

Star Formation Rate Calculations in ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies

Studying High-Redshift Galaxies using ALMA Large Programs

Mia “MJ” Keller • 2025 STScI Intern

ALMA + JWST

Atacama Large Millimeter-submillimeter Array James Webb Space Telescope

Location

Atacama Desert, Chile (Earth)

Around Lagrange point 2 (space)

Type

Ground-based interferometer

Space telescope

Wavelength range

Far infrared (.3–8.6 *mm*)

Near+mid-infrared (.6–28.5 *μm*)

Used by me?

Yes!



Image courtesy of the European Southern Observatory.

No

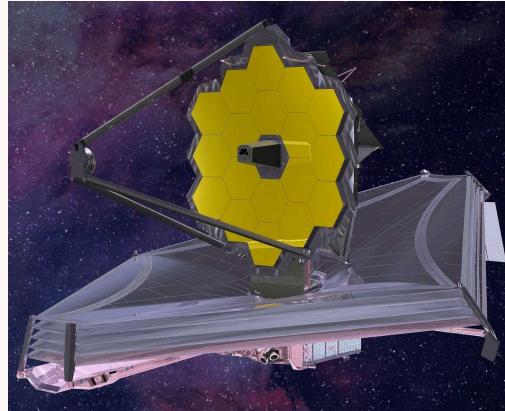
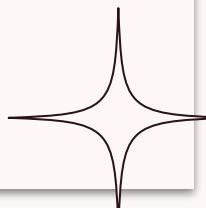
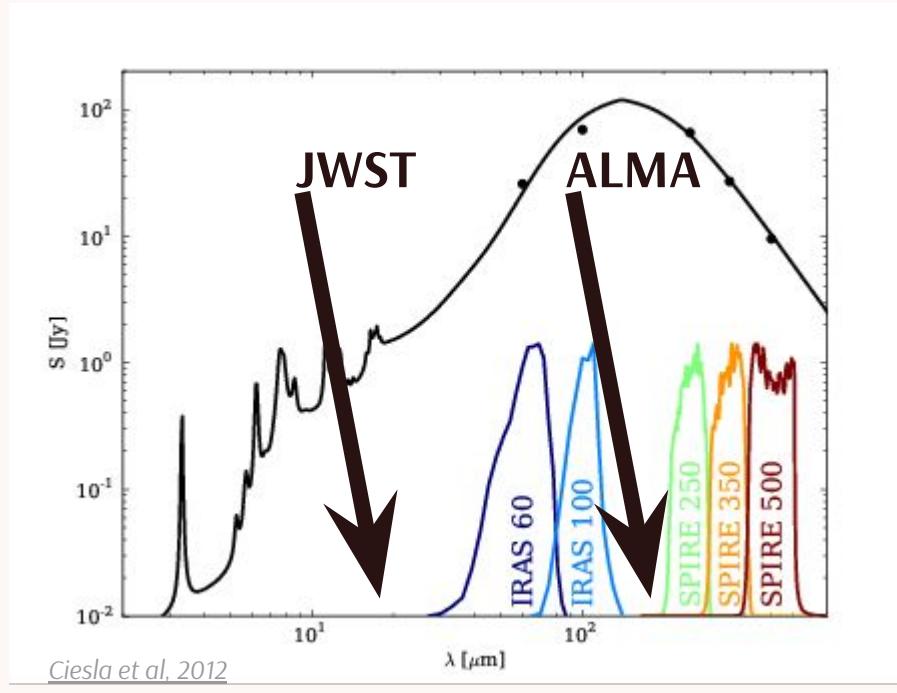


Image courtesy of NASA, ESA, CSA, Northrop Grumman.



Spectral Energy Distribution (SED) Fitting



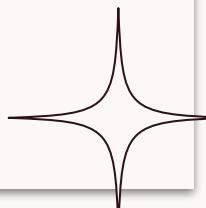
SEDs show spectral flux density vs. wavelength.

Fitting the SED from ALMA or JWST data to models allows us to make inferences about galaxy properties.

Heavily model-dependent!

SED fitting useful for mass, star formation rate (SFR), dustiness, and more.

The more complete your data, the better your SED fitting.



ALMA Large Programs

ASPECS

ALMA SPECtral line Survey in the UDF: targeting galaxies at $z < 4$ in the Hubble Ultra Deep Field (below), one of the best-studied regions of space.

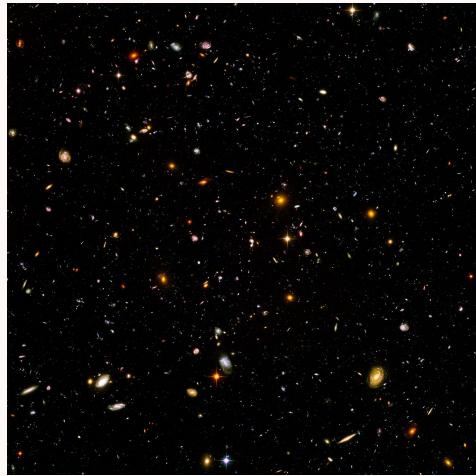
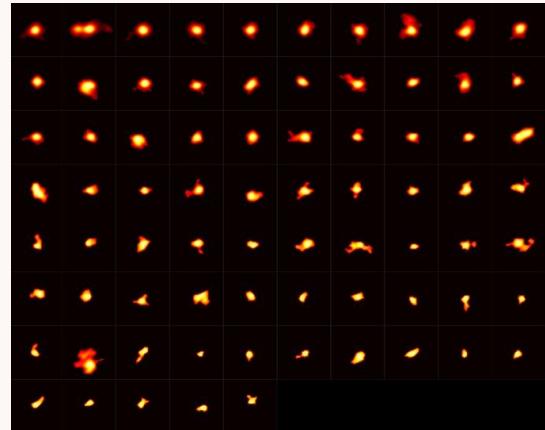


Image courtesy of NASA and the ESA.

