

Newtonian Dynamics in Astrophysics

Roberto Capuzzo Dolcetta,

Prague, December 2022



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UNITEXT for Physics

Roberto A. Capuzzo Dolcetta

Classical Newtonian Gravity

A Comprehensive Introduction, with
Examples and Exercises

 Springer

Force	range	simbol	mass	Charge	spin
Gravity	long	G	no	0	2
Electromag.	long	γ	no	0	1
Weak nucl..	short	W^{\pm}, Z^0	yes	$\pm 1, 0$	1
Strong nucl.	short	g	yes	0	1

Long range forces:

Gravitational (Newton)

Electrostatic (Coulomb)

Gravity: Newtonian or Relativistic?

It depends upon what's under study

Newtonian regime:

$$\beta = v/c \ll 1; \delta = (2GM/c^2)/r \ll 1$$

Earth gravity



Perturbation of a *stable*
equilibrium

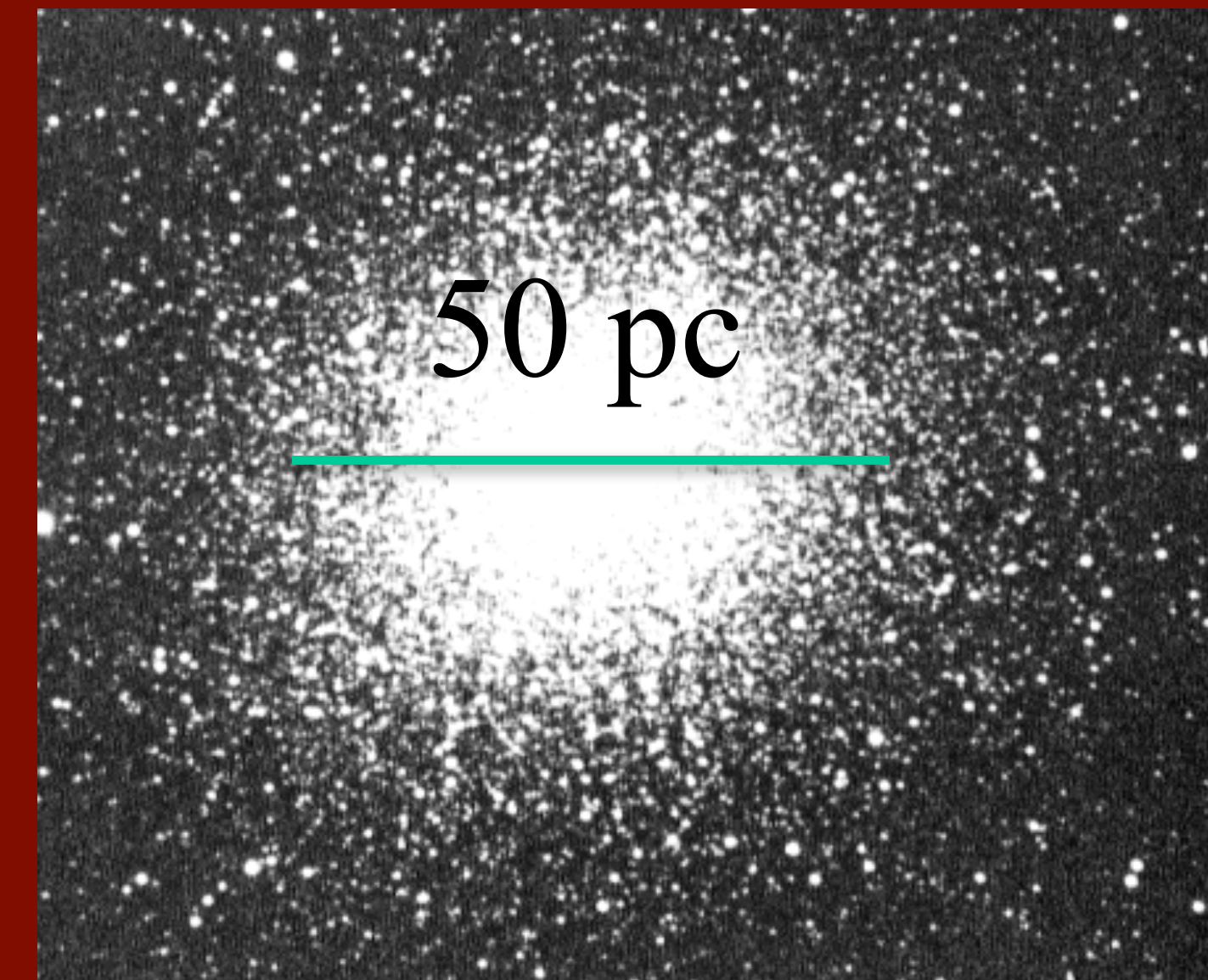
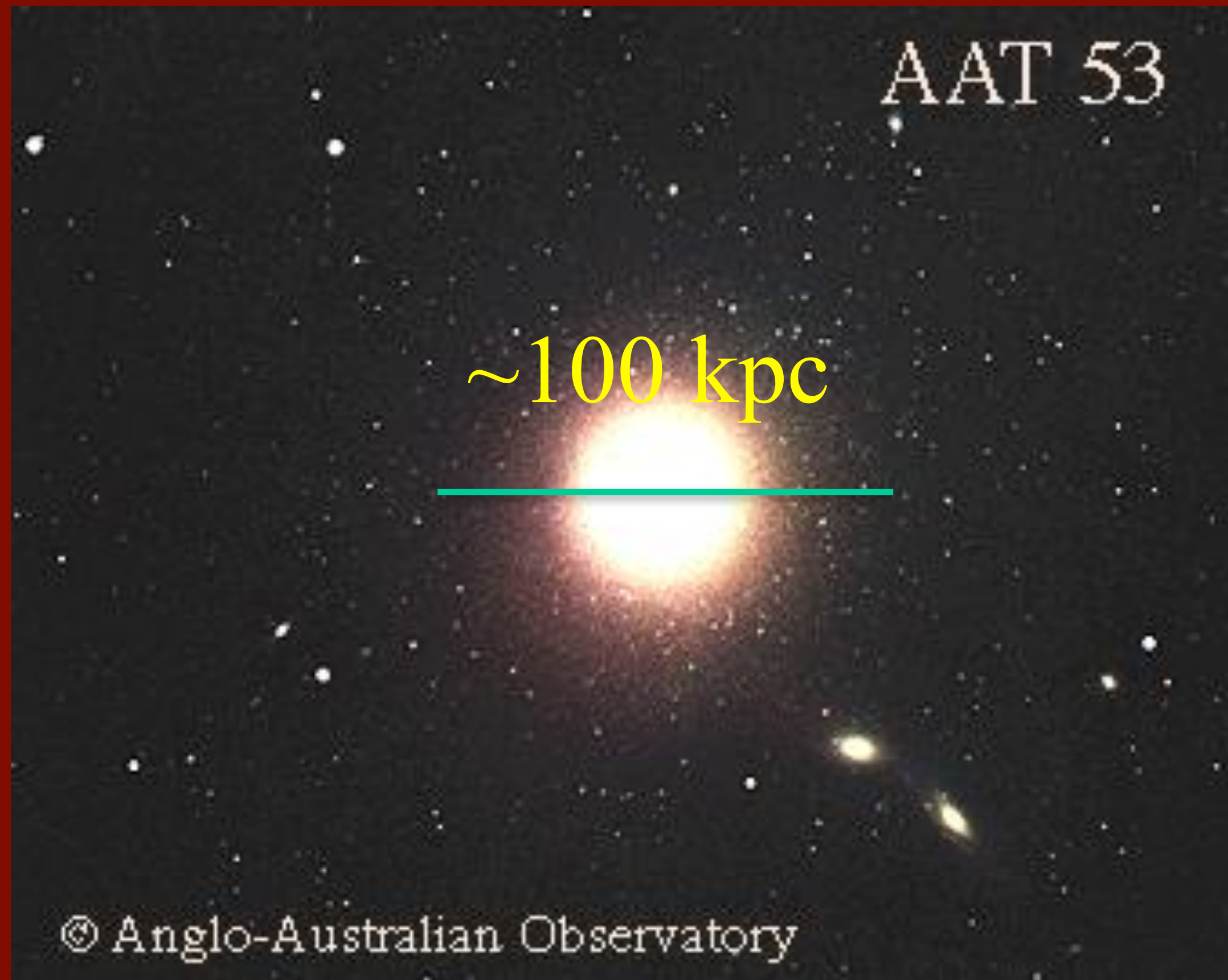
Water? Test “particle”



Perturbation of an *unstable*
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Snow? Test “particle”

