

Galaxy Scaling Relations

Part I

Galaxy Scaling Laws

- When correlated, global properties of galaxies tend to do so as power-laws; thus “scaling laws”
- They provide a quantitative means of examining physical properties of galaxies and their systematics
- They reflect the internal physics of galaxies, and are a product of the formative and evolutionary histories
 - Thus, they could be (and are) different for different galaxy families
 - We can use them as a fossil evidence of galaxy formation
- When expressed as correlations between distance-dependent and distance-independent quantities, they can be used to measure relative distances of galaxies and peculiar velocities: thus, it is really important to understand their intrinsic limitations of accuracy, e.g., environmental dependences

The Tully-Fisher Relation

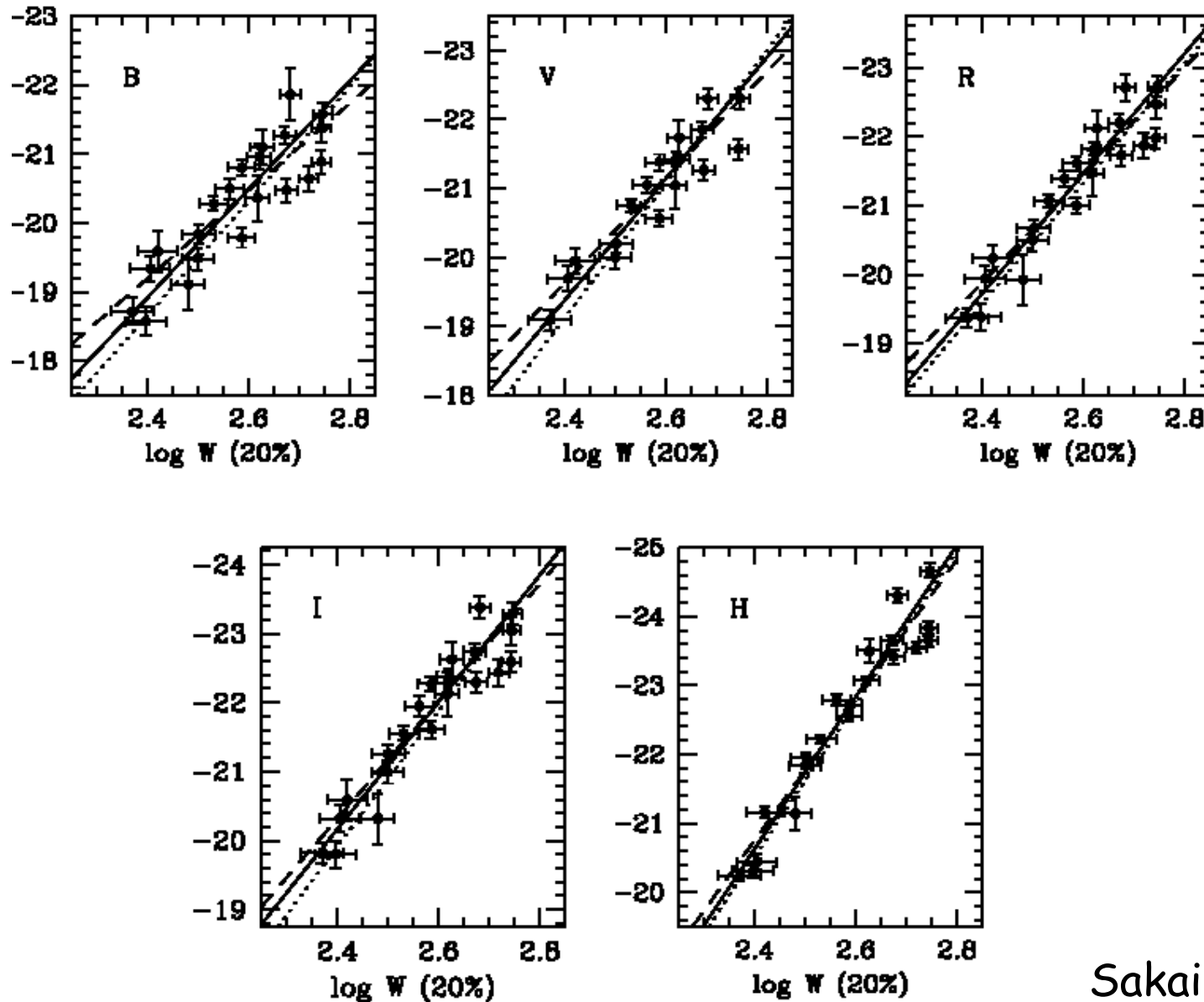
- A well-defined luminosity vs. rotational speed (often measured as a H I 21 cm line width) relation for spirals:

$$L \sim V_{\text{rot}}^{\gamma}, \gamma \approx 4, \text{ varies with wavelength}$$

