

# GalaPy, a really fast Python API for modelling galaxy SEDs and other cool stuff

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June 2023



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Andrea Lapi  
**Martina Torsello**  
Alessandro Bressan  
+others!

# Why a new SED-fitting library?

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**SUBMITTED!**

Soon public on [GitHub](#) and [PyPI](#)

## New modelling

- **Analytical solutions for Galaxy Evolution:**  
realistic modelling of dust absorption/emission  
Gas, Stars, Metals and Dust  
([Lapi et al., 2018](#); [2020](#), [Pantoni et al., 2019](#))
- **2-components dust model:**  
as seen in GRASIL ([Silva et al., 1998](#))  
**but AGE DEPENDENT ENERGY BALANCE**  
(no radiative transfer + physical temperature)

## Performance

- **Hybrid C++/CPython** implementation (performance + user friendly)
- First release: **shared memory parallelization** from Python

## Bayesian framework

First release:

- **Markov Chain Monte Carlo** with [emcee](#) [Foreman-Mackey et al., 2013](#)
- **Dynamic Nested Sampling** with [dynesty](#) [Speagle, 2019](#)

# GalaPy modelling

## “In-Situ” Star Formation History

from [Lapi et al., 2020](#) (+ [Pantoni et al., 2019](#))

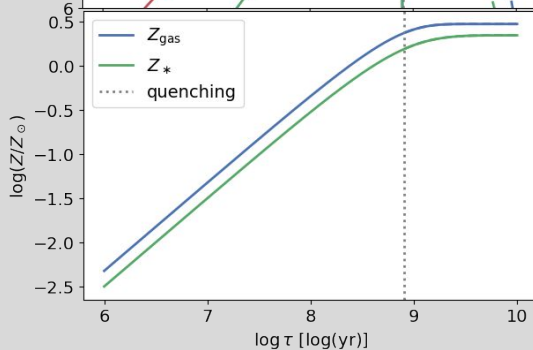
### Analytical derivation:

- self-consistent → reduce the parameter space
- age-dependent → parameter space

### Component Masses



### Component Metallicities

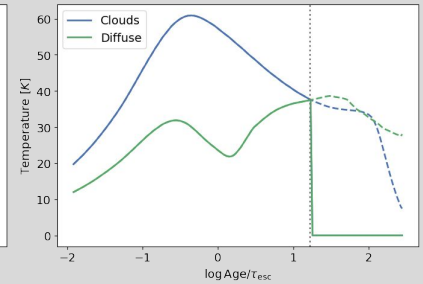
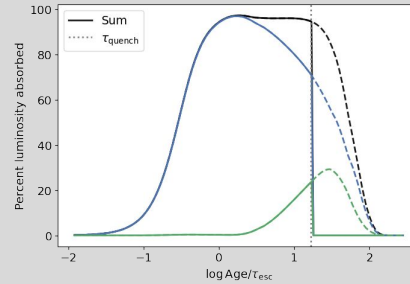


