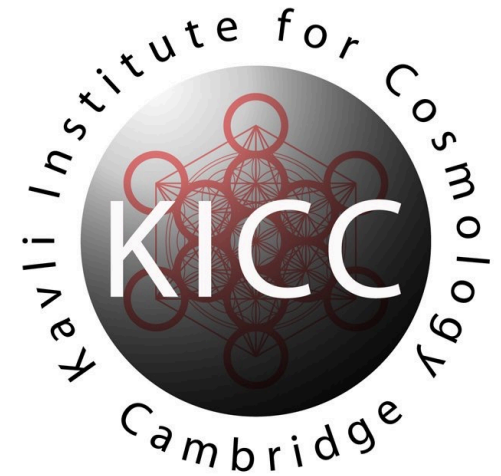




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Cavendish Laboratory

William M. Baker

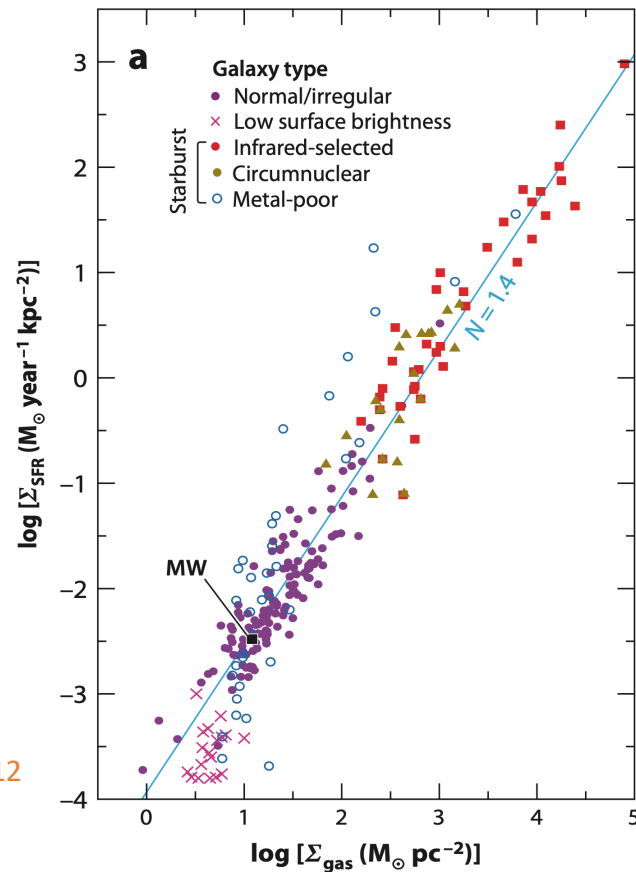
Using machine learning and Bayesian inference in galaxy evolution



Outline

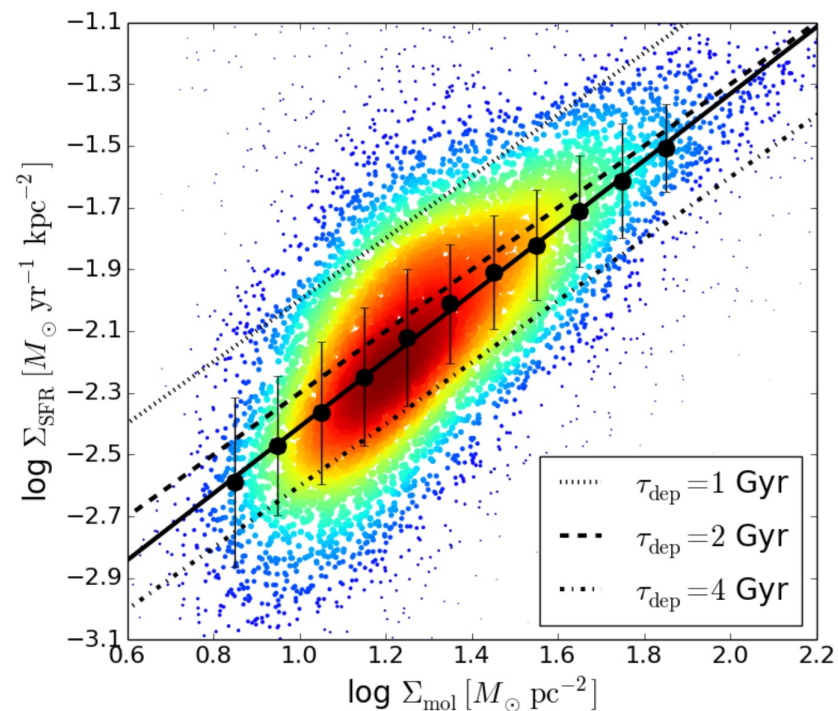
1. Disentangling indirect byproducts from intrinsic relations with partial correlation coefficients and random forest regression
2. Understanding the origin of the mass-metallicity relation
3. Forward modelling light distributions with ForcePho to determine fluxes
4. Fitting SEDs with Prospector to infer physical quantities

The Star Forming Schmidt-Kennicutt (SK) relation



Kennicutt & Evans 2012

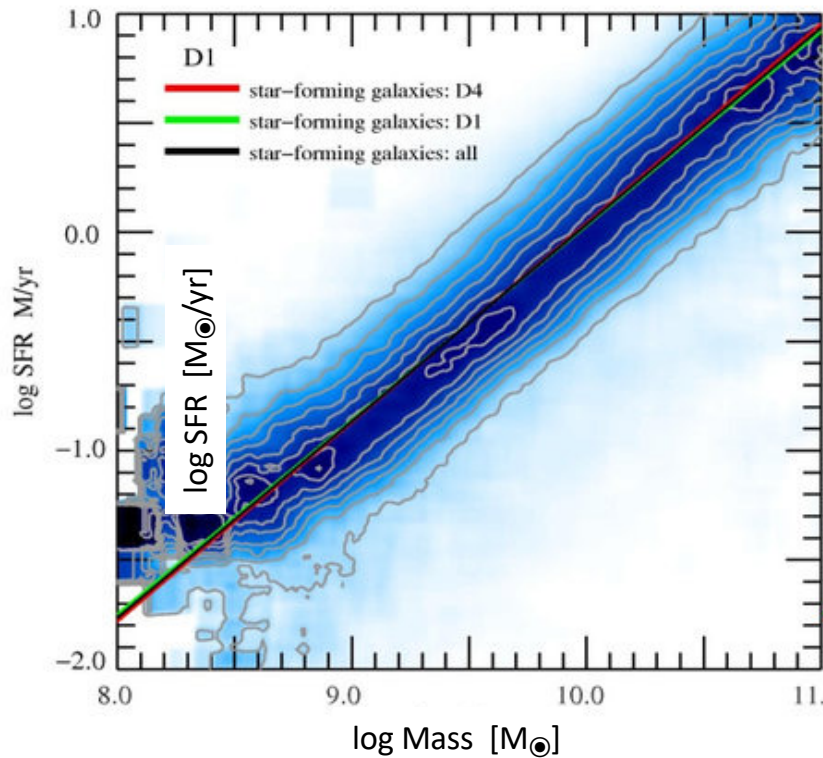
Integrated version



Utomo 2017

Resolved version

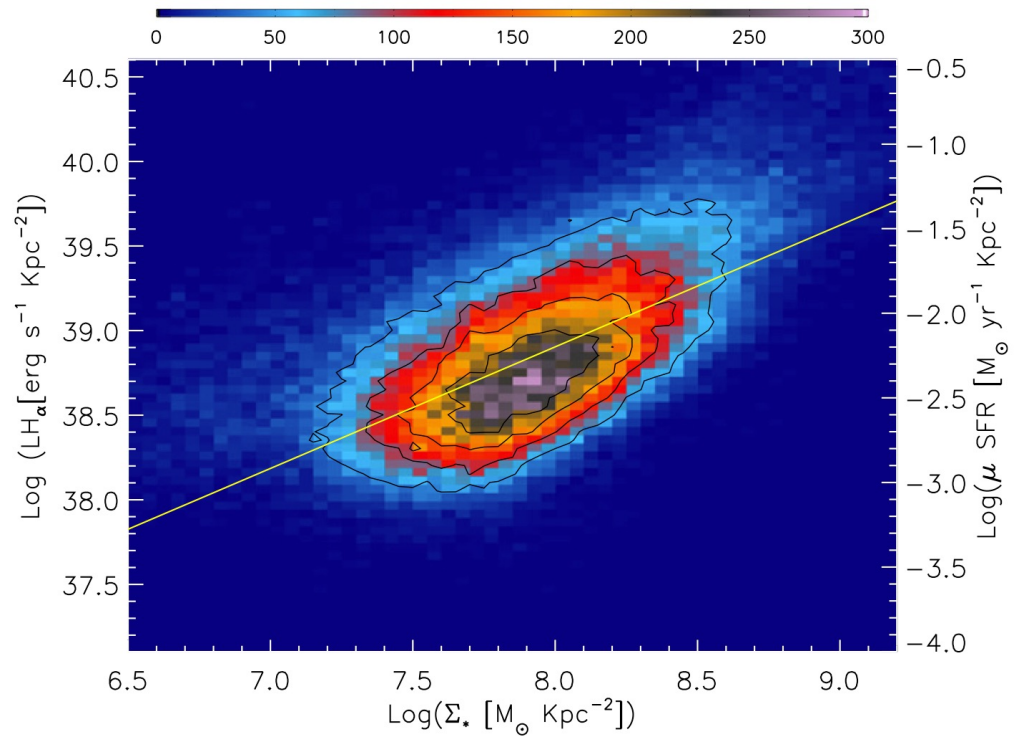
The Star Forming 'Main Sequence' (SFMS)



Integrated, global version

Peng+ 2010

e.g Brinchmann+01, Peng+10, Renzini & Peng'15,....

