

~ 20 pc

Disentangling the physical parameters for gaseous nebulae and galaxies

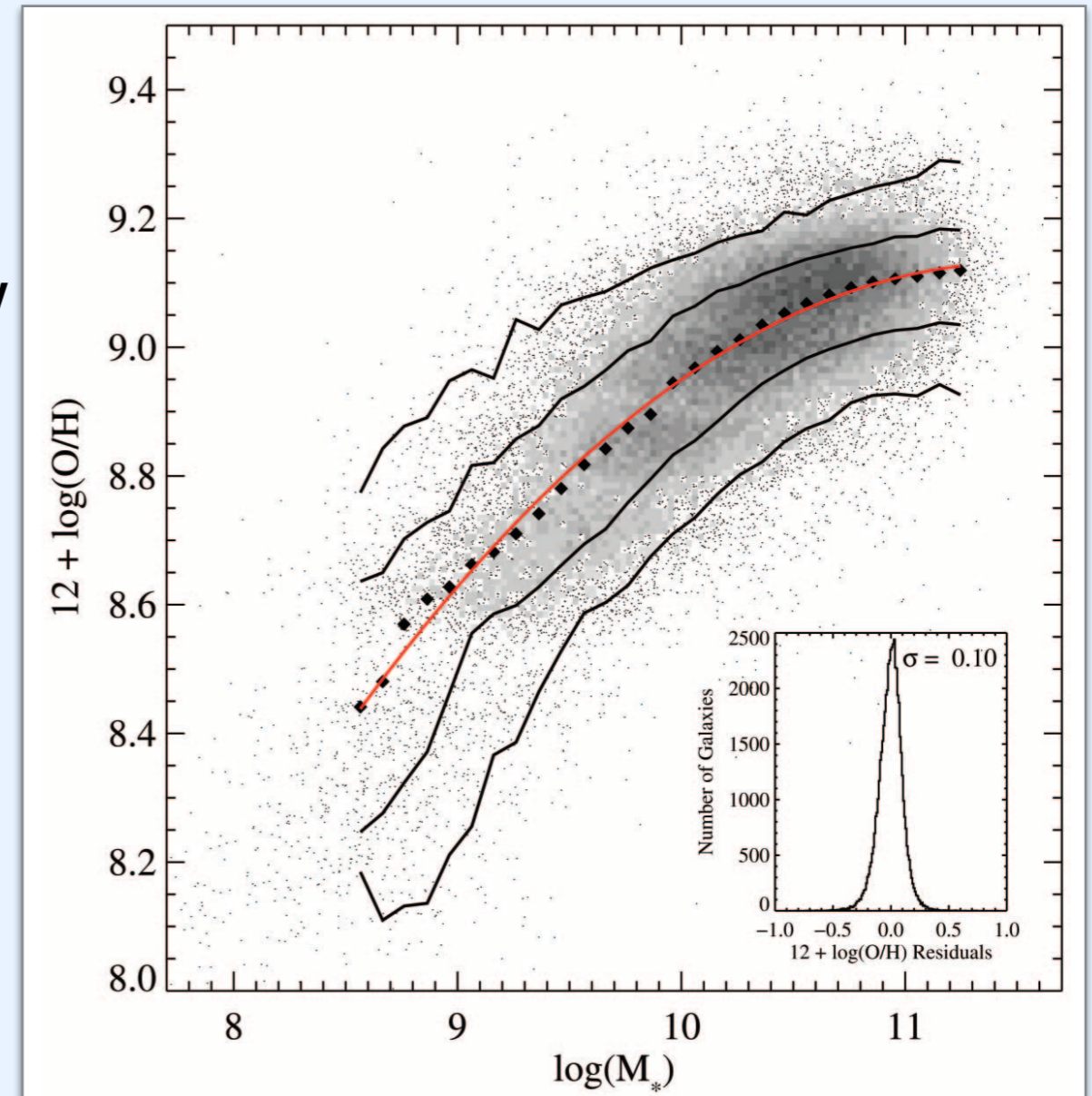
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In collaboration with Akio K. Inoue

How do the gas properties connect with the galaxy's mass and SF activity?

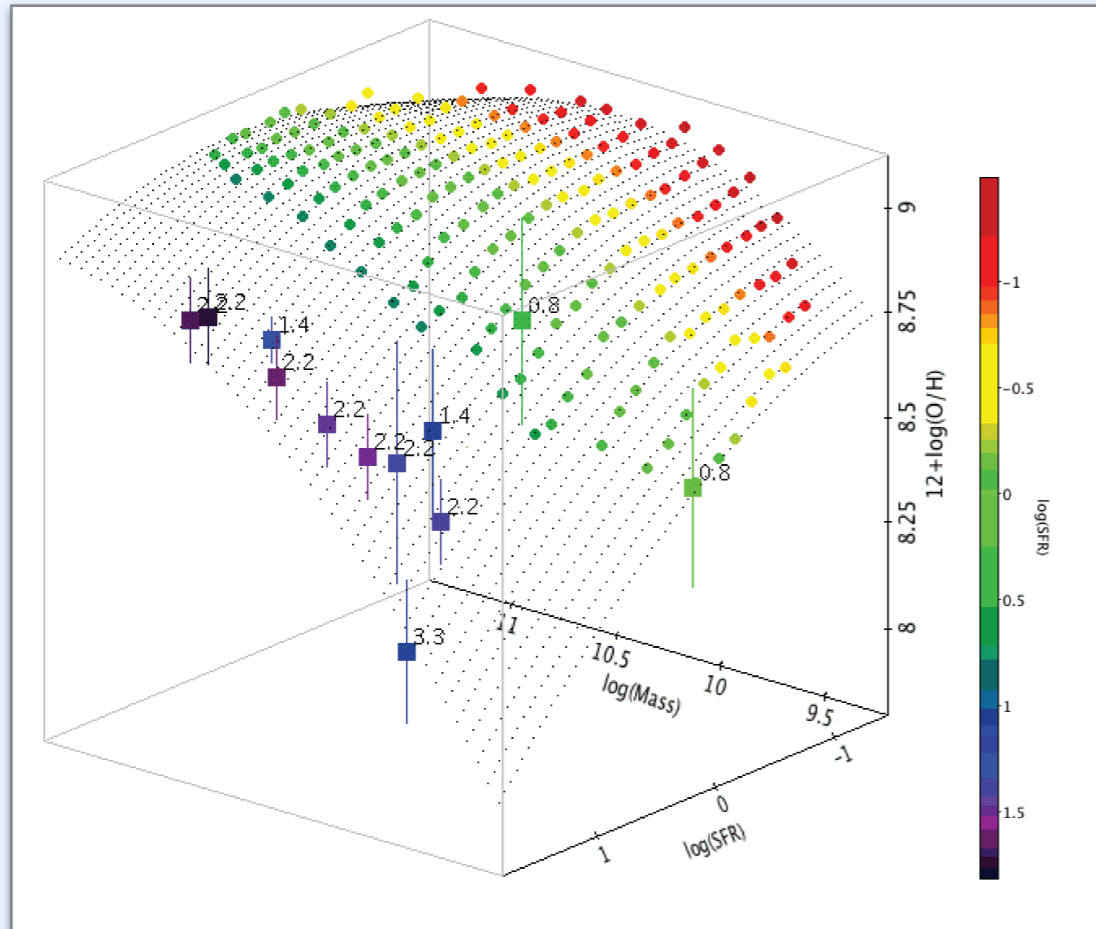
Mass—metallicity relation (MZR)

- Metallicity reflects the history of star formation, inflow and outflow of gas content.
- Established in the local Universe ($z \sim 0.07$) using 53,000 galaxies from SDSS
- A tight correlation
 ~ 0.1 dex in Z at fixed M_*
- MZR evolves with redshift:
now studied up to $z \sim 5$

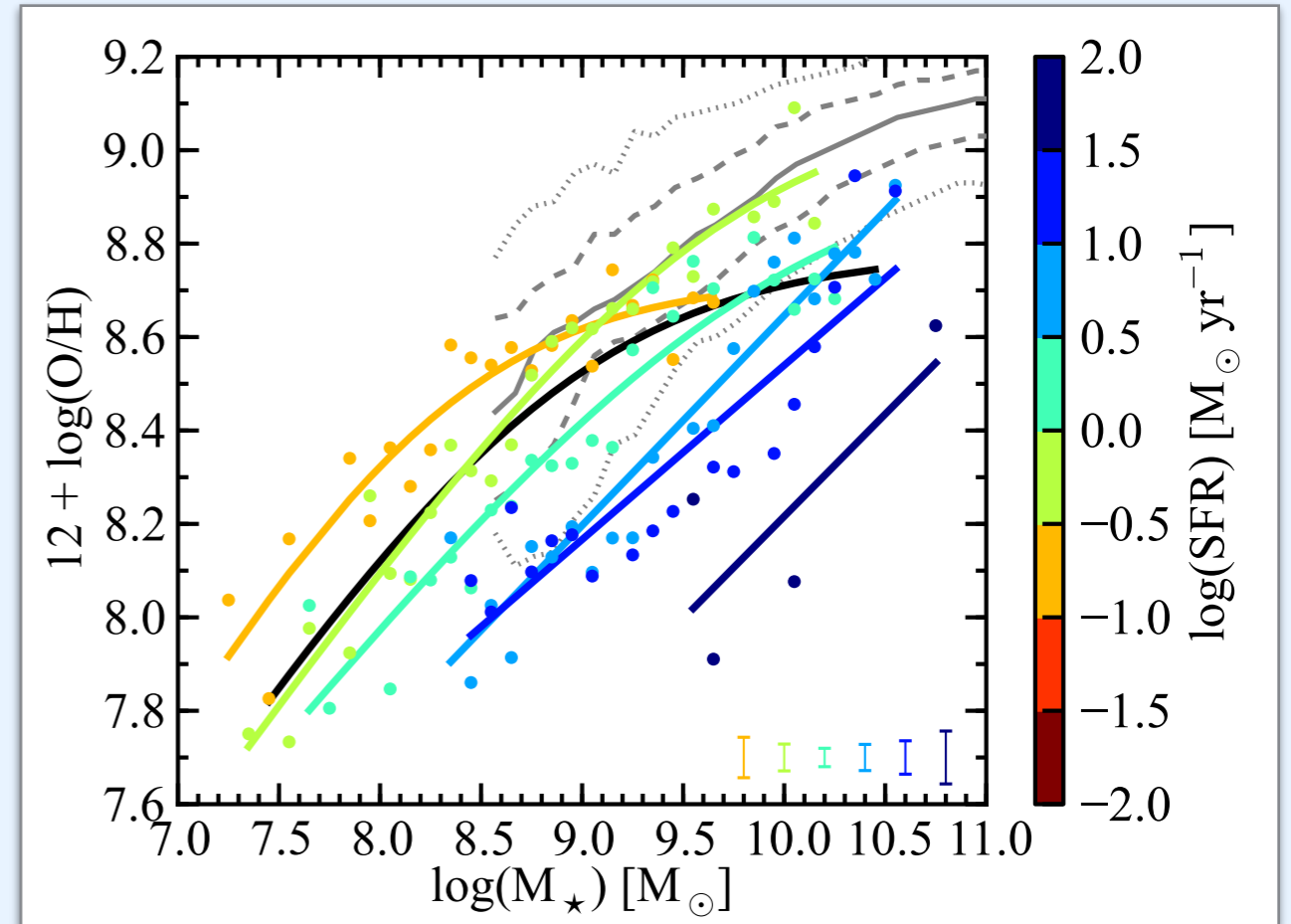


Tremonti+04

Mass—metallicity—SFR relation:



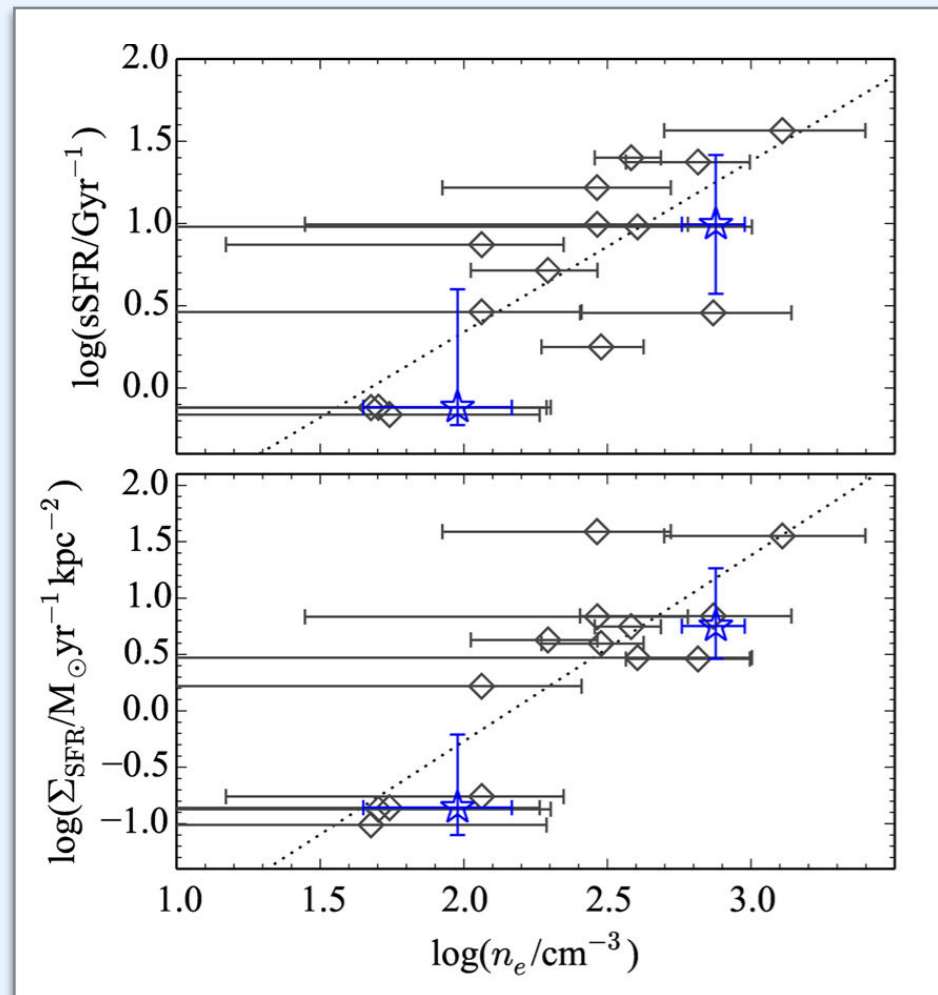
Mannucci+10



Andrews&Martini 13

- Metallicity is inversely correlated with SFR at fixed M_* at $z \sim 0.1$.
- $Z(M_*, \text{SFR})$ has been proposed to be redshift-independent up to $z \sim 2$ (Fundamental Metallicity Relation: FMR), while it remains under debate.
- Gas mass may play a central role: elevated inflow rate could enhance SFR while diluting metallicity.

