Particle / Astrophysics Seminar

2019/2020

This course

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  - Give presentations, get feedback from others

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- Broaden your knowledge and learn about research topics within IMAPP.

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- Evaluation: pass or fail. In addition to your own talk, passing the course also requires attending the talks of your fellow students!

Time and place

- Wednesday 10:30 - 12:15
- First time: TBD (a schedule will be made in January based on registrations in Brightspace)
- If you *really really* cannot make it on the day you are scheduled, you may swap with someone else.

Web page

http://www.astro.ru.nl/~slarsen/teaching/Seminar/

- Links to advice on giving presentations

- Schedule of seminars

Topics

- In general: seminar will be based on a paper from the scientific literature

- Some suggestions will be provided (see e.g. https://www.astro.ru.nl/wiki/news/seminars/student_seminars)

General advice - I.

What is the *message*?

General advice - II.

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- Avoid too many words on slides.
- Max ~1 slide per minute
- Test equipment beforehand!

What the seminars are *not:*

- *Journal club*: Review and in-depth discussion of a single paper

- *Lectures*: given in the context of a course, often involving more detailed derivations of results/ relations, supported by exercises, assignments, tutorials, etc.

- *Master's thesis seminar*: you will have an opportunity for that later.

Giving talks

Writing papers

Bill Harris
McMaster University, July 2004

Talks for professional audiences

Type of audience	***Intimidation factor***
Journal club	Friendly, supportive
Talks in grad courses	↓
Review for your supervisory committee	
CASCA meeting	Interested, neutral
Seminar as visitor somewhere else	↓
Conference talk	
“Job talk” seminar	
Presentation for gov’t committee	Hostile or not interested

Constructing your talk

The most important step.

- Design it for *your* audience – not some generic audience. Don't *adapt* a previous talk – *rebuild* it.

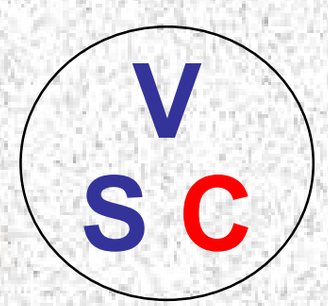
- Design it for your allotted time.

- *Select, select, select.* Don't try to say *everything* you did (leave that for the published paper). Select *two major things** you want the audience to remember!! *Less is more!*

(* For a poster, *one* major thing.)

- *Clarity first.* Audience should leave with a clear picture of what you did. Stick to your outline and then stop. (Who's going to be offended if you stop a bit *early?)*

- *Style and rhetoric second.* Stick to your material, don't generate distractions of your own



PowerPoint files

Really good for graphs, images, animations (non verbal communication)

Match the background to the ambient lighting in the room

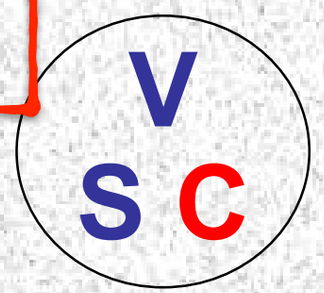
But keep the *text* very sparse – just an outline for what you *say*

Talk to the people in the audience and not your laptop

*The fundamental relation you want to set up is between the audience and **you** – not the audience and the screen. They are not watching a TV show.* **The PP file is a supplement to the talk, not the talk itself**

Could you give the talk from a Powerpoint file that had no text at all – just illustrations?

Could you give your talk if the visual aids failed completely?



