

# The impact of the group environment on molecular gas of group galaxies

이범현 (Bumhyun Lee) (KIAA-PKU)

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# *Galaxy in different environment*

Field ~50%



$$M_{\text{halo}} \lesssim 10^{12} M_{\odot}$$

Groups ~40%



$$M_{\text{halo}} \lesssim 10^{14} M_{\odot}$$

Clusters ~10%



$$M_{\text{halo}} \gtrsim 10^{14} M_{\odot}$$

**Half of galaxies → galaxy groups**

e.g., Eke et al. (2004)

# Environmental effects on group galaxies

- **Gravitational interactions:**

  - **Tidal interactions**, merging, etc

  - low velocity dispersion: 200 – 300 km/s

  - (e.g., Mihos 2004; Moore et al. 1999; Duc et al. 2018)

- **Hydrodynamic (IGM and ISM) interactions:**

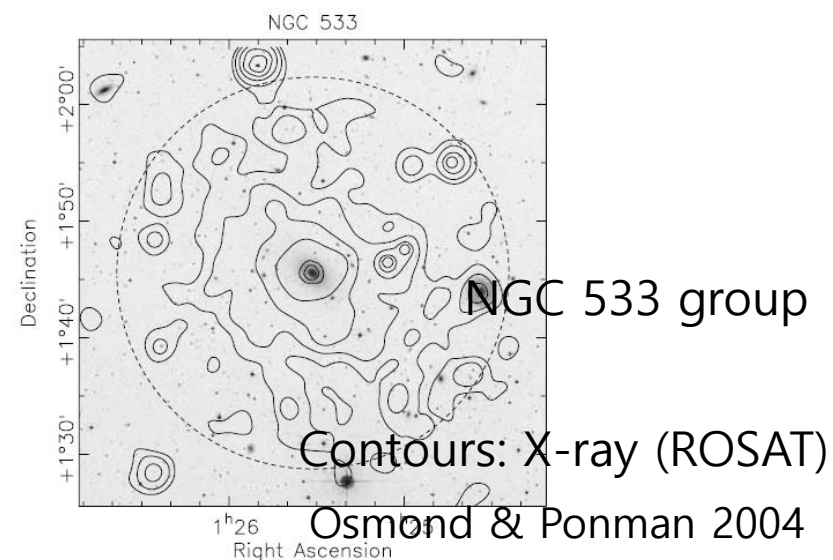
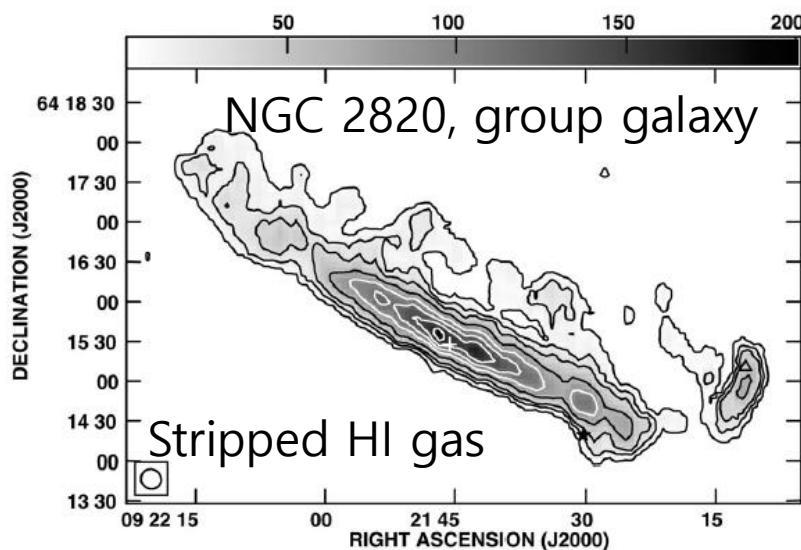
  - Ram pressure stripping, etc

  - (e.g., Gunn & Gott 1972; Kantharia et al. 2005; Rasmussen et al. 2006)



Environmental processes in galaxy groups: change physical properties of group galaxies (e.g., morphology, star formation activity, gas content)

Seth et al. 2020, Kleiner et al. 2021, Castignani et al. 2021



# *Galaxy evolution in the group environment*

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✓ Half of all galaxies in the local universe → **galaxy groups** (e.g., Eke et al. 2004)

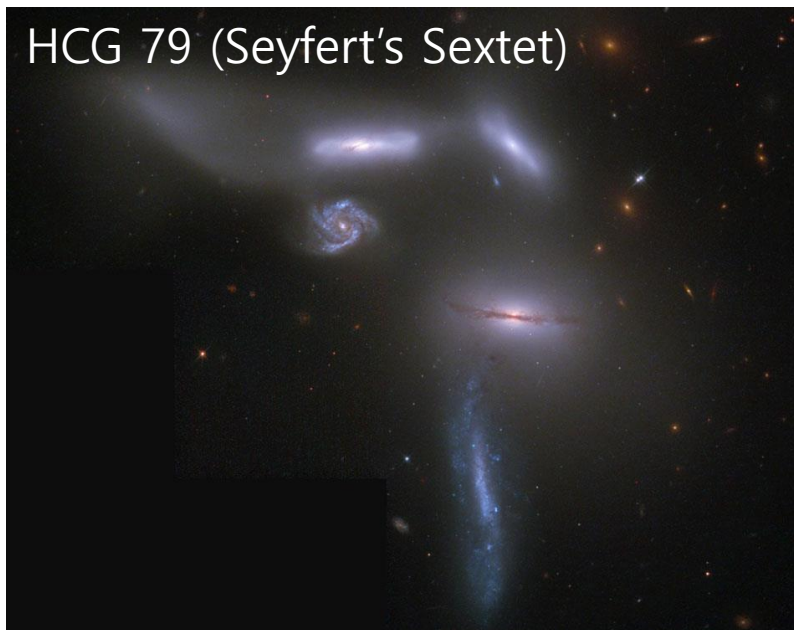
but, not many studies on galaxy groups, compared to galaxy clusters especially, **not many studies on molecular gas of group galaxies.**

Historically, studies on galaxy groups → compact groups (e.g., Hickson compact groups)

HCG 92 (Stephan's Quintet)



