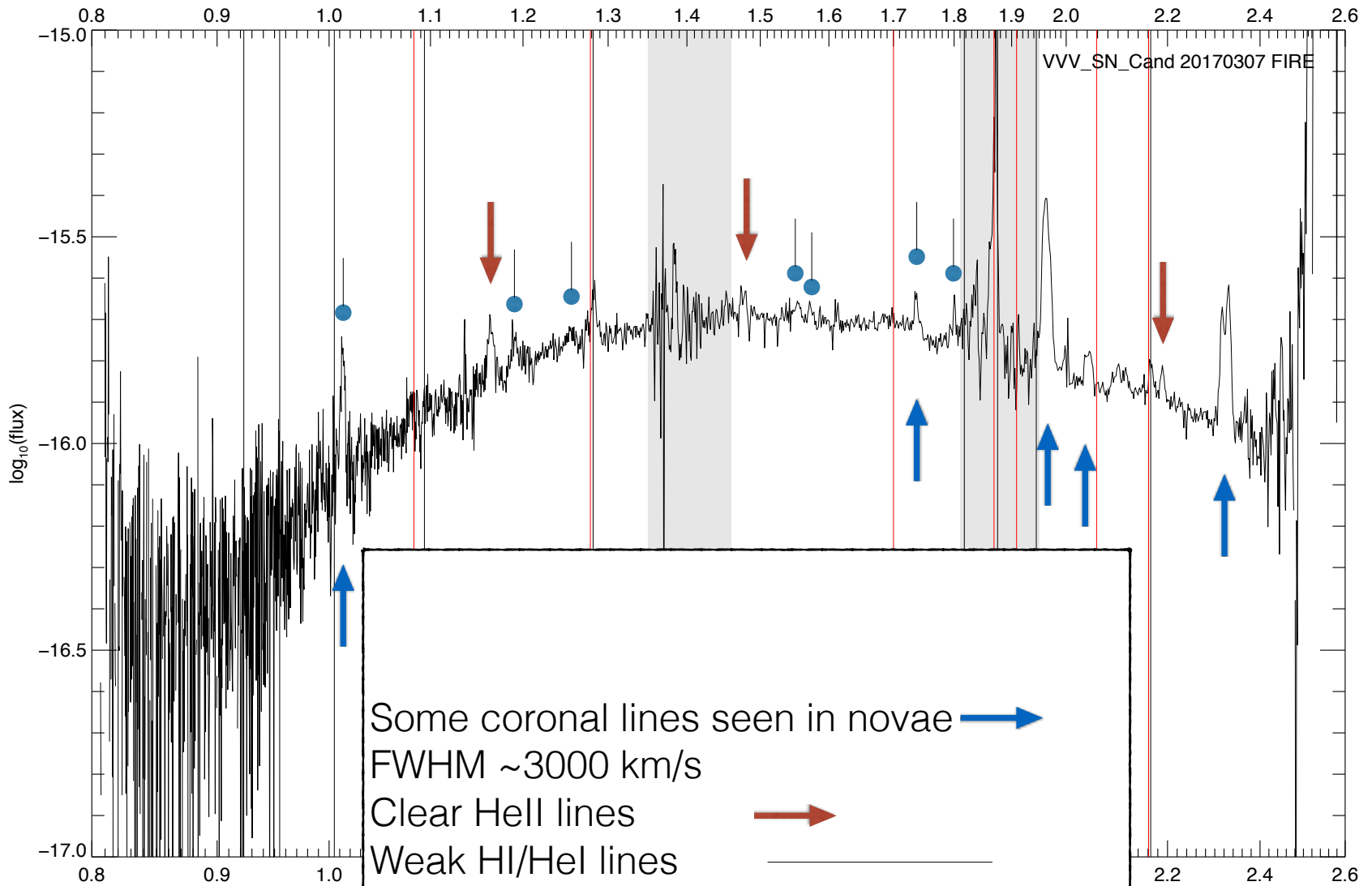
VVV tile d112  
1.5 sqdeg  
(grey)

VVV-WIT06  
5'x5'  
(blue)





# Magellan FIRE Near-IR Spectrum at $T_0+1350$ d



Some coronal lines seen in novae →  
FWHM  $\sim 3000$  km/s  
Clear H $\alpha$  lines →  
Weak H $\beta$ /HeI lines —  
Some lines seen in SNe —●  
Underlying continuum (blue-ish)



