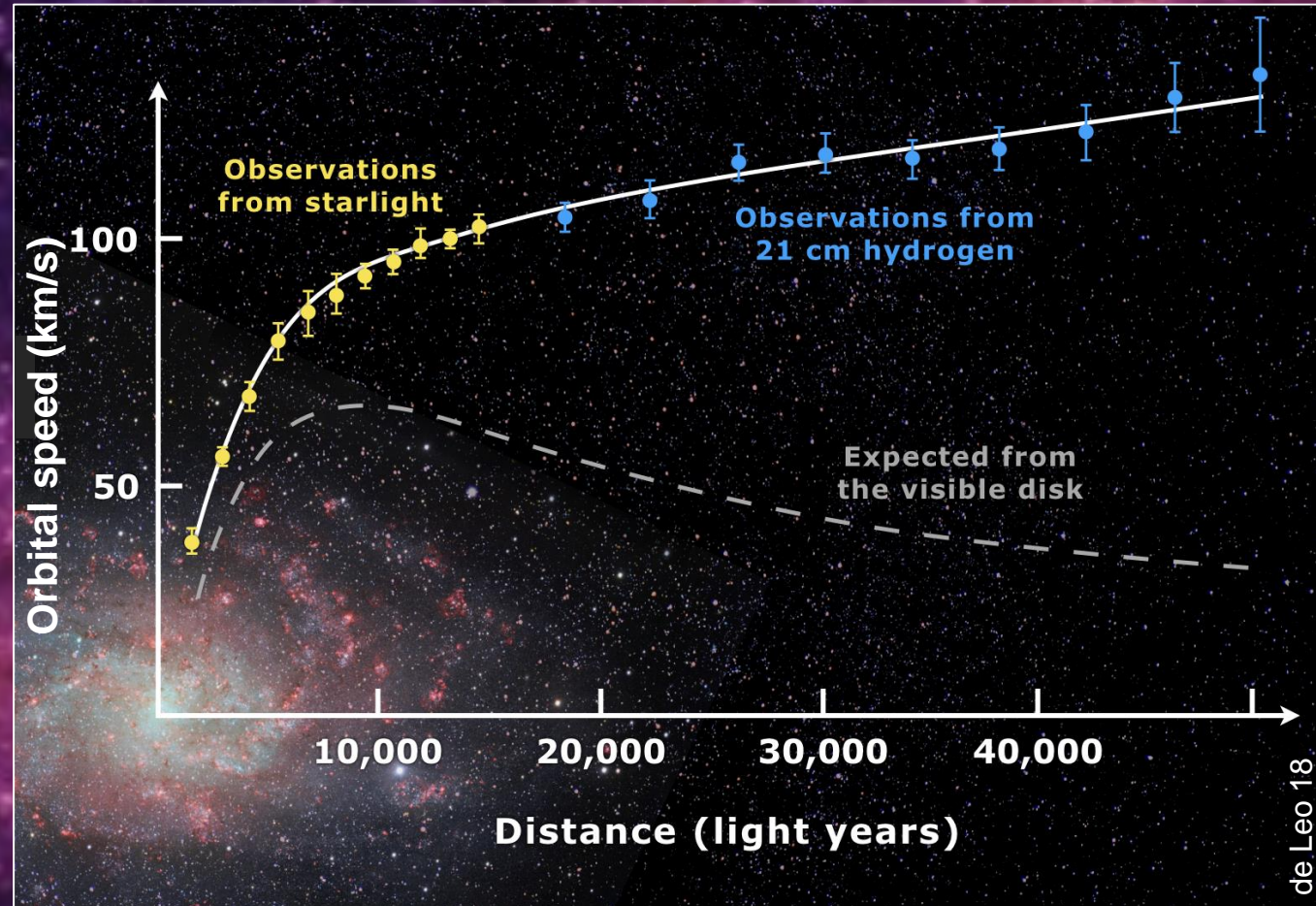


# Cusps, Cores, and Kinematics:

Modelling gas in galaxies to measure dark matter

Kristine Spekkens

Royal Military College of Canada  
Queen's University at Kingston



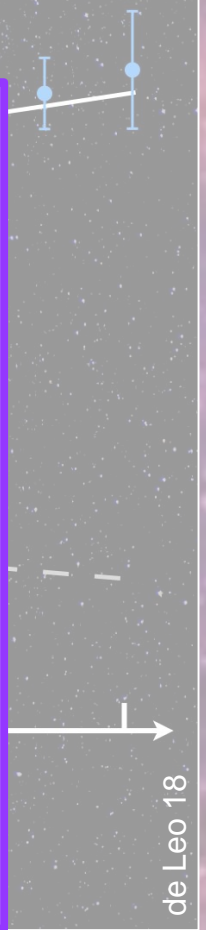
# Cusps, Cores, and Kinematics:

Mod  
galax  
dark

- Mapping dark matter with disk galaxy kinematics
- Cusps, cores and cosmological galaxy formation
- Widefield atomic gas surveys and the statistics of disk galaxy structure

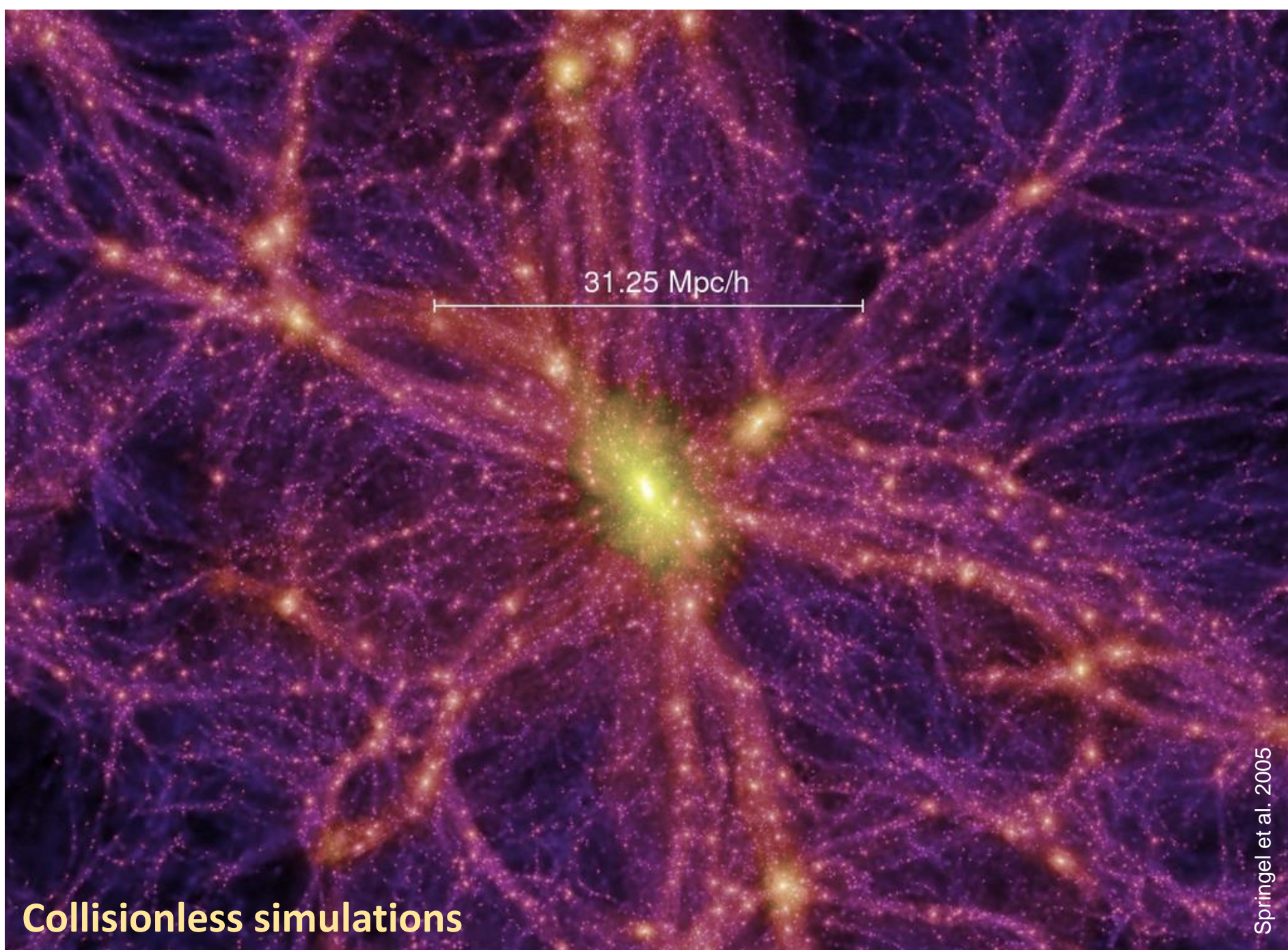
Kris  
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Royal Military College of Canada  
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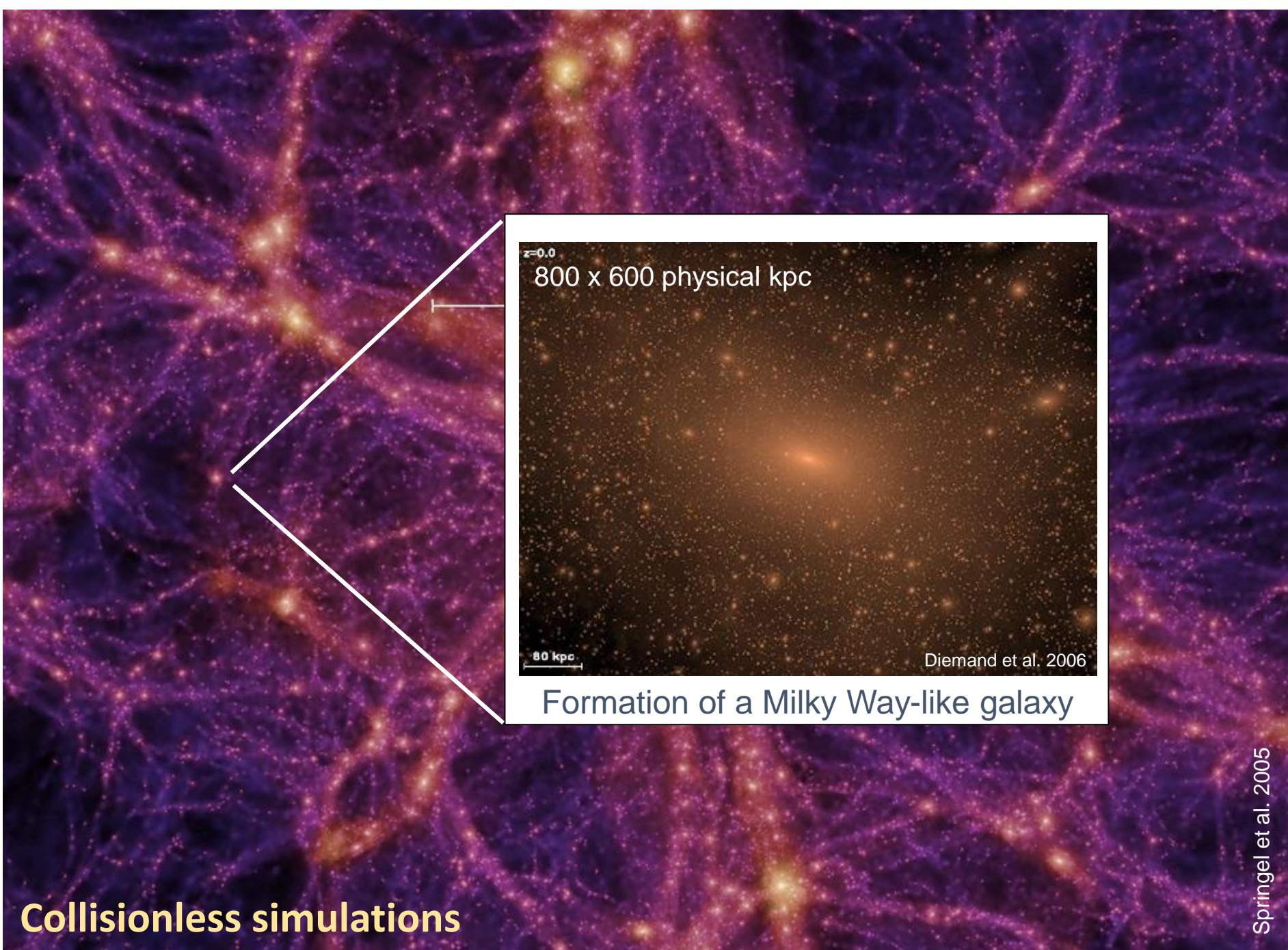


