Star Formation Scaling Relations of Nearby Galaxies in the ALMaQUEST Survey

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- Part I: Background introduction
- Part II: ALMaQUEST survey
- Part III: Results:
 - Scaling relations in the main-sequence (MS) galaxies
 - The scatters in the MS scaling relations
 - Scaling relations in the green valley (GV) galaxies
- Part IV: Summary

Star Formation vs. Quenching



(figure credit: Amelie Saintonge)

Relation I: Star-Forming Main Sequence (SFMS)

A tight correlation between the total star formation rate and stellar mass for starforming galaxies (e.g., Brinchmann+04; Noeske+07; Lin+12; Whitaker+12)



Whitaker+12

From Global to Resolved Properties - "resolved main sequence" on kpc scales



- · Fall 2014-Fall 2020
- 10,000 galaxies across
 ~4000 deg², z~0.03
- 17 IFUs per 7 deg² plate
- 360-1000 nm with R~2000 (50-70 km/s)
- 3-hr exposures with 3 dithered positions
- Spatial sampling of 1-2 kpc
- Per-fiber S/N = 5-10 at 1.5Re
- Stellar mass selected sample $(M_{star} > 10^9 M_{\odot})$ in all environments at 0.05<z<0.15







credit: H.-A Pan

From Global to Resolved Properties "resolved star-forming main sequence" (rSFMS) on kpc scales

Hsieh, Lin+2017



(Also see Cano-Diaz+16; Abdurrouf & Akiyama 17; Ellison+18; Pan+18; Medling+18; Cano-Diaz+19)

Relation II: Schmidt-Kennicutt (SK) Relation -A tight relation between star formation rate and gas (surface density)



The SK relation has been explored over a wide range in physical scales: from subkpc, kpc, to galactic scales (e.g. Wong & Blitz 2002; Bigiel et al. 2008; Schruba et al. 2011; Leroy et al. 2013)

Kennicutt & Evans 12

Gao&Solomon 04





ALMAQUEST : ALMA-MaNGA QUEnching and STar formation (PIs: L. Lin & S. Ellison)

- ALMA CO(1-0) followups for 46 MaNGA selected sample
- z ~ 0.03; 10<log(M*/M_o)<11.5
- ALMA Resolution:
 - ~2.5" (spatial)
 - 11 km/s (spectral)
- Target classes:
 - 14 Main-sequence galaxies
 - 20 Green valley galaxies
 - 12 Central starburst galaxies



Lin et al. 2020

http://arc.phys.uvic.ca/~almaquest/

INTEGRATED CO(1-0) SPECTRA

Lin et al. 2020



Global Properties of ALMaQUEST galaxies

Lin et al. 2020







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ALMaQUEST (Lin+2020)

A diversity in the contrast between Ha and CO emissions

The SFR does not always trace the molecular gas mass

M* SFR M_{H2} f_{H2} SFE



Star-formation efficiency: SFE = SFR/M*

• Gas fraction: $f_{H2} = M_{H2}/M_*$

- spatial variation of the star formation efficiency (SFE)
- Likewise, there is variation in the molecular gas fraction (f_{H2}), too.

Spaxel-by-spaxel SFE Distributions

-A wide spread (over 1 dex) in SFE within a given galaxy



Lin et al. 20; Ellison et al., submitted

Spaxel-by-spaxel f_{H2} Distributions

-a wide spread (over 1 dex) in f_{H2} within a given galaxy



Lin et al. 20; Ellison et al., submitted

• Part 3.1: scaling relations in MS galaxies



I. Resolved Star-Forming Main Sequence (rSFMS)



• The best fit using the HII spaxel of 14 MS galaxies is in good agreement with the full MaNGA SF sample.

II. Schmidt-Kennicutt (SK) Relation





• A linear slope is found in the resolved SK relation

III. Molecular Gas Main Sequence (MGMS)



Lin+19b Ellison+, submitted

 The surface density of the molecular gas mass traces the stellar mass surface density with slope ~ 1.

Which One is More Fundamental?

