MULTI-ELEMENT ABUNDANCE MEASUREMENTS FROM MEDIUM-RESOLUTION SPECTRA. IV. ALPHA ELEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS IN MILKY WAY DWARF SATELLITE GALAXIES

Evan N. Kirby1, Judith G. Cohen2, Graeme H. Smith3, Steven R. Majewski4, Sangmo Tony Sohn5, Puragra Guhathakurta6

Accepted to ApJ, 2010 November 16

ABSTRACT

We derive the star formation histories of eight dwarf spheroidal (dSph) Milky Way satellite galaxies from their alpha element abundance patterns. Nearly 3000 stars from our previously published catalog (Paper II) comprise our data set. The average $\alpha$/Fe ratios for all dSphs follow roughly the same path with increasing [Fe/H]. We do not observe the predicted knees in the $\alpha$/Fe vs. [Fe/H] diagram, corresponding to the metallicity at which Type Ia supernovae begin to explode. Instead, we find that Type Ia supernova ejecta contribute to the abundances of all but the most metal-poor ([Fe/H] < -2.5) stars. We have also developed a chemical evolution model that tracks the star formation rate, Types II and Ia supernova explosions, and supernova feedback. Without metal enhancement in the supernova blowout, massive amounts of gas loss define the history of all dSphs except Fornax, the most luminous in our sample. All six of the best-fit model parameters correlate with dSph luminosity but not with velocity dispersion, half-light radius, or Galactocentric distance.

Subject headings: galaxies: dwarf — galaxies: abundances — galaxies: evolution — Local Group

1. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the origins of galaxies requires understanding the histories of their dark matter growth, gas flows, and star formation. Of these, the dark matter growth is the most straightforward to model (e.g., Diemand et al. 2007; Springel et al. 2008). The gas flow history presents more difficult obstacles, such as collisional dissipation, gas cooling, stellar feedback, and conversion into stars. Despite the challenges, some models—built on top of dark matter simulations—track all of these processes over cosmic time (e.g., Governato et al. 2007). The results of these models have observational consequences for the properties of the present stellar populations of galaxies.

1.1. Methods for Determining Star Formation Histories

The star formation histories (SFHs) of galaxies may be deduced from the colors and magnitudes of the population and from the spectra of the stars and gas, if present. Distant, unresolved galaxies display only a single, composite spectral energy distribution, which may be examined through calibrations of spectrophotometric indices (e.g., Graves & Schiavon 2008) or, in some cases, spectral synthesis (McWilliam & Bernstein 2008; Colucci et al. 2009). Nearer stellar systems may be resolved both photometrically and spectroscopically. The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has enabled the characterization of the SFHs of many nearby galaxies (Weisz et al. 2008; Dalcanton et al. 2009; Bernard et al. 2009), including most of the dwarf galaxies in the Local Group (Holtzman et al. 2006; Orban et al. 2008).

Photometrically derived SFHs are most sensitive to young stars and metal-rich stars because the separation between isochrones increases with decreasing age and increasing metallicity. Elemental abundances obtained from spectroscopy do not give absolute ages, but they can provide finer relative time resolution for old, metal-poor populations. Gilmore & Wyse (1991) showed that star formation bursts of varying duration and frequency in dwarf galaxies engrave signatures on the ratio of oxygen to iron as a function of metallicity. Because oxygen-rich Type II supernovae (SNe) explode within tens of Myr of a starburst, the oxygen content of stars forming soon after the burst will be high. Within hundreds of Myr, iron-rich Type Ia SNe begin to explode. The injection of iron into the interstellar medium (ISM) depresses the oxygen-to-iron ratio of subsequently forming stars. These processes are generalizable to other elements. The abundances of the next several elements with even atomic number beyond oxygen—the alpha elements (Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ar, Ca, and Ti)—roughly scale with oxygen abundance. The abundances of iron-peak elements (V, Cr, Mn, Co, and Ni) roughly scale with iron abundance. The trend of the alpha-to-iron peak ratio with iron-peak abundance, a proxy for elapsed time or integrated star formation, reveals the relative star formation history with a resolution of about 10 Myr, the approximate timescale for a Type II SN.

1.2. Chemical Evolution Models

A glance at a diagram of [Mg/Fe] vs. [Fe/H] gives a qualitative sense of a galaxy’s star formation history. Converting quantitative abundances into a quantitative SFH requires a chemical evolution model. Pagel (1997)
described in detail how to create such a model, and Tolstoy et al. (2004) reviewed recent progress on modeling the SFHs of Local Group dwarf galaxies. Matteucci (2008) described the levels of approximation that the models assume. In general, more sophisticated and presumably more accurate models reduce the number of approximations. The most basic assumptions are instantaneous recycling and instantaneous mixing. Consideration of stellar lifetimes and SN delay times removes the first approximation. Three-dimensional hydrodynamical simulations remove the second approximation.

A chemical evolution model reflects the history not only of star formation but also of gas flow. A complete explanation of metallicity and alpha element distributions requires both inflows and outflows. The metallicity distribution functions (MDFs) of nearby Galactic G dwarfs cannot be explained with a closed box model (van den Bergh 1962; Schmidt 1963). Pagel (1997) discussed some of the proposed solutions to the G dwarf problem, including variable nucleosynthesis yields, bimodal star formation, and pre-enrichment. One of the most promising solutions is in-falling matter (Larson 1972). Gases undoubtedly flow out of the galaxy, either from SN winds (Matthews & Baker 1971; Larson 1974) or stripping from the influence of external or host galaxies (Tinsley & Larson 1973; Lin & Faber 1983). For example, interactions with the Milky Way could remove gas from the satellite galaxies discussed here. Both inflows and outflows affect the star formation rate (SFR) throughout the history of the galaxy. Therefore, they shape the MDF and the trend of [$\alpha$/Fe] with [Fe/H].

Chemical evolution models suffer from uncertainties in the initial mass function of stars and stellar lifetimes (Romano et al. 2003), nucleosynthesis yields (Romano et al. 2010), and the delay time distribution (DTD) for Type Ia SNe (Matteucci et al. 2009). However, these limitations have not prevented the models from providing good fits to abundance data. Even models with some of the first theoretical SN yields (Woosley et al. 1993) successfully reproduced the observed metallicity distribution and abundance patterns in the Galaxy (Pagel & Tautvaišienė 1995). Models with newer SN yields also match the solar neighborhood abundance distributions very well (e.g., Romano et al. 2010). Nonetheless, uncertainties in the model assumptions do complicate the interpretation of the model results. For example, changing the Type Ia DTD, particularly the turn-on time, affects the derived timescale for star formation. The best way to circumvent these uncertainties is to apply the same model consistently to several systems and compare them differentially. Although the absolute ages or SFRs may be affected by systematic errors in the model, the relative quantities between different galaxies will be meaningful.

Local Group dwarf galaxies make good subjects for chemical evolution models. First, the Local Group contains many resolved dwarf galaxies (Mateo 1998; Tolstoy et al. 2009) with stars bright enough for medium- or high-resolution spectroscopy. Second, dwarf galaxies span a wide range of properties, including velocity dispersion and luminosity. The populations of the lowest luminosity galaxies enable the study of star formation on small scales (Martin et al. 2008a; Norris et al. 2008). The changes in populations for more luminous or more massive galaxies show how star formation responds to galaxy size (Mateo 1998; Kirby et al. 2010a). Third, dwarf galaxies host some of the most metal-poor stars known (Kirby et al. 2009, Geha et al. 2009; Cohen & Huang 2009, 2010; Frebel et al. 2010a,b; Simon et al. 2010; Norris et al. 2010a,b; Starkenburg et al. 2010; Tafelmeyer et al. 2010). and sim10b These stars retain the chemical imprint of the ISM when the Universe was less than 1 Gyr old. Therefore, dwarf galaxies permit the study of star formation not only on small scales but also at early times. Finally, dwarf galaxies may be the primary building blocks for the Milky Way (MW) halo (Searle & Zinn 1978; White & Rees 1978). The stellar populations of the surviving dwarf galaxies may reflect the stellar populations of the dissolved building blocks, and they may show how the surviving satellites evolved since the time of rapid accretion onto the MW.

In a series of articles, Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2003, 2004, 2007, 2010) and Lanfranchi, Matteucci, & Cescutti (2006, 2008) presented numerical models that tracked the evolution of several elements in dSphs. The models plausibly explained the MDFs and the available multi-element abundance measurements in dSphs. However, large samples of published abundance measurements in any individual dSph have been sparse until recently (Shetrone et al. 2009; Kirby et al. 2009, 2010a, Letarte et al. 2010). Other chemical evolution models of dSphs have examined the effects of reionization (Fenner et al. 2006), and star formation stochasticity (Carigi & Hernandez 2008). Recchi et al. (2001) constructed one of the first hydrodynamical models of dwarf galaxy evolution. In particular, they simulated a galaxy similar to IZw18. Marcolini et al. (2006, 2008) published hydrodynamical simulations of an isolated, Draco-like dSph. Their models relaxed the assumption of instantaneous mixing and allowed inhomogeneous chemical enrichment. Some of the newest hydrodynamical models (Reyaz et al. 2009; Sawala et al. 2010) tracked both the kinematics and abundances of the stars as they form. They attempted to explain not only chemical abundance patterns but also dynamical properties of dSphs, such as the seemingly universal dynamical mass measured within their optical radii (Mateo 1998; Strigari et al. 2008) and out to the edge of their light distributions (Gilmore et al. 2007).

### 1.3. History of Chemical Analysis of Milky Way Satellites

The earliest indications of heavy element abundance spreads among red giants of the dSph systems in Draco, Ursa Minor, Sculptor, and Fornax were first obtained by the multichannel scanner observations of Zinn (1978, 1981), initial efforts at spectroscopy Norris & Bessell (1978), Kinman & Kraft (1980), Kinman et al. (1981), Stetson (1984) Smith (1984), Lehner et al. (1992), and both broad and narrow band photometry Demers, Kunkel, & Hardy (1978), Smith & Dopita (1983). The globular clusters of the Fornax system proved to differ in their metallicities Zinn & Persson (1983). The presence of carbon stars (Aaronson & Mould 1980, Aaronson et al. 1982, 1983; Azzopardi et al. 1983) and so-called anomalous Cepheids Demarque & Hischfeld (1973) Norris & Zinn
CAL ABUNDANCE DATA SET IN DWARF GALAXIES. THE TYPICAL NUMBER OF STARS IN EACH dSph ranges from 141 (Sextans) to 2961 stars with abundance measurements. The data set is our catalog of abundance distributions in eight dSphs with our own chemical evolution histories than globular clusters.

Since that time, the application of ground-based CCD and HST imaging has led to greatly improved color-magnitude diagrams (CMDs) that have clearly shown the presence of significant internal age spreads within some of the Milky Way’s retinue of dSphs, such as Carina, Fornax, Leo I, and Sextans (e.g., Mighell 1990, 1997; Smecker-Hane et al. 1999; Hurley-Keller, Mateo, & Nemec 1998; Buonanno et al. 1999; Galleti et al. 1999; Saviane et al. 2000; Lee et al. 2004). Spectroscopy with large ground-based telescopes has demonstrated the presence of abundance inhomogeneities in the majority of these systems (e.g., Suntzeff et al. 1993; Smecker-Hane et al. 1999; Shetrone et al. 2001, 2003; Tolstoy et al. 2001, 2003; Winnick 2003; Pont et al. 2004; Geisler et al. 2004; McWilliam & Smecker-Hane 2005a; Battaglia et al. 2006; Koch et al. 2006; Bosler et al. 2007; Sbordone et al. 2007; Guhathakurta et al. 2009; Cohen & Huang 2009; Kirby et al. 2009).

1.4. Chemical Evolution Models for the New Catalog

In this article, we interpret the multi-element abundance distributions in eight dSphs with our own chemical evolution model. The data set is our catalog of abundances based on spectral synthesis of medium-resolution spectra from the DEIMOS spectrograph on the Keck II telescope (Kirby et al. 2010b, Paper II). The catalog contains 2961 stars with abundance measurements. The number of stars in each dSph ranges from 141 (Sextans) to 827 (Leo I). It is the largest homogeneous chemical abundance data set in dwarf galaxies. The typical areal coverage is about 300 arcmin² at or near the center of each dSph. The median uncertainty on [Fe/H] is 0.12 dex. The fraction of the sample with [Mg/Fe] uncertainties less than 0.2 (0.3) dex is 42% (53%). That fraction increases to 54% (69%) for [Ti/Fe], which is easier to measure than [Mg/Fe]. For [α/Fe] (the average of [Mg/Fe], [Si/Fe], [Ca/Fe], and [Ti/Fe]), the fraction increases to 71% (88%).

Our one-zone model is simple, but it incorporates some of the newest SN yields and the most recently measured DTD for Type Ia SNe. The biggest advantage of our data set is that it is homogeneous. All of the spectra were obtained with the same spectrograph configuration, and all of the abundances were measured with the same spectral synthesis code. Thus, the derived star formation and gas flow histories from our model—despite its simplicity—will be easy to interpret differentially. In other words, the absolute ages and star formation rates may be affected by model uncertainties, but the trends with galaxy properties, such as luminosity, should reflect the true SFHs.