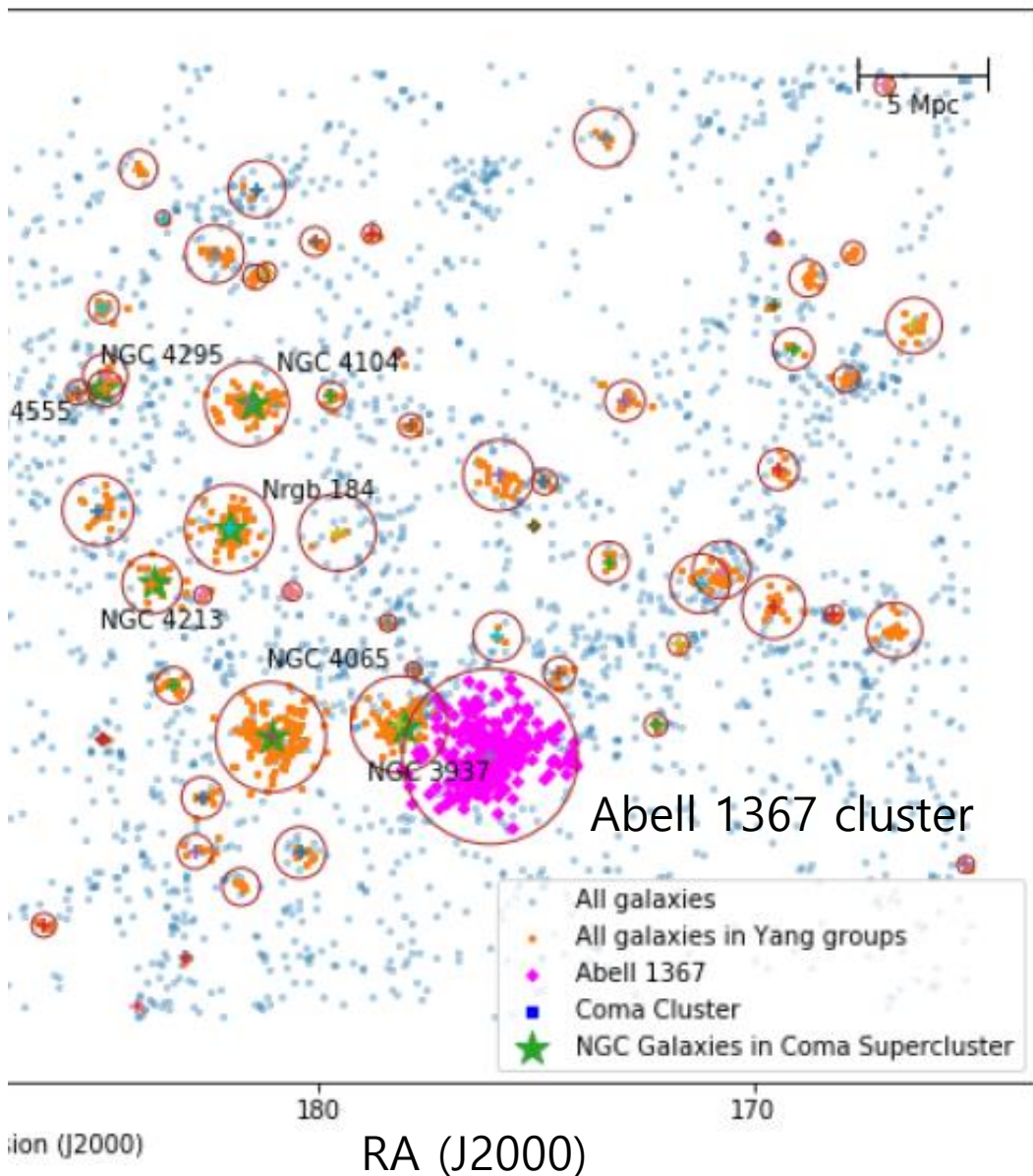
HCG 79 (Seyfert's Sextet)



However, there are different types of galaxy groups:

- 1) Compact groups
- 2) Loose groups
- 3) Fossil groups

# Galaxy evolution in the group environment



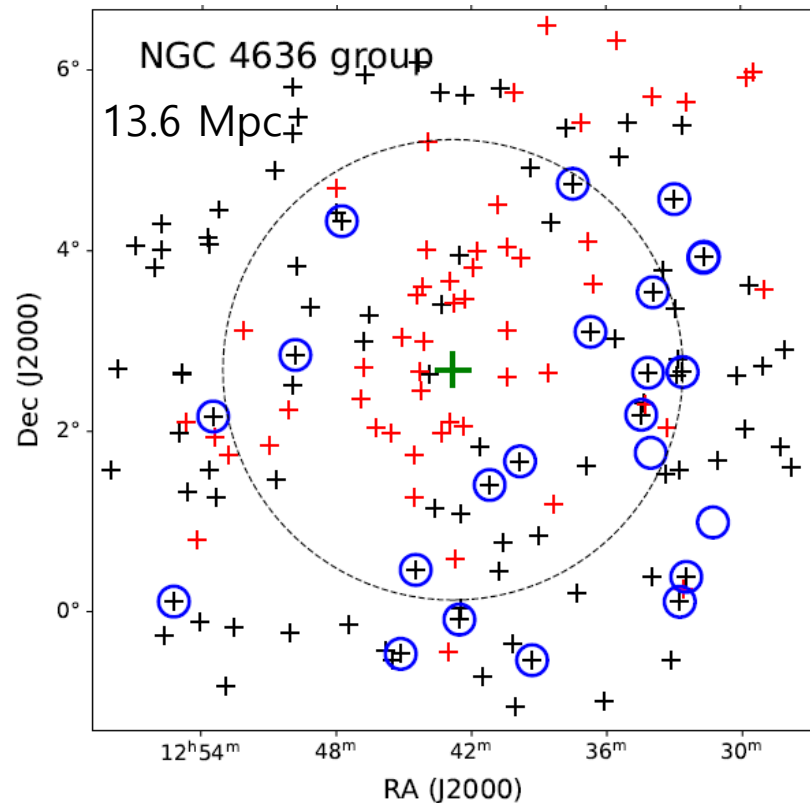
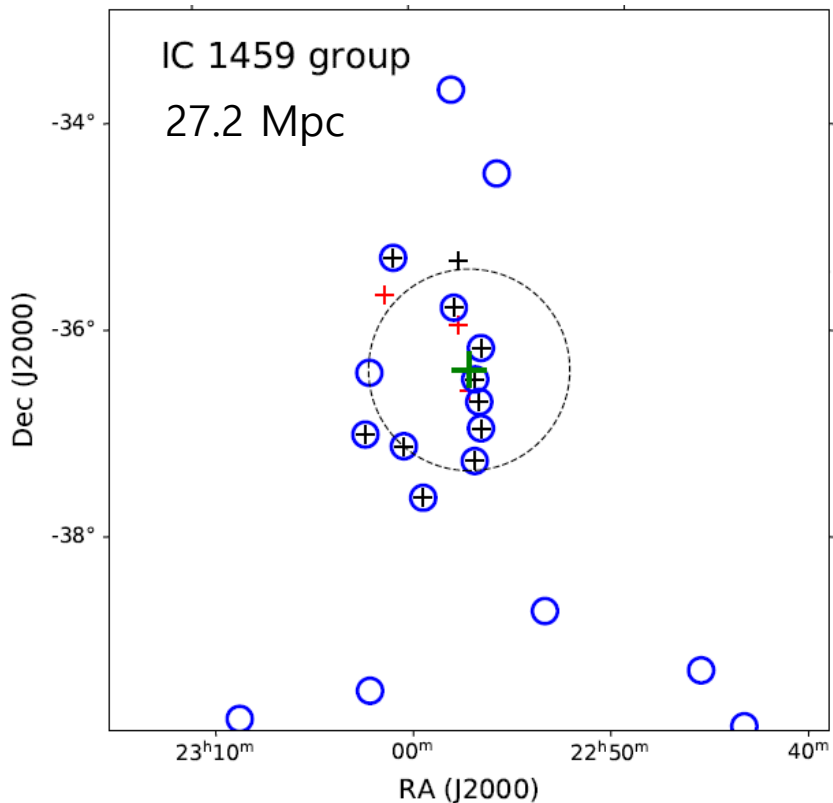
✓ **Pre-processing**: a high fraction of group galaxies is quenched before entering galaxy clusters, the enhanced transformation of galaxies

