

The Interstellar Medium and Star Formation in Nearby Galaxies: Multi-Wavelength Analysis

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Introduction: what sets SFR?

Relationship between SFR and ISM properties

(1) star formation law (or Kennicutt-Schmidt law):

- Schmidt law (1959): $\text{SFR} \propto \rho_{\text{gas}}^n$
- Kennicutt (1998): $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto \Sigma_{\text{gas}}^{1.4}$
- Wong & Blitz (2002): $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto \Sigma_{\text{H}_2}^{0.78}$

(2) gravitational instability: Toomre $Q_{\text{gas}} \equiv \frac{\kappa \sigma_g}{\pi G \Sigma_{\text{gas}}} < 1$: unstable

(3) H_2/HI ratio vs. Pressure: $\Sigma_{\text{H}_2}/\Sigma_{\text{HI}} \sim (P_0)^\alpha$

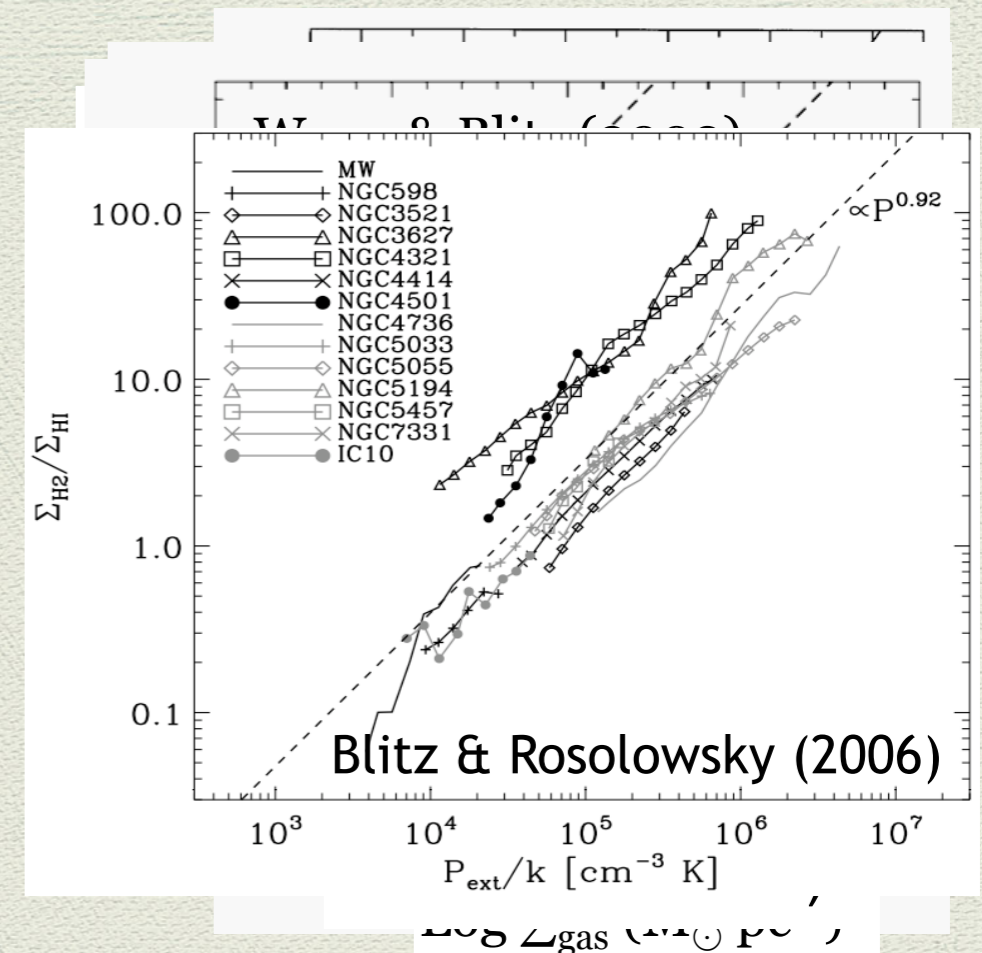
♦ radial variation in scale height & velocity dispersion?

