



The Physics of Galaxies

Observations versus Theory

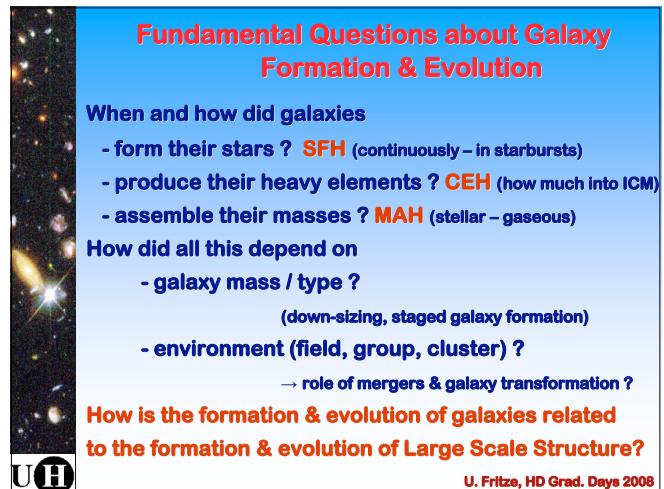
From the Early Universe to the Present

Part 3

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XX. Heidelberg Physics Graduate Days
 Spring 2008

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Fundamental Questions about Galaxy Formation & Evolution

When and how did galaxies

- form their stars ? **SFH** (continuously – in starbursts)
- produce their heavy elements ? **CEH** (how much into ICM)
- assemble their masses ? **MAH** (stellar – gaseous)

How did all this depend on

- galaxy mass / type ?
 (down-sizing, staged galaxy formation)
- environment (field, group, cluster) ?
 → role of mergers & galaxy transformation ?

How is the formation & evolution of galaxies related to the formation & evolution of Large Scale Structure?

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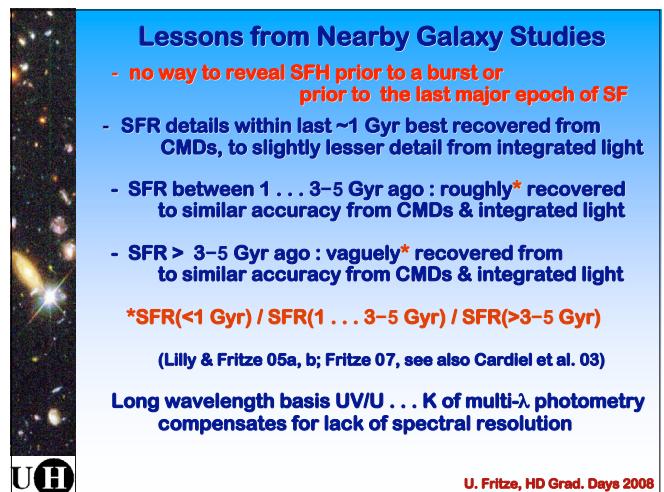
Comparing/gauging methods

How far back and to what accuracy can we trace galaxy SFHs ?

CMDs – integrated photometry – integr. spectra – broad band colors – Lick indices

- theoretical study accounting for typ. obs. uncertainties
- $\Delta\text{mag}=0.05 - 0.1$, $\Delta\text{index}=0.1\text{\AA}$, $\text{S/N}=5 - 10$
- simplified SFHs, fixed metallicity
 (Lilly & Fritze 05a, b)
- observational study : LMC bar project
 (collab. C. Gallart, D. Alloin, S. Yi, P. Demarque,)
- HST resolved stellar population : Coimbra experiment
- VLT slit trailed across same field (Alloin+02)

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Lessons from Nearby Galaxy Studies

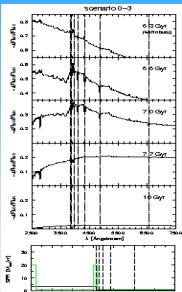
- no way to reveal SFH prior to a burst or prior to the last major epoch of SF
- SFR details within last ~1 Gyr best recovered from CMDs, to slightly lesser detail from integrated light
- SFR between 1 . . . 3–5 Gyr ago : roughly* recovered to similar accuracy from CMDs & integrated light
- SFR > 3–5 Gyr ago : vaguely* recovered from to similar accuracy from CMDs & integrated light

*SFR(<1 Gyr) / SFR(1 . . . 3–5 Gyr) / SFR(>3–5 Gyr)
 (Lilly & Fritze 05a, b; Fritze 07, see also Cardiel et al. 03)

Long wavelength basis UV/U . . . K of multi-λ photometry compensates for lack of spectral resolution

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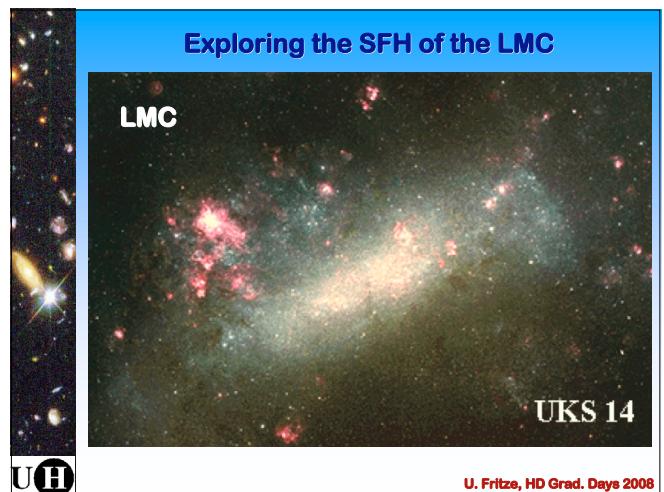
HIRES spectroscopy / narrow band indices will do somewhat better

MgII 2798 visible for ~2 Gyr (early F stars)

CaIIK 3933 visible for 2 – 6 Gyr (late F / early G stars)

(Lilly & Fritze 2005a, b)

