



#### Galactic Archaeology to its limits - with Gaia (NIR)



Else Starkenburg



## Looking at the early Milky Way using stars







#### These stars are rare

The Milky Way from 1,8 billion stars by Gaia

In a typical halo field only one in ~40,000 has [Fe/H] < -4 (Youakim et al., 2017)



### This talk

- > How do we discover these stars (now)
- > What have we learned from their follow-up
  - Surprises in all Galactic environments!
  - . A very large role for Gaia
- > What is there still to come...
- > What are the prospects and challenges (I see) for Gaia NIR in the future



## Finding the rare, most metal-poor stars

Pre-selection, for instance:

- The **Pristine** survey
- Gaia BPRP spectra



### The Pristine survey



Starkenburg, Martin et al., 2017



# Relative brightness in Pristine (compared to Gaia data)





## Taking the next step



Martin, Starkenburg et al., in prep.

# Applying our method to Gaia spectrophotometry from BP/RP

- › Less deep ...
  - . ... but all-sky
- Input catalogues for upcoming highly-multiplexed spectrographs
   WEAVE (low-res + high-res)
   4MOST halo & bulge surveys





Finding the rare, most metal-poor stars

- The **Pristine** survey
- Gaia BPRP spectra

#### **Distribution & kinematics**

- Gaia
- Spectroscopy



Qualitatively, we do see this in simulations

Sestito, Buck, Starkenburg, Martin et al., 2021, similar results in Santistevan et al., 2021

## The inner Milky Way

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> Pristine Inner Galaxy Survey (PIGS):

- Sample of ~1300 stars with [Fe/H] < -</li>
  2.0 in this region
  - ➢ 9 with [Fe/H] < -3.0</p>
  - More than doubling literature





Anke Arentsen



#### Different dynamics!



- Dynamics change with different metallicity populations
  - Rotation signal gets less and less
  - > Are we seeing a classical bulge component, or the inner halo?

Arentsen, Starkenburg et al., 2020a

## Different chemistry?

PIGS found 62 carbon-rich metal-poor stars (only few known previously)

Less in higher metallicity regime though...

Signature of faster evolution?



Arentsen, Starkenburg et al, 2021



## Update: Do the stars also stay in the bulge?

With thanks to StarHorse (in particular, Anna Queiroz, Cristina Chiappini) also Giacomo Monari





Streamfinder: using proper motions from Gaia & spectroscopy

## The halo: remnants of the past





## Some very exciting streams!

The most metal-poor stellar structure known!





NE

Martin, Venn, Aguado, Starkenburg et al., 2022

## Moving towards the future...

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- > Huge step forward in this field from massively multi-plexed spectrographs
  - . Low-res & high-res ( R ~5000 & R ~ 20 0000)
  - . Large Galactic Archaeology programs
  - Large fields of view 1000s of fibres





## <sup>++</sup>Using Reduced Proper Motion for streams

•  $H_G = m_G + 5log_{10}(\mu) - 10 - A_G$ =  $M_G + 5log_{10}\left(\frac{v_{tan}}{4.74057}\right)$ 

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- Colour versus RPM mimics an HR diagram at different tangential velocities
- High tangential velocity (200-800 km/s) population represents halo





## A reduced proper motion sample



Viswanathan+23, arXiv:2302.00053 Catalogue available at CDS: cat/J/MNRAS/521/2087 Codes at GitHub: astroakshara/RPM-Catalogue-Gaia-DR3

Background: Adapted from STREAMFINDER data

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## Why Main Sequence stars?



#### **Numerous**

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 $>10^2$  times more common than red giants.



## Low surface brightness features

Because they are numerous, it allows us to probe into the faint counterpart of the streams and its features

## Simple distance derivation

Reliable

Σ

8

10

12

**MSTO** 

Relatively simple absolute magnitude relation as a function of colour, which can be used to calculate a photometric distance

Linear fit Running mean

Faint-end

 $\bigcirc$ 

## Low surface brightness streams

GD-1 stellar stream

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- Kinks and features better visible
- > Pushing to the limits of Gaia

Gaia NIR reaches 1.5 – 2 mags fainter





## Low surface brightness streams

Jhelum stellar stream

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Viswanathan+23





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## Gaia NIR – Open questions

> The power of Galactic Archaeology:

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combination of astrometry and spectroscopy (and age)

- > How do we follow-up the targets Gaia NIR will uncover?
- > Are metal-poor spectra in H & K interesting / sufficient?





## Gaia NIR – Open questions



Montelius et al., in prep.

#### Martin Montelius



## Gaia NIR – Opportunities

> Moving into the dusty regions!

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- Better understanding populations in the disk and bulge
  - Improved parallax and proper motion
- > Red faint stars in the halo
  - . To map low surface brightness features
  - And long time-baselines for proper motions
- Complementing the large multi-plexed surveys



## Ready for the future ... to better study the past



**Finding these rare stars** 

- The **Pristine** survey
- Gaia BPRP spectra

**Distribution & kinematics** 

- Gaia
- WEAVE & 4MOST

**Nucleosynthesis pattern** 

- Individual follow-up
- WEAVE & 4MOST

