

Getting to know the "island universes" out there.

## Galaxies I

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## Review

- Why would we expect elliptical galaxies to sit on a "fundamental plane"?
- Derive the rough scaling of luminosity with velocity dispersion using the same line of reasoning
  - does this scaling correspond to any observed relation?



Fig. 2.18. The fundamental plane of elliptical galaxies in the  $\log R_c - \log \sigma_0 - \langle \mu \rangle_c$  space ( $\sigma_0$  is the central velocity dispersion, and  $\langle \mu \rangle_c$  is the mean surface brightness within  $R_c$  expressed in magnitudes per square arcsecond). [Plot kindly provided by R. Saglia, based on data published in Saglia et al. (1997) and Wegner et al. (1999)]

Mo, van den Bosch, & White; Fig 2.18

$$\begin{aligned} R_e &= G k_R k_V k_L (\frac{M}{L})^{-1} \sigma_0^2 I_e^{-1} \\ L &= k_L I_e R_e^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$L \propto (\frac{M}{L})^{-1} \sigma_0^4 I_e^{-1}$$



- Kormendy 1977 (PhD Thesis)
- \* Faber-Jackson, Kormendy, and D<sub>n</sub>- σ relations are all projections of the Fundamental Plane onto two dimensions



 Can plot 3D plane in 2D with appropriate coefficients



## Outline for Today

- Galaxy Population Ellipticals/Spheroids:
  - Spectral Energy
     Distributions
     (SEDs)
  - InterstellarMedium (ISM)
  - Recap



Thought Question

- \* Sketch the spectrum of an elliptical galaxy.
  - What sort of spectral features do you expect and what do they come from?
- \* How will the strength of these features change as the galaxy ages or becomes more metal-enriched?

- Elliptical spectra energy distributions (SEDs):
  - Typical features are from stellar continuum (Balmer/4000A
     break, lines of Ca, Mg, Fe, etc.)



Kennicutt 1992

 Ellipticals are generally red compared to spirals

 predominantly old
 stellar population





http://people.virginia.edu/~dmw8f/astr5630/Topic01/t1\_SDSS\_montage.html See Mo, van den Bosch, & White; Figure 2.27

 Galaxy spectra contain a luminosity-weighted combination of stellar spectra

 Ellipticals are generally red compared to spirals
 — predominantly old stellar population





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 Galaxy spectra contain a luminosity-weighted combination of stellar spectra

nttps://www2.mpia-na.mpg.de/homes/rix/sed.pdf

- Color-Magnitude Relation:
  - More luminous ellipticals are slightly redder — older?
  - However, color variations could come from age or metallicity:
    - Older dominated by redder stars
    - More metal-rich stronger metal lines at shorter wavelengths, so redder colors

->Age-Metallicity Degeneracy







Kennicutt 1992

- Measure metal line strength using line indices, e.g., Lick indices, Mg<sub>2</sub> index (Faber et al. 1977)
- Some lines are more sensitive to age (e.g., Hbeta, Hgamma), some more sensitive to metallicity (Mgb, Fe5270)



## Mg<sub>2</sub>-Luminosity and Mg<sub>2</sub>-σ<sub>0</sub> Relations:

- More luminous Es have stronger lines
- Tighter correlation between line strength and central velocity dispersion oo
- More massive galaxies = more metalrich
- \* possible issue with dry merger hypothesis?
- See similar correlations/gradients within individual galaxies:
  - Inner regions more metal-enriched (and slightly younger)



Bender, IAU Symposium 149

### Galaxy Population - Ellipticals,

- Metal line indices can also reveal abundance variations (relative to solar) — alpha/Fe ratio
  - alpha elements (even proton number, e.g., O, Mg, Si, S, Ca, Ti)
    from Type II supernovae (shorter timescale)
  - Fe from Type II but also Type 1a supernovae (longer timescale)
- See enhanced Mg vs. Fe in more massive galaxies



https://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/March06/Renzini/Renzini3.html#Figure%206

### Ellipticals/Spheroids: SEI

- Tightness of relations implies stellar content must be fairly uniform — a similar (old) age
  - Suggests stars formed early
- Evidence for abundance
   variations (enhanced Mg vs.
   Fe in more massive galaxies)
  - Suggests that star formation may have ended quickly in more massive galaxies



https://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/March06/Renzini/Renzini3.html#Figure%206



# Thought Question

- Given that we think that some ellipticals may form from dissipational mergers that include gas ("wet" mergers), one might wonder when this occured, and what such a merger remnant might look like if it happened relatively recently.
- Consider the spectral energy distribution (SED) of an old galaxy with a more recent burst of star formation that has now turned off (so no current star formation):
  - \* what sort of continuum/absorption features do you expect?
  - \* what about emission lines?

