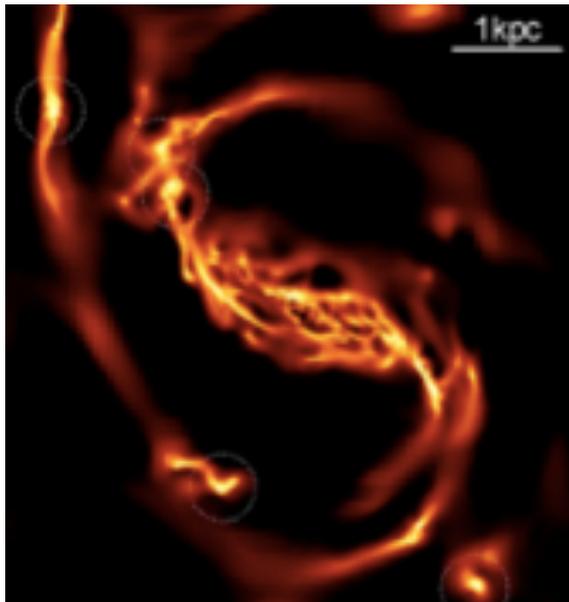


# Astrophysical fluid dynamics: N-body, gravity and hydrodynamics Applications in cosmology, galaxy and star formation

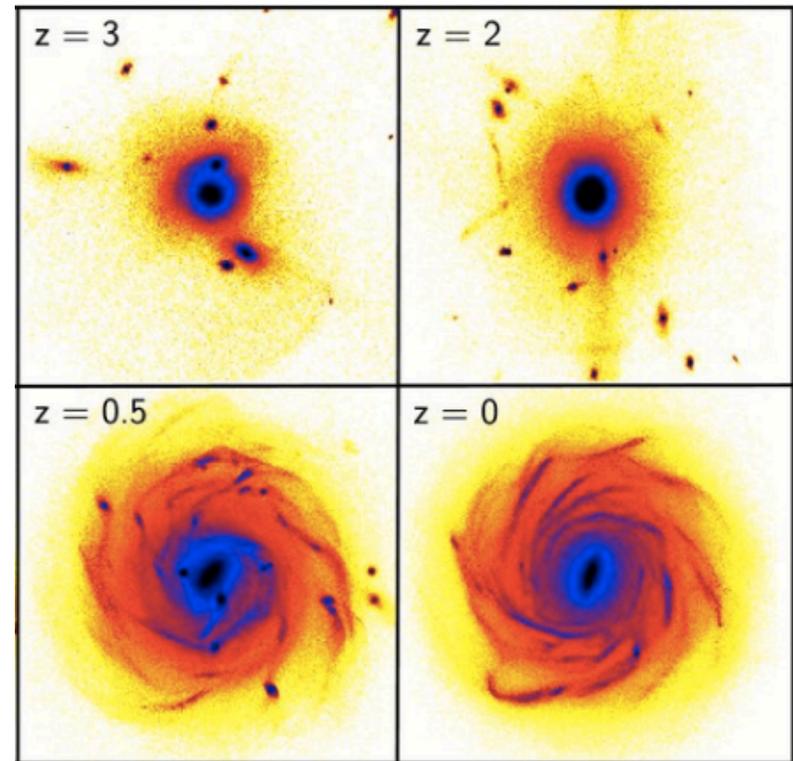


Frédéric Bournaud – CEA Saclay  
[frederic.bournaud@cea.fr](mailto:frederic.bournaud@cea.fr)

# Some words on my research

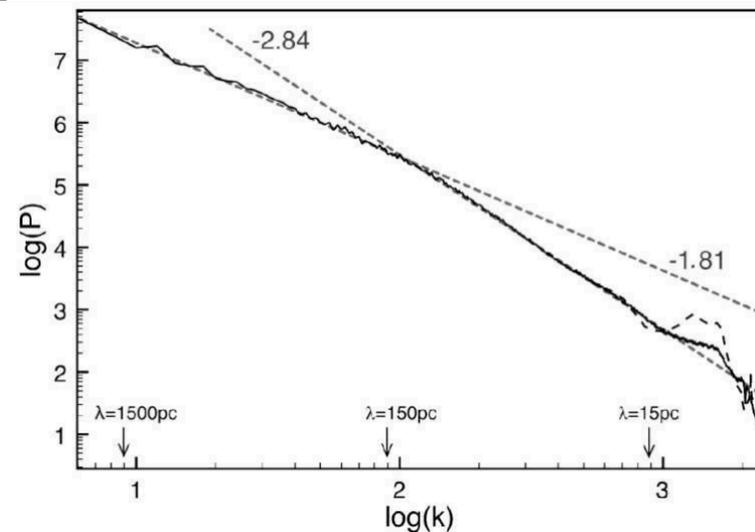
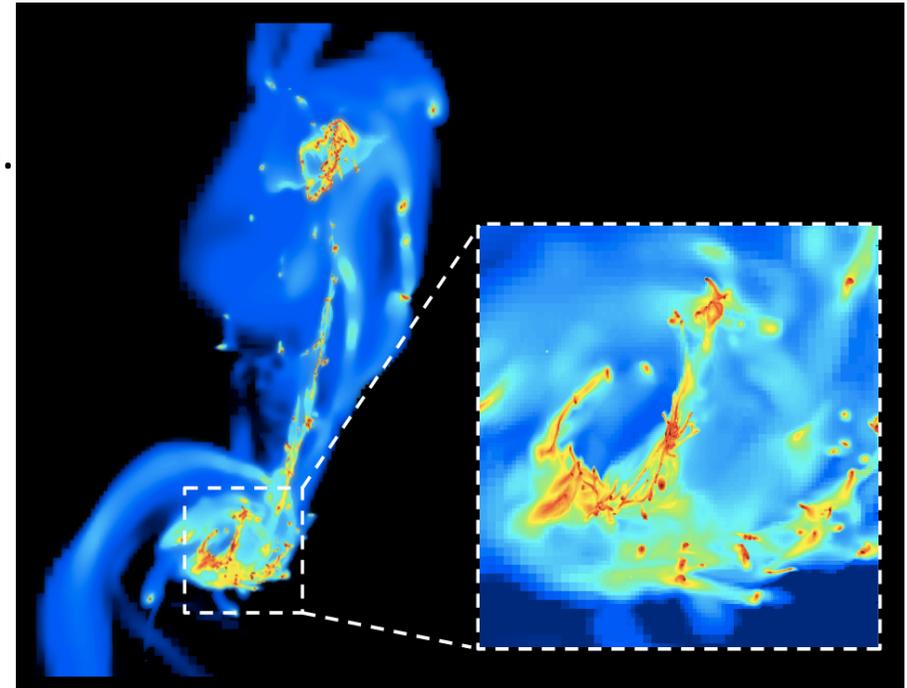
---

- Based in CEA Saclay, near Paris, France.
- Uses mainly the RAMSES code.
- Galactic dynamics and structure
- ISM hydrodynamics on galactic scales, star formation regulation/triggering
- Interaction of galaxies with their close environment



# Some words on my research

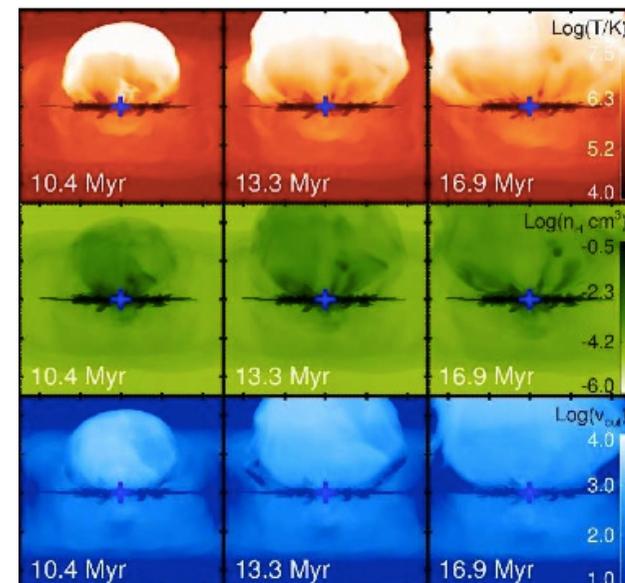
- Based in CEA Saclay, near Paris, France.
- Uses mainly the RAMSES code.
- Galactic dynamics and structure
- ISM hydrodynamics on galactic scales, star formation regulation/triggering
- Interaction of galaxies with their close environment



# Some words on my research

---

- Based in CEA Saclay, near Paris, France.
- Uses mainly the RAMSES code.
- Galactic dynamics and structure
- ISM hydrodynamics on galactic scales, star formation regulation/triggering
- Interaction of galaxies with their close environment



# The lectures

---

- Self-gravitating systems :
  - N-body modelling
  - Poisson solvers and schemes for self-gravity
- Hydrodynamics :
  - Particle-based and grid-based methods
  - AMR and unstructured mesh
- Gravity-hydro simulations in practice :
  - Some criteria for « reliable » simulations
  - Sub-grid modeling of star formation, black holes, and feedback
- Recent highlights and outstanding challenges

# The lectures

---

- **Self-gravitating systems :**
  - Vlasov-Poisson systems
  - N-body modelling and particle-mesh
  - Force softening
  - PM, P3M, TPM methods
  - Poisson solvers
  - Self-force correction
  - Time integrators
  - multi-resolution and AMR
- Hydrodynamics
- Gravity-hydro simulations in
- Recent highlights and outstanding challenges

# Vlasov-Poisson systems

---

Collisionless Boltzmann equation :

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) + \frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) - m \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \Phi(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) = 0$$

Poisson equation for  $\Phi$  :

$$\Delta \Phi(\mathbf{x}) = 4\pi G m \int f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) d^3 \mathbf{p}$$

(modulo average density for infinite or periodic system)

Solving gravitational dynamics for any system requires only to solve this set of two equations... but the CPU and/or memory cost is a real problem

# Pure fluid approach : memory issues

---

- Discretizing the entire phase-space on a 6D grid
- $N^6$  resolution elements, each containing at least 1 real for the phase-space density
- Even for just  $(256^3)^2$  this is  $>1\text{GB}$  of memory.
- Velocity discretization error propagates (integrated) on real space errors
- The CPU time is not necessarily prohibitive but the memory cost becomes prohibitive. Cannot fit a  $1024^6$  on a few thousands of cores !

# Pure N-body approach : CPU issues

---

- Storing a millions of particles (3D each at each time  $t$ ) in a modern computer is not an issue
- Memory cost OK to store the real elements at any given instant
- Problem is the force calculation :

$$\Delta\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{4\pi Gm}{a} \int f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) d^3\mathbf{p}$$

The Poisson integral becomes the direct summation of the pair interaction forces, each involves the calculation of a distance  $x^2+y^2+z^2 \sim N^2$

Here the CPU cost rapidly becomes prohibitive + hard to parallelize this problem (long-range P-P interactions).

# Particle-mesh methods

---

- Need to discretize some dimensions to get a reasonable CPU cost
- But not all for memory.

⇒ Typically, discretize the real space on a 3D grid  
+ use particles with real velocities (at the numerical accuracy limit)

⇒ No prohibitive calculation of particle-particle forces

⇒ No huge 6D grid, only a 3D grid + millions of particles.

⇒ No velocity-to-position error propagation (at first order)

Almost all Vlasov-Poisson methods are based on Particle-Mesh schemes

## 2-body interactions versus long-range forces

---

Still a (manageable) memory issue :

A galaxy contains  $10^{11}$  stars.

Cannot do Nbody with  $10^{11}$  bodies (particles).

(except maybe pure gravity at super-high resolution, no real science case...)

No way to model all stars of a galaxy cluster, all dark matter particles in a dark matter halo, all gas clouds and cores in a galaxy, etc...

General consequence :

In astrophysical simulations, Nbody is done with  $N \ll$  real number of elements

Exceptions : star clusters, planetary systems.

## 2-body interactions versus long-range forces

---

In astrophysical simulations, Nbody is done with  $N \ll$  real number of elements

In a real galaxy, a star's movement is dominated by the global galaxy mass, somewhat influenced by galactic structures (spiral arms etc), not influenced by the closest neighbours

In a model with  $10^6$  particles, the closest neighbour's force is not so negligible anymore => change in the **long-range/short-range** force ratio !

**Two-body relaxation timescale**

## 2-body interactions versus long-range forces

---

In astrophysical simulations, Nbody is done with  $N \ll$  real number of elements

In a model with  $10^6$  particles, the closest neighbour's force is not so negligible anymore => change in the **long-range/short-range** force ratio !

### Two-body relaxation timescale

*Star cluster*

*Globular cluster*

*Galaxy*

$$T_{2\text{body}} \sim T_{\text{cross}} / 10 \ N / \ln(N)$$

## 2-body interactions versus long-range forces

---

In astrophysical simulations, Nbody is done with  $N \ll$  real number of elements

In a model with  $10^6$  particles, the closest neighbour's force is not so negligible anymore => change in the **long-range/short-range** force ratio !

### Two-body relaxation timescale

*Star cluster* 10-100 Myr

*Globular cluster* 1-5Gyr

*Galaxy* >10Gyr

$$T_{2\text{body}} \sim T_{\text{cross}} / 10 \ln(N)$$

### Timescale required for:

- Orbit scattering by close neighbour
- Relaxation & dynamical evaporation
- Mass segregation (equipartition of energy per particle).

# Gravitational softening

---

Reducing the number of particles  $N$  over-estimates the short-range interactions

Solution = gravitational softening

Idea : replace the potential energy  $1/r$  (force  $1/r^2$ )  
with a flatter gradient at low  $r$  (vanishing forces)

$1/r$  can be replaced with  $1/(r+a)$  or  $1/\sqrt{r^2+a^2}$   
 $a$  = softening length

First shape preferred to damp forces without cancelling energy gradient  
Second shape : force doesn't stay about constant below  $a$  but falls to zero

Advantage : - often inherent to grid solver  
- no singularity at  $r=0$

But : should not be used for low- $N$  systems

# Particle Mesh schemes (PM)

---

Ingredients :

- The mass is distributed in particles, with individual velocities
- A grid is used to solve gravity

Steps :

- Compute the grid density from particles (PIC interpolation)
- Solve Poisson on the grid (Poisson solver)
- Interpolate the force to each particle ( $d_t \mathbf{v} = -d_x \Phi$ )
- Integrate the particle motion (time integration  $d_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ )

First step (PIC) is usually done via multi-linear interpolation between particle positions and grid nodes.

- Quick algorithm
- Accurate enough (see force interpolation later)

# Particle-Particle Particle-Mesh schemes (P3M)

---

The softening length is often linked to the Poisson solver, and not smaller than the grid cell size.

The softening length can often be too large :  
not a formal problem if the true 2body-relaxation timescale is Gyrs,  
but lowers the resolution

P3M uses:

- Grid-based gravity on long ranges
- Direct summation on short scales
- A carefully-chosen softening length.

# Adaptive Particle-Particle Particle-Mesh schemes (AP3M)

---

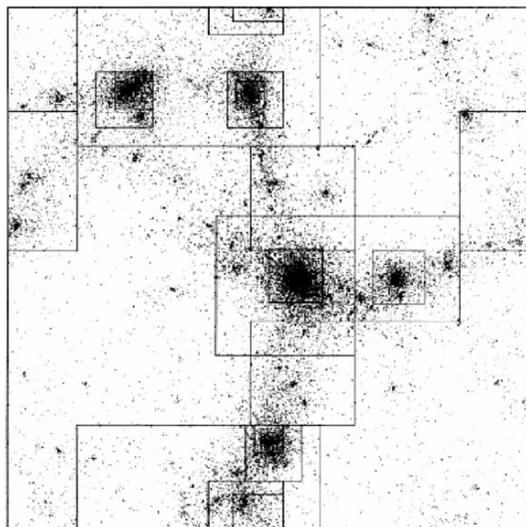
Pro : P3M allows a carefully-chosen softening length for short-range interactions

Cons :

- Resolution jump at boundaries
- In a very heterogeneous system (e.g. cosmology at low redshifts) the PP part dominates over the PM part (in CPU time). This means very high accuracy but unfeasible – tends toward the direct particle-particle scheme.

Solution : refine the mesh in regions with clustered particles

=> AP3M : adaptive mesh + PP on short scales (Couchman 1991).



Couchman 1995 AP3M-SPH

# « Tree-code » schemes (TPM)

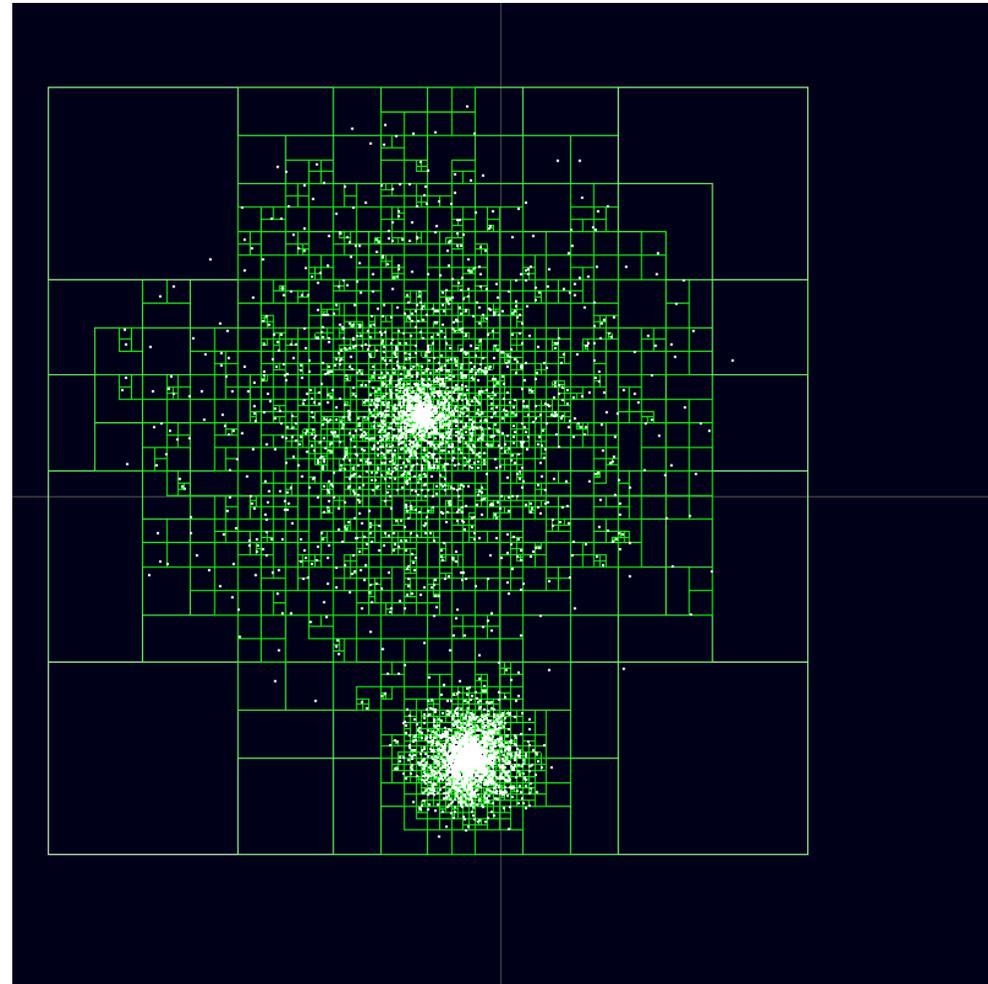
---

- Spatial decomposition in octs
- Until 1 particle per cell, or a low number of particle per cell is reached

- The tree of octs is used to compute forces :

P-P on short distances

P-node on large scales



# Particle Mesh schemes (PM)

---

Ingredients :

- The mass is distributed in particles, with individual velocities
- A grid is used to solve gravity

Steps :

- Compute the grid density from particles (PIC interpolation)
- Solve Poisson on the grid (Poisson solver)
- Interpolate the force to each particle ( $d_t \mathbf{v} = -d_x \Phi$ )
- Integrate the particle motion (time integration  $d_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ )

First step (PIC) is usually done via multi-linear interpolation between particle positions and grid nodes.

- Quick algorithm
- Accurate enough (see force interpolation later)

# Poisson solvers : FTT scheme

---

Gravitational potential : 
$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = - \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \frac{G}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}|} \rho(\mathbf{r}) dv(\mathbf{r}).$$

This is the convolution (in 3D) of the density  $\rho(\mathbf{r})$  and the  $1/r$  function  
In practice softening should be applied to the  $1/r$  function : no change

In the Fourier space :  $\mathcal{FT}(\Phi)(\mathbf{k}) = \mathcal{FT}(1/r)(\mathbf{k}) \times \mathcal{FT}(\rho)(\mathbf{k})$

$\Rightarrow$  Direct product, complexity  $\sim N$

FFT complexity is  $N \log(N)$

FFT3D  $\Rightarrow$  set of FFT1D in each dimension

MPI ? CPU aspects are OK, although non-equal compute times

Non-local : tends to be memory-heavy

Good for vector-computing, GPU...

# Poisson solvers : FFT scheme – boundary conditions

---

FFT assumes a periodic density distribution: useful in cosmology

For non-periodic systems:

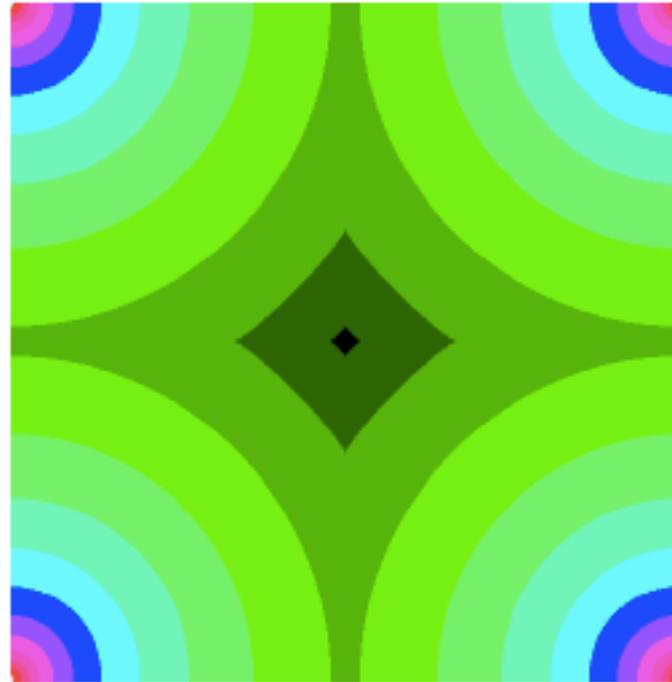
« zero padding » technique

Use a  $2N \times 2N \times 2N$  grid

Cancel the Green function on large distances

⇒ Periodic density still assumed

⇒ Forces with Fourier images are cancelled out



# Poisson solvers : FTT scheme – boundary conditions

---

FFT assumes a periodic density distribution: useful in cosmology

For non-periodic systems:

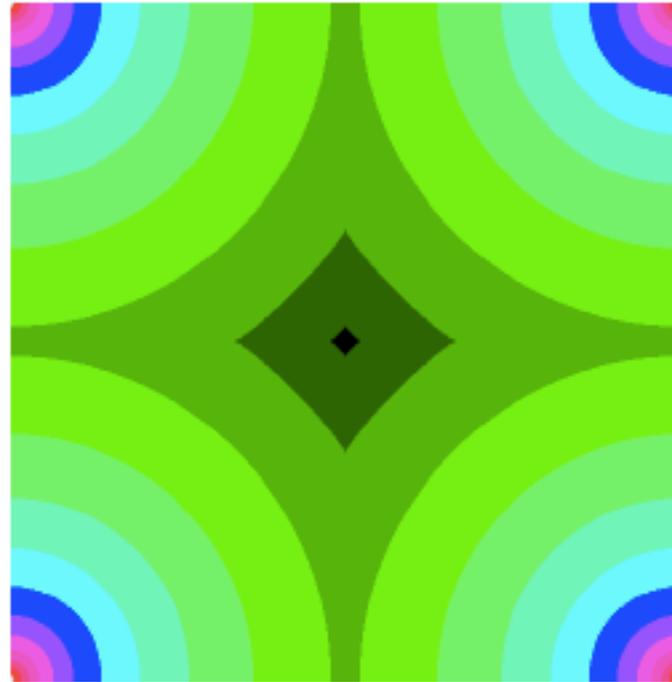
« zero padding » technique (**x8**)

Or

Use surface masses on the box limits (faces, edges, corners) to screen-out the Fourier images

Costly in real space but easy in the Fourier space (**~ x1.5**)

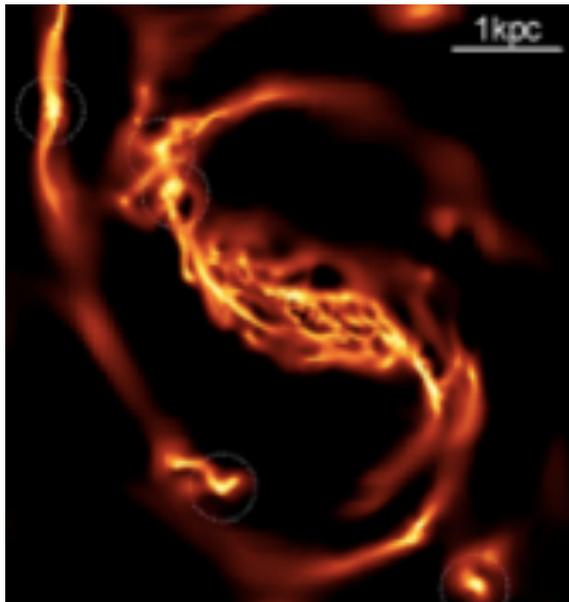
(James 1977, JCP 25, 71)



# Astrophysical fluid dynamics:

## N-body, gravity and hydrodynamics

Applications in cosmology, galaxy and star formation



Frédéric Bournaud – CEA Saclay  
frederic.bournaud@cea.fr

# The lectures

---

- **Self-gravitating systems :**
  - Vlasov-Poisson systems
  - N-body modelling and particle-mesh
  - Force softening
  - PM, P3M, TPM methods
  - Poisson solvers
  - Self-force correction
  - Time integrators
  - multi-resolution and AMR
- Hydrodynamics
- Gravity-hydro simulations in practice
- Recent highlights and outstanding challenges

# The lectures

---

- **Self-gravitating systems :**
  - Vlasov-Poisson systems
  - N-body modelling and particle-mesh
  - Force softening
  - PM, P3M, TPM methods
  - Poisson solvers
  - Self-force correction
  - Time integrators
  - multi-resolution and AMR
- Hydrodynamics
- Gravity-hydro simulations in practice
- Recent highlights and outstanding challenges

# Poisson solvers : Relaxation solvers

---

Idea : start with an initial guess and converge toward a solution of Poisson Eq.

