

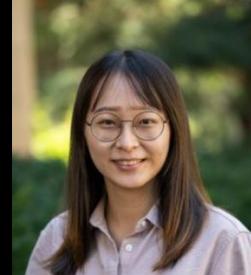
Cosmic Ray Feedback



Mateusz Ruszkowski

Sandy Chiu, Mingxuan Liu, Brandon Sike, Bill Chen, Oleg Gnedin

University of Michigan in Ann Arbor



Christoph Pfrommer, Timon Thomas, Matthias Weber

Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik Potsdam

Roark Habegger, Ellen Zweibel

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Maria Werhahn

Max Planck Institut für Astrophysik

Philipp Kempski

Princeton University

Julien Fuchs

École polytechnique

Outline

CR physics & astrophysical feedback: acceleration & transport

How do CRs shape SFR, star clusters, galactic outflows?

Impact of CRs on the CGM

Commercial break

Fundamental challenges facing CR transport models

Can we test CR models?

THE ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS REVIEW

F. Matteucci

J.N. Bregman · A. Coustenis · L. Feretti ·

M. Grande · B. Gustafsson · P.T.P. Ho ·

E. Komatsu · A. Quirrenbach

Editors



**SPRINGER
NATURE**

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00159-023-00149-2>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00159-023-00149-2>

Astron Astrophys Rev (2023) 31:4
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00159-023-00149-2>

REVIEW ARTICLE



Cosmic ray feedback in galaxies and galaxy clusters

A pedagogical introduction and a topical review of the acceleration, transport, observables, and dynamical impact of cosmic rays

Mateusz Ruszkowski^{1,3} · Christoph Pfrommer²

Received: 5 June 2023 / Accepted: 5 October 2023

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Abstract

Understanding the physical mechanisms that control galaxy formation is a fundamental challenge in contemporary astrophysics. Recent advances in the field of astrophysical feedback strongly suggest that cosmic rays (CRs) may be crucially important for our understanding of cosmological galaxy formation and evolution. The appealing features of CRs are their relatively long cooling times and relatively strong dynamical coupling to the gas. In galaxies, CRs can be close to equipartition with the thermal, magnetic, and turbulent energy density in the interstellar medium, and can be dynamically very important in driving large-scale galactic winds. Similarly, CRs may provide a significant contribution to the pressure in the circumgalactic medium. In galaxy clusters, CRs may play a key role in addressing the classic cooling flow problem by facilitating efficient heating of the intracluster medium and preventing excessive star formation. Overall, the underlying physics of CR interactions with plasmas exhibit broad parallels across the entire range of scales characteristic of the interstellar, circumgalactic, and intracluster media. Here we present a review of the state-of-the-art of this field and provide a pedagogical introduction to cosmic ray plasma physics, including the physics of wave-particle interactions, acceleration processes, CR spatial and spectral transport, and important cooling processes. The field is ripe for discovery and will

M. Ruszkowski, C. Pfrommer have shared first authorship with the authors contributing equally to this work

✉ Mateusz Ruszkowski
mateusrz@umich.edu

✉ Christoph Pfrommer
cpfrommer@aip.de

¹ Department of Astronomy, University of Michigan, 1085 S. University Ave., 323 West Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1107, USA

² Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP), An der Sternwarte 16, 14482 Potsdam, Germany

³ Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 1, 85748 Garching, Germany

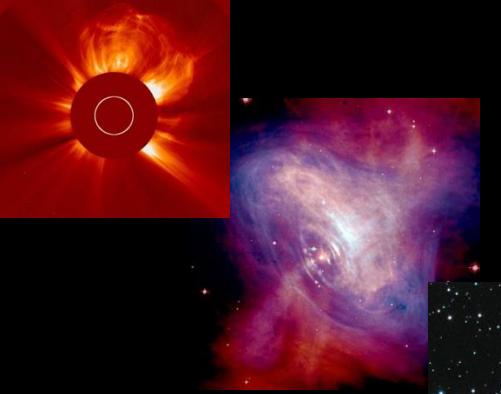
Published online: 05 December 2023



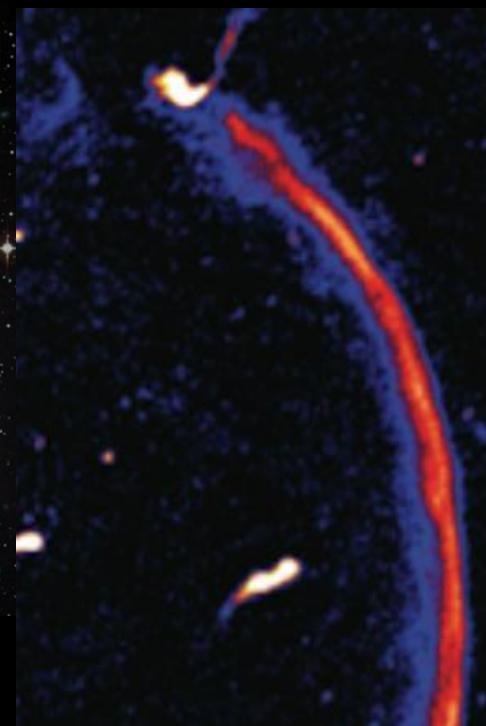
Ruszkowski & Pfrommer 2023

(237 pages ...)

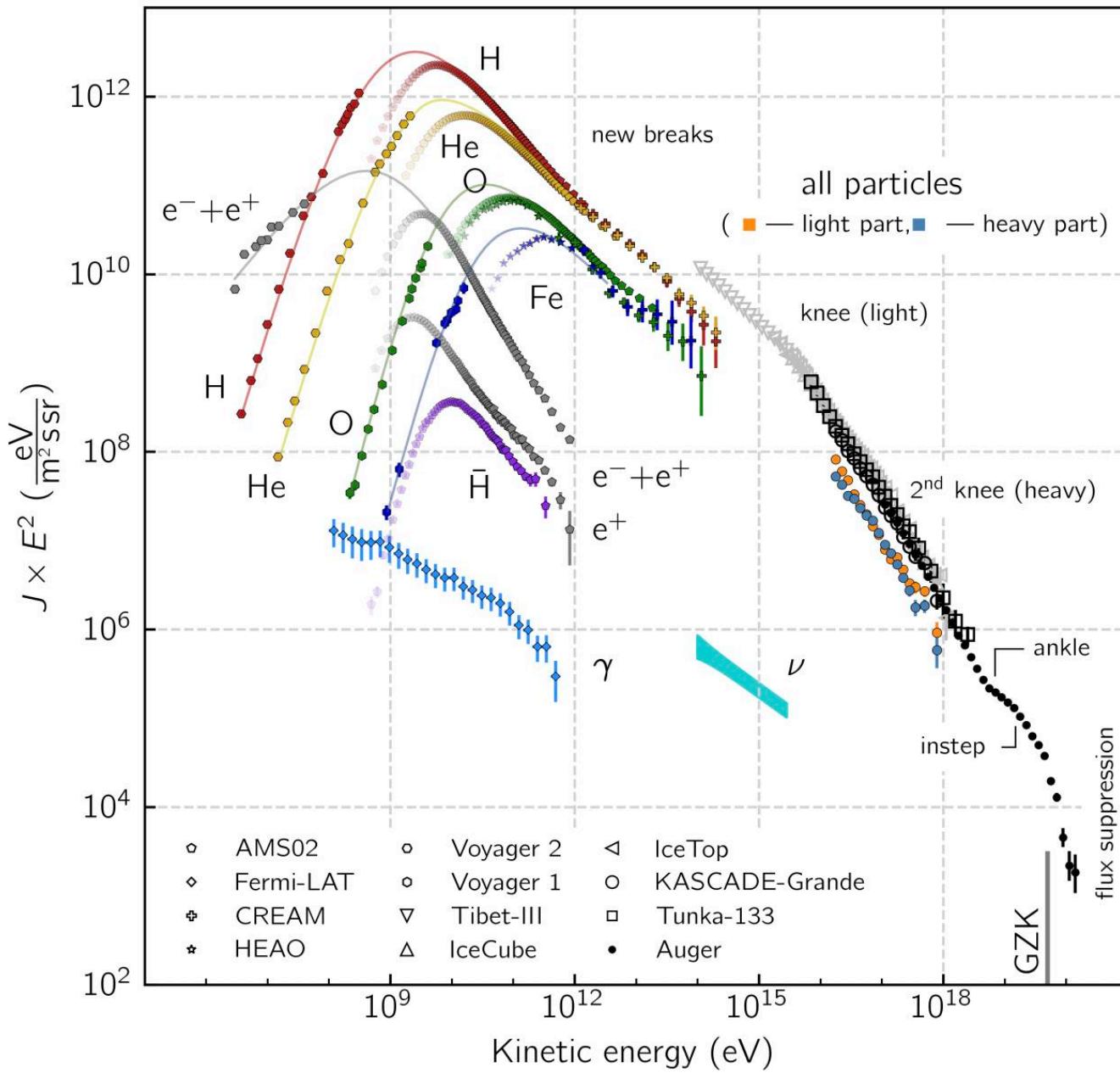
Answers to
everything you
always wanted to
know about
cosmic rays but
were afraid to
ask...



CRs are everywhere!



dynamical range of physical scales > a million



Ruszkowski & Pfrommer (2023); original figure from Lenok (2022); extended to include $e^+ - e^-$ data from Voyager 2 (Stone et al. 2019)

Fundamental reasons why CRs are important for feedback:

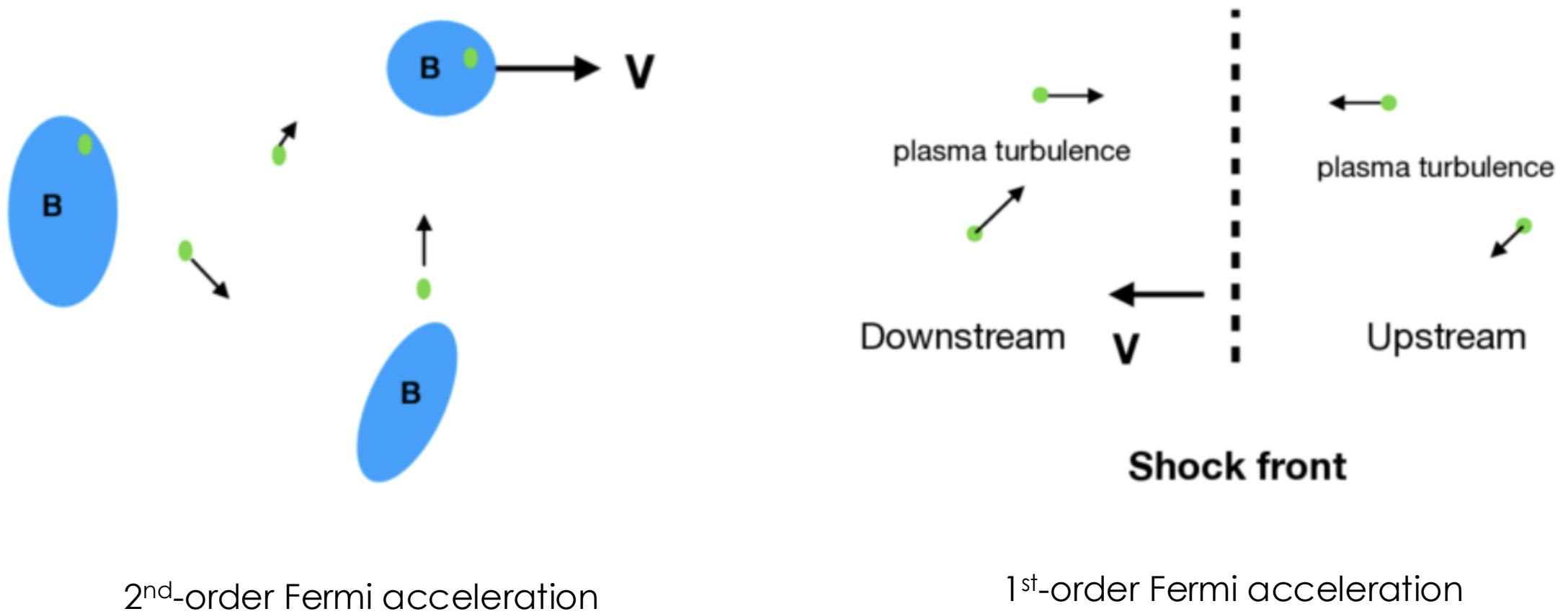
$e_{\text{cr}} \sim e_{\text{th}} \sim e_{\text{turb}} \sim e_B \sim 1 \text{ eVcm}^{-3}$

slow cooling

heating/ionization

good coupling to thermal plasma

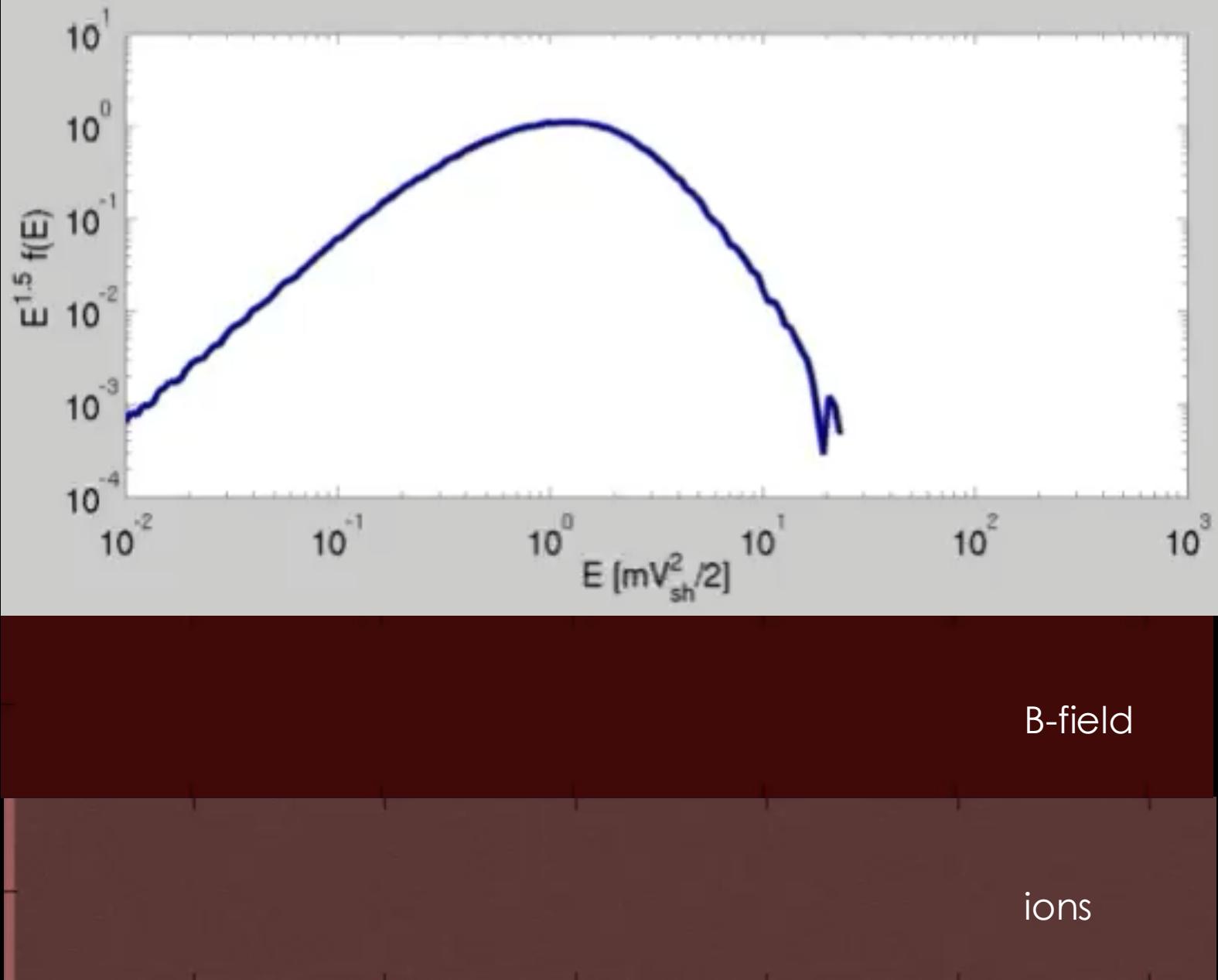
What mechanisms produce CRs?





Hybrid-PIC DSA simulations
of CR acceleration in SNRs

Caprioli & Spitkovsky (2014)

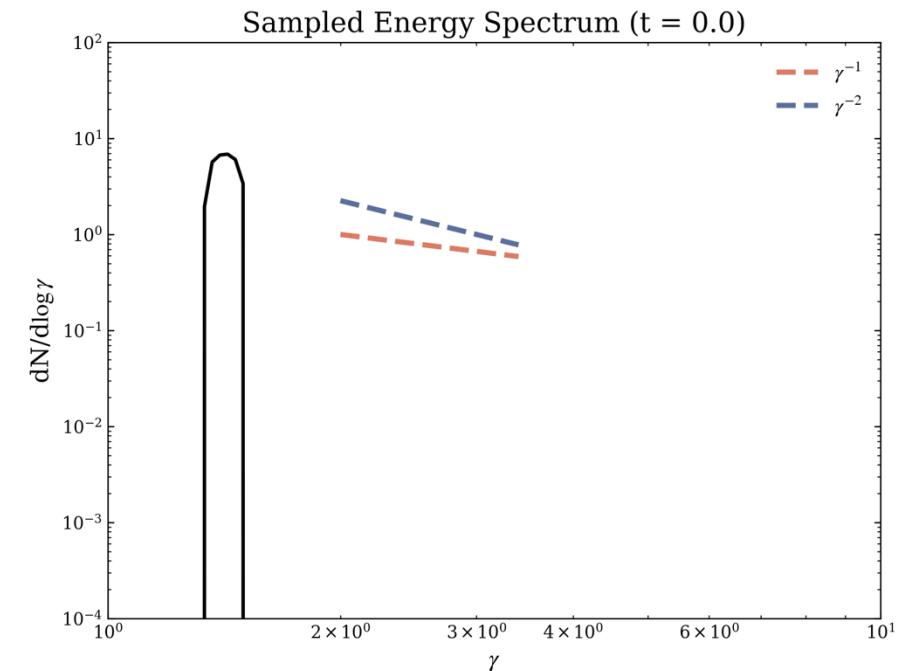
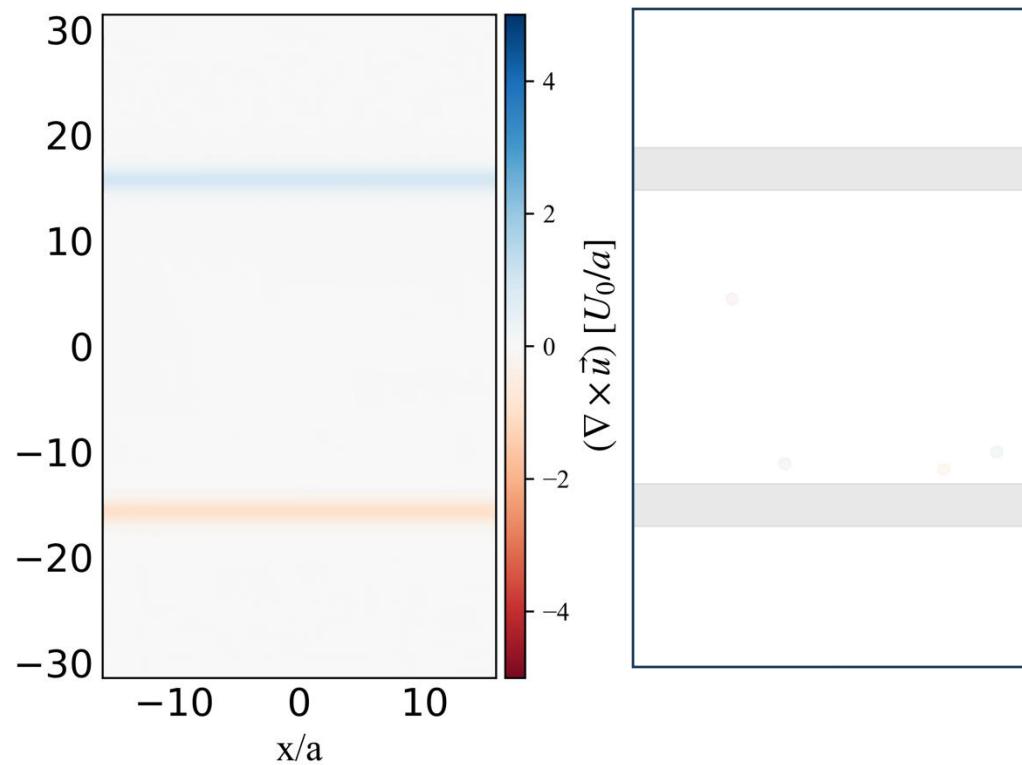
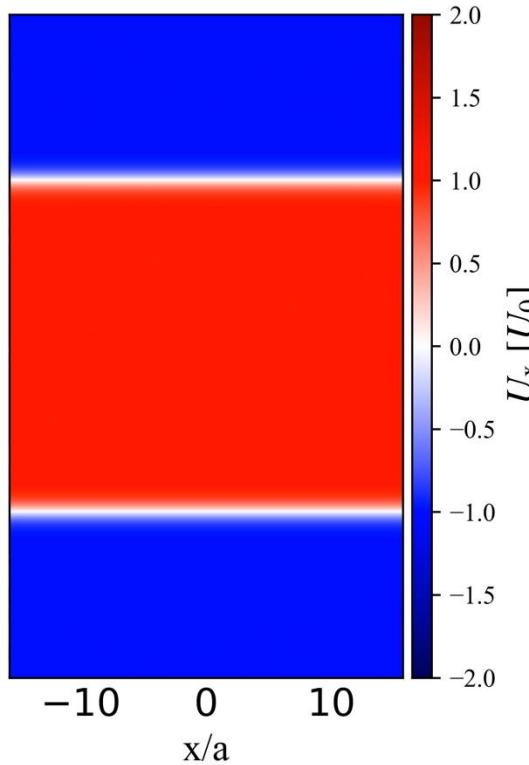


B-field

ions

CR acceleration efficiency $\sim 10\%$

CR turbulent shear layer acceleration





Milky Way-like galaxy

gyroradius of a GeV CR

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

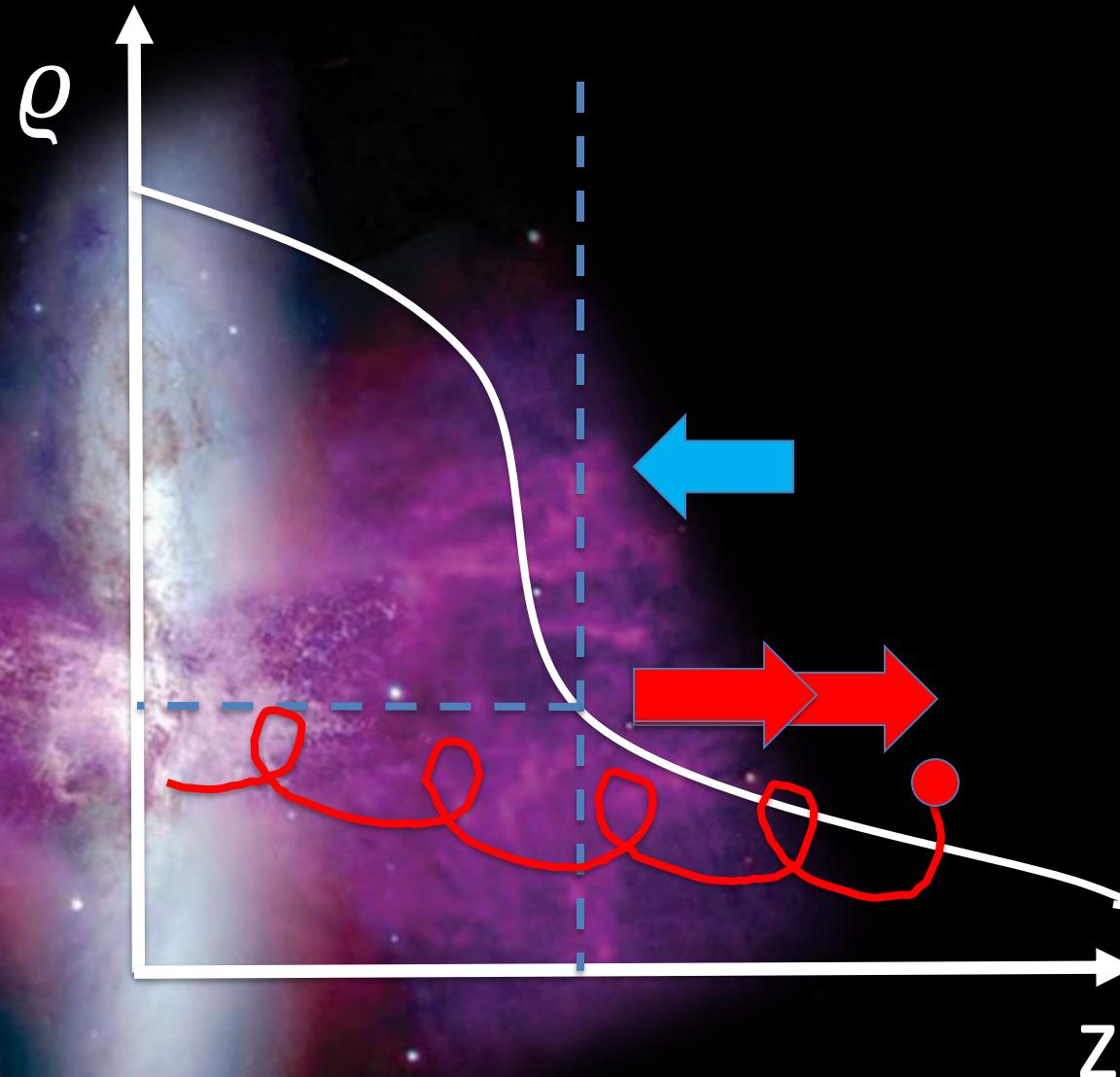
$$r_{\text{cr}} = \frac{p_{\perp}}{eB} \sim 10^{-6} \text{ pc} \sim O(\text{AU})$$

In order to handle this large dynamical range, we need a fluid theory for a collisionless nonthermal component.