(e.g., Cybulski et al. 2014; Jaffe et al. 2016; Jung et al. 2018; Seth et al. 2020, Kleiner et al. 2021, Castignani et al. 2021).

→ The importance of studying galaxy evolution in the group environment is increasing.

**Obtaining a deeper understanding of how group environmental processes affect the molecular gas of group galaxies and hence their star formation activity**

# Sample selection & ACA CO observations



Crosses:

- black: late type galaxies
- red: early type galaxies
- green: brightest group galaxy

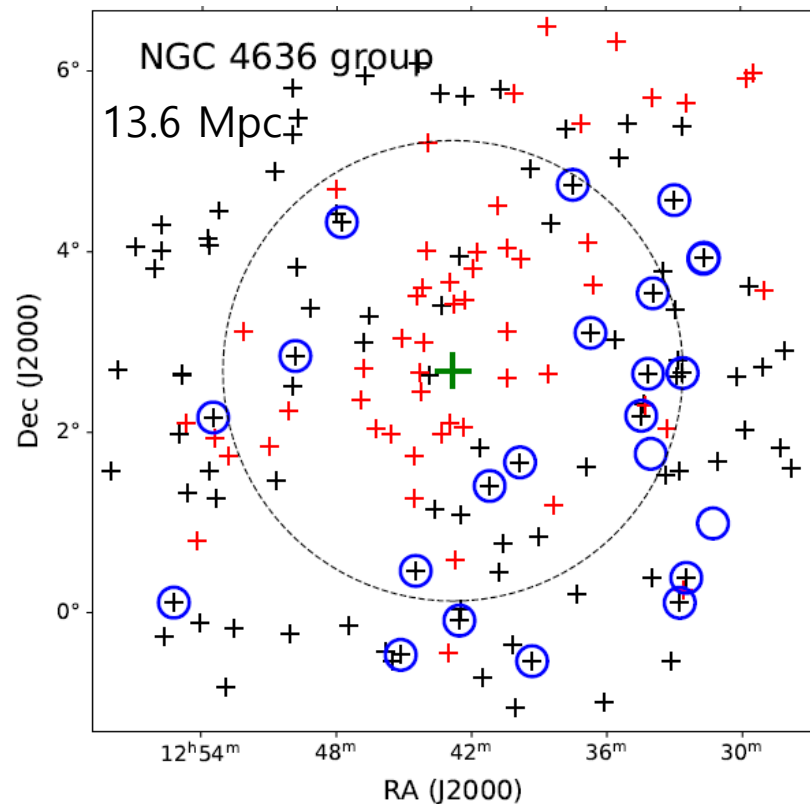
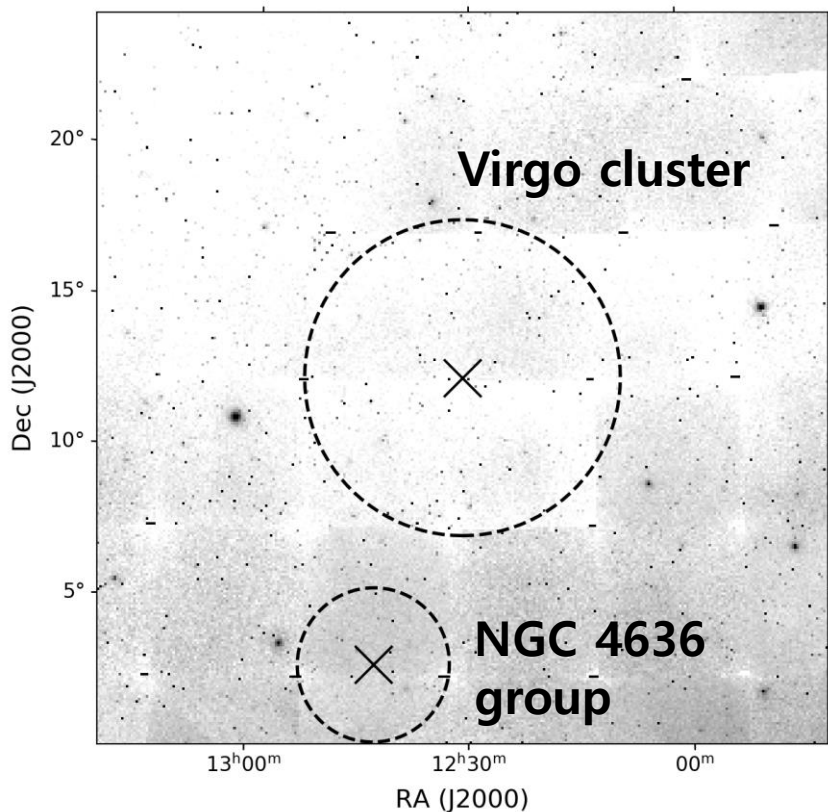
Galaxies are within  $1.5 \times R_{200}$  and  $\pm 3 \times \sigma_{group}$  (IC 1459: 222 km/s, NGC4636: 248 km/s).