- **Jacobi Method:**

$$\text{in 2D } \phi_{i,j}^{n+1} = \frac{1}{4} (\phi_{i+1,j}^n + \phi_{i-1,j}^n + \phi_{i,j+1}^n + \phi_{i,j-1}^n) - \frac{1}{4} \rho_{i,j}$$

Slow convergence (up to  $\sim N^2$  iterations or more)

- **Over-relaxation (Gauss-Seidel method):**

Force faster convergence by removing a fraction (between 0 and 100%) of the previous-order solution

Formal convergence for  $N^2$  iterations at most, usually faster

- **Conjugate Gradient:**

Uses mostly local data (MPI...)

Reaches numerical truncation accuracy in  $\sim N$  iterations

Low sensitivity to the initial guess

# Multi-grid schemes for Poisson solvers

---

- Perform a few relaxation iterations on fine levels first (smoothing the initial guess)
- Restrict residuals to the coarse levels
- Iterate relaxation algorithm on the coarse grid
- Interpolate and correct on the fine grid



Various iteration cycles

Convergence quasi independent from the initial guess

(Guillet & Teyssier 2011)

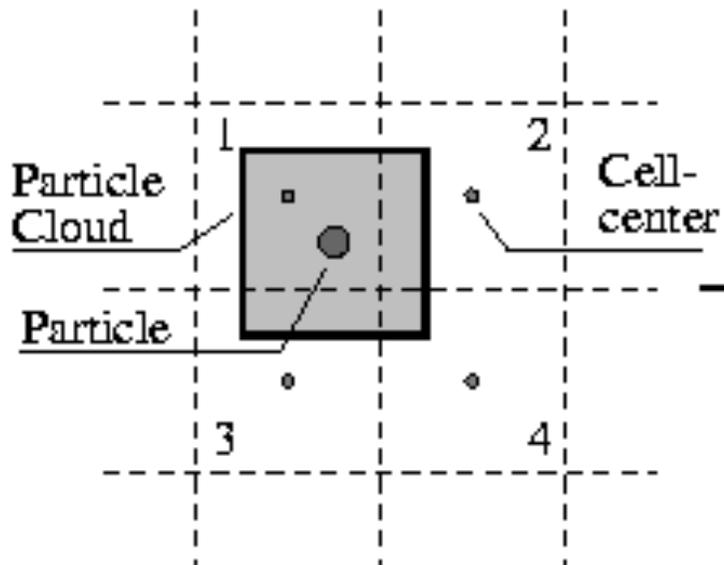
# Force interpolation

---

Now we have the gravitational potential on a grid.

Force interpolation should ensure momentum conservation:

- no self force
- pairs of particles undergo opposite forces

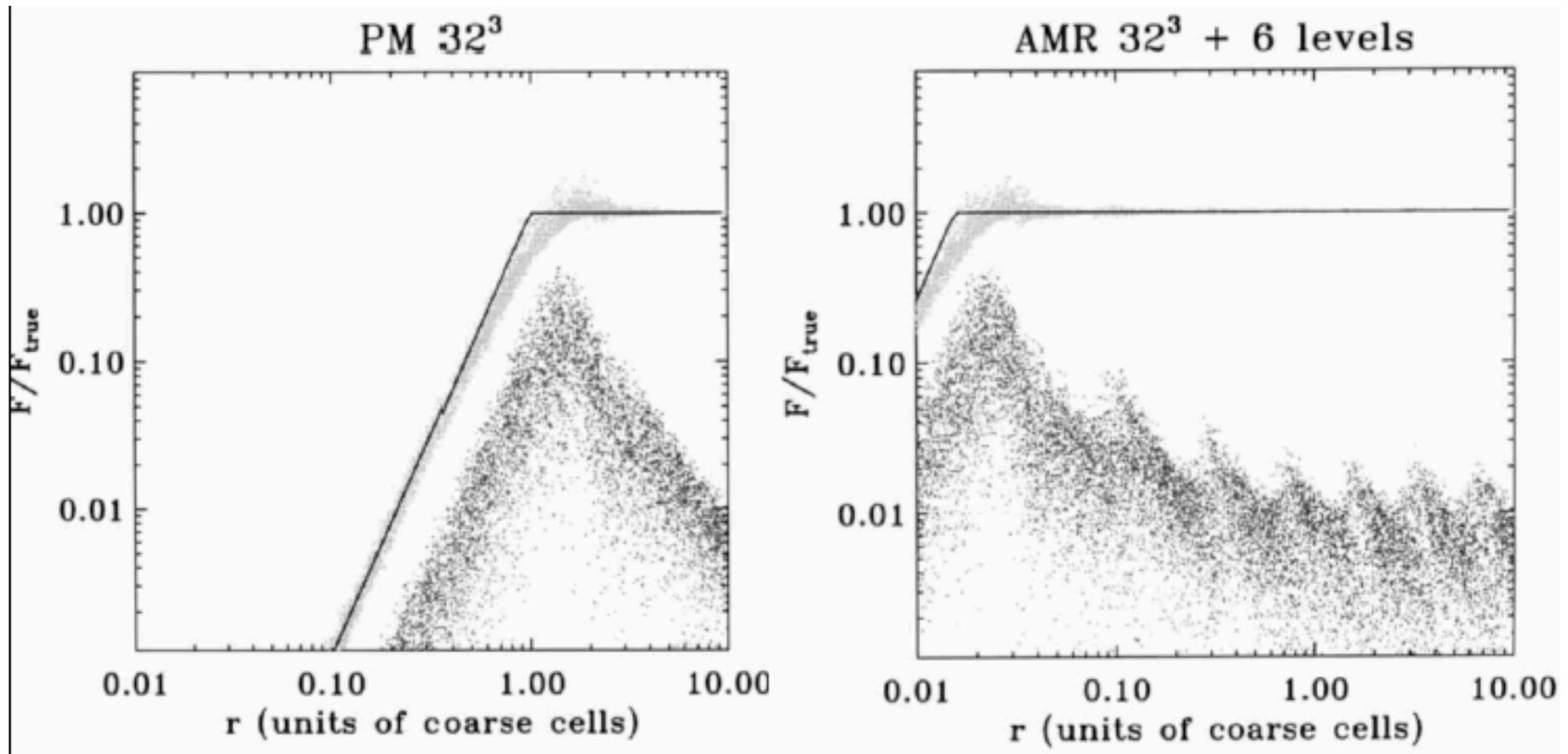


Multi-linear interpolation similar to the Mesh interpolation scheme ensures zero self-force, on Cartesian grids.

Interpolation between 8 grid nodes (in 3D) for each particle gives the gravitational force

Other geometries often have a self-force (depending on the interpolation scheme)  
=> self-force can be computed or estimated, then corrected.

# Force accuracy



(Teyssier 2009)

Force accuracy reaches 1% in 2-3 cells.

Adaptive grids induce changes in the interpolation and softening, below the intrinsic accuracy.

# Time integration

---

Explicit Euler integrator :

$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^{n+1} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^n + dt \mathbf{f}((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^n) \quad \text{where } \mathbf{f} = (m\mathbf{v}, -d\Phi/d\mathbf{x})$$

Implicit Euler integrator :

$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^{n+1} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^n + dt \mathbf{f}((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^{n+1})$$

Problems : in simple potentials, a single particle will continuously gain (respectively lose) gravitational potential energy.

Trajectories are non-reservible.

=> These integrators are not symplectic .

# Time integration – symplectic integrators

---

Simplest (Euler-like) symplectic integrator :

$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^{n+1} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})^n + \Delta t \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{v}^{n+1})$$

Second-order integrators :

- leap-frog

$$\mathbf{x}^{n+1} = \mathbf{x}^n + \Delta t \mathbf{v}^{n+1/2}$$

$$\mathbf{v}^{n+3/2} = \mathbf{v}^{n+1/2} + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}^{n+1}) \Delta t$$

- kick-drift-kick

Slightly longer calculation but matched timesteps for  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{x}$

# Particle Mesh schemes (PM) - summary

---

Ingredients :

- The mass is distributed in particles, with individual velocities
- A grid is used to solve gravity

Steps :

- **Compute the grid density from particles (PIC interpolation)**
- **Solve Poisson on the grid (Poisson solver)**
- **Interpolate the force to each particle ( $d_t \mathbf{v} = -d_x \Phi$ )**
- **Integrate the particle motion (time integration  $d_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ )**

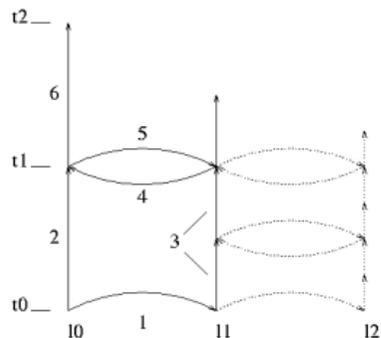
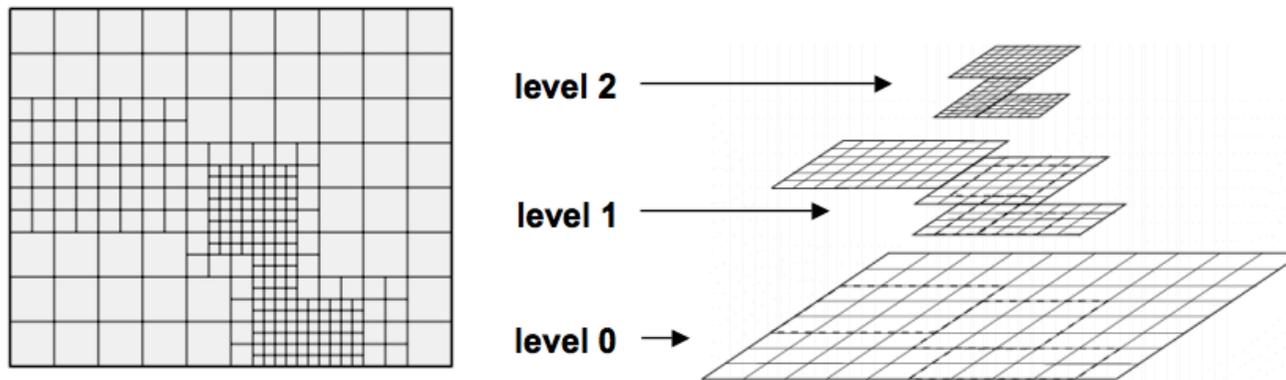
The basic PM loop is now complete... We can move to AMR techniques...

# AMR techniques

---

- An AMR structure will usually start from a « coarse level » uniform grid
- => reduce the number of intermediate levels
- => domain decomposition at least on the coarse level grid

Simplest version : patch-based refinement



Recursive time intergration :

- coarse+fine levels
- fine levels (sub-loops as required)
- synchronize and re-grid (if needed)
- iterate all levels again

# Patch-based AMR

---

Reasons for patch-based strategies :

- Simplicity
- Lower rate of coarse/fine interpolation in critical zones (if controlled)
- Suited for vector computing or GPU
- No need for domain decomposition :
  - each processor can handle a level, or a patch (esp. if constrained size)
  - don't need to have parent/child cells on same CPU

Main drawbacks :

- memory inefficient, especially if patch size is constrained
- lack of real domain decomposition can be a drawback (analysis, sub-grid)

# Cell-based AMR (tree-based)

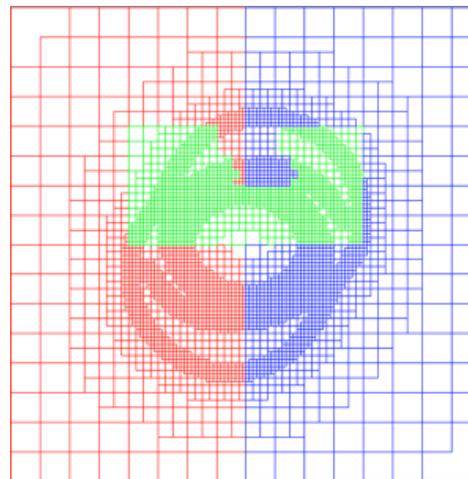
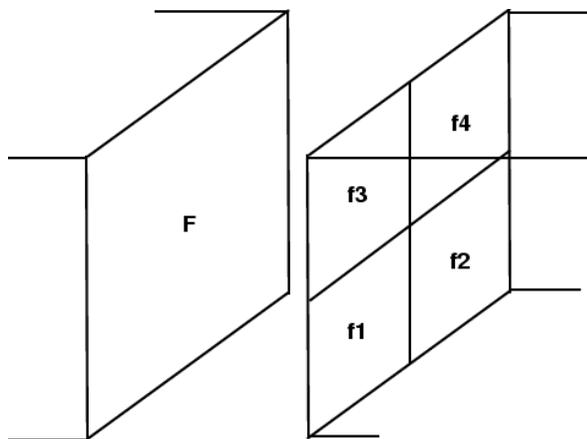
---

Reasons for tree-based strategies :

- Minimal memory for given refinement requirements
- Simpler data structure (e.g. oct-tree) once hydro is coded
- Adapted to any system (patches follow clustering)
- There is a real domain decomposition (a constraint but also advantages)

Main drawbacks :

- fluid elements may undergo more refinement/de-refinement
- communication costs can be higher for some « ideal » geometries



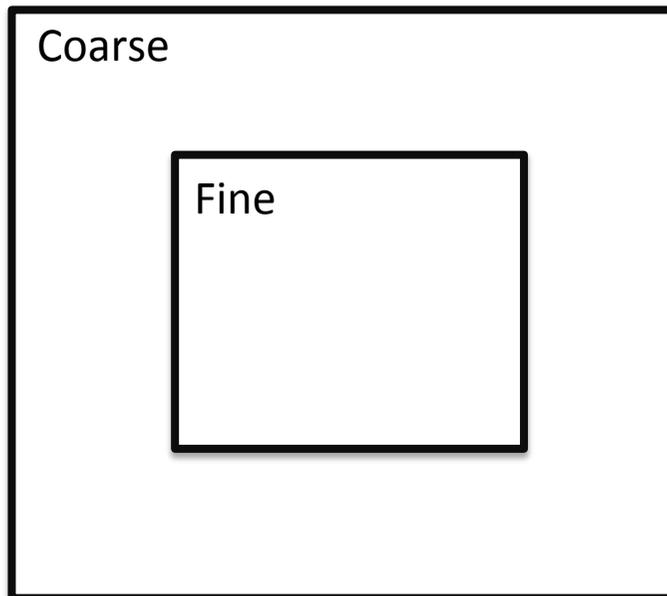
Example of RAMSES domain decomposition

# AMR Poisson solver

---

- Relaxation methods can still be used (such as Conjugate Gradient)
- Multi-grid could still be used on any AMR level (esp. if patch-based), but generally in tree-based schemes the multi-grid becomes inherent to the AMR structure

Basic approach : « Pandora » scheme. Coarse levels ignore the content of fine levels



Coarse level potential computed independently :

- using all particles (even those in Fine region)
- applied to Coarse-region particles

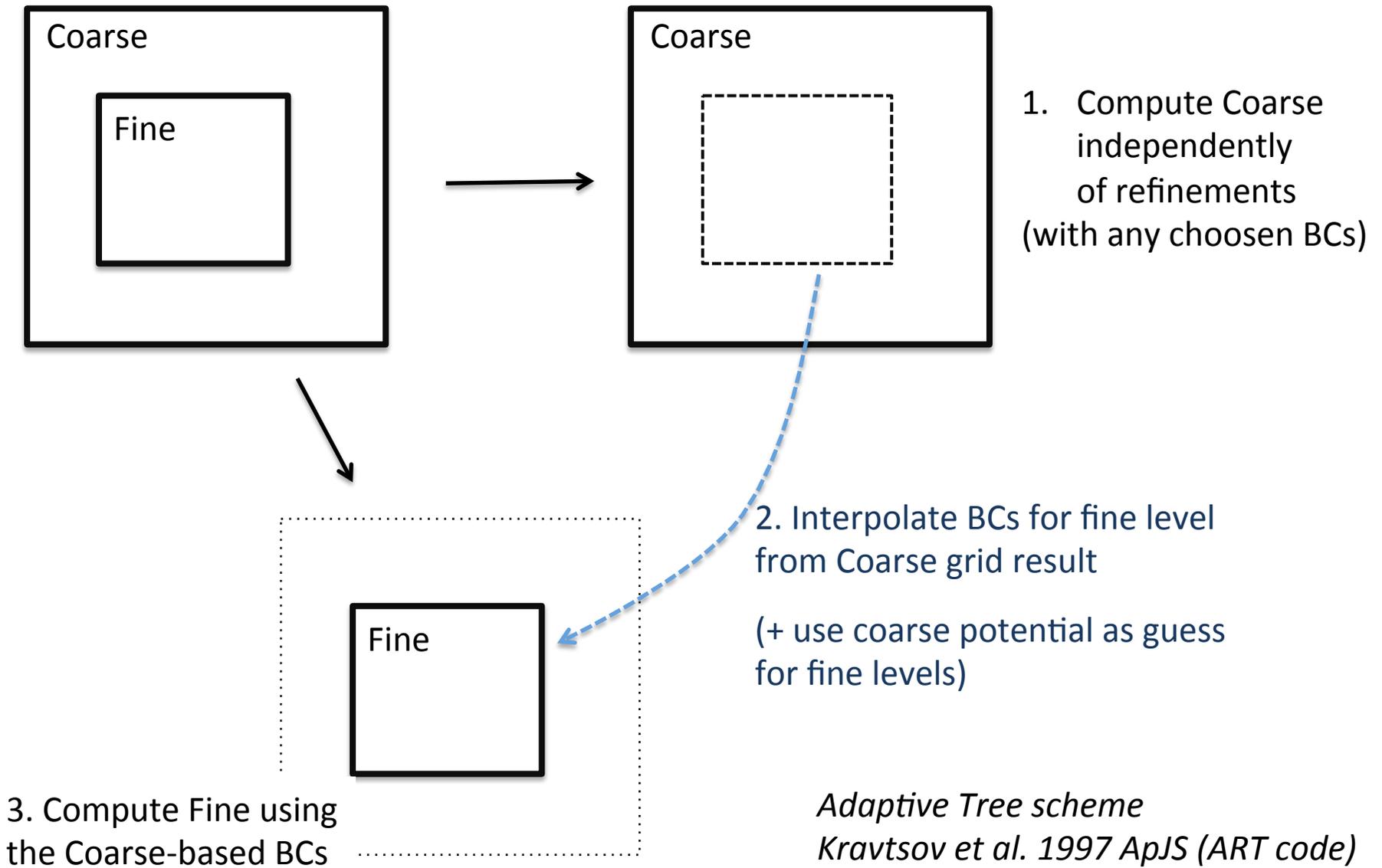
Finel level potential is sum of:

- coarse-only potential (computed everywhere with coarse-only particles)
- + fine-ony potential (Fine region as closed box)
- => applied to Fine-region particles

Always isolated B.C. -- requires simple boundaries (patches, single octs..)

# AMR Poisson solver

---



1. Compute Coarse independently of refinements (with any chosen BCs)

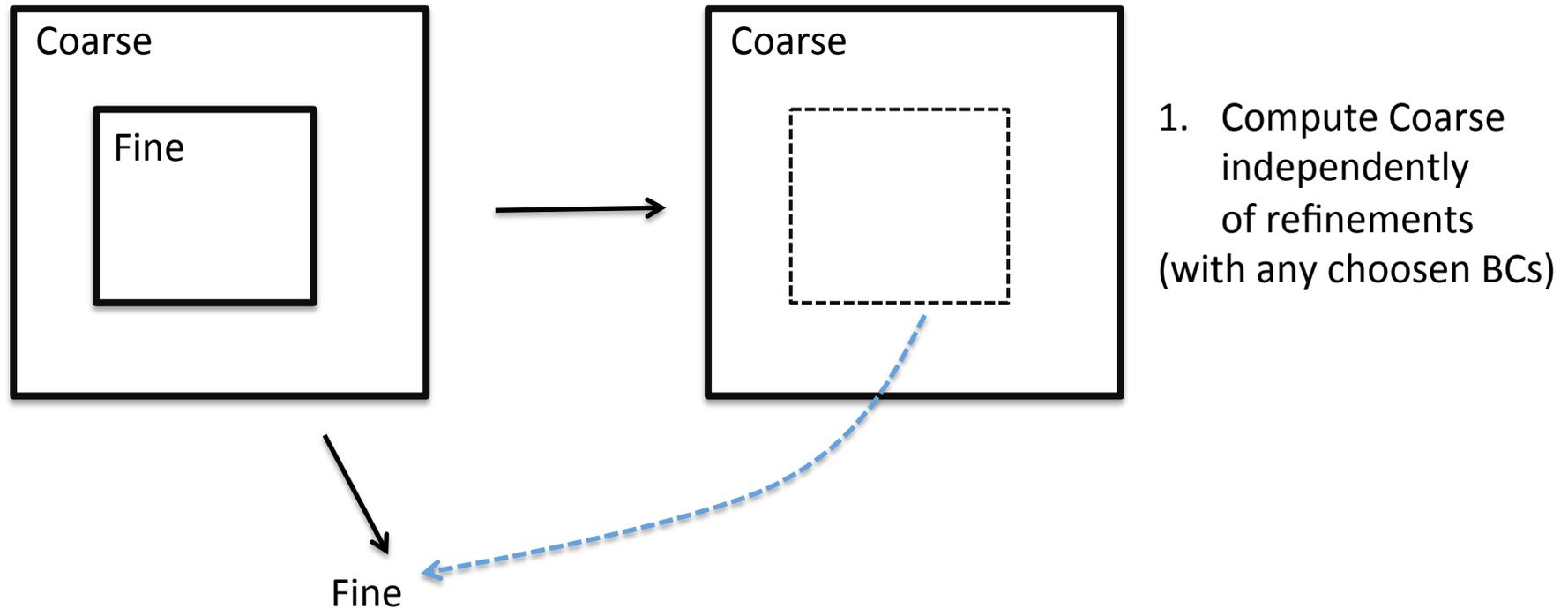
2. Interpolate BCs for fine level from Coarse grid result (+ use coarse potential as guess for fine levels)

3. Compute Fine using the Coarse-based BCs

*Adaptive Tree scheme  
Kravtsov et al. 1997 ApJS (ART code)  
Miniati & Collela JCP 227 (2007)*

# AMR Poisson solver with one-way interface

---

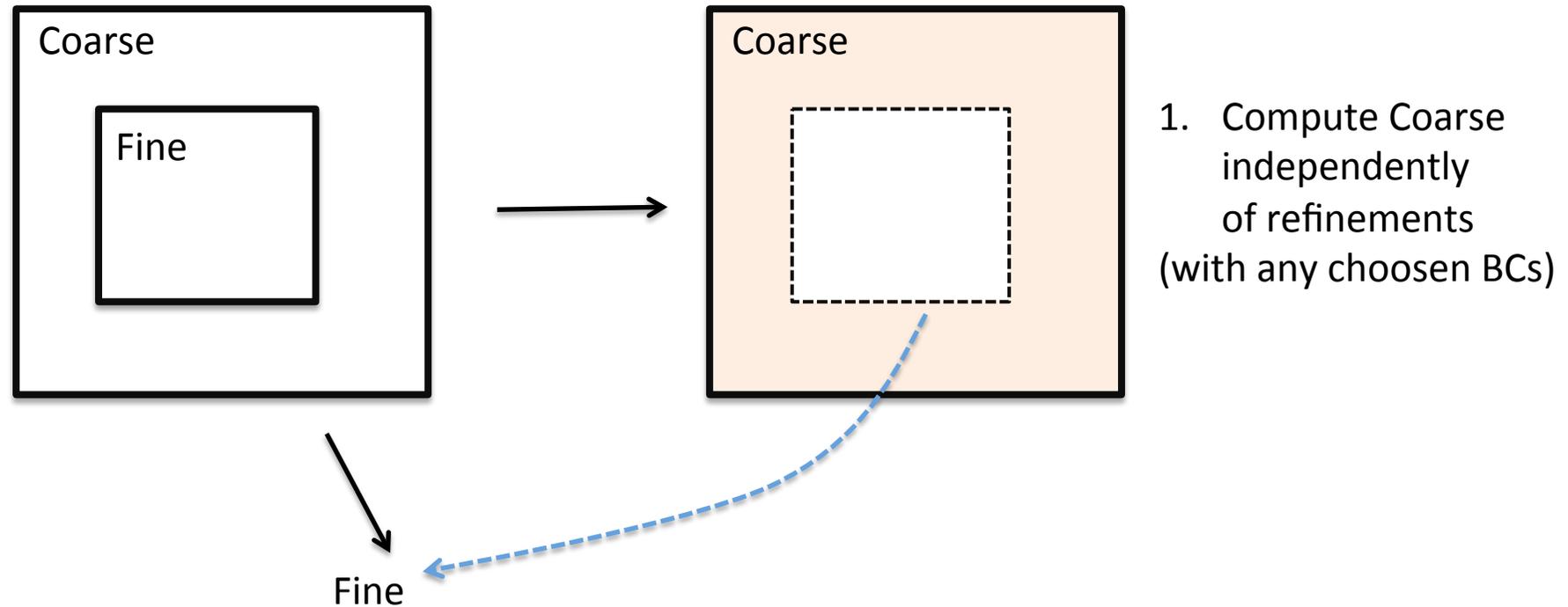


In the original ART-based solvers, all particles (including fine ones) are passed to the coarse level to compute the coarse density, and the coarse potential is computed everywhere => extra calculations, the density and potential are computed twice in the » fine » volume.

Extra MPI communications too.