Zweibel (2017), Jiang & Oh (2018), Thomas & Pfrommer (2019)

wind launching by CRs

English, Stein, Miskolczi (CHANG-ES collaboration)



$g_* + \text{DM}$

$$a_{\text{CR}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla P_{\text{CR}} > g_*$$

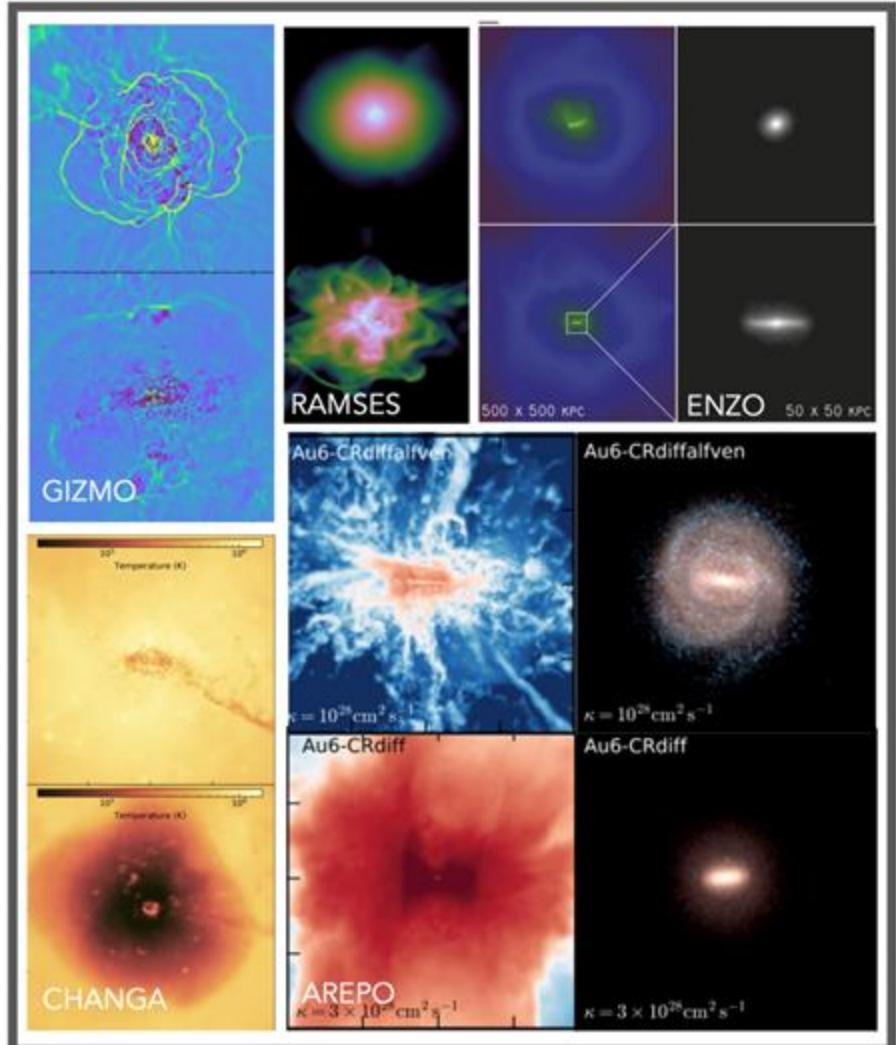
Eddington limit for CRs

$$\frac{L_{\text{Edd,cr}}}{4\pi r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\kappa}{\gamma_{\text{cr}} - 1} \nabla P_{\text{cr}} = -\frac{\kappa}{\gamma_{\text{cr}} - 1} \rho \mathbf{g}$$

$$L_{\text{Edd,cr}} = \frac{4\pi GM\kappa\rho}{\gamma_{\text{cr}} - 1}$$

$$L_{\text{Edd,cr}}/L_{\text{Edd},\gamma} \sim \lambda_{\text{mfp,cr}}/\lambda_{\text{mfp},\gamma} \ll 1$$

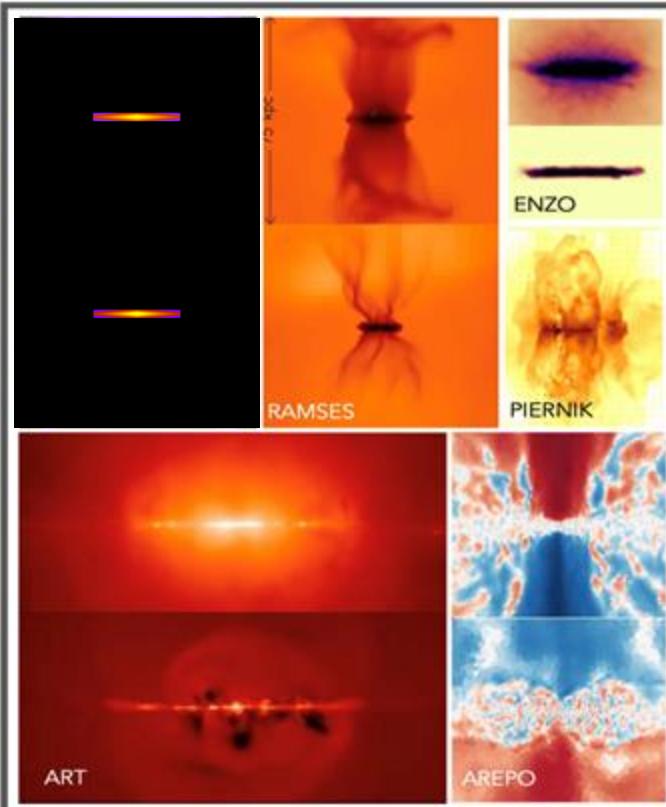
COSMO



Ji et al. (2021); Liang et al. (2016); Salem et al. (2016);
Butsky et al. (2020); Buck et al. (2020)

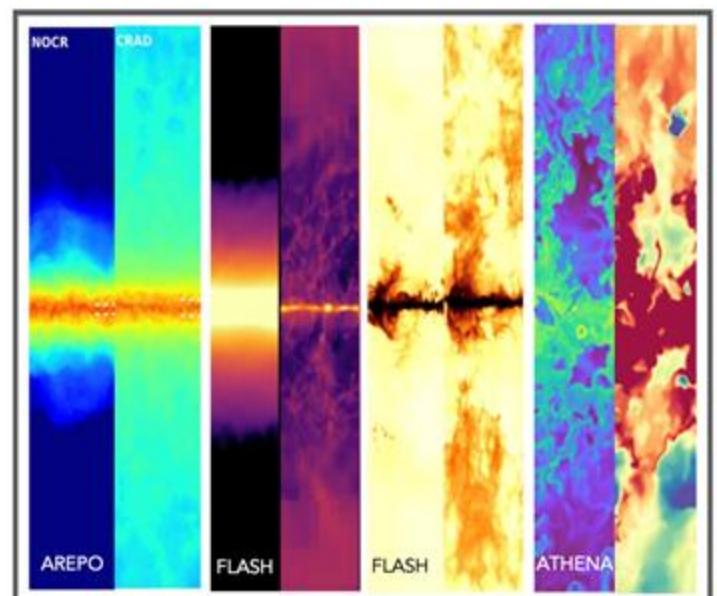
Ruszkowski et al. (2017b); Booth et al. (2013);
Butsky and Quinn (2018); Hanasz et al. (2013);
Semenov et al. (2021); Pakmor et al. (2016b)

GLOBAL



Simpson et al. (2016); Farber et al. (2018);
Girichidis et al. (2018); Armillotta et al. (2021)

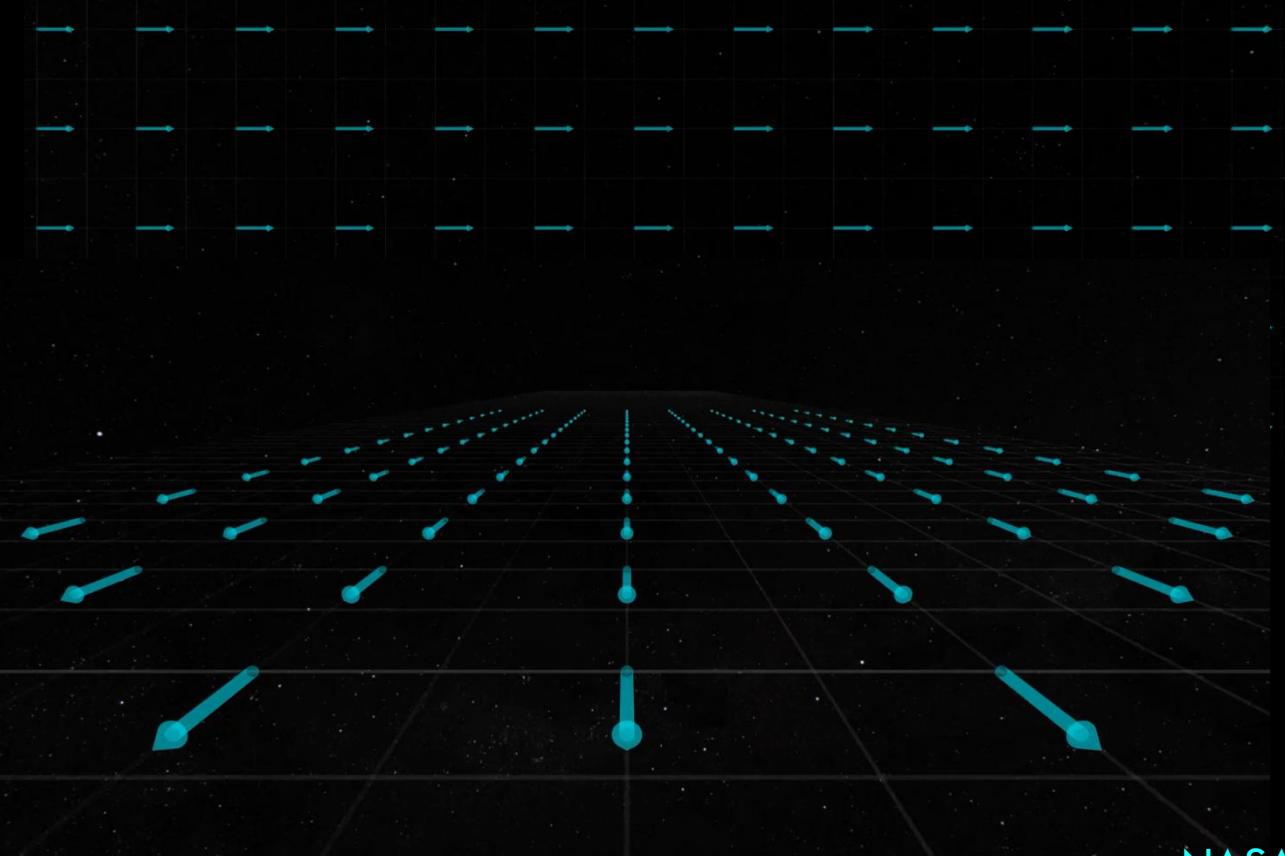
ZOOM



wavelength \sim Larmor radius: resonance

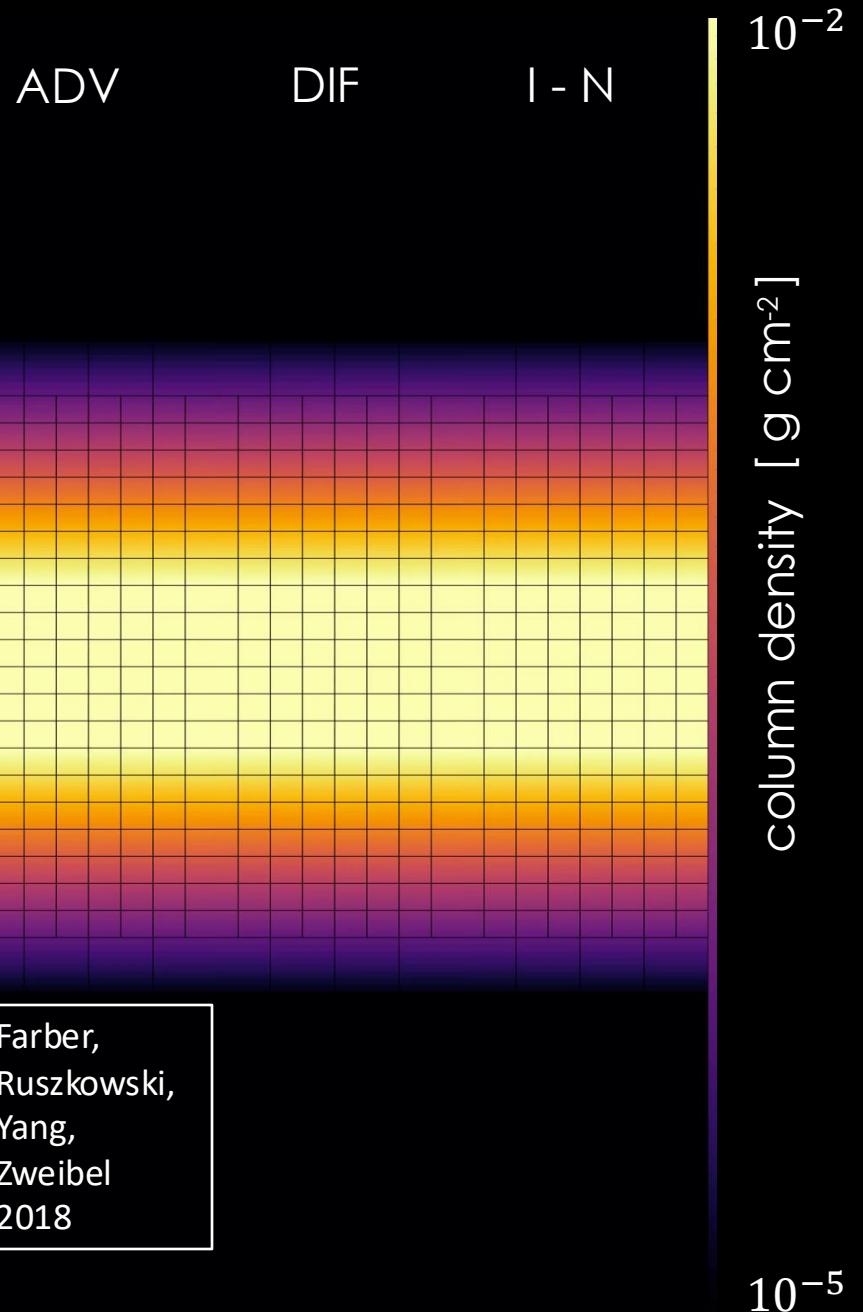
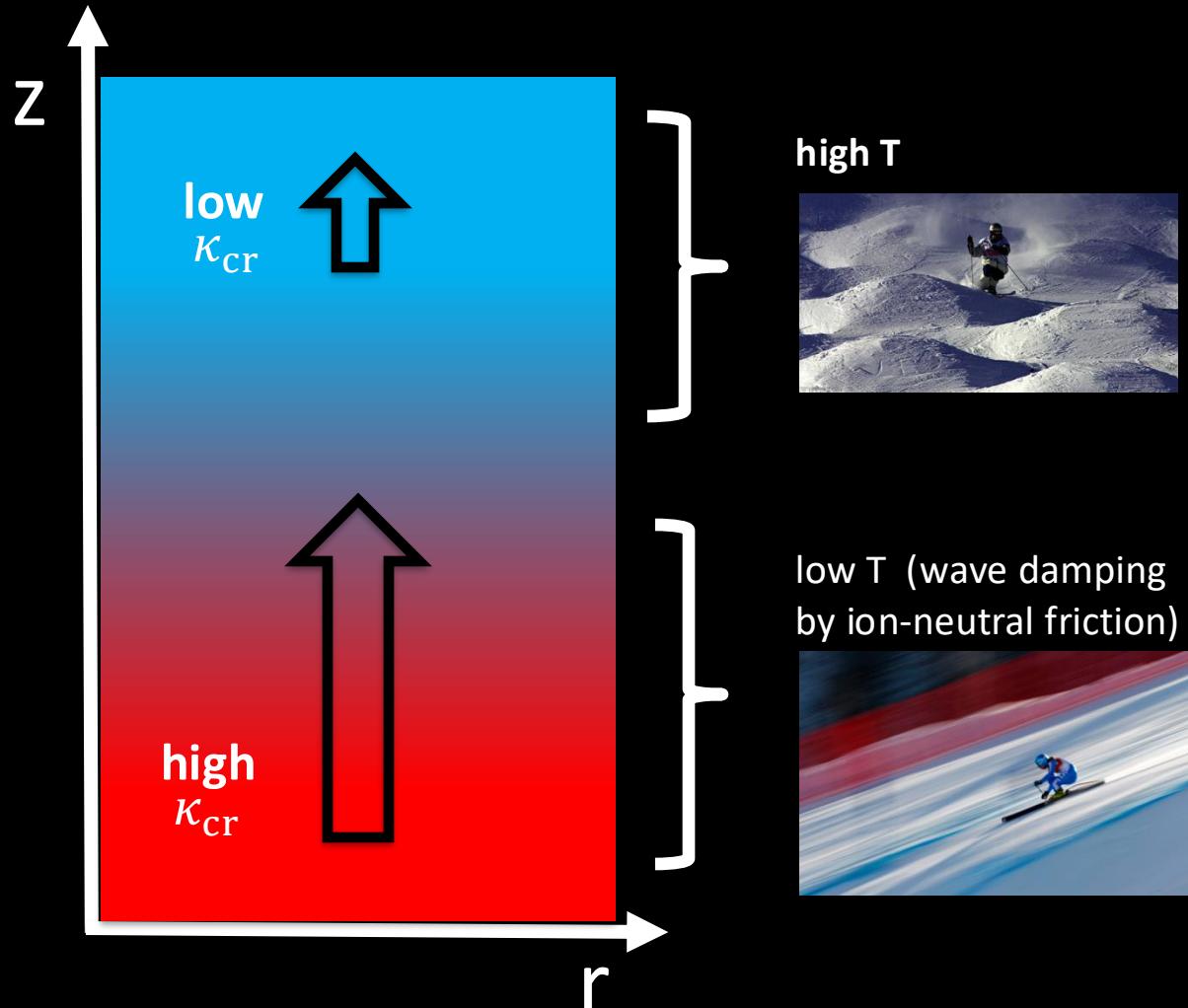
$$\mathbf{F}_L = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Lorentz force: no change in particle energy in the wave frame



Fast CR transport in low T ISM

[Spatial dependence of CR transport]



ISM

Chemistry

- Full H – H₂ – He chemistry
sets ionization degree
- First ionization stages of C – O – Si
low temperature cooling
- Photoelectric heating by dust



Feedback

- Improved SNe treatment (manifestly isotropic) and stellar winds
- FUV NUV OPT radiation fields (reverse ray tracing)
absorbed by dust — impacting Chemistry
- Metal enrichment

CR

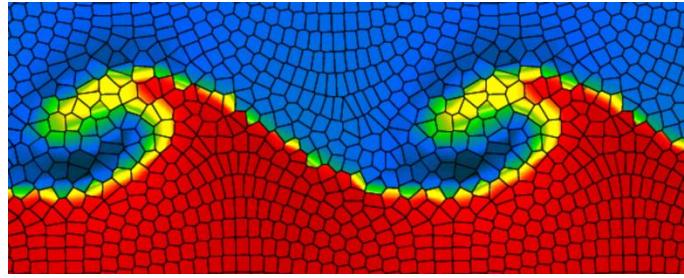
- Novel CR hydrodynamics
coarse graining plasma physics
- CR ionization
impacting Chemistry
- CR microphysics

