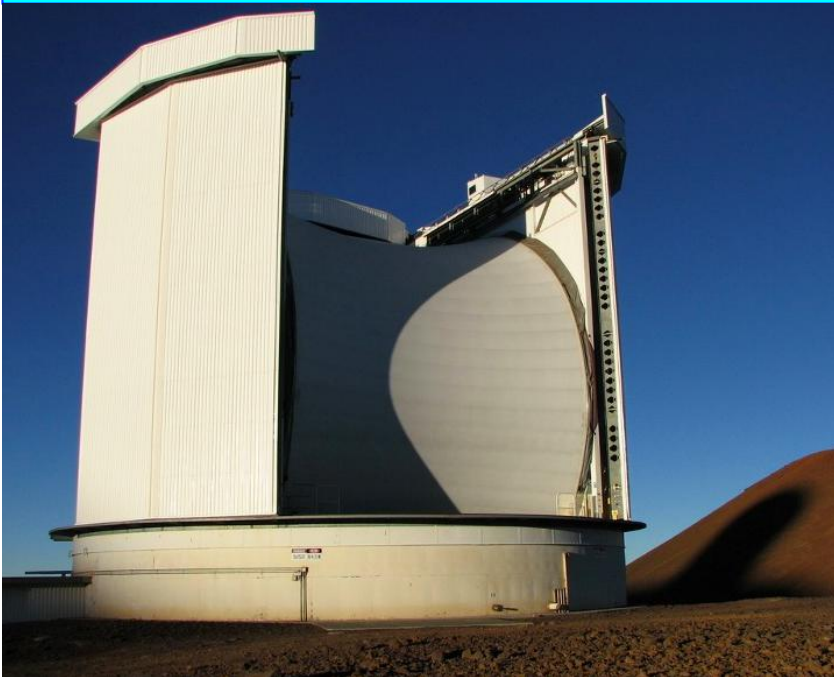


# The Star Formation Laws in Galaxies Near & Far



Yu GAO

Purple Mnt. Obs

Aug. 8th, 2017@SFDE17: from local clouds to distant gals.

**1 Chen, Gao & Braine+2015/17 ApJ (1507.08506, 1612.00459; 2 Liu, D, Gao & Isaak+2015 ApJL (1504.05897); 3 Liu, L, Gao & Greve 2015 ApJ (1502.08001); 4 Zhang, Gao & Henkel+2014 ApJL; 5 Yang+13/16; 6 Xu+14/15; 7 Lu+14/15; 8 Zhao+16/17; 9 Tan, Gao+**

# Star formation (SF) laws

(Schmidt 59, 63; Kennicutt 89, 98; Wong & Blitz 02; Heyer+04; Gao & Solomon 04; Krumholz & McKee 05; Krumholz & Thompson 07; Bigiel+08; Robertson & Kravtsov 08; Gnedin+09; Krumholz+09; Daddi+10; Gnedin & Kravtsov 10; Ostriker+10; Schrubba+10; Genzel+10; Gnedin & Kravtsov 11; Narayanan+11; Bigiel+11; **Shi+11**; **Liu+11**; Rahman+11,12; Feldmann+11,12,13; Lada+12; Liu & Gao 12; Shetty+13).

- Schmidt (1959):  $SFR \sim \text{density}(\text{HI})^n$ ,  
n=1-3, mostly 2-3 in ISM of our Galaxy.
- Kennicutt (1989): total gas  
Disk-average [ $SFR \sim \text{density}(\text{HI}+\text{H}_2)^n$ ]  
n is not well constrained. ~1-3, wide spread.
- Kennicutt (1998): n=1.4 ?  
Total gas (HI + H<sub>2</sub>) vs. molecular gas
- Gao & Solomon (2004): n=1 in dense gas  
(Hubble law and H<sub>0</sub> analogy)

# Hubble law

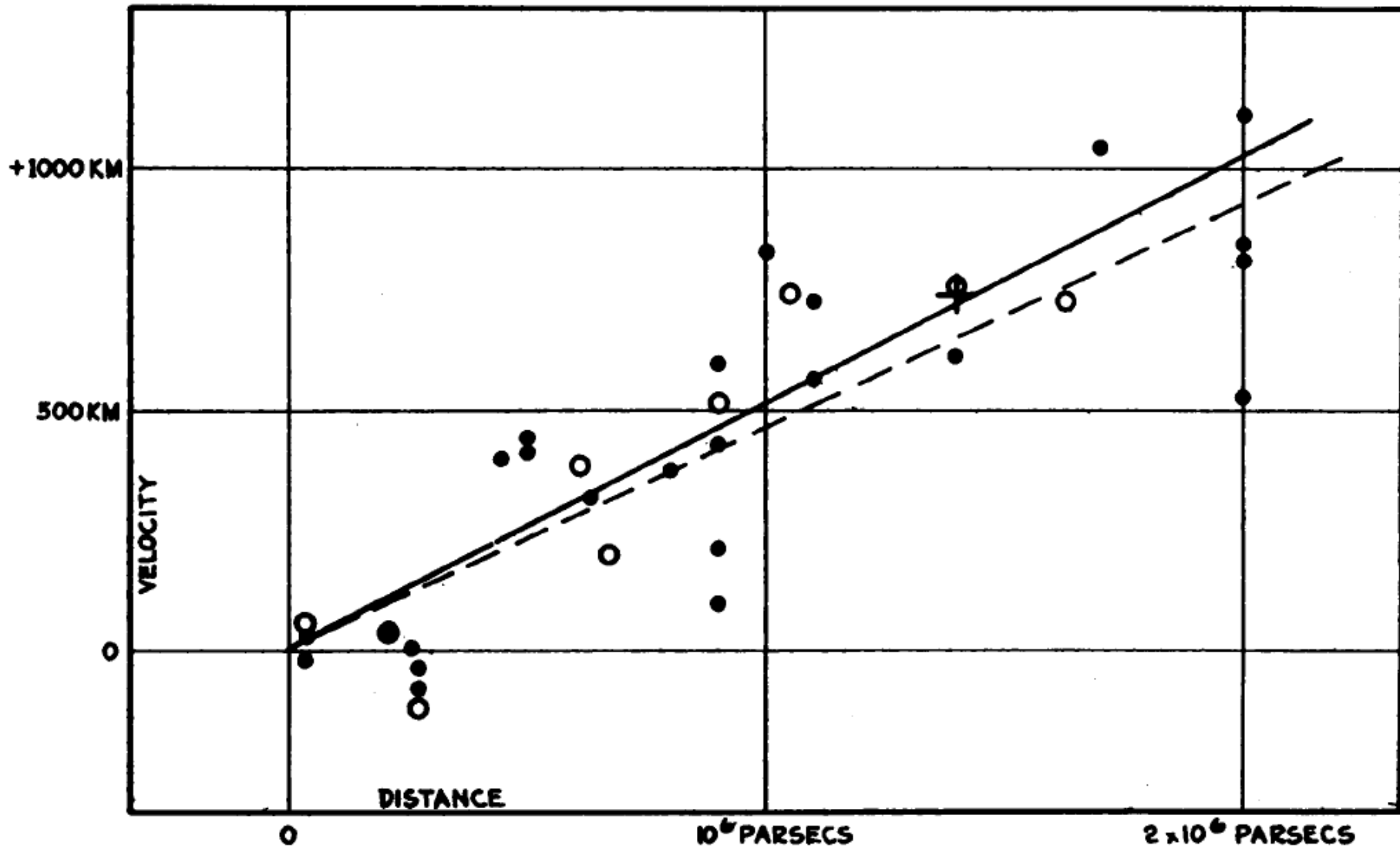
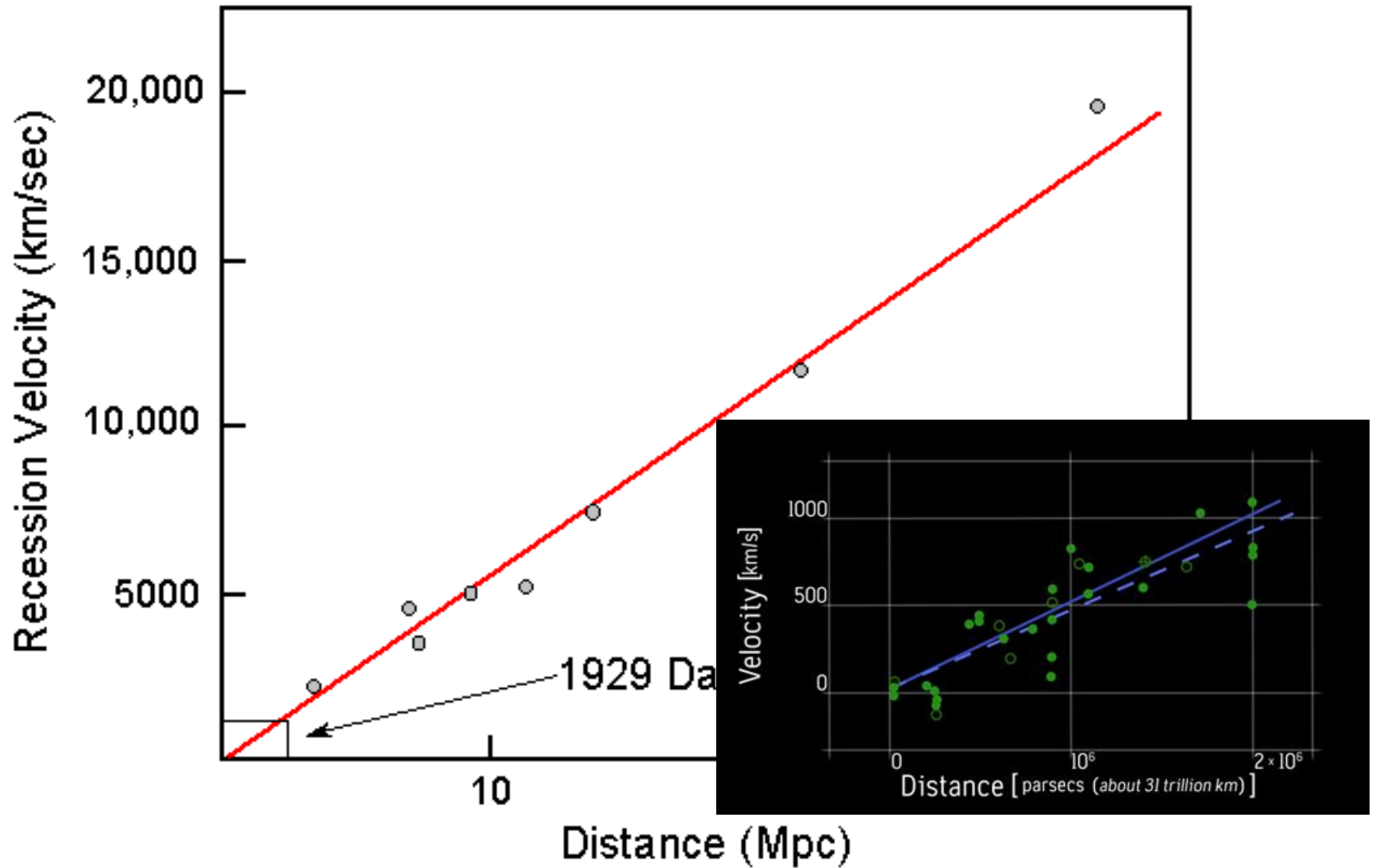


FIGURE 1

Velocity-Distance Relation among Extra-Galactic Nebulae.

# Hubble & Humason (1931)



# Hubble law vs. SF law

- Hubble: 1 of 2 variables directly observed
- It's a linear relationship!
- Yet  $> \sim 70$  yrs  $H_0$  measurements (wars)!!

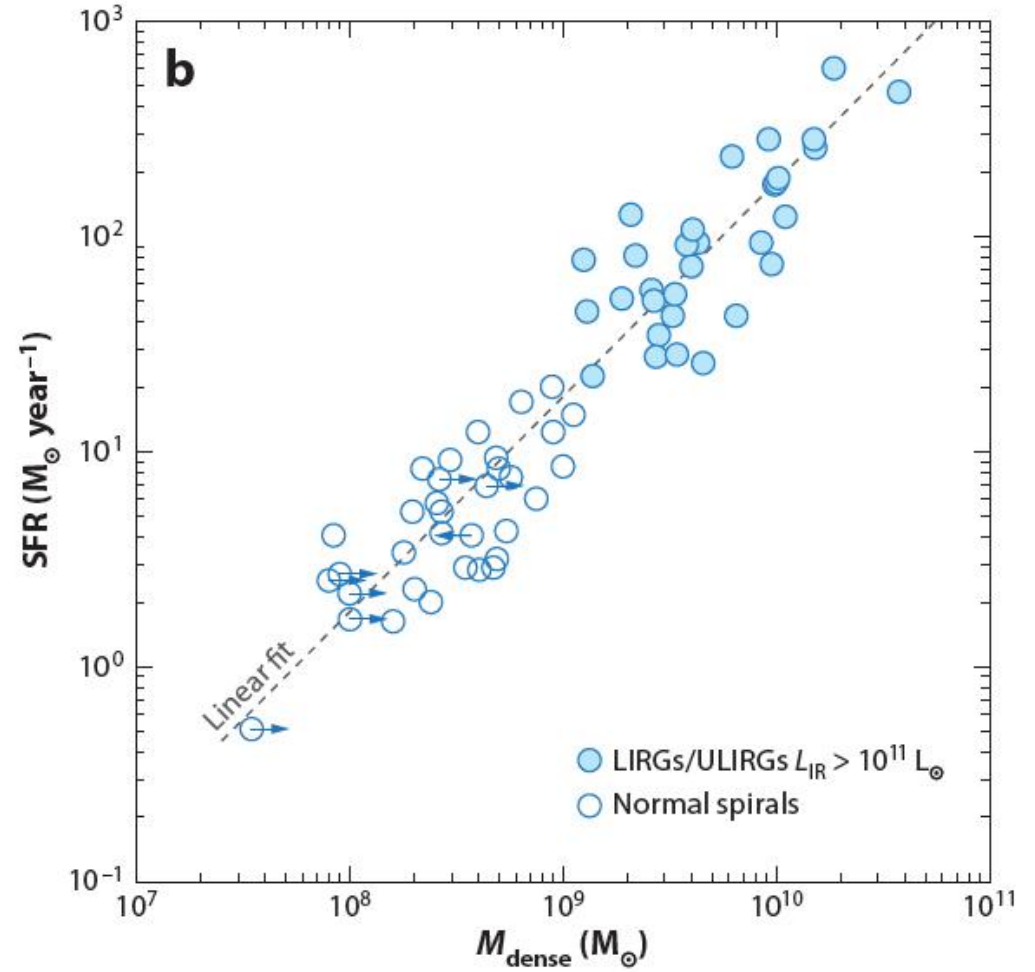
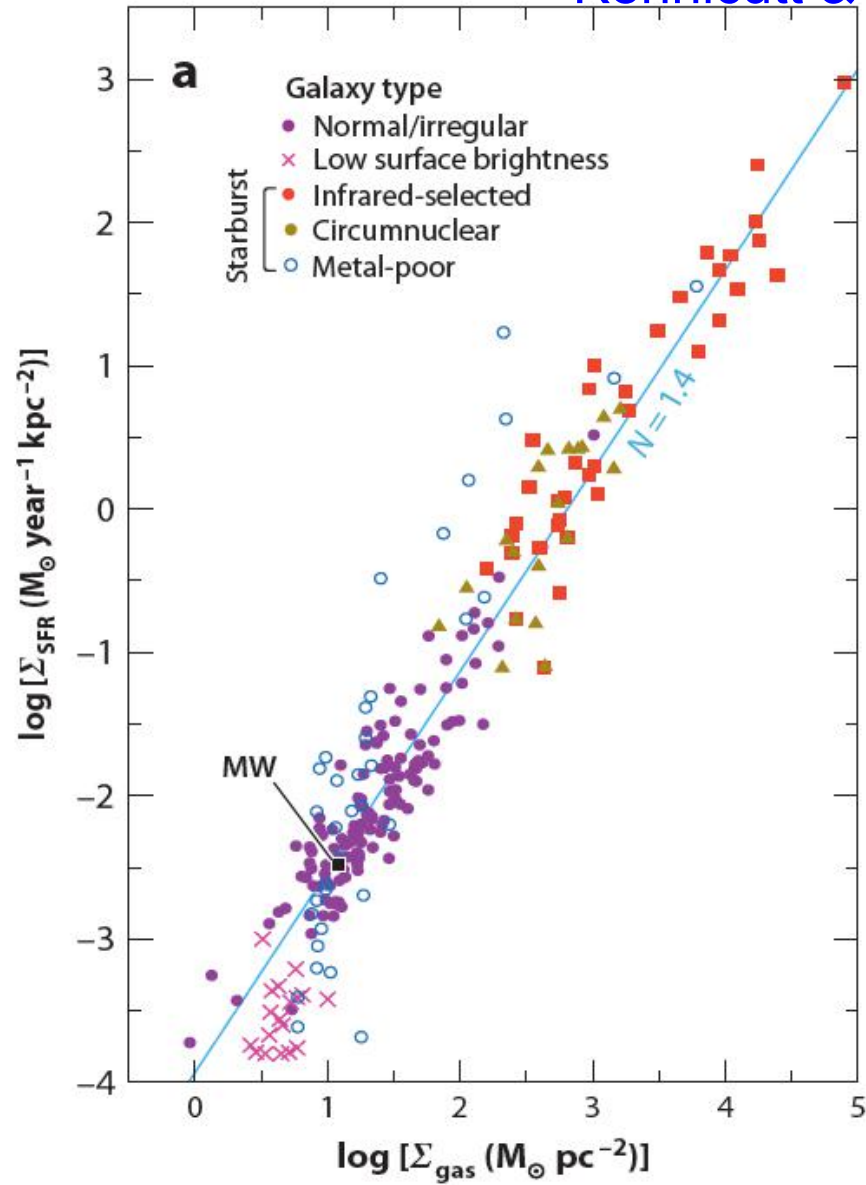
?! SF: SFR a factor of 2-3 accuracy (much worse @ high-z)

?? Star-forming gas? HI, total, H<sub>2</sub> or dense H<sub>2</sub> (~10 uncertainties, troubles?! ALMA!)

?! Might not be an exact linear relationship (even though FIR-HCN/CS linear!)

?? SF constant (SF law is still @infancy)

Kennicutt & Evans 2012, ARAA

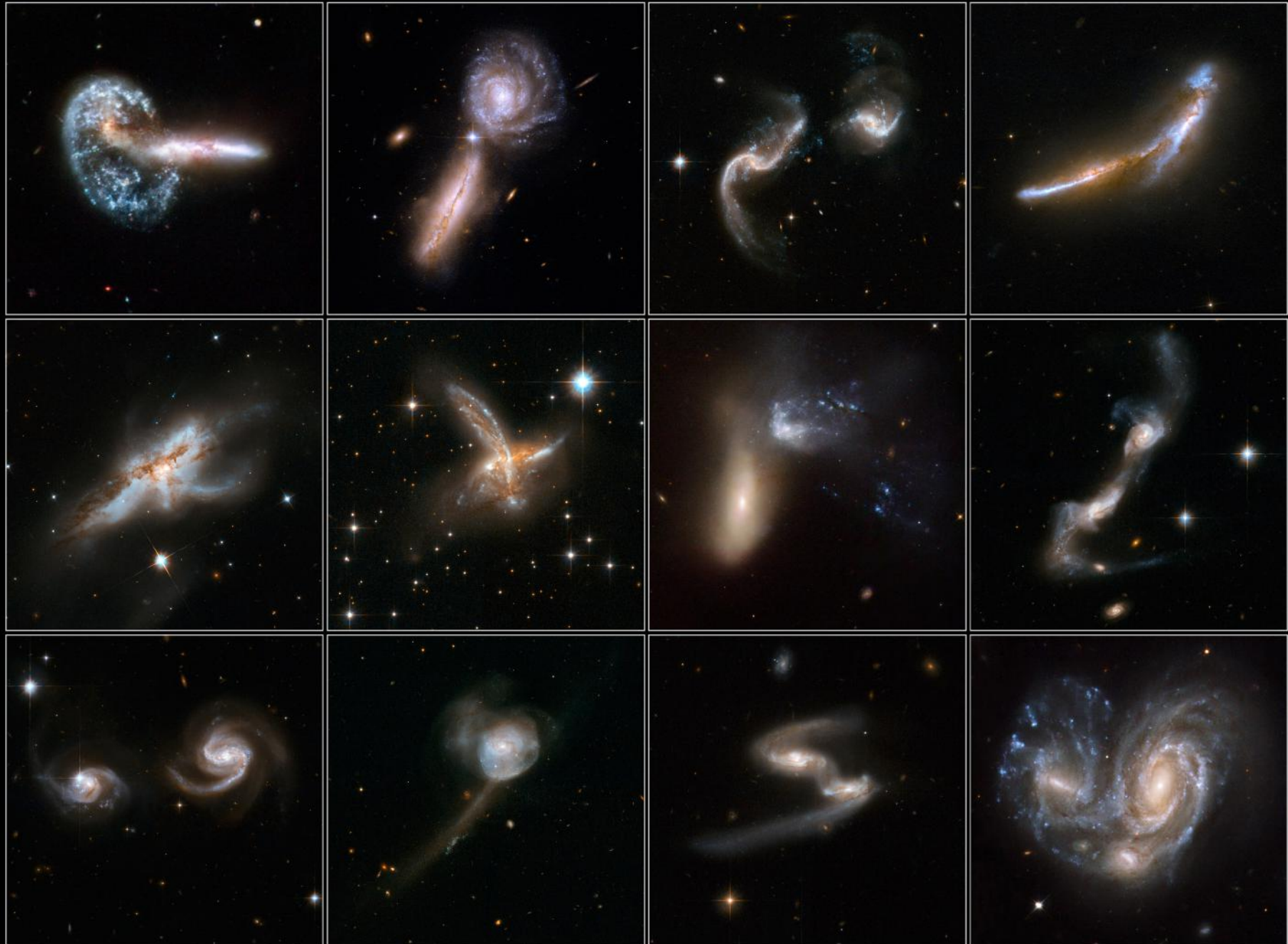


Disk-average [SFR ~ density(HI+H2)<sup>1.4</sup>]

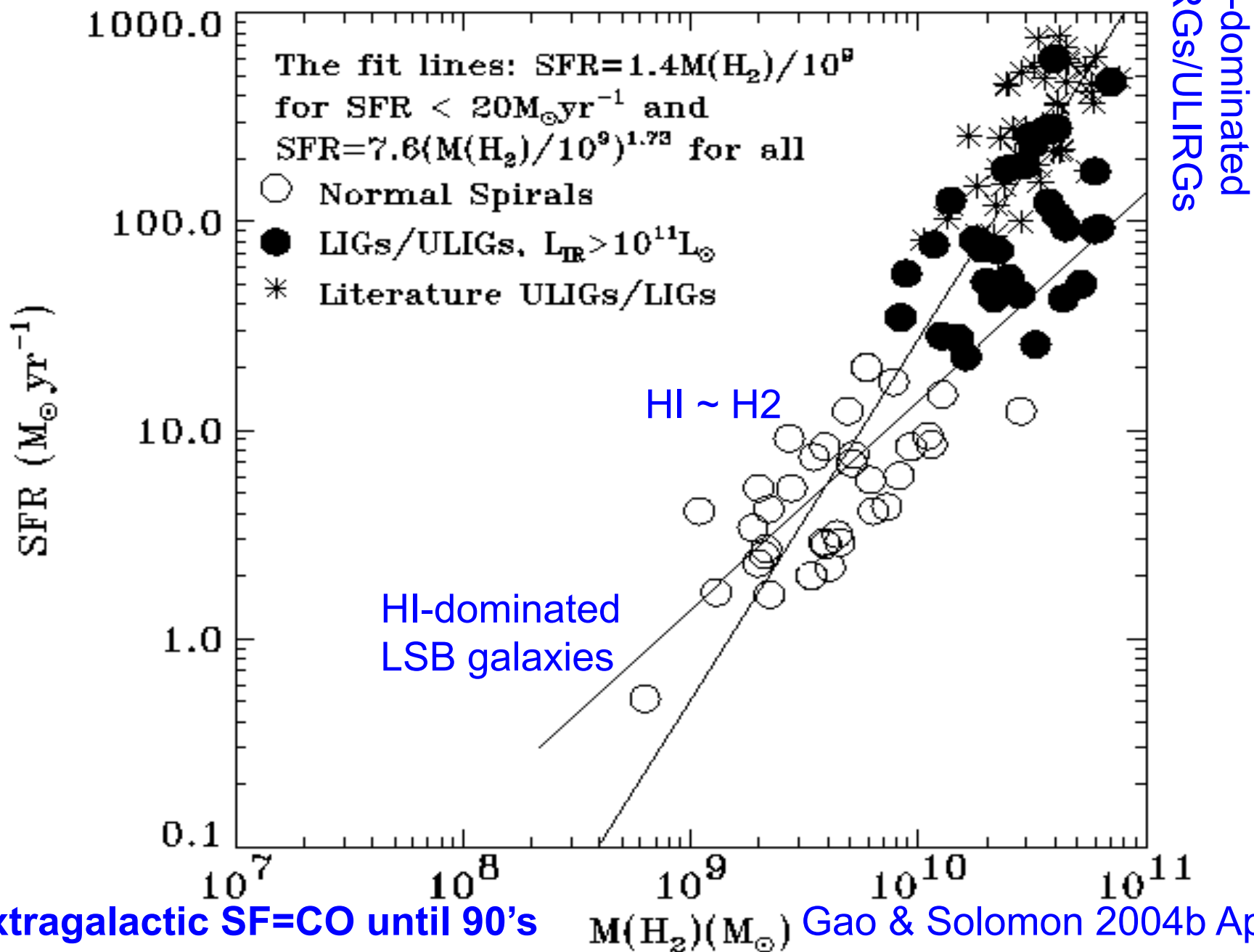


# Interacting Galaxies

Hubble Space Telescope • ACS/WFC • WFPC2



# SFR vs. M(H<sub>2</sub>): No Unique Slope: 1, 1.4, 1.7?



Extragalactic SF=CO until 90's

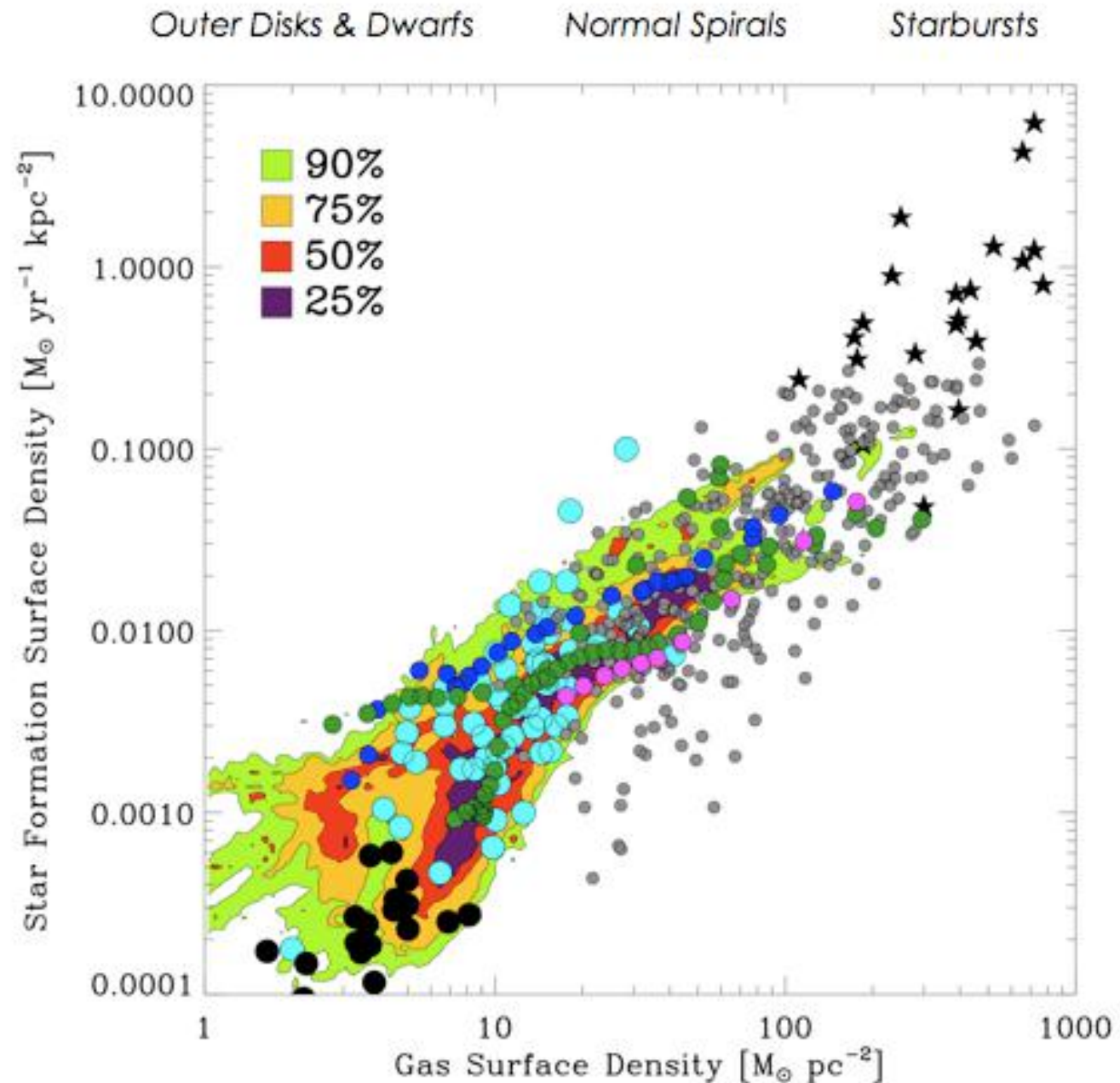
Gao & Solomon 2004b ApJ



SF thresholds may simply reflect the change of the dominant cold gas phase in galaxies from HI  $\rightarrow$  H<sub>2</sub> & from H<sub>2</sub>  $\rightarrow$  dense H<sub>2</sub>  $\rightarrow$  dense cores (DCs)  $\rightarrow$  super-star clusters (SSCs)

Schruba+2011  
~linear in H<sub>2</sub>!

