# The role of gas kinematics in setting metallicity gradients at high redshift

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Accepted XXX. Received 2021 January 27; in original form 2021 January 27

#### ABSTRACT

In this work, we explore the diversity of ionised gas kinematics (rotational velocity  $v_{\phi}$  and velocity dispersion  $\sigma_{e}$ ) and gasphase metallicity gradients at  $0.1 \le z \le 2.5$  using a compiled data set of 74 galaxies resolved with ground-based integral field spectroscopy. We find that galaxies with the highest and the lowest  $\sigma_{g}$  have preferentially flat metallicity gradients, whereas those with intermediate values of  $\sigma_g$  show a large scatter in the metallicity gradients. Additionally, steep negative gradients appear almost only in rotation-dominated galaxies ( $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g > 1$ ), whereas most dispersion-dominated galaxies show flat gradients. We use our recently developed analytic model of metallicity gradients to provide a physical explanation for these observed trends. In the case of high  $\sigma_g$ , the inward radial advection of gas dominates over metal production and causes efficient metal mixing, thus giving rise to flat gradients. For low  $\sigma_g$ , it is the cosmic accretion of metal-poor gas diluting the metallicity that gives rise to flat gradients. Finally, the reason for intermediate  $\sigma_g$  showing the steepest negative gradients is that both inward radial advection and cosmic accretion are weak as compared to metal production, which leads to the creation of steeper gradients. The larger scatter at intermediate  $\sigma_g$  may be due in part to preferential ejection of metals in galactic winds, which can decrease the strength of the production term. Our analysis shows that gas kinematics plays a critical role in setting metallicity gradients in high-redshift

**Key words:** galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: kinematics and dynamics – galaxies: ISM – galaxies: abundances – ISM: abundances - galaxies: evolution

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

Understanding the distribution of metals in galaxies is crucial to learn about galaxy formation and evolution. It is now well known that metals in both the gas and stars show a negative, radial gradient across the discs of most galaxies. Since the discovery of metallicity gradients in galactic discs (Aller 1942; Searle 1971; Shaver et al. 1983), several attempts have been made to put the measurements in context of galaxy evolution theory, as well as understand the physics driving the magnitude of the gradient by exploring trends with galaxy properties, such as mass, star formation rate (SFR), star formation efficiency, specific SFR, radial inflows, cosmic infall, etc. (see recent reviews by Maiolino & Mannucci 2019; Kewley et al. 2019a; Sanchez et al. 2020; Sánchez 2020; Förster Schreiber & Wuyts 2020). With the advent of large resolved spectroscopic surveys using integral field unit (IFU) spectroscopy we are now able to explore the relationship between metallicity gradients and galaxy kinematics (i.e., the rotational velocity  $v_{\phi}$  and the velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$ ). There are several reasons why we would expect such a correlation to exist. For example, turbulent mixing and transport, processes whose rates are expected to scale with  $\sigma_g$ , should be important processes that influence metallicity gradients (e.g., de Avillez & Mac Low 2002; Yang &

Krumholz 2012; Forbes et al. 2014; Petit et al. 2015; Armillotta et al. 2018; Krumholz & Ting 2018; Kreckel et al. 2020). Similarly, rates of cosmic infall that can dilute both the overall metallicity and its gradients should correlate strongly with halo mass, which is closely linked to  $v_{\phi}$  (e.g., Tully & Fisher 1977; McGaugh et al. 2000; Bell & de Jong 2001; Dekel et al. 2013; Faucher-Giguère et al. 2011). The production of metals is dictated by star formation in galaxies, and star formation feedback also impacts galaxy kinematics (e.g., Ostriker & Shetty 2011; Faucher-Giguère et al. 2013; Forbes et al. 2014; Kim & Ostriker 2015; Goldbaum et al. 2016; Krumholz et al. 2018). The amount of metals lost in outflows is also expected to scale inversely with  $v_{\phi}$  (Garnett 2002). Thus, there are several links between metallicity gradients and galaxy kinematics, and it is clear that these links likely generate a rather complex relationship between each other as well as other relevant mechanisms.

This connection is perhaps most readily explored at high redshift  $(z \le 2.5)$ , when galaxies show a more diverse range of metallicity gradients and kinematics than are found in the local Universe (Maiolino & Mannucci 2019; Förster Schreiber & Wuyts 2020; Tacconi et al. 2020). The last decade has seen immense progress in these areas, thanks to IFU spectroscopy instruments like MUSE (Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer, Bacon et al. 2010), KMOS (K-band Multi Object Spectrograph, Sharples et al. 2004), SINFONI (Spectrograph for INtegral Field Observations in the Near Infrared, Eisenhauer et al. 2003; Bonnet et al. 2004), FLAMES (Fibre Large Array Multi Element Spectrograph, Pasquini et al. 2002), GMOS (Gemini

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**Table 1.** Summary of the data adopted from different sources in the literature. Columns 1 - 3 list the different samples, instruments used to measure emission lines and the number of galaxies *N* that we use from each sample, respectively. Columns 4 - 5 list the range in redshift and stellar mass of the observed galaxies. Column 6 lists the spectral resolution for each instrument, and columns 7 and 8 list the PSF FWHM in arcsec and kpc, respectively. Finally, column 9 lists the references for each sample: (a.) Epinat et al. (2012), (b.) Queyrel et al. (2012), (c.) Sobral et al. (2013b), (d.) Stott et al. (2014), (e.) Swinbank et al. (2012), (f.) Carton et al. (2018), (g.) Förster Schreiber et al. (2018).

Sample (1)	Instrument (2)	N (3)	z (4)	$\frac{\log_{10} M_{\star}/\mathrm{M}_{\odot}}{(5)}$	<i>R</i> (6)	PSF FWHM (") (7)	PSF FWHM (kpc) (8)	Ref. (9)
MASSIV	SINFONI	19	0.9 – 1.6	9.4 - 11.0	2000 - 2640	0.3 - 1.0	2 – 7	a, b
HiZELS	KMOS	9	$\approx 0.81$	9.8 - 10.7	$\approx 3400$	$\sim 0.8$	~ 6	c, d
SHiZELS	SINFONI	6	0.8 - 2.2	9.4 - 11.0	$\approx 4500$	~ 0.1	0.7 - 0.8	e
MUSE-WIDE	MUSE	23	0.1 - 0.8	8.3 - 10.6	1650 - 3800	0.6 - 0.7	1 – 5	f
SINS/zC-SINF	SINFONI	17	1.4 - 2.4	10.1 - 11.5	2730 - 5090	0.1 - 0.3	~ 0.8	g

Multi Object Spectrograph, Davies et al. 1997), NIFS (Gemini Nearinfrared Integral Field Spectrograph, McGregor et al. 2003), and OSIRIS (OH-Suppressing InfraRed Imaging Spectrograph, Larkin et al. 2006).

Studies using these instruments have revealed that, while high-z galaxies show a diverse range of metallicity gradients, the average evolution of these gradients is rather shallow, almost non-existent (Curti et al. 2020, Figure 8). On the other hand, there is ample evidence for redshift evolution of galaxy kinematics. In particular,  $\sigma_g$  evolves with z implying that high-z discs are thicker and more turbulent (Kassin et al. 2012; Wisnioski et al. 2015, 2019; Simons et al. 2017; Übler et al. 2019). The mass-averaged rotational velocities are also expected to evolve with time (e.g., Dutton et al. 2011; Tiley et al. 2016; Straatman et al. 2017; Übler et al. 2017; Ma et al. 2017; Glowacki et al. 2020; see, however, Tiley et al. 2019a). However, links between kinematics and metallicity gradients at high redshift have been investigated by observations only in a handful of studies (Queyrel et al. 2012; Gillman et al. 2021), most of which were limited to gravitationally-lensed samples (Yuan et al. 2011; Jones et al. 2013; Leethochawalit et al. 2016), yielding no clear connections between the two. Some simulations have also started to explore joint evolution of metallicity gradients and kinematics (Ma et al. 2017; Hemler et al. 2020), but at present theoretical work is limited to empirical examination of simulations results. No models proposed to date have quantitatively discussed the observed correlations between metallicity gradients and gas kinematics.

In a companion paper (Sharda et al. 2021a), we presented a new model for the physics of gas phase metallicity gradients from first principles. We showed that our model successfully reproduces several trends of metallicity gradients with galaxy properties, for example, the observed cosmic evolution of metallicity gradients (Sharda et al. 2021a) and the mass-metallicity gradient relation (MZGR, Sharda et al. 2021b). The goal of this paper is to apply the model to existing observations of high-redshift galaxies to investigate the relationship between metallicity gradients and gas kinematics.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the data on metallicity gradients and galaxy kinematics that we compile from observations, Section 3 presents the resulting trends we find in the data, Section 4 presents a discussion on the comparison of the observational data with our theoretical model, and Section 5 lists our conclusions. For this work, we use the  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology with  $H_0 = 71 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1} \, Mpc^{-1}}$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.27$  and  $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73$ (Springel & Hernquist 2003). Further, we express  $Z = Z/Z_{\odot}$ , where  $Z_{\odot} = 0.0134$  (Asplund et al. 2009), and we use the Chabrier (2003) initial mass function (IMF).

