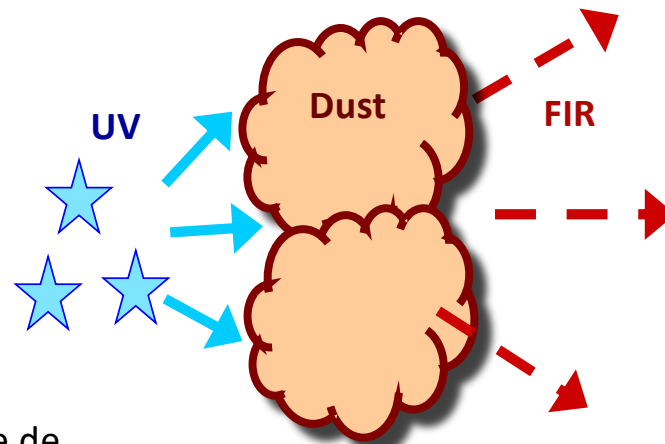


# Dust and stars: an unavoidable and complex interplay

Dust Obscuration and attenuation laws in galaxies



V. Buat, Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de  
Marseille (LAM) & Aix Marseille Université

Dust is present in(almost) every galaxy, from low to high  $z$  with various distributions

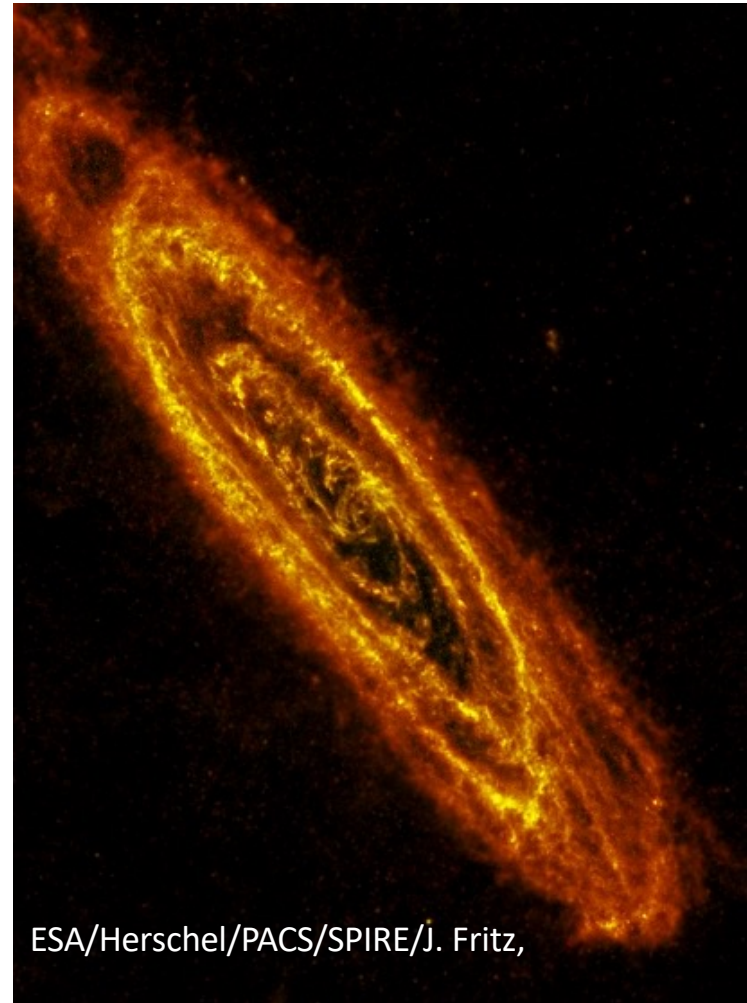
Few examples, from low to high redshift, with more or less complex distributions

Messier 31 in UV (GALEX)



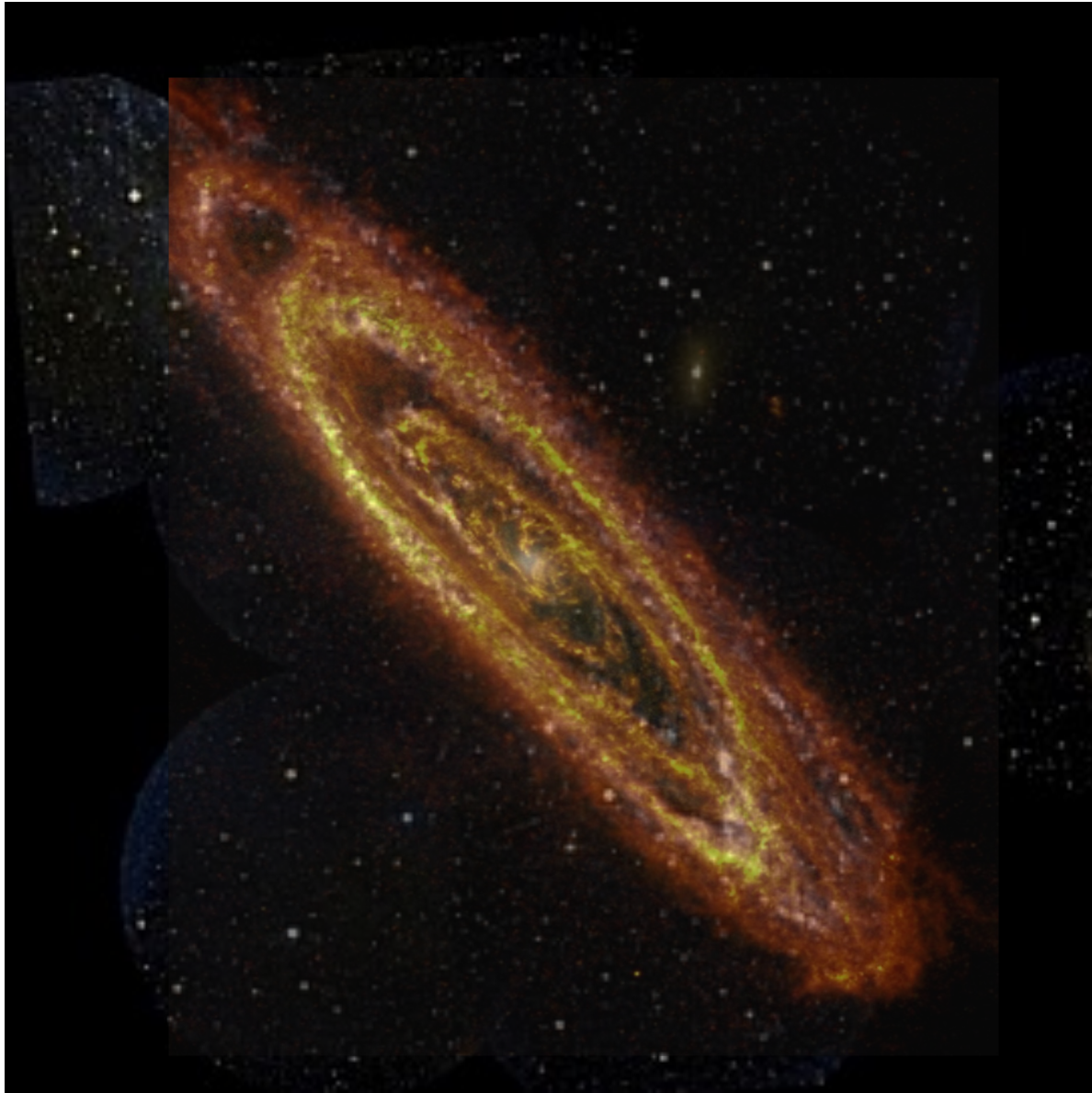
Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Messier 31 in IR (SPIRE)



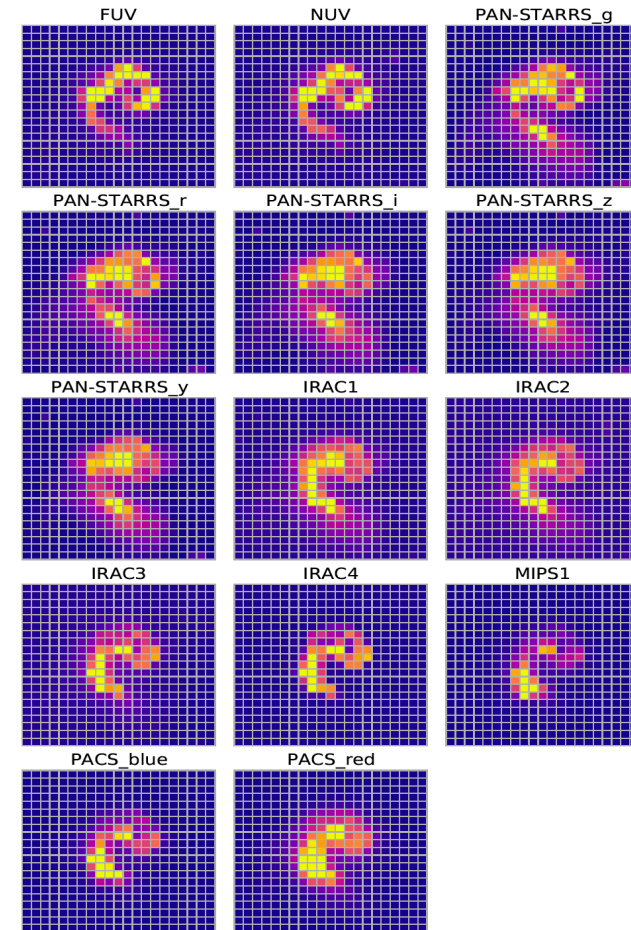
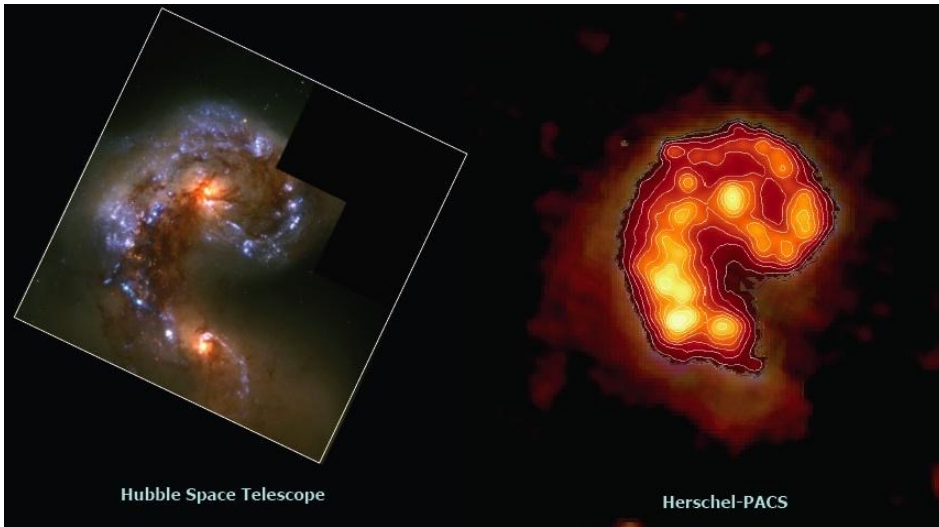
ESA/Herschel/PACS/SPIRE/J. Fritz,





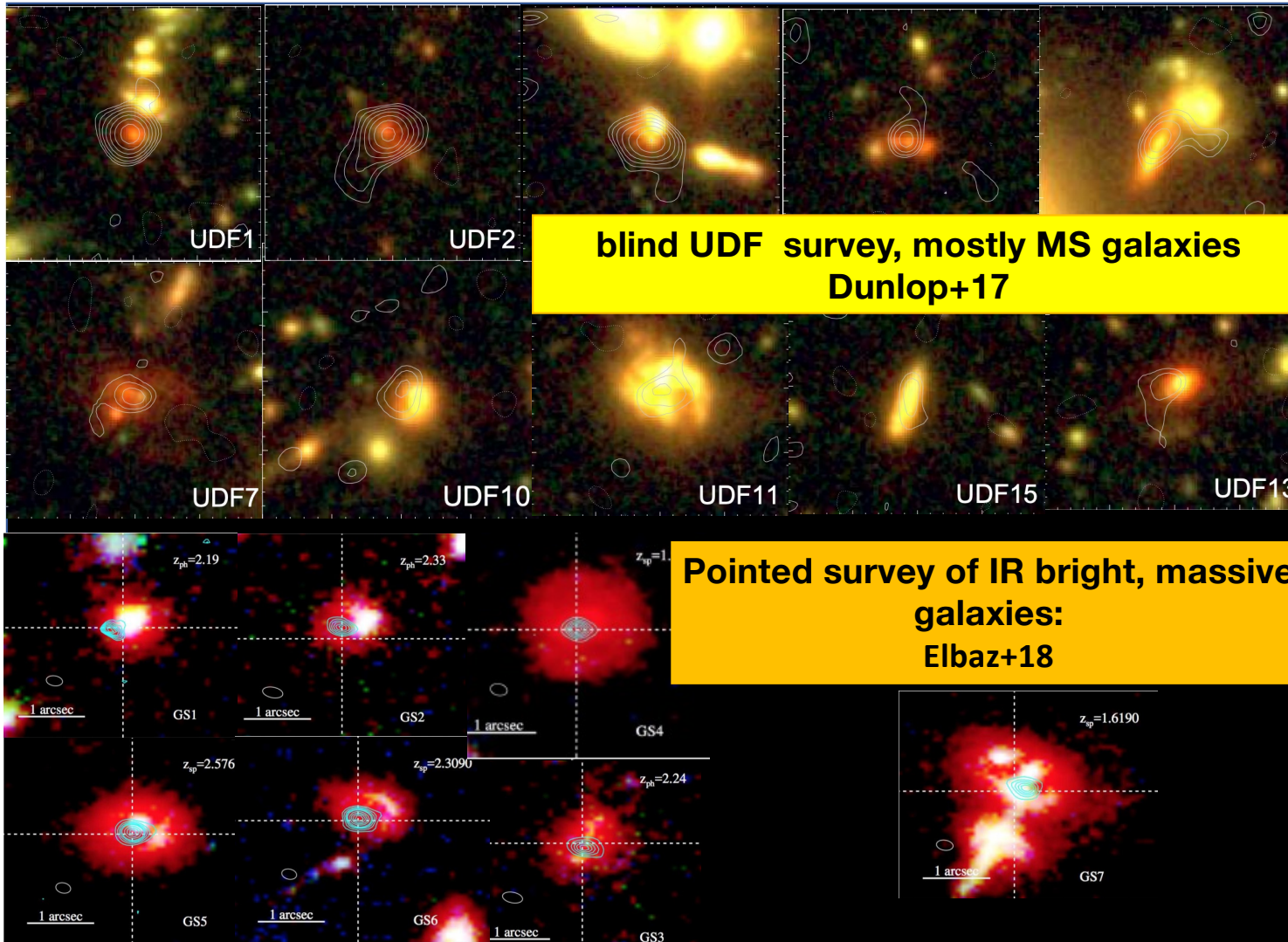


Arp244: very different structure  
in UV, optical, NIR far-IR  
(*Seille, Buat et al. subm.*)



Article number, page 3 of 12

## $z \sim 2$ dusty sources as seen by ALMA



Submm and optical emissions are not always, but sometimes, coincident

Sub-mm and UV-optical emissions do not match  
UV and dust emission are not matching  
Stellar emission more extended

# Why studying dust obscuration is important?

- To study dust properties, out of the local group, and their evolution with redshift, star formation etc...
- To understand the dust distribution in galaxies
- If your aim is not to study dust for itself, do you need to account for it → **YES, most of the time**

*When you are analysing UV, optical and even NIR emission of galaxies, from imaging or spectroscopy, intrinsic, emitted emission is obtained after correction for dust obscuration*

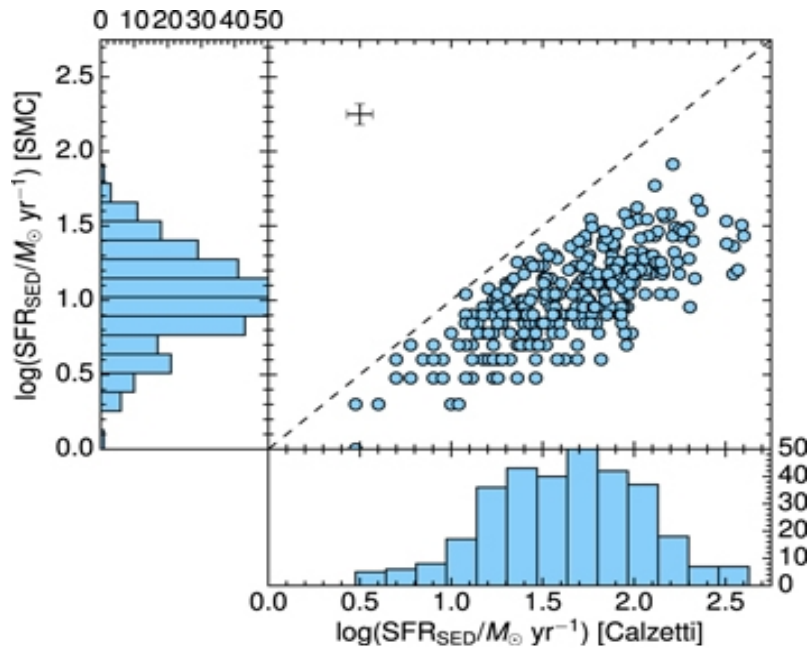
- **Is it easy to perform? NO!**

*We should be able to reproduce the diversity of the situations: geometry, dust and stars content*

- **What are the best conditions to derive robust estimates?**
  - ❖ With mid and far-IR measurements → **dust emission**
  - ❖ When the wavelength coverage and sampling are good enough to **characterize the stellar (old and young) populations**

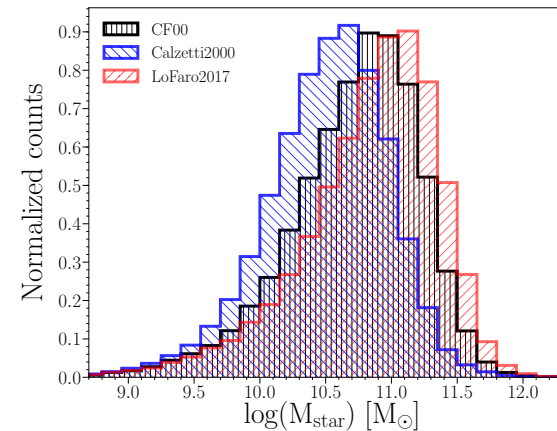


## The derived quantities SFR & $M_{\text{star}}$ are modified



***Theios + 19***

SMC (UV steep) and Calzetti (UV flat) curves  
(no dust emission)