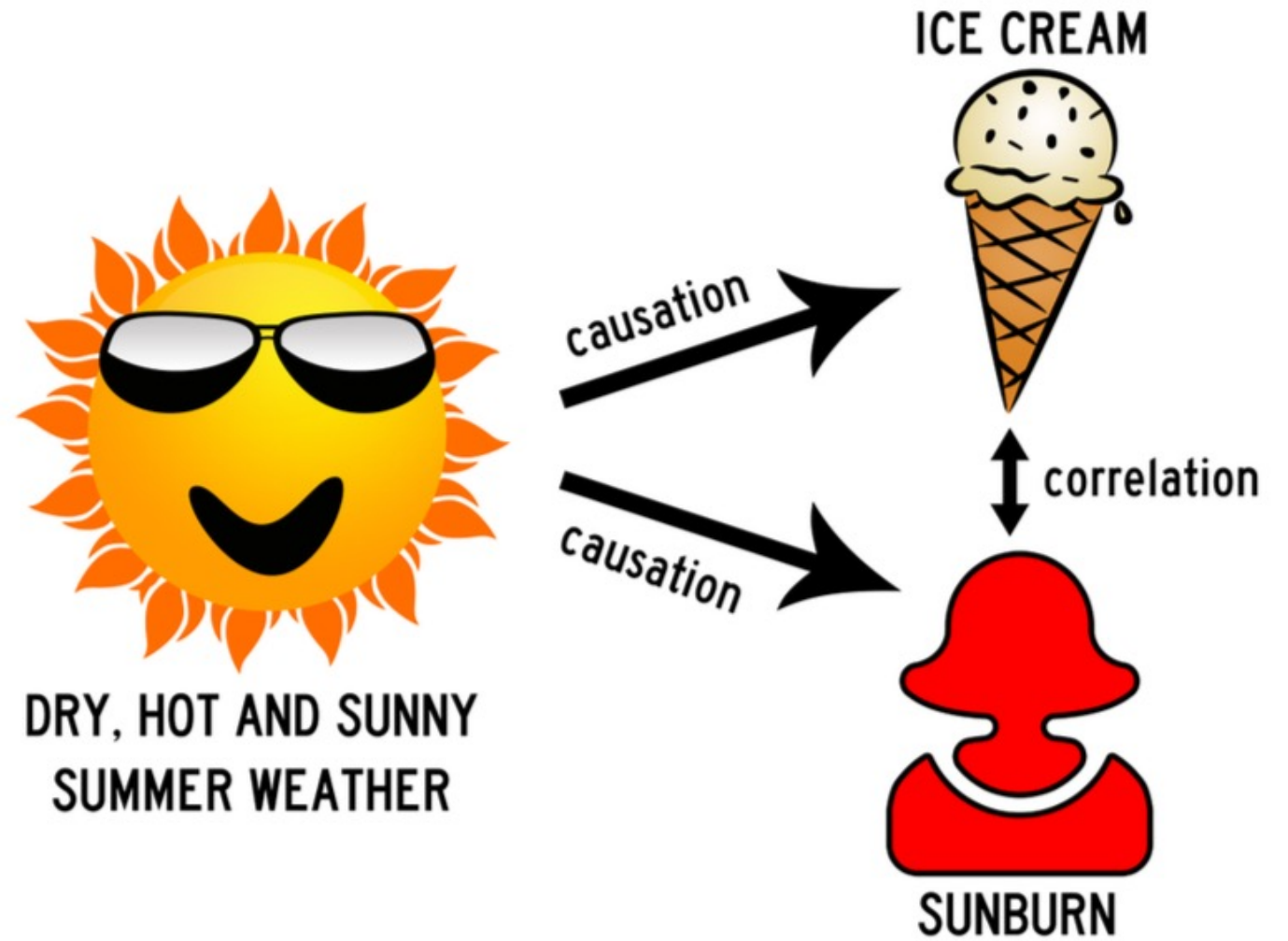


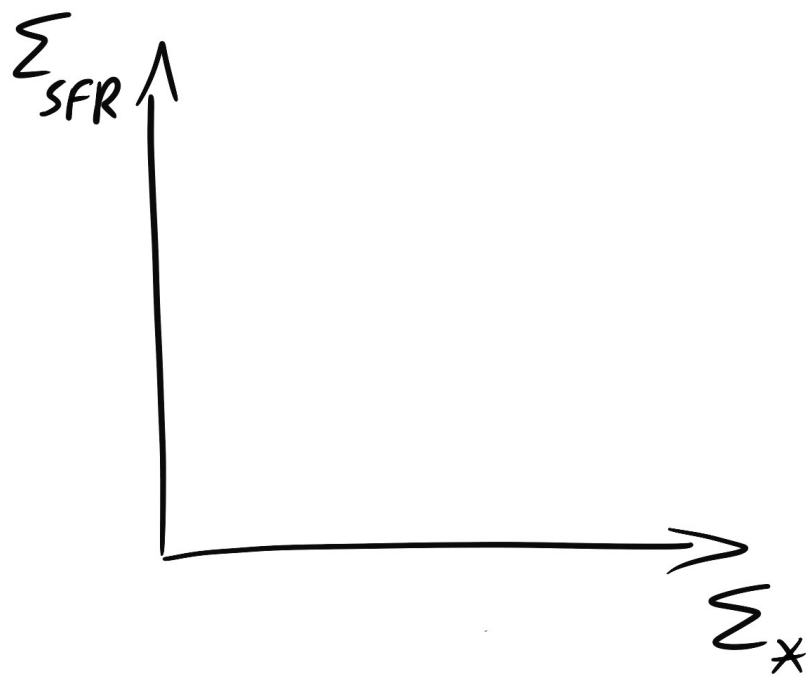
Spatially resolved version

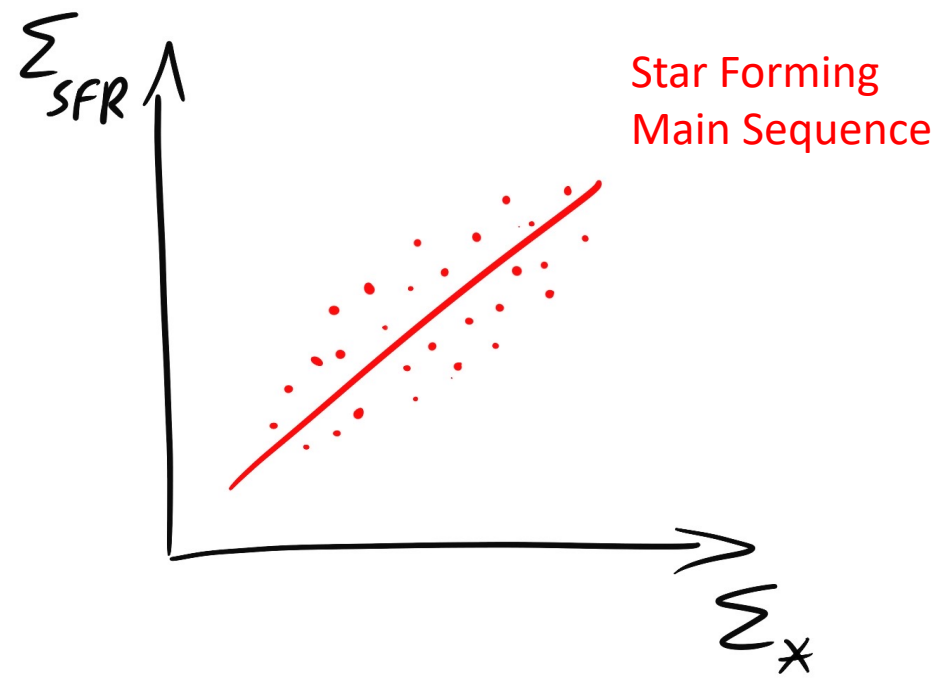
Cano Diaz+16

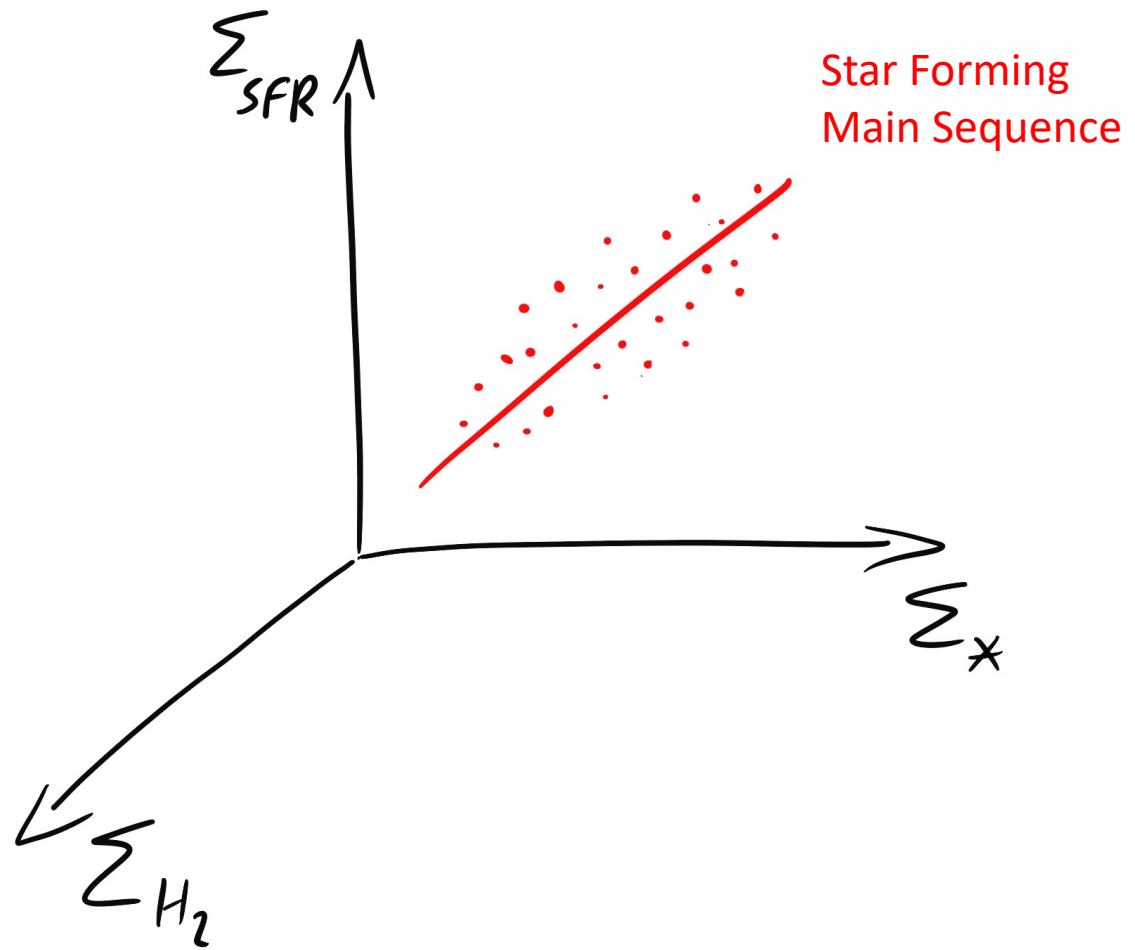
e.g. Cano Diaz+16, Wuyts+13, Akiyama+18, Hsieh+17, Baker+2022

