

Do halo mergers trigger quasars?

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Acknowledgments

The team:



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(MPA Garching)



David Weinberg
(Ohio State)



Ravi Sheth
(U Penn)

Acknowledgments

Hosts:



Joanne Cohn



Kevin Bundy

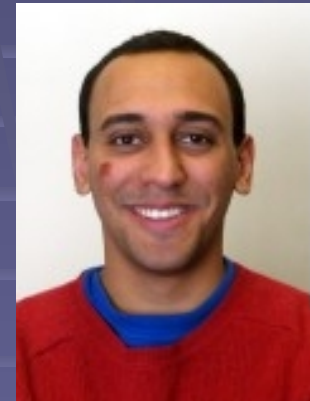
And...



Chung-Pei Ma

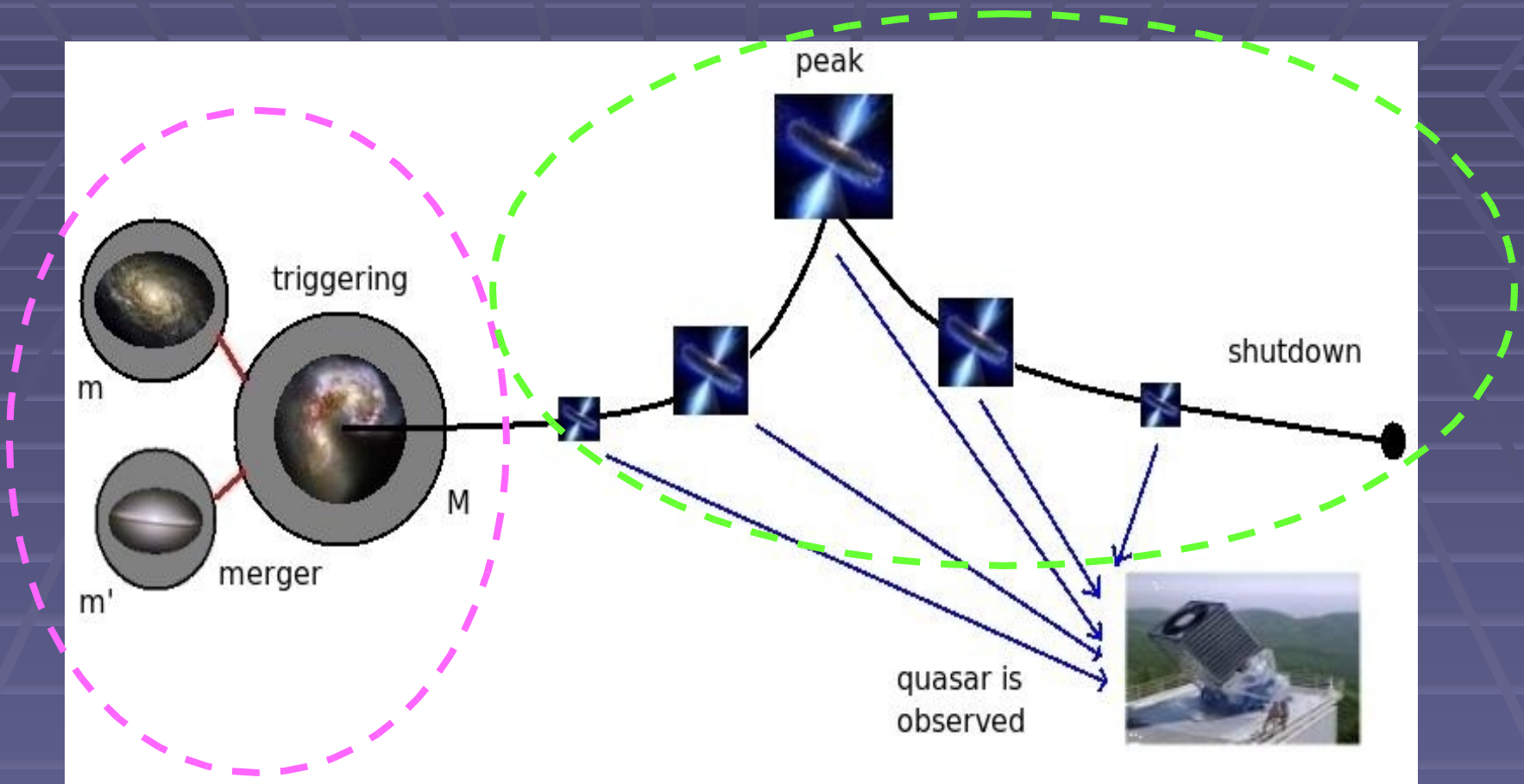


Jun Zhang



Onsi Fakhouri

The basic picture:



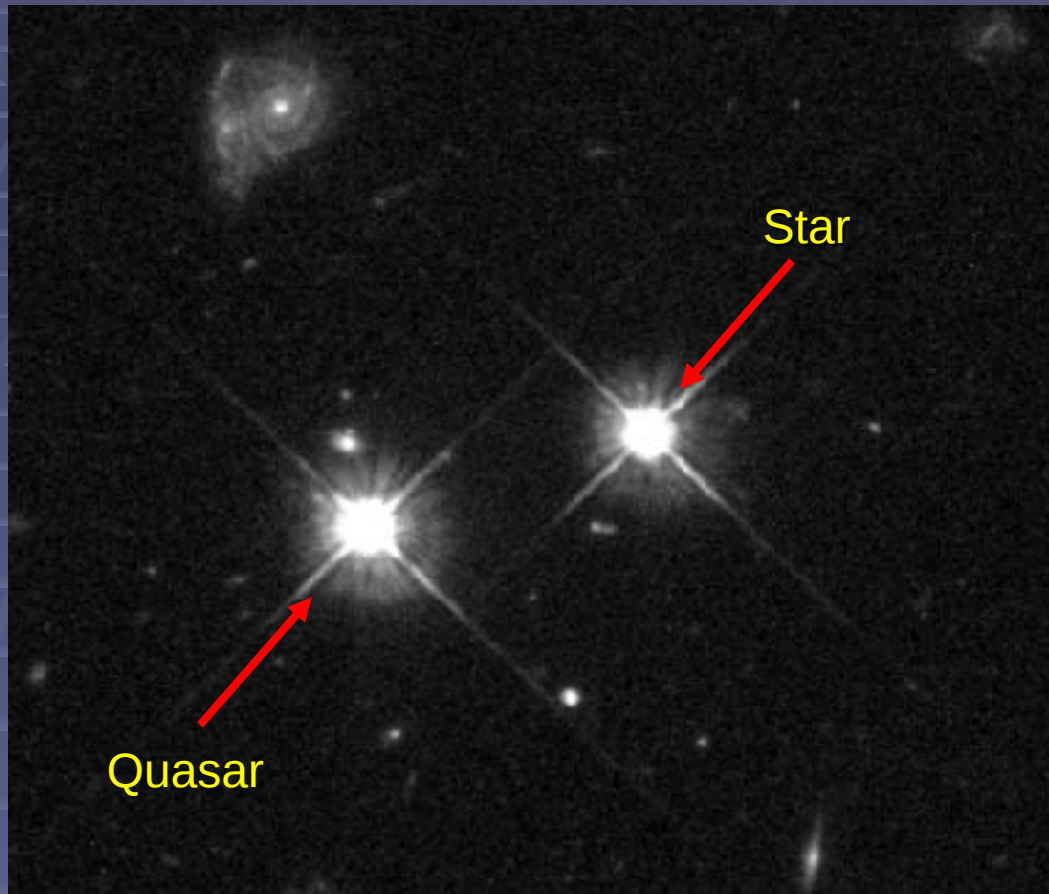
Halo merger rate

Quasar light curve

Today's menu:

- Background
- The excursion set theory
- → Halo merger rate
- Self-regulated growth
- → The light curve
- Observational tests
 - luminosity function
 - bias
- Future work and conclusions

I. Introduction



3C 273



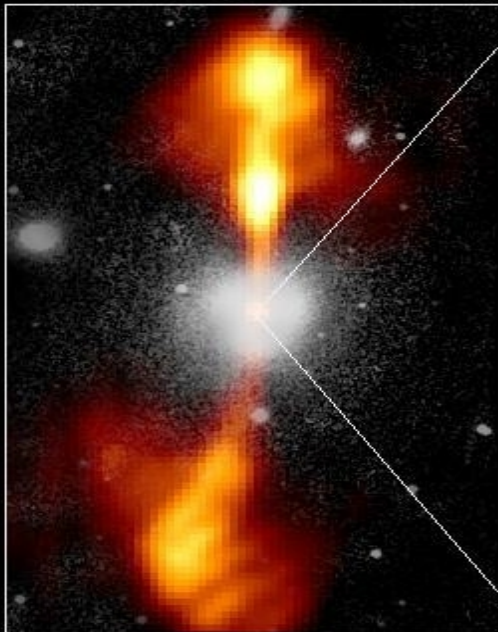
Maarten Schmidt (1963)

Supermassive Black Holes!

Core of Galaxy NGC 4261

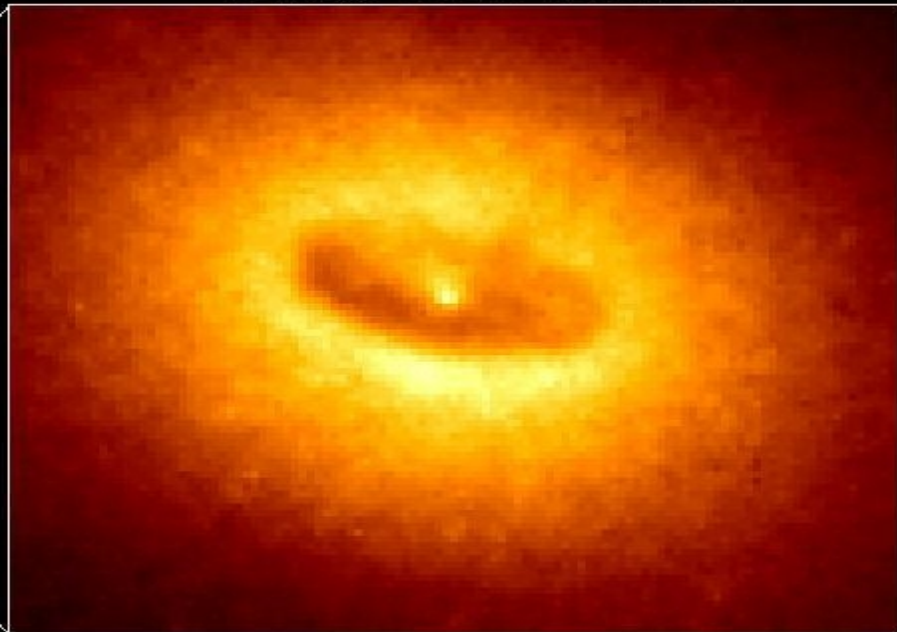
Hubble Space Telescope
Wide Field / Planetary Camera

Ground-Based Optical/Radio Image



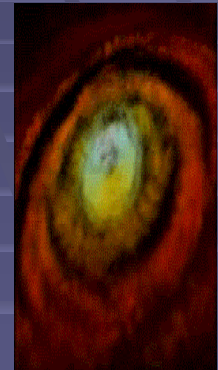
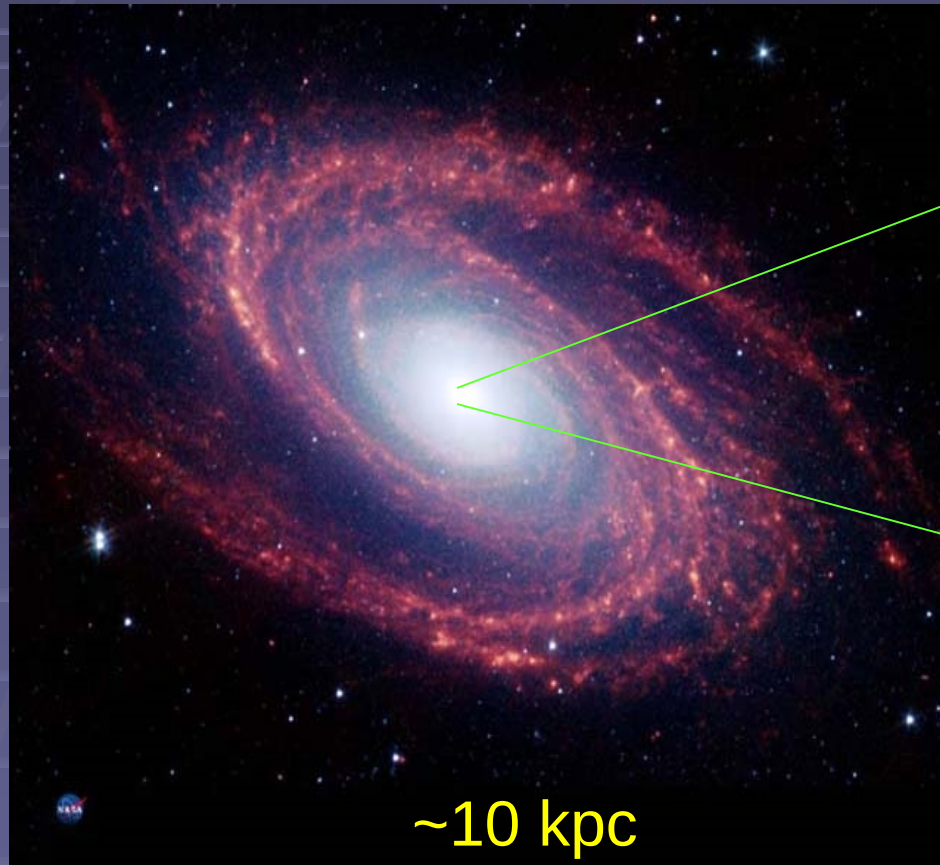
380 Arc Seconds
88,000 LIGHT-YEARS

HST Image of a Gas and Dust Disk



17 Arc Seconds
400 LIGHT-YEARS

...but how do we feed the beast?



< 1 pc

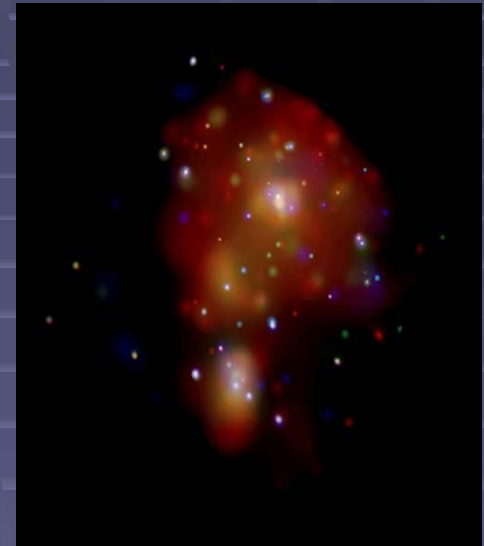
...mergers, mergers, mergers



Credit: J. Moreno

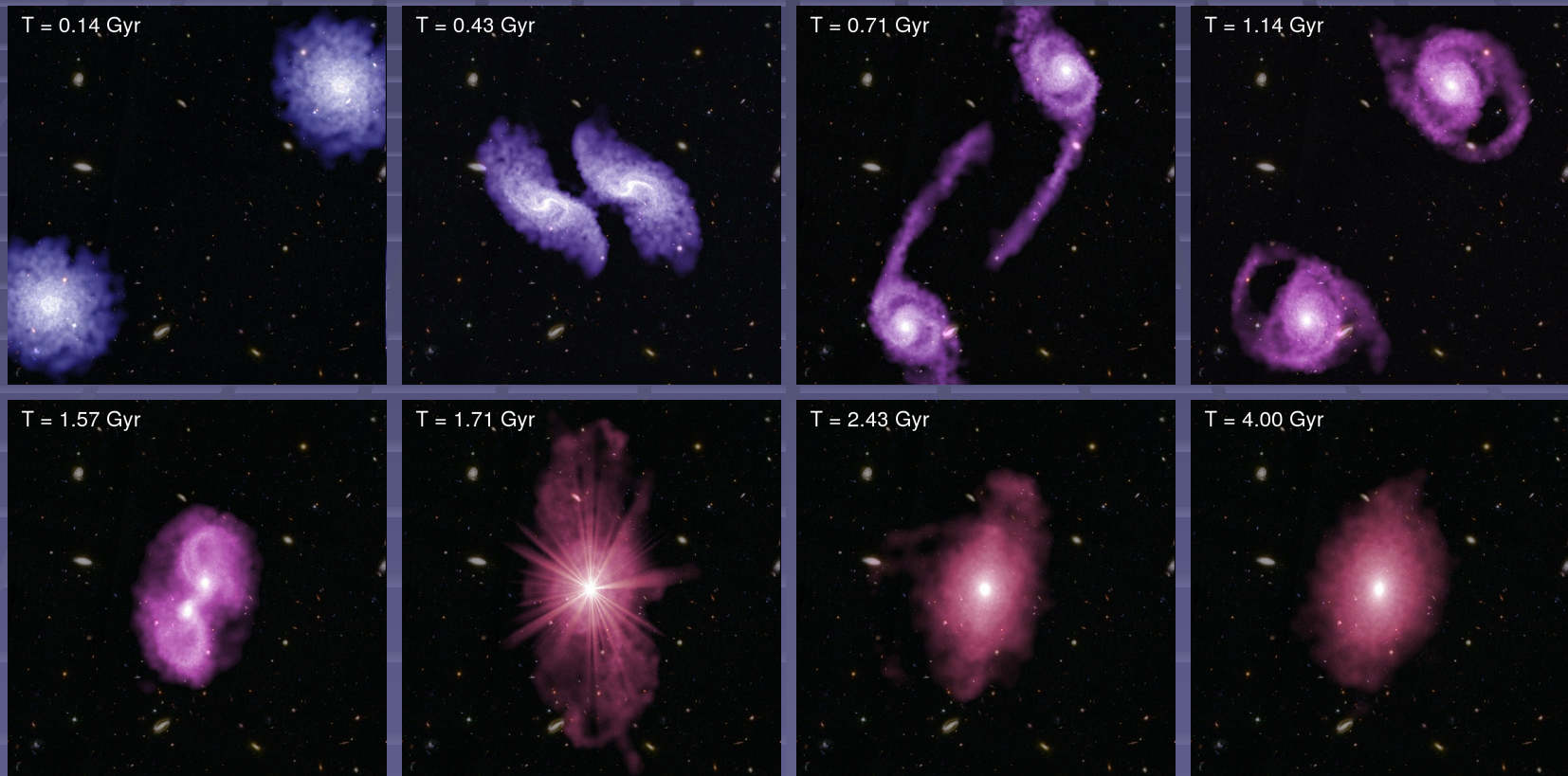


Credit: S. Beckwith
(STScI, HST)



