
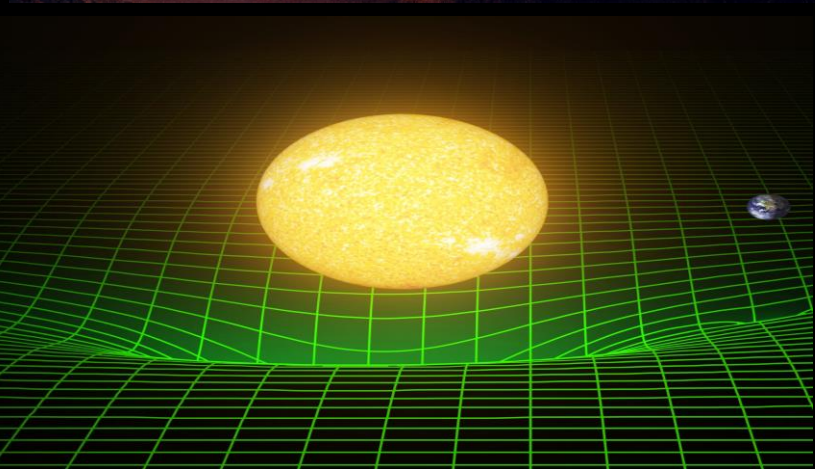
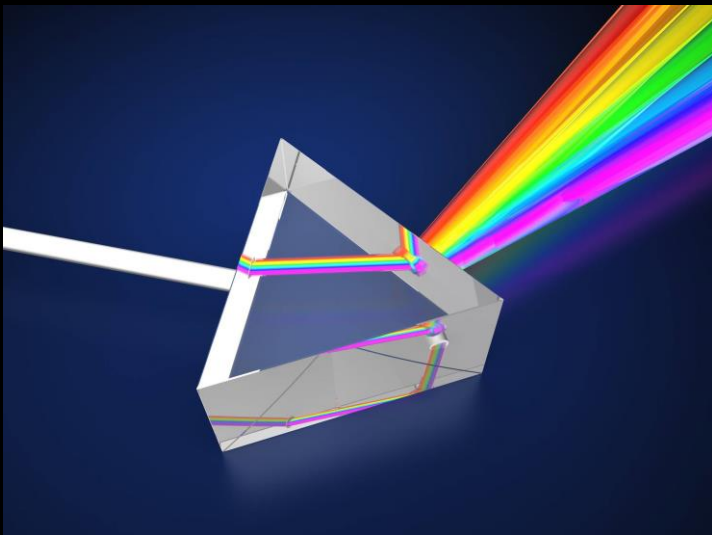


How does the
Rotational Velocity
of the Milky Way
correlate to its
expected Mass
Distribution?



Content

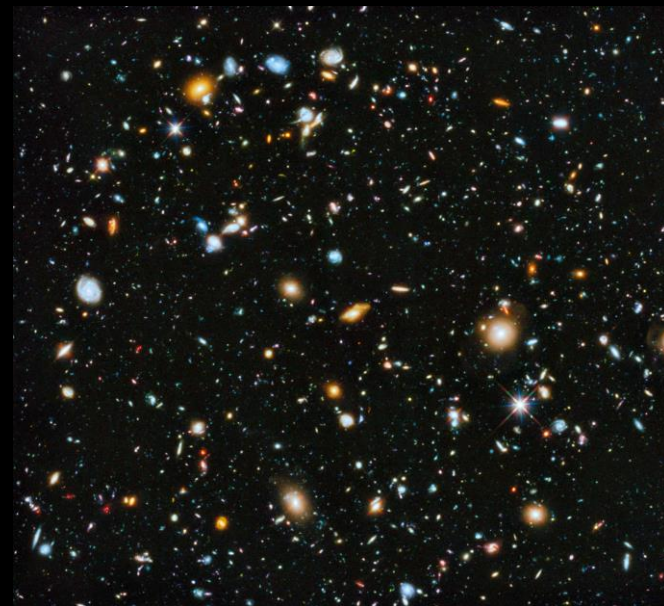
1. Main Ideas
2. Project Motivation
3. Introduction
4. Hypothesis
5. Experimental Method
6. Analysis and Results
7. Applications and Sources
8. Reflection
9. Image Links



Main Ideas & Project Journey

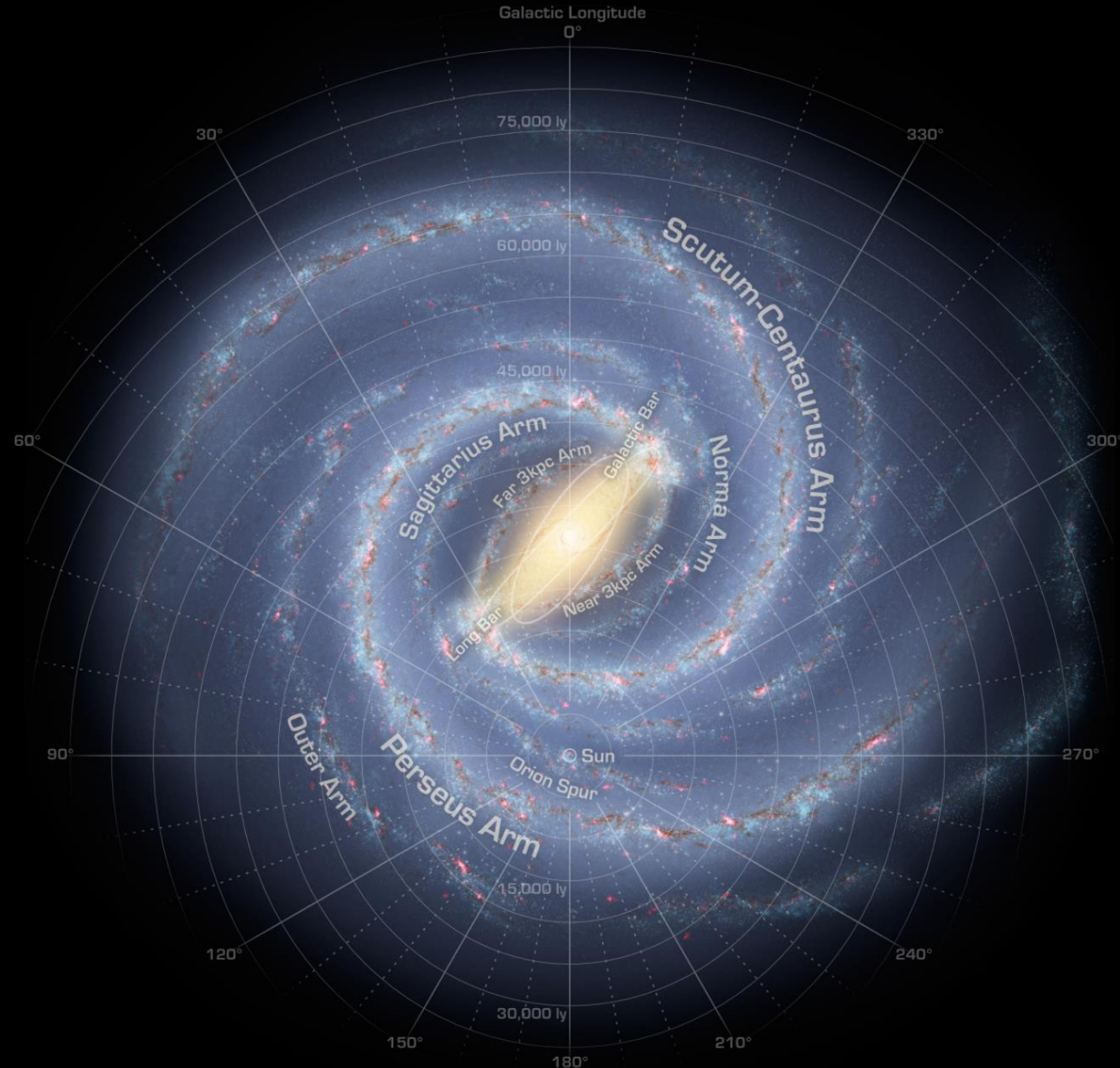
Galaxies

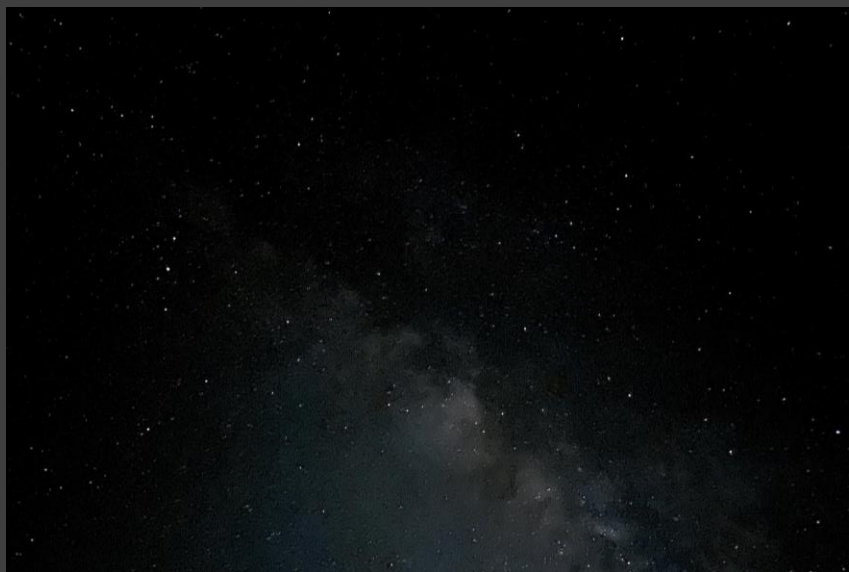
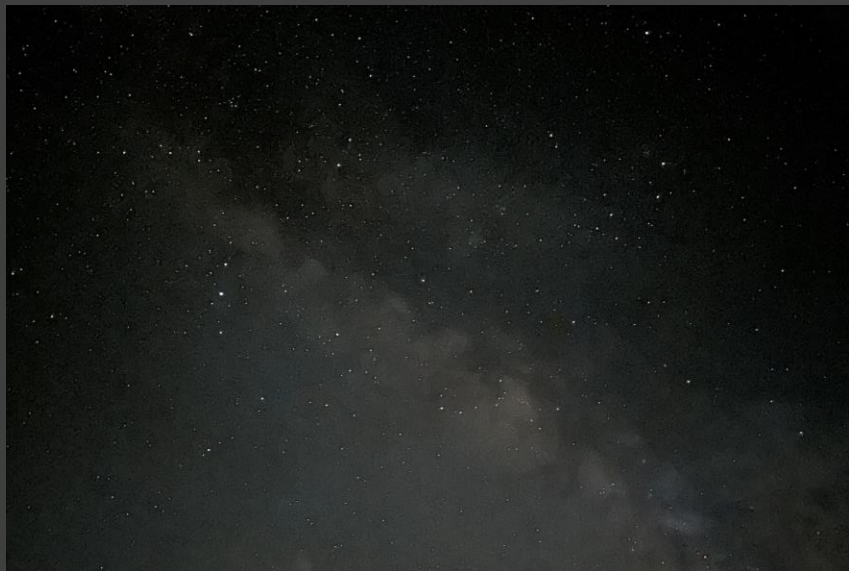
- Galaxies are **gravitationally bound systems** of stars, gas and dust.
- They originate from large gas clouds in that collapsed during the early universe.
- We are located inside the Milky Way Galaxy, which is a **barred spiral galaxy**.



Milky Way: Dynamics and Structure

- The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy.
- It is disk-shaped, with spiral arms and a dense central bar region.
- At its dynamical center, there is a supermassive black hole: Sagittarius A*.
- Our galaxy, like all spiral galaxies, rotates due to the conservation of angular momentum of the gas cloud that formed it.







The Interstellar Medium

- The space between stars is known as the interstellar medium.
- The interstellar medium is much less dense than any vacuum created on Earth, but over astronomical distances it adds up to a significant amount of the galaxy's matter.
- It is composed of gas (H and He), and very small dust particles.

HOT GAS

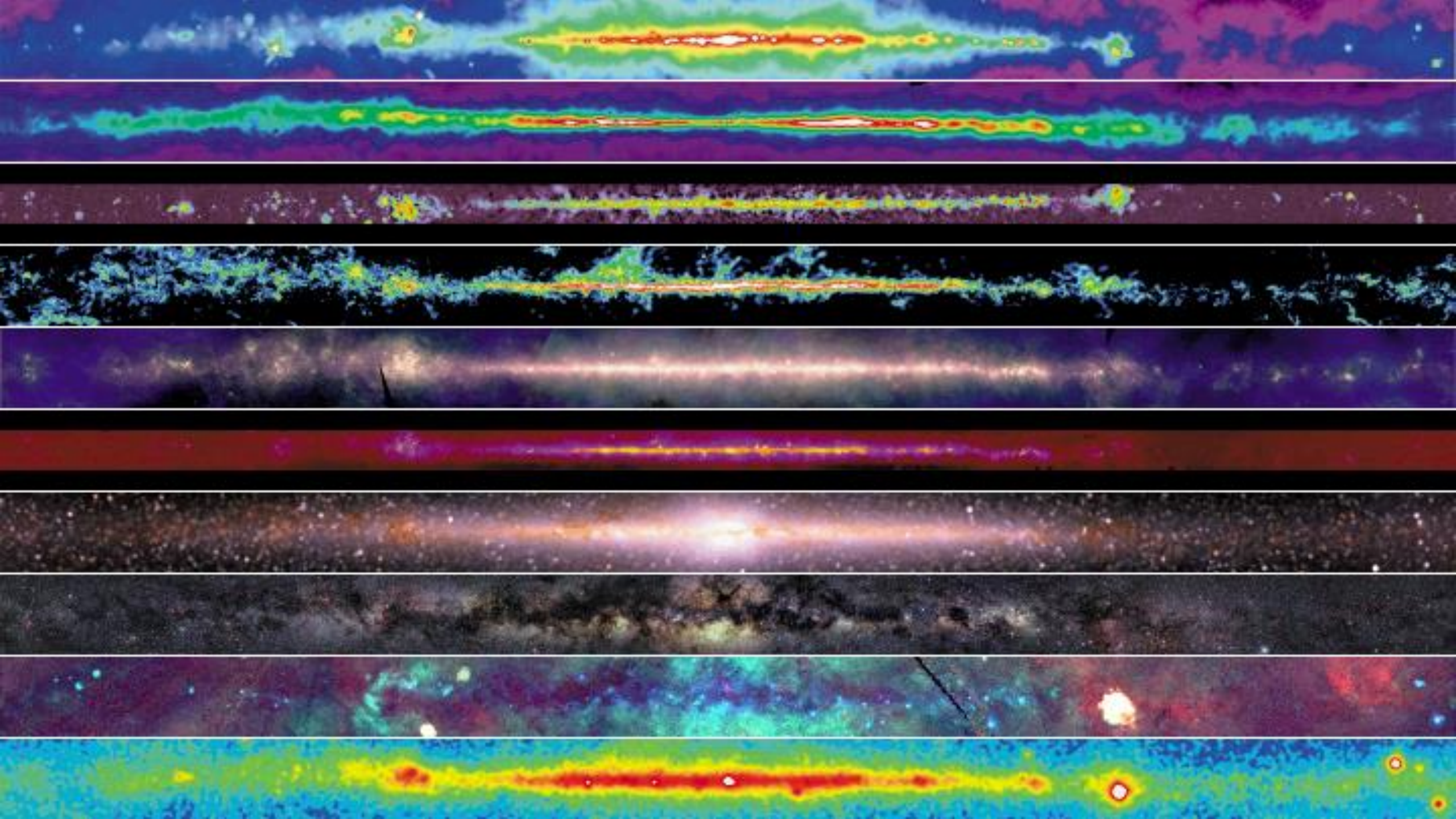
- Ionized Gas regions often nearby hot young stars
- Mostly hydrogen or helium
- Emit blackbody radiation and exhibit emission spectral lines
- Found in emission nebulae such as the Orion Nebula

