



*From Low Metallicity Unresolved Dwarf
Galaxies to Resolved Scales in the LMC*

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Some questions: Star formation and low metallicity ISM

Why do we care about low mass local universe dwarf galaxies?

- Small, faint, low Z, numerous...
- analogs to high z (Ouchi et al 2020)
- dominant sources of reionization of the universe. (Katz et al 2023; Atek et al. 2024)

What are the effects of low Z on the ISM ?

- Less metals in the gas – effects on gas cooling
- Less dust overall => less dust to shield each parcel of gas from UV
 - Molecule formation – depends on dust formation

How ISM properties & structure evolve as a function of metallicity

Consequences of low Z ISM on Star Formation

- How do stars form out of gas and dust in metal-deficient environments?
- Feedback from star formation and its effect in low Z ISM ?

What galactic properties and processes control the dust and gas evolution?

- **Modeling** unresolved dwarfs....disentangling ISM structure, radiation field, SF, etc
- **Our immediate goal here -> quantify the CO-dark gas**
- *We are rich in data at all wavelengths – better multiphase models & simulations necessary*

Zoom into our nearest neighbor low metallicity galaxies:

- The Magellanic Clouds - -> SOFIA LMC+ Legacy Program – **Work in progress**

Gas and Star Formation in Dwarfs: MIR & FIR spectro *observations*

How do dwarfs stand out observationally? => 3 unique observational signatures

(1) Cold ISM difficult to observe: Tacconi+1985, 1987, Sage+1992, Taylor+1998, Gondhalekar+1998, Barrone+2000, Leroy+2005,2007, Buyle+2006,Schruba+ 2012, Elmegreen+2013, Cormier+2014, Hunt+2015, Rubio+2015Shi +2015, Grossi+2016, Cormier+2017, Amorin+2016, Hunt+2017, Cicone+2017, Zhou+2021...

=> CO many upper limits; not detected at the lowest metallicities, inspite of their vigorous SF

(2) Bright [CII] 158 μ m, relative to CO

(3) Prominent MIR high ionization lines ($>\sim 35$ eV)

LMC+ Motivation: Observations: #1. Gas and Star Formation in Dwarfs

Global scales

Kennicutt Schmidt; Kennicutt + 1998
See also Kennicutt et de Los Reyes 2021

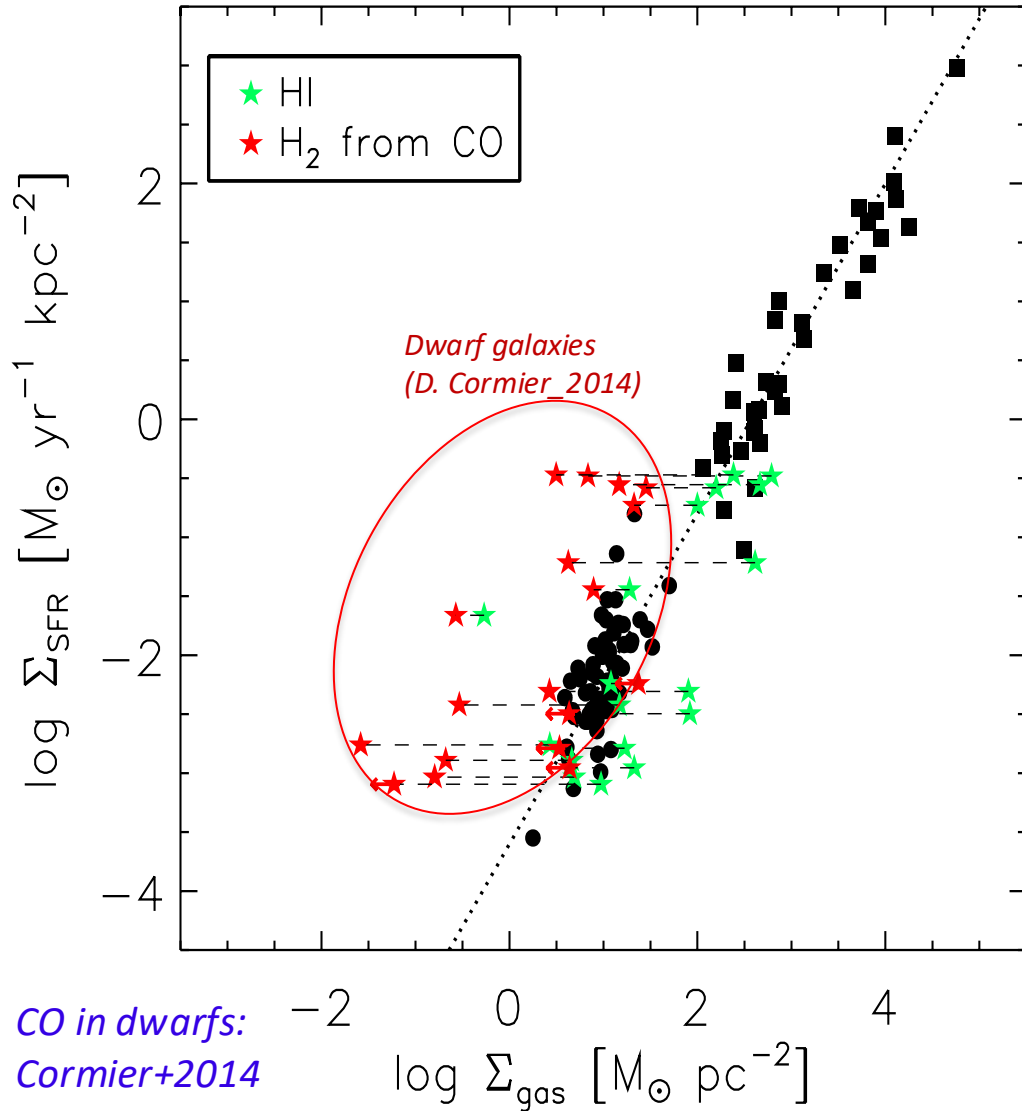
Molecular gas is weak or undetectable in dwarf galaxies

(e.g. Leroy+2012, Schruba +2012, Cormier + 2014, Hunt + 2015, Grossi + 2016, Amorin + 2016)

⇒ Efficient SF from H₂?

or CO not tracing the full H₂ mass?

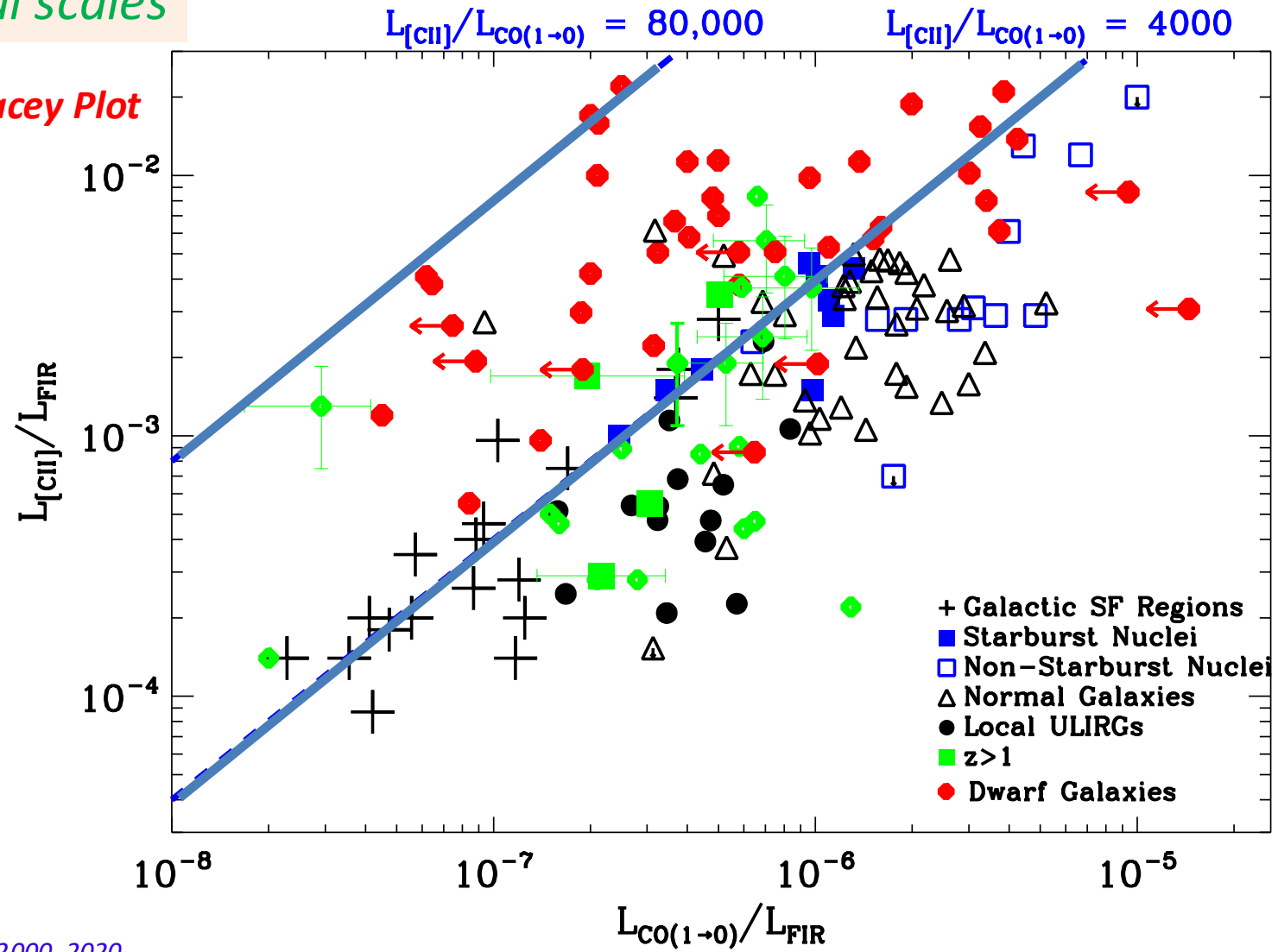
⇒ What is the role & distribution of the different gas reservoirs in the SF process?



LMC+ Motivation: Observations #2. [CII] and CO in dwarfs vs. metal-rich galaxies

Global scales

The Stacey Plot

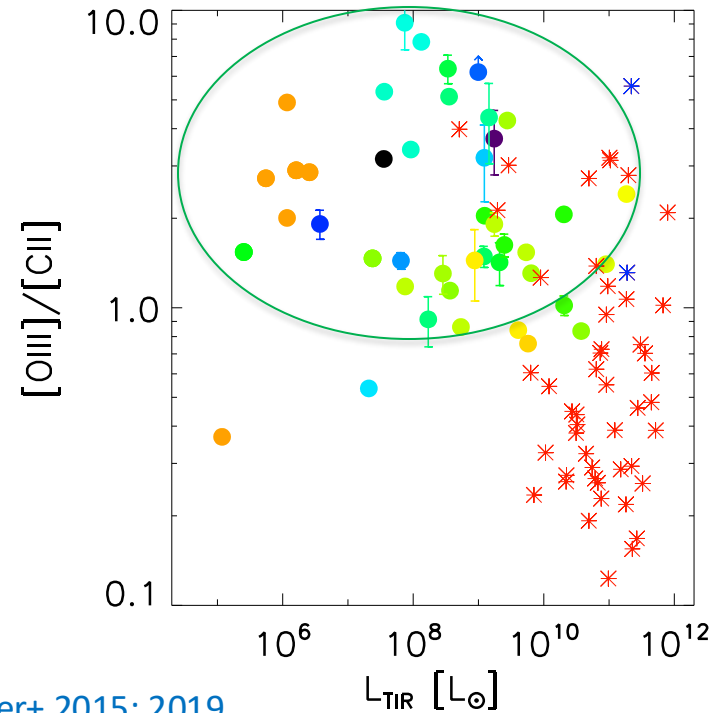
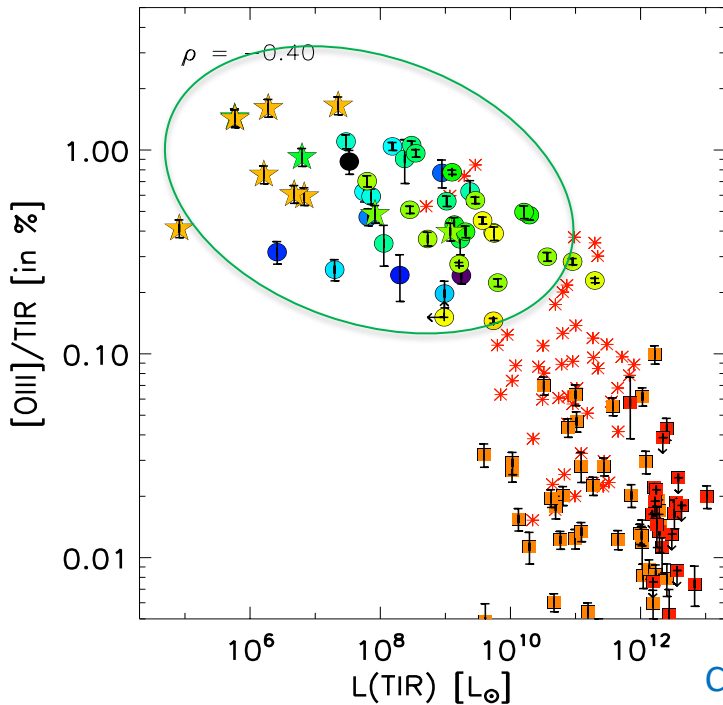


High [CII]/CO ratios observed in star-forming dwarf galaxies

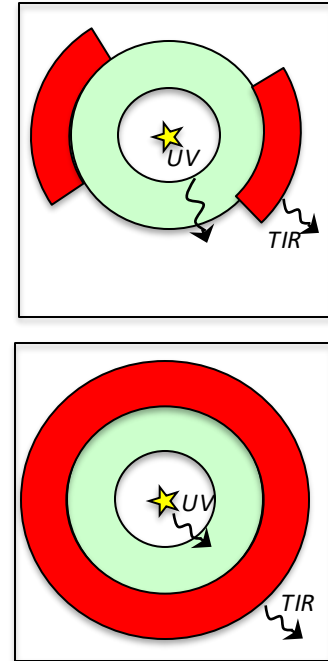
What is this telling us about the molecular cloud/PDR structure at low metallicities?

