

Metallicity

Where do metals come from?

What controls the metallicity of a galaxy?

How do we measure it?

Results.

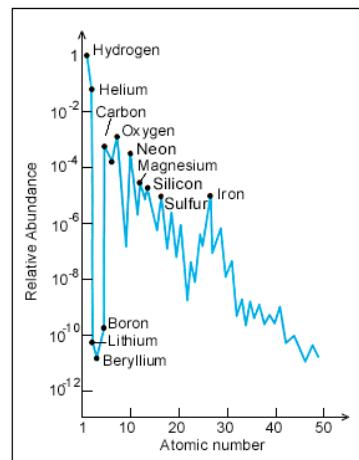
1

Abundance: Gas Phase

The gas phase abundance of an element X is defined:

$$12 + \log(X/H)$$

of atoms



Why 12? In 1929 Henry Norris

Russell arbitrarily chose $\log(N(H)) = 12$

3

Fast terminology

"Metallicity"

For stars, usually refers to Fe

For gas, usually refers to O

Sometimes refers to all metals

X = mass fraction of Hydrogen

Y = mass fraction of Helium

Z = mass fraction of metals

"Abundance"

Usually refers to arbitrary elements

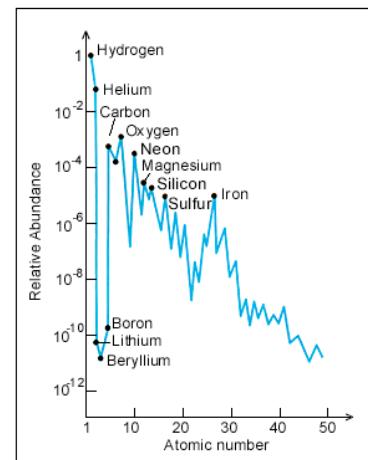
2

Abundance: Stars

Metal abundances in stars are defined relative to solar:

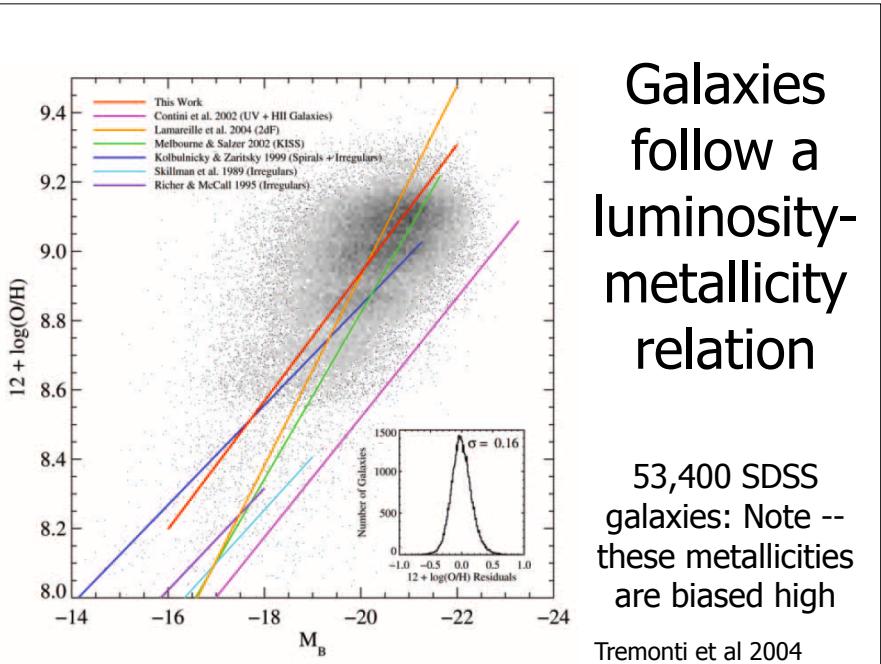
$$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_{\text{Fe}}}{N_{\text{H}}} \right)_{\text{star}} - \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_{\text{Fe}}}{N_{\text{H}}} \right)_{\text{sun}}$$

of atoms



Can use any other species for "Fe" or "H" (i.e. [O/H], [O/Fe], etc)

4



Galaxies follow a luminosity-metallicity relation

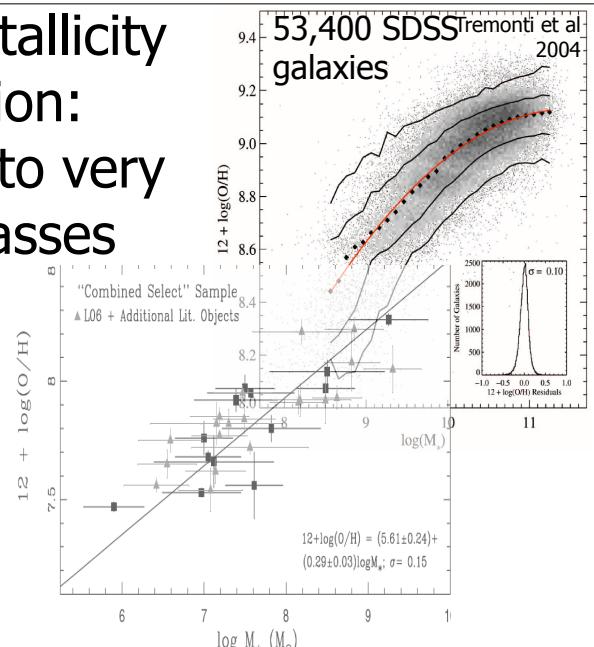
53,400 SDSS galaxies: Note -- these metallicities are biased high

Tremonti et al 2004

Mass-Metallicity Relation:
Extends to very low masses

Berg et al 2012
Weak-line “gold standard” metallicities

6

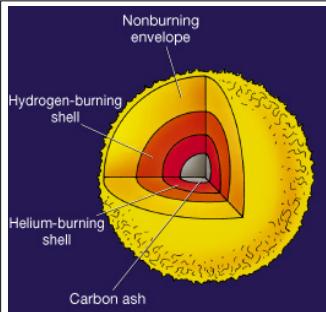


Two Ingredients Needed:

Where do metals come from?

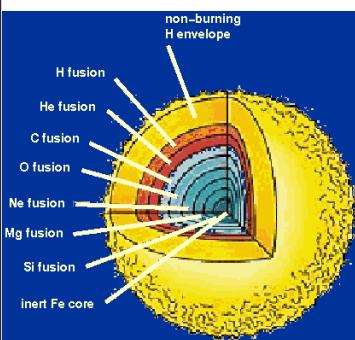
What “chemical evolution” sets the observed metallicity of a galaxy

Main Nucleosynthetic Channels
Stellar interior processing

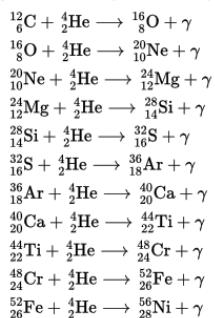


Nucleosynthesis in Stars

Low mass stars:
C or C+O core fuses up
to Fe-peak when ignites



High mass stars:
 α -elements through
“ α -ladder”



Main Nucleosynthetic Channels

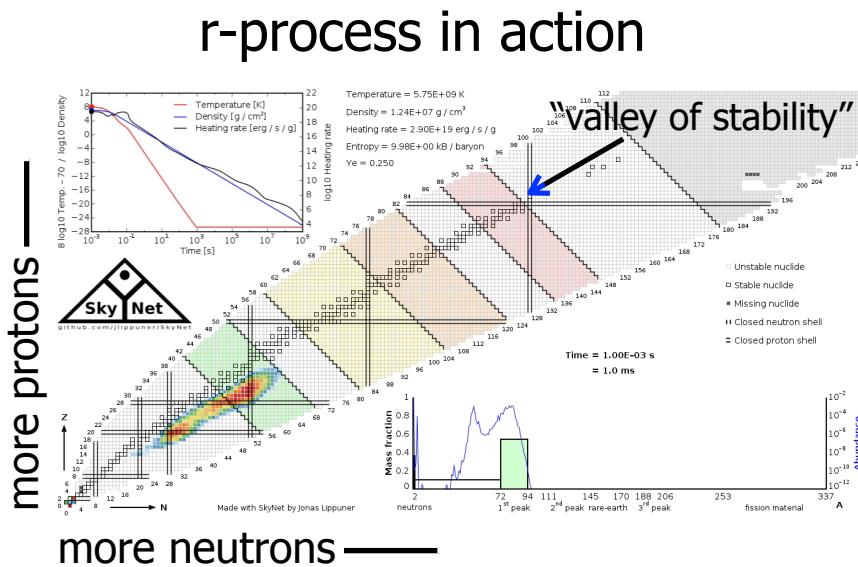
Stellar interior processing

“r-process” due to rapid accretion of neutrons, followed by subsequent β -decay to stable nuclei (starts w/ Fe)

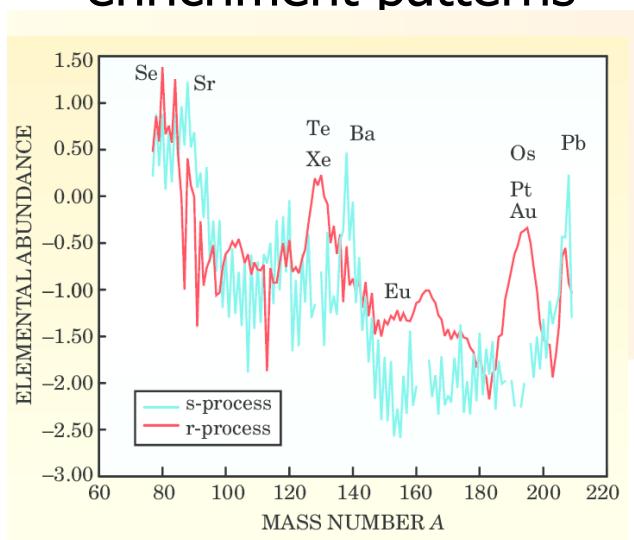
“s-process” due to slow accretion of neutrons interspersed with decay to stable nuclei (starts w/ Fe)