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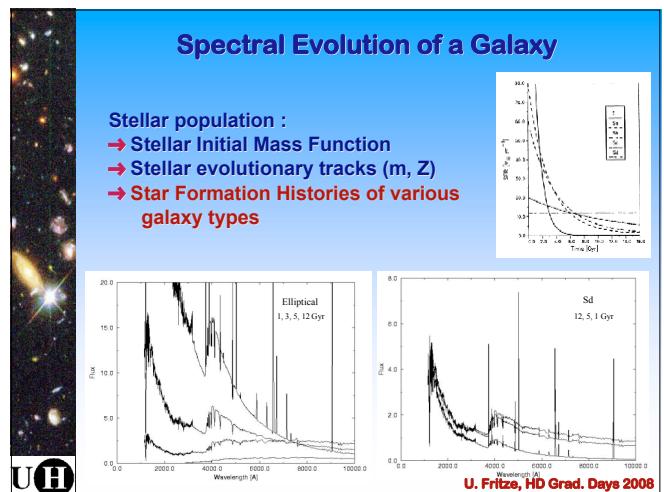
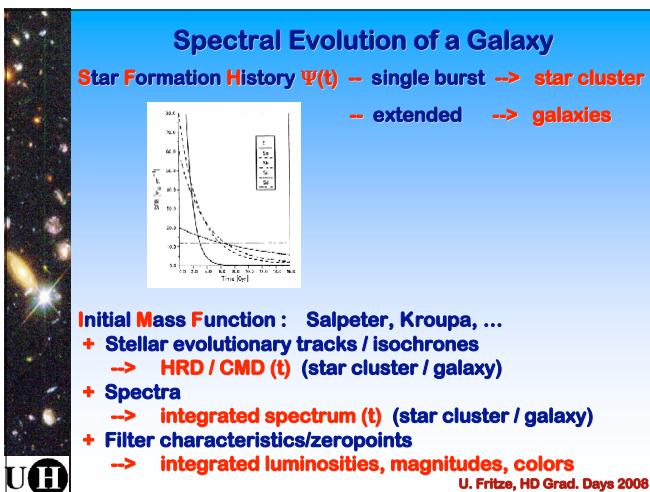
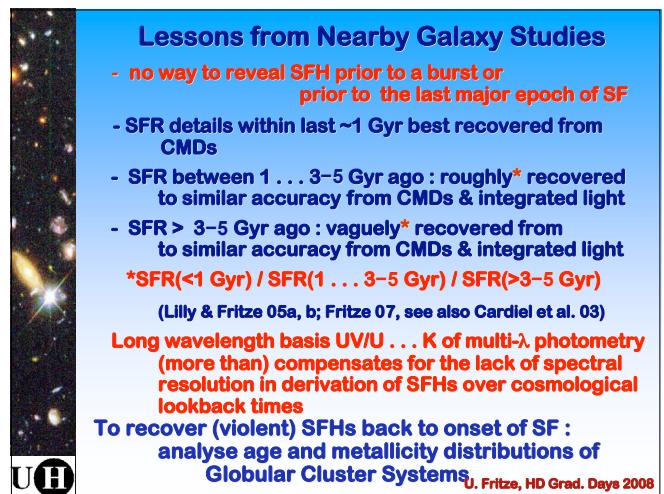
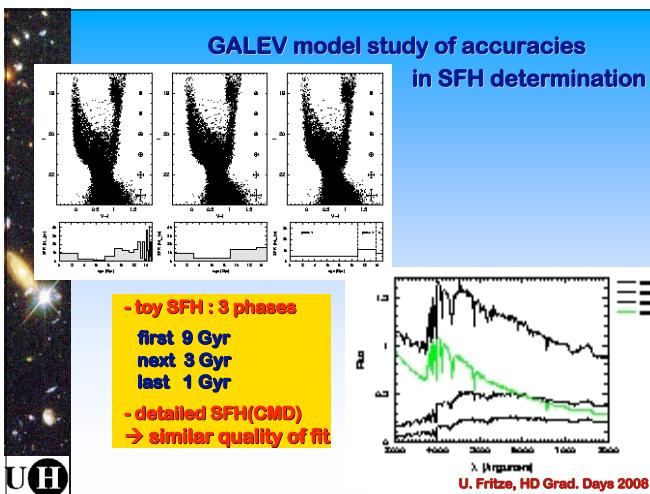
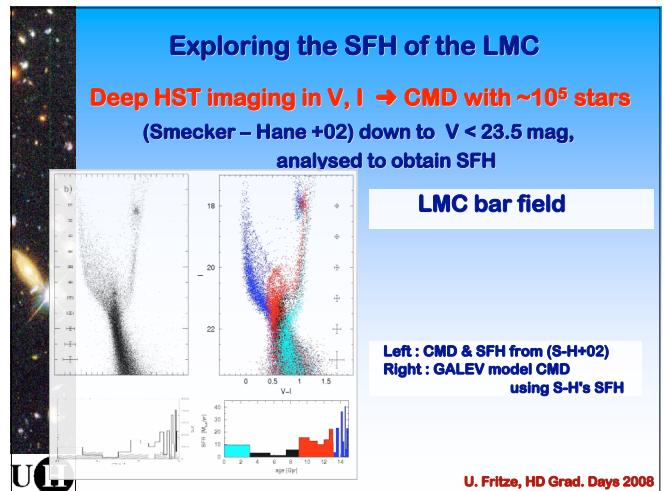
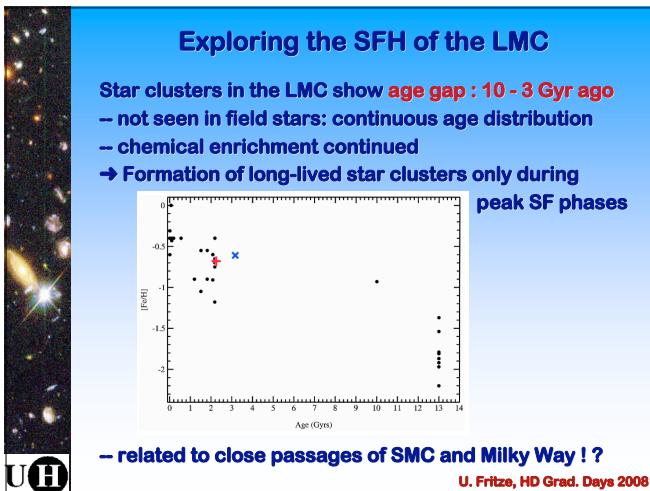


Exploring the SFH of the LMC

LMC

UKS 14

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Philosophy of GALEV Models for Galaxies

Ockham's Razor: Simplest possible models
closed-box (\rightarrow inflow, outflow)
Small # of free parameters : (IMF), SFH

Calculate :
large number of observational quantities
CMDs, spectra, luminosities, colors,
emission & absorption lines, chem. gas abundances

Comparison with
★ multi-band observation
★ spectral & chemical properties
→ severe constraints on free parameters

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Galaxy Models

Models for E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd (spectral types!) at ages 13 Gyr have to agree with

- ★ average colours U – B, B – V, V – I, I – K of the respective types from RC3, Virgo, Coma samples, ...
- ★ average absorption/emission line strengths
- ★ stellar metallicities (E, S0), gas metallicities (spirals)
- ★ template spectra
- ★ gas-to-total mass ratios
- ★ average luminosities in B

→ tight constraints on SFHs of different spectral galaxy types

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Galaxy Models

Models for E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd (spectral types!) at ages 13 Gyr have to agree with

- ★ average absorption/emission line strengths
- ★ stellar metallicities (E, S0), gas metallicities (spirals)

Fig. 4. Evolution of the gas fraction G/M and the global metallicity Z in different merger progenitor models

(Fva & Gerhard 1994a) (Zaritsky et al. 1994)

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Galaxy Models

Models for E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd (spectral types!) at ages 13 Gyr have to agree with

- ★ emission line strengths : SFR_0

Fig. 5. Distribution of $H\alpha + [N II]$ emission equivalent width, binned by RSA Hubble type. The symbol S denotes a Seyfert galaxy.

(Kennicutt & Kent 1983)

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Galaxy Models

Models for E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd (spectral types!) at ages 13 Gyr have to agree with

- ★ template spectra

(Kennicutt 1992, Kinney et al. (UV))

(Sd template can only be fit at age ~ 4 Gyr)

(Bicker et al. 2004)

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Galaxy Models

Models for E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd (spectral types!) at ages 13 Gyr have to agree with

- ★ gas-to-total mass ratios

(Zaritsky et al. 1994)

Fig. 14. G/M (top) vs. gas fraction in the left panel (right vs. the galaxy's mass in the right panel) (W. F. W.)
Left panels: our abundance data for galaxies for which no or only one abundance data is available in the literature. Open circles represent data from Schlesinger et al. (1989).

Fig. 15. Evolution of the gas fraction G/M and the global metallicity Z in different merger progenitor models

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GALEV Models for Galaxies E,..., Sd

With simplified parametrisations for SFH, models well describe all observed chemical and spectral properties of normal undisturbed galaxies E, S0, Sa, Sb, Sc, Sd.

→ try starbursts on top of undisturbed galaxies
 → analyse Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies BCDGs
 → analyse starbursts in interacting/merging galaxies

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Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies

BCDGs: blue, compact, often irregular, unrelaxed, gas-rich, $SFR_o \gg <SFR>_{past}$, HI consumption timescale « t_{Hubble} , very metal-poor $<\mathbb{Z}> \sim 1/10 Z_\odot$, 1 - several starburst knots on top of older stellar population (NIR)

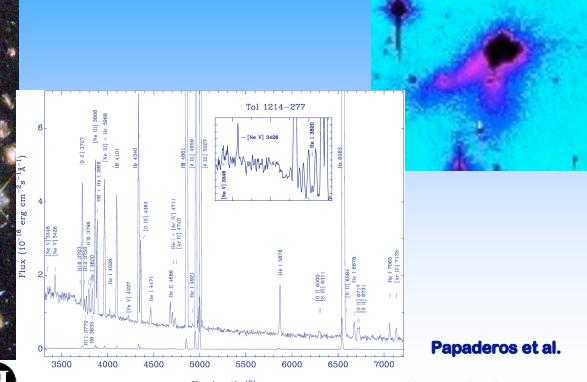


Papaderos et al.