Madden + 2000, 2020
Gullberg + 2015, Aravena + 2016; Maiolino + 2005, Wang + 2013,
Figure adapted from:
Stacey + 1991, 2010, Hailey-Dunsheath et al. 2010,

Gas and Star Formation in Dwarfs #3. $[\text{OIII}]/\text{LTIR}$, $[\text{OIII}]/[\text{CII}]$



Cormier+ 2015; 2019



- * Brauher et al. 2008
- Farrah et al. 2013
- Gracia-Carpio et al. 2011
- Cormier et al. 2015

- High $[\text{OIII}] (35 \text{ eV})/L_{\text{TIR}}$ &
- High $[\text{OIII}](35\text{eV})/[\text{CII}] (11.3 \text{ eV})$
- High $[\text{NeIII}] (41.0\text{eV}) / [\text{NeII}] (21.6\text{eV})$
- $[\text{SIV}] (34.8\text{eV}) / [\text{SIII}] (23.3\text{eV})$

See also Fernandez-Ontiveros 2016

SMC: K. Jameson + 2018

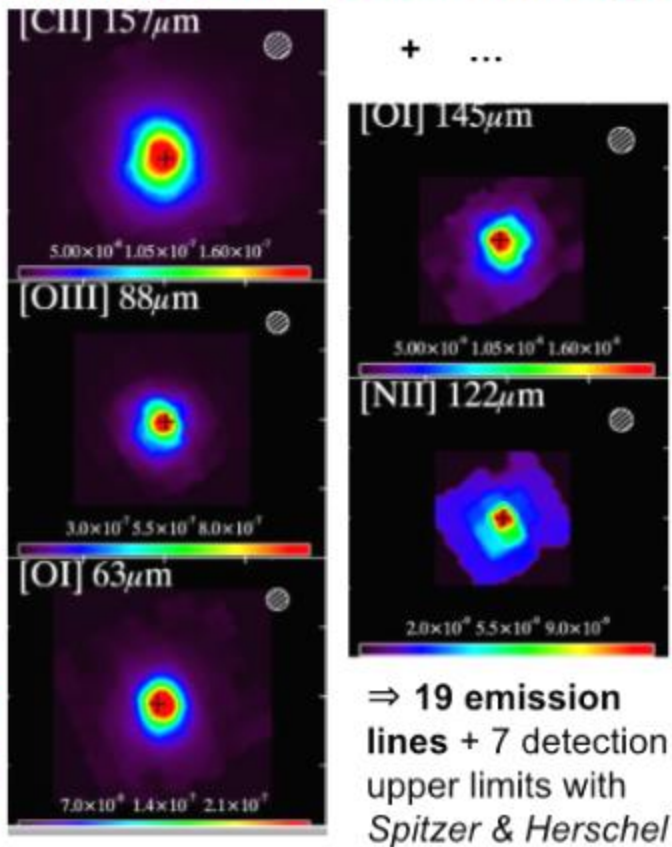
LMC: A. Lambert-Huyghe

ISM structure at low Z: VERY porous, clumpy. Small covering factor of PDRs. High filling factor of diffuse gas where hard UV photons escape from HII regions.

The Multiphase ISM in Dwarf Galaxies

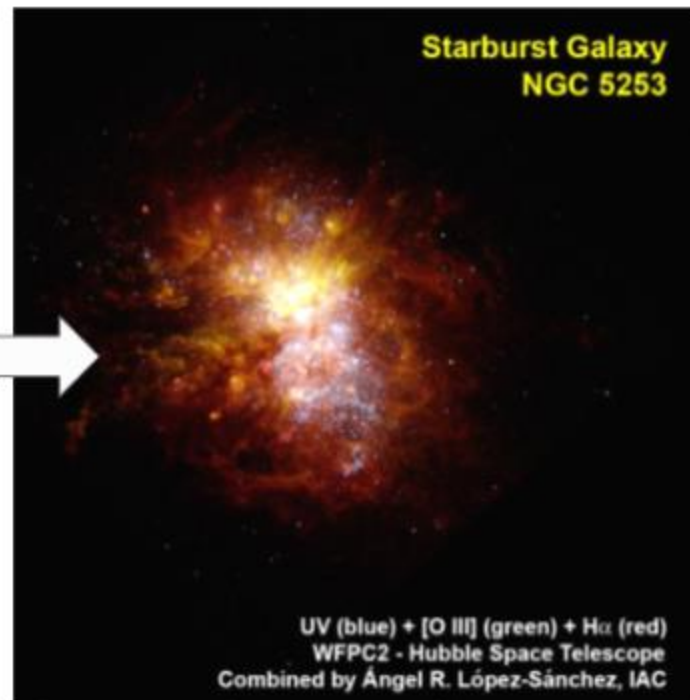
Modeling: Linking ionized & neutral gas phases

Spatially unresolved emission of spectral lines



How to use the observations to describe the multiphase ISM of unresolved galaxies

Multiphase distribution of the ISM



López-Sánchez et. al (2007)

Modeling the Multiphase ISM of dwarfs SBS0335-052

(2 component Cloudy modeling. Cormier+2019)



SBS0335-052

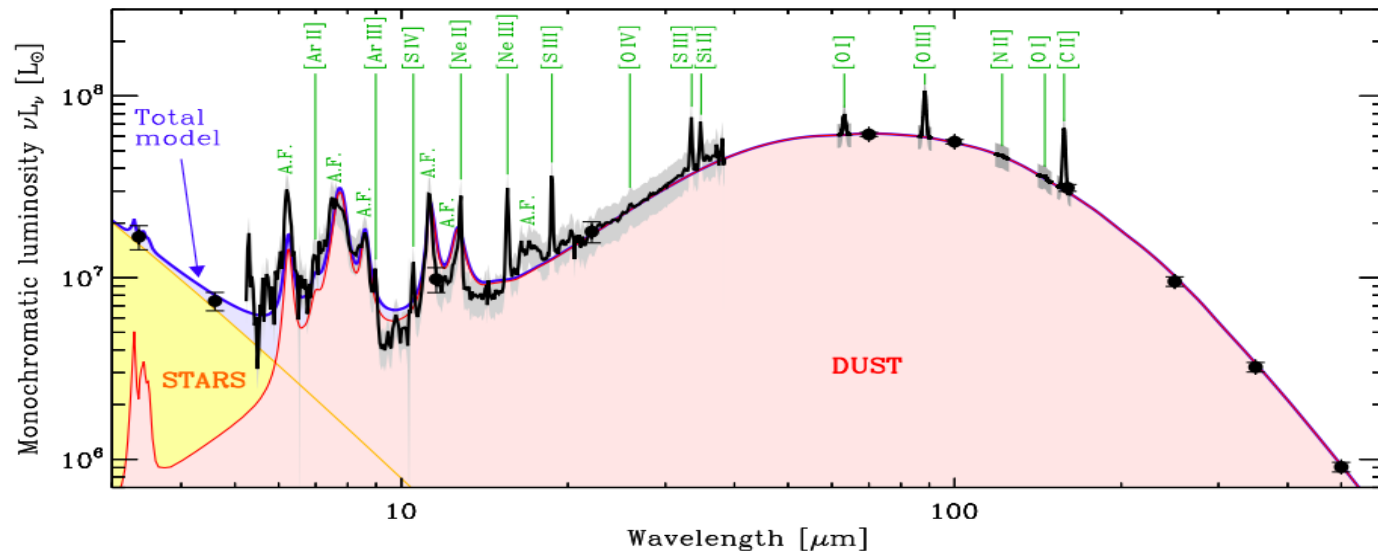
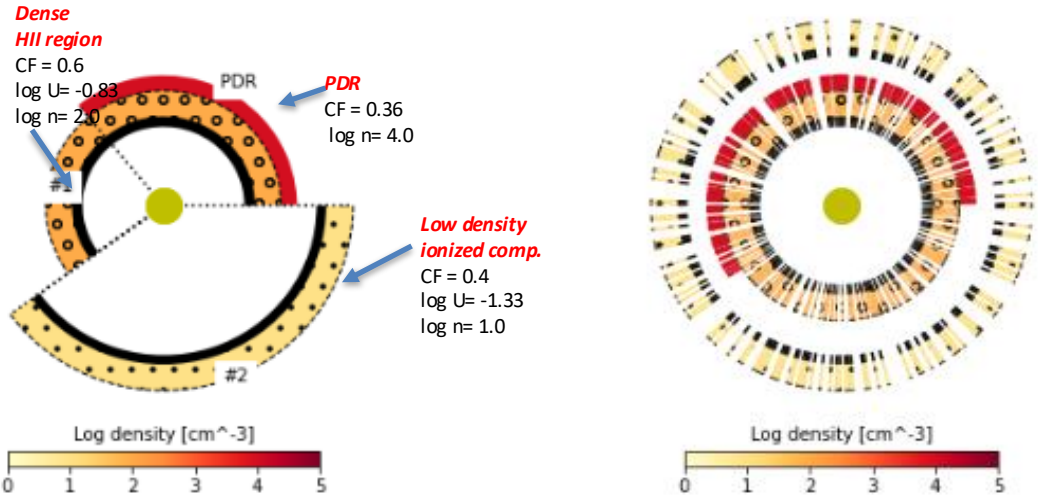
Dense HII region:
 $n=100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\log U = -0.83$, covering factor 60%

Diffuse ionized component: $n=10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\log U = -1.33$, covering factor = 40%

PDR: $n=10000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, covering factor = 30%

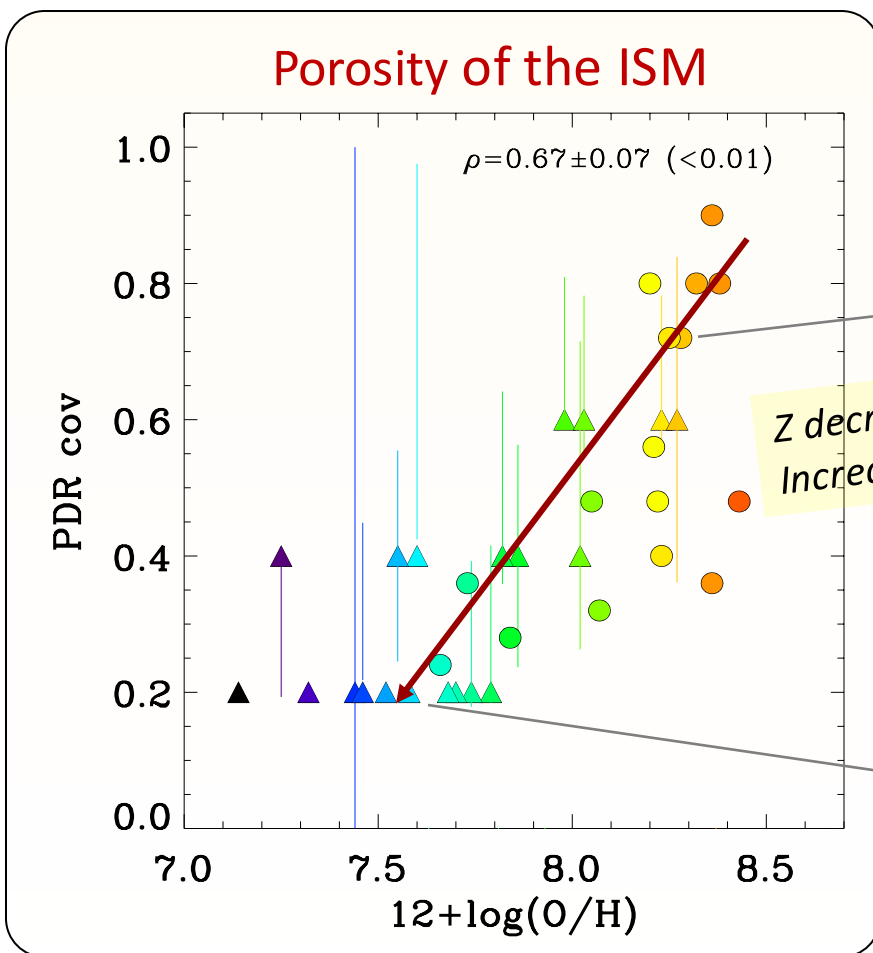
SBS0335-052

Two component model

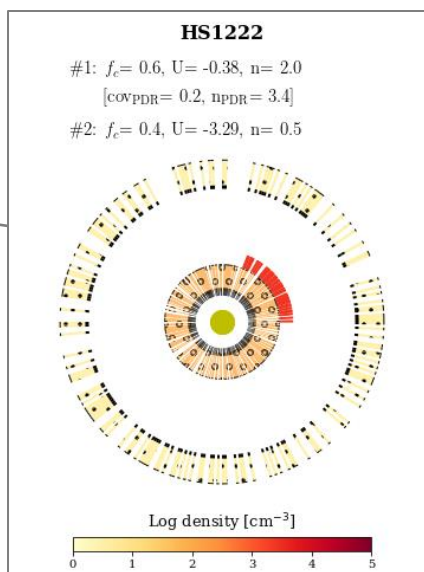
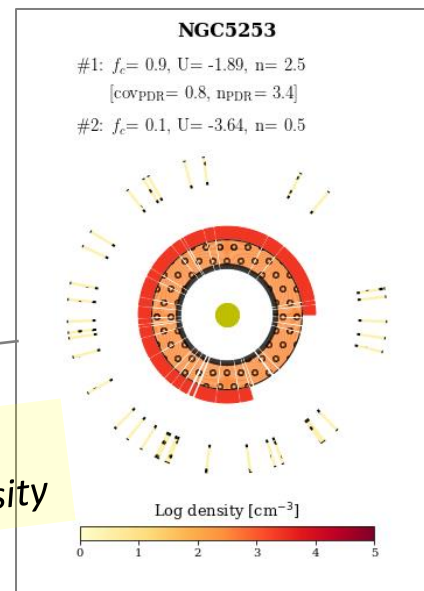


Modeling of the ISM –MIR-FIR lines to physical conditions & ISM structure

Cormier et al. 2019



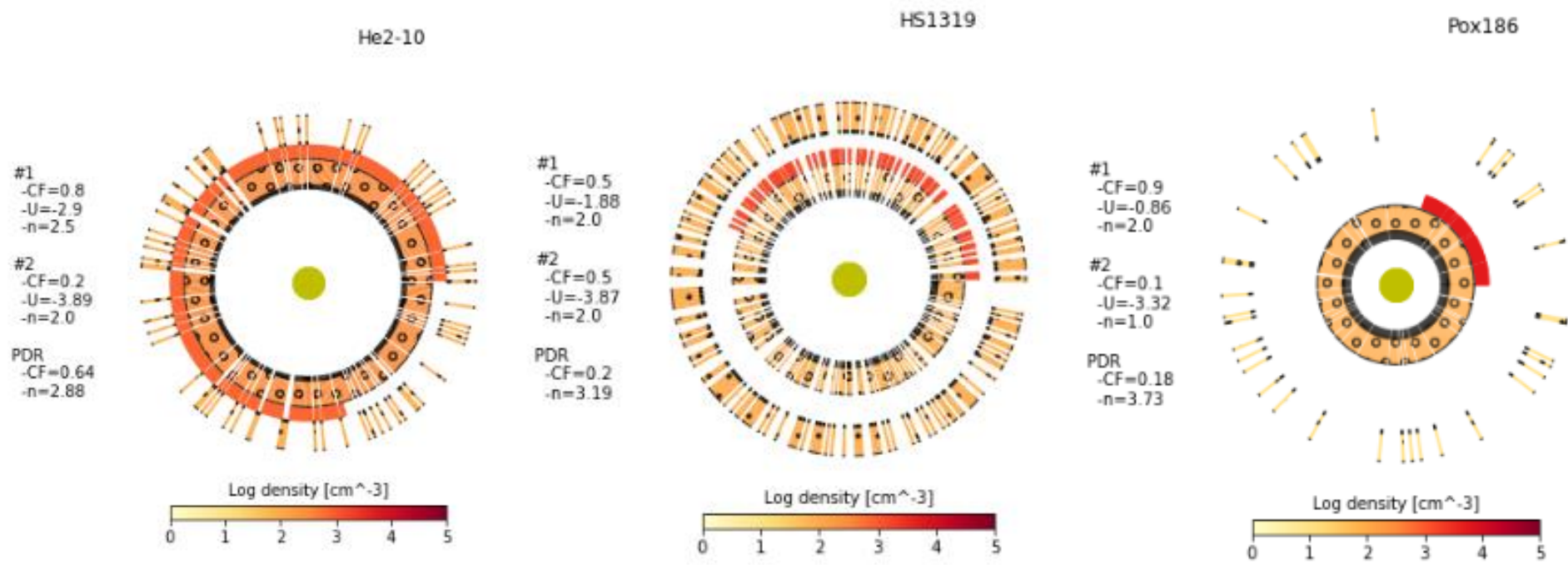
Z decreases =>
Increasing porosity



PDR covering factor: fraction of solid angle of PDR gas covering the ionization source. (Ramambason et al 2022)

Also: Polles et al. 2018 : resolved SF regions in IC10 => matter bounded leaking ionizing photons

Structure and Metallicity Effects: covering factor of PDR



Metallicity (Z) decreasing



PDR Covering factor decreases

How much H_2 is there really in SF dwarfs while CO is barely detectable?

