

# DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURE OF GALAXIES

## GALACTIC ASTRONOMY

### 2.2 Local Kinematics

# OVERVIEW

- Aim of the following classes
- Solar neighborhood & disk structure
- Distance measurements
- Velocities of nearby stars
- Frames of reference
- Local kinematics

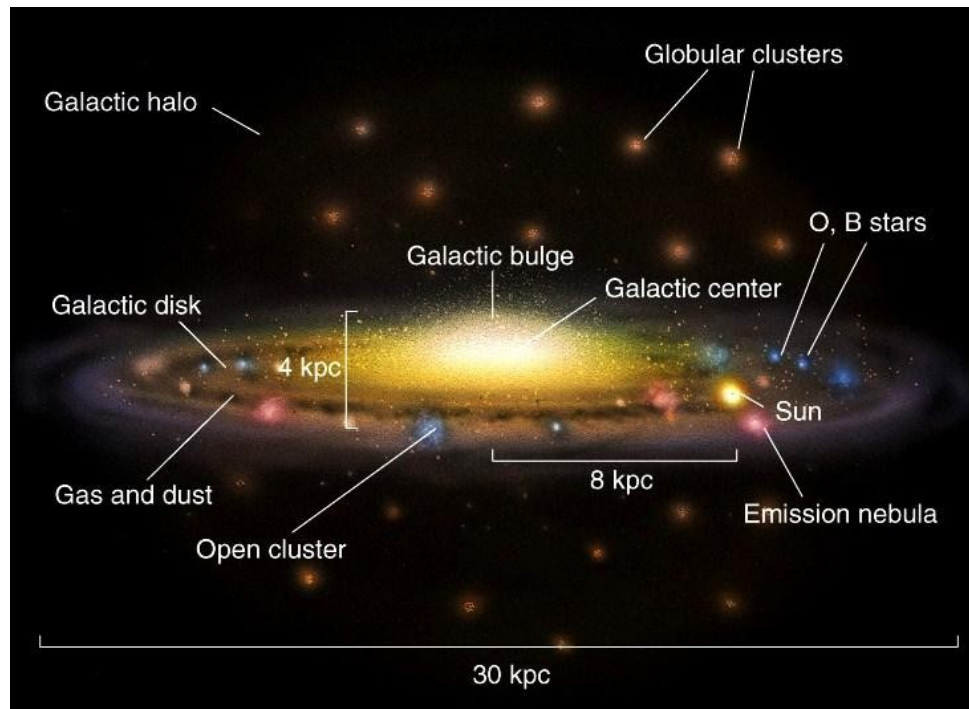
# AIM

- Going from the small scale to the large scale of the Galaxy
- Acquire observational data to build the picture of the formation of the Galaxy (not give it for granted)

NOTE: In astronomy, **Galaxy**, with “G” always refers to the Milky Way, while **galaxy** refers to a general galaxy (the title of this class is ambiguous!)

# 1 - SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD AND DISK STRUCTURE

- “Neighborhood” vary according to the context  
(~200-300 pc, where the dust limits observations)
- Components of the Milky Way (see previous classes):



# THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD – MASS CONTENT

- **Stars**

differences:

- Initial Mass Function (IMF)
- stellar evolution

Tipo	Densidad [ $M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-3}$ ]
Estrellas de SP O-F	0.014
Estrellas de SP G-M	0.036
Estrellas del halo	0.0001
Enanas blancas	0.005
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.055</b>

- **Interstellar medium (ISM)  $\sim 0.04 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{pc}^3$**

(gas and dust)

- **Dark matter  $\sim 0.01 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{pc}^3$**

**$\Rightarrow$  TOTAL  $\sim 0.1 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{pc}^3$**

# THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD – VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION

- Stars

- exponential
- depends on stellar class

$$n(z) = n_0 e^{-|z|/z_0} .$$

Tipo	$z_0$ (pc)
O-B	50
A	120
F	190
dG	340
dK	350
dM	350

- Interstellar medium (ISM) - thin disk (gas and dust)
- Dark matter – spherical halo

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- Interstellar medium (ISM) –  $h \sim 50$  pc  
(gas and dust)

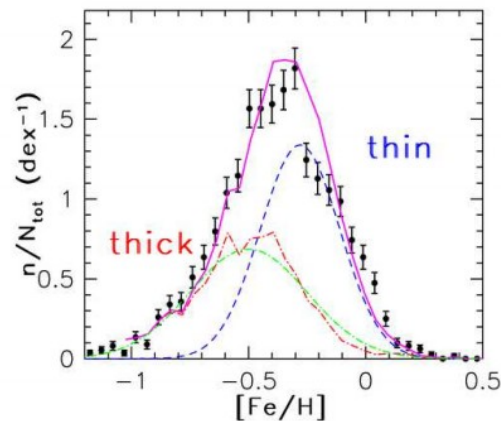
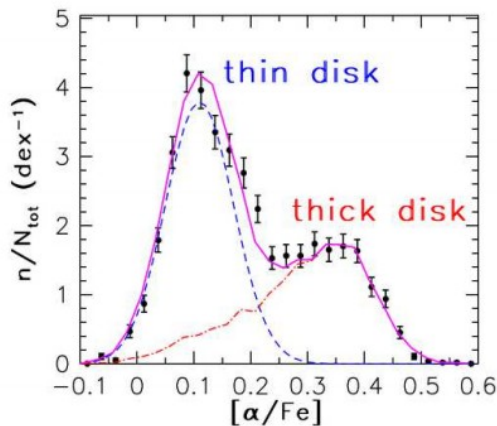
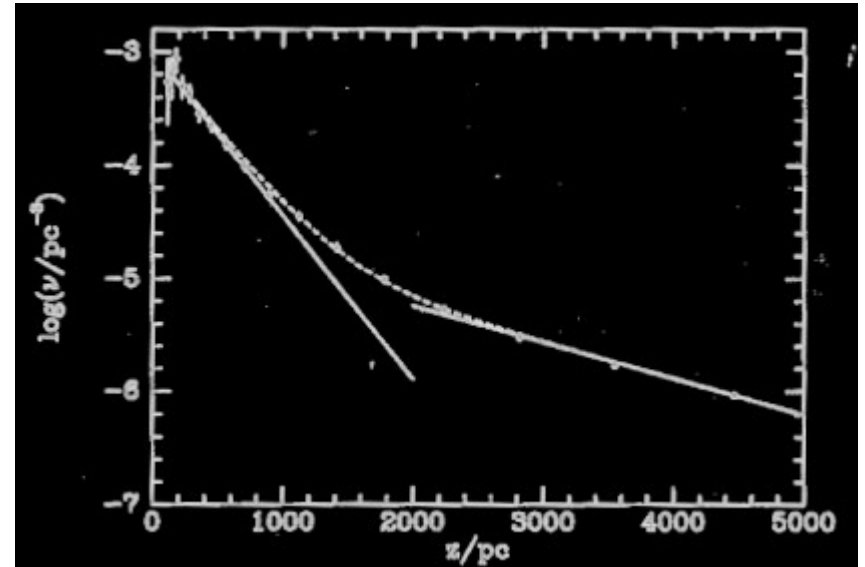
- Dark matter – spherical halo

INDICATION FOR  
EVOLUTION ?

# THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD – DISK (VERTICAL SCALE)

More hints about disk evolution:

- The double profile of the disk
  - **thin** disk ( $h \sim 250$  pc) (95% of stars)
  - **thick** disk ( $h \sim 1000$  pc)
- Metallicity:
  - **thin** disk  $\langle [Fe/H] \rangle \sim -0.3$
  - **thick** disk  $\langle [Fe/H] \rangle \sim -0.6$



Ivezić (2012, ARA&A, 50, 251)

- **thin** disk:
  - hosts younger stars
  - Same  $h$  as the gas
  - narrower (as the name says)
  - metal richer



# THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD – DISK EVOLUTION

Possible disk evolution:

- Stars are born in the same place (where is the gas), but their orbits evolve in via interactions with gas clouds and spiral arms
  - interactions not sufficient to “puff-up” **thick** disk to 1 kpc (?)
- Old galaxy interaction “heated” ALL the **thin** disk, and later the gas fell back to the plane, where young stars now form
  - gas relaxes faster than stars because of viscosity

# THE SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD – CAVEATS ABOUT DISK EVOLUTION

Keep in mind:

- **thick**/**thin** disks are commonly found in spiral galaxies  
e.g. Yoachim (2005; arXiv:astro-ph/0508460v1)
- the separation **thick**/**thin** might be artificial:  
it could be a series of components  
e.g. Bovy (2012, ApJ, 753, 148)

# 2 – DISTANCE MEASUREMENTS

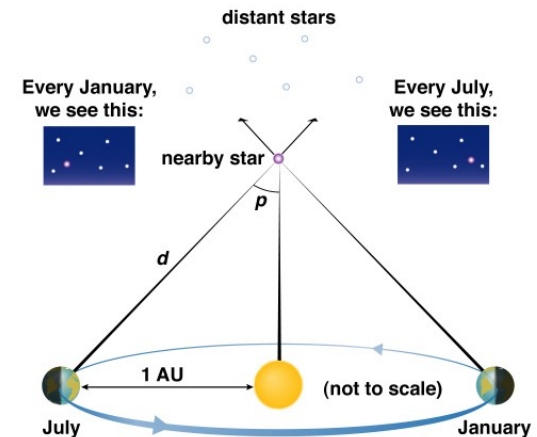
Distance measurement for the local stars

- Parallax (trigonometric):

$$d(\text{pc}) = \frac{1\text{AU}}{\pi('')}$$

Hipparchos (1989 – 1993)

Gaia (first data release 2017)



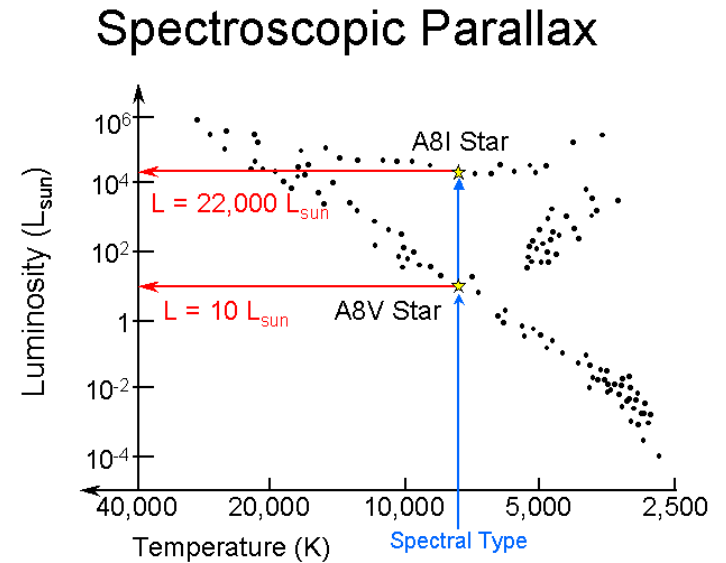
	Hipparchos	Gaia
mag limit (V)	12	20
Effective distance	1 kpc	10 Mpc
Observed objects	$\sim 10^5$	$\sim 10^9$
Distance accuracy	$\sim 5-10\%$	$< 1\%$

# SPECTROSCOPIC PARALLAX

- Parallax (spectroscopic):
    - for a given spectral class we know  $L$
    - compare  $L$  (model) VS  $F$  (observed)
- find distance:

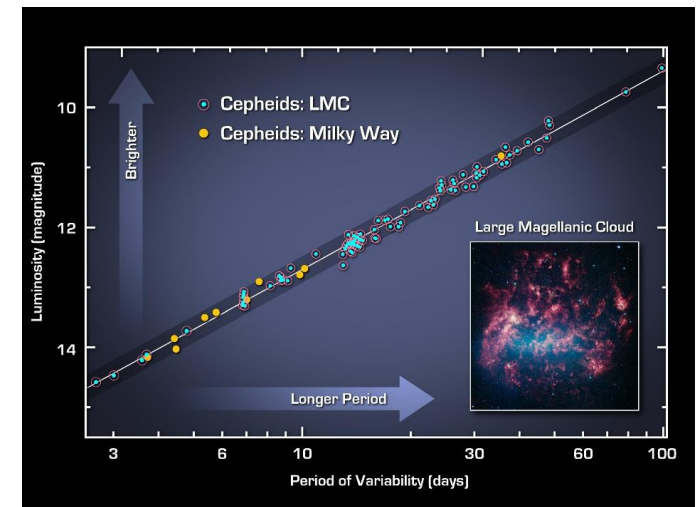
$$L = 4\pi d^2 F$$

- Features:
  - less accurate than trigonometric parallax
  - valid up to larger (pre-Gaia era) distances ( $\sim 100$  kpc)
  - affected by dust absorption
  - luminosity class difficult to disentangle for distant stars



# OTHER STELLAR DISTANCE MEASUREMENTS

- Stellar peculiar characteristics:
  - Cepheids (supergiants):  
L – Period
  - RR Lyrae (horizontal branch)  
spectroscopic parallax  
(they have an extremely constant L)



# 3 – VELOCITIES OF NEARBY STARS

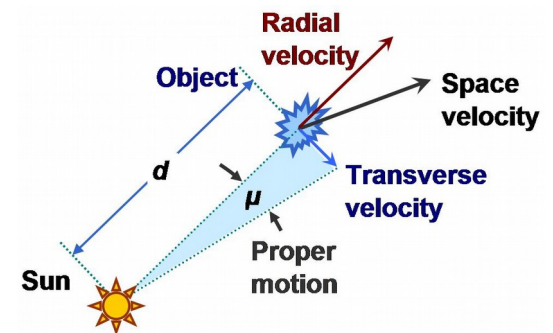
- **Proper motion**  $\mu$  [rad/sec] = motion of an object in the sky
- ... but 3D velocity  $v$  has more components:

- tangential component (proper motion)
- radial component (doppler)

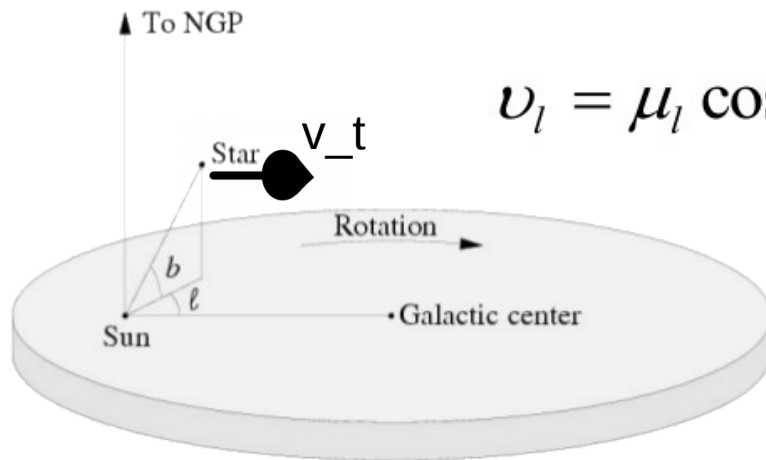
$$v_t = \mu d$$

$$v_r$$

[cm/sec]



- In **galactic coordinates**,  $v_t$  can be further projected as:



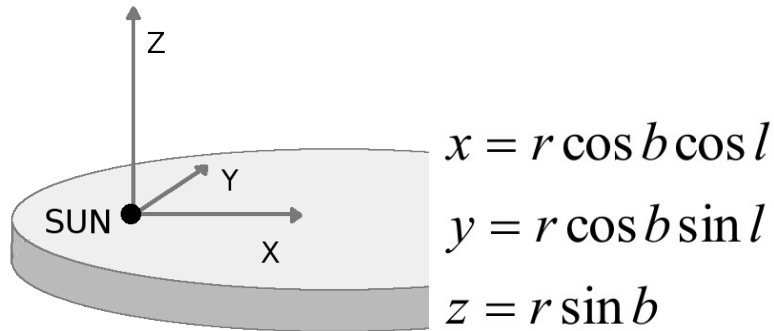
$$v_l = \mu_l \cos b d; \quad v_b = \mu_b d$$

$$\mu_b = db/dt$$

$$\mu_l = dl/dt$$

# VELOCITIES OF NEARBY STARS - HELIOCENTRIC CARTESIAN SYSTEM

- Switching to the “comfortable” heliocentric Cartesian system:



star velocity:

$$U = \frac{dx}{dt} = \dot{r} \cos b \cos l - r \dot{b} \sin b \cos l - r \dot{l} \cos b \sin l$$

$$V = \frac{dy}{dt} = \dot{r} \cos b \sin l - r \dot{b} \sin b \sin l + r \dot{l} \cos b \cos l$$

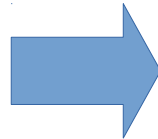
$$W = \frac{dz}{dt} = \dot{r} \sin b + r \dot{b} \cos b$$

From previous slide:

$$\dot{r} = v_r$$

$$r \dot{l} \cos b = v_l$$

$$r \dot{b} = v_b$$



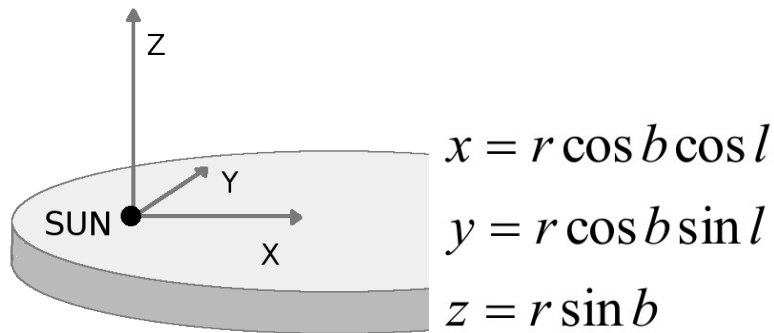
$$U = v_r \cos b \cos l - v_b \sin b \cos l - v_l \sin l$$

$$V = v_r \cos b \sin l - v_b \sin b \sin l + v_l \cos l$$

$$W = v_r \sin b + v_b \cos b$$

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-  $v_r \rightarrow$  spectroscopy

Measurable:

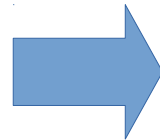
-  $v_b, v_l \rightarrow$  proper motion

From previous slide:

$$\dot{r} = v_r$$

$$r \dot{l} \cos b = v_l$$

$$r \dot{b} = v_b$$



$$U = v_r \cos b \cos l - v_b \sin b \cos l - v_l \sin l$$

$$V = v_r \cos b \sin l - v_b \sin b \sin l + v_l \cos l$$

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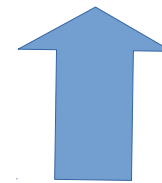
$$v_r = U \cos b \cos l + V \cos b \sin l + W \sin b$$

$$v_b = -U \sin b \cos l - V \sin b \sin l + W \cos b$$

$$v_l = U \sin l + V \cos l$$

Reverse

(we will need them later)



$$U = v_r \cos b \cos l - v_b \sin b \cos l - v_l \sin l$$

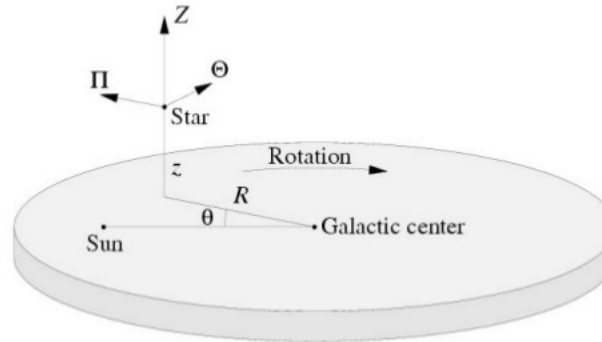
$$V = v_r \cos b \sin l - v_b \sin b \sin l + v_l \cos l$$

$$W = v_r \sin b + v_b \cos b$$

# 4 – FRAMES OF REFERENCE

- Galacto-centric system is the natural system (!= galactic coordinates!):

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &\equiv dR/dt \\ \Theta &\equiv R d\theta/dt \\ Z &\equiv dz/dt\end{aligned}$$



*Fundamental  
Frame of  
Reference  
(SFR)*

- However, to study the Sun's neighborhood is more convenient to adopt a “local” frame of reference:

## Local Standard of Rest (LSR)

### Kinematic LSR

heliocentric, rotates at the average velocity of local stars  
(no assumptions on why)