# AMR Poisson solver with two-way interface

---

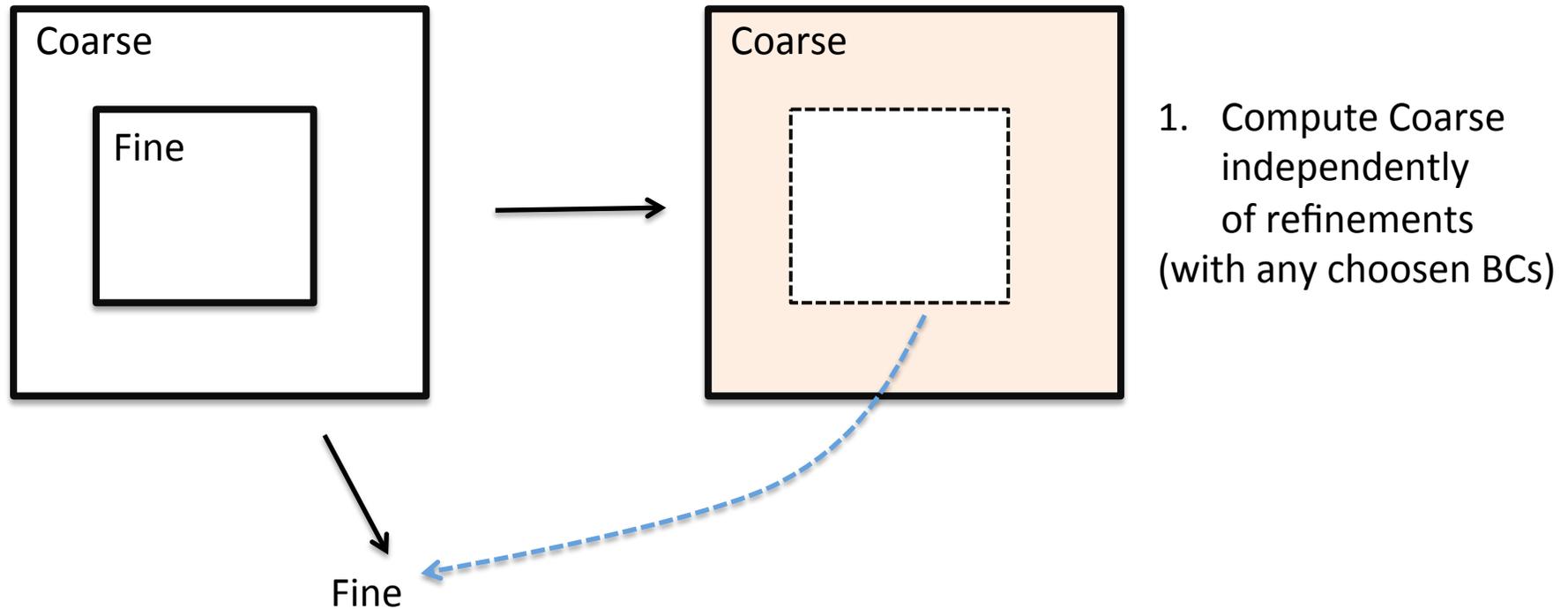


Coarse density interpolation and potential calculation performed only in the « Coarse – Fine volume ».

Use *Coarse* as a boundary for *Fine*  
But also *Fine* as an inner boundary for *Coarse*

# AMR Poisson solver with two-way interface

---



- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_c = \rho_c$  on the « C-F » volume only
- Use as Dirichlet+Neuman B.C. at the boundary
- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_F = \rho_F$  on the « F » volume
- Iterate until convergence at both the C-F and F levels.

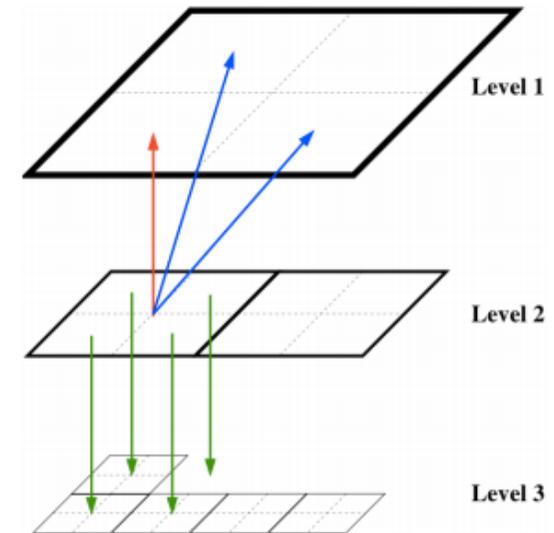
# Oct-tree structures for AMR (here RAMSES)

1 oct = small group of  $2^{N_{dim}}$

8 associated pointers:

- 1 parent cell
- 6 neighboring parent cells
- 8 children octs
- 2 linked list indices

*Fully threaded tree (Khokhlov 1998)*



Courtesy R. Teyssier

Any cell can be « leaf » (active) or « split » (inactive).

All levels exist from level 0 (full box) to the maximal level, but a minimal refinement level (usually  $>0$ ) is defined.

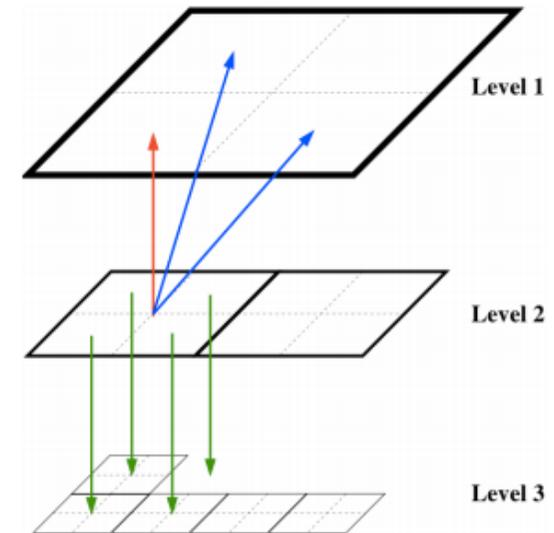
Levels can be sub-cycled or not (usually yes, see later CFL condition)

# Oct-tree structures for AMR (here RAMSES)

1 oct = small group of  $2^{N_{dim}}$

8 associated pointers:

- 1 parent cell
- 6 neighboring parent cells
- 8 children octs
- 2 linked list indices

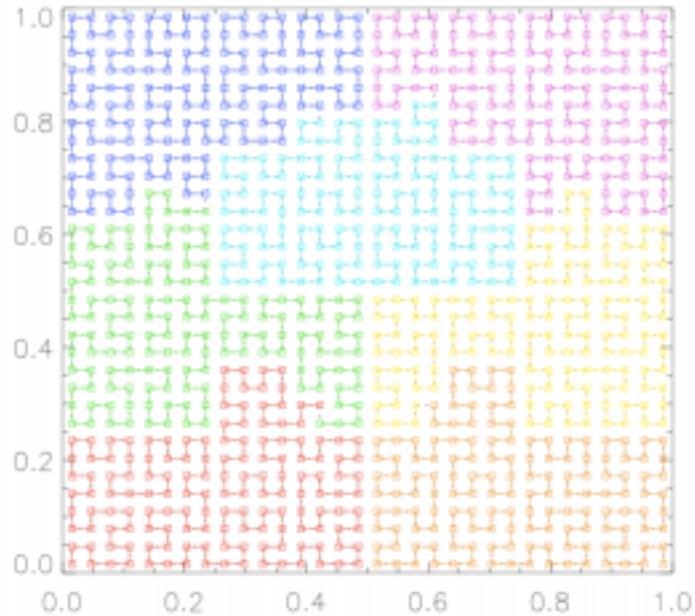


Courtesy R. Teyssier

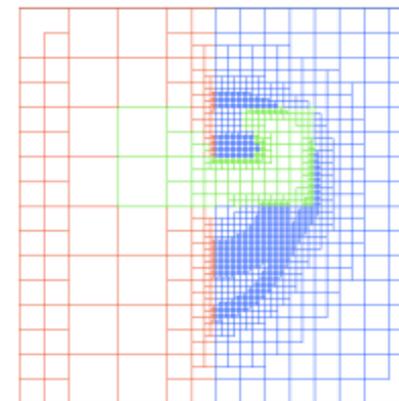
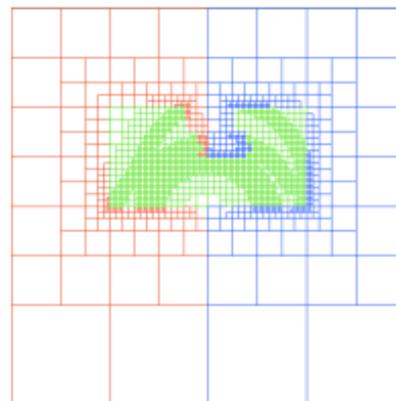
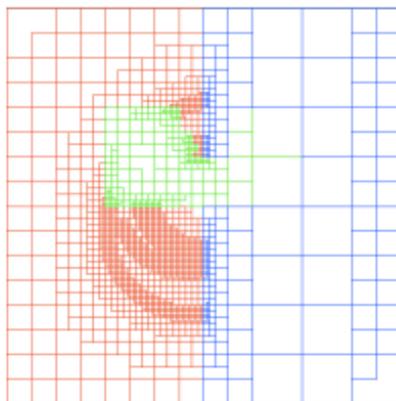
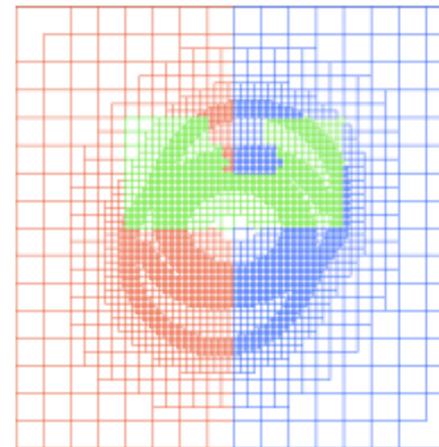
Refinement criteria:

- « constrained refinement » : no more than 1 level difference between neighbors
- Physical criteria : mass or number of particles per cell, physical scale-lengths to resolve, gradients, zoom regions...
- Mathematical smoothing to ensure convex envelope

# Oct-tree and domain decomposition in MPI



- Space-filling curve (Peano-Hilbert)
- Ghost copies of the locally-essential tree in the memory of each CPU



# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

---

Now adding the gas (continuous fluid) in the system:

Back to the initial questions (Vlasov-Poisson) : particles or mass in grids ?

Mass in grid now has a reasonable memory cost : one single velocity in a given spatial resolution element => no need for a 6D grid.

Grid-based: One single velocity (+thermal dispersion) in each spatial cell

⇒ formally correct only for infinitely small cells,

or at least cells smaller than the dissipation scale(s) of the turbulence cascade

⇒ Otherwise gas is very dissipative/viscous or needs to be artificially heated

Particles: Allows a distribution of velocities inside the spatial resolution elements

No formal dissipation of the kinetic energy at the mesh resolution limit

But is this really modelling a continuous fluid ?

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

---

Now adding the gas (continuous fluid) in the system:

Back to the initial questions (Vlasov-Poisson) : particles or mass in grids?

Mass in grid now has a reasonable memory cost : one single velocity in a given spatial resolution element => no need for a 6D grid.

Grid-based: One single velocity (+thermal dispersion) in each spatial cell

⇒ formally correct only for infinitely small cells,

or at least cells smaller than the dissipation scale(s) of the turbulence cascade

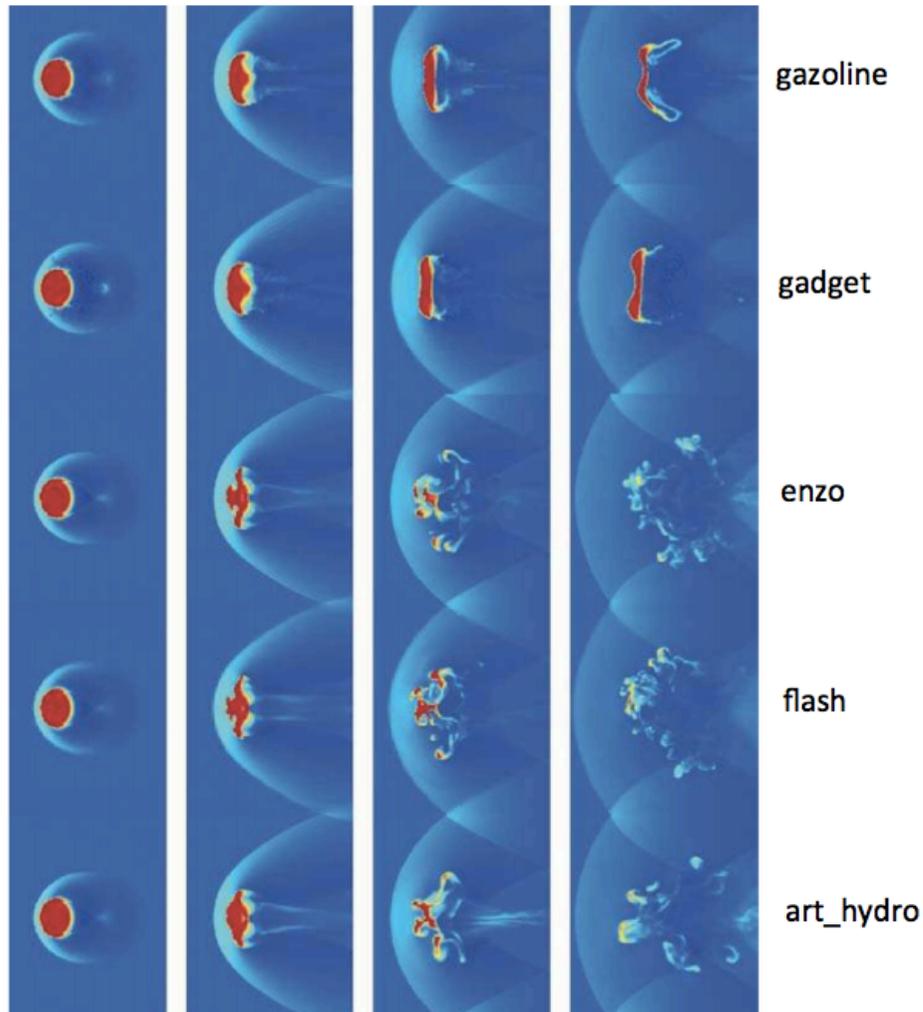
⇒ Otherwise gas is very dissipative/viscous or needs to be artificially heated

Particles: Allows a distribution of velocities inside the spatial resolution elements

No formal dissipation of the kinetic energy at the mesh resolution limit

But is this really modelling a continuous fluid ?

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

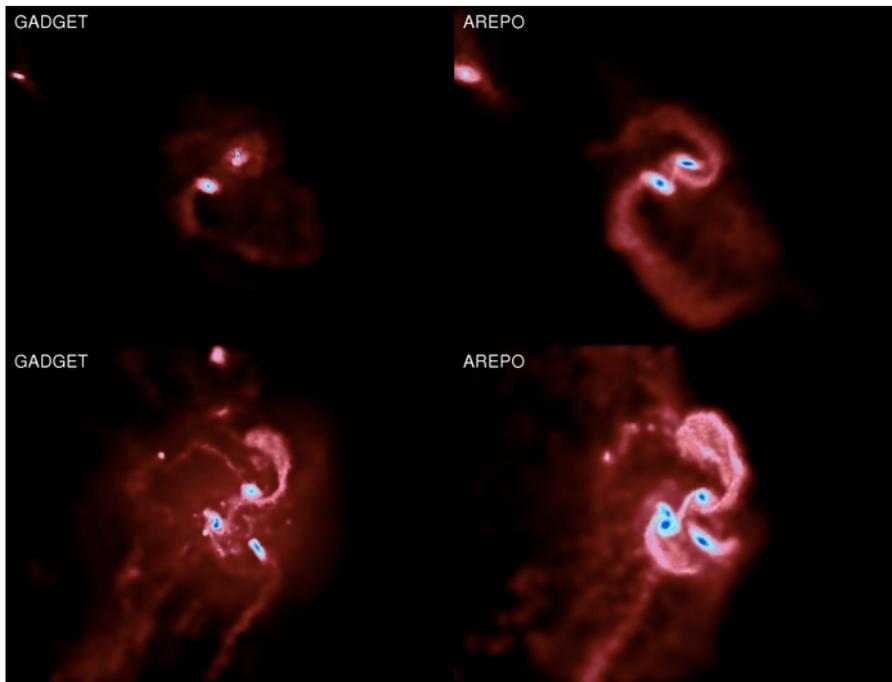


Agertz et al., Tasker et al. 2007

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

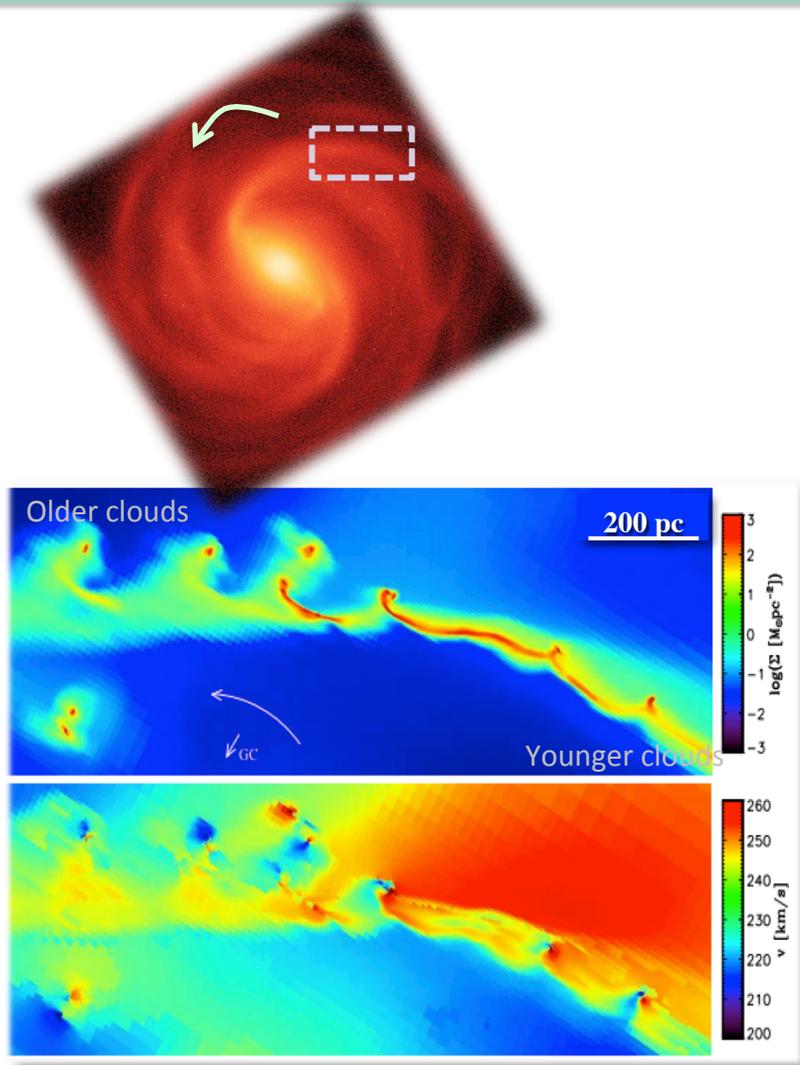
---



Keres, Springel et al.

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based



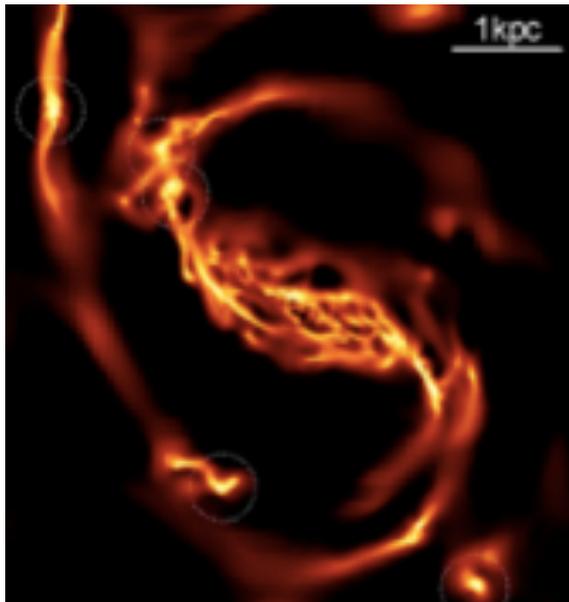
***Need to resolve the Jeans+ KH instability scales before arguing how accurately the code handles it !***

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

# Astrophysical fluid dynamics:

## N-body, gravity and hydrodynamics

Applications in cosmology, galaxy and star formation



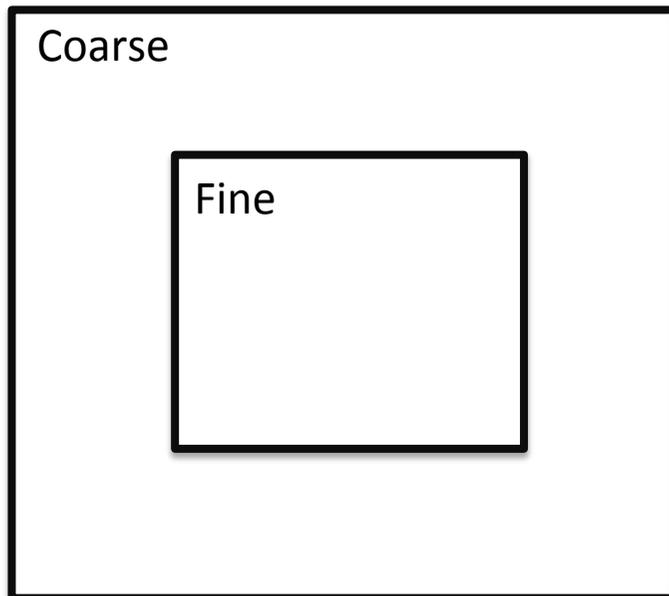
Frédéric Bournaud – CEA Saclay  
frederic.bournaud@cea.fr

# AMR Poisson solver

---

- Relaxation methods can still be used (such as Conjugate Gradient)
- Multi-grid could still be used on any AMR level (esp. if patch-based), but generally in tree-based schemes the multi-grid becomes inherent to the AMR structure

Basic approach : « Pandora » scheme. Coarse levels ignore the content of fine levels



Coarse level potential computed independently :

- using all particles (even those in Fine region)
- applied to Coarse-region particles

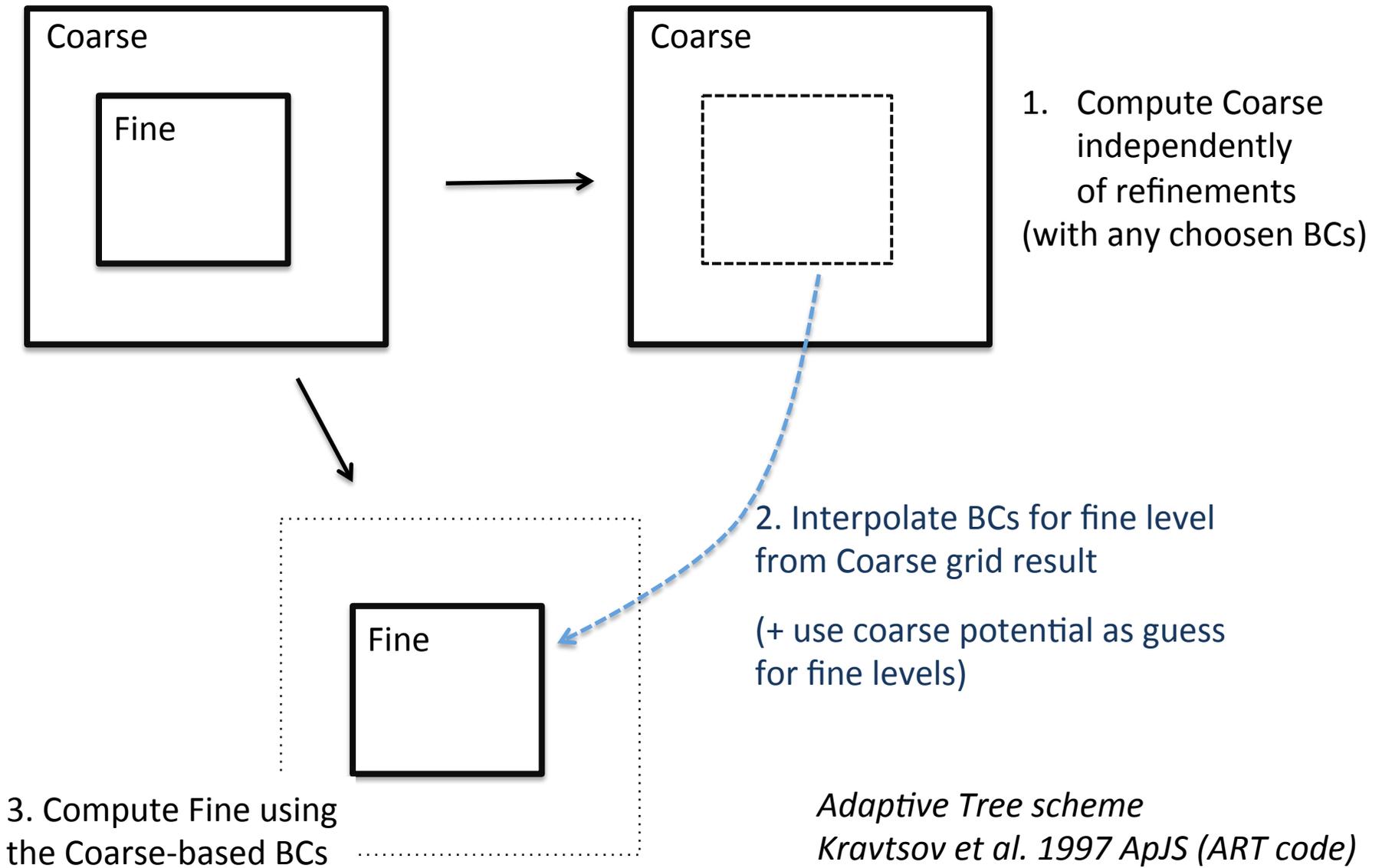
Finel level potential is sum of:

- coarse-only potential (computed everywhere with coarse-only particles)
- + fine-ony potential (Fine region as closed box)
- => applied to Fine-region particles

Always isolated B.C. -- requires simple boundaries (patches, single octs..)