## Molecular Clouds + Diffuse Dust

### ENERGY CONSERVATION (age dependent)



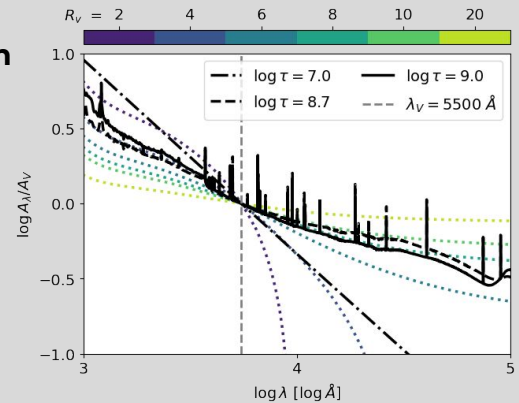
Temperature of the  
**Grey-Body**



### Combined attenuation depends on both:

- wavelength
- **age of the gxy**

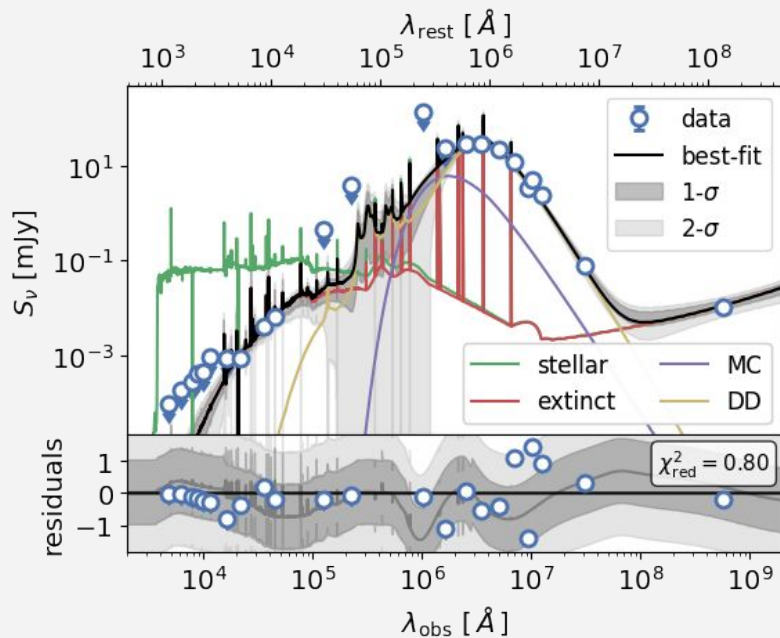
**no prescription on  
grain physics**



# Some results: fitting

- **SED fitting:**

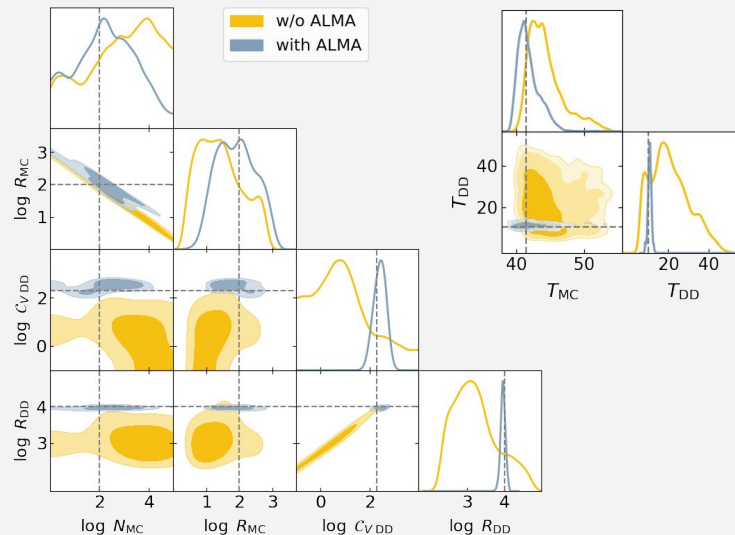
- panchromatic photometric data
- includes upper limits
- large library of models available



Data from [Giulietti et al., 2022](#)

- **Bayesian approach:**

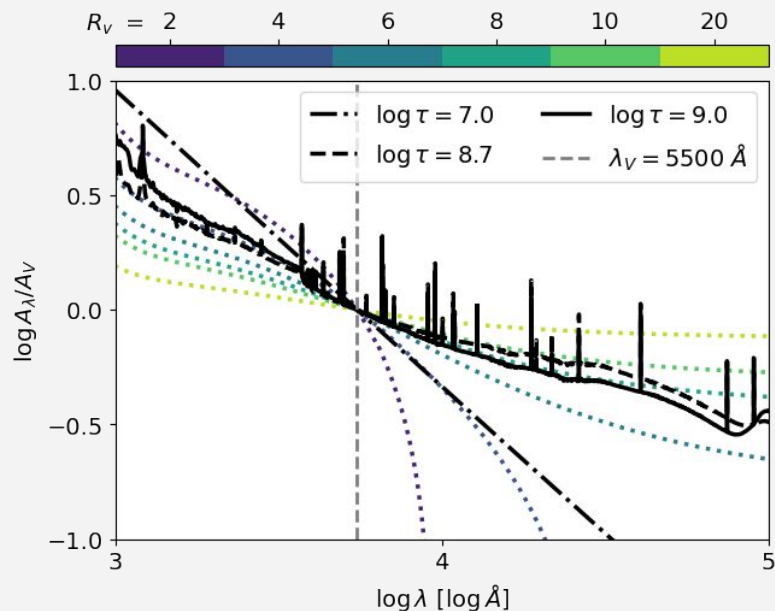
- large physical parameter space
- systematic errors accounted
- derived parameters parameter space sampled



