

ATLAST and Nearby Galaxies

Annie Hughes, IRAP

Liu et al, 2024, ATLAST Science: Gas and Dust in Nearby Galaxies, arXiv:2403.01202

Talk Outline

Nearby Galaxies and Current Surveys

ATLAST Nearby Galaxies Science Case :



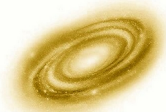
Physical Conditions and SF in Galaxy Disks



Dust Polarisation and Magnetic Fields



Cold Gas and Dust in the Local Group



Evolution of the local ($z < 0.2$) galaxy population

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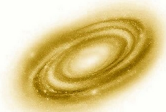
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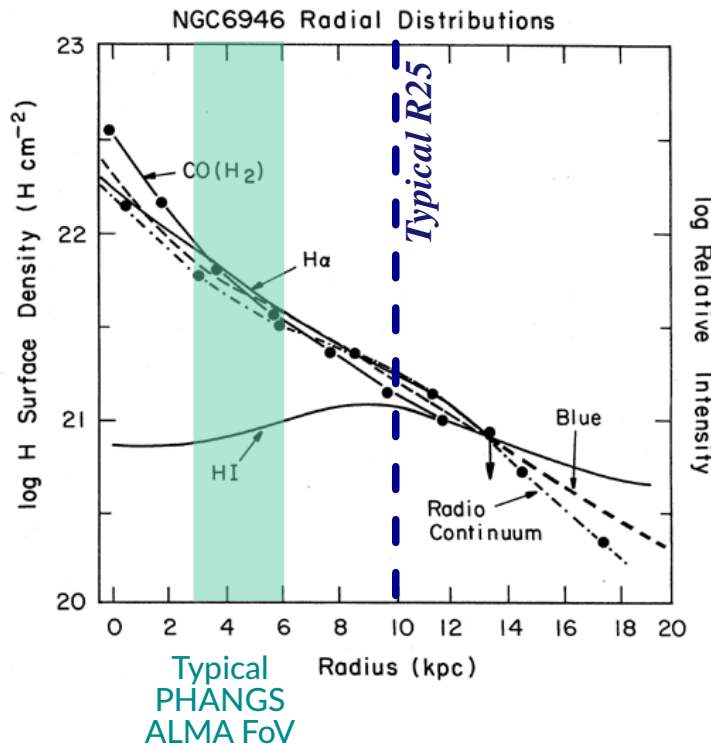
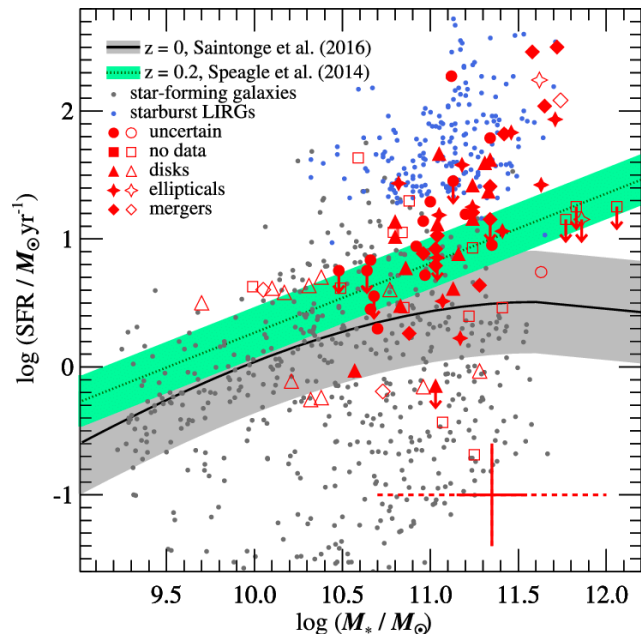
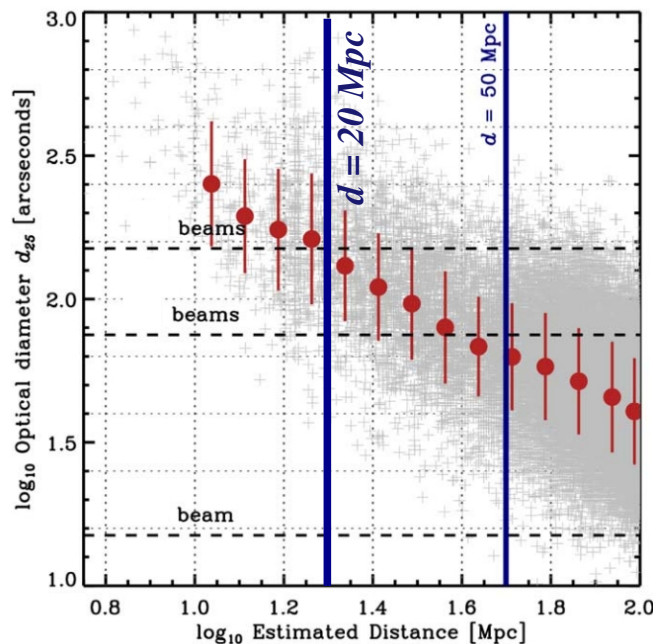
~~Evolution of the local ($z < 0.2$) galaxy population~~

ATLAST → increase N known CO emitters by ~ 2 dex, decrease galaxy mass detection threshold by ~ 2 dex into the dwarf regime

→ evolution of CO luminosity function, M_{gas}/M_* , SF quenching, cold gas in clusters

Nearby Galaxies at a glance

Figs adapted from Leroy et al (2019), Xie et al (2021), Young et al (1991), de Blok (2024)



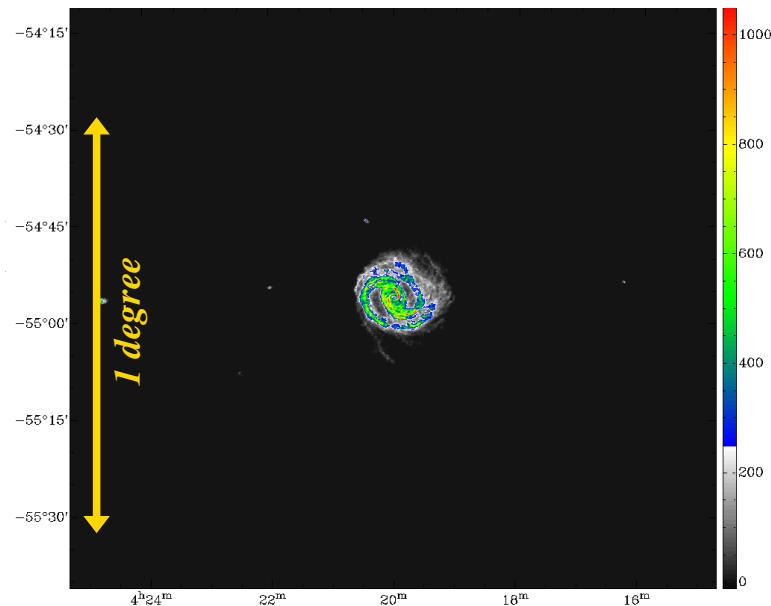
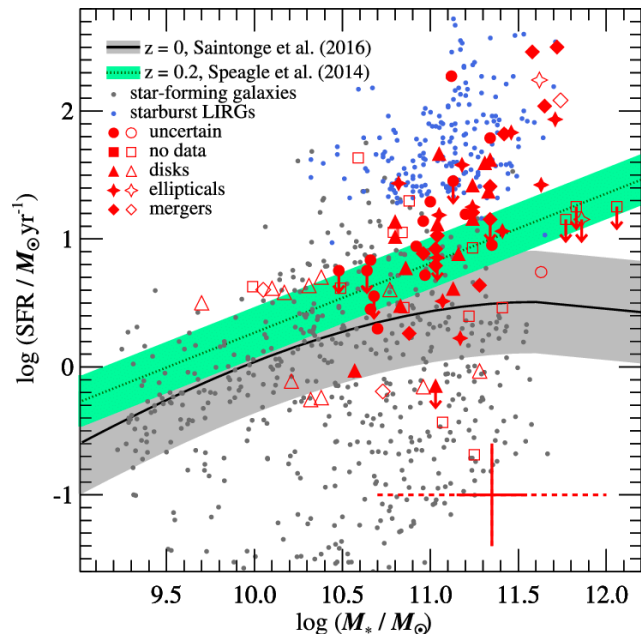
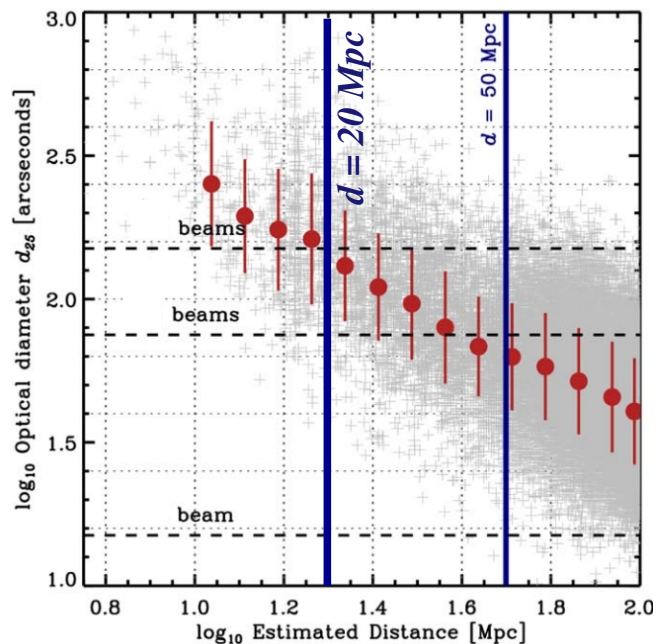
ATLAST will resolve nearby galaxies ($\theta \sim 1.5$ kpc):
 Band 3 ~ 20 Mpc
 Band 6 ~ 50 Mpc
 Bands 9/10 ~ 150 Mpc

dwarf/disk/elliptical/starbursts
 by number: 70/15-20/5-10/1 %
 by mass: 60-70/30-40/<5/<1%
 70% of SF at $z=0$ occurs on the star-forming main sequence

e.g. PHANGS surveys target the CO-bright, actively SF disk
 ~ 0.5 MJy/sr at WISE3 ($7''.5$)
 ~ 3 MJy/sr at 500 μ m ($37''$)

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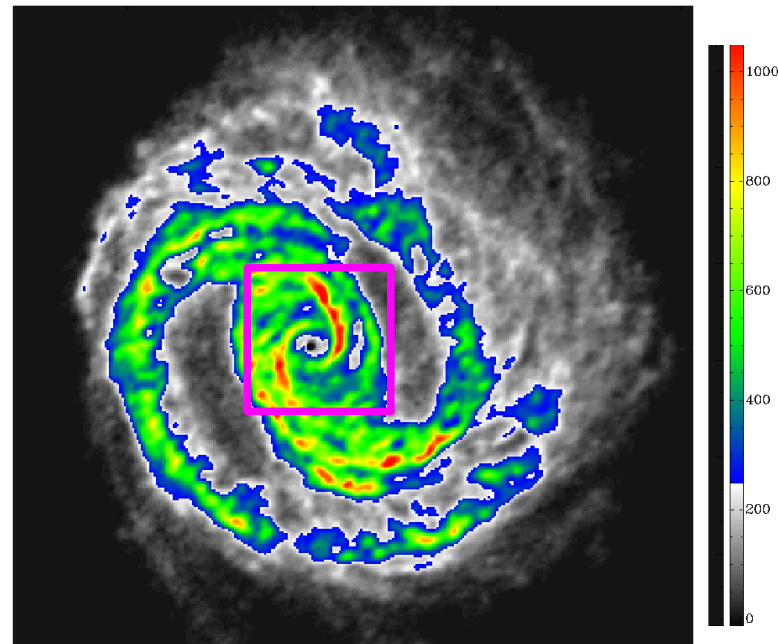
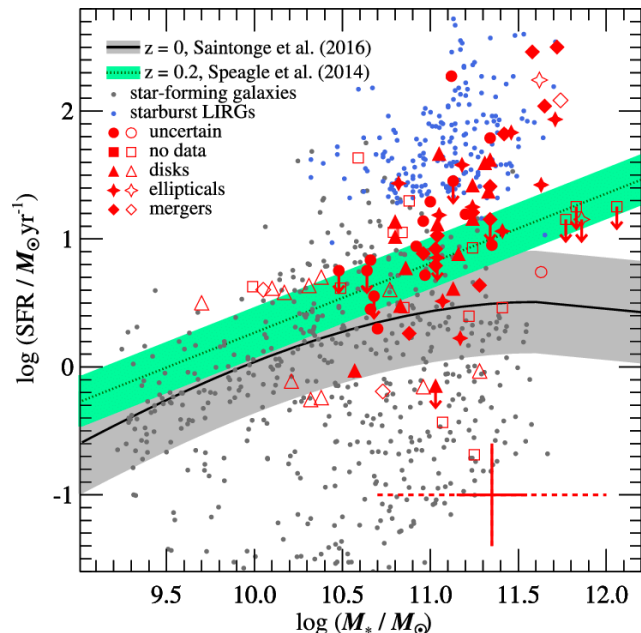
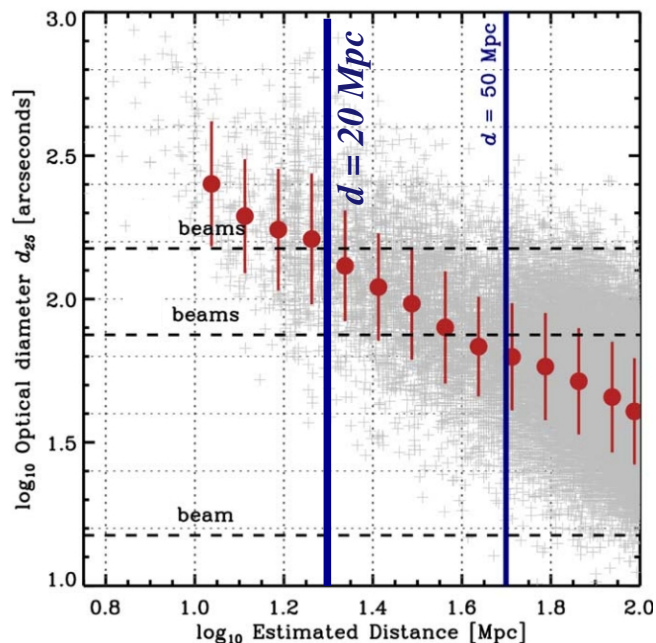
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NGC1566 by MHONGOOSE
 $\theta \sim 7''$, RMS N(H) $\sim 10^{19}$ H/cm 2

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ATLAST @350GHz, $\theta \sim 4.3''$:

