

THE STRUCTURE AND STELLAR CONTENT OF THE OUTER DISKS OF GALAXIES: A NEW VIEW FROM THE Pan-STARRS1 MEDIUM DEEP SURVEY

ZHENG ZHENG^{1,2}, DAVID A. THILKER¹, TIMOTHY M. HECKMAN¹, GERHARDT R. MEURER³, W. S. BURGETT⁴, K. C. CHAMBERS⁵,
M. E. HUBER⁴, N. KAISER⁴, E. A. MAGNIER⁴, N. METCALFE⁵, P. A. PRICE⁶, J. L. TONRY⁴, R. J. WAINSCOAT⁴, AND C. WATERS⁴

¹ Department of Physics and Astronomy, Johns Hopkins University, 3701 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

² National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences, A20 Datun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100012, China

³ International Center for Radio Astronomy Research, The University of Western Australia, M468, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia

⁴ Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA

⁵ Department of Physics, Durham University, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

⁶ Department of Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of an analysis of Pan-STARRS1 Medium Deep Survey multi-band (*grizy*) images of a sample of 698 low-redshift disk galaxies that span broad ranges in stellar mass, star-formation rate, and bulge/disk ratio. We use population synthesis spectral energy distribution fitting techniques to explore the radial distribution of the light, color, surface mass density, mass/light ratio, and age of the stellar populations. We characterize the structure and stellar content of the galaxy disks out to radii of about twice Petrosian r_{90} , beyond which the halo light becomes significant. We measure normalized radial profiles for sub-samples of galaxies in three bins each of stellar mass and concentration. We also fit radial profiles to each galaxy. The majority of galaxies have down-bending radial surface brightness profiles in the bluer bands with a break radius at roughly r_{90} . However, they typically show single unbroken exponentials in the reddest bands and in the stellar surface mass density. We find that the mass/light ratio and stellar age radial profiles have a characteristic “U” shape. There is a good correlation between the amplitude of the down-bend in the surface brightness profile and the rate of the increase in the M/L ratio in the outer disk. As we move from late- to early-type galaxies, the amplitude of the down-bend and the radial gradient in M/L both decrease. Our results imply a combination of stellar radial migration and suppression of recent star formation can account for the stellar populations of the outer disk.

Key words: galaxies: evolution – galaxies: formation – galaxies: photometry

Supporting material: figure set, machine-readable tables

1. INTRODUCTION

The stellar disks of galaxies have been recognized as having exponential radial surface-brightness (SB) profiles since the seminal paper published by Freeman (1970). About a decade later van der Kruit (1979) studied several edge-on galaxies and found that the surface brightnesses of galactic disks do not decline exponentially forever, but can appear truncated after several radial scale-lengths. More recently, many studies using deeper modern imaging data (e.g., Pohlen et al. 2002; Erwin et al. 2005, 2008) showed that a variety of SB profiles exist. Notably, Pohlen & Trujillo (2006, PT06 hereafter) systematically studied 90 nearby late-type spiral galaxies using Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) DR2 imaging data and found that there is no apparent truncation in the SB radial profiles of these face-on galaxies. Instead, they found the radial profiles can be divided into three categories: Type I, classical single exponential (10%); Type II, down-bending joint exponential (60%); and Type III, up-bending joint exponential (30%).⁷ This disk profile classification scheme has been widely adopted by the community and a large number of models have been created to explain the formation of these different types of SB radial profiles:

Type I (single exponential, probably with an outer truncation) galaxies can be formed directly from the collapse of a uniformly rotating protogalactic cloud (Freeman 1970; Fall & Efstathiou 1980). Alternatively, they can also be formed through viscous redistribution (e.g., Ferguson & Clarke 2001). Van der Kruit (1987) argued that a uniformly rotating protogalactic cloud could collapse into an exponential disk with a sharp cut-off based on angular momentum conservation. The model naturally explains the exponential nature of galactic disks and suggests the cut-off radius, which is about $4.5 h$, is related to the maximum angular momentum of the cloud.

This collapsing model is also one of the two traditional scenarios which attempt to explain the formation of Type II (down-bending) disk. However, as argued by Elmegreen & Hunter (2006), the collapsing model usually forms inner exponential disks with relatively sharp outer cutoffs. Also, the collapsing model would lead to a break radius at about $4.5 h$ instead of the observed $2.5 h$. Therefore, the other Type II disk formation scenario, which attributes the formation of breaks to a star formation threshold, was proposed (e.g., Kennicutt 1989; Schaye 2004; Elmegreen & Hunter 2006; Martín-Navarro et al. 2012). However, the star formation threshold scenario fails to produce a single exponential profile out to large radii (Schaye 2004). Instead, secular evolution, especially the outward radial migration of stars, is believed to have significant effects on the breaks (Debattista et al. 2006; Roškar et al. 2008). The interplay between a star formation cut-off and radial stellar migration produces stellar radial profiles in good agreement with observed Type II disks (Roškar et al. 2008). Moreover, the predicted

⁷ Truncations and Type II breaks are two fundamentally different phenomena. The former is called “truncation” because its outer profile drops much faster than exponential but the outer part of the Type II disk can still be well described by an exponential function. The truncations are only seen in edge-on galaxies and the truncation radius is at about $4.5 h$ while the down-bending profiles are seen in all inclinations and the break radii usually appear at $2.5 h$, where h is the disk scale-length (Martín-Navarro et al. 2014).

sharp change in the radial age profile is indirectly supported by the observational results of Bakos et al. (2008). We will show that this scenario is supported by the observations we present here.

An explanation of the Type III (up-bending) disks is more difficult. One might consider that the Type III disk is formed by the enhanced star formation seen in galaxies with extended ultraviolet disk components (XUV disk; Thilker et al. 2007). However, there is no obvious correlation between these two kinds of objects (Thilker et al. 2007). Radial stellar migration might play an important role in forming Type III disks (Younger et al. 2007); however, it is crucial to include intermittent (e.g., minor mergers; Younger et al. 2007) or persistent (e.g., constant gas accretion; Minchev et al. 2012) interaction with the intergalactic/circumgalactic environment. A more recent study by Bakos & Trujillo (2012) using much deeper images from the SDSS Stripe82 on seven nearby galaxies shows that the profiles previously identified as Type III are actually contaminated by the stellar halo and they claim that there are no true Type III disks.

The three types of disks are not only different in their SB profiles but also look distinct in their radial color profiles. Bakos et al. (2008) studied radial $g-r$ color profiles of the 90 PT06 sample galaxies and found that: the $g-r$ color profiles of Type II galaxies typically show a “U” shape with a minimum at the break radius and a minimum color of $g-r = 0.47 \pm 0.02$. The $g-r$ color profiles of Type I galaxies are almost flat in the outer disk and the average color profile has a relative constant value of $g-r = 0.46$. The color profiles of Type III galaxies drop steeply within the break radius and then rise to form a plateau around the break radius with a color of $g-r = 0.57 \pm 0.02$. The “U” shape color profile of Type II galaxy implies a “U” shape age profile, which is a signature of the stellar radial migration effect shown by Roškar et al. (2008). These different behaviors of color profiles provide us with more information about the formation history of the outer disk. However, the Bakos et al. (2008) sample of Type I (9 galaxies) and Type III (21 galaxies) is too small to yield fully robust results and the radial color profiles alone are not easy to compare with theoretical models or numerical simulations.

It is important to note that the models are mostly focused on calculating the radial stellar *mass* distribution; however, the previous studies generally only present the distribution of the *light* in a single band. The light profiles trace a combination of stellar mass and age, with the relative importance of these two factors depending upon the pass-band of the observations. By observing in multiple bands these two effects can be disentangled, allowing the determination of the radial distribution of both the stellar mass and the characteristics of the stellar population. More specifically, the observed spectral energy distribution (SED) of the galaxy light can be used to estimate the mass-to-light ratio (M/L) profiles to first order. This technique, based on the M/L prescription of Bell et al. (2003), was used by Bakos et al. (2008) to derive stellar mass profiles for the PT06 sample. The increase in the $g-r$ color profiles of galaxies in the outer disk of Type II and Type III galaxies implies that the M/L also rises in the outer disk. They also showed that the breaks in the Type II SB profiles almost disappear in the stellar surface mass profiles. The color profiles of the seven galaxies studied by Bakos & Trujillo (2012) also show a “U” shape with a slightly increasing value at large radii. Similar results were also obtained using deep stacked SDSS images for late-type galaxies (D’Souza et al. 2014).

The recent studies above suggest that there might be multiple formation mechanisms for the observed outer stellar disks. Building a more comprehensive galaxy sample was therefore a primary motivation for our study. Motivated by these considerations, we have undertaken an investigation that improves upon these earlier studies in several ways. First, we use a more sophisticated and robust method to derive the stellar M/L and mass profiles by employing multi-band SED fitting (thereby jointly interpreting all the multi-band imaging data rather than just a single color). Second, we will use data that enable us to investigate the faint outer disks in a much large sample of galaxies than in previous studies. Third, our sample is more representative of the full population of disk galaxies than the PT06 sample: our sample is much larger and we have broader ranges in stellar mass and surface mass density.

In this paper, we report the results from our analysis of the images of about 700 galaxies in the Medium Deep Survey (MDS) fields of the Pan-STARRS1 (PS1) project. We measure five-band (*grizy*) SB profiles and analyze them with the SED fitting program MAGPHYS to derive radial profiles of various parameters, such as stellar M/L , mass surface density, age, and specific star formation rate. In Section 2 we describe the PS1MD data and our sample selection; in Section 3 we describe the data processing pipeline and briefly introduce the MAGPHYS software. We then present the results in three tiers. In Section 4 we show the stacked images of the whole sample and some sub-samples to give an overview of the whole sample in 2D. We use these data to define the radial range of the disk region we are working on. In Section 5 we present the composite radial profiles to show the 1D structures of generic disk galaxies. In Section 6 we present a detailed analysis of radial profiles of all the individual galaxies. In particular, we analyze the breaks of SB profiles and compare our results with the PT06 SB profile classification scheme. We finally discuss our results in Section 7 and summarize the major conclusions in Section 8. The images of each individual galaxy are in Appendix B. The cosmological parameters we adopt are $h = 0.7$, $\Omega_m = 0.3$, and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$.

2. DESCRIPTION OF Pan-STARRS1 DATA AND SAMPLE SELECTION

The imaging data is taken from the MDS of the PS1 telescope and camera. The PS1 is the prototype telescope of the Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS; Kaiser et al. 2002), located on Mount Haleakala, Hawaii. There are 10 MDS fields, each with a 7 deg^2 field of view, observed in five wide bands (g, r, i, z, y ; Tonry et al. 2012). We use the reference stack images, which have typical exposure times of ~ 10 ks in the g and r bands and ~ 20 ks in the $i, z,$ and y bands. There are also deep stack images, which have typical exposure times of ~ 40 ks in the $g, r,$ and y bands and ~ 80 ks in the i and z bands. These are only available in two of the MDS fields (MD04 and MD09). We use the reference stacks in this work to retain approximate exposure consistency between MDS fields. Further, as we demonstrate in Section 5, the reference stacks are already sufficiently deep to meet our goal of probing out to the disk/halo transition. Detailed descriptions of the PS1 MDS and the photometric calibration can be found in Tonry et al. (2012), Rest et al. (2014), and Schlafly et al. (2012).

The reference stack images can be used to measure SB profiles as faint as $\sim 28\text{--}30 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$ in the r -band, much deeper than the SDSS images ($\sim 27 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$, e.g., Bakos et al. 2008; PT06). For comparison, we show r -band images and SB radial

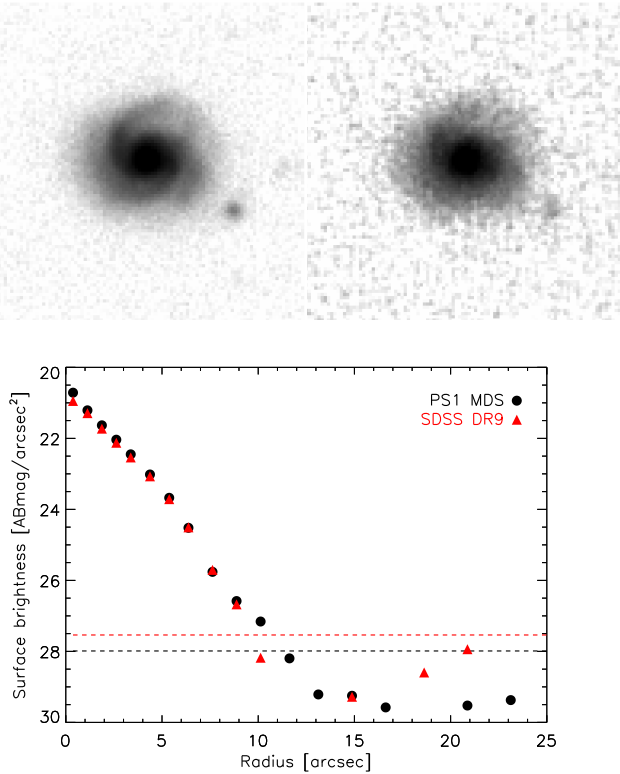


Figure 1. Comparison between PS1 MDS reference stack images and SDSS DR9 mosaic images. The upper panels are the r -band PS1 image (left) and SDSS image (right). The images are background subtracted and the fluxes are scaled to the central area (with a radius of 4 pixels). The images are produced in ds9 using a logarithmic scale. The lower panel is the r -band SB profiles produced using PS1 and SDSS data. The black dots and red triangles are measured SB using PS1 and SDSS data, respectively. The black and red dashed lines show the sky rms of the PS1 and SDSS images, respectively. The PS1 image has a sharper PSF and lower sky rms than the SDSS image. The galaxy is centered at R.A. = 130.95206, decl. = 43.800864 (Galaxy 6 in our sample, cf. Table 1). The field of view of the images above is $25''$ by $25''$. The equivalent exposure times are 10458 s and 1294 s for the PS1 and SDSS images. Note the SDSS mosaic image is a stack image made through the SDSS DR9 image server using all exposures which has an overlap with the target area and has a much longer equivalent exposure time than single SDSS images.

profiles of an example galaxy from the PS1 MDS and SDSS DR9 mosaic images in Figure 1. The flux of the images are scaled to the average central bulge (within 4 pixel) flux. The pixel size of the PS1 image is $0''.25 \text{ pixel}^{-1}$ and the typical FWHM of the point-spread function (PSF) is about $1''$. The images of Figure 1 are scaled to the same angular size. It is obvious that the PS1 MDS reference stack images are deeper than the SDSS images and the sky background rms of the PS1 image is lower than that of the SDSS image. Therefore the PS1 MDS images are much better for our outer disk study.

Our sample galaxies are selected from the SDSS-III database using the CASjobs interface.⁸ The reason that we use this catalog is because SDSS has many complementary parameters such as redshifts, galaxy types, properties of neighboring galaxies, etc. There are eight PS1 MDS fields (MD03–MD10) observed by the SDSS. In order to choose disk galaxies, we require the fraction attributed to the r -band de Vaucouleurs component (fracDeV_r) in the SDSS composite model to be less than 0.7⁹ or the galaxy

⁸ <http://skyserver.sdss3.org/casjobs/>

⁹ The galaxy is modeled using a deVaucouleurs profile plus an exponential disk profile. A pure elliptical galaxy should have fracDev = 1 and a bulge-less pure exponential disk should have fracDev = 0. According to Masters et al. (2010), a galaxy with fracDeV = 0.7 corresponds to a Hubble type of Sa.

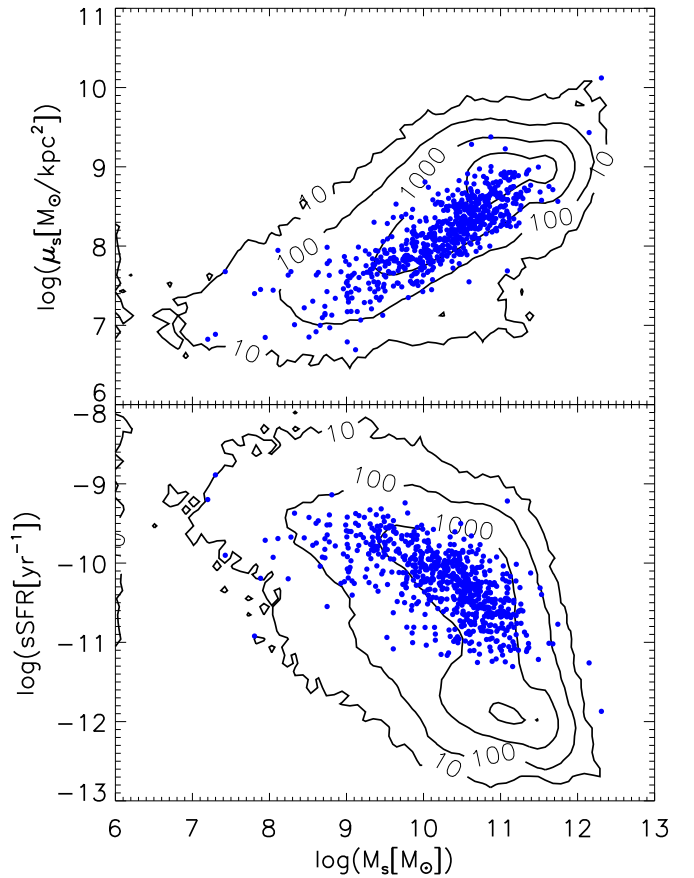


Figure 2. Global properties of our galaxy sample in comparison to SDSS overall. Upper: stellar surface mass density vs. stellar mass. Lower: specific star formation rate vs. stellar mass. Blue dots are our sample galaxies and the background contours show the distribution of the entire MPA-JHU SDSS DR7 sample. Values of the blue points are calculated using PS1 photometry as described in this paper.

zoo fraction of votes for the disk galaxy (p_cs) to be greater than 50%. Similar to PT06, we also require the galaxies to be relatively face-on ($\text{expAB}_r > 0.5$, i.e., the ellipticity¹⁰ is less than 0.5). In this work, we limit the galaxies by angular size instead of by apparent magnitude. The galaxies should be large enough to make it possible to measure well-resolved radial profiles ($\text{petroRad}_r \geq 5 \text{ arcsec}$). We also require that the galaxies have a measured spectroscopic redshift by selecting galaxies from the “SpecObj” Casjobs catalog only. The resulting total number of galaxies using these selection criteria is 782. The final sample has 698 galaxies after taking out galaxies with an incomplete set of multi-band images. Since the mother sample of our galaxy sample, the SDSS spectroscopic galaxy sample, is highly complete (Strauss 2002), we expect that our sample also has a high completeness. The only source of incompleteness is the size cut, which excludes physically small and distant galaxies.

Following Kauffmann et al. (2003) and Schiminovich et al. (2007), Figure 2 shows the distribution of our sample using two plots. The first one is the “effective” stellar mass surface density, μ_s , versus stellar mass, M_* . The value for μ_s is defined as

$$\mu_s = \frac{M_*}{2\pi r_{50,z}^2}, \quad (1)$$

¹⁰ The ellipticity is defined as $e = 1 - b/a$, where a and b are the major and minor semi-axes of the ellipse, respectively.