COLD GAS

- Clouds of neutral hydrogen (atomic or molecular) and helium.
- Does not emit considerable blackbody radiation, so it cannot be detected
- Atomic hydrogen emits a hyperfine spectral line which can be detected by radio telescopes

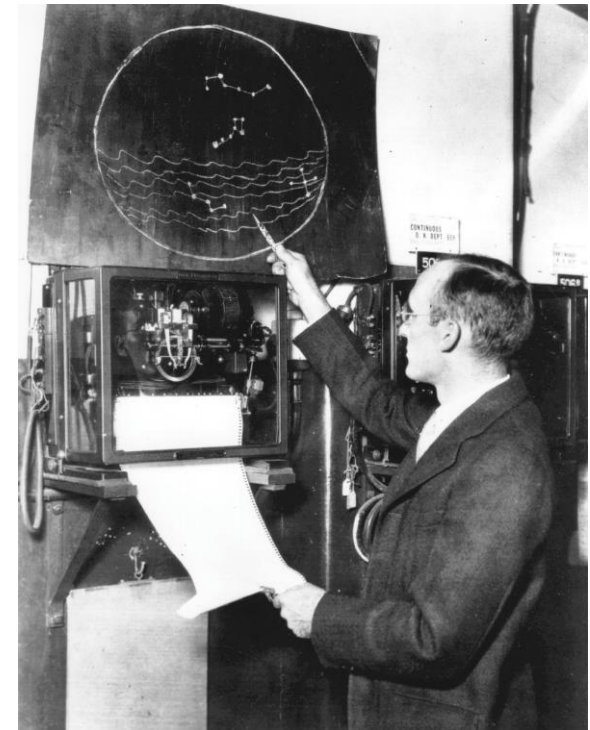
DUST

- Made of very small particles less than a micron across.
- Absorbs visible light, leading to extinction.
- Pervades the interstellar medium and obstructs our view of the galactic center.



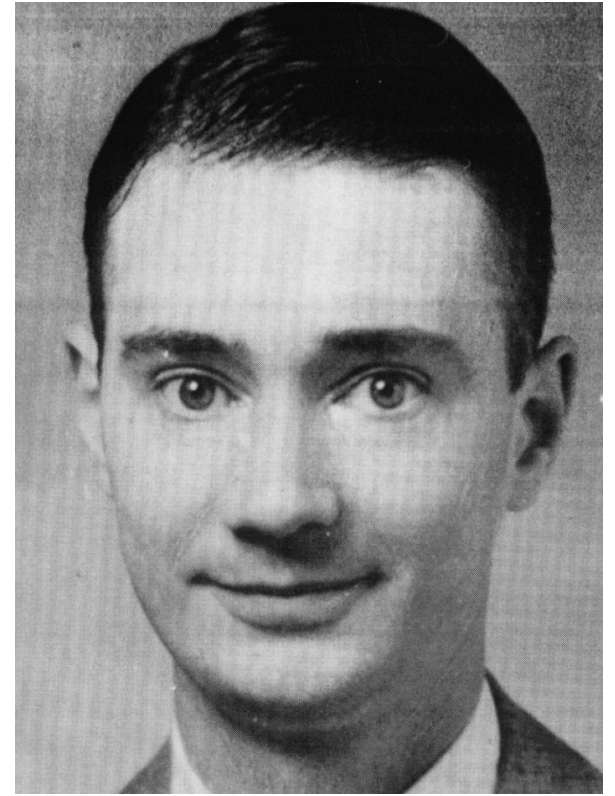
History of Radio Astronomy

- Before the 1930s, astronomers never studied the sky at non-visible wavelengths.
- This rendered most of the interstellar medium (**cold gas**) undetectable.
- In 1933, **Karl Jansky**, a radio engineer, discovered a strange interference that was fixed relative to distant stars.
- This turned out to be an emission from the Galactic Centre.



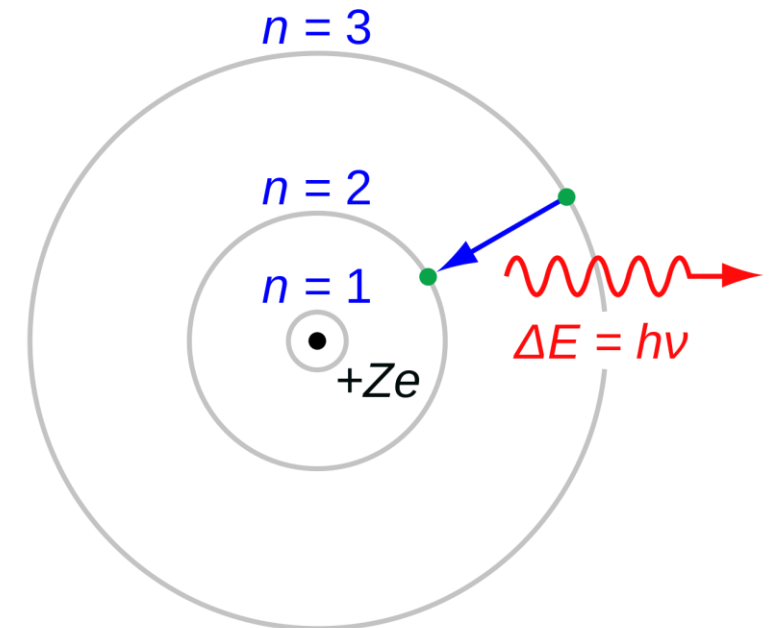
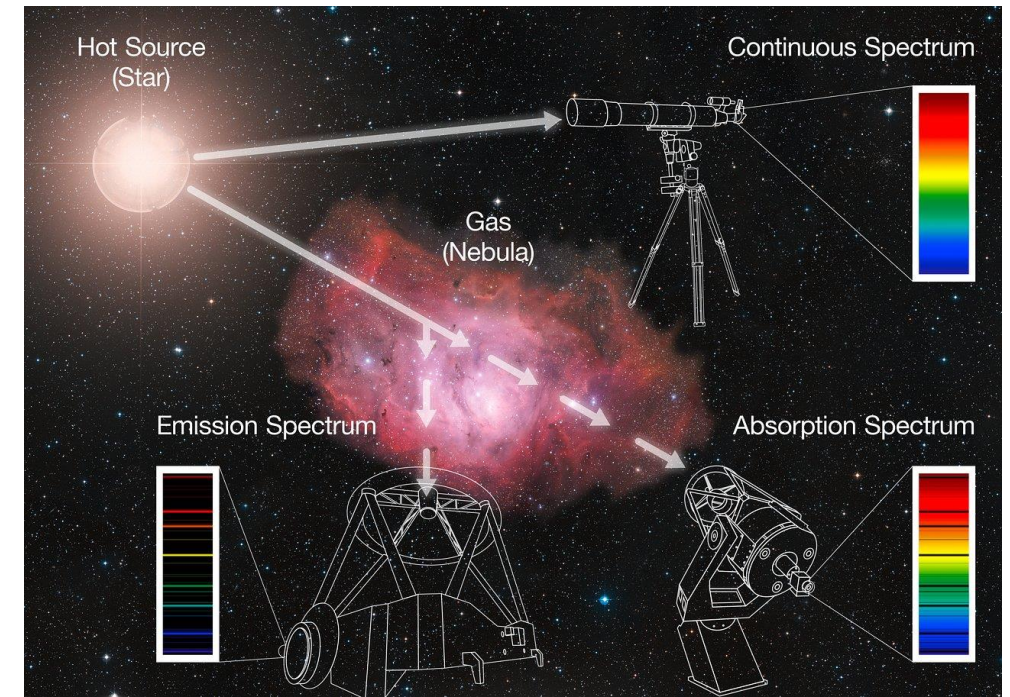
History of Radio Astronomy

- Karl Jansky wished to continue studying the emission, but he was reassigned by Bell Laboratories.
- **Grote Reber** was the first and only radio astronomer in the late 1930s and 1940s.
- He constructed the first (9.6m) radio telescope in his backyard and produced the first radio sky map of the Milky Way.
- The discovery of radio astronomy was instrumental to our understanding of the galaxy, revealing the ISM for the first time.



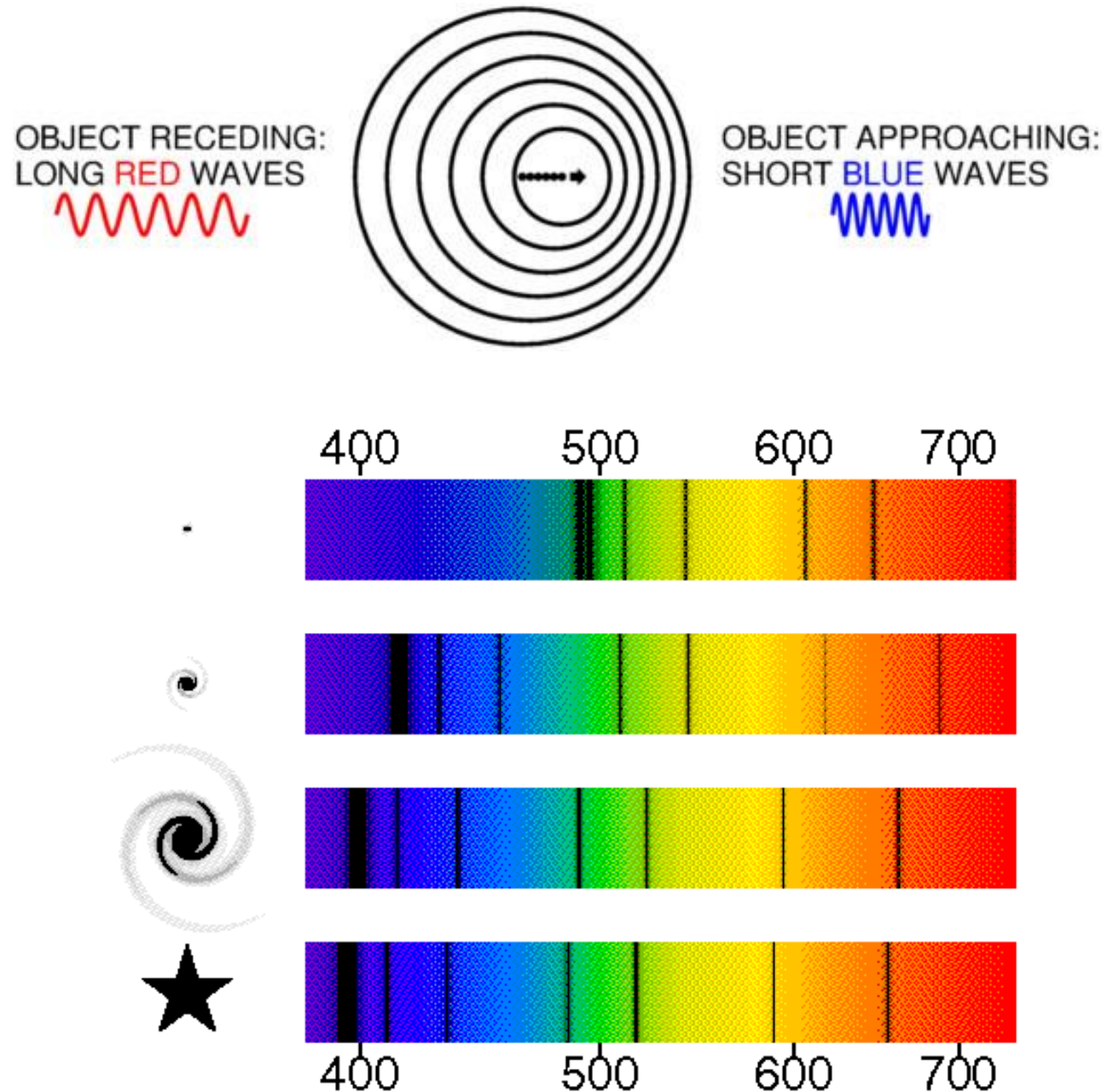
Spectroscopy

- All matter emits electromagnetic radiation with wavelength depending on its **temperature**.
- This is known as **blackbody radiation**.
- **Spectroscopy** is the study of light split into multiple wavelengths through a prism.
- The spectrum of light can reveal the chemical composition of its source, or any objects it passed through, through the existence of element-specific “**spectral lines**”.
- Emitted when an **excited** electron jumps down to a lower energy level, releasing a **photon** of light.

