



**SSM**  
Scuola Superiore Meridionale



**WST**

**the Wide-field  
Spectroscopic  
Telescope**

# Type II and Anomalous Cepheids as an alternative route to the Hubble constant

**Italian Workshop  
in memory of Bianca Garilli**

Teresa Sicignano

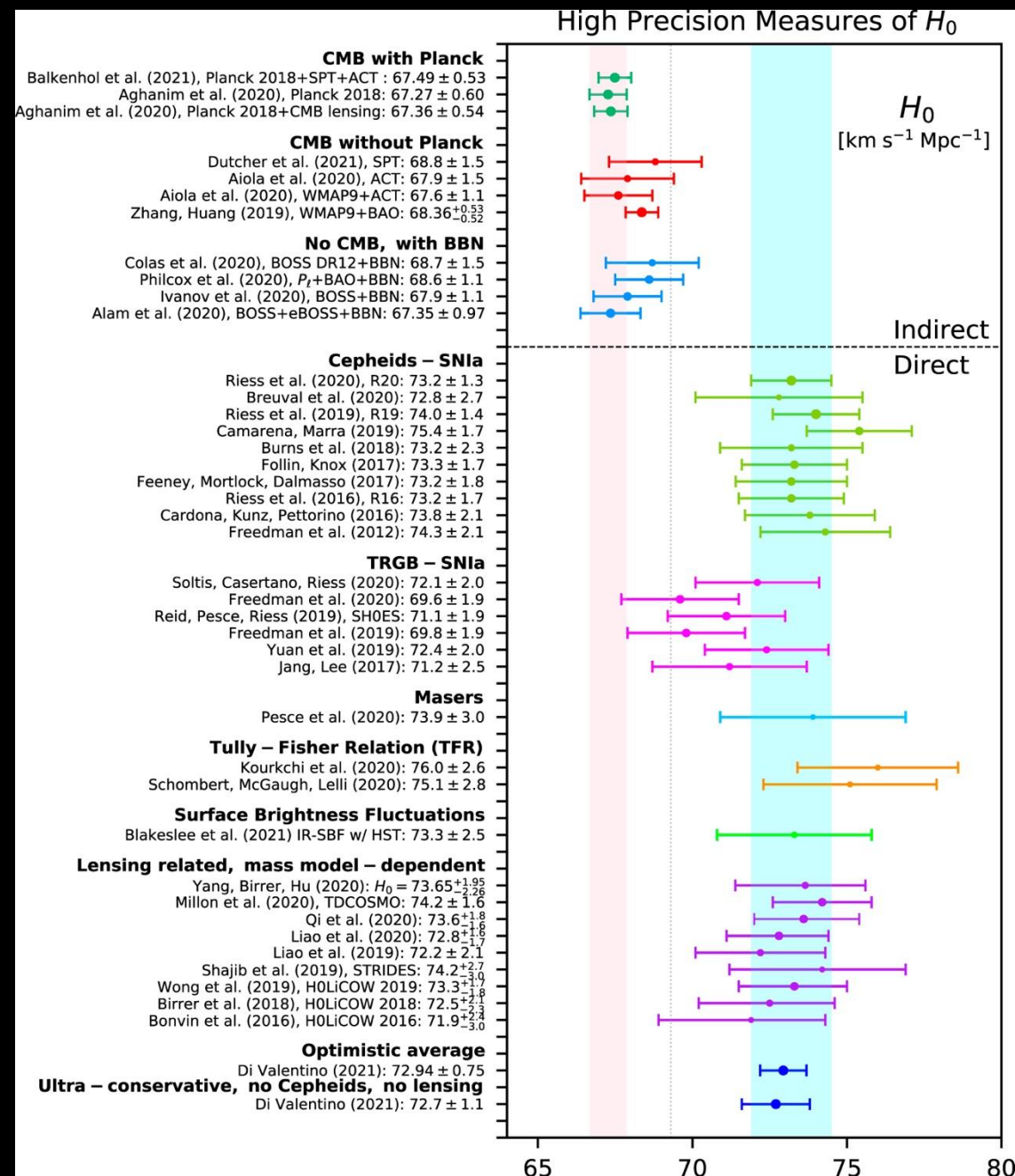
PhD student at ESO (Garching) - Scuola Superiore Meridionale - INAF - OACN(Naples)

In collaboration with Vincenzo Ripepi, Marina Rejkuba, Martino Romaniello, Marcella Marconi, Giulia De Somma and the stellar variability group of Naples

Naples, March 12, 2025

# Hubble tension

Di Valentino 2021



# The extragalactic distance scale.

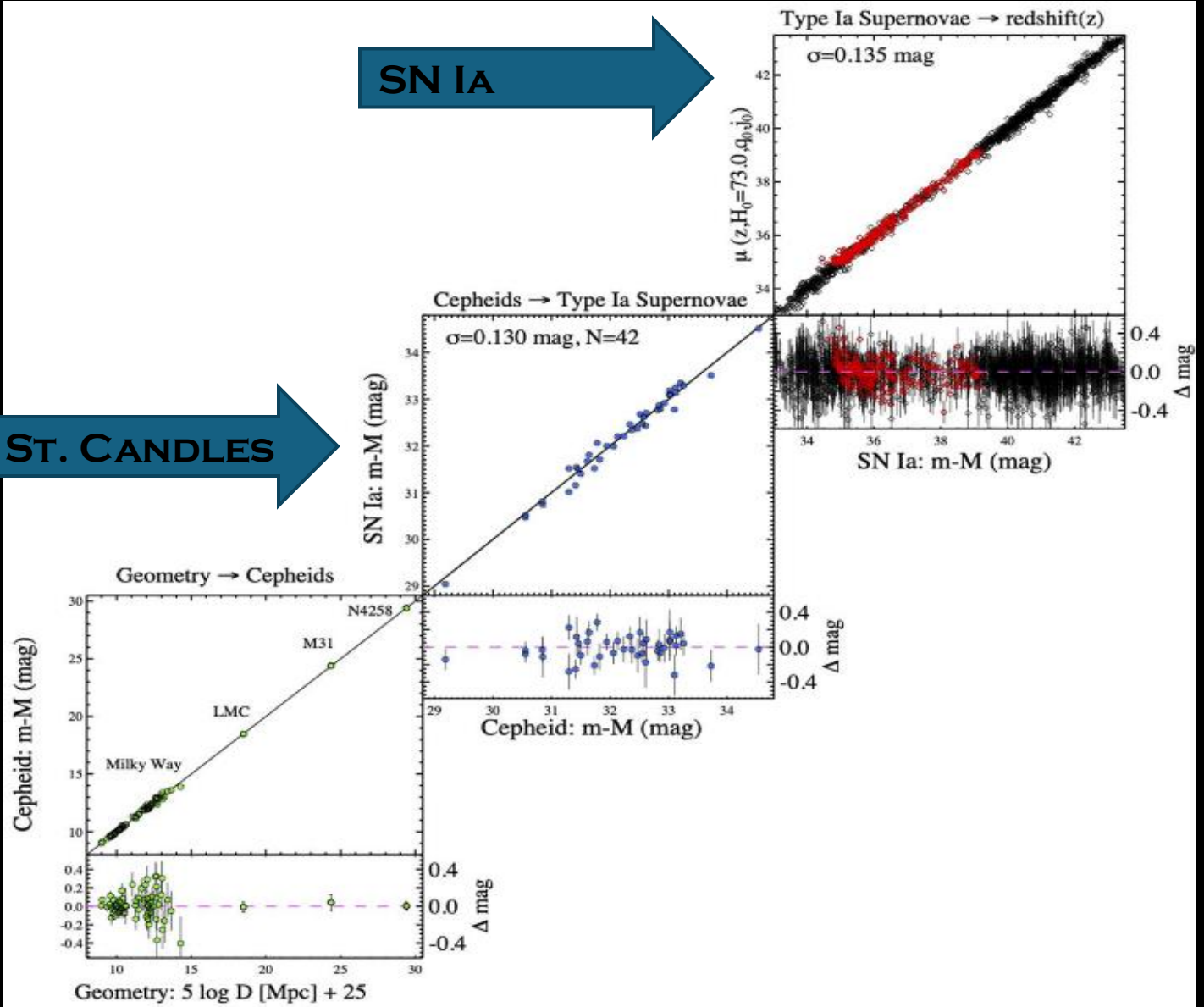
## The three steps to $H_0$

1. Geometric indicators to calibrate the Period-Luminosity (PL) relations of Cepheids
2. PL relations to calibrate the absolute magnitude of the peak luminosity of SN Ia
3. SN Ia distance + recession velocity  $\rightarrow H_0$

**GEOMETRY**  $\rightarrow$

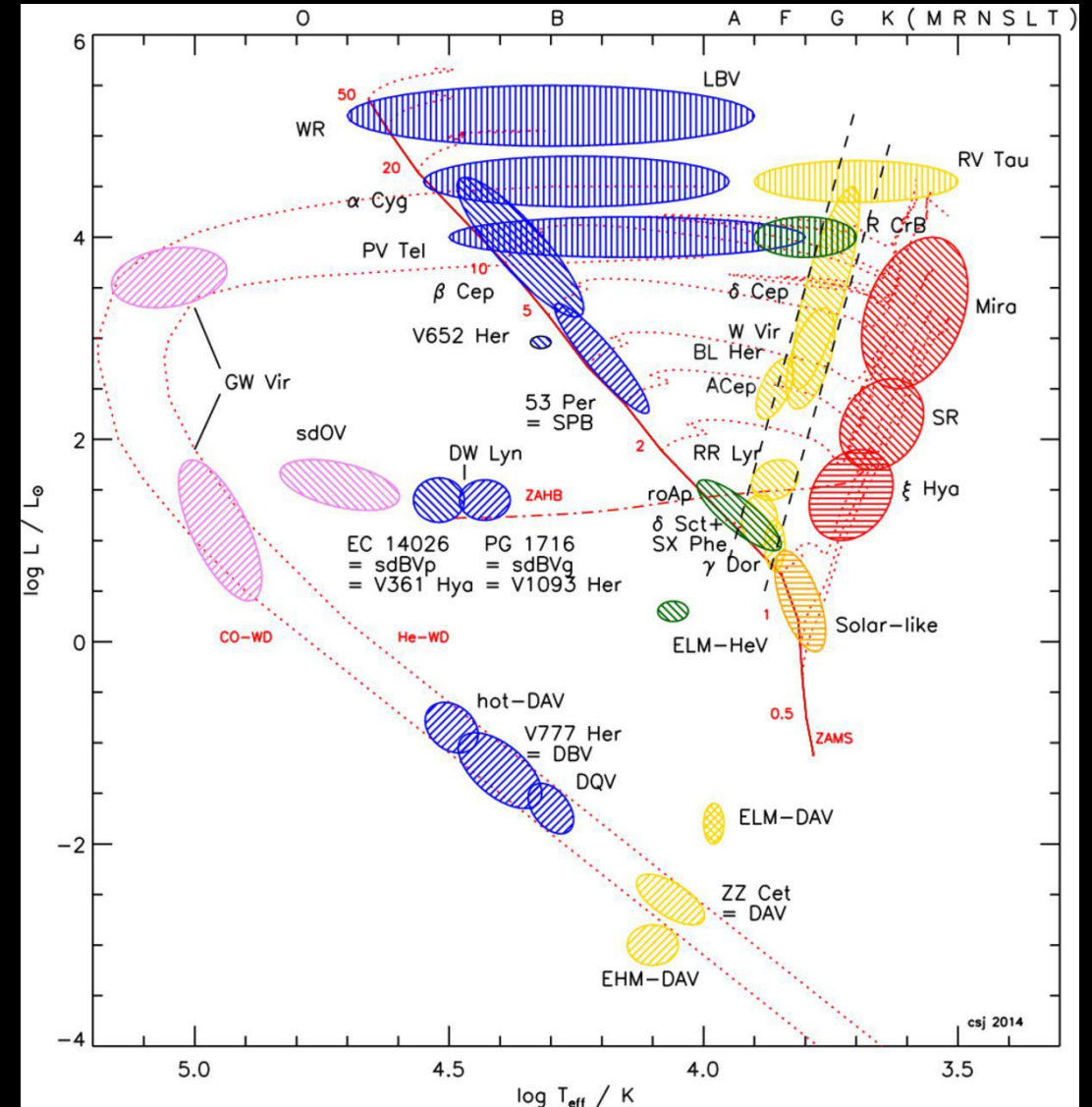
**ST. CANDLES**  $\rightarrow$

**SN IA**  $\rightarrow$



# Type II Cepheids

BL Herculis	W Virginis	RV Tauri
Low mass	Low mass	Intermediate-mass
$t > 10$ Gyrs	$t > 10$ Gyrs	$t > 1-2$ Gyrs
Post-HB	AGB stars	Post AGB stars
1-4 days	4-20 days	20-150 days
$L > RR\text{Lyrae}$	$L > BL\text{Her}$	$L > W\text{Vir}$
	* pWVir	



# Anomalous Cepheids

$\approx 1.3-2.3 M_{\odot}$

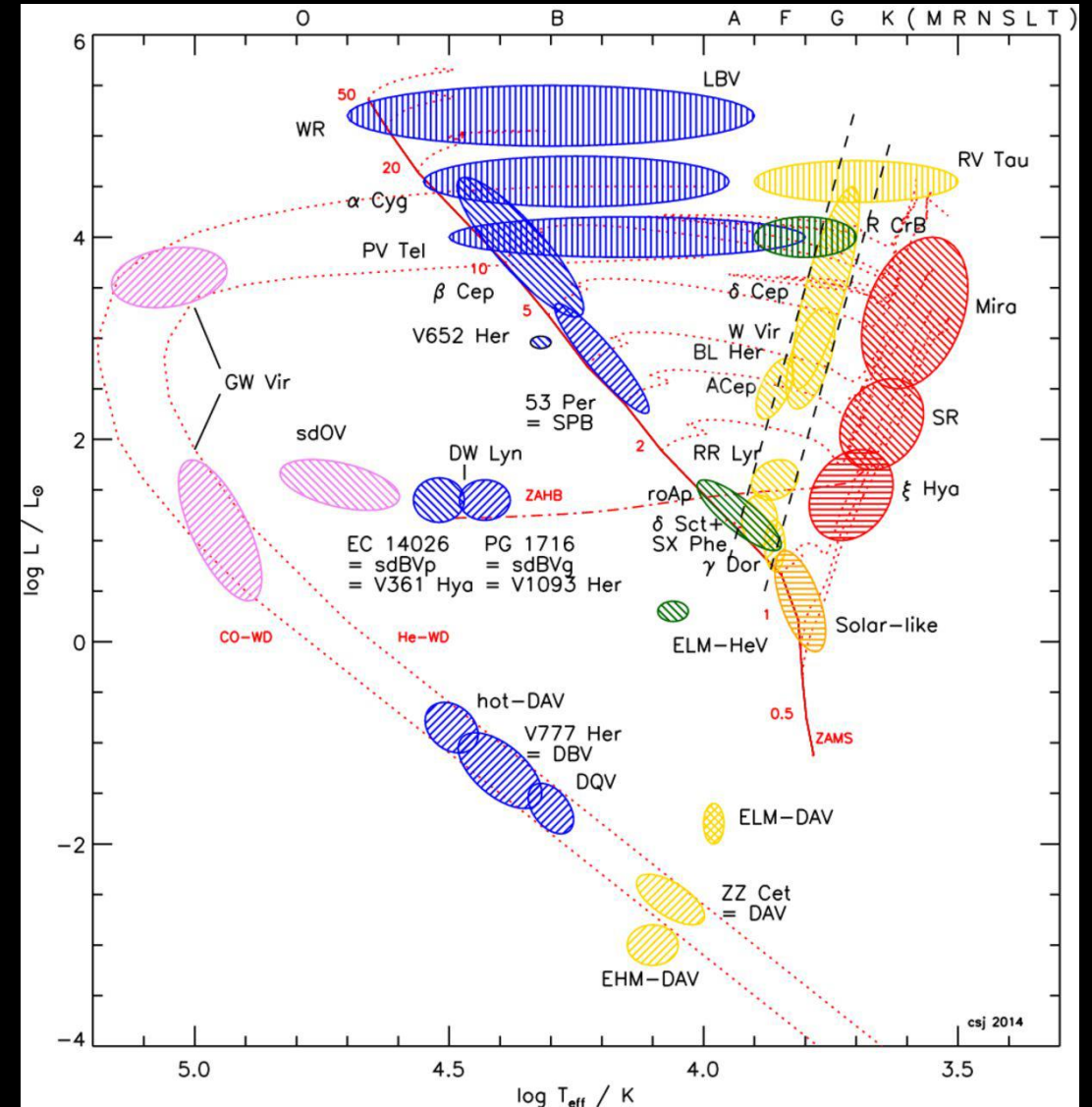
Giants with partially He-degenerate core

0.5-2.5 days / 0.4 – 1 day

F, 10

$L(\text{T2Cs}) < L(\text{Acep}) < L(\text{CCs})$

$Z < 10^{-4}$



# Distance indicators

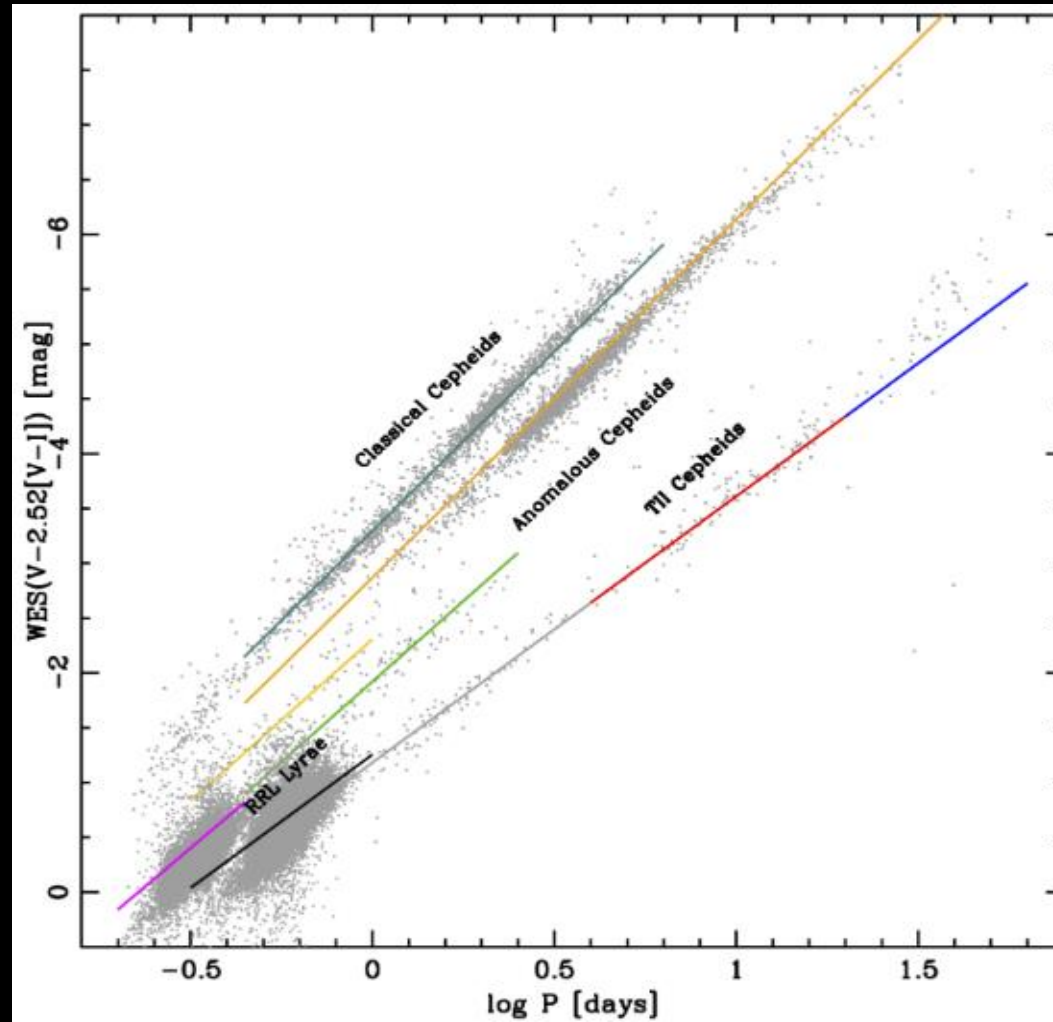
## Period Wesenheit ( $PW$ )

Defined to be a reddening-free quantity:

$$W \equiv V - R_V \cdot (B - V)$$

$$W = V_0 - R(B - V)_0$$

(Madore+1982)

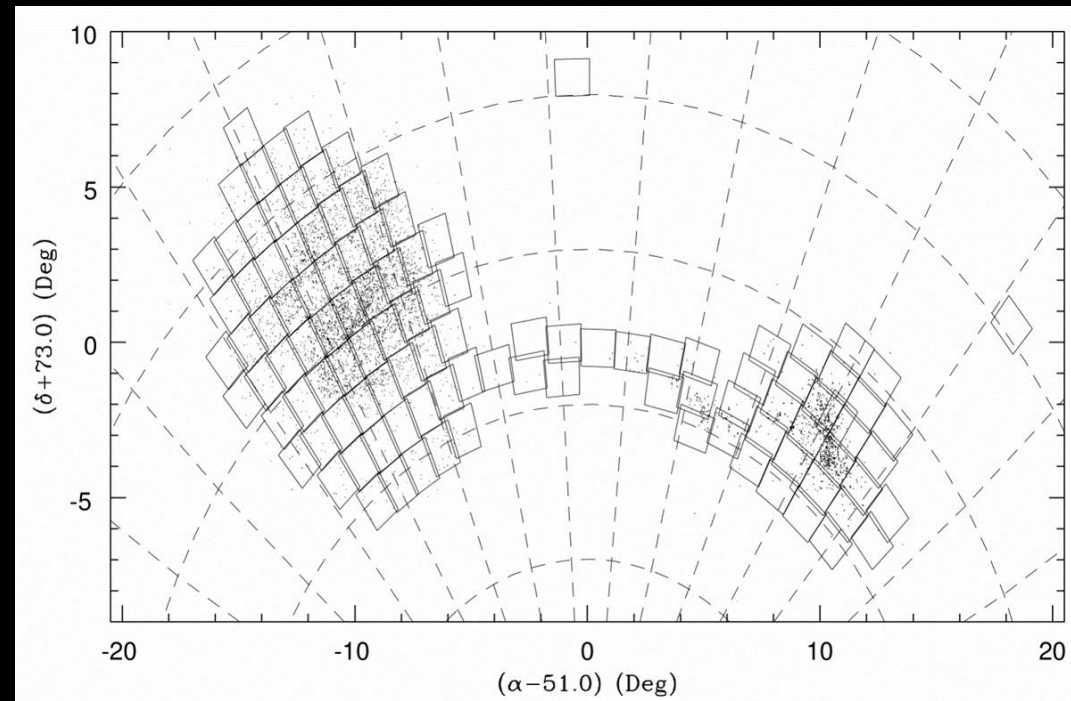


# PERIOD–LUMINOSITY RELATION

## PRESENCE IN ANCHORS

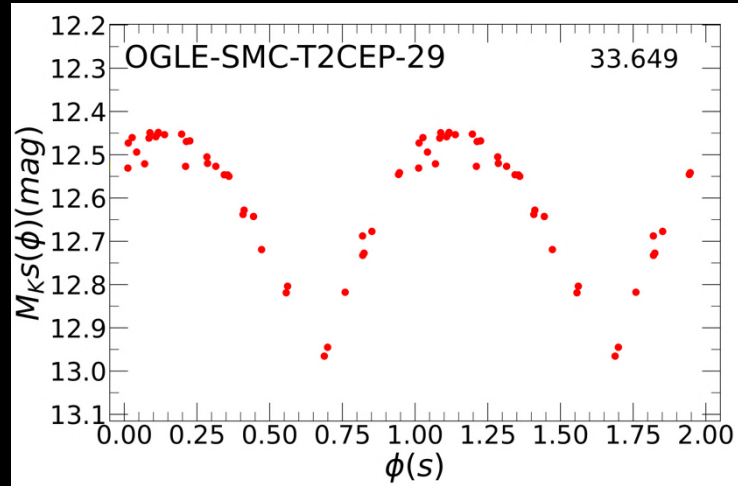
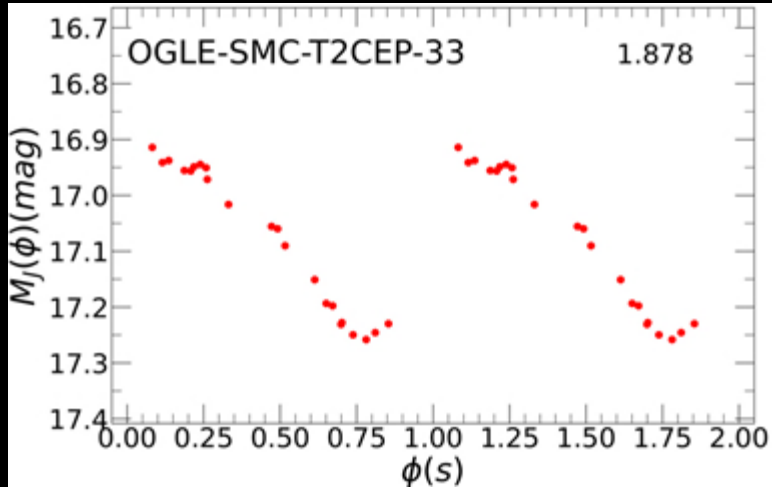
- VMC is an ESO public survey (P.I. M.-R. Cioni)
- Observations in YJKs with VIRCAM@VISTA 4 m (Paranal, Chile)
- Data reduction with the VISTA Data Flow System (VDFS) pipeline at CASU (Cambridge Astronomical Survey Unit)
- Catalogues handling through the Vista Science Archive (VSA)