de Leo 18

# Cosmological galaxy formation



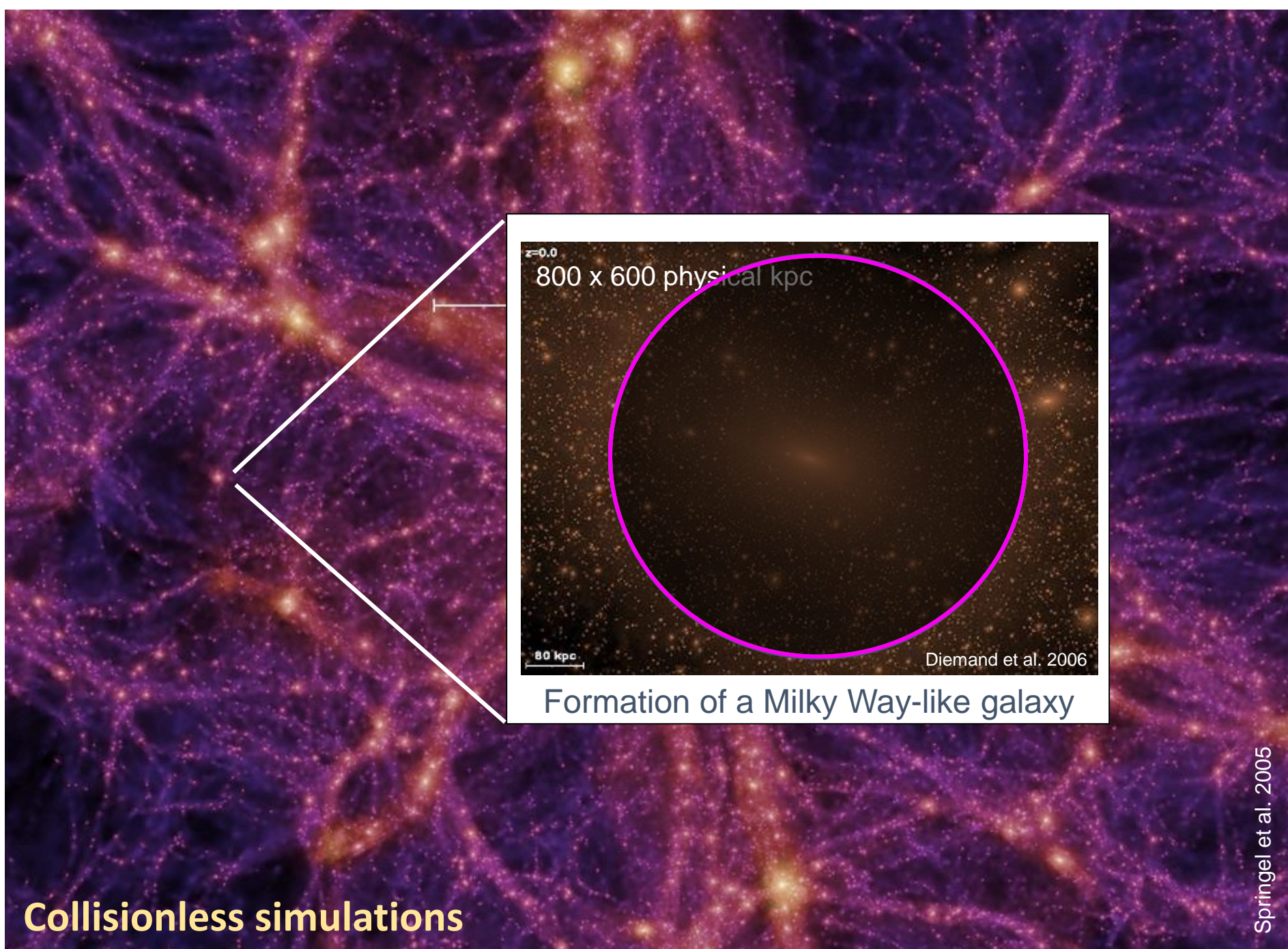
# Cosmological galaxy formation



**Collisionless simulations**

Springel et al. 2005

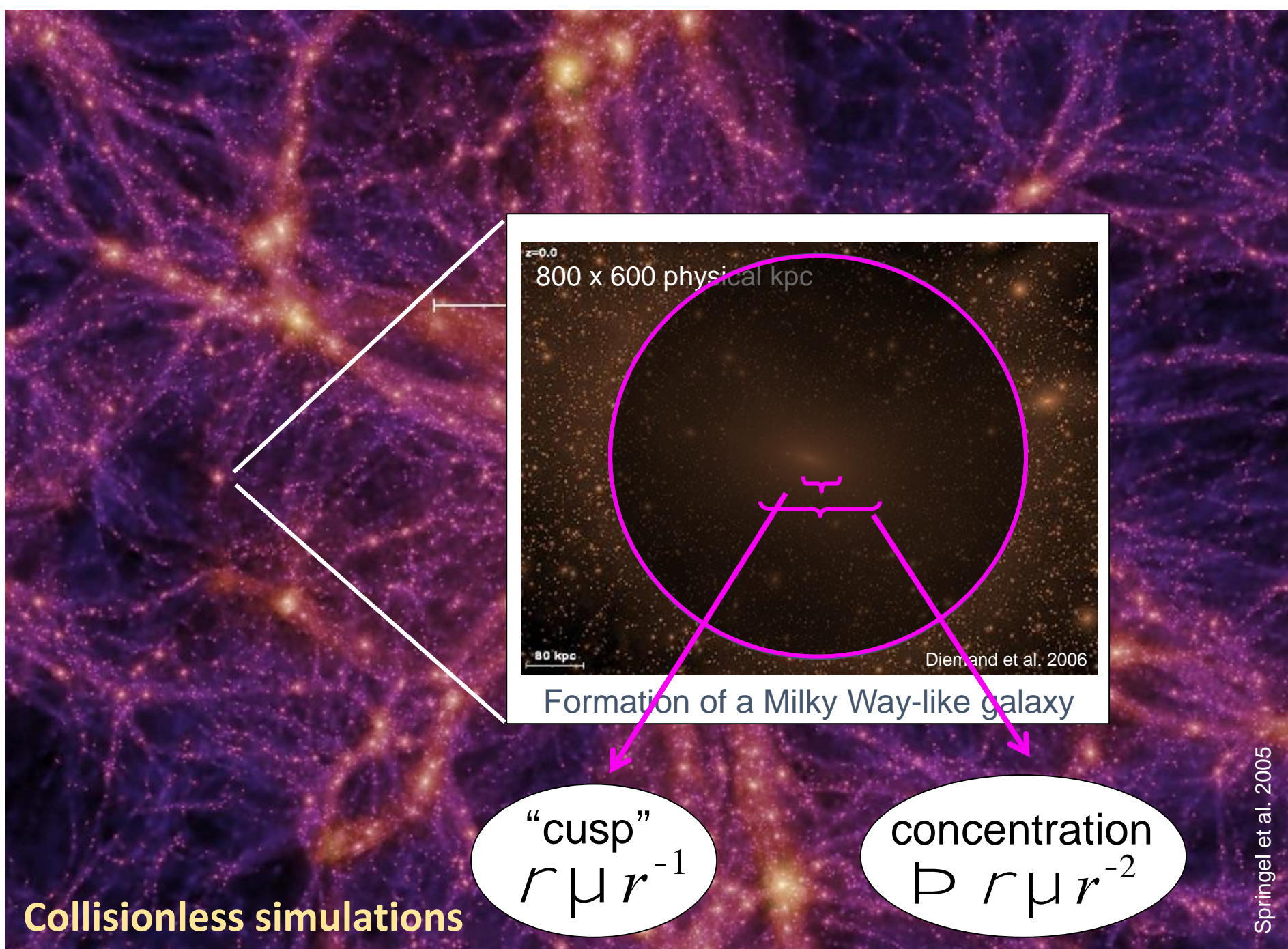
# Cosmological galaxy formation



**Collisionless simulations**

Springel et al. 2005

# Cosmological galaxy formation



**Collisionless simulations**

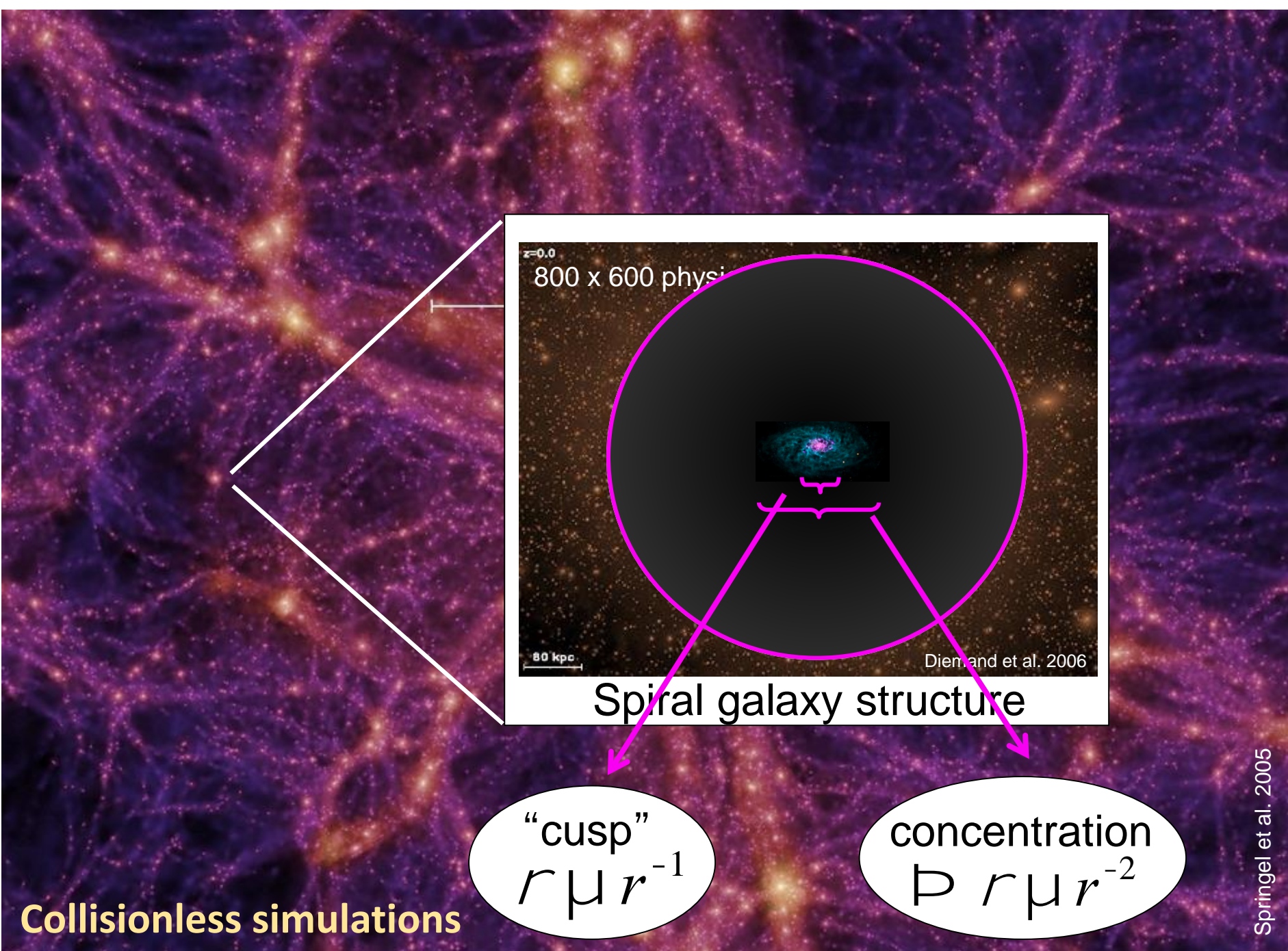
“cusp”  
 $r \mu r^{-1}$

concentration  
 $\rho \propto r \mu r^{-2}$

Springel et al. 2005

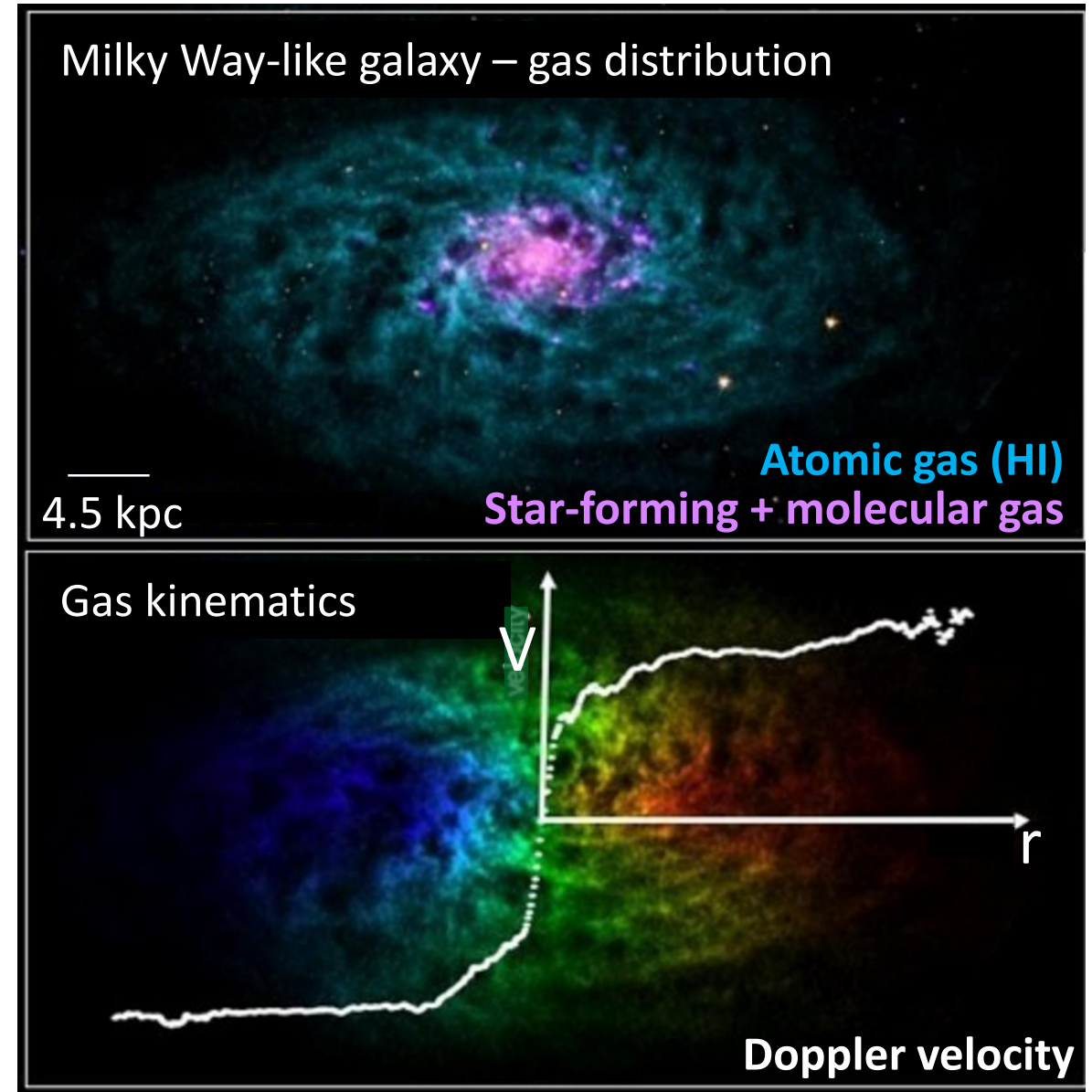
# Cosmological galaxy formation

Disk galaxies:  
dissipative  
baryon collapse,  
conserving  
specific angular  
momentum



# Measuring disk galaxy masses

Doppler-shift velocities from the spectral lines of gas disks in galaxies allow rotation curves – and therefore (dark matter) mass distributions – to be inferred.



THINGS, Walter+ 08

$$V_{obs}(r, \theta) \sim V_{rot}(r) \sin i \cos \theta$$

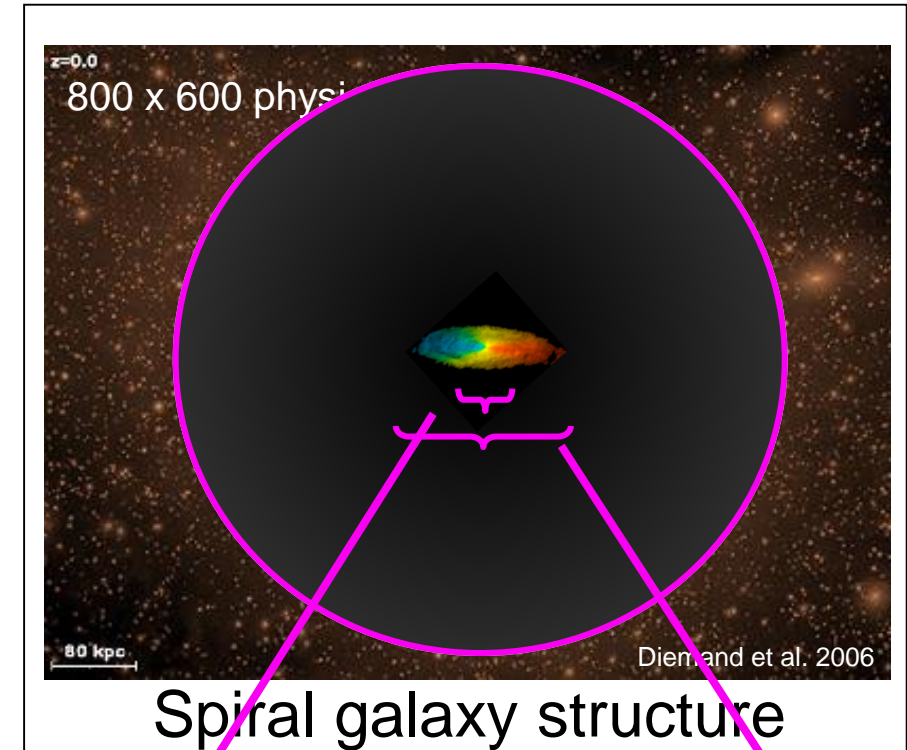


# The cusp/core problem

**If:** Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions

**And:** There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos

**Then:** The inner disk kinematics of those galaxies should imply cusps



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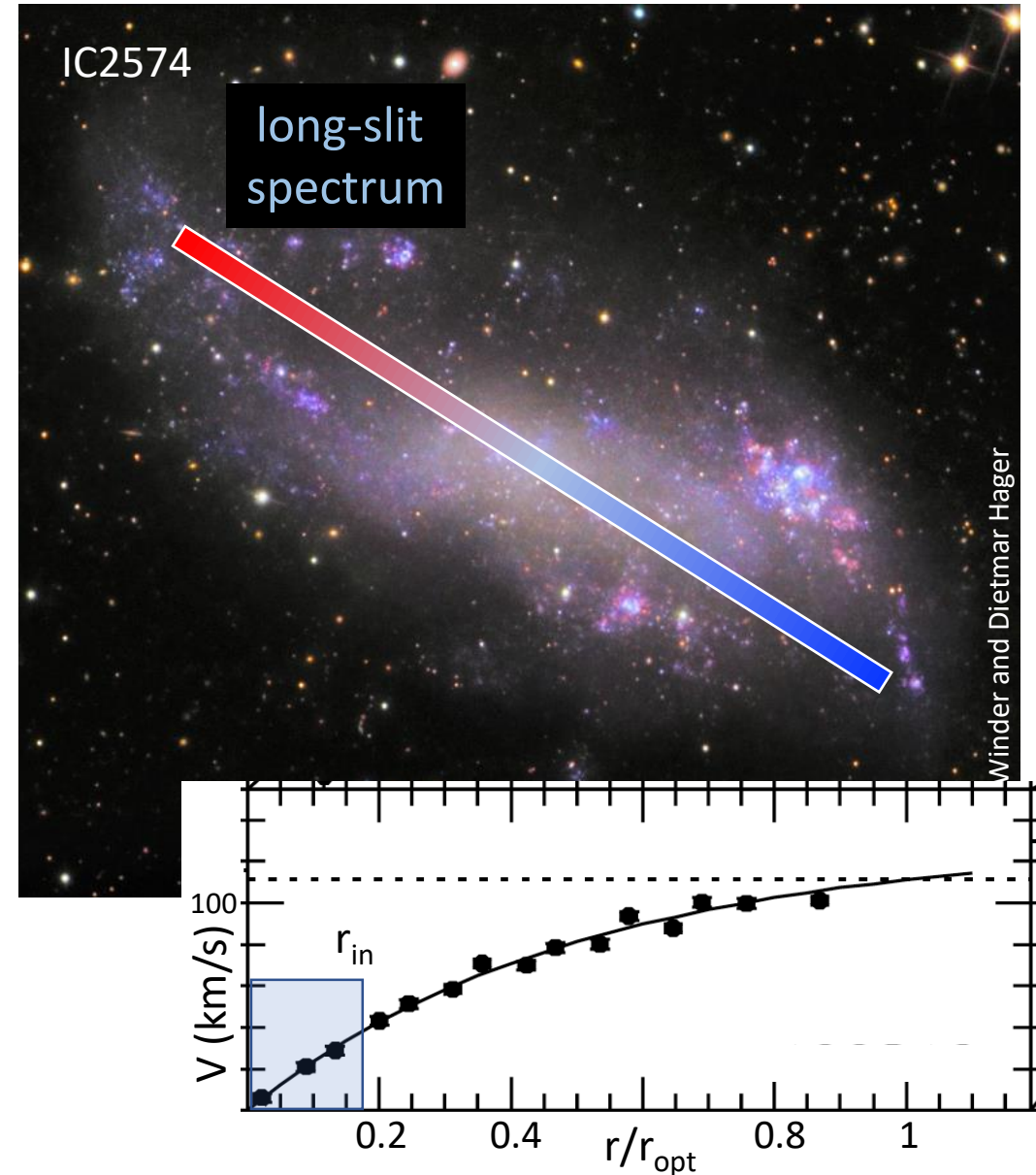
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➔  
Dwarfs  
LSBs