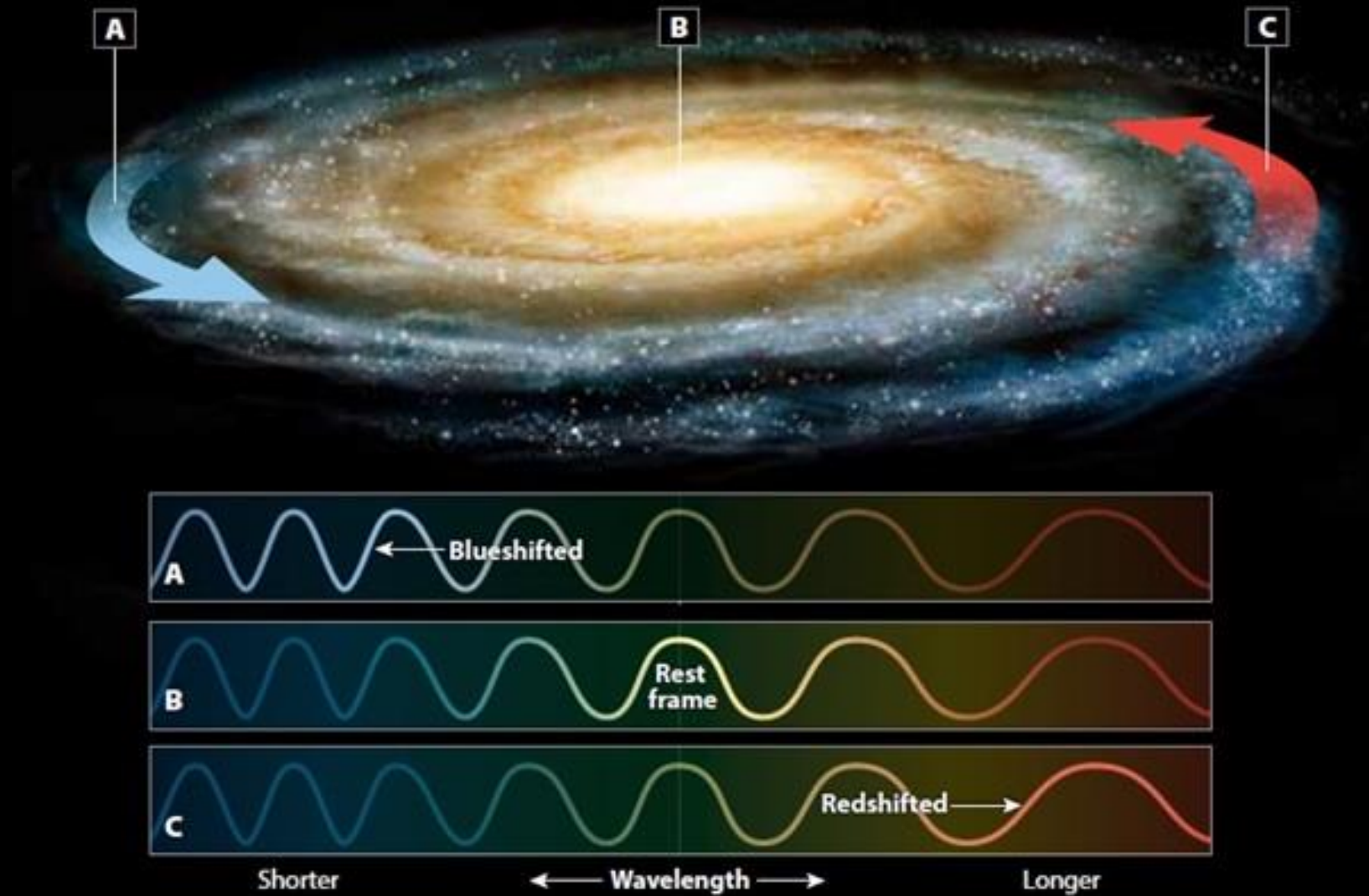


Doppler Shift

- Light from a **moving** source experiences a Doppler shift in its **frequency**.
- Astronomers measure the positions of **spectral lines** to determine velocities in space.
- The known position of a spectral line (which is specific to an **element** or **molecule**), is compared to the **observed** value.
- Therefore, by observing Doppler shifts, we can map the velocity dynamics of our galaxy.



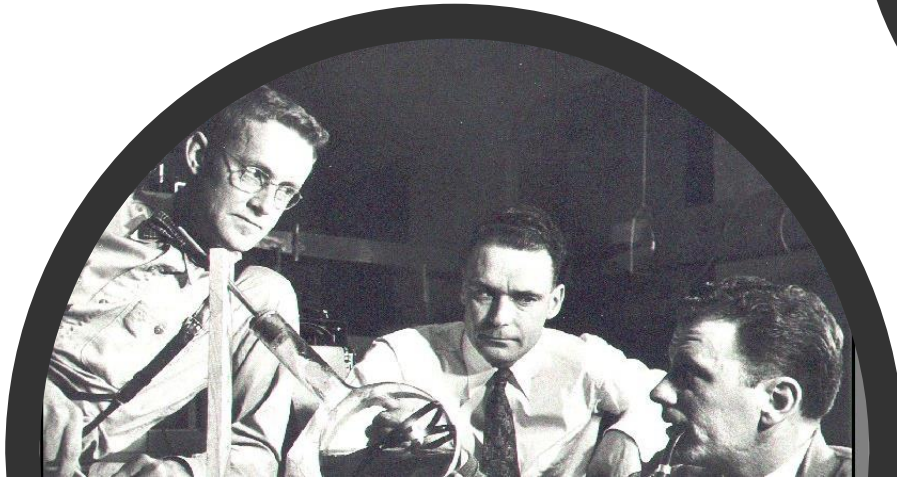
Measuring a galaxy's rotation



As a galaxy rotates, the material moving away from us shows a redshift in the wavelength of any emitted light (red arrow). Material moving toward us shows a blueshift (blue arrow). By measuring these shifts across a galaxy, astronomers can determine its rotation. ASTRONOMY: ROEN KELLY

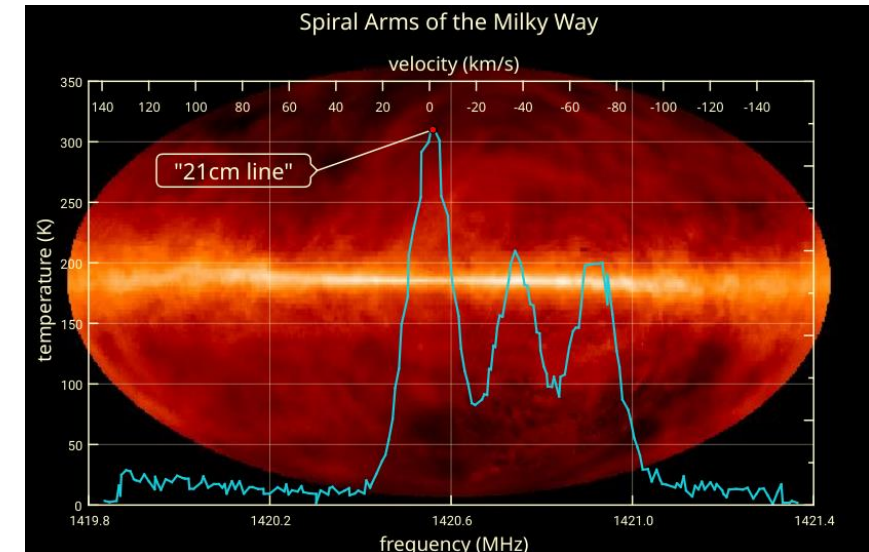
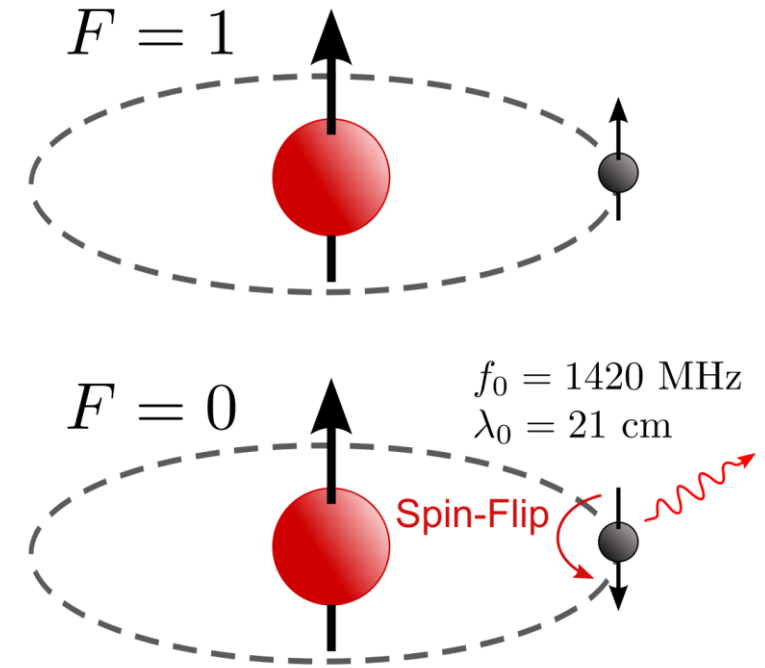
The 21-cm Line

- Jan Oort first realized the importance of a radio **spectral line** to the emerging field.
- His student Hendrik van de Hulst predicted the hyperfine neutral hydrogen line at $\lambda = 21\text{cm}$.
- Designing a receiver proved especially difficult, but the line was eventually discovered by Doc Ewen and Ed Purcell in **1951**.



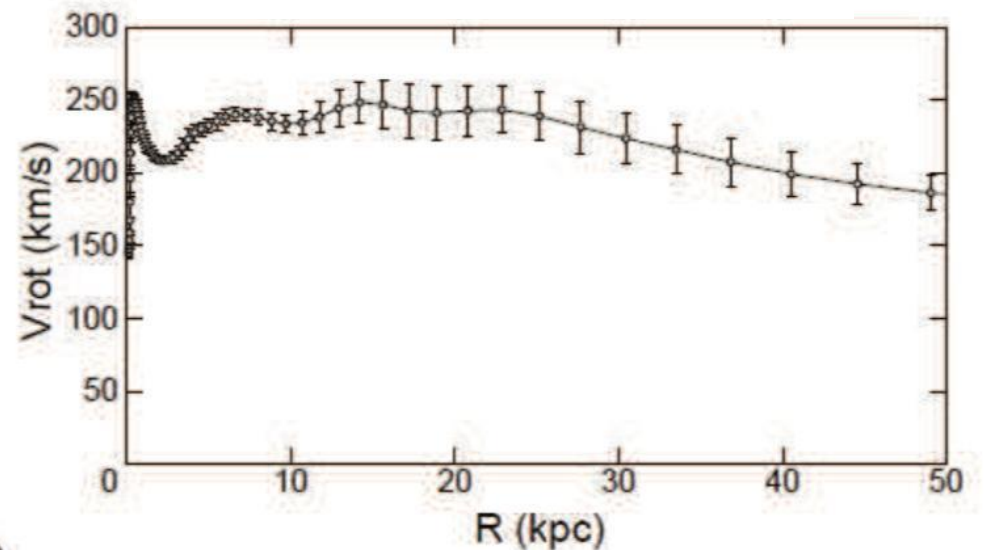
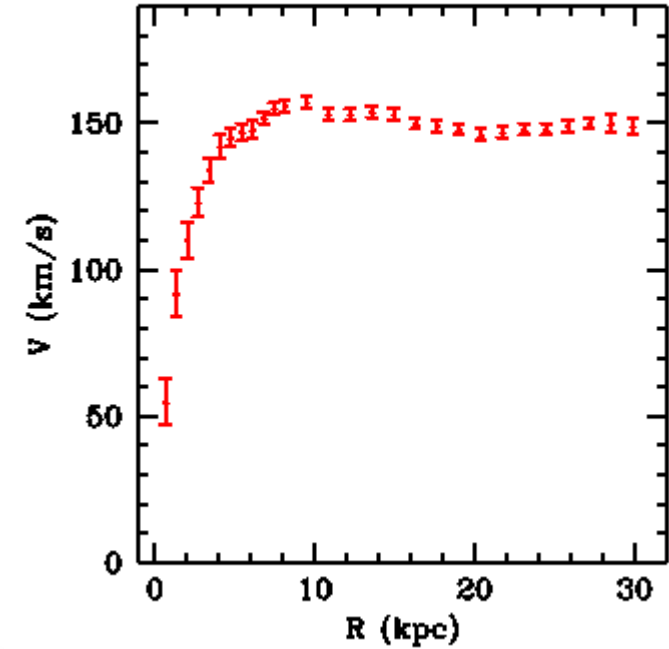
Hydrogen Spin-Flip Transition

- The **ground state** of a hydrogen atom is split into two hyperfine sub-states.
- These states are defined by the proton and electron's spin properties, which can be **parallel** or **anti-parallel**.
- The transition has a very low probability and has a mean lifetime of about **11 million years**.
- This results in a very **narrow** spectral line, which is very useful for Doppler Shift measurements.



Rotation Curves

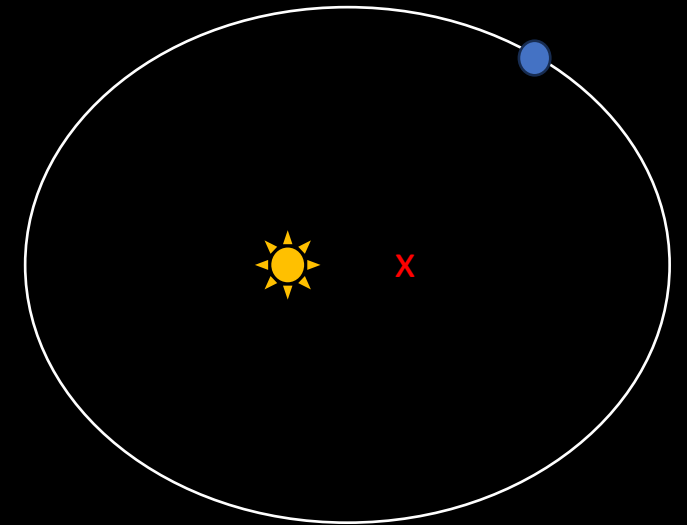
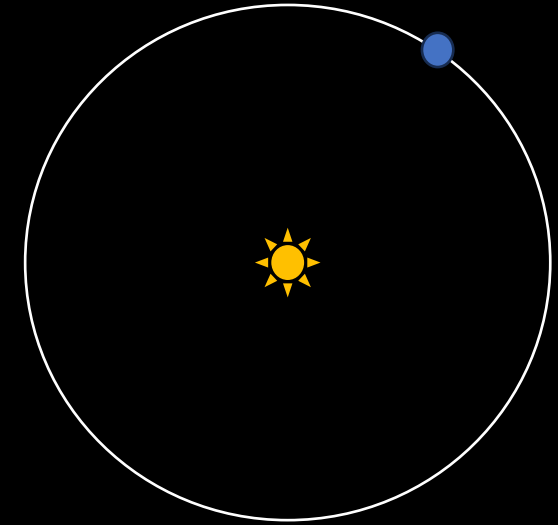
- Radio astronomers can plot **orbital velocity V** as a function of **orbital radius R** , displaying the relationship between the two variables.
- This graph is very useful, as it reveals the **mass distribution** of a galaxy at different distances from the center.
- The figures to the right show two such rotation curves obtained in literature.



(a)

Keplerian Mechanics

- Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) discovered that the planets did not follow perfectly circular paths, but rather ellipses with the sun at a focus.
- His Three Laws of Planetary Motion established the foundation of orbital mechanics today.
- However, his work only referred to the bodies in our solar system. Decades later, Isaac Newton (1642-1726) unified mechanics through his Law of Universal Gravitation.



