

EMISSION MECHANISMS

LESSON 1

CHIARA FERRARI

REFERENCE TEXT:

“ASTROPHYSICAL PROCESSES” BY H. BRADT
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS (2008)



OUTLINE OF THIS LESSON

▶ Overview of this part of the “Cosmology” course

- i. Emission mechanisms
- ii. Astrophysical examples

▶ Thermal bremsstrahlung radiation (with a general introduction)

- i. Measurable quantities in astrophysics
- ii. Thermal bremsstrahlung from a hot plasma of ionized atoms

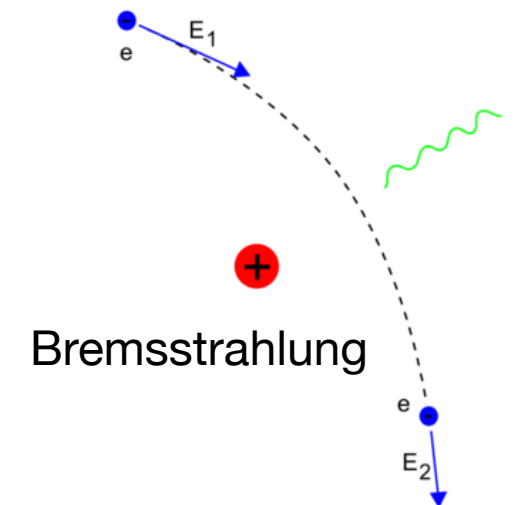
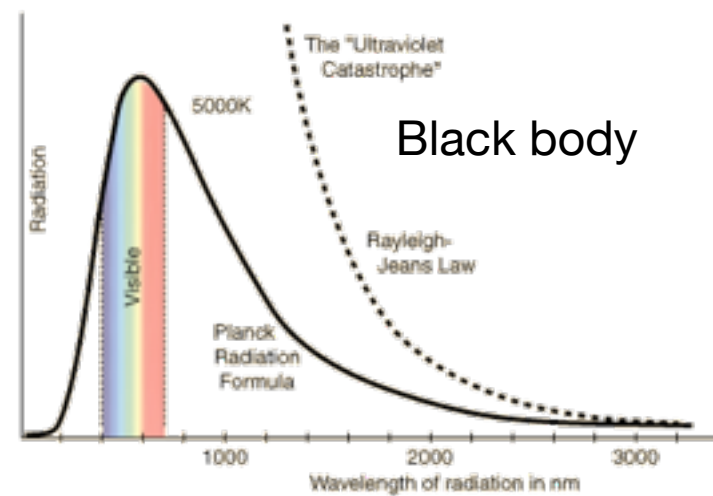
EMISSION MECHANISMS

▶ Thermal bremsstrahlung radiation

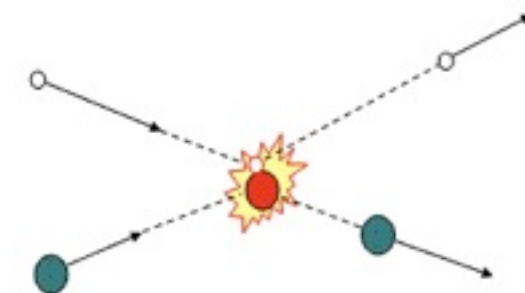
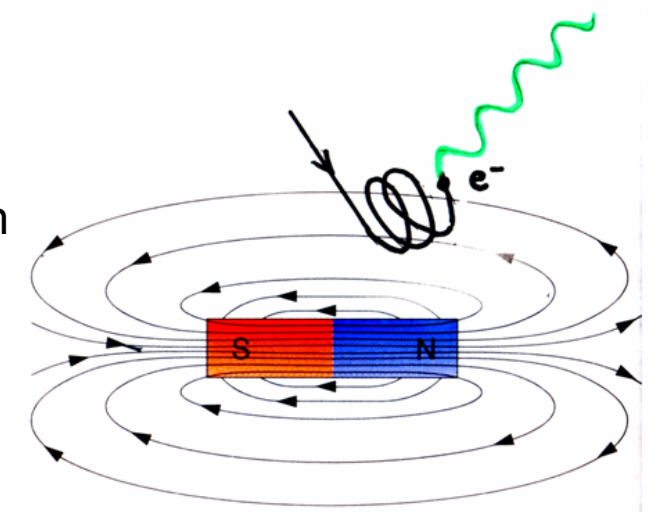
▶ Blackbody radiation

▶ Synchrotron radiation

▶ Compton scattering

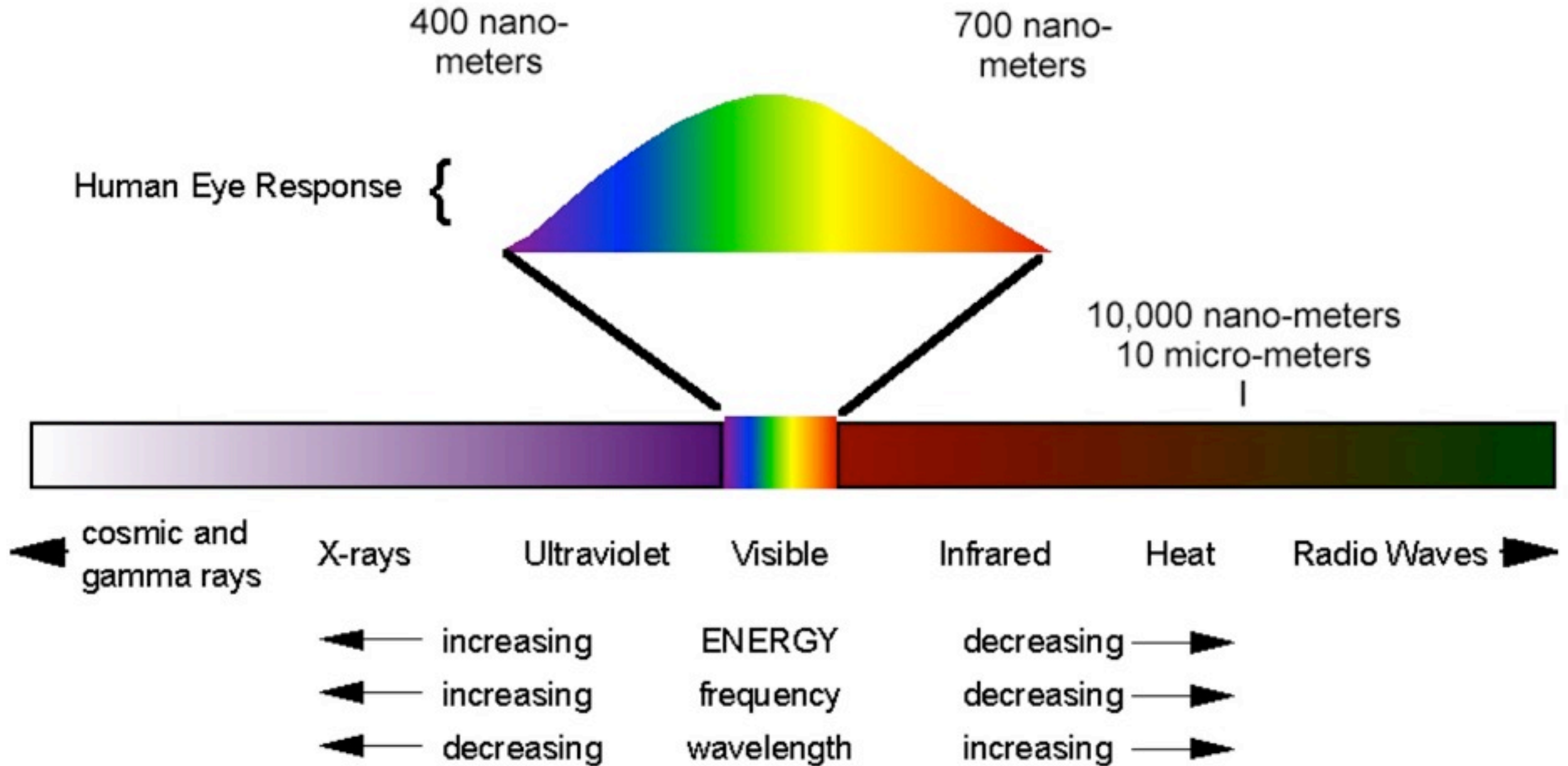


Synchrotron



Compton scattering

EMISSION MECHANISMS



ASTROPHYSICAL EXAMPLES

Multi-wavelength emission

▶ from galaxies ...



▶ ... and from galaxy clusters



DISCOVERY OF GALAXIES & GALAXY CLUSTERS



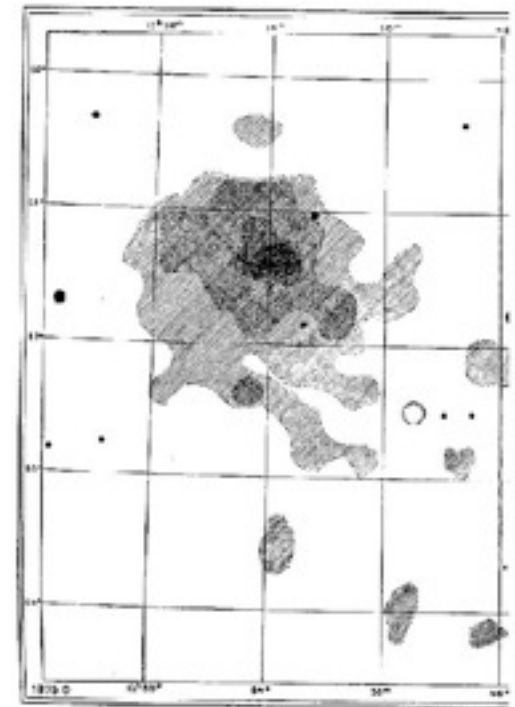
C. Messier



W. Herschel

XVIII century: Messier and Herschel note the existence of “*nebulae*” and concentrations of them in the sky

1901: Wolf produce the first map of visible light distribution in a cluster of nebulae (Coma)



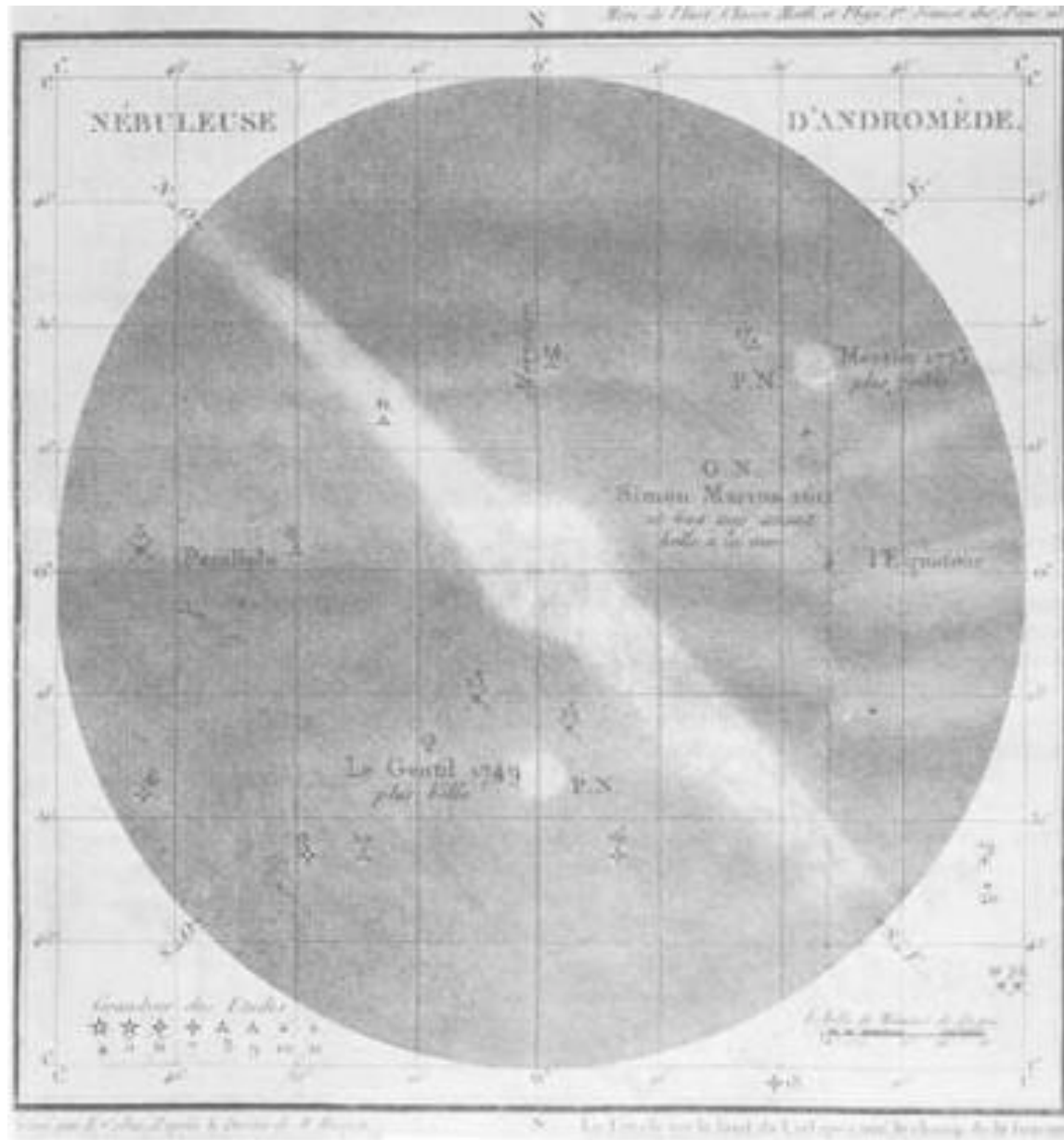
H.D. Curtis



H. Shapley

1920: “Great debate” by Curtis & Shapley

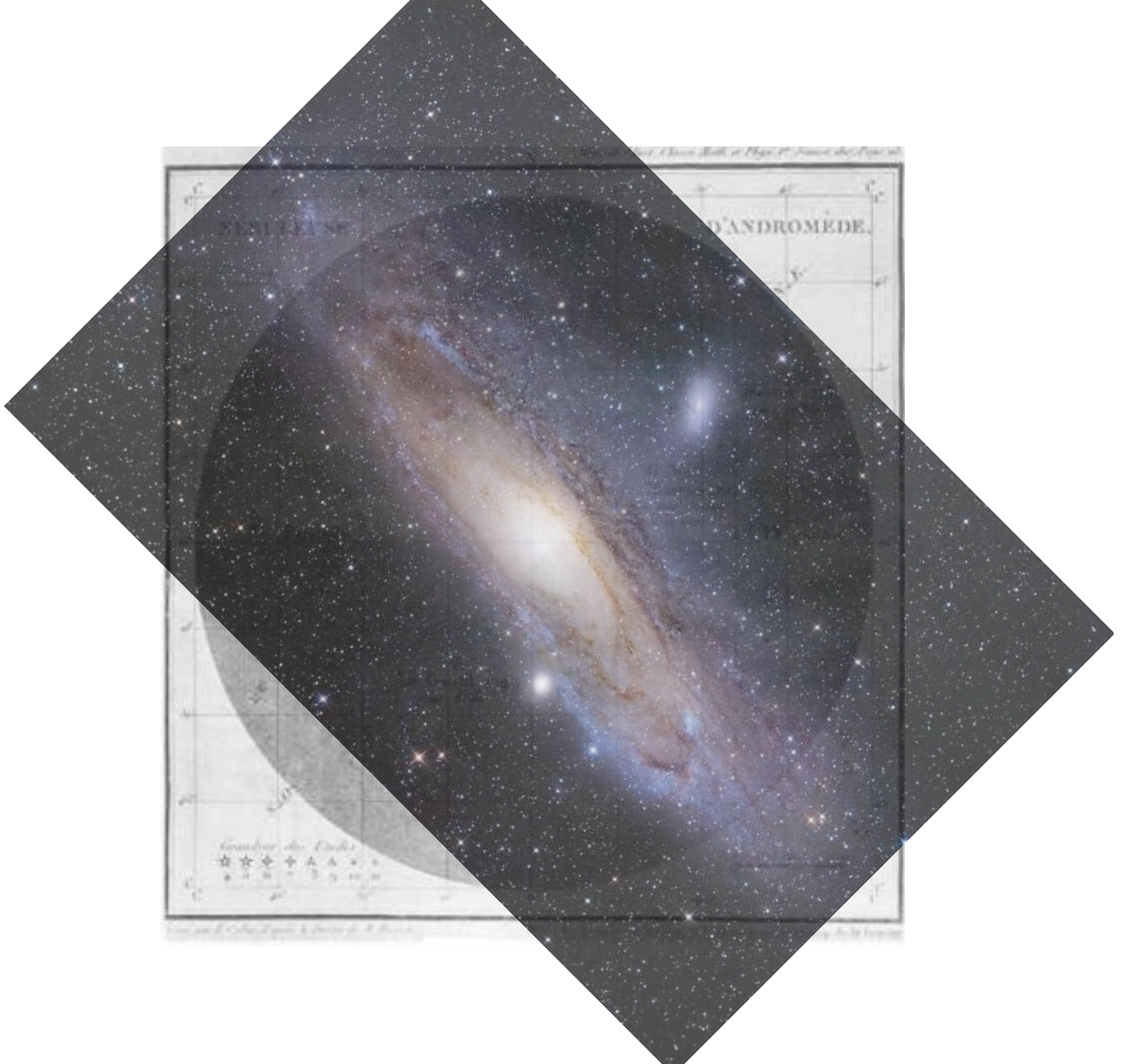
THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY



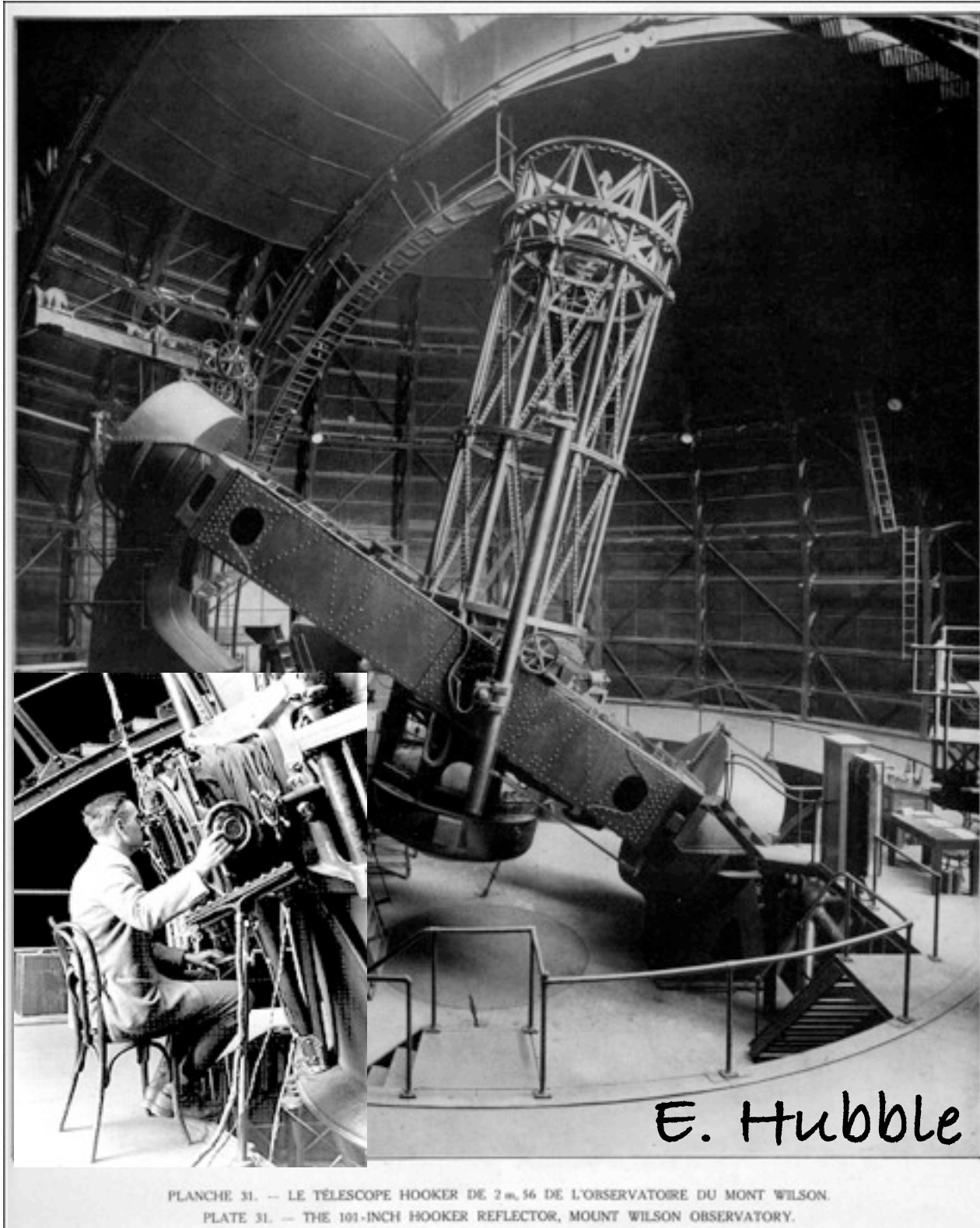
... as seen by Messier ...