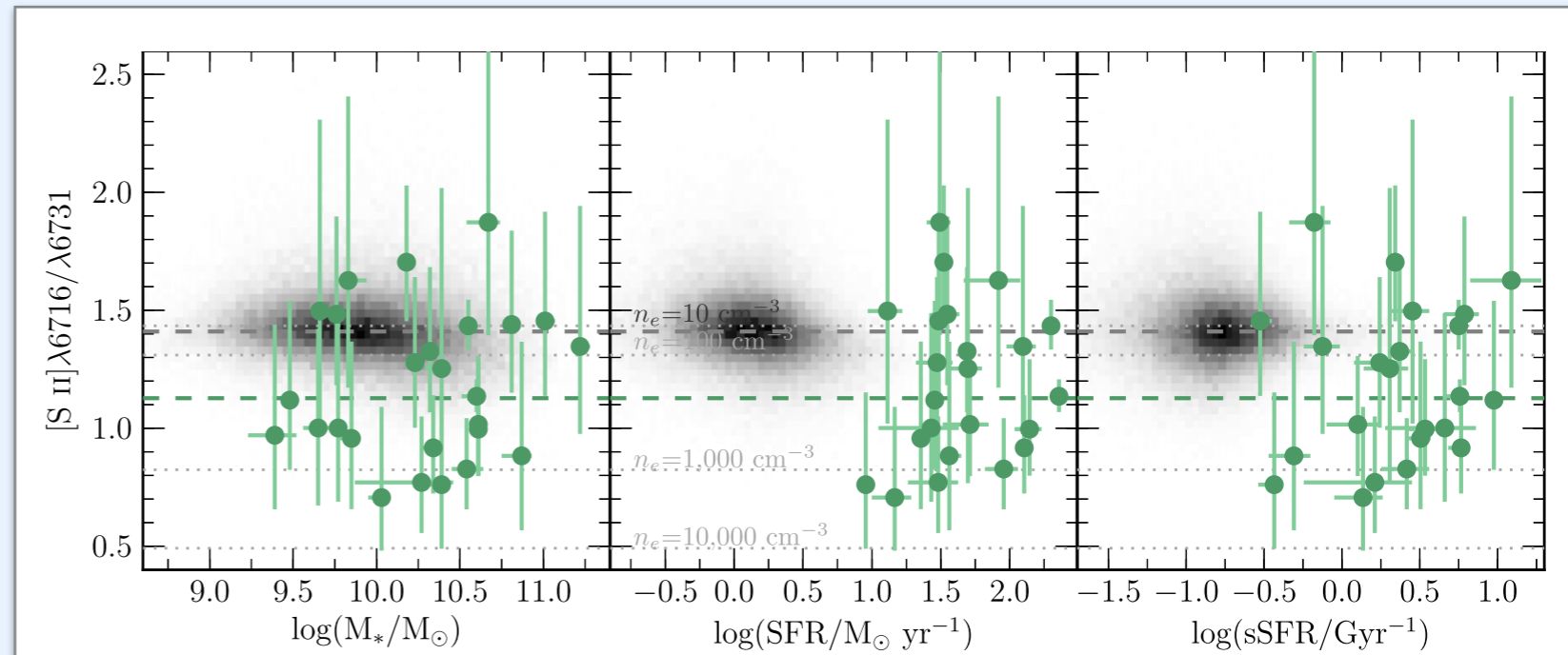
Electron density n_e of HII regions



◀ Shimakawa+15

$z \sim 2.5$

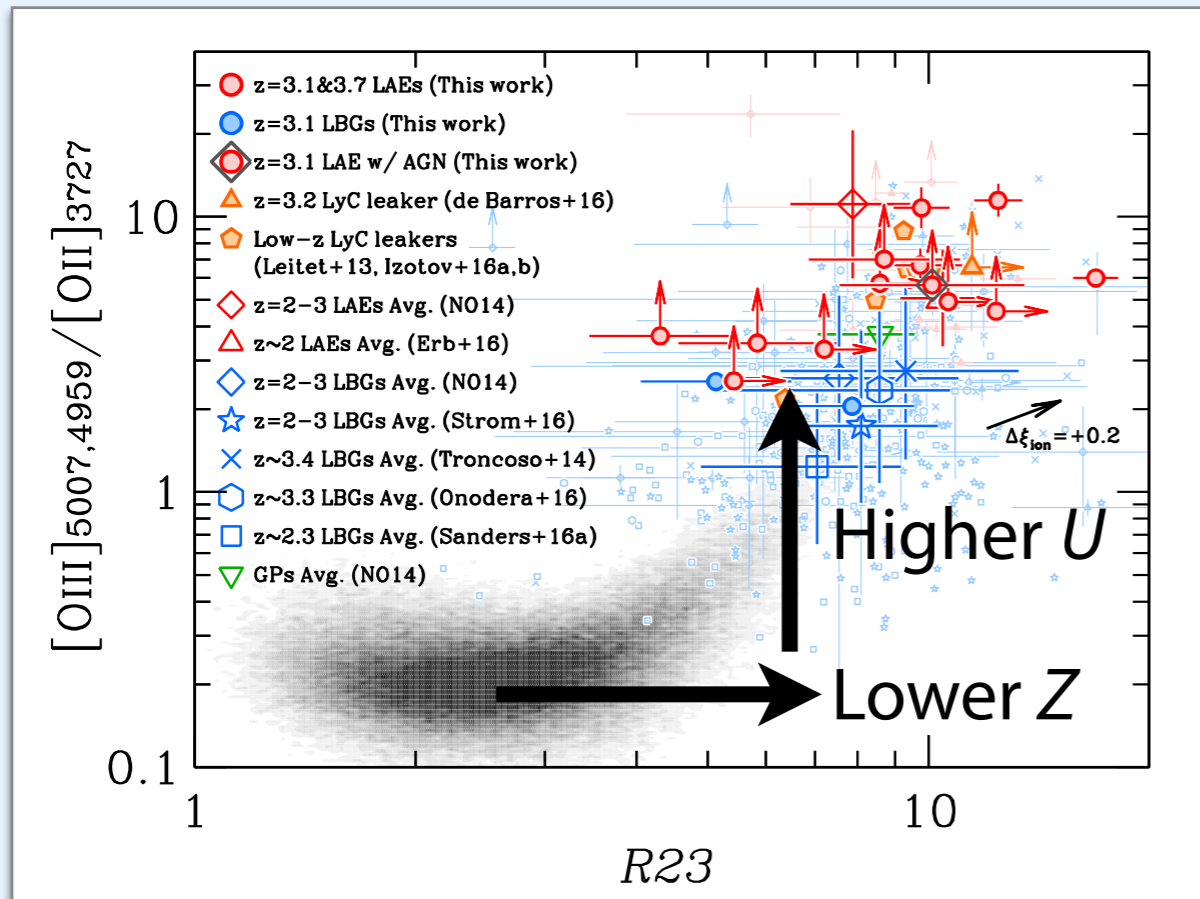
▼ Sanders+15 $z \sim 2.3$



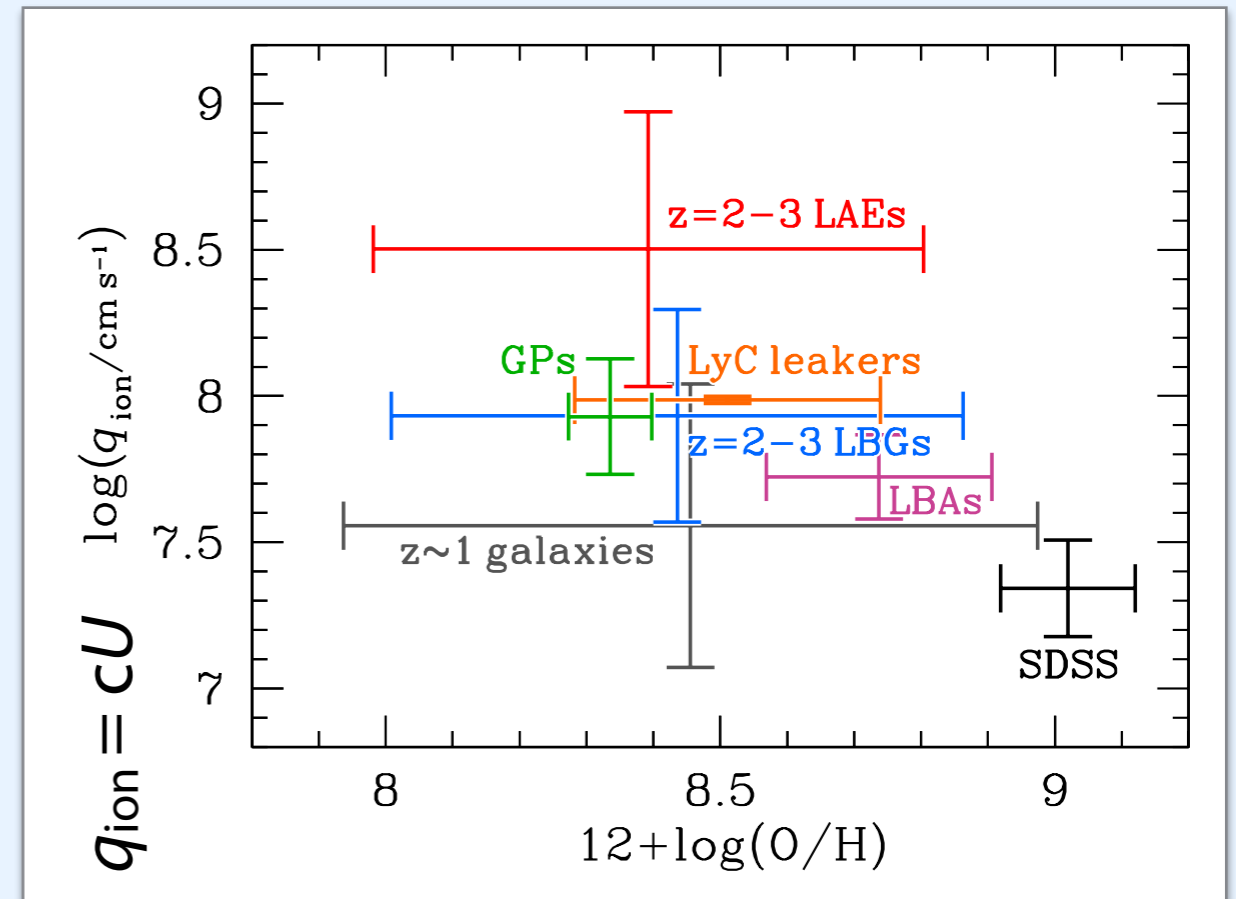
- Typical n_e ranges from a few to $<100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the local SDSS galaxies
- At higher z ($z \gtrsim 1.5$), n_e is often estimated to be $>100\text{--}1000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.
- may correlate with the global SF activity (sSFR and/or Σ_{SFR}).

Ionization parameter $U = S_{\text{ion}}/cn_{\text{H}}$ (c = speed of light)
the ratio of ionizing photon flux to hydrogen density ($n_{\text{H}} \approx n_{\text{e}}$).

Nakajima+16



Nakajima+14



- Commonly estimated from $[\text{OIII}]/[\text{OII}]$, but the Z -dependence has to be accounted for.
- Higher $[\text{OIII}]/[\text{OII}]$ ratios are often measured for high- z LBGs and LAEs — possible strong correlation between U and sSFR
- Anticorrelation appears to exist between U and Z

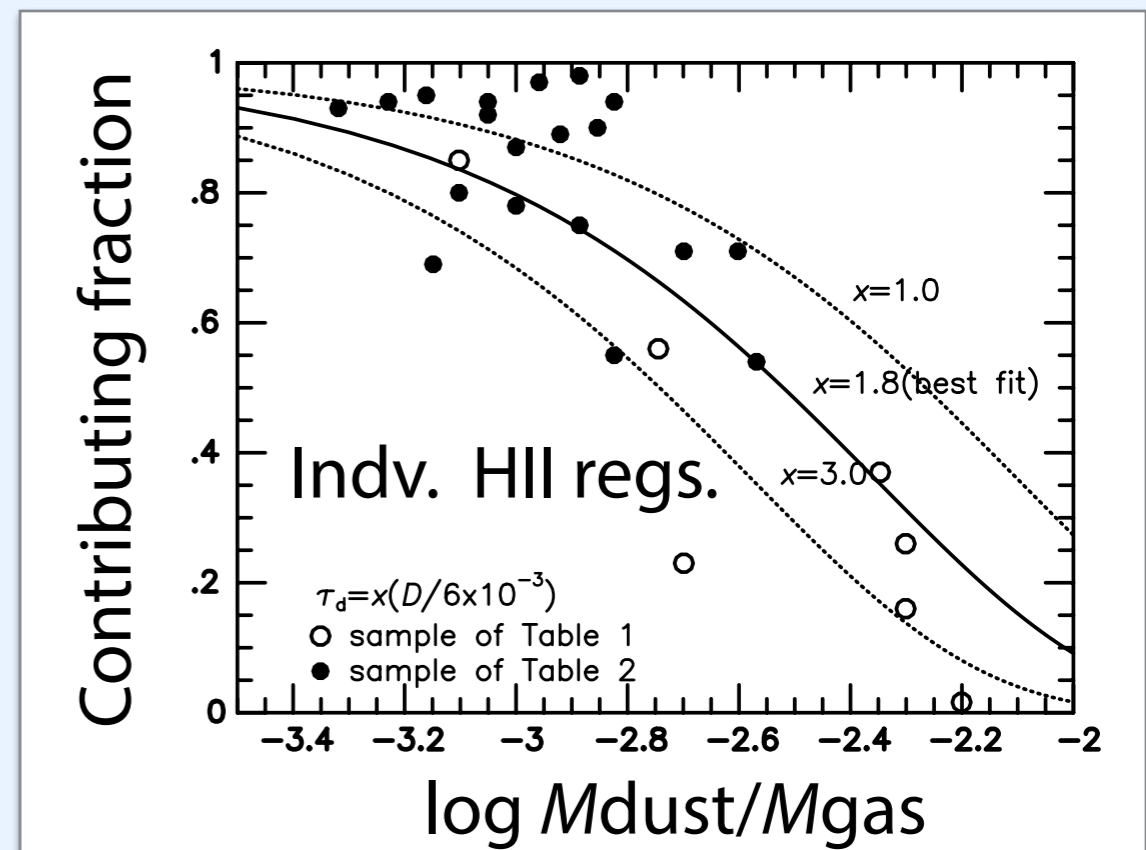
Origins of the inverse $U-Z$ correlations

Theoretically, some explanations have been proposed.
(e.g., Dopita et al. 2006)

At higher Z , ionizing photons that contribute to ionization of the gas reduces because

- higher opacity of stellar winds absorb more ionizing photons.
- radiation energy is more efficiently converted into kinetic energy of the winds.
- higher dust content in the HII region absorb more ionizing photons.