# AMR Poisson solver

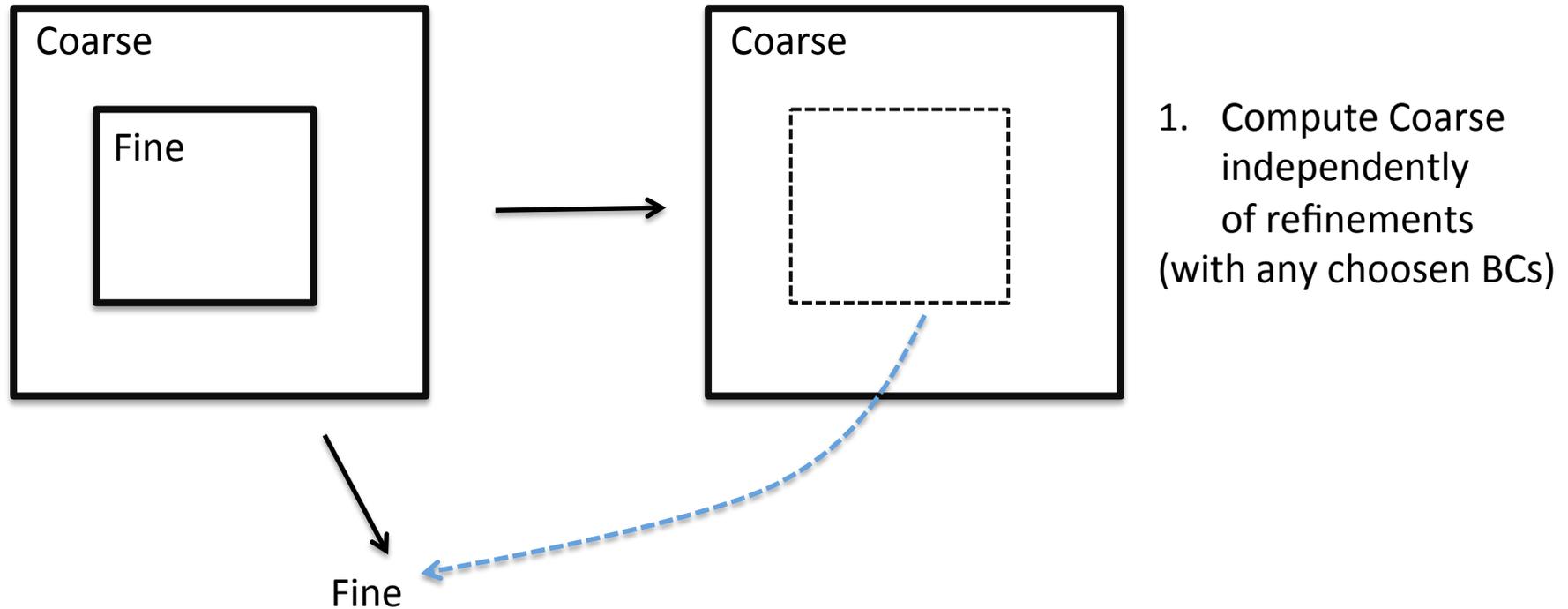
---



*Adaptive Tree scheme  
Kravtsov et al. 1997 ApJS (ART code)  
Miniati & Collela JCP 227 (2007)*

# AMR Poisson solver with one-way interface

---

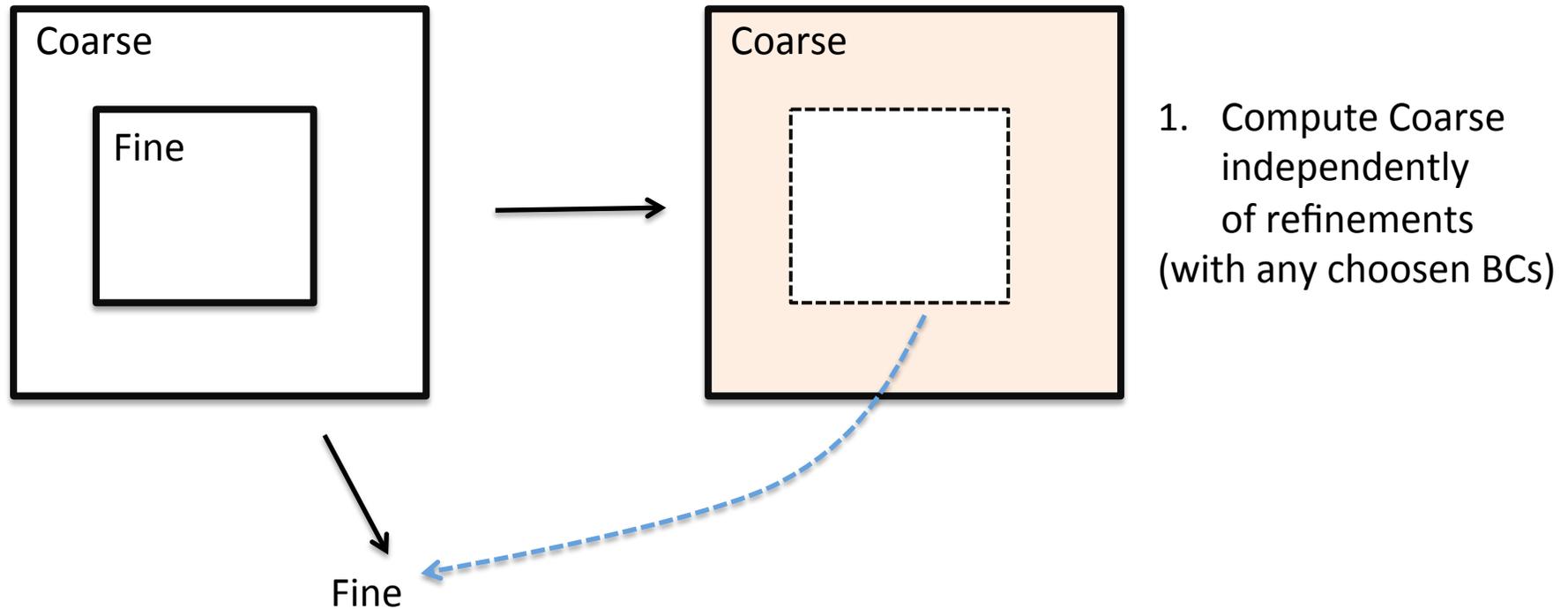


In the original ART-based solvers, all particles (including fine ones) are passed to the coarse level to compute the coarse density, and the coarse potential is computed everywhere => extra calculations, the density and potential are computed twice in the » fine » volume.

Extra MPI communications too.

# AMR Poisson solver with two-way interface

---

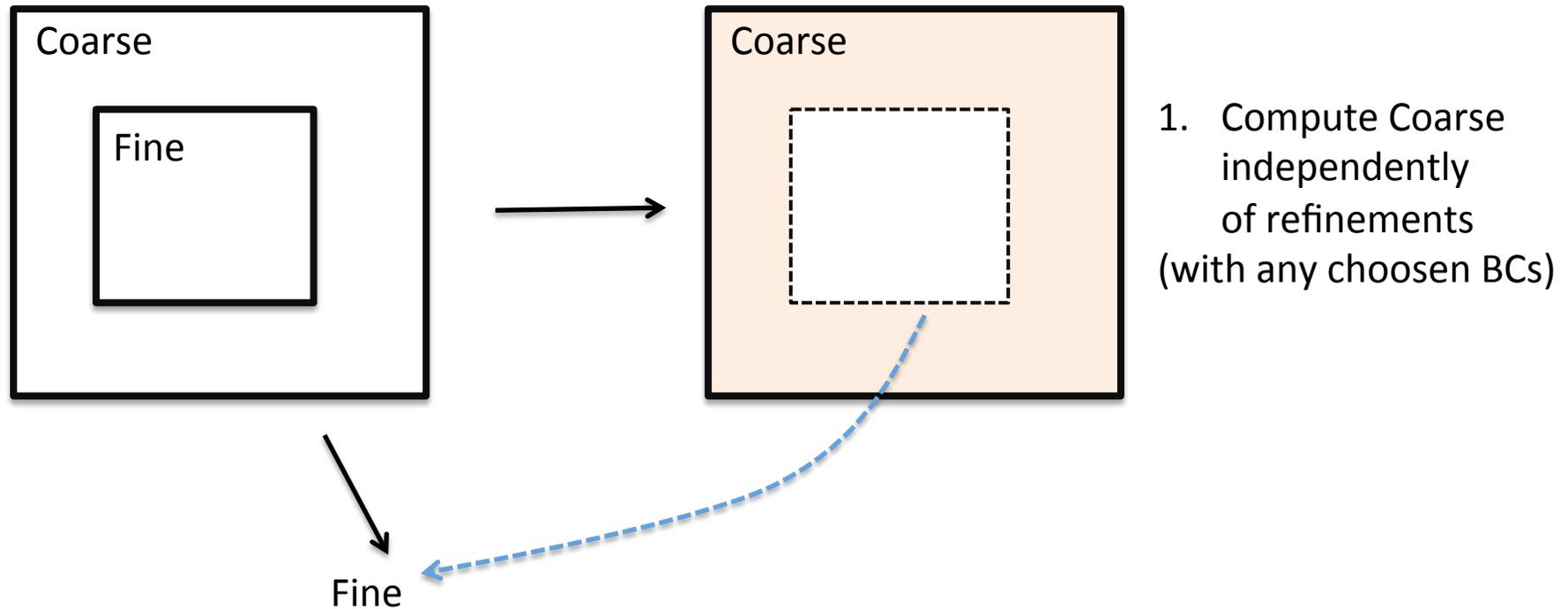


Coarse density interpolation and potential calculation performed only in the « Coarse – Fine volume ».

Use *Coarse* as a boundary for *Fine*  
But also *Fine* as an inner boundary for *Coarse*

# AMR Poisson solver with two-way interface

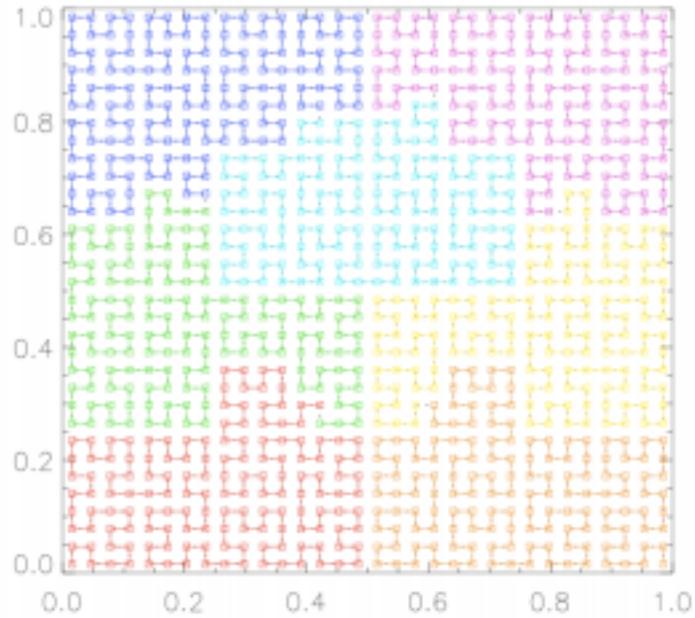
---



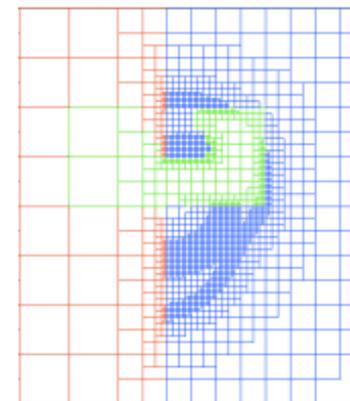
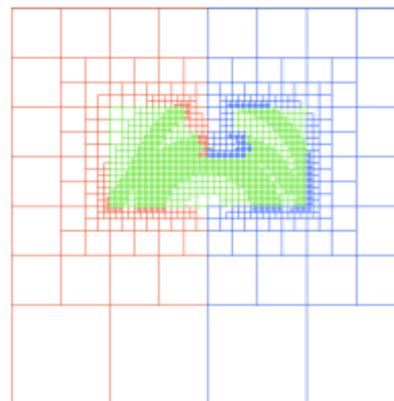
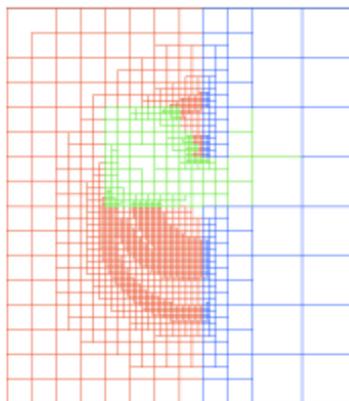
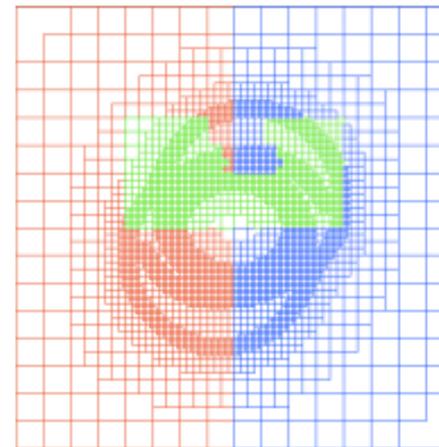
- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_c = \rho_c$  on the « C-F » volume only
- Use as Dirichlet+Neuman B.C. at the boundary
- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_F = \rho_F$  on the « F » volume
- Iterate until convergence at both the C-F and F levels.

# Oct-tree and domain decomposition in MPI

---



- Space-filling curve (Peano-Hilbert)
- Ghost copies of the locally-essential tree in the memory of each CPU



# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

---

Now adding the gas (continuous fluid) in the system:

Back to the initial questions (Vlasov-Poisson) : particles or mass in grids?

Mass in grid now has a reasonable memory cost : one single velocity in a given spatial resolution element => no need for a 6D grid.

Grid-based: One single velocity (+thermal dispersion) in each spatial cell

⇒ formally correct only for infinitely small cells,

or at least cells smaller than the dissipation scale(s) of the turbulence cascade

⇒ Otherwise gas is very dissipative/viscous or needs to be artificially heated

Particles: Allows a distribution of velocities inside the spatial resolution elements

No formal dissipation of the kinetic energy at the mesh resolution limit

But is this really modelling a continuous fluid ?

# Beyond Vlassov-Poisson : N-body with collisions

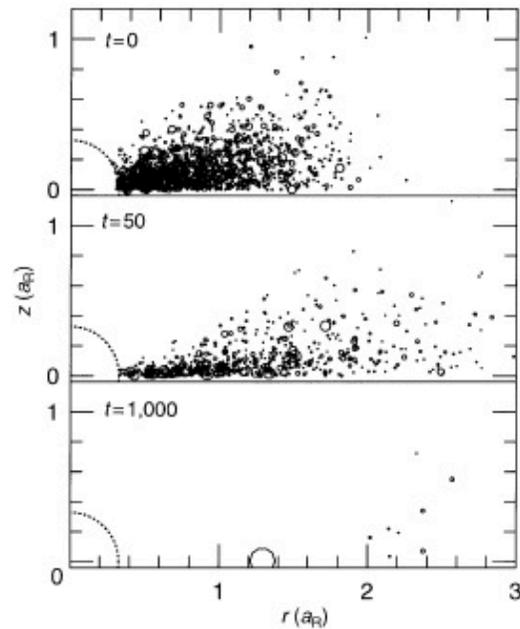
---

- Particles with finite sizes and collisional particle-particle interactions
- « Sticky Particle » schemes, search for collisions between neighbours  
The PM grid can be directly used for this.
- Used for the cold turbulent ISM phases when not able to resolve the injection scale
- Simplest schemes : particles bouncing back with  $<1$  restitution coefficient
- Accurate model of solid particle disks :  
planetary systems, planetary rings, silicate-phase proto-planetary disks
- Modeling of silicate bodies interactions (Salo, 1992, 1998) :
  - Finite-size bodies
  - Elasticity + friction

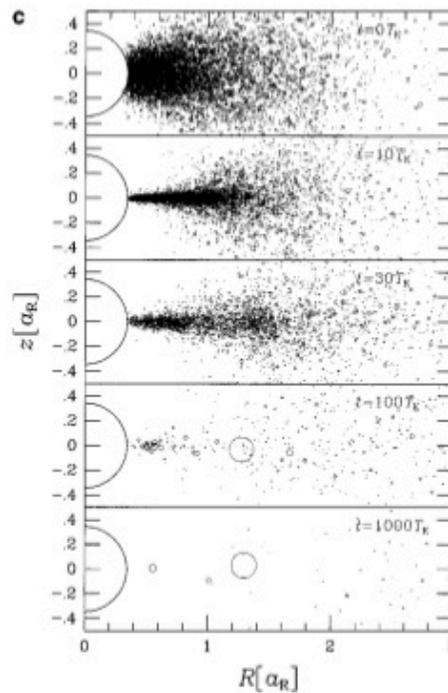
# Beyond Vlassov-Poisson : N-body with collisions

Proto-lunar disk and Moon accretion after a giant impact.

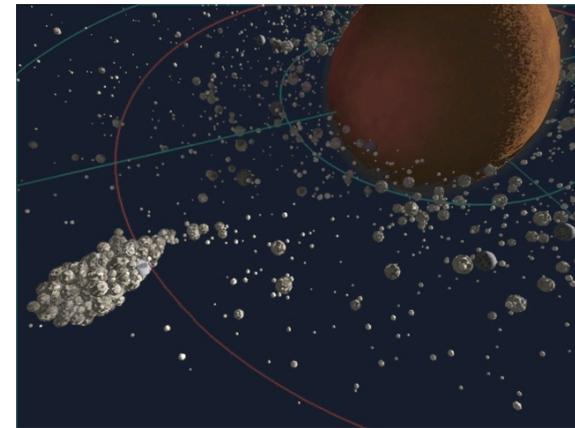
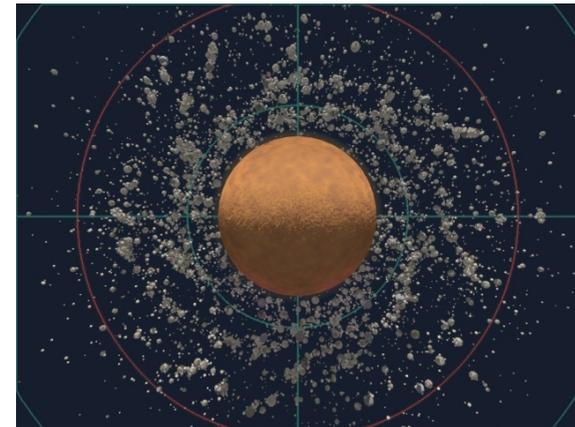
Self-gravity (PM) => density wave => transport  
Accretion (sitcky part.) at the Roche radius.



[Ida et al., *Nature*, 1997]



[Kokubo et al., *Icarus*, 2000]



Kokubo, Ida et al. 2010

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

---

Now adding the gas (continuous fluid) in the system:

Back to the initial questions (Vlasov-Poisson) : particles or mass in grids?

Mass in grid now has a reasonable memory cost : one single velocity in a given spatial resolution element => no need for a 6D grid.

Grid-based: One single velocity (+thermal dispersion) in each spatial cell

⇒ formally correct only for infinitely small cells,

or at least cells smaller than the dissipation scale(s) of the turbulence cascade

⇒ Otherwise gas is very dissipative/viscous or needs to be artificially heated

Particles: Allows a distribution of velocities inside the spatial resolution elements

No formal dissipation of the kinetic energy at the mesh resolution limit

But is this really modelling a continuous fluid ?

# Hydrodynamics : CFL condition

---

Courant number  $C = \Delta t (v_x/\Delta x + v_y/\Delta y + v_z/\Delta z)$   
for the simplest case of a pressure-less system.

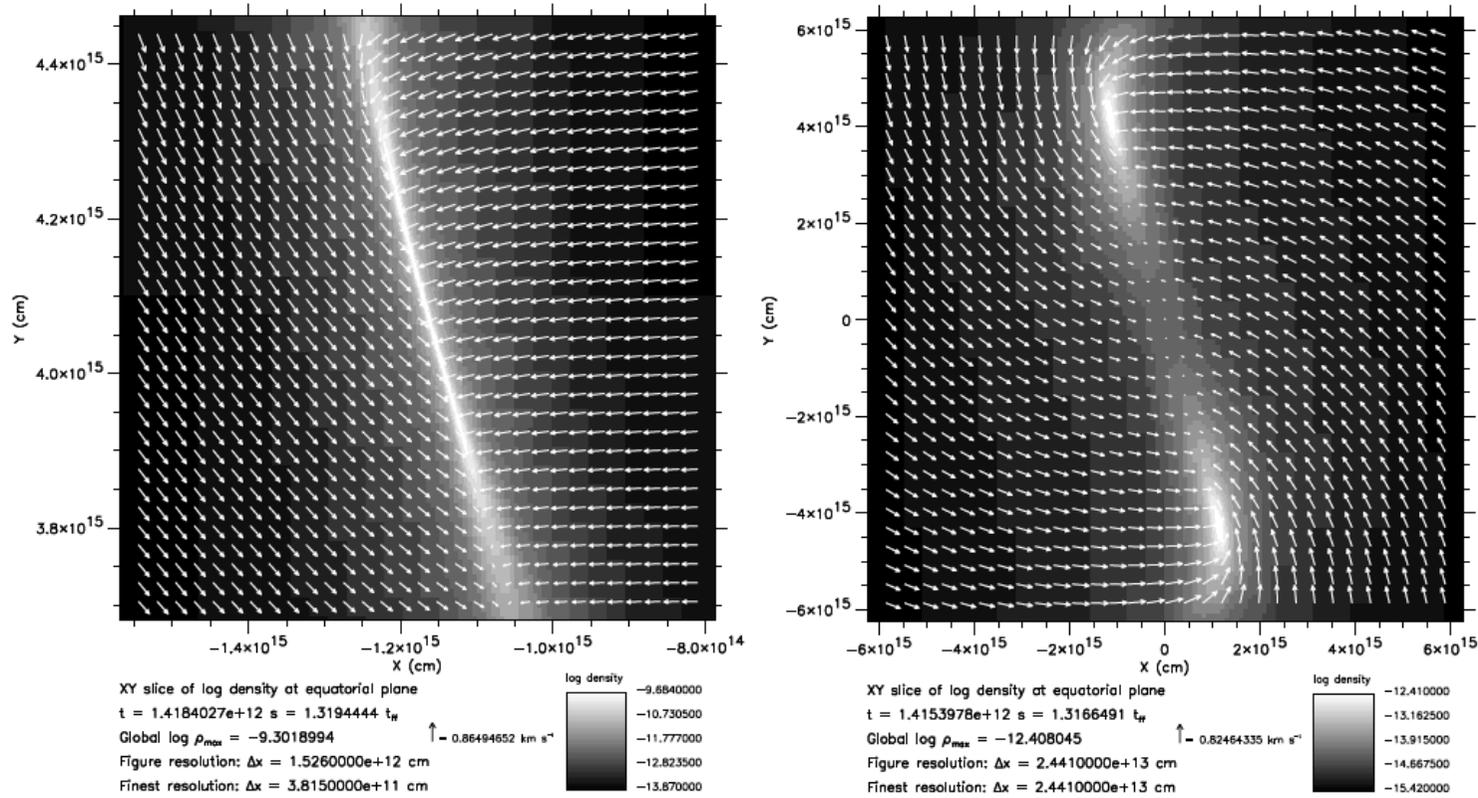
Numerical stability requires  $C < 1$ , usually  $C < 1/2$

In the case of AMR, if the largest velocities are macroscopic (non thermal), sub-cycling of the levels ensures the same Courant number at all levels. In practice sub-cycling should not be used over more than 6-7 levels for best performance.

Difficulties can arise from the finite size of the coarsest level, especially with thermal processes at high T:

- High sound speed (for instance gas at  $>10^8\text{K}$ )
  - High velocities from thermal release in low-density gas (feedback)
- ⇒ pseudo-isolated systems are more difficult

# Hydrodynamics : « Truelove criterion »

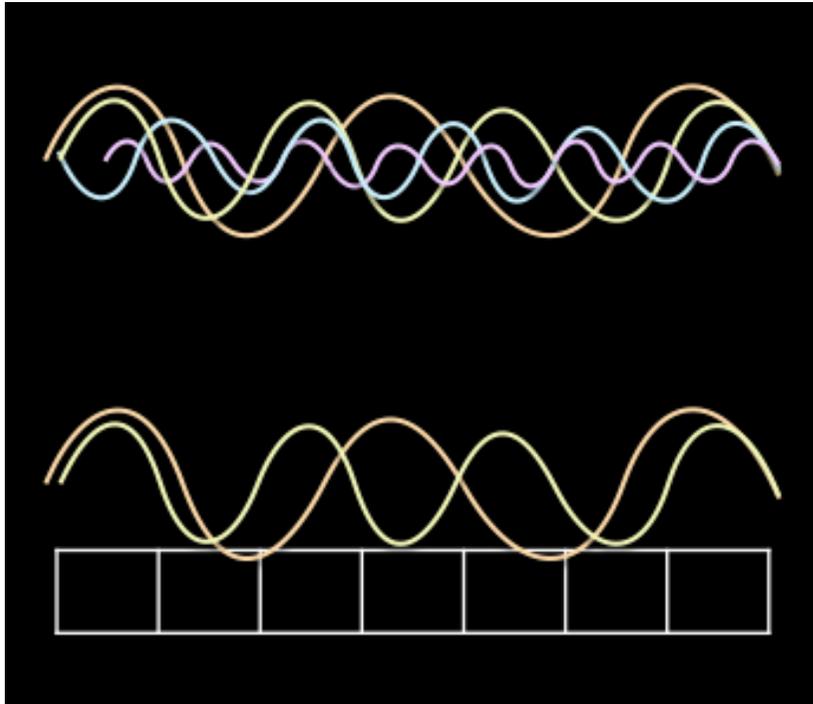


Problems of systems that should be stable, or at least should not fragment (smaller than their own Jeans length/mass).