CRISP framework

Cosmic Rays and InterStellar Physics

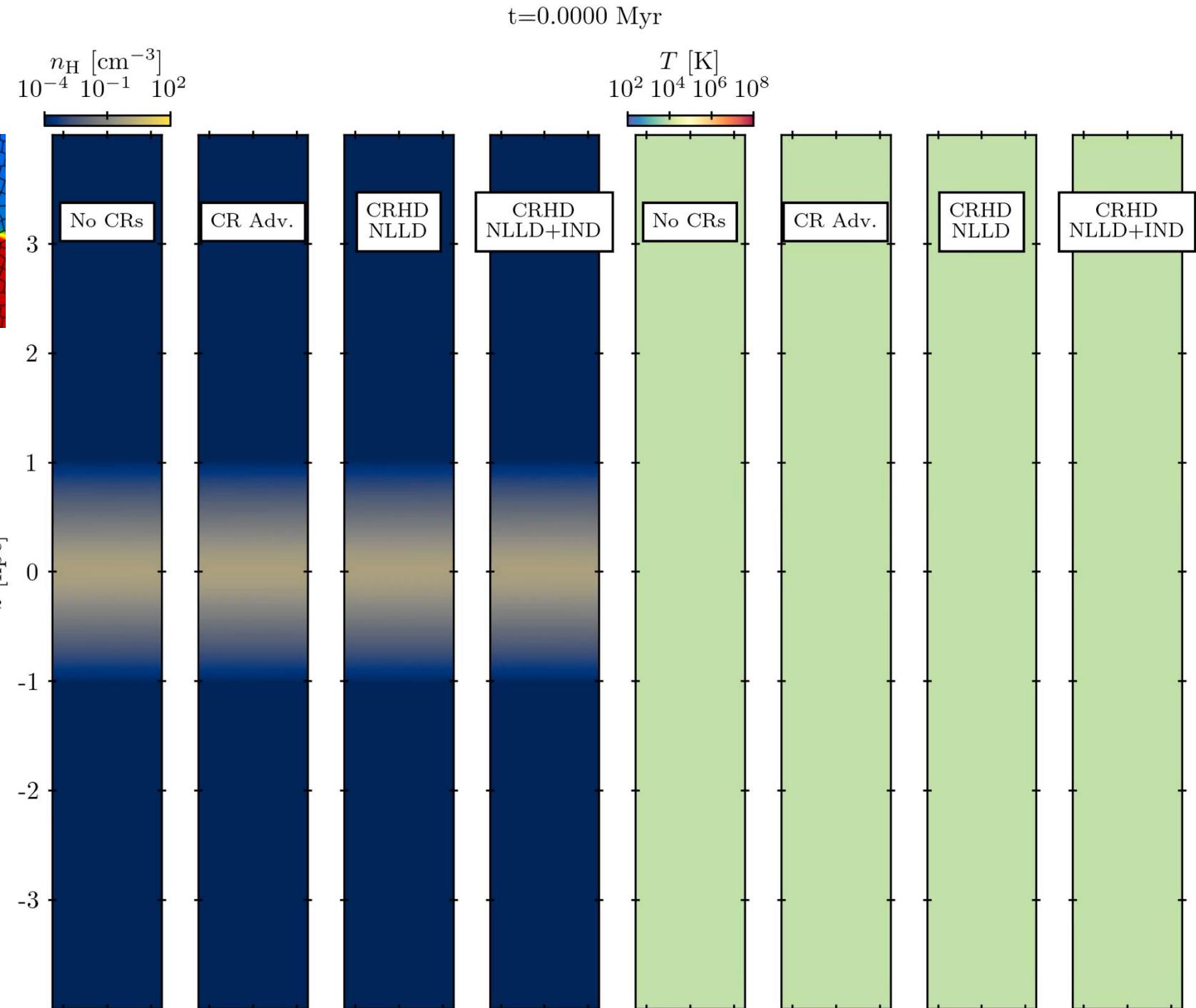
Thomas, Pfrommer, Pakmor (2024)

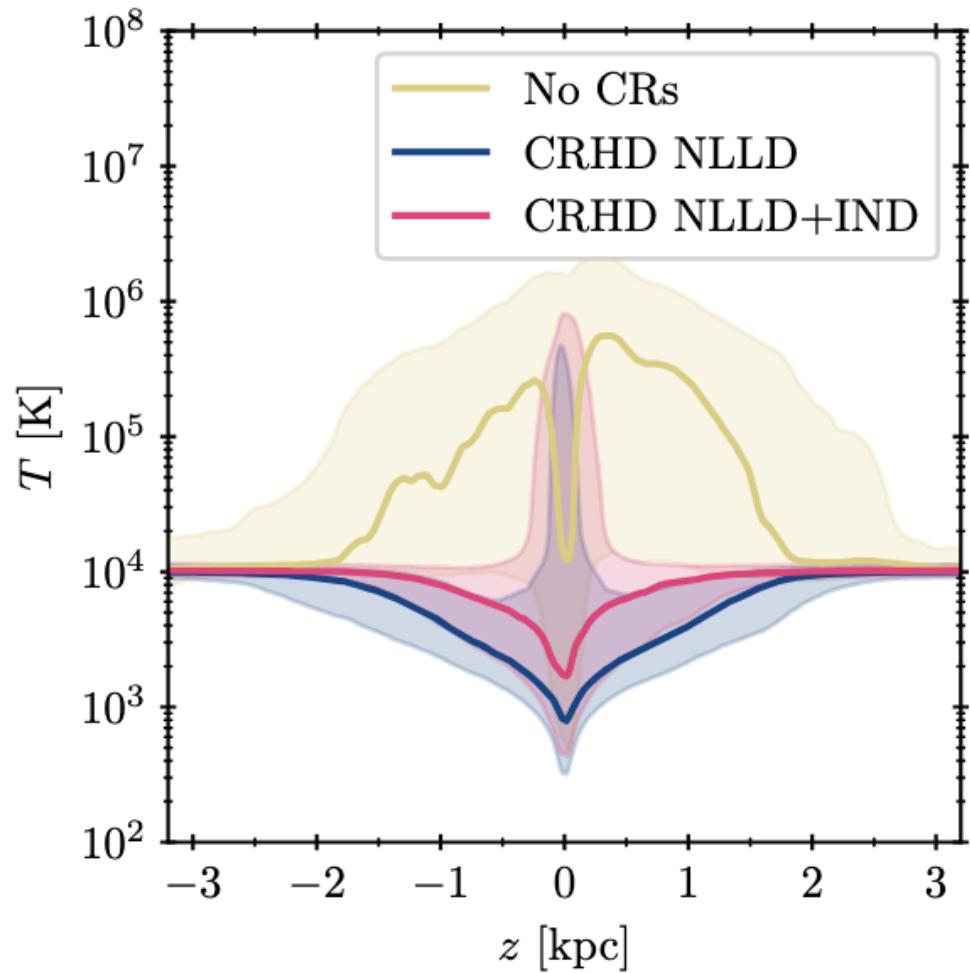
Arepo code



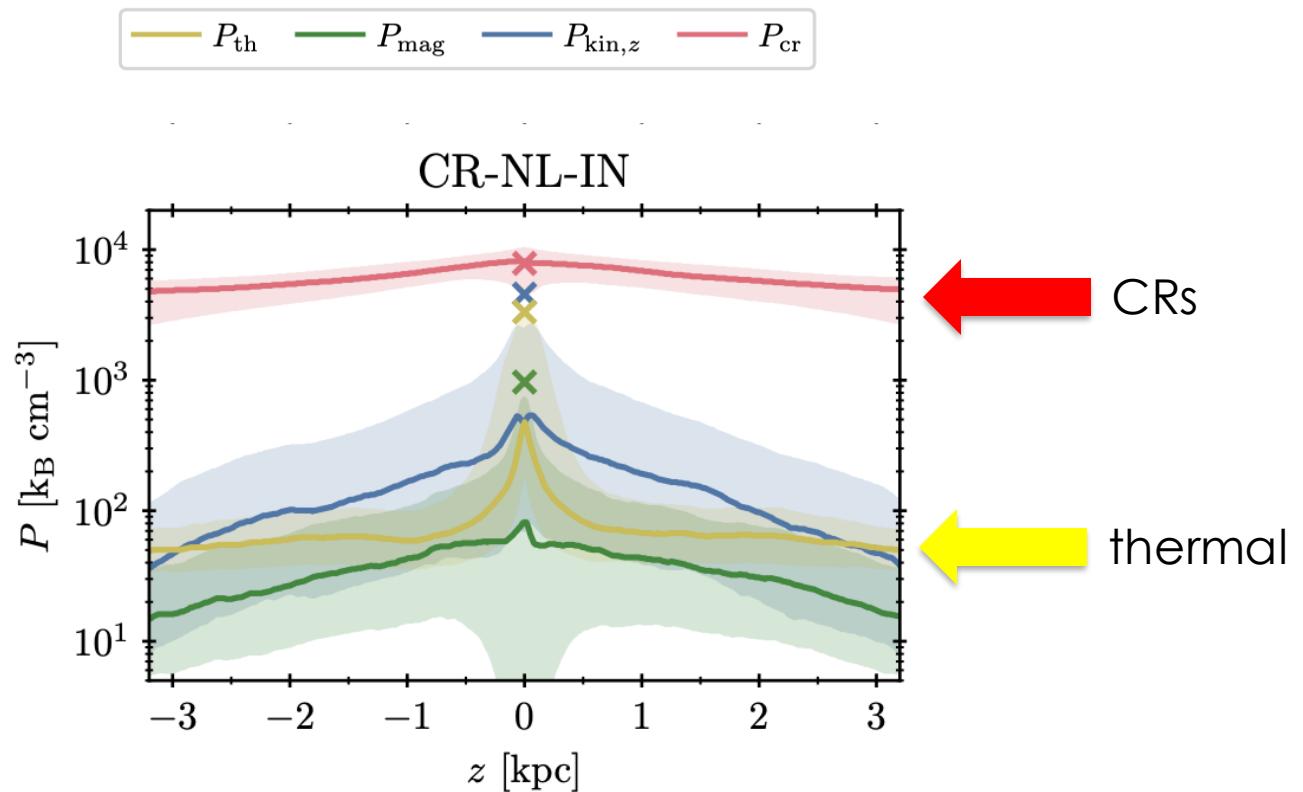
Sike, Thomas, Ruszkowski,
Pfrommer, Weber (2025a)

multiple SNe
superbubbles
~1pc resolution

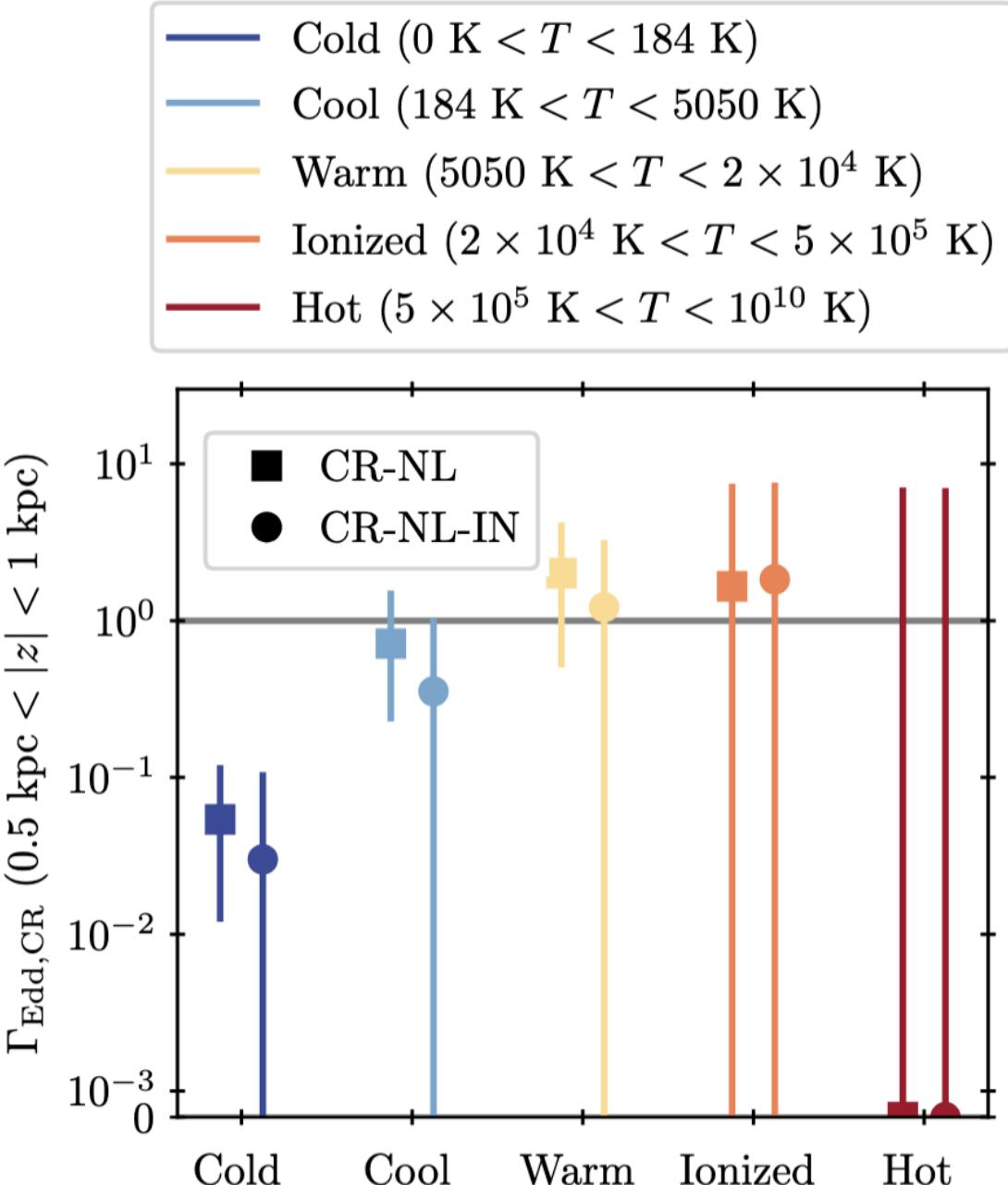




CR winds are colder / multiphase / supersonic



CR winds are **CR-pressure-dominated**



CR Eddington factors:

$$\Gamma_{\text{Edd,CR}} \equiv -\frac{\mathbf{a}_{\text{CR},z}}{\mathbf{a}_{\text{grav}}}, \quad \mathbf{a}_{\text{CR},z} = \frac{\nabla P_{\text{CR}} \cdot \mathbf{e}_z}{\rho}$$

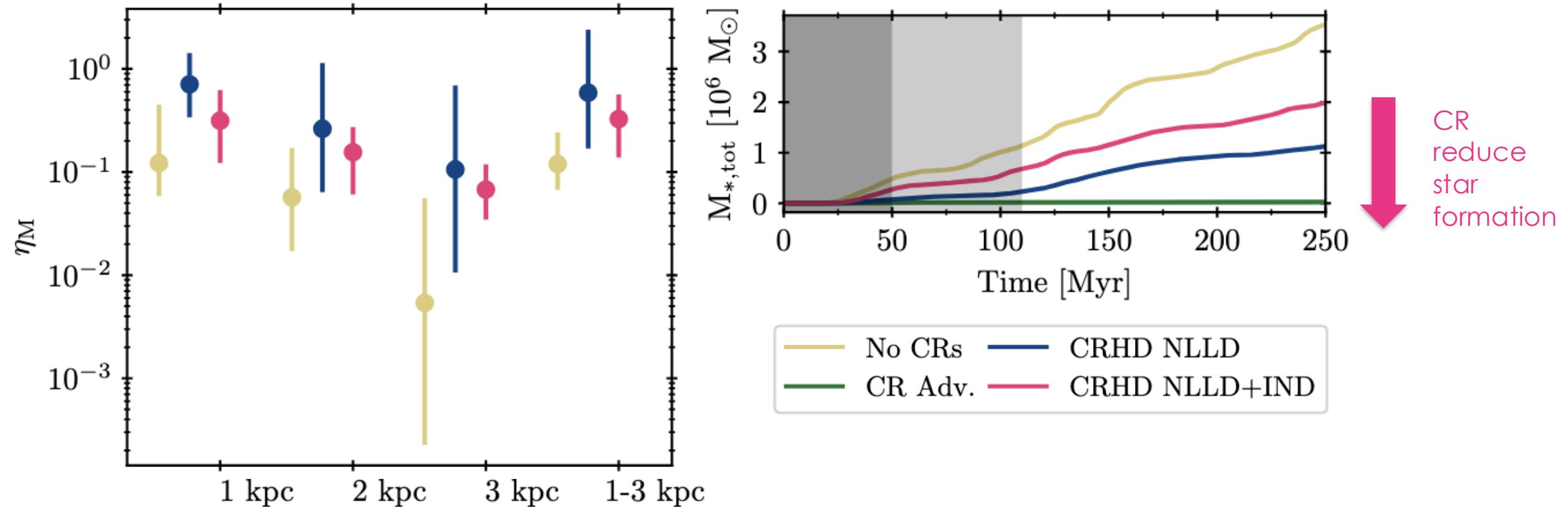
CRs drive winds despite decoupling from the cold ISM due to IN damping

CRs accelerate warm & ionized phase

CRs do not accelerate hot phase

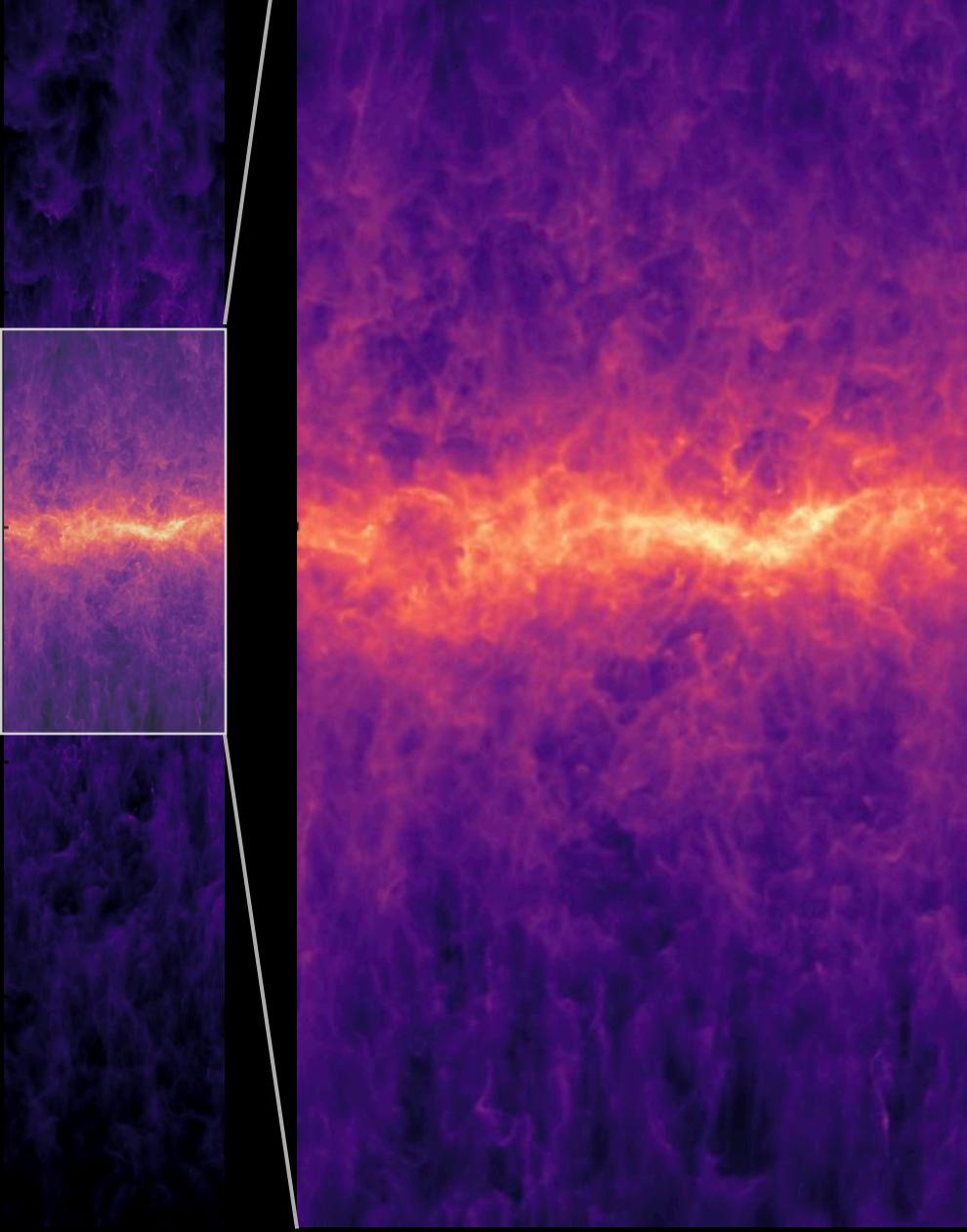
Sike, Thomas, Ruszkowski, Pfrommer, Weber (2025a)

CRs have a strong impact on SFR



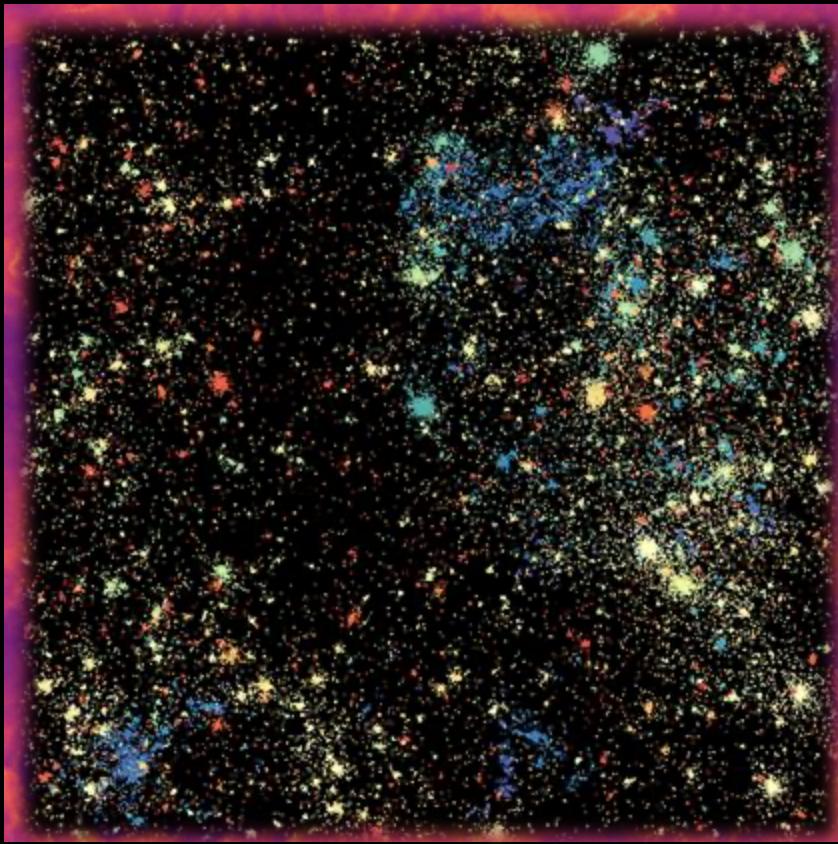
CR-driven mass loading ~4x larger
than in the MHD case

Sike, Thomas, Ruszkowski, Pfrommer, Weber (2025a)



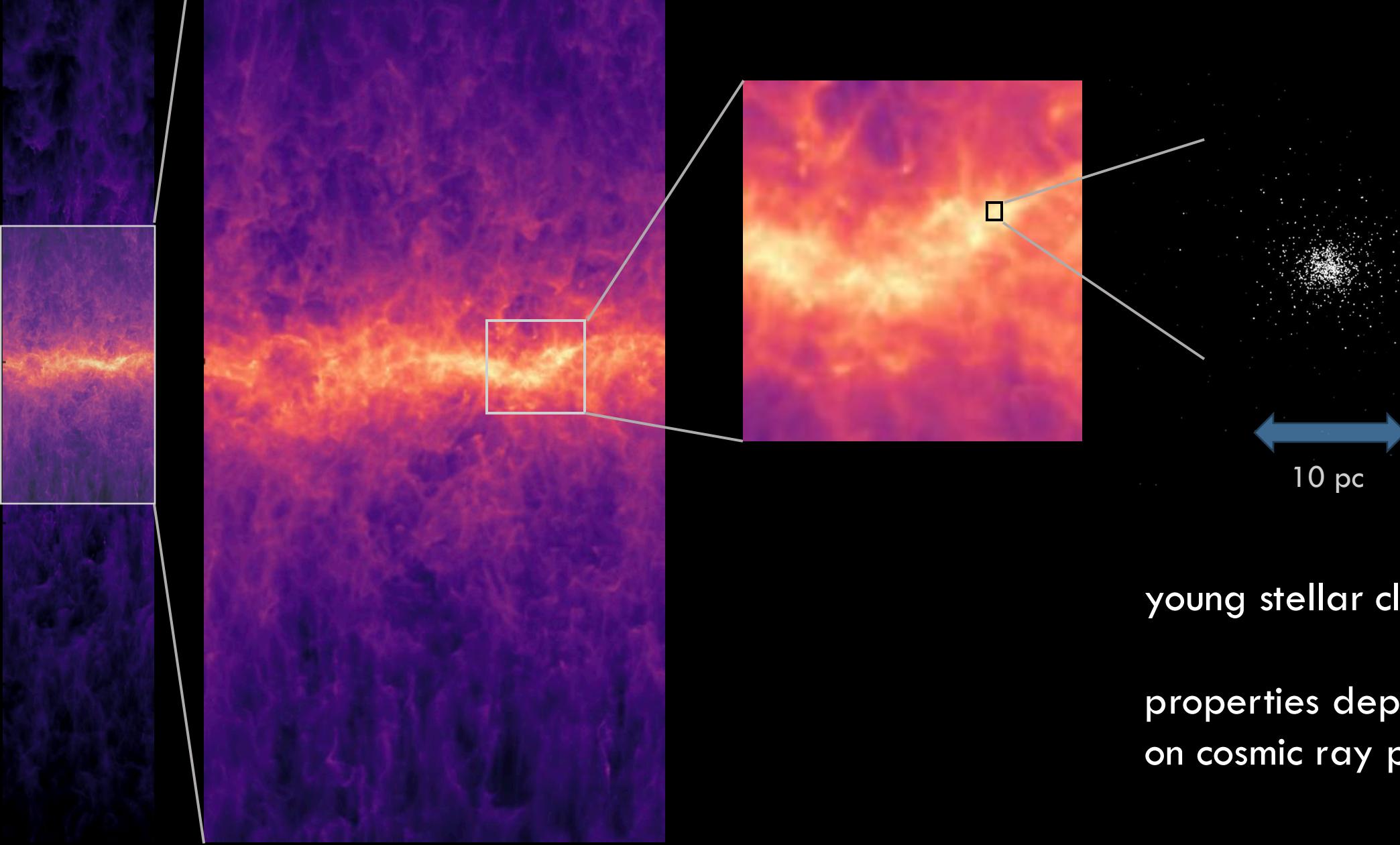
1 kpc

face-on



1 kpc

Sike, Ruszkowski, Gnedin, Chen, Thomas, Pfrommer (2025b, in prep.)