Bigiel's talk @SFR50



Kennicutt (1998) spirals and  $\star$ bursts; Wong & Blitz (2002); Schuster et al. (2007)  
Wyder et al. (2007); Kennicutt et al. (2007); Crosthwaite & Turner (2007)

- Kennicutt-Schmidt Relation (Kennicutt et al. 1998):

$$\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto (\Sigma_{\text{gas}})^{1.4 \pm 0.15}$$

- Silk-Elmegreen Relation (Silk 1997; Elmegreen 1997):

$$\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto \frac{\Sigma_{\text{gas}}}{\tau}; \tau = \text{orbital timescale}$$

## $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}}$ as a function of $\Sigma_{\text{gas}}$ and $\Sigma_{\text{star}}$

$$\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto \Sigma_{\text{gas}}^{0.98 \pm 0.06} \Sigma_{\text{star}}^{0.48 \pm 0.06}$$

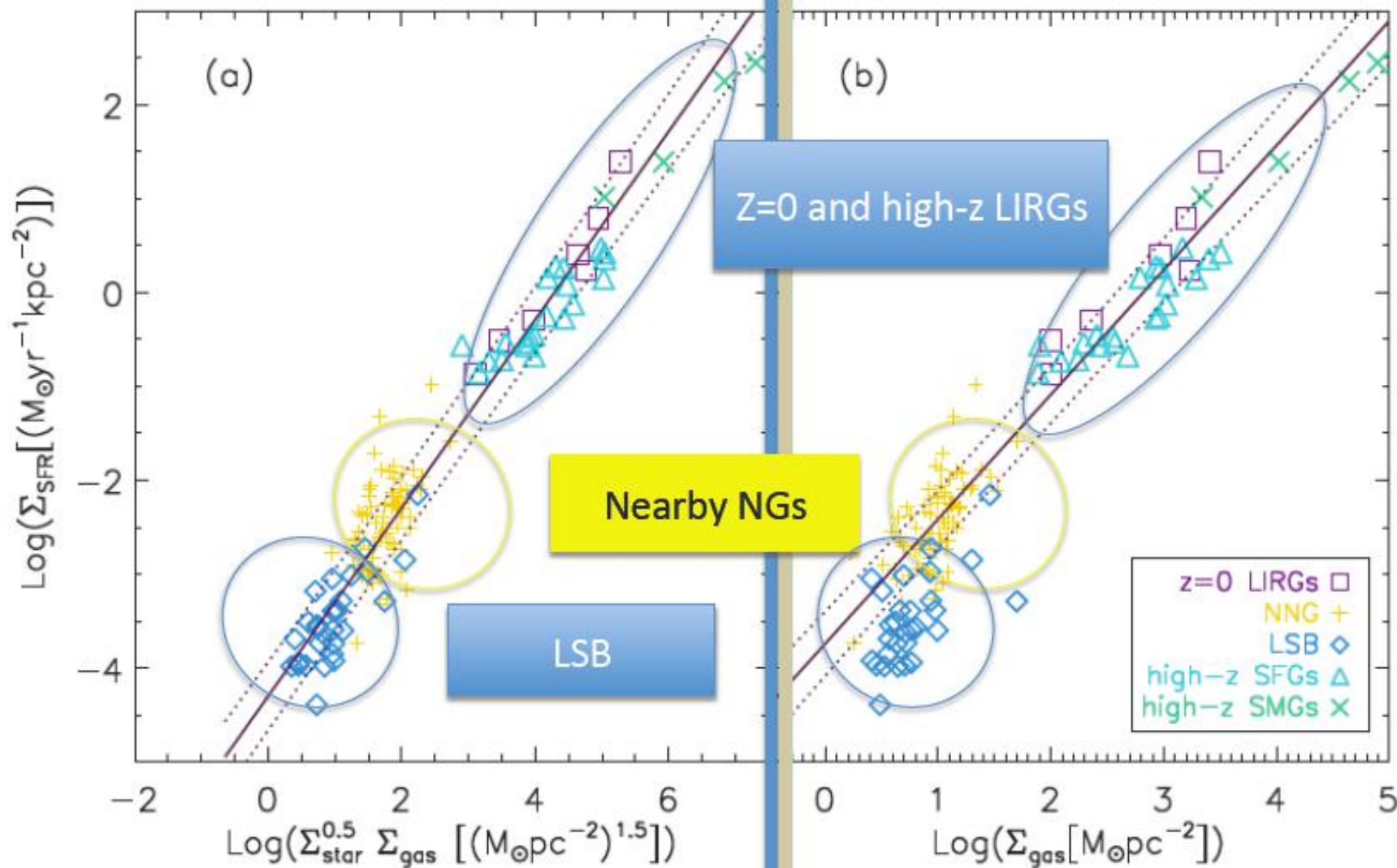
A *unity* index on  $\Sigma_{\text{gas}}$  gives a clear physical implication of the relation:

Star-Formation-Efficiency (SFE) =  $\text{SFR}/M_{\text{gas}}$  is a function of the stellar density, i.e., the stellar density controls how efficient new stars form.

# SFR Surface Density

## Extended Schmidt Law

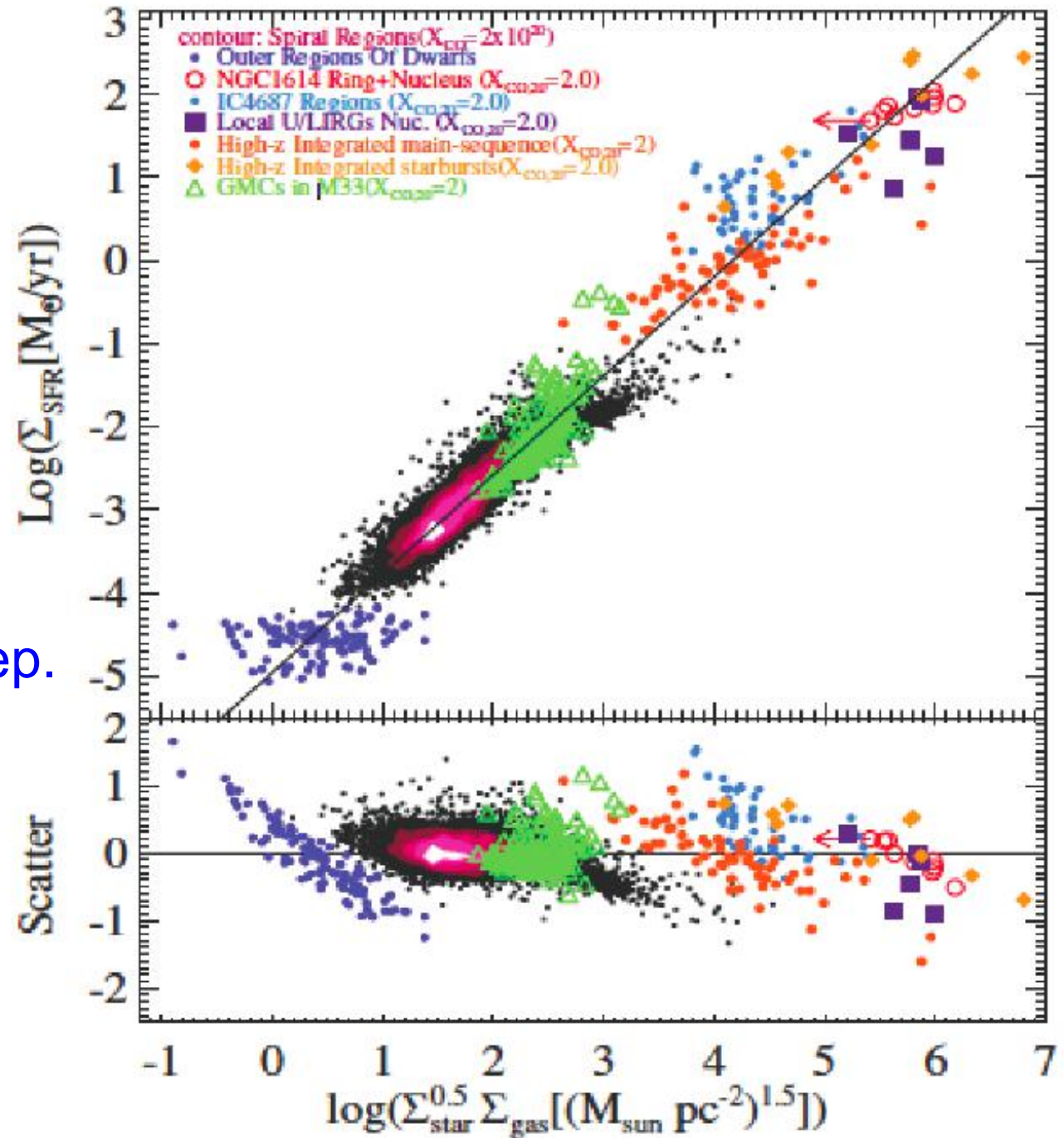
## KS Law



Shi et al. 2011 ApJ

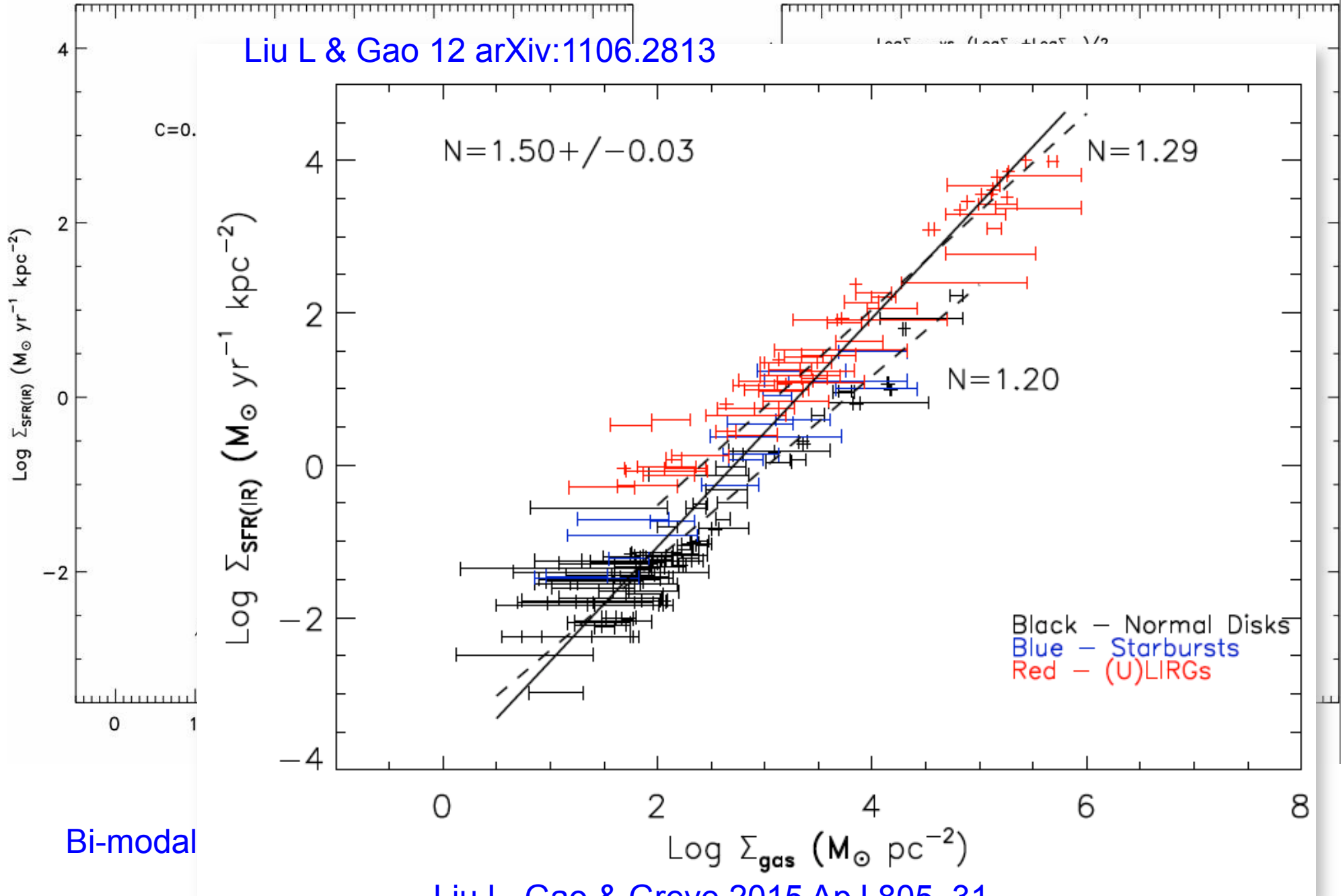


# Extended-Schmidt Law



Shi+17 in prep.

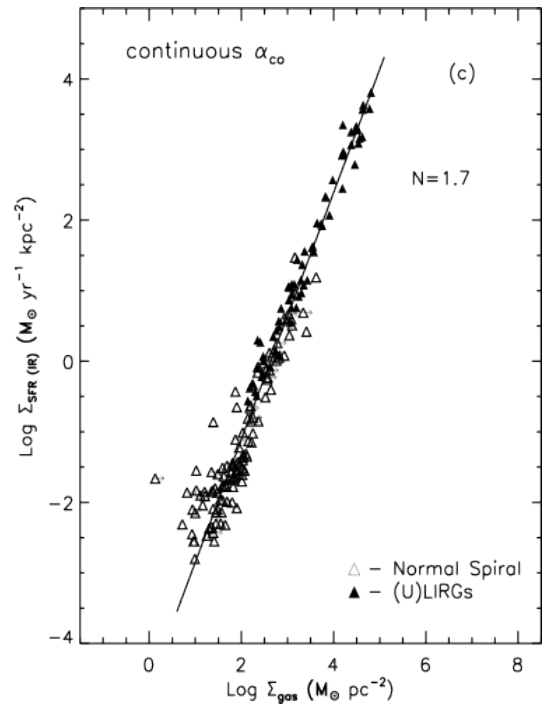
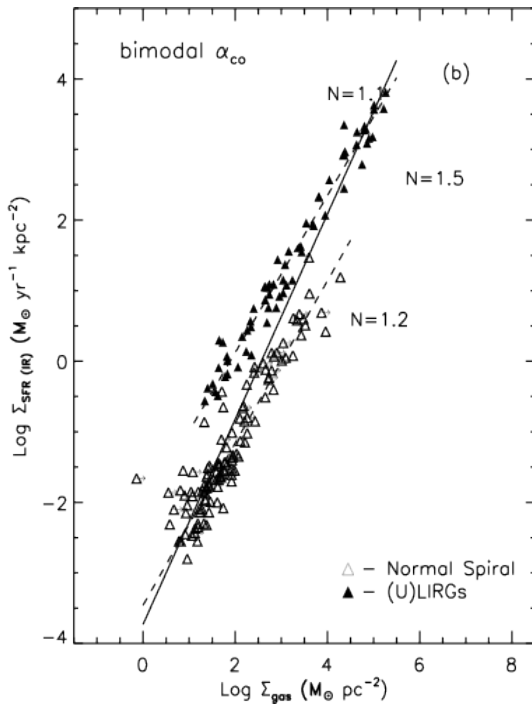
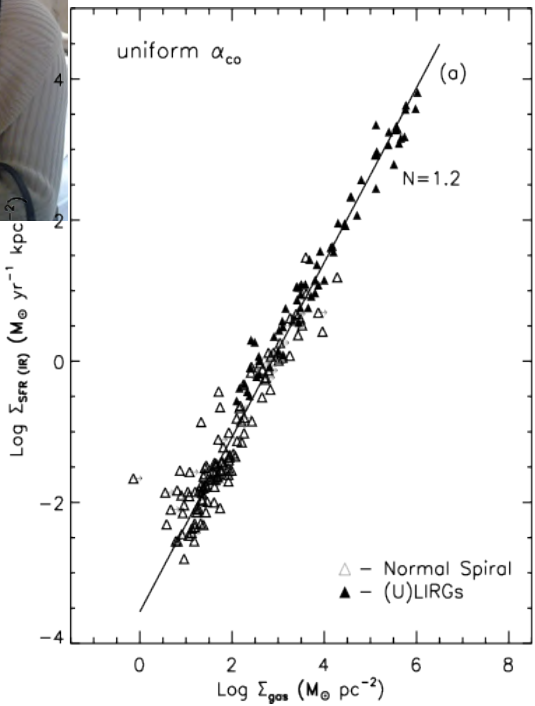
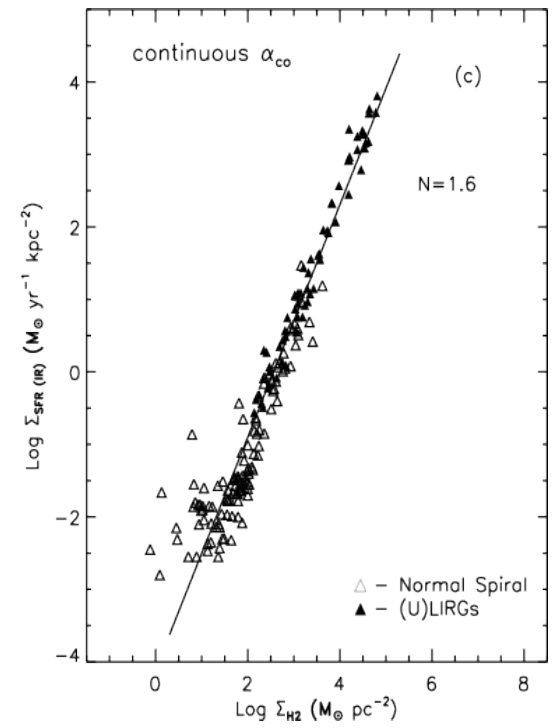
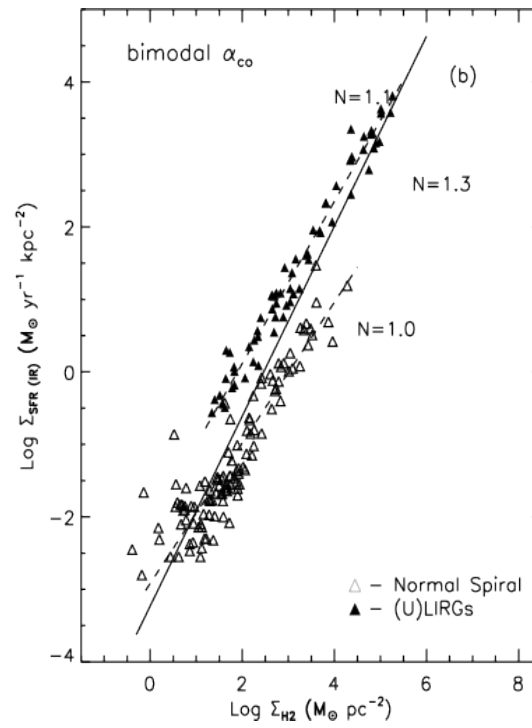
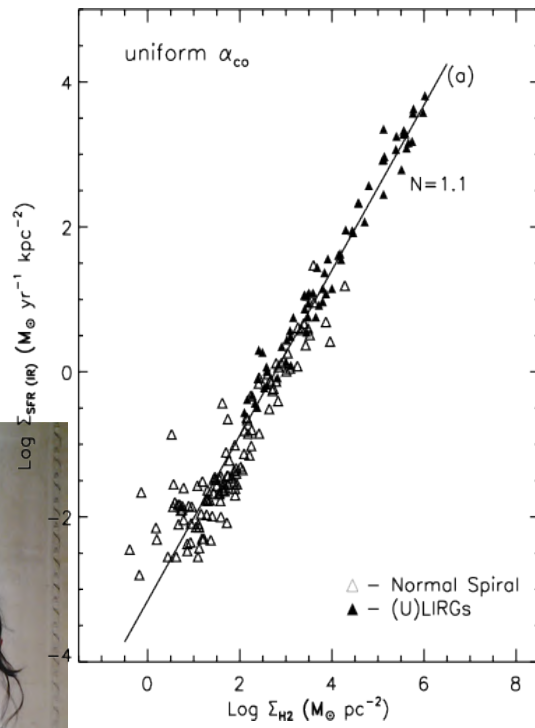
Liu L & Gao 12 arXiv:1106.2813



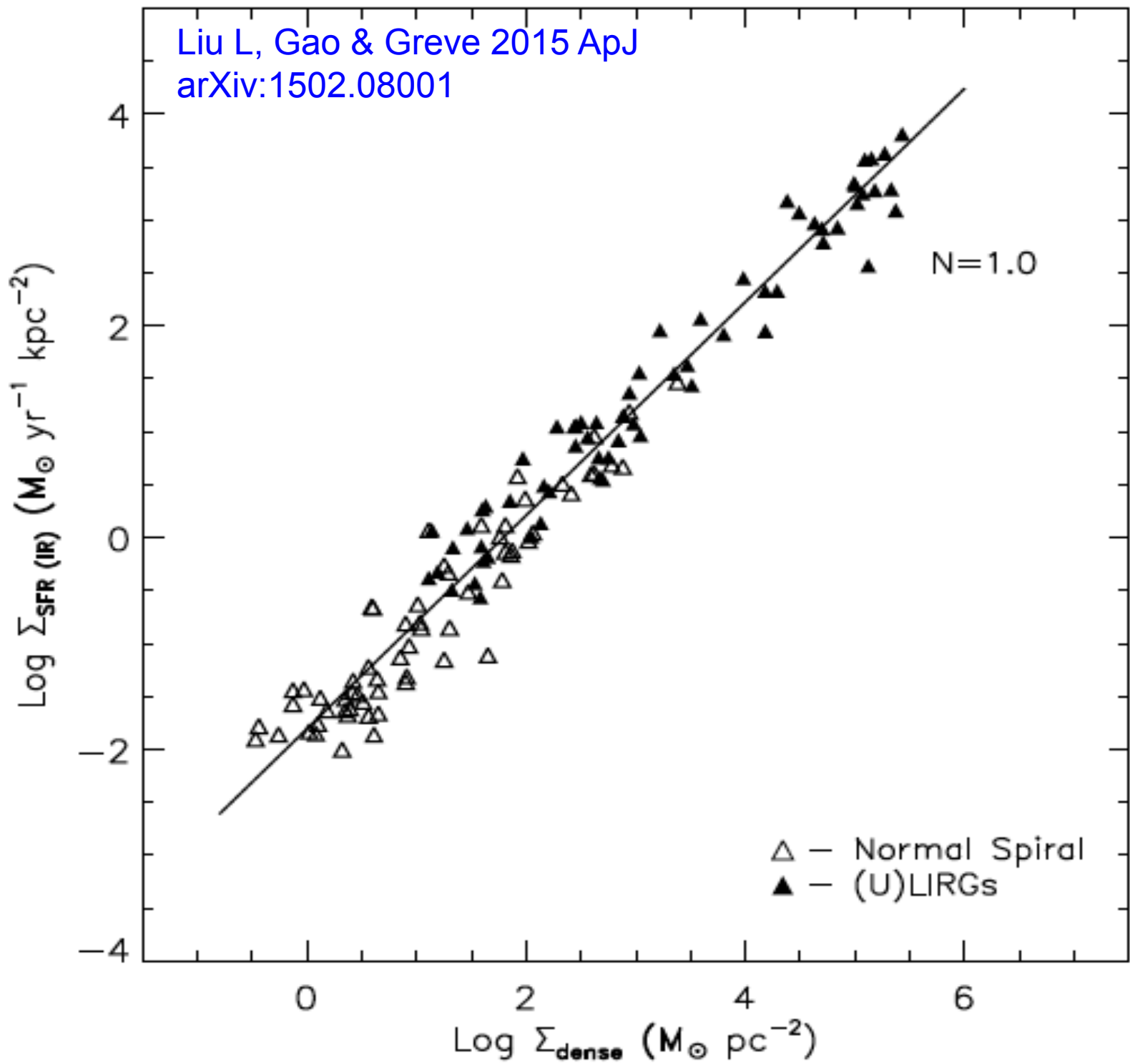
Bi-modal

Liu L, Gao & Greve 2015 ApJ 805, 31



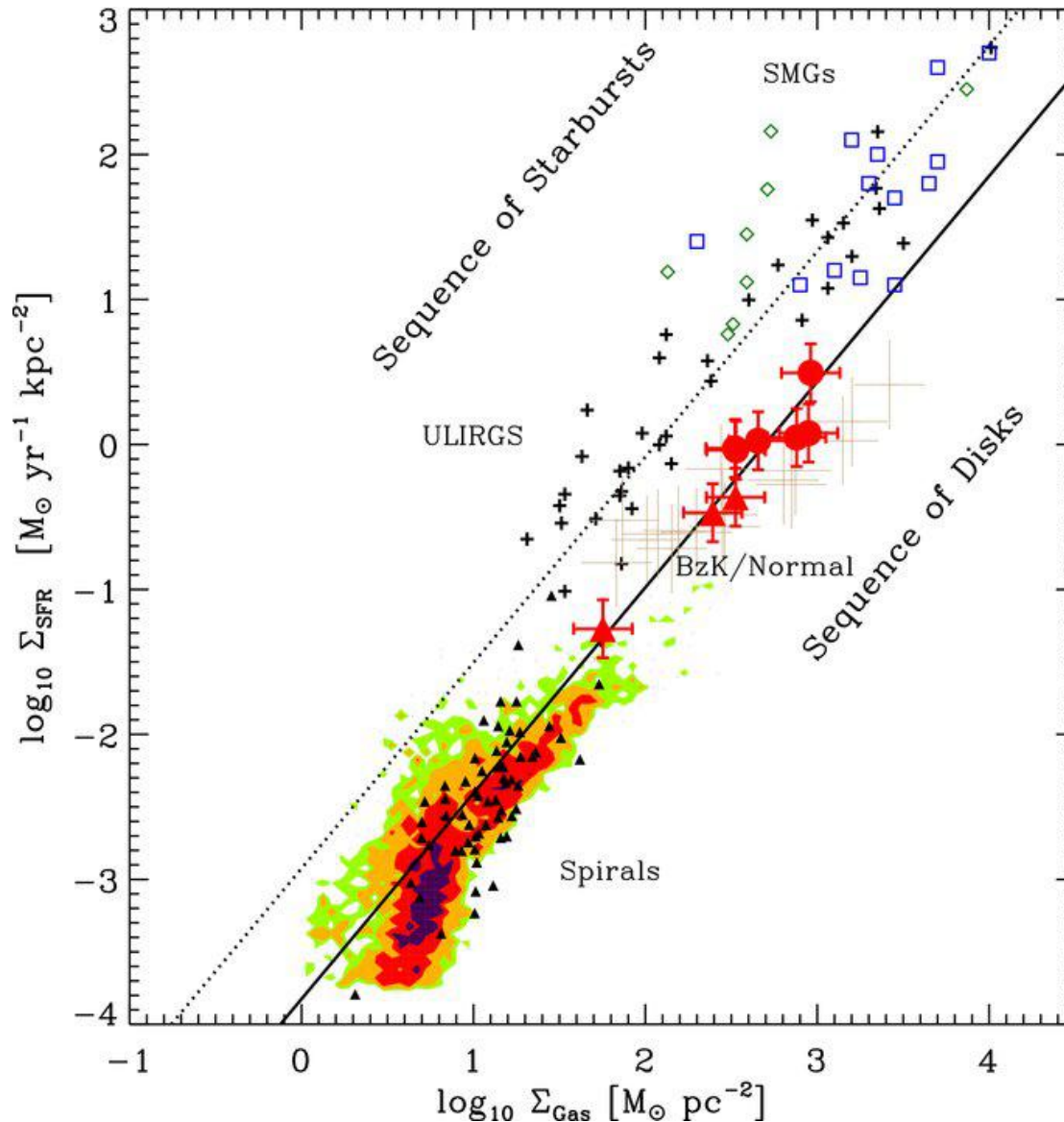


Liu L, Gao & Greve 2015 ApJ  
arXiv:1502.08001



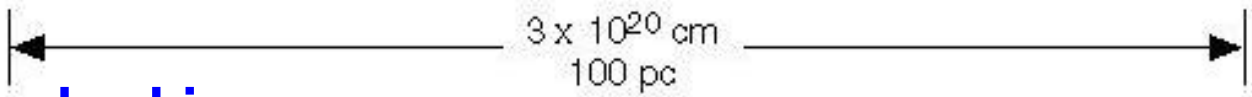
# K-S SF Law in high-redshift galaxies

Daddi et al. 2010; Genzel+2010



Two major SF modes:  
1. a long-lasting mode for disks (local spirals and BzKs)  
2. a rapid starburst for LIRGs ULIRGs & SMGs/QSOs