Open circles: target galaxies

Dashed circle: 1.5 x R200

- IC 1459 group (isolated group, 27 Mpc): 18 galaxies
- NGC 4636 group (near the Virgo cluster, 13.6 Mpc): 22 galaxies
- HI detection (spiral & dwarf galaxies) in the GEMS-HI survey (Parkes telescope)
- Stellar mass of samples:  $\sim 10^7 - \sim 10^{10} M_{\odot}$

# Sample selection & ACA CO observations



Open circles: target galaxies

Crosses:

- black: late type galaxies

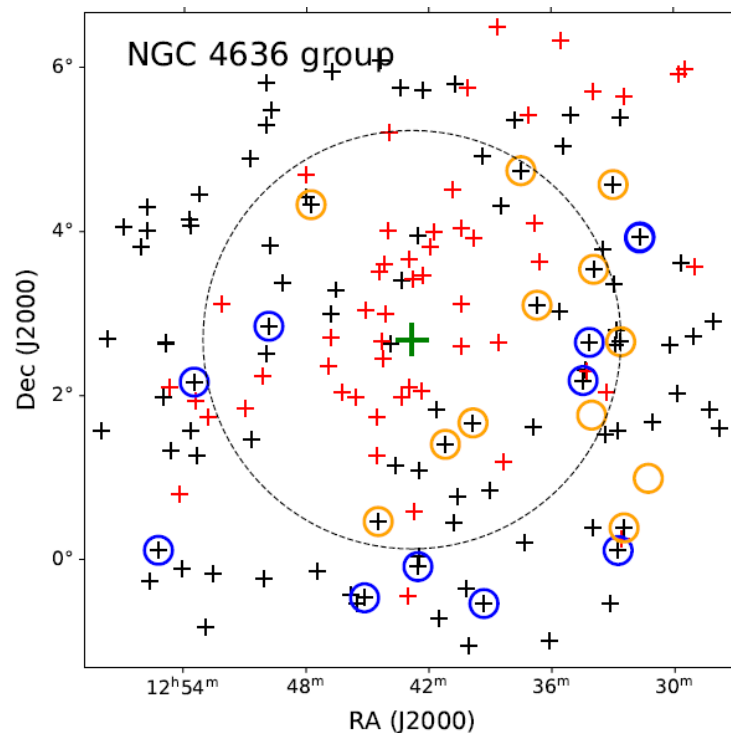
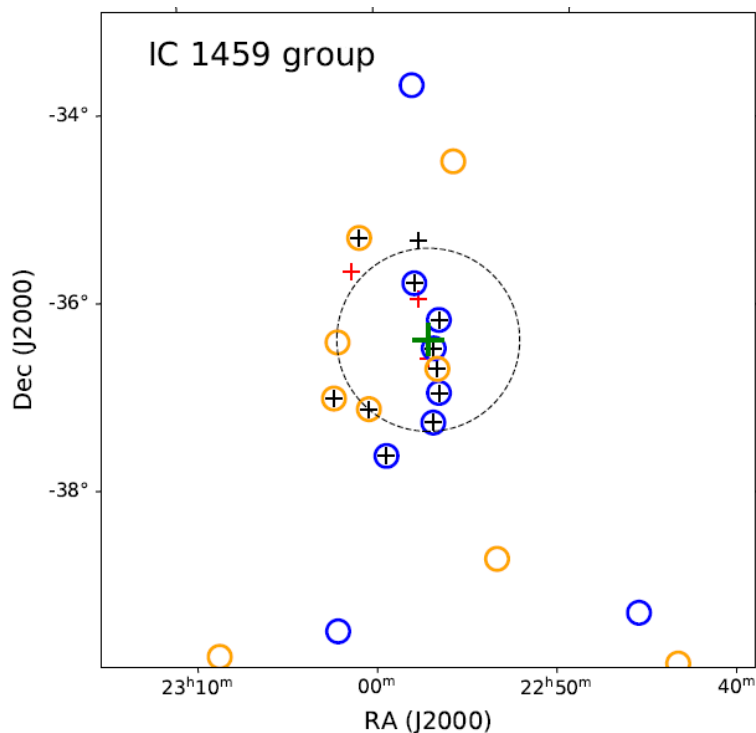
- red: early type galaxies

Dashed circle:  $1.5 \times R_{200}$

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# Sample selection & ACA CO observations



Open circles: target galaxies  
- Blue: CO detection  
- Orange: CO non-detection

The first CO imaging survey for IC 1459 and NGC 4636 groups (ALMA cycle 7, PI: B. Lee)

- Configuration: 7m array (ALMA/ACA), 9 - 11 antennas
- Observing line: 12CO (J=1-0) (main), CN (N=1-0; J=3/2-1/2), 3mm continuum
- Beam size: ~11 arcsec (~1.5 kpc (IC 1459 group) and ~0.7 kpc (NGC 4636 group))
- ✓ IC 1459 group - 12CO detection: 9 / 18 galaxies
- ✓ NGC 4636 group - i) 12CO detection: 10 / 22 galaxies, ii) CN (1-0) detection: 3 galaxies, iii) 3mm continuum detection: 4 galaxies



# *Scientific goals*

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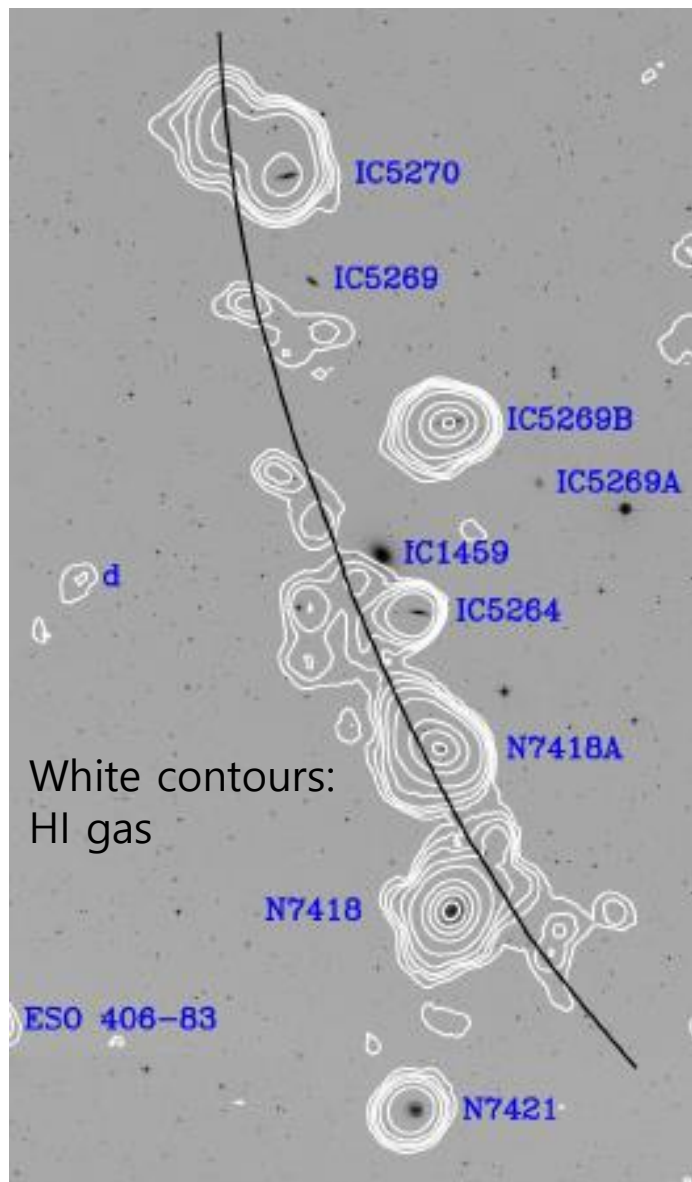
Combined with multiwavelength data (e.g., CO + HI, IR, and UV), obtaining **a comprehensive understanding of molecular gas, star formation activity, and galaxy evolution in a group environment**

