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# Pulsating stars as stellar population tracers from OGLE, VISTA, VVV, Gaia and VST data

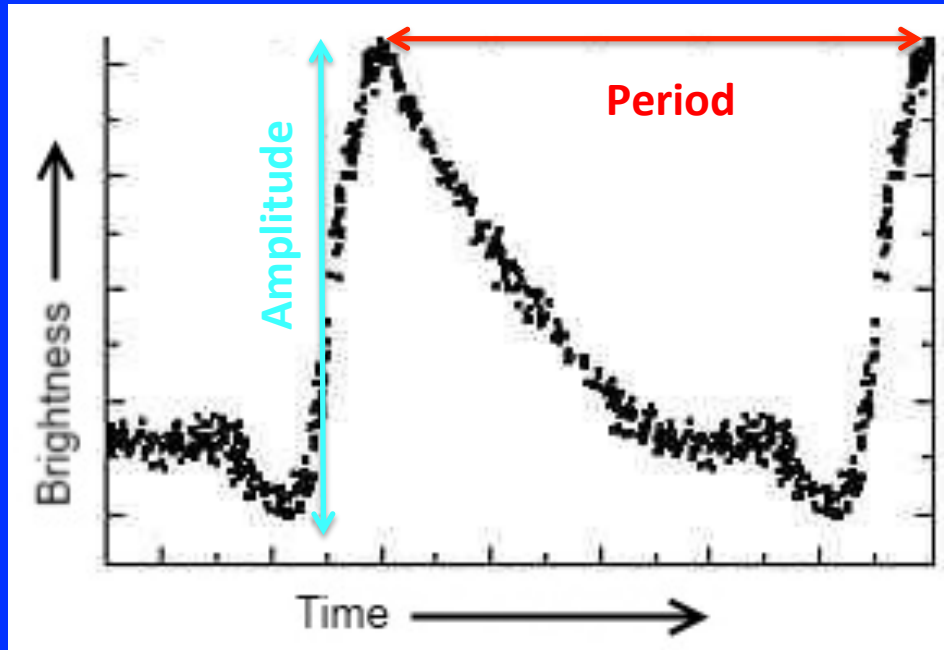


*Marcella Marconi*  
*INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico*  
*di Capodimonte*

# Outline

- Key properties of pulsating stars as stellar population tracers
- Recent results for Classical Cepheids and RR Lyrae
- Perspectives and Future developments

# Key properties of pulsating stars



- “easily” recognized thanks to the light variations
- Periods and amplitudes are unaffected by distance and reddening

*Moreover*

$$P\sqrt{\rho} = \text{const}$$

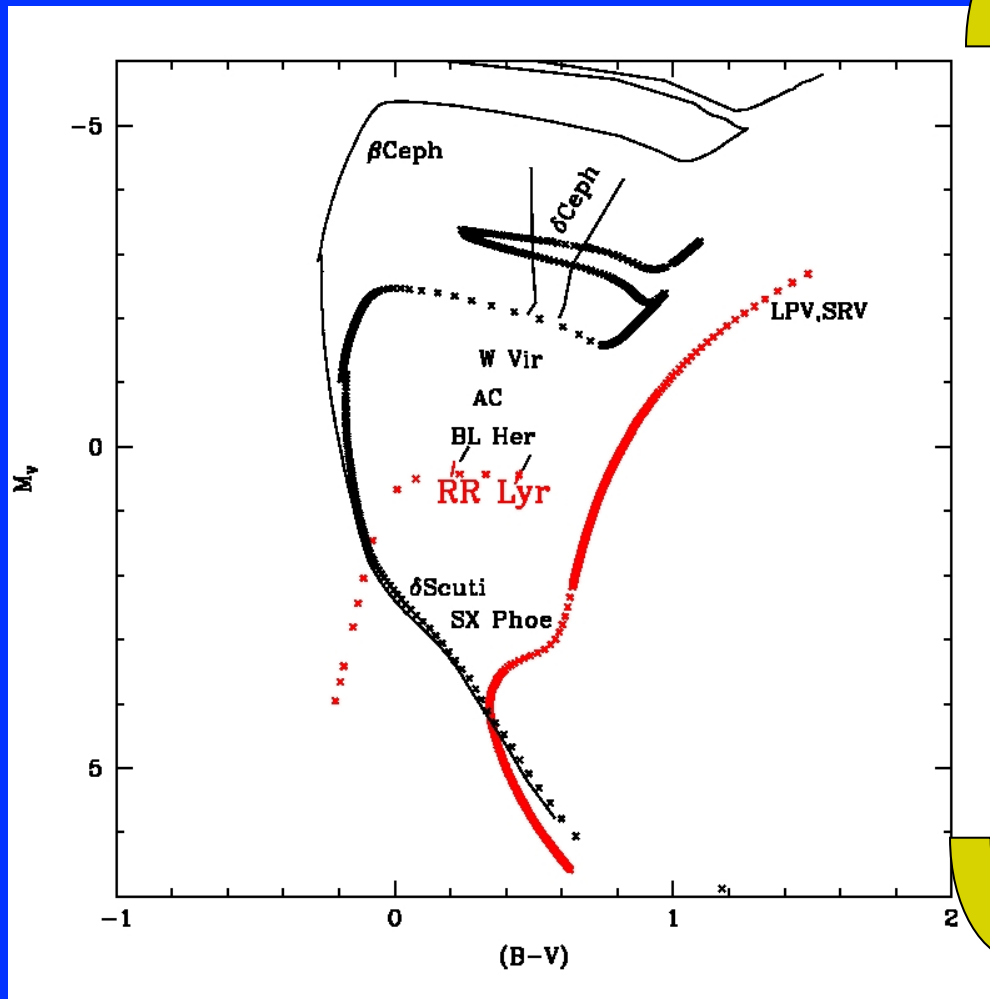
but for Stephan-Boltzman law

$$L = 4\pi\sigma R^2 T_e^4$$



$$P = P(L, M, T_e) \rightarrow PLC, PL \dots \rightarrow \text{distances}$$

# Pulsating stars trace different stellar populations



Tracers of stellar populations in galaxies

❖ old ( > 10 Gyr)

RR Lyrae, Pop II Cepheids,  
SX Phoenicis

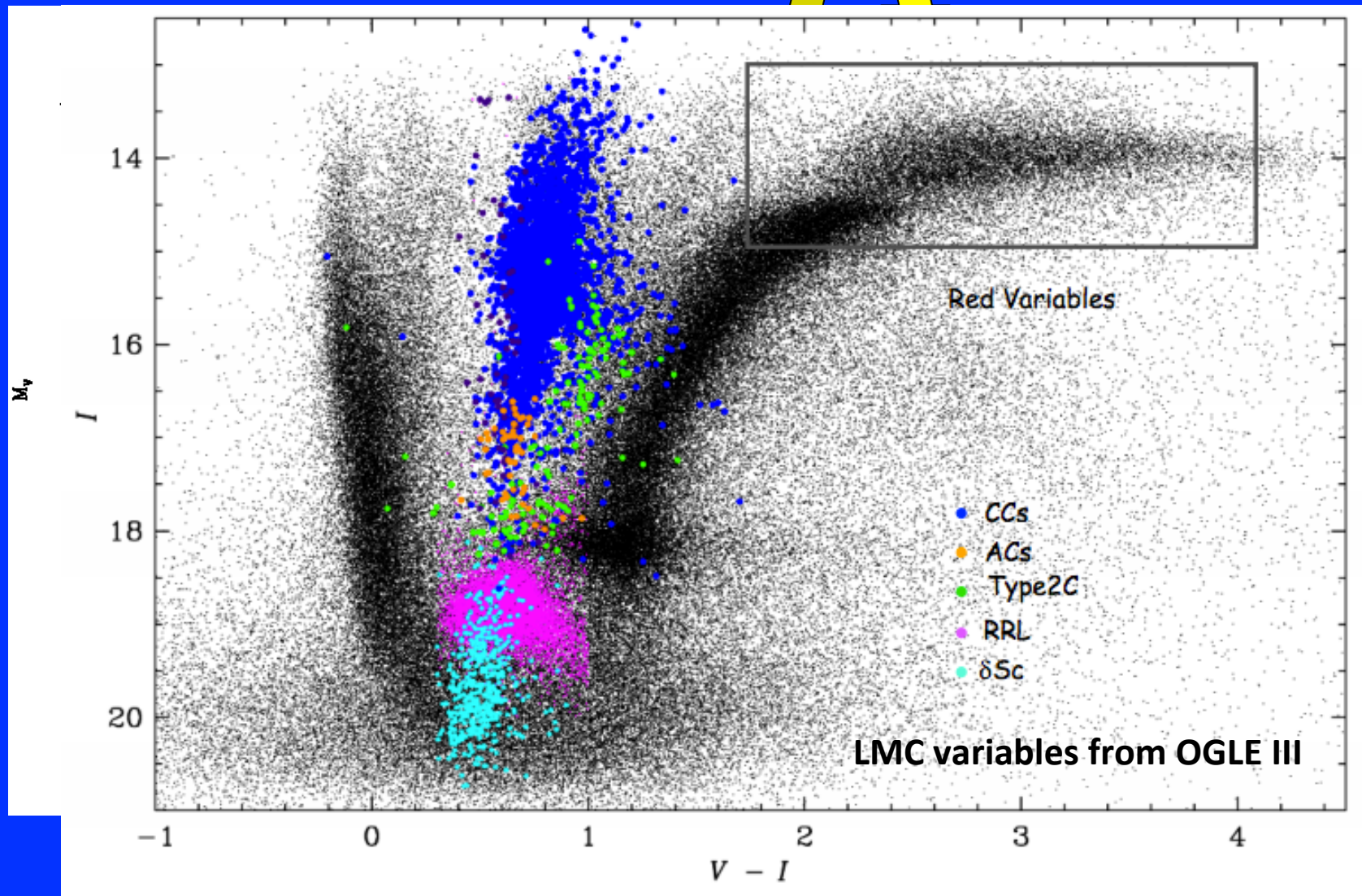
❖ intermediate age (1-5 Gy)

Anomalous Cepheids

❖ young ( $t < 100$  Myr)

Classical Cepheids

# Pulsating stars trace different stellar populations



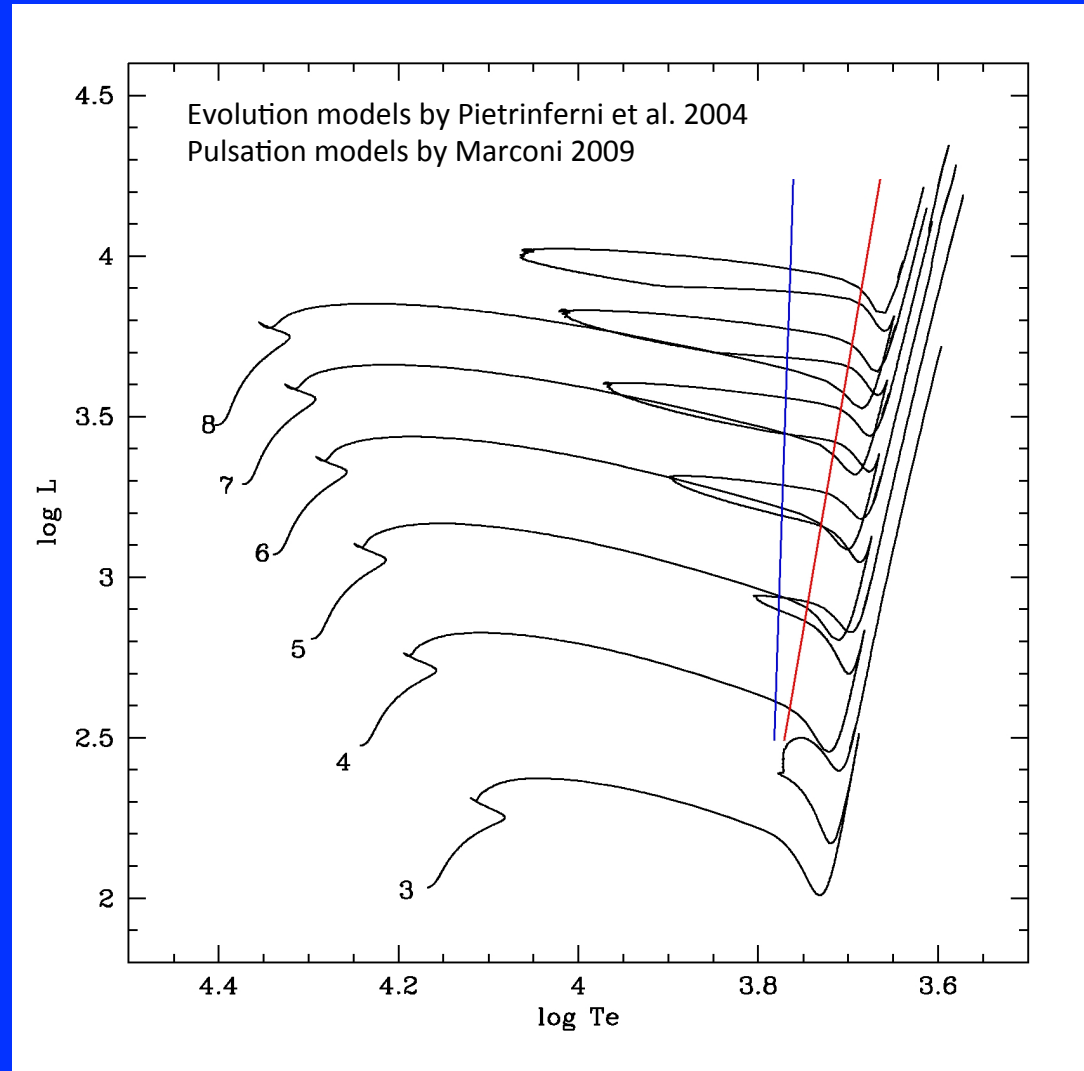
# Classical Cepheids as tracers of Pop I stars

Classical Cepheids are yellow supergiant stars

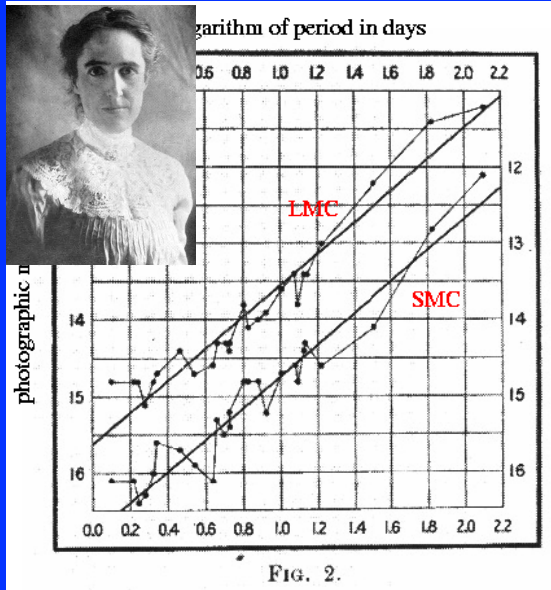
$1\text{d} \leq P \leq 100\text{d}$   
 $M_V$  from -2 to -7 mag.