... and by the Hubble Space Telescope



1923: OUR GALAXY IS NOT UNIQUE!



E. Hubble

PLANCHE 31. — LE TÉLESCOPE HOOKER DE 2 m, 56 DE L'OBSERVATOIRE DU MONT WILSON.
PLATE 31. — THE 101-INCH HOOKER REFLECTOR, MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY.



plaque 335 du 6 Octobre 1923 de E Hubble au télescope Hooker de 100" du Mont Wilson. il trouve des "nova" dans M31 mais une (coin haut à droite) est particulière; c'est une céphéide, il remplace le N par VAR (Variable) on va pouvoir ainsi mesurer la distance de M31 document Mont-Wilson

THE MASS OF GALAXIES & GALAXY CLUSTERS

F. Zwicky

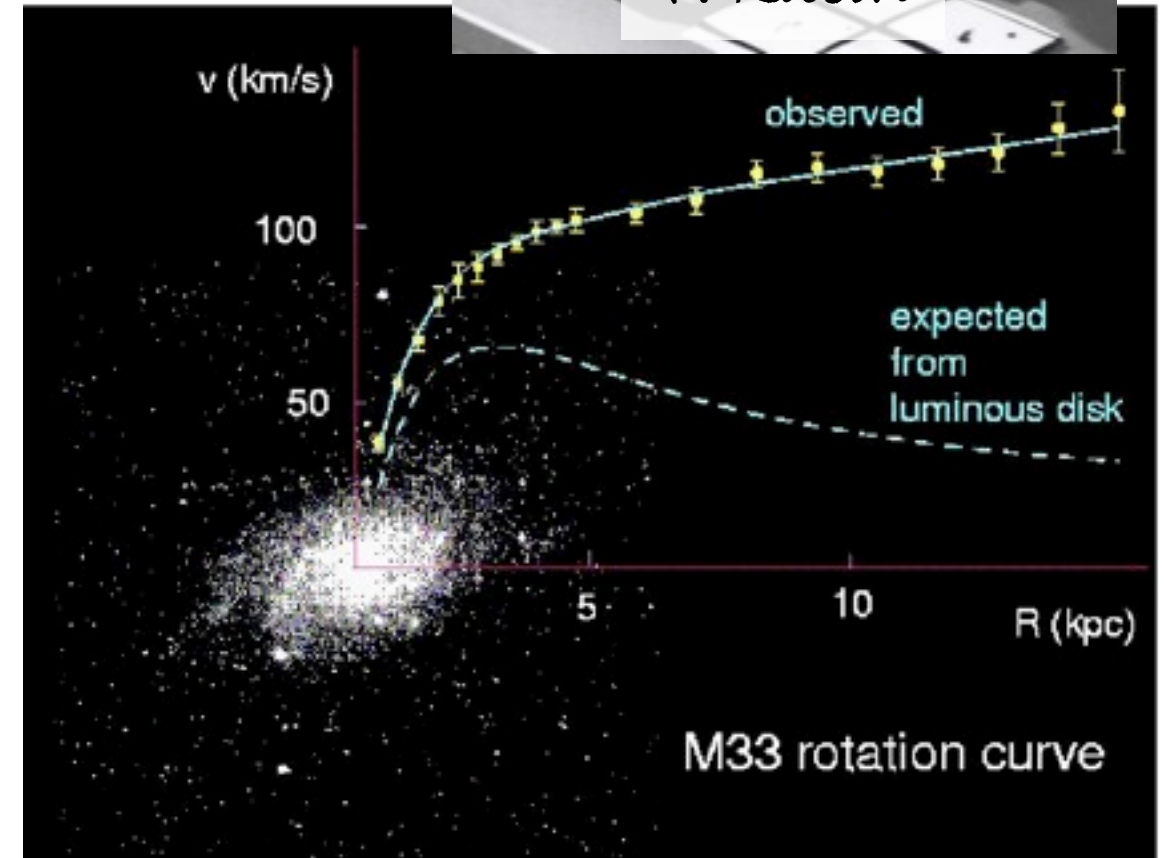
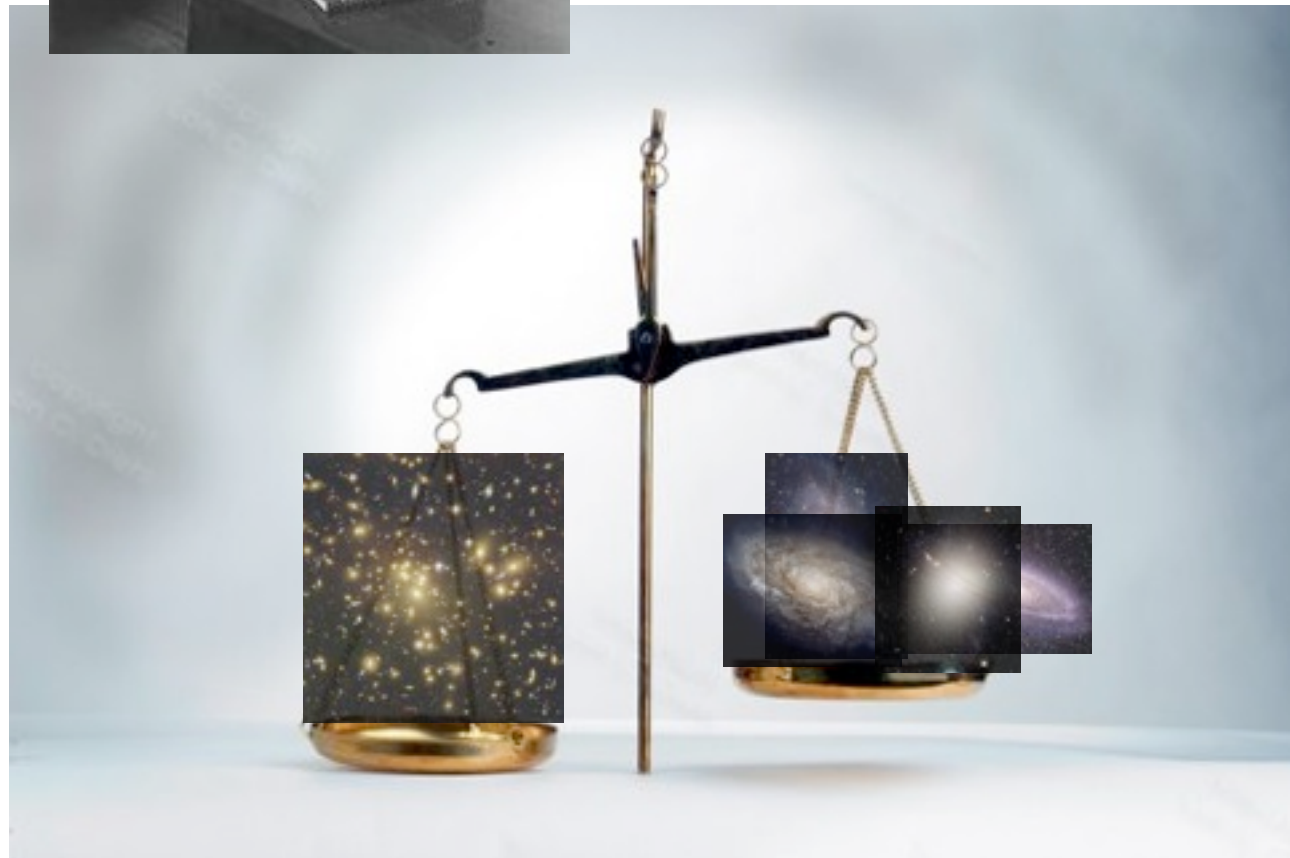


30's & 70's: unobserved form of matter in clusters and galaxies...

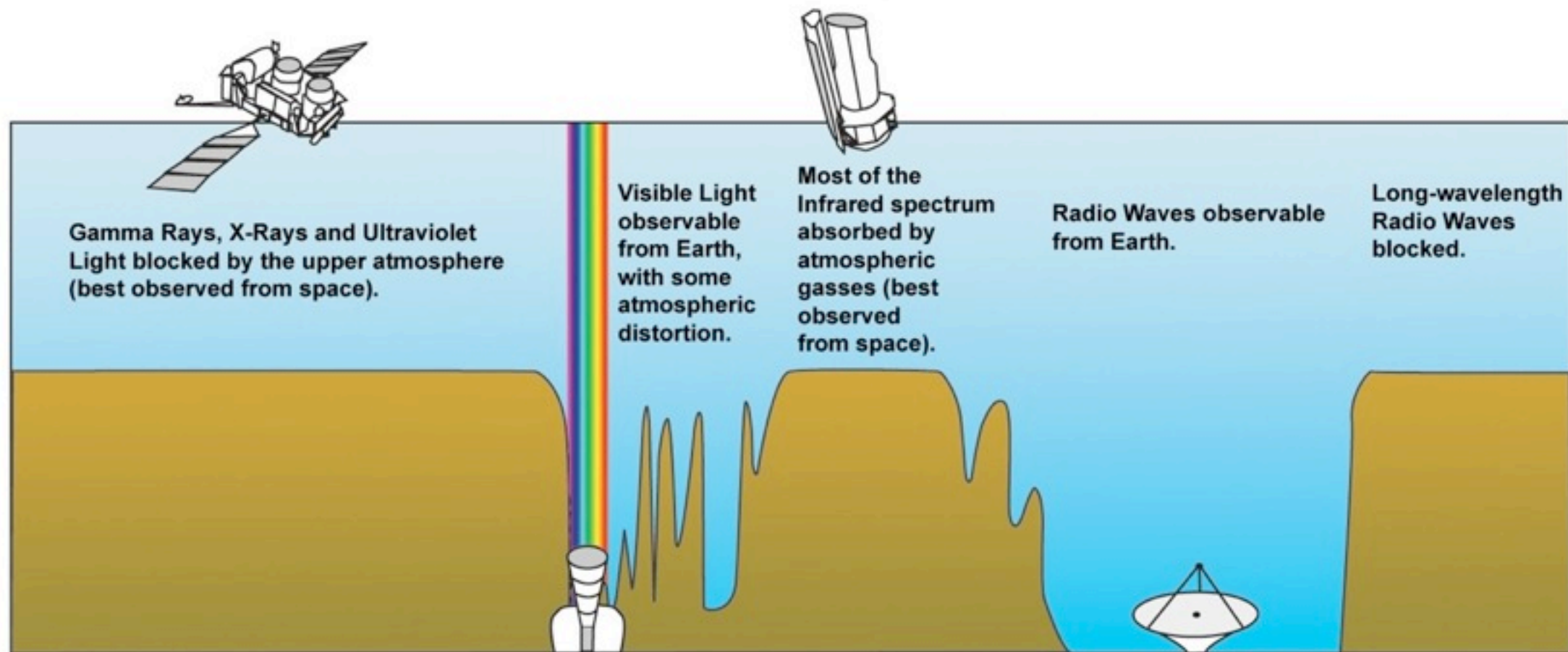
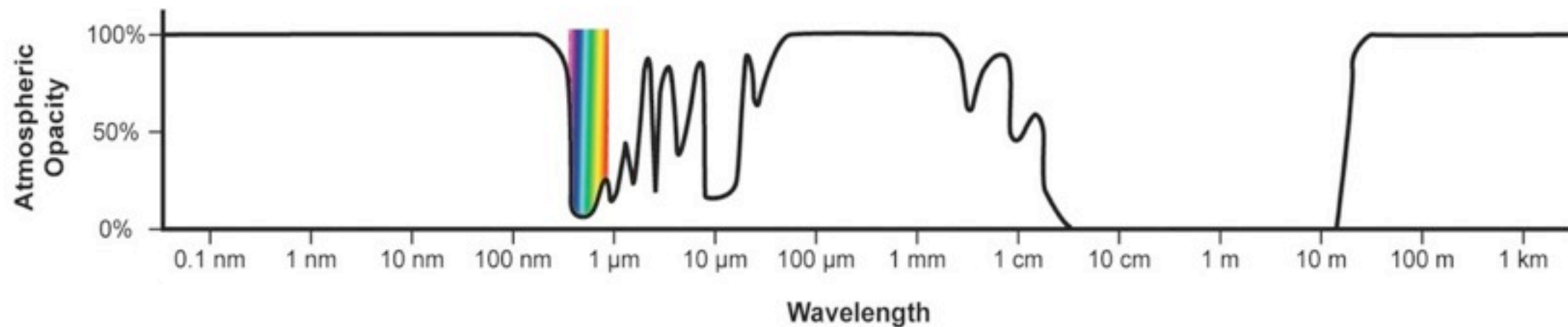
The Dark Matter problem catch the attention of astronomers



V. Rubin



NOT ONLY VISIBLE LIGHT: NOT ONLY STARS AND GALAXIES...

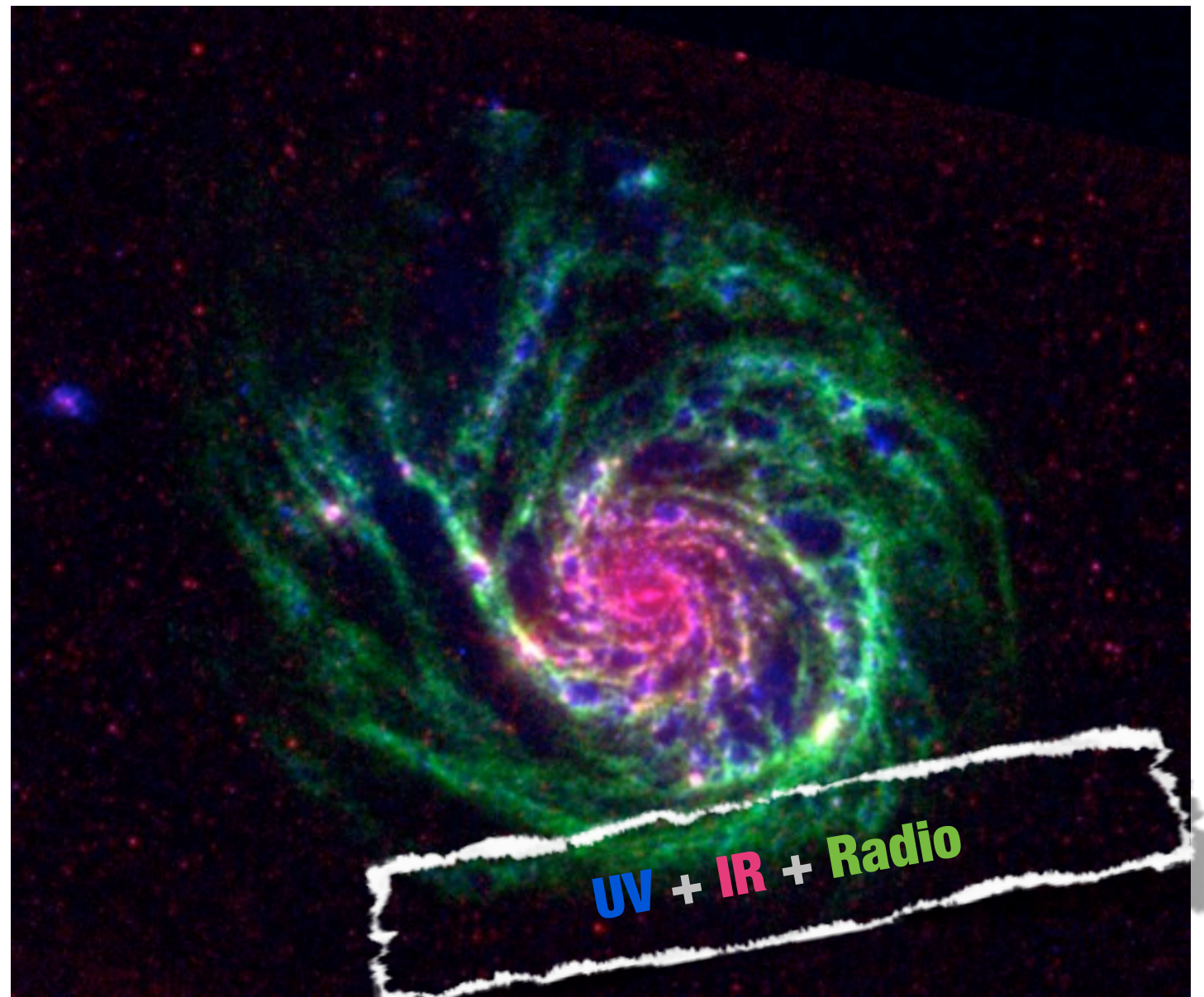


ASTROPHYSICAL EXAMPLES

Multi-wavelength emission

▶ from galaxies ...