Quantify the CO-dark gas in dwarf galaxies

Hydrodynamical simulations of dwarf galaxies

(e.g. Krumholz 2012, Glover & Clark 2012, Hu+2016, 2017, Forbes+2016., Gong+2018, Seifried+2022, Hu+2023),, Ebagezio+2023

How much H₂ is there in SF dwarf galaxies while CO is barely detectable?

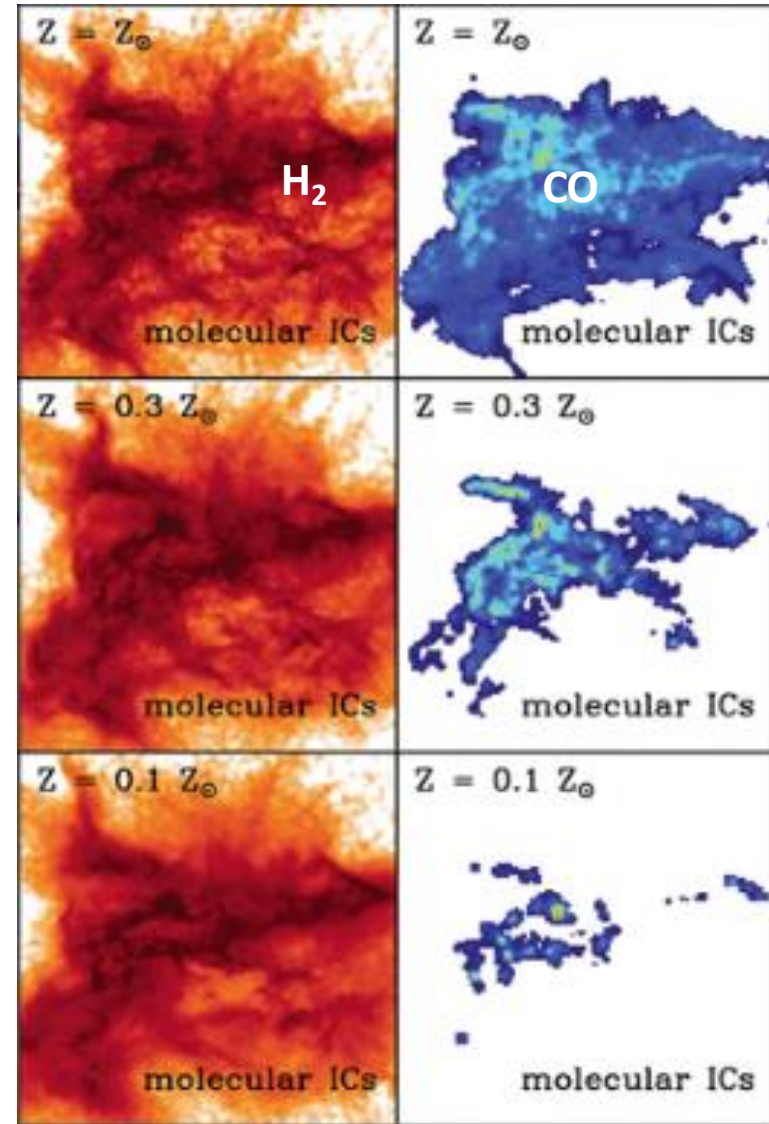
How much H₂ are we missing by using CO ?

Is this H₂ reservoir playing an important role in SF in dwarfs?

Local dwarfs (IC10, LMC, SMC, NGC6822)

10-100 times more CO-dark than CO-bright gas mass:

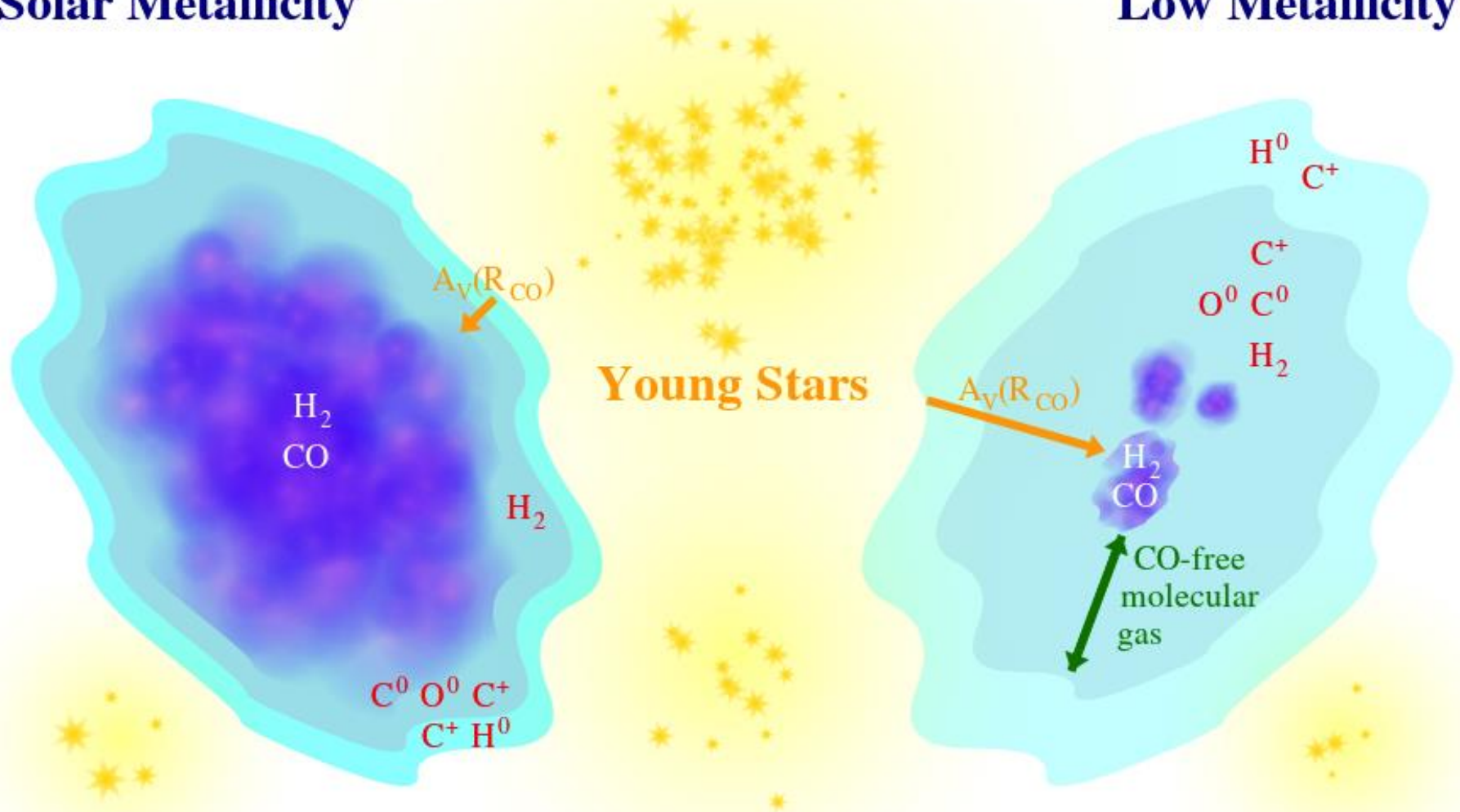
e.g. Poglitsch +1995, Israel +1997, Madden+1997, Leroy+2011; Togi&Smith 2016; Jameson+2018



Low metallicity effects – where is the CO-dark gas?

Solar Metallicity

Low Metallicity



Modeling of the ISM –MIR-FIR lines to physical conditions & ISM structure

What is the total H_2 in galaxies? From [CII] to The CO-dark gas

$M(H_2)_{\text{total}}$ from our models

$M(H_2)_{\text{CO}}$ from observations

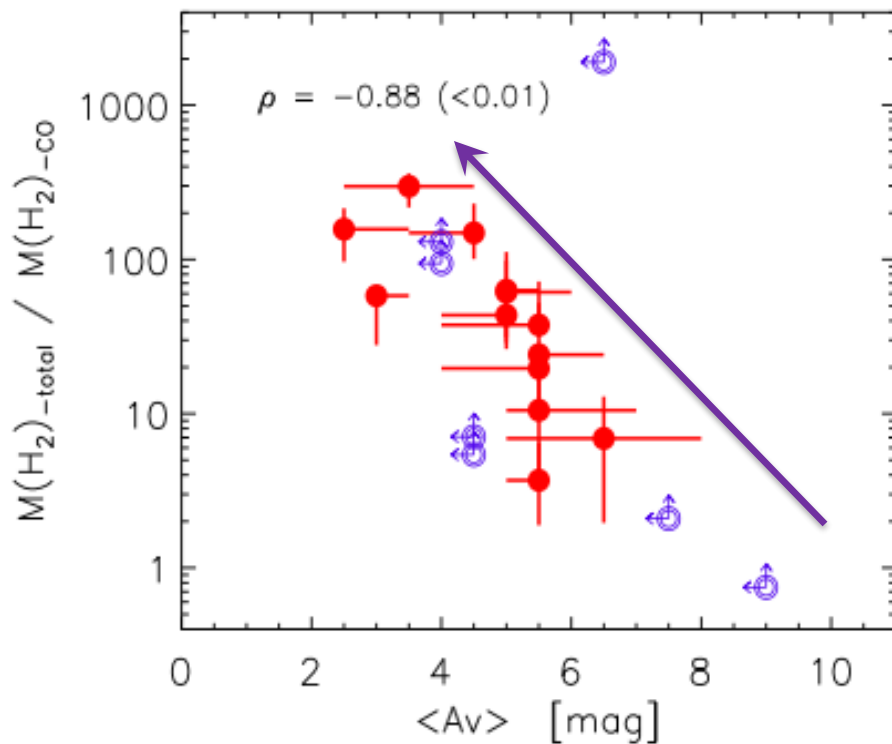
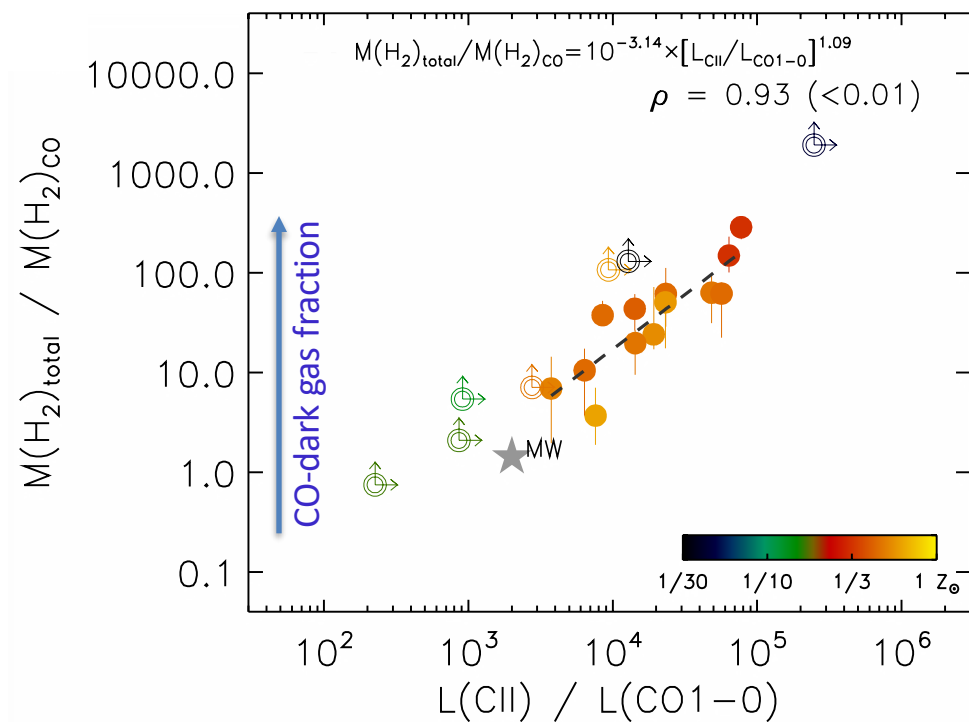
$M(\text{CO-dark gas}) = M(H_2)_{\text{total}} - M(H_2)_{\text{CO}}$

Modeling of the ISM –MIR-FIR lines to physical conditions & ISM structure

What is the total H_2 in galaxies? From [CII] to The CO-dark gas

$M(H_2)_{total}$ from model
 $M(H_2)_{CO}$ from observations
 $M(CO\text{-dark gas}) = M(H_2)_{total} - M(H_2)_{CO}$