► Fraction of the “contributing” photons vs. dust-to-gas mass ratio
Inoue+01, Inoue01

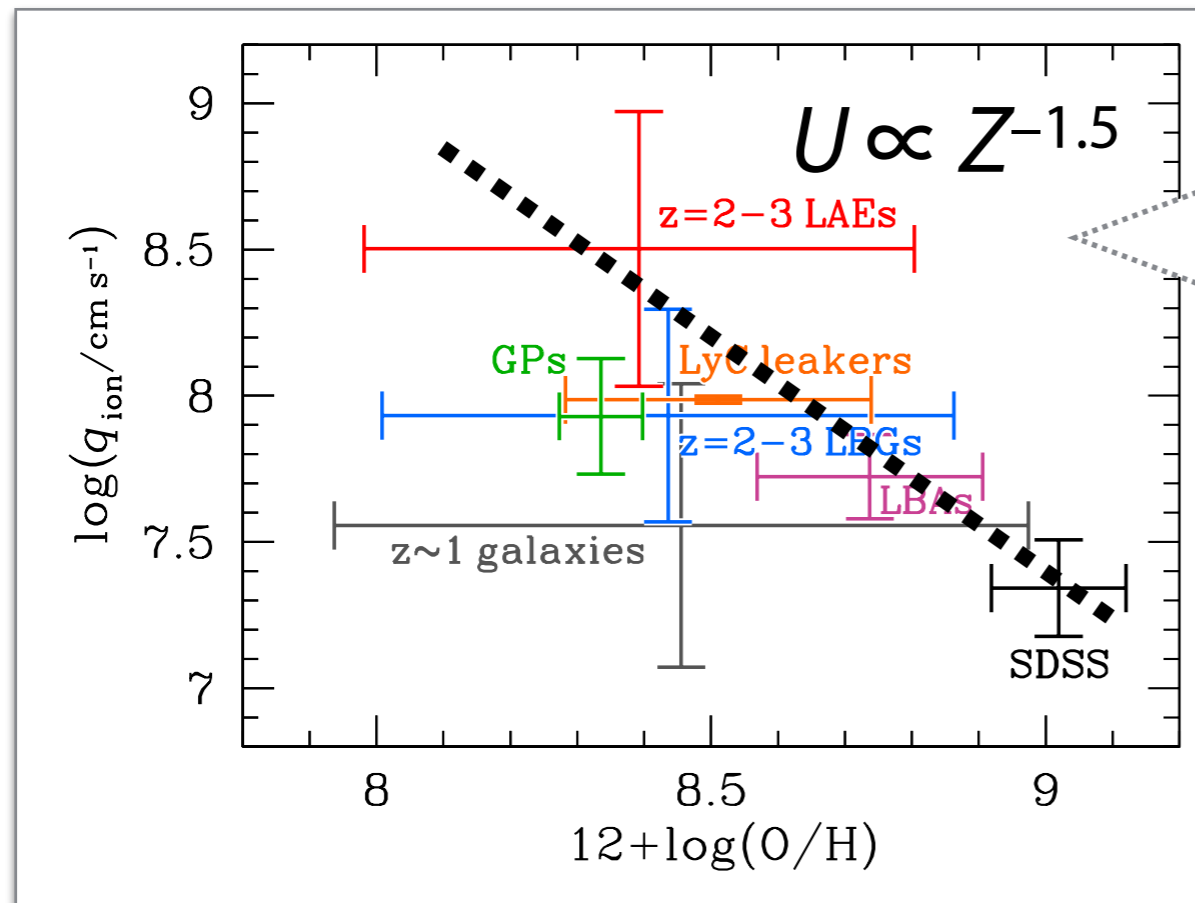


Origins of the inverse U - Z correlations

Theoretically, some explanations have been proposed.

(e) **No observational confirmation of the “partial” anti-correlation**

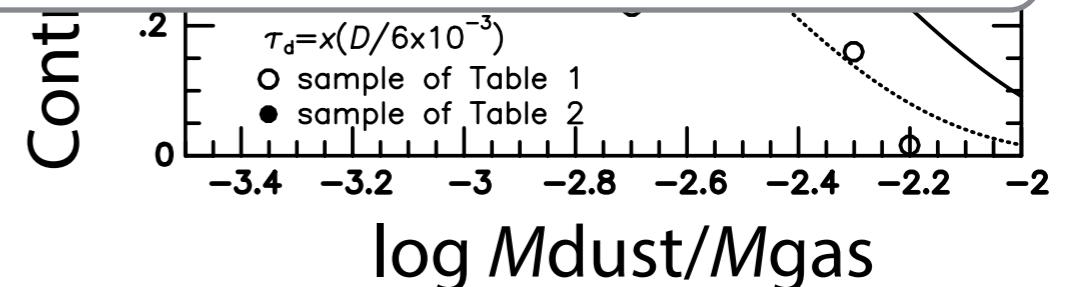
At
rec



This “apparent” anticorrelation includes effects of changes in other parameters.

How strong is the “partial” (=“intrinsic”) dependence?

► Fraction of the “contributing” photons vs. dust-to-gas mass ratio
Inoue+01, Inoue01



The conditions of the gas and the global properties of host galaxies are connected through various physical processes.

Our goal:

Quantifying the scaling relationships between them:

here M_* , $sSFR$, Z , n_e , and U

Especially, we aim to reveal their “partial” correlations.

It requires “direct” metallicity estimates to avoid systematic dependencies on other parameters inherent in the commonly-used strong-line indicators.

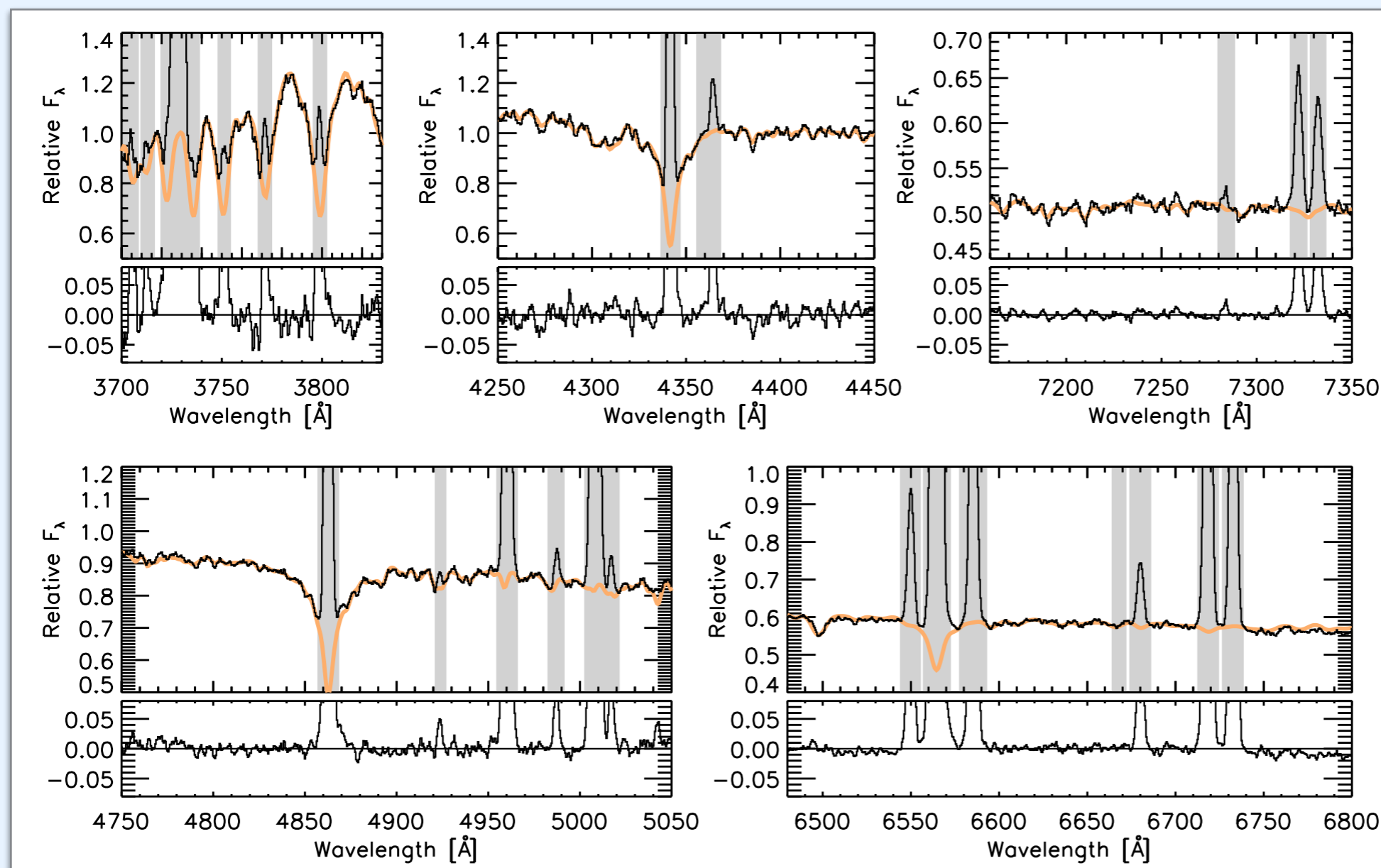
Data

2×10^5 galaxy spectra from SDSS DR7 ($0.027 \leq z \leq 0.25$)