Pulsation in three radial modes:  
Fundamental (F), First Overtone (FO) and Second Overtone (SO)

Associated to the so called **blue loop** → evolutionary phase of intermediate mass stars corresponding to their central Helium burning.



# Cepheids as distance indicators → 3D structure

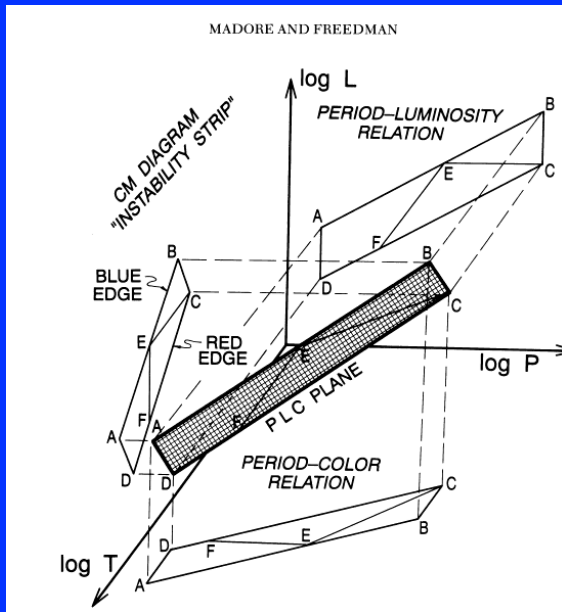


Since the discovery by Miss Leavitt (1908, 1912) in the Small Magellanic Cloud, Classical Cepheids are known to obey to a Period-Luminosity (P-L) relation.

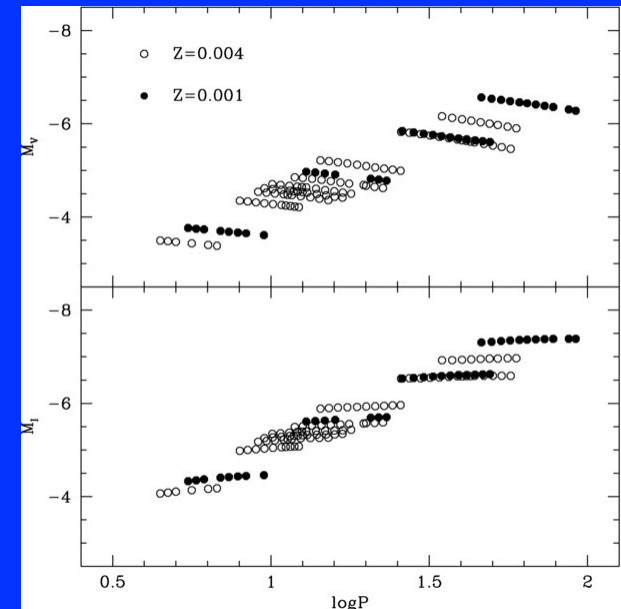
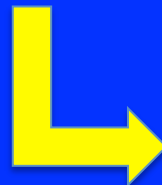
→ Calibration of the extragalactic distance scale

But the strip has a finite width → the PL relation is obtained from averaging over the color extension of the strip or, as early suggested by Madore & Freedman (1991) the PL is the projection of the PLC relation onto the PL plane.

*The PL is a statistical relation !!*

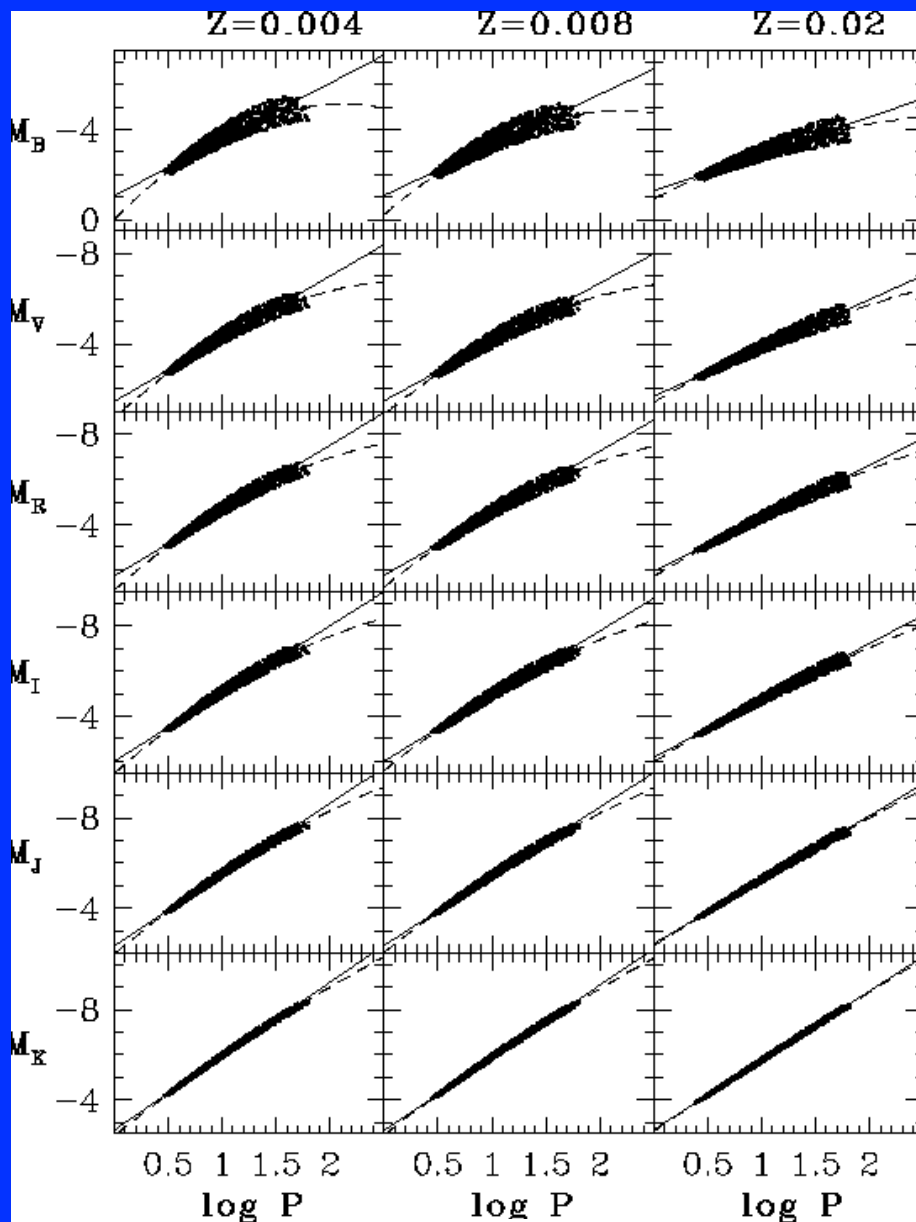


Nonlinear convective pulsation models confirm that the topology of the instability strip reflects into the PL



OPTICAL

Near-Infrared

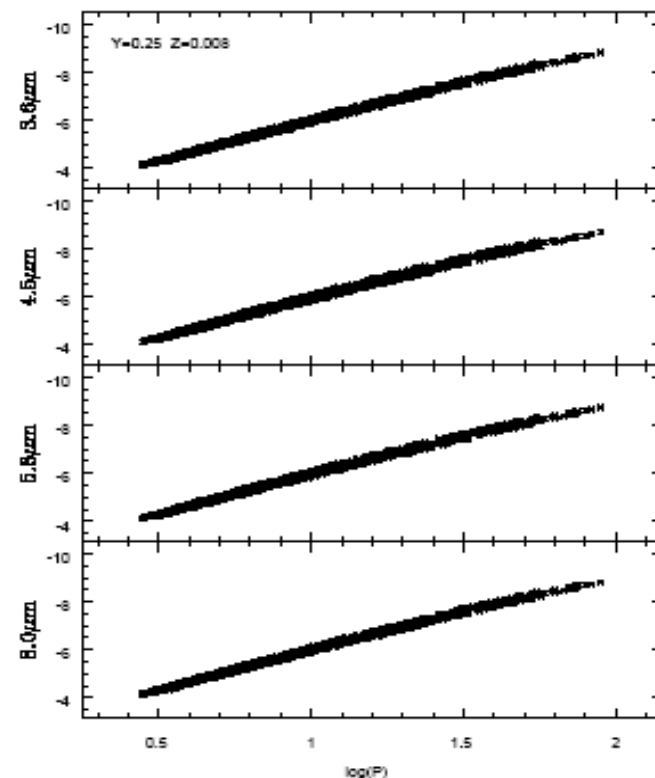


Caputo et al. 2000 A&A

*Synthetic multifilter PL relations*

*The effect reduces when moving towards longer wavelengths*

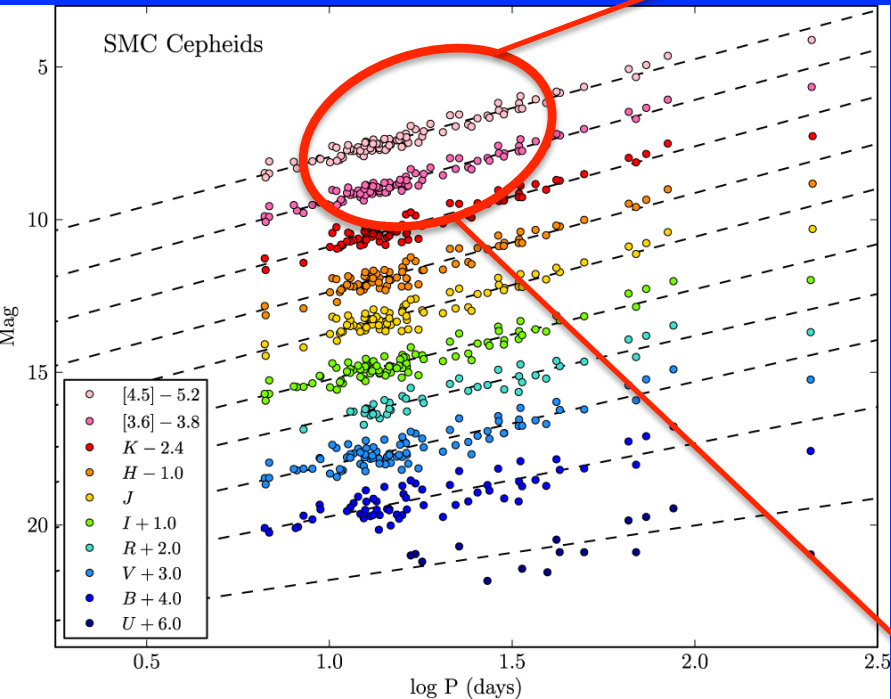
Mid-Infrared



Ngeow et al. 2012 ApJ

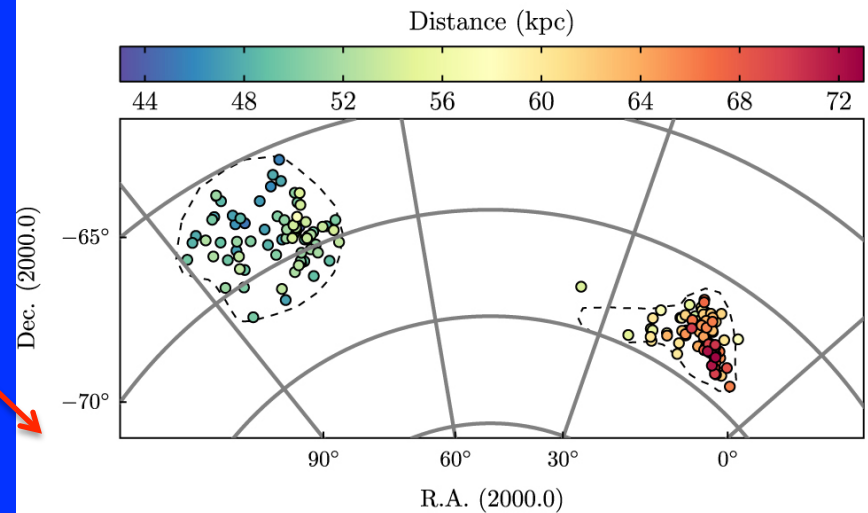
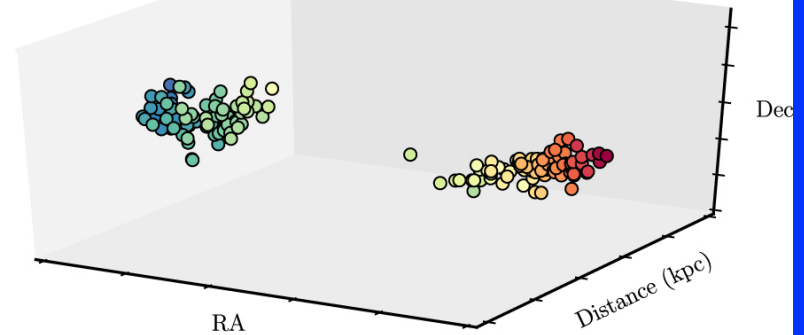
# 3D Structure of the Magellanic Clouds from MIR Cepheid data

Using the Spitzer PL relations



Scowcroft et al. 2016 ApJ 816 49

Interactive plot of Magellanic Cloud Cepheids



→ confirmed that the galaxy is tilted and elongated (eastern side up to 20 kpc closer than the western side), in agreement with the results from red clump stars and dynamical simulations.

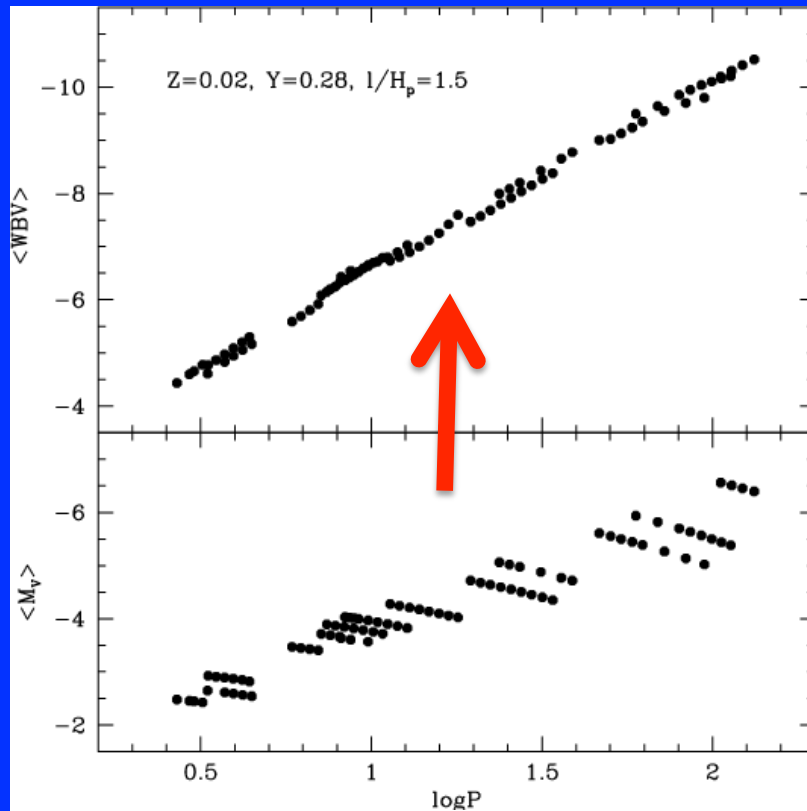
# Cepheids as distance indicators → 3D structure

The **PLC** relation holds for each individual Cepheid: measuring the period and the color, one infers the absolute magnitude and in turn the **individual distance**.

