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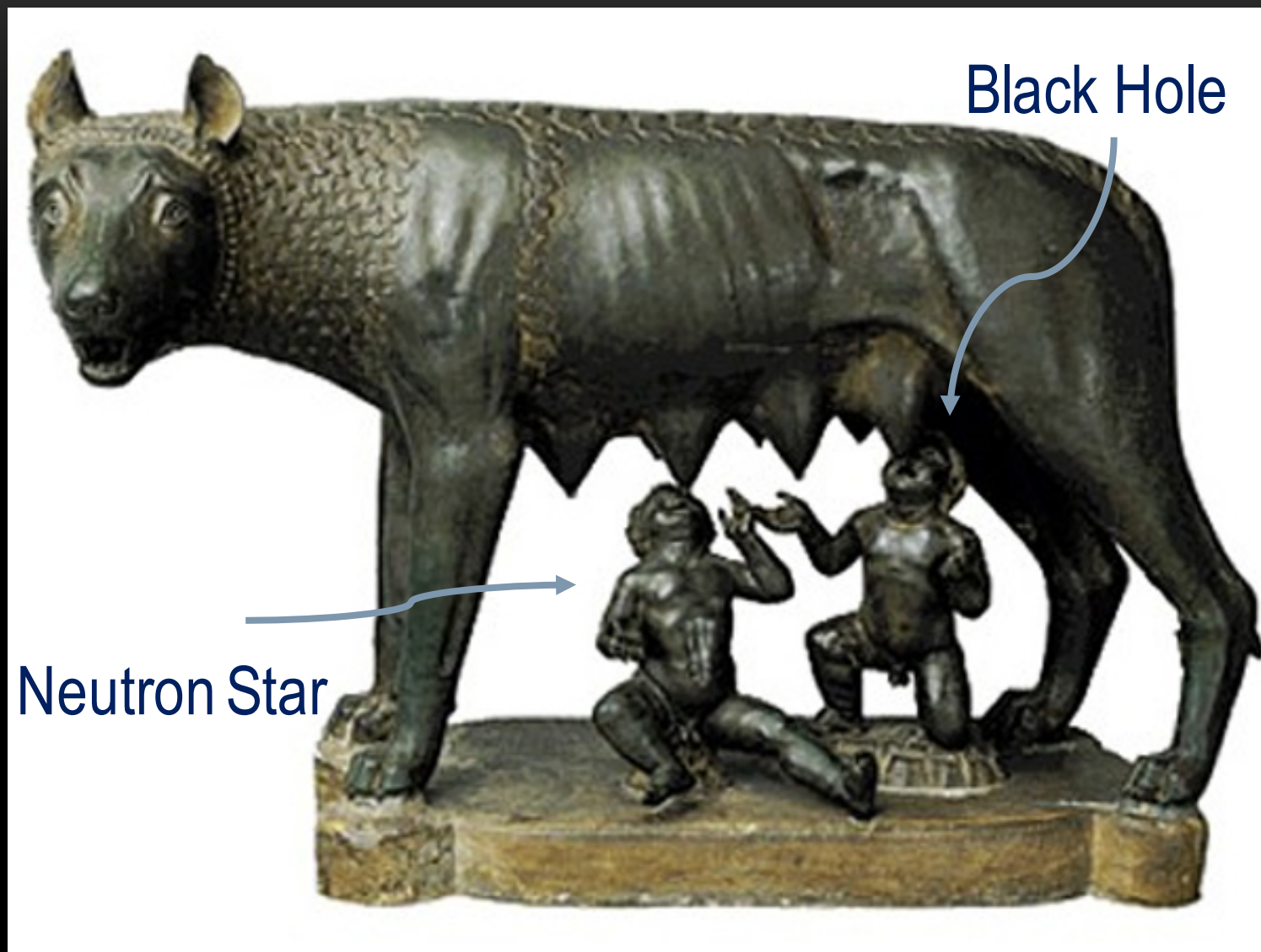
BRIGHT ULXs FROM RING GALAXIES

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ULXs: A MIXED BAG OF SOURCES

- **Heavy stellar:** most are probably HMXB with heavy ($>50 M_{\odot}$) companions; linked to new star formation episodes; possibly to low metallicity.
- **NS:** at least 3 (Bachetti et al, Israel et al, Fuerst et al.) show pulsation in their high energy emission; linked to older population (see *Fuerst, Israel, Mushtukov* talks)
- **IMBH:** no clear evidence yet for $M \sim 10^2 - 10^4 M_{\odot}$