**Goal 1:** Probe the morphological and kinematical characteristics of the molecular gas in the group environment, and compare CO gas with HI gas

**Goal 2:** Investigate the relationship among physical parameters (SFR, stellar mass, SFE, sSFR, gas fraction) at sub-kpc and kpc scales

**Goal 3:** Compare the properties of group galaxies with that of field galaxies, as well as with those of cluster members (e.g., Fornax and Virgo – ALMA CO observations)

# HI gas in IC 1459 group



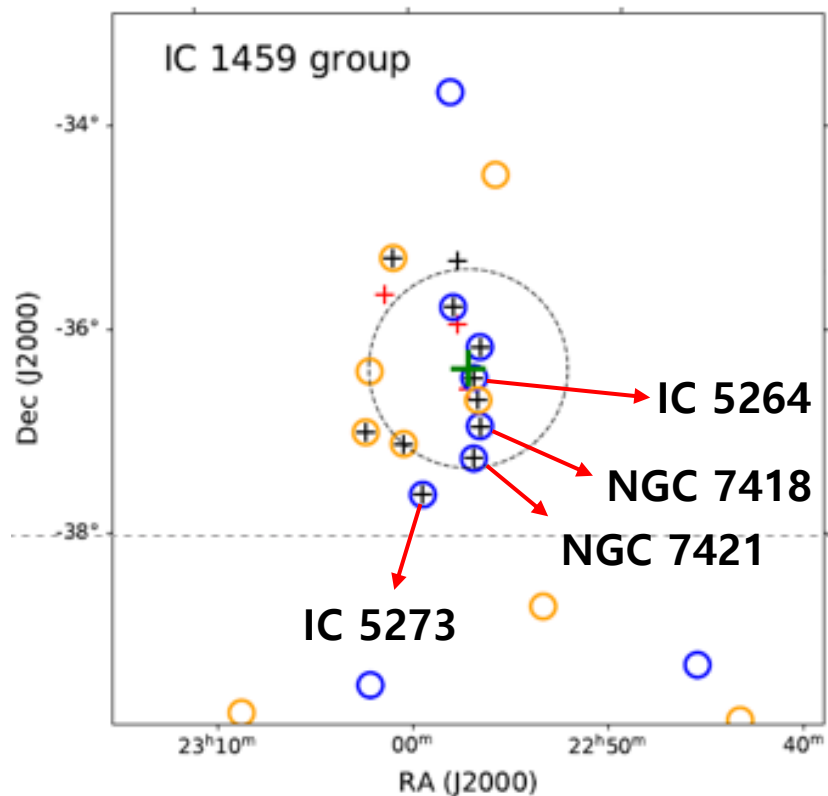
HI gas observations using the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT-7: the South African SKA pathfinder)

**Distorted HI distribution & Stripped HI gas  
→ Many interactions in IC 1459 group**

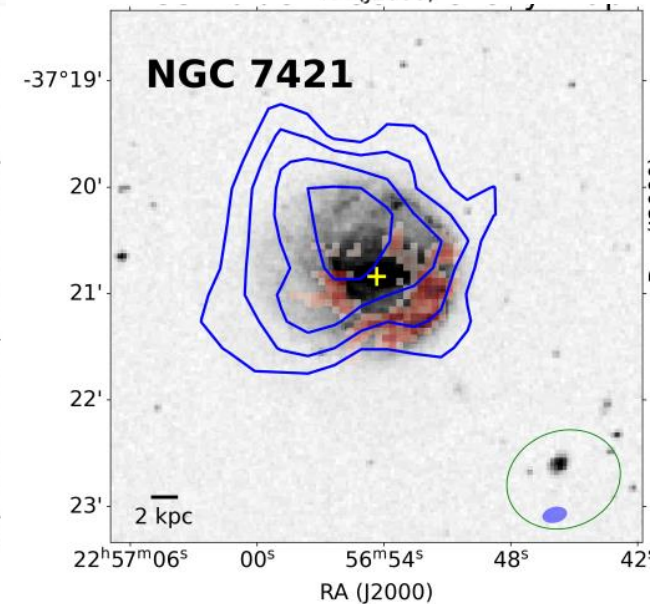
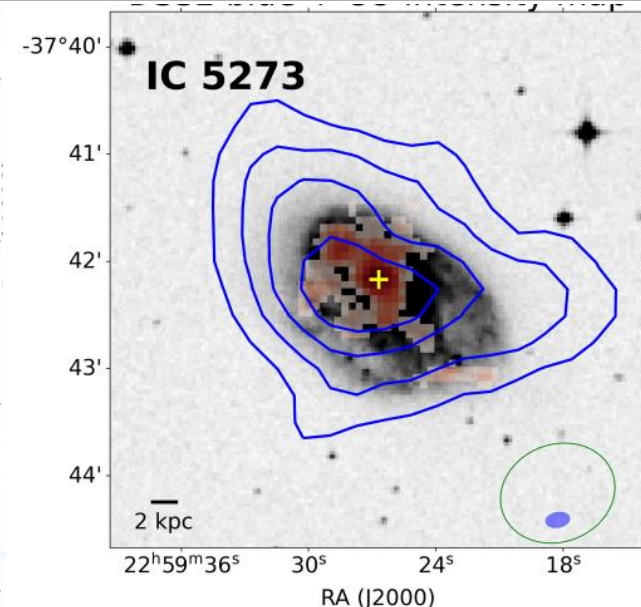
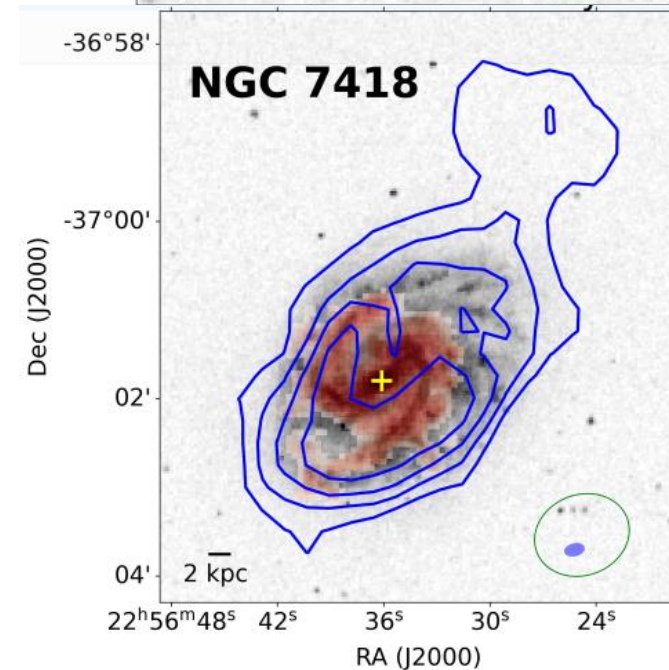
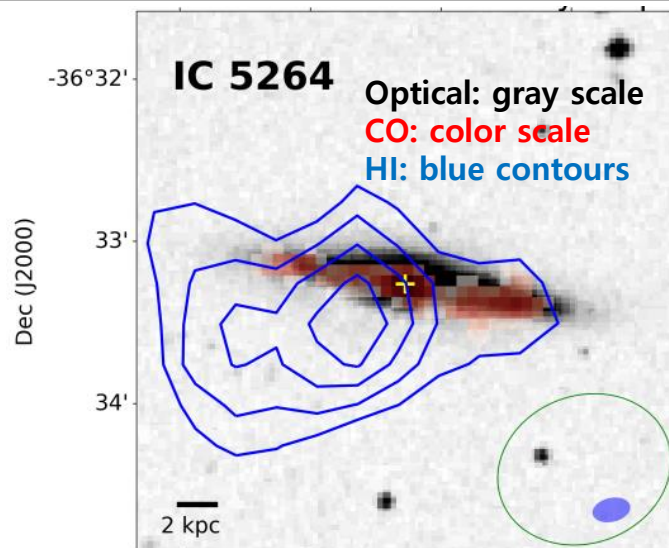
Contour levels: 5,10,...,  $\times 10^{18} \text{cm}^{-2}$