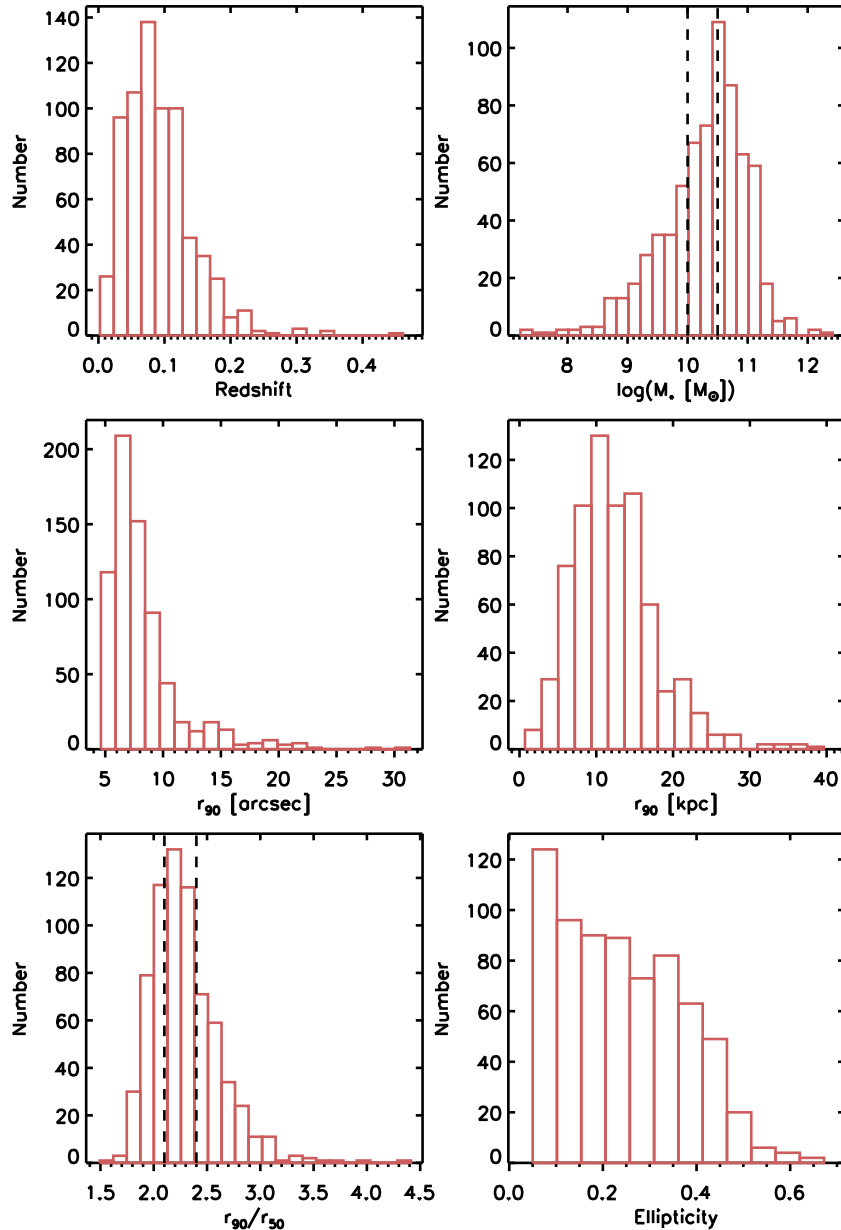


Figure 3. Histograms of redshift (upper left), total stellar masses (upper right), r -band r_{90} in arcsec (middle left) and in kpc (middle right), concentration parameter (lower left), and characteristic ellipticity (lower right) of our sample galaxies. The vertical black dashed lines indicate the three mass bins (upper right panel) and three concentration bins (lower left panel) we used in this paper.

where the $r_{50,z}$ is the Petrosian half-light radius in the z band. The other plot is the specific star formation rate, SFR/M_* , versus M_* . Values for M_* and SFR are taken from the MPA-JHU SDSS DR7 release.¹¹ The value for $r_{50,z}$ is taken from the SDSS DR8 database. It is obvious that our sample is representative of the population of disk galaxies in SDSS over ranges of more than two orders of magnitude in stellar mass, mass density, and specific SFR. Our selection of disk-dominated galaxies means we only have a sparse sampling of galaxies on the red sequence ($\text{sSFR} < 10^{-11} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ —which are predominantly bulge-dominated galaxies).

The distributions of redshift, total stellar mass, r -band r_{90} , concentration parameter ($C = r_{90}/r_{50}$), and characteristic ellipticity of our sample galaxies are shown in Figure 3. The r -band r_{90} and r -band r_{50} are scale radii defined as the radii containing

90% and 50% of the Petrosian flux in the r -band, respectively. For our sample galaxies, the r_{90} is roughly $0.7 R_{25}$, which we define as the radius of the galaxy to the 25th AB magnitude isophote in the r -band. The parameter C is correlated with the galaxy bulge/disk ratio (Gadotti 2009; Lackner & Gunn 2012), with the range between $\log C = 0.25$ and 0.45 corresponding roughly to bulge/disk ratios of ~ 0 and 1 , respectively. Thus, C can serve as a proxy for Hubble types with smaller C indicating later type disks and larger C indicating earlier type disks.

Since galaxies with different masses can have systematically different Hubble types (concentrations), assembly histories, companion galaxies, halo properties, etc. (Kauffmann et al. 2003), we divided our sample into three subcategories by stellar mass: high mass ($M > 10^{10.5} M_{\odot}$), intermediate mass ($10^{10.5} M_{\odot} > M > 10^{10.0} M_{\odot}$), and low mass ($M < 10^{10.0} M_{\odot}$) galaxies. We have also divided our sample into three bins in concentration: $C > 2.4$, $2.4 > C > 2.1$, and $C < 2.1$. These

¹¹ <http://home.strw.leidenuniv.nl/~jarle/SDSS/>

bins roughly correspond to bulge/disk ratios of $B/D > 0.2$, $0.2 > B/D > 0.1$, and $B/D < 0.1$ (Gadotti 2009; Lackner & Gunn 2012).

A part of the galaxy list is listed below in Table 1. The whole list is available as a machine-readable table.

3. METHOD

3.1. Data Processing and Radial Profile Extraction

We create $8'$ by $8'$ (1920 pixels by 1920 pixels) image cutouts for each galaxy. All the images are background subtracted stacked images. The background level was determined by the PS1 Image Processing Pipeline (IPP) using blocks of 400 by 400 pixels ($100''$ by $100''$). Since most of our galaxies are smaller than this block size the background subtraction performed by IPP should be appropriate and not cause over-subtraction of low spatial frequency emission. However, in order to study the outer disk more accurately, we need to do our own custom background subtraction. Here we describe the pipeline used to mask out all the background/foreground galaxies and stars, derive galactic geometric parameters, subtract the background, and extract multi-band radial profiles. All the data are processed in IRAF and IDL.

Since we have a fairly large sample of galaxies, it would be a very tedious job to mask all the contaminating sources by hand. Therefore we developed a semi-automatic graphic user interface (GUI) software to mask the contaminants such as foreground stars and background galaxies. First, we extract all the sources by using SExtractor applied to a five-band composite chi-square detection image (Szalay et al. 1999). All sources above 2σ local background variation are detected by SExtractor. We then examine the three-color image and the mask segments on top of the three-color image and select the mask segments that correspond to the target galaxy by clicking the mouse. We can also mask out SExtractor undetected stars and unwanted regions using circular apertures defined within this GUI software. The masks are then grown using the IDL function DILATE with a square shape operator. The size of the operator matrix is proportional to the size of the mask and has a minimum value of 5 pixels by 5 pixels.

The characteristic center, position angle (PA), and ellipticity of each galaxy are derived using the IRAF¹² task *ellipse* mainly following the two-step procedure provided by Li et al. (2011). In the first step, we fit all three parameters (center, PA, and ellipticity) using the *i*-band image. We then have radial profiles of the center coordinates ($x_c(r)$ and $y_c(r)$), position angle ($PA(r)$), and ellipticity ($e(r)$) for each galaxy. The characteristic center is determined using the origin value corresponding to the annuli at $0.5 R_{25}$

$$\begin{aligned} X_c &= x_c(r = 0.5 R_{25}) \\ Y_c &= y_c(r = 0.5 R_{25}). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

In the second step, we fix the center determined in the first step and re-fit the PA and ellipticity. The final PA and ellipticity are held constant using the value of the annuli at R_{25} . We then visually examine every ellipse fit and re-fit the bad ones by hand.

After deriving the characteristic center, PA, and ellipticity of the galaxy, we extract the SB profile over the radial range from

5 pixels ($1''/25$) up to $3 R_{25}$. The SB profiles are extracted with the characteristic parameters fixed in rings with the widths of the rings increasing logarithmically (in log step of 0.03). The values of the unmasked pixels within each ring are averaged to get the mean flux of each ring. The radius assigned to each ring is the average value of the inner and outer boundaries of each ring along the major axis. At this point we have an SB radial profile including the sky background (after deriving all the mean fluxes of every ring).

The outermost ring (the region between $5 r_{90}$ and $6 r_{90}$) is used to derive the background. The outermost ring is divided azimuthally into 36 regions (10 degrees for each region). We calculate the mode of each region and then derive the background value by averaging all the 36 mode values. The standard deviation of the 36 values is taken as 1σ of the sky background. We then subtract the background value from each ring to get the background subtracted SB radial profile in each band. The error source for the SB is the combination of the sky background rms and the Poisson noise of the annulus. We did not include the dispersion of pixel values inside the annulus in our S/N calculation because this may be exaggerated by the internal structures such as spiral arms and star-forming regions.

The five-band background subtracted SB radial profiles are corrected for Galactic reddening using the Cardelli et al. (1989) extinction curve assuming foreground $E(B-V)$ values based on the Schlegel et al. (1998) dust maps. The K -corrections¹³ were derived using the K -corrections calculator developed by Chilingarian et al. (2010) and Chilingarian & Zolotukhin (2012).

3.2. Deriving the Stellar Mass: SED Fitting

Previous studies that convert SB into mass surface density usually use a single M/L (e.g., Freeman 1970) or simple empirical M/L s (e.g., Bakos et al. 2008). To improve on these simple methods, in this paper, we use the Multi-wavelength Analysis of Galaxy Physical Properties (MAGPHYS) program (da Cunha et al. 2008; Bruzual & Charlot 2003; Charlot & Fall 2000) to interpret the five-band SB radial profiles. To do this, we do SED fitting using PS1 *grizy* photometry for each annulus of each galaxy and combine the fitted results to get radial profiles of various physical parameters, such as the stellar mass, average age, and recent star formation rate (averaged over the last 0.1 Gyr). MAGPHYS supplies a comprehensive library of model SEDs (based on Bruzual & Charlot 2003) at the same redshift and in the same photometric bands as the observed galaxy including various star formation histories (generally declining smoothly with time but allowing for bursts at late epochs). The model SEDs are made using a wide range of plausible physical parameters. MAGPHYS then compares the observed SED with the model SEDs and builds a marginalized likelihood distribution for each physical parameter. As a result, our estimation of uncertainty for each inferred parameter implicitly includes a contribution from any model parameter degeneracies in addition to the limitations from the photometry. Nevertheless we took pains to reduce the impact of degeneracy as described below, for the specific case of extinction as a function of galactocentric radius.

The effects of dust reddening and age on the optical SED of galaxies conspire to produce a very similar relationship between color and stellar M/L (e.g., Bell & de Jong 2001). This means that the optical SED can yield a robust measurement of the stellar M/L . However, if we wish to make inferences about the

¹² IRAF is the Image Reduction and Analysis Facility, a general purpose software system for the reduction and analysis of astronomical data. IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

¹³ Note the input SB profiles for MAGPHYS are not K -corrected. The K -corrected SB profiles are only used for color analysis.

Table 1
Galaxy List Example

ID	Field	R.A.	Decl.	z	r_{90} (kpc)	r_{50} (kpc)	r_b (kpc)	e	M_* (M_\odot)	μ_s ($M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$)	sSFR (yr^{-1})	μ_{r10} (mag)	μ_{r20} (mag)	k_{r1} (mag/ r_{90})	k_{r2} (mag/ r_{90})	μ_{m10} ($M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$)	μ_{m20} ($M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$)	k_{m1} (r_{90}^{-1})	k_{m2} (r_{90}^{-1})	Y_{10} ($M_\odot L_\odot^{-1}$)	Y_{20} ($M_\odot L_\odot^{-1}$)	k_{Y1} (r_{90}^{-1})	k_{Y2} (r_{90}^{-1})
1	MD03	129.289	44.3036	0.13	10.96	5.26	10.71	0.05	10.62	8.46	-10.65	20.4	19.5	3.36	4.28	8.7	8.9	-1.19	-1.54	0.3	0.0	0.13	-0.14
2	MD03	130.200	44.2520	0.08	7.83	3.68	7.25	0.29	10.01	8.05	-10.24	20.5	19.0	2.53	4.38	8.4	9.0	-1.05	-1.47	0.1	0.1	0.01	0.13
3	MD03	131.078	45.0381	0.15	13.43	5.91	11.06	0.24	10.91	8.80	-10.69	20.6	19.7	2.81	4.07	8.8	8.6	-1.37	-1.17	0.5	-0.3	-0.36	0.25
4	MD03	130.901	44.0561	0.11	9.95	5.24	7.42	0.09	10.35	8.12	-10.11	20.5	19.1	2.87	4.35	8.6	8.7	-1.46	-1.47	0.3	-0.6	-0.26	0.25
5	MD03	131.361	44.9439	0.15	17.67	6.88	11.68	0.12	11.41	9.00	-11.13	21.0	19.6	2.40	4.67	8.8	8.9	-1.46	-1.25	0.4	0.2	-0.24	-0.34
6	MD03	130.952	43.8009	0.19	16.70	8.08	15.64	0.17	10.82	8.30	-10.15	20.6	19.1	2.94	4.59	8.8	9.1	-1.66	-1.85	0.4	-0.1	-0.52	0.09
7	MD03	131.782	43.6363	0.09	8.97	4.62	6.37	0.21	10.03	7.99	-10.01	20.9	19.3	2.33	4.30	8.3	8.7	-1.10	-1.64	0.1	-0.3	-0.27	0.41
8	MD03	130.372	43.2660	0.18	14.92	7.55	9.51	0.05	10.66	8.26	-9.69	20.1	19.7	3.15	3.84	8.8	8.6	-1.78	-1.73	0.3	-0.6	-0.81	0.18
9	MD03	129.000	44.2391	0.31	24.48	11.36	17.24	0.10	11.51	8.68	-10.31	20.8	19.7	2.24	4.48	9.0	8.6	-1.48	-1.21	0.5	-0.4	-0.60	0.74
11	MD03	129.123	44.1469	0.13	13.20	5.93	8.66	0.09	10.65	8.47	-10.19	20.5	19.6	2.51	4.25	8.7	8.4	-1.66	-1.08	0.4	-0.4	-0.45	-0.15
12	MD03	131.171	44.3604	0.09	9.20	3.92	8.36	0.29	10.67	8.69	-10.13	19.0	18.6	3.16	3.95	9.2	8.7	-1.57	-1.16	0.3	-0.4	-0.34	0.30
13	MD03	130.159	44.1456	0.08	8.80	3.84	5.86	0.05	10.28	8.33	-10.51	20.2	20.4	4.49	3.51	8.8	8.7	-1.50	-1.84	0.4	0.1	-0.34	0.27
14	MD03	131.413	45.0530	0.14	14.22	6.66	9.47	0.32	10.85	8.35	-10.93	20.7	20.1	2.10	3.20	9.0	9.1	-1.43	-1.70	0.6	0.2	-0.55	-0.14
15	MD03	130.280	44.0019	0.09	9.70	5.10	6.47	0.22	10.00	7.77	-10.17	21.2	20.0	2.48	3.86	8.4	9.1	-1.54	-2.30	0.2	0.5	-0.42	-0.49
16	MD03	131.864	44.2269	0.11	11.76	6.11	11.86	0.13	10.18	7.99	-9.97	21.0	18.0	2.43	5.74	8.2	9.2	-1.26	-2.15	0.1	-0.5	-0.23	0.17
17	MD03	130.336	45.3785	0.15	15.11	7.63	12.48	0.05	10.47	7.90	-9.90	20.9	19.8	2.83	4.41	8.5	8.4	-1.74	-1.56	0.2	-0.5	-0.72	0.23
18	MD03	130.371	43.7678	0.13	14.51	6.48	10.60	0.13	10.64	8.33	-10.49	20.9	20.8	3.20	3.55	8.7	8.6	-1.68	-1.52	0.5	0.2	-0.44	-0.33
19	MD03	130.212	44.7354	0.15	14.85	6.64	15.40	0.39	11.04	8.64	-10.77	20.3	18.1	2.50	4.58	9.1	9.0	-1.46	-1.39	0.6	-0.5	-0.46	0.34
20	MD03	128.884	44.8572	0.13	13.74	5.83	10.04	0.35	10.97	8.74	-10.50	19.9	19.5	2.83	3.46	9.1	9.1	-1.54	-1.42	0.6	0.1	-0.39	0.00
22	MD03	130.514	43.0018	0.09	9.87	4.77	7.17	0.30	9.76	7.53	-9.75	21.0	19.6	2.59	4.10	8.3	8.1	-1.46	-1.32	0.1	-1.0	-0.57	0.62
23	MD03	129.013	43.8074	0.15	15.98	6.85	11.30	0.16	10.80	8.33	-10.58	20.6	20.3	3.35	3.87	8.6	8.6	-1.44	-1.25	0.4	0.1	-0.03	0.20
24	MD03	129.303	43.3983	0.15	14.73	6.93	9.81	0.33	10.75	8.33	-10.35	20.8	19.7	2.21	3.96	8.7	8.5	-1.51	-1.12	0.5	-0.2	-0.57	0.28
25	MD03	130.742	43.6373	0.09	10.79	4.09	7.54	0.25	10.64	8.75	-9.81	18.9	19.0	3.89	3.61	8.9	8.4	-1.56	-0.86	0.1	-0.7	-0.18	0.36
26	MD03	131.239	45.0734	0.12	13.61	5.19	9.40	0.14	10.10	7.95	-9.66	20.1	21.7	4.71	3.03	8.5	7.8	-1.94	-0.95	-0.0	-0.2	-0.27	-0.30
27	MD03	129.171	45.0970	0.04	4.51	2.05	3.60	0.23	9.50	8.08	-10.15	20.1	19.5	3.20	3.83	8.6	8.4	-1.59	-1.14	0.2	-0.4	-0.38	0.02

Notes. Galaxy list example. This table contains basic parameters of 25 galaxies selected from our 698 galaxy sample. The R.A., decl., and redshift (z) are from the SDSS DR8 catalog. The r_{90} , r_{50} , break radius r_b , e , M_* , μ_s (defined in Equation (1)), inner and outer r -band SB profile slope (k_{r1} and k_{r2}), stellar mass surface density profile slope (k_{m1} and k_{m2}), r -band M/L profile slope (k_{Y1} and k_{Y2}), and sSFR are measured using PS1 data. The definition of the slopes can be found in Section 6. M_* , μ_s , sSFR, μ_{m10} , μ_{m20} , Y_{10} , and Y_{20} are in logarithmic scale.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

