## The Core (and Global) Structure of Galaxies from the ACSVCS, ACSFCS and NGVS





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## Talk Outline



A mythological representation of the constellation Virgo, from Johannis Hevelius' 17th century Uranographicarum star atlas (credit: U.S. Naval Observatory and STScI.)

- 1. Stellar Nuclei in the context: the view from the ACS Virgo and Fornax Cluster Survey
- 2. Virgo and Fornax: nuclei in different environments
- 3. The Next Generation Virgo Cluster Survey
  - Overview of the survey
  - Demonstration of Capabilities

## Stellar Nuclei and Galaxy Cores

### The ACS Virgo and Fornax Cluster Surveys: Observing Strategy and Sample Selection

- Virgo and Fornax Clusters: the dominant mass concentrations in the Local Universe and the nearest large collections of early-type galaxies (at 16.5 and 20 Mpc, respectively).
- ACS/WFC observations of 100 (Virgo) + 43 (Fornax)
  = 143 member galaxies.
- $-22.3 < M_B < -15.1$  (range  $\approx 10^3$  in L<sub>B</sub>).
- Nearly complete census of early types = E, S0, dE, dE,N, dS0
- Each galaxy observed in F475W (g) and F850LP (z), 1 orbit per target.

•FOV = 3.4 × 3.4' (= 16 × 16 kpc at Virgo, 20 × 20 kpc at Fornax)

•0.05" pixels (= 4/5 pc at Virgo/Fornax).

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Côté et al. (2004), Jordán et al. (2007)
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**x** Virgo early type

**x** Fornax early type

## Core Properties Along the Red Sequence Luminosity Function



# Systematics in Core Properties Along the Luminosity Function: the ACSVCS/FCS View



Beyond ~2% R<sub>e</sub>, the profiles are well fitted by Sersic functions (e.g. Jerjen & Binggeli '97; Caon et al. '93, '94; Graham et al. '03ab; Graham and Guzman '03; Gavazzi et al. '05; Grant et al. '05; Zibetti et al. '05; Misgeld et al. '08, '09; Kormendy et al. '09, etc...)

### Systematics in Core Properties the ACSVCS/FCS View



#### 2% Re

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functions (e.g. Jerjen & Binggeli '97; Caon et al. '93, '94; Graham et al. '03ab; Graham and Guzman '03; Gavazzi et al. '05; Grant et al. '05; Zibetti et al. '05; Misgeld et al. '08, '09; Kormendy et al. '09, etc...)

- Systematic variations occur within ~2% R<sub>e</sub>. Relative to the inner extrapolation of the outer Sersic profile:
- the brightest galaxies show light "deficits" (e.g. Graham 2004; Ferrarese et al. 2006ab)
- In fainter galaxies, stellar nuclei are identified as "excess" light (Graham & Guzman 03; Grant, Kuipers & Phillips 05; Côté et al. 06, 07 -- latter results confirmed in Kormendy et al. 09)

#### Systematics in Core Properties the ACSVCS/FCS View



#### Systematics in Core Properties the ACSVCS/FCS View



There is no evidence supporting a separation of early type galaxies in three different categories:

"**Core**" (e.g. Lauer et al. '96, '07; Kormendy et al. '09)

"Power-law" (e.g. Lauer et al. '96, '07) or "Coreless" (Kormendy et al. '09)

"Spheroidals" (e.g. Kormendy et al. '85, '09)

Ferrarese et al. (2006a,b); Côté et al. (2006,2007)





## Systematics in Core Properties

• Define a parameter,  $\Delta_{0.02}$ , that measures the net luminosity deviation from the inward extrapolation of the outer Sersic component:

 $\Delta_{0.02} \equiv \log(\mathcal{L}_{galaxy}/\mathcal{L}_{sersic})$ 

0 < R/Re < 0.02



### Systematics in Core Properties: Deprojection



### Systematics in Core Properties: Deprojection



There is no discontinuity between galaxies with "deficits" and galaxies with "excess", rather a continuous progression from one to the other along the luminosity function (Cote et al. 2007). This implies that the same evolutionary processes are at play across the sequence (albeit with differing weights, e.g. Hopkins et al. 2008)











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## The Next Generation Virgo Cluster Survey























- NGVS: CFHT/MegaCam Large Programme to survey the Virgo Cluster out to its virial radii (5.4 deg and 3.4 deg for the A and B sub-clusters, respectively) → 104 square degrees.
- $u^*g'r'i'z'$ , to  $g' \approx 25.7 \text{ mag} (10\sigma)$  and  $\mu_{g'} \approx 29 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2} (2\sigma)$ .
- Image quality  $\leq 1$ " ( $u^*g'r'z'$ );  $\leq 0.6$ " (*i'*)
- Awarded 771 hours (~150 nights) over four years (2009A 2012A).
- Follow-up Programs: CFHT/WIRCam; Galex; MMT/Hectospec



 Compared to VCC: 100× improvement in depth, 100× in surface brightness, >3× in spatial resolution, 5× in SED coverage. Plus, many synergistic opportunities with surveys at non-optical wavelengths.



## NGVS: Science Objectives

#### • Virgo Science

- the faint end of the luminosity function
- galaxy structural parameters
- core properties and stellar nuclei
- environmental effects
- Intracluster light, tidal debris
- globular clusters

#### Background Science:

- cosmic shear
- intrinsic alignment
- high-z clusters

#### Foreground Science

- the structure of the MW halo
- Kuiper Belt Objects



#### ACSVCS vs NGVS Profiles and Nuclear Fractions

Blue: HST/ACS Profiles (from Ferrarese et al. 2006) Red NGVS Profiles (g')



#### ACSVCS vs NGVS Profiles and Nuclear Fractions

Blue: HST/ACS Profiles (from Ferrarese et al. 2006) Red: NGVS Profiles (g')





#### Extension to Fainter Galaxies



~600 **new** (likely) member galaxies visually identified in the 4 sq.degrees centered on M87. Close to 10,000 new members expected over the entire cluster.

#### Ultra Compact Dwarfs in the NGVS





## The NGVS Team

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