We begin by describing our model (Sec. 2). Then, we apply the model to the eight dSphs by finding the solution that best matches the abundances. We discuss how our results compare to previous photometric and spectroscopic studies (Sec. 3). Next, we change some of the model variables to estimate the systematic errors in the derived SFHs (Sec. 4). Then, we explore how the abundance distributions, SFHs, and gas flow histories change with galaxy properties such as luminosity and velocity dispersion (Sec. 5). Finally, we enumerate our conclusions (Sec. 6).

2. CHEMICAL EVOLUTION MODEL

In order to provide a rough interpretation of the abundance trends in Paper II’s catalog, we have developed a rudimentary model of chemical evolution. Table I defines the symbol for each variable or constant in the model. The model supposes that a dwarf galaxy at any instant is a chemically homogeneous system that can accrete or lose gas. The ejecta of Type II SNe enrich the gas according to the total lifetime of massive (10 < M/M⊙ < 100) stars, while the Type Ia SNe follow the observed DTD (Maoz et al. 2010, see below). Stars form according to the initial mass function (IMF, dN/dM = 0.31M−2.2 for 0.5 < M/M⊙ < 1 and dN/dM = 0.31M−2.7 for M > 1 M⊙).

The calculation tracks the mass of H, He, Mg, Si, Ca, Ti, and Fe at each time step (Δt = 1 Myr). The calculation is terminated when the system reaches zero gas mass. We define ξj(t) as the galaxy’s gas mass of element j at time t. The galaxy’s total gas mass at time t is

\[ M_{\text{gas}}(t) = \sum_j \xi_j(t) \]  

\[ \approx \xi_H(t) + \xi_{He}(t) + 20.4[\xi_{Mg}(t) + \xi_{Si}(t) + \xi_{Ca}(t) + \xi_{Ti}(t)] + 1.07[\xi_{Fe}(t) \]  

The summation in Equation 1 is over all elements in the periodic table. However, our model tracks only seven elements. Therefore, we assume the ratio of the sum of all elements from Li to Ti, inclusive, to the sum of Mg, Si, Ca, and Ti is the same as in the Sun. This ratio is 20.4 (Anders & Grevesse 1989). Similarly, we assume the solar ratio for the sum of all elements V through Ge compared to Fe: 1.07. Elements beyond Ge are neglected. Equation 2 reflects these approximations. For convenience, we define the metallicity of the gas as follows:

\[ Z = \frac{M_{\text{gas}}(t) - \xi_{H}(t) - \xi_{He}(t)}{M_{\text{gas}}(t)} \]

We also define the gas-phase mass fraction in an element j:

\[ X_j(t) = \frac{\xi_j(t)}{M_{\text{gas}}(t)} \]  

The following subsections explain the components of the models. Each component is expressed as the time change in ξj(t), where \( d\xi_j(t)/dt \).

2.1. Star Formation Rate

For simplicity, we assume that the star formation rate is a power law in the gas mass of the galaxy. With this assumption,
The symbol $\xi$ of the entire dSph model. The Type II SN ejecta are mixed homogeneously for stars less massive than $60 M_\odot$ (inclusive of our entire mass range for Type II SNe).

The coefficient 0.31 $M_\odot^{0.7}$ is the normalization from the IMF. This integral depends on the SN yields ($\zeta_{\text{ej},j}$), the recent star formation history ($\xi_j$), and the high-mass IMF slope ($M^{-2.7}$). In practice, this integral is performed numerically with Newton-Cotes integration over an array of 100 logarithmically spaced masses between 10 $M_\odot$ and 100 $M_\odot$. The values of $\zeta_{\text{ej},j}$ and $\xi_j$ are interpolated onto this array. The metallicity used to look up the mass in element $j$ ejected from the Type II SN explosion of a star with an initial mass $M$. It is a function of both initial stellar mass and metallicity. Nomoto et al. tabulated the yields for seven initial masses ranging from 13 $M_\odot$ to 40 $M_\odot$ and four metallicities from $Z = 0$ to $Z = 0.02$. The total mass of the ejecta is always less than the birth mass of the star because the star loses some mass during its lifetime and because some mass is locked up forever in a SN remnant.

TABLE 1

| Variable | Description | Units |
|----------|-------------|-------|
| $t$ | Time since start of simulation | Gyr |
| $M$ | Mass of a single star | $M_\odot$ |
| $\xi_j(t)$ | Gas mass in element $j$ | $M_\odot$ |
| $X_j(t)$ | Mass fraction in element $j$ | dimensionless |
| $Y$ | Primordial helium mass fraction ($X_{\text{He}}(0)$) | dimensionless |
| $M_{\text{gas}}(t)$ | Total gas mass | $M_\odot$ |
| $Z(t)$ | Metal fraction (all elements heavier than He) | dimensionless |
| $\xi_j(t)$ | Time derivative of $\xi_j$ | |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)$ | Star formation rate, or rate of gas loss in element $j$ due to star formation | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{II}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{Ia}}$ | Type Ia SN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{AGB}}$ | AGB yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
| $\xi_{\text{ej},j}(t)^{\text{SN}}$ | Type II SN or HN yield rate for element $j$ | Gyr$^{-1}$ |
the adopted delay time distribution. Maoz et al. (2010, see Fig. 1). The following equation is given by Maoz et al. (2010). The data come from a variety of star formation environments, given in the figure legend. Equation 6 gives the expression for this function. Compare this figure to Maoz et al.’s Fig. 2.

The instantaneous Type II SN rate (SN Gyr$^{-1}$) is given by a related integral:

$$\dot{N}_{II} = 0.31 \ M^0.7_{\odot} \int_{10^{-3} \ M_{\odot}}^{M_{\odot}} \dot{\xi}_*(t - \tau_*(M)) \ M^{-2.7} \ dM$$

(8)

This integral is performed over the same array of massive star lifetimes as a function of mass as for Eq. 7. The value will be used to determine the mass lost from SN winds (Sec. 2.6).

2.3. Type Ia Supernovae

We adopt the Type Ia SN yields of Iwamoto et al. (1999). The mass of element $j$ ejected per Type Ia SN is $\zeta_{j, Ia}$. The SNe explode according to a function that approximates the delay time distribution observed by Maoz et al. (2010, see Fig. 1). The following equation describes the adopted delay time distribution.

$$\Psi_{Ia} = \begin{cases} 
0 & t_{\text{delay}} < 0.1 \ \text{Gyr} \\
(1 \times 10^{-3} \ \text{SN Gyr}^{-1} \ M_{\odot}^{-1}) & (t_{\text{delay}} \geq 0.1 \ \text{Gyr})
\end{cases}$$

(9)

The variable $t_{\text{delay}}$ is used instead of $t$ to indicate that the DTD will be integrated from time $t$ into the past.

Unfortunately, the abundance distributions derived from the chemical evolution model depend sensitively on the normalization and turn-on time of $\Psi_{Ia}$. Both of these quantities—particularly the turn-on time—have large uncertainties. The normalization affects [Fe/H] and the slope of $[\alpha$/Fe] with [Fe/H]. We have chosen $1 \times 10^{-3} \ \text{SN Gyr}^{-1} \ M_{\odot}^{-1}$ for the normalization because that is the value that Maoz et al. (2010) reported. Even though the data in Fig. 1 are easily consistent with half that value, the larger value better reproduces the slope of $[\alpha$/Fe] with [Fe/H] for many of the dSphs. The turn-on time determines the time or [Fe/H] at which $[\alpha$/Fe] begins to drop. We have chosen 0.1 Gyr because that is approximately the maximum value acceptable for the DTD data (Fig. 1). See Sec. 4.4 for a discussion of the effect of increasing this minimum delay time to 0.3 Gyr.

The instantaneous Type Ia SN rate is given by combining $\Psi_{Ia}$ with the past star formation history:

$$\dot{N}_{Ia} = \int_0^{t_{\text{delay}}} \dot{\xi}_*(t_{\text{delay}}) \ \Psi_{Ia}(t - t_{\text{delay}}) \ dt_{\text{delay}}$$

(10)

The mass returned to the ISM is the product of the SN Ia yields ($\zeta_{j, Ia}$) and the Ia rate:

$$\dot{\zeta}_{j, Ia} = \zeta_{j, Ia} \dot{N}_{Ia}$$

(11)

2.4. Asymptotic Giant Branch Stars

Winds from low- and intermediate-mass stars return a small but significant amount of mass to the ISM. The stars lose less than 1% of this mass before reaching the asymptotic giant branch (AGB, van den Hoek & Groenewegen 1997). Therefore, we consider mass loss on the AGB only. We adopt the AGB yields of Karakas (2010), who tracked all of the elements we consider here except Ca and Ti. (We assume that the fraction of Ca and Ti in AGB ejecta is the same as in the material that formed the star.) We assume all of the mass is ejected in the final time step of the star’s lifetime. This assumption is appropriate because an AGB star’s thermal pulsation period, during which it loses most of its mass, lasts on the order of 1 Myr (Marigo & Girardi 2007), which is the length of one time step in our model. Equation 6 gives the lifetimes of stars more massive than 6 $M_{\odot}$. Less massive stars obey Padovani & Matteucci’s (1993) and Kodama’s (1997) equation:

$$\tau(M) = 10^{0.334 - 0.334 (\log(M/M_{\odot}))} \ \text{Gyr}$$

(12)

Each AGB star ejects $\zeta_{j, AGB}$ solar masses of element $j$. Stars lighter than 10 $M_{\odot}$ participate in AGB mass loss whereas stars heavier than 10 $M_{\odot}$ explode as Type II SNe (Sec. 2.2). The lower mass limit we consider for the AGB is 0.865 $M_{\odot}$, which is the stellar lifetime corresponding to the age of the Universe, 13.6 Gyr, according to Eq. 12. The AGB mass return rate in $M_{\odot}$ Gyr$^{-1}$ is given by

$$\dot{\zeta}_{j, AGB} = 0.31 \ M^0.2_{\odot} \int_{0.865 \ M_{\odot}}^{M_{\odot}} \zeta_{j, AGB}(M, Z(t - \tau_*(M)))$$

$$\times \dot{\xi}_*(t - \tau_*(M)) \ M^{-2.2} \ dM$$

$$+ 0.31 \ M^0.7_{\odot} \int_{1 \ M_{\odot}}^{10 \ M_{\odot}} \zeta_{j, AGB}(M, Z(t - \tau_*(M)))$$

$$\times \dot{\xi}_*(t - \tau_*(M)) \ M^{-2.7} \ dM$$

(13)

Compared to SN ejecta, AGB ejecta affect the chemical evolution of the elements considered here to a small de-
gree. AGB ejecta are more important for other elements, such as C, N, and O.

2.5. Gas Infall

Infall of gas during the star formation lifetime of a dSph is required to explain its MDF [Kirby et al. 2010a, Paper III]. Therefore, our model allows pristine gas to fall into the dSph. The gas has a helium fraction of $Y = X_{\text{He}}(0) = 0.2486$, which is the value obtained when the WMAP7 [Larson et al. 2010] baryon-to-photon ratio is applied to the formula of Steigman (2007). The rest of the infalling gas is hydrogen.

The MDFs of the dSphs are generally more peaked than a closed box model predicts. One scenario that explain such a distribution is gas infall that first increases and then decreases [Lynden-Bell 1975, Pagel 1997]. We find that a quick increase of the rate of gas falling into the galaxy followed by a slower decrease in the infall rate does well at reproducing the data. We parametrize the gas infall rate as follows.

$$\dot{\xi}_{j,\text{in}} = A_{\text{in}} X_j(t = 0) \left(\frac{t}{\text{Gyr}}\right) e^{-t/\tau_{\text{in}}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

The term $X_j(t = 0)$ means that the infalling gas is primordial (metal-free). The variables $A_{\text{in}}$ and $\tau_{\text{in}}$ are free parameters in the model.

2.6. Supernova Winds

The MDFs of dSphs require gas outflow. If that were not the case, the metallicities would approach the supernova yields, which are much larger than observed in even the most metal-rich star in any dSph. Gas may be lost through supernova winds, stellar winds, or gas stripping from an external source. All of these sources undoubtedly occur over a dSph’s lifetime, but supernova winds are the most straightforward to include in a chemical evolution model. We ignore other sources of gas loss.

Our computation of gas loss is fairly simple. The galaxy loses a fixed amount of gas for every supernova that explodes. The blown-out gas mass does not vary with SN type because the explosion energies for Types II and Ia SNe are similar. See Recchi et al. (2001), Romano et al. (2006), and Marcolini et al. (2008) for examples of chemical evolution models that treated the energy input from the two SNe types differently. The rate of gas loss is

$$\dot{\xi}_{j,\text{out}} = A_{\text{out}} X_j (\dot{N}_{\text{II}} + \dot{N}_{\text{Ia}})$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

The parameter $A_{\text{out}}$ is a free parameter in the model. An energy argument shows that the ejected gas mass is of the order of $10^4 M_{\odot} \text{SN}^{-1}$. One supernova explodes with a typical energy of $10^{51}$ erg [Woosley & Weaver 1995]. In the late stages of expansion, the kinetic energy of the ejecta is $E_{\text{ej}} \approx 5 \times 10^{49}$ erg [Thornton et al. 1998]. A typical line-of-sight velocity dispersion for a dwarf galaxy is $\sigma_{\text{los}} \approx 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Given the virial theorem ($GM/R = 3\sigma_{\text{los}}^2$) and the escape velocity ($v_{\text{esc}}^2 = 2GM/R$), then the gas mass ejected as a result of SN blowout is $M_{\text{ej}} = E_{\text{ej}}/v_{\text{esc}}^2 = E_{\text{ej}}/(6\sigma_{\text{los}}^2) \approx 7 \times 10^3 M_{\odot} \text{SN}^{-1}$.