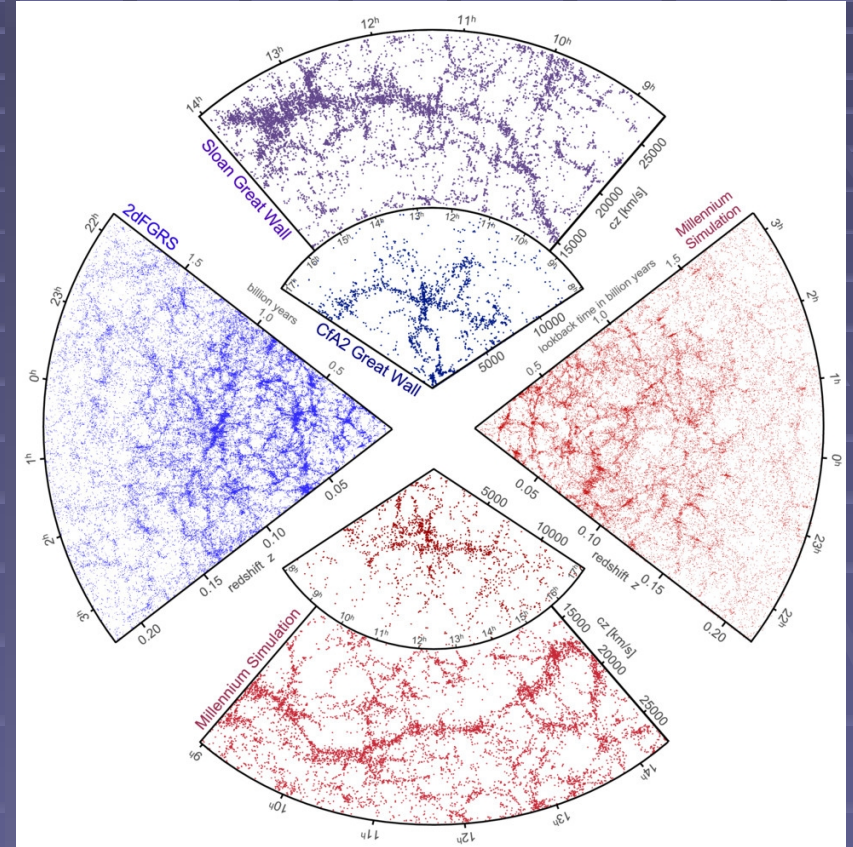
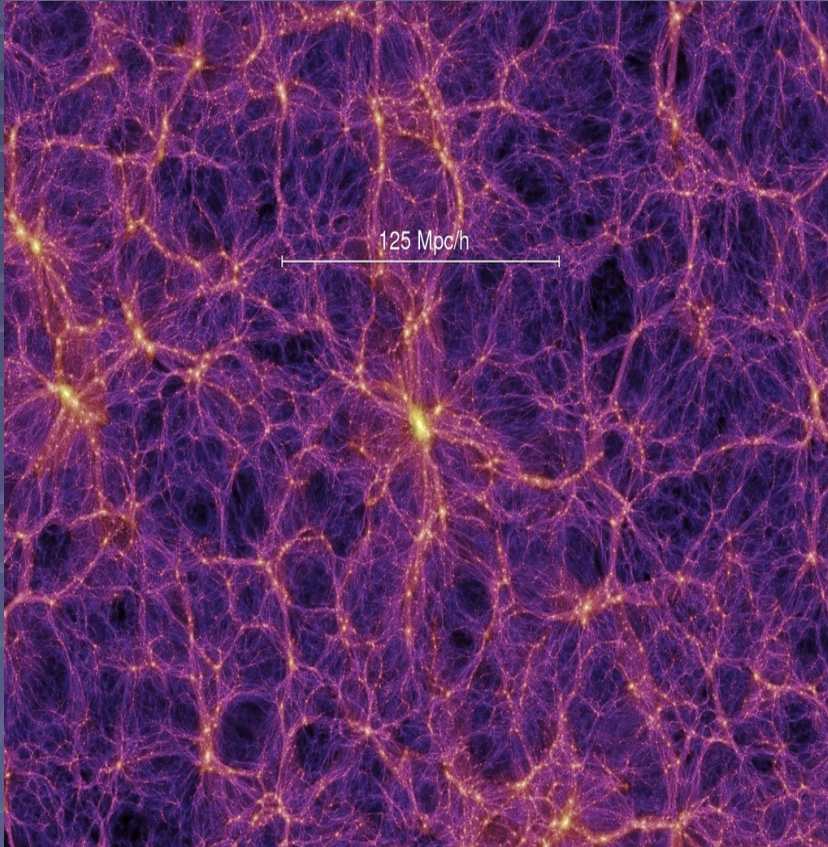
Credit: A. Wilson
(Chandra)

Simulations of galaxy mergers



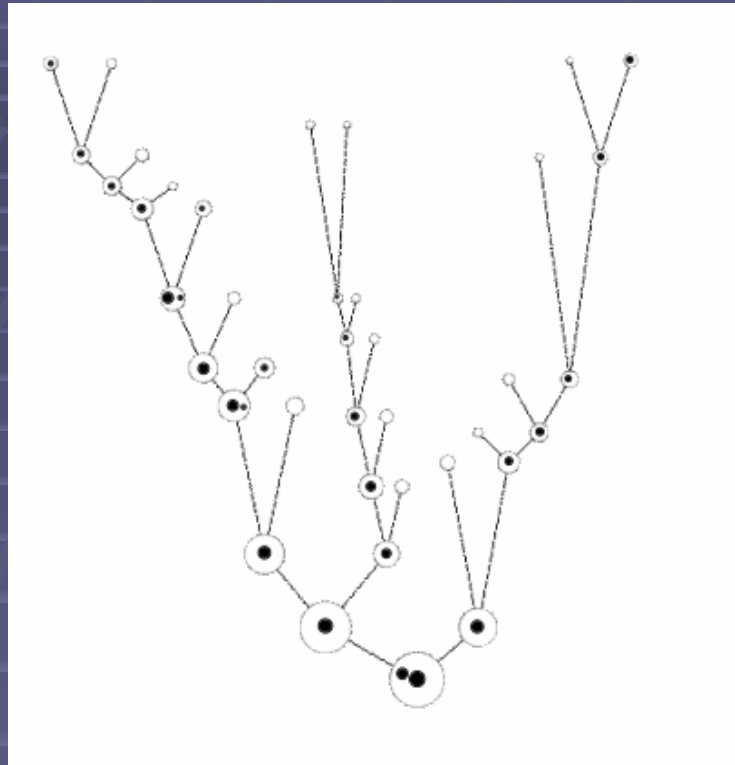
Credit: T. J. Cox

Cosmological simulations

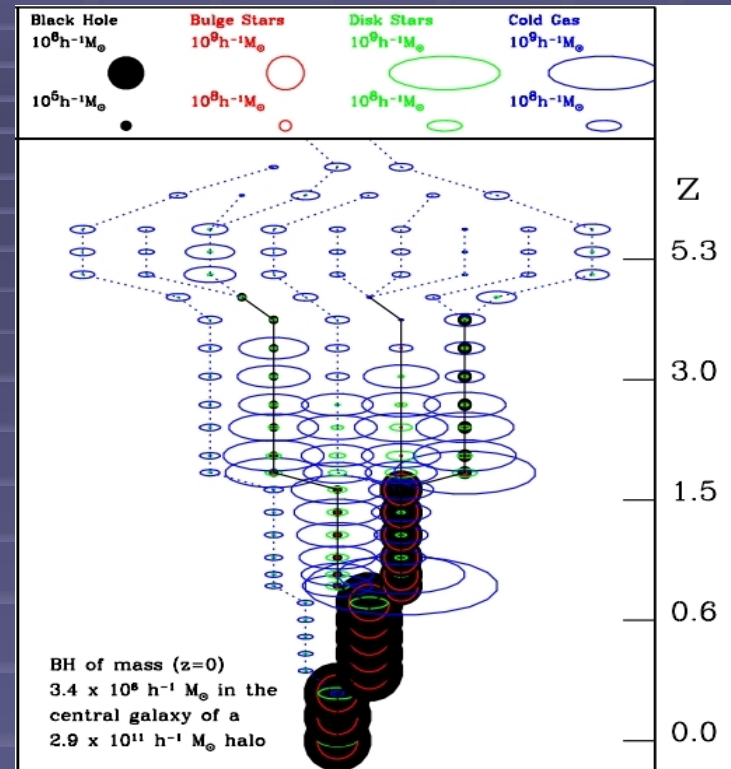


Credit: Volker Springel

Merger history trees



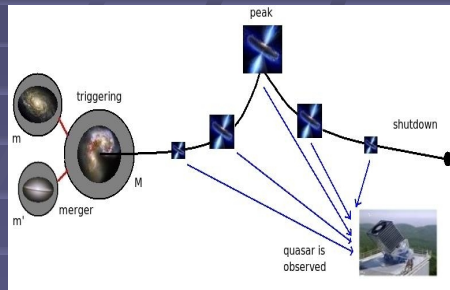
Credit: Marta Volonteri



Credit: Rowena Malbon

(See also Moreno et. al., 2008)

Analytic model

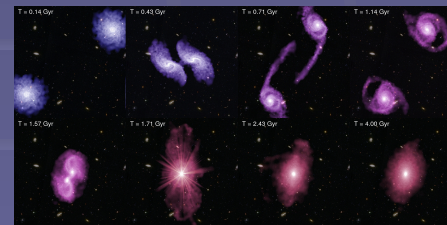
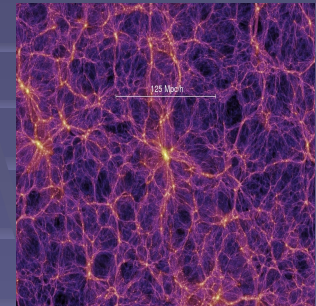
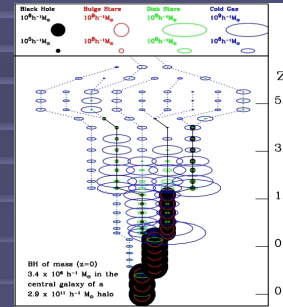


See also:

Wyithe & Loeb (2003, 2002)

Haiman & Loeb (1998)

Other methods

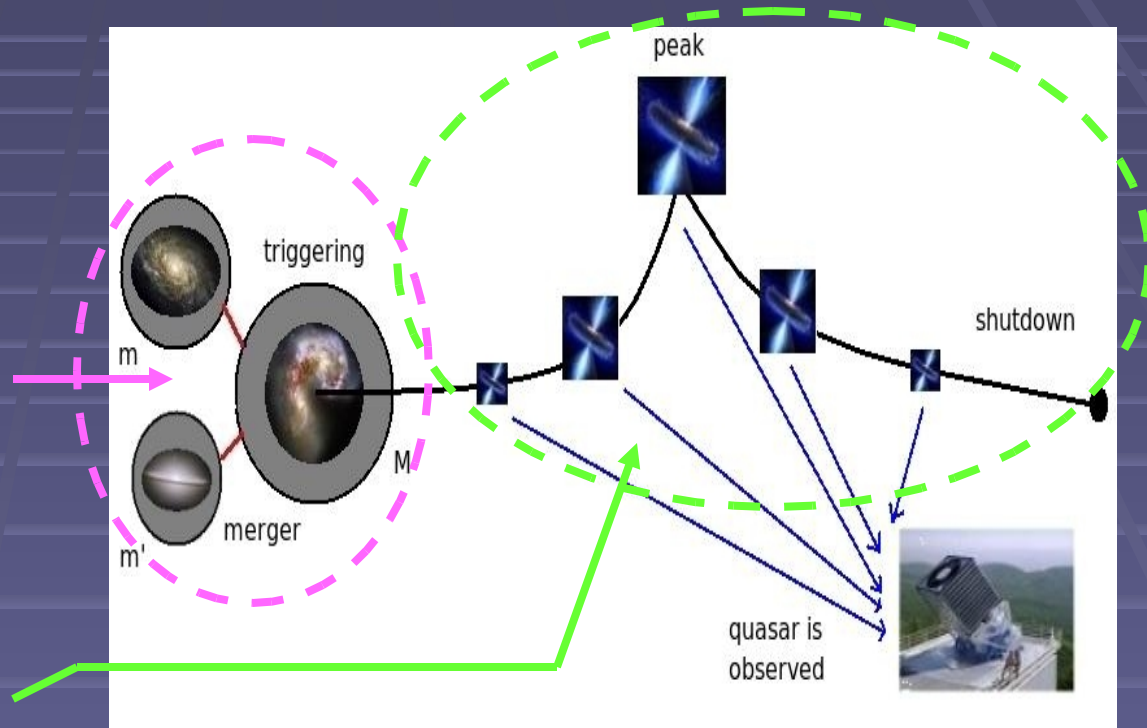


Our model

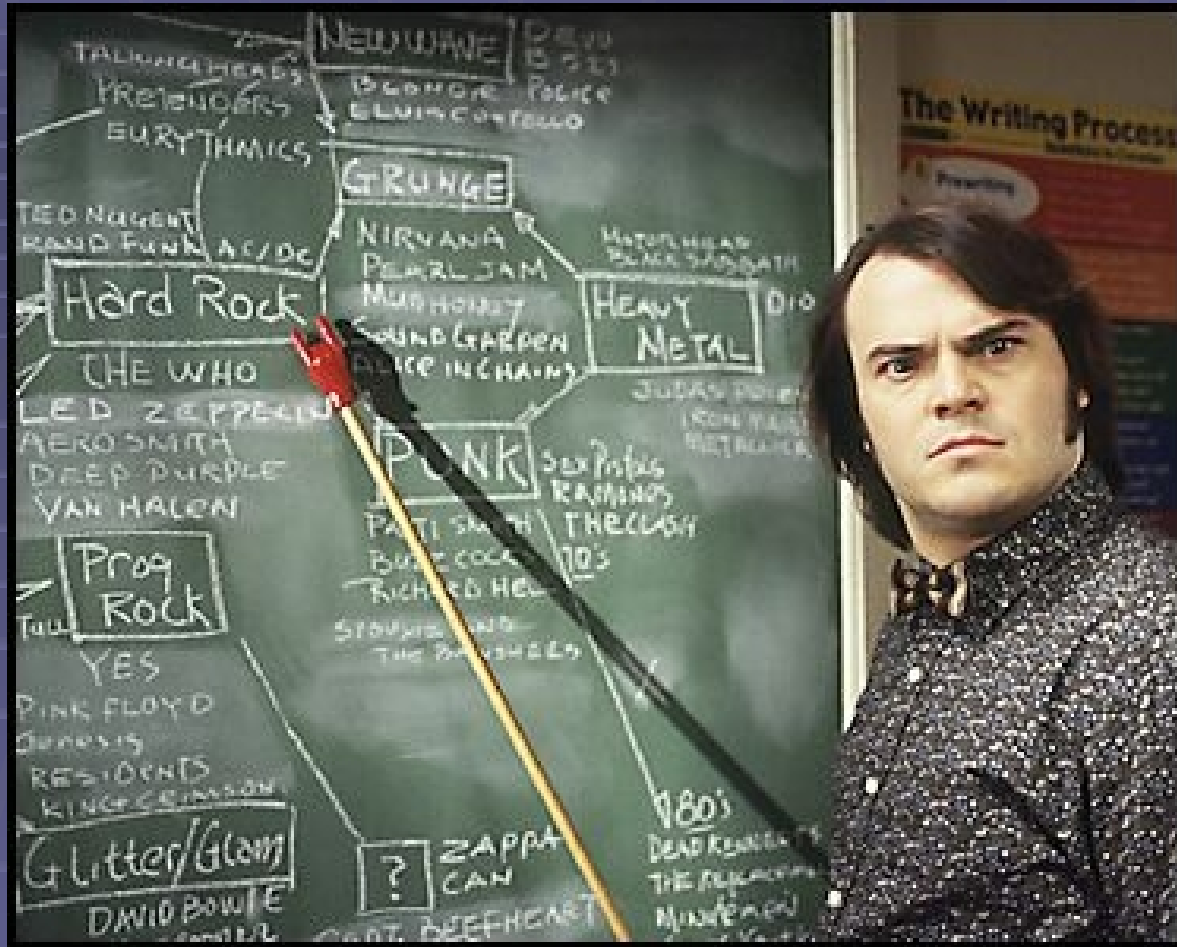
- Key ingredients:

- Merger rate

- Light curve

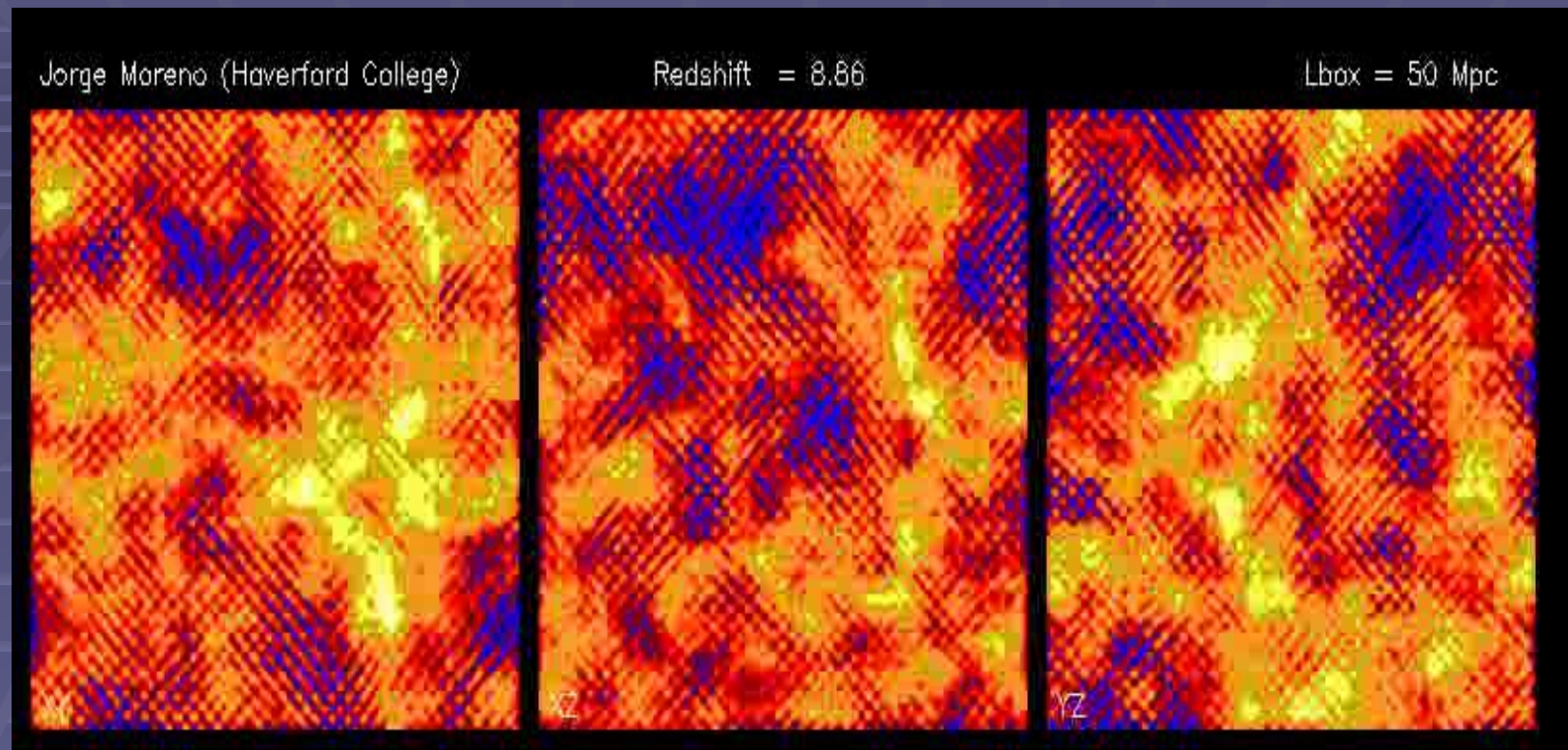


II. Excursion set theory



Aim: the halo merger rate!!

Cosmic capitalism



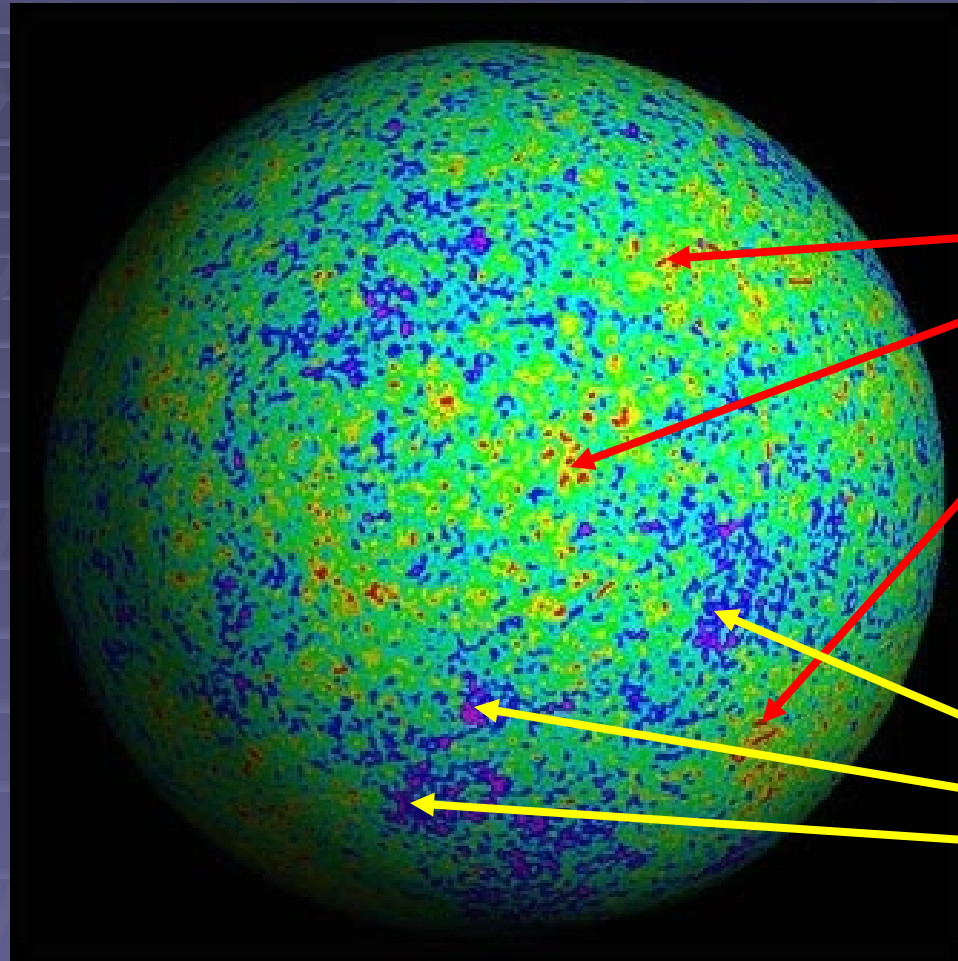
Credit: J. Moreno

Smooth (linear) $\rightarrow$ clumpy (nonlinear)

Initial density fluctuations

ρ = density

$\bar{\rho}$ = mean density



Overdense regions

$$\rho > \bar{\rho}$$

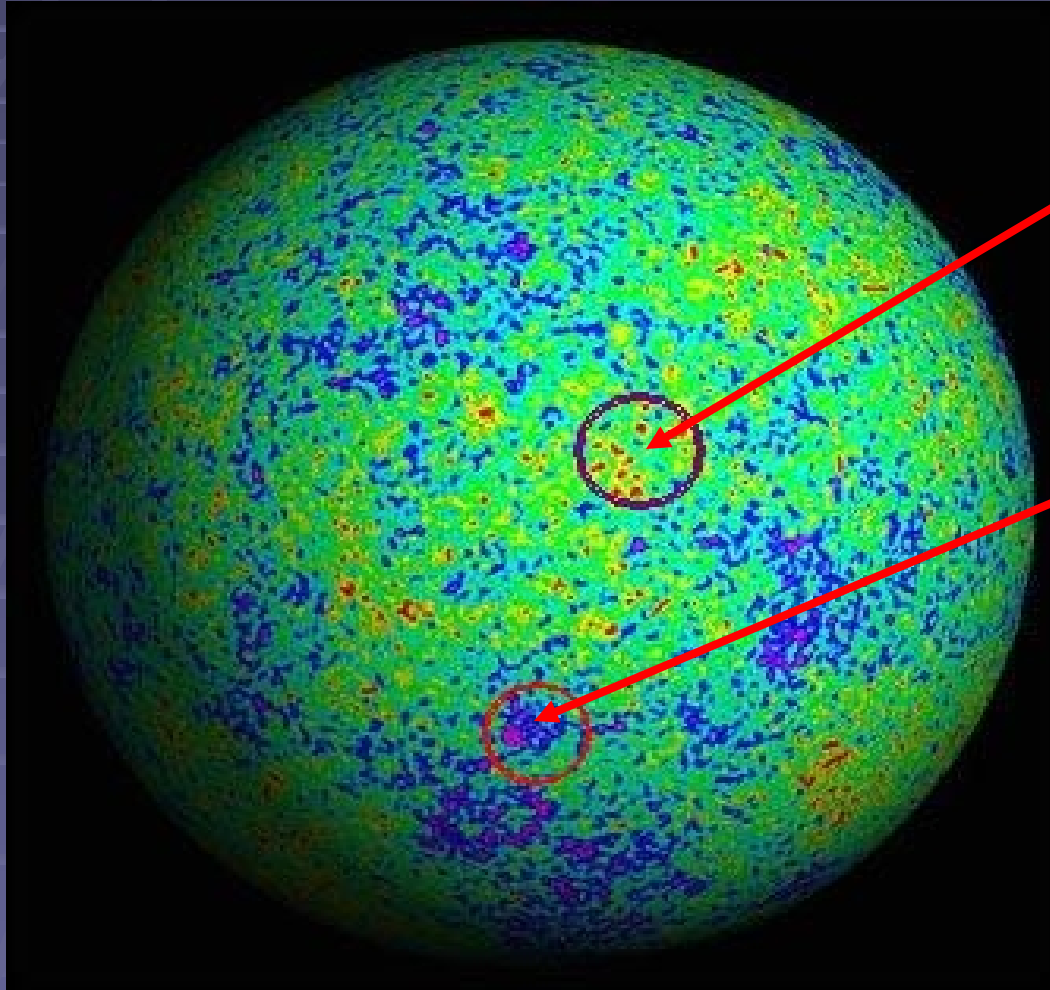
Underdense regions

$$\rho < \bar{\rho}$$

Gravitational collapse

δ = overdensity = $\rho - \bar{\rho}$

δ_c = critical density



$$\delta > \delta_c$$

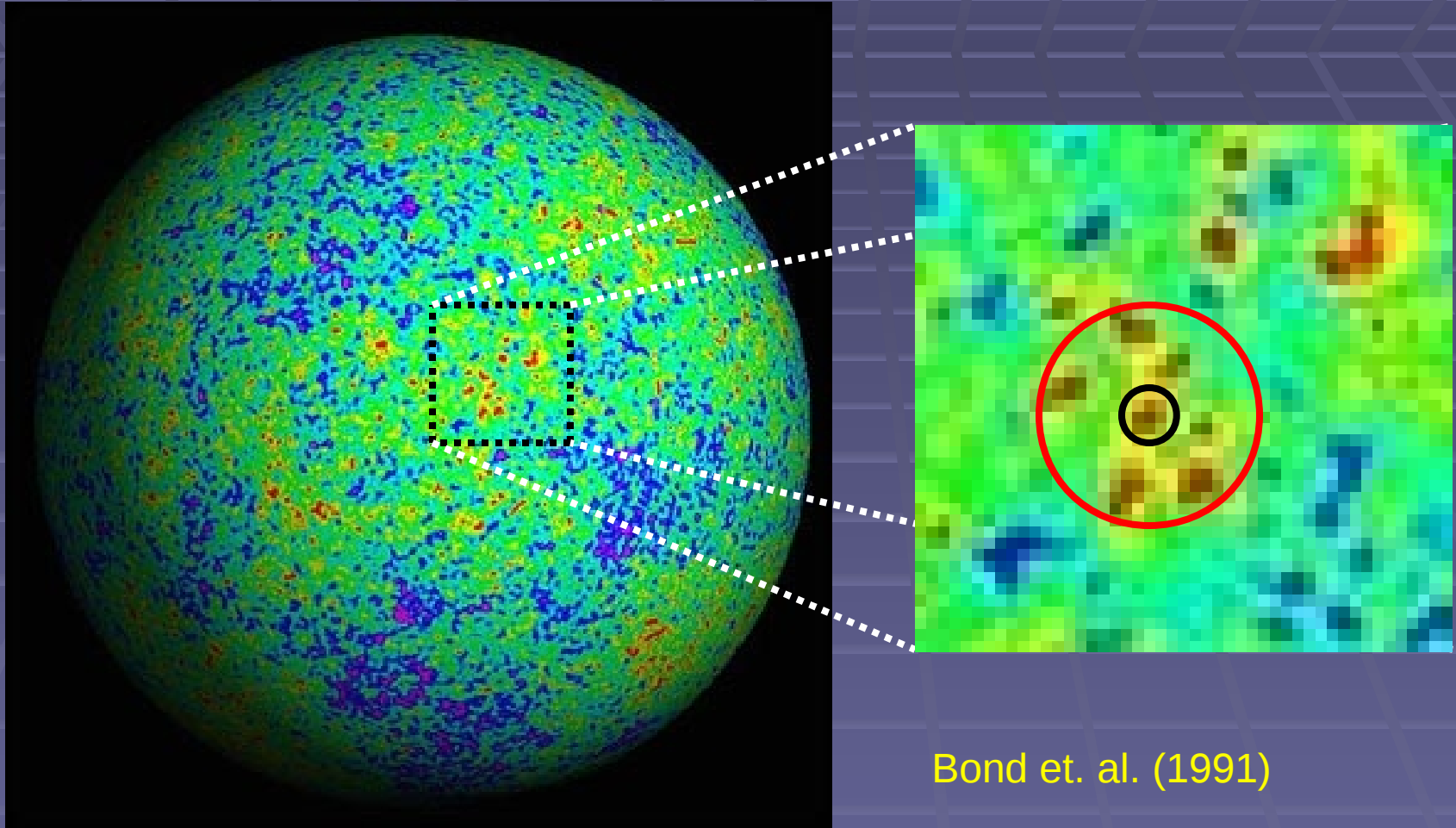
(dense enough)

$$\delta < \delta_c$$

(not dense enough)

Press Schechter (1974)

Cloud-in-cloud problem

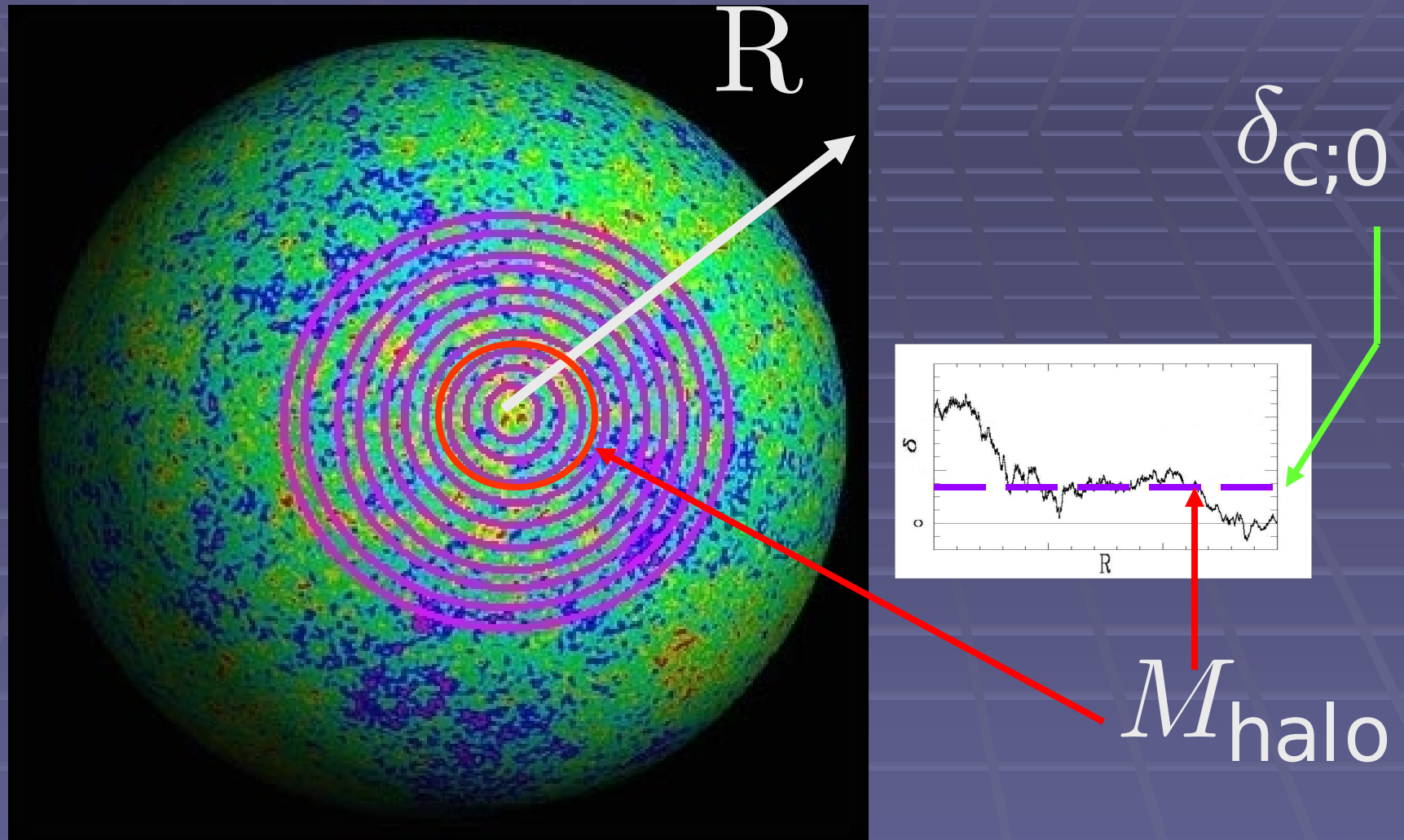


Bond et. al. (1991)