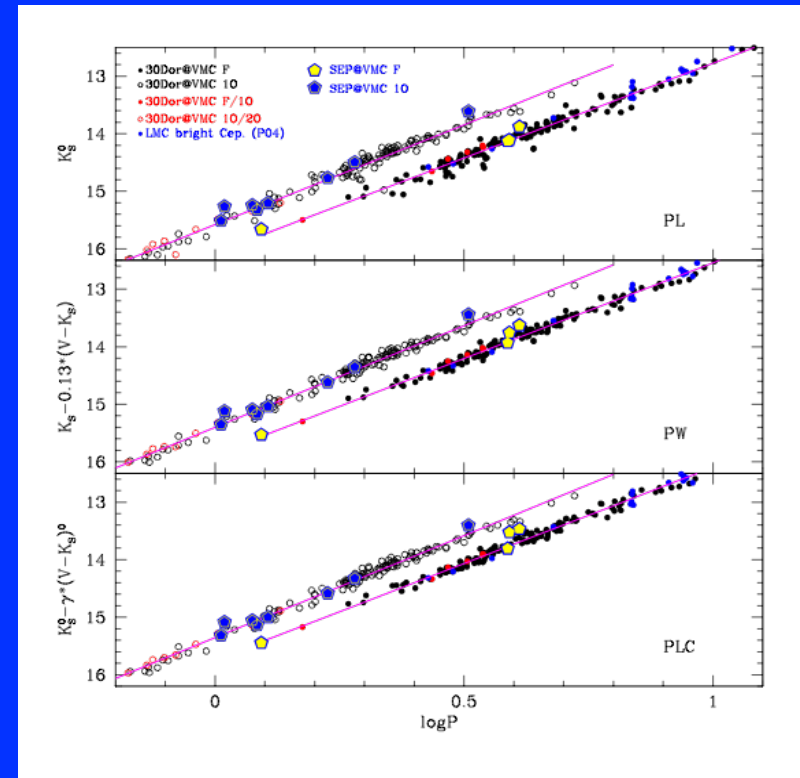
The **Period-Wesenheit (PW)** relation is not as rigorous as the PLC but is reddening free by definition.

$$\langle \text{WBV} \rangle = V - Y(B-V)$$

$$Y = A_V / E(B-V)$$



Fiorentino, Marconi et al. 2007, A&A



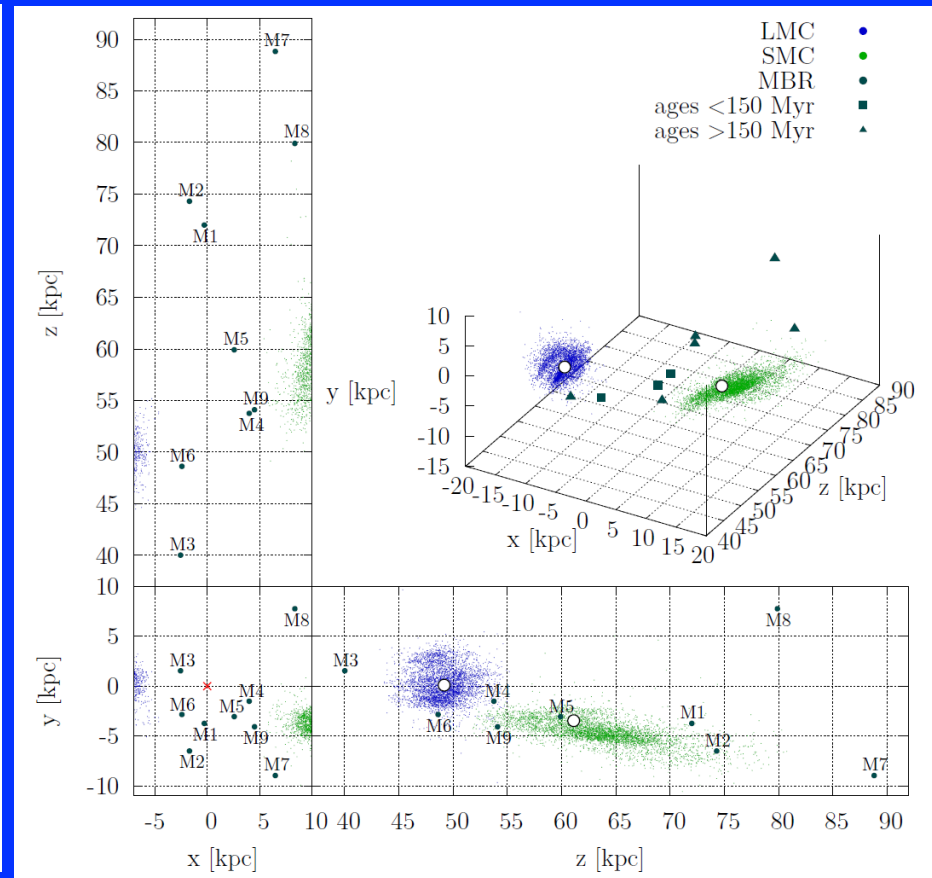
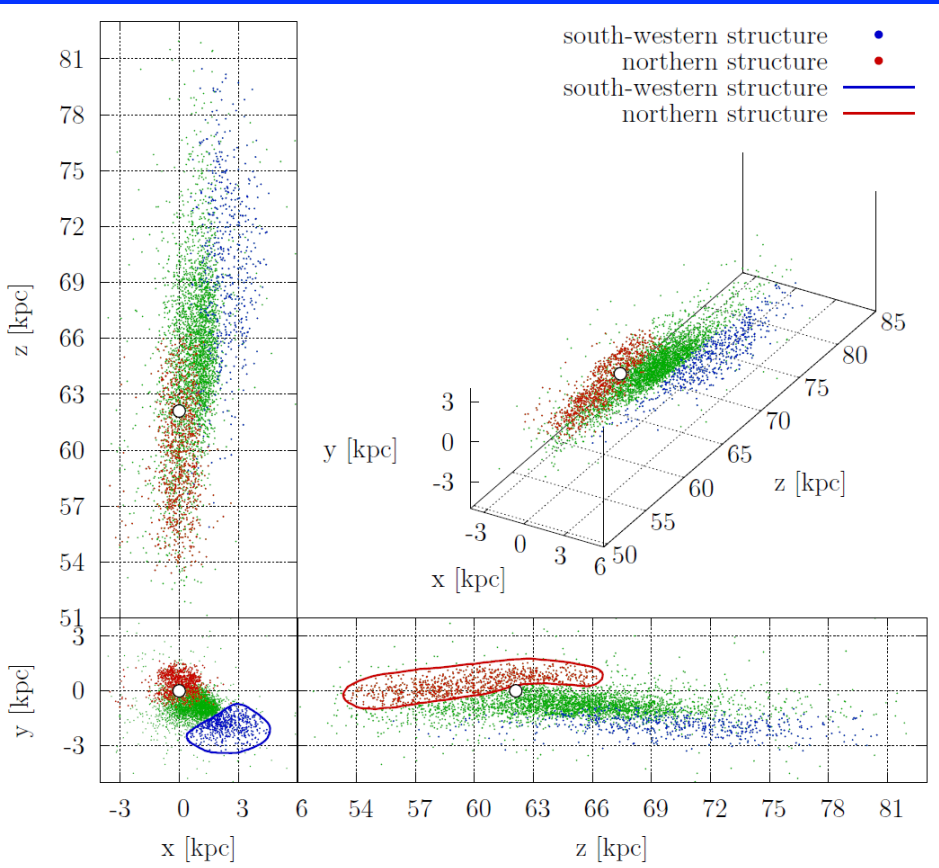
Ripepi et al. 2012 MNRAS

# Cepheids as distance indicators → 3D structure

Using the PW(VI) relation

3D structure of the SMC

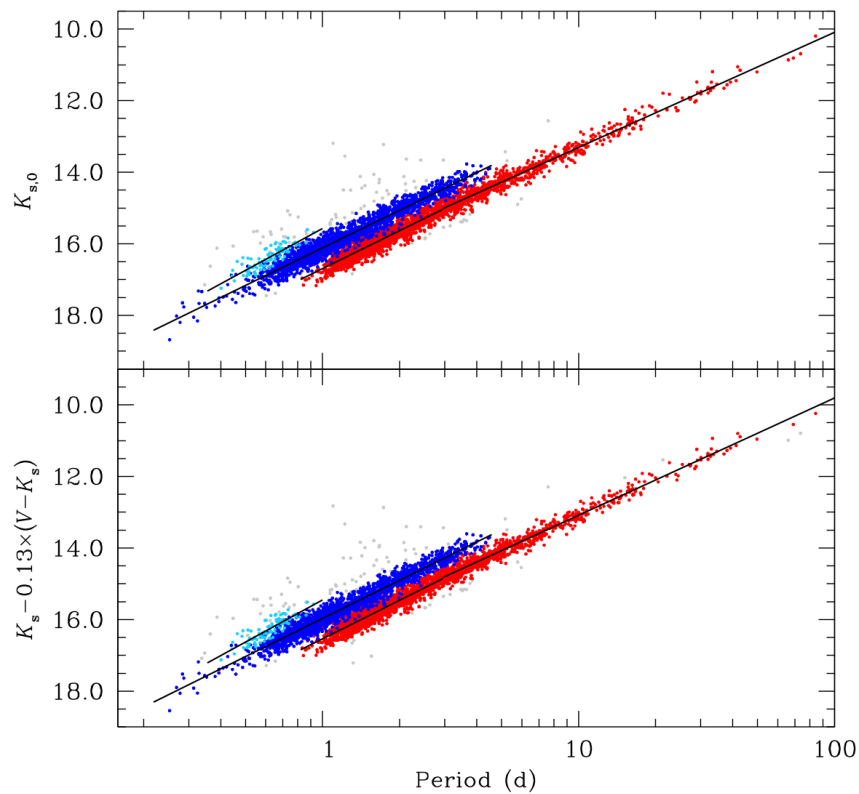
3D structure of the Bridge



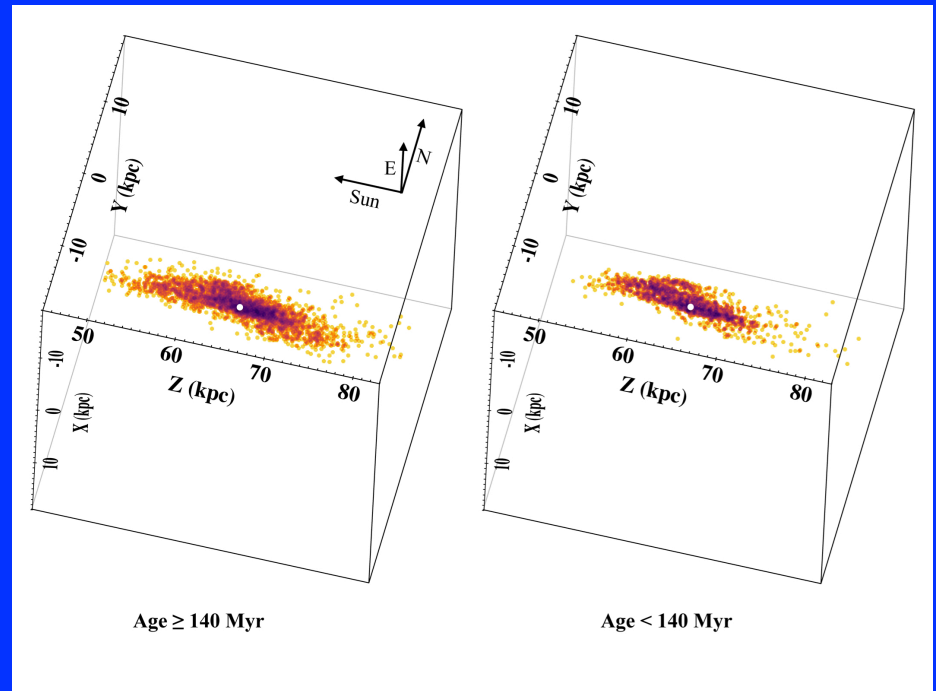
Jacyszyn-Dobrzeniecka et al. 2016

Application to SMC Cepheid VMC@VISTA data  
(Ripepi et al. 2017 MNRAS in press)

Individual distances from PW(VK)  $\rightarrow$  3D structure



Ripepi et al. 2017 MNRAS



$\rightarrow$  The Cepheid distribution is not planar but significantly elongated over more than 25-30 kpc approximately in the E/NE towards SW direction.

