

High resolution imaging in crowded stellar fields: present and future science

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Ground-based imagers assisted by Multi Conjugate Adaptive Optics (MCAO) systems are the technological frontier to obtain high-quality stellar photometry and astrometry in crowded fields at the highest possible spatial resolution. I will review the main scientific results obtained in the last years in the field of stellar populations by using AO data and key advancements in their exploitation. I will also discuss future challenges and perspectives at the edge of a new golden-era that will soon open thanks to the availability of imagers assisted by MCAO systems at 30-40m class-telescopes and their complementarity with JWST from the space.

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