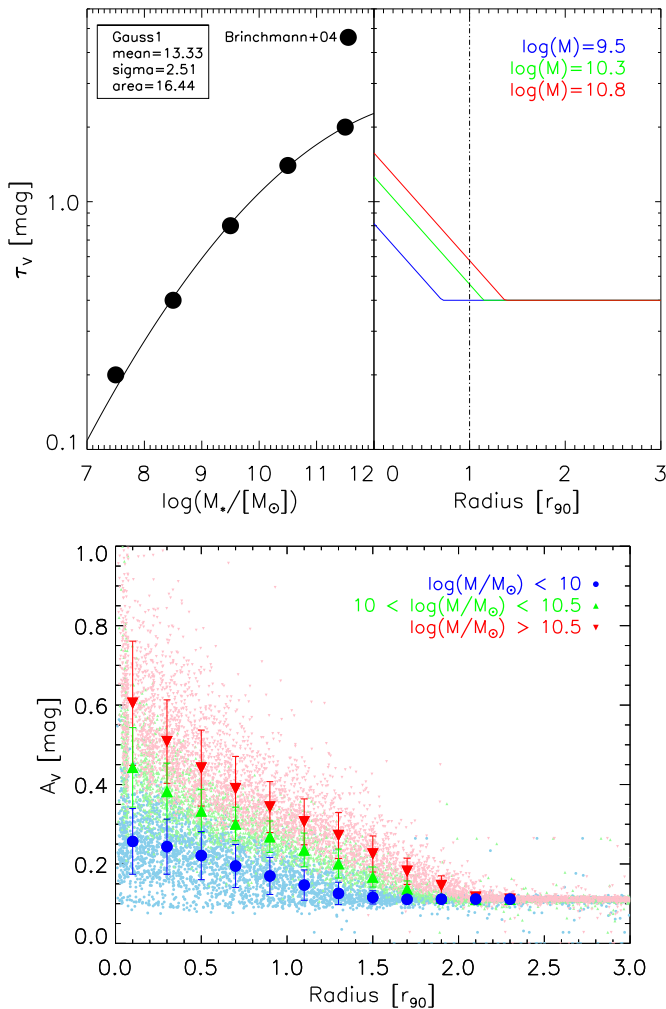


Figure 4. MAGPHYS extinction priors (upper panels) and output A_V (lower panel). Upper-left: central total dust extinction of the *emission-line gas* in low-redshift star-forming galaxies as a function of stellar mass. The black dots are scaled data from Brinchmann et al. (2004) and the solid line is the Gaussian functional fit to the data. Upper-right: parameterized typical radial variation in the emission-line extinction used for the MAGPHYS fitting; only three example galaxies are shown here: high mass (red), intermediate mass (green), and low mass (blue) galaxies; each parameterization starts with the corresponding central extinction from the left panel and decreases exponentially until hitting the lower limit $\tau_V = 0.4$. To implement such an extinction prior, the fitted τ_V values are allowed to range from 0 to 2 times the radial extinction curves shown here. Lower panel: the MAGPHYS output A_V composite radial profile. This refers to the extinction affecting the *starlight*. The A_V output for the annuli of all the galaxies are plotted vs. radius (normalized in r_{90}). The points are color coded in stellar mass as describe in the legend and in Section 2.

age of the stellar population we need some independent way to estimate the extinction. The optimal method would be to use high-resolution (\sim arcsec) ultraviolet and infrared images, which we do not have. Instead we use an extinction prior in our model fitting that is based on galaxies that are similar to those in our sample, but for which the radial dust extinction has been independently measured. We show these priors in Figure 4. They were calculated as follows. The extinction radial profile is assumed to decay from a central extinction value τ_{V0} exponentially until reaches a lower limit $\tau_{V,\min}$. We set the scale-length of the exponential part of the extinction profile for all galaxies to be $1r_{90}$ (Muñoz-Mateos et al. 2009). The central extinction value varies from galaxy to galaxy depending on the total stellar mass of the galaxy (Brinchmann et al. 2004). We fit

a Gaussian functional form to the observed τ_{V0} of low-redshift star-forming galaxies provided by Brinchmann et al. (2004) so that we can determine the τ_{V0} for every galaxy as a function of its stellar mass. The extinction lower limit is set to be $\tau_{V,\min} = 0.4$ and it usually meets the exponential profile in the radial range $r/r_{90} = 1-2.5$. The Gaussian fitting to the τ_{V0} and the assumed extinction profiles are shown in the upper panel of Figure 4. The actual extinction prior is then set individually for each annulus to be between the 1/2 and 2 times of the parameterized typical extinction described above. This choice of τ_V is justified by the MAGPHYS A_V output, which is also plotted in Figure 4. The A_V , which is the stellar extinction, is defined as

$$A_V = 1.086\mu\tau_V, \quad (3)$$

where μ is the fraction of τ_V contributed by dust in the diffuse ISM. The MAGPHYS output A_V for our sample is consistent with previous spectroscopic observations of similar galaxies (CALIFA group in private communication and Muñoz-Mateos et al. 2009). Actually, the MAGPHYS output of stellar mass is not very sensitive to the extinction prior. The stellar mass only varies by about a few percent when we double or reduce by half the extinction prior. While the mean age and specific star formation rate (sSFR) are more sensitive to the extinction, they change by only ± 0.05 dex and ± 0.1 dex respectively when we vary the extinction priors in this way. The most important point is that the shapes of the radial profiles of the stellar surface mass density, M/L ratio, age, and sSFR do not change significantly as we vary the extinction priors.

One example of MAGPHYS SED fitting and the distribution of different physical parameters is shown in Figure 5. We take the 50% (median) value of the likelihood distribution to be the value of that physical parameter and take half of the difference between the 16th and 84th percentile values to be the 1σ uncertainty. An example of the radial profiles of the five-band surface brightness and MAGPHYS derived physical parameters are tabulated in Table 2. The whole data set is available as a machine-readable table.

The SED fitting using annular photometry may lead to biases in our results because each annulus unavoidably blends contributions from physically unassociated regions, which may have different star formation histories. For instance, arm and inter-arm locations are jointly measured within an annulus. Hence, we may be somewhat insensitive to very low levels of star formation (such as seen in XUV-disks) if the optical luminosity is dominated by an older stellar population. The best way to derive the stellar mass radial profiles might be to use pixel SED fitting and then to sum up the parameter results. However, this method is much more computational intensive (cf. POGS project; Vinsen & Thilker 2013; D. A. Thilker et al. 2015a, in preparation) and difficult to apply to the low SB regime we are attempting to probe.

4. THE 2D STACK IMAGES

4.1. Motivation

The $g-r$ color profiles measured by Bakos et al. (2008) have revealed that the outer disk is different from the inner disk by having a redder color and (probably) an older age. The “red” and “old” descriptions also apply to stellar halo stars, which raises the possibility that we could be seeing the stellar halo instead of the outer disk. Bakos & Trujillo (2012) studied seven of the PT06 galaxies using deep imaging data and claimed that up-bending disks were caused by the contamination of halo light in

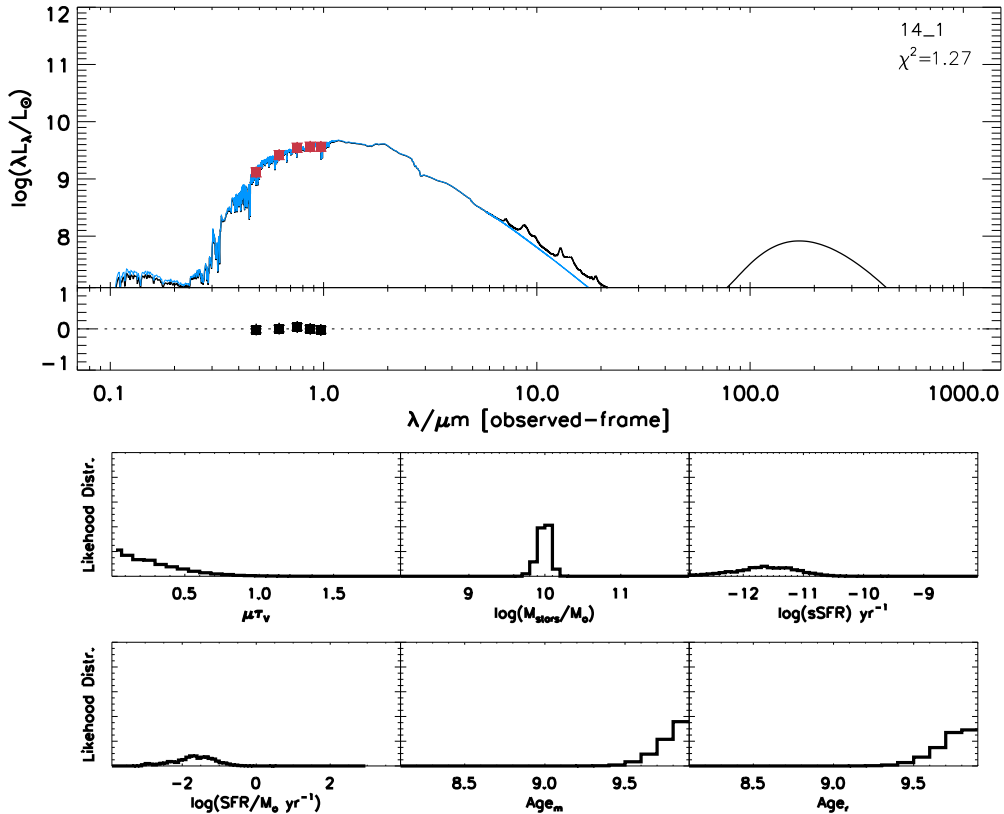


Figure 5. Example of MAGPHYS SED fitting and the distribution of different physical parameters. Upper panel: the red points are the observed five-band photometry for one annulus of one of our galaxies. The black curve is the fitted attenuated SED and the blue curve is the fitted unattenuated SED. The black dots show the residuals. Lower panel: marginalized likelihood distributions of various physical parameters: clockwise from upper left, these are the dust attenuation of the starlight, the stellar mass, the specific SFR, the log r -band-weighted mean age in years, the log of the mass-weighted mean age in years, and the SFR.

the outer disk. It is therefore interesting to investigate where the stellar halo starts to emerge in the outer region and make a clear definition of the outer border of the stellar disk region. Previous studies (Zibetti et al. 2004; D’Souza et al. 2014) show that the stellar halo usually has a much rounder shape than the stellar disk, so the best way to study the stellar halo is to examine the 2D stacked images and look for changes in the galaxy shape.

Zibetti et al. (2004) stacked 1047 local ($z \sim 0.05$) edge-on disk galaxies imaged in five bands by SDSS. They contract or expand each galaxy before adding it to the stack in such a way that the scale-length of each galaxy has the same angular size. D’Souza et al. (2014) made stack images using a much larger sample, 45508 galaxies, and the sample contains both early type and late type galaxies. D’Souza et al. (2014) took a further step by rebinning each galaxy to produce an image scaled to the common value of redshift $z = 0.1$. They also divided their sample into different mass bins to study the properties of stellar halo as a function of stellar mass. However, they did not rescale the size of the galaxies as done by Zibetti et al. (2004). Assuming the exposure time for each SDSS image is about 100 s, the total exposure times of the stack images made by Zibetti et al. (2004) and D’Souza et al. (2014) are about 100 ks and 4.55 Ms. Since the typical exposure time of our PS1 MD images is about 10 ks, the total exposure time of our sample is about 10 Ms.

4.2. Stack Method and the Stack Images

Here we process and stack the galaxy images following a method combining the techniques provided by Zibetti et al. (2004) and D’Souza et al. (2014): galaxy images and masks are shifted, rotated, and contracted/expanded by the IRAF

task GEOTRAN so that the transformed image is centered on the center of the galaxy, the major axis of the galaxy is horizontal, and r_{90} is $7''$ (28 pixels). The GEOTRAN task was run without flux conservation so that the SB is preserved during the transformation. We then scale the linear SB I_v to redshift $z = 0.1$ according to the equation

$$I_{v,z=0.1} = I_0 \left(\frac{1+z}{1+0.1} \right)^3, \quad (4)$$

where I_0 is the original intensity in unit of $\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{Hz}^{-1} \text{arcsec}^{-2}$ and z is the redshift of the galaxy. This equation corrects both the $(1+z)^4$ cosmological SB dimming and the $(1+z)^{-1}$ frequency compression effect on the monochromatic flux. The SB is then corrected for Milky Way extinction according to Schlegel et al. (1998). The k-correction is ignored. Note that D’Souza et al. (2014) did the stacking in a different way: they ran the IRAF GEOTRAN with flux conservation so that the SB is not preserved. They also did not count for the $(1+z)^{-1}$ frequency compression effect.

We then apply the masks to each image and subtract the sky background calculated using the IDL routine MMM and combine the masked background subtracted images to make the stack image. For each pixel of the stack image, we only use intensity values within the 16th and 84th percentiles of the pixel value distribution at that specific pixel. Following Zibetti et al. (2004) we made a mean stack image, a median stack image and a mode stack image. The mode stack image is calculated using the approximation (Zibetti et al. 2004)

$$\text{Mode} = 3 \times \text{Median} - 2 \times \text{Mean}. \quad (5)$$

Table 2
Radial Profiles Example

ID	Rad (arcsec)	g (mag arcsec ⁻²)	err	r (mag arcsec ⁻²)	err	i (mag arcsec ⁻²)	err	z (mag arcsec ⁻²)	err	y (mag arcsec ⁻²)	err	μ_s (M_\odot kpc ⁻²)	err	Σ_{SFR} (M_\odot kpc ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	err	sSFR (yr ⁻¹)	err	M/L_r ($M_\odot L_\odot^{-1}$)	err	Age_r (yr)	err	A_v (mag)	err
1	1.13	21.95	0.00	21.16	0.00	20.76	0.00	20.54	0.00	20.42	0.00	8.49	0.10	-2.29	0.57	-10.78	0.47	0.24	0.21	9.55	0.20	0.40	0.39
1	1.88	22.40	0.00	21.68	0.00	21.29	0.00	21.09	0.00	20.95	0.00	8.22	0.10	-2.35	0.53	-10.58	0.43	0.17	0.21	9.50	0.20	0.40	0.37
1	2.63	22.84	0.00	22.14	0.00	21.77	0.00	21.58	0.00	21.40	0.01	8.01	0.11	-2.47	0.49	-10.49	0.39	0.15	0.21	9.47	0.19	0.38	0.33
1	3.38	23.39	0.01	22.65	0.00	22.28	0.00	22.08	0.00	21.91	0.01	7.83	0.10	-2.81	0.52	-10.64	0.42	0.17	0.21	9.52	0.19	0.32	0.28
1	4.38	24.12	0.01	23.36	0.01	22.99	0.00	22.76	0.01	22.54	0.01	7.61	0.10	-3.12	0.49	-10.73	0.40	0.24	0.21	9.57	0.17	0.32	0.26
1	5.38	25.04	0.02	24.29	0.01	23.94	0.01	23.71	0.02	23.40	0.03	7.25	0.09	-3.38	0.43	-10.63	0.33	0.24	0.20	9.57	0.16	0.29	0.22
1	6.38	25.90	0.05	25.17	0.03	24.87	0.02	24.65	0.03	24.24	0.05	6.87	0.09	-3.67	0.33	-10.54	0.24	0.22	0.20	9.56	0.15	0.25	0.19
1	7.63	26.87	0.12	26.31	0.08	25.89	0.06	25.60	0.08	24.88	0.09	6.53	0.10	-4.17	0.42	-10.71	0.31	0.32	0.22	9.65	0.14	0.21	0.15
1	8.88	27.59	0.23	26.85	0.13	26.68	0.12	26.32	0.15	25.63	0.18	6.11	0.16	-4.52	0.56	-10.63	0.40	0.13	0.26	9.56	0.20	0.13	0.10
1	10.13	28.08	0.41	28.17	0.47	28.09	0.45	27.74	0.60	26.41	0.40	5.29	0.36	-4.54	0.60	-9.83	0.25	-0.16	0.44	9.20	0.44	0.10	0.08
1	11.63	28.32	0.53	29.44	1.91	29.29	1.47	28.86	1.92	26.60	0.47	5.01	0.39	-4.83	0.68	-9.84	0.30	0.84	0.80	9.20	0.49	0.10	0.08
1	16.63	28.86	1.04	28.41	0.56	28.45	0.60	27.90	0.67	28.09	2.20	5.18	0.35	-4.84	0.68	-10.02	0.33	-0.20	0.45	9.29	0.44	0.10	0.08
2	0.38	21.04	0.00	20.52	0.00	20.06	0.00	19.96	0.00	19.85	0.00	8.54	0.11	-1.77	0.52	-10.31	0.41	0.09	0.21	9.43	0.21	0.39	0.36
2	1.13	21.50	0.00	20.97	0.00	20.58	0.00	20.47	0.00	20.36	0.00	8.28	0.10	-1.96	0.50	-10.24	0.40	0.02	0.21	9.39	0.21	0.32	0.30
2	1.88	22.05	0.00	21.51	0.00	21.17	0.00	21.05	0.00	20.91	0.01	8.04	0.10	-2.17	0.48	-10.21	0.37	-0.01	0.21	9.37	0.21	0.30	0.27
2	2.63	22.46	0.00	21.94	0.00	21.61	0.00	21.49	0.00	21.35	0.01	7.85	0.10	-2.32	0.45	-10.17	0.35	-0.03	0.21	9.36	0.20	0.27	0.24
2	3.38	22.81	0.00	22.30	0.00	21.98	0.00	21.86	0.00	21.71	0.01	7.70	0.10	-2.43	0.43	-10.13	0.33	-0.04	0.21	9.36	0.20	0.25	0.21
2	4.38	23.34	0.01	22.81	0.00	22.49	0.00	22.37	0.00	22.17	0.01	7.53	0.11	-2.69	0.42	-10.23	0.32	0.00	0.21	9.39	0.18	0.22	0.18
2	5.38	24.07	0.01	23.52	0.01	23.17	0.01	23.05	0.01	22.85	0.02	7.29	0.11	-3.09	0.43	-10.38	0.33	0.04	0.21	9.44	0.17	0.19	0.16
2	6.38	24.90	0.03	24.36	0.02	24.06	0.01	23.90	0.02	23.53	0.04	7.01	0.10	-3.26	0.31	-10.27	0.21	0.10	0.21	9.47	0.15	0.21	0.15
2	7.63	26.12	0.08	25.47	0.04	25.09	0.03	25.05	0.05	24.47	0.09	6.56	0.11	-4.08	0.52	-10.64	0.41	0.10	0.22	9.52	0.18	0.13	0.11
2	8.88	26.96	0.18	26.26	0.09	25.88	0.06	26.04	0.12	25.16	0.17	6.19	0.14	-4.40	0.60	-10.59	0.46	0.04	0.25	9.50	0.21	0.10	0.08
2	10.13	28.04	0.55	27.31	0.24	26.76	0.14	26.44	0.17	25.76	0.30	6.04	0.17	-5.01	0.66	-11.06	0.49	0.32	0.29	9.68	0.21	0.10	0.08
2	11.63	28.14	0.59	27.57	0.29	27.07	0.17	26.71	0.21	26.35	0.50	5.84	0.21	-4.89	0.68	-10.74	0.48	0.22	0.32	9.58	0.25	0.10	0.08
2	13.13	29.49	4.00	27.87	0.40	27.40	0.24	27.56	0.46	26.76	0.76	5.50	0.30	-4.81	0.72	-10.31	0.42	-0.05	0.39	9.40	0.38	0.10	0.08
2	14.88	29.89	13.92	27.76	0.33	28.38	0.57	30.90	110.20	25.80	0.28	5.33	0.35	-4.78	0.73	-10.12	0.38	-0.48	0.42	9.33	0.45	0.10	0.08
2	16.63	28.88	1.33	27.92	0.37	28.01	0.38	31.44	-26.43	27.01	0.88	5.13	0.30	-4.80	0.71	-9.94	0.42	-0.34	0.39	9.23	0.44	0.10	0.08

Notes. Galaxy radial profiles example. This table contains radial profiles of two galaxies selected from our 698 galaxy sample. The stellar surface mass density μ_s , surface SFR density Σ_{SFR} , r -band stellar mass-to-light ratio M/L_r , r -band weighted mean stellar age Age_r , and their uncertainties are in logarithmic scale.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