Stellar mass and SFR from the MPA-JHU catalog

Composite spectra in M_* -sSFR bins

The direct method requires [OIII]4364 and/or [OII]7320,7330



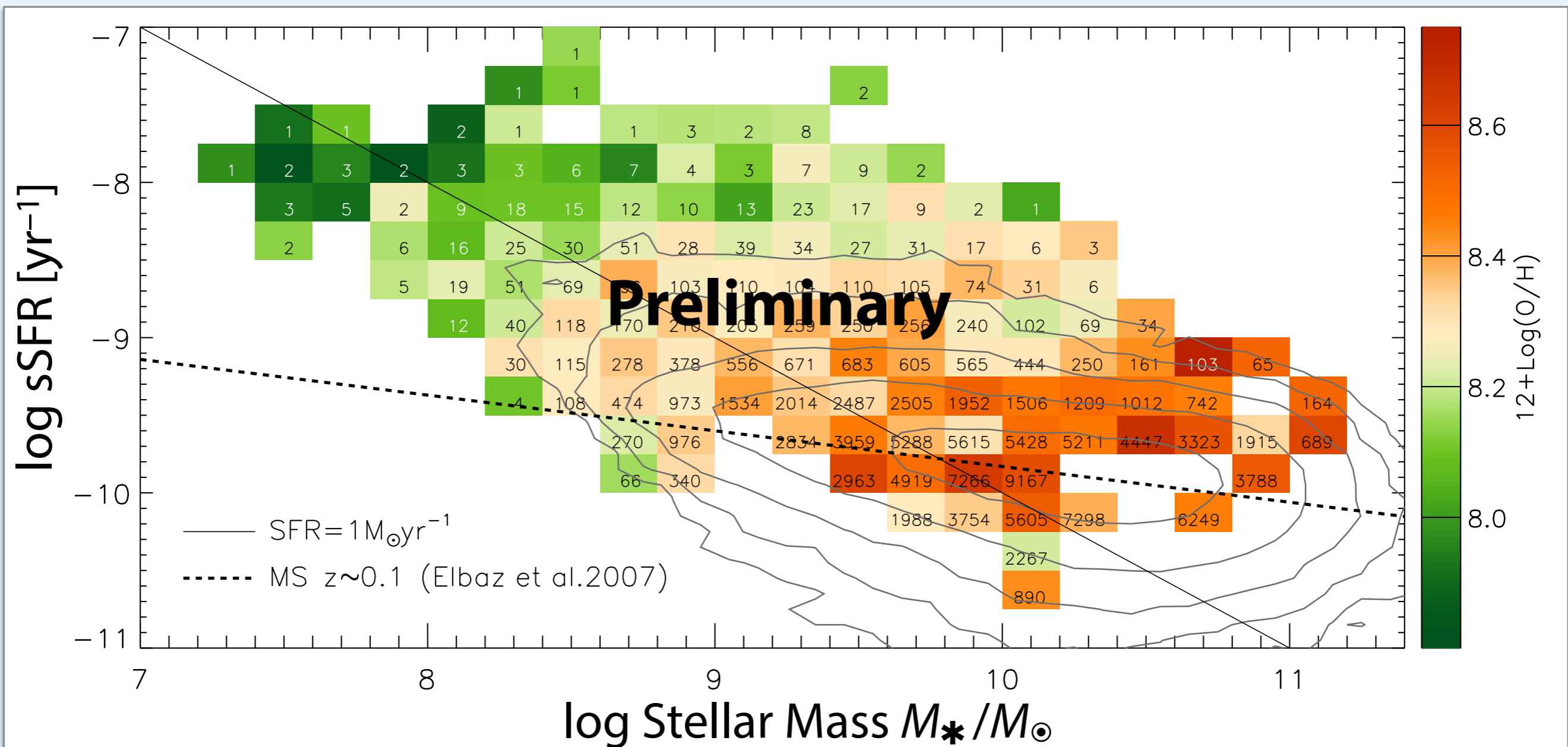
Example of
stellar template
subtraction

Gas-phase metallicity

via direct T_e method using [OIII]4363 and/or [OII]7320,30

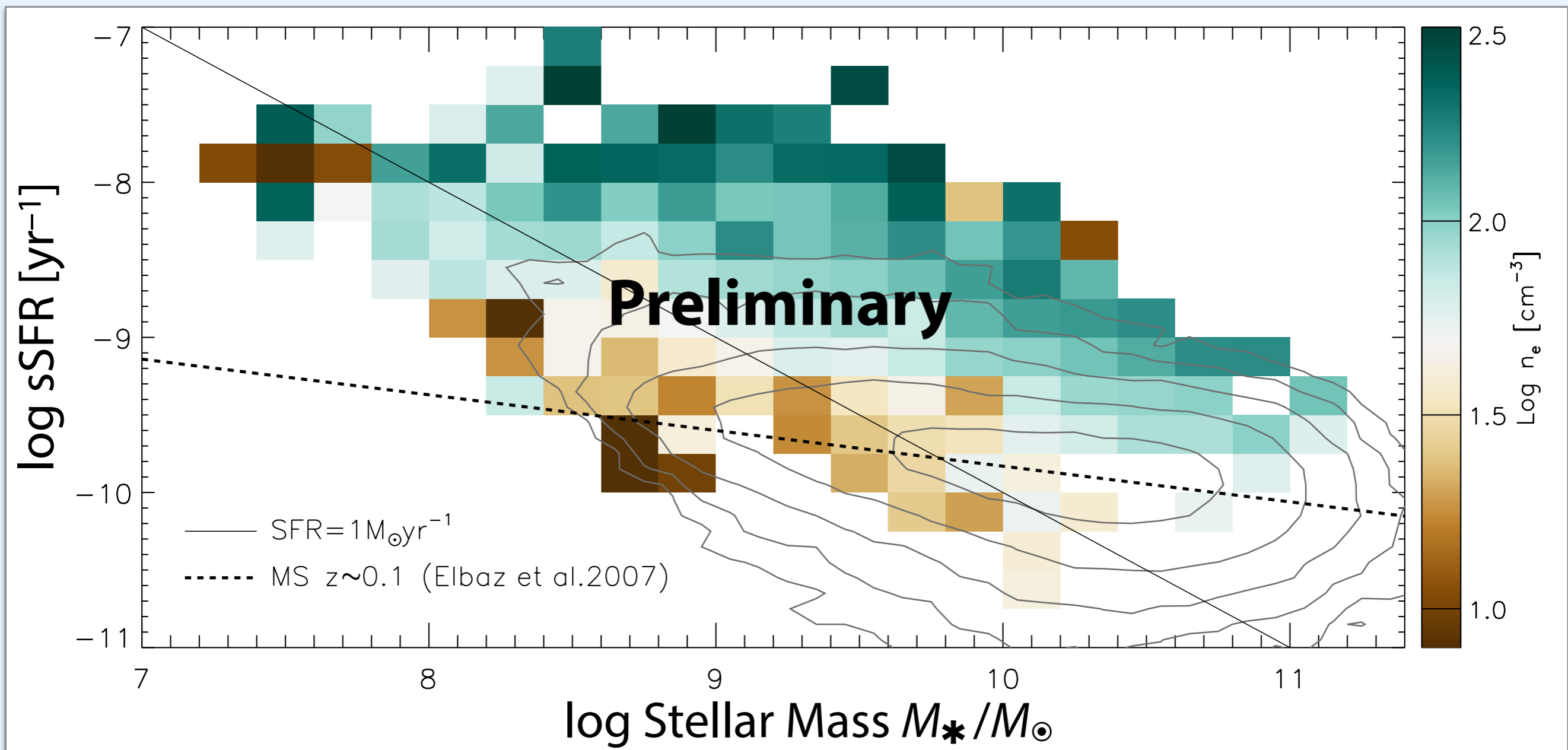
succeeded for N=133 stacks with $\Delta \log M_* = 0.2$, $\Delta \log \text{sSFR} = 0.25$

$N_{\text{gal}} \sim 1 - 10^4$ per bin



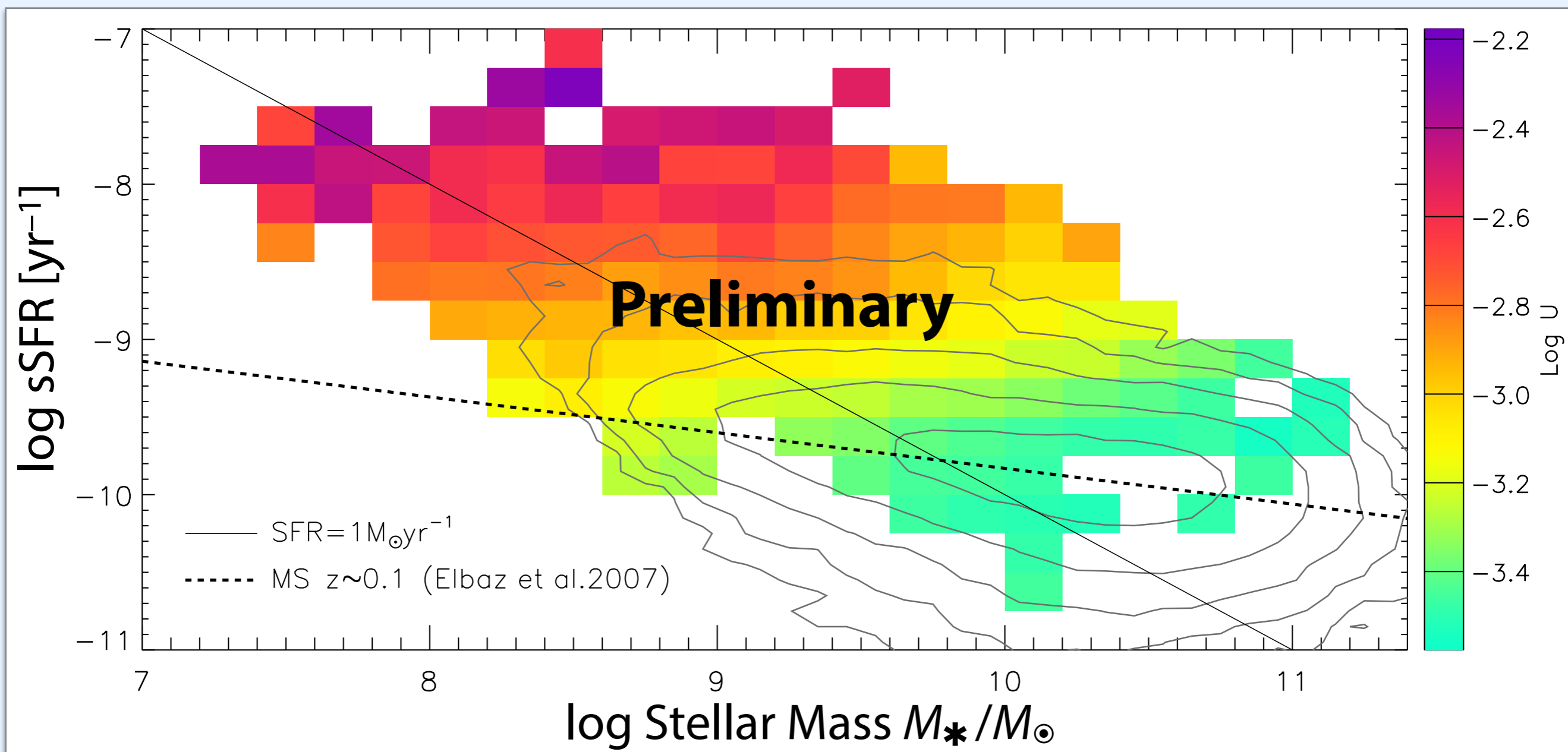
Electron density

via [SII] 6716,6731 doublet ratio, incl. the T_e dependence.