#### 2 COMPILED DATA AND ANALYSIS

We compile a sample of 74 non-lensed high-z ( $0.1 \le z \le 2.5$ ) galaxies from the literature, studied with ground-based IFU instruments suitable for the measurement of metallicity gradients and gas kinematics. We only work with non-lensed galaxies because it is not yet clear if lens reconstructions accurately reproduce metallicity maps (Maiolino & Mannucci 2019, Section 6.7). However, we note that there is a similiar diversity of gradients from lensed galaxies (Wuyts et al. 2016; Leethochawalit et al. 2016), and including them does not change our results. We describe each of the samples we use in Section 2.1, and provide a summary in Table 1. Our database is inhomogeneous, because the sources we draw from have different sample selections, varying resolution, and use different techniques to obtain the metallicity gradients and kinematics. To alleviate some of the inhomogeneity, we reanalyse the kinematics using the same method for the full database, a process that we describe in Section 2.2. Additionally, where possible, we use a common metallicity diagnostic and calibration to estimate metallicity gradients. We list the database along with the reanalysed kinematics for all 74 galaxies in Appendix A.

We acknowledge that there are many challenges associated with measuring metallicity gradients and kinematics in IFU observations, particularly at high-z. Metallicity measurements in H II regions rely on accurately modeling the HII-region physics (e.g., Sutherland & Dopita 1993; Ferland et al. 1998; Hägele et al. 2008; Dopita et al. 2016; Peimbert et al. 2017; Kewley et al. 2019b; Cameron et al. 2021), and systematic variations in the physical parameters with redshift, if any (e.g., Kewley et al. 2013b; Shirazi et al. 2014; Onodera et al. 2016; Sanders et al. 2016; Kashino et al. 2017; Kaasinen et al. 2017; Strom et al. 2018; Davies et al. 2020), emission line diagnostics and calibrations (e.g., Pagel et al. 1979; Pettini & Pagel 2004; Maiolino et al. 2008; Kewley & Ellison 2008; Nicholls et al. 2017; Poetrodjojo et al. 2019, 2021; Schaefer et al. 2020; Teimoorinia et al. 2021), spatial and spectral resolution (Yuan et al. 2013; Mast et al. 2014; Carton et al. 2017; Poetrodjojo et al. 2018; Acharyya et al. 2020), contamination from shocks and active galactic nuclei (AGN, Kauffmann et al. 2003; Kewley et al. 2006, 2013a; Newman et al. 2014; D'Agostino et al. 2019), and contamination from the diffuse ionised gas (DIG) prevalent in star-forming galaxies (Otte et al. 2002; Zhang et al. 2017; Sanders et al. 2017; Vale Asari et al. 2019). Similarly, kinematic measurements rely on model assumptions, source blending, beam smearing, and spectral resolution limits (e.g., Davies et al. 2011; Di Teodoro & Fraternali 2015; Burkert et al. 2016; Rodrigues et al. 2017; Wisnioski et al. 2018; Simons et al. 2019; Varidel et al. 2019; Sharma et al. 2020). Thus, systematic errors originating from these physical and observational effects should be kept in mind in

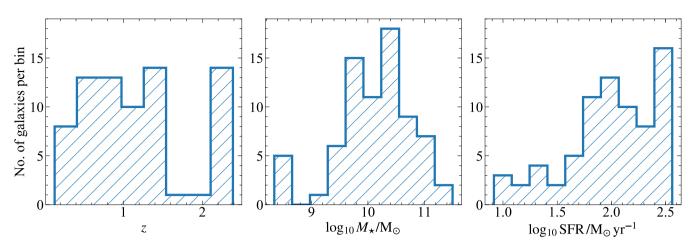


Figure 1. Distribution of galaxies at different redshifts (left), stellar mass (middle) and star formation rate (right) in the compiled sample used in this work.

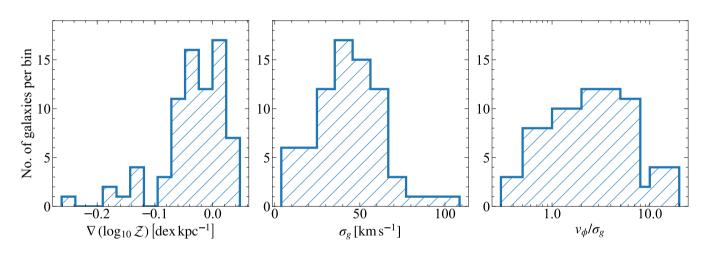


Figure 2. Same as Figure 1, but for the measured metallicity gradients (left), and reanalysed kinematics – velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$  (middle) and the ratio of rotational velocity to velocity dispersion  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  (right).

the context of our work. We note that some of these uncertainties are not captured in the quoted errors, which only account for uncertainties in the beam smearing, inclination, and instrumental resolution corrections.

# 2.1 Samples

(i) *MASSIV.* We use data from the Mass Assembly Survey with SINFONI in VIMOS VLT Deep Survey (MASSIV, Contini et al. 2012) of star-forming galaxies between 1 < z < 2. The kinematics and the metallicity gradients from this survey are described in Epinat et al. (2012) and Queyrel et al. (2012), respectively. The authors report on metallicity gradients using the [N II]/H $\alpha$  ratio following the Pérez-Montero & Contini (2009) calibration. In order to be consistent with the other samples described below, we re-calibrate the metallicities using the Pettini & Pagel (2004) calibration, and use them to obtain the gradients. We reanalyse the kinematics for this sample following the procedure described below in Section 2.2.

(ii) *HiZELS*. This sample consists of galaxies at  $z \sim 0.8$  that were observed through KMOS as part of the High-z Emission Line Survey (HiZELS, Sobral et al. 2009, 2013a). The kinematics for

these galaxies are reported in Sobral et al. (2013b) and the metallicity gradients in Stott et al. (2014). The metallicity gradients are measured with the [N II]/H $\alpha$  ratio using the Pettini & Pagel (2004) calibration.

(iii) *SHiZELS*. In addition to the *HiZELS* survey above, we also use observations from the SINFONI-HiZELS survey (SHiZELS, Swinbank et al. 2012) that report on metallicity gradients and kinematics of 8 galaxies in the redshift range 0.8 - 2.2. The gradients are measured with the [N II]/H $\alpha$  ratio using the Pettini & Pagel (2004) calibration.

(iv) *MUSE-WIDE*. We take measurements of metallicity gradients carried out by Carton et al. (2018) for galaxies at low redshift (0.08 < z < 0.84) using MUSE. The authors use a forward-modeling Bayesian approach to estimate the metallicity gradients (Carton et al. 2017) from nebular emission lines (for  $z \le 0.4$ , H $\beta$ , [O III], H $\alpha$ , and [S II], and for z > 0.4, [O II], H $\gamma$ , H $\beta$ , and [O III]). The kinematics for these galaxies are not available in the literature, so we obtain them by fitting publicly-available data (Herenz et al. 2017; Urrutia et al. 2019) using the emission line fitting code LZIFU (Ho et al. 2016). We describe this in detail in Section 2.2. We obtain the half-light radii for these galaxies from The Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared

Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey (CANDELS, van der Wel et al. 2012) and from 3D-HST photometry (Skelton et al. 2014).

(v) *SINS/zC-SINF*. Förster Schreiber et al. (2018) report SINFONI observations of metallicity gradients and kinematics in galaxies at  $z \sim 1.5 - 2.2$  from the *SINS/zC-SINF* survey, where the authors use the [N II]/H $\alpha$  ratio to quantify the metallicity gradient. In order to homogenise their sample with other samples above, we use their recommended conversion factor to scale the gradients to the calibration given by Pettini & Pagel (2004). The reported kinematics for this sample are already corrected for instrumental and beam smearing effects using the approach from Burkert et al. (2016) which we utilise for the other samples in Section 2.2.

All surveys also include information on the stellar mass  $M_{\star}$  (scaled to the Chabrier IMF where required) and the dust-corrected SFR from H $\alpha$ , except for the *SINS/zC-SINF* survey. To obtain dust-corrected SFR estimates for *SINS/zC-SINF*, we use the integrated H $\alpha$  fluxes reported by the authors, and scale them to find the dust-corrected H $\alpha$ luminosity following Calzetti (2001), and convert it to SFR based on the Chabrier (2003) IMF following Kennicutt & Evans (2012).

