

Computational Planet Formation: What Do We Need From the Next Generation of Models?



Wladimir Lyra

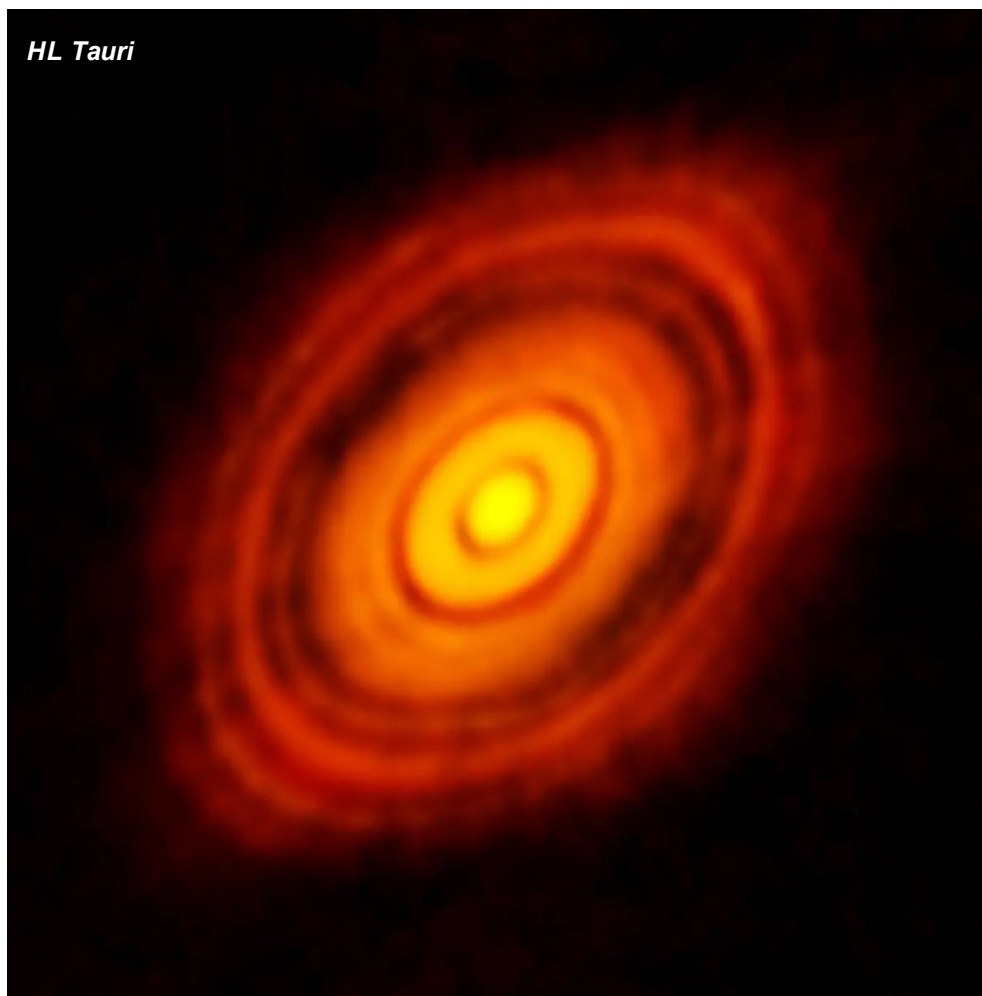
New Mexico State University

Challenges and Innovations in Computational Astrophysics VI
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) - Mohali, India

Sept 29th, 2025

Observational Evidence

The Atacama Large (sub-)Millimeter Array (ALMA) has been returning high-resolution images of circumstellar disks, resolving structure



Instruments

Atacama Large (sub-)Millimeter Array
ALMA



Very Large Array
VLA



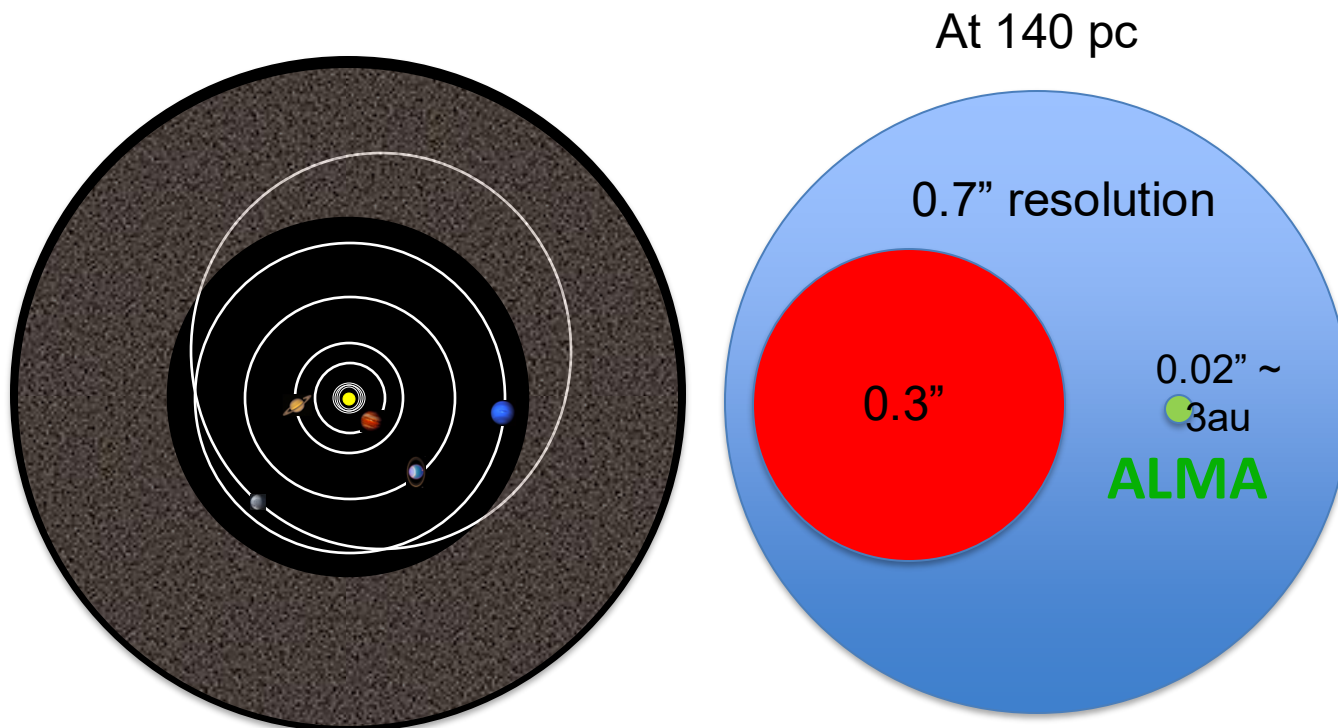
Subaru



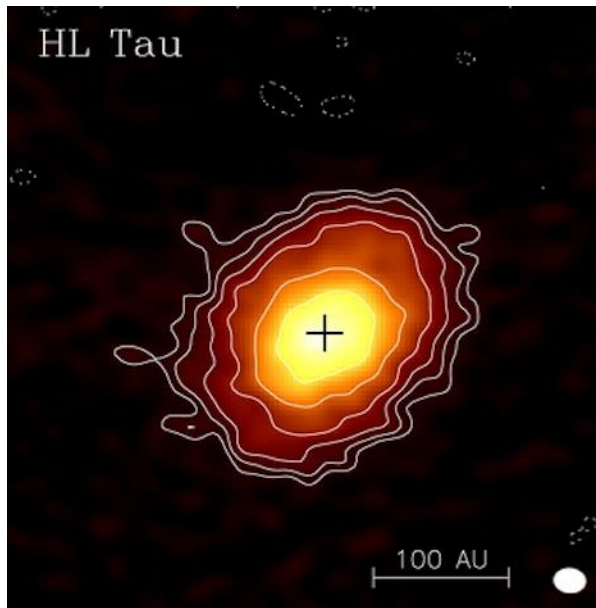
VLT



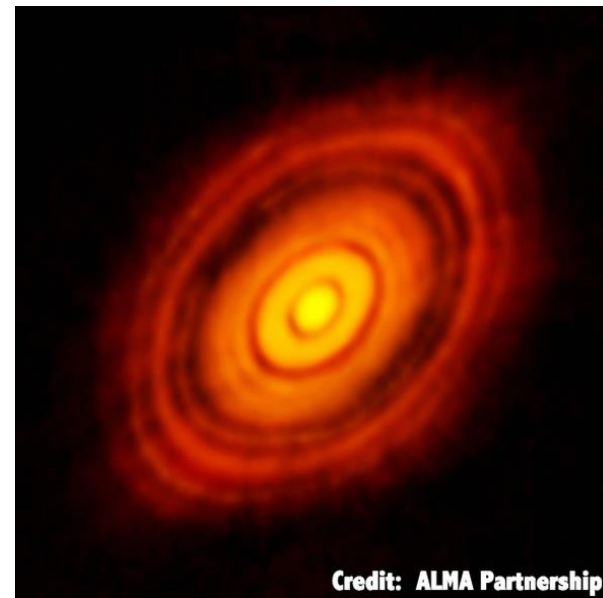
The ALMA Revolution



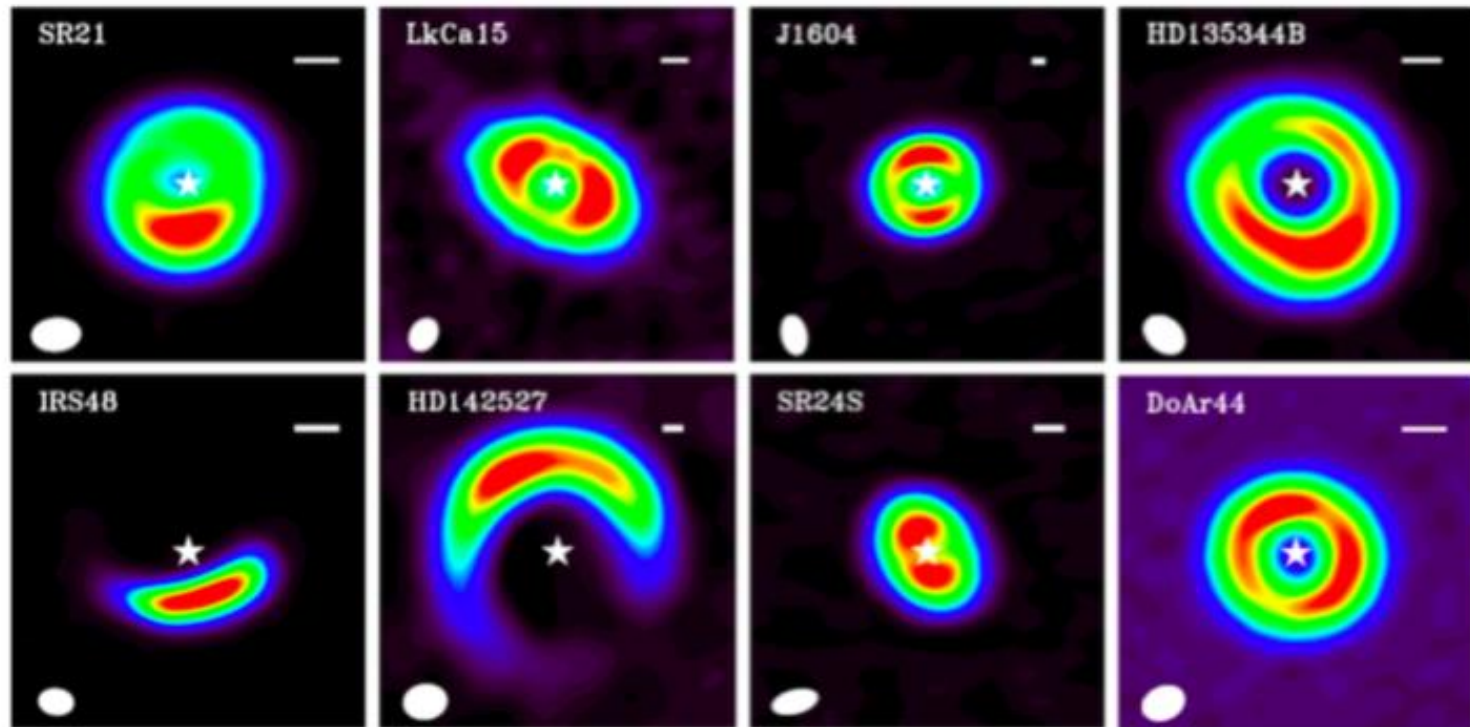
Before ALMA



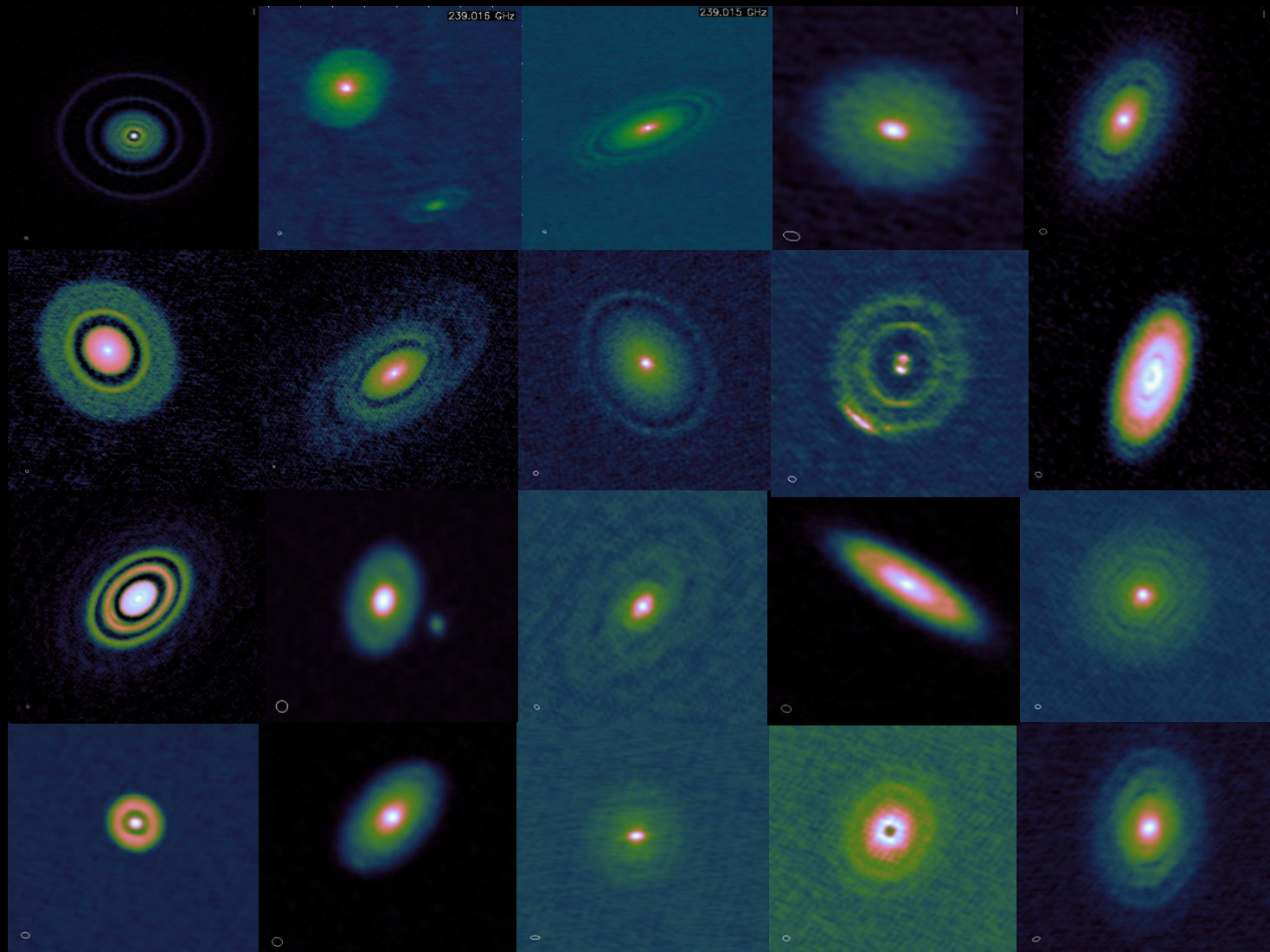
ALMA



ALMA Cycle 0 (2012)



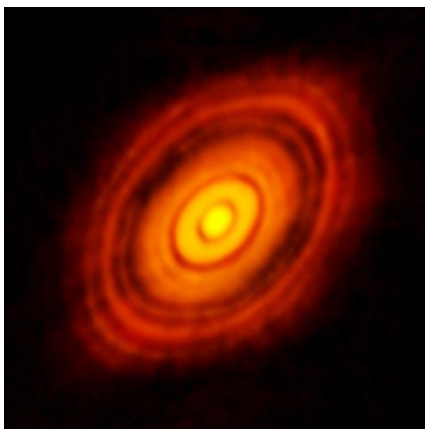
ALMA Disk Substructure in High-Angular Resolution (DSHARP) Survey (2018)



Observational Evidence

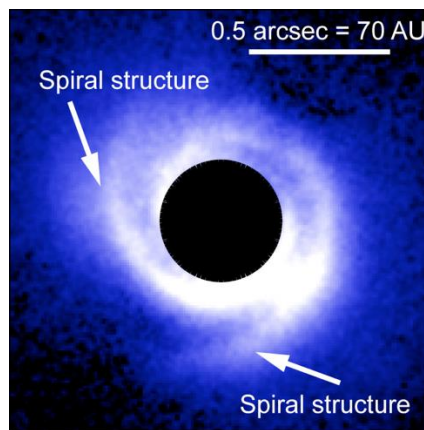
Structure: gaps, spirals, and vortices

HL Tau



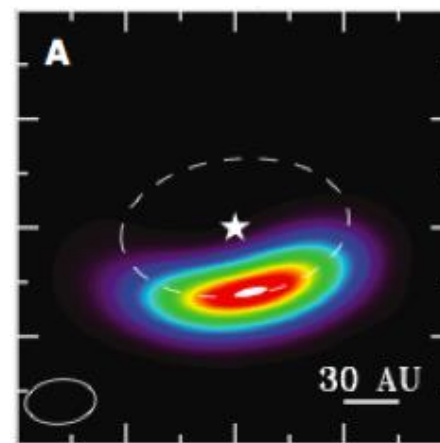
The ALMA Partnership et al. (2015)