Cloud-in-cloud problem

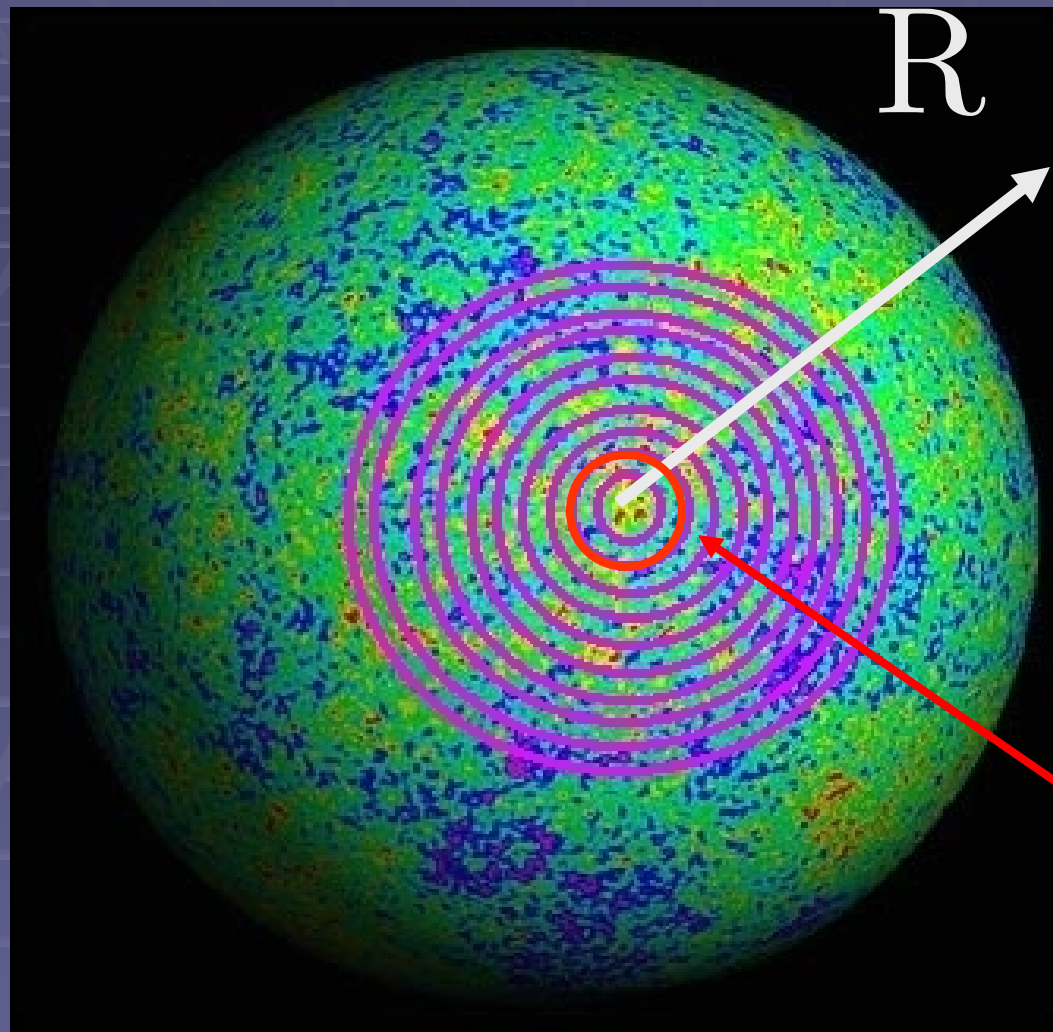


Random walk model

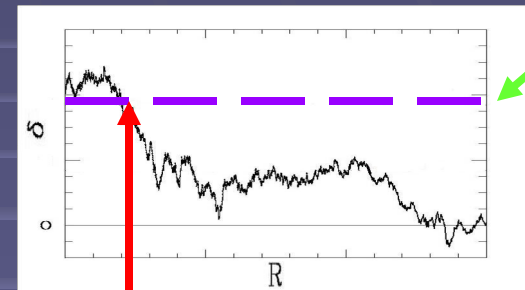


Bond et. al. (1991)

Random walk model



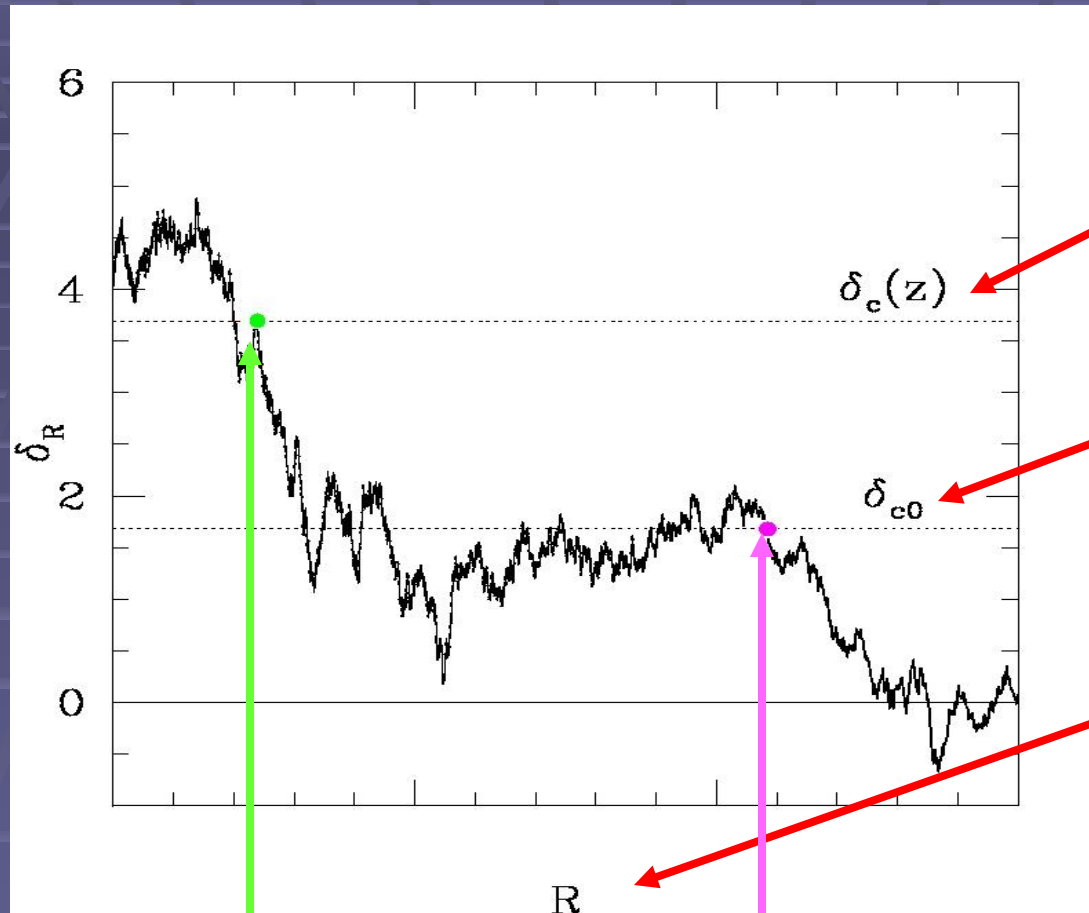
$$\delta_c(z)$$



Bond et. al. (1991)

Spherical collapse: $\delta_c = \delta_c(t)$

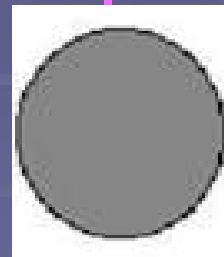
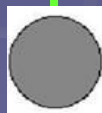
Over
density



Collapse in
the past

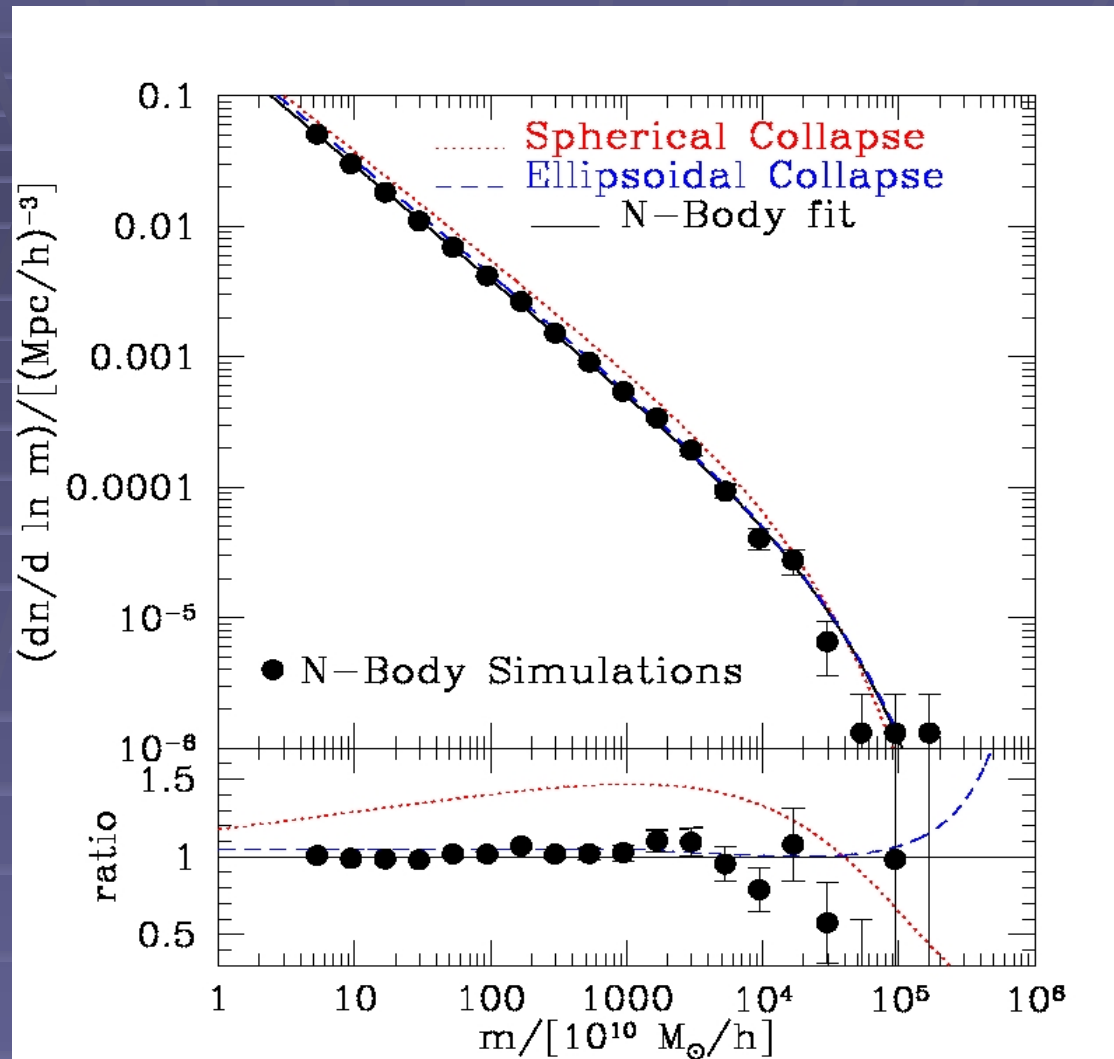
Collapse
today

Scale $\rightarrow$ mass!



Halo mass function

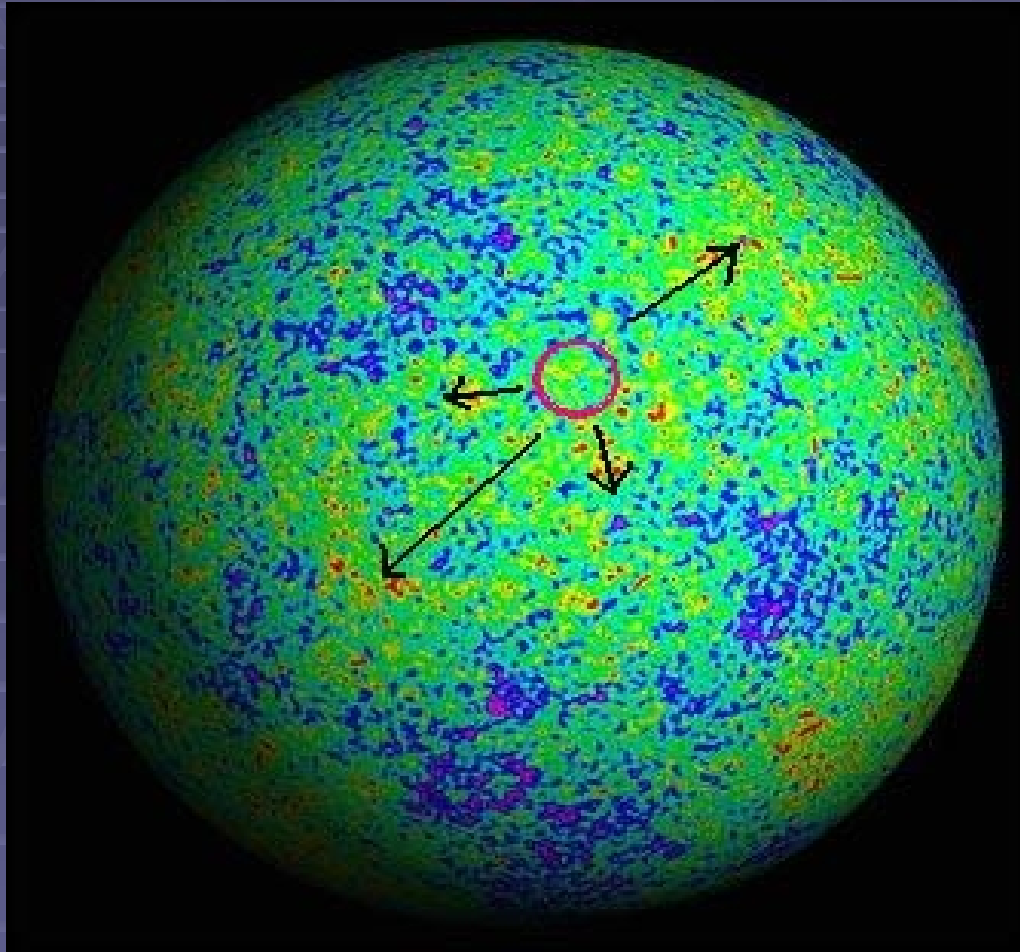
m-halos /
volume



Halo mass

(Moreno et. al. 2009)

Ellipsoidal collapse: $\delta_c(t) \rightarrow \delta_c(R, t)$

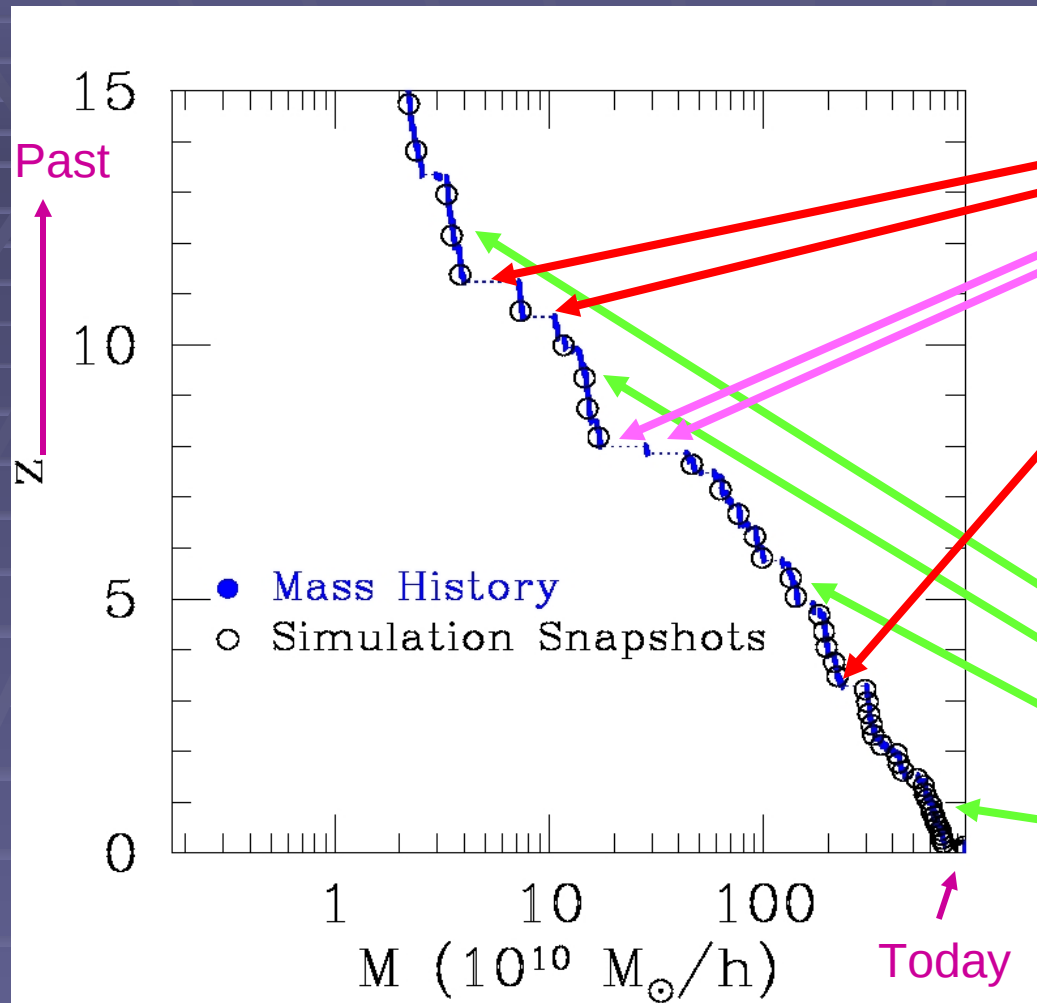


$$R \rightarrow \delta$$
$$R \rightarrow \delta$$

Shear matters!