▶ ... and from galaxy clusters

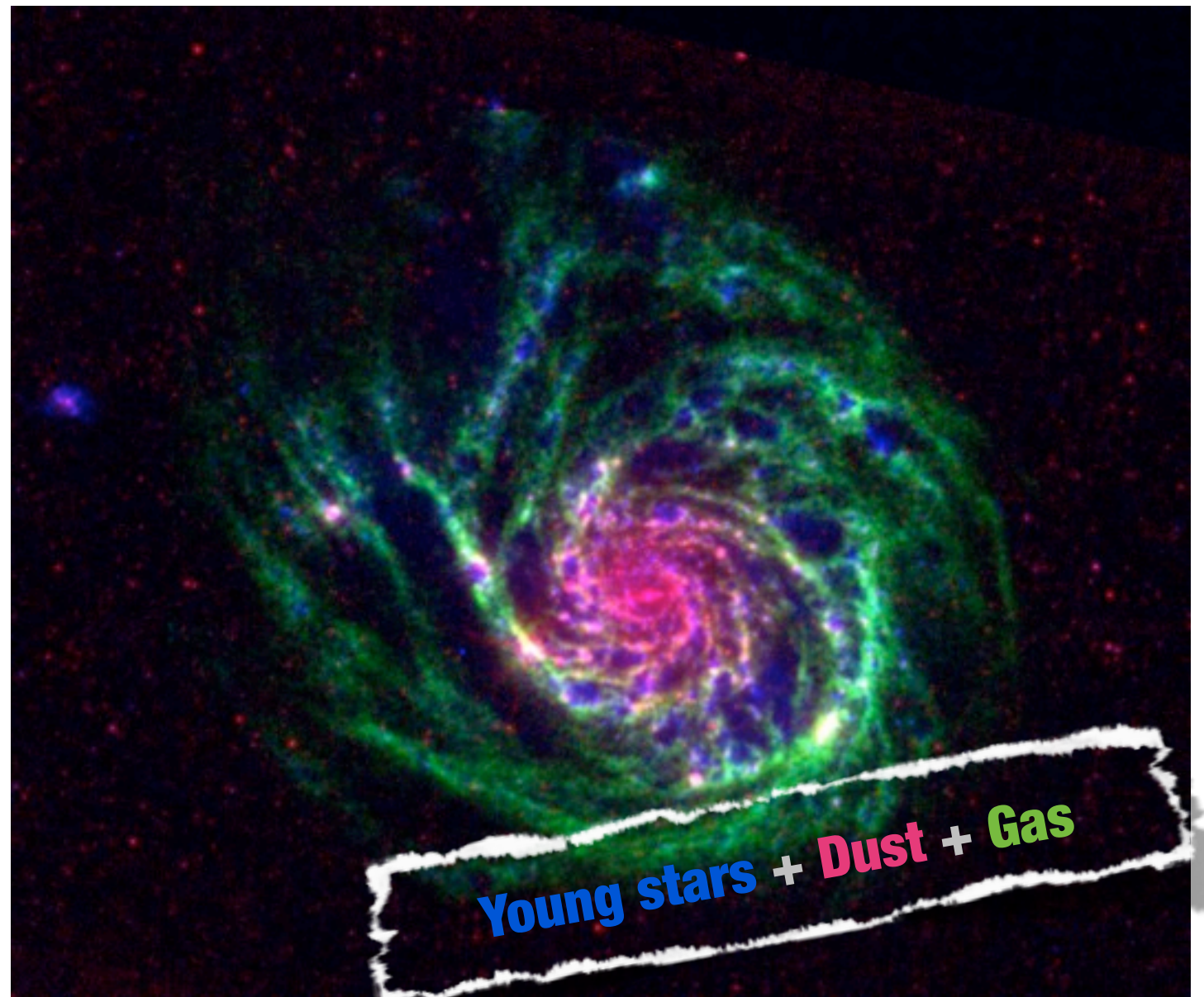


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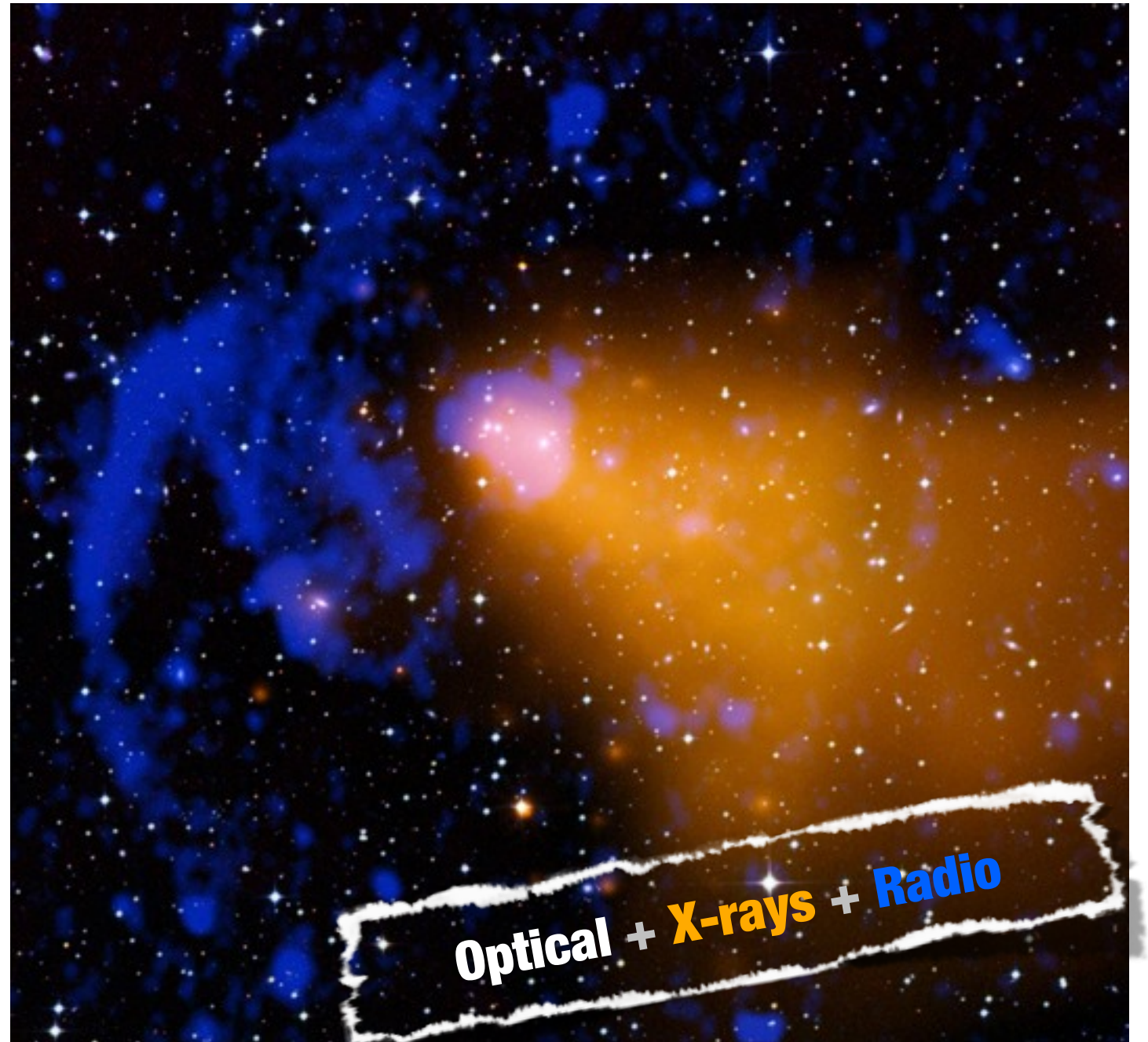


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Multi-wavelength emission

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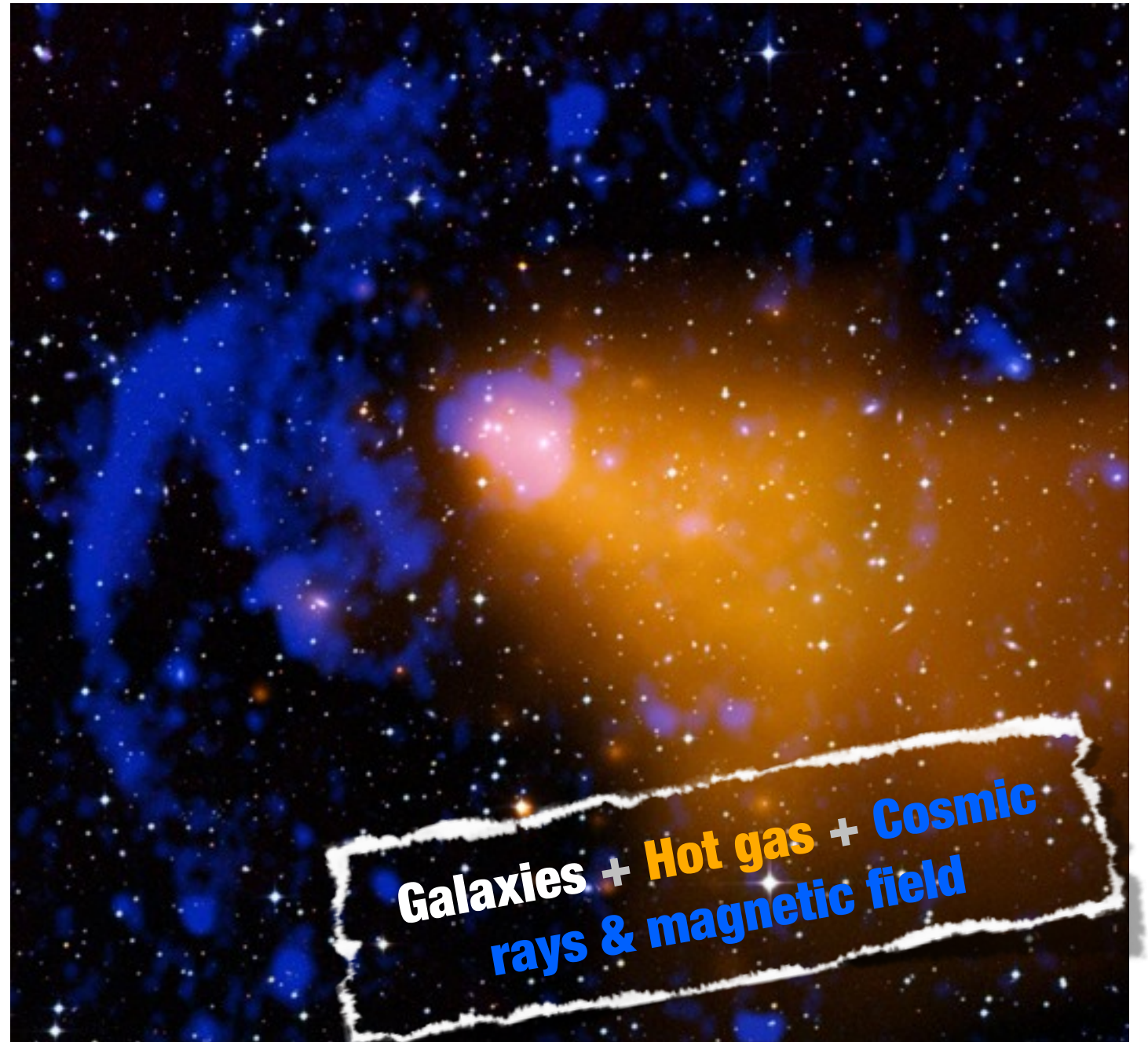


ASTROPHYSICAL EXAMPLES

Multi-wavelength emission

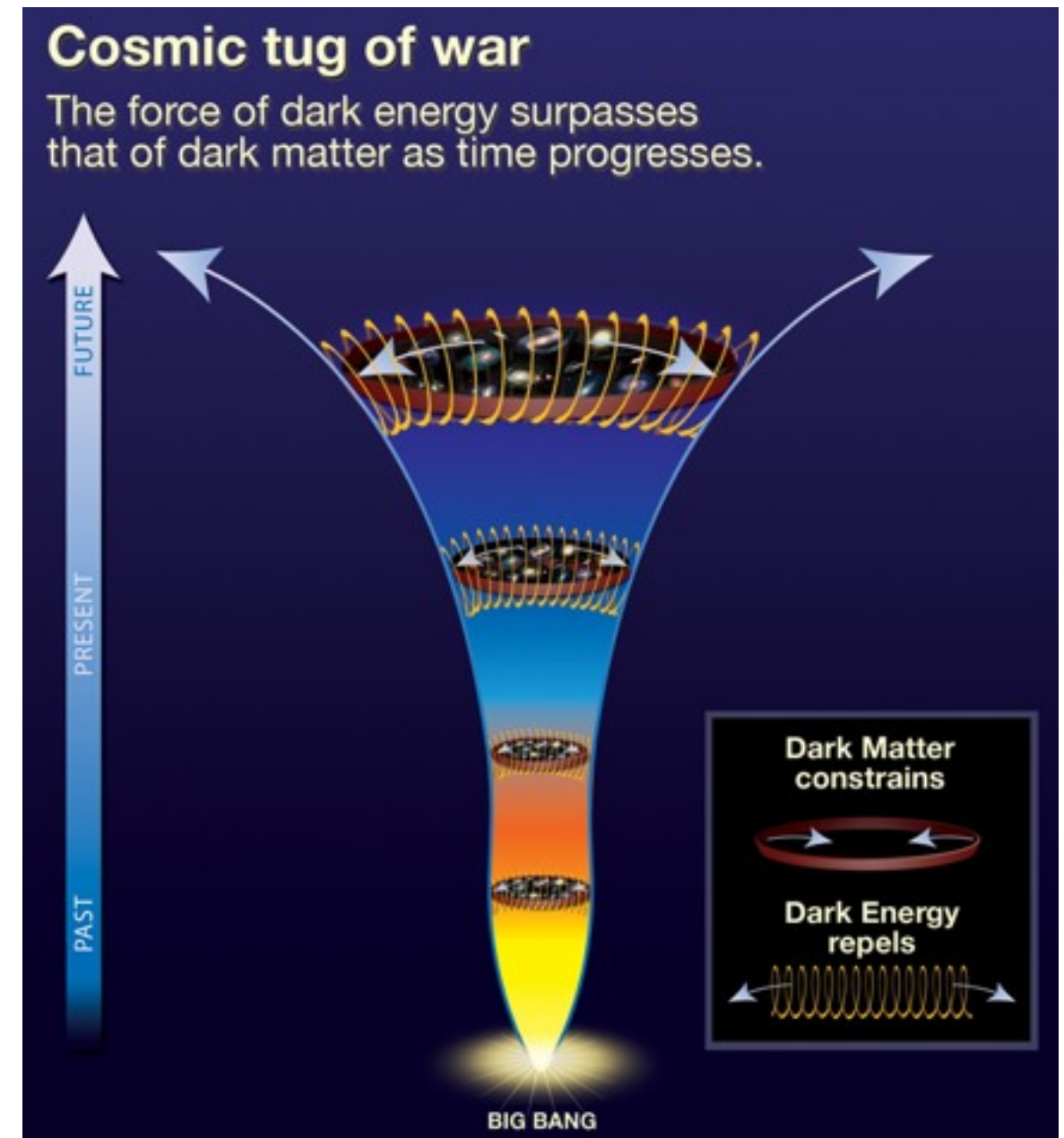
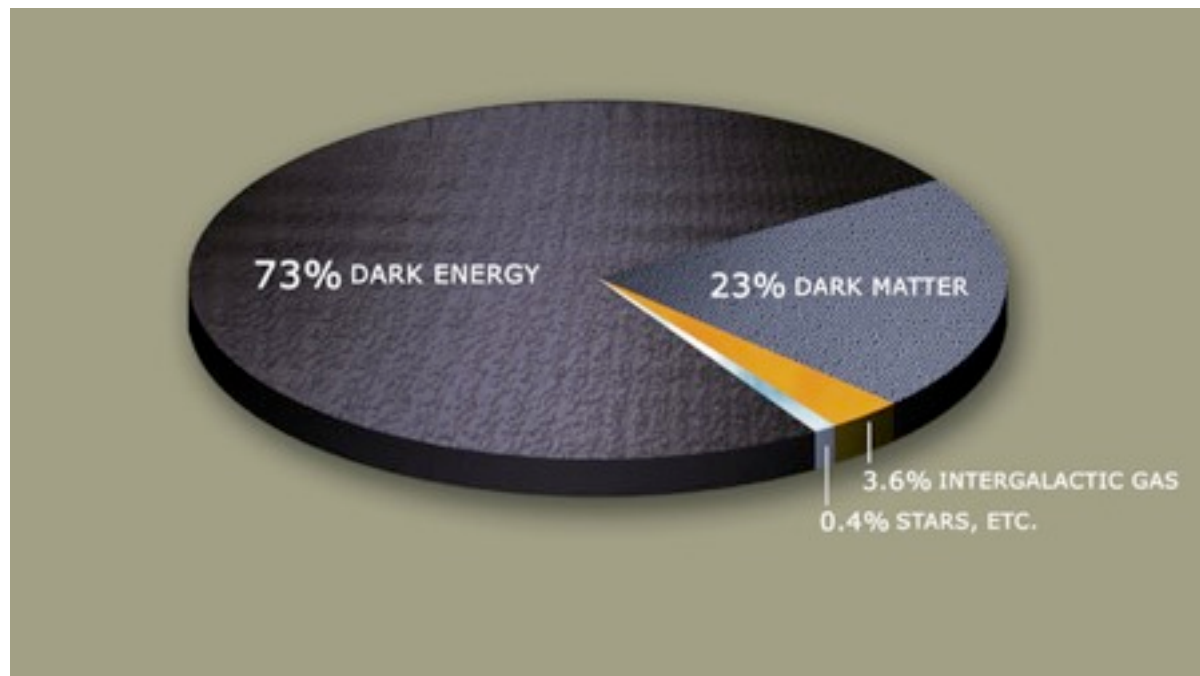
▶ from galaxies ...

▶ ... and from galaxy clusters



DARK MATTER: STILL AN OPEN ISSUE...

...AND NOT EVEN THE BIGGEST ONE!

