

# Supercomputer Simulations of Galaxy Formation

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**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR ASTROPHYSICS

Physics Colloquium  
CERN  
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# Supercomputer Simulations of Galaxy Formation

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- **Dark matter structures on different scales**
- **Cosmological hydrodynamical simulations of galaxy formation**
- **The importance of supermassive black holes for galaxy formation**
- **Magnetic fields and cosmic rays**



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Astronomical Seminar  
Joint University of Geneva – EPFL Colloquium  
Nov 16, 2021

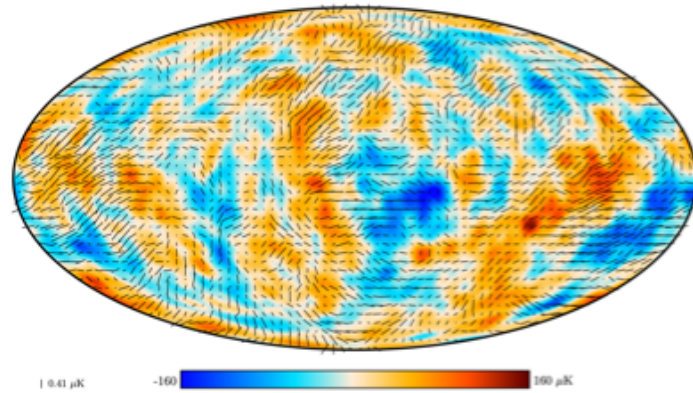
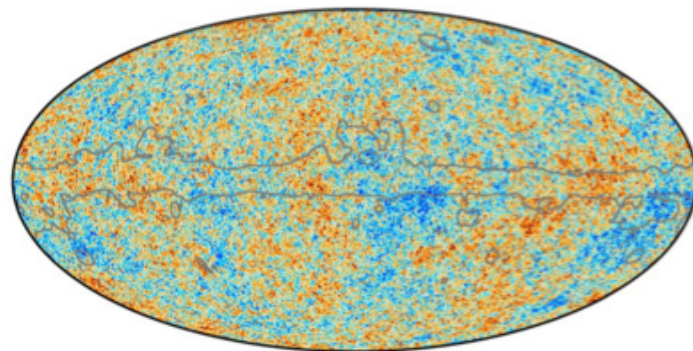
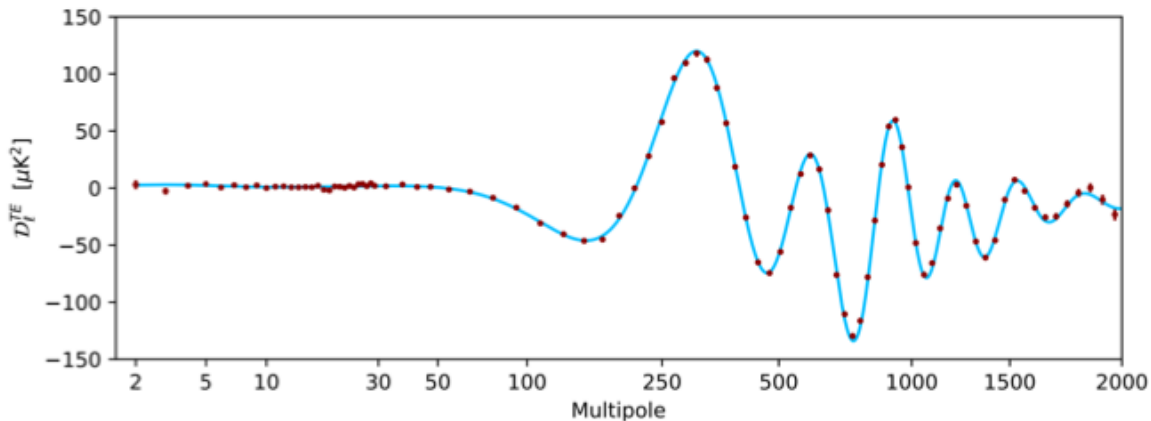
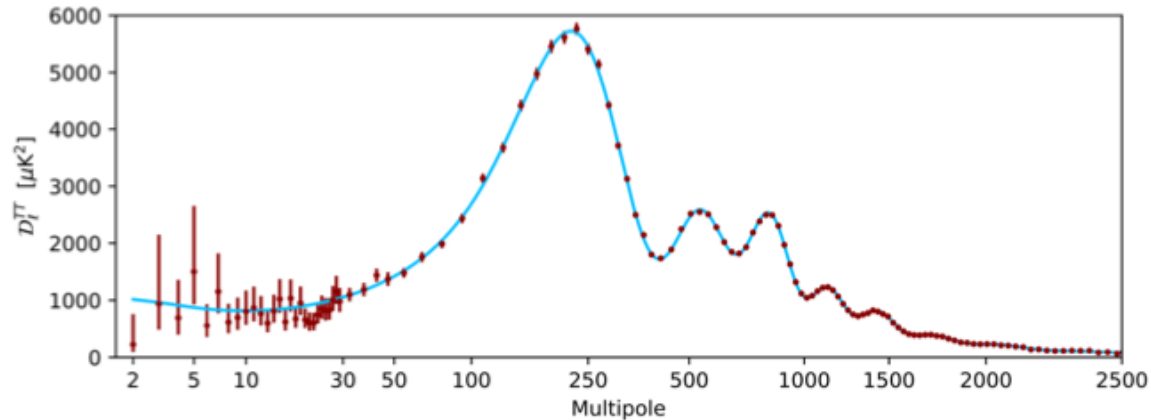


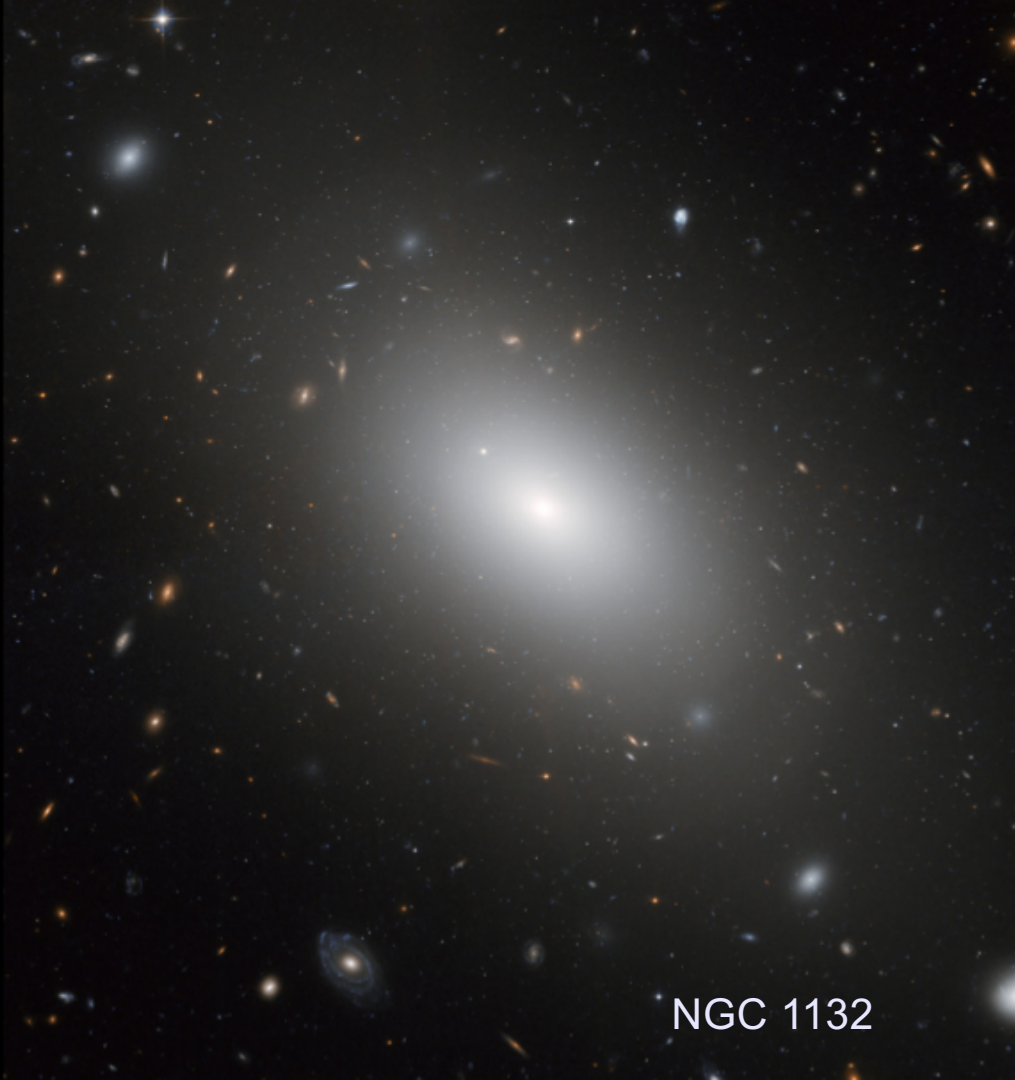
# Amazing observational progress has specified the initial conditions

COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND CONSTRAINTS AS SEEN BY PLANCK

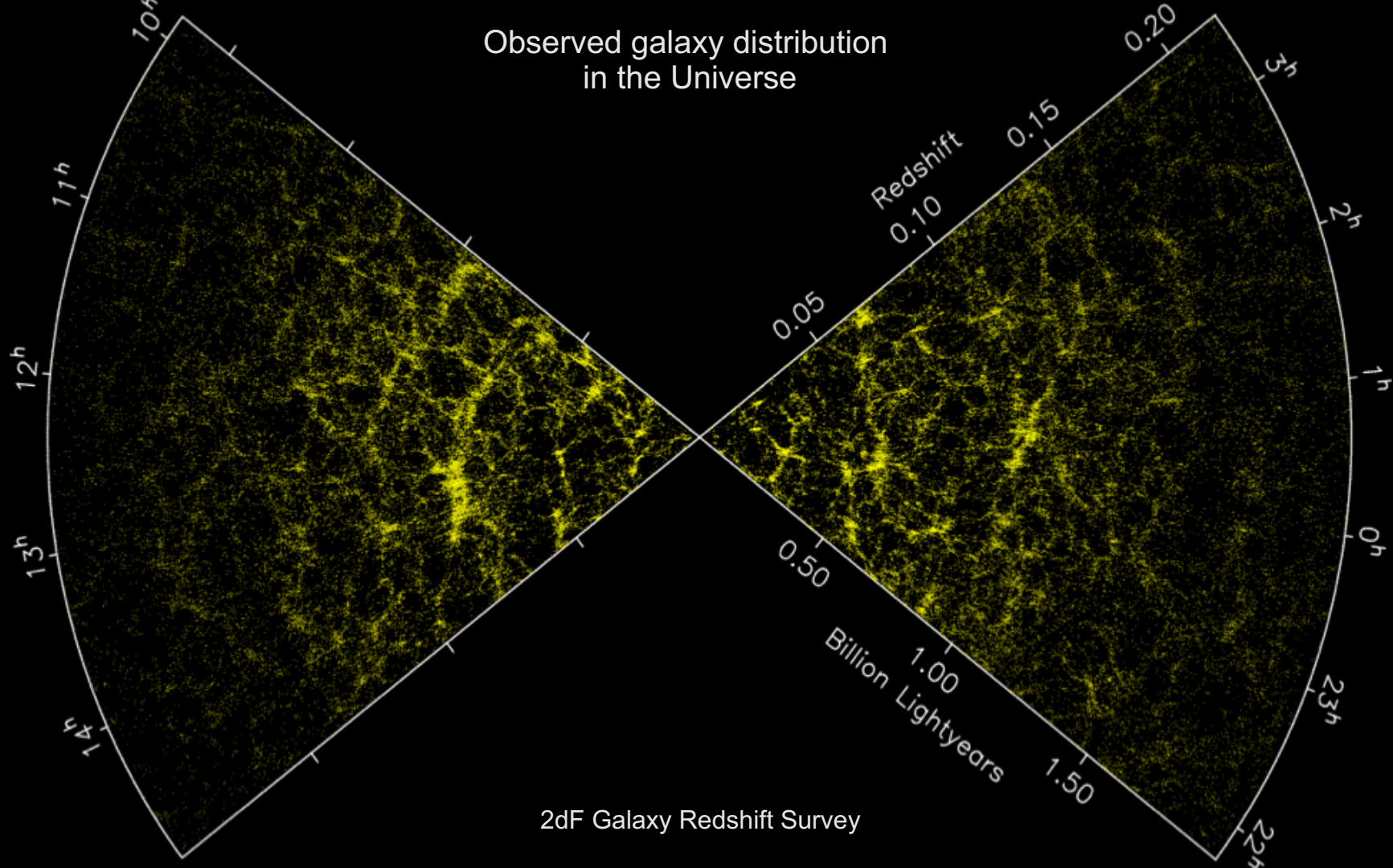
Minimal, 6-parameter  $\Lambda$ CDM model is a great fit

Planck Collaboration (2018)





# Observed galaxy distribution in the Universe



2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey

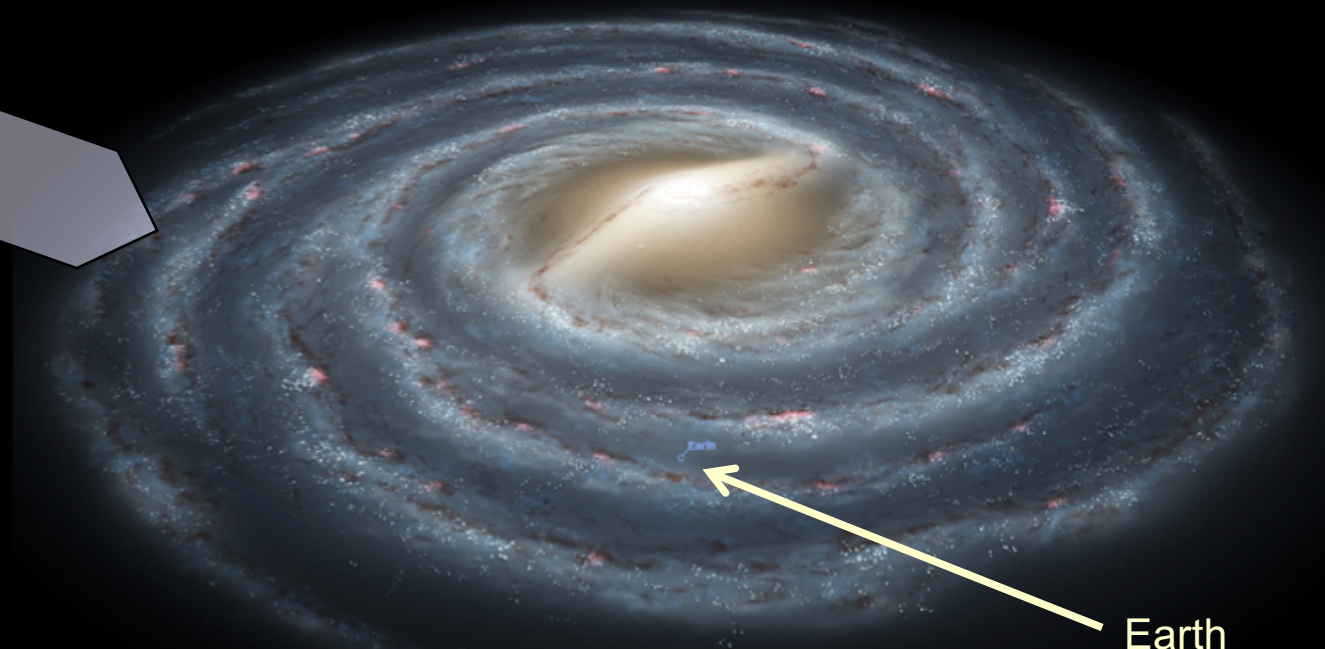
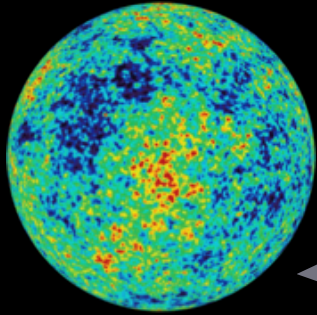




Hubble Ultra Deep Field

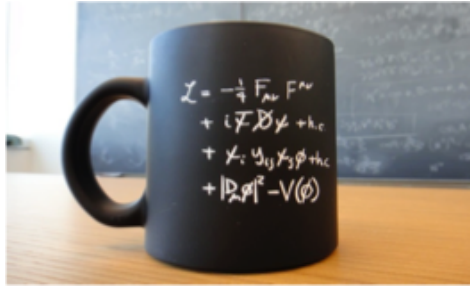


**Need to bridge 13.7 billion years of (non-linear) evolution**



# Much of astrophysics is fully described by systems of Partial Differential Equations

THE PHYSICS ONLY FULLY REVEALED THROUGH SOLUTIONS OF THESE EQUATIONS IN NON-TRIVIAL SITUATIONS



- Euler/Navier-Stokes equations for the gas
- Vlasov equation for collisionless dark matter
- Radiative transfer
- Magnetohydrodynamics
- General relativity
- ....

hyperbolic conservation laws of fluid dynamics

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla(\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \mathbf{v}) + \nabla(\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v}^T + P) = \nabla \Pi$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho e) + \nabla[(\rho e + P) \mathbf{v}] = \nabla(\Pi \mathbf{v})$$

Poisson-Vlasov system

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \left( -\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) = 0$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = 4\pi G \int f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, t) d\mathbf{v}$$





IBM

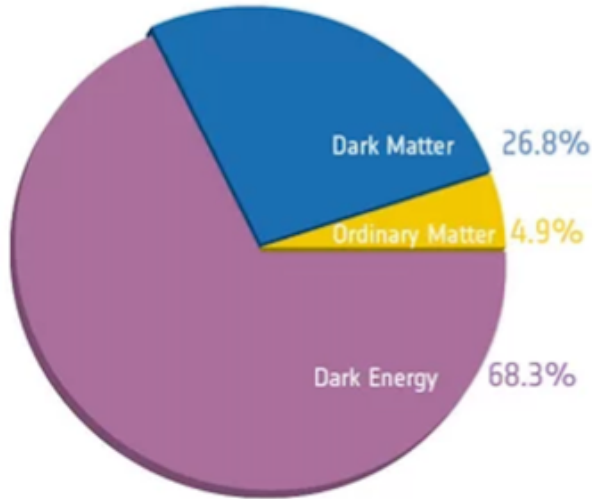
LRZ  
SuperMUC

rendered on SuperMUC by LRZ

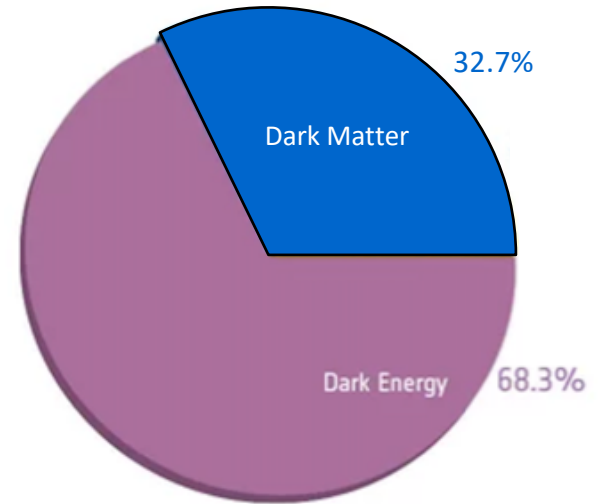
# Pretending that all cosmic matter is collisionless gives simplified models for structure growth