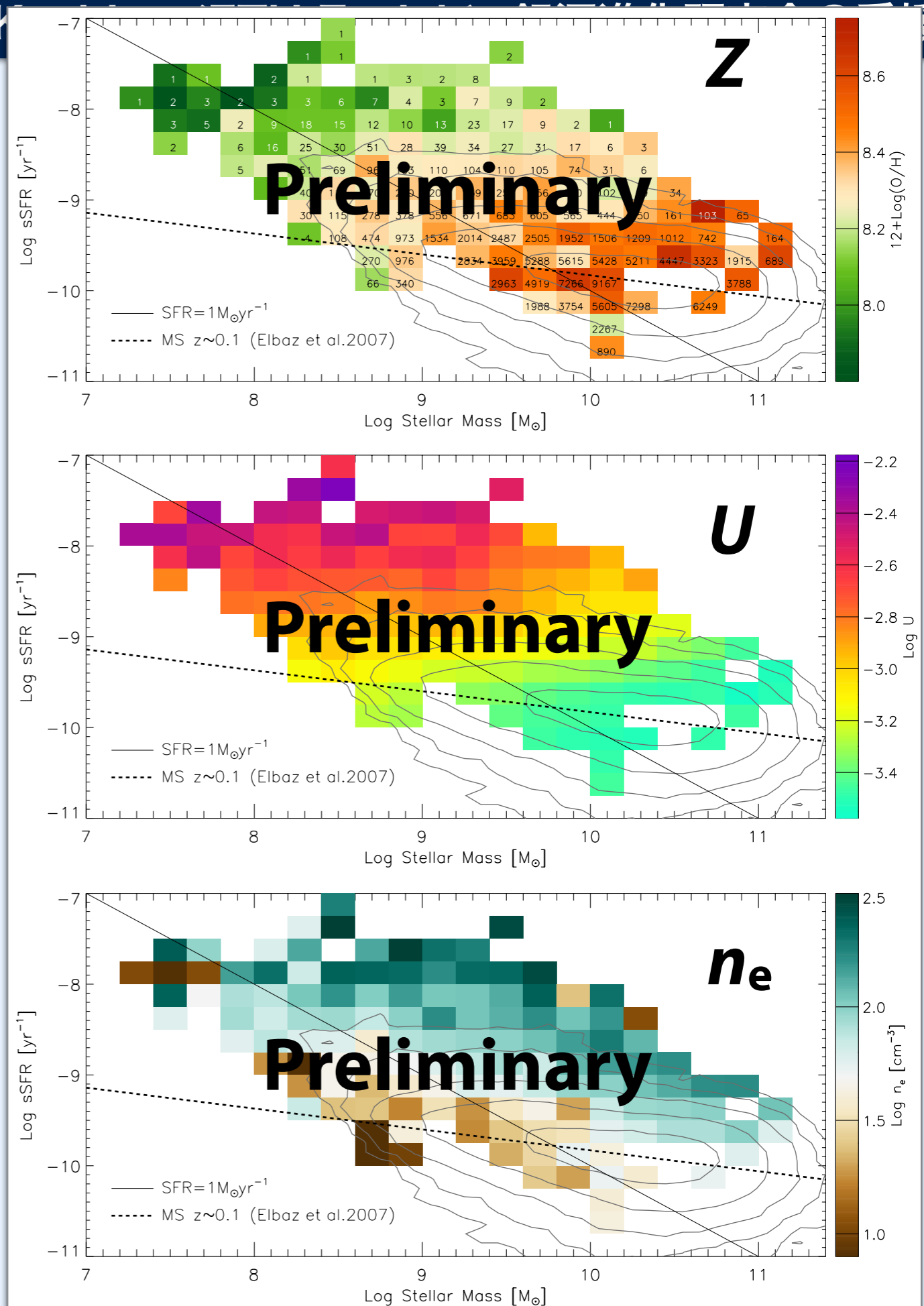


Ionization parameter

from [OIII]5007/[OII]3727, incl. the Z and n_e dependences.



These key ISM parameters
are all strong functions of
 M_* and sSFR.

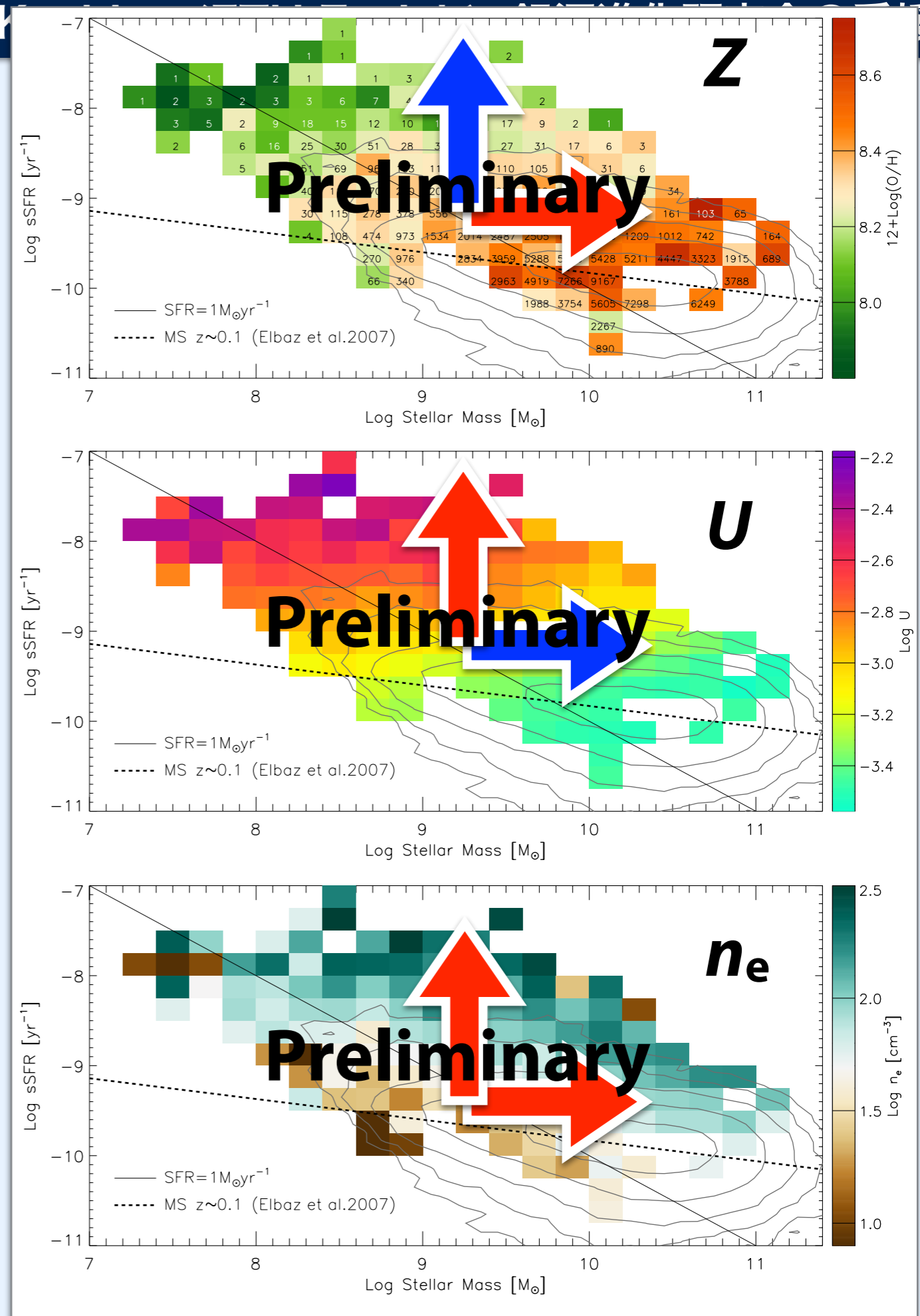
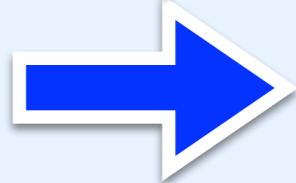