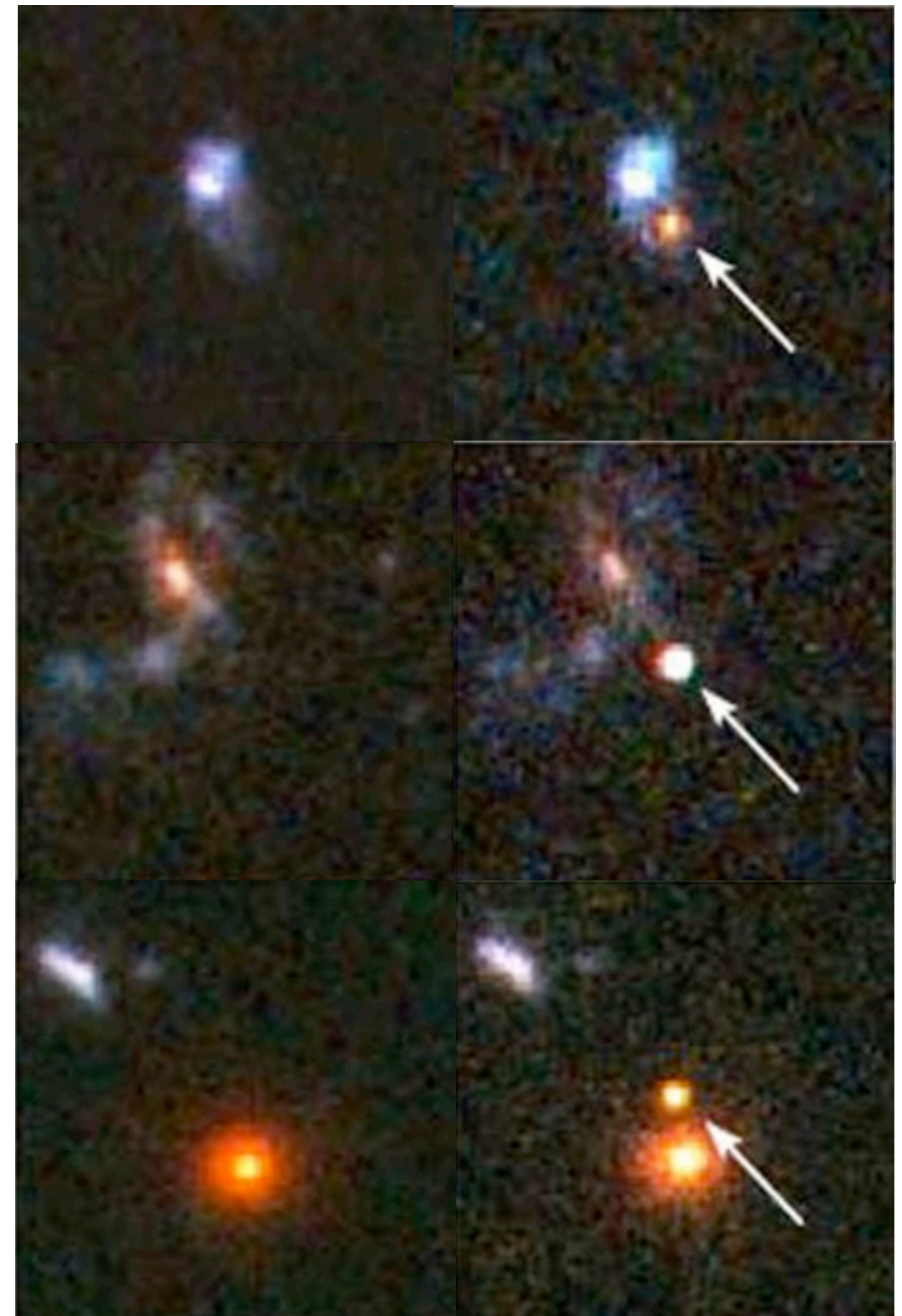


2011: Nobel in Physics goes to

Perlmutter (U.S.), Schimidt (AUS) & Riess (U.S.)

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▶ Overview of this part of the “Cosmology” course

- i. Emission mechanisms
- ii. Astrophysical examples

▶ **Thermal bremsstrahlung radiation** (with a general introduction)

- i. **Measurable quantities in astrophysics**
- ii. Thermal bremsstrahlung from a hot plasma of ionized atoms

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

MEASURABLE QUANTITIES IN ASTROPHYSICS

► Luminosity :

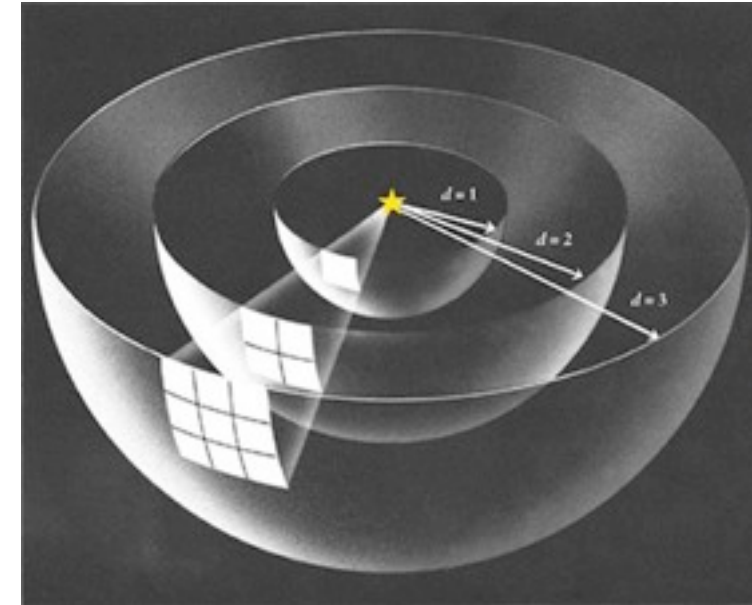
$$L = \int_{SV} j \, dV = \int_0^\infty L(\nu) d\nu$$

L = total or absolute luminosity (W)

$L(\nu)$ = monochromatic luminosity (W Hz⁻¹)

SV = source volume

j = total power radiated per unit volume (W/m³)



► Spectral flux density: $S(\nu) = L(\nu)/(4\pi R^2) = \int \int I(\nu, T) d\Omega$

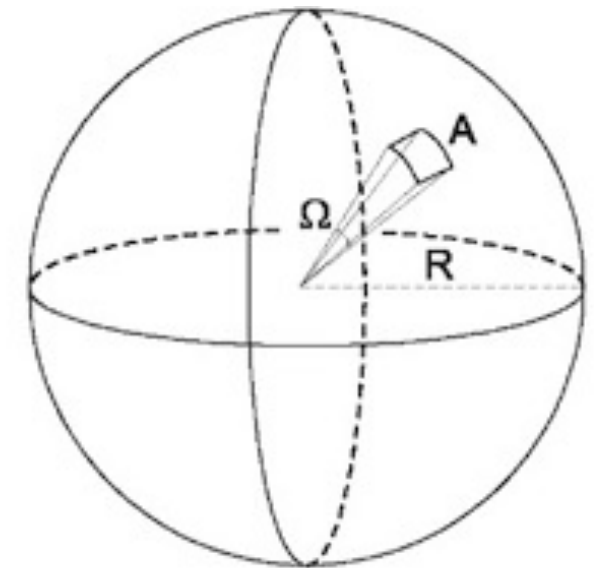
$S(\nu)$ = spectral flux density (W m⁻² Hz⁻¹)

$L(\nu)$ = monochromatic luminosity (W Hz⁻¹)

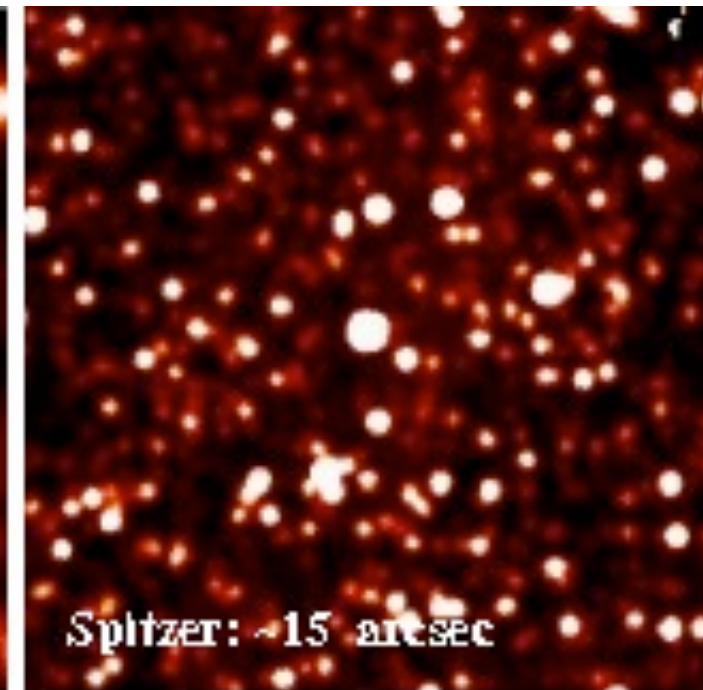
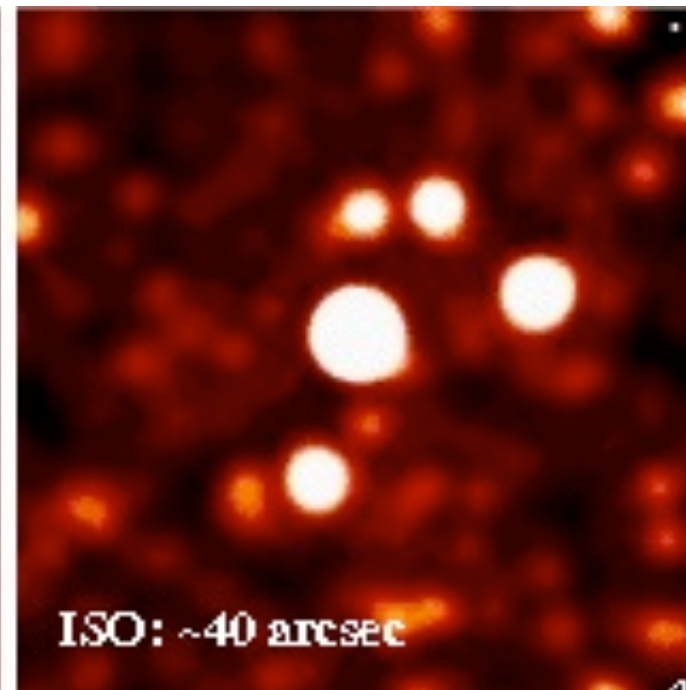
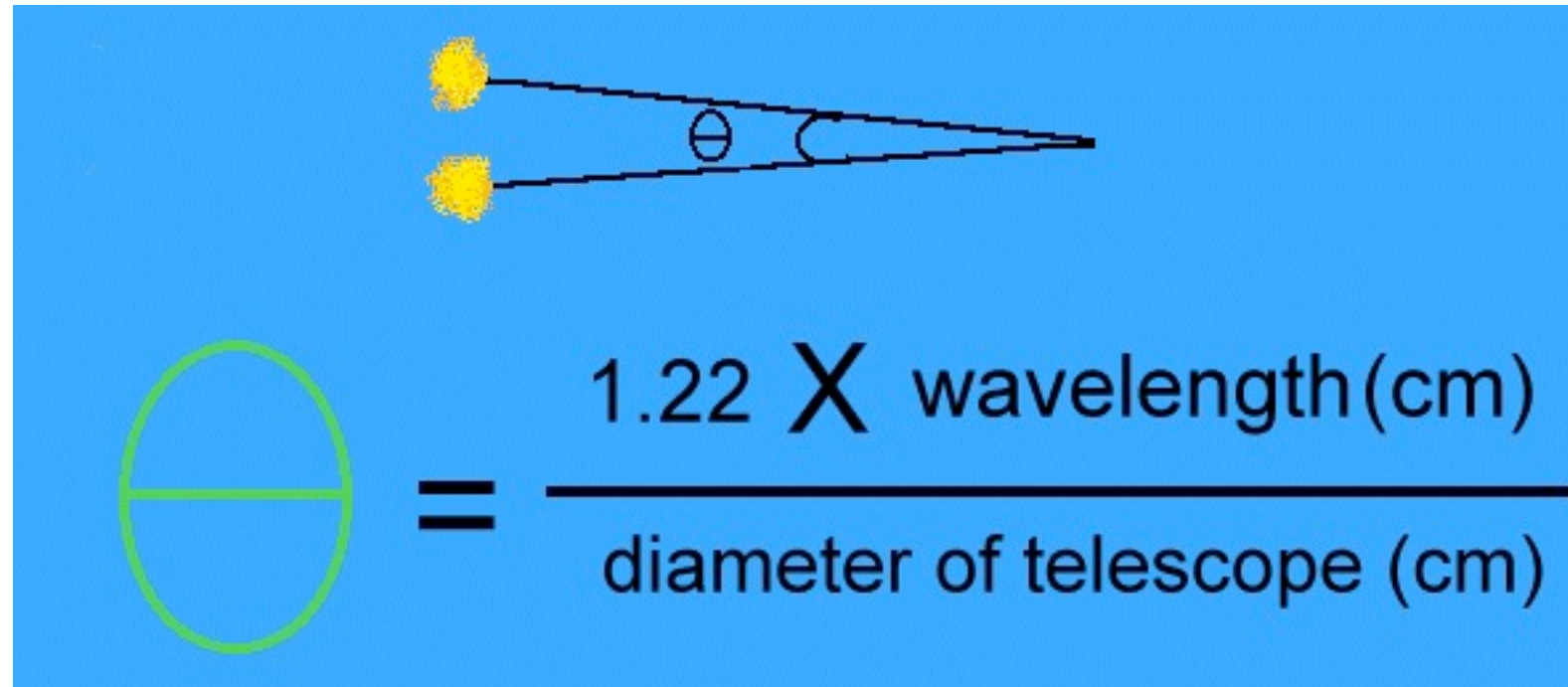
R = source distance

$I(\nu, T)$ = specific intensity (W m⁻² Hz⁻¹ sr⁻¹)

$d\Omega$ = increment solid angle



ANGULAR RESOLUTION

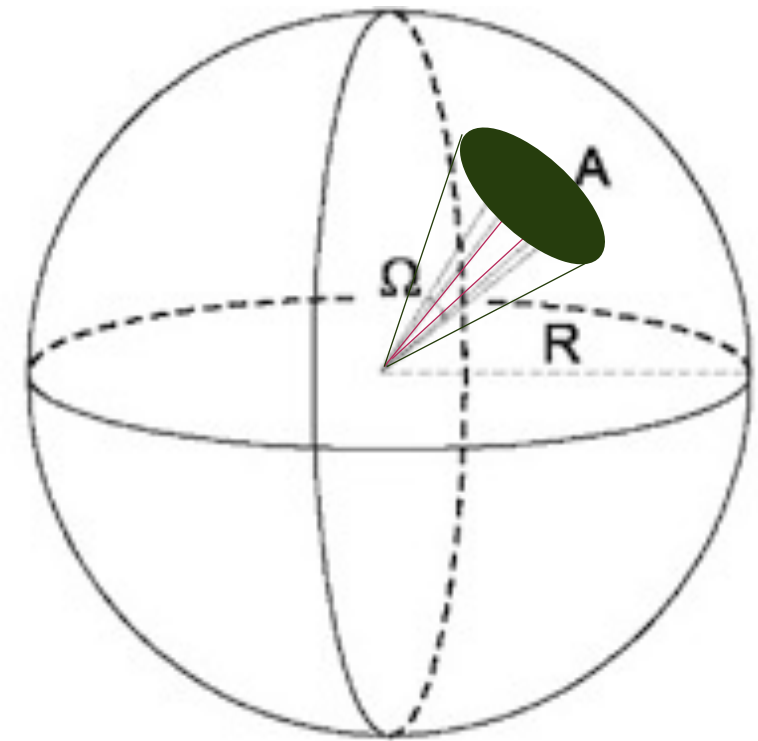
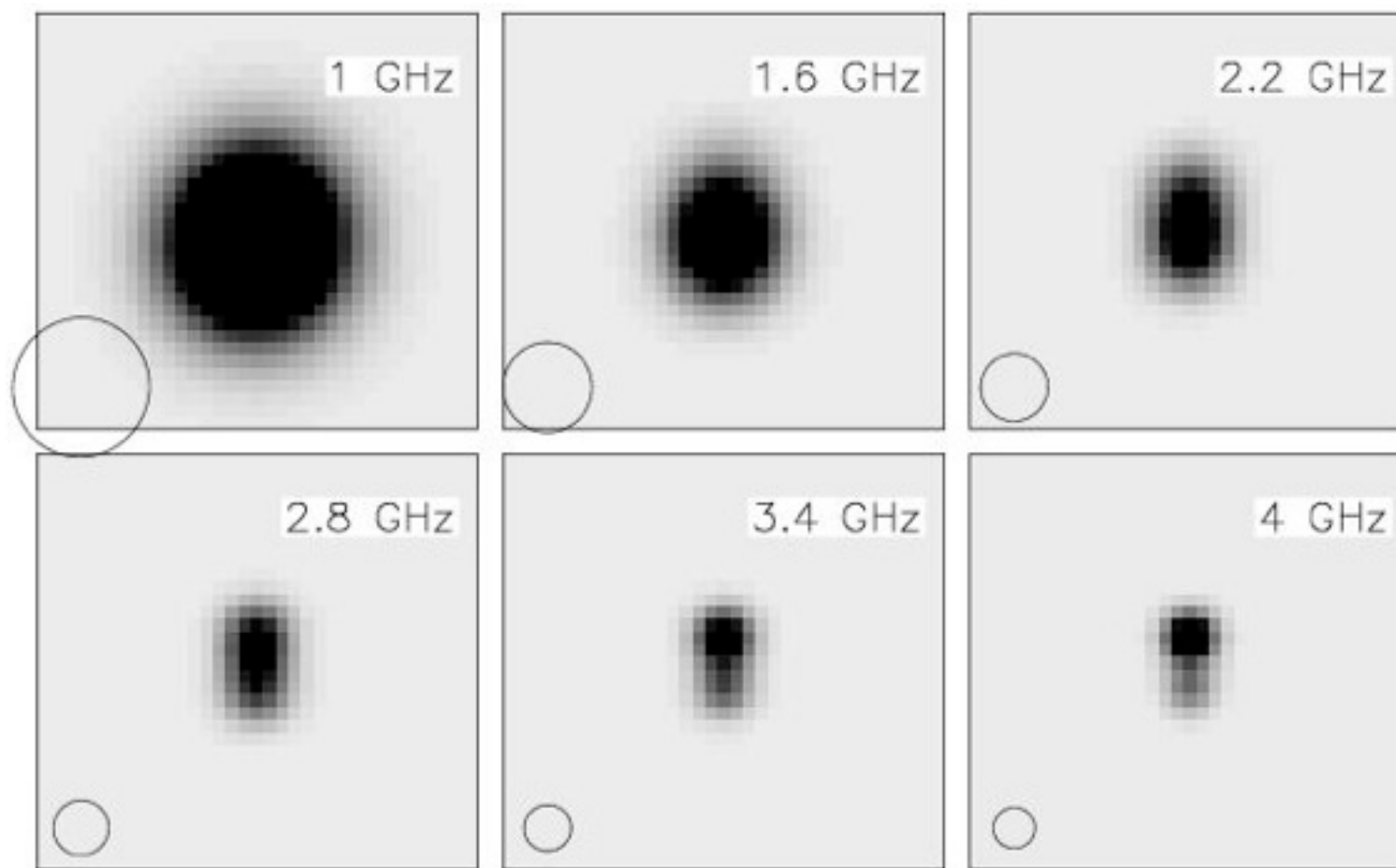


Very Large Array (U.S.)

$$Res \propto D^{-1}$$



RESOLVED & UNRESOLVED SOURCES



$$S(\nu) = L(\nu)/(4\pi R^2) = \int \int I(\nu, T) d\Omega$$

$S(\nu)$ = spectral flux density ($\text{W m}^{-2} \text{Hz}^{-1}$)

$L(\nu)$ = monochromatic luminosity (W Hz^{-1})

R = source distance

$I(\nu, T)$ = specific intensity ($\text{W m}^{-2} \text{Hz}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$)