CO->H2 conversion factor  
??  $\alpha_{\text{CO}}$  ( $M_{\text{sun}} (\text{K km/s pc}^2)^{-1}$ ):  
4.6 for local spirals  
 $3.6 \pm 0.8$  for BzKs  
0.8 for LIRGs/SMGs/QSOs  
\* Papadopoulos+2012,ApJ?!



**GMCs embed in diffuse atomic gas (HI), the gas reservoir for molecular clouds, and the supply for future star formation.**

**HI—PDRs--CO**

**GMC, CO**

DENSE CLOUD

$n \sim 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

$T \sim 10 \text{ K}$

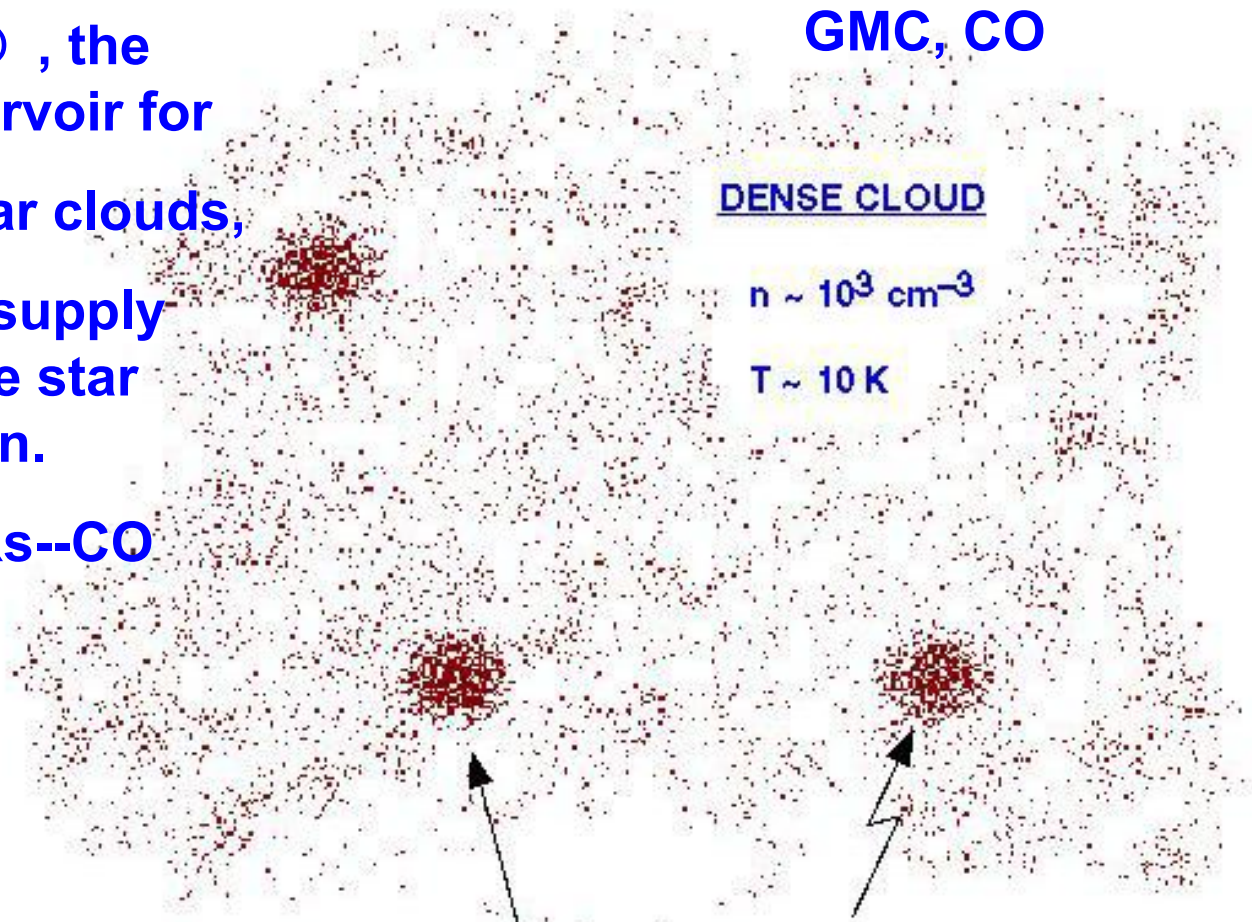
DENSE CLOUD CORES

**Dense Cores, HCN, CS etc.**

$n \sim 10^4 - 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

$T \sim 15 - 40 \text{ K}$

$D \sim 0.1 - 0.3 \text{ pc}$





Stars are forming in giant molecular clouds (GMCs)



Infrared

Visible

“Mountains of Creation” in W5 Star-Forming Region

Spitzer Space Telescope • IRAC

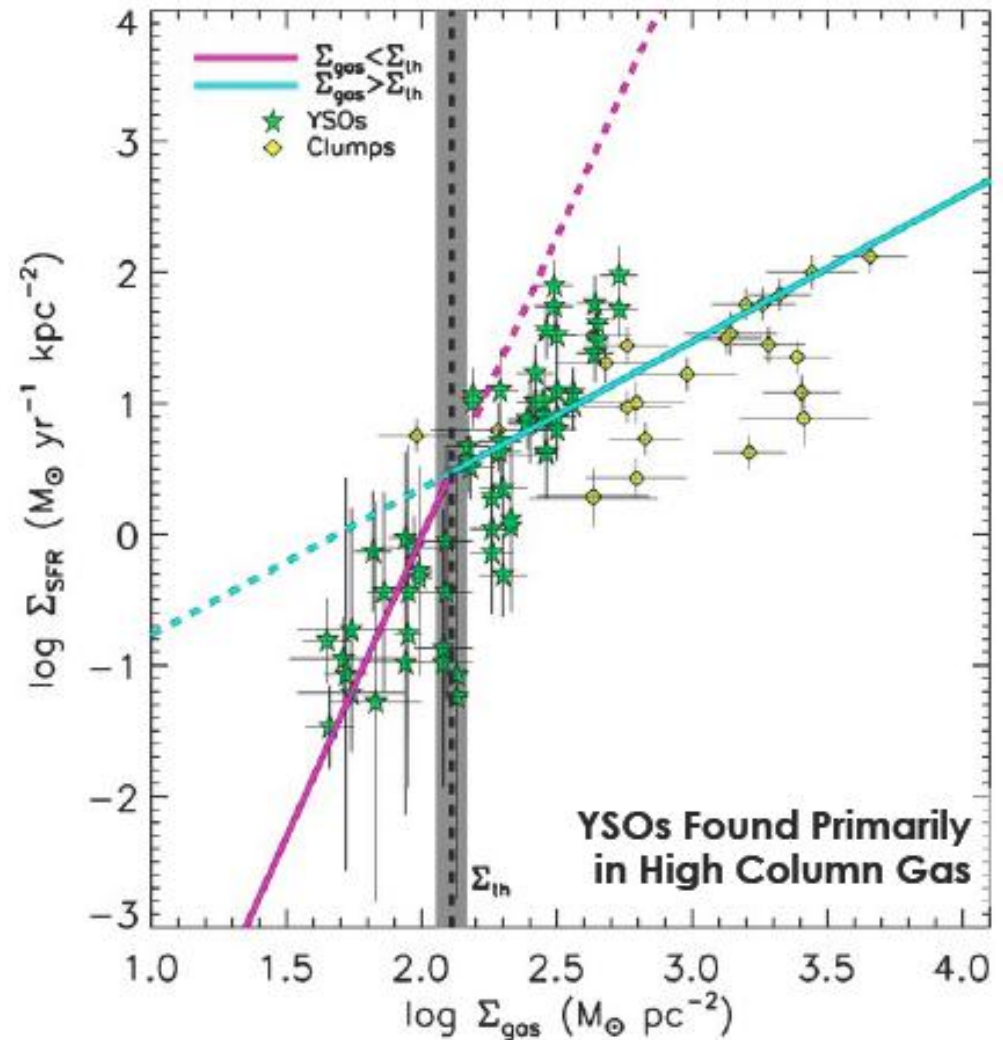
NASA / JPL-Caltech / L. Allen (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA)

Visible: DSS  
ssc2005-23a



## Stars Form in Dense Gas

*Inside local molecular clouds, young stellar objects (tracing recent star formation) are found within the specifically high column density regions. High density gas forms stars.*



Leroy's talk at Sexten 17



# High Density Tracers

Merging/interactions trigger gas infall to nuclear regions  
**Nuclei** of Galaxies should possess denser molecular gas  
as GMCs have to survive to **tidal forces (must be denser)**

Critical density: the radiating molecule (eg, CO) suffers  
collisions at the rate:  $n(\text{H}_2) \sigma v = A$   
(Einstein coefficient  $A \sim \nu^3 \mu^2$ )

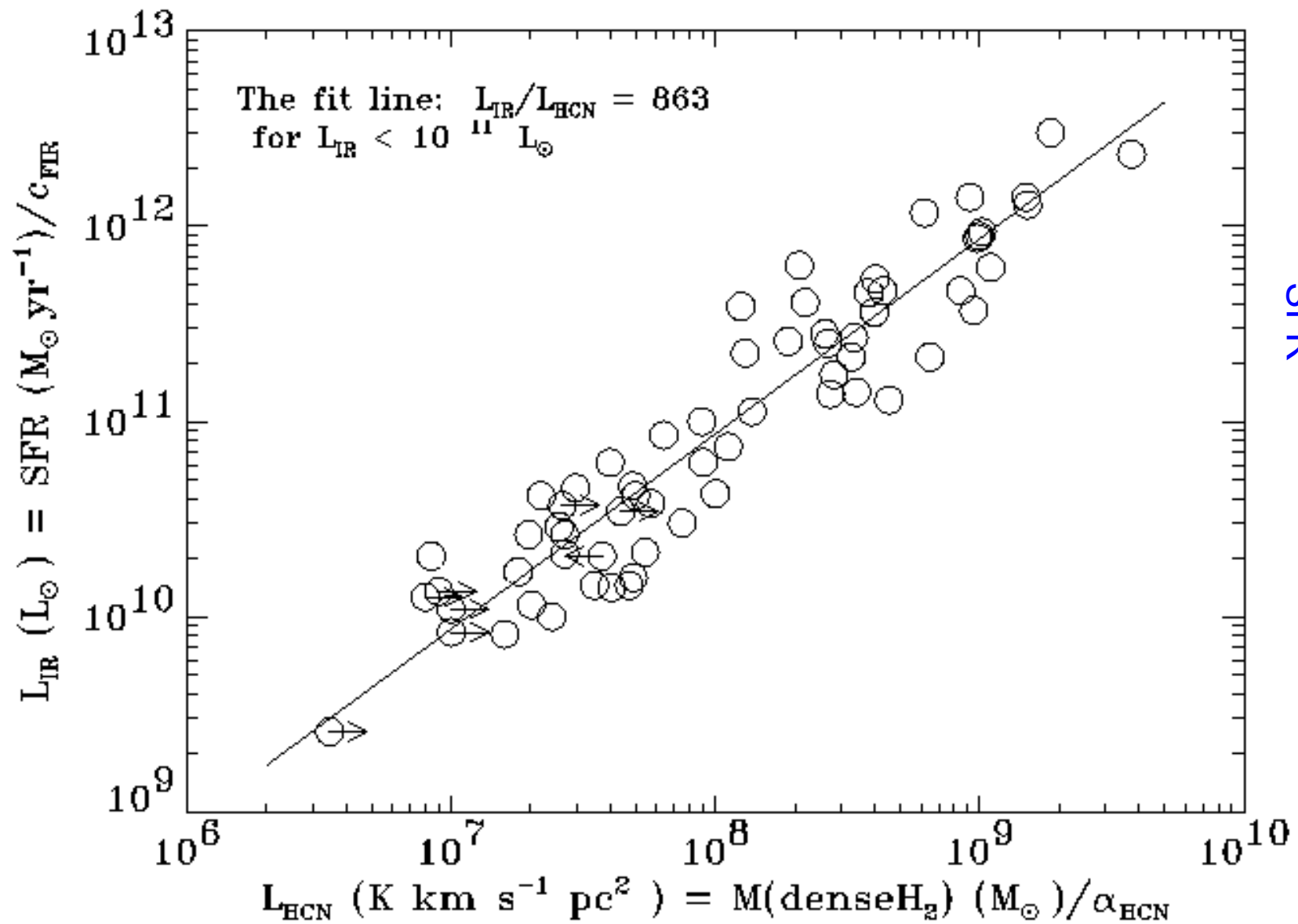
\* **High-J** ( $>\sim 4$ ) levels of CO ( $\nu \sim J$ )  $\rightarrow n(\text{H}_2) >\sim 10^4 \text{cm}^{-3}$

Need higher critical density to excite:  $n(\text{H}_2) >\sim 10^4 \text{cm}^{-3}$

\* & high dipole moment molecules

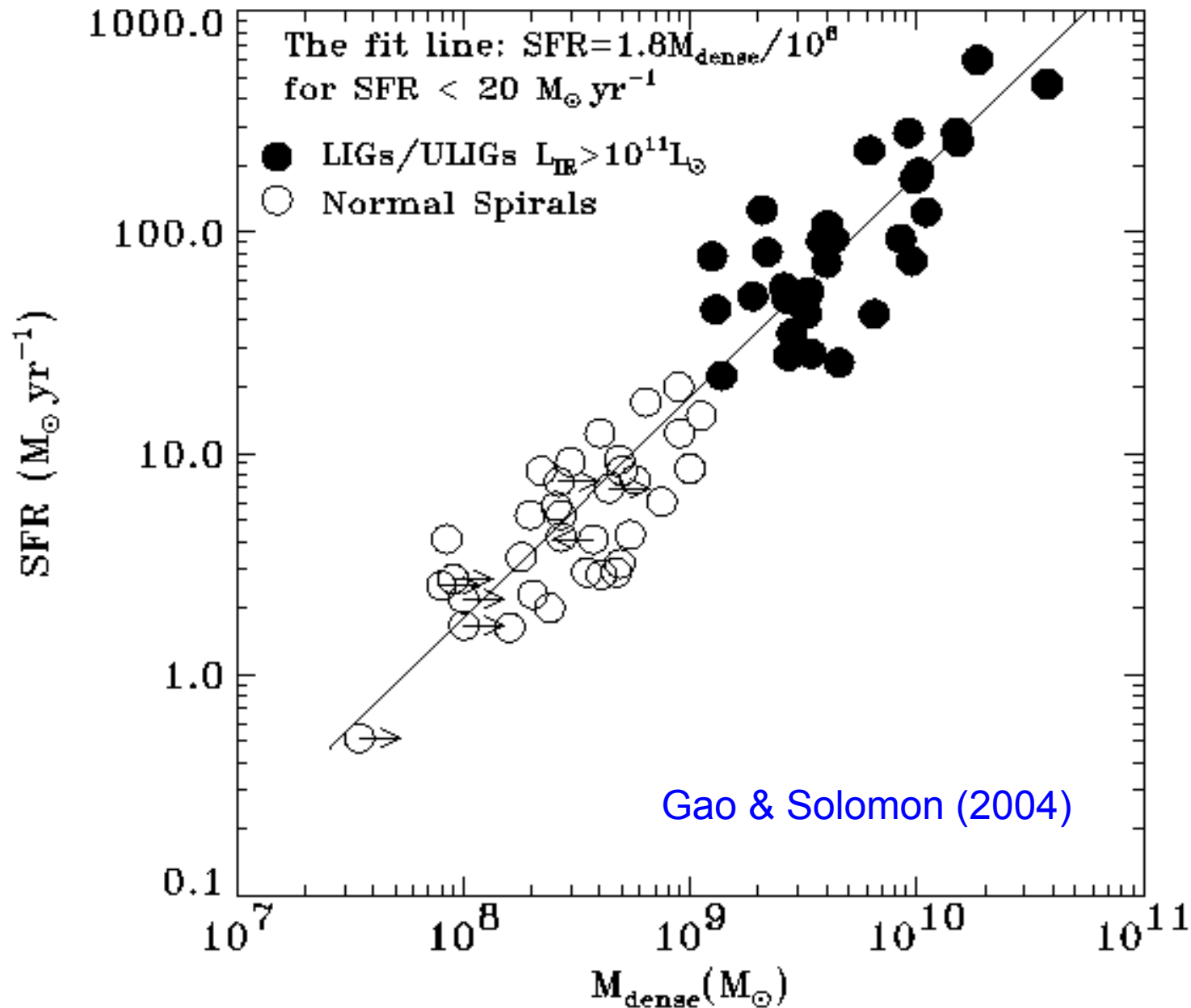
HCN, HNC, HCO<sup>+</sup>, CS ( $\mu \sim 30\times > \text{CO}$ ),  $n(\text{H}_2) >\sim 10^5 \text{cm}^{-3}$

\* X factors ? CO-to-H<sub>2</sub>, HCN-to-DenseH<sub>2</sub> conversions



Dense Molecular Gas

## SFR vs. $M_{\text{dense}}(\text{H}_2)$ : linear correlation

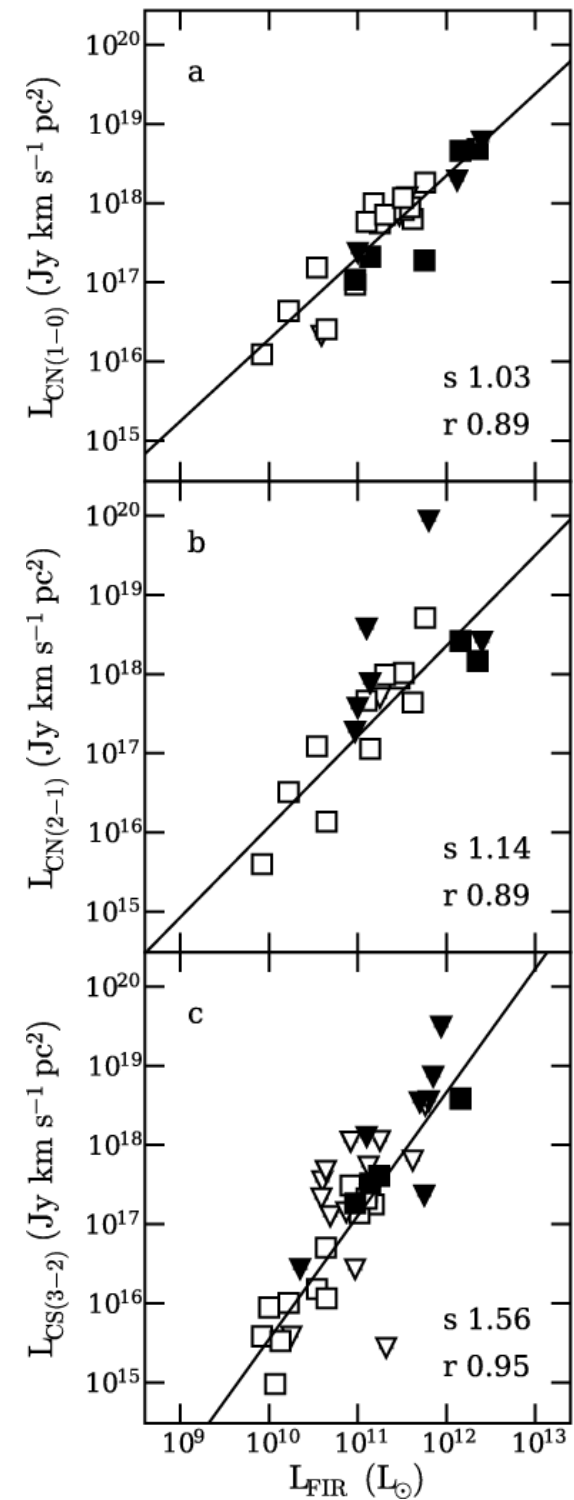
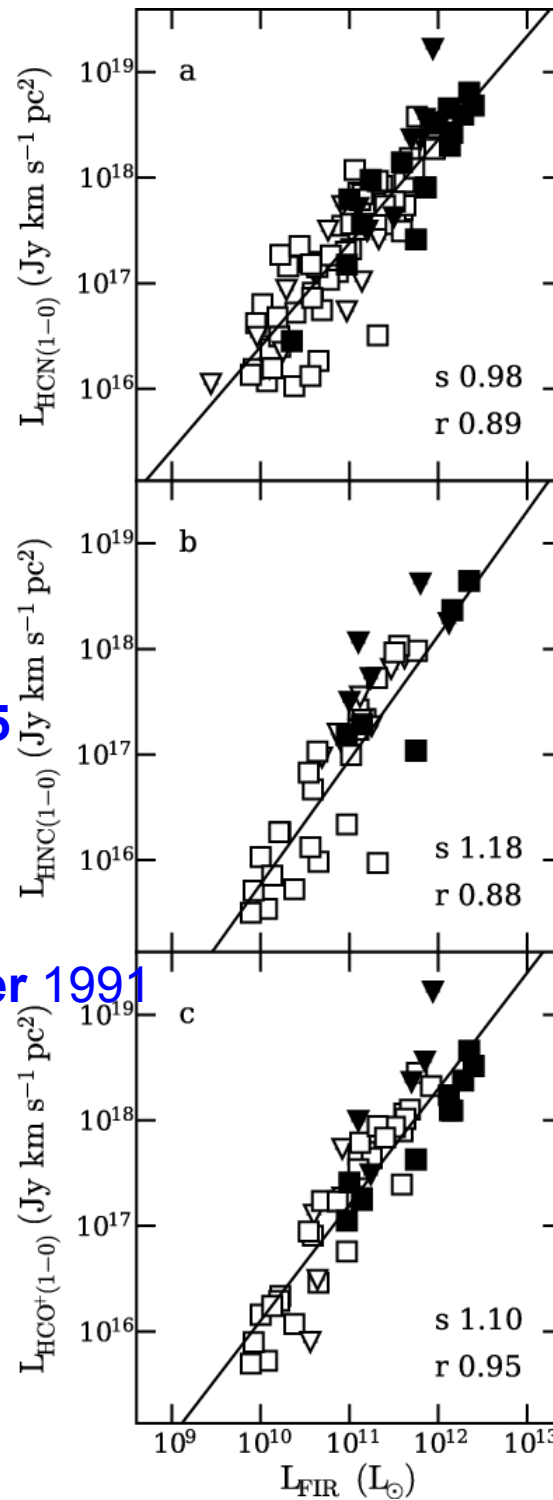


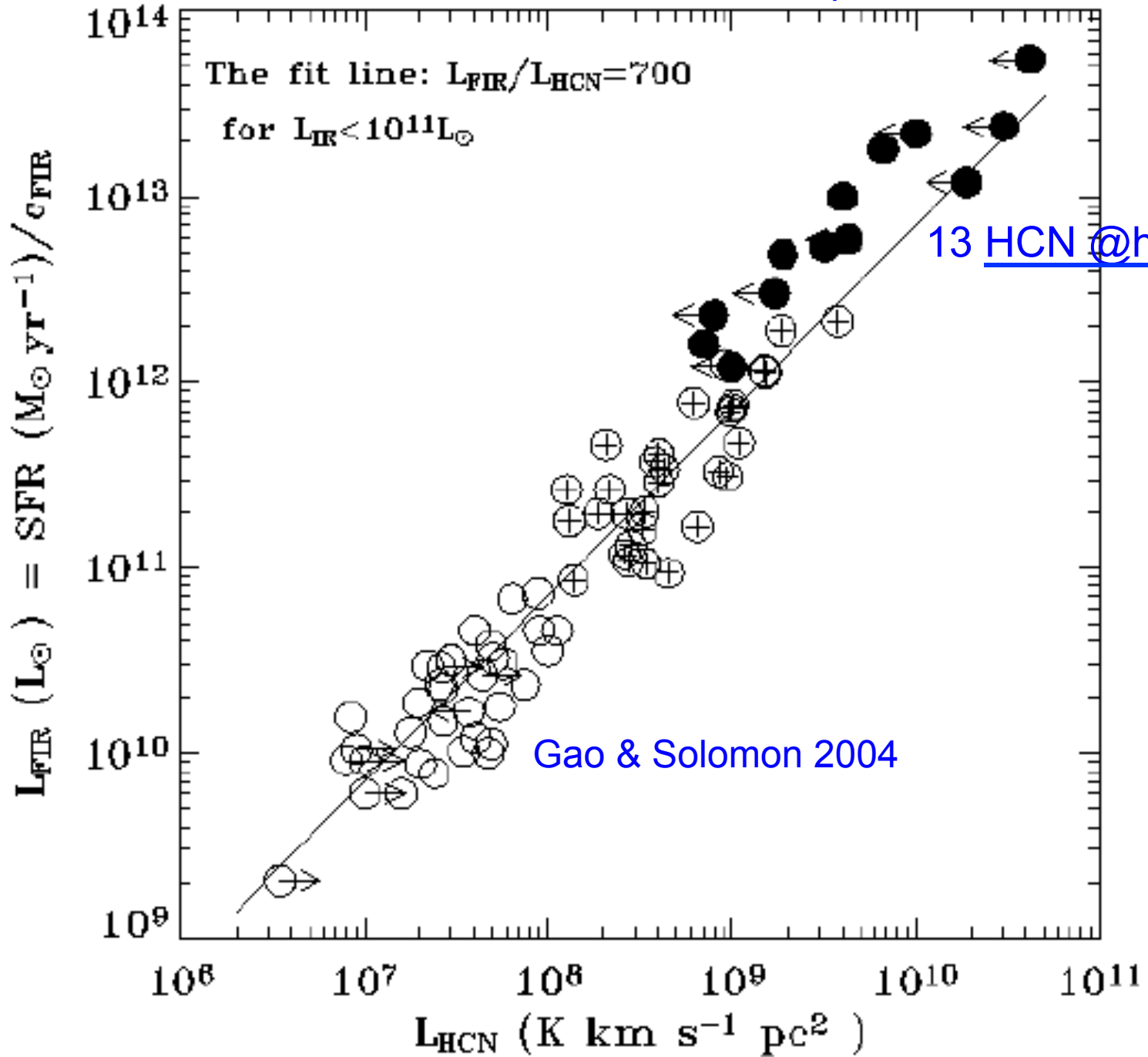
# Baan, Henkel, Loenen + 2008

HCN,CS,HNC etc. in SF gals.