SAO 206462



Muto et al. (2012)

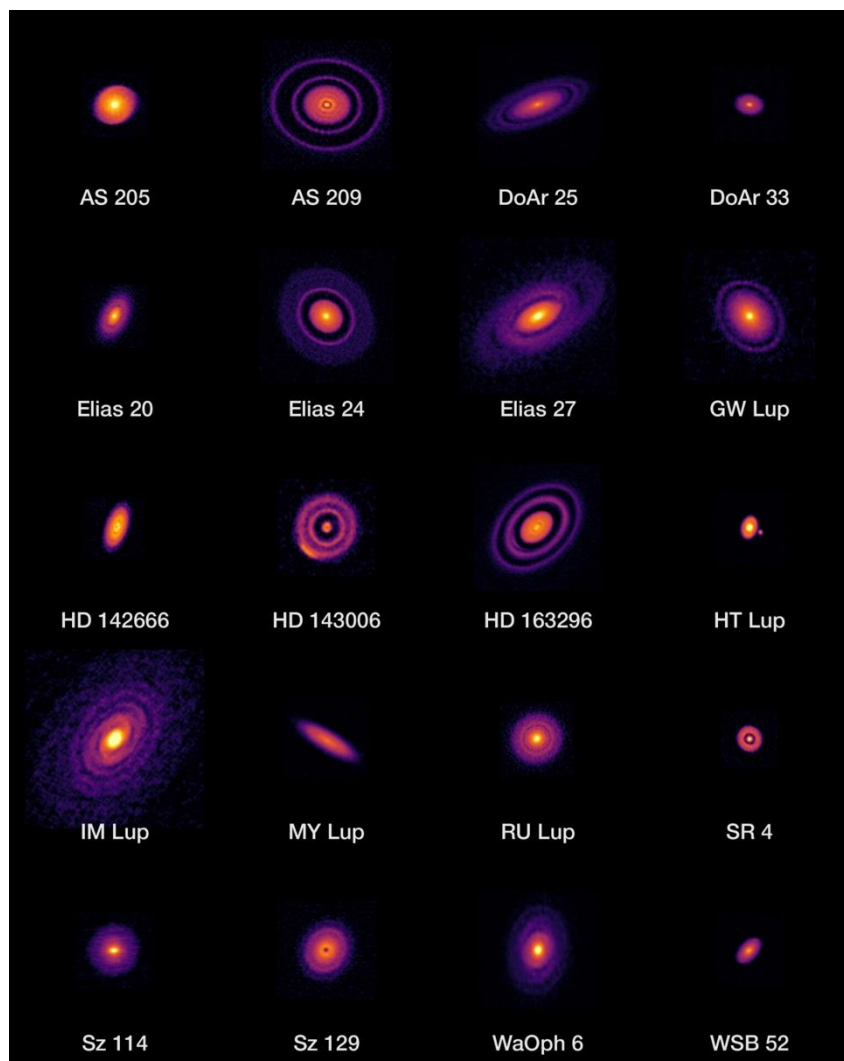
Oph IRS 48



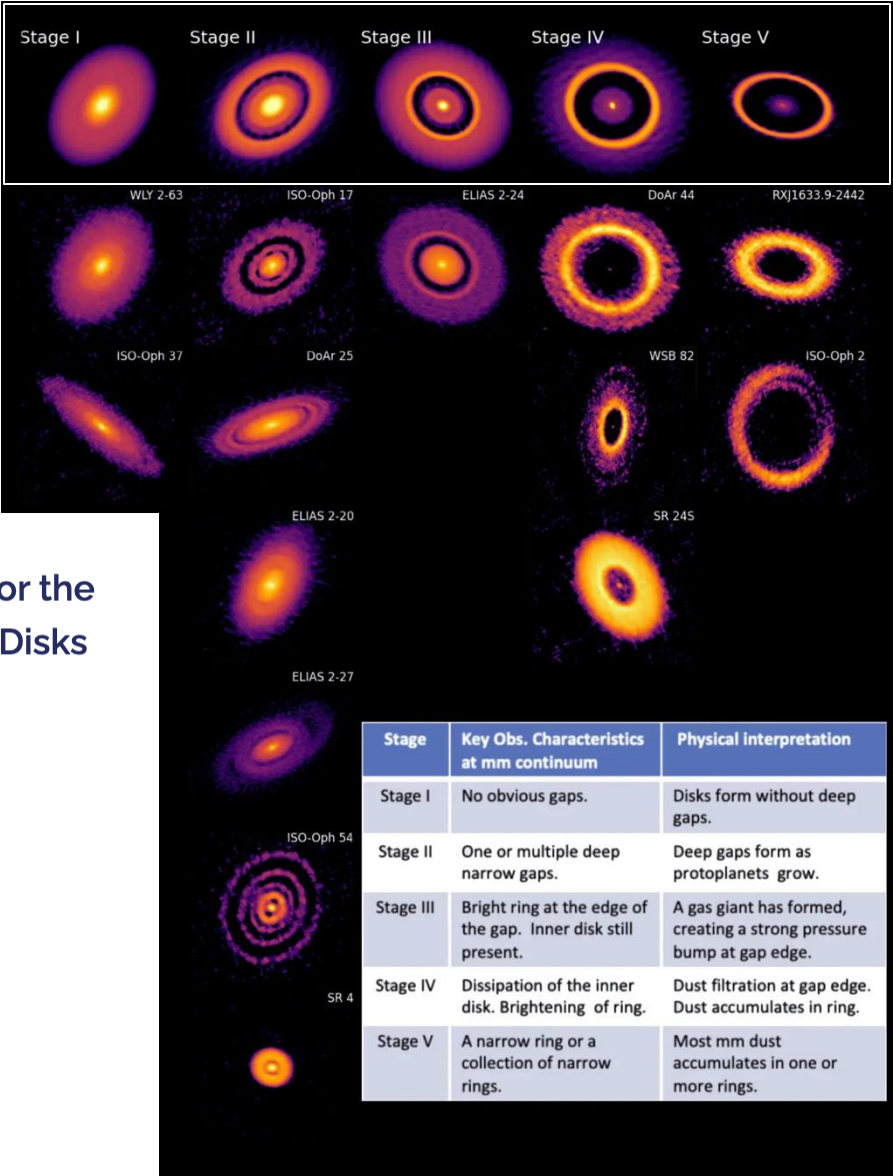
van der Marel et al. (2013)

Observational Evidence

The Ophiucus Disk Survey Employing ALMA (ODISEA)



Time series of planet formation?



Press Releases

ALMA Inspires New Models for the Evolution of Planet-Forming Disks

6 May, 2025 / Read time: 7 minutes

Observational Evidence

Polarization maps: dust properties and magnetic fields

nature astronomy

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nature > nature astronomy > articles > article

Article | Open access | Published: 05 February 2025

Observationally derived magnetic field strength and 3D components in the HD 142527 disk

Satoshi Ohashi , Takayuki Muto, Yusuke Tsukamoto, Akimasa Kataoka, Takashi Tsukagoshi, Munetake Momose, Misato Fukagawa & Nami Sakai

Field geometry

$$|B_r| : |B_\phi| : |B_z| \sim 0.26 : 1.0 : 0.23$$

Field strength

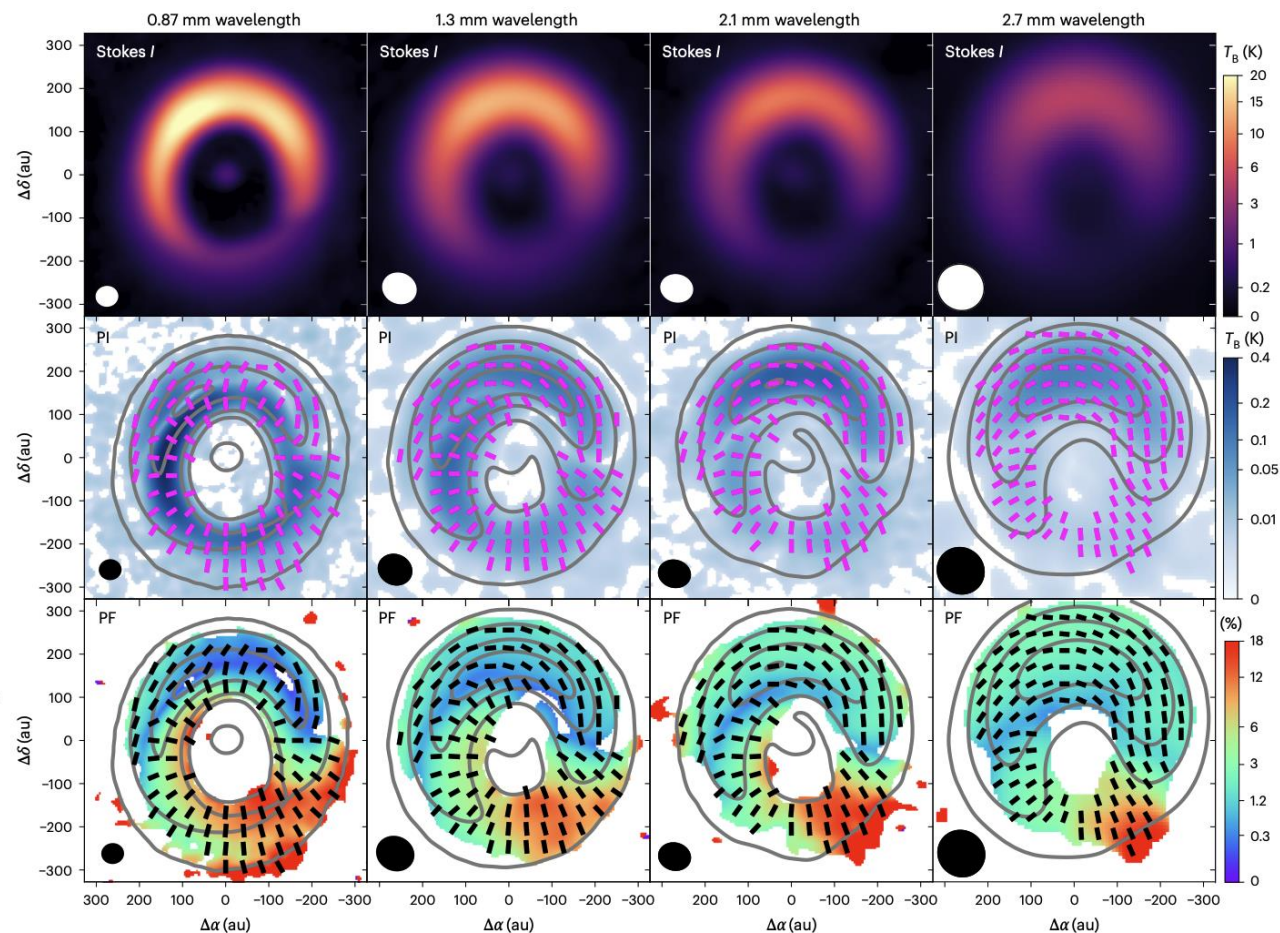
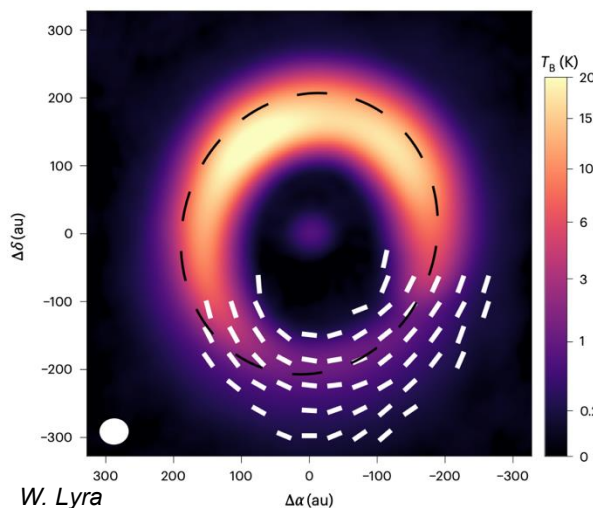
$$|B| \sim 0.3 \text{ mG}$$

Plasma beta

$$\beta \sim 2.0 \times 10^2$$

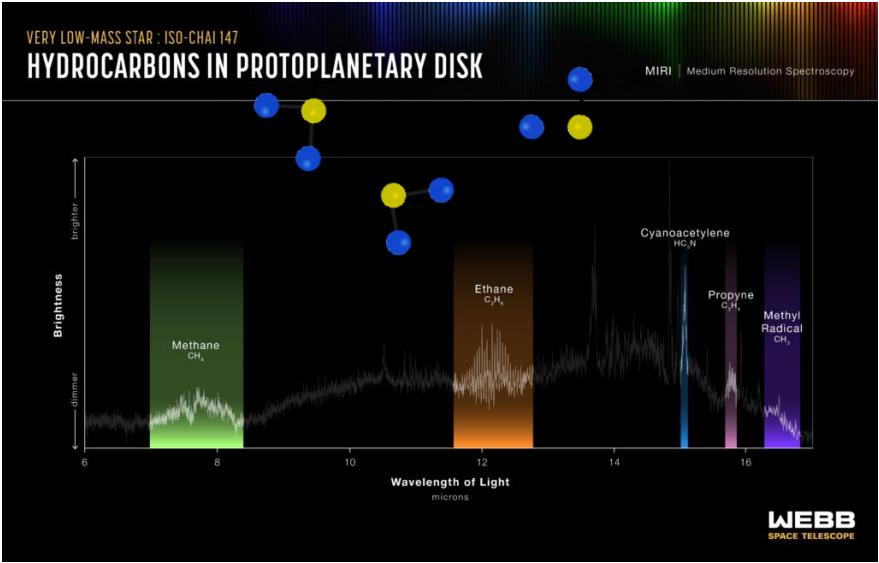
Ambipolar Elsasser number

$$Am \sim 0.4$$



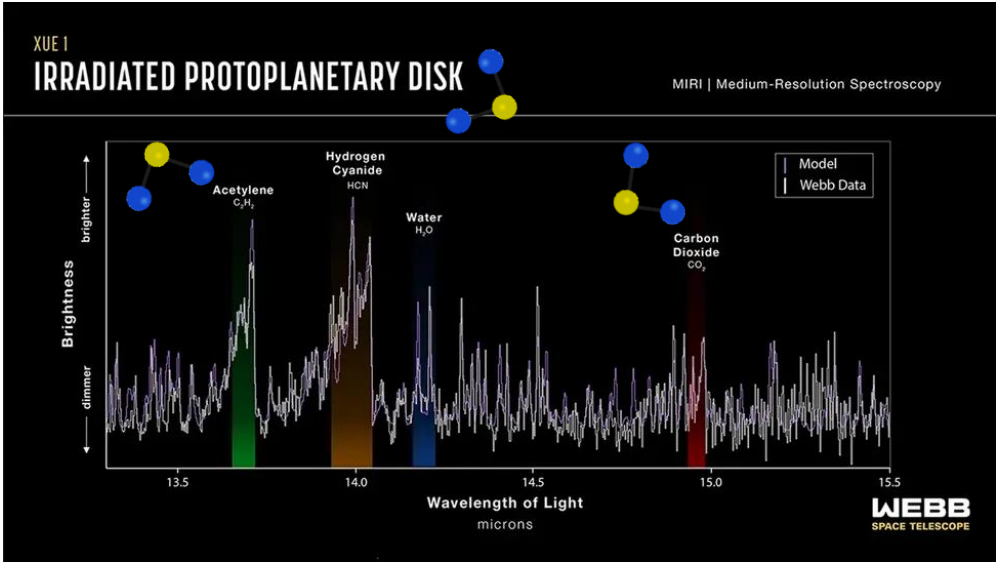
Observational Evidence

The JWST Mid-Infrared Survey (MINDS)