Madden + 2020



$L_{[CII]}/L_{CO}$ (observed) \Rightarrow CO-dark gas fraction

CO-dark gas mass fraction & A_V
** $A_V \downarrow \rightarrow$ CO-dark gas fraction \uparrow

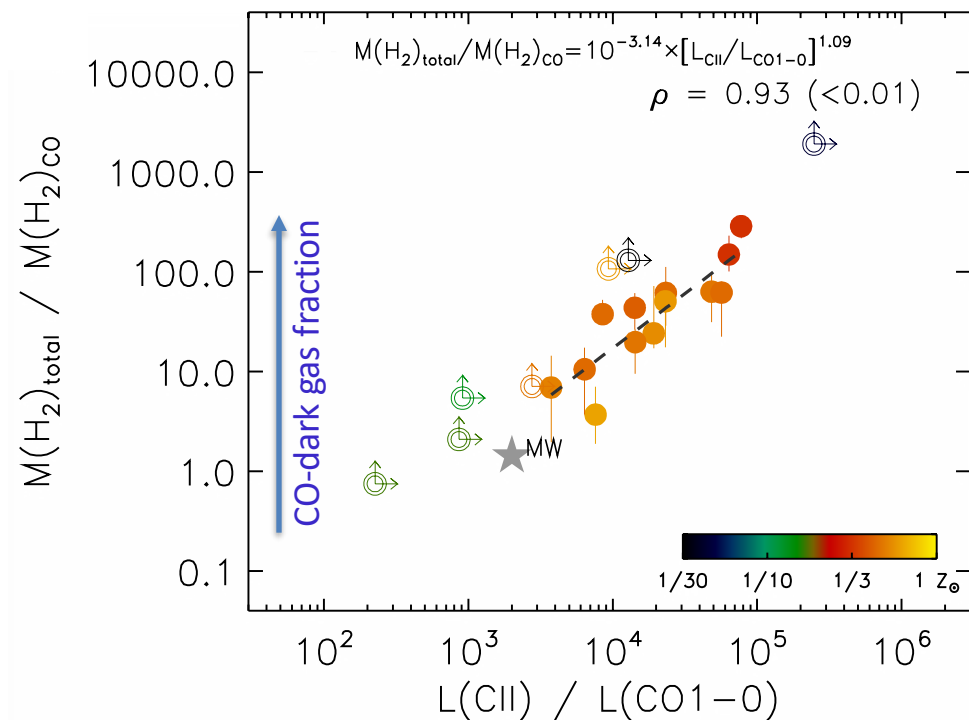
See also e.g. Accurso +2017; Gong + 2018; Li + 2018, Zanella + 2018; Bisbas + 2015, 2017, 2021; Lebouteiller + 2019; Chevance + 2020, Hu + 2016,2021

Modeling of the ISM –MIR-FIR lines to physical conditions & ISM structure

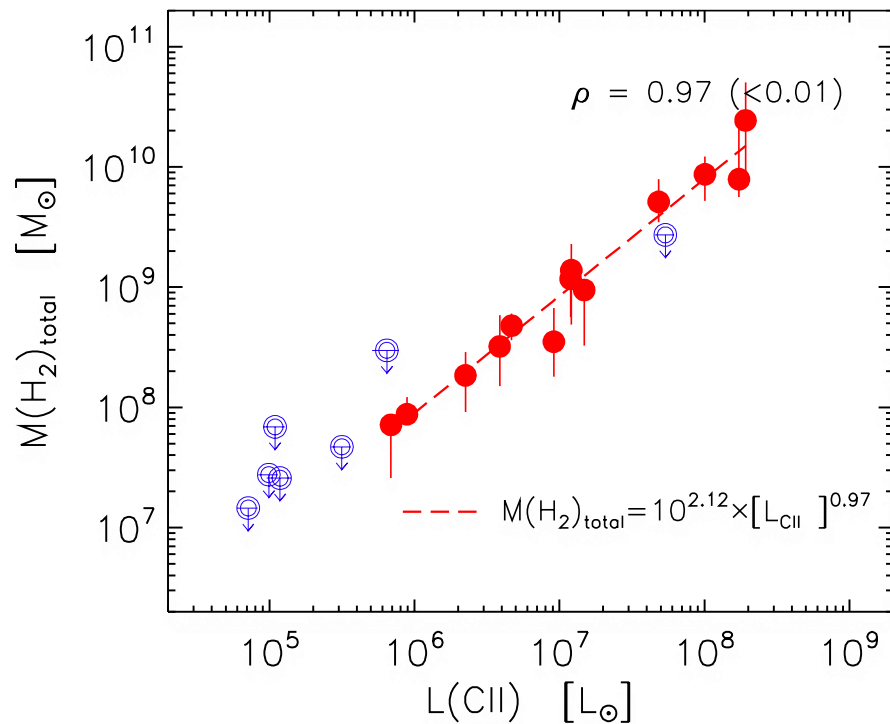
What is the total H₂ in galaxies? From [CII] to The CO-dark gas

$M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{total}}$ from model
 $M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{CO}}$ from observations
 $M(\text{CO-dark gas}) = M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{total}} - M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{CO}}$

Madden + 2020



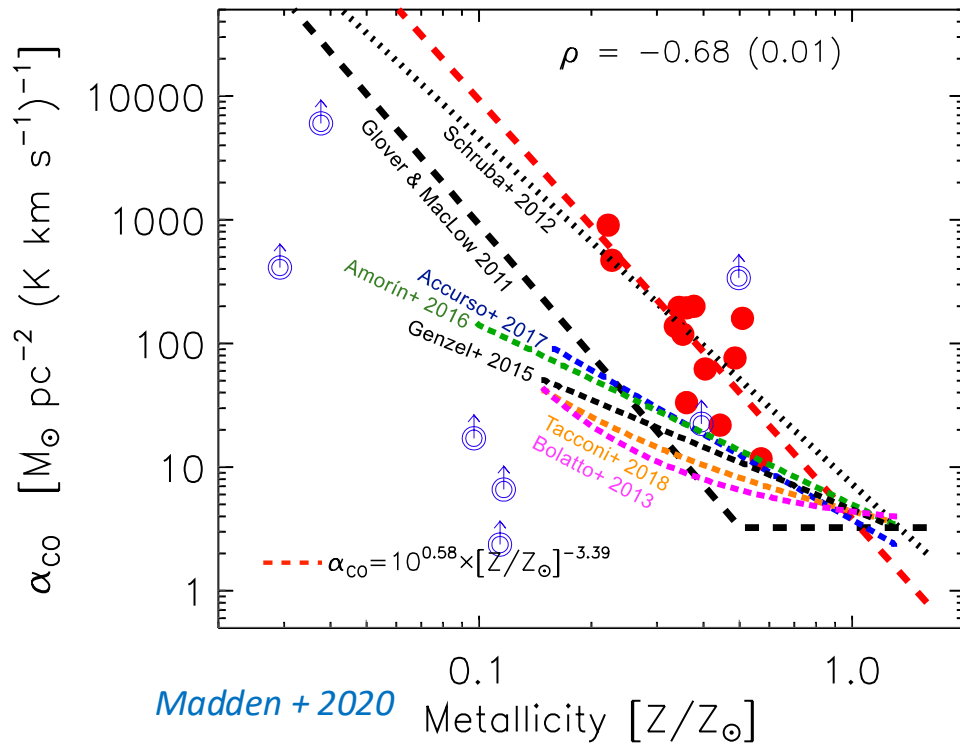
$L_{\text{[CII]}} / L_{\text{CO}}$ (observed) => CO-dark gas fraction



$L_{\text{[CII]}}$ (observed) => Total $M\text{H}_2$ (model)

See also e.g. Accurso +2017; Gong + 2018; Li + 2018, Zanella +
 2018; Bisbas + 2015, 2017, 2021; Lebouteiller + 2019;
 Chevance + 2020, Hu + 2016, 2021

CO-dark H₂ reservoir -> CO-H₂ Conversion Factor & KS



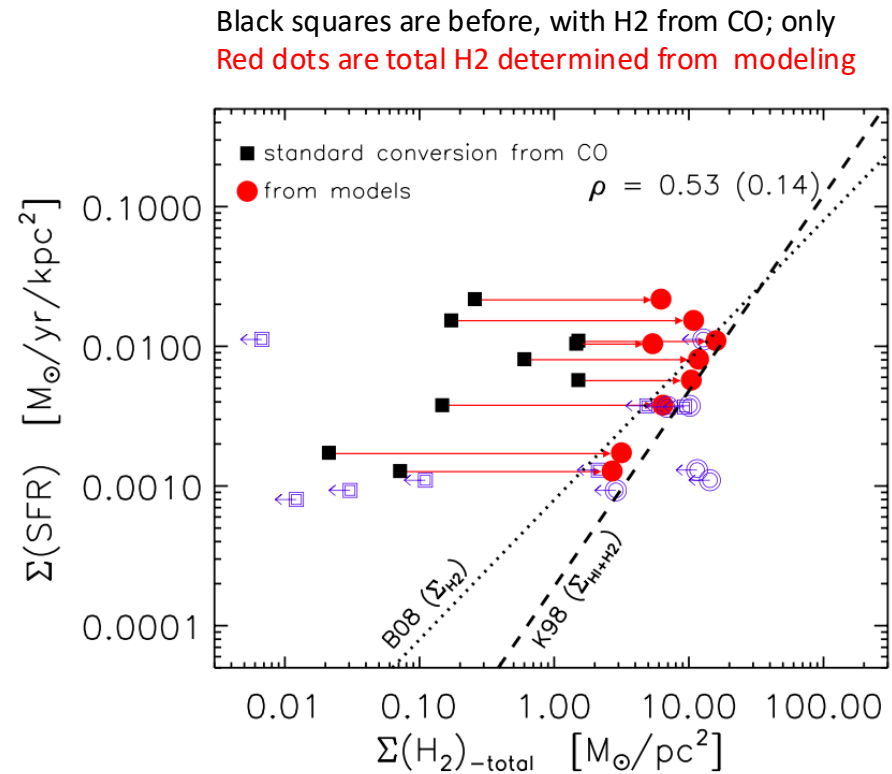
New CO-H₂ conversion factor:

Steeply rising as metallicity is decreasing.

$$\alpha_{\text{CO}} = 10^{0.58} \times [Z/Z_{\odot}]^{-3.39}$$

Revisit Kennicutt-Schmidt relation :

Taking into account the TOTAL (including CO-dark) H₂ brings these galaxies onto the KS-relationship



CO-H₂ Conversion factors vs Metallicity

Most recent modeling of DGS:

Ramambason +2024

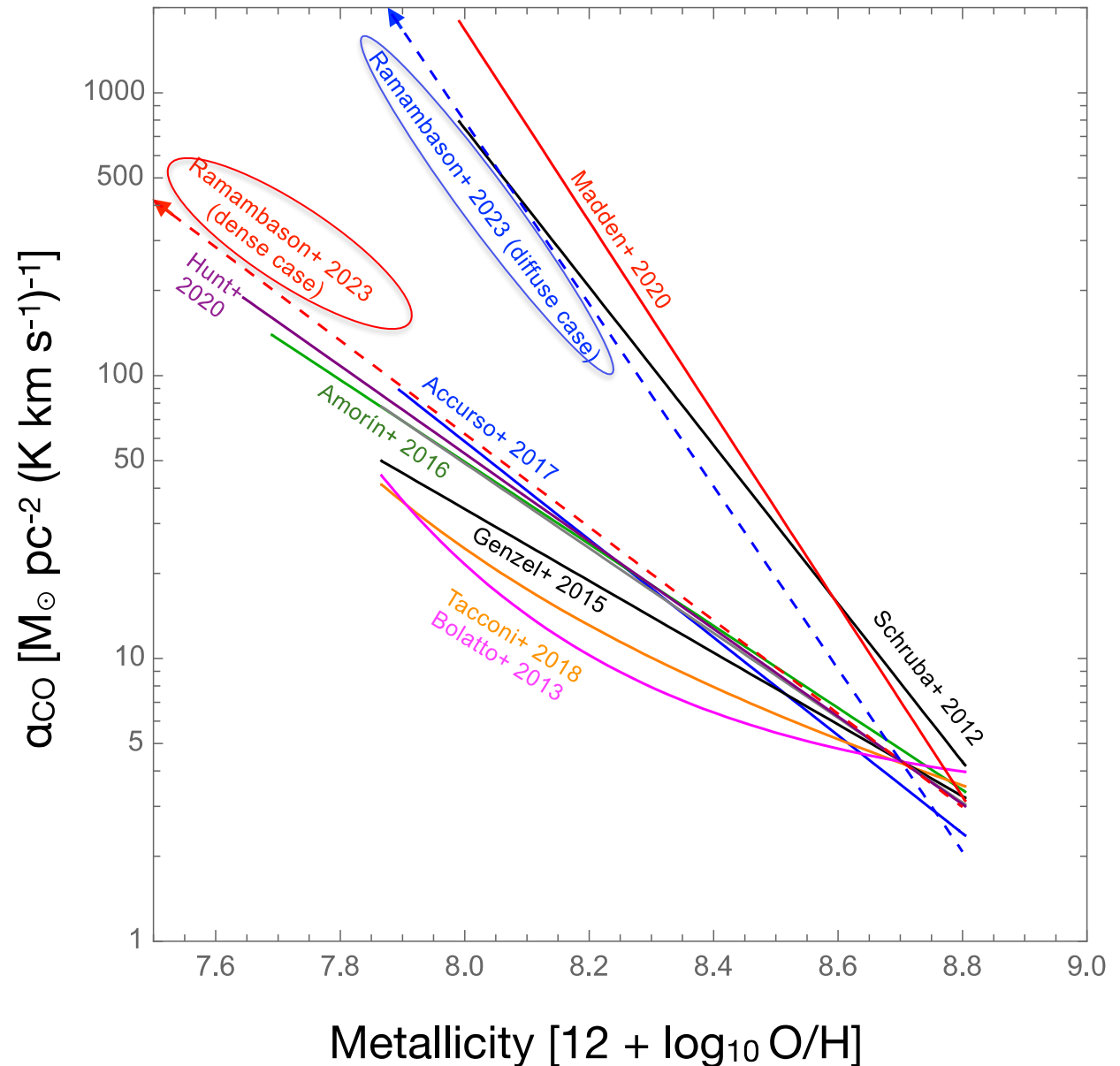
Multisector Bayesian approach with clump distribution

Requires:

A conversion for dense gas case

and

A steeper conversion for diffuse gas case



LMC (D=50 kpc): SOFIA + ALMA CO Maps:
30 Doradus
Southern Molecular Ridge: LMC+ Legacy Program

30 Doradus
Chevance et al. 2020
&
Pabst, et al. In prep.

**Southern
Molecular
Ridge
LMC+**



160 μ m HERITAGE Meixner+ 2010
H α MCELS Smith+
[CII] BICE Mochizuki+ 1994. Rubin+ 2009

LMC+

SOFIA Legacy Program



Image:

Maja Kazmierczak-Barthel

S. Madden, A. Krabbe, C. Fischer, W. Vacca, R. Indebetouw, N. Abel, A. Beck, F. Bigiel, A. Bolatto, M. Chevance, S. Colditz, D. Fadda, M. Finn, M. Galametz, F. Galliano, D. Hu, A. Hughes, C. Iserlohe, M. Kazmierczak-Barthel, R. Klein, A. Lambert-Huyghe, S. Latzko, V. Lebouteiller, A. Poglitsch, F. Polles, M. Rubio, E. Tarantino, H. Zinnecker

SOFIA Joint Legacy Program:

(Madden, Krabbe et al.)

