

Probing the ultracool dwarf population around the Horsehead nebula

Styliani (Stella) Tsilia
Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)

Brown Dwarfs Keep their Cool: 30 Years of Substellar Science
2 September 2025



The Horsehead Nebula

- ✦ Nearby (~ 400 pc)
- ✦ Young objects
- ✦ Active star formation
- ✦ Complex structure
- ✦ Well-studied



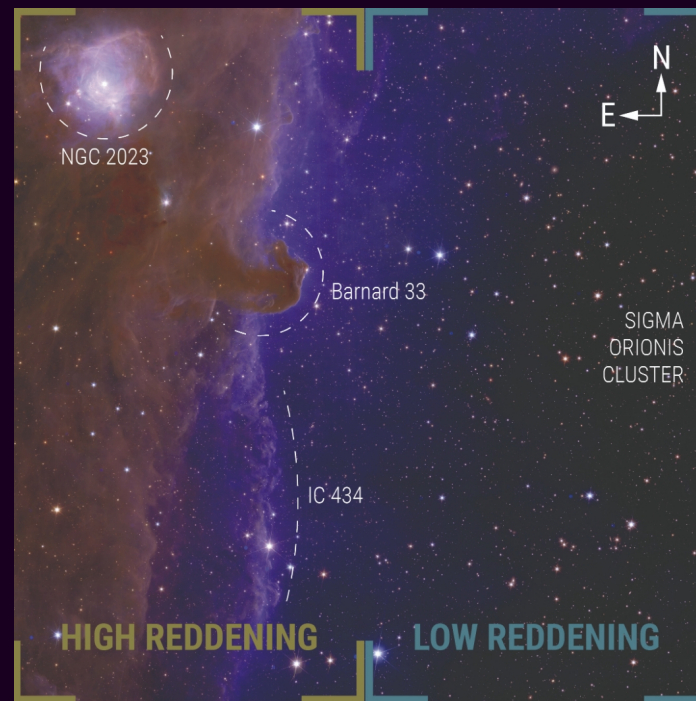
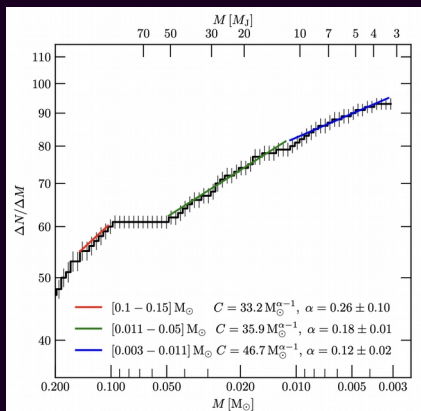
ESA/Euclid/Euclid Consortium/NASA,
image processing by J.-C. Cuillandre G. Anselmi