### Dynamic LSR

defined at any point, rotates on circular orbit with a velocity  $\Theta_0$   
imposed by axisymmetric potential

# 4 – FRAMES OF REFERENCE

IF stars were really on perfectly circular orbits

## Local Standard of Rest (LSR)

### Kinematic LSR

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### Dynamic LSR

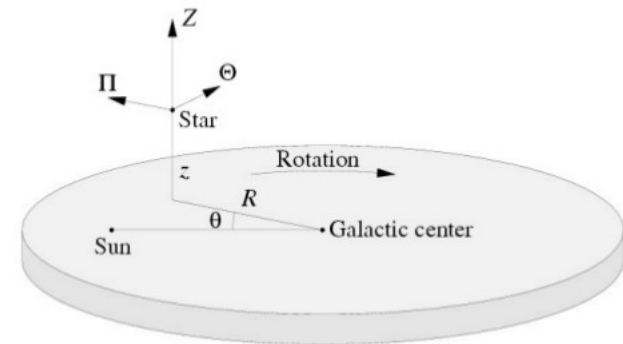
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imposed by axisymmetric potential

# PECULIAR VELOCITY

- **Peculiar velocity** = velocity (u,v,w) of a star w/r to its dyn. LSR (LSR\*)

Variable	Descripción
$X, Y, Z$	Coordenadas de un objeto en el SFR
$\Pi, \Theta, Z$	Velocidad de un objeto en el SFR
$(\mathbf{0}, \Theta_0, \mathbf{0})$	Velocidad del LSR en el SFR
$u, v, w$	Velocidad peculiar, i.e., velocidad de una estrella respecto a sus SLR.
$U, V, W$	Velocidad de un objeto respecto al Sol
$v_{\Theta}'$	Velocidad acimutal del Sol respecto al LSR cinemático
$v_{\Theta}$	Velocidad acimutal del Sol respecto al LSR dinámico
$v_r$	Velocidad de un objeto respecto al Sol, a lo largo de la visual
$v_l, v_b$	Velocidad de un objeto respecto al Sol, en dirección $l, b$ , respectivamente

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &\equiv dR/dt \\ \Theta &\equiv R d\theta/dt \\ Z &\equiv dz/dt\end{aligned}$$



$$u_* = \Pi_* - \Pi_{SLR} = \Pi$$

$$v_* = \Theta_* - \Theta_{LSR} = \Theta - \Theta_0$$

$$w_* = Z_* - Z_{LSR} = Z$$

*Peculiar  
velocity*

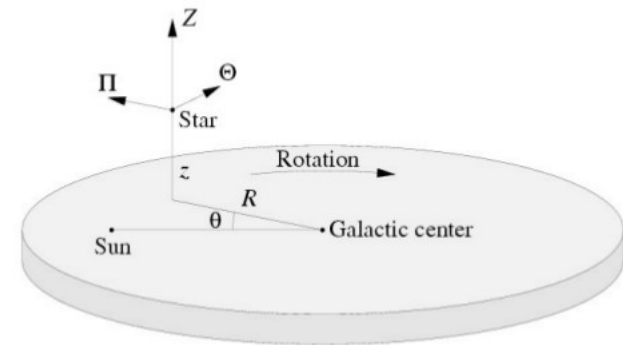
- To convert this to heliocentric coordinates we need to:
  - find the peculiar velocity of Sun w/r to its LSR (LSR\_sun)
  - find the differential velocity between LSR\_sun and LSR\*

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$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &\equiv dR/dt \\ \Theta &\equiv R d\theta/dt \\ Z &\equiv dz/dt\end{aligned}$$



$$u_* = \Pi_* - \Pi_{SLR} = \Pi$$

$$v_* = \Theta_* - \Theta_{LSR} = \Theta - \Theta_0$$

$$w_* = Z_* - Z_{LSR} = Z$$

*Peculiar  
velocity*

- To convert this to heliocentric coordinates we need to:
  - find the peculiar velocity of Sun w/r to its LSR (LSR\_sun)
  - ~~find the differential velocity between LSR\_sun and LSR\*~~
  - (we ignore this assuming no differential rotation - nearby stars)

# PECULIAR VELOCITY – HELIOCENTRIC COORDINATES

- Velocity of a star w/r to the Sun:

$$U_* = u_* - u_\odot - (\Pi_{LSR*} - \Pi_{LSR\odot})$$

$$V_* = v_* - v_\odot - (\Theta_{LSR*} - \Theta_{LSR\odot})$$

$$W_* = w_* - w_\odot - (Z_{LSR*} - Z_{LSR\odot})$$

assuming no  
differential rotation

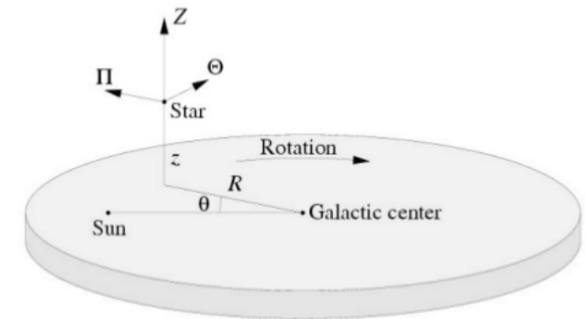
$$U_* = u_* - u_\odot = \Pi_* - \Pi_\odot$$

$$V_* = v_* - v_\odot = \Theta_* - \Theta_\odot$$

$$W_* = w_* - w_\odot = Z_* - Z_\odot$$

NOTE:  $u^* v^* w^* \leftrightarrow LSR^*$

$u_\odot v_\odot w_\odot \leftrightarrow LSR\_sun$



- Adopting a sample of nearby stars, we can say:

$$\langle U_* \rangle = \langle u_* \rangle - u_\odot = -u_\odot$$

$$\langle W_* \rangle = \langle w_* \rangle - w_\odot = -w_\odot$$

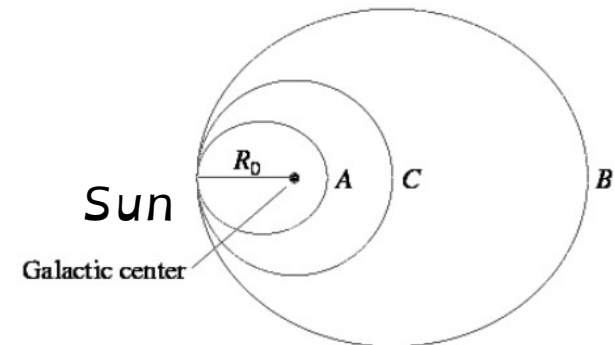
- But we cannot say:  $\langle v_* \rangle = 0$

- that is true in the *kinematic* LSR (actually it's the definition)

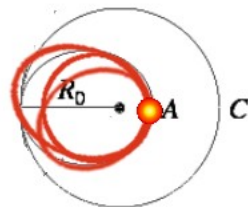
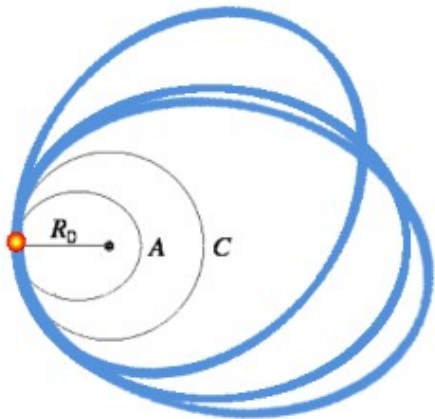
- ... but now we are using the *dynamic* LSR

# ESTIMATING $\langle v^* \rangle$

- A = Sun's orbit
- B = random star orbit
- C = circle around Galaxy center  
(where LSR is defined)



- Consider that stars passing near the Sun when it is at the apocenter:
  - are slower
  - come from the **outskirts** of the Galaxy  
(where density is lower)



→ on average stars are **slower** than the Sun!