$d\Omega$ = increment solid angle

OUTLINE OF THIS LESSON

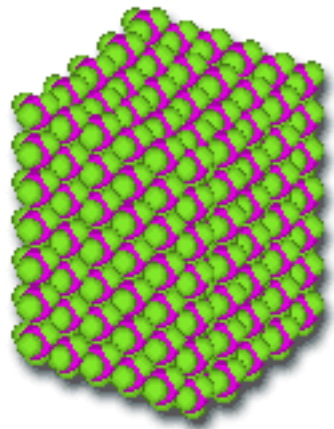
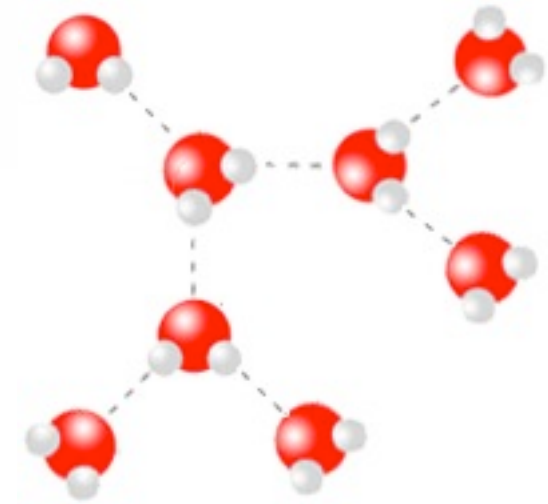
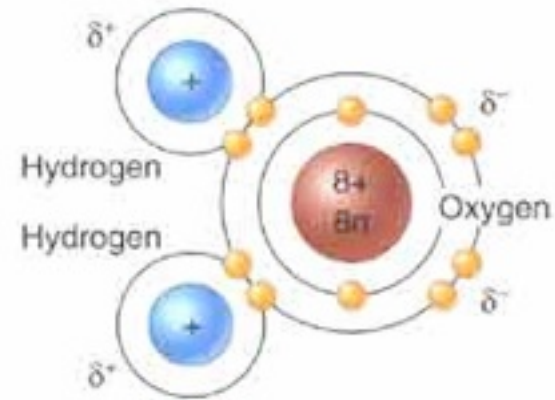
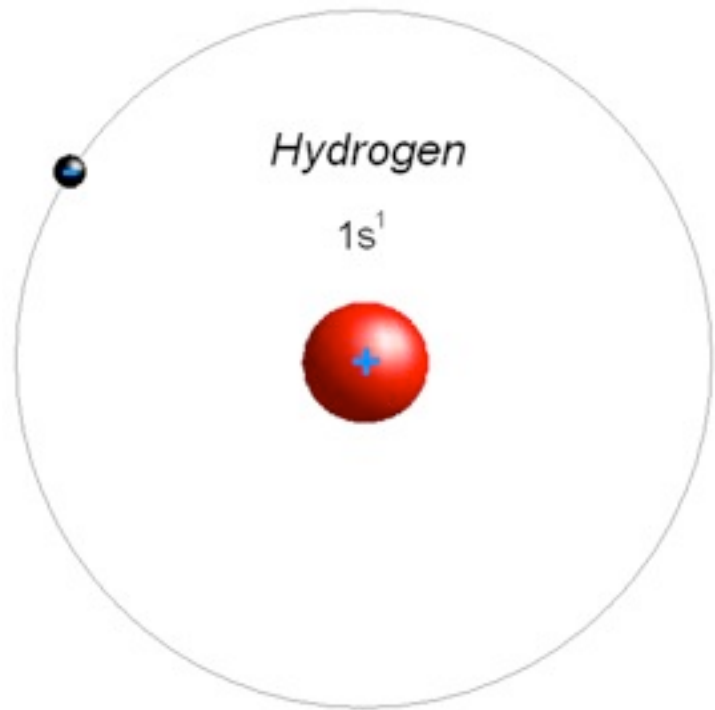
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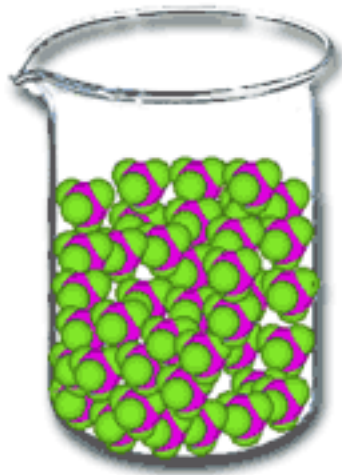
▶ **Thermal bremsstrahlung radiation** (with a general introduction)

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- ii. **Thermal bremsstrahlung from a hot plasma of ionized atoms**

STATES OF MATTER



Solid



Liquid



Gas



THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG

INTRODUCTION: HOT PLASMA

- ▶ Gas of charged ions and electrons
- ▶ Quasi-neutral over a large volume
- ▶ Fourth state of matter
- ▶ Ionization of gas:
 - very hot → collisions between atoms sufficiently strong to remove electrons
 - very rarefied → electrons hardly encounter an ion with which to recombine
 - subjected to an external source of energy → strong electric fields or radiation

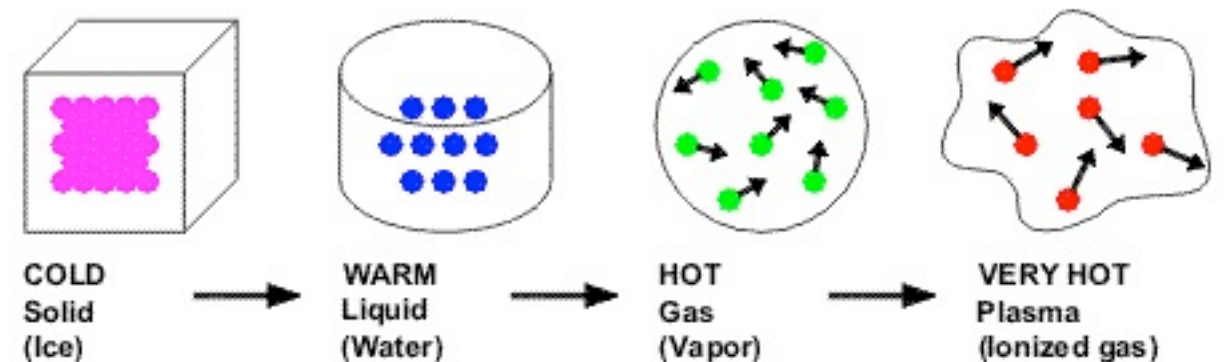
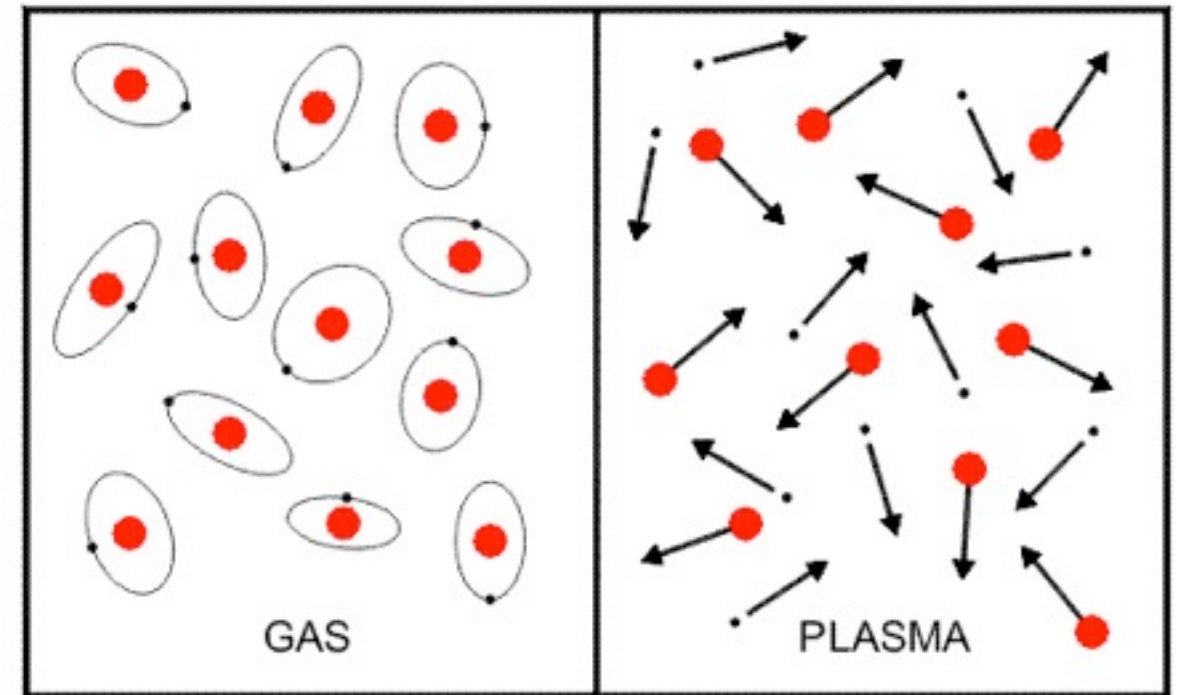
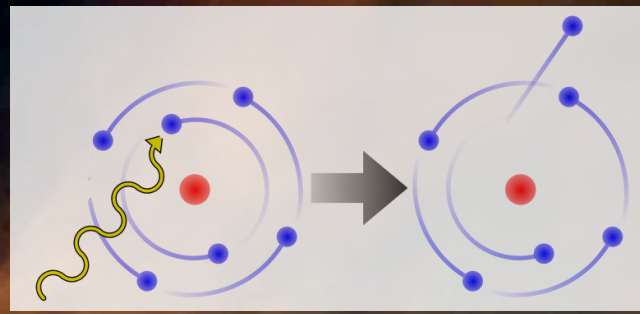


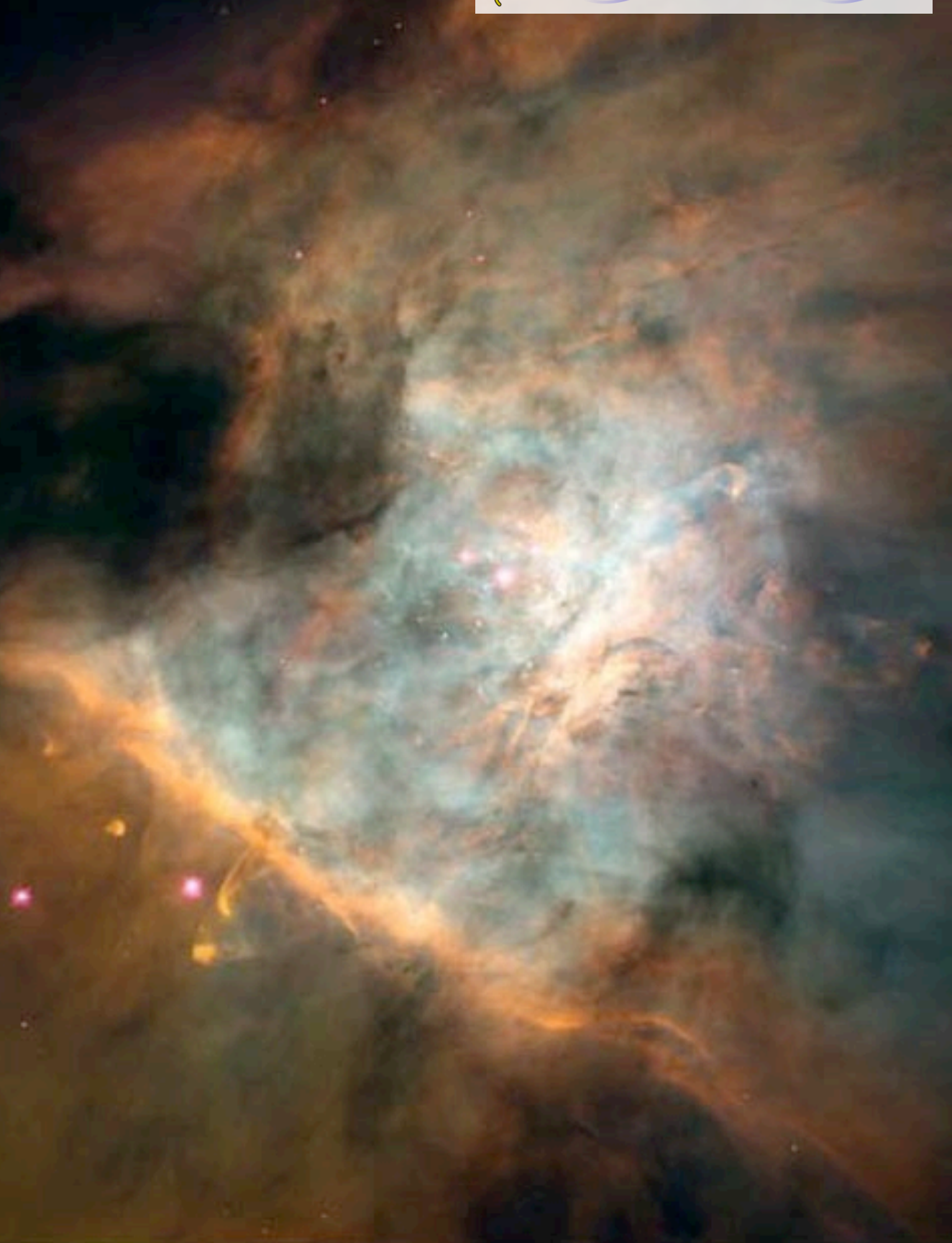
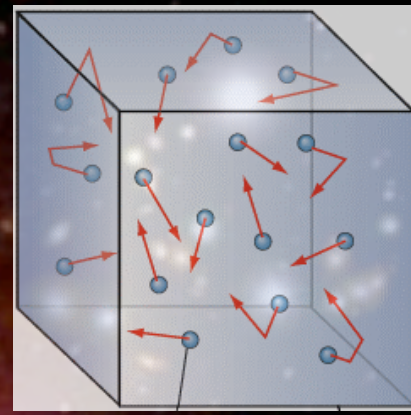
Photo-ionization

Star forming regions



Collisional ionization

Intra-cluster medium



THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG

HOW WE WILL DERIVE THE FINAL EQUATIONS

THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG - PART I
COLLISION OF AN ELECTRON WITH AN ION



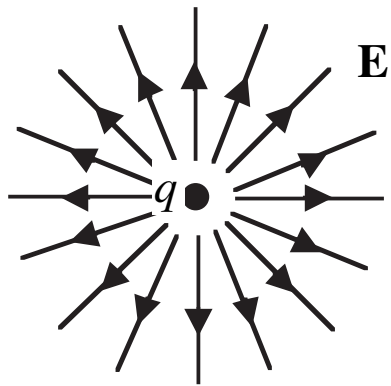
THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG - PART II
COLLISION OF THERMAL ELECTRONS WITH AN ION



THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG - PART III
COLLISION OF THERMAL ELECTRONS WITH IONS

PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

RADIATION BASICS



Instantaneous pattern of electric field of a charge q moving in a straight line at speed $v \ll c$

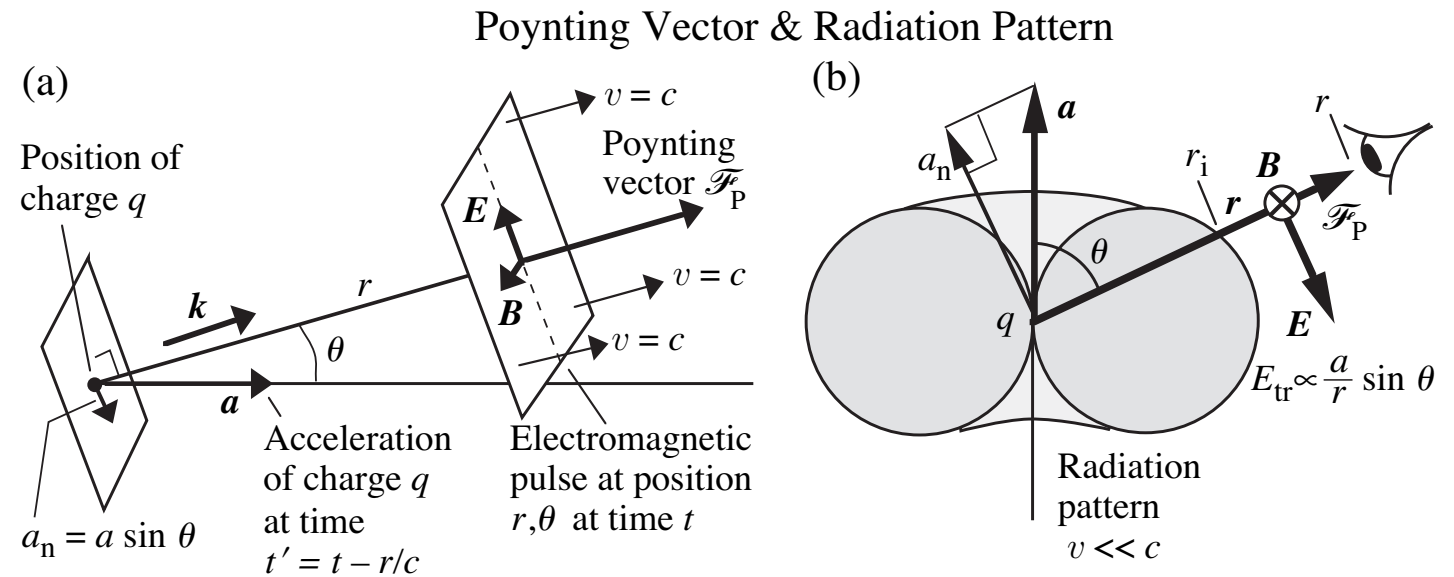


Fig. 5.2: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

Acceleration of the non-relativistic charge \rightarrow distorted field lines \rightarrow distortions propagate outward at speed $c \rightarrow$ **propagating electromagnetic wave**

$\epsilon_0 E^2 / 2 =$ energy density of electric field

$B^2 / 2\mu_0 =$ energy density of magnetic field

$$B = E/c$$

$$c^2 = 1/\mu_0\epsilon_0$$

$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ T m A}^{-1} =$ permeability of free space

$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^4 \text{ A}^2 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ kg}^{-1} =$ permittivity of the vacuum

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = E_{tr} \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{qa(t') \sin\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 r} \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) =$ Transverse electric vector; V/m; $v \ll c$

PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

RADIATION BASICS

$$\mathcal{F}_P = \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0}$$

\mathcal{F}_P = Poynting vector; W/m²
 = direction & magnitude of the e.m. wave energy flow