LMC+: [CII] 158 μ m & [OIII] 88 μ m OTF maps
LMC: D= 50kpc Z=0.5Z_o

40' X 20' ~ 600 pc x 300 pc @ 2.5 pc

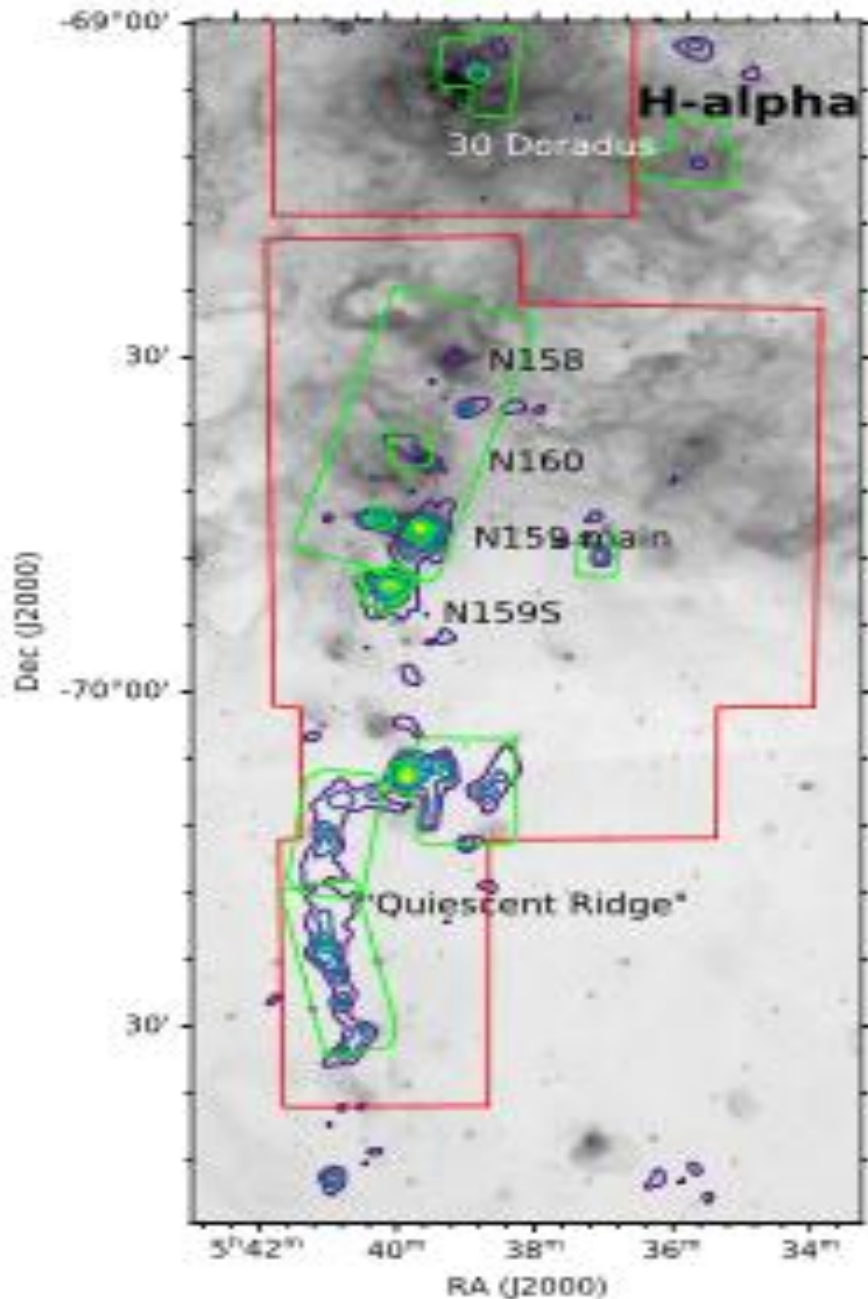
Note:

*30 Dor mapped with FIFI-LS
(Mélanie Chevance presentation today)*

*30Dor mapped with upGREAT
(Cornelia Pabst presentation yesterday)*

Many complementary observations

*Halpa, NIR FIR, ALMA, APEX dense gas tracers
optical, MIR-submm continuum, radio, etc...*



Halpa map & ALMA CO & LMC+ SOFIA region

SOFIA Joint Legacy Program:

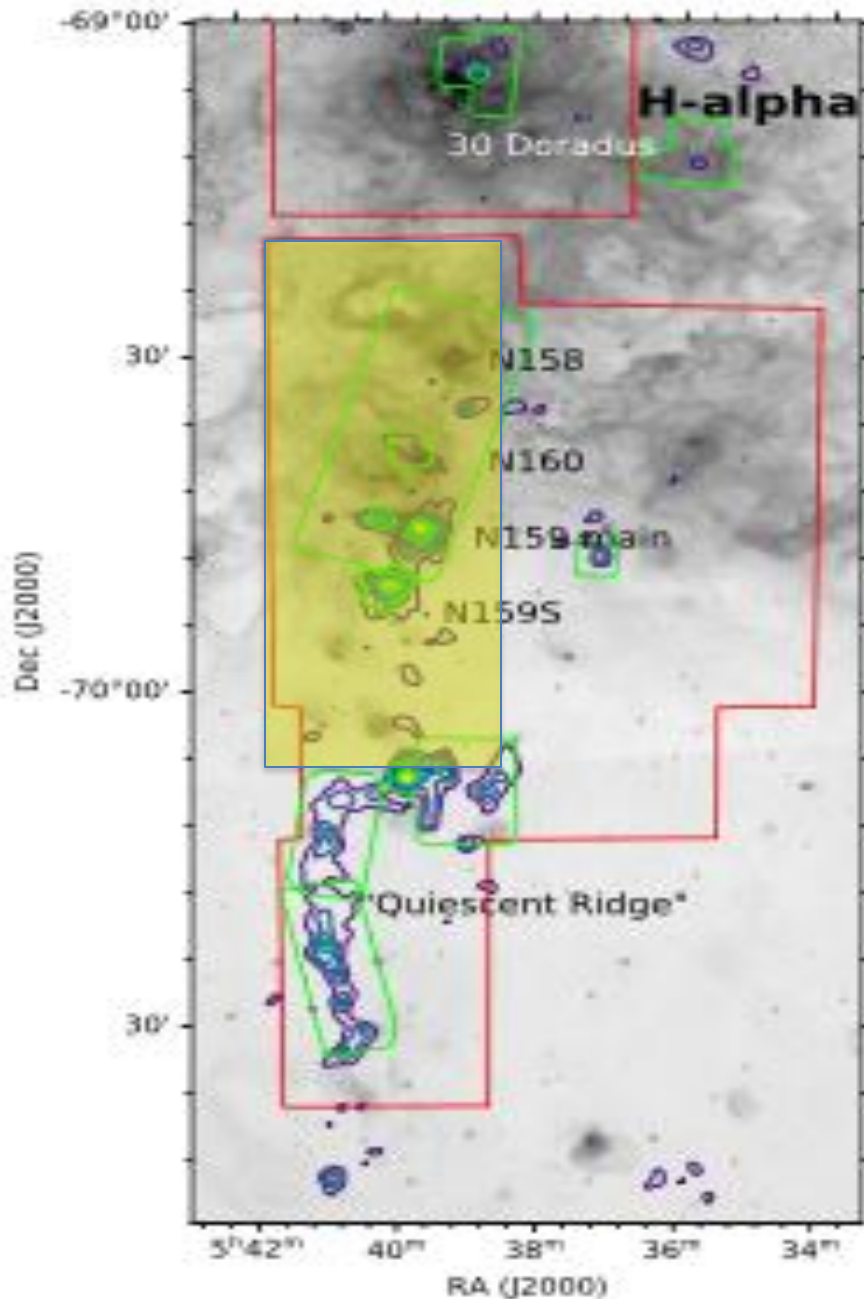
(Madden, Krabbe et al.)

LMC+: [CII] 158 μ m & [OIII] 88 μ m OTF maps
LMC: D= 50kpc Z=0.5Z_o

40' X 20' ~ 600 pc x 300 pc @ 2.5 pc

Major Players observation setup, OTF pipeline, data treatment, X-calibration, etc
-> Christian Fischer, Nadine Fischer, Dario Fadda....

Many complementary observations
Halpa, NIR FIR, ALMA, APEX dense gas tracers
optical, MIR-submm continuum, radio, etc...

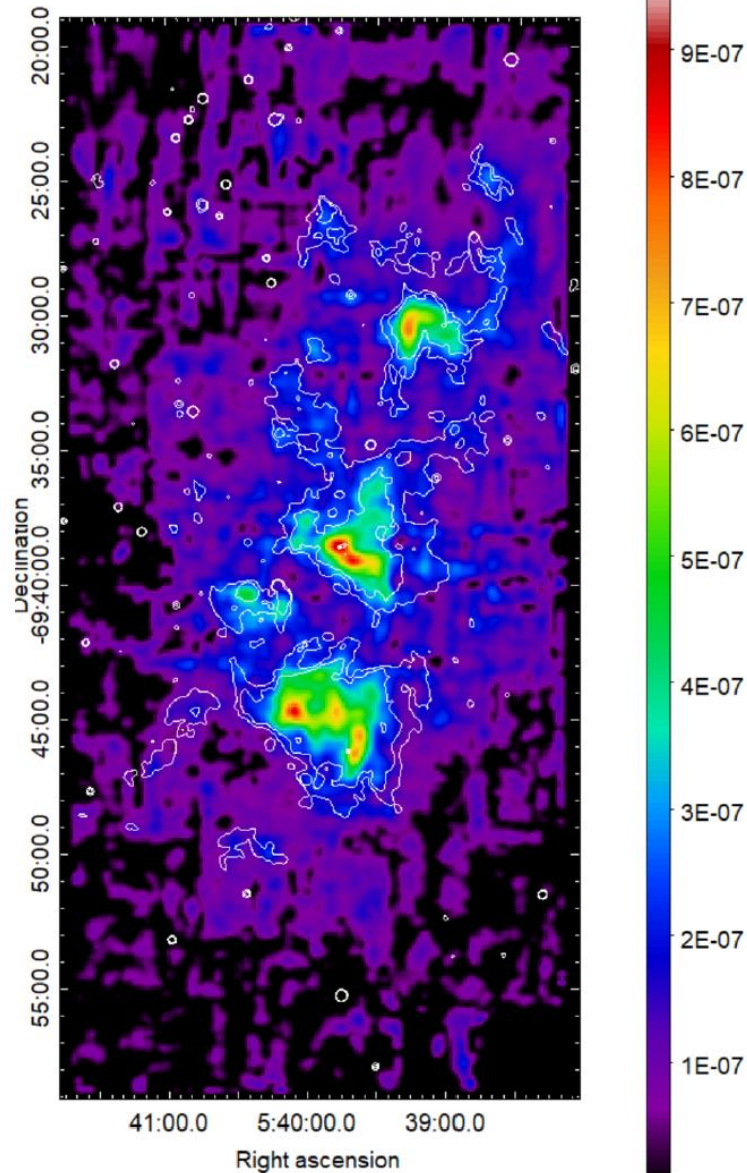


Halpa map & ALMA CO & LMC+ SOFIA region

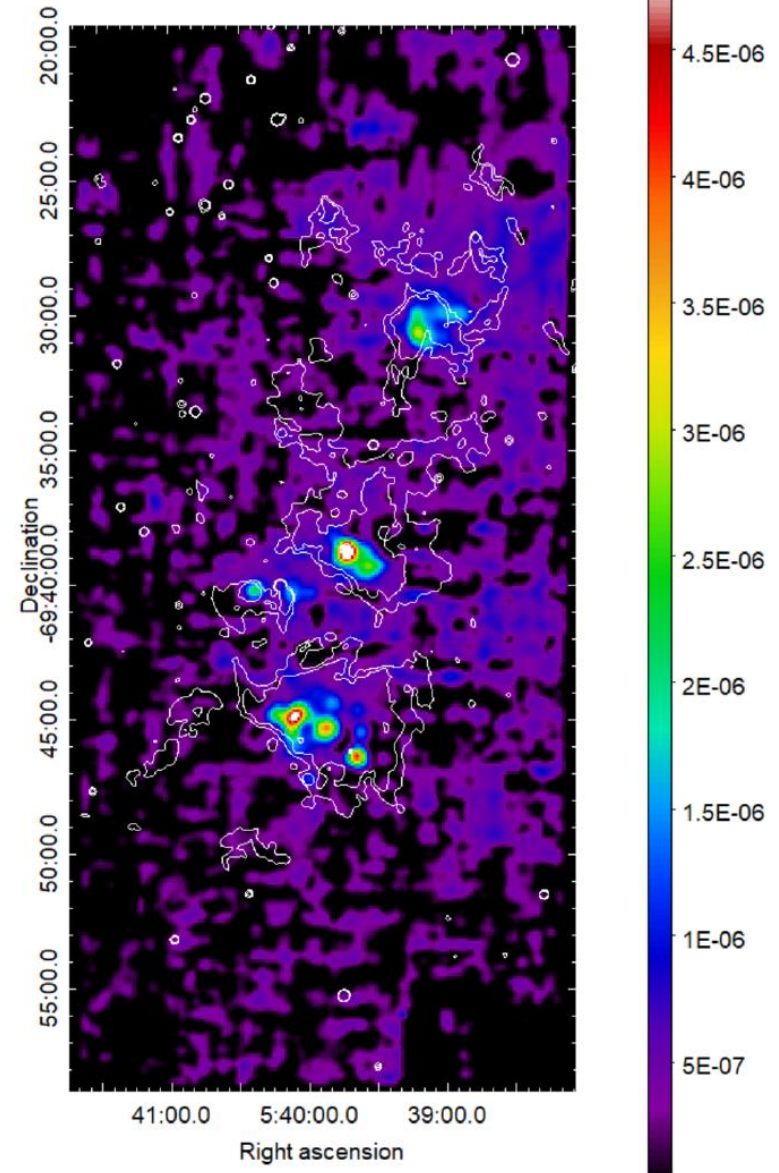
LMC+. [CII] and 88mu [OIII] with SOFIA FIFI-LS

