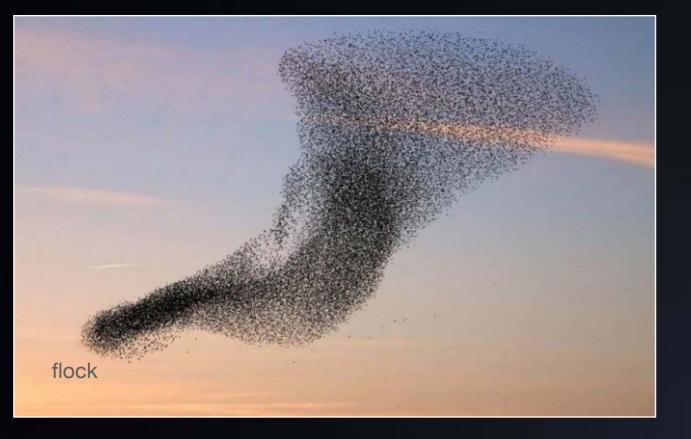
Gravity does it all: A Top-Down Multiscale Analysis of the Cosmic Emergence of Thin Galactic Discs.

Order out of Chaos: Secular Disc Settling

emergence = the arising of novel and coherent structures through self-organization in complex systems

Christophe Pichon & The NewHorizon Collaboration (Min-Jung Park, M. Roule, Y Dubois, J. Devriendt++)





* Emergence: arising of novel coherent (unlikely) structures through self-organisation

Near **phase transition** in **open dissipative** systems.

The **whole** does **not** simply behave like the **sum** of its parts!

Emergence cf: self-steering Bike on slope of increasing steepness

Disc resilience is direct analog of self-steering bike on slope of increasing steepness.

casper + gyroscopic effect

c) veritassium 22

Pumps free energy from gravity to self-regulate more and more efficiently

leans, and turns, and leans ...

remarkably, the bike's analog spontaneously emerges

Emergence cf: self-steering Bike on slope of increasing steepness

Disc resilience is direct analog of self-steering bike on slope of increasing steepness.

casper + gyroscopic effect

c) veritassium 22

Pumps free energy from gravity to self-regulate more and more efficiently

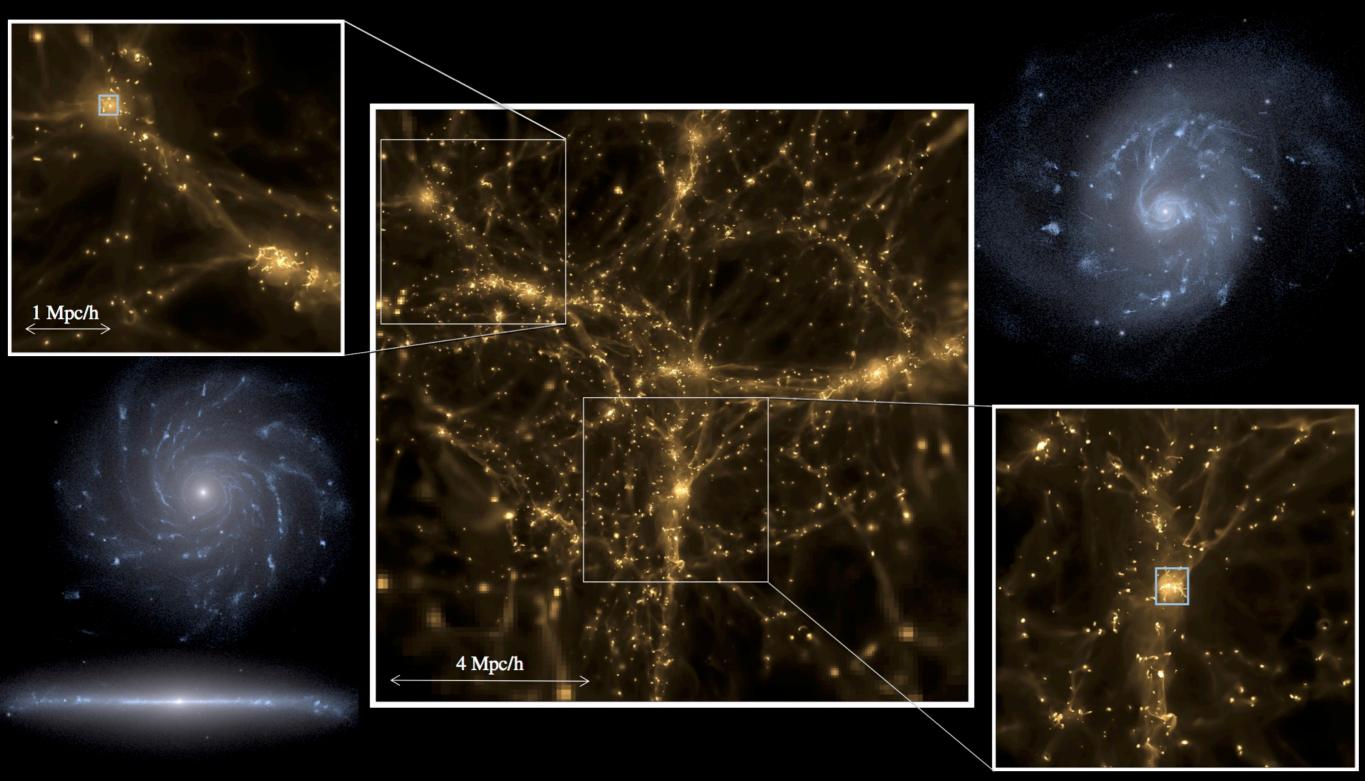
leans, and turns, and leans ...

remarkably, the bike's analog spontaneously emerges



One needs to form stars AND maintain them in the disc

Cosmological simulations produce thin discs

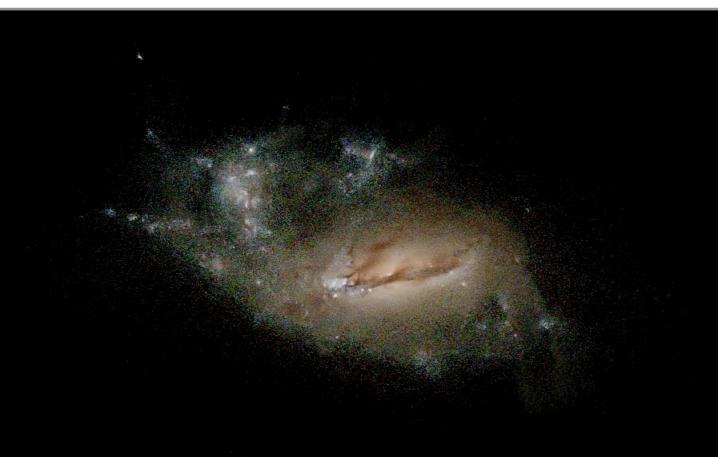


New Horizon Simulation

(c) M Park 2020

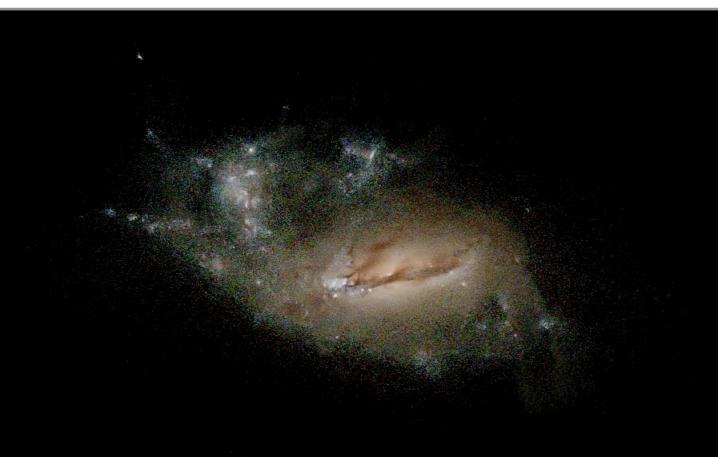
Question raised by emergence of thin disc

- Environment need to detune & stellar component to dominate: secular mode
- Where is the coherence coming from? The CGM acts like a free energy reservoir
- Why do disc settle ? Because they converge towards marginal stability
- What is the role of Q \sim 1? Because tighter control loop ($t_{\rm dyn} \ll 1$) via wake
- How does it impact settling? Because wake also stiffens coupling

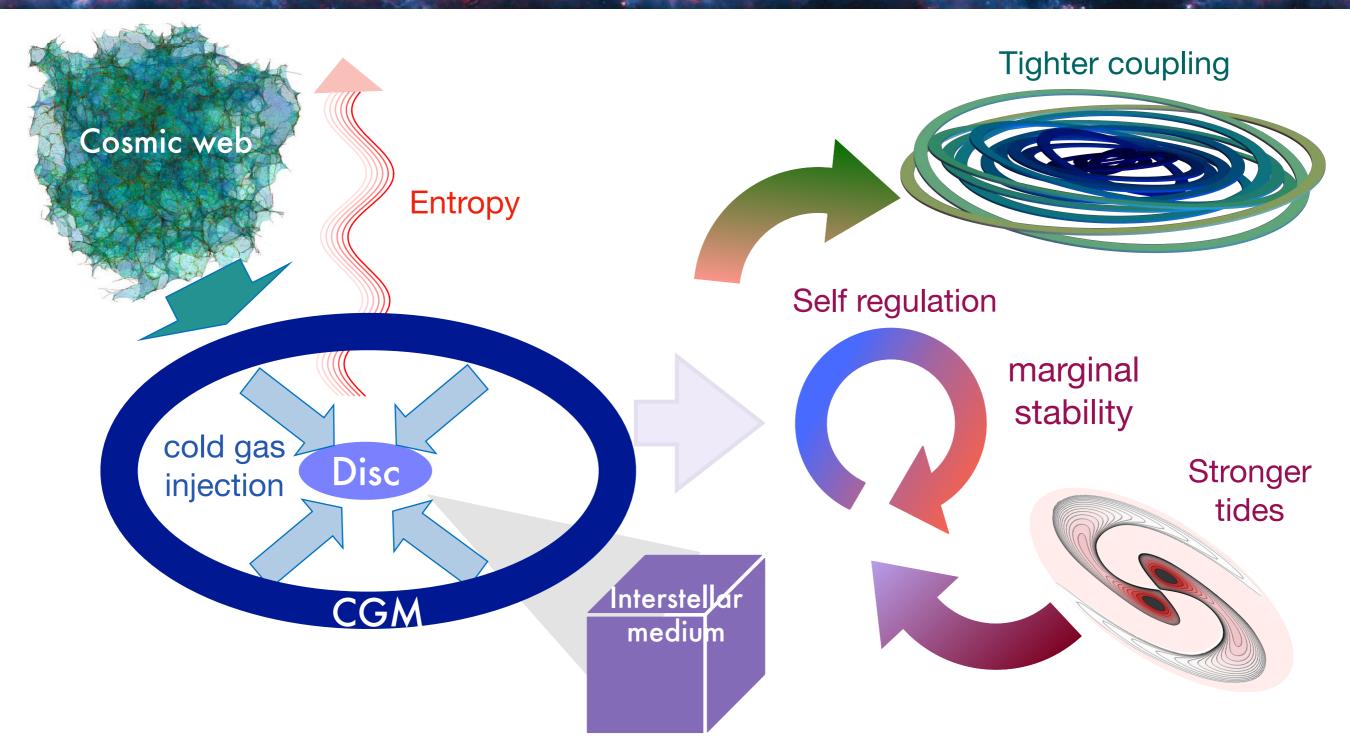


Question raised by emergence of thin disc

- Environment need to detune & stellar component to dominate: secular mode
- Where is the coherence coming from? The CGM acts like a free energy reservoir
- Why do disc settle ? Because they converge towards marginal stability
- What is the role of Q \sim 1? Because tighter control loop ($t_{\rm dyn} \ll 1$) via wake
- How does it impact settling? Because wake also stiffens coupling



Synopsis of thin disc emergence



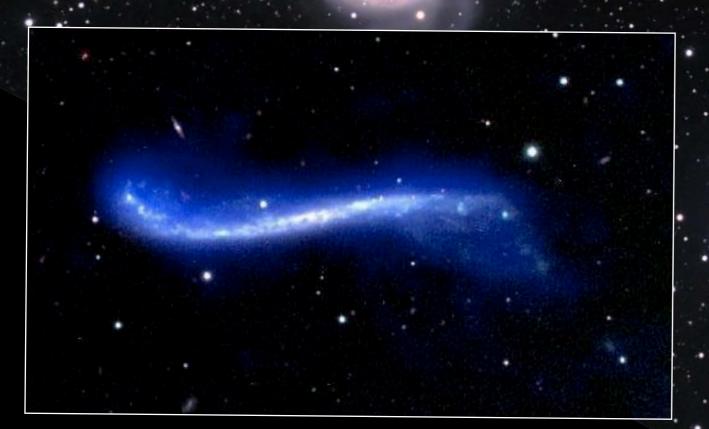
- Three components system coupled by gravitation.
- A CGM reservoir fed by the large scale structures (top down causation)
- Convergence towards marginal stability : acceleration of dynamical control-loop by wakes
- Tightening of stellar disc by boosting of torques, & increased dissipation.

How to find the galaxy? How to collimate accretion? How to sustain thinness?

- warps - thick disks
- Both know about infall direction!



Simulations



How to find the galaxy? How to collimate accretion? How to sustain thinness?

- warps - thick disks

Both know about infall direction! 1/10

Simulations



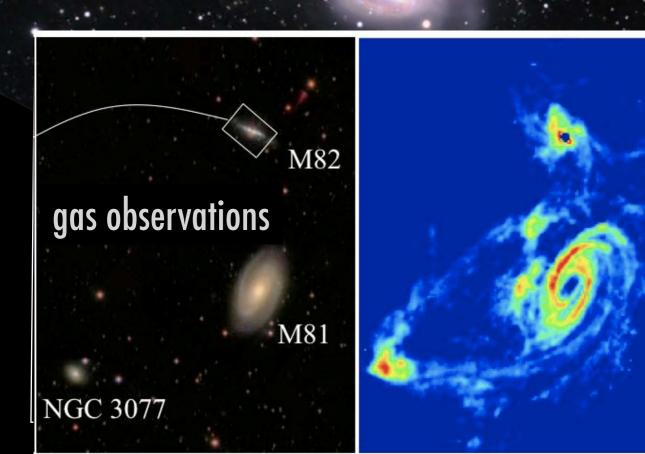
How to find the galaxy? How to collimate accretion? How to sustain thinness?



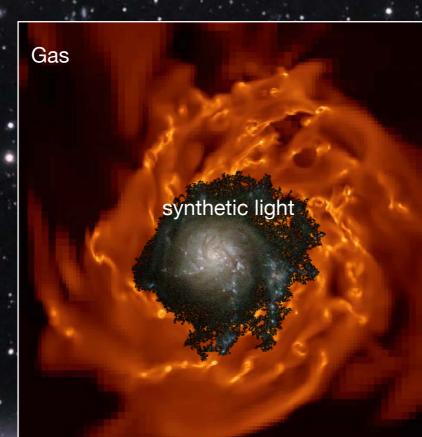
Both know about infall direction!



Simulations



How to find the galaxy? How to collimate accretion? How to sustain thinness?



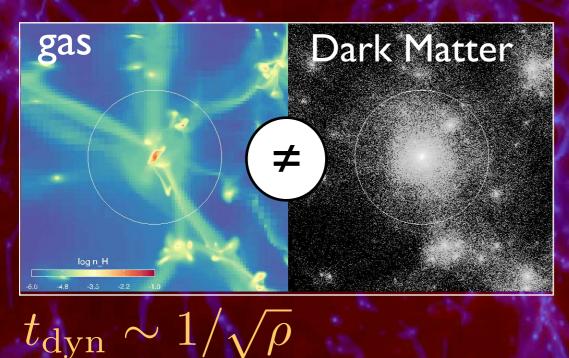
New Horizon Simulation

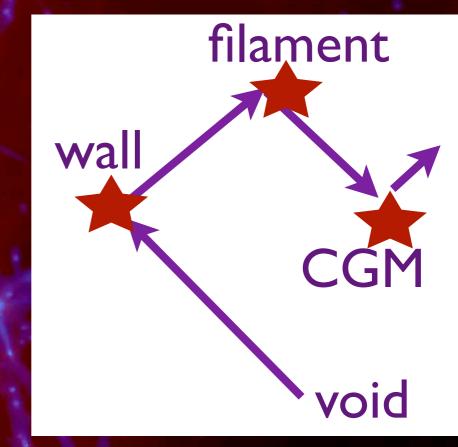
Simulations

M82 gas observations M81 NGC 3077

The impact of shocks in gaseous cosmic web

LSS drives secondary infall :



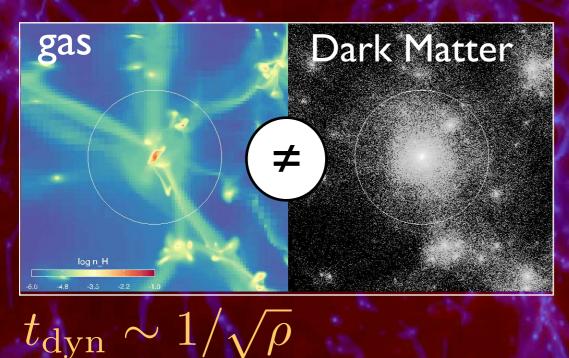


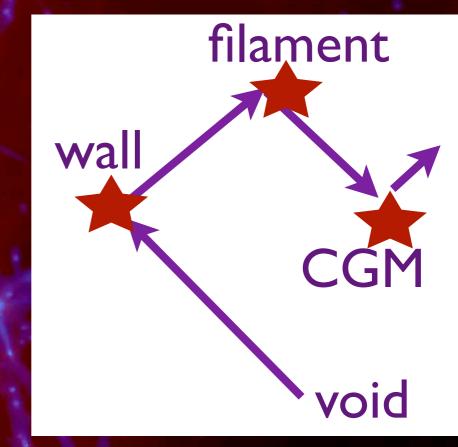
IRON
STARS
Z = 6
Disks (re)form because LSS are large (dynamically young)_{1 2.9 GYR AGO}
and (partially) an-isotropic :
they induce persistent angular momentum advection of cold gas along filaments which
 stratifies accordingly.

MILKY WAY

The impact of shocks in gaseous cosmic web

LSS drives secondary infall :

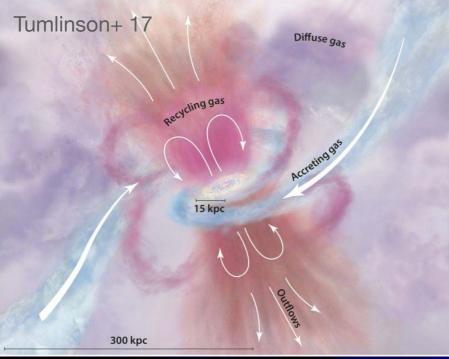




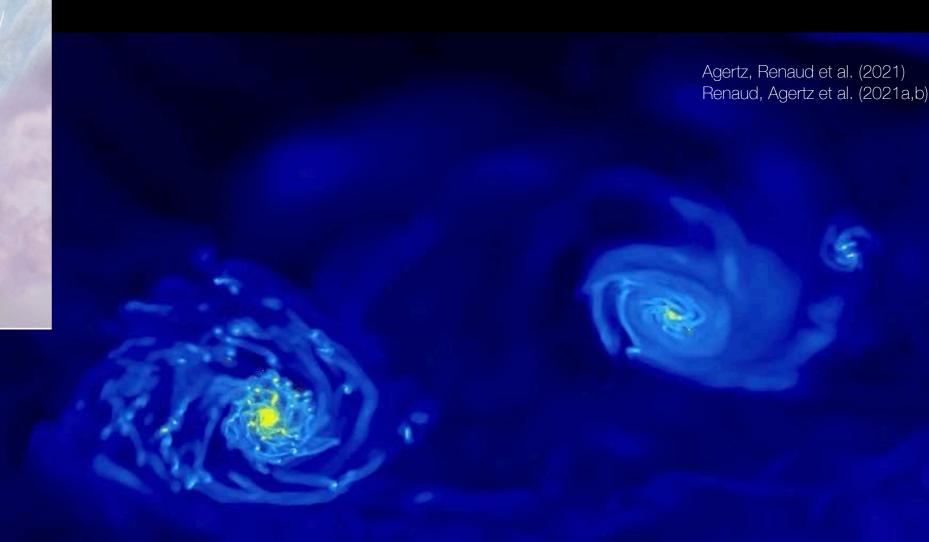
IRON
STARS
Z = 6
Disks (re)form because LSS are large (dynamically young)_{1 2.9 GYR AGO}
and (partially) an-isotropic :
they induce persistent angular momentum advection of cold gas along filaments which
 stratifies accordingly.