TREATING ORDINARY MATTER AS DARK MATTER

Composition of the Universe today  
(Planck  $\Lambda$ CDM model)



Fiducial Dark Matter-Only Universe







# Cosmological N-body simulations have been instrumental for understanding the non-linear outcome of $\Lambda$ CDM

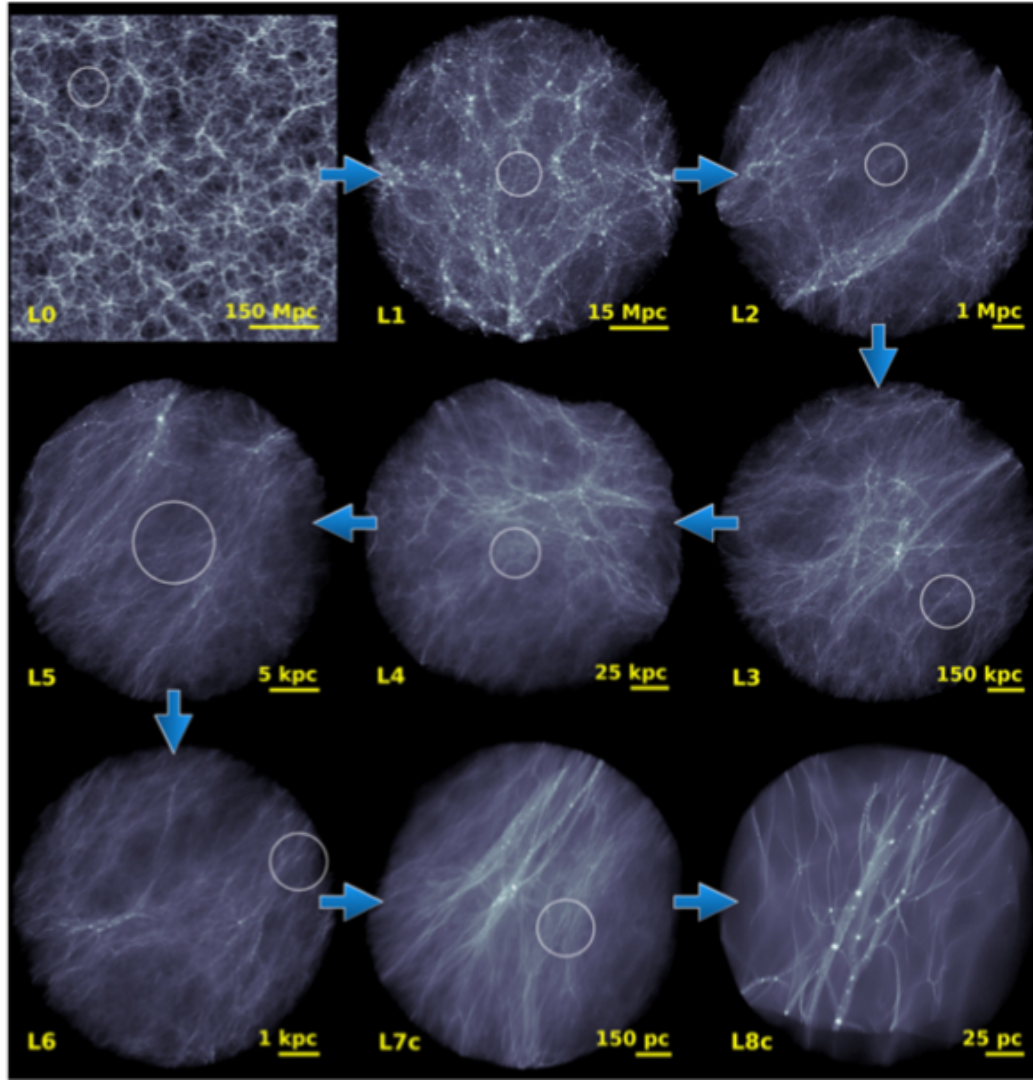
COSMIC LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURE IN DARK MATTER



# The structure of the smallest halos at $z=0$ has been resolved

PUSHING THE DYNAMIC RANGE OF COSMOLOGICAL N-BODY SIMULATIONS TO THE EXTREME WITH THE VVV SIMULATIONS

- Planck cosmology
- Dark matter only
- All simulations have 500 Mpc/h box
- Final zoom has dynamic range of 30 orders of magnitude in mass
- Best zoom reaches mass resolution of  $10^{-11}$  solar masses

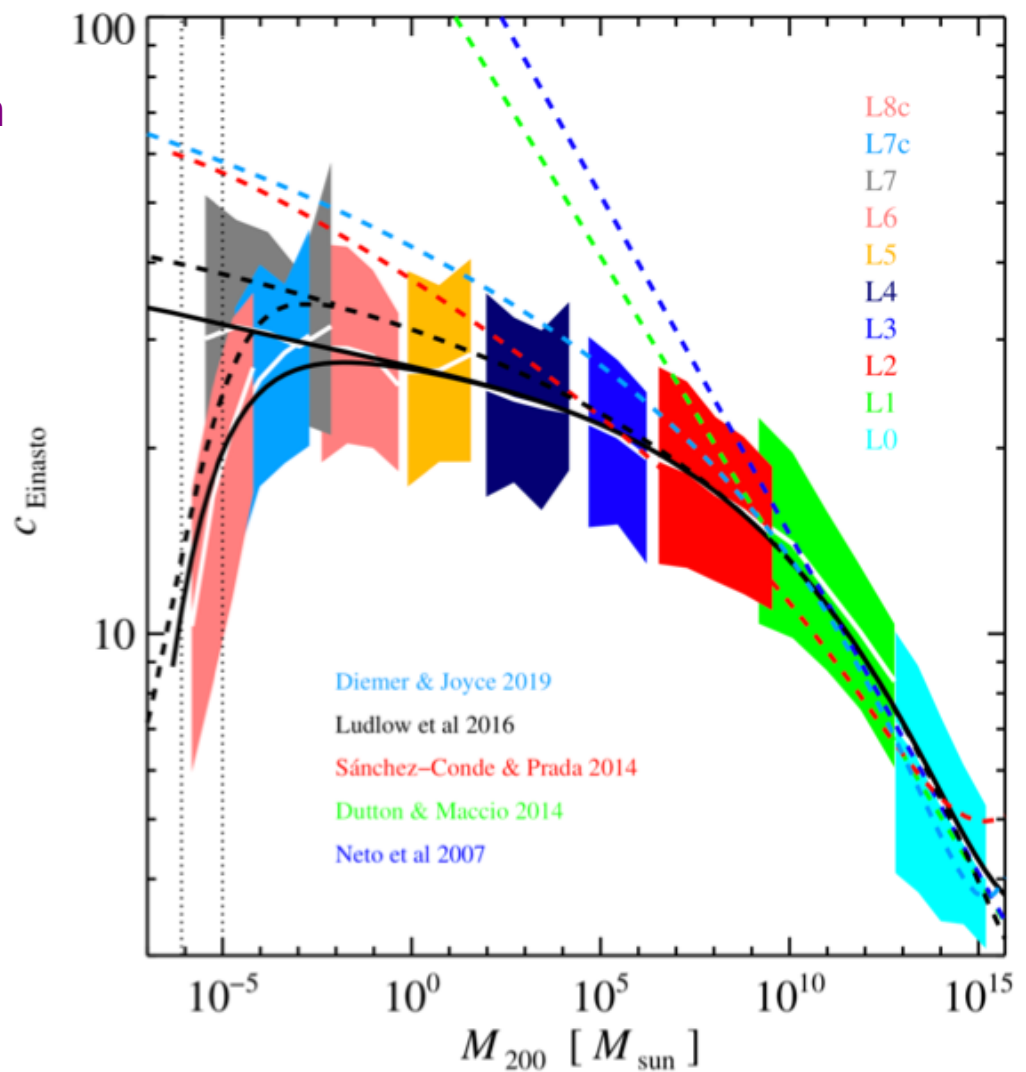


# The mass-concentration relation shows a much weaker trend with halo mass than predicted by most theoretical models

## CONCENTRATION VS HALO MASS

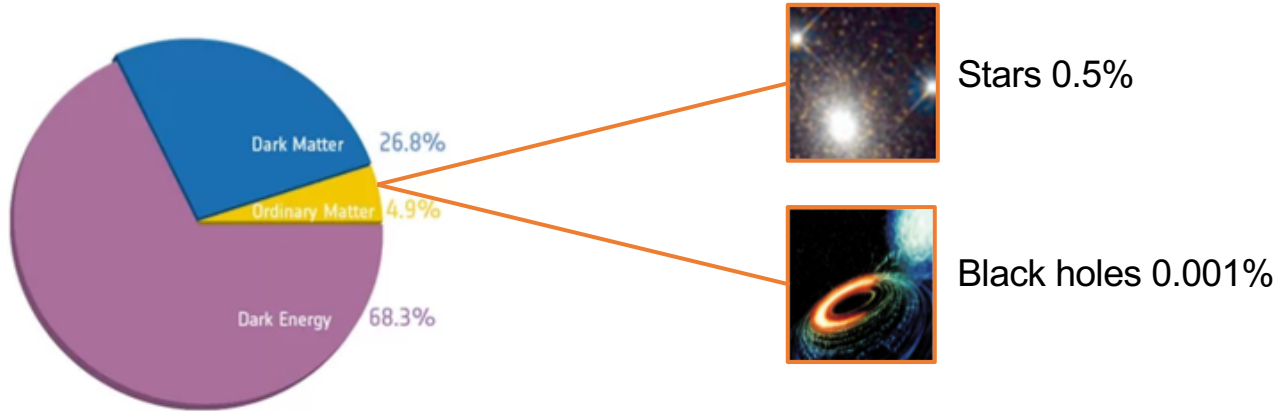
- Measured for the first time over the full 20 orders of magnitude populated for a 100 GeV WIMP
- There is a turndown at 1000 Earth masses due to the free-streaming limit.
- The scatter does not depend strongly on halo mass.
- Well-described by the Ludlow et al. (2016) model

Wang, Bose, et al. (2020)





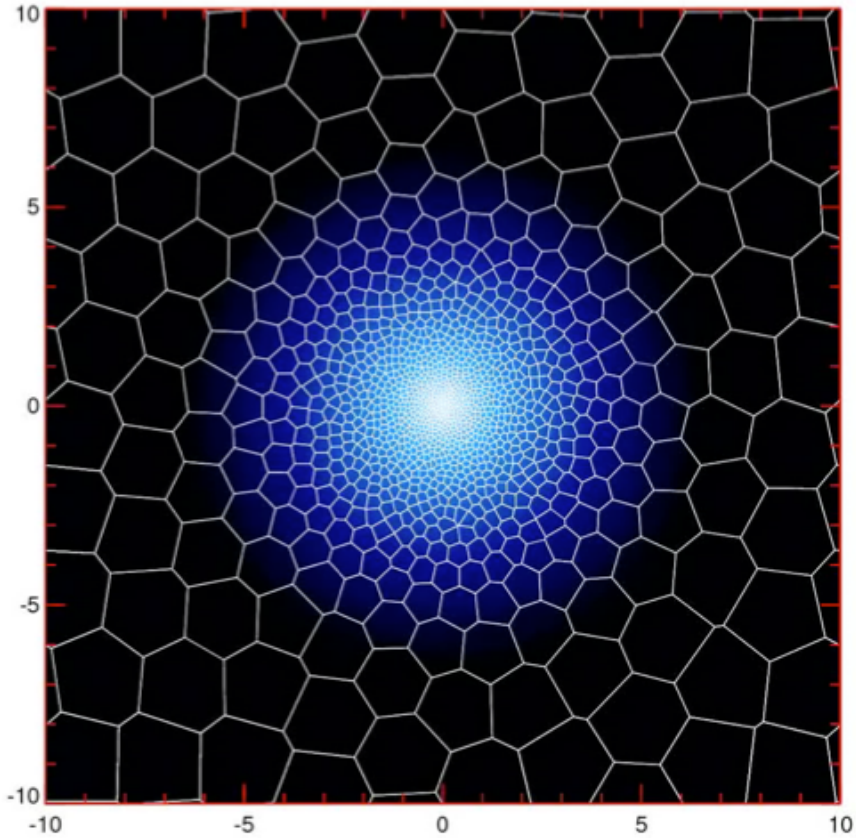
# Hydro simulations...



aim to address the full problem

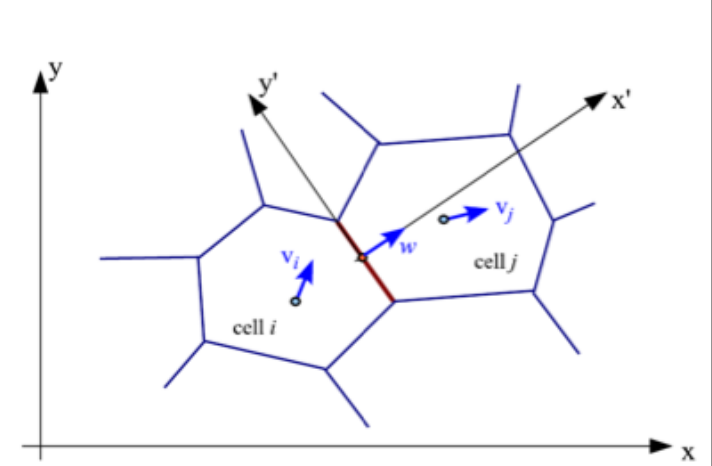
# The moving-mesh hydrodynamics AREPO is well matched to cosmic structure formation

APPROACH AND PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES Springel (2010)



- Low numerical viscosity, very low advection errors
- Full adaptivity and manifest Galilean invariance
- Makes larger timesteps possible in supersonic flows

Sketch of flux calculation



*The motion of the mesh generators uniquely determines the motion of all cell boundaries*

State left of cell face

$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho_L \\ \mathbf{v}_L \\ P_L \end{pmatrix}$$

State right of cell face

$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho_R \\ \mathbf{v}_R \\ P_R \end{pmatrix}$$

**Riemann solver**  
(in frame of cell face)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \mathbf{v} \\ P \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$$

# Galaxy Formation Physics in the Illustris / IllustrisTNG Simulations

## THE MOST IMPORTANT MODELLING ASPECTS

### Cooling and metal enrichment

- Nine elements followed independently
- Mass and metal loss of stars treated continuously over time based on stellar population synthesis models (similar to Wirsma et al. 2009)
- Ionization balance and cooling from H and He followed with direct chemical network (Katz et al. 1996)
- Metal line cooling added through CLOUDY tables in density, temperature and redshift
- Simple self-shielding correction (Rahmati et al. 2013)

### Star formation and winds

- Variant of Springel & Hernquist (2003)
- Cold dense gas stabilized by an ISM equation of state
- Winds are phenomenologically introduced, with an energy given as a fixed fraction of the supernova energy
- The wind velocity is variable, the mass flux follows for energy-driven winds
- Fiducial model scales wind with local dark matter velocity dispersion
- Winds are launched outside of star-forming gas, and metal-loading can be reduced if desired

### Black hole accretion and feedback

- Black hole seeding and accretion model (Springel et al. 2005)
- Quasar-mode feedback for high accretion rates
- Radio-mode feedback for low accretion rates based on bubble-heating model (Sijacki et al. 2006)
- Radiative AGN feedback (change in heating/cooling due to variation of UVB) in proximity to an active black hole
- Reduction of accretion rate in low-pressure/low-density regimes to avoid large hot bubbles around black holes in quiescent state
- Black holes tied to potential minimum of halos

### New or modified in IllustrisTNG

- Magnetic fields
- New model for AGN radio mode (kinetic BH feedback)
- Slightly modified parameterization of supernova feedback
- Improved metal enrichment model



## Zoom into the Illustris-Simulation...

42.5 Mpc



Dark Matter Density

**ILLUSTRIS**

# The “Next Generation Illustris Simulations” (IllustrisTNG) are our novel, significantly improved models for cosmic structure formation

DIFFERENT SIMULATIONS OF THE ILLUSTRIS-TNG PROJECT

IllustrisTNG Collaboration (2018)

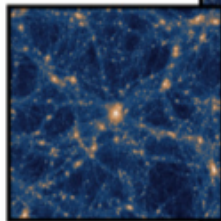
data for TNG50/100/300 fully publicly available  
426 papers thus far

(and 236 for Illustris)