***Malek et al. 2018***

***Stellar mass estimates differing by a factor 1.3  
, with different recipes for dust attenuation***

# Outline

## ❖ Dust and stellar interplay in galaxies

- Definition of extinction and attenuation curves

*Extinction & attenuation in GRB hosts*

- Radiation Transfer modelling

*Short description and few results*

## ❖ The dust attenuation law from the local to the distant universe:

- Formalisms and shapes of the attenuation law
- Attenuations laws from numerical simulations
- Measured attenuations laws

*From spectroscopy & from photometry and SED fitting*

## ❖ Impact of attenuation on SFR and $M_{\text{star}}$ measurements

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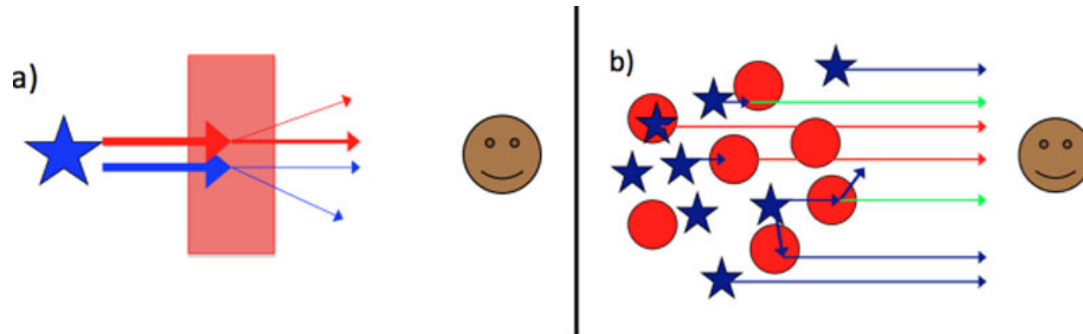
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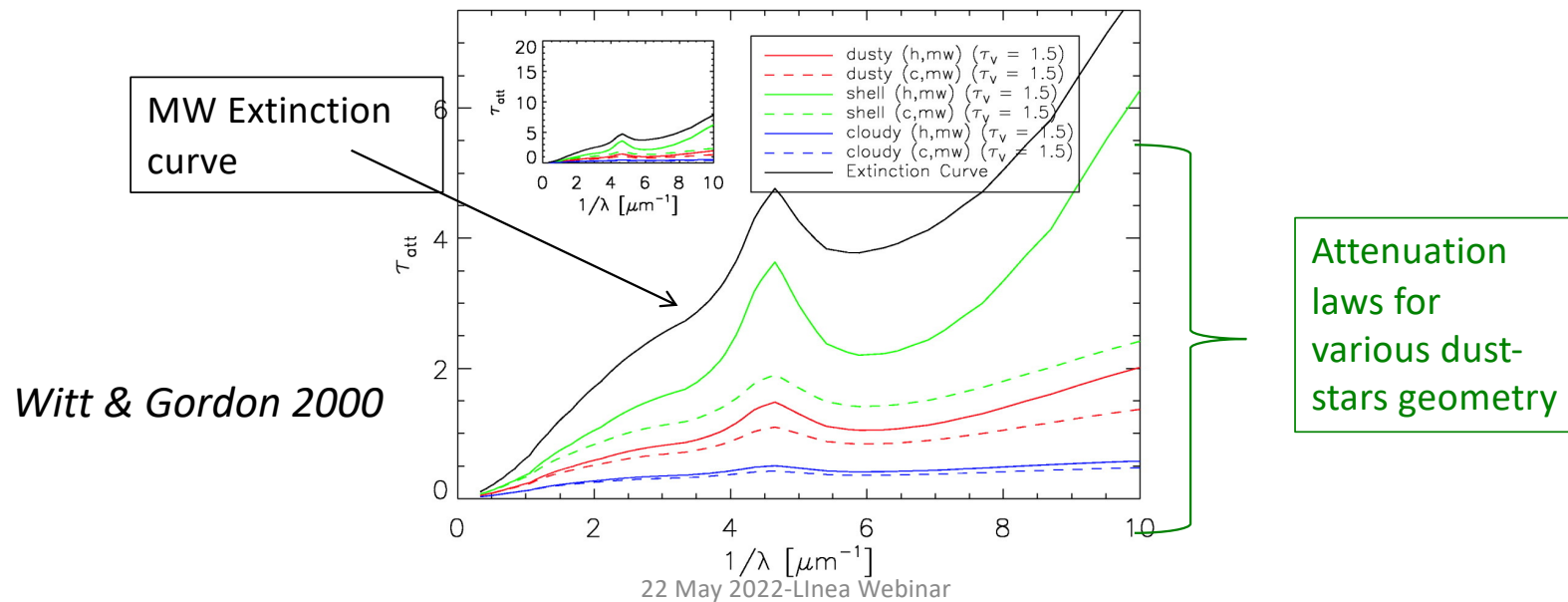
# Attenuation & extinction: two different processes

Line of sight  
of a star  
→ Extinction law  
  
→ Dust properties



Stars and dust are  
mixed in different  
ways

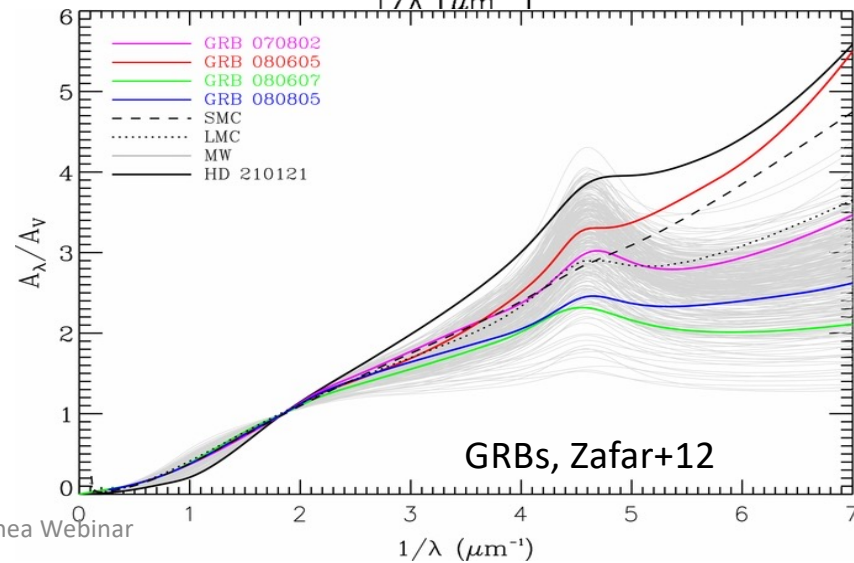
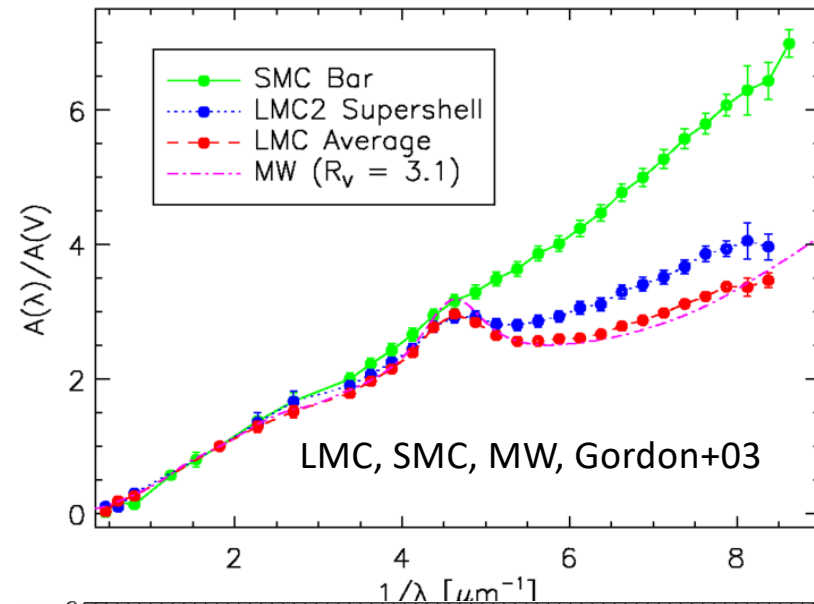
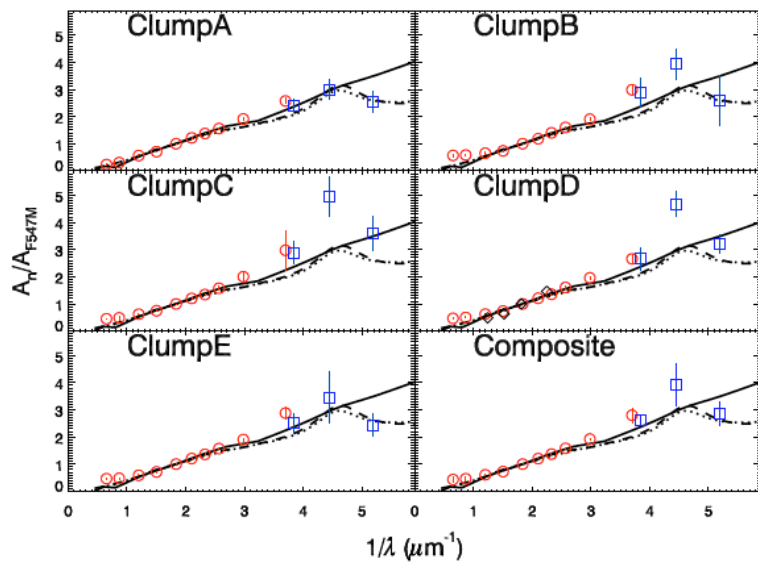
→ Attenuation law  
→ Dust/stars geometry



# Extinction curves

- MW, SMC, LMC
- Very few nearby galaxies
- High z: AGN, QSO, GRB, SN

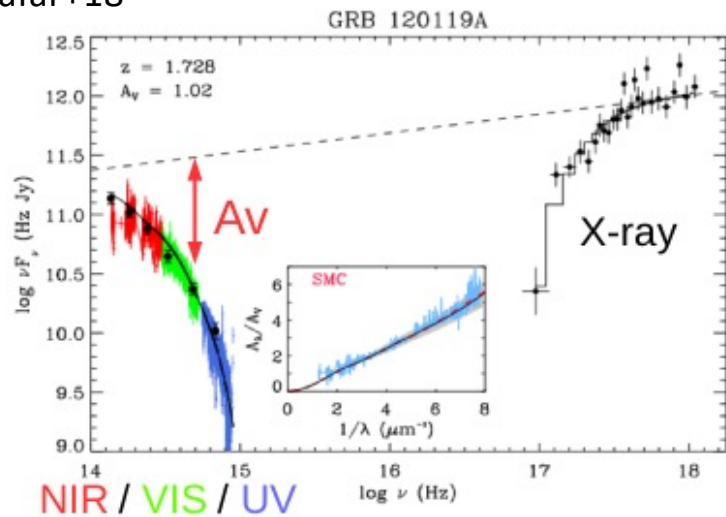
## Clumps in the central part of M31, Dong+14



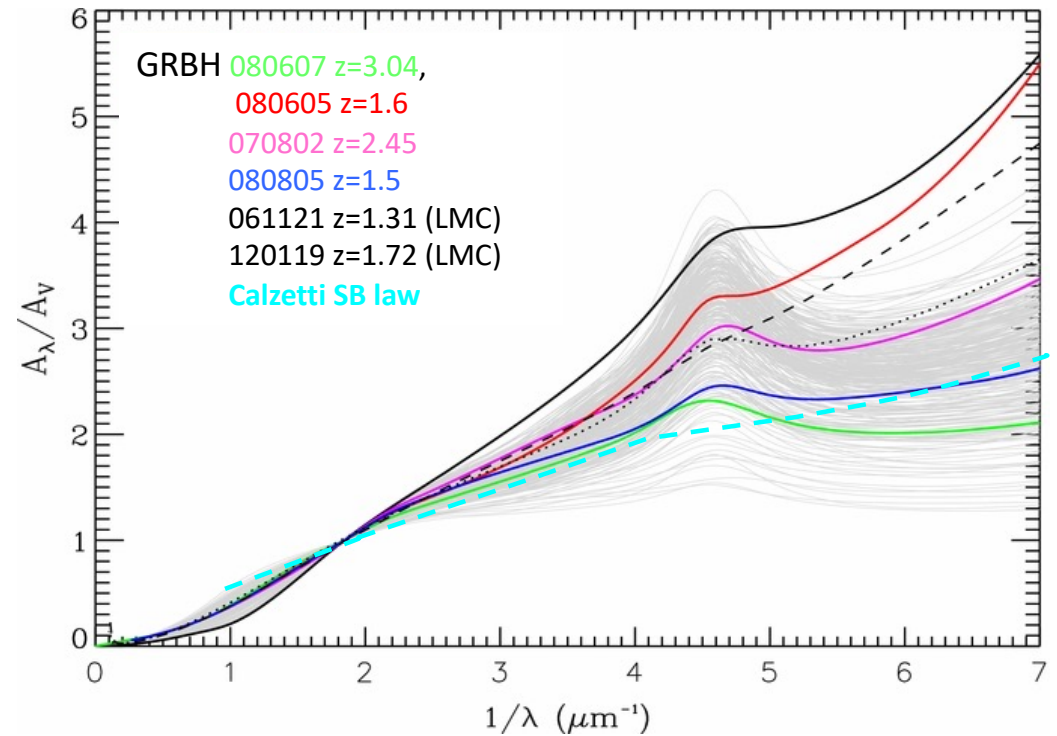


# Extinction curves measured in galaxies hosting $\gamma$ -rays bursts

Zafar+18



The afterglow is modelled by a single or double power-law: any deviation is due to dust extinction



*D. Corre, PhD thesis*

22 May 2022-Linea Webinar

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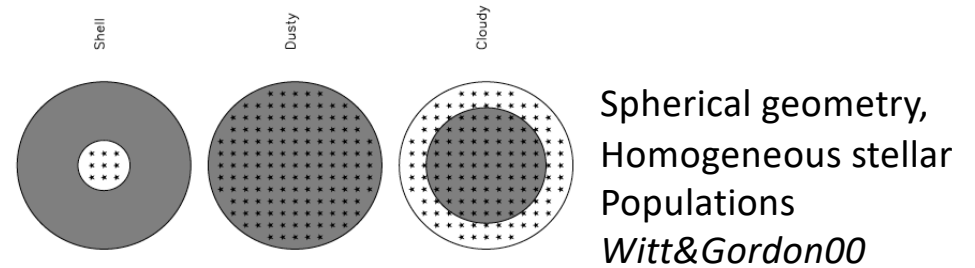
## ❖ Impact of attenuation on SFR and $M_{\text{star}}$ measurements

# Radiation transfer modelling: a framework to understand the main features of dust obscuration in galaxies

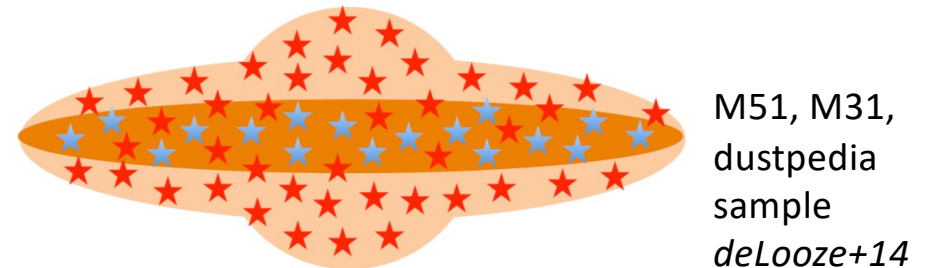
- **Dust models**: optical properties, chemical composition, grain size distribution
- **RT codes**: interaction between photons and dust particles. Monte-Carlo methods (TRADING, SKIRT) or/and ray-tracing (DartRay)
- **Stellar radiation field**: theoretical population synthesis models or from observations (commonly used for the old stellar population)
- **Dust/star geometry**: large scale distribution (kpc) and star forming clouds (pc) (Silva+98, Popescu+00: 'diffuse' medium & obscured clumps)

# Radiation transfer modelling: different configurations

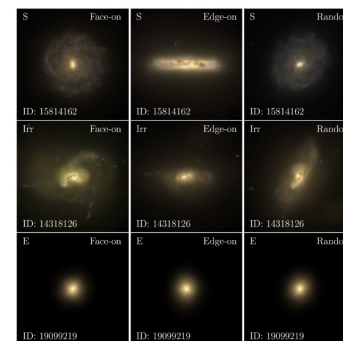
- **Simple global geometry and stellar content:**  
to test **dust properties** and local distributions  
(e.g. Witt & Gordon 00, Seon and Draine 17, Law+18)



- **Galaxy-like simplified geometries**, to produce libraries or to fit nearby galaxies (e.g. M51, M31, NGC 891)  
Mostly MW dust, stellar and dust distributions are tested  
(e.g. Pierini+04, Silva+98, Tuffs+04, De Looze+14, Viaene+17, Nersesian+19)