Oosterloo et al. 2018

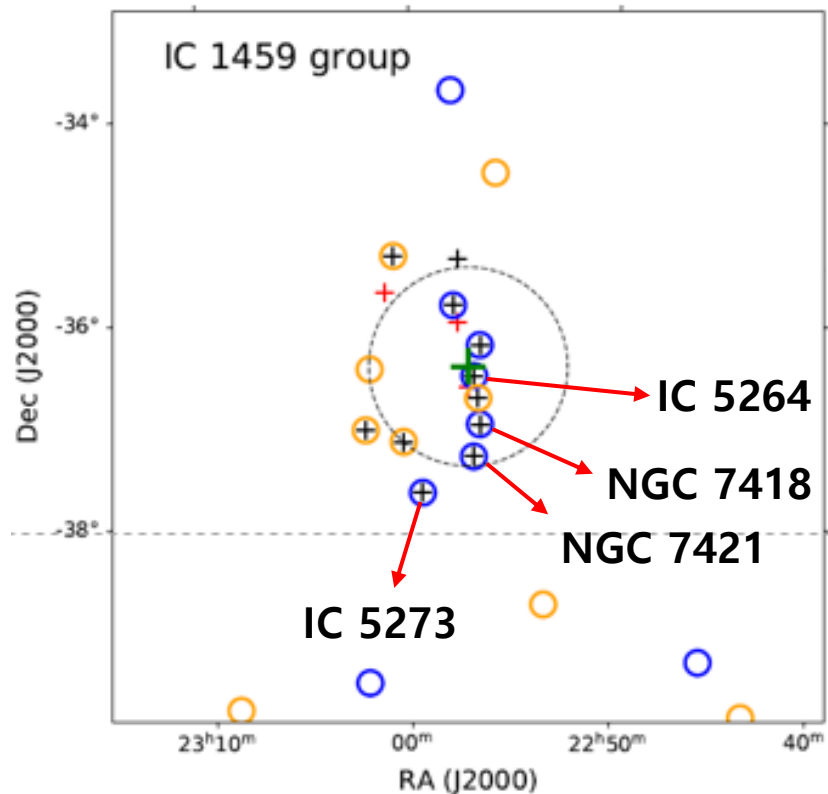
# Asymmetric HI & CO distributions



Both CO & HI distributions are highly asymmetric.