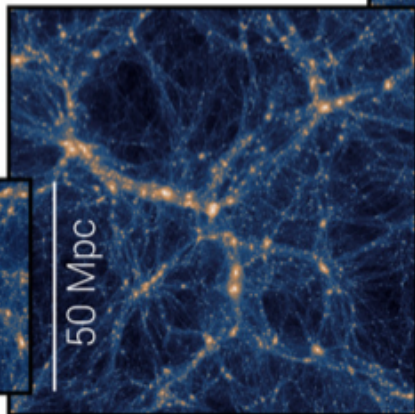
TNG300

TNG100

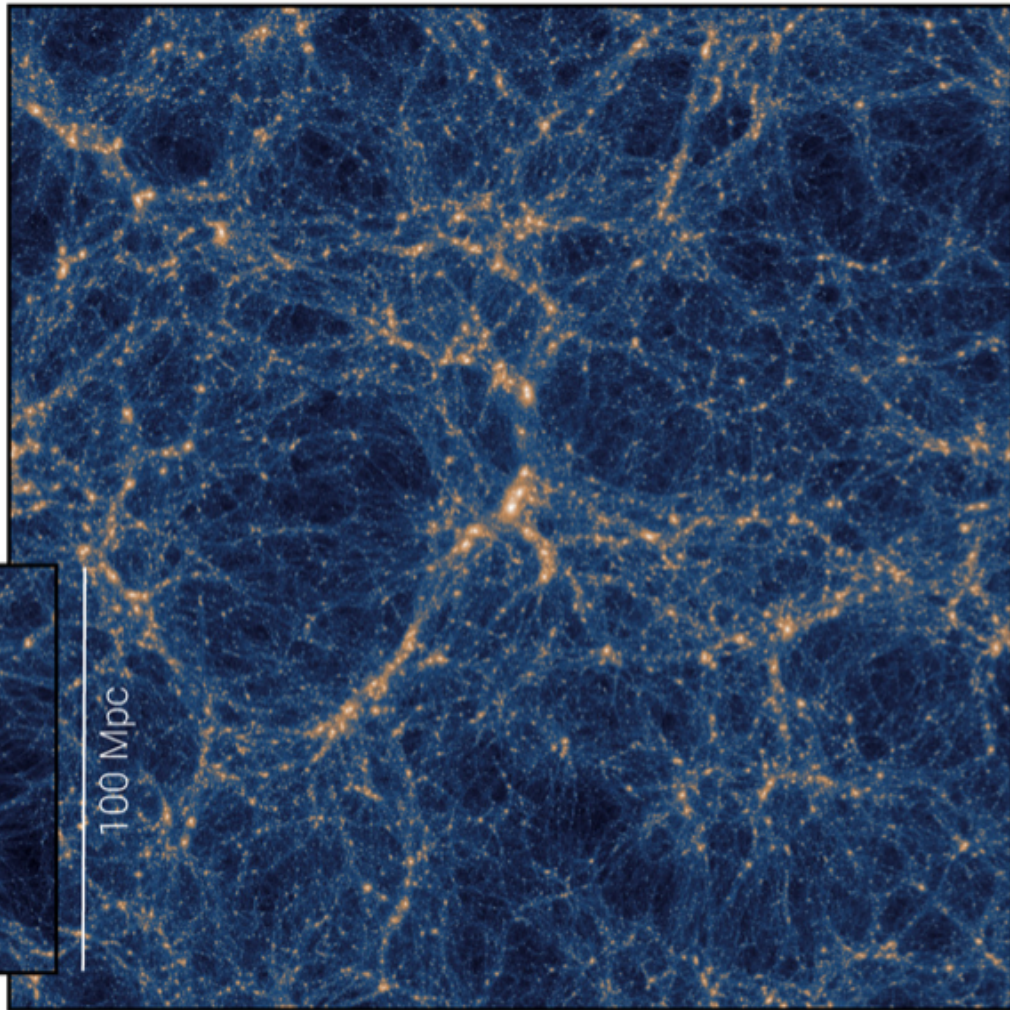
TNG50



50 Mpc



100 Mpc



300 Mpc



# People in IllustrisTNG – “The Next Generation Illustris Simulations”

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN GARCHING, HEIDELBERG, HARVARD, AND THE MIT



**Volker  
Springel**

Heidelberg Institute for  
Theoretical Studies  
PI: Overall TNG Project



**Lars  
Hernquist**

Harvard University



**Annalisa  
Pillepich**

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**Rüdiger  
Pakmor**

Heidelberg Institute for  
Theoretical Studies



**Dylan Nelson**

Max Planck Institute for  
Astrophysics, Garching  
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**Rainer  
Weinberger**

Heidelberg Institute for  
Theoretical Studies



**Federico  
Marinacci**

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology



**Jill Naiman**

Harvard University



**Mark  
Vogelsberger**

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology



**Shy Genel**

Center for Computational  
Astrophysics, Flatiron  
Institute

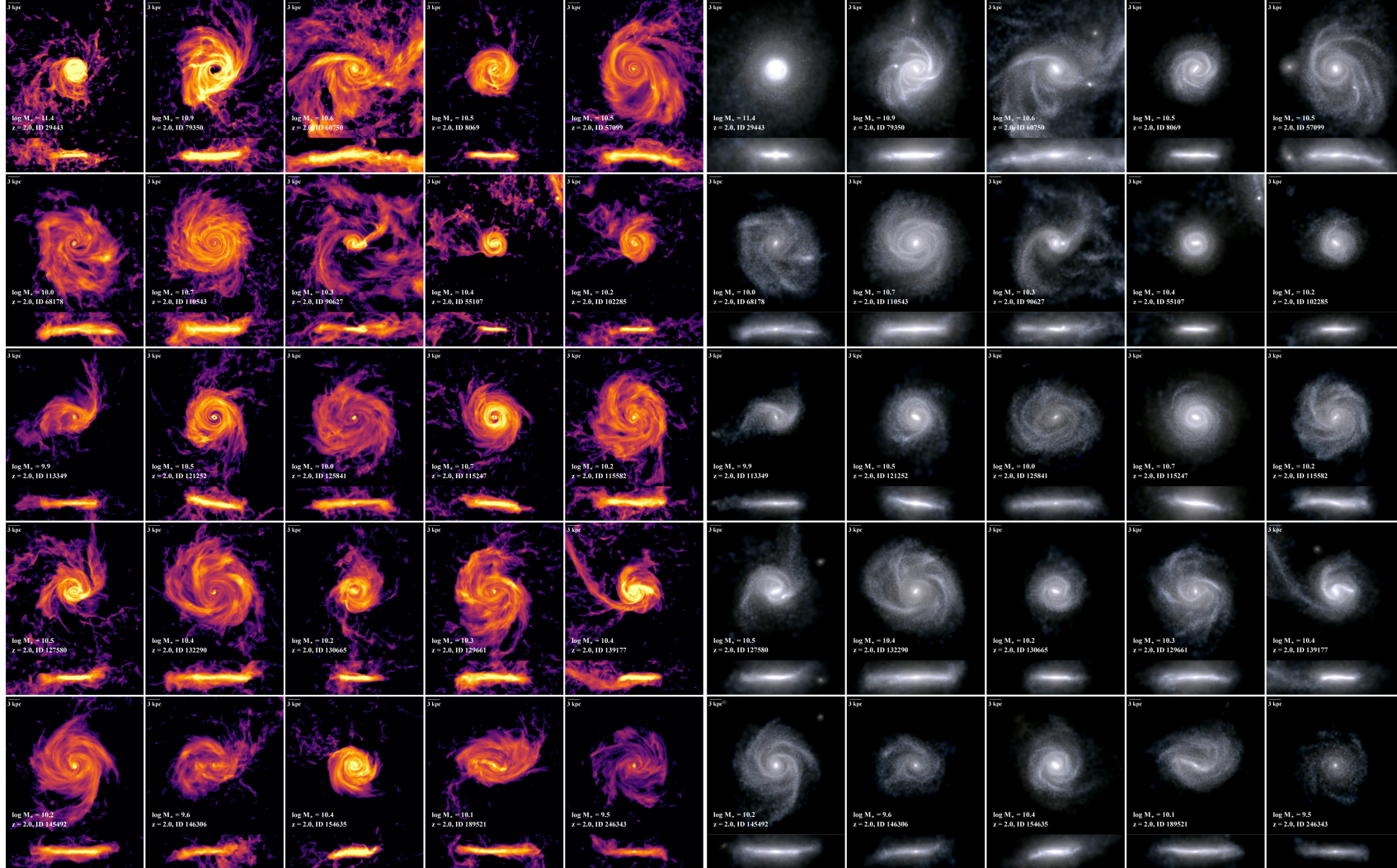


**Paul Torrey**

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology







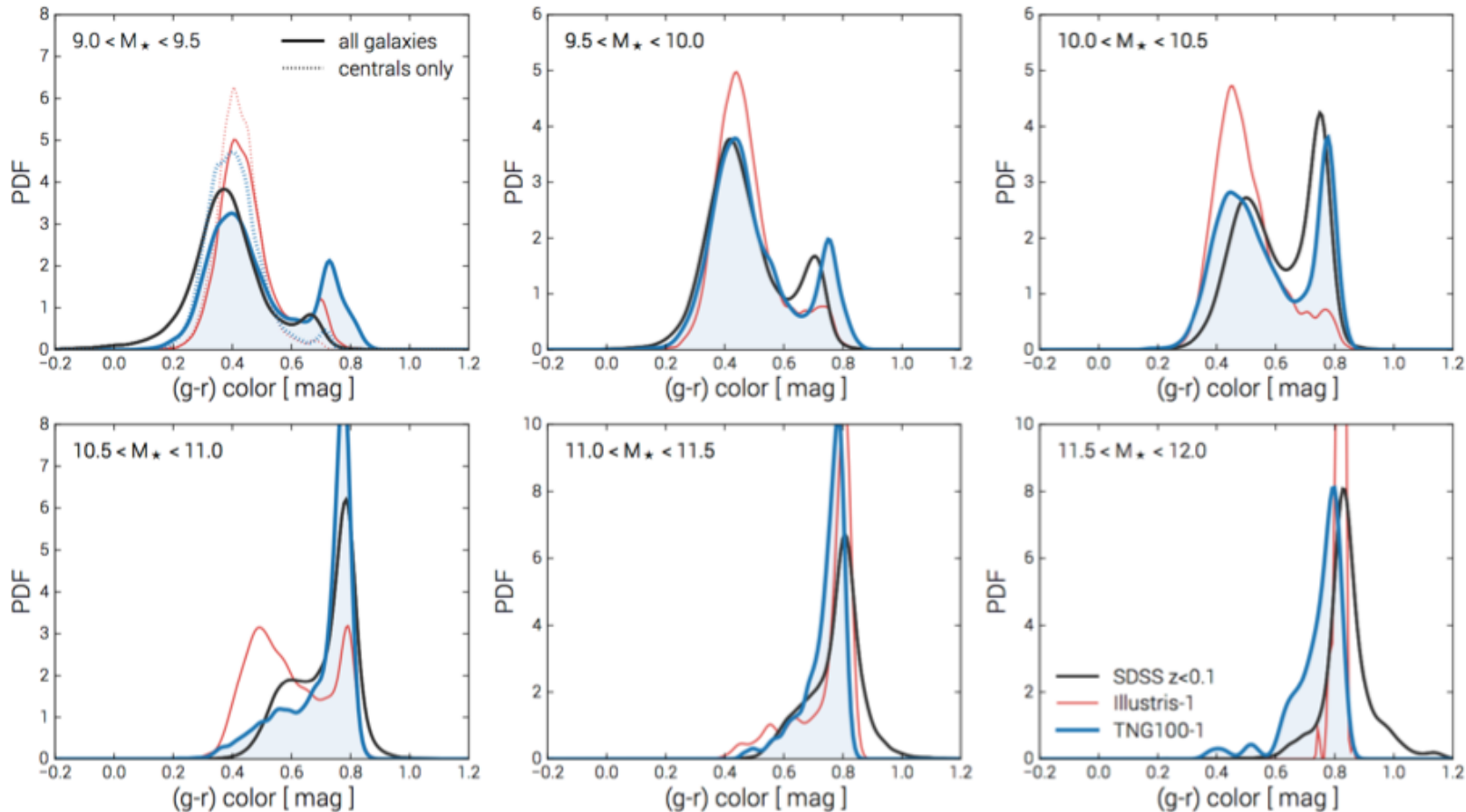
38.0 H-alpha Luminosity  $\log \text{erg s}^{-1} \text{kpc}^{-2}$  41.0

Stellar Composite (rest 200w, 115w, 070w)

# IllustrisTNG reproduces the color-bimodality of galaxies thanks to AGN feedback

COLOR DISTRIBUTION OF GALAXIES OF DIFFERENT MASS COMPARED TO SDSS

Nelson et al. (2017)

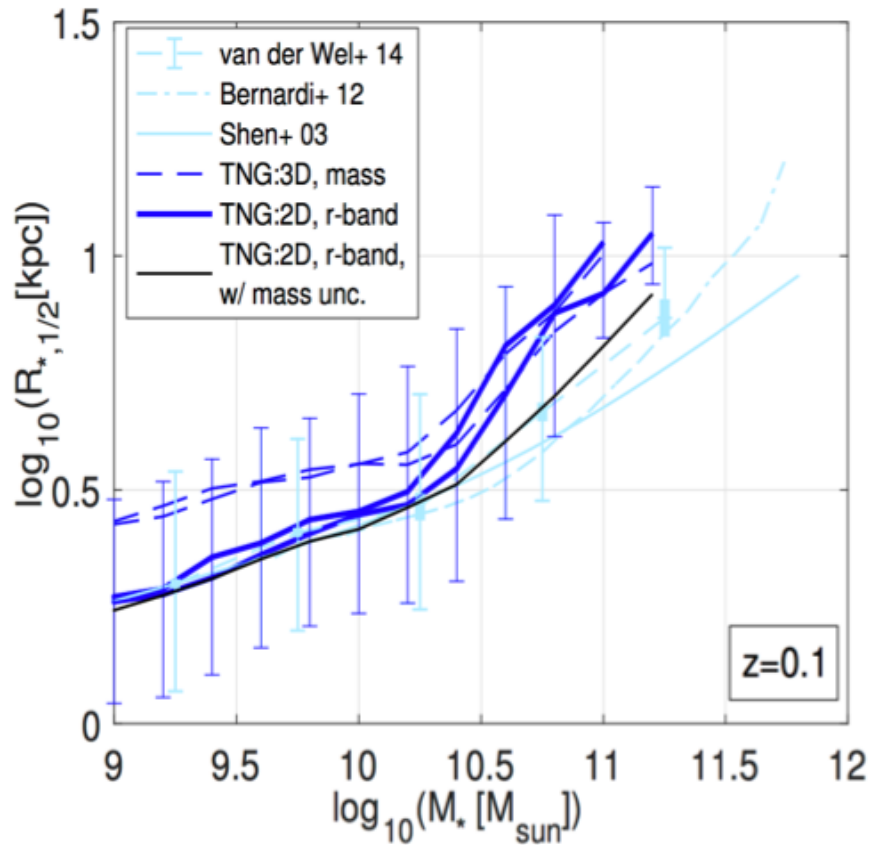




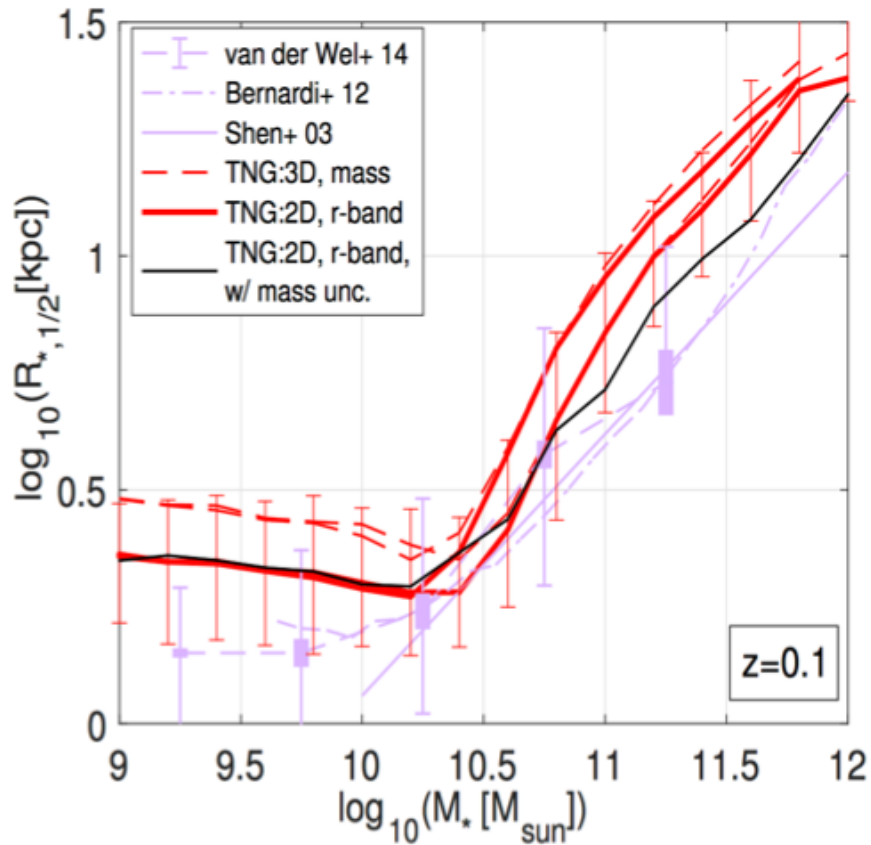
# The sizes of different galaxies types reproduce observed trends with stellar mass well

ILLUSTRIS-TNG GALAXY SIZES AS A FUNCTION OF STELLAR MASS

Genel et al. (2018)