Arabavi et al. (2024, 2025)
 PI Thomas Henning

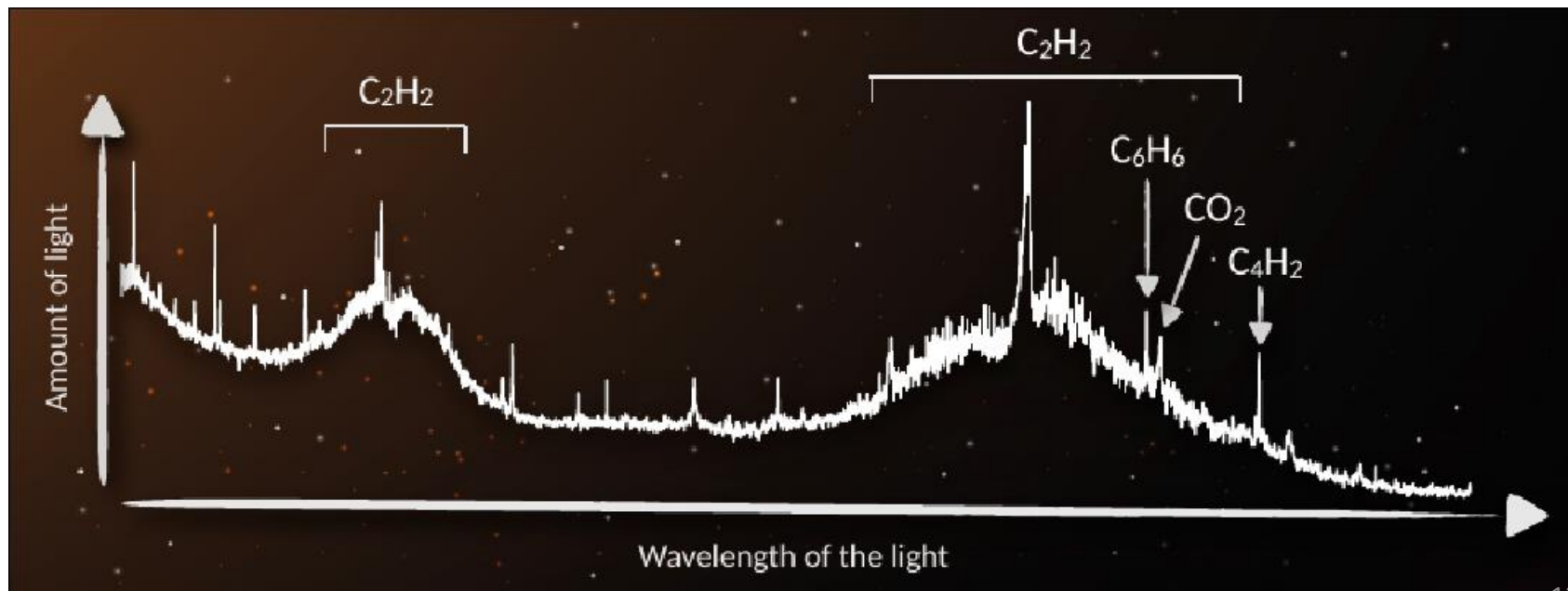
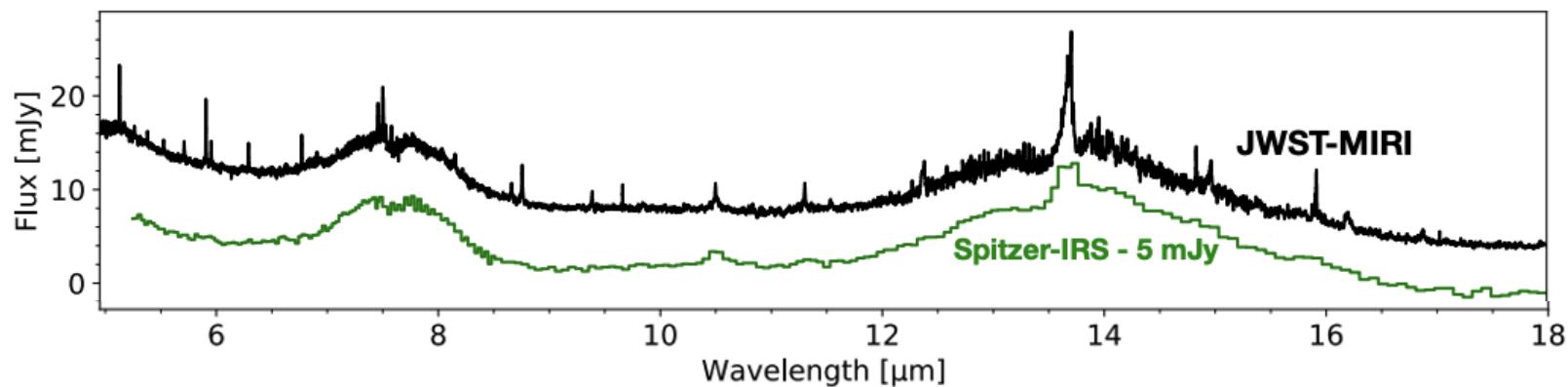
The Extreme UV Environments JWST program (XUE)



Ramirez-Tannus et al. (2023)
 PI Maria Ramirez-Tannus & Arjan Bik

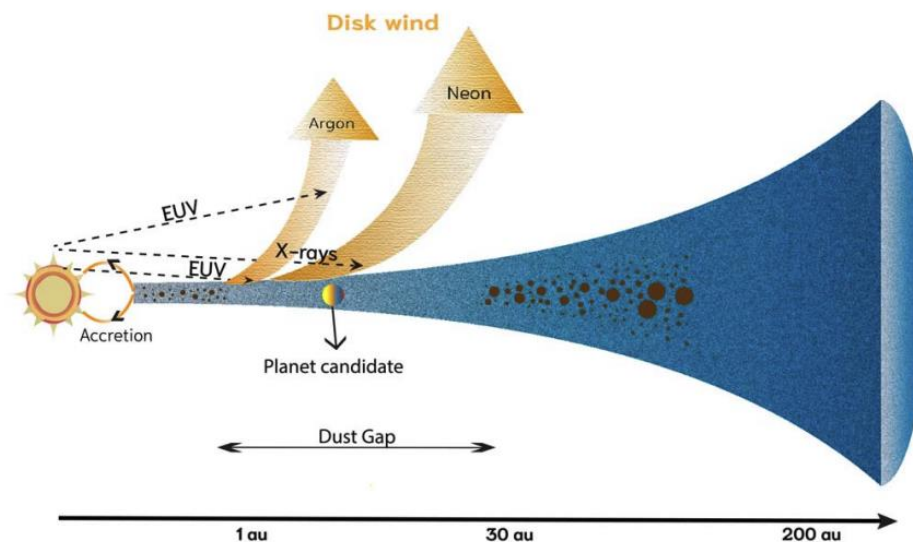
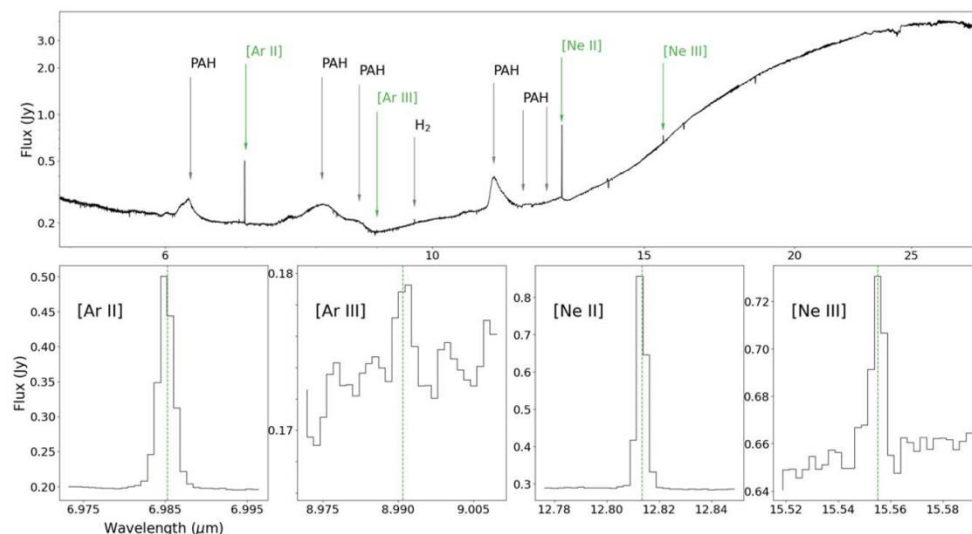
Observational Evidence

JWST vs Spitzer



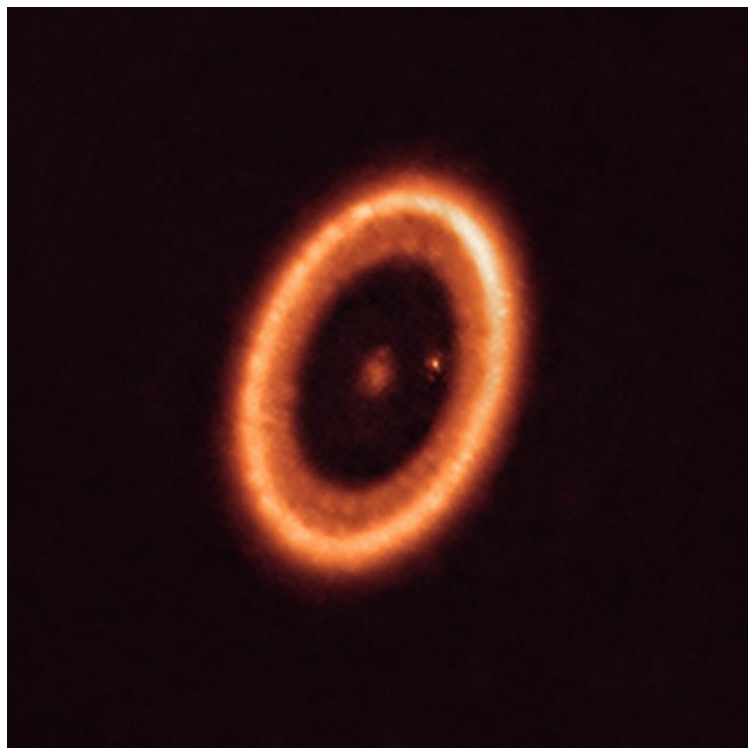
Observational Evidence

JWST: disk spectra (chemistry, ice/gas tracers)



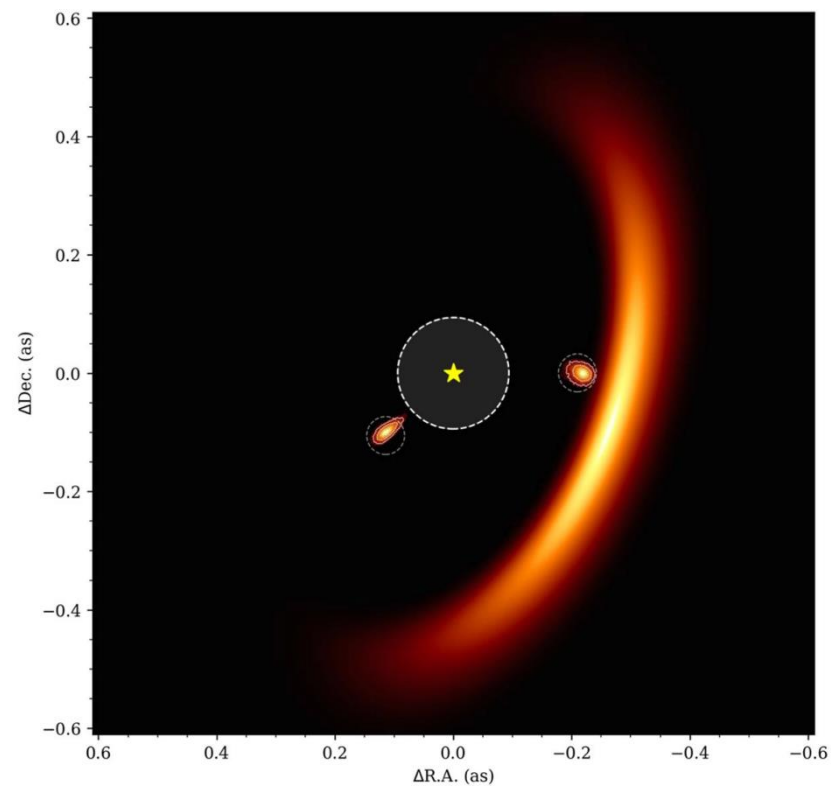
Detection of Circumplanetary Disk

ALMA



Keppler et al. (2018); Isella et al. (2019); Benisty et al. (2021)
Balsalobre-Ruza et al. (2023)

JWST Interferometry



Blakely et al. (2025)

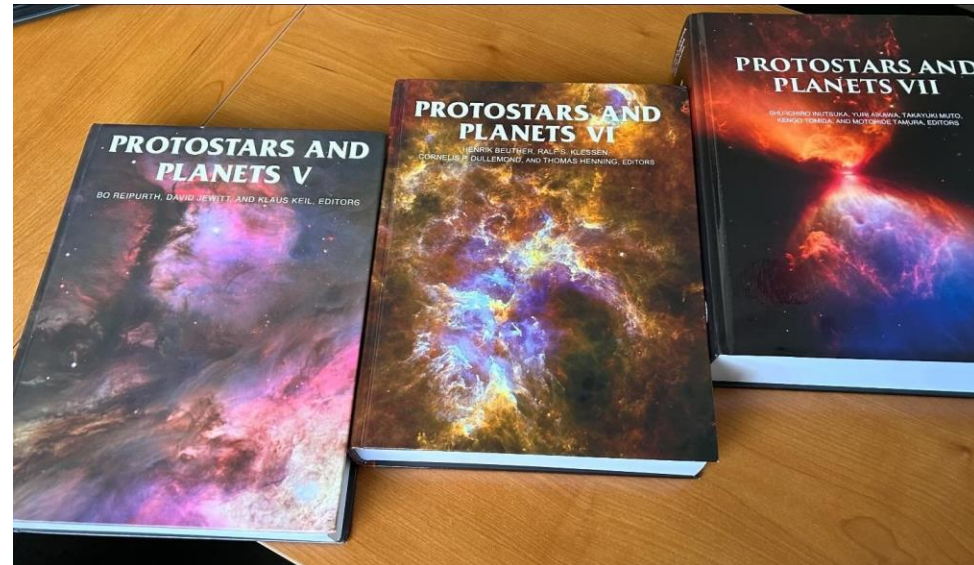
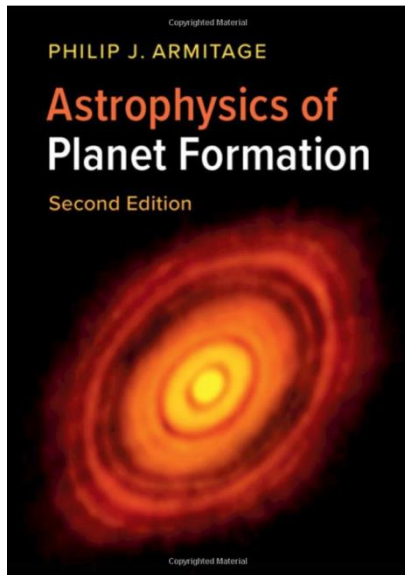
Observations demand models that are:

- 3D,
- High-resolution,
- Multiscale
- Multiphysics (+chemistry)

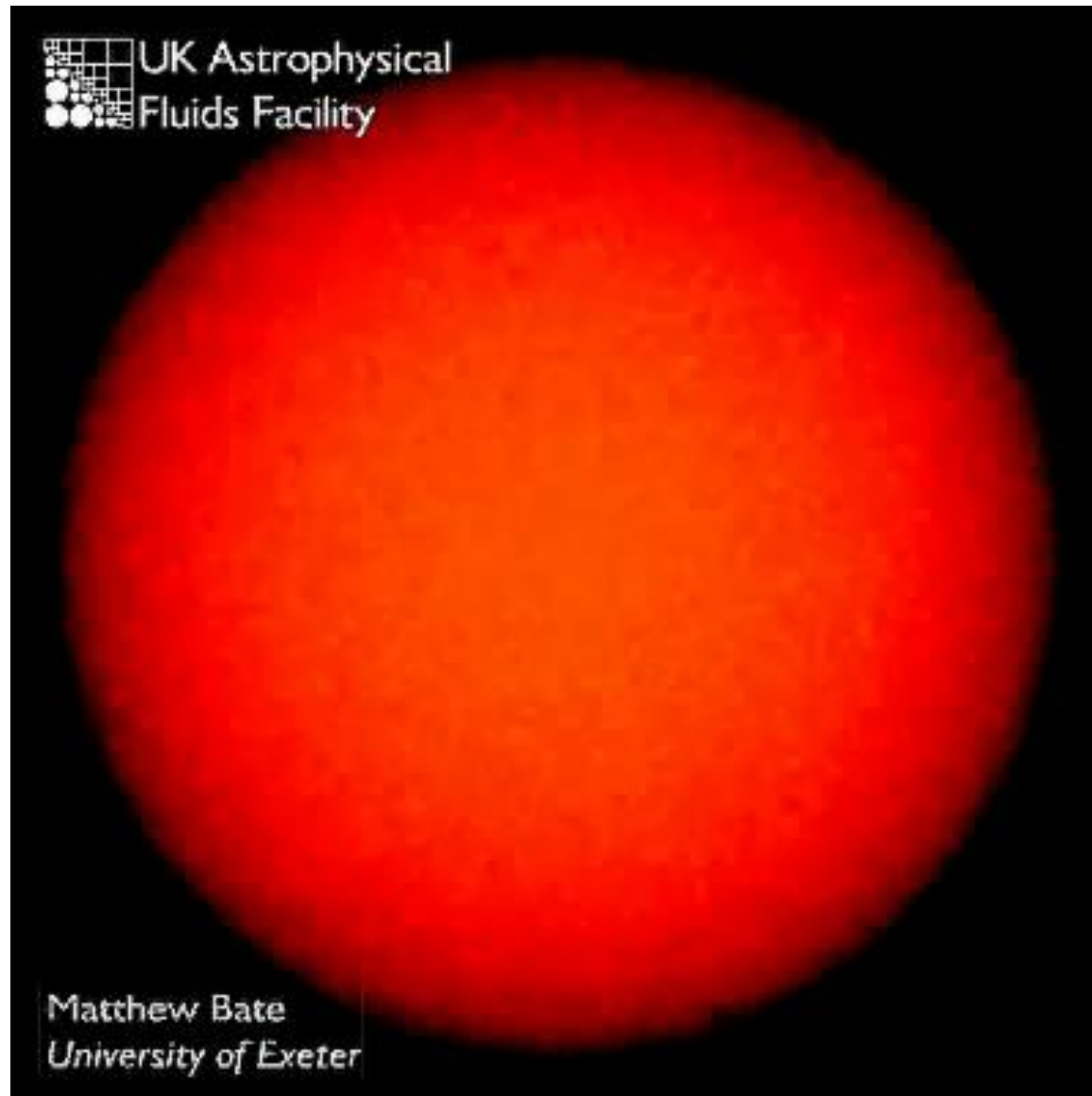
- PP7 Chapter 13 - Hydro-, Magnetohydro-, and Dust-Gas Dynamics of Protoplanetary Disks, Lesur et al. 2022.