339 T2Cs and 198 ACs  
with VMC photometry in  
the Magellanic Clouds

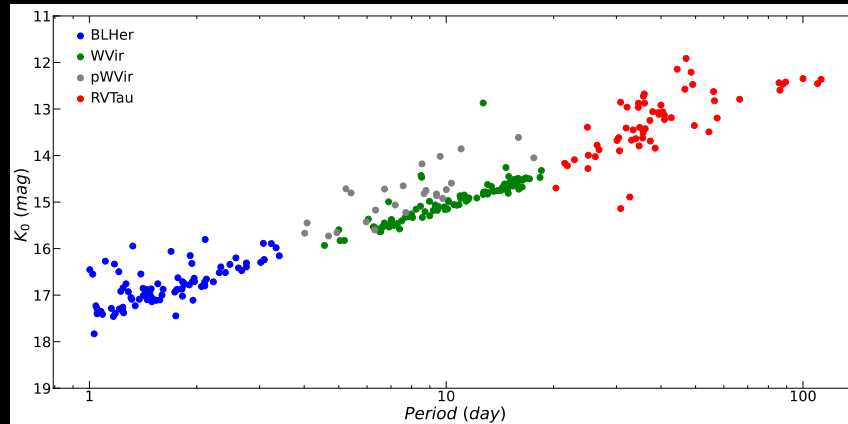
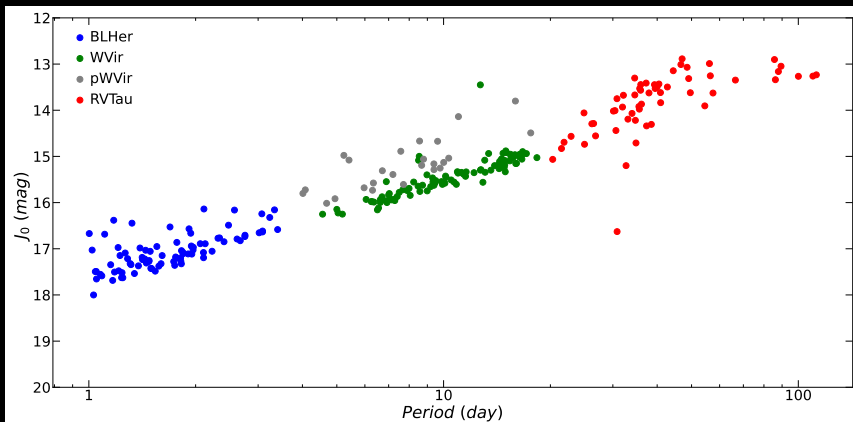


# TYPE II CEPHEIDS

## LIGHT CURVES



## OBSERVED PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATIONS

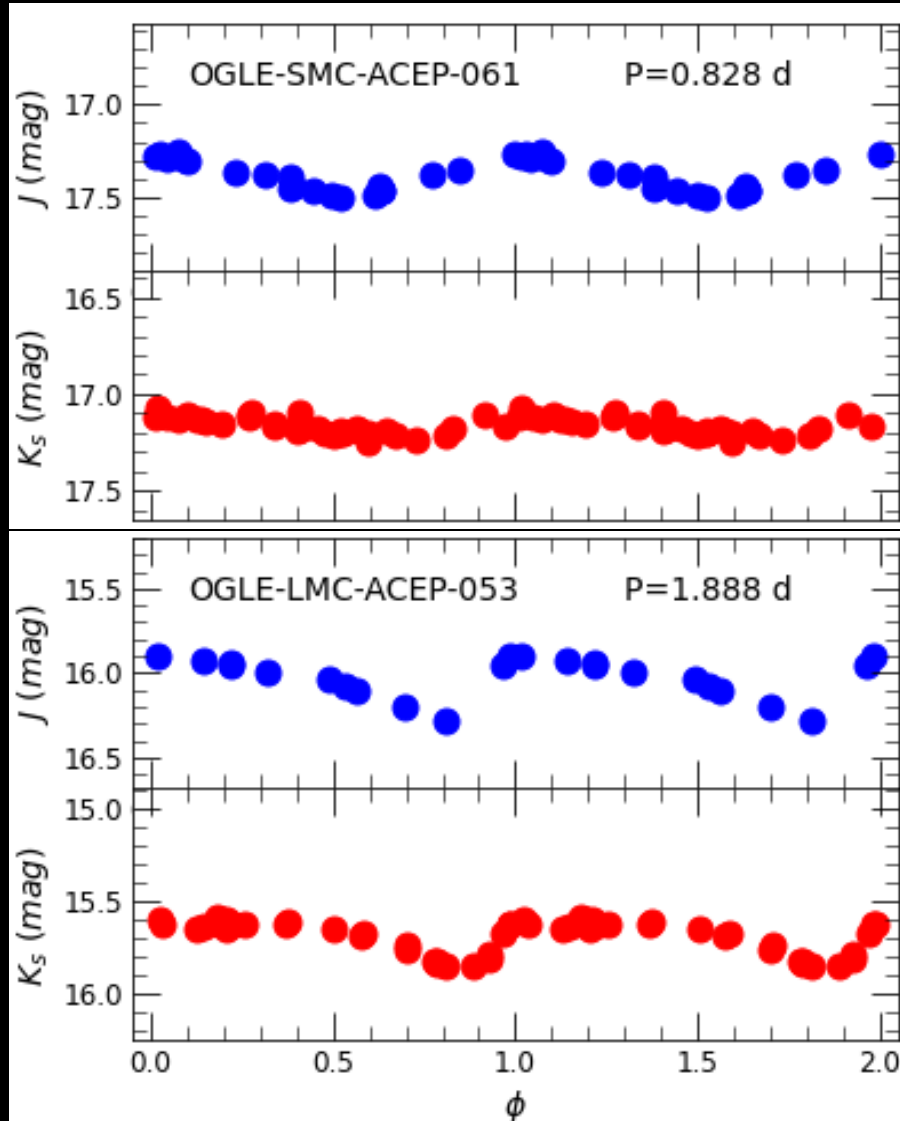


Sicignano+2024,  
A&A, 685, A41.

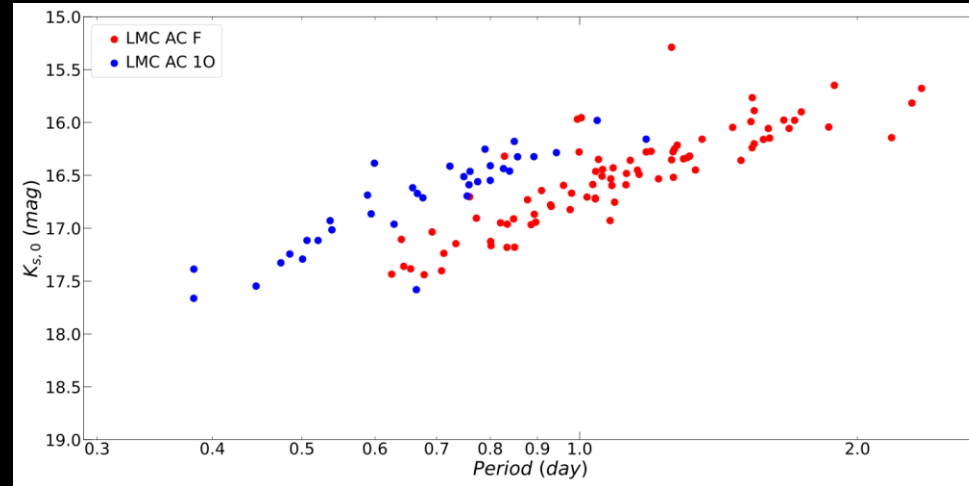
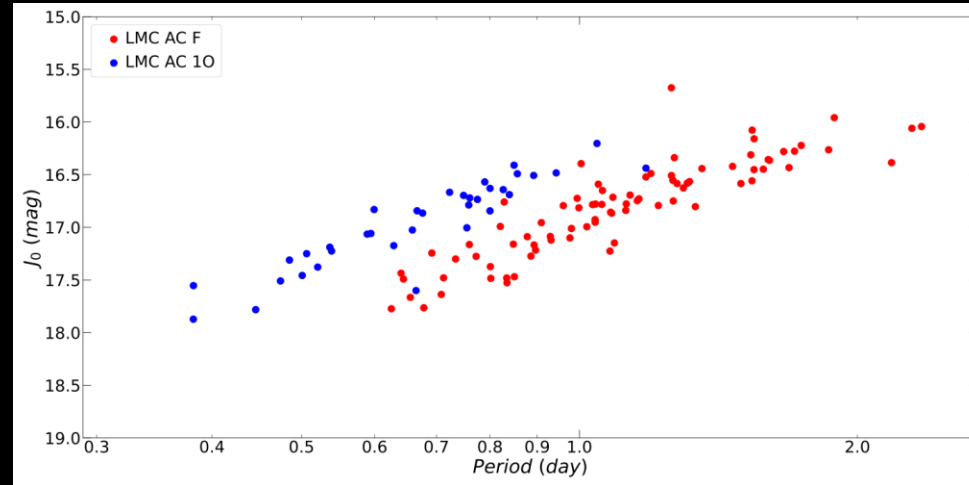


# ANOMALOUS CEPHEIDS

## LIGHT CURVES



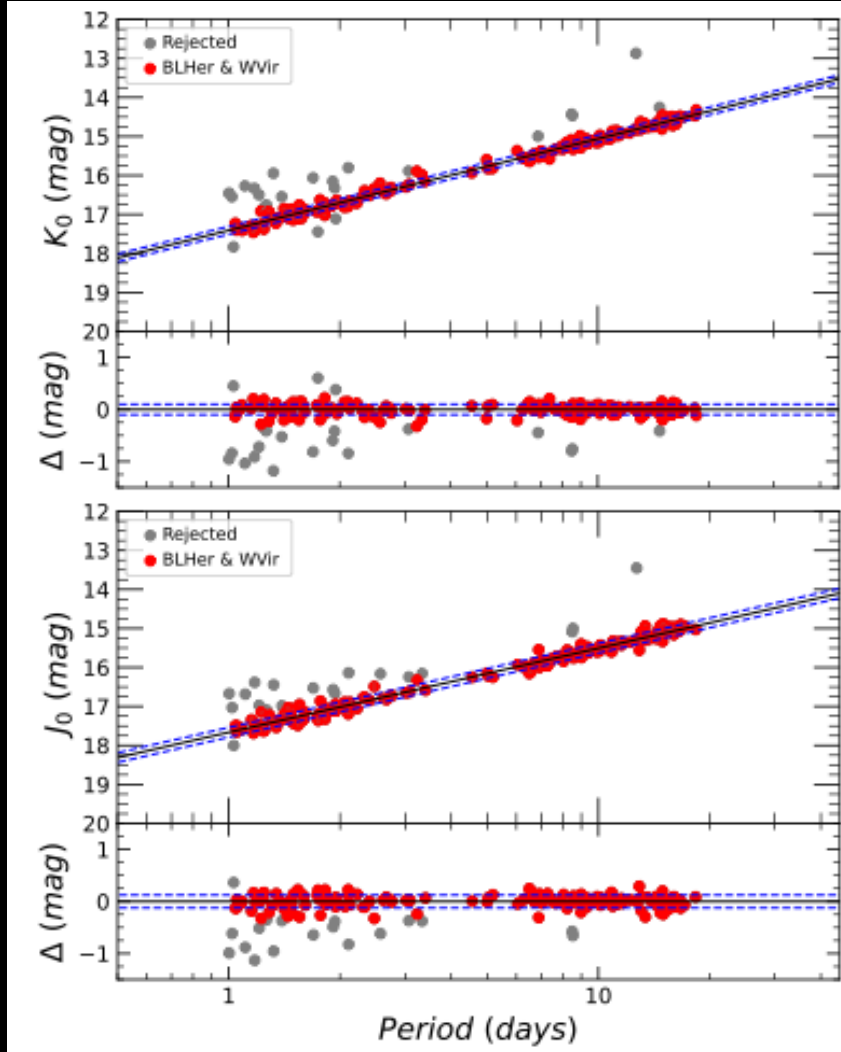
## OBSERVED PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATIONS



Sicignano+2025, A&A,  
in submission.

# TYPE II CEPHEIDS

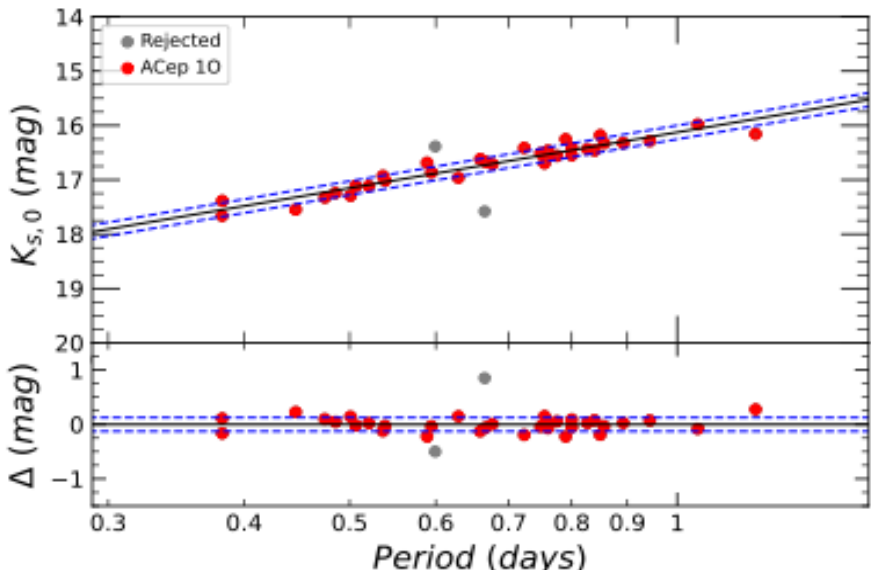
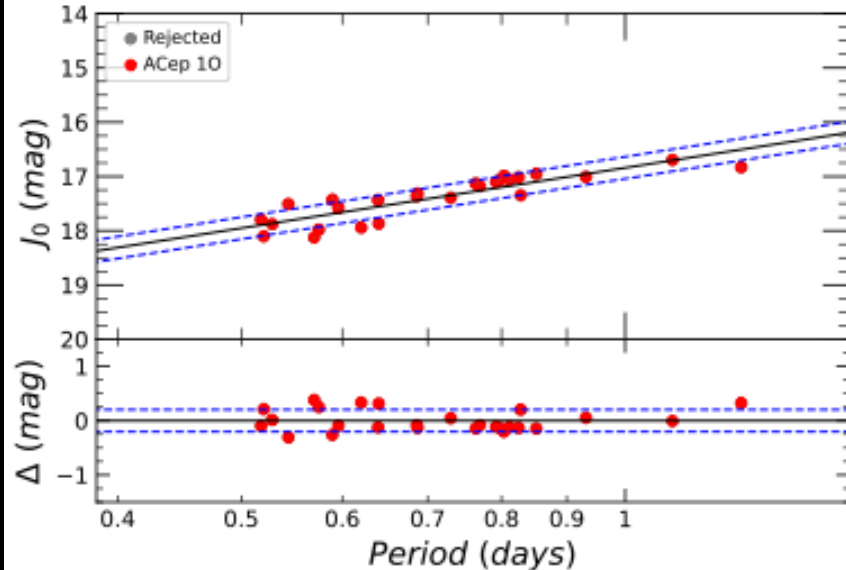
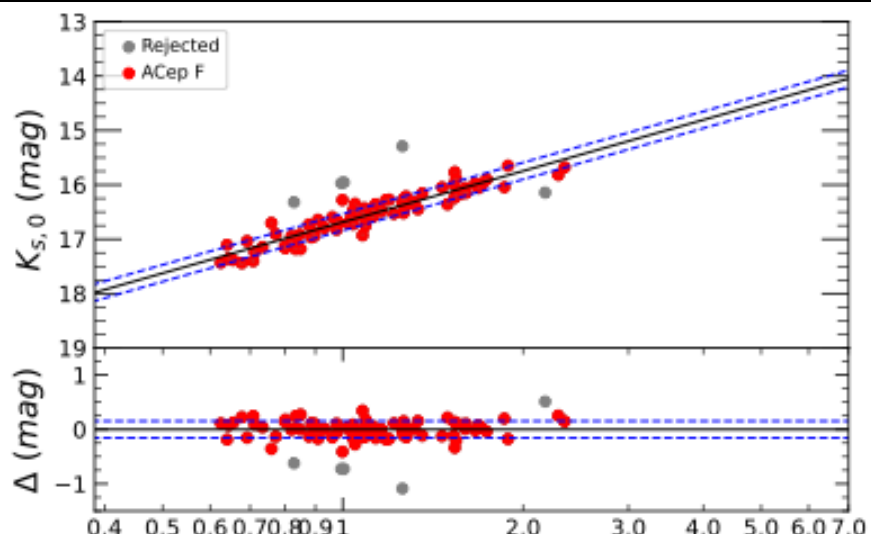
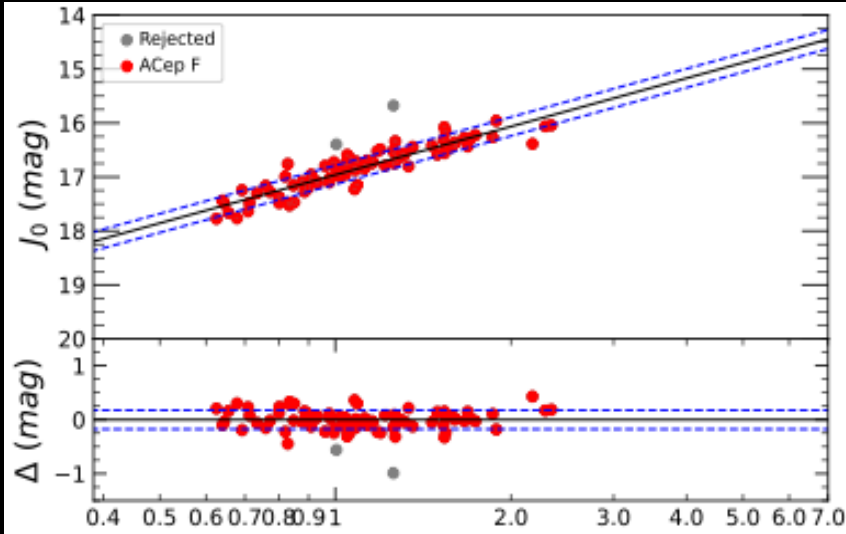
## FITTED PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATIONS



Relation	Group	$\alpha$ mag	$\sigma_\alpha$ mag	$\beta$ mag/dex	$\sigma_\beta$ mag/dex	$\gamma$	$\sigma_\gamma$	RMS mag	Used stars	Total stars
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
PLBP	BLHer	18.348	0.130	-0.840	0.250			0.29	74	83
PLBP	WVir	19.266	0.039	-2.190	0.110			0.18	98	103
PLBP	BLH&WVir	18.505	0.020	-1.439	0.047			0.27	175	186
PLG	BLHer	18.382	0.082	-1.450	0.160			0.20	78	85
PLG	WVir	19.019	0.029	-2.270	0.082			0.13	93	103
PLG	BLH&WVir	18.454	0.014	-1.722	0.034			0.19	178	188
PLRP	BLHer	17.945	0.097	-1.670	0.200			0.25	72	83
PLRP	WVir	18.538	0.033	-2.363	0.092			0.14	100	103
PLRP	BLH&WVir	18.092	0.012	-1.943	0.030			0.17	160	186
PLV	BLHer	18.432	0.079	-1.250	0.160			0.18	73	85
PLV	WVir	19.066	0.039	-2.150	0.110			0.17	99	104
PLV	BLH&WVir	18.520	0.016	-1.618	0.037			0.21	178	189
PLI	BLHer	17.973	0.067	-1.800	0.140			0.16	79	85
PLI	WVir	18.483	0.036	-2.370	0.100			0.16	102	104
PLI	BLH&WVir	18.028	0.012	-1.940	0.029			0.17	182	189
PLY	BLHer	17.711	0.082	-1.680	0.170			0.19	68	77
PLY	WVir	18.266	0.028	-2.473	0.080			0.13	97	100
PLY	BLH&WVir	17.823	0.012	-2.048	0.029			0.16	162	177
PLJ	BLHer	17.657	0.069	-2.250	0.140			0.17	73	83
PLJ	WVir	17.919	0.024	-2.400	0.068			0.10	94	98
PLJ	BLH&WVir	17.664	0.010	-2.156	0.024			0.12	162	181
PLK	BLHer	17.444	0.066	-2.560	0.140			0.16	73	84
PLK	WVir	17.508	0.019	-2.439	0.053			0.08	98	103
PLK	BLH&WVir	17.410	0.009	-2.348	0.019			0.10	165	187
PWG	BLH&WVir	17.445	0.009	-2.436	0.022			0.14	170	186
PWVI	BLH&WVir	17.337	0.010	-2.491	0.022			0.12	177	189
PWVK	BLH&WVir	17.282	0.007	-2.475	0.017			0.09	160	187
PWYK	BLH&WVir	17.226	0.007	-2.516	0.017			0.09	151	177
PWJK	BLH&WVir	17.251	0.006	-2.501	0.016			0.08	146	181
PLCG	BLH&WVir	17.334	0.009	-2.501	0.033	2.070	0.062	0.15	170	186
PLCVI	BLH&WVir	17.143	0.013	-2.604	0.036	2.912	0.092	0.10	168	189
PLCVK	BLH&WVir	17.295	0.007	-2.447	0.029	0.118	0.030	0.09	162	187
PLCYK	BLH&WVir	17.325	0.008	-2.421	0.026	0.223	0.059	0.09	157	177
PLCJK	BLH&WVir	17.252	0.007	-2.493	0.025	0.691	0.099	0.075	145	181