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$$\Sigma_{
m SFR} \propto \Sigma_{
m H_2}{}^a$$
 (SK)
 $\Sigma_{
m H_2} \propto \Sigma_{
m *}{}^b$ (MGMS)

$$\Sigma_{\rm SFR} \propto \Sigma_*^{a*b} = \Sigma_*^{c}$$
 (rSFMS)



- Scatter: rSFMS > MGMS > SK
- Pearson's correlation:

rSFMS < MGMS < SK

 rSFMS is the least fundamental and a natural consequence of the combination of SK and MGMS relations



Part 3.2: What Controls the Scatters in These Scaling Relations?

Galaxy-by-galaxy (kpc) scaling relations

The resolved Schmidt-Kennicutt relation (rSK)



Ellison et al. (submitted)

Galaxy-by-galaxy (kpc) scaling relations

The resolved star forming main sequence (rSFMS)



Ellison et al. (submitted)

Galaxy-by-galaxy (kpc) scaling relations

The resolved molecular gas main sequence (rMGMS)



Ellison et al. (submitted)



Galaxies show considerable variation in the scaling relations



The offset of a given galaxy from the average relation, particularly offset in rSK and rSFMS, correlates with global properties, such as morphology.

Star formation scaling relations are not universal. There is considerable galaxyto-galaxy variation in the three resolved star formation scaling laws and correlations with global galaxy quantities.

Part 3.3: What about GV galaxies?

GV contains non-negligible fraction of non-SF spaxels

=> need to consider those regions, too

- Galaxy type: MS vs. GV
- Spaxel type: SF vs. retired

Retired spaxels:

BPT-classified LINERs & EW(Ha) < 3A



3D RELATIONS

- GV has flatter slopes in 3 relations
- GV has larger scatters in rSK and rSFMS but not rMGMS



rSFMS in MS galaxies



rSMFS in GV galaxies

star-forming spaxels

retired spaxels



SSFR

GV galaxies **MS** galaxies 4.0 4.0 SF spaxels SF spaxels retired spaxels retired spaxels 3.5 3.5 3.0 3.0 Probability density 7.0 1.5 Probability density 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5 0.5 0.0 -13 0.0 -12 -11-9 -12 -11-10-8 -10-9 $^{-8}$ Log sSFR (yr⁻¹) $Log sSFR(yr^{-1})$

By definition, GV has lower sSFR. sSFR of GV is lower than that of MS for both SF or retired spaxels

rMGMS in MS galaxies



rMGMS in GV galaxies



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 F_{H2}

MS galaxies

GV galaxies



 f_{H2} of GV is lower in both SF and retired spaxels than that of MS

Lin+, in prep.

rSK in MS galaxies



rSK in GV galaxies

star-forming spaxels

retired spaxels



SFE



SFE of GV is lower in both SF and retired spaxels than that of MS

Star Formation vs. Quenching



From SFMS to green valley: SFE and f_{H2} decline globally (in both SF and retired regions)

(figure credit: Amelie Saintonge)

SUMMARY

• ALMaQUEST (Lin et al. 2020).

- ALMaQUEST provides dataset to simultaneously study the relationships between SFE, M*, and Mgas at kpc scales for starburst, main sequence, and green valley galaxies.
- Scaling relations of MS galaxies (Lin et al. 2019)
 - At kpc scales, the surface densities of SFR, M*, and M_{gas} are tightly correlated with each other. In addition to the known rSFMS and SK relations, there also exists a 3rd relation: molecular gas main sequence (MGMS).
 - rSFMS is a natural consequence of the combination of SK and MGMS.
- Galaxy-to-galaxy variations in the 3 scaling relations (Ellison et al., submitted)
 - There is significant galaxy-to-galaxy variation in all 3 scaling relations, which drives the shape and scatter of the ensemble relations. Scaling relations correlate with global galaxy parameters
- Scaling relations of GV and retired regions (Lin et al. in prep.; Ellison et al. submitted):
 - GV galaxies not only have lower sSFR (by definition), but also lower gas fraction (f_{H2}) and star formation efficiency (SFE), in either star-forming or retired spaxels.