Astronomical gravity

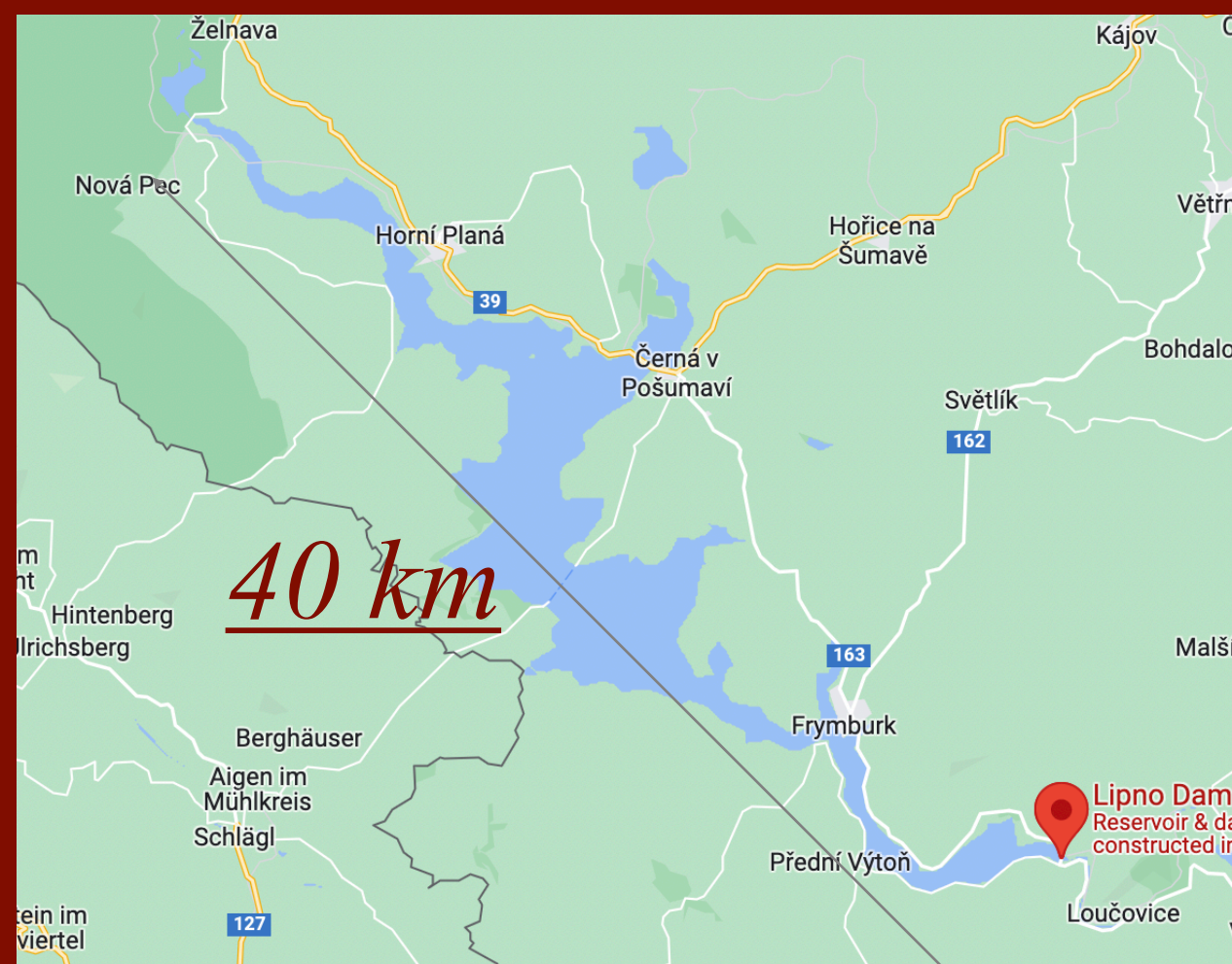


Globular cluster

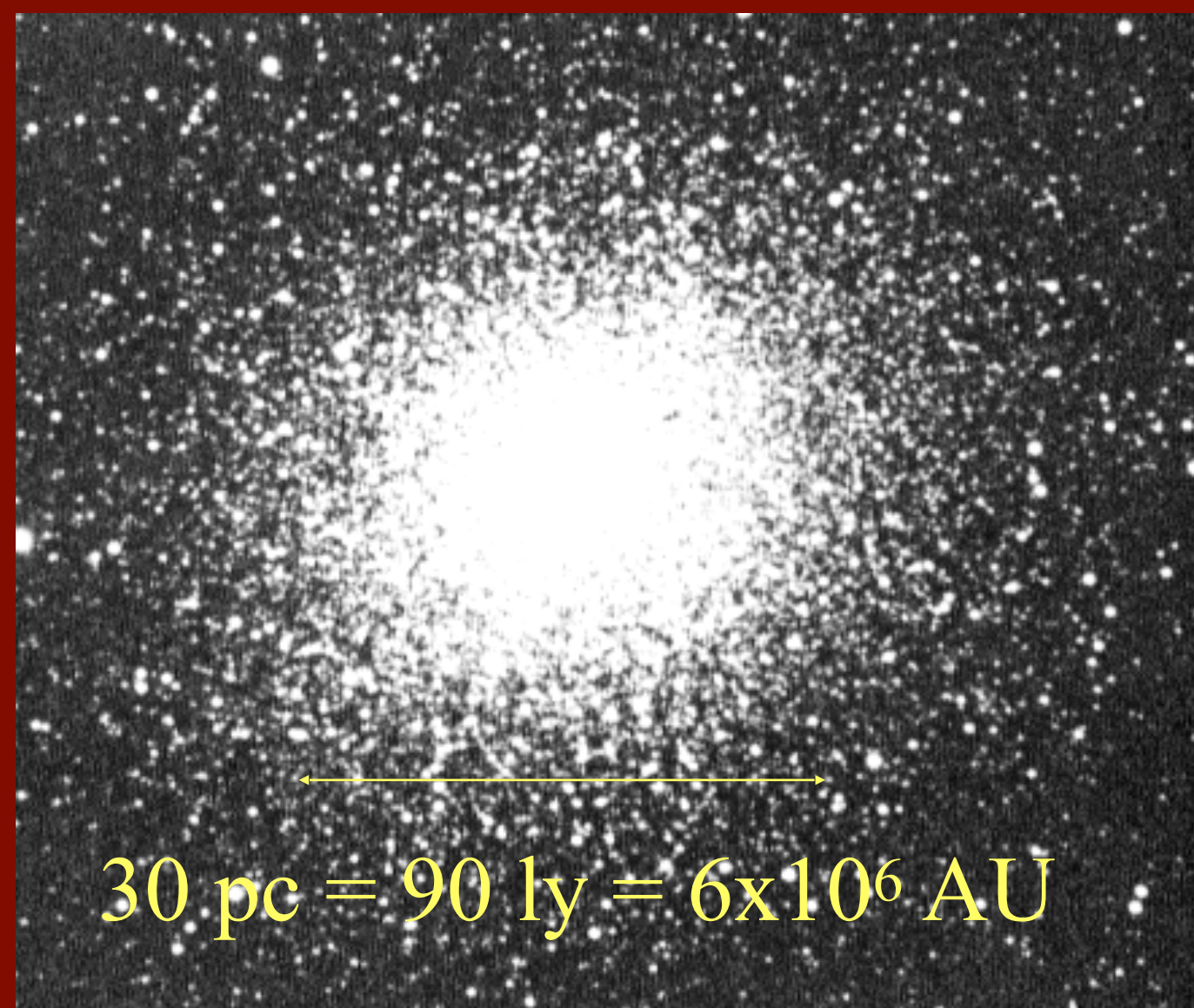
The giant elliptical M 87

Peculiarity of astrophysics is the role of self-gravity

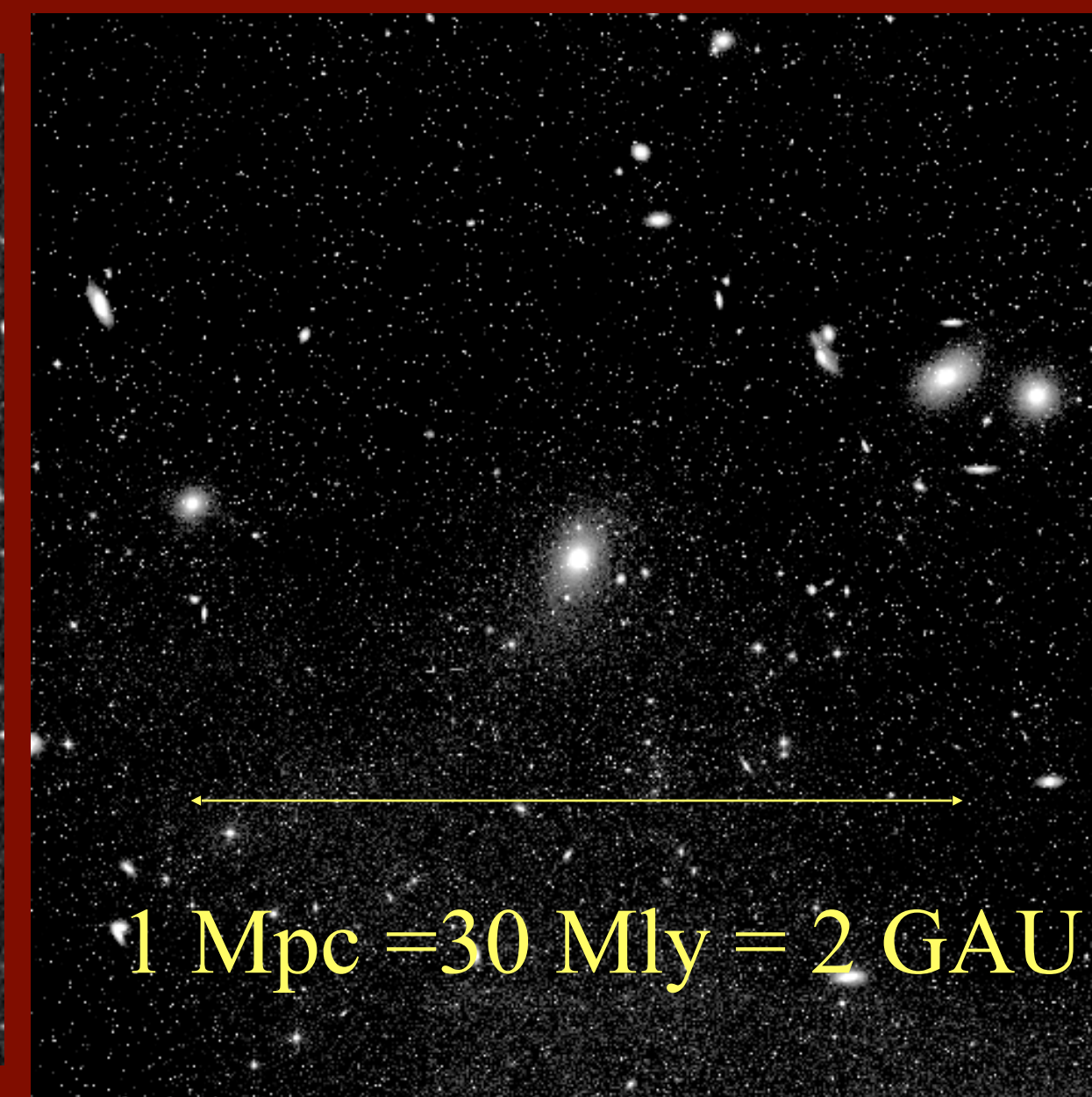
$$\alpha \equiv \text{auto grav}/\text{ext grav}$$



lake of Lipno
 $\alpha \sim 10^{-8}$



AG: M 13
 $\alpha \sim 10^{-2}$



cluster of galaxies
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Self gravitating systems are difficult to study
due to the *double divergence* of $U_{ij} \propto 1/r_{ij}$



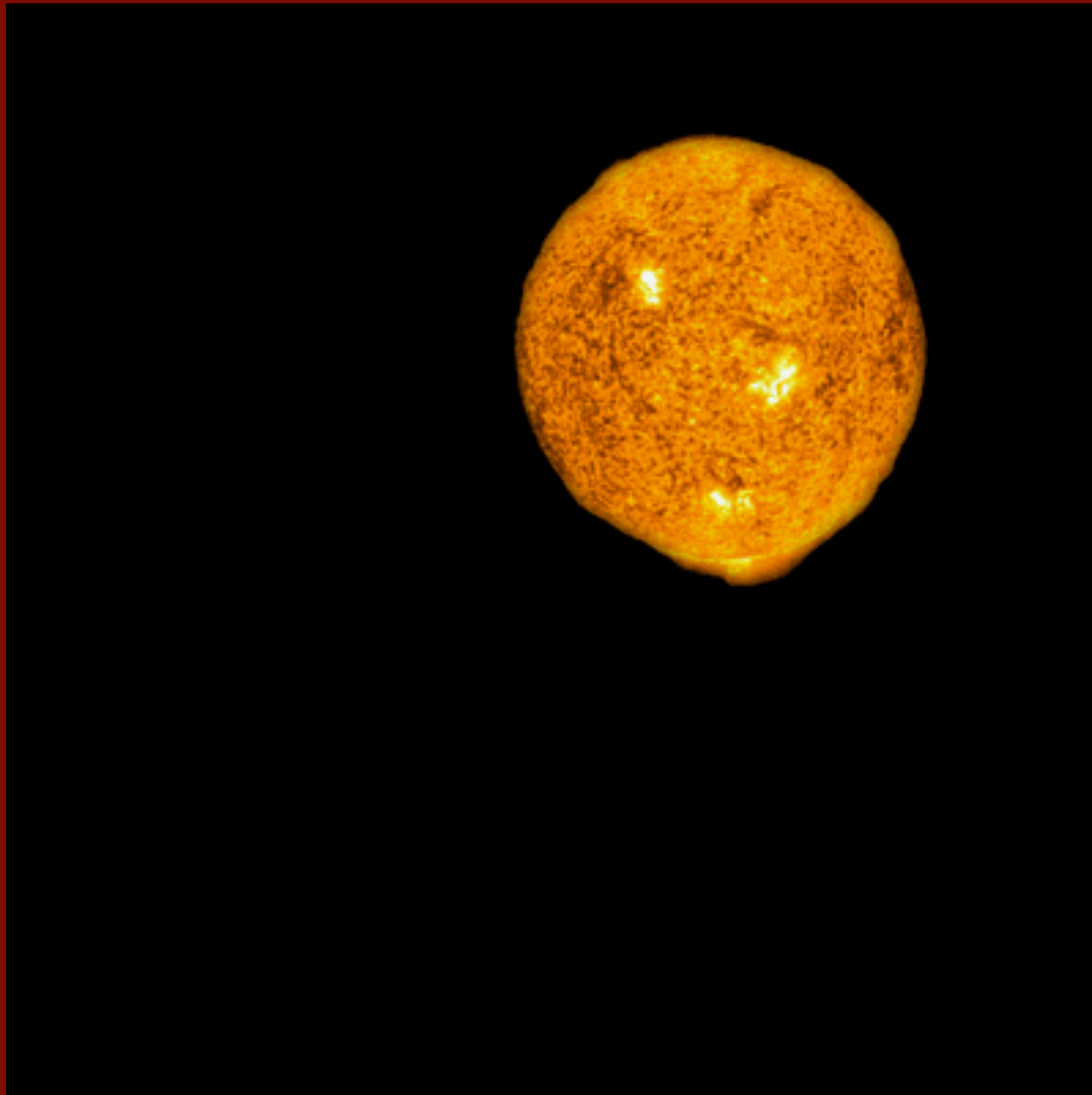
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$$I = \int_S \frac{I' dn}{r^2} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^r \frac{I' \rho_0 4\pi r^2}{r^2} dr = \infty!$$

The night sky should appear
uniform and luminous

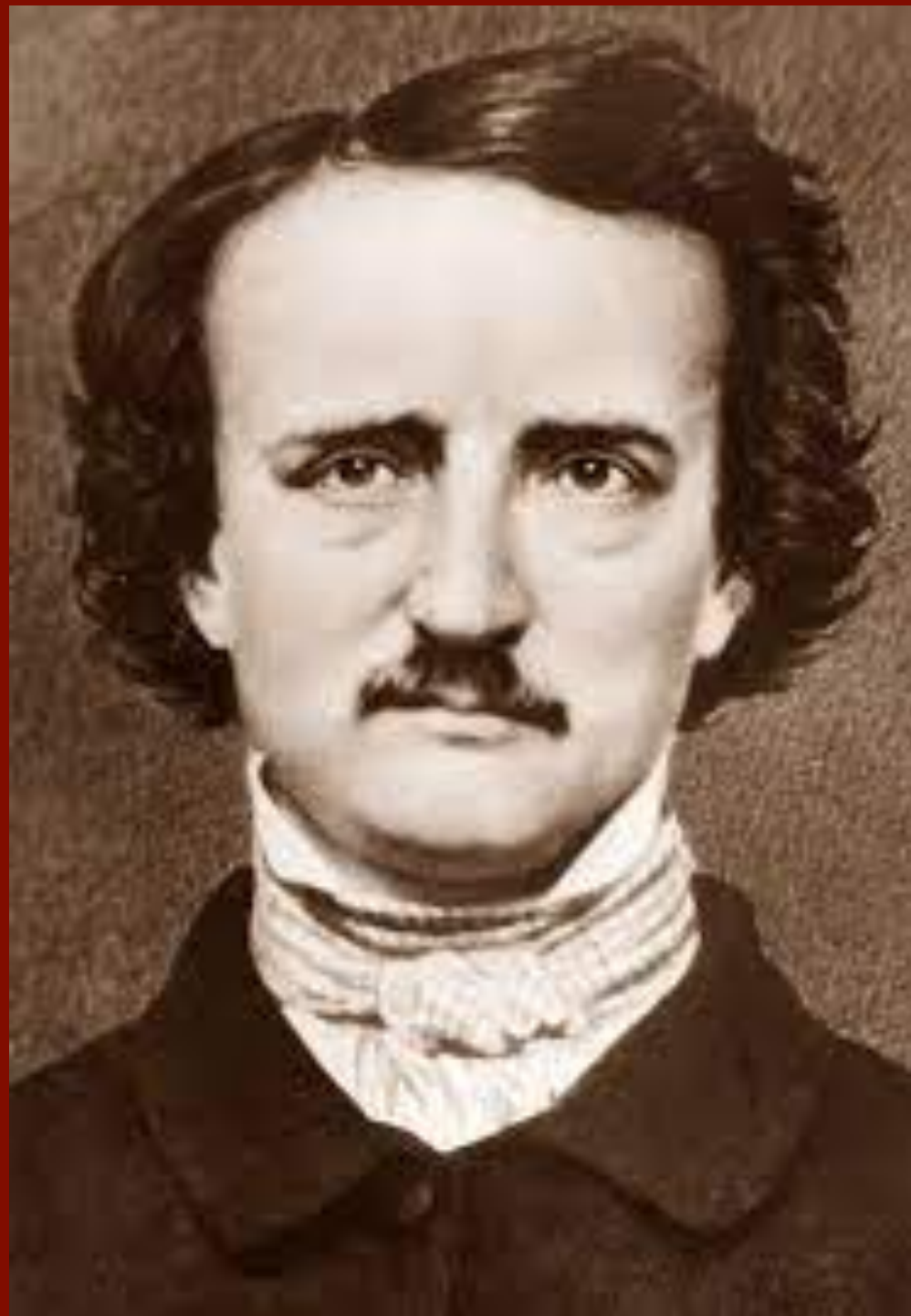


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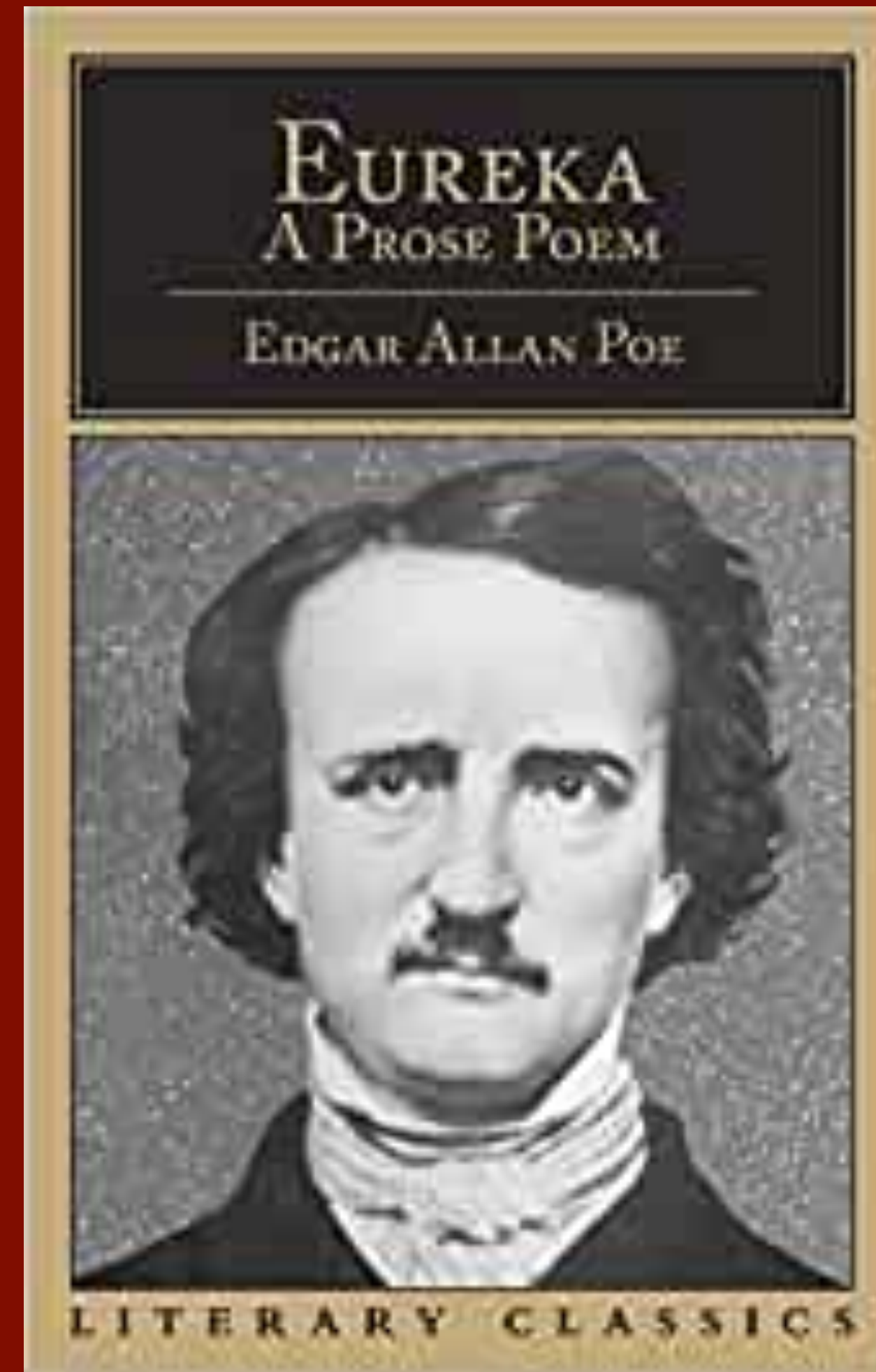


An intuition for the solution:

"Were the succession of stars endless, then the background of the sky would present us a uniform luminosity, like that displayed by the Galaxy –since there could be absolutely no point, in all that background, at which would not exist a star. The only mode, therefore, in which, under such a state of affairs, we could comprehend the voids which our telescopes find in innumerable directions, would be by supposing the distance of the invisible background so immense that no ray from it has yet been able to reach us at all."



