

Galaxies and Graphs

Learning Galaxy Physics with GNNs



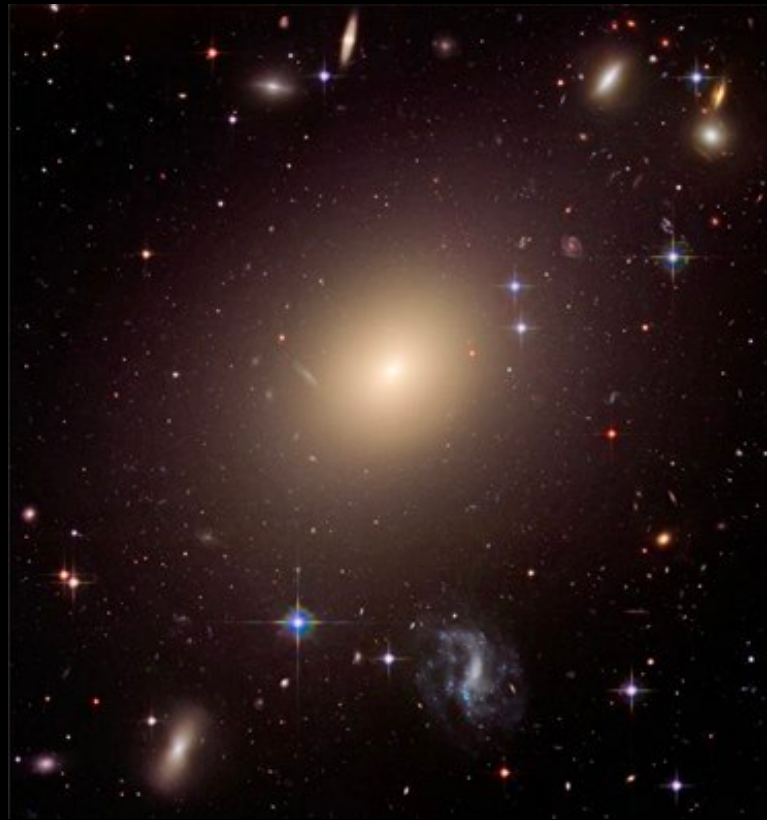
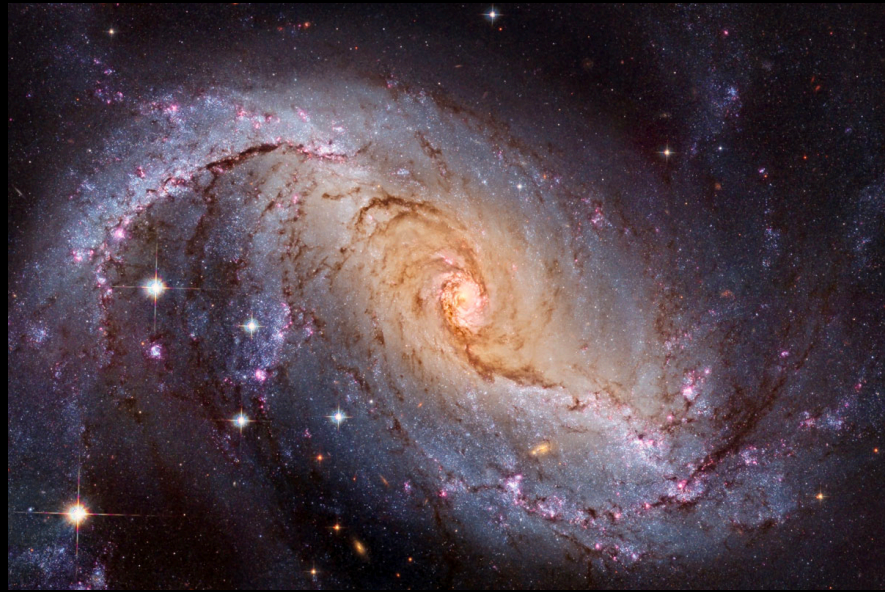
Christian Kragh Jespersen, Princeton University