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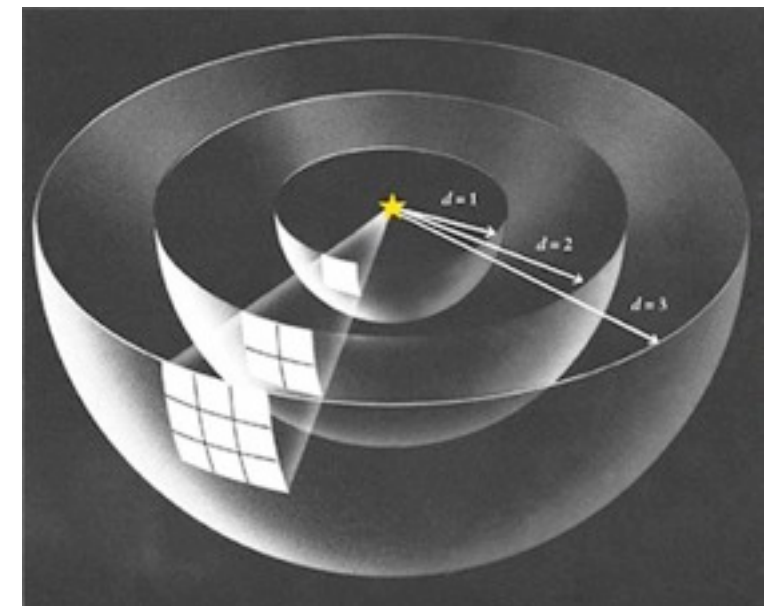
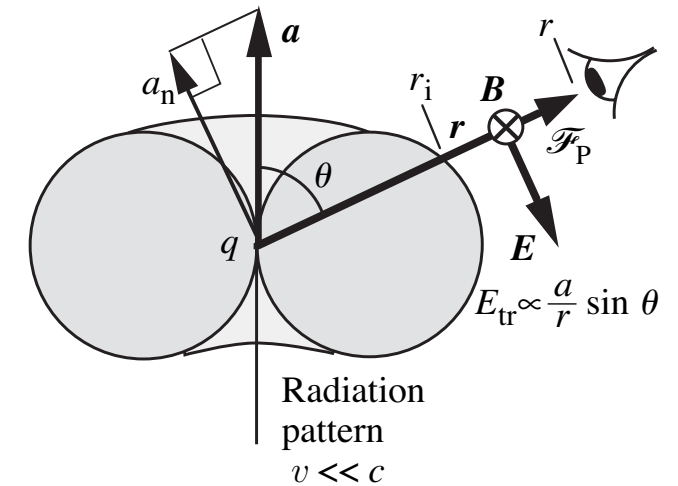
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PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

RADIATION BASICS

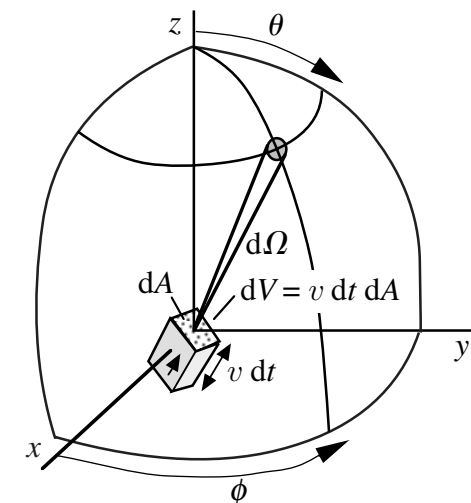
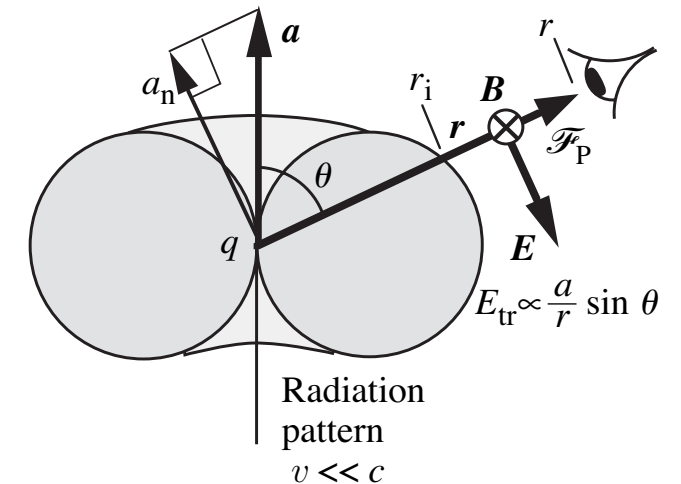
$$\mathcal{F}_P = \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0}$$

\mathcal{F}_P = Poynting vector; W/m²
 = direction & magnitude of the e.m. wave energy flow

$$\mathcal{F}_P(r, \theta, t) = \frac{q^2 \sin^2 \theta a^2(t')}{(4\pi)^2 \epsilon_0 c^3 r^2}$$

$\mathcal{F}_P(r, \theta, t)$ = magnitude of Poynting vector in vacuum $v \ll c$; W/m²

[for an observer at distance r and angle θ from acceleration direction]



PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

RADIATION BASICS

$$\mathcal{F}_P = \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0}$$

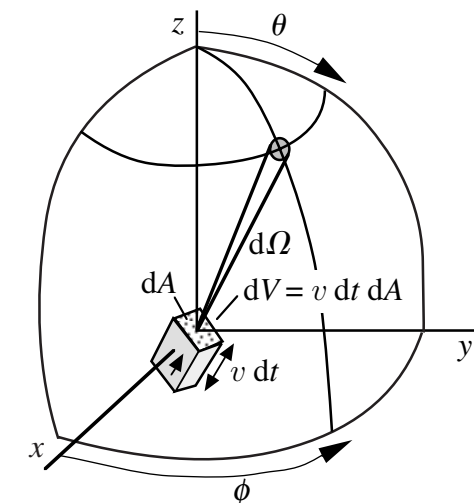
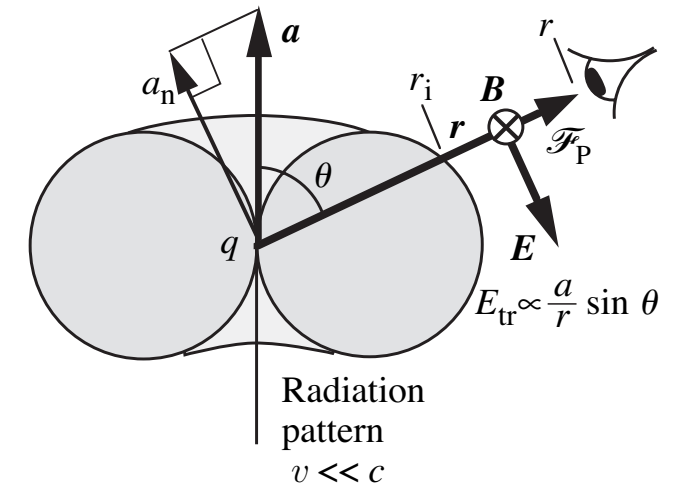
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 [for an observer at distance r and angle θ from acceleration direction]

$$\mathcal{P}(t) = \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \mathcal{F}_P(r, \theta, t) r^2 \sin \theta d\phi d\theta$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{P}(t) = \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2 a(t)^2}{c^3}$$



Larmor's formula

- Power (W) radiated by an electron as it accelerates
- It is valid if the radiating electron is not relativistic ($v \ll c$)

PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

ENERGY RADIATED PER COLLISION

Impact parameter **b**

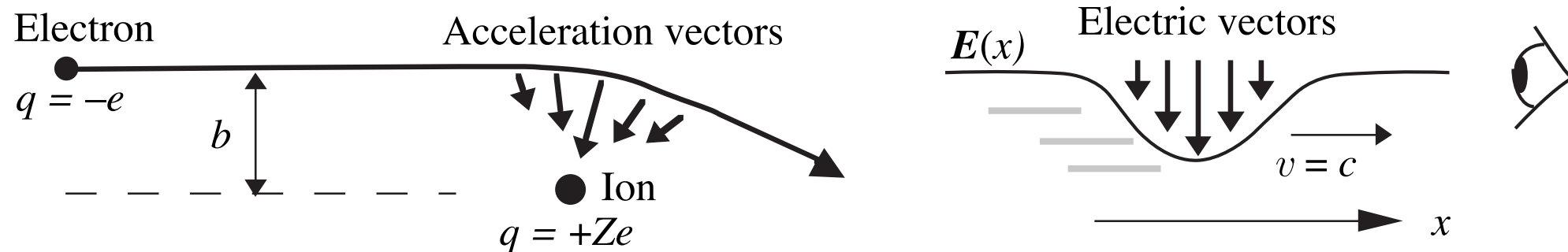


Fig. 5.3: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{\mathbf{F}}{m} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Ze^2}{r^2 m} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad (\text{m/s}^2)$$

\mathbf{a} = acceleration experienced by an electron of charge $-e$ and mass m at a distance r from an ion of charge Ze

$$a_{\text{max}} \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Ze^2}{b^2 m} \quad (\text{maximum acceleration of the electron})$$

$$\tau_b \approx b/v \quad (\text{collision time})$$

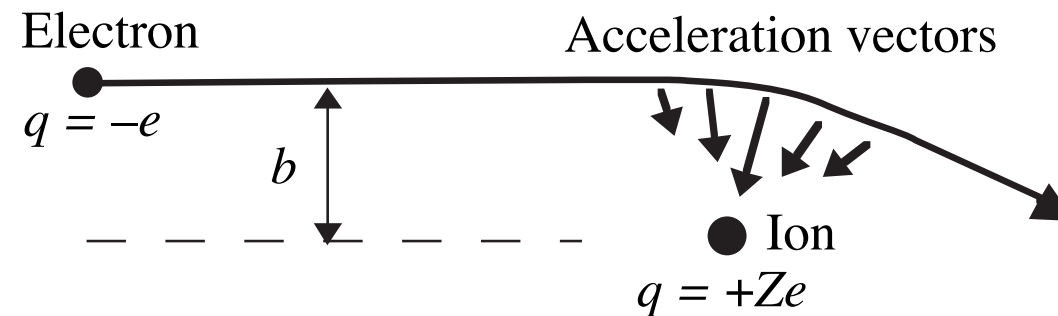
PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

ENERGY RADIATED PER COLLISION

$$a_{\max} \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Ze^2}{b^2m}$$

$$\tau_b \approx b/v$$

$$\mathcal{P}(t) = \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2 a(t)^2}{c^3}$$



$$Q(b, v) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathcal{P}(t) dt = \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{c^3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} a(t)^2 dt$$

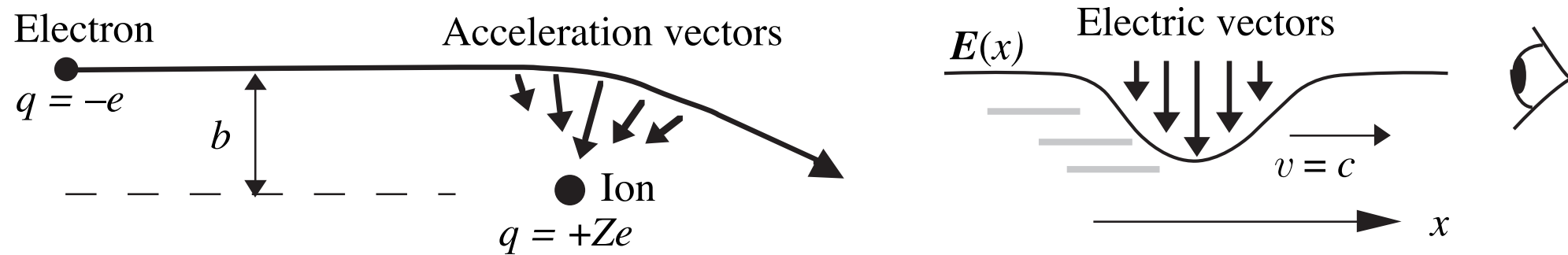
(total energy emitted by the electron during the transit)

$$\rightarrow Q(b, v) \approx \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{c^3} a_{\max}^2 \tau_b$$

$$\rightarrow Q(b, v) \approx \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{2}{3} \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3 m^2 b^3 v} \quad (\text{J/collision})$$

PART I: AN ELECTRON & AN ION

FREQUENCY OF EMITTED RADIATION



- ▶ Emitted electric vectors in the same direction as the projected acceleration
- ▶ Acceleration increases & decreases once → Electric vectors go to a maximum and decreases only once → Single pulse of electric vectors

$$\rightarrow \omega = 2\pi\nu \approx 1/\tau_b = v/b$$

$$\rightarrow \nu = \omega/2\pi \approx v/2\pi b$$

$$\rightarrow b \approx v/2\pi\nu$$

$$\rightarrow db \approx -v d\nu/2\pi\nu^2$$

PART II: MANY ELECTRONS & AN ION

SINGLE-SPEED ELECTRONS

$$Q(b, v) \approx \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{2}{3} \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3 m^2 b^3 v} \quad (\text{J/collision})$$

n_e = electron density

$$b \approx v/2\pi\nu$$

$$db \approx -v \, d\nu/2\pi\nu^2$$

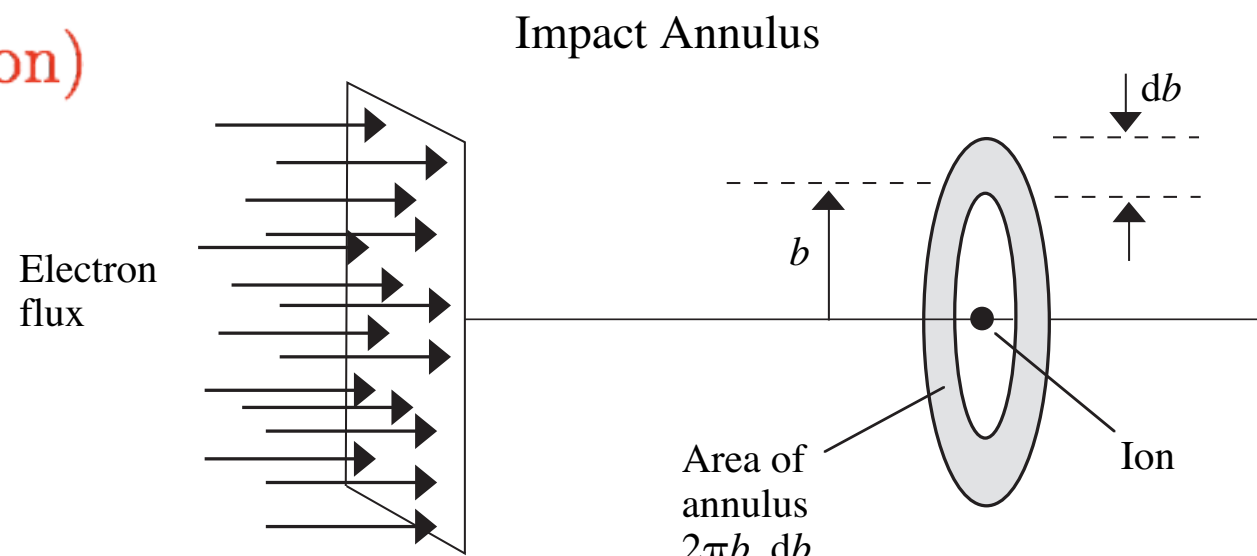


Fig. 5.4: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

$$\mathcal{P}_b(b, v) = Q(b, v) n_e v 2\pi b db \quad (\text{W/ion in } db \text{ at } b)$$

$\mathcal{P}_b(b, v)$ = power coming from an ion and a flux of electrons of density n_e

$$\int_{b_1}^{b_2} \mathcal{P}_b(b, v) db = - \int_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2} \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) d\nu$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) = -\mathcal{P}_b(b, v) \frac{db}{d\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) d\nu \approx \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{8\pi^2}{3} n_e \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3 m^2 v} d\nu$$

$\mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v)$ = power per unit-frequency interval (W/ion in $d\nu$ at ν)

PART II: MANY ELECTRONS & AN ION

SINGLE-SPEED ELECTRONS

$$\mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) d\nu \approx \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{8\pi^2}{3} n_e \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3 m^2 v} d\nu$$

$\mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v)$ = power per unit-frequency interval (W/ion in $d\nu$ at ν)

Electron flux

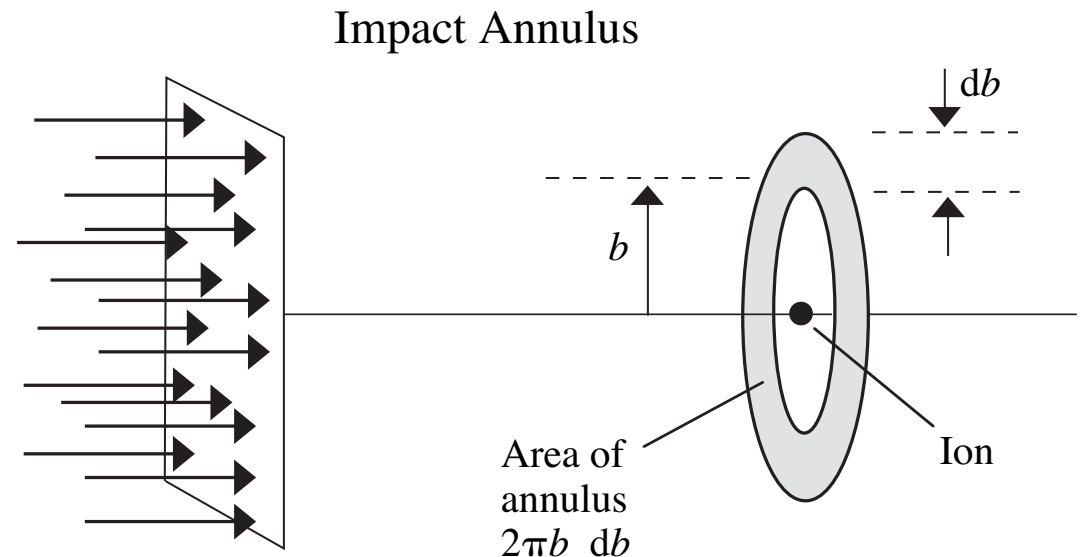


Fig. 5.4: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

- ▶ Derived equation independent of frequency/impact parameter: more collisions for large b values (bigger annulus), but each emits a lower energy photon compared to smaller b
- ▶ Cutoff frequency: the maximum photon energy is limited by electron velocity ($h\nu_{\max} < mv^2/2$)
- ▶ The derived classical result is correct (with the addition of a Gaunt factor, see below) as long as electrons are non-relativistic ($kT \ll m_e c^2$ - $T \ll 6 \times 10^9$ K)

PART II: MANY ELECTRONS & AN ION

MANY-SPEED ELECTRONS

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT}\right)^{3/2} e\left(-\frac{mv^2}{2kT}\right) \quad (\text{Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution})$$

$P(\mathbf{v})$ = probability of finding a particle with vector velocity \mathbf{v} per unit 3-D velocity space

$$P(v)dv = P(\mathbf{v}) 4\pi v^2 dv$$

$P(v)$ = probability of an electron's having speed v in dv

$4\pi v^2 dv$ = volume of a shell in velocity space at speed v

$$\langle \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu) \rangle_{ion} = \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) P(\mathbf{v}) 4\pi v^2 dv \quad (\text{W ion}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1})$$

= Power emitted at ν from an ion in a sea of electrons with a Maxwellian-Boltzmann distribution of speed

$$v_{min} = (2h\nu/m)^{1/2}$$

= Minimum velocity an electron can have for emitting an $h\nu$ energy photon

PART III: MANY ELECTRONS & MANY IONS

VOLUME EMISSIVITY

Radiation from a plasma that contains n_i ions per unit volume & n_e electrons per unit volume. They have a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution of speeds

$$j_\nu(\nu)d\nu = n_i \langle \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu) \rangle_{ion} d\nu$$

