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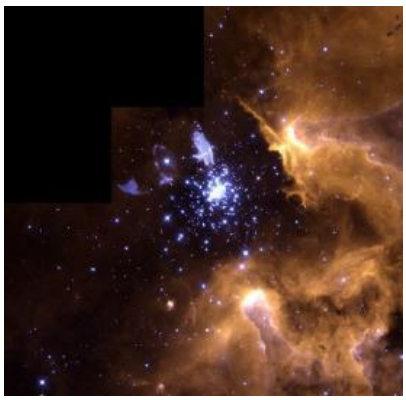
Disruptive processes: from star clusters to binaries

Prof. Richard de Grijs (KIAA, PKU)

Richard de Grijs is Professor of Astrophysics at the Kavli Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics at Peking University. He obtained his PhD at the University of Groningen (Netherlands) in 1997, with subsequent postdoctoral appointments at the Universities of Virginia (USA) and Cambridge (UK). He was a senior faculty member at the University of Sheffield (UK) before his move to Beijing. His research has moved from the structure and evolution of galaxies to topics related to the evolution and dynamics of dense, massive star clusters, and more recently to the astronomical distance scale. He is Deputy Editor of The Astrophysical Journal Letters and Founding Director of the East Asian node of the International Astronomical Union's Office of Astronomy for Development. He was awarded the 2012 Selby Award for excellence in science by the Australian Academy of Science and a 2013 Visiting Academy Professorship by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Abstract



Most stars form in star clusters, so most field stars may in fact originate in star clusters. How do star clusters populate the field? I will address the disruptive processes affecting star clusters as a function of time, with particular emphasis on the earliest phases of disruption. I will also discuss the internal dynamics of the stars and binary systems in young, dense star clusters. We recently unexpectedly discovered the first observational evidence of the disruption of soft binary systems in a young, massive cluster in the Large Magellanic Cloud on a timescale of only a few tens of Myr and are exploring the conditions under which this may have occurred.

All are welcome! Tea, coffee, biscuits will be served at 2:15 P.M.

You are welcome to nominate speakers to Weimin Yuan (wmy@nao.cas.cn), Mei Zhang (zhangmei@bao.ac.cn), Licai Deng (licai@bao.ac.cn), Xuelei Chen (xuelei@cosmology.bao.ac.cn), Shude Mao (smao@nao.cas.cn)