MILKY WAY

Shape of Circum Galactic Medium

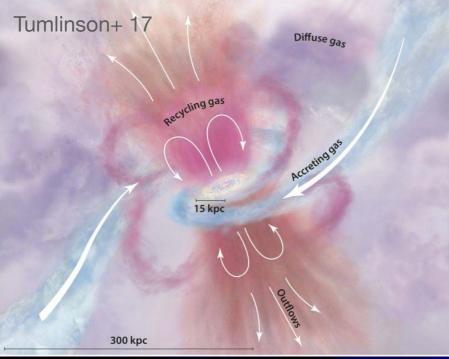


Disc torqued by GCM

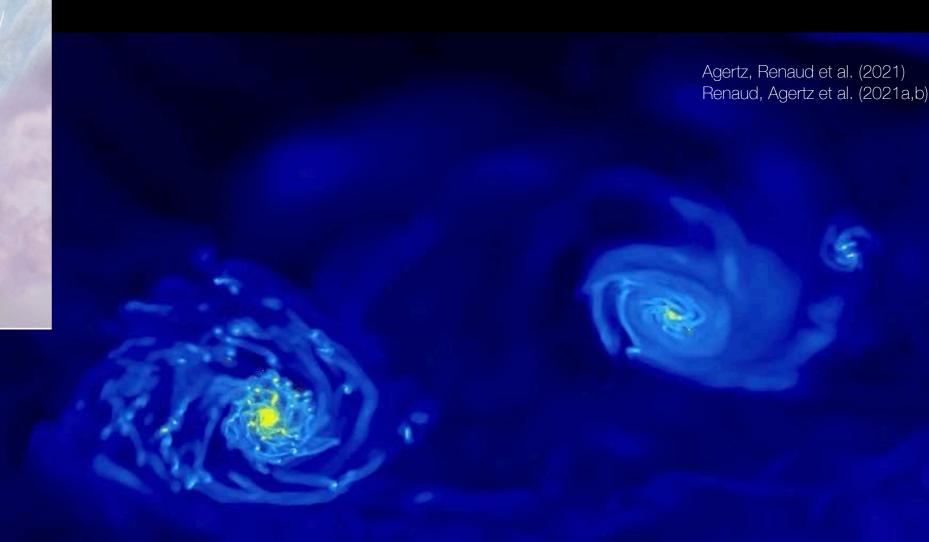


Cosmic web sets up reservoir of free energy in CGM = the fuel for thin disc emergence 10

Shape of Circum Galactic Medium



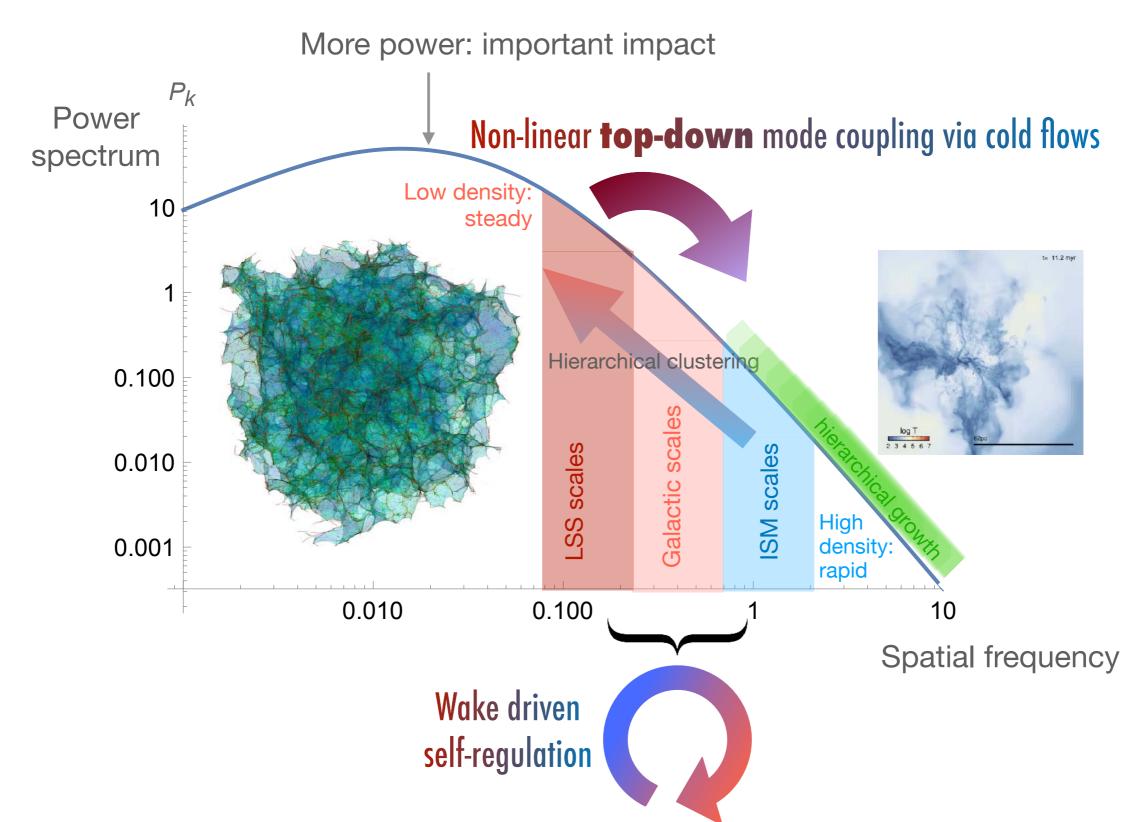
Disc torqued by GCM



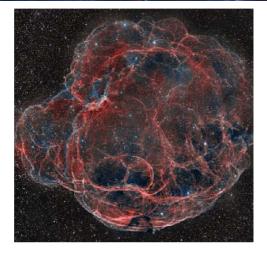
Cosmic web sets up reservoir of free energy in CGM = the fuel for thin disc emergence 10

Impact of LSS on non-linear dynamics is top down

On galactic scales, the Shape of initial P_k is such that galaxies inherit stability from LSS via cold flows, which, in turn, sets up CGM engine/reservoir.



Upshot of the various processes in the intra galactic medium



Destabilising effects

- supernovae
- Turbulence
- Minor merger
- accretion
- flybys

Cosmic

perturbation





Stabilising effects

• Stellar formation

Cooling

Shocks

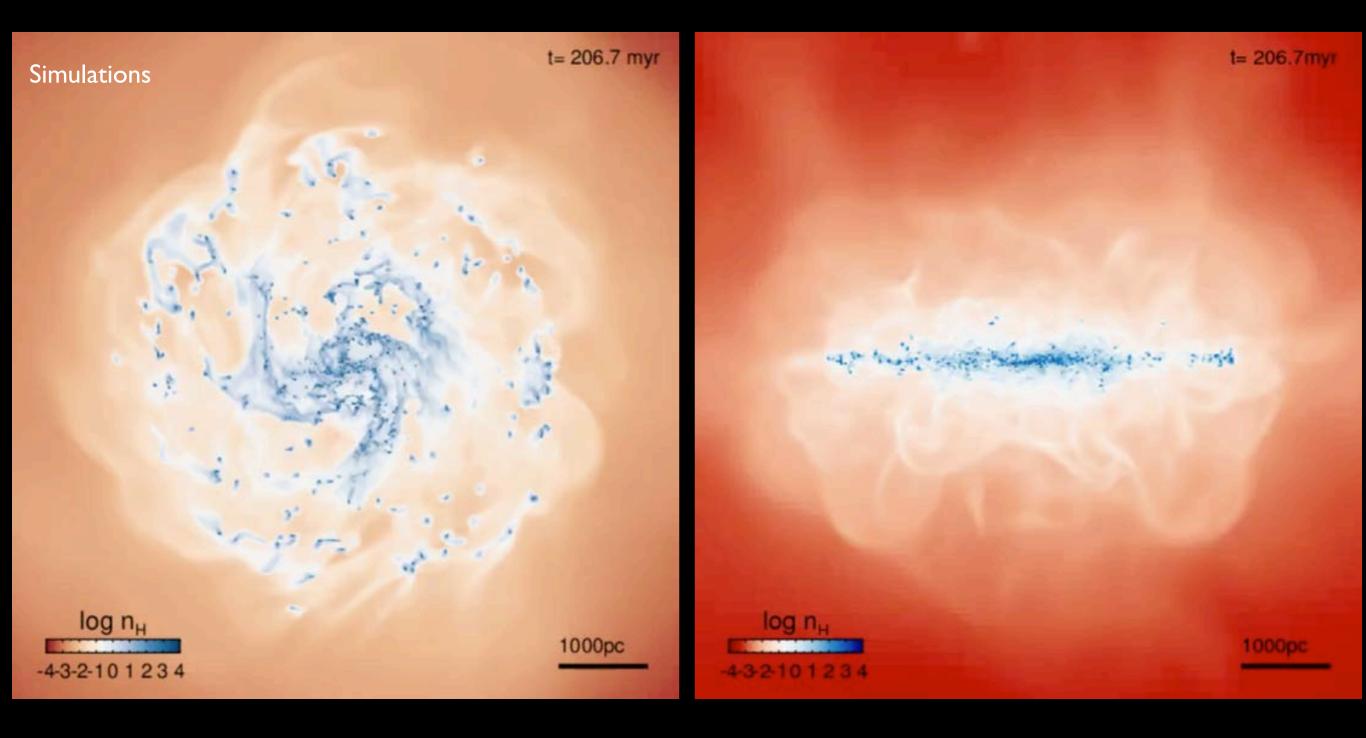
aligned

accretion

12

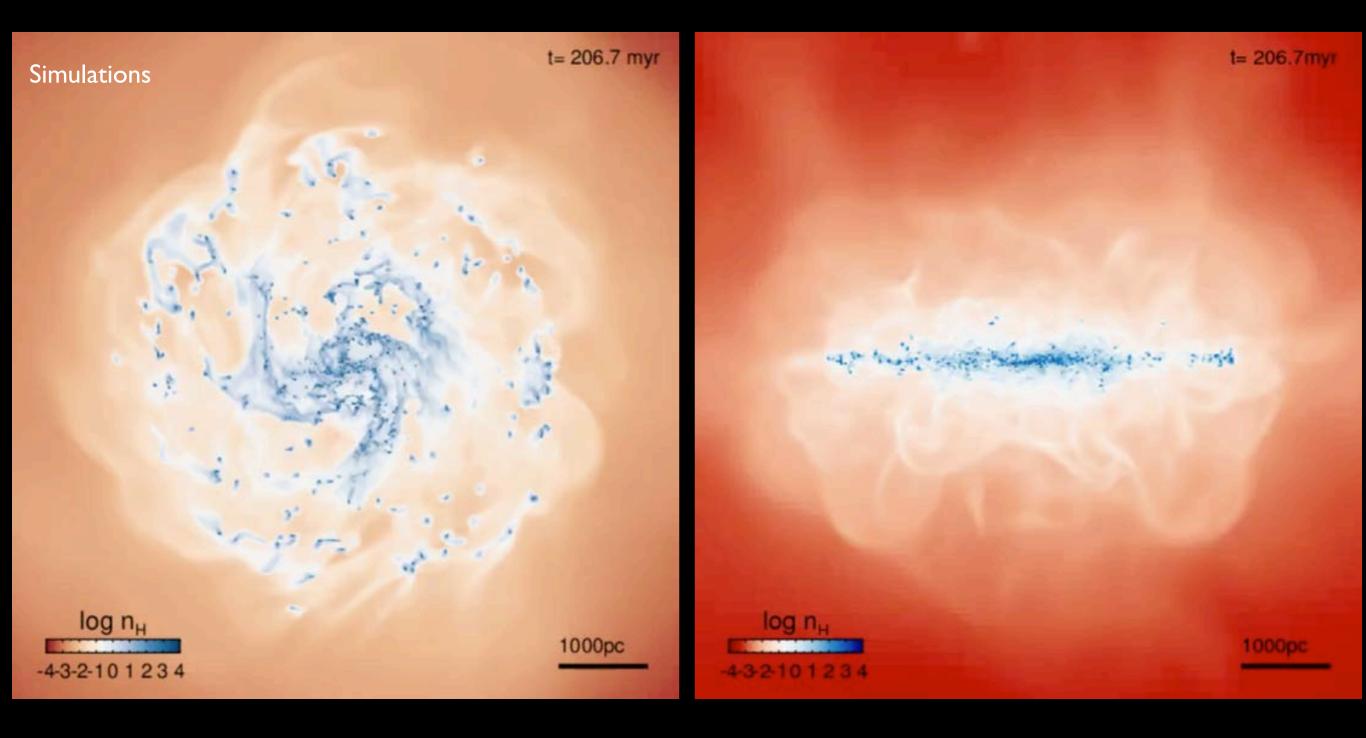
Internal Structure of a simulated thin disc

State-of-the-art in modelling illustrates the level of SFR/turbulence/feedback induced perturbation

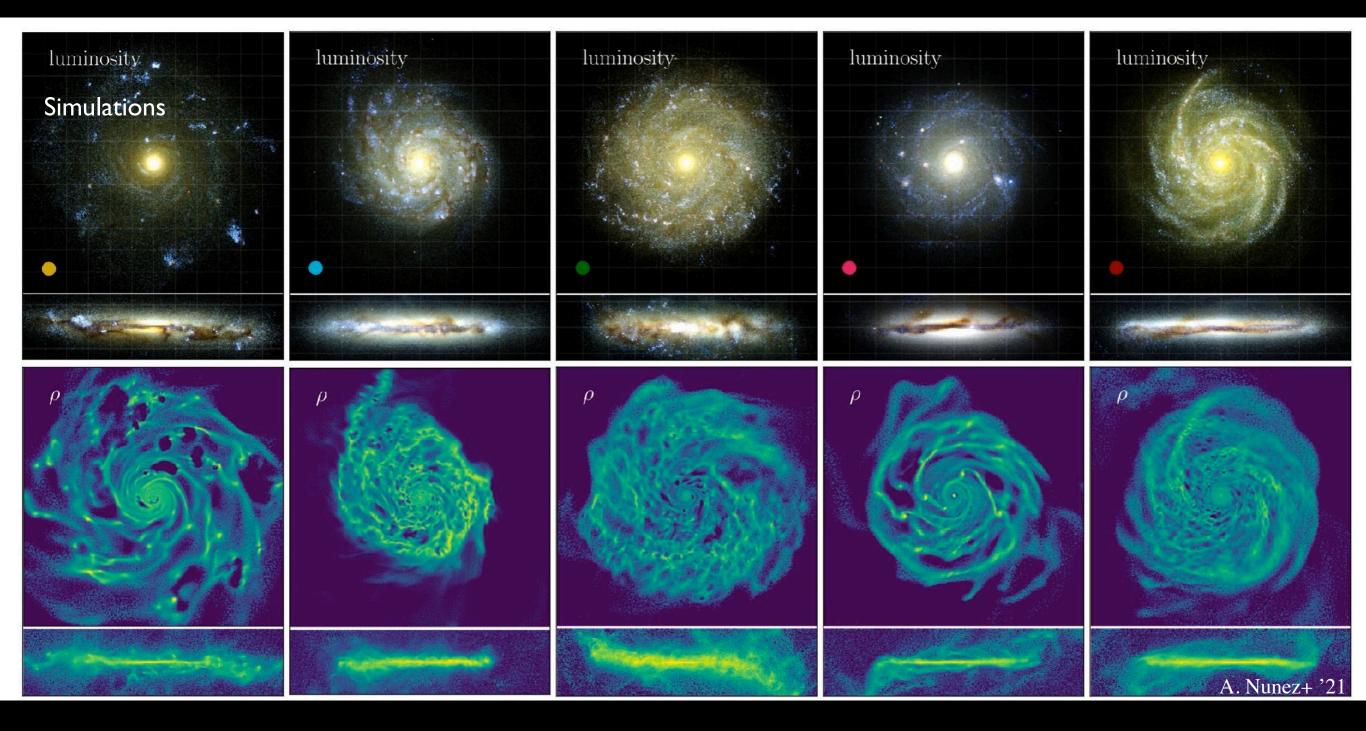


Internal Structure of a simulated thin disc

State-of-the-art in modelling illustrates the level of SFR/turbulence/feedback induced perturbation



Internal Structure of a simulated thin disc: varying feedback model

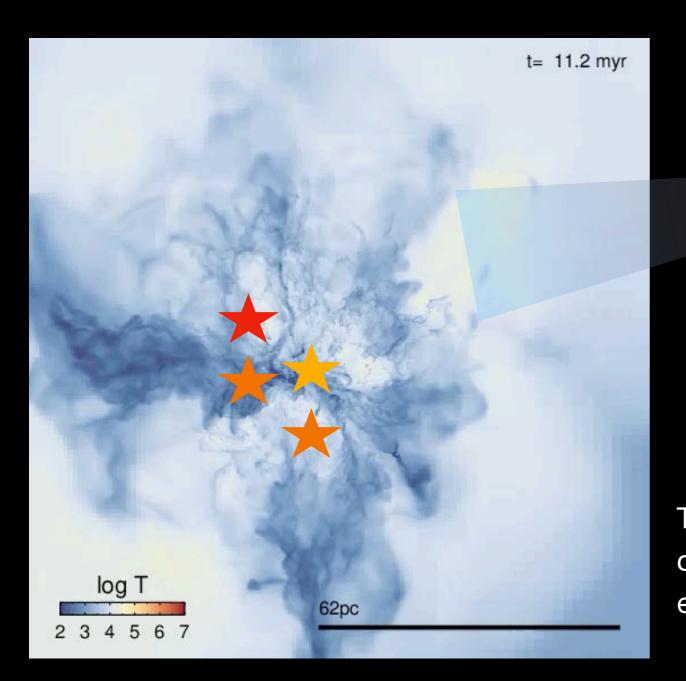


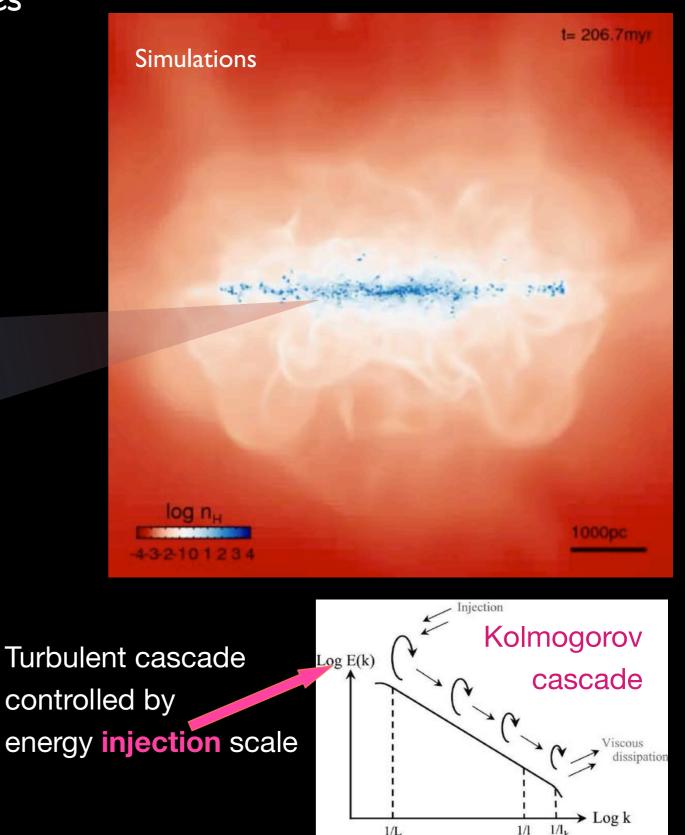
Note that the exact model of feedback impacts face-on view BUT does not impact disc thickness.

No fine tuning required: something more fundamental operates

Internal Structure @ small scales: simulation & theory

State-of-the-art simulations also illustrates the level of perturbation on smaller (molecular cloud) scales

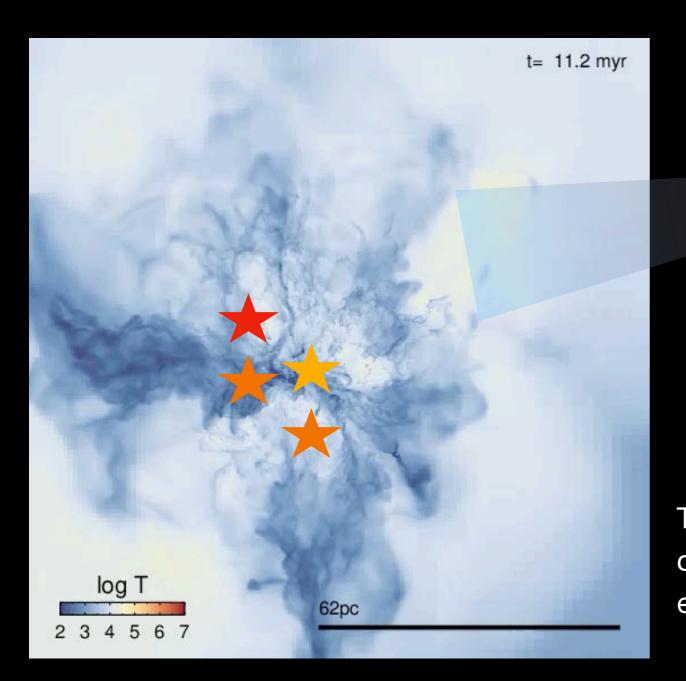


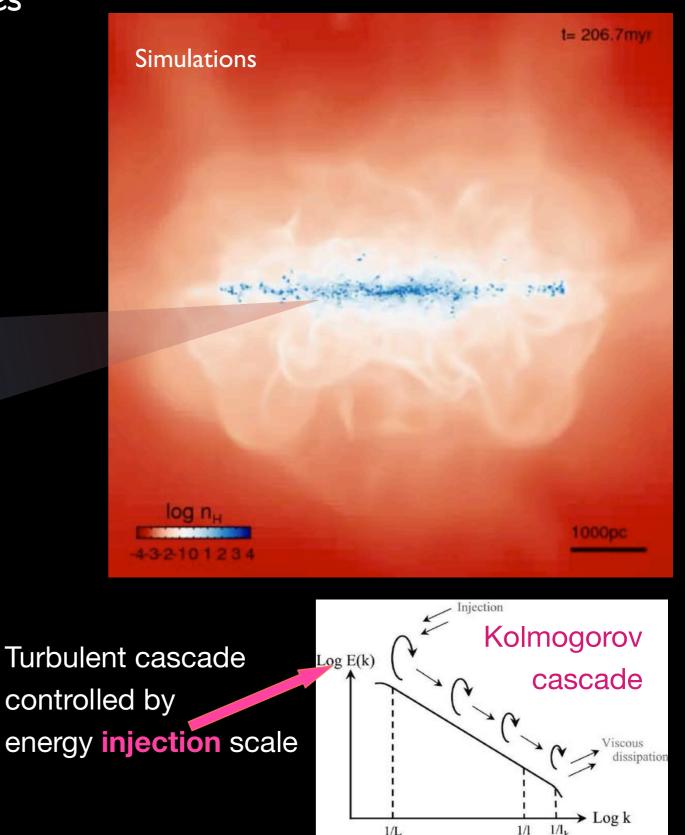


Inertial subrange

Internal Structure @ small scales: simulation & theory

State-of-the-art simulations also illustrates the level of perturbation on smaller (molecular cloud) scales