Or: $M = b \log (W) + c$, where:

- M is the absolute magnitude
 - W is the Doppler broadened line width, typically measured using the HI 21cm line, corrected for inclination $W_{\text{true}} = W_{\text{obs}} / \sin(i)$
 - Both the slope b and the zero-point c can be measured from a set of nearby spiral galaxies with well-known distances
 - The slope b can be also measured from any set of galaxies with roughly the same distance - e.g., galaxies in a cluster - even if that distance is not known
- Scatter is $\sim 10\text{-}20\%$ at best, better in the redder bands

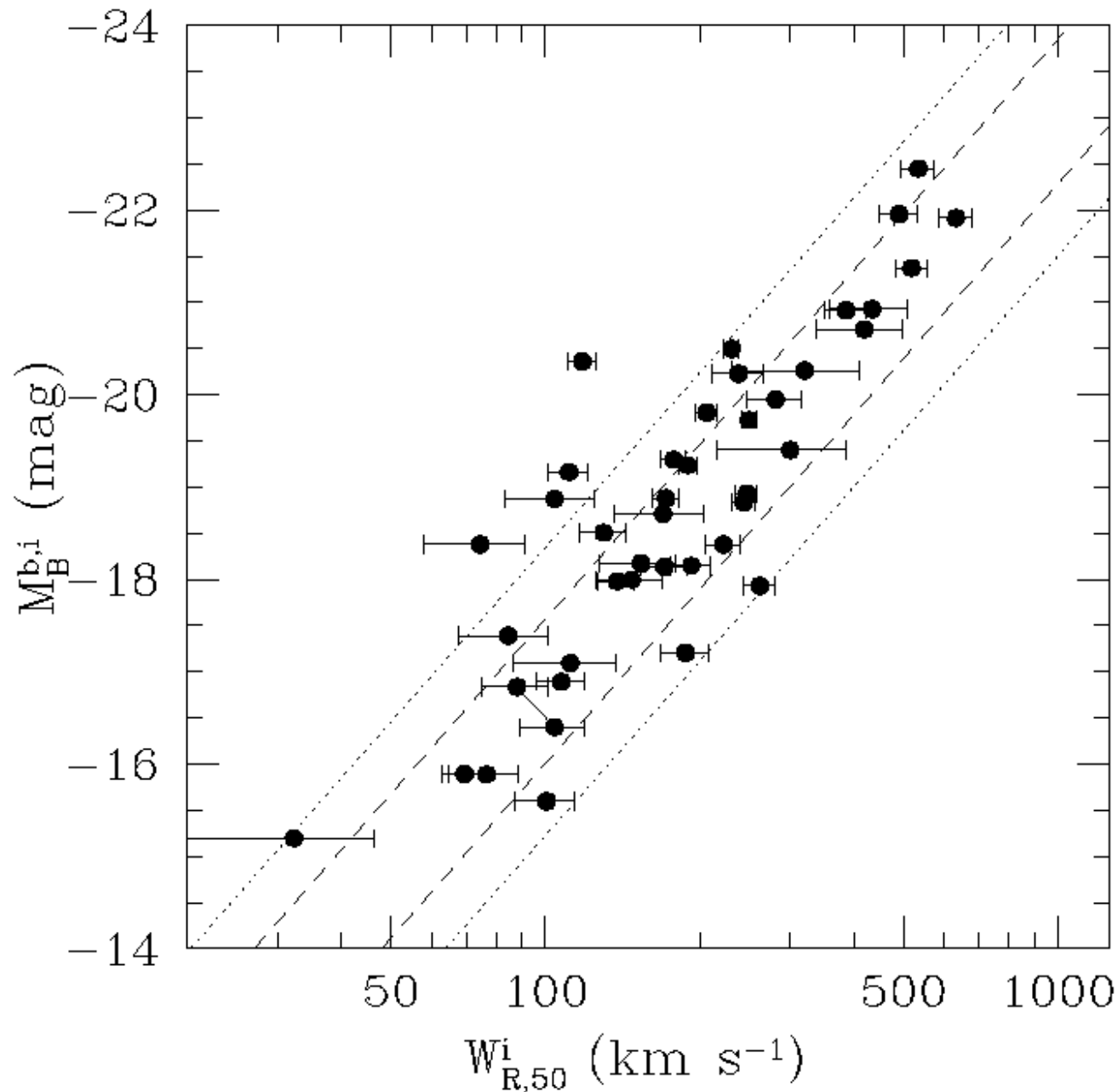
Tully-Fisher Relation in Different Bands