Universal Gravitation

- Kepler's empirically determined Third Law of Planetary Motion:

“the squares of the orbital periods P are directly proportional to the cubes of the semi-major axes r of their elliptical orbits”

- Isaac Newton was able to re-derive this relationship for any body orbiting another body.
- His Law of Gravitation shows that gravitational force is inversely proportional to the square of the orbital radius.
- By recognizing gravity as the centripetal force, we can also determine that orbital velocity is proportional to $1/\sqrt{r}$



$$P^2 \propto r^3$$

$$P^2 = kr^3, \text{ Where } k \text{ is a constant.}$$

$$P = \frac{2\pi r}{v}$$

$$\left(\frac{2\pi r}{v}\right)^2 = kr^3$$

$$\frac{4\pi^2 r^2}{v^2} = kr^3$$

$$\frac{v^2}{4\pi^2 r^2} = \frac{1}{kr^3}$$

$$\frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{4\pi^2}{kr^2}$$

$$\frac{mv^2}{r} = \frac{4\pi^2 m}{kr^2}.$$

$$F_c = F_g = \frac{4\pi^2 m}{kr^2}$$

$$F_c = F_g = \frac{4\pi^2 M}{k'r^2}$$

$$F_g = \frac{4\pi^2 Mm}{k''r^2}, \text{ where } k' = \frac{k''}{M} \text{ and } k = \frac{k''}{m}$$

$$F_g = G \frac{Mm}{r^2}, \text{ Where } G = \frac{4\pi^2}{k''} \text{ is the universal constant of gravitation.}$$

Deriving Newton's Law of Gravitation
from Kepler's 3rd Law

(Carroll & Ostlie, 2007, pp.32-33)

Deriving the Orbital
Velocity equation

$$F_{centripetal} = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$F_{gravitational} = G \frac{mM}{r^2}$$

$$F_c = F_g$$

$$\frac{mv^2}{r} = G \frac{mM}{r^2}$$

$$v^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } v \propto \sqrt{r}$$

G = gravitational constant

M = mass of main body

m = mass of orbiting body

r = orbital radius

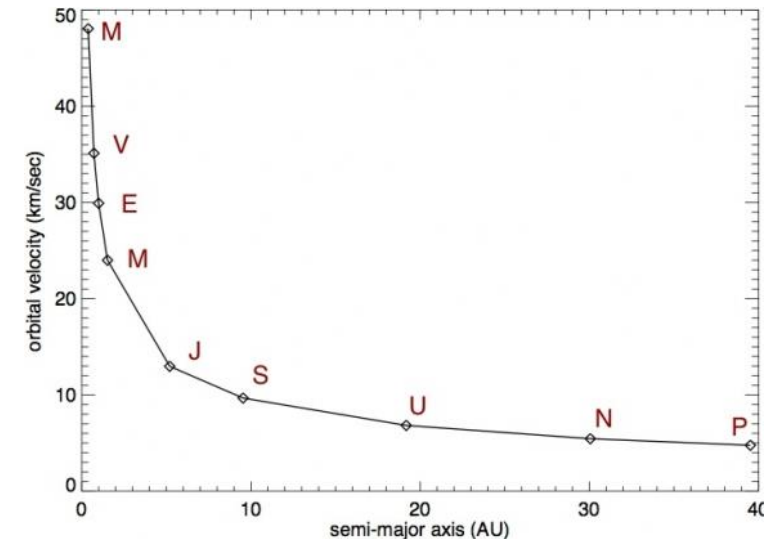
v = orbital velocity

Hypothesis

- Based on photometric measurements (of light intensity), most of the galactic mass is concentrated in the bright central bulge.
- Similarly to our solar system, we can expect a decrease in orbital velocity towards greater radii.
- In reality, the galaxy is more complex, but this is a good approximation for the behavior we are observing.



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$



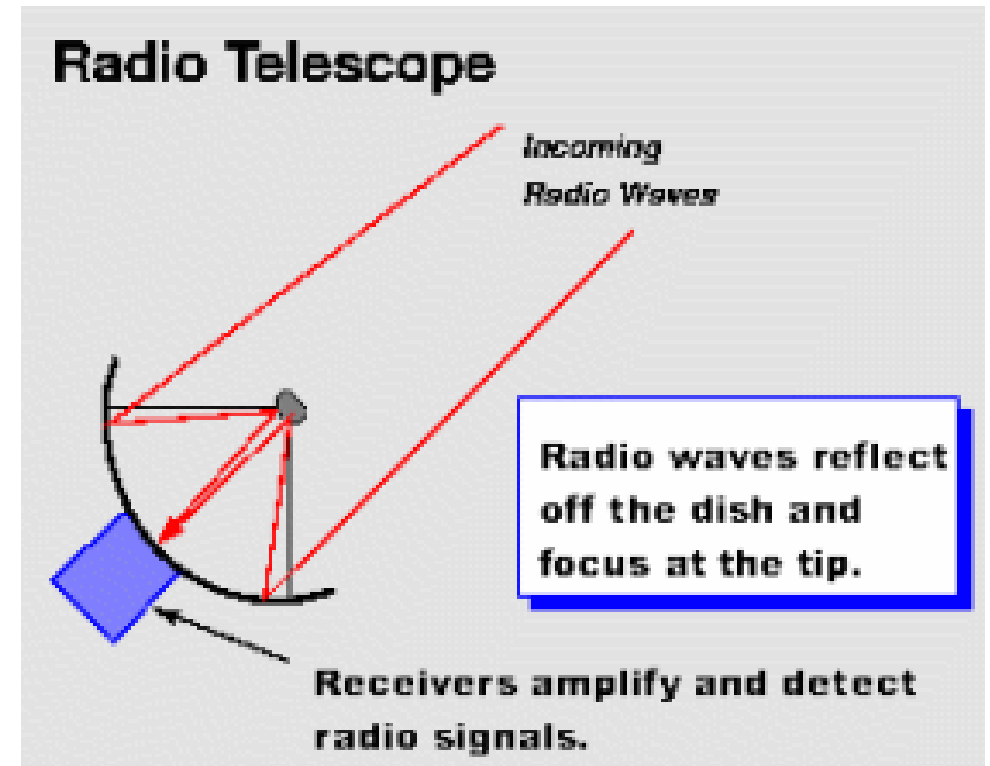


Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute

- Located in Western North Carolina, United States, the institute specializes in radio astronomy research.
- There are 4 radio telescopes in use, including a 4.6-meter, a 12-meter, and two 26-meter telescopes.
- It was a former NASA tracking station, and later a U.S. Department of Defense spy station.

Radio Telescope Anatomy

- The radio telescope is made up of three main parts: the **antenna**, the **receiver**, and the **motor mount**.
- The motor mount rotates the telescope upwards and sideways for positioning.
- The parabolic dish collects the radio waves and focuses them into a receiver.



Observation

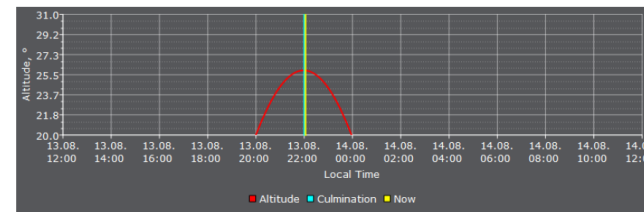


- I planned my observation sessions using the **Stellarium** software, which allowed me to plot and export graphs of altitude over time.

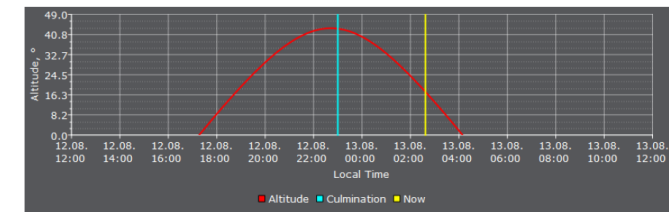
Table 3 - Observation schedule:

	Local (telescope) date and time	UTC date and time	Region observed / l°
Session 1	12/08/23 21:30	13/08/23 01:30	00 - 16
Session 2	12/08/23 22:00	13/08/23 02:00	36 - 60
Session 3	13/08/23 07:00	13/08/23 11:00	86 - 90
Session 4	14/08/23 01:30	14/08/23 05:30	62 - 84
Session 5	15/08/23 23:20	16/08/23 03:20	18 - 34

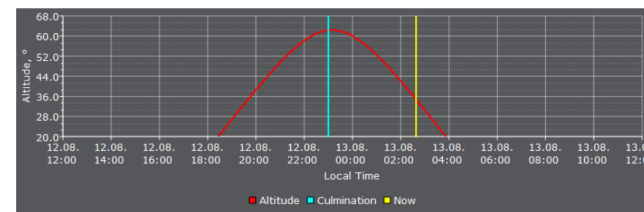
- The optimal observation timeframe for the Galactic Center was between **4:00** and **6:00** AM.



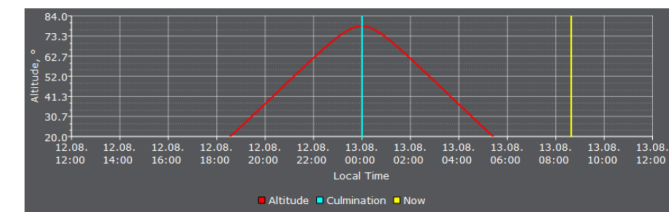
$l = 0^\circ$



$l = 20^\circ$



$l = 40^\circ$



$l = 60^\circ$

Coordinate Systems

There are three main coordinate systems used for positioning the telescope.

Horizontal

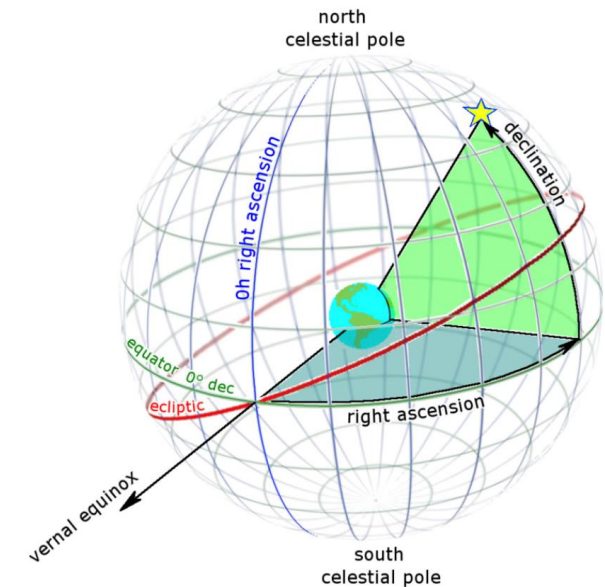
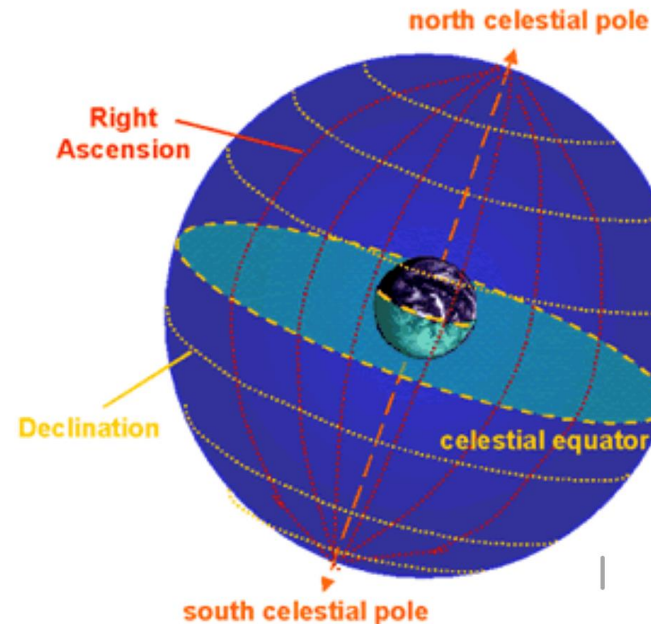
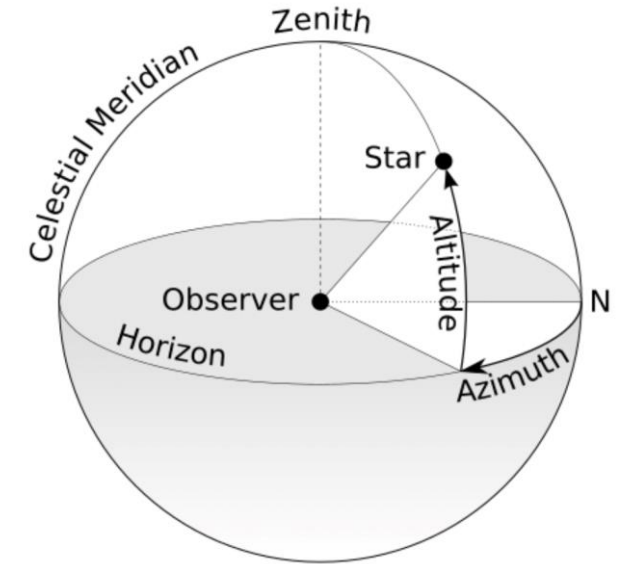
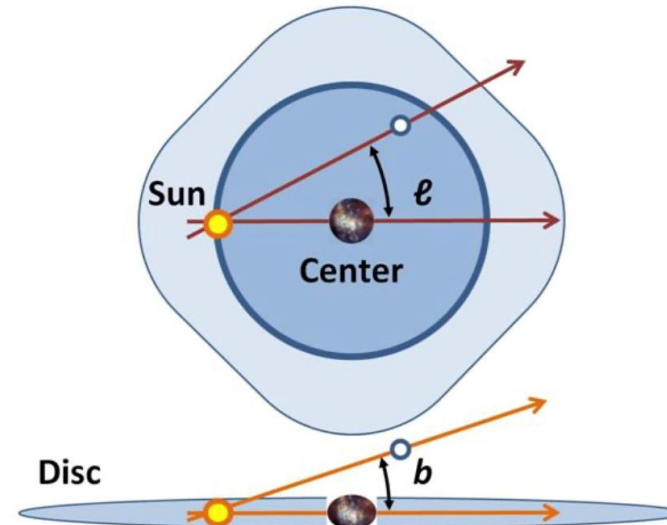
- Altitude (alt.)
- Azimuth (az.)