Vertical distribution

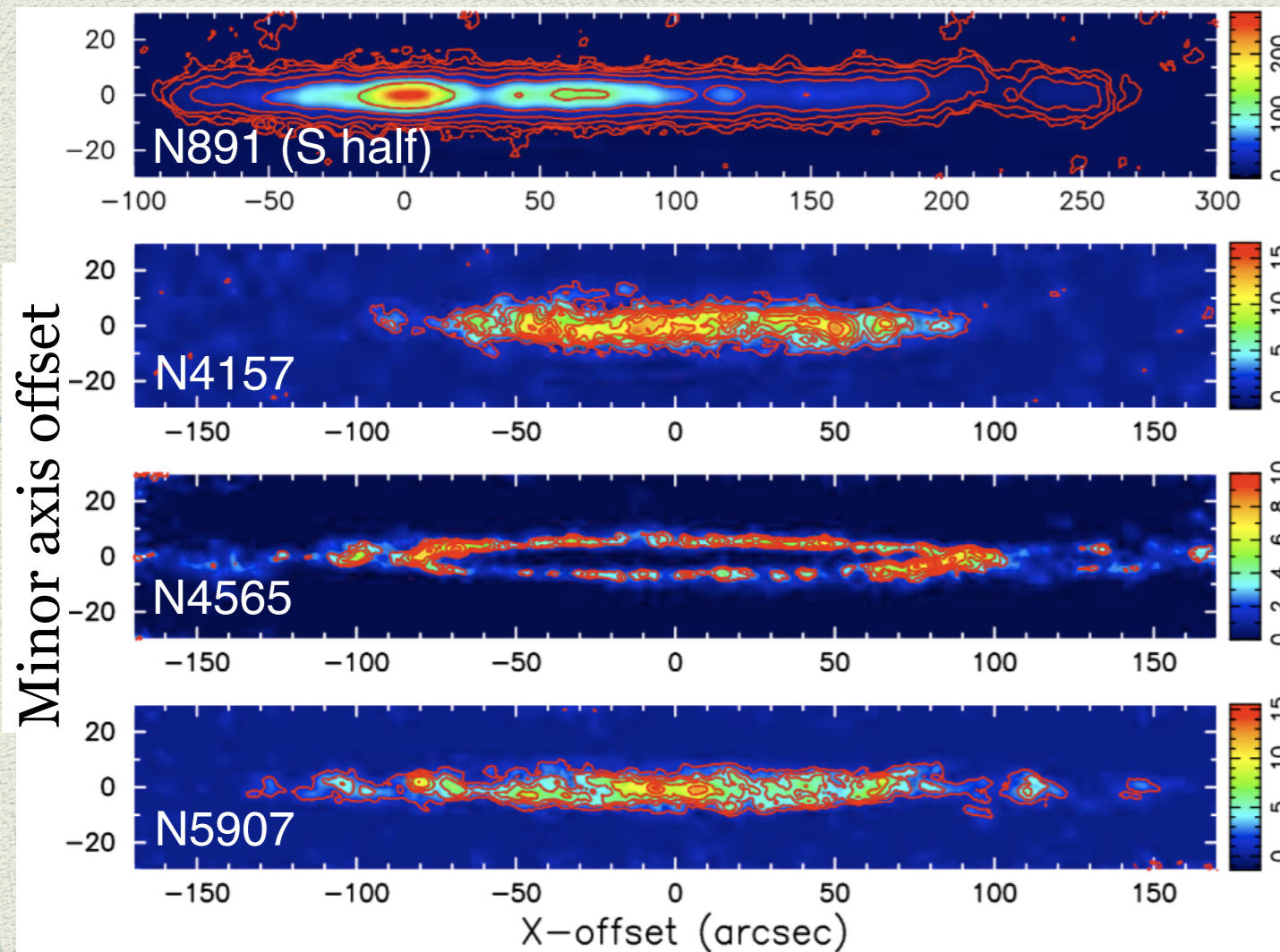
- scale heights as a function of radius for gas & stars
- vertical velocity dispersions with radius for gas & stars

Edge-on Galaxies

- disk thickness with radius \rightarrow volume density & vertical velocity dispersion
- NGC 891, NGC 4157, NGC 4565 & NGC 5907



Observations: ^{12}CO ($J=1\rightarrow 0$) as a H_2 tracer



● N891:

-BIMA, $7'' \times 7''$ & 10km/s

● N4157:

-BIMA, $3.84'' \times 3.30''$ & 10km/s

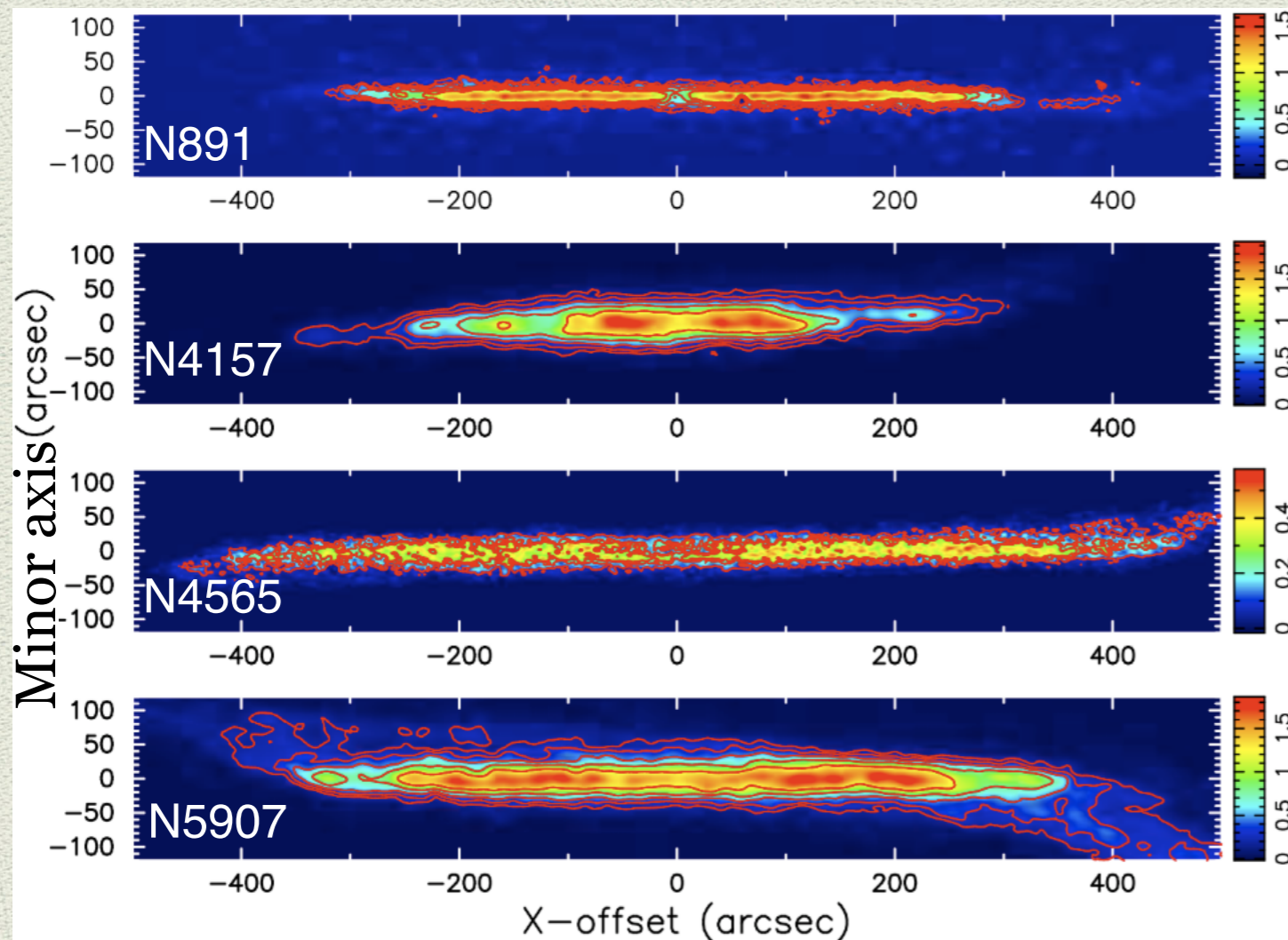
● N4565:

-BIMA+CARMA, $3.60'' \times 2.95''$ & 10km/s

● N5907:

-BIMA+CARMA, $3.48'' \times 2.76''$ & 10km/s

Observations: HI



● N891:

-VLA, $11.56'' \times 8.78''$ & 20km/s

● N4157:

-VLA, $15.69'' \times 14.87''$ & 20km/s

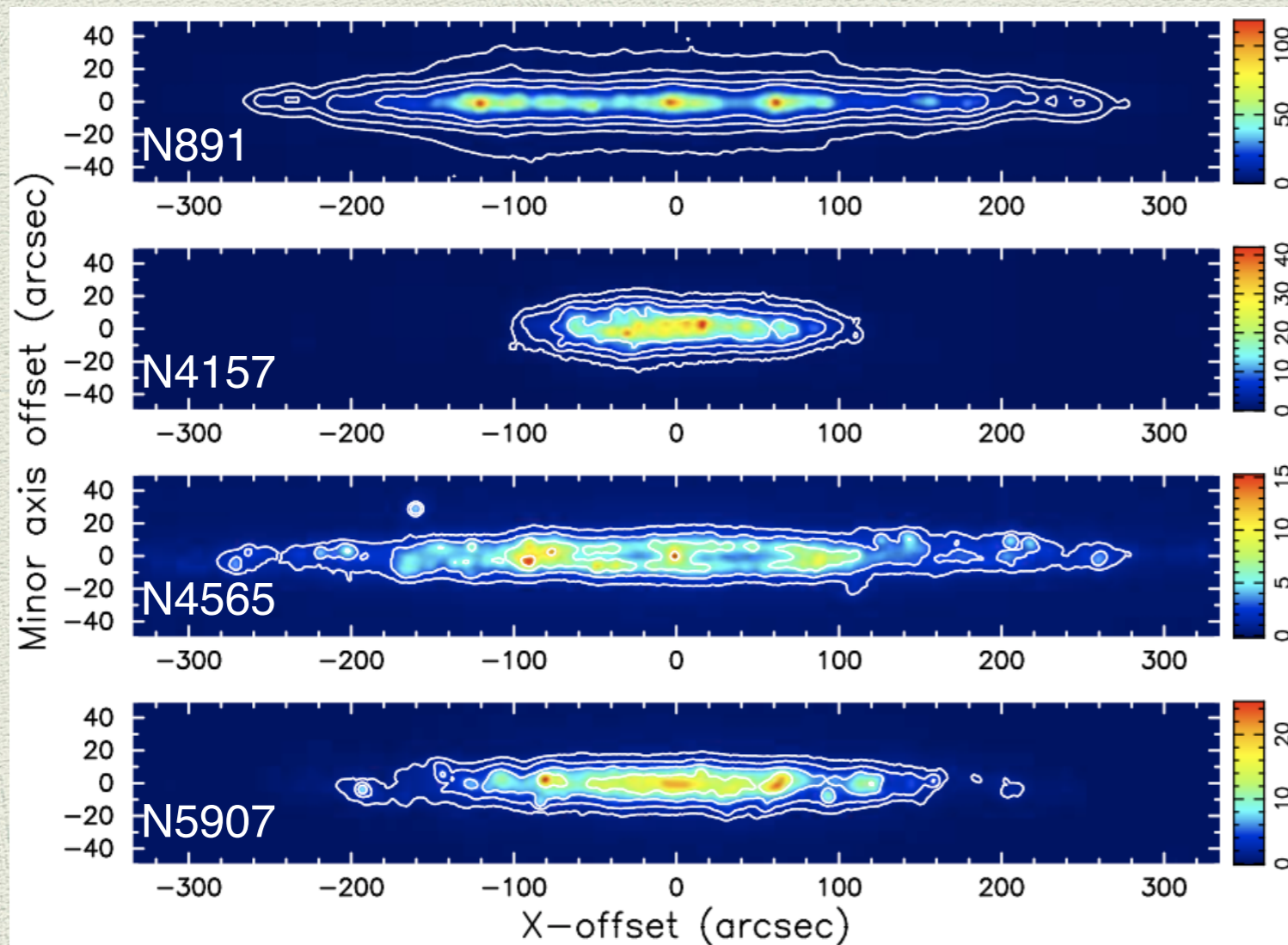
● N4565:

-VLA, $6.26'' \times 5.59''$ & 20km/s

● N5907:

-VLA, $15.43'' \times 13.84''$ & 20km/s

Observations: *Spitzer* IR data



- Σ_{stellar} : Spitzer IRAC 3.6 μm as a stellar mass tracer

$$\Sigma_* [M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}] = 280 (\cos i) I_{3.6} [\text{MJy sr}^{-1}]$$

Leroy et al. (2008)

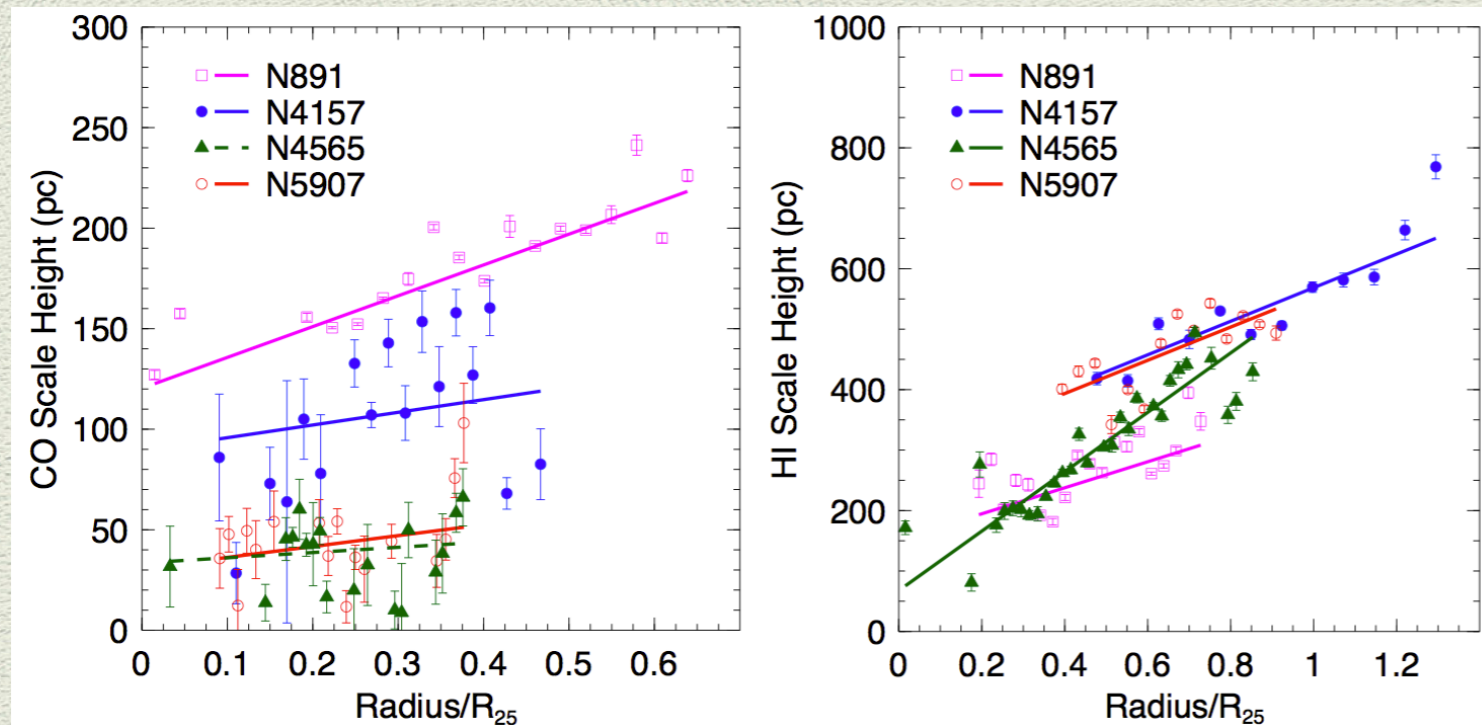
- Σ_{sfr} : Spitzer MIPS 24 μm as a SFR tracer

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{SFR}}}{M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-2}} = 1.56 \times 10^{-35} \left(\frac{S_{24 \mu\text{m}}}{\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-2}} \right)^{0.8104}$$

$$\frac{S_{24 \mu\text{m}}}{\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-2}} = 1.5 \times 10^{40} \left(\frac{I_{24}}{\text{MJy sr}^{-1}} \right)$$

Calzetti et al. (2007)