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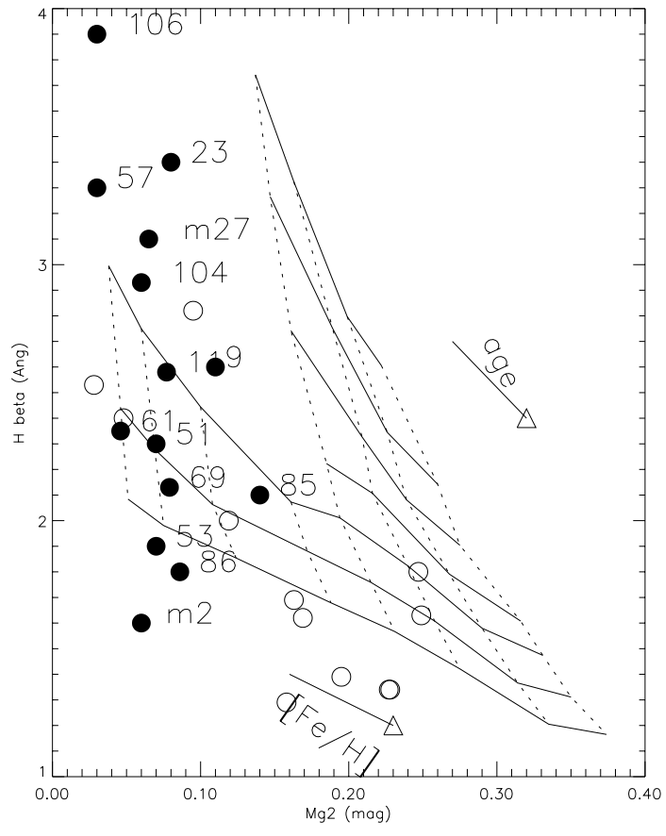
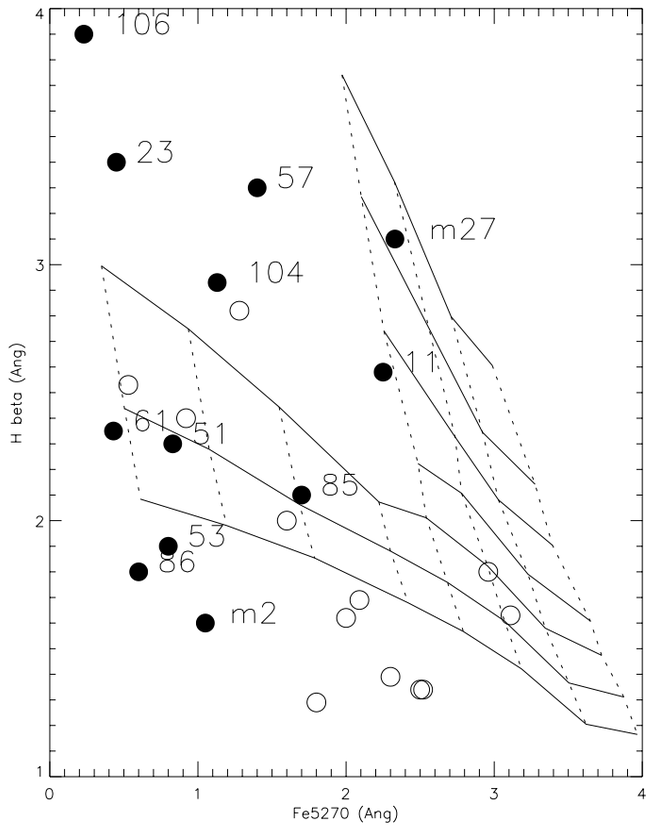
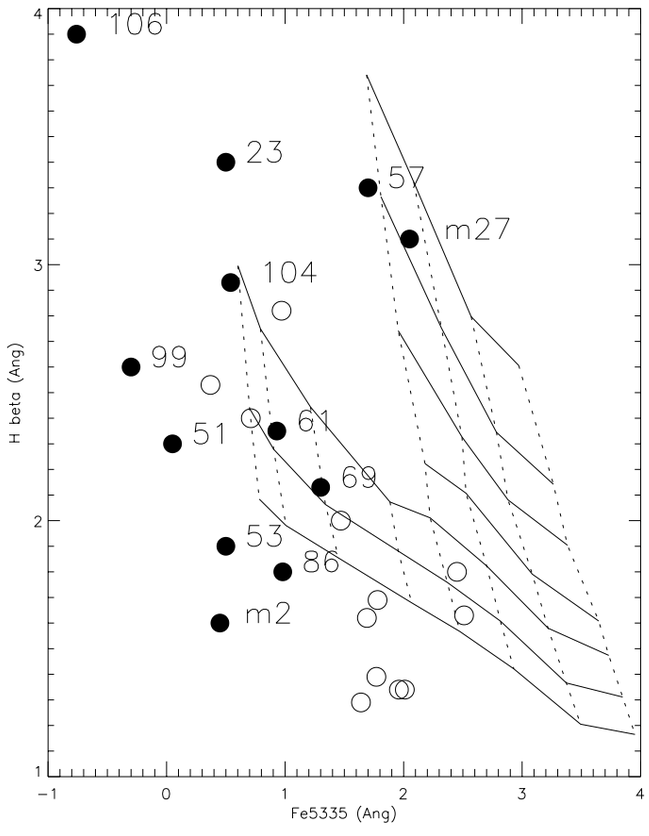
- Tables should generally be avoided

Can you read the axis labels?