ALPINE

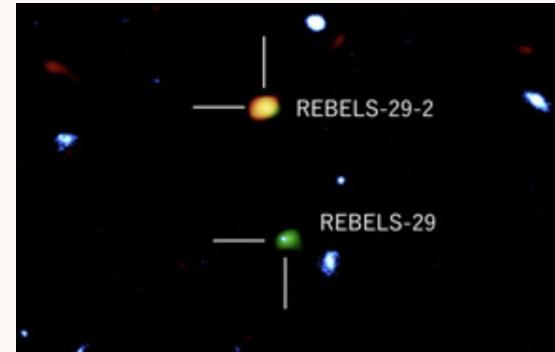
ALMA Large Program to INvestigate [CII] at Early times: targeting galaxies $4 < z < 6$, with a wealth of ancillary data.



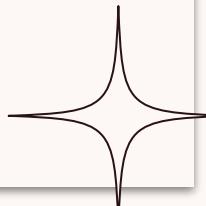
almascience.eso.org/

REBELS

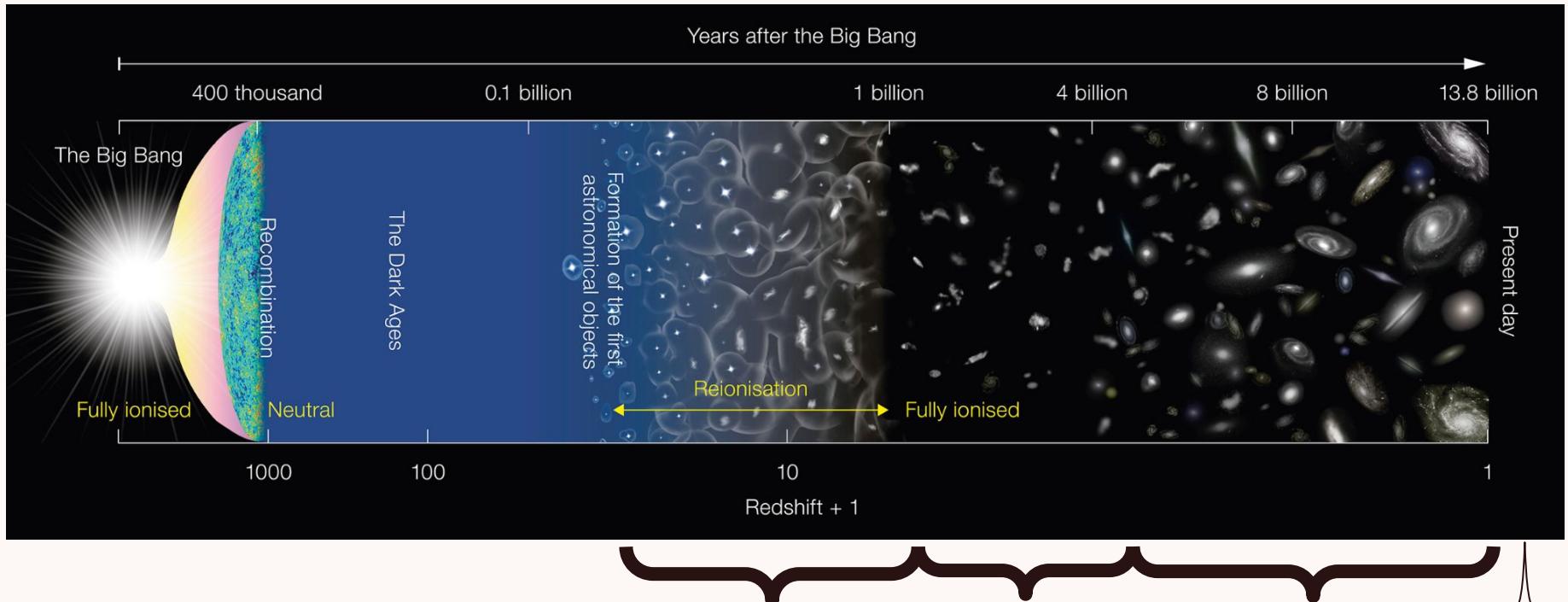
Reionization Era Bright Emission Line Survey: targeting $z > 6$ galaxies with no known spectroscopic redshift based on bright [CII] emission.