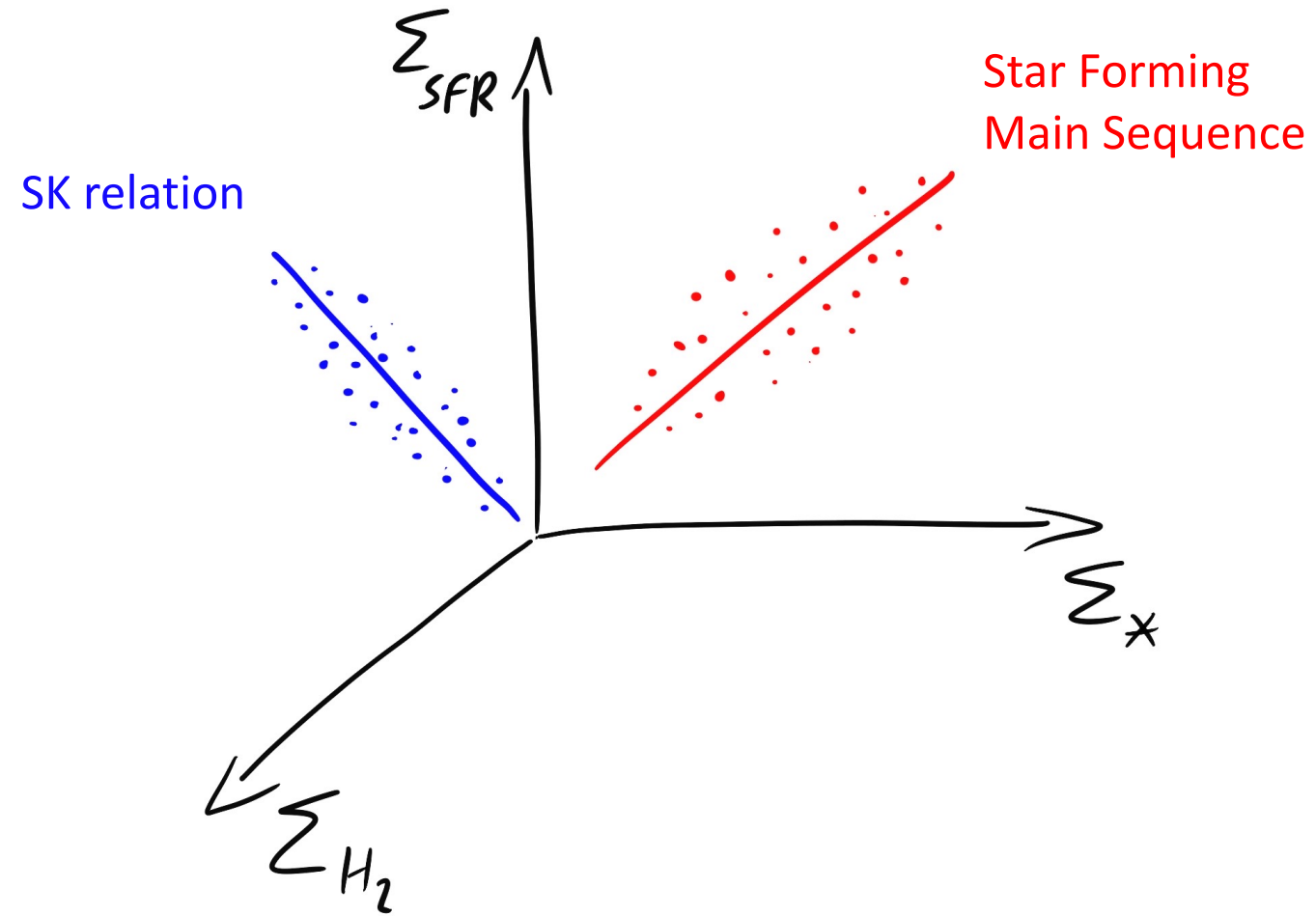
Correlation
does not
imply
causation

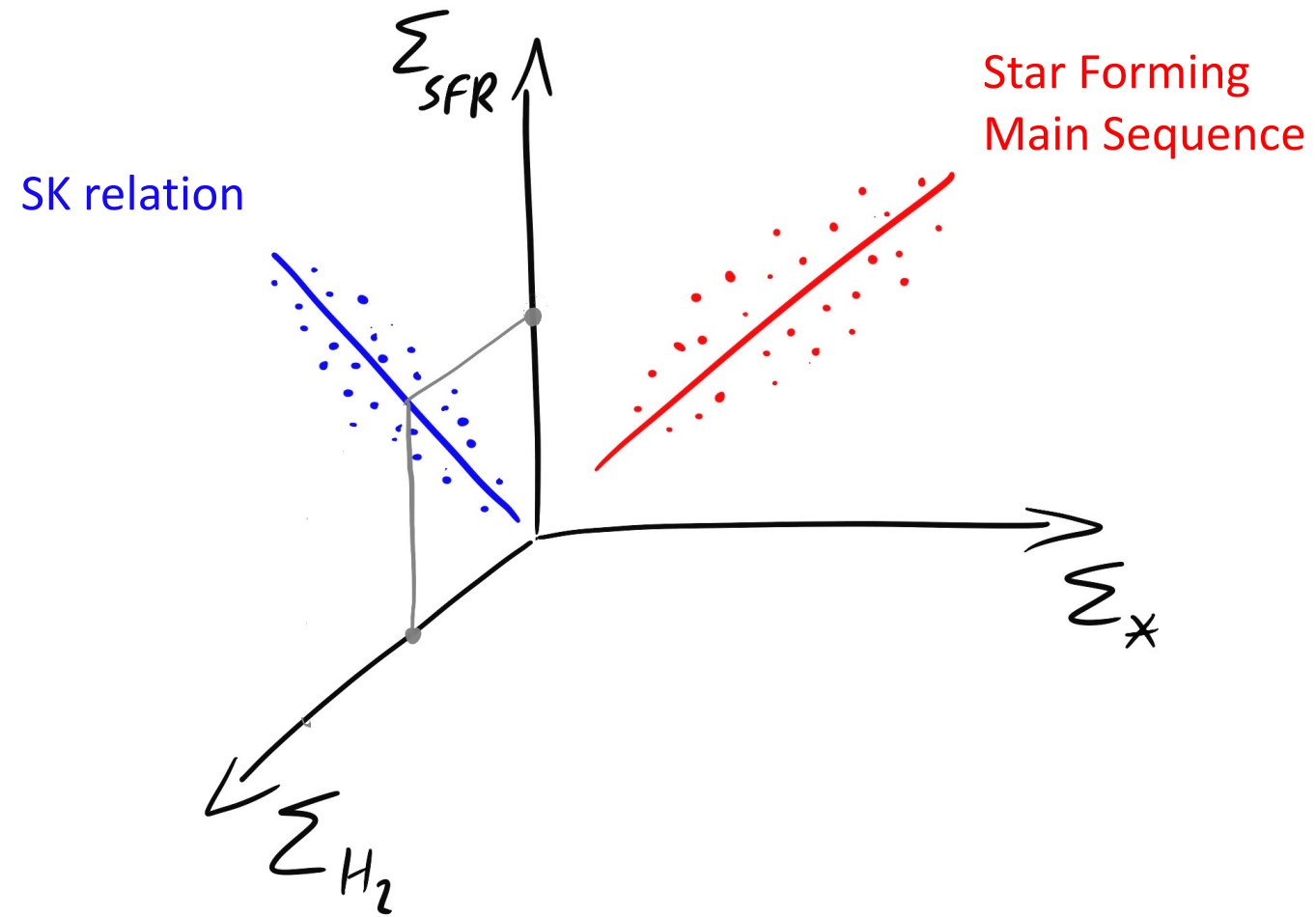




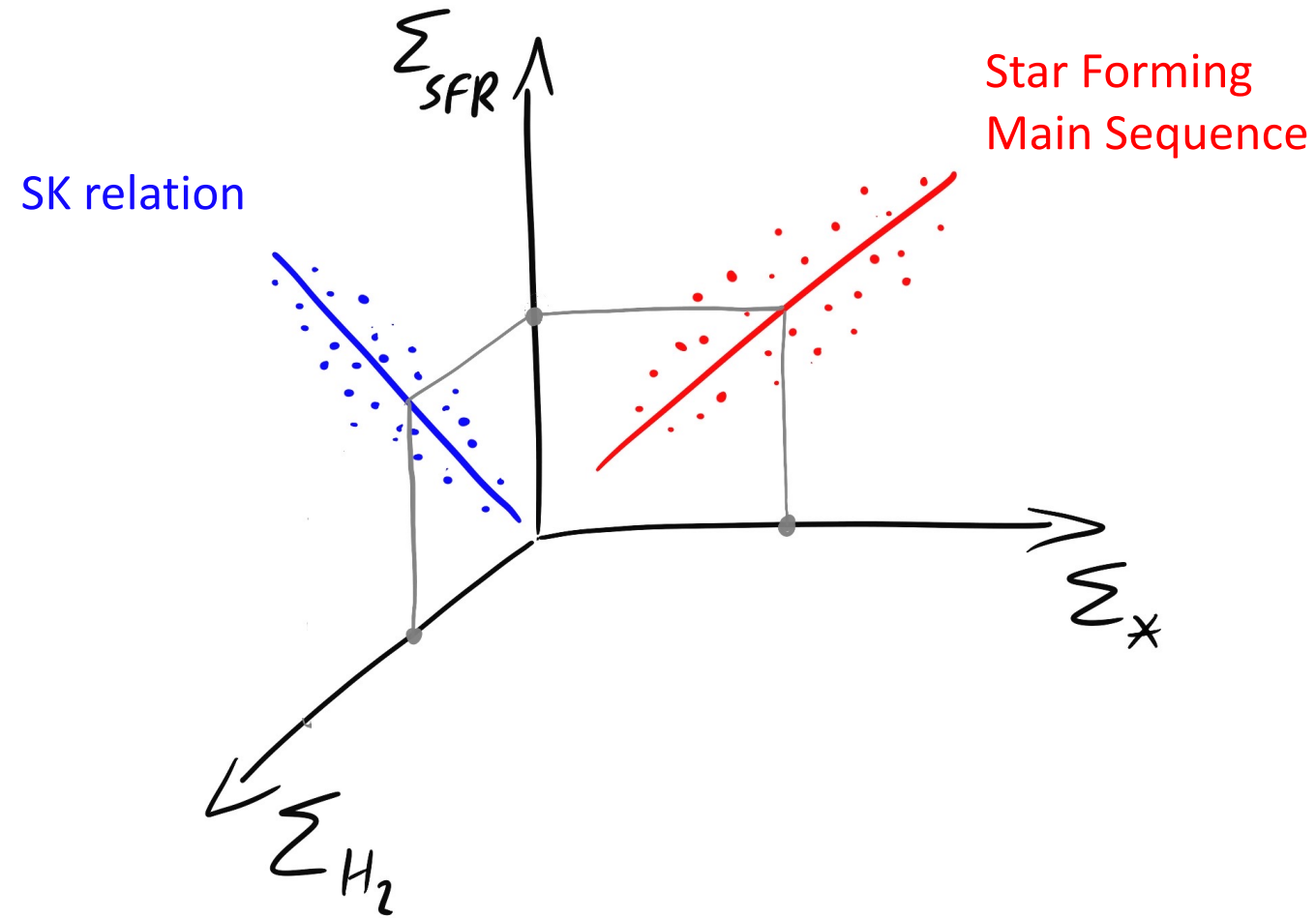




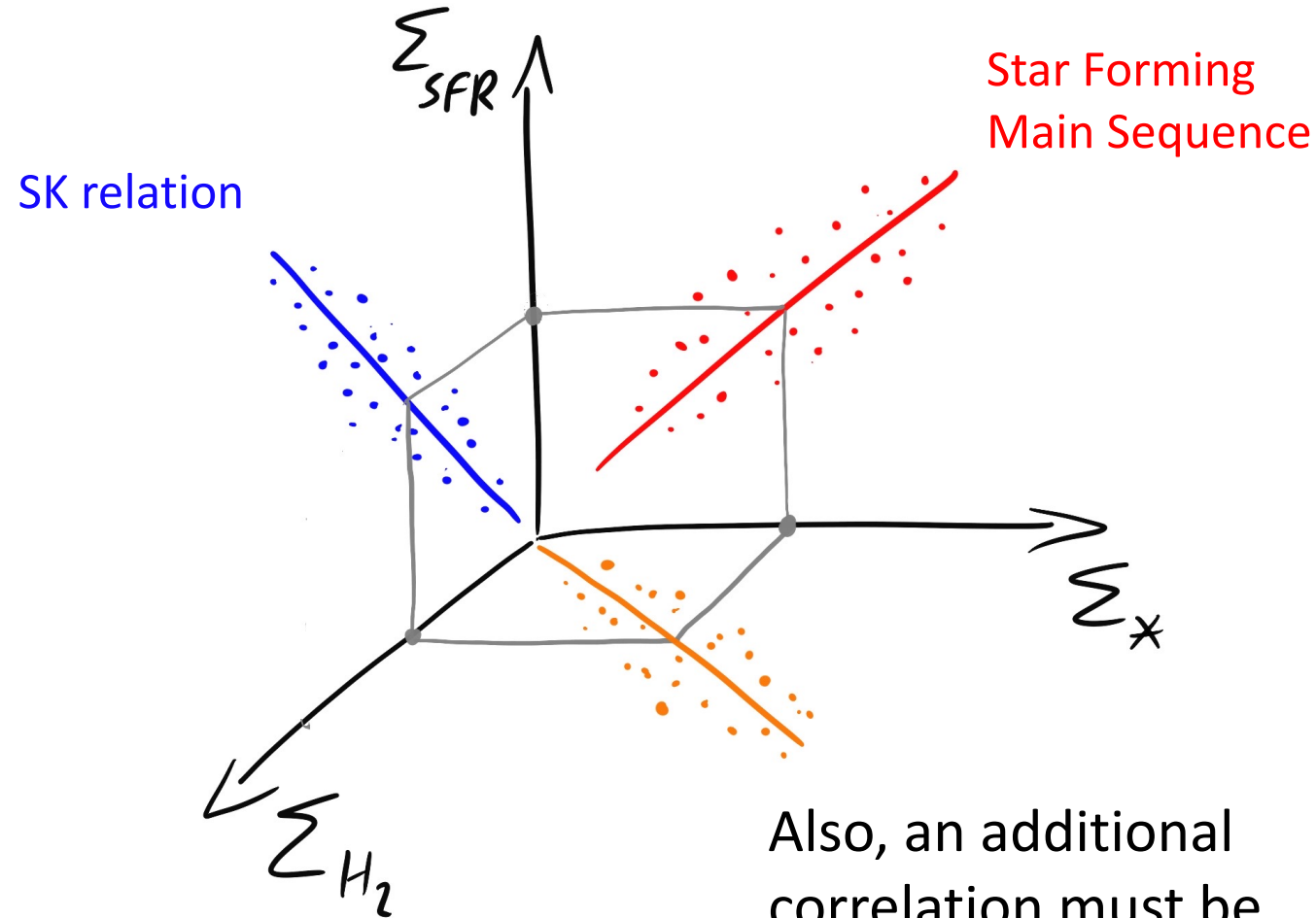




Is it Σ_* or Σ_{H_2} driving Σ_{SFR} ?



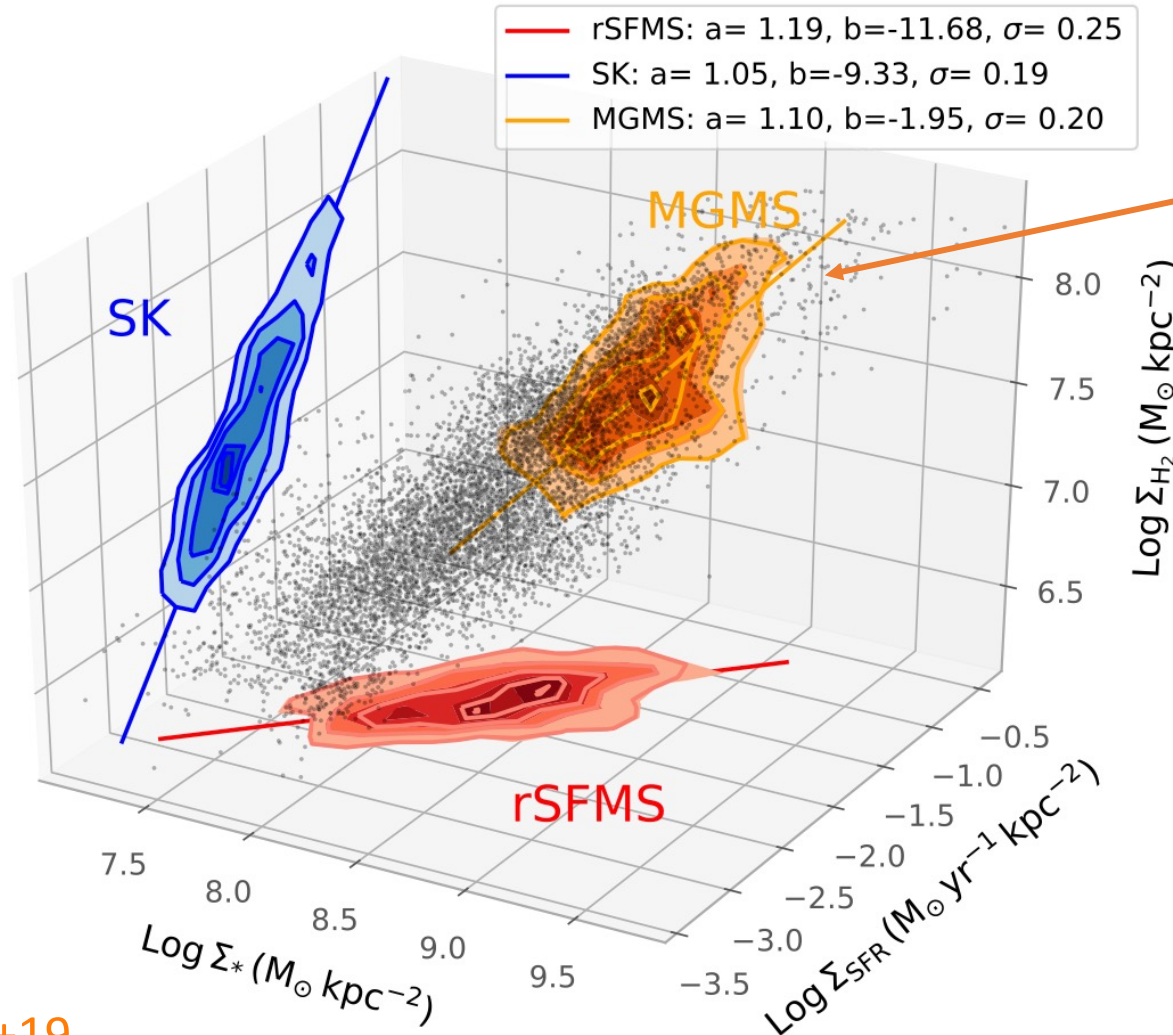
Is it Σ_* or Σ_{H_2} driving Σ_{SFR} ?



Also, an additional correlation must be present between Σ_* or Σ_{H_2}

The ALMaQUEST survey and the 'Main Sequences'

46 galaxies with resolved CO (ALMA) and optical spectroscopy (MaNGA)



Molecular Gas
Main Sequence

Which of these three relations are primary/fundamental and which are instead a by-product of the others?

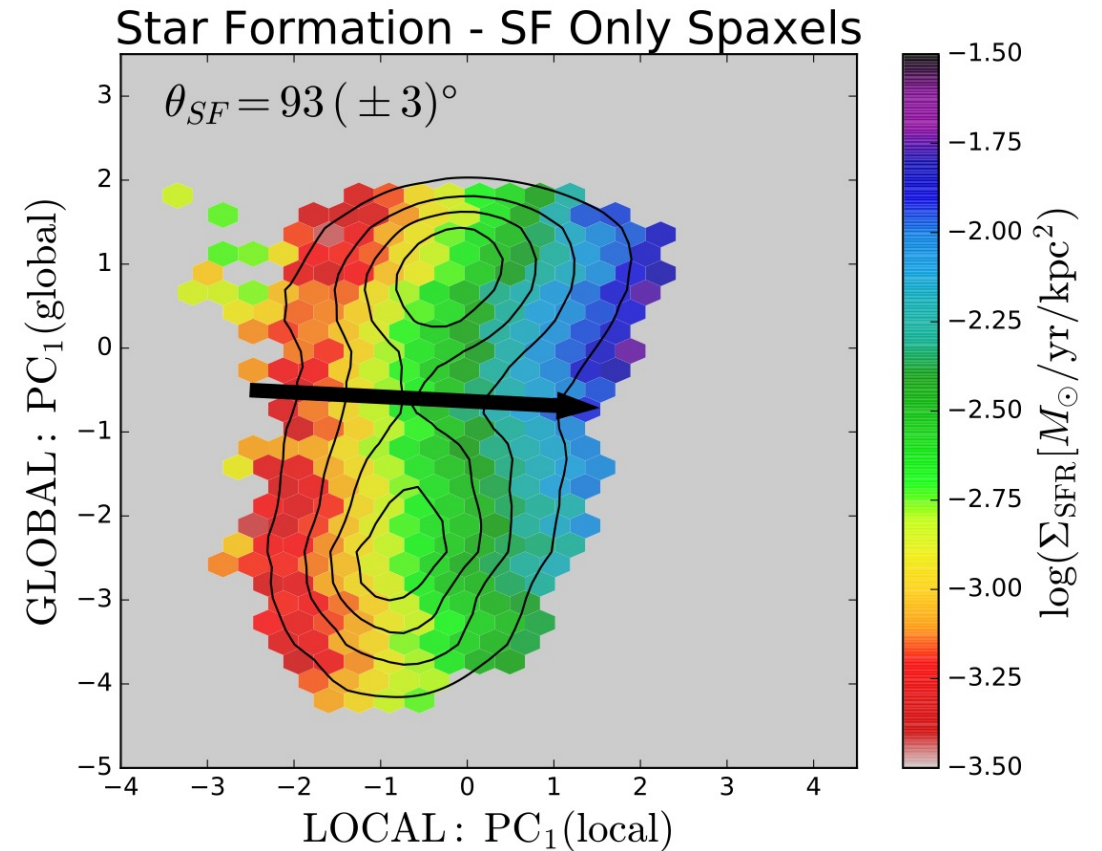
Lin+19

Partial Correlation Coefficients

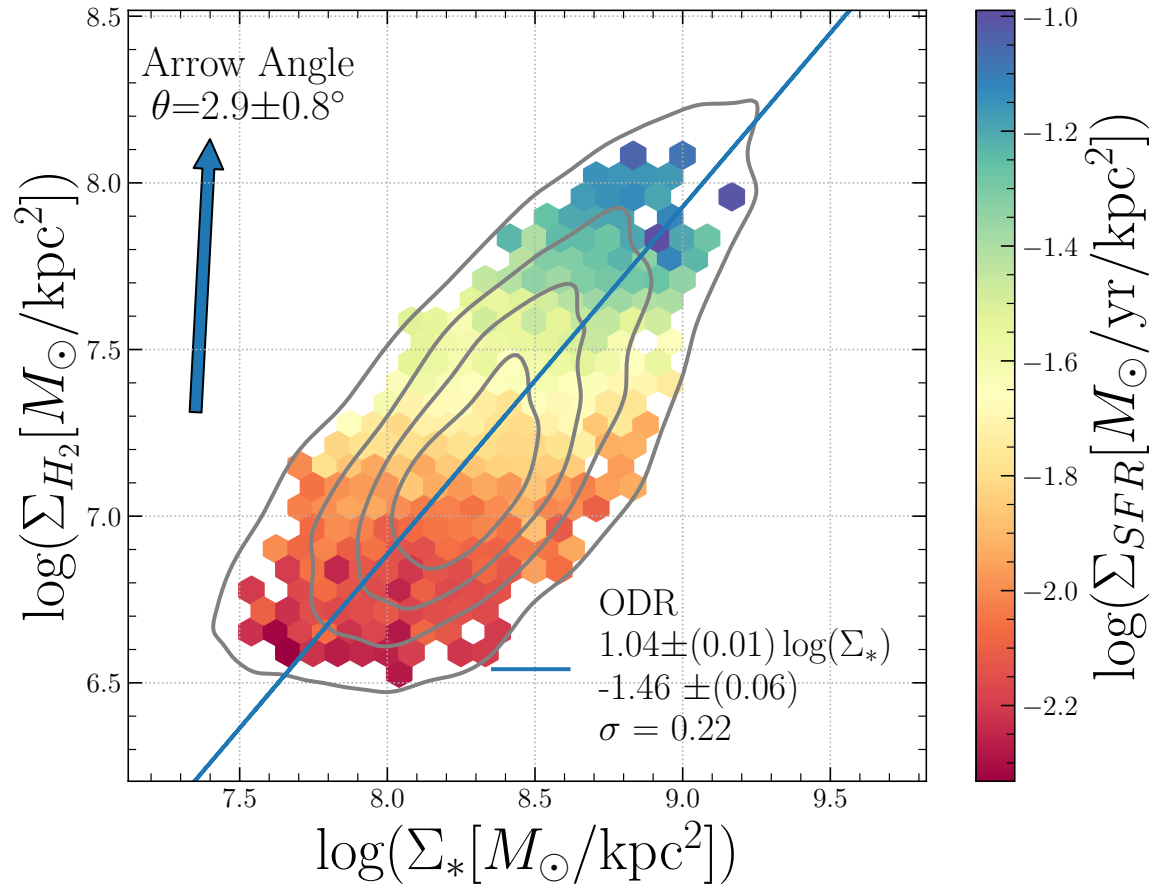
- Partial correlation coefficients give the correlation between two quantities whilst holding further quantities constant
- -> powerful tool to disentangle intrinsic (direct) correlations from indirect correlations which are a by-product of other correlations

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\rho_{AC|B}}{\rho_{BC|A}}$$

Bluck+2020



Disentangling direct, intrinsic correlations from those that are induced/by-product requires using/controlling all data simultaneously