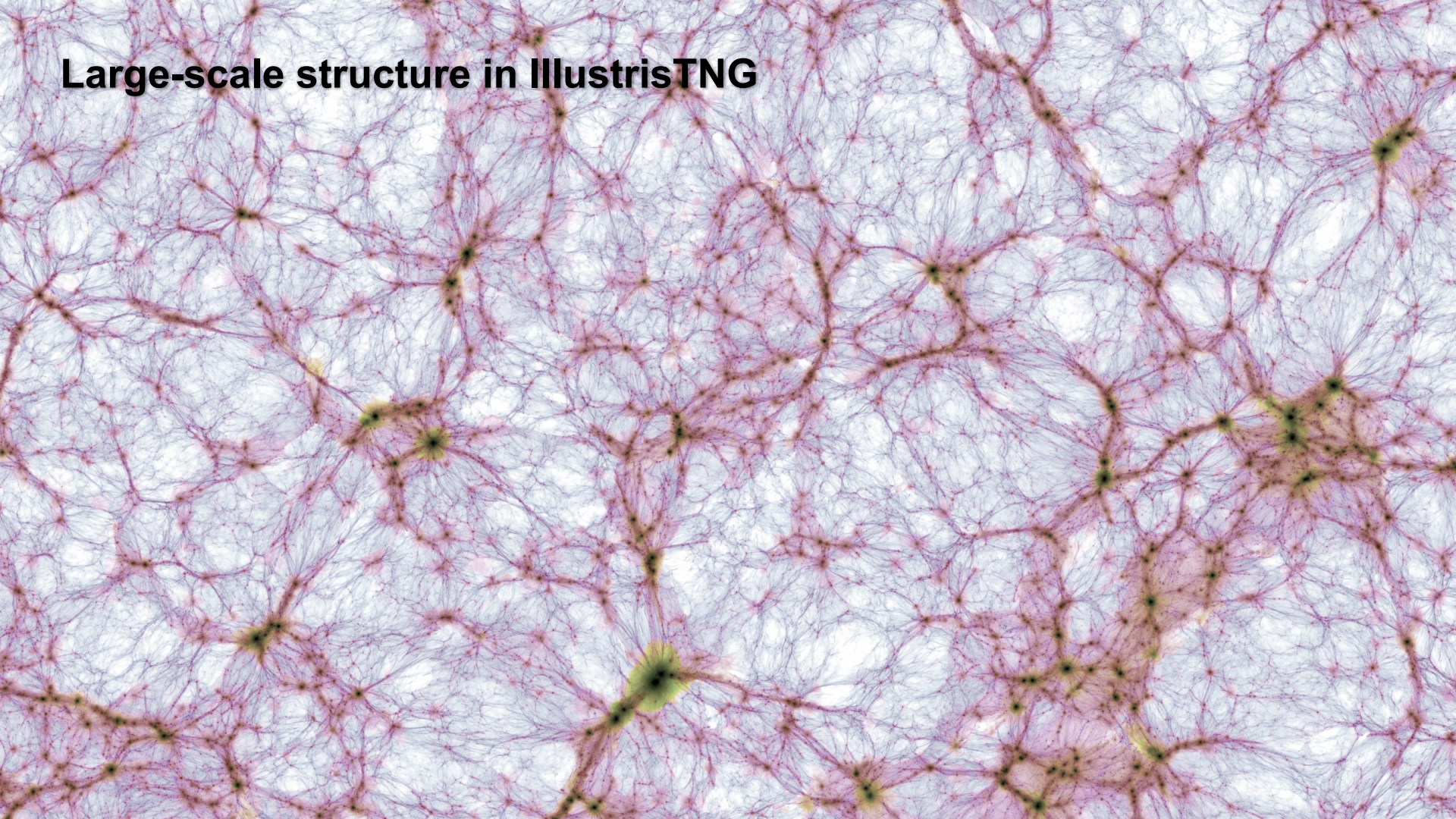
(a) Main-sequence / late-type galaxies



(b) Quenched / early-type galaxies



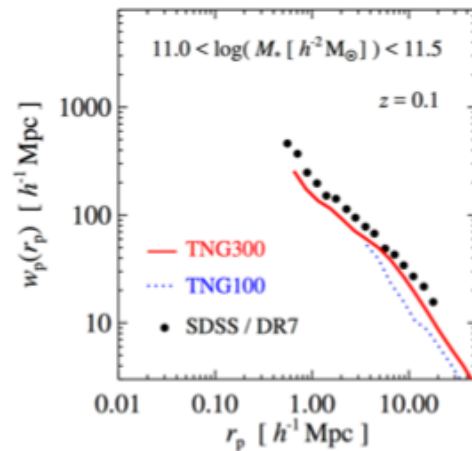
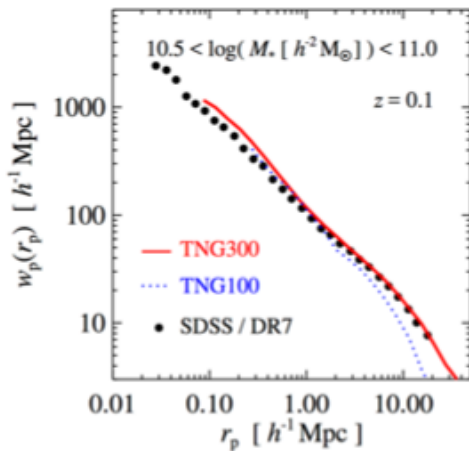
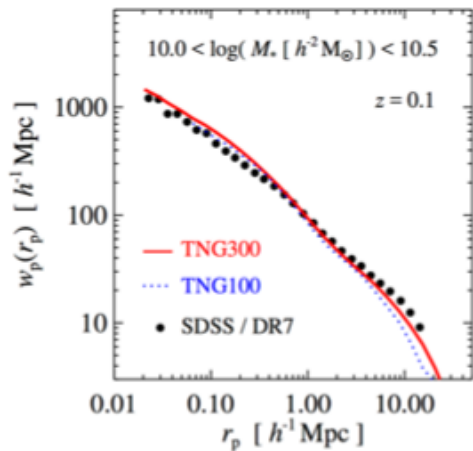
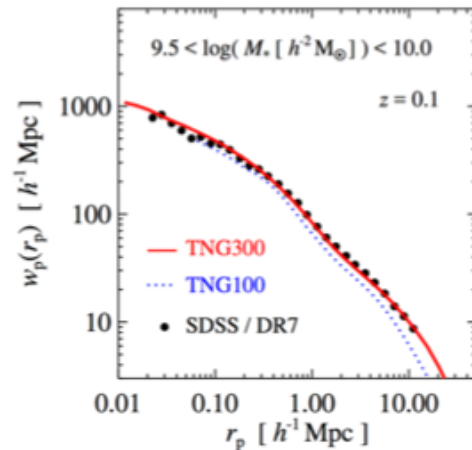
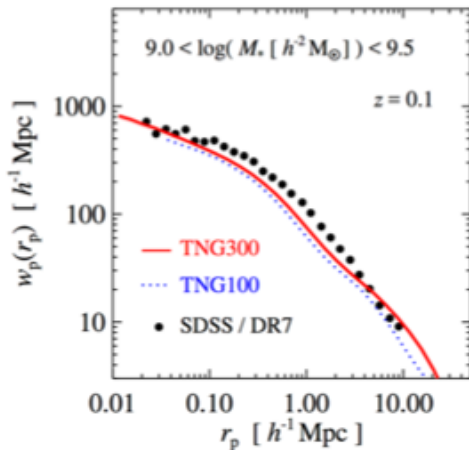
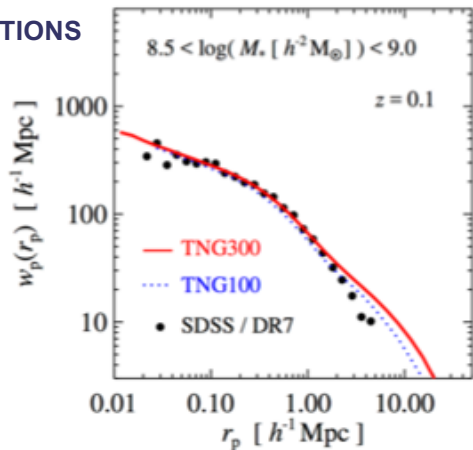
# Large-scale structure in IllustrisTNG





# IllustrisTNG predicts galaxy correlation functions in good agreement with the most accurate galaxy surveys

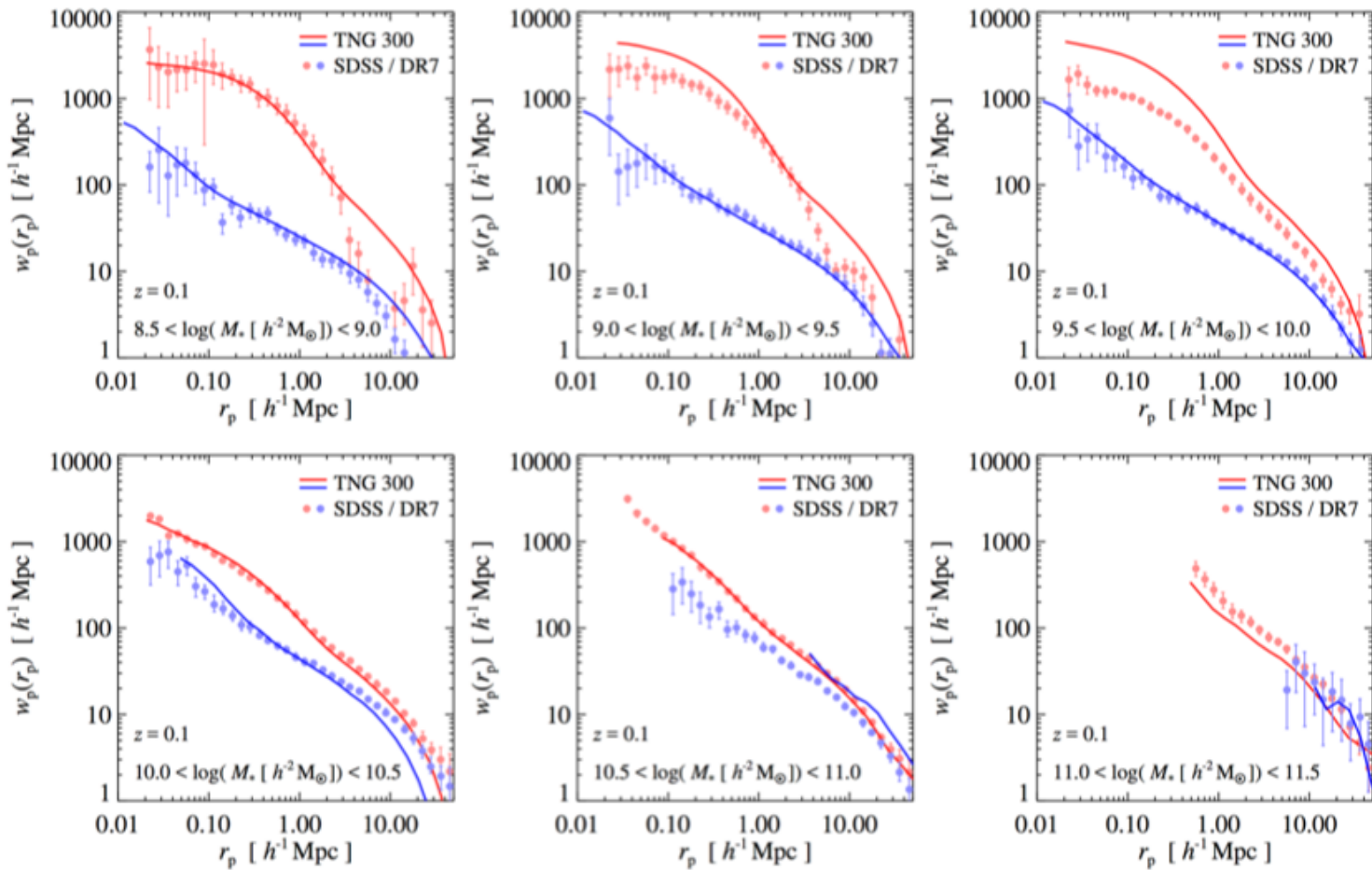
PROJECTED TWO-POINT FUNCTIONS  
IN DIFFERENT MASS BINS





# IllustrisTNG predicts pronounced differences in the clustering of red and blue galaxies in good agreement with data

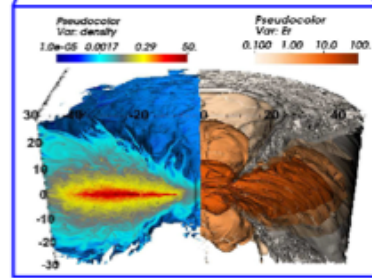
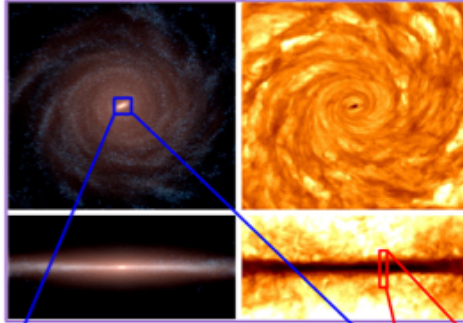
CLUSTERING IN DIFFERENT MASS AND COLOR BINS COMPARED TO SDSS



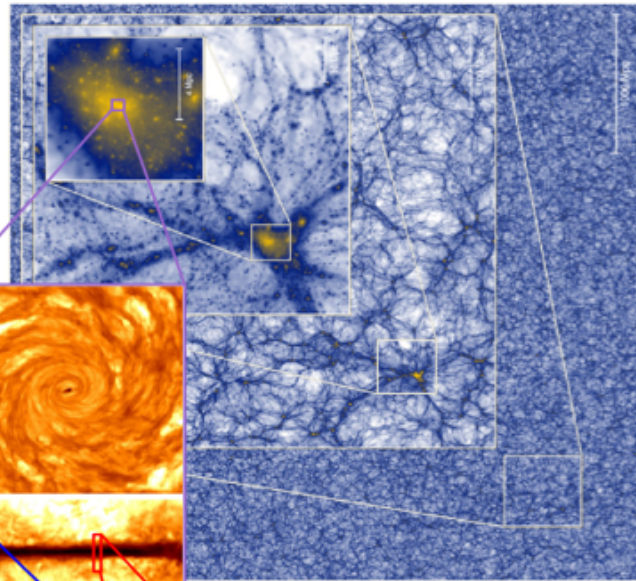
# The dynamic range challenge

- Only a small range of scales can be addressed in any given simulation
- Only a subset of the relevant physics can be included
- Stellar and AGN feedback couples back to gas-dynamics on large scales

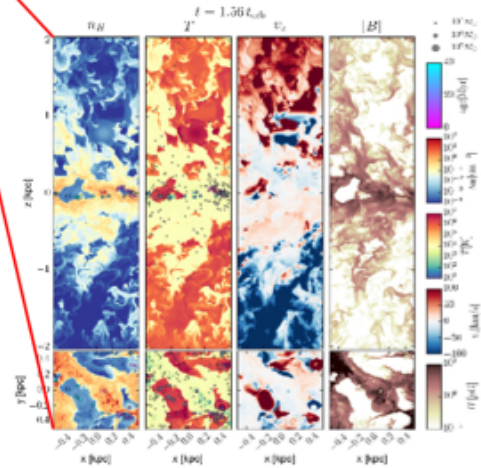
Grand et al. (2016)



Jiang, Stone & Davis (2014)



Angulo et al. (2012)



Kim & Ostriker (2016)

# Supermassive Black Holes



# Black hole energetics suggests that they could influence the evolution of galaxies

## COMPARING SUPERNOVA AND BLACK HOLE ENERGIES

Quasars release plenty of energy

$$L_Q \sim 10^{12} L_\odot \quad t_Q \sim 10^7 - 10^8 \text{ yr}$$

$$E_Q \sim 10^{60} - 10^{61} \text{ erg}$$

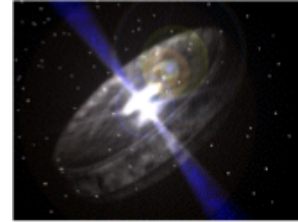
a billion supernovae !

Total available feedback energy from BHs is comparable to that of supernovae

$$\rho_{\text{BH}} \simeq 0.001 \rho_\star \quad E_{\text{BH}}/V \simeq 0.1 \rho_{\text{BH}} c^2 \quad \frac{E_{\text{BH}}}{E_{\text{SN}}} \simeq 1.8$$
$$E_{\text{SN}}/V \simeq \frac{10^{51} \text{ erg}}{100 M_\odot} \rho_\star$$

But how does AGN energy couple to halo gas?

quasars / AGN



What's the connection?



galaxies

# Bondi growth and thermal feedback can self-regulate supermassive black hole growth

## A SIMPLE MODEL FOR QUASAR FEEDBACK

Di Matteo, Springel & Hernquist (2005) Springel, Di Matteo & Hernquist (2005)

Growth of Black Holes

Bondi-Hoyle-Lyttleton type accretion rate parameterization:

$$\dot{M}_B = \alpha \times 4\pi R_B^2 \rho c_s \simeq \frac{4\pi\alpha G^2 M_\bullet^2 \rho}{(c_s^2 + v^2)^{3/2}}$$

Limitation by the Eddington rate:

$$\dot{M}_\bullet = \min(\dot{M}_B, \dot{M}_{\text{Edd}})$$

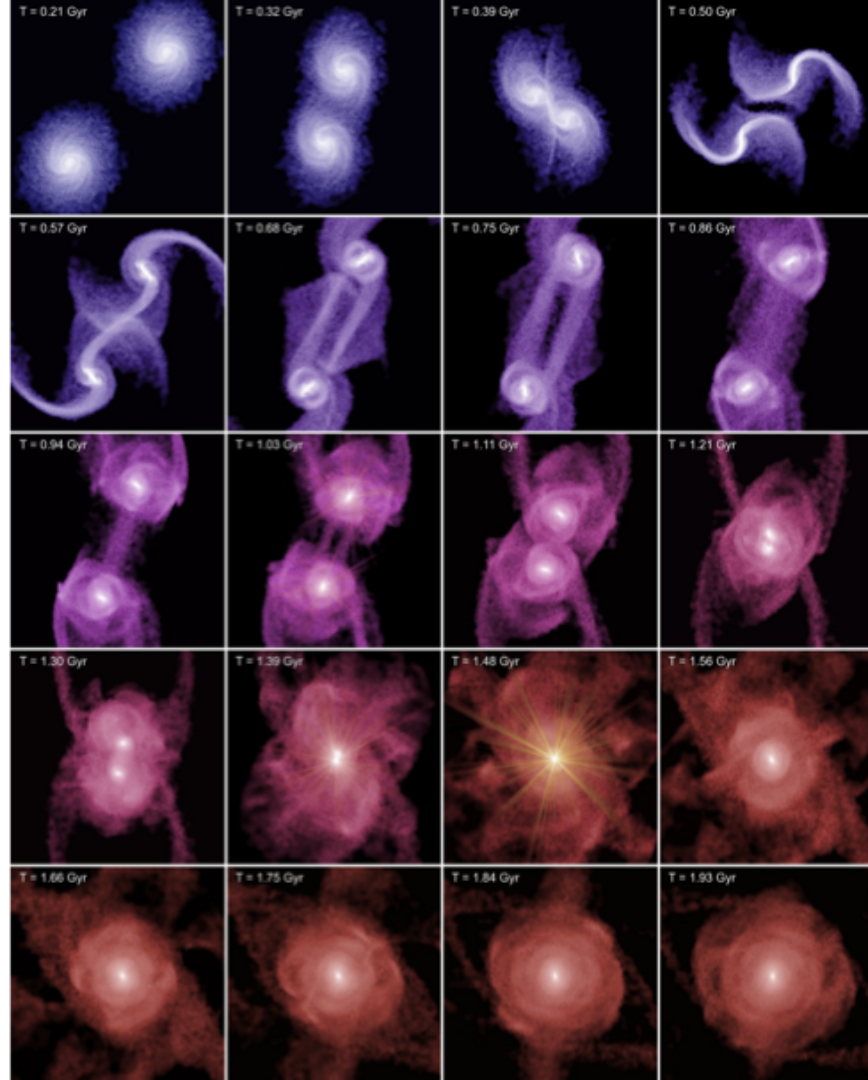
Feedback by Black Holes

Standard radiative efficiency:

$$L_{\text{bol}} = 0.1 \times \dot{M}_\bullet c^2$$

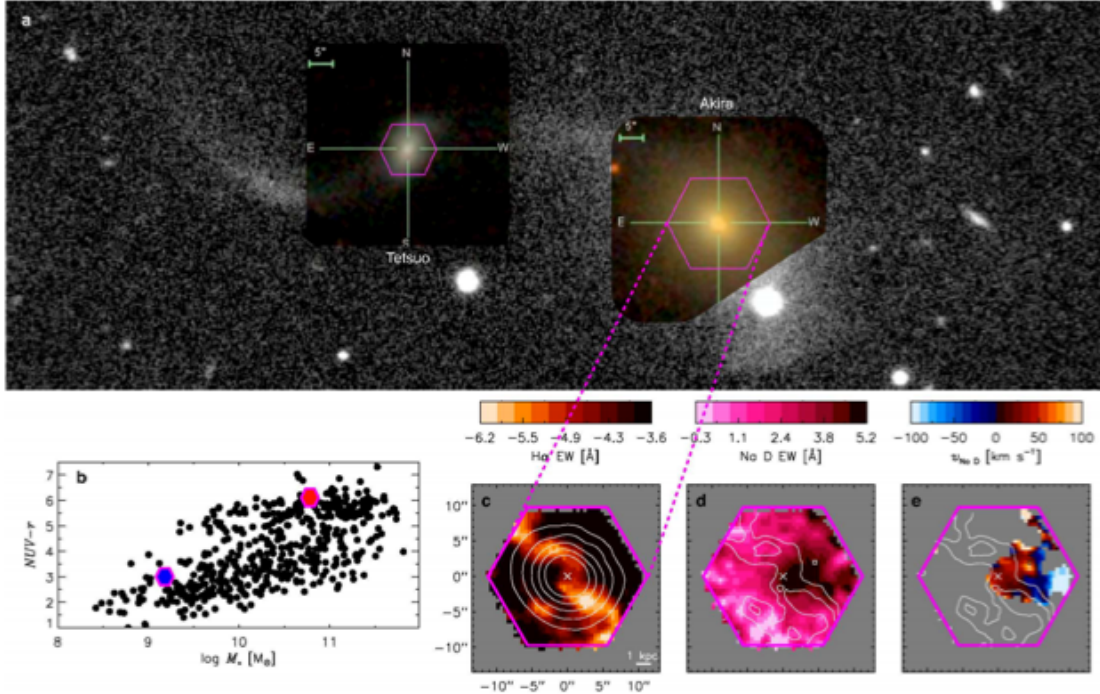
Coupling of a small fraction of energy output to ambient gas:

$$\dot{E}_{\text{feedback}} = f \times L_{\text{bol}} \quad f \simeq 5\%$$



# Winds from supermassive black holes may keep ‘red geyser’ galaxies turned off

## EXAMPLE OF OBSERVATIONAL EVIDENCE FOR BLACK HOLE WINDS



Cheung et al. (2016, Nature, 533, 504)