Numerical fragmentation if the Jeans length is not resolved with a few ( $\sim 4$ ) resolution elements

# Hydrodynamics : « Truelove criterion »

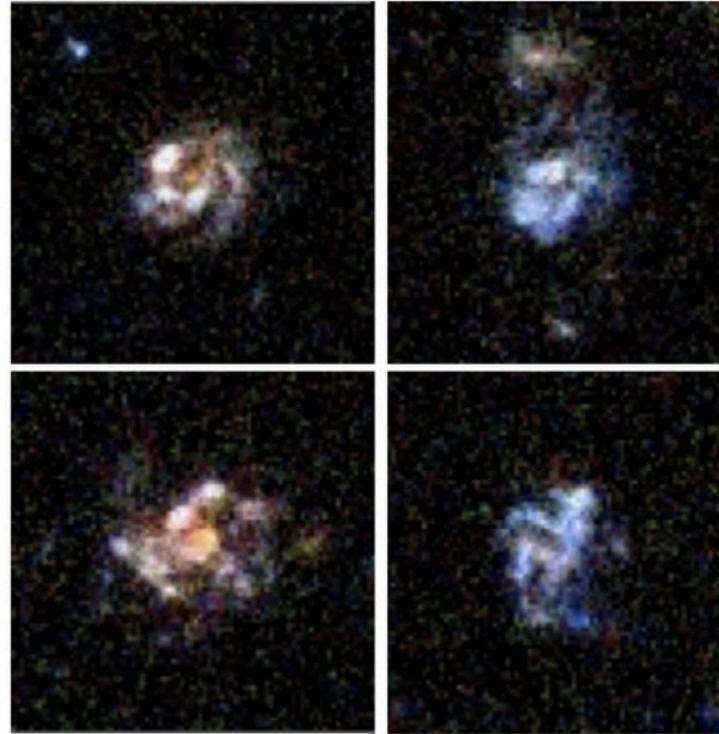
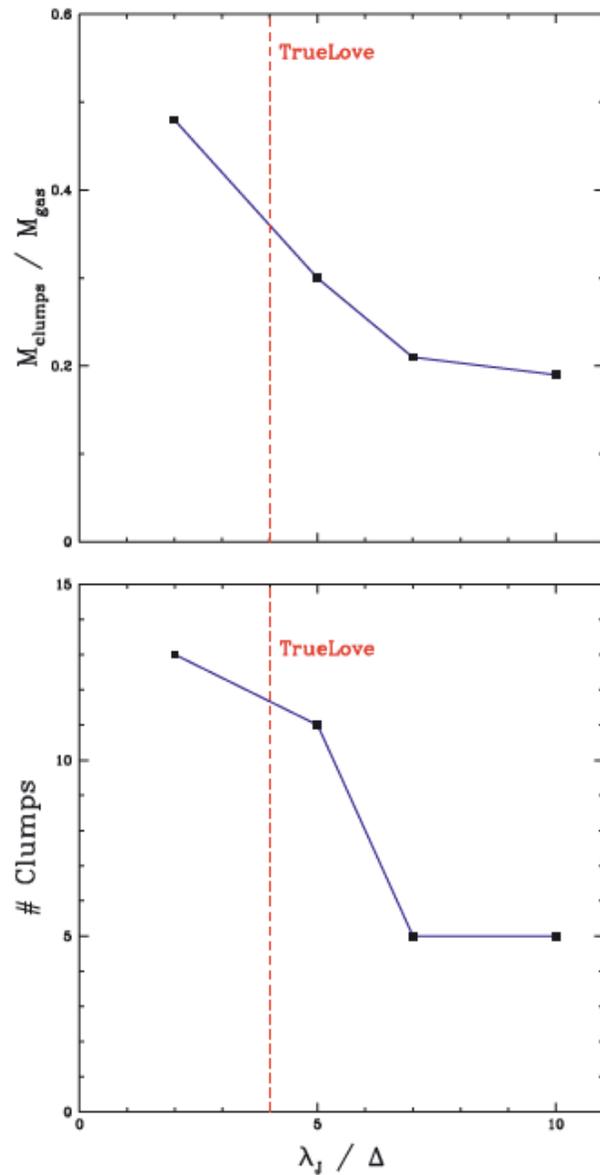
---



Problems of systems that should be stable, or at least should not fragment (smaller than their own Jeans length/mass).

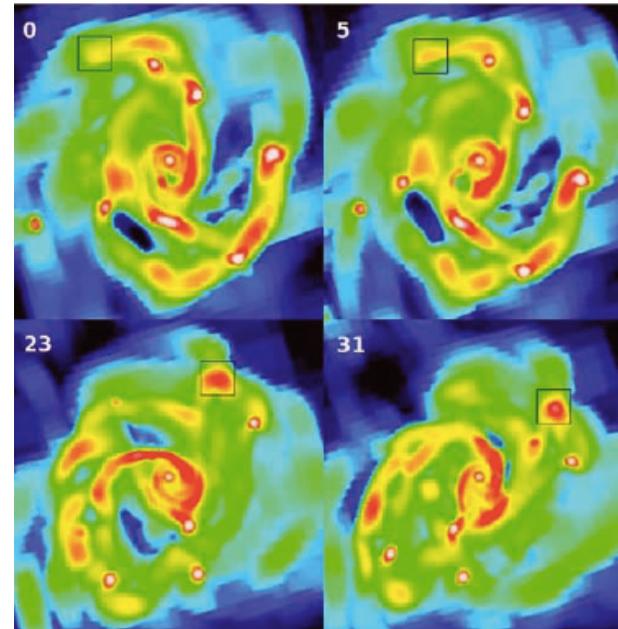
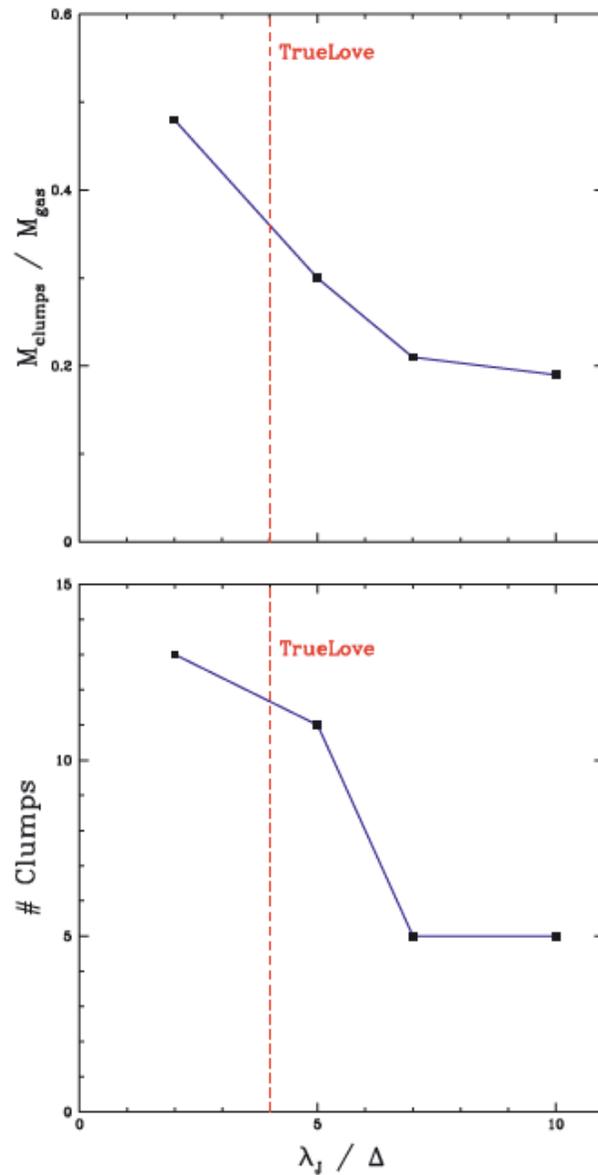
Numerical fragmentation if the Jeans length is not resolved with a few ( $\sim 4$ ) resolution elements

# Hydrodynamics : « Truelove criterion »



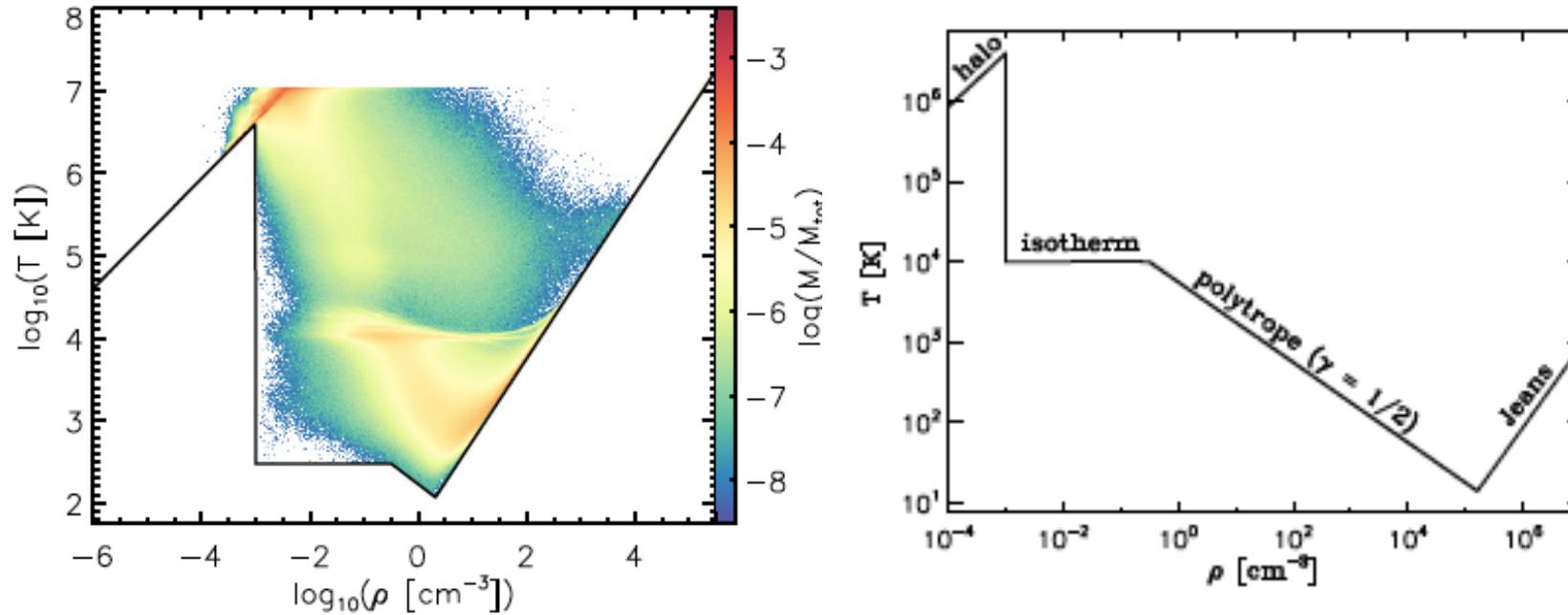
The situation is more complex for systems that should (sometimes) be Jeans-unstable.  
Examples : ISM, molecular clouds, galactic disks...  
Numerical fragmentation vs. artificial stabilisation ?

# Hydrodynamics : « Truelove criterion »



The situation is more complex for systems that should (sometimes) be Jeans-unstable.  
Examples : ISM, molecular clouds, galactic disks...  
Numerical fragmentation vs. artificial stabilisation ?

# Hydrodynamics : Jeans-stability conditions



Typical temperature or pressure Floor to keep the Jeans-length resolved in ISM/galaxy simulations

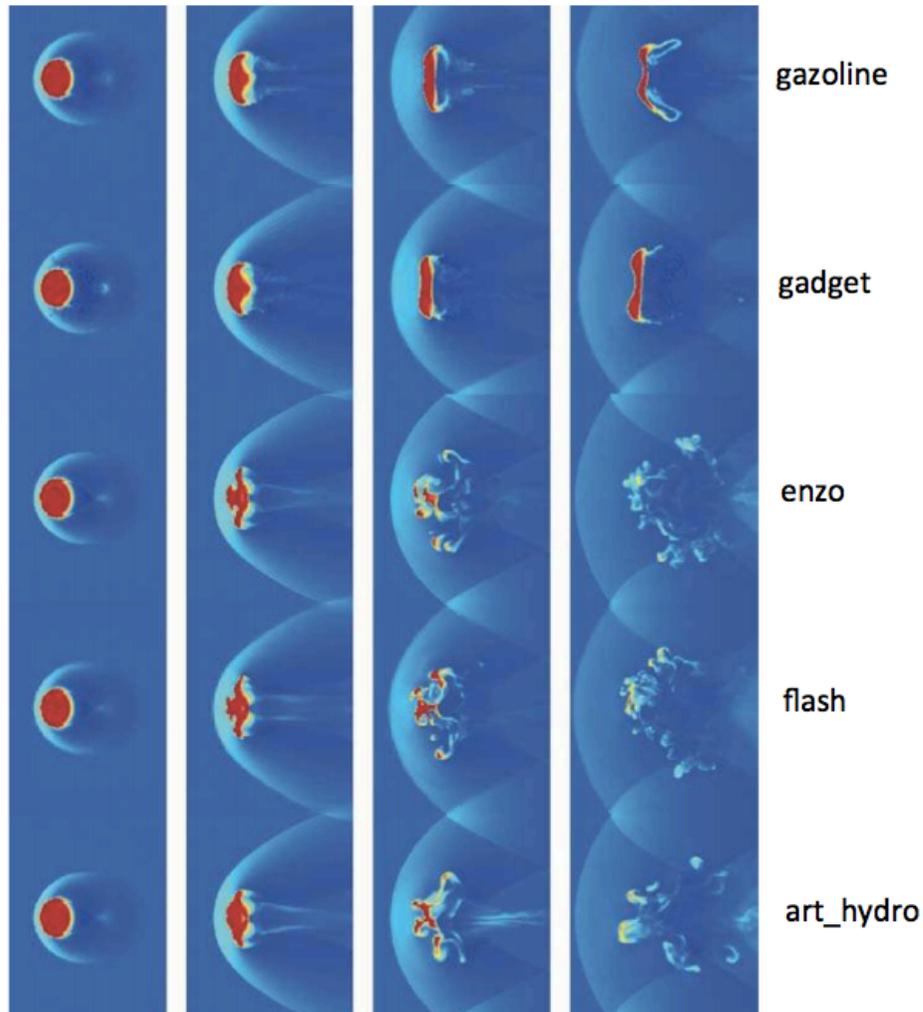
Finest AMR resolution is 10 pc (left) and 0.1pc (right)

Turbulence rapidly biased to sub-sonic above not-so-high densities ( $300\text{cm}^{-3}$  at 10pc)

⇒ Lack of strong compression above these densities.

⇒ No « molecular » gas below 10pc resolution

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

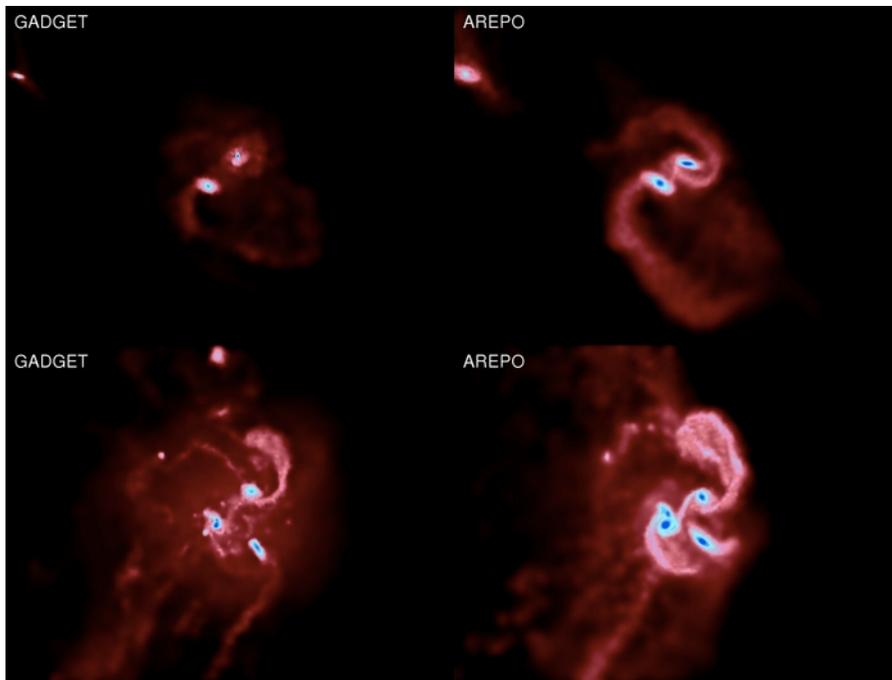


Agertz et al., Tasker et al. 2007

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

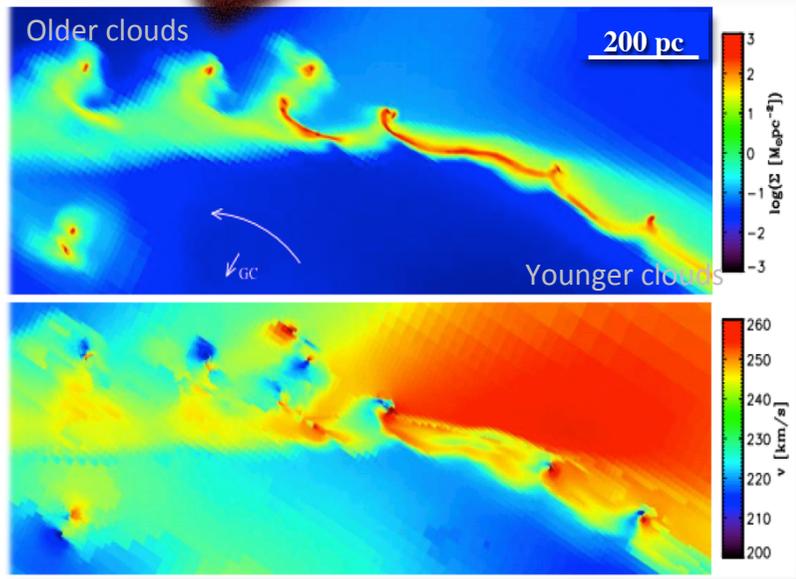
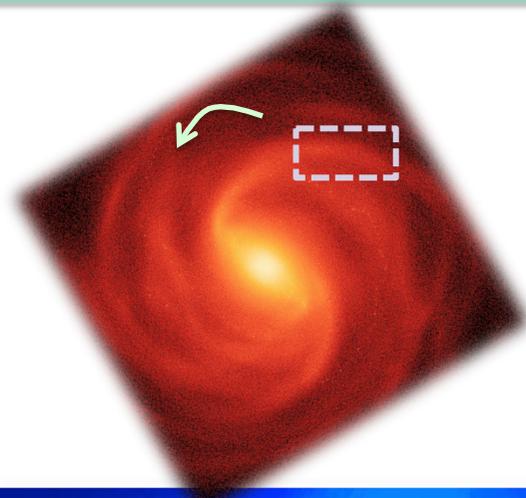
---



Keres, Springel et al.

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

# Hydrodynamics : particle-based and grid-based

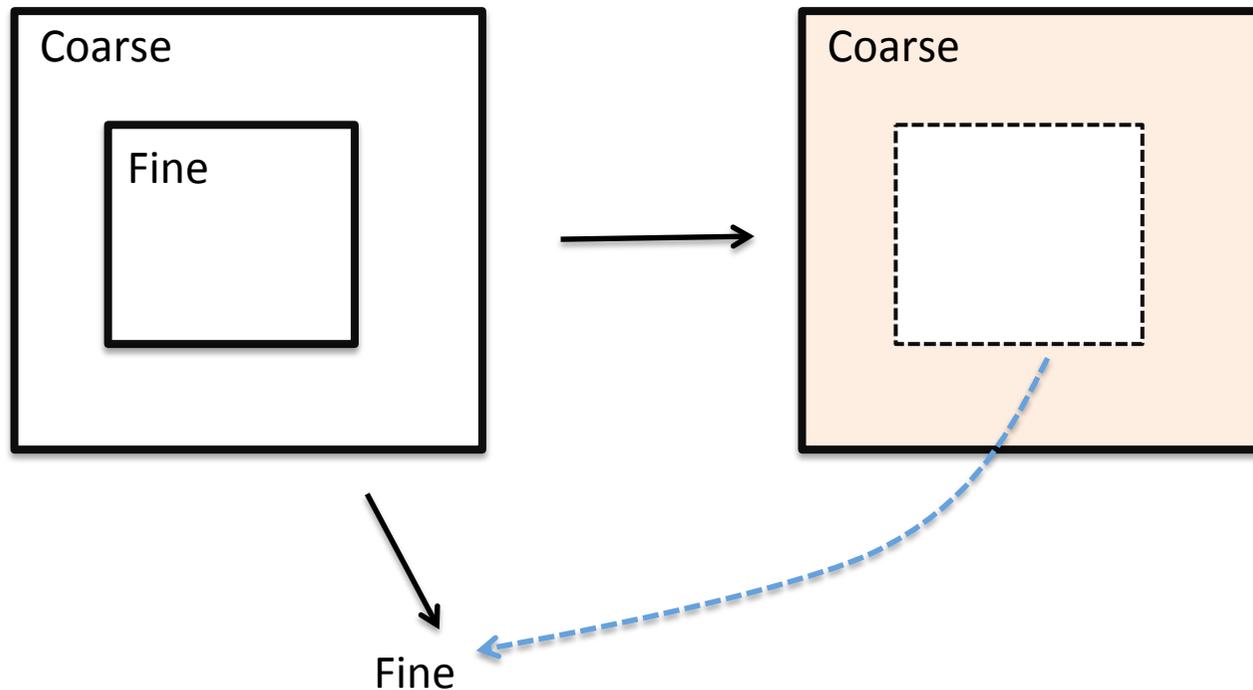


***Need to resolve the Jeans+ KH instability scales before arguing how accurately the code handles it !***

- Comparison a similar resolution
- SPH has been improved
- Is this really relevant at all if the critical scales (spatial and thermal) are not resolved in cosmo/galaxy/ISM simulations in practice ?
- Comparisons on a given computer can be **very** different from ideal comparison of hydro solvers !
- Most important may be the achievable spatial resolution, mass resolution, temperature floor (i.e. minimal Jeans mass) on a given computer => code resolution+**scaling**  
=> *it is probably where grids and AMR win the comparison in practice*

### Poisson solvers on an oct-tree AMR :

The refined regions do not need to « know » where they are, and how many of them there are – just use a multi-grid approach applied to any coarse/fine cell encountered along the space-filling curve.



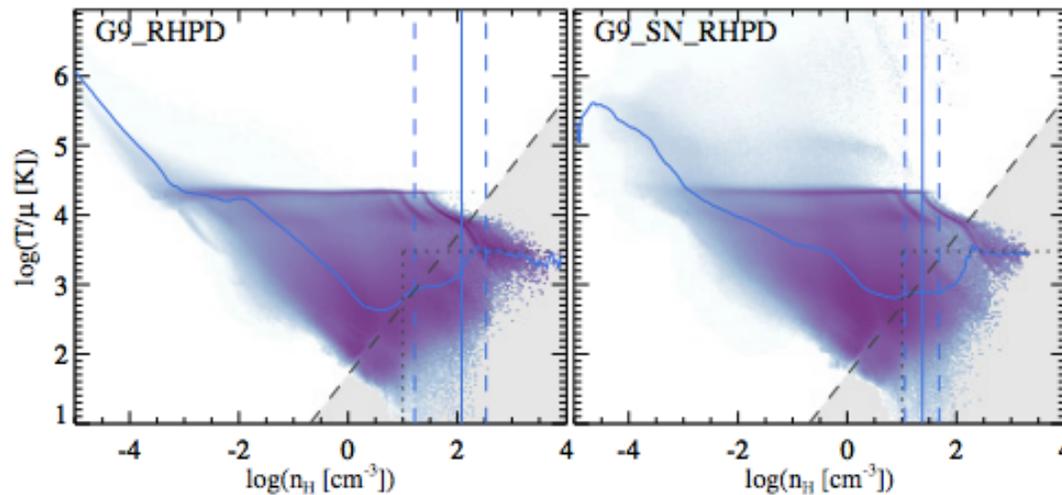
- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_c = \rho_c$  on the « C-F » volume only
- Use as Dirichlet+Neuman B.C. at the boundary
- Solve  $\Delta\Phi_F = \rho_F$  on the « F » volume
- Iterate until convergence at both the C-F and F levels.

### Poisson solvers on an oct-tree AMR :

The refined regions do not need to « know » where they are, and how many of them there are – just use a multi-grid approach applied to any coarse/fine cell encountered along the space-filling curve.

### Jeans-based heating at high density and energy conservation :

If a pressure floor is added in the Euler equation, the future temperature/energy are not affected once the density decreases (in the most elegant versions)



### **Poisson solvers on an oct-tree AMR :**

The refined regions do not need to « know » where they are, and how many of them there are – just use a multi-grid approach applied to any coarse/fine cell encountered along the space-filling curve.

### **Jeans-based heating at high density and energy conservation :**

If a pressure floor is added in the Euler equation, the future temperature/energy are not affected once the density decreases (in the most elegant versions)

### **Exercices not done :**

2D hydro code in fortran, Godunov scheme, ghost cells for (reflecting) boundaries.

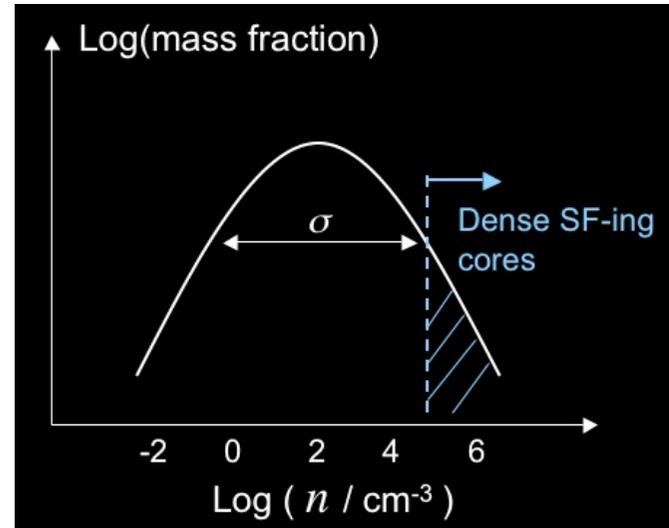
To be parallelized (MPI) along one axis.