B: $5 \times 10^{20} \text{ H/cm}^2 \sim 0.1 \text{ mJy/bm}$

R: $2 \times 10^{21} \text{ H/cm}^2 \sim 1 \text{ mJy/bm}$

50h on source $\sim 3 \times 10^{19} \text{ H/cm}^2$

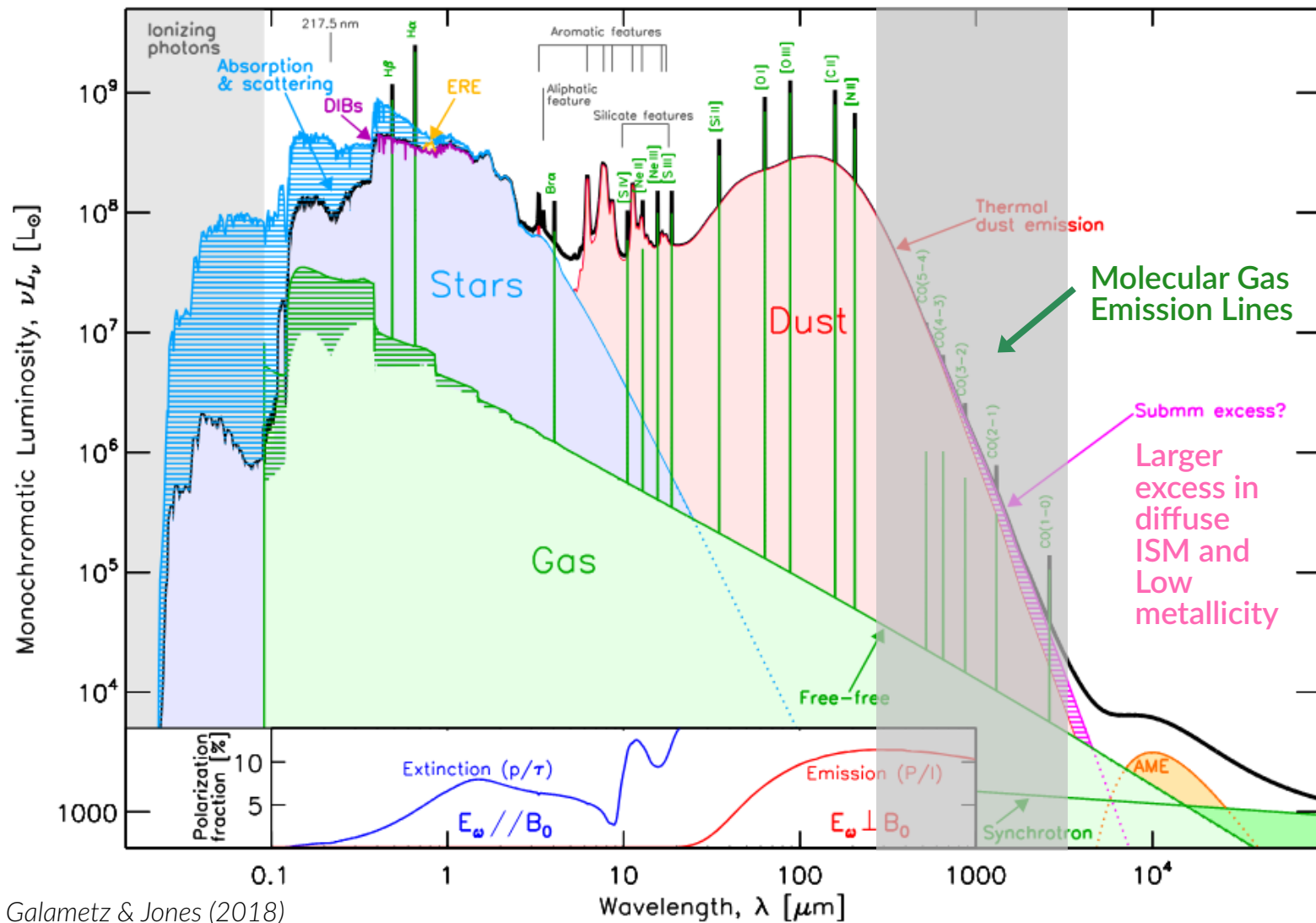
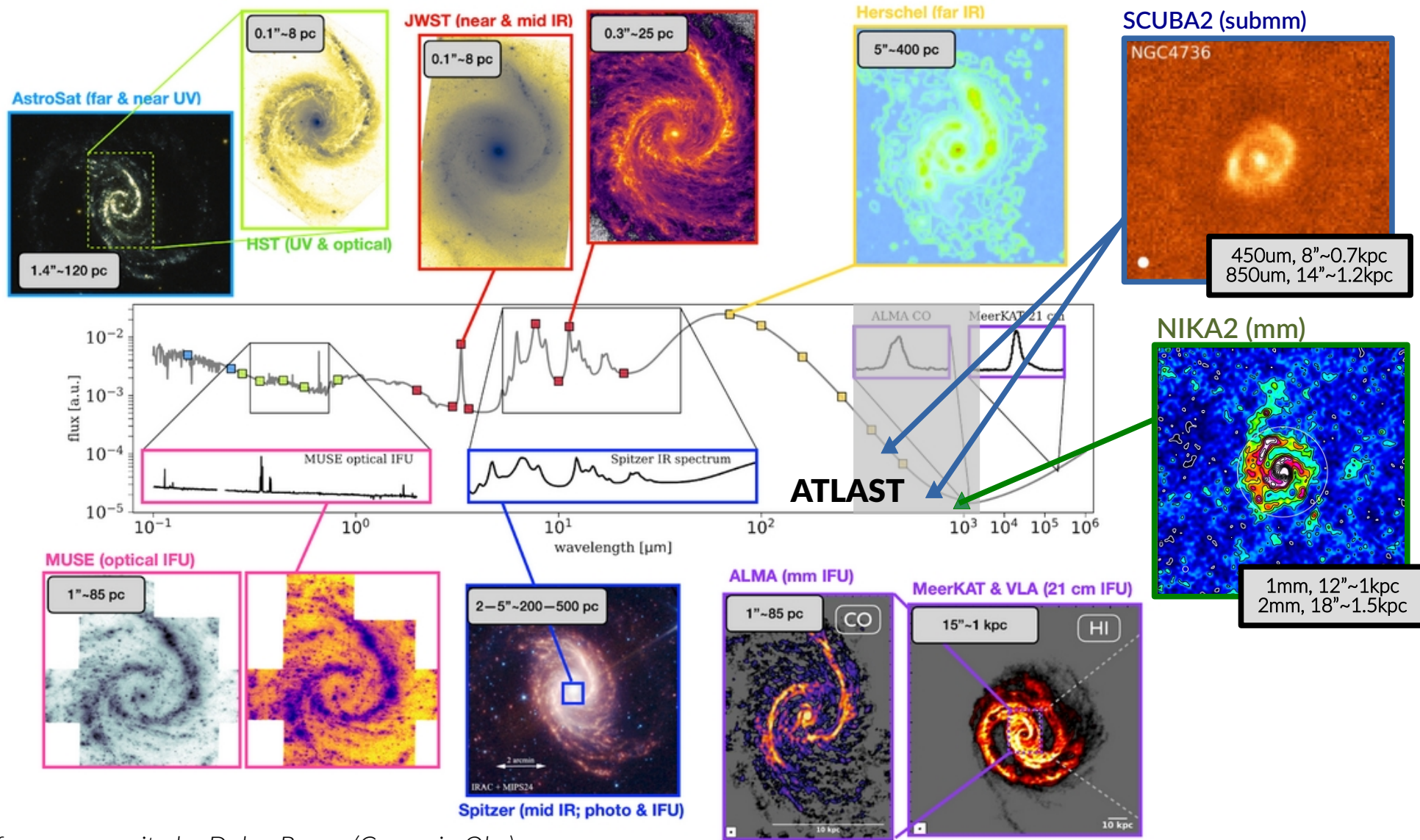
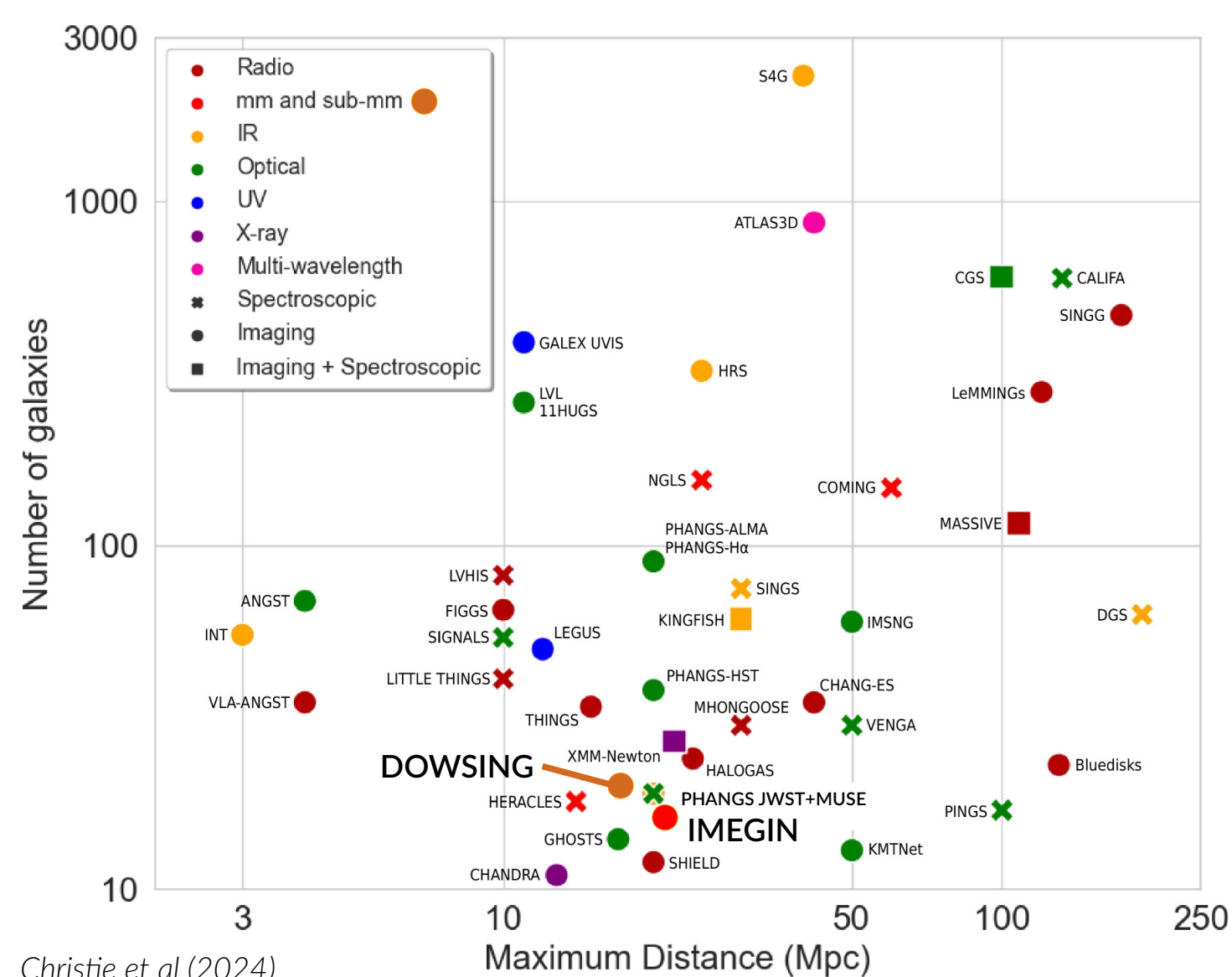


figure: Galliano, Galametz & Jones (2018)



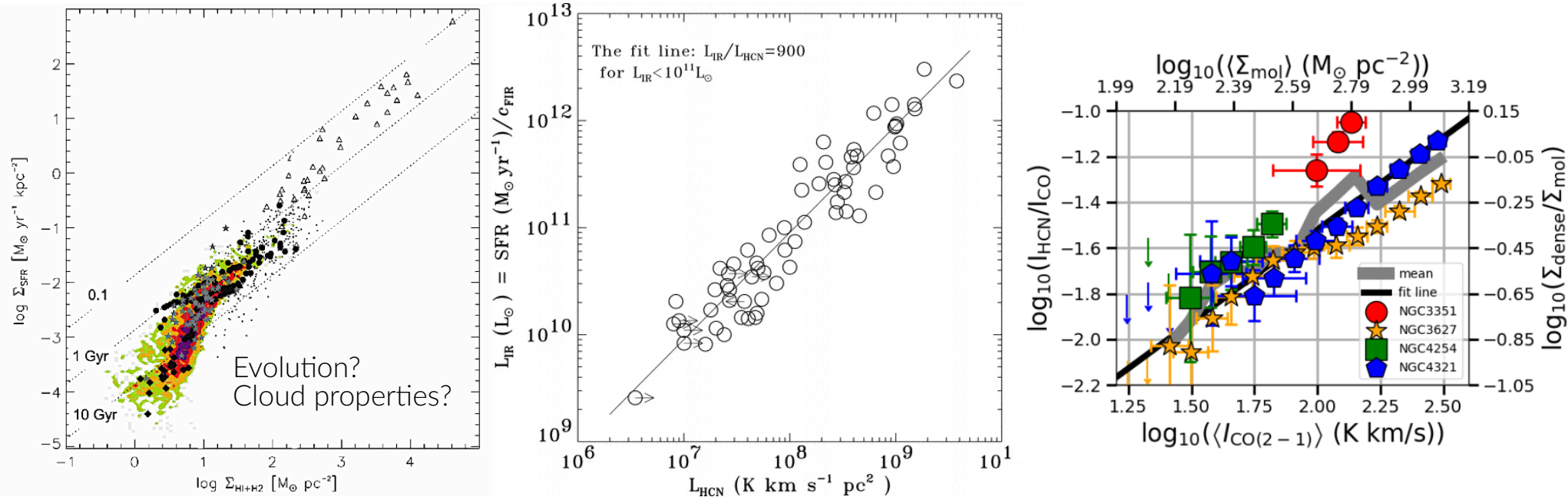
Adapted from composite by Dalya Baron (Carnegie Obs)



SF& ISM Conditions in NGs Galaxies with ATLAST

Measure physical & chemical conditions via cloud-scale ‘big N’ (i.e. many transitions of many species) molecular line mapping surveys

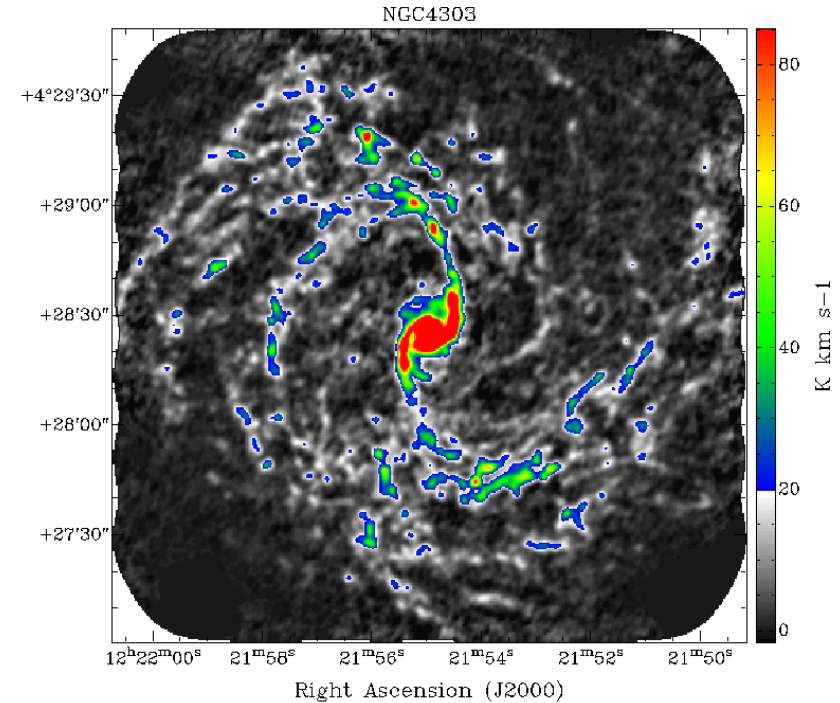
- What are gas densities, excitation conditions and temperatures?
- Universality of the gas – star formation relation (tracer, spatial scale...)
- Calibrate observational proxies for bulk / dense molecular gas



SF& ISM Conditions in NGs Galaxies with ATLAST

~1000 hours to map the CO-bright disk across a diverse galaxy sample for all transitions of key species (12CO, 13CO, HCN, HCO+ and CI ?) accessible in Bands 6 to 10.