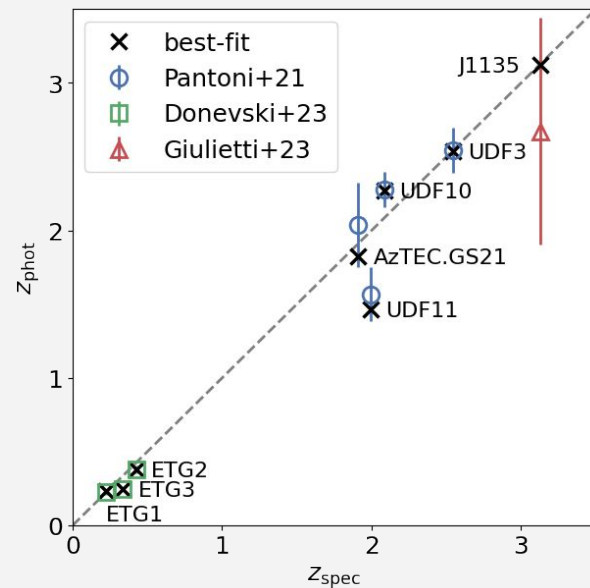
# Some results: derived quantities

- **ISM & Dust properties:**

- metal abundances
- gas and dust masses
- **attenuation curves:**



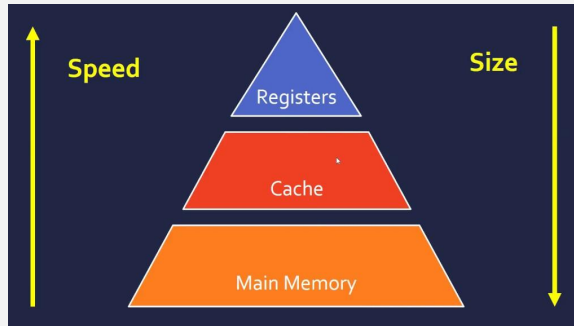
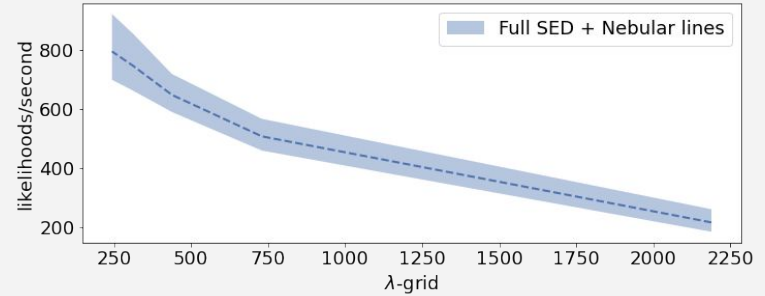
- **Photometric redshift:**



... could use some extension  
(i.e. larger samples, higher redshifts)

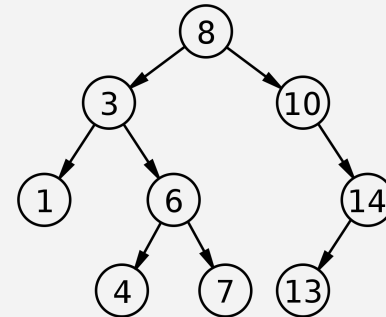
# (some of the) Algorithms used

- Lag in interfacing the 2 languages
  - C++ → Pybind11 → Python
- Performance
  - Optimised Object-oriented implementation
  - Beating main competitors
    - CIGALE /100
    - Prospector /10

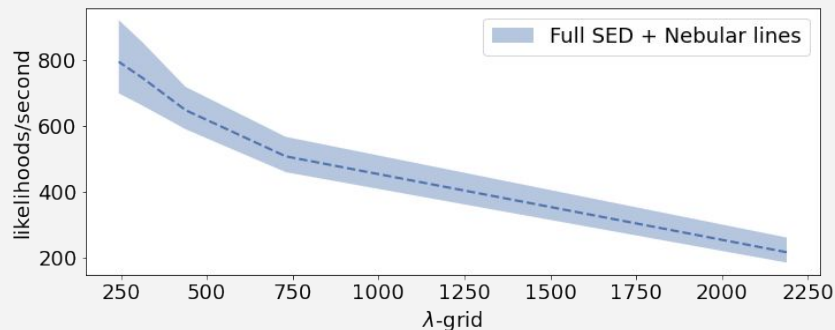


- Architecture-oriented **caching** of templates and globals
- Total number of **operations reduced** to the bare minimum
- Optimisation of **serial model computation**
  - Shared memory **parallelism for sampling**
  - Distributed memory **parallelism for scaling** on large catalogues