A metal-enhanced wind can prevent the galaxy from becoming too metal-rich without such a large gas loss [Vader 1986]. For simplicity, we assume that the SN winds have the same chemical content as the gas remaining in the galaxy. See Sec. 4.3 for a further discussion of including metal-enhanced winds in the model.

2.7. Complete Chemical Evolution Equation

The complete equation that describes the chemical evolution of the galaxy’s gas is

$$\dot{\xi}_j(t) = M_{\text{gas}}(0) + \int_0^t (-\xi_{j,\text{in}} - \xi_{j,\text{II}} + \xi_{j,\text{Ia}} + \dot{\xi}_{j,\text{AGB}} + \dot{\xi}_{j,\text{out}} - \dot{\xi}_{j,\text{out}}) \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

The initial gas mass, $M_{\text{gas}}(0)$, is a free parameter. A non-zero initial gas mass may seem inconsistent with Eq. 5 because the gas should form stars as it falls into the galaxy. However, the galaxy could acquire gas available for star formation—via gravitational collapse or cooling, for example—on a timescale faster than the star formation timescale. We will show that the non-zero initial gas mass is more important for the more luminous dSphs.

2.8. Shortcomings of the Model

Our model incorporates realistic conditions in dwarf galaxies. We model chemical evolution using an observed Type Ia SN DTD [Maoz et al. 2010]. We also take into account the lifetimes of Type II SN progenitors, rather than assuming instantaneous recycling. The delay helps to shape the metal-poor abundance distributions because it affects the rapid rise in metallicity after the onset of star formation.

However, our model is not as sophisticated as some other chemical evolution models of dwarf galaxies (e.g., Marcolini et al. 2008, Revaz et al. 2009, Sawala et al. 2010). In the next section, we show the best model fits to eight different MW satellite galaxies. The simplicity of our model reduces the computational demand of finding the best solution. Nonetheless, we enumerate some shortcomings which affect the interpretation of the abundance distributions.

1. The turn-on time for Type Ia SNe is poorly constrained. Maoz et al. (2011) showed that it is at most $0.1 \text{ Gyr}$ or less (at least in the Magellanic Clouds and higher redshift elliptical galaxies), but the DTD slope ($t_{\text{delay}}^{-1}$) is divergent as $t_{\text{delay}}$ approaches zero. Therefore, the number of Type Ia SN that explode shortly after their progenitors form depends sensitively on the turn-on time. The uncertainty in the turn-on time translates to a large uncertainty in the Fe abundance distribution. With all other model parameters held fixed, an earlier turn-on time would cause the metallicity of the MDF peak to increase and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at a given metallicity to decrease. See Matteucci et al. (2009) for a detailed discussion of the effect of adjusting the ratio of prompt to delayed Type Ia SNe.

2. The SN yields are imperfect. As we mention in Sec. 3, we needed to increase the [$\text{Mg}/\text{H}$] output of the model by 0.2 dex (see Francois et al. 2004). Furthermore, Ti is severely underproduced in our
model. Therefore, we do not consider Ti abundances at all.

3. Our model assumes instantaneous mixing. Relaxing this approximation would require multiple zones, which we do not consider for the sake of computational simplicity. See Mori et al. (2002), Marcolini et al. (2006, 2008), Revaz et al. (2004), and Sawala et al. (2010) for three-dimensional chemical models of dwarf galaxies.

4. We also assume instantaneous gas cooling. The cooling time for gas to become available for star formation (after accretion or ejection from SNe and AGB stars) may be longer than the model time step, \( \Delta t = 1 \) Myr. A more proper treatment of the cooling time, such as in a hydrodynamical model, might result in slightly longer SF durations that we derive with instantaneous cooling.

5. On a related note, we also ignore dynamical processes. Our adoption of a single value of \( A_{\text{out}} \), the gas ejected from the galaxy in the wind of one supernova, implicitly assumes that the potential of the galaxy is homogeneous and static. This assumption is inconsistent with our allowance of gas to flow into the galaxy. Although dark matter dominates the dynamical mass of dSphs, they undoubtedly change their dark matter masses during their star formation lifetimes (Robertson et al. 2005; Bullock & Johnston 2003; Johnston et al. 2008). Furthermore, baryonic (adiabatic) contraction can affect star formation and feedback in the dense centers of the dSphs (Napolitano et al. 2010).

6. We consider only one parametrization of the gas infall rate. Because the star formation rate is proportional to the gas mass, the gas infall rate essentially shapes the differential MDF. Differently shaped gas infall histories might better reproduce the dSph MDFs. External influences on the gas flow (or alternatively, availability of gas cool enough to form stars) that we do not consider include reionization (Bullock et al. 2000) and tidal and ram pressure stripping (Lin & Faber 1983).

7. We model only one episode of star formation. CMDs have revealed extended and possibly bursty SFHs in several dSphs in our sample (Fornax and Leo I and II). These bursts will not be included in our model. In these cases, we defer to the photometrically derived SFHs. In fact, we suggest for future study a more sophisticated analysis that models both the CMD and abundance distributions.

8. The infalling gas is assumed to be metal-free at all times. In reality, the metallicity may have increased over time because the source of the new gas may have been blowout from prior SF episodes in the galaxy in question or other galaxies. This gas would have been enriched by SNe and other nucleosynthetic sources.

9. The modeling result for a given galaxy represents only part of that galaxy’s stellar population. Our spectroscopic samples were centrally concentrated to maximize the number of member stars on a DEIMOS slitmask, but most dSphs have radial population gradients (e.g., Sculptor, Battaglia et al. 2008). As a result, we preferentially probe the younger, more metal-rich populations. MW satellite galaxies also shed stars as they interact with the Galaxy. Majewski et al. (2000H) identified stars from the Carina dSph beyond Carina’s tidal radius. Majewski et al. (2002) and Muñoz et al. (2000) discussed the implications for Carina’s present stellar population. In particular, the remaining stars are on average younger and more metal-rich than the lost stars. Consequently, the spectroscopic sample favors the younger, more metal-rich stars.

Some of these shortcomings are observational or theoretical uncertainties (1–2), which can only be resolved with a more thorough investigation of SN rates or yields. Others are simplifications (3–8), which can be resolved with more sophisticated models. The last shortcoming (9) could be resolved by an intensive, wide-field campaign with the intent to recover spectra for a magnitude-limited sample of red giants in a dSph. This project would require a great deal of telescope time, but it could be accomplished in principle for one or two dSphs. Foreground contamination could be minimized by selecting a dSph at high Galactic latitude or photometrically pre-selecting likely members (e.g., Majewski et al. 2000a).

3. GAS FLOW AND STAR FORMATION HISTORIES

We apply our chemical evolution model to eight dSphs: Fornax, Leo I, Sculptor, Leo II, Sextans, Draco, Canes Venatici I, and Ursa Minor. We use the abundance measurements from Paper II. For each galaxy, we attempt to match simultaneously the distribution of \([Fe/H]\) and the trends of \([Mg/Fe], [Si/Fe], [Mg/Ca] / [Fe/H]\) by adjusting the six free parameters listed at the bottom of Table 1.

Unfortunately, some elemental abundances could not be matched for any combination of parameter values. In particular, the model underpredicts \([Mg/H]\) and \([Ti/H]\). Francois et al. (2004) constructed a chemical evolution model for the Milky Way and also encountered trouble in reproducing the yields. They concluded that the SN yields should be modified. They specifically singled out Mg for being underproduced by both Type Ia SNe and low-mass Type II SNe. We feel comfortable modifying the model results for \([Mg/H]\) because chemical evolution models by different authors over a wide range of galaxy masses and ages indicate that such modification is necessary. We add 0.2 dex to \([Mg/H]\) to bring the model into better agreement with the data. However, the Nomoto et al. (2000) Type II SN yield for \([Ti/Fe]\) is about −0.1 dex, which is far below the value observed for metal-poor stars in dSphs or in the MW halo. Rather than attempting to correct such a large deficit, we ignore the model result for Ti. Nomoto et al. also ignore their Ti yields in their own chemical evolution model of the solar neighborhood.

In Paper III, we found the best-fit analytical chemical evolution models for the same eight dSphs based on their MDFs alone. We repeat the process here for our more sophisticated model. As in Paper III, we use maximum
likelihood estimation to find the best-fit model parameters. The likelihood that a particular model matches the data is the product of probability distributions. Each star is represented by a probability distribution in a four-dimensional space. The four dimensions are [Fe/H], [Mg/Fe], [Si/Fe], and [Ca/Fe]. We denote these quantities as $\epsilon_i$, $\epsilon_j$, where $i$ represents the $i$th star and $j$ identifies one of the four element ratios. The Gaussian is centered on the star’s observed values. The width in each axis is the estimate of measurement uncertainty ($\delta\epsilon_i$, $\delta\epsilon_j$) in that quantity. Stars with larger uncertainties have less weight in the likelihood calculation than stars with smaller uncertainties. (Although Figs. 2–9 show only stars with uncertainties less than 0.3 dex, there is no error cut in the likelihood calculation. Instead, we downweight stars with large uncertainties.) The chemical evolution model traces a path $\epsilon_j(t)$ in the four-dimensional space. The probability that a star formed at a point $t$ on the path is $dP/dt = M_*(t)/M_*$, where $M_*$ is the galaxy’s final stellar mass. The likelihood that one star conforms to the model is the line integral of $dP/dt$ along the path $\epsilon_j(t)$. The total likelihood $L$ is the product of the individual likelihoods of the $N$ stars:

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^{N} \int_0^t \prod_j \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta\epsilon_{i,j}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon_{i,j} - \epsilon_j(t))^2}{2(\delta\epsilon_{i,j})^2}\right) \frac{M_*(t)}{M_*} \, dt \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta M_{*,\text{obs}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(M_{*,\text{obs}} - M_{*,\text{model}})^2}{2(\delta M_{*,\text{obs}})^2}\right) \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta M_{\text{gas,obs}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(M_{\text{gas,obs}} - M_{\text{gas,obs}})^2}{2(\delta M_{\text{gas,obs}})^2}\right) \times \left[\ln(2\pi) + \ln(\delta M_{*,\text{obs}}) + \ln(\delta M_{\text{gas,obs}})\right].$$

(17)

The second line of the equation requires that the final stellar mass of the model ($M_{*,\text{model}}$) matches the observed stellar mass ($M_{*,\text{obs}}$) within the observational uncertainties. We adopt the stellar masses of Woo et al. (2008) because even lower values of $\delta M$ correct stellar mass. This value was chosen so that these quantities as $[\text{Mg/Fe}]$, $[\text{Si/Fe}]$, and $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$. We denote these quantities as $\epsilon_{i,j}$, where $i$ represents the $i$th star and $j$ identifies one of the four element ratios. The Gaussian is centered on the star’s observed values. The width in each axis is the measurement uncertainty on the model parameters via a Monte Carlo Markov chain. We perform at least 10$^4$ trials for each dSph after a burn-in period of 10$^3$ trials. The dSphs with shorter SF durations require less computation time, and we were able to perform up to 5 $\times$ 10$^3$ trials for some of the dSphs. As in Paper III, the model uncertainties are the two-sided 68.3% confidence intervals. These uncertainties incorporate only observational uncertainty and not systematic model errors. Table 3 lists the solutions for each dSph in order of decreasing luminosity.

Table 3 lists the total star formation durations for the most likely models. The duration is not a free parameter but a result of the model. The table also lists some timescales derived from HST CMDs (Dolphin et al. 2003; Orban et al. 2008). It is not possible to measure photometrically the total star formation duration for predominantly ancient stellar populations because 10 Gyr isochrones are extremely similar to 13 Gyr isochrones. Therefore, we have quoted $f_{10G}$, the fraction of stars formed more recently than 10 Gyr. For small or zero values of $f_{10G}$, the CMD shows that the population is ancient, but there is no time resolution. We also show the stellar mass-weighted mean age $\tau$ (Orban et al. 2008). For the three dSphs with intermediate-aged populations (Fornax and Leo I and II), $\tau$ combined with $f_{10G}$ gives some idea of the star formation duration. For example, Fornax formed 1 $- f_{10G} = 27\%$ of its stars beyond 10 Gyr ago, but the mean age is just 7.4 Gyr. Half of Fornax’s stars formed over at least 2.6 Gyr, and the other half formed even more recently. Our abundance-derived duration of 1.3 Gyr is inconsistent with this photometric star formation duration. For Fornax and Leo I and II, we defer to the photometrically derived SFHs (see item 7 of Sec. 2.3). They are more realistic because they permit an arbitrary number of SF episodes. For the galaxies whose CMDs identify them to be ancient, our abundance distributions are far more sensitive probes of the SF duration than the CMD.

In the following sections, we discuss the derived star formation and gas flow histories for each dSph and compare them to previous photometrically and spectroscopically derived SFHs.

3.1. Fornax

We begin our discussion with the most luminous of the mostly intact MW dSph satellites, Fornax. Its $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ distribution (Fig. 2) shows the least evidence of correlation with [Fe/H] of all eight dSphs studied here. In the range $-1.3 < [\text{Fe/H}] < -0.5$, the four $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ element ratios span almost 1 dex at a fixed metallicity with no evidence of a slope with [Fe/H]. The rarer stars more metal poor than [Fe/H] $\approx -1.3$ have higher average $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$.

