# Massive Stars as Cosmic Abundance Probes with JWST

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Image Credit: ESO press release 0927

#### Outline

- Motivation:
  - What are Red Supergiants (RSGs)?
  - Why do we care about galaxy metallicity?
- Estimating abundances from RSGs
- Metallicities from RSGs and Super Star Clusters (SSCs)
- RSG abundances with JWST



• Young <50Myr

#### **Galaxy Metallicity**

• Metallicity determined by cycling of processed material

Galaxy Mass-Metallicity (M-Z) Relation

 Metallicity gradient explains dynamics of galaxy evolution



#### How to estimate Galaxy Metallicity

- Deriving metallicity:
  - HII regions
  - Young Stars



#### How to estimate Galaxy Metallicity

- Deriving metallicity:
  - HII regions
  - Young Stars
  - and more ...



#### **M-Z Relation**



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#### **M-Z Relation**



Kewley & Ellison 2008

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## Abundances with RSGs

- J-band clean spectral window
- Elemental features: Fe I, Si I, Ti I and Mg I



1.16





#### **RSGs in NGC 6822 with KMOS**



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Ratio with offset

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#### **Sculptor Group RSGs: NGC 300**

gradient: -0.081 ± 0.011 dex kpc<sup>-1</sup>



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#### **Sculptor Group RSGs: NGC 55**



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#### **M-Z Relation with RSGs**



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#### **M-Z Relation with RSGs**



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- Metallicities of RSGs and SSCs to ±0.20 dex
- Access to many different SF environments
- RSGs in Virgo Cluster J~21: S/N~75 in 100 ks





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#### Conclusions

• RSGs abundances in external galaxies

 First steps in the Local Universe: NGC 6822, Sculptor Group (NGC 55/NGC 300) & Antennae

• RSGs with JWST-NIRSpec in many different environments

# Red Supergiants Stars as Cosmic Abundance Probes

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Image Credit: ESO press release 0927

## **Young Massive Clusters**



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