Figure 1 shows the distributions of redshift, stellar mass and SFR of galaxies in our compiled sample from the above surveys. The distribution in redshift is quite uniform, except around  $z \approx 1.7$ , where there is no available data due to atmospheric absorption. This implies that the data we use are not biased towards a particular redshift. It is also clear from Figure 1 that the observations consist primarily of more massive  $(M_{\star} > 10^{10} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}})$  galaxies; the few low-mass galaxies  $(M_{\star} \leq 10^{9.5} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}})$  that we are able to study belong to the *MUSE*-WIDE sample. The sample is somewhat biased to high star formation rates: 20 per cent of the galaxies in the compiled sample have SFRs  $> 3 \times$  the main sequence SFR for their mass and redshift (Whitaker et al. 2012). This bias is not surprising, given that large H $\alpha$  fluxes (corresponding to large SFRs) are typically necessary for spatiallyresolved measurements at high redshift. However, we emphasise that the sample is not dominated by merging or interacting galaxies: based on the classifications provided by the source papers from which we draw the sample, < 9 per cent of the galaxies are mergers or interactions. This means that our sample is not significantly affected by the flattening of gradients that typically occurs when galaxies merge (e.g., Rupke et al. 2010; Rich et al. 2012; Torres-Flores et al. 2014; Sillero et al. 2017).

#### 2.2 Kinematics

To obtain the global kinematics for each galaxy, rotational velocity  $v_{\phi}$  and characteristic velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$ , we use 1D velocity and dispersion curves extracted along the kinematic major axis following Wisnioski et al. (2019). Briefly, we measure the observed velocity by calculating the average of the absolute value of the minimum and maximum velocity measured along the kinematic axis and correcting for inclination. The measured velocity dispersion is calculated by taking the weighted mean of the outer data points of the 1D velocity dispersion profile. We adopt this non-parametric analysis to enable the use of galaxies with a variety of kinematic classifications. By not limiting the sample to the highest signal-to-noise disc galaxies we can investigate the metallicity gradients of galaxies with kinematic perturbations.

One dimensional kinematic extractions are directly provided for both the *HiZELS* and *SHiZELS* samples. For the *MUSE-WIDE* and *MASSIVE* samples the 1D kinematic profiles need to be measured. We use the datacubes for *MASSIV* (B. Epinat, private communication) and *MUSE-WIDE* (Herenz et al. 2017; Urrutia et al. 2019) samples to derive these. We fit the data with the emission line diagnostic package LZIFU (Ho et al. 2016). LZIFU runs spectral decomposition on IFU datacubes to produce 2D emission line and kinematic maps based on the Levenberg-Marquardt least squares method.

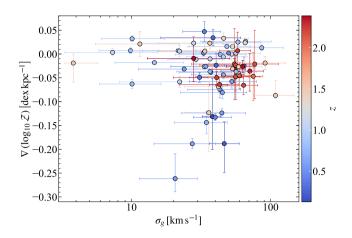
We first produce emission line and kinematic maps for the entire galaxy by passing the complete datacube to LZIFU. We supply an external continuum map to LZIFU that we create by finding the median flux for every spatial pixel (spaxel; e.g., MUSE-WIDE) or where the signal-to-noise of the continuum is negligible we simply supply a null external continuum map for the galaxies (e.g., MASSIV). We use the resulting flux and moment-1 maps from the fit to locate the galaxy centre and the kinematic major axis, respectively. Once the kinematic major axis and the galaxy centre are determined, we create apertures with the size of the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the PSF across the major axis. We sum the flux in each spaxel within these apertures along the major axis. This gives a spatially-summed spectrum for every aperture, thus increasing the signal to noise ratio. We then fit the aperture spectra with LZIFU, which returns a single value of  $v_{\phi}(r)$  and  $\sigma_{g}(r)$  for every aperture that we use to create 1D radial curves.

After we derive the global velocities and dispersions from the 1D radial curves for all galaxies in the MASSIV, HiZELS, SHiZELS and MUSE-WIDE samples, we apply inclination, instrumental resolution, and beam smearing corrections on them. To correct for inclination, we simply divide the observed velocities by sin(i), where i is the inclination angle. We use the inclinations reported in the source papers for this purpose. Following Wisnioski et al. (2015), we add a 30 per cent uncertainty in quadrature to  $\sigma_g$  if it is comparable to the instrumental resolution; if  $\sigma_g$  is less than the instrumental resolution, we add a 60 per cent uncertainty in quadrature. To correct for beam smearing, we follow Burkert et al. (2016, Appendix A2), as done by Förster Schreiber et al. (2018, N. Förster-Schreiber, private communication). We note that this model makes the assumption that the galaxy kinematics are well described by a simple disc model. This may not apply to all galaxies in our sample providing an overcorrection for the beam. The model assumes a Gaussian PSF and returns the beam-smearing correction factor based on the ratio of the stellar effective half-light radius to the beam effective half-light radius  $(r_e/r_{e,b})^1$ , and the ratio of the radius where the rotational velocity is calculated to the galactic effective half-light radius  $(r_{\rm vel}/r_{\rm e})$ . While it is straightforward to use these ratios to calculate the beamsmearing correction factor for  $v_{\phi}$ , those for  $\sigma_g$  also depend on the mass, inclination, and redshift of the source. We incorporate a 40 per cent error in  $\sigma_g$  to account for uncertainties in the beam smearing correction model (Wisnioski et al. 2018, Section 3.3), however it is possible that we may overestimate or underestimate the correction factor in certain cases. We present the resulting kinematics for all galaxies in Appendix A, and illustrate the reanalysis procedure through a representative galaxy in the compilation in Appendix B.

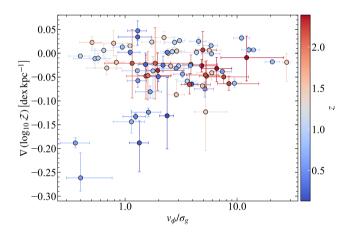
#### 2.3 Final sample

We do not include all the galaxies that are available in the compiled surveys. We only select galaxies where the ratio of the radius at which  $v_{\phi}$  is measured ( $r_{vel}$ ) to the half-light radius,  $r_{e}$ , is greater than unity, as the beam-smearing correction model for  $v_{\phi}$  requires  $r_{vel} > r_{e}$ . We also remove galaxies that only contain 3 or fewer resolution

<sup>1</sup> The measurements of the half-light radius for the different samples are based on broadband photometry using different bands, however it has a negligible effect on the beam smearing correction factor (Nelson et al. 2016).



**Figure 3.** Metallicity gradients in the compiled sample of high-redshift galaxies plotted as a function of velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$ , color-coded by redshift. We use the same method to derive the kinematics of all galaxies in our sample (see Section 2.2 for details). The quoted errorbars include uncertainties due to inclination, instrumental resolution, and beam smearing (Wisnioski et al. 2015, 2018; Burkert et al. 2016).



**Figure 4.** Same data as Figure 3, but plotted against the ratio of rotational velocity to velocity dispersion,  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ . Galaxies with  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \ge 1$  are classified as rotation-dominated (and typically have a well-defined disc) whereas others are classified as dispersion-dominated (and typically have irregular structures).

elements in our kinematic reanalysis, because we cannot derive a reasonable value for  $v_{\phi}$  and  $\sigma_g$  in such cases. Further, we note that all the samples above exclude galaxies that contain contamination from active galactic nuclei (AGN), as diagnosed using the criteria described in Kewley et al. (2001, 2006) based on the Baldwin et al. (1981, BPT) diagram. The exception to this statement is the *SINS/zC-SINF* sample, where the corresponding authors explicitly remove the contamination in gradients due to AGN for some of their galaxies. Finally, our sample consists of 74 galaxies with measured metallicity gradient and gas kinematics.

# **3 RESULTS**

Figure 2 shows the distributions of the metallicity gradients, and the resulting homogenised kinematics for all galaxies in the compiled

data set. Our compilation recovers the diversity of gradients seen in the literature (by design) as well as the diversity of kinematics. This diversity is crucial for us to explore the correlations between galaxy kinematics and metallicity gradients, and is the primary driver of our work. We do not preferentially select disc galaxies however samples are likely to consist of primarily disc dominated galaxies due to the high fraction of discs at these epochs (Wisnioski et al. 2015, 2019; Stott et al. 2016; Simons et al. 2017). Another indicator of the galaxy kinematics is the ratio of the rotational velocity to the velocity dispersion,  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  (e.g., Förster Schreiber et al. 2009, 2018; Burkert et al. 2010; Kassin et al. 2014; Wisnioski et al. 2015, 2018, 2019; Jones et al. 2015; Simons et al. 2019), which is used to determine the rotational support of galaxies. We find from Figure 2 that while most galaxies in the sample are rotation-dominated (i.e.,  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \gtrsim 1$ ), around 18 per cent of the galaxies are dispersiondominated  $(v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \leq 1)$ .