30/10-2023

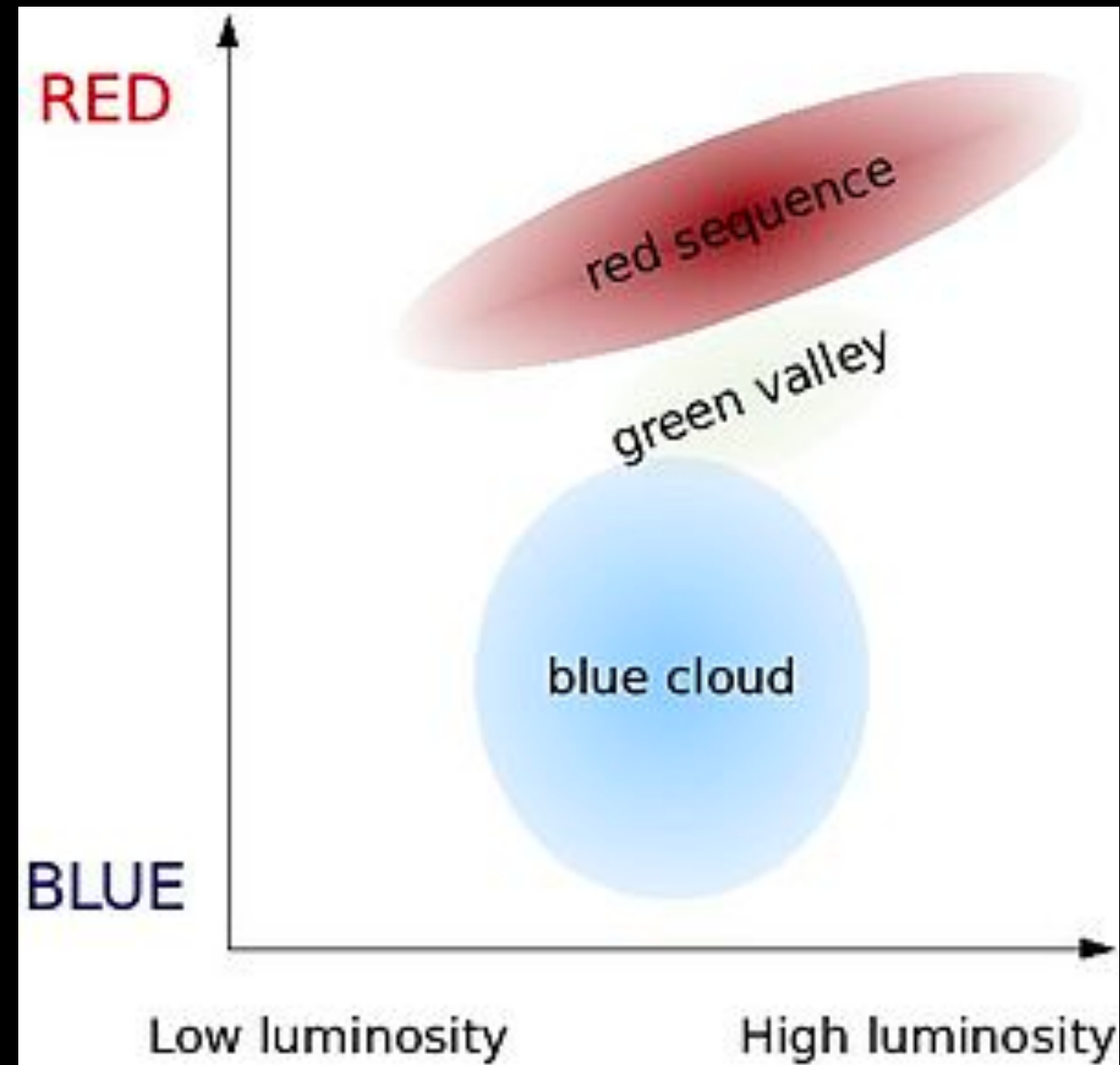
with Chen-Yu Chuang, John F. Wu, Miles Cranmer, Peter Melchior, Shirley Ho, Rachel Somerville and Austen Gabrielpillai

A black and white photograph of a starry night sky, featuring numerous bright stars and some faint, diffuse nebulae. The text "So what's the issue?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

So what's the issue?