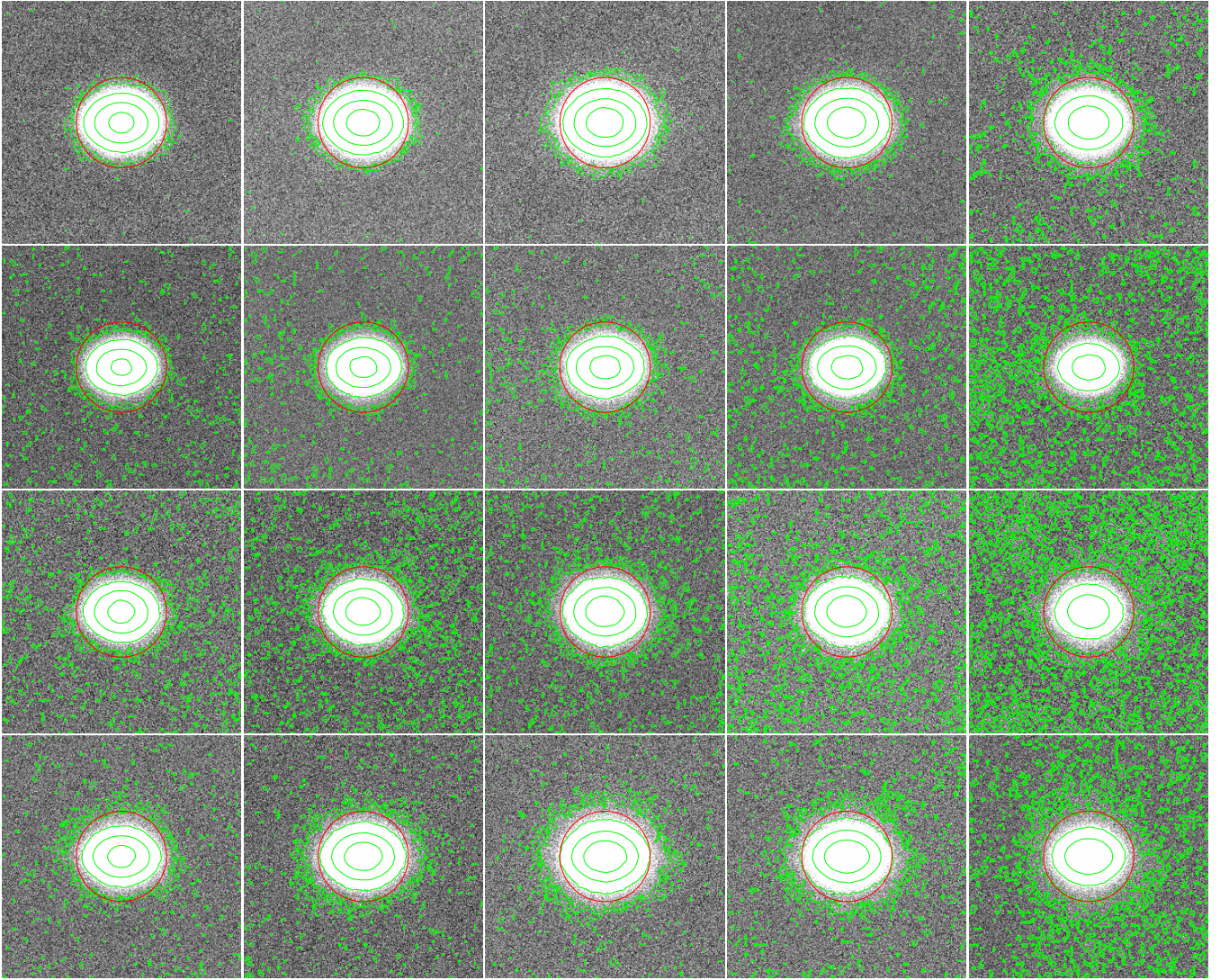


Figure 6. 2D stack images. From top to bottom: all galaxies, low-mass galaxies, intermediate-mass galaxies, high-mass galaxies. From left to right: g , r , i , z , y band. The contour levels represent 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 ABmag arcsec $^{-2}$. The red circles indicate $2r_{90}$. The 30 ABmag arcsec $^{-2}$ contour is close to $3r_{90}$.

We also have the rising background problem in the outer regions of the mean and median stack images (Zibetti et al. 2004). Therefore, we use the mode stack images, which are much less affected by this problem. Following D’Souza et al. (2014), we make stack images using sample galaxies divided in three different mass bins: high mass ($M_* > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$) galaxies, intermediate mass ($10^{10} M_\odot < M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$) galaxies, and low mass ($M_* < 10^{10} M_\odot$) galaxies, respectively. We also make a super stack image using all the galaxies in our sample.

The stack images are shown in Figure 6. We plot isophote contours (green lines) and $2r_{90}$ ($14''$, red circles) on top of the images. It is obvious that the emission of the stacked galaxy extends out of $2r_{90}$. The isophotes inside $2r_{90}$ all have similar ellipticity, while isophotes outside $2r_{90}$ are significantly rounder than those inside $2r_{90}$. The extended PSF wing (up to $3r_{90}$) might cause some of the emission outside $2r_{90}$ but should have a minimum effect on disk light within $2r_{90}$ (cf. appendix A for detailed discussion).

4.3. Evidence of the Stellar Halo

We extracted SB and color profiles of the stack images using the method described in Section 3 and fit the SB profiles of

the stack images using MAGPHYS. The results are shown in Figures 7–10. The stack images using galaxies in different mass bins have lower signal-to-noise ratio in the very outer region ($> \sim 3r_{90}$) and the figures from Figures 8–10 are plotted to show the variations of the profiles in different mass bins.

The stack image made using all the galaxies (Figure 7) has the best SNR and we are confident about the profiles out to about $3r_{90}$. The main conclusion from this figure is that the stellar surface density profile shows an obvious change in slope (up-turn) beyond $2r_{90}$ and the color and M/L profiles show a relatively constant red color and high M/L . The colors in the $2r_{90}$ and $3r_{90}$ regions are $g-r \approx 0.8$ and $r-i \approx 0.6$, which are very close to the values found by Zibetti et al. (2004). The stellar mass measured in the stellar halo of the all-galaxy stack image (within the $2r_{90}$ and $4r_{90}$ regions) is about $10^{8.4} M_\odot$ and is about 1% of the total stellar mass of the stack galaxy. We suggest that the upward break in the surface mass density profile at around $2r_{90}$ represents the transition from the region dominated by the outer disk and that contaminated by the halo.

The behavior of the galaxy ellipticity as a function of radius provides additional clues, since the halo is intrinsically much rounder than the disk. In order to maximize this effect of the stellar halo on the geometry of the galaxy shape, we made a stack

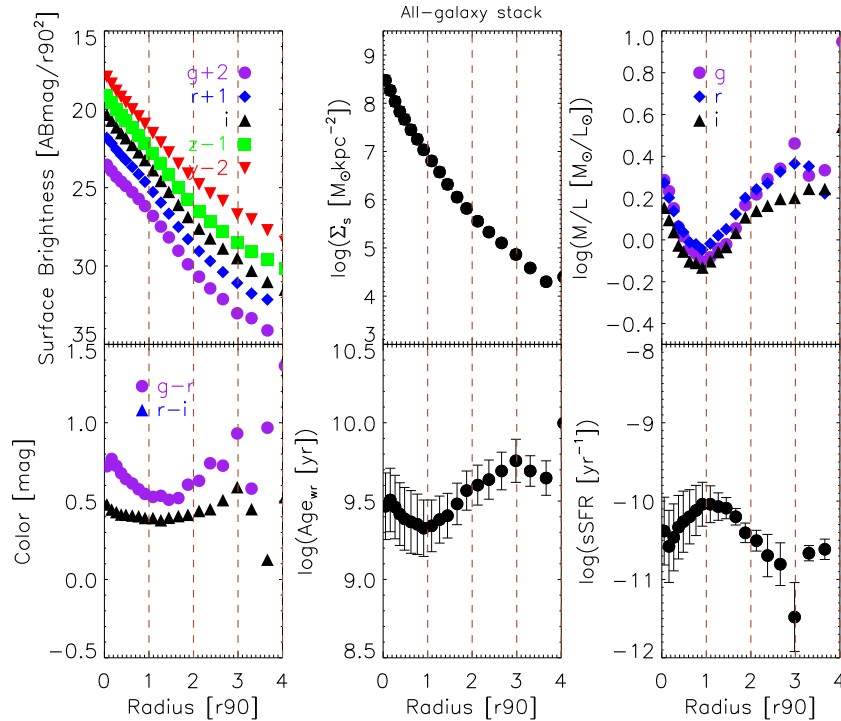


Figure 7. Radial profiles of the stack image of all galaxies. Vertical dash lines show 1, 2, 3 times r_{90} . The profiles show (clockwise from the upper left) the multi-band surface brightness, the stellar surface mass density, the mass-to-light ratios in three bands, the specific SFR, the log of the r -band-weighted age, and the colors. The up-turn/break in the stellar surface mass density profile at around $2r_{90}$ and red colors beyond that radius suggest a transition from disk to halo at around this radius.

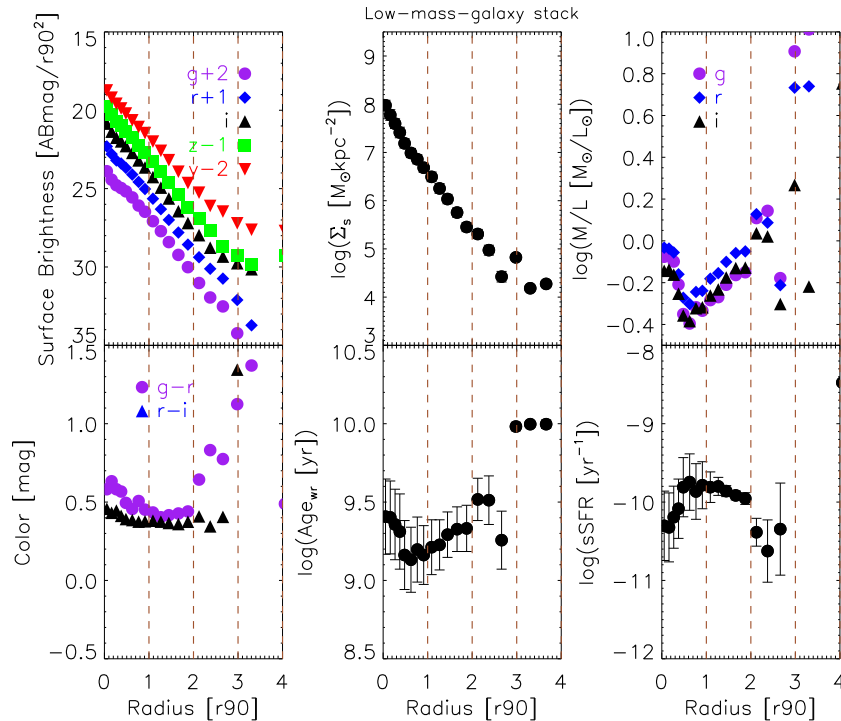


Figure 8. Radial profiles of stack image of low mass galaxies. The profiles inside $3r_{90}$ are robust; however, the results outside $3r_{90}$ are unreliable because the SB profiles are dominated by the sky background uncertainties in this regime.

image using galaxies with the highest ellipticities, i.e., $e > 0.4$. The ellipticity profile of this high-ellipticity stack image is plotted in Figure 11. The ellipticity profile rises slowly between ~ 0.5 and $\sim 1.4r_{90}$ and then slowly declines out to $\sim 3r_{90}$.

Taken together, we conclude that the images of the outer disk are not significantly contaminated by light from the stellar halo at radii interior to $\sim 2r_{90}$. This argument is also consistent with the 1D study of stellar halo by Bakos & Trujillo (2012),

who found the stellar halo starts to affect the disk SB profile at $\mu_r \sim 28 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$, which is about $2r_{90}$.

5. COMPOSITE RADIAL PROFILES: THE GENERIC SHAPES OF 1D PROFILES

Perhaps the most compact way to visualize the general properties of the radial profiles of the 698 sample galaxies is

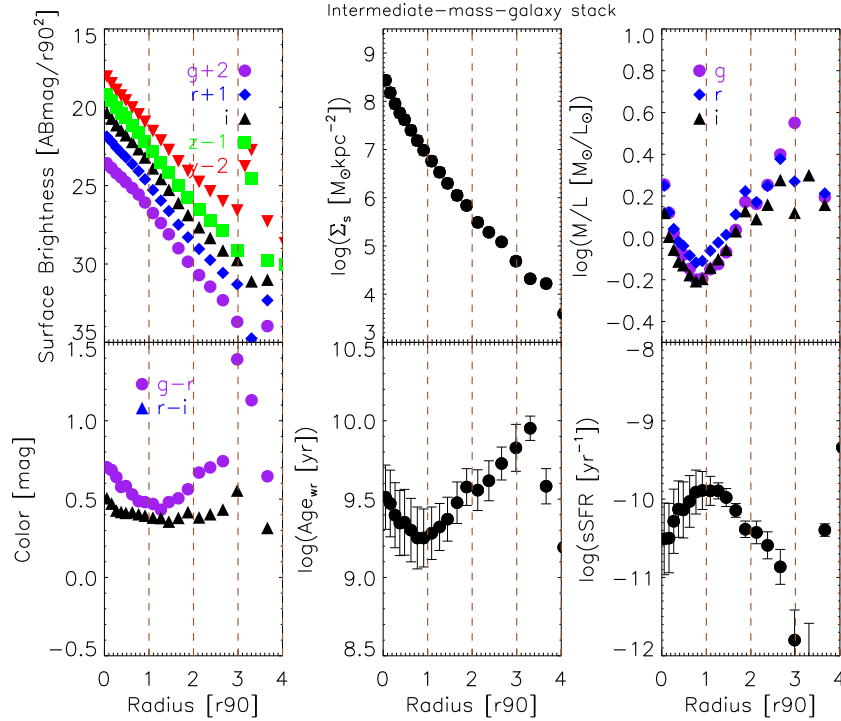


Figure 9. Radial profiles of the stack image of intermediate mass galaxies. The profiles inside $3r_{90}$ are robust; however, the results outside $3r_{90}$ are unreliable because the SB profiles are dominated by the sky background uncertainties in this regime.

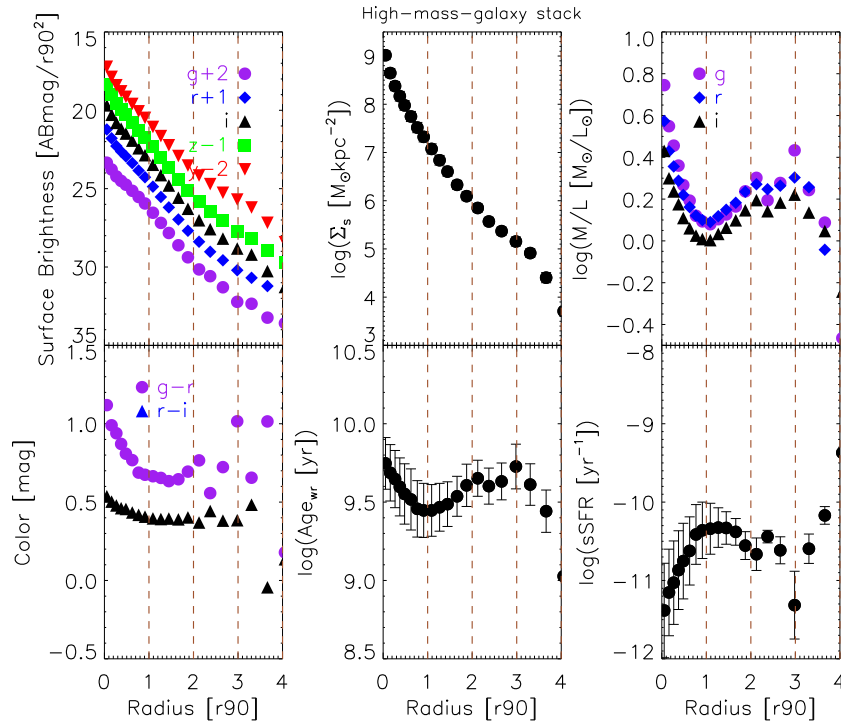


Figure 10. Radial profiles of the stack image of high mass galaxies. The profiles inside $3r_{90}$ are robust; however, the results outside $3r_{90}$ are unreliable because the SB profiles are dominated by the sky background uncertainties in this regime.

to plot all the radial profiles onto a single figure with the radius normalized by the galaxy's intrinsic scale radius (r_{90}). We will do this by creating two sets of composite profiles: one in which the galaxies are binned in stellar mass and one in which they are binned in the concentration parameter ($C = r_{90}/r_{50}$).

We first divide our sample into three bins in stellar mass, and show the resulting composite SB radial profile plots and stellar

surface mass radial profile plot in Figure 12), and then present the corresponding $g-r$ and $g-i$ color radial profiles in Figure 13. Lastly, we show the corresponding g -band stellar M/L plots in Figure 14.

The resulting SB profiles have a dynamic range of about 7 mag. The composite i , z , y SB and the stellar mass surface density radial profiles are very close to pure exponentials with

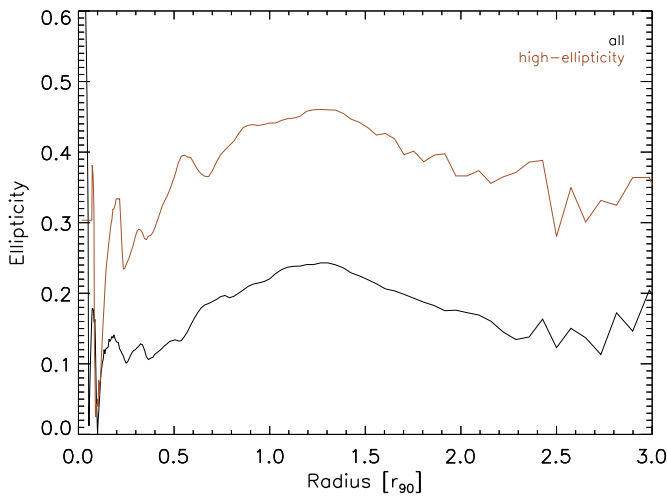


Figure 11. Ellipticity profiles of stacked i -band images of all galaxies and galaxies with ellipticity $e > 0.4$. The ellipticity remains high in the region between 1 and $2 r_{90}$ and we conclude the light in this region is dominated by the disk rather than the stellar halo.

a scale-length $\sim 0.3 r_{90}$. The plots in the bluer bands, especially the g -band SB radial profile, show a down-bending feature with a break radius at $\sim r_{90}$. This implies that most g -band profiles are down-bending and this is consistent with the PT06 results. There are no obvious breaks in the i , z , y , and Σ_s radial profiles.