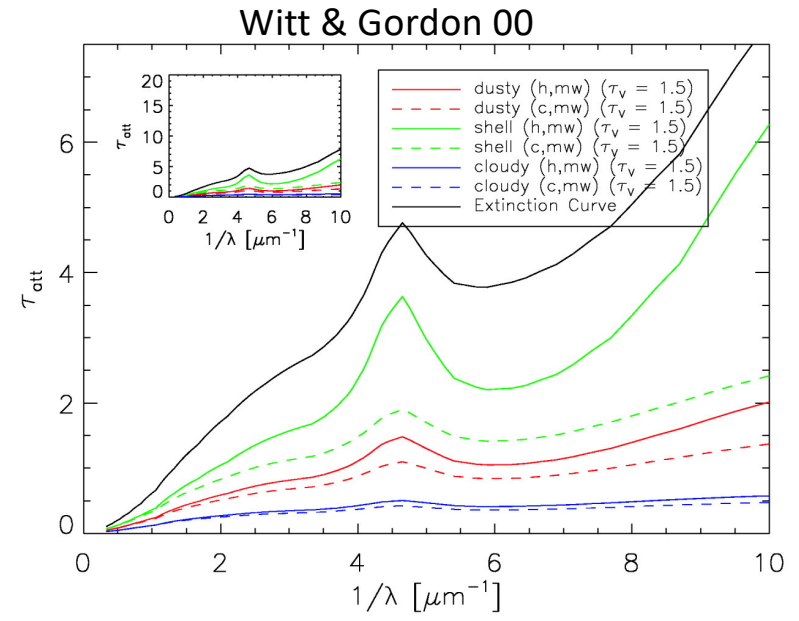
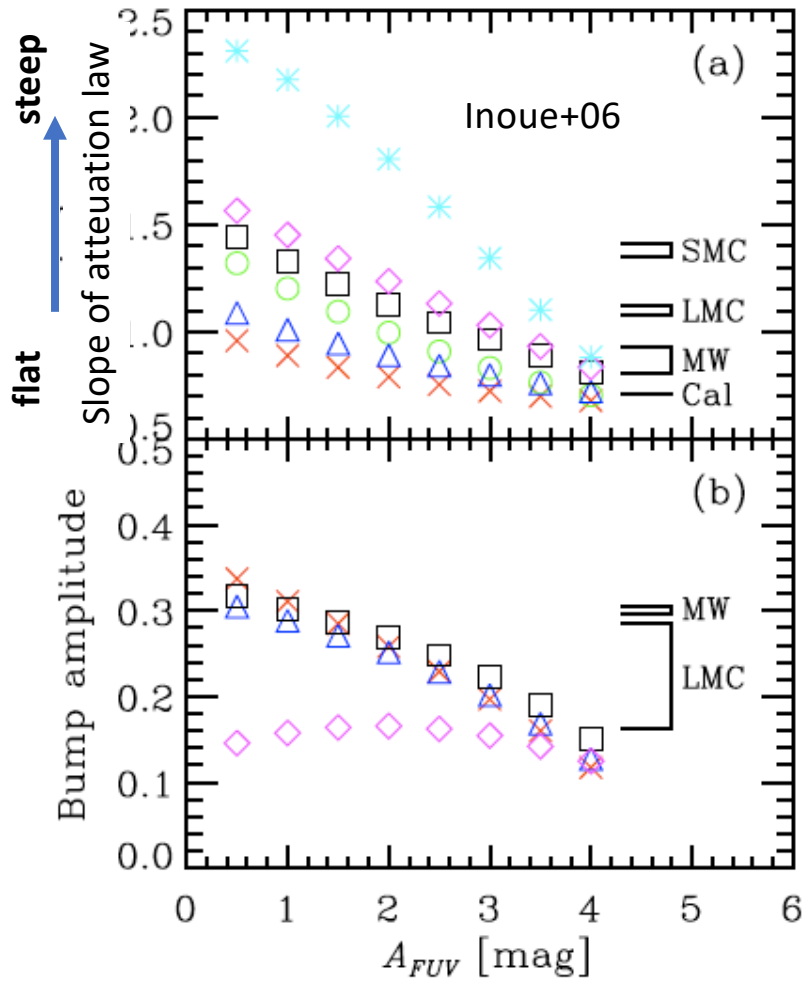


- **Application to simulated galaxies: post-processing of hydrodynamical simulations**  
to explore different galaxy types (isolated, mergers, ULIRGs) and provide statistical analyses  
(e.g. Trayford+17, 20, Roebuck+19, Baes+19 )



Eagle  
simulations+  
SKIRT modelling  
*Trayford+17*

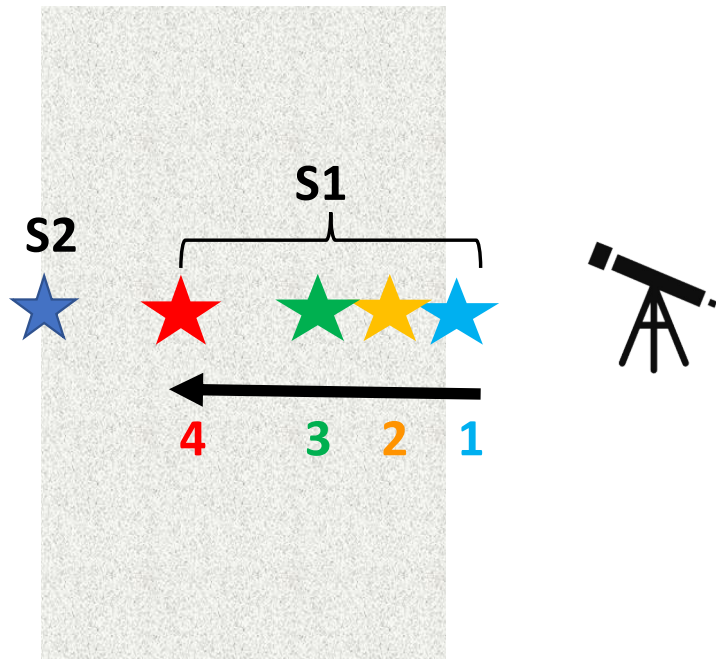
# 1. RT modelling: Flattening of the attenuation curve & decrease of the UV bump amplitude when attenuation increases, shallower than the extinction curve with simple stellar populations



Bluer light come from less obscured line of sight than redder light



- **Uniform dust slab:  $A(V) = 2$  mag**
- **Star 2-S2 behind the slab**
- **Star 1-S1 before the slab  $\rightarrow$  inside the slab**

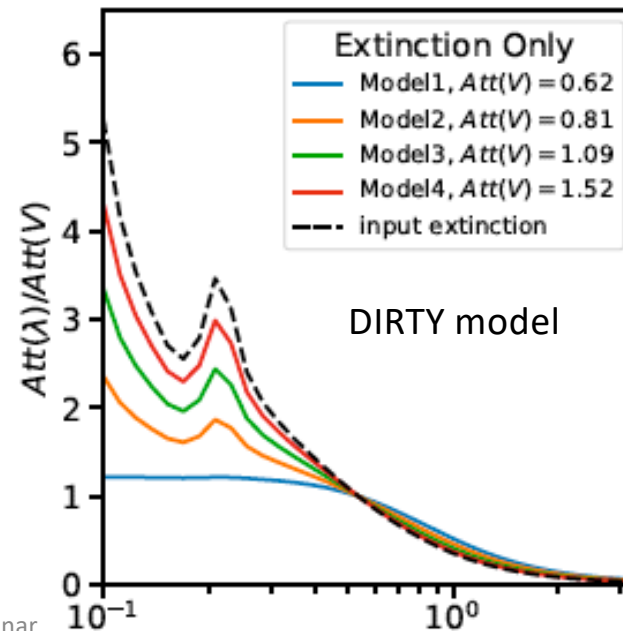


Adapted from Gordon, 2021, in *Star Formation Rates in Galaxies*, CUP

22 May 2022-Linea Webinar

- **Model 1:** flat attenuation curve, S2 almost completely attenuated, S1 dominates
- **Model 2  $\rightarrow$  4:** optical depth for S1 increases, steeper attenuation curve

Attenuation curve always flatter than the extinction curve



## 2. RT modeling: with different stellar populations and dust/stars geometry → Age selective attenuation & steeper attenuation law.

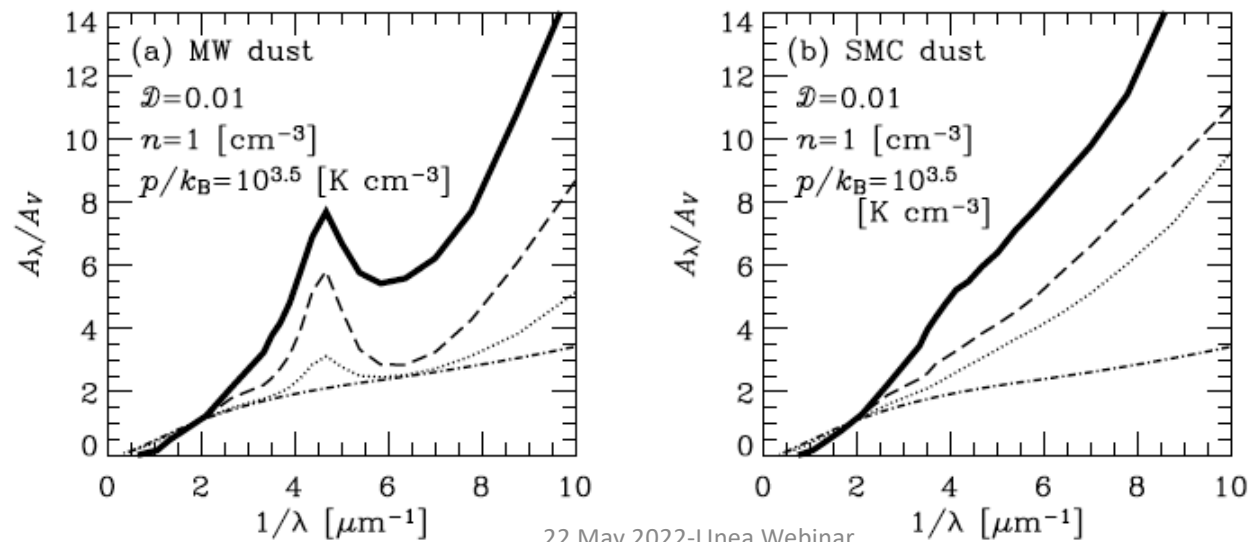
Youngest stars in dusty clumps & older stars in a smooth dust distribution

**Age selective attenuation → steeper attenuation laws**

Emission at short wavelengths comes from young stars

**Standard age limit for birth clouds : 10 Myr**

*(Charlot & Fall 2000, Granato+06, Panuzzo+07, Inoue 2005)*

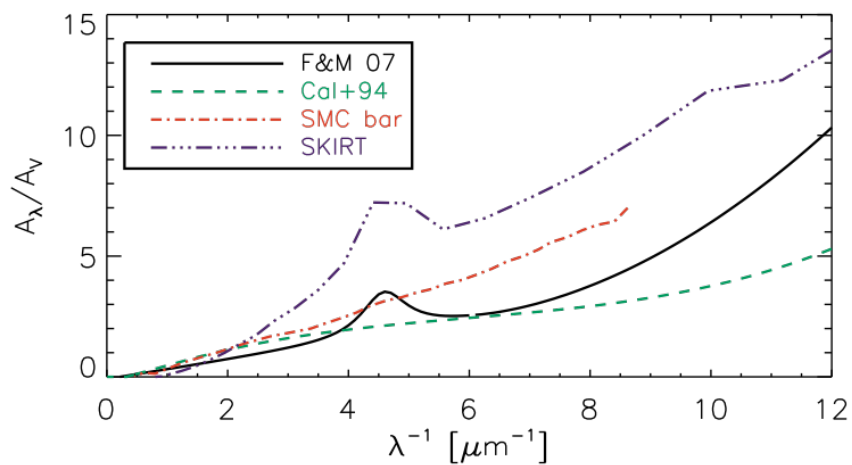
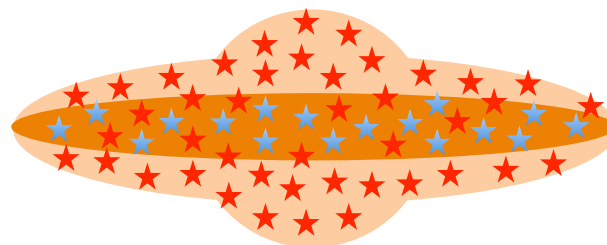


*Inoue 2005*

# M51 De Looze+14, SKIRT code

**Table 2.** Overview of the different stellar and dust components in the RT model of M51.

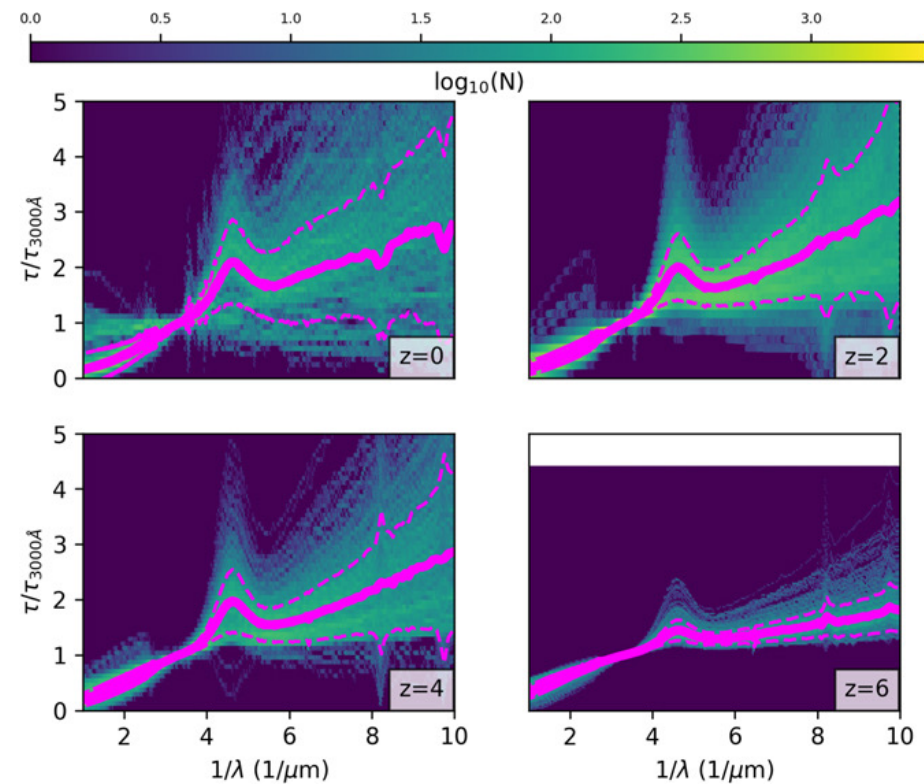
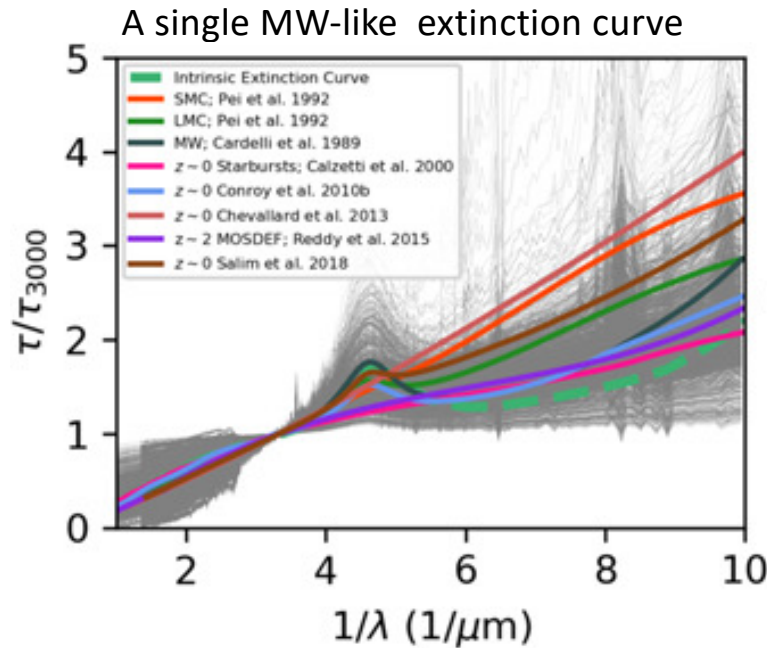
Component	Parameter	Value
Old stars		
Bulge <sup>a</sup>	$n$	0.67
	$R_c$ [pc]	635.3
	$q$	0.88
	$L_V$ [ $L_{\odot,V}$ ]	$3.2 \times 10^9$
Thick disk <sup>b</sup>	2D geometry	IRAC 3.6 $\mu\text{m}$ <sup>f</sup>
	$h_z$ [pc]	450
	$L_V$ [ $L_{\odot,V}$ ]	$2.0 \times 10^{10}$
Young stars (non-ionizing)		
Thin disk <sup>d</sup>	2D geometry	GALEX FUV <sup>e</sup>
	$h_z$ [pc]	100
	SFR [ $M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ]	3
Young stars (ionizing)		
Thin disk <sup>f</sup>	2D geometry	$\text{H}\alpha + 0.031 \times \text{MIPS } 24 \mu\text{m}$ <sup>g</sup>
	$h_z$ [pc]	100
	SFR [ $M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ]	3
	$M_d$ [ $M_{\odot}$ ]	$4.5 \times 10^6$
Dust		
Thin disk <sup>h</sup>	2D geometry	$A_{\text{FUV}}^i$
	$h_z$ [pc]	225
	$M_d$ [ $M_{\odot}$ ]	$7.3 \times 10^7$



# Radiation transfer modeling on simulated galaxies: more complex geometry, coupled with galaxy evolution

(e.g. Baes+19, Camps+16,18, Trayford+20)