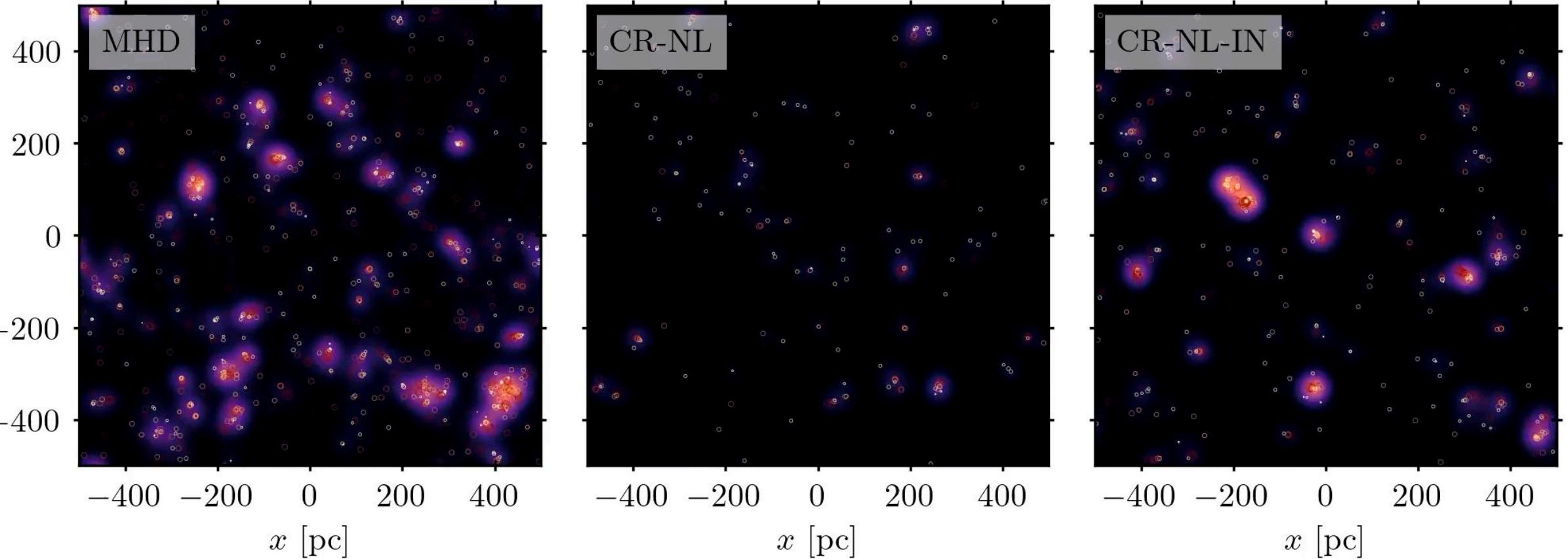
young stellar clusters !!!

properties dependent
on cosmic ray physics

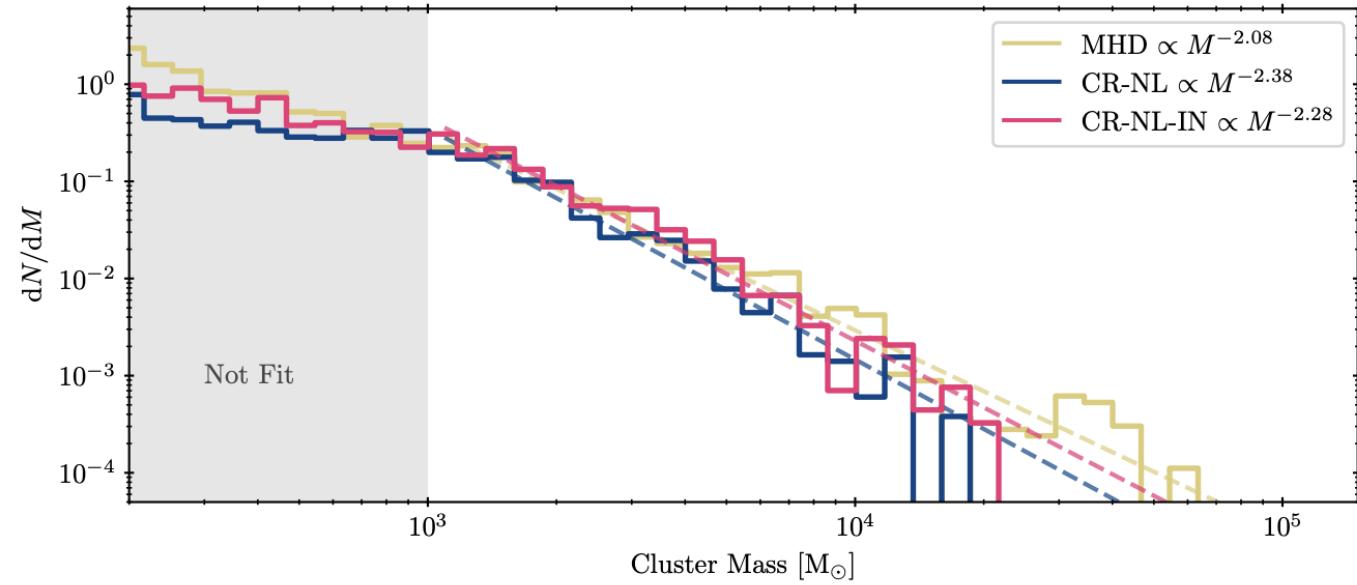
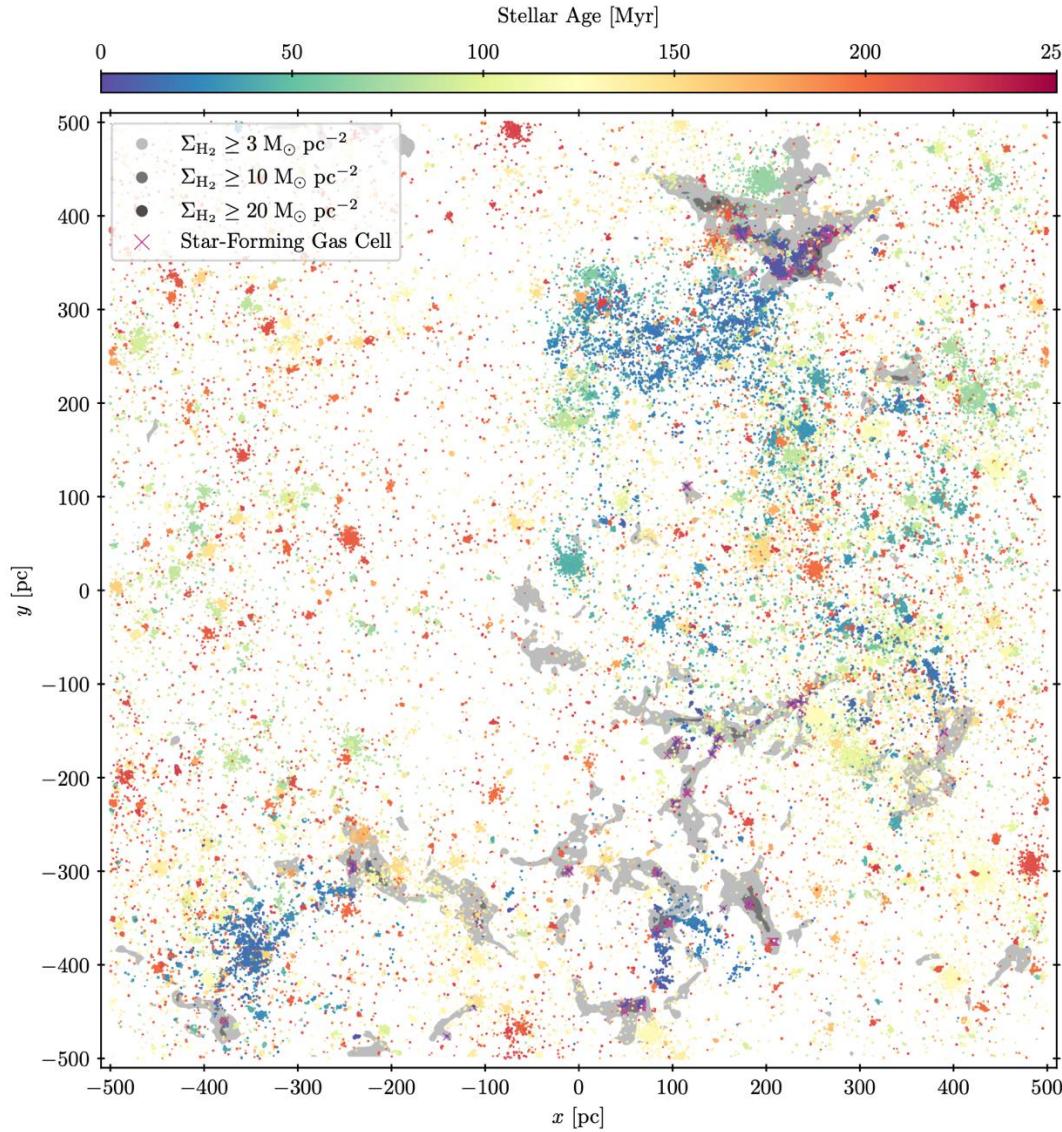
1 kpc

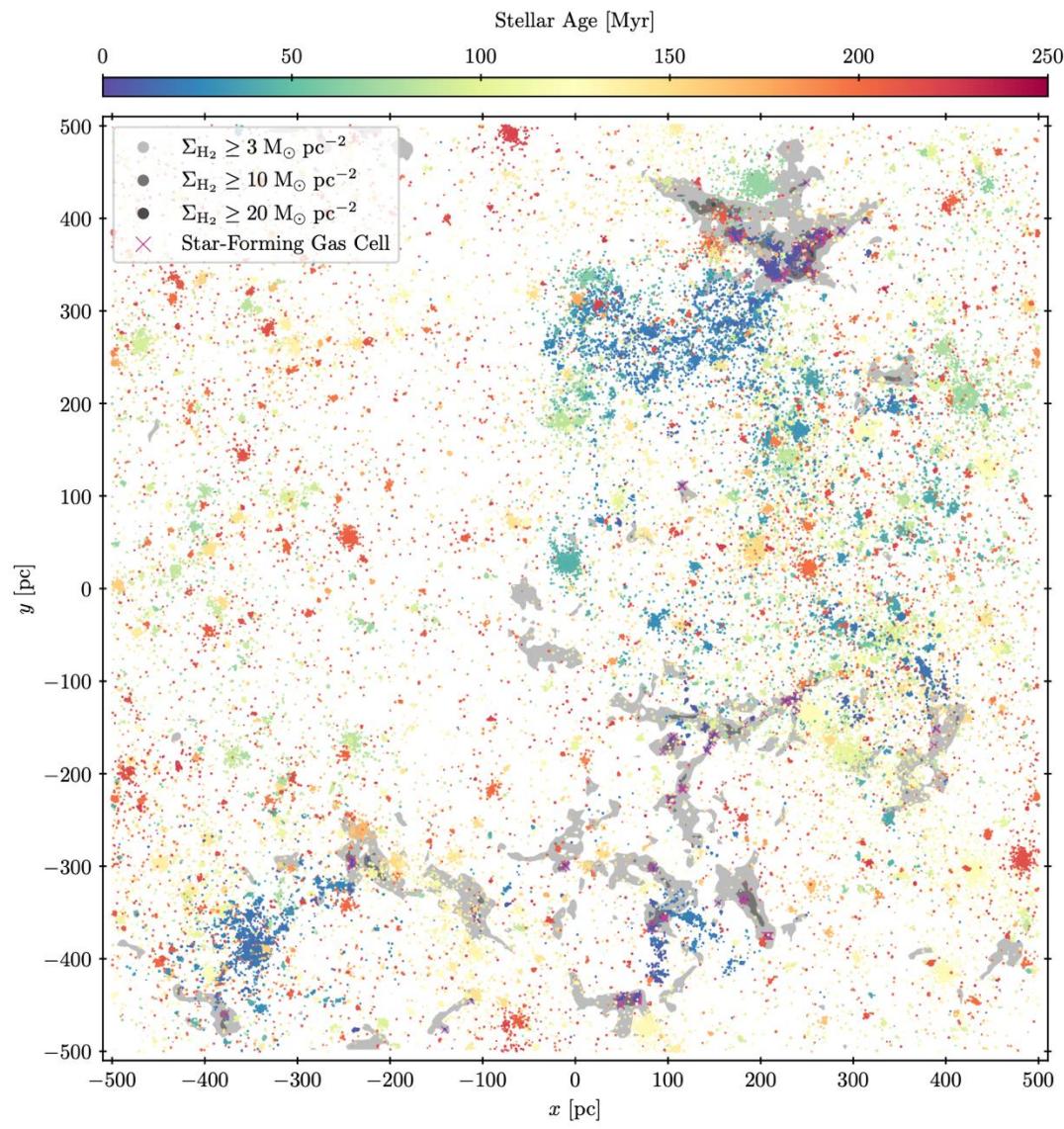
Clustered SN feedback & CR transport

$t=50.00$ Myr

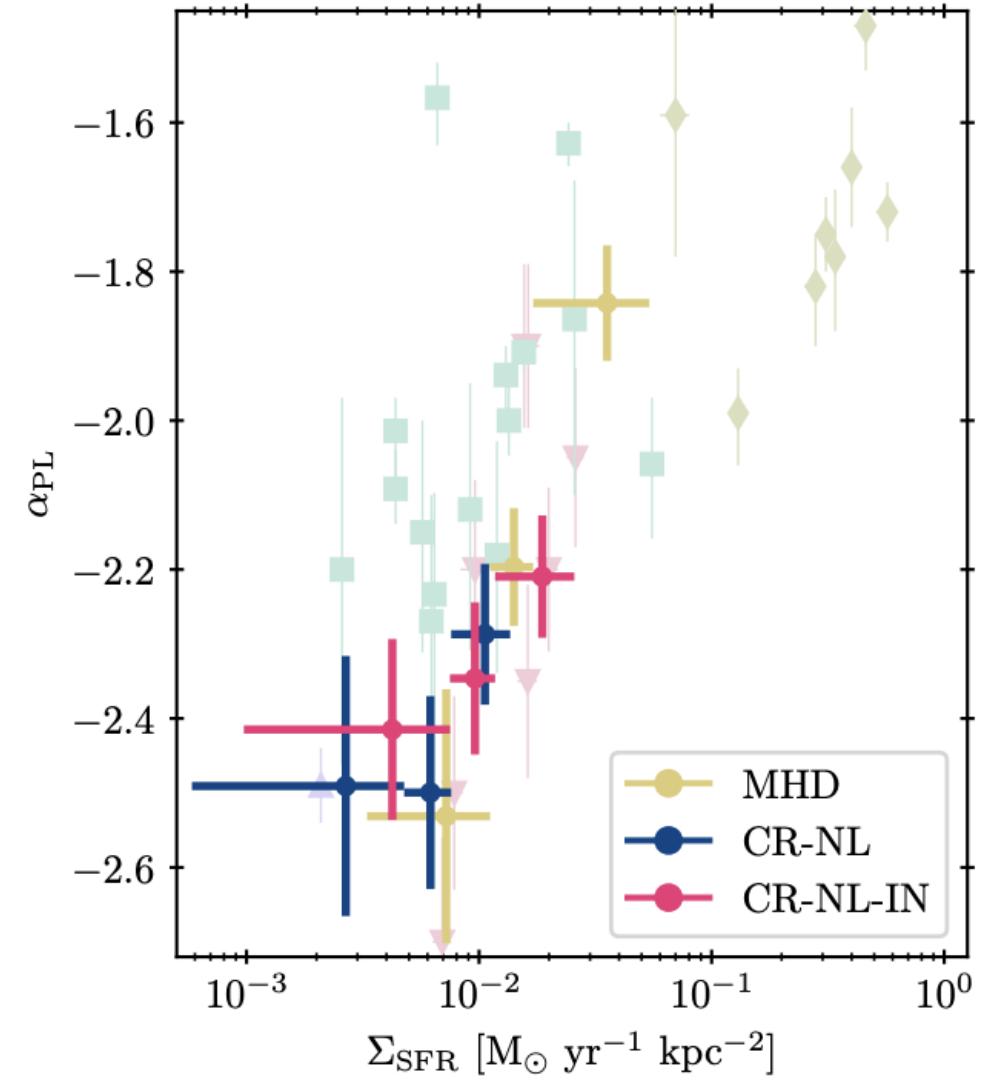


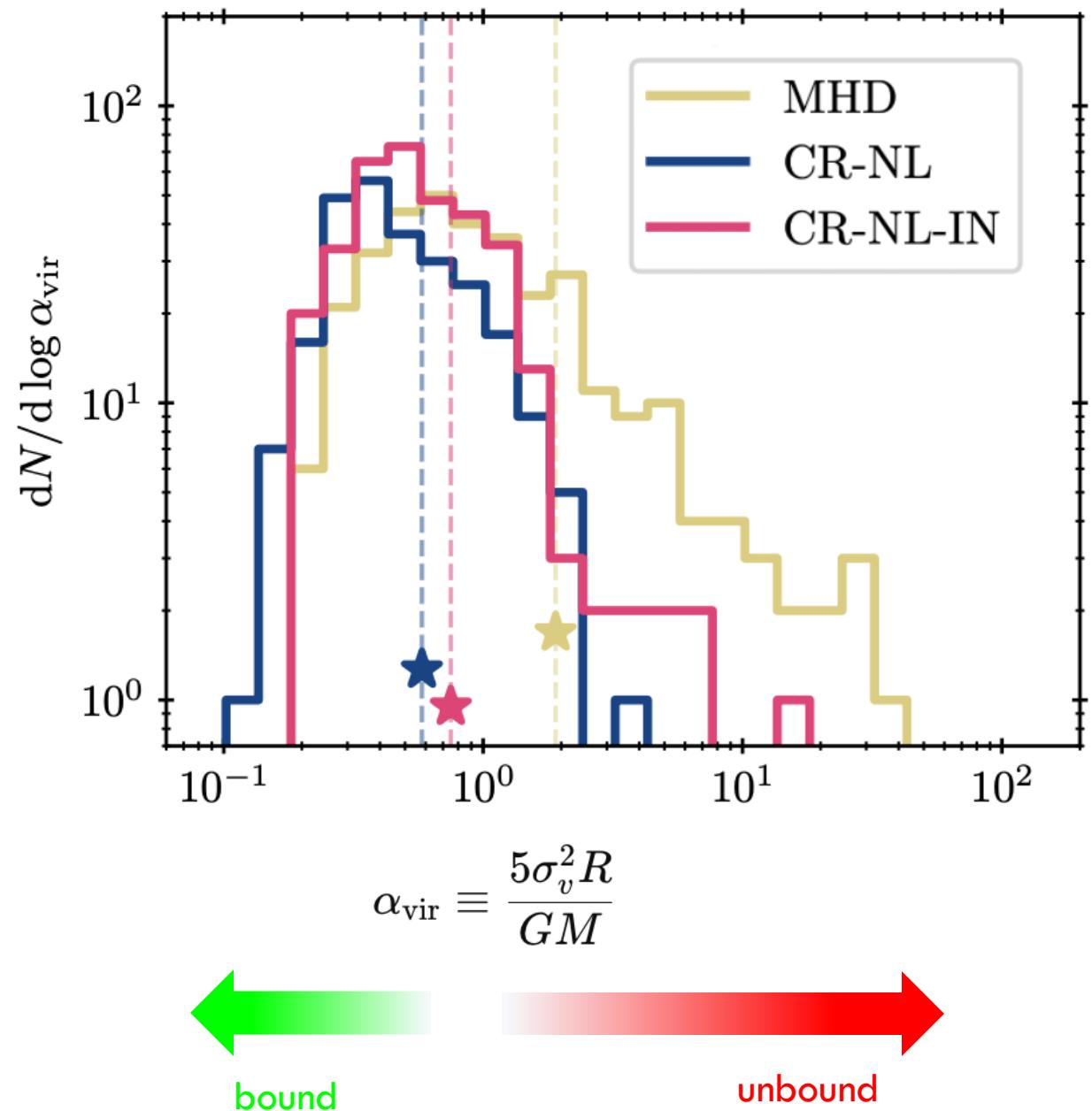
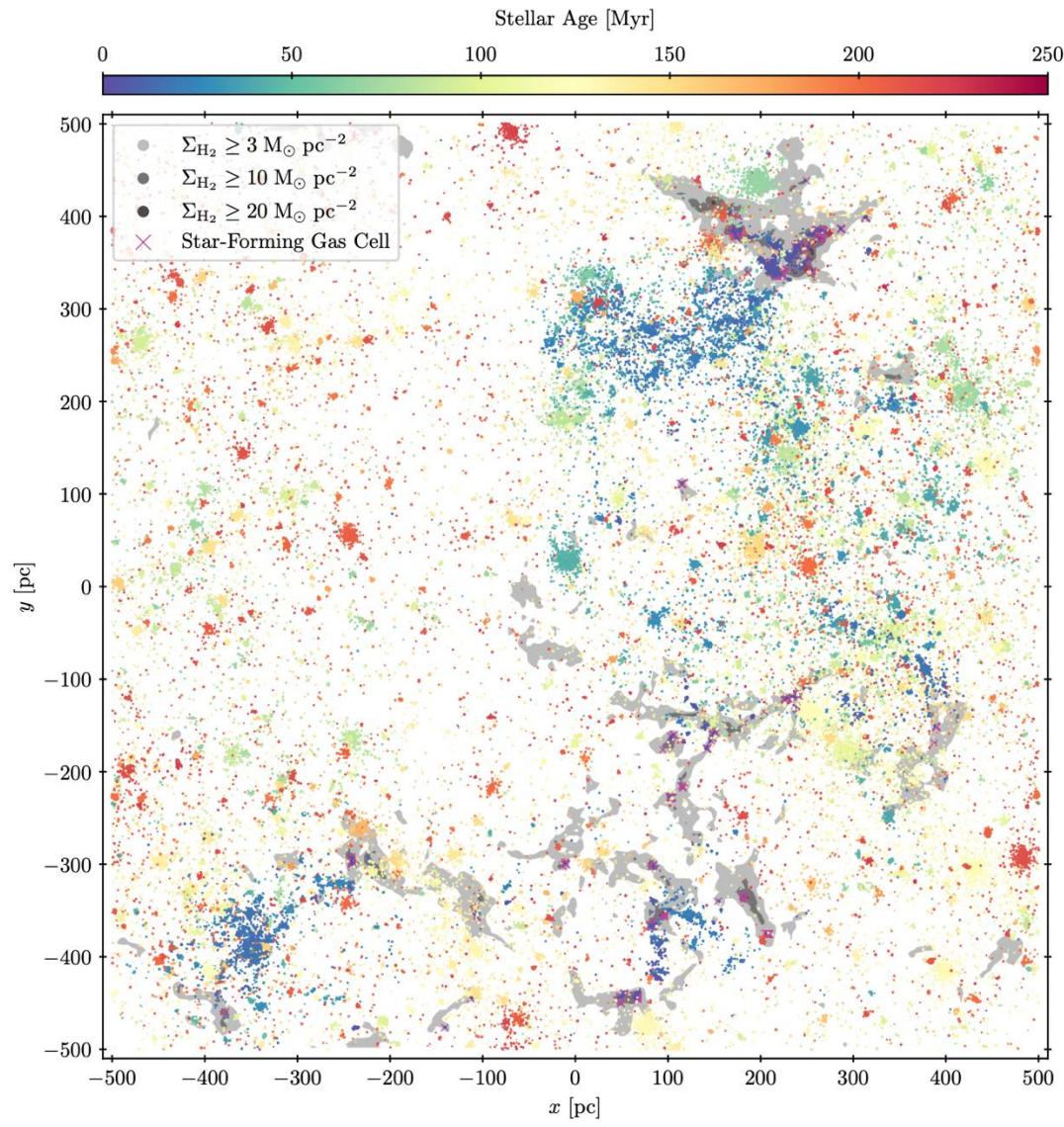
Jackson Pollock plot





Sike, Ruszkowski, Gnedin, Chen, Thomas, Pfrommer (2025b, in prep.)