Vertical Structure: disk thickness



- Gaussian function fitting to the extreme velocity channels for almost edge-on galaxies
- Olling's method (1996) considering the projection effects for less edge-on galaxies

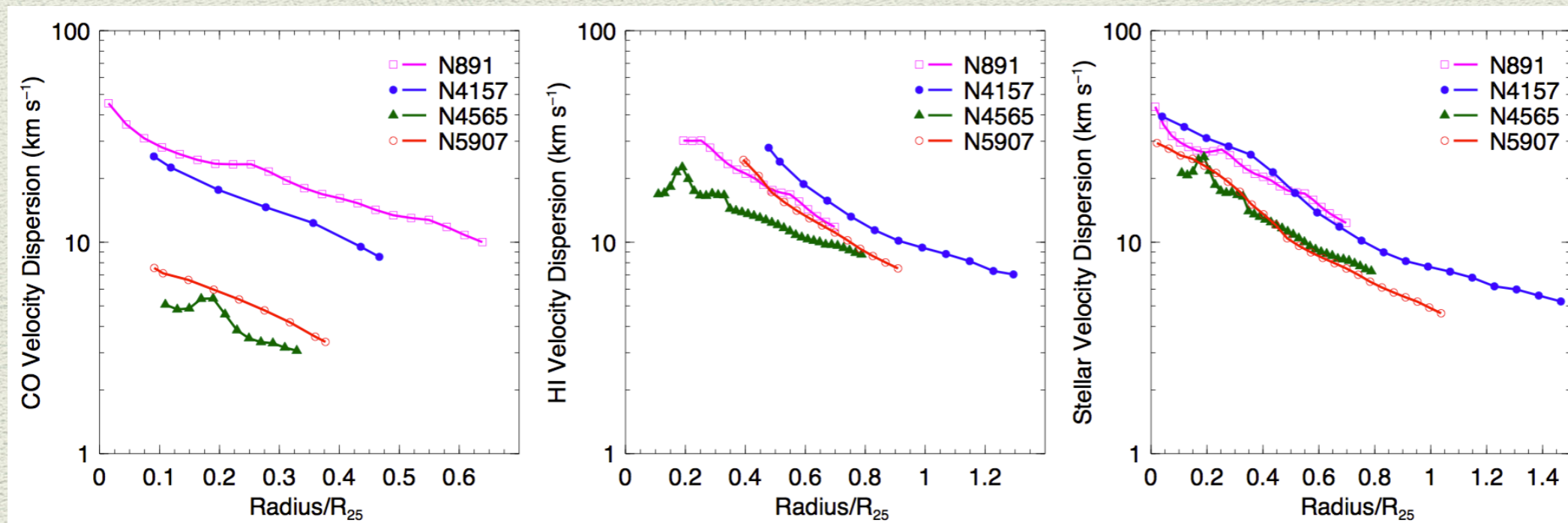
- Midplane volume density: using the derived surface density & the scale height assuming a Gaussian distribution for gas and a $\sec^2(z/h_*)$ function for stars