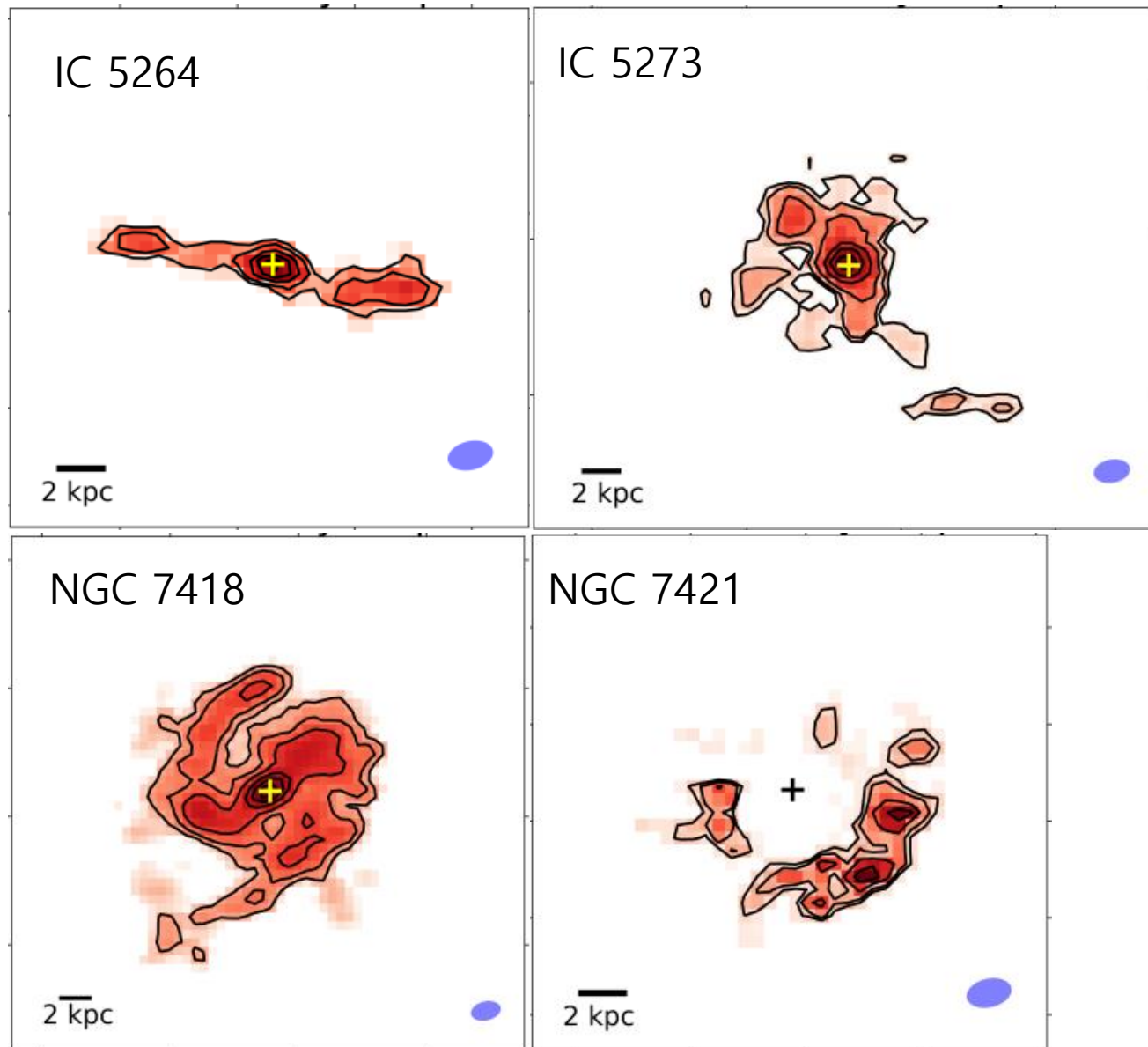


# Asymmetric HI & CO distributions

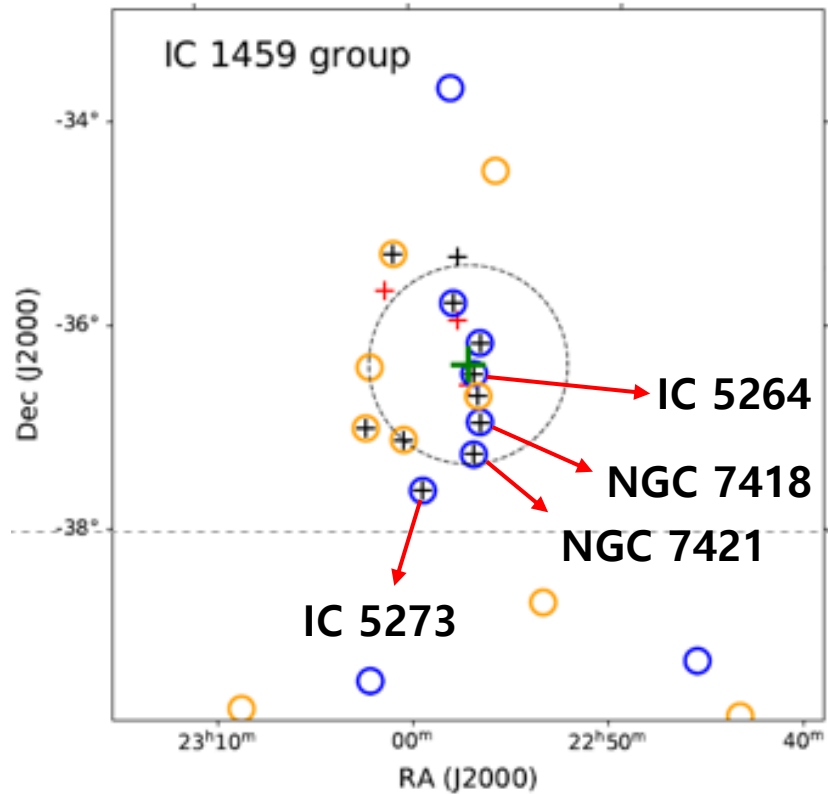


**Both CO & HI distributions are highly asymmetric.**

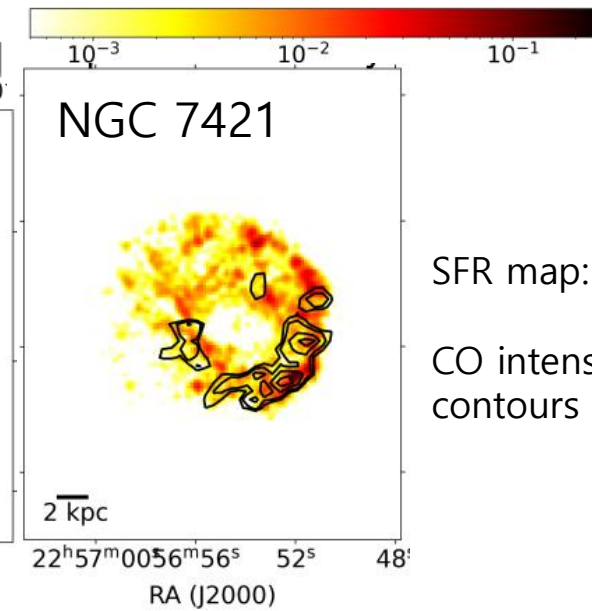
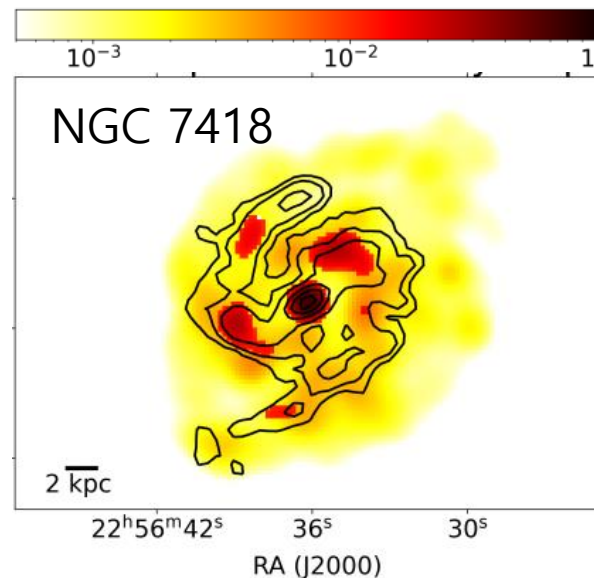
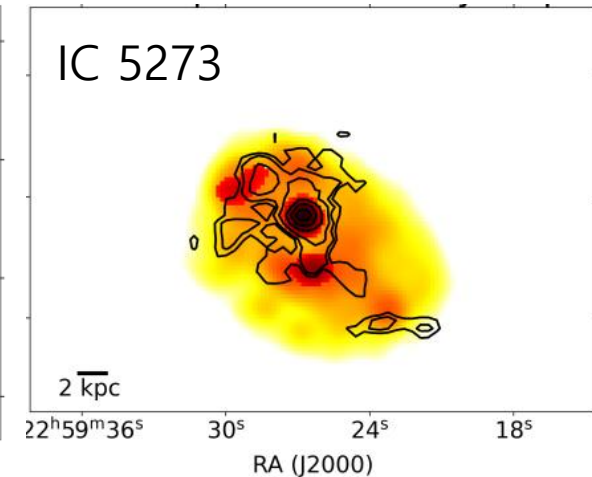
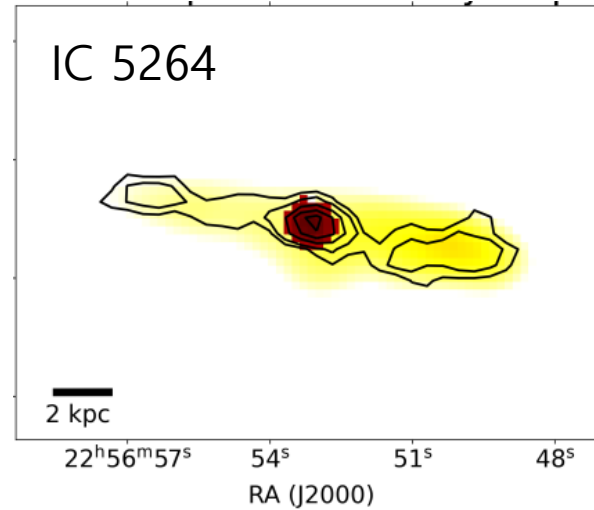
ACA CO intensity map



