

### A unique laboratory: The Massive Black Hole in the Galactic Center

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#### Extremely dense star cluster

30" = 4 lightyears

Schödel+ 2006 (ISAAC, VLT)

#### The central 20": Seeing limited





### Adaptive Optics

NACO, HKL color composite



Diffractionlimited images

#### Stars move on Keplerian orbits





#### Real Data (!)

Model

#### Currently: 30 orbits known





 $M=4\times10^{6}~M_{\odot}$  in 100 AU

$$M = 4\pi^2 \frac{a^3}{GT^2}$$
  
=  $4\pi^2 \frac{(0.12'' \times 8 \text{ kpc})^3}{6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2} \times 15.2 \text{ yr}^2}$   
=  $4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$   
 $p = a(1-e)$   
=  $0.12'' \times 8 \text{ kpc} \times (1-0.9)$   
=  $100 \text{ AU}$ 



#### IR coordinate system is tied to ICRF with 9 radio SiO masers



Reid+ 2007

### Sgr A\* and mass coincide to ~ 3 mas $\alpha_{\rm MBH} = 2.9 \pm 0.5|_{\rm stat} \pm 1.2|_{\rm sys} \,{\rm mas}$ $\delta_{\rm MBH} = 0.4 \pm 0.8|_{\rm stat} \pm 1.2|_{\rm sys} \,{\rm mas}$





Sgr A\*



#### Sgr A\* must be very heavy

- perfectly linear motion •reflex motion of Sun (~200 km/s)
- intrinsic motion •gal. l : -7.2 ± 8.5 km/s •gal. b: -0.4 ± 0.9 km/s
- Sgr A\* is much heavier than surrounding stars •> 4 x 10<sup>5</sup> M<sub>☉</sub>

#### Sgr A\* is extremely small





### A rock solid case: Sgr A\* is the MBH

# A potential second BH in the GC would need to be light & distant



Hansen & Milosavljevic 2003, Gualandris & Merritt 2007, 2009 Merritt, Gualandris, Mikkola 2009 Reid & Brunthaler 2004 Gillessen+ 2009

# How well do we know that mass is point-like?

$$\eta M_{\rm MBH} = 4\pi \int_{\rm peri}^{\rm apo} dr \, r^2 \int dm \, n(r,m)$$

estimate	η (for M <sub><math>\star</math></sub> = 10 M <sub><math>\odot</math></sub> )
extrapolating stellar number counts	3.7 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>
Drain Limit	≤ 11 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>
Dynamical modeling	1 - 5 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>
Number of XRB	1.5 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>
Dark Matter	10 <sup>-9</sup> – 10 <sup>-10</sup>

Measured:  $\eta_{S2} = 0.021 \pm 0.019|_{stat} \pm 0.006|_{model}$ 

#### Radial velocity data & fit



#### Point mass and Distance are measured & correlated

VLT (Gillessen+ 2009)

Keck (Ghez+ 2008)



#### A short history of R<sub>0</sub>



#### Surprisingly, the S-stars are young



### The spectrum of S2 really is that of an ordinary main sequence B2 star



Martins+ 2008

### S-stars: A Paradox of Youth

Ghez+ 2003

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

 ♦ Star formation so close the MBH impossible

![](_page_24_Figure_4.jpeg)

♦ Stars are too young to have migrated from further out  $t_{2BR} \approx 3 \, \text{Gyr}$ 

![](_page_24_Picture_6.jpeg)

 $t_{\rm MS} \approx 0.1 \, {\rm Gyr}$ 

#### For r > 1": Hard to measure accelerations

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

(a, e, i, ω, Ω, t)

The traces for the young, clockwise moving stars intersect in one point

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

orientation of orbital angular momentum

Bartko+ 2009

Lu+ 2009

# (Most of) the CW moving O/WR-stars revolve in a disk

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Disk orbits have $\langle e \rangle \approx 0.4$

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

## The disk is warped & counter-CW feature at $r \approx 5''$

Bartko+ 2009

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

## The disk is warped & counter-CW feature at $r \approx 5''$

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Disk-IMF is top-heavy

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Two paradoxes of Youth

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Orbital planes: S-stars ≠ disk stars

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Eccentricities: S-stars ≠ Disk stars

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Radial density** profile of young stars is steep amplitude of red clump in KLF

Buchholz+ 2009, Do+ 2009, Bartko+ 2010

### Idea I: Cluster in-spiral

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

Idea II: In-situ formation in infalling gas cloud

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

Bonnel & Rice 2008, Hobbs & Nayakshin 2008

#### Two paradoxes of Youth

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

### The S-stars puzzle is much harder

In-situ formation

- Critical density  $\sim M/R^3$   $\approx 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ g/cm}^3$ (for R = 0.5")
- Core of clump in molecular cloud
   ≈ 10<sup>6</sup>/cm<sup>3</sup>

![](_page_39_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Fast transport

- cosmic pool game
- fast relaxation processes
- Migration from O/WR star disks

![](_page_39_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Rejuvination

- Stars are actually old but look young
- "stripping" of giants, S-stars are the hot cores
- Spectrum of S2

![](_page_39_Picture_14.jpeg)

# The Hill's mechanism is the key for fast transport

#### **Massive Perturbers**

- Scattering of field binaries into near loss cone orbits due to "Massive Perturbers"
- Tidal break-up of binaries at pericenter passage Hills 1988
- Fast Relaxation of orbit to match observed properties
  - Resonant?

#### Migration

- Formation of B-stars in (former) disks
- Interactions to increase <e> 2<sup>nd</sup> disk, stellar cusp, IMBH, e-instability, ...
- Fast Relaxation
  IMBH?

## Both scenarios direct stars to large <e> orbits within few Myr

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

Resonant relaxation is just fast enough

# IMBH: Would stall at interesting radius and randomize orbits fast enough

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

Baumgardt, Gualandris, Portegies Zwart 2006

Merritt, Gualandris, Mikkola 2009

# The eccentricity distribution might be the clue

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

### What is limiting astrometry today?

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### S2–like stars: Distortions Fainter stars: Halo noise

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fritz+ 2009

#### A positional noise floor: Residual Image Distortions

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_0.jpeg)

- Resolution would help (ELTs)
- High Strehl helps
- room for improvements for PSF determination ?

### "Halo noise"

### Seeing halo extends beyond radii at which the PSF can be determined

![](_page_48_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### Assume, we continue what we are doing. How well do we do then?

![](_page_49_Picture_1.jpeg)

NACO: Astrometry with 300 µas SINFONI: Spectroscopy with 15 km/s

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### A unique laboratory: The Massive Black Hole in the Galactic Center

- ~ 30 S-star orbits (r < 1")
- MBH most conservative explanation of data
- Astronishing S2 orbit
  - $R_0 = 8.3 \pm 0.4 \text{ kpc}$
  - M = 4.3 ± 0.06 |<sub>stat</sub> ± 0.35 |<sub>R0</sub> × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sub> $\odot$ </sub>
  - non-pointlike mass:  $\eta < 3\%$
- Warped disk of O/WR stars (1" < r < 10")
  - Different population of stars
  - in-situr formation from gaseous disk
- S-stars form a harder puzzle
  - Massive Perturbers + Hills mechanism + Resonant relaxation seem more probable than
  - IMBH-assisted migration
- Positional accuracy ~ 200 μas
  - For S2 distortion limited
  - limit for fainter stars: confusion / resolution
  - GR precession in S2 detected after next pericenter passage (2018)

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)