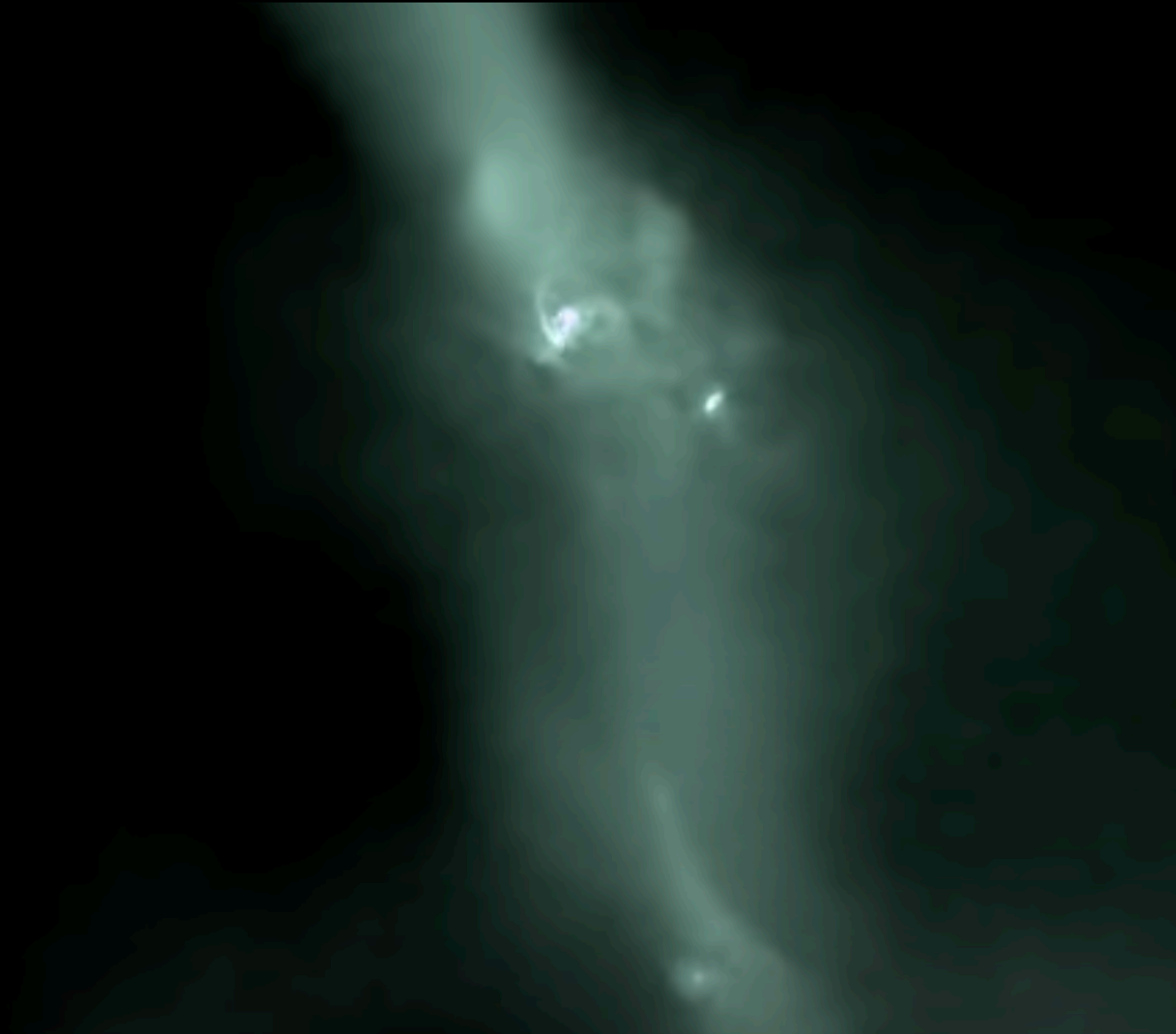
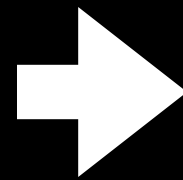
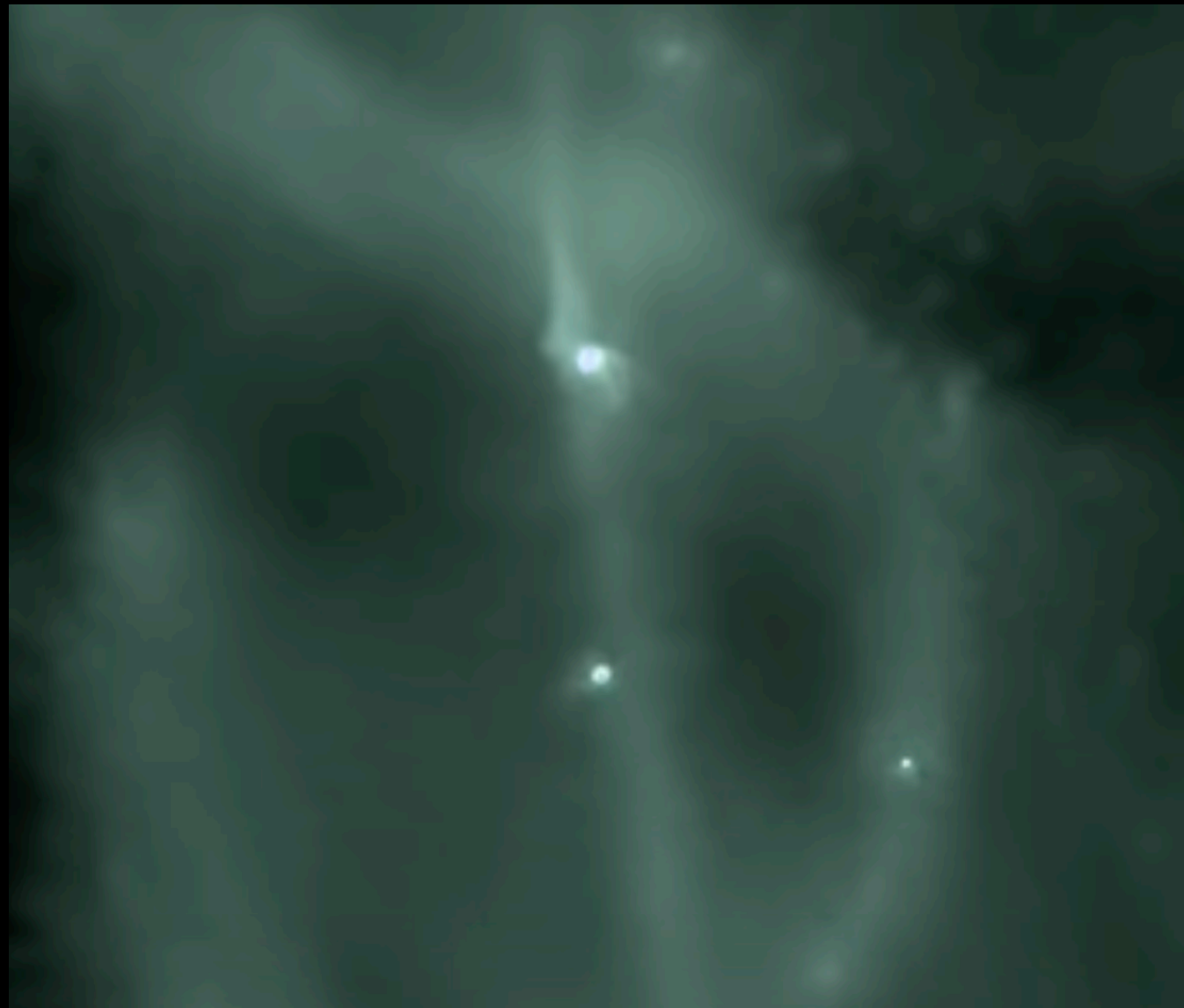