# Change of star formation activity

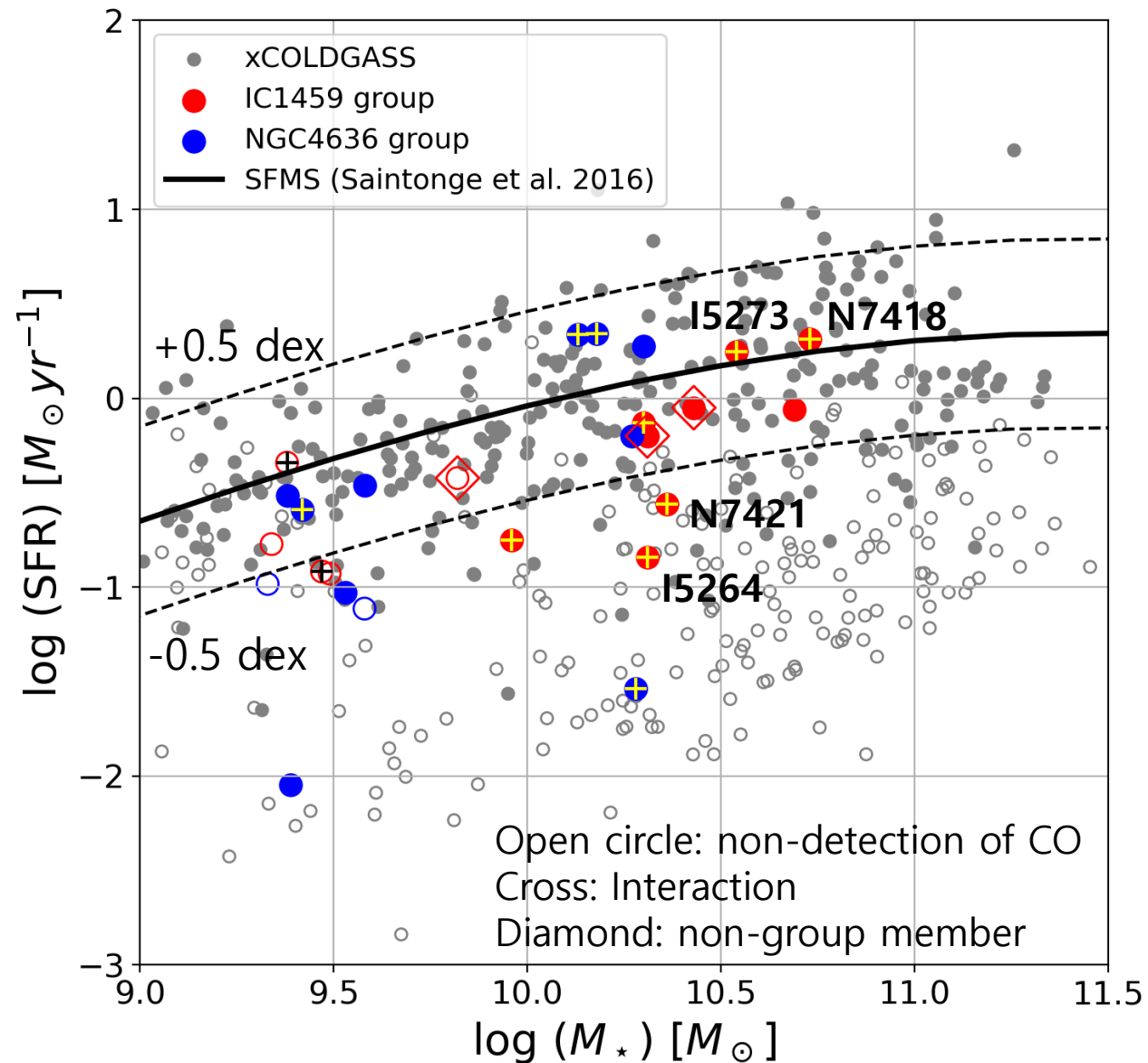


physical properties (cold gas & star formation) of group galaxies are affected by group environmental processes (e.g., tidal interaction)



SFR map: color scale  
CO intensity map: contours

# Global properties of group galaxies



23 group members  
+ 3 non-group members

**10 out of 23 galaxies (~43%):  
lower star formation rate at given stellar  
mass  $\rightarrow$  group environmental effects?**

- ✓ IC 5273, NGC 7418: star-forming galaxies
- ✓ 2) NGC7421, IC5264: suppression of star formation

# *Summary*

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- ✓ 12CO observations for 40 group galaxies using the ACA → 19 group galaxies have CO detection.
- ✓ Group galaxies show **asymmetric ISM (CO & HI) and SFR distributions**.
- ✓ Half of group sample have **lower star formation rate**.
- ✓ Physical properties of group galaxies can be **affected by group environmental processes**.