# ANOMALOUS CEPHEIDS

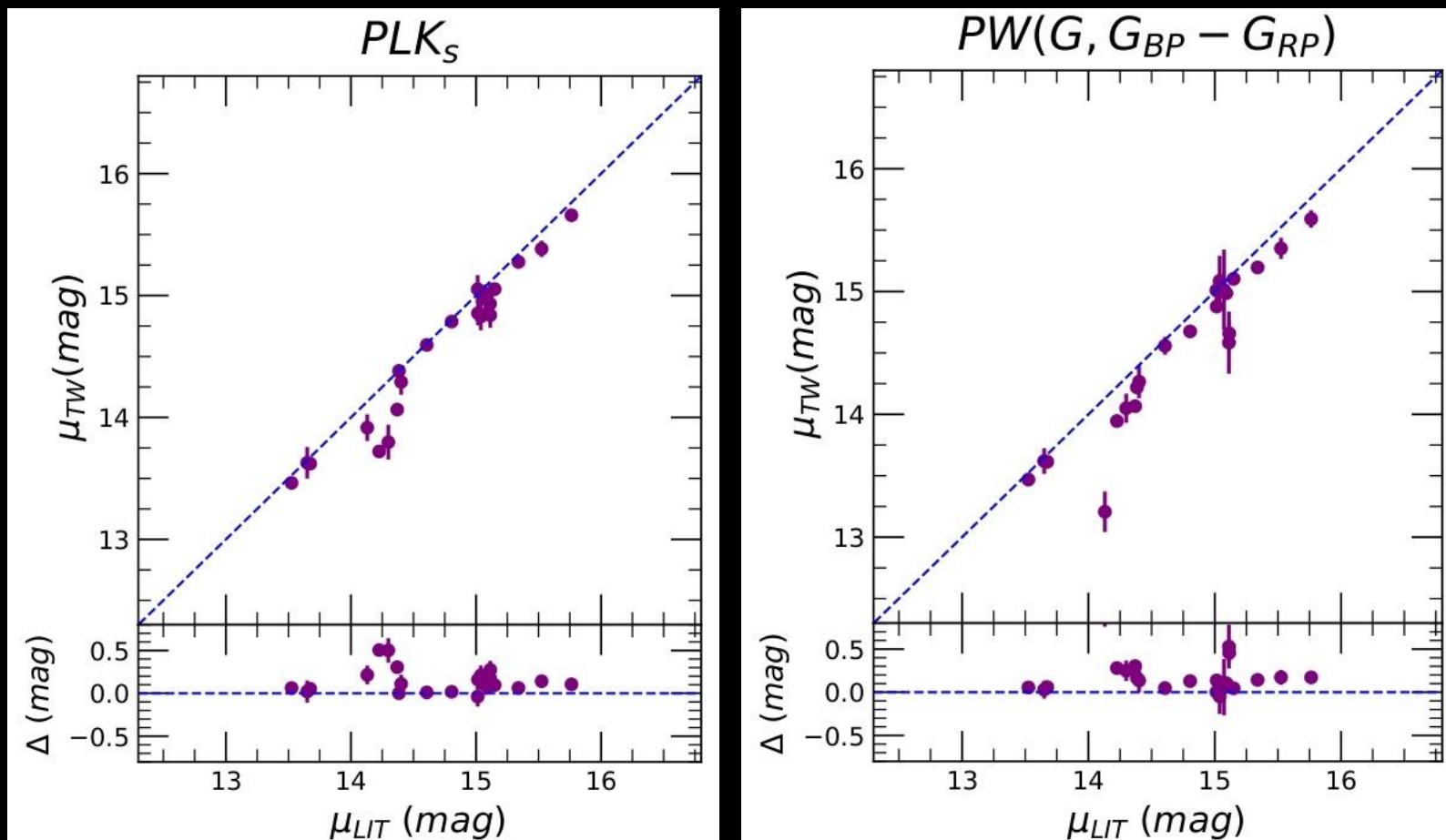
## FITTED PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATIONS



Rel. (1)	Mode (2)	$\alpha$ mag (3)	$\sigma_\alpha$ mag (4)	$\beta$ mag/dex (5)	$\sigma_\beta$ mag/dex (6)	RMS mag (7)	n.stars (8)
LMC							
PLI	F	17.330	0.028	-3.01	0.15	0.171	79/5
PLI	10	16.706	0.032	-3.28	0.24	0.166	34/1
PLI	All	17.287	0.026	-2.95	0.13	0.179	113/6
PLV	F	17.801	0.035	-2.82	0.19	0.223	80/4
PLV	10	17.096	0.041	-3.31	0.32	0.221	35/0
PLV	All	17.735	0.035	-2.74	0.17	0.242	115/4
PLG	F	17.784	0.037	-2.99	0.20	0.238	83/1
PLG	10	17.054	0.038	-3.27	0.29	0.202	34/1
PLG	All	17.708	0.036	-2.85	0.18	0.253	117/2
PLBP	F	17.871	0.041	-2.75	0.22	0.266	82/2
PLBP	10	17.201	0.048	-3.05	0.38	0.258	35/0
PLBP	All	17.812	0.041	-2.62	0.20	0.288	118/1
PLRP	F	17.356	0.034	-2.78	0.18	0.214	81/3
PLRP	10	16.758	0.036	-3.13	0.29	0.195	35/0
PLRP	All	17.313	0.030	-2.76	0.15	0.208	115/4
PLY	F	17.109	0.036	-2.80	0.19	0.226	81/1
PLY	10	16.415	0.026	-3.61	0.20	0.133	32/3
PLY	All	17.074	0.030	-2.82	0.15	0.21	115/2
PLJ	F	16.962	0.028	-2.98	0.14	0.176	81/2
PLJ	10	16.370	0.025	-3.25	0.20	0.134	34/1
PLJ	All	16.924	0.025	-2.95	0.12	0.174	116/2
PLK	F	16.686	0.025	-3.12	0.13	0.155	78/5
PLK	10	16.126	0.024	-3.41	0.18	0.127	33/2
PLK	All	16.667	0.022	-3.14	0.11	0.152	112/6
PWVI	F	16.601	0.024	-3.14	0.13	0.148	80/4
PWVI	10	16.240	0.015	-2.61	0.11	0.041	19/16
PWVI	All	16.589	0.021	-3.07	0.11	0.117	112/7
PWG	F	16.768	0.031	-2.98	0.16	0.202	82/2
PWG	10	16.238	0.027	-3.23	0.22	0.143	33/2
PWG	All	16.759	0.027	-3.05	0.13	0.175	116/3
PWVK	F	16.541	0.022	-3.17	0.12	0.136	75/8
PWVK	10	15.991	0.026	-3.42	0.20	0.136	33/2
PWVK	All	16.537	0.021	-3.21	0.10	0.136	109/9
PWYK	F	16.484	0.023	-3.30	0.12	0.141	76/6
PWYK	10	15.944	0.027	-3.41	0.21	0.140	33/2
PWYK	All	16.470	0.021	-3.29	0.10	0.139	109/8
PWJK	F	16.504	0.025	-3.21	0.13	0.152	76/7
PWJK	10	15.951	0.028	-3.50	0.21	0.146	33/2
PWJK	All	16.494	0.022	-3.25	0.11	0.148	109/9

# IMPACT ON THE DISTANCE SCALE

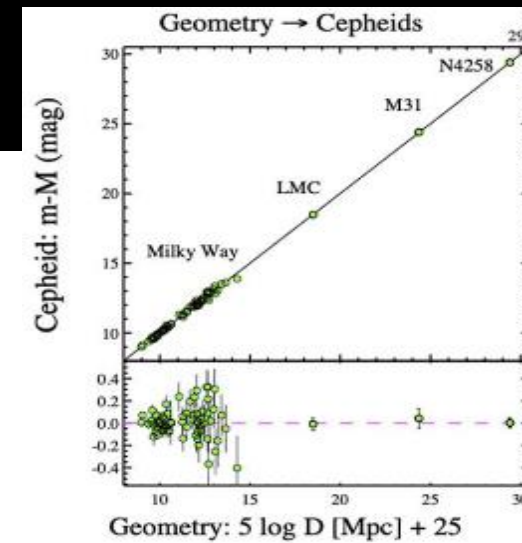
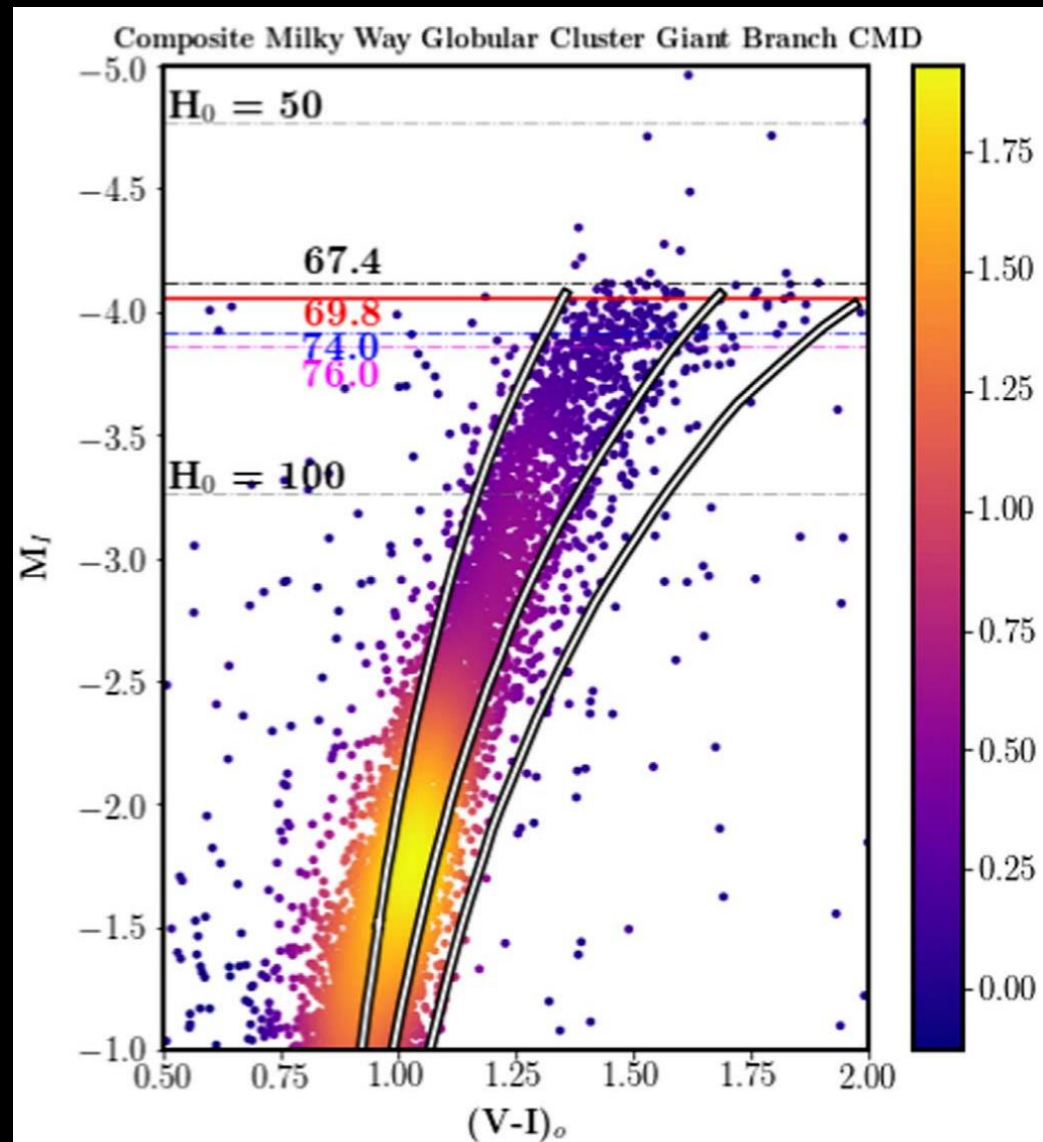
Comparison between our distance moduli and those by Baumbgardt & Vasiliev 21



The distance moduli of GGCs appear overestimated up to 3%.

# The first step to $H_0$

1. Geometric indicators to calibrate the Period-Luminosity (PL) relations of Cepheids

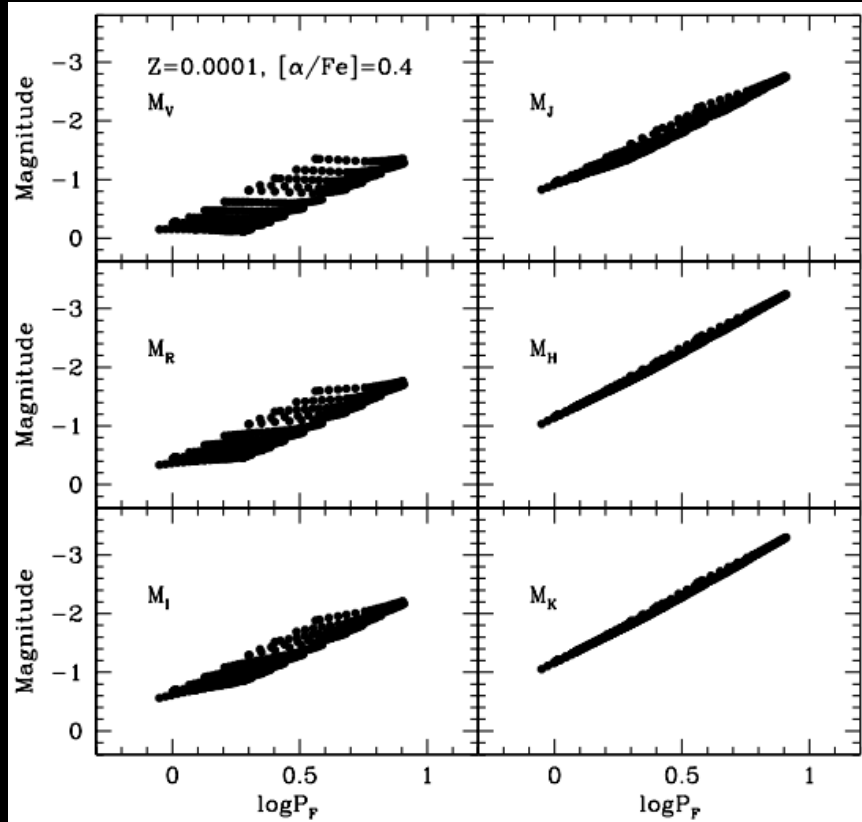


Riess+2022

Freedman+ 2021

# UNCERTAINTES: TO BE OR NOT TO BE PLZ?

TYPE II CEPHEIDS:  
THEORY? OBSERVATIONS?



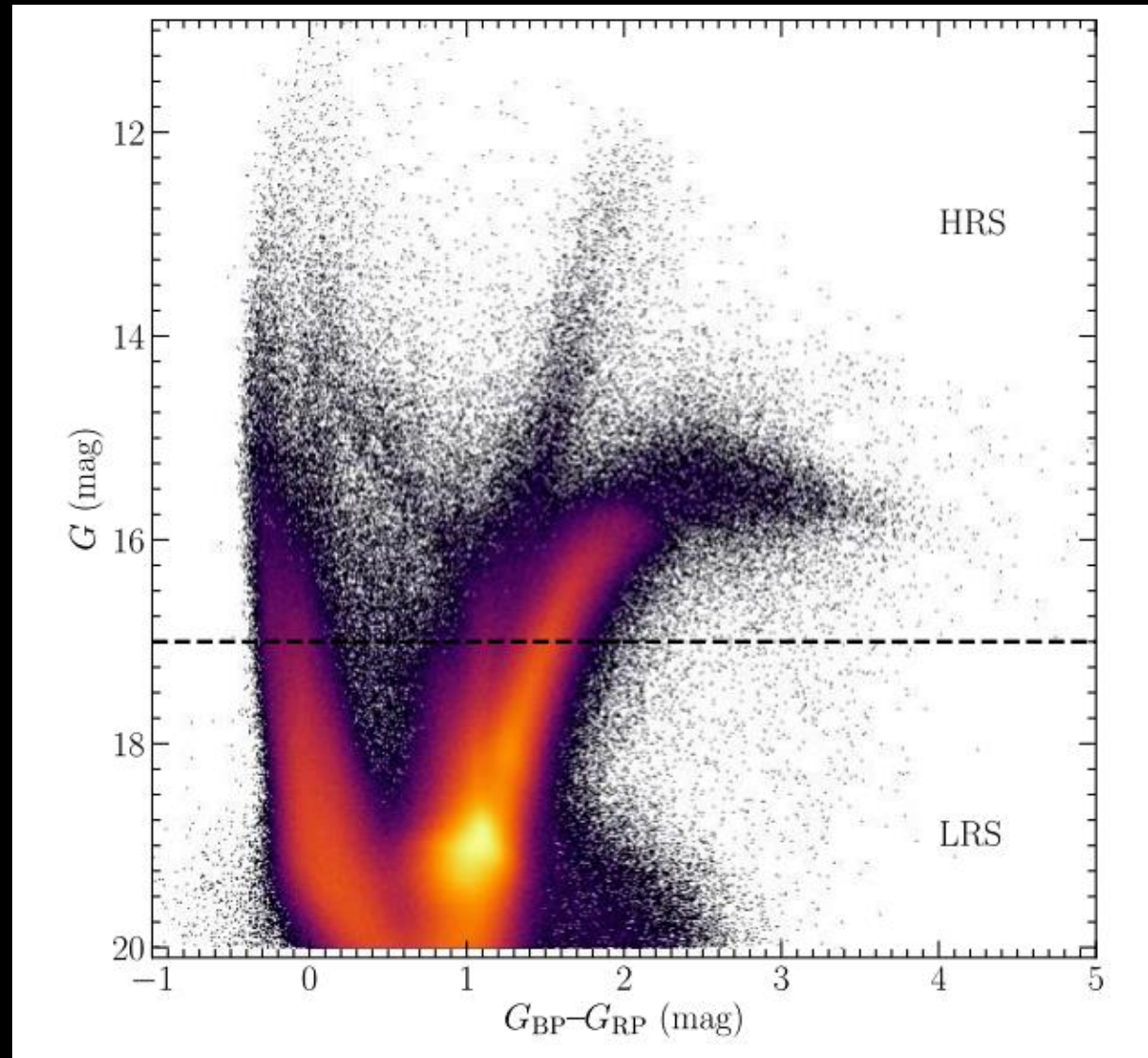
Di Criscienzo+2007

- Metallicity spanning of Pop II stars in the LMC.
- Predicted PL dependence on metallicity.
- 7 Galactic T2C show a dependence & No dependence in GGCs.

# 4MOST

High resolution limit in the G band  $\sim 17$  mag

Low resolution limit in the G band  $\sim 20$  mag



Synergies:

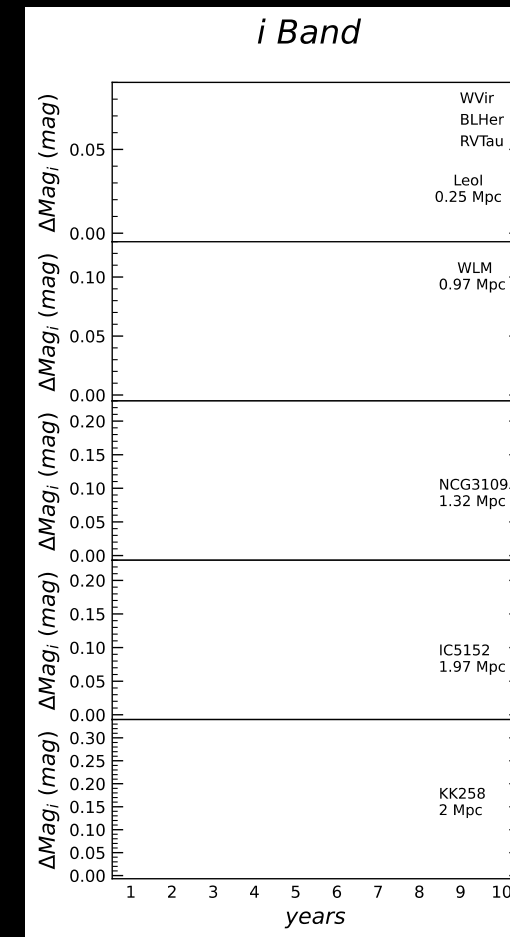
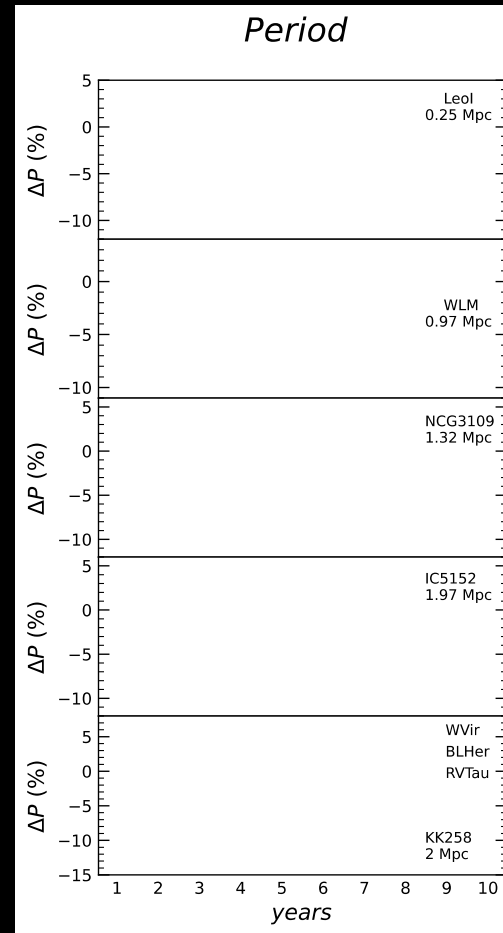
GAIA DR5

2030

LSST

starting from 2026

Reclassification and  
discoveries for variable stars







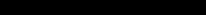
Sicignano+, in prep.

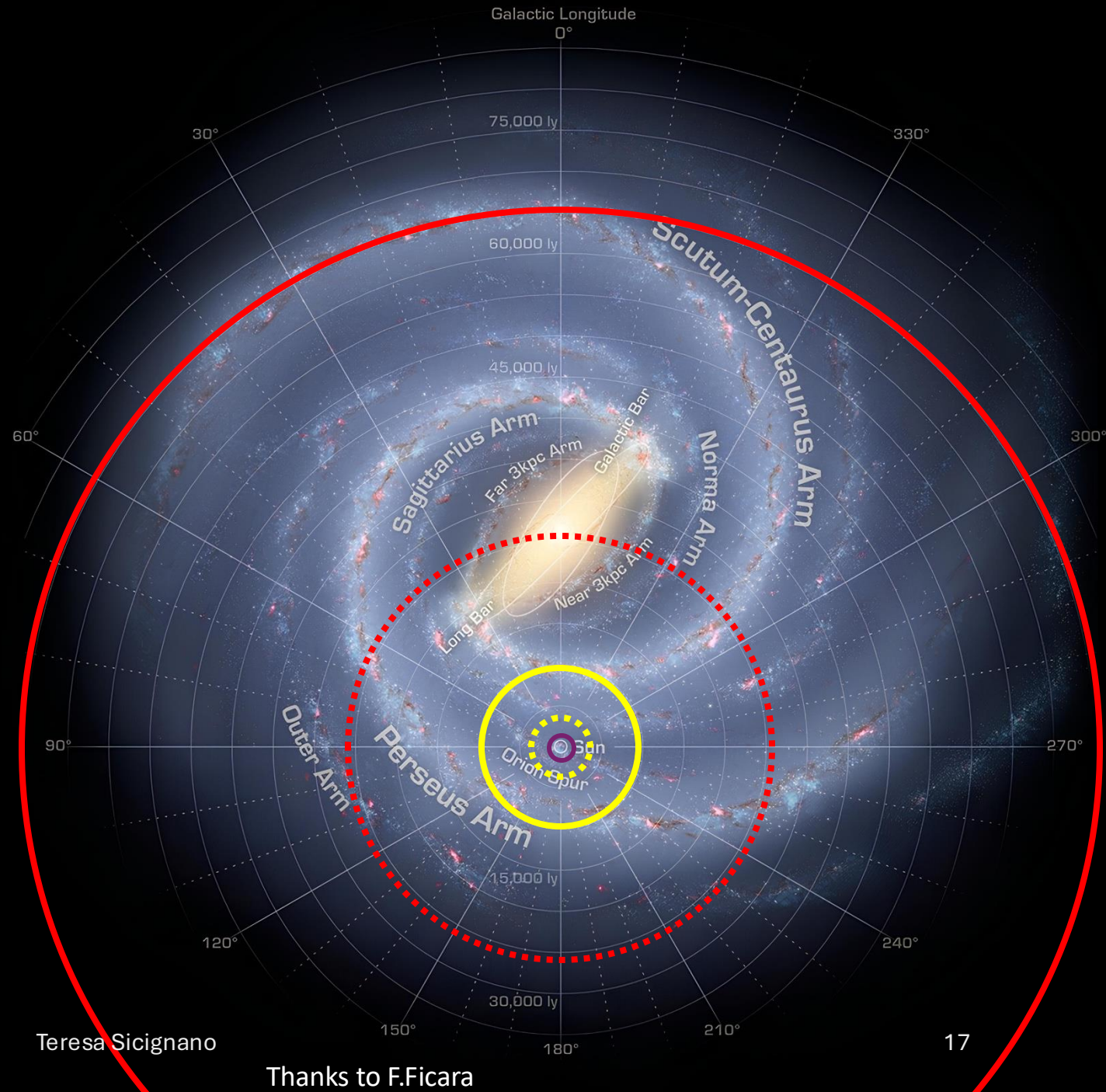


# WST MOS

High resolution mode up to mag V= 20 mag

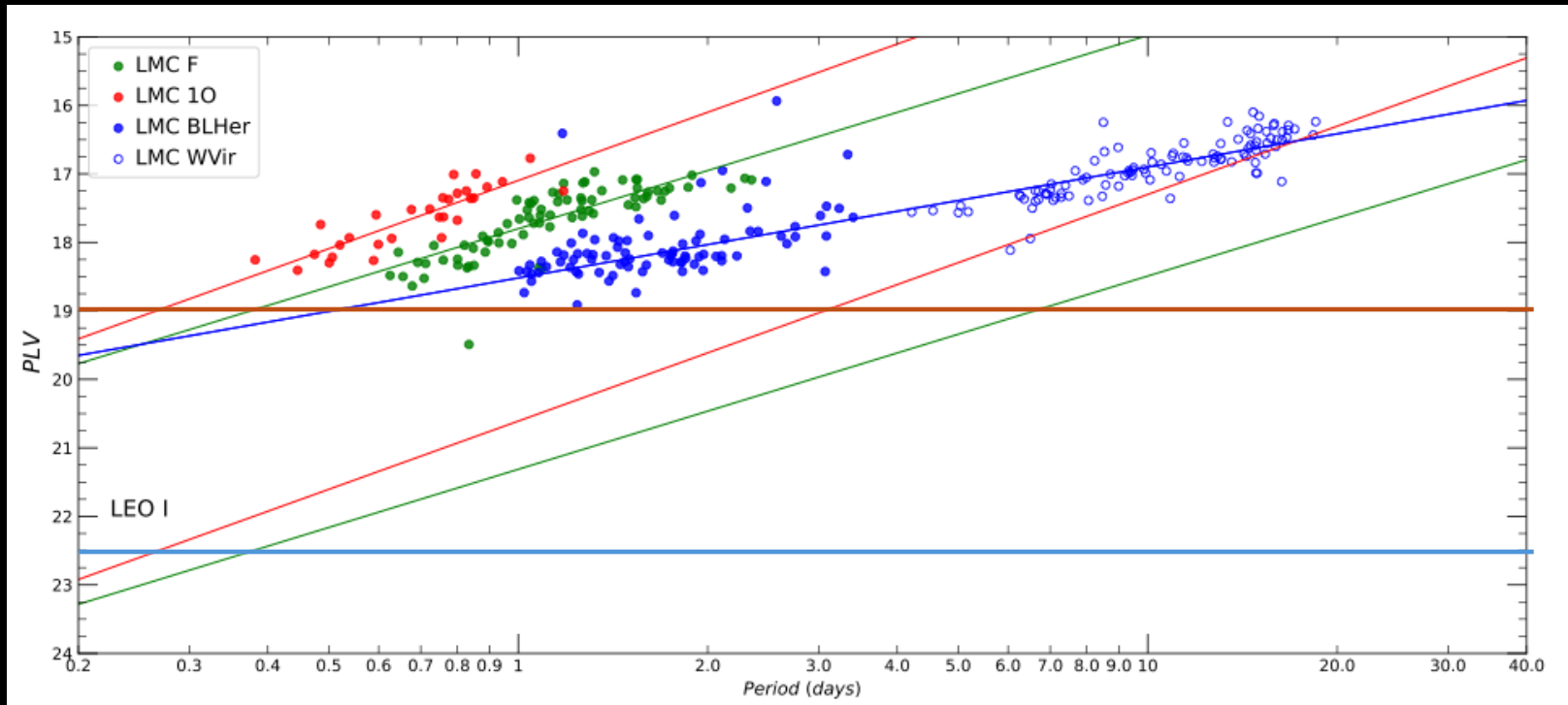
Low resolution mode up to mag V= 22.5 mag