## VLT XSHOOTER Near-IR Spectrum at $T_0+1400$ d



# VVV-WIT06:

## A Galactic SN, a Nova, or a Stellar Merger ???

1 arcmin



*D. Minniti, et al. 2017, ApJL*

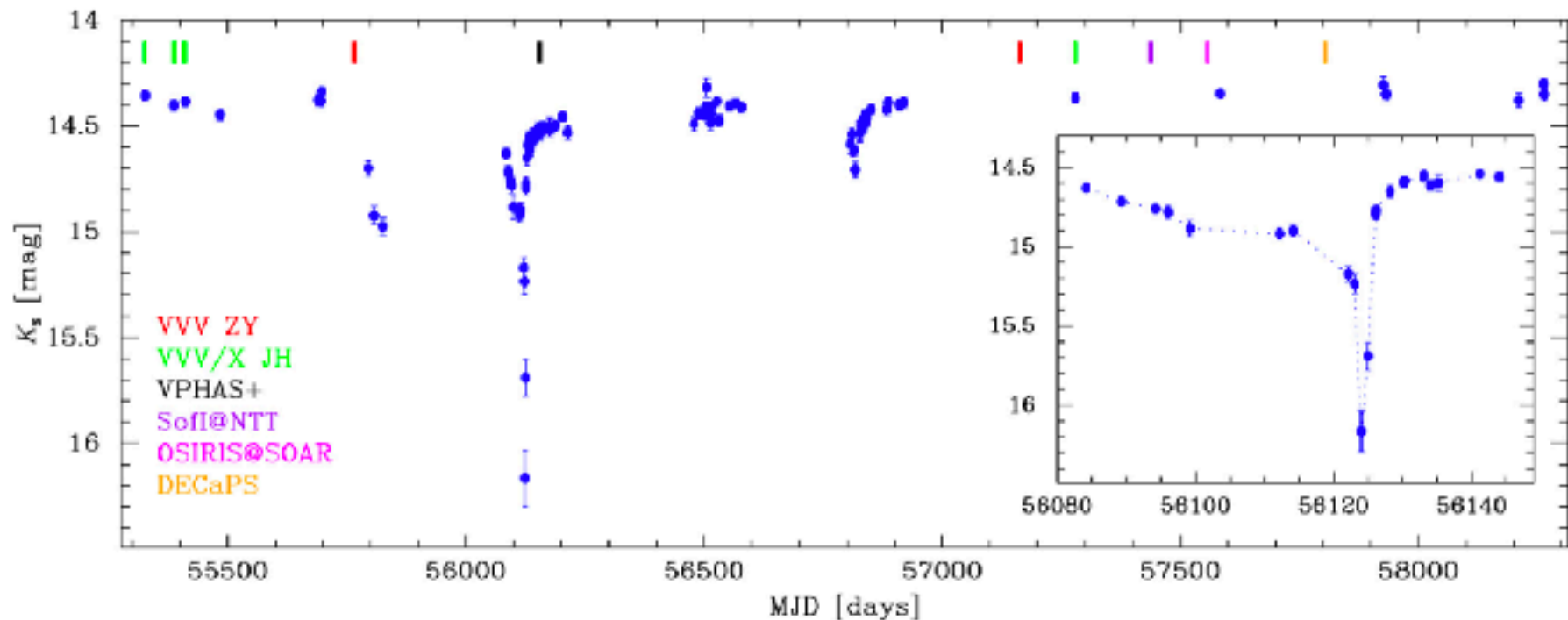
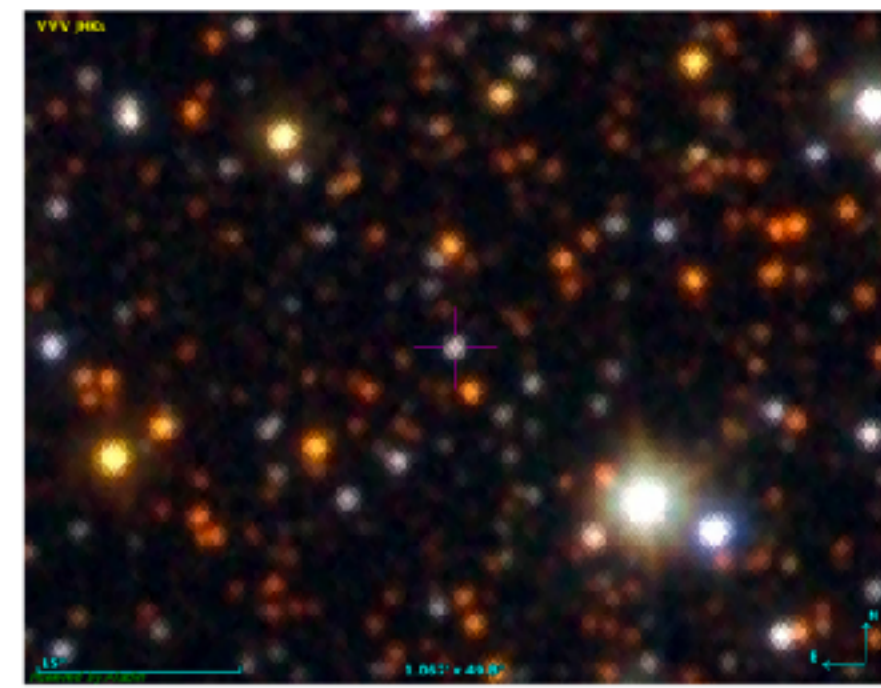
# Big data