Fischer et al. in prep

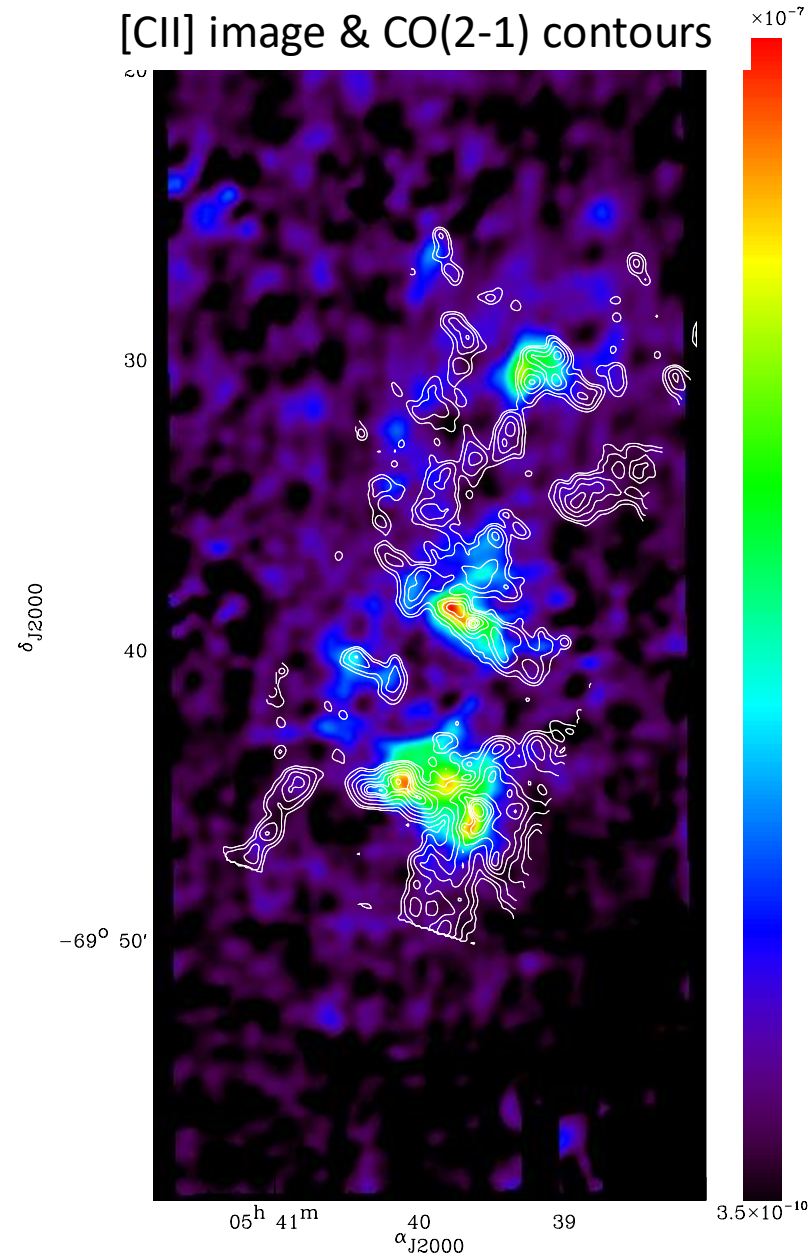
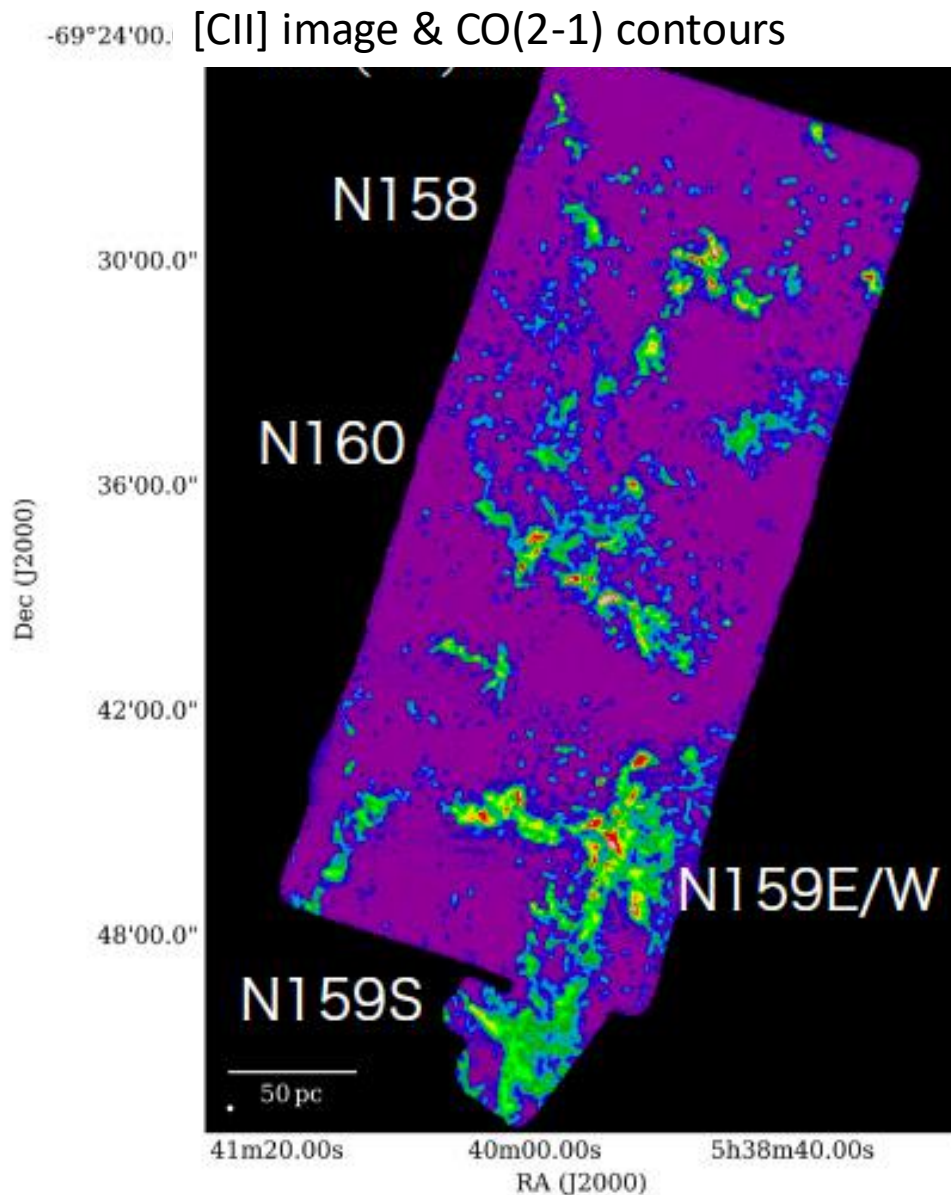
[CII] image & 8mu IRAC contours



[OIII] image & 8mu IRAC contours

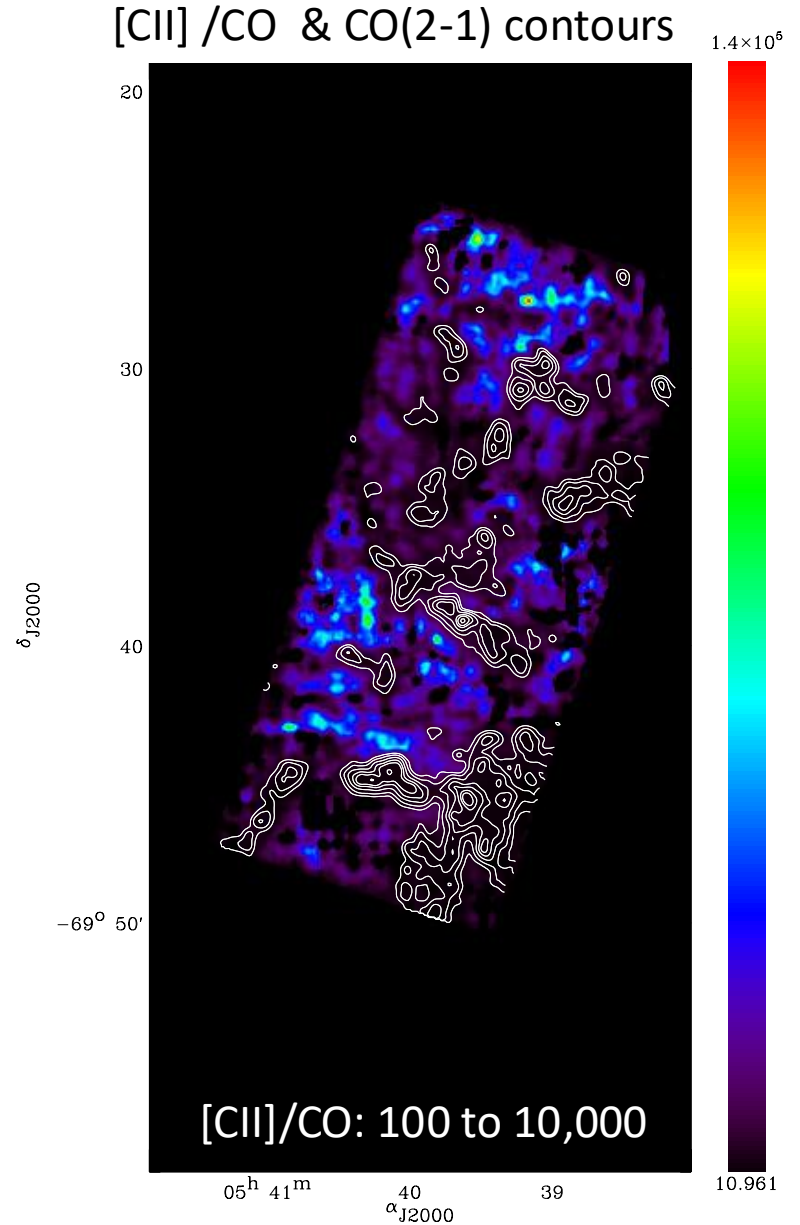
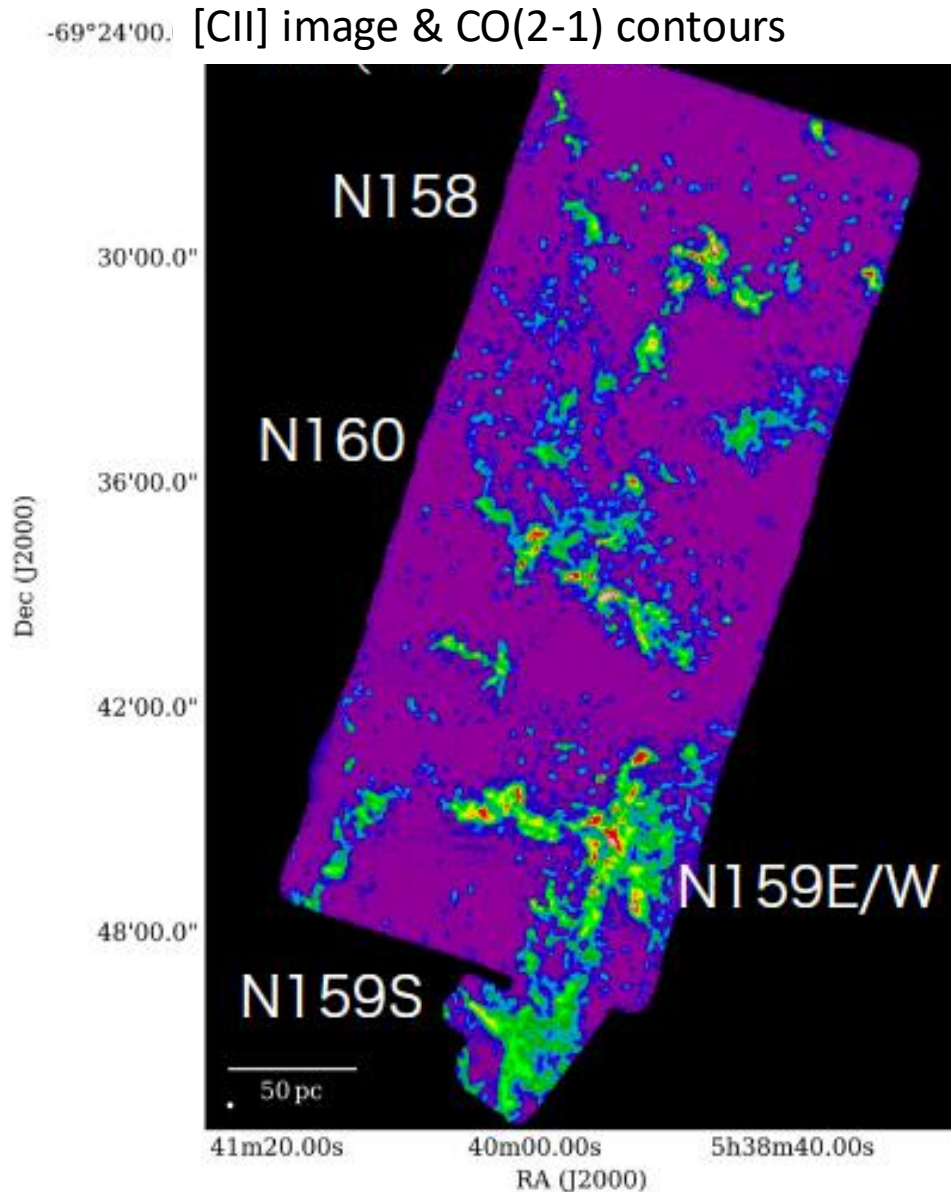


Southern Molecular Ridge : [CII] vs. CO (ALMA)