Figure 3 shows the measured metallicity gradients as a function of the reanalysed velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$ , color-coded by redshift. We observe that all galaxies in the sample with both high  $(\sigma_g \gtrsim 60 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}})$  and low  $(\sigma_g \lesssim 30 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}})$  show shallow or flat metallicity gradients, though we caution that the small velocity dispersions suffer significant uncertainties, as discussed in Section 2. By contrast, galaxies with intermediate  $\sigma_g (30 - 60 \text{ km s}^{-1})$  show both the steepest gradients and the largest scatter in gradients. We find only one galaxy with a steep gradient and high  $\sigma_g$ . Figure 4 shows the same data as in Figure 3, but as a function of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ , thereby separating galaxies that are rotation-dominated from those that are dispersion-dominated. The main conclusion that we can draw from Figure 4 is that all dispersion-dominated galaxies possess shallow or flat gradients, whereas rotation-dominated galaxies show a large scatter, and can have flat as well as steep gradients. The exception to this is a couple of dispersion-dominated galaxies at z < 1 in the MUSE-WIDE sample that exhibit steep gradients. We also find from Figure 4 that the scatter in gradients narrows down as  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ increases.

Recent cosmological simulations like FIRE (Hopkins et al. 2014, 2018) and IllustrisTNG50 (Pillepich et al. 2018) have also explored the connection between metallicity gradients and kinematics, particularly focusing on the relation between gradients and  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ . One of the key results of both these simulations is that negative metallicity gradients only form in galaxies with  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g > 1$  (*i.e.*, rotation-dominated systems), however, many such galaxies also show shallow gradients (Ma et al. 2017; Hemler et al. 2020). These simulations also find that dispersion-dominated galaxies always show shallow/flat gradients, consistent with mixing due to efficient feedback. However, some simulations may require more powerful radial mixing or feedback to match both kinematics and gradients (Gibson et al. 2013). We see from Figure 3 and Figure 4 that these findings are consistent with the data analysed here, with only a couple of dispersion-dominated outliers that show steep metallicity gradients.

# 4 COMPARISON WITH ANALYTIC MODEL FOR METALLICITY GRADIENTS

In order to better understand the underlying physics that drives the diversity of metallicity gradients found in high-redshift galaxies, we compare the observations with the analytic metallicity gradient model we presented in Sharda et al. (2021a). Our model predicts the radial distribution of gas phase metallicities based on the equilibrium between production, consumption, loss and transport of metals in galaxies. It is a standalone metallicity model, but requires inputs

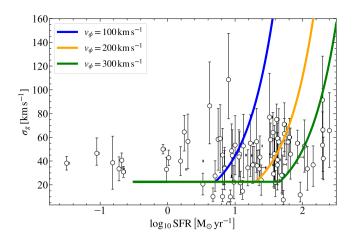


Figure 5. Velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$  as a function of the SFR in our compiled sample of galaxies. The trend between the two is in very good agreement with the predictions of the galaxy evolution model (Krumholz et al. 2018) used as an input into our metallicity gradient model (Sharda et al. 2021a) discussed in Section 4.

from a galaxy evolution model to describe the properties of the gas – velocity dispersion, surface densities of gas and star formation, etc. – to solve for the metallicity. We use the galactic disc model of Krumholz et al. (2018) for this purpose, since we showed in previous works that using this model allows us to successfully reproduce the observed trend of metallicity gradient with redshift (Sharda et al. 2021a), as well as the mass–metallicity and mass–metallicity gradient relations (MZR and MZGR) found in local galaxies (Sharda et al. 2021b).

#### 4.1 Model description

In our model, the metallicity distribution profile in the galactic disc depends on four dimensionless ratios (equations 13, 37 - 40 in Sharda et al. 2021a),

$$\mathcal{T} \propto \left(\frac{v\phi}{\sigma_g}\right)^2$$
 [metal equilibrium], (1)

$$\mathcal{P} \propto \left(1 - \frac{\sigma_{\rm sf}}{\sigma_g}\right)$$
 [metal advection], (2)

$$S \propto \phi_y \left(\frac{v_\phi}{\sigma_g}\right)^2$$
 [metal production], (3)

$$\mathcal{A} \propto \frac{1}{\sigma_g^3} \text{ [cosmic accretion]},$$
 (4)

where we have only retained the dependencies on  $v_{\phi}$  and  $\sigma_g$  for the purposes of the present study. Here,  $\mathcal{T}$  is the ratio of the orbital to diffusion timescales, which describes the time it takes for a given metallicity distribution to reach equilibrium,  $\mathcal{P}$  is the Péclet number of the galaxy (e.g., Patankar 1980), which describes the ratio of advection to diffusion of metals in the disc, S is the source term, which describes the ratio of metal production (including loss of metals in outflows) and diffusion, and  $\mathcal{A}$  is the ratio of cosmic accretion (infall) to diffusion. Finally,  $\sigma_{sf}$  denotes the velocity dispersion that can be maintained by star formation feedback alone, with no additional energy input from transport of gas through the disc (Krumholz et al. 2018). Note that the model can only be applied in cases where the metal equilibration time (dictated by  $\mathcal{T}$ ) is shorter than the Hubble time and shorter than or comparable to the molecular gas depletion time. If these conditions are not met, the metallicity distribution does not reach equilibrium within the galaxy. We showed in Sharda et al. (2021a, Section 5) that inverted gradients may or may not be in equilibrium, so for this work we do not apply our model to study such gradients.

The parameter  $\phi_y$  that appears in S describes the reduced yield of metals in the disc due to preferential metal ejection through galactic outflows:  $\phi_y = 1$  corresponds to metals being thoroughly-mixed into the interstellar medium (ISM) before ejection, whereas  $\phi_y = 0$  means that all the newly-produced metals are directly ejected before they can mix into the ISM. In line with previous works, we leave  $\phi_y$  as a free parameter in the model. However, we showed in Sharda et al. (2021b) that our model reproduces both the local MZR and the MZGR only if  $\phi_y$  increases with  $M_{\star}$ : low-mass galaxies prefer a lower  $\phi_y$ , and vice-versa.

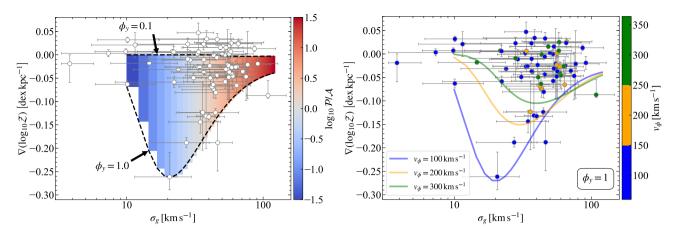
To demonstrate that our input galaxy evolution model accurately reproduces the kinematics, we show the correlation between  $\sigma_g$  and SFR in the compiled data in Figure 5, overplotted with the Krumholz et al. model evaluated for a range of  $v_{\phi}$  values that match the range covered by our data. For all other parameters in the model, we adopt the "high-*z*" parameter set given in Krumholz et al.'s Table 3. We see that the Krumholz et al. model can successfully explain the observed correlation between  $\sigma_g$  and SFR (see also, Johnson et al. 2018; Yu et al. 2019; Übler et al. 2019; Varidel et al. 2020; Girard et al. 2021).

# 4.2 Model application

To produce metallicity gradients from the model, we select a value of  $v_{\phi}$  and  $\sigma_g$ , and fix all other parameters in the model to those appropriate for high-z galaxies (Sharda et al. 2021a, Tables 1 and 2) at z = 2, noting that the qualitative predictions of the model do not vary if we select a different value of z. We find the spatial distribution of metallicity, Z(r), within  $0.5 - 2.0 r_e$  using equation 41 of Sharda et al. (2021a), which we then linearly fit in logarithmic space to obtain a metallicity gradient in dex kpc<sup>-1</sup> from the model (e.g., Carton et al. 2018). We use this range in r because it is well matched to the observations  $(r_{vel}/r_e \approx 2)$  and the input galaxy model does not apply to the innermost regions of the galaxy. While the choice of most of the parameters used as inputs into the metallicity model have no appreciable effect on the results, some (e.g., the Toomre Q parameter, and the circumgalactic medium metallicity  $\mathcal{Z}_{CGM}$ ) have modest effects. However, the overall impact of these parameters on the resulting metallicity gradients is limited compared to the dependence on  $\phi_{y}$ , so in the following we focus on studying the effects of changing  $\phi_{v}$ .