Reading Material

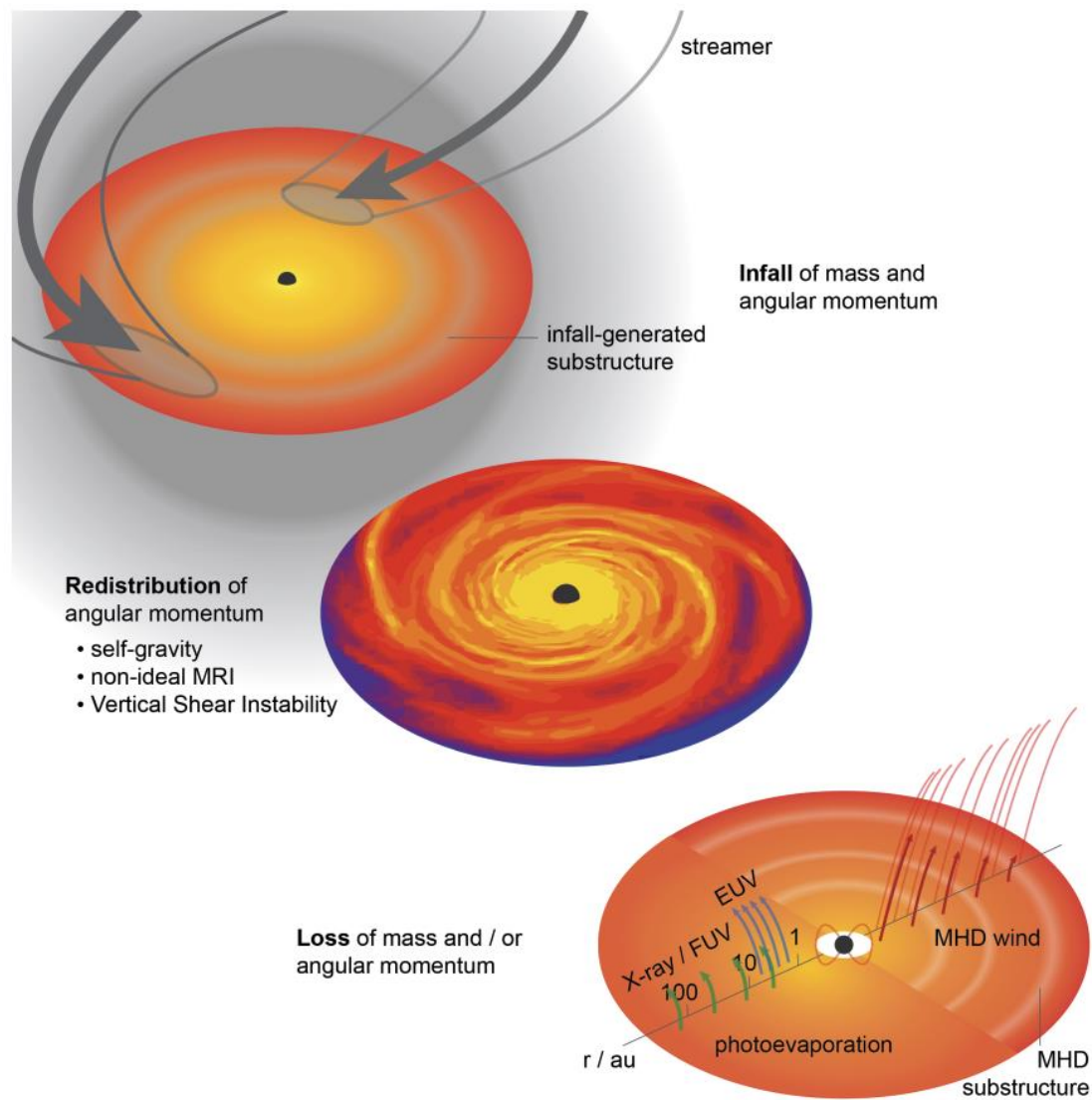
- The Initial Conditions for Planet Formation: Turbulence Driven by Hydrodynamical Instabilities in Disks around Young Stars, Lyra & Umurhan 2019, PASP, 131, 1001.
- Astrophysics of Planet Formation, 2nd edition 2020, Armitage, Cambridge University Press.