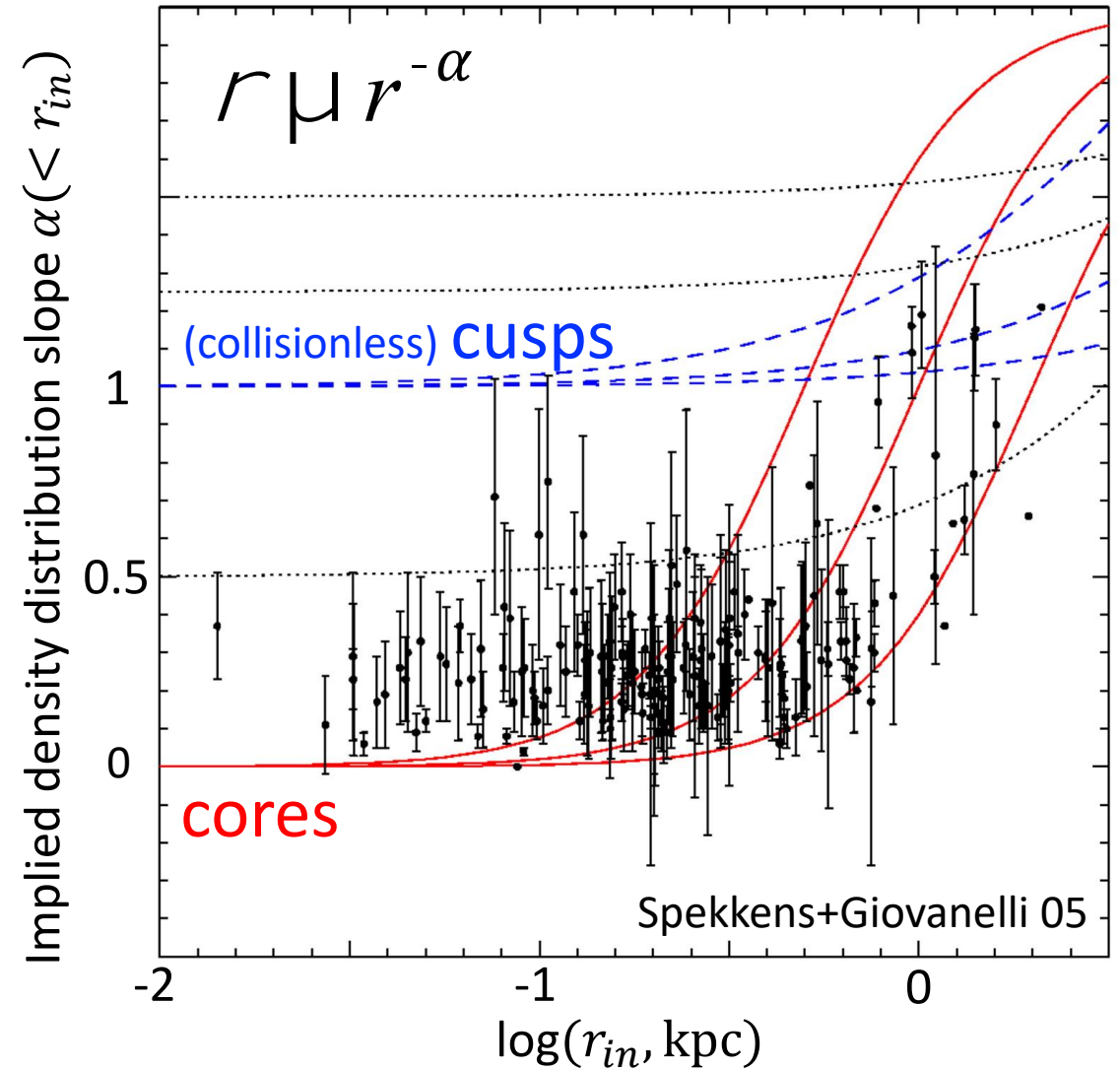
# The cusp/core problem

(de Blok+ 01, de Blok+Bosma 02, Swaters+ 03 and others)

**If:** Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions

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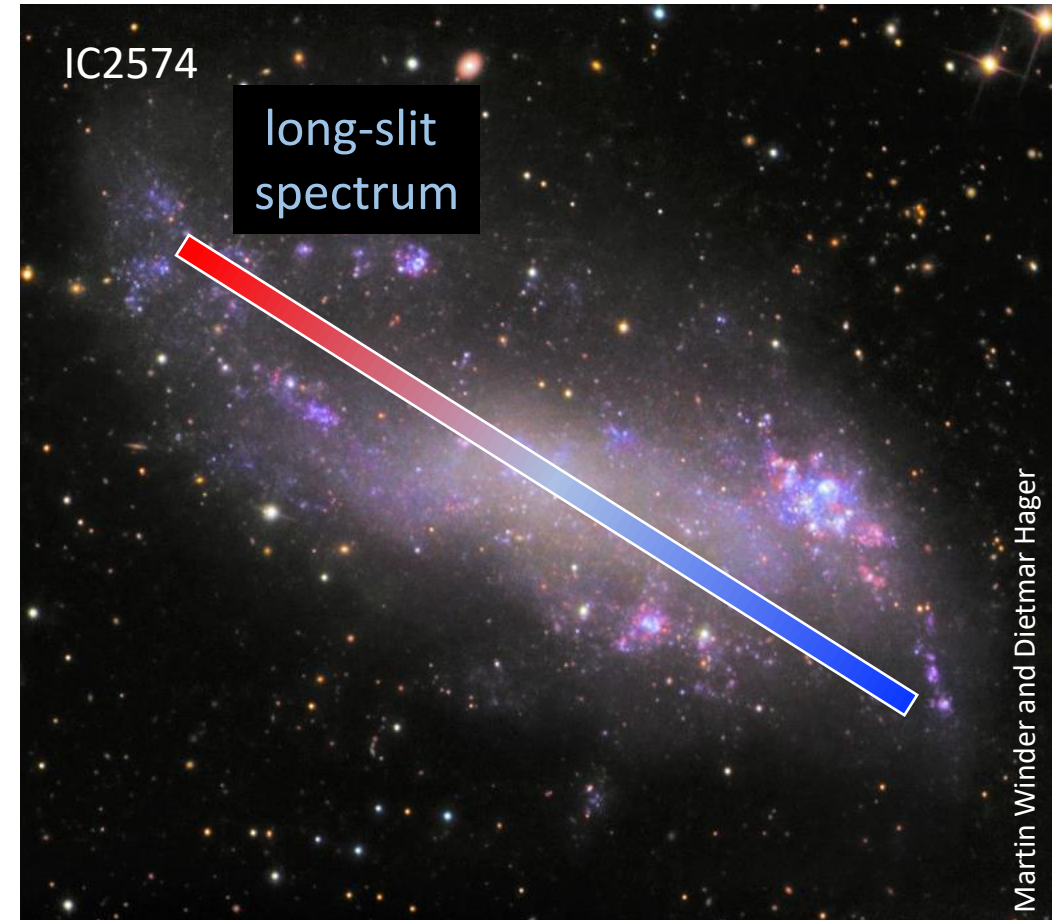
**→ cusp/core problem**

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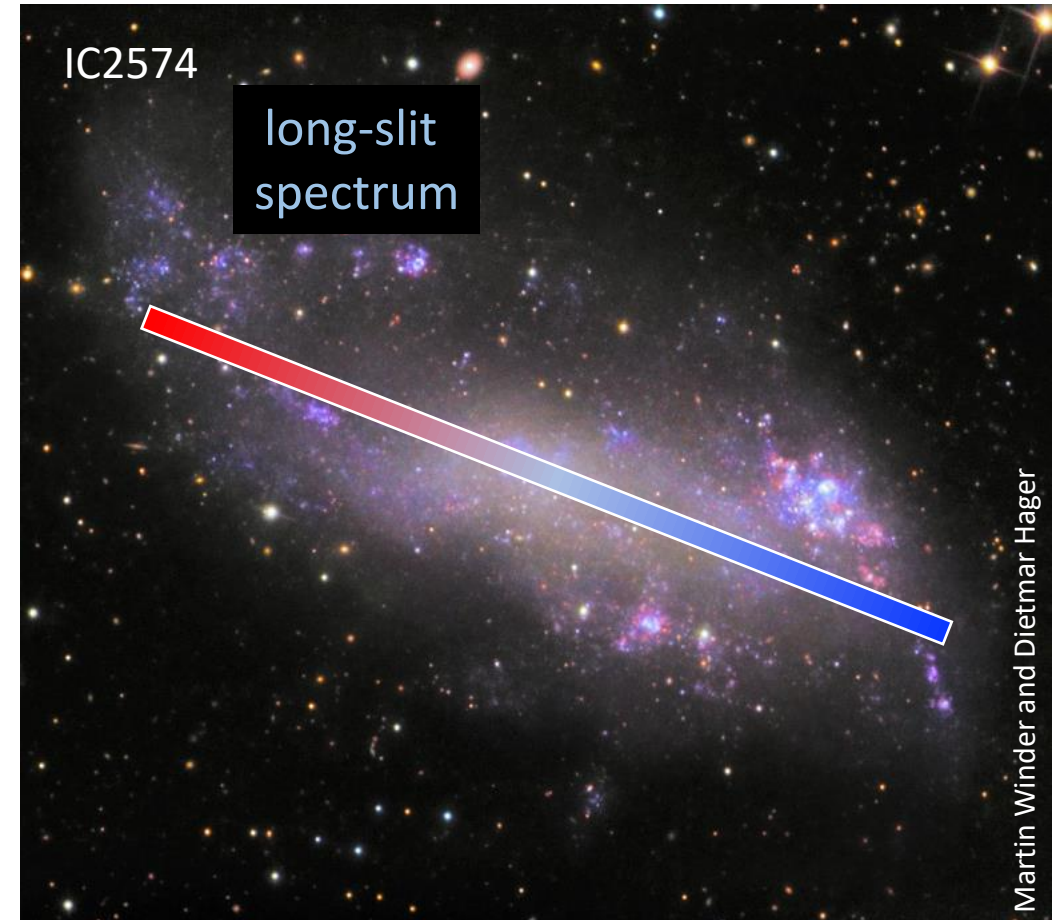


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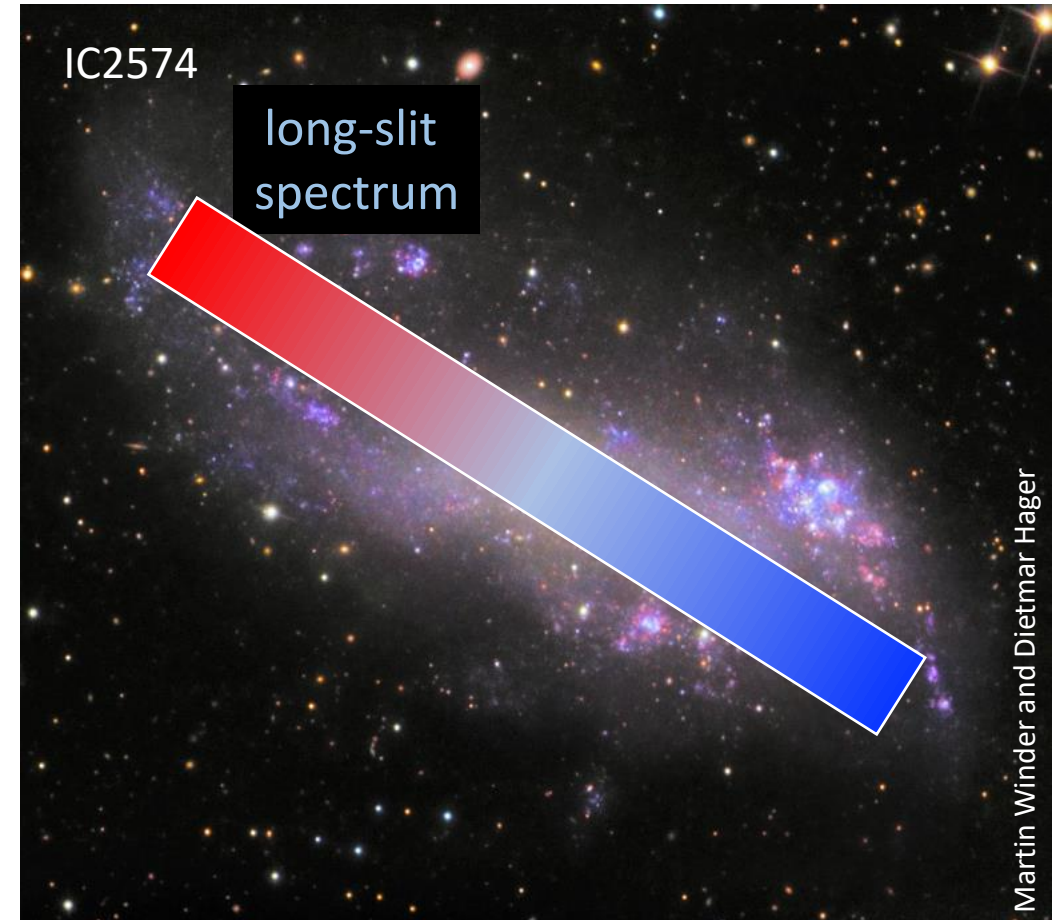
Slit width and galaxy major axis offsets systematically lower inferred  $\alpha$ ...

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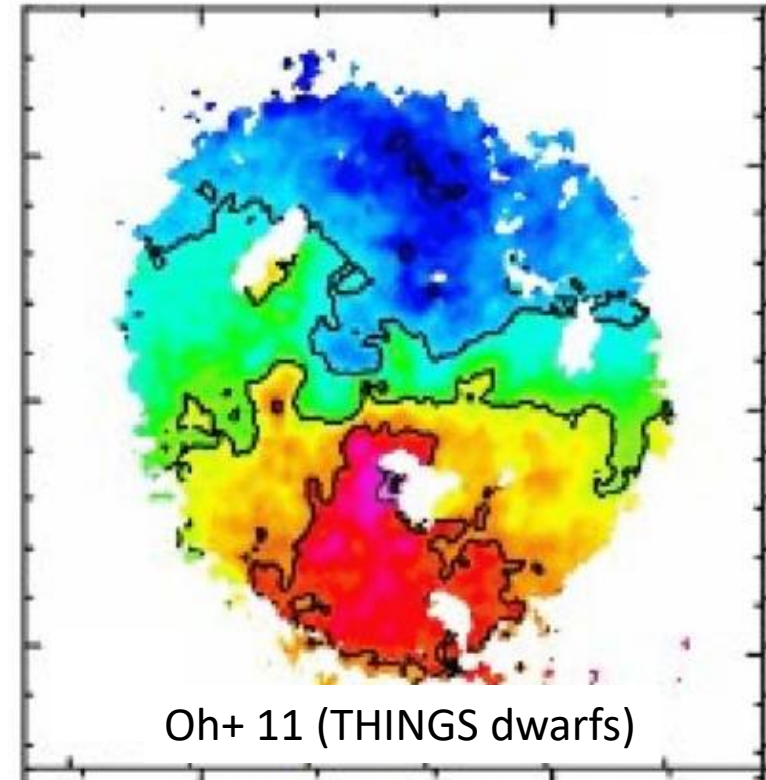
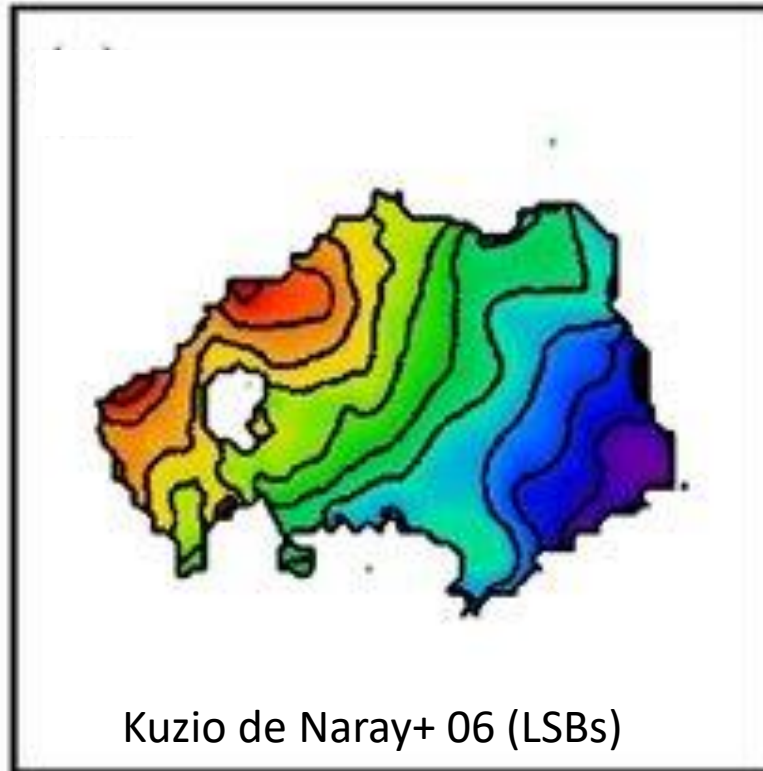


Slit width and galaxy major axis offsets systematically lower inferred  $\alpha$ ...