The Horsehead Nebula

1st ERO Substellar paper:
Showcase of Euclid's potential

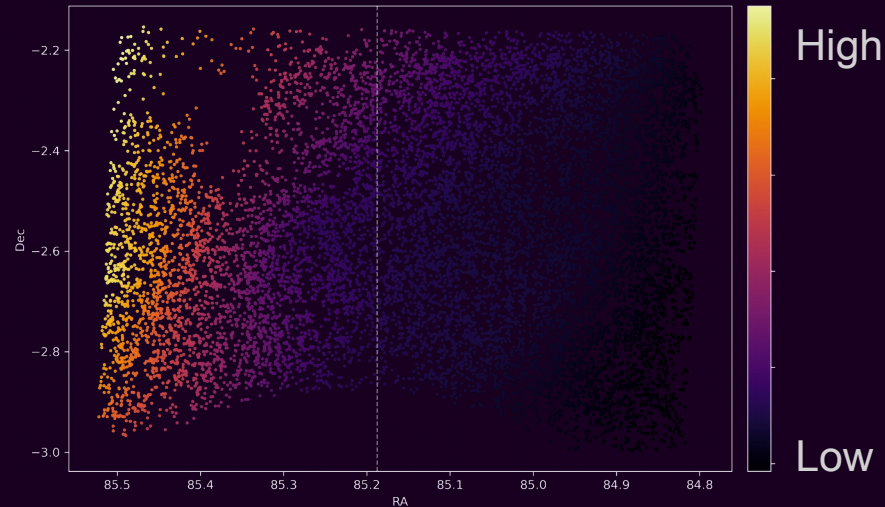
σ Orionis
Substellar
IMF

see talk by M. Zerjal



Martín et al. 2025

High reddening region



Currently available dust maps are low-resolution

⇒ Use lower limits to constrain UCD candidates

Scientific outlook

Addressing the stellar-to-substellar ratio, especially with respect to this field's complex morphology

Probing the star formation history in this field

Extending the very low mass IMF of the region, comparing with the σ Orionis substellar IMF

Constraining UCD candidates

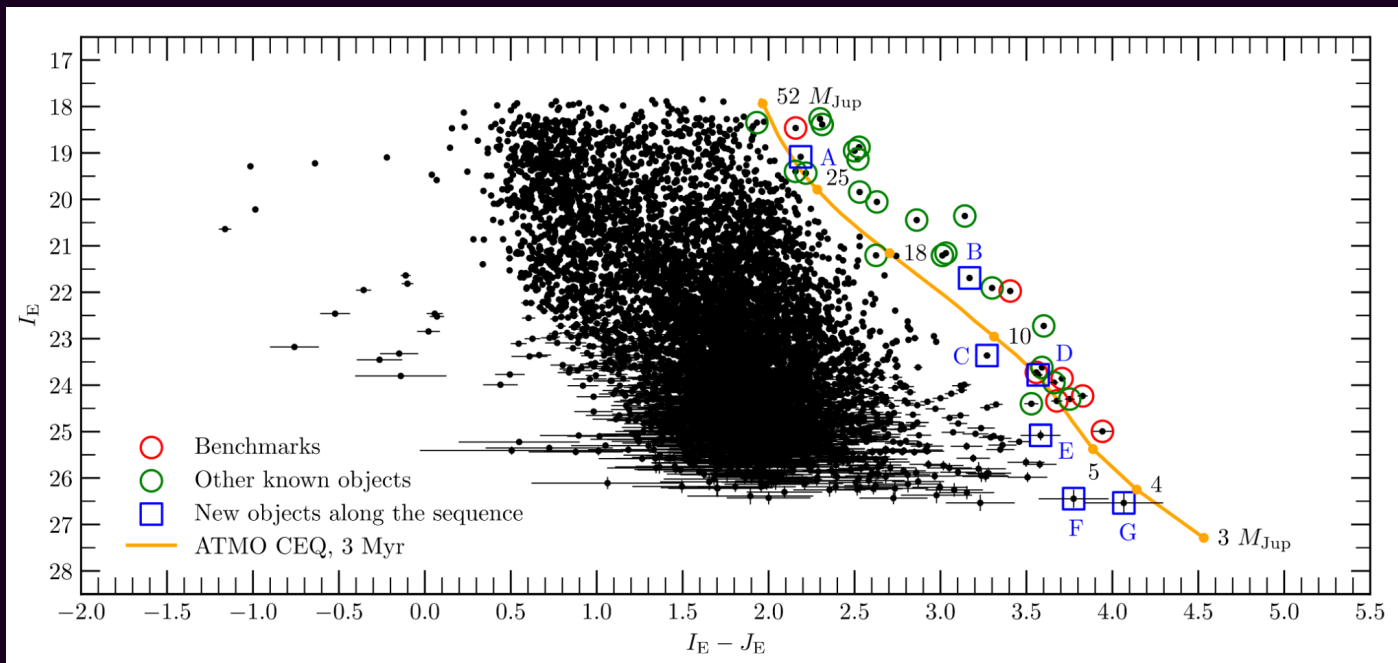
Denebulized catalog

Renewed filtering criteria

Combine with ancillary data (Spitzer)