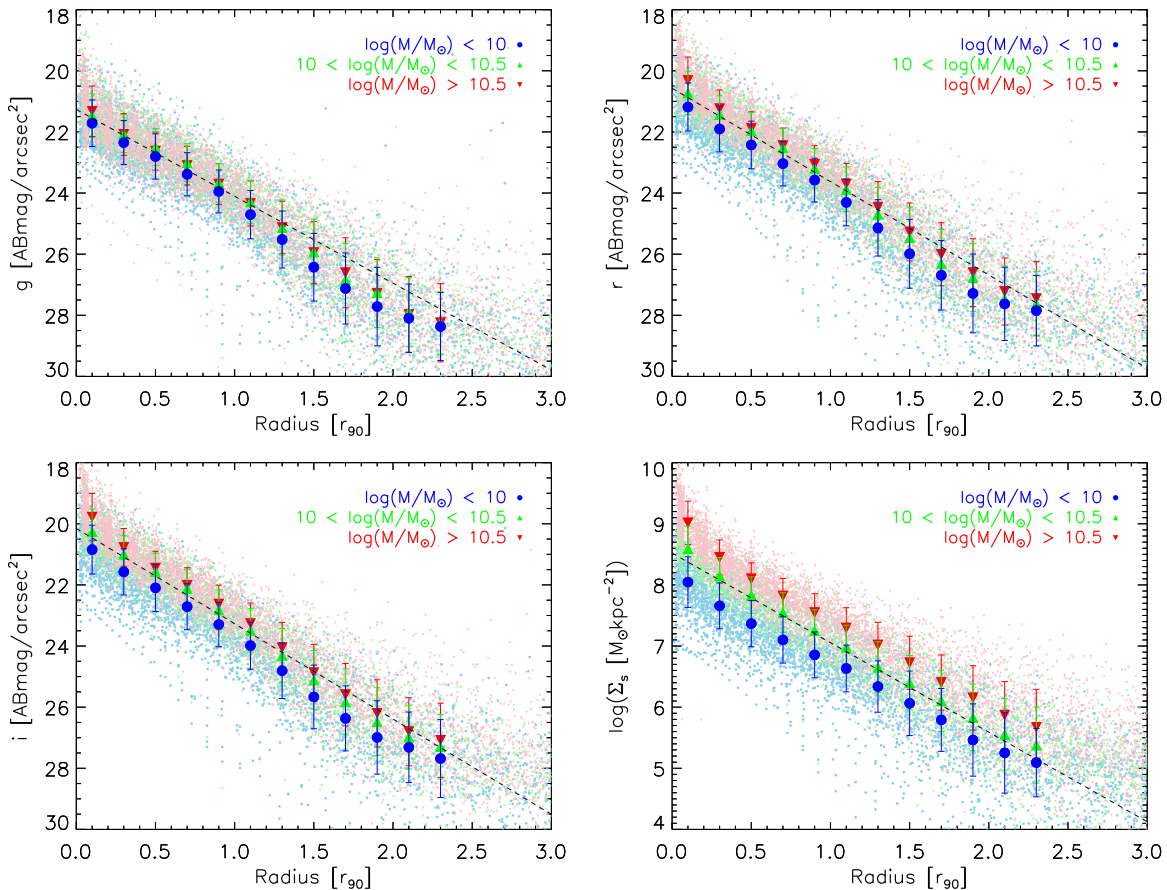


Figure 12. Composite radial profiles of the g , r , i -band SB and stellar mass surface density. Each point corresponds to a single annulus in a single galaxy, and are color-coded according to galaxy mass, as indicated in the legend. The large symbols show the median value within bins of width $0.2 r_{90}$. The vertical bars represent the dispersion in the observed/derived median values and not the typical error on each of the thousands of measurements. The photometric magnitudes are Milky Way-extinction corrected and K -corrected. The dash line in each panel is a pure exponential fit to the data between 0.3 and $1 r_{90}$. The bluer bands show down-bending radial profiles starting at about $1.0 r_{90}$, while the redder bands and the surface mass density are single exponentials beyond the inner bulge-dominated region inside $\sim 0.3 r_{90}$. This is true in all bins of stellar mass.

This is consistent with the results in Bakos et al. (2008) and Bakos & Trujillo (2012).

The changes from g -band to the y -band and then to the Σ_s radial profiles imply that disk galaxies have a positive color gradient and thus a increasing stellar M/L beyond $\sim 1 r_{90}$. The color profiles (Figure 13) do indeed show that the colors turn up at larger radii. The higher mass galaxies tend to be redder at all radii, but the shapes of the radial color profiles are the same in all three mass bins. Our sensitive PS1 imaging in the i , z , and y bands provides improved contrast between the minimum in the color profiles (near r_{90}) and the comparatively red outermost disk.

Irrespective of whether the color gradients are driven purely by the age of the stellar population or whether dust reddening plays a role, the redder colors in the outer disk imply that the stellar M/L is larger there. This is shown explicitly in the top panel of Figure 14. The g -band stellar M/L at first decreases with increasing radius as we move outward from the center of the galaxies, reaches a minimum value, and then rises as we move into the outer disk. The normalized radius at which the minimum occurs in stellar M/L increases slightly with increasing stellar mass (from ~ 0.8 to $1.0 r_{90}$). In the bottom panel we plot the g -band stellar M/L at a given location versus the local stellar mass surface density. This shows the same qualitative behavior as the top panel (an obvious “U” shape), but the minimum in M/L occurs at the same value ($\Sigma_s \sim 10^7 M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$) in all three

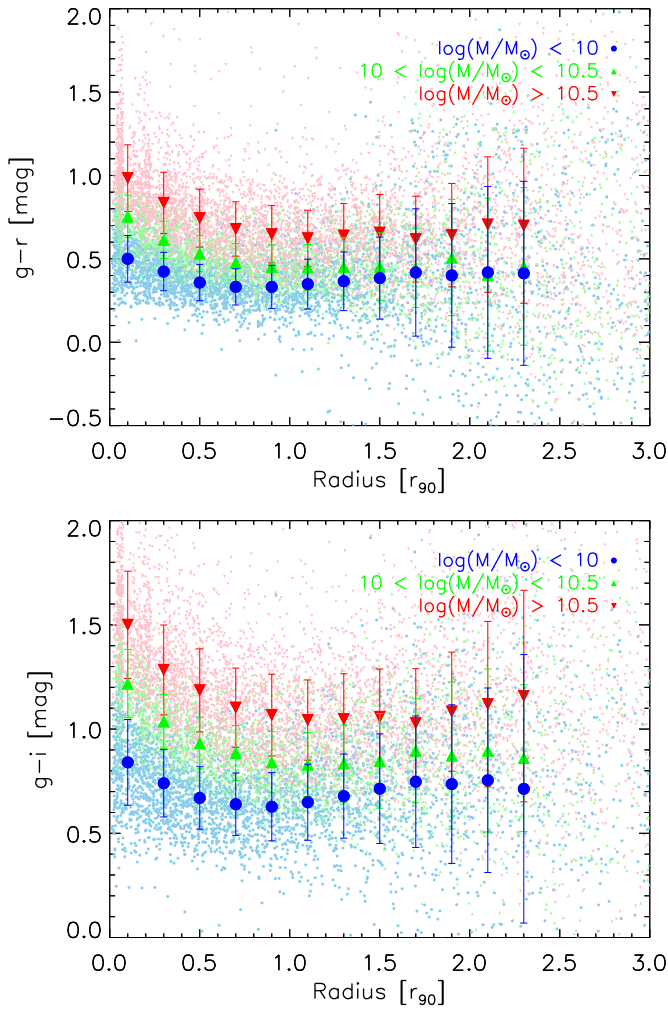


Figure 13. Composite radial profiles of colors. Upper panel: $g-r$; lower panel: $g-i$. The colors are Milky Way-extinction corrected and K -corrected. Symbols and color-coding are as in the previous figure. Both the color profiles show a “U” shape with minima at around r_{90} .

mass bins. The behavior of the stellar M/L for other bands are similar to that of the g -band but with diminished amplitude.

One important clue as to the nature of the breaks in the g - and r -band composite profiles is that they occur exactly at the location of the bluest point in the color profiles (Figure 13), $\sim r_{90}$. This is consistent with results in previous studies (e.g., Bakos et al. 2008; Bakos & Trujillo 2012). According to Figure 12, the value of r_{90} is about 3 scale-lengths in the SB profiles. This is consistent with the locations of the PT06 breaks, but conflicts with the van der Kruit (1987) model.

To interpret the nature of the “U”-shaped stellar M/L profile, we plot the composite radial profiles of the sSFR in Figure 15. This figure shows that the sSFR drops with increasing normalized radius in the outer disk in all three mass bins. The bottom panel plots sSFR versus Σ_s and shows that sSFR reaches a (mass-dependent) maximum value at $\Sigma_s \sim 10^7 \text{ kpc}^{-2}$. A complementary parameterization of the stellar population is shown in Figure 16 which shows the r -band luminosity weighted mean age of the stars plotted as a function of normalized radius (top) and local surface mass density (bottom).

Note that without UV and IR data we cannot unambiguously disentangle the effects of age and dust reddening on the observed colors (even though we have attempted to do so, as described in Section 2). Nevertheless, it is difficult to imagine that the redder

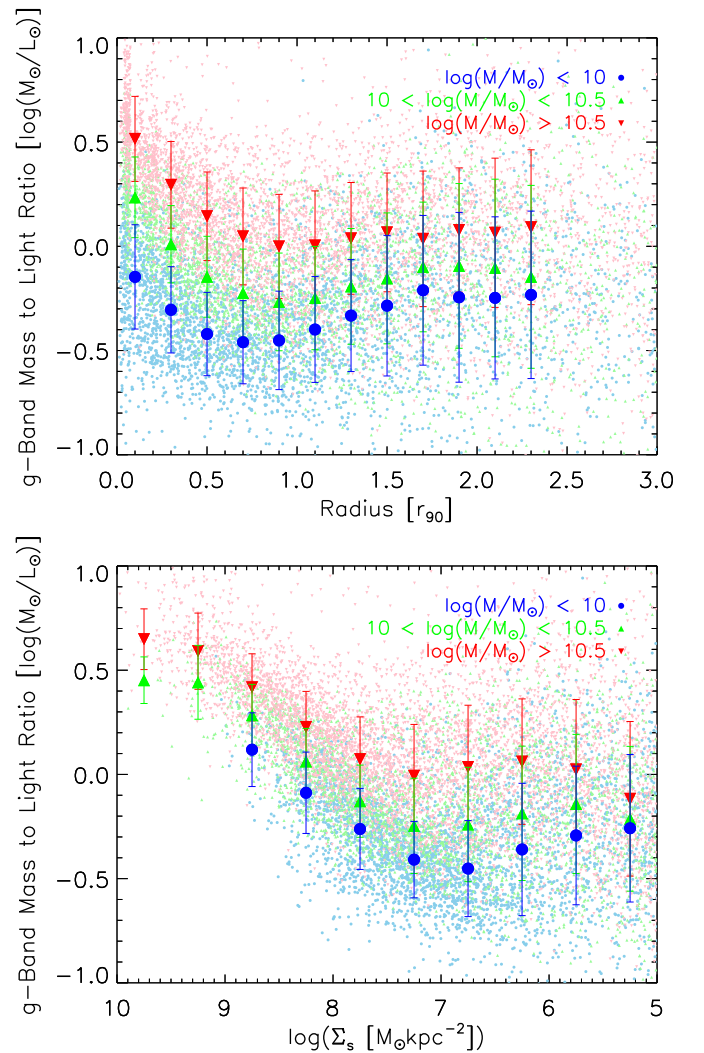


Figure 14. Composite g -band stellar M/L profile plotted as a function of radius (top) and local stellar surface mass density (bottom). Both plots show a “U” shape with a minimum at about r_{90} (top) and $\Sigma_s \sim 10^7 M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$ (bottom).

colors in the outer disk (or in the regions of low stellar mass surface density) are caused by an increase in the amount of dust reddening. This is completely unphysical at such low surface mass densities, where the corresponding gas and dust column densities will be small.

Finally, as expected, we note that our data show higher mass disk galaxies tend to have higher SB and be redder and lower mass galaxies tend to have lower SB and be bluer. This is also consistent with many previous studies (e.g., Bakos et al. 2008; Bakos & Trujillo 2012; Kauffmann et al. 2003).

In Figure 17 we show composite radial profiles of the g -band SB, the stellar surface mass density, and the g -band M/L for our sample binned in three ranges of C .

Three results are evident. First, the amplitude of the down-bending in the SB profile is largest for the lowest values of C and smallest for the largest values of C . Second, the amplitude of the “U”-shaped M/L radial profile follows the same pattern. Third, the stellar surface mass density radial profile is well described as a single exponential for all three bins in C . We conclude that there is a relationship between C (the bulge/disk ratio; Hubble type) and the radial gradients in the age of the stellar population between the inner and outer disk, even though the relative radial

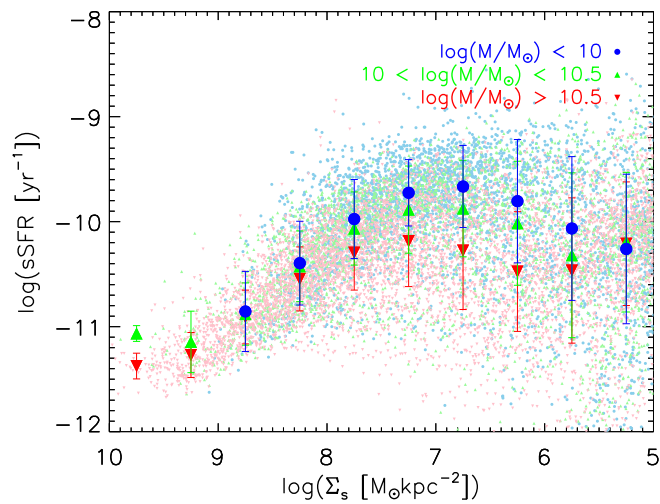
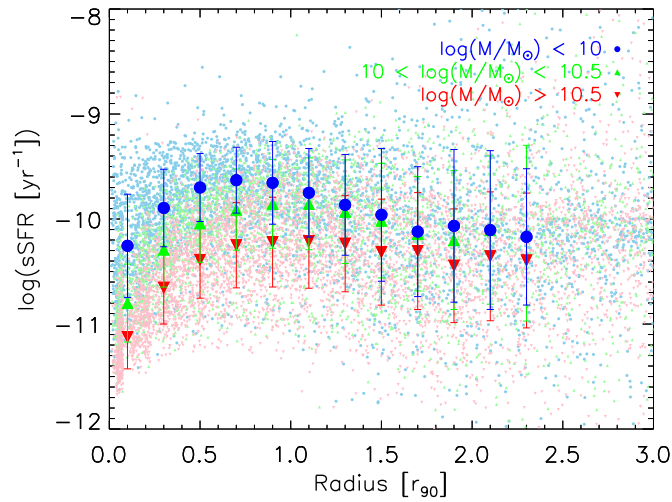


Figure 15. Composite radial profiles of specific star formation rate (sSFR). In all mass bins the specific star-formation rate reaches a maximum value at a radius of $\sim r_{90}$ (top) and $\Sigma_s \sim 10^7 M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$ (bottom).

distribution of stellar mass is the same for both later and earlier-type disks (pure exponential).

6. PROPERTIES OF INDIVIDUAL GALAXIES

PT06 and several succeeding studies (e.g., Bakos et al. 2008; Herrmann et al. 2013) classify the SB radial profiles into three categories. However, these studies classify the profiles more or less subjectively in terms of establishing the division between Type I, II, and III. Also, the breaks are less obvious in redder bands than in bluer bands. Even in the same photometric band the strength of the break is different from galaxy to galaxy. Thus, a better approach is to develop an automatic algorithm and derive a number which can describe the breaks quantitatively instead of qualitatively. In this section, we develop an objective automatic break finding algorithm and use the inner–outer disk slope ratio k_1/k_2 as the break strength indicator, where k_1 and k_2 are defined as

$$\mu(r) = \mu_{10} + k_1 r \quad (\text{if } r < r_b), \quad (6)$$

and

$$\mu(r) = \mu_{20} + k_2 r \quad (\text{if } r > r_b), \quad (7)$$

where r is the radius of the profile, μ is the SB profile in ABmag arcsec $^{-2}$, μ_{10} and μ_{20} are the central SBs interpolated

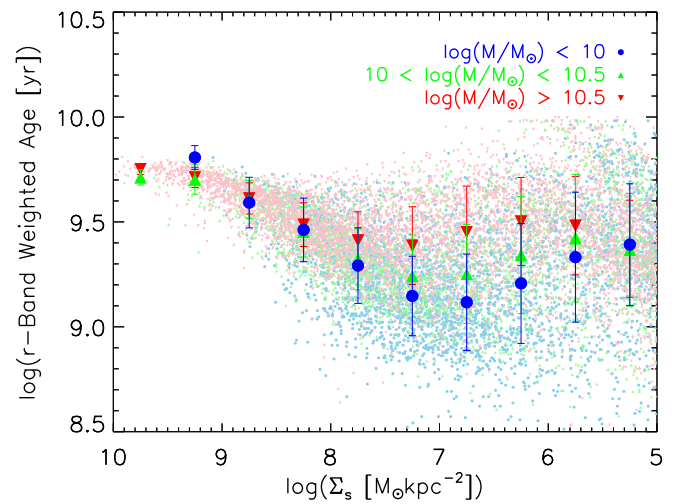
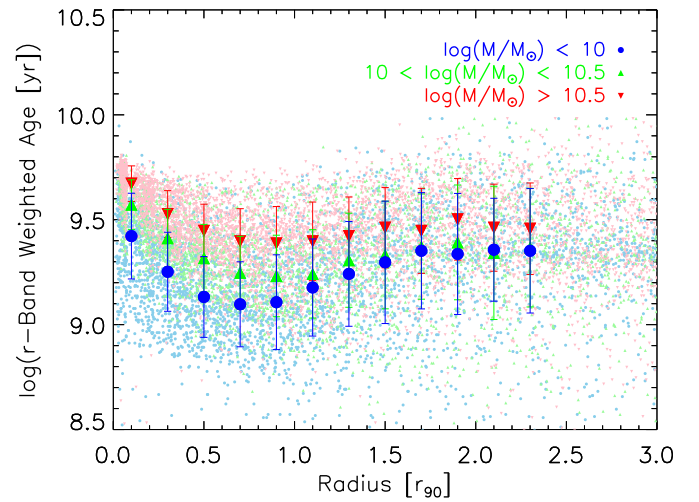


Figure 16. r -band weighted age radial profile stack plot. In all bins of stellar mass, the population is youngest at a radius of $\sim r_{90}$ (top) and $\Sigma_s \sim 10^7 M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-2}$ (bottom).

using the inner and outer disk SB profiles, respectively, and r_b is the break radius. The inner and outer disks are divided by the break radius r_b . Here we define the slope ratio as

$$R = k_1/k_2. \quad (8)$$

Therefore, a large slope ratio ($R > 1$) corresponds to the Type III (up-bending) profile; a small slope ratio ($R < 1$) corresponds to the Type II (down-bending) profile; and a unity slope ratio ($R \approx 1$) corresponds to the Type I (single exponential) profile.

6.1. The Break-finding Algorithm

It is very difficult to classify ~ 3500 SB radial profiles accurately and fully automatically for a couple of reasons. A typical SB profile contains three different parts: a Sérsic profile for the bulge, an exponential profile for the inner disk, and another exponential profile for the outer disk. Some galaxies even show a very extended profile for the stellar halo. The outer boundary of the bulge and the inner boundary of the stellar halo can be very different from galaxy to galaxy. Furthermore the radial profile can have wiggles (due to irregularities like spiral arms) and be very noisy in the outer low SB regime. Finally, galaxies can be classified as a combination of Type II and Type III (PT06). Previous studies (e.g., PT06 and Herrmann

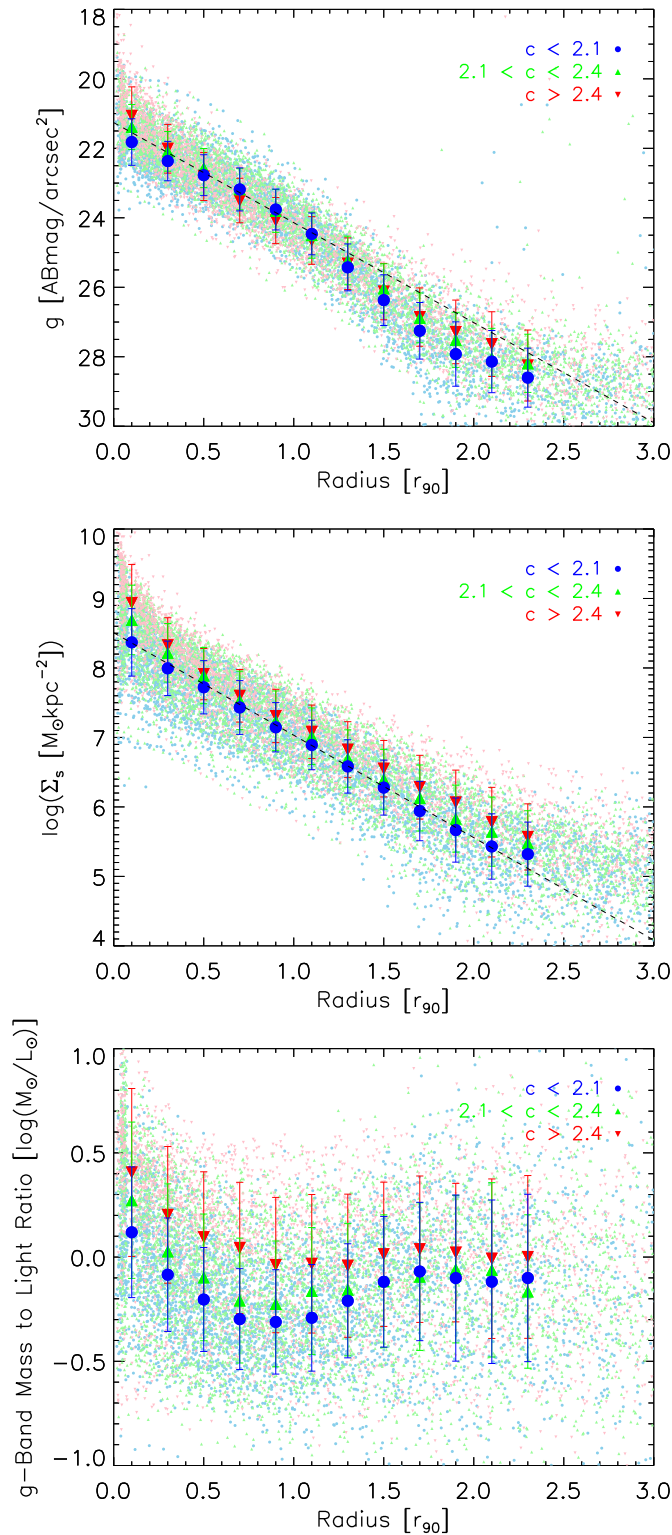


Figure 17. Composite radial profiles of g -band SB, stellar mass surface density and g -band M/L for our sample binned in three ranges of C . Symbols follow the convention of Figure 12.

et al. 2013) use human inspection to determine the type of the SB profiles.