Σ_{SFR} depends strongly on Σ_{H_2}

Σ_{SFR} does not depend on Σ_* at a fixed Σ_{H_2}

Baker+22

Arrow:
direction of average gradient
from Partial Correlation Coefficients

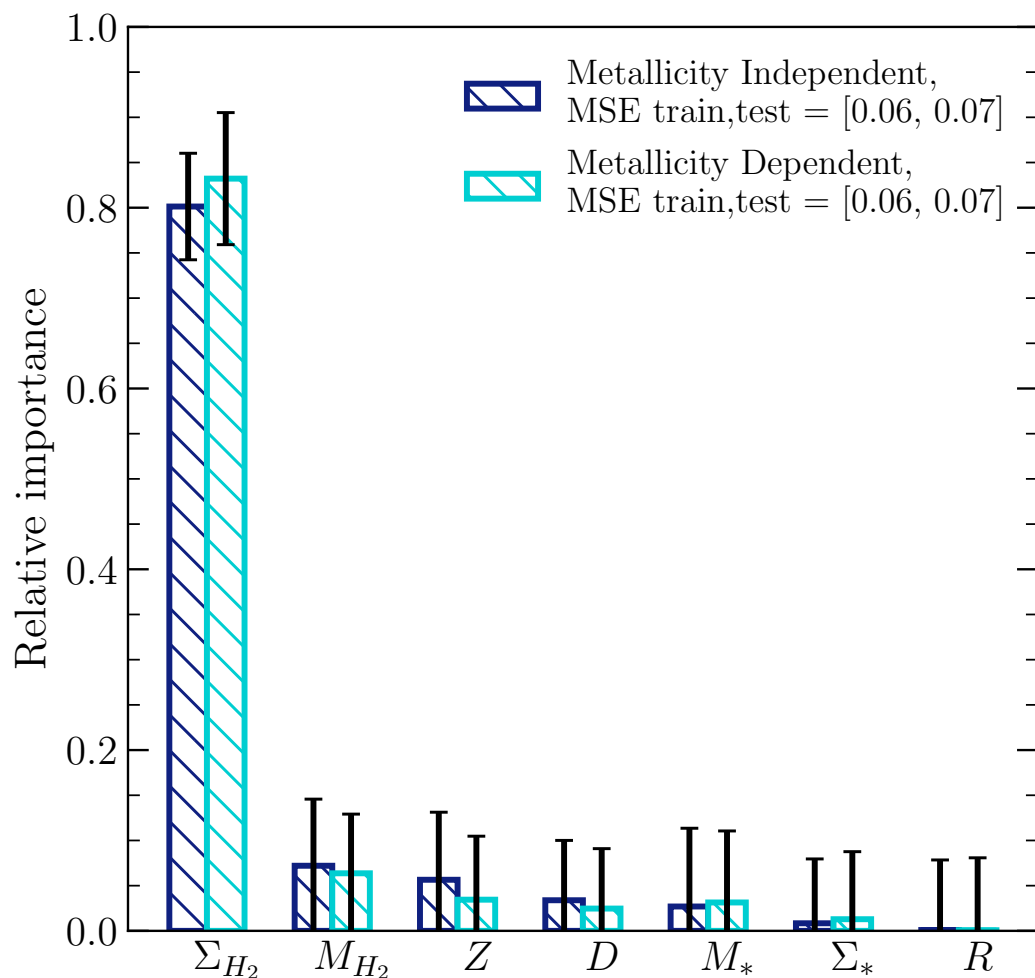
Random Forest Regression

- Form of supervised (i.e. identifiable labels) Machine Learning
- Multiple decision trees – split via Gini Impurity (a measure of the quality of a split)
- Can probe several inter-correlated quantities simultaneously, uncover non-linear relationships, and determine the intrinsic dependence of a quantity (Bluck et al. 2022)
- For further details on Partial correlations or Random Forests see Bluck et al. 2020, 2022, Piotrowska+2022 or Baker+2022, 2023a, 2023b, Baker & Maiolino 2023

Random Forest (Machine Learning) Regression analysis

Relative importance of various galactic parameters in **predicting** Σ_{SFR}

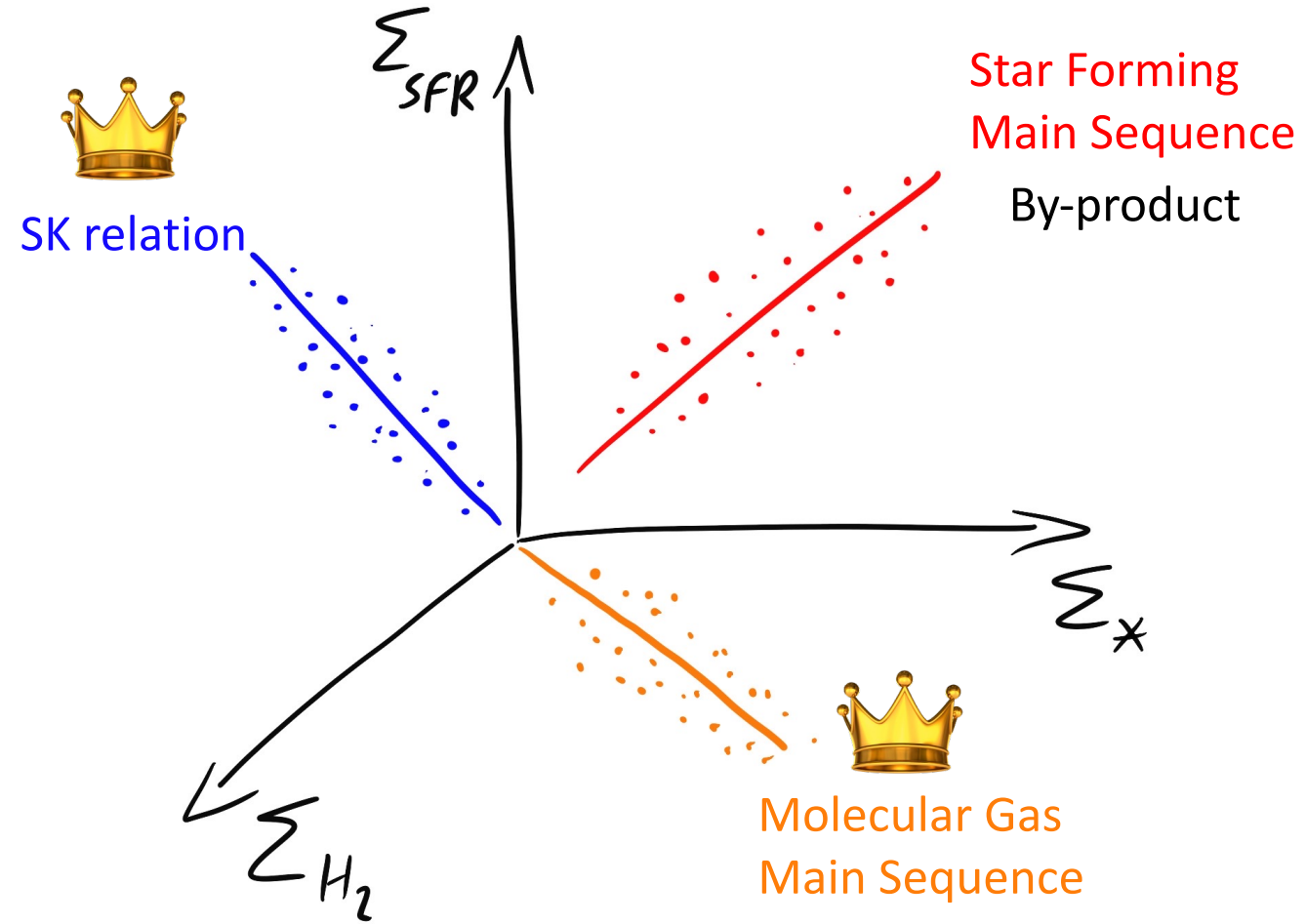
Parameter importance in determining Σ_{SFR}

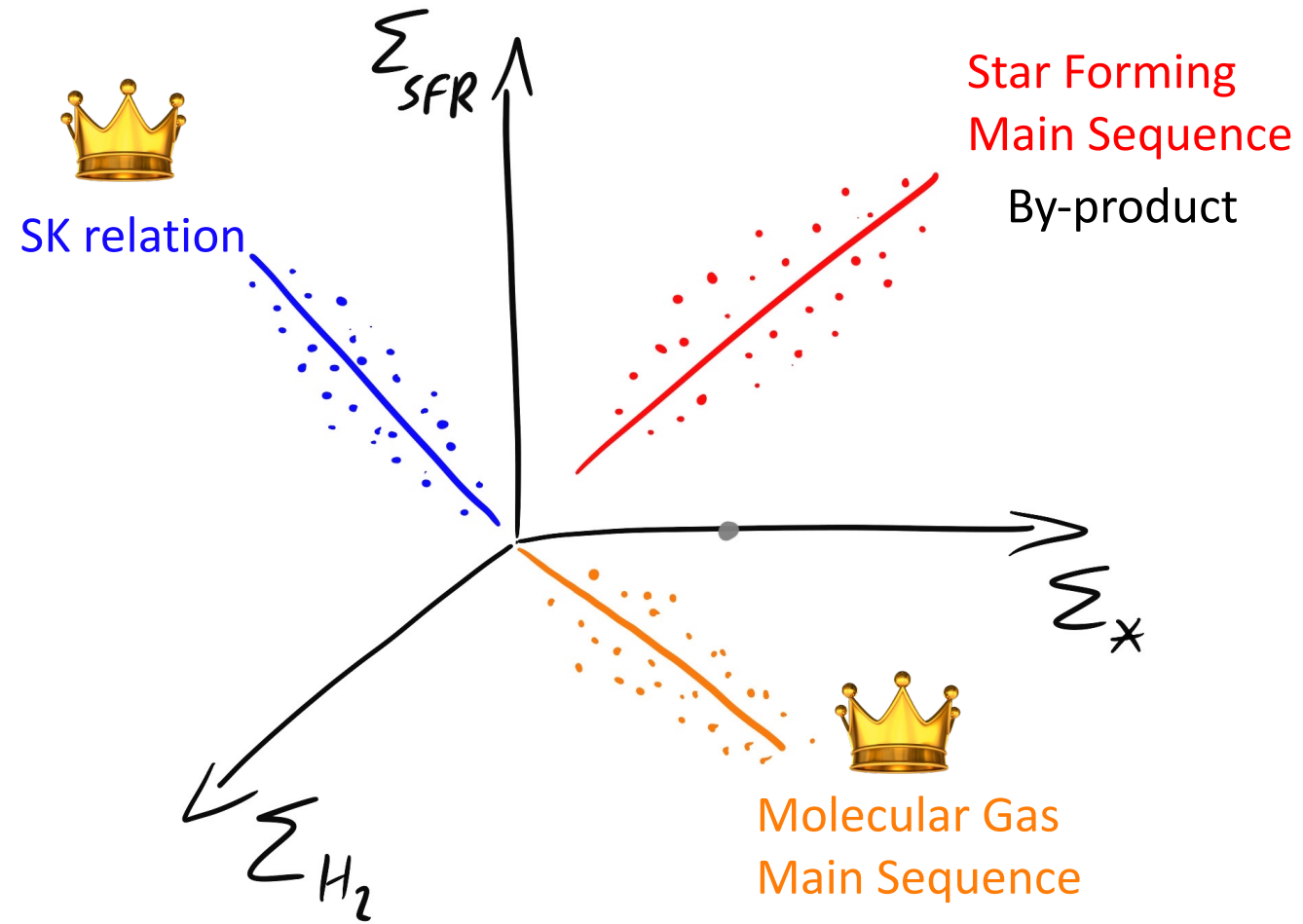


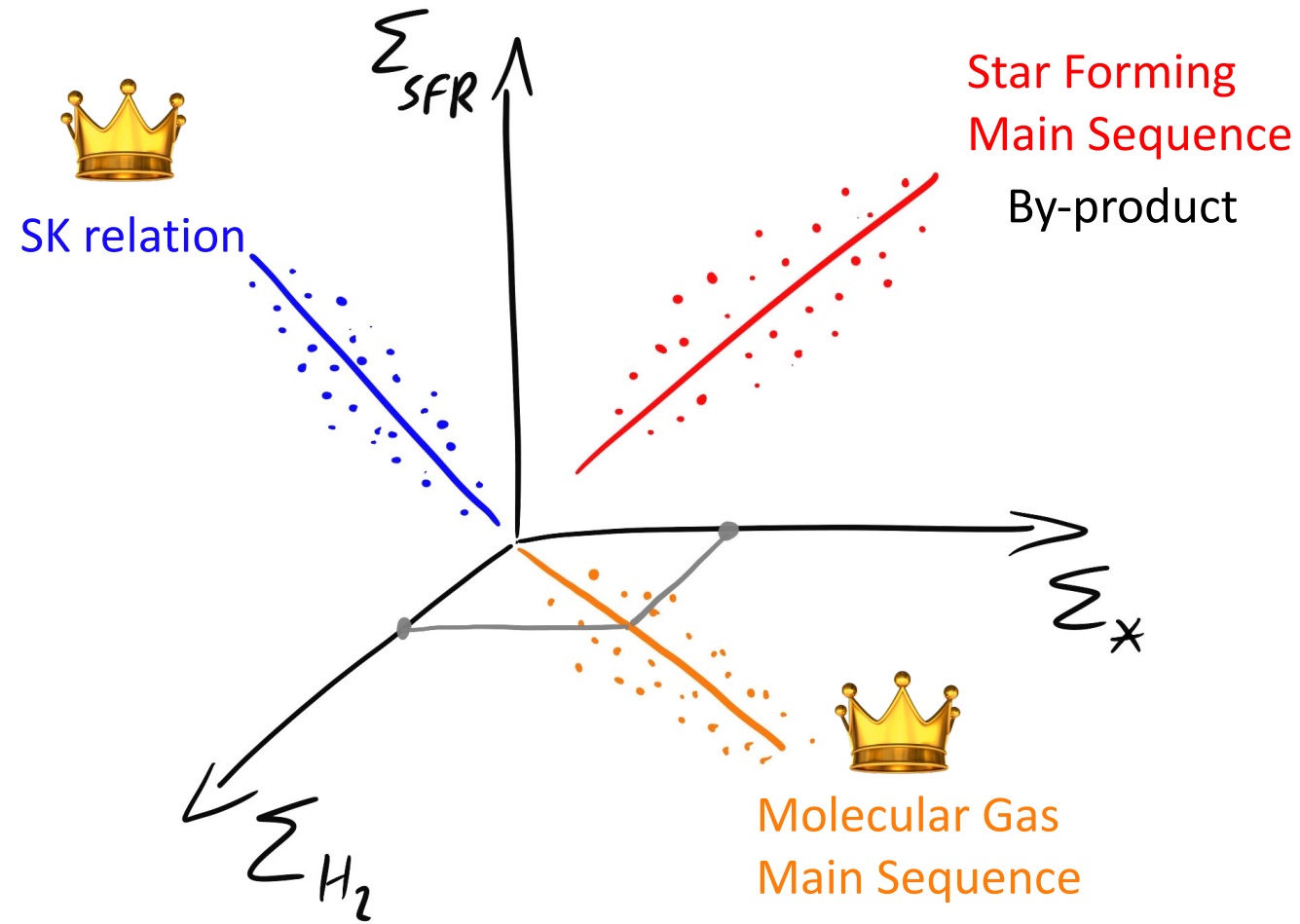
Σ_{H_2} (i.e. Schmidt-Kennicutt) unambiguously, by far, the most important