## MUFASA+GIZMO simulations & HYPERION RT (Narayanan+18)



# Outline

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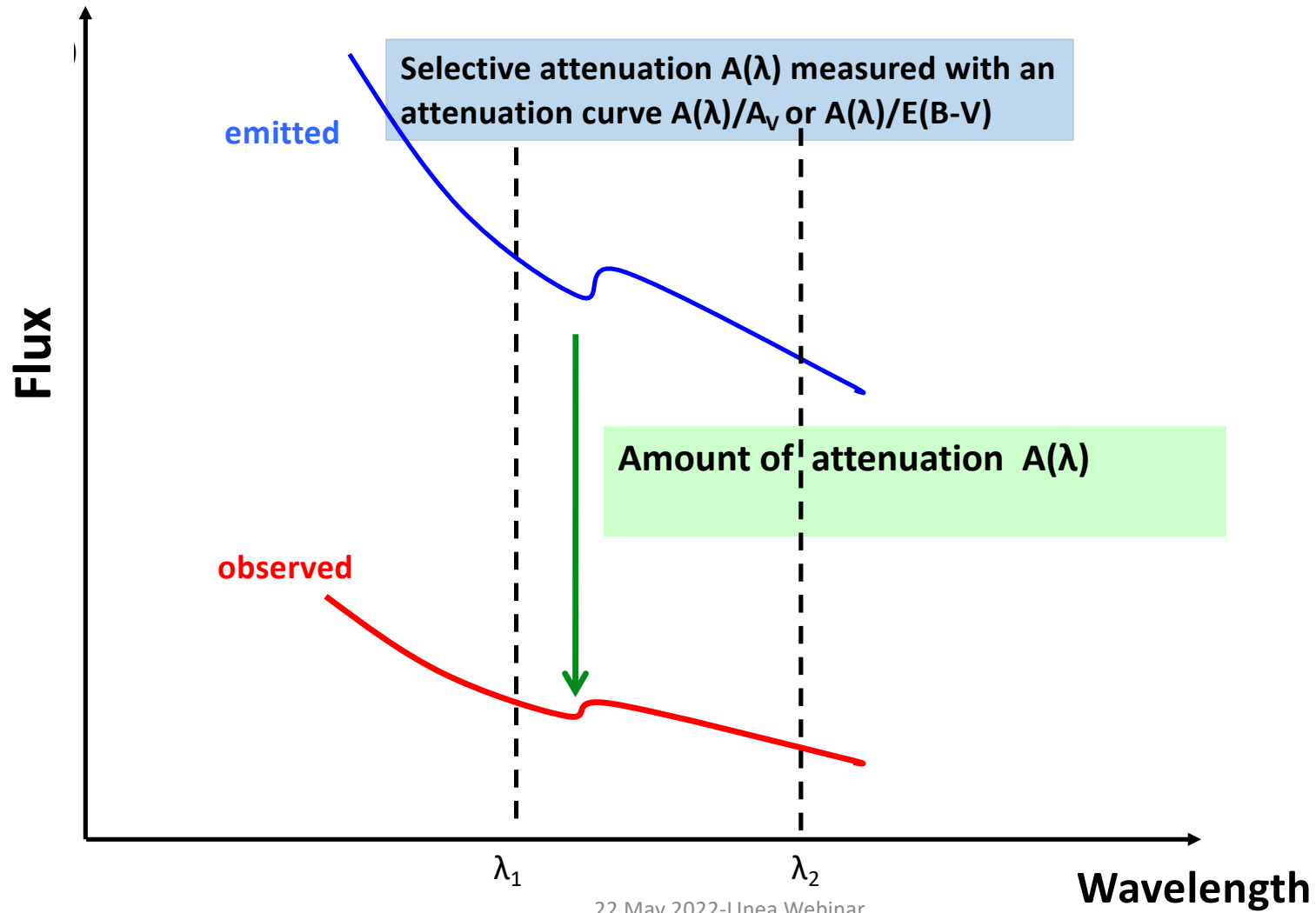
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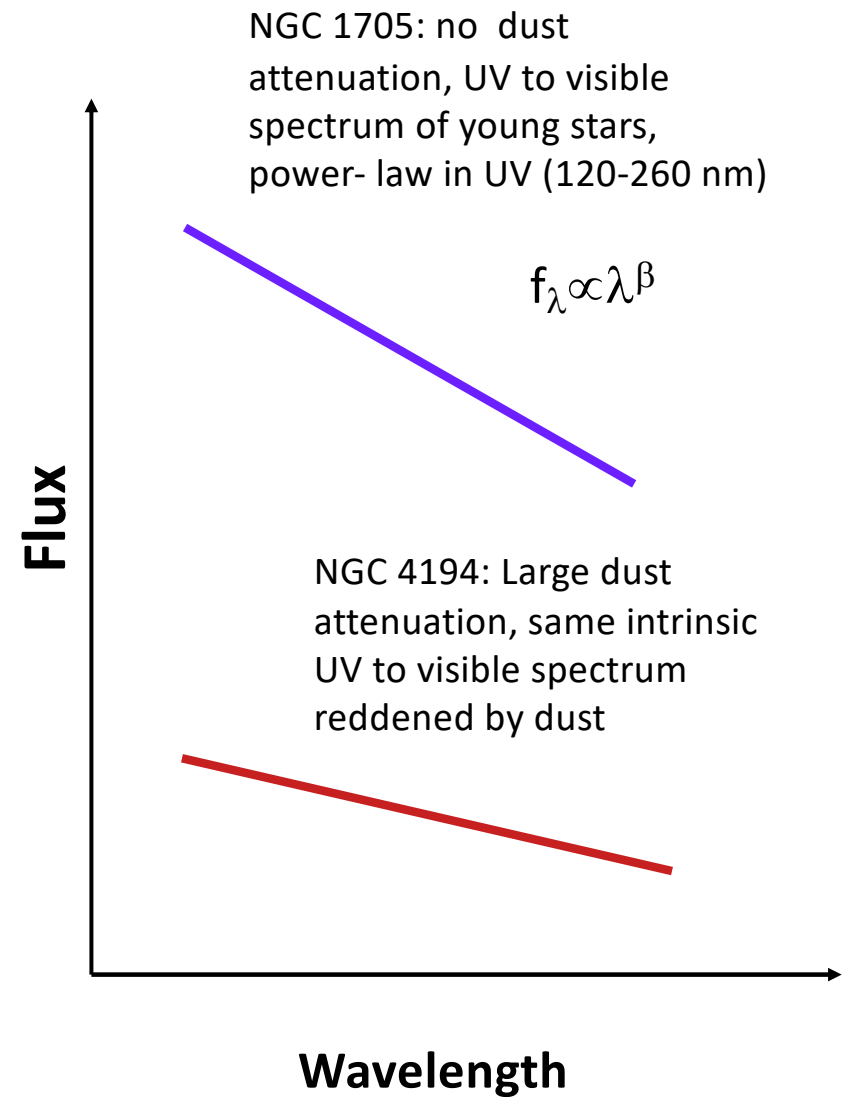
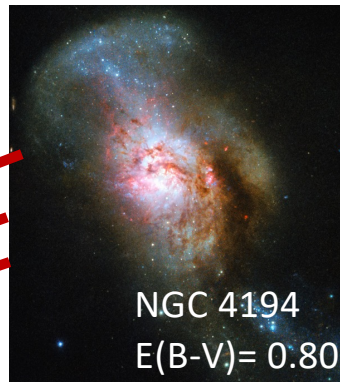
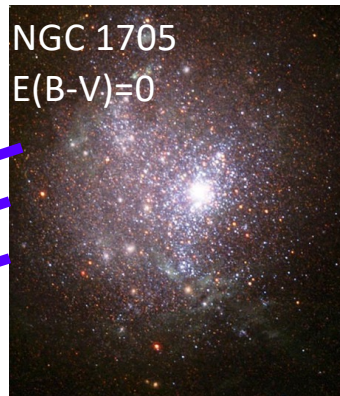
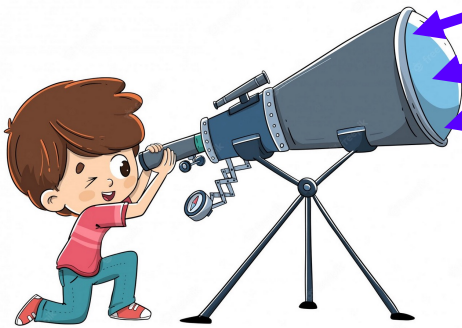
# Dust attenuation: a dramatic effect on the SED

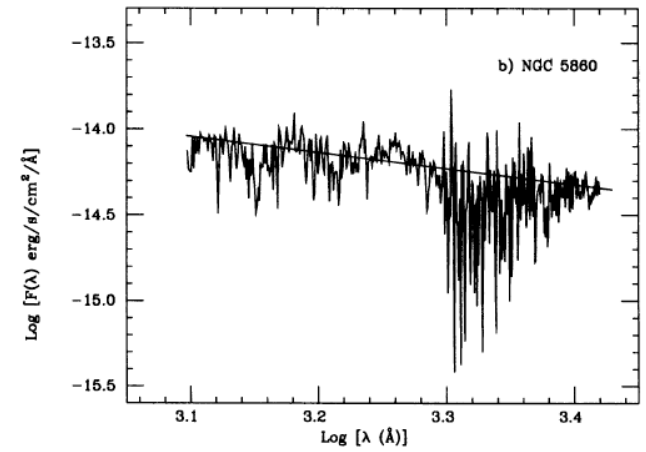
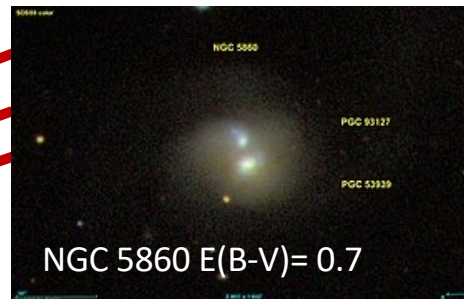
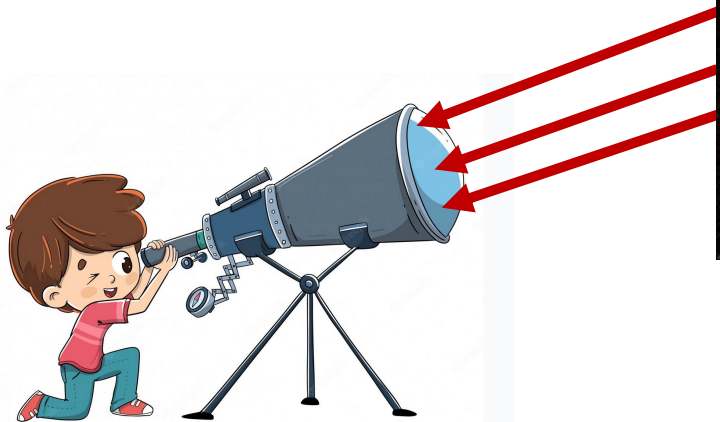
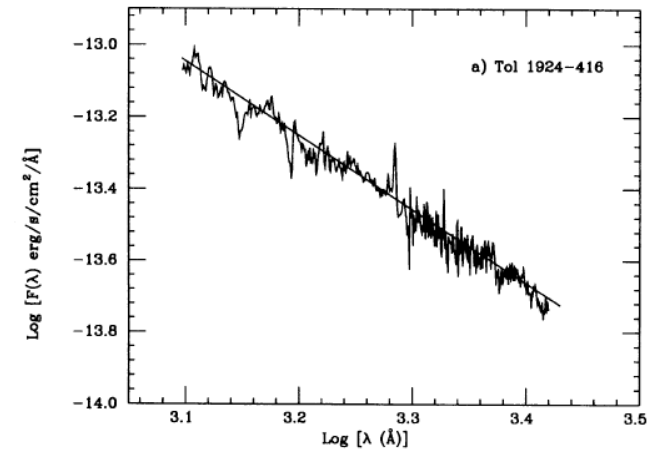
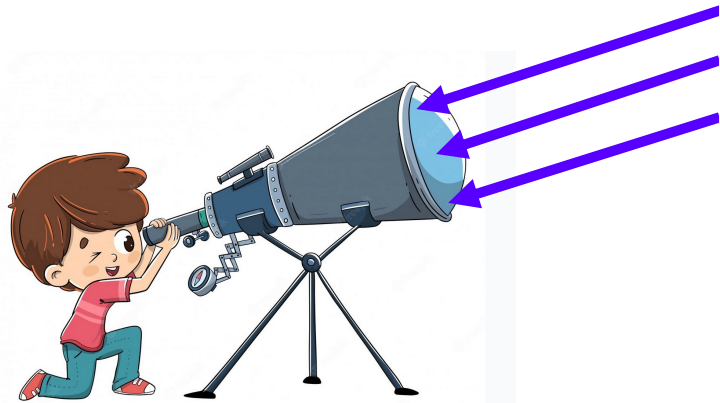


# The 'famous' Calzetti law

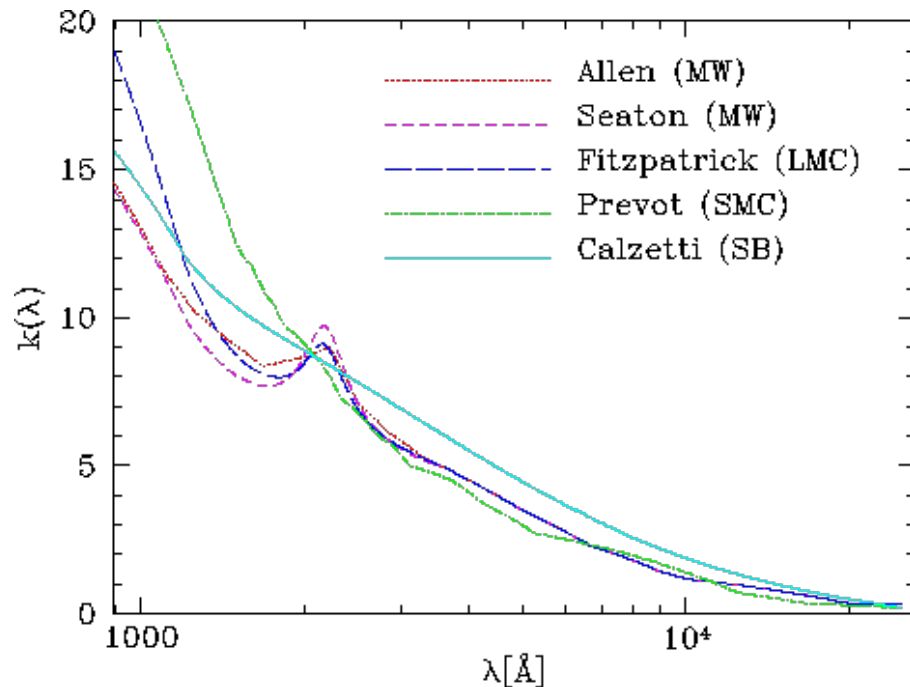
It is an **empirical law**, obtained by **applying to galaxies** the method to measure **extinction curves along the line of sight of stars**

- ✓ **A sample of nearby galaxies with a central starburst: UV spectra and Balmer decrements  $H\alpha/H\beta$**
- ✓ **Galaxies classified as a function of their obscuration measured with  $H\alpha/H\beta$**
- ✓ **The UV-visible spectrum supposed to ONLY vary with the effects of dust: a reasonable assumption for starbursts and in UV** ■





# The shape of the Calzetti-Starburst law



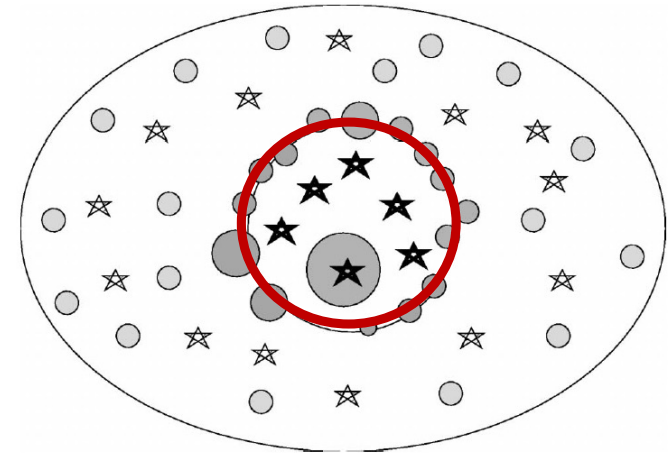
- The **Calzetti attenuation law** is compared to **extinction laws for the MW, LMC, SMC**
- The **attenuation law IS NOT an extinction law** even if it is expressed as  $k(\lambda) = A(\lambda)/E(B-V)$
- **No UV bump**, a general shape similar to the MW extinction curve, and **grayer (flatter) than the LMC & SMC extinction curves**

# The original Calzetti's recipe

- Apply ) **the starburst law**  $k(\lambda)$ , as a function of  $E(B-V)_{\text{stars}}$  (for stars) uniformly **to the whole stellar continuum (UV-to-NIR)**
- If you also work with **emission lines from HII regions:**  
Apply the relation  $E(B-V)_{\text{gas}} = E(B-V)_{\text{stars}}/0.44$

Assume a **foreground screen**  
**and a MW extinction curve**

→ If any of these steps is modified,  
the starburst law as measured by Calzetti  
is no more valid



*Adapted from Calzetti 2001*

# The Charlot and Fall (2003) recipe: power-laws and differential attenuation



(da Cunha+08, ,  
Wild+11, Chevallard+13,  
Lo Faro+17, Malek+18)

age dependent attenuation for stars:  
birth clouds and ISM  
 $t < \sim 10^7$  yrs (BC+ISM)  
and  $t > \sim 10^7$  yrs (ISM only),

$$A_{\lambda}^{BC} = A_V^{BC} (\lambda/0.55)^{n^{BC}}$$

$$A_{\lambda}^{ISM} = A_V^{ISM} (\lambda/0.55)^{n^{ISM}}$$

Original values

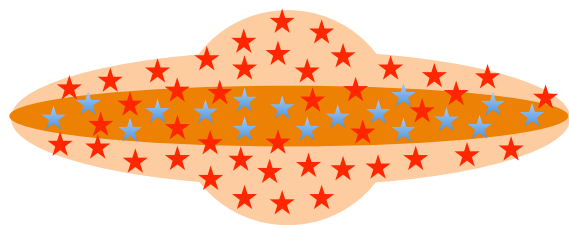
$$n^{BC} = n^{ISM} = -0.7, \mu = 0.3$$

$$\mu = A_V^{ISM} / (A_V^{ISM} + A_V^{BC}).$$

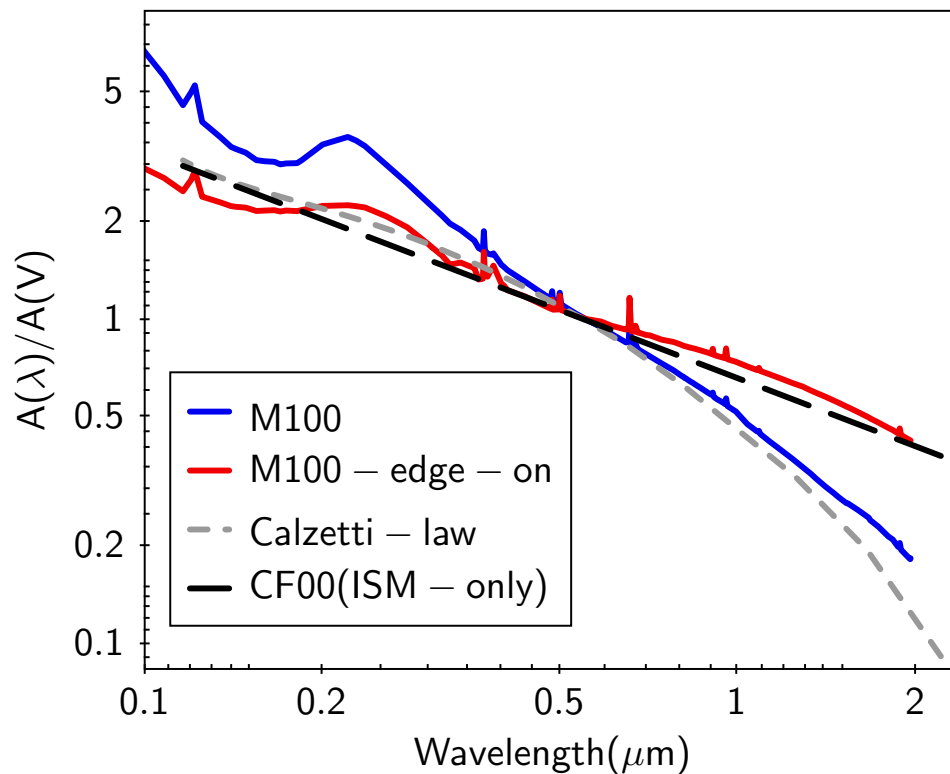


# The Calzetti law is steeper than the Charlot & Fall recipe at $\lambda > \lambda_V$

**M100: Radiation  
Transfer modeling:  
SKIRT/dustpedia**  
*(courtesy of A. Nersenian,  
S. Verstocken & M. Baes)*



De Looze+14



- Original CF00 recipe for the ISM:  
 $\lambda^{-0.7}$ ,  $R_V \sim 5.8$
- Calzetti law  
 $R_V = 4.05$