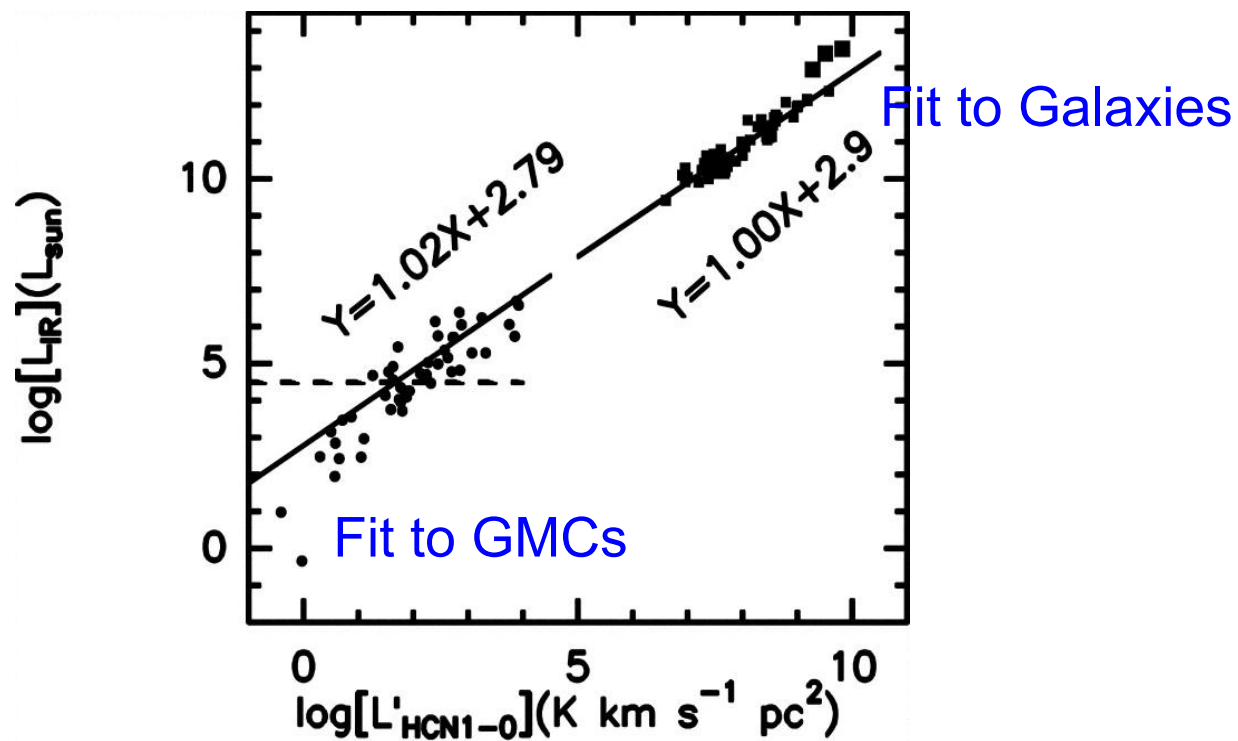
- Baan et al. (2008)
- Kohno 2007, et al. (2003)
- Imanishi 2006, et al. 2009, 2013, 2016a,b
- Aalto et al. 2007, 2002, 1995
- Solomon et al. 1992
- Nguyen et al. 1992
- Henkel et al. 1990
- Henkel, Baan, Mauersberger 1991

Best case studies:  
Arp 220 & NGC 6240  
(Greve + 2009)

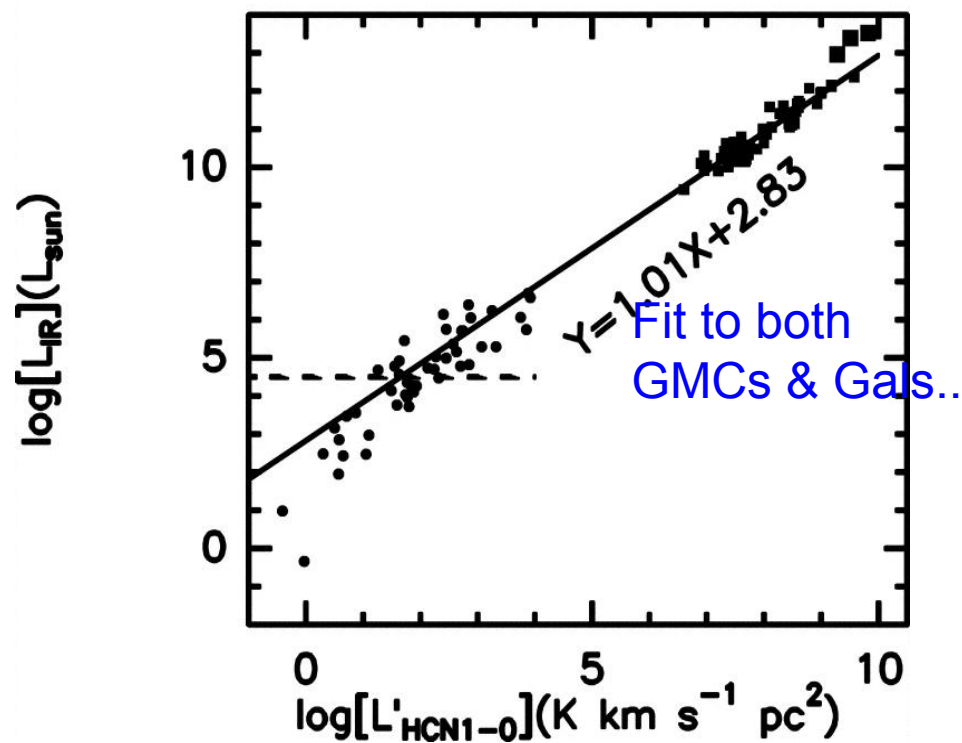




Wu, Evans, Gao  
et al. 2005 ApJL

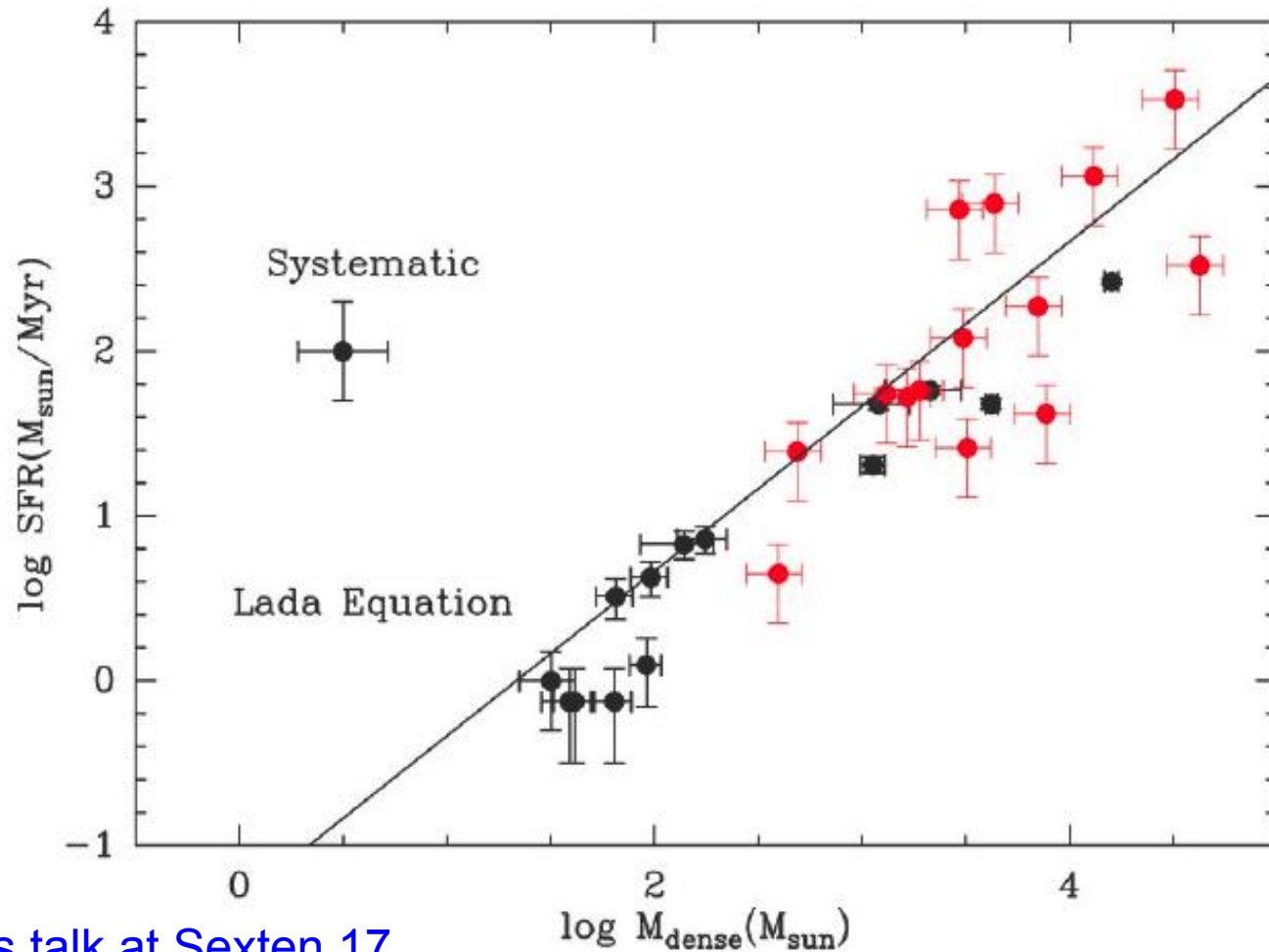


Wu+2010





*Several studies of the Milky Way find that the amount of dense gas (from a column density threshold or defined by as gas emitting in some high critical density line) is the best predictor of star formation in a given molecular cloud.*

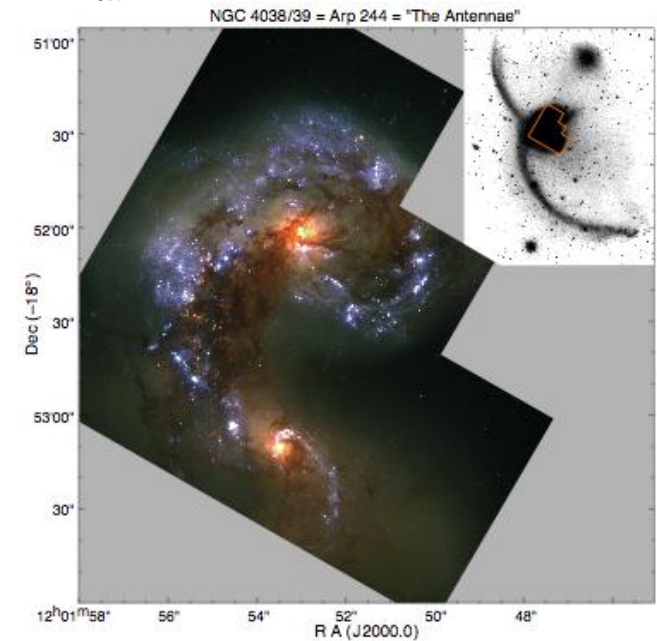
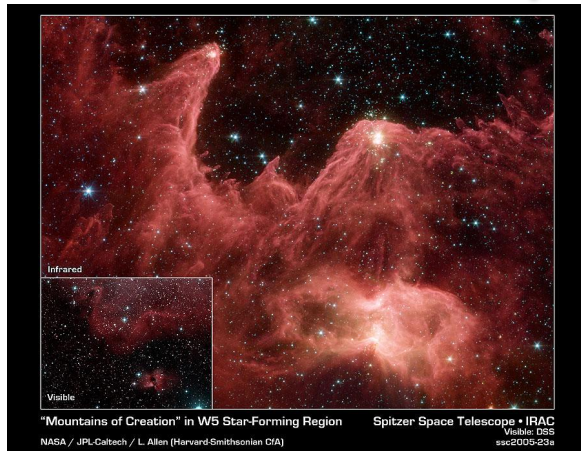
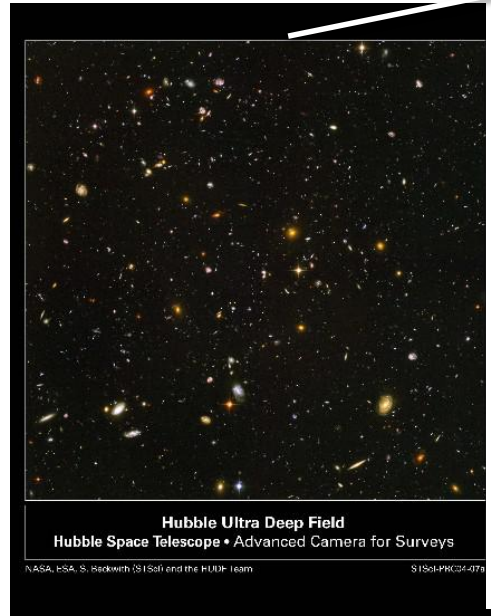
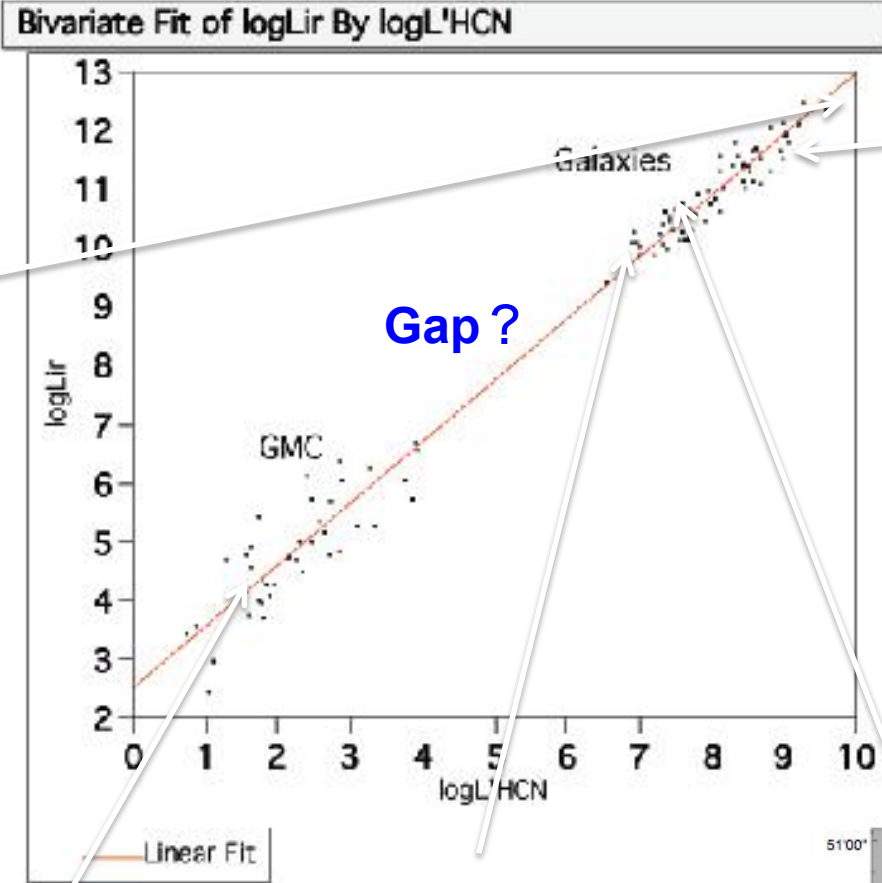


Leroy's talk at Sexten 17

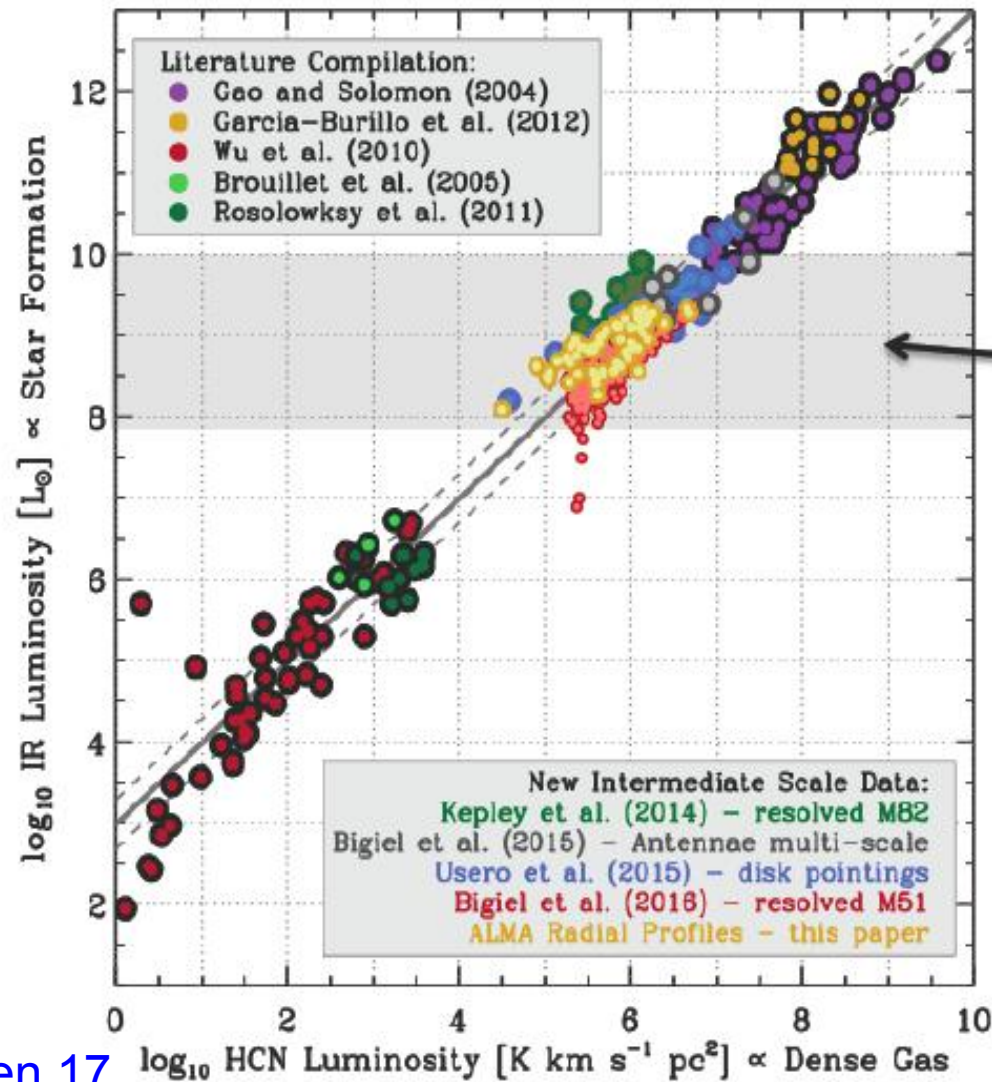
EVANS ET AL. (2014), VUTISALCHAVAKUL ET AL. (2016), LADA ET AL. (2010, 2012), WU ET AL. (2005, 2010)

Can dense cores  
in galaxies fill in  
the gap in FIR-  
HCN corr.?

untitled 5: Fit Y by X



*These new surveys do fill in the luminosity range between whole galaxies and individual clouds. The HCN-IR (dense gas-SFR) correlation holds in broad brush.*

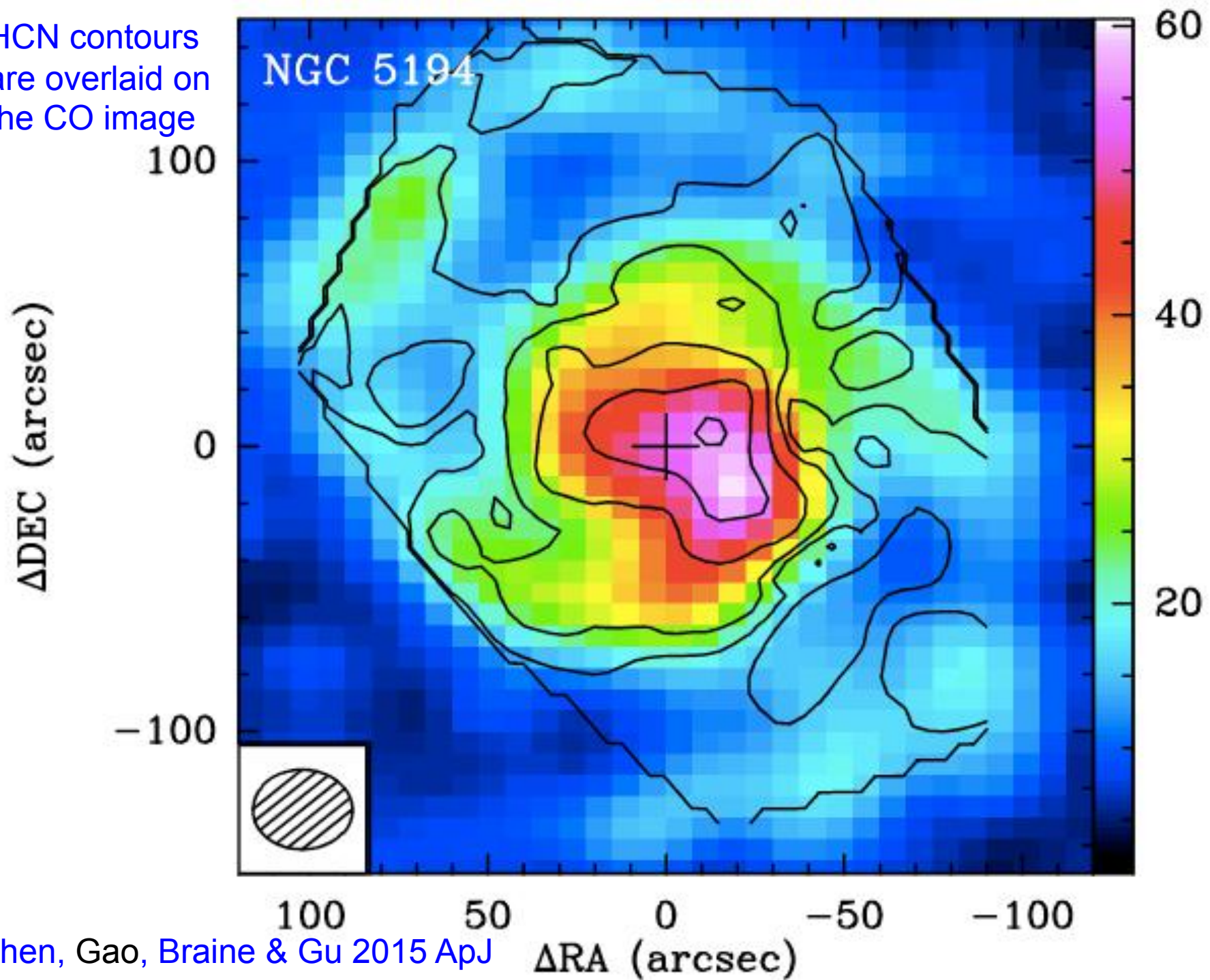


Leroy's talk at Sexten 17

MOLLY GALLAGHER, LEROY ET AL. (SUBMITTED), BIGIEL ET AL. (2016), USERO ET AL. (2015)