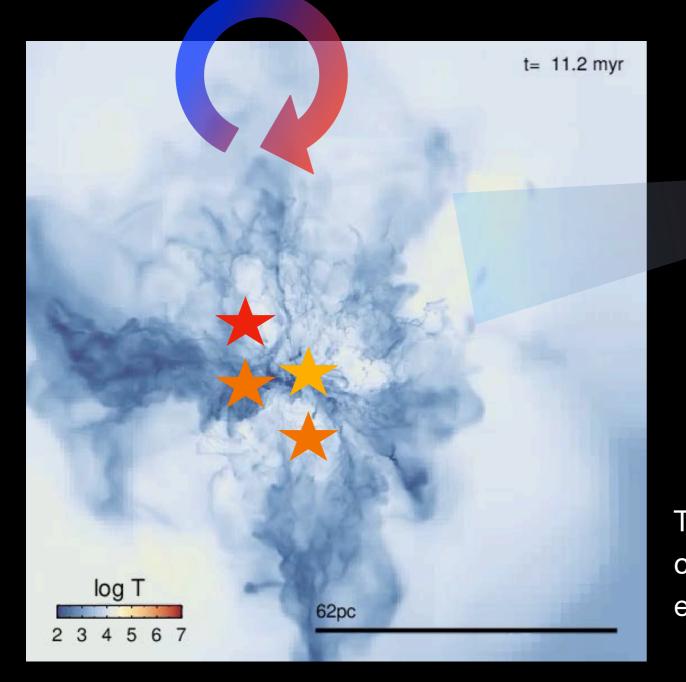


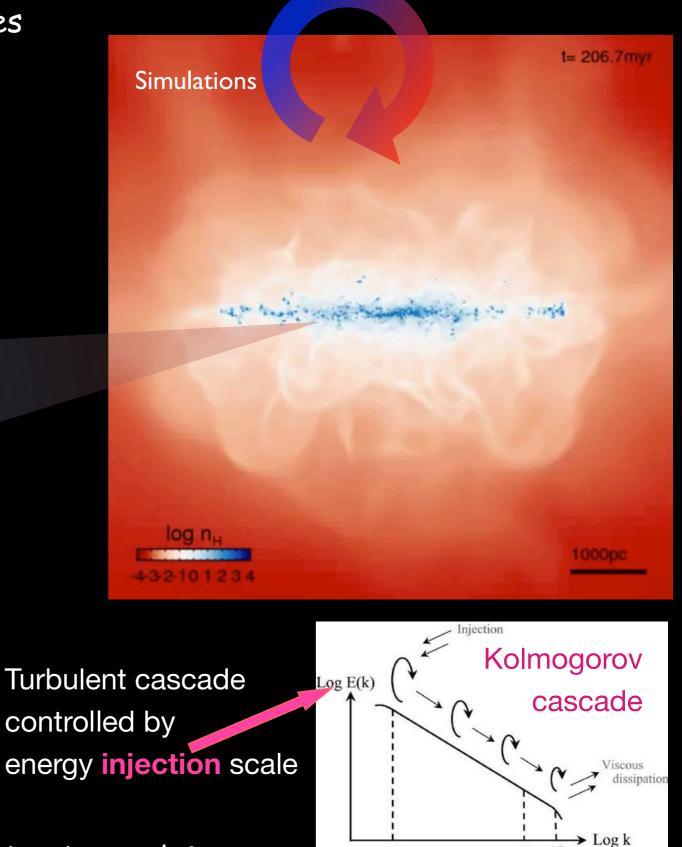


Inertial subrange

Internal Structure @ small scales: simulation & theory

State-of-the-art simulations also illustrates the level of perturbation on smaller (molecular cloud) scales





1/L

1/1

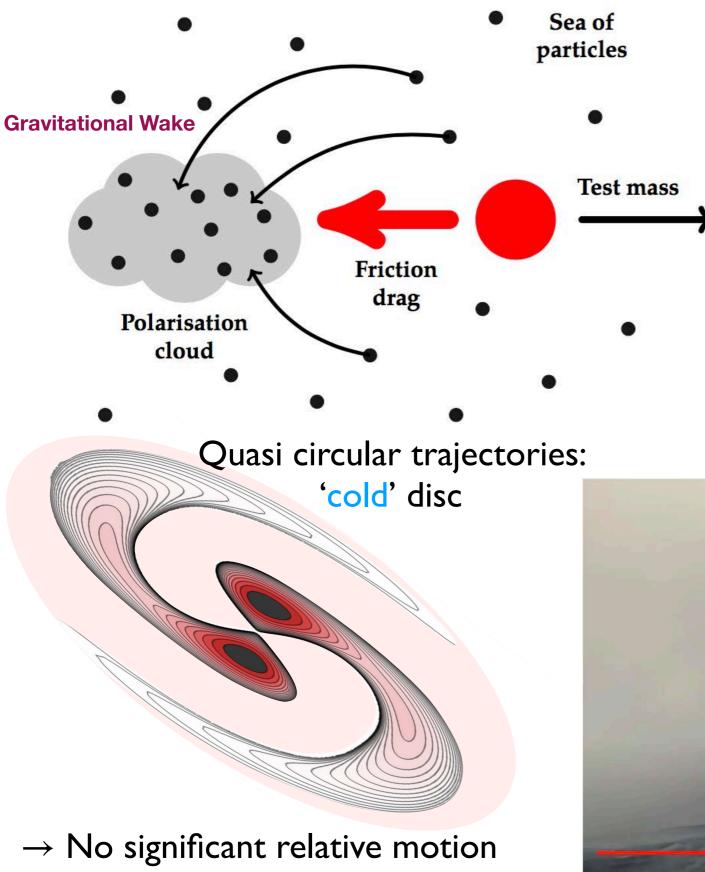
Inertial subrange

 $1/l_{\mu}$

Quid of the effect of wakes on injection scale?

Tides and wakes 101

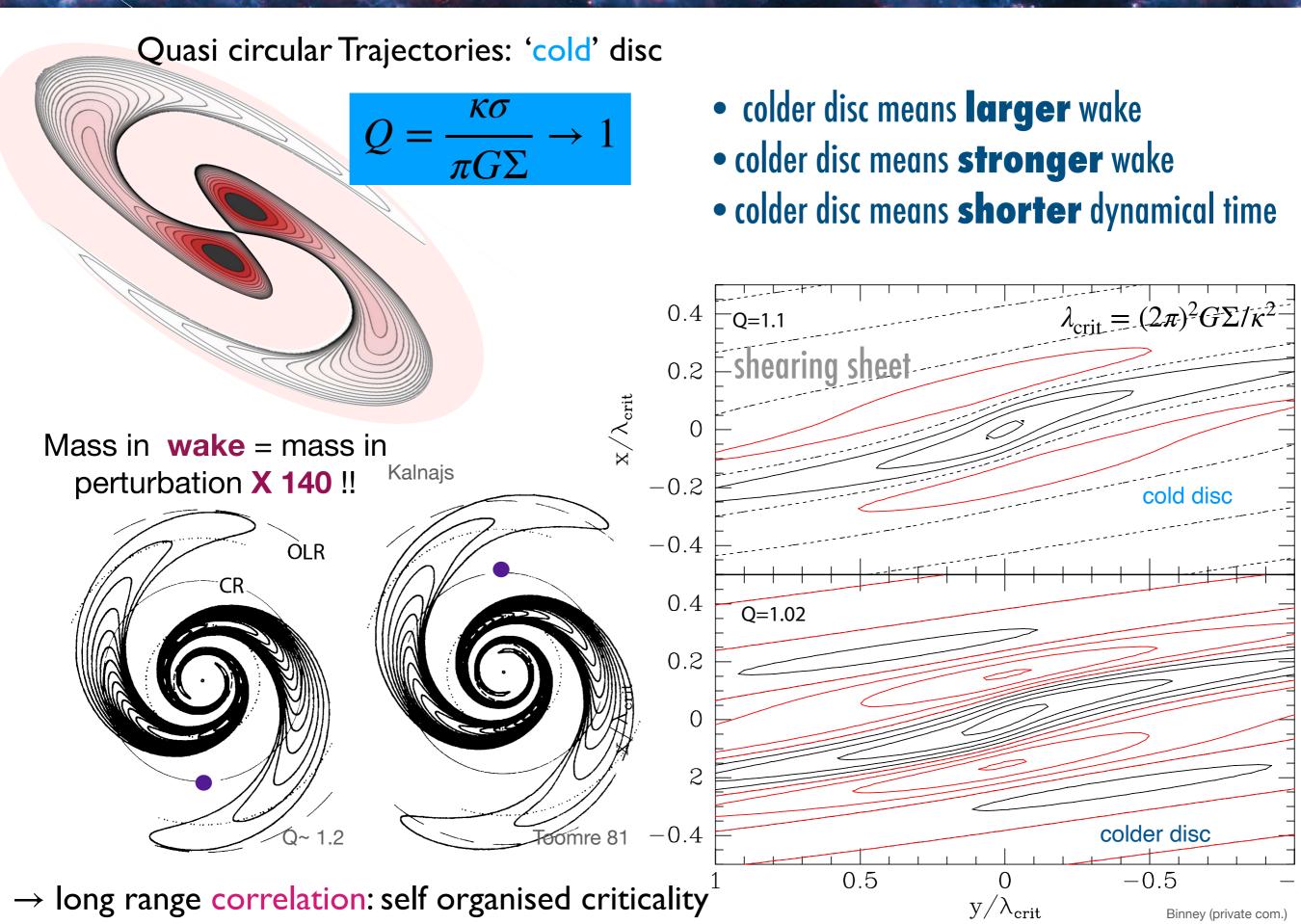
Chandrasekhar polarisation



to oppose gravitation

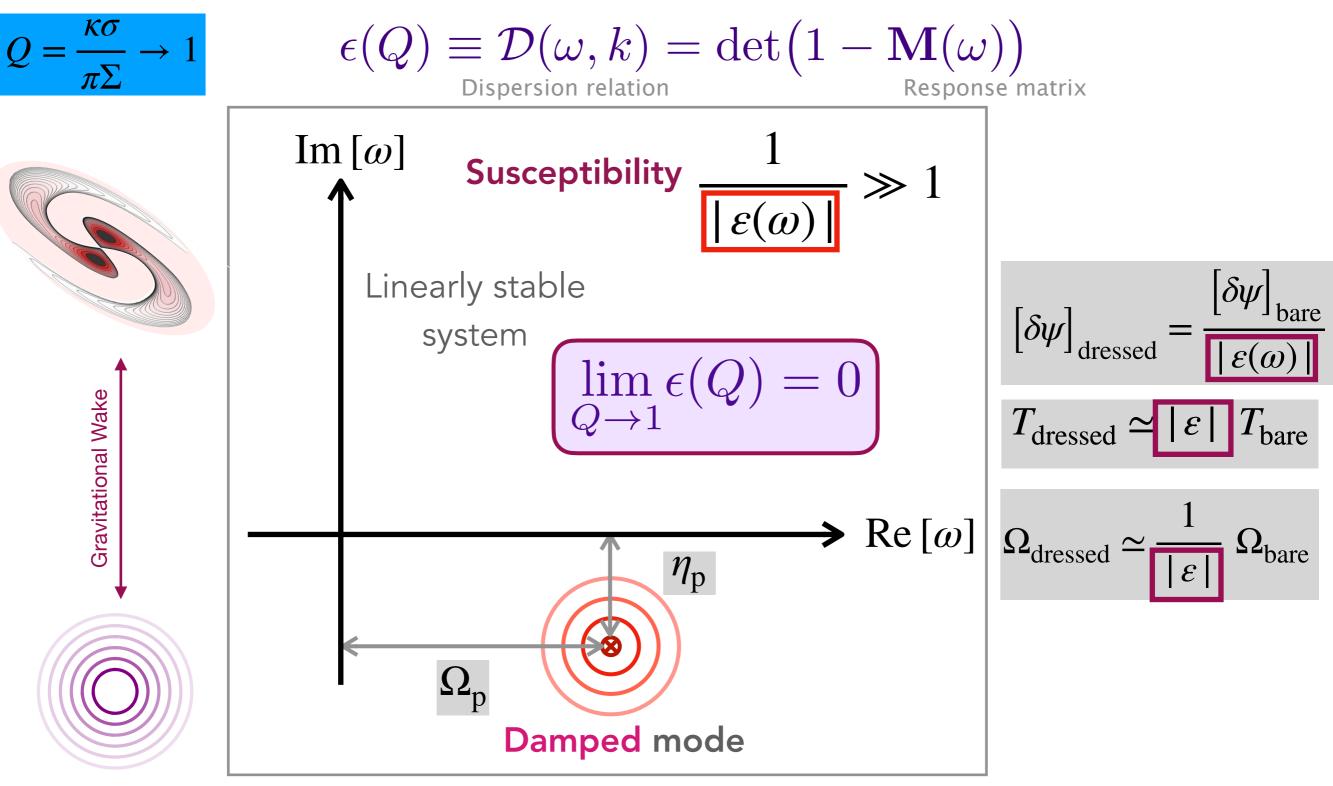






On the importance of gravitational dressing

Gravitational "Dielectric" function ϵ



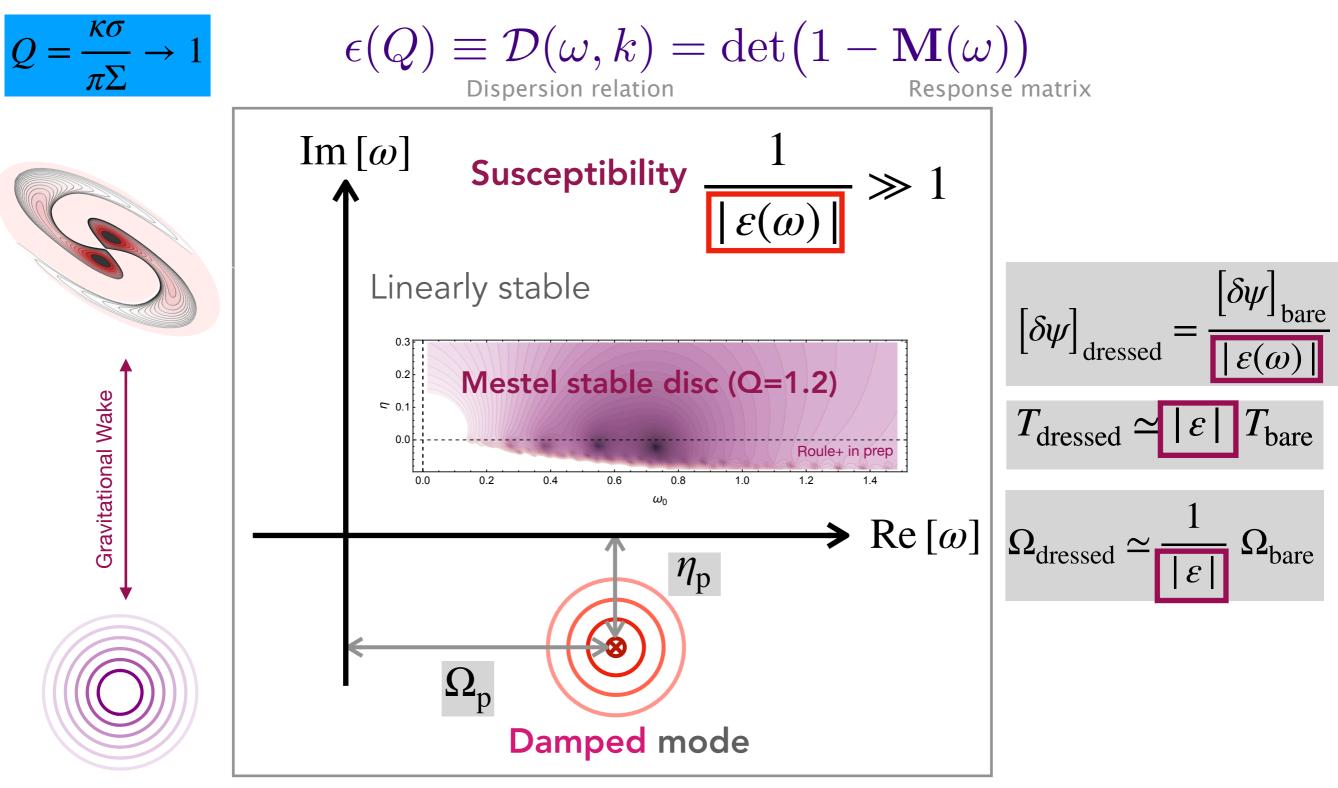
thanks to **cosmic web** which sets up cold disc

For cold discs...

Wake drastically boost orbital frequencies, stiffening coupling/tightening control loops

On the importance of gravitational dressing

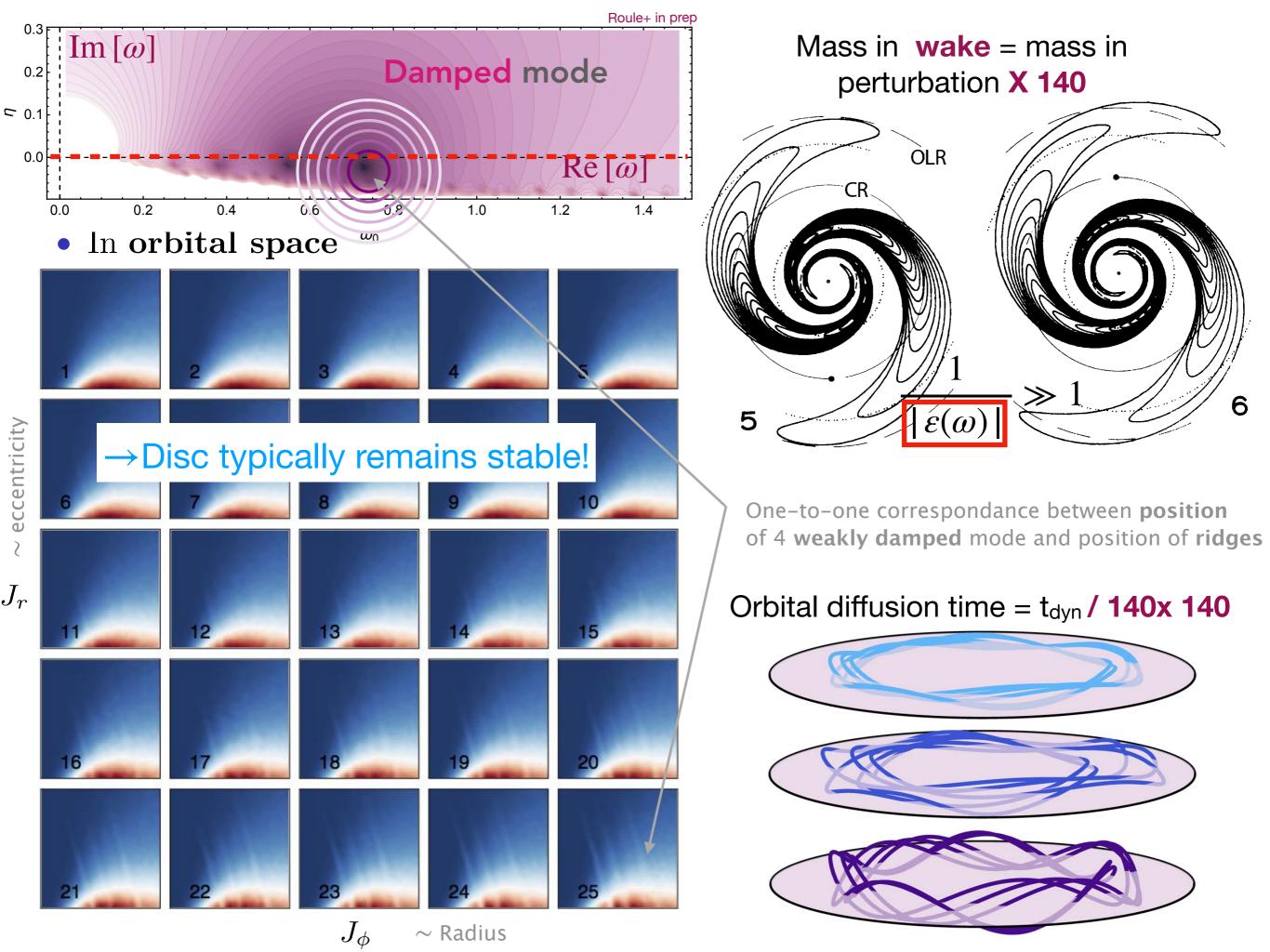
Gravitational "Dielectric" function ϵ



thanks to **cosmic web** which sets up cold disc

For cold discs...

