A Test of Λ-CDM: Probing the Stellar Age Distributions in Halos Across the Local Volume

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LCDM predicts Milky Way sized galaxies are filled with DM substructure. What does this mean observationally?

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Surface Brightness mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>



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#### **Resolved Stars**

#### Integrated Light



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#### **Resolved Stars**

#### Integrated Light



#### IR Stellar Populations



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# What do ages get you?

Surface Brightness mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> ~30 23 38 SIMULATION Bullock ೮ Johnston 2005



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Adapted from Johnston et al. 2008

## IR Stellar Populations



Canonical avenues to age stellar populations in the optical.

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Adapted from Grebel 1999.

# IR Stellar Populations



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Adapted from Grebel 1999.



### Halo Formation Mechanisms

#### • Accreted from Dwarf Satellites

- Star formation ceases  ${\sim}t_{_{\rm acr}} =>$  range of ages, metallicities, range of radii
- Stripped from dwarf with orbits depending on original orbital properties (Johnston et al. 2001, Johnston et al. 2008)

#### • Kicked Up Disk/Bulge

- Metal rich,  $\alpha\text{-enhanced},~\mathrm{R}$  < 10s kpc
- Formed in main galaxy and kicked out onto high energy orbits (Purcell et al. 2010, McCarthy et al. 2010, Zolotov et al. 2009)

#### • In-situ halo stars

- Ancient, metal poor, **a**-rich, all radii
- Form during primordial collapse (Samland & Gerhard 2003; Eggen, Lynden-Bell & Sandage 1962)

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#### **\*\*Only disentangled with age information**

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#### Is it feasible?

M31 Asymptotic Giant Extended Survey



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## Summary:

- Build the first statistical sample of stellar halos probed for basic properties.
  - Missing Satellites? & All that jazz
  - Cosmic Variance
- In integrated light tie recent accretion histories to disk, bulge, etc. properties.
- Use age distributions to resolve halos into phase space.
  - Build ~Gyr level accretion histories
  - Constrain the roles of 3 formation mechanisms

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ONLY FEASIBLE (en masse) WITH WFIRST

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\*\* Can use old populations in stellar halos to get distances to SN1a hosts!

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