# The cusp/core problem

If: Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions ?

Precision rotation curves  
require velocity field (or  
data cube) models



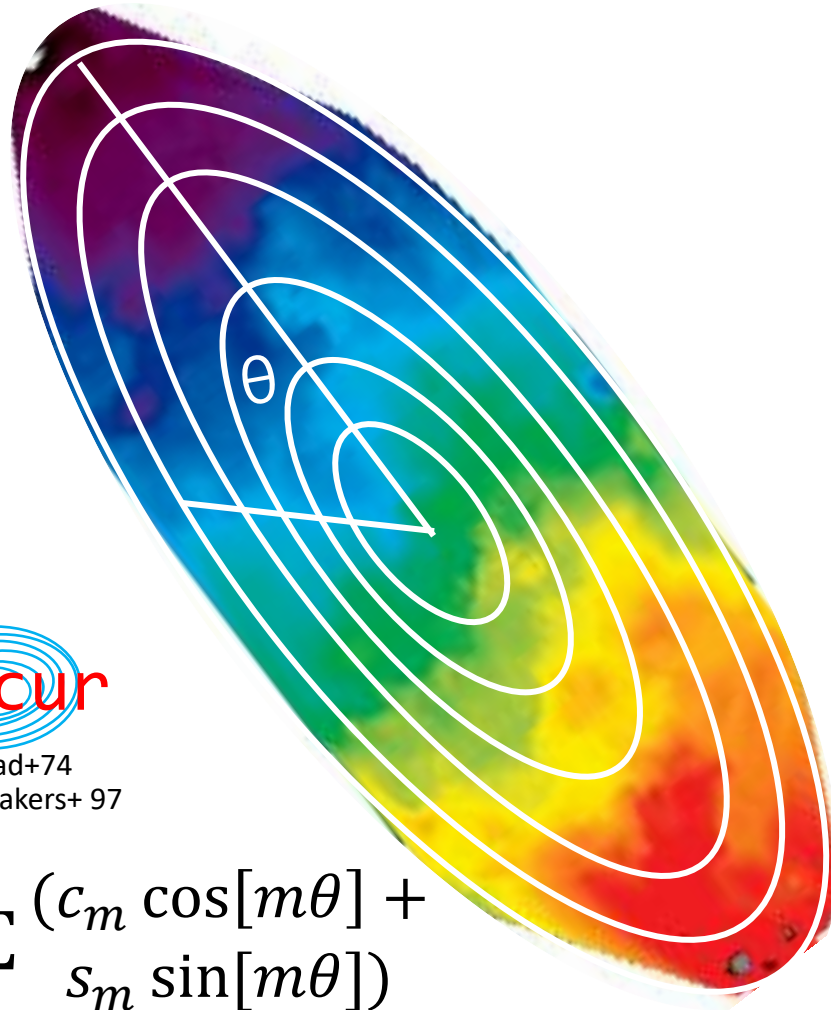
# Tilted rings and non-circular flows

KS+ Sellwod 07; Valenzuela+07,  
Sellwood+KS 15; Oman+19,  
Sellwood, KS+ 21

“Tilted  
Rings”:

Rotcur

Rogstad+74  
Schoenmakers+ 97



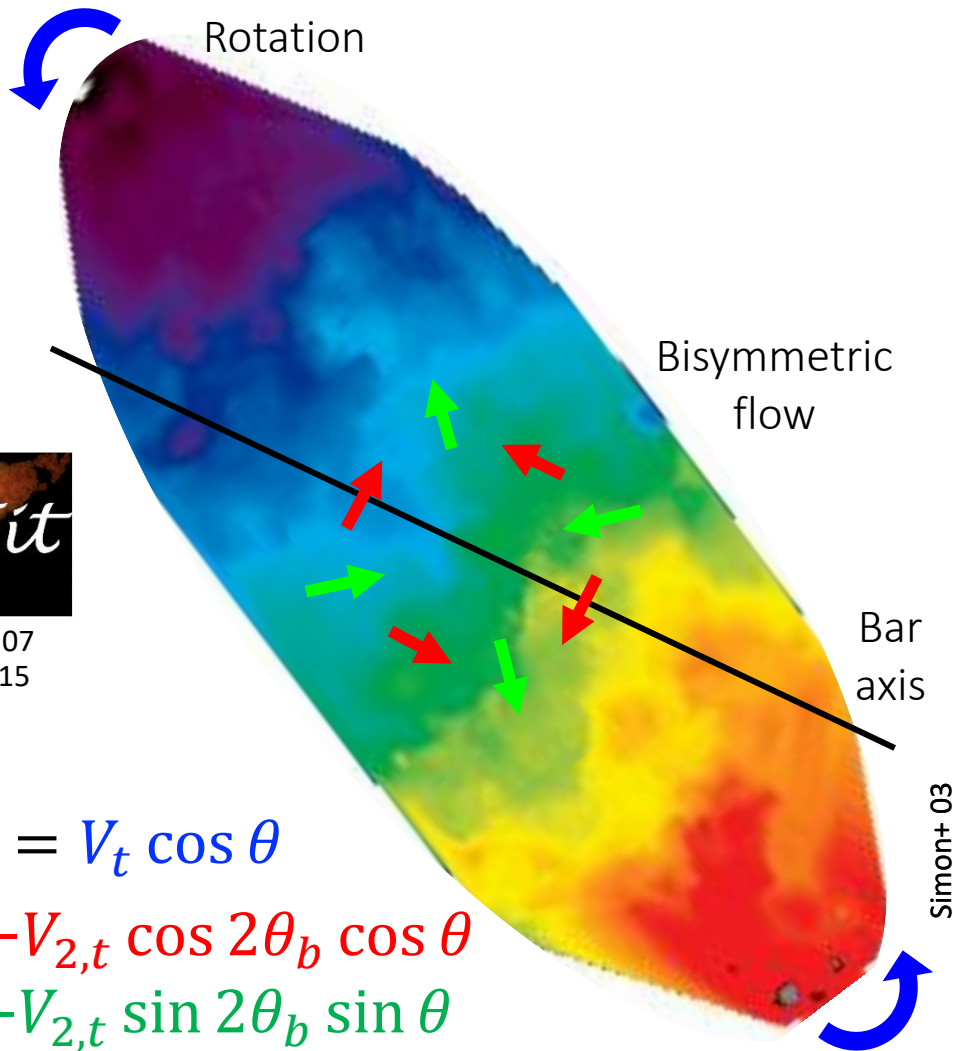
Simon+ 03

$$\frac{V - V_{sys}}{\sin i} = \sum (c_m \cos[m\theta] + s_m \sin[m\theta])$$



# Tilted rings and non-circular flows

KS+ Sellwod 07; Valenzuela+07,  
 Sellwood+KS 15; Oman+19,  
 Sellwood, KS+ 21



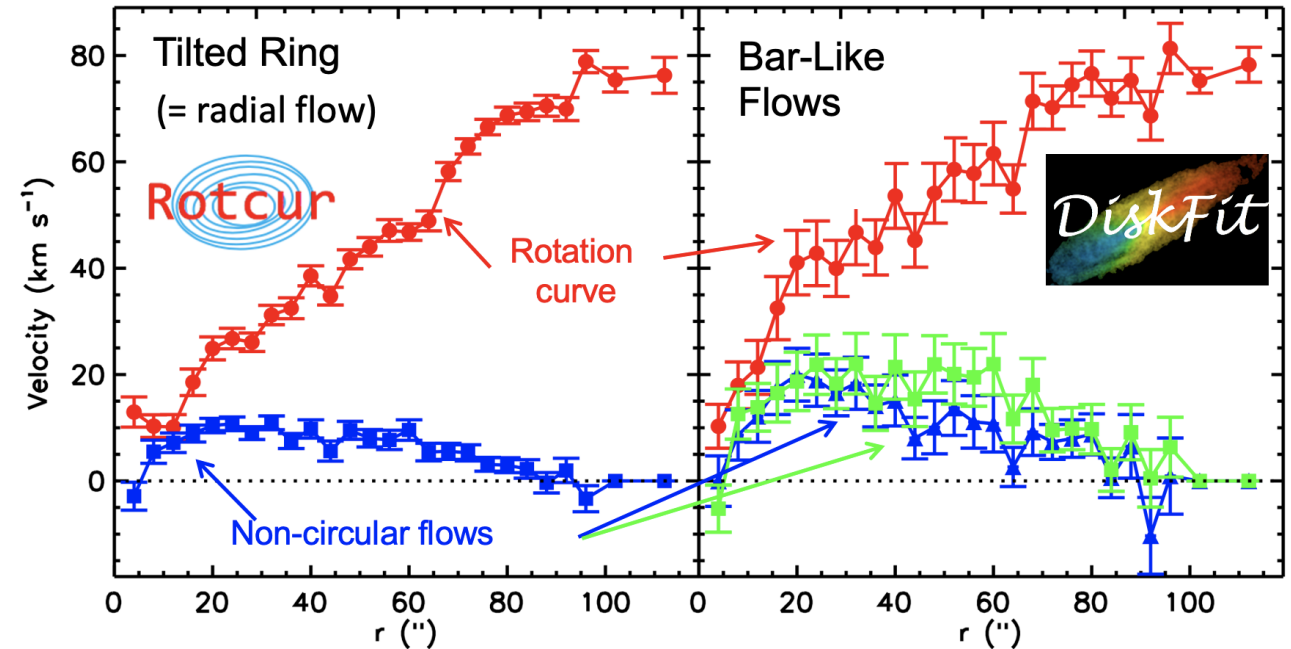
KS+ Sellwood 07  
 Sellwood+KS 15

$$\frac{V - V_{sys}}{\sin i} = V_t \cos \theta$$

$$-V_{2,t} \cos 2\theta_b \cos \theta$$

$$-V_{2,t} \sin 2\theta_b \sin \theta$$

Simon+03



How asymmetries are modelled impacts rotation curve shapes at a level that is relevant to cusp vs. core.

# The cusp/core problem

**If:** Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions ?

**And:** There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos

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# The cusp/core problem

**If:** Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions



(Velocity fields of well-behaved equilibrium disks combined with careful modelling)

**And:** There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos

**Then:** The inner disk kinematics of those galaxies should imply cusps

# The cusp/core problem

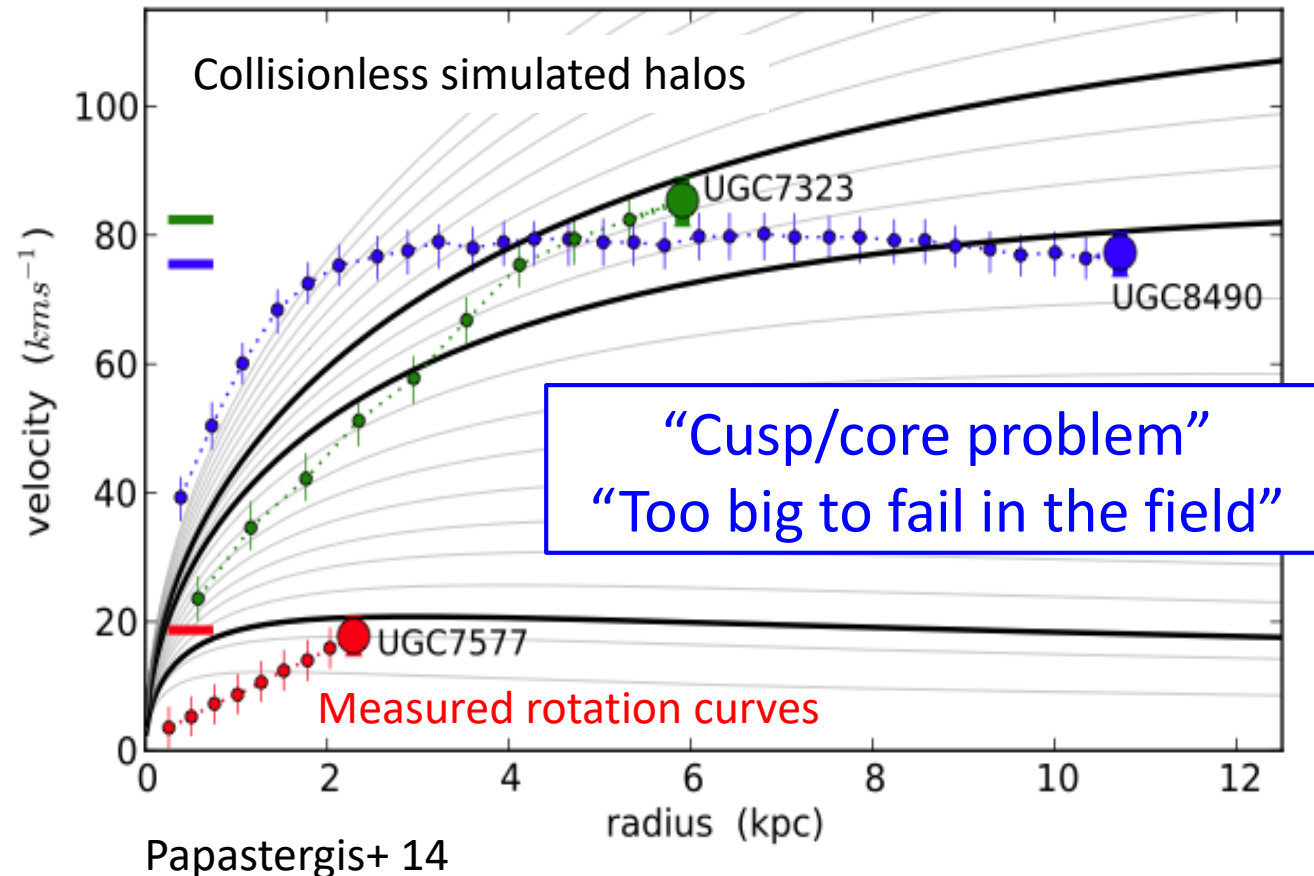
**If:** Disk galaxy kinematics probe their mass distributions

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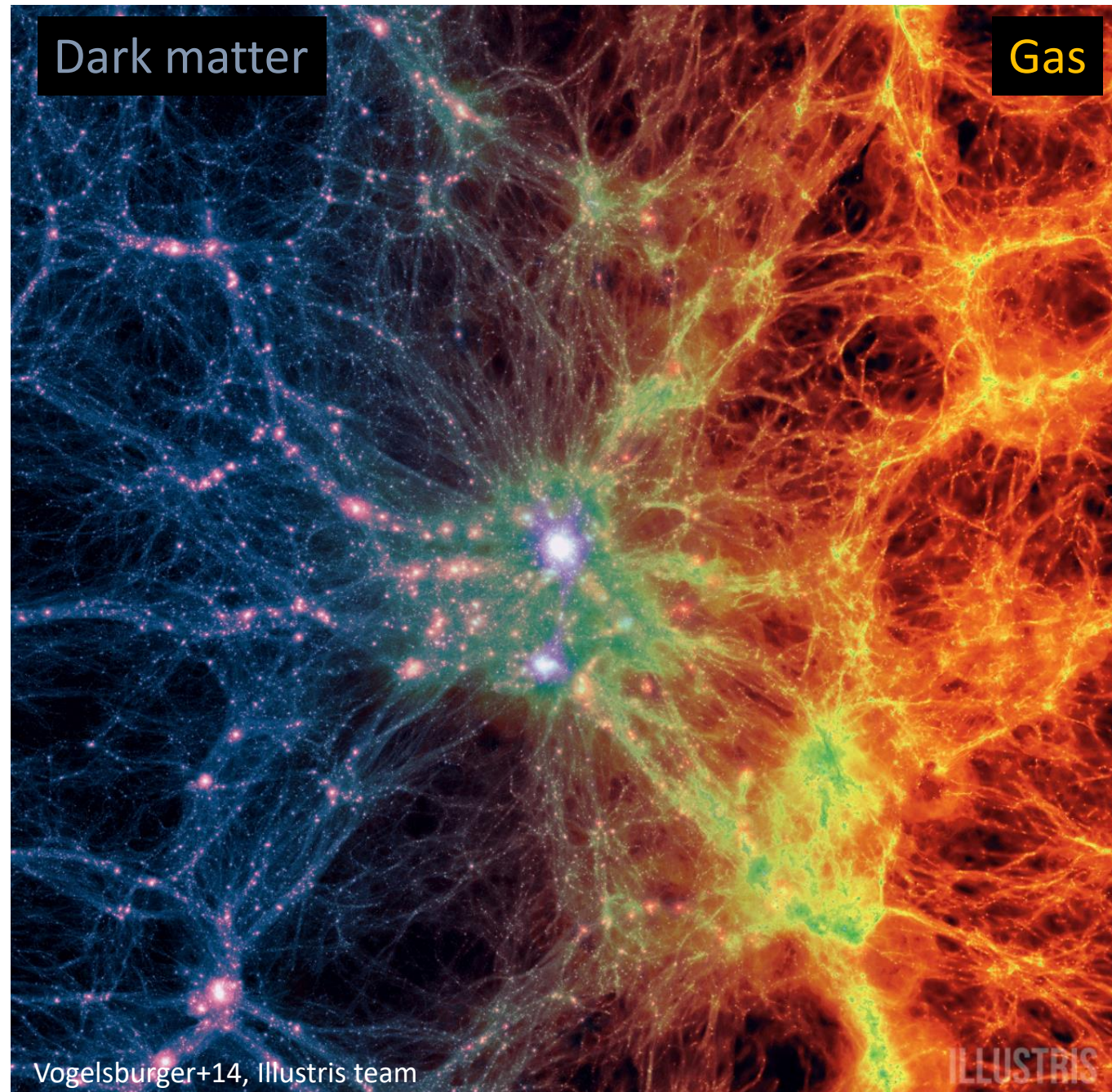


