

Local Group Galaxy Star Formation Histories

Paul Hodge

Department of Astronomy, University of Washington

The approximately 30 members of the Local Group of Galaxies provide a useful sample of galaxies of a variety of types and masses that are close enough for highly-detailed study. Using the Hubble Space Telescope and large-format CCD cameras on ground-based telescopes, it is now possible to determine star-formation histories for most members. The variety is remarkable. Some galaxies include only metal-poor, very old stars, others have mostly moderately metal-rich young stars and there is a wide spectrum of types of histories between these extremes. Using recent data from HST and from the Apache Point 3.5m telescope, I will present some new color-magnitude diagrams of M31, the LMC, NGC 6822, IC 10, LGS 3 and WLM to illustrate these different patterns in star formation histories.