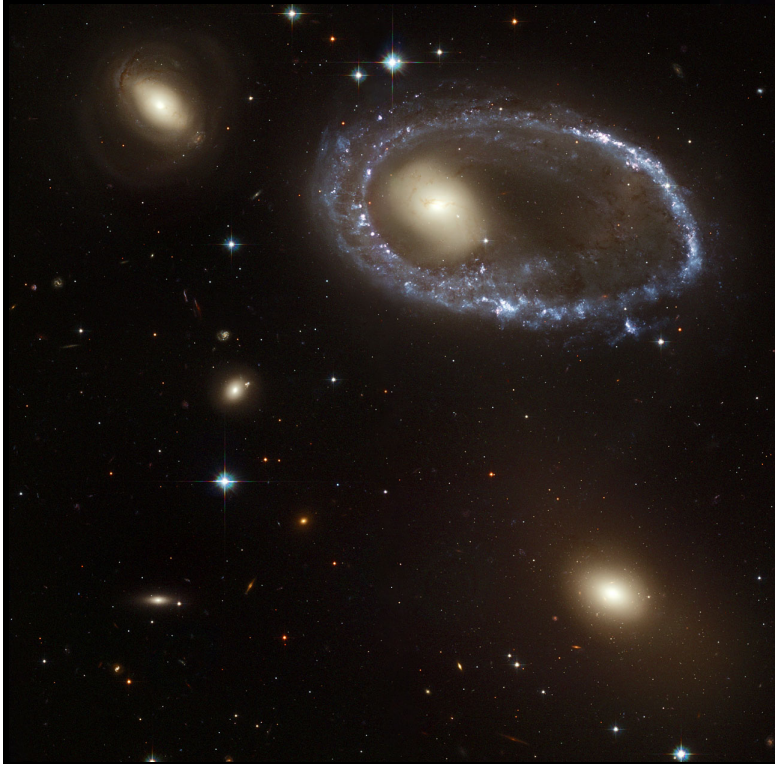
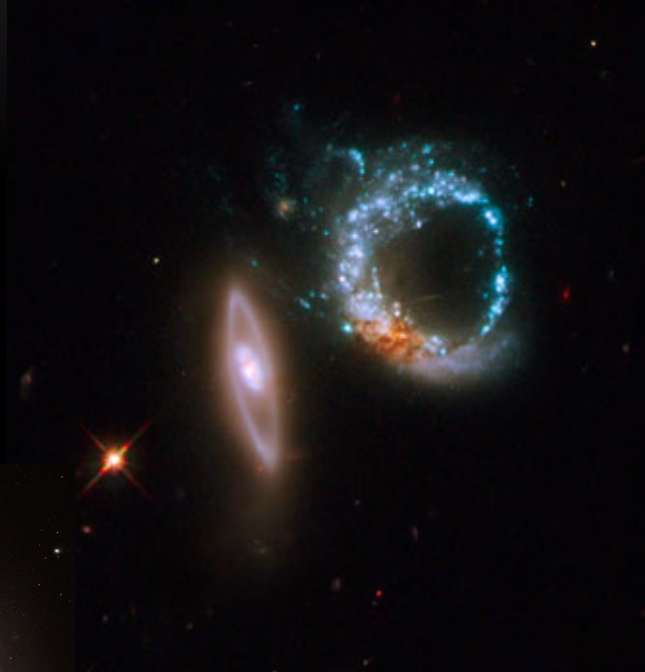
Neutron Star

Black Hole

Who will win in the end?

ULXs: A MIXED BAG OF SOURCES

Where to look for them?



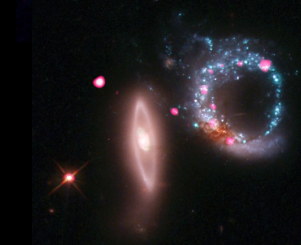
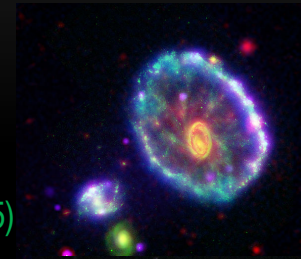
RING GALAXIES – WHY?

- Fresh burst of Star Formation:
 - low metallicity (higher mass of BH);
 - young age (higher mass for both donor and accretor)
- Precise location of source
 - Smaller chance of interlopers

There are 7 “bright and famous” Ring Galaxies observed by Chandra (3 of which have also XMM-Newton data)

OBS. RING GALAXIES & # OF ULX_s IN RING

- Cartwheel (14+1) [Wolter et al. 2006](#)
- Arp 284 (2+7) [Smith, Struck, & Nowak \(2005\)](#)
- Arp 147 (9+0) [Rappaport et al. \(2010\)](#)
- NGC 922 (7+5) [Prestwich et al \(2012\)](#)
- AM 0644-741 (7) AW+ in prep
- Arp 148 (2) AW+ in prep
- Arp 143 (9) AW+ in prep