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1809 -1849

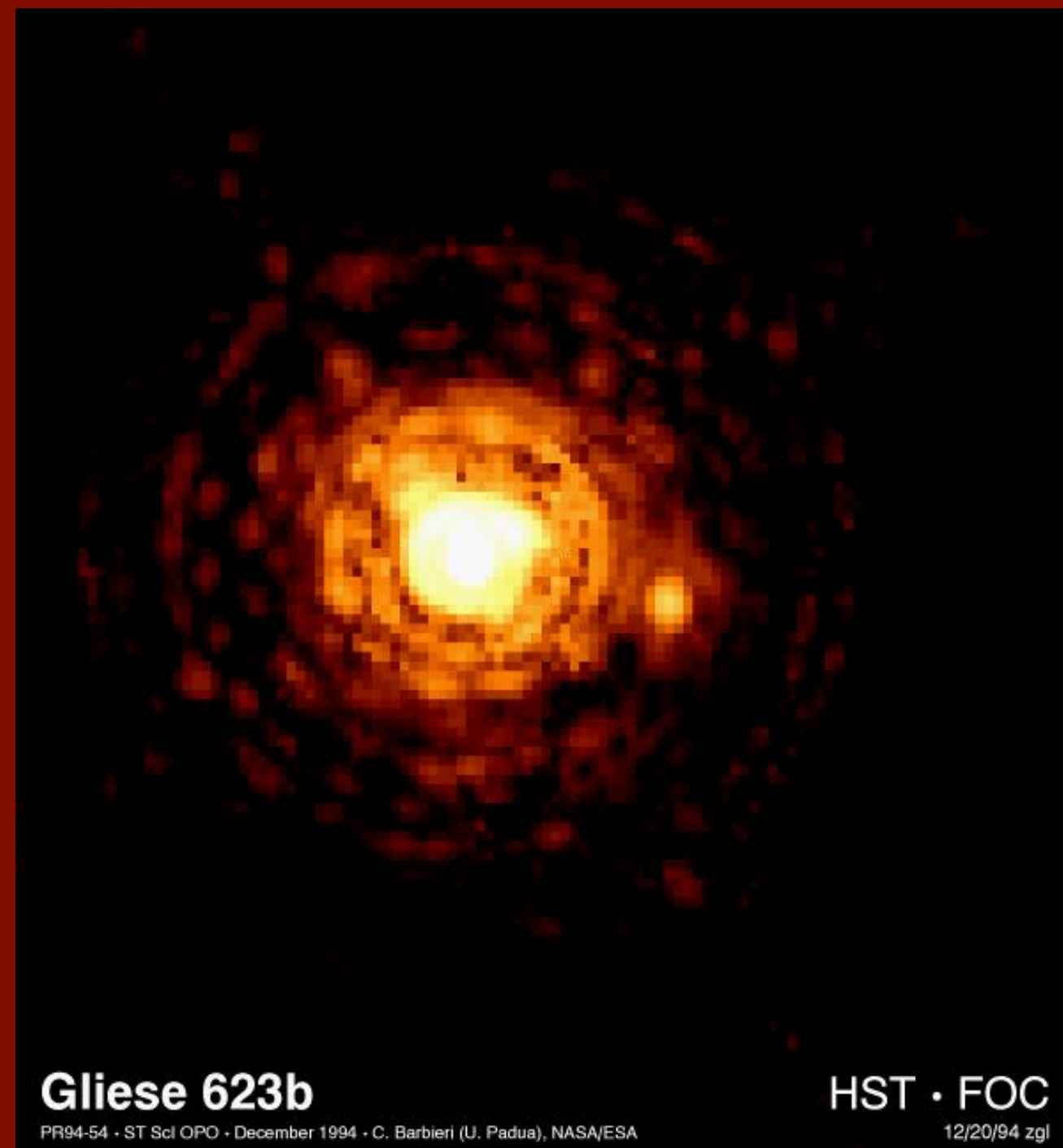


1848

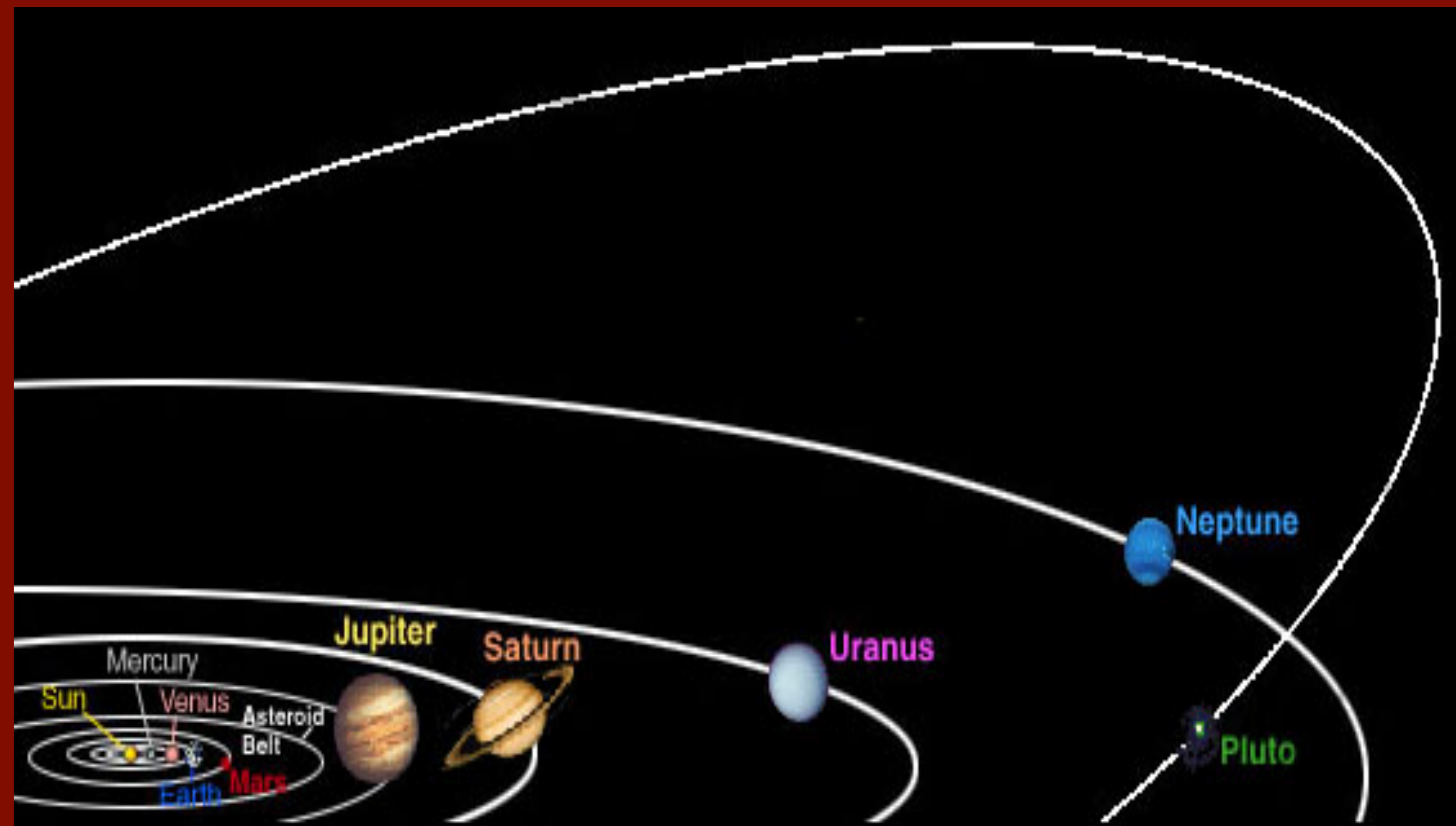
Astronomical systems

Solar and stellar systems are composed by $N=2$ up to $N=10^{12}$ stars, often embedded in a gaseous cloud...Multi-phase gravitational N -body problem...