Here we develop a fully automatic SB profile classification strategy. The strategy is based in part on the method developed by PT06 and several properties of the SB profiles described in Section 5. According to Section 5, breaks are generally more

obvious in bluer bands, e.g., g or r band. Furthermore, the SB radial profile break radius will not change from filter to filter, even though the inner/outer disk slope ratio varies (cf. Section 5 and Bakos et al. 2008). Since the r -band data have higher S/N than the g -band data, we use the r -band SB profile to derive the break radius and perform the profile classification.

One of the key points of the classification is finding the boundaries of the stellar disk and the location of the break radius. The inner boundary of the stellar disk is where the SB of the bulge is surpassed by the SB of the stellar disk and the outer boundary of the stellar disk is where the SB of the stellar disk is surpassed by the SB of the stellar halo or the rms of the sky background, whichever is higher. These boundaries are very hard to determine automatically: PT06 use human examination to determine the location of the inner boundary and set the outer boundary when the SB of the radial profile meets the rms of the sky background. The inner boundaries of PT06 are more accurate but the method is not suitable for our big sample. The outer boundaries of PT06 sometimes include part of the stellar halo (Bakos & Trujillo 2012). Fortunately, for most of the galaxies in our sample, the bulge is significant (if at all) only within $0.3 r_{90}$ and the stellar halo becomes significant outside $2 r_{90}$ (cf. Sections 4 and 5). Therefore, we simply fix the inner and outer boundaries at $0.3 r_{90}$ and $2 r_{90}$ in this paper.

The location of the break radius is determined using two different methods. The first method is given by PT06: we first calculate the derivative of the r -band radial profile within $0.3 r_{90}$ and $2 r_{90}$. The derivative profile is then smoothed to remove noisy points. The smoothed derivative profile should be a step function in an ideal situation (cf. Figure 6 of PT06). We then search for the location of the biggest jump in the derivative profile around r_{90} . This location should be the break radius in most cases. The second method is based on the property of the M/L profile: the M/L profile usually shows a “U” shape and the location of the “U” shape minimum is almost always the location of the break radius. Since the “U” shape is more obvious than the SB profile break it is much easier to fit the r -band M/L profile than to fit the r -band SB profile. We further simplify the algorithm by fitting the M/L profile using a skewed “V”-shaped function (two straight lines joined around r_{90}). The minimum location of the “V”-shaped function should be the break radius. After deriving the break radii using two independent methods, we fit the r -band SB profile using a broken exponential function with the break radius fixed using the values derived above. The break radius that results in the smallest χ^2 value is then our final best break radius for this specific galaxy.

The method works well for our galaxies but the reader should bear in mind that this classification is not as accurate as the method provided by PT06 because the inner bulge and outer stellar halo regions are assigned fixed values in radius. It is possible that some individual galaxies with an extended bulge and/or brighter stellar halo are misclassified in this strategy. However, our goal here is to draw statistical conclusions based on the results for our full sample of 698 galaxies, as derived by this algorithm.

6.2. The Slope Ratio R (in Light and Mass) and Its Correlation with Other Physical Parameters

After determining the break radius, we calculate the slopes of the inner ($k_{r,1}$) and outer ($k_{r,2}$) disk r -band SB profiles. Similarly, we calculate the inner and outer disk slopes ($k_{m,1}$ and $k_{m,2}$) of the stellar surface density profiles. The slopes of the stellar surface density profile are defined in a similar way

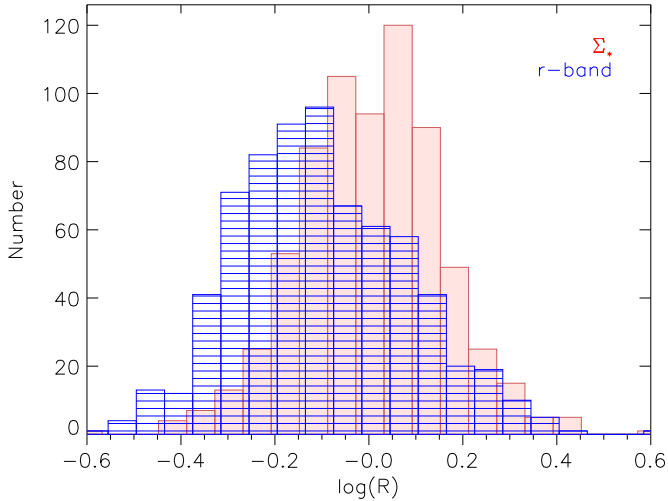


Figure 18. Ratio of inner and outer disk slopes (R). The distribution for the r -band implies most disk galaxies have down-bending outer surface brightness profiles ($R < 1$). The distribution for Σ_r peaks at $R = 1$, corresponding to a pure exponential profile. The typical errors in both forms of R are about 0.08 (about half the rms dispersion in the distributions).

as Equations (6) and (7) except that the SB μ is replaced by stellar surface densities Σ in a logarithmic scale. We plot the distribution of the r -band slope ratio (R_r) and the stellar surface mass density profile slope ratio (R_m) in Figure 18. The distribution of $\log(R_r)$ looks like a skewed Gaussian centered around -0.12 ($k_{r1}/k_{r2} = 0.75$), which means most galaxies have down-bending SB profiles. In comparison, the distribution of $\log(R_m)$ is a more symmetric Gaussian but centered around 0.0 ($k_{m1}/k_{m2} = 1$), implying a single smooth exponential form. The statistical parameters of the distributions of $\log(R_r)$ and $\log(R_m)$ are listed in Table 3. The $\log(R_r)$ distribution has a

	Mean	Median	Mode	rms	skew
$\log(R_r)$	-0.10	-0.11	-0.14	0.18	0.04
$\log(R_m)$	0.006	0.01	0.005	0.15	0.0

slightly a larger rms and some skewness, while the $\log(R_m)$ has a somewhat smaller rms and no skewness.

We plot the slope ratios versus the concentration parameter ($C = r_{90}/r_{50}$), total stellar mass M_* , total star formation rate SFR, specific star formation rate ($\text{sSFR} = \text{SFR}/M_*$), average stellar surface mass density ($\Sigma_* = M_*/\pi r_{90}^2$), and average SFR surface density ($\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} = \text{SFR}/\pi r_{90}^2$) in Figure 19. Here r_{50} is the radius containing 50% of the r -band Petrosian flux; the values for M_* and SFR are derived in Section 5.

There is a strong correlation between R_r and C but no obvious correlation with the other parameters. The correlation of the SB profile shape and C (Hubble type) is consistent with PT06 who found the disk SB profile types strongly correlate with Hubble types, with down-bending disks typically found to be later type galaxies.

We plot k_{r1} and k_{r2} versus these physical parameters in Figures 20 and 21. It also shows obvious correlation with the C but no obvious correlation with other parameters.

6.3. M/L Radial Profiles

One of the key results in Section 5 is that the stellar M/L radial profiles of most galaxies have a “U” shape with the minimum value located around r_{90} . However, Bakos et al. (2008) found that the $g-r$ color profile (which should correlate with the M/L profile) varies with different SB profile types: Type II disks have a “U”-shaped color profile, Type I disks show a constant color in the outer disk, and Type III disks show a slight

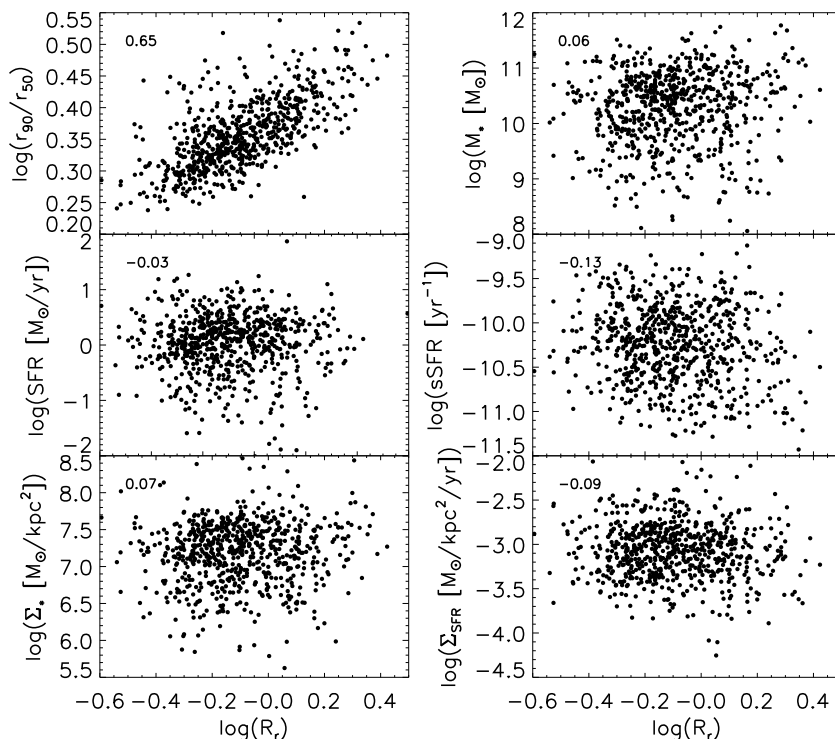


Figure 19. r -band slope ratio vs. concentration parameter, stellar mass, total SFR, sSFR, Σ_* , and Σ_{SFR} . The only strong correlation is with concentration, with later type disk galaxies having more strongly down-bending radial SB profiles.

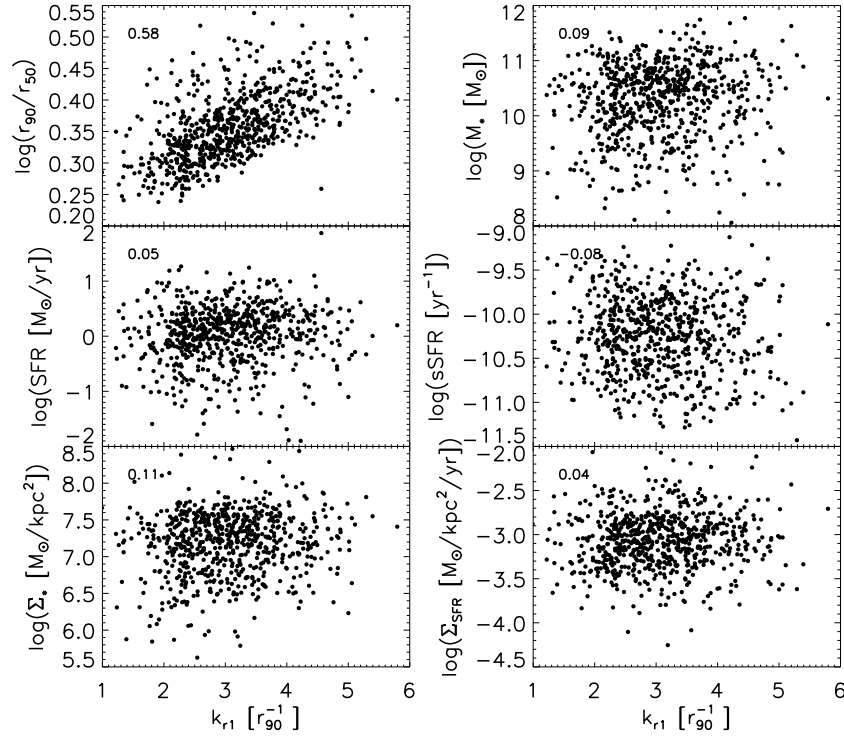


Figure 20. r -band $k_{r,1}$ vs. concentration parameter, stellar mass, total SFR, sSFR, Σ_* , and Σ_{SFR} . The only strong correlation is with concentration.

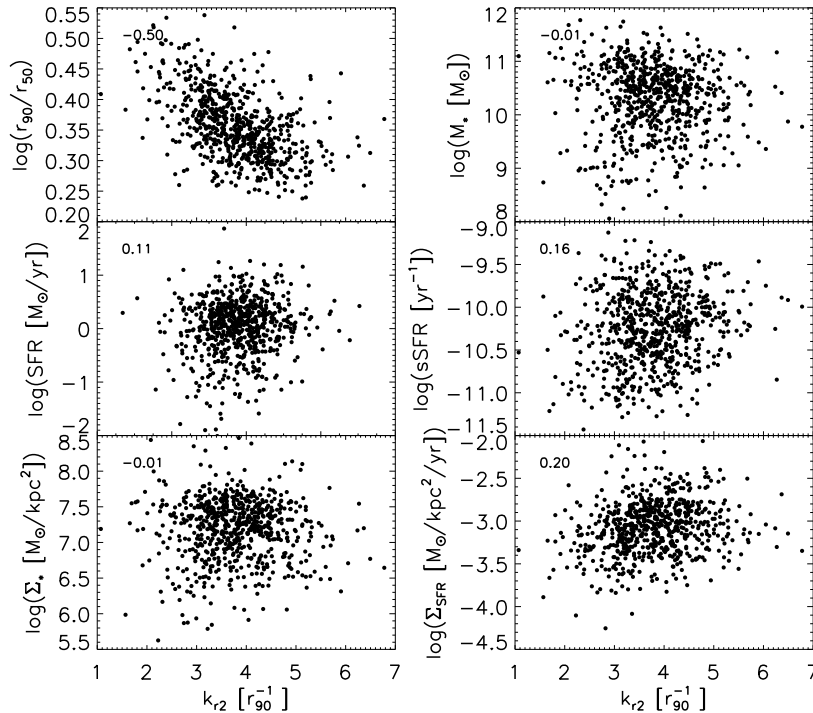


Figure 21. r -band $k_{r,2}$ vs. concentration parameter, stellar mass, total SFR, sSFR, Σ_* , and Σ_{SFR} . The only strong correlation is with concentration.

bluing after the break radius. It is therefore interesting to study the variation of the M/L radial profiles as a function of R_r .

For simplicity, we approximate the M/L profile using a skewed “V”-shaped (instead of the more complicated “U”-shaped) function similar to Equations (6) and (7):

$$\log(\Upsilon(r)) = \log(\Upsilon_{10}) + k_{\Upsilon 1} r \quad (\text{if } r < r_b), \quad (9)$$

$$\log(\Upsilon(r)) = \log(\Upsilon_{20}) + k_{\Upsilon 2} r \quad (\text{if } r > r_b), \quad (10)$$

where Υ is the stellar M/L radial profile in M_{\odot}/L_{\odot} and Υ_{10} and Υ_{20} are the central M/L interpolated using the inner and outer disk M/L profiles, respectively.

We plot the histogram of the slopes of the inner ($k_{\Upsilon 1}$) and outer ($k_{\Upsilon 2}$) disk r -band M/L profile in Figure 22. The distribution of $k_{\Upsilon 1}$ is a Gaussian centered around $-0.35 \log(L_{\odot}/M_{\odot})/r_{90}$, which means most galaxies show a decrease in M/L with increasing radius in the inner disk. The distribution of $k_{\Upsilon 2}$ is also a Gaussian, but centered around $0.2 \log(L_{\odot}/M_{\odot})/r_{90}$. This means most galaxies show an increase

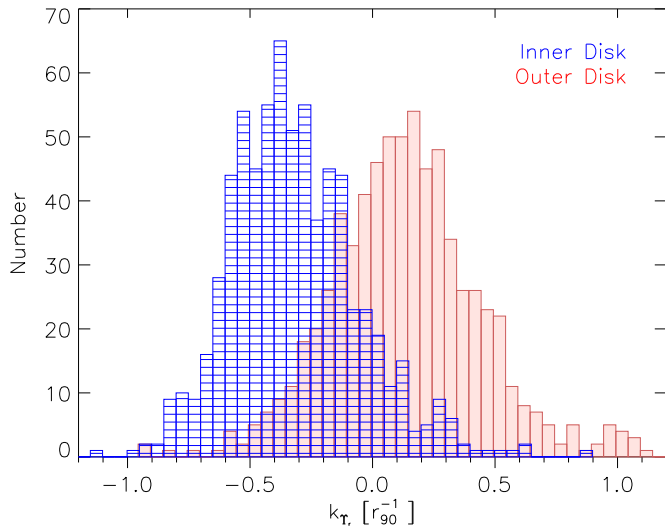


Figure 22. Histogram of the slopes of the inner and outer disk r -band M/L profile. Most galaxies show radial increases in M/L in the inner disk (blue histogram) and radial decreases in M/L in the outer disk (red histogram). The typical uncertainty in k_γ is about 0.01.

in M/L with increasing radius in the outer disk (consistent with the results we summarized in Section 5 earlier based on the composite profiles). However, Figure 22 shows that there is a range of properties and exceptions to the rules.

In order to see how the radial gradients in the M/L ratio relate to the surface brightness profiles, we plot the R_r versus k_γ in Figure 23. This shows that the radial dependence of the M/L in the outer disk ($k_{\gamma,2}$) correlates strongly with R_r . Several specific results are noteworthy. If we confine the analysis to galaxies with $R_r \leq 1$ (down-bending surface brightness profiles), then galaxies with larger down-bending break amplitudes (smaller R_r) have stronger radial gradients in the M/L ratio in the outer disk. This is consistent with the result that even strongly down-bending r -band profiles can be produced by disks with single exponential surface mass density radial profiles. Moreover, for the down-bending galaxies, the inner disk slope $k_{\gamma,1}$ is nearly a constant as a function of R_r , with nearly all such disks showing a decrease in M/L with increasing radius in the inner disk. Interestingly, the up-bending disks ($R_r > 1$) behave differently: any radial gradient in M/L is weak in both the inner and outer disk. This implies that the up-bending disks also have up-bending stellar surface mass-density profiles.

We plot both $k_{\gamma,1}$ and $k_{\gamma,2}$ versus different galaxy parameters in Figures 24 and 25. The strongest correlation is between C (bulge/disk ratio, Hubble type proxy) and the radial gradient of M/L in the outer disk ($k_{\gamma,2}$). The early type disks are more likely to show M/L profiles in the outer disk that are flat.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1. Comparison to Previous Studies

Previous studies of radial profiles of the stellar component of disk galaxy profiles have usually been limited to the region interior to the R_{25} radius (or r_{90}). These typically have shown color profiles that become bluer with increasing radius (e.g., MacArthur et al. 2004). It is only recently that systematic studies of the outer disks have shown the trend toward redder colors that is seen in our deep images.