GHz	θ (")	PWV	t (min)	RMS mJy/bm
230	6.3	80	1	6.2
345	4.3	80	10	5.1
461	3.3	50	24	5.1
492	3.1	50	84	5.2
691	2.2	20	25	5.0
809	1.9	20	60	5.1



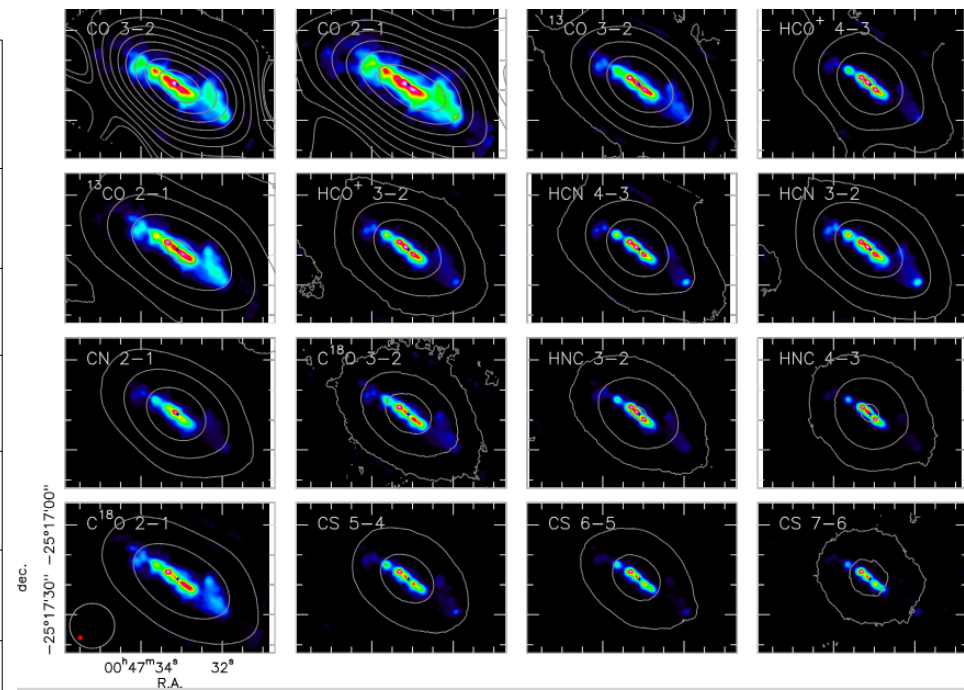
Assuming $\Delta v = 30 \text{ km/s}$, target RMS $\sim 0.1 \text{ K.km/s}$
 $T_{pk} \text{ 12CO/CI/13CO/HCN/HCO+} = 1/0.2/0.1/0.03/0.01$

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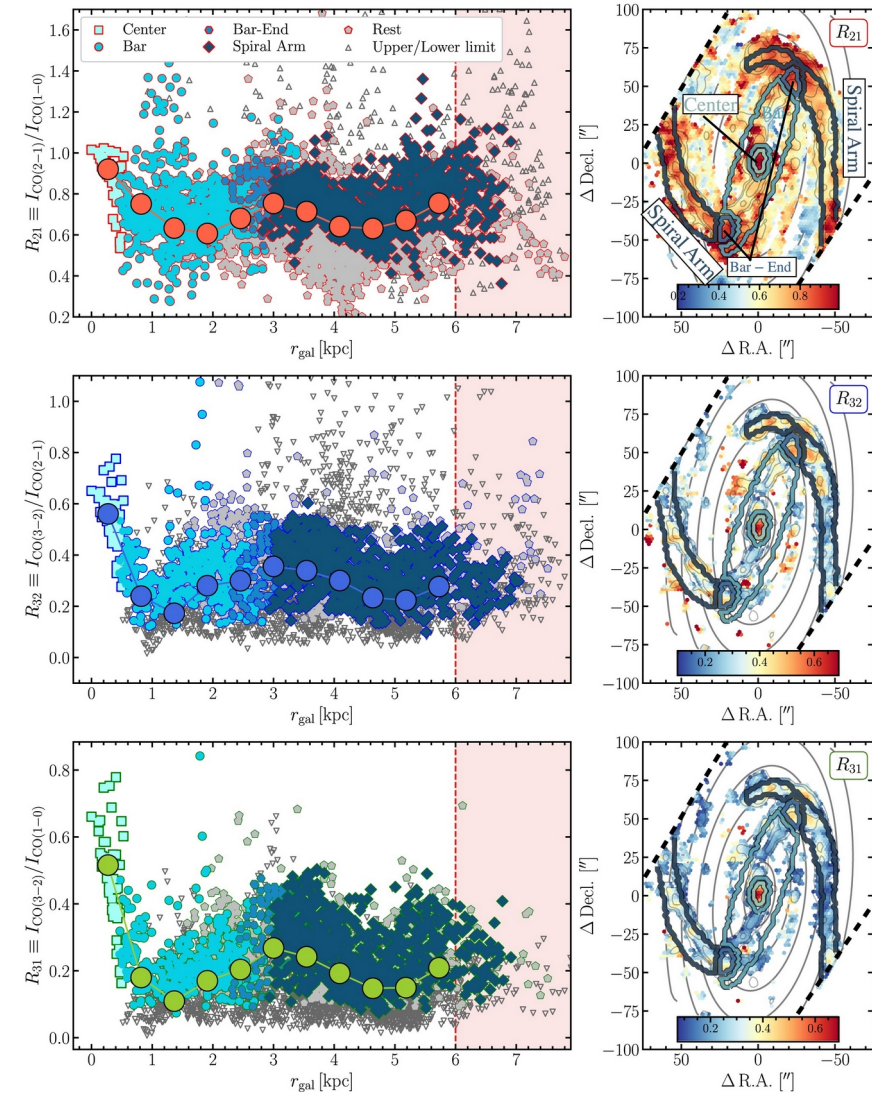
ALCHEMI Martin et al (2021)

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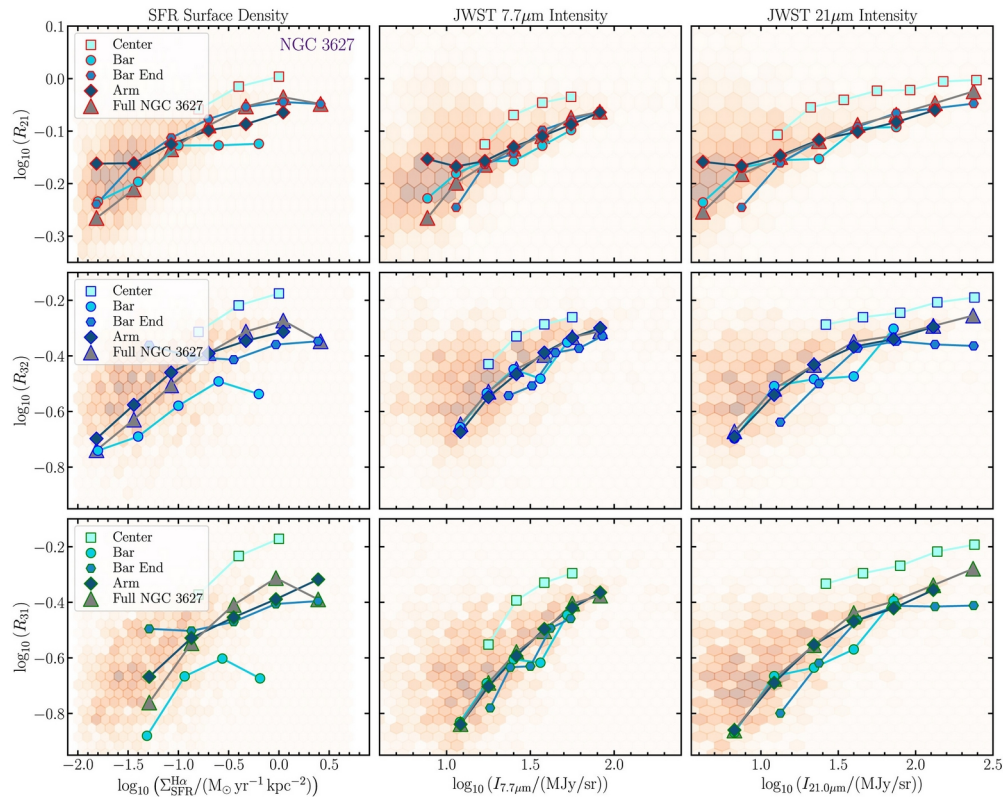


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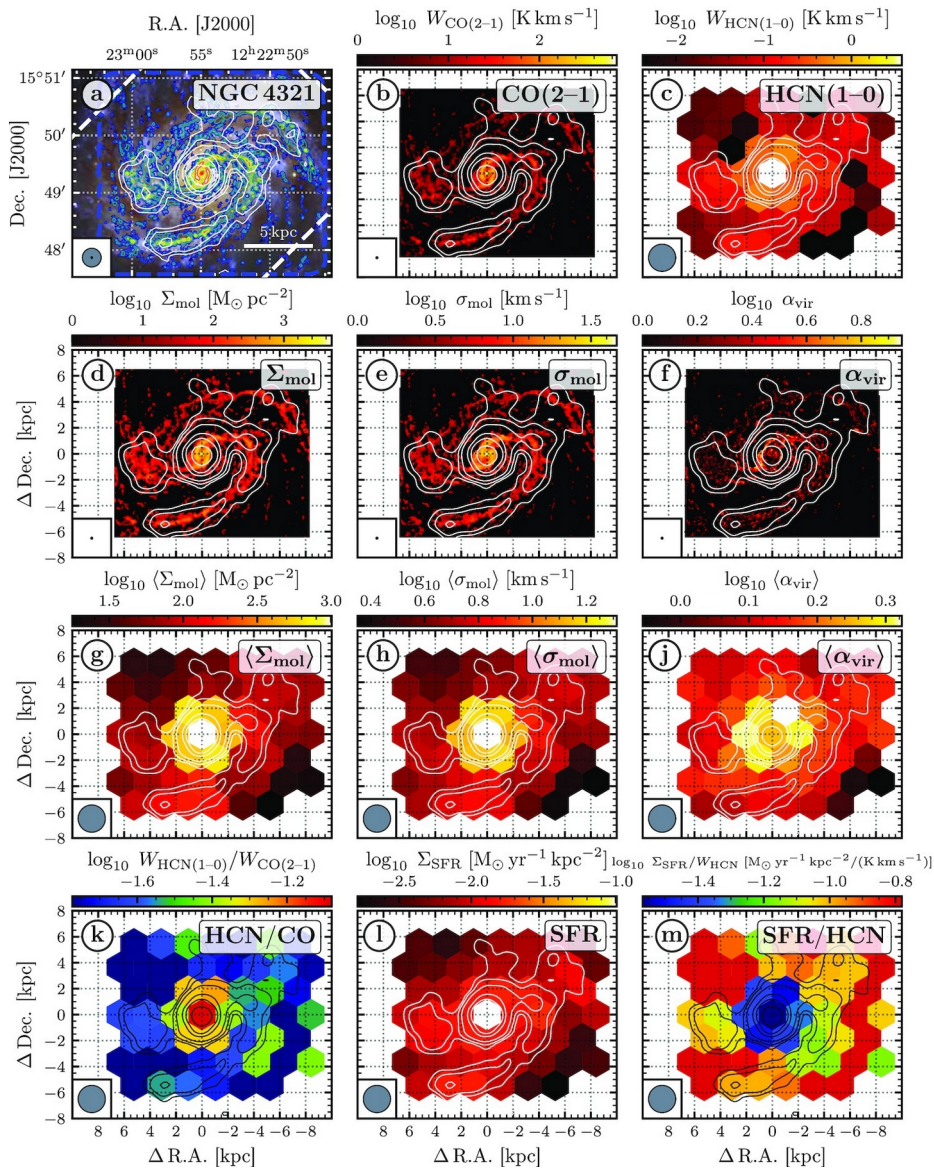
NGC 3627



den Brok et al (2023), see also ALMA FACTS Komugi et al 2025



ALMA 12m+7m+TP CO(1-0) & CO(2-1)
and 7m+TP CO(3-2), matched 4"~200pc : R21, R32,
R31 in NGC3627 & NGC2903
(already 10 more galaxies in the pipeline)
mean values & environmental trends

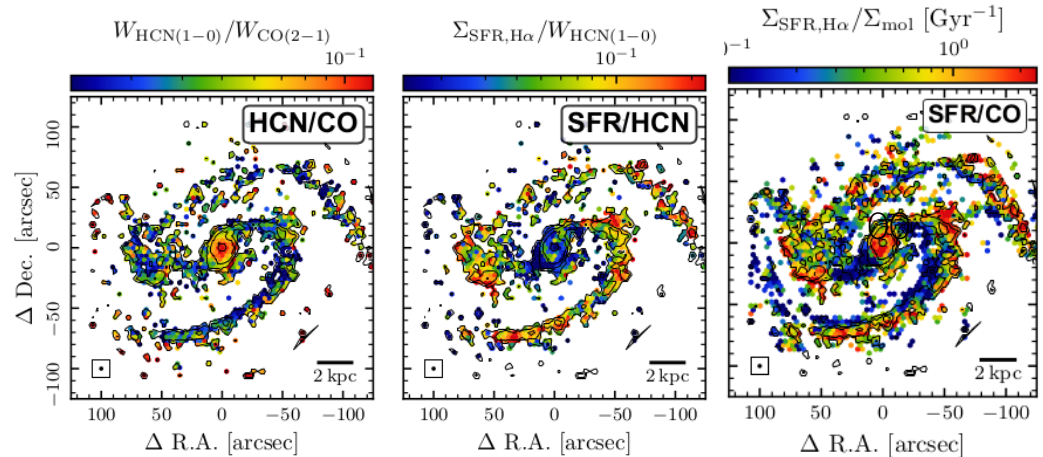


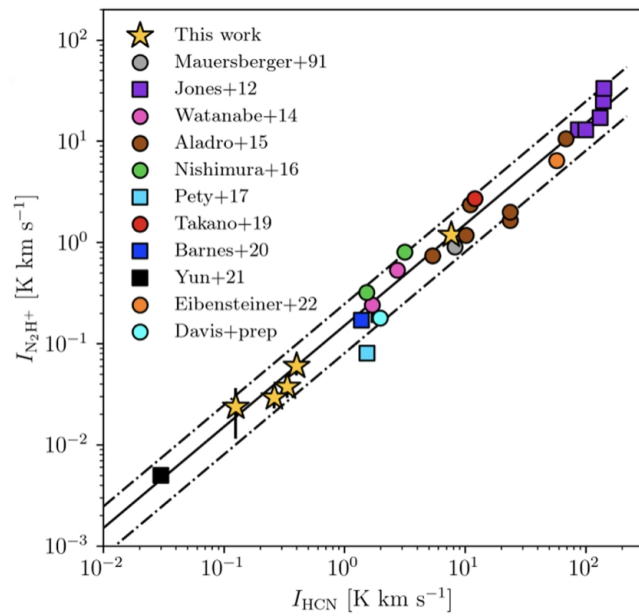
ALMOND Survey (Neumann et al, 2023)