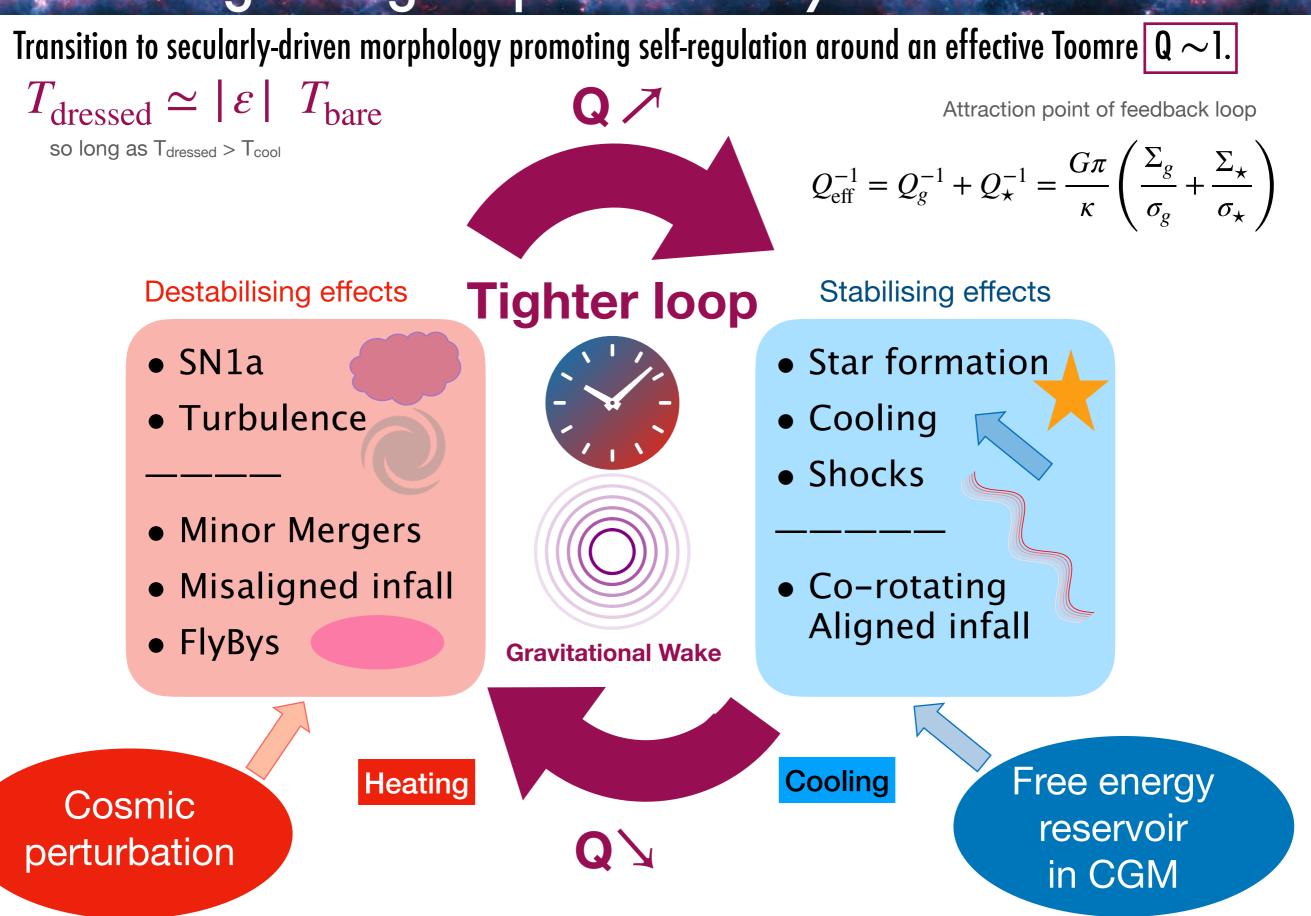
Wake drastically boost orbital frequencies, stiffening coupling/tightening control loops



Self regulating loop boosted by wake

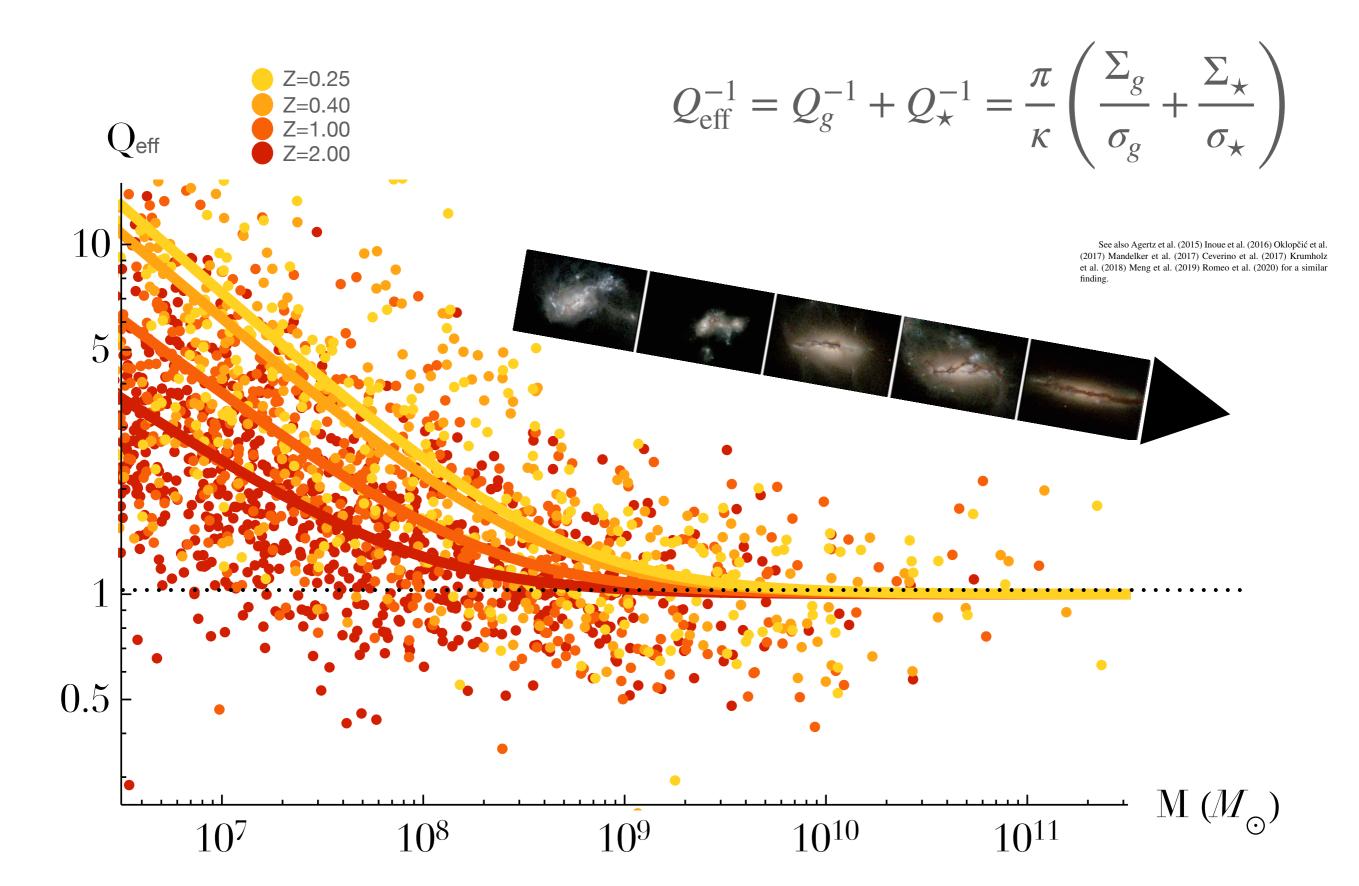
Transition to secularly-driven morphology promoting self-regulation around an effective Toomre $Q \sim 1$. Q / Attraction point of feedback loop $Q_{\text{eff}}^{-1} = Q_g^{-1} + Q_{\star}^{-1} = \frac{G\pi}{\kappa} \left(\frac{\Sigma_g}{\sigma_g} + \frac{\Sigma_{\star}}{\sigma_{\star}} \right)$ Stabilising effects **Destabilising effects** • SN1a Star formation Turbulence Cooling Star formation and feedback define Shocks control loop Minor Mergers on disc Misaligned infall • Co-rotating Aligned infall • FlyBys Cooling Free energy Heating Cosmic reservoir perturbation in CGM

Self regulating loop boosted by wake

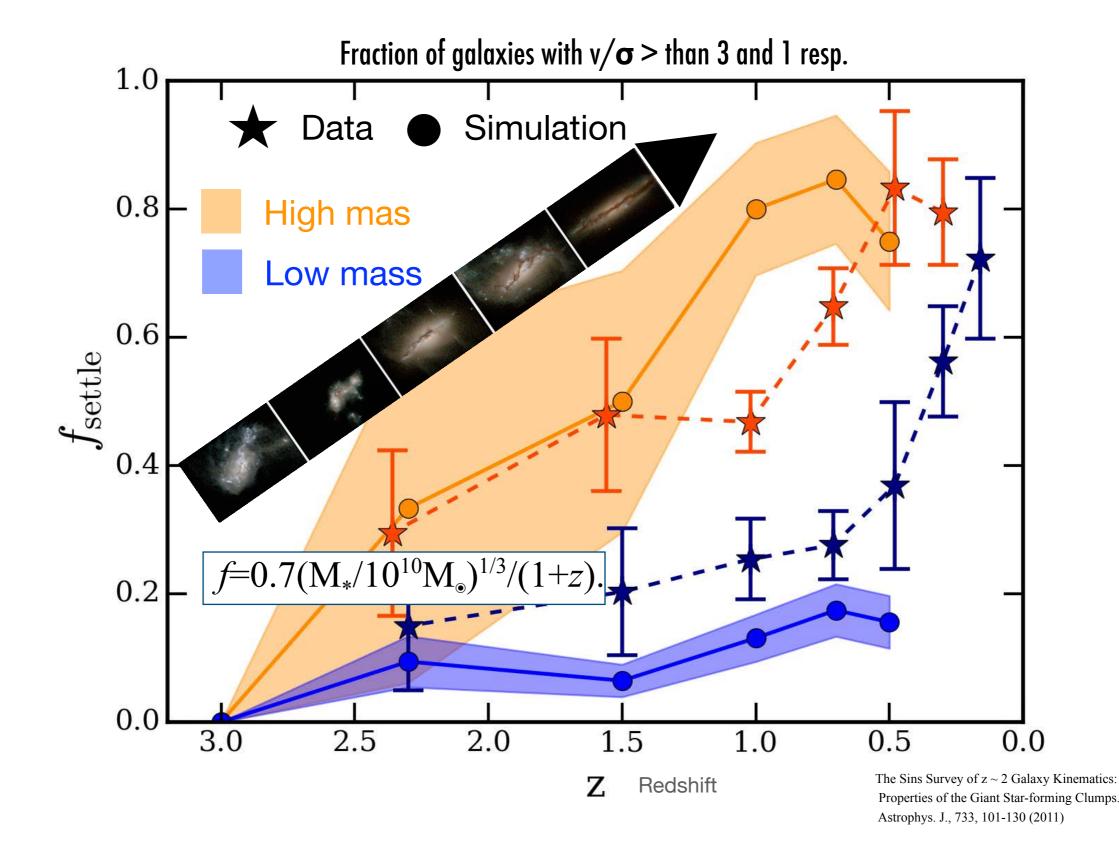


Open system with control loop generates complexity through self-organisation

Toomre Q (++gas) parameter convergence as a function of both mass and redshift

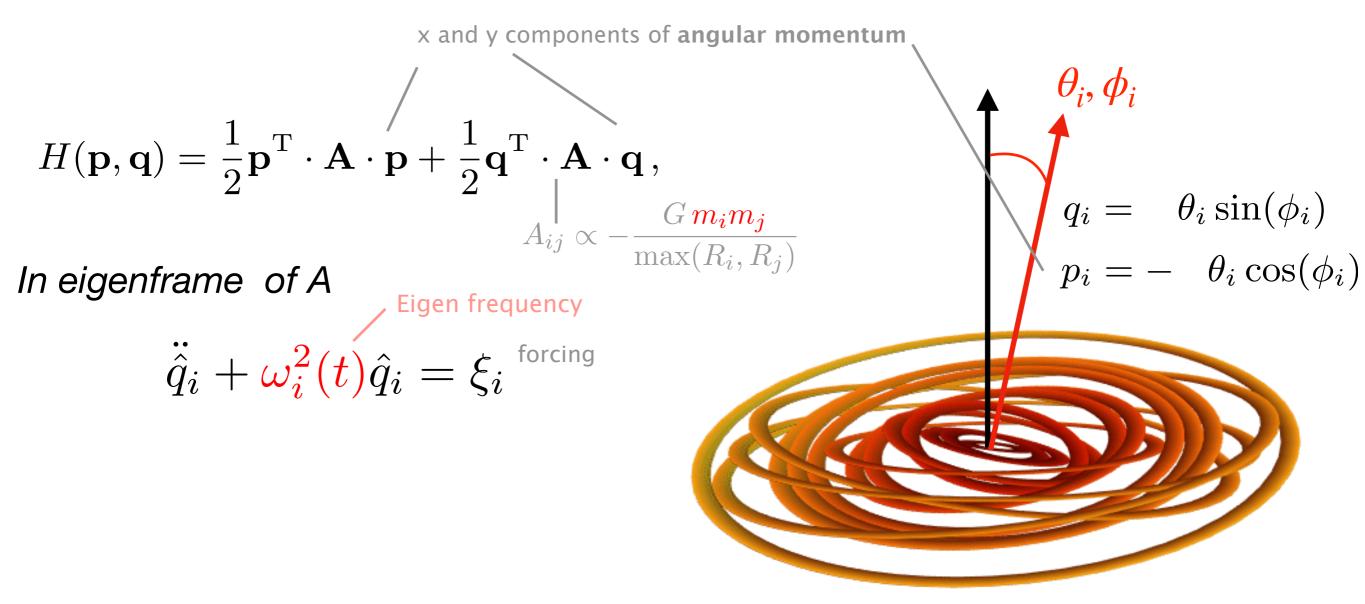


Match between simulation and observation as a function of *both* mass and redshift



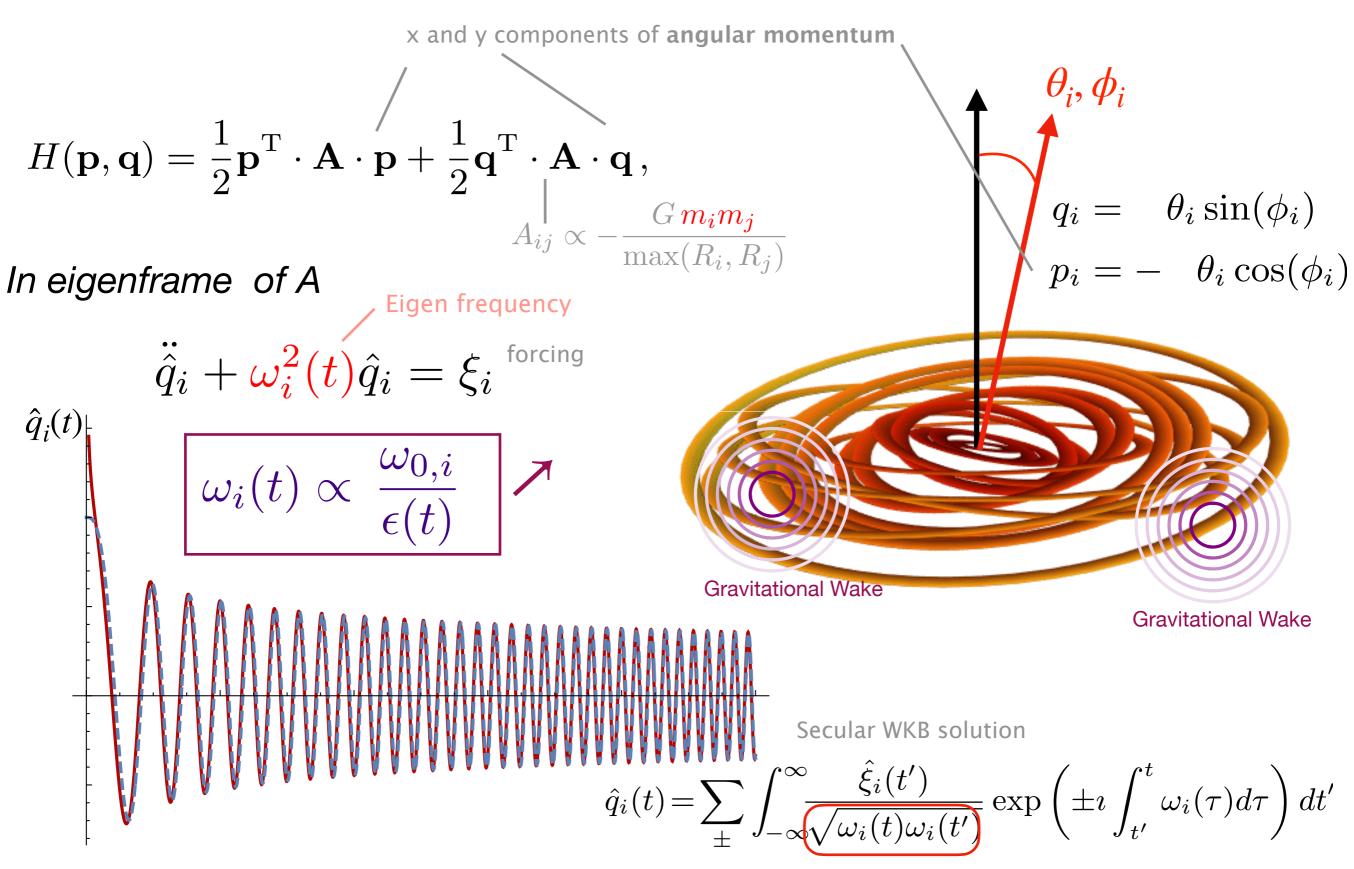
Ring Toy model: secular damping by wake growth

<u>Lagrange Laplace theory of rings</u> (small eccentricity small inclinaison)

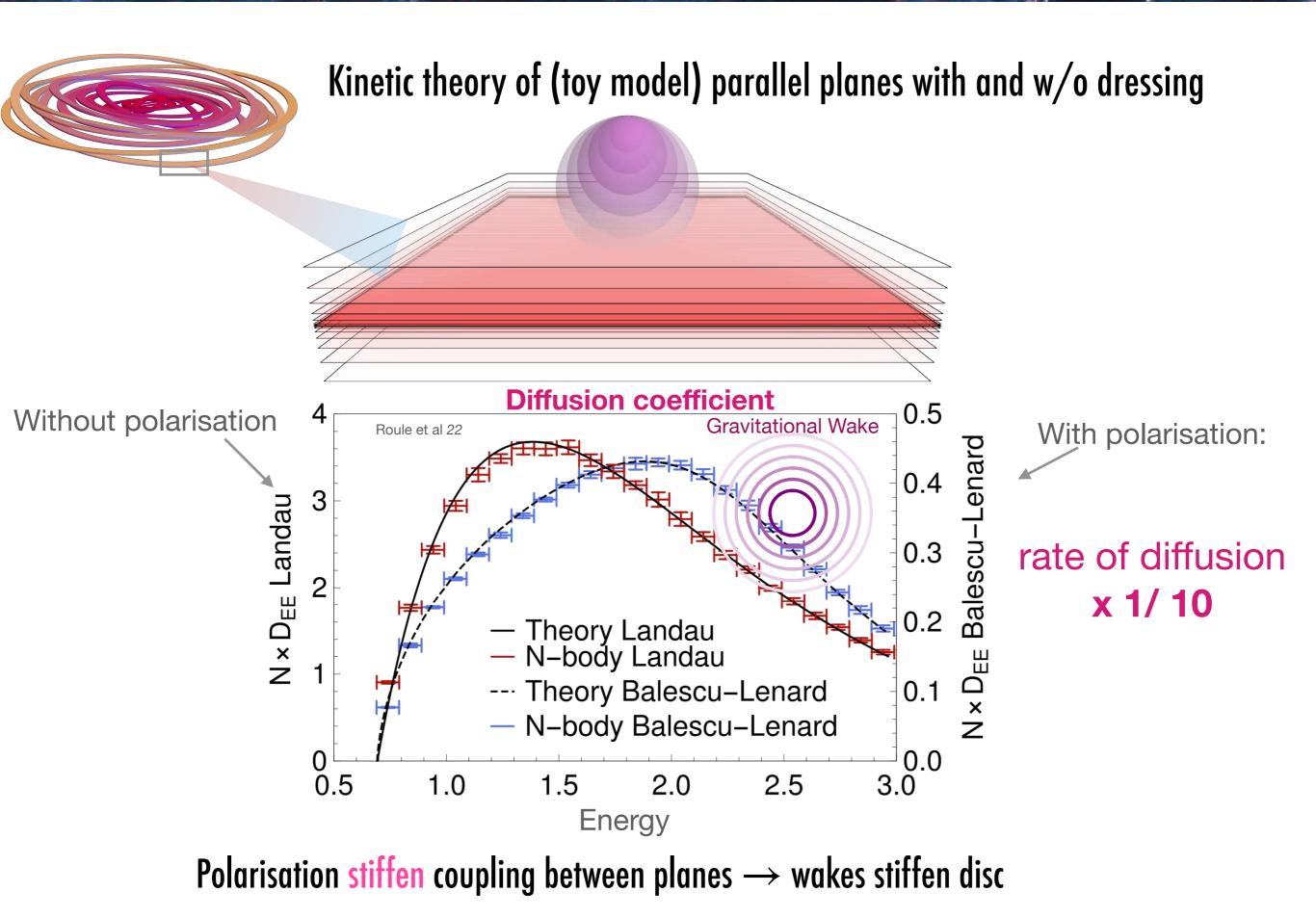


Ring Toy model: secular damping by wake growth

<u>Lagrange Laplace theory of rings</u> (small eccentricity small inclinaison)



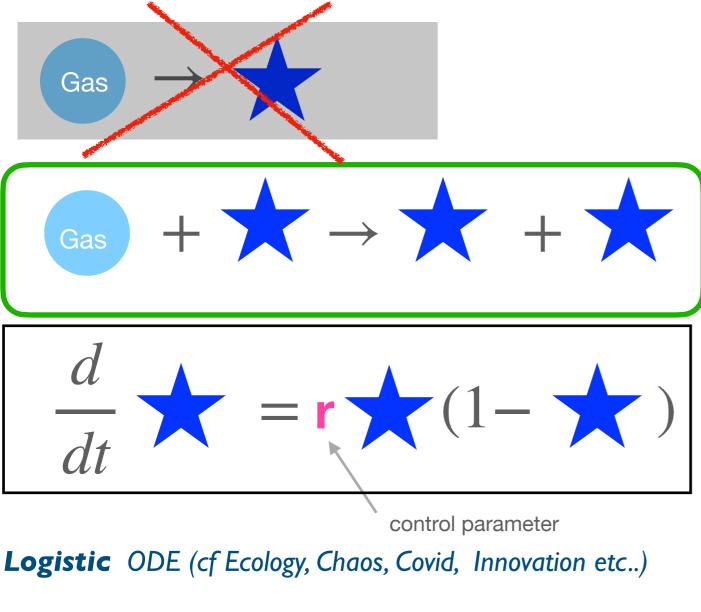
Plane Toy model: dressing damps vertical diffusion



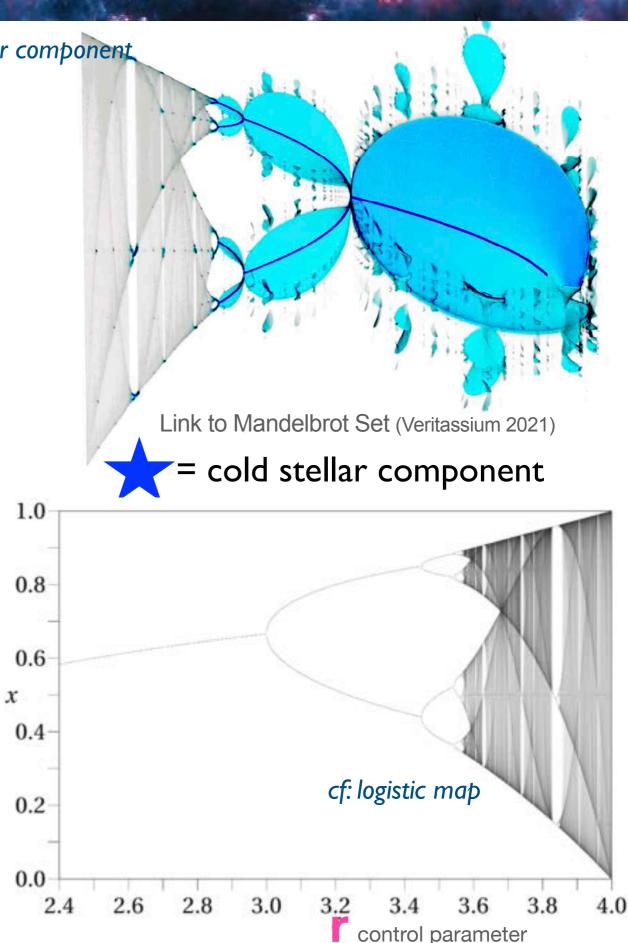
Why finite thickness? Chemistry of emergence

Let us write down effective (closed loop) production rate for cold stellar component

Auto-catalysis of the cold component (via wakes) converts kinetic evolution into a logistic differential equation.