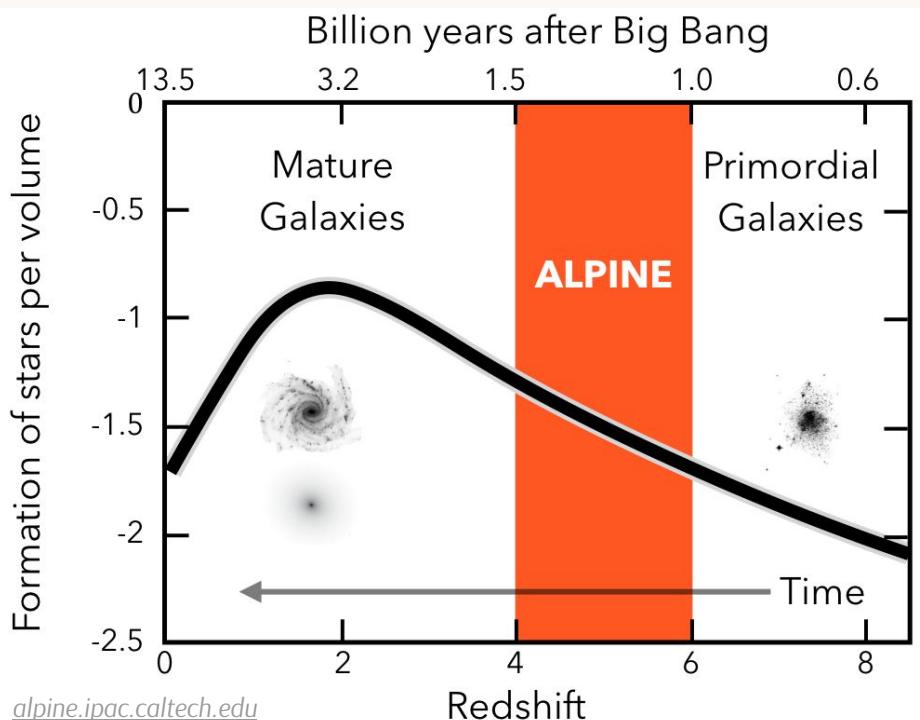
[Fudamoto et al. 2021](https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2021arXiv210703001F)



The History of the Universe



ALPINE Data



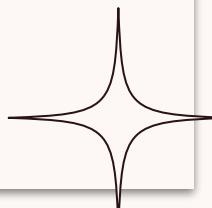
ALPINE observed emission lines of galaxies using ALMA band 7.

Targeted 118 galaxies looking for their [CII] line—tracer of ionized and unionized gas in galaxies.

[CII] is a very bright, very versatile emission line that can describe:

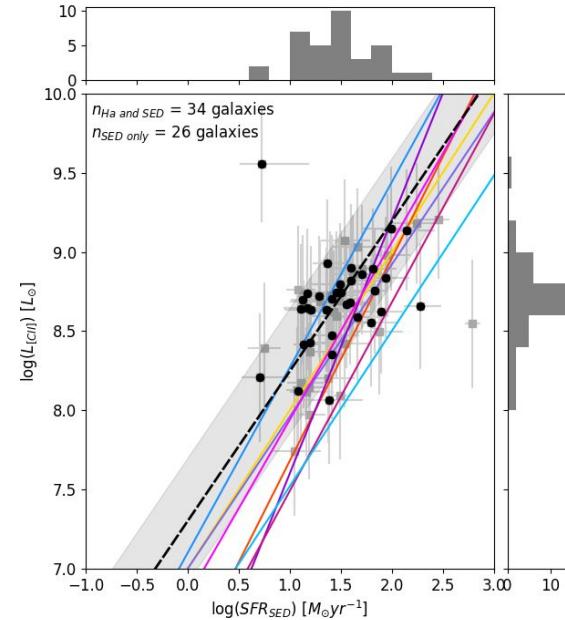
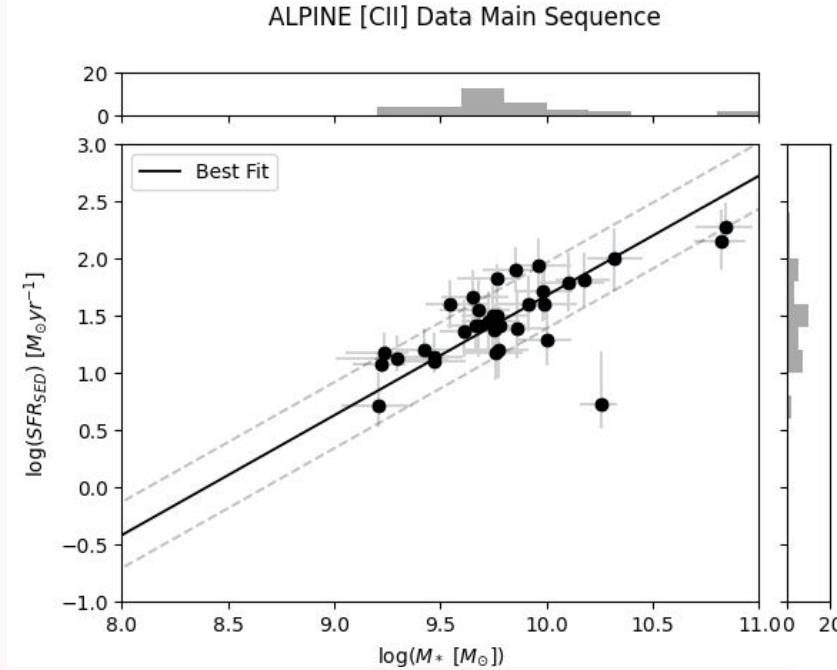
- ★ star formation rate (SFR)
- ★ interstellar medium makeup
- ★ galactic mass outflows
- ★ usually-obsured gas dynamics

Found [CII] line in 75/118 galaxies!