$$\rho_{0\text{H}_2} = \frac{\Sigma_{\text{H}_2}}{h_{\text{H}_2} \sqrt{2\pi}}$$

$$\rho_{0\text{HI}} = \frac{\Sigma_{\text{HI}}}{h_{\text{HI}} \sqrt{2\pi}}$$

$$\rho_{0*} = \frac{\Sigma_*}{2h_*}$$

Vertical Structure: vertical velocity dispersion



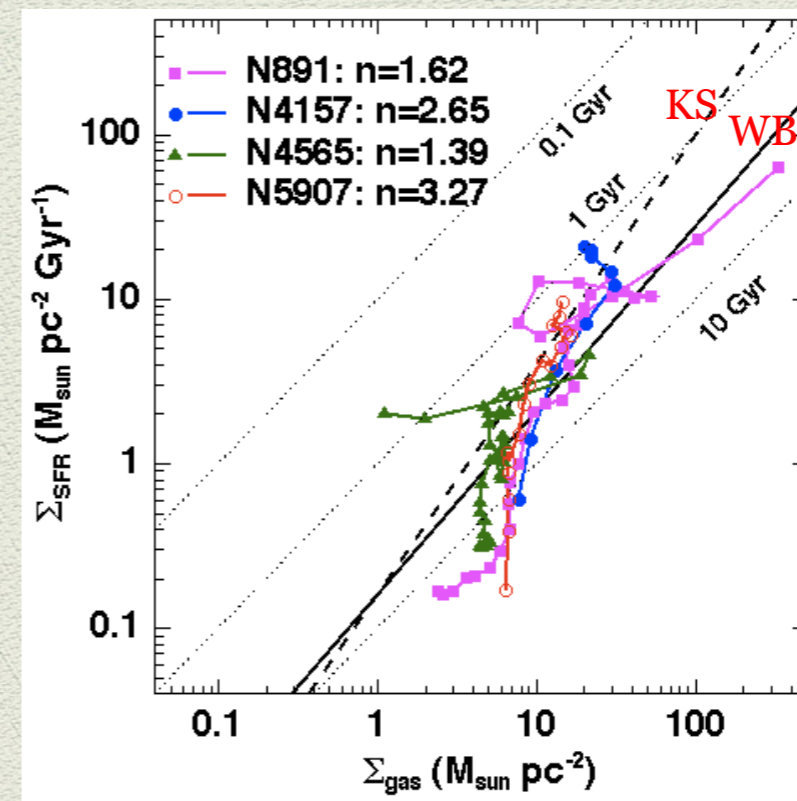
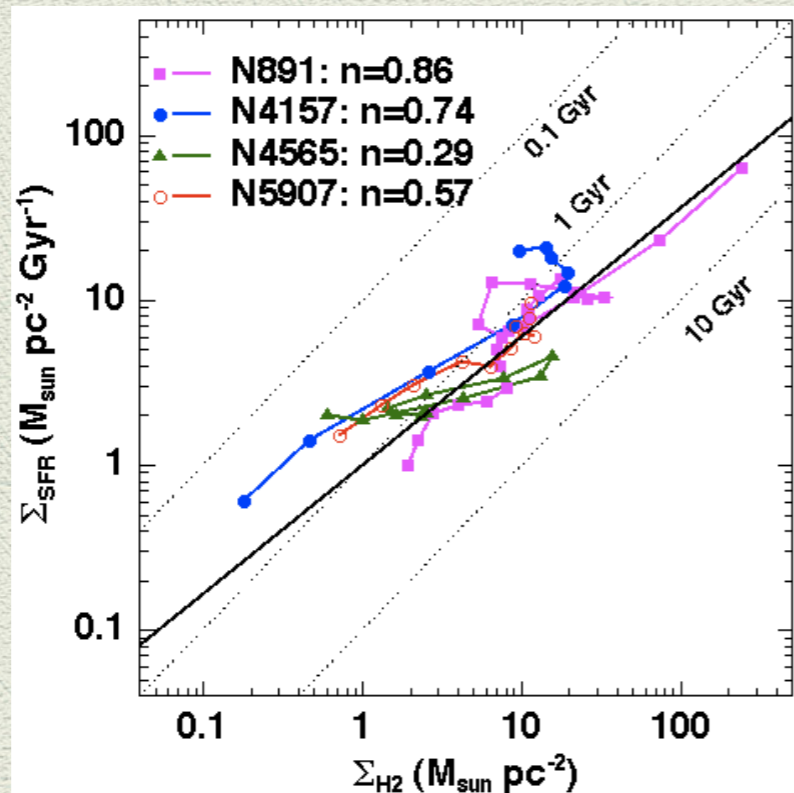
- Vertical velocity dispersions by solving the Poisson equation for a multi-component disk (Narayan & Jog 2002):

$$\sigma_i^2 = \frac{4\pi G \rho_{0,\text{tot}} \rho_{0i}}{-\left(d^2 \rho_i / dz^2\right)_{z=0}}$$

- Using the scale height (h) and the midplane volume density (ρ_0):

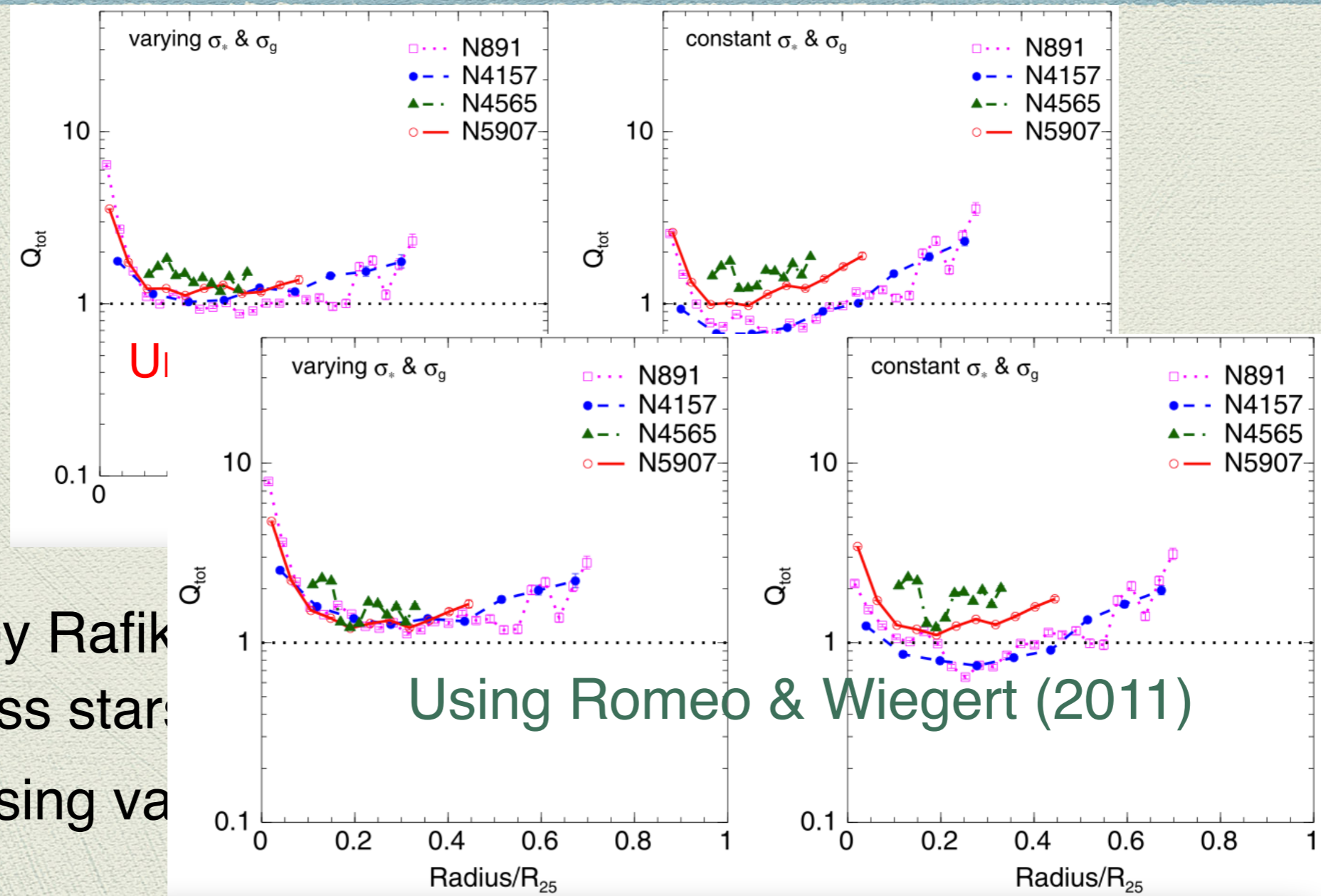
$$\sigma_g = (4\pi G h_g^2 \rho_{0,\text{tot}})^{0.5} \quad \& \quad \sigma_* = (2\pi G h_*^2 \rho_{0,\text{tot}})^{0.5}$$