Condense into two parameters

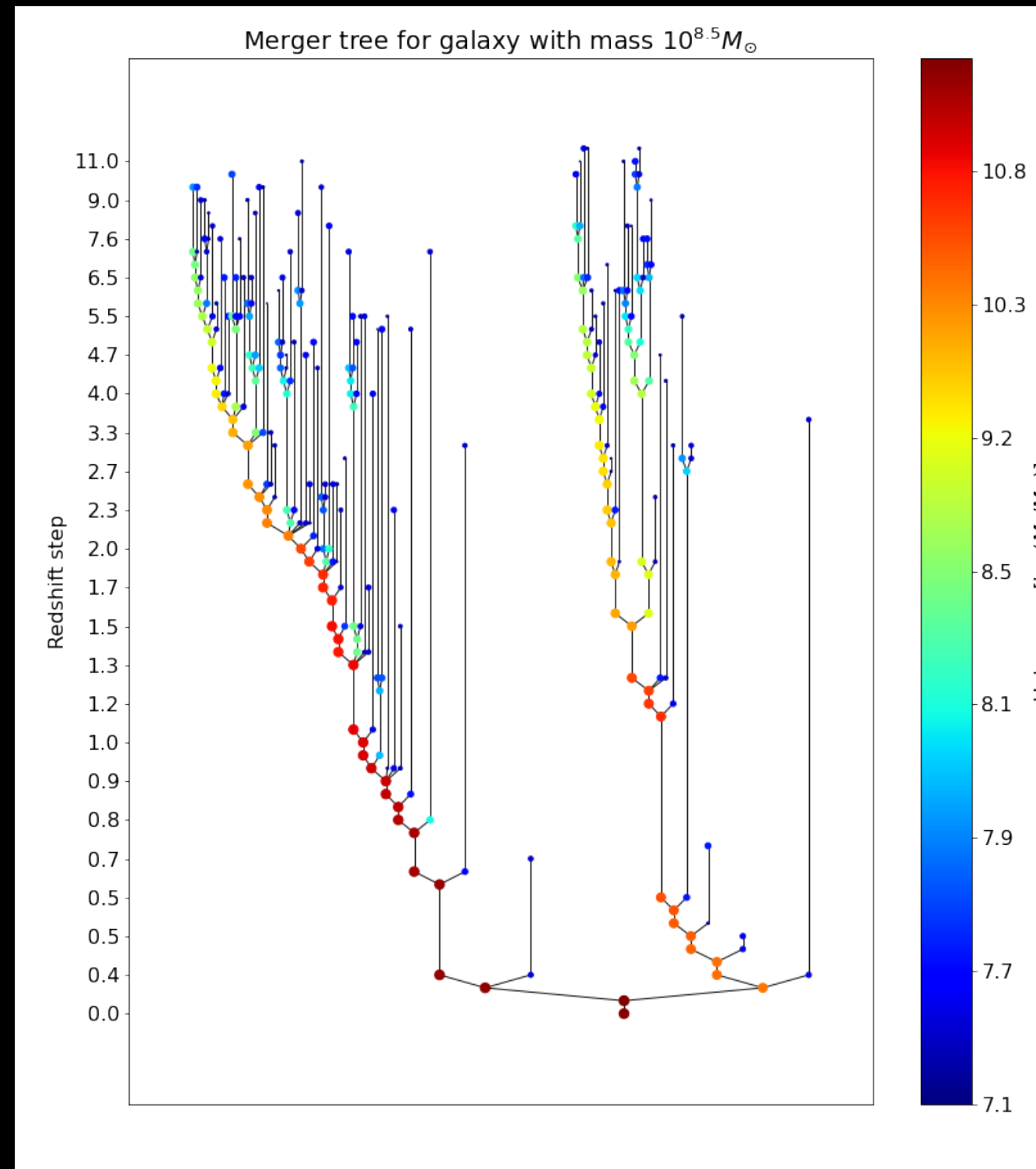


What other things matter?

Formation history?