Most nearby young star clusters formed in three massive complexes

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07496-9>

Received: 1 December 2023

Accepted: 30 April 2024

Published online: 10 June 2024

 Check for updates

Cameren Swiggum¹ , João Alves¹, Robert Benjamin², Sebastian Ratzenböck^{1,3}, Núria Miret-Roig¹, Josefa Großchedl^{1,4}, Stefan Meingast¹, Alyssa Goodman⁵, Ralf Konietzka⁵, Catherine Zucker⁵, Emily L. Hunt⁶ & Sabine Reffert⁶

Efforts to unveil the structure of the local interstellar medium and its recent star-formation history have spanned the past 70 years (refs. 1–6). Recent studies using precise data from space astrometry missions have revealed nearby, newly formed star clusters with connected origins^{7–12}. Nevertheless, mapping young clusters across

*Formation and evolution of new primordial open cluster groups:
Feedback-driven star formation*

Guimei Liu (刘桂梅)^{1,2} , Yu Zhang (张余)^{1,2} , Jing Zhong (钟靖)³ , Xiangcun Meng (孟祥存)^{4,5} , and Kai Wu (吴开)⁶ , Li Chen (陈力)^{3,2} 

A Number of nearby Moving Groups May Be Fragments of Dissolving Open Clusters

Jonathan Gagné^{1,2} , Jacqueline K. Faherty³ , Leslie Moranta^{1,2} , and Mark Popinchalk^{3,4,5} 

¹ Planétarium Rio Tinto Alcan, France pour la Vie, 4801 av. Pierre de Coubertin, Montréal, QC H3C 3J7, Canada, gagne@astro.umontreal.ca
² Institute for Research on Exoplanets, Université de Montréal, Département de Physique, C.P. 6128 Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, QC H3C 3J7, Canada
³ Department of Astrophysics, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA
⁴ Physics, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY 10016, USA
⁵ Department of Physics and Astronomy, Hunter College, City University of New York, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065, USA

Received 2021 June 8; revised 2021 June 21; accepted 2021 June 22; published 2021 July 13

The Origin of the Cluster of Local Interstellar Clouds

CATHERINE ZUCKER ,^{1,2} SETH REDFIELD ,³ SARA STARECHESKI ,^{3,4} RALF KONIETZKA ,¹ AND JEFFREY L. LINSKY 

¹ Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, 60 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, USA 02138

² Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

³ Astronomy Department and Van Vleck Observatory, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 06459, USA

⁴ Department of Physics, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY 10708, USA

⁵ JILA, University of Colorado and NIST, Boulder, CO 80309-0440, USA

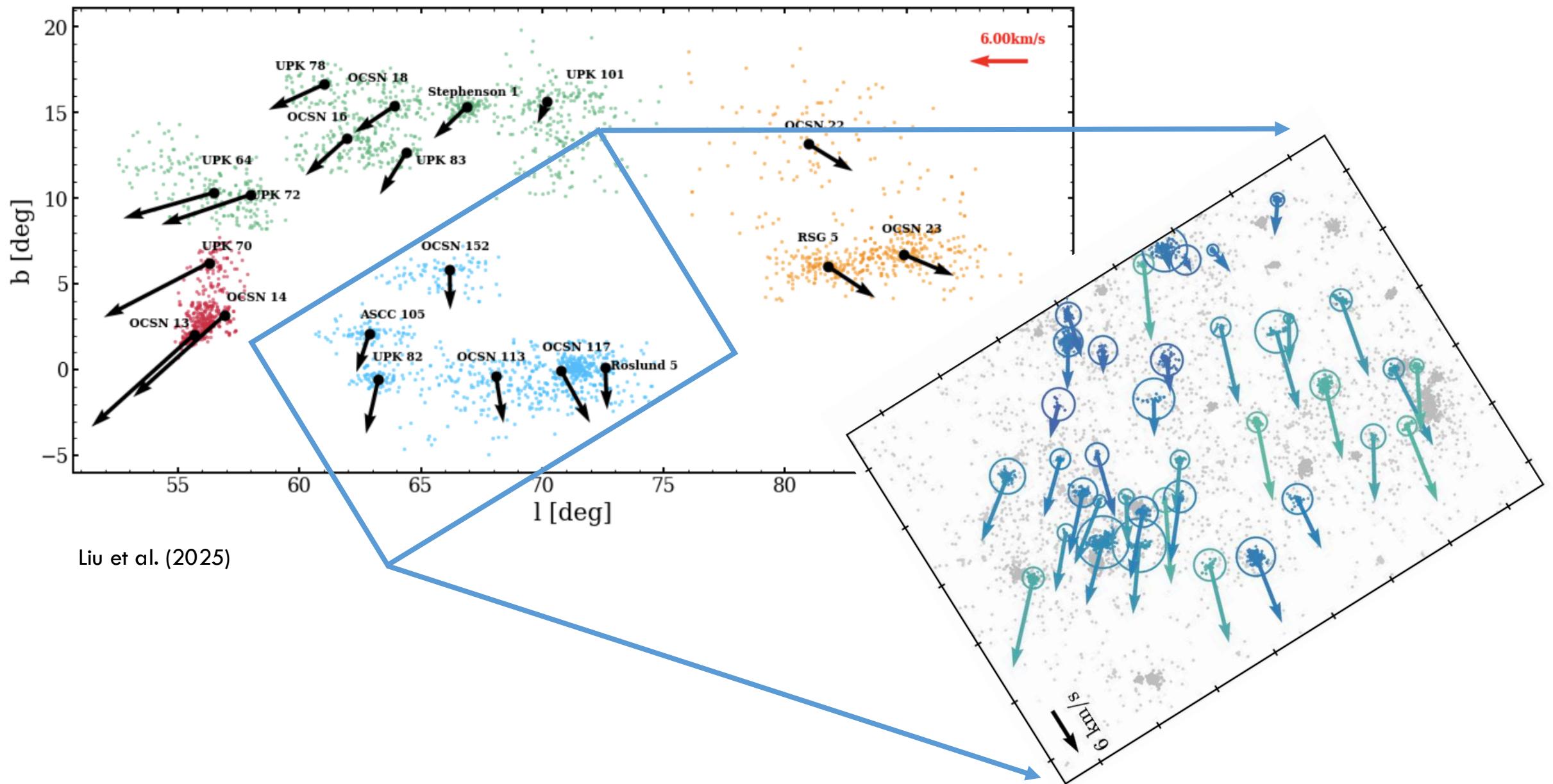
From moving groups to star formation in the Solar Neighborhood

C. Swiggum¹, J. Alves¹, E. D’Onghia^{2,3}

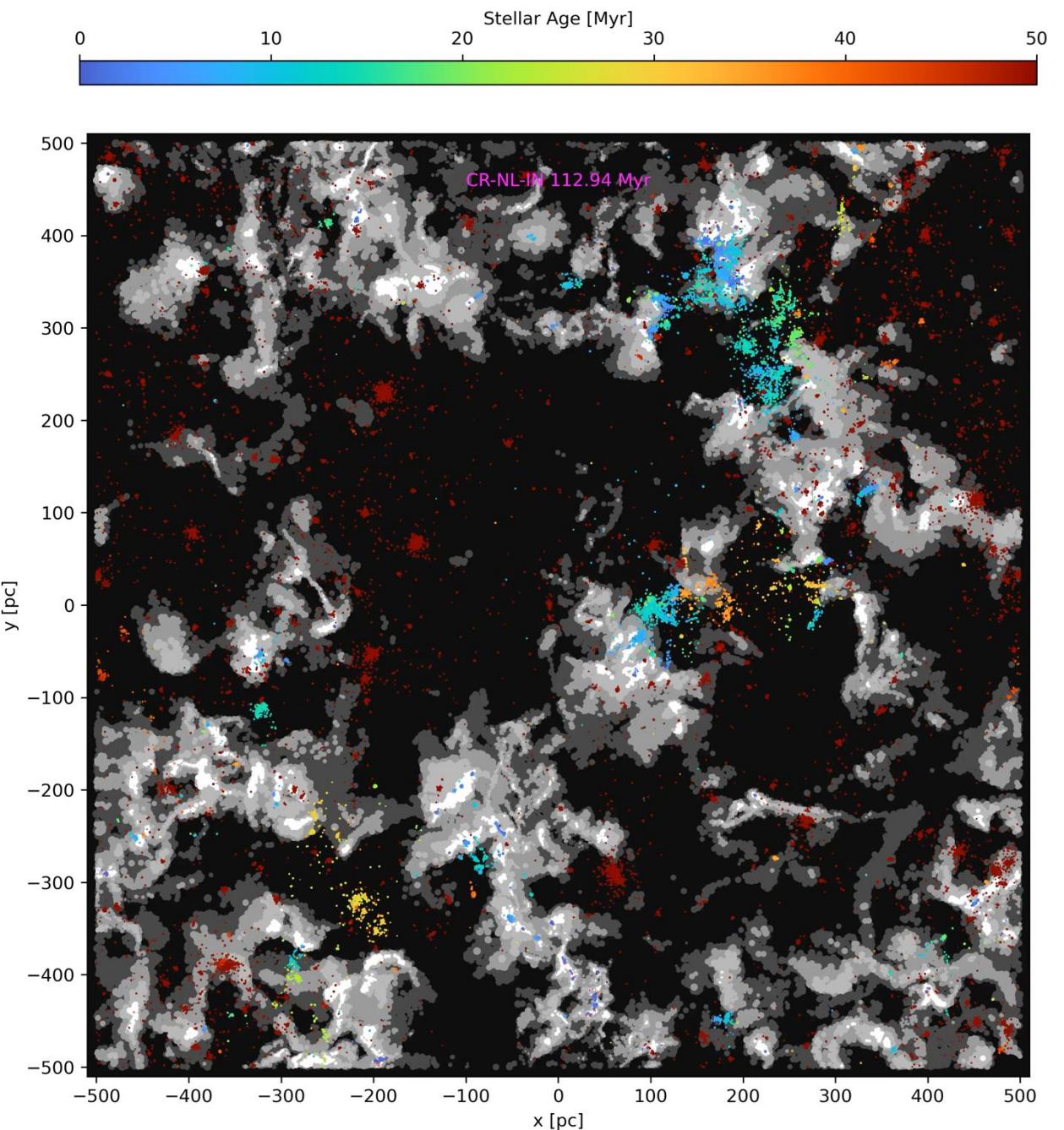
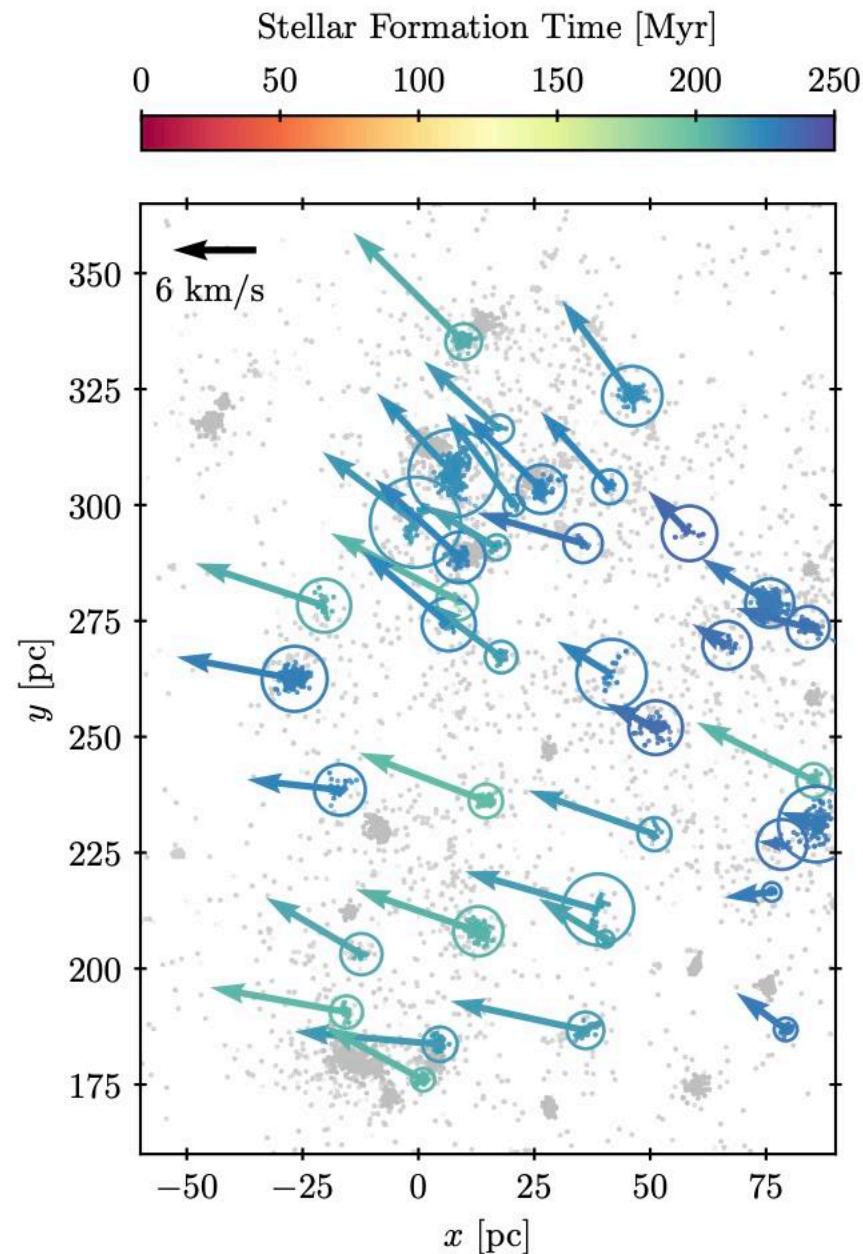
¹ Department of Astrophysics, University of Vienna, Türkenschanzstrasse 17, 1180 Wien, Austria
e-mail: cameren.swiggum@univie.ac.at

² Department of Astronomy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 475 North Charter Street, Madison, WI 53706, USA

³ INAF - Osservatorio Astrofisico di Torino, via Osservatorio 20, 10025 Pino Torinese (TO), Italy



Sike, Ruszkowski, Gnedin, Chen, Thomas, Pfrommer (2025b, in prep.)



$z = 1.5$

50 kpc

3 kpc

[F200W,F150W,F090W]_{JWST}

NUT simulation

cosmological CRMHD simulation of a MW-like galaxy

Montero et al. (2024)

see also Curro's talk
later in this session

Density

3 kpc

Temperature

Magnetic energy

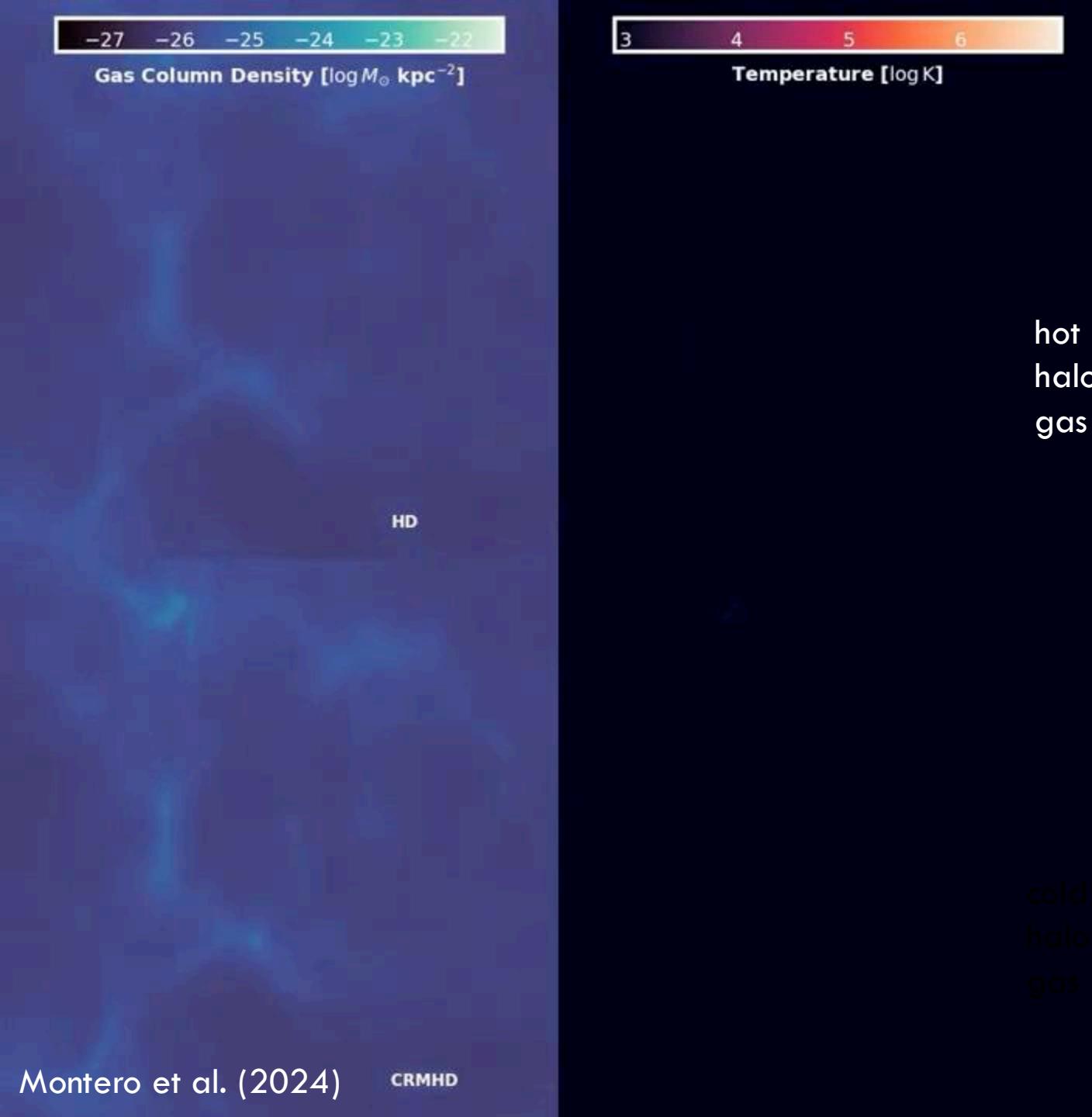
CR energy

-27 -26 -25 -24 -23 -22

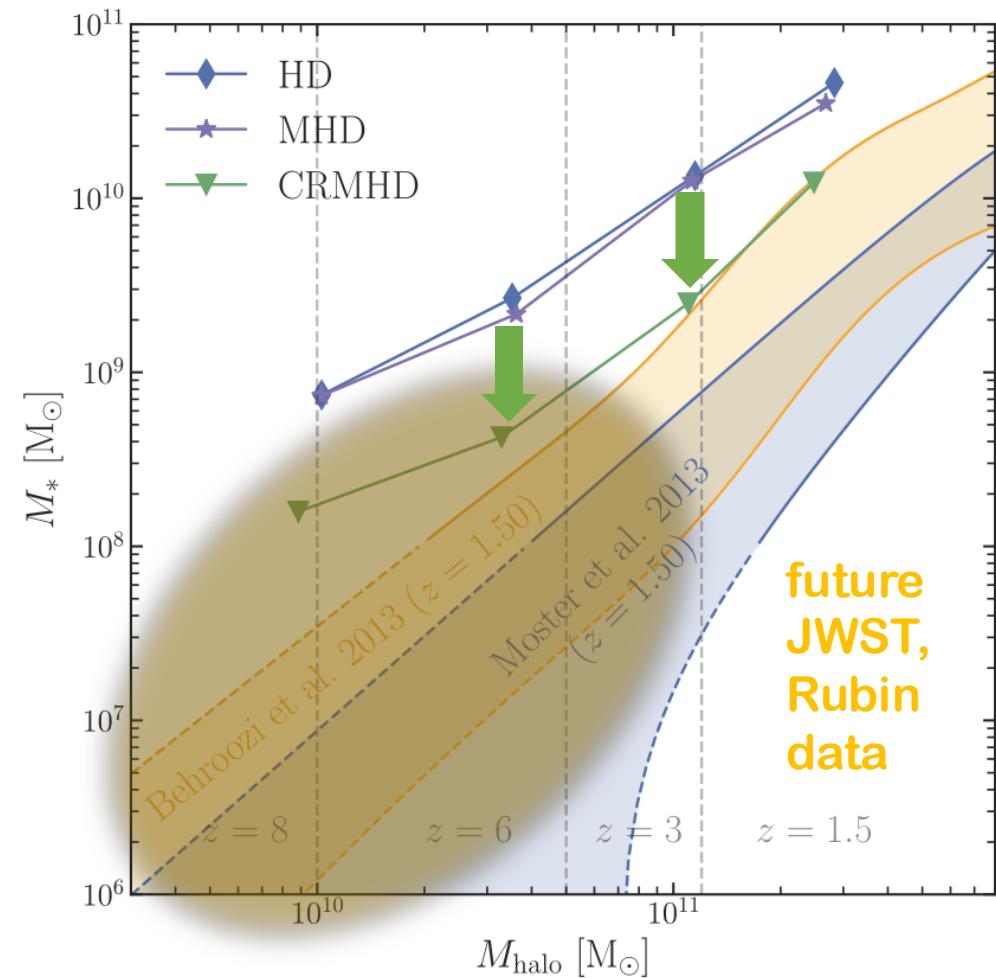
Gas Column Density [$\log M_{\odot} \text{ kpc}^{-2}$]