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Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies

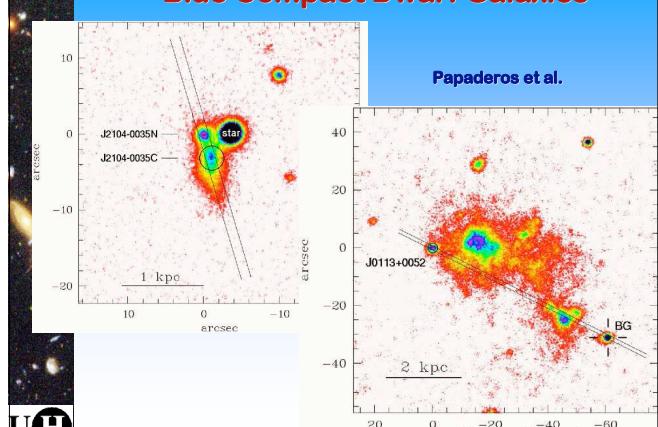


Papaderos et al.

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Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies



Papaderos et al.

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Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies

Models for underlying galaxy (ug) E, Sd + ongoing starburst

Starburst parameters:
 - time of onset (=age of ug)
 - increase of SFR
 - duration of the burst ($10^5 - 10^6$ yr in dwarf galaxies ~ dynamical timescale)
 - age of the starburst

Burst strength : $b := \Delta S/S$ or ($b := \Delta S/G =: SFE$)

Type & age of ug determined from outer regions/NIR colours

Burst properties from colours (1st estimates) & spectra (more accurate determinations)

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Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxies

ug
 Ψ_1 : const. SFR
 Ψ_2 : exp. declining SFR

different burst strengths

(Krüger et al. 1991)

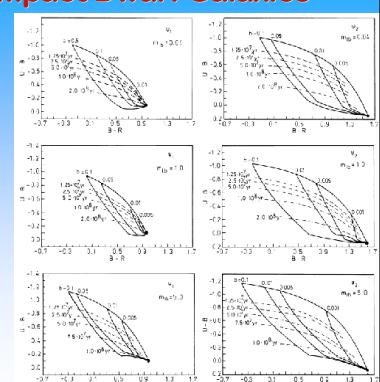
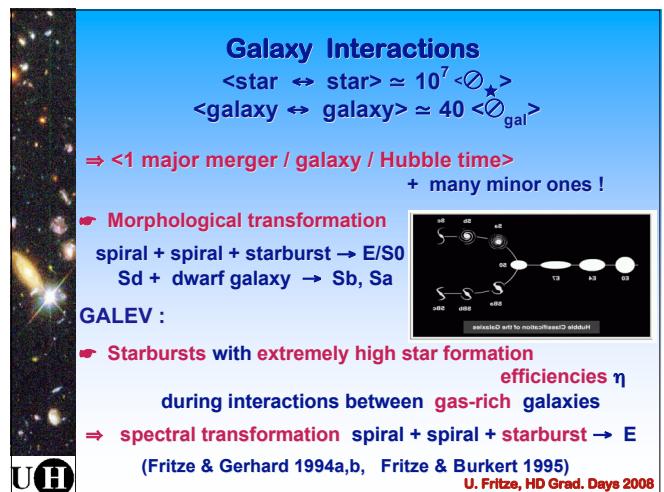
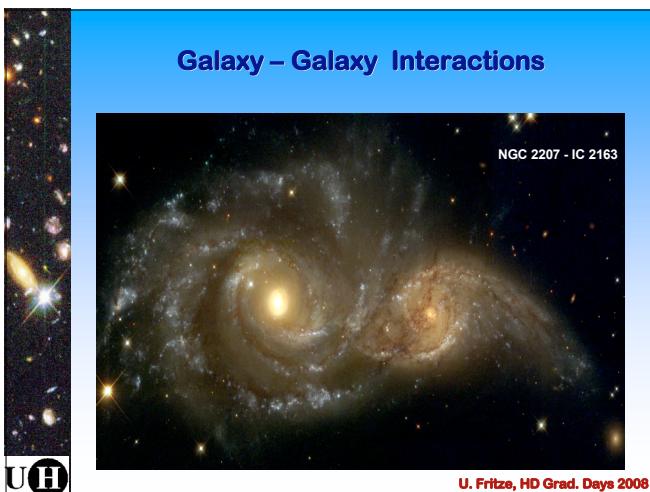
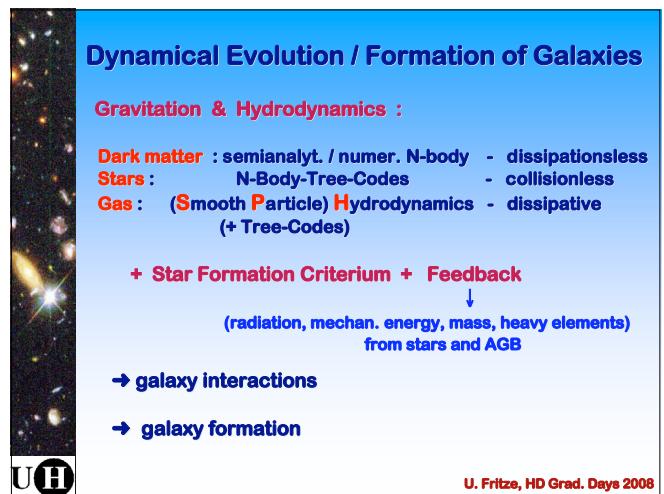
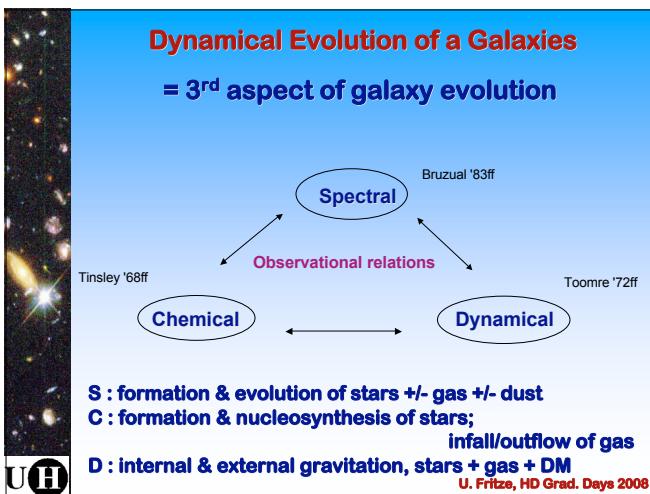
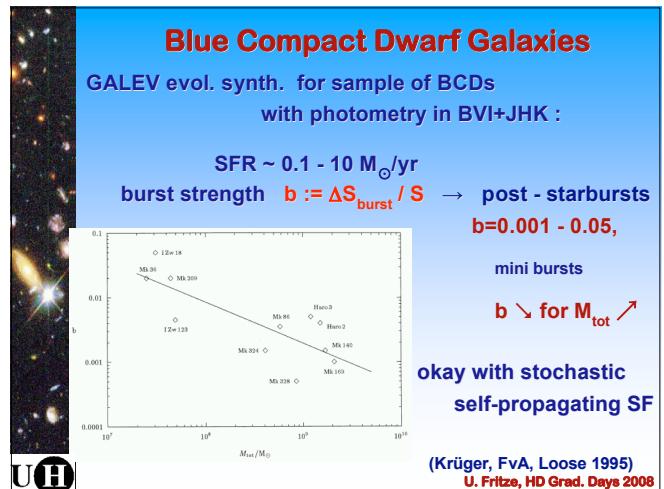
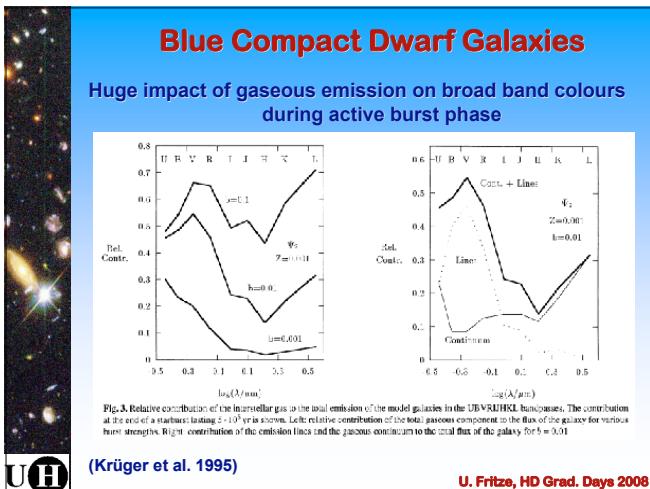