ALMA CO(2-1) ridge: Tarantino et al. in prep. & CO in N159S: Chen et al. in prep

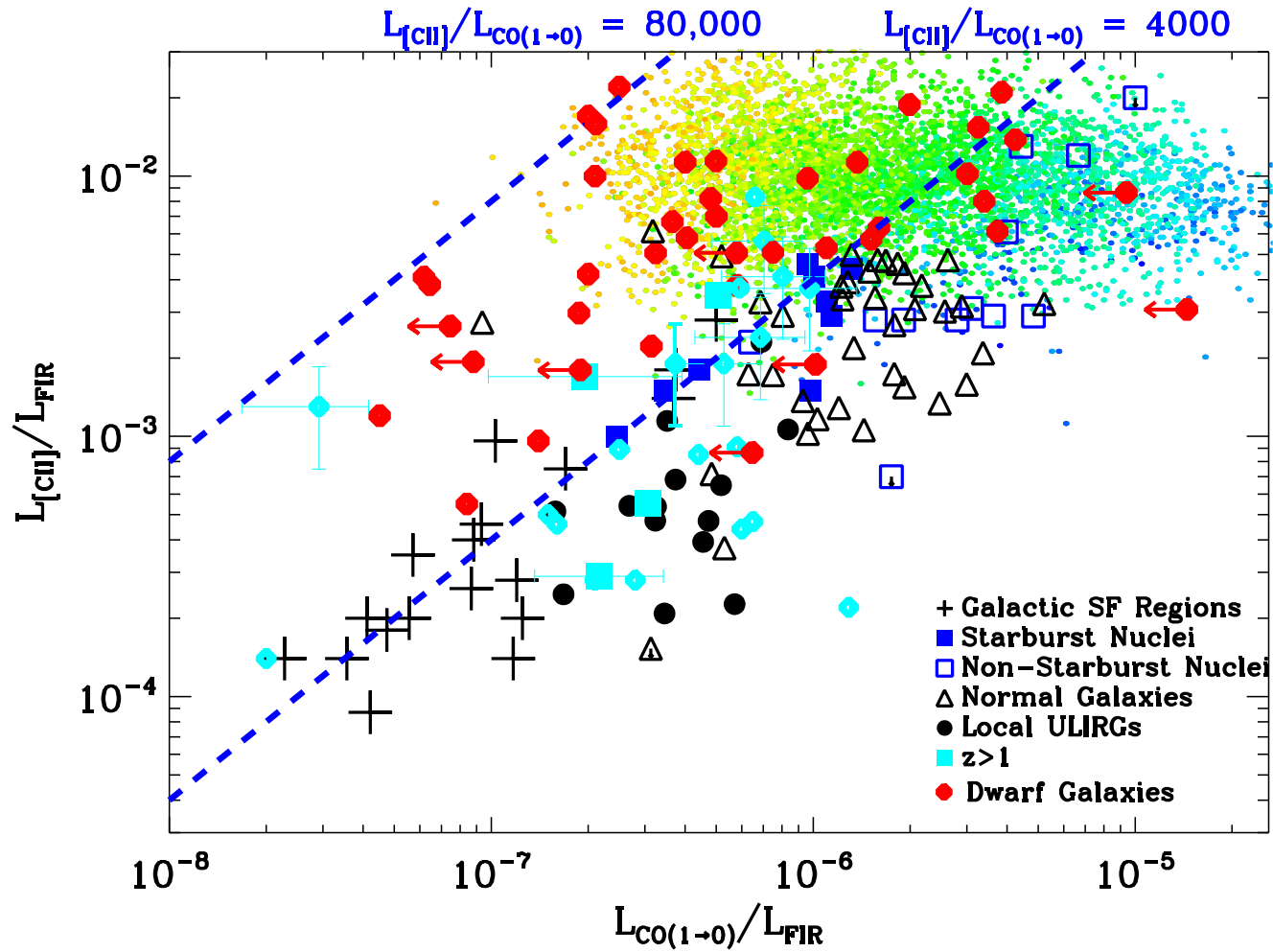
Southern Molecular Ridge : [CII] vs. CO (ALMA)



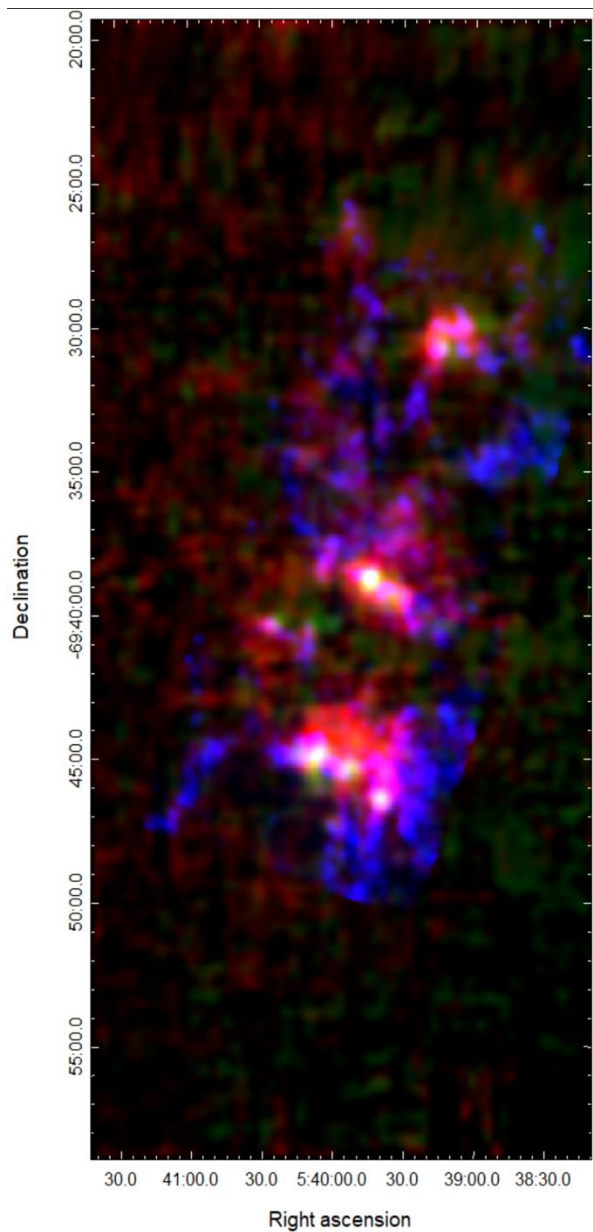
ALMA CO(2-1) ridge: Tarantino et al. in prep. & CO in N159S: Chen et al. in prep

High [CII]/CO in low metallicity environments

$[CII]/FIR$ vs CO/FIR in LMC+

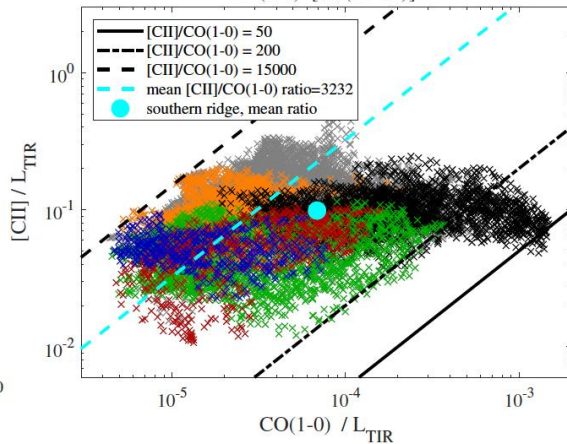
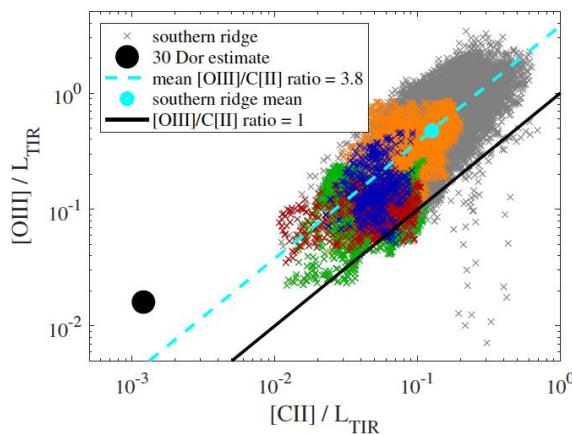
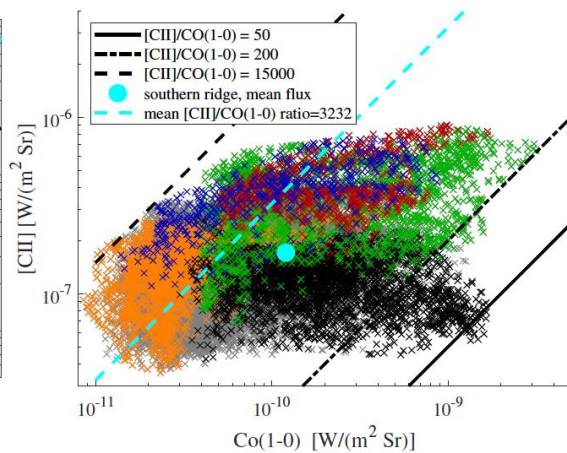
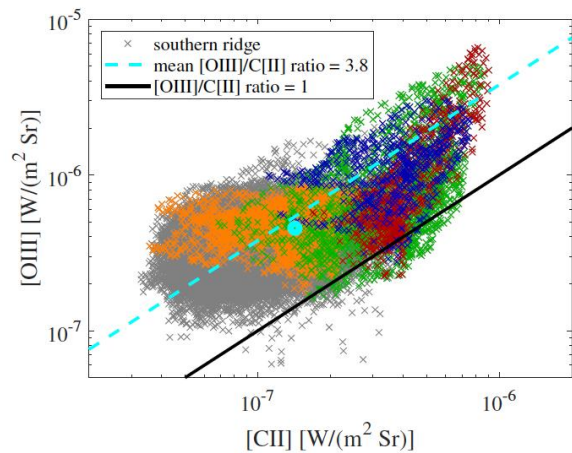
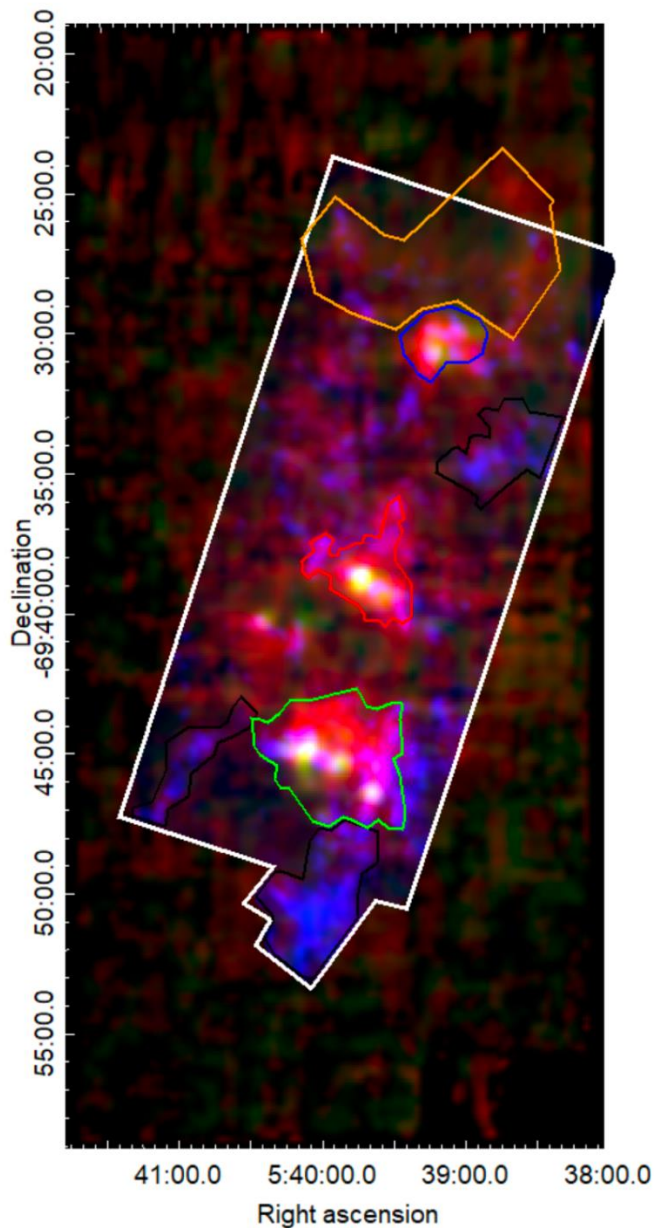


[CII] CO [OIII] LTIR ratios



RGB:
red: CII,
green: OIII
blue: CO

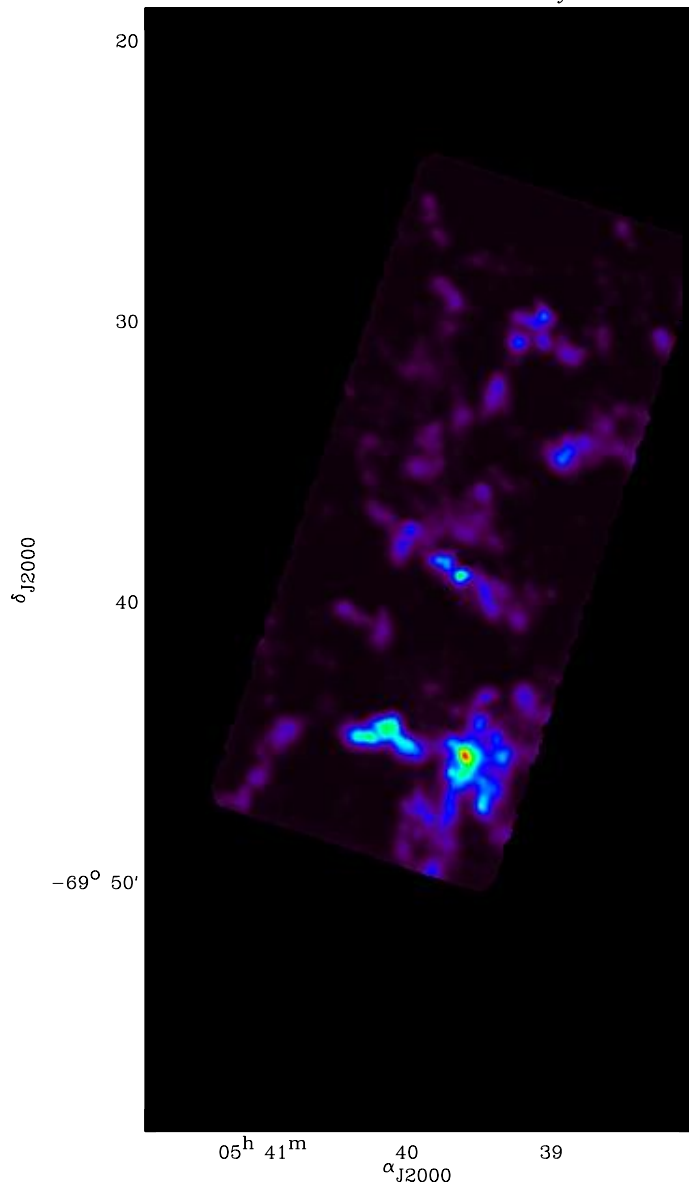
[CII] CO [OIII] LTIR ratios



Relation between total M_{H_2} (from [CII]) and CO ($M_{\text{sol}} \text{ pc}^{-2}$)