# Cepheids as age indicators

$$P\sqrt{\rho} = \text{cost}$$

Stefan-Boltzmann  
ML relation

**PLC relation**

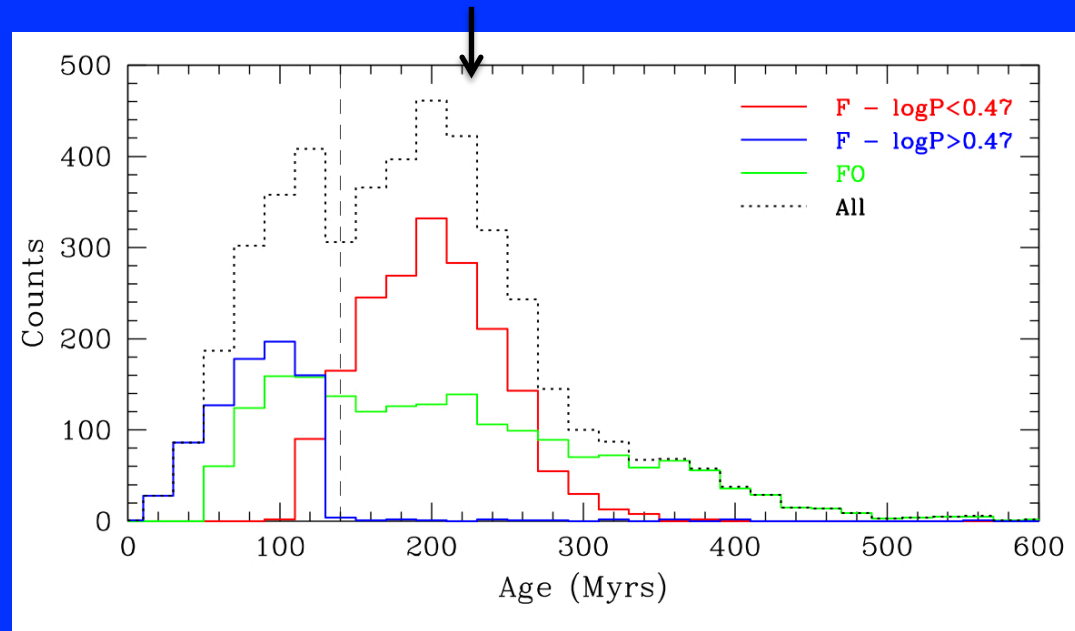
ML relation  
Mass-Age relation

**Period-Age-Color  
(PAC) relation**

Average over the  
col. width of the IS

**Period-Age (PA)  
relation**

The age distribution of SMC Cepheids  
based on theoretical PA and PAC and  
OGLE optical +VMC@VISTA NIR data

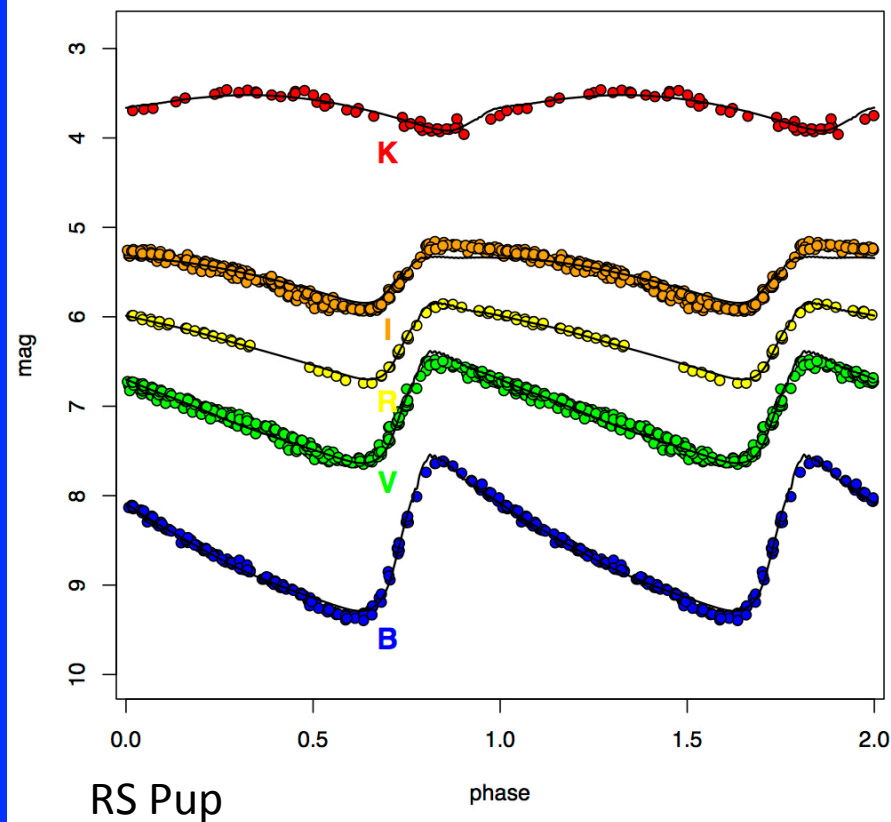


Ripepi et al. 2017 MNRAS

Bimodal, with two peaks at  $120 \pm 10$  and  $220 \pm 10$  Myr

All the parameters can be simultaneously constrained through the model fitting technique that is being tested with Gaia

$T_{\text{eff}}=4875$ ,  $\log(L/L_{\odot})=4.19$ ,  $M/M_{\odot}=9$ ,  $\alpha=1.5$



$P \approx 41.5$  d, known to be surrounded by a circumstellar nebula reflecting the light from the central star (Kervella 2008)

→ independent geometric parallax:

$$\pi_{\text{K08}} = 0.502 \pm 0.007 \text{ mas}$$

→ Gaia DR2 parallax

$$\pi_{\text{Gaia}} = 0.584 \pm 0.026 \text{ mas}$$

→ Theoretical model fitting parallax

$$\pi_{\text{FIT}} = 0.58 \pm 0.03 \text{ mas}$$

in excellent agreement with Gaia estimate.

For the light curves literature optical data, mainly Groenewegen, Fernie, Ngeow... + 2MASS

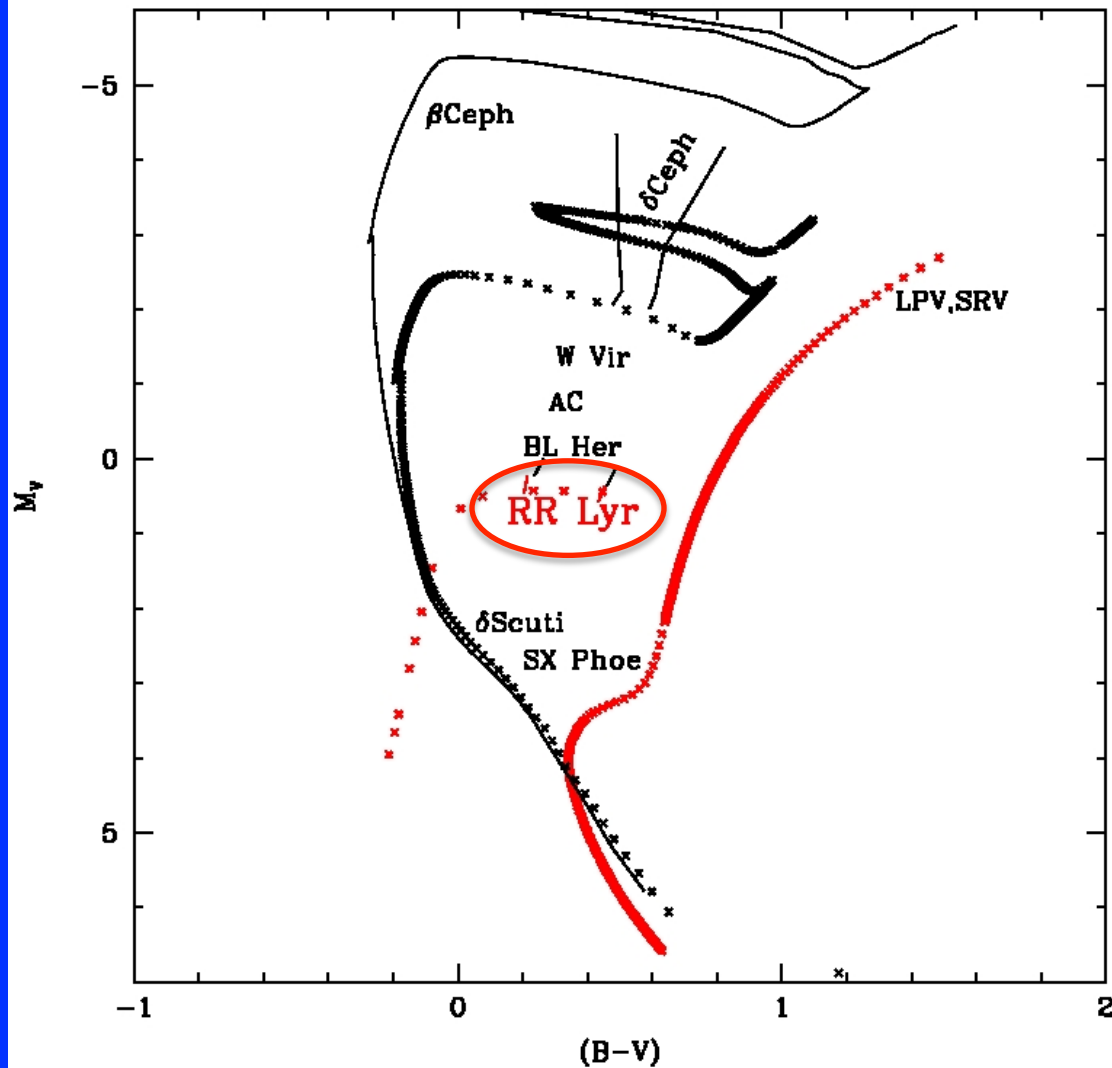
# Power of **Gaia** and future **LSST** observations:

If **accurate distances are available** from these missions and **metallicities are known** from complementary spectroscopic surveys...



→ information on the Mass-Luminosity, Helium content, and in turn on the  $\Delta Y / \Delta Z$ , extinction law...

# RR LYRAE



*RR Lyrae are low mass Helium burning stars, on the so called **Horizontal Branch (HB)** in the HR diagram.*

*Most abundant class of pulsating stars in the Milky Way found both in the field and in GCs*

*P from  $\sim 0.3$  d to  $\sim 1.0$  d*

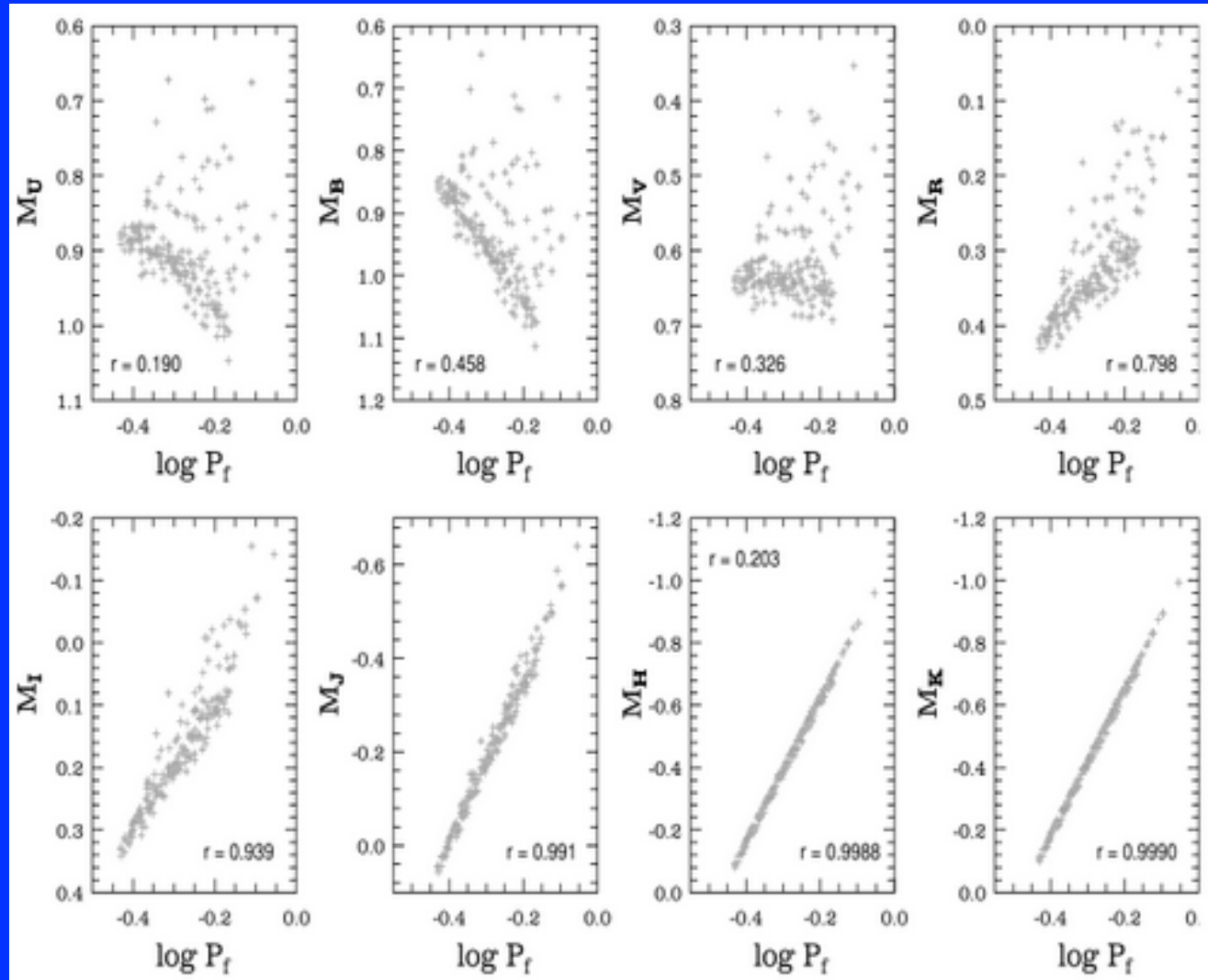
*$A_V$  from  $\sim 0.2$  to  $\sim 1.8$  mag*