#### 4.2.1 Metallicity gradient versus $\sigma_g$

The left-hand panel of Figure 6 shows the same observational data as in Figure 3, now with our model as computed for a fixed  $v_{\phi} = 105 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (the median  $v_{\phi}$  in the data). Since  $\phi_y$  is a free parameter, we obtain a range of model predictions at every  $\sigma_g$ ; the range shown in the plot corresponds to varying  $\phi_y$  between 0.1 and 1, as represented by the arrows on Figure 6. We color-code bars within this range by the ratio  $\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{A}$ , which describes the relative importance of advection and accretion of metal-poor gas. A key conclusion that can be drawn from this model–data comparison is that the model predicts flat metallicity gradients in galaxies with high  $\sigma_g$ , irrespective of  $\phi_y$ , in good agreement with the observational data. The model generates a uniform metallicity distribution across the disc (*i.e.*, a flat/shallow



**Figure 6.** Left panel: Same data as Figure 3, but overplotted with one of the Sharda et al. (2021a) models. The model is for a high-redshift galaxy at fixed  $v_{\phi} = 105 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and z = 2. The spread in the model (represented by the colored bands) is a result of the yield reduction factor  $\phi_y$ , which describes the preferential ejection of metals through galactic winds. Here we show models with  $\phi_y = 0.1-1$ , where the top and bottom dashed lines corresponds to  $\phi_y = 0.1$  and 1.0, respectively. The colorbar denotes the ratio of advection of gas ( $\mathcal{P}$ ) to cosmic accretion of metal-poor gas ( $\mathcal{A}$ ). The steepest gradients produced by the model correspond to a transition from the accretion-dominated to the advection-dominated regime, as  $\sigma_g$  increases. *Right panel:* Same as the left panel, but with different models (corresponding to different  $v_{\phi}$ ) at z = 2. Only the  $\phi_y = 1$  model is shown here; thus, the model curves represent the most negative gradients produced by the model for a given set of parameters. The data are also binned around the model  $v_{\phi}$  as shown through the colorbar.

gradient) as a result of efficient radial transport of the gas. The model does not produce any steep negative (<  $-0.1 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$ ) metallicity gradients at high  $\sigma_g$  (> 60 km s<sup>-1</sup>), consistent with both data and simulations.

The largest diversity in metallicity gradients in the model occurs at  $\sigma_g \approx 20-40 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$ , where galaxies transition from being accretiondominated (blue,  $\mathcal{P} < \mathcal{A}$ ) to being advection-dominated (red,  $\mathcal{P} >$  $\mathcal{A}$ ). This transition in the ratio  $\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{A}$  and the corresponding scatter in the steepness of the metallicity gradients are key results of the model. Moreover, the transition in  $\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{A}$  from high to low values mirrors the transition seen in  $\sigma_{\varrho}$  from gravity-driven to star formation feedbackdriven turbulence (Krumholz et al. 2018). The region around the transition is where both advection ( $\mathcal{P}$ ) and accretion ( $\mathcal{A}$ ) are weaker as compared to metal production (S), resulting in steep metallicity gradients, since star formation and thus metal production are centrally peaked (Krumholz et al. 2018)<sup>2</sup>. The scatter near the transition arises due to the yield reduction factor  $\phi_y$ , which can decrease the strength of S as compared to  $\mathcal{P}$  or  $\mathcal{A}$  because  $\mathcal{S} \propto \phi_{v}$ . Lastly, we note that while metal diffusion is an important process that can also flatten the gradient, it never simultaneously dominates advection and cosmic accretion, since both  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  are never less than unity at the same time.

The model is consistent with the very few data points at low  $\sigma_g$ , which show shallow/flat metallicity gradients. In the model, the flattening at the low- $\sigma_g$  end is caused by accretion of metal-poor gas, following a  $1/r^2$  profile, that dilutes the metallicity primarily in the central regions. Given the scarcity of data at low  $\sigma_g$ , as well as significant observational uncertainties, it is unclear whether the trend seen in the model is also present in the data. Future instruments with higher sensitivity and spectral and spatial resolution (e.g., GMTIFS, HARMONI, MAVIS, ERIS, SPICA) will be able to measure low  $\sigma_g$  in high-redshift galaxies with higher precision (Thatte et al. 2014;

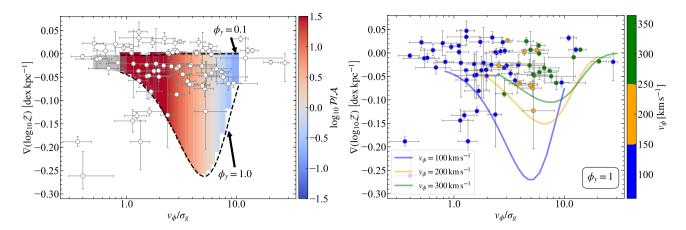
Fernández-Ontiveros et al. 2017; Davies et al. 2018; Richardson et al. 2020; McDermid et al. 2020; Ellis et al. 2020), expanding the currently available sample by a considerable margin.

In the right-hand panel of Figure 6, we now fix  $\phi_{v} = 1$  (implying no preferential metal ejection in winds), and look at the model differences for different values of  $v_{\phi}$ . Note that  $v_{\phi}$  is a proxy for stellar mass, as higher  $v_{\phi}$  typically corresponds to massive galaxies in the compiled sample. The data are the same as in the left-hand panel of Figure 6, but now binned and color-coded by the measured  $v_{\phi}$ . Thus, the model curves represent the steepest metallicity gradients that we can obtain for the given set of galaxy parameters. It is clear that low  $v_{\phi}$  (low mass) galaxies show more scatter in the model gradients as compared to high  $v_{\phi}$  (massive) galaxies, consistent with observations (Carton et al. 2018; Simons et al. 2020). As  $v_{\phi}$  increases, the point of inflection (or, the point of steepest gradients) shifts toward higher  $\sigma_g$  and toward shallower metallicity gradients. Additionally, for sufficiently high  $\sigma_g$ , models with different  $v_{\phi}$  converge towards a lower bound for metallicity gradients, implying that the flatness of metallicity gradients at high  $\sigma_g$  is independent of the galaxy mass (see, however, Section 4.2.3). When the data are binned in  $v_{\phi}$ , they are broadly consistent with the model. Thus, the model suggests a lower limit in metallicity gradients at high velocity dispersions consistent with the compiled data.

# 4.2.2 Metallicity gradient versus $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$

The ratio of rotation to velocity dispersion provides a quantification of the overall rotational support of a galaxy. The left-hand panel of Figure 7 shows the metallicity gradients as a function of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  in the data, overplotted with the analytic model for fixed  $v_{\phi} = 105 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The parameter space of the model denotes variations in  $\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{A}$ , the same as that shown in Figure 6. We first find a steepening of the gradient in the model as  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  increases from < 1 to ~ 10, after which the gradients begin to flatten again for  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \gtrsim 10$ . We can again understand this trend in terms of  $\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{A}$ : values of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \gtrsim$ 10 typically correspond to massive galaxies, within which strong centrally peaked accretion (large  $\mathcal{A}$ ) flattens the gradients. Galaxies with  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g \lesssim 1$  have flat gradients due to strong advection of gas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note that the input cosmic accretion profile in the model is also centrally peaked, similar to the SFR profile. However, as we show in (Sharda et al. 2021a, Appendix A), changing the form of the input accretion profile has only modest effects on the resulting metallicity gradients: less centrally-peaked accretion profiles give rise to slightly steeper gradients.



**Figure 7.** Left panel: Same data as in Figure 4, and model as in Figure 6 (left panel), but now plotted as a function of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ . The grey-shaded area corresponds to the predictions of the model for  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g < 1$ , where the assumption of a disc-like structure likely breaks down, hence the galaxy disc model (Krumholz et al. 2018) used as an input to the metallicity model (Sharda et al. 2021a) may not be fully applicable. *Right panel:* Same as Figure 6 (right panel), but with metallicity gradients plotted as a function of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ .

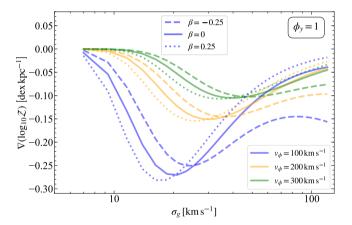
through the disc (large  $\mathcal{P}$ ) mixing and therefore homogenising the metal distribution throughout the disc. In the intermediate range of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ , the gradients are the steepest because the production term S dominates over both  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ .

The location of the turnover is sensitive to the value of  $v_{\phi}$ , as we show in the right-hand panel of Figure 7. This figure is similar to the right-hand panel of Figure 6, but we now show metallicity gradients as a function of  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  for different values of  $v_{\phi}$ . We see that as  $v_{\phi}$  increases, the parameter space of the model shifts to flatter gradients and higher  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_{g}$ . These shifts in the inflection point where galaxies transition from the advection-dominated to the accretion-dominated regime imply that massive galaxies have higher  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$  and shallower gradients as compared to low-mass galaxies. The bounds provided by the model in terms of the most negative gradient it can produce (represented by  $\phi_y = 1$ ) are consistent with the majority of the data, with the exception of some outliers at low  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_g$ , most of which have  $v_{\phi}$  less than the lowest model  $v_{\phi}$  we show in Figure 7. Thus, the model reproduces the observed correlations (and scatter) between metallicity gradients and  $v_{\phi}/\sigma_{g}$ , and provides a physical explanation for them. Additional data, particularly at high mass  $(M_{\star} \sim 10^{10.5} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}})$  and low redshift (0 < z < 1) would provide further constraints on the model (e.g., Foster et al. 2020).

#### 4.2.3 Metallicity gradient versus rotation curve index

So far, we have only considered applications of the model that assume a flat rotation curve,  $\beta = 0$ , for all galaxies, where  $\beta \equiv d \ln v_{\phi}/d \ln r$ is the index of the rotation curve. However, at high redshift when galaxies are more compact, the visible baryons are more likely to be a in a baryon-dominated regime, which can give rise to non-flat rotation curves such that  $\beta \neq 0$ . Recent observations suggest that the inner regions of several high-*z* galaxies are baryon dominated (Genzel et al. 2017, 2020; Lang et al. 2017; Teklu et al. 2018; see, however, Tiley et al. 2019b), such that  $\beta < 0$ . Keeping these findings in mind, we now explore the effects of varying  $\beta$  on the metallicity gradients produced by our model.

In the context of our model, the rotation curve has several effects. First, the model is based on the premise that Toomre  $Q \approx 1$ , and Q depends on the epicyclic frequency and thus on  $\beta$  – changing  $\beta$  therefore changes the relationship between the gas surface density and the velocity dispersion; this manifests as a change in the source



**Figure 8.** Metallicity gradients from the model for different values of  $v_{\phi}$  and the rotation curve index  $\beta$  at fixed z = 2. The curves are only plotted for the highest possible yield reduction factor  $\phi_y = 1$ , thus providing a limit on the most negative metallicity gradient the model can produce given a set of input parameters. The main takeaway from this plot is that high-*z* galaxies that are very turbulent (high  $\sigma_g$ ) but show falling rotation curves ( $\beta < 0$ ) can still maintain a steep metallicity gradient in equilibrium.

term S, which depends on the star formation rate and thus on the gas content. Second, the rotation curve index changes the amount of energy released by inward radial flows, which alters the inflow rate required to maintain energy balance; this manifests as a change in  $\mathcal{P}^{.3}$  From Sharda et al. (2021a, equations 38 and 39), we find that  $\mathcal{P} \propto (1+\beta)/(1-\beta)$  and  $S \propto (1+\beta)$ . Thus,  $\beta < 0$  reduces both S and  $\mathcal{P}$ , weakening metal production and advection in comparison to cosmological accretion and diffusion.

Figure 8 shows the same model curves as in Figure 6, but with three different rotation curve indices,  $\beta = -0.25$ , 0, and 0.25. For the sake of clarity, we do not overplot the observational data in this figure. While changing  $\beta$  does not significantly change the range of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Both of these effects also alter the equilibration timescale, and thus  $\mathcal{T}$ , but by little enough that our finding that all the galaxies under consideration are in equilibrium is unaffected. We therefore do not discuss  $\mathcal{T}$  further.

metallicity gradients produced by the model for large  $v_{\phi}$  (*i.e.*, more massive galaxies), it has some effect for galaxies with smaller  $v_{\phi}$ . If  $\beta < 0$ , the model allows for steeper gradients (by a factor of 3) for low-mass galaxies with high  $\sigma_g$ . This is because as compared to the default  $\beta = 0$ , the Péclet number  $\mathcal{P}$  decreases by a larger factor than the source term S when  $\beta < 0$  (Sharda et al. 2021a, equations 38 and 39). Thus, S dominates, giving rise to steeper gradients. On the other hand,  $\mathcal{P}$  increases by a larger factor than S for  $\beta > 0$  as compared to the default  $\beta = 0$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{P}$  dominates, giving rise to flatter gradients. This analysis tells us that high-z galaxies with high levels of turbulence and falling rotation curves ( $\beta < 0$ ) can still maintain a steep metallicity gradient due to the decreased strength of advection as compared to metal production.

With respect to  $\beta$ , a detailed comparison of the model with observational data is beyond the scope of the present study. Future observations will provide further constraints to the model parameters such as varying  $\beta$  and Q.

# **5 CONCLUSIONS**

In this work, we explore the relationship between gas kinematics (rotational velocity  $v_{\phi}$  and velocity dispersion  $\sigma_g$ ) and gas phase metallicity gradients in star-forming galaxies at  $0.1 \le z \le 2.5$  using a compilation of 74 galaxies across 5 ground based IFU spectroscopy samples, and our new analytic model (Sharda et al. 2021a). To partially alleviate the inhomogeneities in the compiled data that used diverse instruments and techniques, we reanalyse the kinematics for all galaxies following Förster Schreiber et al. (2018). All the samples (except for one) use the [N II]/H $\alpha$  ratio and the Pettini & Pagel (2004) calibration to obtain the metallicity gradients.

We find that high-redshift galaxies that are highly turbulent  $(\sigma_g > 60 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}})$  show shallow or flat gradients, whereas galaxies with intermediate levels of turbulence  $(\sigma_g = 30 - 60 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}})$  show comparatively the largest scatter in their measured metallicity gradients. Finally, galaxies with the lowest  $\sigma_g$  (< 30 km s<sup>-1</sup>) show flat gradients, although the small number of low- $\sigma_g$  galaxies in our sample renders this conclusion tentative. Our findings are consistent with the predictions made by simulations of galaxy formation (FIRE and IllustrisTNG50), which find that steep negative metallicity gradients only occur in galaxies that are rotation-dominated  $(v_{\phi}/\sigma_g > 1)$ , whereas all dispersion-dominated galaxies show relatively flat gradients (Ma et al. 2017; Hemler et al. 2020).

We compare the data against predictions from our recently developed model of gas phase metallicity gradients in galaxies (Sharda et al. 2021a) to provide a physical explanation for the observed trends. We find that the model can successfully reproduce the observed, nonlinear relationship between metallicity gradients and gas kinematics. Strong inward advection of gas leads to efficient metal mixing when the gas velocity dispersion is high. This mixing results in flatter gradients. However, the relationship between velocity dispersion and inward advection rate also depends on the index of the galaxy rotation curve - galaxies with falling rotation curves can maintain high velocity dispersion with relatively lower inflow rates, and thus can retain steeper metal gradients than their counterparts with flat or rising rotation curves. In contrast, the flat gradients seen with low gas velocity dispersion are due to stronger cosmic accretion of metal-poor gas which dilutes the central regions of galaxies. In these cases of high and low gas velocity dispersion, advection and accretion respectively dominate over metal production which is otherwise responsible for creating negative gradients which follow the star formation profile.

The steepest gradients as well as the largest scatter in the gradients

in the model are found for intermediate velocity dispersions where both the inward advection of gas and cosmic accretion of metal-poor gas are weak compared to metal production. The scatter at intermediate velocity dispersions may arise from galaxy-to-galaxy variations in the preferential ejection of metals through galactic winds before they mix with the ISM: the most negative metallicity gradients arise in galaxies where metals mix efficiently with the ISM before ejection, while flatter gradients occur in galaxies where a substantial fraction of supernova-produced metals are ejected directly into galactic winds before mixing with the ISM. However, we note the large number of observational uncertainties which may also dominate this scatter. We also find that while metal diffusion is also an important process that contributes to flattening the metallicity gradients, it never simultaneously dominates inward advection and cosmic accretion.