While our results are based on integrated SEDs of the stellar population, similar results have been found using photometry of

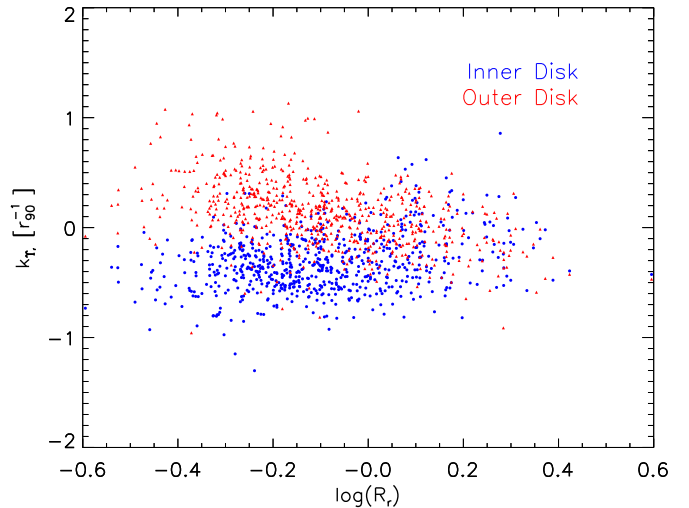


Figure 23. Correlation between R_r and the slopes of the inner and outer disk M/L profile. Most down-bending disks ($\log(R_r) < 0$) show M/L values that decline with radius in the inner disk and increase with radius in the outer disk. The up-bending disks ($\log(R_r) > 0$) typically show only weak radial gradients in M/L in either the inner or outer disk.

resolved stars to produce color–magnitude diagrams (CMDs). For example, Radburn-Smith et al. (2012) found a similar trend in NGC 7793 and D. A. Thilker et al. (2015b, in preparation) found the outer disk of M83 to be dominated by an old stellar population (although with the degree of dominance dependent on galactocentric radius). However, Gogarten et al. (2010) also used CMDs of resolved stars, but found no up-turn in the radial age profile of NGC 300. Some spectroscopic studies, such as Delgado et al. (2014) and Yoachim et al. (2010, 2012) using IFU spectra do show some examples of the up-turning feature in the radial age profile at larger radii.

The general trend for nearby disk galaxies to have redder (older) outer disks was first reported by Bakos et al. (2008) using the PT06 sample. They classified the radial color profiles into three different types corresponding to the SB profile types. They found that the Type II (down-bending) SB (g and r -band) galaxies usually have a “U”-shaped color profile with the location of the minimum (bluest colors) corresponding to the SB profile break radius. The Type III (up-bending) SB galaxies also have a minimum in the radial color profile but its location does not correspond to the break radius. The Type I (single exponential) SB galaxies have a gradual decrease in the color profile until about 1.75 disk scale-lengths and the colors then stays constant in the outer disk. Azzollini et al. (2008) found that Type II galaxies at intermediate redshifts have the “U”-shaped color profile as well. Herrmann et al. (2013) found similar results in dwarf galaxies. D’Souza et al. (2014) found “U”-shaped color profiles in stacked images of late-type galaxies.

To explicitly compare our results to those in Bakos et al. (2008), we selected the 100 most down-bending galaxies ($R_r < 0.3$), the 100 galaxies with profiles closest to single exponentials ($0.89 < R_r < 1.106$), and the 100 most up-bending galaxies ($R_r > 1.26$). We plot the radial profiles of $\mu(r)$, $g-r$, and Σ_s for these galaxies in Figure 26, which reproduces Figure 1 of Bakos et al. (2008). It roughly matches some of the properties described by Bakos et al. (2008); however, we do not see a clear minimum in the color profile in the Type III galaxies. In fact, the near constant color we see in the Type III galaxies beyond a radius of $\sim 0.5 r_b$, combined with the up-bending SB profile, results in a corresponding up-bending in the surface

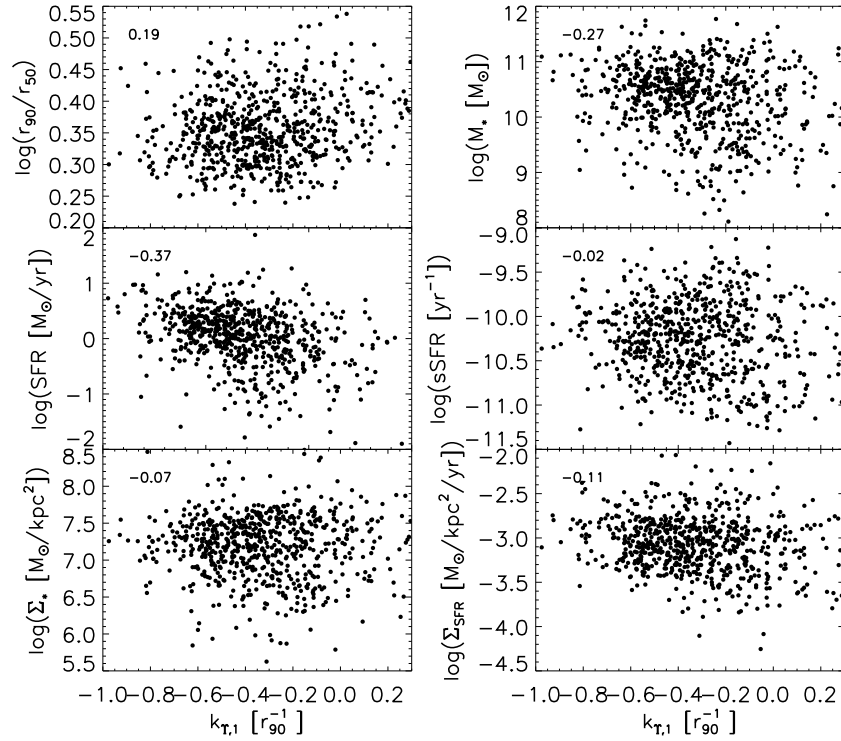


Figure 24. Slope of the inner disk r -band M/L profile, $k_{T,1}$ vs. concentration parameter, stellar mass, total SFR, sSFR, Σ_* , and Σ_{SFR} . There are no strong correlations.

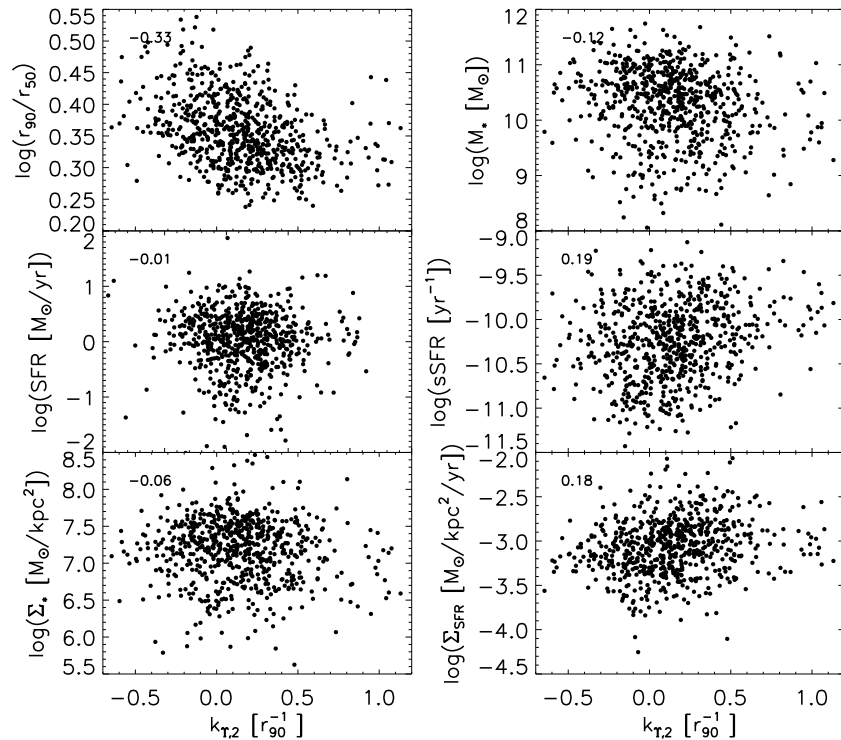


Figure 25. Slope of the outer disk r -band M/L profile, $k_{T,2}$ vs. concentration parameter, stellar mass, total SFR, sSFR, Σ_* , and Σ_{SFR} . The only strong correlation is with concentration: later type disk galaxies have stronger radial increases in M/L in the outer disk.

mass density radial profile. This is unlike the more common Type I and II disks, which have single exponential distributions of stellar mass density.

Bakos & Trujillo (2012) used the deep SDSS Stripe82 imaging data to analyze SB and color radial profiles of seven galaxies down to $30 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$ depth. The depth is similar to our data and it reaches the stellar halo region at around $27.5\text{--}30 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$. The only Type I galaxy in their sample

also shows an up-turning feature in the radial color profile in the outer disk although they claim it is due to the contribution of stellar halo light. They found that the stellar halo starts to affect the SB profile at the level of about $28 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$ and claimed that the stellar halo could be responsible for the previous classification of Type III galaxies. Two of the examples, NGC 7716 and NGC 1087, are claimed to be affected by the tidal streams in the stellar halo.

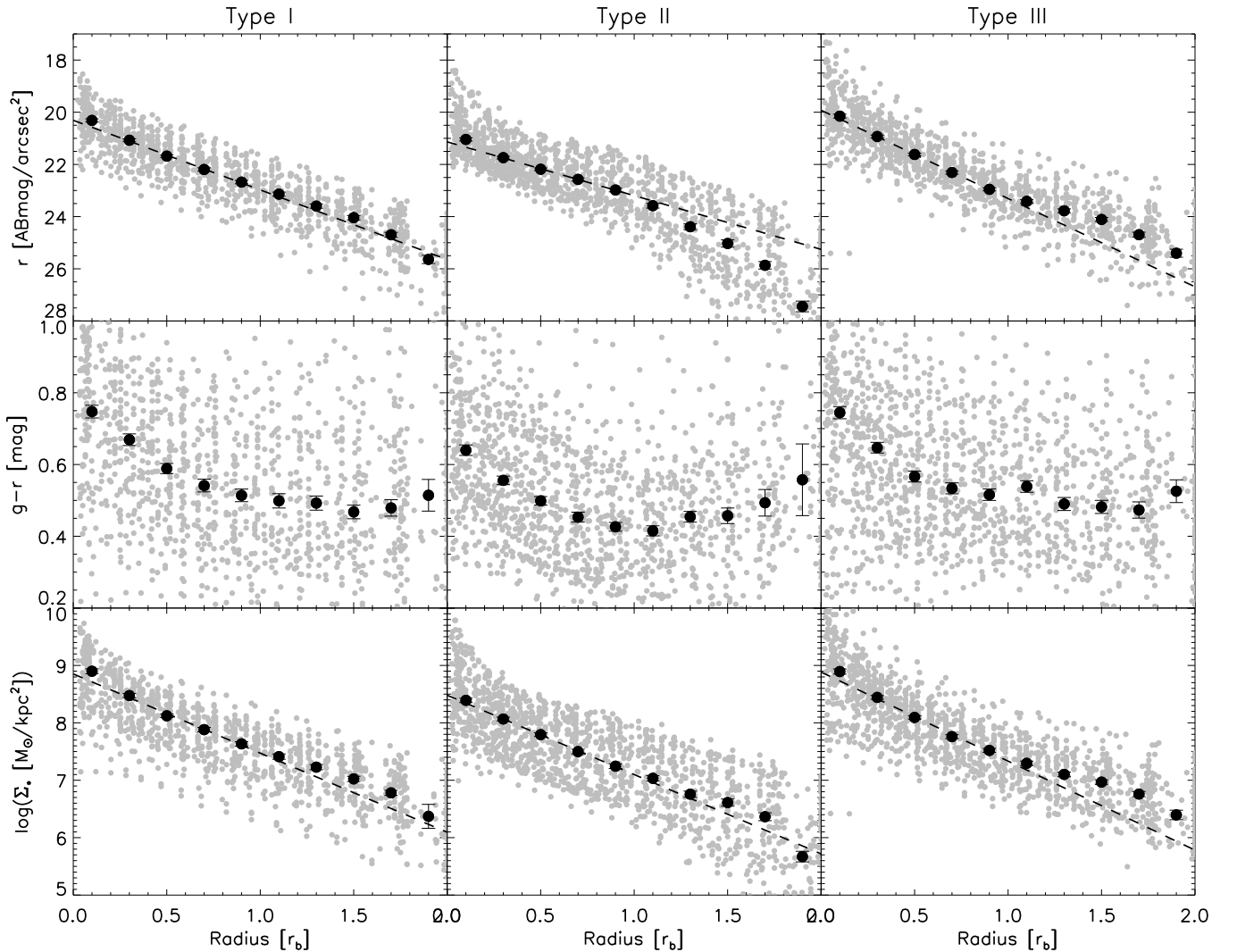


Figure 26. r -band SB (top row), $g-r$ color (middle row), and stellar surface mass density (bottom row) profiles of “Type I” (left column), “Type II” (middle column), and “Type III” (right column) disks. All three types have a sample size of 100 galaxies. The plot is intended to have the same format as the Figure 1 of Bakos et al. (2008): the gray dots are individual galaxy profiles and the black dots show the median values. The vertical bar shows σ/\sqrt{N} for each radial bin, where N is the number of points in that radial bin. The dashed lines are the linear fit to the black dots between $0.3-1 r_{90}$. The radius is scaled in break radius r_b .

In this paper, we obtained SB profiles down to $28-30 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$, similar to that of Bakos & Trujillo (2012), and thus should be able to detect the effect of the stellar halo and investigate whether galaxies with $R_r > 0$ (Type III galaxies) are caused by the stellar halo. The results in Section 4 indicate that the ellipticity profile of the isophotes of the stacked images starts to decrease only slowly beyond $\sim 1.5 r_{90}$, and the stellar surface mass density profile starts to turn up after $\sim 2 r_{90}$ in generic disk galaxies. However, the SB profile of the 100 most up-bending galaxies (Figure 26) shows an upturn in the surface mass density around r_b ($\sim r_{90}$) where the halo light should be negligible. This indicates that although galaxies identified as Type III in previous studies might be caused by the stellar halo, there are a small portion of galaxies that have $R_r > 1$ (also cf. Figure 18) and would be identified as Type III in the classification scheme of PT06.

7.2. Implications for Outer Disk Formation

Let us conclude by discussing our results within the context of the mechanisms that determine the structure and stellar content

of the outer disk. In the standard formation scenario (e.g., Fall & Efstathiou 1980; Mo et al. 1998), galaxies form in cold dark matter halos. Galaxies continue to accrete gas from the circumgalactic medium during their evolutionary history. Gas accreted in later times typically has higher angular momentum and will therefore remain in the outer disk because of the conservation of specific angular momentum during the infall process (e.g., Guo et al. 2011; Fu et al. 2013). Since gas is the fuel of star formation, the outer disk should be more gas rich and composed of a younger population of stars compared to the inner disk. This is called the inside-out formation process. The inside-out picture is supported by numerous observations (e.g., Wang et al. 2011) and is widely accepted by the community. However, at first sight some of the results in this paper appear to be at odds with this simple picture, because the outer disks are frequently found to be older than the inner disk.

There are two plausible ways that could reconcile these results with the simple inside-out model. The first involves truncation of star formation in the outer disk. One interesting feature of our results is that the minimum values of M/L and stellar age are generally located in the region in the galaxy disk where

the stellar mass surface density has a value of $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot} \text{ kpc}^{-2}$ (lower panel of Figure 14). This is the same value as the mean stellar mass surface density at the break radius of the PT06 Type II galaxies, $10 M_{\odot} \text{ pc}^{-2}$, (Bakos et al. 2008; Bakos & Trujillo 2012). Assuming the scale height of the disk to be 100 pc, we can convert this surface mass density into a volume number density of about 0.1 protons cm^{-3} . This is the general star formation threshold used in many simulations (e.g., Roškar et al. 2008), although the threshold is formulated as gas density. According to Bigiel & Blitz (2012), the gas surface density is about $9 M_{\odot} \text{ pc}^{-2}$ at the break radius ($r_{90} \sim 0.7R_{25}$), which is very close to the stellar surface mass density at that point. We could expect the gas to have a critical volume density at the break radius if we further assume that the star and gas have similar mean volume densities around r_{90} .

Roškar et al. (2008) argue that the “U”-shaped color/age radial profile is not caused by the star formation threshold but rather by a rapid drop of gas surface density. However, Sánchez-Blázquez et al. (2009) argue that the gas surface density cannot drop so rapidly, based upon their fully cosmological simulation of disk galaxy formation. Instead, they suggest that the drop in star formation in the outer disk is due to the warp/flare in the gas disk which reduces the gas volume density more strongly than the gas surface density (see also Ferguson 1998). Our galaxies are so distant that we cannot easily detect gas and star formation occurring at the SFR surface densities typical for XUV disks, at least in radial profile form. A similar study of local galaxies employing GALEX and H I data would be helpful to reveal the relation between the star formation threshold and the break. Bigiel & Blitz (2012) studied neutral gas profiles of 33 nearby spiral galaxies and found that the combined total gas radial profile is a pure exponential that decreases slowly, with a scale-length $\sim 0.6 R_{25}$, out to about $2 R_{25}$. The molecular-to-atomic hydrogen transition radius in their study is about $0.7 R_{25}$, which is comparable to r_{90} in our paper and this supports the idea that the break radius might be caused by the star formation threshold instead of a rapid drop of total gas surface density.

A star formation threshold by itself cannot explain the pure exponential surface mass density profile that extends to the outer disk. A plausible explanation is to violate the implicit assumption that most of the stars currently in the outer disk were formed in-situ. There is in fact growing evidence that the radial migration of stars plays an important role in establishing the structure and stellar content of galaxy disks. Sellwood & Binney (2002) proposed a dynamical churning mechanism that will cause radial stellar migration. Roškar et al. (2008) studied the effect of stellar radial migration in disk formation for an isolated model galaxy. They found that the stellar radial migration does have a large effect in redistributing stars. The migration distance can be very large (up to ~ 10 kpc). They conclude that Type II disks can be formed as a consequence of the interplay between this outward transport of disk stars and a cutoff in the star formation in the outer disk. Their predicted age profile shows a “U” shape, with a minimum at a stellar surface mass density of $10 M_{\odot}/\text{pc}^{-2}$. This fits our results very well. However, their models predict that the location of this region of minimum age corresponds to a downward break in the radial profile of the stellar mass surface density. This contrasts with our results that the stellar surface mass radial profile is a pure exponential with no obvious break.

Sánchez-Blázquez et al. (2009) extended this theme by simulating a disk galaxy in a full cosmological environment (in which the galaxy experiences cosmological gas infall and/or interac-

tions with other galaxies). Gas infall and minor mergers not only expand the galactic disk but also induce density perturbations which enhance stellar radial migration. Their simulations yield age and sSFR radial profiles that appear similar to our observational results. Furthermore, they find that the breaks in the SB profiles only exist in bluer bands, and that the stellar mass surface density profile is close to exponential (again, in agreement with our results). They argue that the break in the radial blue SB profile is due to a decrease in the star formation rate per unit area in the outer disk which is caused by a decrease in the volume density of gas at the break radius. They attribute this drop in density to the onset of a warp and flaring of the outer gas disk. Thus, while radial migration is important in producing an exponential stellar mass surface density profile, radial migration alone cannot explain the age gradient (the truncation of recent star formation in the outer disk is needed). Matínez-Serrano et al. (2009) reach qualitatively similar conclusions. More recently, Bird et al. (2013) have used numerical simulations to dissect in detail the build up of the stellar disk of a Milky way-like galaxy over cosmological time. This work again highlights the importance of the interplay between radial migration and the truncation of star formation in the outer disk.