3 4 5 6

Temperature [$\log K$]



CRs & reduced stellar mass



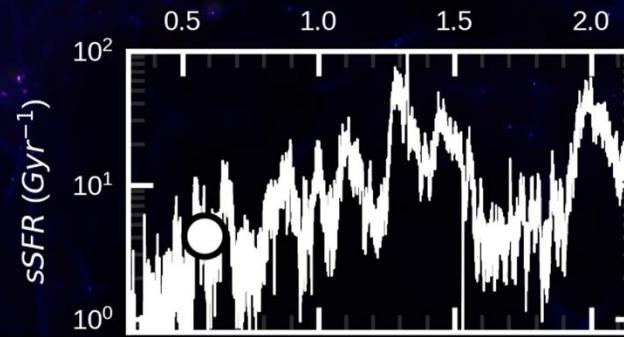
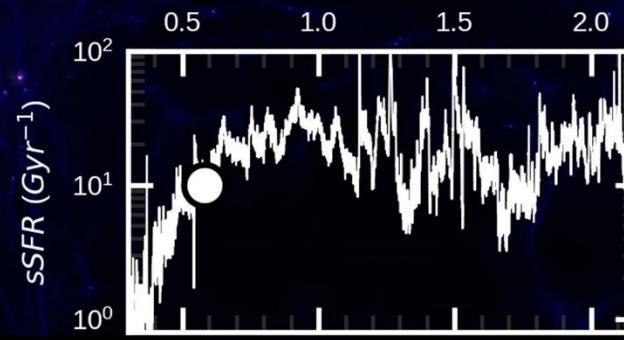
M/HD transform most baryons into stars
CRMHD predicts 10x lower stellar mass

CRs & bursty star formation

AZAHAR project

Martin-Alvarez et al. (2025)

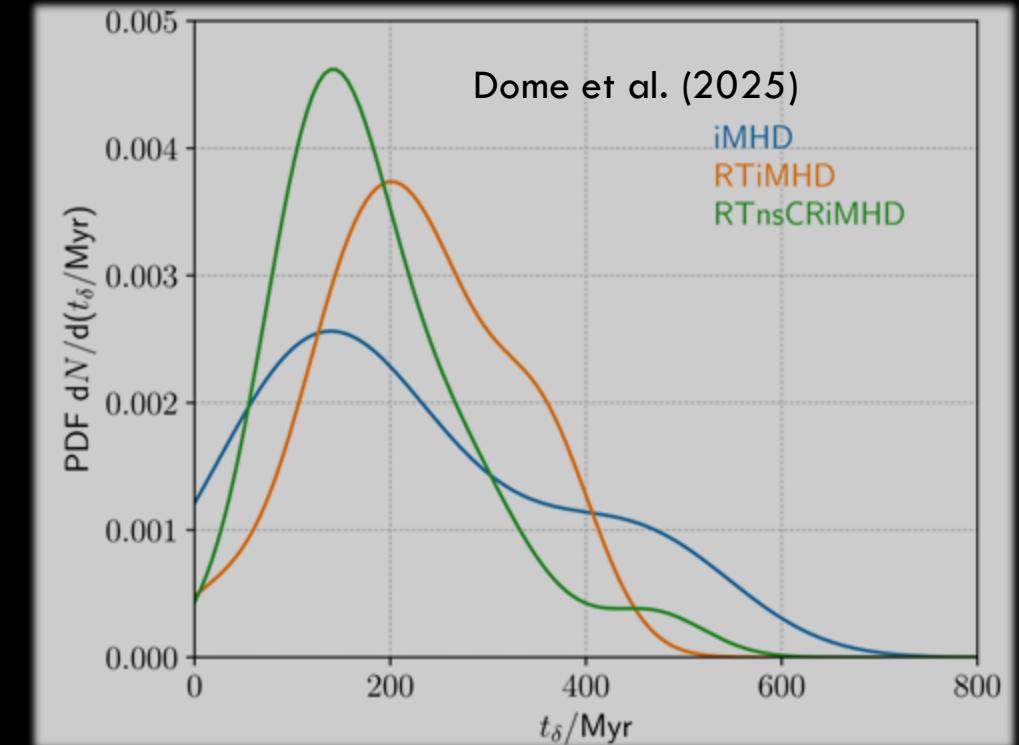
HD



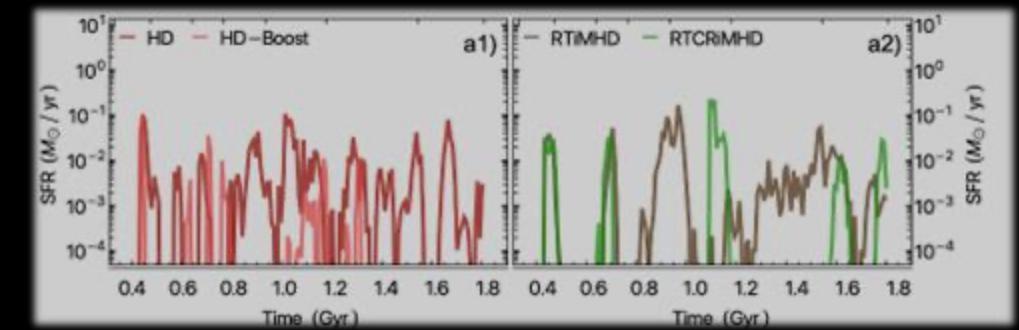
100 kpc

$z = 8.8$

RTnsCRiMHD

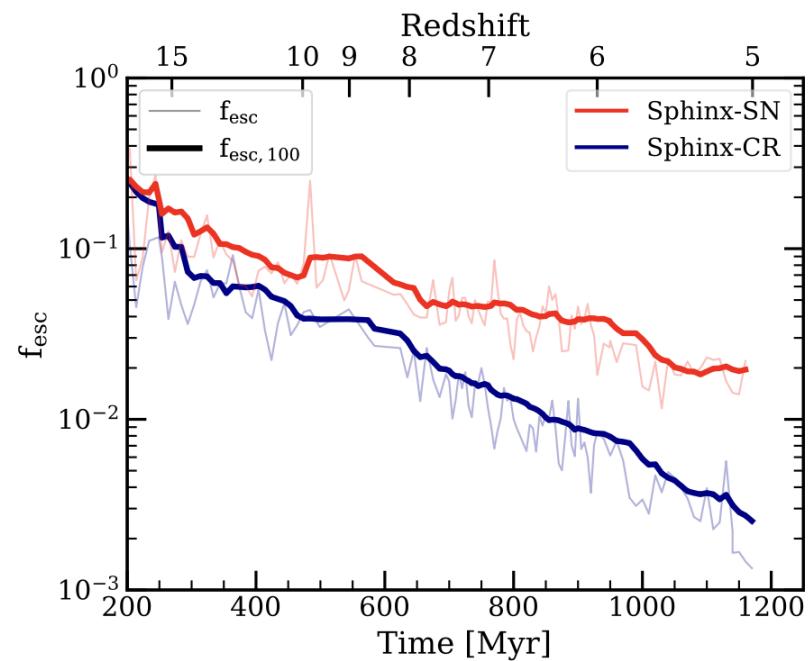


increased burstiness in multiphysics models
with SN feedback, radiative transfer, and CRs



see also bursty star formation w/ CRs in dwarfs
Pandora project Martin-Alvarez et al. (2025)

CRs & reionization of the Universe



Farcy et al. (2025)

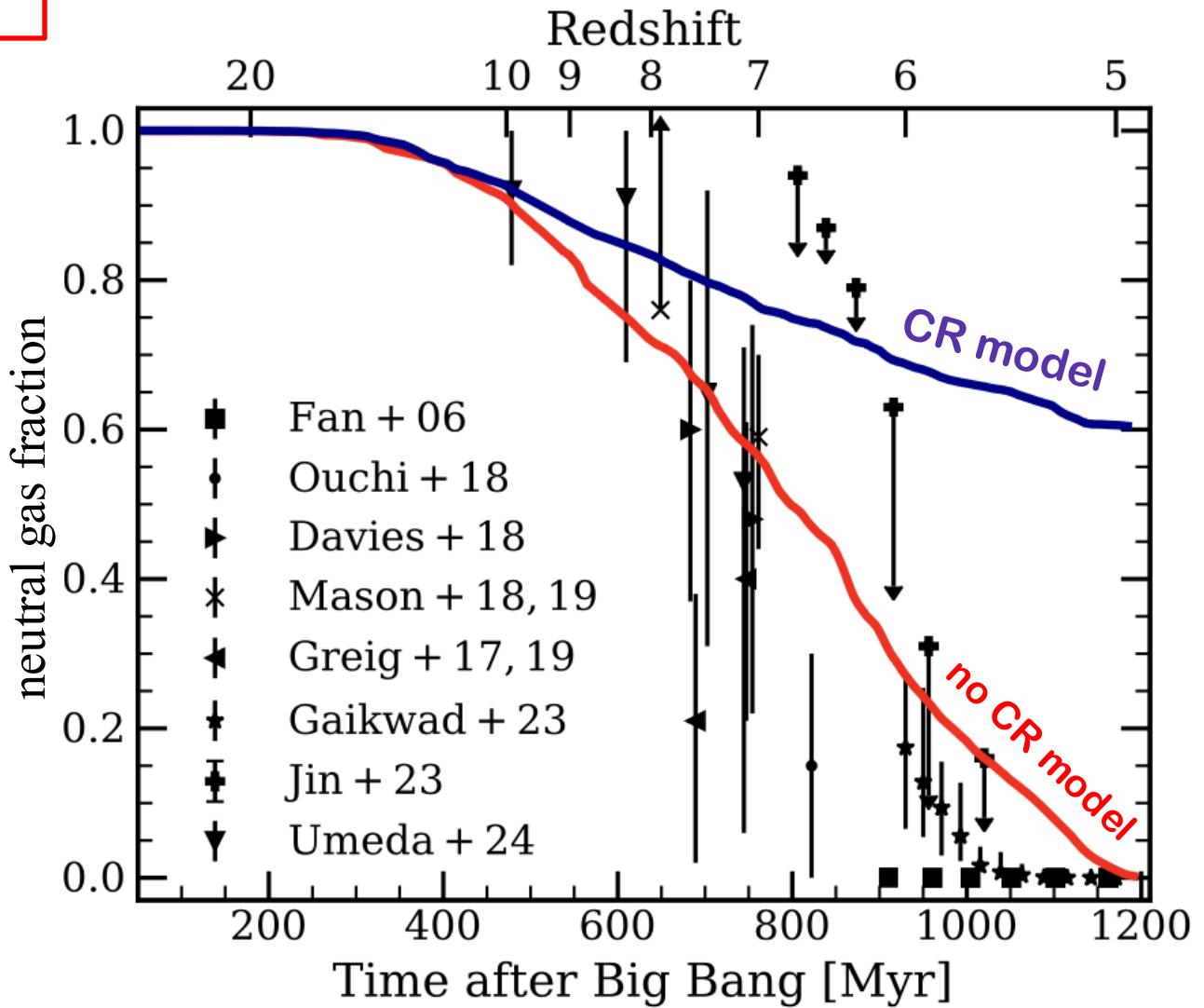
w/o CRs:

SN create cavities in the ISM

facilitate photon escape

w/ CRs:

CR feedback fills the cavities with gas
suppression of photon escape (near SF sites)



we need better CR transport models



WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A

COMMERCIAL BREAK



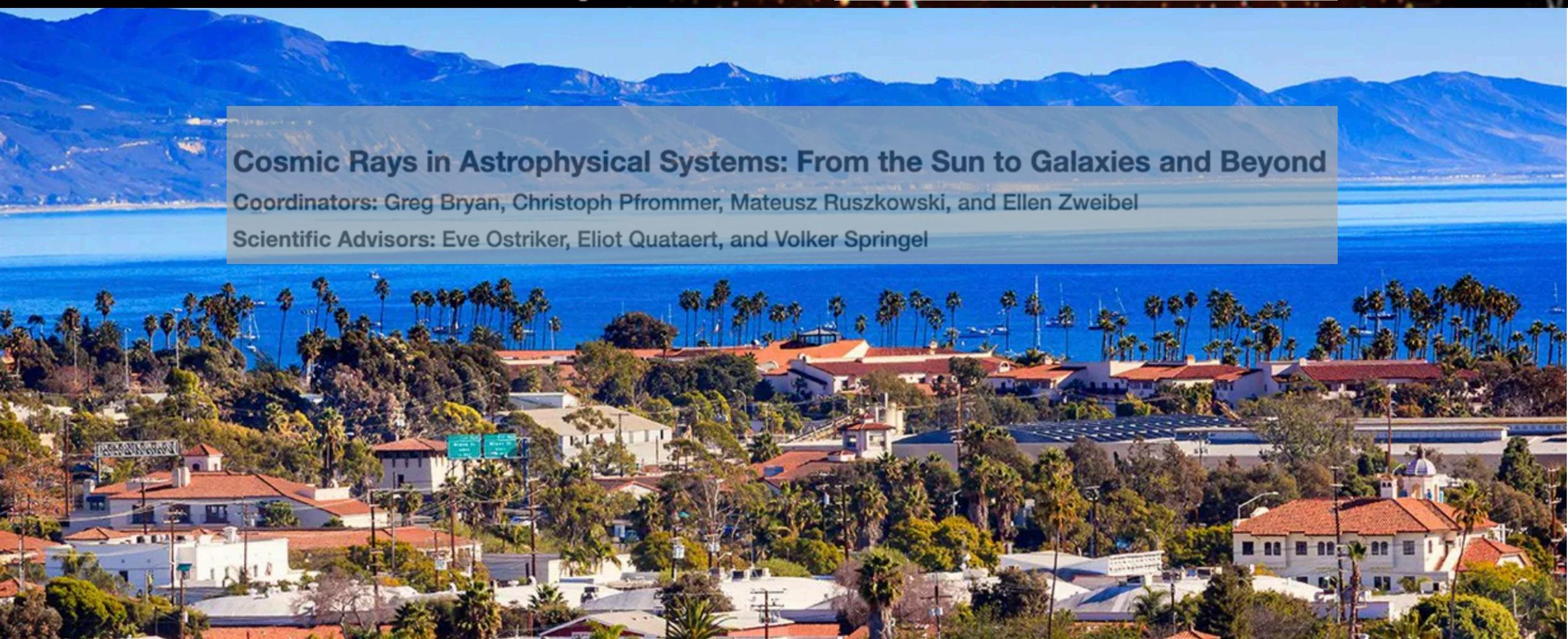
UC SANTA BARBARA
Kavli Institute for
Theoretical Physics

program dates: Jan 4 to Mar 11, 2027
application deadline: **Nov 28, 2025**

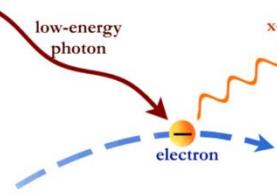
Cosmic Rays in Astrophysical Systems: From the Sun to Galaxies and Beyond

Coordinators: Greg Bryan, Christoph Pfrommer, Mateusz Ruszkowski, and Ellen Zweibel

Scientific Advisors: Eve Ostriker, Eliot Quataert, and Volker Springel



CRs in the CGM

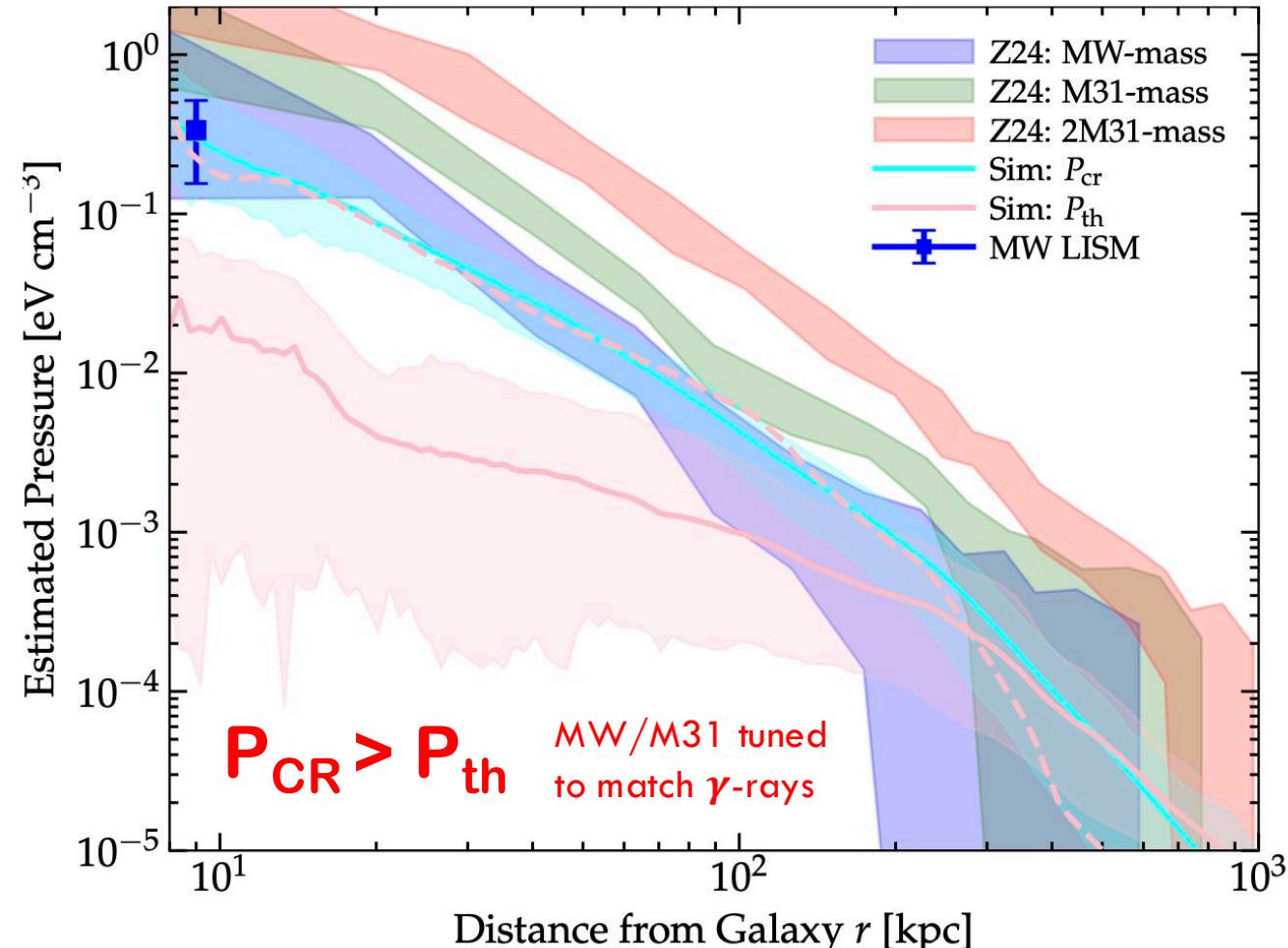
$$\epsilon_X \sim \frac{4}{3} h\nu_{\text{IC}} n_{\text{cr}, e^\pm} n_{\text{photons}} \sigma_T c$$


$$n_{\text{cr}, e^\pm} \sim \frac{f_{\text{lloss}} \dot{E}_{\text{cr}, \ell}}{4\pi v_{\text{st, eff}} r^2}$$

Ji et al. (2020)

$$\frac{S_{X, \text{keV}}}{\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{kpc}^{-2}} \sim 10^{35.3} \left(\frac{\dot{E}_{\text{cr}, \ell}}{10^{40} \text{erg s}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{100 \text{ km s}^{-1}}{v_{\text{st, eff}}(R)} \right) \times \left(\frac{100 \text{ kpc}}{R} \right) f_{\text{lloss}} E_{\text{cr, GeV}} (1+z)^4$$

correct (shallow)
slope of X-ray profile

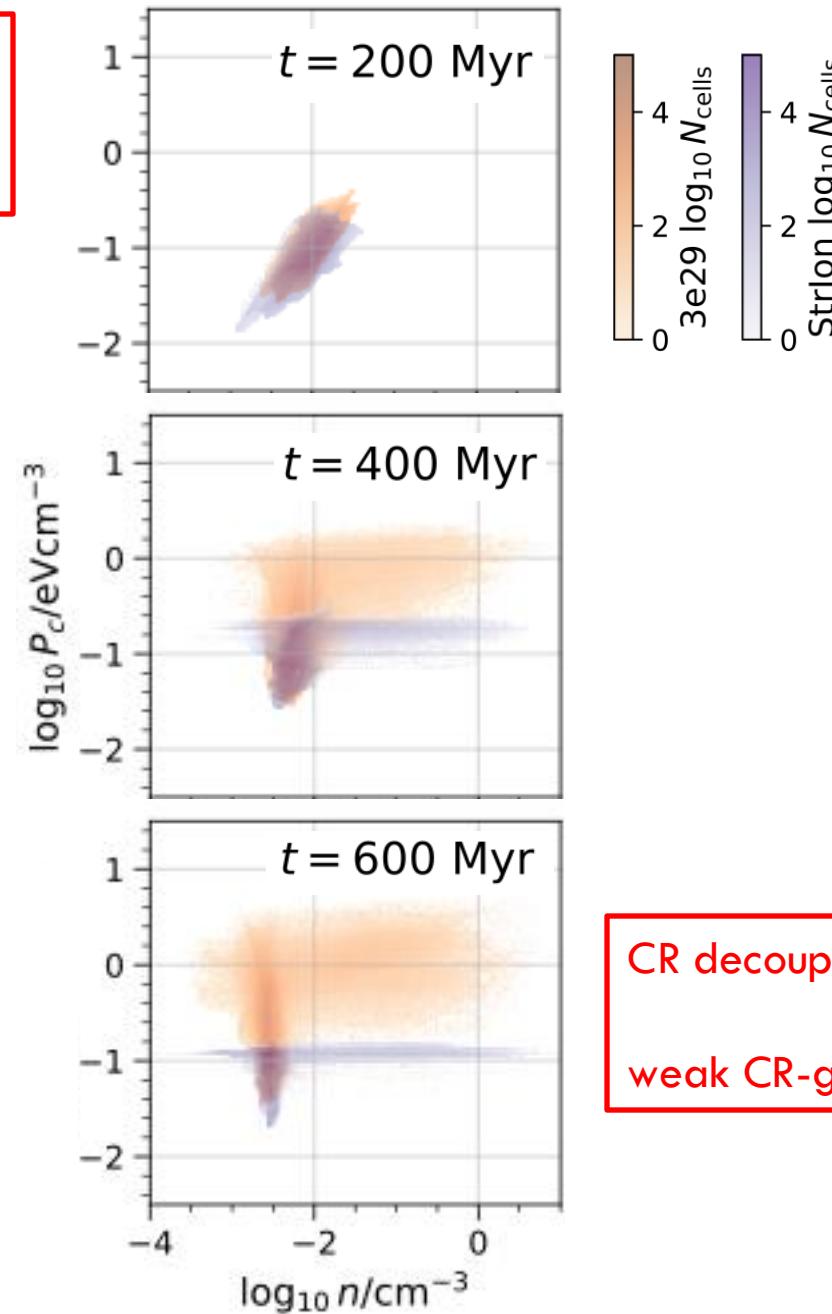
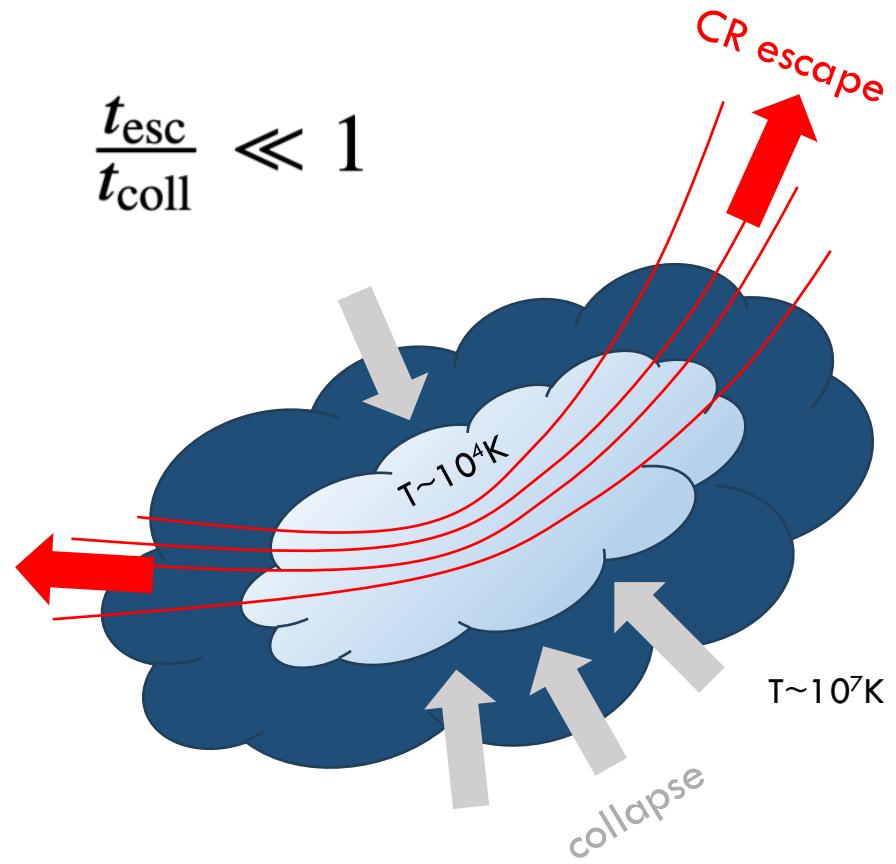