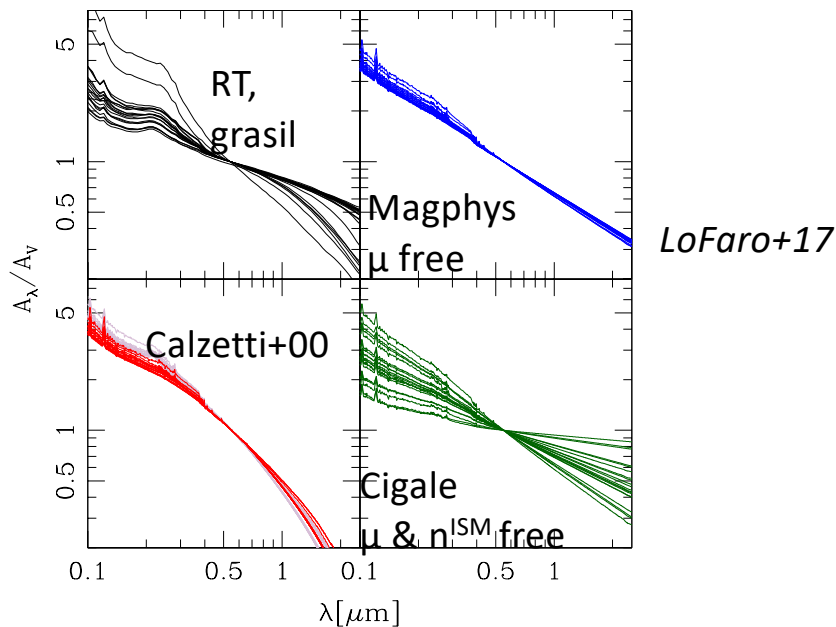
# No universal attenuation laws: flexible recipes are needed

## Charlot & Fall 2000 (CF00)

→ Double-Power-Law-free, free slope

$$A_{\lambda}^{BC} = A_V^{BC} (\lambda/0.55)^{n^{BC}}$$

$$A_{\lambda}^{ISM} = A_V^{ISM} (\lambda/0.55)^{n^{ISM}} + \mu \text{ free}$$

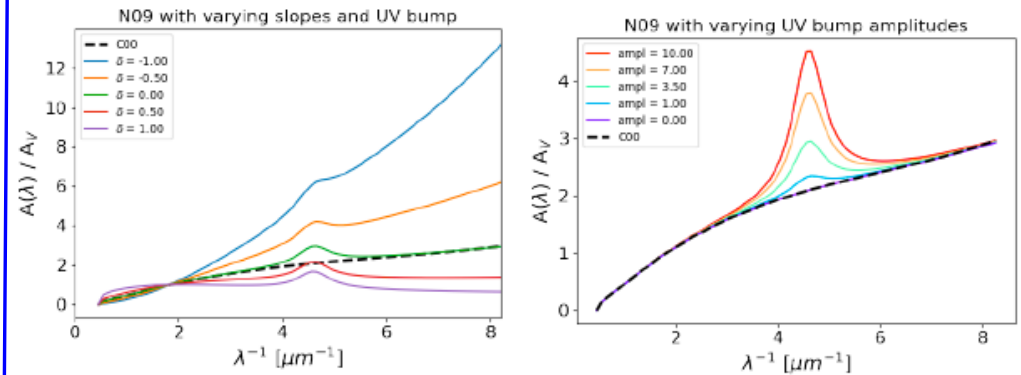


(da Cunha+08, Wild+11, Chevallard+13, Lo Faro+17, Malek+18, Battisti+20: addition of a UV bump

## Calzetti+2000 (C00)

→ Calzetti-like, free slope

$$k(\lambda) = \left( \frac{A(\lambda)}{E(B-V)} + D(\lambda) \right) \times \left( \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_V} \right)^{\delta}$$



Narayanan+18

(Buat+11,12, Kriek&Conroy 13, Salmon+15, Zeimann+15, Seon & Draine 2016, Corre+18)

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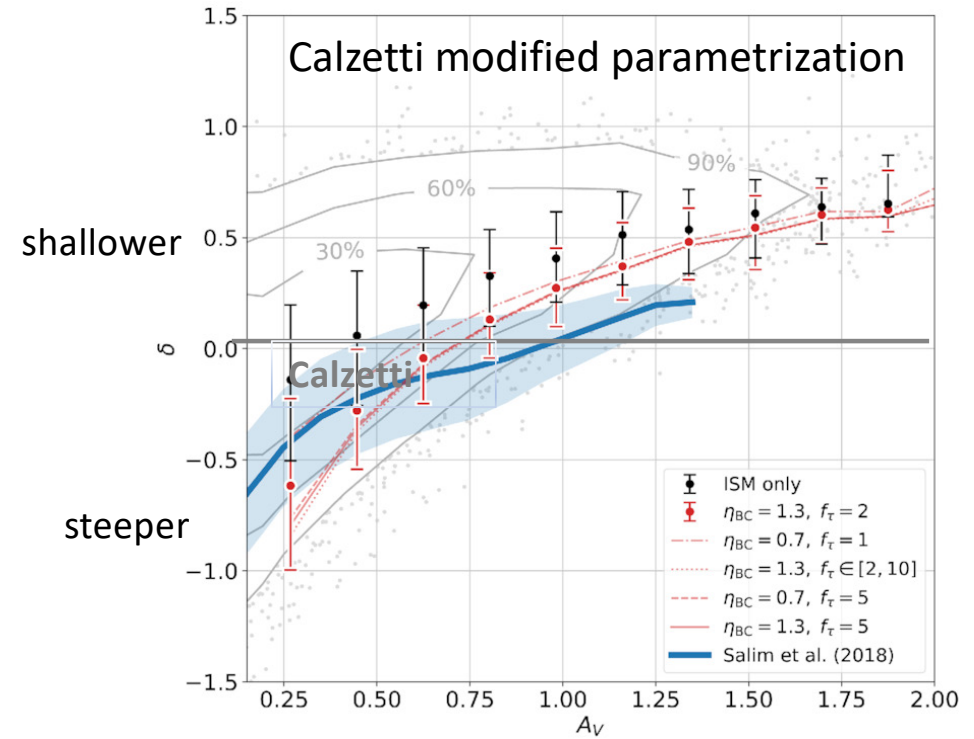
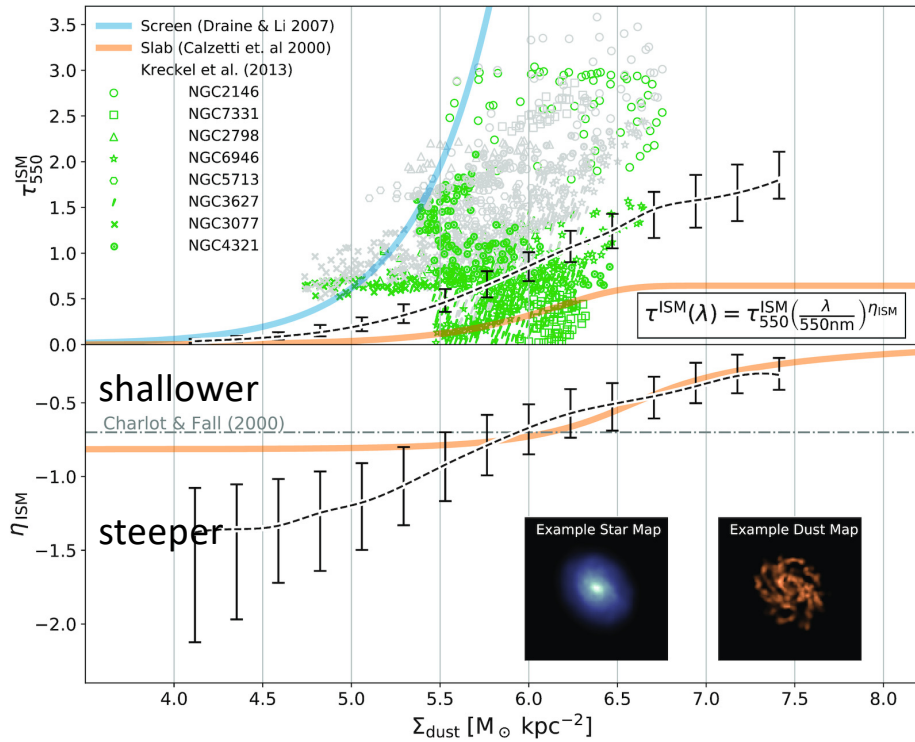
*From spectroscopy & from photometry and SED fitting*

## ❖ Impact of attenuation on SFR and $M_{\text{star}}$ measurements

# Eagle simulations +SKIRT RT + Charlot & Fall & Calzetti formalisms

→ the attenuation curve flattens when  $A_V$  increases

*Trayford+20*

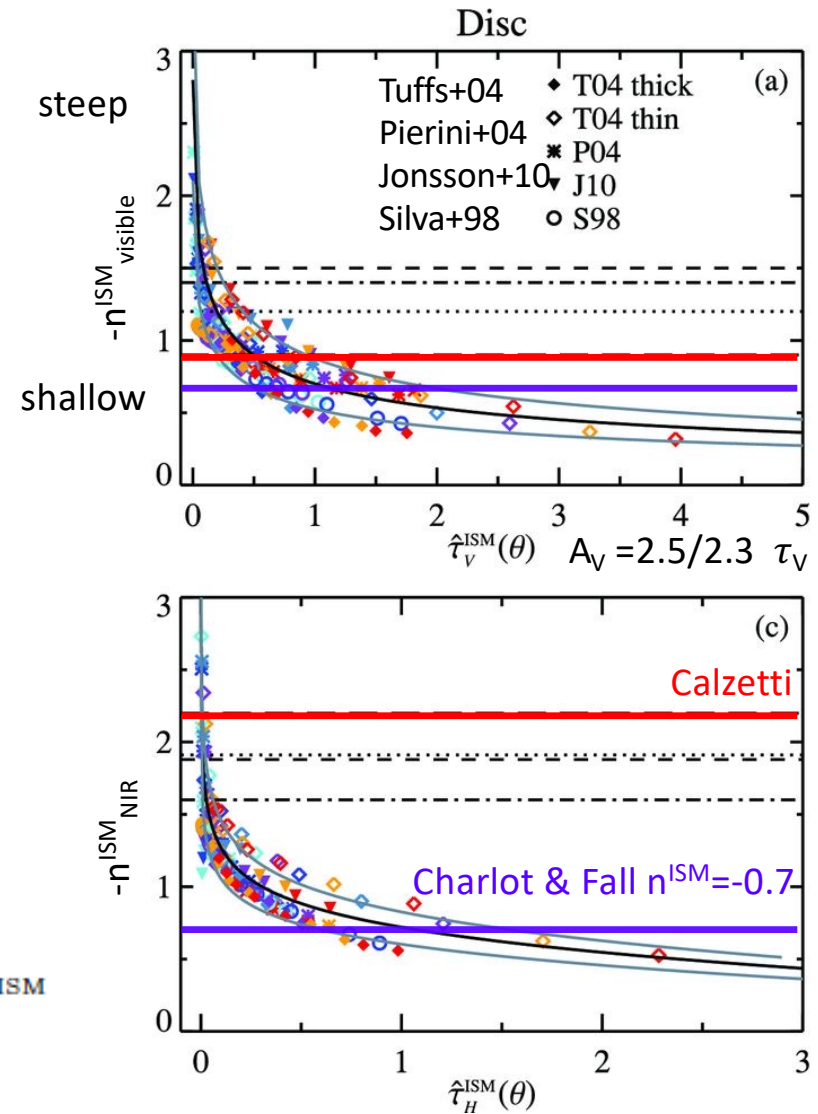


# Chevallard et al. 2013:

## Compilation of Radiative Transfer modeling results for disk+bulge geometries and Charlot and Fall formalism

→ All models predict a grayer attenuation for an increasing attenuation

$$A_{\lambda}^{\text{ISM}} = A_{\text{V}}^{\text{ISM}} (\lambda/0.55)^{n^{\text{ISM}}}$$

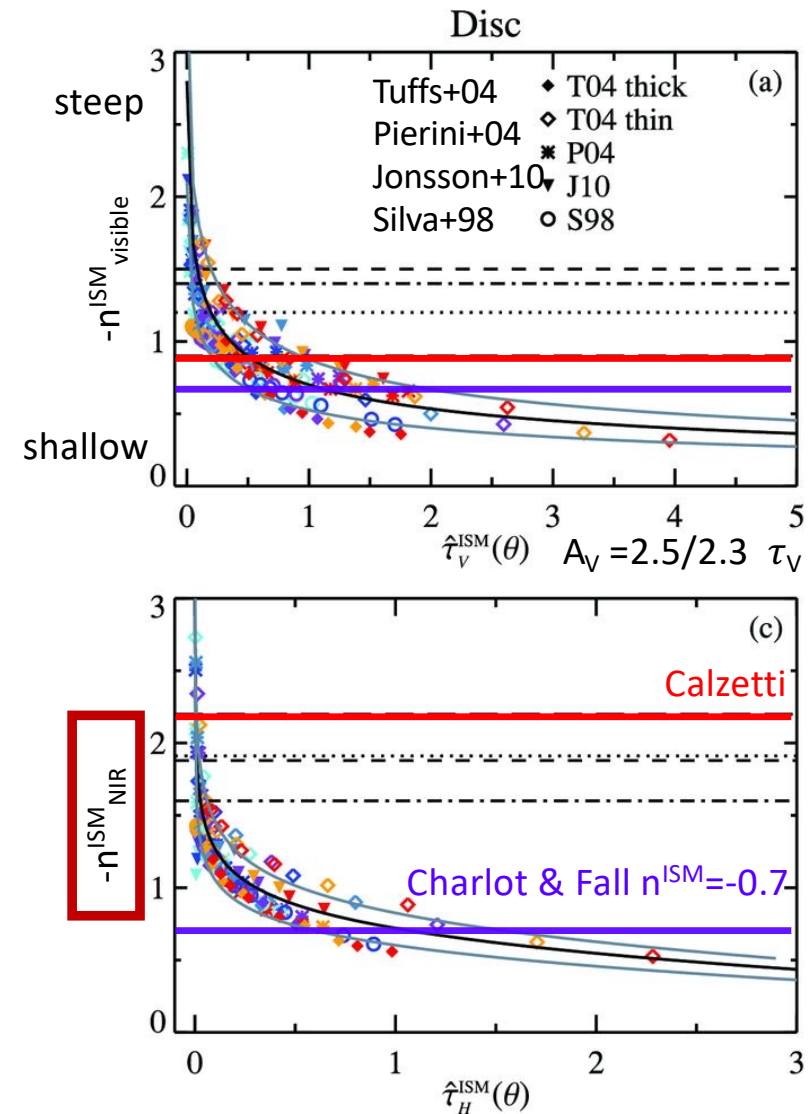


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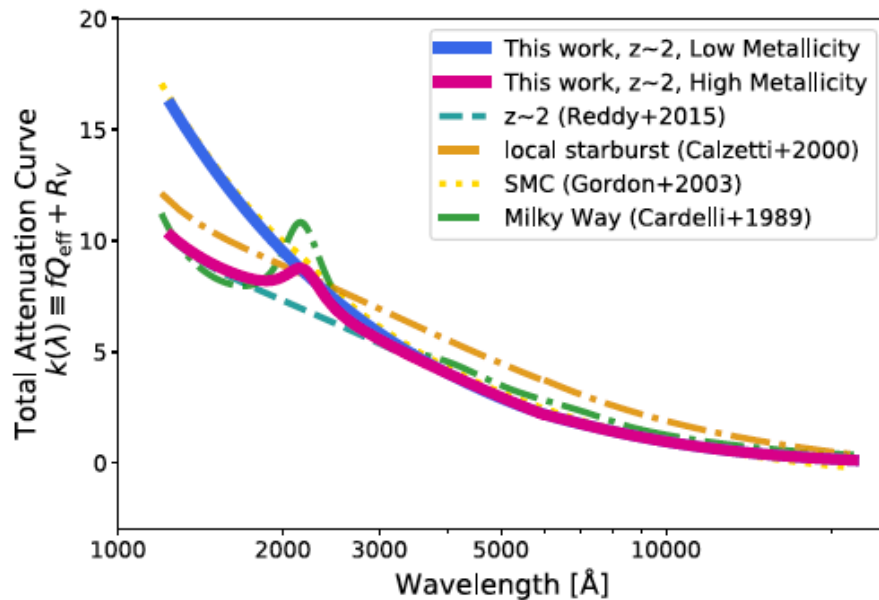
→ All models predict a grayer attenuation for an increasing attenuation

→ Grayer attenuation curve in the NIR than any extinction curve and Calzetti law



# Attenuation laws derived from spectroscopy

**Calzetti+94 method**: Balmer optical depth to quantify attenuation, comparison of UV spectra or multi-wavelength photometry



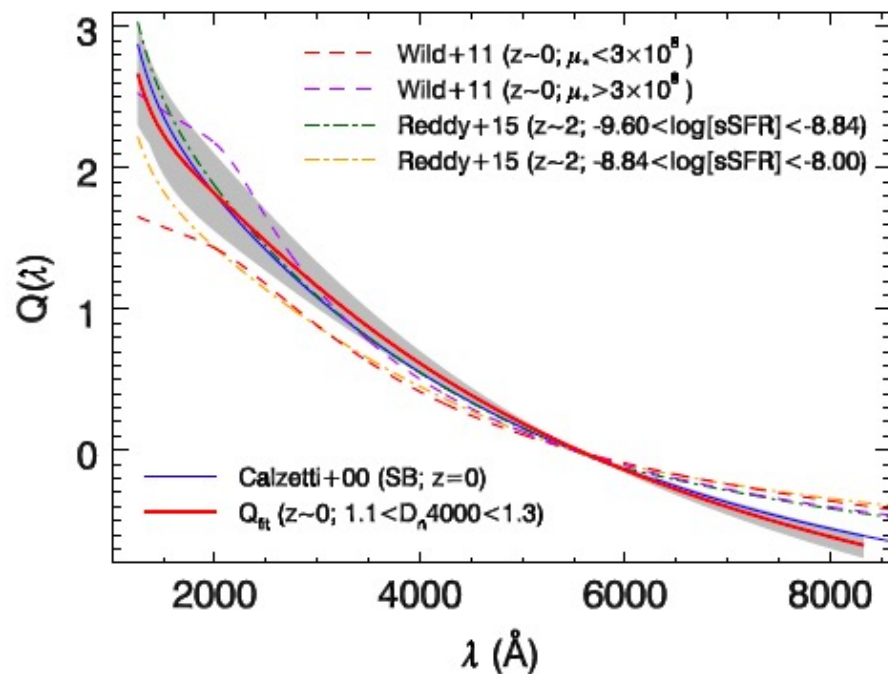
## MOSDEF survey (Keck/MOSFIRE), $z=2$ *Shivaie+20*