Square One: Star Formation



Disk evolution



Planet Formation via Core Accretion

Core Accretion

Dust grains

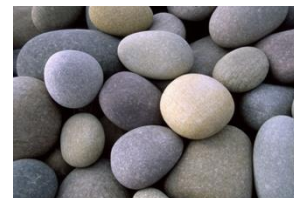


0.1 – 1 μm

coagulation

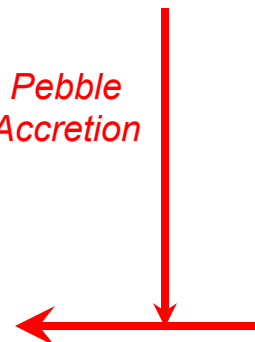


Pebbles



mm – cm

*Pebble
Accretion*



Protoplanets
Rocky Planets
Planetary Cores



Gas Accretion



*Streaming
Instability*

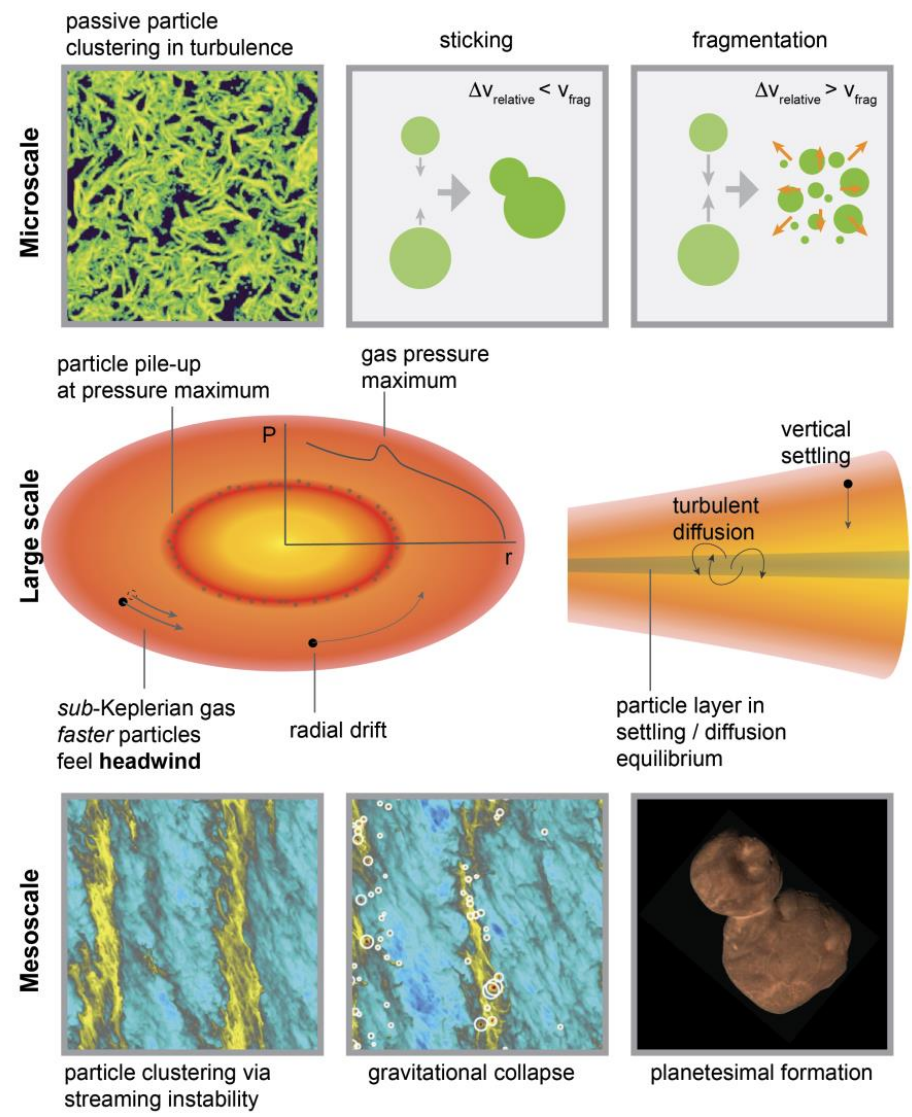


Planetesimals

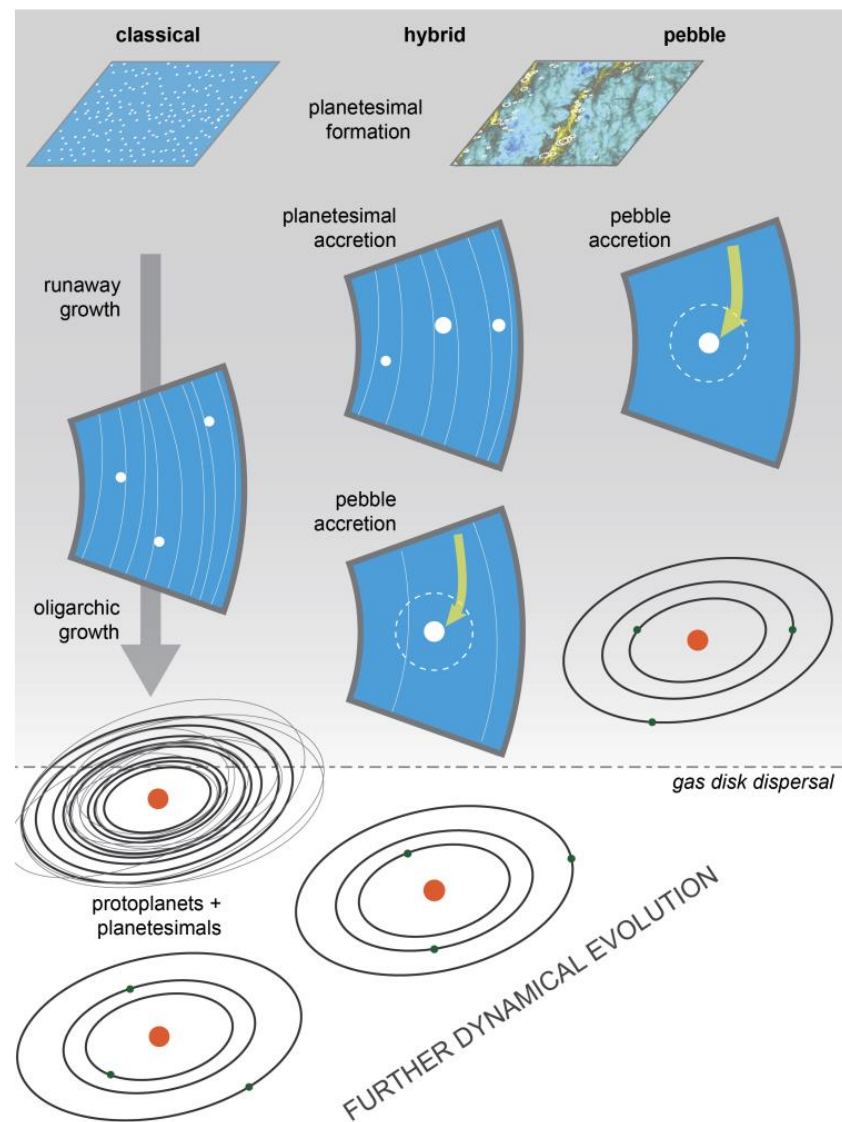


1-100km

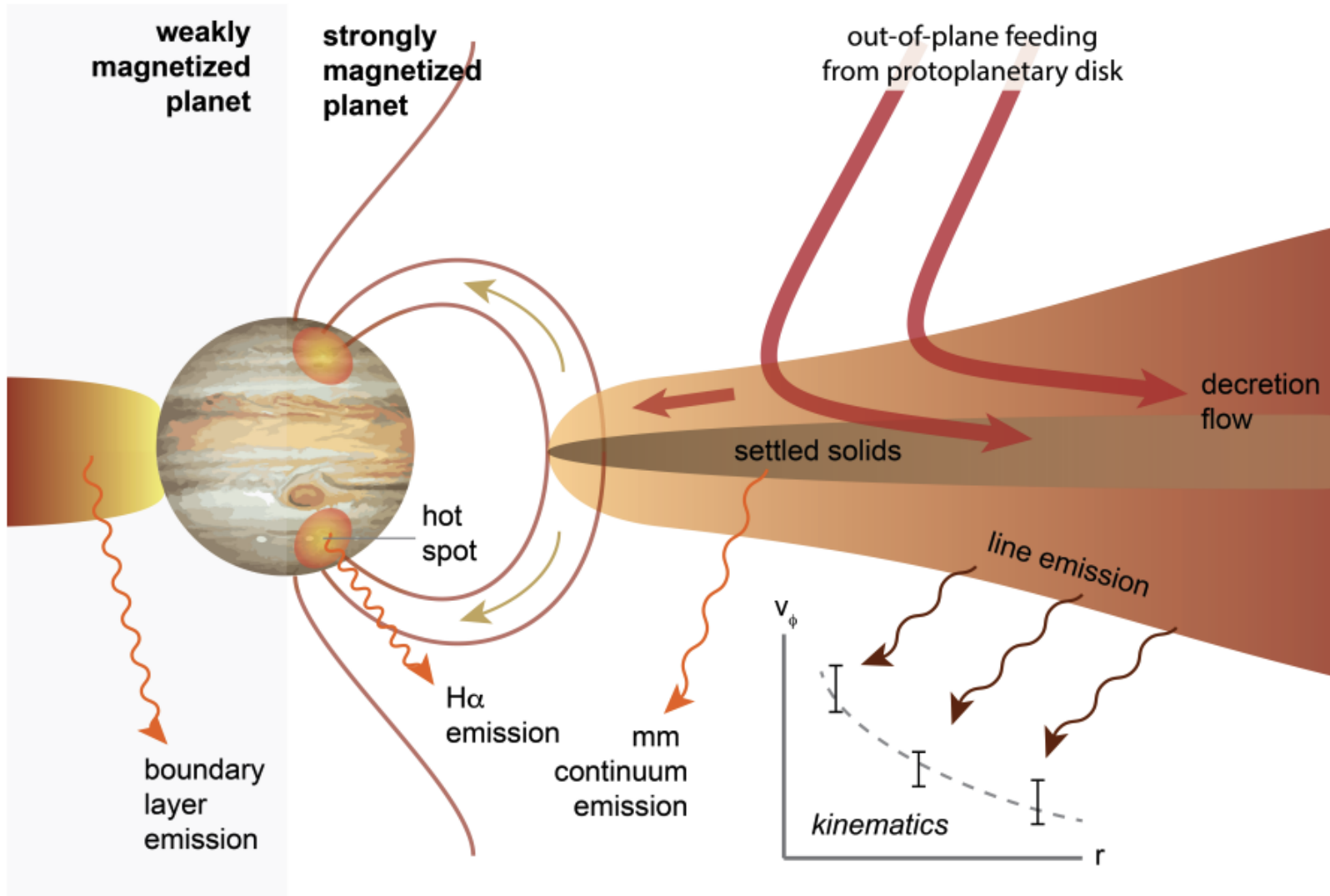
Dust growth and planet formation



Planetary Growth

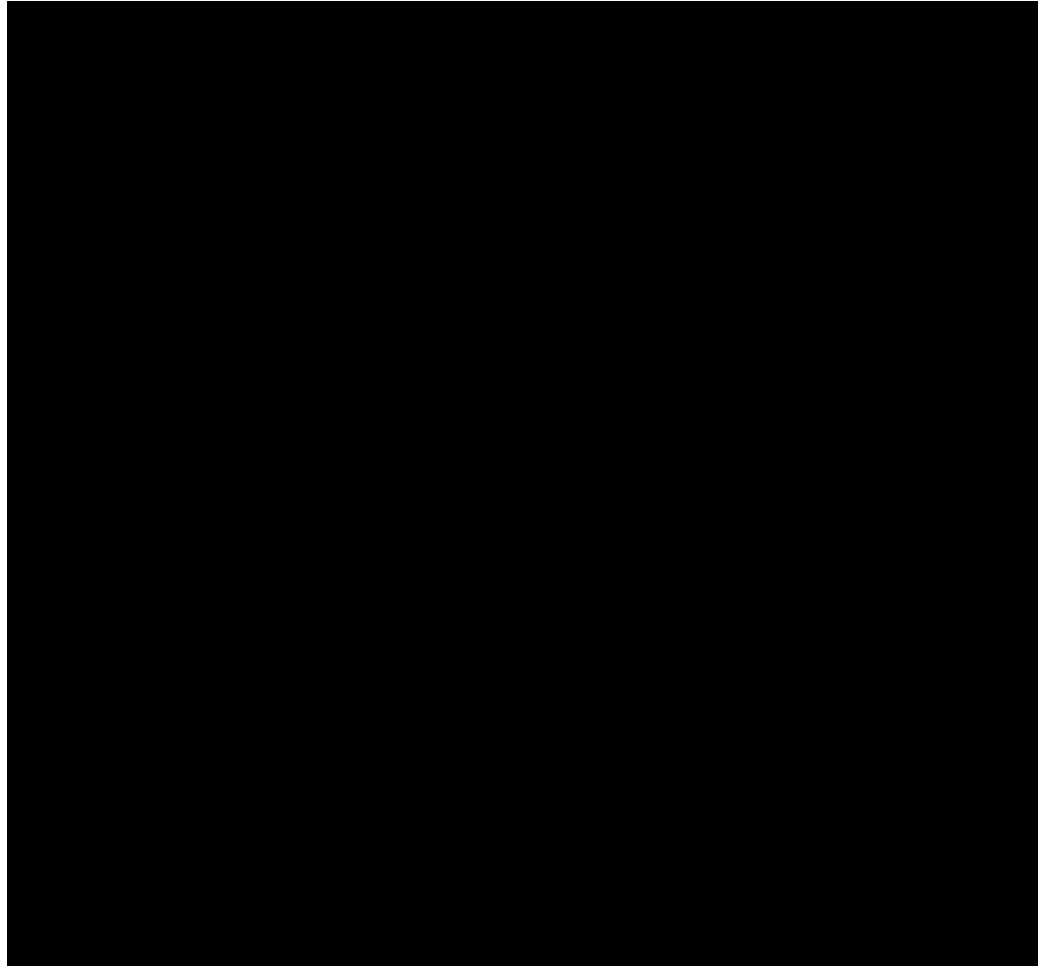


Circumplanetary disks



Simulations

Global hydro & MHD models
Magneto-Rotational Instability



Resolution
384 x 192 x 768

1000 orbits

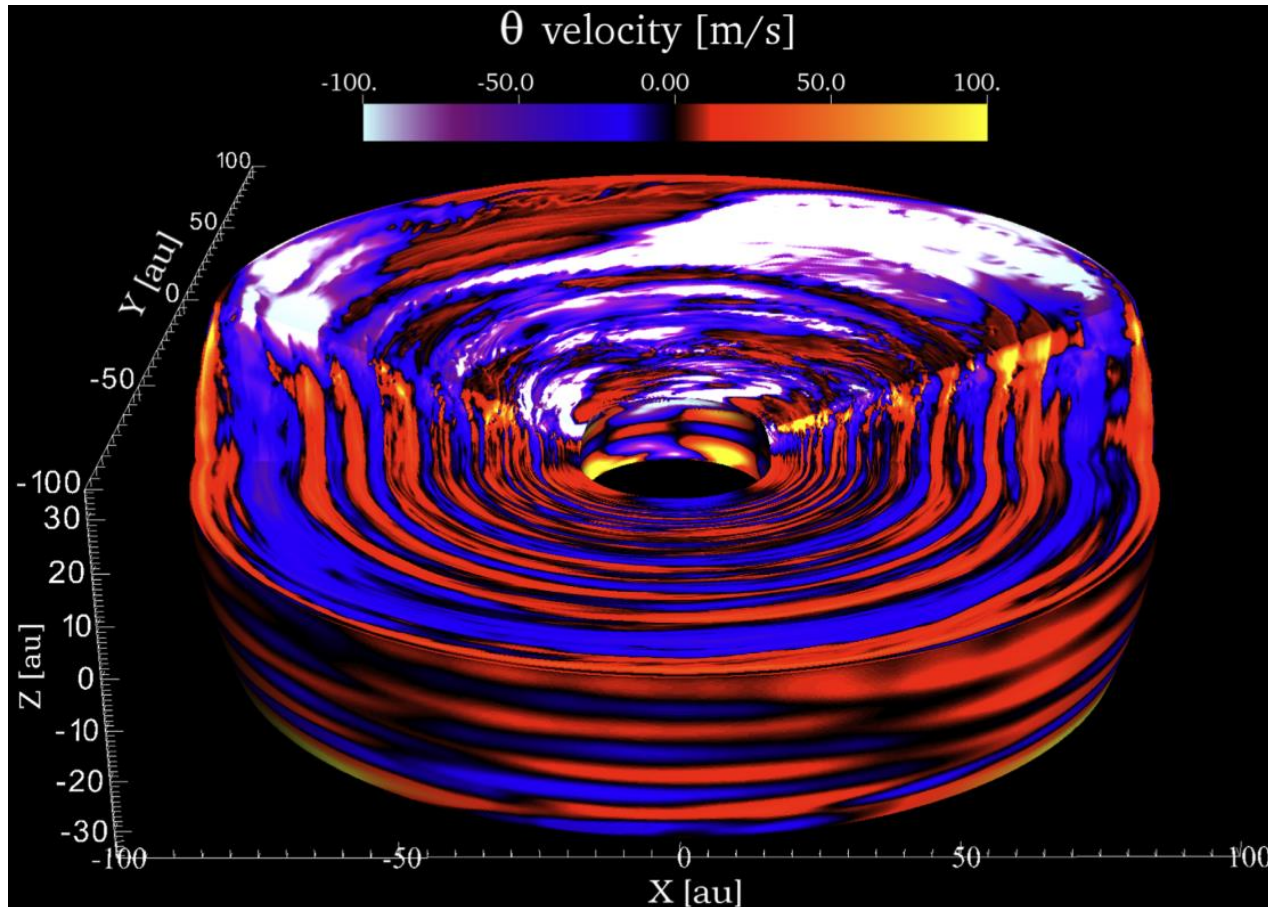
8M CPU hours

Simulations

Global hydro & MHD models
Vertical Shear Instability

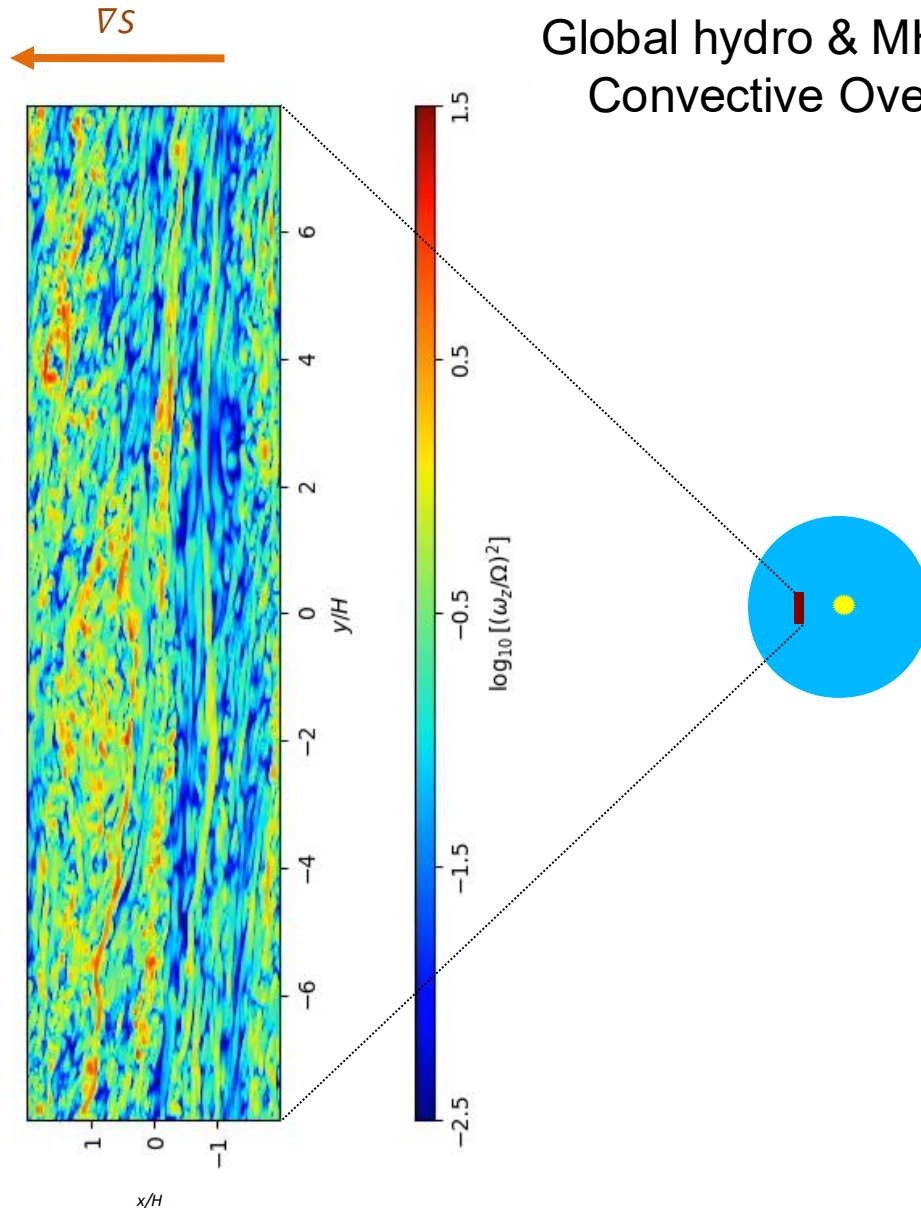
Resolution
1024 x 512 x 2044

1000 orbits



Simulations

Global hydro & MHD models
Convective Overstability

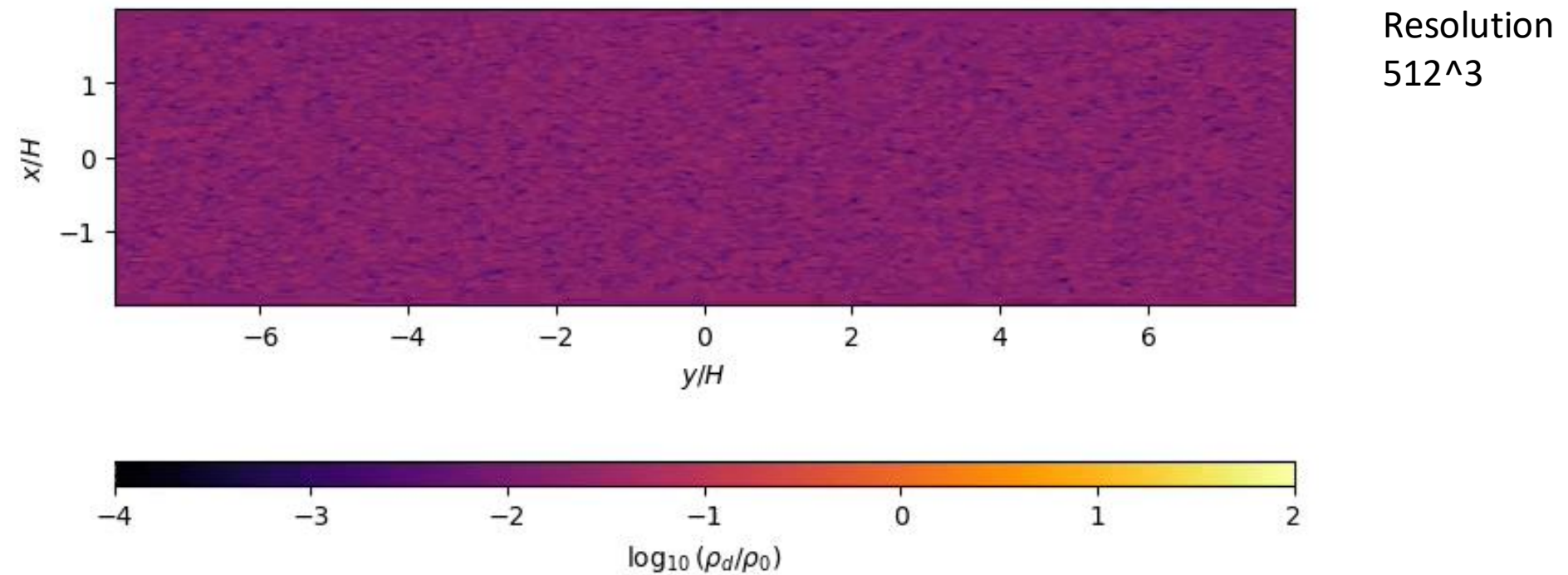


Resolution
 512^3

400 orbits

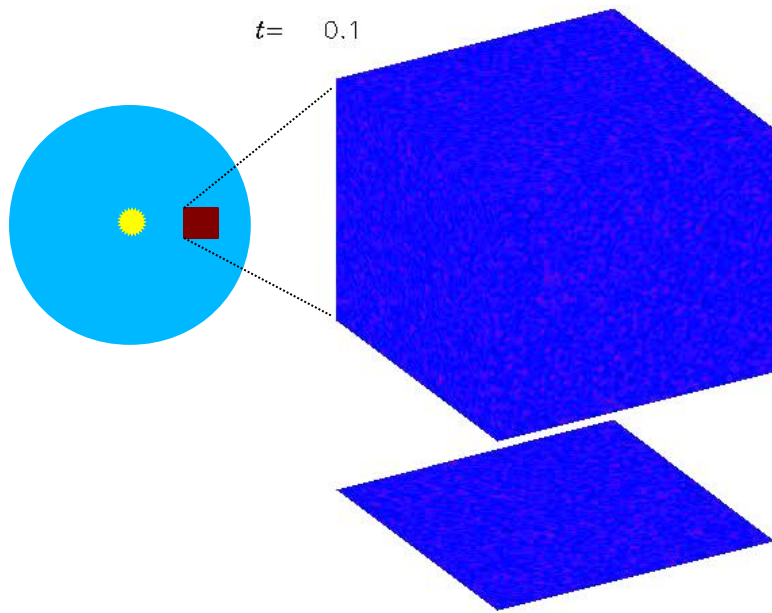
Simulations

Dust and grains



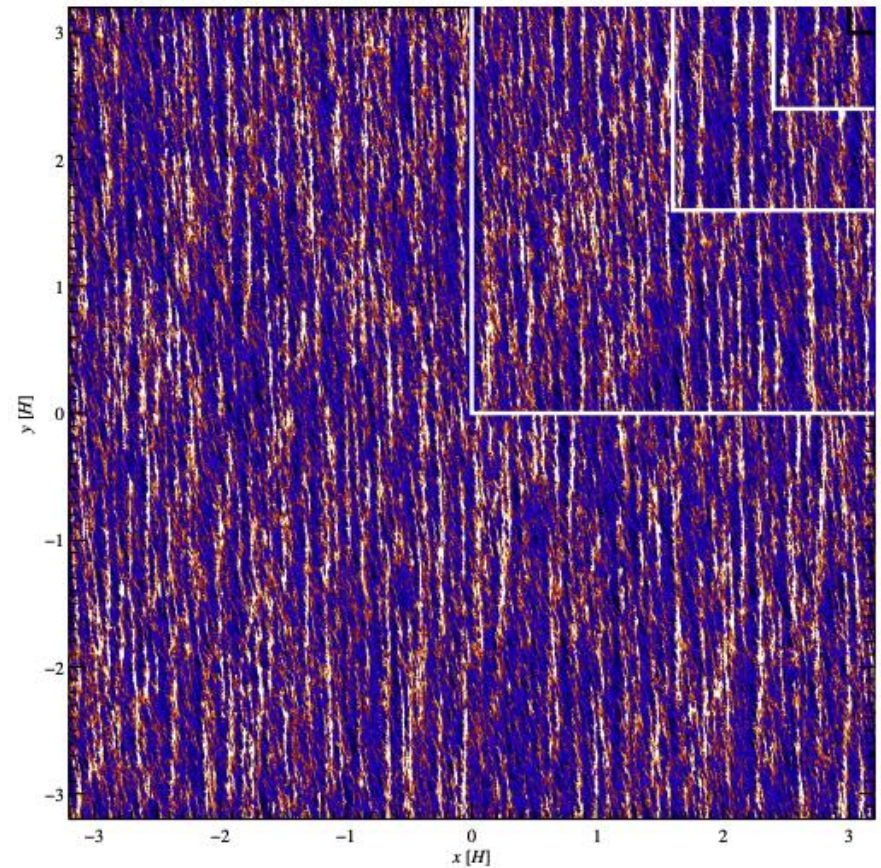
Simulations

Streaming Instability



Johansen & Youdin (2007)

Resolution
2048 x 2048 x 128



Schafer et al. (2024)

Simulations

Radiative Transfer - Postprocessing

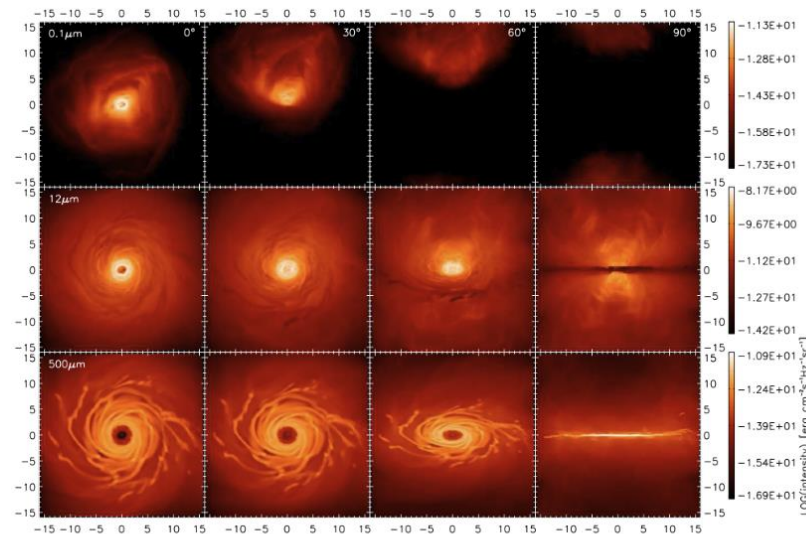


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- User guide
- Discussion forum
- Gallery**
- Publications
- Contributions
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Gallery

Synthetic observations of 3-D hydrodynamics model of an AGN torus

The unification principle of active galactic nuclei (AGN) says that the difference between type 1 and type 2 AGN is simply a viewing-angle issue. Some viewing angles allow direct sight of the central engine, while others have this central engine obscured by the dust and gas in the circumnuclear environment. Shown here is the 3-D hydrodynamics model of such an AGN torus by M. Schartmann, K. Wada, M.A. Prieto, A. Burkhardt and K.W.R. Tristram (2014) MNRAS, 445, 3878.



And here is a movie of a similar model by K. Wada, M. Schartmann and R. Meijerink (2016) ApJ, 828, L19: (click on the image to download the movie)

Simulations

Coagulation

[README](#)
[Code of conduct](#)
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[GPL-3.0 license](#)
[Security](#)

DustPy

[docs](#) [passing](#)
[license](#) [GPL-3.0](#)
[Contributor Covenant](#) [2.1](#)

[The Astrophysical Journal](#) [10.3847/1538-4357/ac7d58](#)
[arXiv](#) [10.48550/arXiv.2207.00322](#)

[PyPI downloads](#) [440/month](#)

Dust Coagulation and Evolution in Protoplanetary Disks

DustPy is a Python package to simulate the evolution of dust in protoplanetary disks.

DustPy simulates the radial evolution of gas and dust in a protoplanetary disk, involving viscous evolution the the gas disk, advection and diffusion of the dust disk, as well as dust growth by solving the Smoluchowski equation.

Please read the [documentation](#) for a detailed description. By using any version of DustPy you agree to these terms of usage.