**Asymmetric drift** →  $\langle v^* \rangle < 0$

We will therefore write:  $\langle V_* \rangle = \langle v_* \rangle - v_\odot$

and define the velocity of Sun w/r to the kinematic LSR  $v_\odot'$ :  $v_\odot' = -\langle V_* \rangle$

# FORMULATION OF PECULIAR MOTION OF THE SUN

- Finally, the **peculiar motion** ( $u_{\odot}$ ,  $v_{\odot}$ ,  $w_{\odot}$ ) of the Sun (in dyn. LSR\_sun) is:

$$u_{\odot} = -\langle U_* \rangle$$

$$v_{\odot} = -\langle V_* \rangle + \langle v_* \rangle = v'_{\odot} + \langle v_* \rangle$$

$$w_{\odot} = -\langle W_* \rangle$$

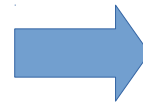
- while ( $u_{\odot}$ ,  $v'_{\odot}$ ,  $w_{\odot}$ ) defines the motion of the Sun in the kin. LSR
- Let's now see how to measure it:

$$v_r = U \cos b \cos l + V \cos b \sin l + W \sin b$$

$$v_b = -U \sin b \cos l - V \sin b \sin l + W \cos b$$

$$v_l = U \sin l + V \cos l$$

Star velocity w/r Cartesian  
heliocentric (seen previously)



for each star  $i$  in a sample:

$$v_{ri} = U_i \cos l_i \cos b_i + V_i \sin l_i \cdot \cos b_i + W_i \sin b_i$$



By grouping stars in sub-samples  
with  $(l, b) \sim \text{CONST}$  :

$$v_{ri} = \alpha U_i + \beta V_i + \gamma W_i$$

$$\langle v_{ri} \rangle = -\alpha \cdot u_{\odot} - \beta \cdot v'_{\odot} - \gamma \cdot w_{\odot}$$



# MEASUREMENT OF PECULIAR MOTION OF THE SUN

$$\langle v_{ri} \rangle = -\alpha \cdot u_{\odot} - \beta \cdot v'_{\odot} - \gamma \cdot w_{\odot}$$

- This equation holds for each sub-sample (l,b) ~ CONST  
→ for  $M$  sub-samples ( $j = 1 \dots M$ ), we have  $M$  equations of the type:

$$\alpha_j u_{\odot} + \beta_j v'_{\odot} + \gamma_j w_{\odot} = k_j$$

- Solving the equations (3 sub-samples are sufficient)  
→ we obtain the  $(u_{\odot}, v'_{\odot}, w_{\odot})$  motion of the Sun in the kinematic LSR

→ we can now obtain the motion of any star

*Values measured:*

*Sun is moving*

*north and inward,*

*faster than LSR\_sun*

$$u_{\odot} = 10.0 \text{ km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

$$v'_{\odot} = 5.2 \text{ km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

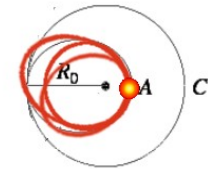
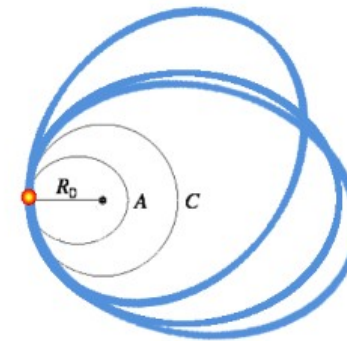
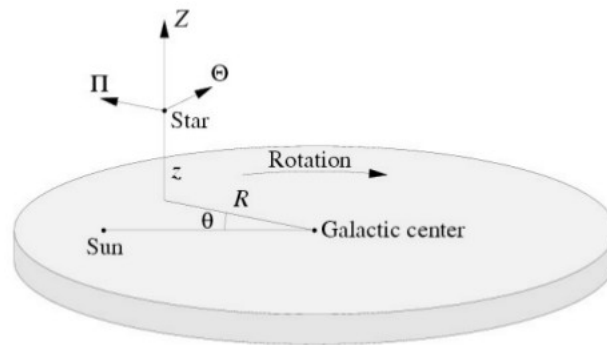
$$w_{\odot} = 7.2 \text{ km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

WE USED ONLY THE  
RADIAL VELOCITIES !

# MEASUREMENT OF PECULIAR MOTION OF THE SUN

- Let's switch to the  $(u_{\odot}, v_{\odot}, w_{\odot})$  motion of the Sun in the dynamic LSR (i.e., let's find  $v_{\odot}$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &\equiv dR/dt \\ \Theta &\equiv R d\theta/dt \\ Z &\equiv dz/dt\end{aligned}$$