Sheth, Mo & Tormen (2001)

Halo mass histories



Major
mergers

Smooth
accretion

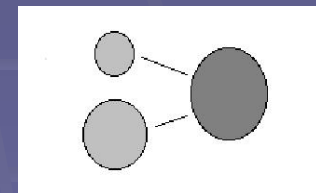
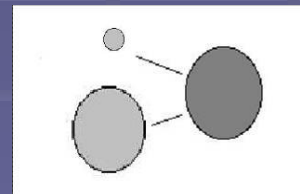
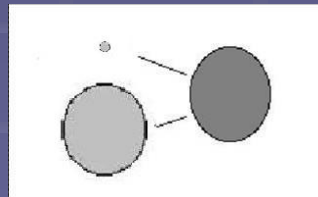
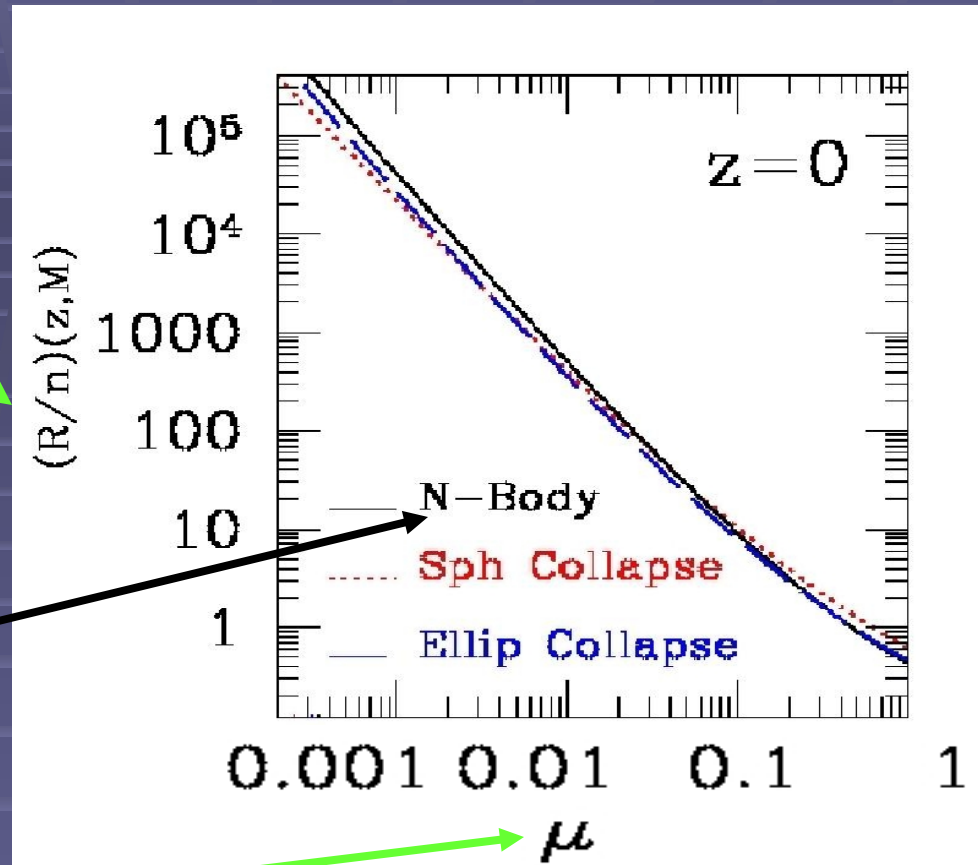
Analytic merger rates

mergers
/ # M-halos

Fakhouri & Ma (2007)

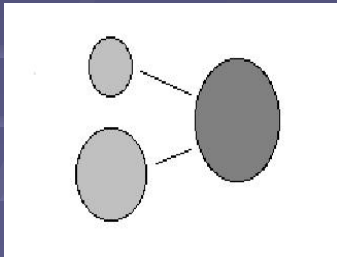
Mass ratio of
merging haloes

$$\mu = m/(M-m)$$



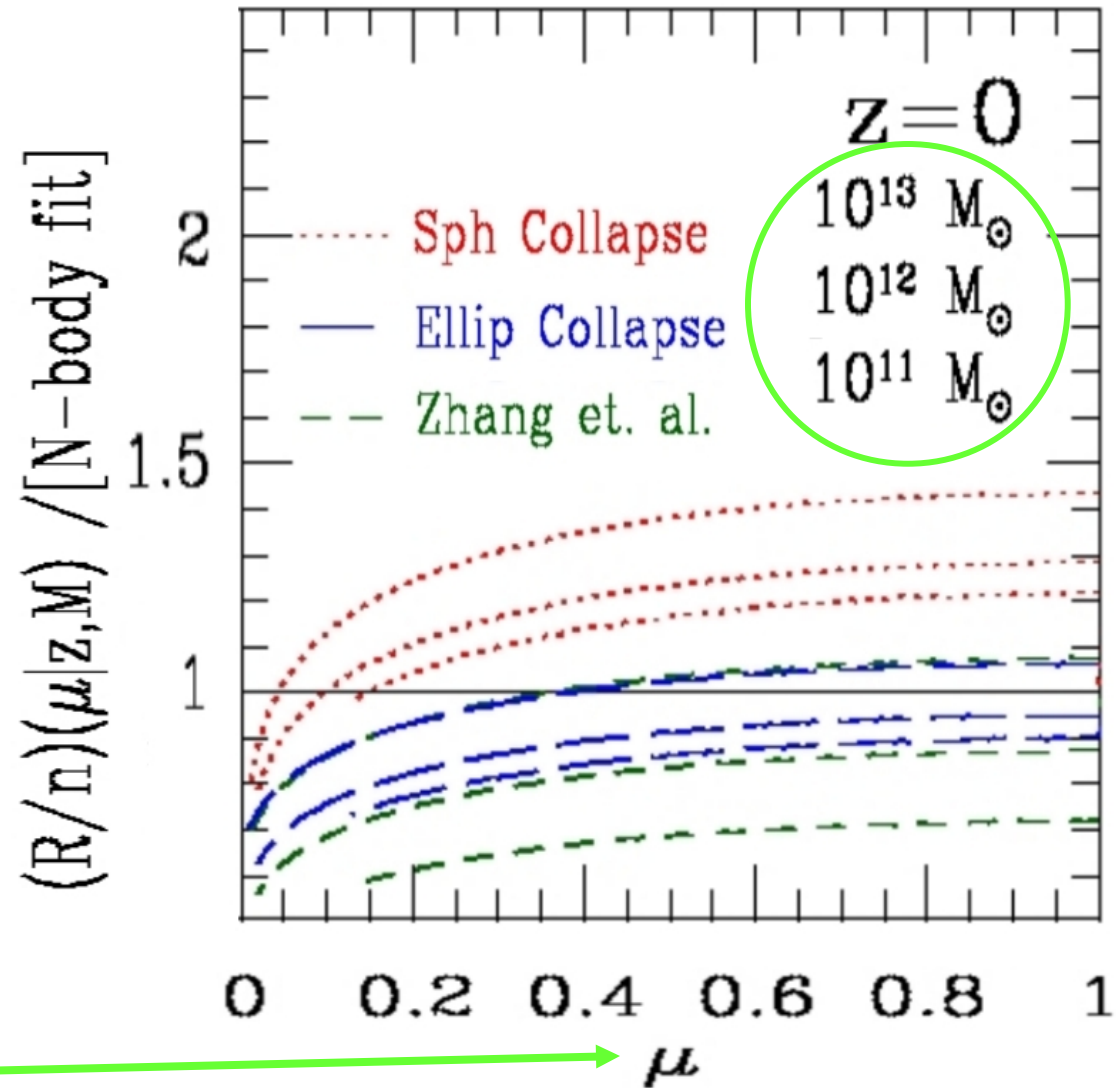
...a closer comparison

(R/n) modulo fit
to Millennium



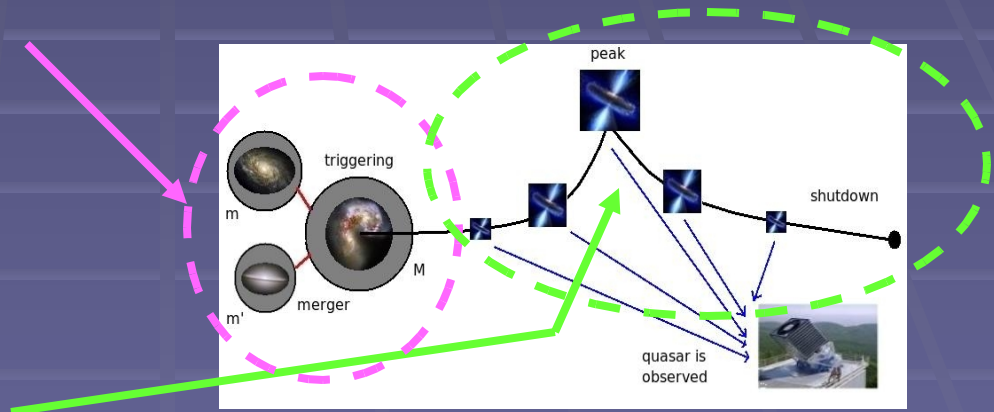
$$\mu = m/(M-m)$$

Mass ratio of
merging haloes



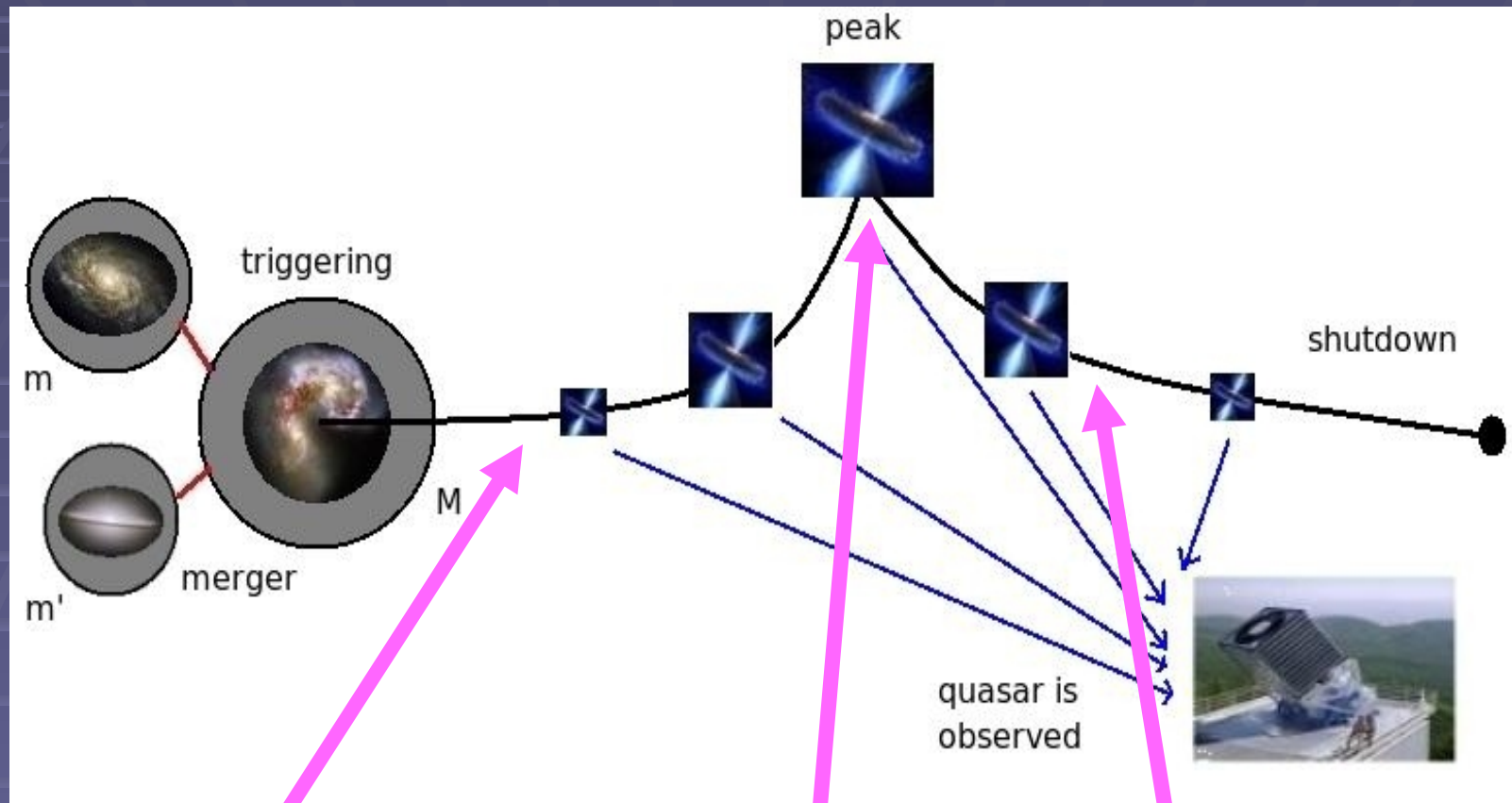
So far:

- Excursion set theory:
 - Random walks!
 - Halo abundance
 - Merger history
 - Ellipsoidal collapse → more accurate!
 - Merger rate!
- ... still need:
 - Light curve!



III. The light curve

Recall...