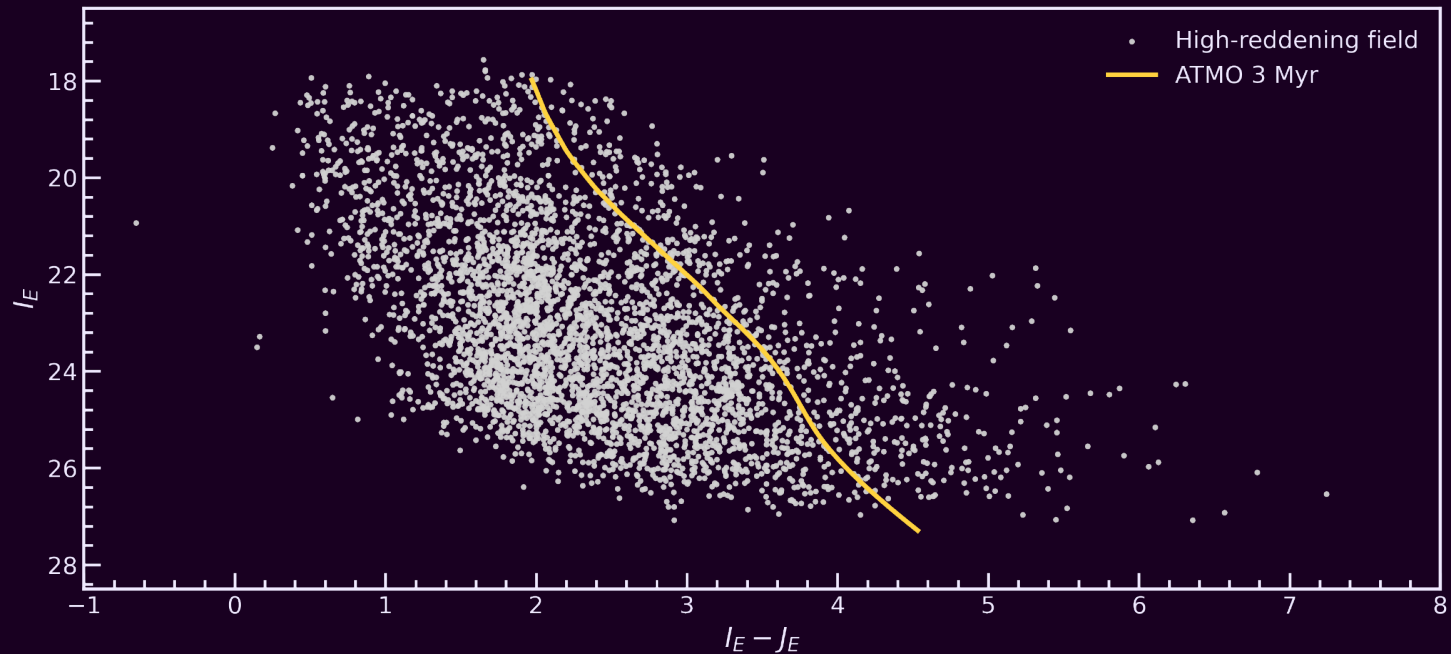
Use ATMO 3 Myr isochrone

Constraining UCD candidates



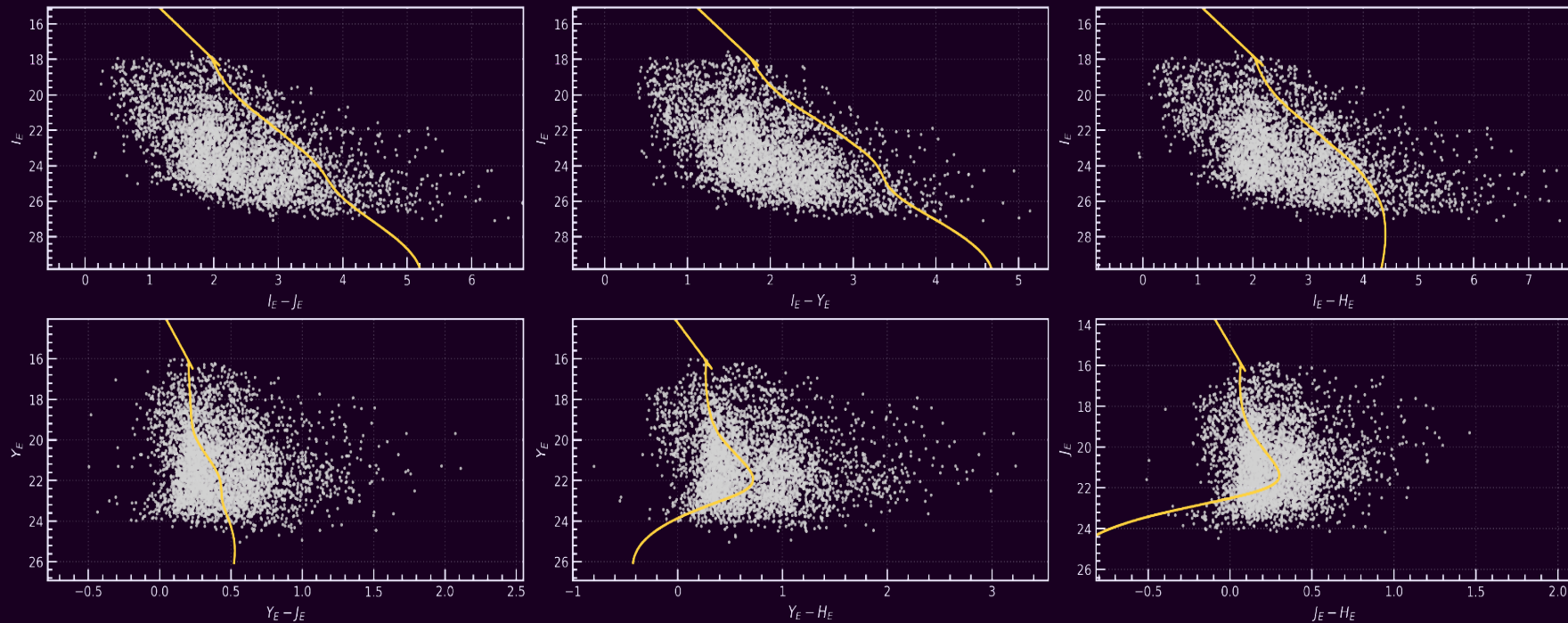
Martín et al. 2025