Binaries...
 $N=2$



Solar system ...
 $N=10$



Small *open clusters* embedded in their *mother cloud*...like
 $N=50$ M16



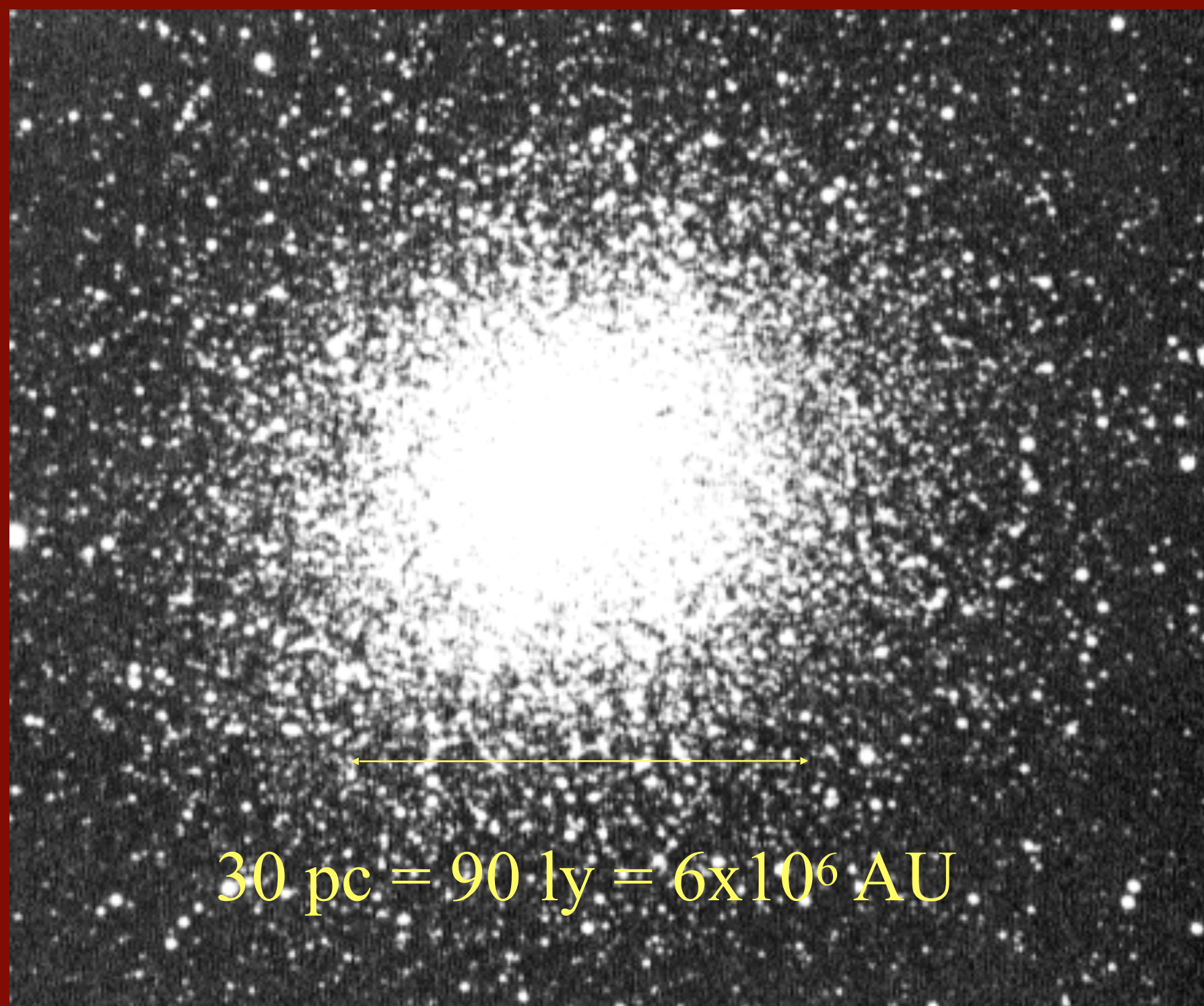
Large *open clusters*
 $N=1000$



M 5

Globular clusters

$$10^4 \leq N \leq 10^6$$

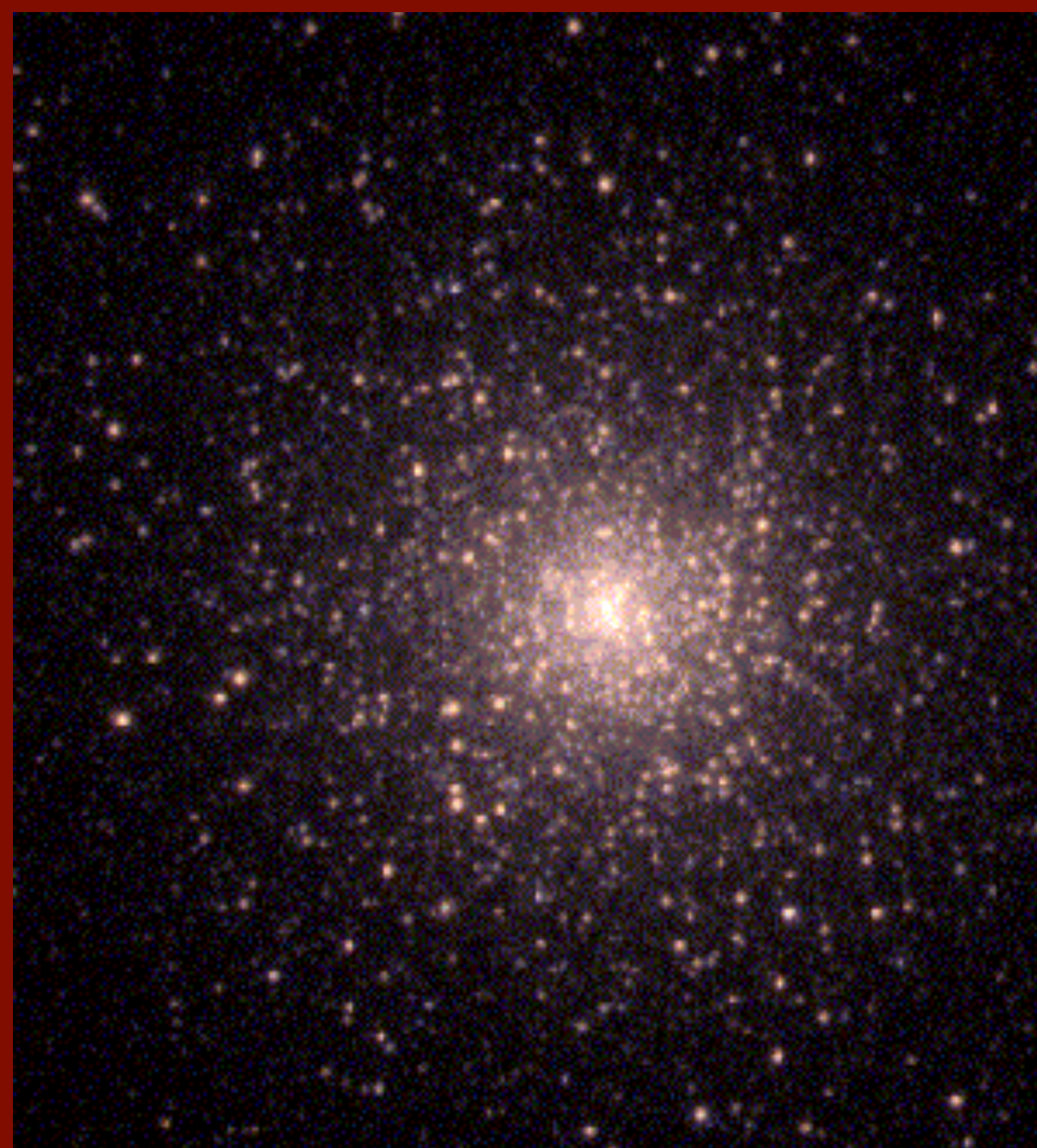


M 13, in Hercules

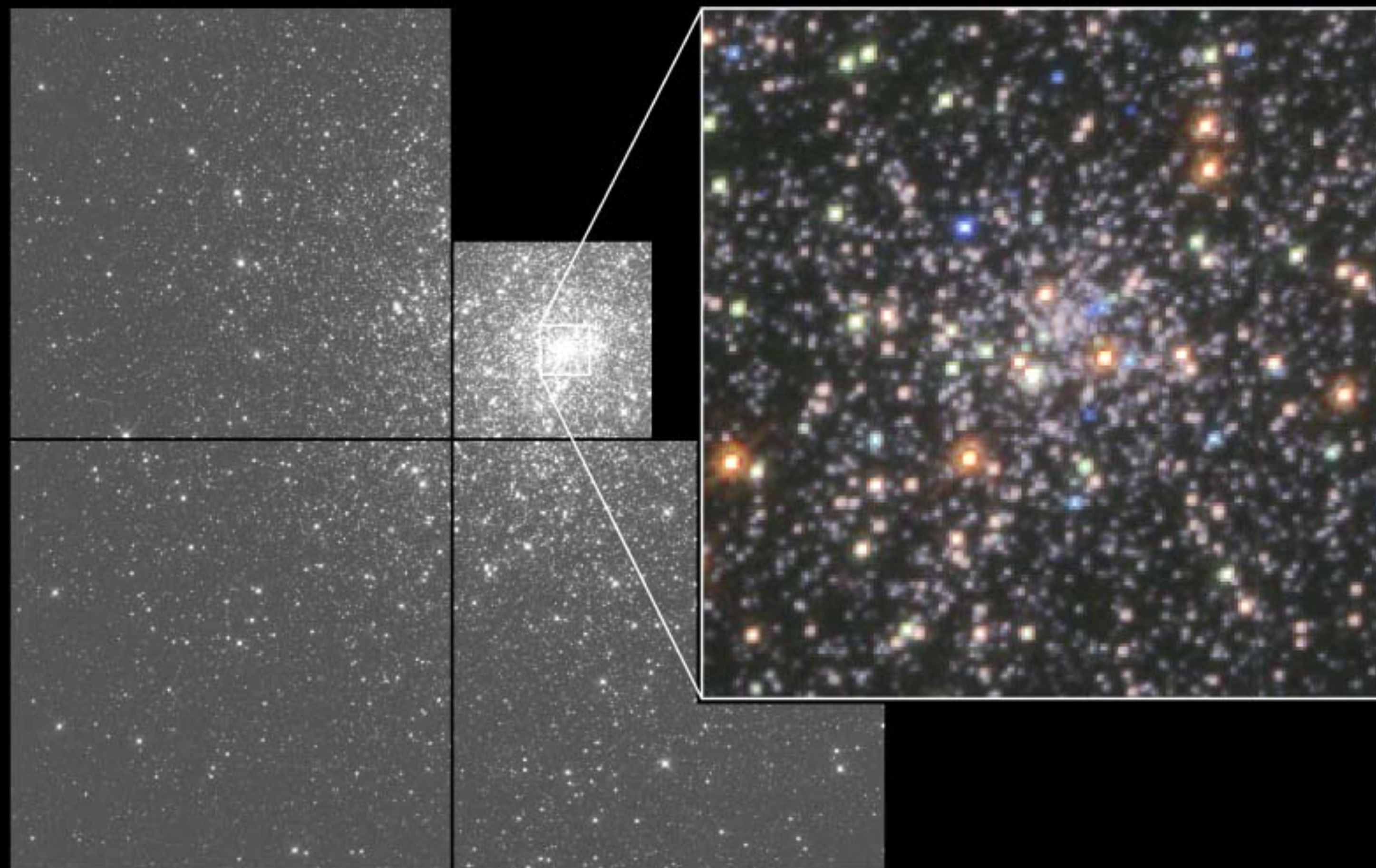


M5 © Anglo-Australian Observatory
Photograph by David Malin

1 pc = 3 ly



M 15



Globular Cluster M15

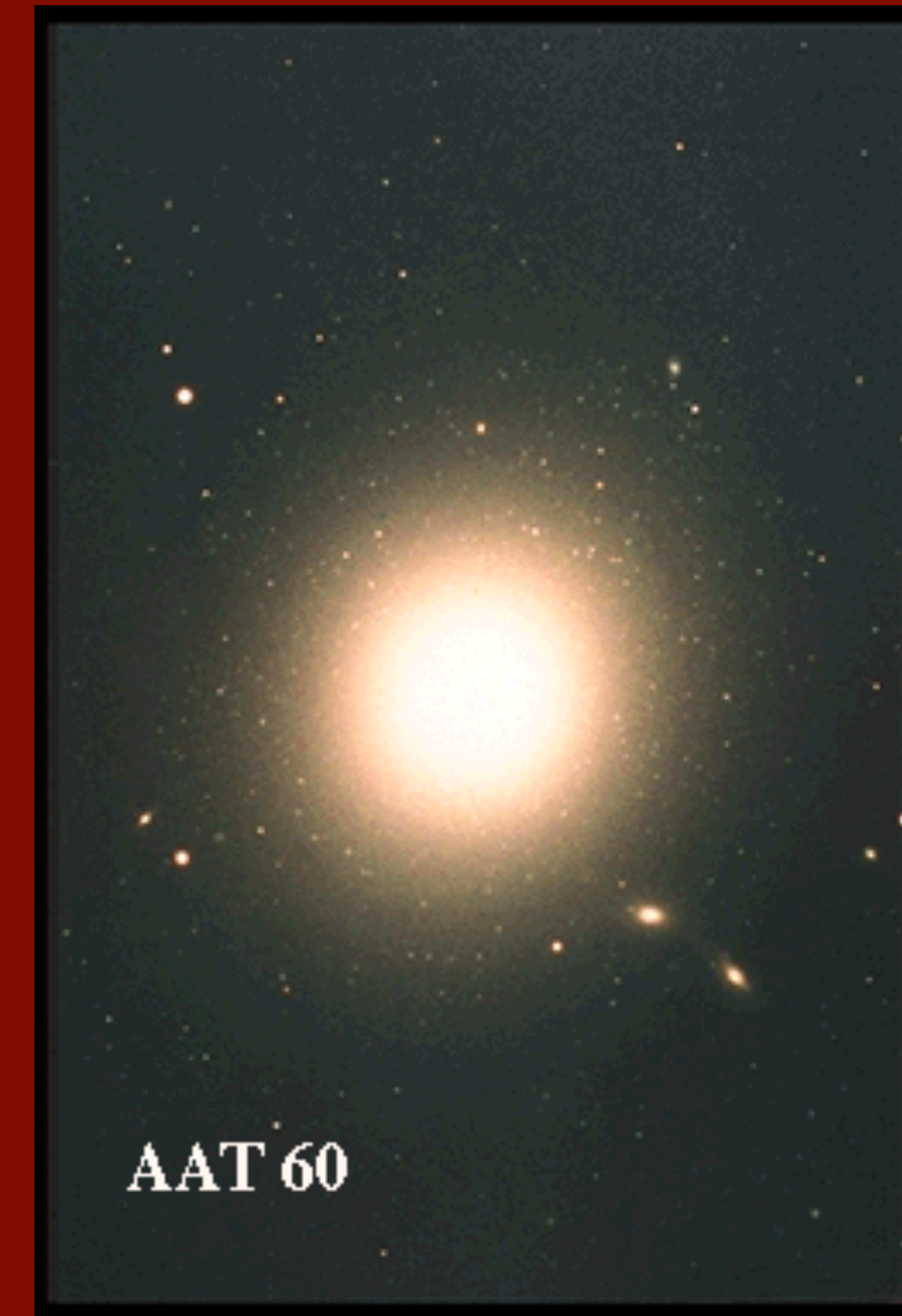
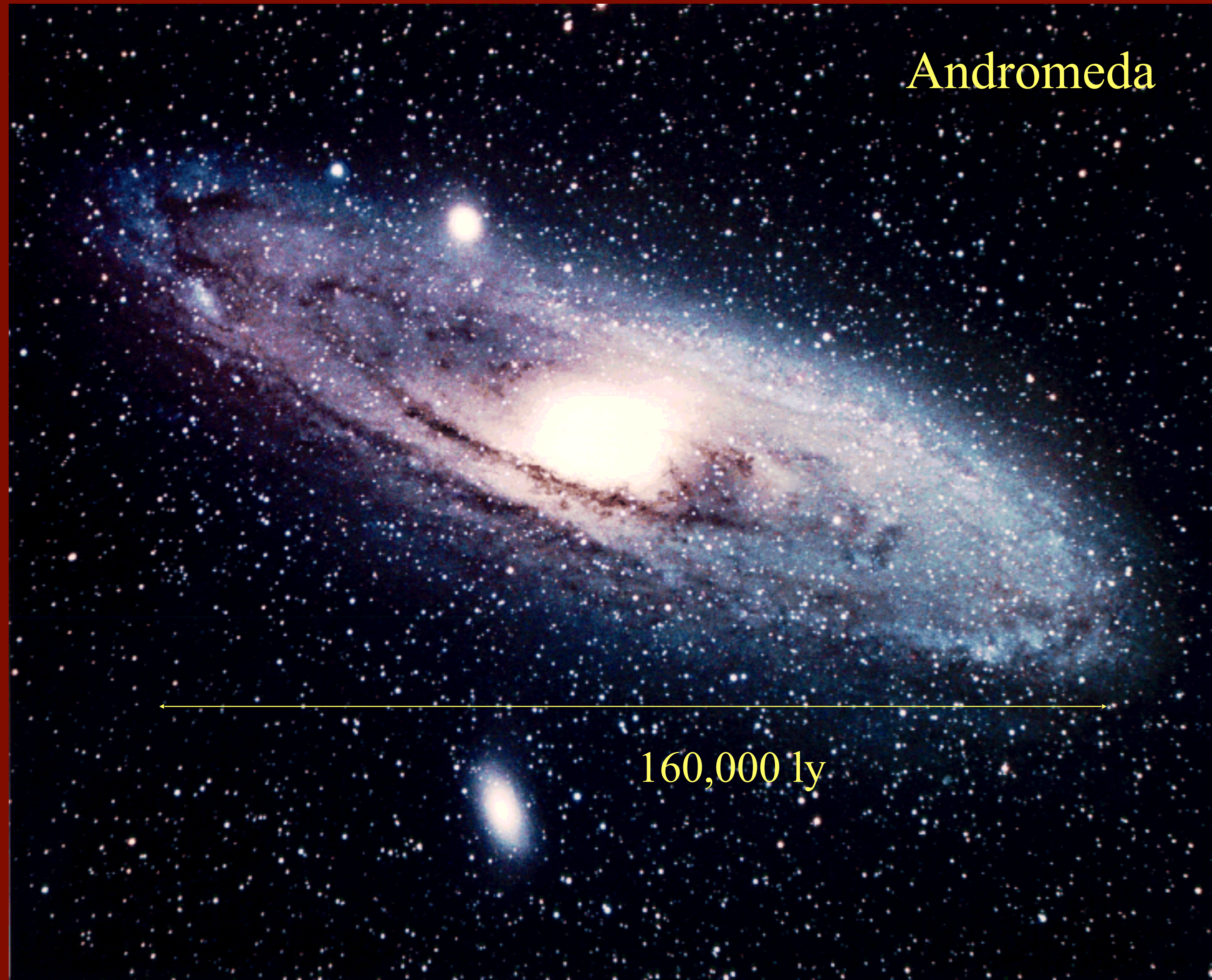
HST • WFPC2

PRC95-06 • ST ScI OPO • November 1995 • P. Guhathakurta (UC Santa Cruz), NASA

$$N = 2 \times 10^{11}$$

$$N = 10^{12}$$

Andromeda



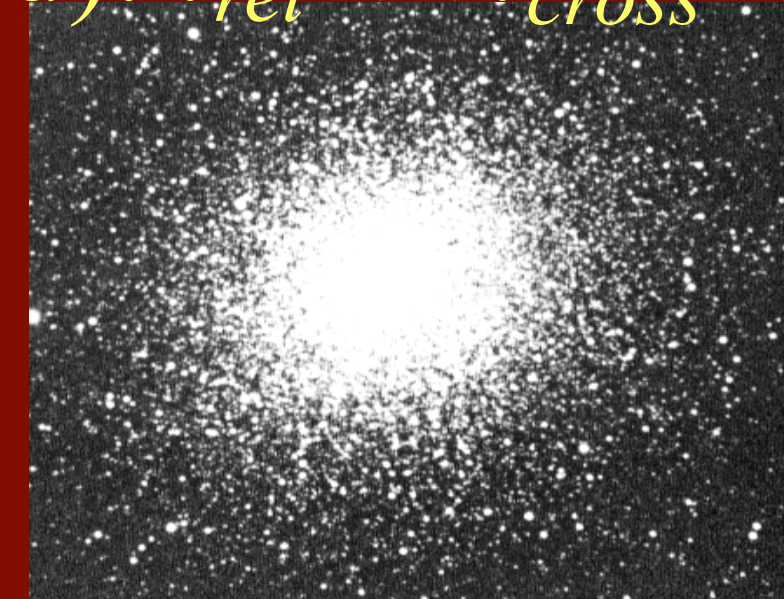
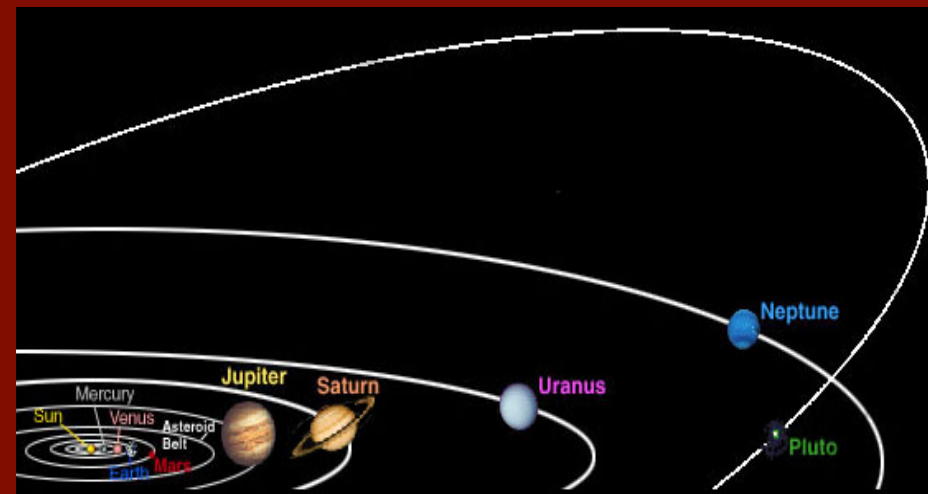
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$t = \text{age of the system}, t_{rel} = \text{relax. time}, t_{cross} = \text{orb. time}$

Fluid (collision-dominated): $t_{rel} \ll t_{cross} < t$



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Few body



Intermediate N

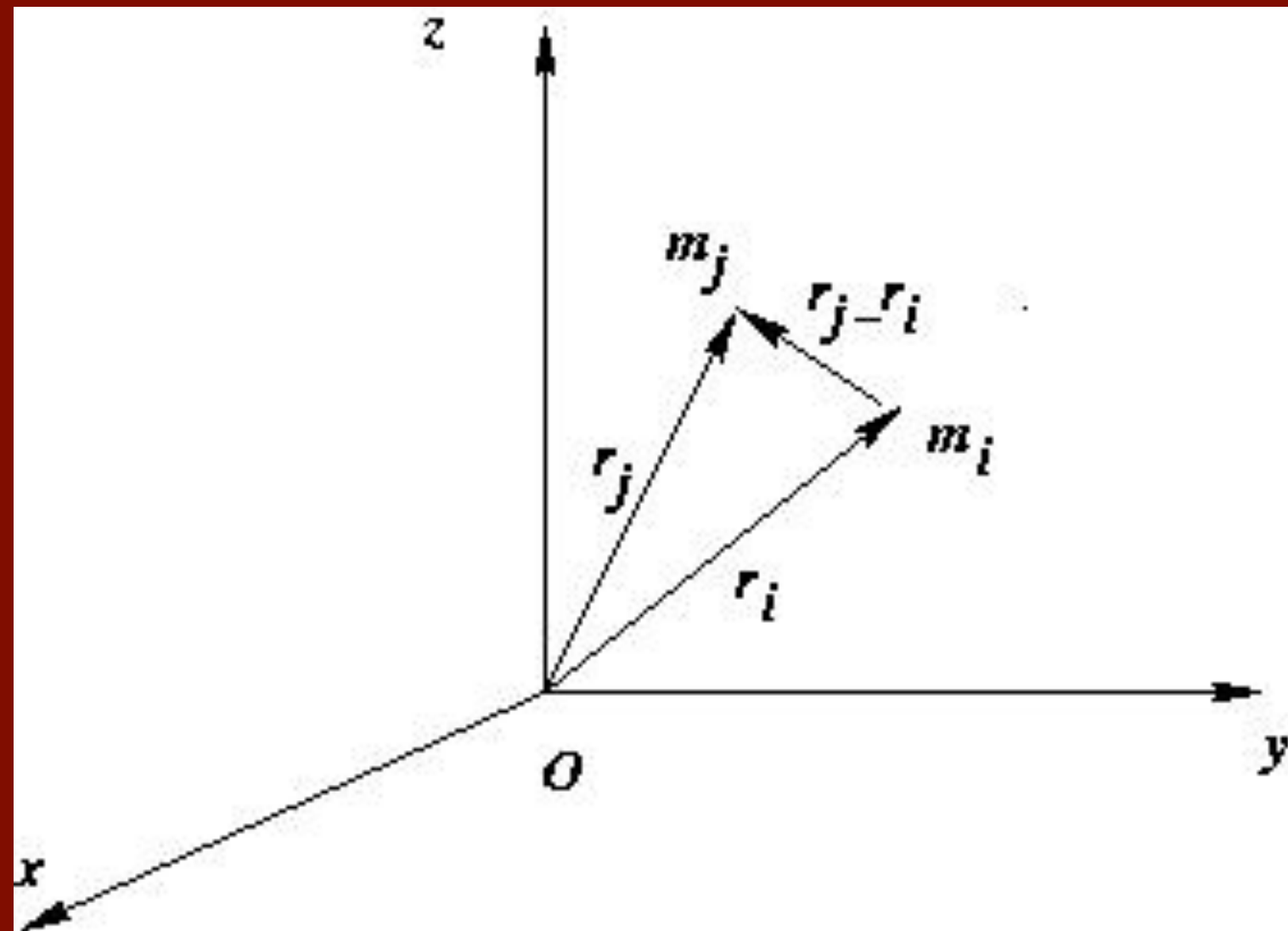


Many body

Stellar system	Binaries, triple, Plan. systems	Open clusters	Globular clusters, galactic nuclei	Galaxies, Galaxy clusters
N	2,3, ≤ 10	$\leq 10,000$	$10^5 \div 10^9$	$\geq 10^9$
Regime	Deterministic	Collisional	Secularly collisional	Collisionless
Time-scales	$t_{cross} \ll t$	$t_{rel} \leq t_{cross} < t$	$t_{cross} < t_{rel} < t$	$t_{cross} < t \ll t_{rel}$
Gravity	Newtonian	Newtonian	Newtonian, general relativity	Newtonian, gen. relativity
Technique	Analytic, Perturbative, Direct N-body	Gas+Direct N-body	Fokker-Planck, Direct N-body	Tree-codes, PM, P3M

The N -body classic gravitational problem

Statement of the problem



$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i = -G \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{m_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|^3} (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)$$

$$\mathbf{r}_i(0) = \mathbf{r}_{i0}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i(0) = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i0}$$

Explicit solutions only for $N=2$. Under simplifying conditions for $N=3$.