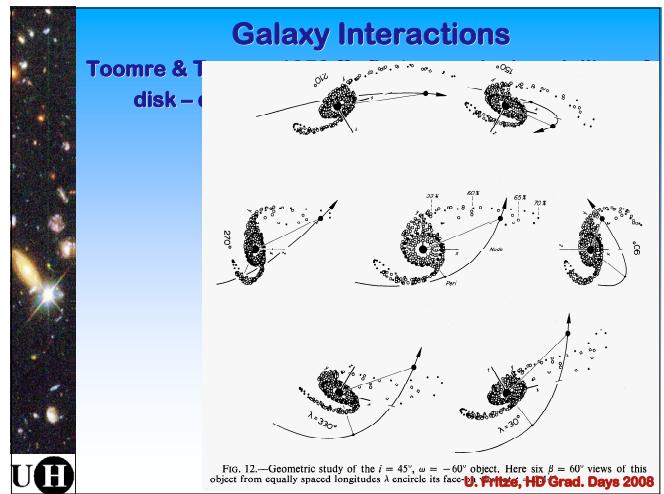
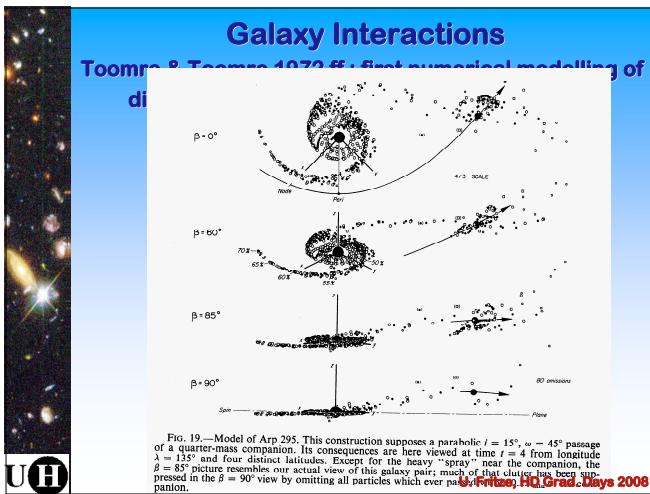
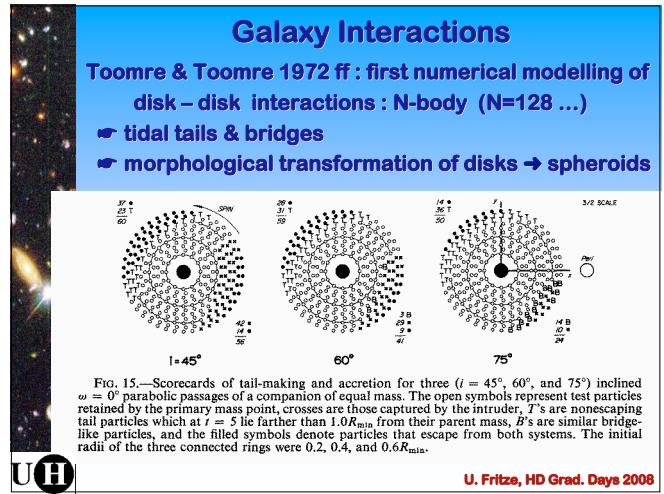
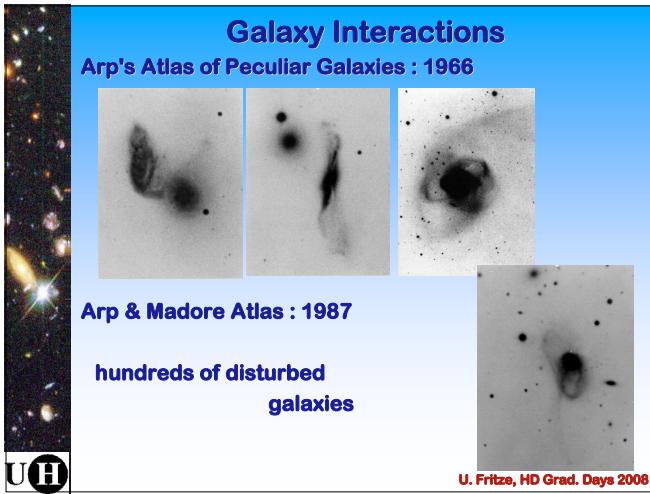
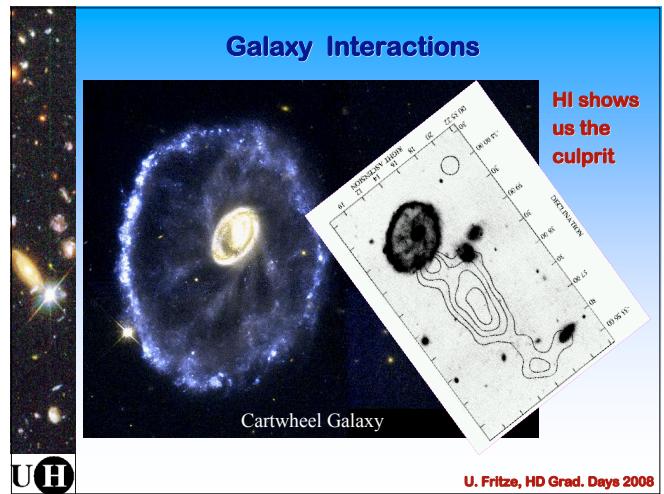
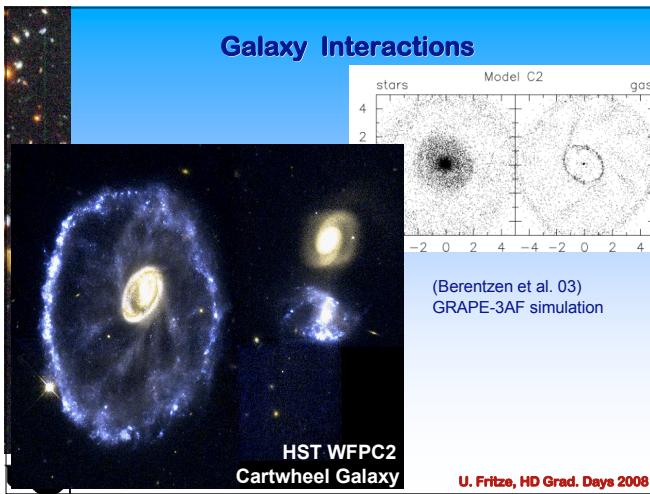
Fig. 4a-c: Evolution of star formation rate Ψ over time $t = 10^5$ yr. The dashed line represents the underlying galaxy's SFR. The solid line represents the total SFR. The numbers indicate the age of the starburst in units of 10^5 yr. The numbers in parentheses indicate the age of the burst in units of 10^6 yr. The numbers in the legend give the initial SFR values in $M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$.

Fig. 4d-e: Same as in 4a-c, for the exponentially declining SFR. The numbers indicate the age of the starburst in units of 10^5 yr. The numbers in parentheses indicate the age of the burst in units of 10^6 yr. The numbers in the legend give the initial SFR values in $M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$.