-  Gaia DR3 Spectroscopy
-  4MOST MS Sun-like 1 kpc
-  WST MS Sun-like 3 kpc
-  4MOST Red Giant 8 kpc
-  WST Red Giant 20 kpc

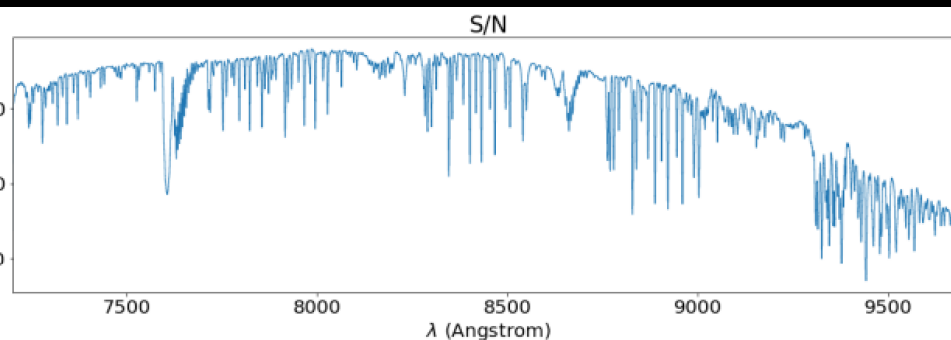
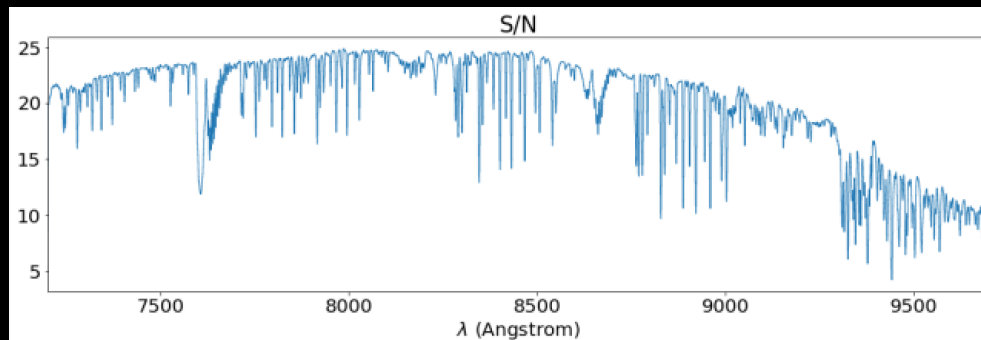
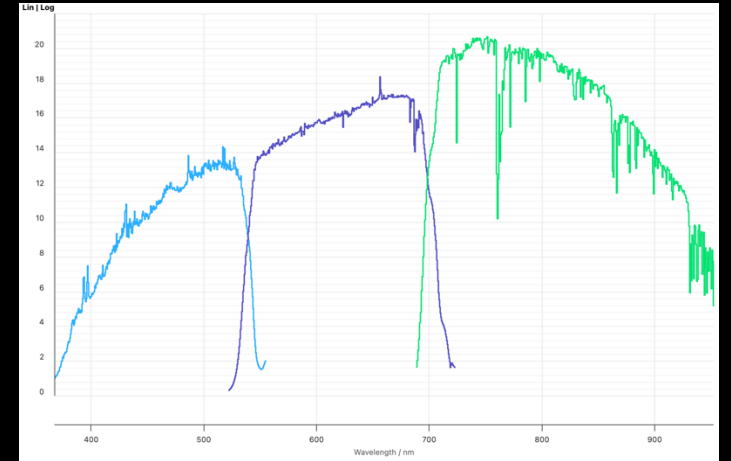


# Low resolution

4 hours of observation (1800s\*8),



4MOST up to magV~19 mag



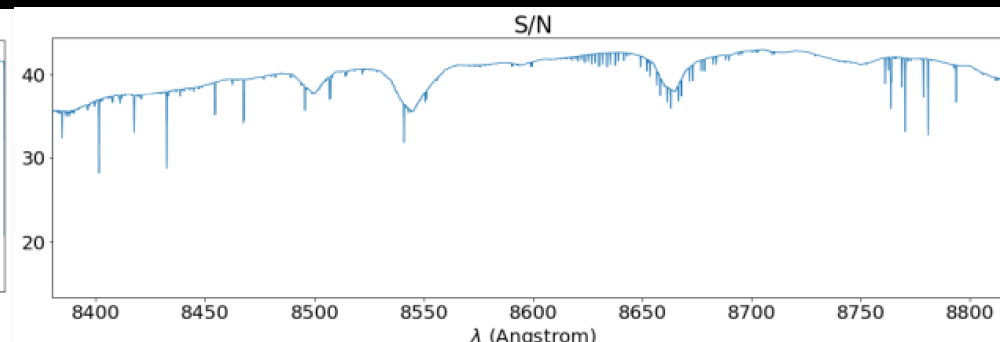
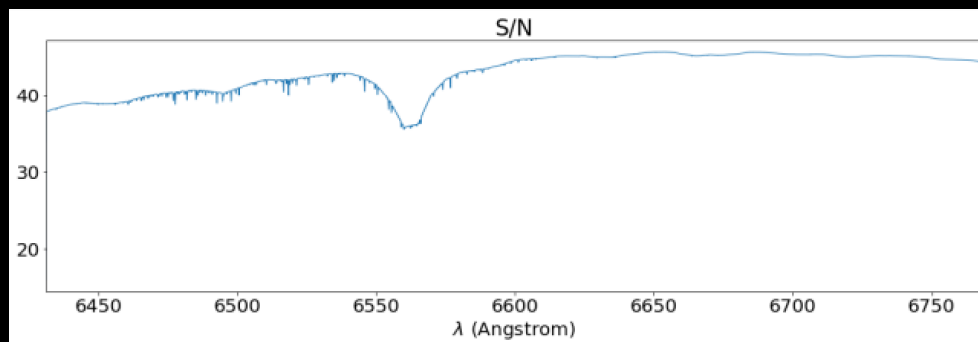
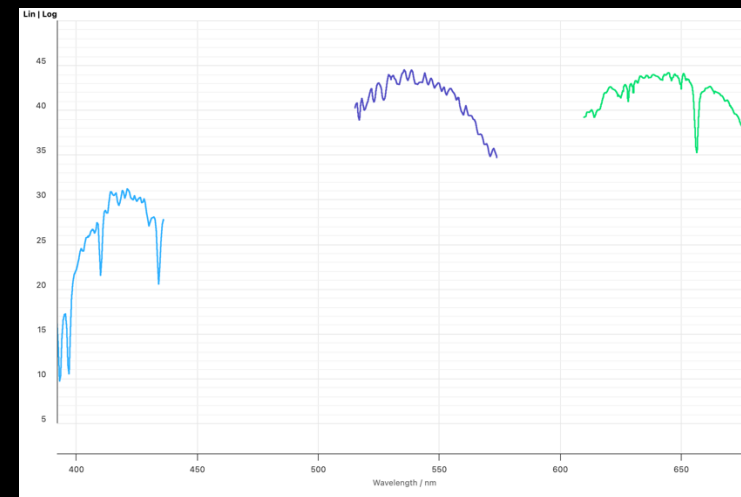
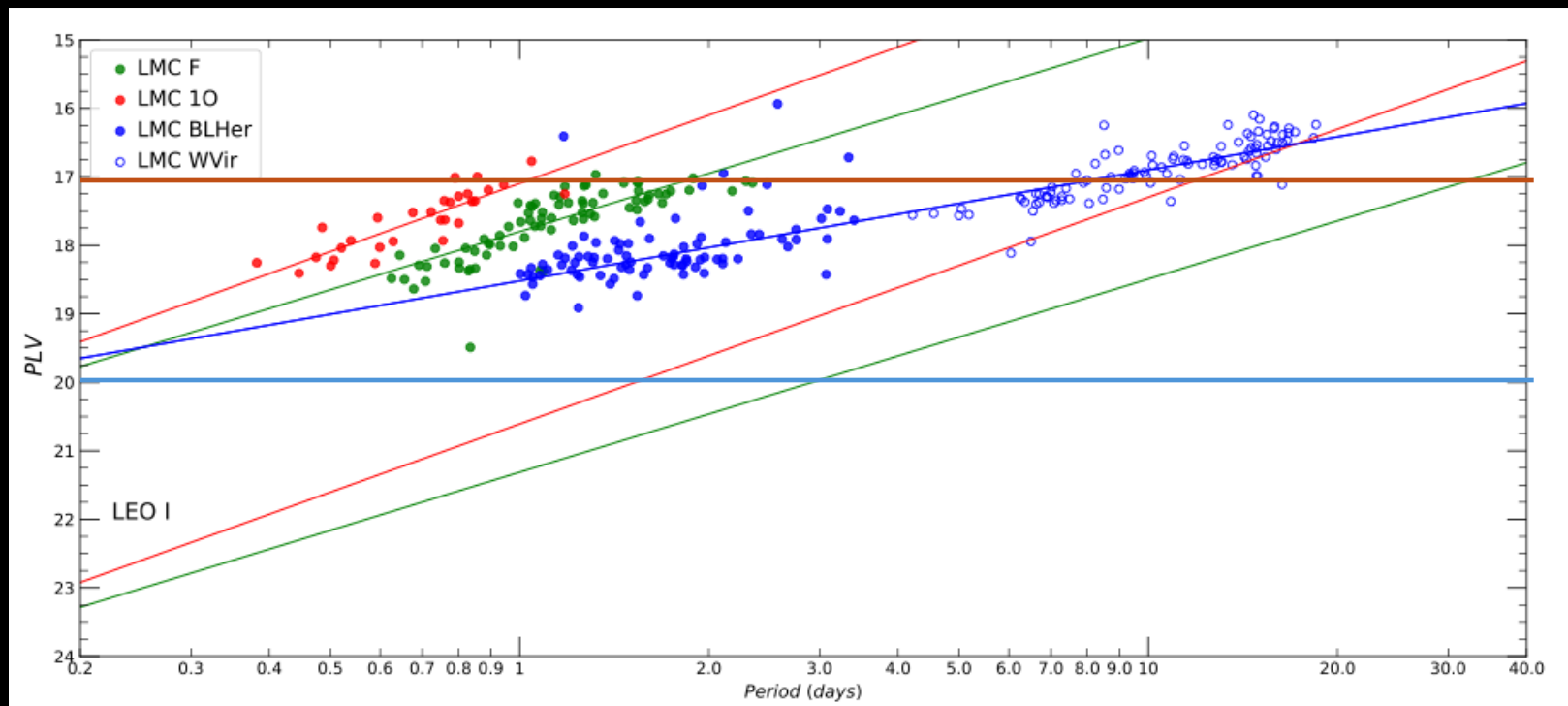
WST up to magV~22.5 mag

Carina, Fornax, Sextans, Leo I

# High resolution

4 hours of observation (1800s\*8),

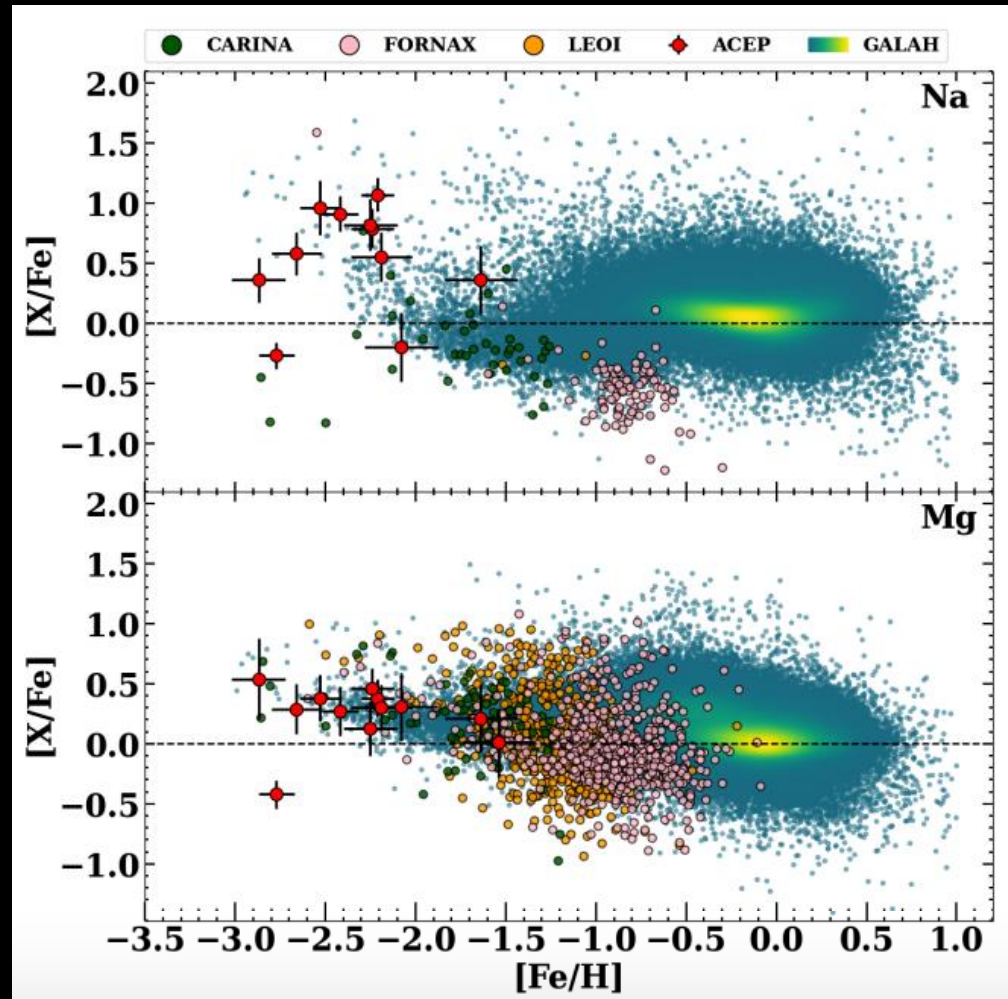
4MOST up to magV~17 mag



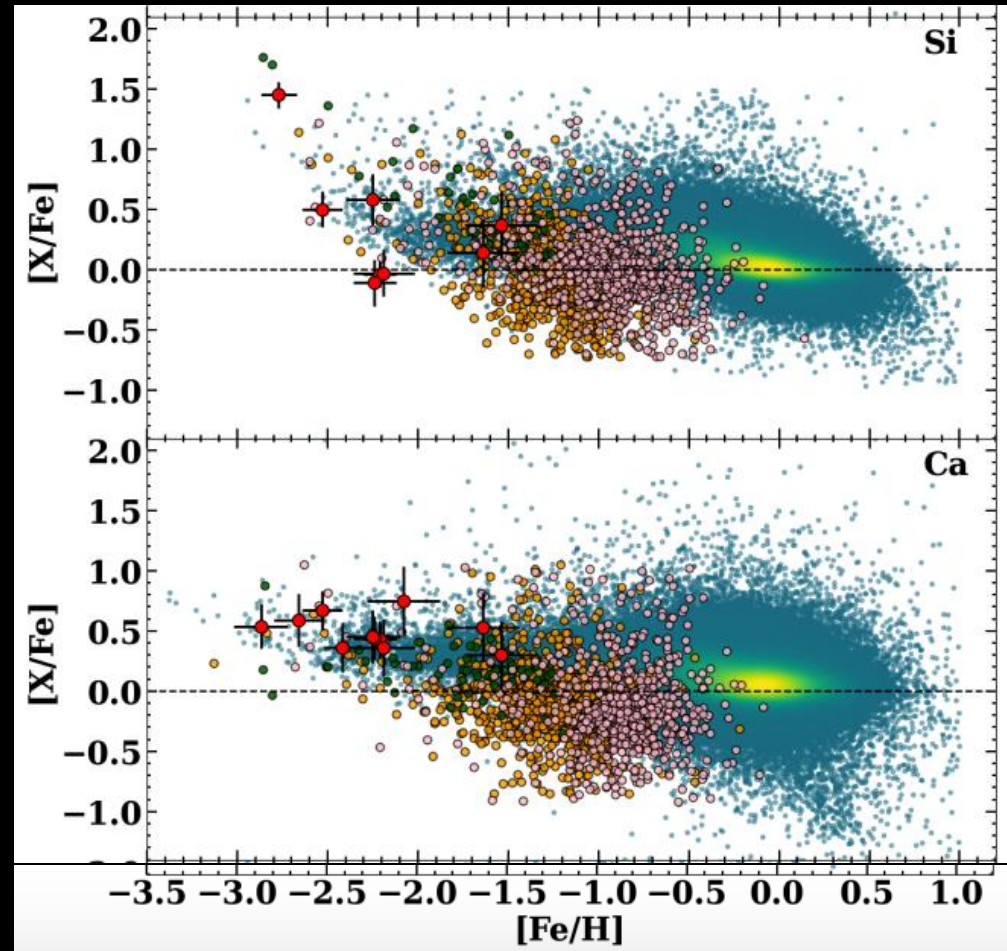
WST up to magV~20 mag

# Not only distance indicators

## Stellar formation:



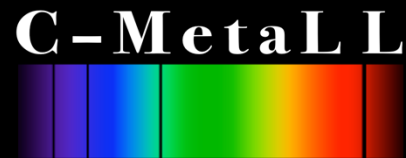
Adapted from Ripepi+2024



# Summary:

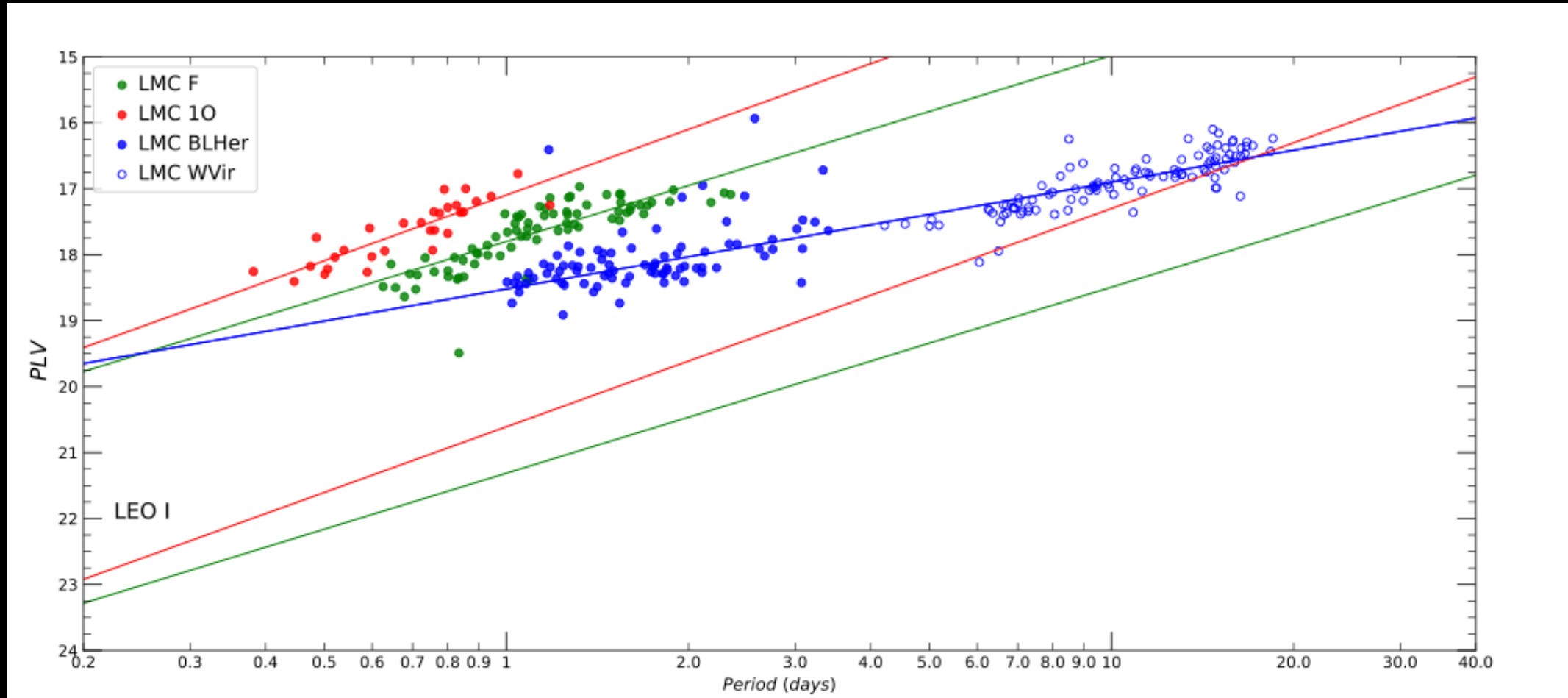
- 4MOST, LSST AND GAIA DR5 ARE CRUCIAL STARTING POINTS FOR WST.
- LOW RESOLUTION
  - 4MOST WILL ALLOW US TO DERIVE PLZ UP TO THE LMC
  - WST UP TO LEO I (250 kpc)
- HIGH RESOLUTION:
  - 4MOST WILL ALLOW US TO OBTAIN GALACTIC SPECTRA OF T2CS AND ACS
  - WST UP TO THE LMC

Thank you for your attention!