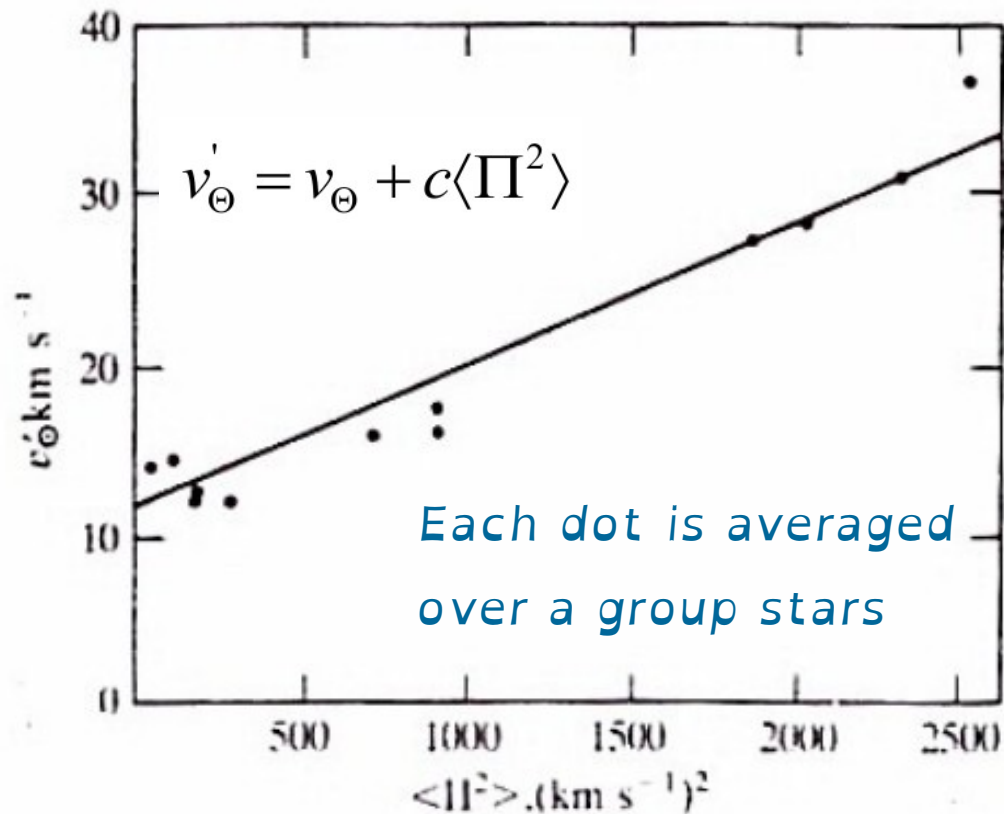


- We can assume that  $v_{\odot}$  depends on how many elliptical orbits there are  
Observationally, this is given by the dispersion on radial velocities  $\Pi$ :

$$\langle v_* \rangle \sim \langle \Pi^2 \rangle$$

$$v_{\odot} = -\langle V_* \rangle + \langle v_* \rangle = v'_{\odot} + \langle v_* \rangle \quad \longrightarrow \quad v'_{\odot} = v_{\odot} + c \langle \Pi^2 \rangle$$

# MEASUREMENT OF PECULIAR MOTION OF THE SUN

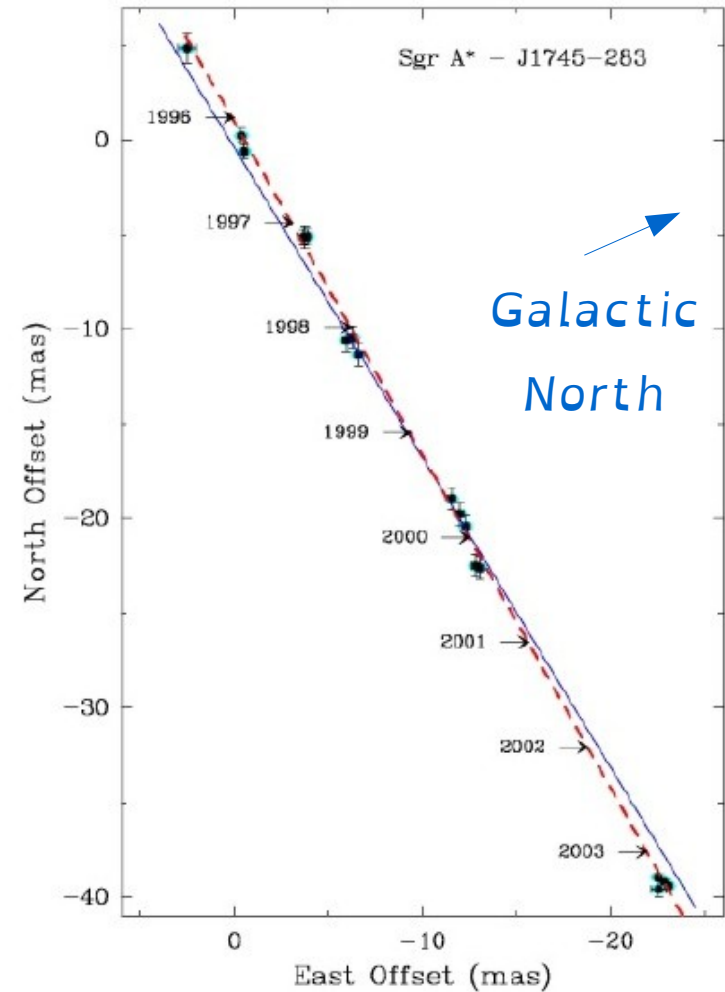


$$v_\Theta = 12.0 \text{ km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

$\neq 0 \rightarrow$  Sun moves also  
w/r to dynamic LSR

# MOTION OF THE LSR\_sun IN THE GALAXY (SFR)

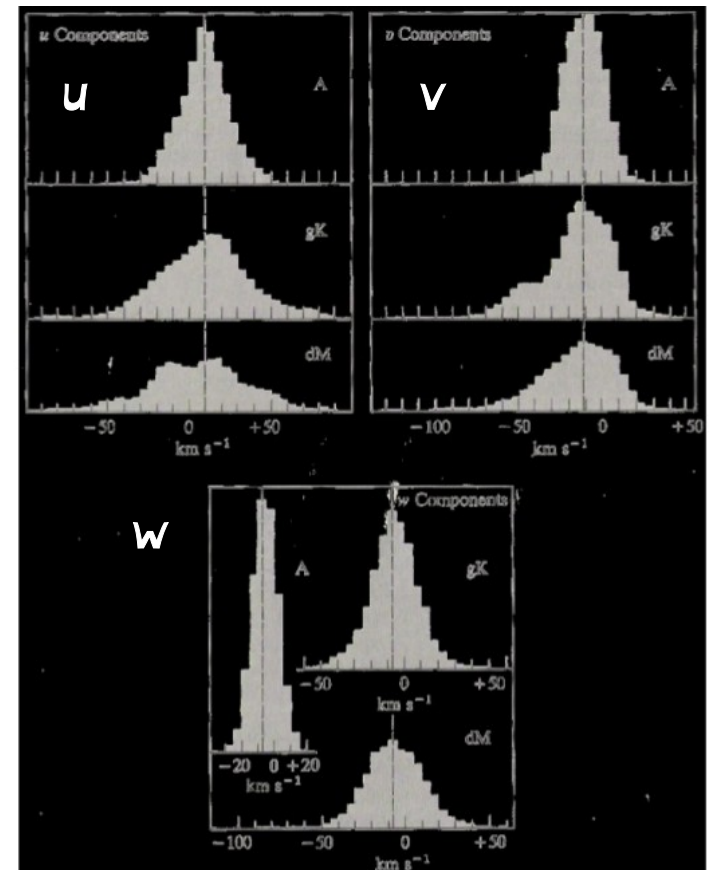
- We can use the apparent movement of the radio source SgrA\* (AGN)
- Radio interferometry (e.g. VLBI) can achieve high ( $\mu\text{arcsec}$ ) resolution
- Assuming  $R_0 = 8.5 \text{ kpc}$   
→ relative velocity  $\Theta_0 \sim 235 \text{ km/sec}$
- Can repeat with any non-rotating object:
  - halo GCs →  $\Theta_0 \sim 220 \text{ km/sec}$
  - other galaxies (big uncertainties)