**Tracers of the chemical and dynamical properties of old stellar populations**

# RR Lyrae as distance indicators

## PL relation: only in the NIR

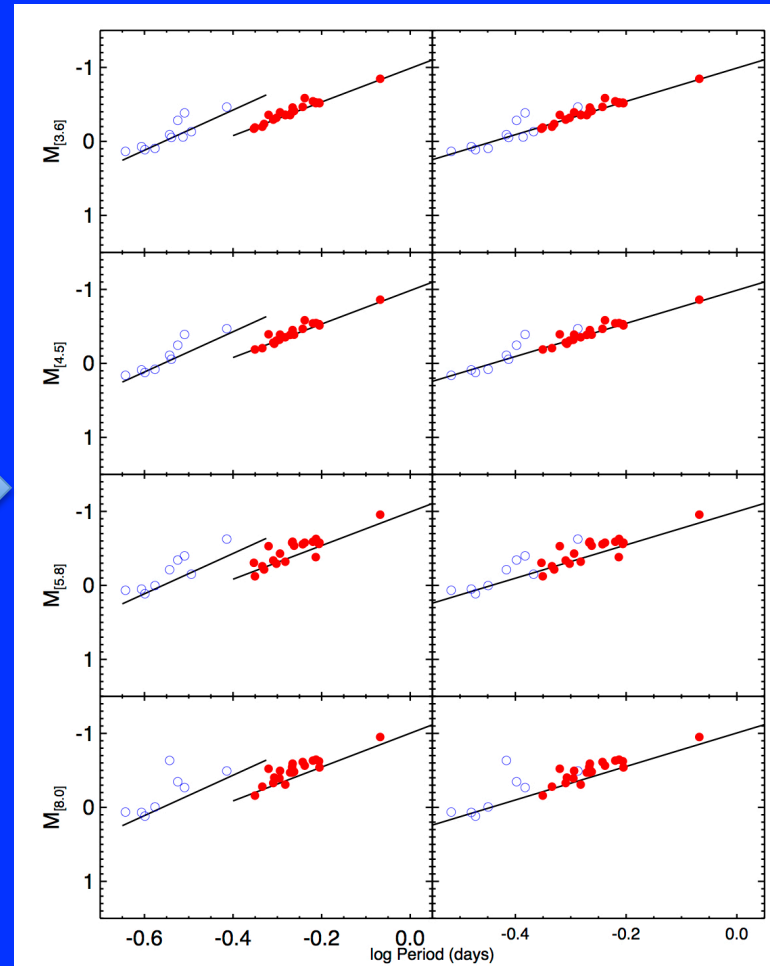
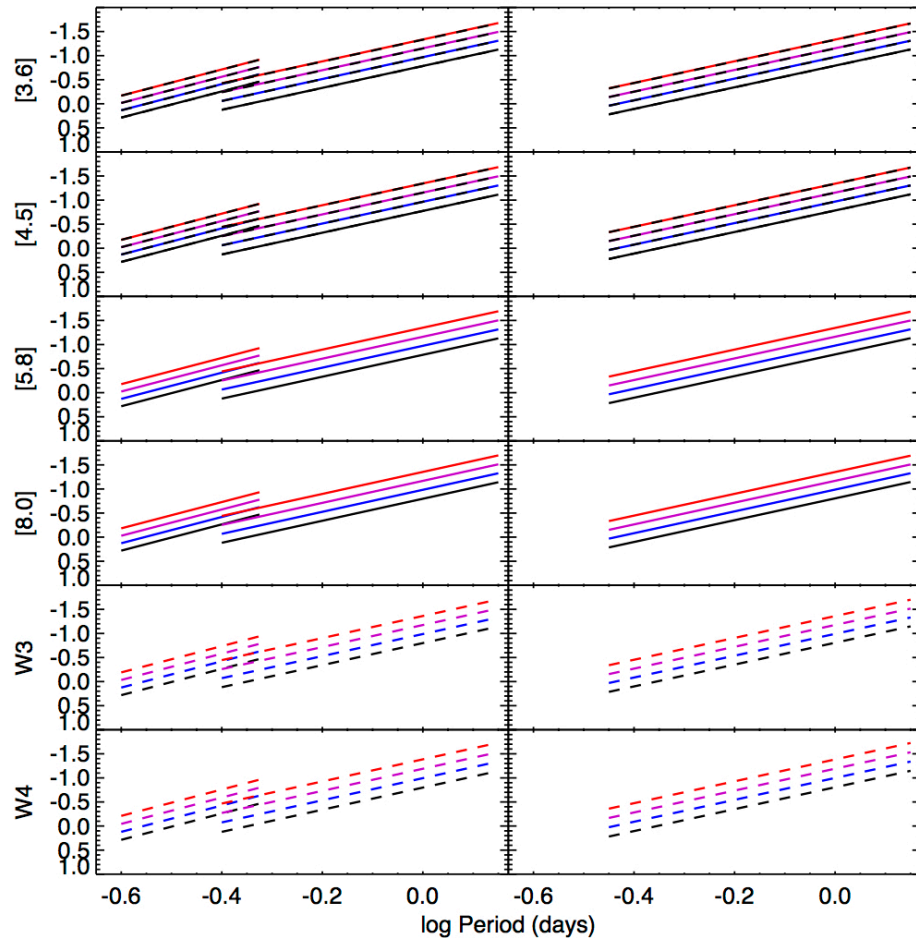
*(since the pioneering investigations by Longmore et al. 1986, 1990 MNRAS)*



Catelan 2004

# RR Lyrae as distance indicators

## Theoretical MIR PLZ relations: application to M4 RR Lyrae

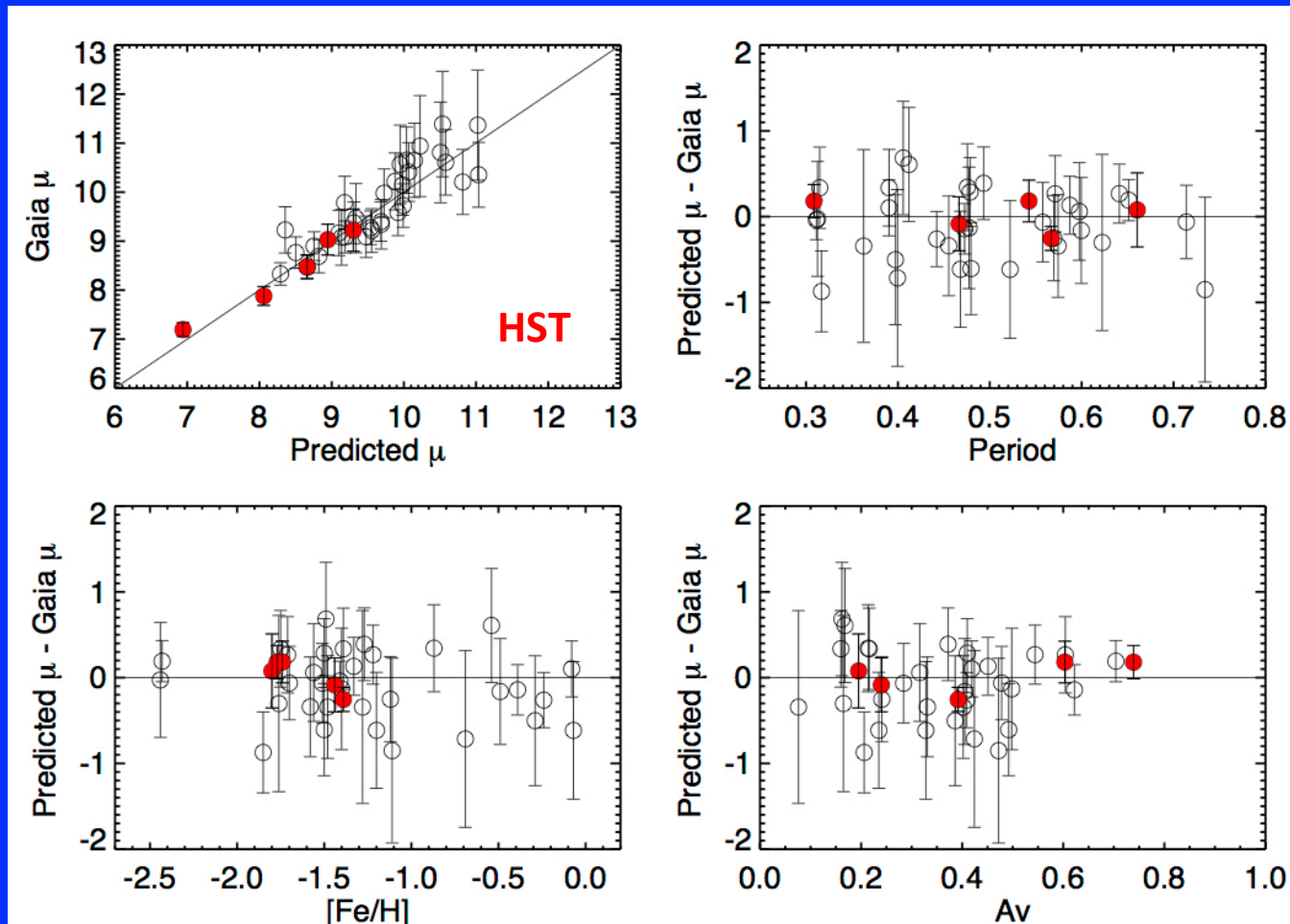


$$\mu_0 = 11.257 \pm 0.035 \text{ mag}$$

*Neeley et al. 2017 ApJ*

# Comparison between predicted and Gaia distances

41 Galactic RR Lyrae



*Neeley et al. 2017 ApJ*

# The theoretical metal-dependent WESENHEIT relations

B,B-V Wesenheit  
is not sensitive to  
metallicity !!!

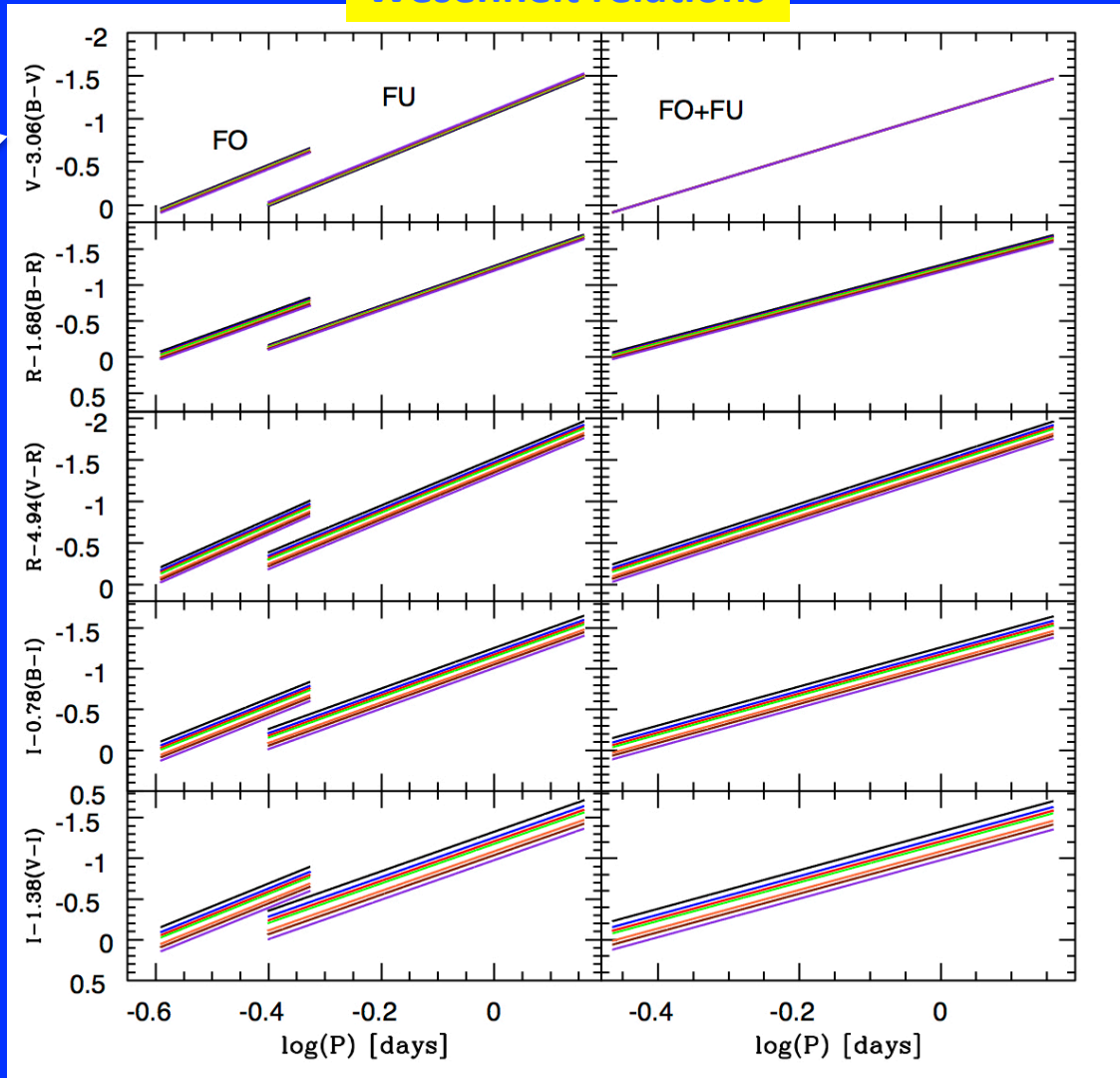
$Z=0.0001, 0.0003, 0.0006,$   
 $0.001, 0.004, 0.008, 0.02$

$M_{\text{ZAHB}} \quad \log L_A = \log L_{\text{ZAHB}}$   
 $\log L_B = \log L_{\text{ZAHB}} + 0.1 \text{ dex}$   
 $\log L_D = \log L_{\text{exhaustion}}$

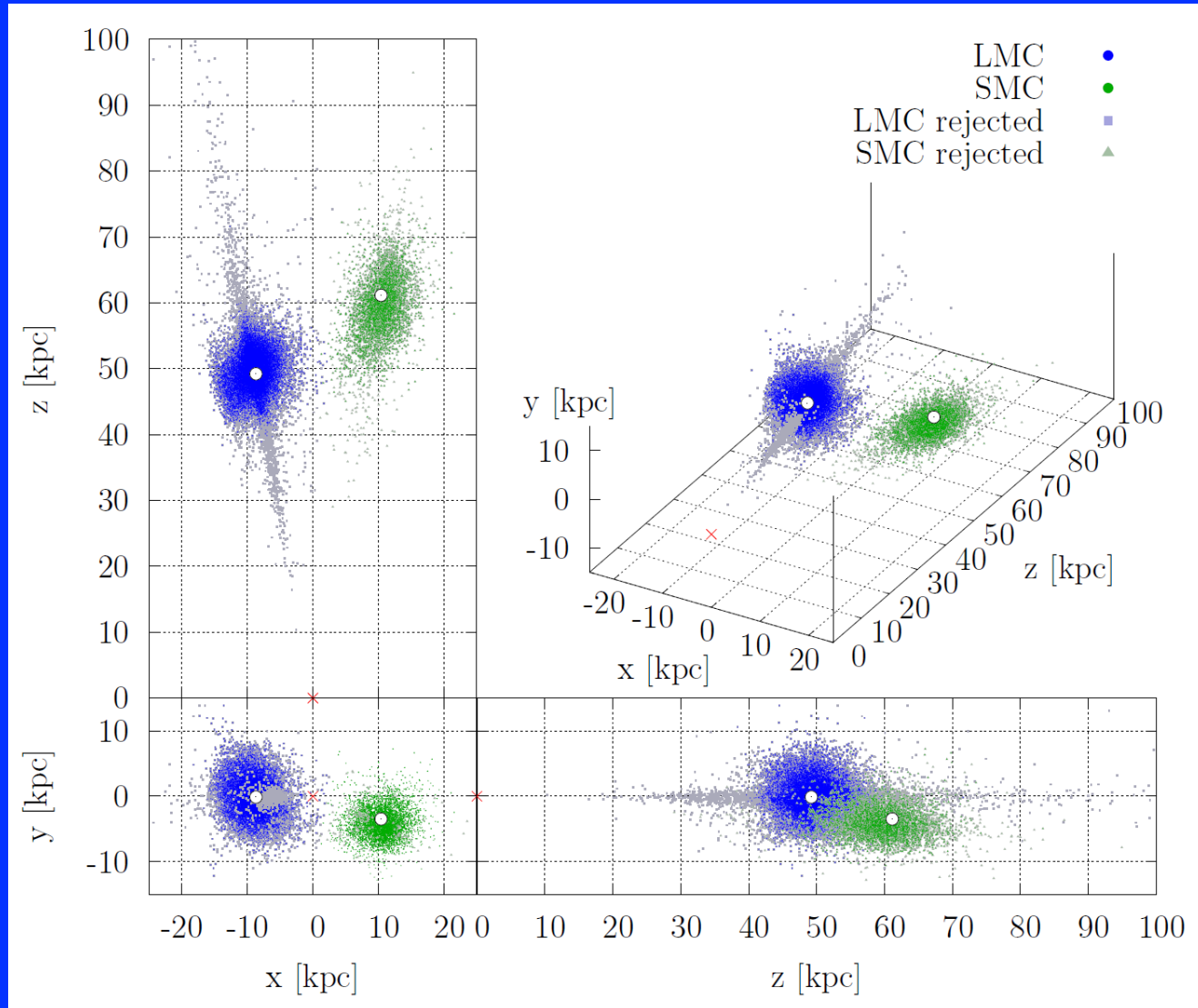
$M$  lower by 10%  
 $\log L_C = \log L_{\text{ZAHB}} + 0.2 \text{ dex}$

*Marconi et al. 2015 ApJ*

Wesenheit relations



# Three-dimensional analysis of a sample of 22 859 type ab RR Lyrae stars in the Magellanic System from the OGLE-IV Collection of RR Lyrae stars.