Equatorial

- Right Ascension (RA)
- Declination (Dec)

Galactic

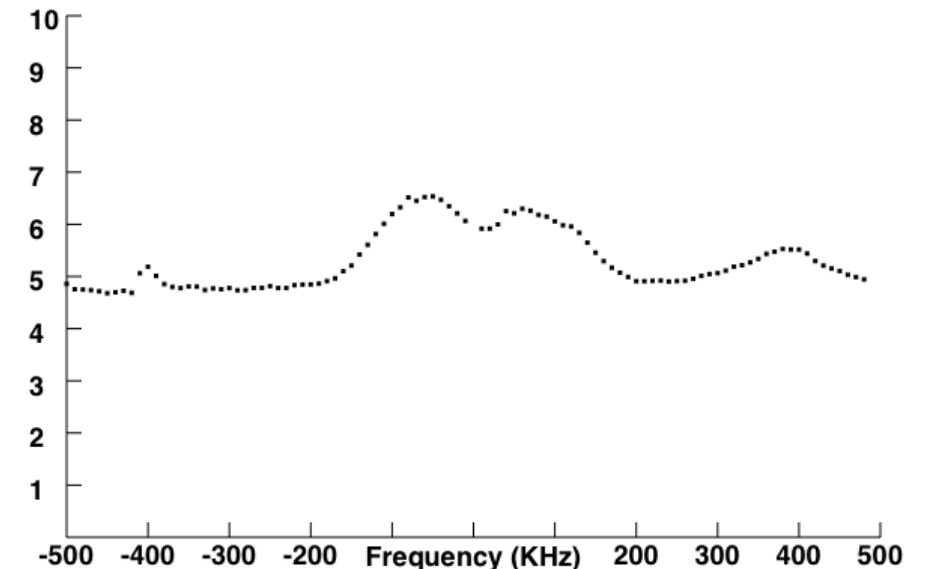
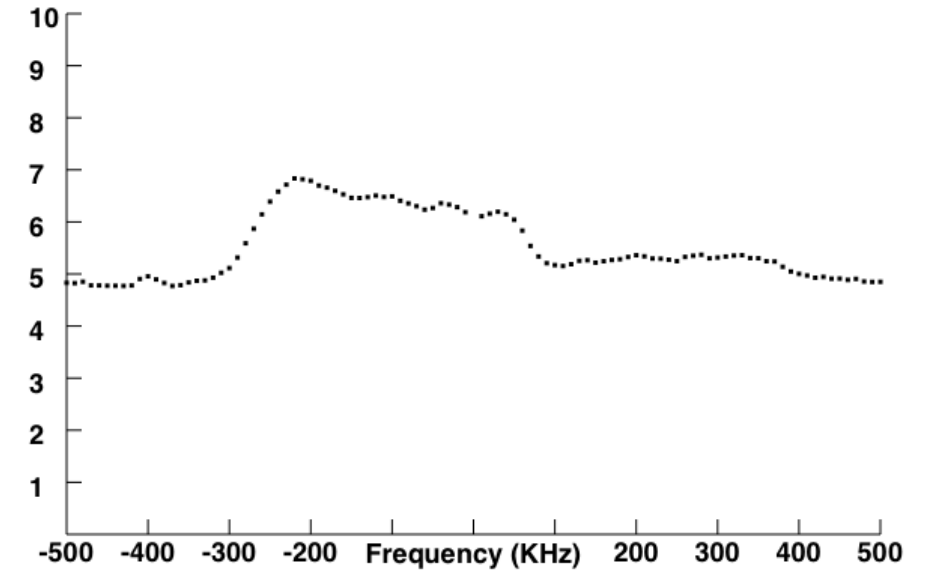
- Latitude (b)
- Longitude (l)



Sample Scan

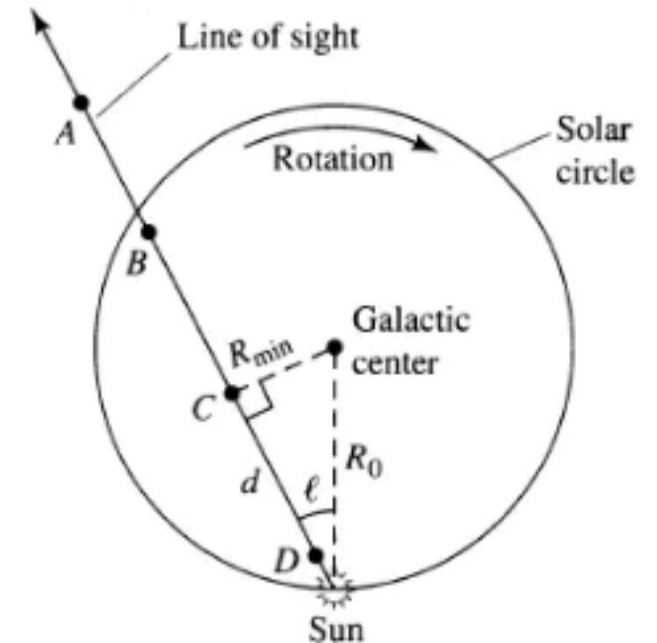
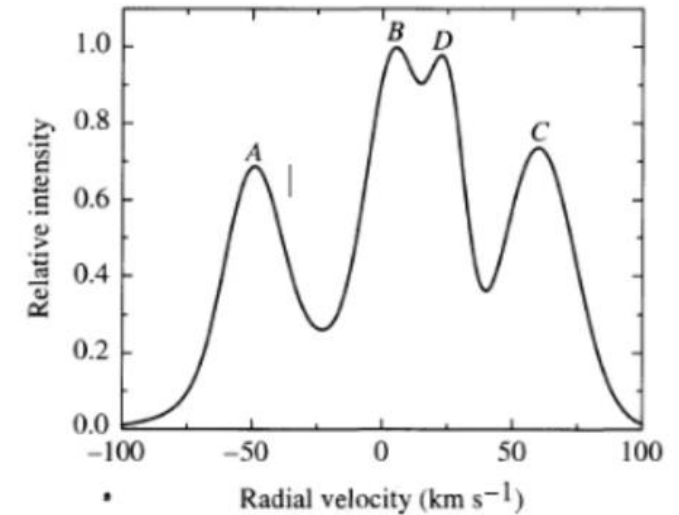
- The telescope measures the relative spectral flux intensity of a **1.2 degree** wide area.
- **Relative intensity** is tabulated against **frequency offset**, and plotted on a graph.

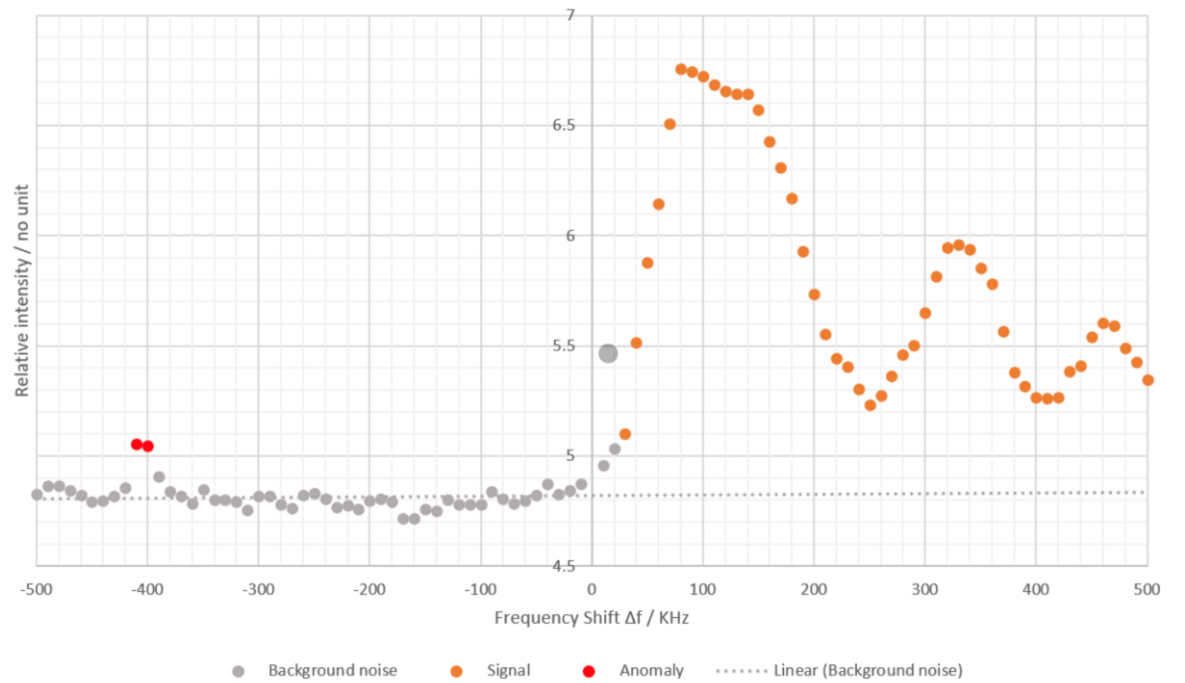
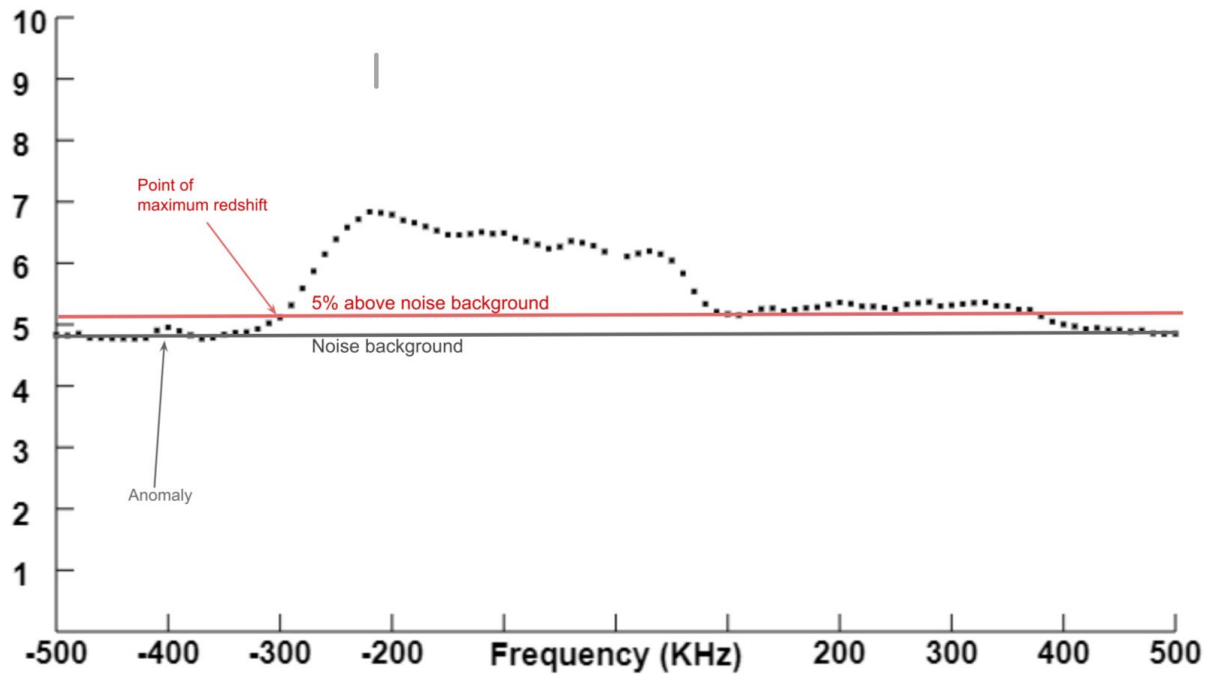
L56.fit x	
spectrum scan	
Origin	PARI
Telescope	Twelve
Observer	dariusvlad
Date(UTC)	2023-08-13T02:14:36.861
Frequency	1420
IF Gain	10
RA	19:37:36
DEC	20:27:38
Data	
Freq Offset	Rel Intensity
-500	4.9459076
-490	4.8426437
-480	4.8358727
-470	4.824686
-460	4.8027134
-450	4.765444
-440	4.78405
-430	4.812002
-420	4.772835
-410	5.147972
-400	5.273285
-390	5.097418
-380	4.8426437



Tangent-Point Method

- The **most redshifted** signal corresponds to the **tangent-point**, where the **line of sight** makes a right angle with its orbital radius.
- Therefore, the orbital radius can be easily determined if the sun's radius is known.
- There are other signals present, however their distances cannot be identified trigonometrically in the same way.
- Furthermore, this method only applies to galactic longitudes $0 < l < 90$, and is more inaccurate at **extremum** longitudes.