As (unusable) series for $N \geq 3$ and $L > 0$.

The system can be transformed into a system of $6N$ *1st* order ODEs letting $\mathbf{v}_i = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i$, $i=1,2,\dots,N$:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i = \mathbf{v}_i, \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_i = G \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N m_j \frac{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i}{r_{ij}^3}, \\ \mathbf{r}_i(0) = \mathbf{r}_{i0}, \\ \mathbf{v}_i(0) = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i0}. \end{cases}$$

In any case the system:

- is of *complexity* $O(N^2)$;
- is far from *linearity*;
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10 constants of motion, independent of N

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N m_i v_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j)=1, i \neq j}^N G \frac{m_i m_j}{r_{ij}} = E_0, \quad \text{Energy first integral}$$

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$$\mathbf{r}_{com} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \mathbf{r}_i}{M} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \mathbf{r}_{i0}}{M} + \frac{\mathbf{Q}_0(t - t_0)}{M}. \quad \text{Center of mass constant}$$

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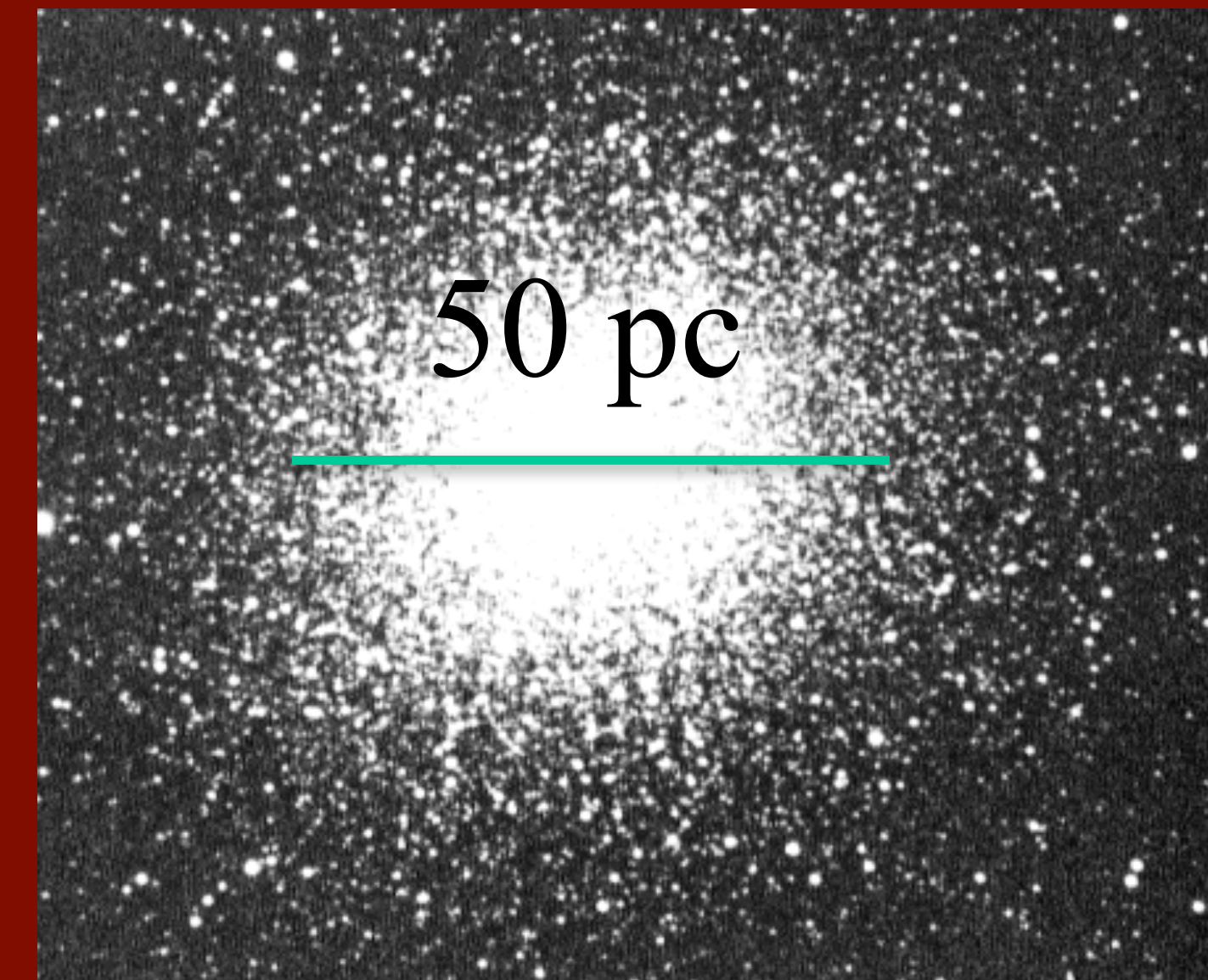
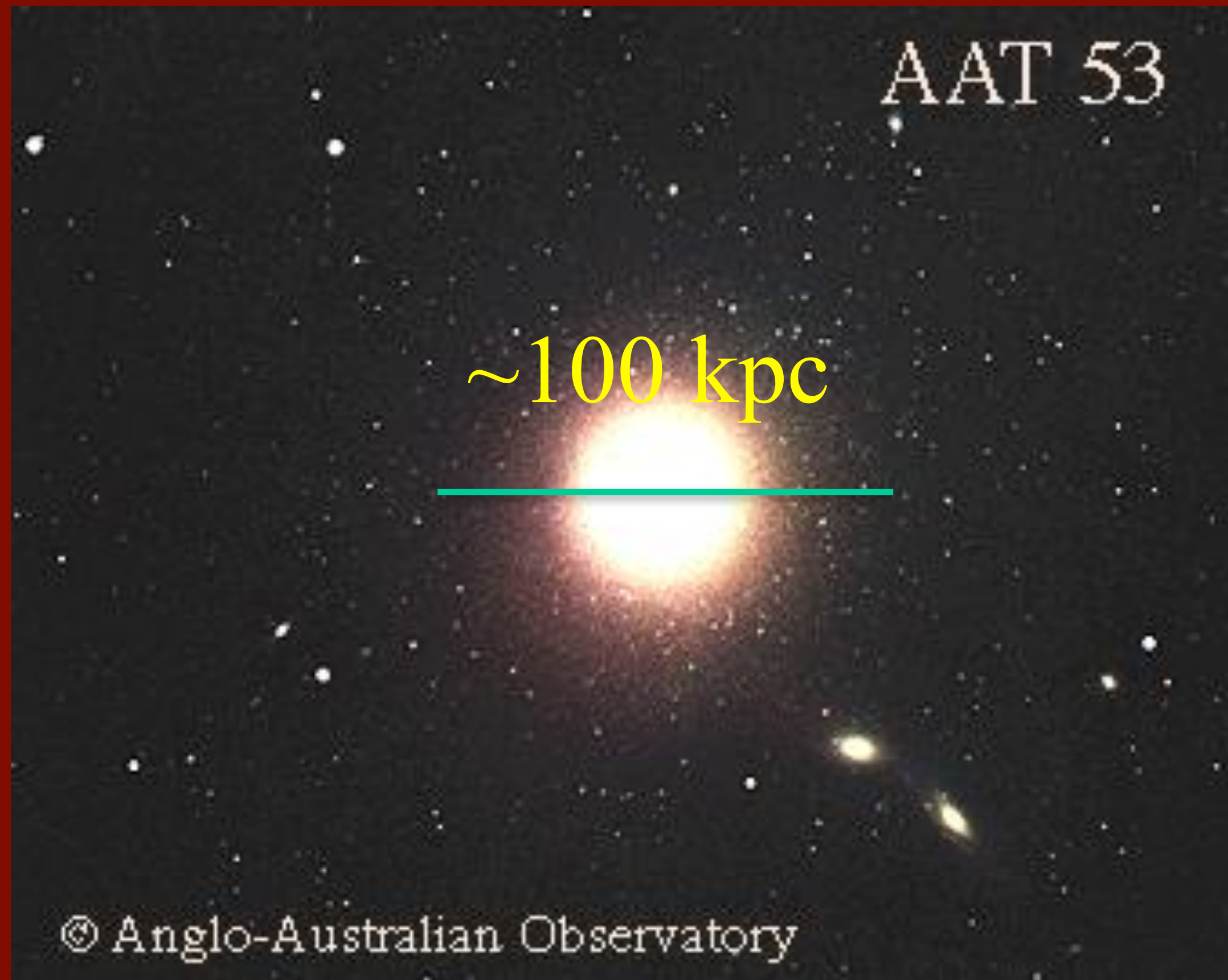
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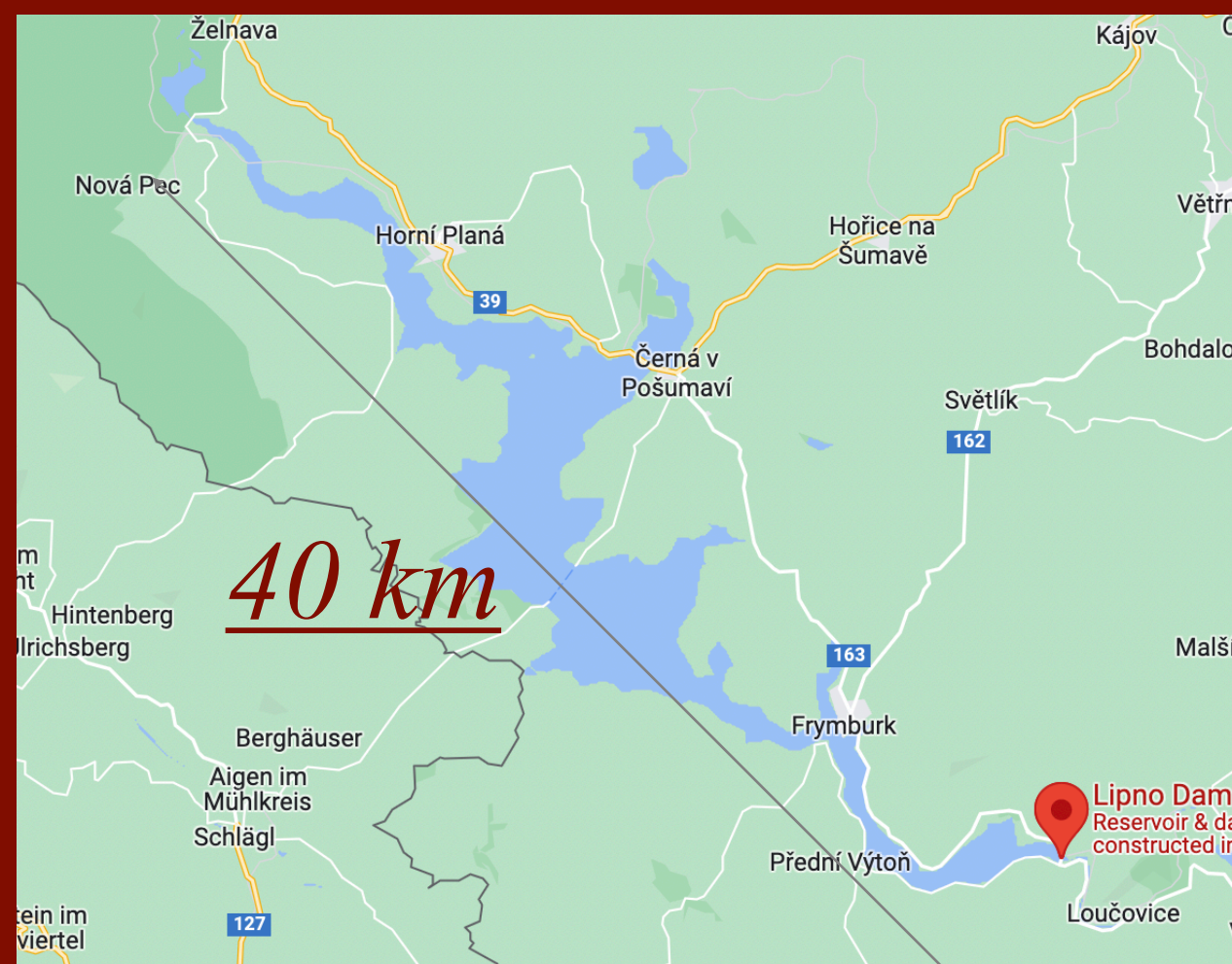