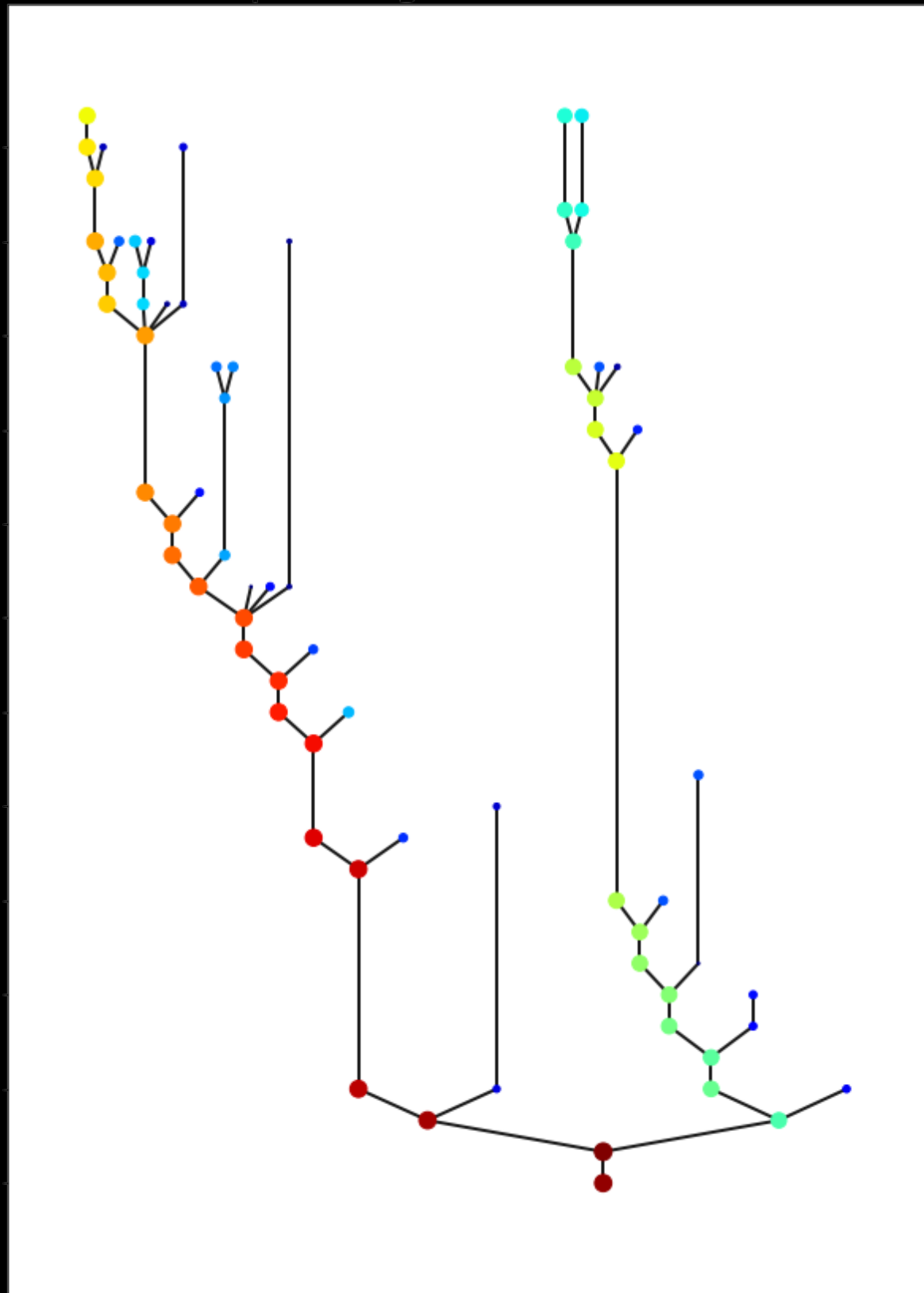
Formation history?