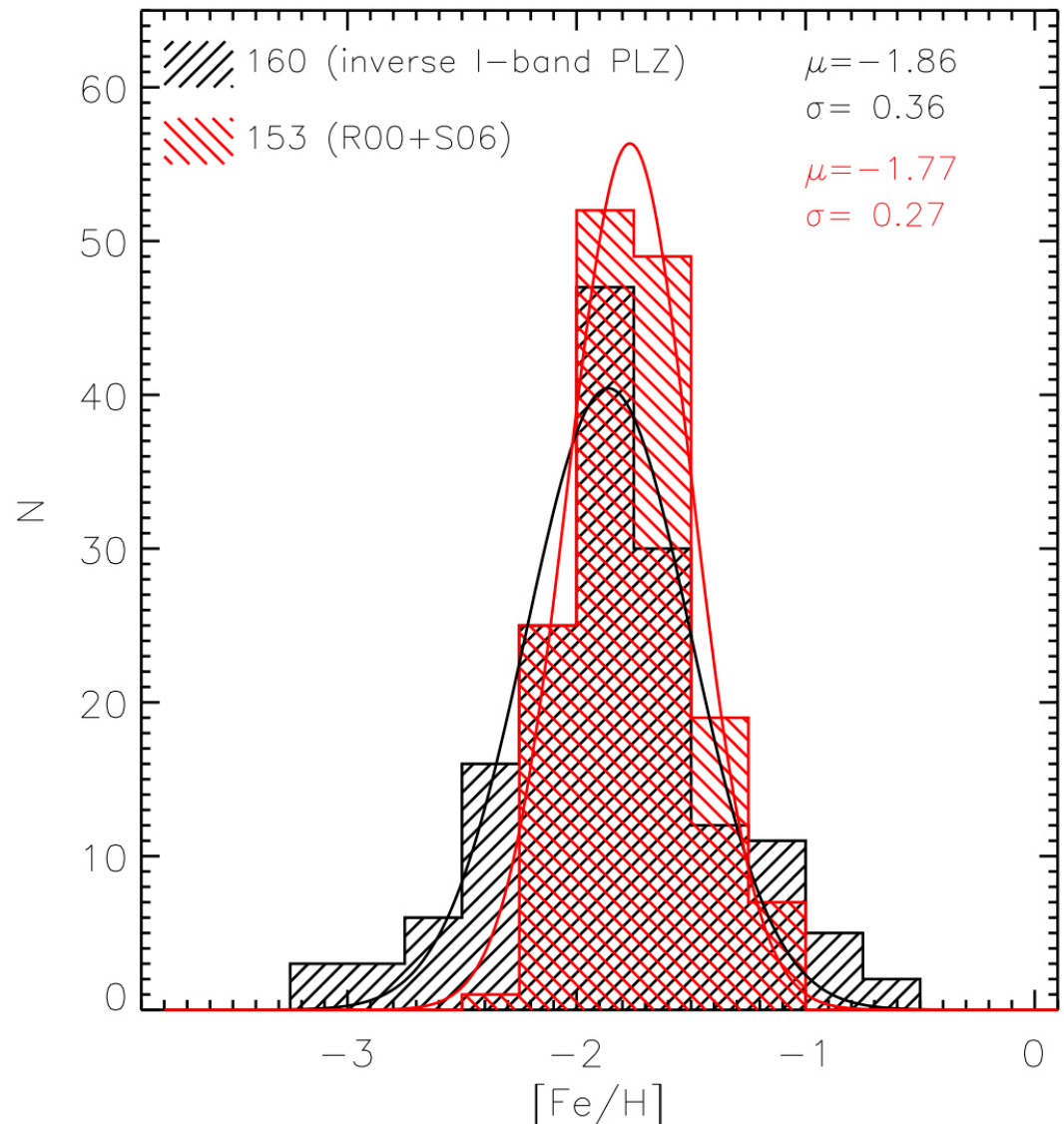
Jacyszyn-Dobrzeńicka et al. 2017

# Dependence of RR Lyrae properties on $Z \rightarrow$ metallicity distribution

The case of  $\omega$  Cen:  
application of the  
 $M_I$ - $\log P$ - $Z$  relation

By inverting the metal  
dependent PL(I)  
relation  $\rightarrow$  metallicity  
distribution

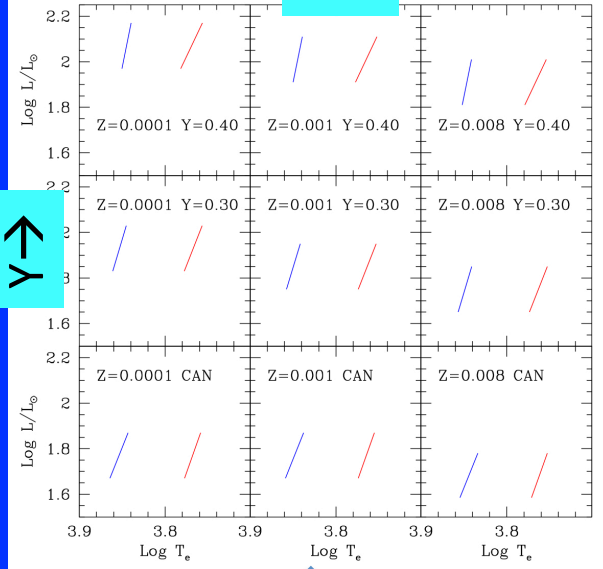
*Braga et al. 2016 ApJ*



# Dependence of RR Lyrae properties on $Y \rightarrow$ He enhancement

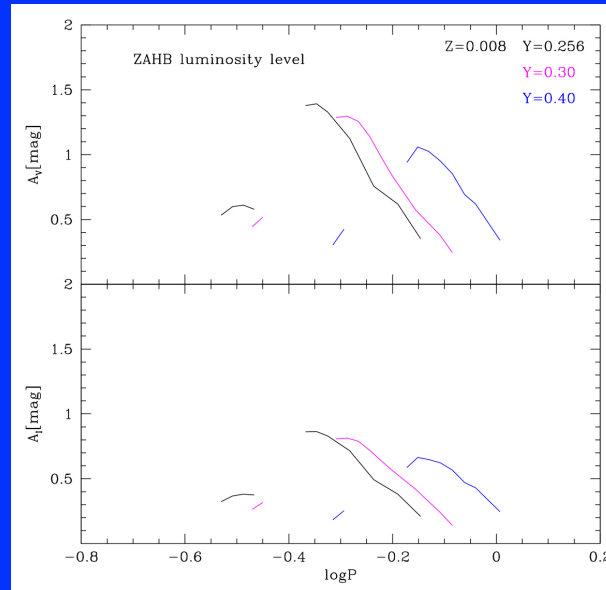
$\rightarrow$  Pulsation observables depend on the helium content

$Z \rightarrow$



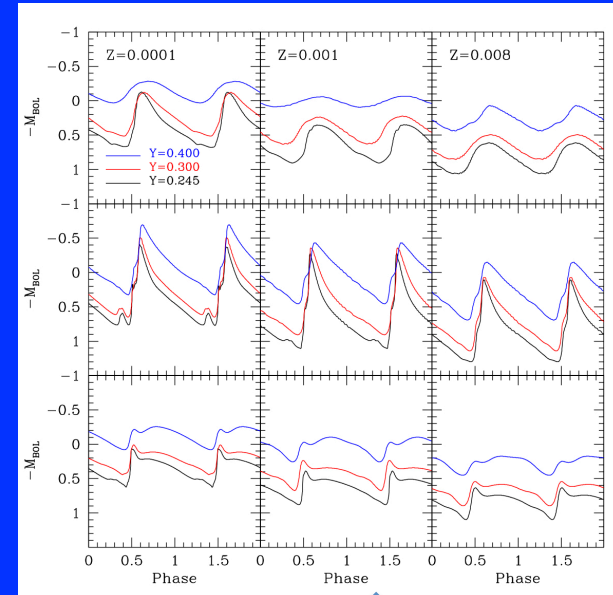
Width of the IS is almost unaffected.

The most important effect due to the increase of the corresponding luminosities



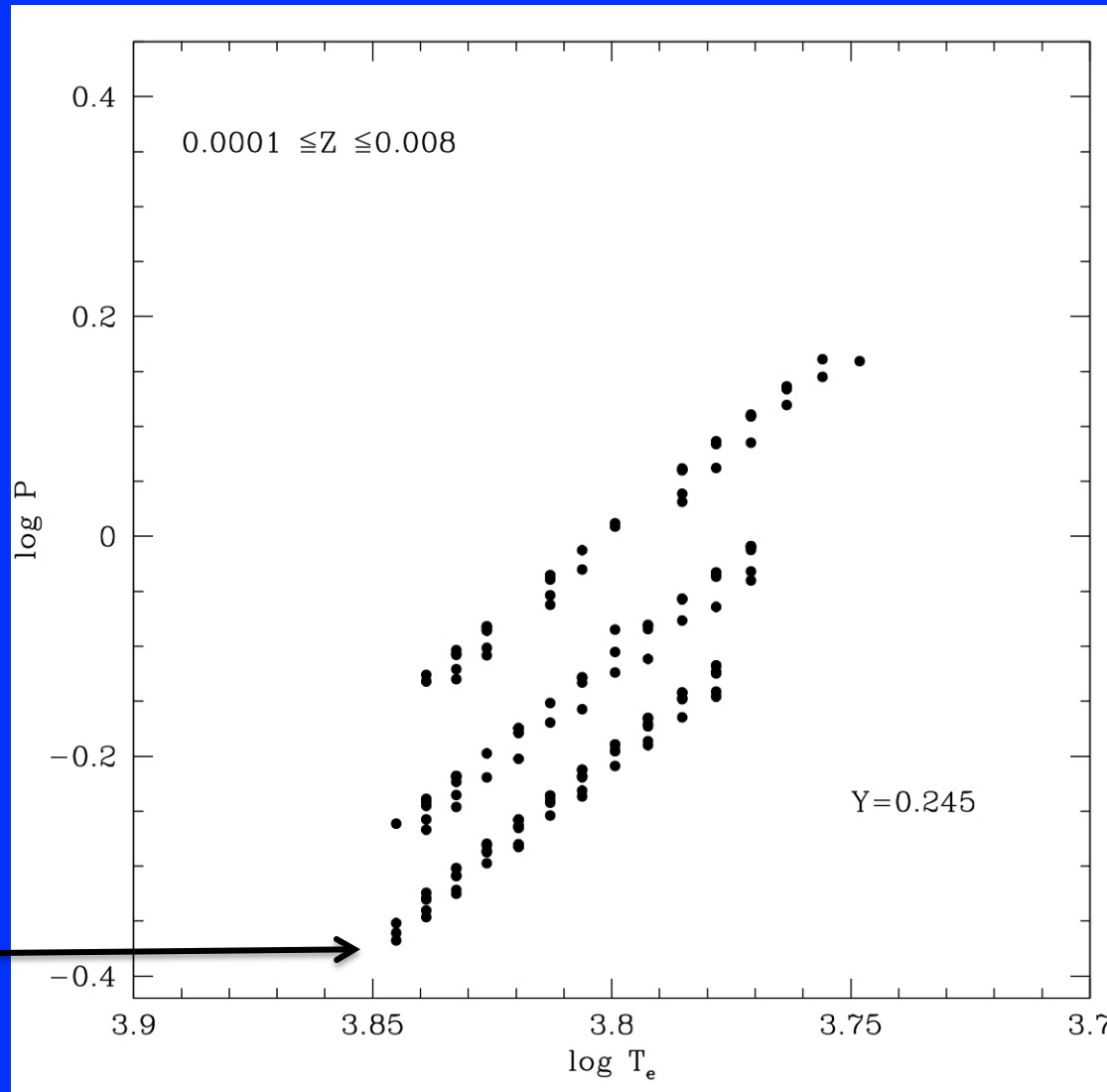
Periods increase with  $Y$

Amplitudes decrease



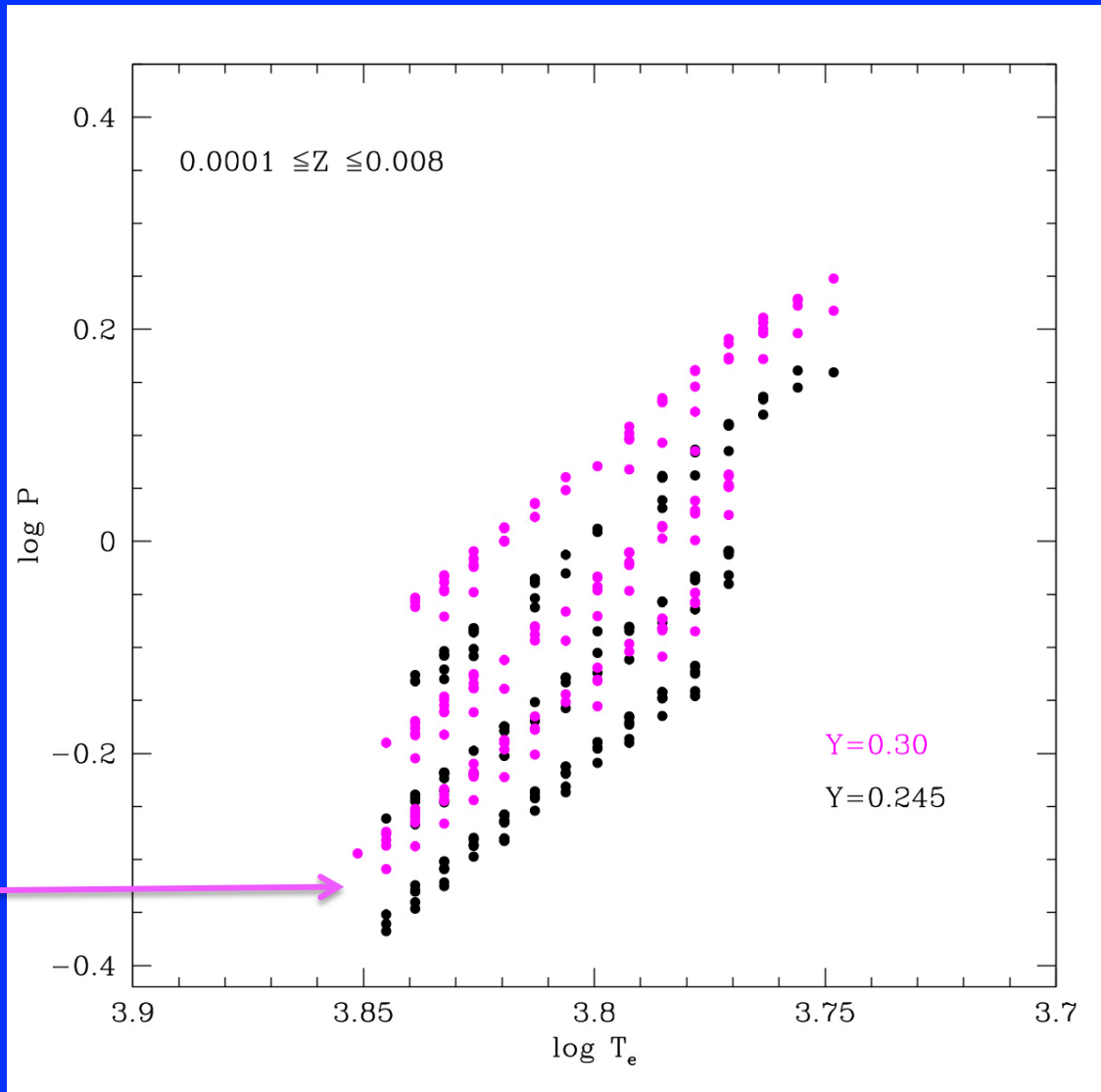
Given the same position in the strip, morphology is similar but with smaller amplitudes.

