



FUELING THE FIRE: A NYC EXPERIENCE IN ACADEMIA

Lori E. Porter

Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Louisville

lori.porter@louisville.edu

astrolori.com



My Role This Summer

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity of interning in NYC for 3.5 months at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Computational Astrophysics with Dr. Blakesley Burkhart and Dr. Matt Orr. Here, I developed fantastic mentorships that have continued after I left. My focus this summer was studying metallicity relations in dwarf galaxies using computer simulations. The sample of galaxies I ended up studying is also incredibly diverse- we see two low-mass dwarfs, a major-merger, a uniform disk, and one that is constantly undergoing explosions. In all, our sample was very similar to observations.



My Experience in NYC

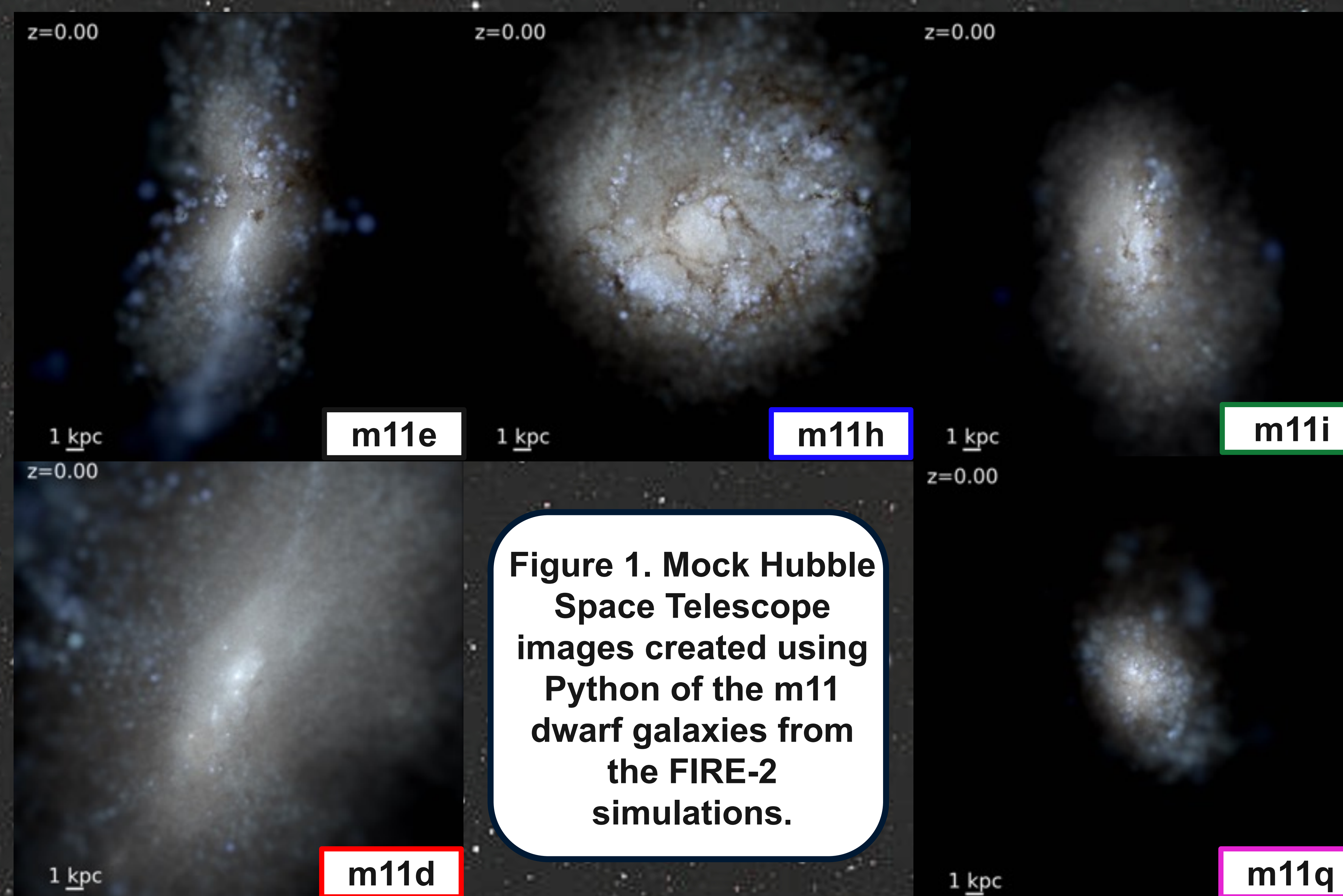
New York was an incredible experience. Research isn't easy, but I really enjoyed the culture of the office, from unlimited coffee to office-mates that were from every corner of the country. Experiencing the city post-COVID as well was an eye-opener to how people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, in and outside of academia.

Future Plans

I meet with my mentors every other week, and hope to finish a research paper about my project before May 2022. I also hope to attend the Summer 2022 meeting of the Area Astronomical Society in Pasadena, California.

Why Do Astronomy Research?

I have experience in research at the University of Louisville, but I've never gotten to do so full-time – much less with another woman in STEM. Not only do I love what I study, but it was a fantastic experience to get to do so with someone that came from exact same institution and with the same mentors that I have now. Women and minorities are typically underrepresented in STEM, and especially in academia, so it was incredibly motivating to get this experience in New York City of all places. This experience will be key in my future for attending graduate school and getting my PhD in astronomy/astrophysics.



Acknowledgements

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