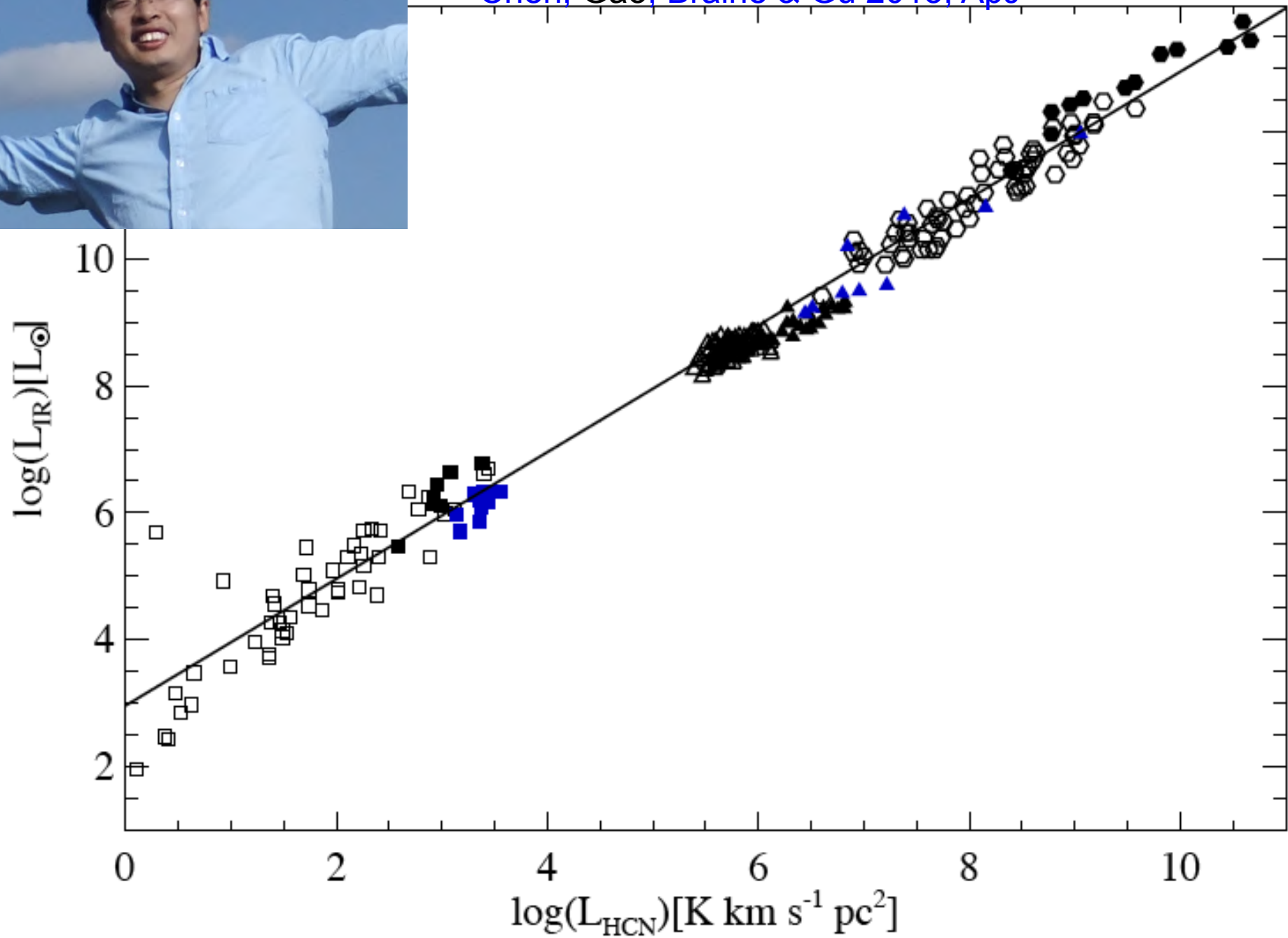


HCN contours  
are overlaid on  
the CO image

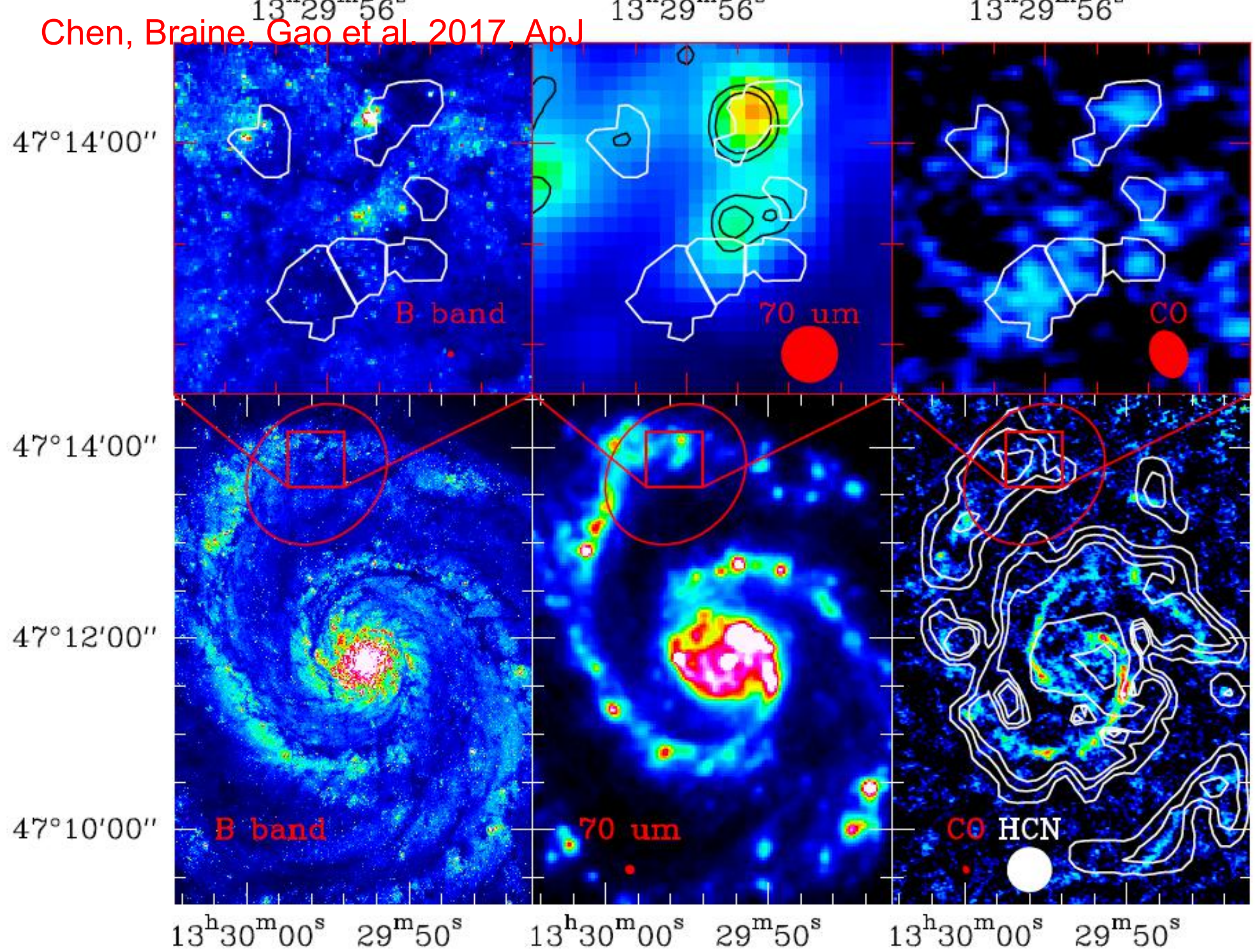




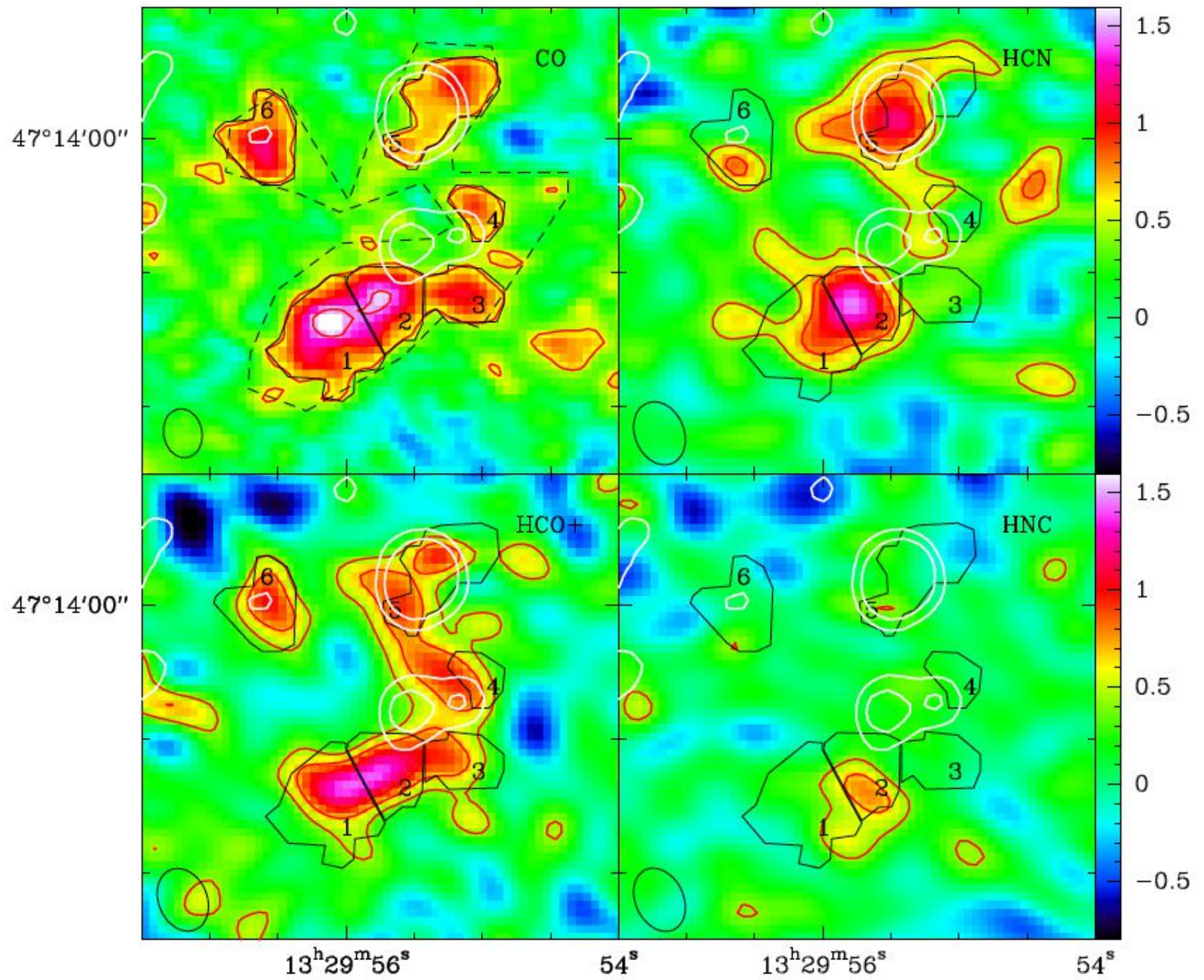
Chen, Gao, Braine & Gu 2015, ApJ

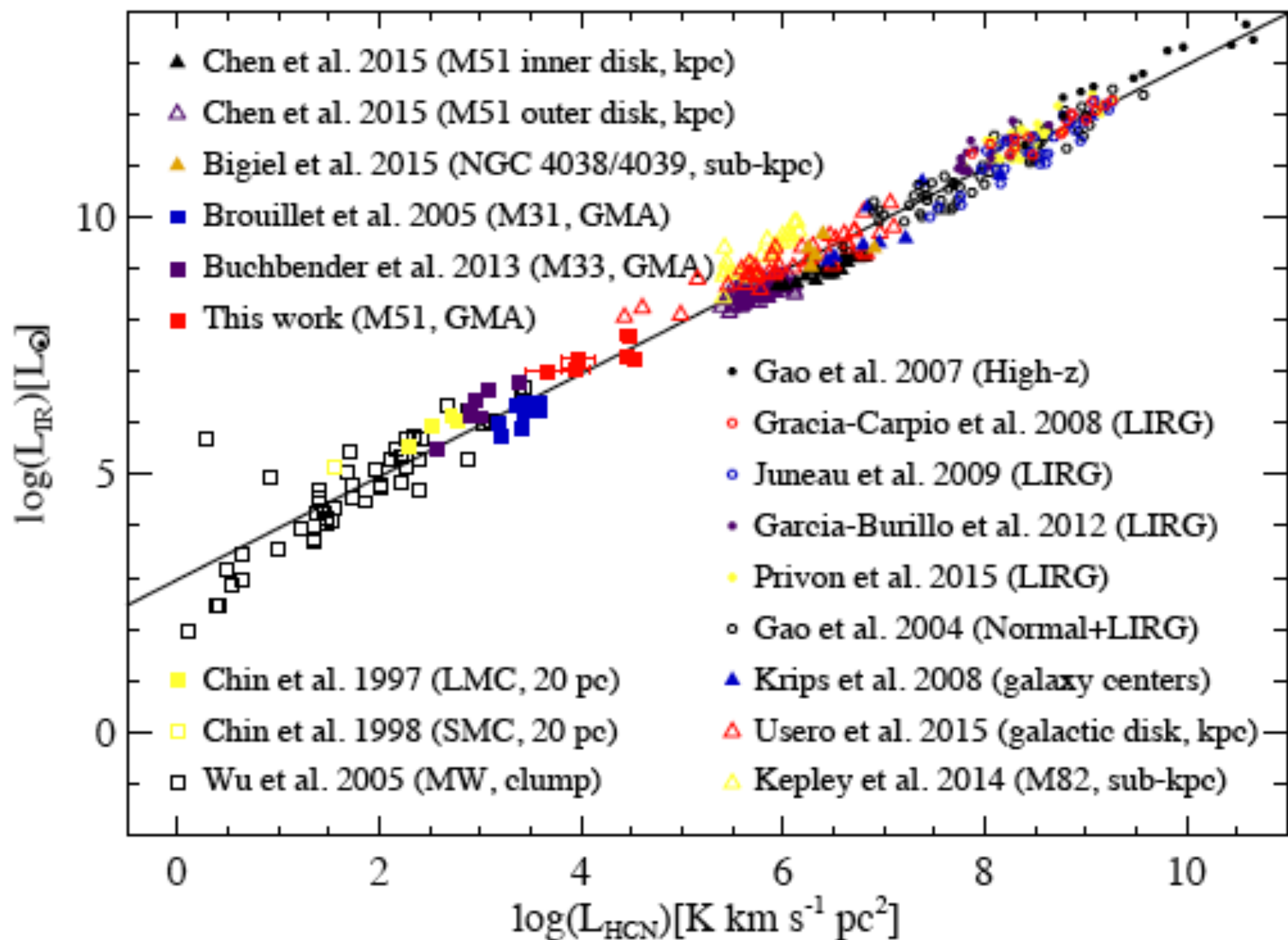














# Multiple-J CS survey

Multiple transition from  $J=1-0$  to  $7-6$  of CS lines towards  
~ **50** nearby normal galaxies, starburst, and (U)LIRGs

CS  $J=2-1/3-2/5-4$  IRAM 30m



CS  $J=5-4$  (HH)SMT 10m



CS  $J=7-6$  APEX 12m



CS  $J=1-0$  GBT 100m

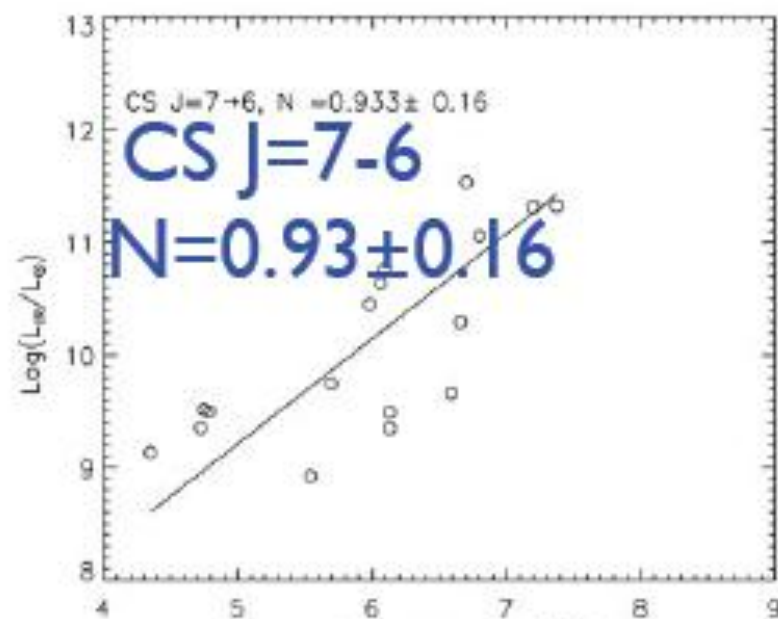
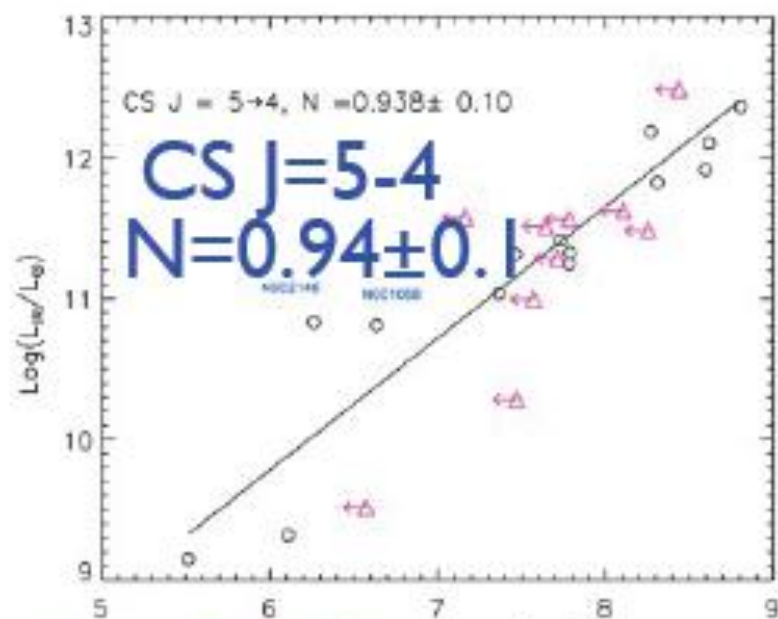
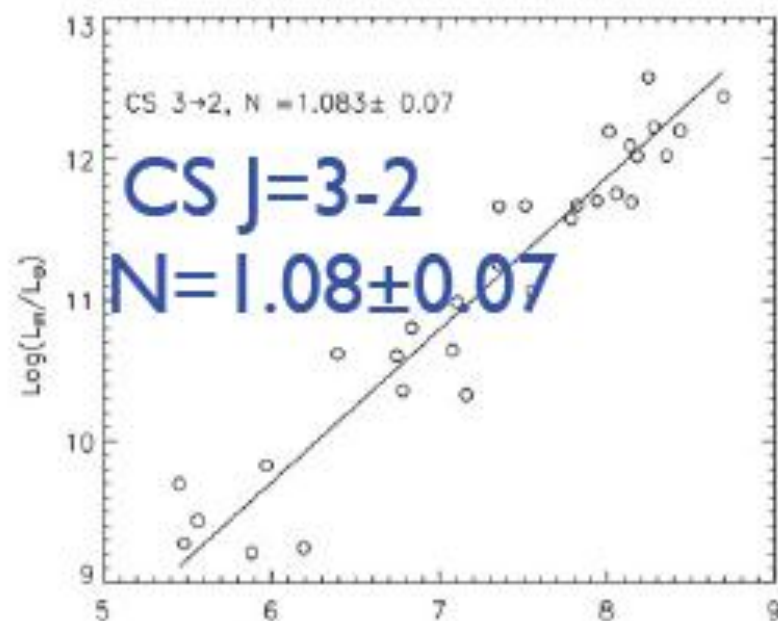
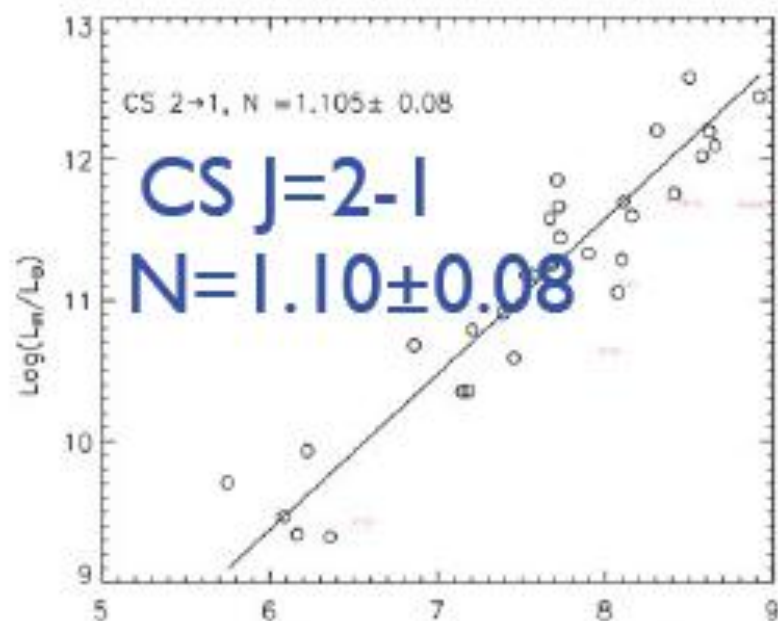


CS  $J=1-0$  EVLA

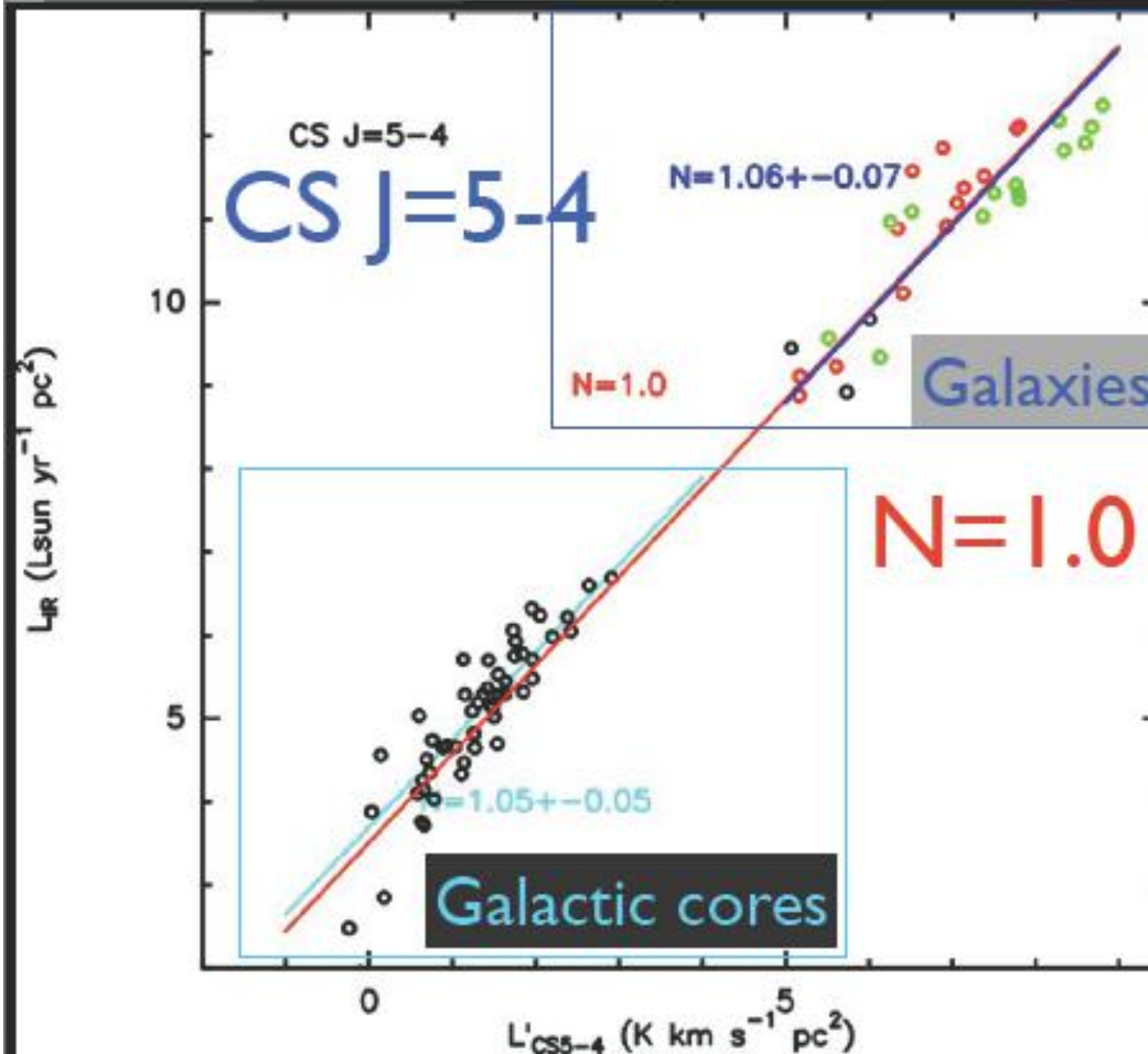


# L<sub>CS</sub>-L<sub>IR</sub> correlations

CS: better tracer of dense gas than HCN!