Marconi et al. 2018 in prep



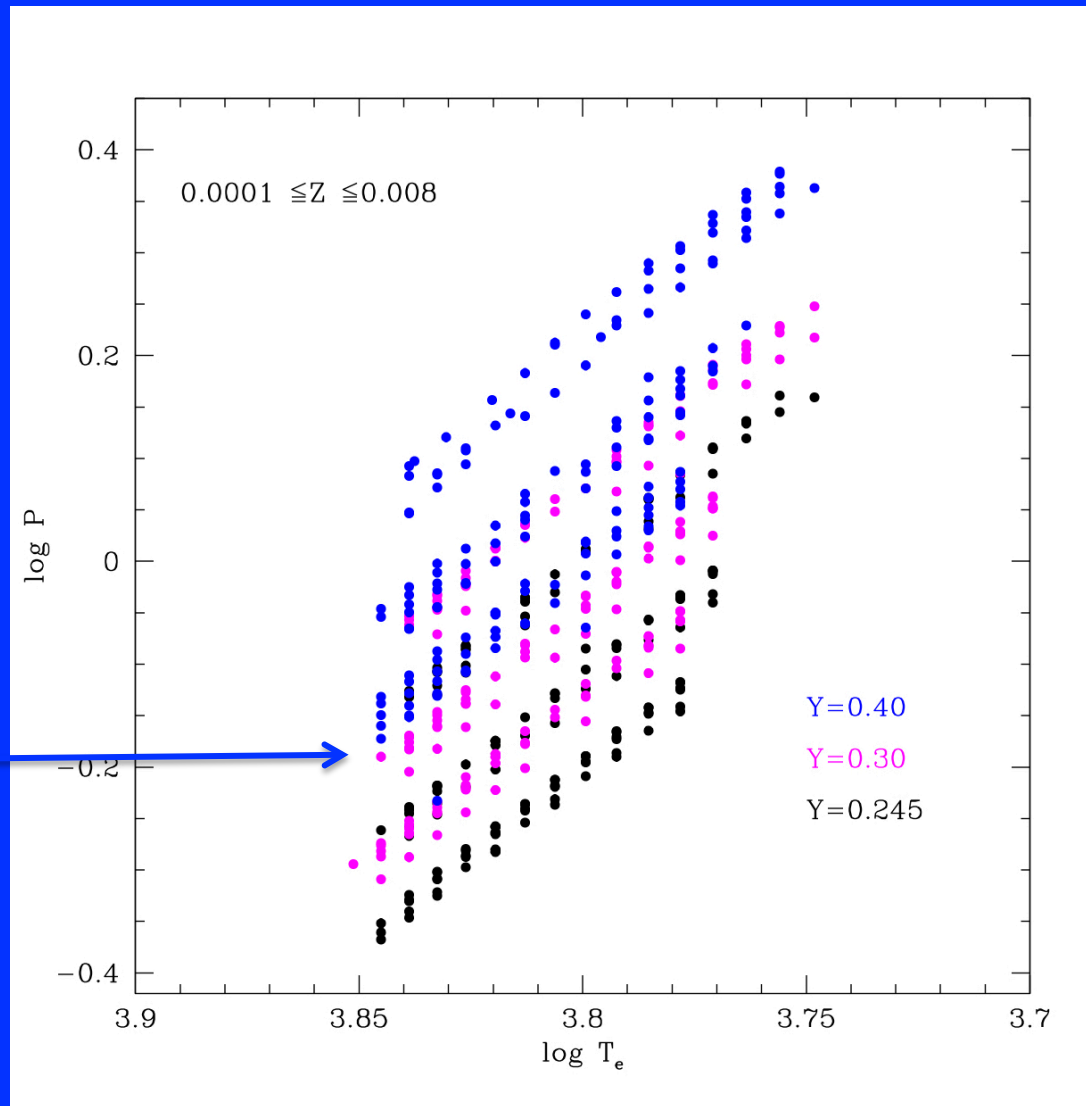
Marconi et al. 2016 CoKon

The minimum  
period of RR<sub>ab</sub>  
is predicted to  
increase with  $Y$



The minimum period of  $RR_{ab}$  is predicted to increase with  $Y$

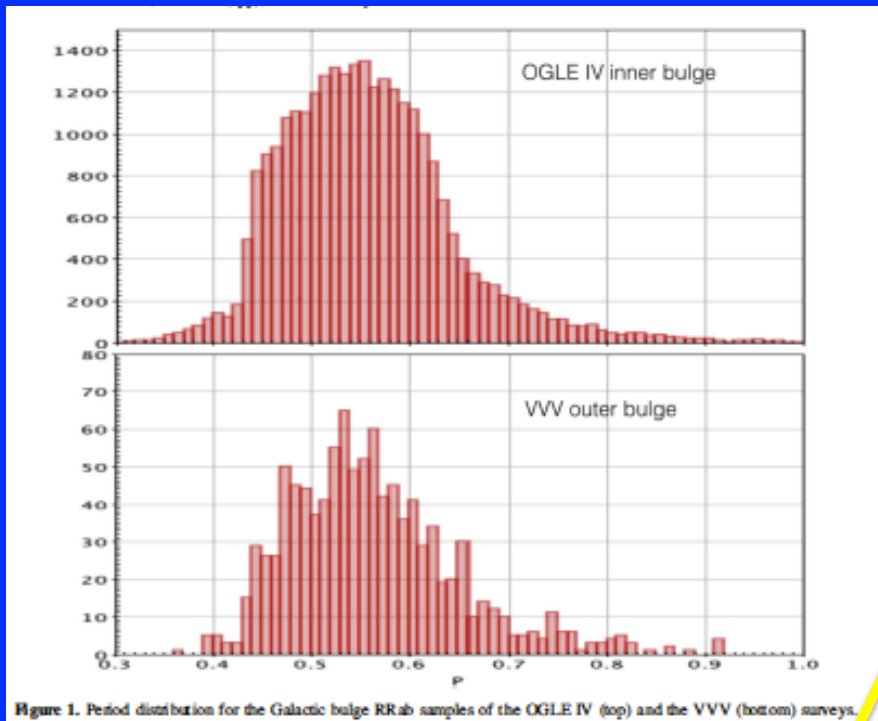
Marconi et al. 2016 CoKon



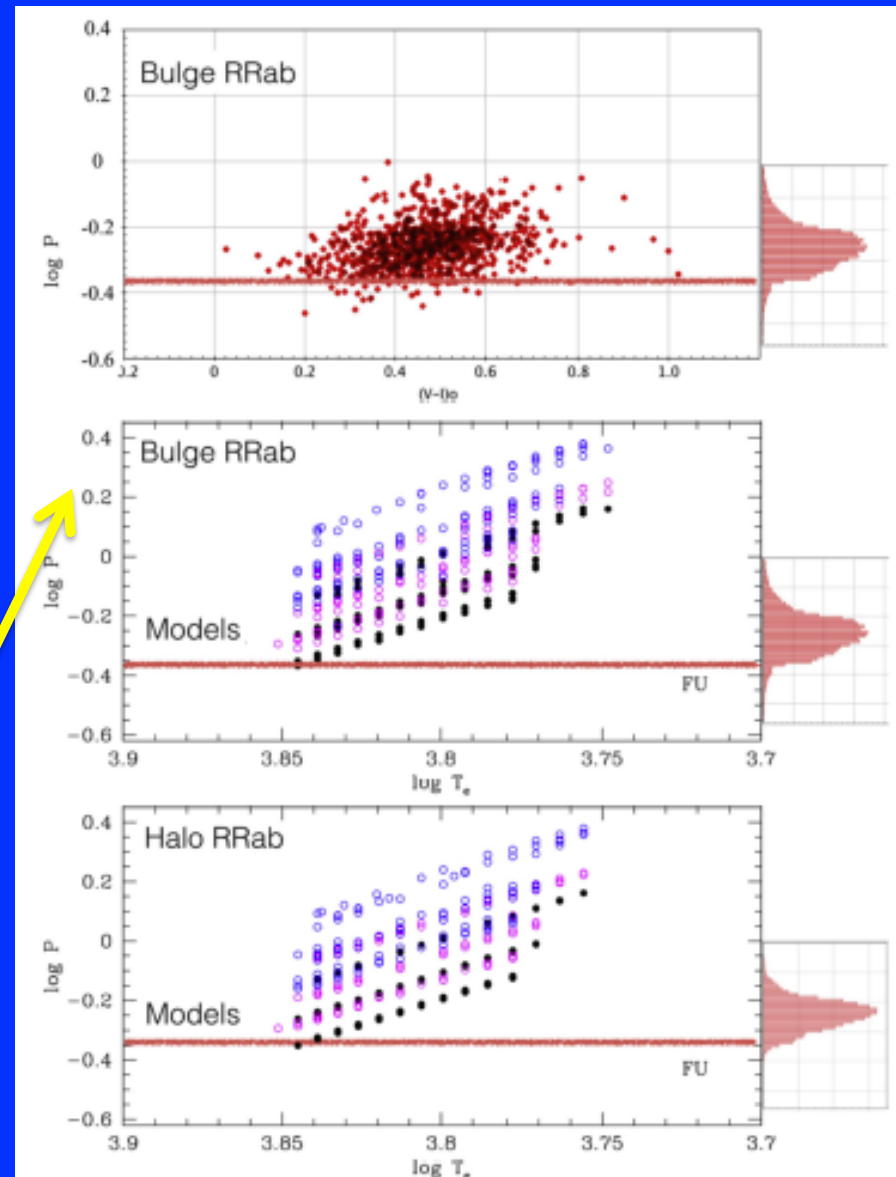
Marconi et al. 2016 CoKon

The minimum  
period of  $RR_{ab}$   
is predicted to  
increase with  $Y$

# Application to Bulge RR Lyrae

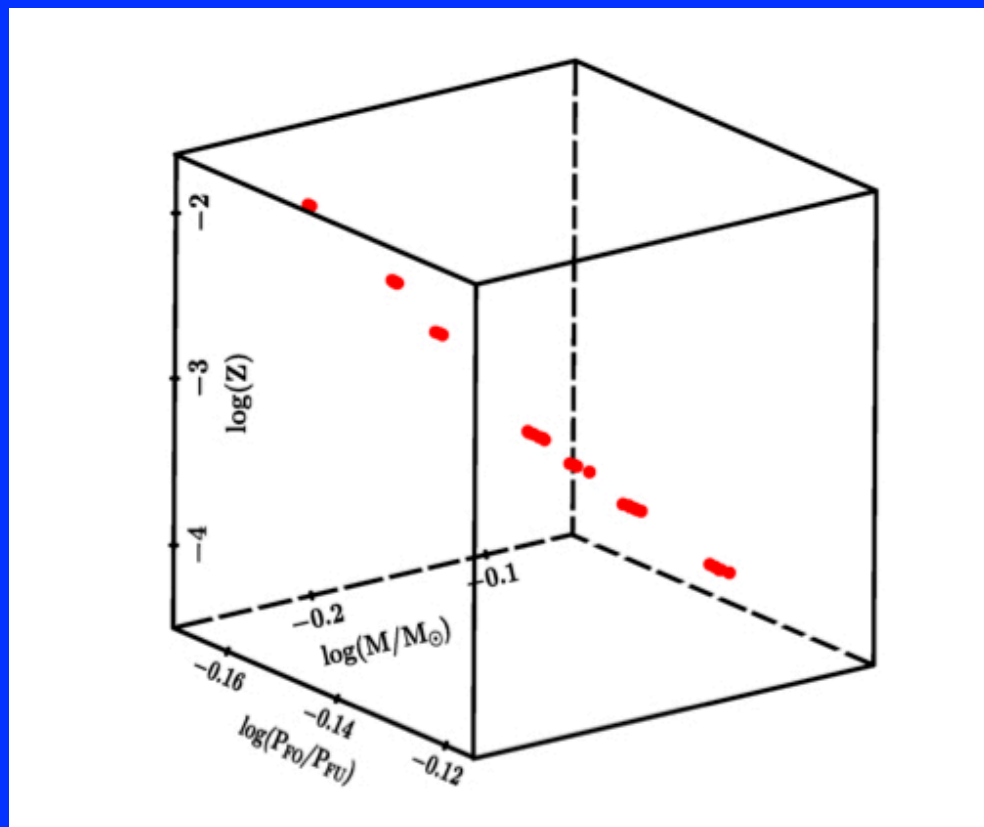
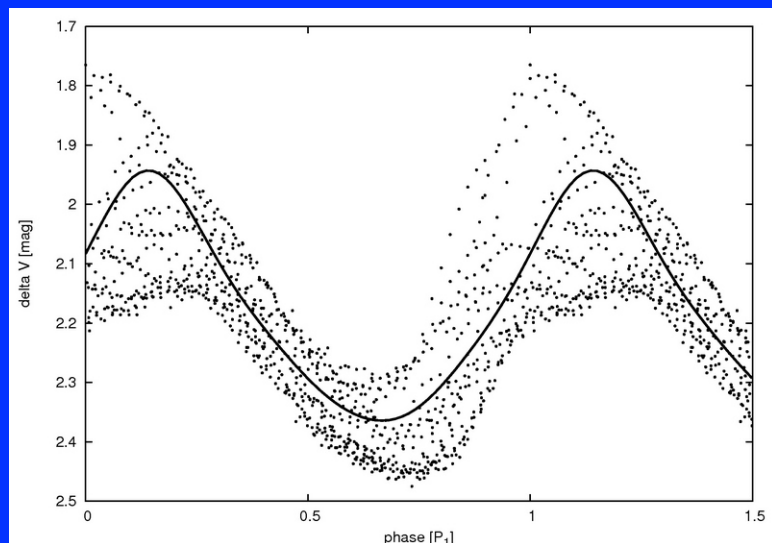


The bulk of the bulge ab-type RR Lyrae are consistent with primordial He abundance  $Y = 0.245$ , ruling out a significant He-enriched population, at variance with results based on red clump giants.