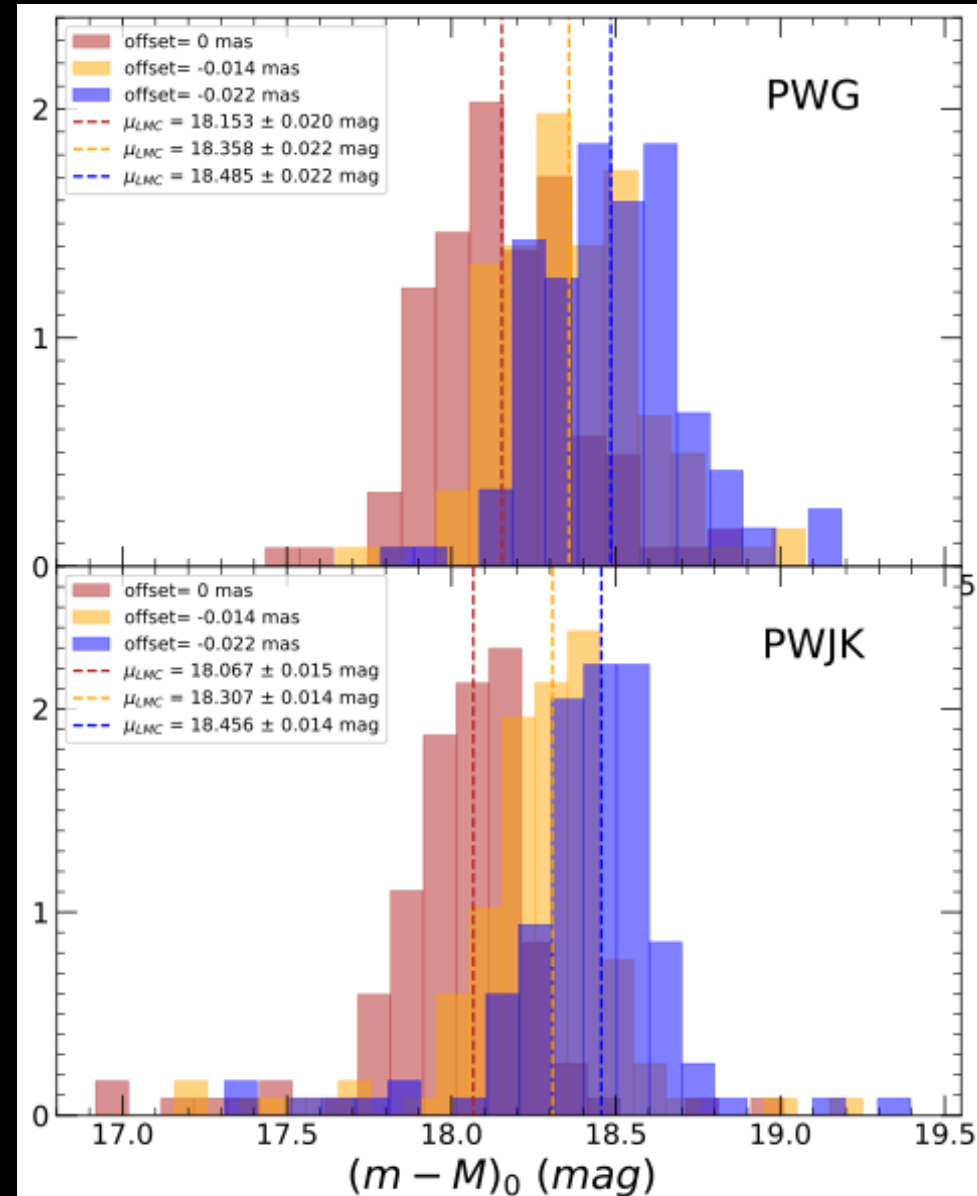
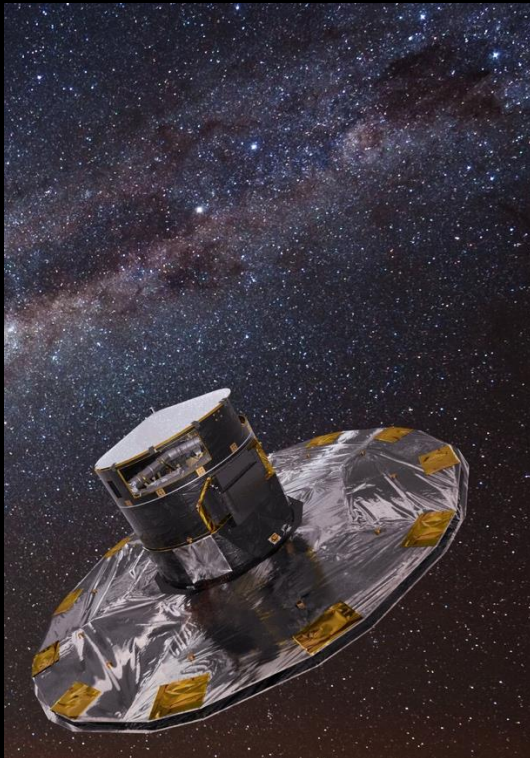
[teresa.sicignano@inaf.it](mailto:teresa.sicignano@inaf.it)

# Low resolution



# IMPACT ON THE DISTANCE SCALE

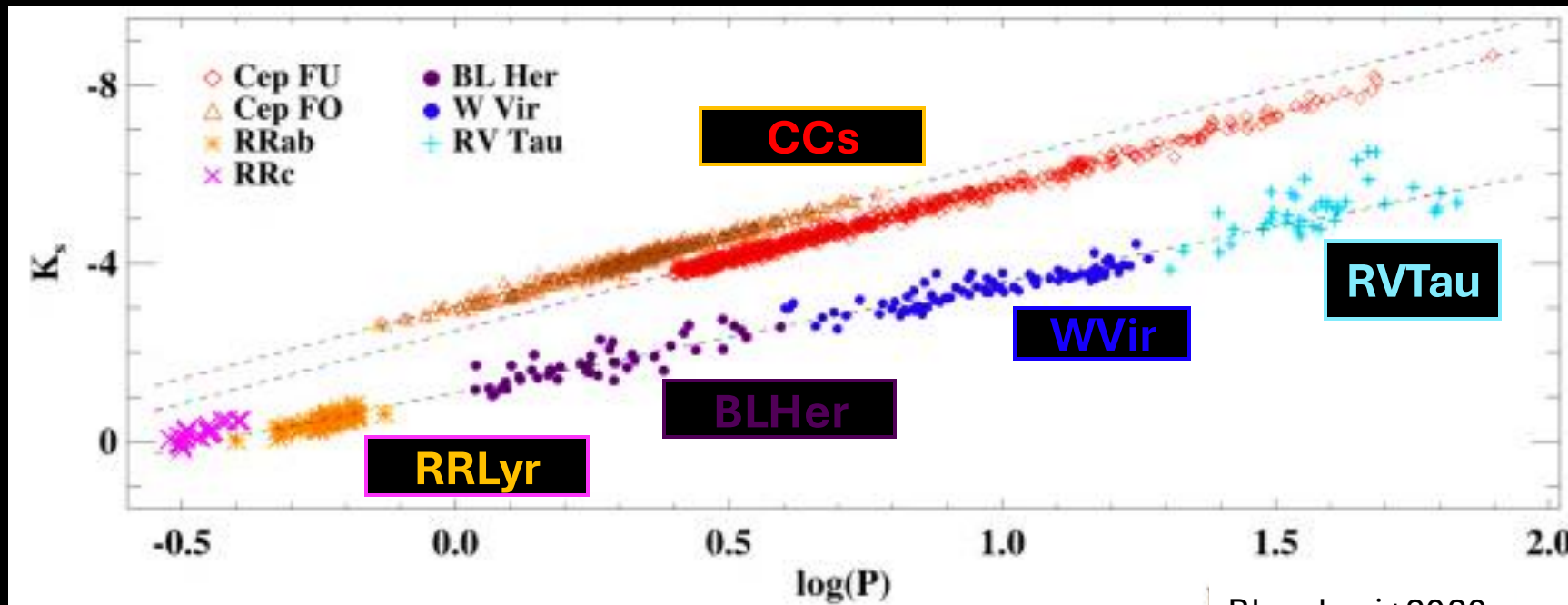
Comparison between our LMC distance moduli based on Gaia DR3 parallaxes of Galactic ACs and the geometric one based on eclipsing binaries ( $\mu_{LMC} = 18.477 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.027 \text{ mag}$ )



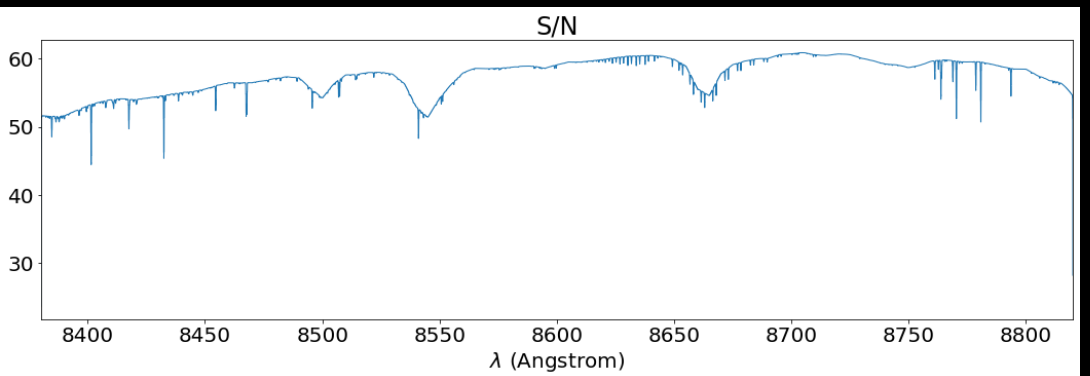
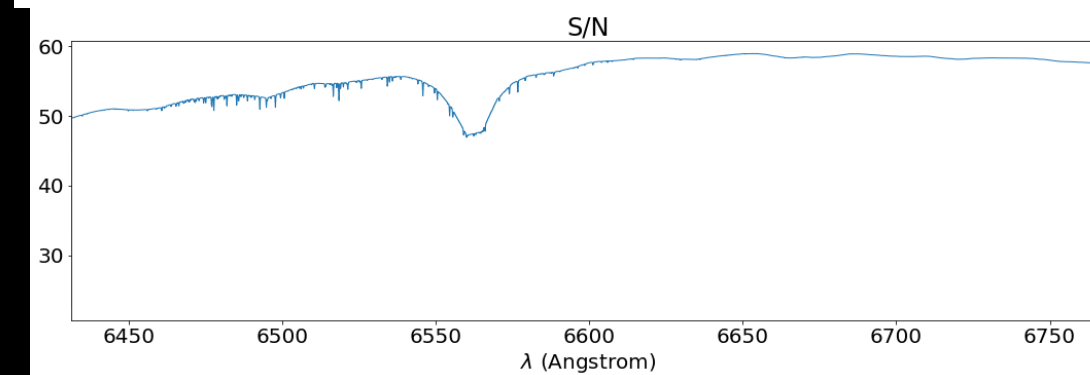
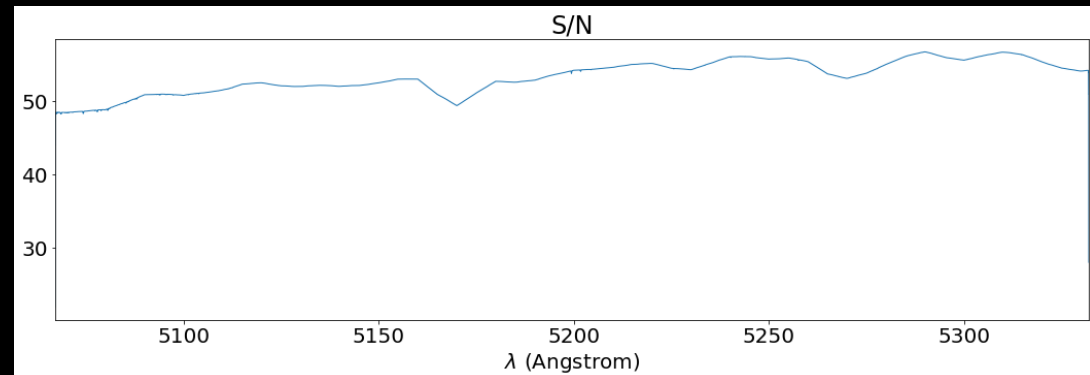
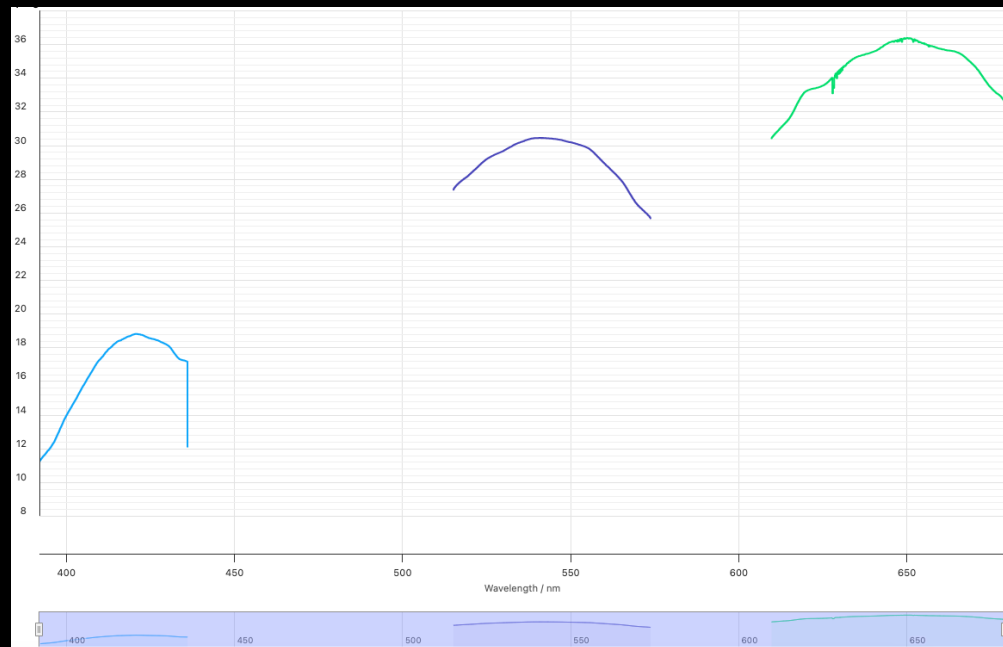


# T2Ceps as distance indicators:

- Obey to a tight Period Luminosity relation with small dependence on metallicity (Ngeow+2022).
- Brighter than RRLyrae; 1-1.5 mag fainter than the TRGB.



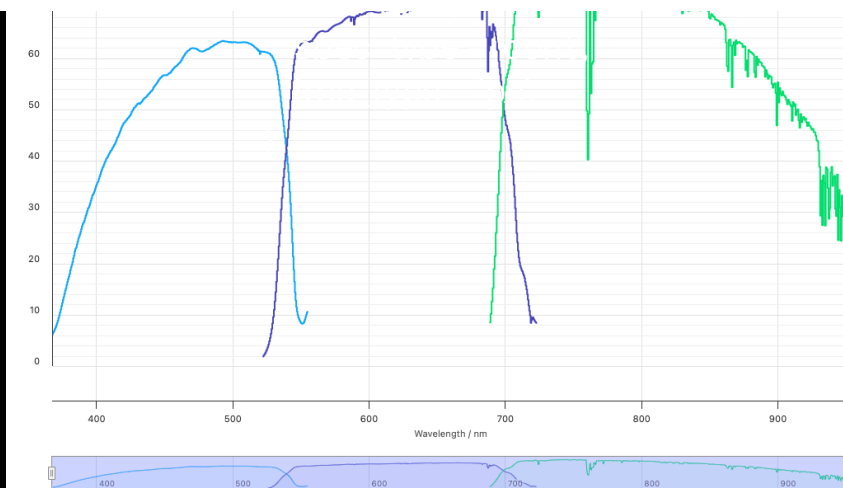
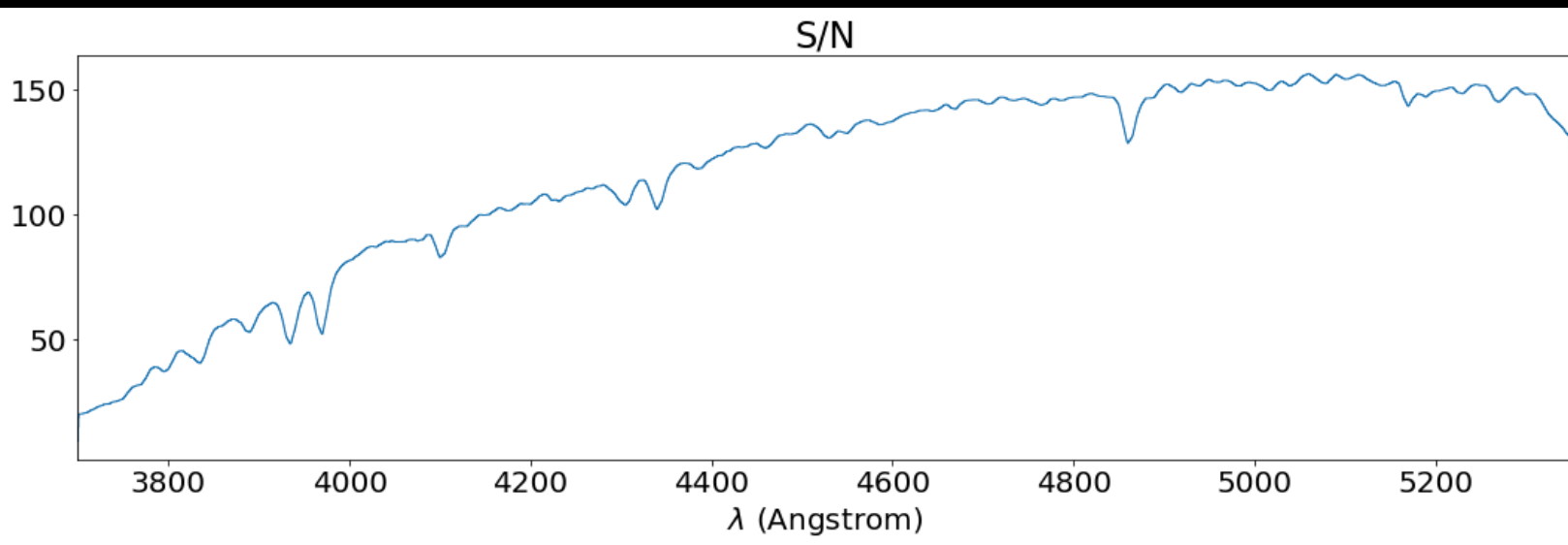
Bhardwaj+2020

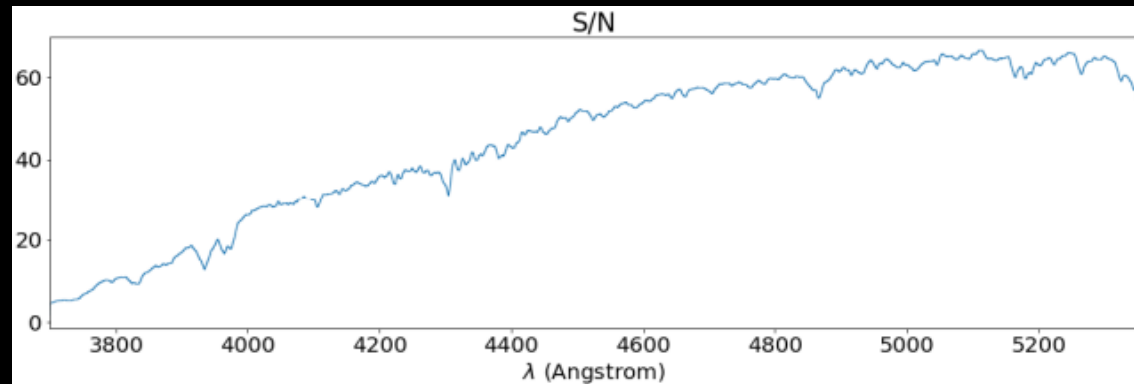
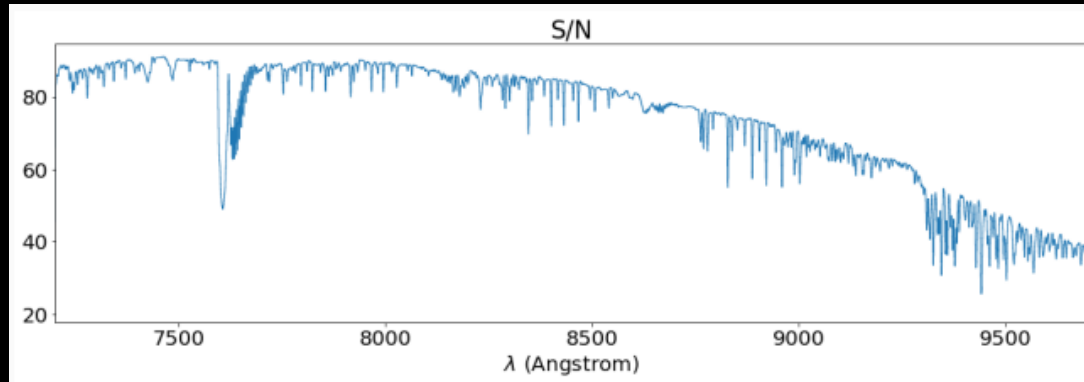
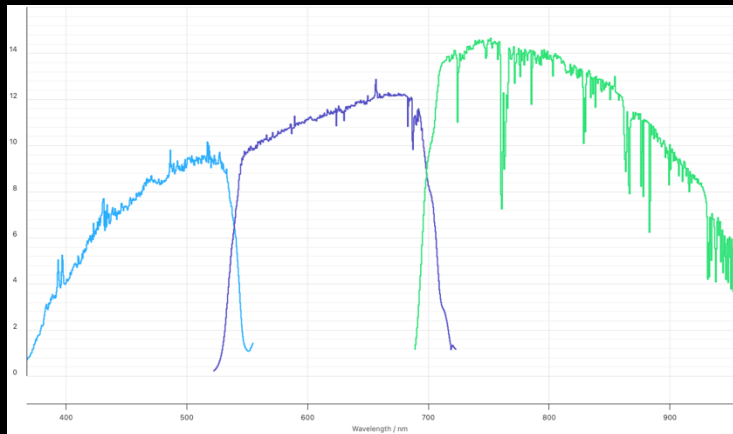


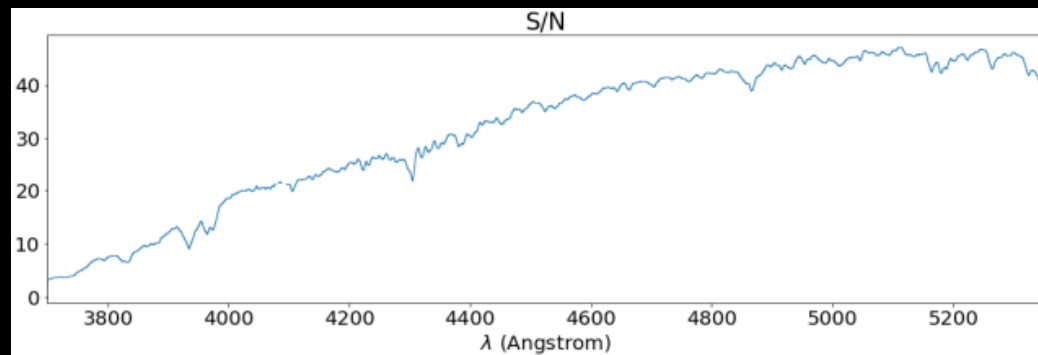
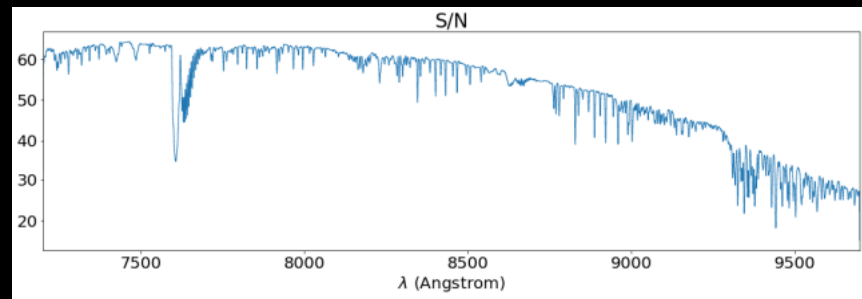
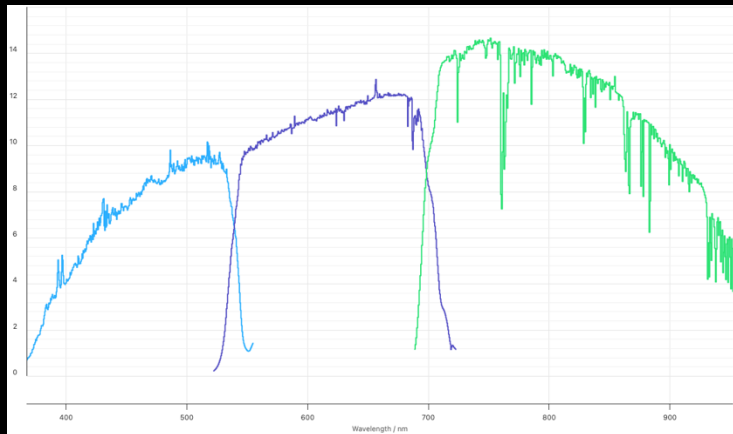
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 dspec =  
 name='p  
 wa  
 mag = 17  
 obs = dic  
 moon =  
 seeing  
 airmas  
 ndit = 6  
 dit = 18  
 spec\_typ

mos = wst  
 wave,dw =  
 mag = 17  
 obs = dict  
 moon =  
 seeing =  
 airmass  
 ndit = 6,  
 dit = 180  
 spec\_typ  
 ima\_typ

mos = wst  
 wave,dw :  
 spec = ws  
 moon =  
 seeing =  
 airmass  
 ndit = 6,  
 dit = 180











Exploitation of the VMC-Deep and TNG-REM photometry for Type II and Anomalous Cepheids.