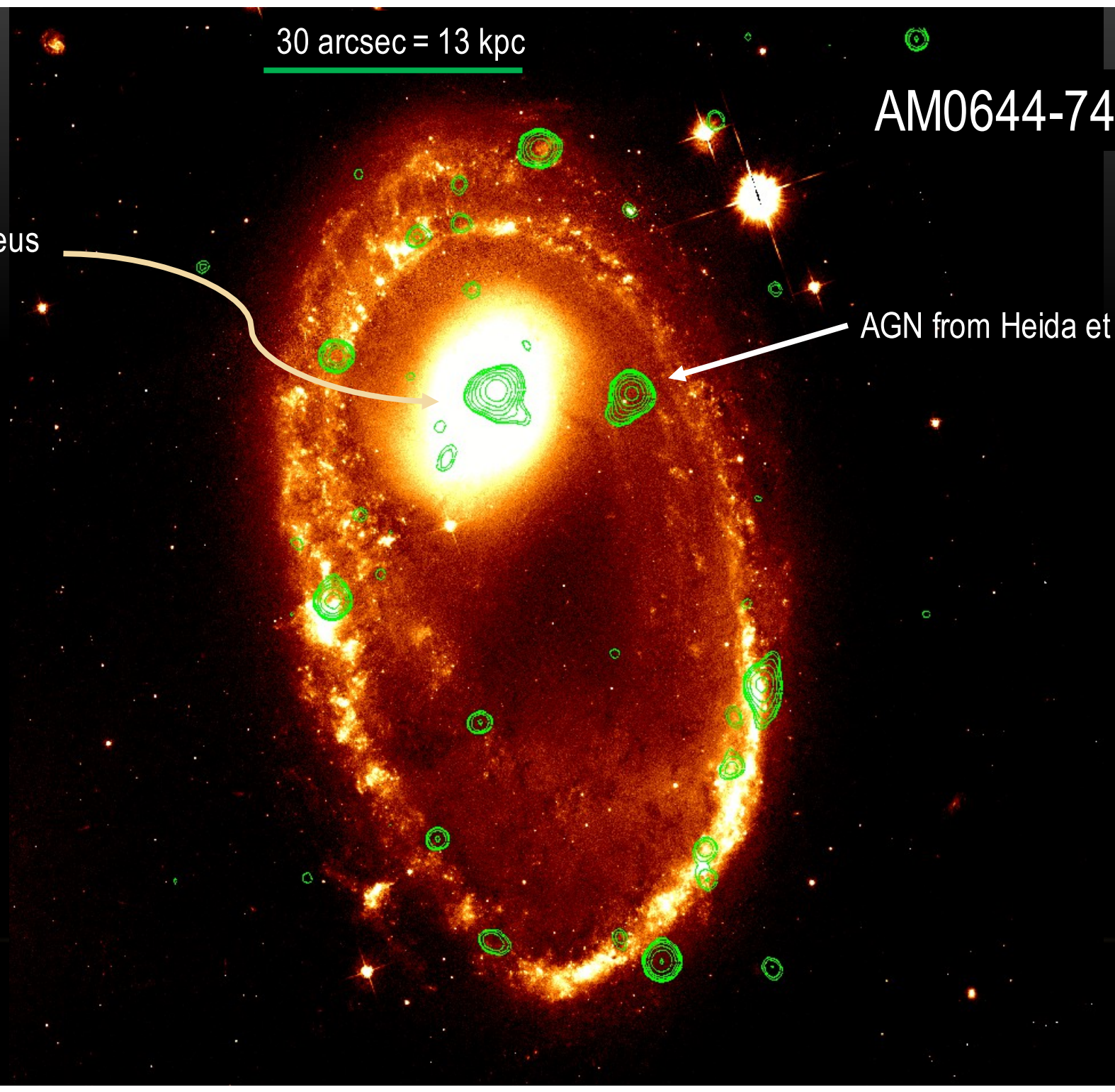


30 arcsec = 13 kpc

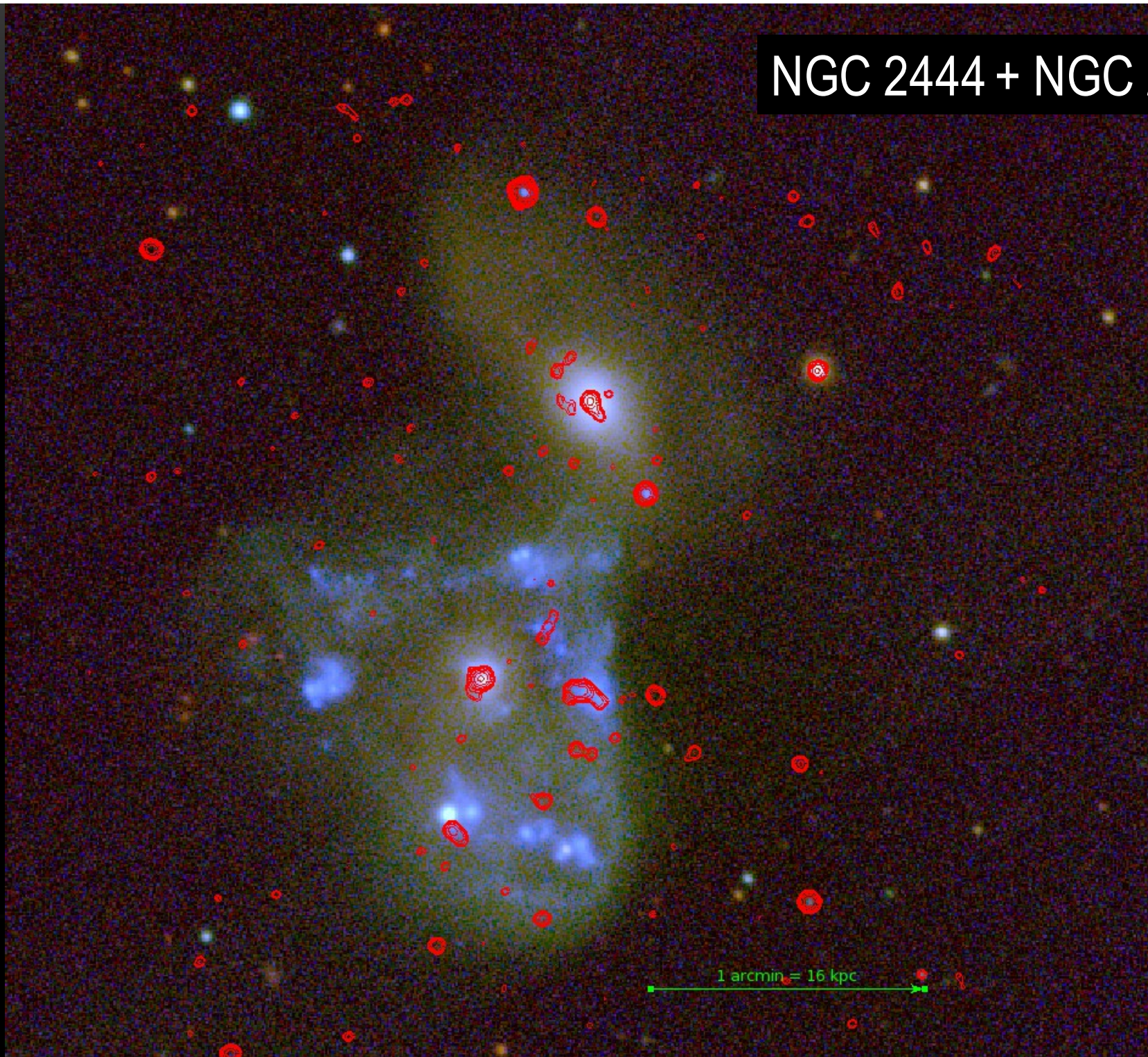
AM0644-741

Nucleus