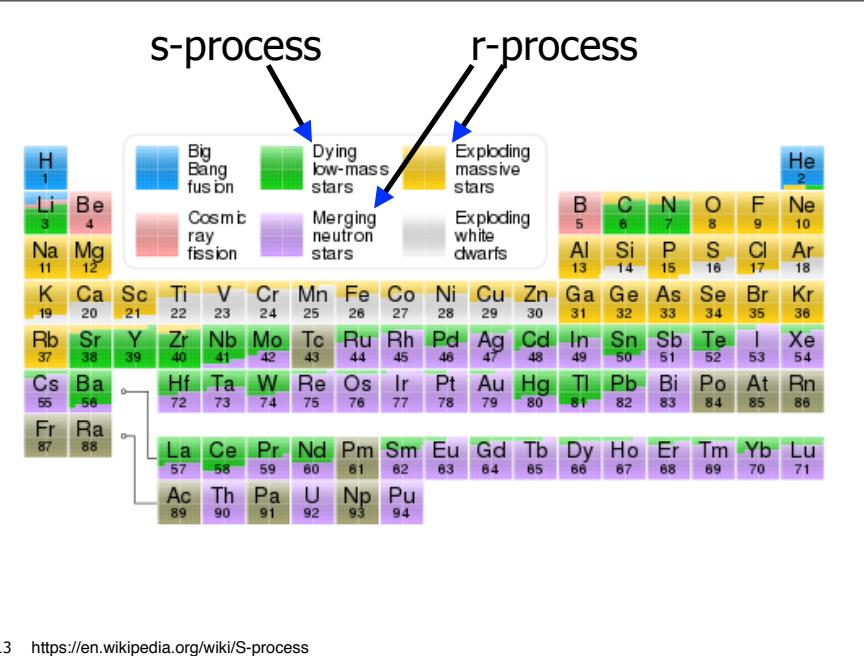
Cosmic ray spallation (induces fission)

10



r- and s-process produce different enrichment patterns





13 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-process>

Production of Elements I.

Type II SNe ($M > 6-8 M_{\odot}$)

Fast enrichment
(<50 Myrs)

α -element enhanced
compared to solar
(O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ar,
Ca, Ti, Cr)

Type Ia SNe (Range of masses)

Some prompt, but
most delayed
Fe-peak elements
are dominant
products

Both produce r-process elements beyond iron peak

14

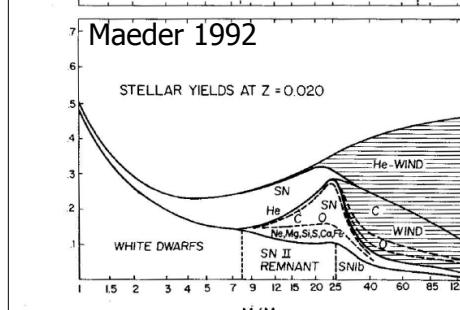
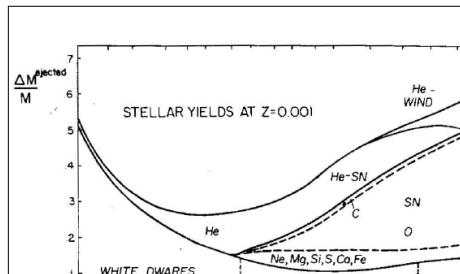
Production of Elements II

AGB Winds (Range of masses)

Important for
s-process (slow
neutron capture)
elements beyond
Fe-peak
Pulsation +
dredging

Neutron Star Mergers?

Timescale depends on
binary evolution
Can also produce r-
process elements
Rarer, but bigger yield
per event than SNe
Produces dispersion in
r-process/Fe at low Fe



16 Shading: Lost in winds prior to SNe

Massive Star Element Production

- Depends on Z & M_{star} mass of star
- Need to integrate over IMF to get total production
- Oxygen and other α elements (Mg, Si, Ca, Ti) dominate
- Some elements from internal fusion, some in explosion

15

Exact Type II yield is uncertain

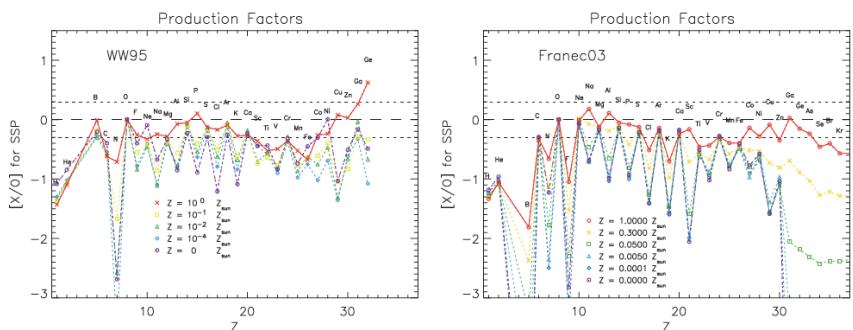


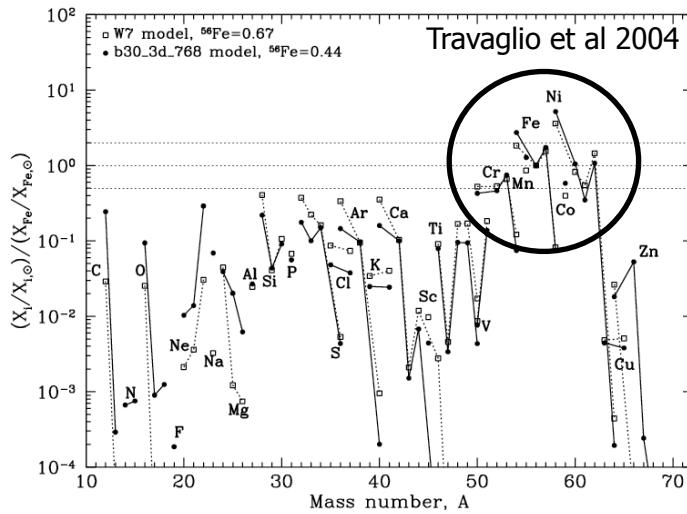
Figure 1 Production factors relative to O on a solar logarithmic scale from a single generation of massive stars using the metallicity-dependent yields of Woosley & Weaver 1995 (left panel) and those of FRANEC 2003 (right panel). The latter were kindly provided by A. Chieffi (2003, personal communication). Yields were integrated over a Salpeter (1955) IMF from 12 to 40 M_⊙. The dashed line indicates the solar values (where log(N_i/N_H)_⊙ + 12 = 8.73, Holweger 2001) and dotted lines indicate deviations from scaled solar by a factor of two. For both sets of yields C, N, and some of the iron-peak elements are subsolar because they require additional sources such as lower mass stars and Type Ia SNe. The strength of the ‘odd-even’ effect increases with decreasing metallicity in both cases, however the effect is more pronounced for FRANEC 2003.

Depends on nucleosynthetic models, metallicity, IMF

From review by Gibson et al 2003

17

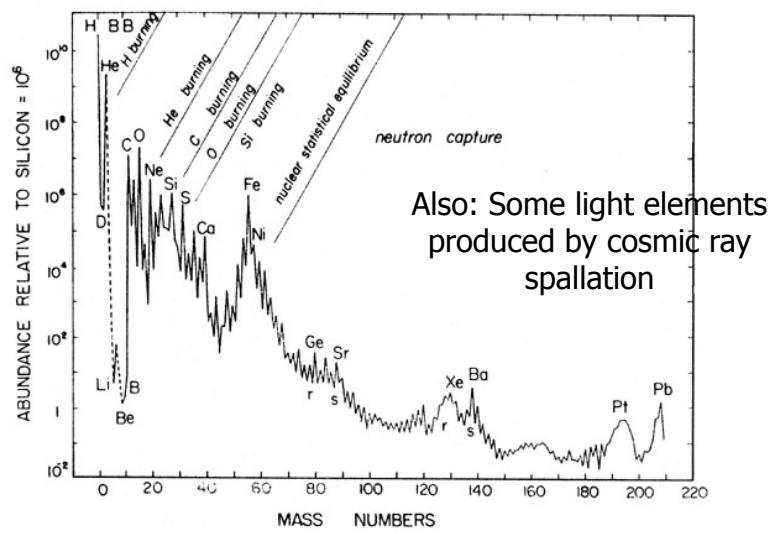
Type Ia Yields: Primarily Iron Peak



Note: Explosion models uncertain

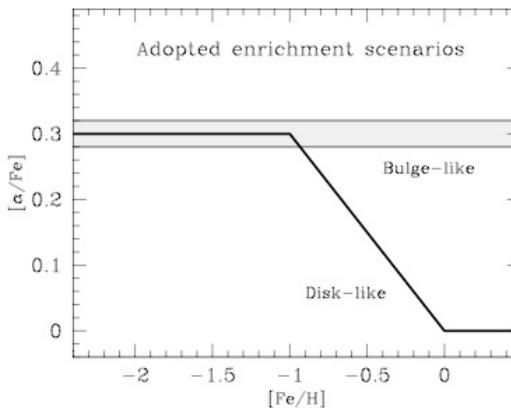
18

Solar abundance is combination of Type II, Type Ia, and s-process



19

Enrichment patterns



Fast enrichment:
no time for Type Ia,
so only Type II products

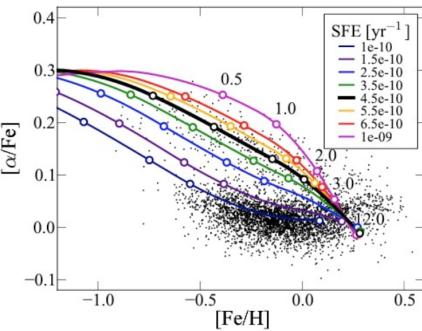
Slow enrichment:
Extended SF history
allows enrichment
of Type II iron peak
elements

FIG. 1.—Sketched diagram of the [α/Fe] vs. [Fe/H] trend in the disk-/bulge-like enrichment scenarios, as adopted in our computational routine.