(Velocity fields of well-behaved equilibrium disks combined with careful modelling)



# Modelling baryons

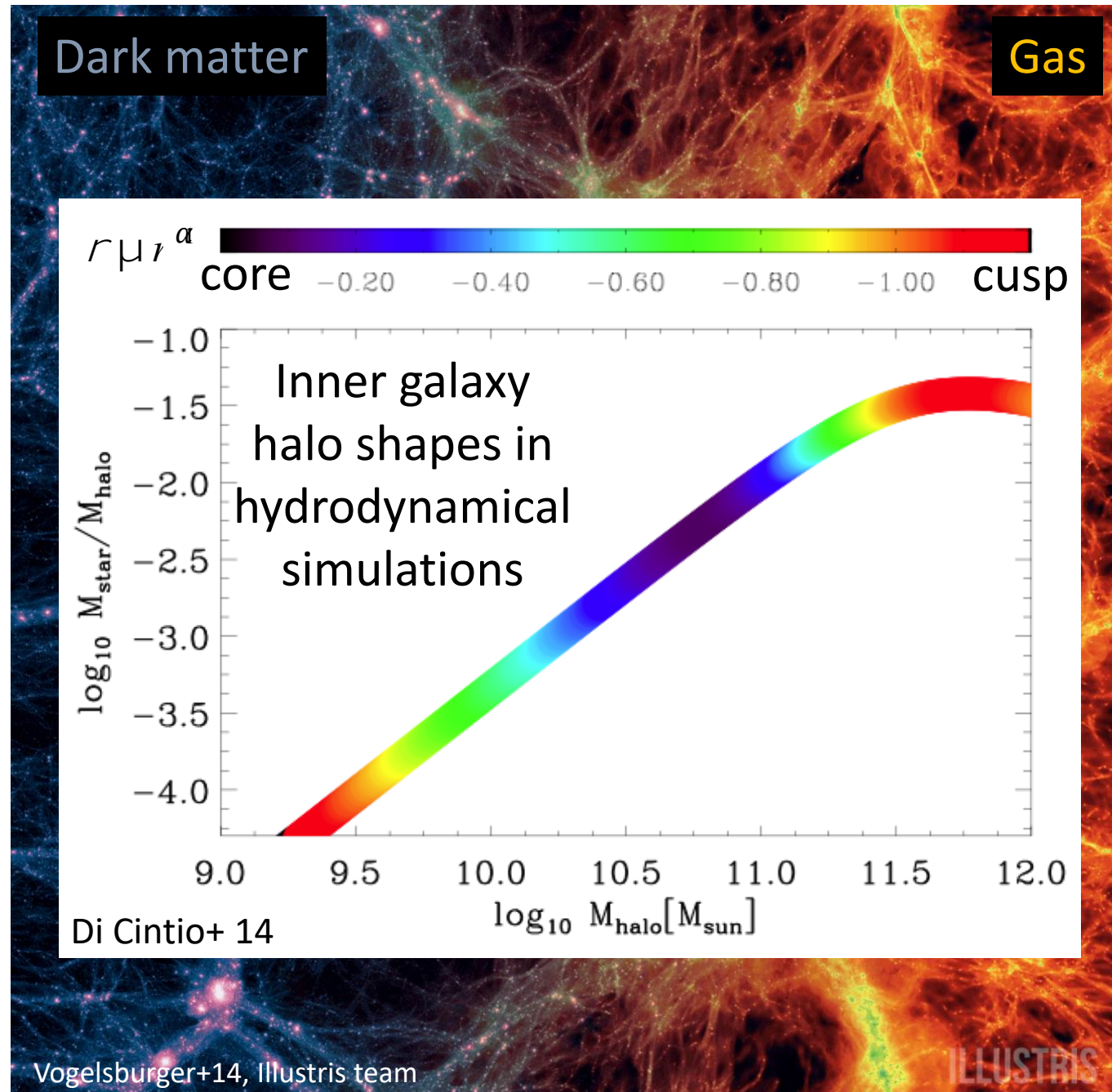
**And:** There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos



# Modelling baryons

**And:** There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos?

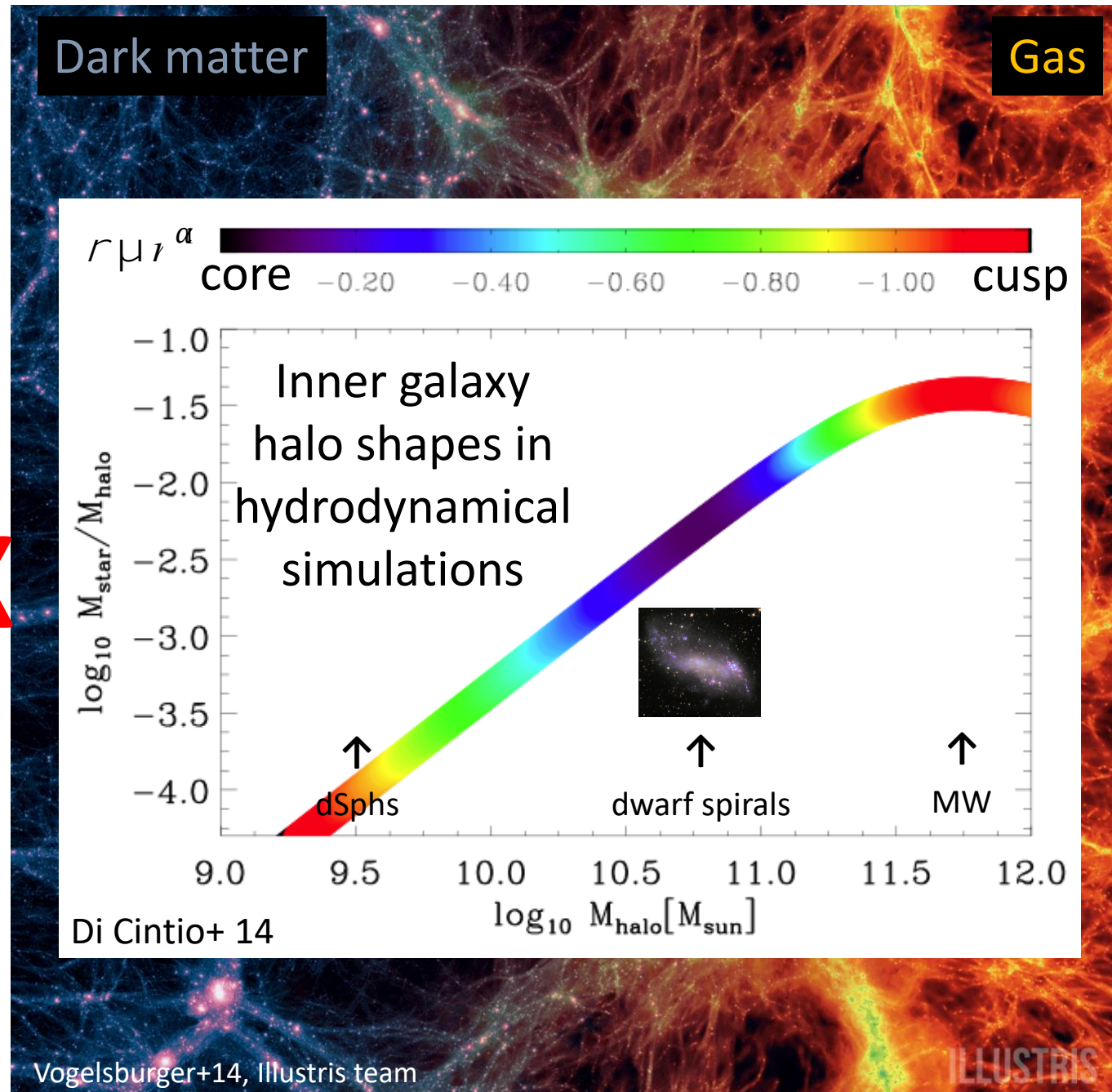
Star formation and feedback can alter dark matter halos



# Modelling baryons

And: There exists a (disk) galaxy population that formed without altering their parent halos

Star formation and feedback can alter dark matter halos



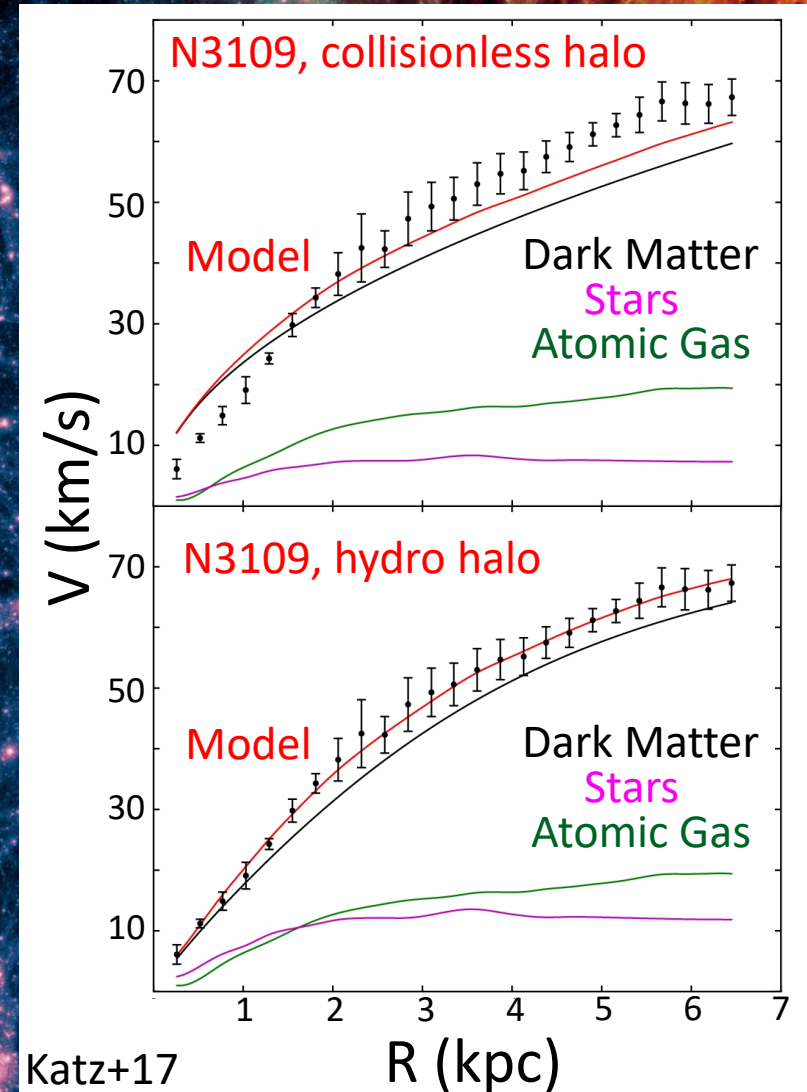
# Modelling baryons

Star formation and feedback can alter dark matter halos + inner rotation curve shapes depend on kinematic model assumptions...

Small, curated samples of high-resolution galaxy maps are unlikely to constrain dark matter models; there are no “smoking guns”.