Constraining UCD candidates

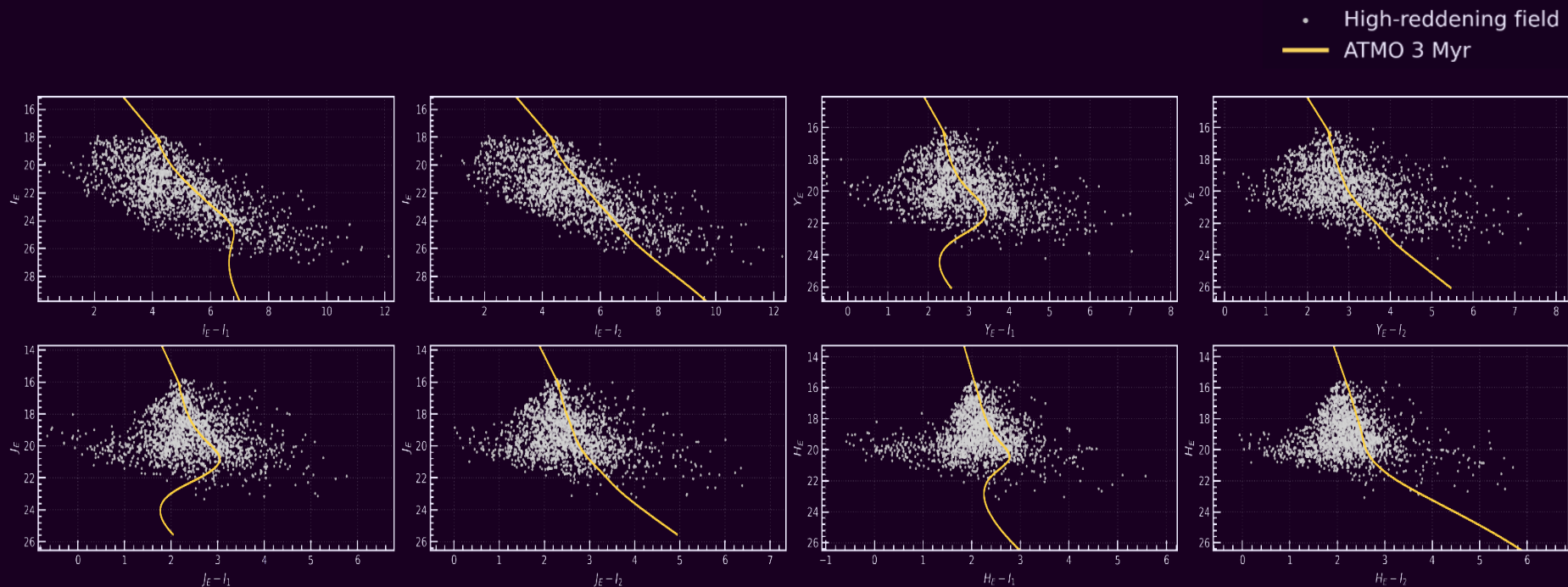


Constraining UCD candidates

- High-reddening field
- ATMO 3 Myr



Constraining UCD candidates