# Thought Question

- Consider the SED of an old galaxy with a more recent burst of star formation that has now turned off:
  - \* what sort of continuum/absorption features do you expect?





\* what about emission lines?

- Some Es have signatures of a younger stellar population:
  - E+A (or K+A) galaxies no emission lines (E) yet strong Balmer absorption lines (~A stars)
- Likely "post-starburst" galaxies with significant star formation 1 Gyr ago that abruptly shut off
  - Rare (<1% of local galaxies)</li>
  - Not correlated with cluster environment
  - Some show power-law inner profiles, morphological signs of recent interactions



### Ellipticals/Spheroids:

- Interstellar matter in ellipticals:
  - Hot gas seen in X-rays:
    - from stellar winds and supernovae
    - from new and previously expelled gas that is shockheated as it falls in
    - but some contribution from point sources, i.e. X-ry binaries
  - Warm gas filaments with weak Halpha emission
  - Evidence of central black hole and jets





Kenney+2008

- Interstellar matter in ellipticals:
  - Cold gas and dust usually not easily observed, but:
    - atomic and/or molecular gas in ~10-20% of ellipticals (van Gorkom 1992)
    - dust in ~50% of elliptical cores
       (Lauer et al. 2005)
    - \* additional evidence of past merger?



Ángel R. López-Sánchez (2008)

dramatic merger examples
 (e.g., Cen A

# Recap

- Some older, simple, perceptions of ellipticals were:
  - diskless bulges with de Vaucouleurs (R<sup>1/4</sup>) profiles and constant density cores
  - oblate spheroids flattened by rotation
  - relaxed, dynamically quiescent systems
  - void of gas and dust
  - dominated by a single ancient population of stars
     How are these old views correct vs. incorrect?
     (Cite specific observational evidence.)





FIG. 40.— Major-axis profiles of all of our ellipticals scaled together to illustrate the dichotomy between core and coreless ellipticals. Core ellipticals are scaled together at  $r_{cx} = r_b$ , the break radius given by the Nuker function fit in Lauer et al. (2007b). Coreless ellipticals are scaled together at the minimum radius  $r_{min}$  that was used in our Sérsic fits; interior to this radius, the profile is dominated by extra light above the inward extrapolation of the outer Sérsic fit.

Range of properties suggest differences in formation



Range of properties suggest differences in formation





3.0

2.5

2.0

**4** 1.5

0.05 ≦ z ≦ 0.06

16.16" < isoA,

FIG. 2.— Apparent axis ratio distribution,  $\Phi$  (i.e., the probability density of the projected shapes of a group of galaxies) for each type assuming a uniform intrinsic ARD. Solid, dotted, and dashed lines correspond to oblate, prolate, and triaxial, respectively.



FIG. 4.— Our final SDSS sample compared to the previous APM sample of Loveday (1996) (Gray dots). We derive a relatively-complete sample concerning luminosity and major axis radius.

Kimm et al. 2007

\* Distribution of axis ratios rules out purely prolate / oblate 3D shapes



Figure 3: Peak line-of-sight rotation velocity  $v_m$  divided by the mean velocity dispersion  $\bar{\sigma}$  in the central region, as a function of apparent ellipticity  $\epsilon$ . Open circles are luminous ellipticals with  $M_{\rm B} < -20^{\rm m}5$ , filled circles are lower luminosity ellipticals and crosses are the bulges of spiral galaxies (Davies 1987). The solid curve is the mean line for oblate isotropic galaxies flattened by rotation.

$$v_{rot}/\sigma = \sqrt{\epsilon/(1-\epsilon)}$$

 Others are clearly not rotationally flattened, and have flatter inner profiles  Some are likely oblate, rotationally flattened, with steeper inner profiles



 Differences in isophotal shape correlate with differences in kinematics and inner profiles, all hinting at different formation scenarios





- Fundamental Plane and other scaling relations imply Elliptical galaxies:
  - are relatively well described as virialized, self-similar (homologous) structures
  - have stellar populations that fulfill tight age and metallicity constraints, forming early and quickly
- Substantial evidence that mergers and interactions are important:
  - Inner profiles, non-axisymmetric features, diffuse ellipticals





- \* How do Elliptical galaxies form?:
  - Medium/high luminosity "normal" ellipticals —
    - early formation of stellar population
    - dissipational ("wet") mergers disky, oblate, fast rotators with steep inner profile (induced star formation)
    - dissipationless ("dry") mergers boxy, slow rotators, with flatter inner profile (binary central black holes)
  - Low luminosity "diffuse" ellipticals/ dSph —
    - \* irregular/disk galaxies transformed via gas stripping and harassment?



NGC4636



https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap150830.html