V = observed frequency

V_0 = source frequency

V_s = source velocity

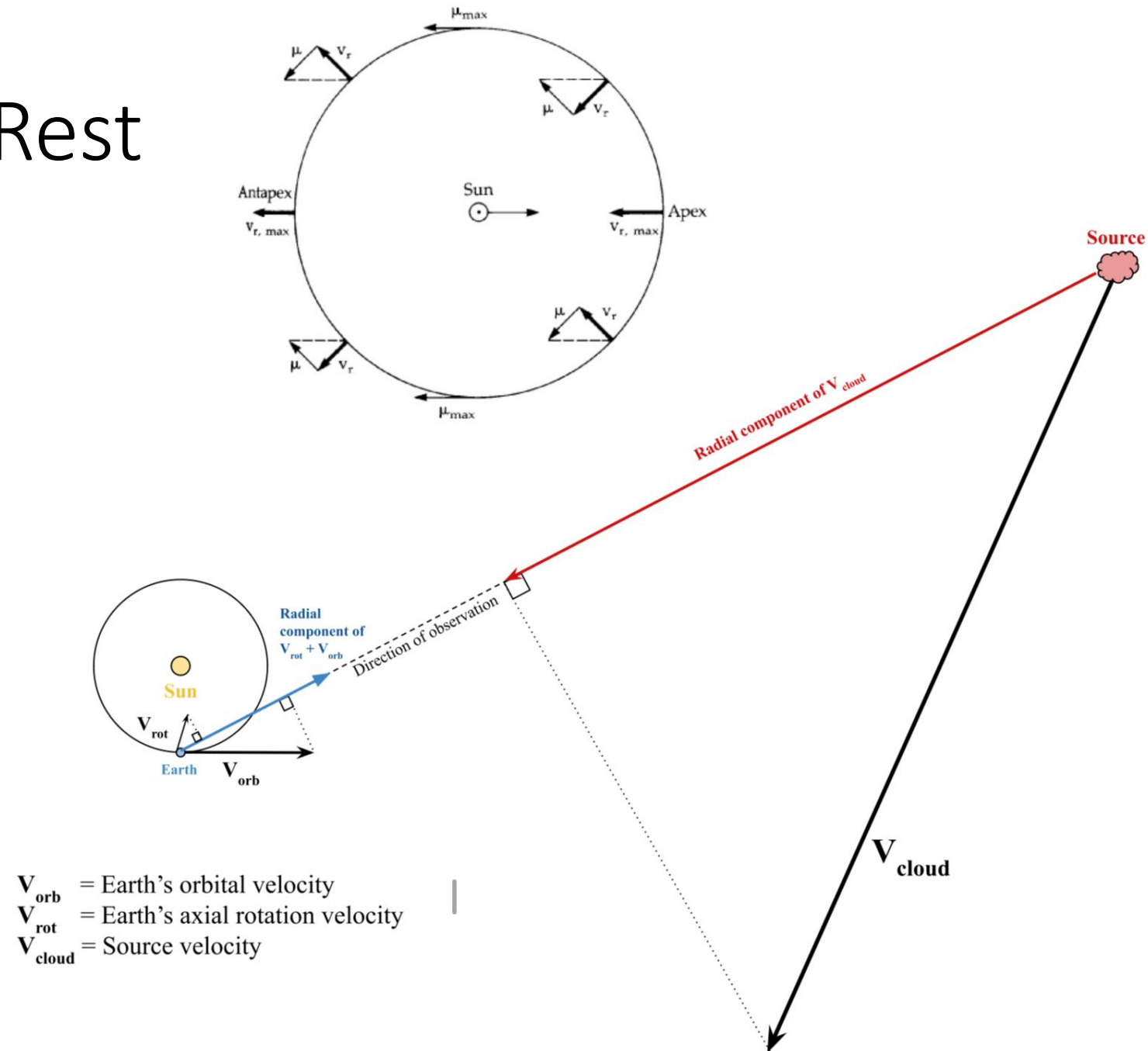
c = velocity of light

$$\frac{V - V_0}{V_0} = \frac{\Delta V}{V_0} \approx \frac{V_s}{c}$$

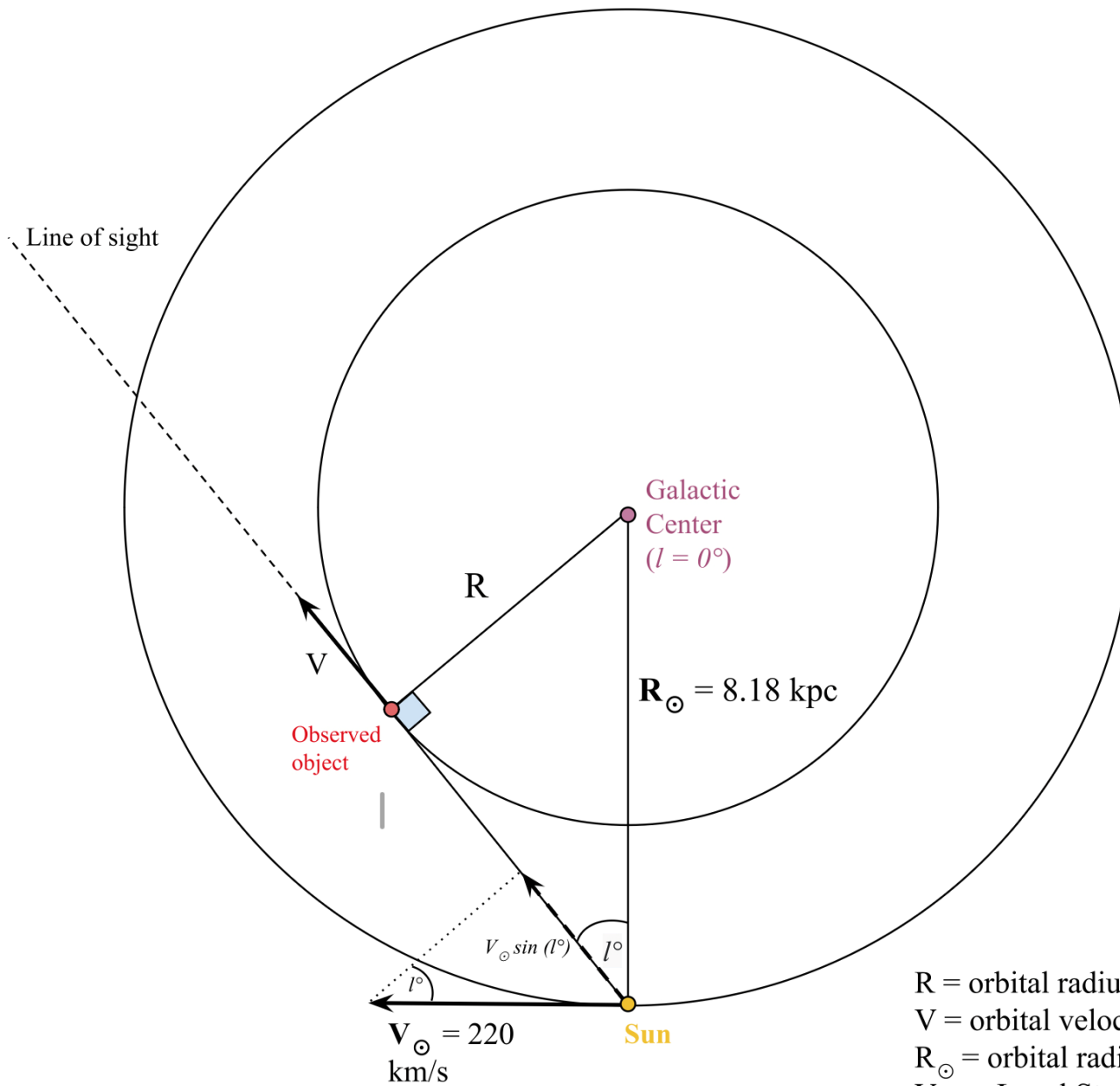
Low velocity
Doppler shift
expression

Local Standard of Rest

- The recessional velocity calculated also includes the Earth's rotation and revolution in the **direction of observation**.
- The Sun's trajectory deviates slightly from the tangent-point model, contributing an additional vector.
- This is called **peculiar motion**.



Corrections: Part 2



- Once the Recessional Velocity has been calculated relative to the Local Standard of Rest, the last set of calculations result in values for V and R .
- After this point, the rotation curve $V(R)$ can be plotted.

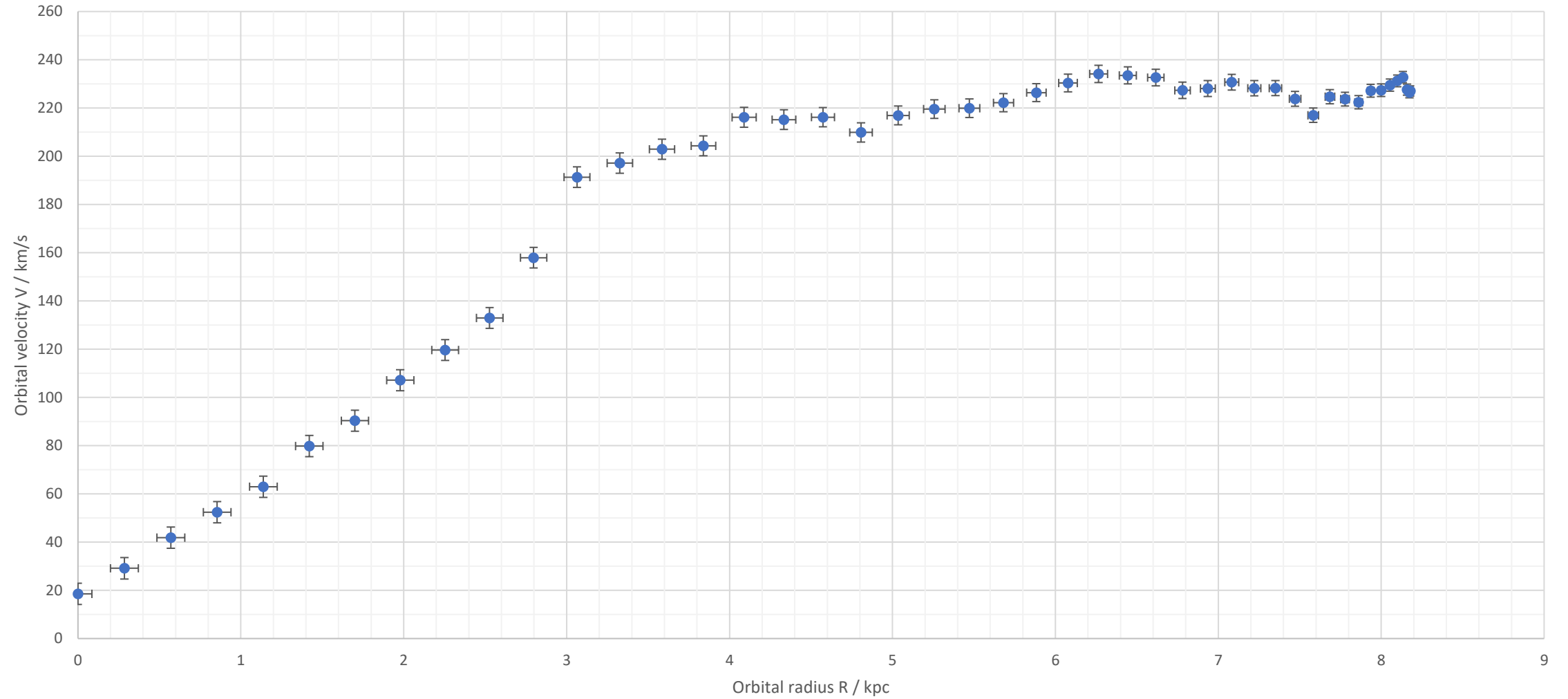
$$V = V_{rec} + V_\odot \sin(l)$$

$$R = R_\odot \sin(l)$$

R = orbital radius of observed object
 V = orbital velocity of observed object
 R_\odot = orbital radius of the Sun
 V_\odot = Local Standard of Rest velocity
 l° = Galactic longitude
 $V_\odot \sin(l^\circ)$ = Component of V_\odot in the line of sight

- The above Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was used to organize and process data efficiently, to reproduce the calculation for each data point.
- The columns are color coded for input and processed data, as well as the data category.
- The rotation curve was graphed in Excel, with the error bars in X and Y also shown.

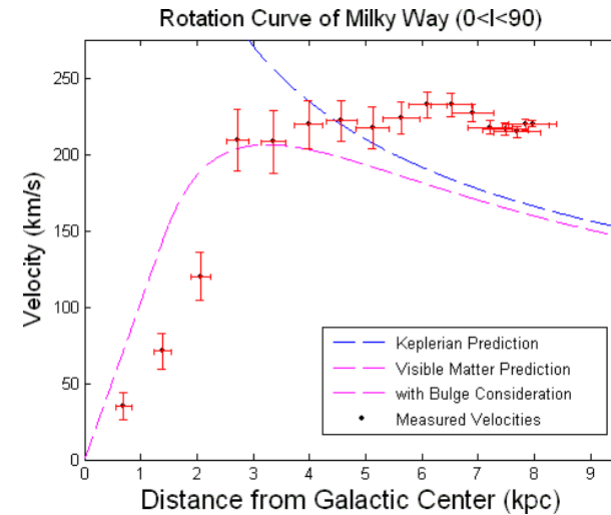
Graph of $V(R)$
for $0 < R < 8.178$



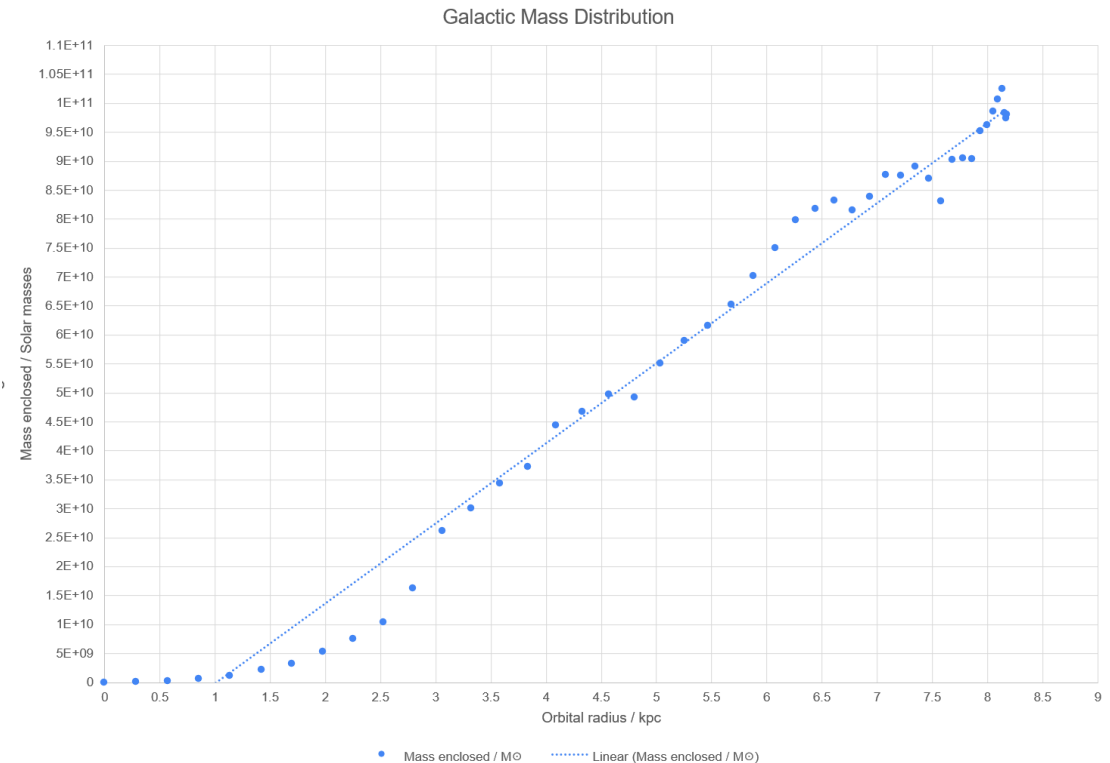
Analysis

- The rotation curve observed is **strongly inconsistent** with the Keplerian hypothesis.
- However, my results are concordant with the literature, which suggests “**dark matter**” as a possible explanation.
- This enigmatic concept refers to a gravitational influence that **does not interact with light** and is thus invisible to us.
- The mass enclosed at each radius can be calculated by re-deriving the orbital velocity equation:

$$V = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{R}} \quad V^2 R = GM \quad M = \frac{V^2 R}{G}$$

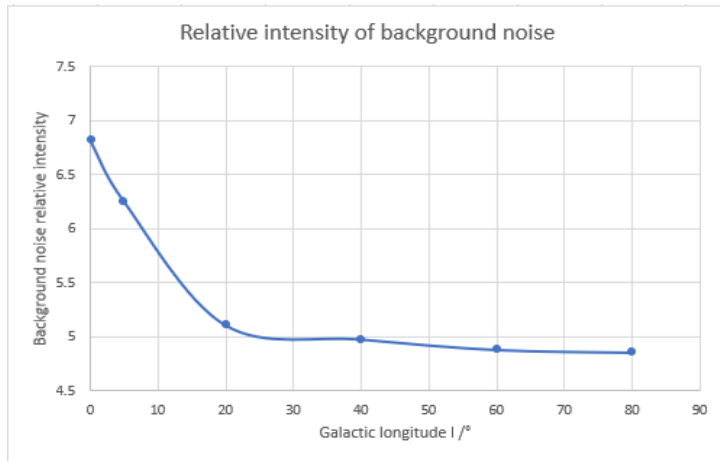


Liu &
Chronopoulos
(2008)