Total M_{H_2} from CO only

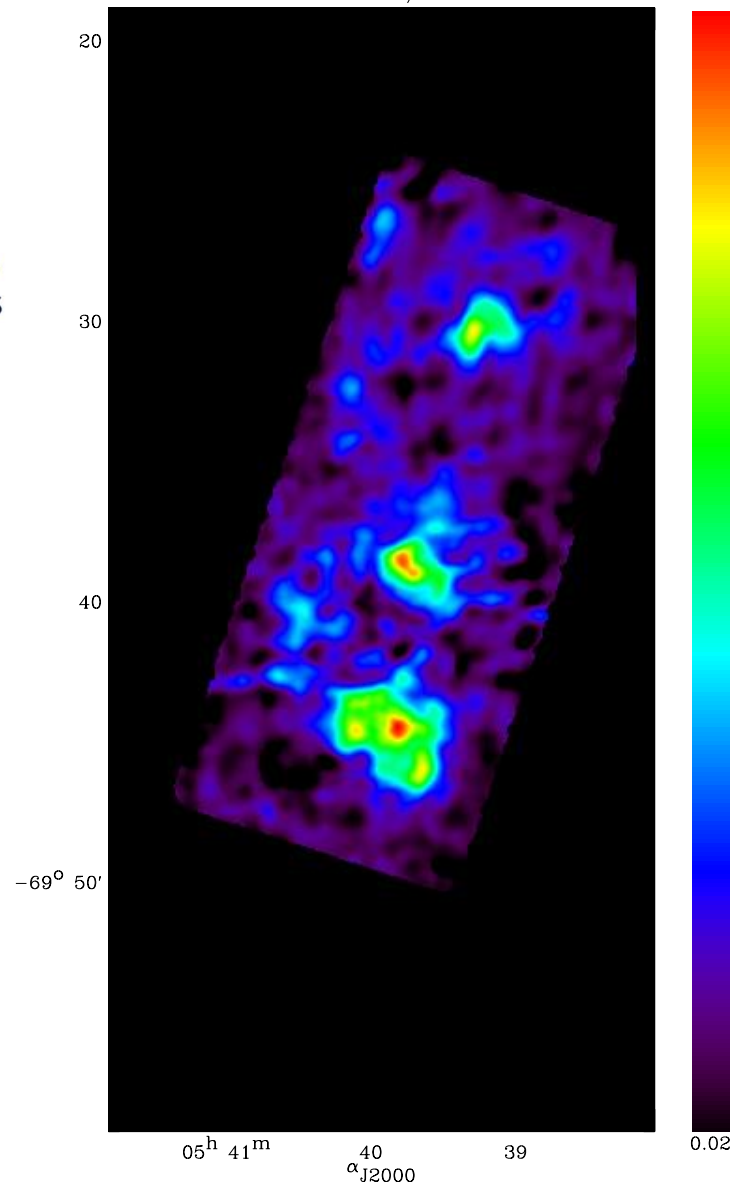
859.337



WORK IN PROGRESS

Total M_{H_2} from CII/CO correction

577.665

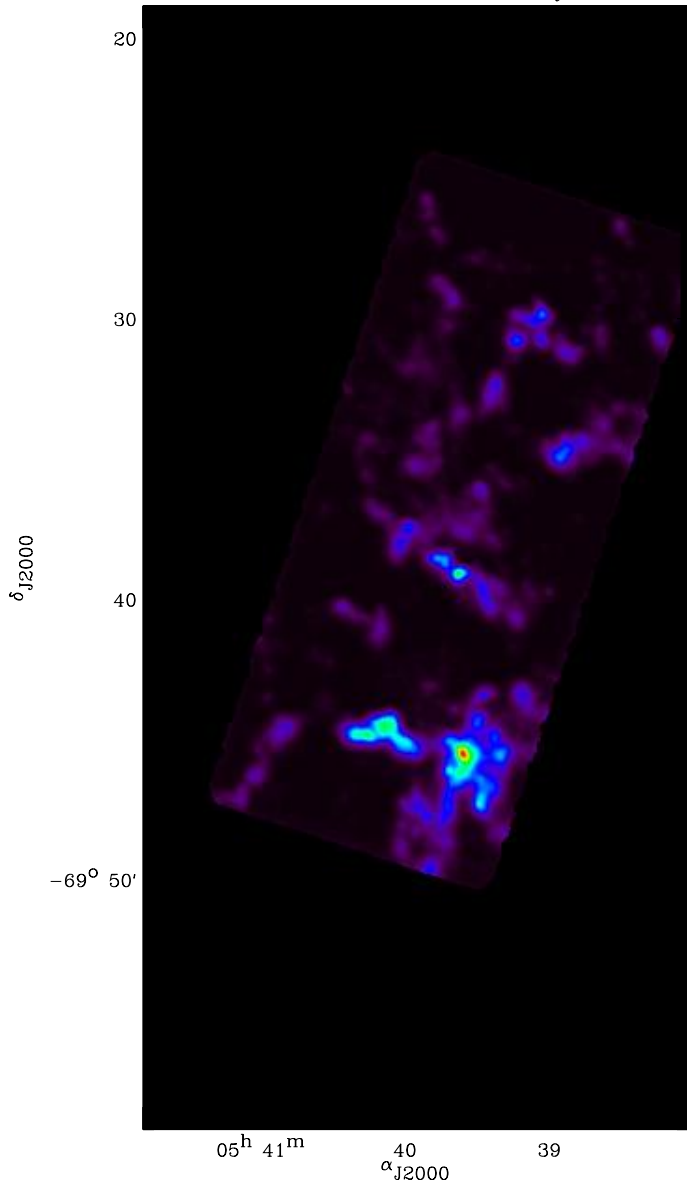


$$M(H_2)_{\text{total}}/M(H_2)_{\text{CO}} = 10^{-3.14} \times [L_{[\text{CII}]} / L_{\text{CO}(1-0)}]^{1.09}. \quad (3)$$

Relation between total M_{H_2} (from [CII]) and CO ($M_{\text{sol}} \text{ pc}^{-2}$)

Total M_{H_2} from CO only

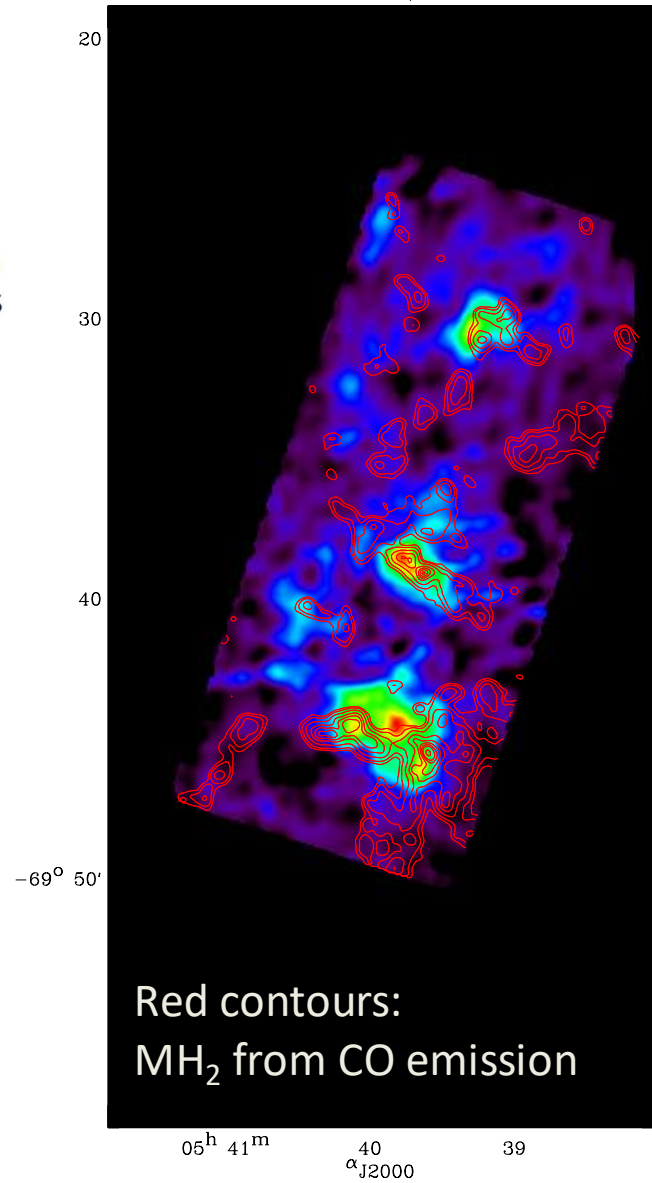
859.337



WORK IN PROGRESS

Total M_{H_2} from CII/CO & $M_{H_2_CO}$

577.665



Red contours:
 M_{H_2} from CO emission

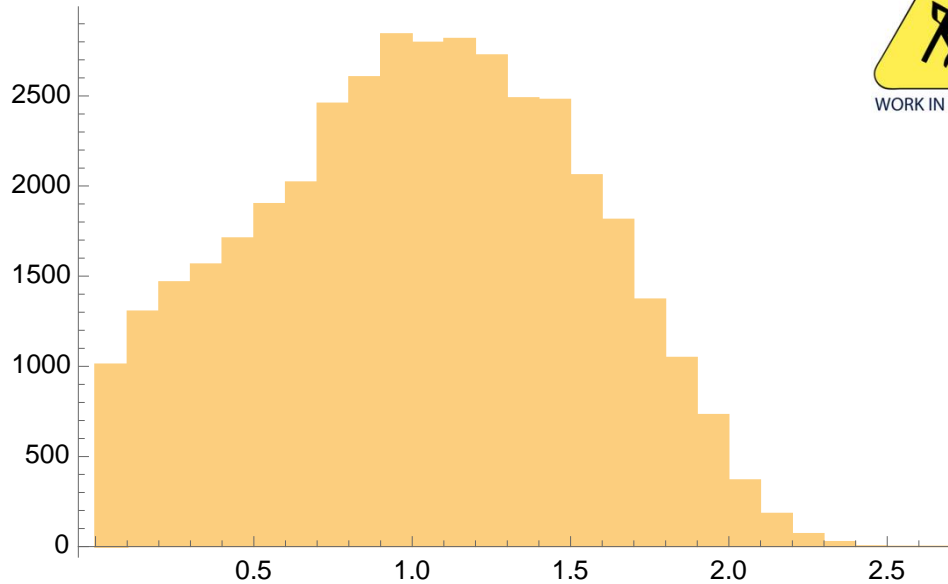
$$M(H_2)_{\text{total}}/M(H_2)_{\text{CO}} = 10^{-3.14} \times [L_{[\text{CII}]} / L_{\text{CO}(1-0)}]^{1.09}.$$

(3)

In places ~ 300 times more M_{H_2} than traced by CO. Does this dark gas have anything to do with SF?

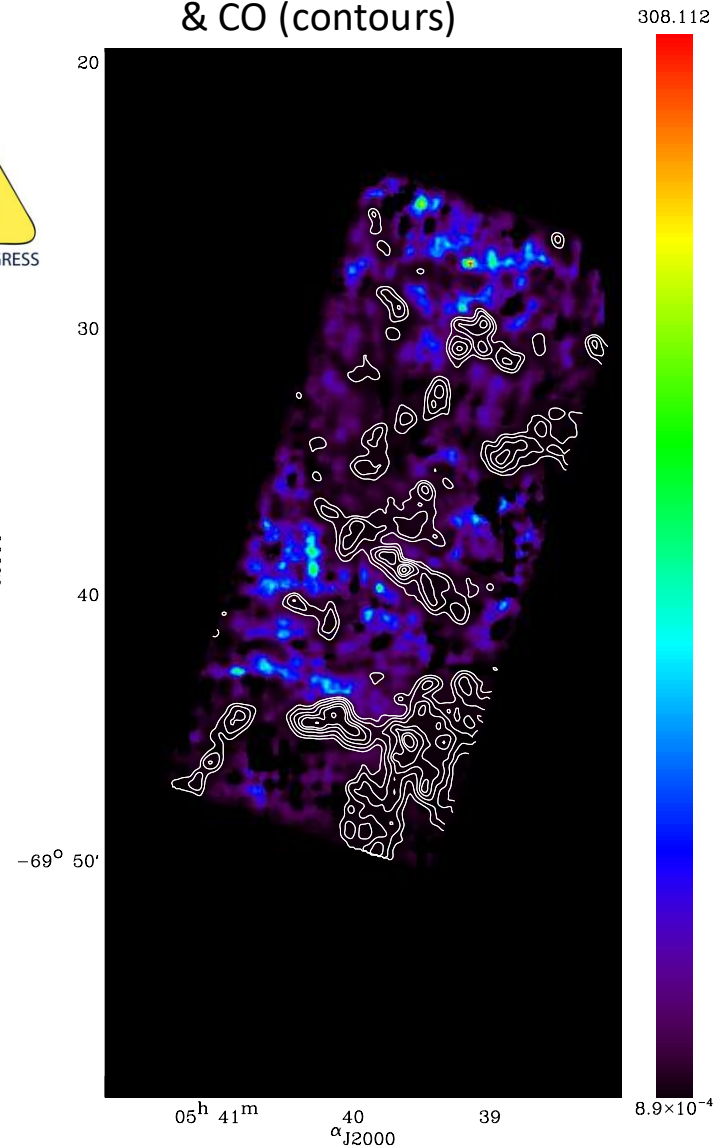
What is the total H₂ in galaxies? From [CII] to The CO-dark gas

$$M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{total}}/M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{CO}} = 10^{-3.14} \times [L_{[\text{CII}]} / L_{\text{CO}(1-0)}]^{1.09}.$$



Log $M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{total}}/M(\text{H}_2)_{\text{CO}}$ based on [CII]/CO (eq. 3 in Madden et al. 2021)

$M\text{H}_2(\text{tot})/M\text{H}_2(\text{CO})$ (image)
& CO (contours)



The correction for total $M(\text{H}_2)$, compared to « naive » CO-to- H_2 is around $\log_{10} = 1 \Rightarrow$ 10 times more $M(\text{H}_2)$ than determined from CO, with large spread. Can be as high as a factor of 300

Low Metallicity ISM: Some Take away Points

Gas phases at low metallicities:

- Metallicity effects on the heating & cooling of the different gas phases very pronounced
 - CO detections challenging – less dust allows for greater photodissociation
 - [CII]/CO *extreme*
 - [OIII] 88 μ m - brighter locally and globally in low Z - porous ISM
 - HII region: Leaky, hard radiation fields, low densities, large filling factor
 - [CII] \rightarrow CO-dark H₂ gas component can harbor the bulk of the H₂ reservoir (not CO)
 - **Key steps** \rightarrow . Magellanic Clouds at pc scales with ALMA and SOFIA – to be exploited
 - JWST followup?