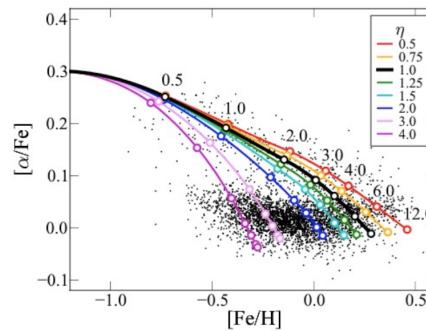
20

Galaxy history affects patterns

Star Formation Efficiency



Outflow Rate



21

Andrews et al 2015 (in prep)

Application: Stars in Milky Way

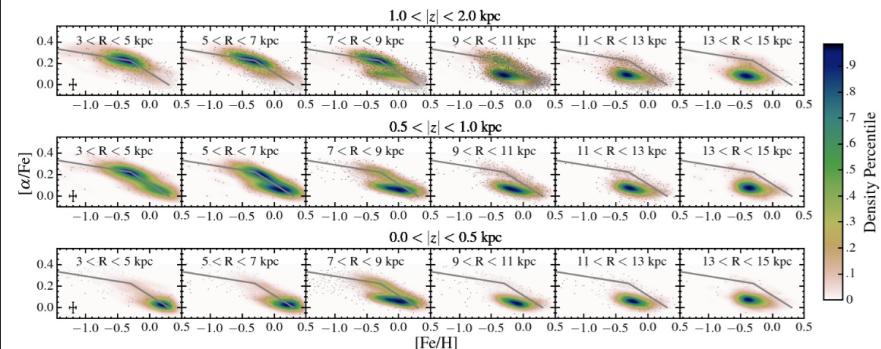


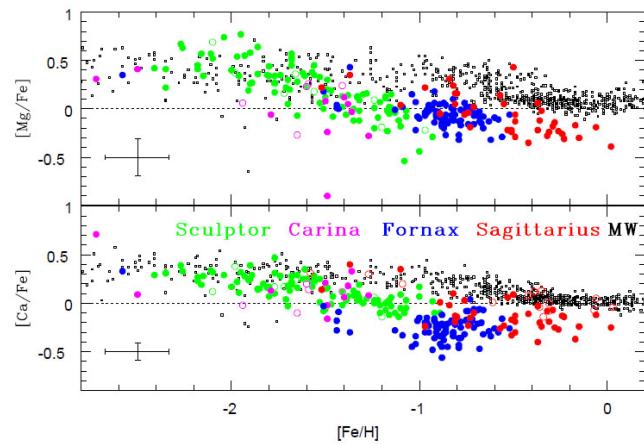
Figure 4. The stellar distribution of stars in the $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ vs. $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ plane as a function of R and $|z|$. Top: The observed $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ vs. $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ distribution for stars with $1.0 < |z| < 2.0$ kpc. Middle: The observed $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ vs. $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ distribution for stars with $0.5 < |z| < 1.0$ kpc. Bottom: The observed $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ vs. $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ distribution for stars with $0.0 < |z| < 0.5$ kpc. The grey line on each panel is the same, showing the similarity of the shape of the high- $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ sequence with R . The extended solar- $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ sequence observed in the solar neighborhood is not present in the inner disk ($R < 5$ kpc), where a single sequence starting at high- $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ and low metallicity and ending at solar- $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ and high metallicity fits our observations. In the outer disk ($R > 11$ kpc), there are very few high- $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ stars.

APOGEE: Higher α -enhancement above the plane, and towards the center of the galaxy. Faster SF.

22

Hayden et al 2015

Application: Stars in dwarfs

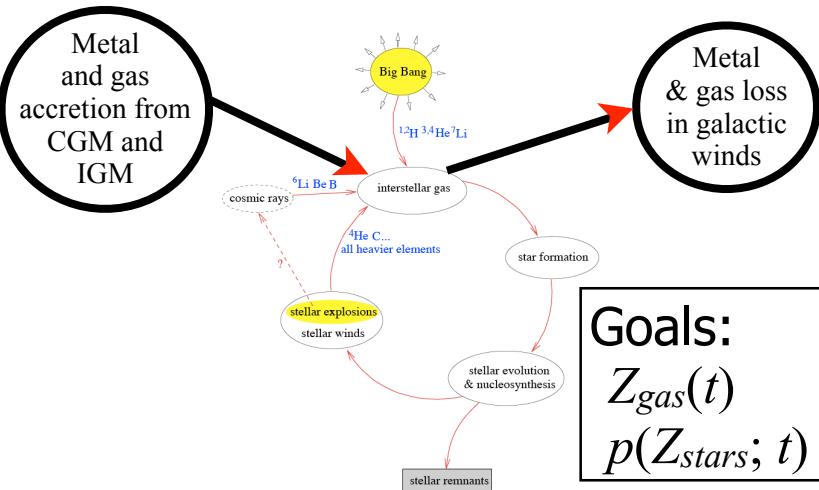


Dwarfs: Fe enrichment does not progress as far before SN II α -enhancement becomes diluted. Winds?

Venn et al 2004

What sets galaxy metallicity?

“Chemical Evolution”



Goals:
 $Z_{\text{gas}}(t)$
 $p(Z_{\text{stars}}; t)$

23

Complex accounting problem

Masses

M_g : Total mass of interstellar gas
 M_s : Total mass of stars
 M_w : Total mass of stellar remnants (white dwarfs)
 M_t : Total mass of the system
 $M_t = M_g + M_s + M_w$

Rates

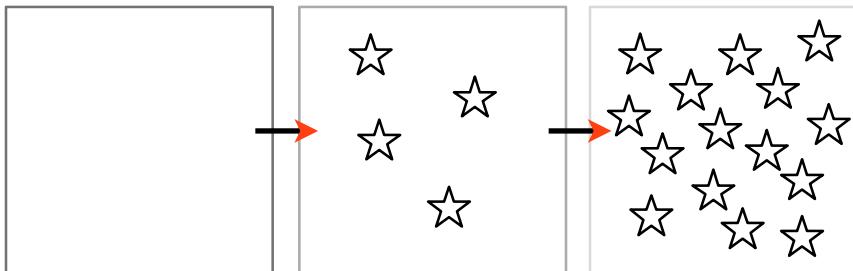
E : the rate of mass ejection from stars
 E_Z : the rate of metal ejection from stars
 W : the creation rate of stellar remnants.
 Ψ : Rate of star formation
 f : Rate of infall or outflow of material from the system
 Z_f : Metal abundance of the infall (or outflow) material
 $\phi(m)$: the Initial Mass Function

Stellar Evolution & Nucleosynthesis

Classic references: Tinsley 1980 (Fundamentals of Cosmic Physics)
Pagel 1997 (Textbook)

25

Simplest Form: “Closed Box”



$$Z_{\text{gas}} = 0$$

$$f_{\text{gas}} = 1$$

No infall or outflow

Assume “instantaneous recycling” for massive stars

Searle & Sargent 1972

Key, unfamiliar quantities:

Return Fraction (R)

The mass fraction of a generation of stars that is returned to the ISM.
Depends on time, but typically 0.2-0.3

Lock up fraction ($\alpha = 1-R$)

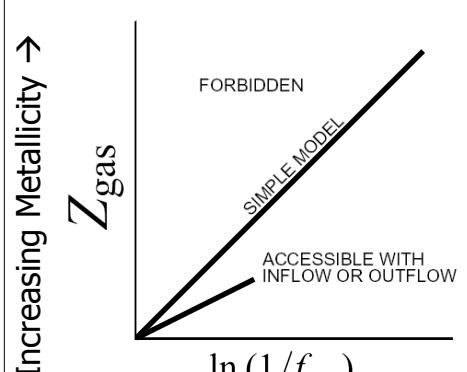
The mass fraction of a generation of stars that is locked up in long-lived stars or remnants.

“Nucleosynthetic yield” (y or p)

26

The mass in newly formed elements ejected by a generation of stars, in units of the mass locked up in long-lived stars and stellar remnants

Closed Box Model



$$Z = y_Z \ln(\mu^{-1})$$

Nucleosynthetic “yield”

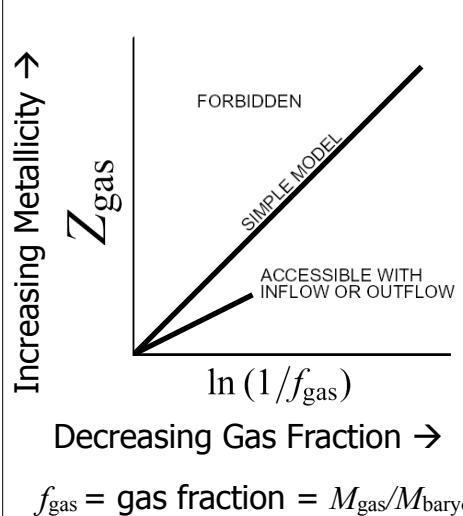
$$y_{\text{eff}} = \frac{Z(\text{obs})}{\ln(\mu^{-1})}$$

“Effective Yield”

$f_{\text{gas}} = \text{gas fraction} = M_{\text{gas}}/M_{\text{baryon}}$

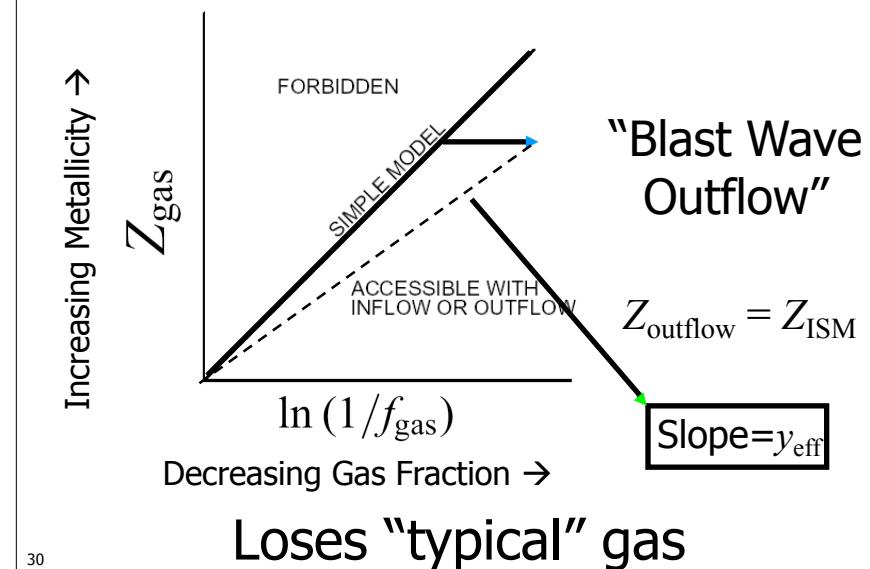
28 Edmunds 1990

If $y_{\text{eff}} \sim y_Z$, evolved like "closed box"