Thus, we find that our metallicity evolution model successfully explains the observed non-linear relationship between metallicity gradients and gas kinematics in high-redshift galaxies. However, the current sample only consists of 74 galaxies, and there is clearly scope for more observations of galaxies at high redshift against which we can test our inferences about the physics behind the impacts of gas kinematics on metallicity gradients.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank John Forbes for going through a preprint of this paper and providing comments. We are grateful to Xiangcheng Ma, Benôit Epinat, Natascha Förster-Schreiber, Chao-Ling Hung, and Henry Poetrodjojo for kindly sharing their simulation and/or observational data, and to Nicha Leethochawalit, Lisa Kewley, Ayan Acharyya, Brent Groves and Philipp Lang for useful discussions. PS is supported by the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship. PS and EW acknowledge support by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions (ASTRO 3D), through project number CE170100013. MRK and CF acknowledge funding provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC) through Discovery Projects DP190101258 (MRK) and DP170100603 (CF) and Future Fellowships FT180100375 (MRK) and FT180100495 (CF). MRK is also the recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt award. CF further acknowledges an Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme grant (UA-DAAD). Parts of this paper were written during the AS-TRO 3D writing retreat 2019. This work is based on observations taken by the MUSE-Wide Survey as part of the MUSE Consortium (Herenz et al. 2017; Urrutia et al. 2019). This work is also based on observations collected at the European Southern Observatory under ESO programmes 60.A-9460, 092.A-0091, 093.A-0079 and 094.A-0205, 179.A-0823, 75.A-0318, 78.A-0177, and 084.B-0300. This research has made extensive use of Python packages astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018), numpy (Oliphant 2006; Harris et al. 2020), scipy (Virtanen et al. 2020) and Matplotlib (Hunter 2007). This research has also made extensive use of NASA's Astrophysics Data System Bibliographic Services, the Wright (2006) cosmology calculator, and the image-to-data tool WebPlotDigitizer.

# DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

No new data were generated for this work. The compiled data with reanalysed kinematics is available in Appendix A.

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# APPENDIX A: COMPILED DATA WITH REANALYSED **KINEMATICS**

Table A1: Compiled database of metallicity gradients and reanalysed kinematics utilized in this work. Columns 1 - 9 list the parent sample, galaxy ID, redshift, stellar mass, star formation rate, half-light radius (in arcsec), metallicity gradient, rotational velocity, and velocity dispersion, respectively. See Section 2 and Table 1 for the list of references for each sample.

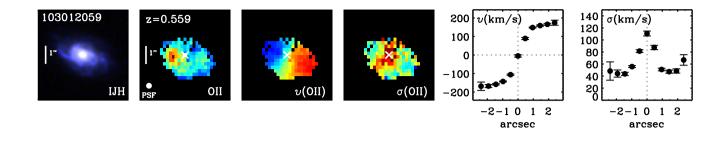
Sample	Galaxy ID	z	$\log_{10} \frac{M_{\star}}{M_{\odot}}$	$\log_{10} \frac{\text{SFR}}{M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}}$	<i>r</i> <sub>e</sub> ('')	$\nabla(\log_{10} Z)$	$v_{\phi}/\mathrm{kms^{-1}}$	$\sigma_g/{\rm kms^{-1}}$
(1)	(2)	(3)	$M_{\odot}$ (4)	$M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (5)	(6)	$\frac{\mathrm{dexkpc^{-1}}}{(7)}$	<i>φ</i> / km 5 (8)	(9)
MASSIV	20106882	1.40	9.73	1.58	0.42	0.033+0.013	$103^{+13}_{-13}$	46+24
MASSIV	20116027	1.53	9.83	1.63	0.50	$0.023^{+0.013}_{-0.012}$	105 - 13 $19^{+5}$	37+21
MASSIV	20147106	1.52	9.84	1.96	0.14	$0.023_{-0.012}$ $0.021^{+0.027}$	$^{1^{>}-5}_{0^{+6}}$	$12^{+11}$
MASSIV	20214655	1.04	9.76	1.71	0.11	$0.021_{-0.027}$ $0.003^{+0.008}$	$^{-6}_{19^{+8}}$	$^{12}-6$ $^{7+8}$
MASSIV	20386743	1.05	9.62	1.60	0.33	$0.005_{-0.008}$ $0.006^{+0.012}$	$1^{-8}$	$22^{+10}$
MASSIV	20461235	1.03	10.10	0.98	0.49	$-0.059^{+0.012}$	$80^{+17}$	22 - 12 $22^{+14}$
MASSIV	140083410	0.94	9.81	1.57	0.24	$-0.011^{+0.021}$	$16^{+11}$	$29^{+16}$
MASSIV	140217425	0.98	10.58	2.30	1.12	$0.027^{+0.002}$	$203^{+23}$	$66^{+35}$
MASSIV	140545062	1.04	10.30	1.36	0.36	-0.027 + 0.002	$100^{+23}$	$33^{+16}$
MASSIV	220014252	1.31	10.52	2.30	0.40	$0.016^{+0.004}$	$59^{+14}$	$53^{+28}$
MASSIV	220011252	1.29	10.52	2.03	0.33	$0.000^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$128^{+48}$	$53_{-28}$ $53^{+22}$
MASSIV	220376206	1.24	10.31	2.40	0.63	$0.024^{+0.011}$	$120_{-48}$ $114^{+14}$	$66^{+32}$
MASSIV	220397579	1.04	9.97	2.16	0.37	$-0.010^{+0.010}$	$21^{+5}$	$37^{+16}$
MASSIV	220544103	1.40	10.45	2.07	0.67	$0.005^{+0.006}_{-0.010}$	97 <sup>+28</sup>	37 - 18 33 + 19
MASSIV	220544394	1.01	10.45	1.70	0.42	$0.003_{-0.006}$ $0.023^{+0.011}$	77-28 78+19	$28^{-18}_{-18}$
MASSIV	220576226	1.01	10.05	1.82	0.42	$-0.006^{+0.005}$	$^{70}-19$ 18+6	$46^{+22}$
MASSIV	220578040	1.02	10.05	1.32	0.27	$-0.000_{-0.005}$ $0.002^{+0.007}$	$245^{+103}$	-21 56 <sup>+28</sup>
MASSIV	220578040	1.05	10.40	2.31	0.47	$-0.069^{+0.007}$	243 - 103 207+42	$^{50}-26$
MASSIV	910193711	1.47	9.73	2.31	0.83	$-0.009_{-0.007}$ $-0.019^{+0.014}$	$207 - 42 - 42 - 76^{+16}$	$^{42}$ -18 01+37
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1709	0.81	9.73 10.70	0.93	0.27	$-0.019_{-0.014}$ $0.007^{+0.006}$	125+33	$91_{-27}_{-27}$
			10.70	1.06		-0.007 $-0.006$ $-0.001$ $+0.006$ $-0.001$ $+0.006$	$123_{-33}^{+$	$10^{-4}_{-4}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1739	0.80			0.79	-0.009	$257^{+51}_{-51}$	$43_{-23}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1740	0.81	10.40	0.95	0.65	$0.016^{+0.005}_{-0.005}$	$285_{-60}^{+00}$	$49^{+22}_{-23}_{-23}_{-24}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1745	0.82	9.80	0.75	0.54	$0.025^{+0.009}_{-0.009}$	$264_{-48}^{+47}$	58-26 -26
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1759	0.80	10.30	1.11	0.54	$-0.018^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	$302_{-44}^{+44}$	$15^{+}_{-7}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1774	0.81	9.80	0.62	0.50	$0.013^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$	$82^{-24}_{-24}$	$80_{-32}^{+10}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1787	0.81	10.60	1.08	0.85	$0.007^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$303^{+27}_{-27}$	$22^{-10}_{-10}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1790	0.81	9.90	0.67	0.22	$0.032^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$	$111^{+31}_{-31}$	$10^{+7}_{-4}$
HiZELS	CFHT-NBJ-1795	0.81	9.80	0.81	0.39	$-0.063^{+0.010}_{-0.010}$	$96^{+26}_{-26}$	$10^{+6}_{-4}$
SHiZELS	HiZELS1	0.84	10.03	0.30	0.23	$-0.037^{+0.030}_{-0.058}$	$100^{+20}_{-26}$	$57^{+20}_{-23}_{+2}$
SHiZELS	HiZELS7	1.46	9.81	0.90	0.43	$-0.019^{+0.019}_{-0.040}$	$106^{+10}_{-18}$	$4^{+2}_{-1}$
SHiZELS	HiZELS8	1.46	10.32	0.85	0.36	$0.006^{+0.017}_{-0.004}$	$190^{+20}_{-26}$	34 <sup>+10</sup> -18
SHiZELS	HiZELS9	1.46	10.08	0.78	0.48	$-0.027^{+0.010}_{-0.018}$	$151^{+40}_{-46}$	59 <sup>129</sup> 59 <sup>129</sup>
SHiZELS	HiZELS10	1.45	9.42	1.00	0.27	$-0.031^{+0.016}_{-0.014}$	37-19	$53^{+25}_{-25}$
SHiZELS	HiZELS11	1.49	11.01	0.90	0.15	$-0.087^{+0.032}_{-0.006}$	$311^{+42}_{-42}$	$109^{+39}_{-33}$
MUSE-WIDE	G103012059	0.56	10.25	1.37	0.72	$\begin{array}{r} -0.075\substack{+0.014\\-0.017}\\-0.038\substack{+0.003\\-0.003}\\-0.025\substack{+0.019\\-0.014}\end{array}$	$223^{+40}_{-40} \\ 275^{+29}_{-29} \\ $	$43^{+18}_{-18}$ $37^{+15}_{-15}$
MUSE-WIDE	G118011046	0.58	10.54	1.28	1.36	-0.038 + 0.003	$275^{+29}_{-29}$	$37^{+13}_{-15}$ $64^{+14}_{-16}$
MUSE-WIDE	G105002016	0.34	10.31	0.25	0.45	$-0.025^{+0.019}_{-0.014}$	$141^{+11}_{-11}$	
MUSE-WIDE	G122003050	0.21	9.97	0.02	1.44	$-0.065^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	$169^{+37}_{-37}$	$43^{+6}_{-6}$
MUSE-WIDE	G102021103	0.25	9.22	-0.68	0.78	$-0.024^{+0.024}_{-0.021}$	$62^{+15}_{-15}$	$43_{-6}$ $41_{-6}^{+6}$
MUSE-WIDE	G105012048	0.68	10.39	1.07	0.92	$-0.044^{+0.006}_{-0.008}$	$149^{+27}_{-27}$	$46_{-19}^{+19} \\ 33_{-10}^{+10}$
MUSE-WIDE	G104005033	0.40	8.64	-0.72	0.90	$-0.044_{-0.008}$ $0.047_{-0.021}^{+0.021}$	$43^{+10}_{-10}$	$33^{+10}_{-10}$ $35^{+14}_{-14}$
MUSE-WIDE	G107029135	0.74	9.75	0.84	0.50	$-0.144^{+0.021}_{-0.024}$	$43_{-10}$ $39_{-22}^{+22}$	
MUSE-WIDE	G101001006	0.31	8.64	-0.65	0.64	$-0.049^{+0.010}_{-0.011}$	$61^{+28}_{-28}$	31+5
MUSE-WIDE	G114007070	0.13	8.66	-1.50	1.46	$-0.131^{+0.080}_{-0.069}$	$91^{+22}_{-22}$	$38^{+6}_{-6}$
MUSE-WIDE	G108016127	0.21	8.50	-1.05	0.62	$-0.188^{+0.046}_{-0.061}$	$62_{-12}^{-22}$	$46^{+13}_{-10}$
MUSE-WIDE	HDFS3	0.56	9.75	1.39	1.34	$-0.188_{-0.061}$ $-0.032_{-0.002}^{+0.002}$	$68^{+17}_{-17}$	o (±13
MUSE-WIDE	HDFS6	0.42	9.40	-0.02	0.60	-0.032 - 0.002 0.002 + 0.005 -0.133 + 0.007	$37^{+12}_{-12}$ $50^{+17}_{-12}$	$\begin{array}{r} 24^{+13}_{-13} \\ 33^{+10}_{-10} \\ 40^{+12}_{-12} \end{array}$
			9.49			-0.000	-12	-10