Jespersen+ 22

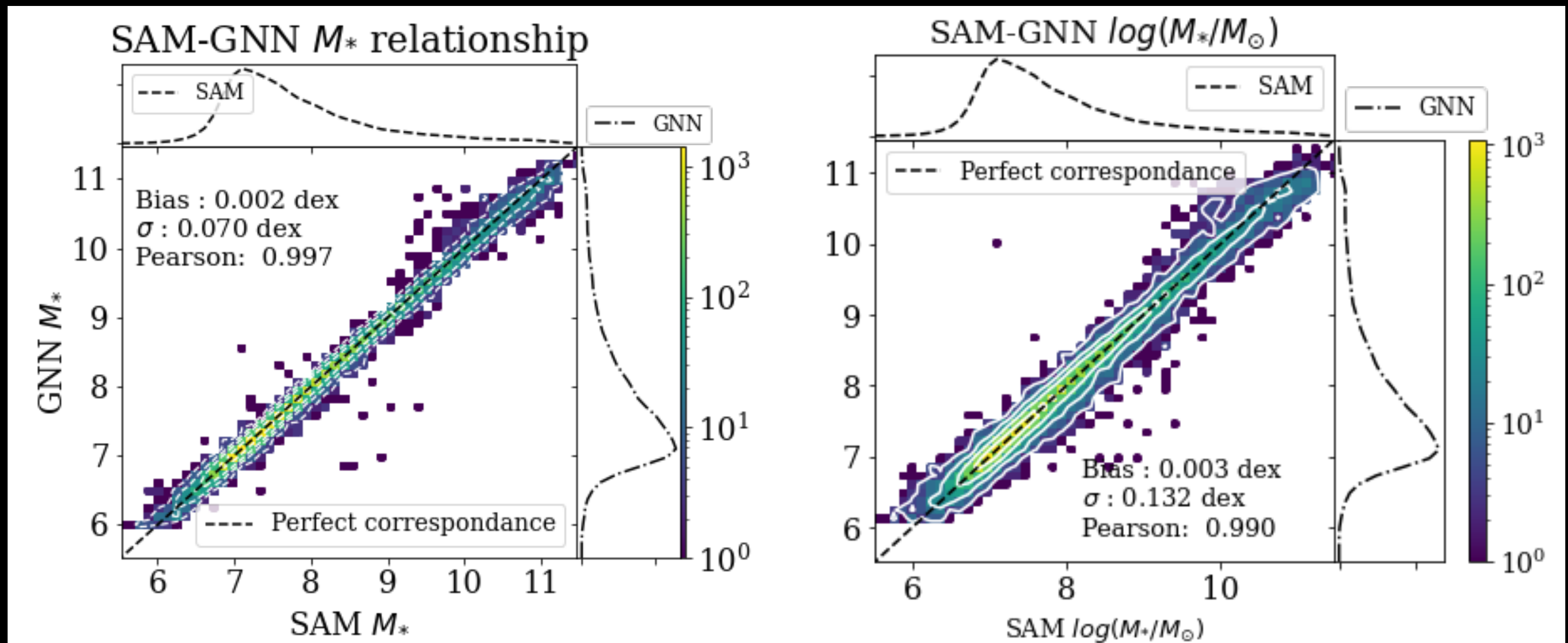
arxiv.org/abs/2210.13473

Sample merger tree cut to 75%