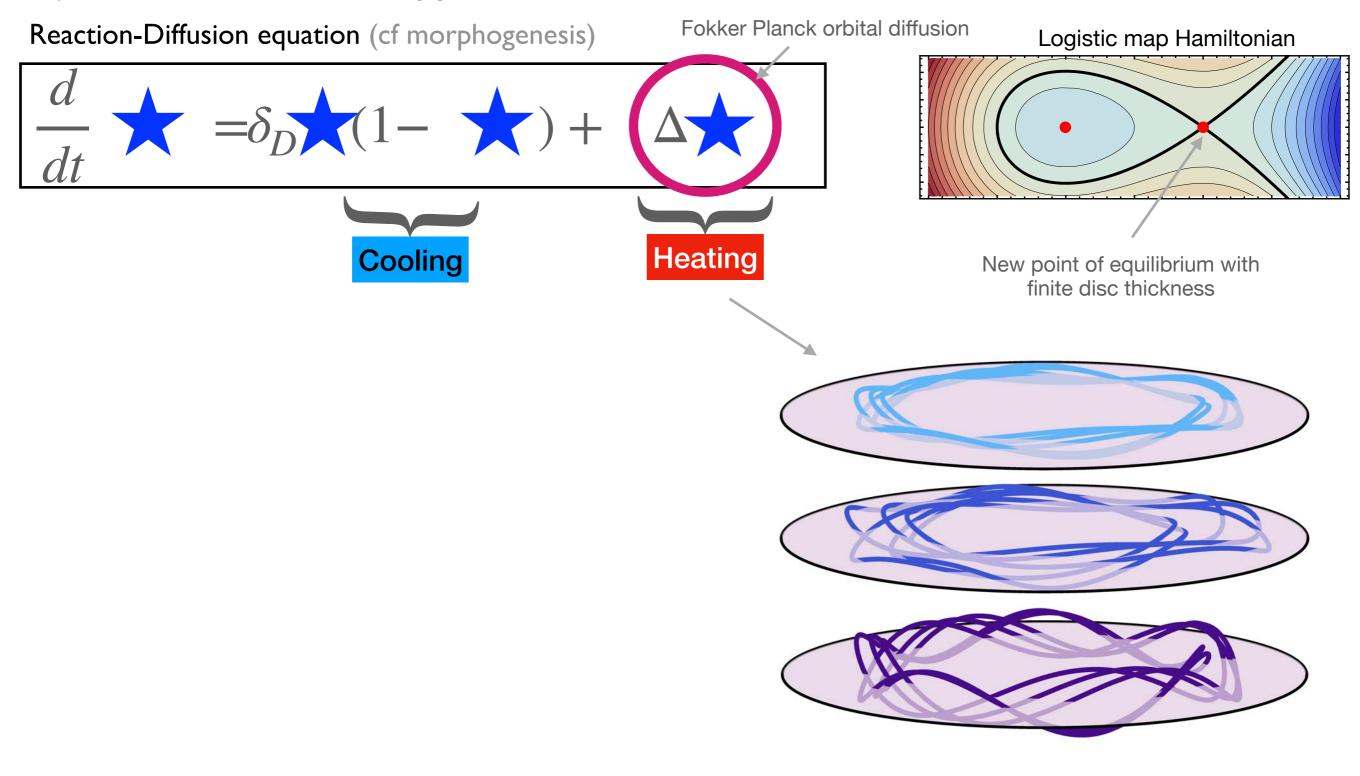


- = Simplest quadratic model for self -regulation
- = Taylor expansion of effective production rate



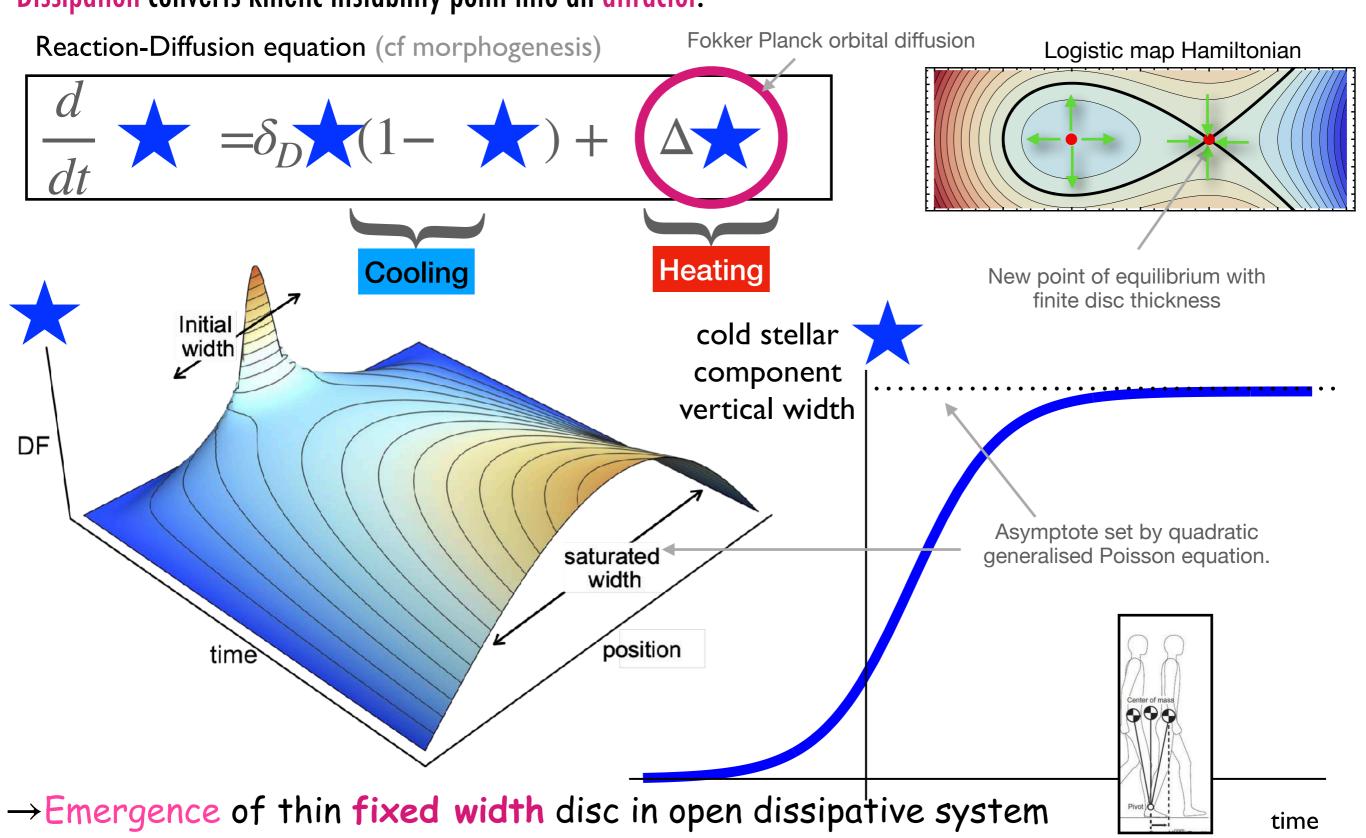
Chemistry of emergence... introduce heating

Now let us take into account for the **vertical** secular diffusion of the cold component **Dissipation converts kinetic instability point into an attractor**.



Chemistry of emergence... introduce heating

Now let us take into account for the **vertical** secular diffusion of the cold component **Dissipation converts kinetic instability point into an attractor**.



Chemistry of emergence... introduce tides

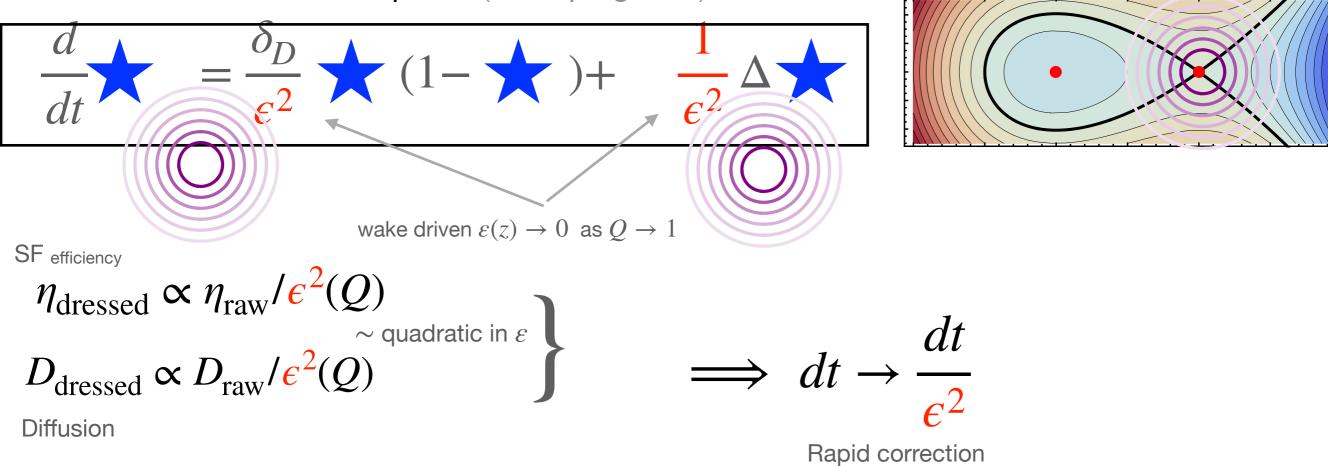
Now let us take into account for the **vertical** secular diffusion of the cold component

Dissipation converts kinetic instability point into an attractor.

Dressed Reaction-Diffusion equation (cf morphogenesis)

Gravitational Wake

Logistic map Hamiltonian



- \rightarrow Cosmic resilience of thin disc
- → Operates swiftly near self-organised Criticality
- → **Robustness** / feedback details

Chemistry of emergence... introduce tides

Now let us take into account for the **vertical** secular diffusion of the cold component

Dissipation converts kinetic instability point into an attractor.

Dressed Reaction-Diffusion equation (cf morphogenesis)

Gravitational Wake

Logistic map Hamiltonian

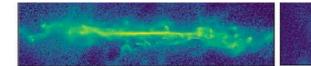
$\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\delta_D}{e^2} \bigstar (1 - \bigstar) + \frac{1}{e^2} \Delta \bigstar$ $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\delta_D}{e^2} \bigstar (1 - \bigstar) + \frac{1}{e^2} \Delta \bigstar$ $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\delta_D}{e^2} \bigstar (1 - \bigstar) + \frac{1}{e^2} \Delta \bigstar$ $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\delta_D}{e^2} \Delta \bigstar$

Rapid correction

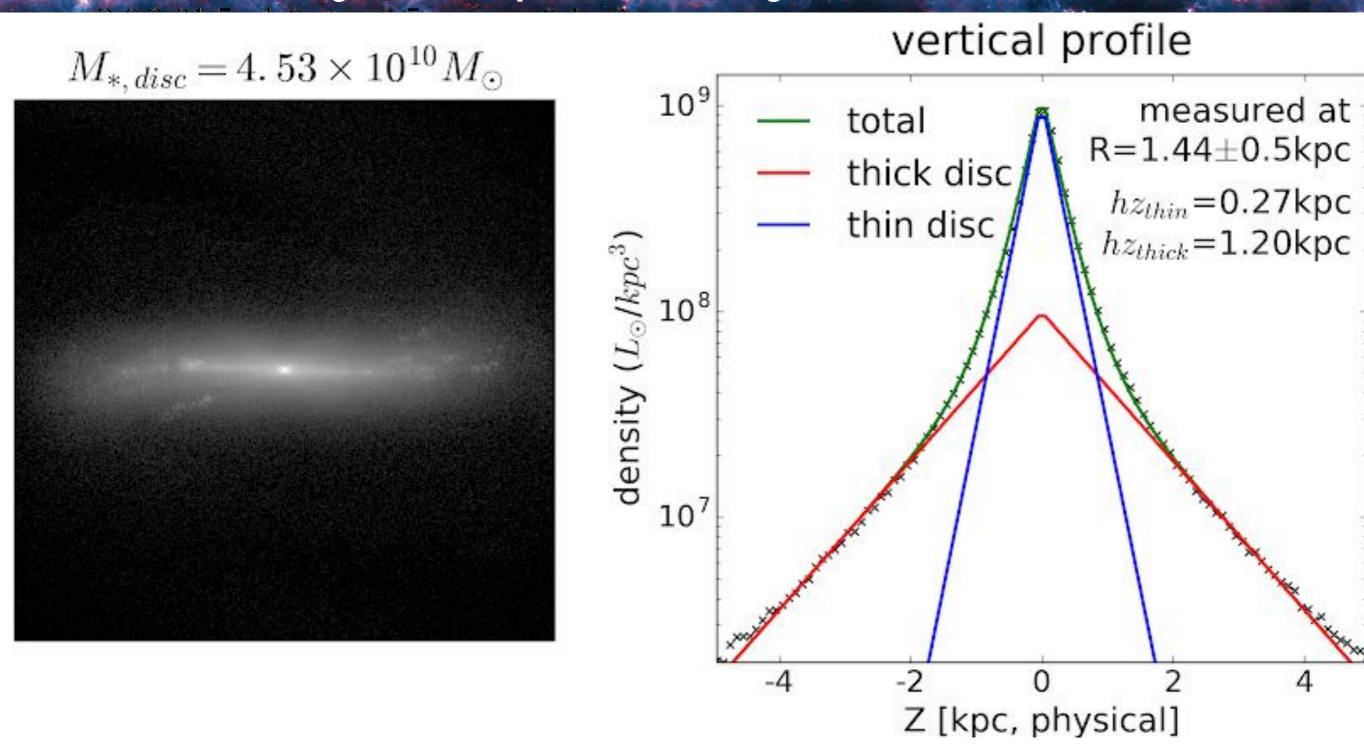
No fine tuning !

- \rightarrow Cosmic resilience of thin disc
- \rightarrow Operates swiftly near self-organised Criticality
- \rightarrow **Robustness** / feedback details

all discs are fairly thin whatever the feedback

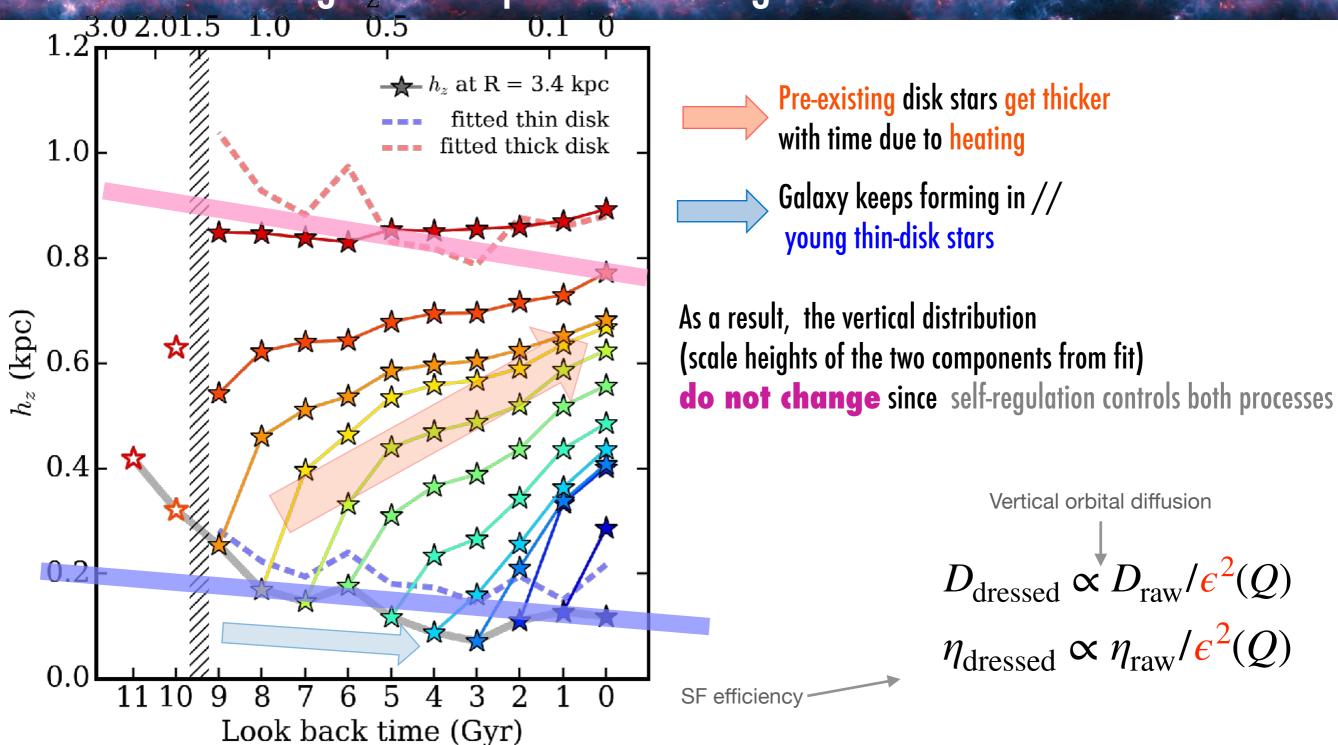


 $Q \sim 1$ confounding factor for joint thick+thin growth



Both star formation and vertical orbital diffusion regulated by ($Q \rightarrow 1$) confounding factor. Stellar thick disc = secular remnant of (self regulated) disc settling process.

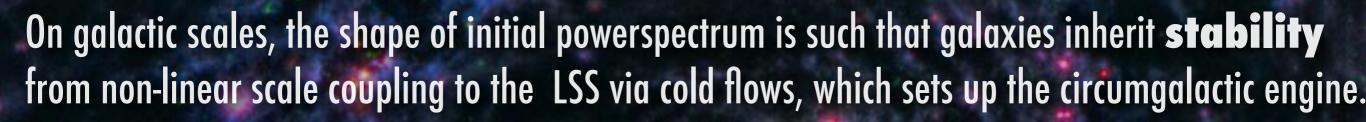




Both star formation and vertical orbital diffusion regulated by ($Q \rightarrow 1$) confounding factor. Stellar thick disc = secular remnant of (self regulated) disc settling process.

CONCLUSIONS

Robust gravity-driven top-down causation : no fine tuning required



When secular processes take over, gravitational **wakes** tightens a self-regulating loop, driving the discs towards marginal stability, while pumping free rotational energy from the CGM.

Homeostatic thin disks are **emerging** structures: They are made possible by shocks, star formation, feedback & turbulence controlled by **gravity**.

when the control loop fails \rightarrow quantify morphological diversity

upcoming KITP programme/conference

Go

The Co-evolution of the Cosmic Web and Galaxies across Cosmic Time

Feb 6, 2023 - Feb 9, 2023

Programme Conference Wiki

KITP official KITP conf

edit SideBar

Cosmic Web 2023 conference @KITP

View Edit History Print

The Co-evolution of the Cosmic Web and Galaxies across Cosmic Time

Recent Changes Search

Coordinators: Joanne Cohn, Nick Kaiser, Katarina Kraljic, and Dmitri Pogosyan

Date: Feb 6, 2023 - Feb 9, 2023

REGISTER

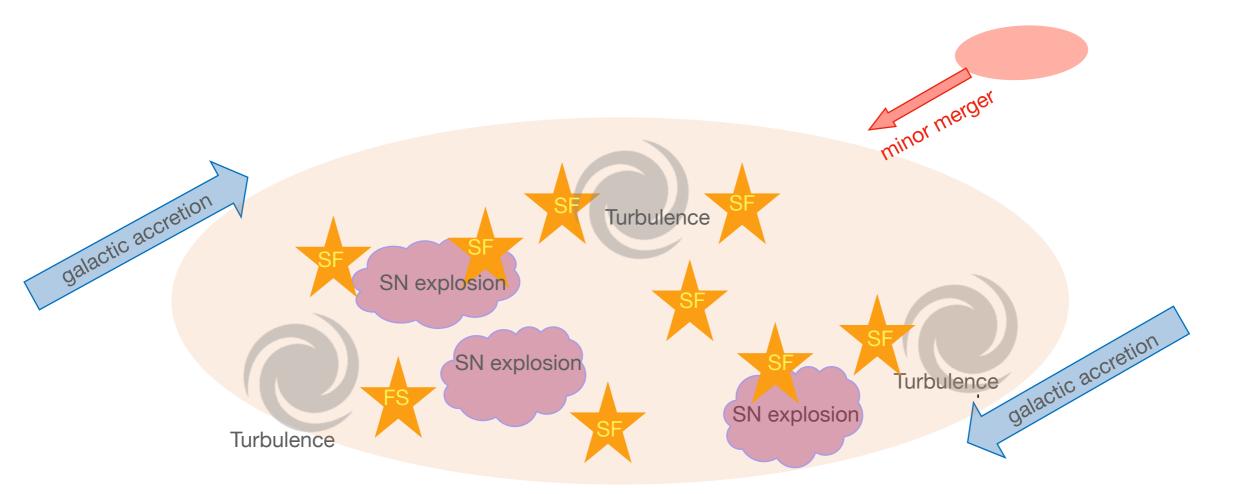
Registration deadline is: Jan 8, 2023. Registration Fee: \$330 Fee Due: Jan 8, 2023 Late Registration Fee: \$380 Conference begins (with registration): Feb 6, 2023 at 08:50 am

The cosmic web of the matter distribution in the universe provides the framework for the formation and evolution of galaxies and is fundamental to connect galactic properties to cosmology. This conference will address the effects of the cosmic web upon galaxies and vice versa. The aim is to create both a broad-brush and then, for some aspects, a more detailed, early to late time joint history of the web and galaxies. Indeed, the web reflects what the universe is on intermediate scales, which are informative, both in terms of cosmic evolution and quantity of data. It acts as a dynamically relevant intermediate-density bridge (easier to model) between cosmology and galaxies. It is also the source of all anisotropy, critical for angular momentum acquisition, which is the number two parameter in galaxy formation.