SED-derived SFR Relations

SFR_{SED} against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies

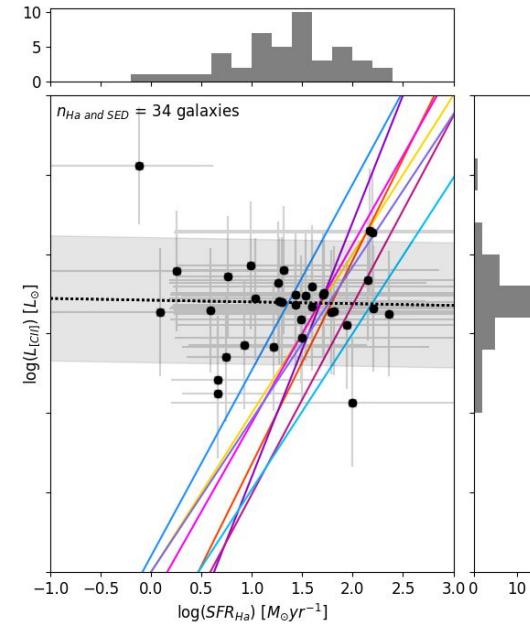
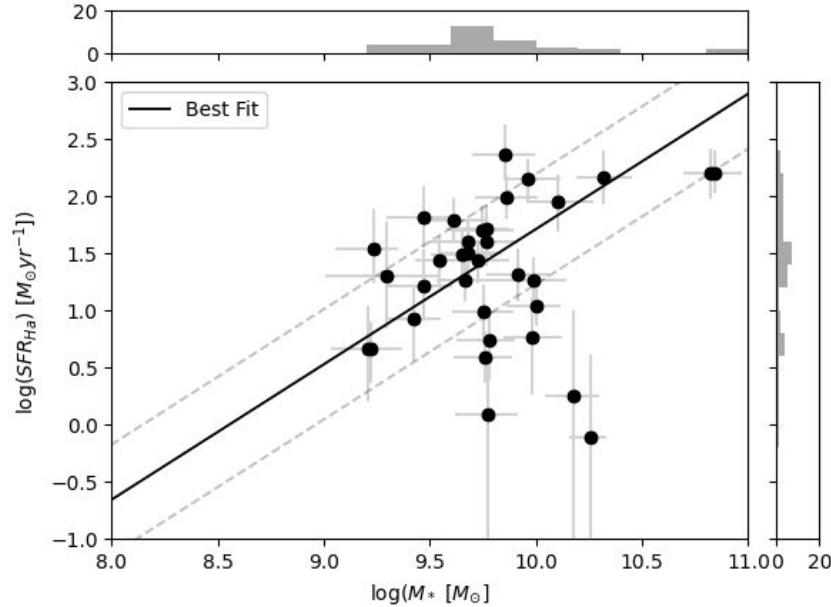


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keller+: SFR_{SED} without upper limits slope = $.95 \pm .39$ 1:1 $SFR:L_{[CII]}$ slope = 1.0 Schaerer+20 ALPINE and other high-z galaxies slope = 1.28 Schaerer+20 secure [CII] upper limits slope = .96 Schaerer+20 [CII] aggressive non-detection upper limits slope = 1.17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harikane+19, $6 < z < 9$ slope = .97 De Looze+14 local dwarfs slope = 1.19 Lagache+17 $z = 4$ slope = 1.12 Lagache+17 $z = 6$ slope = .98
---	---

Ha-derived SFR Relations

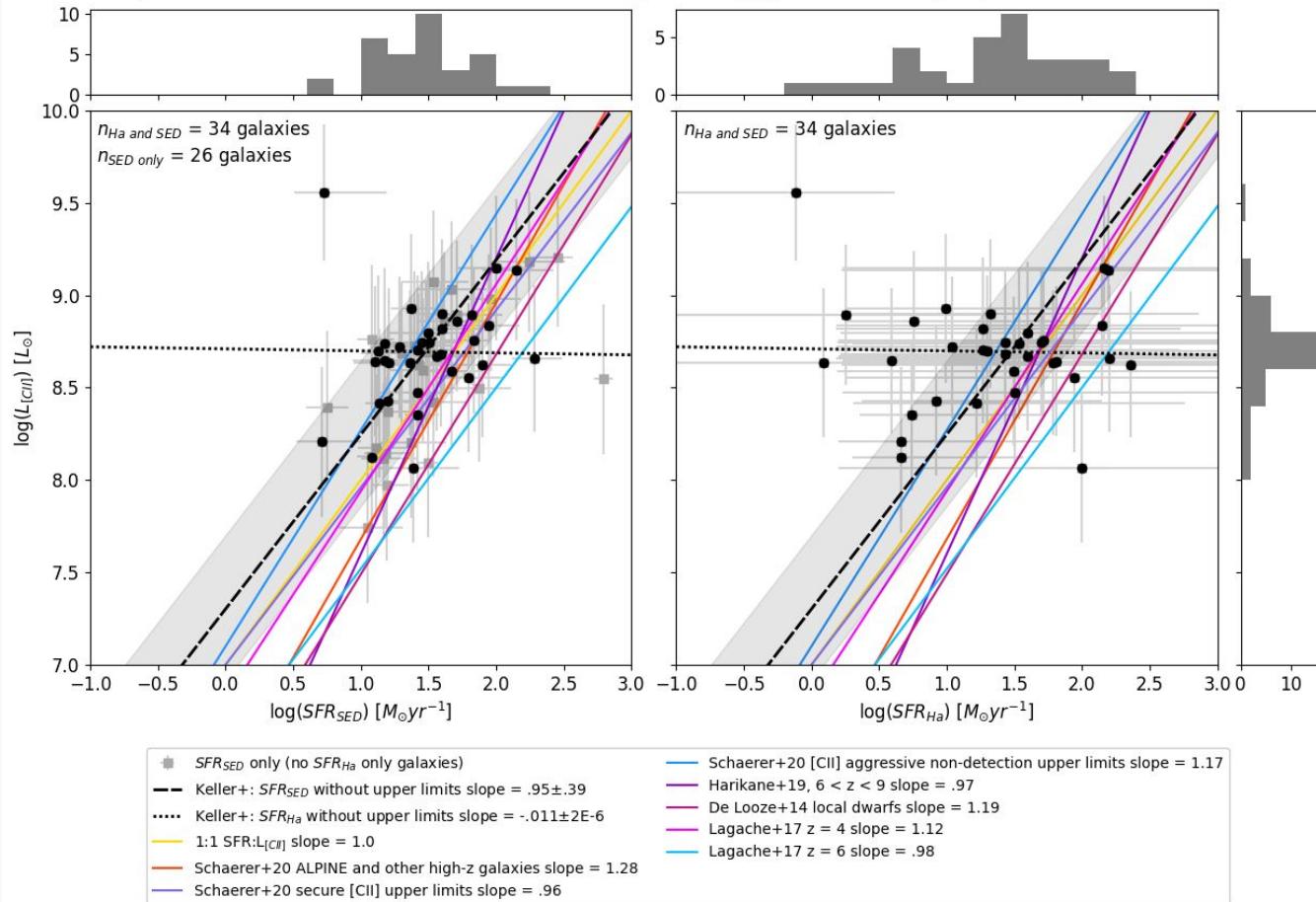
SFR_{Ha} against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies

ALPINE [CII] Data Main Sequence

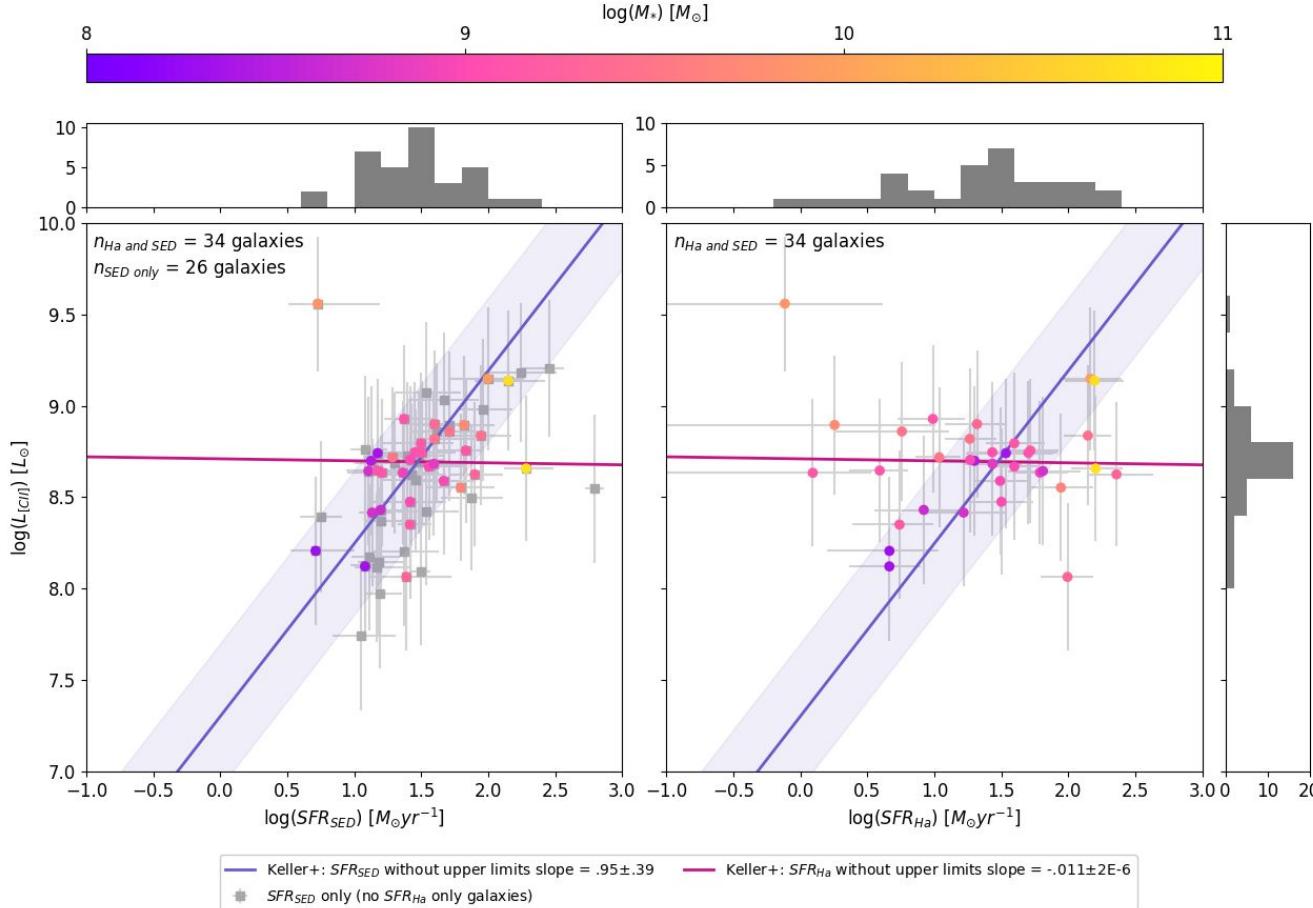


..... Keller+: SFR_{Ha} without upper limits slope = $-.011 \pm 2E-6$ Harikane+19, $6 < z < 9$ slope = .97
..... 1:1 $SFR:L_{[CII]}$ slope = 1.0 De Looze+14 local dwarfs slope = 1.19
..... Schaerer+20 ALPINE and other high-z galaxies slope = 1.28 Lagache+17 $z = 4$ slope = 1.12
..... Schaerer+20 secure [CII] upper limits slope = .96 Lagache+17 $z = 6$ slope = .98
..... Schaerer+20 [CII] aggressive non-detection upper limits slope = 1.17	