Genzel et al. (2014), Förster Schreiber et al. (2014)

We used this as motivation for the IllustrisTNG black hole feedback model, and distinguish a “high” and a “low” accretion flow state:

$$\frac{\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}}{\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}}} \geq \chi = \min \left[ \chi_0 \left( \frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^8 M_{\odot}} \right)^{\beta}, 0.1 \right]$$

Pure thermal feedback in “high” quasar mode:

$$\Delta \dot{E}_{\text{high}} = \epsilon_{f,\text{high}} \epsilon_r \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2$$

Pure kinetic feedback in “low” radio mode:

$$\Delta \dot{E}_{\text{low}} = \epsilon_{f,\text{kin}} \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2.$$

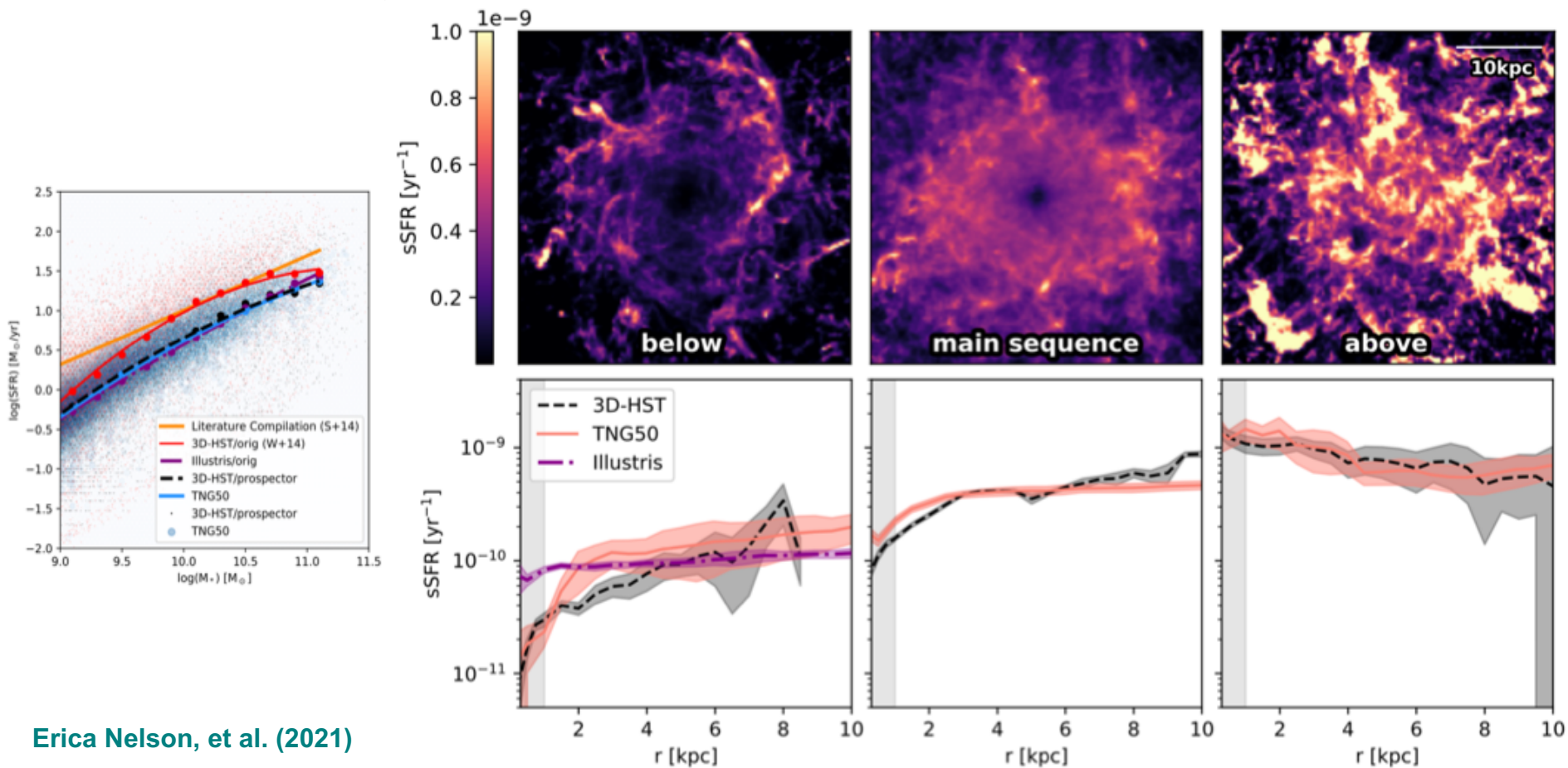
Weinberger et al. (2017)





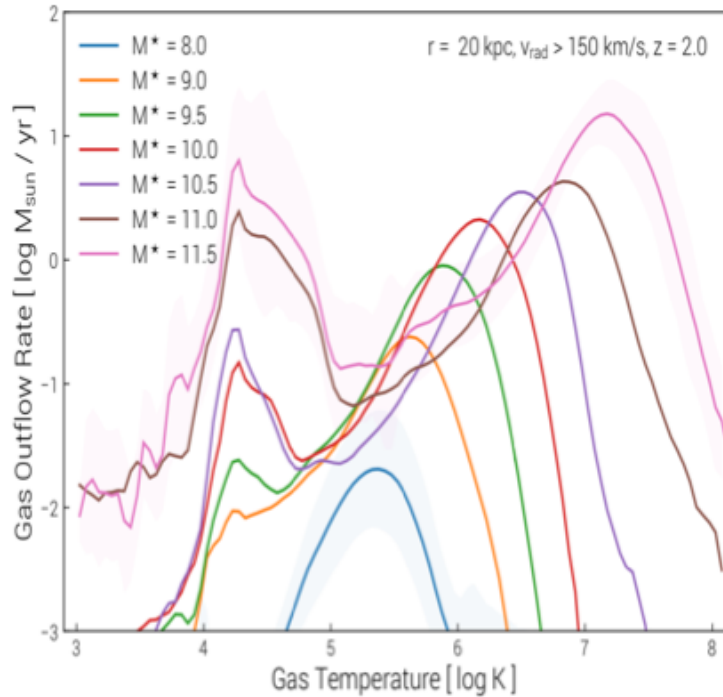
# Massive galaxies are quenched inside-out in HST-3D/CANDELS and IllustrisTNG

COMPARISON OF STACKED SPECIFIC STAR FORMATION MAPS AND THEIR PROFILES AT Z~1

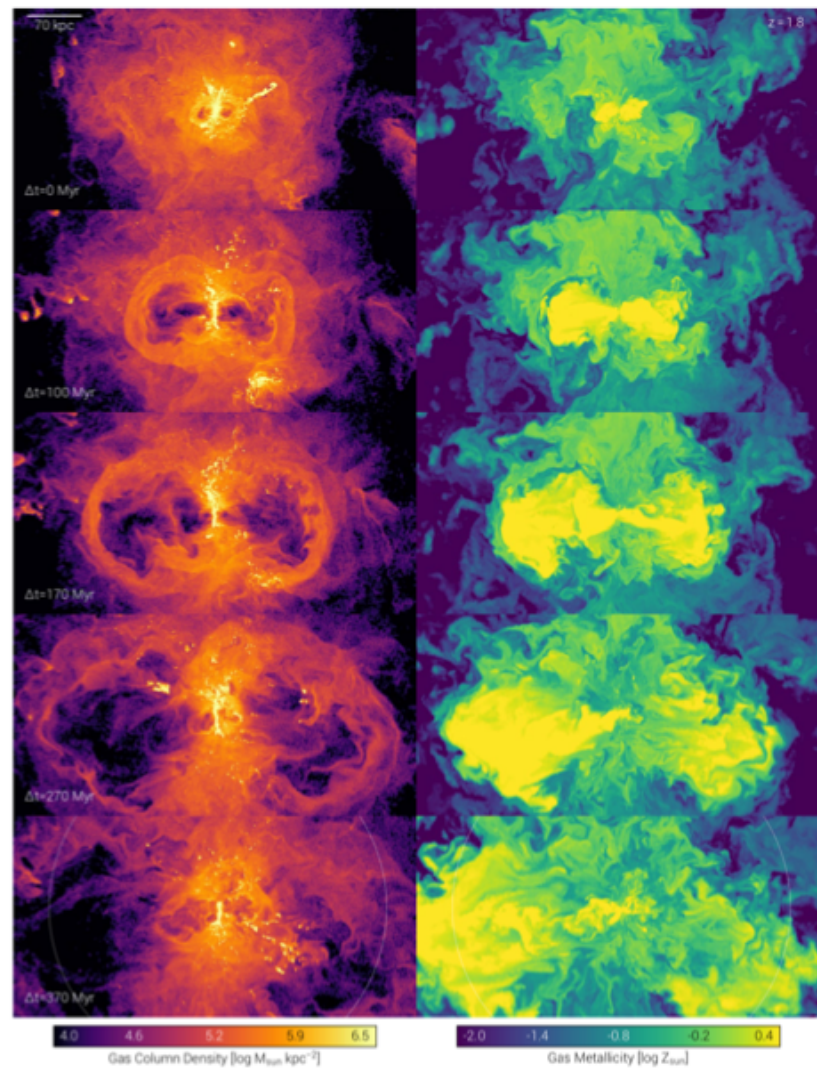


# Strong bimodal outflows arise as an emergent phenomenon from the AGN feedback in TNG

TIME SEQUENCE OF GAS DENSITY AND METALLICITY DISTRIBUTION AROUND AN AGN AT Z~2



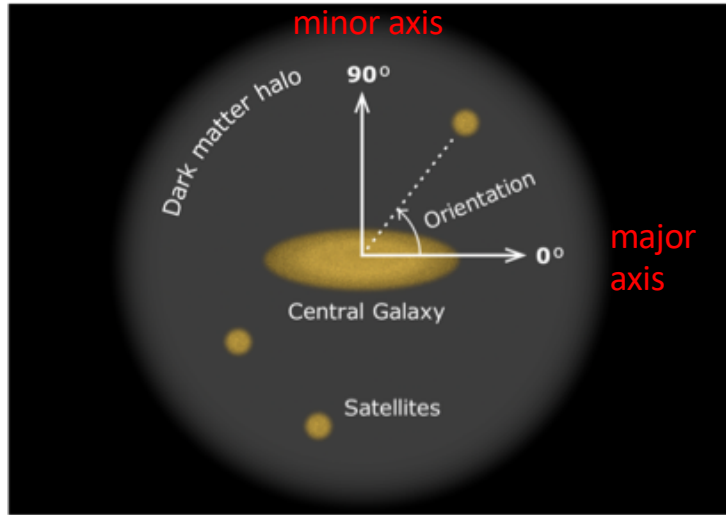
Nelson et al. (2019)



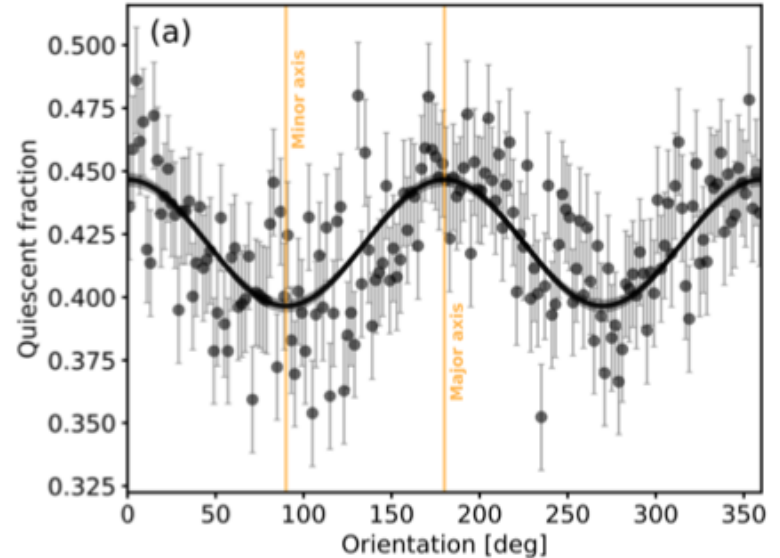
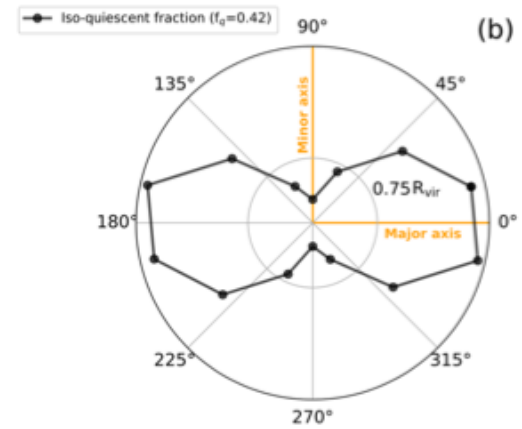


# Quenched satellites are more commonly found along the *major axis* and less often along the *minor axis* around central galaxies in SDSS

DIRECTIONALLY QUENCHED SDSS SATELLITES

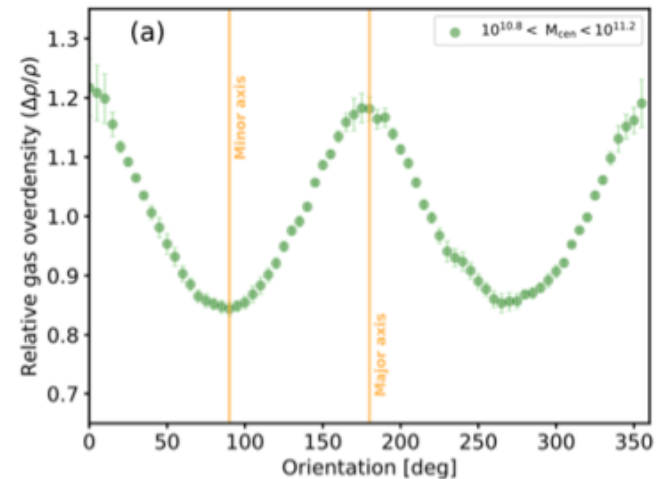
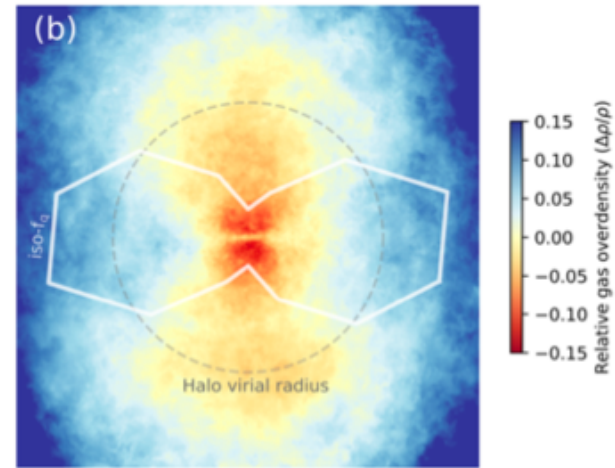
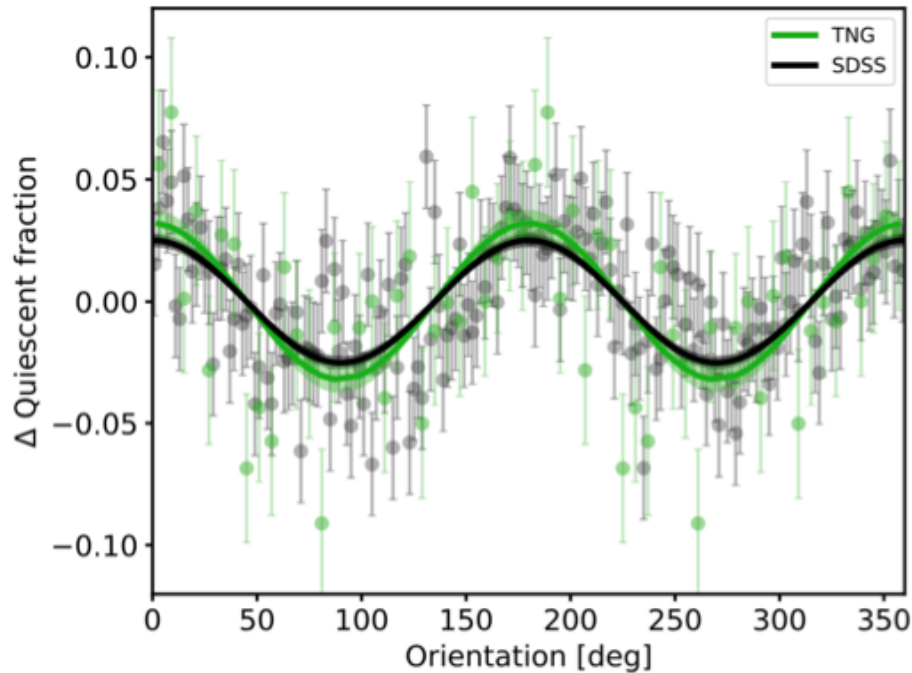