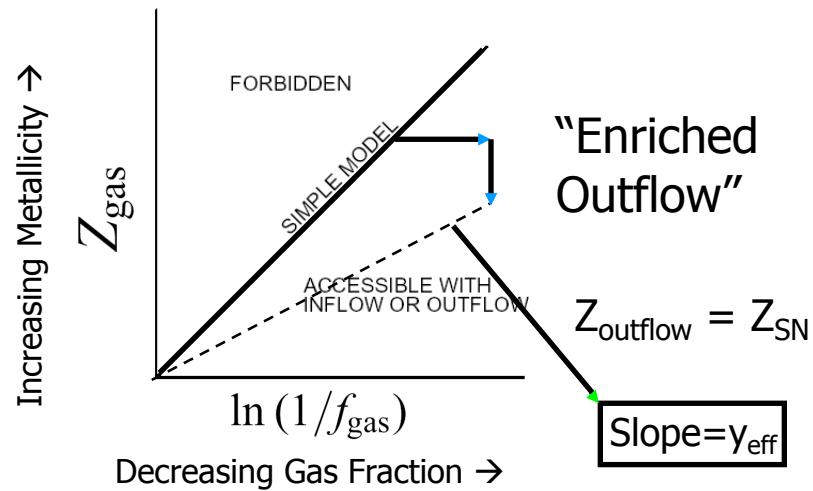
²⁹ Edmunds 1990

Deviations from closed box



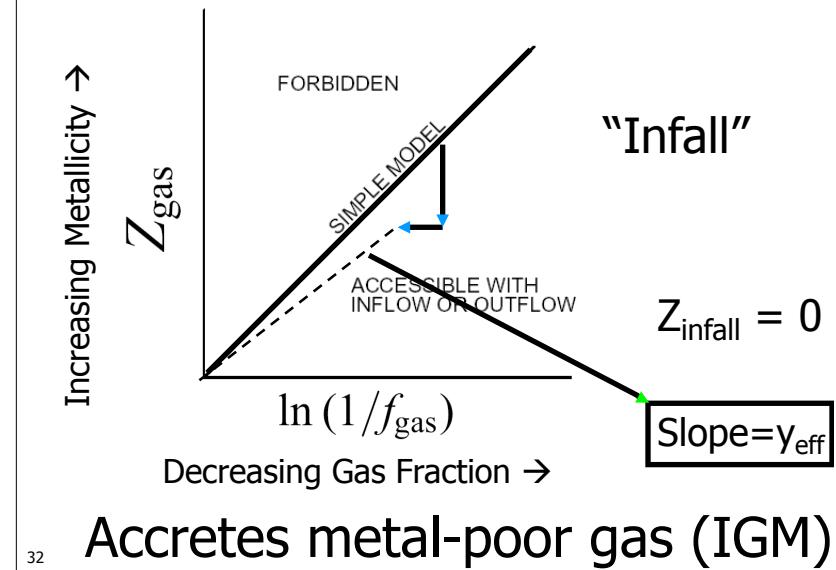
30

Deviations from closed box



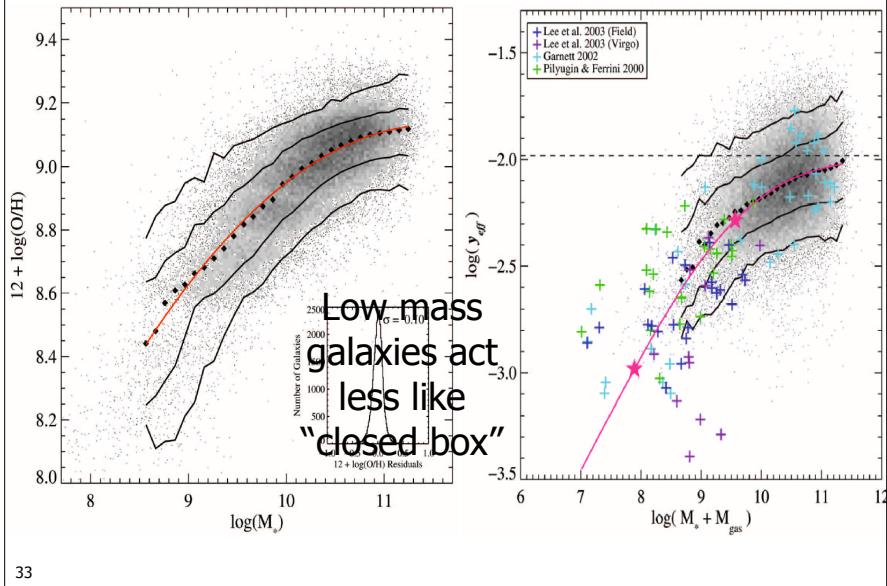
³¹ Loses metal-rich gas (SNe ejecta)

Deviations from closed box

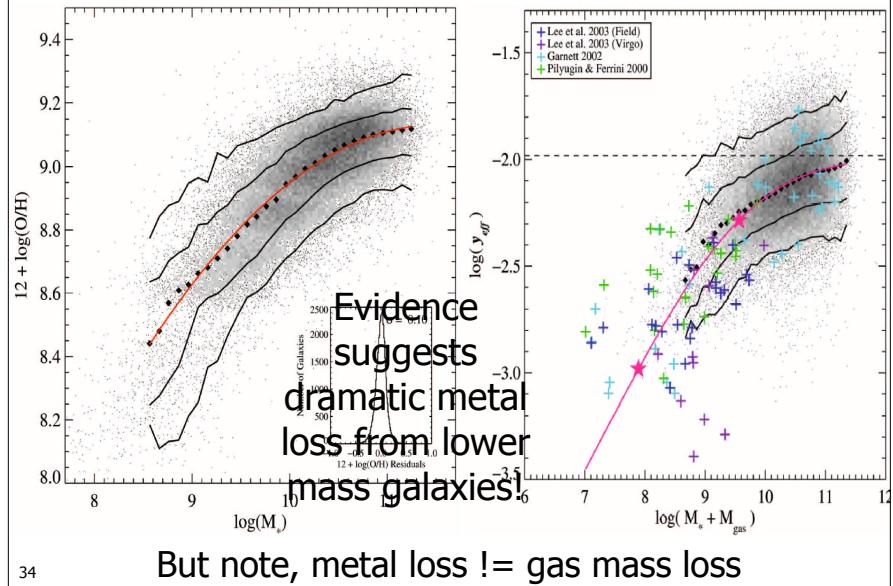


32

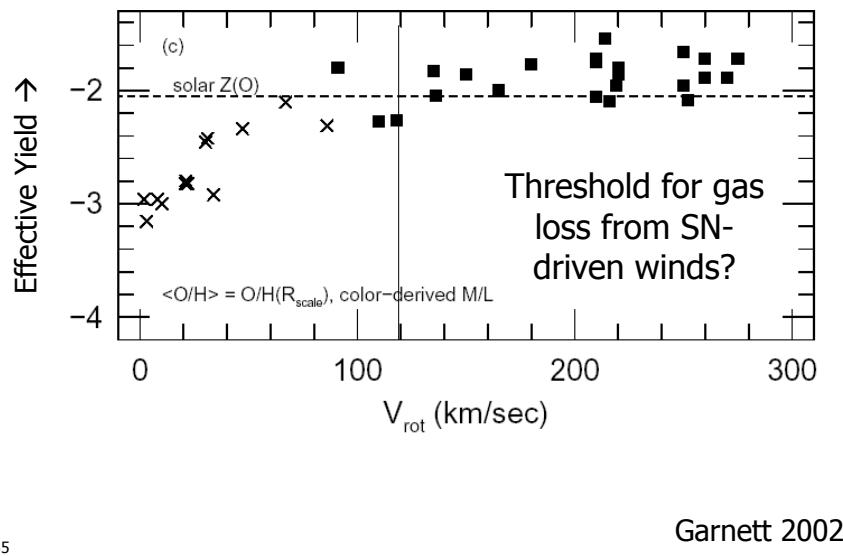
Mass-Metallicity vs Effective Yield



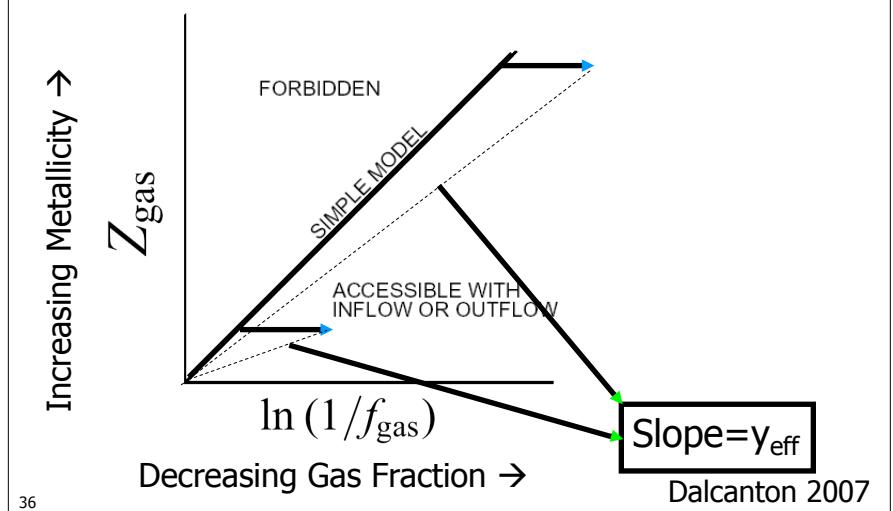
Mass-Metallicity vs Effective Yield



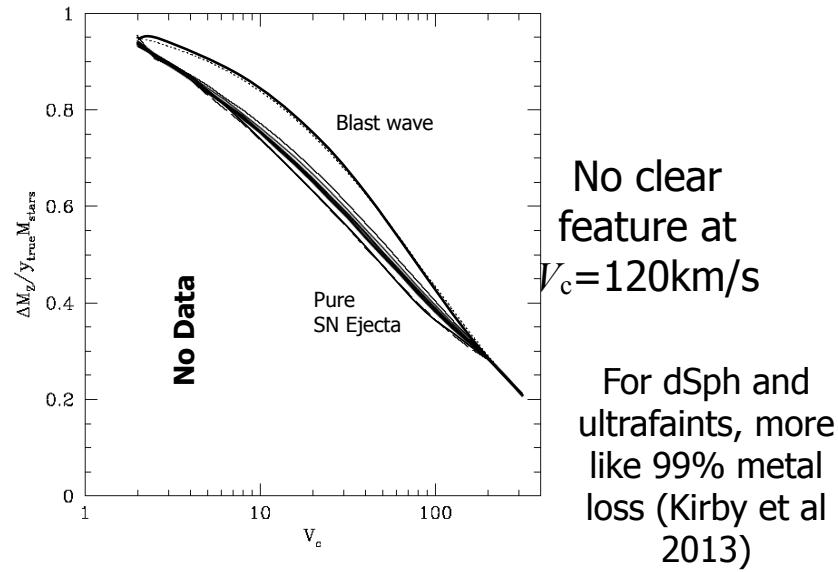
Effective yield is constant for $V > 120$ km/s