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Galaxy Interactions

Toomre & Toomre 1972 ff : first numerical modelling of disk – disk interactions : N-body (N=128 ...) morphological transformation of disks → spheroids

spiral + spiral → “E”
 spiral + dwarf → spiral with bulge

Counterarguments :

- * central densities too small
- * GC specific frequencies too small



$T_{\text{GC}} := N_{\text{GC}} / M_{\text{gal}}$

$\langle T_{\text{GC}}(E) \rangle \sim 2 \langle T_{\text{GC}}(\text{Sp}) \rangle$ (Ashman & Zepf 95)

Dynamical Models : Galaxy Interactions

Dynamical models 2008 :

N-body TREE Codes : stars + DM $N \sim 10^5 - 10^6$
disk + bulge + halo

SPH TREE Codes : gas (or Sticky Particles method)

- high gas concentrations towards centres
- central gas densities ~ stellar central densities of Es ✓
as observed in ULIRGs (= Ultraluminous IR Gals)
= advanced stages of gas-rich mergers)

HI from beyond the optical radius brought into the galaxy/centre

Problems : shock resolution, molecular cloud structure,
multi-phase ISM, SF criterium/criteria, feedback

- formation of GCs in mergers : GC specific frequency ✓

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A cluster of galaxies of various sizes and colors (blue, yellow, red) against a dark blue background, illustrating the subject of galaxy interactions.

Dynamical Models : Galaxy Interactions

Orbital parameters & galaxy properties :

global — nuclear starbursts — AGN fuelling

(e.g. Barnes & Hernquist 1992, Jogee 2005)

prograde encounters : global starbursts (? contracting ?)

retrograde – “ – : nuclear starbursts & AGN fuelling

Consistent inclusion of

- SF,
- AGN formation/feeding and
- feed back from both

still under construction

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Dynamical Models : Galaxy Interactions

Dynamical models with gas :

- Sp + Sp + starburst \rightarrow E 4**
for 1:1 . . . 1:3 mergers with low gas content
- Sp + Sp + starburst \rightarrow S0**
disk morphology + E kinematics
for 1:4 . . . 1:10 mergers
(Bournaud et al 2004)
- observed e.g. in Arp 214 and Arp 224**
(Jog & Chitre 2002)
- Sp + Sp + starburst \rightarrow Sa**
disk morphology + disk kinematics
for 1:1 mergers with high gas content
(Springel & Hernquist 2005)





U H

Dynamical Models : Galaxy Interactions

Gas rich : $\text{Sp} + \text{Sp} + \text{starburst} \rightarrow \text{Sa}$
 disk morphology + disk kinematics for young stars & gas

Bulge = stars from 1. burst.
 Disk rebuilt from gas surviving strong burst & subsequent SF
 (Springel & Hernquist 2005)

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Interacting Galaxies & Mergers

Galaxy interactions/mergers trigger strong starbursts if 1 or 2 of the galaxies are gas-rich
e.g. spiral – spiral mergers (NGC 4038/39 = Antennae, NGC 7252, ...)

Colliding Galaxies NGC 4038 and NGC 4039
PRC97-34a, ST Scl CPO • October 21, 1997 • B. Whitmore (ST Scl) and NASA

HST • WFPC2

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Galaxy Interactions & Starbursts

Starbursts in giant interacting galaxies :
Evol. Synthesis modelling → SFR $\sim 30 - 1000 \text{ M}_\odot/\text{yr}$,
→ post - starbursts $b \sim 0.3 - 0.5$ (Fritz & Gerhard 1994a, b)
E.g. NGC 7252 : bright Sc-Sc Merger (HI in Tidal Tails)
Strong Balmer abs. lines → Strong global starburst
 $R > 10 \text{ kpc}$
LIRG/ULIRG ? 600 – 1000 Myr ago

Conservative estimate :
 $b \geq 0.3$

UH Star Formation Efficiency SFE := $M_{\text{stars}} / M_{\text{gas}} \geq 0.4$
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A model for NGC 7252

Start from broad band SED in UBVR! :
comparison with grid of starburst models → box in parameter space

Additional pieces of information:
- length of tidal tails / typ. rotation velocity
 ~ dynam. age of interaction
- HI in both tidal tails : 2 gas-rich spirals ~Sc
- both tails of similar length : both spirals of sim. mass
- very high luminosity : both Scs very bright

Within box of parameter space: detailed comparison with spectral properties
strong Balmer absorption lines : strong starburst 600 – 1000 Myr ago
metal lines : $(0.5 - 1) Z_\odot$
(Fritz – v. A. & Gerhard 1994a, b)

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Galaxy Interactions & Starbursts

spectral modelling for NGC 7252 → residual SFR $\sim 3 \text{ M}_\odot/\text{yr}$
powered by HI falling back from tidal tails (~50%) and
by gas restored from burst stars (~50%)
- emission component in H β absorption line
- IUE spectrum + ROSAT data : SF but no AGN
HI falling back from tails for >3 Gyr
→ HI disk + SF → stellar disk : S0 or Sa (spec + morph)
(Hibbard et al. 1997)

N7252

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A model for NGC 7252

Future evolution :
will reach E/S0/Sa galaxy colours & spectra
within 3 – 5 Gyr depending on future SFR evolution

U. Fritze & A. Gerhard • The Star Formation History of NGC 7252

Fig. 2. Time evolution of the observed colors (color-color plot) for the various SFHs that were included for NGC 7252.

(Fritz & Gerhard 1994 b)

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Interacting Galaxies & Mergers

Burst strengths in isolated dwarf and interacting massive galaxies :
★ NGC 7252

Krüger, Fritz, Loose 1995

can SF process be the same in isolated dwarf & major merger starbursts ?

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Luminous InfraRed Galaxies (LIRGs) (e.g. Antennae)

$L_{\text{FIR}} \sim 10^{10} - 10^{11} L_{\odot}$

= global starbursts in giant gas-rich mergers

→ SFR $\sim 30 \dots 300 M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

Colliding Galaxies NGC 4038 and NGC 4039 HST • WFC2
PRC97-34a • ST Scl OPO • October 21, 1997 • B. Whitmore (ST Scl) and NASA

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Ultra Luminous InfraRed Galaxies (ULIRGs) (e.g. Arp 220)

$L_{\text{FIR}} \sim L_{\text{bol}} \sim 10^{12} - 10^{13} L_{\odot}$ $A_V \sim 30 \text{ mag}$

= nuclear starbursts in giant gas-rich mergers

→ SFR $\sim 300 \dots > 1000 M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

Shioya+2001
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Star Formation Efficiencies

Star Formation Efficiency $SFE := M_{\text{stars}} / M_{\text{gas}}$

Global Scale

- Spiral galaxies : $SFE \sim 0.1 - 3 \%$
- Irregular galaxies : $SFE \sim 0.1 - 3 \%$
- Starbursts in dwarf galaxies : $SFE \sim 0.1 - 3 \%$

in giant interacting galaxies : $SFE \sim 10 - 50 \%$

10-300 pc scale

Ultra Luminous IR Galaxies : ULIRGs : $SFE \sim 30 - 90 \%$

Small Scale

Milky Way Molecular Clouds : $SFE \sim M(\text{MC core}) / M(\text{MC}) \sim 0.1 - 3 \%$

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Molecular Clouds & SF Processes

Normal galaxies (Spirals, Irrs) :

MC collapse → SFR

MC mass spectrum

- = power law : $m \sim -1.7 \dots -2$
- observed + okay w. supersonic turb.+gravity
- \simeq MC core mass spectrum
- \simeq open star cluster mass spectrum

Interacting galaxies :

MC – MC collisions enhanced → SFR ↑

MCs shock compressed by high ambient pressure → SFE ↑

$P_{\text{ISM}} \sim (3 - 4) P_{\text{MC}} \rightarrow SFE \sim 0.7 - 0.9 !$

(Jog & Das 1992, 1996)

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Molecular Cloud Structure

CO(1-0) traces molecular gas at $n \geq 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
HCN(1-0) traces molecular gas at $n \geq 30000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
CS(1-0) traces molecular gas at $n \sim 100000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Small Scale

Milky Way Molecular Clouds :

- $L(\text{HCN,CS}) / L(\text{CO}) \sim 0.1 - 3 \%$
- $\sim M(\text{MC core}) / M(\text{MC})$

10-300 pc scale

Ultra Luminous IR Galaxies = massive gas-rich mergers :

- $L(\text{HCN,CS}) / L(\text{CO}) \sim 30 - 100 \%$
- $\sim M(\text{MC core}) / M(\text{MC})$

Molecular Cloud structure in ULIRGs very different from Milky Way

Can the SF process be the same ?