Σ_* totally unimportant once the dependence on Σ_{H_2} is taken into account

Baker+22

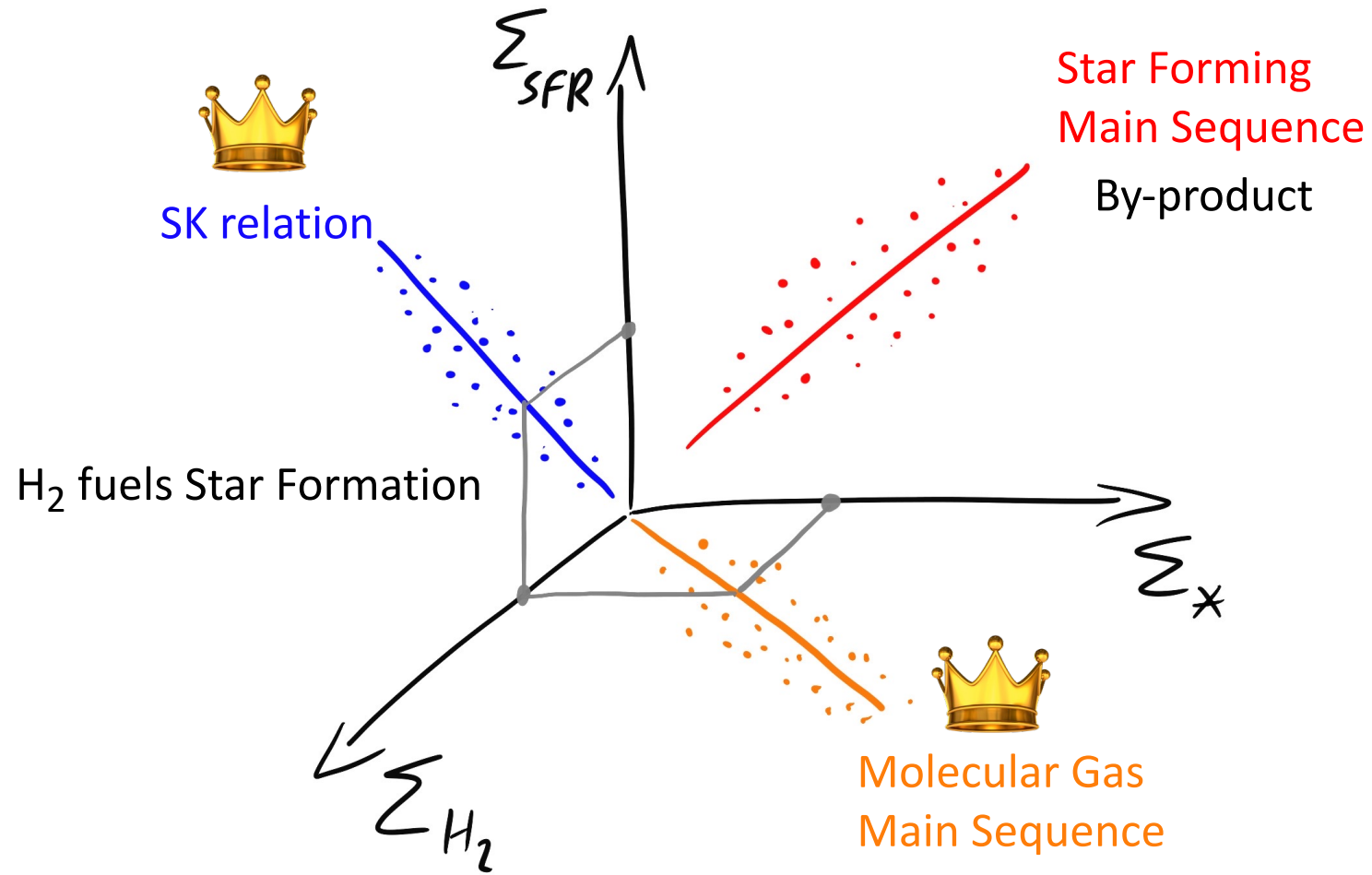


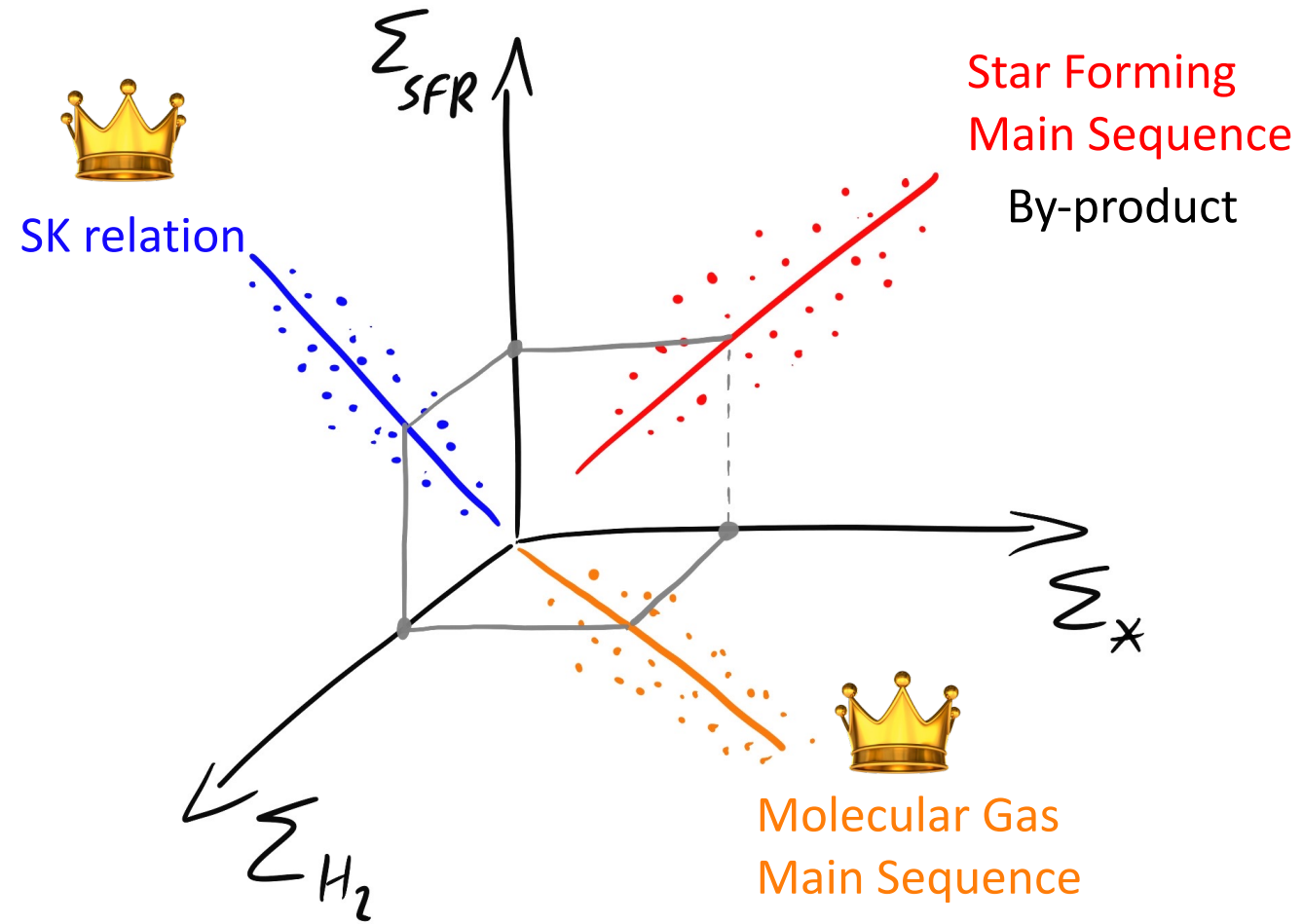




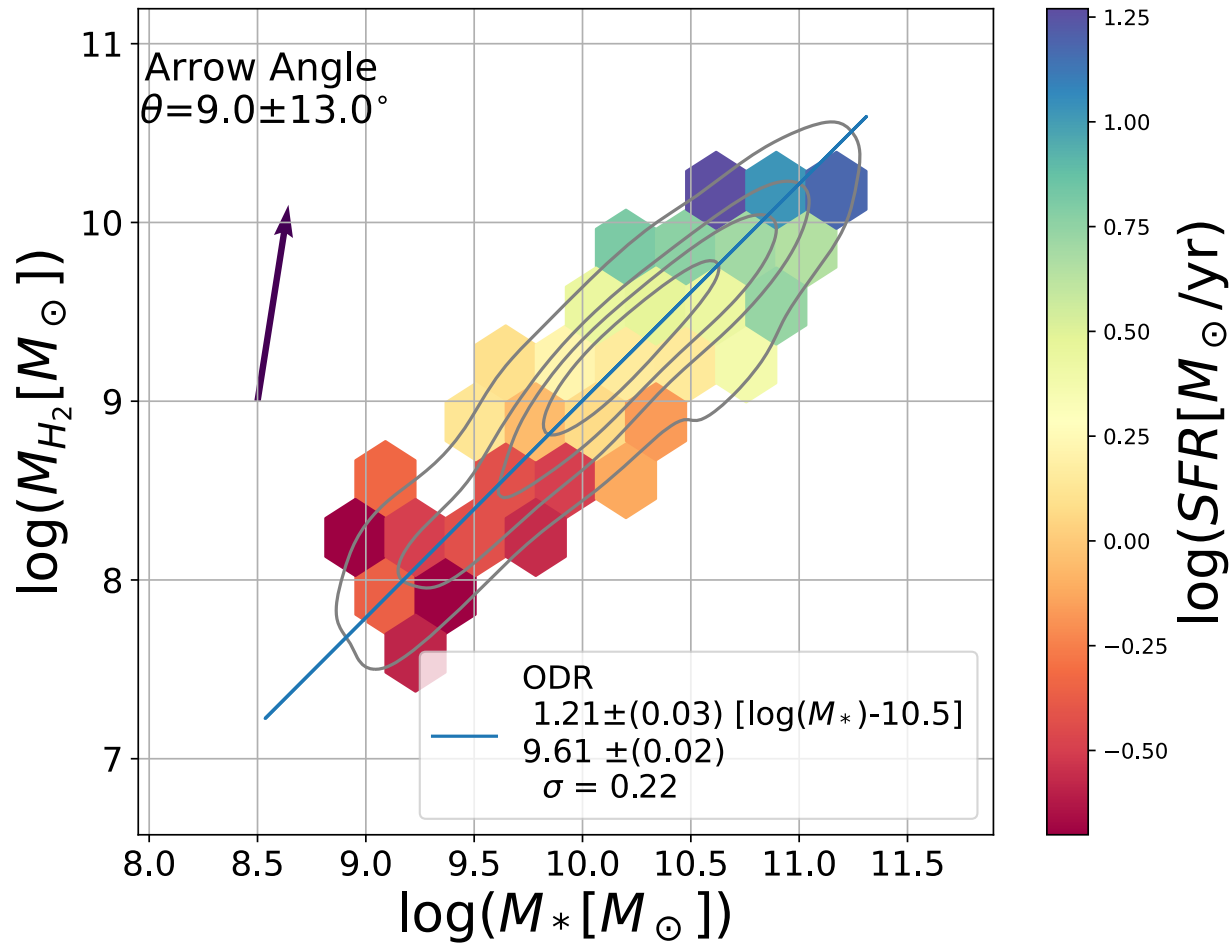
Possible explanations:
Gas accretion via gravity
HI- \rightarrow H₂ conversion

.....

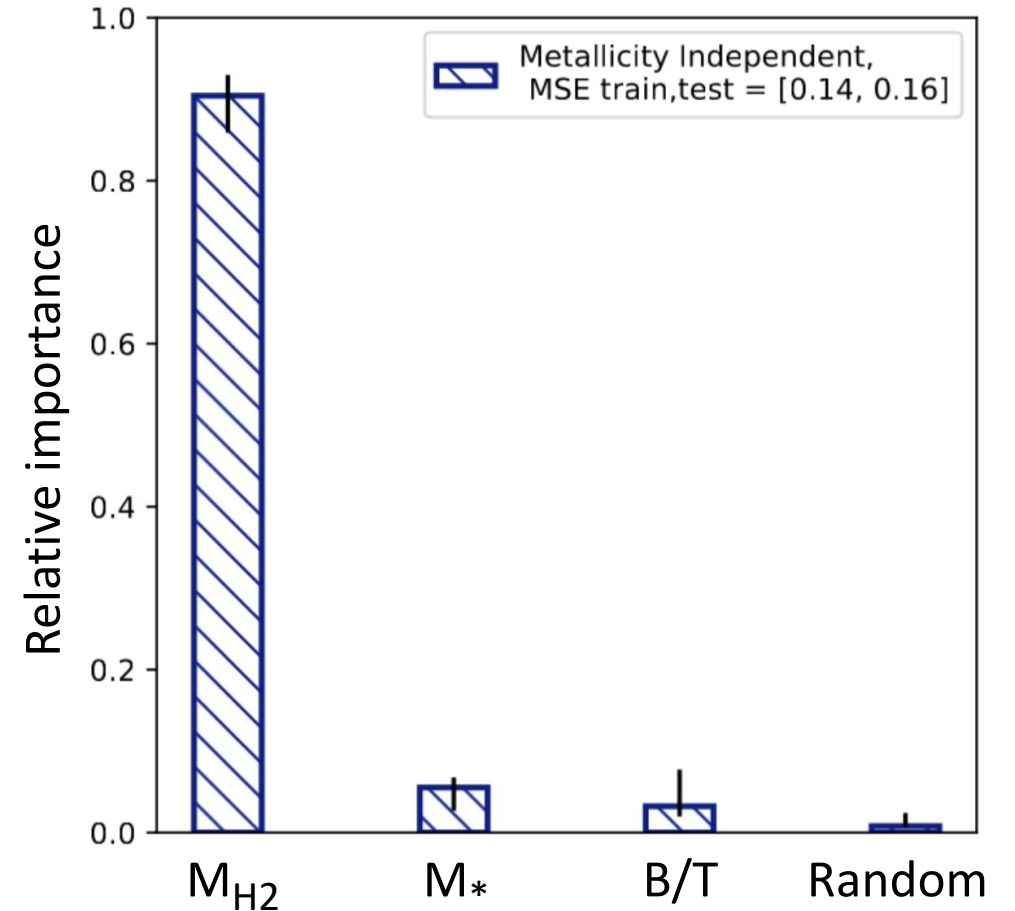




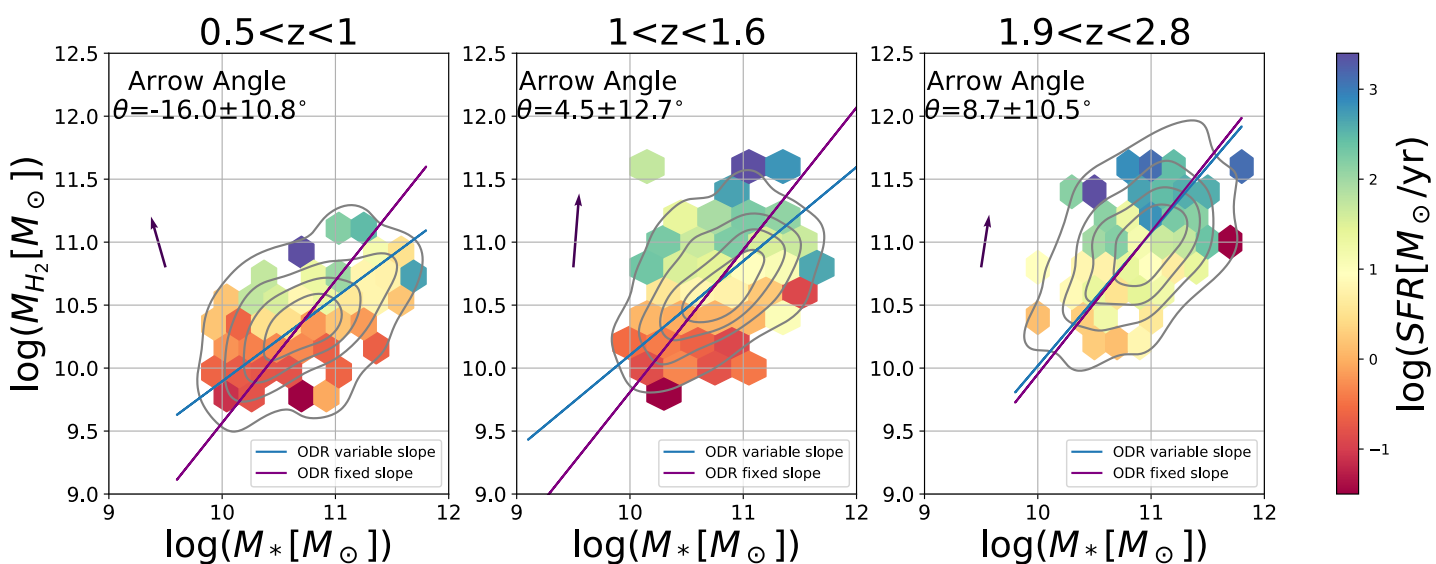
Same finding for the integrated, global quantities – Locally