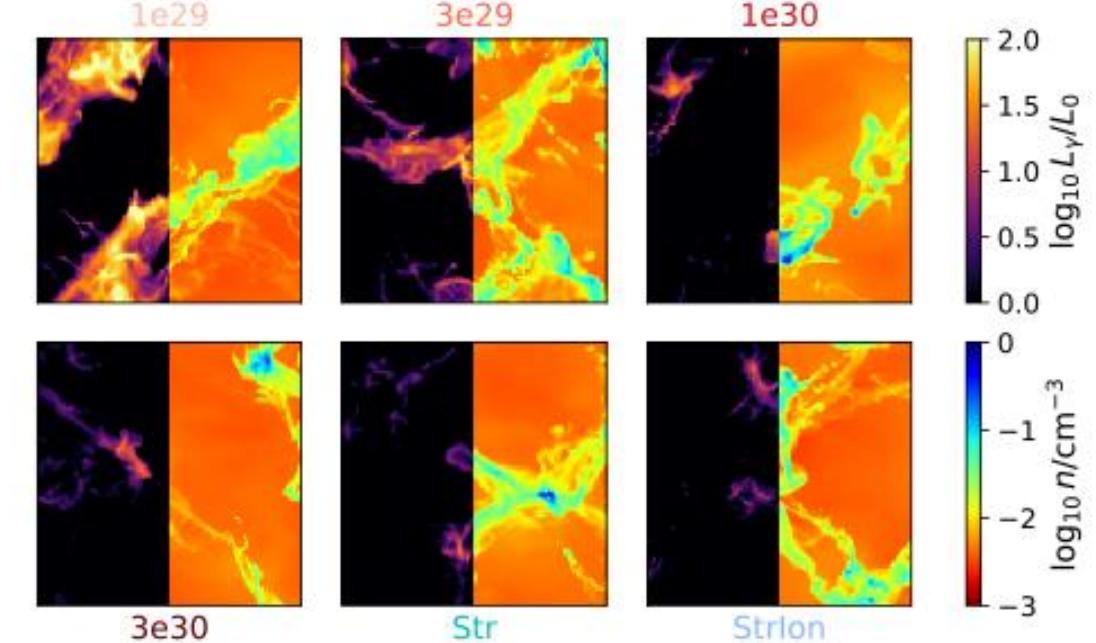
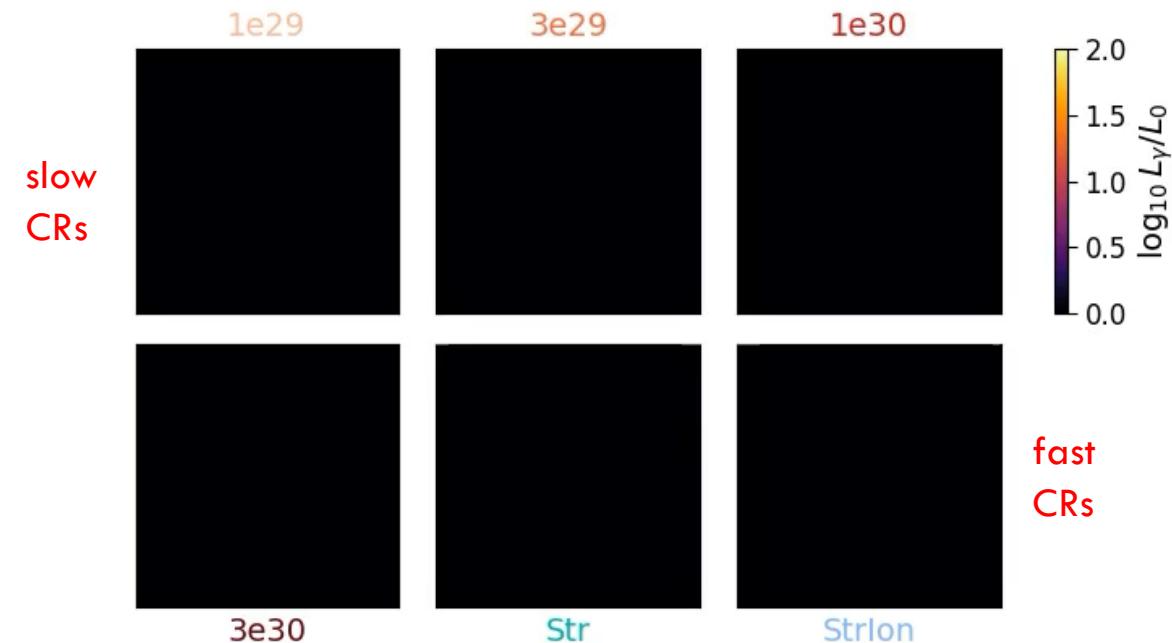
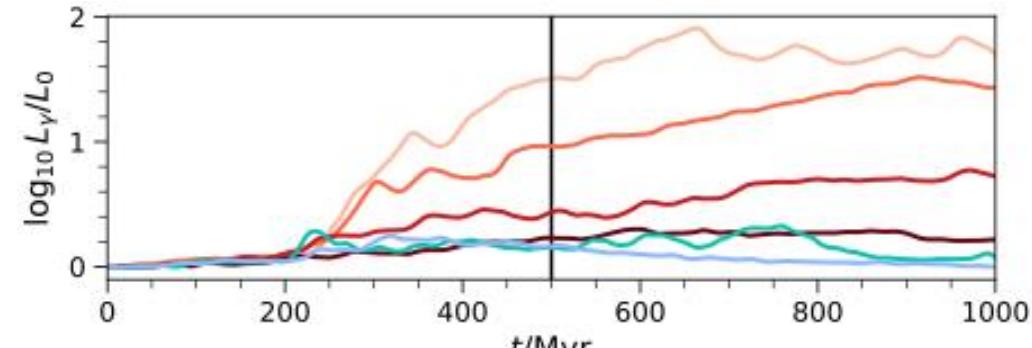
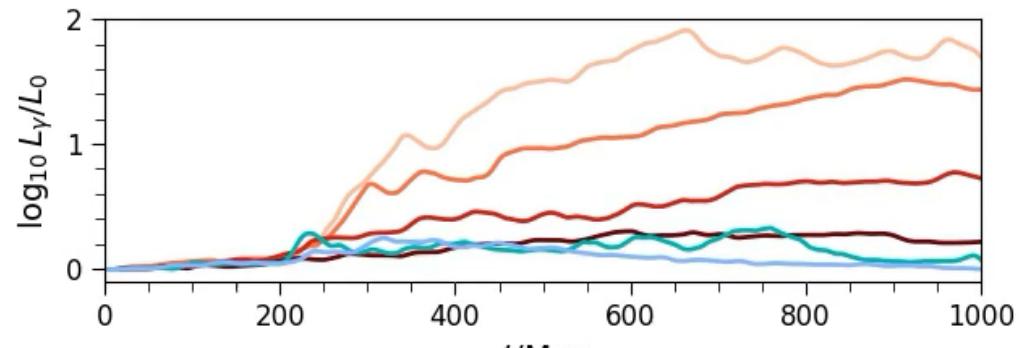
if X-rays due to IC \rightarrow DIRECT measurement of CR pressure !!

Idea can be applied to post-processing of any existing CR MHD sims

see also Quataert & Hopkins (2025):
large impact of accumulated BH CRs
on gas in group-mass halos at $\sim r_{\text{vir}}$

CR transport physics has a dramatic impact on γ -rays from CGM

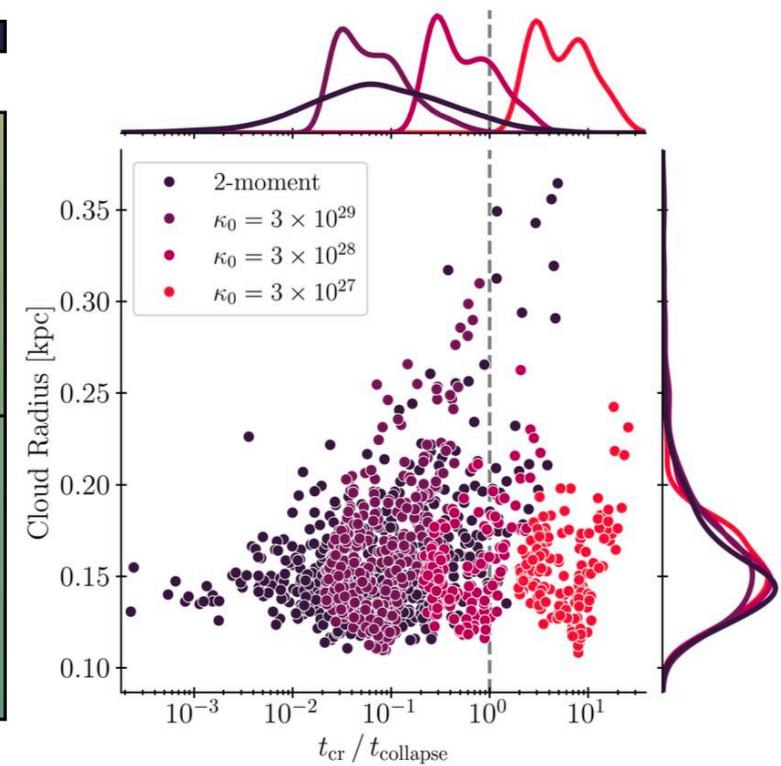
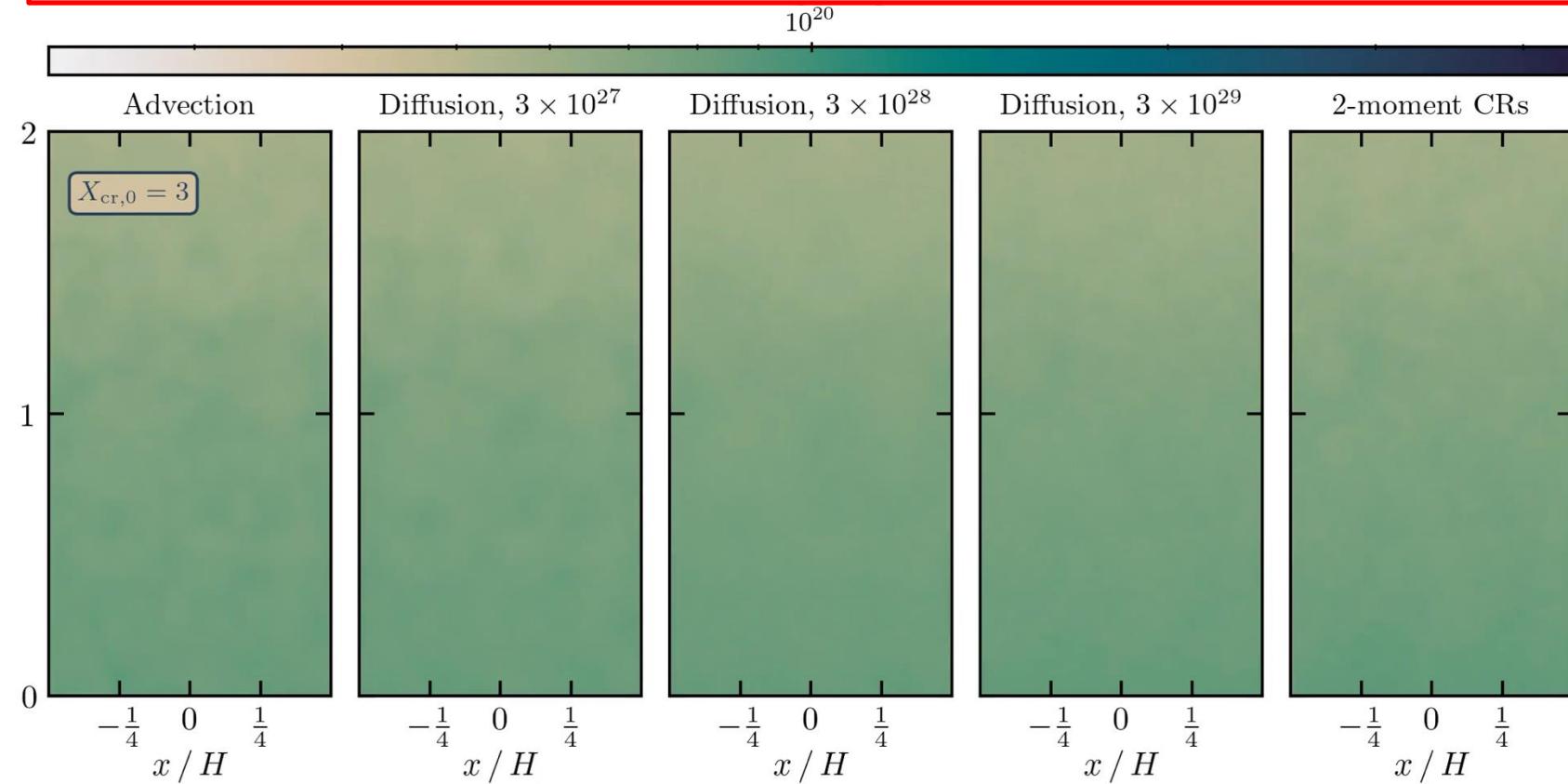




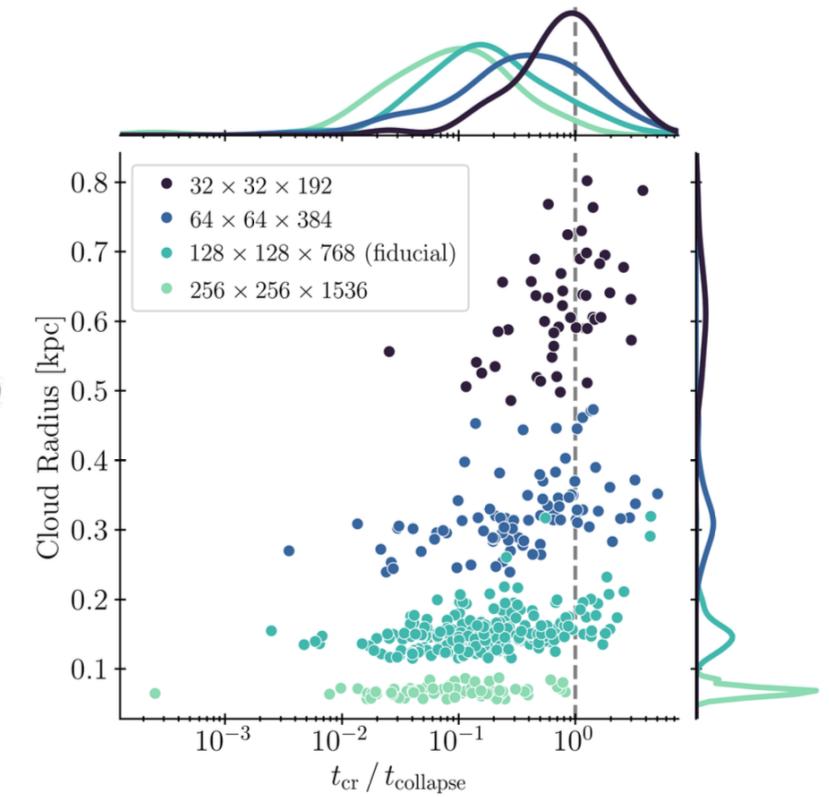
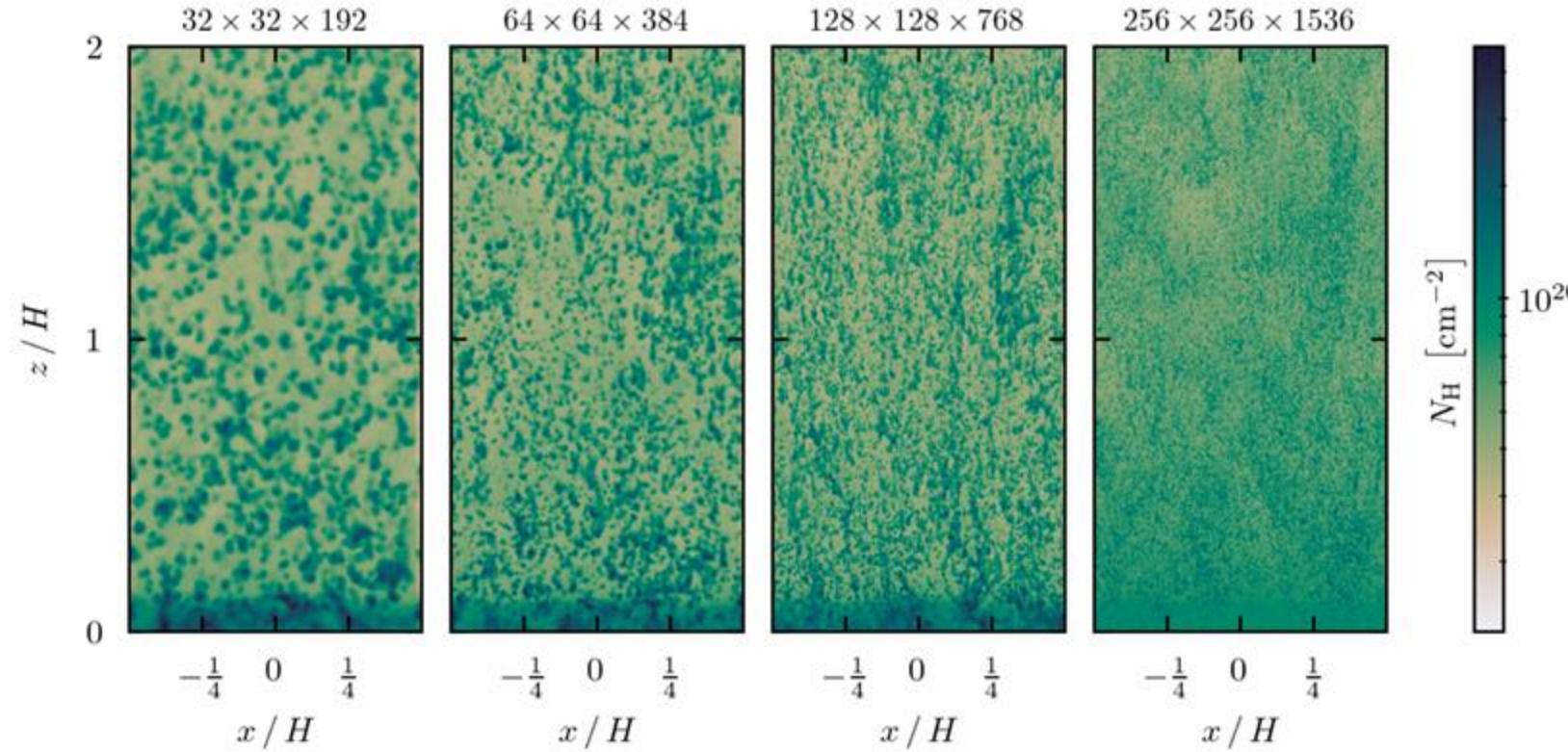
plenty of cold gas, fast CR transport

little γ -rays

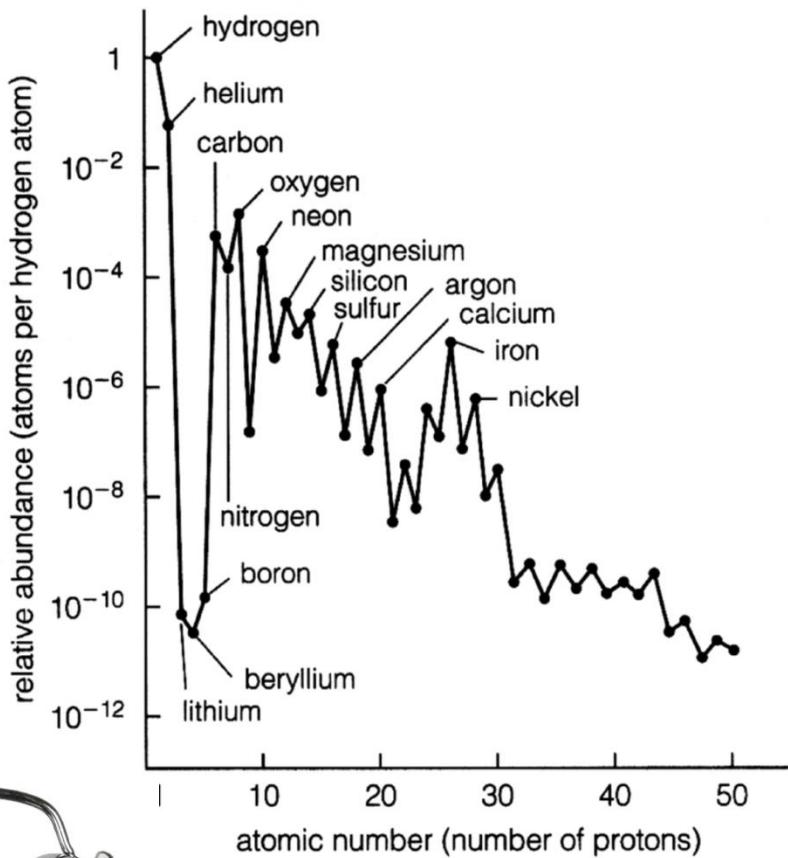
CR transport physics has dramatic impact on CGM cloud formation



important cautionary note:
resolution matters!