$j_\nu(\nu)$ = Power emitted per unit volume per hertz ($\text{W m}^{-3} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$)

$$\langle \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu) \rangle_{ion} = \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) P(\mathbf{v}) 4\pi v^2 dv$$

$$\mathcal{P}_\nu(\nu, v) d\nu \approx \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{8\pi^2}{3} n_e \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3 m^2 v} d\nu$$

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{mv^2}{2kT}}$$

$$v_{min} = (2h\nu/m)^{1/2}$$

$$j_\nu(\nu)d\nu = \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{32}{3} \left(\frac{1}{8} \frac{\pi^3}{k m^3} \right) \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3} n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

PART III: MANY ELECTRONS & MANY IONS

VOLUME EMISSIVITY

Radiation from a plasma that contains n_i ions per unit volume & n_e electrons per unit volume. They have a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution of speeds

$$j_\nu(\nu)d\nu = \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{32}{3} \left(\frac{1}{8} \frac{\pi^3}{k m^3} \right)^{1/2} \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3} n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

Correct result (without our approximations)

$$j_\nu(\nu)d\nu = \mathbf{g}(\nu, \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Z}) \frac{1}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^3} \frac{32}{3} \left(\frac{\mathbf{2}}{\mathbf{3}} \frac{\pi^3}{k m^3} \right)^{1/2} \frac{Z^2 e^6}{c^3} n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

$$g(\nu, T, Z) \approx 1$$

$$j_\nu(\nu)d\nu = C_1 g(\nu, T, Z) Z^2 n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

PART III: MANY ELECTRONS & MANY IONS

EXPONENTIAL SPECTRUM

$$g(\nu, T, Z) \approx 1$$

$$j_\nu(\nu) d\nu = C_1 g(\nu, T, Z) Z^2 n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

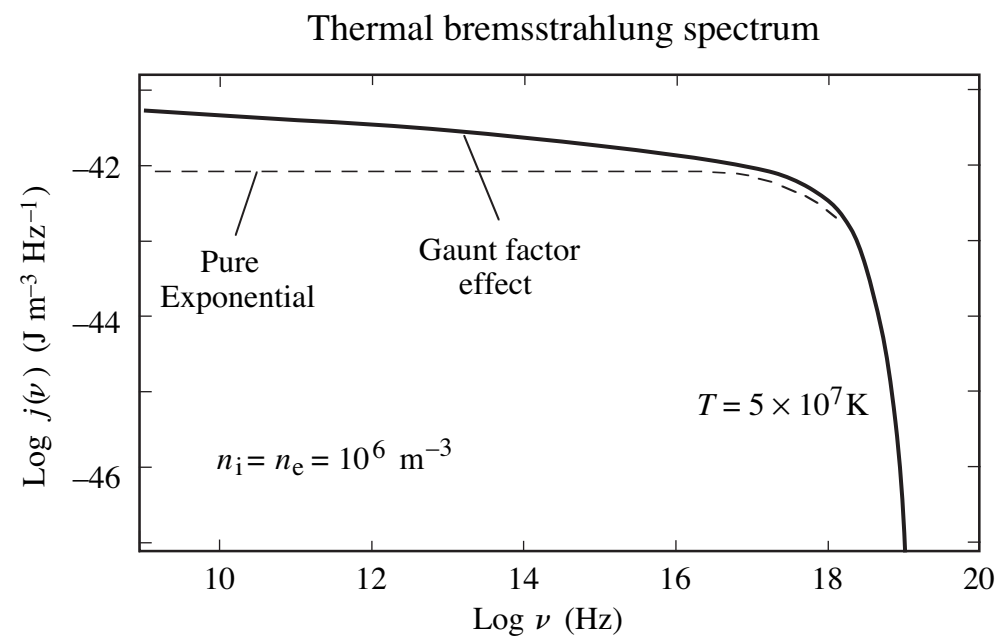


Fig. 5.5: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

Exponential Spectrum: Three plots

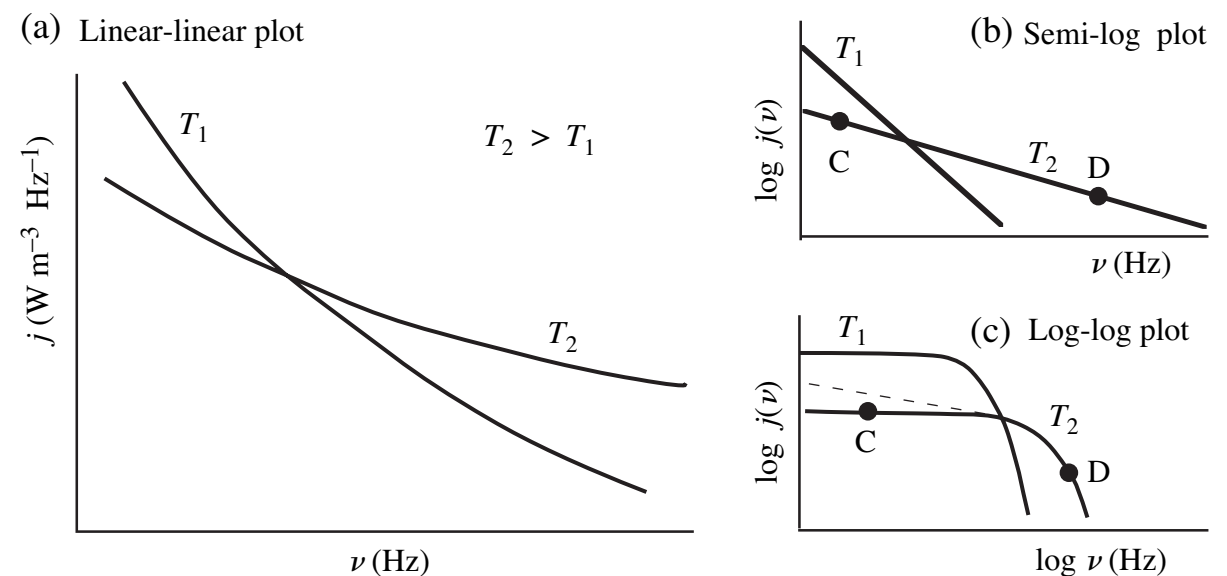


Fig. 5.6: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

PART III: MANY ELECTRONS & MANY IONS

INTEGRATED VOLUME EMISSIVITY

$$g(\nu, T, Z) \approx 1$$

$$j_\nu(\nu) d\nu = C_1 g(\nu, T, Z) Z^2 n_e n_i e^{-h\nu/kT} T^{-1/2} d\nu$$

It can be shown that most of the power from a bremsstrahlung emitting plasma arises in the frequency band near the cutoff (@ $h\nu \sim kT$)

Integrated volume emissivity

$$j(T) = \int_0^\infty j_\nu(\nu) d\nu = C_2 \bar{g}(T, Z) Z^2 n_e n_i T^{1/2} \quad (\text{W/m}^3)$$

with

$$C_2 = 1.44 \times 10^{-40} \text{ W m}^3 \text{ K}^{-1/2}$$

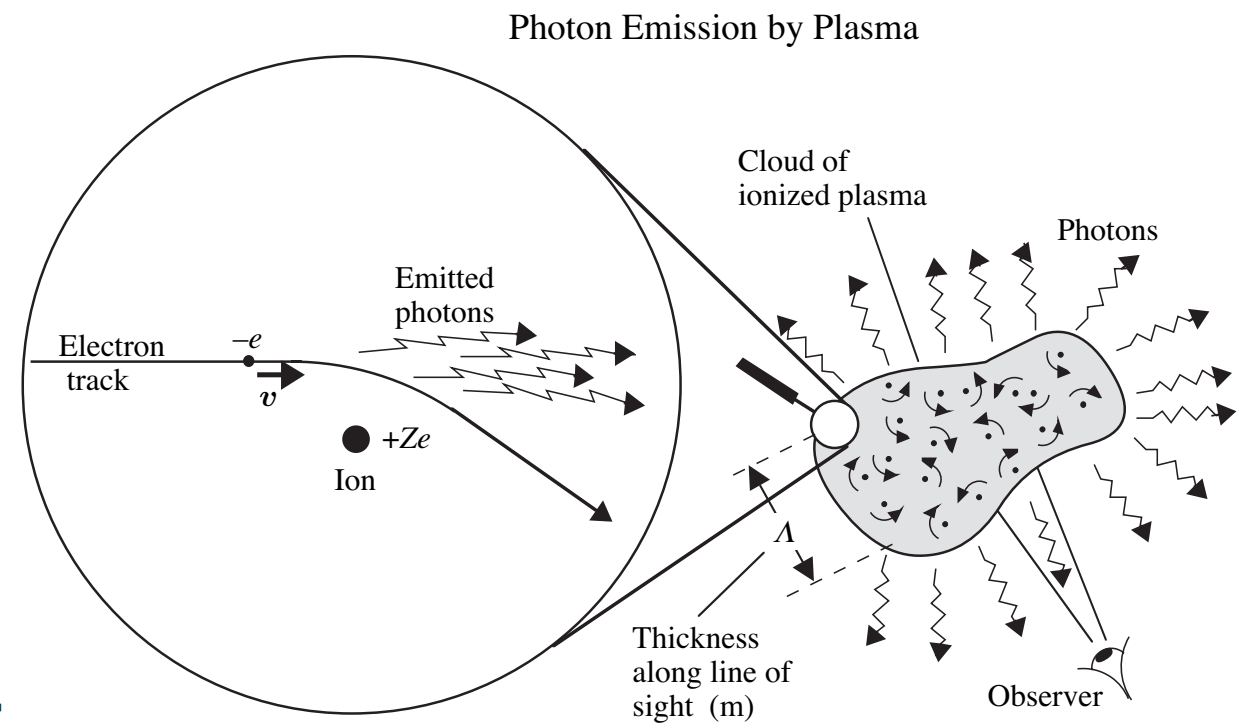
THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG

FINAL EQUATIONS

Volume emissivity of hydrogen plasma:

$$j_\nu(\nu, T) \propto g(\nu, T) n_e^2 T^{-1/2} e^{-h\nu/kT} \quad \text{W m}^{-3} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$$

$$I(\nu, T) = \int_0^\Lambda \frac{j_\nu(r, \nu, T)}{4\pi} dr = \frac{j_{\nu, \text{av}}(\nu, T)}{4\pi} \Lambda$$

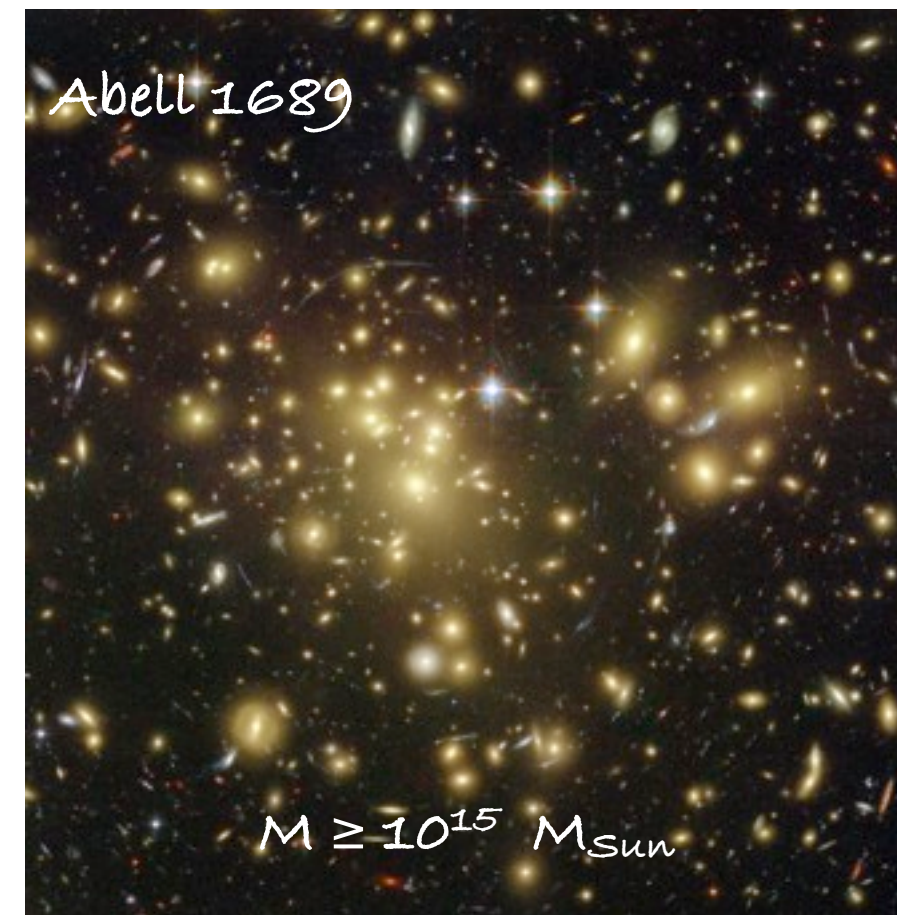


Specific intensity of hydrogen plasma:

$$I(\nu, T) \propto g(\nu, T) n_e^2 T^{-1/2} e^{-h\nu/kT} \Lambda \quad \text{W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$$

Fig. 5.1: Astrophysics Processes (CUP), © H Bradt 2008

DISCOVERY OF GALAXY CLUSTERS



Most galaxies are not isolated in the Universe. They are bound together by their mutual gravity in structures containing from a few galaxies, to hundreds or even thousands galaxies

«...remarkable collection of many hundreds of nebulae which are to be seen in what I have called the nebulous stratum of Coma Berenices» - W. Herschel (1785)



Rich clusters are the largest gravitationally bound systems in the Universe

They form by merging of units of smaller mass

A VERY SHORT HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF OPTICAL OBSERVATIONS



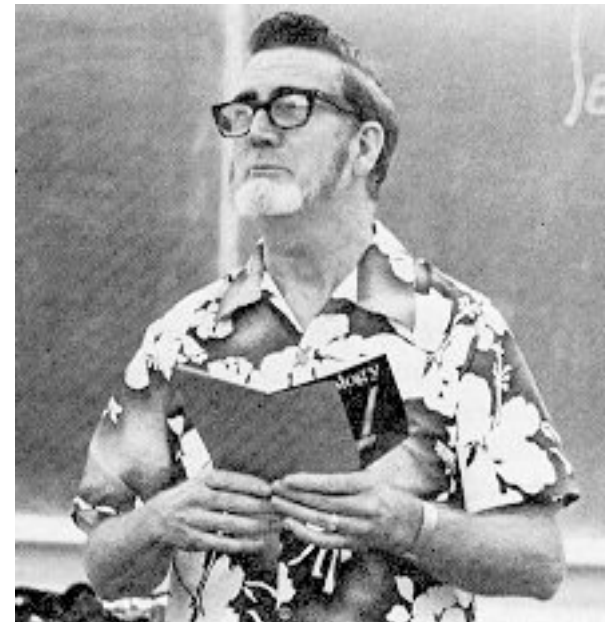
→ Discovery of concentration of nebulae (1785)

W. Herschel



→ Most of the observed nebulae are other galaxies (1925)

E. Hubble



→ First statistical significant sample of clusters (1958; 1989)

G.O. Abell



→ Discovery of an unobservable matter in clusters (1933)

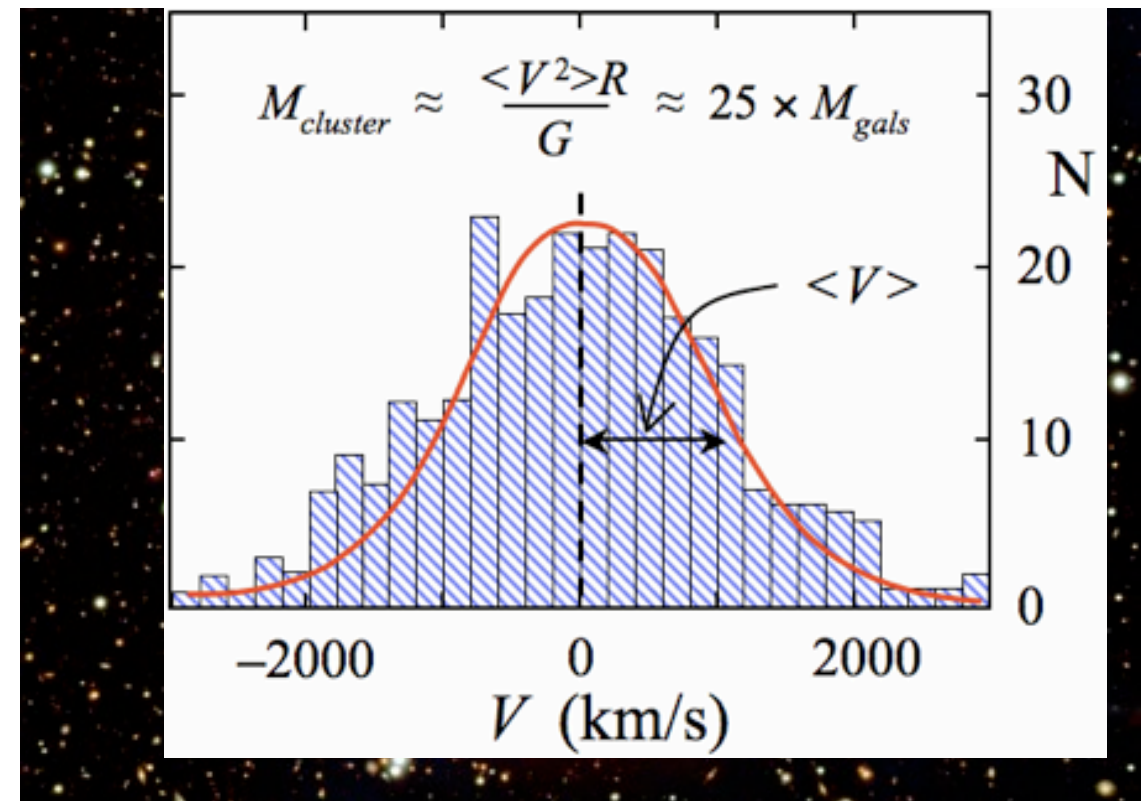
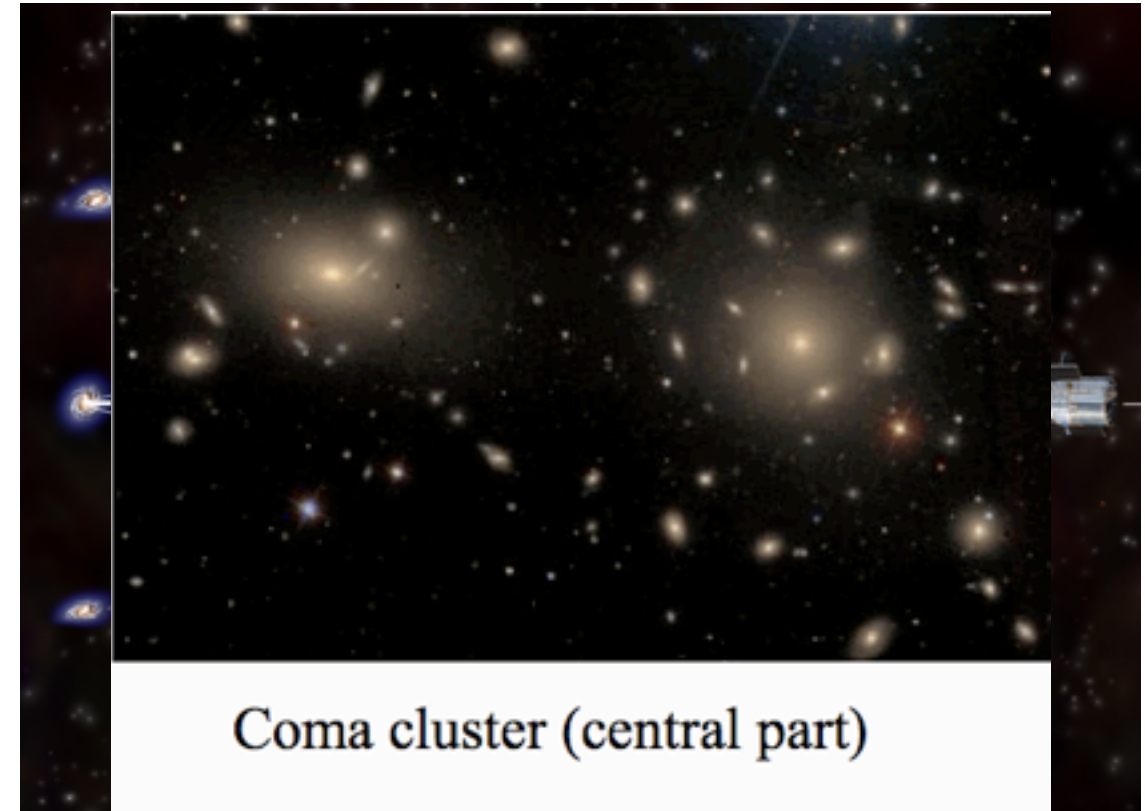
F. Zwicky