# Connecting with Galactic CS study ~ 10 orders of magnitude

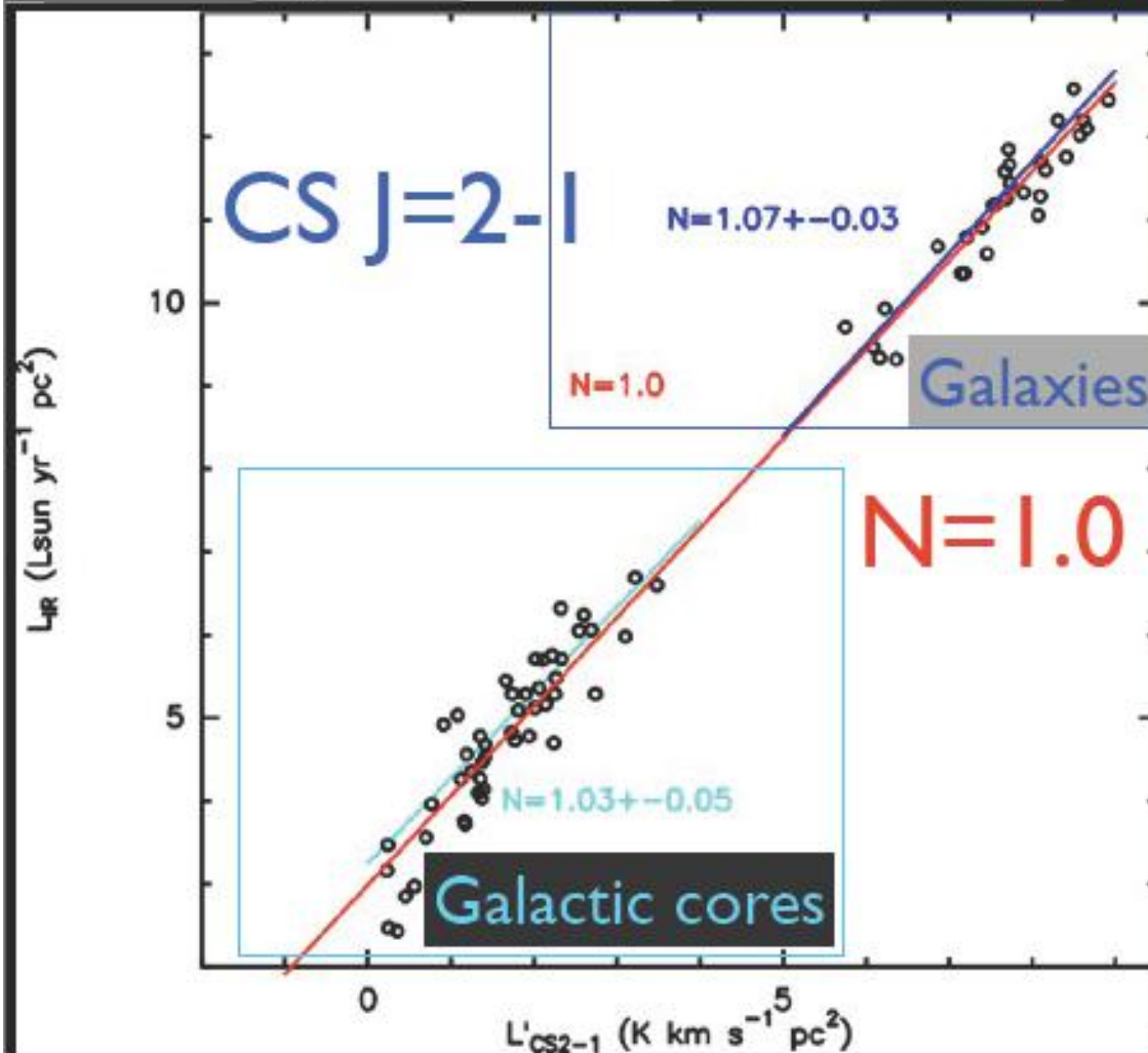


SMT 10m  
IRAM 30m  
Baan + 2008



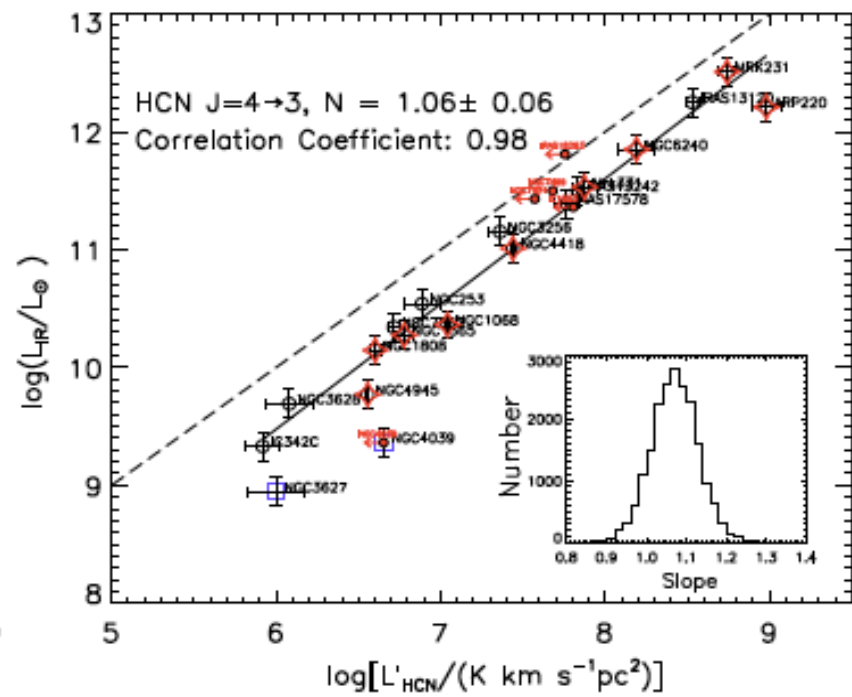
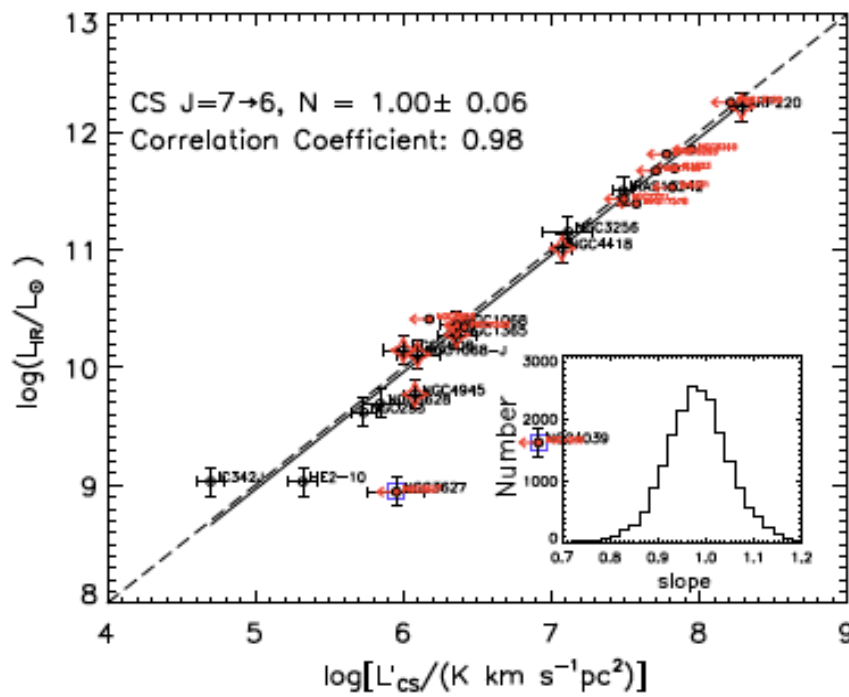


# Connecting with Galactic CS study ~ 10 orders of magnitude

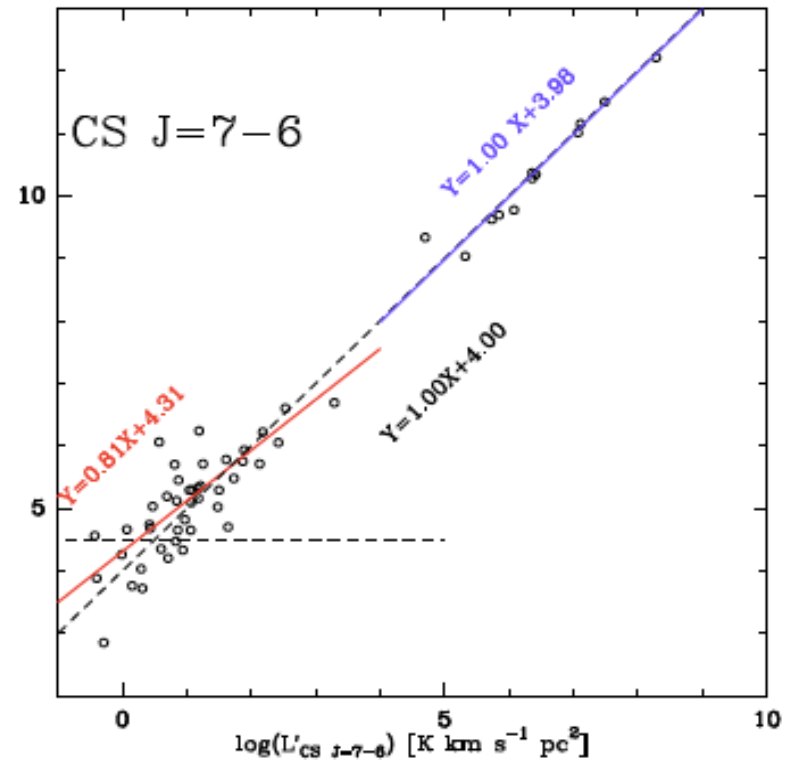
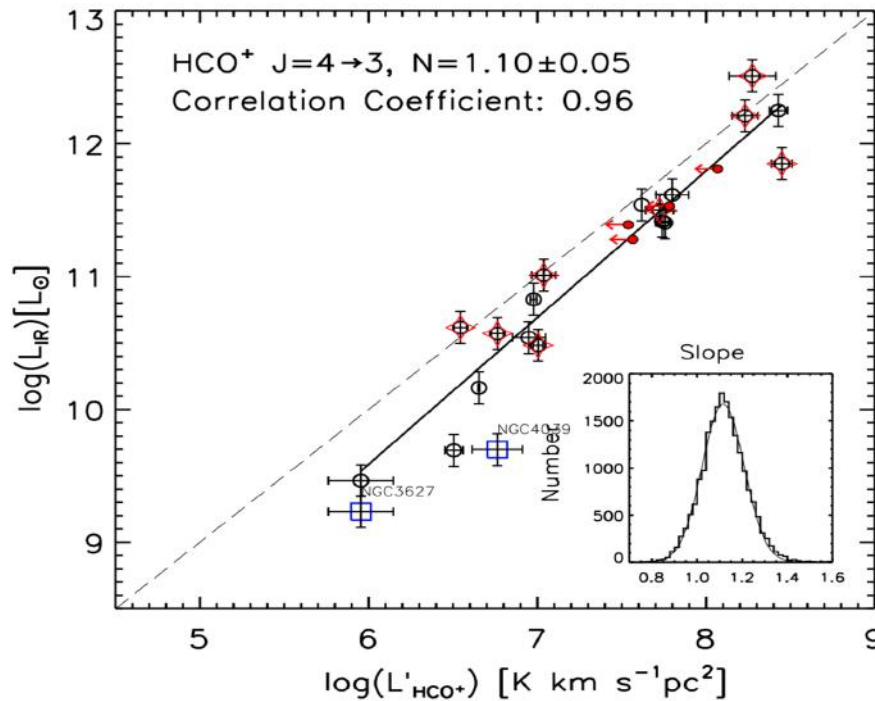


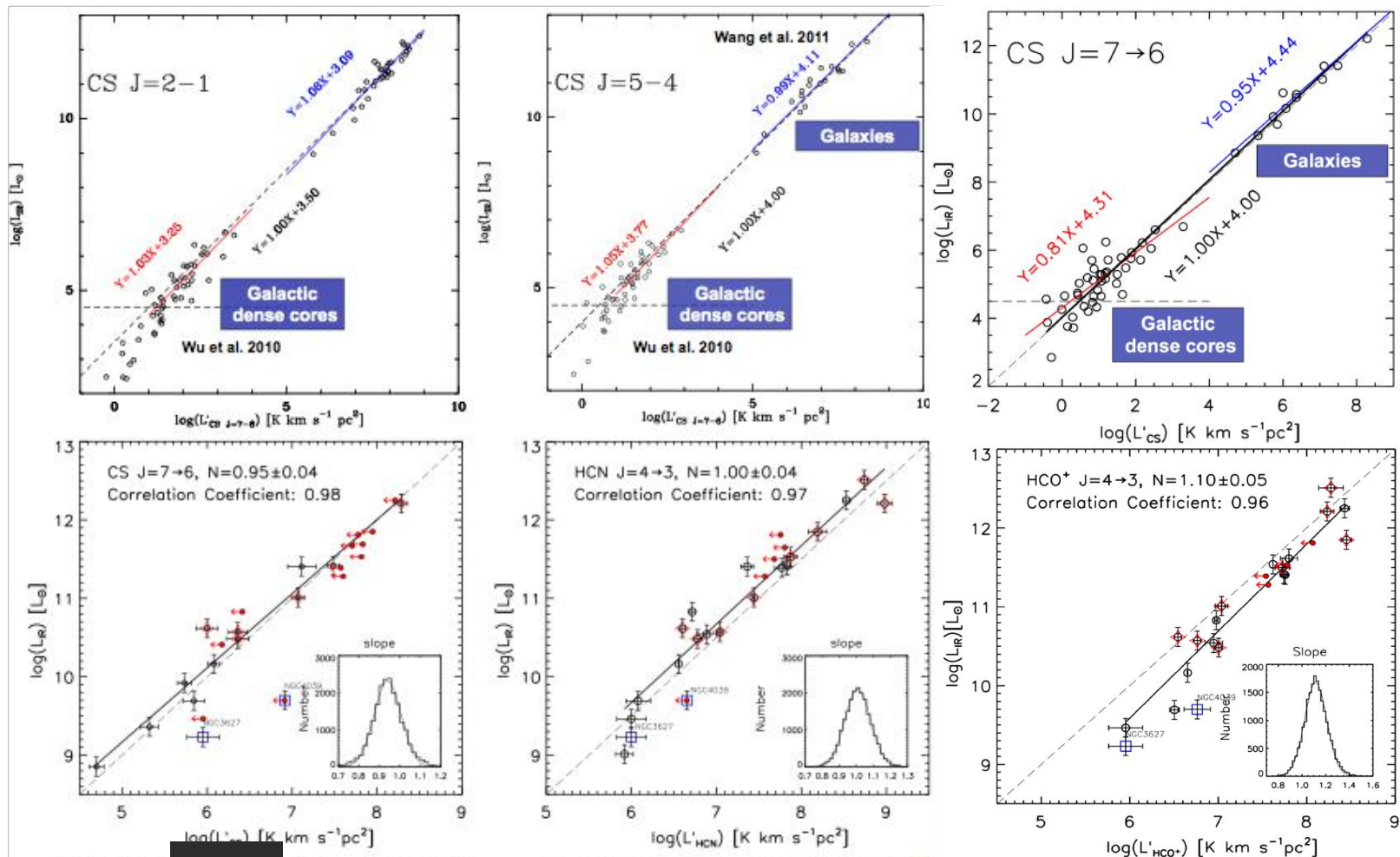
○ IRAM 30m

Wu+2010



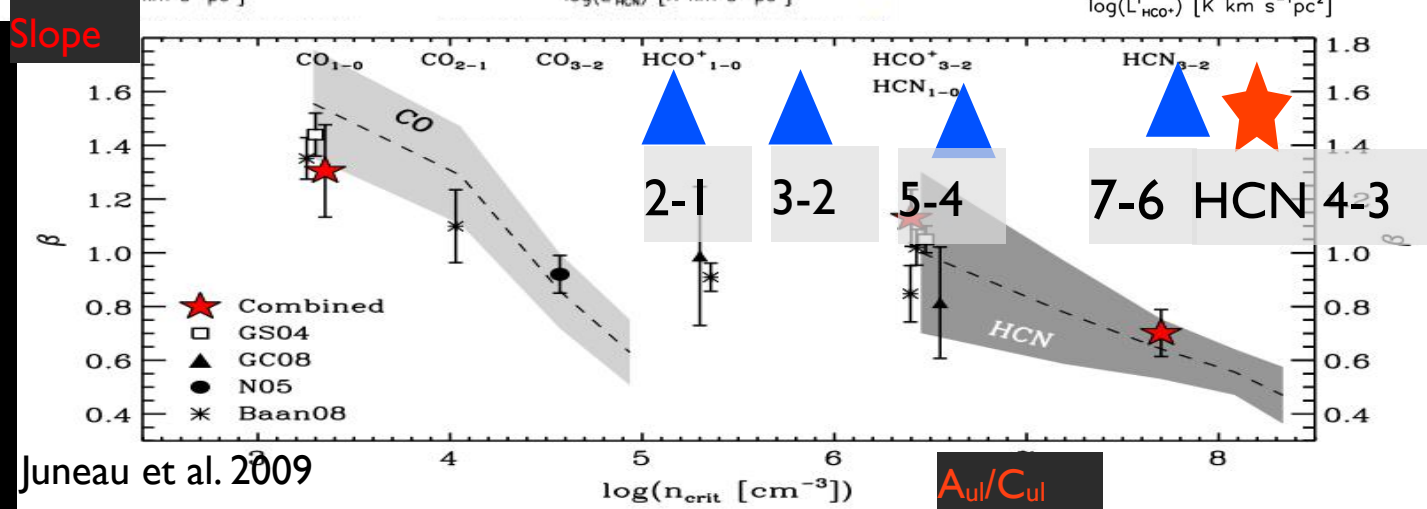
Zhang, Gao, Henkel et al. 2014





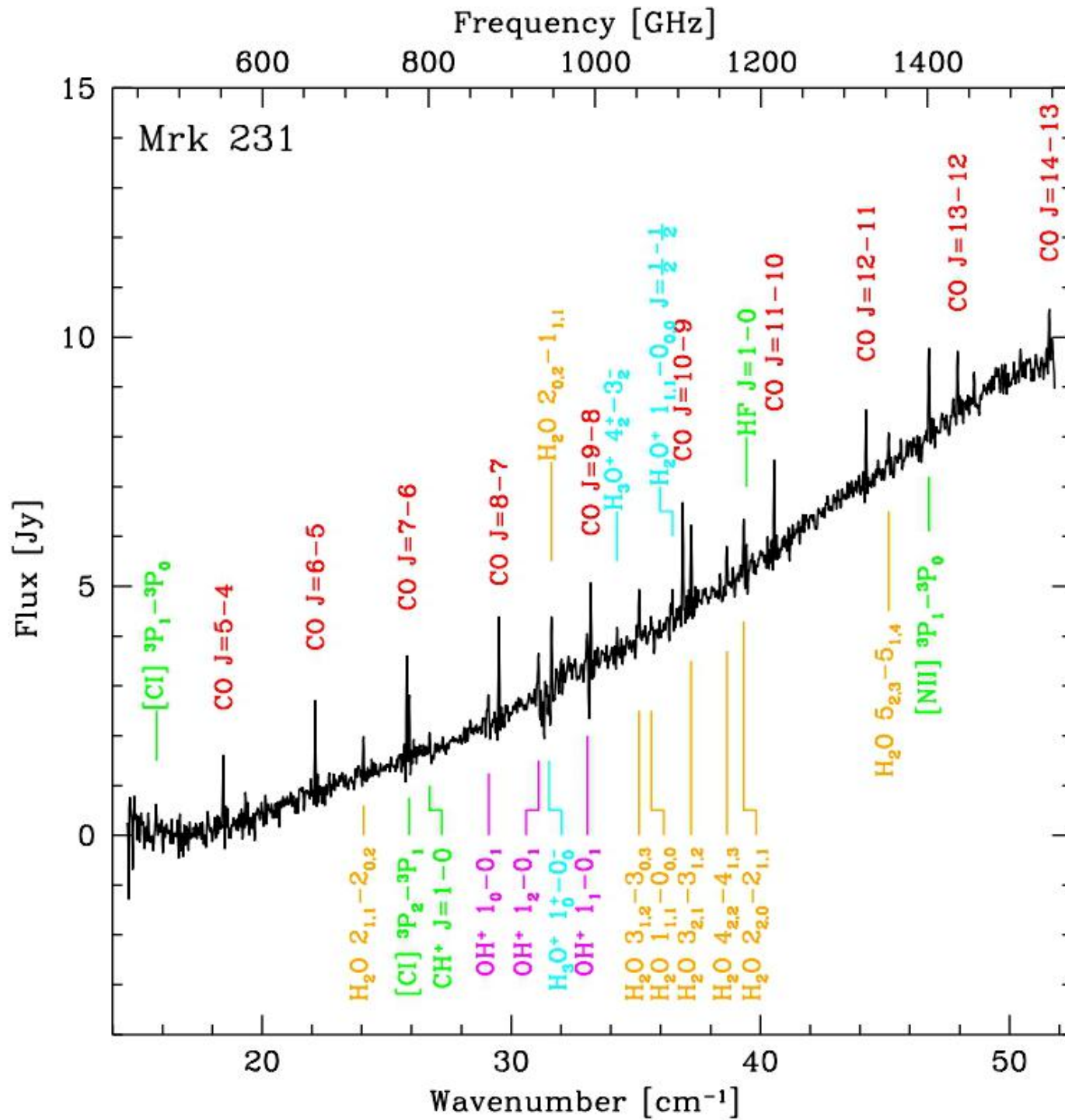
Zhang+2014, ApJL

All linearly correlated with IR luminosity.



Juneau et al. 2009

$A_{\text{ul}}/C_{\text{ul}}$



# Mrk231 SPIRE FTS

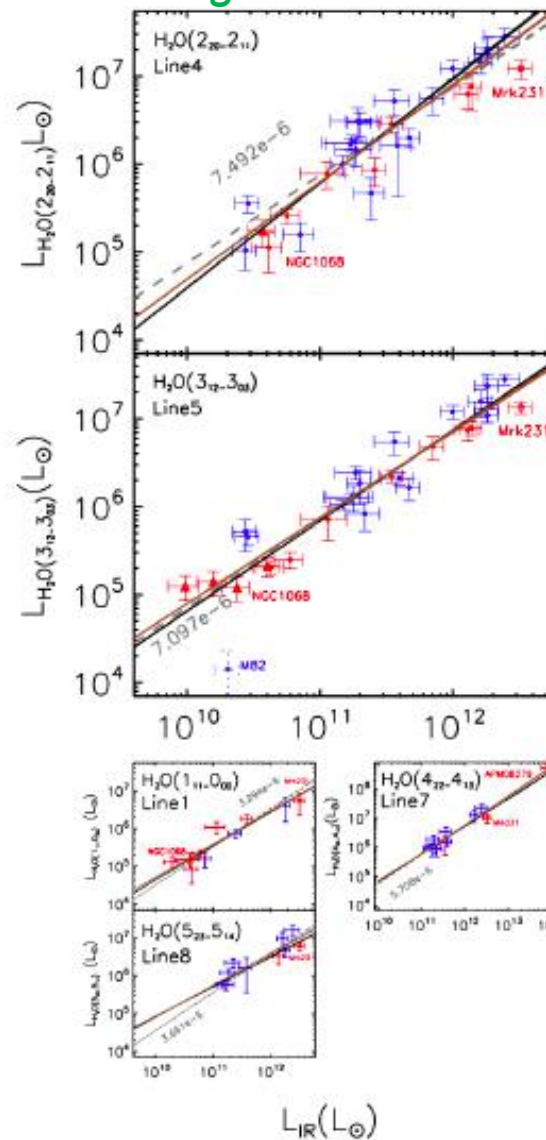
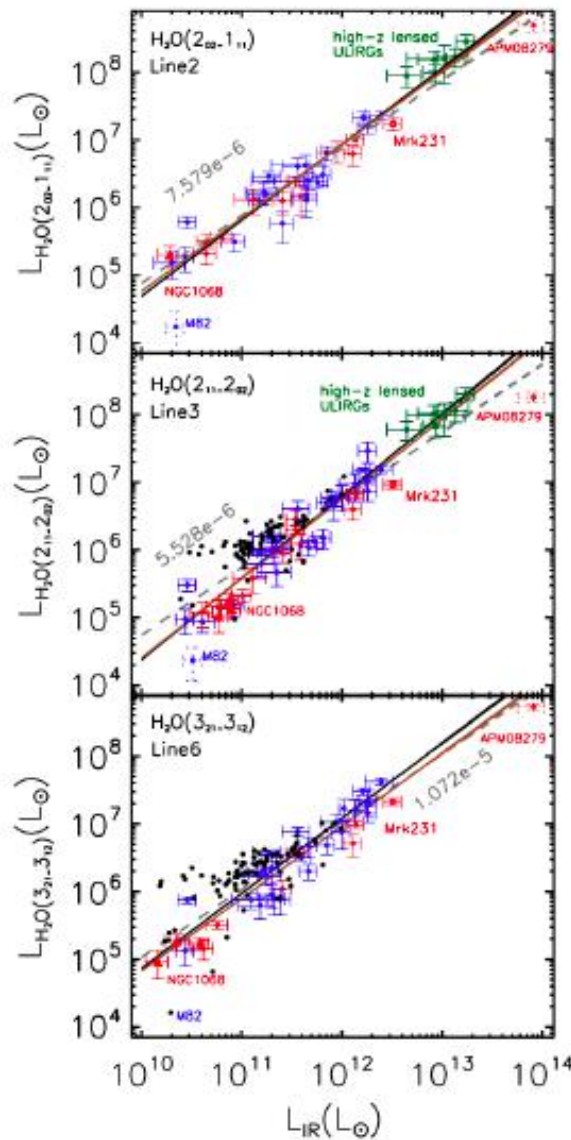
Van der Werf + 10



# Submm H<sub>2</sub>O and far-Infrared relation in galaxies

- First systematic study of submm H<sub>2</sub>O emission near and far

Yang et al. 2013/16.



H<sub>2</sub>O is an efficient and important tracer of compact, dense warm gas and IR sources.

- Submm H<sub>2</sub>O rotational lines (*Herschel*) to be **the second strongest lines after high-J CO in LIRGs & ULIRGs.**
- H<sub>2</sub>O luminosity grows with total infrared luminosity **near-linearly, correlate strongly with star formation.**
- **IR-pumping** may play important role in H<sub>2</sub>O excitation, **especially high-lying lines.**
- $T_d \sim 110\text{K}$  dust contribute little to H<sub>2</sub>O excitation.  $L_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/L_{\text{IR}} \sim f_{25\mu\text{m}}/f_{60\mu\text{m}}$
- There's no difference between AGN and starburst dominate galaxies, **AGN is not necessary** for H<sub>2</sub>O excitation.
  - $L_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/L_{\text{IR}}$  and  $L_{\text{H}_2\text{O-a}}/L_{\text{H}_2\text{O-b}}$
- Detection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> and H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O lines.