Sakai et al 1999

Why is the TFR So Remarkable?

- Because it connects a property of the dark halo - the maximum circular speed - with the product of the net integrated star formation history, i.e., the luminosity of the disk
- Halo-regulated galaxy formation/evolution?
- The scatter is remarkably low - even though the conditions for this to happen are known not to be satisfied
- There is some important feedback mechanism involved, which we do not understand yet
- Thus, the TFR offers some important insights into the physics of disk galaxy formation

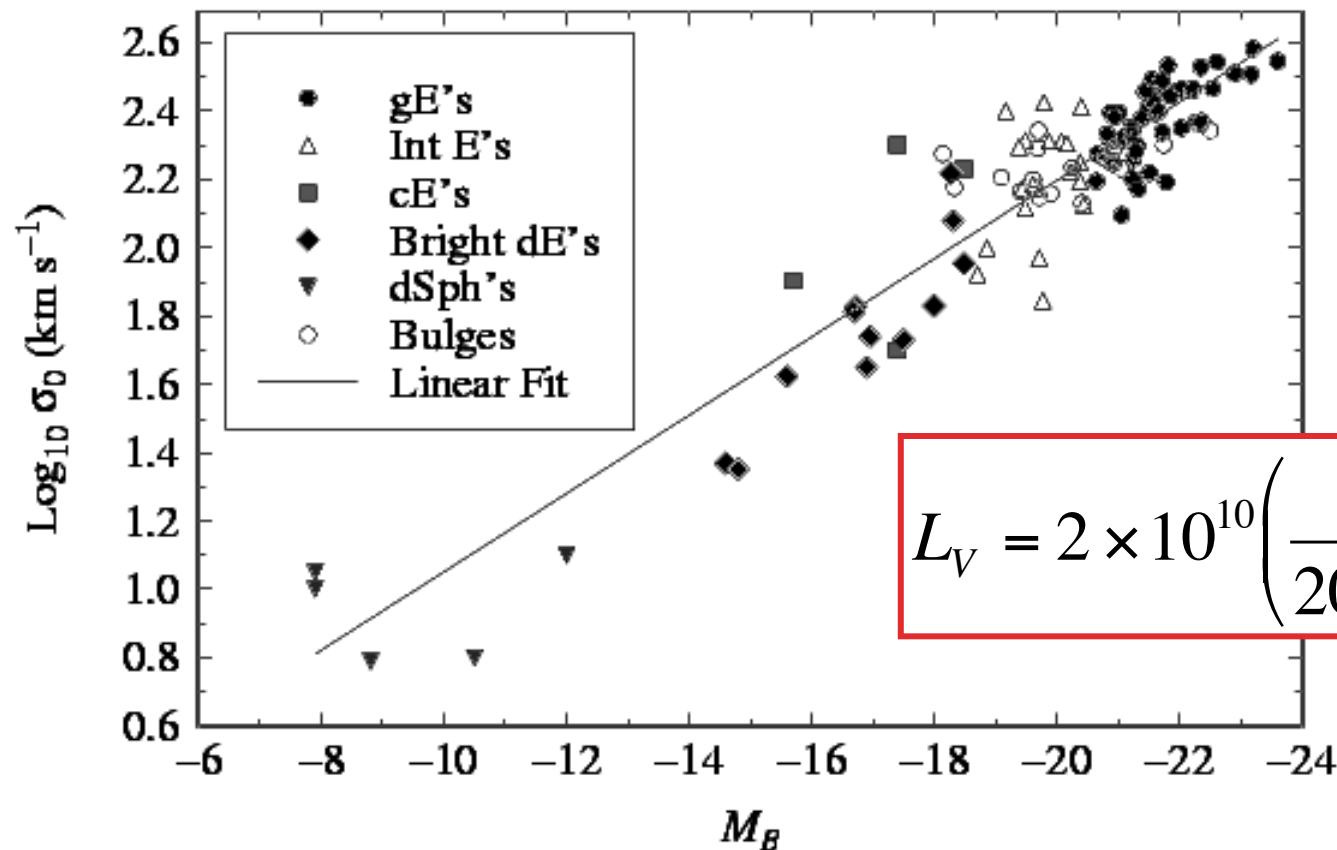


Low surface
brightness
galaxies
follow the same
TF law as the
regular spirals:
so it is really
relating the
baryonic mass
to the dark halo

Zwaan et al. 1995

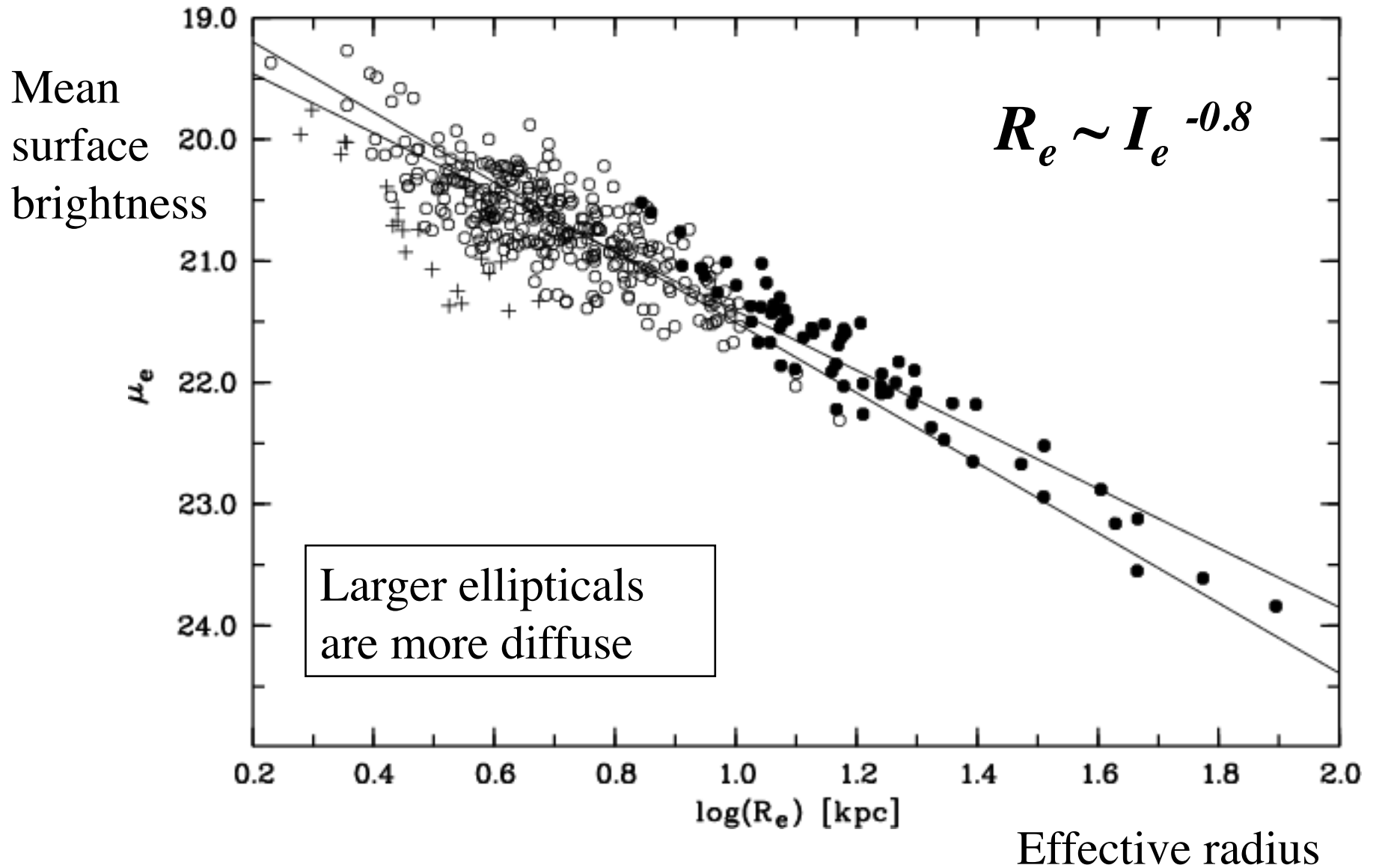
The Faber-Jackson Relation for Ellipticals