- 2 metallicity bins, 48 galaxies/bin  $\rightarrow$  stack
- High metallicity ( $12 + \log(O/H) > 8.5$ ), UV bump, shallow slope
- Low metallicity ( $12 + \log(O/H) < 8.5$ ), similar to SMC extinction curves



## Attenuation laws derived from spectroscopy (2)

**Calzetti+94 method**: Balmer optical depth to quantify attenuation, comparison of UV spectra or multi-wavelength photometry



### **Battisti+16**

SDSS spectroscopy (BD)  
multiwavelength photometry:  
GALEX (UV), SDSS photometry  
10000 galaxies at  $z < 0.1$

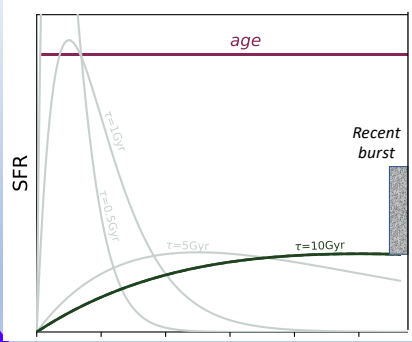
Close to the Calzetti law, no bump

# Attenuation laws derived from photometric observations and SED fitting

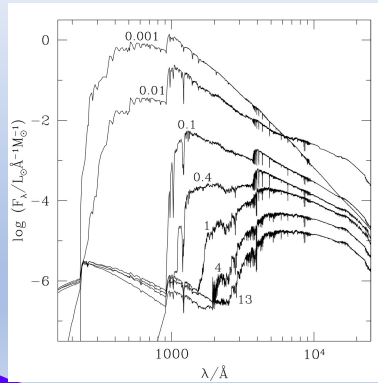
*e.g. Salim18 (z=0), Buat+09, 11, 12,18,19, Kriek & Conroy 13, Salmon +16,, Lo Faro +17, Cullen+18, Battisti+20*

# Fitting the SED (with CIGALE): the UV-optical (stellar) emission

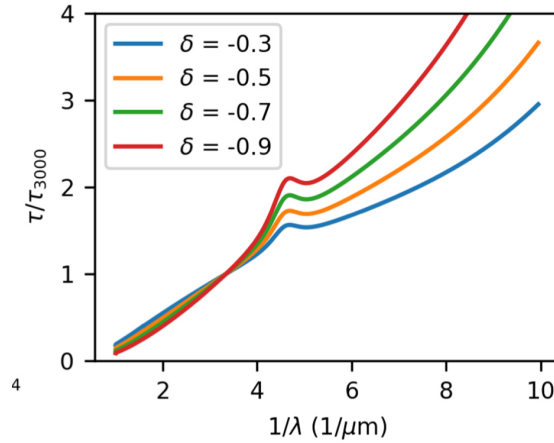
## Star formation history



## Simple Stellar Populations



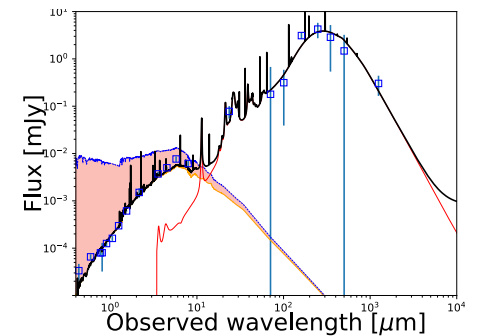
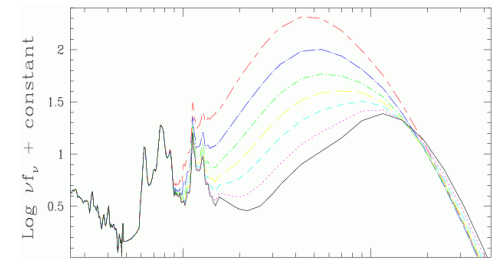
## Dust attenuation of the stellar continuum



(Boquien et al. 2019)



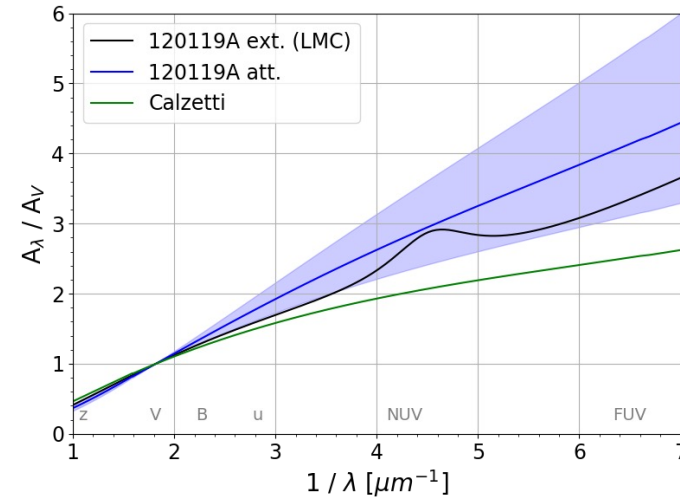
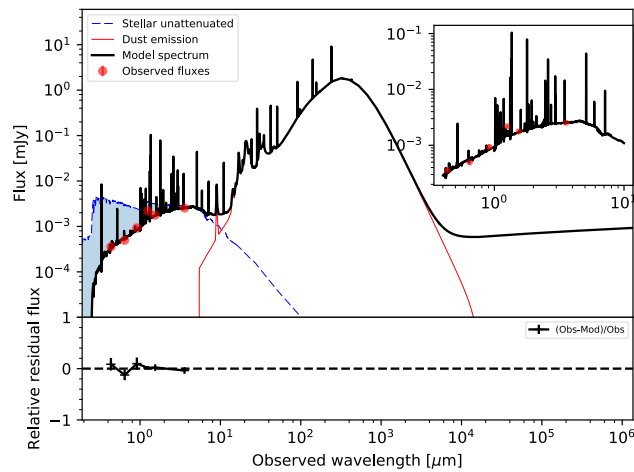
Energy balance  
between stellar  
and dust emissions



Credits: Narayanan+18, Bruzual & Charlot 03, Dale & Helou 02,

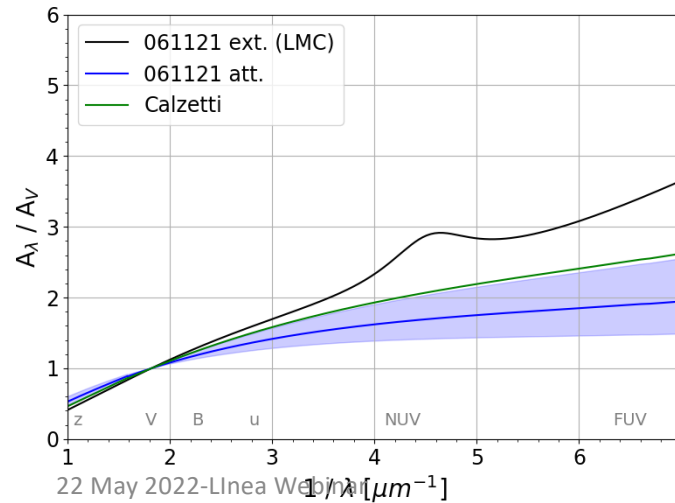
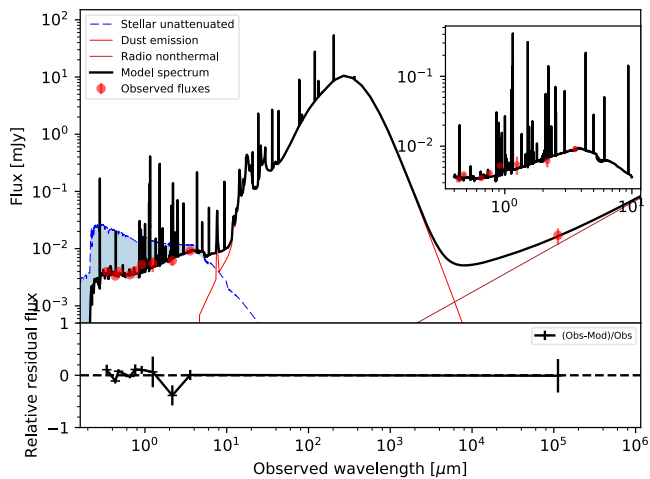
# Fit of photometric data from galaxies hosting GRBs → shape of the attenuation law (Corre, Buat+18)

Best model for 120119A at  $z = 1.72$ . Reduced  $\chi^2=0.32$

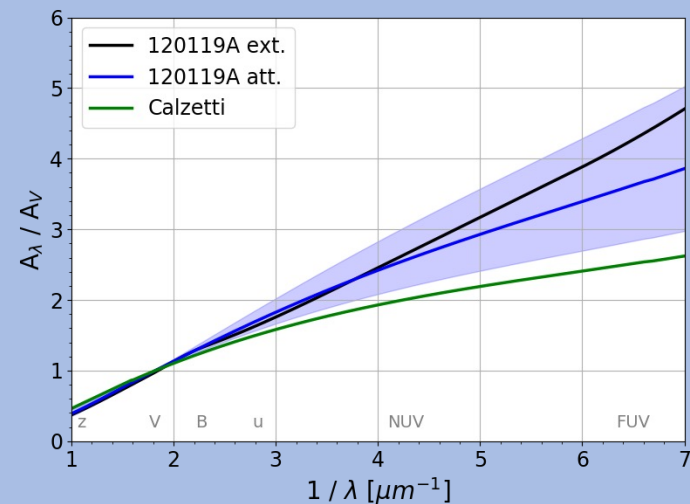
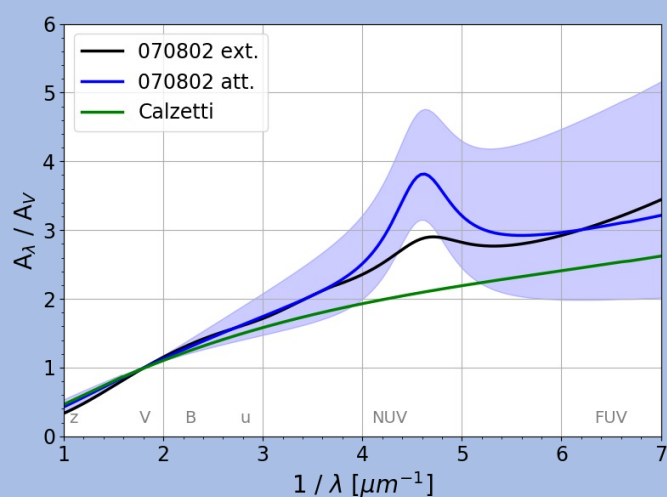
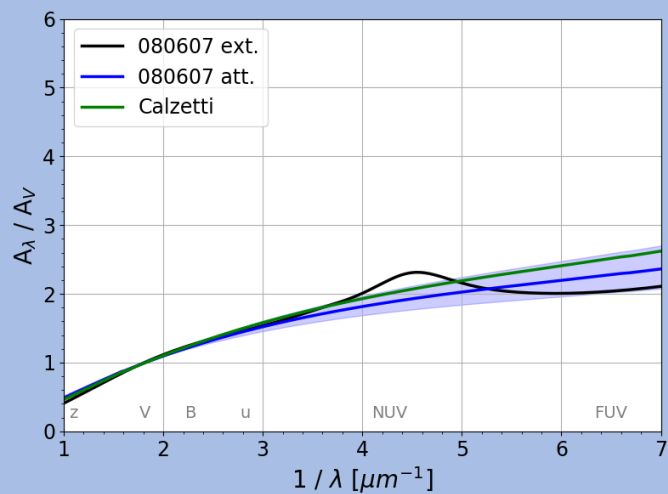


Steep attenuation Curve  
Steeper than Calzetti law

Best model for 061121 at  $z = 1.314$ . Reduced  $\chi^2=0.74$

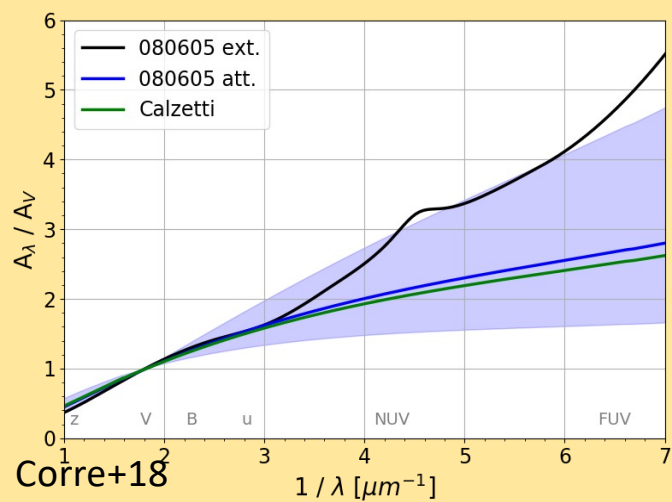


Flat attenuation Curve  
Flatter than Calzetti law

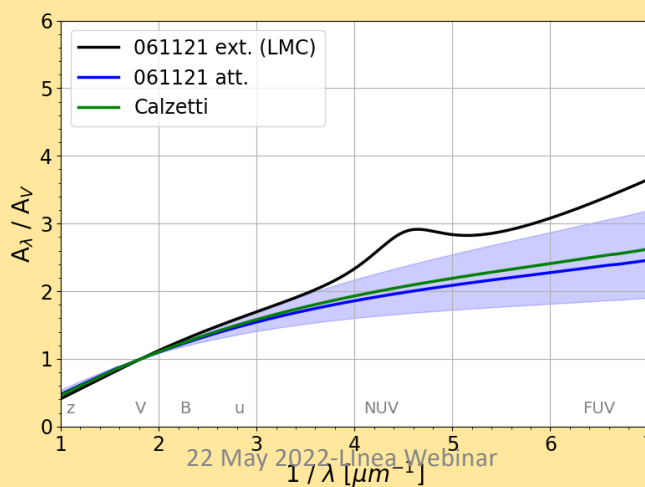


Att curve similar to Ext curve

Att curve flatter than Ext curve

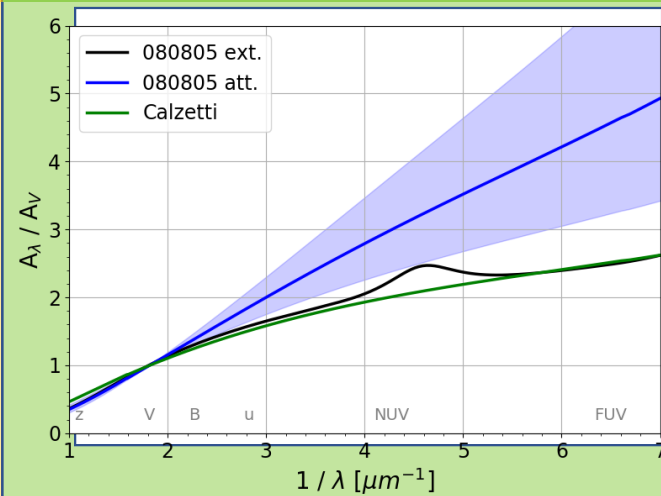


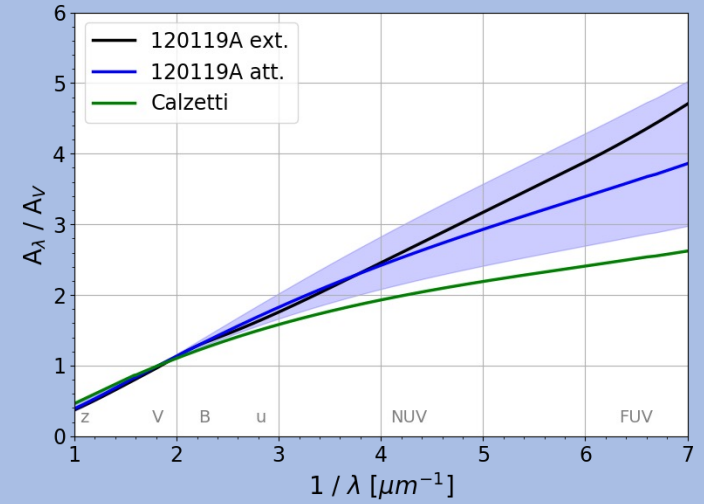
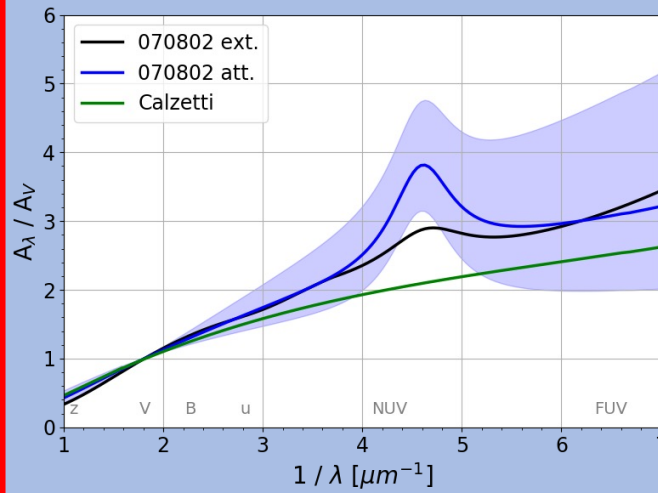
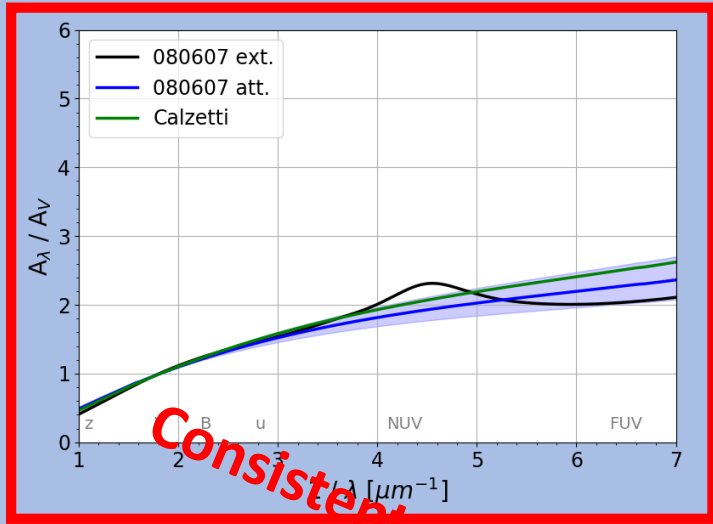
Corre+18