Ignacio Martin-Navarro, et al. (2021)



# The directional quenching is accurately reproduced by TNG – as an indirect effect of its AGN feedback

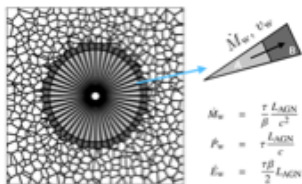
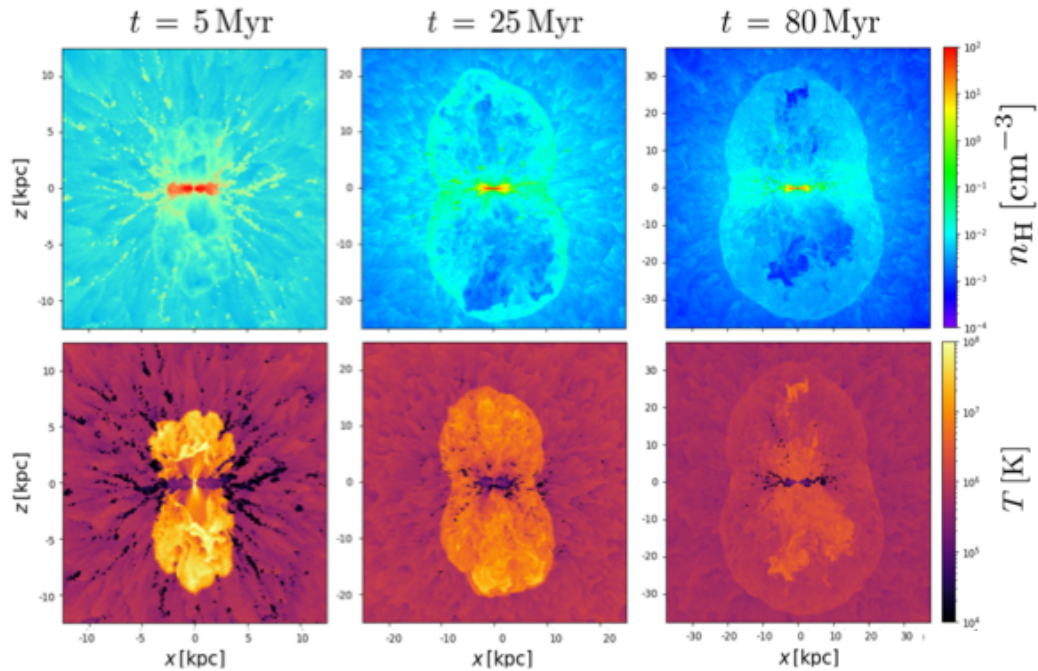
QUIESCENT SATELLITES IN SDSS AND TNG,  
AND CGM DENSITY MODULATION IN TNG



# Even X-ray / $\gamma$ -ray bubbles in disk galaxies readily arise from simple *isotropic* AGN feedback models

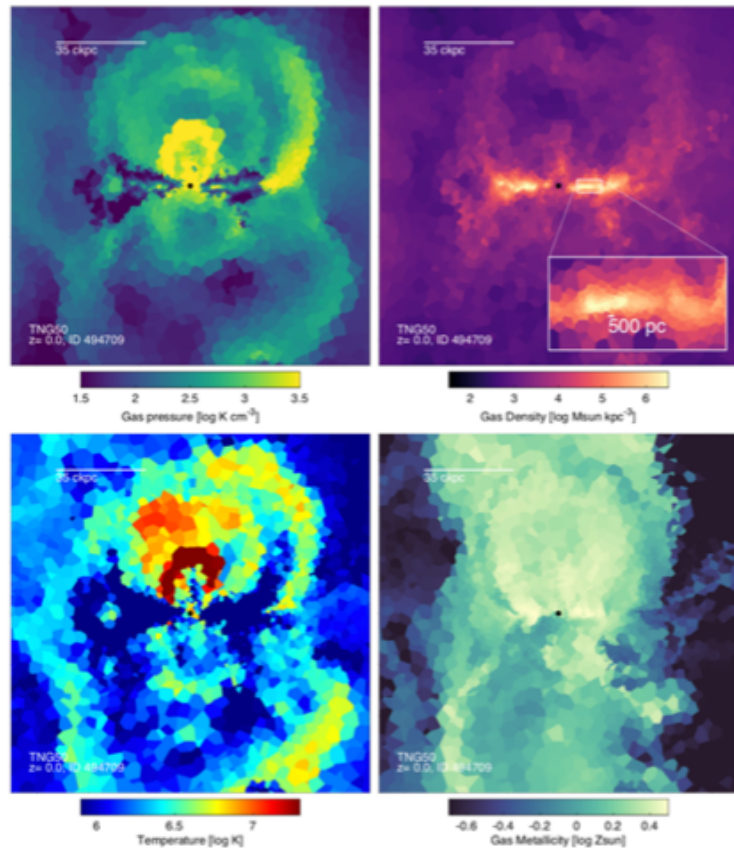
SLICES THROUGH DISK GALAXY SIMULATIONS

Costa, Pakmor & Springel (2021)



Pillepich et al. (2021)

AGN bubbles in TNG50

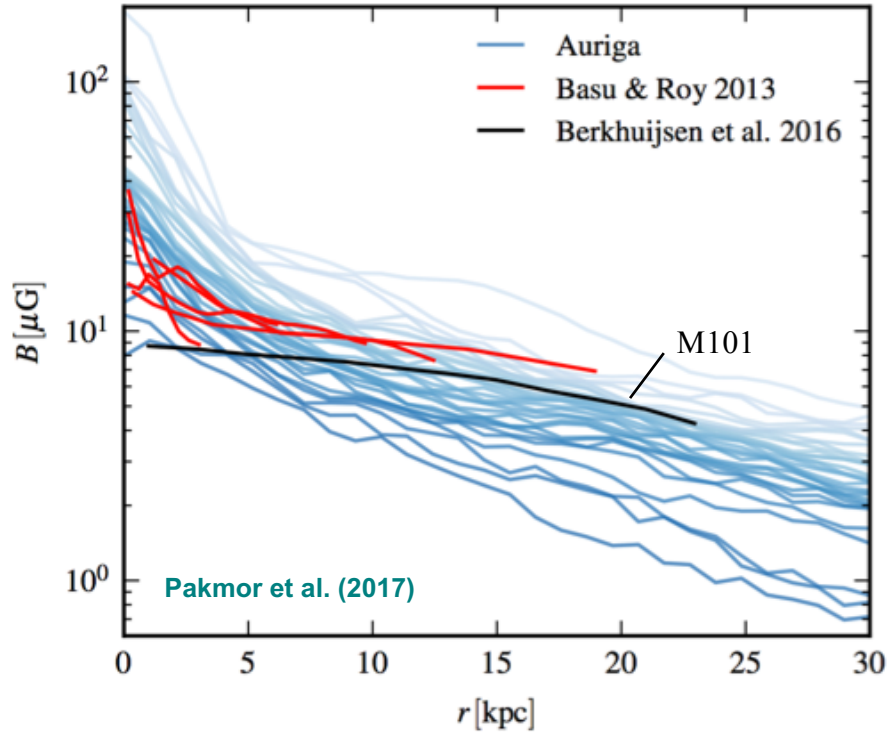




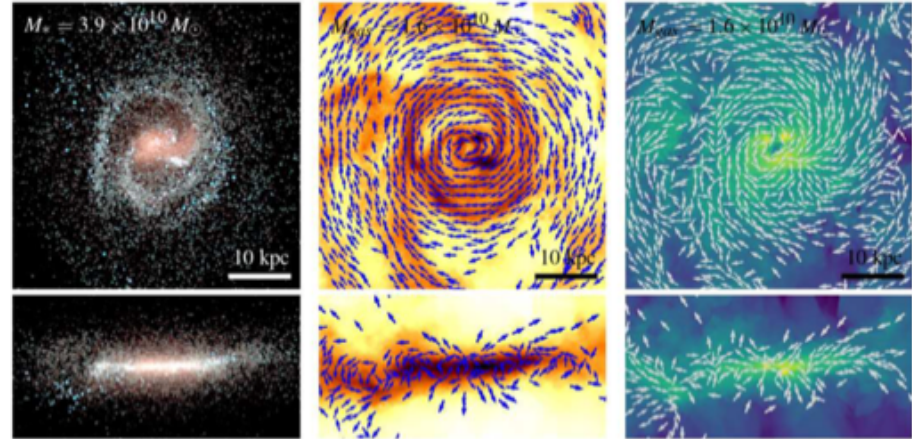
# Magnetic field predictions

# Modern MHD simulations of galaxy formation can predict the amplification of primordial fields in halos and galaxies

## MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH IN AURIGA AND ILLUSTRIS-TNG



Marinacci et al. (2018)

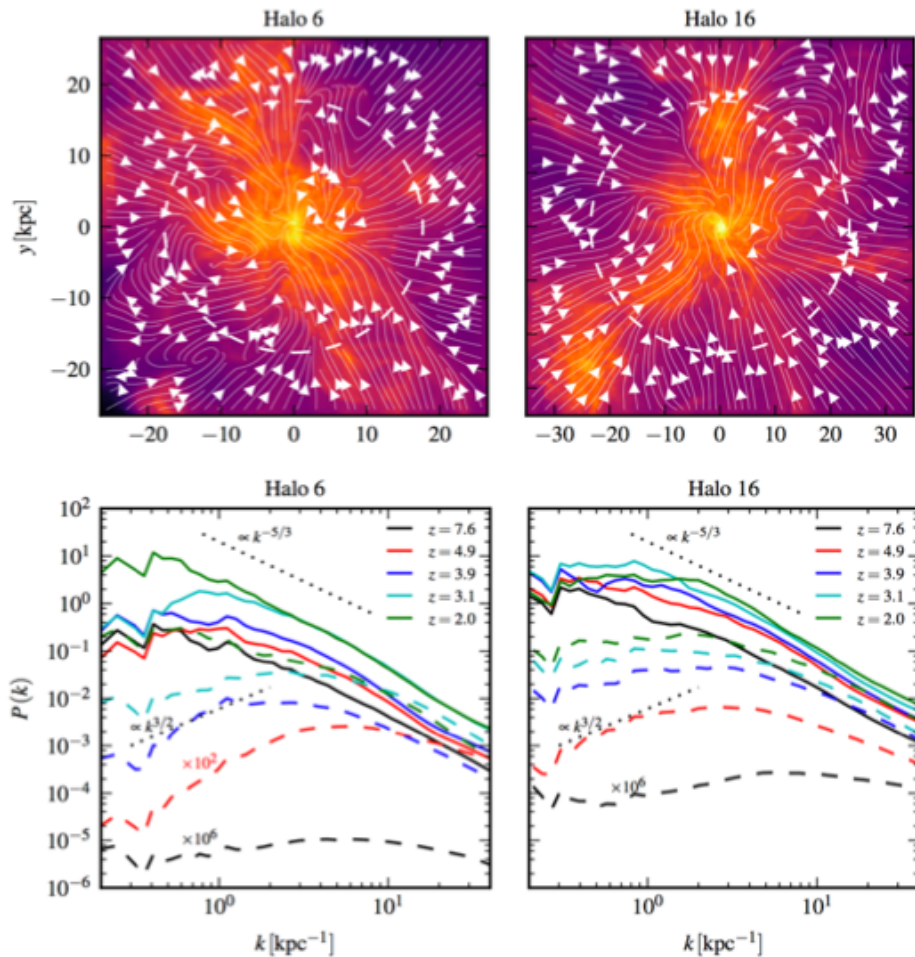
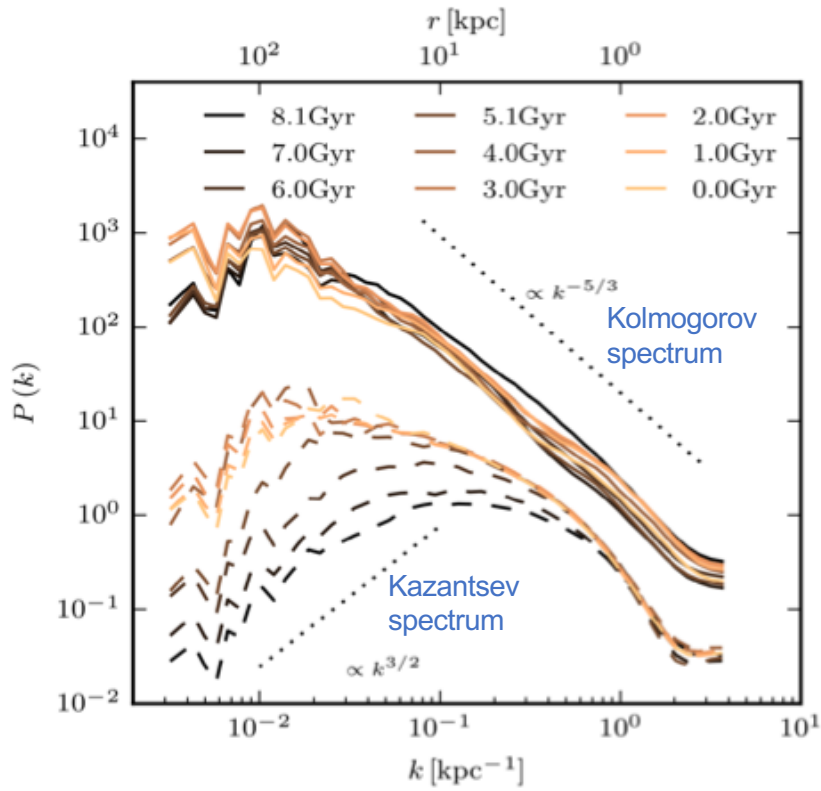


# Amplification of B-field occurs through turbulent small-scale dynamo

Pakmor et al. (2017, 2019)

## EVOLUTION OF VELOCITY AND B-FIELD POWER SPECTRA

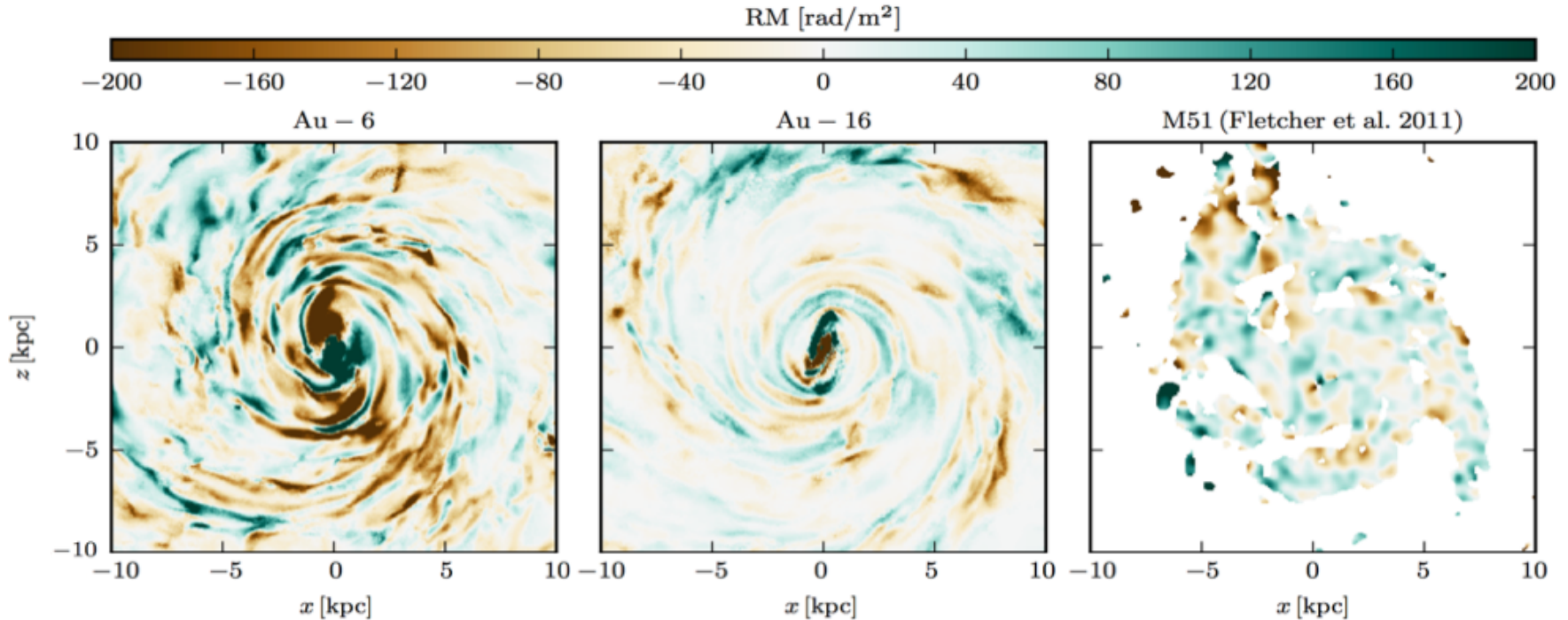
Small-scale subsonic turbulent dynamo in action:





# Faraday rotation maps provide one of the best ways to observationally probe the magnetic field in galaxies

COSMOLOGICAL PREDICTIONS FROM AURIGA COMPARED TO OBSERVATIONS OF M51



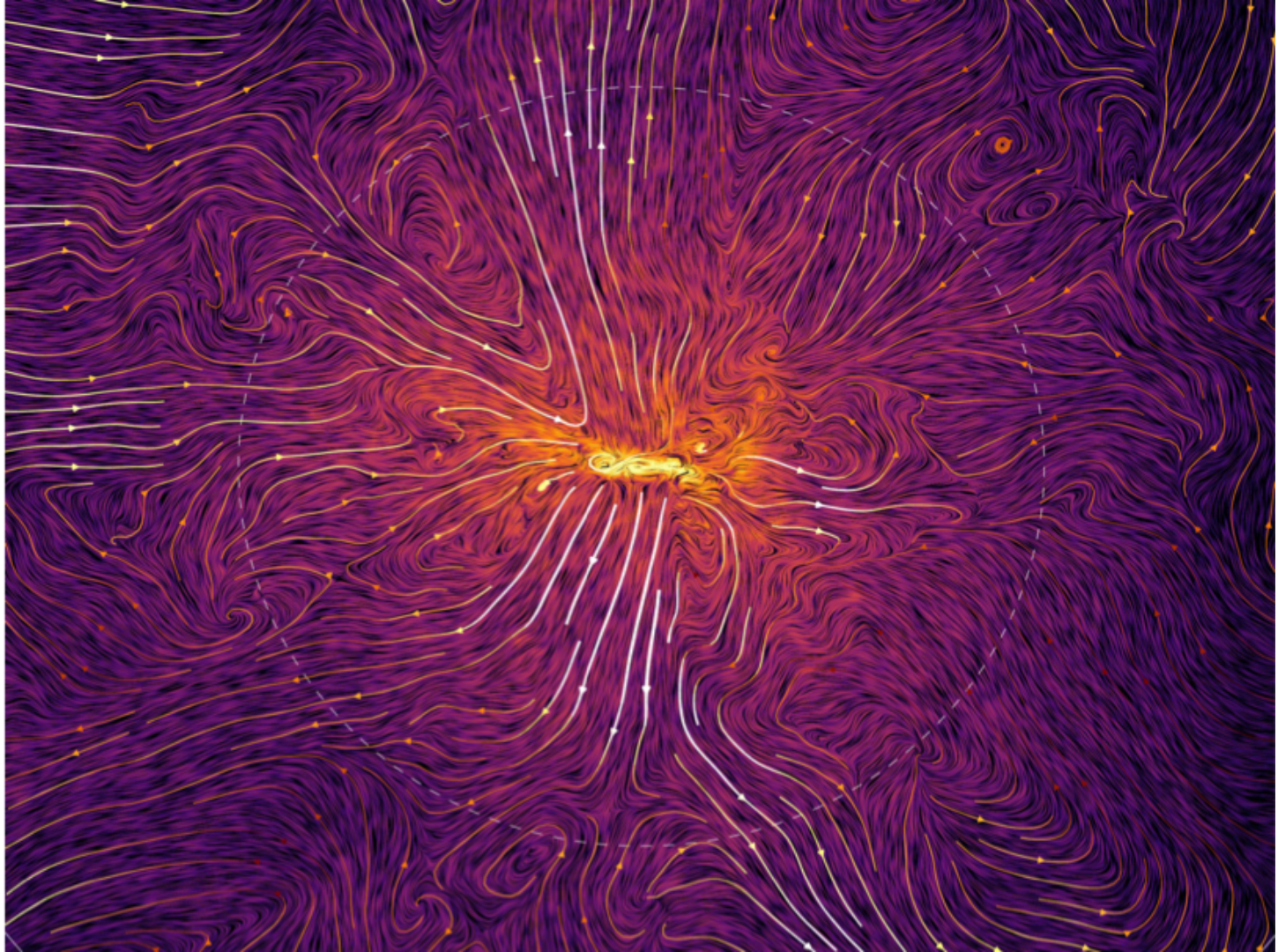
$$RM = \frac{e^3}{2\pi m_e^2 c^3} \int n_e(l) \vec{B}(l) \cdot d\vec{l},$$

Pakmor et al. (2018)

Cosmic rays

# How can galaxies shed a substantial fraction of their baryonic content?

FLOWS IN THE CIRCUM-GALACTIC MEDIUM IN A GALAXY FROM THE TNG-50 SIMULATION



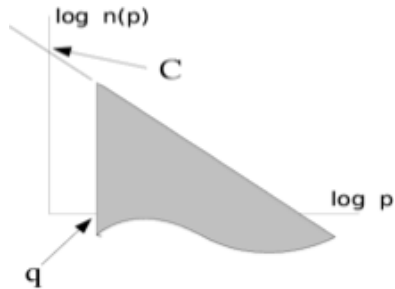


# The Galactic cosmic ray energy spectrum provides a significant contribution to the total ISM pressure

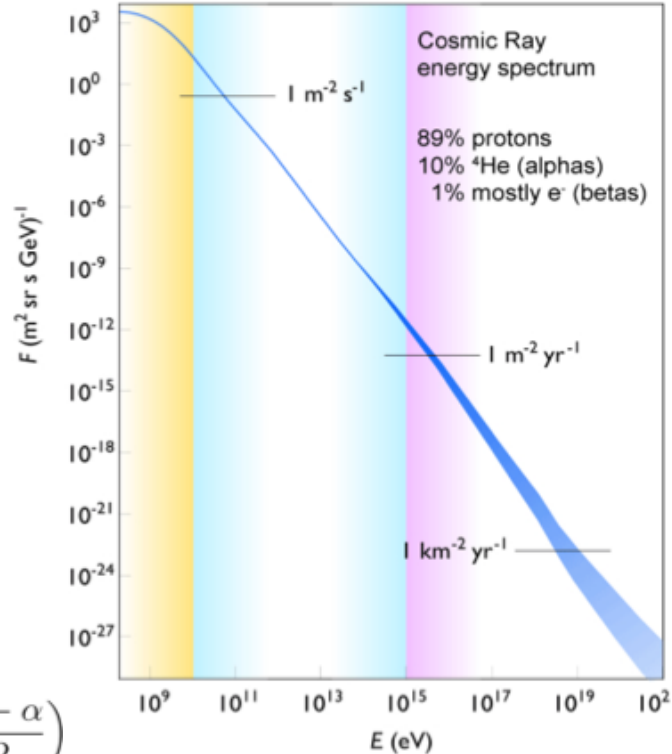
## GLOBAL PROPERTIES OF GALACTIC COSMIC RAYS

Approximation as an isotropic power-law in momentum

$$f(p) = \frac{dN}{dp dV} = C p^{-\alpha} \theta(p - q)$$



$$P_{\text{CR}} = \frac{C m_p c_{\text{light}}^2}{6} \mathcal{B}_{\frac{1}{1+q^2}} \left( \frac{\alpha - 2}{2}, \frac{3 - \alpha}{2} \right)$$



data compiled by Swordy

**energy density in cosmic rays:**  
comparable to thermal and magnetic energy densities in ISM (equipartition)

**main production mechanisms:**

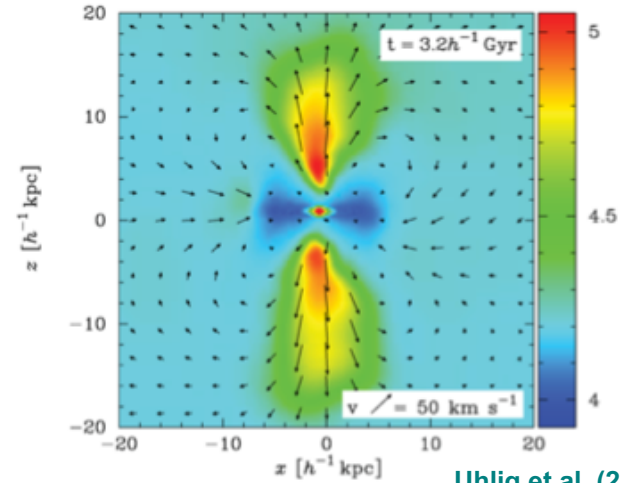
- supernova shocks (10-30% of the energy appears as CRs)
- large-scale structure formation shocks

**main dissipation mechanisms:**

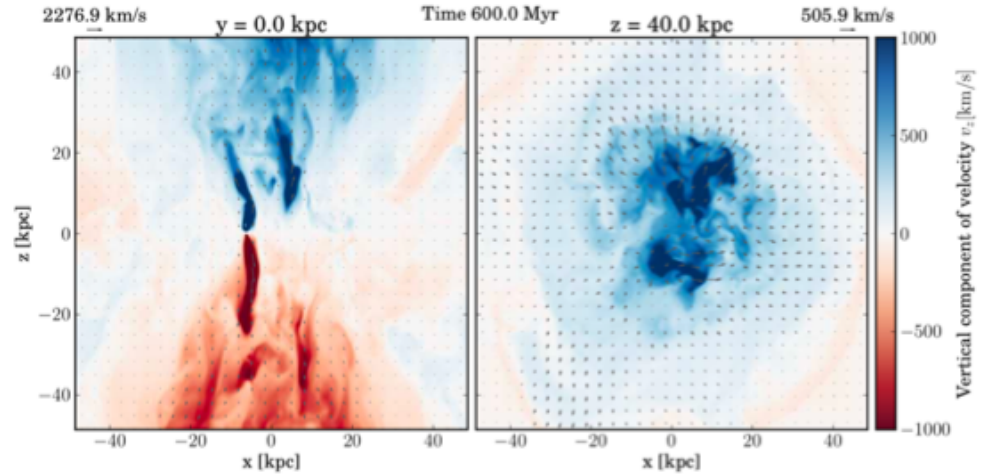
- Coulomb losses
- hadronic interactions, mostly pion production
- Bremsstrahlung (negligible for protons)

# Cosmic rays can drive galactic winds when coupled with transport processes

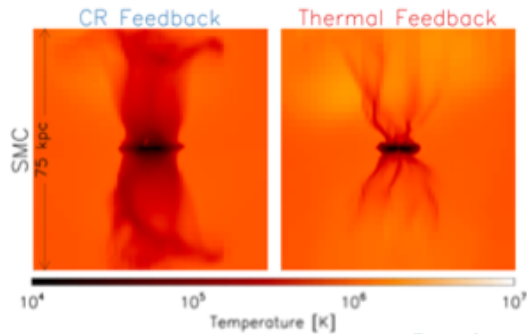
## DISK SIMULATIONS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS



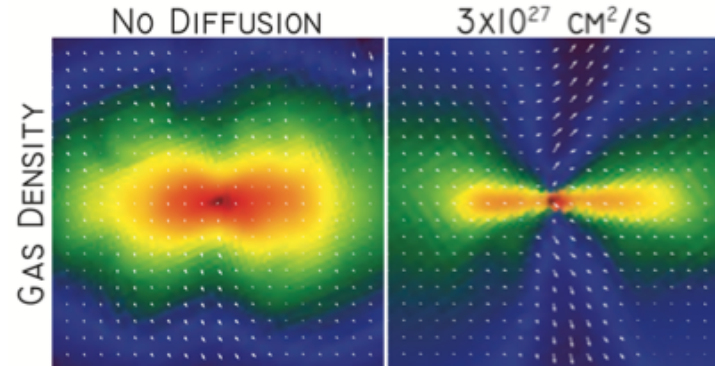
Uhlir et al. (2012)



Hanasz et al. (2013)



Booth et al. (2013)



Salem et al. (2014)

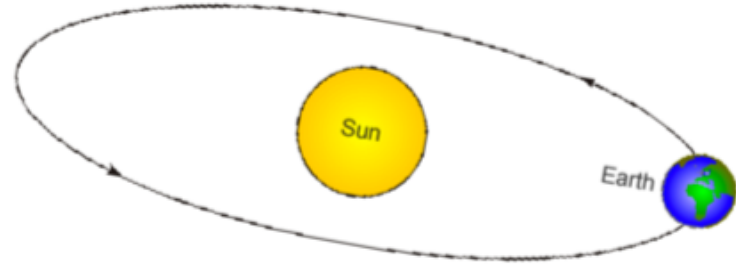
# Adding cosmic rays to galaxy formation simulations makes the dynamic range problem much harder

GYRO-RADIUS COMPARED TO THE SIZE OF A GALAXY



Milky Way-like galaxy:

$$r_{\text{gal}} \sim 10^4 \text{ pc}$$



gyro-orbit of GeV cosmic ray:

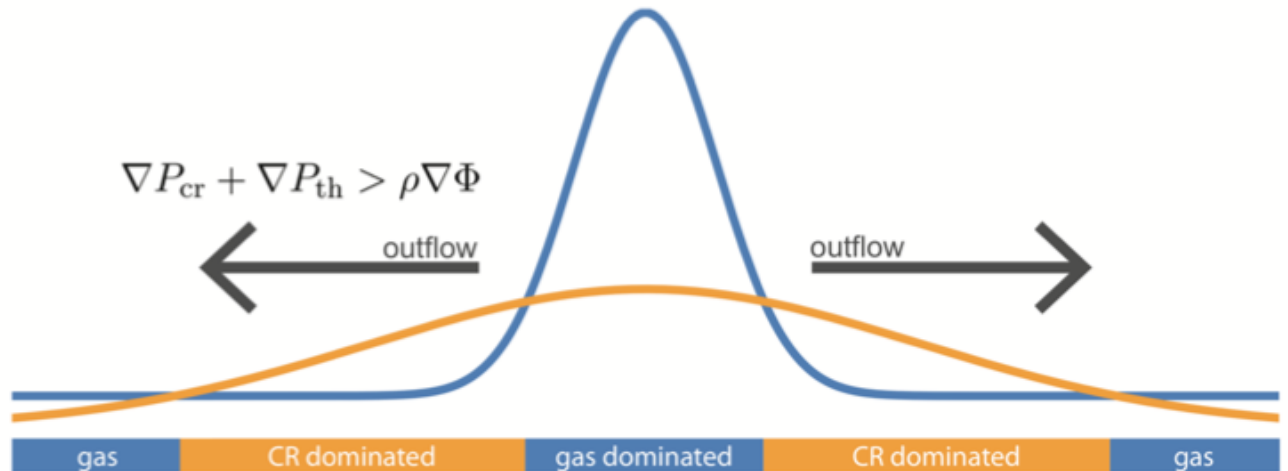
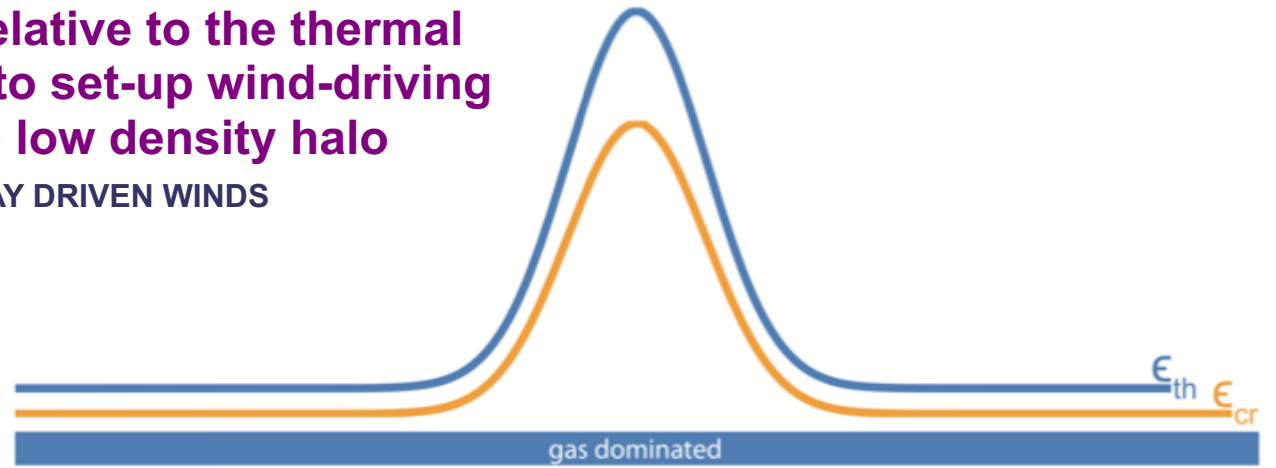
$$r_{\text{cr}} = \frac{p_{\perp}}{e B_{\mu\text{G}}} \sim 10^{-6} \text{ pc} \sim \frac{1}{4} \text{ AU}$$

→ Need to develop an effective two-fluid theory that can be treated with hydrodynamical methods



# Transport of CRs relative to the thermal energy is required to set-up wind-driving CR gradients in the low density halo

## MECHANISM OF COSMIC-RAY DRIVEN WINDS



# CR dynamics and transport complicates fluid dynamics considerably

COSMIC RAY DYNAMICS WITHOUT SOURCE AND SINK TERMS

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = S$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \rho v \\ \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon_{\text{cr}} \\ B \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho v \\ \rho v v^T + P \mathbf{1} - B B^T \\ (\varepsilon + P)v - B(v \cdot B) \\ \varepsilon_{\text{cr}} v + (\varepsilon_{\text{cr}} + P_{\text{cr}})v_{\text{st}} - \kappa_{\varepsilon} \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \varepsilon_{\text{cr}}) \\ B v^T - v B^T \end{pmatrix}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ P_{\text{cr}} \nabla \cdot v - v_{\text{st}} \cdot \nabla P_{\text{cr}} + \Lambda_{\text{th}} + \Gamma_{\text{th}} \\ -P_{\text{cr}} \nabla \cdot v + v_{\text{st}} \cdot \nabla P_{\text{cr}} + \Lambda_{\text{cr}} + \Gamma_{\text{cr}} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P = P_{\text{th}} + P_{\text{cr}} + \frac{B^2}{2} \quad \varepsilon = \varepsilon_{\text{th}} + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} + \frac{B^2}{2} \quad v_{\text{st}} = -\frac{B}{\sqrt{\rho}} \text{sgn}(B \cdot \nabla P_{\text{cr}})$$