- **Interpolation** on a non uniform and non-uniformly accessed grid
  - Binary-interval search tree
  - Interpolator objects  
(c++/python, no external library dependence but **faster than scipy and gsl**)



# Minimal performance measurements and comparison



**CIGALE:** [Boquien et al., 2019](#)

- different statistical framework
- **GalaPy** model generation:  
~ **100 times faster**

**Prospector:** [Johnson et al., 2021](#)

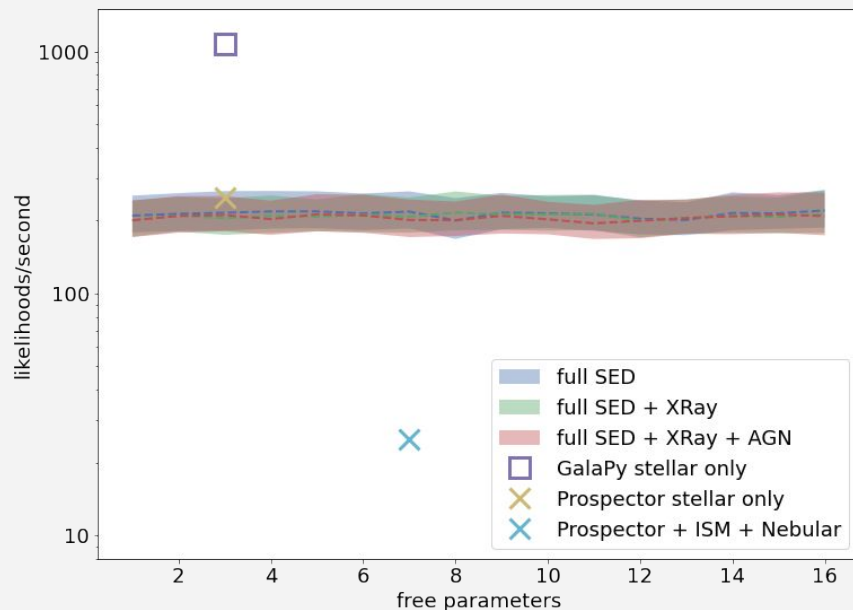
- Bayesian (MCMC & nested sampling)
- **GalaPy** likelihood more than  
 $\geq$  **10 times faster**

maybe **MAGPHYS+photo-z:**  
[Da Cunha et al., 2008](#) [Battisti et al., 2019](#)

Mainly dependent on **spectra resolution**

- low res: up to **800-900 likelihood/sec**
- high res: up to **200-250 likelihood/sec**

Comparison with other codes is not trivial.



# Algorithms and skills acquired

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## Present

- serial part highly-optimised
- **interval-binary search tree**
- **register-friendly fine time-grid integration**
- specialisation on the problem size
- no architecture-specific optimisation
- parallelisation through Python

## Future

- **Hierarchical Bayesian Sampling**
- **Hamiltonian Sampling**
- **Direct posteriors from ML**

# International context

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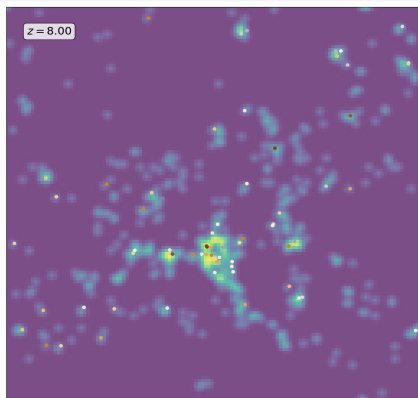
- **ALMA**  
really important for the **dust re-radiation** and to **disentangle photo-z degeneracies**
- **JWST**  
**highest redshift sources**
- **SKAO (& precursors)**  
e.g. Evolutionary Map of the Universe (EMU)
  - stellar un-attenuated
  - AGN contribute





# Some more devs from SISSA-APC

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[Ronconi et al., 2020](#)

- Empirical modelling of the Galaxy/Halo connection
  - **packaged** easy-to-use interface for SCAM
  - some w.i.p. devs include **AI-assisted modelling**

**SKAO** → radio continuum+HI foreground

- Visibility-plane stacking of ALMA observations
  - **aim:** detect extremely faint molecular lines
  - **target:** high-z DSFGs



**Martina Torsello** in the audience, talk with her!

... and this is my last slide, thanx!

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