DOMINANT MASS COMPONENT OF CLUSTERS: DARK MATTER

Equilibrium is maintained by the balance between the potential energy associated with the mass of the system and the kinetic energy of its individual components:

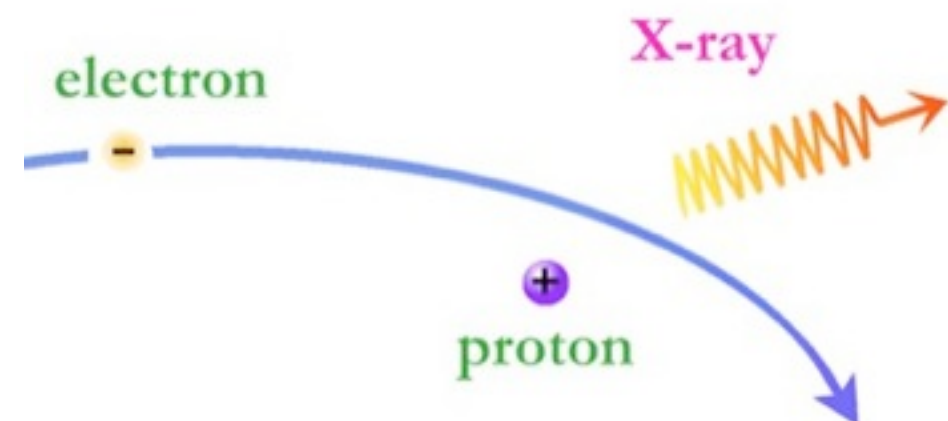
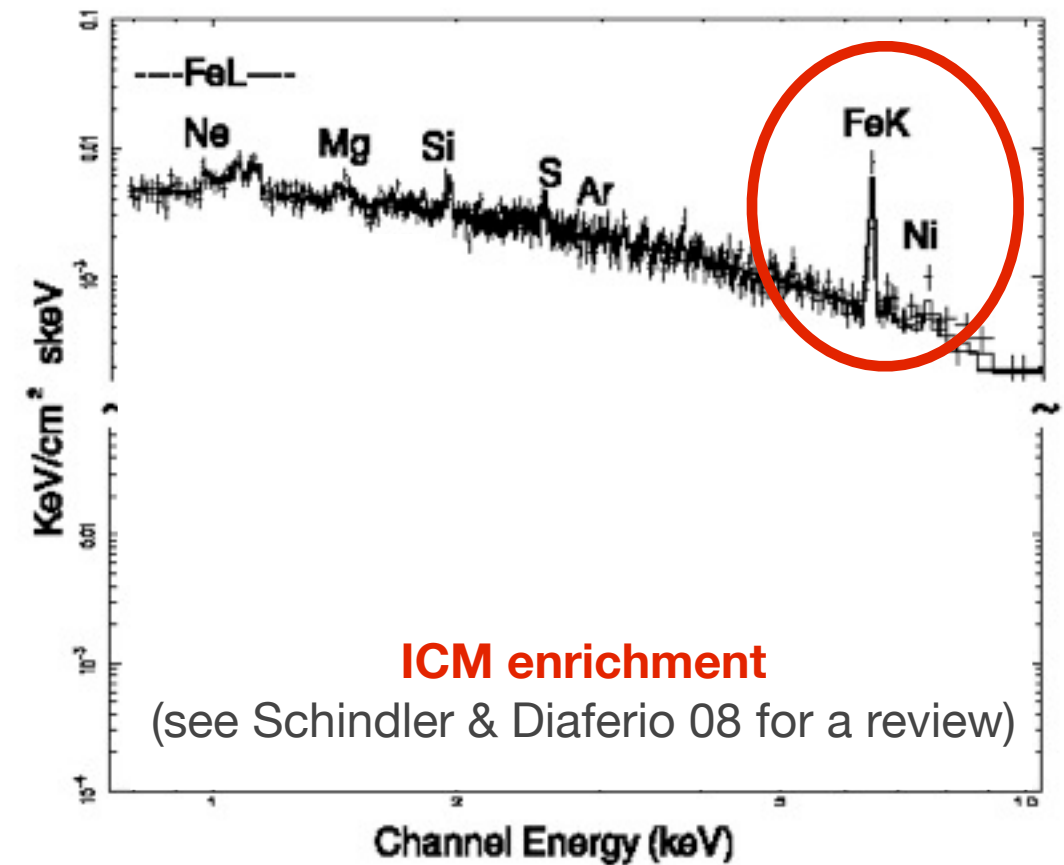
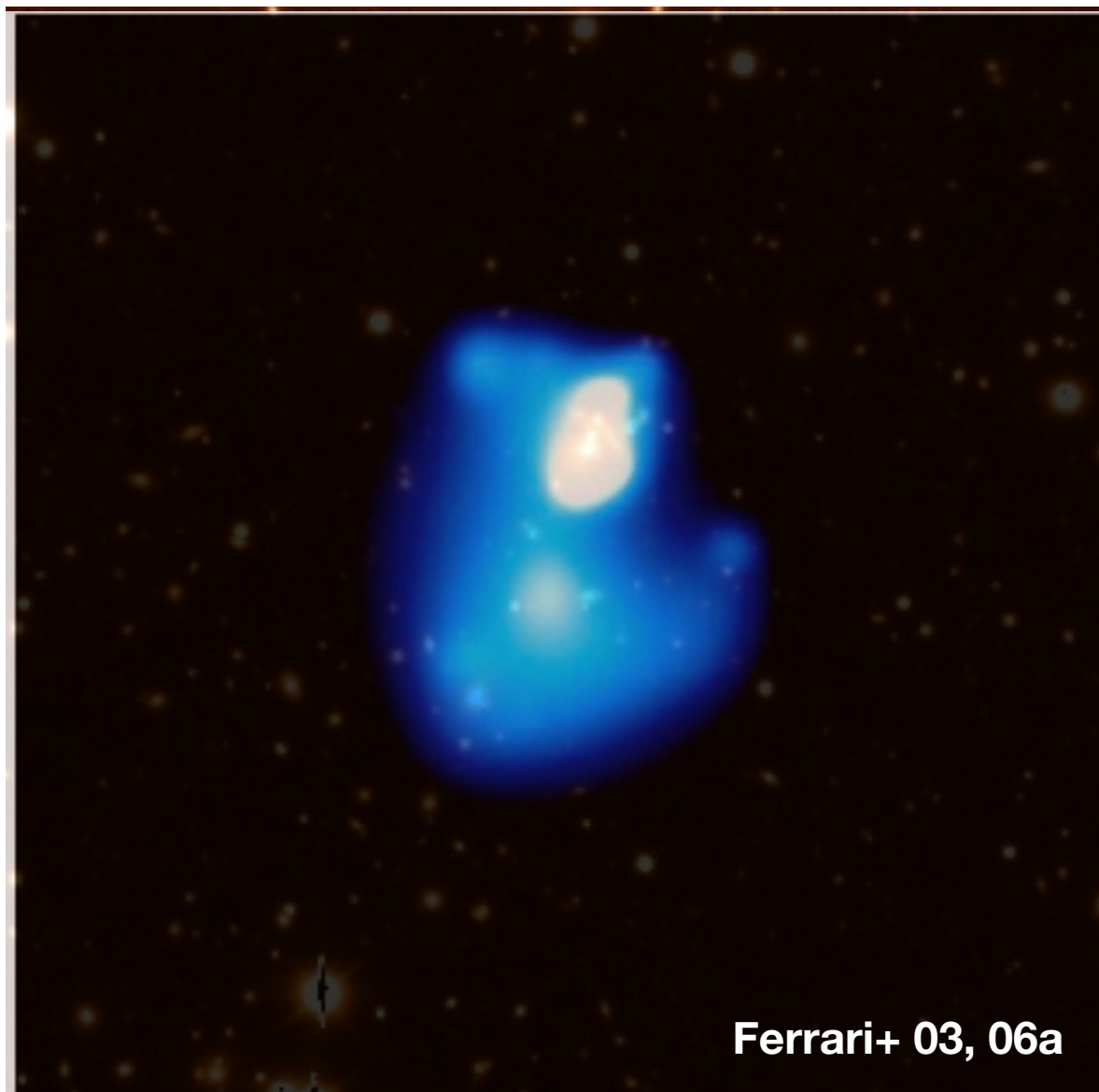
virial equilibrium

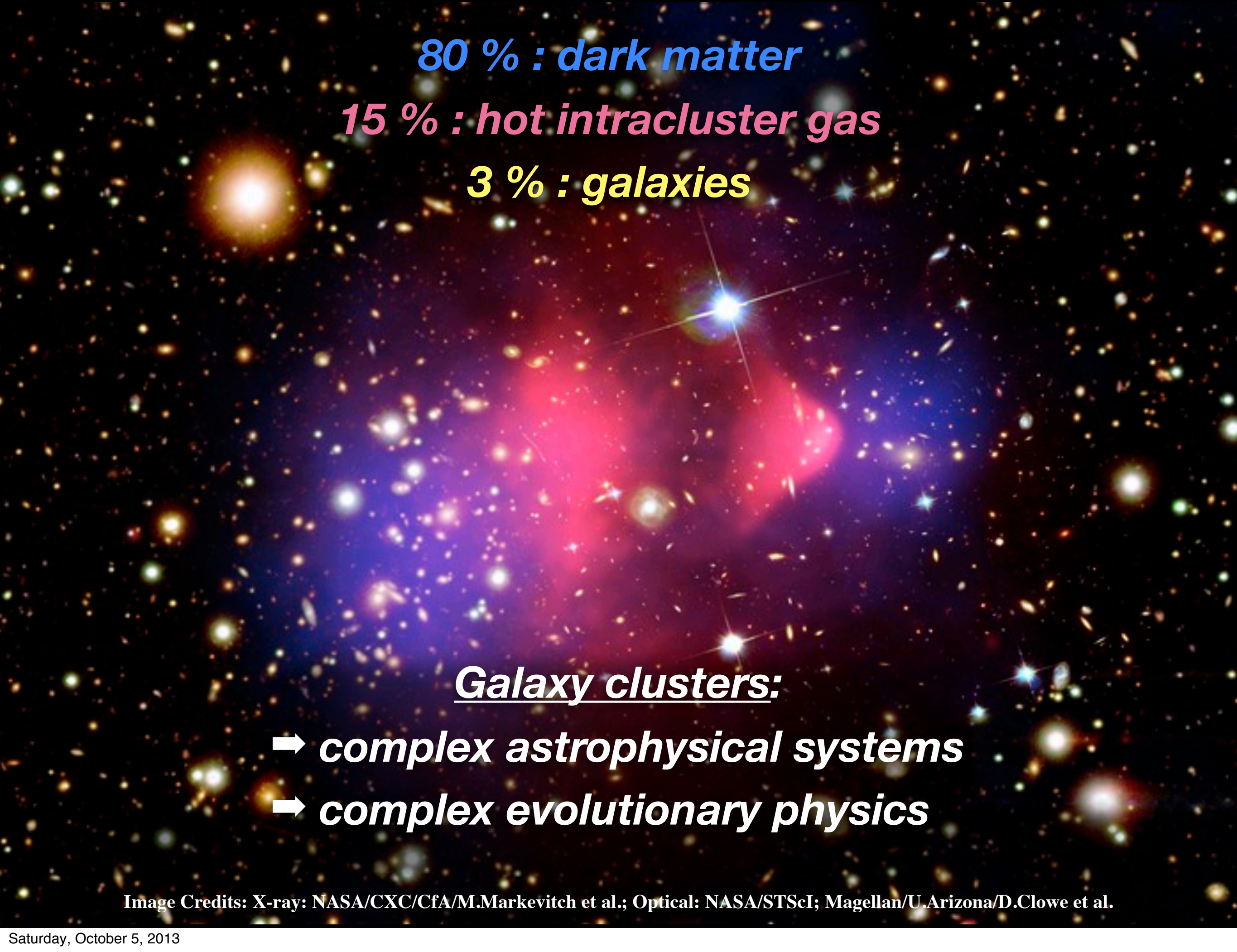
$$2 E_k + E_p = Vir = 0$$



The dominant baryonic component of clusters: hot (10^7 - 10^8 K) intracluster medium (ICM)

$$\epsilon_{\nu,T} \propto T^{-1/2} e^{-h\nu/kT} n_e n_Z \text{ erg cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$$



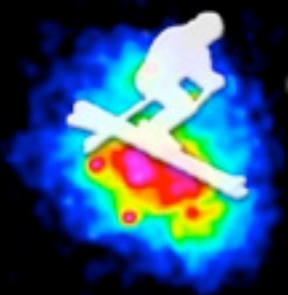


80 % : dark matter
15 % : hot intracluster gas
3 % : galaxies

Galaxy clusters:

- ➔ ***complex astrophysical systems***
- ➔ ***complex evolutionary physics***

Image Credits: X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/M.Markevitch et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.



The HYDRO-SKI Team

*HYDRO*dynamic *Simulations* and *Kinematic* Investigations
of the *Intra-Cluster* Medium

Schindler & collaborators
Innsbruck University

EXERCICE

The Orion nebula, an HII region, is radiating by thermal bremsstrahlung. Consider it to be spherical (radius = 8 light years), optically thin, and at a temperature $T = 8000$ K. Let $Z = 1$, $g = 1$, $n_e = n_i = 6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^{-3}$.

- (a) Find the luminosity (W) of the entire nebula in terms of solar luminosities.
- (b) In what wavelength band or bands will the power from the Orion nebula be radiated ?

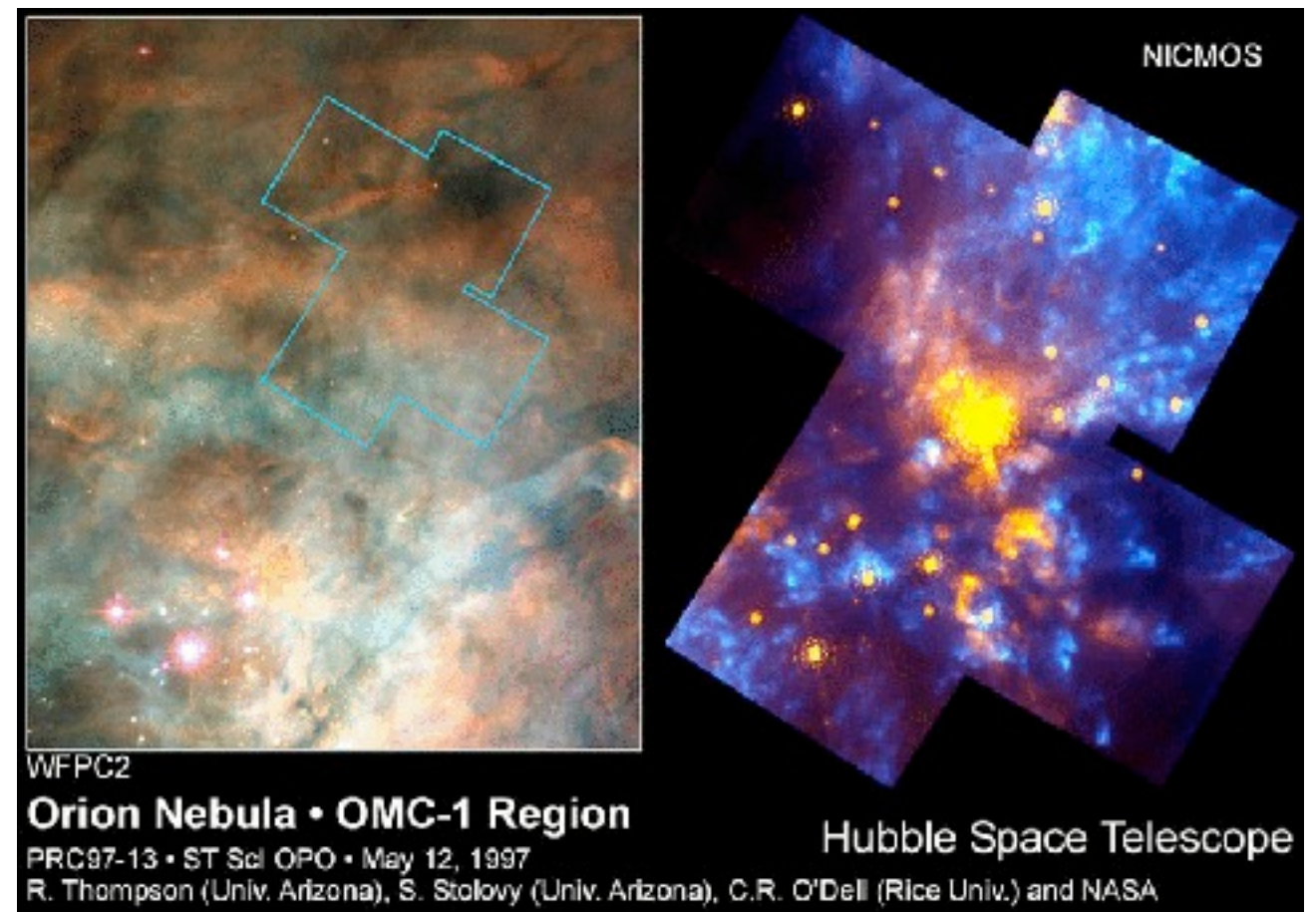


IMAGE CREDITS FOR THIS LECTURE

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- ▶ NASA/ESA/JHU (L. Bradley, H. Ford)/ UCSC (R. Bouwens, G. Illingworth)
- ▶ THINGS Survey/Fabian Walter, MPIA/Karl Gordon, Steward Observatory
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