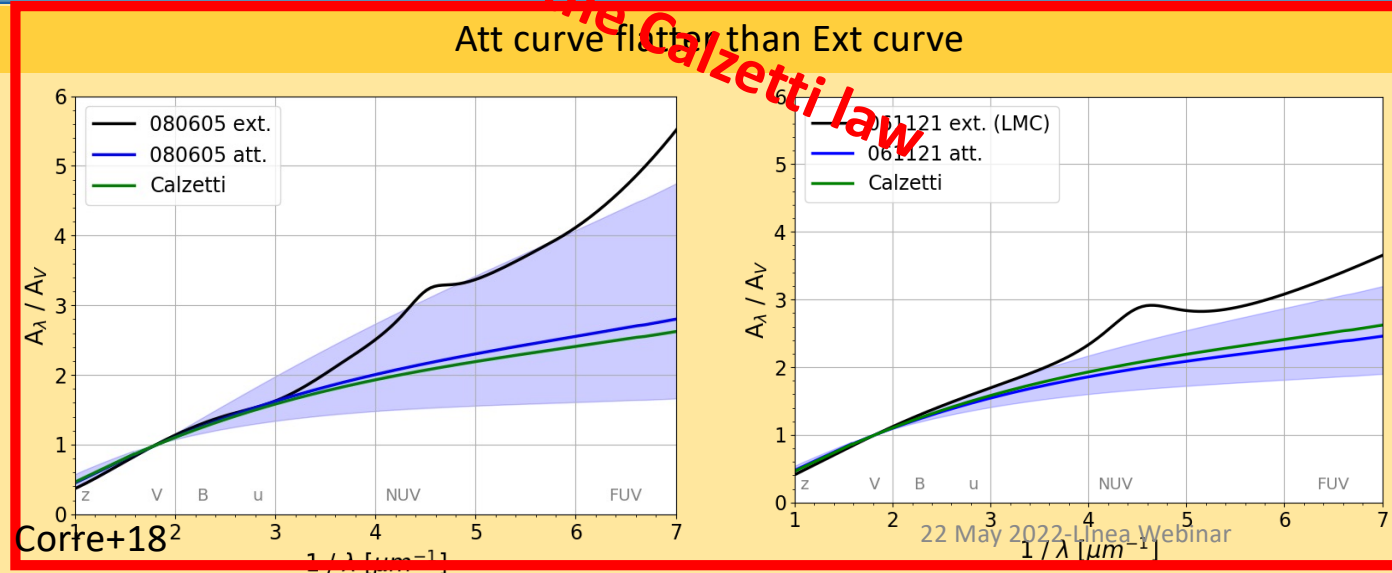
22 May 2022 - Linea Webinar

Att curve steeper than Ext curve

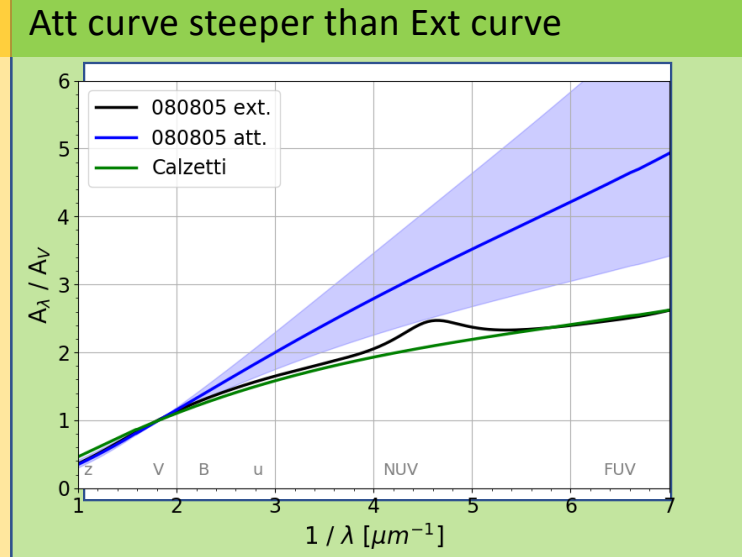




Att curve similar to Ext curve



Att curve flatter than Ext curve



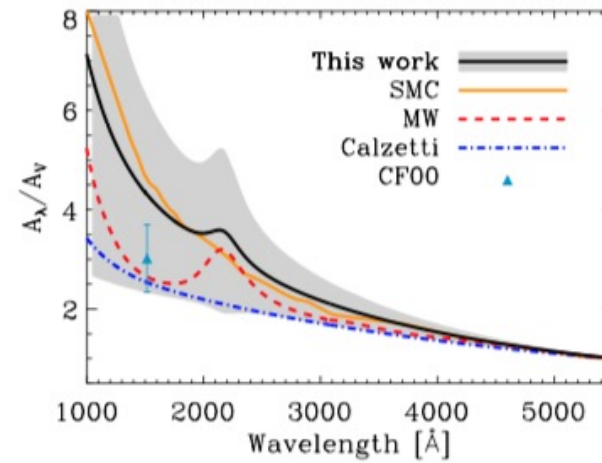
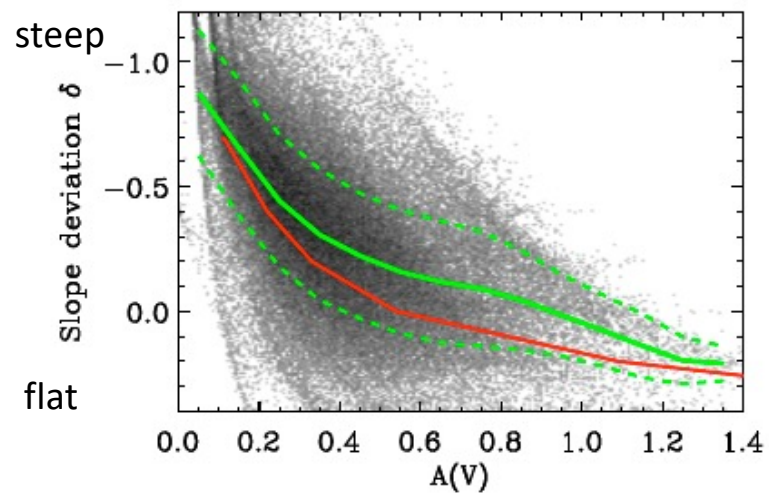
Att curve steeper than Ext curve

Consistent with the Calzetti law

Corre+18

22 May 2022 - Linea Webinar

**SDSS +GALEX+WISE  $z \sim 0$  CIGALE fits with Calzetti flexible att. Laws**  
Attenuation law flattens when  $A_V$  increases  
Average curve steeper than the Calzetti law



*Salim+18 (see also Battisti+20)*



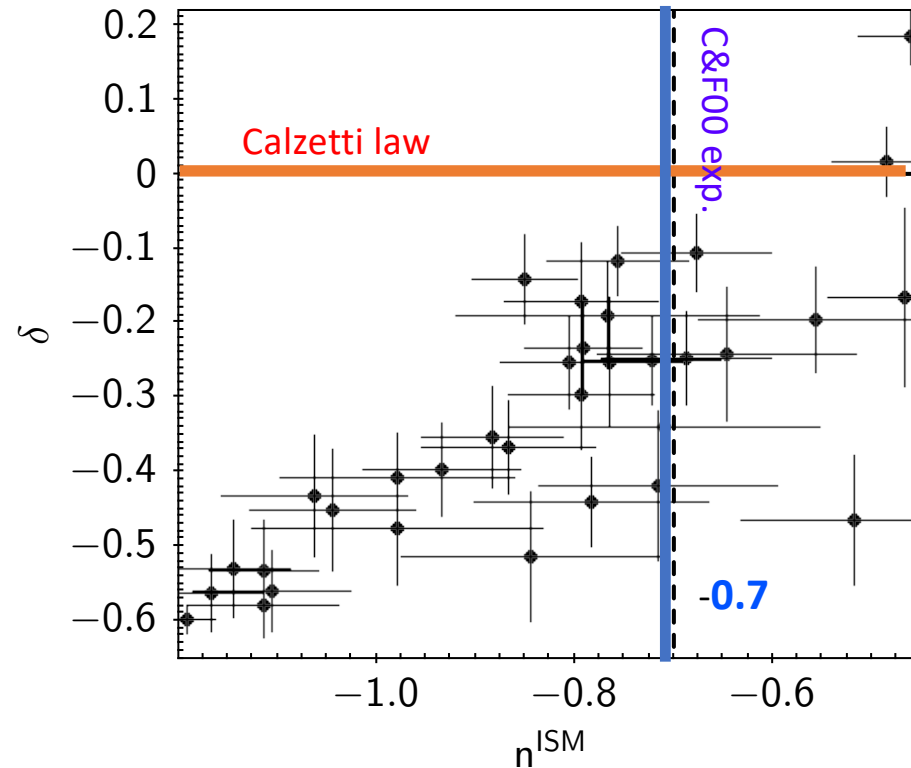
COSMOS field, HELP/Herschel  
& 3D-HST data

a sample of 34 IR sources all  
detected in H $\alpha$

0.6 < z < 1.6

*Buat+18*

$n^{\text{ISM}}$  and  $\delta$  correlate, steeper laws  
than the original ones  
--> **No universal values**

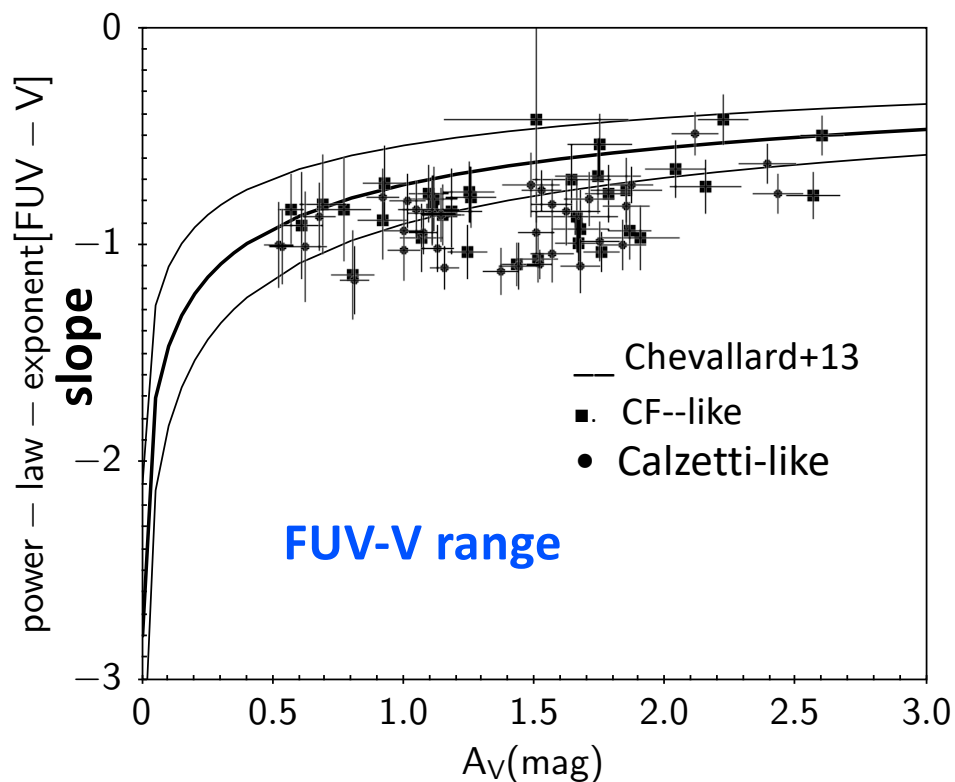


see also e.g. *Buat+2012*, *Salmon+2016*, *Kriek & Conroy, 2013*

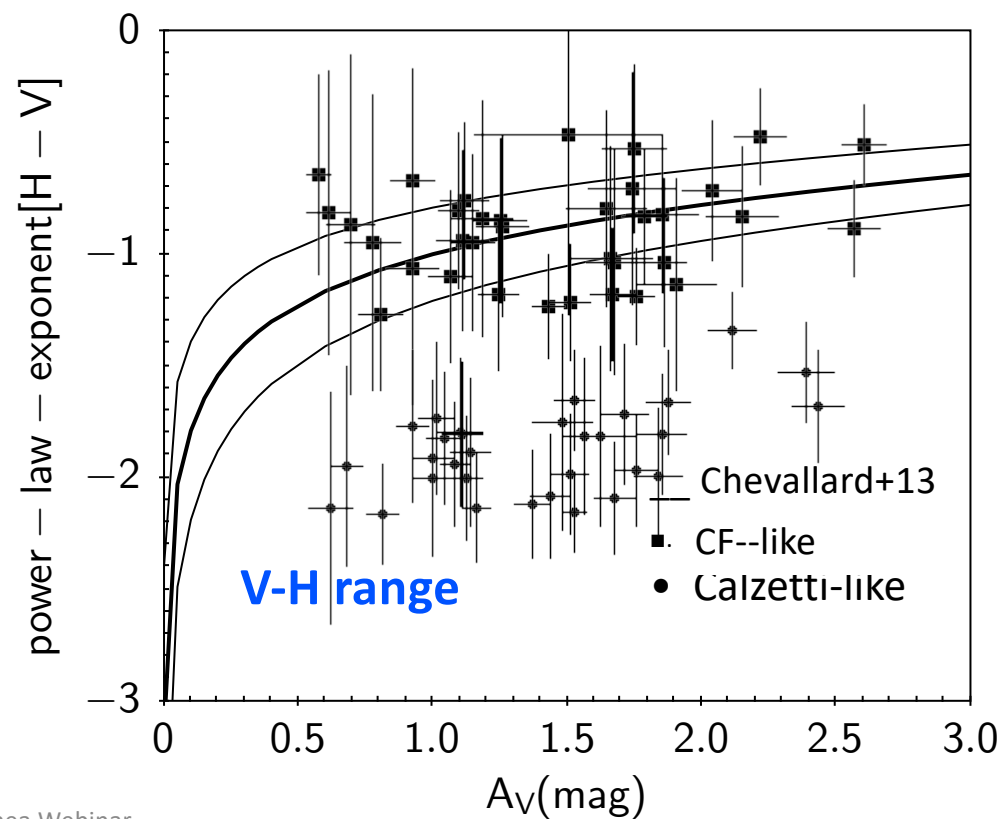
## Comparison with Radiation transfer modeling

which predicts a flattening of attenuation laws with increasing obscuration.

(Pierini+04, Tuffs+04, Law+18, Chevallard+13)

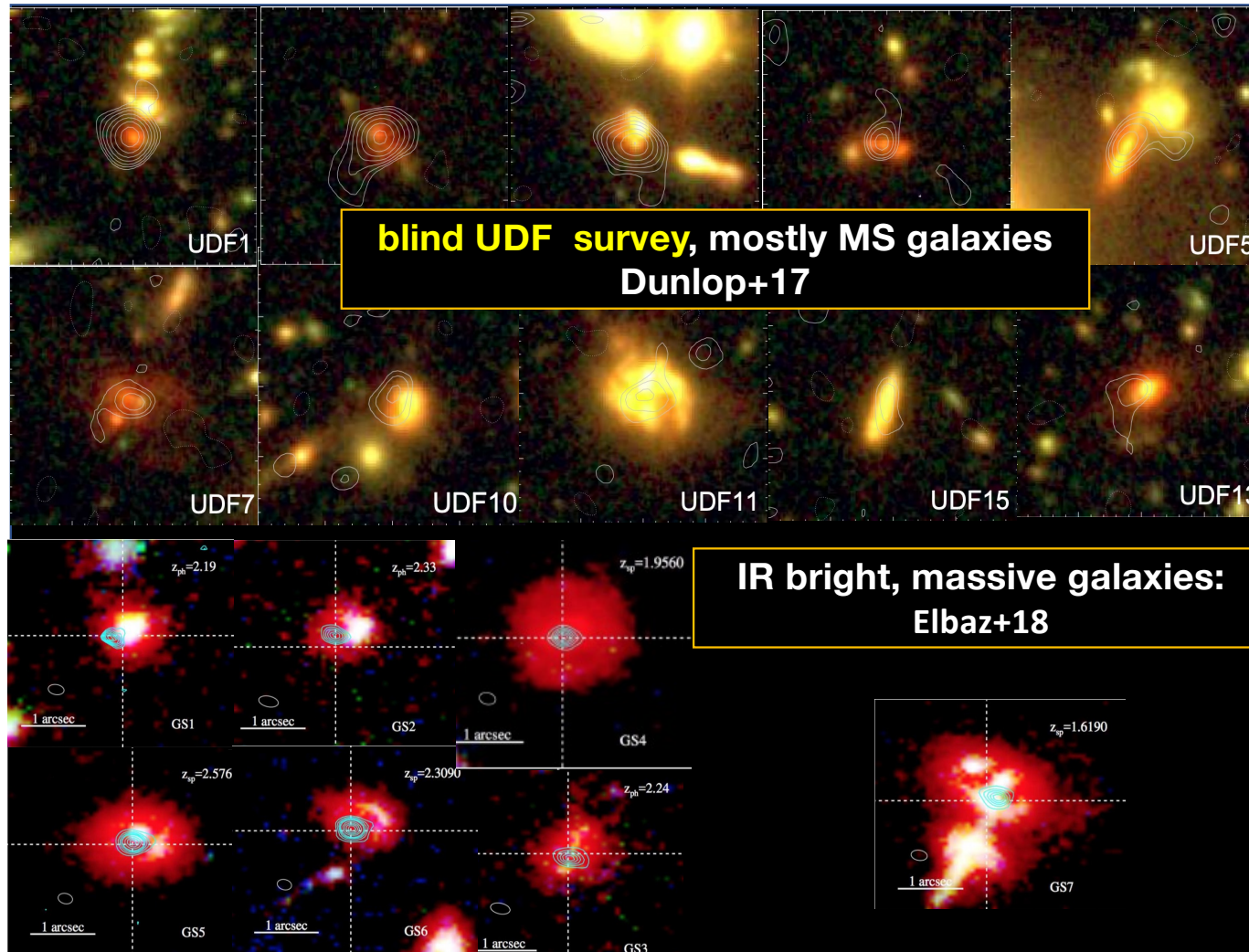


steeper



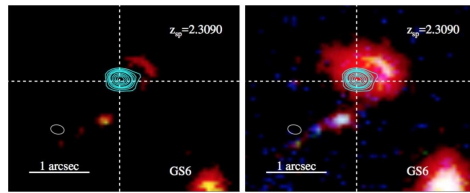
# $z \sim 2$ dust-rich sources as seen by ALMA: a challenge for SED fitting techniques