AGN from Heida et al. 2013



NGC 2444 + NGC 2445



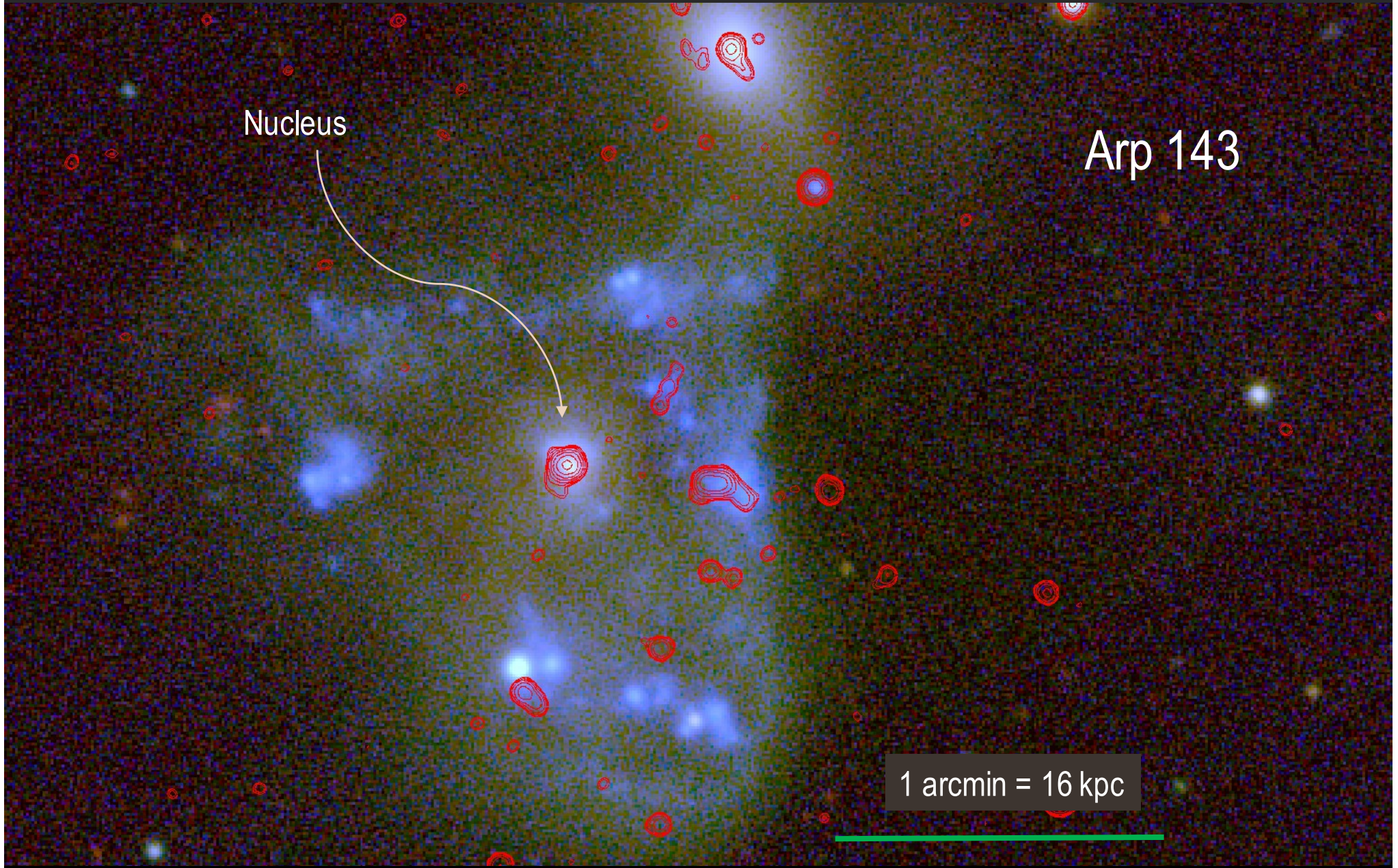
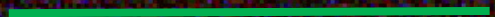
1 arcmin = 16 kpc