Globular cluster

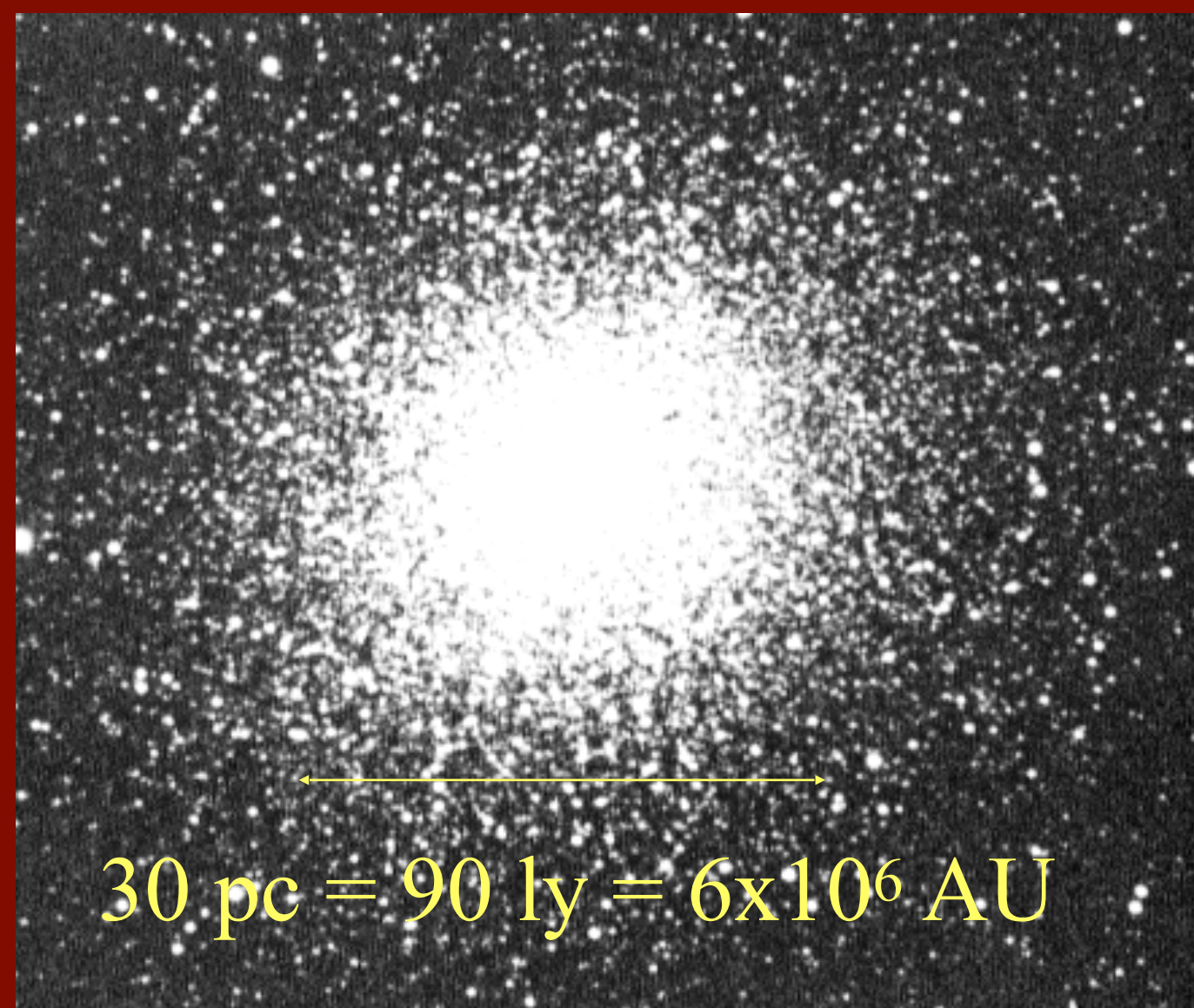
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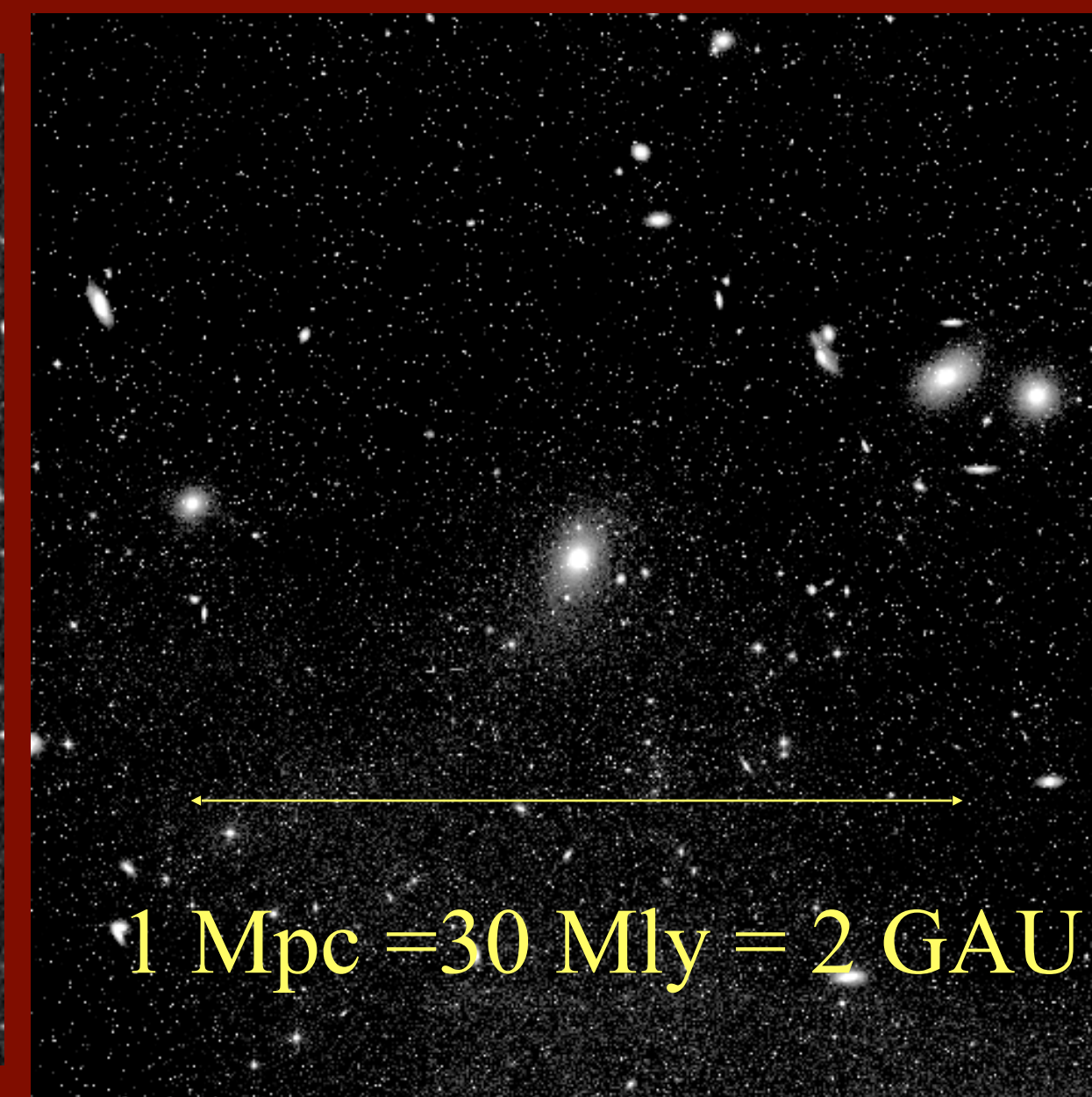
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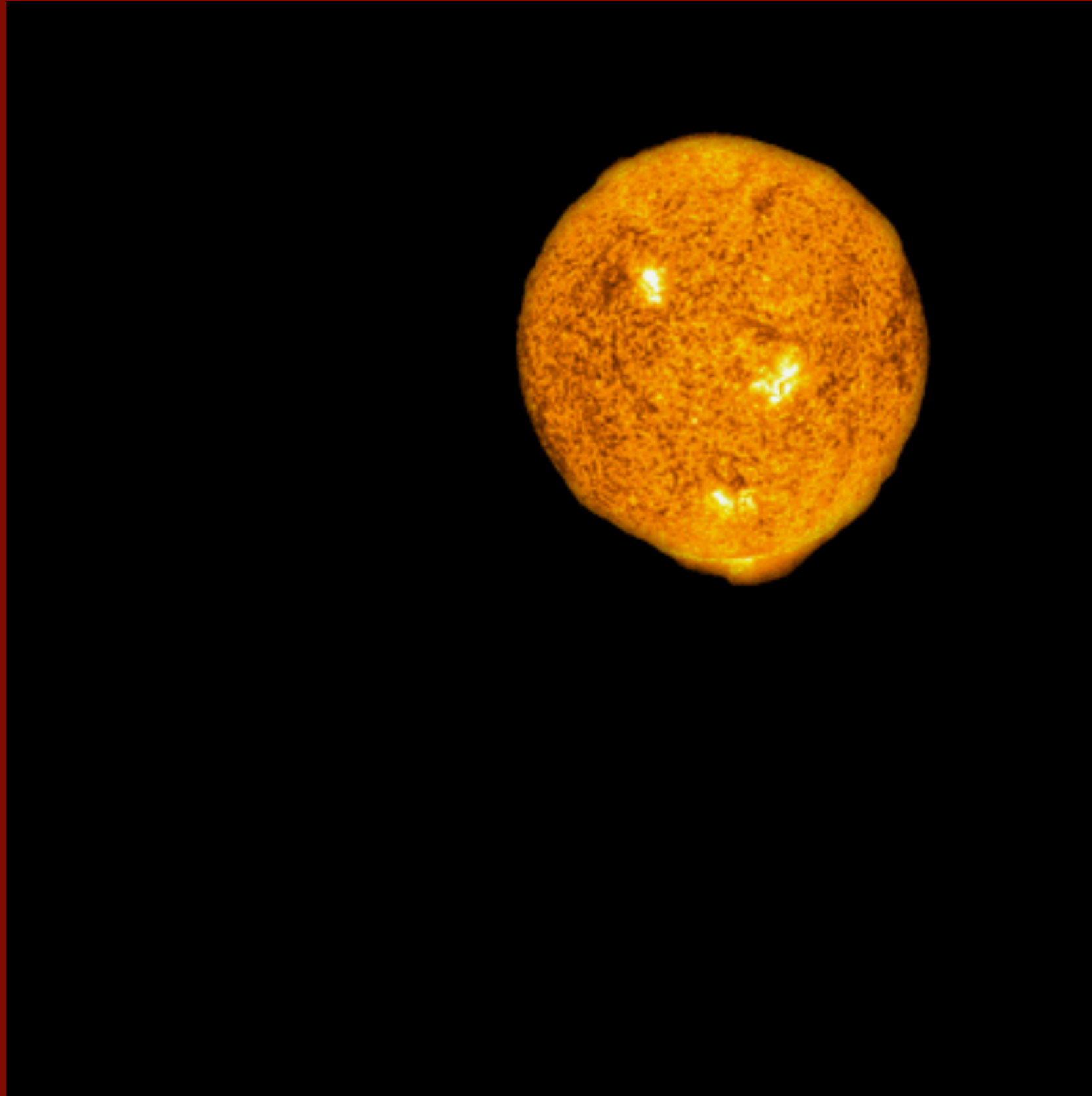
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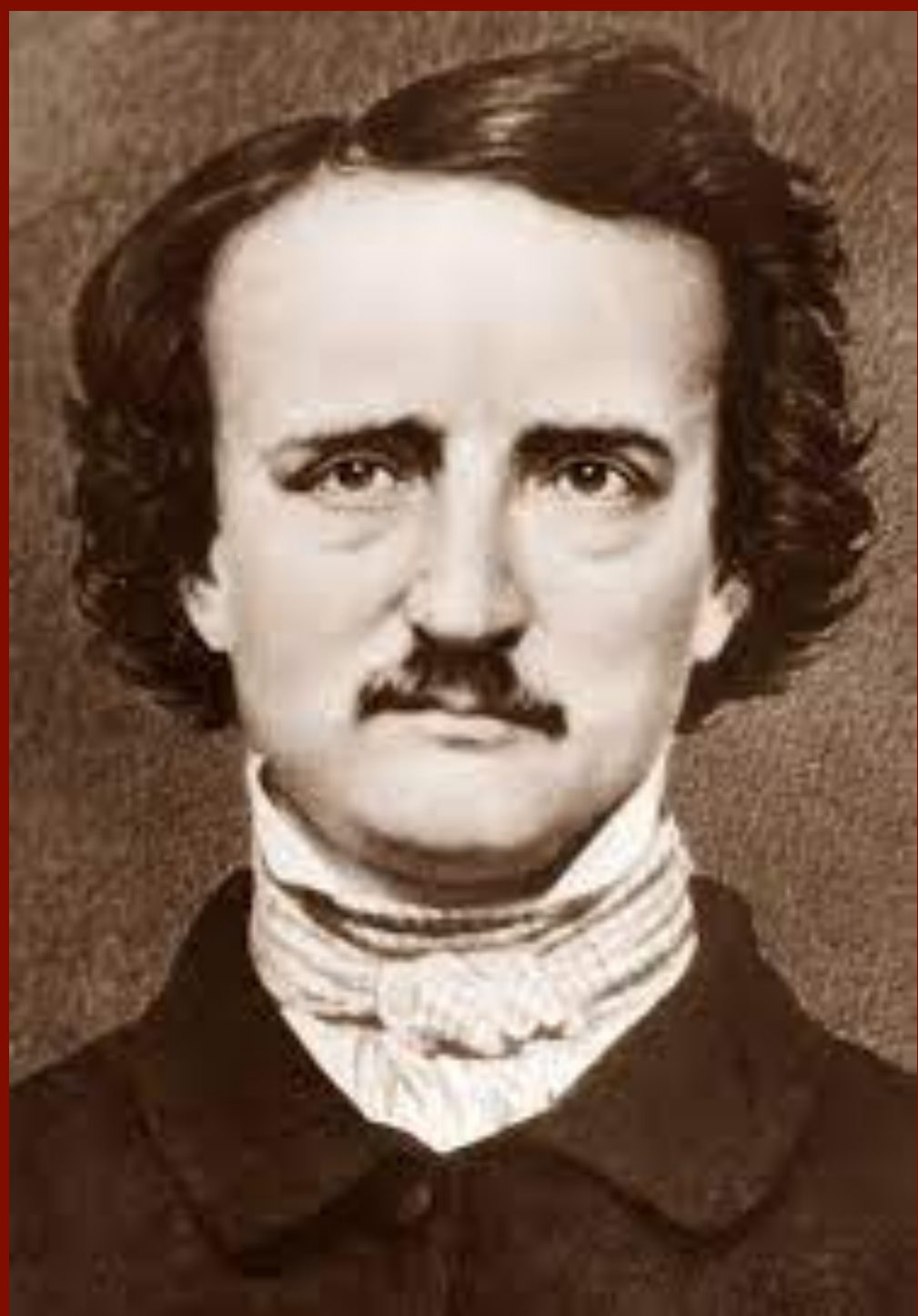


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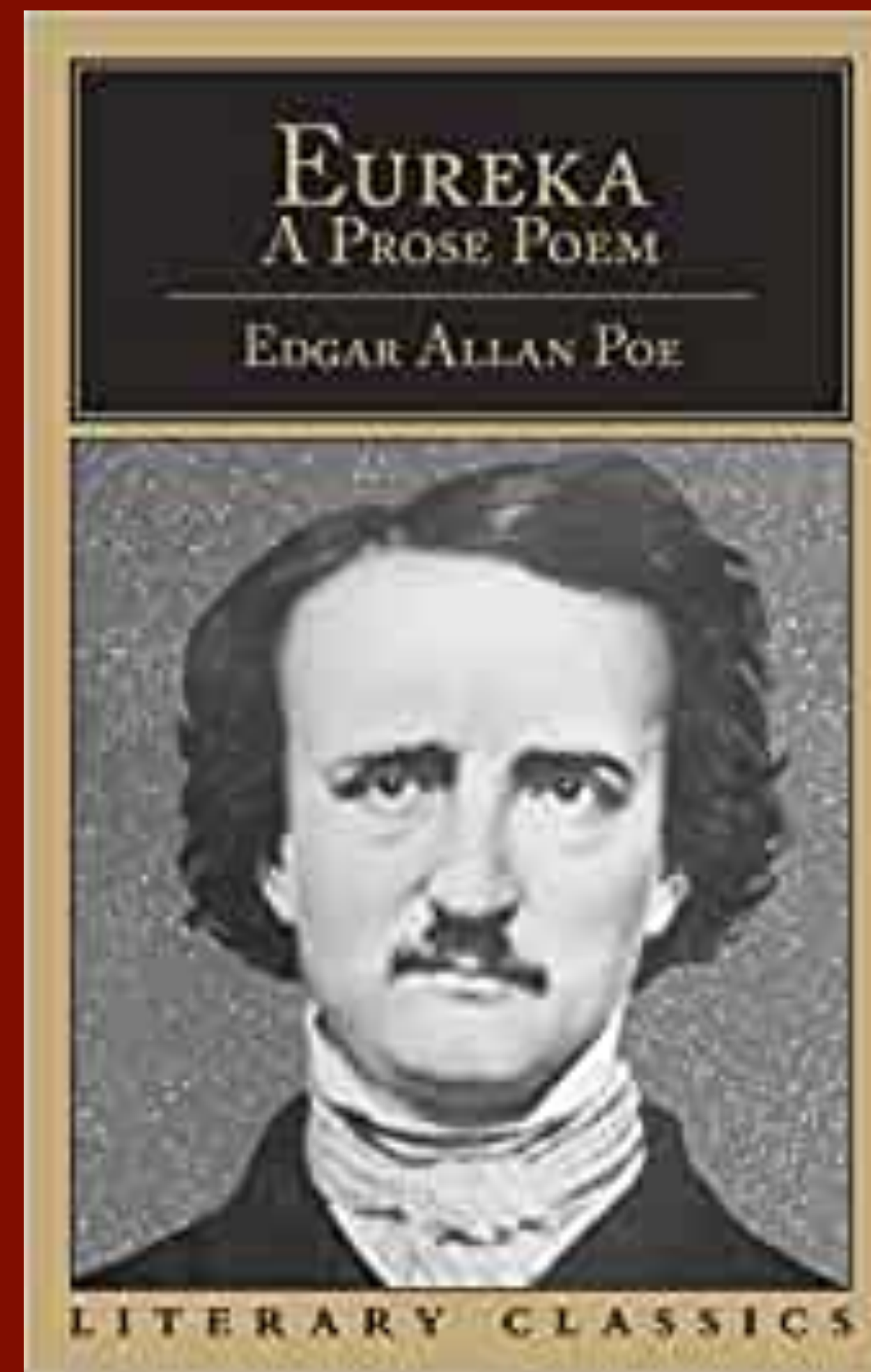