# 5 – LOCAL KINEMATICS - DISK

- Distribution of stellar velocity around  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w \sim$  Gaussian
- The distribution changes with:
  - the axis  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w$
  - the stellar type

Tipo	$\langle u^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle v^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle w^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$l_v (^\circ)$
<i>Enanas</i>				
B0	10	9	6	-50
A0	15	9	9	15
F0	24	13	10	19
G0	26	18	15	21
K0	28	16	11	2
M0	32	21	10	3
<i>Gigantes</i>				
A	22	13	9	27
F	28	15	9	14
G	26	18	15	12
K0	31	21	16	14
<i>Súpergigantes</i>				
Cefeidas	13	9	5	-
O-B5	12	11	9	36



# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VELOCITY DISTRIBUTIONS

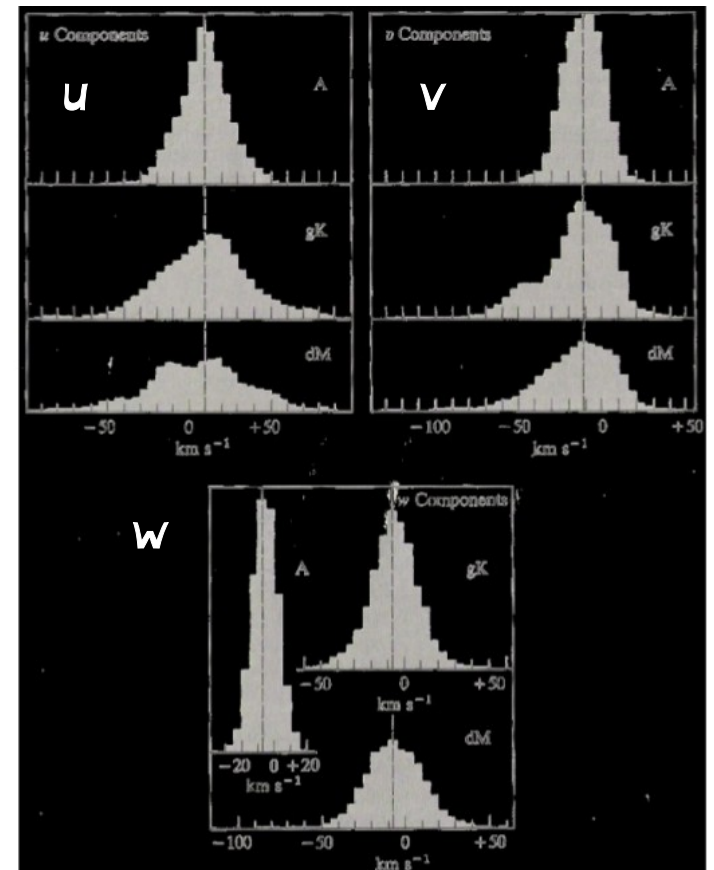
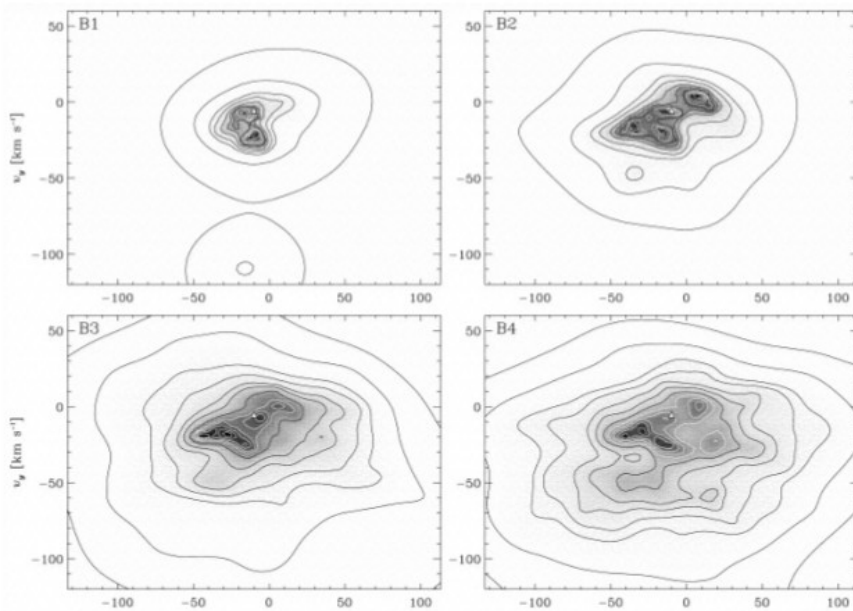
- We observe:
  - distribution is tighter for more massive (younger) stars
  - later stellar types along M-S include stars of a wider range of ages  
(hence their distributions are intrinsically wider)

Tipo	$\langle u^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle v^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle w^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$l_v$ ( $^\circ$ )
<i>Enanas</i>				
B0	10	9	6	-50
A0	15	9	9	15
F0	24	13	10	19
G0	26	18	15	21
K0	28	16	11	2
M0	32	21	10	3
<i>Gigantes</i>				
A	22	13	9	27
F	28	15	9	14
G	26	18	15	12
K0	31	21	16	14
<i>Súpergigantes</i>				
Cefeidas	13	9	5	-
O-B5	12	11	9	36

- Consistent with the picture that stars form in the gas disk, with:
    - small vertical separation
    - similar peculiar velocities
  - ... and their orbits evolve by interactions with molecular clouds and spiral arms
- NOTE: still not enough to create thick disk!*

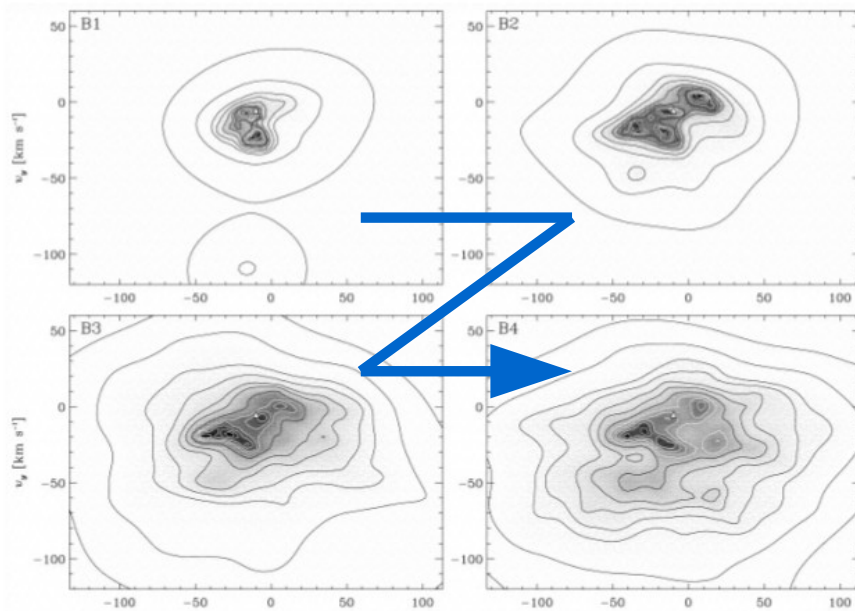
# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VELOCITY DISTRIBUTIONS 2D