Arp 143

Nucleus

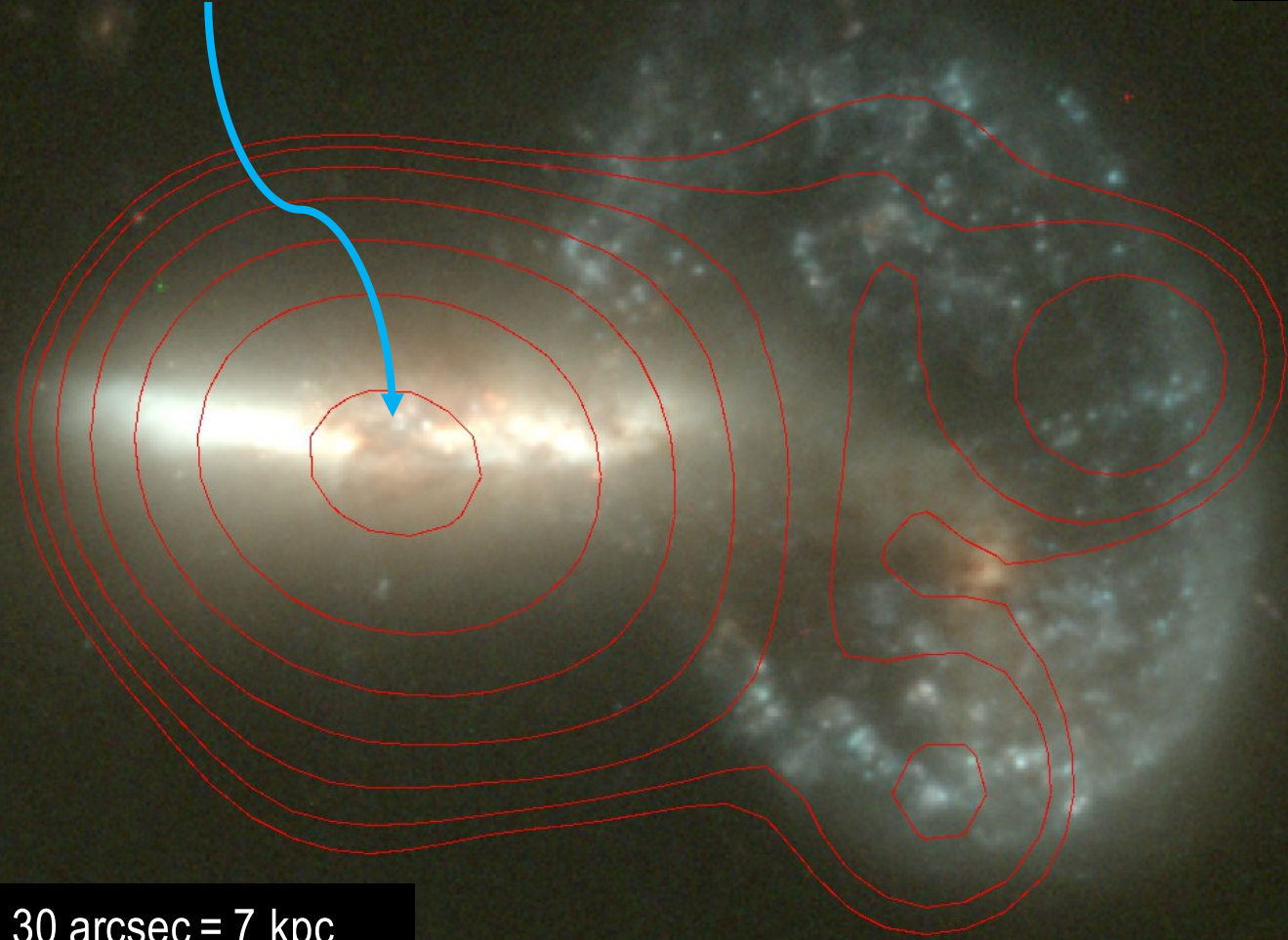


1 arcmin = 16 kpc



Arp 148

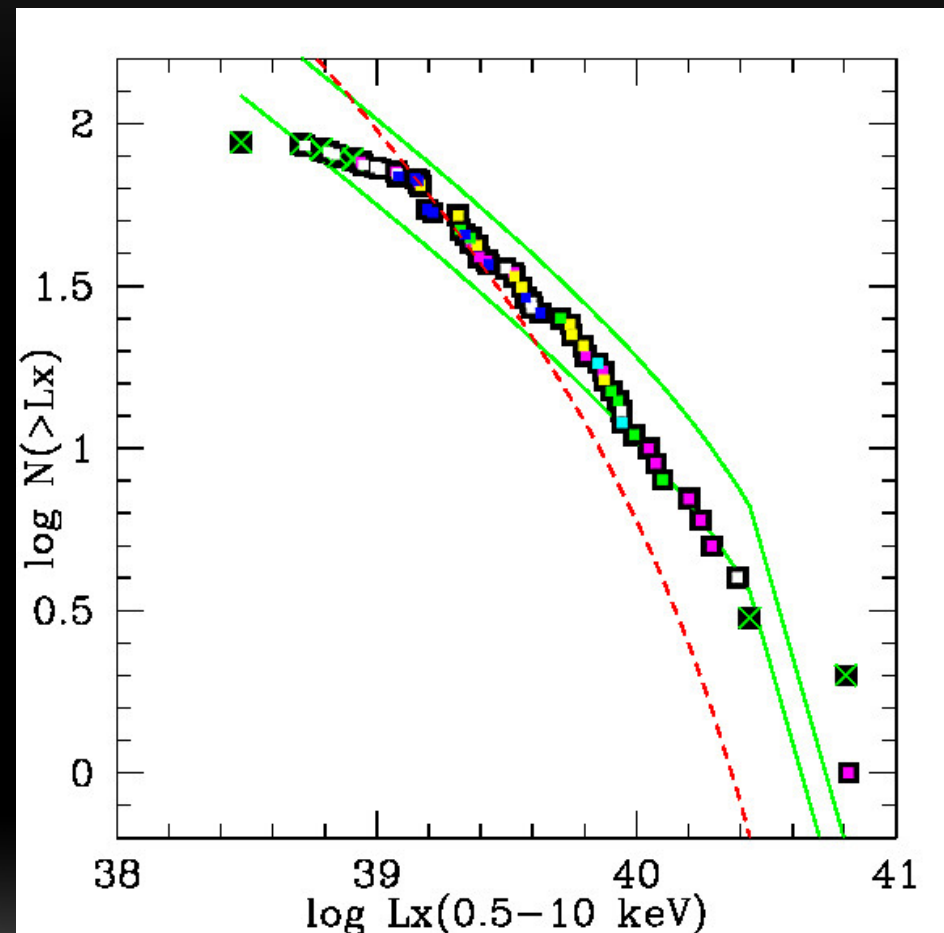
Nucleus? Galaxy?