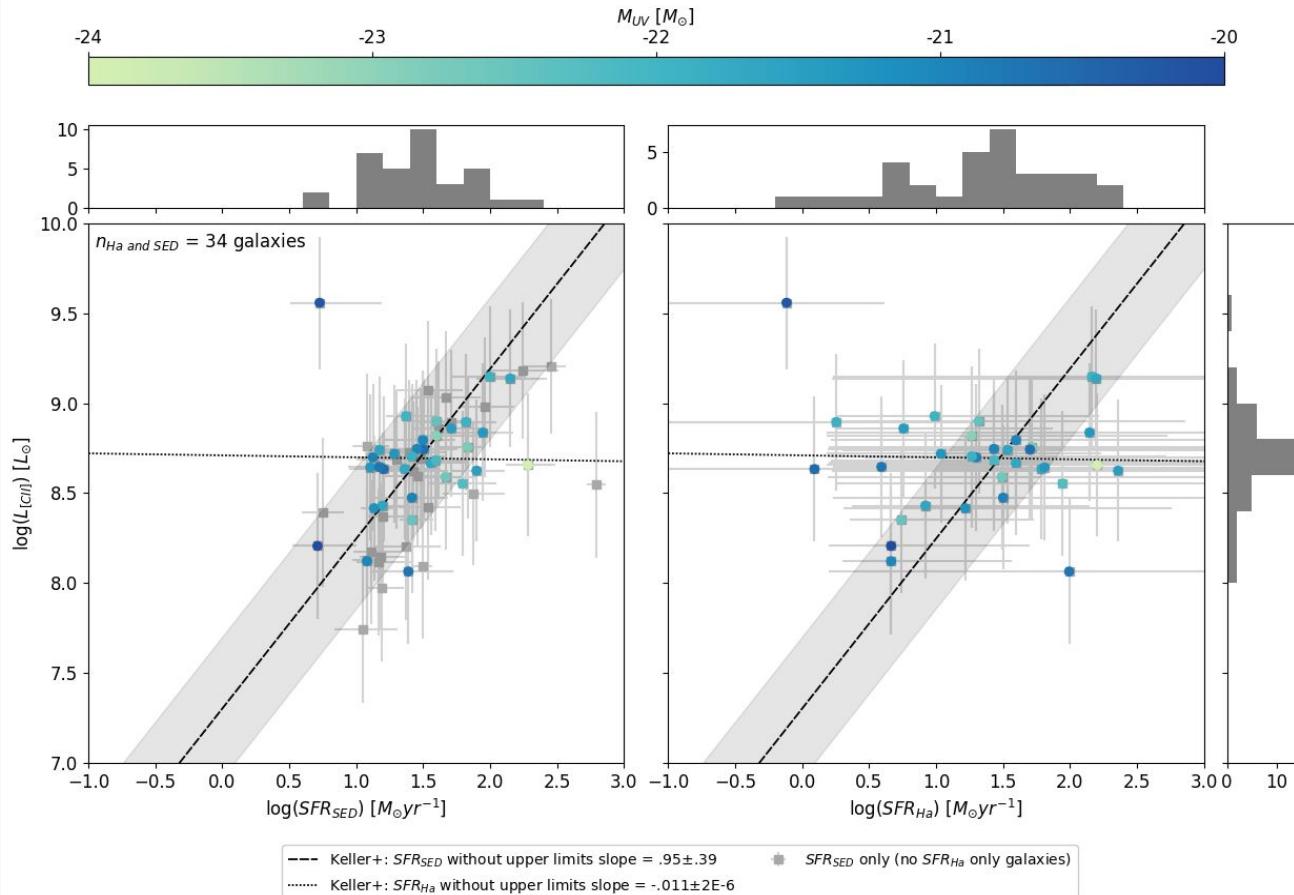
Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