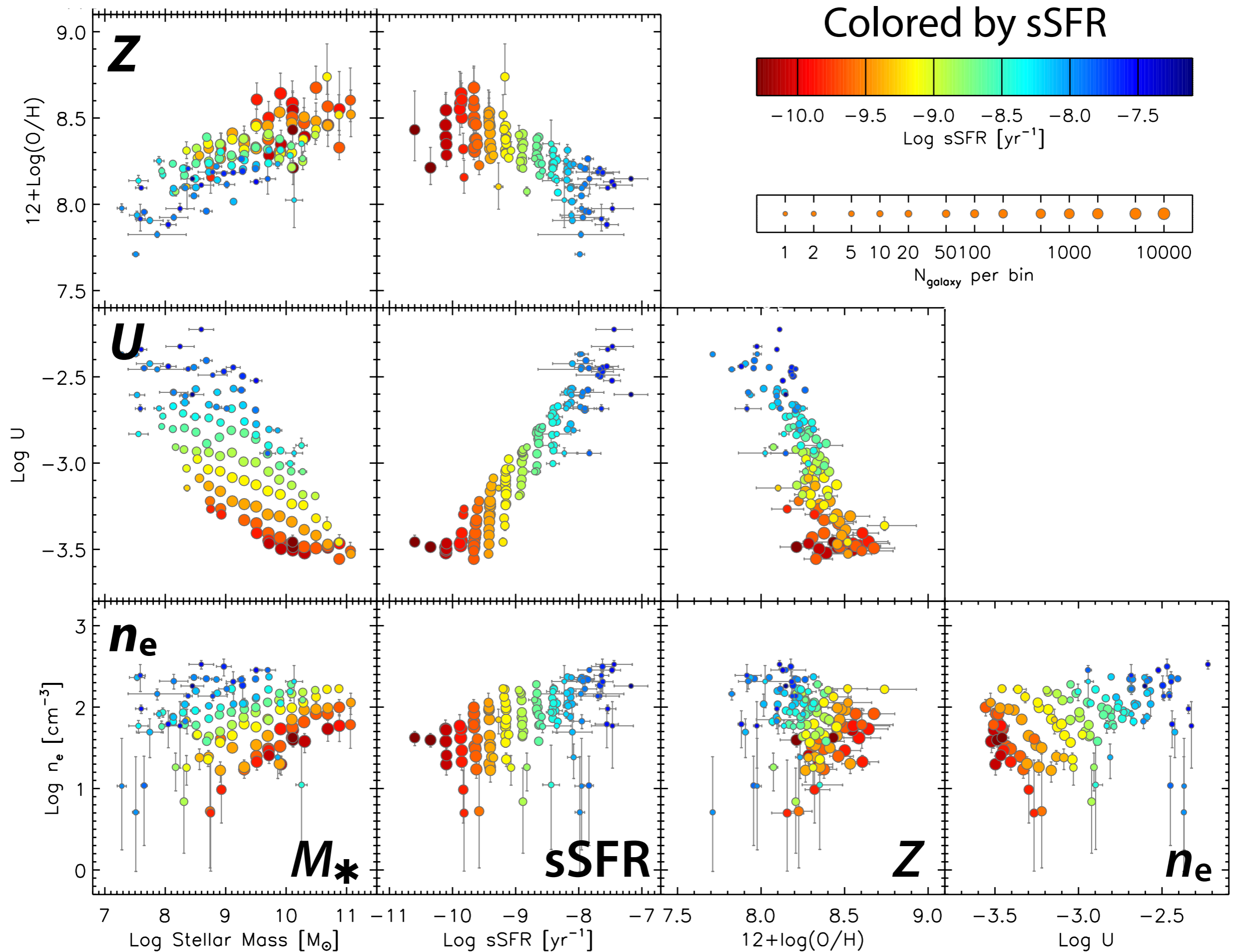
These key ISM parameters
are all strong functions of
 M_* and sSFR.