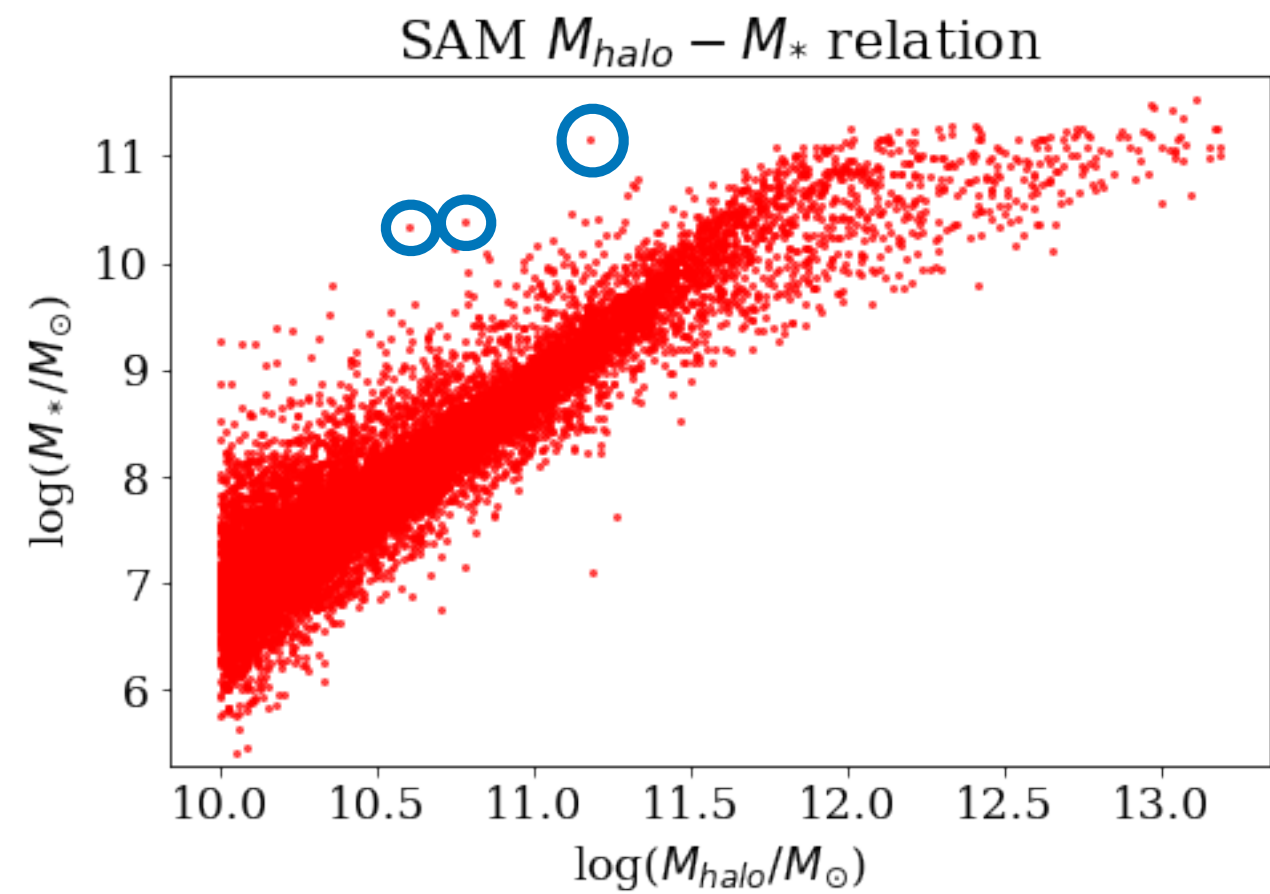
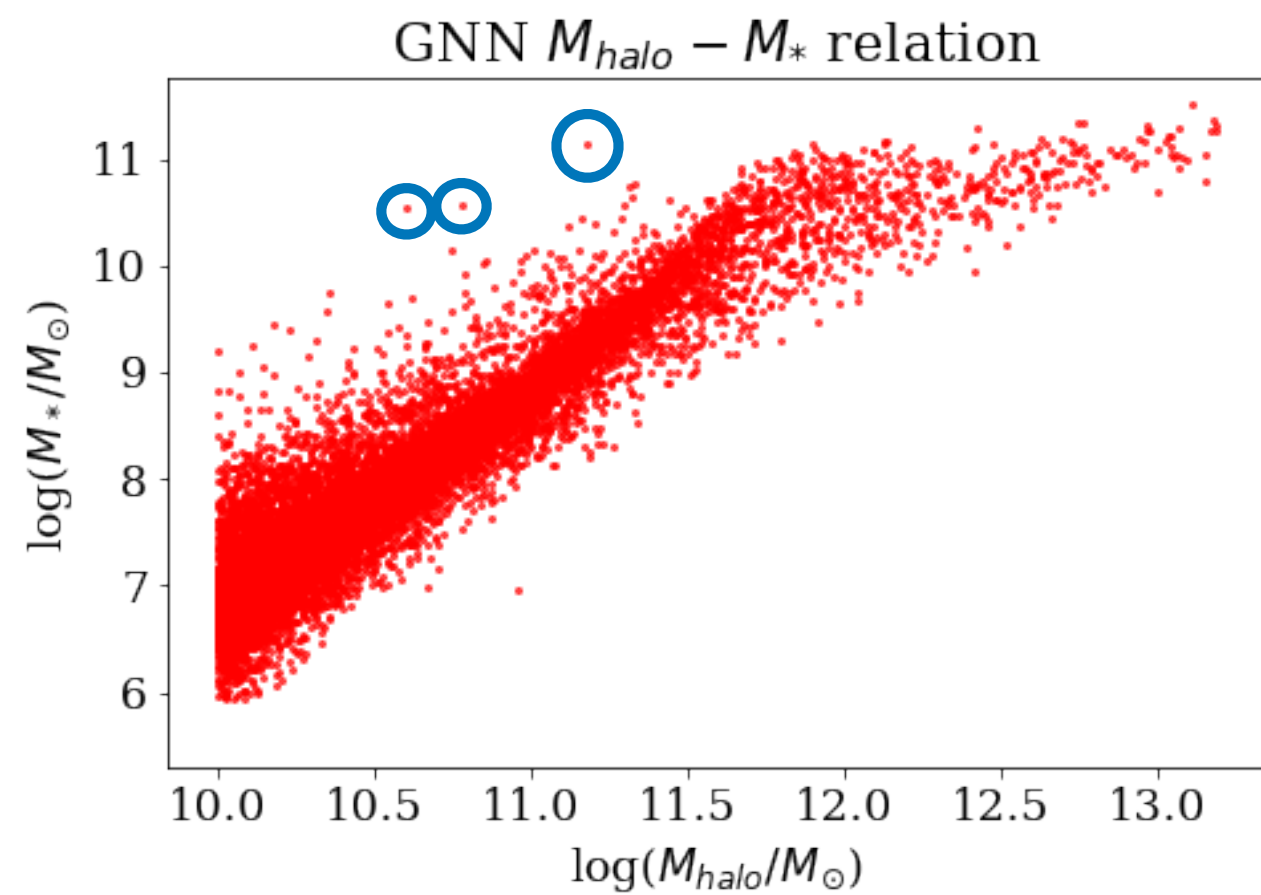