Dark matter

Gas

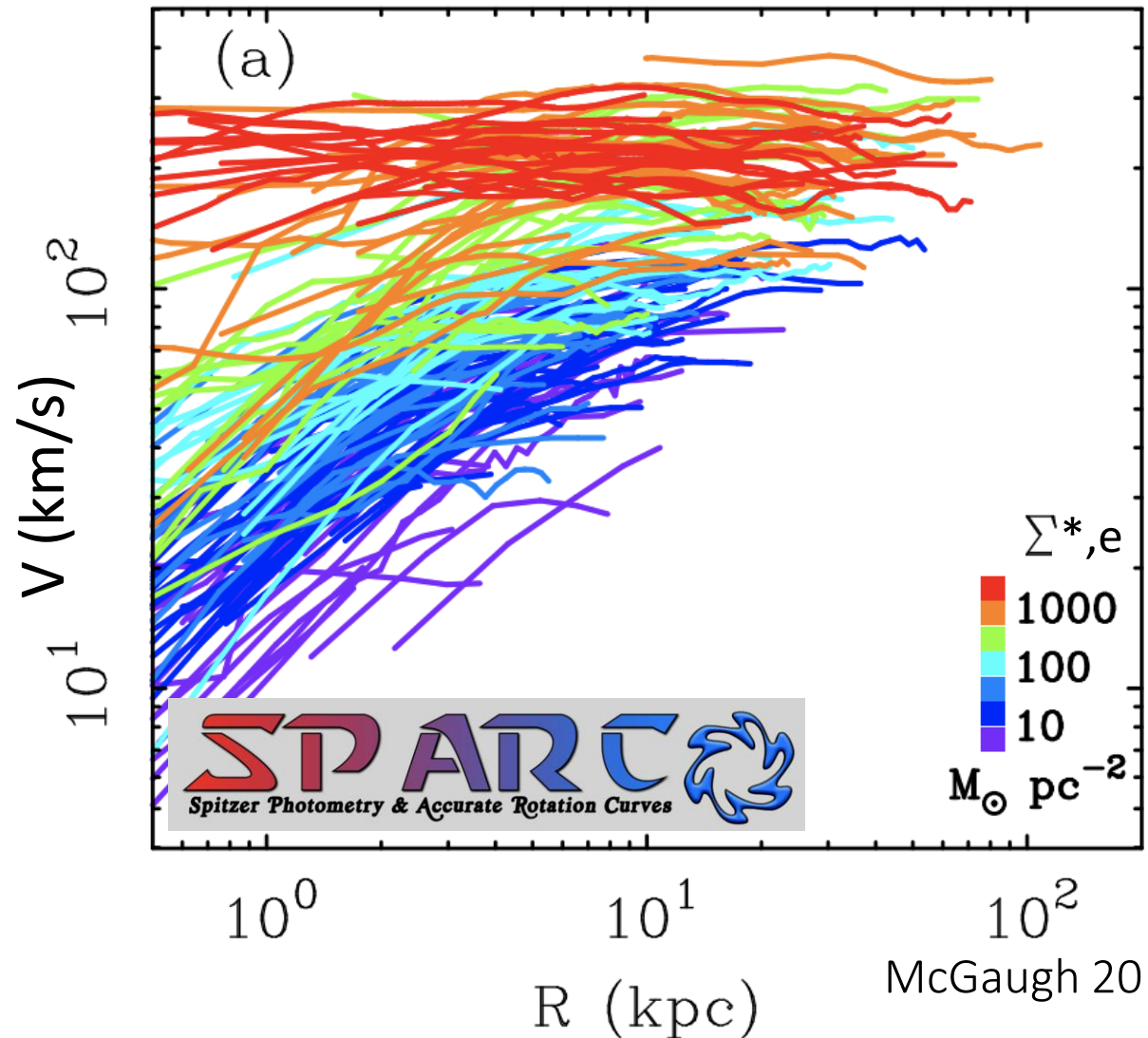


Vogelsburger+14, Illustris team

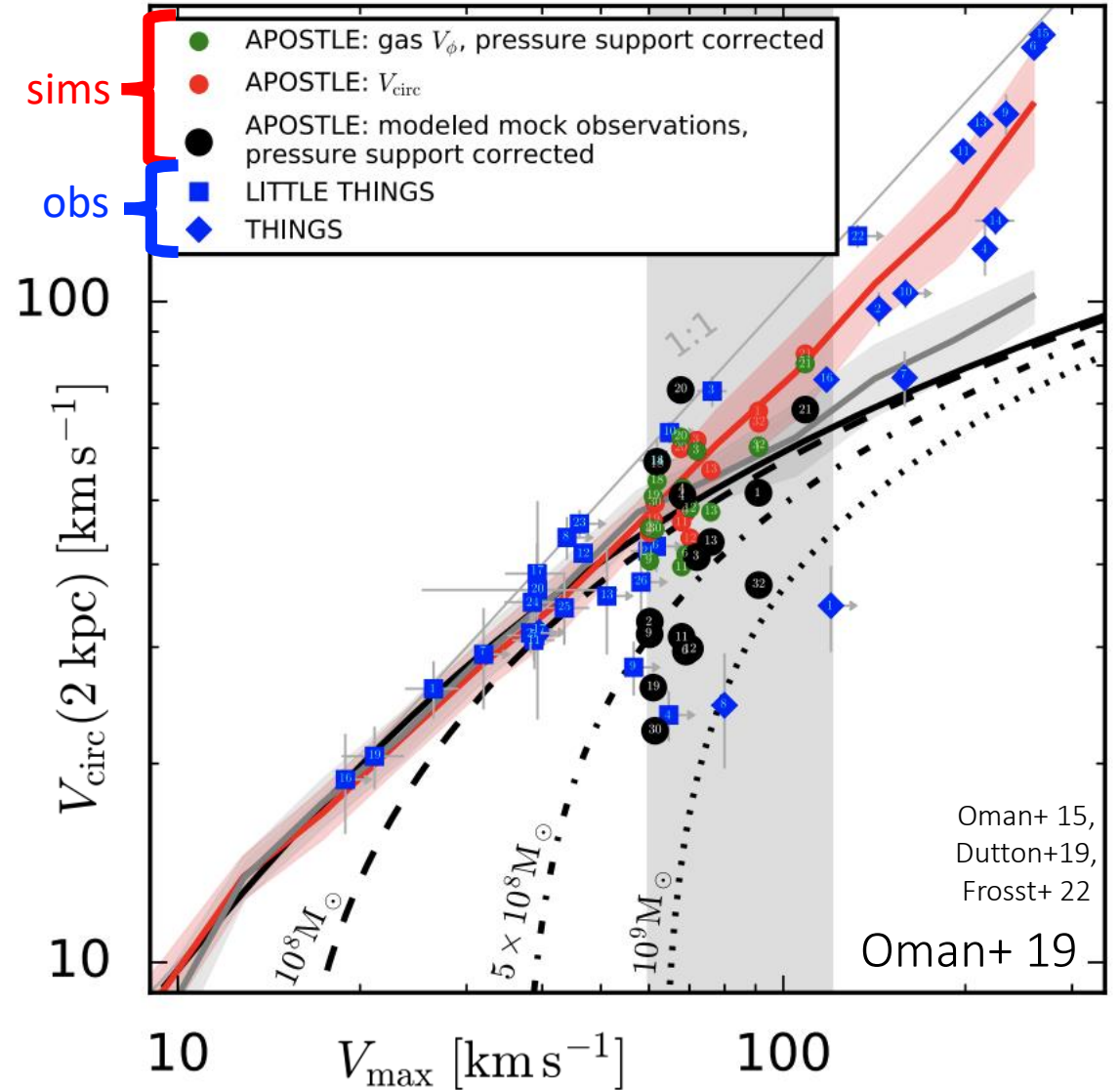
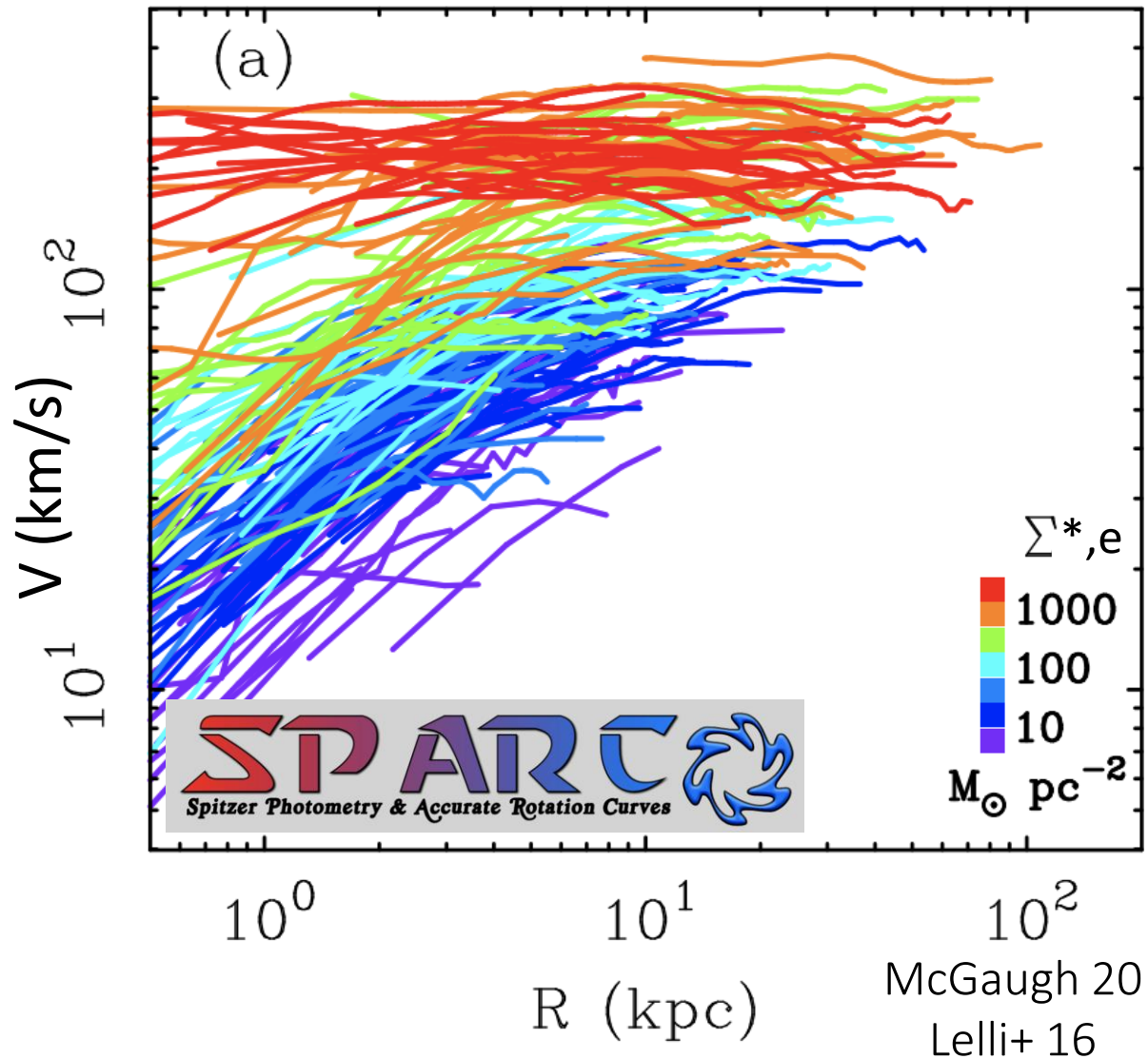
ILLUSTRIS



# Populations: RC diversity



# Populations: RC diversity



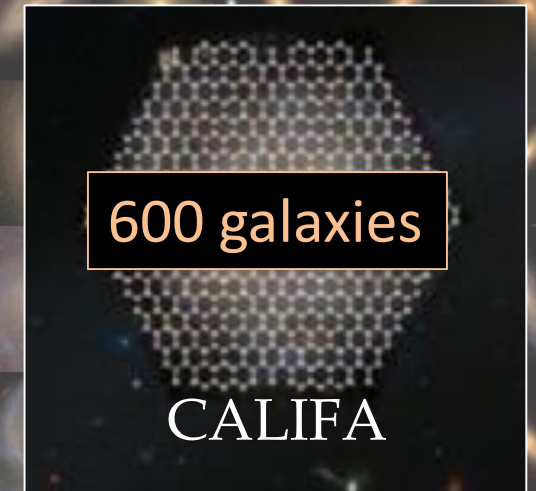
Why are rotation curve shapes in real galaxies more varied than in cosmological simulations?

# Population studies

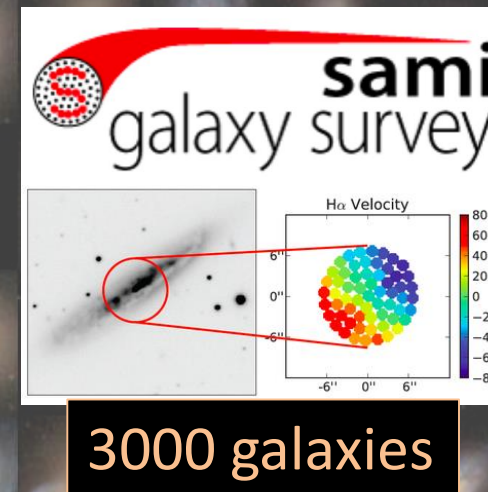
What are the statistics of disk galaxy structure, and how do they compare with cosmological predictions?



Koribalski+ 20



Sanchez+ 16



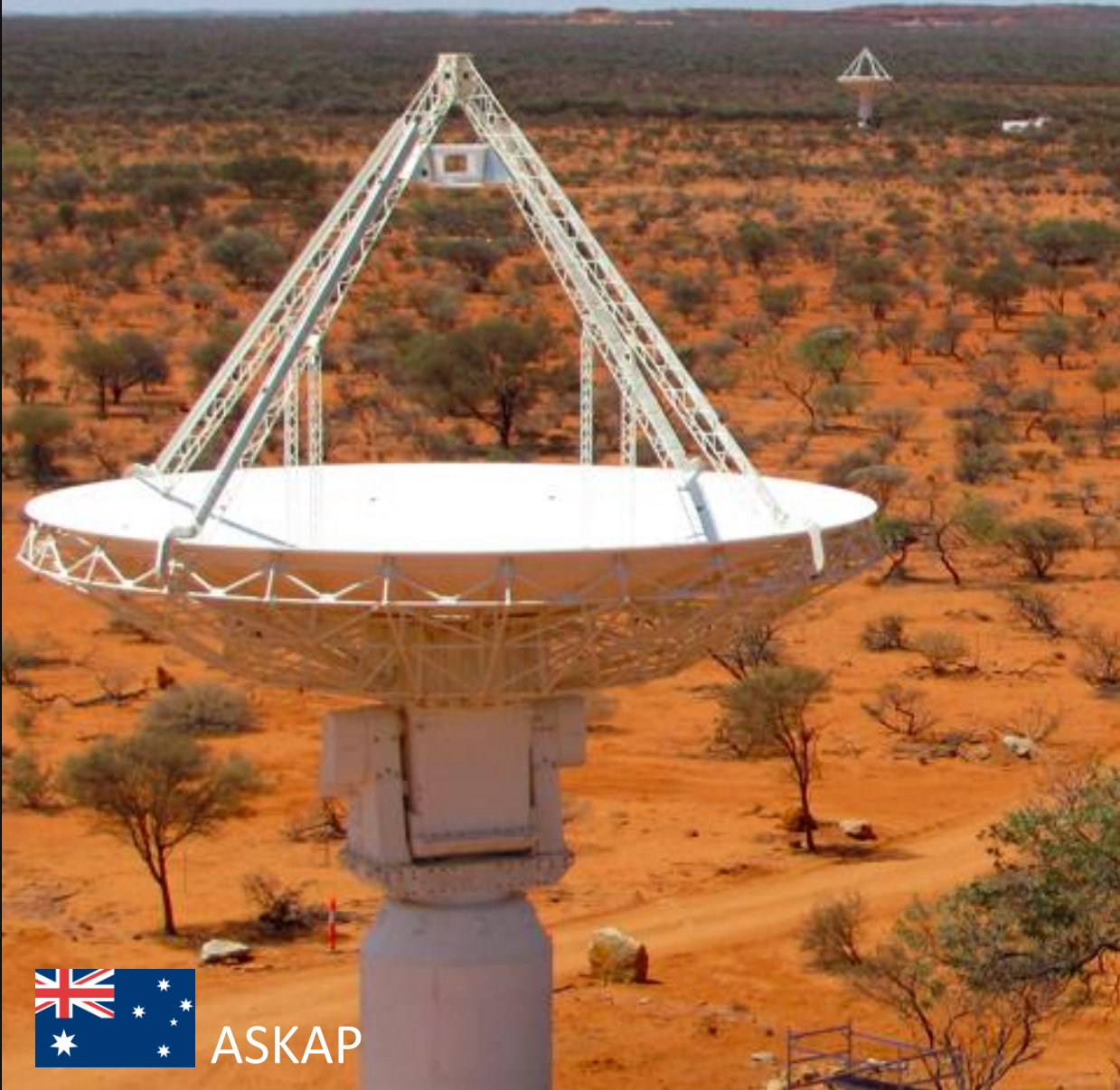
Croom+ 21



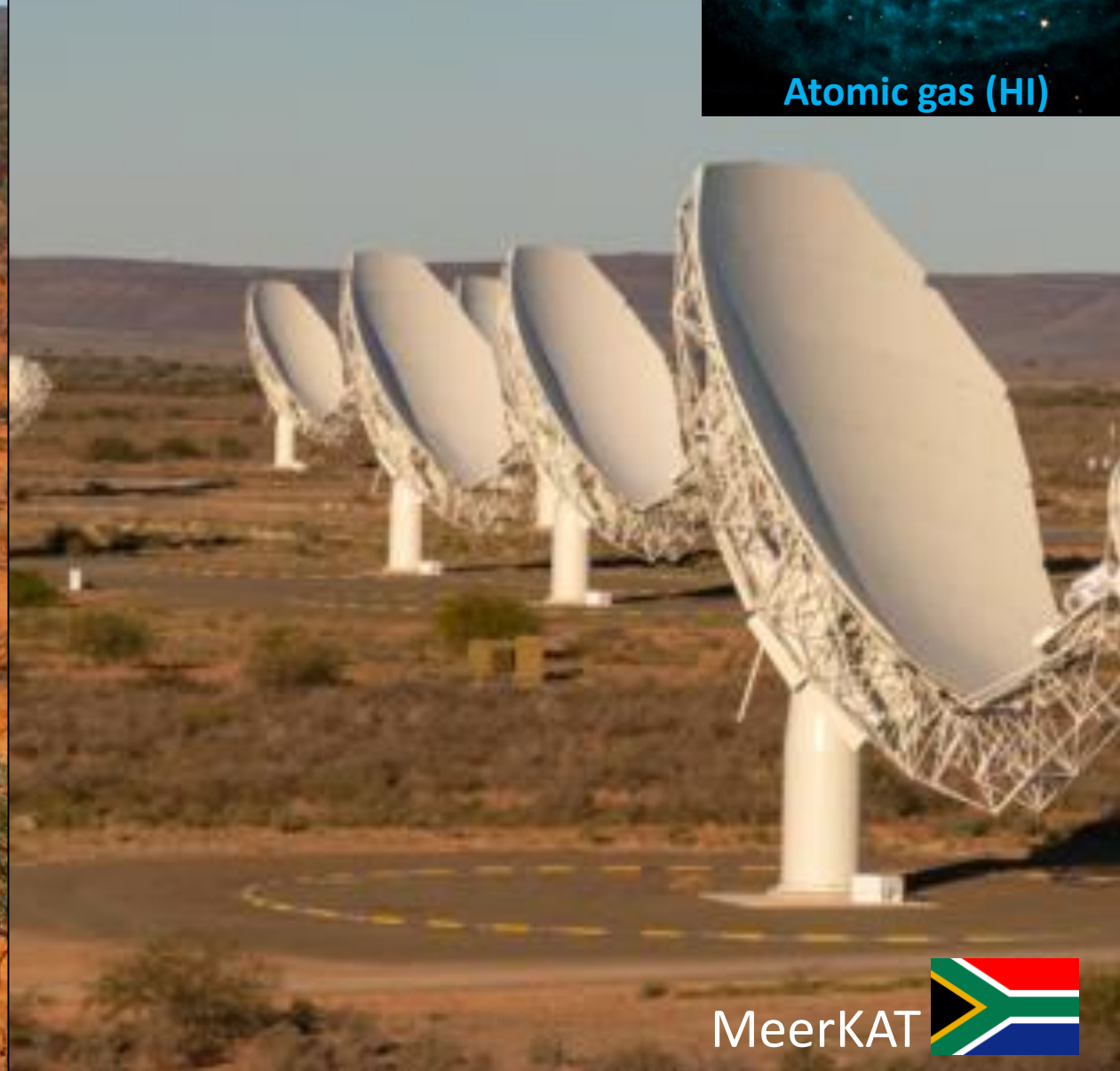
Abdurro'uf+ 22

# Next-generation radio facilities: ASKAP + MeerKAT

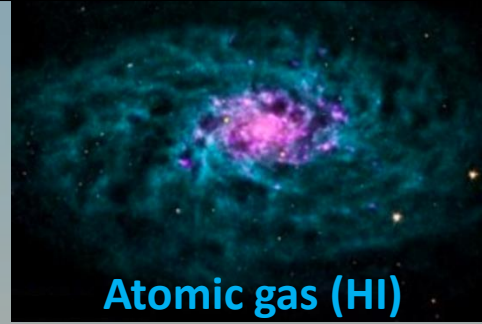
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ASKAP