ALMA 7m+TP HCN(1-0), HCO+(1-0) & CS(2-1)
25 galaxies, ~1 to 2kpc resolution

HCN/HCO+/CS/CO/SFR ratios :
typical values, environmental trends, variations
with cloud-properties

12m+7m+TP HCN/HCO+/CS 250pc mapping
of individual targets

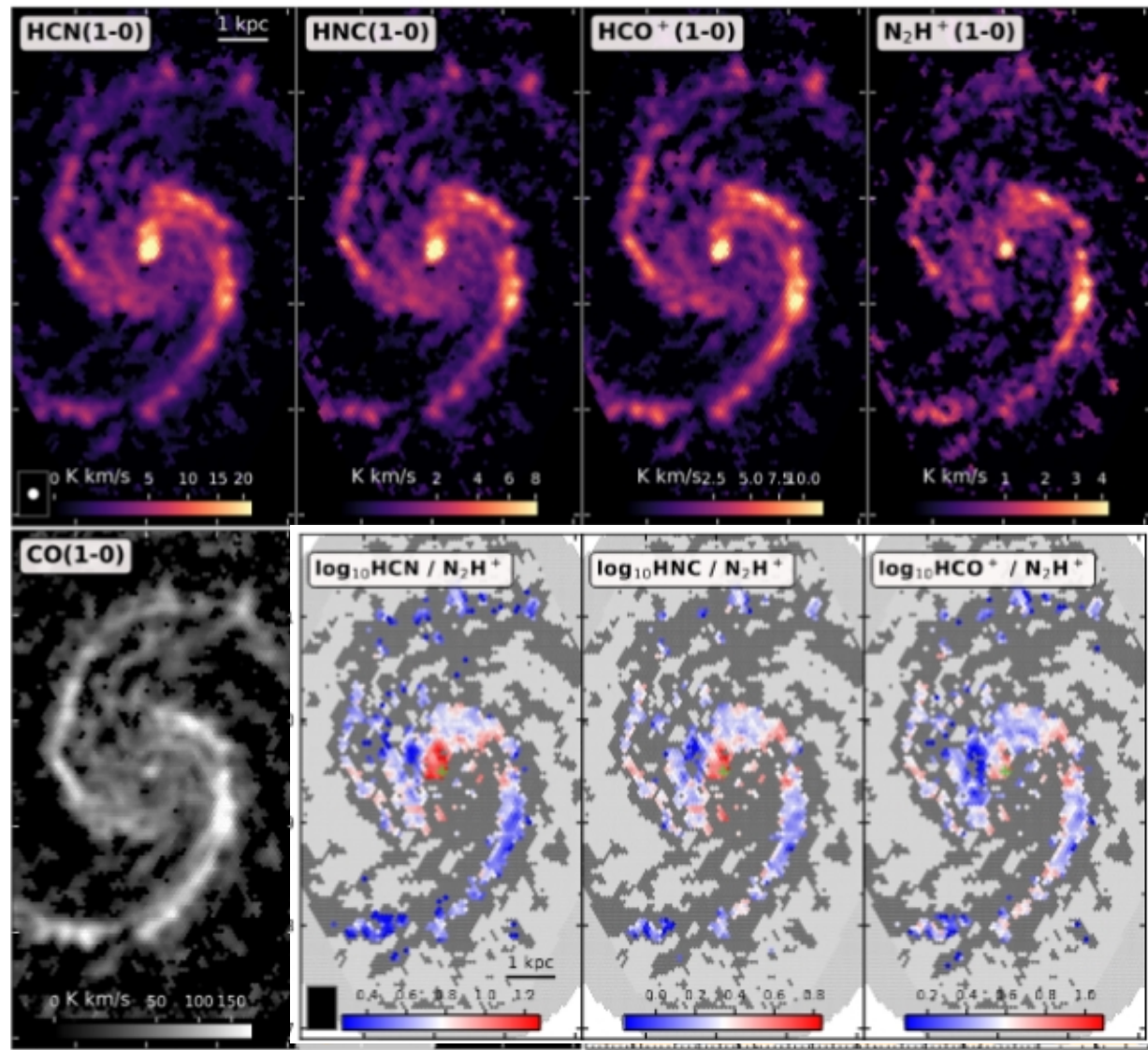




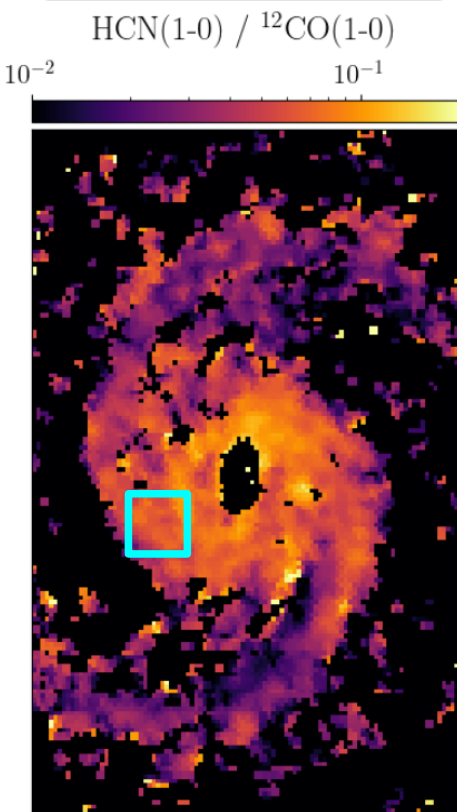
SWAN Survey
(Stuber et al, 2023, 2024, 2025)

NOEMA+30m Band 3 line mapping
survey of M51, including N₂H⁺

variation of 'dense gas' line ratios
with environment and spatial scale

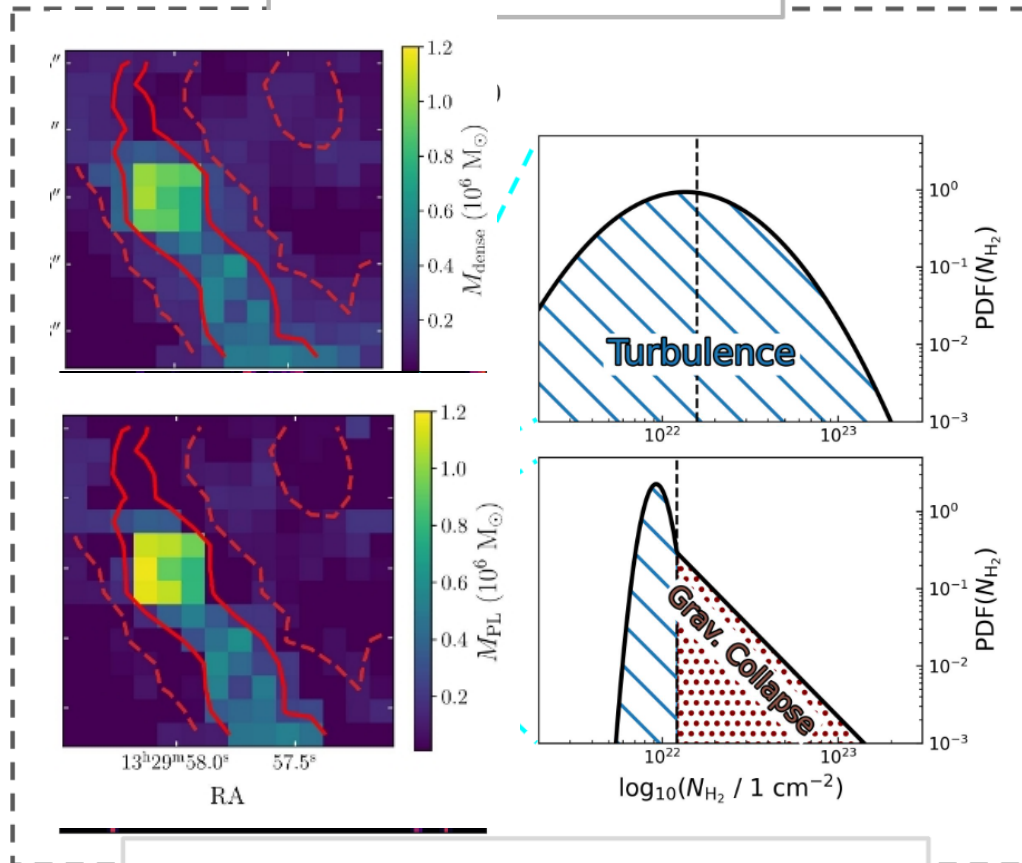


Standard approach



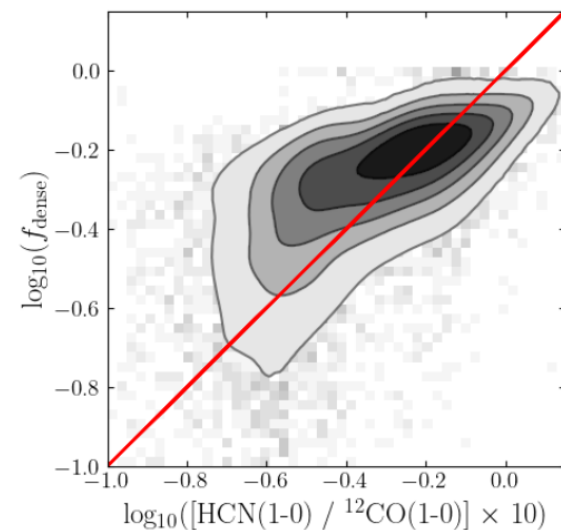
Empirical emission model
(I vs $N(\text{H}_2)$ for each line)
constructed from ORIONB data

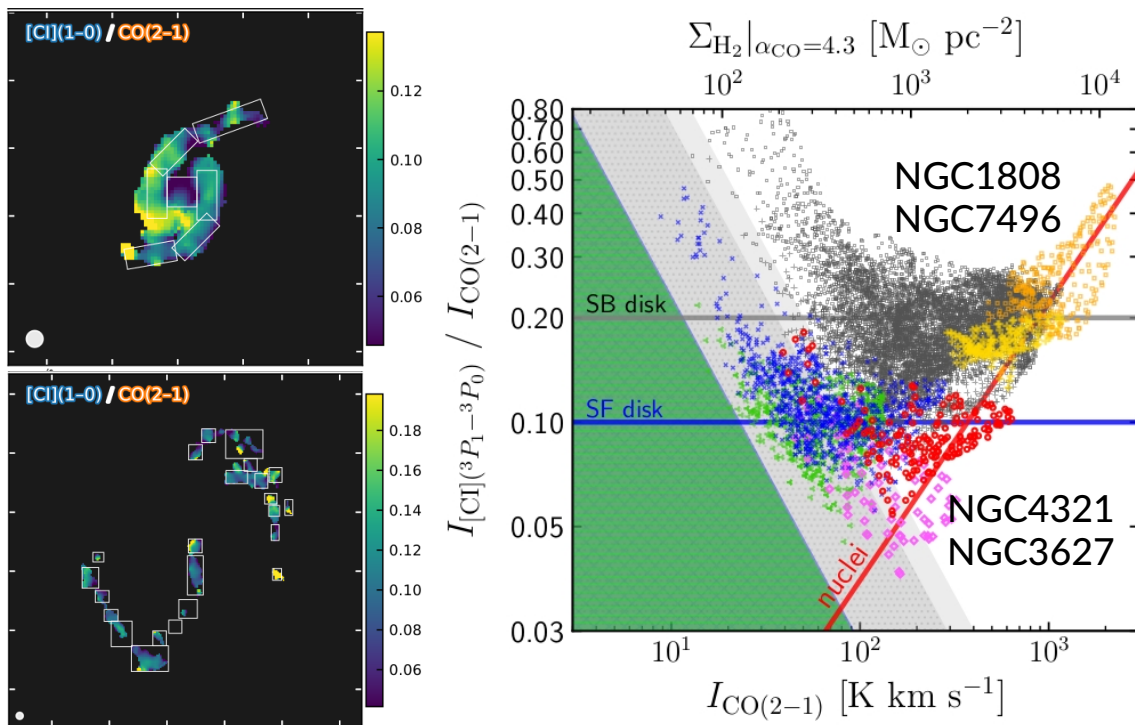
Bayesian inversion results



Lines used: $^{12}\text{CO}(1-0)$ $^{13}\text{CO}(1-0)$, $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}(1-0)$,
 $\text{HCO}^+(1-0)$, $\text{HCN}(1-0)$, $\text{HNC}(1-0)$, $\text{N}_2\text{H}^+(1-0)$

Comparison

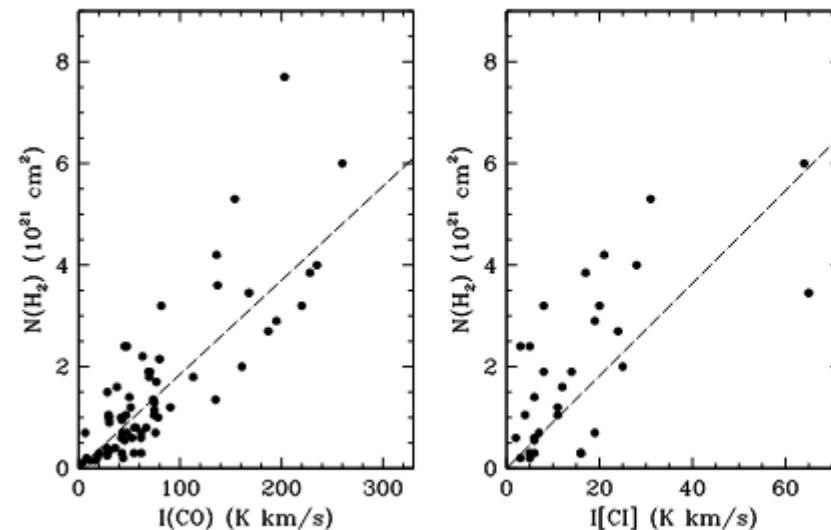




CI maps of 4 nearby galaxies (Liu et al, 2023)

4" ALMA 7m Band 8 (15-30h per galaxy)
+uv matched PHANGS CO(2-1)

$\langle CI/CO \rangle \sim 0.1$ for disks
>1 in starburst/AGN-affected regions



Israel et al (2020)

Single pointing observations of galaxy centers in low-J ¹²CO & ¹³CO (IRAM30m, SEST, JCMT) and CI & CII (Herschel)

RADEX modelling as two-phase gas to determine carbon budget and XCO

CO/CI/CII ~ 30/30/40%
XCO ~1 dex lower in galaxy centers,
modest tension with dust based XCO

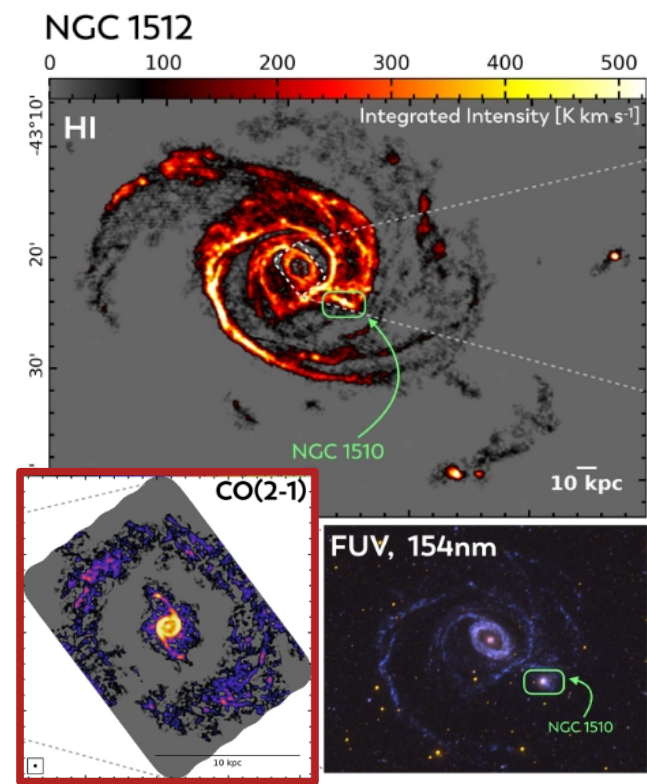
ISM Conditions in Nearby Galaxies in 2035:

- 25 years of ALMA, 10 years of NOEMA dual-band operations, regular ALHAMBRA science operations
→ trends for low J line ratios of CO, ^{13}CO , HCN, HCO^+ well-established in starbursts (including higher J) + disk galaxies
- 10 years of MEERKAT → low $N(\text{H})$ outer disks
- stellar populations, SFHs, ISRF, gas-phase metallicity, ionization parameter + ?? at $\sim 1''$ from optical IFUs + JWST PAH studies
- Robust methods to infer 3D gas density and temperature (+ G0?) distribution within clouds
- Data-science driven 'Galaxy in a Machine' (observations \leftrightarrow physical parameters)

Some ideas....