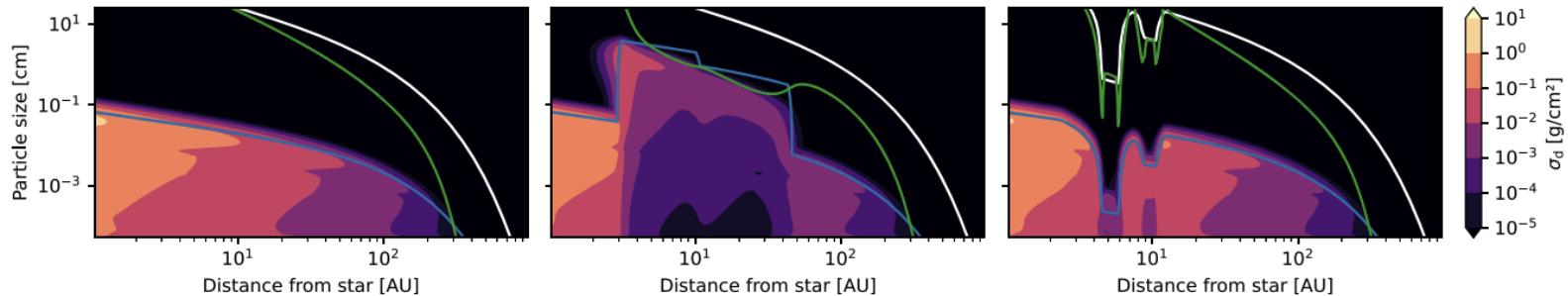
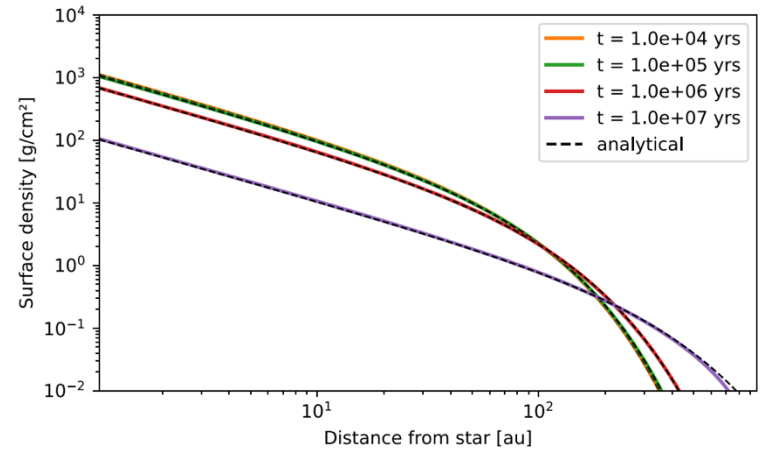
Installation

DustPy can be installed

`pip install dustpy`

Requirements

DustPy needs a Python



Simulations

Planet Migration – The need for multiphysics

Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **387**, 1063–1079 (2008)

doi:10.1111/j.1365-2966.2008.13339.x

Numerical simulations of type III planetary migration – III. Outward migration of massive planets

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²University of Toronto at Scarborough, 1265 Military Trail, Toronto, Ontario M1C 1A4, Canada

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Letter | Published: 01 April 2015

Planet heating prevents inward migration of planetary cores

Pablo Benítez-Llambay, Frédéric Masset, Gloria Koenigsberger & Judit Szulágyi

[Nature](#) **520**, 63–65 (2015) | [Cite this article](#)

A&A **459**, L17–L20 (2006)
DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/20066304
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**Astronomy
& Astrophysics**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Halting type I planet migration in non-isothermal disks

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Received 28 August 2006 / Accepted 20 September 2006

TYPE I PLANETARY MIGRATION IN A SELF-GRAVITATING DISK

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Received 2007 September 20; accepted 2008 January 9

ABSTRACT

We investigate the tidal interaction between a low-mass planet and a self-gravitating protoplanetary disk by means of two-dimensional hydrodynamic simulations. We first show that considering a planet as freely migrating in a disk without self-gravity leads to a significant overestimate of the migration rate. The overestimate can reach a factor of 2 for a disk having 3 times the surface density of the minimum mass solar nebula. Unbiased drift rates may be obtained only by considering a planet and a disk orbiting within the same gravitational potential. In the second part, the disk self-gravity is taken into account. We confirm that the disk gravity enhances the differential Lindblad torque with respect to the situation where neither the planet nor the disk feels the disk gravity. This enhancement only depends on the Toomre parameter at the planet location. It is typically 1 order of magnitude smaller than the spurious one induced by assuming a planet migrating in a disk without self-gravity. We confirm that the torque enhancement due to the disk gravity can be entirely accounted for by a shift of Lindblad resonances and can be reproduced by the use of an anisotropic pressure tensor. We do not find any significant impact of the disk gravity on the corotation torque.

Subject headings: accretion, accretion disks — hydrodynamics — methods: numerical — planetary systems: formation — planetary systems: protoplanetary disks

Monthly Notices

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **484**, 728–748 (2019)

Advance Access publication 2019 January 05

doi:10.1093/mnras/stz023

Migrating super-Earths in low-viscosity discs: unveiling the roles of feedback, vortices, and laminar accretion flows

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THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 986:199 (11pp), 2025 June 20

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OPEN ACCESS

Quantifying the Impact of the Dust Torque on the Migration of Low-mass Planets. II. The Role of Pebble Accretion in Planet Growth within a Global Planet Formation Model

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Received 2025 January 24; revised 2025 May 9; accepted 2025 May 13; published 2025 June 18

Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **318**, 18–36 (2000)

The migration and growth of protoplanets in protostellar discs

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³Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Königstuhl 17, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany

Monthly Notices

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **477**, 4596–4614 (2018)

Advance Access publication 2018 April 14

doi:10.1093/mnras/sty095

Low-mass planet migration in magnetically torqued dead zones – II. Flow-locked and runaway migration, and a torque prescription

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¹Astronomy Unit, School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London E1 4NS, UK

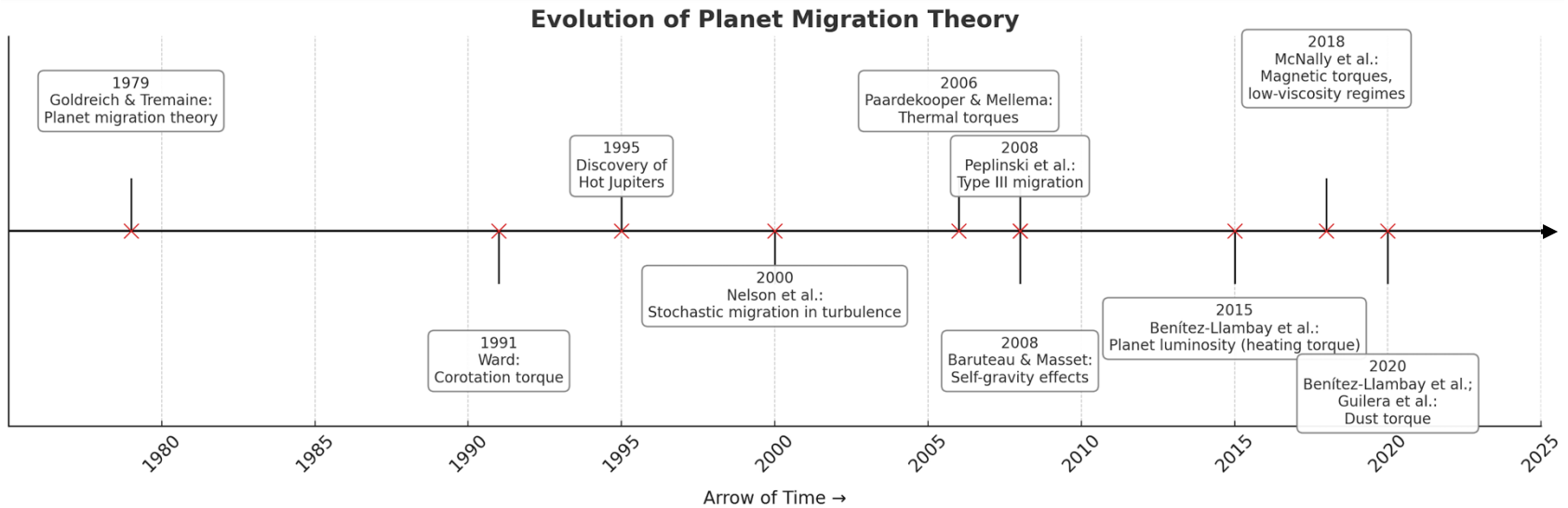
²Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA

³DAMTP, University of Cambridge, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0WA, UK

Accepted 2018 April 6. Received 2018 April 6; in original form 2018 March 1

Simulations

Planet Migration – The need for multiphysics

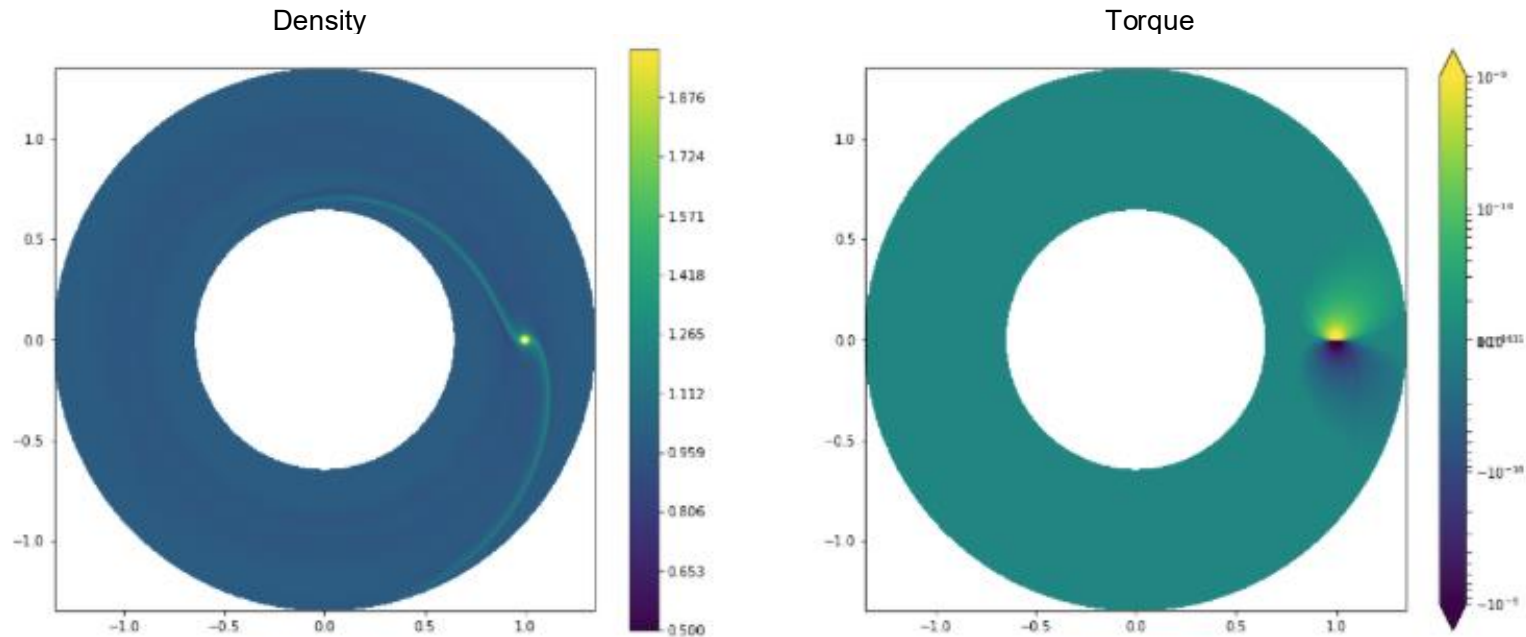


Simulations

Planet Migration – The need for multiphysics

Migration Torques

$$\Gamma = r_p G m_p \iint \Sigma \frac{r^2}{|r - r_p|^3} \sin \phi \, dr d\phi$$



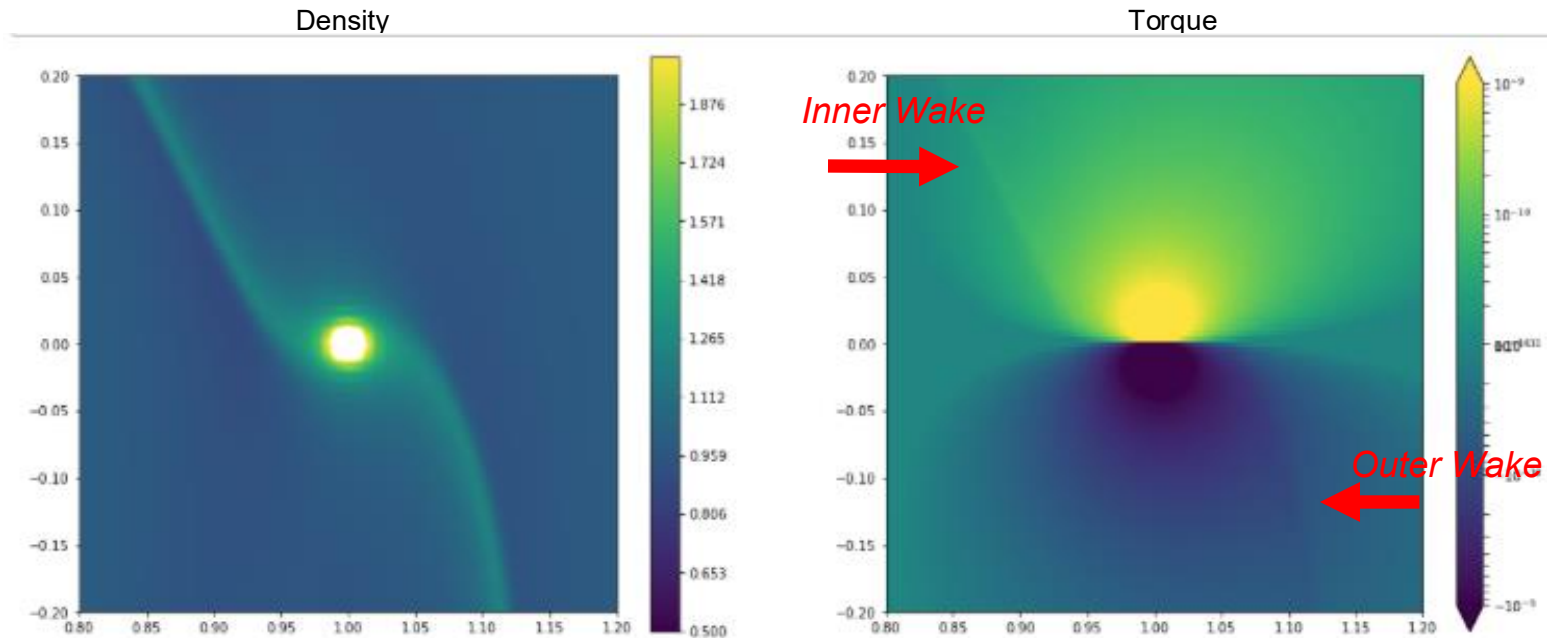
The planet generates a non-axisymmetric wake
Non-zero torque

Simulations

Planet Migration – The need for multiphysics

Migration Torques

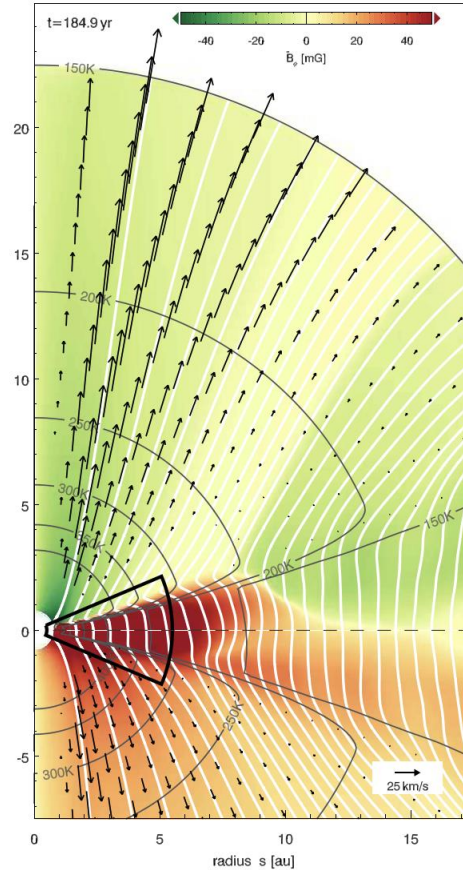
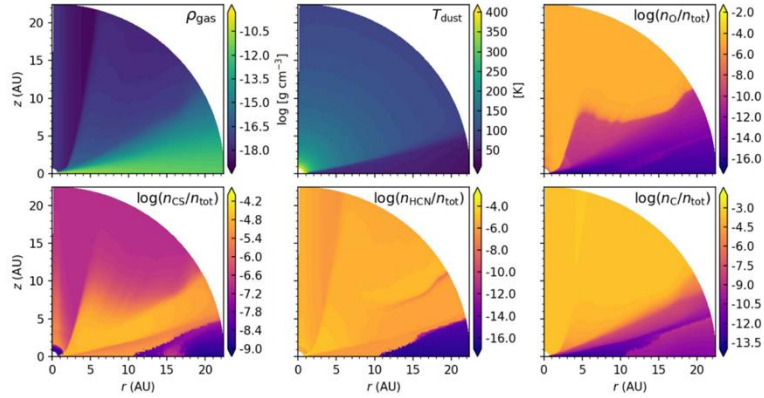
$$\Gamma = r_p G m_p \iint \Sigma \frac{r^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_p|^3} \sin \phi \, dr d\phi$$



The planet generates a non-axisymmetric wake
Non-zero torque

Features of Next-Gen models

Non-ideal MHD and Radiative Transfer



$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0,$$

$$\partial_t (\rho \mathbf{v}) + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}_m = \mathcal{S}_m,$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} - \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{E}_d) = 0,$$

$$\partial_t \epsilon + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}_e = \mathcal{S}_e + \mathcal{S}_m \cdot \mathbf{v} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E}_d \times \mathbf{B}),$$

$$\partial_t \epsilon + \nabla \cdot (\epsilon \mathbf{v}) + p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{S}_e + \eta_\Omega |\nabla \times \mathbf{B}|^2 + \eta_A |\hat{\mathbf{e}}_b \times \nabla \times \mathbf{B}|^2, \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{c}{\hat{c}} \partial_t \mathcal{E} + \nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E} \mathbf{v}) = c \rho \kappa_P (a_R T^4 - \mathcal{E}) - \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}_r - \mathcal{P}_r: \nabla \mathbf{v}, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_m = \rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + p^* \mathbb{I} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_e = (e + p^*) \mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{B},$$

$$\mathcal{S}_m = -\rho \nabla \Phi + \rho \kappa_R c^{-1} \mathcal{F}_r,$$

$$\mathcal{S}_e = -c \rho \kappa_P (a_R T^4 - \mathcal{E}) + Q_{\text{irr}}^+ + Q_{\text{pdr}}^{+/-},$$

$$\mathbf{E}_\Omega \equiv -\eta_\Omega (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}), \quad \text{and}$$

$$\mathbf{E}_A \equiv +\eta_A [(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}_b] \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}_b,$$

$$\mathcal{F}_r = -\lambda(R) \frac{c}{\rho \kappa_R} \nabla \mathcal{E},$$

$$\mathcal{P}_r \equiv \left[\frac{1}{2} (1 - f_{\text{edd}}) \mathbb{I} + \frac{1}{2} (3f_{\text{edd}} - 1) \hat{\mathbf{n}} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right] \mathcal{E},$$