Quantify the effect of metallicity on the zero point and slope of PL relation through high-resolution spectroscopic abundances from the 4MOST 1001MC survey and UVES spectra.



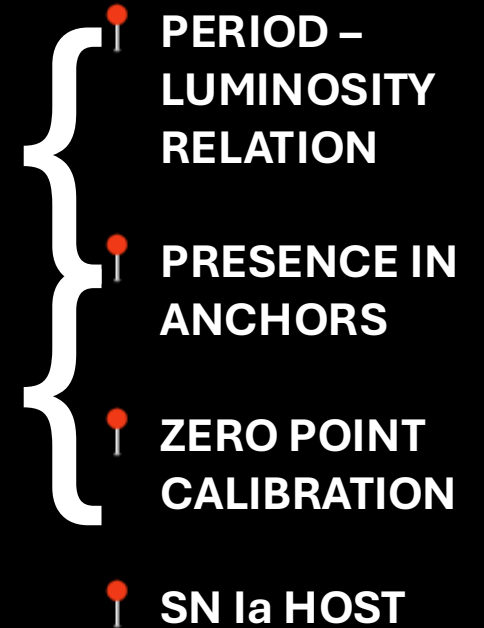
Calibration through Gaia DR4 parallaxes.



Compare the distance scales produced for different kinds of pulsating stars and look into the reasons for any discrepancies.

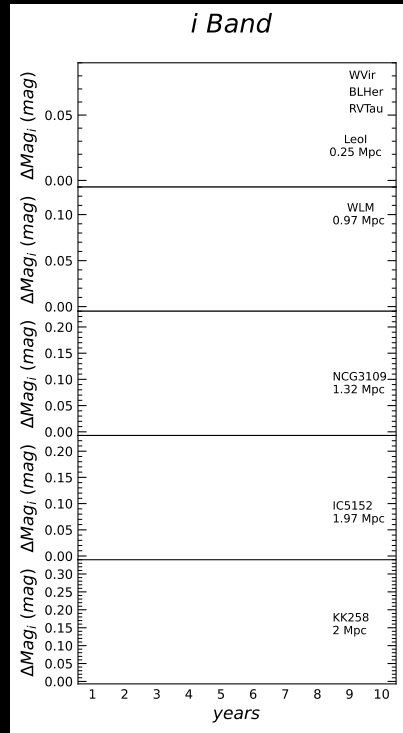
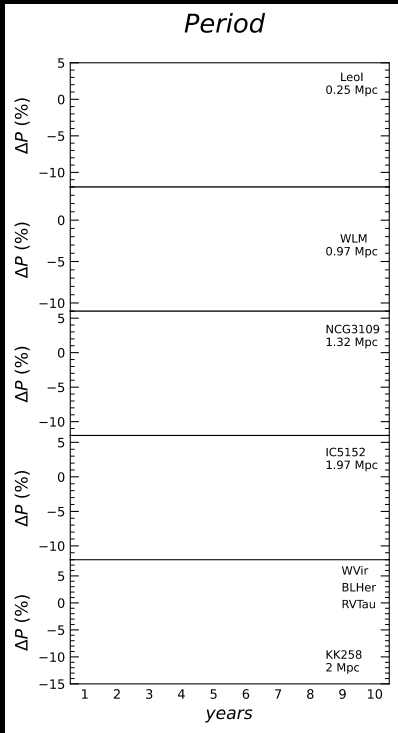


**Provide a common self-consistent calibration of secondary distance indicators, resulting in a new Hubble constant evaluation.**



# SN Ia HOST

LSST

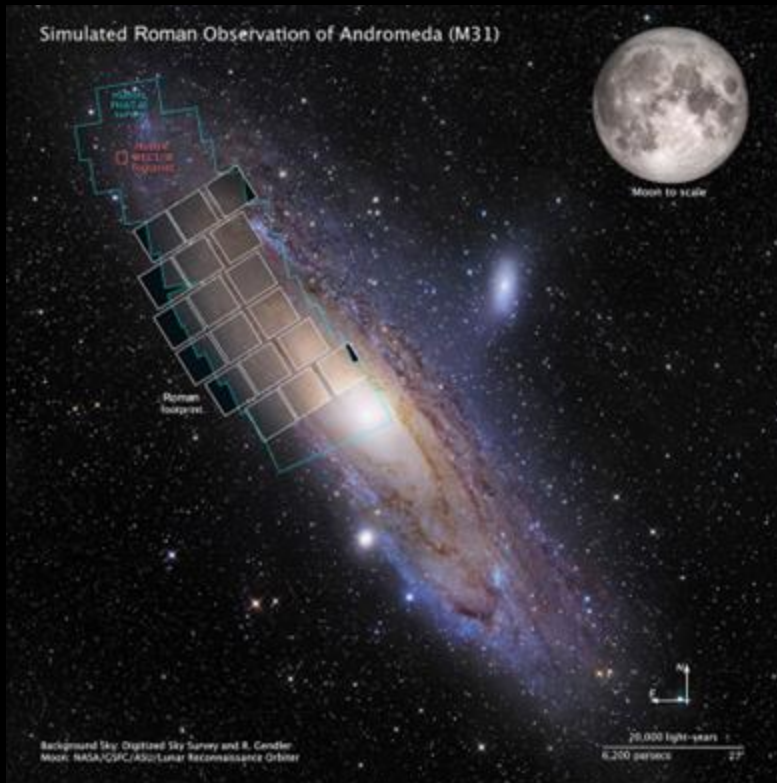


Sicignano+, in prep.

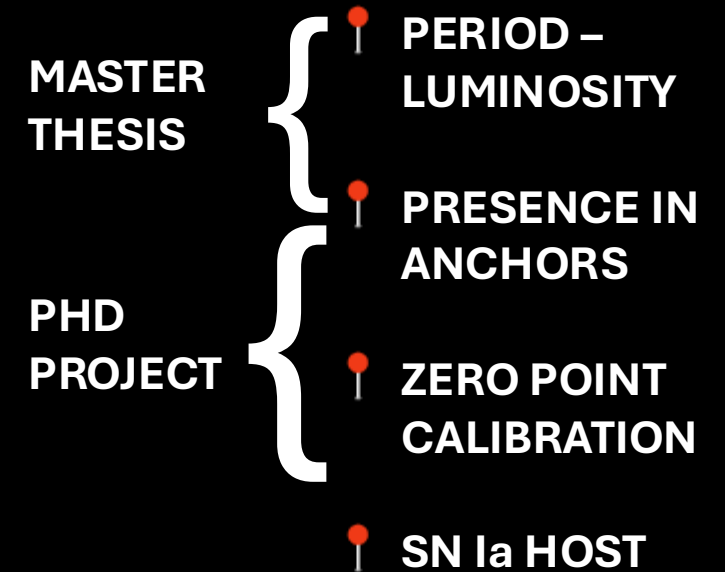
- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATION
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST



# SN Ia HOST NANCY GRACE ROMAN SPACE TELESCOPE



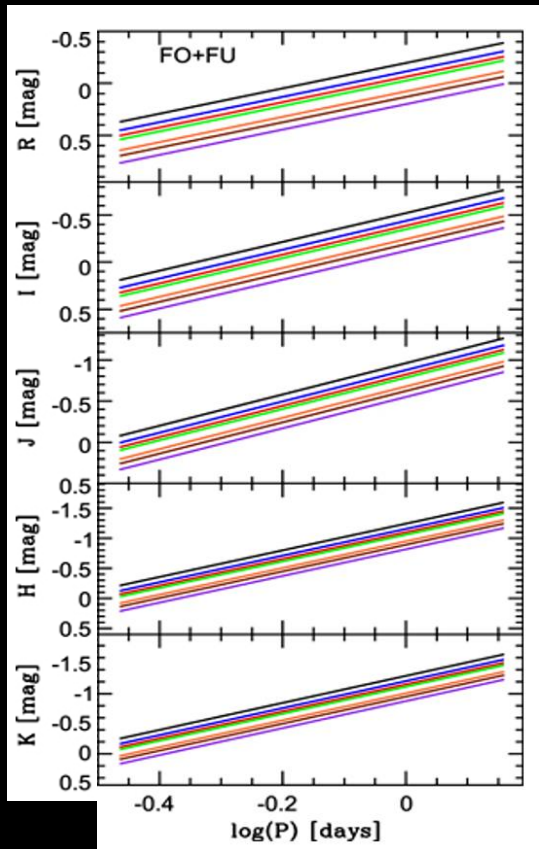
Beaton's lesson,  
Budapest Spring School 2023



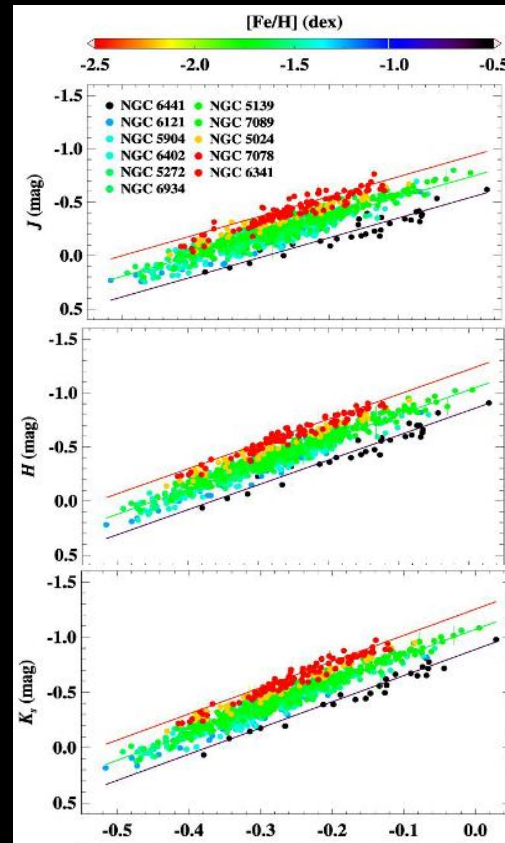
# BACKUP SLIDES

# ZERO POINT CALIBRATION

## RRLYRAE THEORY AND OBSERVATIONS

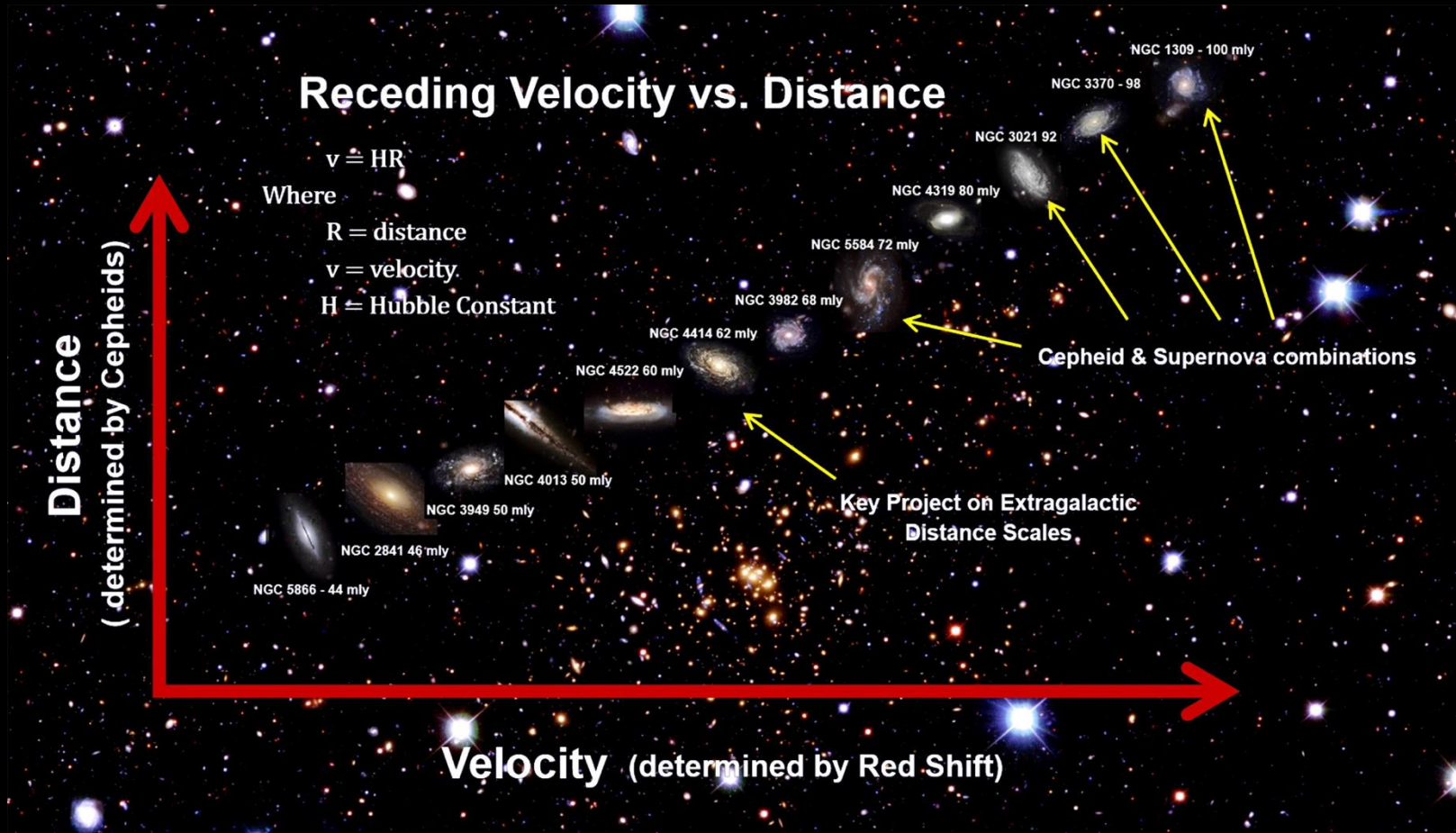


Adapted from Marconi+2015

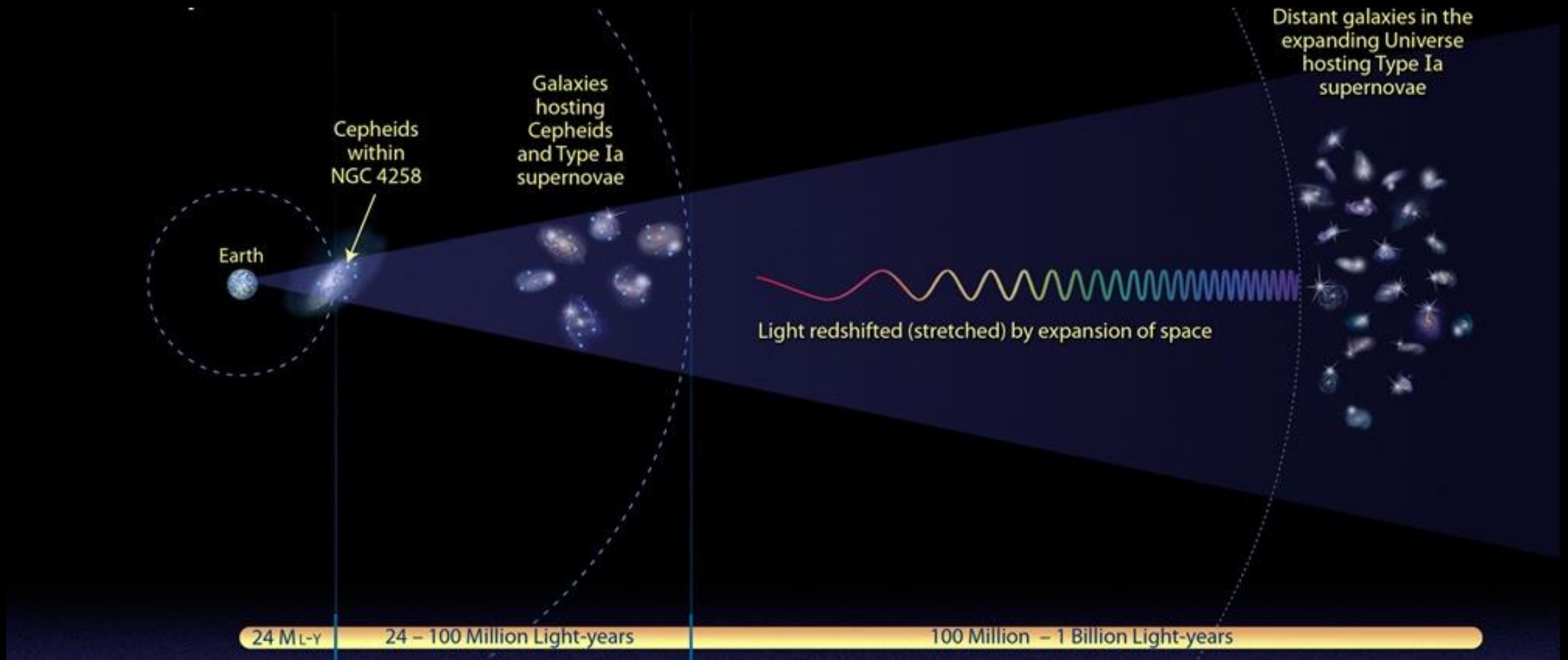


Adapted from Bhardwaj+2023

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATION
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST



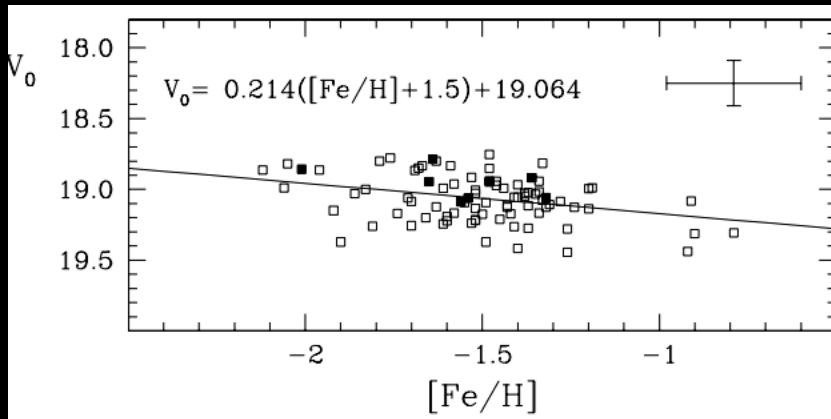
# The extragalactic distance scale. The three steps to $H_0$



# ZERO POINT CALIBRATION

TYPE II CEPHEIDS:  
THEORY? OBSERVATIONS?

- Metallicity spanning of RR Lyrae (Pop II) in LMC.



Gratton+2004

MASTER  
THESIS

PERIOD –  
LUMINOSITY  
RELATION

PHD  
PROJECT

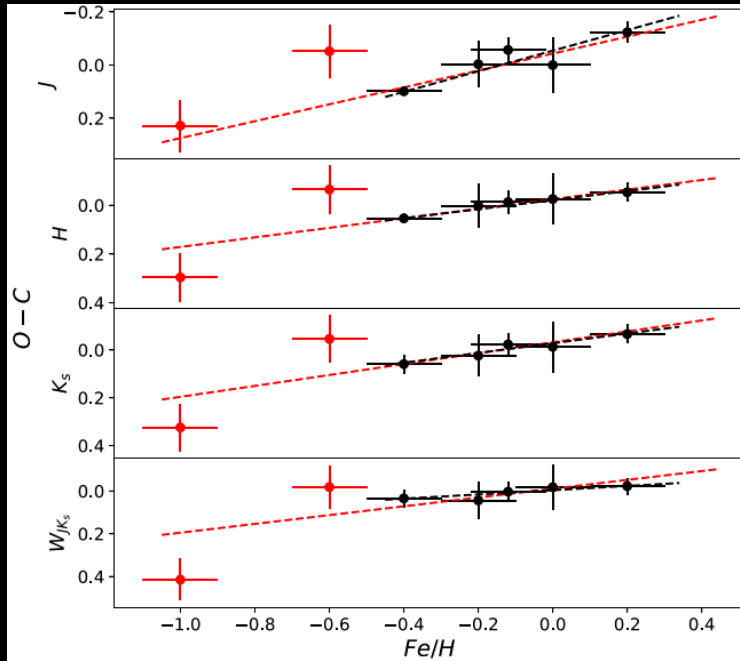
PRESENCE IN  
ANCHORS

ZERO POINT  
CALIBRATION

SN Ia HOST

# ZERO POINT CALIBRATION

TYPE II CEPHEIDS:  
THEORY? OBSERVATIONS?



Wielgorski+2022

- Metallicity spanning of RRLyrae (Pop II) in LMC.
- Predicted PL dependence on metallicity for BLHer.
- 7 Galactic T2C show a dependence & No dependence in GGCs.