=> code in TP\_hydro/Mono/src , solution in .MPI/src directory  
test with one hot point in a corner of the box.

Key : - processors do not need to know where their physical domain is (no coordinates)  
- better to synchronize the MPI send and receive instructions  
- buffers for hydro variables work just like boundary conditions.

# Sub-grid star formation models

- Star formation is known to be tightly correlated to dense gas (on parsec scale and larger scales)
- In the case of a turbulent, cold ISM phase, a large density PDF is produced
- The densest gas is converted into stars with a (very) arbitrary scheme. But the regulation is the dense gas rate production.
- In the ISM gravity takes over turbulent pressure at about  $1-2 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Elmegreen 2004), ideally this critical density should be reached without artificial heating (uneasy, resolution of a few pc is needed)



$$\frac{dp}{d \ln x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(\ln x - \overline{\ln x})^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$\sigma^2 \approx \ln \left( 1 + 3\mathcal{M}^2/4 \right)$$

=> Naturally gives a power law for  $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} - \Sigma_{\text{gas}}$

Elmegreen 2002, Krumholz 2005,  
Renaud et al. 2012, Kraljic et al. 2014

# Sub-grid star formation models

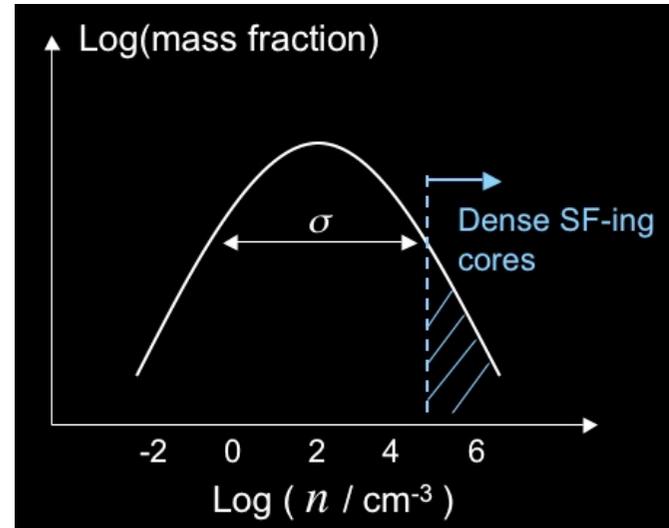
- In most simulations the sub-grid model is based on density and local free-fall time

In each resolution element, 1-5% of gas is converted into stars per free-fall time

Efficiency 1-5% typically observed in CO clouds and HCN cores (Mc Kee 2007)

$$t_{ff} \sim 1/(G\rho)^{1/2}$$

- Other models probably more justified at resolutions lower than  $\sim 5-10$ pc :  
local virial criteria  
(Hopkins et al. 2013, Perret Devriendt & Teyssier 2016)



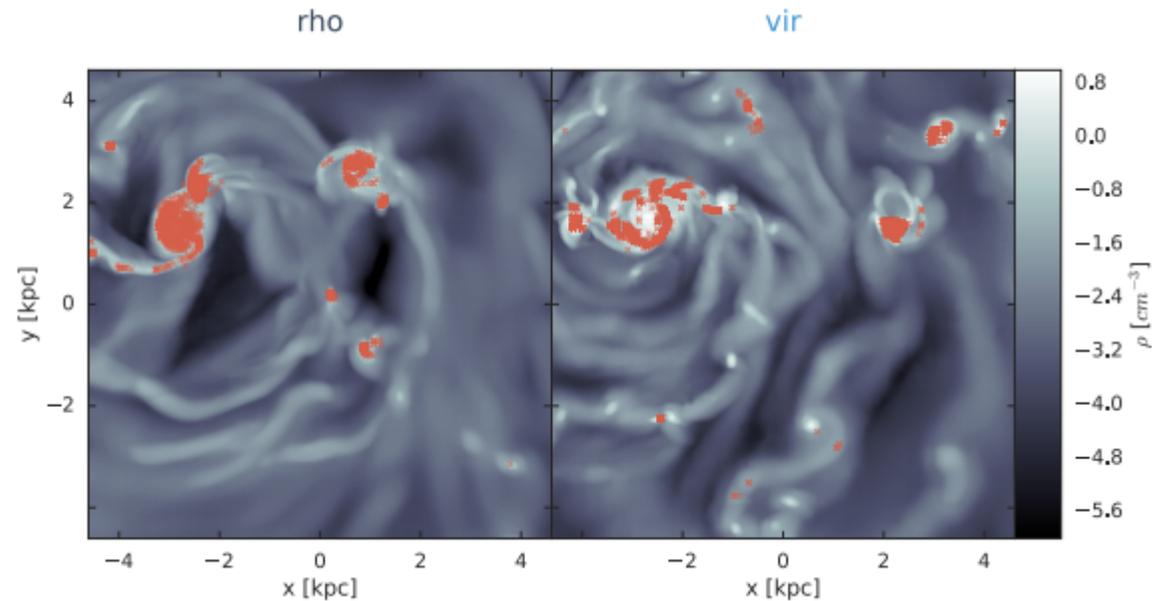
$$\frac{dp}{d \ln x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(\ln x - \overline{\ln x})^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$\sigma^2 \approx \ln \left( 1 + 3\mathcal{M}^2/4 \right)$$

=> Naturally gives a power law for  $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} - \Sigma_{\text{gas}}$

Elmegreen 2002, Krumholz 2005,  
Renaud et al. 2012, Kraljic et al. 2014

# Sub-grid star formation models



- Other models probably more justified at resolutions lower than  $\sim 5\text{-}10\text{pc}$  :  
local virial criteria  
(Hopkins et al. 2013, Perret Devriendt & Teyssier 2016)

$$\sigma_{eff}^2 + c_s^2 < \beta GM$$

$$\alpha = (\sigma_{eff}^2 + c_s^2)\delta r / \beta GM (< \delta r)$$

$$\alpha = \beta' \frac{|\nabla \cdot v|^2 + |\Delta \times v|^2 + c_s^2}{G\rho} < 1$$

$$\beta' = 1/2 \quad \epsilon = 1 \quad \dot{\rho}_* = \frac{\epsilon\rho}{t_{ff}}$$

# Coupled SF+Feedback sub-grid models

2

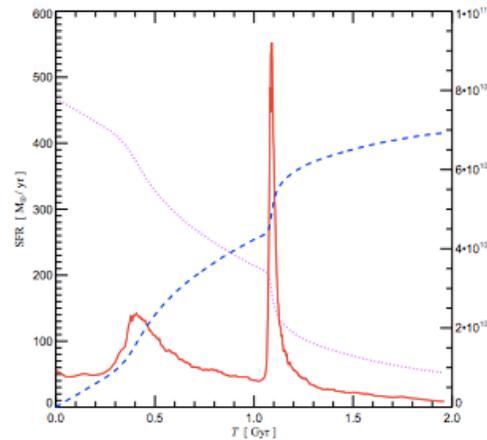
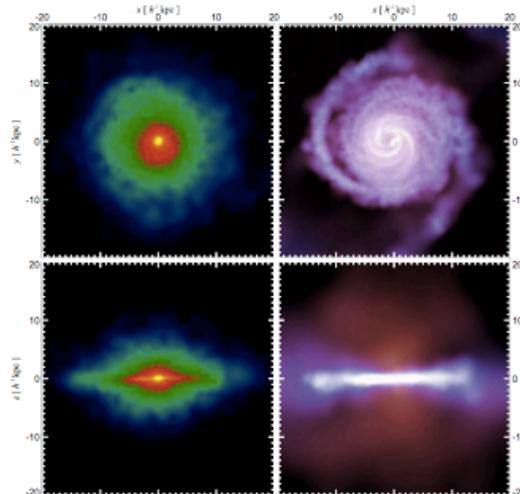


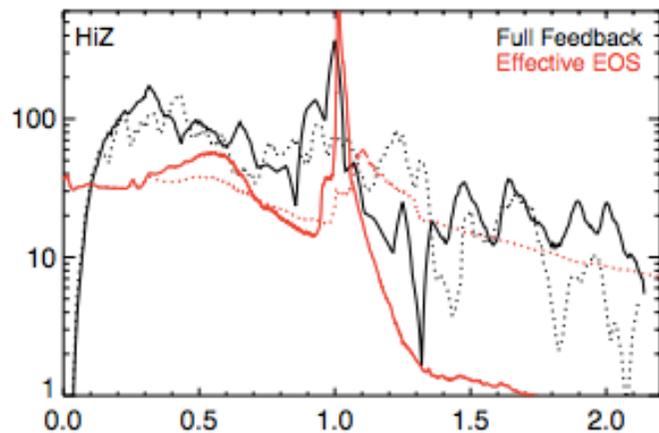
Fig. 1 Evolution of the star formation rate and gas mass



- Denser gas forms stars and is heated by young stars

- « effective EoS », typically polytropic raise of T for densities above  $\sim 1\text{cm}^{-3}$

For instance Springel & Hernquist 2005



Hopkins et al. 2013

- Turbulent ISM with Mach>1 phases
- Star formation in cold, dense clouds
- Feedback from clustered star formation in cloudy gas

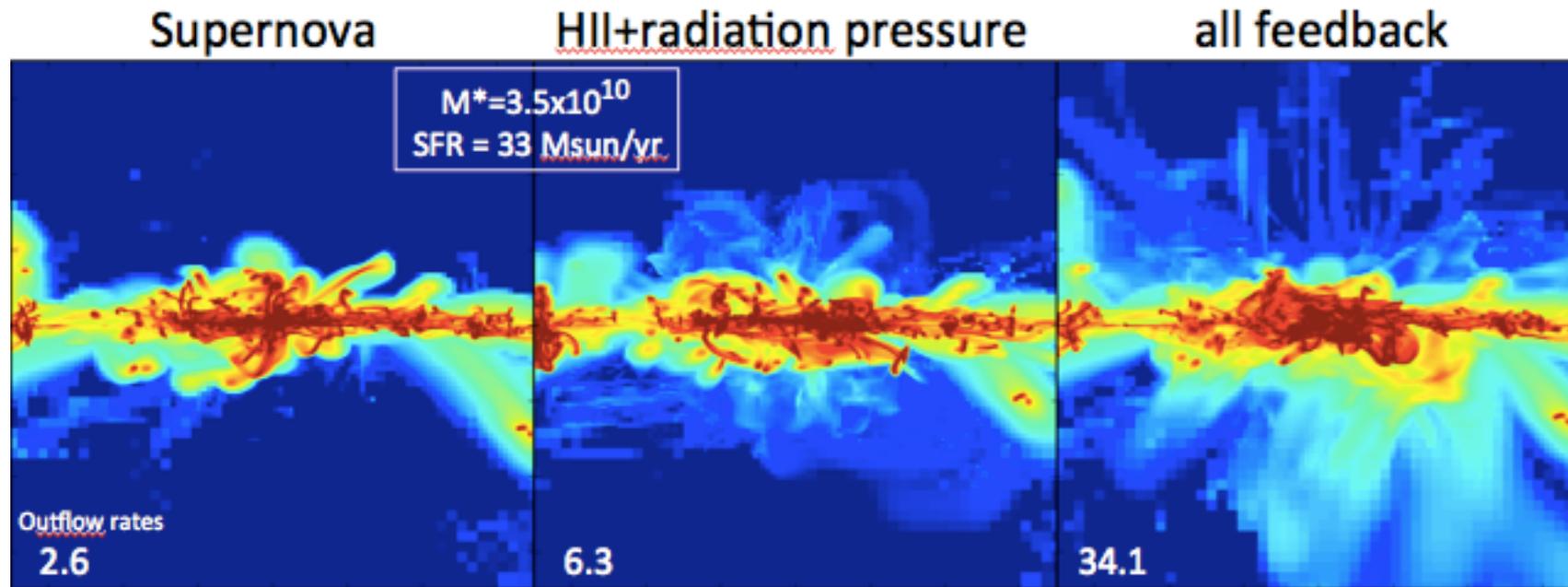
=> Very different star formation histories

(See also Jeremy Fensch's poster)

# Explicit stellar feedback on galactic scales

---

Three runs with different feedback processes, all evolved for 80Myr



Outflow rate rapidly reaches 20-40 Msun/yr = SFR

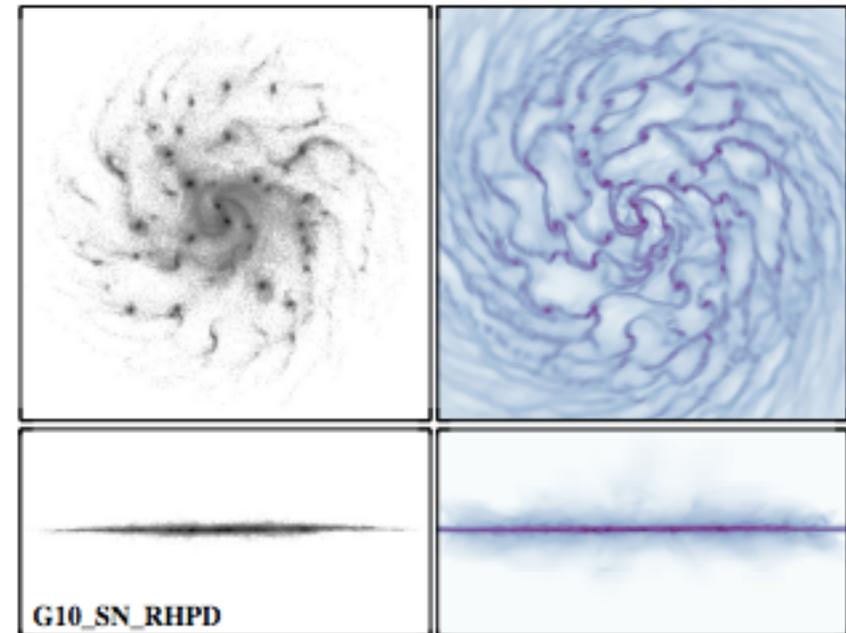
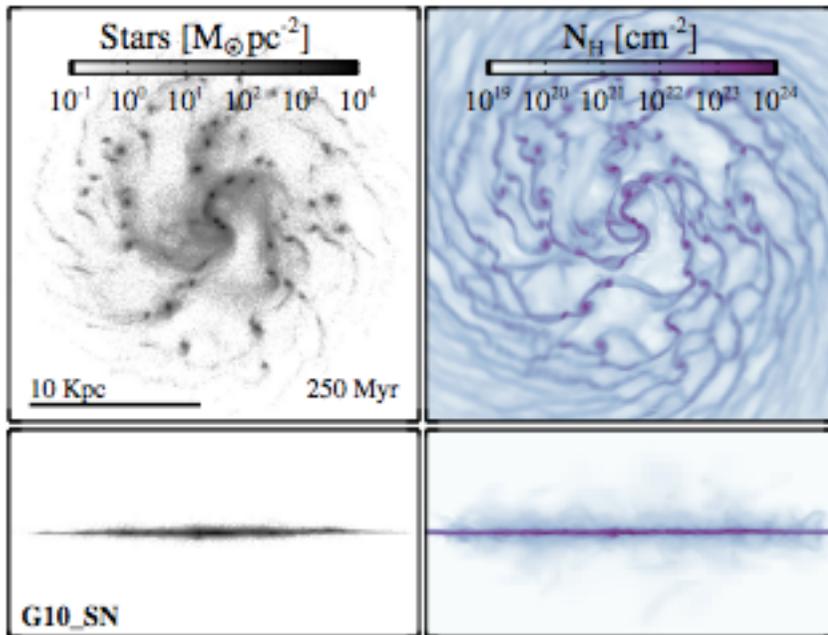
Supernovae alone don't do much

In general "feedback" remains largely sub-grid (arbitrary parameters often remain)

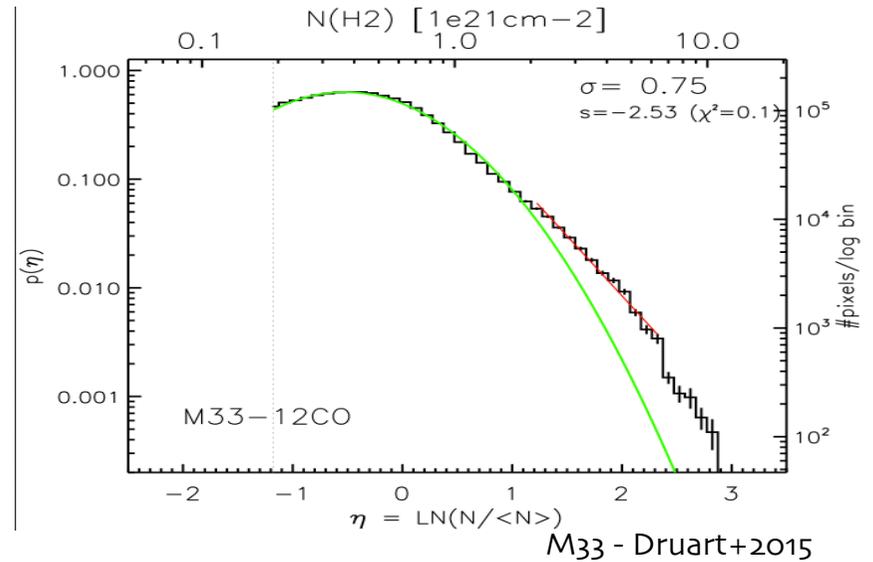
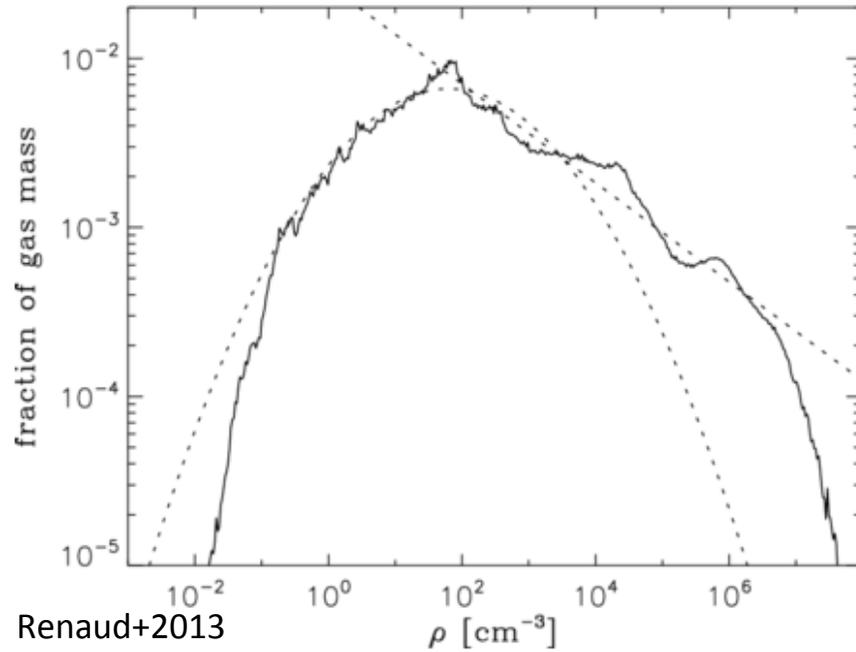
# Explicit stellar feedback on galactic scales

---

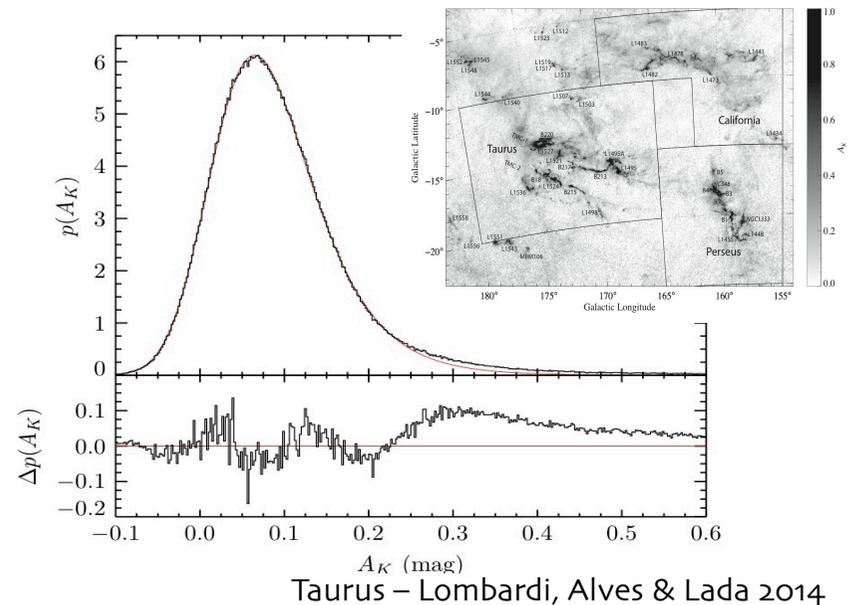
First simulations with explicit RT from young stars



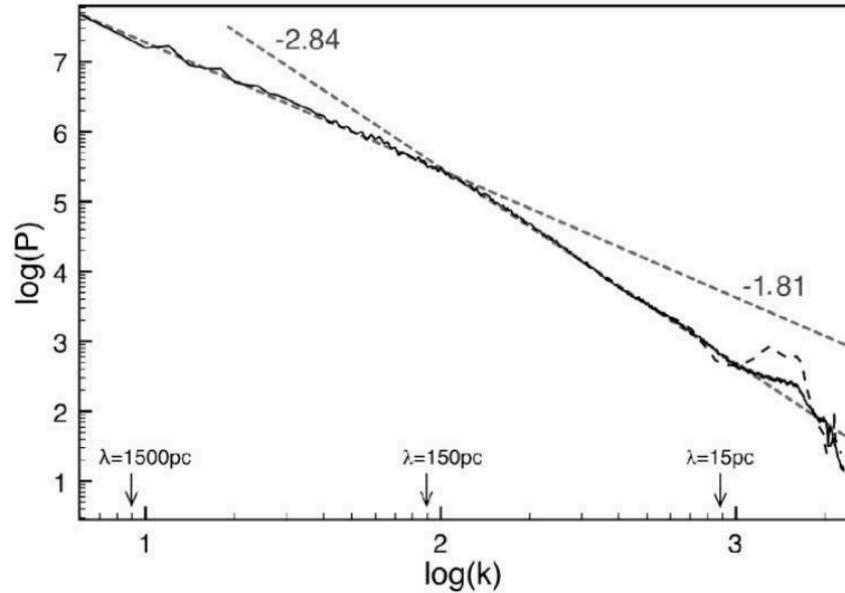
# Structure of the turbulent ISM



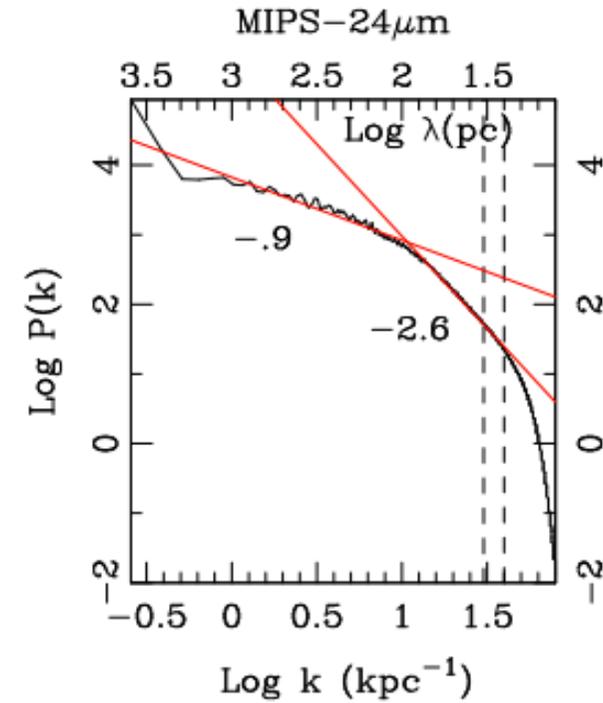
- Log-normal density PDF :  
expected for compressible, isothermal,  
supersonic turbulence
- Power-law tail at  $>10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  :  
expected for self-gravitating gas
- Tail contains  $\sim 2\%$  of the ISM mass...  
*sets the dense gas formation rate and SFR.*



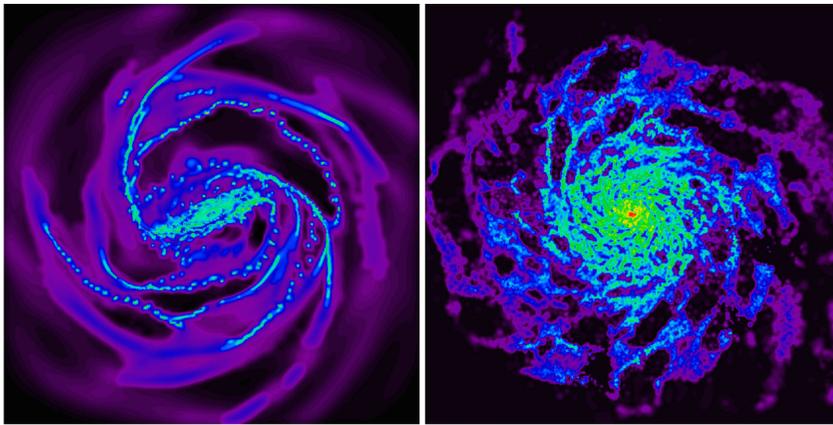
# Structure of the turbulent ISM



Bournaud+10 simulation of M<sub>33</sub>-mass disk



Combes et al. 2013 real M<sub>33</sub> data

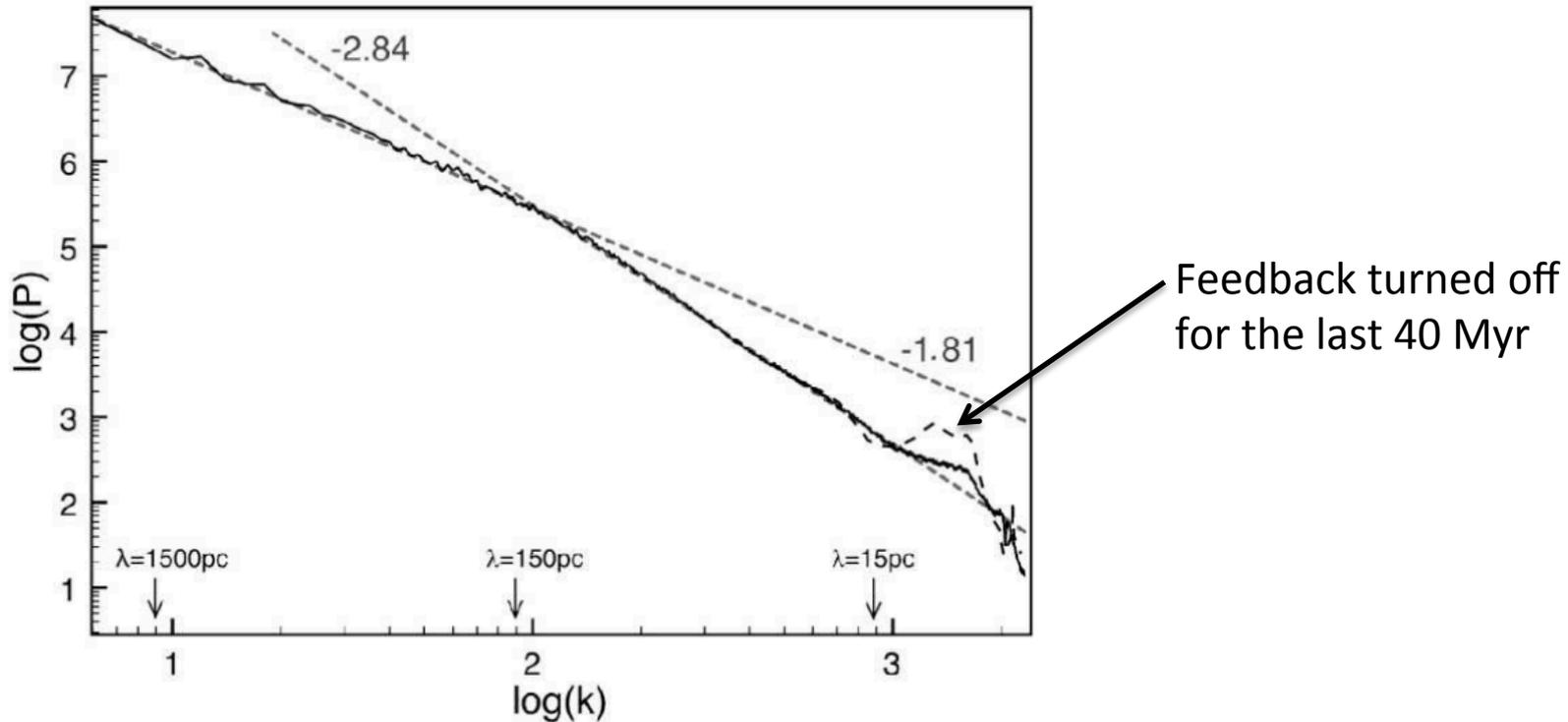


- Kolmogorov-like power spectrum below the mean Jeans length

=> Consistent with all ISM data.