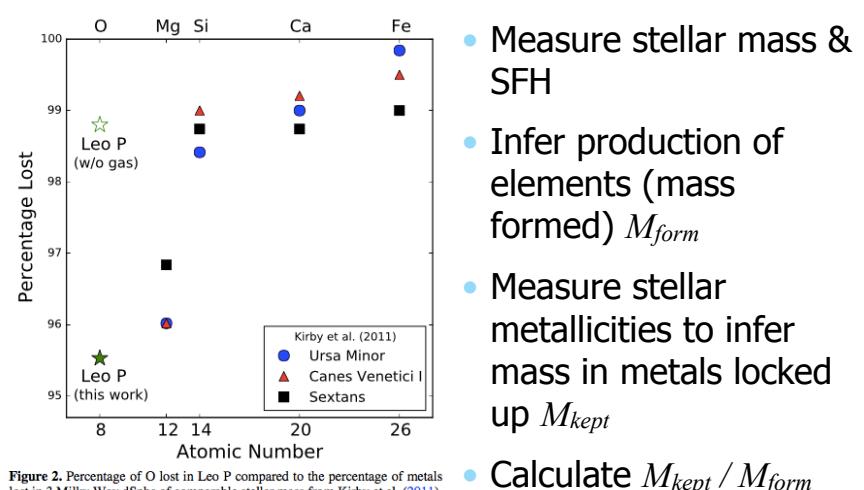
No. It's just hard to change effective yield of gas poor systems



Inferred metal loss is high, increases steadily



In LG dwarfs metal loss is near total



Metallicity-sensitive indicators

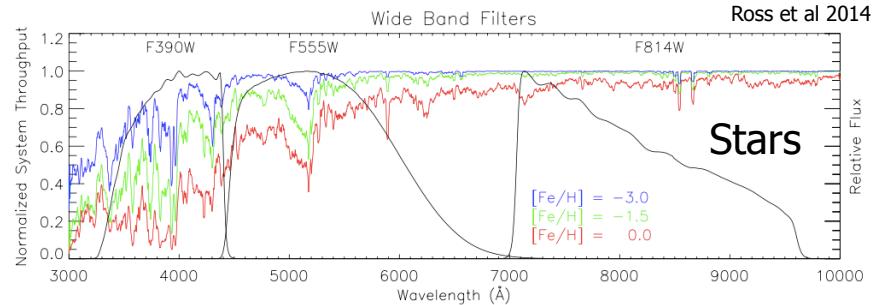
Stars:

Tracks [Fe/H] at time luminosity-weighted stellar population formed

- Broadband colors — particularly NIR
- Spectral fitting (i.e. fit template to whole spectrum).
- Equivalent widths of specific spectral features (in absorption)

39

More Metals = More absorption



More absorption lines in the blue

Redder = More metal rich

But, age effects in composite populations

Colors more robust metallicity indicator in NIR, but spectral fitting more robust in optical

40

"Age-Metallicity Degeneracy"

Ross et al 2014

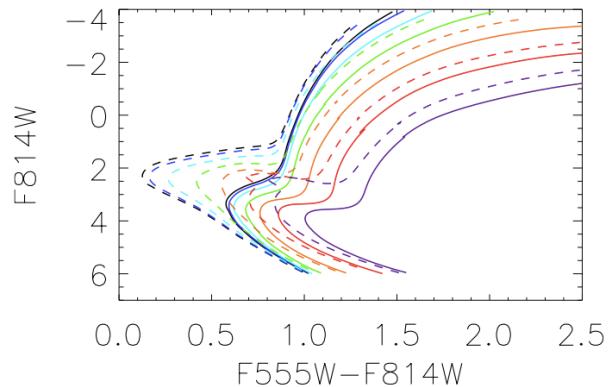


Figure 2. Age–metallicity degeneracy is shown here with isochrones of different ages covering a range of metallicity $-2.5 < [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < +0.5$; black represents the most metal-poor, purple the most metal-rich, with each color in between representing a 0.5 increment in $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$; the solid lines represent an age of 12.5 Gyr and the dashed lines represent 4 Gyr.

41

Combine colors
to interpret age
& metallicity

Lines of constant
metallicity (red) have
nearly constant $J-K_s$
colors.

Lines of constant age
(green) have relatively
constant $B-V$ colors

Galaz et al 2002

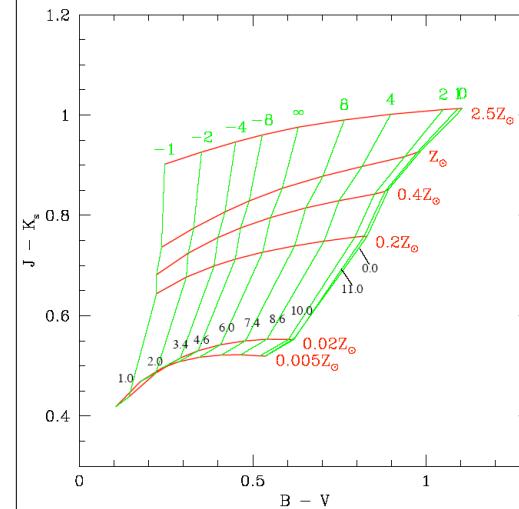
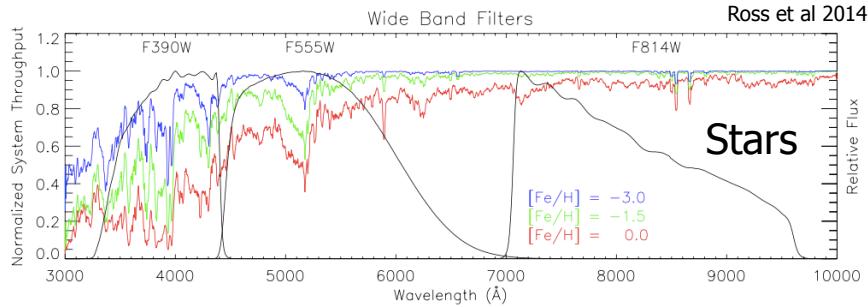


Fig. 15.— Color grid for the $J - K_s$ index as a function of the $B - V$ index, for different stellar formation rates and metallicities. Metallicities range from $0.005Z_\odot$ to $2.5Z_\odot$. Top labels denote different exponential star-formation rates, where ∞ denotes a constant star-formation rate. Bottom labels denote mean ages in Gyr. The star-formation started 12 Gyr ago for all bursts.

Caveat



Stellar metallicity indicators are light-weighted
Different galaxies will have different age stars
dominating light-weighted spectrum
Comparing stellar metallicity is not tracking
identical age across galaxies.

Caveat: Color also depends on abundance patterns

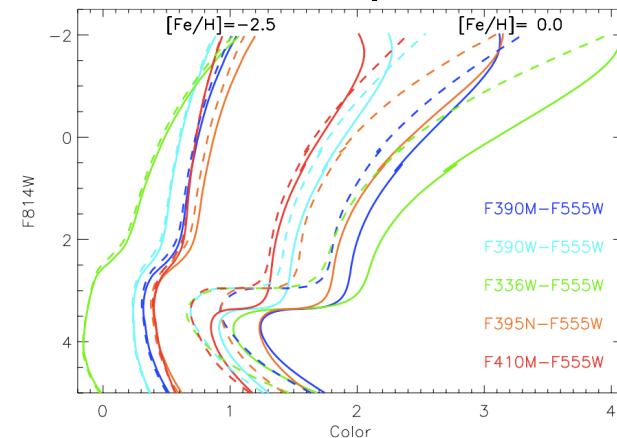


Figure 7. Color changes due to shifts in α at low and high metallicity for five metallicity-sensitive colors listed. The solid and dashed lines represent $[\alpha/\text{Fe}] = +0.4$ and 0.0 at $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -2.5$, and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}] = +0.2$ and -0.2 at $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.0$.