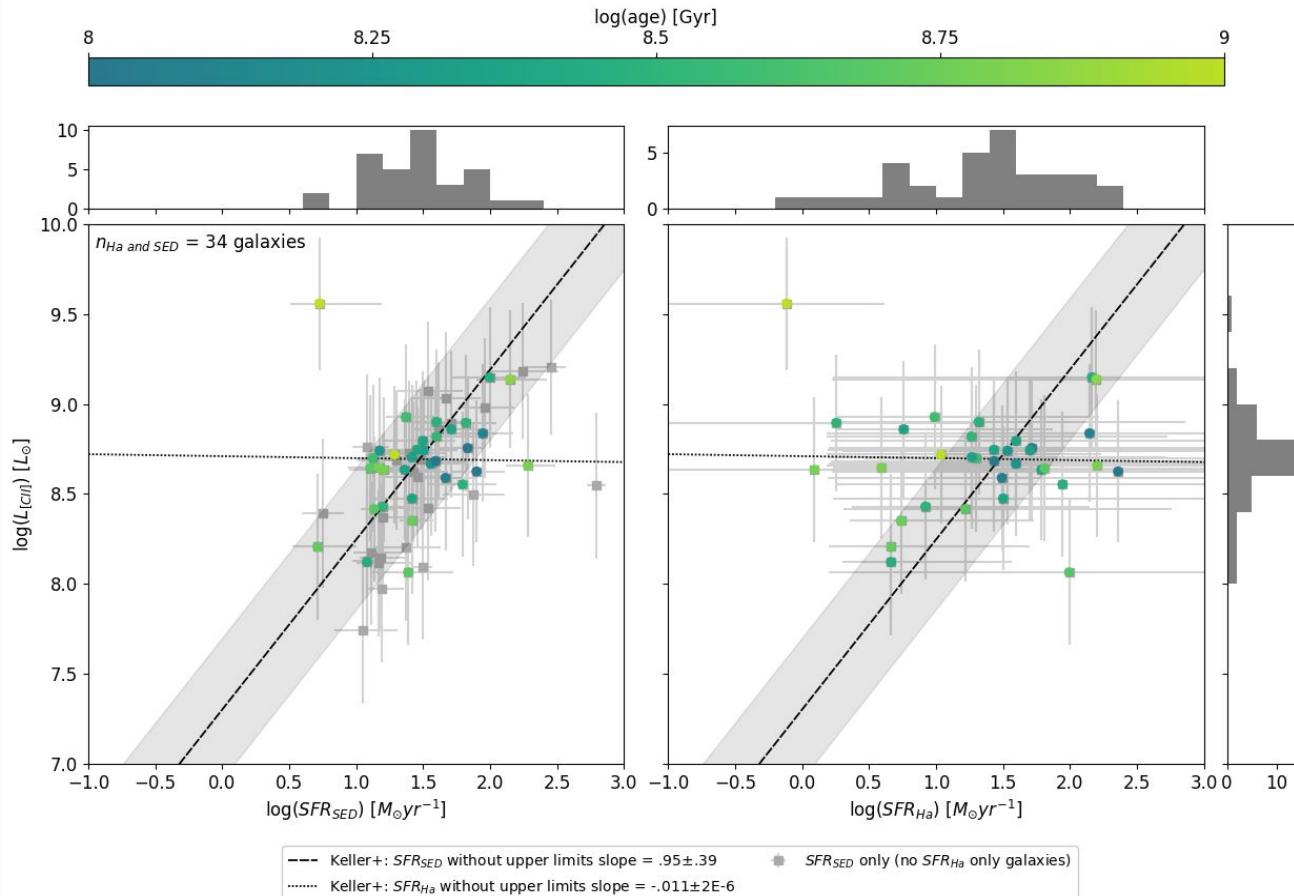
Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



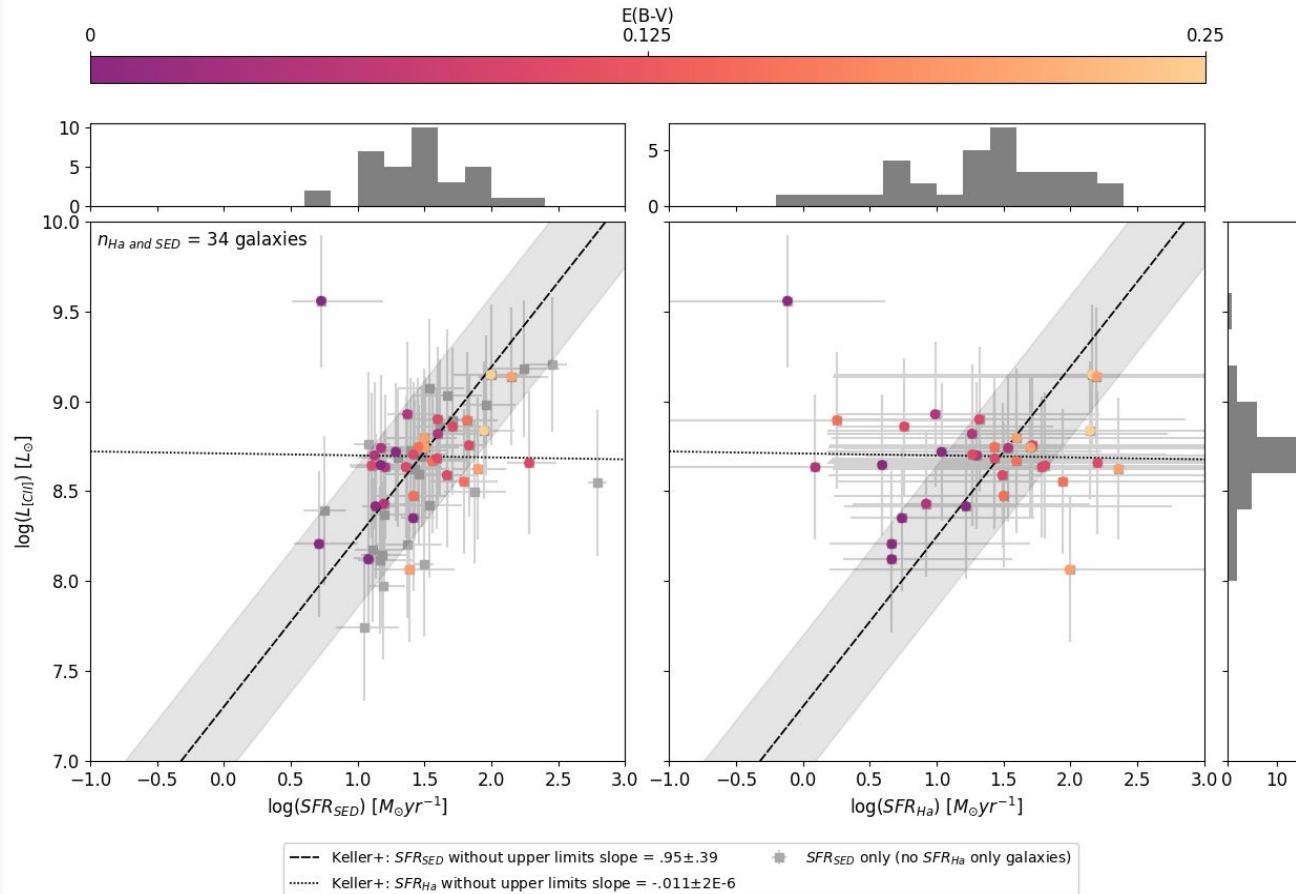
Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