MASTER  
THESIS

PERIOD –  
LUMINOSITY  
RELATION

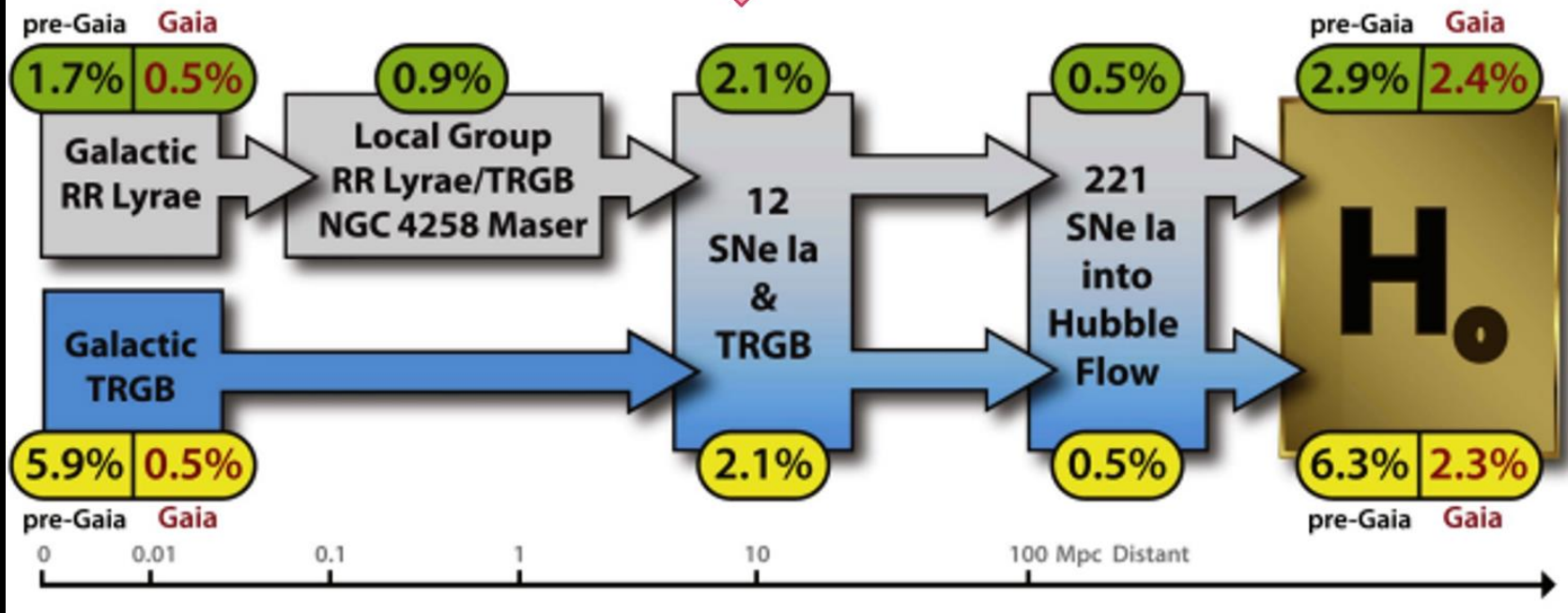
PHD  
PROJECT

PRESENCE IN  
ANCHORS

ZERO POINT  
CALIBRATION

SN Ia HOST

# Type II Cepheids

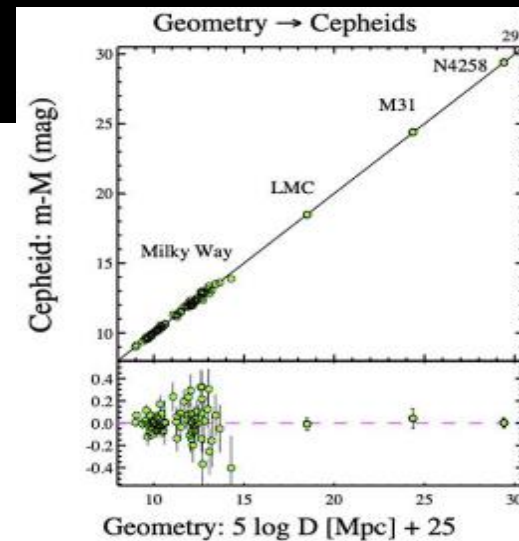
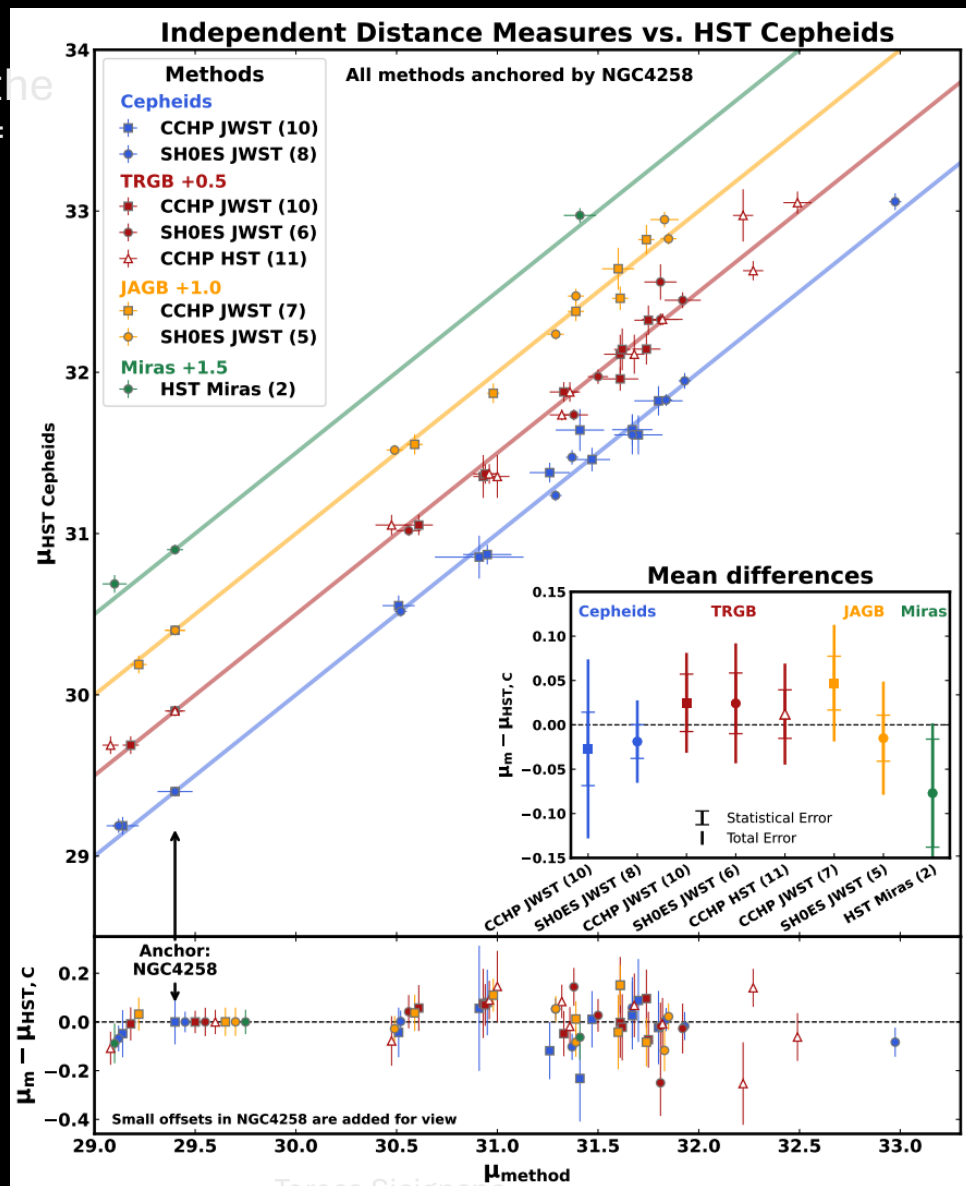


Adapted from Beaton+2016



# The first step to $H_0$

1. Geometric indicators to calibrate the Period-Luminosity (PL) relations of Cepheids

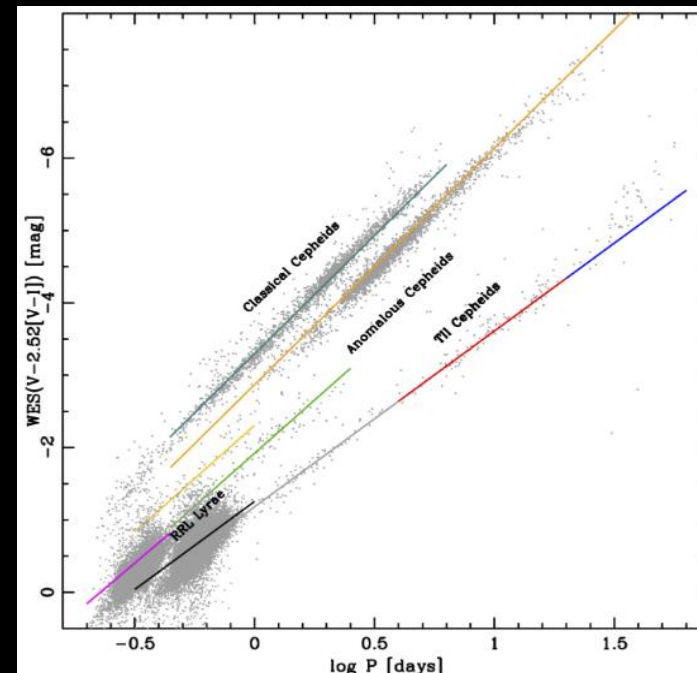
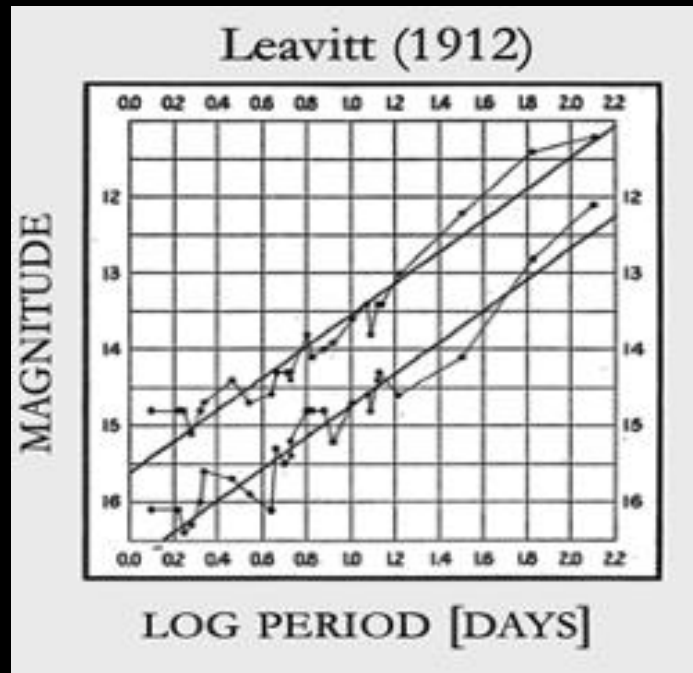


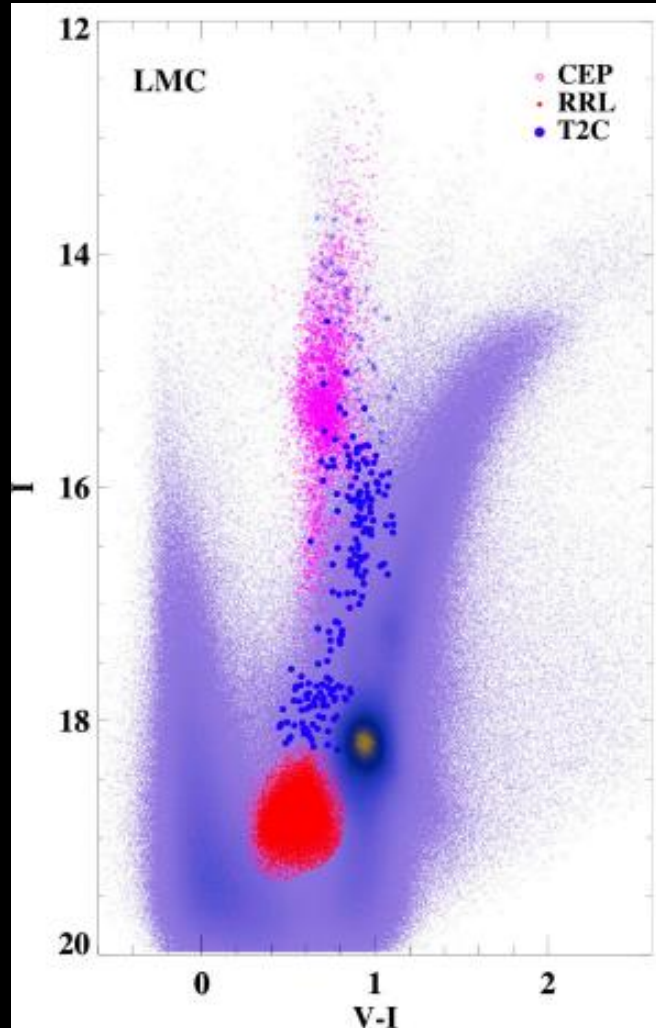
Riess+2022

Riess+2024

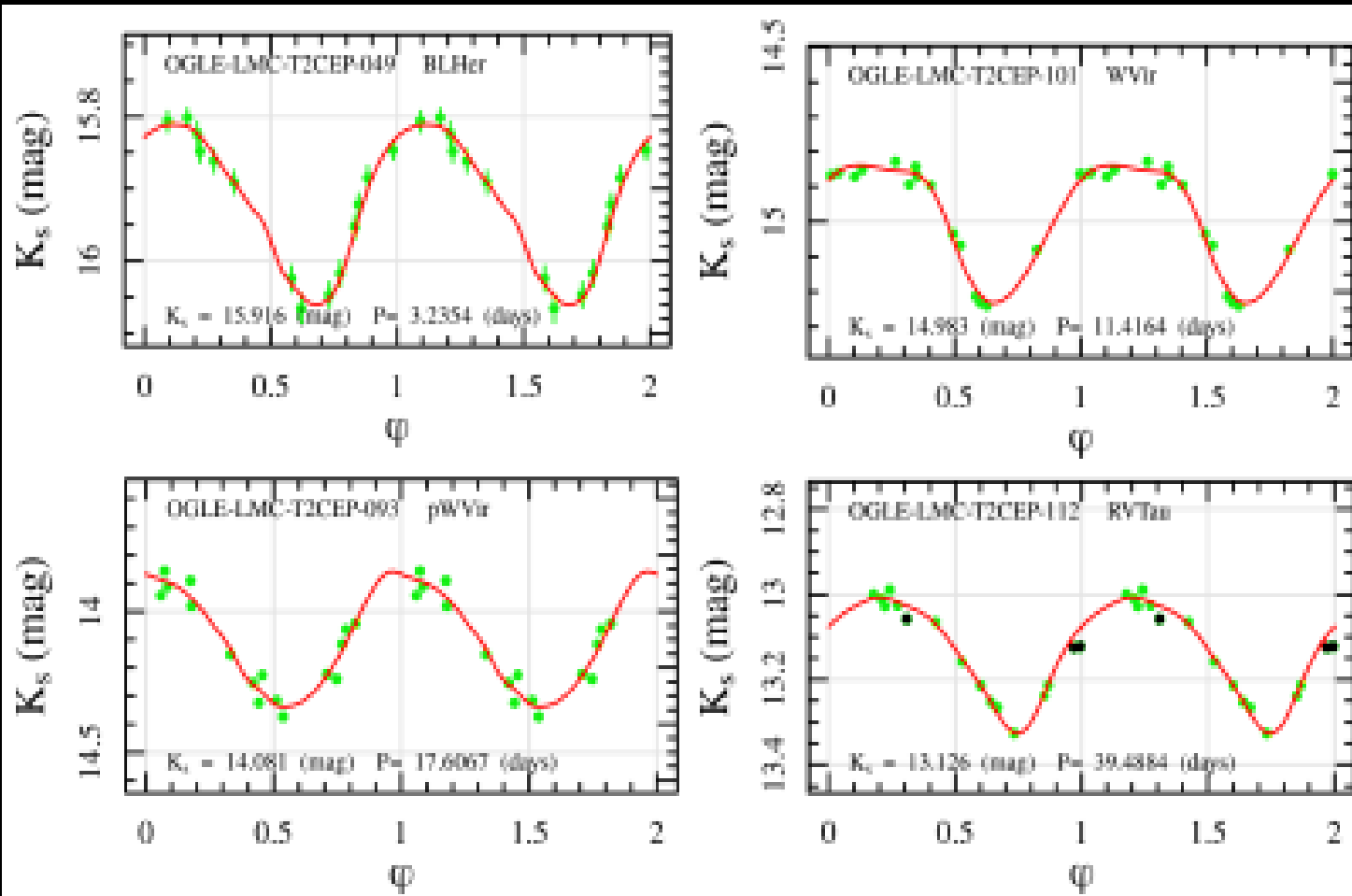
- + Period Luminosity (**PL**)
- + Period Luminosity Colour (**PLC**)
- + Period Wesenheit (**PW**) - Defined to be a reddening-free quantity:

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST





- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST



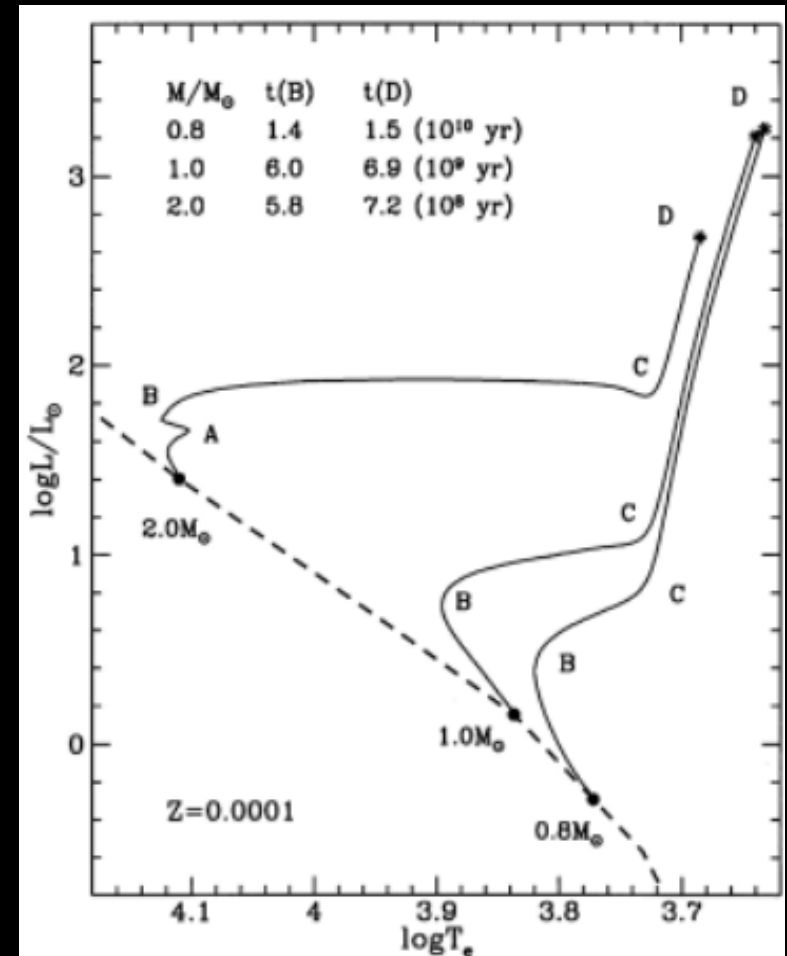
**MASTER  
THESIS**

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST

# Evolution of Population II stars

$Z \sim 10^{-4}$  to  $Z \sim 10^{-3}$

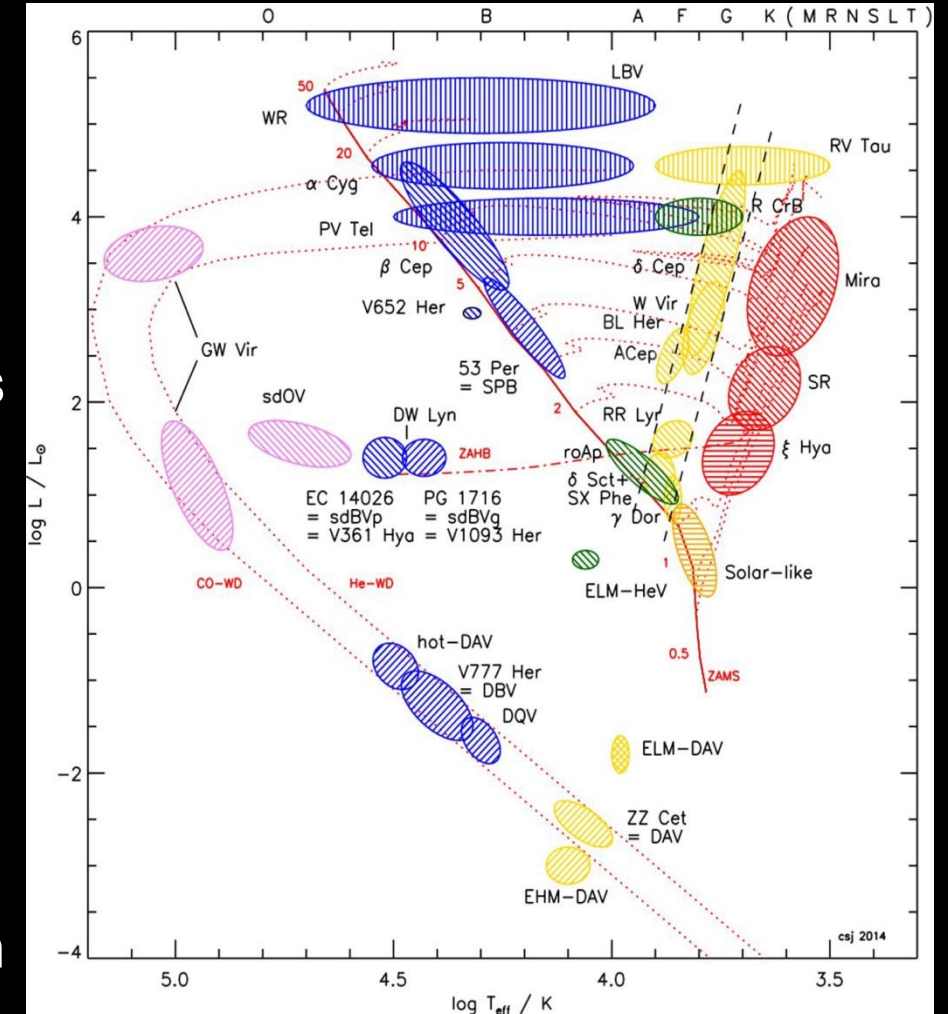
- Zero Age Main Sequence
- Main Sequence
- Red Giant Branch
- Horizontal Branch
- Asymptotic Giant Branch
- CO White Dwarf



# Pulsation mechanism

Trapped energy becomes pulsational work.

- **$\gamma$  Mechanism:** an initial (stochastic) contraction of the star leads to an increase in density. In the ionization regions, at the same time, there is a temperature increase, but less than the same scenario without ionization. Since the luminosity  $L$  goes as  $T^4$ , its variation will also be smaller: there is an energy entrapment. The excess energy, during the next expansion phase, goes into pulsational work.
- **K Mechanism:** In a stellar interior, normally the opacity decreases during a contraction, according to Kramer's law ( $\kappa \sim \rho T^{-3.5}$ ) producing a loss of heat. In the ionization regions, due to the interaction of radiation with matter, small increases in temperature cause a large increase in opacity (the temperature exponent in Kramer's law becomes positive). This again means trapping of energy, which will be converted into pulsational work.





## Properties of the PL relations

The cause is the fact that at longer *wavelength*  $\lambda$  the instability strip become steeper and narrower.

The physical explanation of this is the different dependence of the surface brightness from  $T_e$  at different  $\lambda$ .

Rewriting the Stephan-Boltzman law as:  $M_\lambda = -2.5 \log R^2 - 2.5 \times a_\lambda \log T_e + b_\lambda,$

 Surface brightness

$|M_\lambda| = 2.5 \times a_\lambda |f_{\text{blue}} - f_{\text{red}}|.$    $\sim$  width of the PL

$\Delta M_\lambda / \Delta \log P = A_\lambda = -5c + 2.5ea_\lambda.$   $\sim$  slope of the PL ( $c \sim 0.7$  and  $e \sim 0.08$ )

$a_\lambda = 4$  in the optical



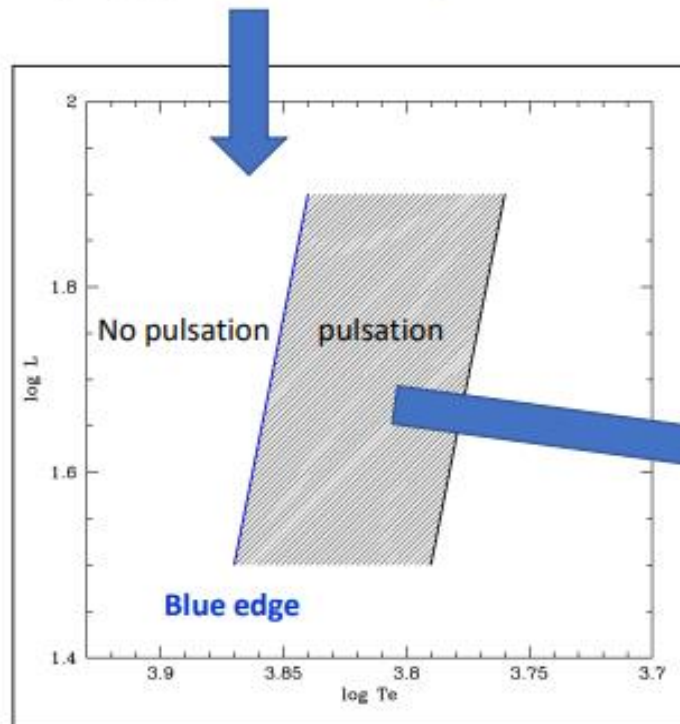
Explains the observed behaviour of Slope and dispersion of the PL.

