ASTR 1020: Stars & Galaxies

November 6, 2013

- Reading: Chapter 21, sections 21.1-21.2.
- MasteringAstronomy Homework on Galaxies is due Nov. 8th.
- SBO Extra Credit observing on Thursday, 7:30

"The history of astronomy is a history of receding horizons." Edwin Hubble

Clicker Question

Why does ongoing star formation lead to a bluewhite appearance in spiral galaxies?

- a) There aren't any red or yellow stars
- b) Short-lived blue stars outshine others
- c) Gas in the disk scatters blue light

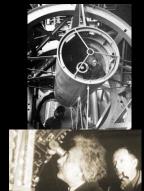
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The Impact of Edwin Hubble

- Hubble's discoveries in 1920's at Mt. Wilson dwarf others in astronomy in 20th century.
- He found that the Universe is expanding, leading Einstein to admit his "greatest blunder".
- Hubble's triumphs made him the toast of Hollywood (friends with Charlie Chaplin) in 1930's and 1940's.

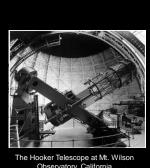


Hubble: The Early Years

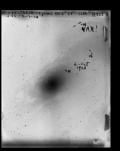
- · Majored in science as undergrad at U. Chicago - starred in basketball.
- · Rhodes scholar at Oxford, studied law.
- Fought in World War I.
- Returned to grad school at Yerkes Observatory of U. Chicago & studied "nebulae".
- Rival of Harlow Shapley who measured distances in Milky Way using Cepheids but thought Universe was one big galaxy.
- Using Hooker telescope, Hubble discovered Cepheids in Andromeda that is a million light years away.







The Hooker Telescope at Mt. Wilson Observatory, California



Hubble's discovery photograph of Cepheids in Andromeda

Which kind of object is the best "standard candle" for measuring the distances to distant galaxies?

- a) A white dwarf star
- b) A Cepheid variable star
- c) A white dwarf supernova

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