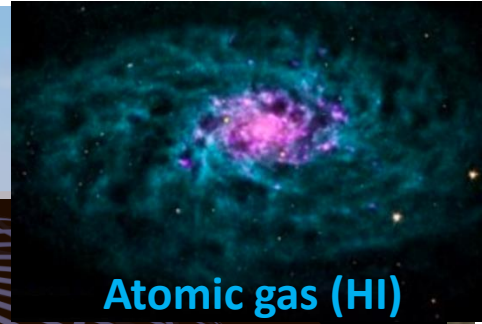
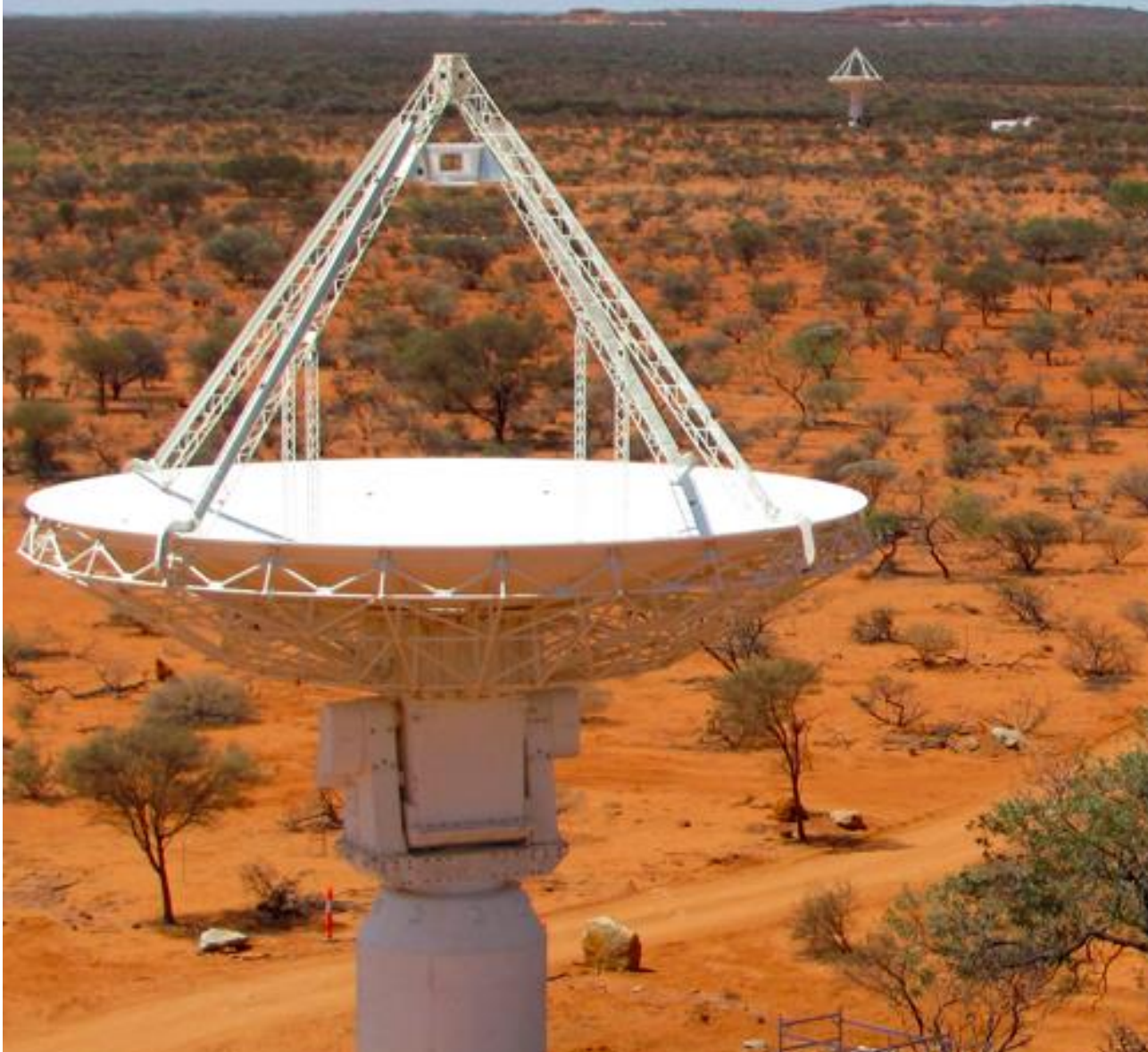


MeerKAT



Atomic gas (HI)

# Resolving HI disks with WALLABY on ASKAP



Atomic gas (HI)

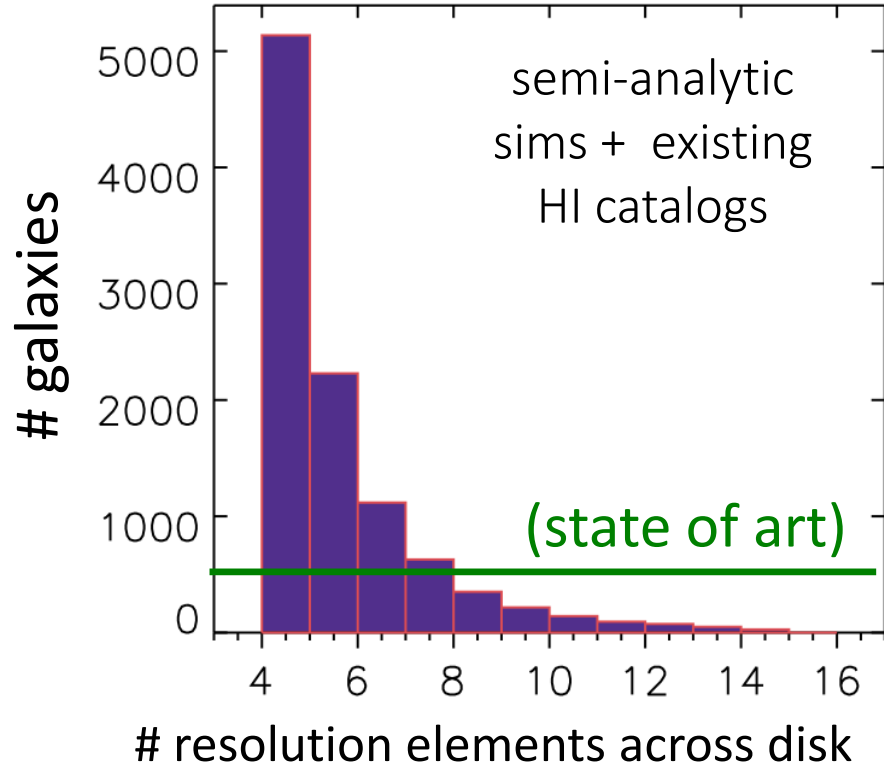
**WALLABY**

Koribalski+ 20

Southern hemisphere HI survey,  
30" + 5km/s resolution

The WALLABY logo is centered on a black background with a blue grid pattern. It features a globe, several white stars, and a white outline of a radio telescope. The text "WALLABY" is in large white letters, and "Koribalski+ 20" is in smaller white letters below it. Below the logo, the text "Southern hemisphere HI survey, 30" + 5km/s resolution" is written in white.

# Resolving HI disks with WALLABY on ASKAP



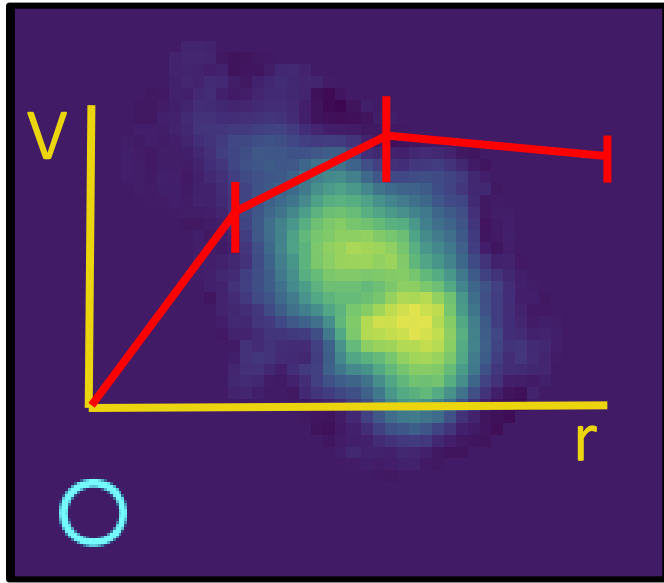
Wallaby will spatially resolve  
>10,000 HI disks.

**Statistics! Selection function!**

**WALLABY**

Pilot surveys nearing completion  
and producing beautiful data!

# Resolving HI disks with WALLABY on ASKAP



3D models are required to extract physical structure such as rotation curve and disk geometry.

Rogstad 74; Bosma 78; Begeman 87; Sicking 97; Jozsa+ 07;  
Spekkens+Sellwood 07; Kamphuis+ 15, Bekiaris+ 16; di  
Teodoro+Fraternali 15; Davies+ 17; Oh+ 19; Varidel+19; Deg+22

**WALLABY**

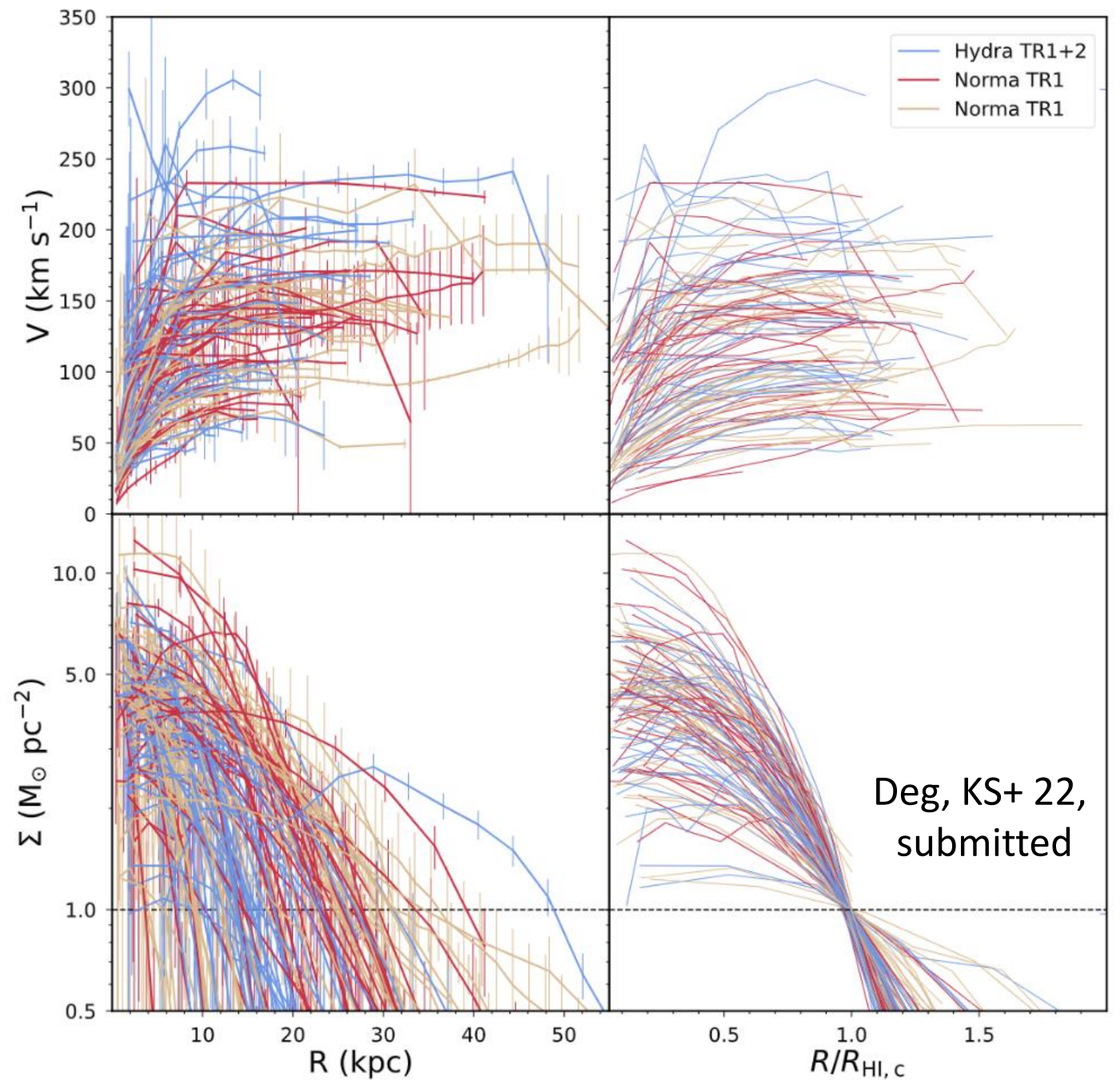
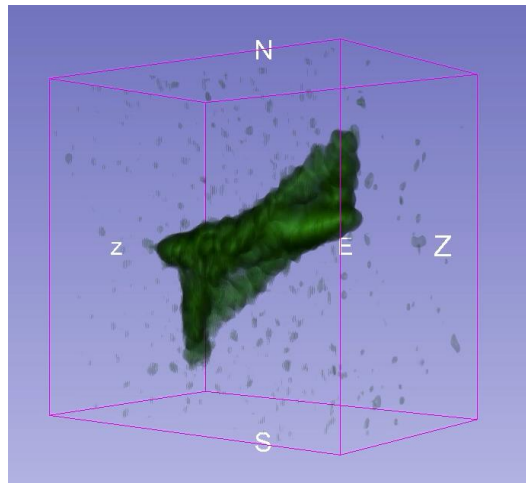
Pilot surveys nearing completion  
and producing beautiful data!

# Towards populations of resolved disks

~100 homogeneously-modelled, blindly-detected objects...

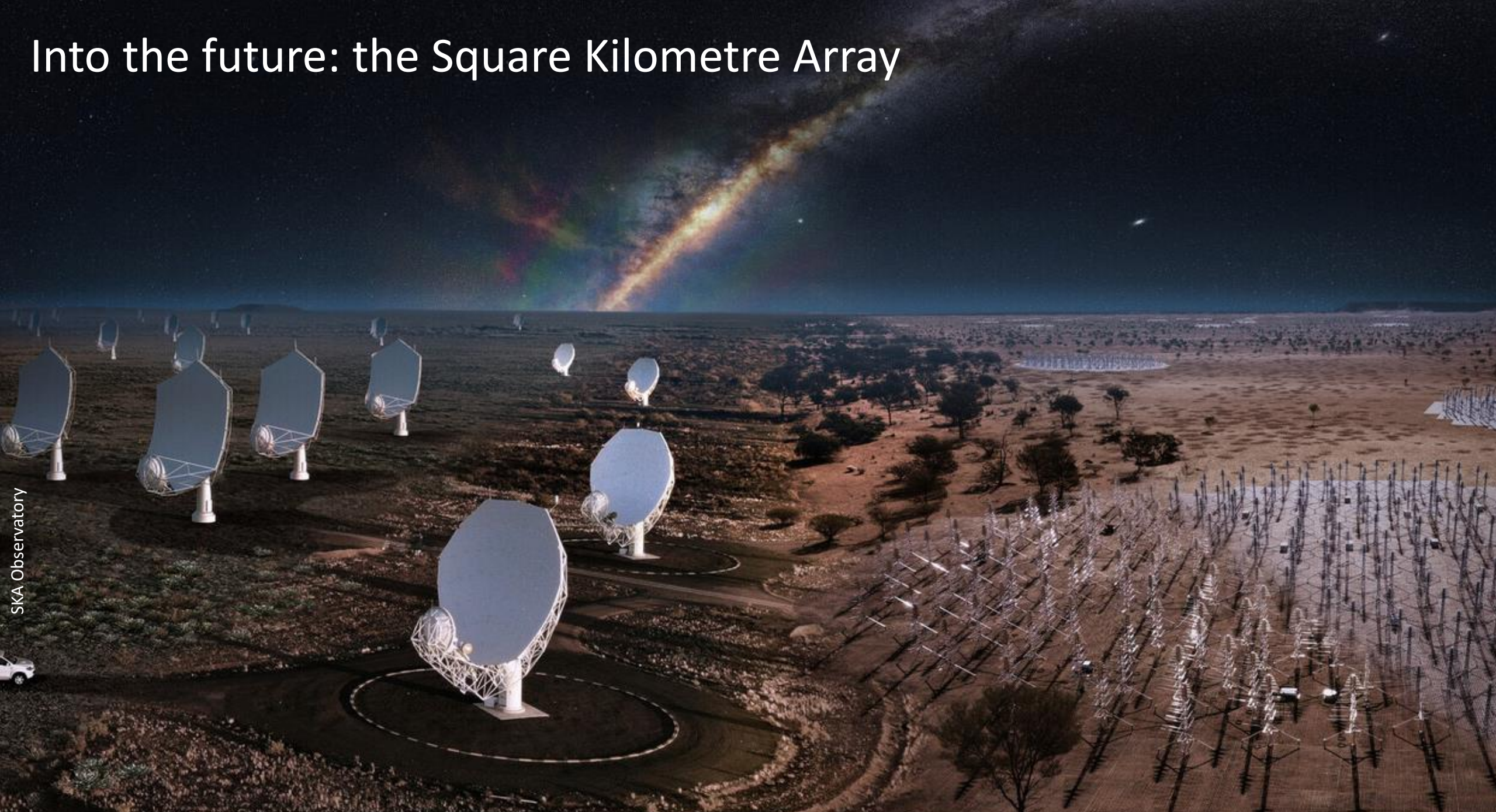


...and some interesting failures





# Into the future: the Square Kilometre Array

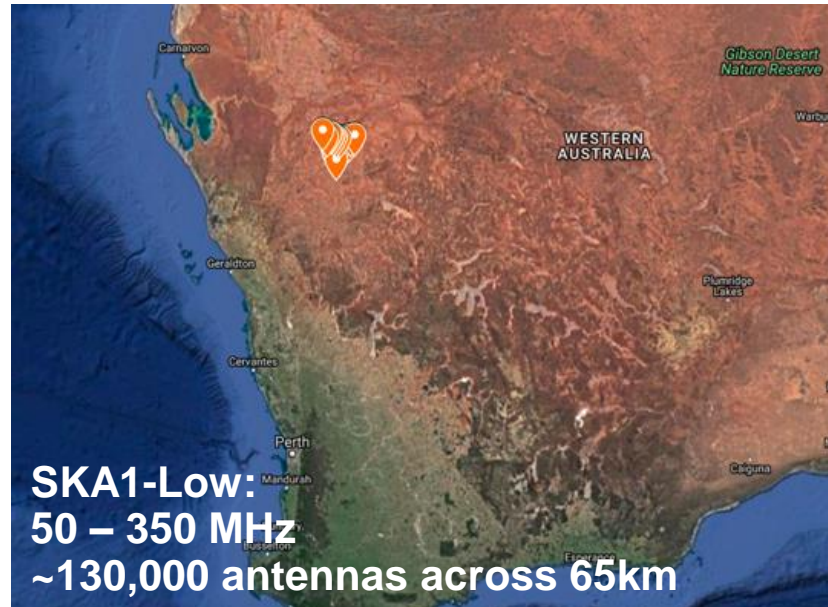


SKA Observatory

# The SKA

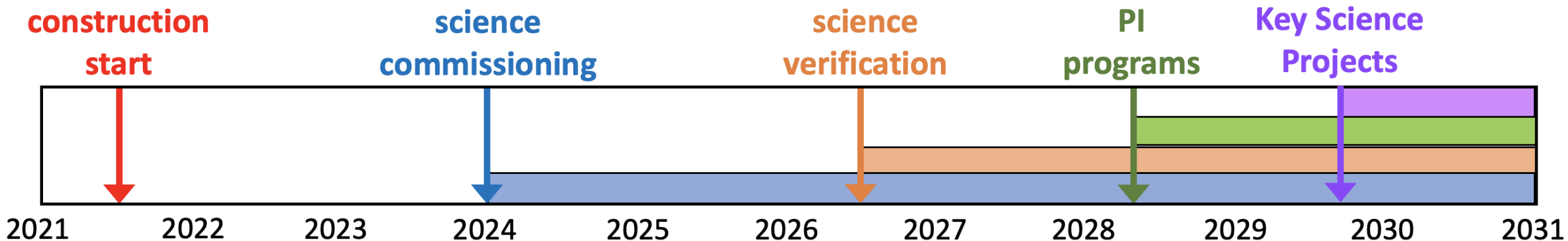
- SKA-Mid in South Africa
- SKA-Low in Australia
- Headquarters in the UK