Parameter importance in determining SFR

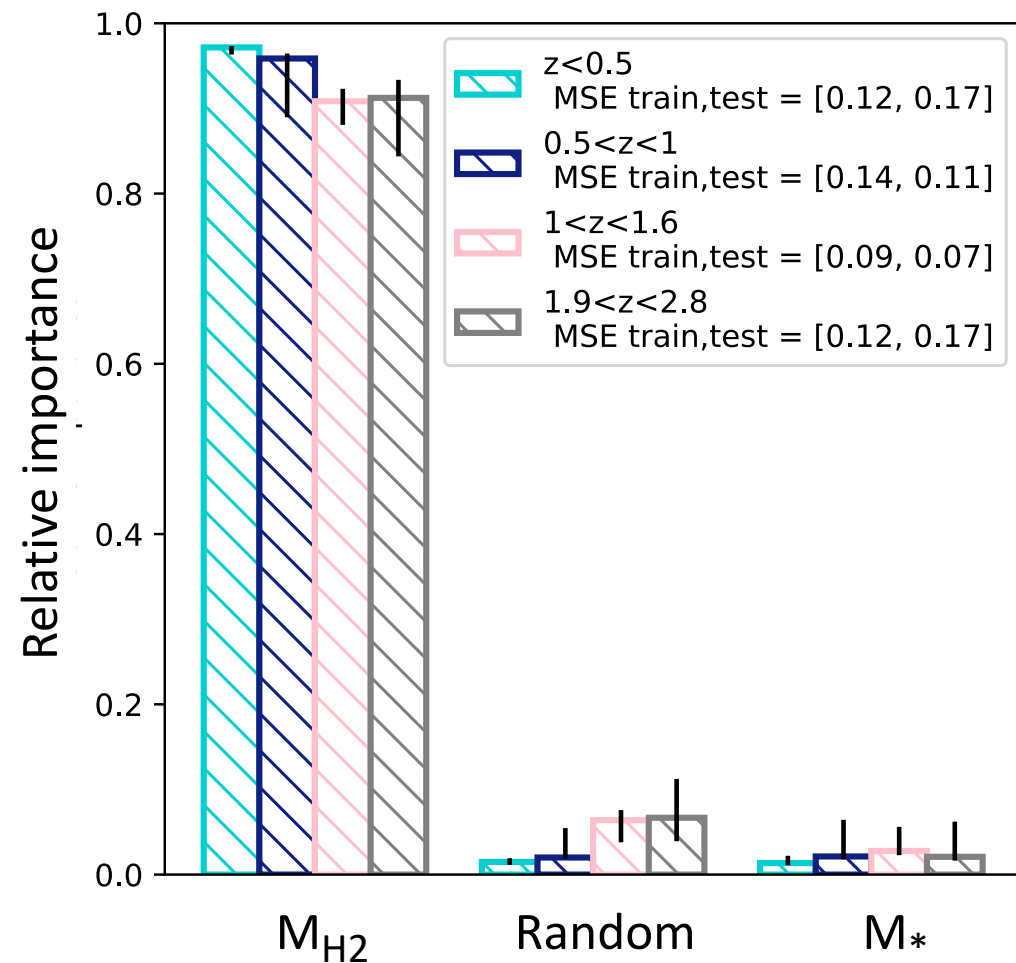


Same finding for the integrated, global quantities – At high- z

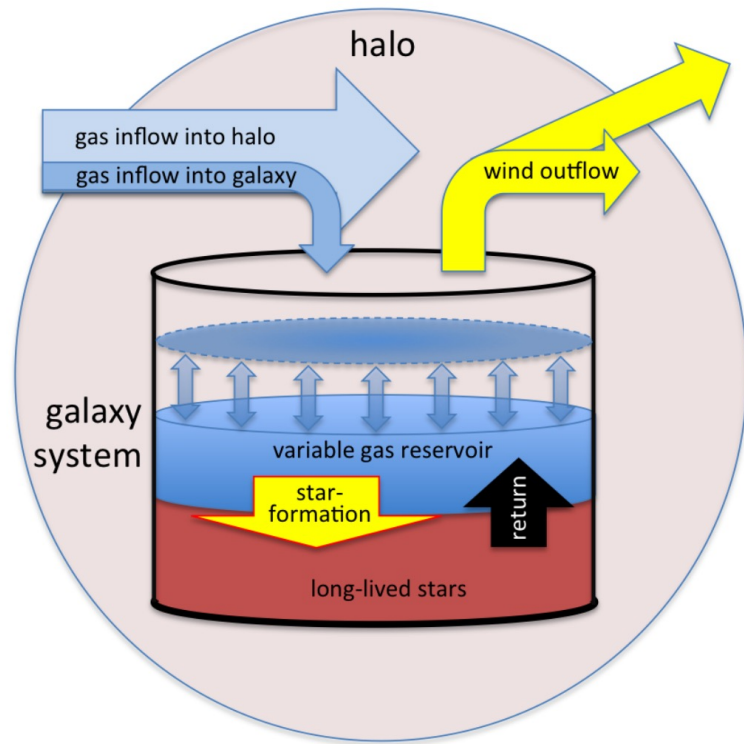


Baker+2023a

Parameter importance in determining SFR

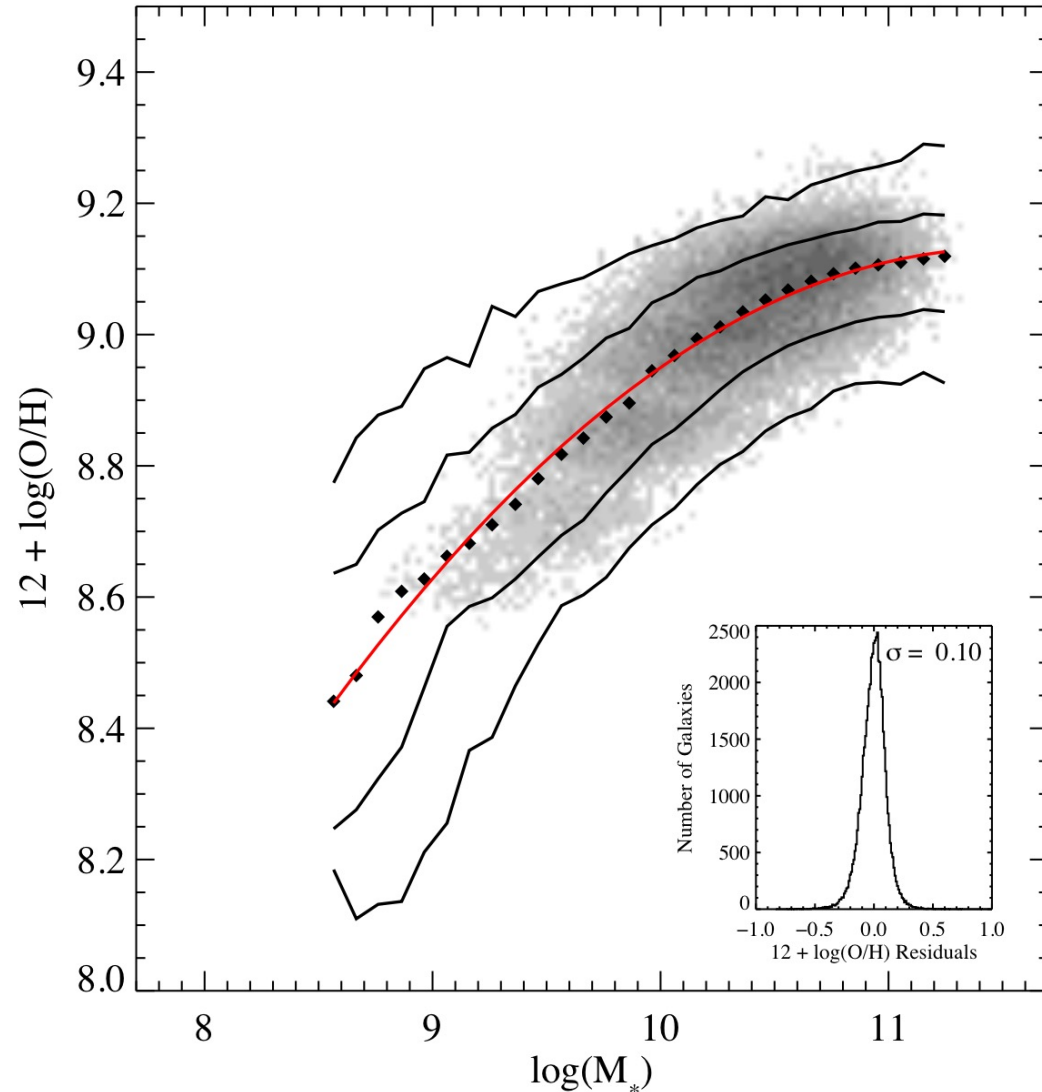


What about other quantities? Gas phase metallicity



- Gas phase metallicity, $12+\log(\text{O}/\text{H})$, is the metallicity of the ISM as traced by emission lines
- Important tracer of many baryonic processes taking place in galaxies
- Can trace gas inflows, outflows, star-formation, etc.
- Can be reasonably well-modelled by simple gas-regulator models e.g. Lilly+2013

Mass-Metallicity Relation (MZR)

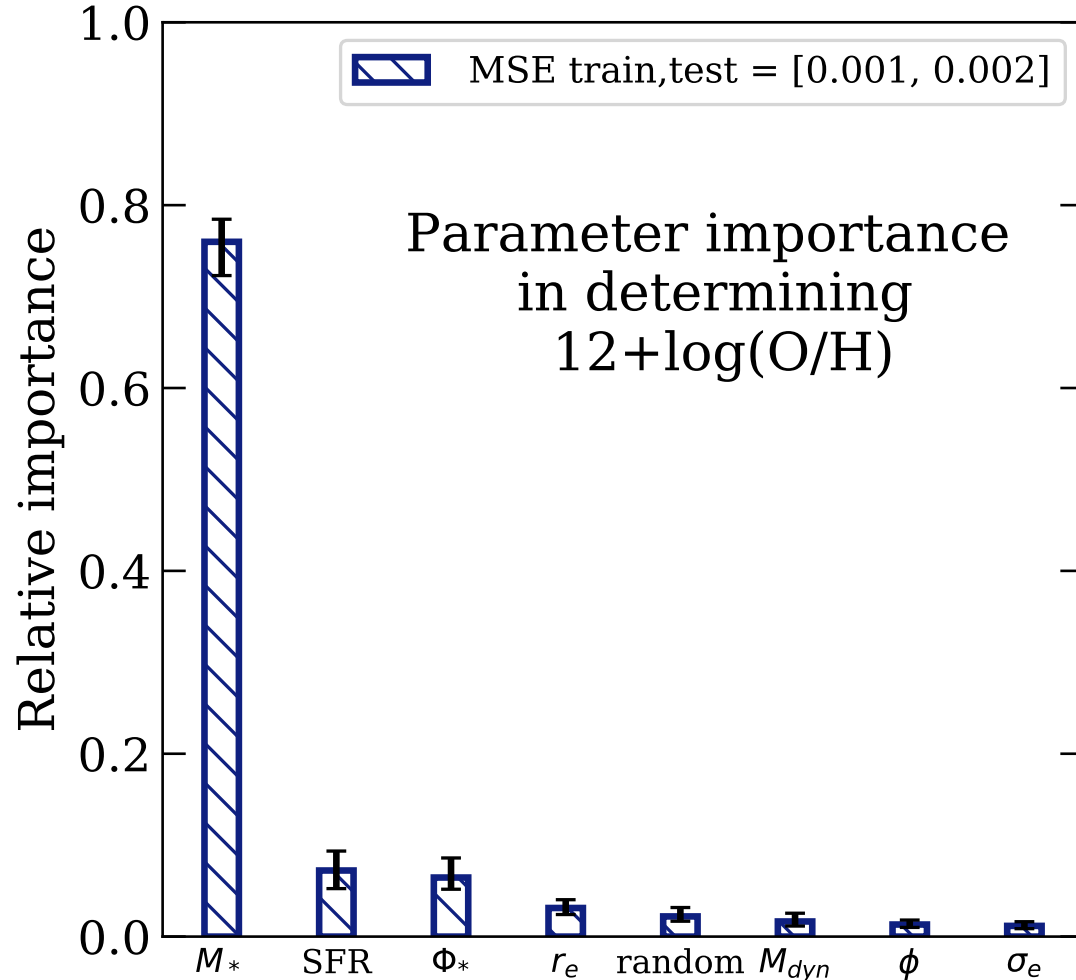


- Metallicity increases with stellar mass up to $M_* \sim 10^{10.5-11} M_\odot$
- more massive galaxies have larger gravitational potentials \rightarrow better able to hold onto metals?
- Or larger stellar mass, hence greater star-formation over its history, hence greater metal production?

Does the
mass-
metallicity
relation (MZR)
truly trace
stellar mass?

Or is it tracing
dynamical mass or the
underlying
gravitational potential?

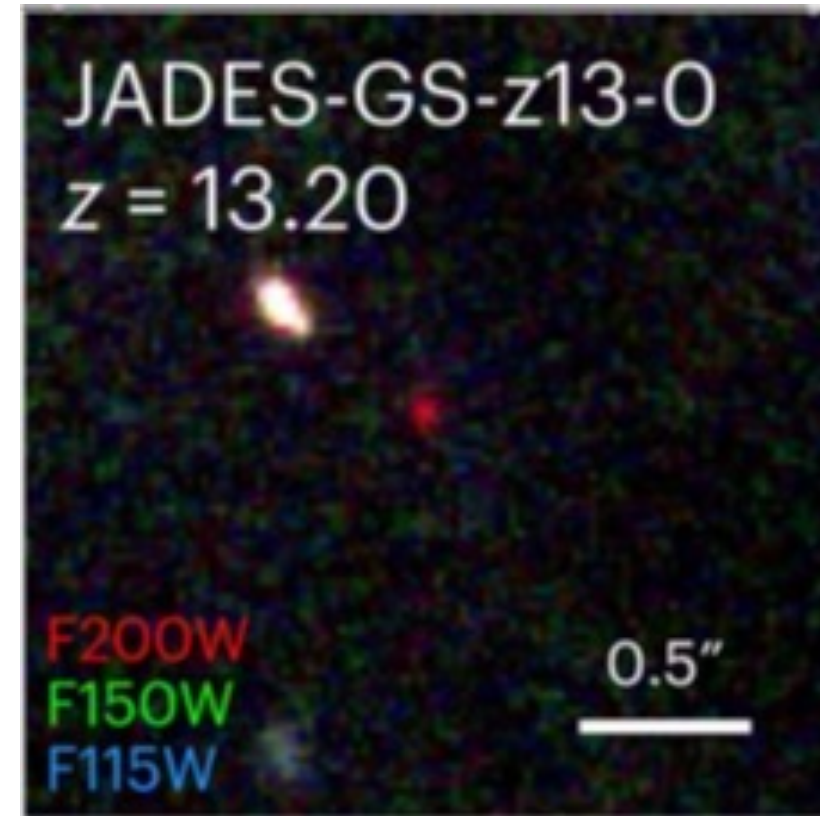
Can investigate many more quantities simultaneously with random forests



- E.g. what does the gas-phase metallicity of SF galaxies depend on?
- Here we show metallicity depends on stellar mass not the underlying gravitational potential

Bayesian Inference with ForcePho

- NIRCam on JWST gives us some of the deepest images of the universe
- But how do we accurately extract the light of the source? (whilst accounting for multiple components, PSF effects etc.)