C+/C/CO: Carbon Budget Mapping Across Galaxy Disks

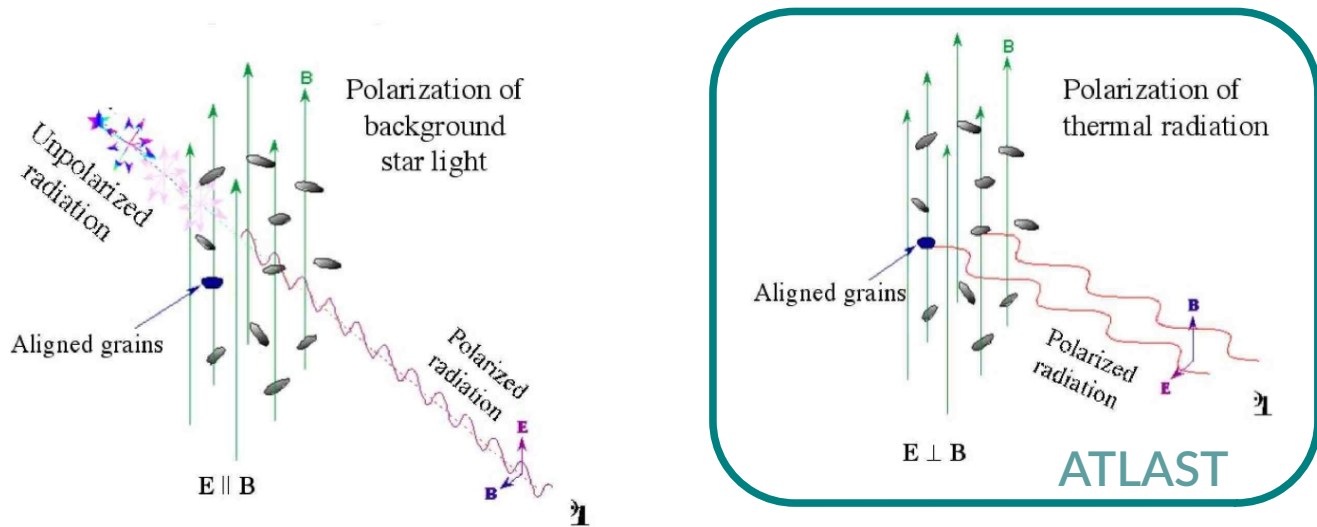
Need deeper dialogue between astrochemists, modellers and **extragalactic** observers to develop diagnostics of physical parameters other than density and temperature. Consideration of galaxy dynamics? (mixing of dust/molecules via feedback-driven/radial flows for astrochemical trends?)



Magnetic Fields in Nearby Galaxies with ATLAST

Measure polarised intensity and angle of thermal dust emission → infer plane-of-sky magnetic field orientation (and strength via modified DCF)

- How do B-fields affect star formation at cloud scales?
- Does SFE correlate with B-field strength ?
- Dynamical interplay of B-field and turbulence for cold gas stability?
- Origin of magnetic fields in galaxies (via statistics of field structure)?



$$PI = \sqrt{Q^2 + U^2}$$

$$p = PI/I$$

$$\phi_{\text{dust}} = 0.5 \arctan(Q/U)$$

$$\phi_{\text{mag}} = \phi_{\text{dust, emission}} + 90^\circ$$

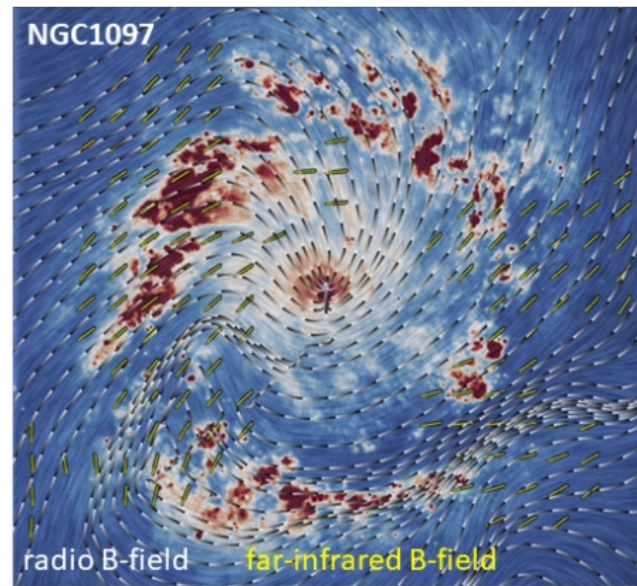
$$\phi_{\text{mag}} = \phi_{\text{synchrotron}} + 90^\circ$$

Magnetic Fields in Nearby Galaxies with ATLAST

2000h (on source) program for multi-band polarisation observations⁺ of a diverse sample of 100 nearby galaxies (dwarfs, disks, AGN, starbursts...)

GHz	θ (")	PWV	RMS* (μ Jy/beam)	Integration time (hr)
345	4.4	50	10	18
460	3.3	20	16	29
660	2.3	20	31	36

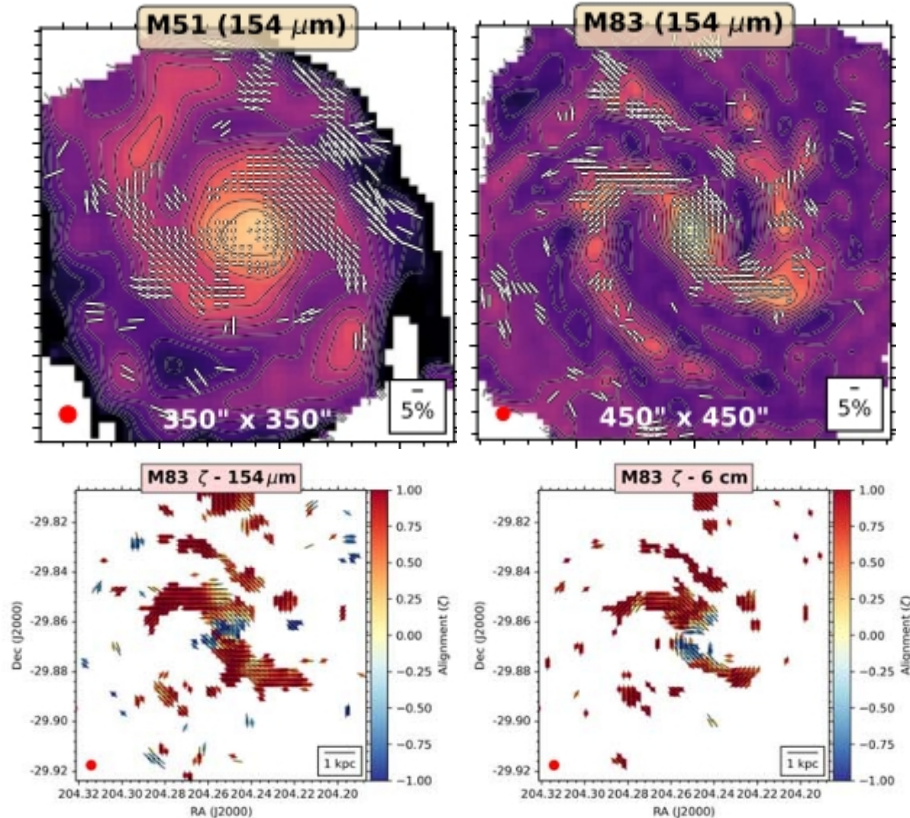
* seem optimistic to me by a factor ~ 2 -3 (cf. calculation from $N(H)$ and dust $T\&\kappa$)
+ fabulous total intensity submm continuum maps !



SALSA (PIs: Lopez Rodrigues & Mao)

Survey of extragalactic magnetism with SOFIA
14 galaxies ($d < 14 \text{ Mpc}$) HAWC+ (53 – 214 μm)

Resolution: 5 – 18" / 100pc - 1kpc

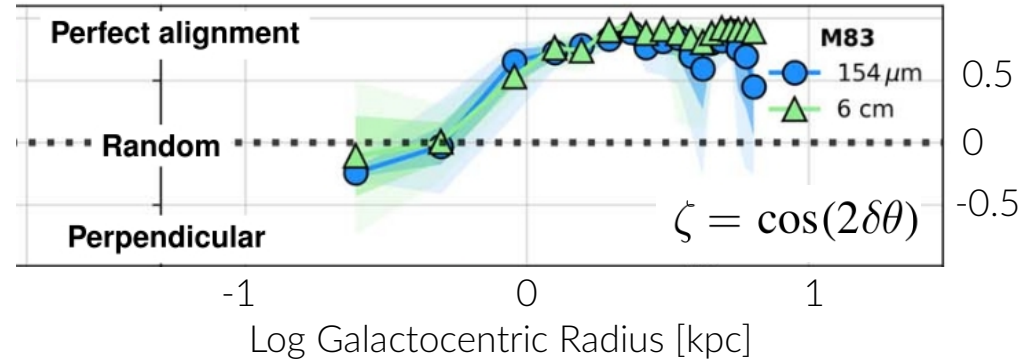


Two SALSA highlights :

- systematic differences in radio vs FIR traced pitch angles, and trends of pitch angle with R_{gal}
- wavelength dependence of polarisation fraction depends on galaxy type

Some caveats :

- leakage (before correction) \sim polarised signal $\sim 3\%$ (particularly bad for diffuse emission next to bright region)
- Faraday Rotation at 3/6cm is still $\Delta\varphi_{\text{RC}} \sim \pm 5/20^\circ$
- $\Delta\varphi \pm 10^\circ$ at polarised intensity $S/N=3$



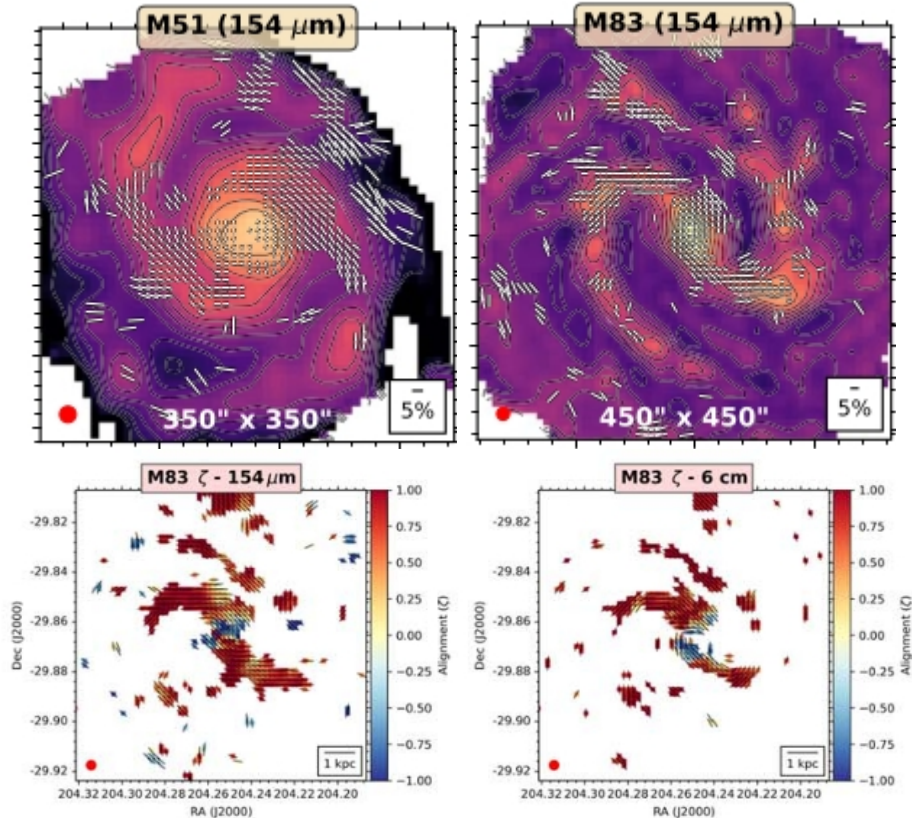
$\zeta = 1 \rightarrow$ perfect alignment with axisymmetric spiral field model

$\zeta = 0 \rightarrow$ random field

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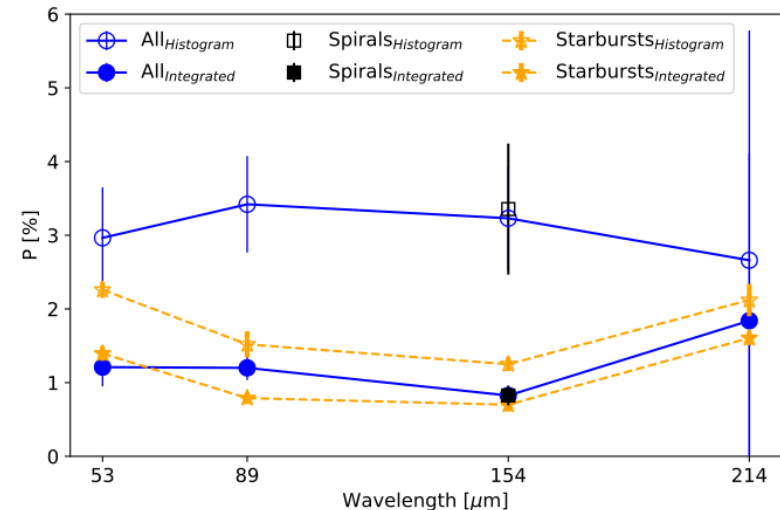