## Double mode RR Lyrae → Pulsational masses

→ an analytical relation to infer the masses as a function of both the period ratio and the metallicity for double mode RR Lyrae



$$\log M/M_{\odot} = -0.85 (\pm 0.05) - 2.8 (\pm 0.3) \log P_{FO}/P_F - 0.097 (\pm 0.003) \log Z$$

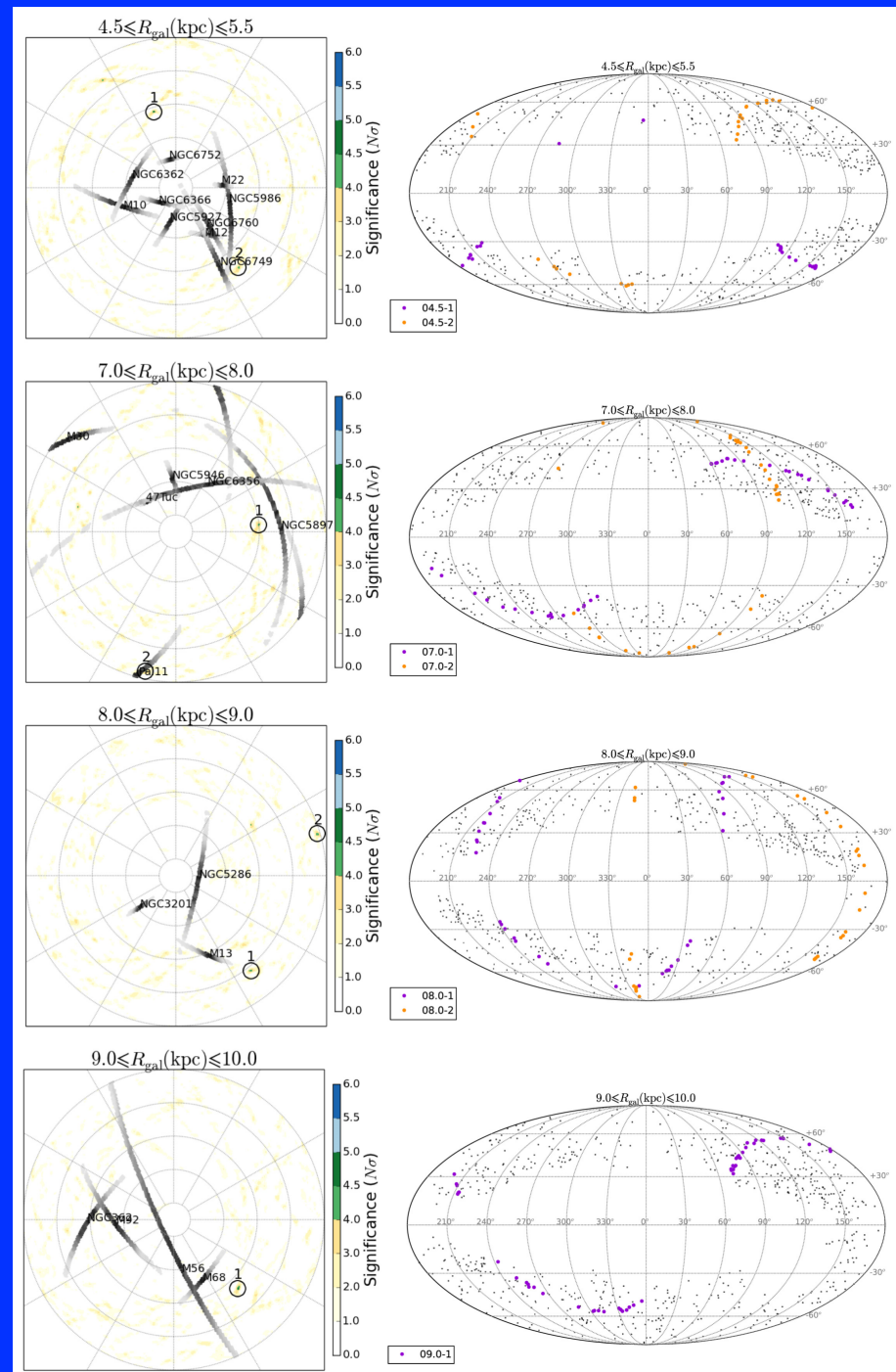
**Marconi et al. 2015 ApJ**

# RR Lyrae as tracers of stellar streams

e.g. Mateu et al. 2018 MNRAS  
 “Fourteen candidate RR Lyrae star streams in the inner Galaxy”

→ RR Lyrae star streams  
 in the Catalina survey

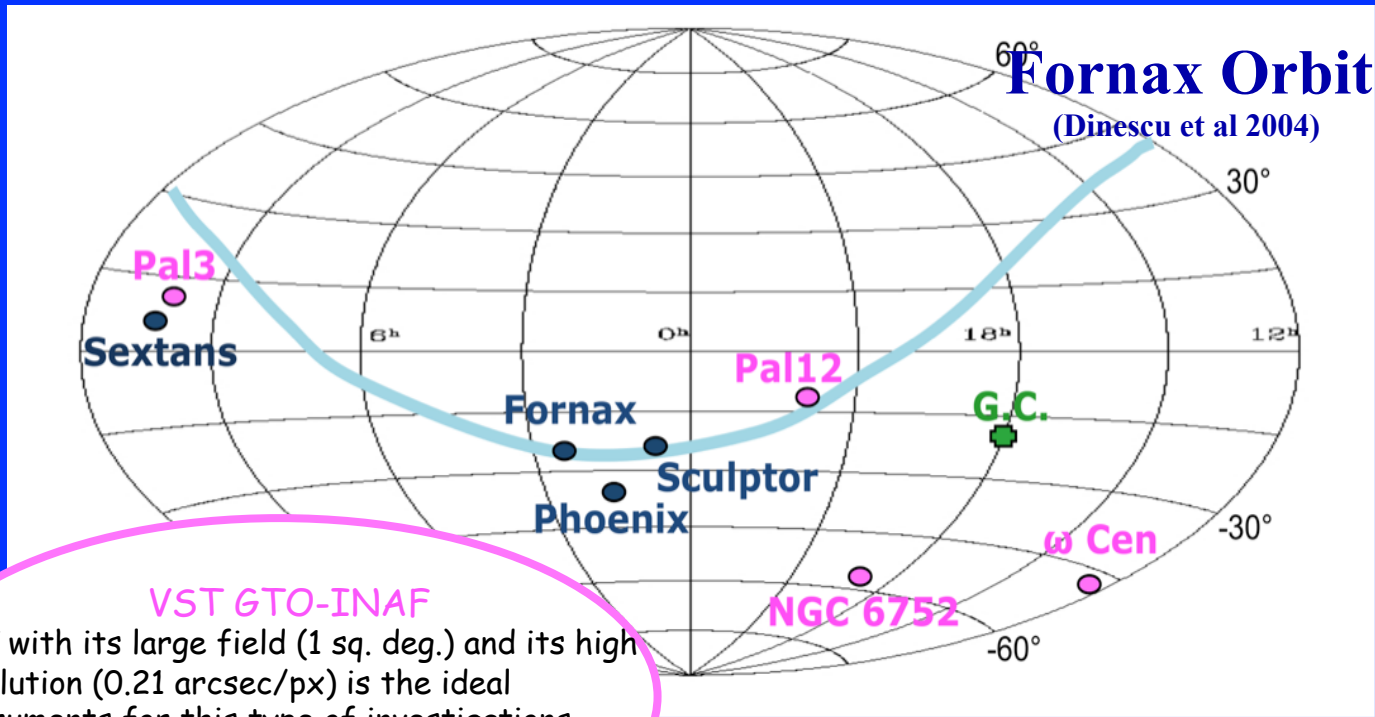
But see also previous results for the  
 Sagittarius stream (Vivas et al.  
 2005), the Pisces stream (Sesar et  
 al. ) and Orphan stream (Hendel et  
 al. 2018)...etc...



# STREGA@VST

Tracing tidal tails and halos around stellar clusters and galaxies to investigate Galactic halo formation mechanisms

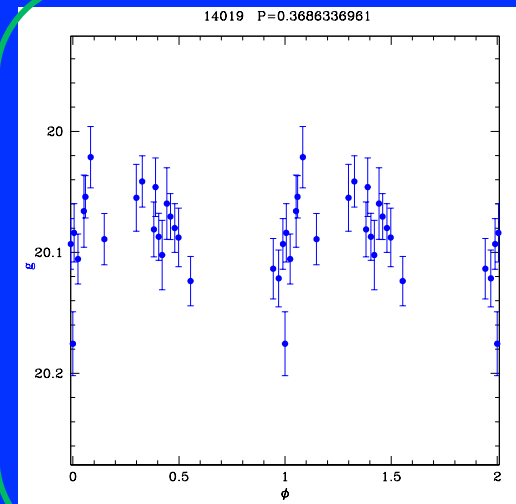
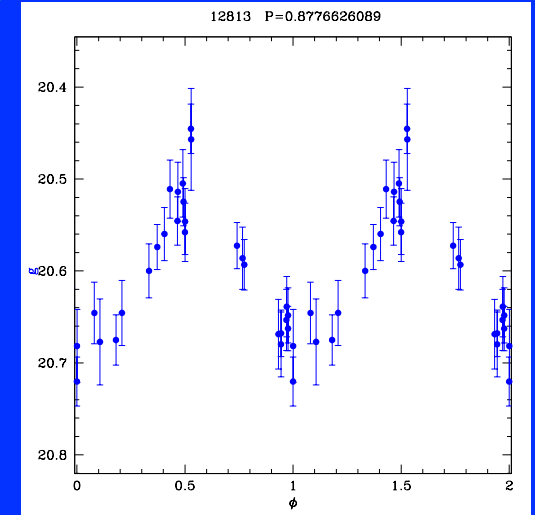
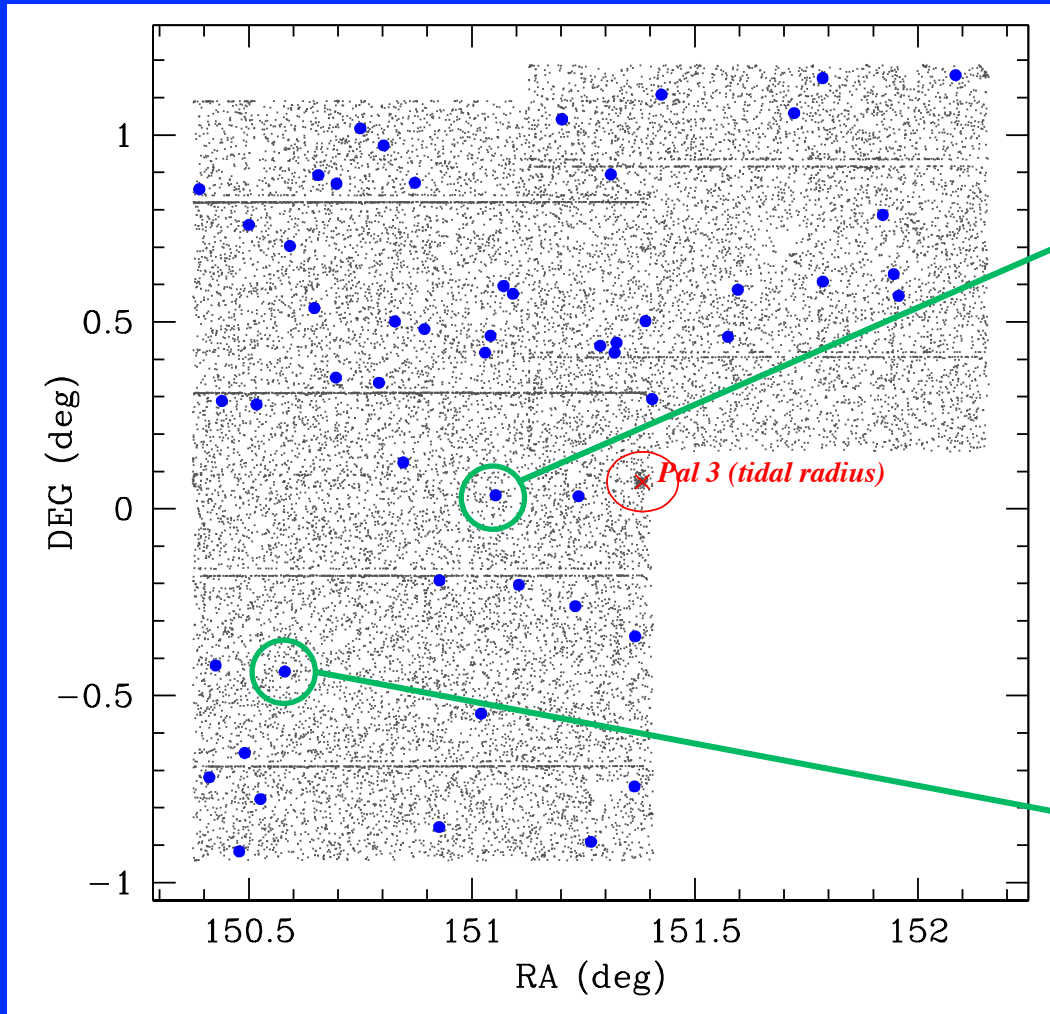
Mapping large areas (at least up to 2-3 tidal radii), in the g, r and i bands, to trace signatures of interaction between selected stellar systems and the Galactic Halo by using **RR Lyrae** and Turn off stars as tracers.



see Ilaria's talk

# Pal3 extratidal RR Lyrae

Work in progress



Moretti, M.I. et al. 2018 in prep

# Perspectives and Future Developments

Use Gaia data Release 2 (and subsequent ones) distances to constrain the physical assumptions in evolutionary and pulsational models.

Extend this approach to extragalactic pulsating stars with LSST

Complete the RR Lyrae search around Pal 3 and extend it to the fields around Fornax and Sculptor in the context of the STREGA Survey

Thank you !!