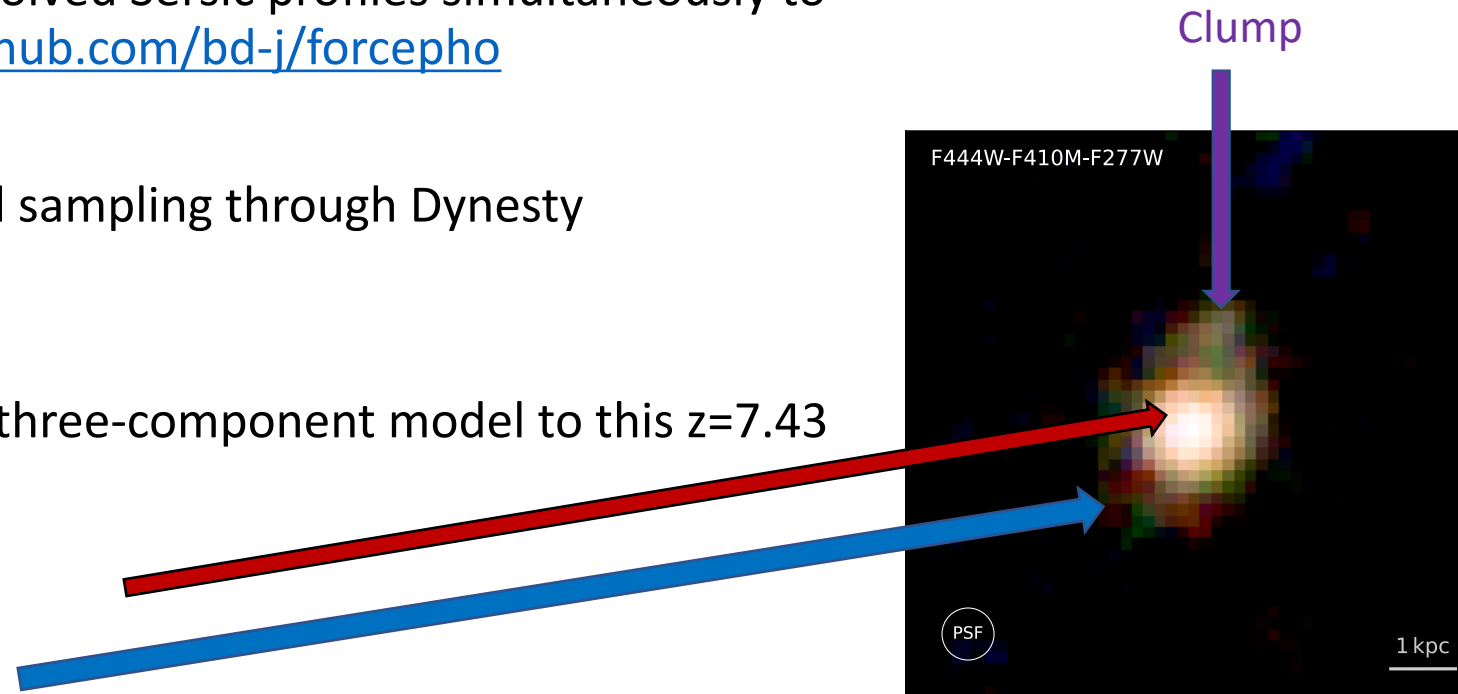


Robertson+2023



ForcePho

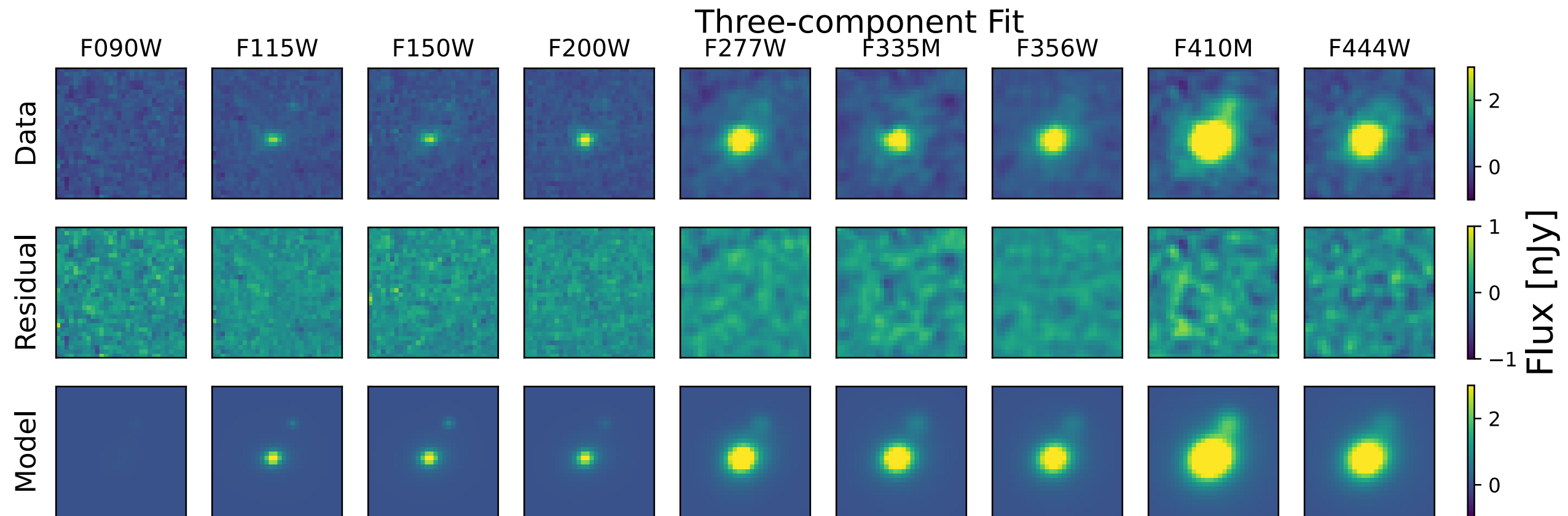
- ForcePho (Johnson+ in prep) is a forced photometry tool that fits multiple PSF convolved Sersic profiles simultaneously to each filter <https://github.com/bd-j/forcepho>
- Uses Dynamic Nested sampling through Dynesty (Speagle+2020)
- We can use it to fit a three-component model to this $z=7.43$ galaxy!
- Central **Core**
- + **Disc**
- + **Clump**

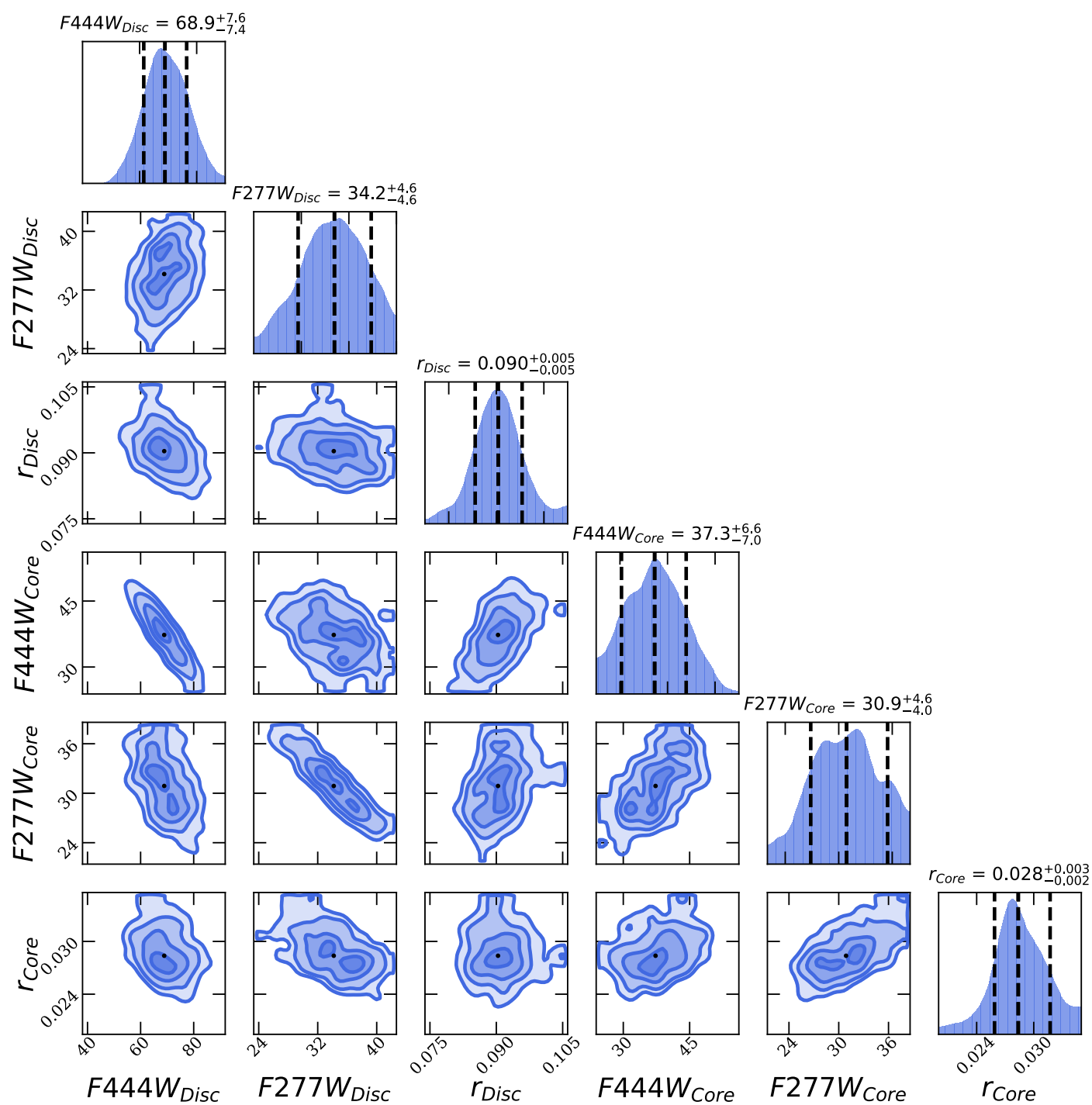


Baker et al., submitted

ForcePho fits

- Can see how ForcePho models the components well in each band



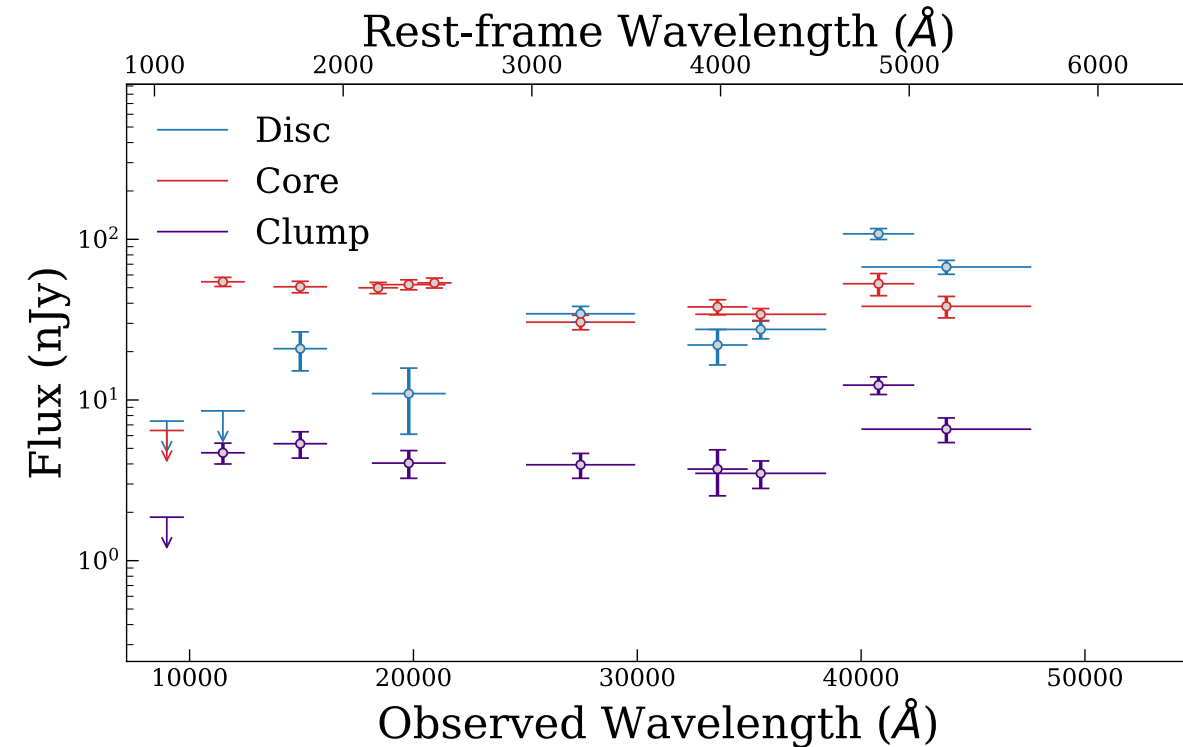


ForcePho Fits

- Corner fit showing fluxes and sizes for the **Core** and **Disc** components

Now we have the SED – Bayesian Inference with Prospector

- SED fitting with Prospector (Johnson+ 2021)
- Nested Sampling through Dynesty
- Non-parametric SFH (Continuity prior, Leja+ 2019)
- Flexible dust attenuation model
- Nebular emission via Cloudy – fit for ionization parameter and gas phase metallicity