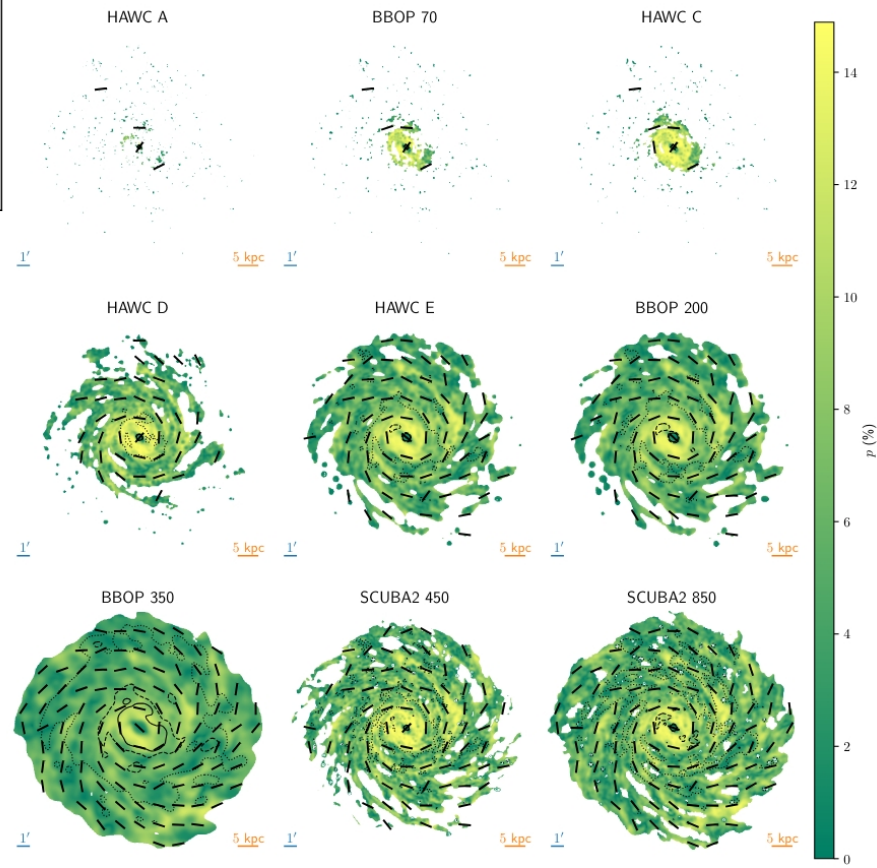
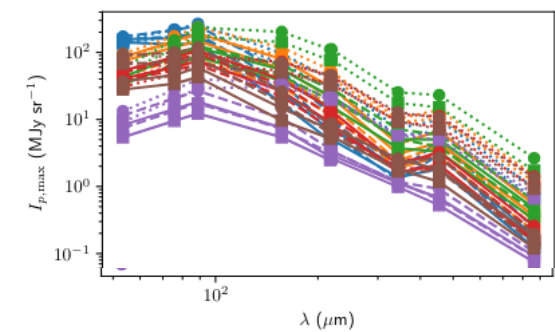
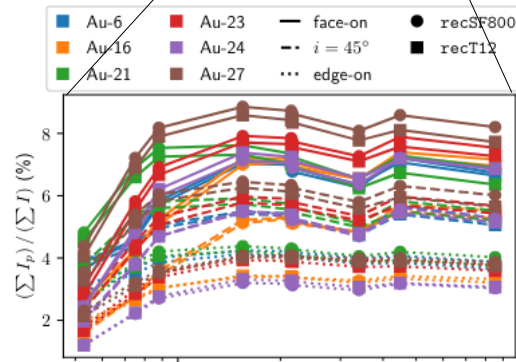
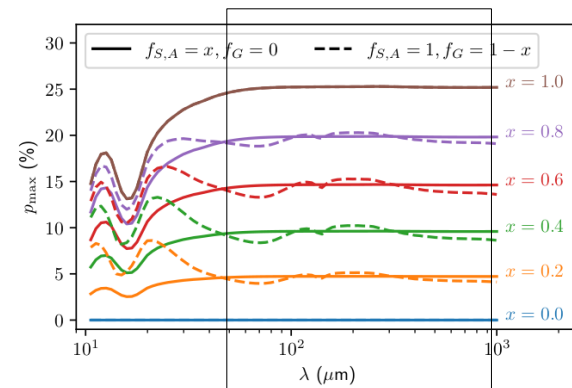
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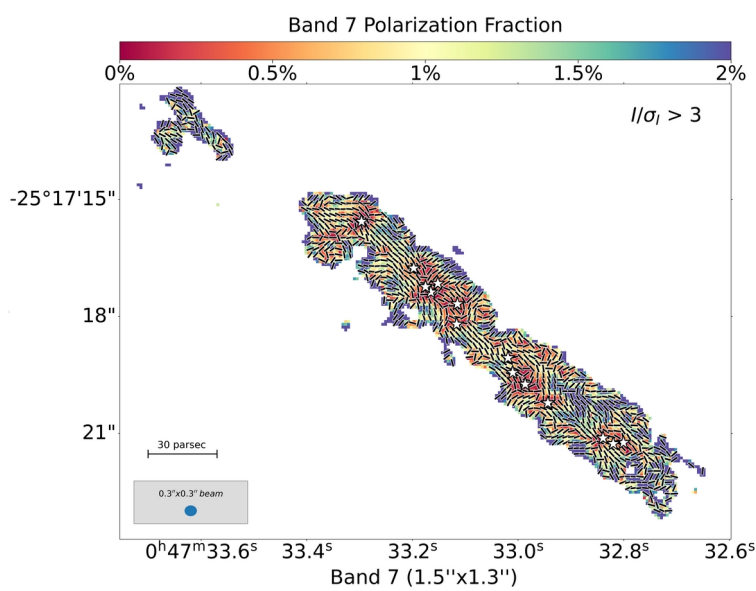
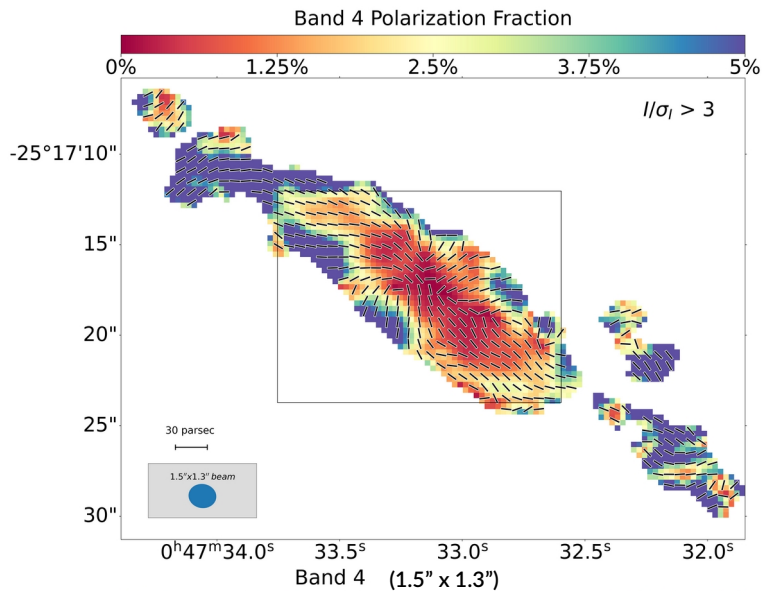




Auriga simulation galaxies
+ SKIRT
+ simple dust model CosTuum
(fixed alignment efficiency,
C+Si composition, size
distribution, no intrinsic λ -
dependence of polarisation)

- synthetic observations show
a variation in polarisation
fraction of a few % due to
geometry (dust at different
temperatures is distributed
differently in galaxies)

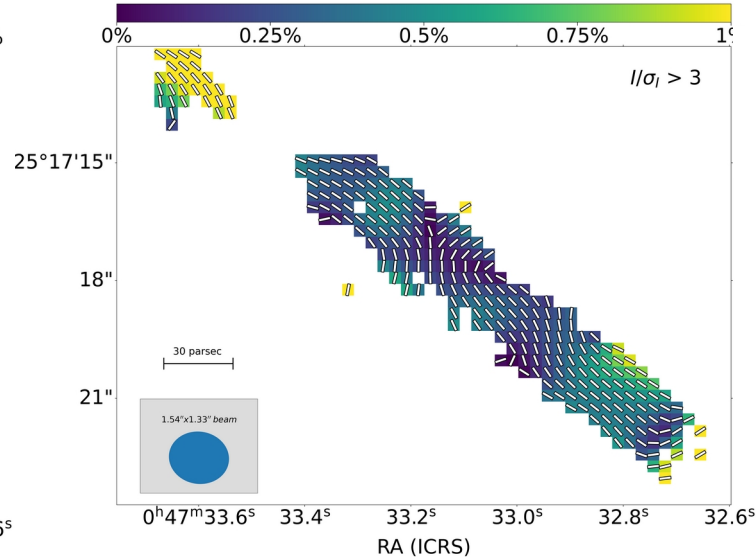
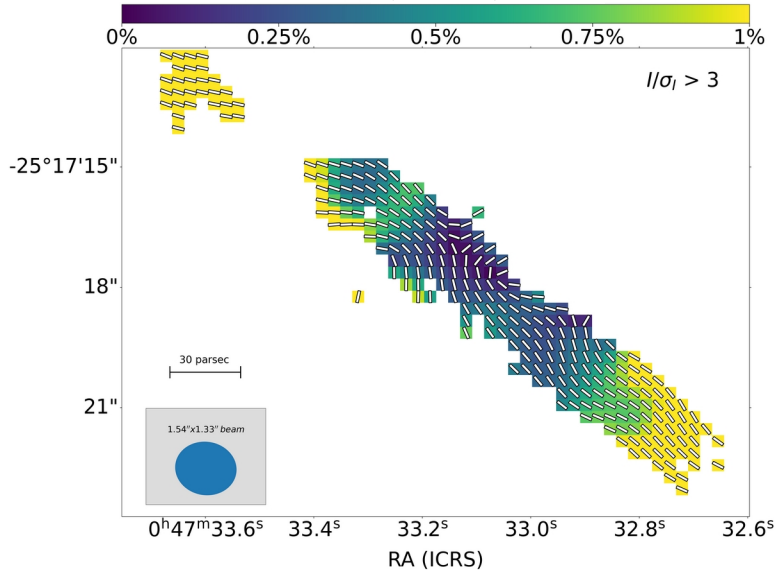
- high polarised intensity and
high polarisation fraction \rightarrow
optimal band for mapping dust
polarisation: $\lambda = [100, 300] \mu\text{m}$



ALMA B4 & B7 polarisation
observations of central
~200 pc of NGC253
Resolution: 5 – 30 pc

ALMA measures polarisation
fractions $< 0.3\%$ at $S/N > 5$

350GHz: 90% dust
150GHz: 20% dust
20% synchrotron
60% free-free



$$\begin{pmatrix} PI_{B4} \\ PI_{B7} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{syn,B4} & I_{dust,B4} \\ I_{syn,B7} & I_{dust,B7} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} PF_{syn} \\ PF_{dust} \end{pmatrix}$$

PF dust = 0.3 %
PF synchrotron = 3%
(we assume no λ dependence)

when uv-matched, 150 and
350GHz structure is similar

Magnetic Field & Dust Polarisation in 2035:

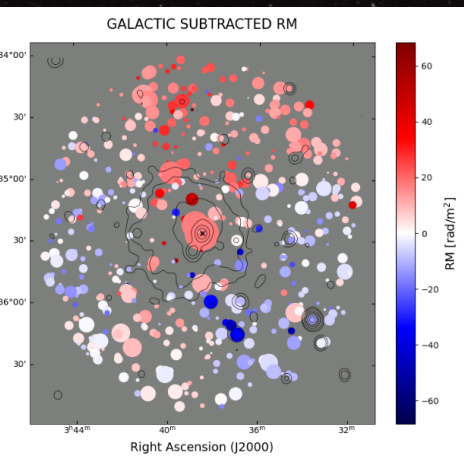
- 10 years of MEERKAT operations
→ broadband GHz PI imaging of 100s galaxies
- SKA dense RM grid (+ broadband PI imaging) → 3D B field structure of ~200 nearby galaxies
- PRIMAgger → 10" polarisation maps @ 150um
In 1hr, FoV = 1 sq deg, 5σ detection of 2% polarisation from $N(H) \sim 3e19 \text{ H/cm}^2$ (assuming $T_{\text{dust}} = 20\text{K}$, $\beta=1.5$)
10" → cloud-scale for Local Group ($d < 2\text{Mpc}$)
→ 'resolved' for targets $d < 20\text{Mpc}$

"Sensitivity alone does not make a polarimeter"

Compelling motivation for an ATLAST 345+460+660 GHz survey to study magnetic fields in nearby galaxies is not clear to me

Dust polarisation observations of nearby galaxies with ALMA are not (AFAIK) oversubscribed ?

5 arcmin

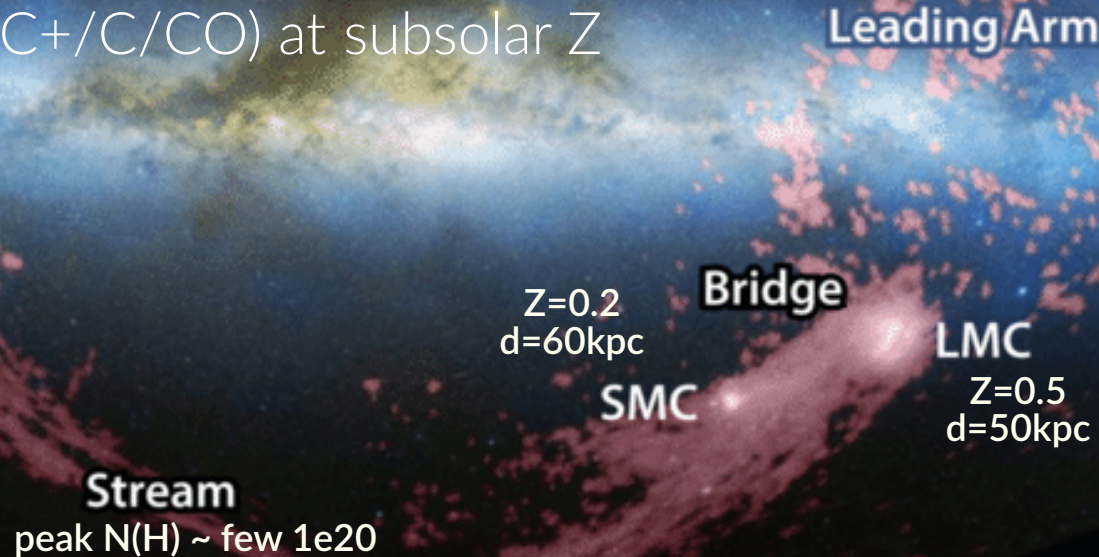


NGC1532, $d=15\text{Mpc}$
 $\theta = 7''$, 30h inc overheads
 $\sigma N(H) = 3e19 \text{ H/cm}^2$
 $\sigma I = 2.6 \text{ uJy/beam}$
 $\sigma \text{ QUV} = 1.4 \text{ uJy/beam}$

The LMC and SMC with ATLAST

Wide-field, sensitive maps of the dust and cold gas content in the MW's nearest neighbours.