= Graph \rightarrow Graph Neural Network

“Tell me how you grew up and I will tell you who you are”



Outliers are dead on!

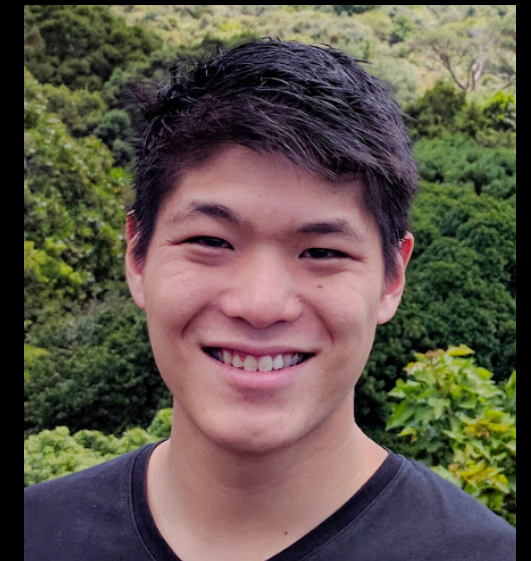
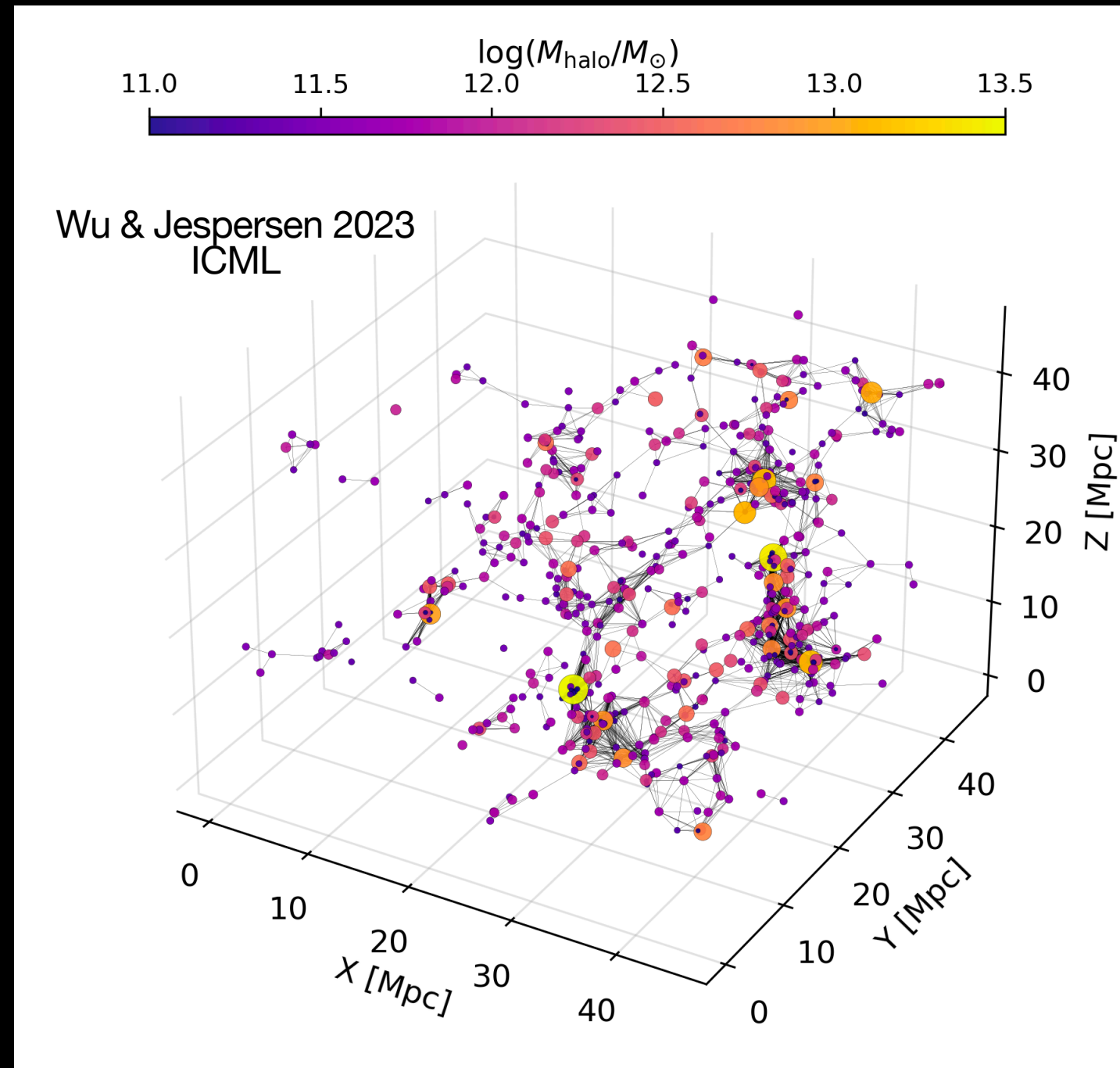


History matters!

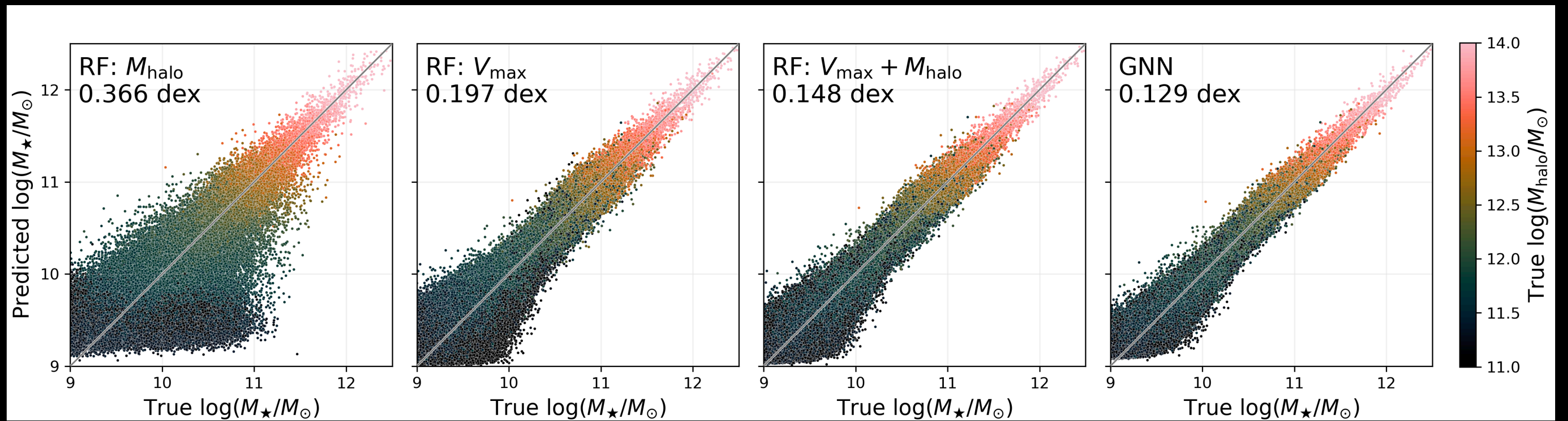
What else?

What about environment?

“Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are”



John F. Wu
(STSci/JHU)



Wu & Jespersen
2023 ICML

So what did we learn?

- GNNs are a natural, strong and versatile approach to learning about merger histories and environments

Primary outstanding questions - works in progress

- How degenerate are environment and history?
- Direct connections to observations

<https://github.com/astrockragh/Mangrove>