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Molecular Cloud Structure & SF

For all galaxies (Spirals ... ULIRGs) :

tight correlation $SFR [\text{L(FIR)}] — M(\text{MC cores}) [\text{L(HCN)}]$

$SFR [\text{L(FIR)}] / M(\text{MC cores}) [\text{L(HCN)}] \sim \text{const.} =: SFE$

Gao & Solomon 2004, Solomon et al. 1992
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For all galaxies (BCDs . . . Spirals . . . ULIRGs) :

SFE ~ M(MC core) / M(MC)
~ L(HCN,CS) / L(CO)

Schmidt law (1959) : (Kennicutt 1998 : $n \sim 1.4$)
 SFR density ~ gas (HI) density $\propto n$,
 SFR density ~ gas (CO) density $\propto n$
 $n \sim 1$ for spirals . . . $n \sim 2$ for ULIRGs
 (over 5 orders in gas surface density & 6 orders in SFR density)

Schmidt law :
SFR density ~ gas (HCN,CS) density $\propto n$
 $n=1$ for all galaxies (spirals . . . ULIRGs)
 (Gao & Solomon 2004)

Timescale & Efficiency for SF are set by transformation
low \rightarrow high density gas : HI, CO \rightarrow HCN, CS

→ Importance of multi – phase ISM in dynam. models !
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Starbursts in Interacting Galaxies

Pixel-by-pixel analyses of Tadpole & Mice galaxies
 SF in these interacting & starburst galaxies is
 star cluster formation to a large extent

70% of U - light is from star clusters
 40% of I - light

Star cluster formation = the dominant mode of SF
 even in the expanding low-density tidal tails, where the
 HI surface density is far below the critical threshold* !

With SFR \nearrow rel. amount of SF into star clusters \nearrow
 rel. amount of SF into massive compact
 long-lived clusters \nearrow

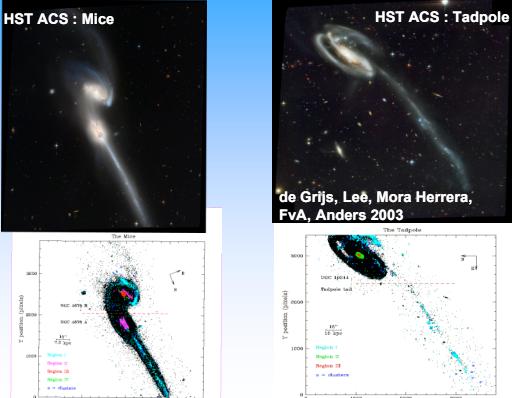
Feedback from strongly clustered SF
 ≠ feedback from lower-level smooth SF

*critical HI surface density below which SF is suppressed in normal
 spirals (Kennicutt's threshold)

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Starbursts in Interacting Galaxies

Pixel-by-pixel analyses



HST ACS : Mice

HST ACS : Tadpole

de Grijp, Le  , Mora Herrera,
FvA, Anders 2003

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Galaxy Interactions & Cluster Formation



Colliding Galaxies NGC 4038 and NGC 4039
 PRC97-24a • STScl CPO • October 21, 1999 • B. Whitmore (STScI) and NASA

HST • WFC2

Strong starburst \rightarrow formation of thousands of bright
 star clusters from gas pre-enriched in the spirals.
 High star formation efficiency \rightarrow clusters massive,
 compact & strongly bound,
 long-lived proto-Globular Clusters!
 (Burkert, Brown, Truran 96) $\eta \geq 10 - 30\%$: Globular Clusters

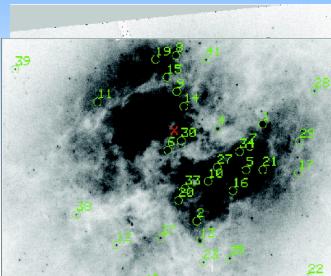
Secondary GCs = eternal tracers of violent SF epoch
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Star Clusters in Arp 220

Wilson+06 ACS HRC : UBVI
 206 star cluster candidates
 strongly concentrated to the centre
 of the nearest ULIRG Arp 220

2 age groups of
 star clusters :
 <10 Myr and ~ 300 Myr

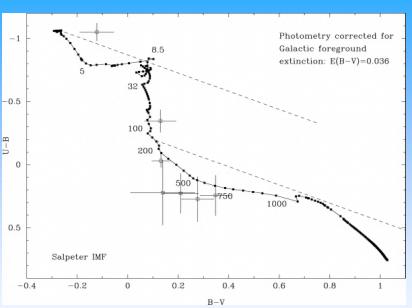
many clusters with
 masses $> 10^6 M_{\odot}$



(Wilson+06)