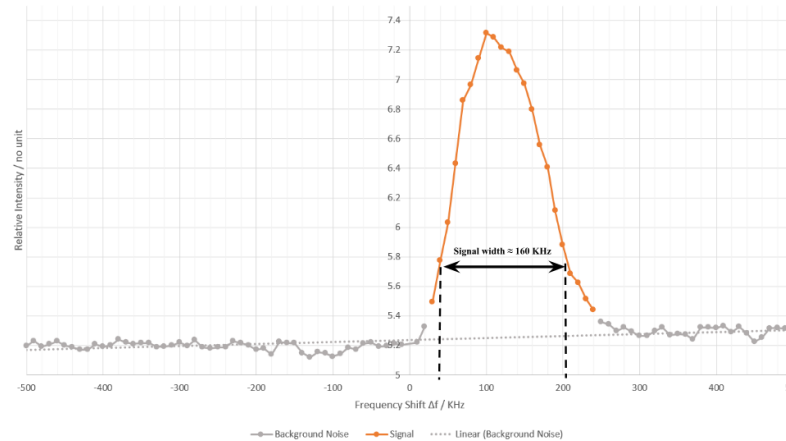
Interpretation of Raw Data

Increase in Background Noise:



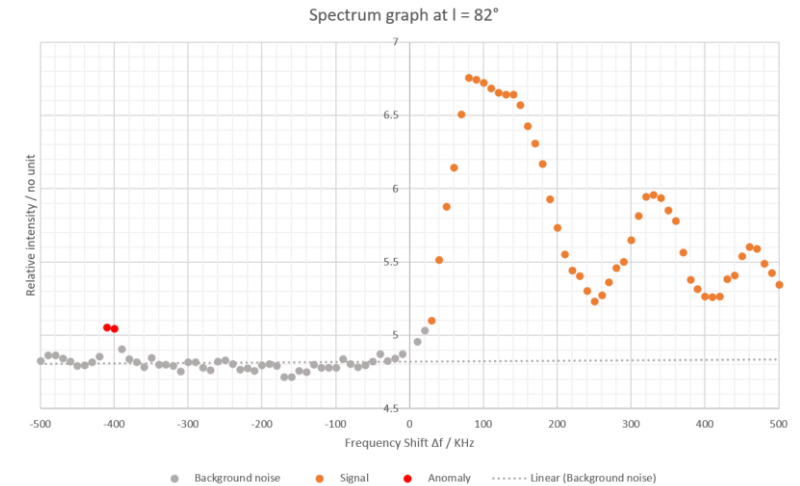
- Higher atmospheric interference and ground-based emission near the horizon
- Increased matter density near the Galactic Center.

Local Velocity Dispersion



- The random motions of local hydrogen gas contribute to the observed Doppler shift
- According to Liu & Chronopoulos, this is shown by the signal width at $l = 180$.

Nature of Intensity Peaks:



- Separated, individual peaks represent different spiral arms of the galaxy
- A unified signal with more peaks indicates a single complex mass that can be rotating or expanding.

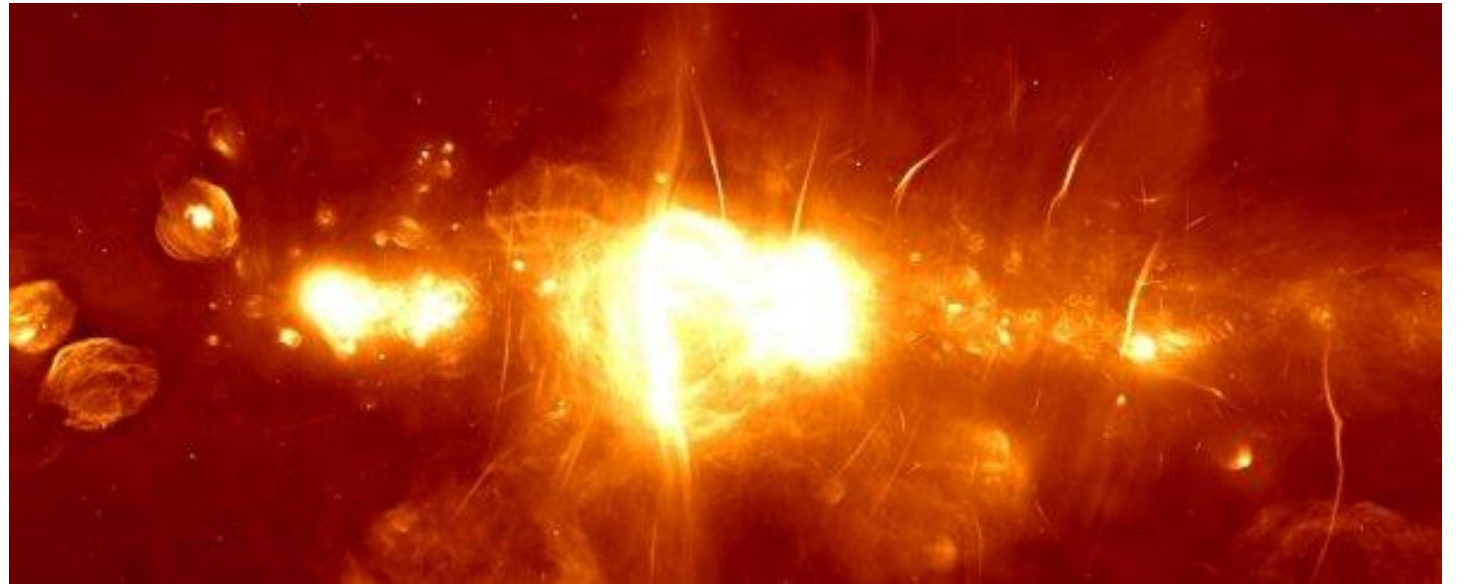
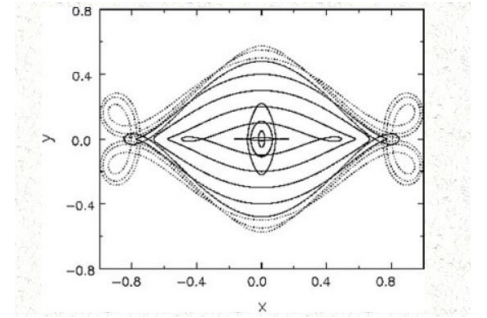
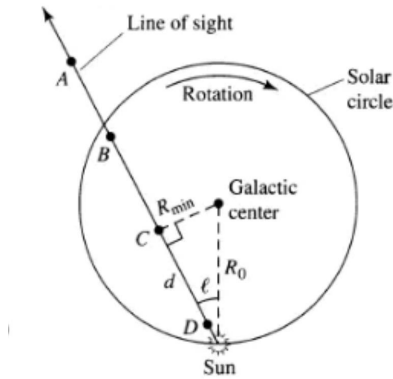
Errors and Uncertainties

Systematic Error:

- Background noise near the Galactic Center
- Assumption of orbital circularity
- Tangent-point method at extremum longitudes

Random Error:

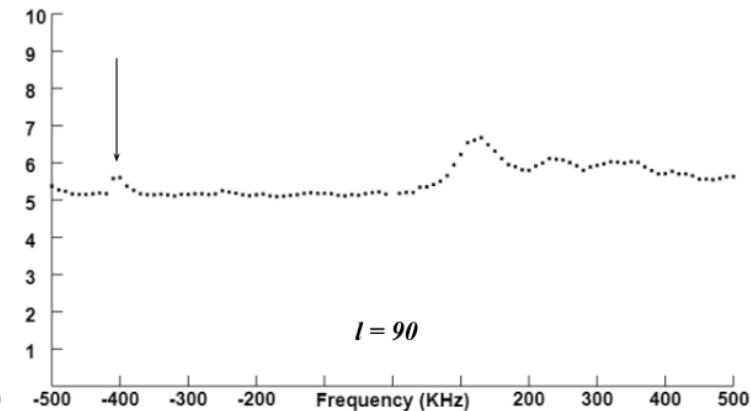
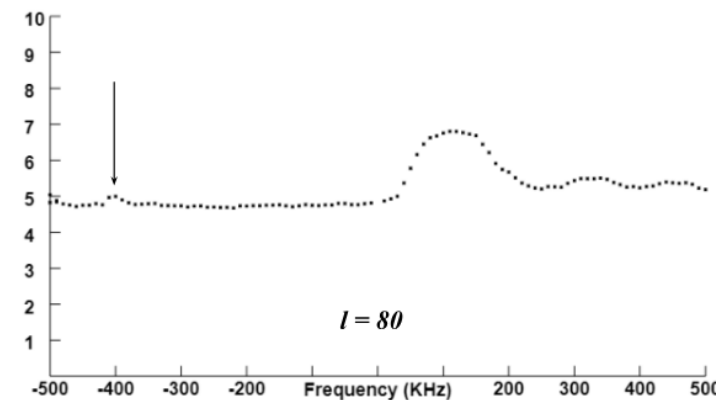
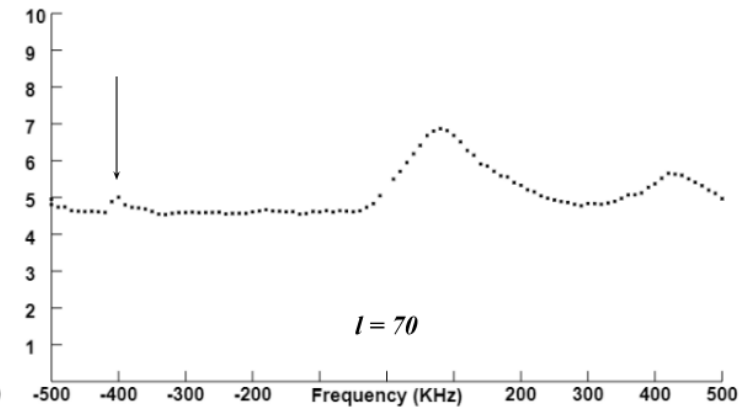
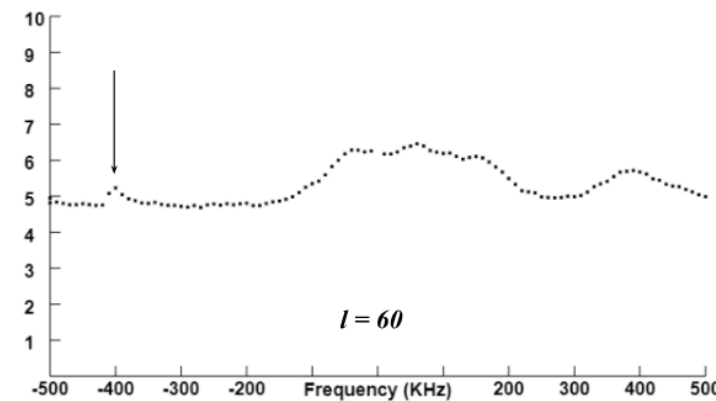
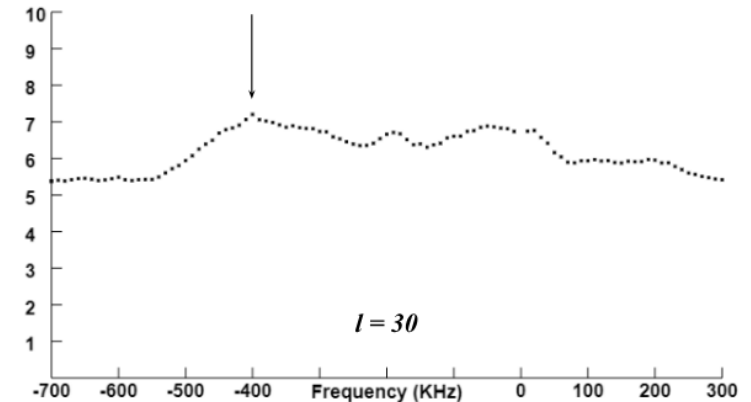
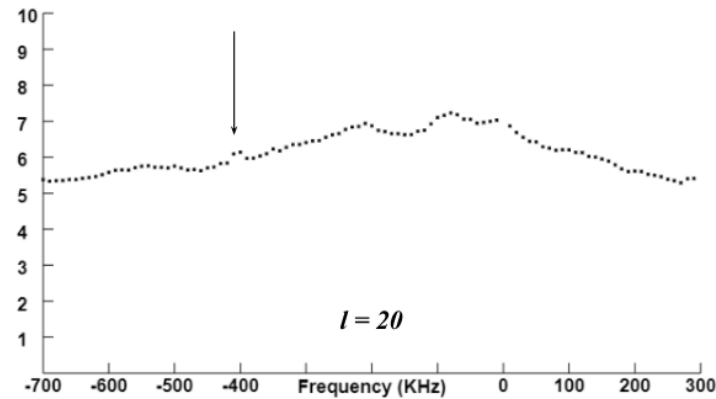
- Field of View Uncertainty (error bars included)



The Anomaly

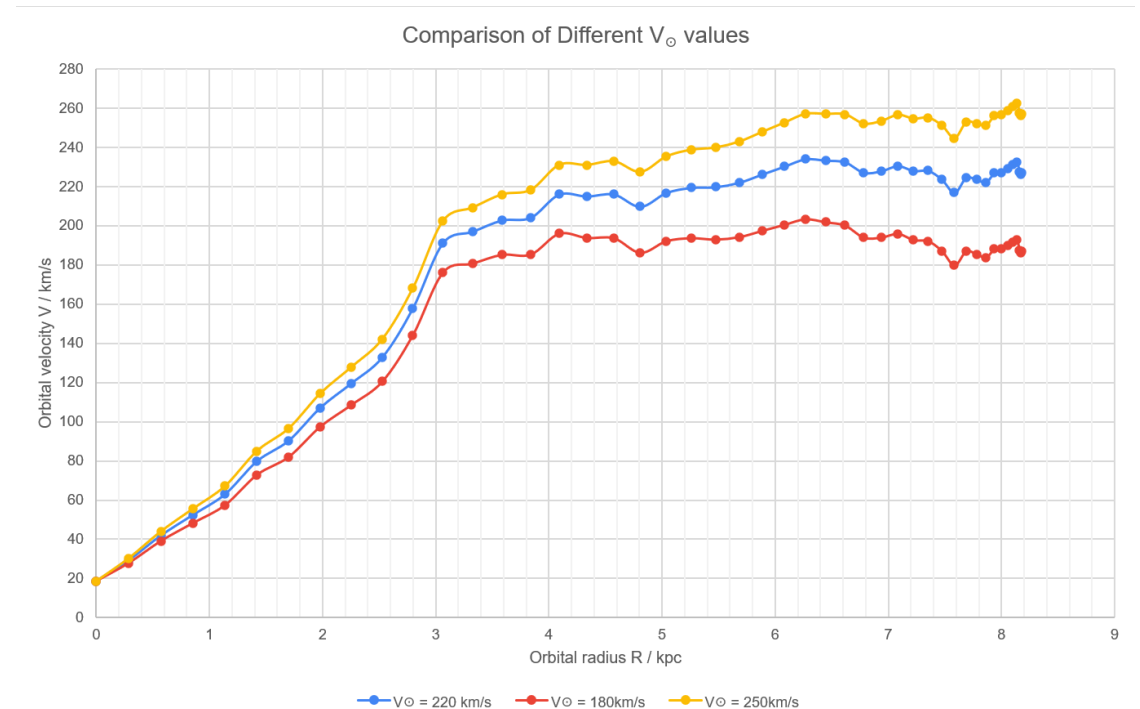
Throughout almost all observations, an anomalous signal was detected nearby 1420.0 MHz ([H I] - 400 KHz).