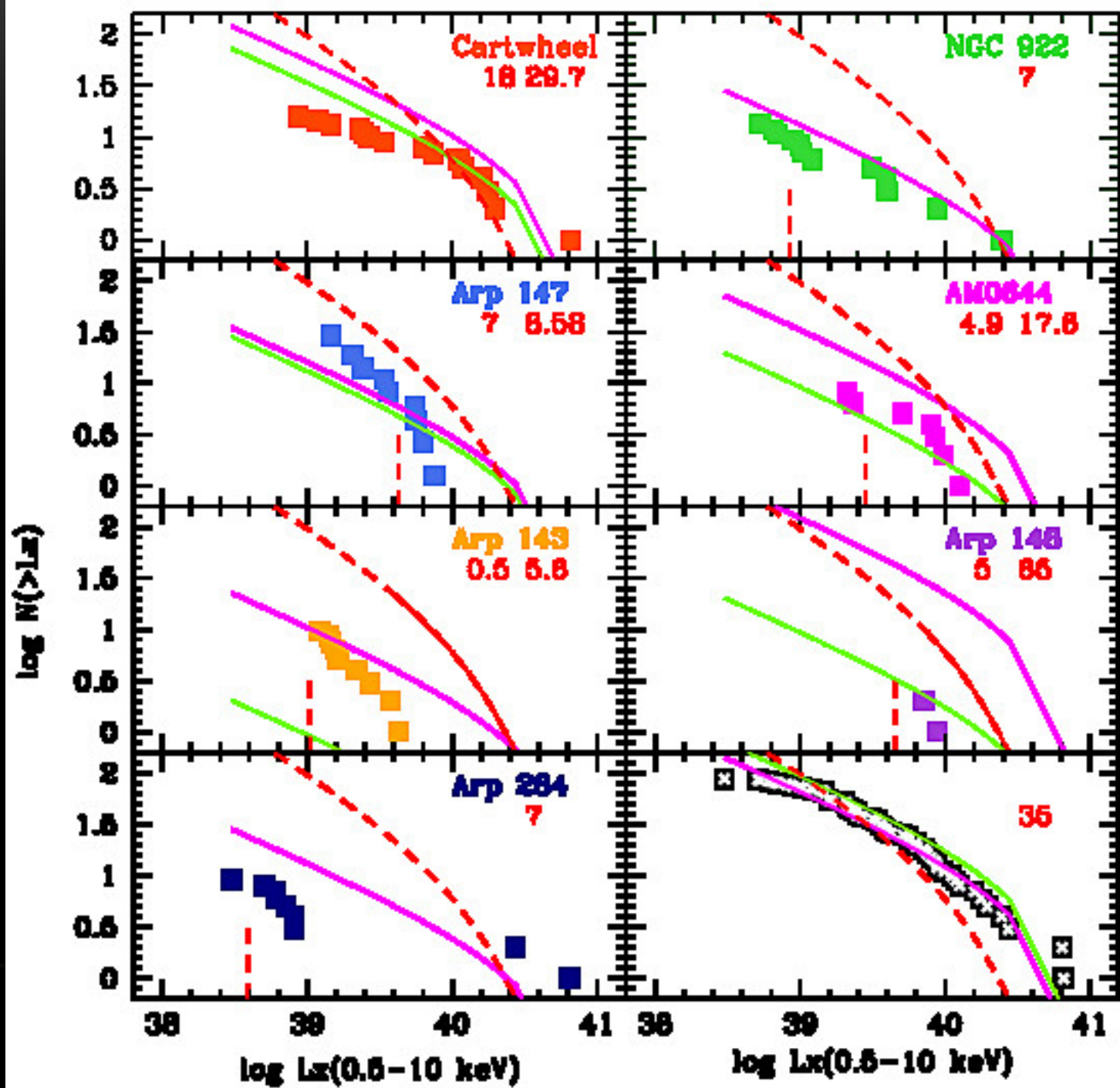


30 arcsec = 7 kpc

X-RAY LUMINOSITY FUNCTION – RING ONLY

- We consider the population homogenous – we sum all the sources
- Colors correspond to different galaxies
- 50 are ULXs; $\text{SFR}_{\text{Tot}} = 33 \text{ Msun}$
- COMPARISON with previous work
- Grimm et al. 2003:
30 Msun – 50 Msun (green lines)
- Swartz et al 2011:
~ consistent total SFR = 51 Msun
- Consistent within errorbars BUT:
higher Lx and two outlier sources





SFR AND ULX NUMBER

Correlation between the number of ULX and the SFR of host galaxy
(Swartz+2009, Mapelli+2009, Mapelli+2010, Mineo+2010 ..)

In Ring Galaxies the age of the impact is small (when estimated):