44

Ross et al 2014

INDEX DEFINITIONS				
Name (2)	Index Bandpass (3)	Pseudocontinuum (4)	Units (5)	Measures* (6)
CN ₁	4142.125–4177.125	4080.125–4117.625 4244.125–4284.125	mag	C, N, (O)
CN ₂	4142.125–4177.125	4083.875–4096.375 4244.125–4284.125	mag	C, N, (O)
Ca4227	4222.250–4234.750	4211.000–4219.750 4241.000–4251.000	Å	Ca, (C)
G4300	4281.375–4316.375	4266.375–4282.625 4318.875–4335.125	Å	C, (O)
Fe4383	4369.125–4420.375	4359.125–4370.375 4442.875–4455.375	Å	Fe, C, (Mg)
Ca4455	4452.125–4474.625	4445.875–4454.625 4477.125–4492.125	Å	(Fe), C, Cr
Fe4531	4514.250–4559.250	4504.250–4514.250 4560.500–4579.250	Å	Ti, (Si)
C ₄ 4668	4634.000–4720.250	4611.500–4630.250 4742.750–4756.500	Å	C, (O), (Si)
H β	4847.875–4876.625	4827.875–4847.875 4876.625–4891.625	Å	H β , (Mg)
Fe5015	4977.750–5054.000	4946.500–4977.750 5054.000–5065.250	Å	(Mg), Ti, Fe
Mg ₁	5069.125–5134.125	4895.125–4957.625 5301.125–5366.125	mag	C, Mg, (O), (Fe)
Mg ₂	5154.125–5196.625	4895.125–4957.625 5301.125–5366.125	mag	Mg, C, (Fe), (O)
Mg _b	5160.125–5192.625	5142.625–5161.375 5191.375–5208.150	Å	Mg, (C), (Cr)
Fe5270	5245.650–5285.650	5233.150–5248.150 5285.650–5318.150	Å	Fe, C, (Mg)
Fe5335	5312.125–5352.125	5304.625–5315.875 5353.375–5363.375	Å	Fe, (C), (Mg), Cr
Fe5406	5387.500–5415.000	5376.250–5387.500 5415.000–5425.000	Å	Fe
Fe5709	5696.625–5720.375	5672.875–5696.625 5722.875–5736.625	Å	(C), Fe
Fe5782	5776.625–5796.625	5765.375–5775.375 5797.875–5811.625	Å	Cr
Na D	5876.875–5909.375	5860.625–5875.625 5922.125–5948.125	Å	Na, C, (Mg)
TiO ₁	5936.625–5994.125	5816.625–5849.125 6038.625–6103.625	mag	C
TiO ₂	6189.625–6272.125	6066.625–6141.625 6372.625–6415.125	mag	C, V, Sc

Metallicity Sensitive Absorption Features

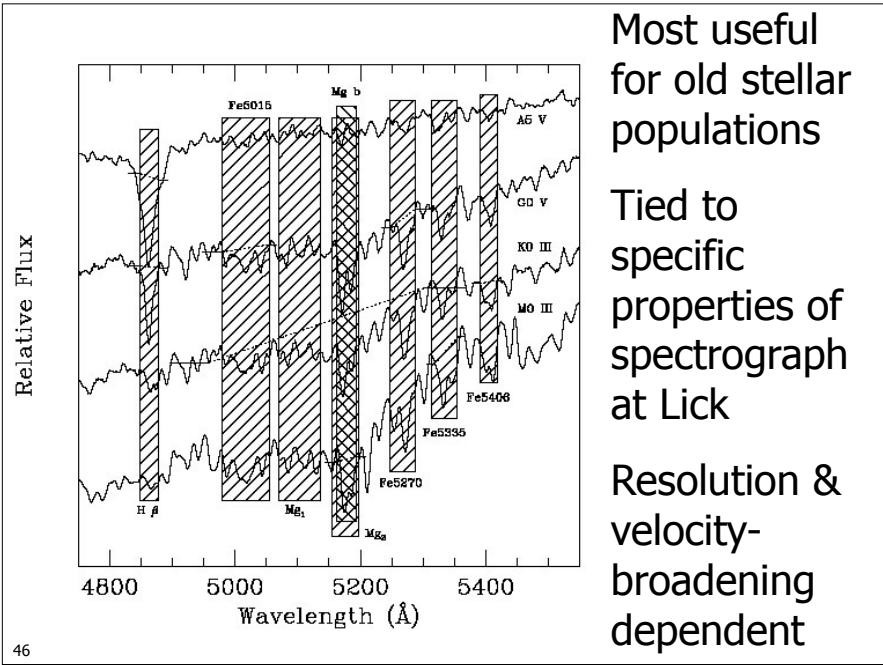
“Lick Indices”:

Characterize strength of optical absorption features

Age & Metallicity Sensitive

Note that the name sometimes has no connection to what elements are actually dominating the absorption!

Trager et al 1998



Lick indices are good probes of α -enhancement for unresolved galaxies

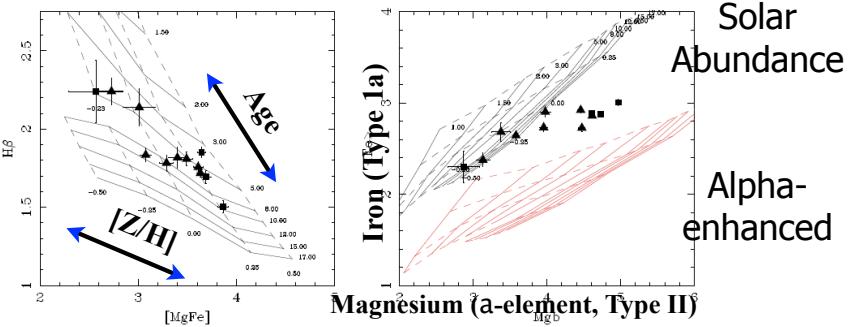


Figure 4. Stellar populations of Coma ETGs observed with LRIS in $(H\beta, [MgFe])$ and $(Mgb, (Fe))$ space, where $[MgFe] = \sqrt{Mgb \times (Fe)}$ and $(Fe) = (Fe5270 + Fe5335)/2$. Line strengths in this figure are measured through the synthesised 2'-diameter aperture. Triangles are S0's, squares are ellipses. Model grids come from the Cowley-Worley (1994) models, modified for $[E/Fe]$ as described in the §3.1. In both panels, solid lines are isochrones (constant age) and dashed lines are isofers (constant metallicity $[Z/H]$). In the left panel, the models are for $[E/Fe]$; models with higher $[E/Fe]$ have slightly lower $H\beta$ but similar $[MgFe]$. Therefore this is an appropriate grid from which to visually assess age and metallicity, although accurate determinations are made in $(H\beta, Mgb, Fe5270, Fe5335)$ space (see text). In the right panel, grids have $[E/Fe] = 0, +0.3$ (upper and lower, respectively). This is an appropriate diagram from which to visually assess $[E/Fe]$.

Most useful for old stellar populations

Tied to specific properties of spectrograph at Lick

Resolution & velocity-broadening dependent

Metallicity-sensitive indicators

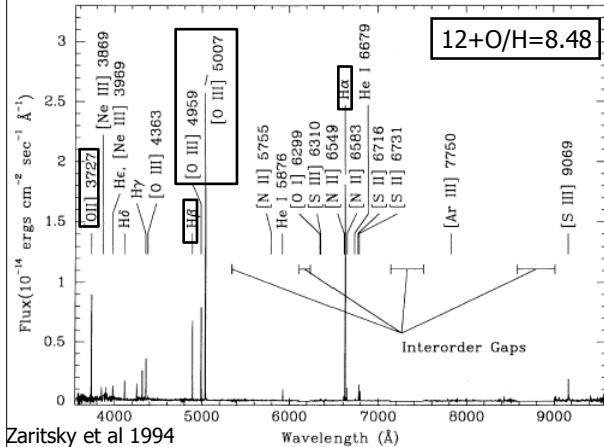
Gas:
Tracks Z of current gas reservoir

Ratios of “strong” emission lines
Detailed fitting of weak+strong emission lines (like [OIII] “auroral” line; discussed in A541)

X-ray spectroscopy

UV absorption spectroscopy (discussed in A541)

Measuring gas-phase metallicity

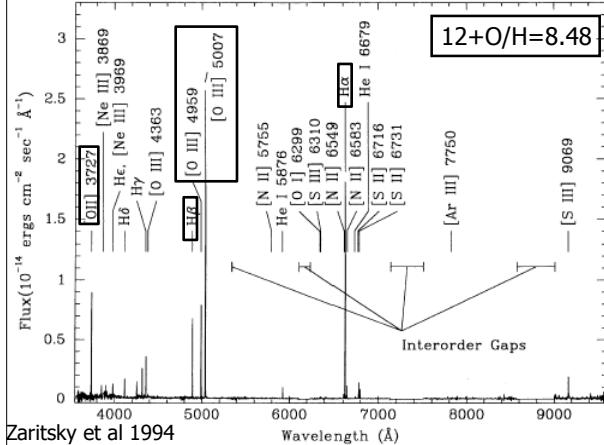


Need way of translating line ratios to elemental abundances.

Not as simple as taking ratio of O lines to H lines!

49

Measuring gas-phase metallicity



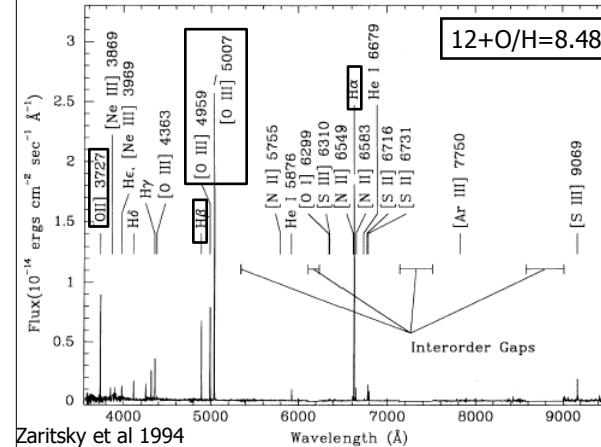
Hydrogen: recombination radiation

Line strength depends on n_e , Q_{ion} (electron density, ionizing flux).

Dependence on n_e , Q_{ion} often combined into an "ionization parameter" $U=n_\gamma/n_e$ where n_γ is # density of photons at Ly edge

51

Measuring gas-phase metallicity



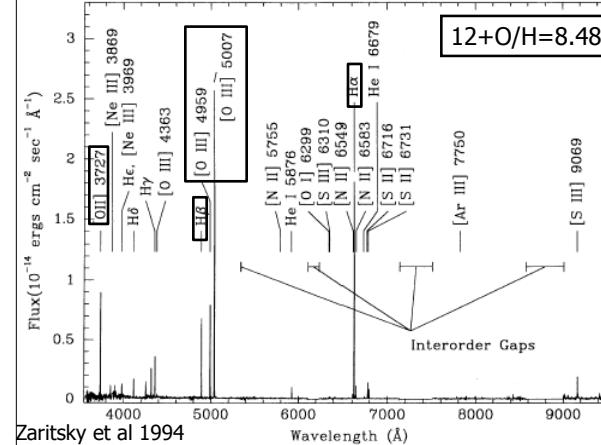
Hydrogen: recombination radiation

Oxygen: Collisionally excited forbidden lines

These are different physical processes. Their ratios don't immediately tell you much.