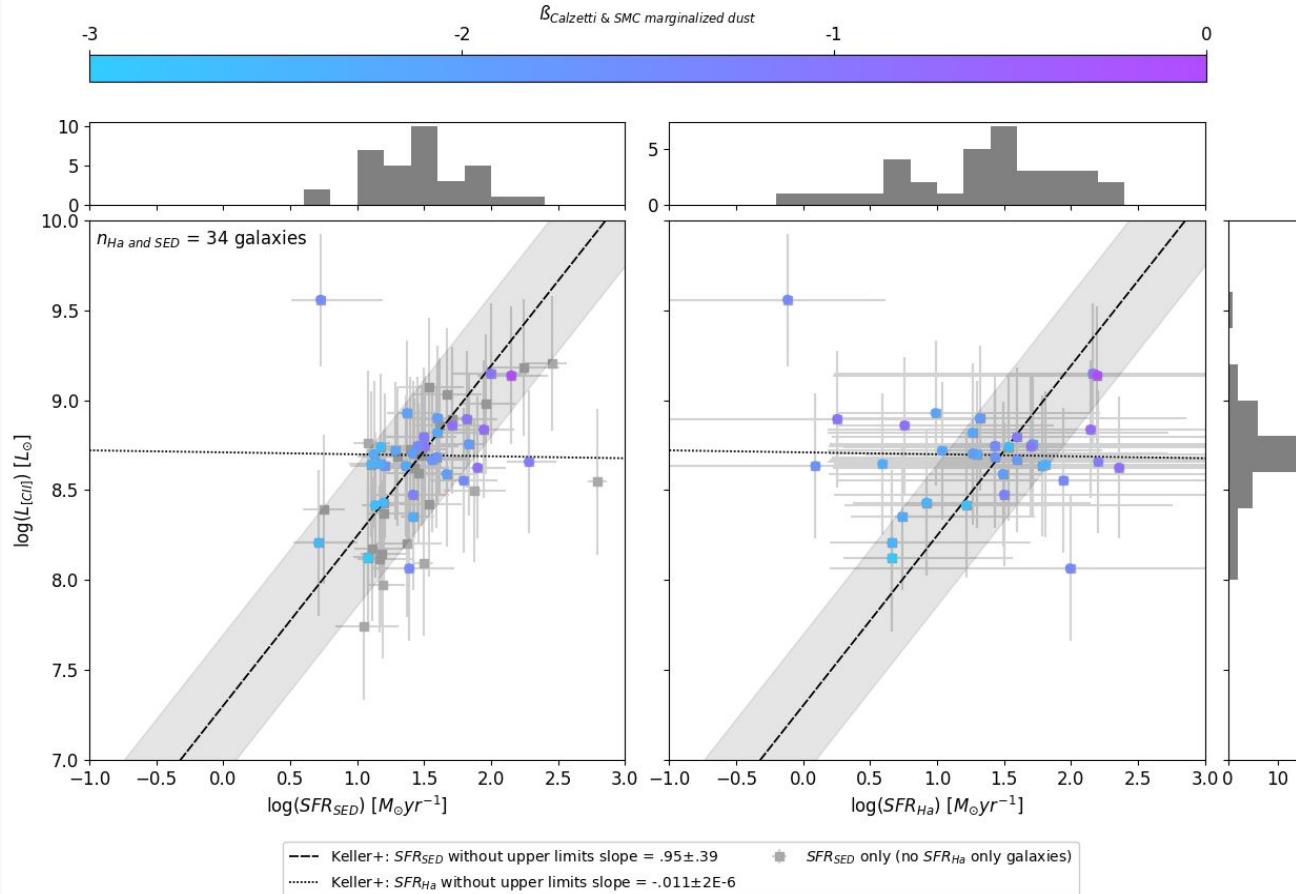
Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



Comparison of SFR Calculation Methods against $L_{[CII]}$ for ALPINE [CII]-Selected Galaxies



Outcomes + Next Steps

Disagreement

2 possible confounding variables showed some differing impact on SED- and H α -derived SFRs.

Literature Relations

The best-fit line for SFR_{SED} agrees with the slope of all literature relations, including those for low-mass local dwarfs, and agrees with the y-intercept of two.

Additional Galaxies

As is always the case in astronomy...

Upcoming missions will contribute to available data!

Investigate ALPINE

There is a possibility that something in how ALPINE data was compiled is causing the disagreement.



Thank You!

Questions?

majkeller@gmail.com

(727) 772-3007

[linkedin.com/in/mj-keller/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mj-keller/)

Thank you to: Nimisha Kumari (my incredible and patient mentor), Mikayla Cleaver, Kayla Stephens, Rianna Ehrenreich, and all the folks at AIP, SPS, and STScI who made this summer's internship so wonderful!

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by [Slidesgo](#), and includes icons by [Flaticon](#), and infographics & images by [Fleepik](#)