diffuse vs. dense vs. very dense gas



### observational approach:

 comparison of <sup>13</sup>CO (tracing mostly dense clouds) and <sup>12</sup>CO tracing all the gas (including the more diffuse component)

# diffuse vs. dense gas



Exeter-Five College Radio Astronomy Observatory (EXFC) Galactic Ring Survey (GRS)

### INNER GALAXY: Galactic Ring Survey (GRS)

## dense gas fraction as function of radius



**Figure 13.** Average Galactic H<sub>2</sub> surface densities of the diffuse (red, detected in <sup>12</sup>CO, undetected in <sup>13</sup>CO) and dense (green, detected in <sup>12</sup>CO and <sup>13</sup>CO) components as a function of Galactocentric radius (in bins of width 0.1 kpc), in logarithmic scale, combining all data sets. In the inner Galaxy, the pink line indicates the surface density of H<sub>2</sub> in molecular clouds identified in Roman-Duval et al. (2010).



done	) dense		ion a	e fun	ction of radius
	$1 \times 10^{1}$		4 · · · ·	5 TUI 	fraction CO-traced H <sub>2</sub> gas in Milky Way: ~1/4 diff
(°H)	$\int_{1}^{2} 1 \times 10^{-1}$ $\int_{2}^{2} 1 \times 10^{-2}$ Luminosity and Mole Diffuse and Dense (	dense ga Table 5 ecular Mass in t Components Tr	as in the Milky Way raced by <sup>12</sup> CO	in the	~3/4 dense ~1/20 in very
L( <sup>12</sup> CO)	Diffuse Dense Very dense Total	Inner $2.0 \times 10^{1}$ $1.1 \times 10^{2}$ 4.8 $1.3 \times 10^{2}$	Outer 4.0 3.8  7.7	$1.1 \times 10^{-10}$ 4.8 $1.4 \times 10^{2}$	clouds only !!!
<i>M</i> (H <sub>2</sub> )	Diffuse Dense Very dense Total	$9.3 \times 10^{7}$ $4.6 \times 10^{8}$ $2.9 \times 10^{7}$ $5.5 \times 10^{8}$	$6.0 \times 10^{7}$ $3.9 \times 10^{7}$  $9.9 \times 10^{7}$	$1.5 \times 10^{8}$ $4.9 \times 10^{8}$ $2.9 \times 10^{7}$ $6.5 \times 10^{8}$	12 14 16 nd dense (green, detected in <sup>12</sup> CO and <sup>13</sup> CO) compone is. In the inner Galaxy, the pink line indicates the surface

fraction CO-traced H<sub>2</sub> gas in Milky Way: ~I/4 diffuse • ~3/4 dense ~1/20 in very dense (SF?) clouds only !!! in addition, about half of the molecular gas in MW seems to be CO-dark

Roman-Duval et al. (2016, ApJ, 818, 144) Wang et al. (2020, A&A, 634, A139)



fraction CO-traced H<sub>2</sub> gas in Milky Way: , ~I/4 diffuse ~3/4 dense ~1/20 in very dense (SF?) clouds only !!!

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