1. Star Formation Law (or Kennicutt-Schmidt Law)



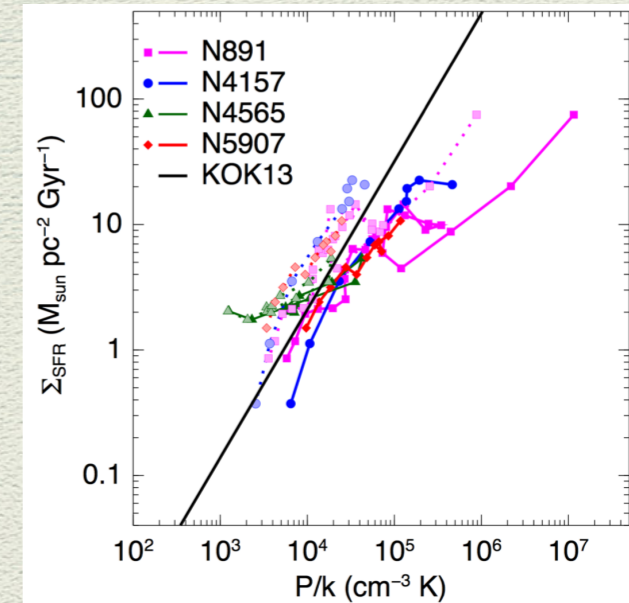
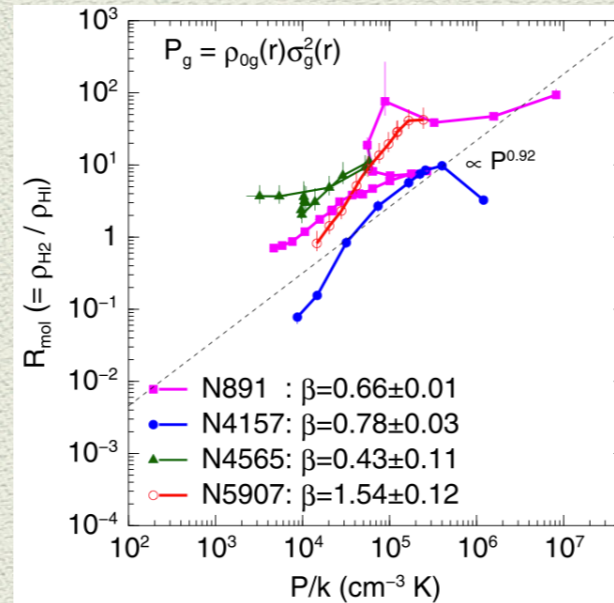
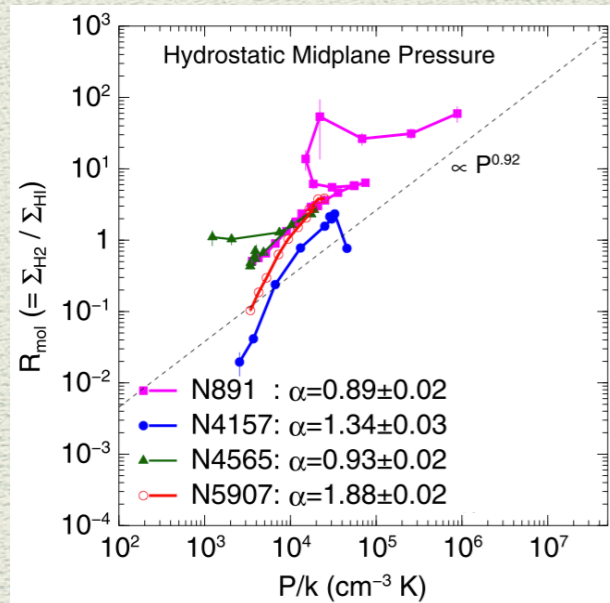
- $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{H}_2})^{0.6}$ and $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{gas}})^{2.2}$
- Kennicutt (1998): $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{gas}})^{1.4}$
- Wong & Blitz (2002): $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{H}_2})^{0.78}$ and $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{gas}})^{1.12}$