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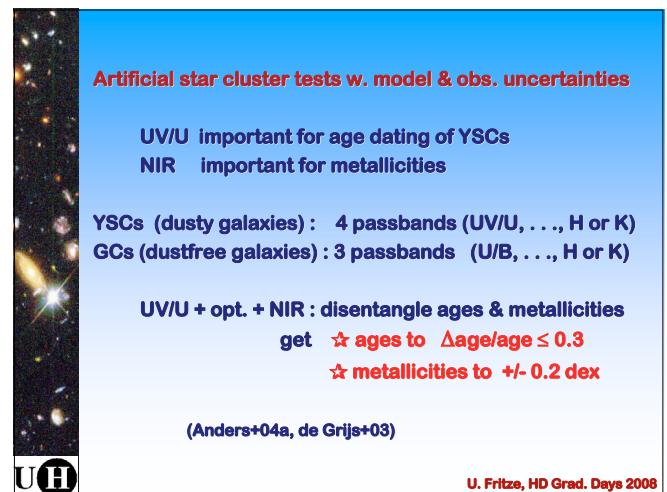
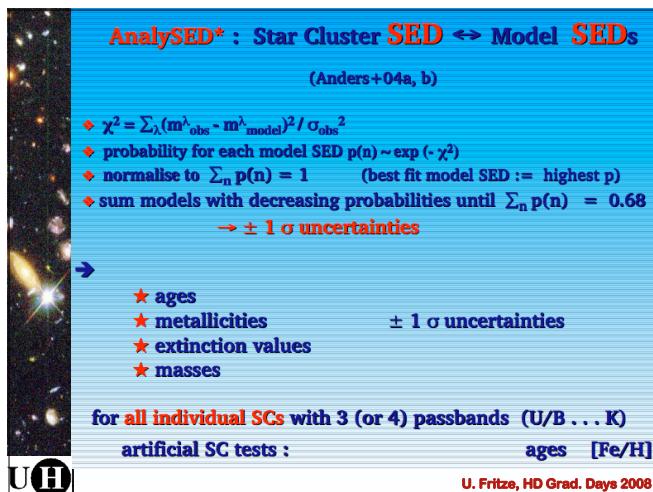
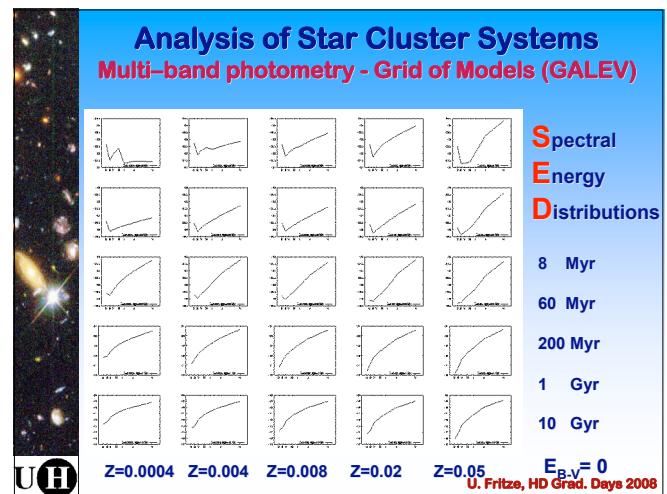
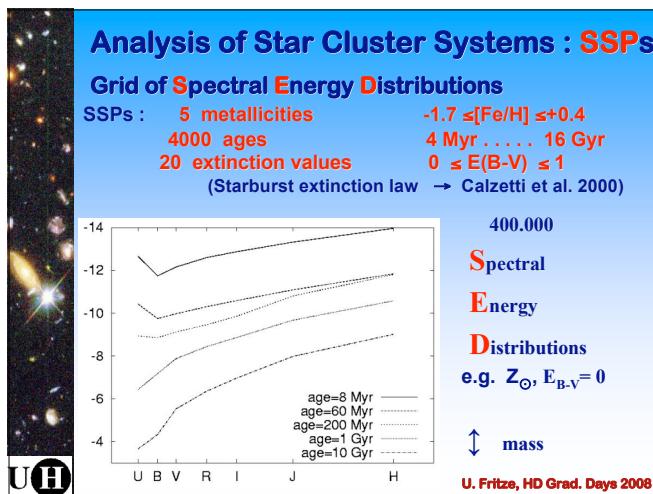
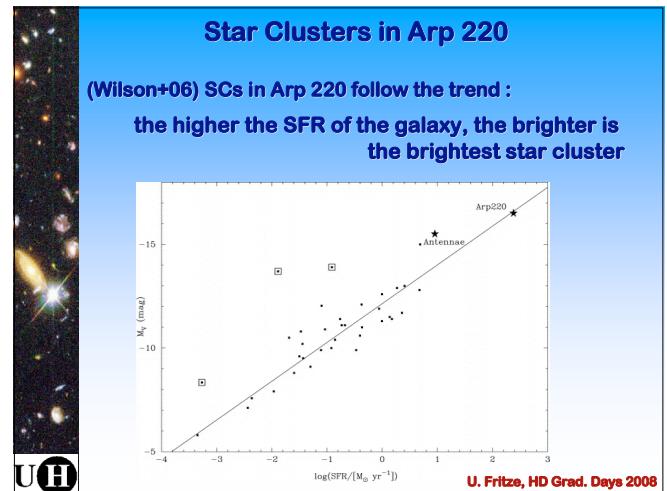
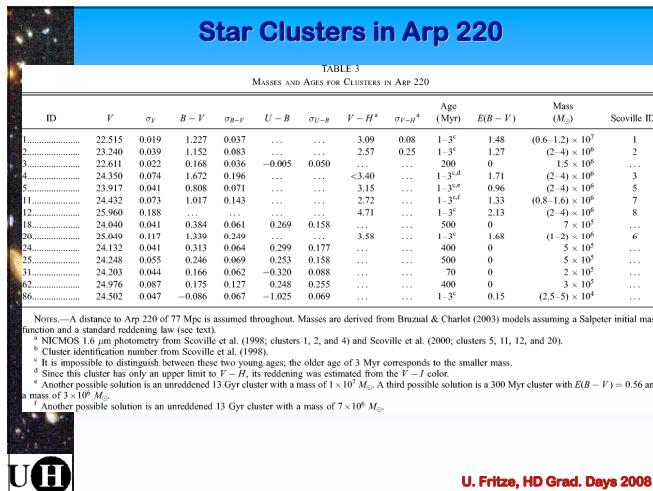
Star Clusters in Arp 220

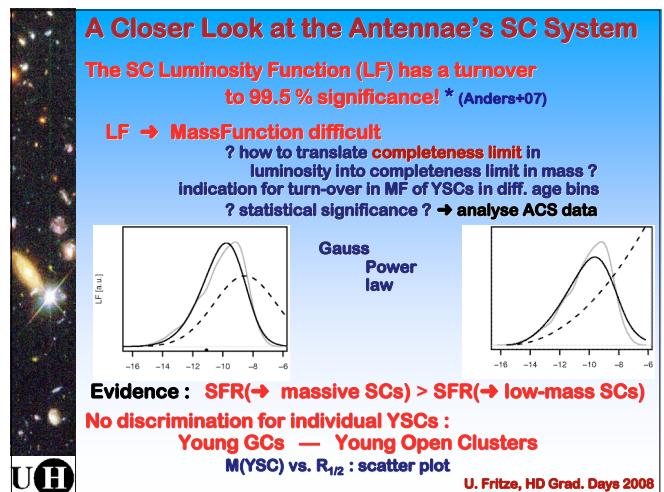
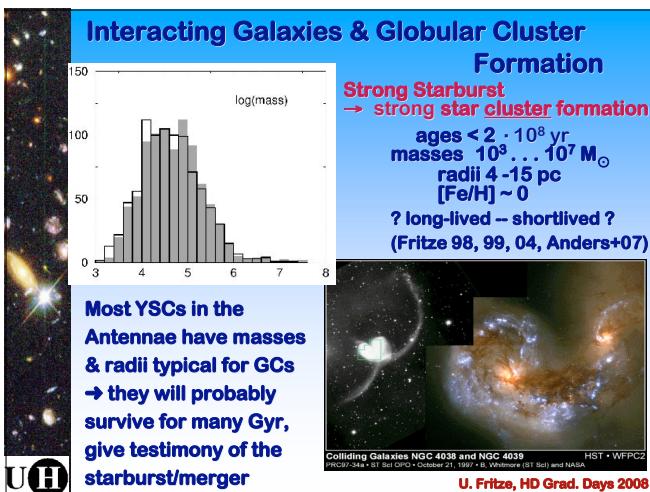
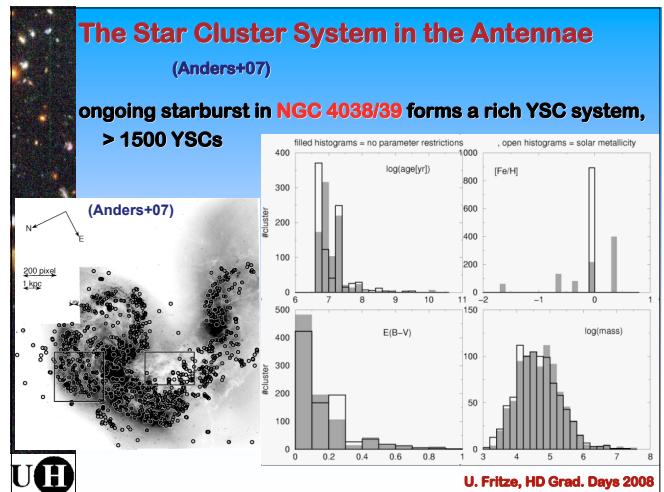
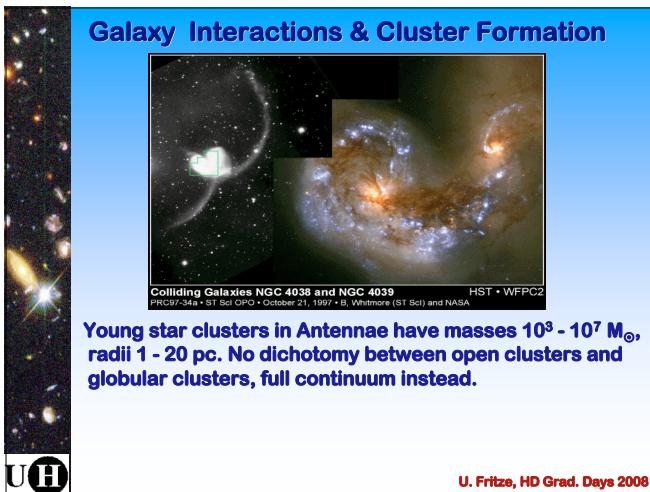
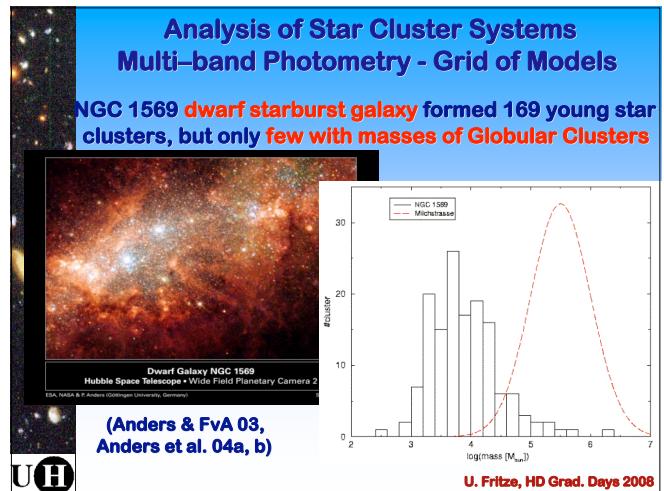
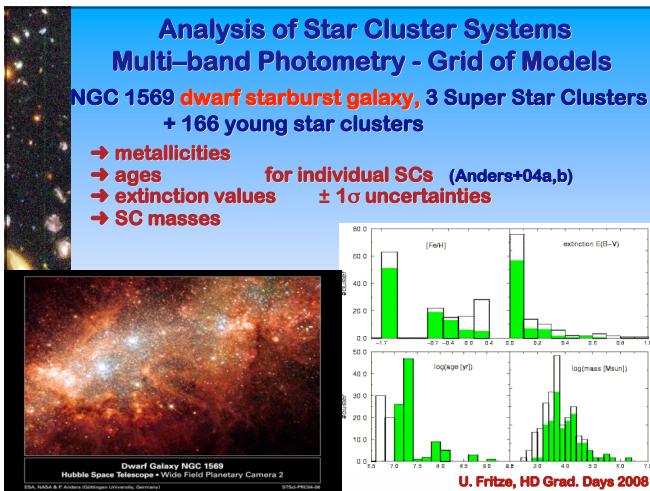