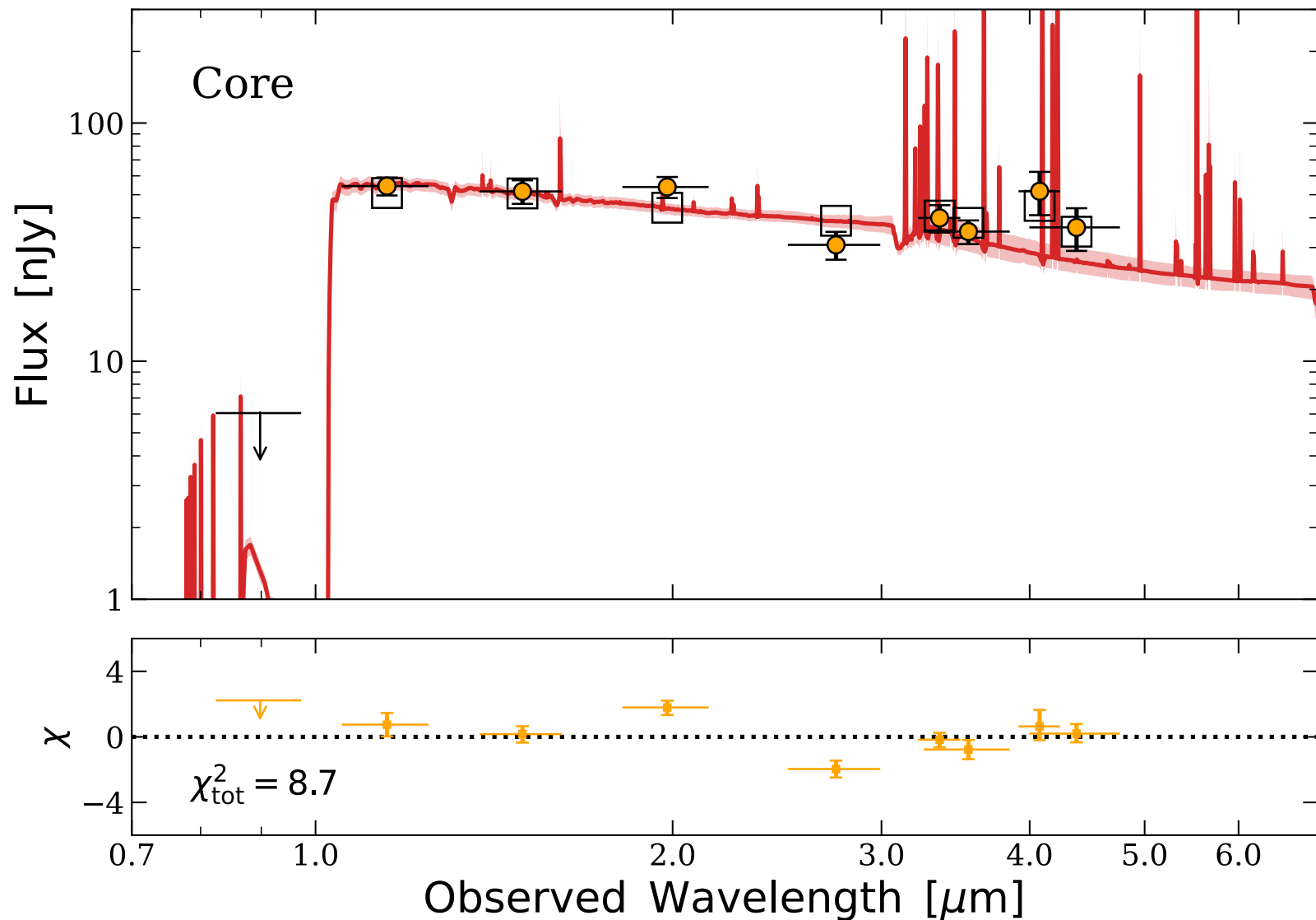


Baker et al., submitted

Core Component

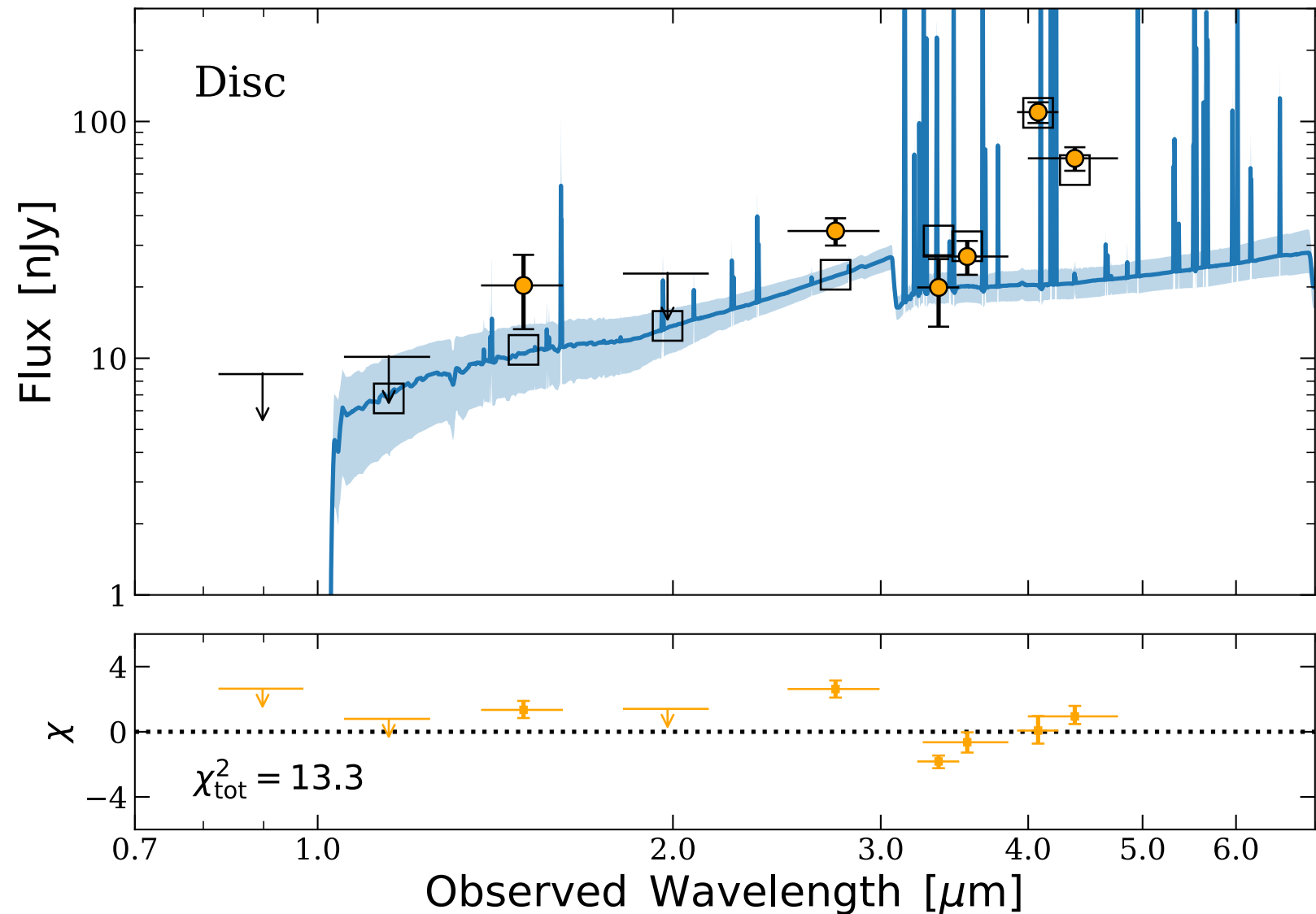
- SED fitting with Prospector (Johnson+ 2021)

- $\log(M_*/M_\odot) = 8.39$



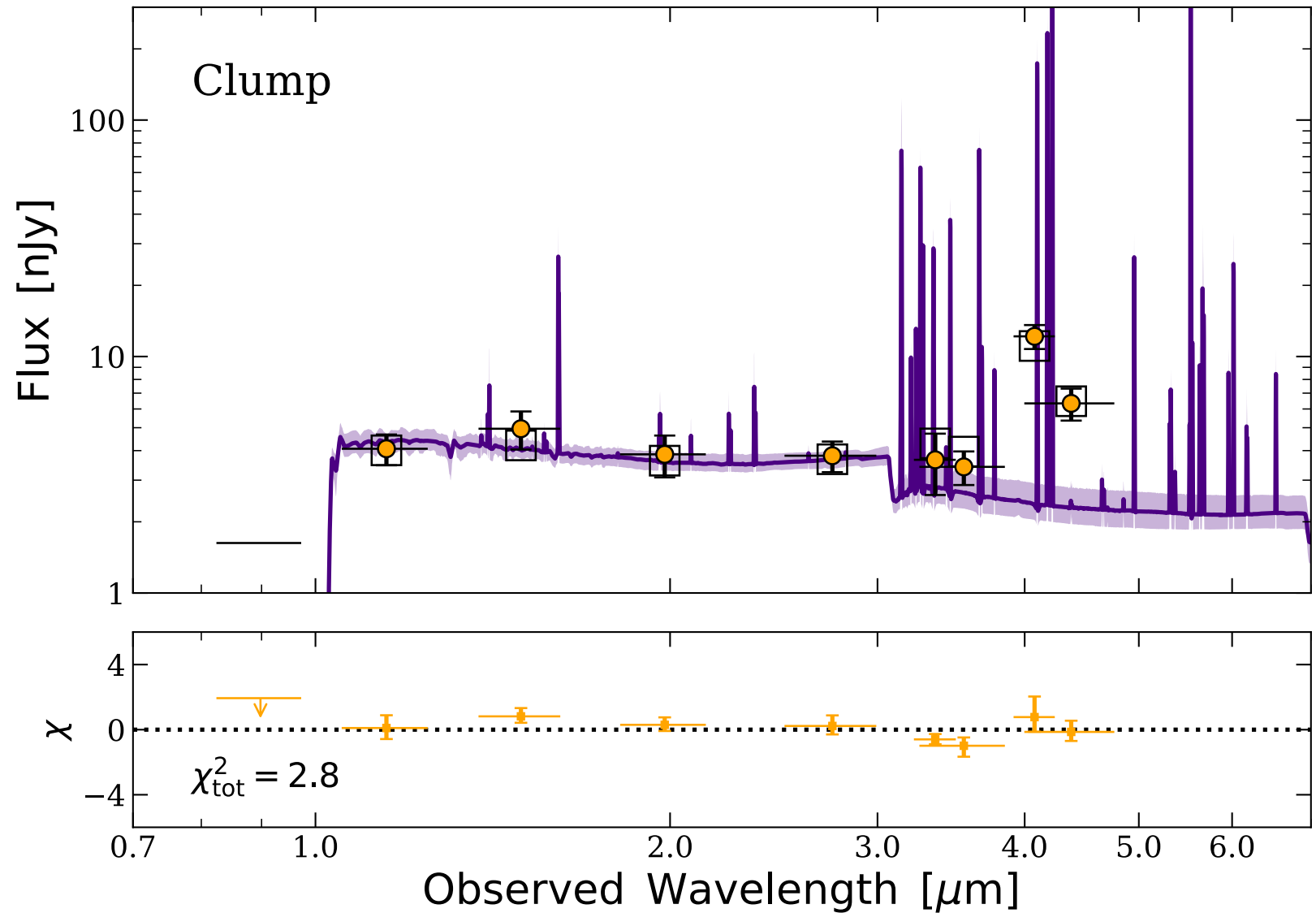
Disc Component

- Fit independently, but with the same fitting routine
- $\log(M_*/M_\odot) = 8.3$
- Also fit combined photometry – find we miss stellar mass \rightarrow spatially resolved photometry important!

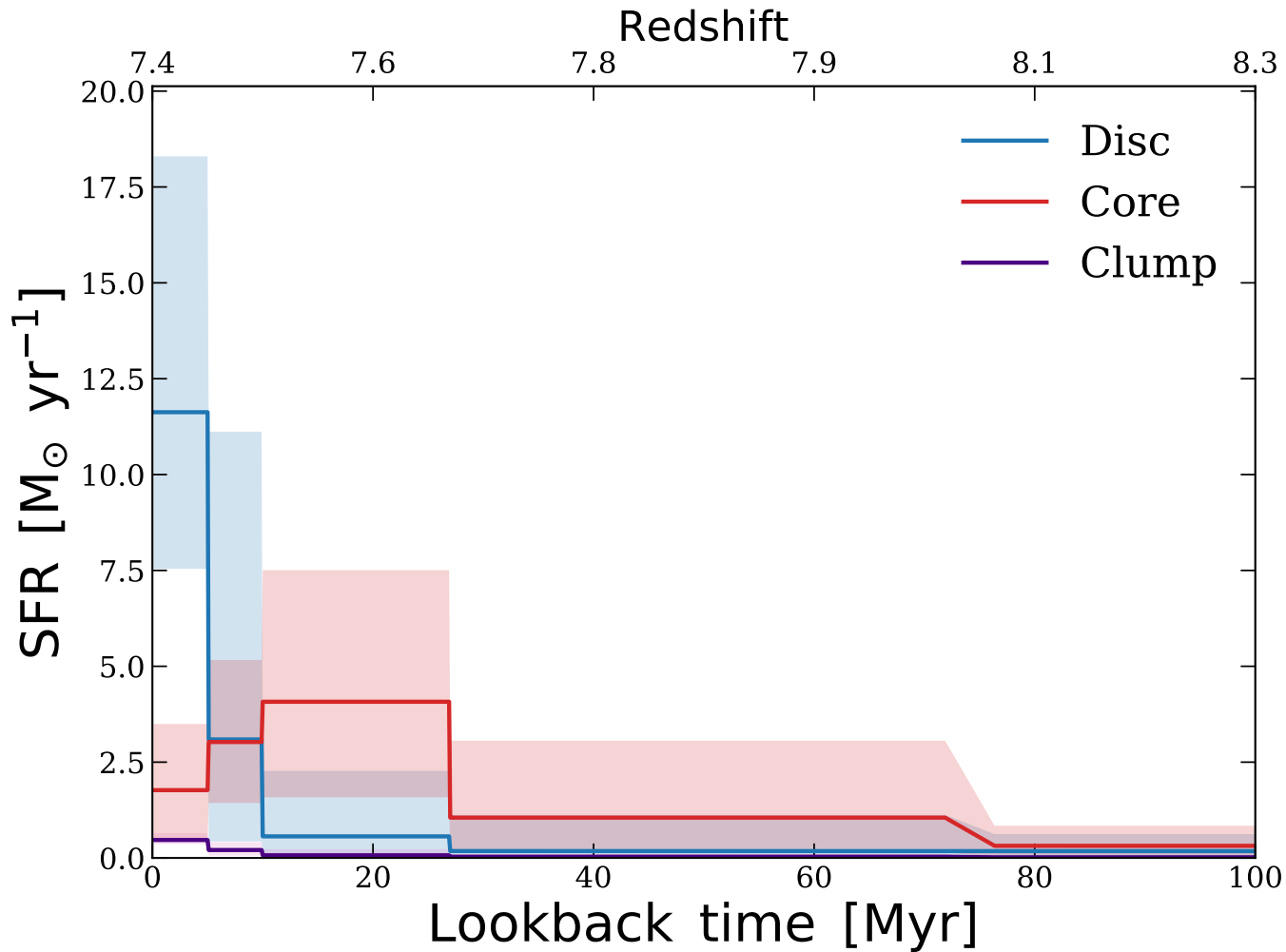


Clump Component

- Fit independently, but with the same fitting routine
- Can see that the clump has a distinct stellar population \rightarrow might be a small merging galaxy?
- $\log(M_*/M_\odot) = 7.2$



Star-formation histories



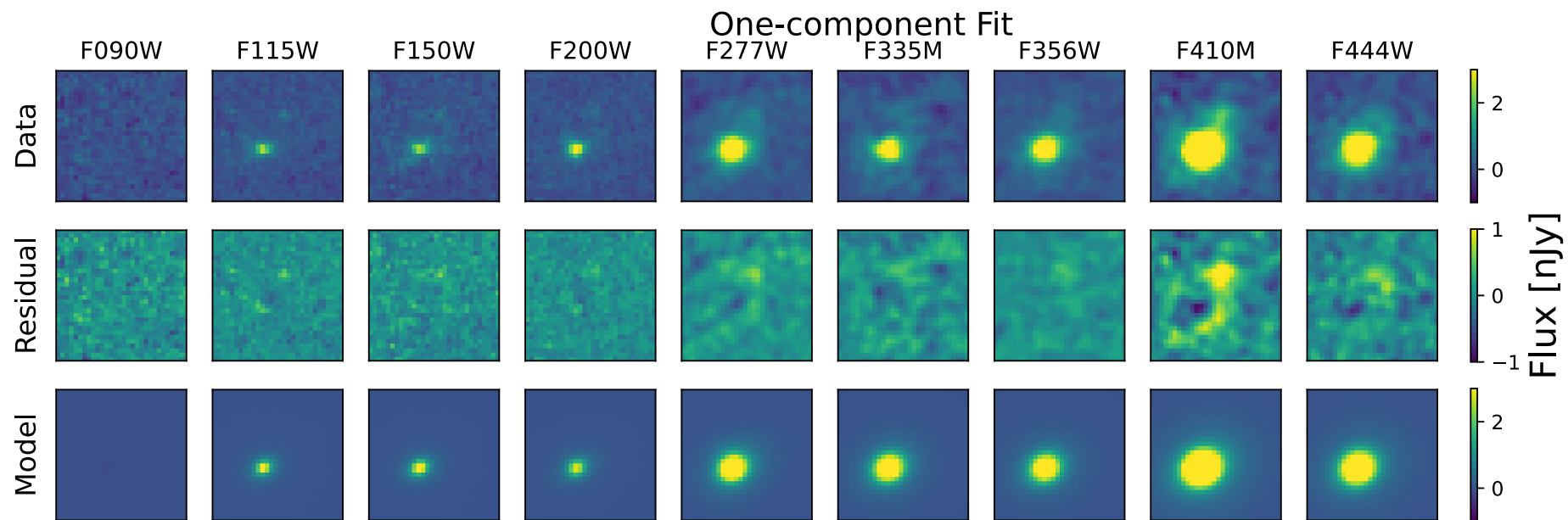
Baker et al., submitted

- **Disc** appears to be undergoing a recent burst
- **Core** appears to be decreasing in SFR
- **Core** and **Clump** appear to be older, **Disc** appears to be younger

Summary

- Partial correlation coefficients and random forest regression can be used to help uncover intrinsic relationships amongst highly inter-correlated quantities
- → SFMS is not an intrinsic scaling relation, rather a byproduct of the MGMS and SK relations
- → MZR does actually trace stellar mass not the gravitational potential
- Nested sampling and Bayesian inference (in this case ForcePho and Prospector) important to accurately fit models for high- z galaxies
- → enables us to model structure in a $z=7.43$ galaxy

Thank you for listening!



One and two
component
fits

