

Seminar

Friday, 9th April 2010

11 am - Room 701

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The HST/ACS Galactic Globular Cluster Treasury Program

The HST/ACS Galactic Globular Cluster Treasury Program has obtained deep images of 65 Galactic globular clusters. Globular clusters (GCs) are massive, dense clusters of stars which typically formed a billion years after the big bang.

The ages, chemical compositions and kinematics of GCs bear the imprint of the Galaxy's early formation history. Cluster whose stars share the same age and chemical composition and only differ in mass play an important role in studies of stellar structure and evolution and in the formation and evolution of the Galaxy. Combined, the Galactic GCs have the potential to answer questions in a broad range of fields from star formation and evolution to galaxy formation and evolution. I will present an overview of the results of the Treasury program. These include an examination of the multiple stellar populations in the globular cluster M54, which is at the centre of the Sagittarius dwarf galaxy, the discovery of two separate stellar populations in the globular cluster NGC 1851 and new results on the relative ages of these 65 clusters.

All Welcome

Contact Details

For further information phone 364 2404, or visit our website: www.phys.canterbury.ac.nz