50

Measuring gas-phase metallicity



Oxygen: Collisionally* excited forbidden lines

Line strength depends on n_e , T_e (electron density, temperature)

Also will depend on degree of ionization, which also is affected by U

*Mostly. Some recombination contribution to [OII]3727Å

52

Example: Oxygen lines gets **stronger** in lower metallicity galaxies

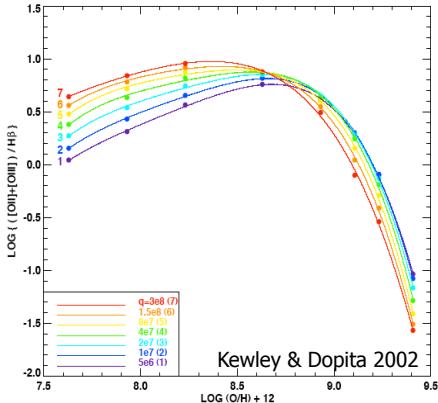
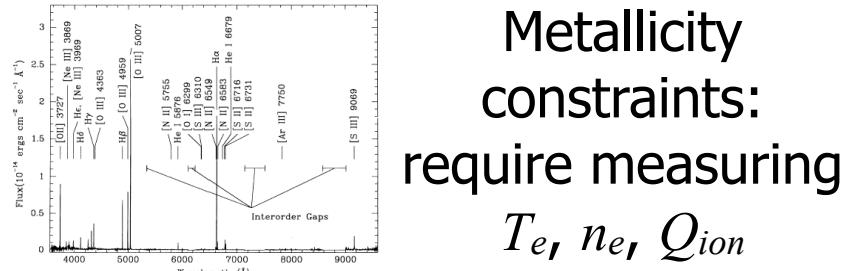


Fig. 4 -- The $\log([O\text{ II}] \lambda 3727 + [O\text{ III}] \lambda\lambda 4959, 5007/\text{H}\beta)$ (R_{23}) diagnostic for abundance versus metallicity. Curves for each ionization parameter between $q = 5 \times 10^6$ to $3 \times 10^8 \text{ cm/s}$ are shown. Filled circles represent the data points from our models at metallicities from left to right of 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.0 Z_\odot . This figure is available in color from the on-line version of this article.

53

Fewer Metals = Less Cooling
Hotter Temp = Stronger O lines

- Metal lines are the principal coolants for the ISM
- When metals are absent, cooling is inefficient
- When cooling is inefficient, the ISM is hotter
- When the ISM is hotter, upper levels of higher ionization lines are more populated



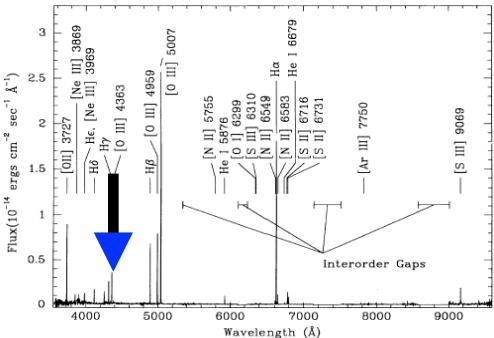
Q_{ion} : Constrain using photoionization models (usually constrains U instead)

n_e : Use “density sensitive” line ratios like $[\text{SII}]6716\text{\AA}, 6731\text{\AA}$, or $[\text{OII}]3727$ doublet

T_e : Use “temperature sensitive” line ratios like $[\text{OIII}]4363\text{\AA}, 5007\text{\AA}$

54

Difficulty measuring T_e with $[\text{OIII}]4363\text{\AA}$



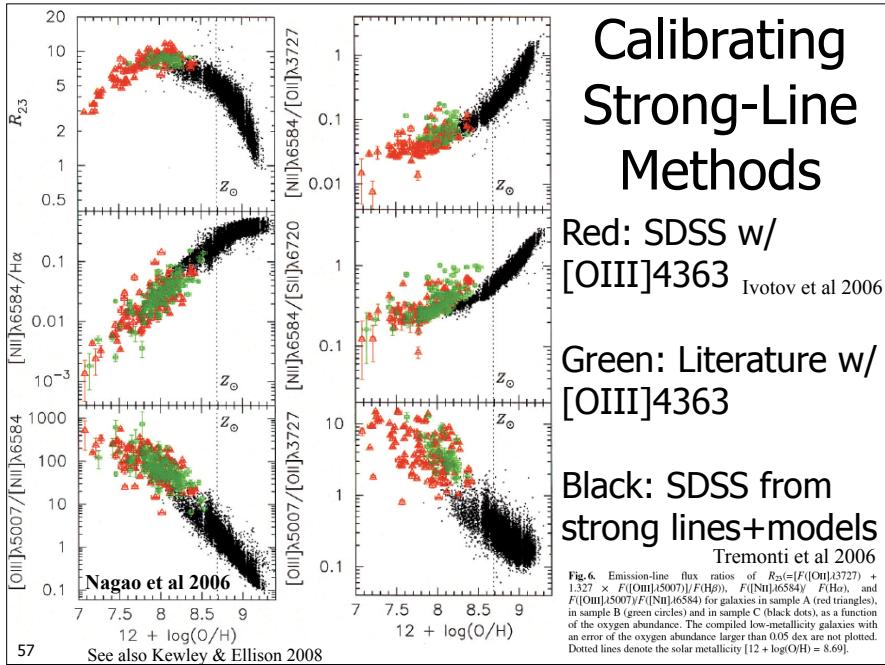
- This is a weak line! Needs high SNR
- Usual approach: Use “weak line” methods to calibrate techniques only using strong lines
- Or, use theoretical “grids” of line ratios as a function of U and Z .

“Strong Line Methods”

- “R23” method -- Uses $[\text{OII}], [\text{OIII}], \text{H}\beta$ lines
- Pilyugin P-Method -- like R23, but with empirical correction for ionization parameter
- “N2” -- $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- “O3N2” -- $([\text{OIII}]/\text{H}\beta) / ([\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha)$
- “N2O2” -- $[\text{NII}]/[\text{OII}]$

Note: Should correct for stellar absorption lines, particular for Balmer lines

56



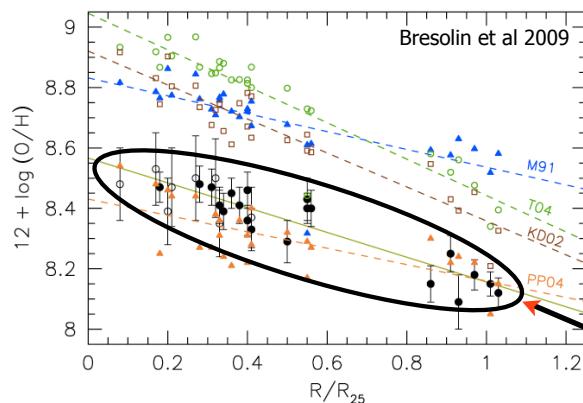
Calibrating Strong-Line Methods

Red: SDSS w/
 [OIII]4363 Ivotov et al 2006

Green: Literature w/
 [OIII]4363

Black: SDSS from
 strong lines+models Tremonti et al 2006

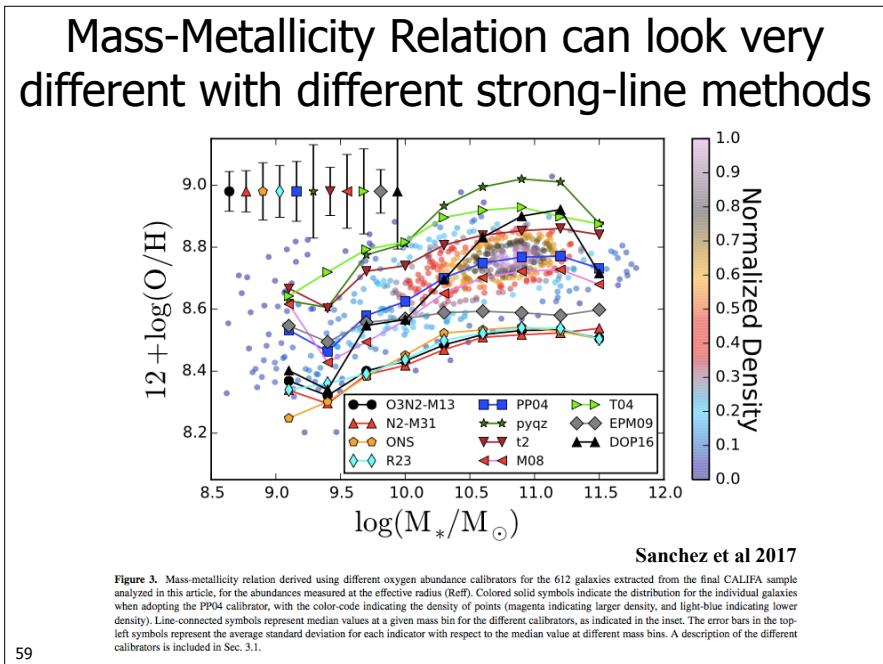
Calibrating Strong Line Methods:



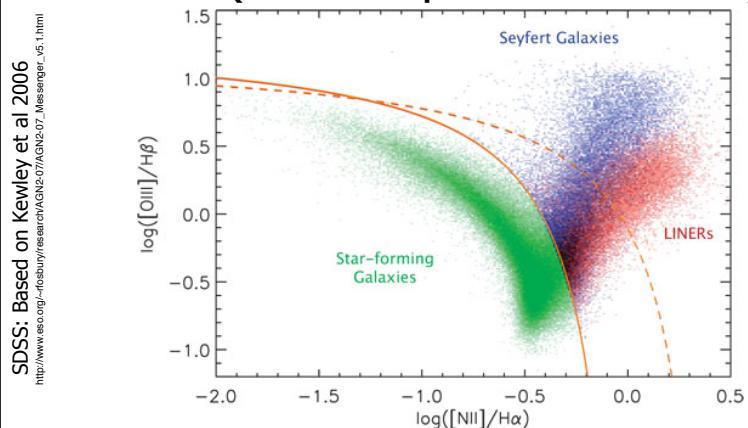
Many common strong line indicators are biased high

Ground truth from stellar spectroscopy of young stars + weak line methods

Figure 12. Galactocentric distribution of the abundance values obtained from different strong-line methods and calibrations: R_{23} (McGaugh 1991: M91, blue triangles; Tremonti et al. 2004: T04, green circles), $[\text{N II}]/[\text{O II}]$ (Kewley & Dopita 2002: KD02, open squares), and N2 (Pettini & Pagel 2004: PP04, orange triangles). Linear least-squares fits are shown by the dashed lines, and labeled with the appropriate reference. The direct abundances determined from our work are shown by the full and open circle symbols, and the corresponding linear fit is shown by the continuous line (same as in Figure 10). Dotted lines denote the solar metallicity ($12 + \log(\text{O/H}) = 8.69$).