MUSE-WIDE	HDFS8	0.58	10.00	1.12	0.30	$-0.058^{+0.013}_{-0.014}$	$69^{+21}_{-21}$	$53^{+27}_{-27}$
MUSE-WIDE	HDFS9	0.56	9.49	0.96	0.42	$-0.124^{+0.009}_{-0.010}$	$72_{-33}^{+\overline{3}\overline{3}}$	$45_{-22}^{+\overline{22}}$
MUSE-WIDE	HDFS11	0.58	9.31	0.52	0.17	$-0.262^{+0.052}_{-0.028}$	$8^{-33}_{-4}$	21_9
MUSE-WIDE	UDF1	0.62	10.60	1.19	1.34	$-0.026^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	$131_{-13}^{-13}$	$34^{+15}_{-15}$
MUSE-WIDE	UDF2	0.42	9.89	-0.07	0.58	$0.002^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	$131_{-13}$ $119_{-12}^{+12}$	$50^{+4}_{-4}$
MUSE-WIDE	UDF3	0.62	10.13	0.82	0.86	$-0.081^{+0.012}_{-0.013}$	$75^{+12}_{-12}_{-25}$	$45^{+2\overline{2}}_{-22}$
MUSE-WIDE	UDF4	0.77	10.06	1.26	0.98	$-0.037^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	$47^{+19}_{-19}$	$37^{+16}_{-16}$
MUSE-WIDE	UDF7	0.62	9.39	0.70	0.68	$-0.188^{+0.011}_{-0.10}$	$10^{+5}_{-12}$	$27^{+13}_{-12}$
MUSE-WIDE	UDF10	0.28	8.34	-0.81	0.64	$0.034^{+0.018}_{-0.017}$	$50^{+\overline{16}}_{-16}$	$39^{+22}_{-22}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Q2343-BX389	2.17	10.61	1.76	0.74	$-0.048^{+0.032}_{-0.030}$	$299^{+40}_{-21}$	$56^{+13}_{15}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Q2346-BX482	2.26	10.26	1.53	0.72	$0.007^{+0.039}_{-0.034}$	$287_{-30}^{+63}$	$58^{+14}_{-15}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Q2343-BX513	2.11	10.43	1.23	0.31	$-0.021^{+0.075}_{-0.075}$	$102^{+64}_{-26}$	$55^{+24}_{-28}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Q1623-BX599	2.33	10.75	1.73	0.29	$-0.036^{+0.037}_{-0.042}$	$132_{-26}$ $139_{-36}^{+62}$	$71^{+18}_{-27}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Q2343-BX610	2.21	11.00	1.56	0.53	$-0.066^{+0.023}_{-0.020}$	$241_{-38}^{+62}$	$64_{-24}^{-17}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Deep3a-15504	2.38	11.04	1.73	0.72	$-0.026^{+0.013}_{-0.013}$	$305_{-80}^{+138}$	$63_{-15}^{+13}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Deep3a-6004	2.39	11.50	1.92	0.61	$-0.032^{+0.023}_{-0.028}$	$303_{-80}$ $362_{-126}^{+109}$	$55^{+11}_{-17}$
SINS/zC-SINF	Deep3a-6397	1.51	11.08	1.63	0.69	$-0.041^{+0.011}_{-0.015}$	$351^{+138}_{-107}$	$59^{+13}_{-17}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC400528	2.39	11.04	1.69	0.29	$-0.009^{+0.045}_{-0.049}$	$341_{-89}^{+184}$	$28^{+23}_{-15}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC400569N	2.24	11.11	1.59	0.85	$-0.064^{+0.016}_{-0.014}$	$364_{-64}^{+138}$	$43^{+16}_{-21}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC400569	2.24	11.21	1.63	0.88	$-0.050^{+0.013}_{-0.014}$	$312_{-13}^{+19}$	$41^{+23}_{-21}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC403741	1.45	10.65	1.33	0.26	$-0.123^{+0.065}_{-0.081}$	$189^{+73}_{-36}$	$36^{+13}_{-12}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC406690	2.20	10.62	1.80	0.83	$-0.046^{+0.028}_{-0.027}$	$313_{-107}^{+\overline{88}}$	$60^{+16}_{-15}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC407302	2.18	10.39	1.78	0.43	$-0.023^{+0.020}_{-0.020}$	$217_{-40}^{+71}$	$56^{+11}_{-25}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC407376S	2.17	10.14	1.51	0.19	$-0.021^{+0.071}_{-0.073}$	$89_{-45}^{+\overline{65}}$	$77^{+37}_{-41}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC407376	2.17	10.40	1.65	0.65	$-0.048^{+0.044}_{-0.048}$	$86^{+24}_{-20}$	$56^{+28}_{-27}$
SINS/zC-SINF	ZC412369	2.03	10.34	1.62	0.36	$-0.047^{+0.050}_{-0.051}$	$120^{+40}_{-27}$	$75^{+\bar{1}3}_{-27}$

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# APPENDIX B: EXAMPLE KINEMATIC REANALYSIS

In this appendix, we show the kinematic reanalysis of a representative galaxy to illustrate the procedure we described in Section 2.2. Figure B1 shows the line emission with the maximum intensity, as well as the resulting kinematic maps and 1D radial curves that we use to estimate  $v_{\phi}$  and  $\sigma_g$  for the galaxy G103012059 (from the *MUSE-WIDE* sample).



**Figure B1.** Left to right – observed-frame IJH color composite image from CANDELS HST imaging (Grogin et al. 2011; Koekemoer et al. 2011), nebular line flux with the strongest emission (O II in this case), rotational velocity v, velocity dispersion  $\sigma$ , as well as the 1D radial curves of v and  $\sigma$  derived from kinematic extractions for the galaxy G103012059 from the *MUSE-WIDE* sample.