Analog of the Tully-Fisher relation for spirals, but instead of the peak rotation speed V_{max} , measure the velocity dispersion. This is correlated with the total luminosity:



$$L_V = 2 \times 10^{10} \left(\frac{\sigma}{200 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^4 L_{sun}$$

The Kormendy Relation for Ellipticals



Can We Learn Something About the Formation of Ellipticals From the Kormendy Relation?

From the Virial Theorem, $m\sigma^2 \sim GmM/R$

Thus, the dynamical mass scales as $M \sim R\sigma^2$

Luminosity $L \sim I R^2$, where I is the mean surface brightness

Assuming $(M/L) = \text{const.}$, $M \sim I R^2 \sim R\sigma^2$ and $I R \sim \sigma^2$

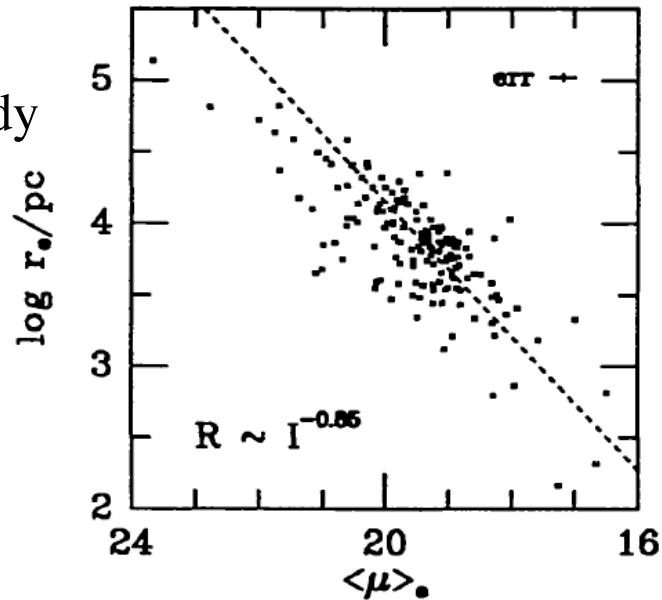
Now, if ellipticals form via dissipationless merging, the kinetic energy per unit mass $\sim \sigma^2 \sim \text{const.}$, and thus we would predict the scaling to be $R \sim I^{-1}$

If, on the other hand, ellipticals form via dissipative collapse, then $M = \text{const.}$, surface brightness $I \sim M R^{-2}$, and thus we would predict the scaling to be $R \sim I^{-0.5}$

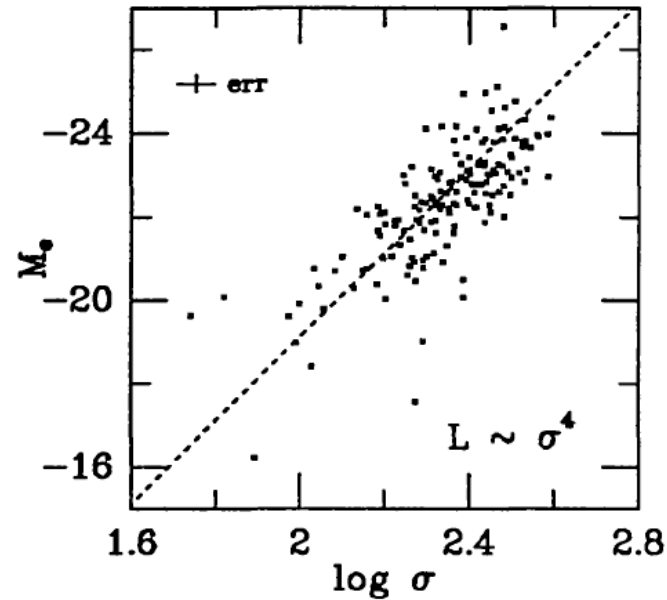
The observed scaling is $R \sim I^{-0.8}$. Thus, *both* dissipative collapse and dissipationless merging probably play a role