How to find the needle in the haystack?

**VVV-WIT-07: another  
Boyajian's star or a  
Mamajek's object?**

R. Saito et al.

MNRAS 2018



**Figure 2.** VVV  $K_s$ -band light curve of VVV-WIT-007. There is a total of 85 data points covering the 2010–2018 seasons, including data from the VVVX



www.vvv.org/about/

VVV Survey

The VVV Survey is an ESO Public Survey conducted by VISTA telescope, the VVV has been mapping the Milky Way bulge and southern disk since 2010. The VVV Science Team has around 90 members.

HOME VVV SCIENCE TEAM VVV SCIENCE MEETINGS PUBLICATIONS DATA RELEASES VIDEOS ISO RELEASES


# vvvsurvey.org

HOME

Exploring the Milky Way bulge and southern disk on the near-IR with ESO's VISTA Telescope

VIOW Archive

Vista Image Of the Week by Roberto Saito



ESO cast 74a: Mapping the Southern Skies  
from VVV Survey

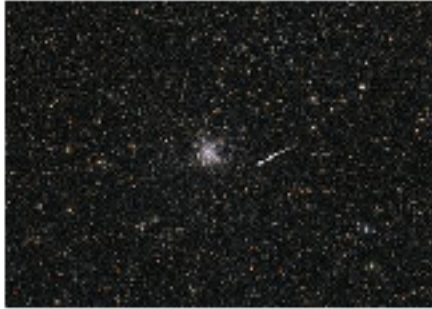
The V...  
435 likes  
Like Page

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The VISTA Variables in the Vía Láctea

Tweets

VVV Science Team @VVVScienceTeam  
6h  
VVV discovered a Microlensing event, a stellar mass black hole candidate in NGC 5550, Sagittarius  
eso.org/public/mages/...  
pic.twitter.com/MTJ0Y97ZSa



VVV Science Team @VVVScienceTeam  
A new VISTA through the Milky Way | Astron...  
Now Astronomynow.com/2015/09/04/a-n...