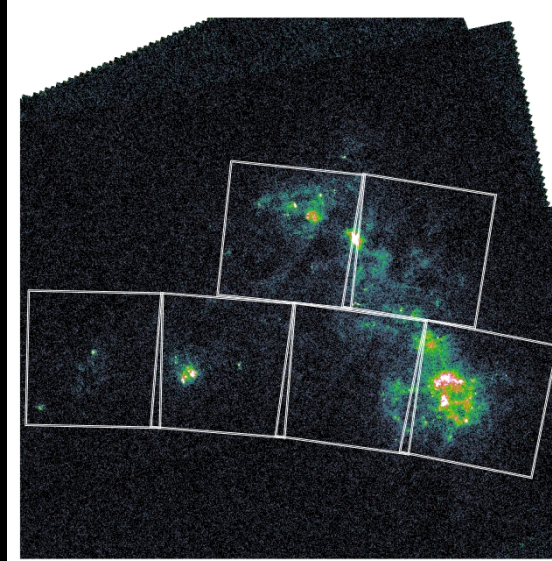
- What are their molecular gas and dust content ?
- How do dust properties change from the dense to the diffuse ISM ?
- Measuring the cold ISM mass with dust and C/CO lines at subsolar Z
- The carbon budget (C+/C/CO) at subsolar Z



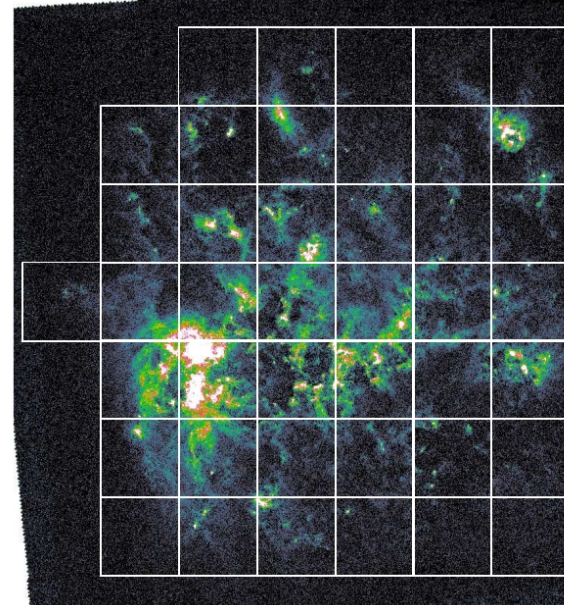
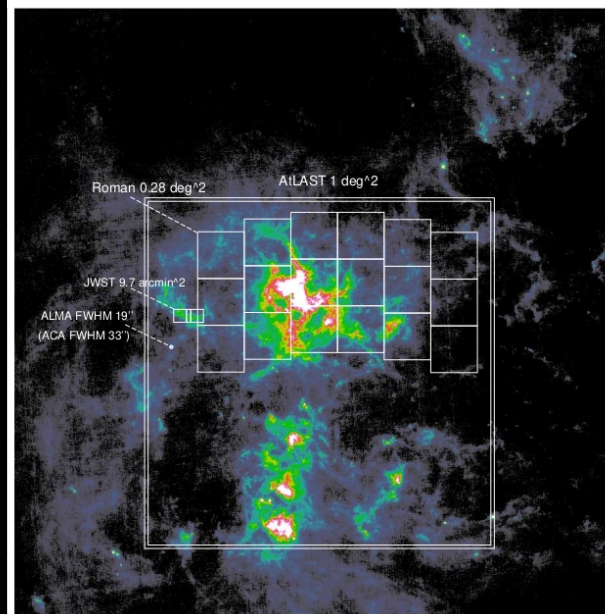
The LMC and SMC with ATLAST

Deep, multiband (B3, B8 & B9) continuum maps

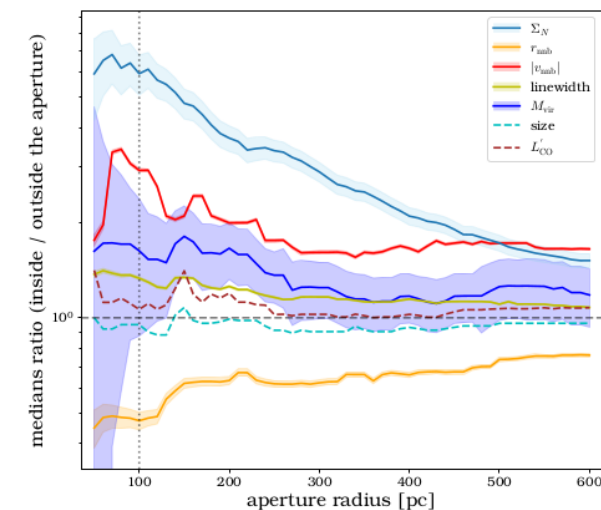
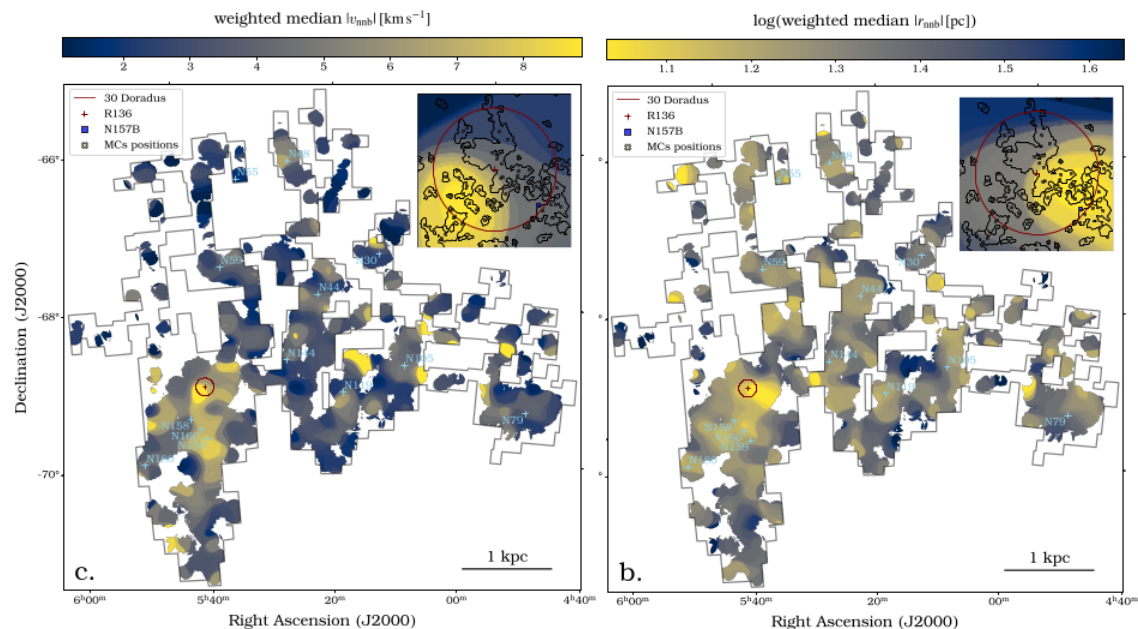
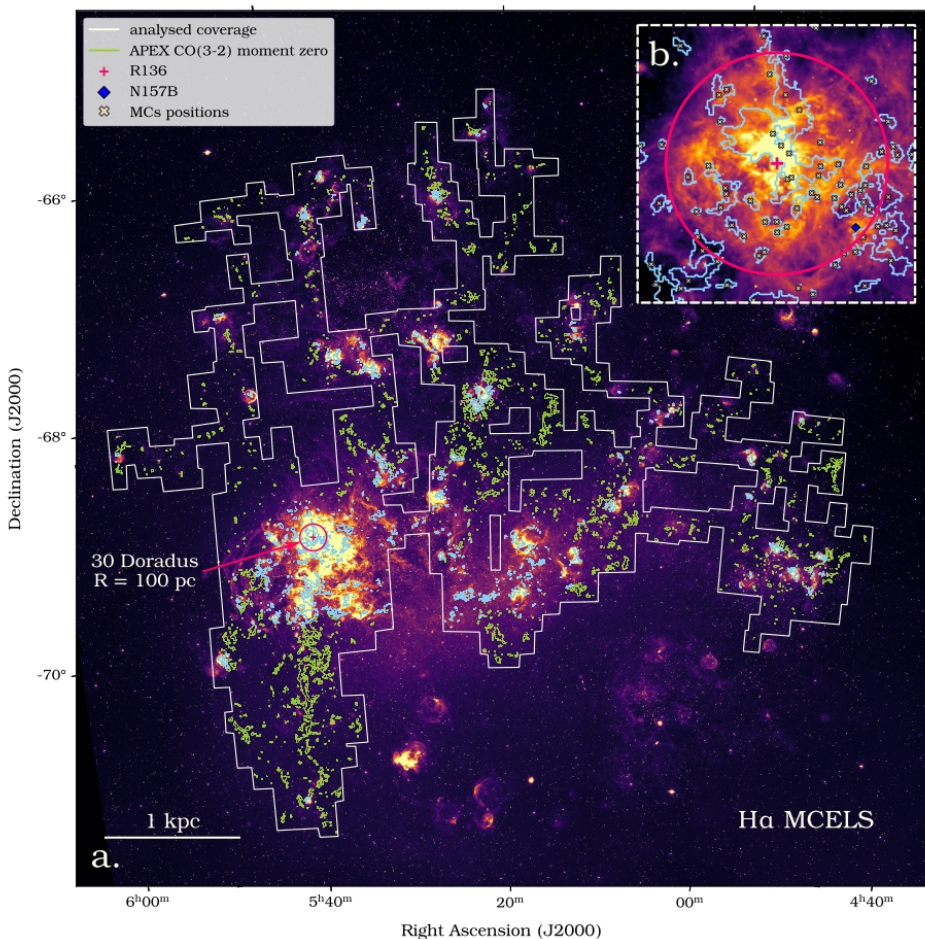
Spatially complete $^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)+^{13}\text{CO}(3-2)$ mapping survey
+ 1 sq deg 'deep' fields of CI (+other faint emission lines,
10-100x fainter than CO ?)



Band	θ [pc] @50kpc	3σ N(H) [H/cm ²]	time [h/sqdeg]
3	4	3e20 (LMC) 7e20 (SMC)	27
8	1	3e20 (LMC) 7e20 (SMC)	5
9	0.5	3e20 (LMC) 7e20 (SMC)	29



APEX $^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)$ LMC Survey 17.4 sq deg, 5pc, $\sigma \sim 0.2$ K.km/s

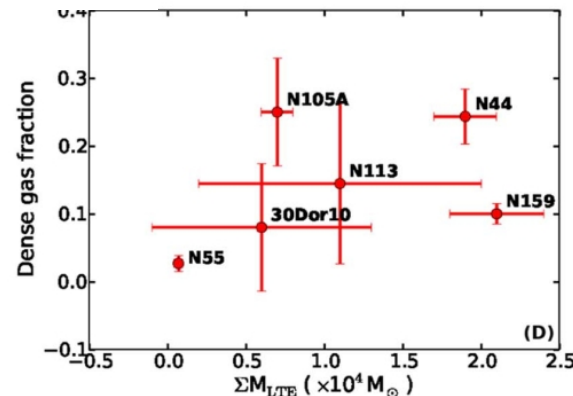
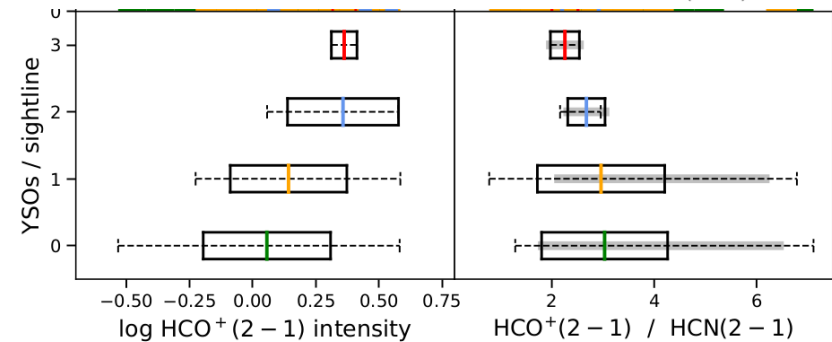
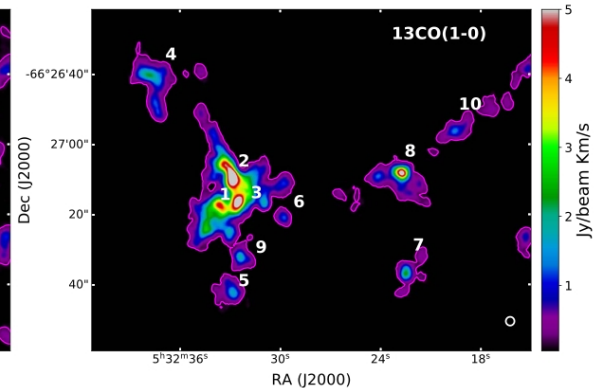
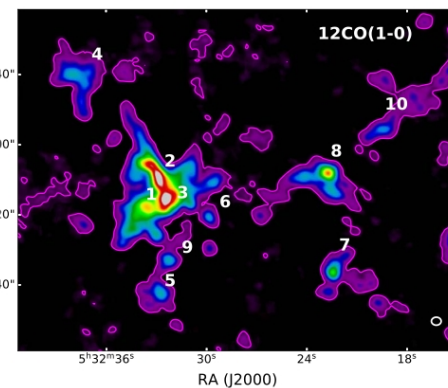
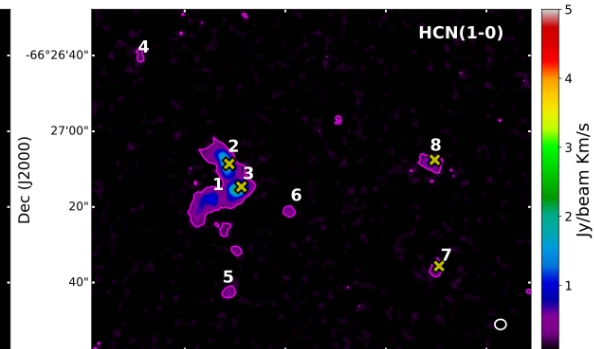
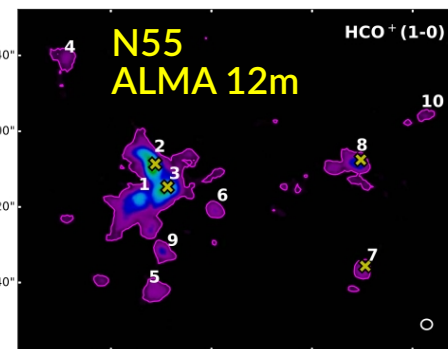
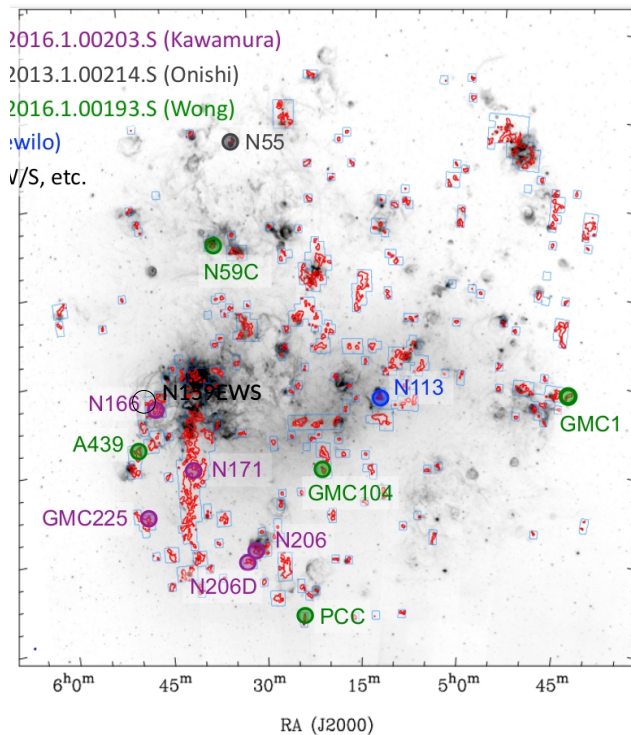
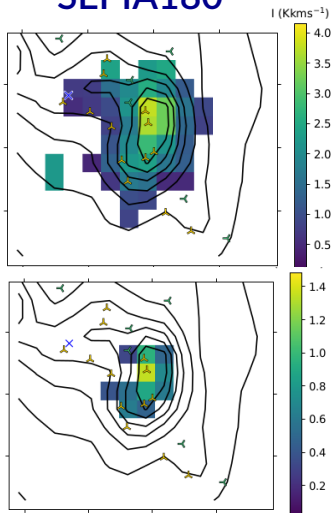