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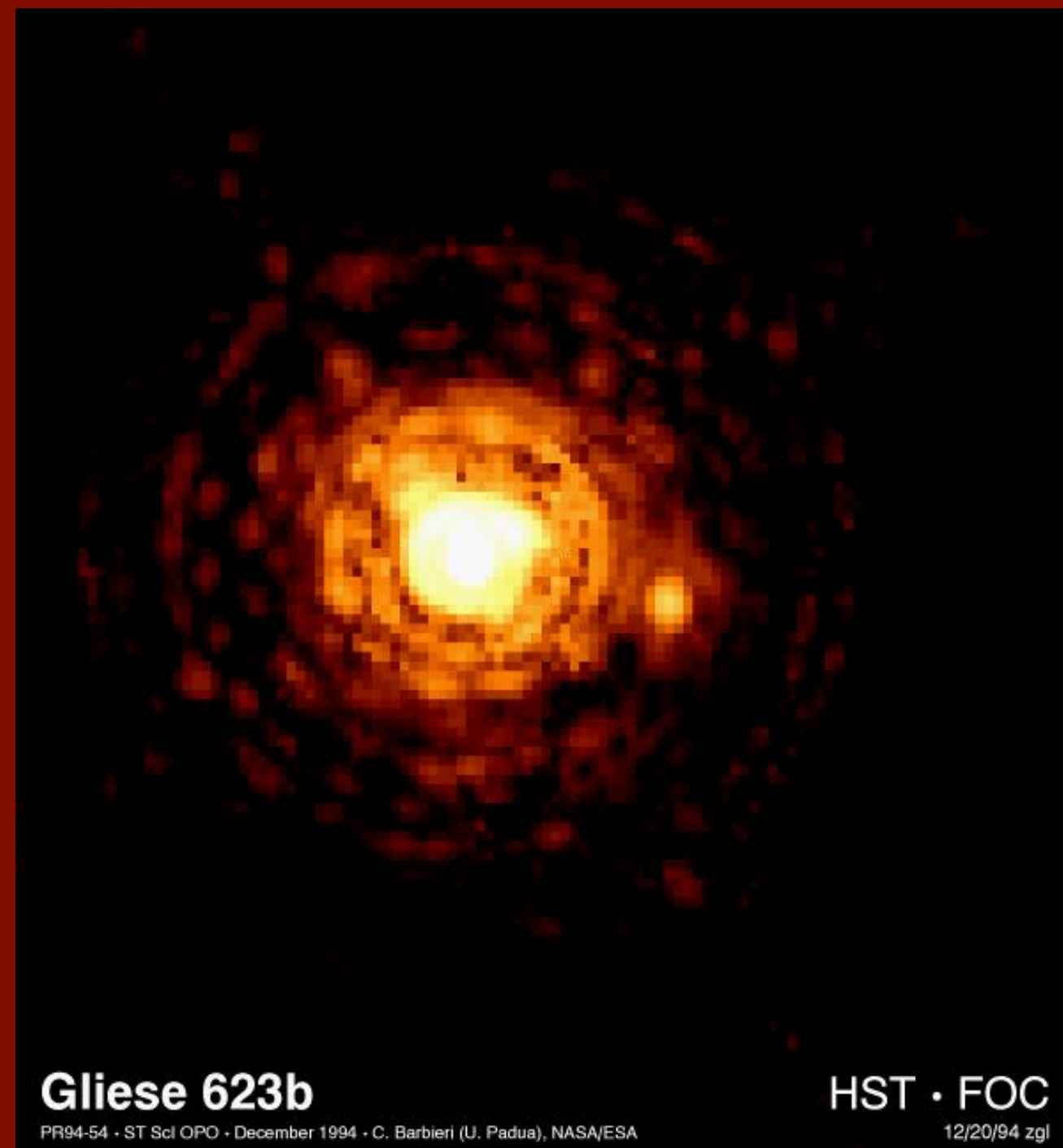


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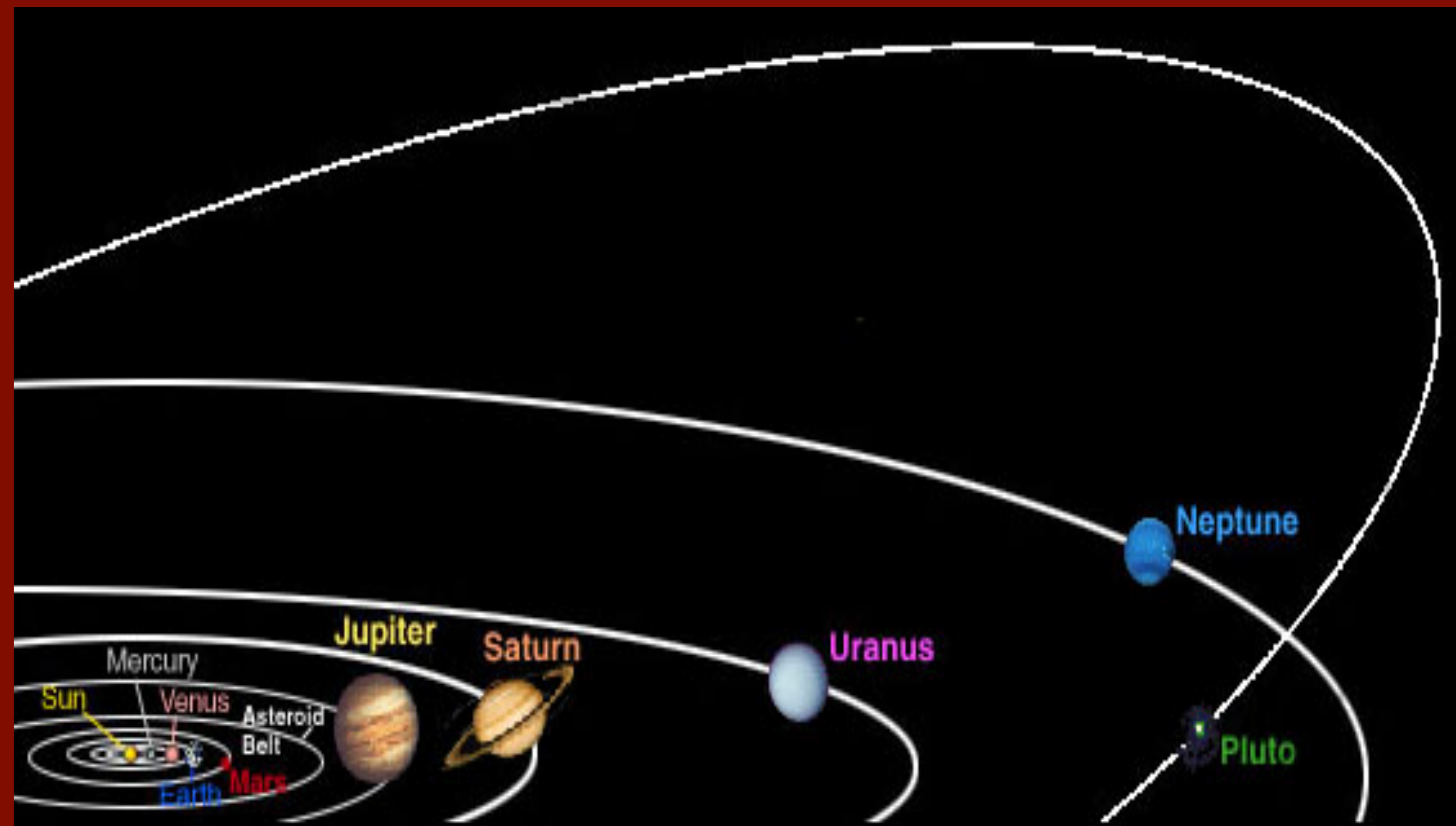
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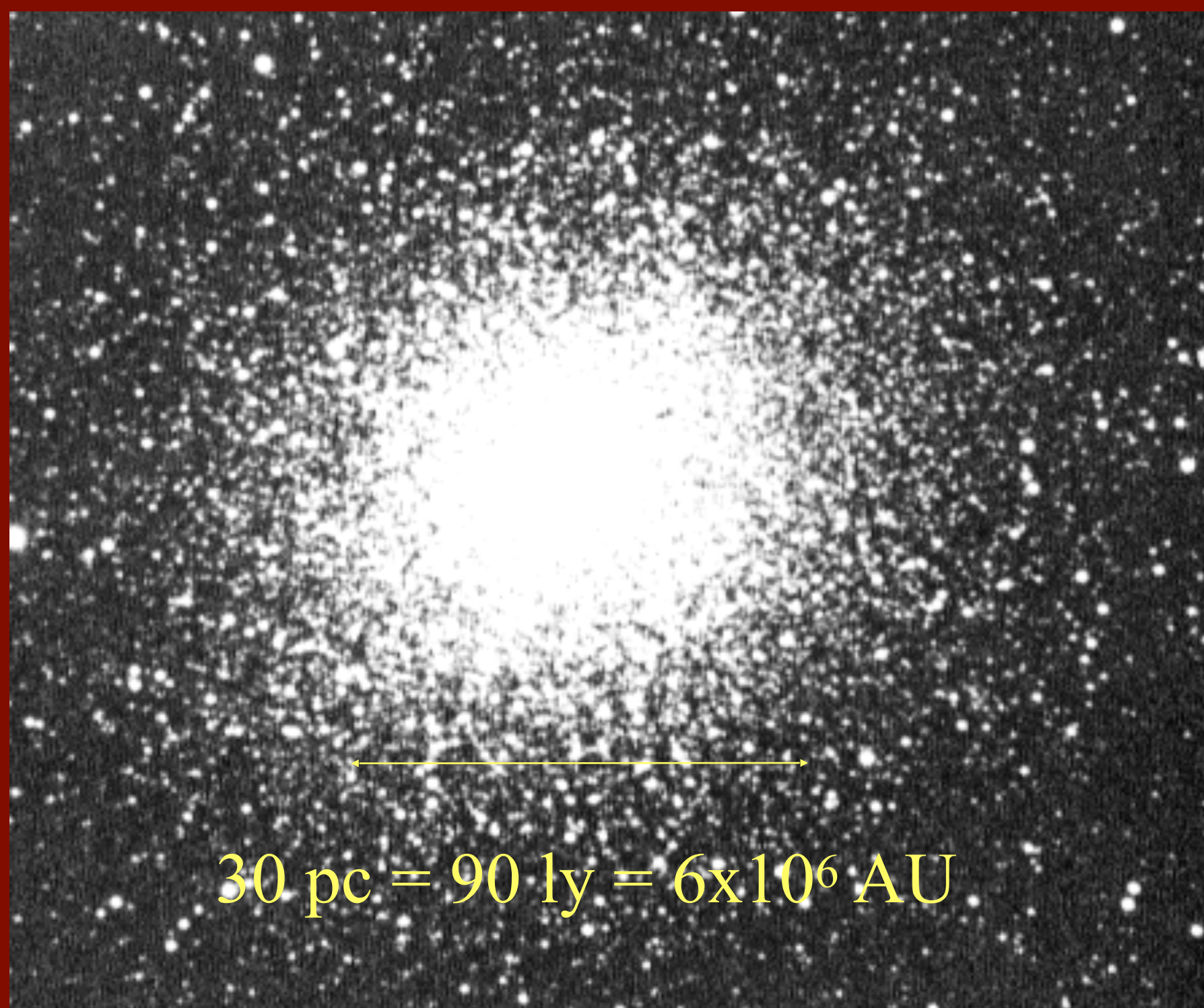
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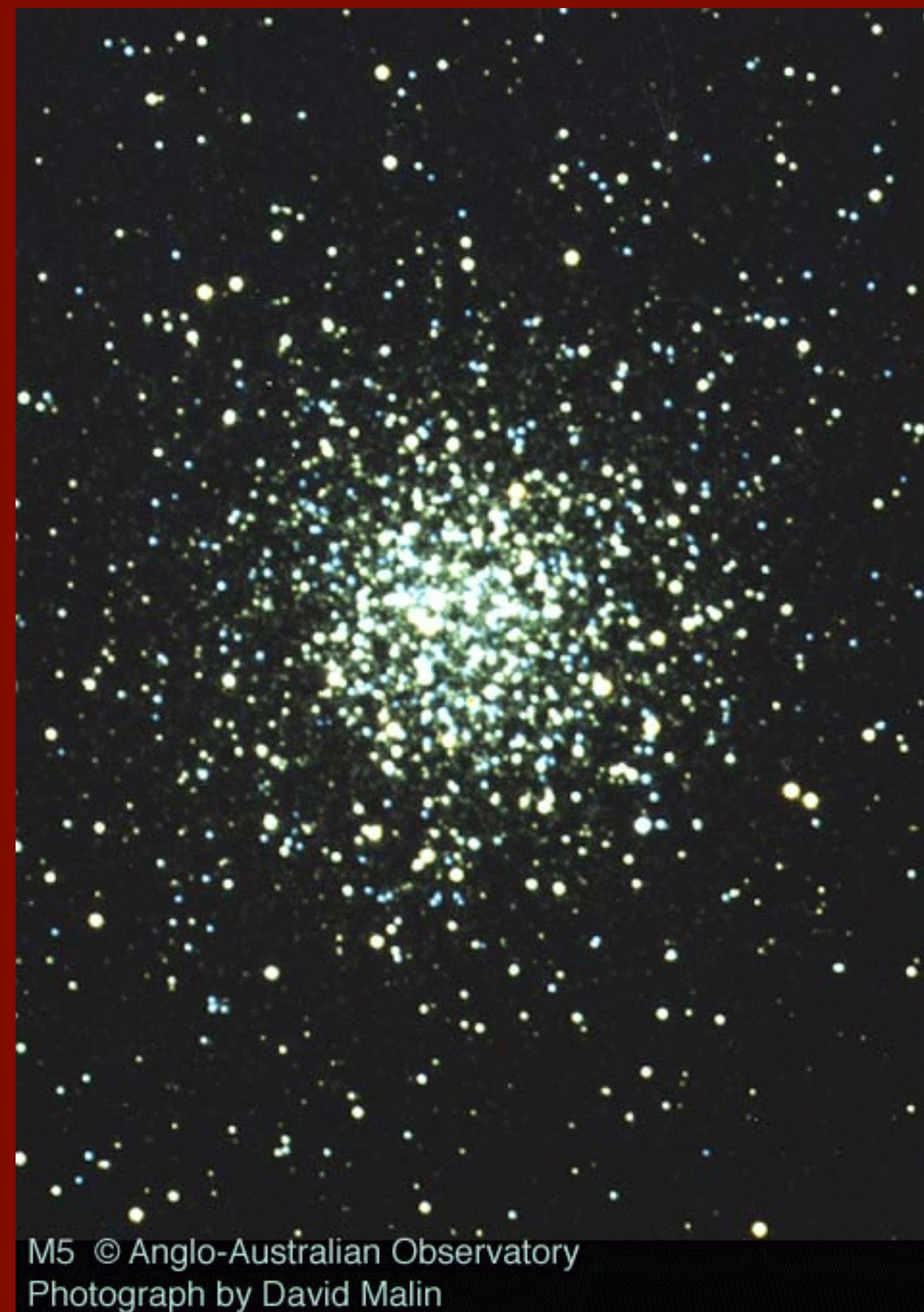
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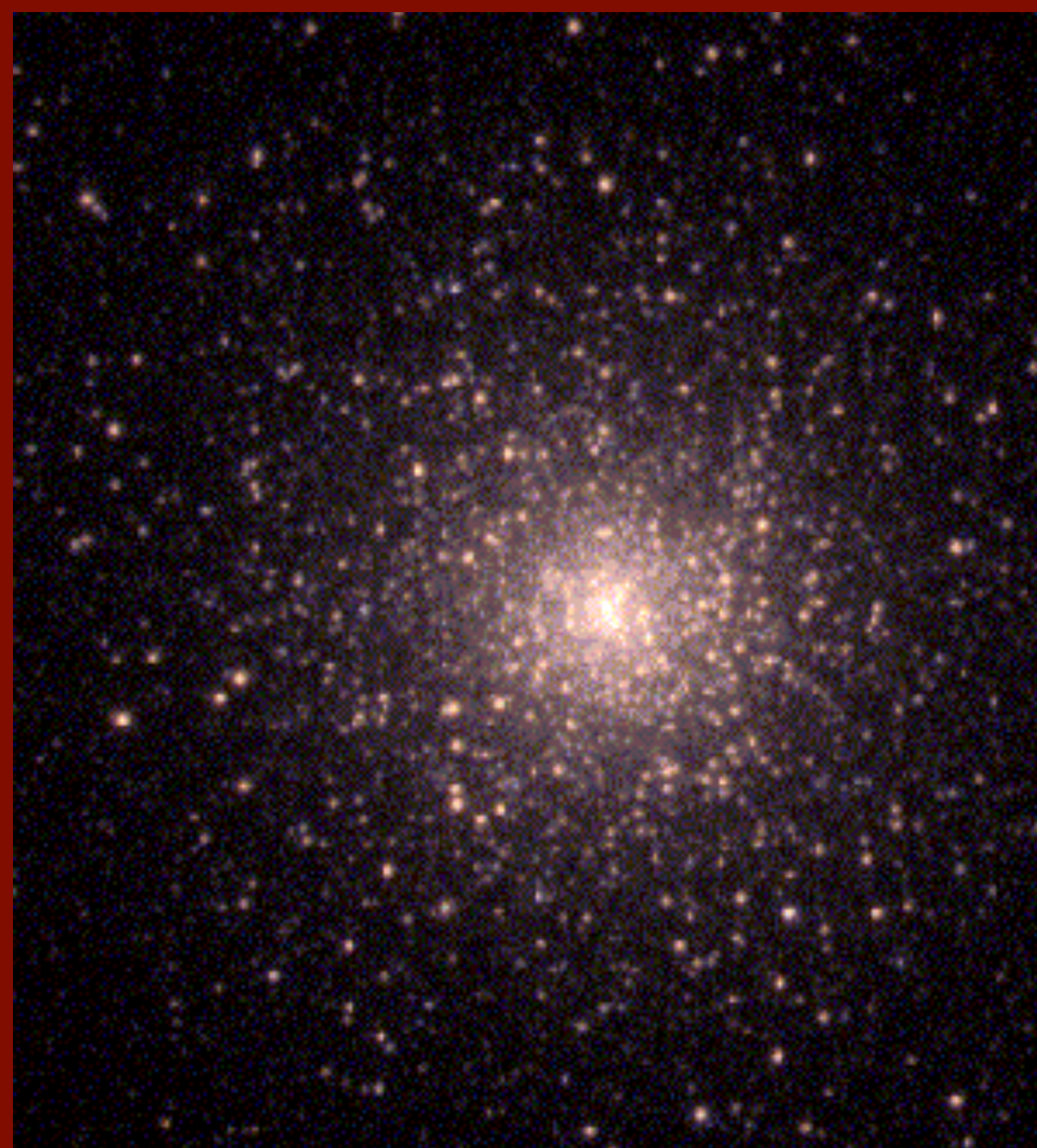
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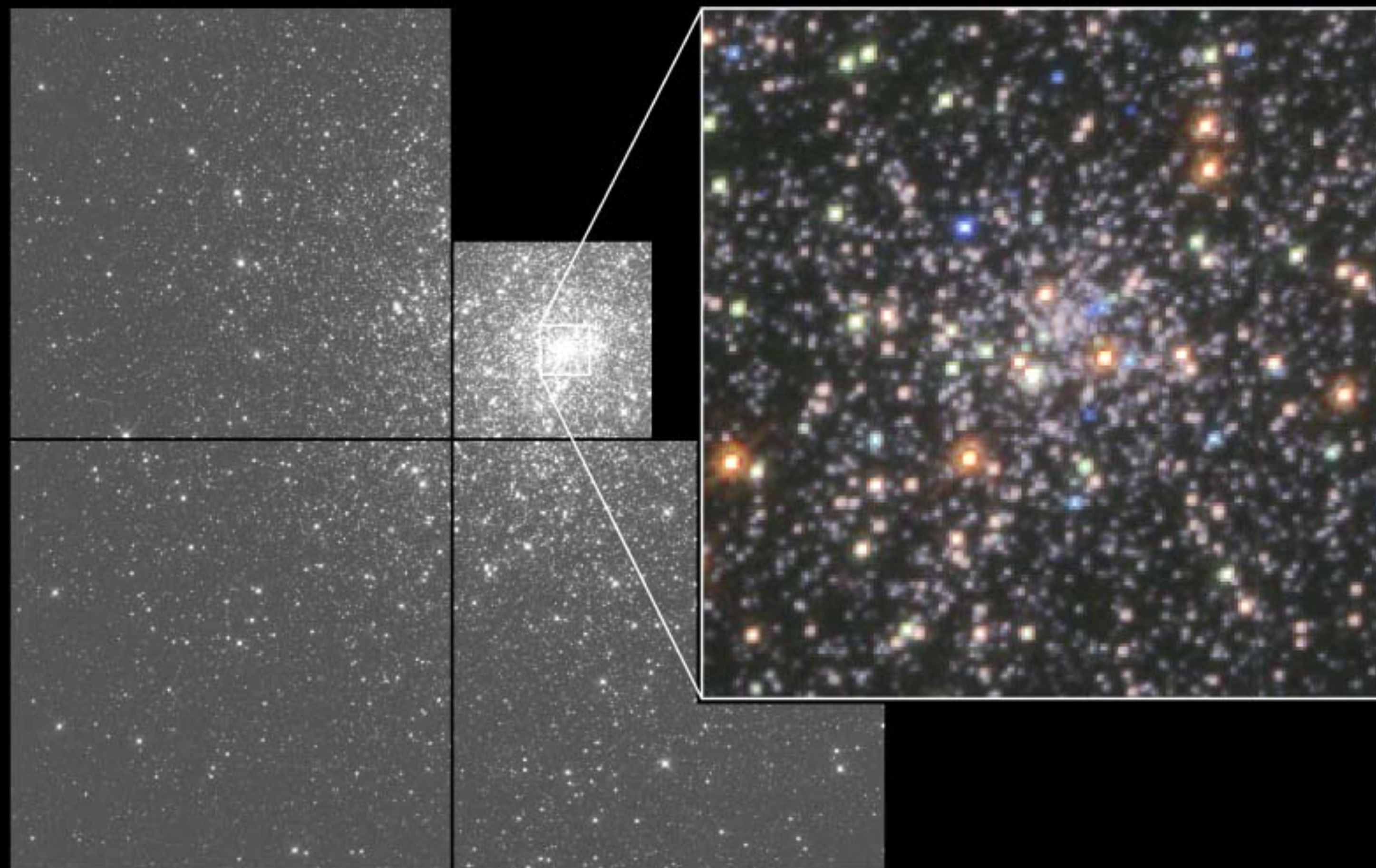
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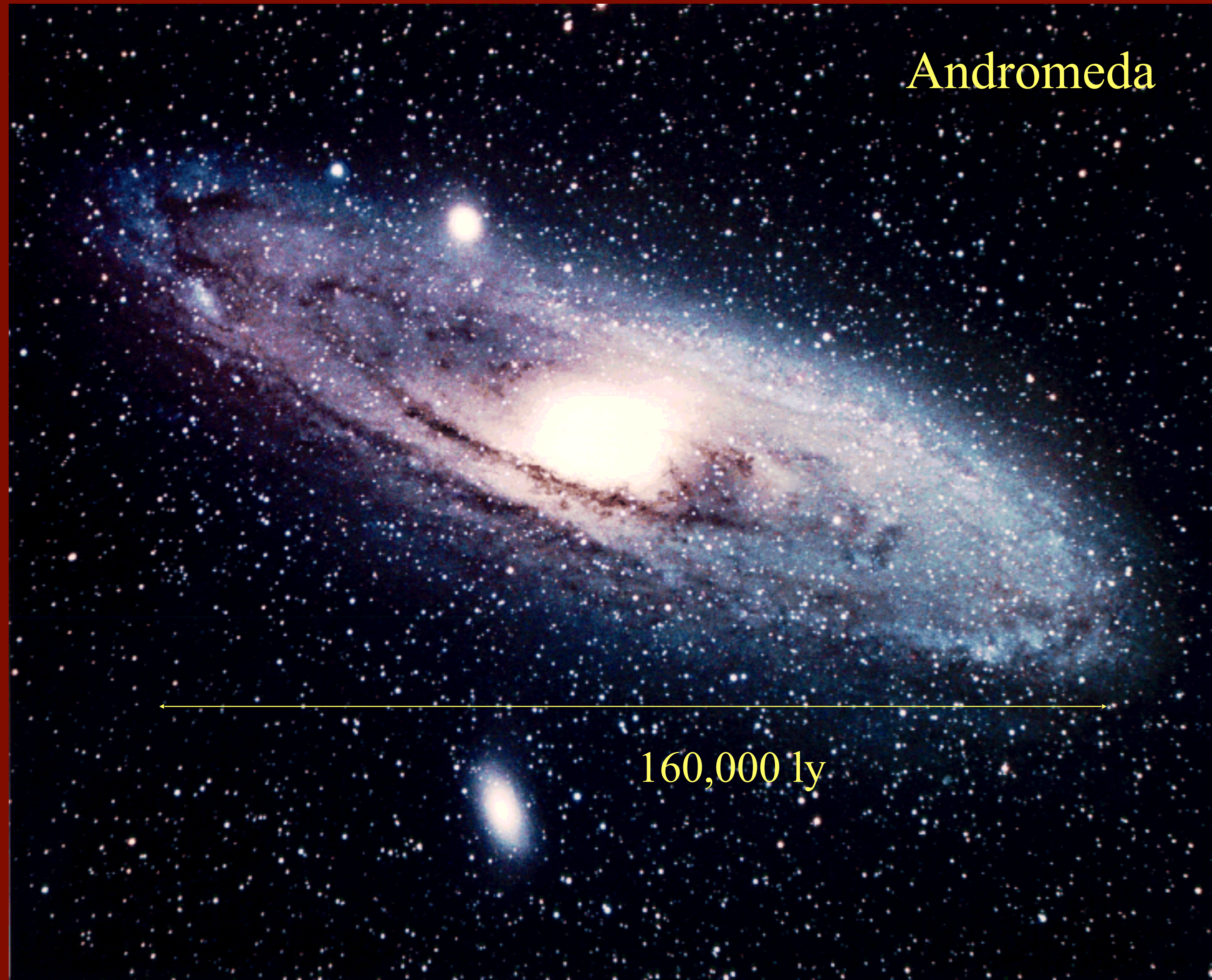
HST • WFPC2