*Buat+19*



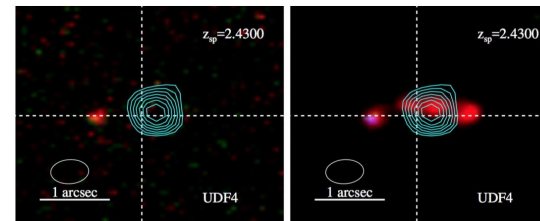
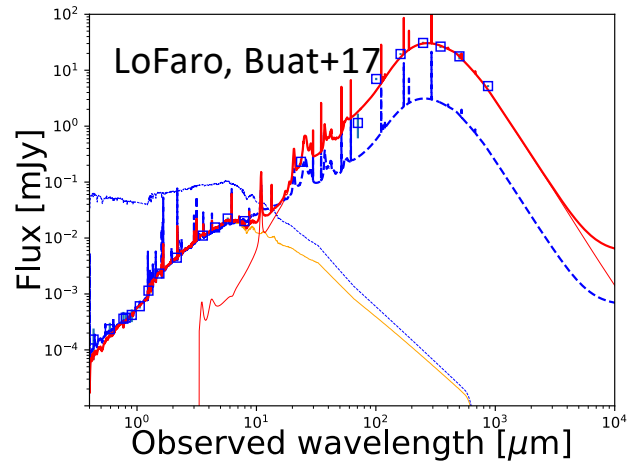
## Fitting the SED with CIGALE

- UV-NIR rest frame data: stellar continuum → best fits with the Calzetti law for all but 1 galaxy  
→ recovers at most half of the IR dust luminosity
- Fit of the full UV-submm: stellar and dust emission → various attenuation laws



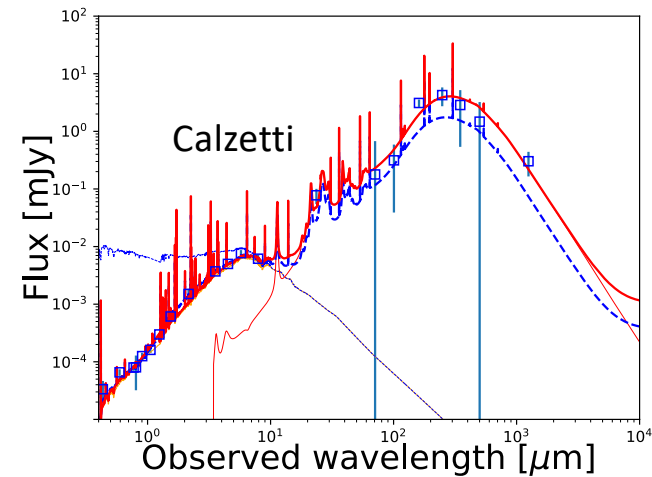
$$L_{\text{dust}}^{\text{UV-NIR}} = 0.11 L_{\text{dust}}^{\text{IR}}$$

Best fit for GS6




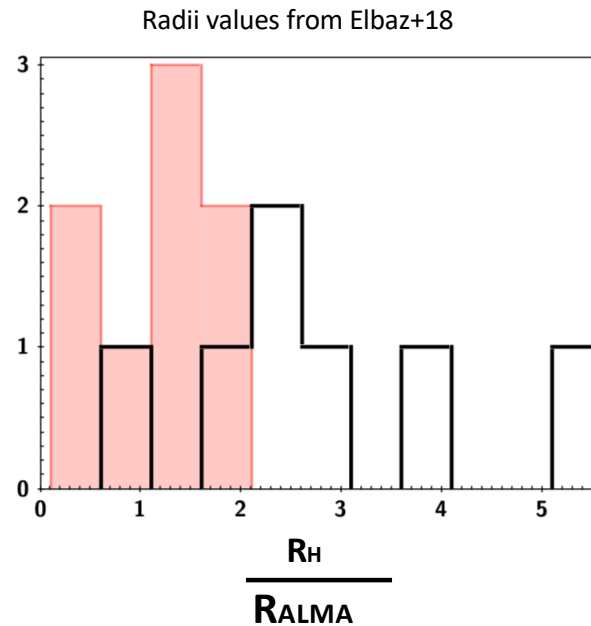
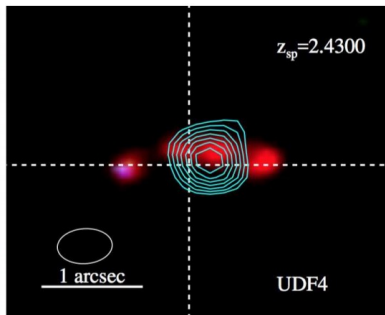
$$L_{\text{dust}}^{\text{UV-NIR}} = 0.47 L_{\text{dust}}^{\text{IR}}$$


Best fit for UDF4

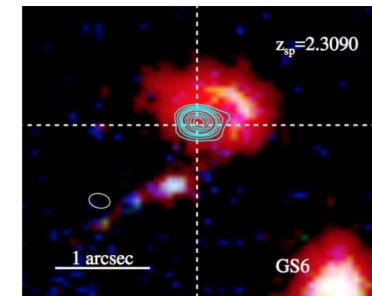


# Dust attenuation law and compactness

  
Galaxies for which  
**Calzetti+00** is acceptable



  
Galaxies for which  
a much flatter attenuation law  
is needed



**Suggests that sources with very compact dust distributions are better fitted with flatter attenuation laws than Calzetti+00**

# Outline

## ❖ Dust and stellar interplay in galaxies

- Definition of extinction and attenuation curves

*Extinction & attenuation in GRB hosts*

- Radiation Transfer modelling

*Short description and few results*

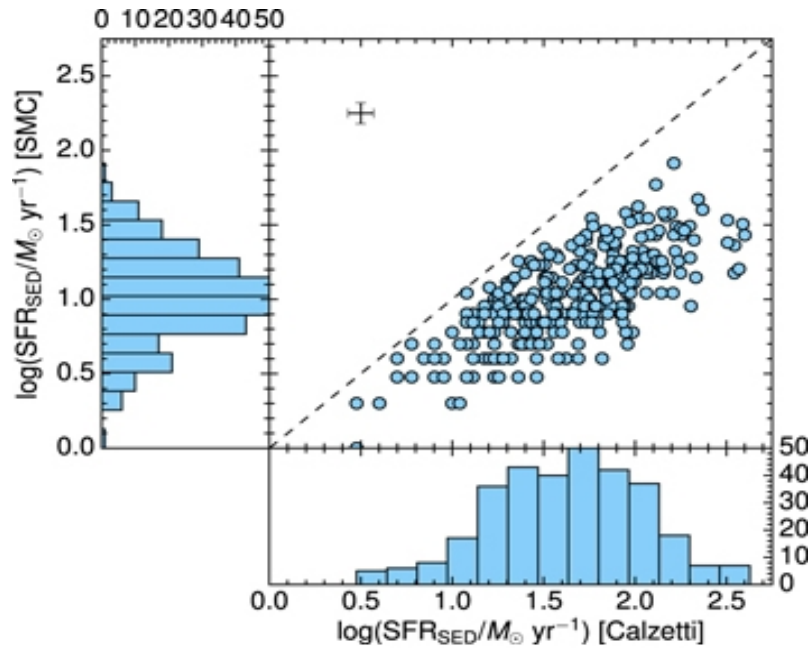
## ❖ The dust attenuation law from the local to the distant universe:

- Formalisms and shapes of the attenuation law
- Attenuations laws from numerical simulations
- Measured attenuations laws

*From spectroscopy & from photometry and SED fitting*

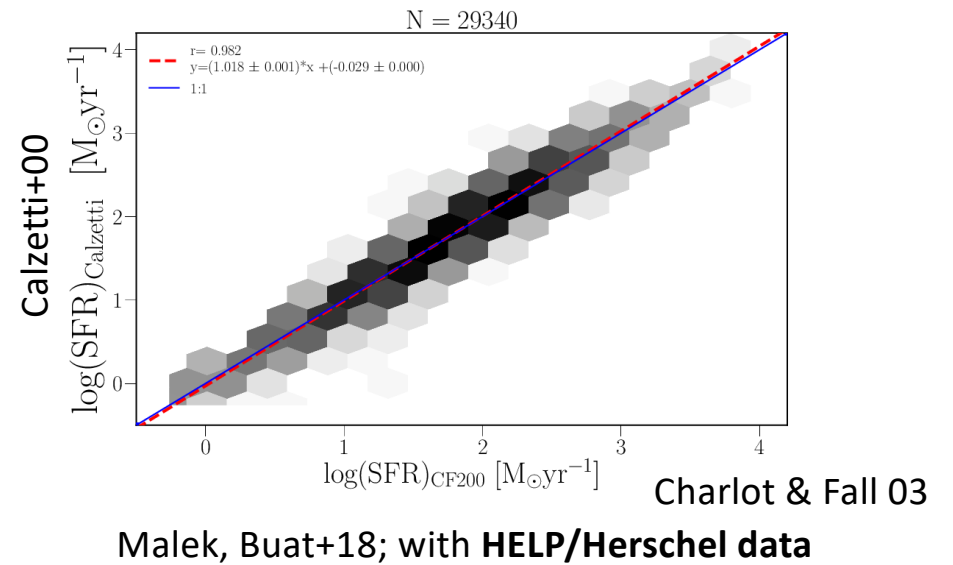
## ❖ Impact of attenuation on SFR and $M_{\text{star}}$ measurements

# Impact of the dust attenuation law on the measure of physical quantities



**Theios + 19**

SMC (UV steep) and Calzetti (UV flat) curves  
(no IR (dust) emission)

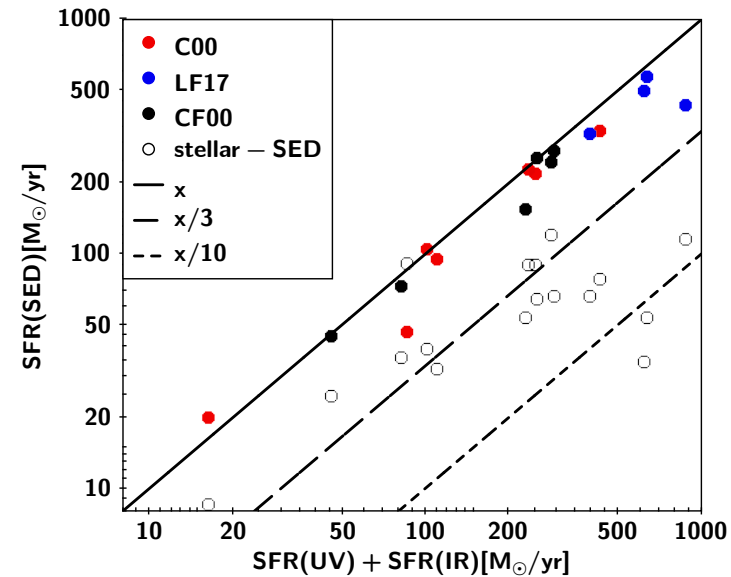
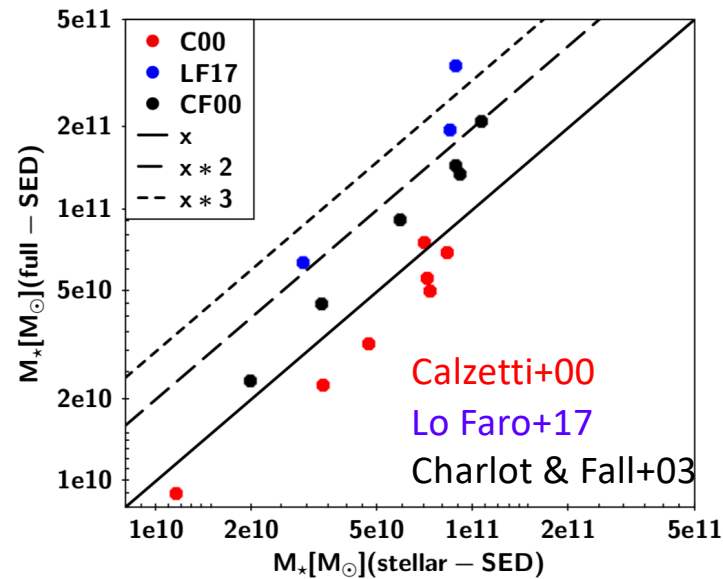
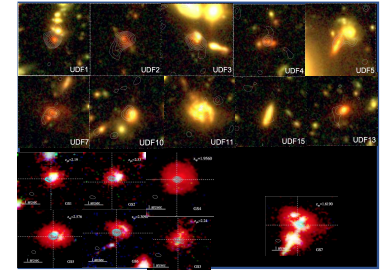


Strong impact on SFR determinations when IR (dust) emission is not available.  
**SFR robustly measured when IR data are available**



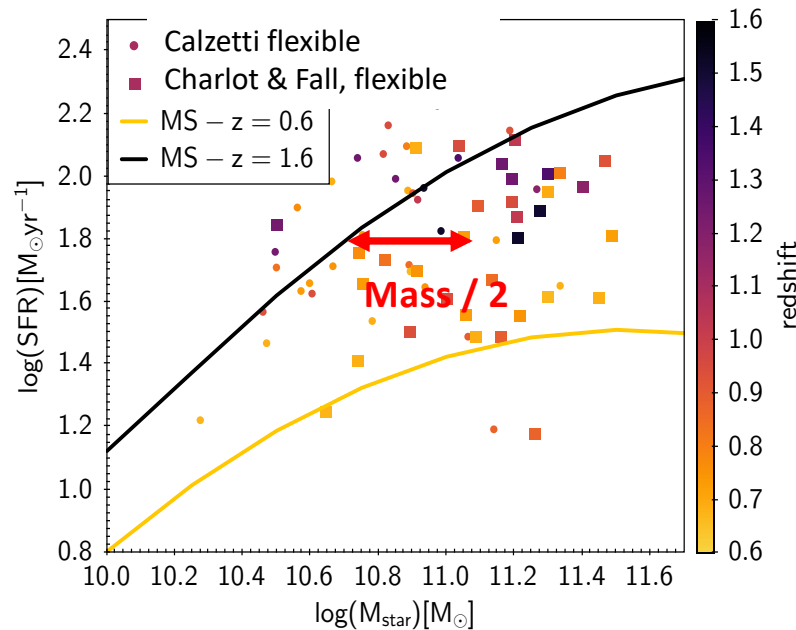
# SFR and stellar mass determinations in dust-rich ALMA galaxies

*Buat+2019*

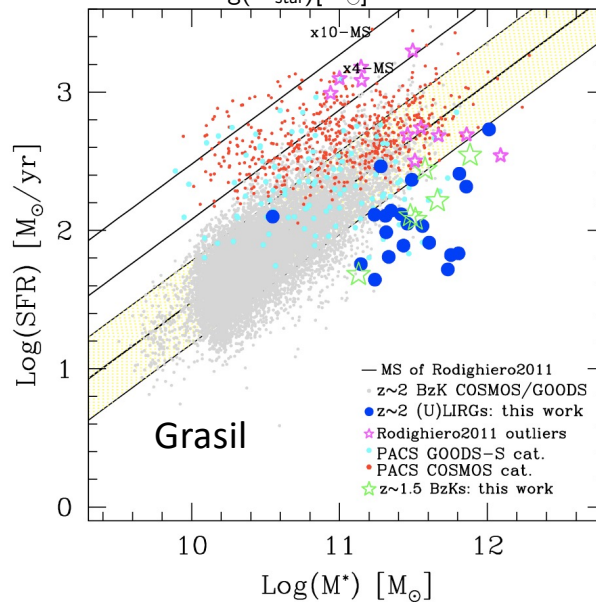
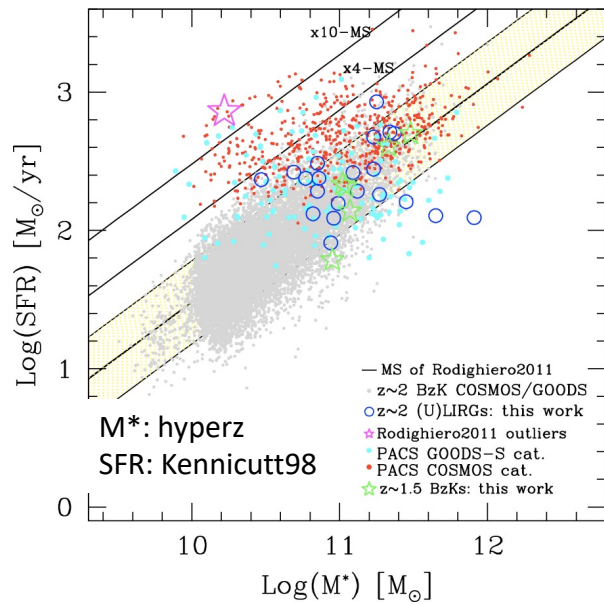


- **Stellar masses** depend on the attenuation law: increase when the attenuation law flattens a factor  $\sim 2$  of uncertainty
- **SFR** are recovered as long as IR data are taken into account: and if young populations are dominant to heat the dust.

# Impact on Main Sequence (MS) determinations



CiGALE fits with flexible attenuation laws: SFR similar and  $M_{\text{star}}$  varying with a factor  $\sim 2$   
*Buat+18*



ULIRG at  $z \sim 2$   
 lower SFR and higher  $M_{\text{star}}$   
*Lo Faro et al. 2015*

## Few important results to take away...

- Dust attenuation in galaxies is modeled with an ‘effective’ **attenuation law which is found not to be universal** but flattens when the amount of attenuation increases.
- **Radiation Transfer modeling** based on either simple geometries or numerical simulations give the framework to interpret measurements and **predict the variety of attenuation curves and their flattening of up to the NIR when attenuation increases**, confirmed in dusty galaxies.
- **Variations of the attenuation law has an impact on measured stellar mass and SFR** (if no IR data) and on the Main Sequence