The large range of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ and the lack of correlation with [Fe/H] suggest bursty or inhomogeneous star formation. A bursty SFH could cause spikes and depressions in $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ as [Fe/H] increases monotonically (e.g., Gilmore & Wyse 1991), even if the star formation were well-mixed over the whole galaxy at all times. Measurement uncertainties might blur the division between the
TABLE 2

Galaxy Properties and Chemical Evolution Model Parameters

| dSph       | \(L\)   | \(M_e\) | \(\sigma_{\text{los}}\) | \(R_e\) | \(D_{\text{GC}}\) | \(A_e\) | \(\alpha\) | \(A_{\text{in}}\) | \(\tau_{\text{in}}\) | \(A_{\text{out}}\) | \(M_{\text{gas}}(0)\) |
|------------|---------|---------|------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|            | \((10^5 \, L_\odot)\) | \((10^5 \, M_\odot)\) | \((\text{km} \, s^{-1})\) | \(\text{(pc)}\) | \((10^6 M_\odot \, \text{Gyr}^{-1})\) | \((10^9 M_\odot)\) | \((\text{Gyr})\) | \((10^7 M_\odot)\) | \((\text{Gyr})\) | \((10^7 M_\odot)\) | \((\text{Gyr})\) |
| Fornax     | 180 ± 50 | 190 ± 50 | 10.7 ± 0.2             | 714 ± 40 | 141 ± 12        | 5.02 ± 3.21 | 0.98 ± 0.15 | 2.46 ± 0.70 | 0.31 ± 0.01 | 1.51 ± 0.04 | 14.58 ± 1.77 |
| Leo I      | 56 ± 16  | 45 ± 13  | 9.0 ± 0.4              | 255 ± 76 | 257 ± 76        | 0.92 ± 0.07 | 0.71 ± 0.17 | 1.17 ± 0.10 | 0.35 ± 0.02 | 1.89 ± 0.16 | 7.32 ± 0.27 |
| Sculptor   | 22 ± 10  | 12 ± 5   | 9.0 ± 0.2              | 282 ± 41 | 85 ± 23         | 0.47 ± 0.09 | 0.83 ± 0.14 | 0.70 ± 0.12 | 0.27 ± 0.03 | 5.36 ± 0.18 | 5.05 ± 0.21 |
| Leo II     | 6.6 ± 1.9| 14 ± 4   | 6.6 ± 0.5              | 177 ± 13 | 221 ± 50        | 0.43 ± 0.13 | 0.03 ± 0.08 | 0.98 ± 0.28 | 0.02 ± 0.07 | 0.25 ± 0.05 | 6.59 ± 0.26 |
| Sextans    | 4.1 ± 1.2| 8.5 ± 2.4| 7.1 ± 0.3              | 768 ± 47 | 98 ± 13         | 0.52 ± 0.45 | 0.18 ± 0.34 | 0.48 ± 0.23 | 0.42 ± 0.05 | 0.31 ± 0.03 | 5.01 ± 0.10 |
| Draco       | 2.7 ± 0.4| 9.1 ± 1.4| 10.1 ± 0.5             | 220 ± 11 | 92 ± 29         | 0.46 ± 0.11 | 0.36 ± 0.37 | 0.86 ± 0.64 | 0.21 ± 0.04 | 8.83 ± 0.49 | 2.75 ± 0.41 |
| Can. Ven. I| 2.3 ± 0.4| 6.2 ± 2  | 7.6 ± 0.5              | 546 ± 36 | 210 ± 29        | 0.46 ± 0.11 | 0.36 ± 0.37 | 0.86 ± 0.64 | 0.21 ± 0.04 | 8.83 ± 0.49 | 2.75 ± 0.41 |
| Ursa Minor | 2.2 ± 0.7| 5.6 ± 1.7| 11.5 ± 0.6             | 445 ± 44 | 70 ± 19         | 1.21 ± 0.53 | 0.26 ± 0.12 | 1.47 ± 0.63 | 0.17 ± 0.03 | 11.04 ± 0.65 | 0.54 ± 0.17 |

References. — \(L\) (luminosity): [Martin et al. (2008)](2008) for Canes Venatici I has about the same \(M_e\) as Ursa Minor. \(\sigma_{\text{los}}\) (line-of-sight velocity dispersion) and \(R_e\) (2-D projected half-light radius): [Wolf et al. (2011)](2011) and references therein. \(D_{\text{GC}}\) (Galactocentric distance): Coordinates from [Mased (1998)](1998). See [Paper II] for Table 1, for the sources of the heliocentric distances.

TABLE 3

Star Formation Durations

| dSph       | Duration\(^a\) (Gyr) | \(f_{10G} (D05)\)\(^b\) | \(f_{10G} (O08)\)\(^c\) | \(\tau (O08)\)\(^d\) (Gyr) |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Fornax     | 1.3                 | 0.73                   | 0.73                   | 7.4             |
| Leo I      | 1.4                 | 0.75                   | 0.76                   | 6.4             |
| Sculptor   | 1.1                 | 0.86                   | 0.87                   | 12.6            |
| Leo II     | 1.6                 | 0.56                   | 0.70                   | 8.8             |
| Sextans    | 0.8                 | 0.0                    | 0.90                   | 12.0            |
| Draco      | 0.7                 | 0.06                   | 0.49                   | 10.9            |
| Can. Ven. I| 0.9                 | 0.0                    | 0.09                   | 0.9             |
| Ursa Minor | 0.4                 | 0.0                    | 0.00                   | 1.20            |

Note. — \(\alpha\) Star formation duration derived from our model, based on spectroscopic, multi-element abundances.
\(\beta\) Fraction of stars formed more recently than 10 Gyr ago, based on an analysis of HST photometry (Dolphin et al. 2002).
\(\gamma\) Fraction of stars formed more recently than 10 Gyr ago, based on a different analysis of HST photometry (Orban et al. 2008).
\(\delta\) Stellar mass-weighted mean age, based on Hubble Space Telescope photometry (Orban et al. 2008).
\(\epsilon\) Orban et al. (2008) did not measure these values but took them from Dolphin et al. (2003).

\([\alpha/Fe]\) spikes in different bursts. Alternatively, if the SN nuclesynthetic products were not well-mixed, the \([\alpha/Fe]\) value of a star would reflect the particular SFH of its birth site rather than the galaxy as a whole. Consequently, the abundance distribution would be a composite of several different SFHs. Coupled with measurement uncertainties, the composite distribution may look like an uncorrelated scatter of points, such as the distribution in Fig. 2. Burstiness and inhomogeneity are not mutually exclusive. Both processes might have affected Fornax’s SFH. Based on HST/Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2) photometry, [Bonacci et al. (1999)](1999) surmised that the field (not globular cluster) population of Fornax endured three major bursts of star formation separated by about 3 Gyr. [Saviane et al. (2000)](2000), [Battaglia et al. (2006)](2006), [Gulleszik et al. (2007)](2007), and [Coleman & de Jong (2008)](2008) provided additional photometric and spectroscopic evidence of multiple discrete populations, including a burst 4 Gyr ago. [Grebé & Stetson (1999)](1999), [Battaglia et al.], and [Coleman & de Jong] additionally showed that the younger, more metal-rich populations are more centrally concentrated. Thus, it seems that star formation in Fornax was both bursty and inhomogeneous.

Our chemical evolution model is incompatible with Fornax’s complex SFH. First, we model the SFR as a smooth function, not a bursty one. Second, the model has only one zone and does not account for spatially segregated star formation. Consequently, the SFH derived from our model should be viewed with skepticism. Most notably, we derive a total star formation duration of 1.3 Gyr (the time at which star formation and SN winds exhausted the gas supply, thereby truncating star formation), whereas every photometric study shows that star formation in Fornax lasted for most of the age of the Universe. In addition, the model does not match the observed flatness of the \([\alpha/Fe]\) distribution for the bulk of the stars. However, the model does share one important quality with photometrically derived SFHs: The initial metal enrichment is very rapid. The metallicity in our model reaches \([Fe/H] = -1\) at 0.3 Gyr after the commencement of star formation. [Pont et al. (2004)](2004) deduced that Fornax reached \([Fe/H] = -1\) within a few Gyr. One advantage of a spectroscopically derived SFH is that it is sensitive to relative ages, whereas a photometrically derived SFH is sensitive to absolute ages but has poor age resolution for old populations. [Letarte et al. (2010)](2010) measured multi-element abundances from higher resolution spectra of 81 Fornax members. We showed in [Paper II] that our abundance measurements match theirs very well. They pointed out that centrally selected stars in Fornax will preferentially sample the young, metal-rich component. In fact, the most metal-poor star known in Fornax \([Fe/H] = -3.66\), [Tafelmeyer et al. (2010)](2010) is very far (43′) from the center of the dSph. The discovery emphasizes that selecting stars in the center of the dSph biases the age and metallicity distribution.

3.2. Leo I

Leo I is the second most massive dwarf galaxy in our sample. The \([\alpha/Fe]\) distribution of Leo I shows a mod-

[α/Fe] Trends in Dwarf Galaxies
The observed abundance ratios and the best-fit gas flow and star formation history model for Fornax. Left: The top panel shows the observed MDF as the black histogram and the modeled MDF in red. The model is convolved with an uncertainty function to mimic the broadening of the histogram induced by observational error. A cross marks each 1 Myr time step, but these are too closely spaced to discern for most of the metallicity range. Very few stars are expected to have formed at the low metallicities where the crosses are distinguishable. The other panels show the observed \([\text{Mg}/\text{Fe}], [\text{Si}/\text{Fe}], [\text{Ca}/\text{Fe}], \) and \([\text{Ti}/\text{Fe}]\) ratios as black points whose sizes are inversely proportional to measurement uncertainties. Only points with uncertainties less than 0.3 dex are shown. The red lines show the abundance ratios of the stars and gas at each time step. We do not show the model results for \([\text{Ti}/\text{Fe}]\) because the SN yields are inaccurate. Right: The gas flow and star formation history for the best-fit model. From top to bottom, the panels show the gas inflow rate; the stellar, gas-phase, and total baryonic mass; the star formation rate; the iron and magnesium abundances; and the \([\text{Mg}/\text{Fe}]\) ratio, all as a function of time. The second panel also gives the final stellar mass in the model.
that we start with a much higher gas mass (by a factor of $\sim 400$). Also, our model requires a highly efficient SFR to match the observed MDF. The discrepancies with Lanfranchi & Matteucci partly result from our choice to use unenhanced galactic winds. Metal-enhanced winds would reduce the amount of gas required to be blown out. As for Fornax, our model is qualitatively consistent with previously derived SFHs in the sense that the overall metallicity increases quickly at early times.

Leo I's orbital dynamics, as studied by Sohn et al. (2007) and Mateo et al. (2008), indicate close passes to the center of the MW. The dSph almost certainly lost stars in tidal interactions near its perigalacticon. The prevalence of an intermediate-aged (rather than old) population in Leo I may be a consequence of this tidal stripping. Because the stripped stars do not fall in our spectroscopic sample, our model does not represent some stars that formed early in Leo I's history (see Sec. 2.8, item 9).

3.3. Sculptor

Our chemical evolution model for Sculptor produces one of the best fits to the abundance distributions (Fig. 4) out of all of the dSphs, particularly for the asymmetrical MDF. In Paper III, we could not reproduce the width of Sculptor's MDF with an analytical model of chemical evolution. Our more sophisticated model, which more properly treats Fe as a secondary nucleosynthetic product with multiple origins (Types II and Ia SNe), yields a broad, well-matched MDF for the appropriate choice of parameters. The combination of a low SFR normalization ($A_*$) and low initial gas mass maintains a lower rate of star formation than Fornax or Leo I. Consequently, the metal enrichment is less rapid and the SN-induced gas blowout is less severe. The resulting MDF has both metal-poor and metal-rich stars and is less-peaked than for the more luminous dSphs.

Norris & Bessell (1978) first drew attention to the possibility that Sculptor was chemically inhomogeneous. Da Costa (1984) found that the bulk of Sculptor's stars are slightly younger than the oldest globular clusters (GCs) but older than Fornax. With HST/WFPC2 photometry, Monkiewicz et al. (1999) found that Sculptor is just as old as the GCs. Neither study could determine whether the bluer stars were a younger population or blue stragglers from the older population. Mapelli et al. (2009) presented evidence that the blue stars are true blue stragglers, meaning that Sculptor has only an old population. However, old does not necessarily mean single-aged. In fact, Majewski et al. (1999) found that Sculptor undoubtedly contains multiple stellar populations based on its HB and red giant branch (RGB) morphologies. The existence of a metallicity spread, the depression of $\alpha$/Fe with increasing metallicity, and the radial change in HB morphology means that star formation lasted for at least as long as the lifetime of a Type Ia SN and possibly for a few Gyr (Tolstoy et al. 2003; Babusiaux et al. 2005).

Our chemical evolution model conforms to the photometric description of Sculptor's SFH. According to our

![Fig. 3.](image-url)
model, Sculptor formed stars for 1.1 Gyr. In fact, one of the major advantages of an abundance-derived SFH is that it can resolve ages of old populations much more finely than a photometrically-derived SFH. As a result, we believe our estimate of the star formation duration to be the most precise presently available for Sculptor.

Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2004) also found a chemical evolution model to match the five stars with then-available multi-element abundance measurements (Shetrone et al. 2003). Their model showed a sharp kink or knee at the time when Type Ia SNe ejecta began to dilute the \( [\alpha/\text{Fe}] \) ratio with large amounts of Fe. Our model shows a less pronounced knee that occurs at lower \( [\text{Fe/H}] \) and higher \( [\alpha/\text{Fe}] \) primarily due to our different treatments of the Type Ia SN DTD. Revaz et al. (2009) modeled unpublished abundance measurements by the Dwarf Abundances and Radial Velocities Team (DART) for Sculptor with a sophisticated hydrodynamical model. They found that nearly all of the stars formed between 10 and 14 Gyr ago, with nearly half of the stars forming at least 13 Gyr ago. The model supposed that the stars formed in about five bursts. It is possible that adding burstiness to our model would help to reconcile the model with the observed data, such as the peak in the MDF at \( [\text{Fe/H}] = -1.3 \) and the discrepancy in \( [\text{Ca}/\text{Fe}] \) at high metallicity. However, Revaz et al.’s model predicted many more stars at \( [\text{Fe/H}] < -3 \) than we or DART (who sample a wider area) observe. A less intense initial burst (crudely approximated by the 0.3 Gyr SFR rise time in Fig. 4) better matches the low-metallicity MDF. Finally, in constructing a chemical evolution model of Sculptor, Fenner et al. (2006) found that neutron-capture elements contribute significantly to the ability to discriminate between different models of star formation. Large, high-resolution surveys will add these elements to the dSphs’ repertoire of abundance measurements.

Like Fornax, the central regions of Sculptor are dominated by a more metal-rich population than the outer regions (Battaglia et al. 2008). Our sample is centrally concentrated in order to maximize the sample size. The selection results in a bias toward metal-rich, presumably younger stars, possibly shortening the derived the SF duration compared to what we would deduce from a more radially extended sample.

We also presented Sculptor’s abundance distributions in Paper I (Kirby et al. 2009). Minor modifications to the abundance measurements (Paper II) and the restriction of the plot to points with measurement uncertainties less than 0.3 dex in either axis cause Fig. 4 to appear slightly different from Figs. 10–12 in Paper I. The differences do not affect any of the conclusions of Paper I.

3.4. Leo II

The abundance distributions for Leo II resemble Sculptor in many ways. The MDF slowly rises to a peak followed by a sharp cut-off, and \( [\alpha/\text{Fe}] \) declines smoothly with increasing \( [\text{Fe/H}] \). The best-fit SFH model shows a great deal of gas loss, like Sculptor. Bosler et al. (2007) also suggested that Leo II may have experienced more intense galactic winds than Leo I due to a lower peak
Leo I (3.5). Like Sculptor, may benefit by adding burstiness.  

These stars may represent stellar populations of temporal separation. Revaz et al. (2009) showed that a model with about 13 SF episodes matches the dispersion in [Mg/Fe] at a given [Fe/H] (observations by Shetrone et al. 2003) fairly well. Our model for Leo II, like Sculptor, may benefit by adding burstiness.

in the MDF. In fact, we find that the mass lost per SN ($A_{\text{out}}$) is higher in Leo II (6.6 $\times$ 10$^4$ $M_\odot$ SN$^{-1}$) than in Leo I (3.9 $\times$ 10$^3$ $M_\odot$ SN$^{-1}$).

Perhaps by virtue of its large Galactocentric distance (221 kpc), Leo II has maintained star formation for longer than Sculptor. Mighell & Rich (1996) found from HST/WFPC2 photometry that the dSph started forming stars 14 Gyr ago and continued forming stars for about 7 Gyr. In a reanalysis of the same data, Orban et al. (2008) determined that 30% of Leo II’s stars formed earlier than 10 Gyr ago and 67% formed between 5 and 10 Gyr ago. Shetrone et al. (2009) resolved the age-metallicity degeneracy in the CMD by using metallicities based on spectral synthesis of Keck/LRIS spectra. They found a significant population of stars as young as 3 Gyr. However, they pointed out a number of caveats that may introduce large errors into their age measurements.

We derive a star formation duration of 1.6 Gyr. Although it is the longest duration that we measure for the eight dSphs, it does not approach the photometrically derived durations. The smoothness of the modeled SFR may mask the true duration of SF. The abundance distributions—particularly [Si/Fe] and [Ti/Fe]—show a smattering of points beyond the main trend line. These stars may represent stellar populations of temporally separated bursts. Revaz et al. (2003) showed that a model with about 13 SF episodes matches the dispersion in [Mg/Fe] at a given [Fe/H] (observations by Shetrone et al. 2003) fairly well. Our model for Leo II, like Sculptor, may benefit by adding burstiness.

3.5. Sextans

Sextans, Draco, and Ursa Minor form a class of galaxies with similar abundance distributions and SFH models. Their MDFs are fairly symmetric (less so for Ursa Minor) with a clump of stars at [Fe/H] $\sim$ −3. Their [$\alpha$/Fe] ratios decline smoothly with increasing [Fe/H]. The dispersion in [$\alpha$/Fe] at a given [Fe/H] is fairly small. Most of the derived star formation parameters are similar (infall normalization, $A_{\text{in}}$ $\sim$ 1.1 $\sim$ 1.5 $\times$ 10$^9$ Gyr; infall timescale, $\tau_{\text{in}}$ $\sim$ 0.2; outflow rate, $A_{\text{out}}$ $\sim$ 10$^4$ $M_\odot$ SN$^{-1}$).

The small bump in the MDF at [Fe/H] $\sim$ −3 deserves some discussion because it appears in Sextans, Draco, and Ursa Minor. A depression in the MDF appears between the bump and the bulk of the MDF. This bump might indicate a small, rapid SF burst at early times followed by an epoch of minimal star formation, possibly because the SNe from the initial burst blew out the gas. When the galaxy reacquired more cool gas, the bulk of SF began. The few available [$\alpha$/Fe] measurements in the bump are large, indicating that the stars in the bump formed before the onset of Type Ia SNe. Because our model does not permit individual bursts, we can not support this speculation beyond our qualitative argument.

Despite the lowmetallicity and low luminosity of Sextans, Bellazzini et al. (2001) found that the dSph has at least two stellar populations based on its HB and RGB morphology. With HST/WFPC2 photometry, Orban et al. (2008) found no stars older than 10 Gyr. Lee et al. (2009) measured Sextans’s SFH based on wide
field photometry coupled with an algorithm that self-consistently derives the SFH and chemical evolution of the galaxy. They deduced that SF in Sextans occurred mainly between 11 and 15 Gyr ago, but some stars formed as recently as 8 Gyr ago. However, they assumed that Sextans is a closed box. In Paper III, we showed that the MDF is inconsistent with a closed box. We allow gas to leave the system, which would bring an earlier end to SF than in a closed box. As a result, we find a SF duration of just 0.8 Gyr.

3.6. Draco

Because we conducted a more intense observational campaign on Draco than on Sextans, we better sample Draco’s abundance space. The better sampling does not change our qualitative description of the trio comprised of Sextans, Draco, and Ursa Minor (see Sec. 3.5). The metal-rich side of Draco’s MDF seems tiered, with fewer stars than our model predicts at [Fe/H] = −1.5 and −1.2. The tiers may indicate discontinuous periods of SF. As a consequence of its proximity, Draco was one of the first dSphs subjected to spectroscopic scrutiny. This system has a stellar mass comparable to globular clusters, which are homogeneous in iron-peak elements. Therefore, the discovery of a metal abundance spread within this system (Kinman & Kraft 1980; Kinman et al. 1981; Stetson 1984; Smith 1984; Lehner et al. 1992) proved to be a notable peculiarity. Furthermore, Draco contains stars more metal-poor than any globular cluster. The first attempt to interpret the metallicity distribution within Draco was that of Zinn (1978). He compared metallicities derived for 23 red giants from the Hale 5-m multichannel scanner to a chemical evolution model that incorporated gas loss (with a rate proportional to the SFR) but no gas inflow. In order to account for the low metallicity of Draco, Zinn (1978) inferred that this system had lost some 90–99% of its initial gas mass. Subsequent spectroscopic and photometric work has more extensively documented the MDF and increased the number of elements for which abundances have been measured (Shetrone et al. 1998, 2001; Aparicio et al. 2001; Bellazzini et al. 2002; Winnick 2003; Smith et al. 2006; Faria et al. 2007; Abia 2008; Cohen & Huang 2009).

HST/WFPC2 photometry (Grillmair et al. 1998) and wide-field Isaac Newton Telescope photometry (Aparicio et al. 2001) showed little evidence for stars younger than 10 Gyr in Draco. On the other hand, Ikuta & Arimoto (2002), who also pointed out the similarities between Sextans, Draco, and Ursa Minor, found a longer SF duration: between 3.9 and 6.5 Gyr. However, Ikuta & Arimoto, like Lee et al. (2009), assumed that a closed box was an adequate description of the galaxy. In Paper III, we determined that failing to account for gas outflow overpredicts the peak metallicity of the MDF and that failing to account for gas inflow results in an MDF shape that does not match the observations. Our abundance-based SF duration, relaxing the closed box assumption, is 0.7 Gyr. Strangely, based on the same HST/WFPC2 data that Grillmair et al. used, Orban et al. (2008) determined that half of the stars in...
Draco are younger than 10 Gyr. Orban et al. derived SFHs for many dSphs, and they did not mention Draco explicitly in their text. As a result, we do not know why their SFH diverged from that of Grillmair et al.

Cohen & Huang (2009) analyzed high-resolution spectroscopic abundances for eight newly observed stars and six stars from the literature. They fit a toy model with low- and high-metallicity plateaus in [X/Fe]. The low-metallicity plateau has a maximum metallicity of [Fe/H] = −2.9 for [Mg/Fe] and −2.4 for [Si/Fe]. We do not see a low-metallicity plateau because our sample does not include enough metal-poor stars. Instead, we observe a smooth, monotonic decline in all four [α/Fe] ratios as a function of increasing [Fe/H]. The absence of a low-metallicity plateau for the metallicity range of our sample suggests that Type Ia SNe were exploding for nearly the entire SF lifetime of Draco.

Marcolini et al. (2006, 2008) constructed a hydrodynamical model of a Draco-like dSph. In order for [α/Fe] to drop to 0.2 dex, their modeled dSph must have evolved for at least 2 Gyr. However, at small radius—the location of most spectroscopic surveys, including the majority of our Draco sample—[α/Fe] does drop to lower values sooner than in the dSph as a whole. Nonetheless, Marcolini et al. predicted mostly stars with [α/Fe] larger than 0.2 dex with a plateau at low metallicity. We observe neither of these qualities. Nonetheless, their model does qualitatively reproduce important features of dSph abundance distributions, including radial gradients in both [Fe/H] and [α/Fe], the shape of the MDF, and an anti-correlation between metallicity and velocity dispersion.

Finally, we point out that, according to our model, Draco lost an enormous amount of gas from SN winds during its SF lifetime. Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2007) used Draco and Ursa Minor as case studies in the importance of SN winds. One interesting divergence from our model is that they found that a wind intensity proportional to the SFR rather than the SN rate better voided the dSph of gas by the present time, in agreement with the observed absence of gas. Our different prescription for the Type Ia DTD may mitigate the difference between the SFR and SN rate.

3.7. Canes Venatici I

Of all of our dSph models, that for Canes Venatici I adheres most closely to the observed abundance distributions, in part because of the sparse sampling. The MDF is a perfect match, and the predicted [α/Fe] line passes through the observed locus of points, except for veering to slightly high [α/Fe] values at high [Fe/H]. Unfortunately, only three stars pass the [Mg/Fe] uncertainty cut of 0.3 dex. More measurements of [Si/Fe] and [Ca/Fe] help us to determine a SF duration of 0.9 Gyr and an unusually low SFR exponent of α = 0.36. The weaker dependence on gas mass shapes the SFR profile in such a way that produces a more symmetric MDF while preserving a steadily declining [α/Fe] distribution with increasing [Fe/H].

Because Canes Venatici I was discovered recently
3.8. Ursa Minor

The low-mass Ursa Minor dSph has sometimes been studied in comparison with the Draco dSph, in regard to both its metallicity inhomogeneity and stellar population (Zinn 1981; Stetson 1984; Bell 1985; Shetrone et al. 2001; Bellazzini et al. 2002; Winnick 2003; Abia 2008). A relatively small age spread and an ancient mean age (Olszewski & Aaronson 1985; Mighell & Burke 1999; Carrera et al. 2002) also makes it also an interesting contrast to halo globular clusters. However, spectroscopy has shown that Ursa Minor has a heavy element abundance spread of more than 1 dex (Zinn 1981; Shetrone et al. 2001; Winnick 2003; Sadakane et al. 2004; Cohen & Huang 2010) even though its stellar mass is similar to that of a GC.

Cudworth, Olszewski, & Schommer (1986) conducted a photometric survey of Ursa Minor down to the HB. With ~450 members, they found that the stellar population resembles that of an old, metal-poor GC with a steep RGB and a blue horizontal branch. The HST/WFPC2 imaging study of Mighell & Burke (1999) confirmed this SFH: a single major burst of star formation about 14 Gyr ago with a duration of less than 2 Gyr. Our best-fit model agrees with these earlier results. From our observed abundance distributions, we deduce that almost all of the star formation in Ursa Minor occurred over an interval of only 0.4 Gyr. In contrast, Ikuta & Arimoto (2002) derived an extended period of star formation lasting for about 5 Gyr from their closed-box analysis of the CMD. In Paper III, we showed that Ursa Minor’s MDF is inconsistent with a closed box. Cohen & Huang (2010) used metallicities from moderate resolution spectra combined with ages from isochrones to reaffirm that most of the stars in Ursa Minor are quite old.