Merci !

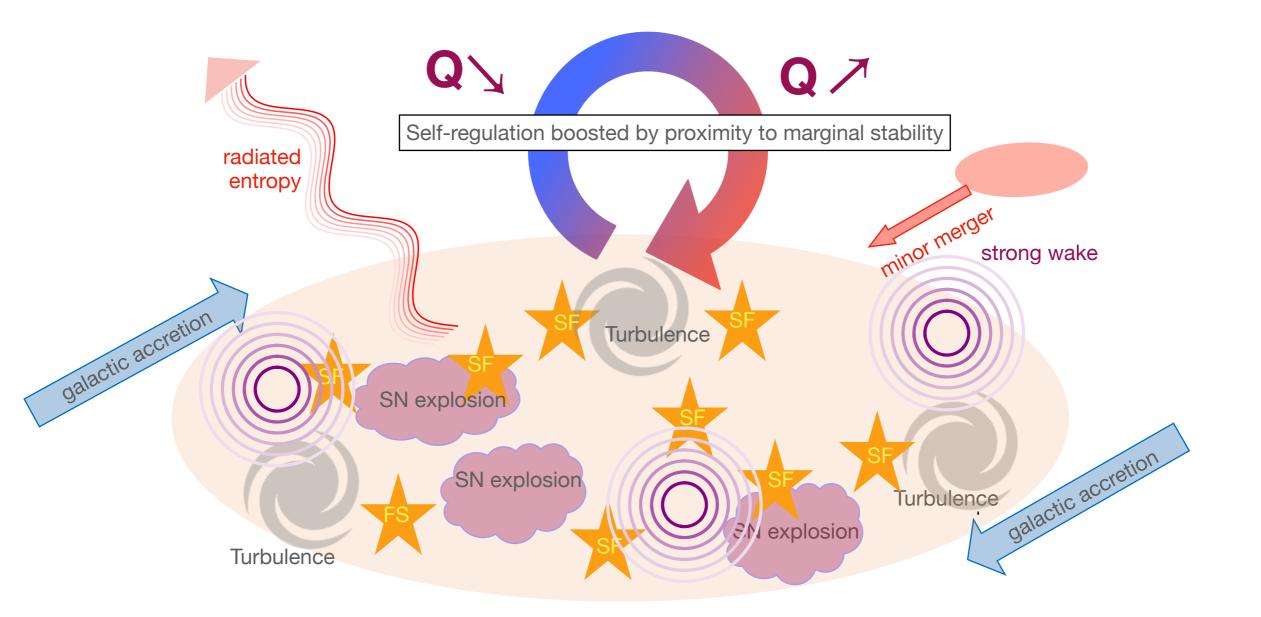


Bring home message: dressing redefine clocks 33





Bring home message: dressing redefine clocks 33

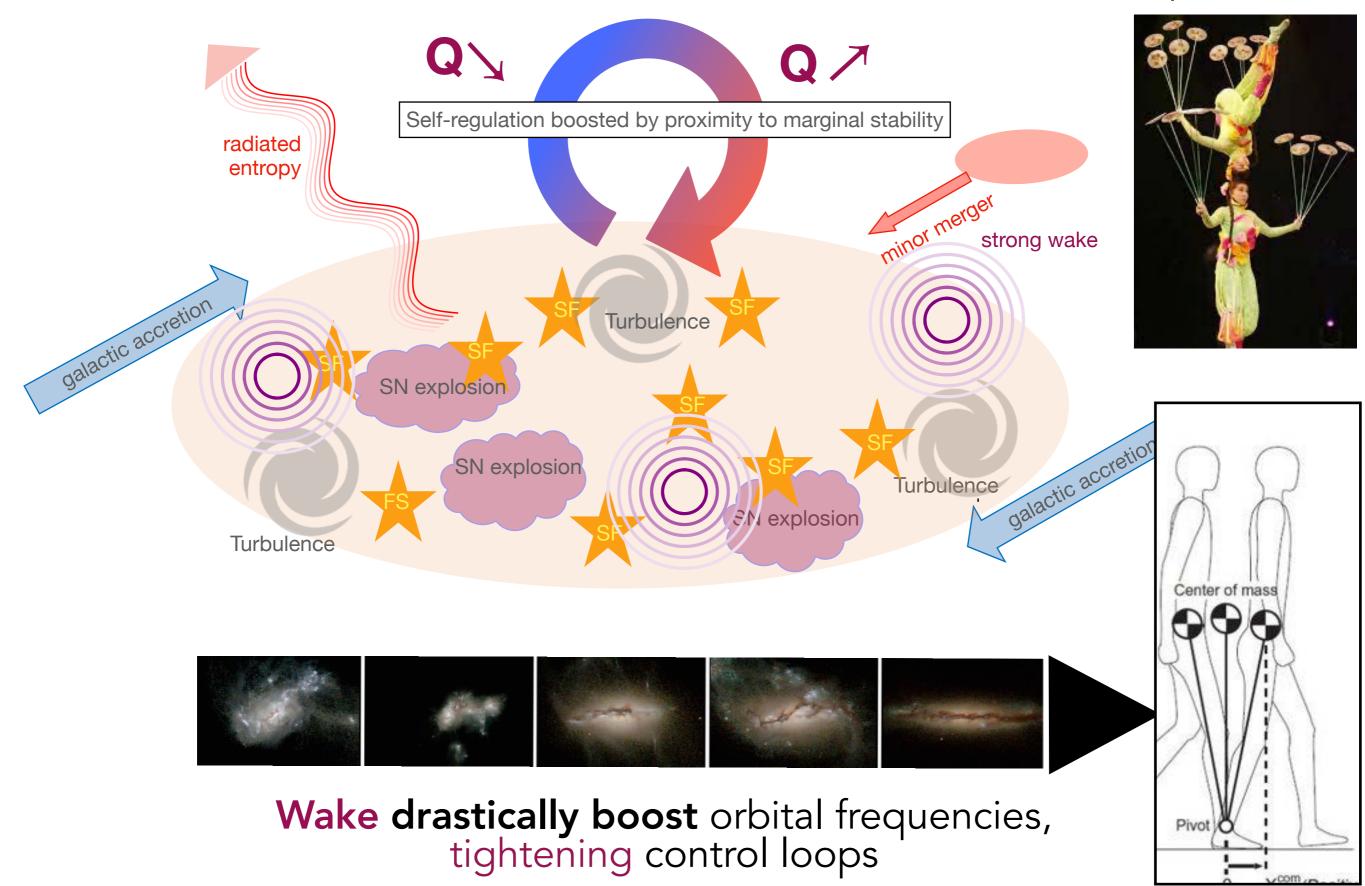




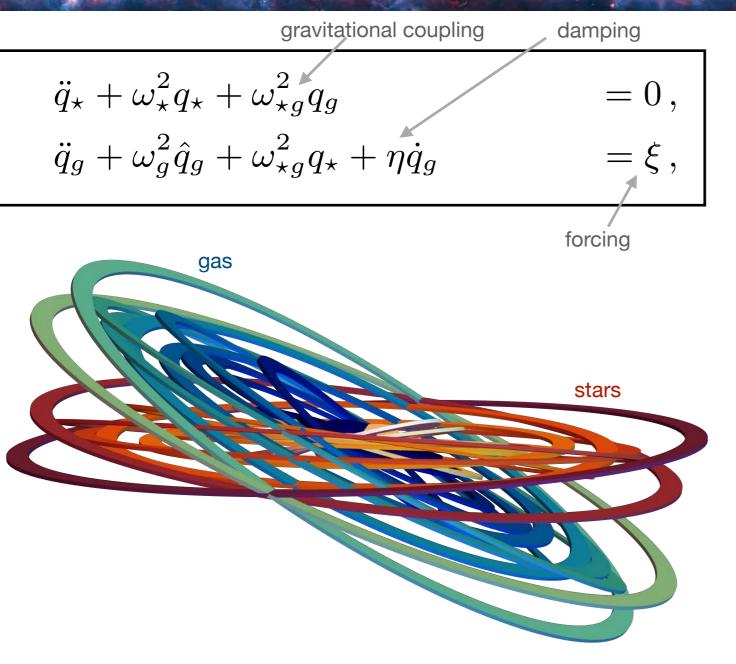
Wake drastically boost orbital frequencies, tightening control loops

Bring home message: dressing redefine clocks 33

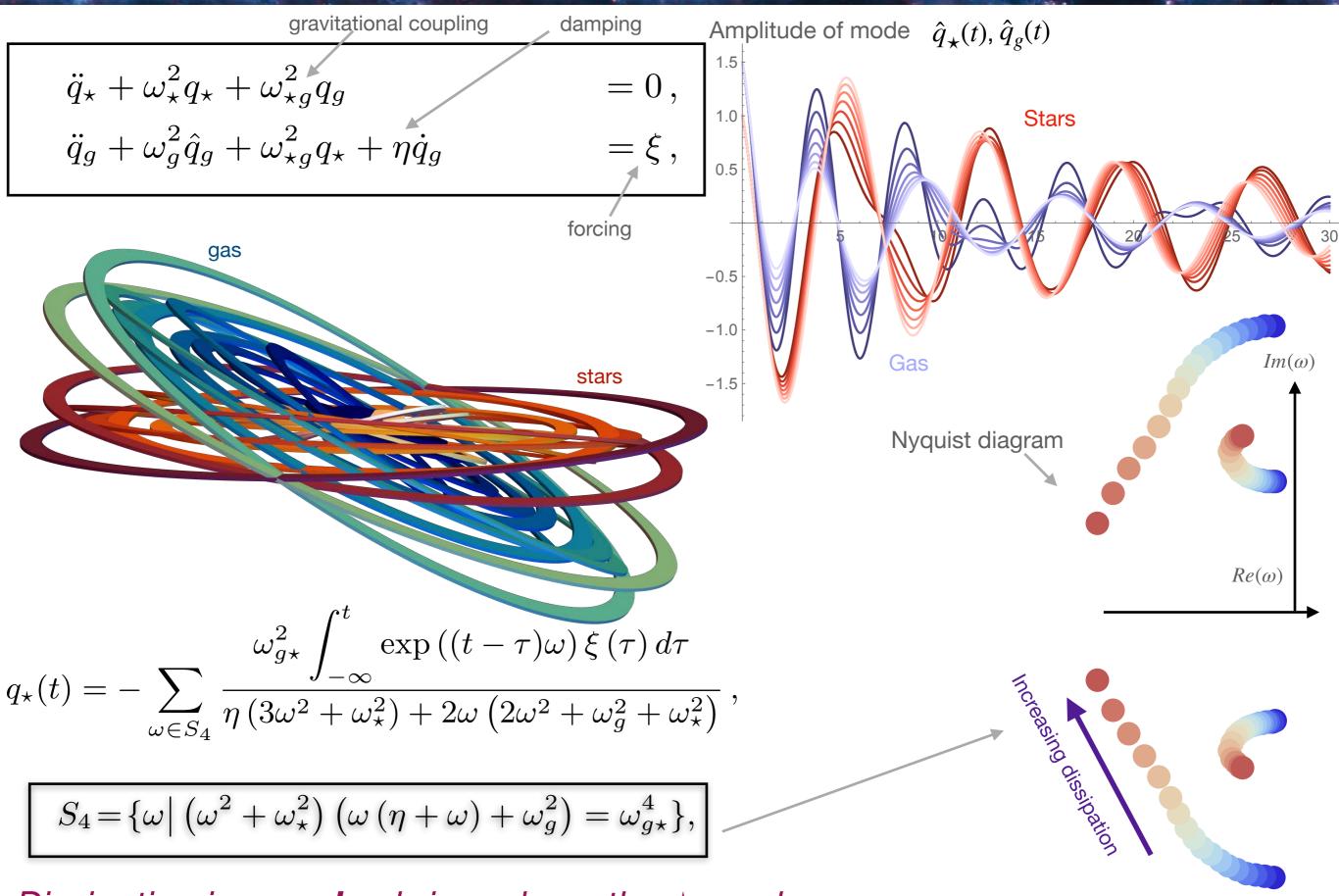
New dynamical equilibrium



Ring Toy model: gas + star coupling



Ring Toy model: gas + star coupling



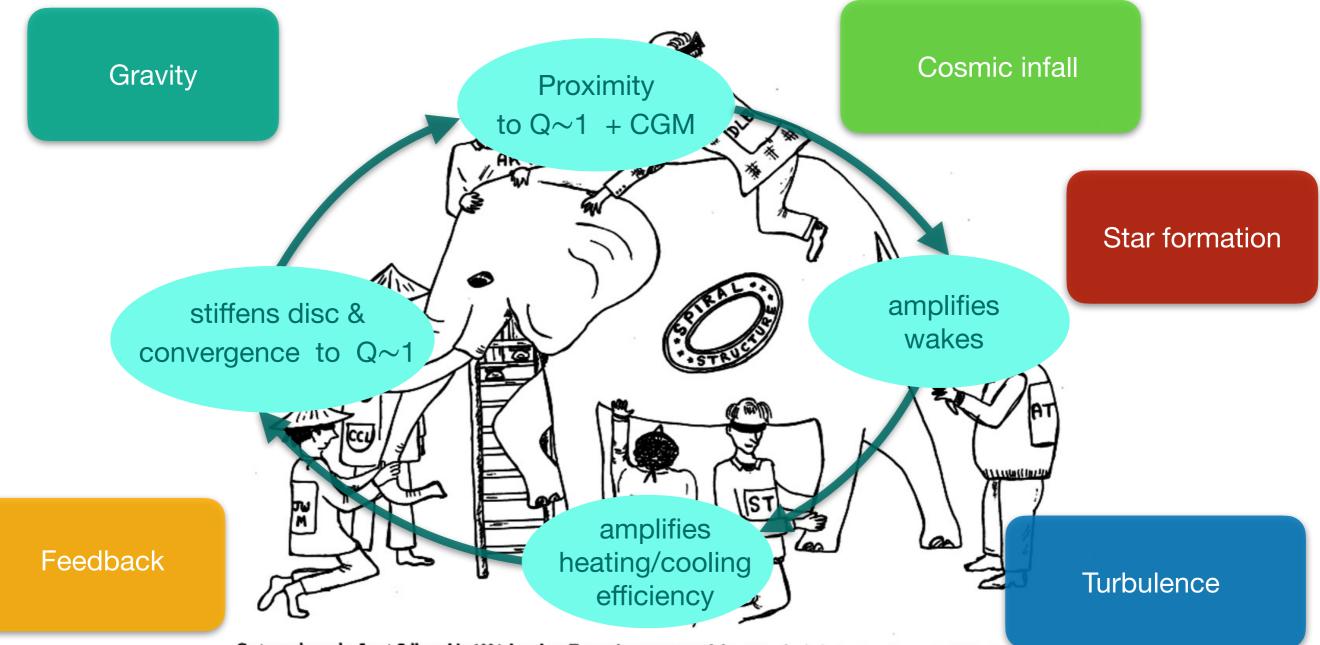
Dissipation in gas **also** brings down the \star modes

Synopsis of thin disc emergence: 0/2



Cartoon, drawn by Janet Sellwood in 1984, based on Toomre's assessment of the state of spiral structure theory in 1980. Apart from a few extra blindfolded individuals, this still seems appropriate today.

Synopsis of thin disc emergence: 0/2



Cartoon, drawn by Janet Sellwood in 1984, based on Toomre's assessment of the state of spiral structure theory in 1980. Apart from a few extra blindfolded individuals, this still seems appropriate today.

MNRAS 477, 2716–2740 (2018) Advance Access publication 2018 April 5 doi:10.1093/mnras/sty852

A unified model for galactic discs: star formation, turbulence driving, and mass transport

Mark R. Krumholz,¹* Blakesley Burkhart,² John C. Forbes² and Roland M. Crocker¹

The evolution of turbulent galactic discs: gravitational instability, feedback and accretion

Omri Ginzburg,¹* Avishal Dekel^{1,2} Nir Mandelker¹ and Mark R. Krumholz^{3,4} ¹Racah Institute of Physics, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904 Israel ²SCIPP, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA ³Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2611, Australia ⁴Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions (ASTRO 3D), Australia

Regulation of star formation by large scale gravito-turbulence

Adi Nusser¹ and Joseph Silk^{2,3,4}

open (*spherical*) box where free energy driven by **contraction** induced by **unstable** disc this induces radial transport and generates the energy to feed the turbulence which regulates star formation

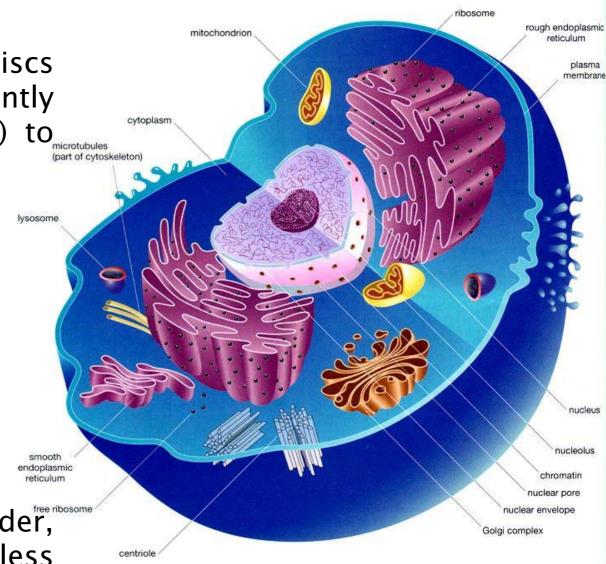
Complement: is a disc alive? vaguely!

Interestingly, though anecdotical, the thin discs possesses at least three out of four pillars recently required by some authors (Wong & Bartlett 2020) to define **pre-biotic systems**:

- i) they are open dissipative structures;
- ii) auto-catalytic;
- iii) homeostatic,
- iv) but not (quite) learning.

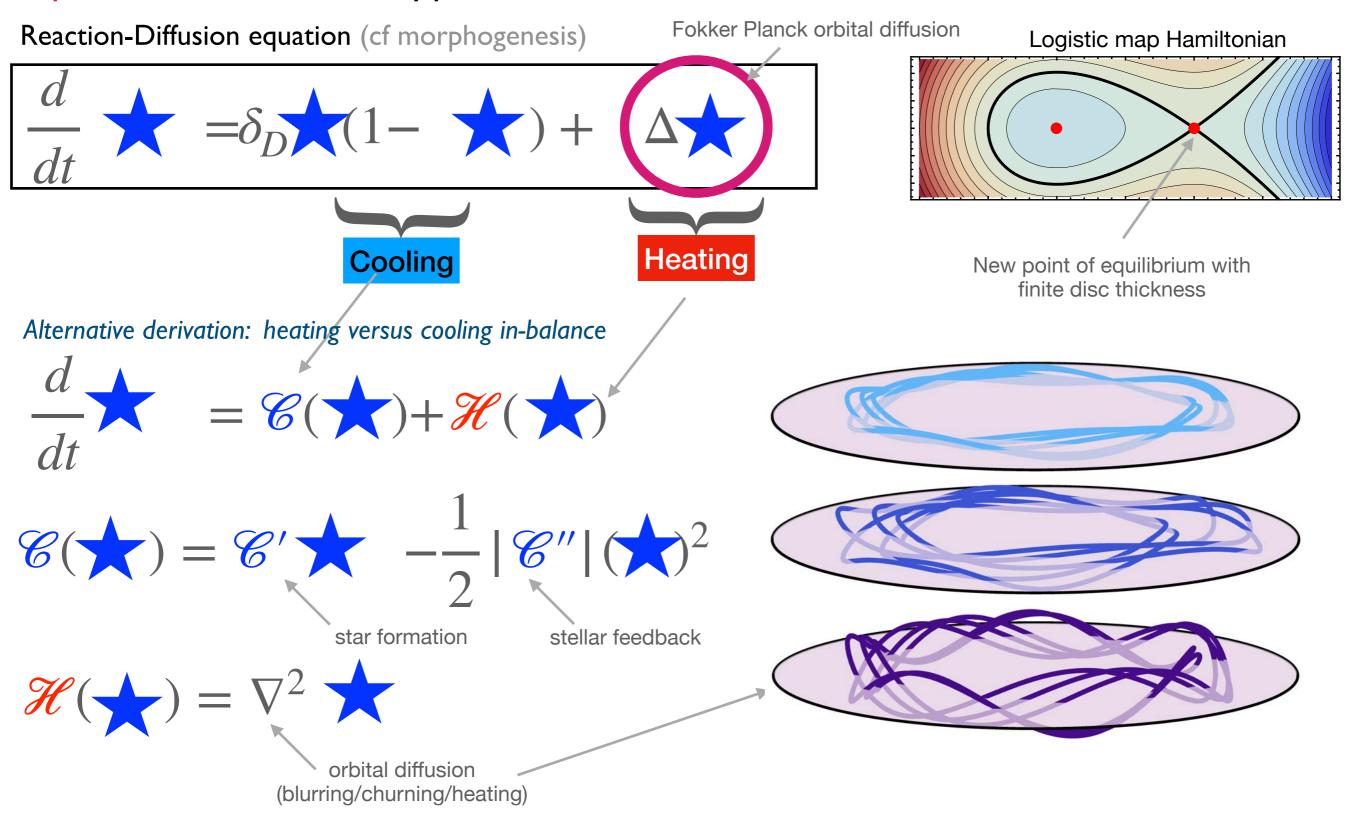
May be in a **neg-entropic** (information) sense:

as the stellar disc grows, it accumulates (stellar) order," which makes its **effective** Toomre parameter less sensitive to the environment: it has **learnt**!