Scaling Relations for Ellipticals

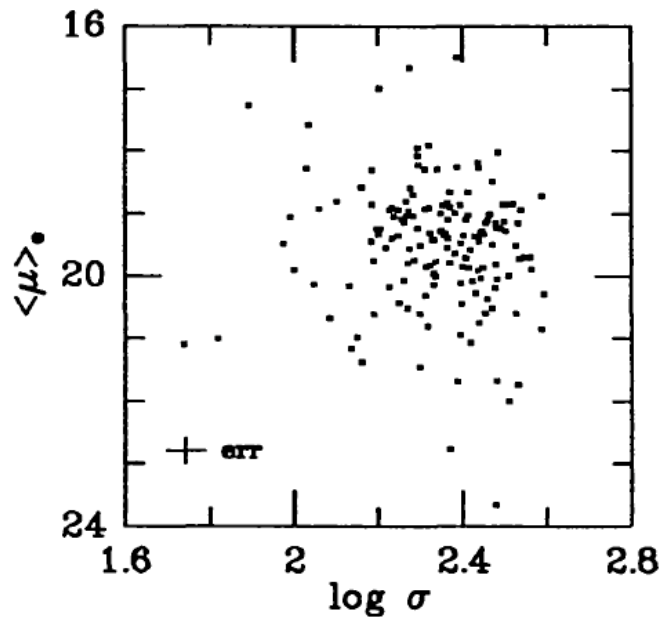
Kormendy
rel'n



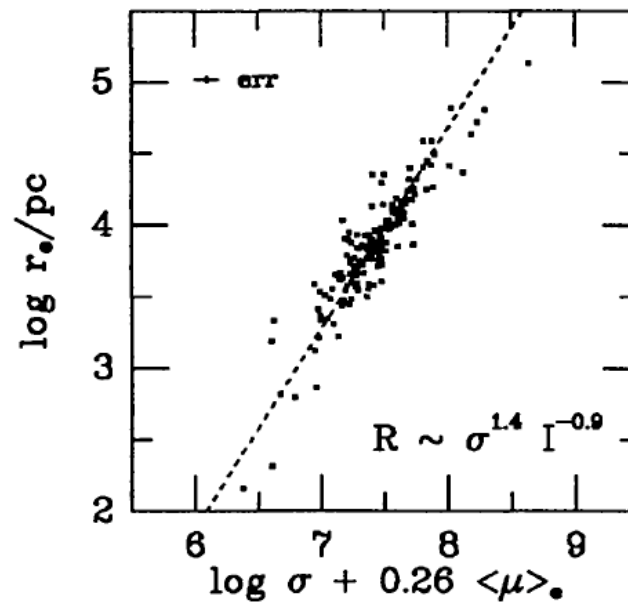
Faber-
Jackson
rel'n



Cooling
diagram



Fundam.
Plane



Deriving the Scaling Relations

Start with the Virial Theorem: $\frac{GM}{\langle R \rangle} = k_E \frac{\langle V^2 \rangle}{2}$

Now relate the observable values of R , V (or σ), L , etc., to their “true” mean 3-dim. values by simple scalings:

$$R = k_R \langle R \rangle \quad V^2 = k_V \langle V^2 \rangle \quad L = k_L I R^2$$

One can then derive the “virial” versions of the FP and the TFR:

$$R = K_{SR} V^2 I^{-1} (M/L)^{-1}$$

$$L = K_{SL} V^4 I^{-1} (M/L)^{-2}$$

Where the “structure” coefficients are:

$$K_{SR} = \frac{k_E}{2Gk_Rk_Lk_V}$$

$$K_{SL} = \frac{k_E^2}{4G^2k_R^2k_Lk_V^2}$$

Deviations of the observed relations from these scalings must indicate that either some k 's and/or the (M/L) are changing

Galaxy Scaling Relations

Will Continue in Part II