- Distribution around  $u$ ,  $w \sim$  symmetric
- Distribution around  $v \not\sim$  symmetric  
and  $\langle v \rangle < 0$  (asymmetric drift)
- Alternative view:



# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VELOCITY DISTRIBUTIONS 2D

- dispersion  $u > \text{dispersion } v > \text{dispersion } w$  (why? under debate)
- smaller mass  $\leftrightarrow$  higher dispersion
- dispersion  $v$  asymmetric,  $\langle v \rangle < 0$



*Decreasing mass*



# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VELOCITY ELLIPSOID

- **Co-moving groups**

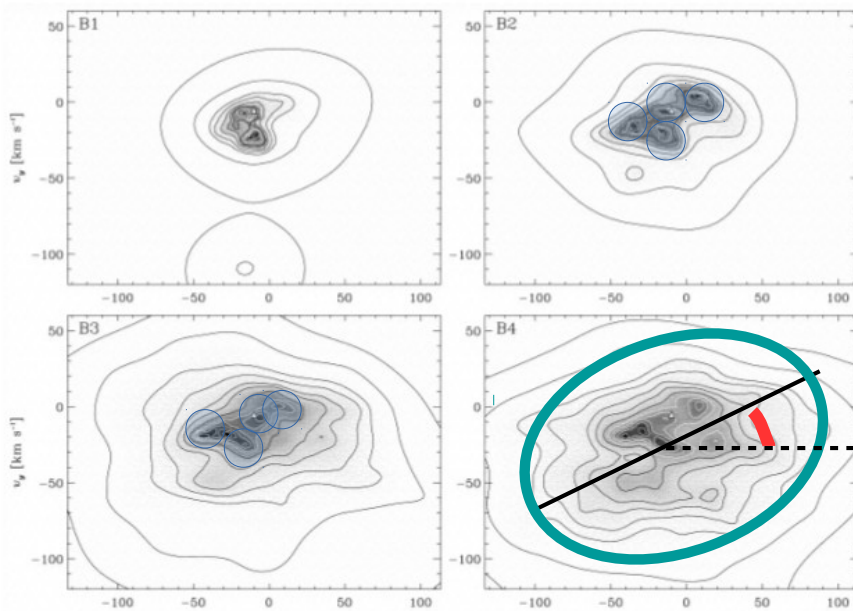
- can be identified on the  $u, v, w$  hyperplane (see e.g. work of A. Binks)
- mostly composed by massive (young) stars  
(they get dispersed by interactions)

Examples:

*Pleiads, Hyades, Sirio group*

- We define:

- the **velocity ellipsoid** (it's 3D)
- the **vertex deviation** (angle  $l_v$ )



# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VELOCITY ELLIPSOID

- How to write the velocity Probability distribution Function  $P(V)$ ?

If the distributions were independent & symmetric Gaussians:

$$P(\bar{V}) = P_u(u)P_v(v)P_w(w)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1.5} \sigma_u \sigma_v \sigma_w} \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{u^2}{2\sigma_u^2} + \frac{v^2}{2\sigma_v^2} + \frac{w^2}{2\sigma_w^2} \right) \right]$$

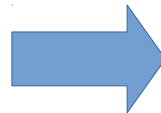
... but the only symmetric Gaussian is  $w$ , while  $u$  and  $v$  are correlated !

- We choose new axis set:

-  $u_1$  ← rotating  $u, v$  by  $L_v$

-  $v_2$

-  $w$  ← we keep this axis



$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1.5} \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_w} \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{u_1^2}{2\sigma_1^2} + \frac{v_2^2}{2\sigma_2^2} + \frac{w^2}{2\sigma_w^2} \right) \right]$$

**Schwarzschild distribution**

(somebody call this “velocity ellipsoid”)

# LOCAL DISK KINEMATICS - VERTEX DEVIATION

- Considerations on **vertex deviation**:

1- is more significant for younger stars

2- in an axi-symmetric system, u would be a principal axis

Tipo	$\langle u^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle v^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$\langle w^2 \rangle^{0.5}$	$l_v (^{\circ})$
<i>Enanas</i>				
B0	10	9	6	-50
A0	15	9	9	15
F0	24	13	10	19
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O-B5	12	11	9	36

- Possible origins of **vertex deviation**:

1- initial formation condition

*few nearby co-moving groups strongly*

*influence the (u,v) distribution*

*(stochastic occurrence)*

2- local potential is **not** axi-symmetric

*attraction by e.g. spiral arms*

# LOCAL HALO KINEMATICS

- Characteristics of halo stars:
  - large peculiar velocities (i.e. velocity w/r to their LSR)
    - a.k.a. *high-velocity stars*
  - large asymmetric drift (i.e.  $\langle v^* \rangle$ )
    - large difference w/r to a circular orbit  
(halo is a sphere with almost no rotation)
- For halo, better use the Galcto-centric (SFR) velocities ( $\Pi$ ,  $\Theta$ ,  $Z$ )  
( $\Theta_0$  = velocity of LSR\_sun in the SFR)  $\sim 220$  km/sec

Tipo	$\langle \Theta \rangle - \Theta_0$	$\langle \Theta \rangle$	$\sigma_{\Pi}$	$\sigma_{\Theta}$	$\sigma_Z$
Cúmulos globulares	-165	55	145	-	-
Sub-enanas	-185	35	170	90	65
RR Lyraes	-220	0	210	120	90

LSR\_sun →  $\langle \Theta \rangle - \Theta_0$        $\langle \Theta \rangle$  ← Galacto-centric (SFR)

# LOCAL HALO KINEMATICS

- Additionally:

- large velocity dispersions ( $\sigma_{\Pi}$ ,  $\sigma_{\Theta}$ ,  $\sigma_Z$ )

- milder rotation than disk ( $\langle\Theta\rangle$ )

*inner halo* → *prograde*       $0 \div 60$  km/sec

*outer halo* → *retrograde*  $-40 \div -70$  km/sec

*Frank & White (1980), Carollo (2007, Nature, 450, 1020)*

- We will also see that halo stars are:

- old

- metal poor

Tipo	$\langle\Theta\rangle - \Theta_0$	$\langle\Theta\rangle$	$\sigma_{\Pi}$	$\sigma_{\Theta}$	$\sigma_Z$
Cúmulos globulares	-165	55	145	-	-
Sub-enanas	-185	35	170	90	65
RR Lyraes	-220	0	210	120	90

# KINEMATICS – BIG PICTURE