Kyle Willatt @kswillatt  
Map of where everyone's come from for #V...  
in Hawaii. gist.github.com/willattk71e0...  
pic.twitter.com/XPFahF2QOV  
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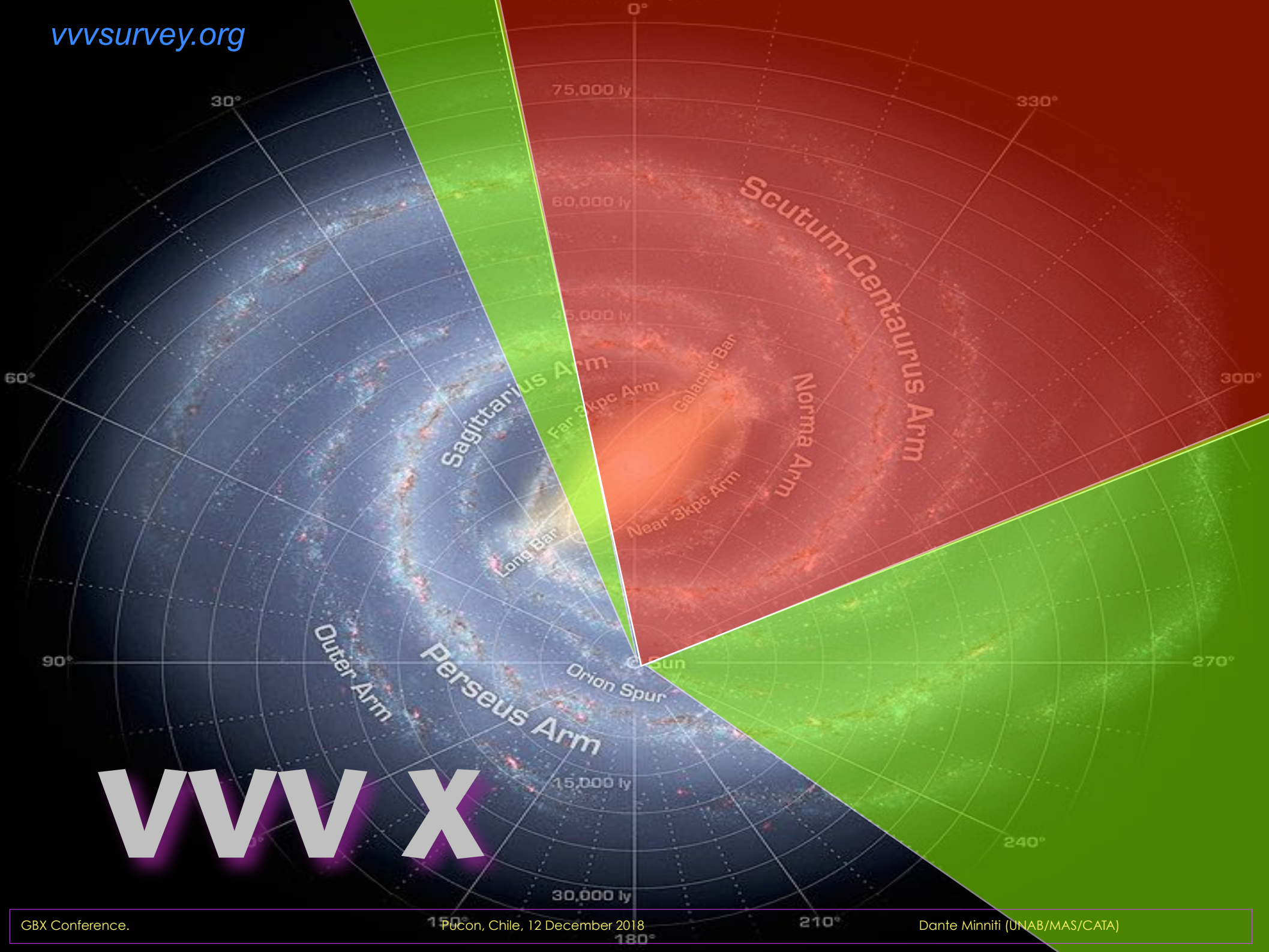
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# The VVV Extended Survey

Total Area 1700 sqdeg  
Total Time 2000 hs



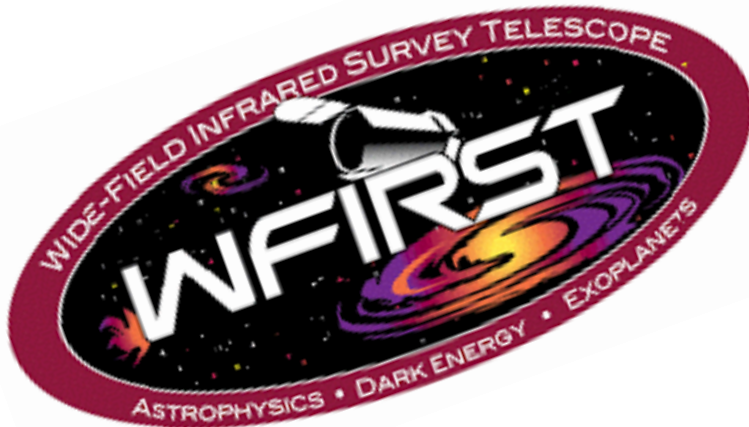
**>50% of the MW**

**VVV X**



# Near-IR variability of the bulge stellar population

## Wish List



gaia



Near-IR variability of the bulge stellar population

# Wish List

Gaia DR3

LSST Galactic plane/bulge survey

JWST census of Galactic Center RR Lyrae

MOONS @ VLT

K-band filter for WFIRST





# VVV X

## **A new near infrared survey of the inner regions of the Milky Way**

Discovering our own galaxy,  
fostering international collaborations,  
promoting Astrophysics at every level, &  
securing resources for the future generations.

Credito: Joyce Pullen



# Questions?

