A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS:
VMC, GAIA AND BEYOND

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VMC galaxy structures

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Formation and evolution of galaxies are mainly driven by mergers/interactions. In low red shift, minor mergers play a significant role. It is believed that they are the fundamental components in the formation of the halo of galaxies like Milky Way and in building the outskirts of massive elliptical galaxies. The signatures of these mergers/interactions would have imprinted on their structure and stellar populations and are excellent tools to understand galaxy evolution. In this context, I will review the results on the 3D geometry of the Magellanic System, one of the closest examples of wet (gas rich) minor merger events, using the near infrared data from the VISTA Survey of Magellanic Clouds (VMC) and discuss the constraints they provide on the evolutionary history of this system.