2. Gravitational Instability



- $Q_{\text{gas+star}}$ by Rafikoulline et al. (2015) using collisionless stars and gas
 - $Q_{\text{gas+Star}}$ using varying velocity dispersions
 - $Q_{\text{gas+Star}}$ by Romeo and Wiegert (2011): considering realistically **thick** disks
- and

3. Interstellar Gas Pressure

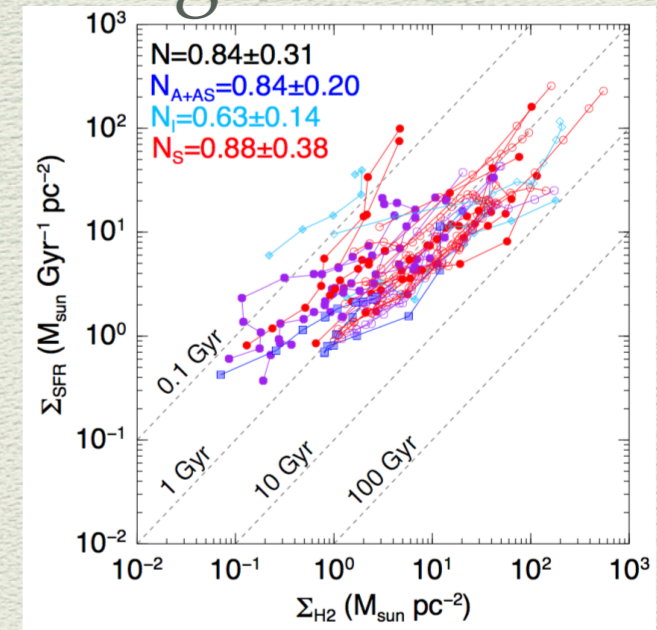


- Hydrostatic midplane pressure: $P_h = 0.89(G\Sigma_*)^{0.5}\Sigma_{\text{gas}}\sigma_{\text{cg}}/z_*^{0.5}$, where $\sigma_{\text{cg}} = 8$ km/s
- $\Sigma_{\text{H}_2}/\Sigma_{\text{HI}} \propto (P_h)^\alpha$, average $\alpha = 1.26$
- Interstellar Gas Pressure: $P_g \approx \rho_{\text{OH}_2}(r)\sigma_{\text{H}_2}^2(r) + \rho_{\text{OHI}}(r)\sigma_{\text{HI}}^2(r)$
- $\rho_{\text{H}_2}/\rho_{\text{HI}} \propto (P_g)^\beta$, average $\beta = 0.85$
- SFR vs. Pressure: $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} = 1.8 \times 10^{-3} M_{\odot} \text{ kpc}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1} \left(\frac{P_{\text{tot,DE}}/k_B}{10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ K}} \right)^{1.13}$ (Kim, Ostriker & Kim 2013)

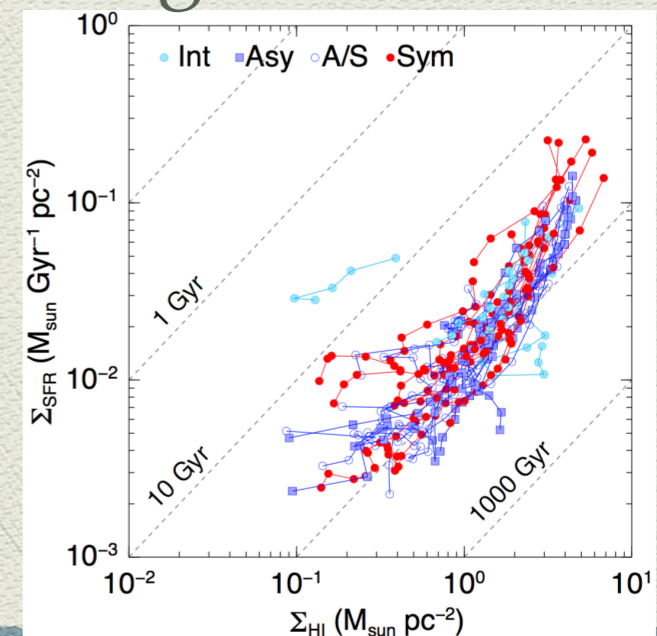
Star Formation vs. Gas Accretion

Galaxy sample: WSRT HI, CO, FUV, Spitzer 24 μ m

Inner regions: SFR vs. H₂



Outer regions: SFR vs. HI



No evidence for a positive correlation between gas accretion and star formation

Future Work & Discussion

- ◆ Star Formation Law based on volume density
- ◆ More edge-on galaxies using ALMA to resolve the thickness of gas disks
- ◆ Star formation and gas accretion in distant galaxies

Summary & Conclusions

- ◆ Scale heights of gas and stars increase with radius and the vertical velocity dispersions of gas and stars decrease with radius
- ◆ Power-law correlation between Σ_{SFR} and Σ_{H_2}
- ◆ $Q_{\text{gas+star}}$ using varying σ_g & σ_* shows marginal instability
- ◆ Power-law correlation between the pressure and SFR