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Andromeda



160,000 ly



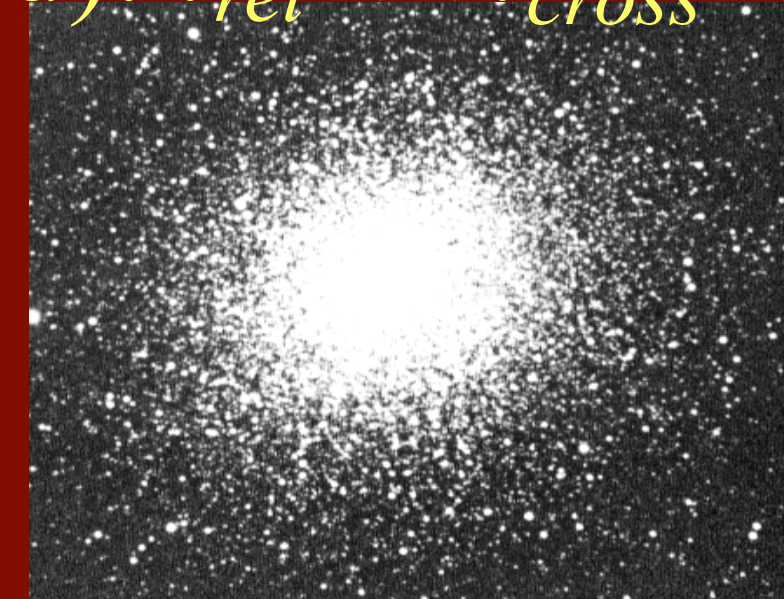
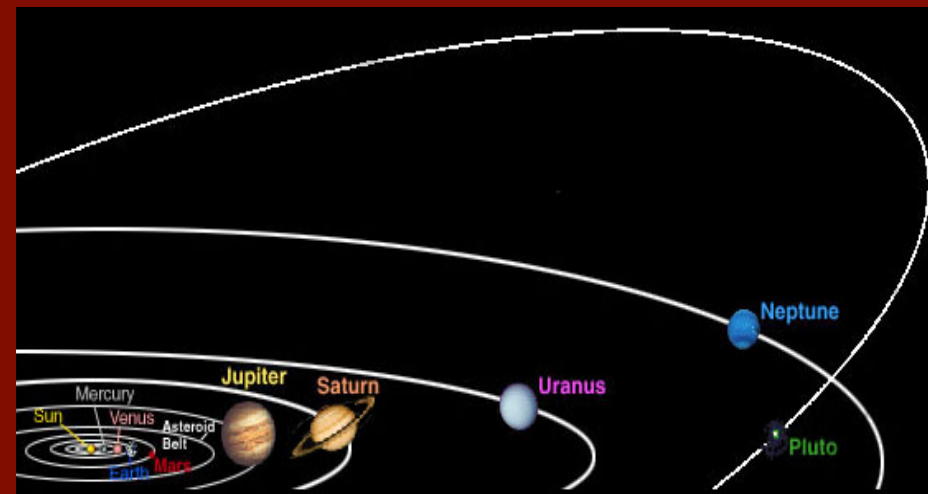
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Few body



Intermediate N

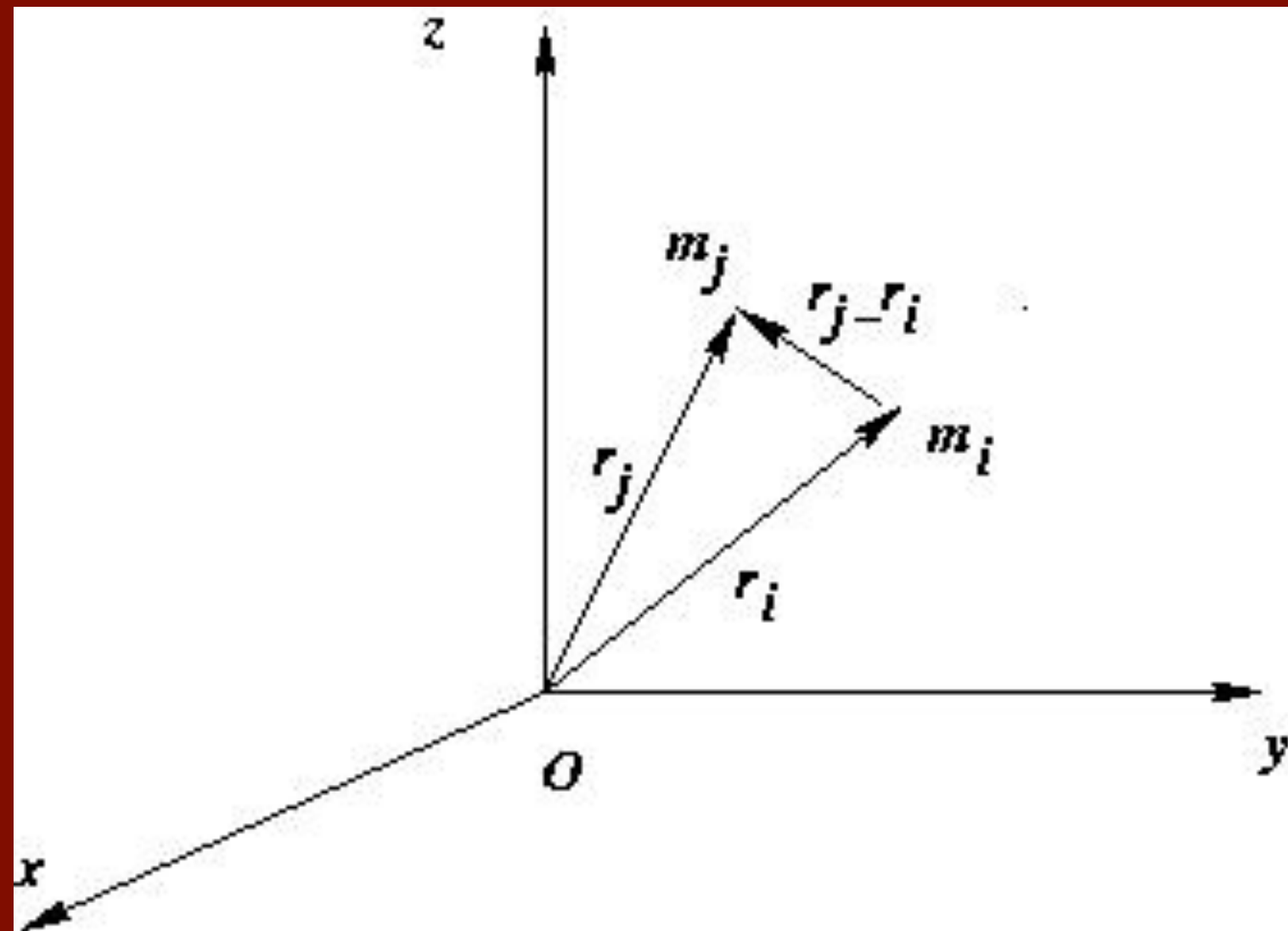


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