Despite this emerging consensus, there is still some uncertainty about the detailed mechanism that drives radial migration. Previous theoretical studies (Sellwood 2014, and references therein) show that the churning effect (which was the mechanism originally proposed to derive stellar radial migration) does not heat up the disk. However, Minchev et al. (2012) simulated the evolution of an initially truncated galaxy in a full cosmological environment. They claim that the stellar migration is mainly due to the effects of the bar plus the spiral arms, instead of the churning mechanism (which mostly affects stars around the co-rotation radius). They found that the outer disk stars that migrated from inner disk should exhibit high velocity dispersions, especially in the radial direction. Thus observations of stellar velocity dispersions in the outer disk of the Milky Way might provide important constraints on the physics behind radial migration.

One conclusion then would be that stellar migration has a significant influence on the outer disk formation and is mostly due to resonant effects induced by spiral arms and/or bars. However, this leads to a question as to why dwarf irregular galaxies, which do not have significant spiral arms or bars, also show “U”-shaped color/age profiles (Herrmann et al. 2013). A possible explanation is that radial migration in dwarf irregular galaxies is caused by resonant effects associated with bar-like density maxima.

Another question is how much stellar mass can be transferred to the outer disk from the inner disk via radial migration? This is difficult to answer precisely from our data but we can roughly estimate the percentage of migrated stellar mass needed in the outer disk. Given a pure exponential disk with a scale-length of $0.3r_{90}$, a simple integration of the exponential function over the disk shows that the inner disk ($r < r_{90}$) contains about 85% of the total stellar mass and the outer disk ($r > r_{90}$) contains less than 15% of the total stellar mass. Here, using the derived stellar mass radial profiles for our sample galaxies, we calculate the percentage of stellar mass for different parts of each galaxy. The histograms of the percentages are shown in Figure 27. The bulge here is defined as the part of the galaxy within $0.3 r_{90}$, the inner disk is defined as the part of the galaxy between $0.3 r_{90}$ and r_{90} , and the outer disk is defined as the part of the galaxy between r_{90} and $2 r_{90}$. Suppose 57% (Sánchez-Blázquez et al.

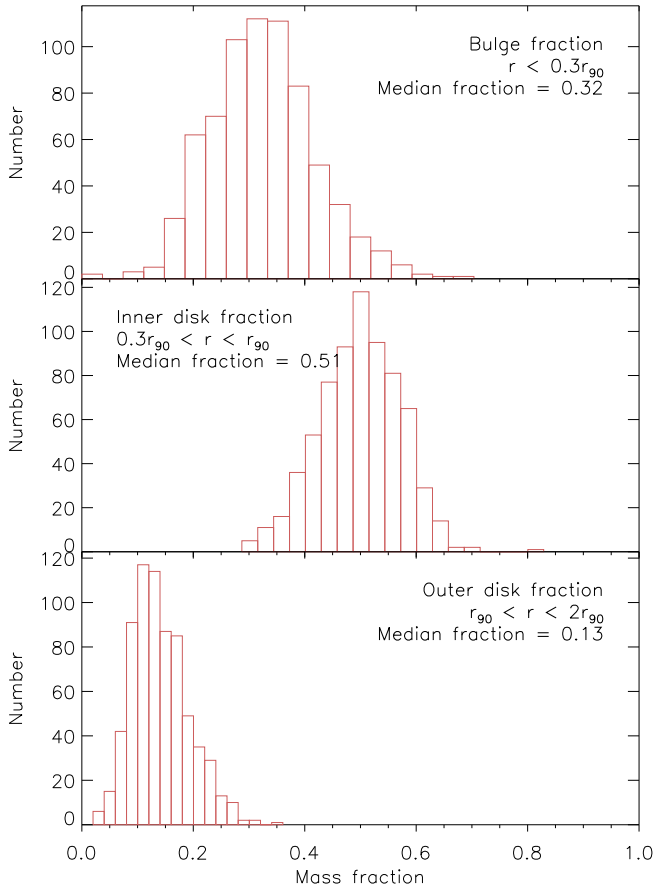


Figure 27. Observed stellar mass fraction of different parts of the galaxy.

2009) of the outer disk stars were formed in the inner disk. Then the stellar mass that migrated from the inner to the outer disk is only $<9\%$ of the total stellar mass of the galaxy. This is a small fraction, but nevertheless has a significant impact on the properties of the outer disk.

8. SUMMARY

Making use of deep stacked PS1 multi-band imaging observations, we conducted an investigation of the structure and stellar content of 698 disk galaxies selected from SDSS to span a range of bulge/disk ratios and to be relatively face-on. The mass range we sample well extends from $\sim 10^9$ to $10^{11} M_\odot$. In particular, we modeled the five-band (*grizy*) images to determine the gradients in surface brightness (SB), color, stellar mass surface density, stellar M/L , specific star formation rate, and luminosity-weighted mean age over a range of radii typically reaching twice the characteristic size (r_{90}) of the galaxy. Compared to previous related studies our sample is much larger, is more representative of the full population of disk galaxies, and was analyzed using more robust and sophisticated comparison to stellar population synthesis models.

In summary:

1. We made ultra-deep stack images in five PS1 bands using all 698 galaxies to explore the properties of the faint stellar halo. We also made stack images using galaxies in three mass bins: low mass ($M_* < 10^{10} M_\odot$), medium mass ($10^{10} M_\odot < M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$), and high mass ($M_* > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$). The isophotes outside $2r_{90}$ are significantly rounder than those inside, indicating that the stellar halo may contaminate the light from the outer disk in the

region outside $2r_{90}$. We found that the radial profile of the stellar surface mass density shows a distinct up-turn from a single exponential at around $2r_{90}$, further supporting the contribution of the halo light beyond this radius.

2. We used the combined data on the 698 individual galaxies to create normalized radial profiles in three bins of galaxy mass. The resulting characteristic radial SB profiles show downward bending breaks in the bluer bands (especially *g*-band), but become progressively smoother and more nearly single-exponentials as the bands move redward. The radial profiles of the stellar mass density are very close to single exponentials out to radii of twice r_{90} . This is true over the entire range in stellar mass sampled by our data. In all mass bins, the characteristic radial profiles of color, stellar M/L , and stellar age show a “U” shape (they first decline with increasing radius, but then rise in the outer disk). The minima are located at radii of around 0.8 to 1.0 r_{90} or at locations where the local stellar mass surface density is $\sim 10 M_\odot/\text{pc}^{-2}$.
3. We created normalized radial profiles in three bins in the concentration parameter ($C = r_{90}/r_{50}$), which is a good proxy for the bulge/disk ratio (Hubble Type). We find that the amplitude of the break in the SB profile decreases as C increases (i.e., for earlier Hubble types). Moreover, the amplitude of the “U”-shaped M/L radial profile also declines as C increases. In all cases, the radial stellar surface mass density remains a single exponential.
4. We developed an automatic algorithm to find the break radii in the *r*-band SB radial profiles of each galaxy. We then quantified the magnitude of the SB profile breaks using a slope ratio R_r , which is defined as the ratio of the slopes of the SB profiles in the inner (k_1) and outer (k_2) disk. We measured an analogous ratio R_m based on the slopes of the inner and outer surface mass density radial profiles. We found that R_r has a log-normal distribution centered around $\log(R_r = -0.12)$ with a dispersion of 0.17, indicating that most *r*-band SB profiles are down-bending. On the other hand, R_m has a log-normal distribution, but is centered around $\log(R_r = 0.0)$ with a dispersion of 0.16. This means most of the stellar surface mass density profiles are close to pure (single) exponentials. Both results are consistent with our findings based on the binned, normalized profile shapes.
5. We explored the correlation between the *r*-band SB profile slope ratio R_r with the concentration parameter (C), total stellar mass (M_*), total SFR, specific SFR (sSFR), and average surface densities of stellar mass (Σ_{M_*}) and SFR (Σ_{SFR}). There is a strong correlation between C and R_r , consistent with the results described above based on the composite profiles. No obvious correlations were found between the R_r and the other parameters.
6. We approximated the radial M/L profile in individual galaxies using a skewed “V”-shaped function and characterized the results using the slopes of the inner ($k_{\gamma,1}$) and outer ($k_{\gamma,2}$) disk *r*-band M/L profile. We found that $k_{\gamma,1}$ has a log-normal distribution centered on ~ -0.3 , implying that most galaxies have M/L ratios that decrease with radius in the inner disk. In contrast, $k_{\gamma,2}$ has a log-normal distribution centered on $\sim +0.2$, implying that most galaxies have M/L ratios that increase with radius in the outer disk. We also examined $k_{\gamma,1}$ and $k_{\gamma,2}$ as functions of R_r as well as other physical parameters. We found that $k_{\gamma,2}$ strongly correlates with R_r while the $k_{\gamma,1}$ is almost a constant.

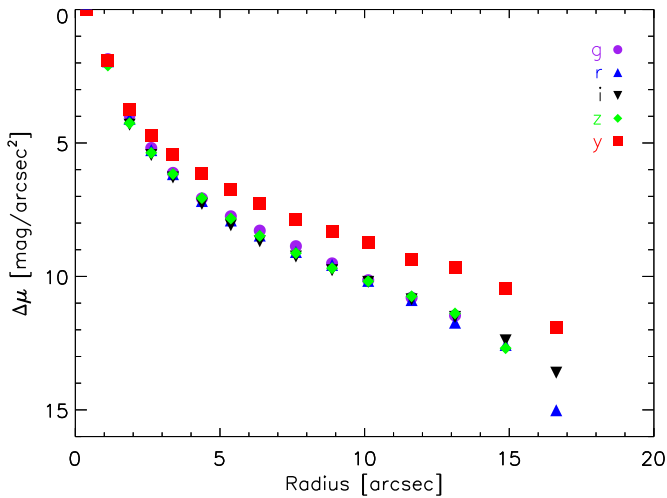


Figure 28. PSF profiles.

The other strongest correlation is between $k_{Y,2}$ and C . This is consistent with PT06 and Bakos et al. (2008), as well as with our inferences based on the composite profiles.

7. We conclude that down-bending SB profiles, pure exponential surface mass density profiles, and older outer disks (beyond r_{90}) are typical for the majority of disk galaxies over a wide range in galaxy mass. However, these features weaken as the bulge/disk ratio increases. These results are consistent with recent numerical simulations of the evolution of disk galaxies. It appears that a combination of a radial migration of stars from the inner to the outer disk is required, but that a truncation of recent star formation in the outer disk is also important. Together, these two mechanisms may be able to create a smooth exponential radial mass profile while also creating an outer disk that is older than the inner disk.

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APPENDIX A

PSF

Deep stacked images can reveal the effects of the extended and faint wings of the image PSF (de Jong 2008). Thus, it is

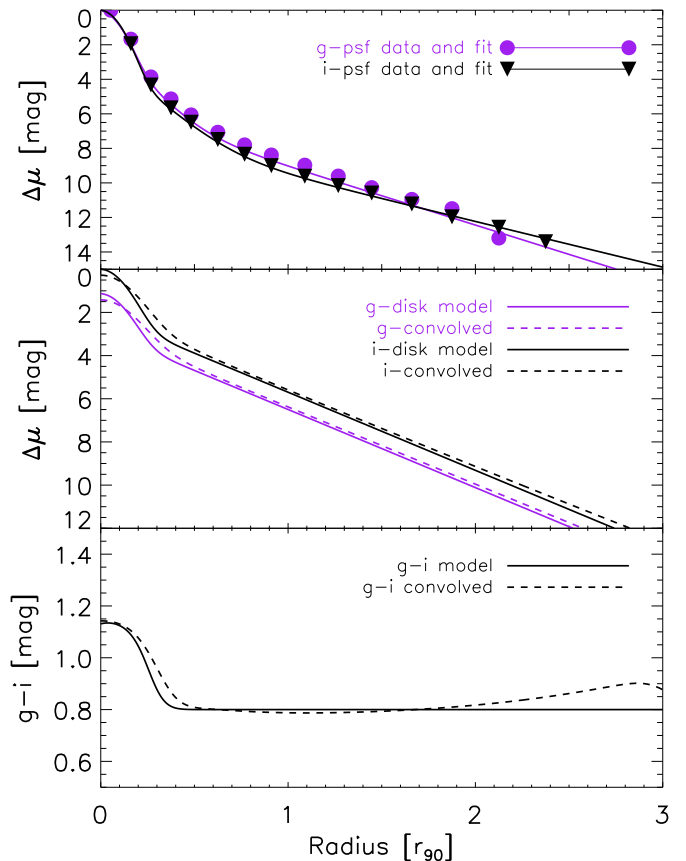


Figure 29. 1D galaxy model and the PSF convolved profiles. Upper-panel: *g*-band (purple) and *i*-band (black) PSF. The symbols are measured data and the lines are functional fit. The PSFs are fitted using a Gaussian plus a broken exponential profile. Middle-panel: *g*-band (purple) and *i*-band (black) SB profiles. Lower-panel: *g*–*i* color profiles. Solid lines are the original model and dashed lines are the model after convolution with the PSF.

important to examine the contribution of the extended wings of the PSF to the outer disks and stellar halos. Zibetti et al. (2004) calculated an effective PSF for the SDSS using a stacked image of stars selected from their galaxy images following a similar galaxy stack procedure described in Section 4. Although their effective PSF has an extended wing they claim that the extended PSF wing has only a minor effect on the stellar halo detection, based on an examination of a PSF-convolved model galaxy. However, de Jong (2008) claimed that the mean or median stacked image is better than the mode image used by Zibetti et al. (2004) in deriving the PSF. He further claimed that the PSF has a major effect on the halo detection (20%–80% of the halo light) along the minor axis of edge-on galaxies. However, he also concluded that an extended halo component is still needed to fully fit the observations.

Here we follow the procedure described by de Jong (2008) for calculating the effective PSF using a stacking method: we first select a star, which is within 2 mag difference from the central brightness of the target galaxy but far away from other objects. We take these stars from each image and rotate and rescale the image centered on the star following the procedure described in Section 4. All objects other than the selected star in the image are then masked. We then combine all the star cut-outs to calculate a mean image of the stars. The surface brightnesses of the stars are scaled to the central SB of the star and outlier pixels are clipped in the calculation. The final effective PSFs are calculated and shown in Figure 28. The resultant effective

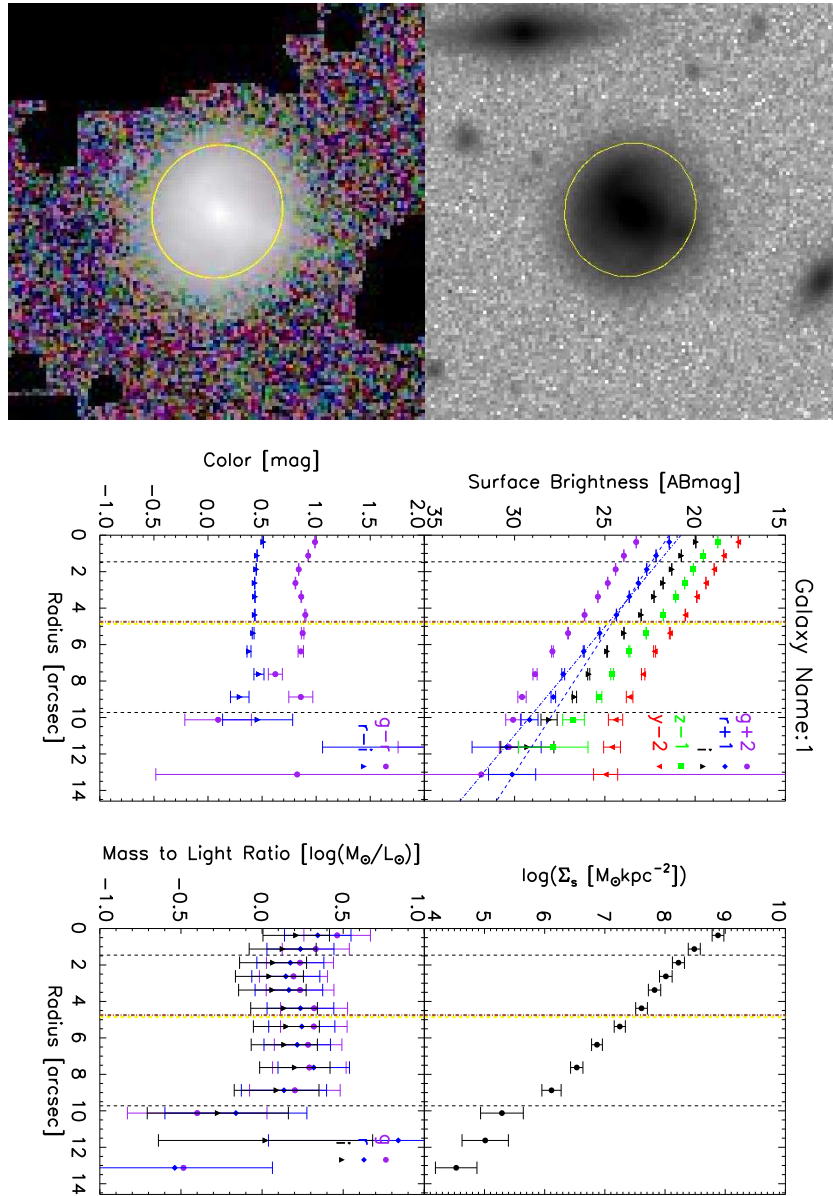


Figure 30. Upper row from left to right: five-band composite chi-squared detection image; five-band surface brightness profiles; stellar surface mass density profile. Lower row from left to right: three-color image with masks; $g-r$ and $r-i$ color profiles; g , r , and i -band M/L profiles. The yellow ellipses in the images and the yellow vertical dash lines in the radial profile plots show the location of r_{90} . The brown dashed-dotted line shows the break radius. The two blue straight lines show the fit to the inner and outer disk r -band surface brightness profile. The black vertical dashed lines show the inner ($0.3 r_{90}$) and outer ($2 r_{90}$) boundary of the stellar disk.

(The complete figure set (698 images) is available.)

PSFs in different bands do have extended wings out to radii of $15''$. The g -, r -, i -, and z -band PSFs are very close to each other but the y -band PSF has an upturn relative to the bluer bands beyond a radius of $3''$. However, the PSFs of all five bands decline sharply by $7-9$ mag within $7''$, the r_{90} of the stacked galaxy image. This is far below the SB around the break radius. We thus conclude that although the extended PSF wing might have some effects on the detection of the stellar halo, it should have very minimal effects on the composite stellar disk profiles.

In order to quantify the effect of the PSF on the SB profiles, we made a 1D galaxy model and convolved the model with the PSF. The model galaxy has an exponential disk and a point source in the center. The exponential disk has $g-i = 0.8$ and the point source has $g-i = 1.4$. The flux ratio of the point source and the exponential disk is 0.5. This is meant to be a simplified model of the galaxies in our sample with the larger bulge/disk

ratio where the effects of the PSF wings on the measured colors of the outer disk will be most severe. The model galaxy and the PSF convolved SB and color profiles are plotted in Figure 29. The halo region ($\sim 2-3r_{90}$) does have a spurious up-turn with the $g-i$ color by 0.1, but the color of the disk region ($\sim 0.5-2r_{90}$) has almost no change from the input model.

APPENDIX B

FIGURES OF EACH GALAXY

There are 698 galaxies and each galaxy has a six-panel figure. An example plot is shown in Figure 30. Upper row from left to right: five-band composite chi-squared detection image; five-band surface brightness profiles; stellar surface mass density profile. Lower row from left to right: three-color image with masks; $g-r$ and $r-i$ color profiles; g , r , and i -band M/L profiles. The yellow ellipses in the images and the yellow vertical

dashed lines in the radial profile plots show the location of r_{90} . The brown dashed-dotted line shows the break radius. The two blue straight lines show the fit to the inner and outer disk r -band surface brightness profile. The black vertical dashed lines show the inner ($0.3 r_{90}$) and outer ($2 r_{90}$) boundary of the stellar disk.

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