Chemistry of emergence... introduce heating

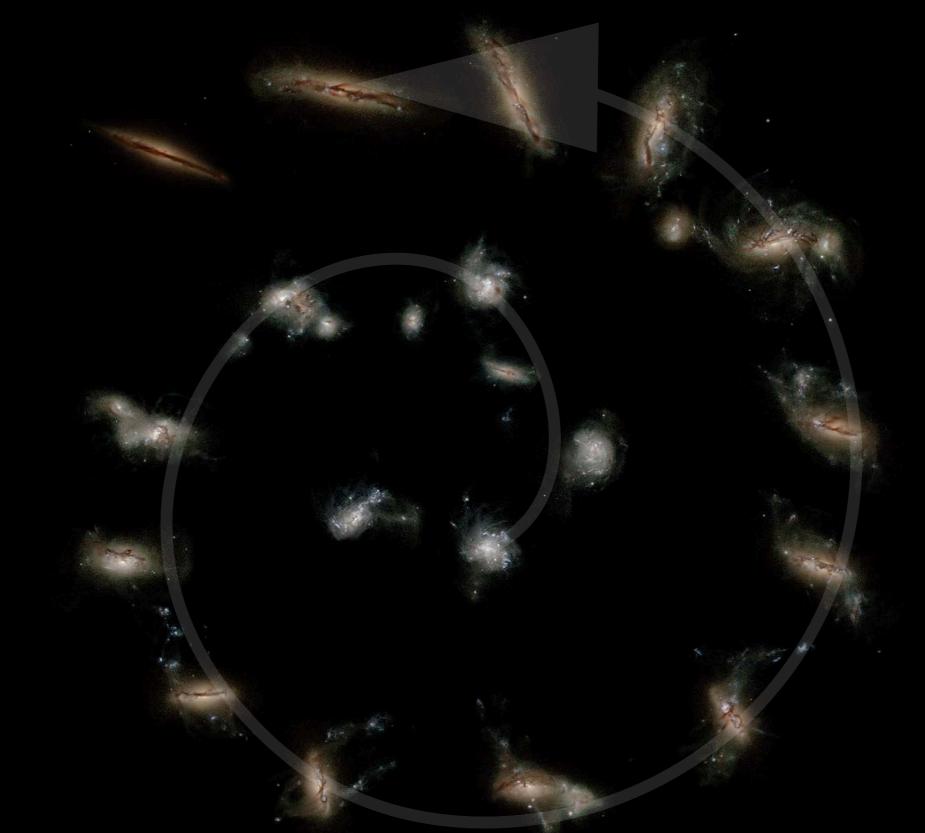
Now let us take into account for the **vertical** secular diffusion of the cold component **Dissipation converts kinetic instability point into an attractor**.



Disc settling: timeline of a thin galactic disc

39

New Horizon Simulation

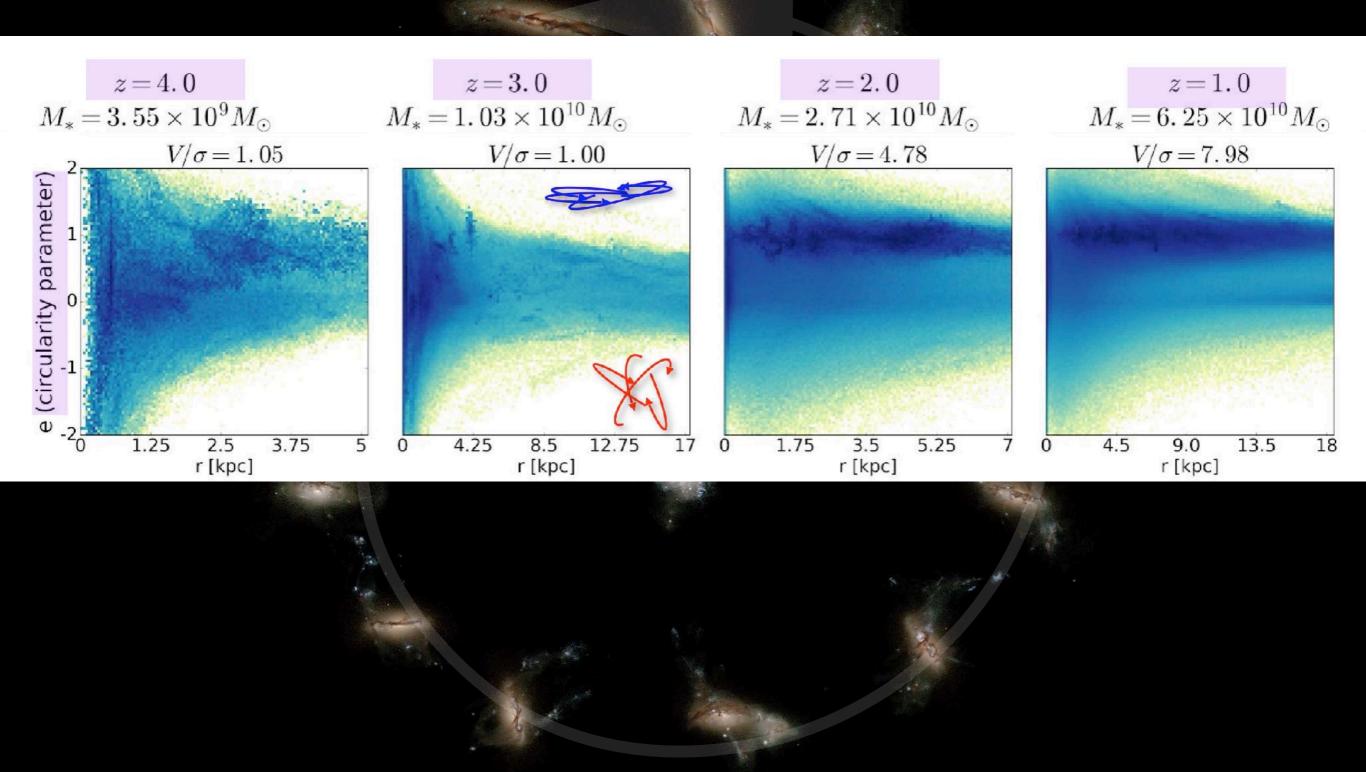


Thin discs in cosmological simulations operate as though they are isolated: this needs explaining.

Disc settling: timeline of a thin galactic disc

39

New Horizon Simulation



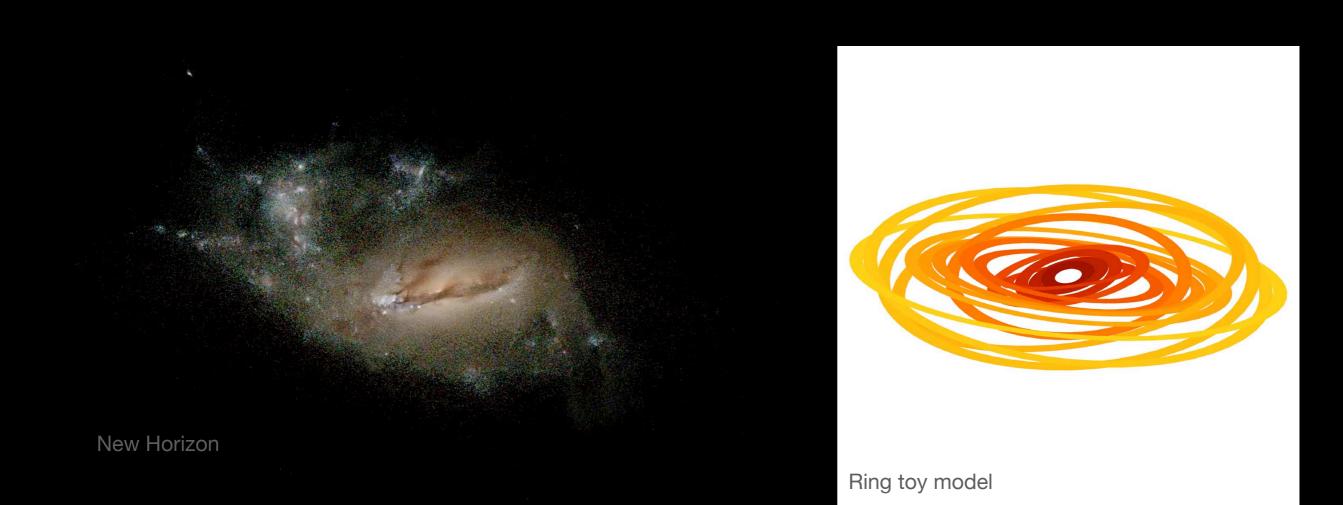
Thin discs in cosmological simulations operate as though they are isolated: this needs explaining.

Synopsis of thin disc emergence: 1/2

- Why do disc settle ? Because $Q \rightarrow 1$
- But Why does $Q \rightarrow 1$? Because tighter control loop ($t_{dyn} \ll 1$) via wake

40

• But how does it impact settling? Because wake also stiffens coupling

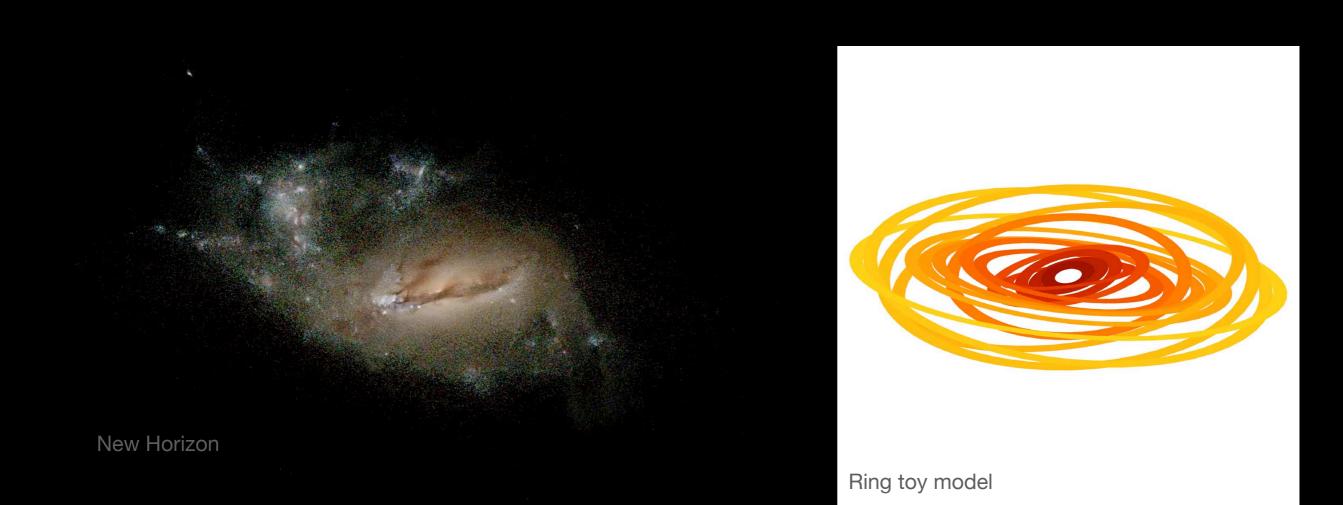


Synopsis of thin disc emergence: 1/2

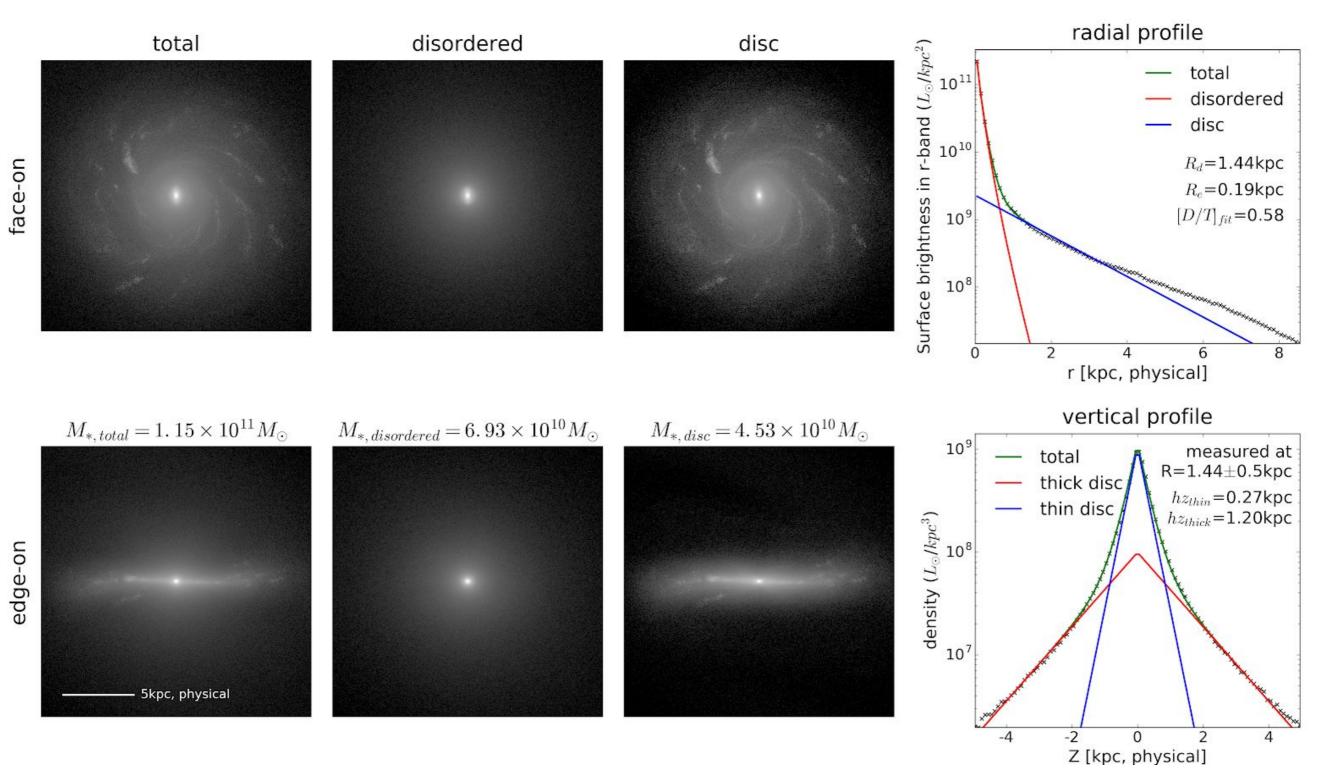
- Why do disc settle ? Because $Q \rightarrow 1$
- But Why does $Q \rightarrow 1$? Because tighter control loop ($t_{dyn} \ll 1$) via wake

40

• But how does it impact settling? Because wake also stiffens coupling



Disc settling preserves double thick/thin profile 4



Once in secular mode, the self regulated loop

stratifies vertically stars by age, while preserving the total double sech² profile

Discussion

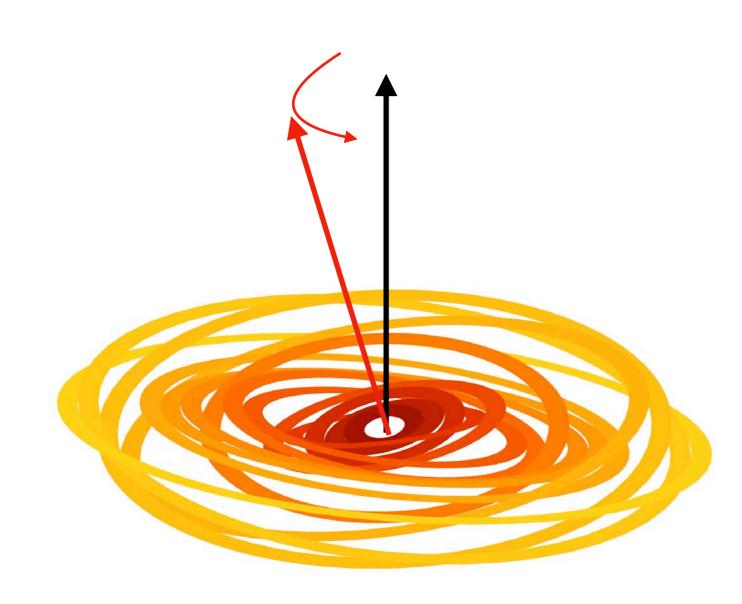
Bring home message

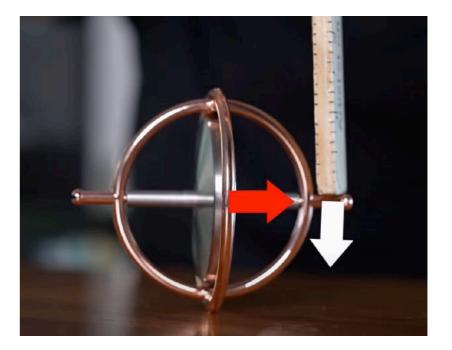
- Feedback+SF physics transpires to self-regulated disc geometry via wake!
- Gas inflow yields emergence via homeostasis: rotation matters!
- CGM = free energy reservoir: top down causation from cosmic coherence
 - regulation can be broken via change in vorticity and mass content of CGM.
- Proximity to *cliff* (Q<1) essential
- Close link to self-organised criticality/Maximum entropy production
- No absolute transition mass
- Variation of inflow that the disc's tolerate before instability /contraction ? (cf red giants)



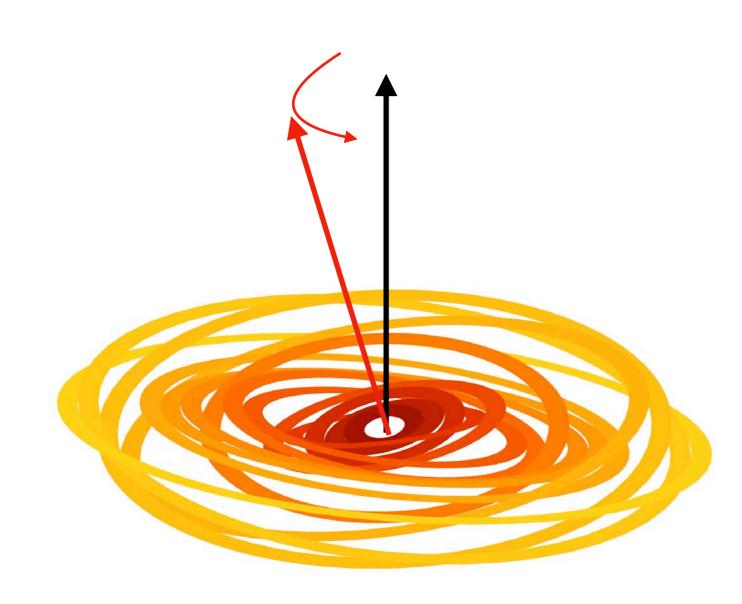
- Assumes disc can respond thermally fast enough
- Leap of faith in dynamical range (SF controlled by turbulent injection scale)
- Ignore extension of disc + bars /bulge + life halo (locality)

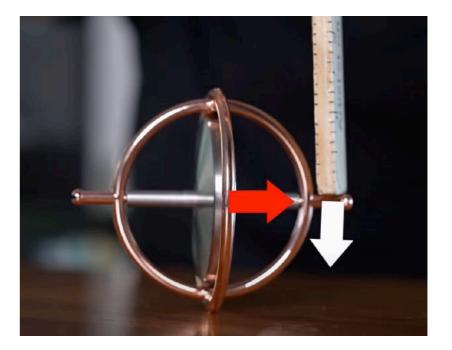
$$\dot{\mathbf{n}}_{i} = \mathbf{\Omega}(\{\mathbf{n}_{j}\}) \times \mathbf{n}_{i}, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{\Omega}(\{\mathbf{n}_{j}\}) = \sum_{j,\ell} P_{\ell}(\mathbf{n}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{j}) \mathbf{n}_{j} \left(\frac{r_{<}}{r_{>}}\right)_{i,j}^{\ell}$$





$$\dot{\mathbf{n}}_{i} = \mathbf{\Omega}(\{\mathbf{n}_{j}\}) \times \mathbf{n}_{i}, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{\Omega}(\{\mathbf{n}_{j}\}) = \sum_{j,\ell} P_{\ell}(\mathbf{n}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{j}) \mathbf{n}_{j} \left(\frac{r_{<}}{r_{>}}\right)_{i,j}^{\ell}$$





Revisit paradigm: impact of large scale anisotropy

- Galaxy properties driven by past lightcone of tidal tensor $\partial^2\psi/\partial x_i\partial x_j$
- Non-linear evolution impacted by scale coupling /shocks/ differential delays

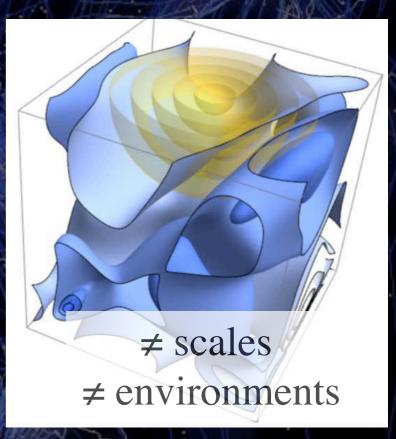
$\langle f_{\rm NL}(IC) \rangle \neq f_{\rm NL}(\langle IC \rangle)$ $\langle f_{\rm NL}(IC) \rangle_{\theta,\phi} \neq f_{\rm NL}(\langle IC \rangle_{\theta,\phi})$

Spherical collapse does not capture filamentary tides...



galaxy growth will be impacted by all components of Tidal tensor (not just trace, also eigenvectors+other minors)

All the more true for the gas



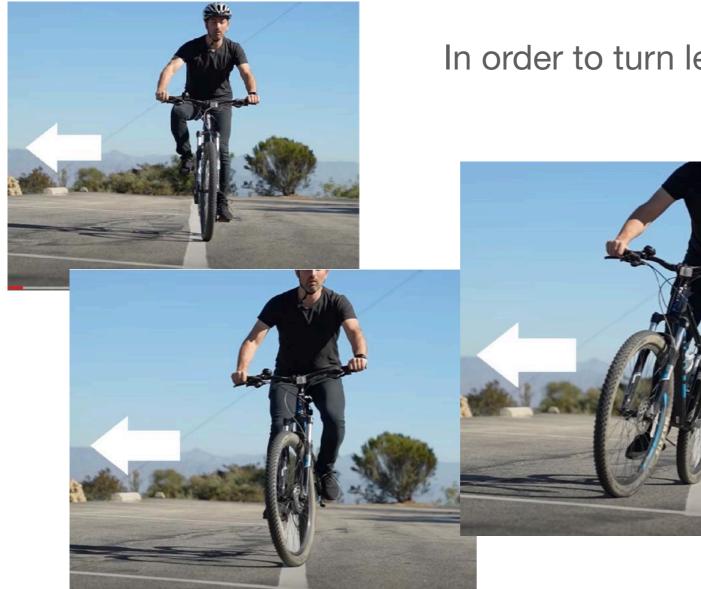


In order to turn left driver must turn right!