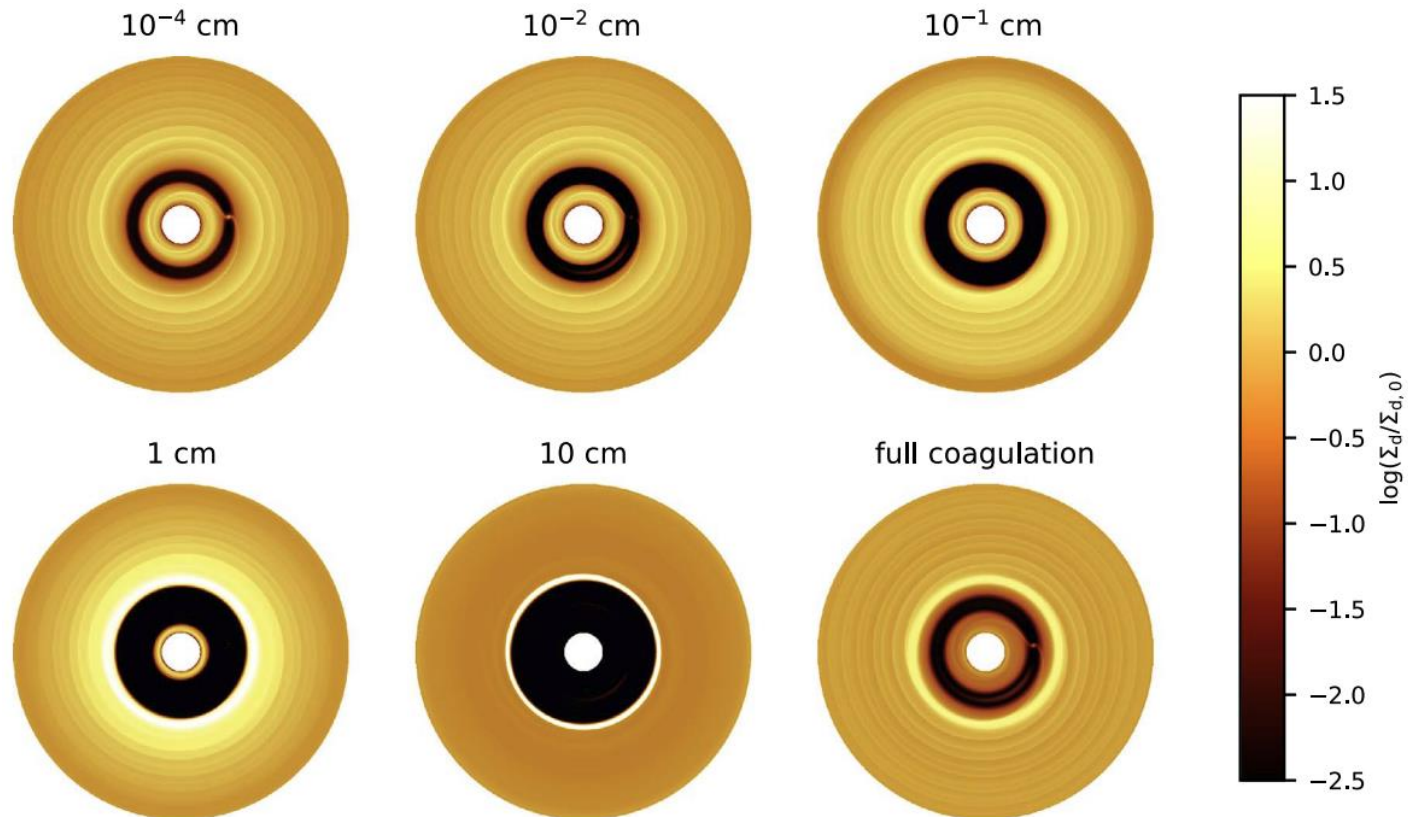
$$\mathcal{F}_{r,\text{irr}}(r) \equiv F(r_*) (r_*/r)^2 \exp(-\tau_*(r)) \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$Q_{\text{irr}}^+(r, \theta) \equiv -\nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}_{r,\text{irr}}(r, \theta).$$

$$Q_{\text{irr}}^+(r_i) \equiv \frac{3 \rho \kappa_P}{r_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^3 - r_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^3} \int_{r_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}^{r_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathcal{F}_{r,\text{irr}}(r') r'^2 dr'.$$

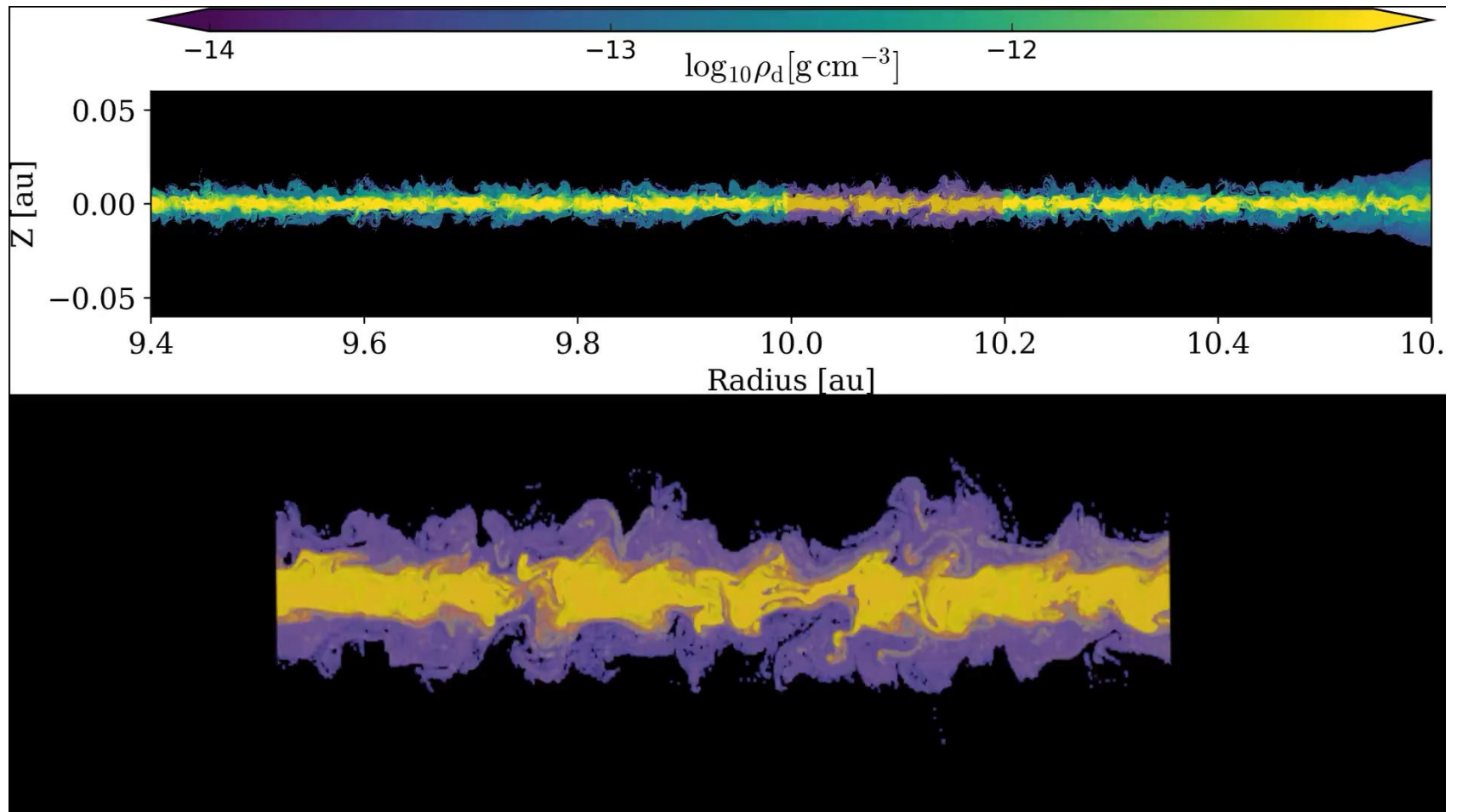
Features of Next-Gen models

Dust coagulation and Hydrodynamics



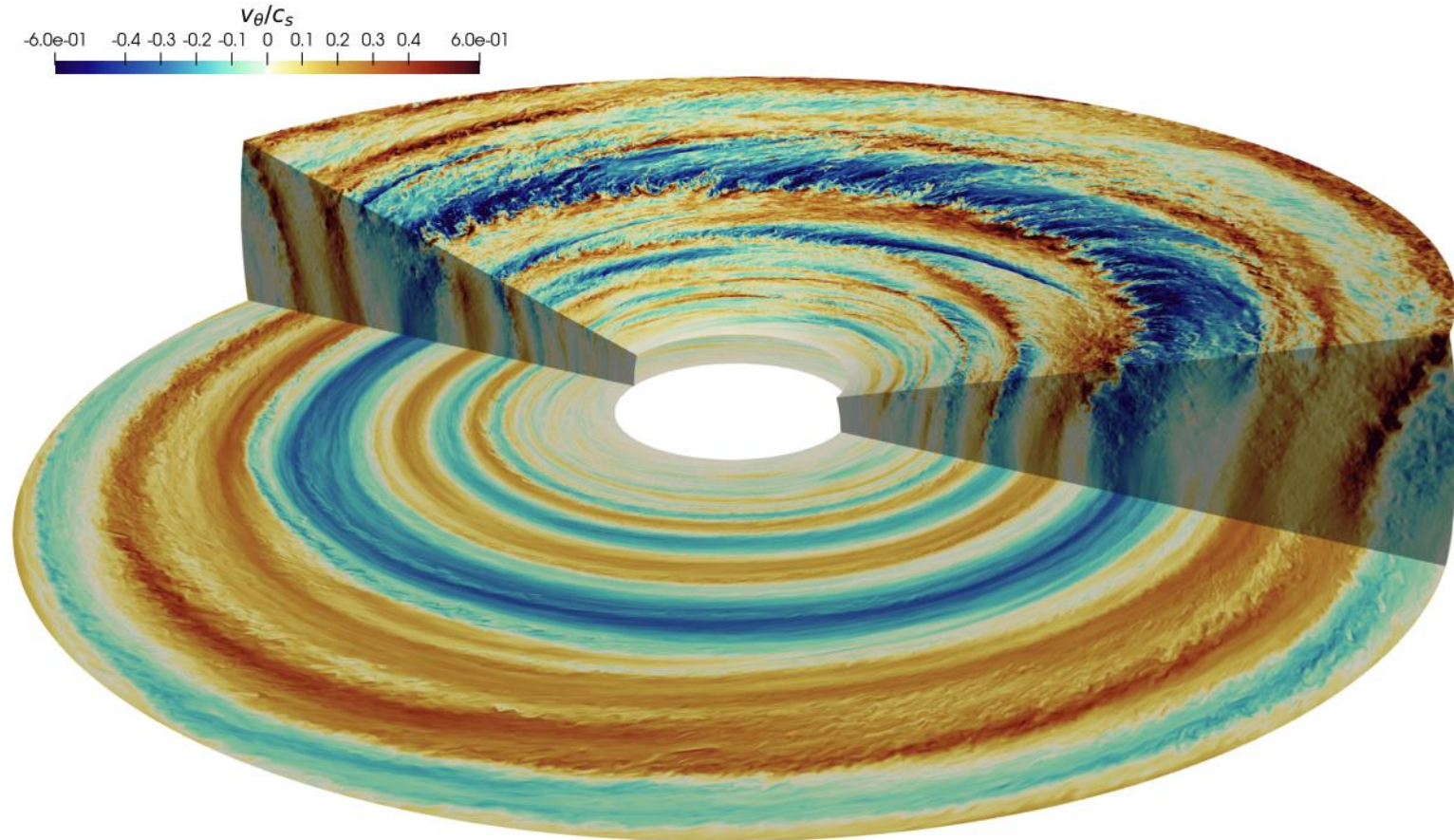
Features of Next-Gen models

Multiscale for dust grains – Global streaming instability



Features of Next-Gen models

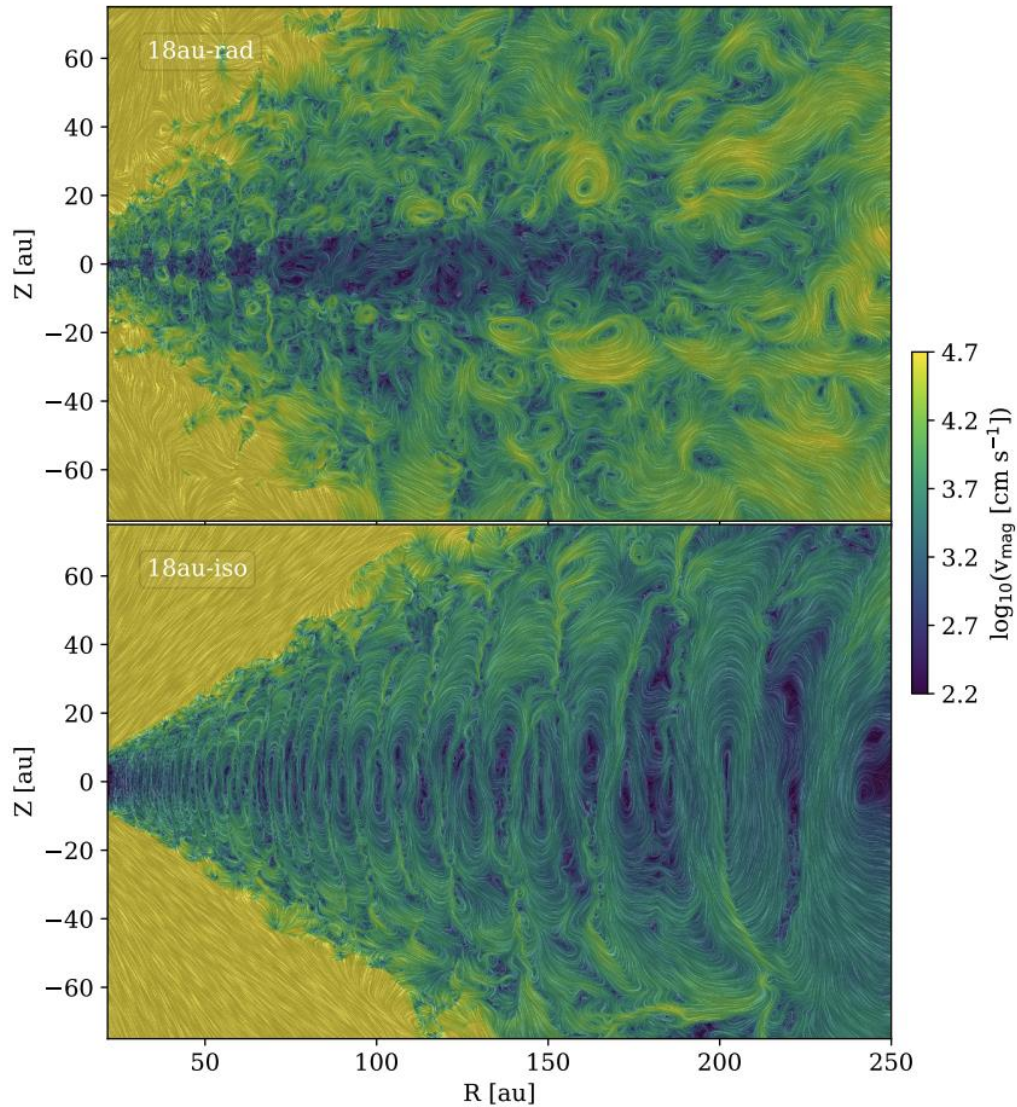
High-resolution 3D



Resolution 3872 x 2000 x 12544
(*Equivalent resolution* $\sim 4597^3$)
 ~ 200 points per H

Features of Next-Gen models

On-the-fly detailed radiative transfer



Time-dependent implicit on-the-fly
Radiative Transfer in Athena++ (Jiang,
2021)

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \mathbf{cn} \cdot \nabla I = c(\eta - \chi I),$$

Still isothermal, Newton cooling, and
FLD widely used in the community

Features of Next-Gen models

GPU Exascale

GPU-exascale ready astrophysics codes

- *AthenaK (Jim Stone)*
- *Idefix (Geoffroy Lesur)*



Features of Next-Gen models

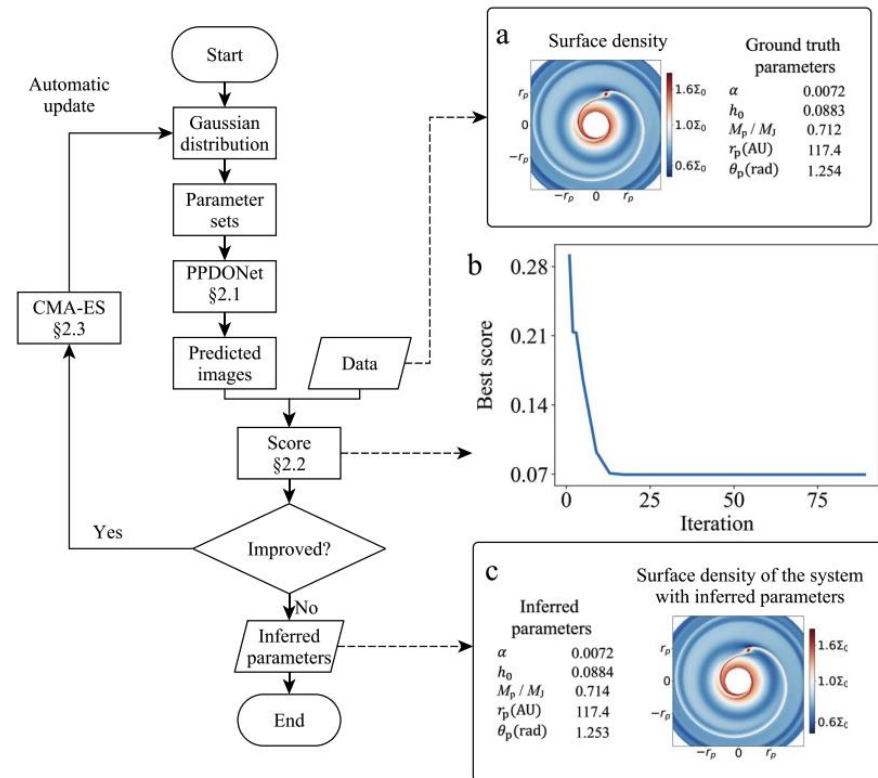
Machine-learning

AEGIS: Advanced Emulator for Giant Impact Simulations (Timpe et al. 2020)