Caveats: Line ratios also affected by AGN (shocks+photoionization)



Other groups using SDSS calibration to create line ratio + color or line ratio + mass AGN vs SF galaxy classification for high-z work (Juneau et al 2011, Yan 2011)

“BPT Diagram”: Baldwin, Phillips, & Terlevich 1981

Can use other lines as well. Useful for identifying AGN

Basic Metallicity Results

Mass-metallicity correlation

Evidence for mass dependent metal loss

Possible correlation w/ SFR

Evolves w/ redshift

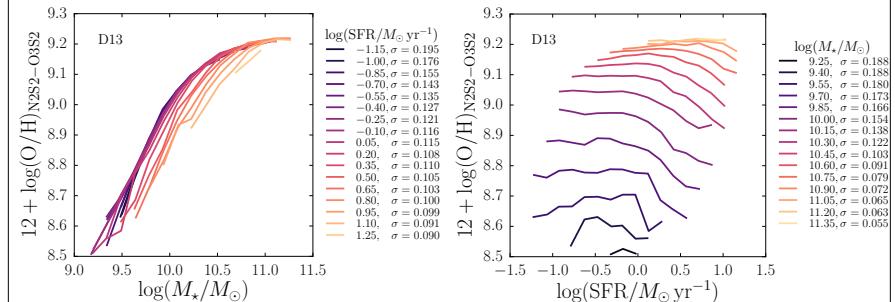
Bulge vs disk metallicities

Metallicity gradients within disks

Metallicity and α -enhancement in ellipticals

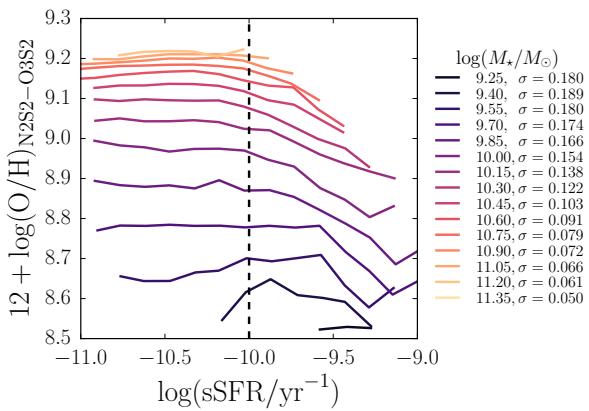
61

Possible secondary dependence of metallicity on SFR



First popularized by Manucci et al 2010
(M-Z-SFR relation)

62 Telford et al 2016



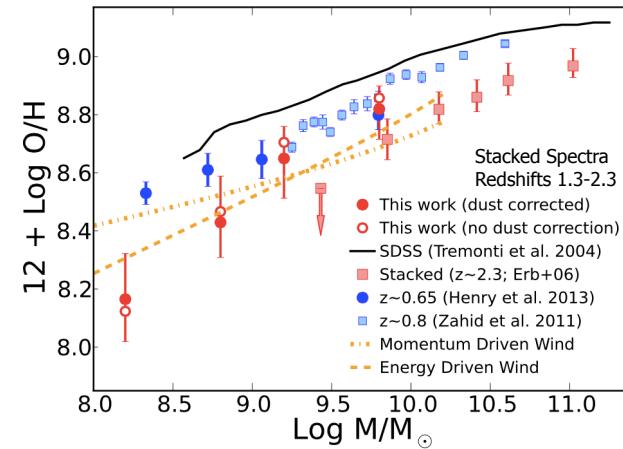
Origin and/
or strength
of effect is
unclear.

Some argue
infall driven
bursts. But,
many
systematics,
effect weak
in IFU data

Figure 8. Recasting the M_* – Z –SFR relation in terms of specific SFR. Analogous to the right panel of Figure 5 but using $\log(\text{sSFR})$ instead of $\log(\text{SFR})$. Metallicities are calculated using the fiducial D13 abundance diagnostic grid (N2S2–O3S2). All bins have 0.15 dex width in each $\log(M_*)$ and $\log(\text{sSFR})$ and each bin contains at least 50 galaxies. The dashed line at $\log(\text{sSFR}/\text{yr}^{-1}) = -10$ is shown for reference; 18,960 galaxies (14.5 % of the sample) lie to the right of this line. This figure demonstrates that metallicity is only strongly anti-correlated with sSFR in the high sSFR regime.

63 Telford et al 2016

Mass-Metallicity Evolves w/ Redshift

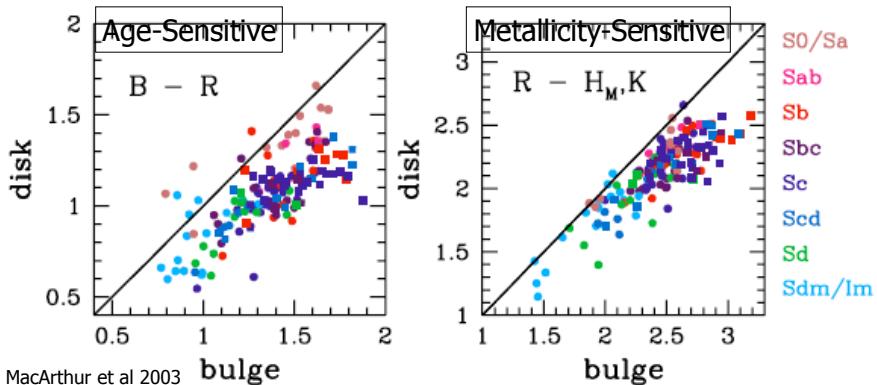


Henry et al 2013

Fraught with peril, but would be surprised if it didn't evolve.

64

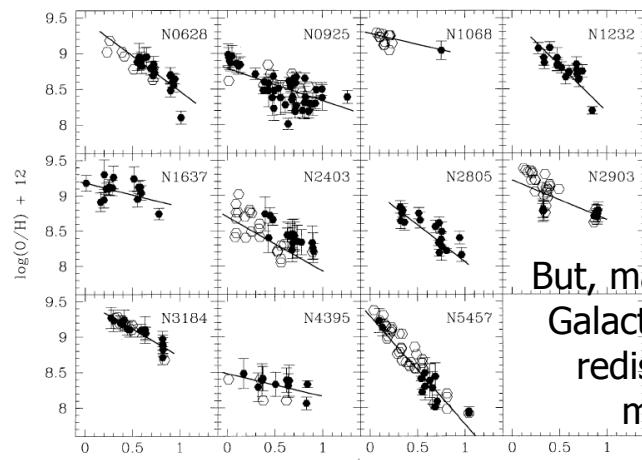
Example: Disk vs Bulge colors



- Bulges are redder in B-R (older)
- Bulges are redder in R-K (more metal rich)

65

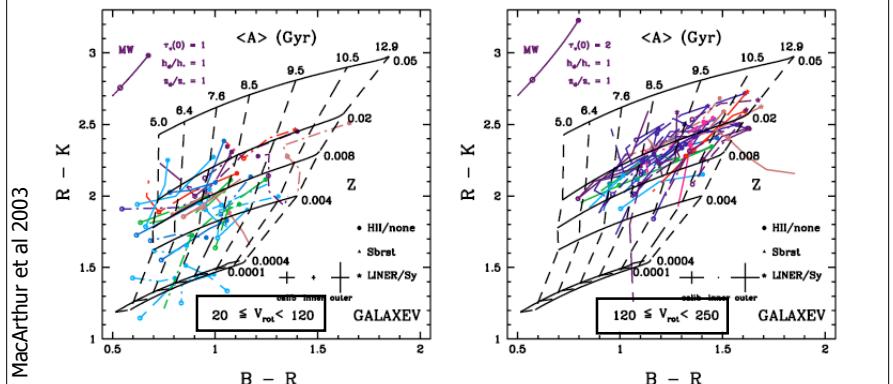
Within disks, metallicity gradients are common



Non-zero scatter at fixed radius, however.

But, many are flat. Galactic fountain redistributing metals?

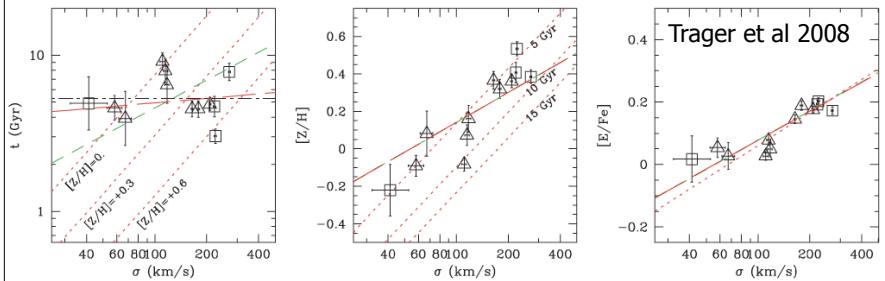
Internal gradients w/ stars are weaker, and dominated by age



Is this radial differences in metal loss? in gas accretion? in gas fraction?

67

Application: Ellipticals in Coma



More Massive Ellipticals have:
Higher metallicity
More alpha-enhancement

(No trend with age apparent, but luminosity weighted, so small “frosting” of SF at $z \sim 0.3$ could mask underlying age trend)

68