440 Myr Cartwheel (Higdon+1995)

330 Myr NGC 922 (Wong+2006)

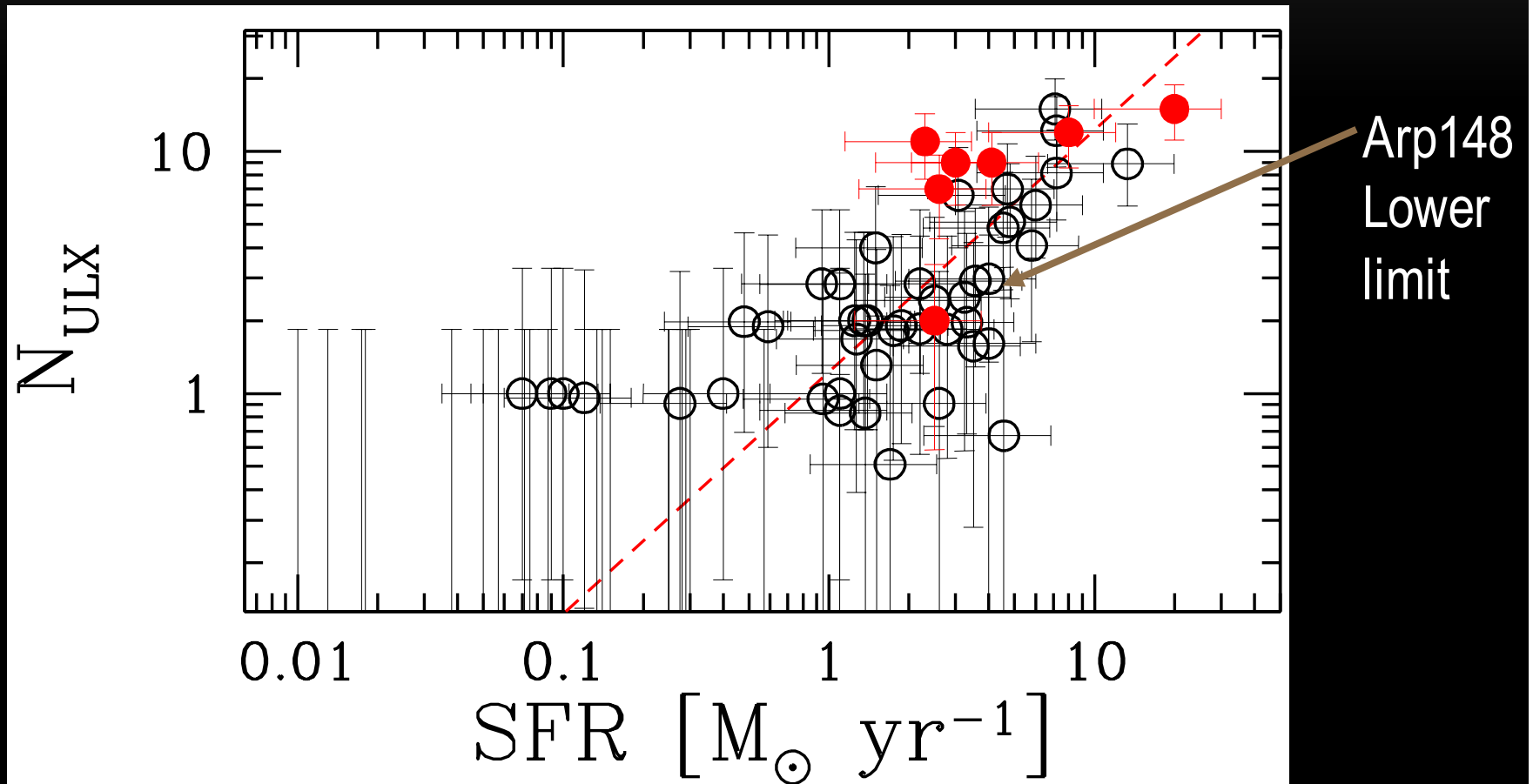
80 Myr Arp 147 (Romano+2000)

30 Myr Arp 143 (Higdon+1995)

The large number of ULXs is linked to the **current** episode of SF.

Comparison sample of 66 late type gals (Mapelli+2011)