Ascending
phase

Peak

Descending
phase

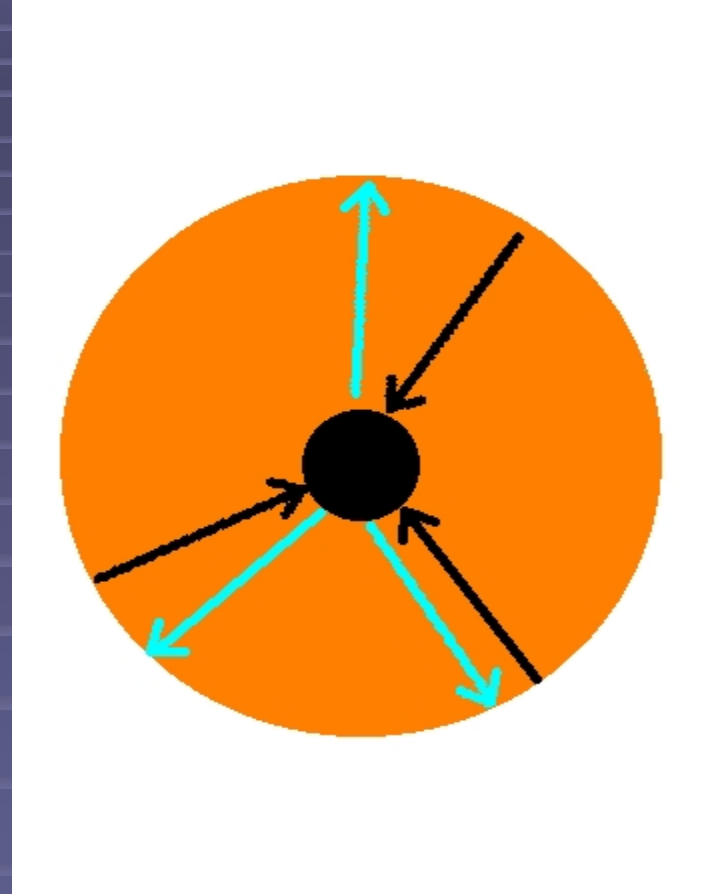
Simple picture

$$\vec{F}_{\text{grav}} = \vec{F}_{\text{rad}}$$

$$L_{\text{Edd}} \propto M_2$$

$$L = \lambda L_{\text{Edd}}$$

$$L \propto M_2$$

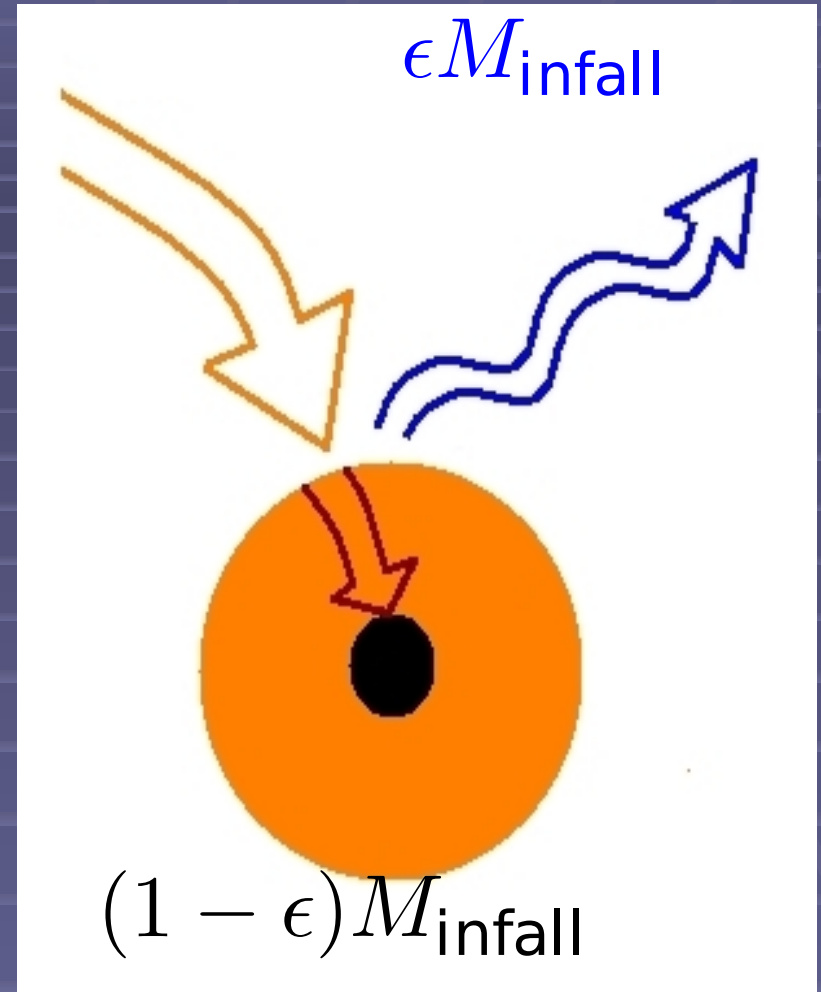


$\lambda = \text{Eddington ratio}$

$$\dot{M}_{\text{infall}}$$

$$L = \epsilon \dot{M}_{\text{infall}} c^2$$

$$L \propto \dot{M}_2$$



ϵ = Radiative efficiency

Ascending phase

$$L \propto M_2$$

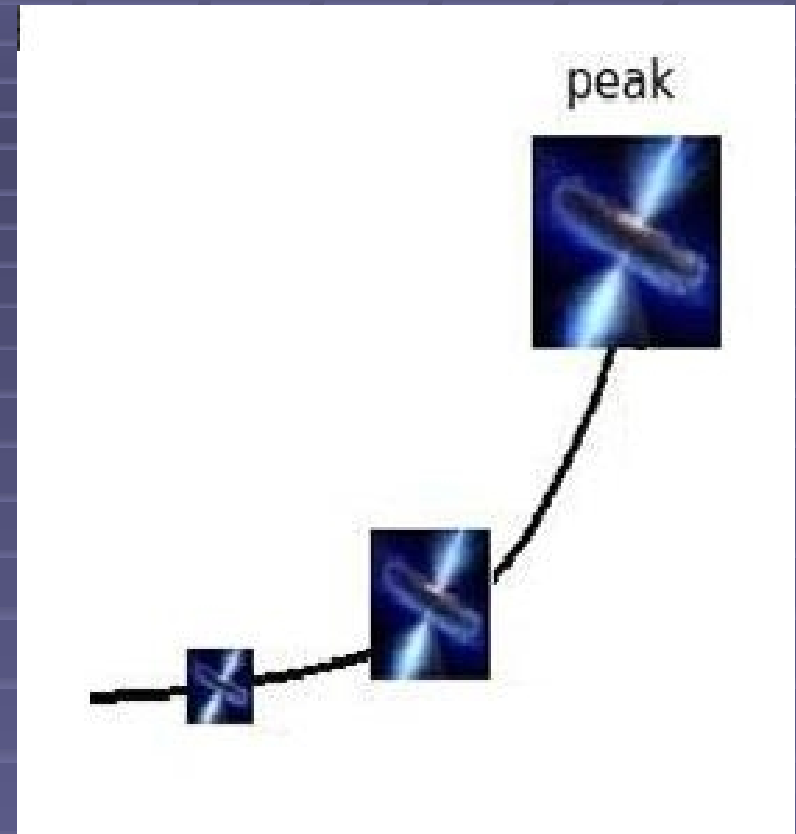
$$L \propto \dot{M}_2$$



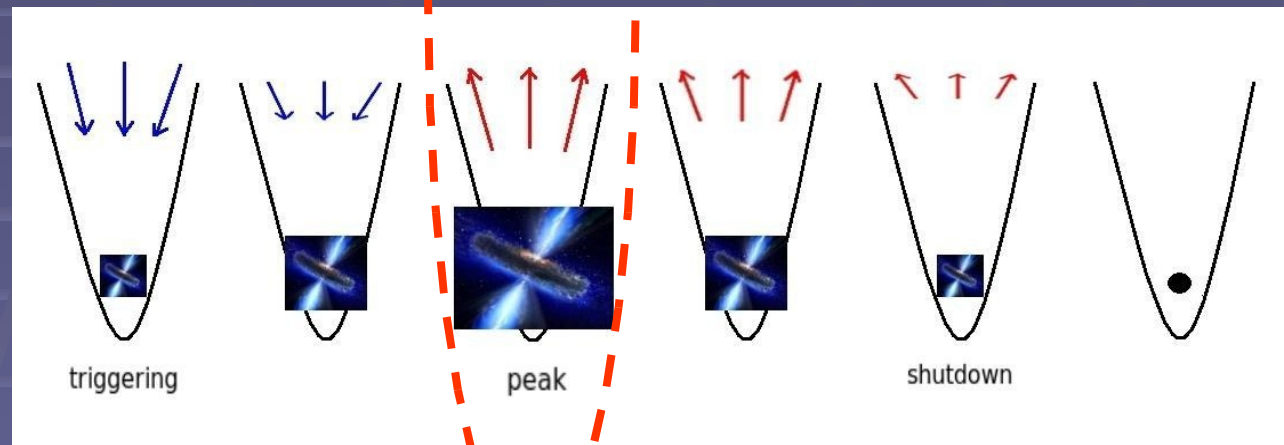
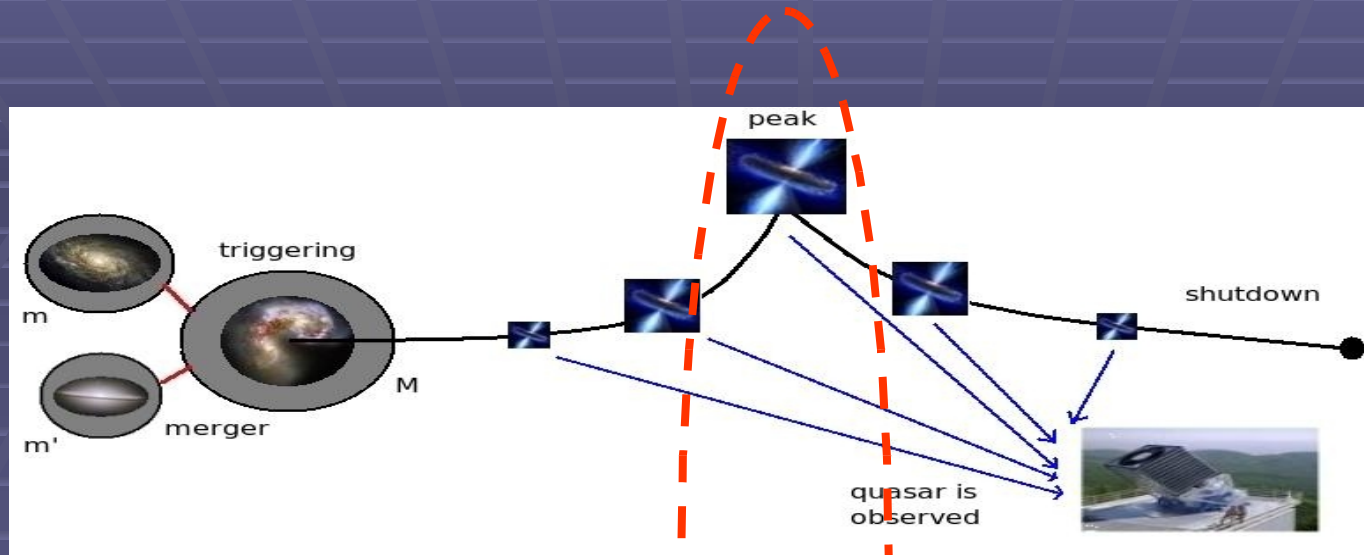
$$M_2 \propto \dot{M}_2$$



$$L(t), M_2(t) \propto \exp(t/t_e)$$



How does the beast kill itself?



Self-regulation: $M_2 \leftrightarrow M_{\text{halo}}$

Self-regulation

$$M_2 \propto M_{\text{halo}}^{5=3} (1+z)^{5=2+\circ}$$



Self-regulation

$$M_2 \propto M_{\text{halo}}^{5=3} (1+z)^{5=2+\circ}$$

Simple argument:

(See Wyithe & Loeb, 2002 & 2003)

$$M_2 \propto L \propto E/t$$

$$\begin{array}{l} E \propto M v_c^2 \\ t \propto r/v_c \end{array} \Rightarrow E/t \propto (M/r) v_c^3 \quad \begin{array}{l} \searrow \\ \nearrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} L \propto v_c^5 \\ v_c^2 \propto M/r \end{array} \quad v_c^2 \propto M^{2=3} (1+z)$$

$$M_2 \propto M^{5=3} (1+z)^{5=2}$$

Descending phase

$$L(t) \propto t^{\alpha}$$

See also:

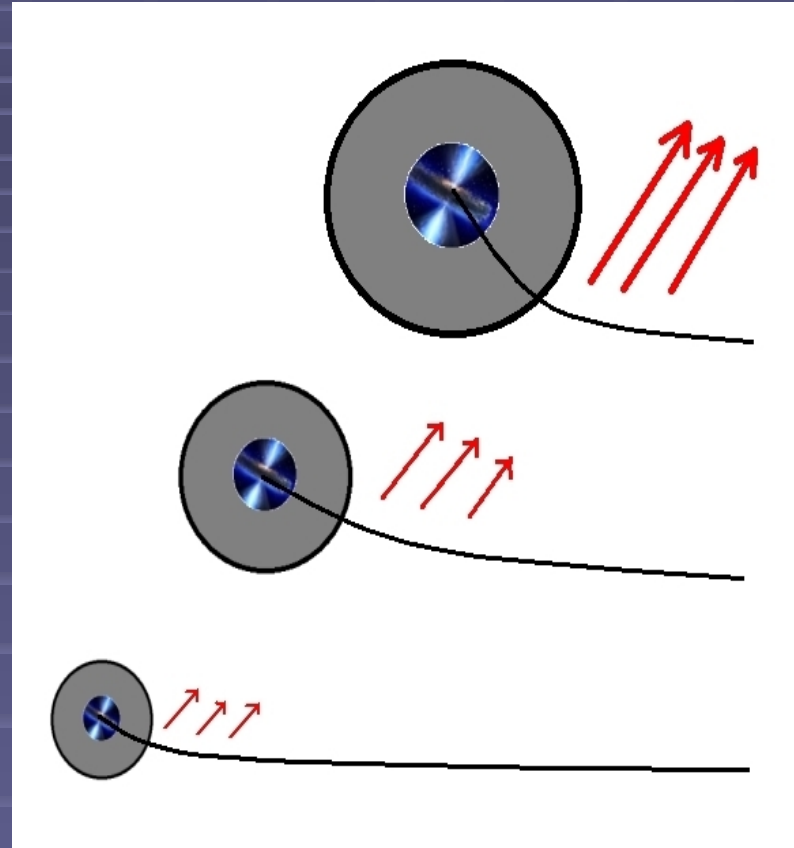
Hopkins & Hernquist (2008)

Yu & Lu (2008)

Here:

$$\alpha = \alpha(M_{\text{halo}})$$

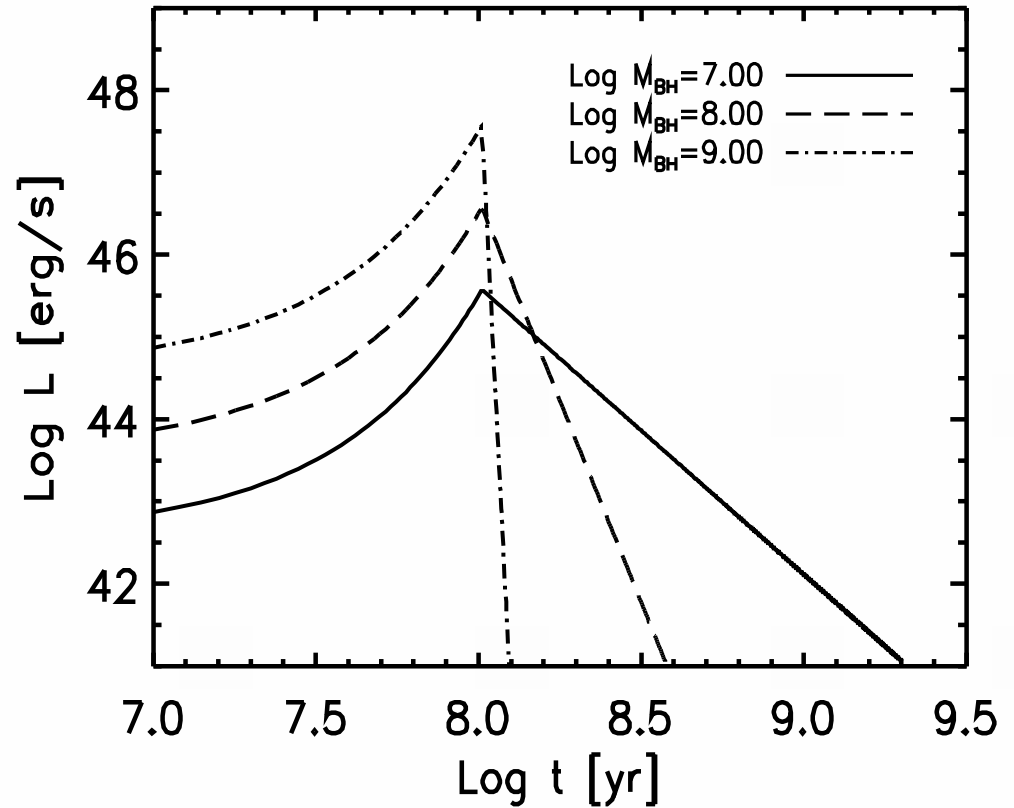
$$\log \alpha \propto M_{\text{halo}}^{-\beta}, \quad \beta > 0$$



Summary: the light curve:

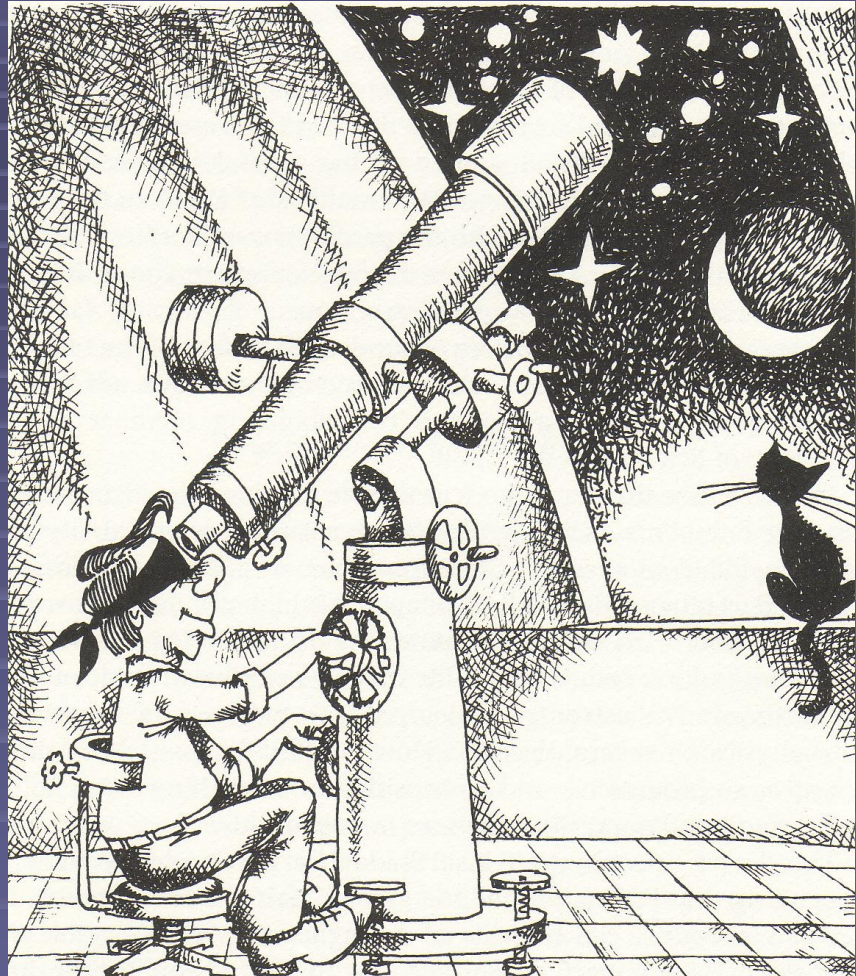
- **Ascending phase:**
Exponentially increasing
- **Peak:**
controlled by
- **Descending phase:**
power law
stronger decay for massive haloes!

