

The recurrent impact of the Sagittarius dwarf on the Milky Way star formation history

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The measurement of distances to individual stars with Gaia is enabling the construction of deep colour-magnitude diagrams (CMD) for large volumes within our Galaxy in absolute magnitudes. Comparison with models (CMD-fitting) has allowed us to obtain the most detailed star formation history (SFH) of the bubble of 2 kpc around the Sun. Surprisingly, this SFH presents conspicuous star forming events around 5.7, 2 and 1 Gyr ago, coinciding with inferred pericentric passages of the Sagittarius dwarf galaxy (Sgr). We conclude that Sgr has been an important actor in the build-up of the stellar mass of the Milky Way disc.

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Context

SFH of the Milky Way

- Previous determinations of the MW SFH were mainly concentrated in the Solar neighbourhood (within 250 pc) or lacked age resolution Bertelli+2001, Cignoni+2006, Mor+2019
- Solution Solution

Lallement+2018, Casagrande+2018, Babusiaux+2018



Interactions

- Satellites orbiting disc galaxies can induce phase space features and trigger star formation Quinn+1993, Siebert+2011, Mihos&Hernquist 1994
- Sgr has experienced several pericentric passages, being the main architect of the dynamics of our Galaxy during the last 6 Gyr Purcell+2011, Laporte+2018



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Method: CMD fitting techniques



Obtaining SFHs from CMD fitting is a technique widely applied to study the evolution of Local Group galaxies

Pioneer works: Bertelli+1992; Gallart+1999; Hernández+1999; Dolphin 2002; Aparicio&Gallart 2004; Cignoni&Tosi 2010

0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0

Gallart et al. 2005

0.0

-0.5

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Results 1



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Results 11



Kinematic cut of thin and thick disc according to Babusiaux et al. 2018.

First infall global impact

Rest of passages affect more drastically the thin disc. Mixing effects?

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CONCLUSIONS

- We have adapted **CMD fitting techniques** (commonly applied to dwarf galaxies in the Local Group) to deal with **Gaia data**
- This allows us to determine Star Formation Histories in large volumes within the Milky Way → Age distributions
- We have computed the most detailed SFH characteristic of the disc of the Milky Way → Striking burst of star formation (5.7, 1.9 and 1 Gyr ago)
- These findings most likely suggest that Sgr has been an important actor in the build-up of the Milky Way disc stellar mass, with its perturbations repeatedly triggering major episodes of star formation (constraining hydrodynamical simulations of interaction-induced star formation in galaxies)