MDFs have been generated from photometric surveys by Bellazzini et al. (2002) and from moderate resolution spectroscopy by Winnick (2003). That of Bellazzini et al. (2002) is a good match to our observed MDF given in Fig. 9. Both show a sharp rise to a peak metallicity of about −2 dex with a more gradual decline towards higher [Fe/H]. The best fit chemical evolution model for Ursa Minor produces an MDF that fails to match the rapid rise seen at [Fe/H] ≲ −2.3 dex.

Cohen & Huang (2010) provided detailed abundance analyses for a sample of 16 RGB stars, 6 of which came from earlier work by Shetrone, Côté & Sargent (2001) or from Sadakane et al. (2004). Their trends for [Mg/Fe], [Si/Fe], [Ca/Fe], and [Ti/Fe] agree qualitatively with
those found here, but their sample has better coverage of the regime $[\text{Fe/H}] < -2.5$ dex, where they found a plateau in $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$. At very low metallicity, $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ in our models reaches highly supersolar ratios, which are larger than those observed at the metal-poor end of the Ursa Minor population by Cohen & Huang.

Previous chemical evolution models of Ursa Minor include those of Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2004), who found that Ursa Minor has the shortest duration of star formation of any of the six dSph satellites they studied. They deduced that Ursa Minor experienced only a single burst lasting perhaps 3 Gyr, a moderately high star formation efficiency, and an intermediate wind efficiency. In our model the wind efficiency, $A_{\text{out}}$, is the highest of all the dSphs in our sample (see Tab. 2). Lanfranchi & Matteucci’s predicted MDF fails at low $[\text{Fe/H}]$, as does ours, by being too extended. In a later paper, Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2007) studied the effect of galactic winds. They concluded that a strong galactic wind is necessary to reproduce the rather low $[\text{Fe/H}]$ of the peak of the Ursa Minor MDF, but they still failed to reproduce the sudden scarcity of stars more metal-poor than the MDF peak.

Both Martínez-Delgado et al. (2001) and Muñoz et al. (2005) have discovered tidal debris around Ursa Minor. As we discussed in Sec. 2.8 (item 9), our observations are centrally concentrated and therefore biased toward the relatively younger, more metal-rich population that is still bound to the dSph. A truly complete analysis of Ursa Minor’s SFH must also include the tidally stripped, unbound stars.

4. FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE CHEMICAL EVOLUTION MODEL

In this section, we explore the parameters of the chemical evolution model that were previously not allowed to vary. Namely, we examine the dependence of the outcome of the model on the Type Ia SN delay time distribution, the hypernova fraction, and the metal enhancement of supernova winds. We have chosen Sculptor as a case study. In each of the following three sections, we alter one aspect of the chemical evolution model for Sculptor. Then, we use Powell’s method to find the combination of the six free parameters that maximizes the likelihood estimator, as before. A Monte Carlo Markov Chain of at least $10^4$ trials provides the two-sided 68.3% confidence intervals for the first two altered models. Table 4 compares the results of the new models with the original model.

4.1. Type Ia Delay Time Distribution

We have adopted the Type Ia DTD of Maoz et al. (2010). The model is very sensitive to the delay time of the first Type Ia SN to explode after the onset of star formation. Unfortunately, this quantity is poorly measured. We have chosen 0.1 Gyr because that is the maximum value that Maoz et al.’s DTD seems to allow. However, the DTD was measured in a range of galaxies with widely varying star formation environments. The details of the combined DTD (Fig. 1) may not be
appropriate for dSphs. For example, Kobayashi et al. (1998) and Kobayashi & Nomoto (2009) suggested that single-degenerate Type Ia SNe will be inhibited at low metallicity ([Fe/H] \lesssim -1). Nonetheless, the decline of [$\alpha$/Fe] with increasing [Fe/H] in Figs. 4-5 demands that some kind of Type Ia SN explode. Thus, the low-metallicity Type Ia SNe in dSphs may be mergers of double-degenerate binaries only. The removal of the single-degenerate channel could affect the DTD.

In order to explore the impact of changing the DTD on the chemical evolution model, we have recomputed the most-likely model parameters for Sculptor with a minimum Type Ia delay time of 0.3 Gyr instead of 0.1 Gyr. We did not change the DTD normalization. Figure 10 shows the result compared to the original model (Fig. 4). The abundance distribution is identical except for the low-metallicity [$\alpha$/Fe] plateau, which is flatter for the longer delay time because the mass dependence of the Type II SN yields is muted. However, the right panel of Fig. 10 shows that the SFH has changed dramatically. In particular, the timescale of SF has been expanded. In fact, the differences in the SFHs can be explained by multiplying the time variable in the original model by about 3.5. The result is less intense star formation over a longer

**TABLE 4**

**SENSITIVITY OF SCULPTOR MODEL PARAMETERS TO ASSUMPTIONS**

| Parameter | Baseline | min($t_{\text{delay}}$) = 0.1 Gyr | $\epsilon_{\text{HN}} = 0.5$ | Metal-Enhanced Wind |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| $A_{\star}$ (10$^6$ M$_{\odot}$ Gyr$^{-1}$) | 0.47$^{+0.09}_{-0.12}$ | 0.12$^{+0.03}_{-0.06}$ | 0.68$^{+0.10}_{-0.18}$ | 0.85 |
| $\alpha$ | 0.83$^{+0.08}_{-0.14}$ | 0.93$^{+0.20}_{-0.09}$ | 0.84$^{+0.16}_{-0.06}$ | 0.93 |
| $A_{\text{SD}}$ (10$^9$ M$_{\odot}$ Gyr$^{-1}$) | 0.70$^{+0.08}_{-0.12}$ | 0.07$^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | 1.02$^{+0.14}_{-0.15}$ | 0.29 |
| $\tau_{\text{SD}}$ (Gyr) | 0.27$^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | 0.84$^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ | 0.21$^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$ | 0.13 |
| $A_{\text{DD}}$ (10$^4$ M$_{\odot}$ SN$^{-1}$) | 5.36$^{+0.17}_{-0.16}$ | 5.38$^{+0.21}_{-0.18}$ | 5.14$^{+0.17}_{-0.13}$ | 0.53 |
| $M_{\text{gas}}(0)$ (10$^8$ M$_{\odot}$) | 0.50$^{+0.25}_{-0.25}$ | 0.60$^{+0.32}_{-0.32}$ | 0.00$^{+0.00}_{-0.00}$ | 0.33 |
| SF duration (Gyr) | 1.05 | 3.66 | 0.82 | 1.26 |

**NOTE.** — We were unable to compute uncertainties for the Metal-Enhanced Wind model because the model is numerically unstable to small perturbations. The SF duration is a derived value, not a free parameter, and we did not calculate its uncertainty.

**FIG. 10.** — The observed abundance ratios and the best-fit gas flow and star formation history model for Sculptor. The dark red (left) or heavier (right) lines show the model with the longer minimum Type Ia SN delay time of 0.3 Gyr (Sec. 3.1). The light blue (left) or faded (right) lines show the original value of 0.1 Gyr, as in Fig. 4.
4.2. Hypernova Fraction

SN 1998bw was immediately identified to be unusual because of its association with a gamma ray burst and a light curve that suggested relativistically expanding gas (Galama et al. 1998; Iwamoto et al. 1998) determined that the explosion energy for SN 1998bw was about 30 times larger than the average SN. The energy of the explosion has consequences for the nucleosynthesis. Nomoto et al. (2006) calculated nucleosynthetic yields for SNe at a variety of explosion energies.

One of the fixed parameters in our model is the fraction of stars that explode as very energetic hypernovae (η_HN). We initially chose η_HN = 0 (no HNe) because it seemed to better match the abundance patterns at the lowest metallicities (e.g., [Ca/Fe] in Sculptor). In order to explore the effect of HNe, we have also found the most likely model for Sculptor with η_HN = 0.5. This is the value that Nomoto et al. chose for their own chemical evolution model of the solar neighborhood. Romano et al. (2010) further explored the effect of changing η_HN.

Figure 11 compares the result of the model with η_HN = 0.5 with the original model (η_HN = 0). The abundance distributions are nearly identical except at [Fe/H] < −2.3. The model with larger η_HN reaches higher [Fe/H] before Type Ia SNe turn-on. This ensures that the lowest metallicity stars are not polluted by Type Ia SNe ejecta. The result is a plateau in [α/Fe] at low [Fe/H]. We further discuss the presence of such a plateau in the [Ca/Fe] ratio of Sculptor and the absence of plateaus in other dSphs in Sec. 5.1.1.

The effect on the SFH is more noticeable than on the abundance distributions. The total star formation duration shortens to 0.82 Gyr from 1.1 Gyr. The HN model also requires no initial gas, though the original model for Sculptor already did not require very much gas. Less gas is lost to supernova winds in the HN model.

In conclusion, the inclusion of HNe has a minor effect on the abundance distributions and SFH. The most notable result is that very metal-poor stars ([Fe/H] < −2.3) in the HN model have [α/Fe] ratios that are inconsistent with any amount Type Ia SN ejecta. Instead, these stars incorporate the ejecta of only Type II SNe or HNe.

4.3. Metal-Enhanced Supernova Winds

The SNe in our model expel gas without regard to its composition. However, SN winds might be expected to be more metal-rich than the average gas-phase metallicity because metals are more opaque (and therefore more susceptible to radiation pressure) than hydrogen and helium and because the same SNe that create the metals could blow them away (Vader 1986; Mac Low & Ferrara 1999). In this section, we explore the effect of a metal-enhanced SN wind. We refer the reader to Robertson et al. (2005) for a more thorough discussion of a model that included metal-enhanced winds from dwarf galaxies.

We parametrize the metallicity dependence of the wind by f_Z, which can vary between 0 and 1. Thus, we replace Eq. (15) with

$$\xi_{j,\text{out}} = \begin{cases} A_{\text{out}} X_j (N_{\text{II}} + N_{\text{Ia}}) (1 - f_Z) \\ A_{\text{out}} X_j (N_{\text{II}} + N_{\text{Ia}}) f_Z (\frac{Z}{Z_\odot} - 1) + 1 \\ \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If f_Z = 0, then the wind is unenhanced. If f_Z = 1, then the winds expel only metals and no hydrogen or helium. For this experiment, we fix f_Z at 0.01. Although that value seems small, the effect on the SFH is dramatic.

The modeled metallicity distribution (Fig. 12) does not fit the observed distribution as well as for the original model. Instead, there is an overabundance of metal-rich stars. The metal-rich discrepancy could be mitigated by increasing A_out (the total amount of gas lost per SN) at the cost of worsening the match at intermediate metallicities. The predicted [α/Fe] distributions change only at [Fe/H] ≥ −1.2. Metal-enhanced gas loss causes the hook back toward lower [Fe/H] in the [α/Fe] diagrams. Because the SFR is very low by the time [Fe/H] begins to decrease, very few stars are formed during this time.

The most dramatic effect on the SFH is that much less gas is lost over the lifetime of SF in the metal-enhanced wind model than in the original model. With an unenhanced wind, Sculptor ejects 1.8 × 10^8 M_⊙ of the gas that it starts with or accretes. With a metal-enhanced wind, that number decreases to 4.5 × 10^6 M_⊙. In both models, Sculptor forms about 1.2 × 10^6 M_⊙ of stars. The implications for galaxy evolution are dramatic. In the first case, over 10^8 M_⊙ of gas is required to catalyze star formation in Sculptor. Nearly all of this gas is returned to the ISM. In the metal-enhanced wind case, star formation in Sculptor requires a gas mass of only a few times its final stellar mass. The mass of metals returned to the intergalactic medium in both cases is the same, but in the metal-enhanced wind model, the metals in the ejected gas are much more concentrated. Changes to other aspects of the SFH are subtle.

We conclude that the amount of metal enhancement in the SN blowout dramatically affects the gas dynamics of the dSph. Even a 1% metal enhancement reduces the total amount of gas required for star formation by a factor of 40. However, a model with f_Z = 0.01 results in a worse match to the observed metallicity distribution than the original model with an unenhanced wind. A lower, non-zero value of f_Z might produce better agreement with the observed abundance data while reducing the amount of gas infall required from the unenhanced wind scenario. The literature on galactic chemical evolution contains a diversity of SN feedback treatments. We refer the reader to the articles we have already mentioned (e.g., Recchi et al. 2001; Lanfranchi & Matteucci 2004; Robertson et al. 2005; Romano et al. 2006; Marcolini et al. 2008) for more thorough treatments.

5. TRENDS WITH GALAXY PROPERTIES

We now discuss trends of the abundance distributions and derived SFH parameters with observed galaxy properties, such as luminosity, velocity dispersion, half-light...
radius, and Galactocentric distance. We show that luminosity is the only galaxy property that shows any convincing correlation with the properties of the abundance distributions.