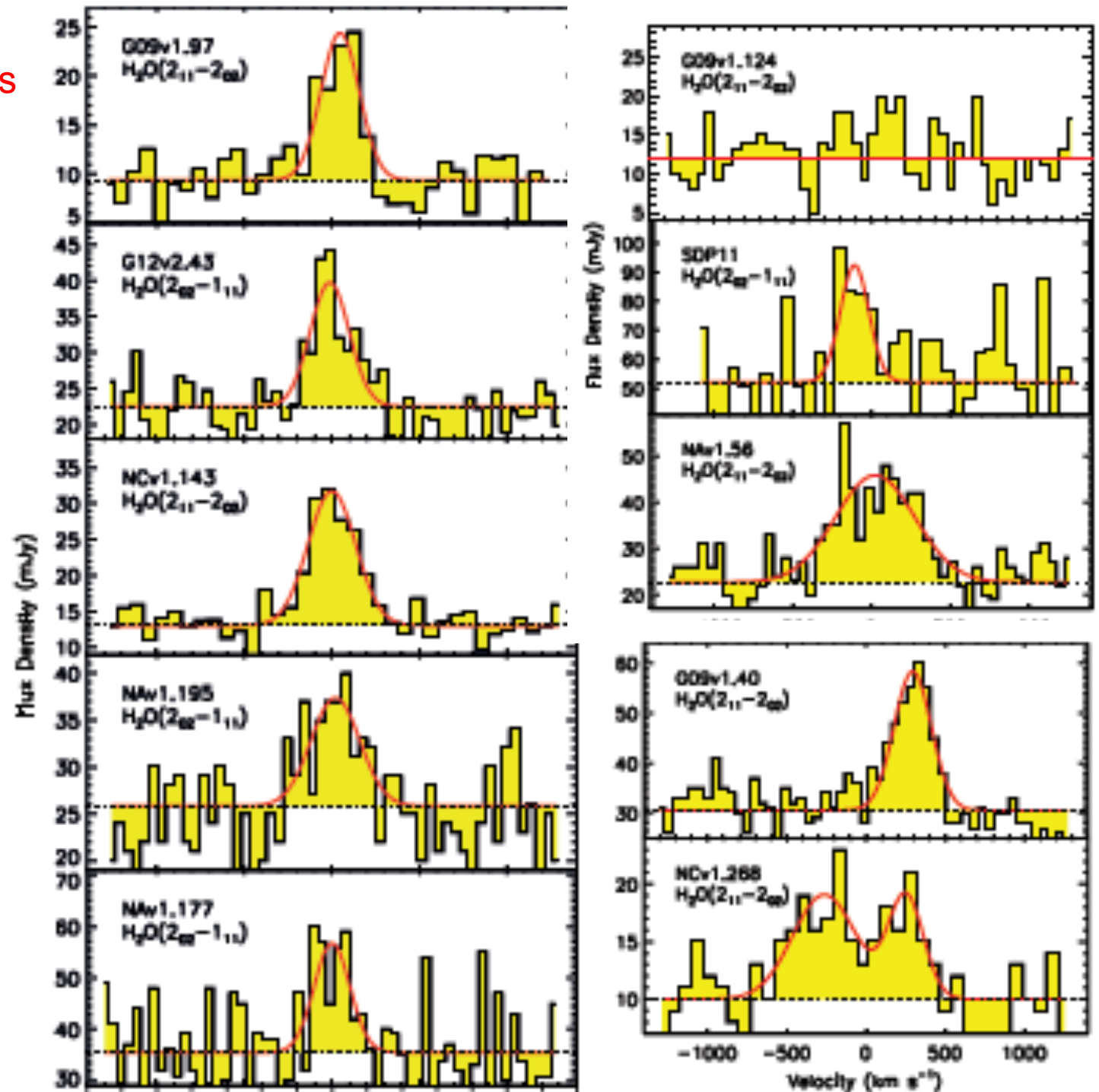
## H<sub>2</sub>O in H-ATLAS lenses

Step 1:  
Additional detections  
9/10 (16/17 in total)  
*Yang et al. 2016.*  
and poster

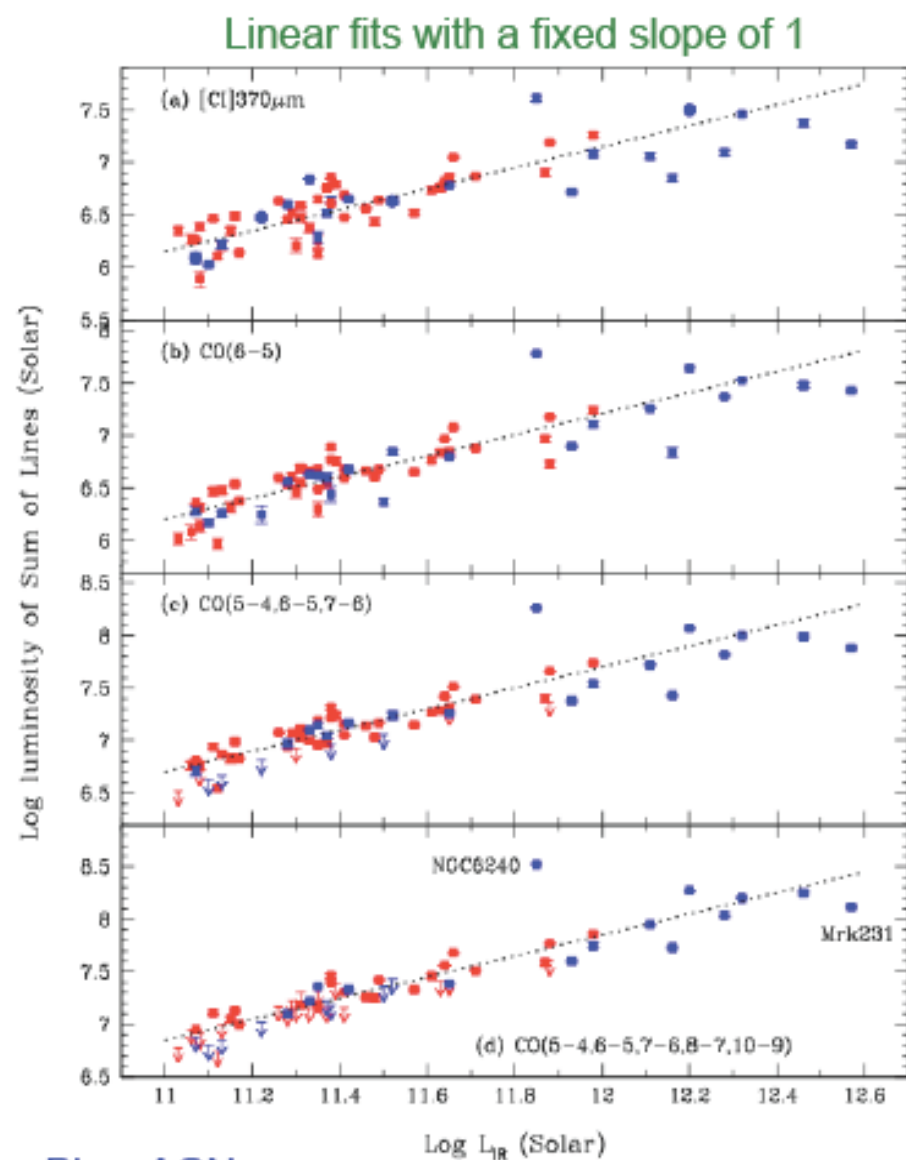
H<sub>2</sub>O is strong in most  
high-z ULIRGs

→ detectable in all  
lenses with PdBI

→ strongest molecular  
lines besides CO



# Dust and Molecular Gas Heating

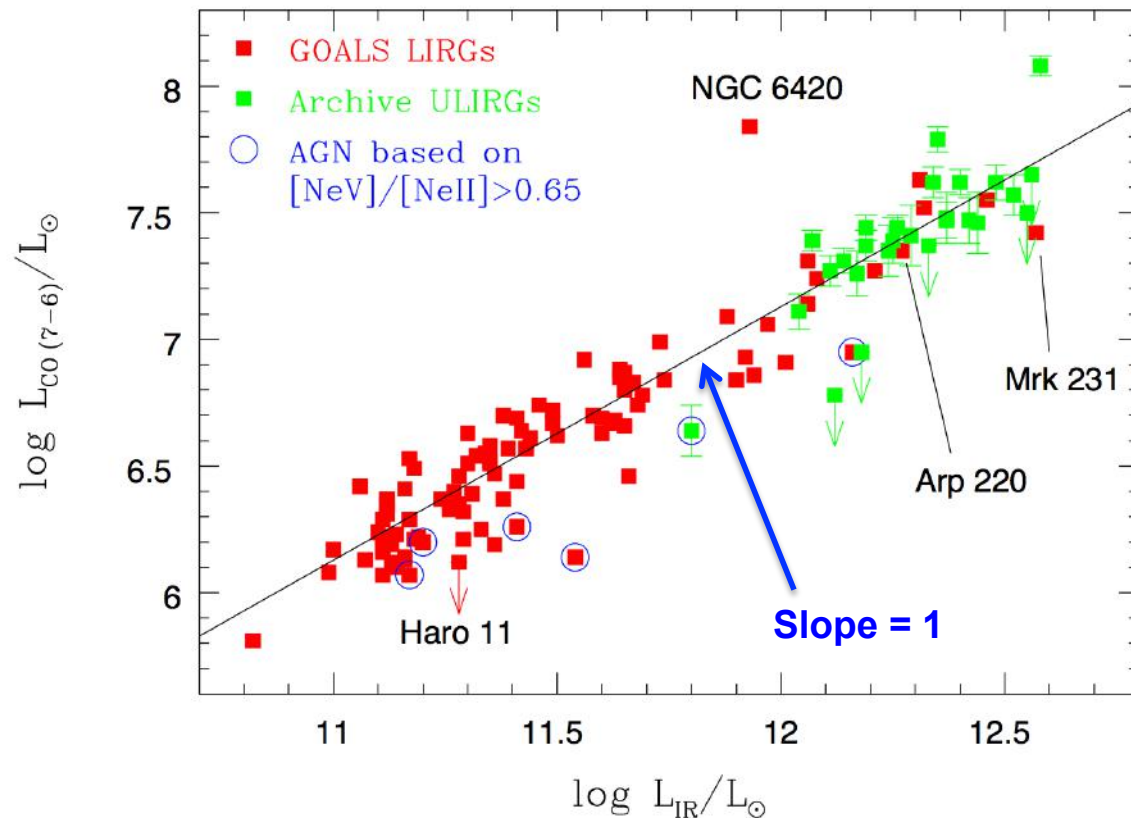


Blue: AGN;  
Red: non AGN.

- While [Cl] 370  $\mu\text{m}$  [or low-J CO lines such as CO(4-3)] correlate apparently with  $L_{\text{IR}}$ , CO(6-5) is more tightly correlated with  $L_{\text{IR}}$ , even at the “low luminosity” end.
  - There is a relative cold gas component that is not or less directly associated with SFR.
- Combining a few mid-J CO lines improves the scatter, at both low and high luminosity ends, leading to a better one-to-one correlation with  $L_{\text{IR}}$ .
  - This well-defined one-to-one correlation traces mainly the PDR gas/dust heating.

Lu + 2014

# Warm CO Gas Emission as a SFR Tracer



$$\text{SFR}/(M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}) = 1.34 \times 10^{(-5 \pm 0.12)} (L_{\text{CO}(7-6)}/L_{\odot})$$

(based on Kennicutt 1998)

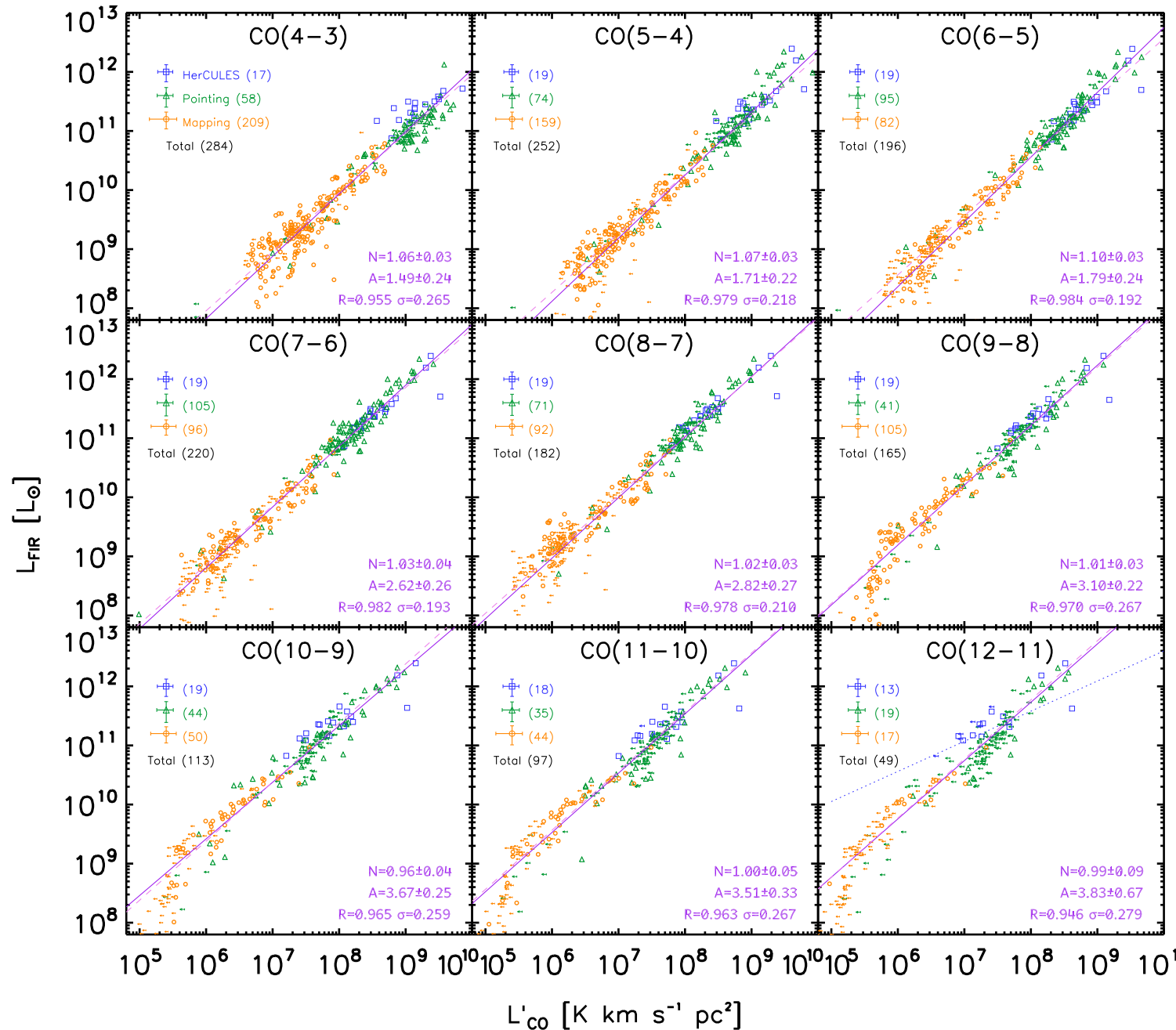
(Note: only plotted the 102 GOALS LIRGs with at least 85% of the 70um flux within the 30" FTS beam)

## Advantages over $L_{\text{IR}}$ :

- Not much contaminated by AGN (Lu et al. 2014)
- Easier to measure in the ALMA era, i.e., only need one line measurement in principle

## Possible caveats:

- NGC 6240-like objects. But they are quite rare.
- Low metallicity combined with low gas density may lead to low CO abundance due to a more severe UV photo-dissociation.



All are not far from linear  
– dense gas law

CO J~6-7 are the tightest  
– best SF tracer

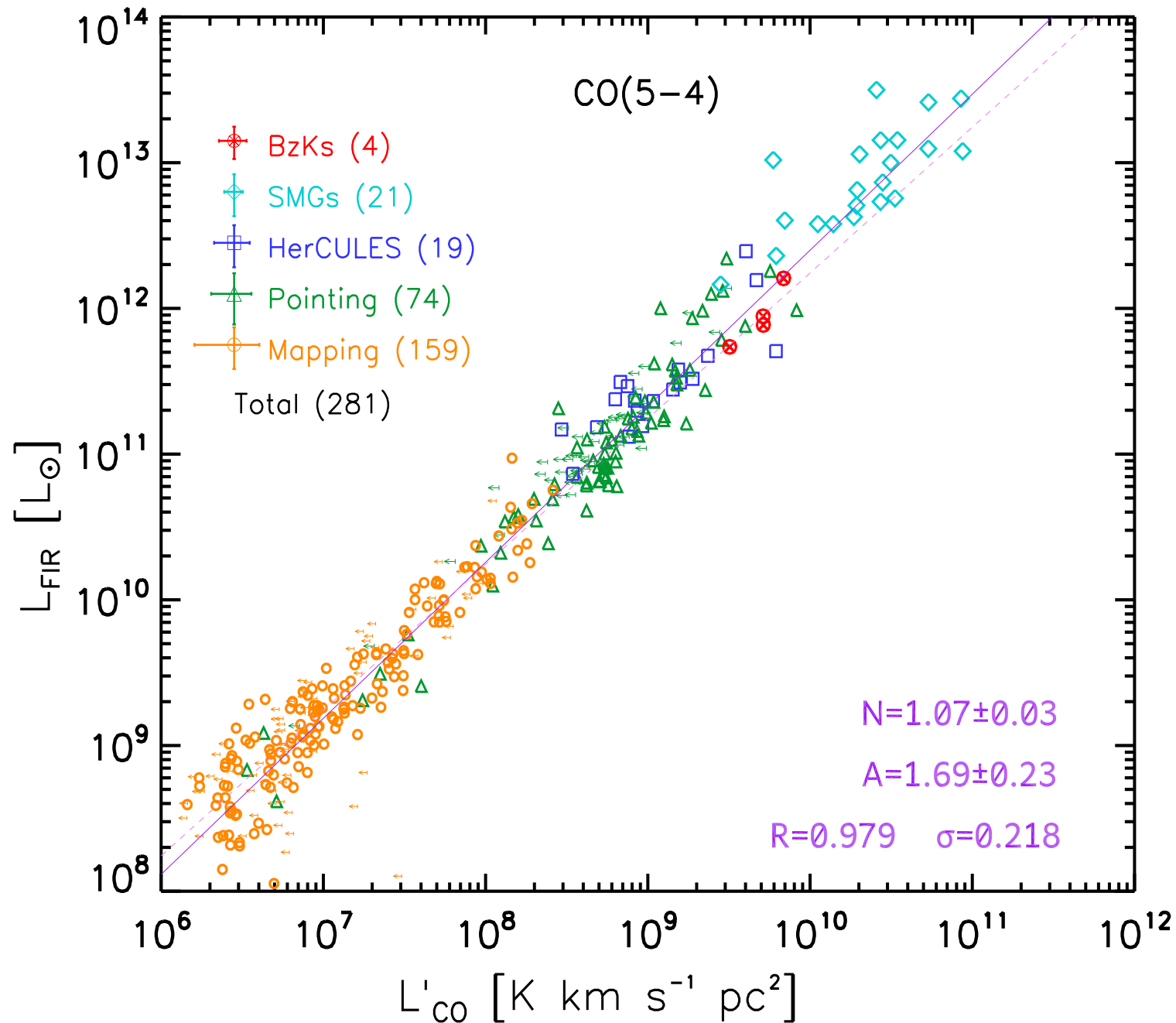
Slightly super-linear at  $J \leq 6$  – K-S law

High-J CO better tracers dense gas!

D. Liu, Y. Gao, K. Isaak, et al. 2015



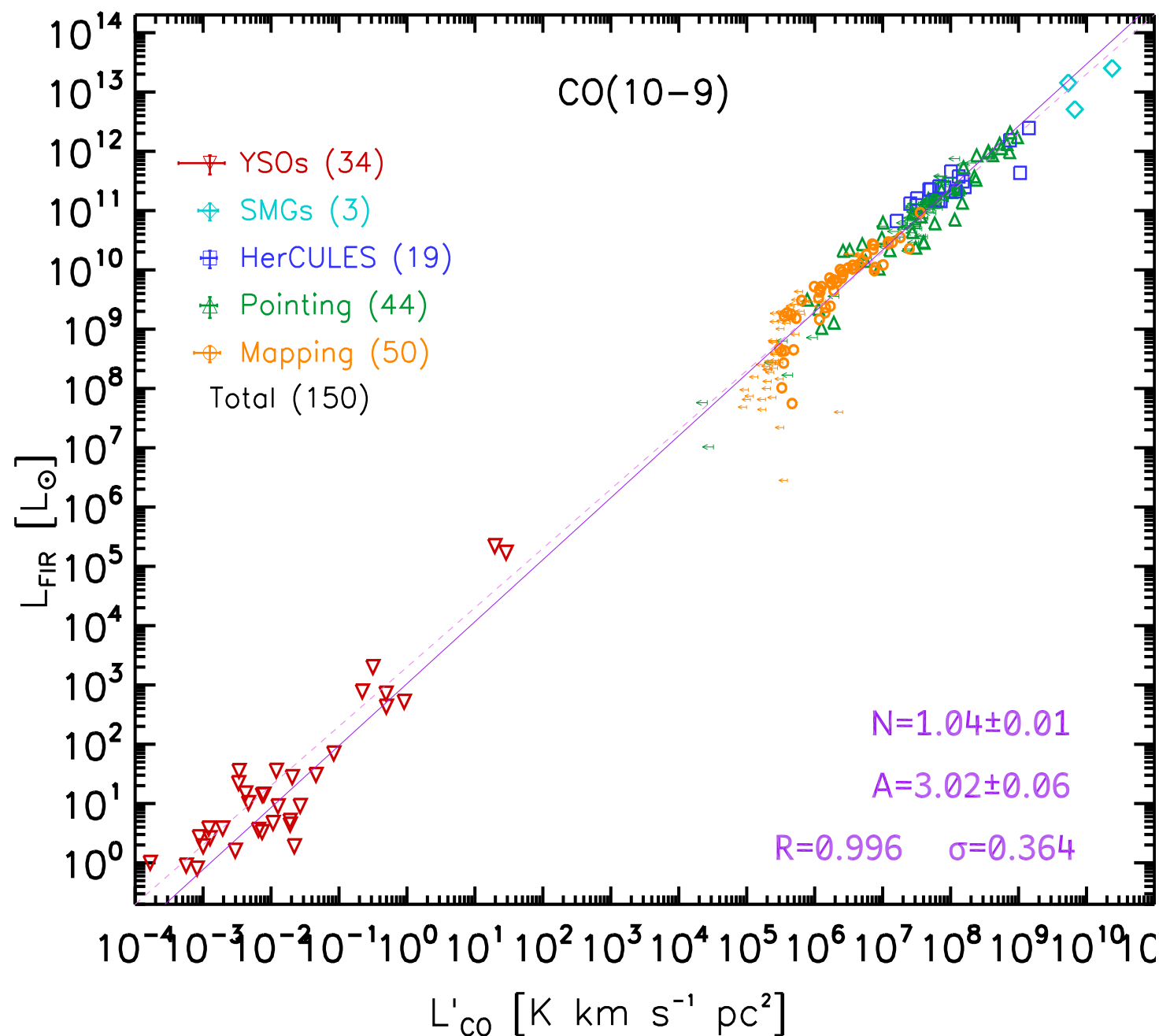




**CO(5-4) a most detected high-J CO line at high-z**  
 – deepest CO toward normal SFG at  $z \sim 1.5$   
 Daddi et al. 2015

**BzK**  
 – normal SFG with moderate SFR – steady evolution

**SMG**  
 – starburst with very high SFR – merger evolution  
 – note that IR are poorly determined so far



**CO10-9+H<sub>2</sub>O3<sub>12</sub>-2<sub>21</sub>**  
 Herschel FTS + HIFI  
 Galactic + Galaxies  
 SanJose-Garcia et  
 al. 2013

**YSOs/protostars**

– pc scale SF

**SMGs**

– high-z starbursts

**HerCULES**

– local starbursts

**Pointing**

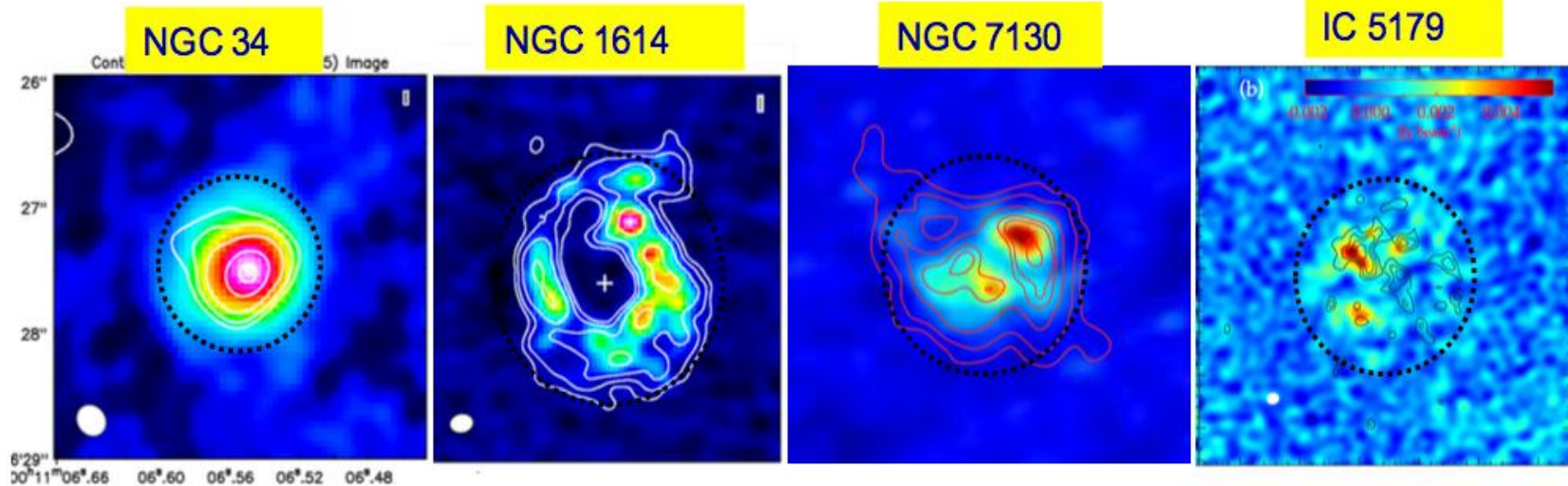
– local SFGs

**Mapping**

– local normal disks

**A universal SF law**  
**over 15 orders of**  
**magnitude**

# Comparison of the 4 Nuclei in CO(6-5)



	NGC 34	NGC 1614	NGC 7130	IC 5179
Resolution (pc):	106 x 94	85 x 66	70 x 49	37 x 32
Log $L_{IR}/L_{\odot}$ :	11.49	11.65	11.42	11.24
FIR color:	1.01	0.94	0.65	0.52
Gas configuration:	Rotating disk ( $r < 200$ pc)	Rotating ring ( $100 < r < 350$ pc)	Co-rotating clouds ( $r \sim 175$ pc)	Co-rotating clouds ( $r \sim 185$ pc)
CO(6-5) <sub>nucleus</sub> :	56 (=19x3)	32	17	3
(in terms of SFR in $M_{\odot}/yr$ )				
CO(6-5) <sub>nucleus</sub> /CO(6-5) <sub>total</sub> :	1.0 (=6x0.16)	0.63	0.34	0.16

Xu+2014/15

Zhao+2016/17

# New Star Formation Law

- Dense Molecular Gas  $\rightarrow$  High Mass Stars
- SFR  $\sim$  M(DENSE), **linear?! dense gas**
- Dense gas tracers (e.g. HCN, CS, HCO+ COJ>3, H2O... density  $>\sim 10^5$  cc), linear!
- HI  $\rightarrow$  H2  $\rightarrow$  DENSE H2  $\rightarrow$  Stars  
Schmidt law : HI(gas reservoir)  $\rightarrow$  Stars **X**  
Kennicutt : HI(gas reservoir) + H2(fuel ?!)  $\rightarrow$  Stars **X**  
Gao & Solomon: Dense H2 (fuel !!)  $\rightarrow$  Stars

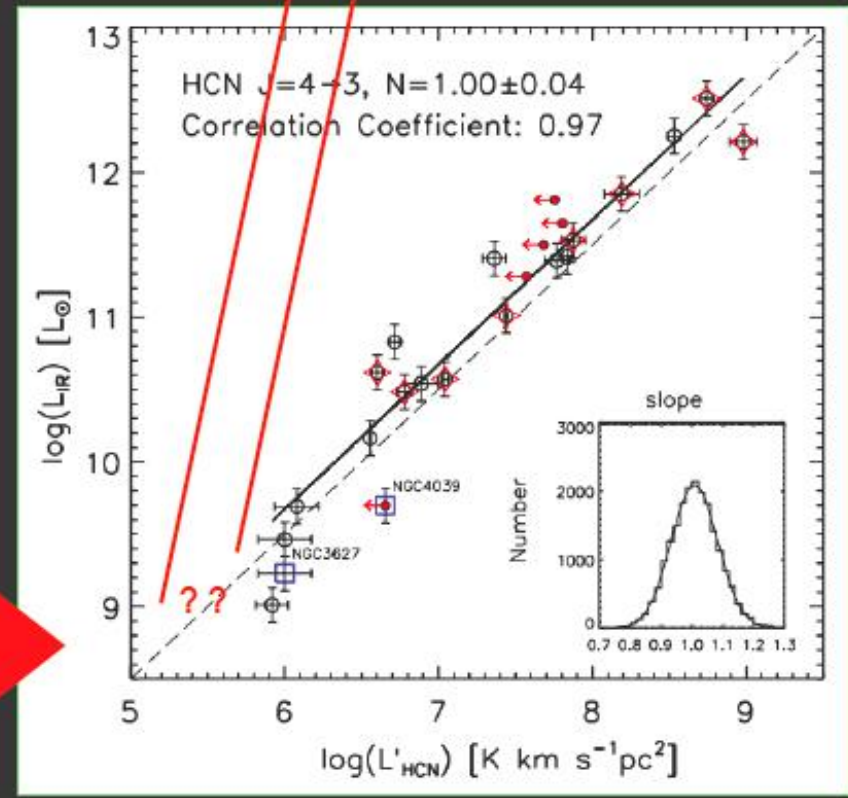
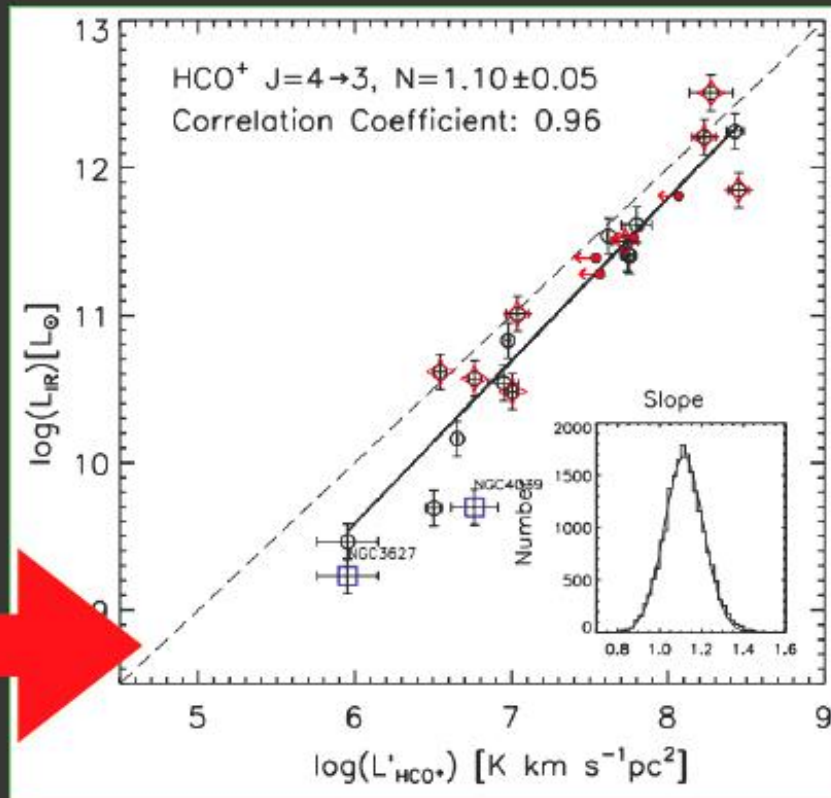
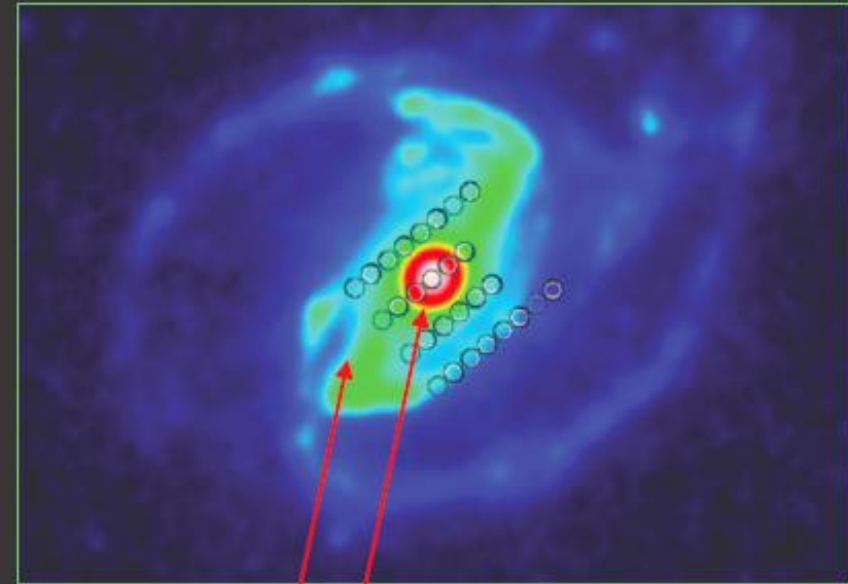
## from Cores to High-z: Dense Gas $\rightarrow$ Massive SF

HI=gas reservoir (**FAST**) is an excellent tracer of galaxy interactions: kinematics/morphology; evolution & environments (not SF). H2 OK for SF, X-factor? yet **dense H2** best (e.g., **EAO/JCMT; ALMA/NOEMA**)!