$$M_2 \leftrightarrow M_{\text{halo}}$$

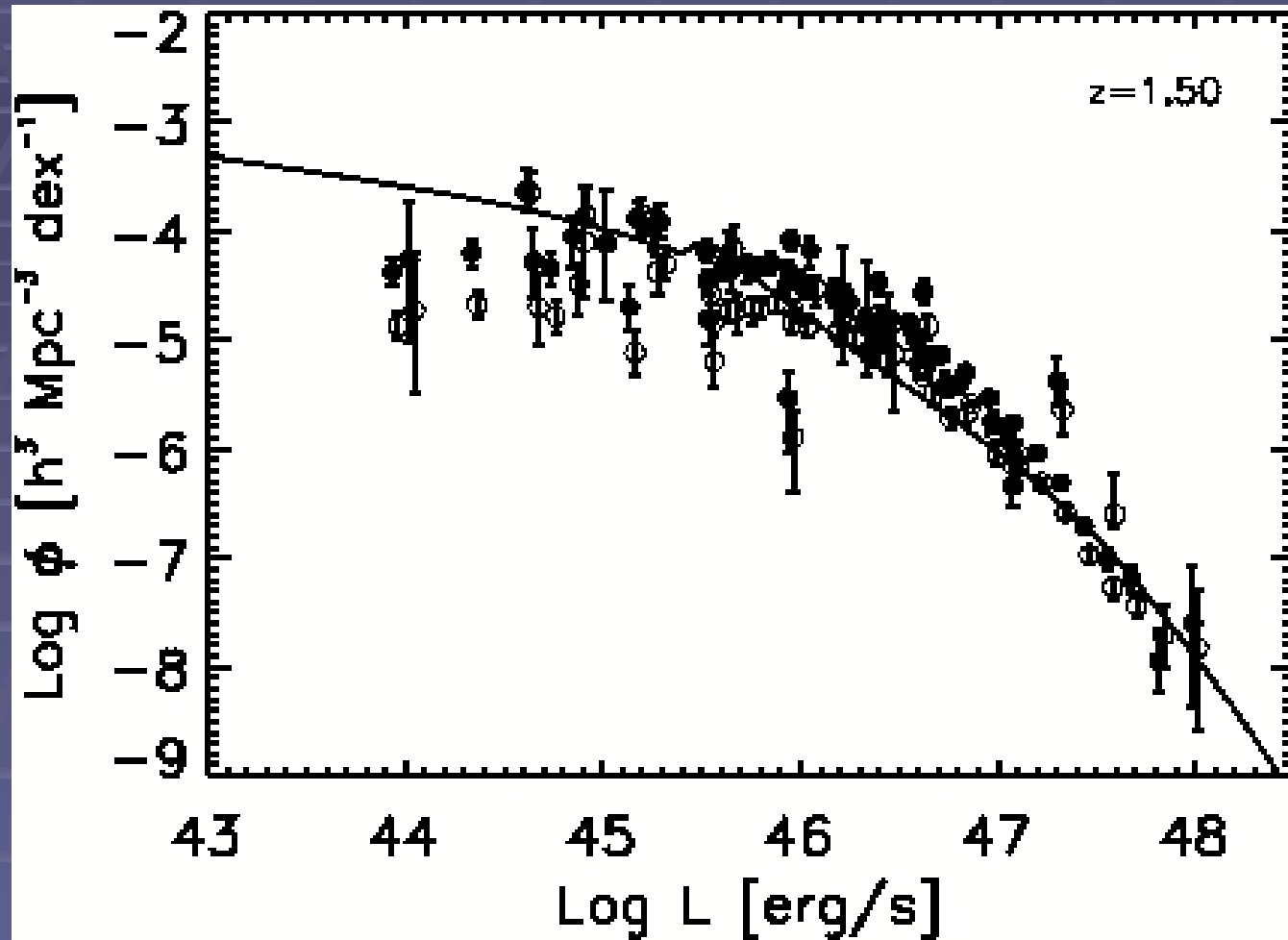


IV. Results

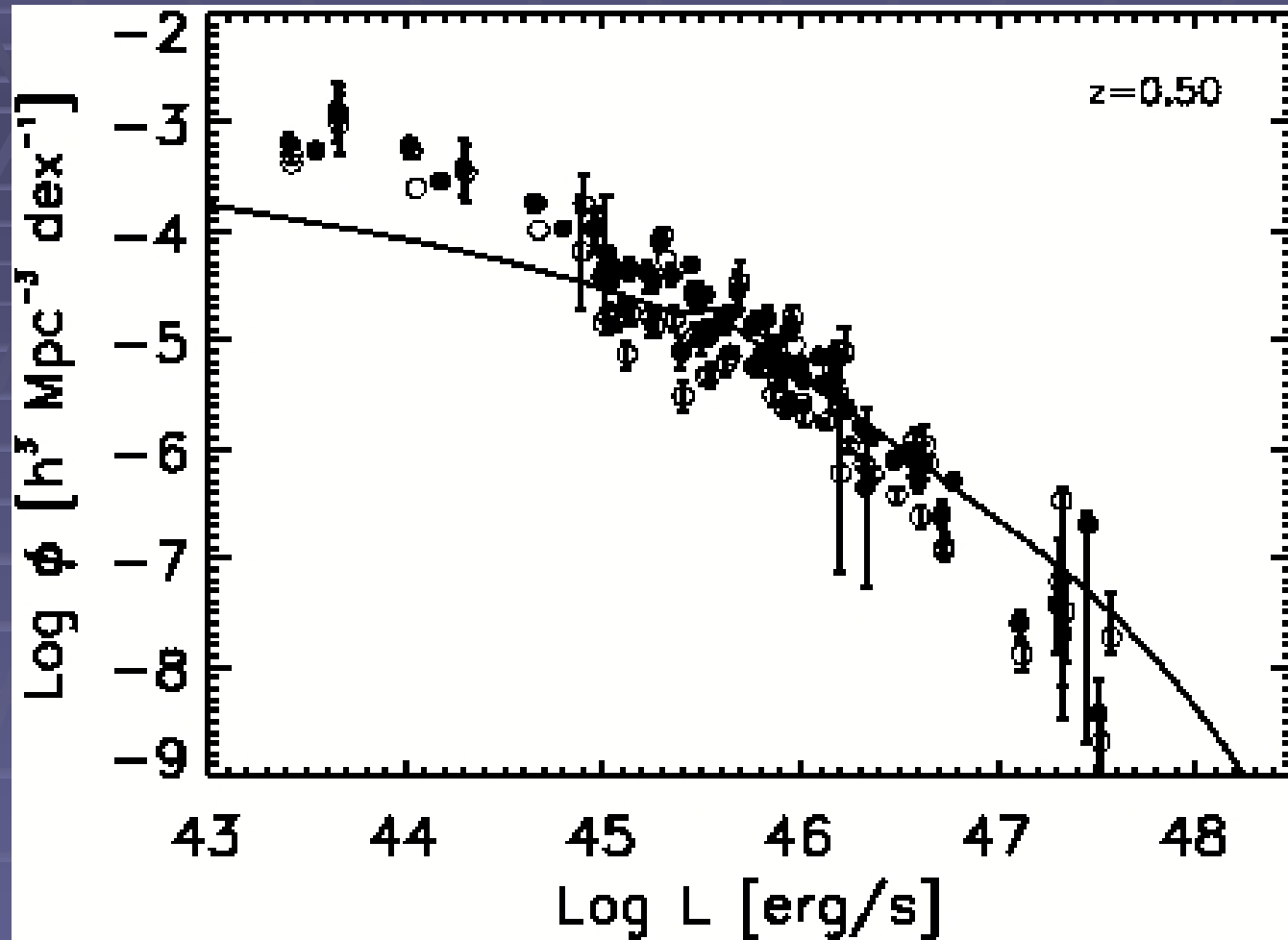
- Science goals:
 - Luminosity function at all z .
 - Quasar clustering at all z .
- **formidable task!!**



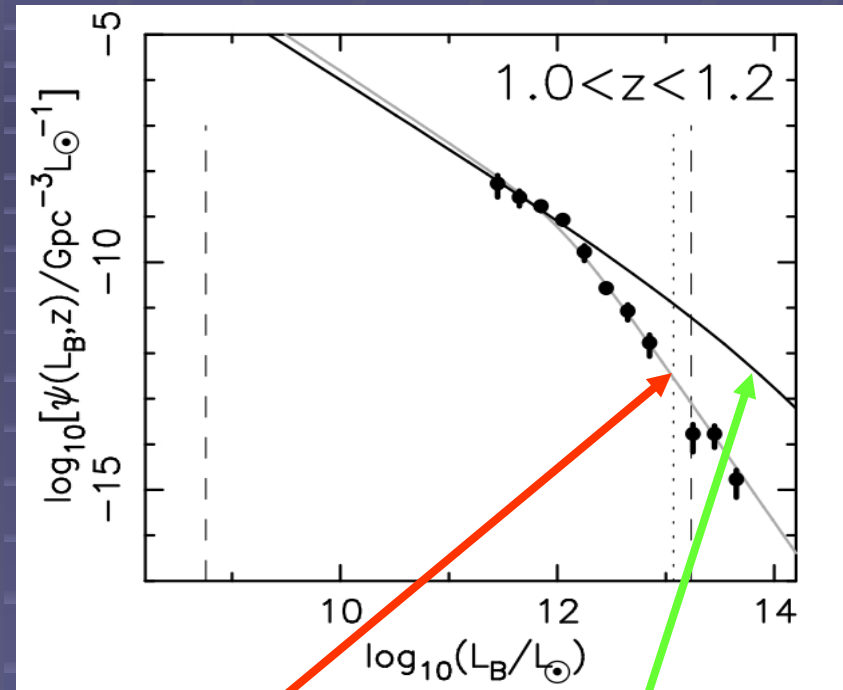
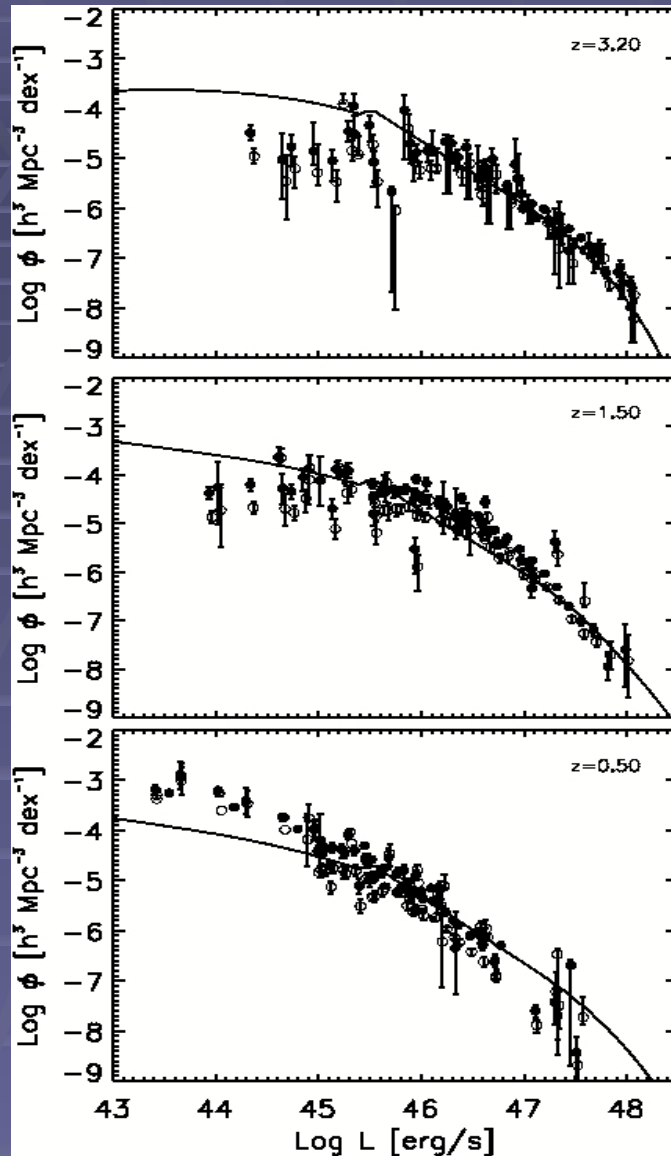
The luminosity function