Planetary masses from gaps (Auddy & Lin 2020)

Key parameters in planet-disk systems (Shunyuan et al. 2024)

- Parameter space exploration
- Pattern Recognition
- Inverse Problems



Features of Next-Gen models

Machine-learning

ML could be used for sub-grid physics



Deep learning to represent subgrid processes in climate models

Stephan Rasp^{a,b,1}, Michael S. Pritchard^b, and Pierre Gentine^{c,d}

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Edited by Isaac M. Held, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Princeton, NJ, and approved August 8, 2018 (received for review June 14, 2018)

Features of Next-Gen models

Machine-learning

ML could be used for sub-grid physics

ML emulators for bridging scales:

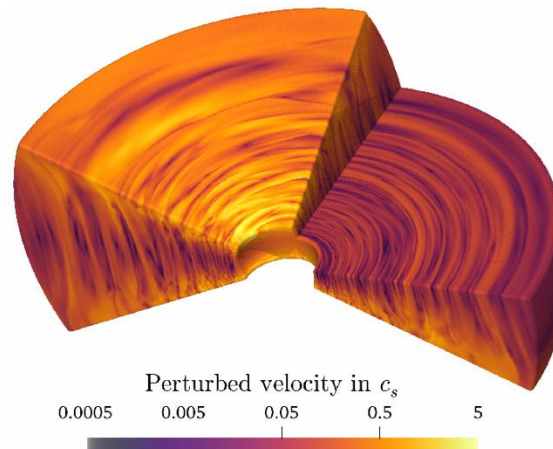
High-res local sims
(4096^3 boxes,
lab experiments)

Machine Learning Training
(Neural nets, Gaussian
Processes)

Emulator in Global Disk
Model
(AU-scale)

Sub-grid processes

Turbulent dissipation and angular momentum transport



Features of Next-Gen models

Machine-learning

ML could be used for sub-grid physics

ML emulators for bridging scales:

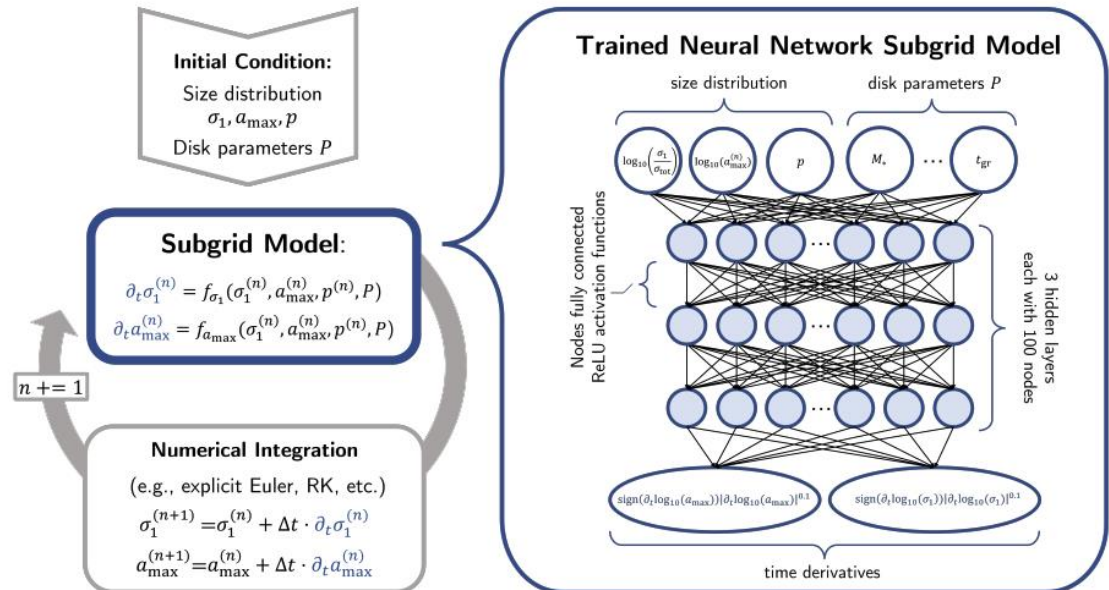
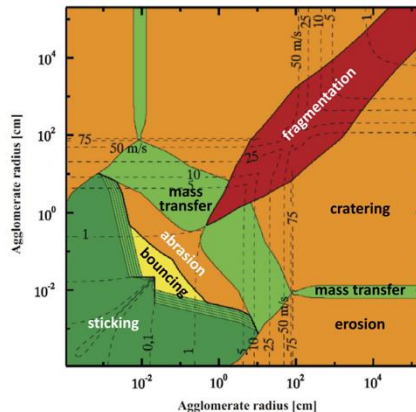
High-res local sims
(4096³ boxes,
lab experiments)

Machine Learning Training
(Neural nets, Gaussian
Processes)

Emulator in Global Disk
Model
(AU-scale)

Sub-grid processes

Dust coagulation,
fragmentation,
and porosity evolution



Features of Next-Gen models

Machine-learning

ML could be used for sub-grid physics

ML emulators for bridging scales:

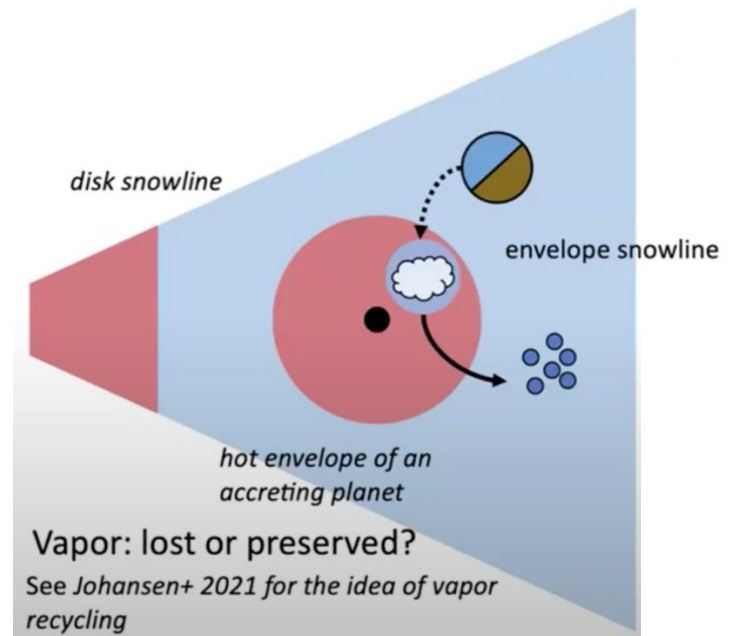
High-res local sims
(4096^3 boxes,
lab experiments)

Machine Learning Training
(Neural nets, Gaussian
Processes)

Emulator in Global Disk
Model
(AU-scale)

Sub-grid processes

Pebble accretion and
processing in planetary
atmospheres;



Features of Next-Gen models

Machine-learning

ML could be used for sub-grid physics

ML emulators for bridging scales:

High-res local sims
(4096^3 boxes,
lab experiments)

Machine Learning Training
(Neural nets, Gaussian
Processes)

Emulator in Global Disk
Model
(AU-scale)

Sub-grid processes

Chemistry and opacity

A&A, 682, A79 (2024)
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202348221>
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**Astronomy
&
Astrophysics**

Harnessing machine learning for accurate treatment of overlapping opacity species in general circulation models

Aaron David Schneider^{1,2}, Paul Mollière³, Gilles Louppe⁴, Ludmila Carone⁵, Uffe Gråe Jørgensen¹,
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Features of Next-Gen models

Prepare for ngVLA

After ~15 years of ALMA...

Nearly all nearby disks observed at $<0.1''$ ($< 20\text{-}30\text{AU}$) show substructures.

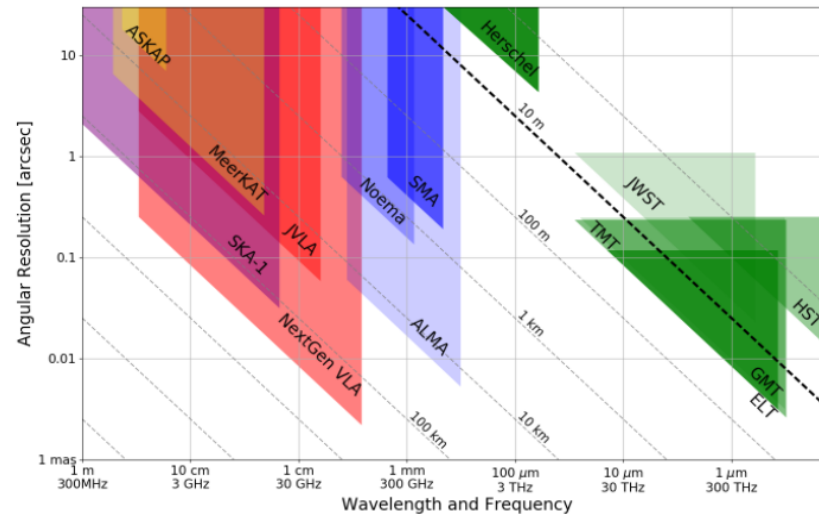
3 main types of substructures

- Crescent-shaped
- Spiral arms
- Rings/Gaps



Features of Next-Gen models

Prepare for ngVLA



Features of Next-Gen models

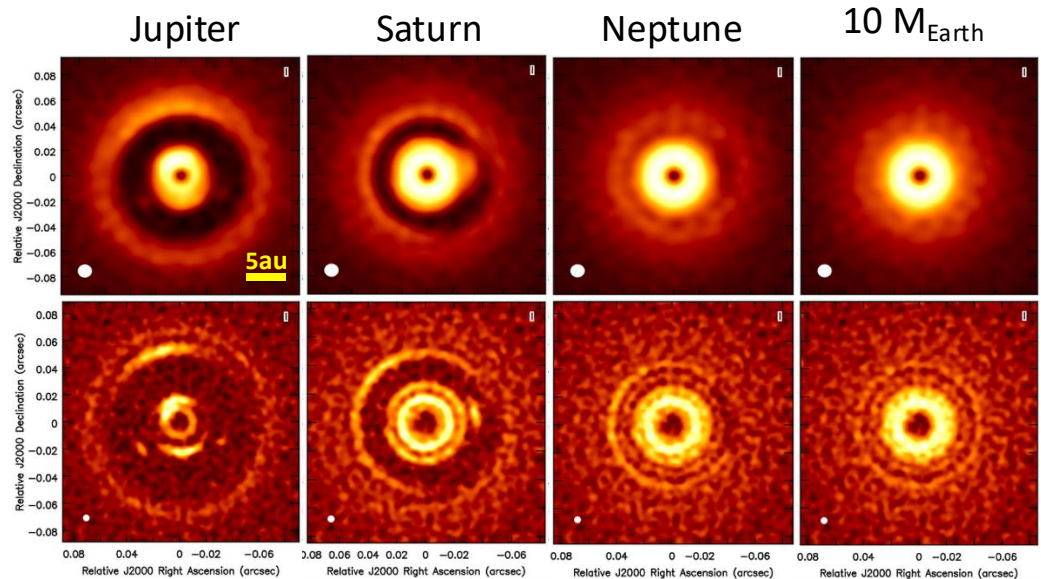
Prepare for ngVLA

Planets at 5AU

ALMA @ 0.87mm

ngVLA @ 3mm

5 mas = 0.7 AU
rms = 5×10^{-7} Jy/beam



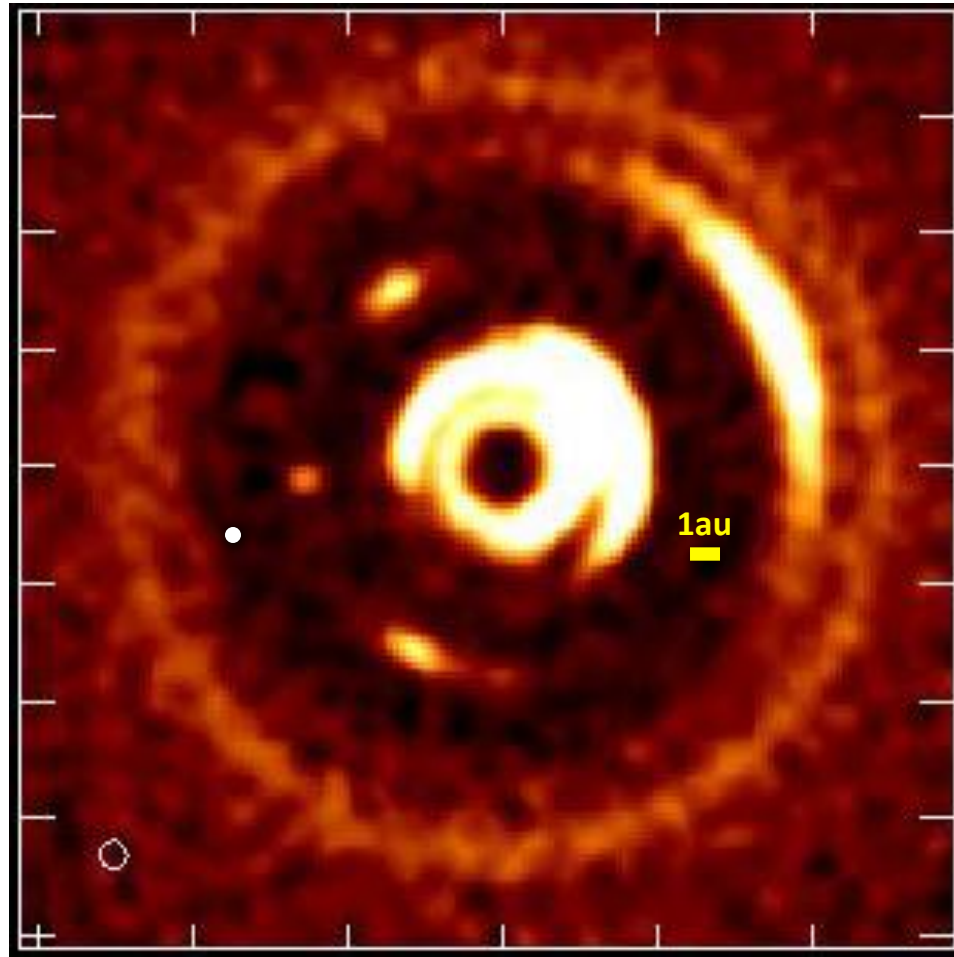
Ricci et al. 2018

ngVLA identifies gaps/substructures down to $\sim 5\text{-}10 M_{\text{Earth}}$

Features of Next-Gen models

ngVLA: Proper motions

Jupiter at 5 AU



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Streaming Instability Code Comparison

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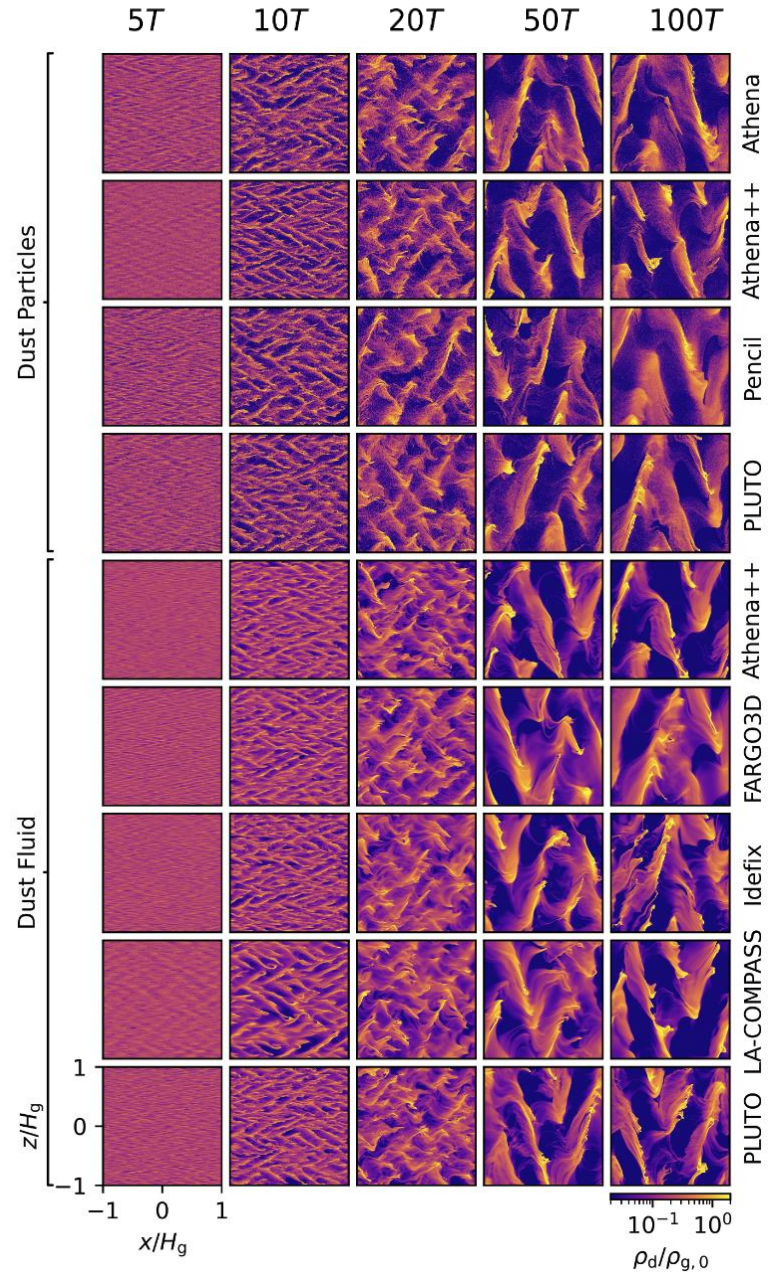
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Roadmap (for next 5 years?)

- Develop a community code?
- Build modular, open, interoperable codes (several post-processing codes exist, they should talk to each other and be included in hydrodynamics)
- Optimize for GPU / exascale computing
- Develop community benchmark problems
- Pipelines for synthetic observations with sophisticated physics
- Support ML emulators

Conclusions

- Next-gen models must be
 - multiphysics, multiscale, high-res 3D, modular and scalable
- Community benchmarks & open GPU-ready codes are essential