$a_\lambda \sim 1.5$  in the K band

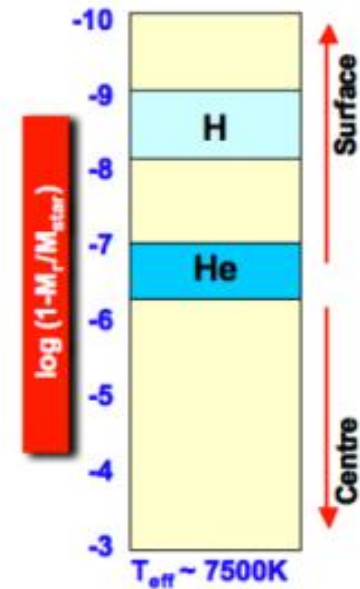
Madore & Freedman 2012

## Why the instability strip has a BLUE boundary?

If the model effective temperature is too high (e.g.  $T_{\text{eff}} > 7500 \text{ K}$ ) the H and He ionization regions are very external  $\Rightarrow$  low density, small mass takes part in the pulsation driving through the  $\kappa$  and  $\gamma$ -mechanisms  $\Rightarrow$  damping prevails  $\Rightarrow$  no pulsation



Only when the ionization regions are deep enough the mass involved in the pulsation driving mechanisms prevails  $\Rightarrow$  pulsation

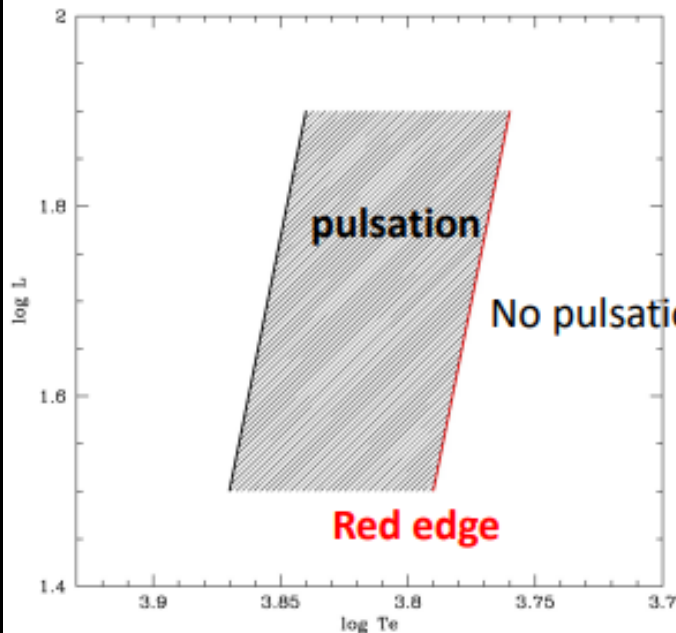




# Why the instability strip has a **RED** boundary?

Moving toward lower effective temperature (e.g. 6500 K) the depth of the driving ionization regions increases and the mass taking part in the phenomenon is larger  $\Rightarrow$  **increasing pulsation efficiency.**

At even lower  $T_{\text{eff}}$  ( $\sim 5500\text{K}$ ) the ionization zones are deep in the star's interior.

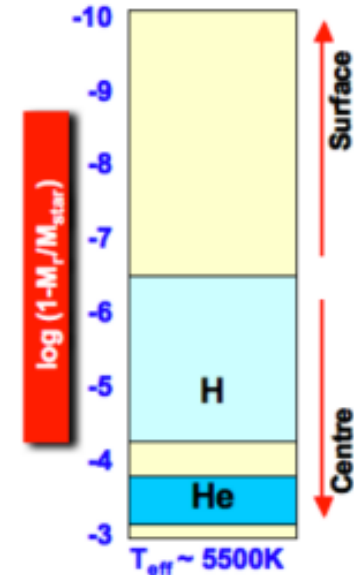


But convection also starts to become more efficient at lower effective temperatures:

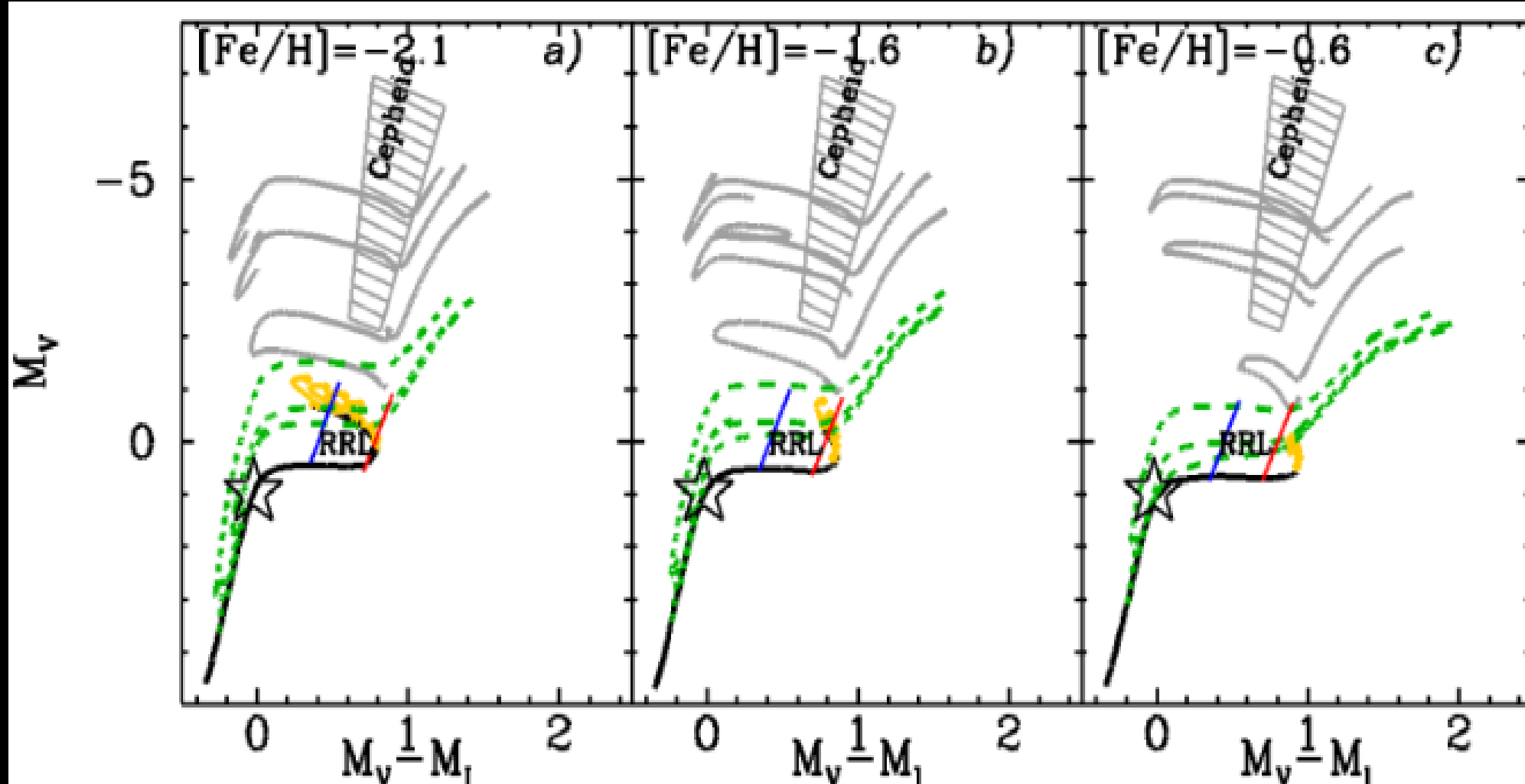
- $\Rightarrow \kappa$  and  $\gamma$  gradients are reduced
- $\Rightarrow$  **quenching of pulsation**

When the quenching effect due to convection prevails pulsation is no more efficient

$\Rightarrow$  **red boundary** of the instability strip



# Type II and Anomalous Cepheids



# Period-luminosity-colour and period-luminosity

$$P \simeq M^{-1/2} \cdot L^{3/4} \cdot T_e^{-3}$$

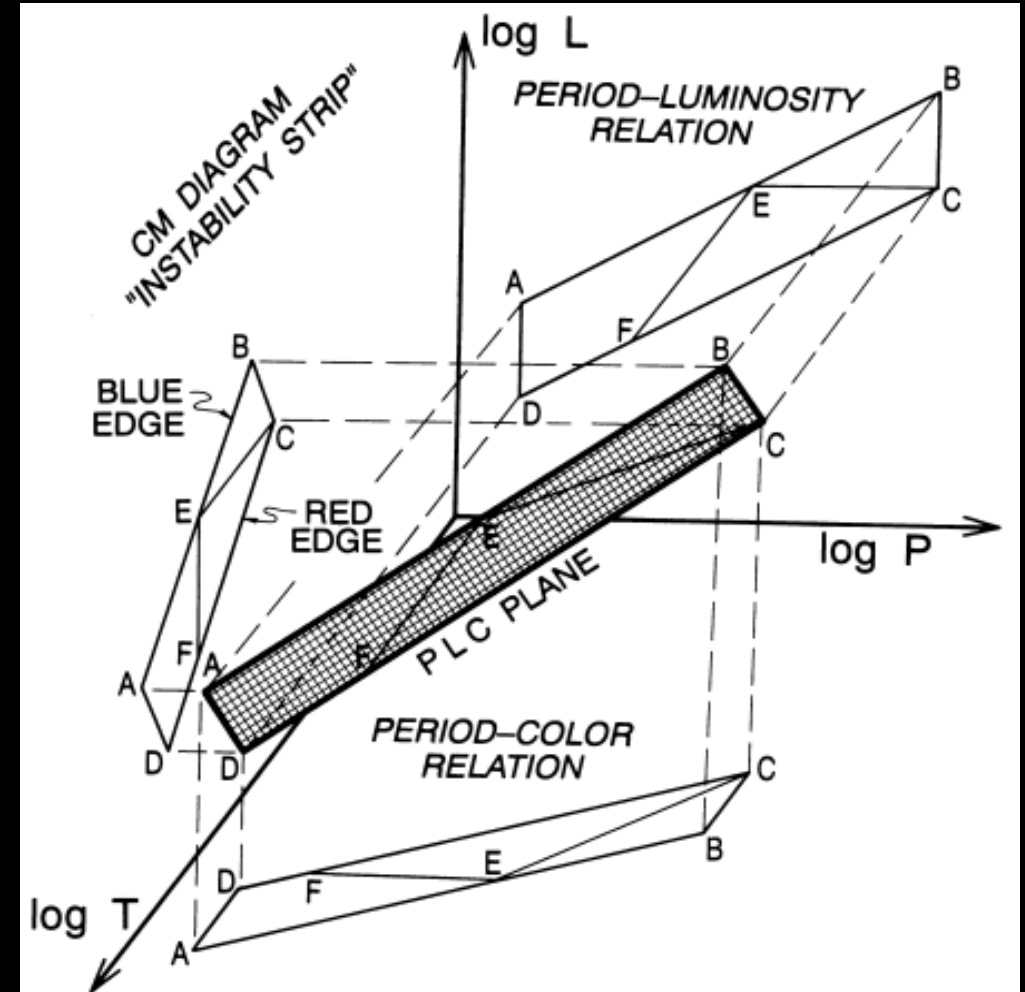
PLC exists for every star;

PL and PC are statistical relations.

*Observationally:*

$$M_{\lambda_1} = \alpha + \beta \cdot \log P + \gamma (m_{\lambda_1} - m_{\lambda_2})_0$$

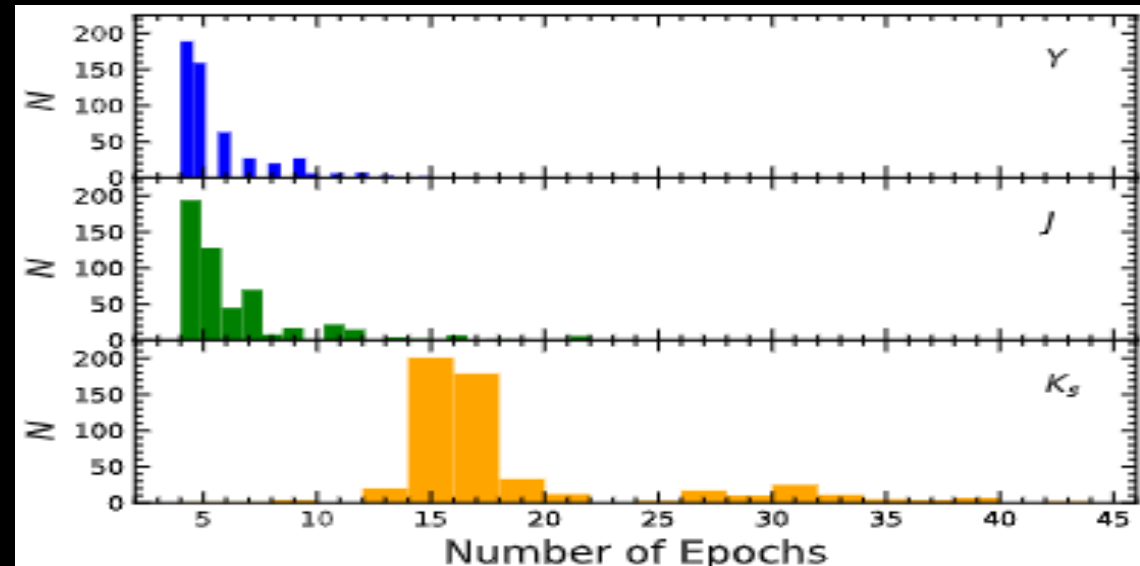
$$M_{\lambda_1} = \alpha + \beta \cdot \log P$$



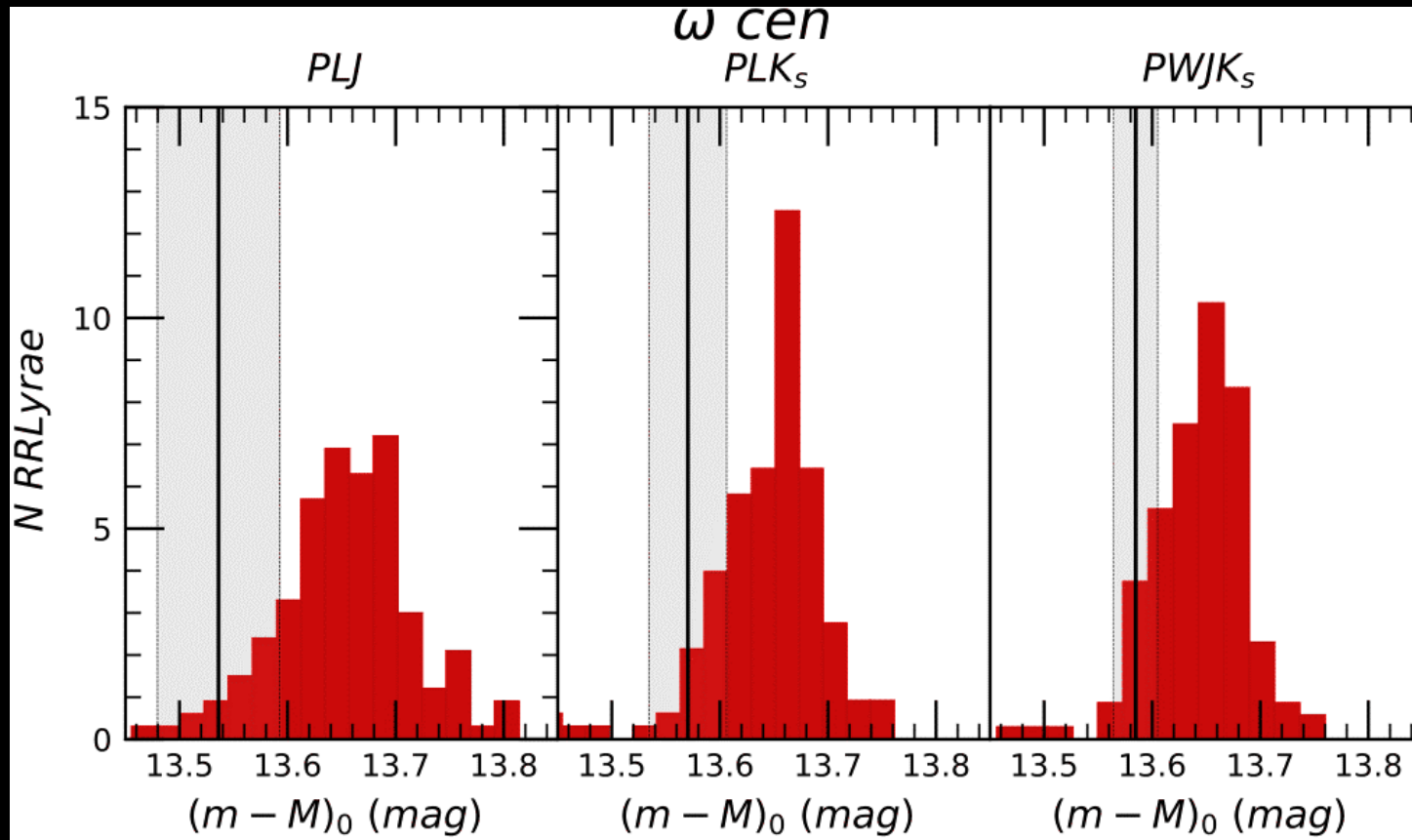
# Template derivation

2. Calculate the average magnitude in each band:
  - A. Fitting the light curve with some analytical functions.
  - B. Transforming it into intensities.
  - C. Calculate the average in intensity.
  - D. Transforming the average intensity in average magnitude.

**But can all observed light curves be fitted?**



Comparison between  $\omega$  cen distance calculated with T2Cs and RRLyrae (photometry from Navarrete+2017 and relations from Bhardwaj+ 2023)

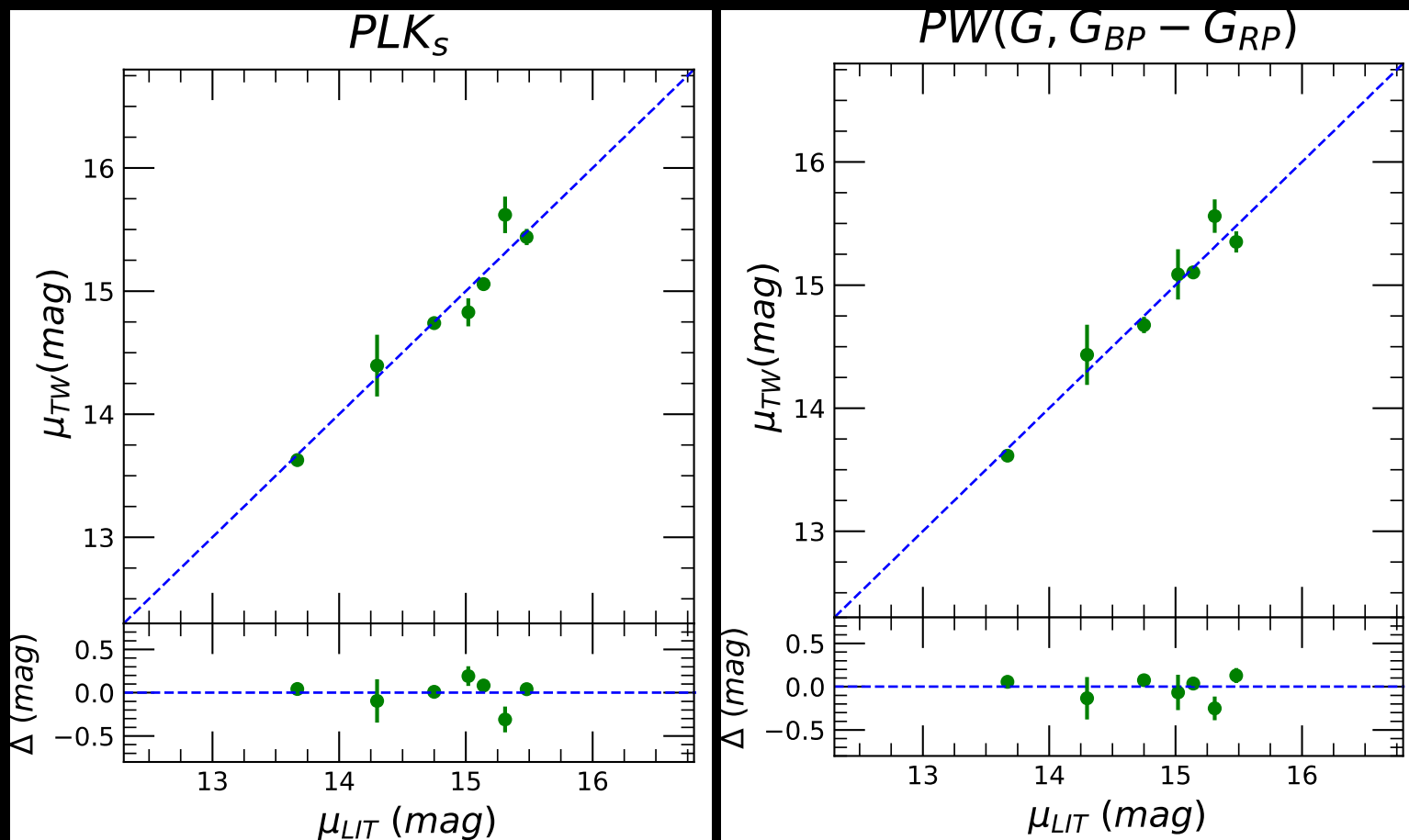


MASTER  
THESIS

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST

# IMPACT ON THE DISTANCE SCALE

Comparison between our distances and those by Bhardwaj 2023



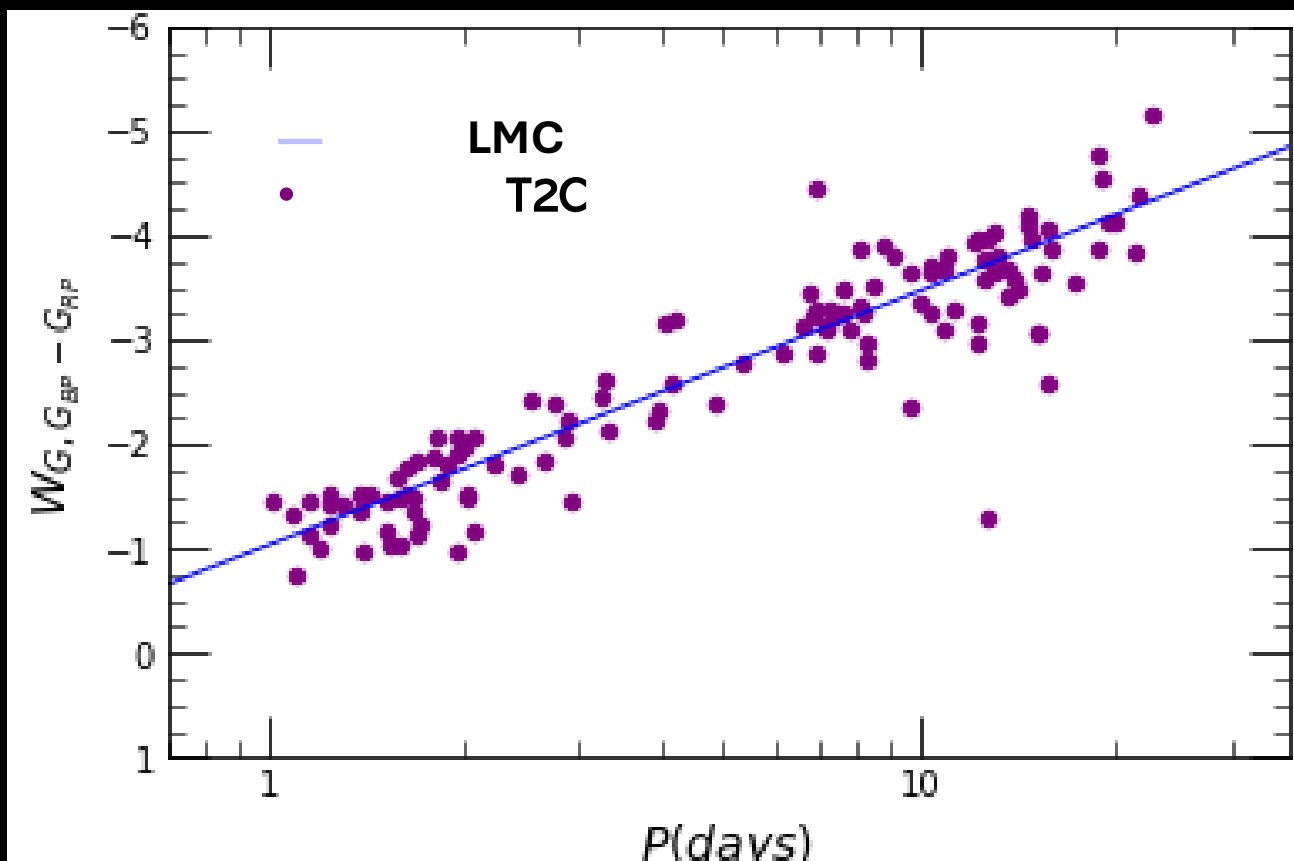
MASTER  
THESIS

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATION
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST

The distance moduli of GGCs appear **overestimated up to 2%**.

Sicignano+2024,  
A&A, 685, A41.

# IMPACT ON THE DISTANCE SCALE



MASTER  
THESIS

- PERIOD – LUMINOSITY RELATION
- PRESENCE IN ANCHORS
- ZERO POINT CALIBRATION
- SN Ia HOST

Sicignano+2024,  
A&A, 685, A41.

$$W_{G, G_{BP} - G_{RP}} = m_G - 1.90 \cdot (m_{G_{BP}} - m_{G_{RP}}) + 5 \log \pi - 10$$