Possible causes include electrical component interference or a ground-based emission source near the telescope.



Galactic Constant Uncertainty

- Perhaps the greatest sources of uncertainty in my investigation are the values for the Sun's orbital velocity and radius.
- Astronomers have not reached a consensus on either of these values
- Modern estimates have greater accuracies, but individual results still diverge greatly.



Applications

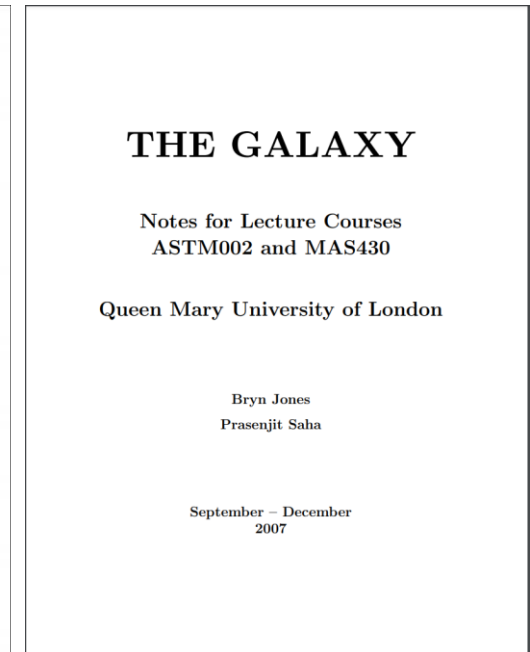
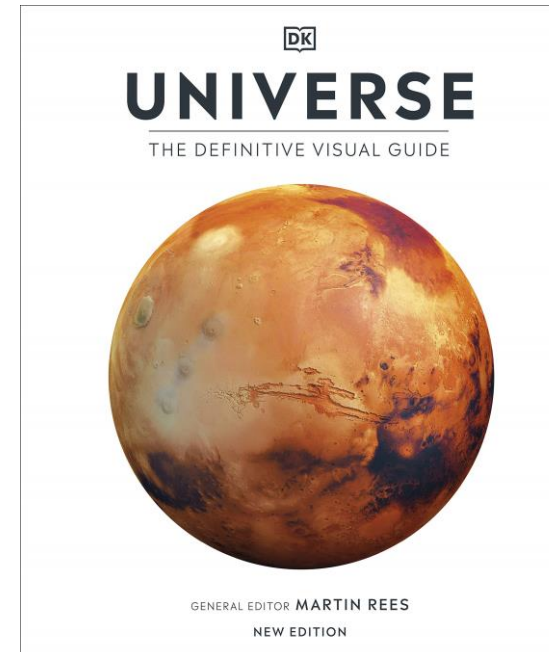
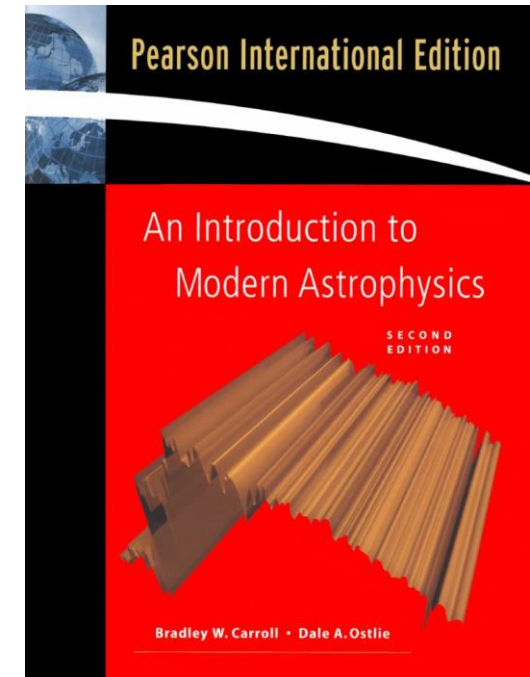
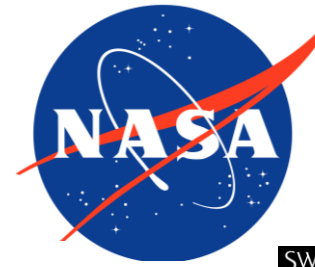
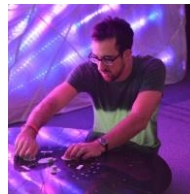
- Determining the distribution of dark matter in the galaxy that would mathematically fit the rotation curve.
- Producing a more accurate model of the mass distribution at the center of the galaxy.
- Mapping out the spiral arms of the galaxy by analyzing the other peaks.
- Mapping the velocity dispersion of local atomic hydrogen clouds.

Research and Sources

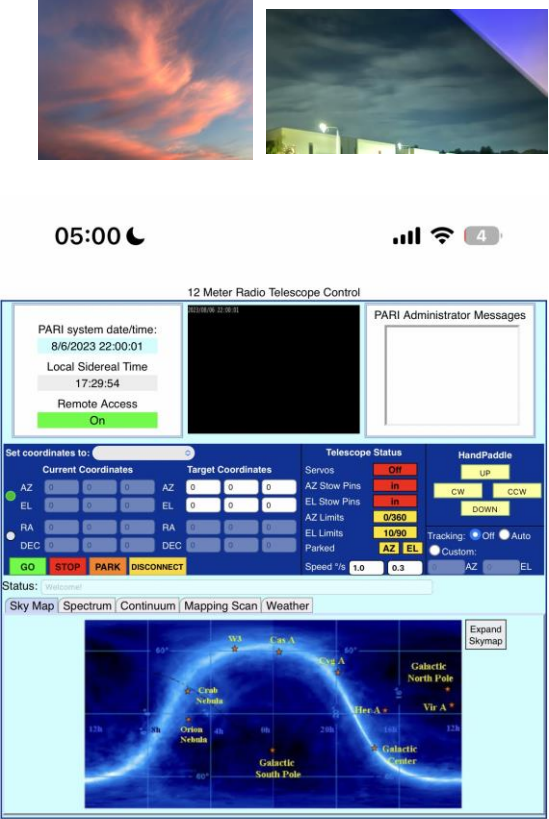
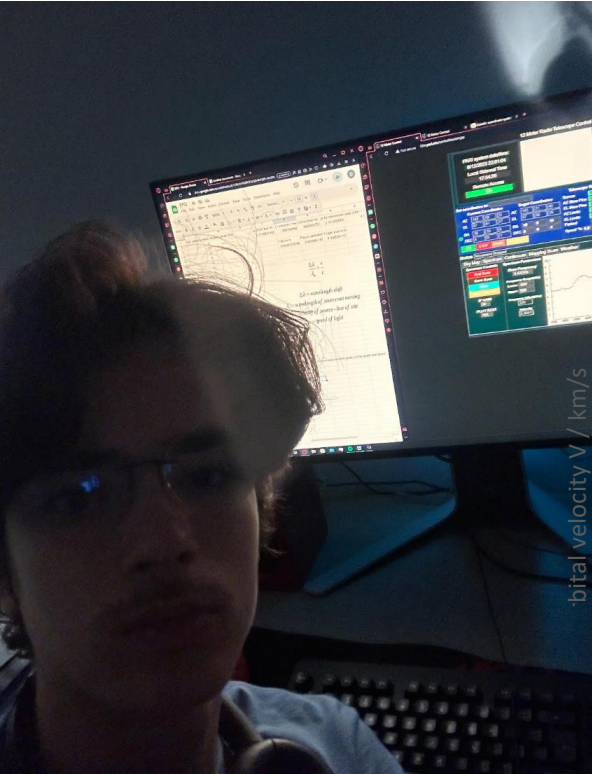
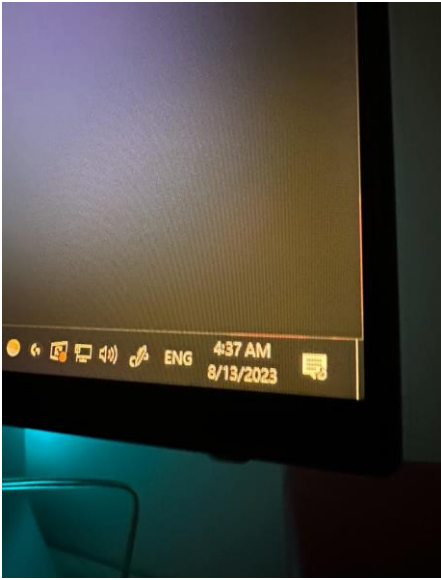
- Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute
- NRAO, GBO, NASA, ESA, IAU, MIT, Caltech, CSIRO Australia, Swinburne University, Institute of Physics
- ArXiv, SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System, ResearchGate, JSTOR, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect

Other Important Sources

- Universe: A Definitive Visual Guide, The Galaxy, An Introduction to Modern Astrophysics
- Yoshiaki Sofue's work
- Liu & Chronopoulos (2008)
- Bertone & Hooper (2018)
- Carl Nave's Hyper Physics
- Nick Strobel's Astronomy Notes



Reflection & Conclusion



Graph of $V(R)$
for $0 < R < 8.178$

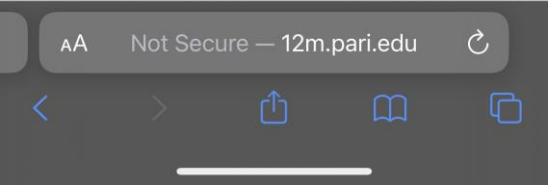
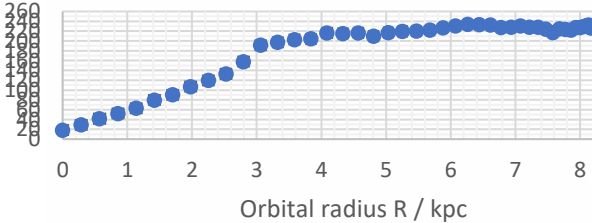


Image Links:

- Many of the images in this presentation were also part of my EPQ project document, and already cited in my Reference List, so I did not include them again here to avoid redundancies. All of my EPQ's citations apply to this Presentation. Some images were also taken by myself, so I obviously did not cite them. The web links for all other images are shown below:
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia_Telescope_Compact_Array
- https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atascientific.com.au%2Fspectrometry%2F&psig=AOvVaw0Gr_1CnWbwCw_EmrHtKhF&ust=1695414088028000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CA4QjRxqFwoTCLD39-XDvIEDFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD
- https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/system/avm_image_sqls/binaries/49/titanic/ligo20160211e.jpg?1455160282
- <https://www.astronomy.com/science/how-do-you-measure-the-rotational-speed-of-a-galaxy-taking-into-consideration-the-motion-of-our-galaxy-solar-system-planet-etc/>
- https://www.nmspacemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Johannes_Kepler_1610.jpg
- <https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/licensed-image?q=tbn:ANd9GcTK7CkPsFE6PaRQai1flgCnxCBnGzZFxyKIUXdrzjOZv5CqfN1ILfB5TQH967my7suUyIY5IZmKbc8ikPk>
- https://cdn.eso.org/images/screen/_DSC7159-CC.jpg
- <http://www.ssg.sr.unh.edu/ism/what1.html>
- <https://www.gb.nrao.edu/fgdocs/HI21cm/>
- https://www.nrao.edu/archives/static/Ewen/ewen_HI_slide18.shtml
- <http://astronomyonline.org/ViewImage.asp?Cate=Home&SubCate=MP01&SubCate2=&Img=%2FScience%2FImages%2FHydrogen%2Egif&Cpt=The+spin-flip+transition+of+a+hydrogen+atom%2E>
- <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hydrogen-SpinFlip.svg>
- <https://w.astro.berkeley.edu/~mwhite/darkmatter/rotcurve.html>
- <https://bigthink.com/starts-with-a-bang/21cm-magic-length/>
- <https://imgv2-1-f.scribdassets.com/img/document/331051489/original/a44b2bf4c2/1691163811?v=1>
- <https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/thumbnails/image/nasa-logo-web-rgb.png>

Image Links pt. 2

- https://public.nrao.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/NRAO-Logo_Round.png
- https://www.iau.org/static/archives/images/screen/iau_wb.jpg
- <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/5b/49/f8/5b49f80da12e639ff39eaadb28c3ddaa.png>
- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0c/MIT_logo.svg/2560px-MIT_logo.svg.png
- <https://info.arxiv.org/brand/images/brand-logo-primary.jpg>
- https://media.licdn.com/dms/image/C4D03AQEJDZBft3SB0A/profile-displayphoto-shrink_200_200/0/1517361669091?e=1700697600&v=beta&t=cMhKTwCyoH2oIRo_tZPokx-_RURqPKp6mgJGo1O88O0
- https://i1.rgstatic.net/ii/profile.image/278797816483845-1443481987488_Q128/Rod-Nave.jpg
- https://bio.illibraio.it/images/2843670217541_92_300_0_75.jpg
- https://www.bakersfield.com/entertainment/nick-strobel-astronomy-research-to-feel-impact-of-satellite-network/article_11c79c6a-7e79-11ea-95d2-0feba76cba04.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Hooper#/media/File:HooperLectures_2017.jpg
- <https://science.nasa.gov/horsehead-nebula>
- <https://scitechdaily.com/cold-interstellar-molecular-clouds-as-cosmic-ray-detectors/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orion_Nebula#/media/File:Orion_Nebula_-_Hubble_2006_mosaic_18000.jpg
- <https://www.centauri-dreams.org/2005/08/27/a-stunning-view-of-interstellar-dust/>

Image Links Pt. 3

- <https://www.worldatlas.com/space/the-interstellar-medium.html>
- https://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/figures/PIA10748_fig1.jpg
- <https://hubblesite.org/contents/articles/hubble-deep-fields>
- https://www.nasa.gov/images/content/537083main_hs-2011-11-a-print_full.jpg
- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/06/Logo_of_Swinburne_University_of_Technology.svg/1200px-Logo_of_Swinburne_University_of_Technology.svg.png
- https://public.nrao.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/gallery-images-largeJanskywGraph_large.jpg
- <https://astro.ucla.edu/~wright/doppler.htm>
- <http://www.solstation.com/x-objects/darkhalo.htm>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_matter_halo#/media/File:Dark_matter_halo.png
- <https://www.sciencealert.com/something-near-the-galactic-centre-is-flashing-radio-signals-and-we-don-t-know-what-it-is>

QUESTIONS