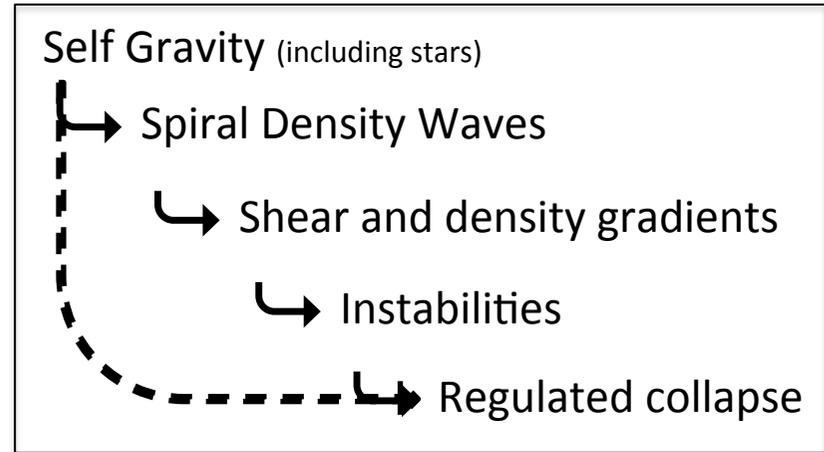
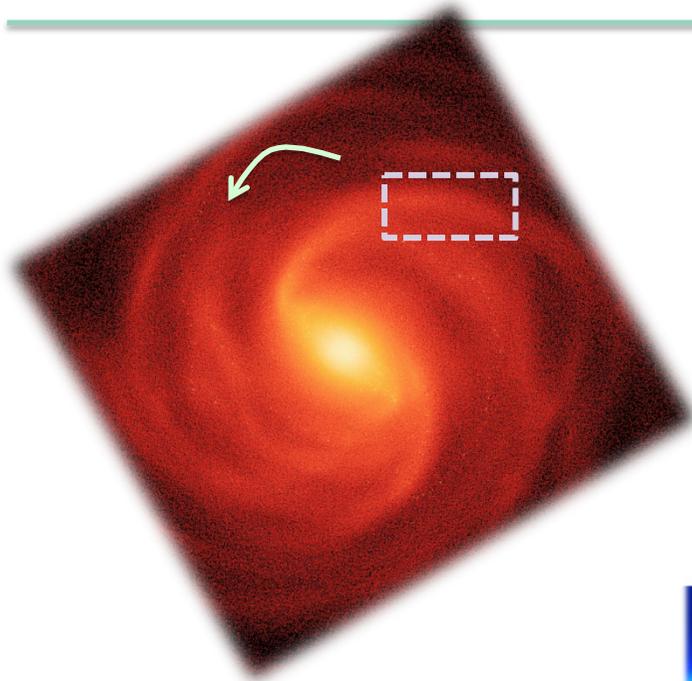
=> Injection-scale associated to gravity ?

## Did you say « feedback » ?

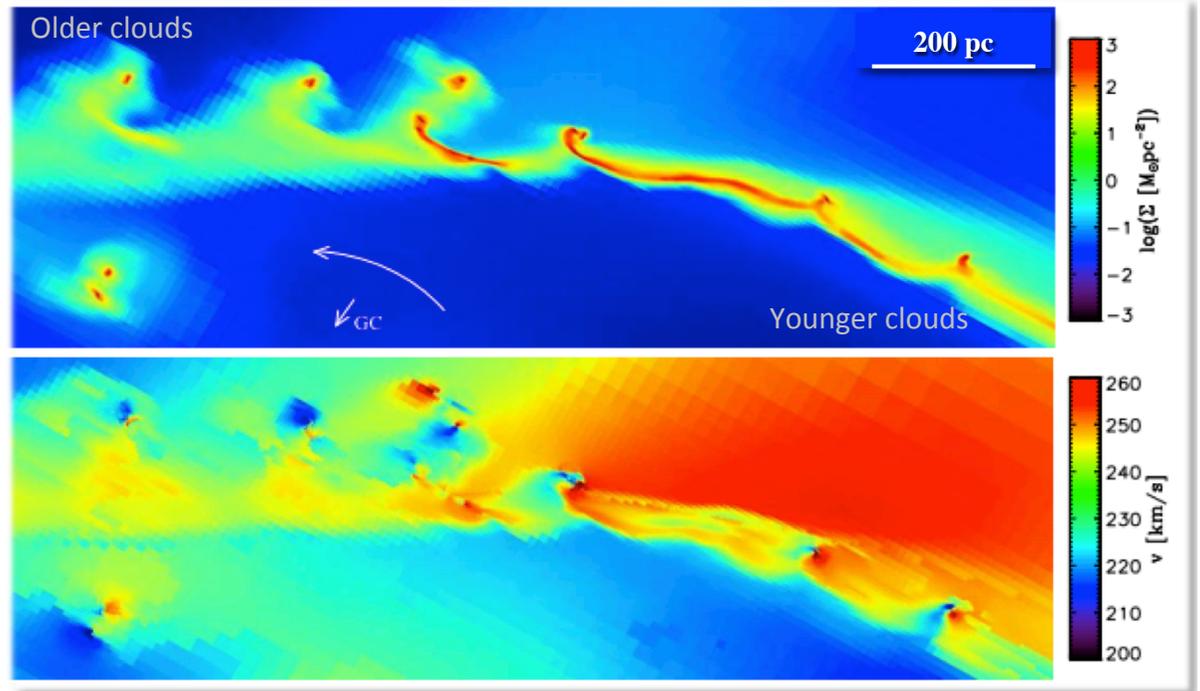


- The injection scale matches the most gravitationally-unstable scale
- The power spectrum is identical without feedback
- Feedback maintains the system in a steady state, by returning material from the « pseudo-dissipation scale » (in fact, the resolution limit) preventing gas from piling-up in tiny bullets.

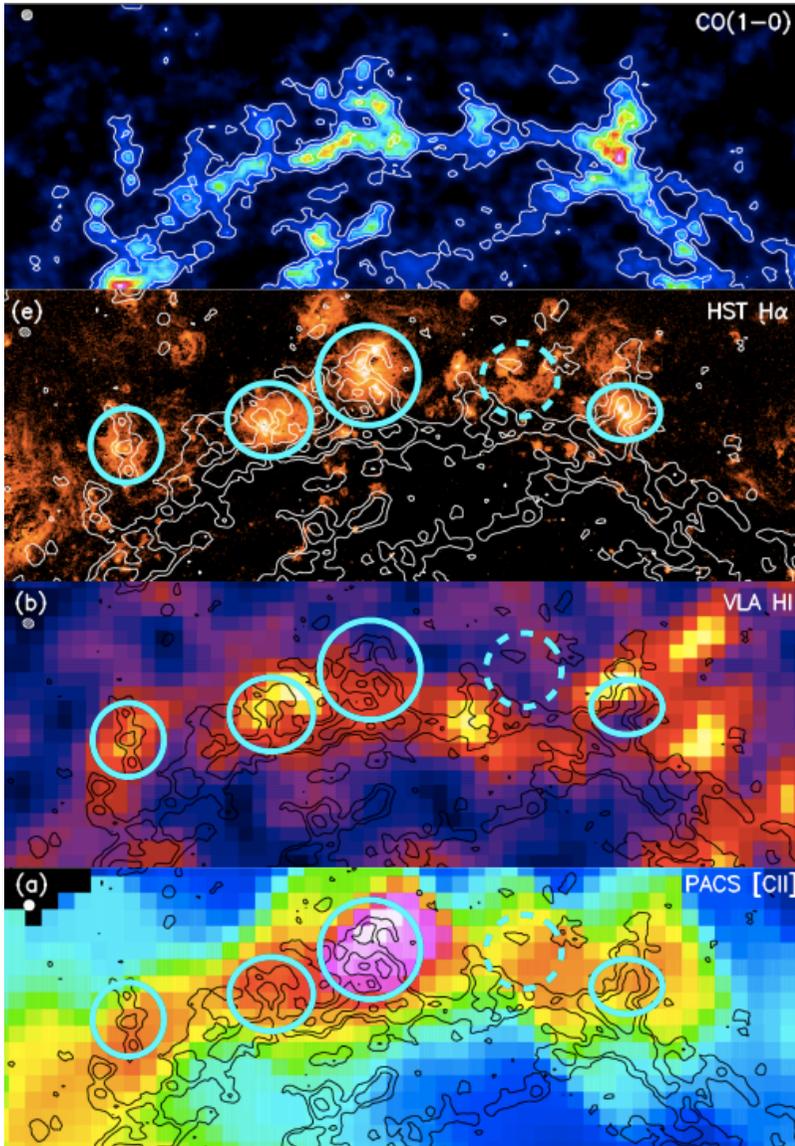
# Gravitational and hydro instabilities and the turbulent cascade



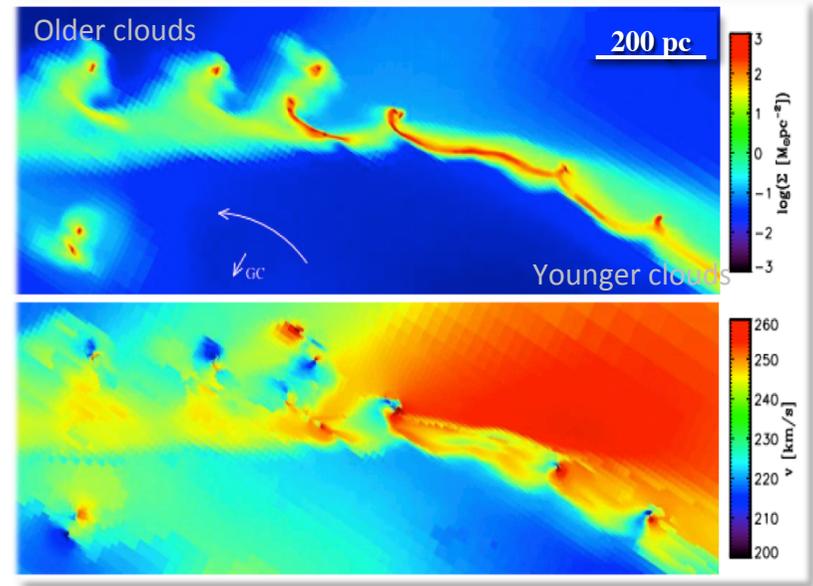
- A specific illustration of the gravito-hydro cascade and SFR regulation
- Note resemblance with « beads-on a string » clouds and « spurs » emanating from spiral arms



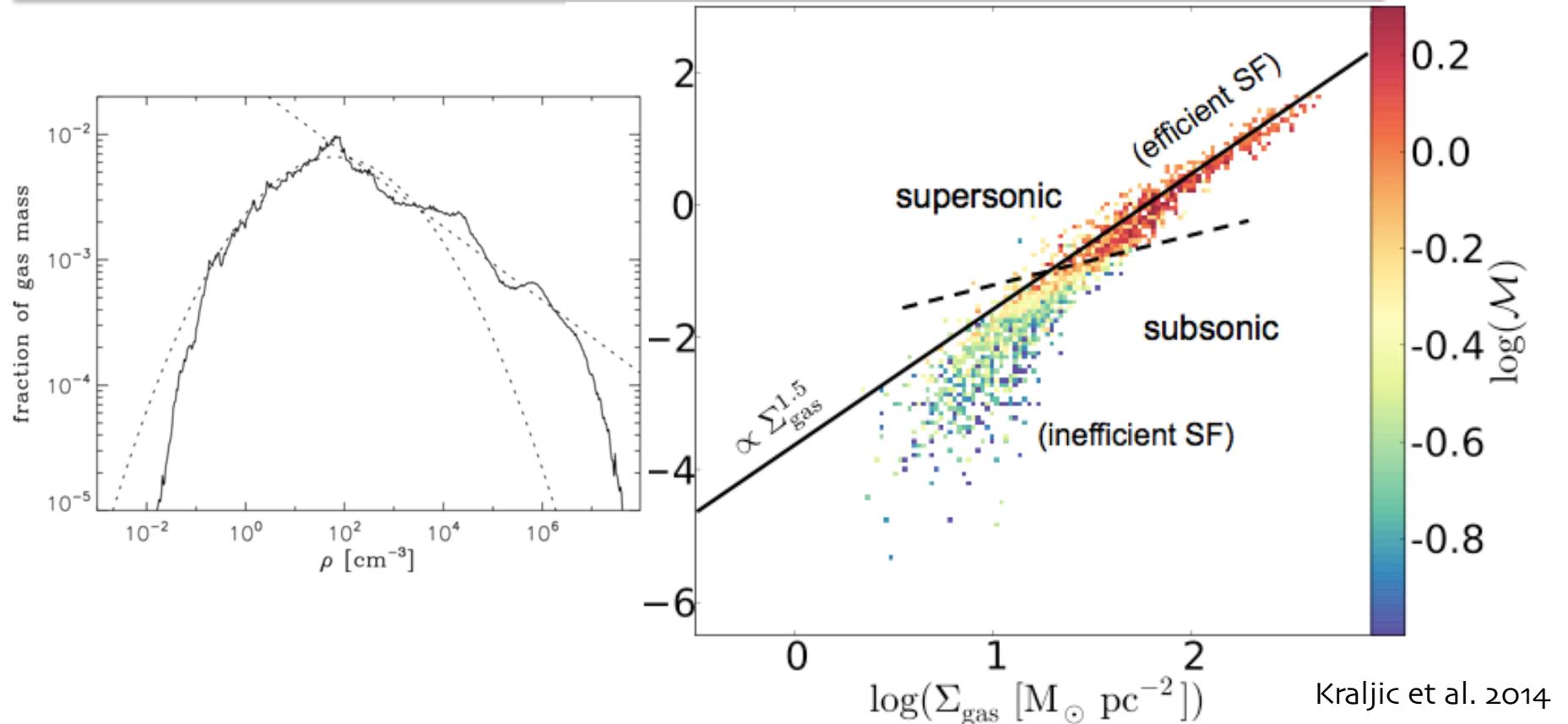
# Gravitational and hydro instabilities and the turbulent cascade



- Spiral arms and spurs in M51 (Schinnerer et al., IRAM/PAWS)
- Direct signature of SFR regulation by gravito-hydro turbulence
- Feedback-driven regulation would keep more molecular sites in spiral arms (Dobbs et al 2014)

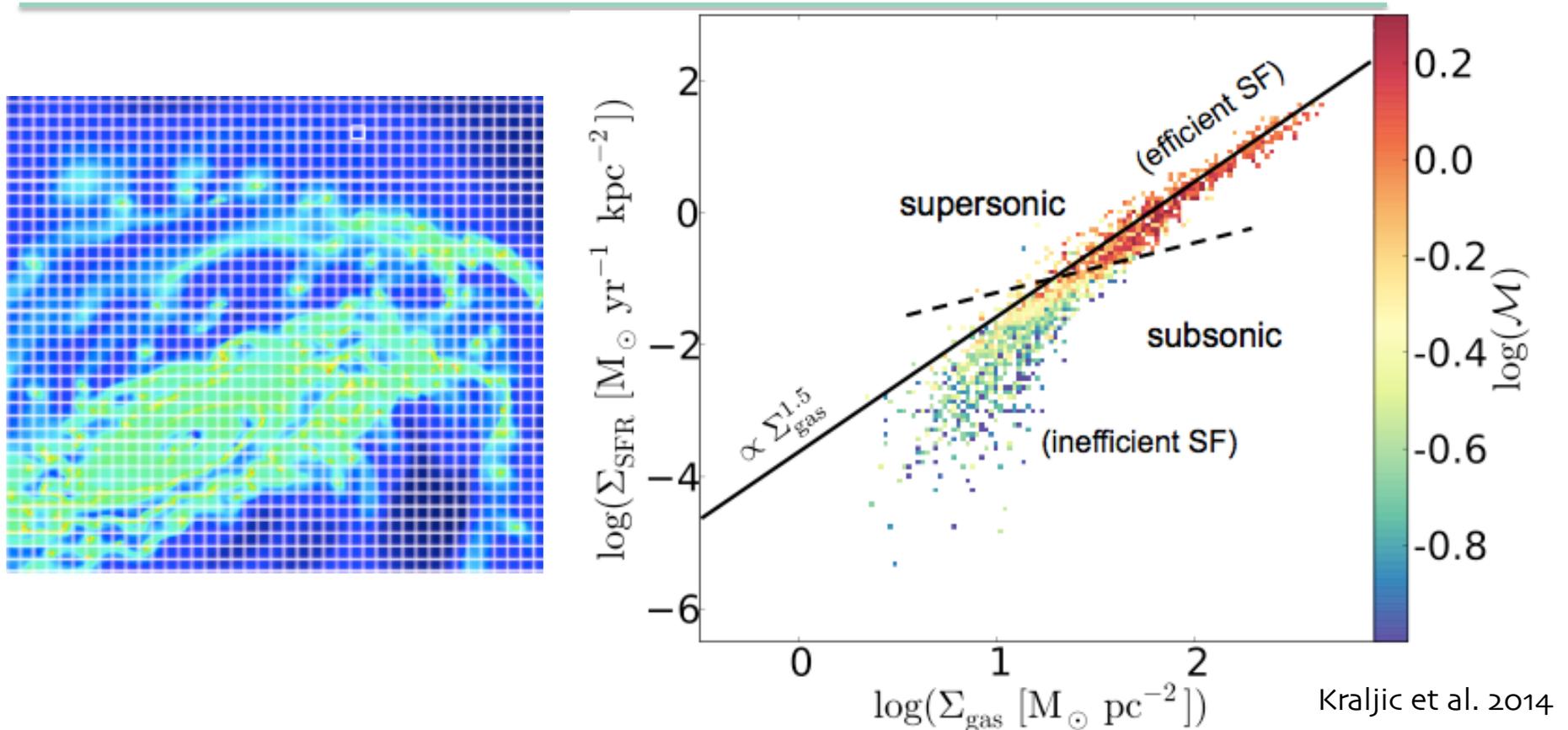


# ISM turbulence and the « Schmidt-Kennicutt law »



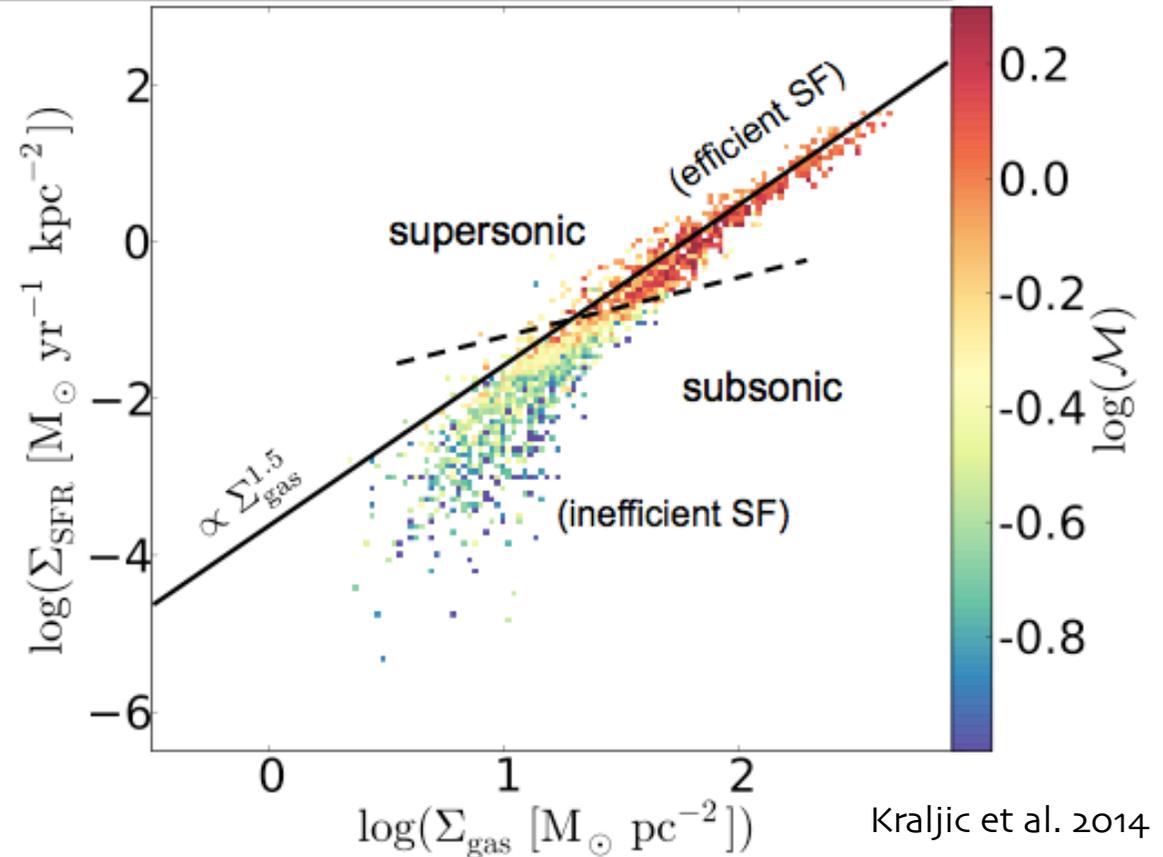
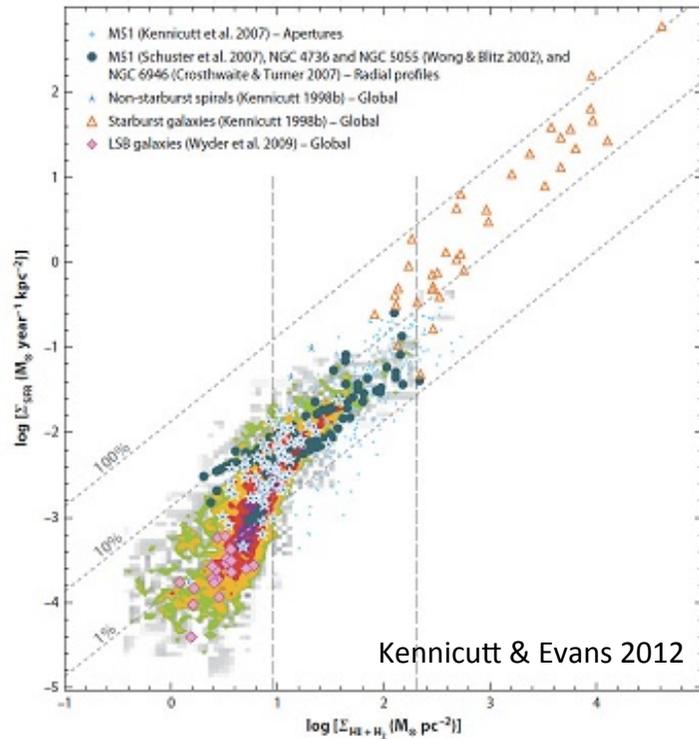
- This ISM turbulence naturally regulates SF (low amount of gas in the high-density structures)
- Kennicutt diagram directly matched :
  - low normalization of 'normal' star forming regions
  - inefficient regime at low densities : lack of cooling, sub-sonic turbulence transition.
- *Feedback is not the regulation source, is not the driver of turbulence, it keeps a steady state*