The luminosity function



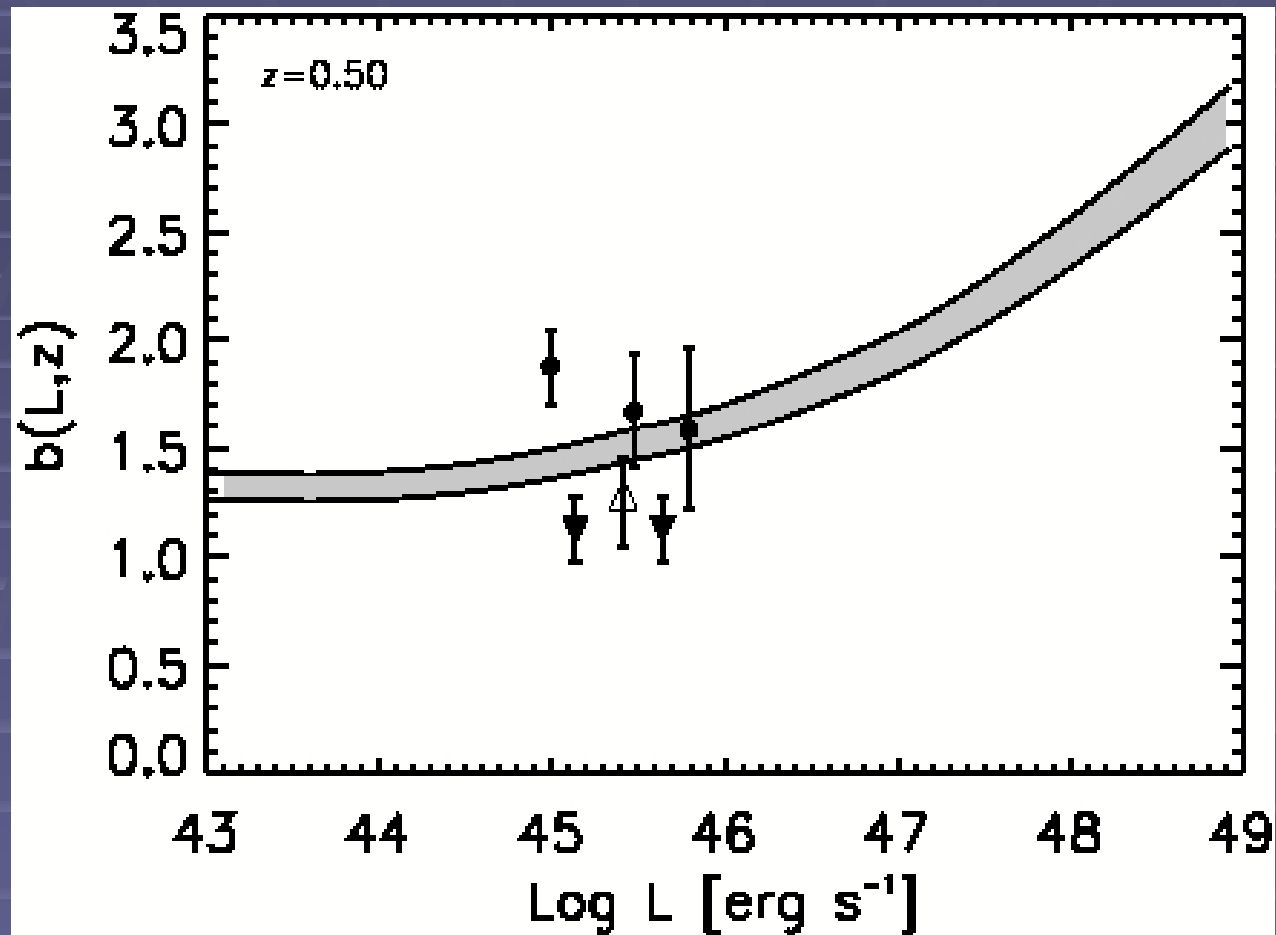
Comparison: luminosity function



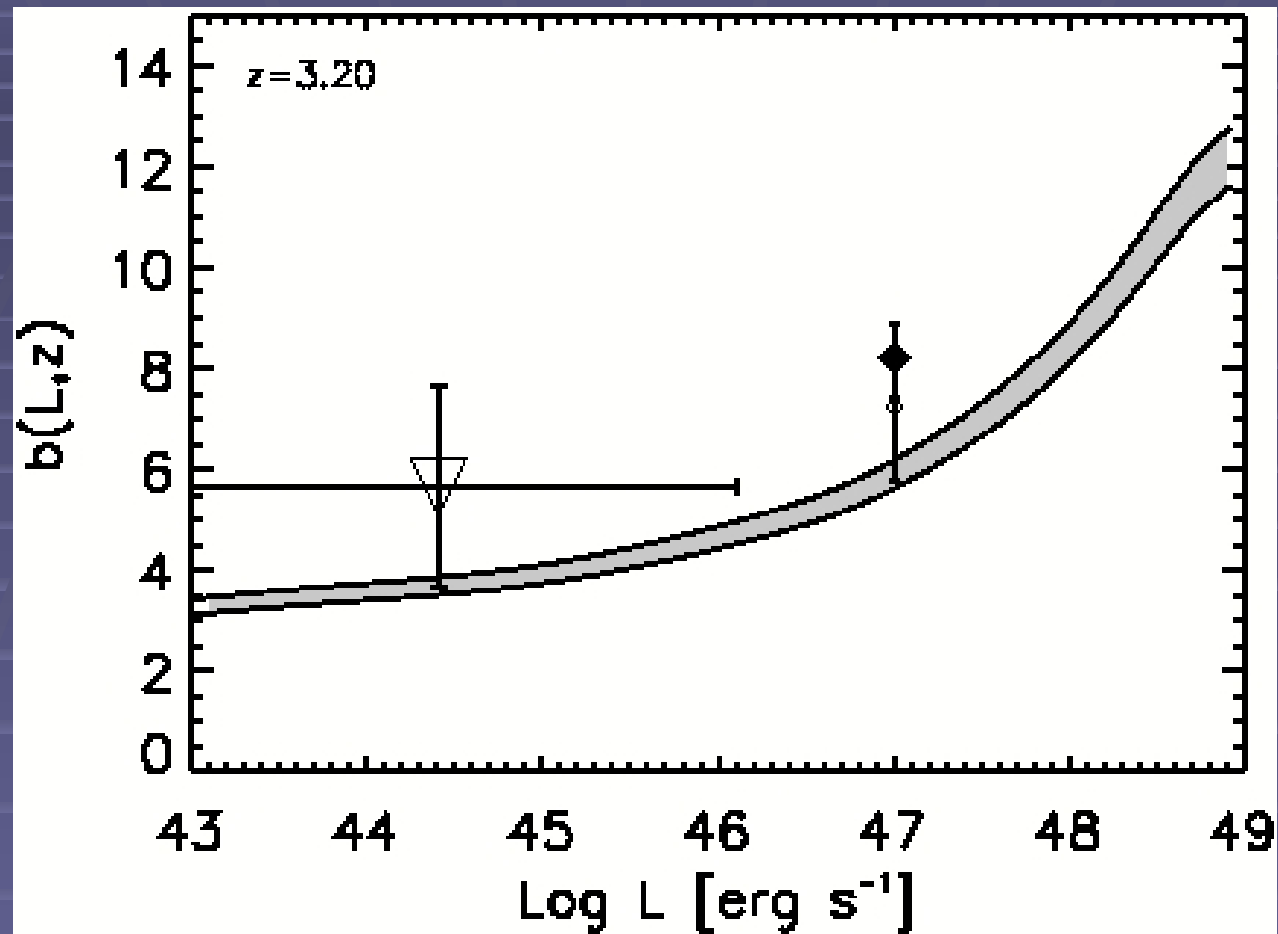
Boyle (2000) fit to data

Wyithe & Loeb (2003) model

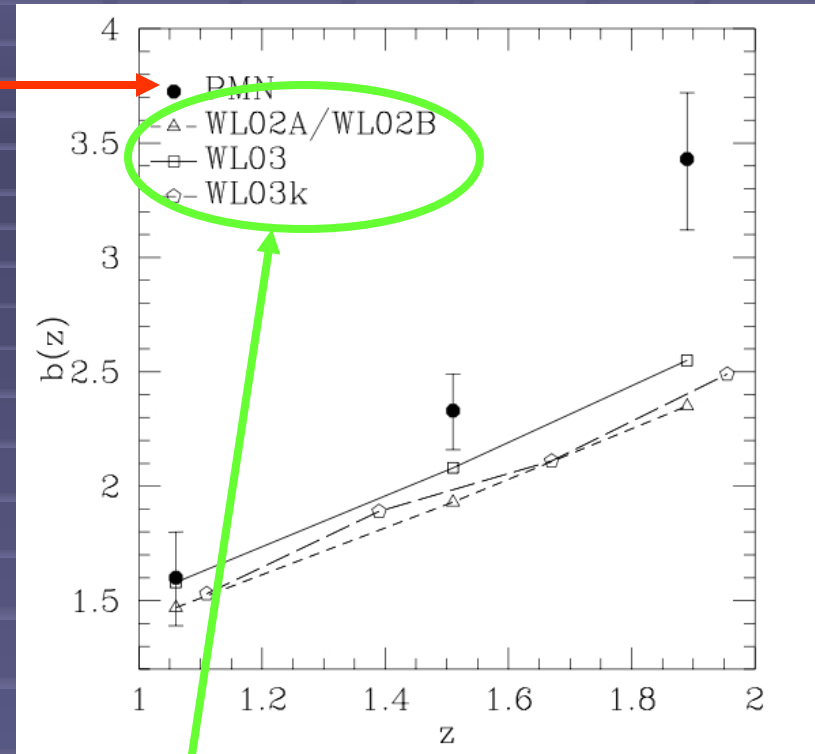
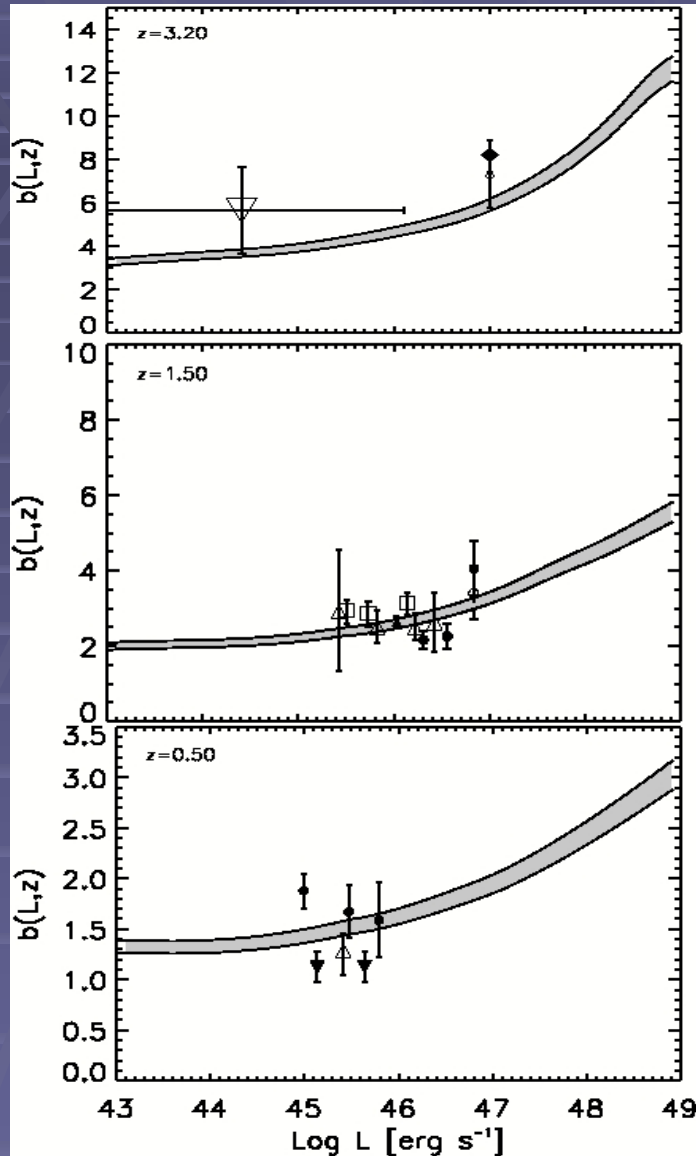
Quasar clustering



Quasar clustering



Comparison: bias

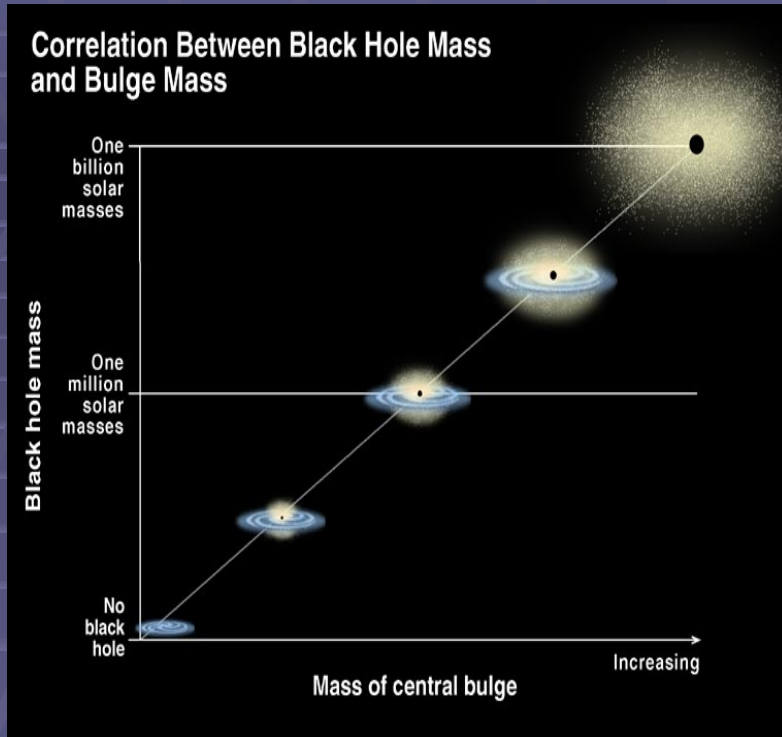


Credit: Marulli et al. (2006)

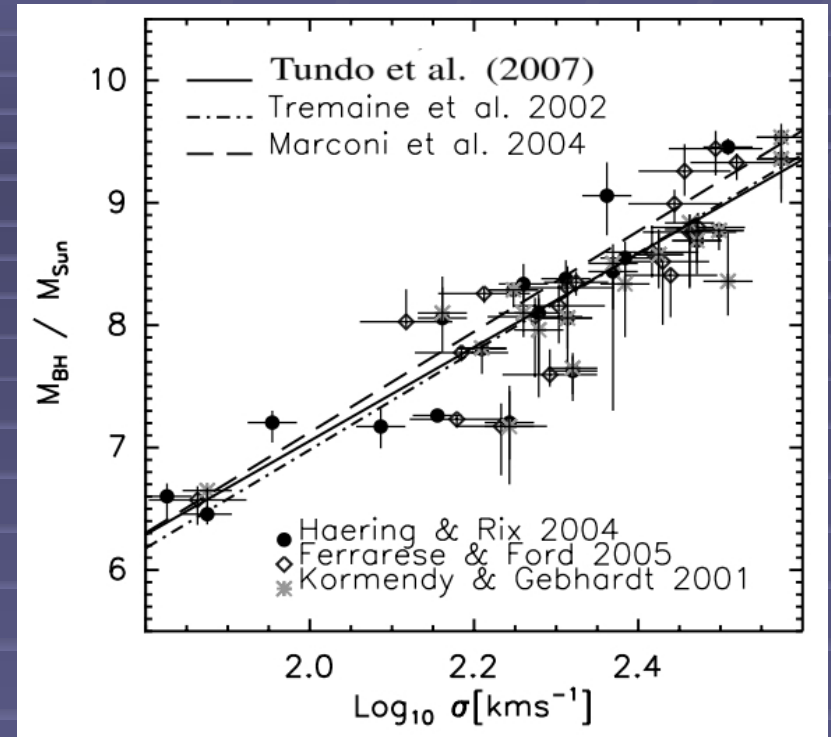
Previous models

Observations

V. Future research



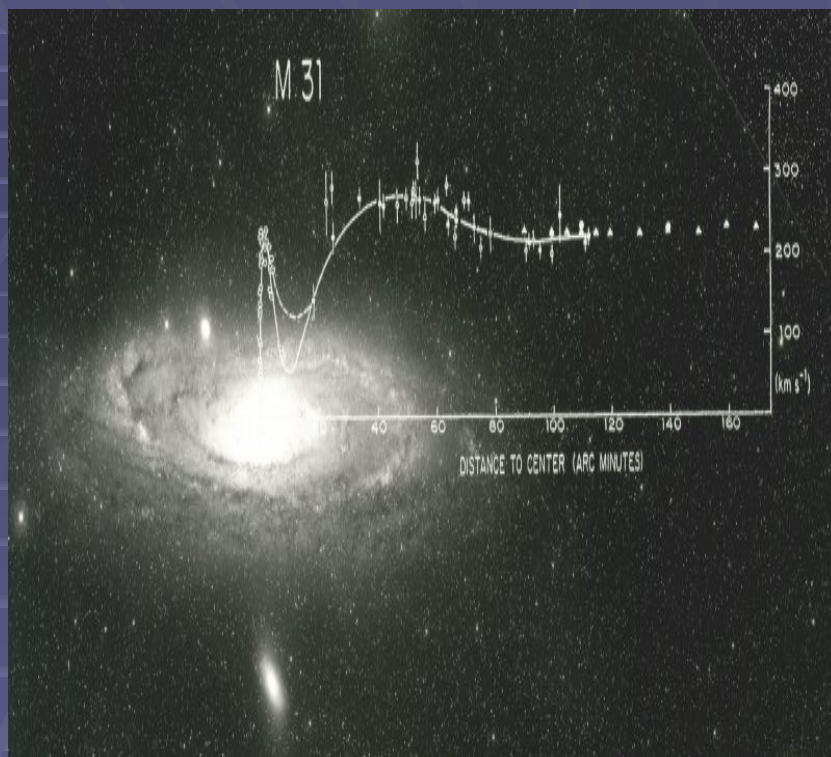
Credit: Yuri Beletski



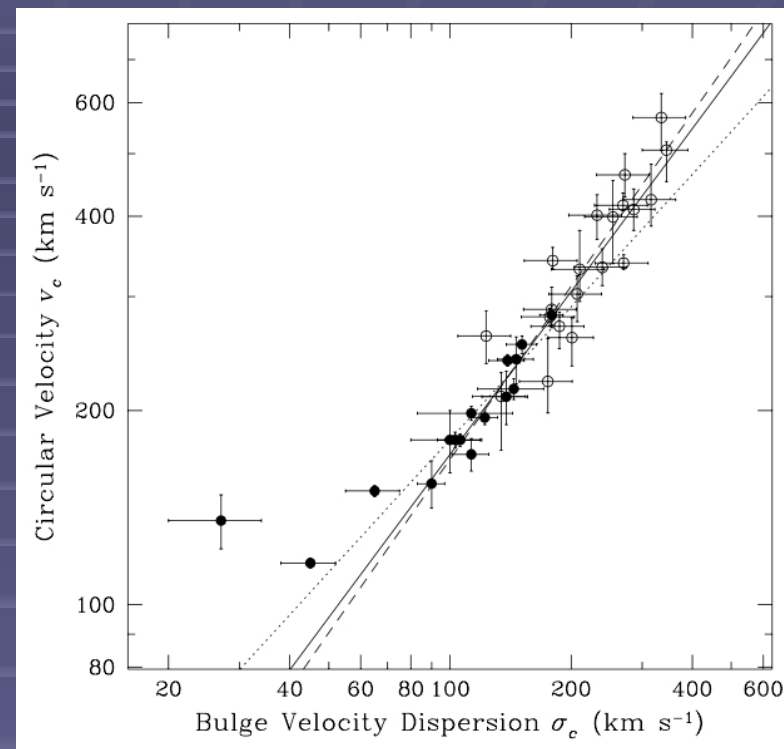
Credit: Elena Tundo

$$M_2 \leftrightarrow \sigma$$

More scaling relations!



Credit: Vera Rubin



Credit: Laura Ferrarese

$$\sigma \longleftrightarrow v_c$$

Black hole - Halo relation

$$M_2 \leftrightarrow M_{\text{halo}} \quad (\text{at the peak})$$

$$M_2 \leftrightarrow M_{\text{halo}} \quad (\text{at shutdown})$$

$$M_{\text{halo}} \leftrightarrow v_{\text{vir}}$$

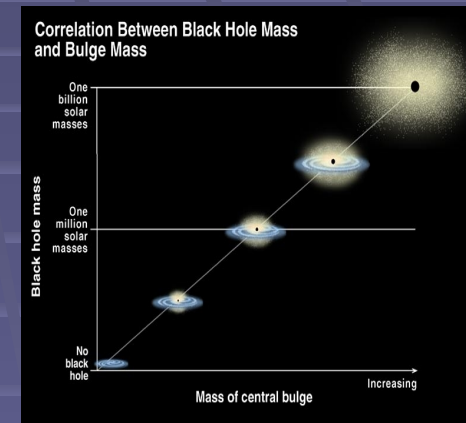
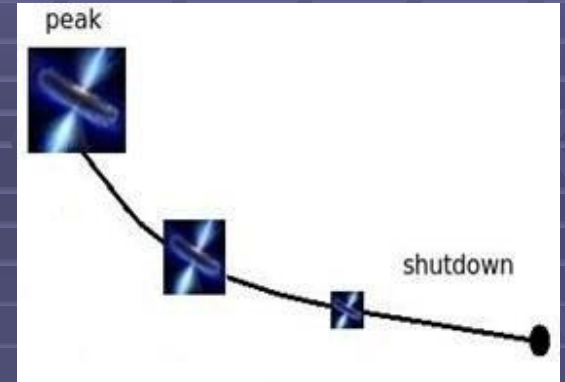
$$v_{\text{vir}} \leftrightarrow v_{\text{c}}$$

$$v_{\text{c}} \leftrightarrow \sigma$$

$$\sigma \leftrightarrow M_2$$

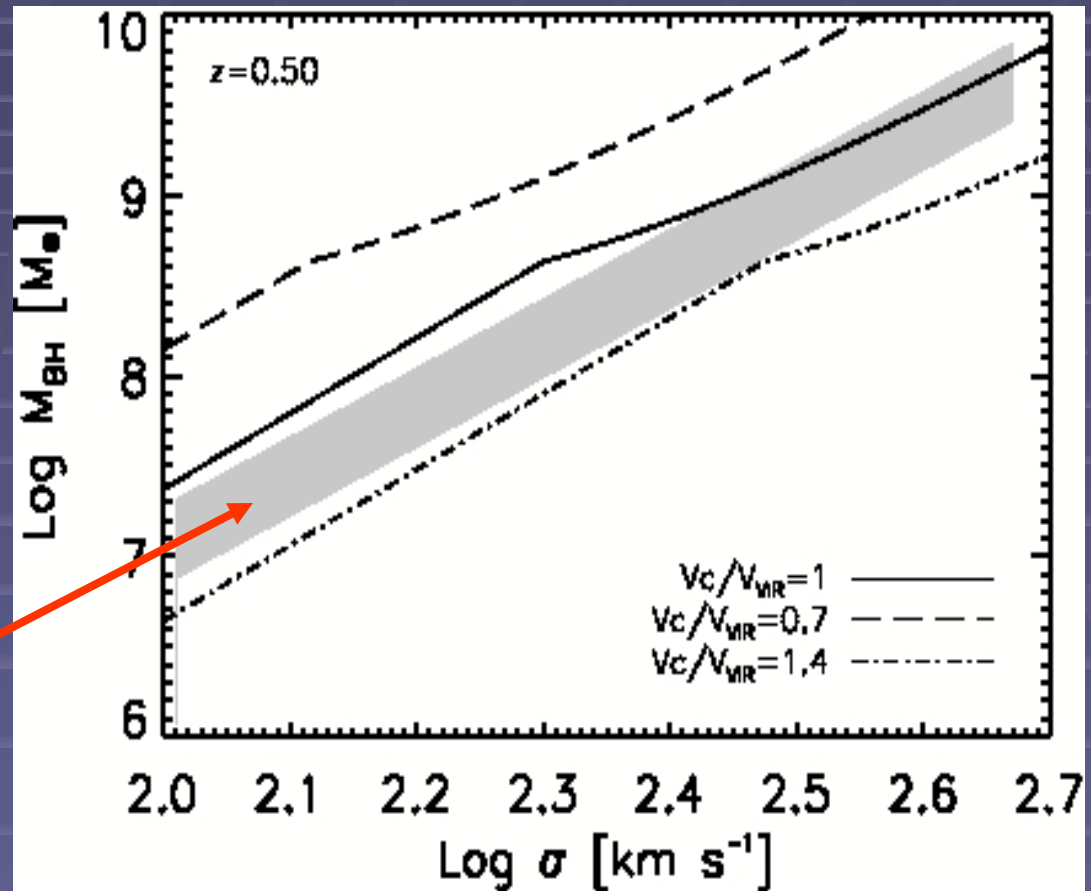
...or

$$M_2 \leftrightarrow \sigma$$



Preliminary results

Local
 $M_2 \leftrightarrow \sigma$



VI. Final remarks

- Model:
 - Halo major mergers $\rightarrow$ quasars!
 - Very simple model (6 parameters!)
- Observational constraints:
 - Luminosity function
 - Quasar bias
 - Local $M_2 \leftrightarrow \sigma$ (?)
- Paradigm shifts:
 - Merger rate: ellipsoidal collapse
 - Light curve peak: $M_2 \leftrightarrow M_{\text{halo}}$
 - Faster shutdown for massive haloes!!

Thank you!!

Any questions??