Photometry corrected for
 Galactic foreground
 extinction: $E(B-V)=0.036$

Salpeter IMF

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*** Background**

The Luminosity Function and the Mass Function of Milky Way (& other galaxies') **old** Globular Cluster systems show a turnover, while for **young** open clusters, for molecular clouds and molecular cloud cores, power laws are observed.

??? Is the turnover for the old GCs a result of secular evolution ???
 ??? or did the GC system already show a turnover when it was young ???

Ongoing debate among theorists: N-body models for survival and destruction of GCs in a galaxy potential.



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Some speculation

- If the turnover in the LF would reflect a turnover in the MF, this would
- tie in nicely with Parmentier & Gilmore's 05, 07 empirical results : MW GC system initially had a mass spectrum with turnover around $10^6 M_\odot$
 - indicate that the MF of the molecular clouds in the massive gas-rich Antennae merger (LIRG) is different from situation in undisturbed spirals, dwarf galaxy starbursts (as expected due to pressure effects)
 - prediction to be tested with ALMA



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Atacama Large Millimeter Array : ALMA
 → high sensitivity & high spatial resolution observations of molecular gas

80 antennas 5000m
 Jan.08
 1. interfer. spectrum

Orion hot core: Spectra_01-19-08_2.13.12.858.dat; 18.3 minutes

Orion hot core: Spectra_01-19-08_2.13.12.858.dat; 18.3 minutes

Frequency (GHz)

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Globular Cluster Formation in Interacting Galaxies & Mergers

NGC 7252 : Post – Starburst : SFE > 30 % (cf. SFE < 3 % in normal galaxies)
 hundreds of star clusters ages ~ 0.6 – 1 Gyr
 masses $10^4 \dots 10^6 M_\odot$, radii ~ 4 pc, $Z = (0.5 \dots 1) Z_\odot$, long-lived : **young Globular Clusters**
 $N(\text{young GCs}) \sim N(\text{old GCs})$! *

Secondary GCs = eternal tracers of violent SF epoch.

Conservative estimate : SFE > 35 %

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*** Background :**

Globular Cluster specific frequency (S_{GC} or T_{GC}) := N_{GC} per galaxy luminosity or mass

Ashman & Zepf (1993) : $\langle T_{\text{GC}} \rangle_E = 2 \langle T_{\text{GC}} \rangle_{\text{Sp}}$
 Ellipticals on average have twice the number of GC per unit of mass than spirals

The starburst in the massive gas-rich spiral-spiral merger NGC 7252 formed many new GCs ! (ok with SF efficiency)

Enough survived the first 600 - 900 Myr to fulfill

$\langle T_{\text{GC}} \rangle_E = 2 \langle T_{\text{GC}} \rangle_{\text{Sp}}$ (Fritze & Burkert 95, Schweizer 02)

Masses $\sim 10^5 - 10^6 M_\odot$ W3: $(7 - 8)10^7 M_\odot$ (Maraston+01, 04)
 (spectroscopy and multi-band photometry) $Z \sim (0.5 - 1) Z_\odot$

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Cosmological Importance of Galaxy Interactions & Starbursts

Hierarchical structure formation scenario : Galaxies build up continuously from smaller building blocks ± starbursts !

Galaxy interactions much more frequent in the past & much stronger, galaxies more gas-rich

Key role of (Globular) Star Clusters = eternal tracers of violent star formation episodes

SC analysis 1-by-1 : age & metallicity distributions, much better than integrated light ! (FvA 98, 99, 04)

Multi-band Photometrie : HST (+ ground) **UBVRI+NIR**

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Globular Cluster Analyses

ACS Virgo Cluster Project : B – I distributions of 100 GCSs in E/S0s (Peng+06)

NGC 4472

many bimodal :
blue peak : universal, old+metal-poor
red peak : variable, younger ± more metal-rich ?

Optical colors degenerate in age & metallicity
→ optical + NIR colors largely resolve degeneracy

e.g. V – I = 1.2 2 Gyr, [Fe/H] = +0.4 V – K = 3.5
V – I = 1.2 13 Gyr, [Fe/H] = -1.7 V – K = 2.3
(Fritze 04)

with additional K – imaging & AnalySED
→ GC ages to Δ age/age ~ 0.2
→ GC metallicities to ~ 0.2 dex U. Fritze, HD Grad. Days 2008

Globular Cluster Age & Metallicity Distributions

= key tracers of their parent galaxy's (violent) SFH & metal enrichment histories over cosmological lookback times, i.e. back to the very onset of SF in the Early Universe.

Before we can also use them to study their parent galaxy's mass assembly histories, we must understand the relative amount of SF that goes into the formation of massive, strongly bound, long-term stable SCs and its dependence on galaxy, interaction & starburst properties → study major mergers/minor accretions, big/dwarf galaxies, gas-rich/gas-poor

Astro-archeology

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Globular Cluster Age & Metallicity Distributions

GC population in S0 NGC 4570 : (Kotulla & Fritze 08)

**HST ACS g, z (VCS)
+ NTT-SOFI K to 21.3 Vega mag**

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Globular Cluster Age & Metallicity Distributions

NGC 4570 : (Kotulla & Fritze 08)

GC age distribution
→ when a starburst occurred

GC metallicity distrib.
→ what happened minor accretion or major merger

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Star Clusters = Simple Stellar Populations
: easy to model & easy to analyse 1 – by – 1
: accessible via multi-band photometry to Virgo cluster distances & beyond

Ages & metallicities of young SC populations
= tracers of recent/ongoing SFH in galaxies dust !

Ages & metallicities of GC populations
= tracers of violent SFHs over t_{Hubble} ~ no dust !
(SCs better than integrated light & complementary to high-z studies!)

Key : ages & metallicities from SEDs **U B V R I J H K**

- color → metallicity only at fixed age
- color → age only at given metallicity
- SED → age & metallicity (& dust) independently

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