Constraining UCD candidates

Denebulized catalog

Renewed filtering criteria

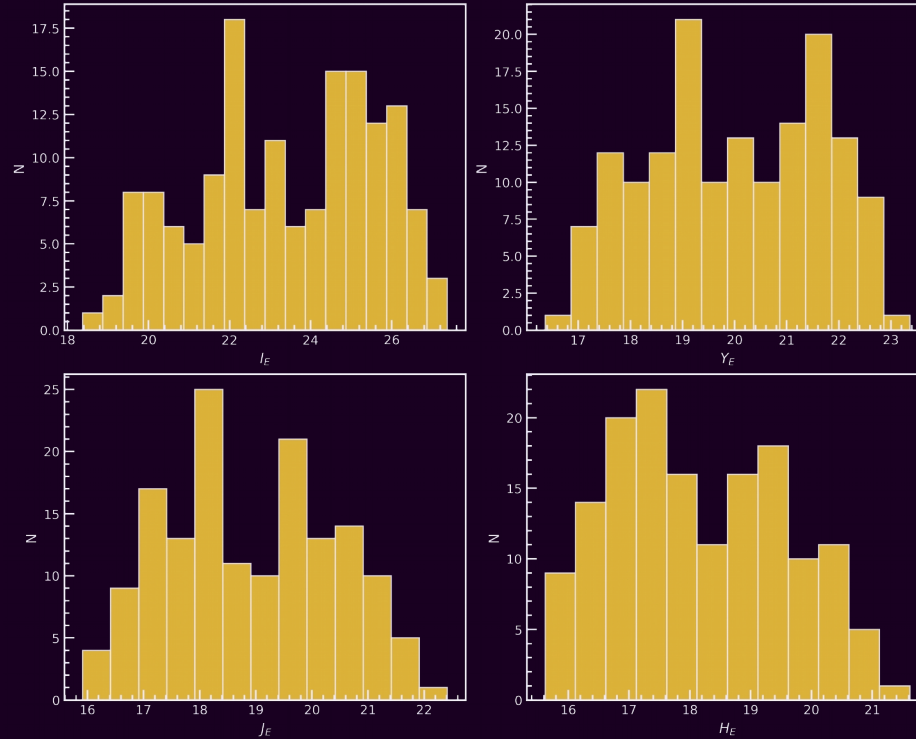
Combine with ancillary data (Spitzer)