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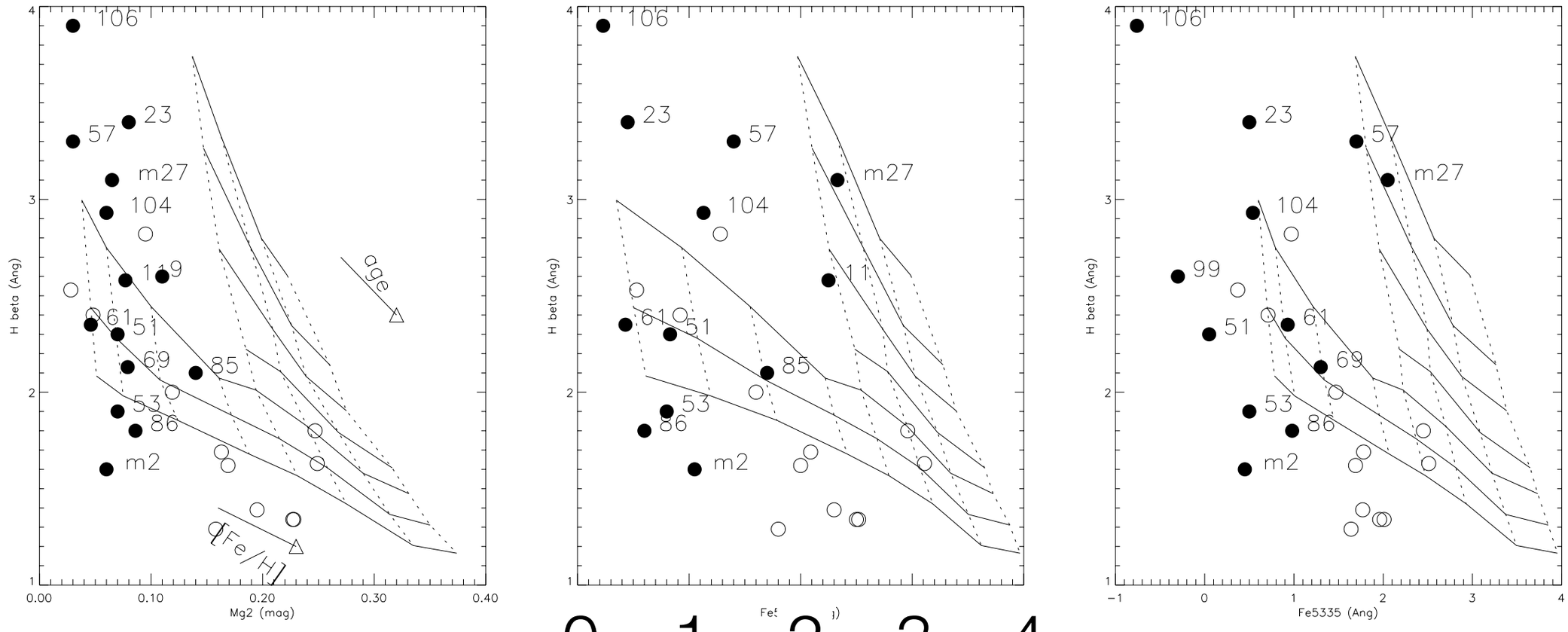


0 1 2 3 4

Fe5270 [Ång]

Sometimes authors need a little help!

Equations

My latest key result:

$$\partial_t \int_0^1 dx \int d\omega\ e^{i(\omega t - kx)} f(ax,gt) C_{23}(t-t') [a^\dagger(t') b(x)] =$$
$$b(t')\delta(x-ct) + \text{h.o.t. .....}$$

Really?

About bad color choices

Good colour Bad color Good colour
Bad color

Bad or good colour?
Bad color
Bad color Good colour

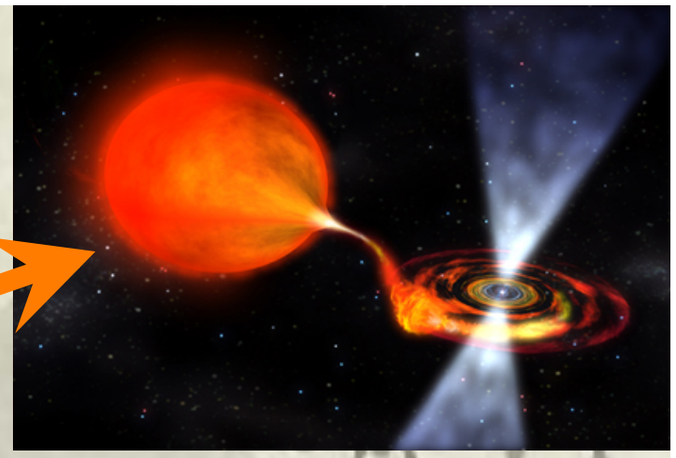
Bad color ..... bad bad!@!

Fancy Backgrounds

- Can be just wonderful

- But can you read all this text?

The Circus Slide



- **Uses many different fonts, colours, and pictures to EMPHASIZE things**

I did say circus, didn't I?!