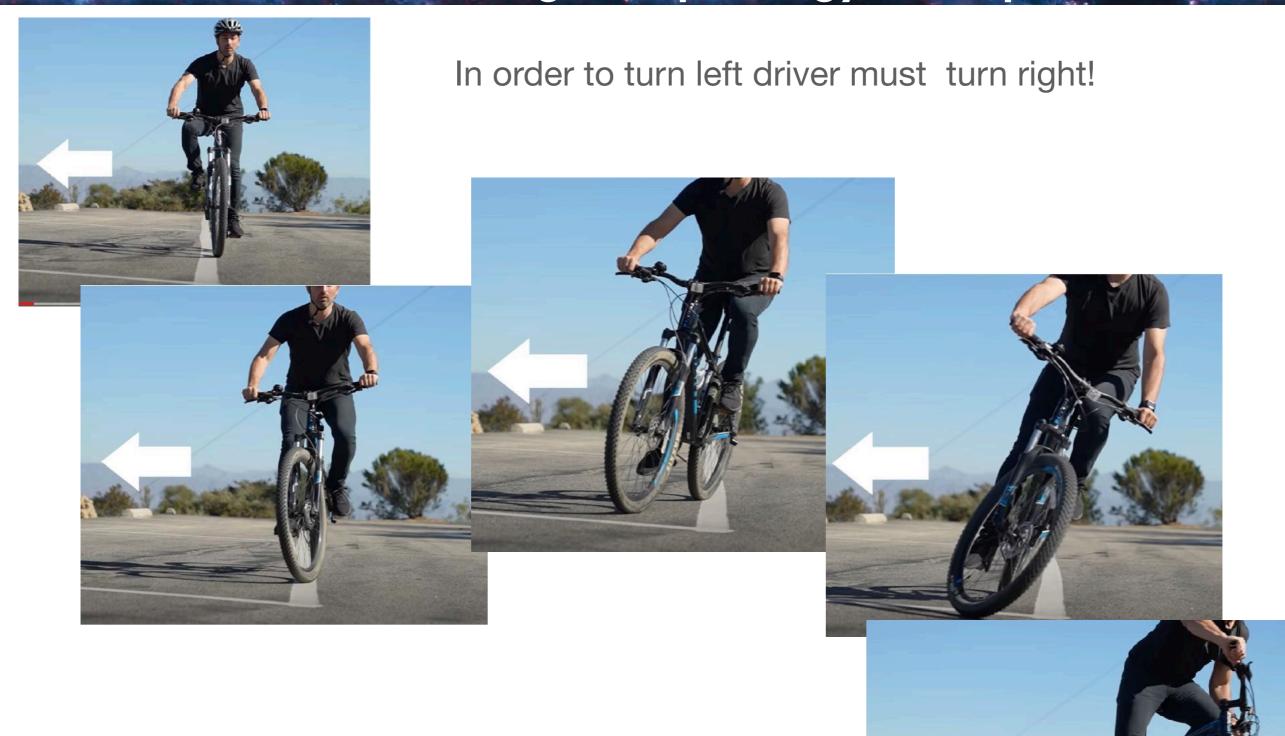
In order to turn left driver must turn right!



In order to turn left driver must turn right!

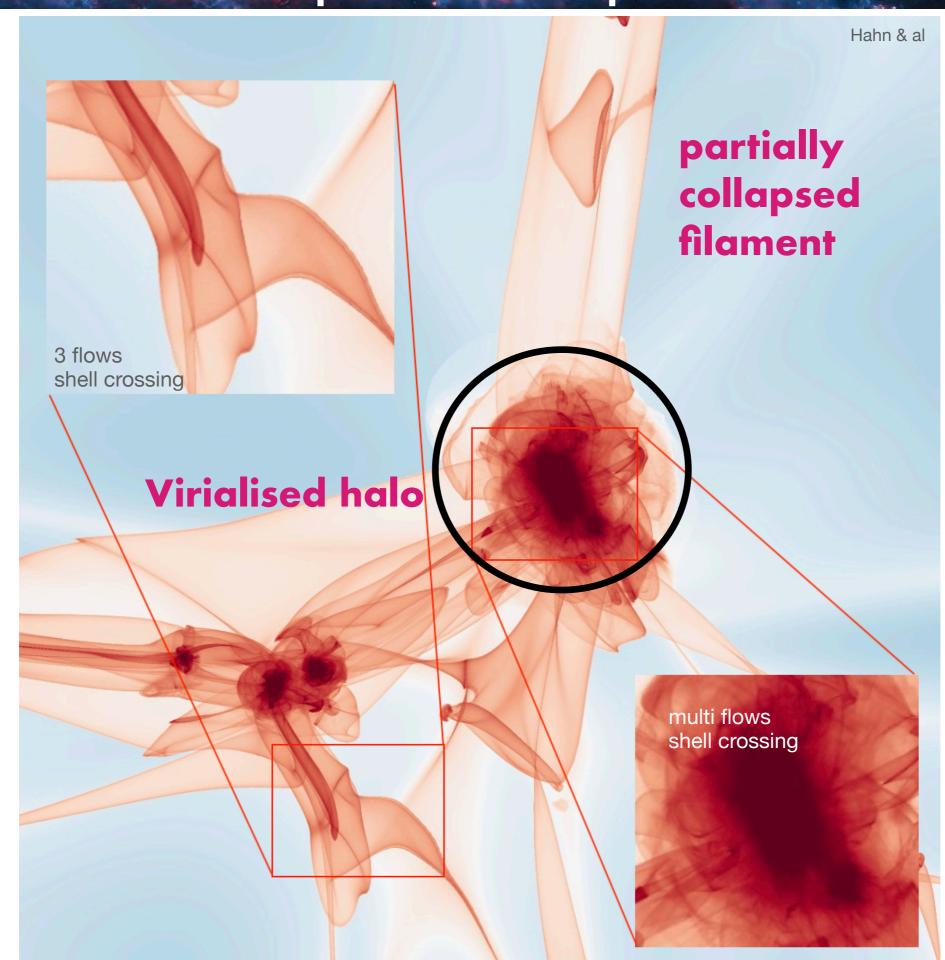
(c) veritassium 22



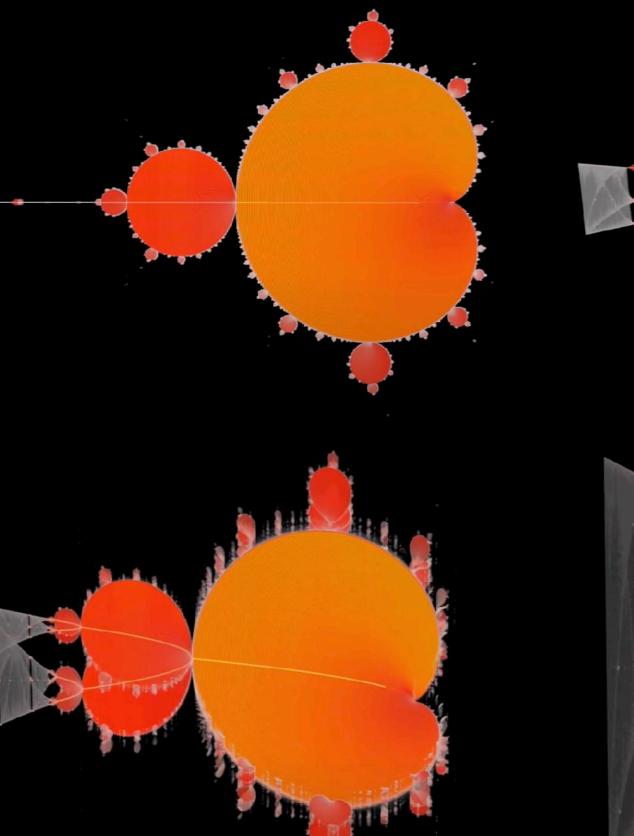


(c) veritassium 22

Spherical versus partial collapse



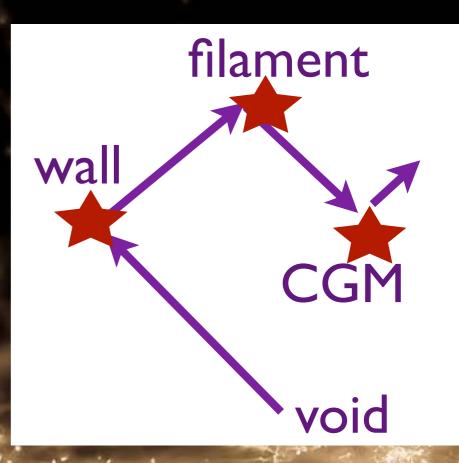
Link to Mandelbrot Set (Veritassium 2021)

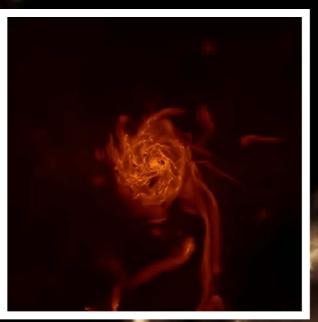




Geometry of flow: Eulerian view @ high resolution.







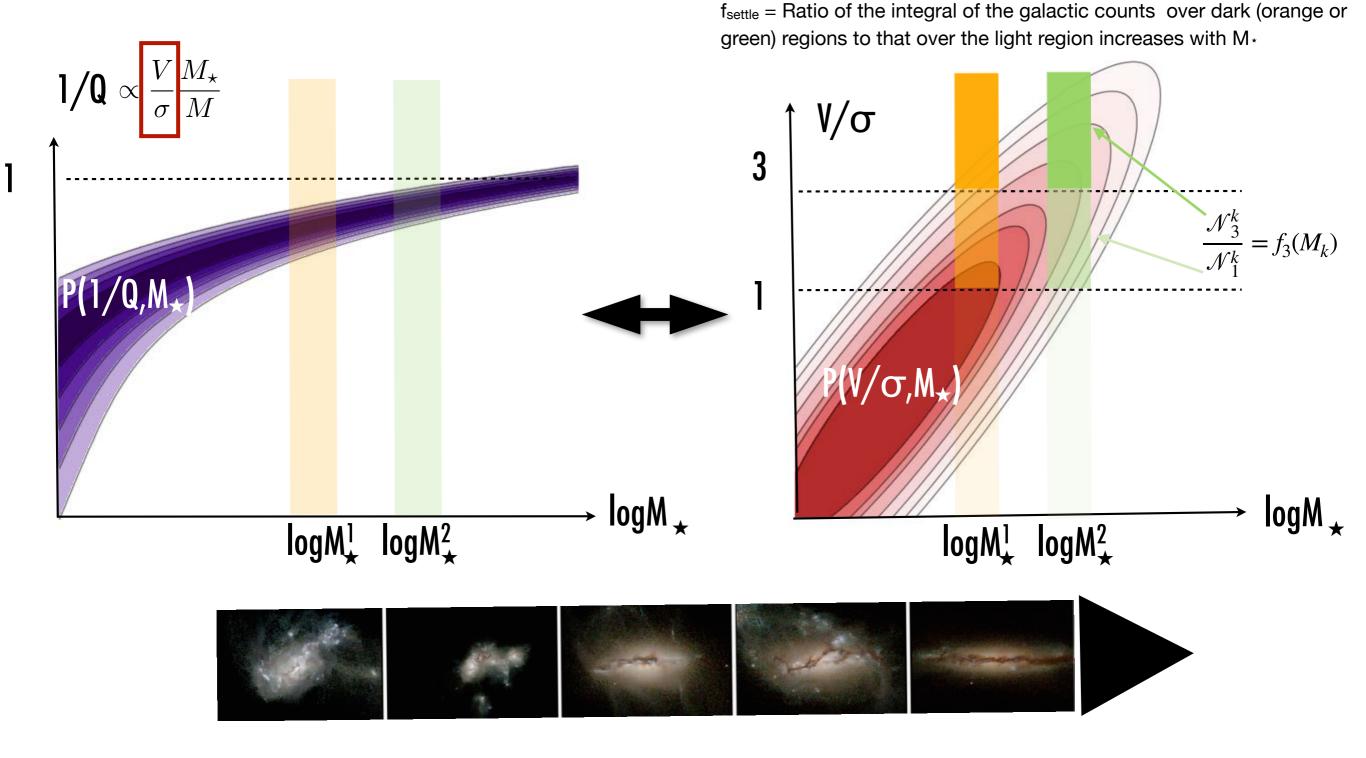






Numerical equivalence, given Toomre(v/ σ)

Correspondance best expressed while looking at PDF(Q , M_{\star}) and PDF(V/σ , M_{\star})



Orbital diffusion : impact of CMCs

Inhomogeneous Balescu-Lenard equation

• Inhomogeneous Balescu-Lenard equation

Heyvaerts (2010), Chavanis (2012)

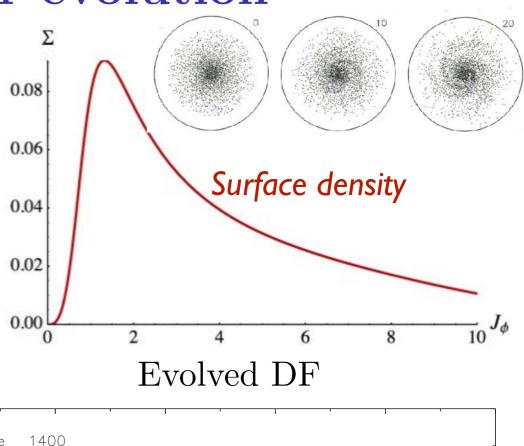
$$\frac{\partial F(\boldsymbol{J}_{1},t)}{\partial t} = \pi (2\pi)^{d} \frac{M_{\text{tot}}}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{J}_{1}} \cdot \left[\sum_{\boldsymbol{m}_{1},\boldsymbol{m}_{2}} \boldsymbol{m}_{1} \int d\boldsymbol{J}_{2} \frac{\delta_{\text{D}} \left(\boldsymbol{m}_{1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1} - \boldsymbol{m}_{2} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{2}\right)}{\left| \mathcal{D}_{\boldsymbol{m}_{1},\boldsymbol{m}_{2}} \left(\boldsymbol{J}_{1},\boldsymbol{J}_{2}, \boldsymbol{m}_{1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1}\right) \right|^{2}} \left[m_{1} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{J}_{1}} - m_{2} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{J}_{2}} \right] F(\boldsymbol{J}_{1},t) F(\boldsymbol{J}_{2},t) \right].$$

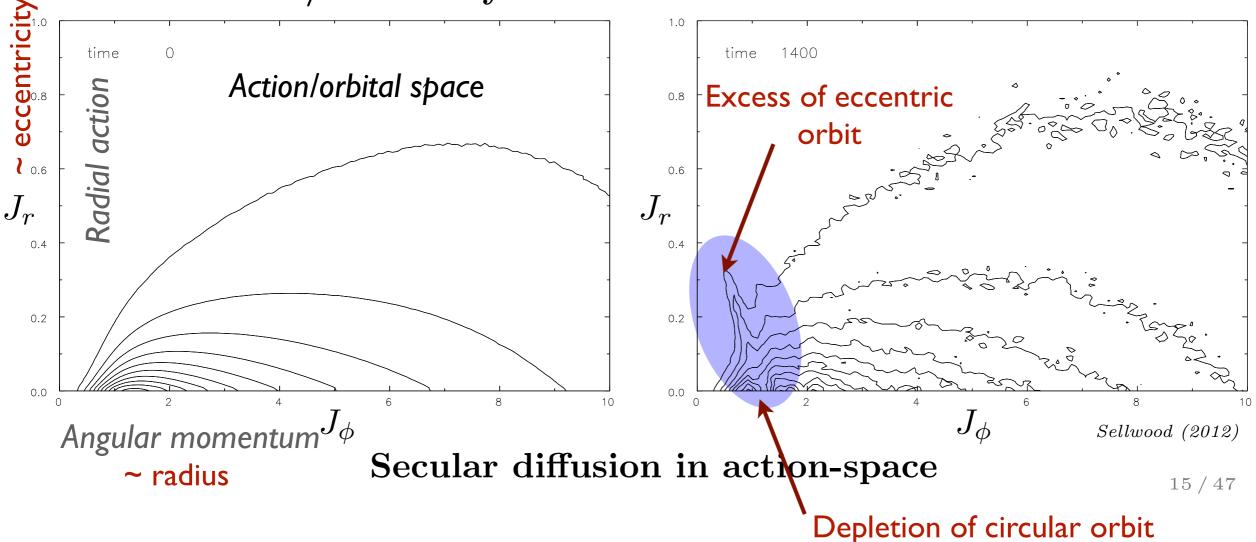
- Some properties:
 - F(J,t): Orbital distorsion in action space.
 - 1/N: Driven by finite -N effects.
 - ► $\partial/\partial J_1$: Divergence of a flux, i.e. conservation.
 - m_1 : Discrete Fourier vectors Anistropic diffusion.
 - $\delta_{\rm D}$: **Resonance condition** for distant encounters.
 - $1/\mathcal{D}_{m_1,m_2}$: Self-gravitating dressing (squared).
 - $m_1 \cdot \Omega_1$: Secular diffusion at resonance.
 - \implies Master equation for self-induced orbital distortion.

An example of secular evolution

- Sellwood's 2012 numerical experiment
 - Stationnary stable tapered Mestel disc
 - N-body code with 500M particles
 - Appearance of transient spiral waves
 - Archetype of radial migration

Initial stable/stationary DF





Backup slides

The fact that thin discs in cosmological simulations operate essentially as though they are isolated is quite remarquable and needs explaining.

• We measure that $Q \sim 1$ is an attractor for disc settling. It is an attractor because polarisation (near marginal stability) yields a tighter (faster) control loop for self regulating processes (turbulence, SN, star formation), and efficient entropy radiation. The tightness of this loop controlled by the amplitude of the fluctuating gravitational potential. Since these fluctuations are dressed by gravitational wakes, the closer the disc is to marginal stability the stronger the wake, the shorter the effective dynamical time, the tighter the loop, the closer the disc to marginal stability.

• The transition mass appearing in the fit of Q scales likes the mass of non-linearity, which defines the local dynamical clock, reflecting the idea that for more massive discs (in units of that mass) secular processes can operate more swiftly and efficiently. This transition translates into a fraction of settled discs as a function of stellar mass and redshift which match the observed one.

• The closer the disc to $Q \sim 1$, the stronger the gravitational coupling between rings, the more damped out of plane oscillation, the more settled the disc.

• The gravitational torquing between the gas and stellar components and dissipation within the former component can be accounted for via a two set of rings or two sets of WKB wave model. Both models provide means to understand how the stellar can converge towards low entropy states.

• Once in secular mode, the self regulated loop also stratifies vertically stars by age, while preserving the sech profile of the existing thick disc. This is achieved because both star formation and vertical orbital diffusion are regulated by the same confounding factor which stirs cold gas and diffuse the stellar orbital structure. As such, the stellar thick disc is simply the secular remnant of the disc settling process.

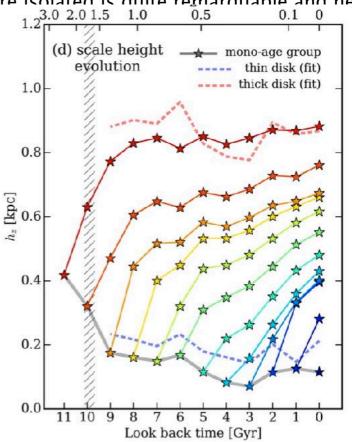


Figure 10. Evolution of the vertical distribution of the disk in the GALACTICA galaxy. (a) The instantaneous SFR as a function of redshift. (b) The evolution of the V/σ of the cold gas in the galaxy. (c) The evolution of disk scale length $(R_{\rm d})$ of the galaxy. (d) The scale height evolution of monoage groups of stellar particles indicated as different colors from red to blue with age bin of 1 Gyr (the same color key in Figure 9). The vertical distribution is measured at $2R_{\rm d}$ of the galaxy at each epoch. The gray solid line connects to the scale height of the youngest stellar particles at each epoch. The dashed blue and red lines are the scale heights (h_z) of the thin and thick disks derived from the doublecomponent fit to the vertical profile measured at each epoch. The vertical hatched band points to $z \sim 1.7$, the time at which the disk structure begins to appear in this galaxy. As the combined result of the thickening of the existing disk stars and the continued formation of young thin disk stars, the vertical distribution (and the scale heights of the thin and thick disks obtained as a result of the fit) does not change much since disk settling. This conspiracy points towards a confounding factor regulating simultaneously star formation and vertical diffusion.