Use ATMO 3 Myr isochrone

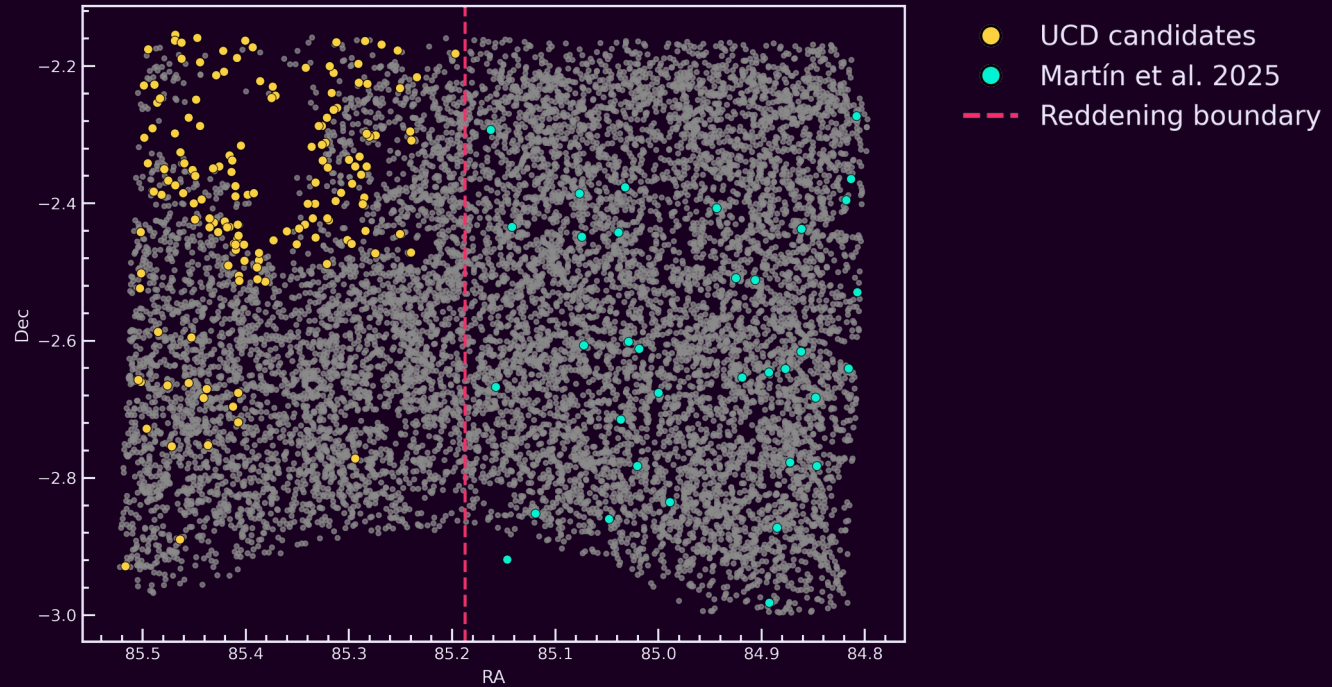
→ choose objects to the right of the isochrone, in every isochrone where they appear

153 candidates

Studying UCD candidates



Studying UCD candidates



Summary & Preliminary results

1. New UCD candidates in the high-reddening region of the Euclid ERO (σ Orionis/Horsehead) field
2. Spatial clustering, unlike UCD candidates the low-reddening region
3. Potentially distinct formation mode
4. Spectroscopy coming soon!

Thank you!



stsilia@iac.es