16 partner countries in the SKA Observatory (\*=Member States):



world's largest radio telescope

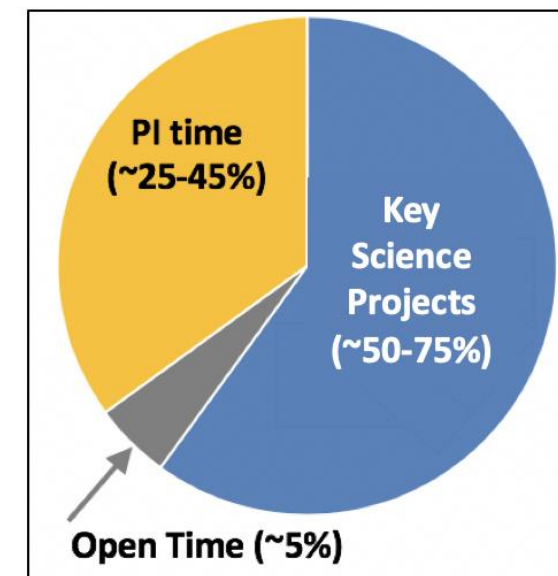
# SKA timeline



SKA construction is underway.

First data in 2024.

Scientifically-competitive facilities by 2026.



# Broader impacts from the SKA

The broader impacts expected from the SKA are structured around the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

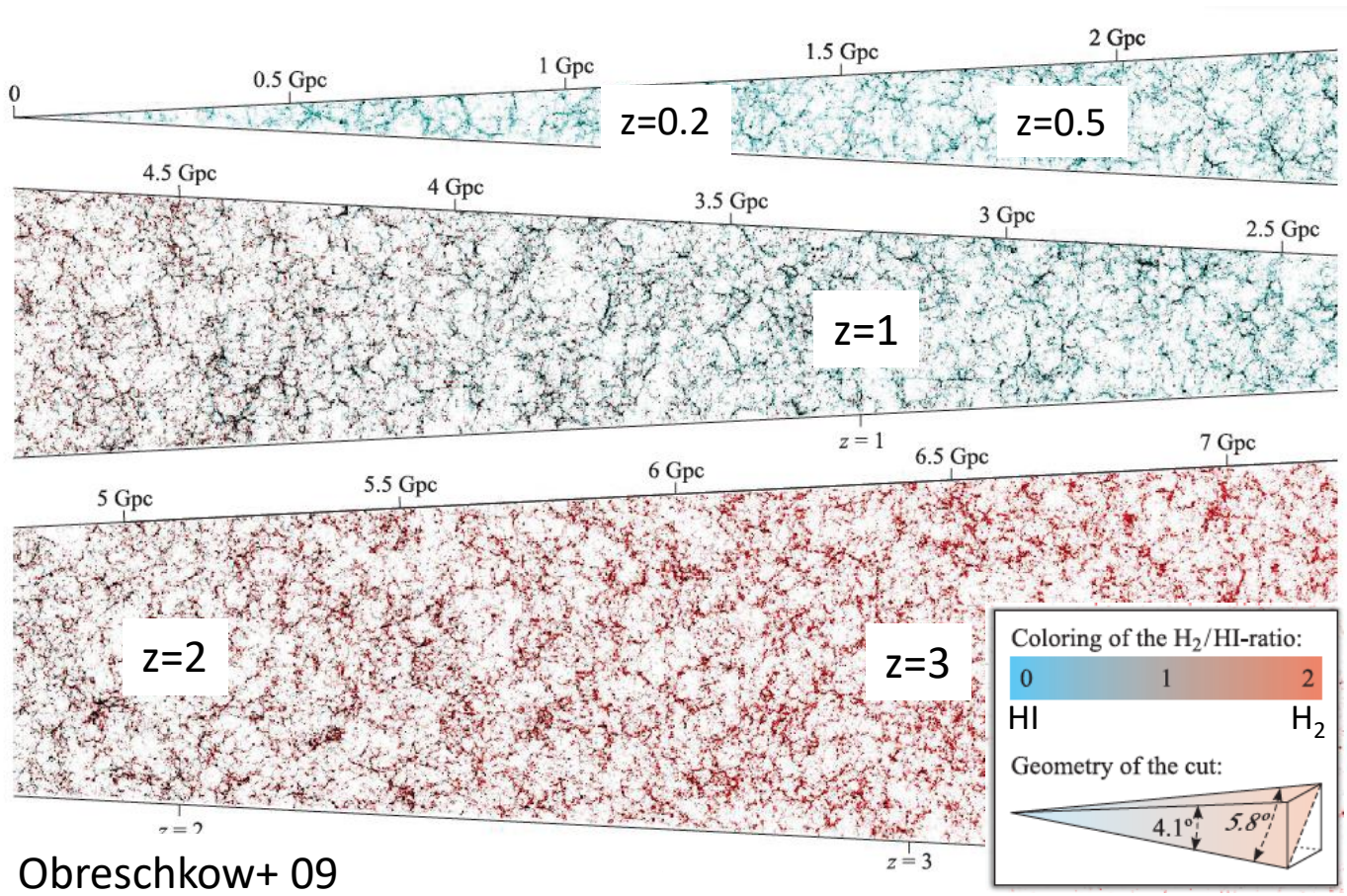
## Our vision

*"The SKAO is one observatory, with two telescopes, on three continents; a 21st century observatory and an inter-governmental organisation with sustainability and respect to all our communities at its heart, driven by a commitment to fundamental science and technology."*



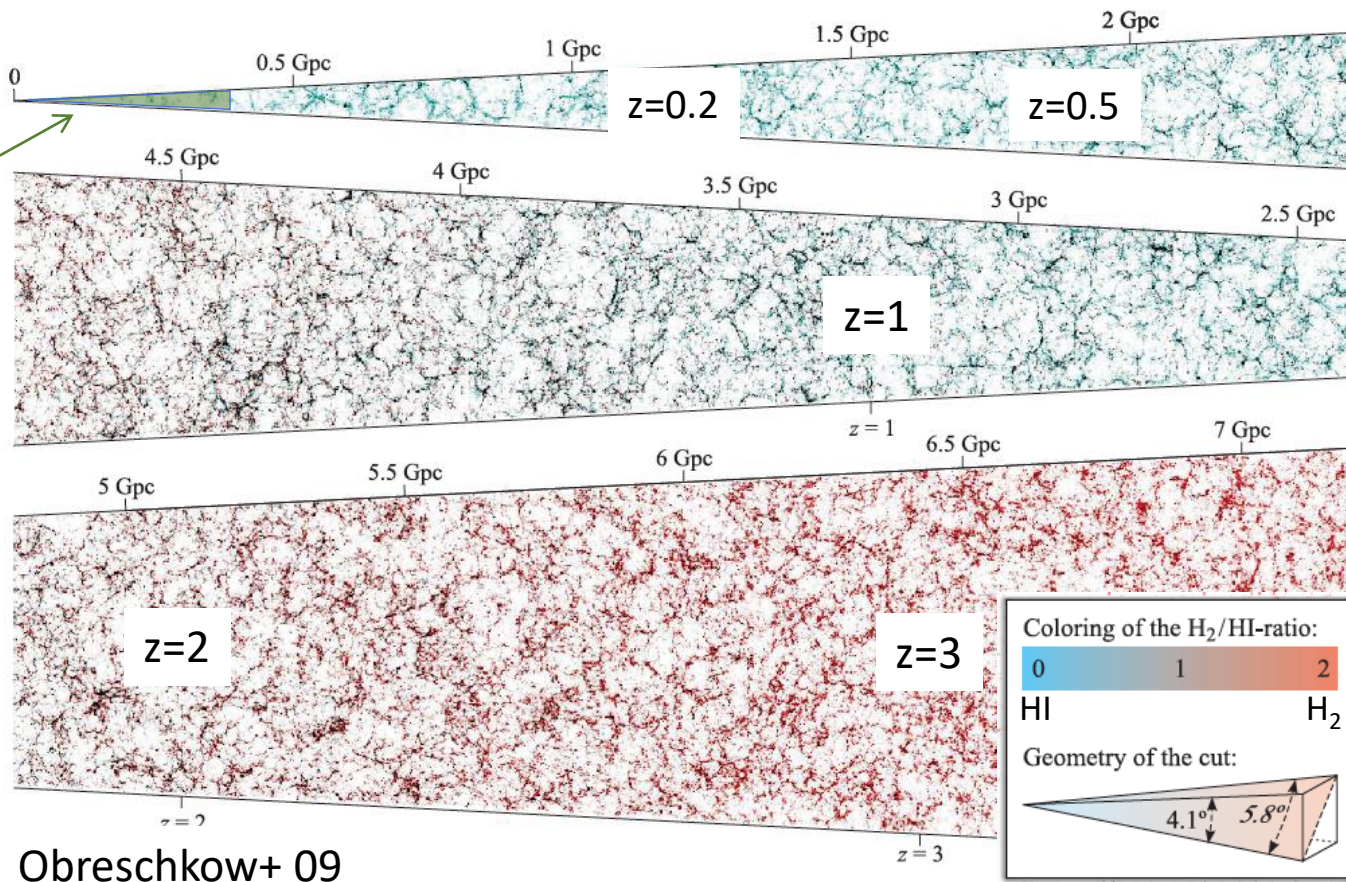
<https://www.skatelescope.org/news/skao-publishes-construction-proposal/>

# Into the future: resolving galaxies with the SKA



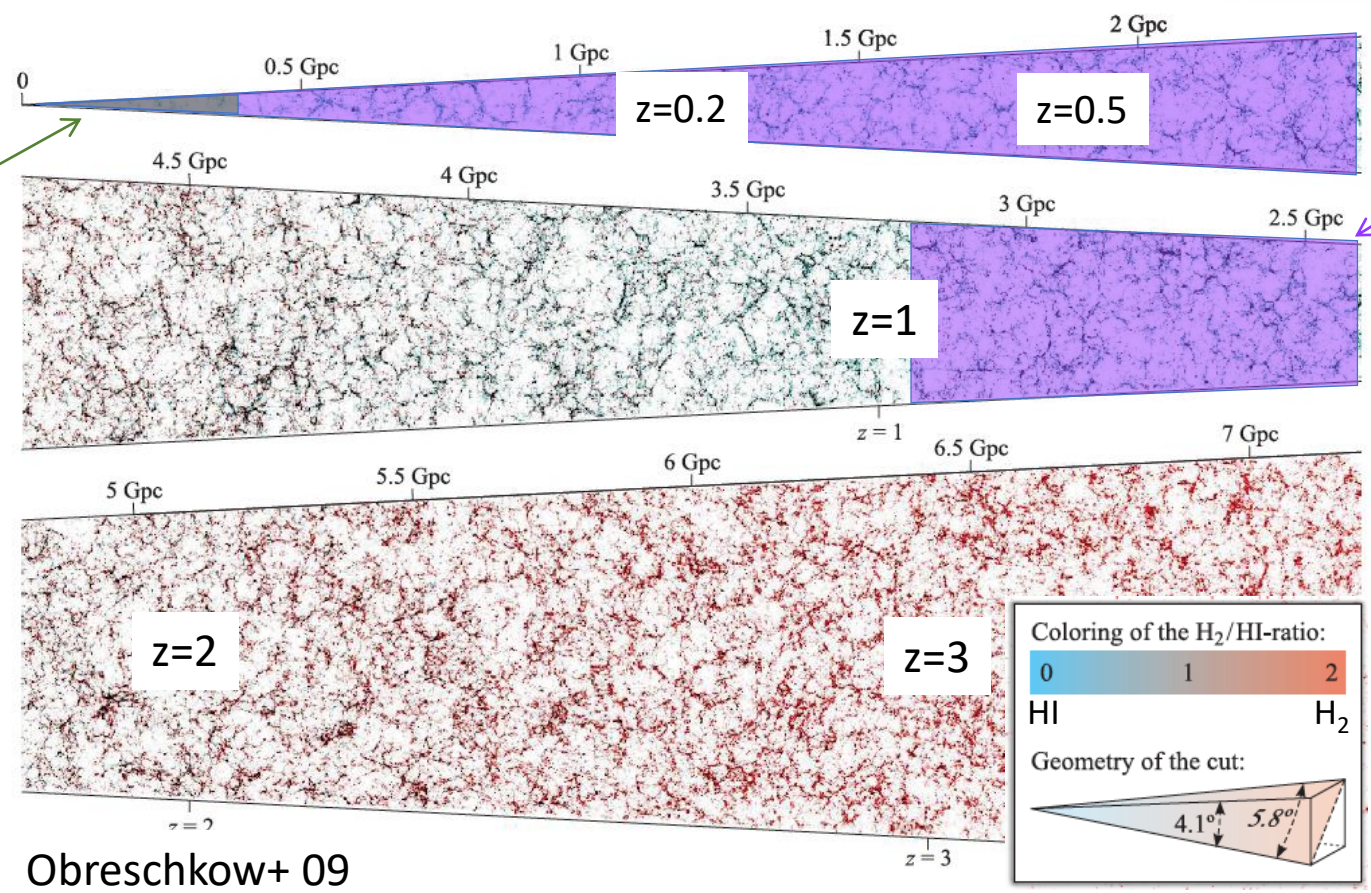
# Into the future: resolving galaxies with the SKA

State of the art + SKA pathfinders, spatially resolved individual detections



# Into the future: resolving galaxies with the SKA

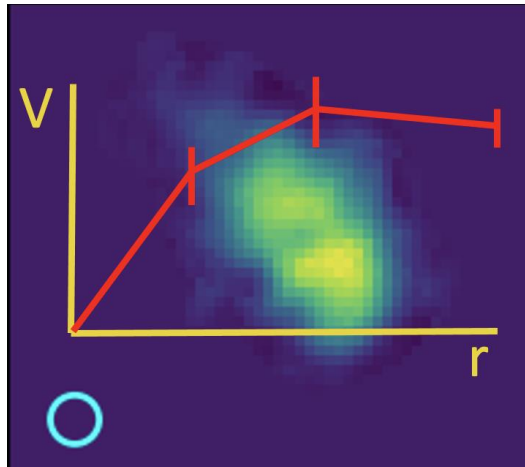
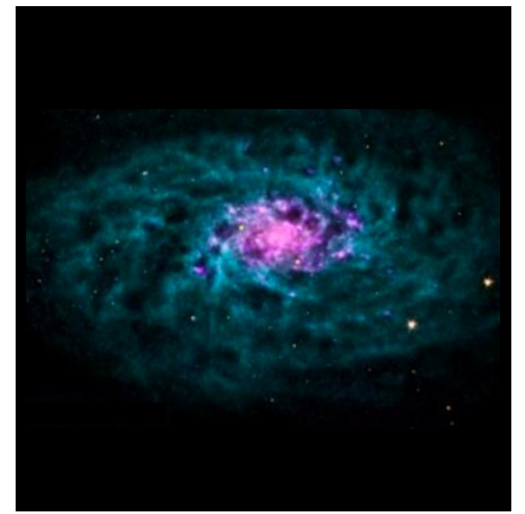
State of the art + SKA pathfinders, spatially resolved individual detections



SKA HI, spatially resolved individual detections

Key Science: buildup of galaxy mass/angular momentum across cosmic time

The kinematics of nearby disk galaxies can measure inner dark matter halo structure. The state of the art is population-wide studies.



WALLABY on ASKAP (along with other widefield surveys) is producing the first statistical samples of rotation curves to compare with simulations.

When complete in late 2028, the SKA will map nearby galaxies with detail and depth, probing both deeper into the halo and across cosmic time.