# ISM turbulence and the « Schmidt-Kennicutt law »



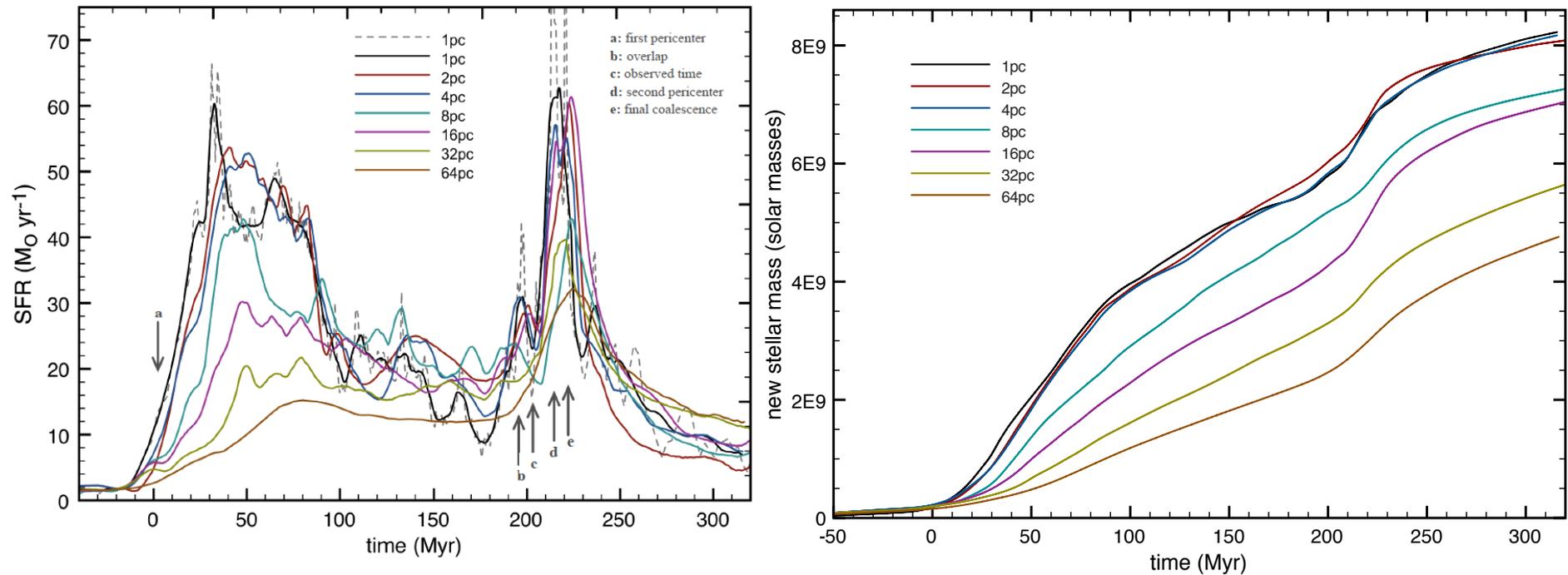
- This ISM turbulence naturally regulates SF (low amount of gas in the high-density structures)
- Kennicutt diagram directly matched :
  - low normalization of 'normal' star forming regions
  - inefficient regime at low densities : lack of cooling, sub-sonic turbulence transition.
- *Feedback is not the regulation source, is not the driver of turbulence, it keeps a steady state*

# ISM turbulence and the « Schmidt-Kennicutt law »



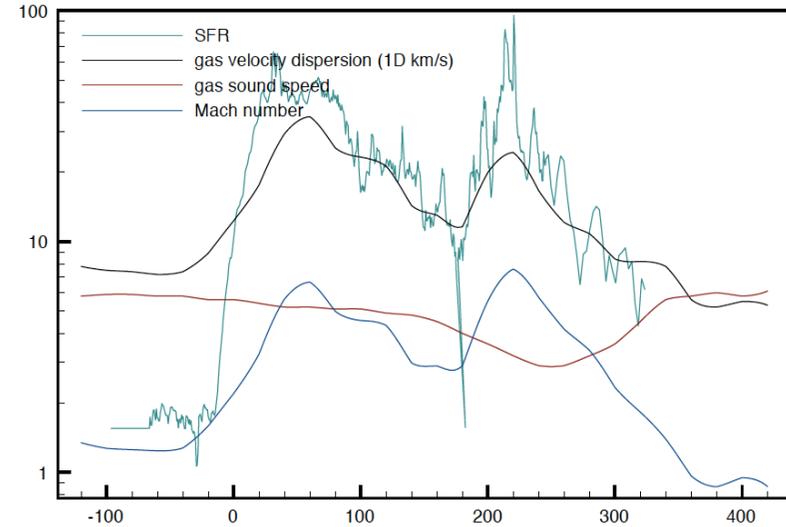
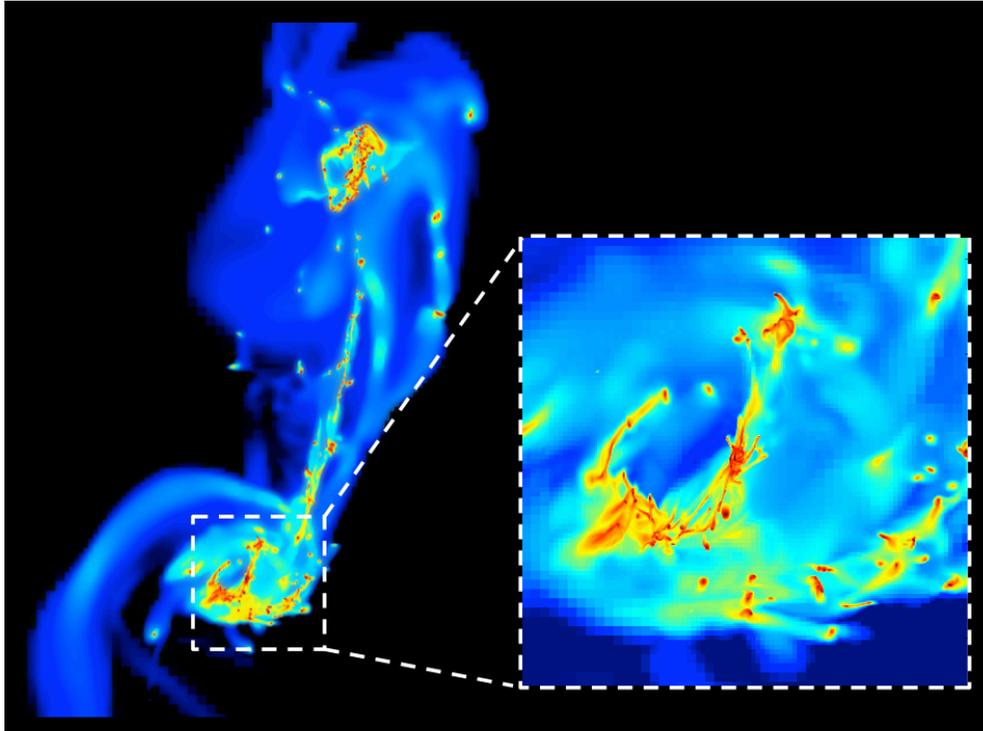
- This ISM turbulence naturally regulates SF (low amount of gas in high-density structures)
- Kennicutt diagram directly matched :
  - low normalization of 'normal' star forming regions
  - inefficient regime at low densities : lack of cooling, sub-sonic turbulence transition.
- *Feedback is not the regulation source, is not the driver of turbulence, it keeps a steady state*

# Do simulations really resolve the critical scales ?

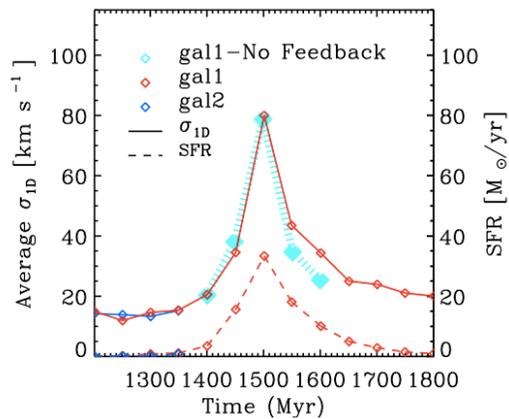


- Resolution effects are strong, then become almost negligible at  $\sim 5\text{pc}$  resolution, leaving only fluctuations.
- Gas becomes self-gravitating at  $\sim 10^4 \text{cm}^{-3}$ , main structure size  $\sim 20\text{-}40\text{pc}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  4-6 resolution elements per cloud size  $\Rightarrow$  resolve the turbulent flow compressivity, at the scale where self-gravity takes over turbulent pressure toward star formation.

# Starbursts in galaxy collisions

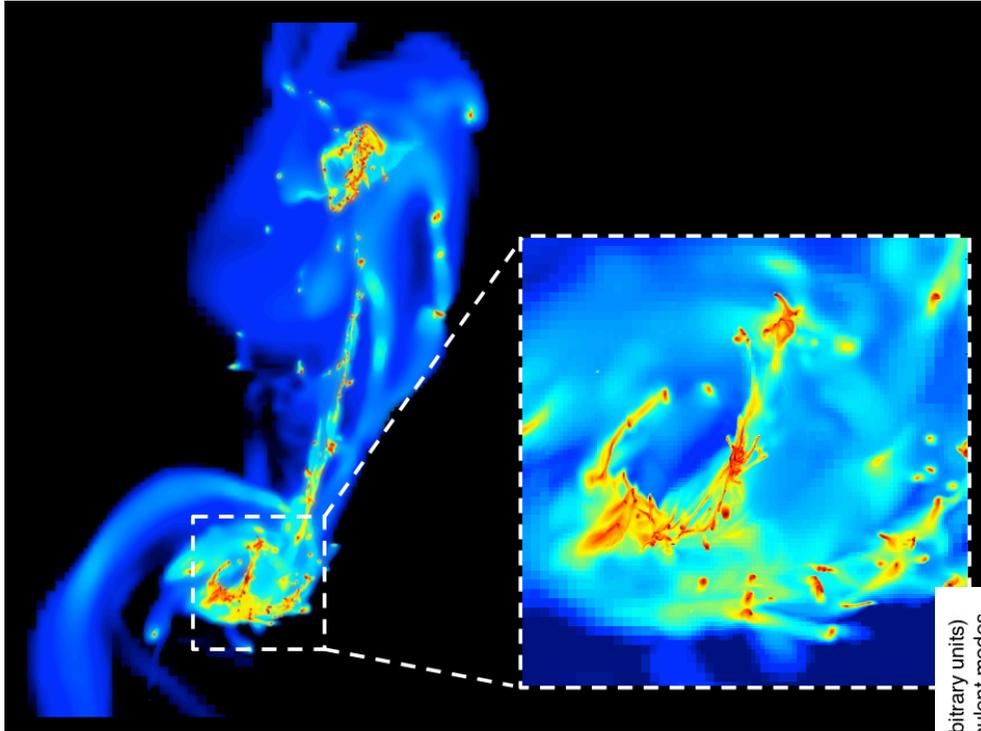


1-parsec resolution AMR simulation of a galaxy collision similar to the « Antennae » (Renaud, Bournaud et al. 2014,15)



Physical link between increased ISM turbulence and starburst activity (not from feedback)

# Starbursts in galaxy collisions

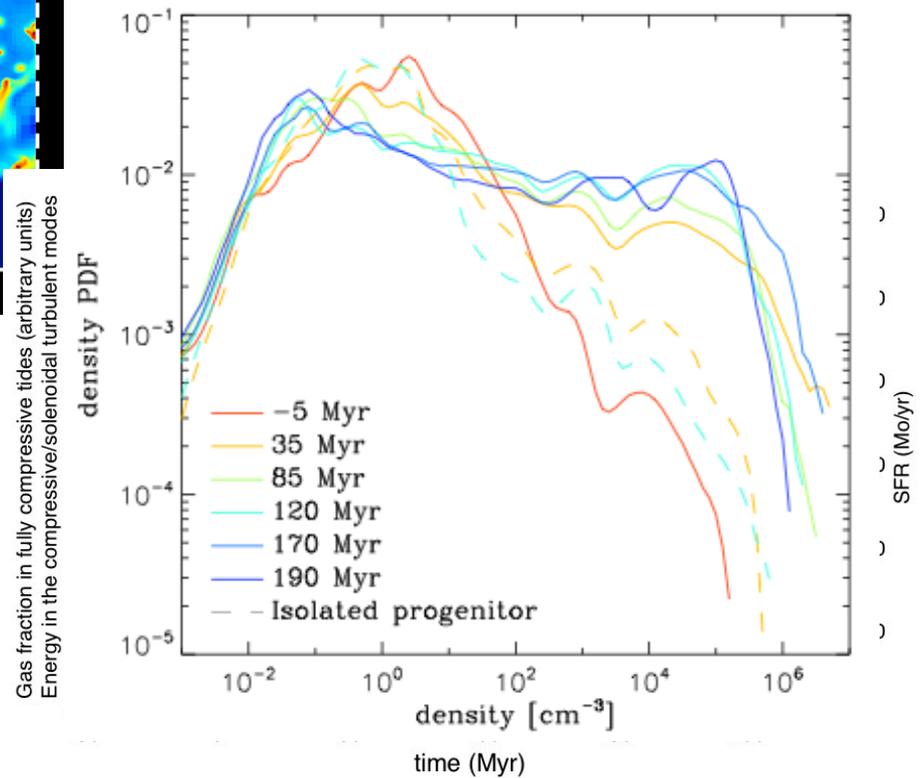
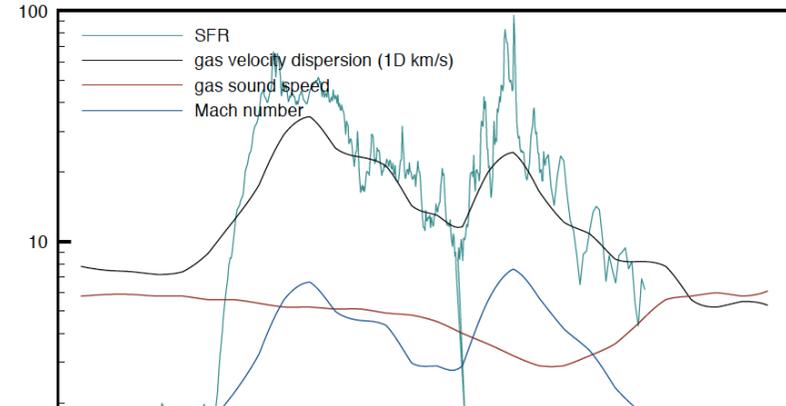


$$v_{turb} = v_{sol} + v_{comp}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot v_{sol} &= 0 & \nabla \times v_{sol} &= \nabla \times v_{turb} \\ \nabla \cdot v_{comp} &= \nabla \cdot v_{turb} & \nabla \times v_{comp} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Helmholtz decomposition of the turbulent field shows a process like :

compressive gravity (tides) on kpc scale  
 => compressive turbulence on pc scale  
 => starburst



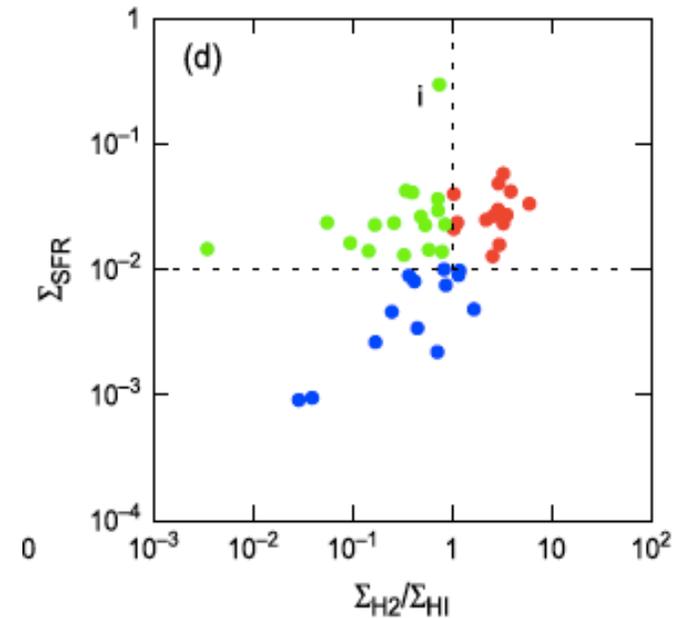
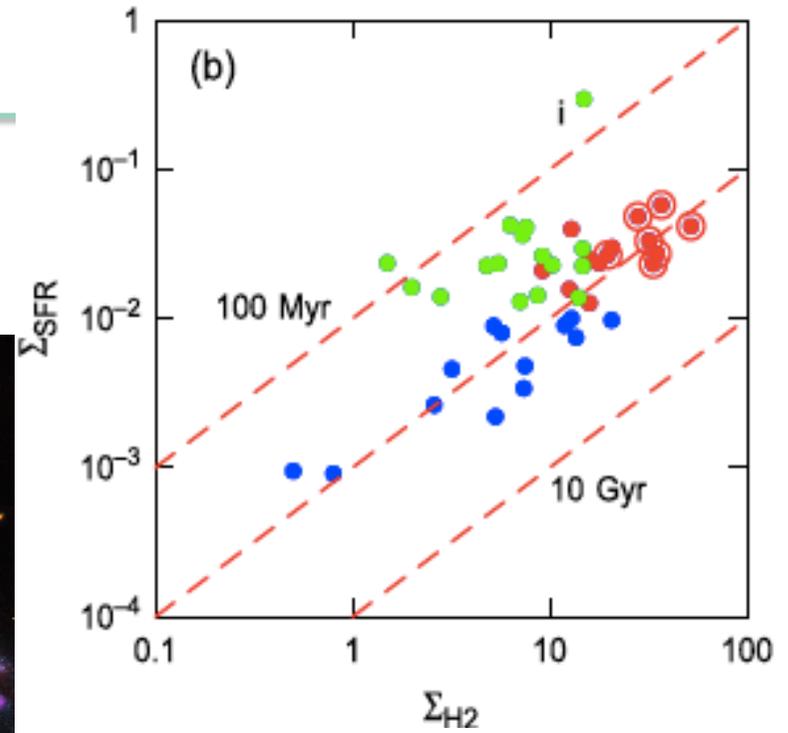
Gas fraction in fully compressive tides (arbitrary units)  
 Energy in the compressive/solenoidal turbulent modes

# Starbursts in galaxy collisions

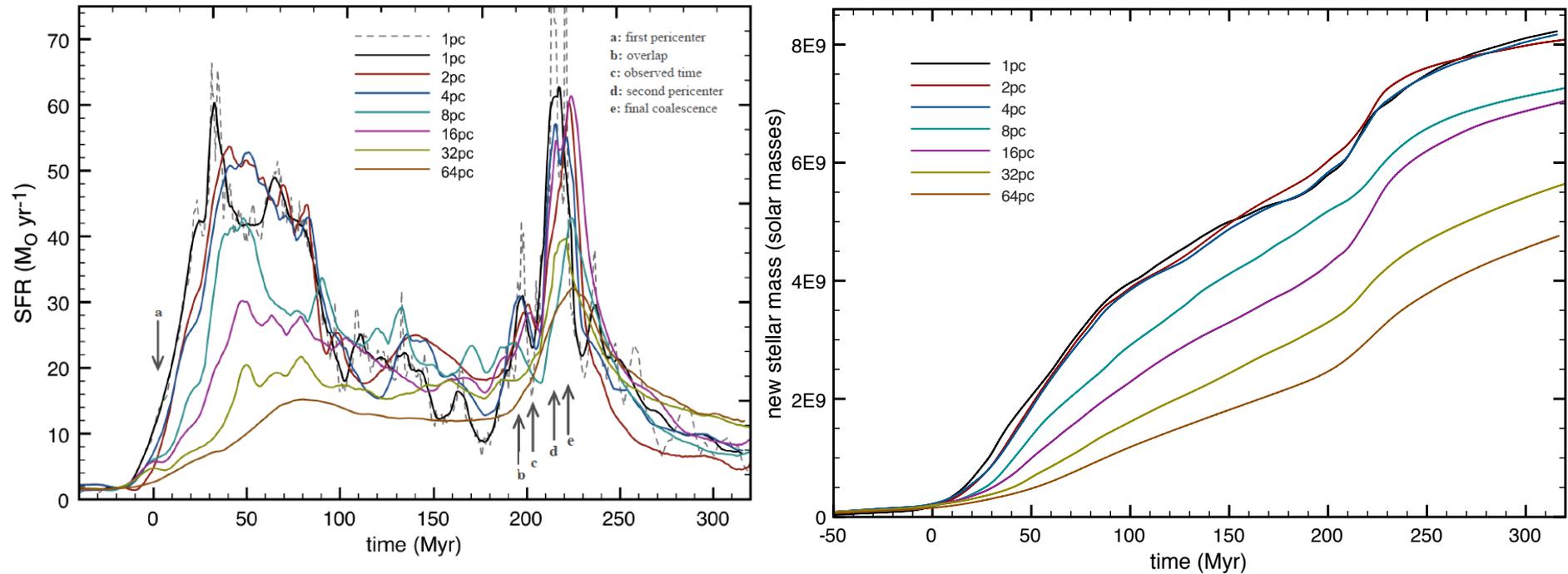


New ALMA data on NGC2207 (Elmegreen et al. 2016)  
Many regions with low H<sub>2</sub>/HI but high SFR, generally high  $\sigma$  too

Consistent with non-log normal density distributions



# Do simulations really resolve the critical scales for star formation ?

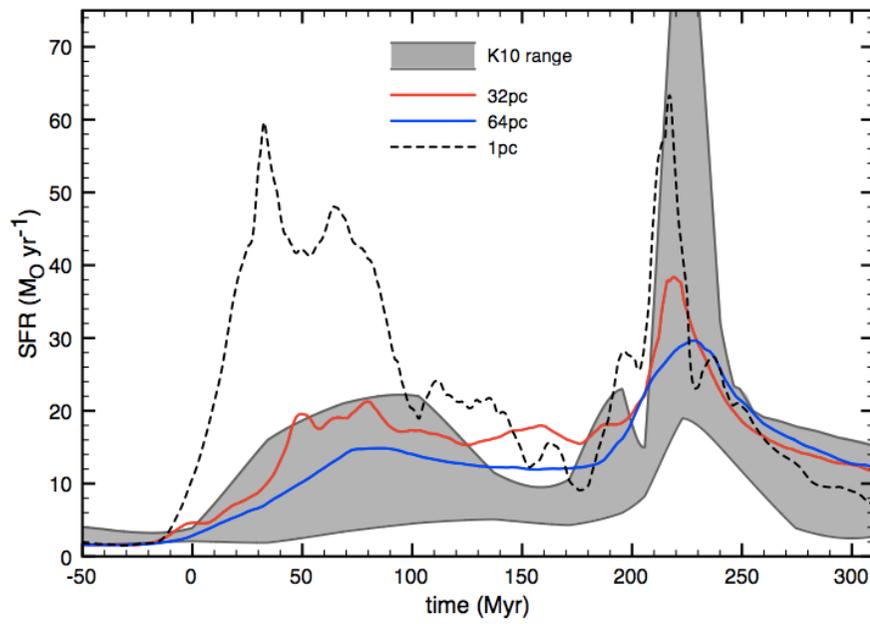


- Resolution effects are strong, then become almost negligible at  $\sim 5\text{pc}$  resolution, leaving only fluctuations.
- Gas becomes self-gravitating at  $\sim 10^4 \text{cm}^{-3}$ , main structure size  $\sim 20\text{-}40\text{pc}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  4-6 resolution elements per cloud size  $\Rightarrow$  resolve the turbulent flow compressivity, at the scale where self-gravity takes over turbulent pressure toward star formation.

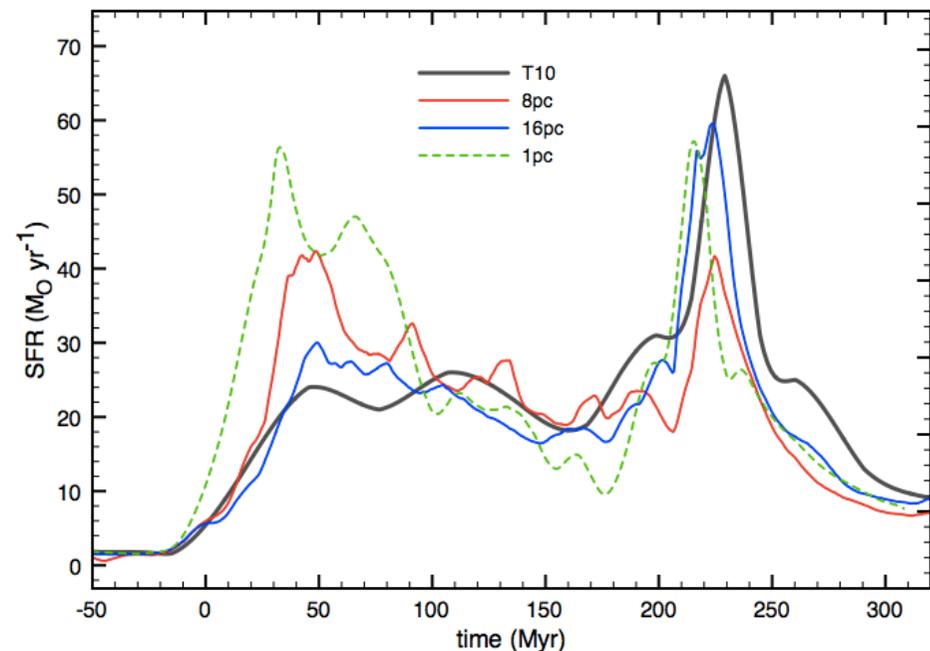
# Do simulations really resolve the critical scales for star formation ?

Various Antennae-like mergers :

- At a given resolution, great agreement regardless of details of code, feedback, SF recipes, interaction orbit and galaxy parameters (disk/bulge masses and sizes)
- In any case, resolution effects much more important until  $\sim 5\text{pc}$  is reached



*Comparing to Karl, Naab et al. 2010 (K10)  
SPH simulations with  $\sim 50\text{pc}$  resolution  
and various sub-grid parameters*



*Comparing to Teyssier et al. 2010 (T10)  
Same code but EoS (fake) cooling and no feedback*

**Resolution is most important and sub-grid physics never recovers unresolved turbulence!**