5.1. General [\(\alpha/Fe\)] Trends

Figure 13 shows the trend lines of the different element ratios with [Fe/H]. The trend line is defined by the average of the element ratio, weighted by the inverse square of the measurement uncertainties, in a moving window of 0.5 dex in [Fe/H]. The moving averages relax the uncertainty cut of 0.3 dex (used for Figs. 2–9) to 1 dex, meaning that all of the measurements from the catalog (Paper II) are included. The bottom panel shows the average of four element ratios, which is called \(\langle [\alpha/Fe]\rangle\). The weight of the line fades as fewer stars contribute to the average near the ends of the MDF. The figure legend lists the dSphs in order of decreasing luminosity. For comparison, some panels of the figure also display the trends for the Milky Way halo and disk for available element ratios (Venn et al. 2004).

Fig. 13 presents the broad trends of the evolution of [\(\alpha/Fe\)] with increasing [Fe/H]. It does not convey the width of the dispersion of the [\(\alpha/Fe\)] distributions at a given metallicity, nor does it show the details at the margins of the MDF. The extremely metal-poor stars, which represent some of the oldest known stars, are not shown in Fig. 13.

5.1.1. Universal Abundance Pattern in dSphs

The figure does show that the abundance distributions of dSphs evolve remarkably similarly. Although the dSphs span different ranges of [Fe/H], \(\langle [\alpha/Fe]\rangle\) follows roughly the same trend line. This similarity contradicts the reasonable expectation that different dSphs should show a knee in [\(\alpha/Fe\)] at different values of [Fe/H] (e.g., Matteucci & Brocato 1990; Gilmore & Wyse 1991; Tolstoy et al. 2009). In fact, Tolstoy et al. did indeed find a knee in at [Fe/H] = −1.8 in DART’s preliminary measurements for [Ca/Fe] in Sculptor. Our measurements of [Ca/Fe] in Sculptor also show a knee at the same metallicity and the same [Ca/Fe]. Ursa Minor possibly has a knee in [Ca/Fe], but with a lower [Ca/Fe] plateau. In agreement with Tolstoy et al.’s and others’ predictions for lower mass systems to experience less intense SF, Ursa Minor possibly has a knee in [Ca/Fe], but with a lower [Ca/Fe] plateau. In agreement with Tolstoy et al.’s and others’ predictions for lower mass systems to experience less intense SF, Ursa Minor’s possible knee occurs at lower [Fe/H] than Sculptor’s knee. However, the knee is apparent only in [Ca/Fe] and only in Sculptor and possibly Ursa Minor. The element ratios that would better identify the onset of Type Ia SNe, [Mg/Fe] and [Si/Fe], do not show a knee for any dSph.
The lack of knees for $[\text{Fe/H}] > -2.5$ and the lack of low-metallicity plateaus in the $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ distributions implies that Type Ia SNe exploded throughout almost all of the SFHs of all dSphs. Of course, the very first stars, which have yet to be found, must be free of all SN ejecta. The stars to form immediately after the first SNe must incorporate only Type II SN ejecta. The stars to form immediately after the first SNe must incorporate only Type II SN ejecta. The very lowest metallicity stars in dSphs likely represent this population. Stars with $[\text{Fe/H}] > -2.5$ formed after the Type Ia SN-induced depression of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$. We have already explored the possibility of low-metallicity plateaus in $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$, but we discount the absence of Type Ia SN products as the cause because $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$ is the only element ratio to show the plateau. We speculate instead that metallicity-dependent Type Ia nucleosynthesis (e.g., Timmes et al. 2003; Howell et al. 2009) might shape the $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$ distribution differently from the other element ratios.

High-metallicity plateaus can form when the SF achieves a constant rate for a duration long enough for the ratio between Types II and Ia SNe to be constant. The SFR would achieve an equilibrium between the production of $\alpha$ elements and Fe. The value of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at the plateau depends on the IMF and SN delay time distribution. The SFR need not be strictly constant. As Revaz et al. (2009) pointed out, a bursty SF profile with a high duty cycle can mimic a constant SFR. In that case, we would expect a scatter about the mean value of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at a given $[\text{Fe/H}]$, but the mean value would not necessarily evolve with increasing $[\text{Fe/H}]$. We do observe high-metallicity plateaus, seen in Fig. [13]. The trends for $[\text{Mg/Fe}]$ and $[\text{Si/Fe}]$ do not completely flatten, but the slopes at $[\text{Fe/H}] > -1$ are less than the slopes at $[\text{Fe/H}] < -1.5$. The trends for $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$ and $[\text{Ti/Fe}]$ do completely flatten for some dSphs. Only the more luminous dSphs, which reached metallicities of $[\text{Fe/H}] > -1.2$, achieved the high-metallicity plateau. The $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ ratios of Sextans, Draco, Canes Venatici I, and Ursa Minor do not flatten. We conclude that dSphs with high enough SFRs to reach stellar masses of at least $10^6 M_\odot$ experienced roughly constant SF at late times, corresponding to metallicities $[\text{Fe/H}] > -1.2$.

Beneath the apparently universal path in $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]-[\text{Fe/H}]$ space, the abundance trends vaguely group by luminosity. Higher luminosity dSphs tend to have slightly higher values of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at a given $[\text{Fe/H}]$ than lower luminosity dSphs. The tracks for Sextans, Draco, and Canes Venatici I tend to lie below the other dSphs. Fornax and Leo I tend to lie above Sculptor and Leo II. These divisions are reminiscent of the groupings we proposed in Paper III based on MDF shapes. We classified Fornax, Leo I, and Leo II as “infall-dominated” and Sextans, Draco, Canes Venatici I, and Ursa Minor as “outflow-dominated.” Sculptor sat in its own class. The similar groupings based on MDF and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ unsurprisingly reaffirm that the SFH shapes both the MDF and the element ratio distributions.

The MW satellite galaxies more luminous than For-
the Milky Way (Venn et al. 2004, who compiled data from the references given in footnote 7). The bottom panel shows a nearly flat abundance ratio for the eight dSphs and for the Milky Way (Venn et al. 2004) who compiled data from the references given in footnote 7). The bottom panel shows the average values of [Ti/Fe] for the dSphs and the LMC at these metallicities vary from about −0.3 (Sculptor) to 0.0 (LMC and Sagittarius), and the slopes vary from Δ[Ti/Fe]/Δ[Fe/H] ~ ~ −0.8 to 0.0 (Fornax). Ti is both an α element and an iron-group element, and it has an appreciable yield from both Type II and Ia SNe (Woosley & Weaver 1995). Therefore, [Ti/Fe] responds to changes in the SFR and the IMF differently from the “purer” α elements, like Mg and Si. Unfortunately, our chemical evolution model failed to reproduce realistic values of [Ti/Fe] because the theoretical Type II SN yields of Ti were too small. We suggest that future work explore ratios such as [Mg/Ti] to better understand why [Ti/Fe] behaves differently in different dwarf galaxies at high [Fe/H].

![Diagram](image.png)

**Fig. 13.** — The moving averages, inversely weighted by measurement uncertainty, of abundance ratios for the eight dSphs and for the Milky Way (Venn et al. 2004) who compiled data from the references given in footnote 7). The bottom panel shows the average values of [Ca/Fe] in Sculptor, the abundance ratios do not show a low-metallicity plateau, which indicates that Type Ia SNe explode for nearly the entire duration of star formation. Our data are sparse at [Fe/H] < −2.5, and Type Ia SNe need not explode at times corresponding to those low metallicities. Only the galaxies luminous enough to reach [Fe/H] > ~ −1 eventually achieve an equilibrium between Types II and Ia SNe and therefore a plateau at high metallicity.

Fornax sample a regime of greater integrated star formation and higher metallicity. Pompéia et al. (2008) measured [α/Fe] for individual red giants in the disk of the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), and Mucciarelli et al. (2008) measured the same for red giants in LMC globular clusters. The stars span the range −2.4 ≤ [Fe/H] ≤ −0.3 with one additional star at [Fe/H] = −1.7. The [Ca/Fe] ratios of the disk stars decline slightly with increasing [Fe/H], but the other element ratios are nearly flat. In fact, the LMC stars seem to follow the same [α/Fe] trends as Fornax or Leo I, albeit shifted to higher [Fe/H], except for [Ti/Fe]. The average [Ti/Fe] in the LMC is about 0.1 dex higher than Leo I and 0.3 dex higher than Fornax. The Sagittarius dSph also shows a higher average [Ti/Fe] than Fornax or Leo I (Chou et al. 2010). Also, [Ti/Fe] in Sagittarius declines with increasing [Fe/H] over the entire range that Chou et al. sampled (−1.5 ≤ [Fe/H] ≤ +0.1).

The available evidence indicates that the evolution of [α/Fe] with [Fe/H] is nearly universal in MW satellite galaxies except for [Ti/Fe] at [Fe/H] > −1.3. The average values of [Ti/Fe] for the dSphs and the LMC at these metallicities vary from about −0.3 (Sculptor) to 0.0 (LMC and Sagittarius), and the slopes vary from Δ[Ti/Fe]/Δ[Fe/H] ~ ~ −0.8 (Sagittarius) to 0.0 (Fornax). Ti is both an α element and an iron-group element, and it has an appreciable yield from both Type II and Ia SNe (Woosley & Weaver 1995). Therefore, [Ti/Fe] responds to changes in the SFR and the IMF differently from the “purer” α elements, like Mg and Si. Unfortunately, our chemical evolution model failed to reproduce realistic values of [Ti/Fe] because the theoretical Type II SN yields of Ti were too small. We suggest that future work explore ratios such as [Mg/Ti] to better understand why [Ti/Fe] behaves differently in different dwarf galaxies at high [Fe/H].

5.1.2. [Mg/Fe]

Our data set for the first time has enabled the exploration of the bulk properties of [α/Fe] in dSphs that span two orders of magnitude in luminosity. In particular, Fig. 13 shows that [Mg/Fe] values higher than in the MW are not unique to the extremely metal-poor stars in dSphs (e.g., Frebel et al. 2010), but also exist in stars of more modest metallicity ([Fe/H] ~ ~ −1.8).

Factors beyond the SFH may affect the absolute value of [Mg/Fe] and other element ratios at low metallicity. First, changing the IMF alters [α/Fe] because Type II SN yields depend on the mass of the exploding star. Second, the early gas mass of the dSph might change the shape of the low-metallicity [α/Fe] distribution also because SN yields depend on mass. The first SNe in a galaxy can more efficiently enrich a small gas mass than a large gas mass. Massive SNe explode before less massive SNe, and massive SNe generally produce higher [α/Fe]. As a result, [α/Fe] at low metallicity could depend on the initial gas mass that was enriched by the first SNe. This effect possibly explains the larger [Mg/Fe] in dSphs than in the MW. We suggest that the stars at [Fe/H] ~ ~ −2.5 in dSphs were enriched by SNe of higher average mass than the stars at [Fe/H] ~ −2 in the MW. Finally, the shape of the abundance distribution might depend on the early gas mass because SN yields also depend on metallicity. In addition to sampling higher mass SNe, stars at a given [Fe/H] in a lower mass galaxy sample lower metallicity SNe than stars at the same [Fe/H] in a higher mass galaxy.

5.1.3. Unexplained Details

Many details in Figure 13 defy obvious explanations. For example, the [Ca/Fe] ratio is flatter than the other element ratios. Sculptor has a strangely large [Ca/Fe] at low [Fe/H]. The [Si/Fe] trend for Fornax is above the other dSphs’ trends, but the other element ratios seem consistent. Similarly, the [Ti/Fe] ratio—and only [Ti/Fe]—for Leo I lies above the other dSphs. Ursa Minor, despite being the least luminous dSph in the figure,
has the second largest [$\alpha$/Fe] at a given metallicity for much of the metallicity range. The slope of [Mg/Fe] flattens for all of the dSphs at [Fe/H] $\gtrsim -1.2$, but the slope of [Si/Fe] flattens only for Fornax and Leo II.

We suggest that future work examine the abundance catalog in more detail. For example, element ratios with a denominator other than Fe could constrain the IMF. The predicted yields of [Mg/Si] decrease from +0.2 for a progenitor mass of 18 $M_\odot$ to -0.3 for a progenitor mass of 40 $M_\odot$ (Nomoto et al. 2006). Our data set possesses the sample size and precision to address such questions.

5.2. Trends in Chemical Evolution Model Parameters

We now invoke the best-fit parameters of the chemical evolution model in a more quantitative discussion of the correlation between abundance distributions and galaxy properties. Figure 14 presents the parameters against luminosity, line-of-sight velocity dispersion, half-light radius, and Galactocentric distance. In addition to the model parameters, the bottom row of the figure shows the star formation duration, which is a quantity derived from the best-fit model, not a free parameter.

Luminosity can reasonably be expected to show the best correlation with quantities related to SF. Of the four abscissas in Fig. 14, $L$ is the only one that could be predicted from our simple chemical evolution model. Roughly, $L$ is the integral of past SF, modulated by the reddening and dimming associated with aging. Therefore, it is not surprising that the chemical evolution parameters vary with $L$. Although we have plotted the SF parameters against $L$, $L$ is not necessarily the independent variable. Luminosity is a present-day quantity, and the stars did not know the final stellar mass of the galaxy while they were forming. The SFH determines the present luminosity.

5.2.1. Star Formation Rate Parameters

The SFR normalization, $A_\star$, is roughly constant at $\sim 5 \times 10^3$ $M_\odot$ Gyr$^{-1}$ for galaxies less luminous than Leo I. The value roughly doubles for Leo I and increases by an order of magnitude for Fornax. The increase in $A_\star$ is expected because a more luminous galaxy must have formed more stars than a less luminous galaxy. If the SF timescale does not change much with luminosity, then the SFR must. We observe that the SF duration changes by a factor of about four across the luminosity range. Therefore, we estimate a range of 40 in luminosity. The actual $L$ range is 80, but our simple estimate ignored the ages of the stellar population and the other model parameters which affect the SFR, such as $\tau_{\text{in}}$.