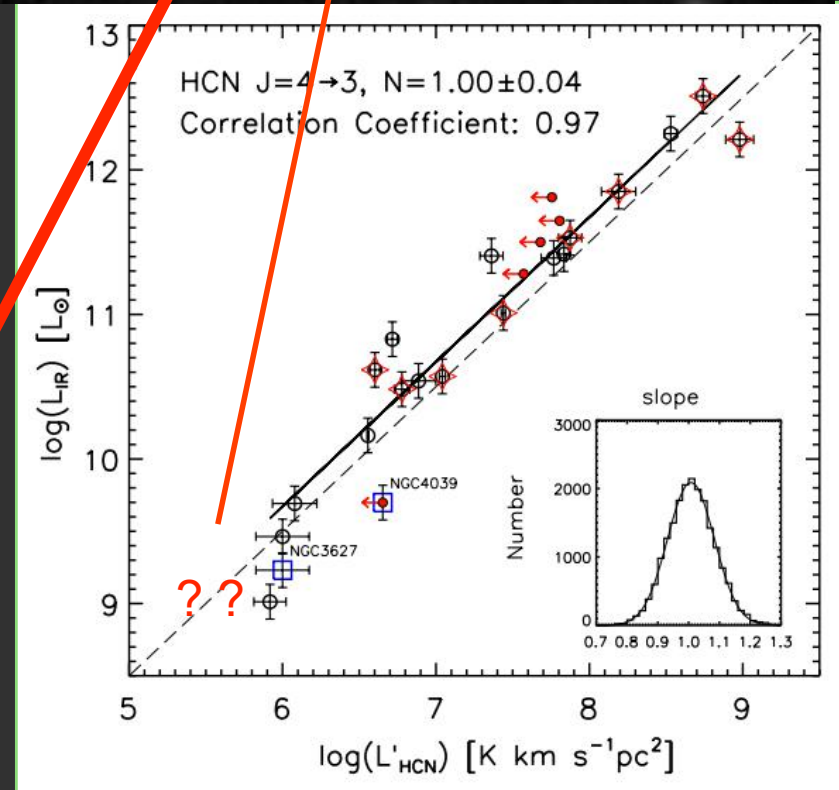
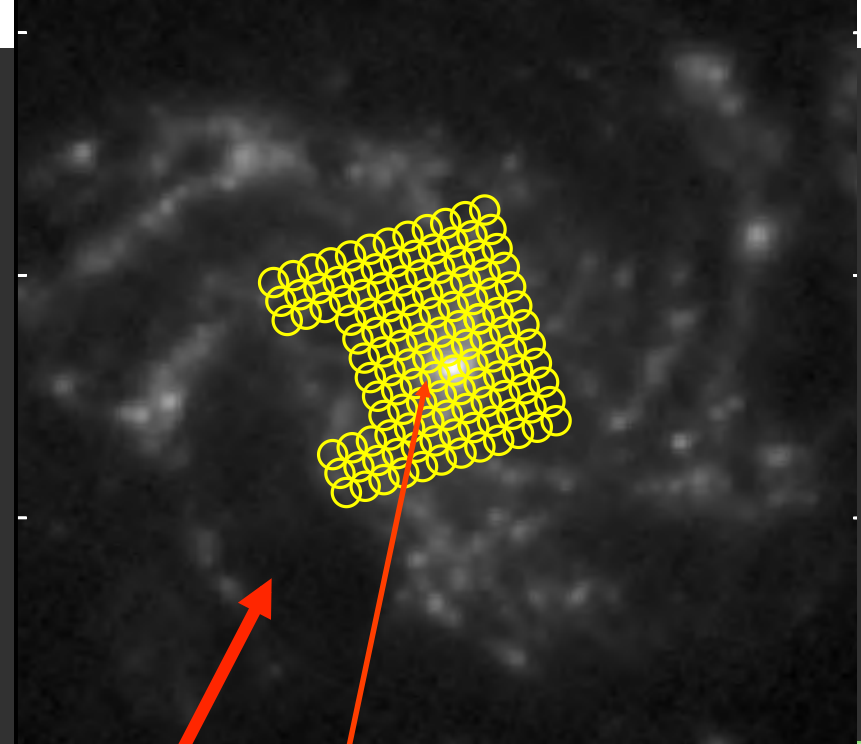
# SCIENCE GOALS

- ▶ Resolved dense gas star formation relations
- ▶ Intermediate scales/luminosities
- ▶ Different environments: nuclear vs. disk
- ▶ Radial distribution of dense gas and SF efficiency

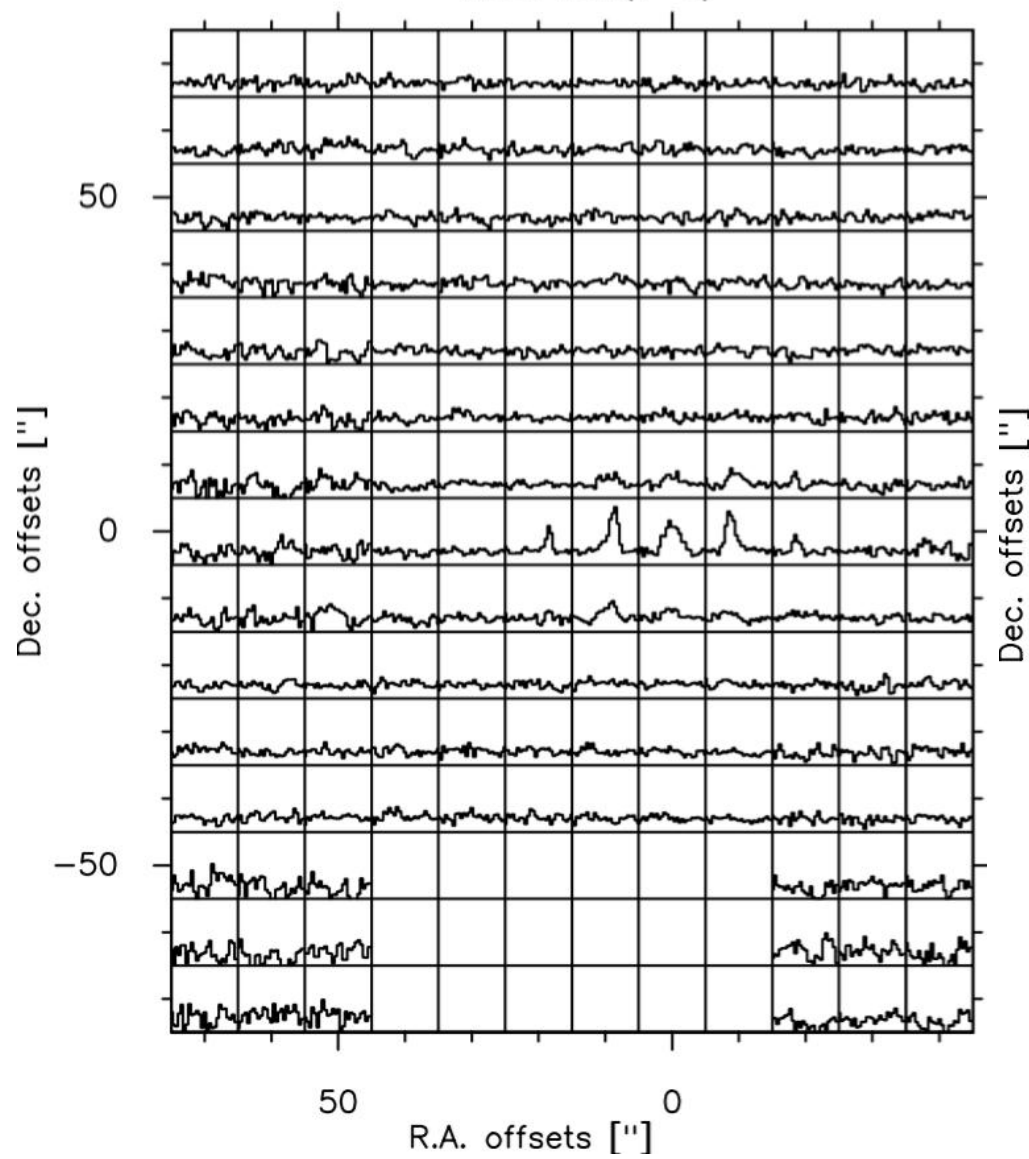
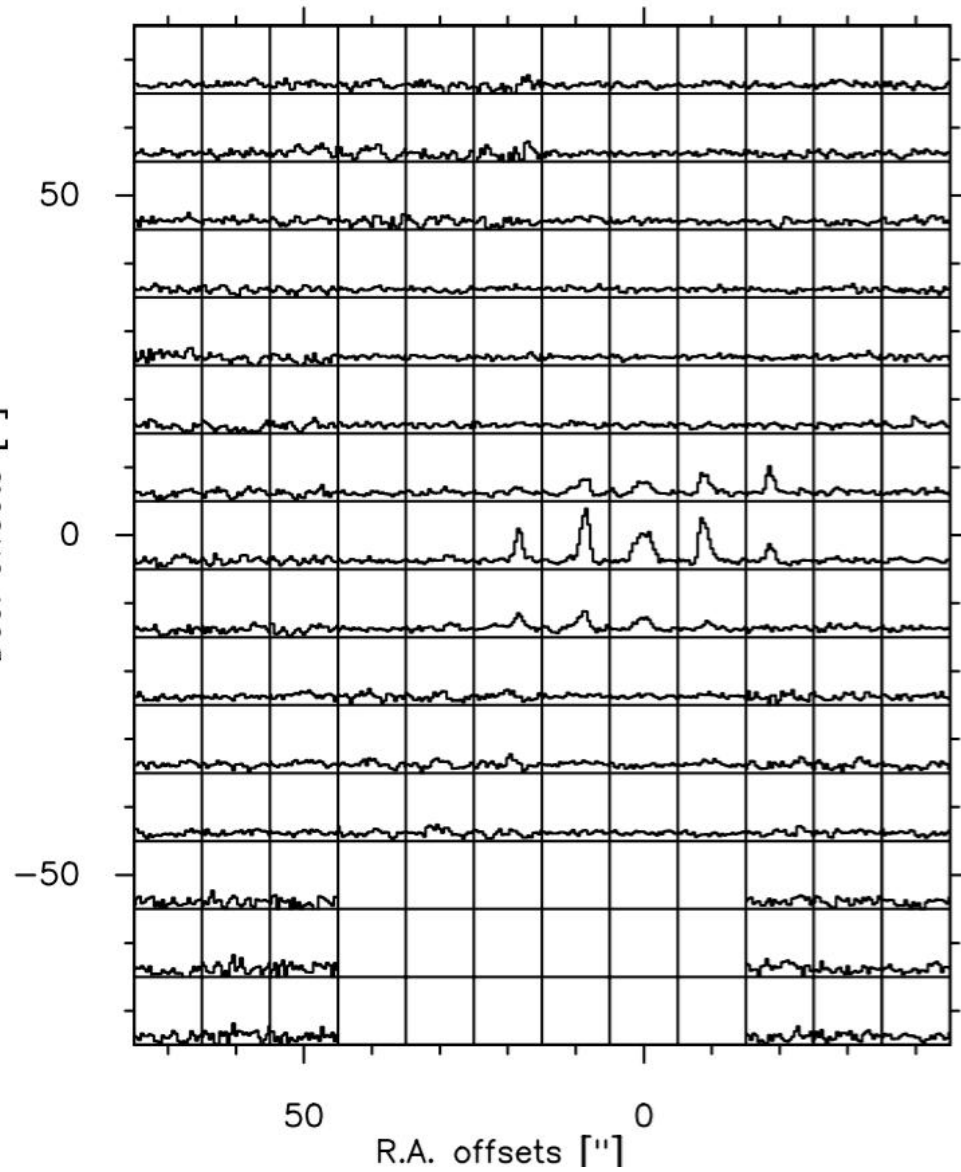


# PROJECT AND SCIENCE GOALS

- ▶ *390hr JCMT-HARP program: map HCN and HCO+ J=4-3 in 23 of the nearest and IR-brightest galaxies beyond the Local Group*
- ▶ *First attempt at systematically map the distribution of dense gas out to large galactocentric distances in a statistically significant sample*
- ▶ *dense gas vs. star formation relationship down to gas masses of  $\sim 5 \times 10^6 M_\odot$  and scales  $\sim 0.2-2.8 \text{ kpc}$  in other galaxies*
- ▶ *Bridge the gap between and Galactic observations*
- ▶ *Resolved dense gas star formation relations*
- ▶ *Intermediate scales/luminosities*
- ▶ *Different environments: nuclear vs. disk*
- ▶ *Radial distribution of dense gas and SF efficiency*



M82: HCN(4-3)

M82: HCO<sup>+</sup>(4-3)



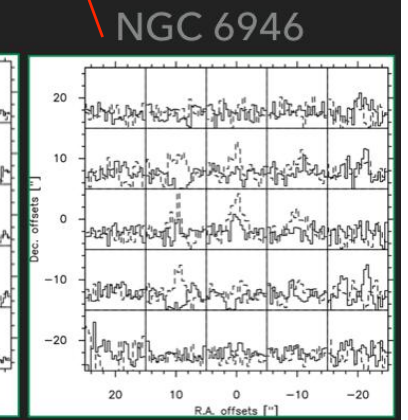
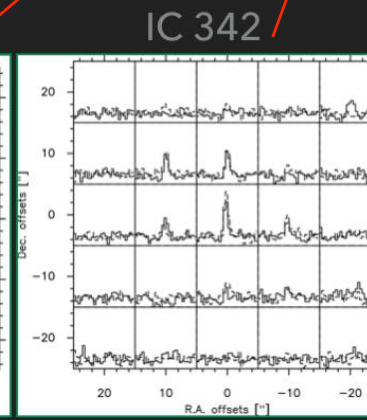
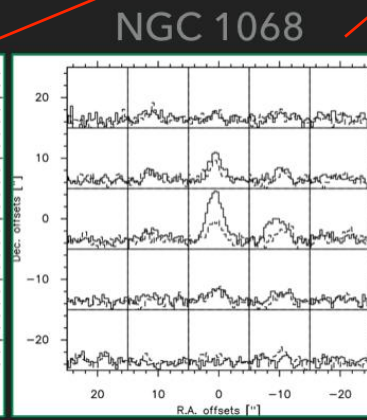
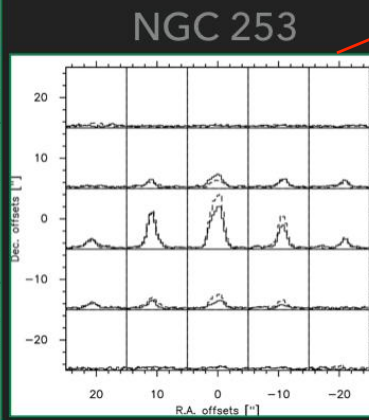
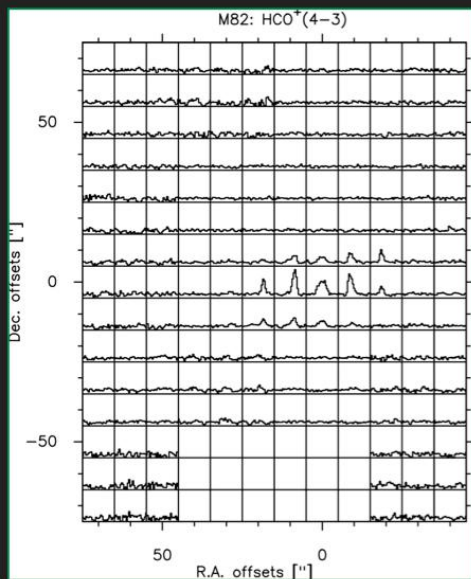
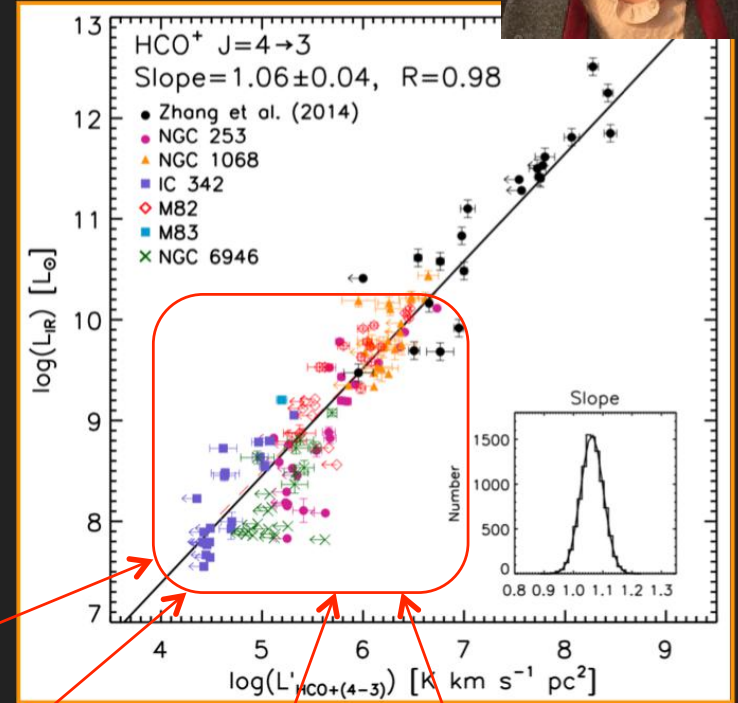
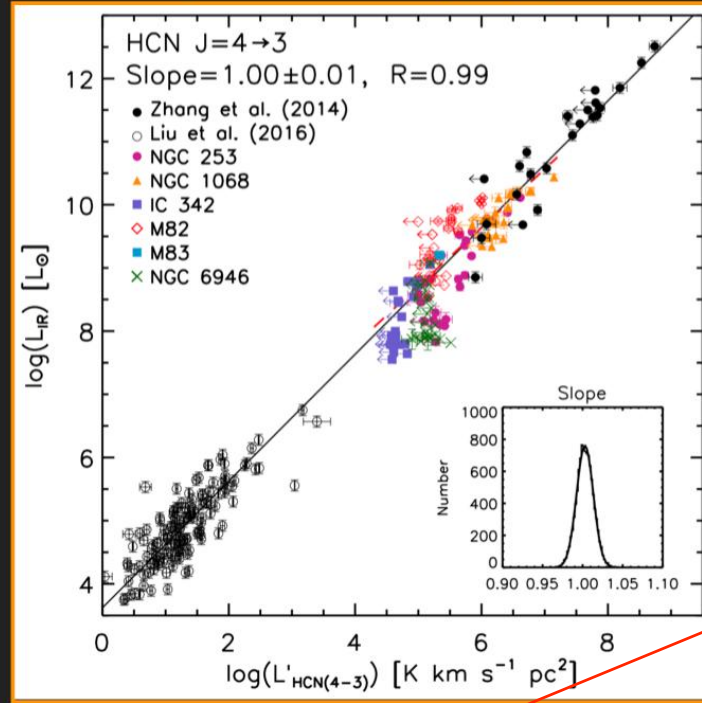
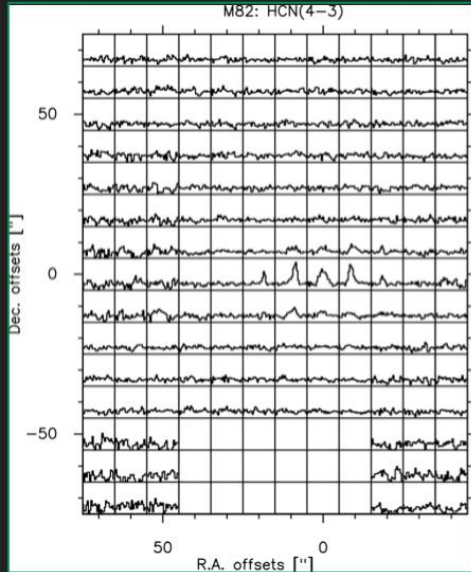
# FIRST RESULTS

Jiggle-mapping:  
2 arcmin central region

$L_{IR}$  vs.  $L'_{HCN(4-3)}$

Tan, Gao+ in prep

$L_{IR}$  vs.  $L'_{HCO+(4-3)}$

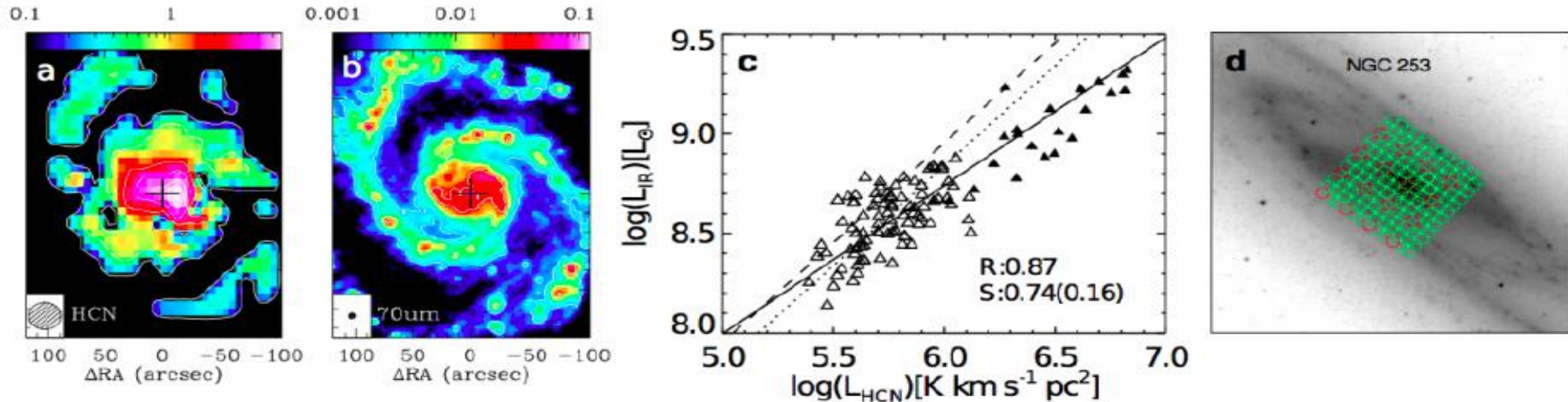




# THANK YOU



Contact:  
Yu Gao ([yugao@pmo.ac.cn](mailto:yugao@pmo.ac.cn))  
Zhiyu Zhang ([zzhang@eso.org](mailto:zzhang@eso.org))  
Thomas Greve ([t.greve@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:t.greve@ucl.ac.uk))  
Satoki Matsushita; Aeree Chung;  
Erik Rosolowsky; Kohno Kotaro



MALATANG in a nutshell: here illustrated by a study of M51 (Chen et al 2015). a) Moment 0 map of the HCN  $J=1-0$  emission towards M 51 (contours at: 0.1, 0.6, 1.9, 3.4, 4.9, 5.4 K km/s on the  $T_{mb}$  scale). b) Herschel/PACS 70  $\mu\text{m}$  image tracing the IR dust continuum (contours at: 3, 9, 27, 81 mJy/pixel). c) The resolved  $L_{IR} - L'_{\text{HCN}, J=1-0}$  relation observed towards M 51, with each symbol representing a region  $\sim 1$  kpc in size. The solid and dashed lines show the best log-linear fits to the nuclear (filled triangles) and disk (open triangles) regions combined and to the disk regions only, respectively. The combined correlation is seen to be shallower than the galaxy-integrated linear relation observed by Gao & Solomon (2004) (illustrated by the dashed line). d) Schematic of a HARP-B jiggle mode observations of a MALATANG target (NGC 253). With a beam spacing of 1000 , the shown 3 x 3 jiggle pattern will result in fully sampled HCN and  $\text{HCO}^+ J=4-3$  maps that probe dense molecular gas across a range of environments, from inter-arm regions to the central starburst nuclei.