Evolution of cloud ensemble properties (nearest neighbour separation in r and v) as a function of distance from 30 Doradus to study feedback

Evolution of physical cloud properties as a function of distance from 30 Doradus

... high resolution + full FoV are essential

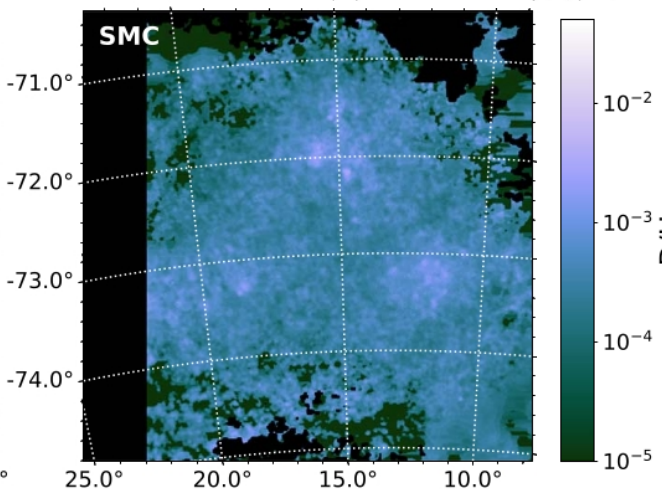
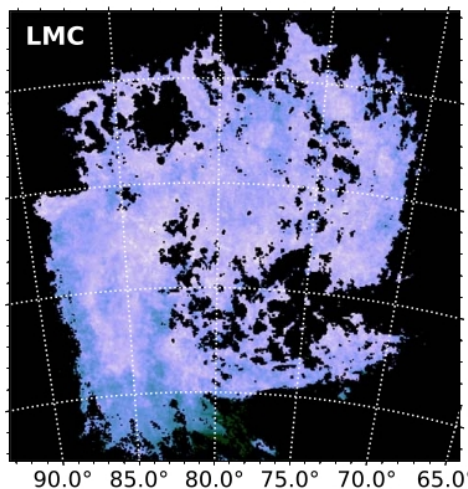
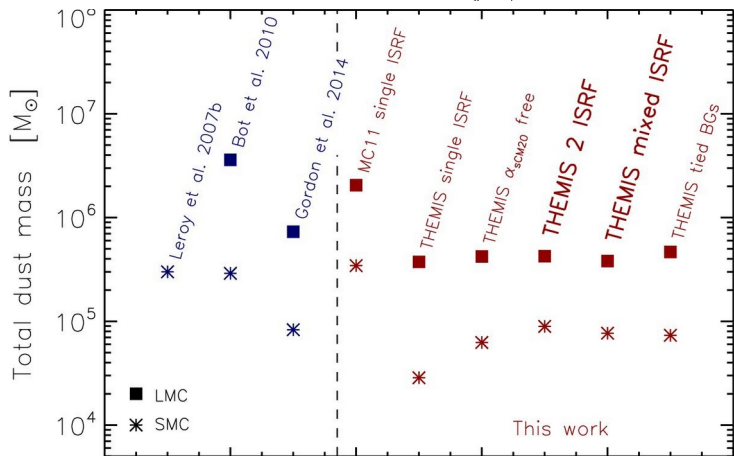
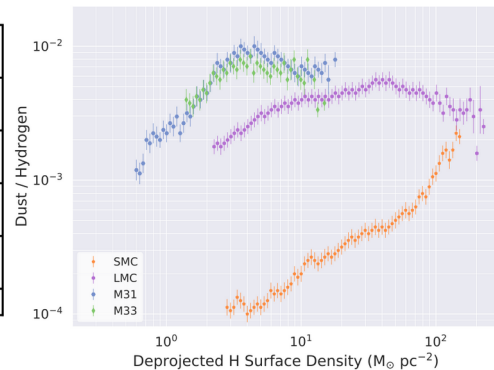
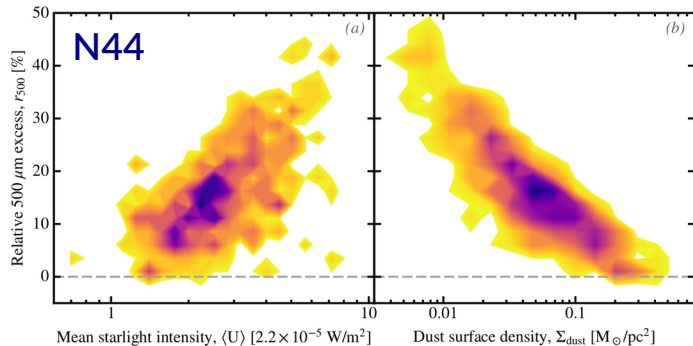
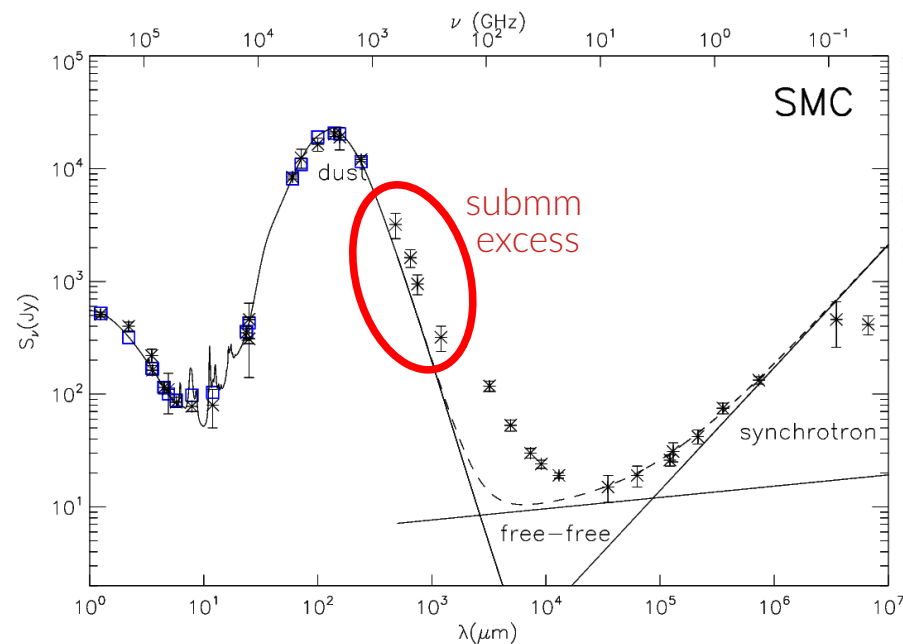
N159, APEX SEPIA180



ALMA mapping of lines other than B3 and B6 12CO and 13CO in the LMC is practically non-existent...

... even for CO, the spatial coverage of ALMA mapping remains limited

Establish link SF (YSOs) to cloud formation (CI) to cloud substructure + gas density distribution (dense gas)



“Dust emission is easy to measure but not so easy to interpret.” - Frank Israel

IR/submm continuum \rightarrow dust column density \rightarrow gas column density
 - conversions depend on dust composition, dielectric properties, size distribution, gas-to-dust ratio \rightarrow likely vary ISM conditions (density, ISRF, Z)

observational effects also matter \rightarrow e.g. large-scale filtering, contamination

The LMC and SMC in 2035:

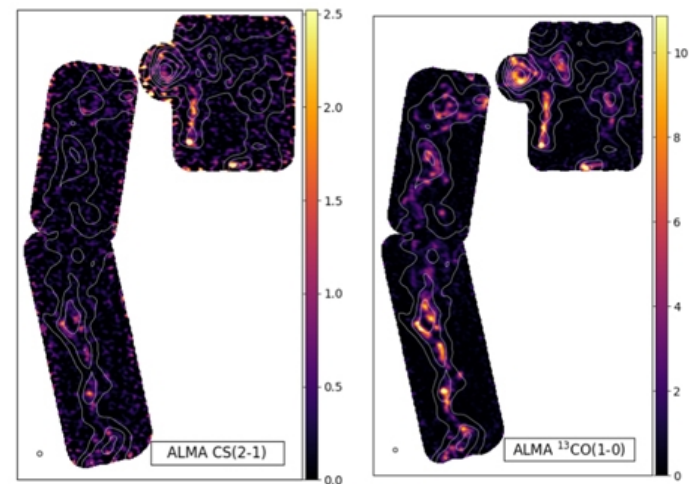
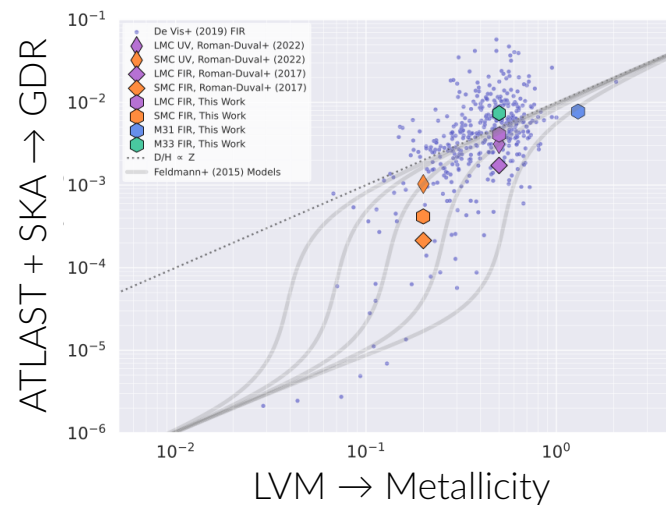
- 25 years of ALMA:
 - ALMA 7m+TP 12CO(1-0) cloud survey (N~100s clouds)
 - some wide-field 7m+TP low J 13CO, CS mapping
 - N~10s bright SF LMC clouds with 'dense gas tracers'
- LVM → 10pc maps of ionized gas parameters, Z, feedback diagnostics...
- SKA+Pathfinders: Atomic gas properties (CNM/WNM, low N(H) regime)

Some thoughts....

Fields to study all evolutionary stages of cloud&SF at pc-scale as function of galactic environment

French community has unique expertise (theory+lab +modelling) for studying dust

We need to make connection between the LMC/SMC and dust properties in diffuse (outer disks) + dense ISM of SFMS disk galaxies ... and to even lower Z systems



Nearby Galaxies with ATLAST : Take-aways

The landscape is changing very fast: data volumes, wavelength coverage and data science analysis methods

Just because observations are hard today doesn't mean people won't try, especially if the science return is high ('Chris Carilli 80% rule')

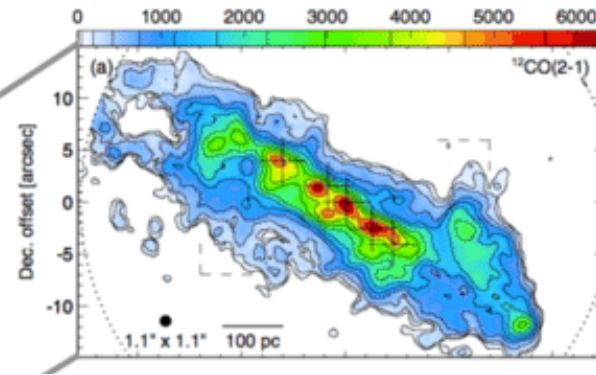
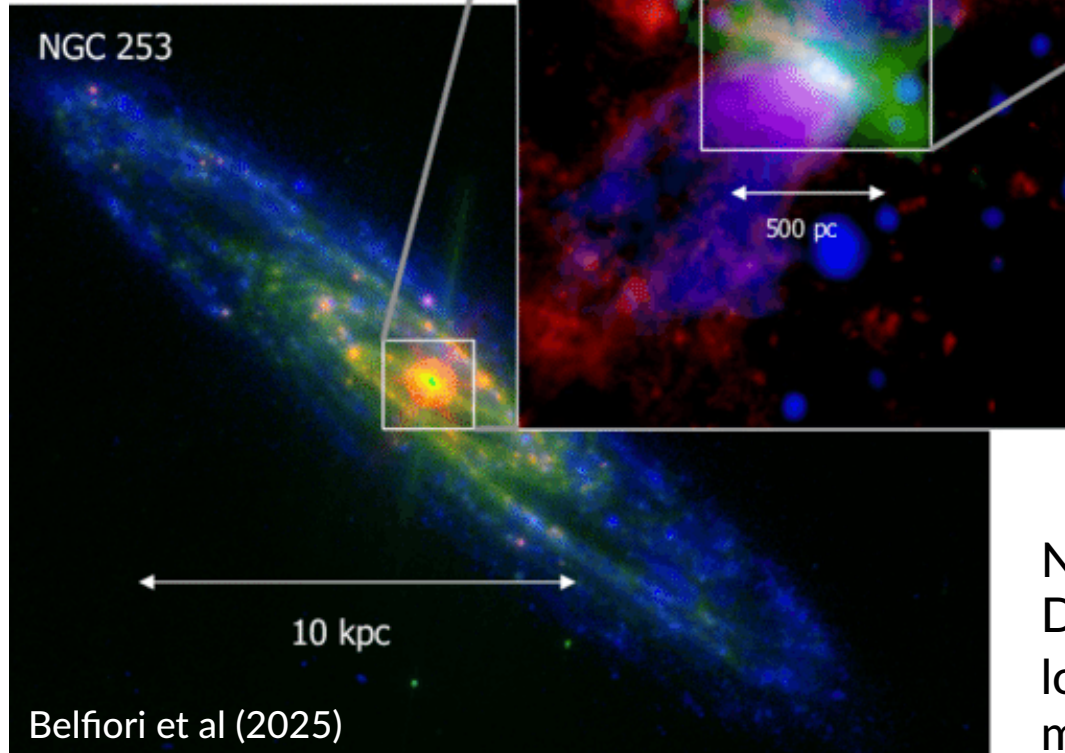
From little things, big things grow... pilot programmes for ATLAST 'key science' should be happening now

IRAM facilities are key for paving the way:

e.g. PAWS → PHANGS, M51 dense → SWAN, EMPIRE → ALMOND

Tuesday July 1st afternoon, SF2A Workshop 'L'interféromètre NOEMA et le télescope de 30m de l'IRAM: développements récents et futurs'

NGC253's starburst + multi-phase outflow
~20 SSCs (mass: 10^4 - $10^6 M_\odot$, age: 0.01 – 3 Myr)
 $\text{SFR}_{\text{centre}} \sim 2 M_\odot/\text{yr}$
 $M_{\text{mol,outflow}} \sim 10s M_\odot/\text{yr}$
 $M_{\text{ion,outflow}} \sim \text{few } M_\odot/\text{yr}$



NGC253, an iconic nuclear starburst galaxy
 $D \sim 3.7 \text{ Mpc}$, SABc
 $\log(M^*) = 10.6$, $\text{SFR}_{\text{global}} = 5 M_\odot/\text{yr}$
many ALMA projects (Early Science, ALCHEMI)