Increase

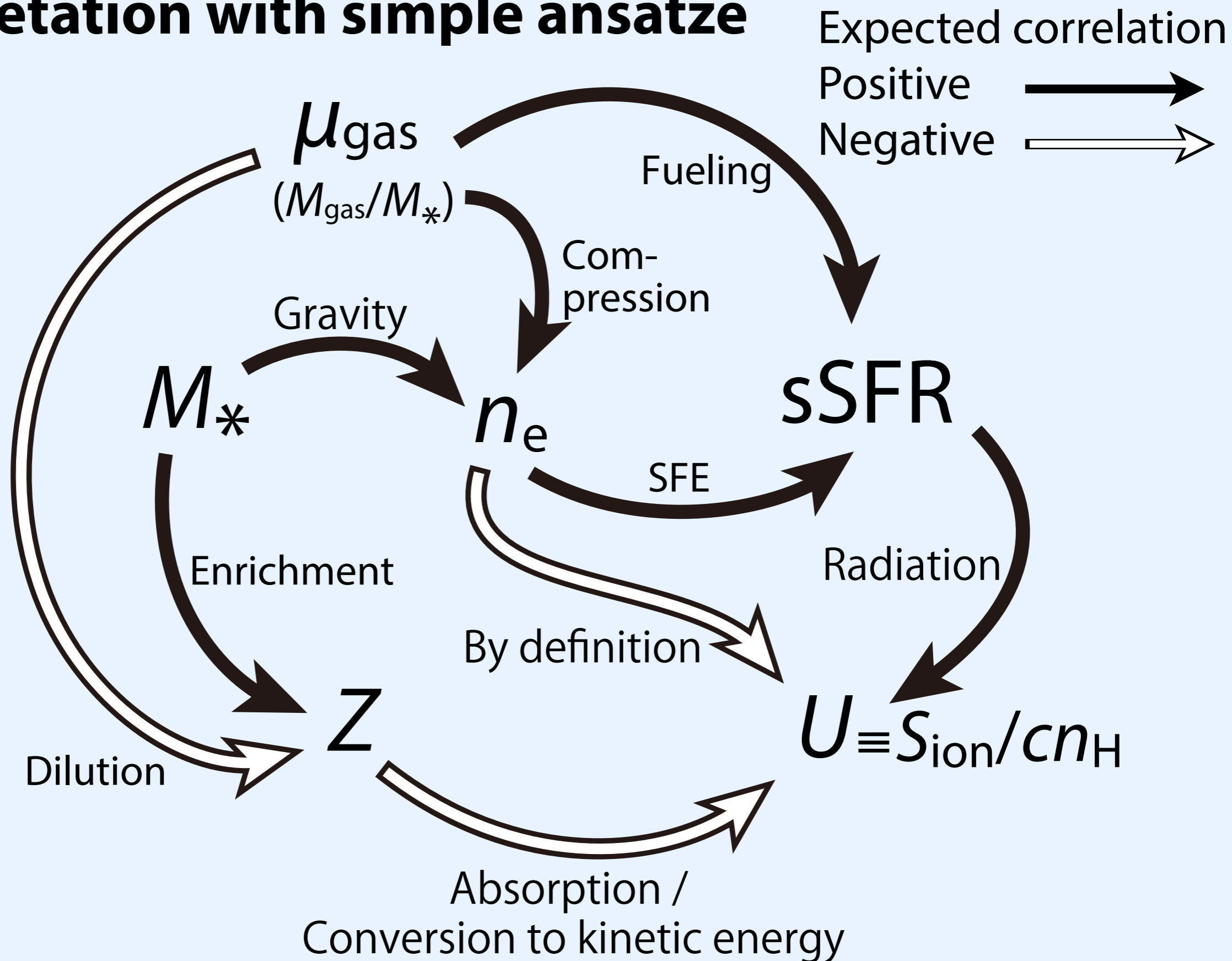


Decrease



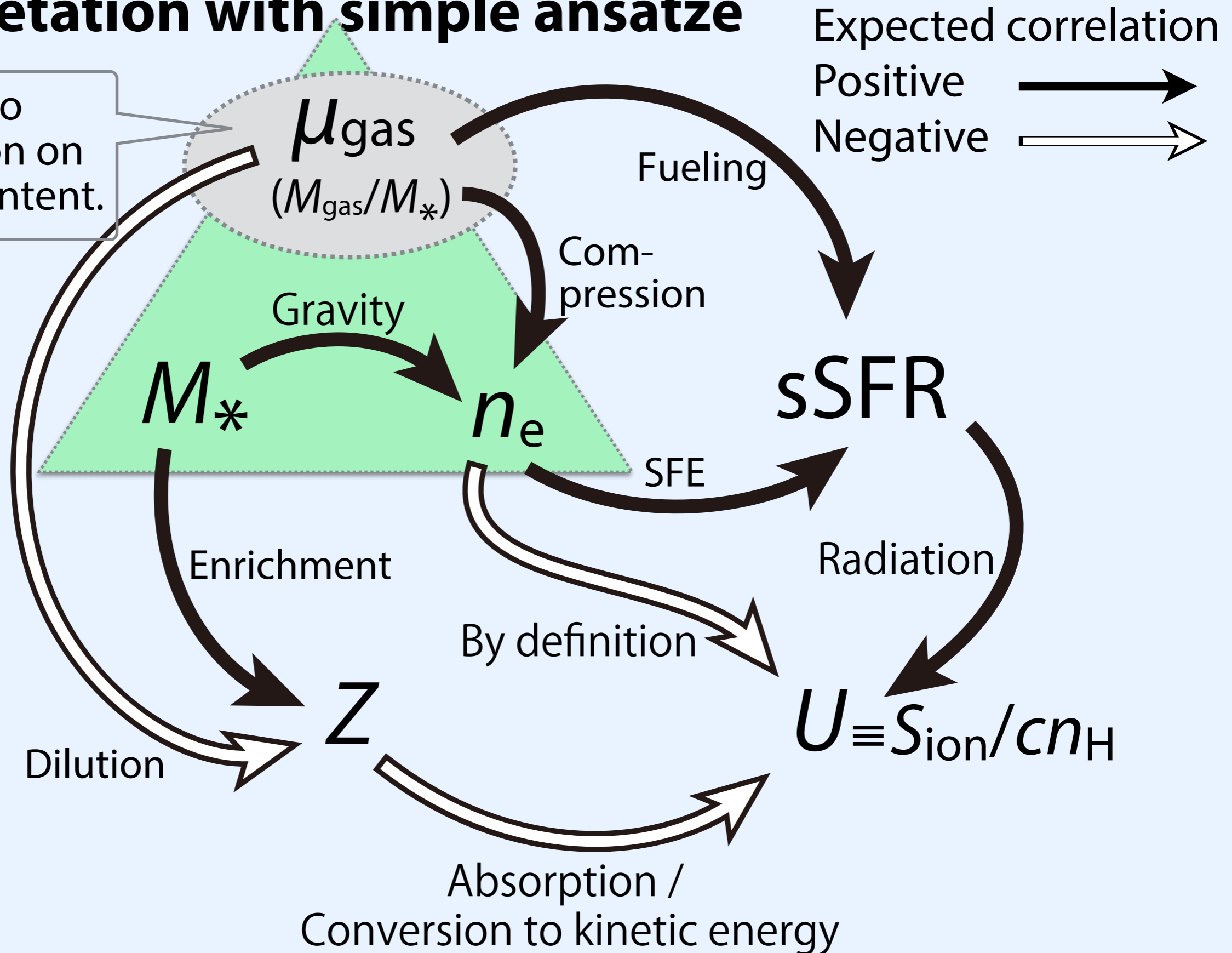


Interpretation with simple ansatze

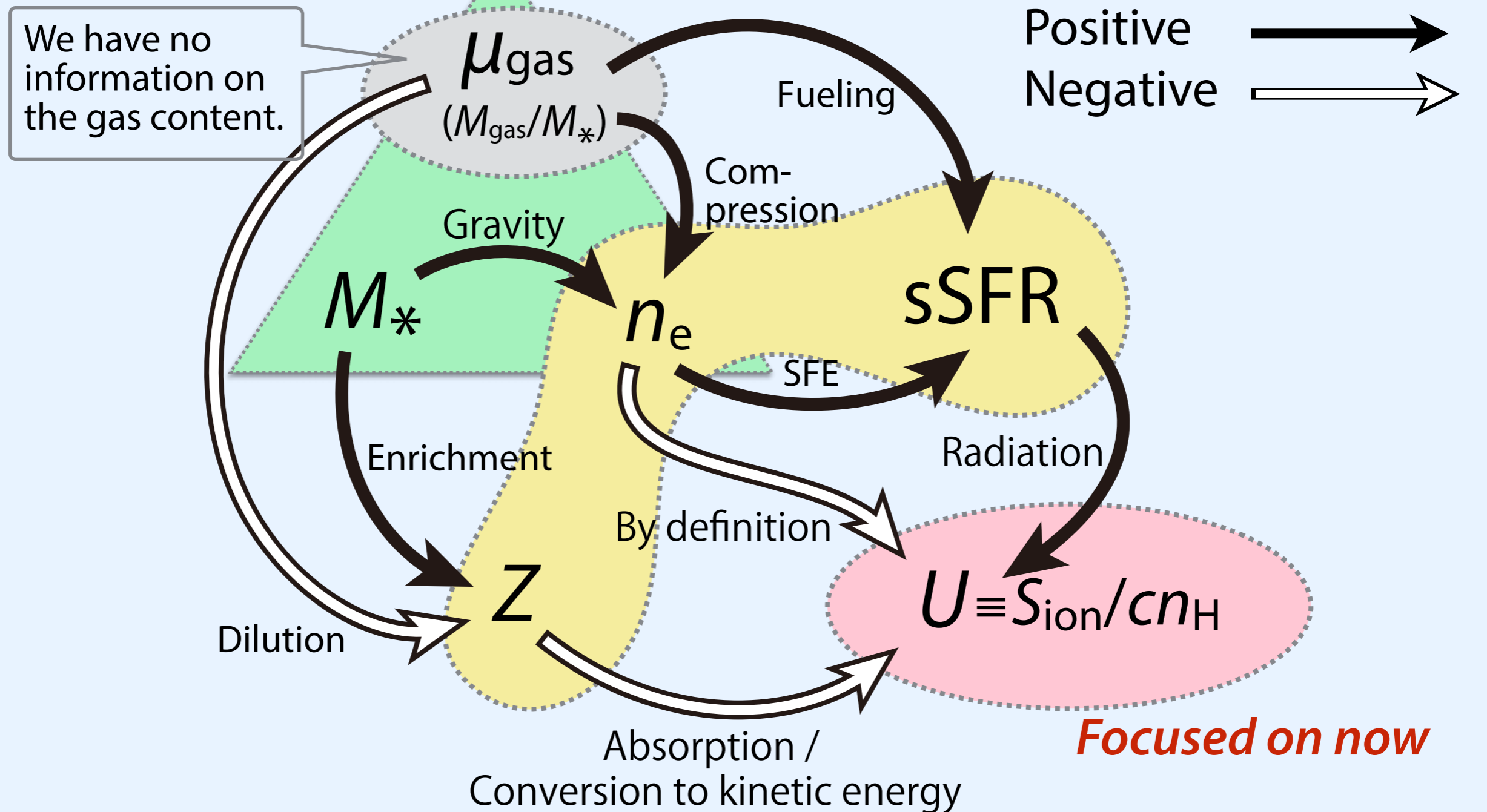


Interpretation with simple ansatze

We have no information on the gas content.



Interpretation with simple ansatze



Assuming a power law (linear in log):

$$\log U = \alpha \log s\text{SFR} + \beta \log (\text{O}/\text{H}) + \gamma \log n_e + \text{Const.}$$

Results: dependencies of ionization parameter

$$U \propto s\text{SFR}^\alpha Z^\beta n_e^\gamma$$

$$\alpha = 0.55 \pm 0.01$$

$$\beta = -0.45 \pm 0.02$$

$$\gamma = -0.46 \pm 0.04$$

Primarily controlled by sSFR, but also significantly “negatively” dependent on Z and n_e

Residual dependence after regressing onto sSFR:

$$\text{y-axis} = \text{Log } U - \alpha (\log s\text{SFR}/\text{Gyr}^{-1})$$

Color: Z

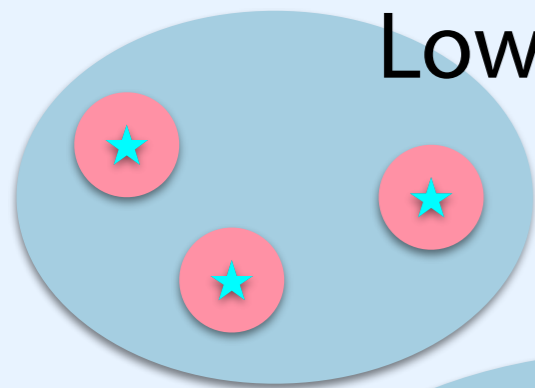
Color: n_e

Log n_e

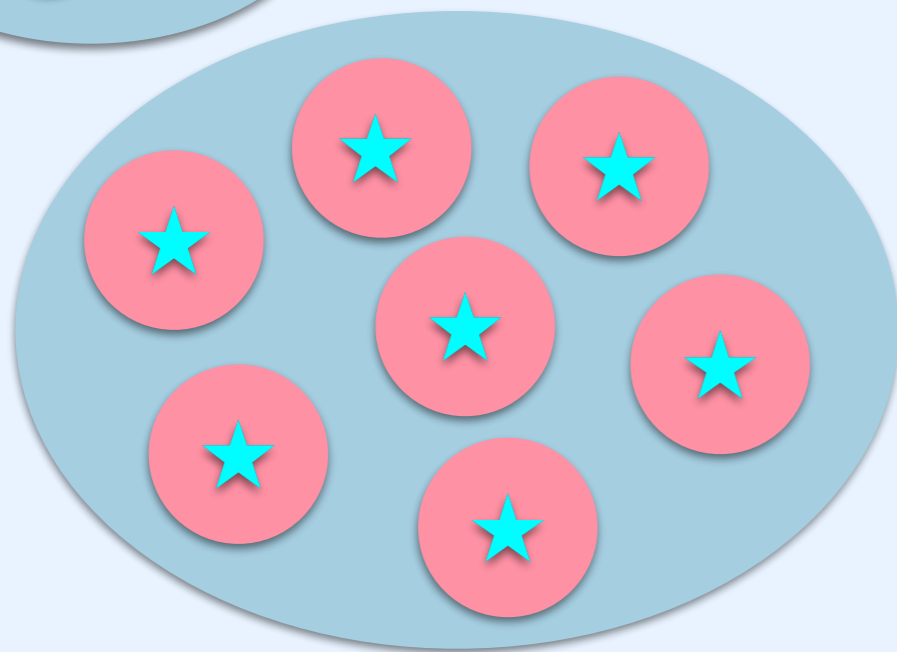
12+LogO/H

How does $sSFR$ govern U ?

Lower- $sSFR$ galaxy

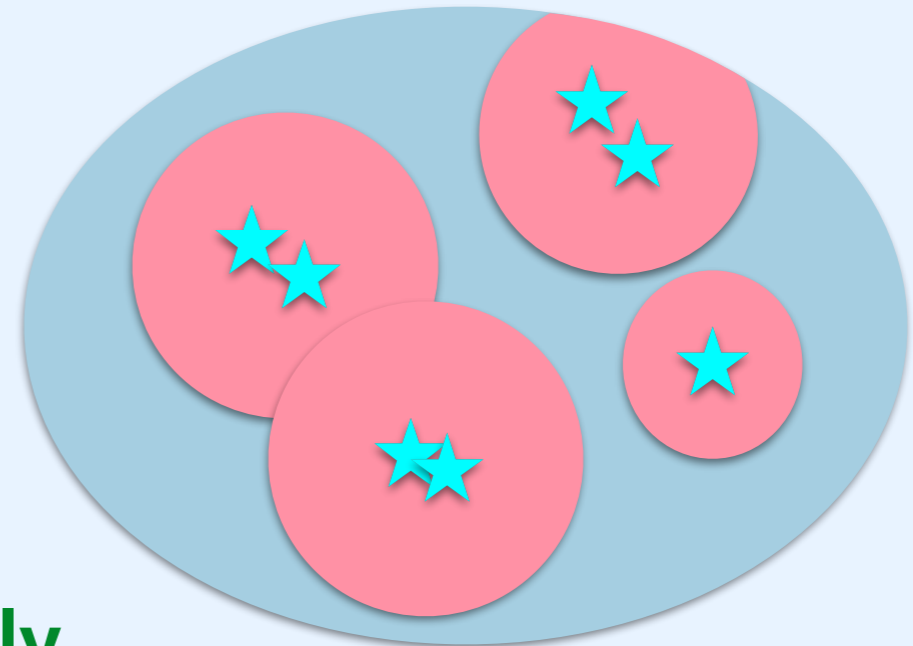


Possible pictures of higher- $sSFR$ galaxy (fixed M_*)



Increase in N of HII regions,
but each of them is similar to
those in lower- $sSFR$ objects

→ **No increase in the “local”
ionization parameter**



Probably,...

- Enhanced SF in a single HII region
→ increase in ionizing radiation
- Overlap of HII regions
- Escape of ionizing photons
— “density-bounded” case
→ effectively increase $[OIII]/[OII]$ ratios

Summary and Caveats

Goal of this work was:

Quantifying the relationships between the key ISM and global parameters.

Observationally, we demonstrate that U is primarily controlled by sSFR, as well as that “partial” anti-correlations to Z and n_e exist.

Functional forms are obviously over-simplified.

Still, our results provide us with useful bench marks to be reproduced (on average) in galaxy models.

Many parameters are not considered:

Gas content, galaxy size (Σ_M and Σ_{SFR}), morphology, clumpiness, dust, escape fraction, diffuse HII gas, etc... may also affect the ISM conditions.

Beyond the local Universe with e.g., PFS and MOONS