Energy equation:

cosmic ray streaming, nasty(!) numerically

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon_{\text{cr}}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [\varepsilon_{\text{cr}}(v + v_{\text{st}}) - \kappa_{\varepsilon} \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \varepsilon_{\text{cr}})] = -P_{\text{cr}} \nabla \cdot (v + v_{\text{st}}) + \Lambda_{\text{cr}} + \Gamma_{\text{cr}}$$

anisotropic diffusion

# Stratified-box simulations of SN feedback demonstrate the importance of CRs for driving outflows

## DIFFERENT MODES OF SUPERNOVA FEEDBACK

with gas self-gravity and stationary stellar potential

self-shielding with TreeCol

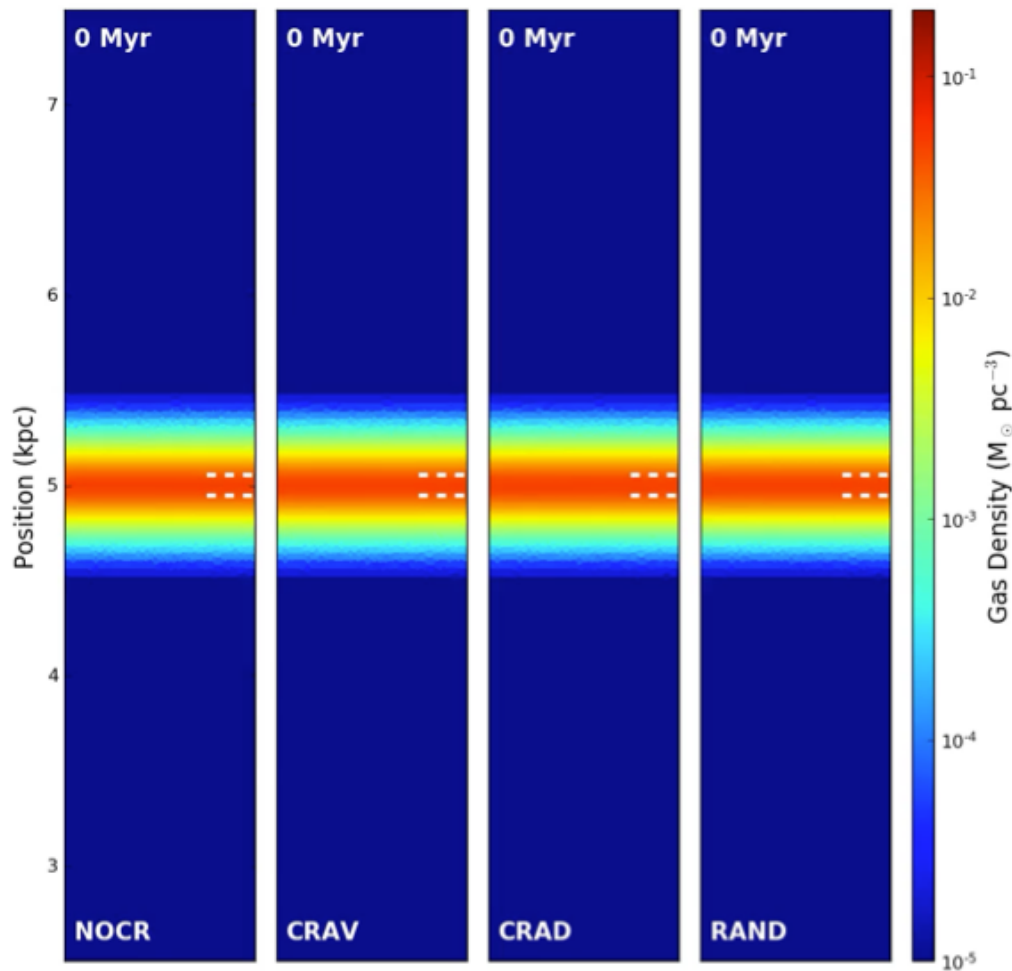
$$\Sigma_0 = 10 M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}$$

$$f_g = 0.1$$

$$m_t = 10 M_\odot$$

$$\varepsilon = 0.165 \text{ pc}$$

Simpson et al. (2016)

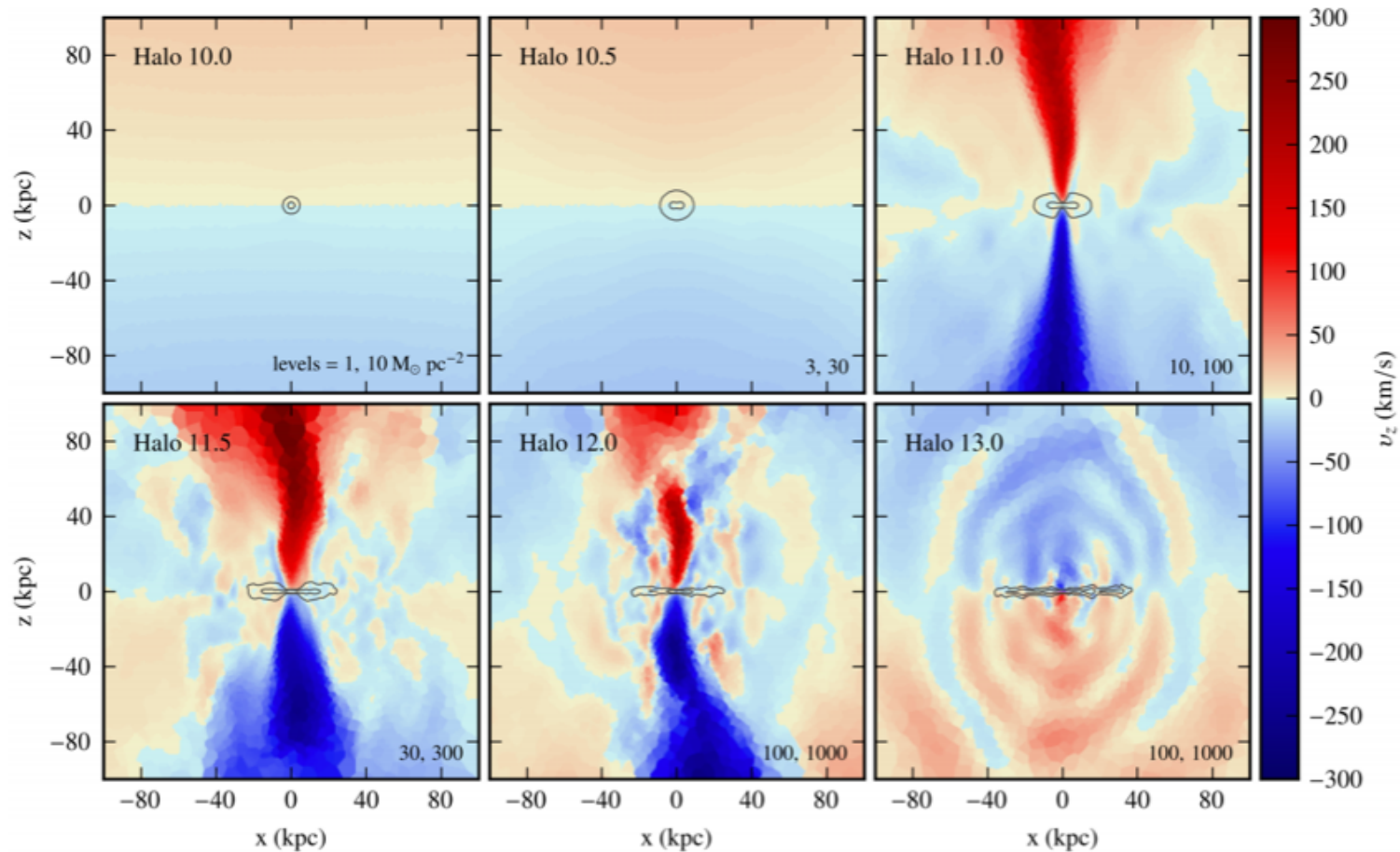




# The efficiency of cosmic ray driven winds is a strong function of halo mass

OUTFLOW VELOCITIES IN ISOLATED GALAXIES OF DIFFERENT SIZE

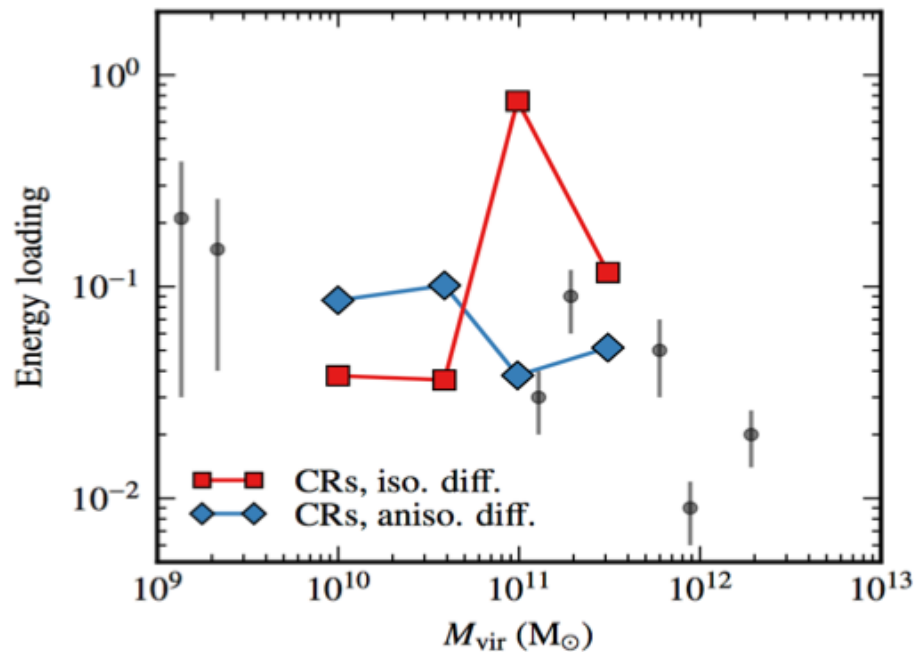
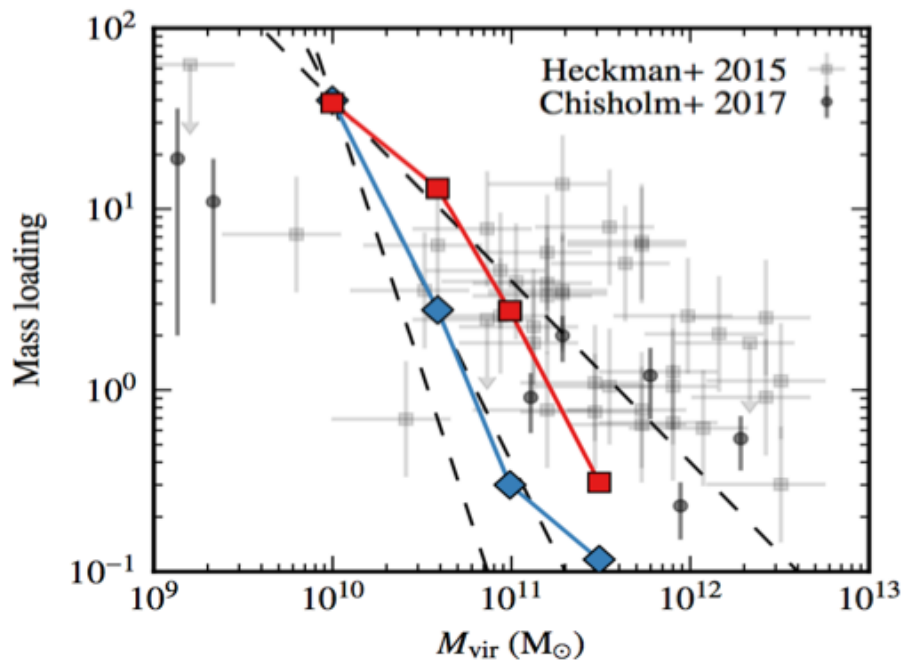
Jacob et al. (2017)



# The mass loading of CR-driven winds depends strongly on halo mass, whereas the energy loading is flat

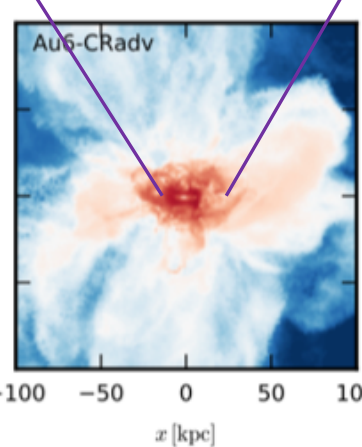
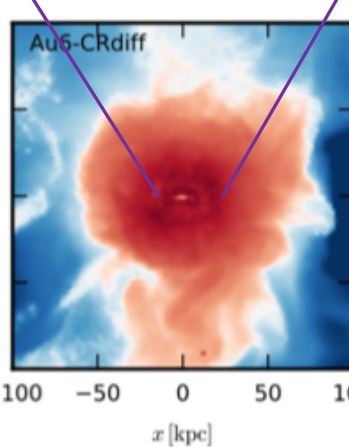
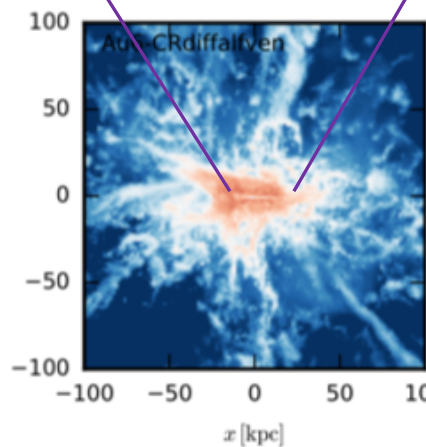
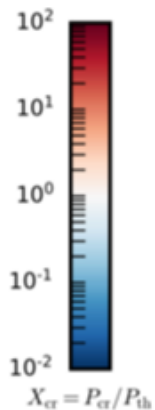
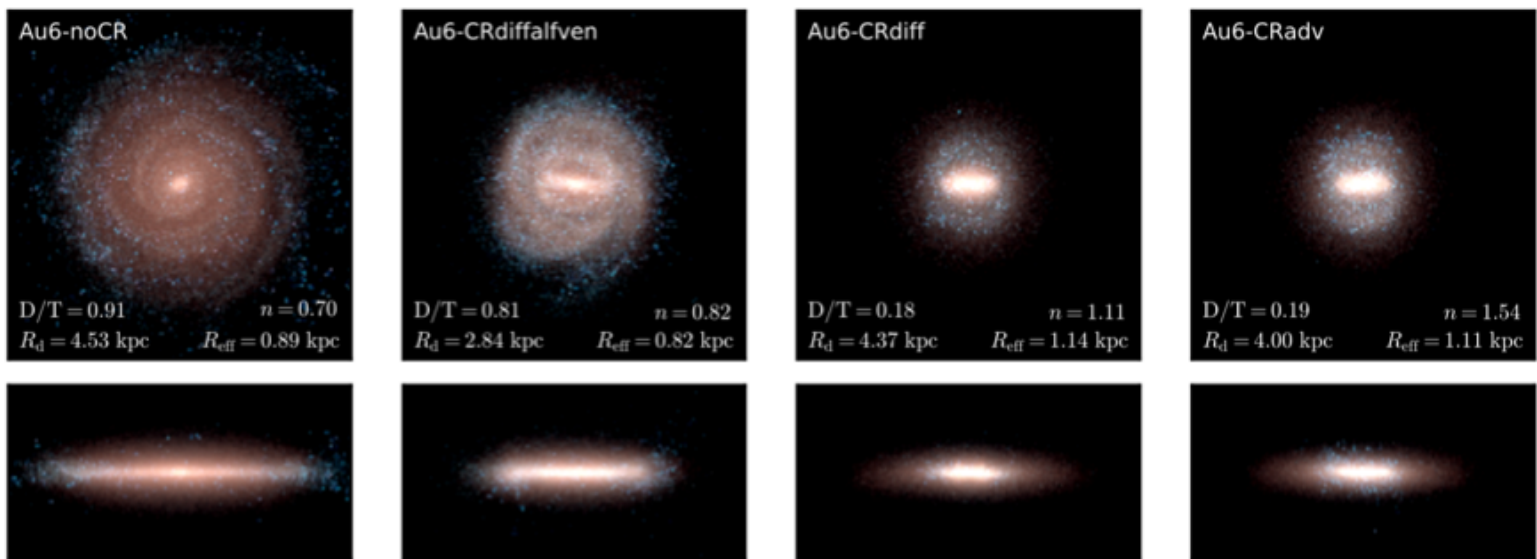
PROPERTIES OF CR DRIVEN WINDS AS A FUNCTION OF HALO MASS

Jacob et al. (2017)



# CR-transport changes the disk sizes in cosmological simulations

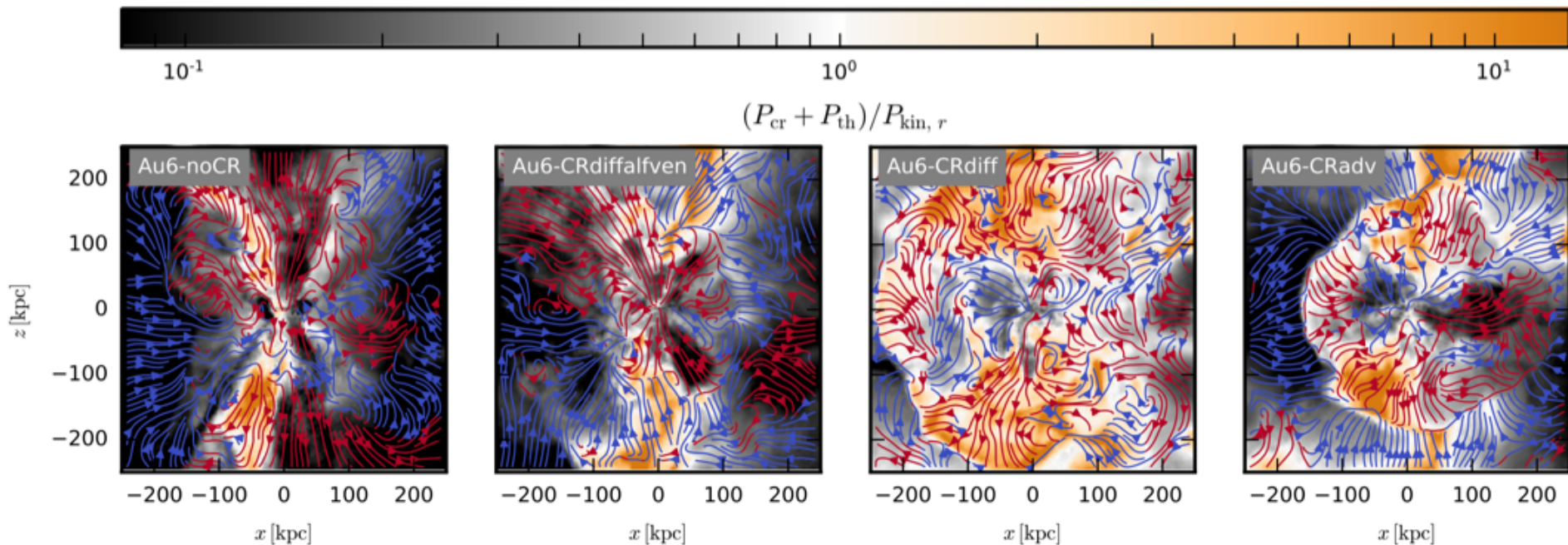
AURIGA  
SIMULATIONS  
WITH DIFFERENT  
CR PHYSICS






# Cosmic rays are able to significantly change the flow pattern in the CGM

VELOCITY FIELD IN AURIGA-6 FOR DIFFERENT CR TRANSPORT MODELS



Buck et al. (2019)

- 
- Recent hydrodynamical cosmological simulations have made substantial **progress towards successfully forming galaxies within  $\Lambda$ CDM**.
  - These simulations support a picture where **AGN feedback** quenches massive galaxies inside-out.
  - The present-day **magnetic fields** in galaxies can arise from a **small-scale dynamo** already at high redshift. The fields are insensitive to the details of magnetogenesis.
  - **Cosmic rays** could play an important role in driving galactic outflows in **low-mass galaxies**.
  - Future **multi-scale, multi-physics** simulations will be **necessary** to better understand the associated fundamental astrophysical questions.