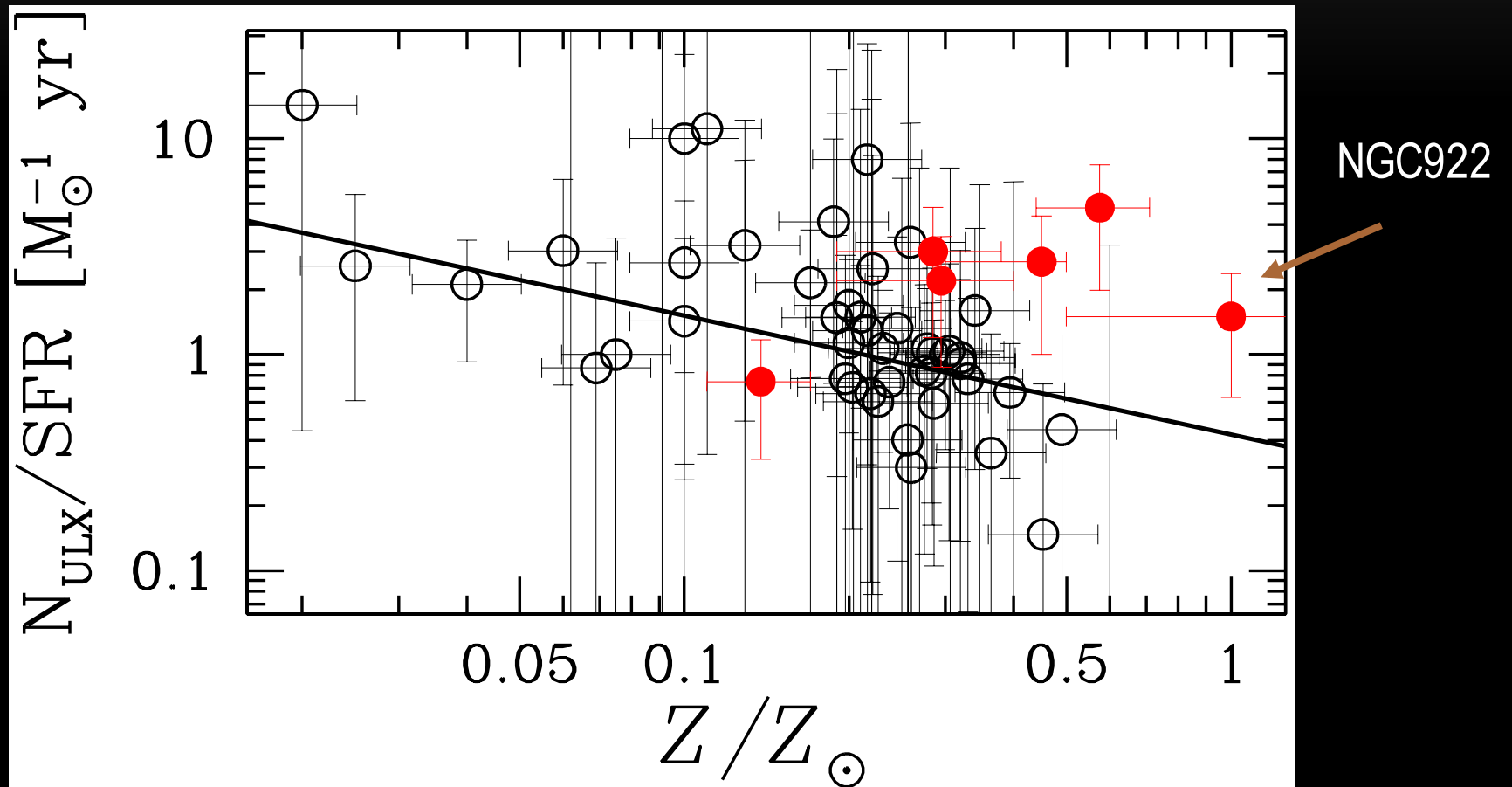
SFR AND ULX NUMBER



DEPENDENCE ON METALLICITY

- Anti-correlation between Number of ULX normalized by SFR and Z (metallicity) of host galaxy (Mapelli+2009, Kareet+2011, Prestwich+2013, Brorby+2016..)
- Large fraction of ULXs associated to massive stellar BH ($M > 20 M_{\text{sun}}$) (see Mapelli+2009, Zampieri+2009, Mapelli+2014)
- Metal poor X-ray binaries are more luminous than metal rich peers (Linden+2010)
- The issue is not settled yet
- Metallicity for the Ring Galaxies – except the Cartwheel – is very uncertain

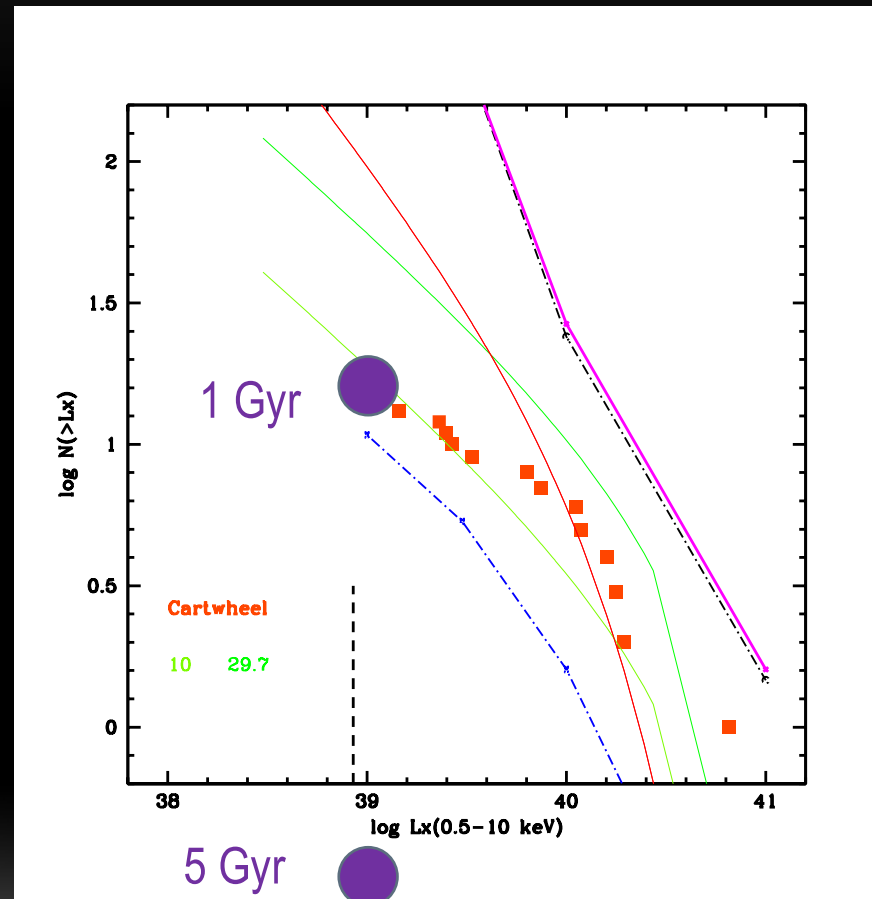
DEPENDENCE ON METALLICITY



ARE THESE OBJECTS BHs OR NSs?

Recent paper from Wiktorowicz+2017
(see also *Wiktorowicz* talk)

- Prediction of # of ULX based on StarTrack pop. synthesis (Belczynski+2002,+2003)
- Compare with Cartwheel XLF:
 $Z=0.14 Z_{\text{sun}}$
 $M = 8 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Blue: total ULX
- Dashed: BH , NS number
- @1Gyr: NS if burst; BH if constant SFR



CONCLUSION

- We have collected point sources in the ring of 7 Ring Galaxies
- For a total of > 60 sources, of which 50 are ULXs
- The combined XLF is consistent with previous results indicating a relation with the SFR of the galaxies summed up.
- There is a tendency of having brighter sources – even if not confirmed on a statistical basis
- Based on Wictorowicz et al prediction, most of these sources are most probably BHs, especially at high L_x .
- Are the two brightest sources (1 from Cartwheel, the other from Arp284) IMBH? A new deep look in X-rays (if granted) will allow us to discriminate.