The exponent of the SFR law, $\alpha$, also varies with $L$. If we assume that SFR is proportional to gas volume density, then $\alpha$ may indicate the degree to which the gas was concentrated in the center of the galaxy. However, we find no correlation between $\alpha$ and the concentration of the light profiles (Irwin & Hatzidimitriou 1995, not shown in Fig. 14). Our interpretation of $\alpha$ is purely speculative because SF is a complex process affected by many external factors, such as an ionizing radiation background. These factors become more difficult to predict for smaller galaxies (e.g., Gnedin & Kravtsov 2010).

5.2.2. Gas Infall Parameters

The intensity of infalling gas (or gas cooling to become available for SF) drives the SFR. The parameter $A_{\text{in}}$ is closely related to $A_\star$. The dSph cannot maintain a high SFR without the addition of new gas. Therefore, a luminous galaxy must have had large values of both $A_\star$ and $A_{\text{in}}$. Alternatively, a luminous galaxy could have started its life with a large reservoir of gas. However, in order to prevent too many metal-poor stars from forming early, new gas must have been added during the SF lifetime. The net result is that $A_\star$, $A_{\text{in}}$, and $M_{\text{gas}}(0)$ are highly covariant.

The most likely timescales for gas infall (or cooling) vary from 0.17 to 0.42 Gyr. It may be significant that none of the timescales exceeds 0.42 Gyr. We propose three conjectures. First, $\tau_{\text{in}}$ may reflect the time the dSph requires to accumulate gas. The central densities of dSphs are similar (Mateo 1998; Gilmore et al. 2007; Strigari et al. 2008). Therefore, the similar gravitational potentials of the dSphs themselves might enforce similarly small gas accretion timescales.

Second, the dSph environment may set the $\tau_{\text{in}}$ timescale. Interestingly, $\sim 0.1$ Gyr was the timescale for the Galaxy’s monolithic collapse proposed by Ewen, Lynden-Bell, & Sandage (1962). This collapse time corresponds to a period when the gas in the vicinity of the MW was rapidly coalescing into individual structures, such as the proto-Galaxy and the dSphs. After 0.1 Gyr, gas accretion would have declined considerably because the MW and its satellites would by then have accreted the bulk of the surrounding gas. In the $\Lambda$CDM paradigm, the formation time for a dSph-sized dark matter halo is only 0.4 Gyr after the Big Bang (Wechsler et al. 2002). Therefore, our most likely gas accretion timescales are consistent with both cosmogonies.

Third, the time from the formation of the first stars to cosmological reionization is roughly 0.5 Gyr. Ricotti & Gnedin (2003) referred to all eight of our dSphs as “true” or “polluted fossils,” meaning that all or most of their stars formed before reionization. Our models are sensitive to the bulk of the population, and not the few younger stars present in most dSphs. Therefore, the best-fit values of $\tau_{\text{in}}$ may be probing the pre-reionization SF timescale. Fornax must be an exception because the bulk of its population formed after reionization. Therefore, the best-fit $\tau_{\text{in}}$ values may reflect the time the dSph required to accumulate gas. If $\tau_{\text{in}}$ is the integral of past SF, modulated by the reddening and dimming associated with aging, then the SFR must. We observe that the SF duration changes by a factor of about four across the luminosity range. Therefore, we estimate a range of 40 in luminosity. The actual $L$ range is 80, but our simple estimate ignored the ages of the stellar population and the other model parameters which affect the SFR, such as $\tau_{\text{in}}$.

The role of SN feedback for dSphs has been emphasized repeatedly. Dekel & Silk (1986) posited that SN feedback regulates the SFR for dwarf galaxies. It can cause a terminal wind, or it can blow out gas that is later accreted. For the smallest galaxies, including the dSphs presented here, radiation feedback also plays a significant role. The best-fit SN wind intensities, $A_{\text{out}}$, also show a strong correlation with $L$. More
luminous dSphs experienced more intense winds. This trend is a direct result of the metallicity-luminosity relation for dSphs (e.g., Paper III). For reasons discussed in Paper III, more intense gas outflow lowers the effective metal yield. Therefore, the less luminous, more metal-poor dSphs naturally show more gas outflow. However, we expected that $A_{\text{out}}$ also correlate with the velocity dispersion, a measure of the depth of the potential well. No such correlation exists. The lack of correlation is puzzling, but the gas blowout depends on the unmeasurable mass density profile at the time of SF and on the locations of the SNe within the gravitational potential.

5.2.4. Galaxy Properties Other Than Luminosity

The model parameters are insensitive to galaxy properties other than $L$. The velocity dispersions of dSphs do not span nearly as large a range as their luminosities, which may partly explain the lack of dependence on $\sigma_{\text{los}}$. 

---

**Fig. 14.** The trends of the best-fit chemical evolution models with galaxy properties: luminosity (Irwin & Hatzidimitriou 1995; Martin et al. 2008a), line-of-sight velocity dispersion, two-dimensional projected half-light radius (both from Wolf et al. 2010, and references therein), and Galactocentric distance. From top to bottom, the parameters are the SFR normalization, SFR exponent (Eq. 5), gas infall rate, gas infall timescale (Eq. 14), gas expelled per SN (Eq. 15), and initial gas mass (Eq. 16). Table 2 gives the same data. The bottom row also shows the duration of star formation (see Table 3), which is a quantity derived from the model, not a free parameter. The only galaxy property to show a trend is luminosity.
The half-light radius and luminosity together are related to the galaxy’s surface brightness and stellar density. It does not seem that the SF parameters in our model depend significantly on these quantities. The timescales, $\tau_{\text{in}}$ and the SF duration, may depend weakly on Galactocentric distance. The Pearson linear correlation coefficient between $\tau_{\text{in}}$ and $D_{\text{GC}}$ is 0.69. Because $\tau_{\text{in}}$ basically represents the SF duration (the correlation coefficient between $\tau_{\text{in}}$ and the SF duration is 0.96), this relation may indicate that more distant dSphs survive SF-truncating interactions with the MW longer than closer dSphs. In fact, Silk, Wyse, & Shields (1987) suggested host galaxies competed with their satellites for gas accretion. The more distant satellites, such as dwarf irregulars, successfully accreted more gas to power present star formation than the closer satellites, such as dSphs. Orbital history would be a better indicator of past interaction with the MW. Orbital parameters based on proper motions are available for Fornax (Piatek et al. 2007), Sculptor (Piatek et al. 2006), and Ursa Minor (Piatek et al. 2005). Sohn et al. (2007) also constrained the orbit of Leo I based on the shape and dynamics of tidal debris. We leave orbital analyses for future work.

We conclude that luminosity is more directly related to a dSph’s SFH than dynamical or morphological properties. The present luminosity can not drive the past star formation, but the luminosity does mirror a single parameter which determines the SFH. This conclusion is similar to the fundamental line for dwarf galaxies defined by Woo et al. (2008). They also found that stellar mass (closely related to luminosity) is the best predictor of other dSph properties. However, stellar mass loss by tidal stripping may obfuscate the correlation between present stellar mass and past star formation.

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We have made a first attempt at quantitative chemical evolution models for the large sample of multi-element abundance measurements for MW dSphs that we published in Paper II. Our simple model is a significant improvement to the analytical models of the metallicity distributions that we explored in Paper III. We fit the MDF and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ distribution simultaneously to derive the SF and gas flow histories of each of eight dSphs spanning about two orders of magnitude in luminosity. Our model produces reasonable fits to the abundance distributions of dSphs whose color-magnitude diagrams show that most or all of their stars are older than 10 Gyr.

We draw the following conclusions from our models and from the general trends in abundance distributions (Fig. 13):

1. The $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ ratios evolve with metallicity along nearly the same path for all dSphs. The average value of $[\text{Mg/Fe}]$, $[\text{Si/Fe}]$, $[\text{Ca/Fe}]$, and $[\text{Ti/Fe}]$ drop from $+0.4$ at $[\text{Fe/H}] = -2.5$ to $0.0$ at $[\text{Fe/H}] \approx -1.2$, where the slope flattens.

2. No low-metallicity plateaus or knees exist in $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ vs. $[\text{Fe/H}]$ space for any dSph at $[\text{Fe/H}] > -2.5$. We conclude that Type Ia supernovae contributed to chemical evolution for all but the most metal-poor stars.

3. The $[\text{Mg/Fe}]$ ratio in dSphs exceeds that of the Milky Way at $[\text{Fe/H}] \lesssim -1.8$. We suggest that the abundance ratios of stars in low-mass systems are more sensitive to the mass and metallicity dependence of Type II supernovae yields than stars at the same metallicity in higher-mass systems, such as the progenitors of the inner MW halo.

4. The dSphs may be grouped based on their $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ distributions into roughly the same groups that we defined based on their metallicity distributions (Paper III). The more luminous dSphs have infall-dominated MDFs and slightly higher $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at a given $[\text{Fe/H}]$. The less luminous dSphs have outflow-dominated MDFs and slightly lower $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ at the same $[\text{Fe/H}]$.

5. Some SF model parameters correlate with present luminosity, but not with velocity dispersion, half-light radius, or Galactocentric distance except for a possible correlation between gas infall timescale and $D_{\text{GC}}$.

6. The gas flow histories for all dSphs except Fornax are characterized by large amounts of gas loss, probably driven by supernova winds. Less luminous dSphs experienced more intense gas loss.

7. Allowing supernova winds to be metal-enhanced drastically reduces the amount of gas infall and outflow required to explain the observed abundance distributions.

8. The gas infall timescale does not exceed 0.42 Gyr. This possibly reflects the amount of time ancient stars had to form before reionization ended star formation.

9. The derived star formation timescales are extremely sensitive to the delay time for the first Type Ia SN. Increasing the delay time from 0.1 Gyr to 0.3 Gyr results in a star formation duration in Sculptor inflated by a factor of 3.5.

10. The presence of bumps in the MDFs and stars with $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ ratios far from the average trend lines suggests that the SFHs of dSphs were characterized by bursts, which are not included in our model. Bursts are a common feature of more sophisticated models.

Some of our conclusions (5–10) depend on the realism of our chemical evolution model. Many more sophisticated models exist, and we encourage their application to our data set. Paper II contains the complete abundance catalog.

The major strength of the present work is that we apply the same model to a homogeneous data set of hundreds of stars in each of eight dSphs. The sample size and diversity of galaxies has allowed us to present an overview of chemical evolution in dwarf galaxies. We have discovered patterns not apparent in previous data sets due to small samples or lack of diversity among the well-sampled galaxies. In particular, we have shown that $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ distributions of dSphs do not form a sequence of knees corresponding to the metallicities at which Type Ia
supernovae began to explode. Instead, the $[\alpha/Fe]$ patterns of all dSphs are largely the same, but different dSphs sample different regions in metallicity.

We thank John Johnson, Hai Fu, Julienne Dalcanton, Chris Sneden, and Bob Kraft for insightful discussions. Support for this work was provided by NASA through Hubble Fellowship grant 51256.01 awarded to ENK by the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., for NASA, under contract NAS 5-26555. SRM acknowledges support from NSF grants AST-0307851 and AST-0807945, and from the SIM Lite key project “Taking Measure of the Milky Way” under NASA/JPL contract 1228235. PG acknowledges NSF grants AST-0507483, AST-0607852, and AST-0808133.

The authors wish to recognize and acknowledge the very significant cultural role and reverence that the summit of Mauna Kea has always had within the indigenous Hawaiian community. We are most fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct observations from this mountain.

Facility: Keck:II (DEIMOS)

REFERENCES

Aaronson, M., Hodge, P. W., & Olszewski, E. W. 1983, ApJ, 267, 271
Aaronson, M., Liebert, J., & Stocke, J. 1982, ApJ, 254, 507
Aaronson, M., & Mould, J. 1980, ApJ, 240, 804
Abia, C. 2008, AJ, 136, 250
Anders, E., & Grevesse, N. 1989, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 53, 1
Aparicio, A., Carrera, R., & Martinez-Delgado, D. 2001, AJ, 122, 2524
Azzopardi, M., Lequeux, J., & Westerlund, B. E. 1985, A&A, 144, 388
Babusiaux, C., Gilmore, G., & Irwin, M. 2005, MNRAS, 359, 985
Battaglia, G., Helmi, A., Tolstoy, E., Irwin, M., Hill, V., & Jablonka, P. 2008, ApJ, 681, L13
Battaglia, G., et al. 2006, A&A, 459, 423
Bell, R. A. 1985, PASP, 97, 219
Bellini, M., Ferraro, F. R., Origlia, L., Pancino, E., Monaco, L., & Oliva, E. 2002, AJ, 124, 3222
Bellazzini, M., Ferraro, F. R., & Pancino, E. 2001, MNRAS, 327, L15
Bensby, T., Feltzing, S., & Lundström, I. 2003, A&A, 410, 527
Bernal, E. J., et al. 2009, ApJ, 699, 1742
Beasley, T. M., Smecker-Hane, T. A., & Stetson, P. B. 2007, AJ, 135, 137
Borucki, W. J., Bloch, D., KOI-0507483, AST-0507483, AST-0607852, and AST-0808133.

26 Kirby et al.