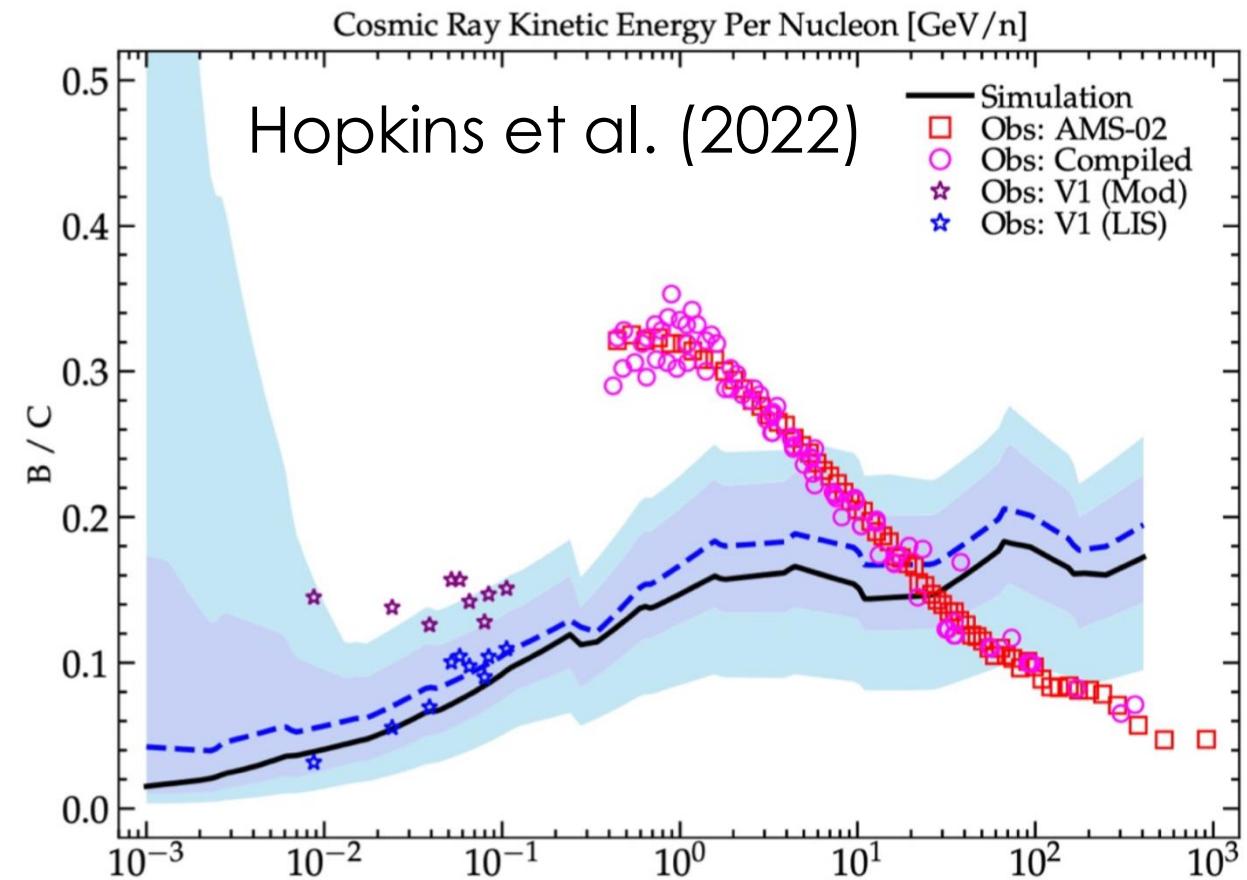


Spallation reactions & energy dependence of CR transport



$$\frac{n_B}{n_C} \approx \bar{n}_H \beta c \sigma_{C \rightarrow B} \tau$$

$$\kappa \propto \tau^{-1} \propto E^{0.33}$$

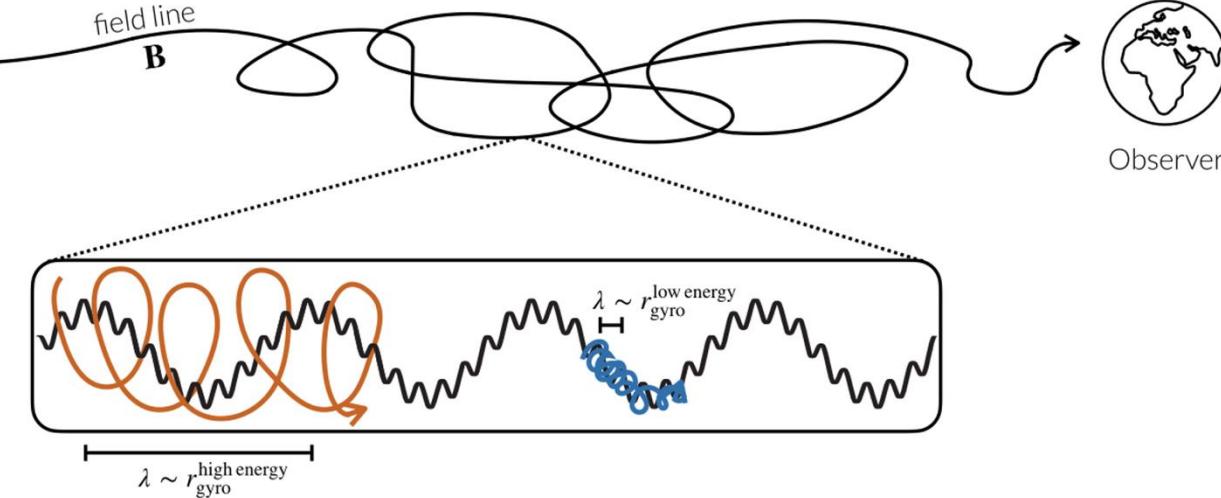


$$\frac{n_B}{n_C} = 0.65 \beta \left(\frac{R}{\text{GV}} \right)^{-0.33}$$

$$R \equiv r_g B = \frac{p_\perp c}{Ze}$$



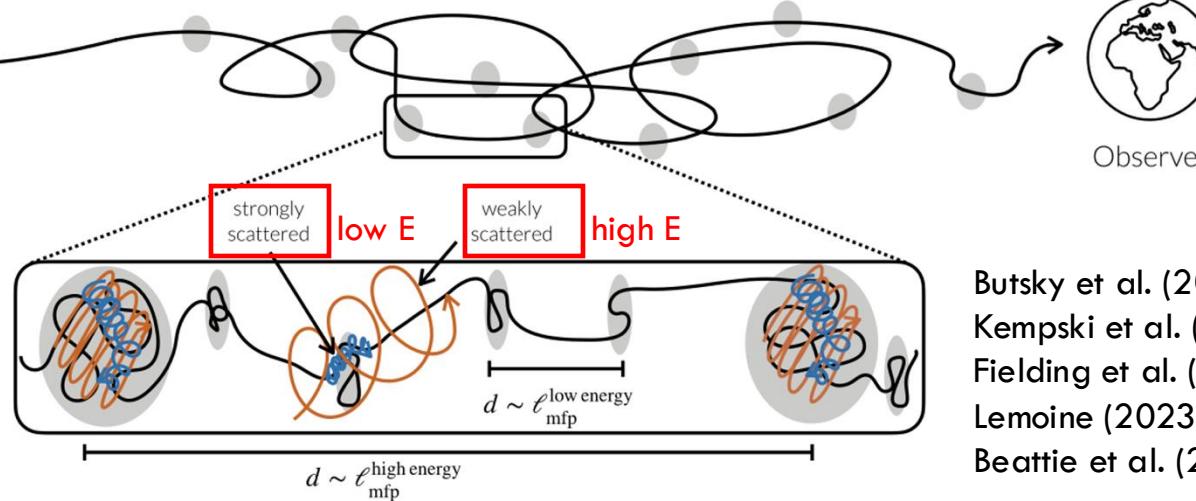
CR Source
(e.g. SNe)



extrinsic & self-confinement



CR Source
(e.g. SNe)



scattering on spatially intermittent turbulence

observations

$$\kappa \sim v_c$$

$$f_V \sim 1$$

$$\delta B/B \ll 1$$

$$l_{\text{mfp}} \propto R_{\text{GV}}^\delta$$

$$\boxed{\delta \lesssim 0}$$

$$f_V \ll 1$$

$$\delta B/B \sim 1$$

$$l_{\text{mfp}} \propto R_{\text{GV}}^\delta$$

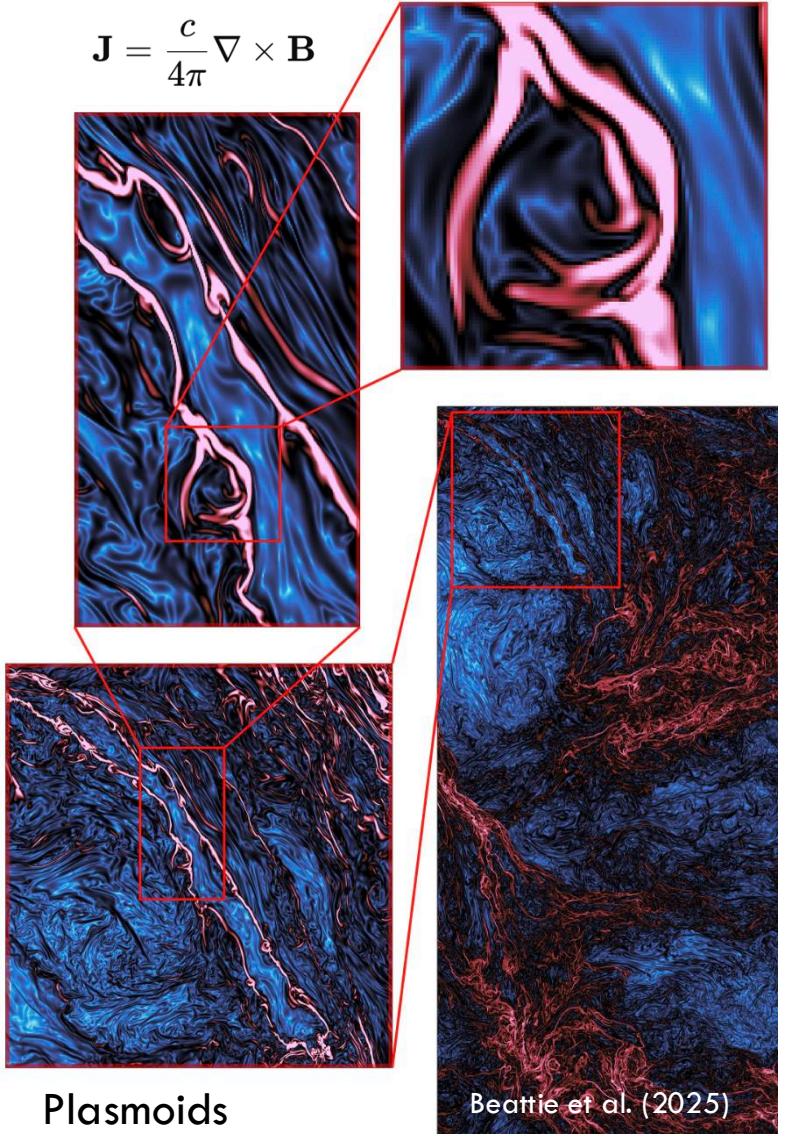
$$\boxed{\delta > 0}$$

- Butsky et al. (2024)
- Kempski et al. (2023)
- Fielding et al. (2023)
- Lemoine (2023, 2025)
- Beattie et al. (2025)

largest ($\sim 10,000^3$)
supersonic MHD turbulence
simulation in the world

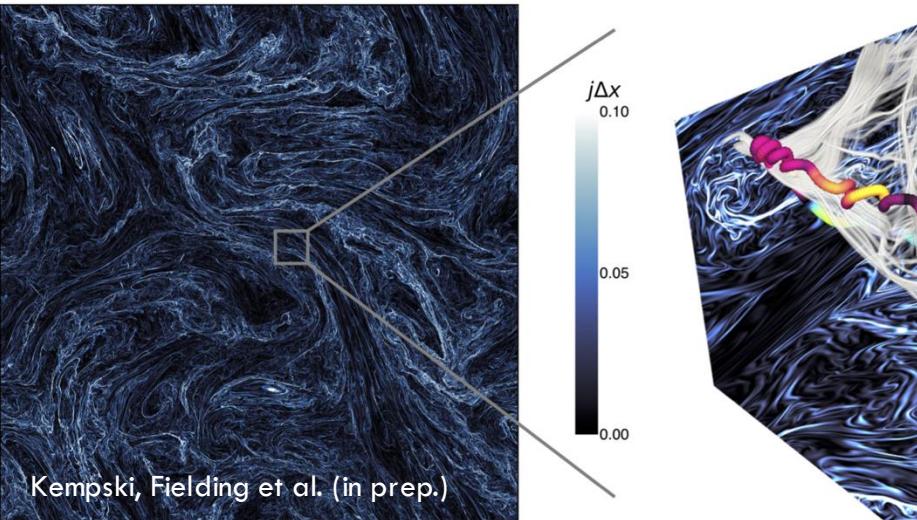
Beattie et al. (2025)

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

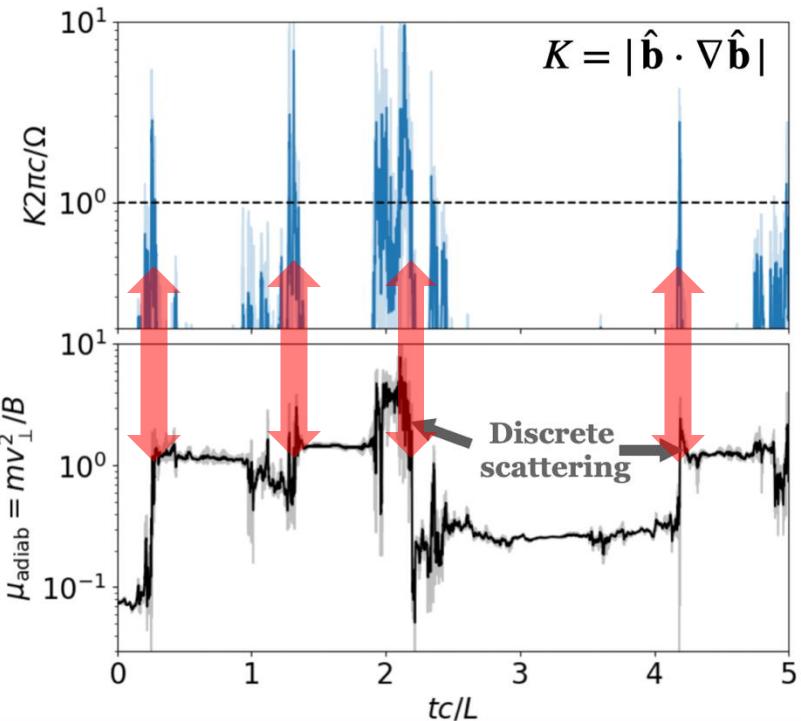
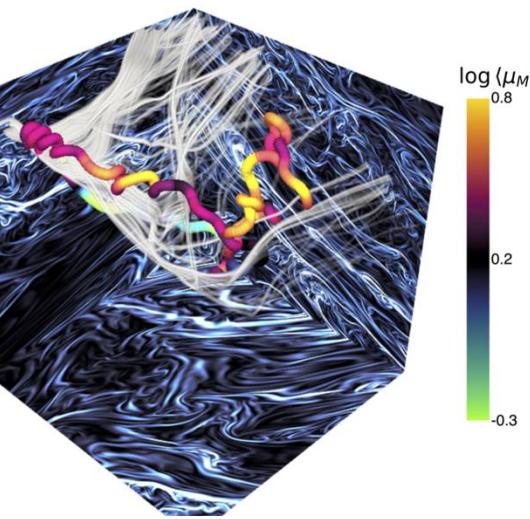
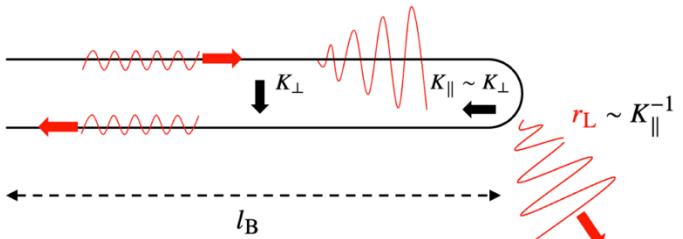


low-volume-filling
spatially intermittent structures
required for
strong CR scattering in the ISM

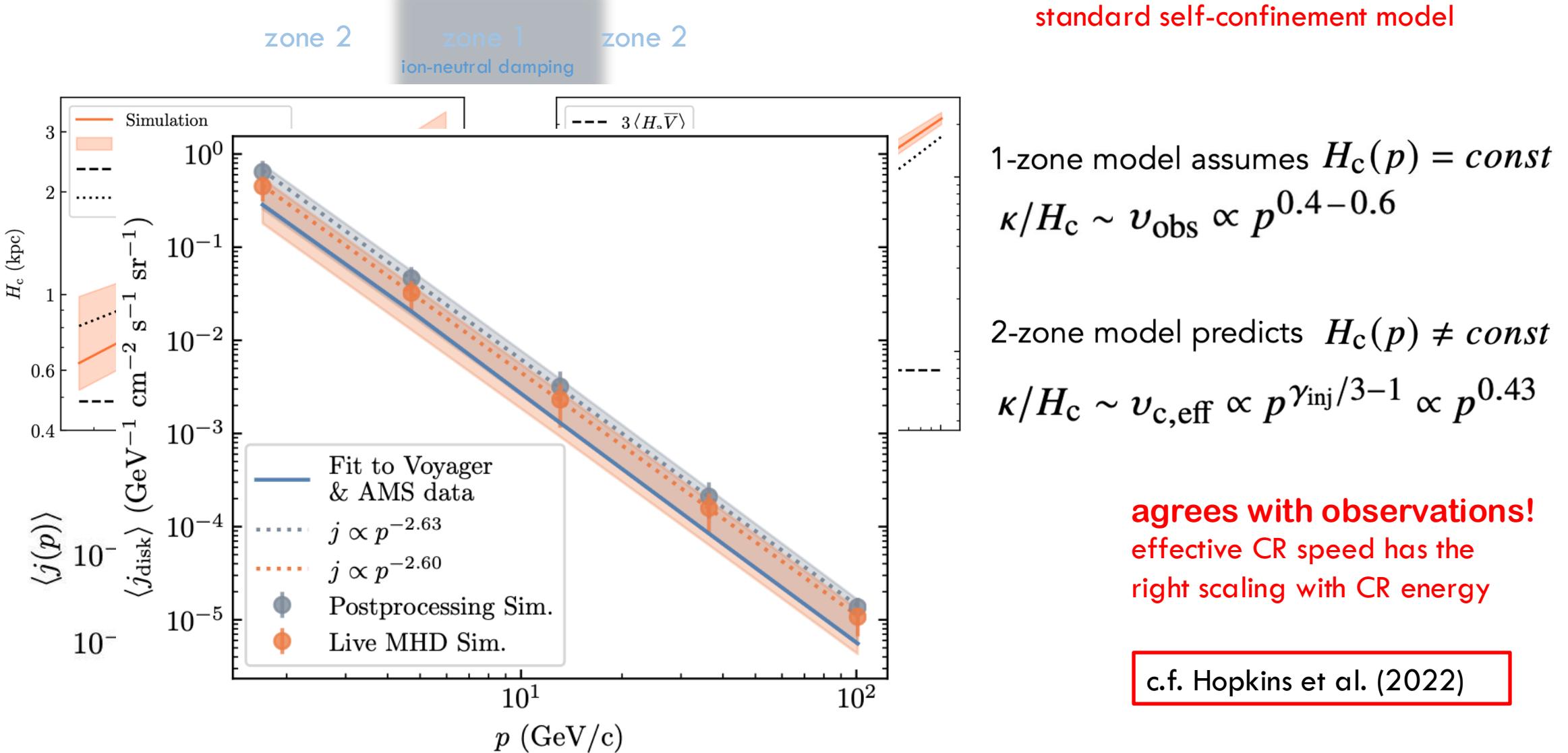
$\sim 10,000^3$ subsonic MHD turbulence

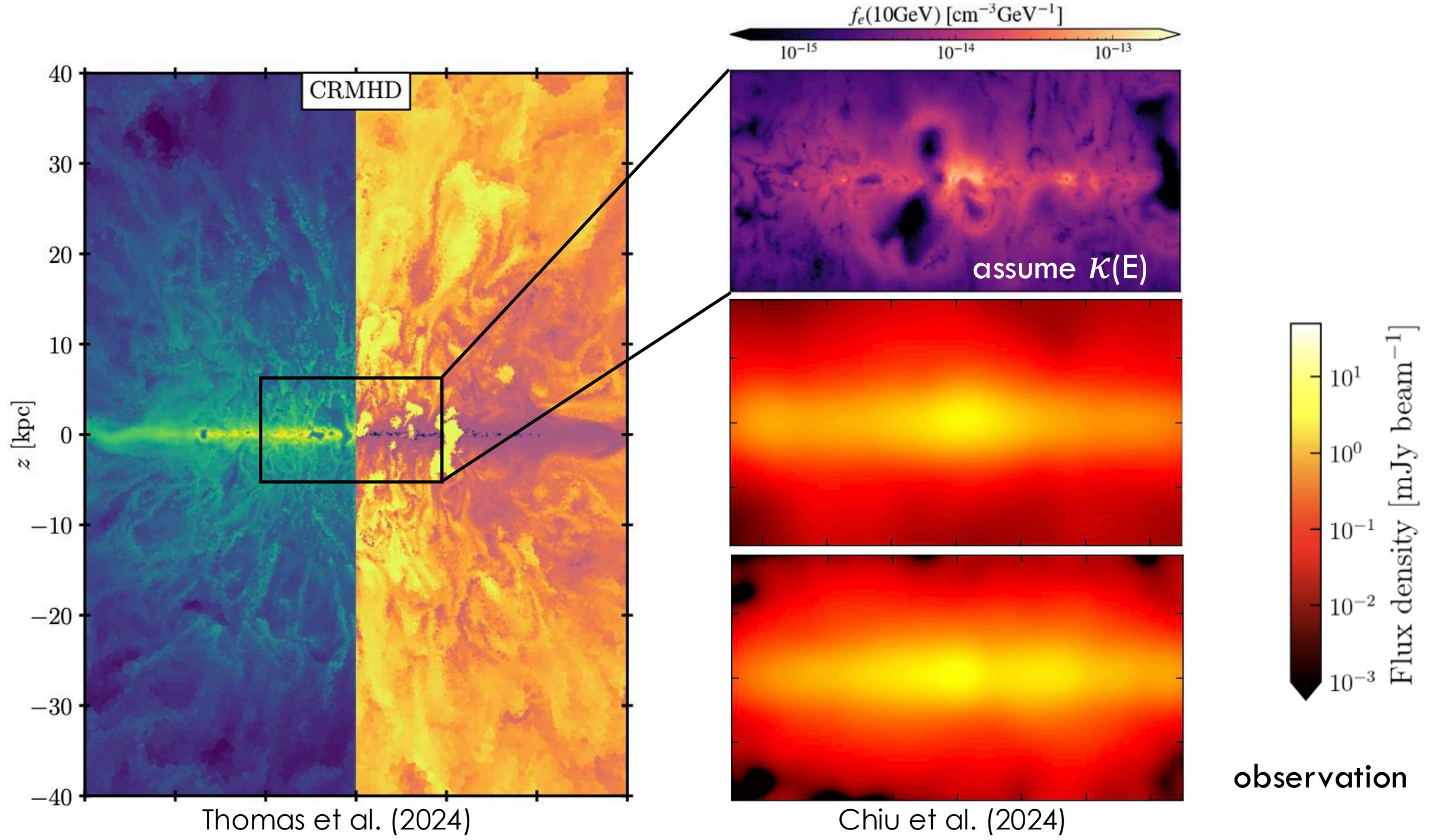


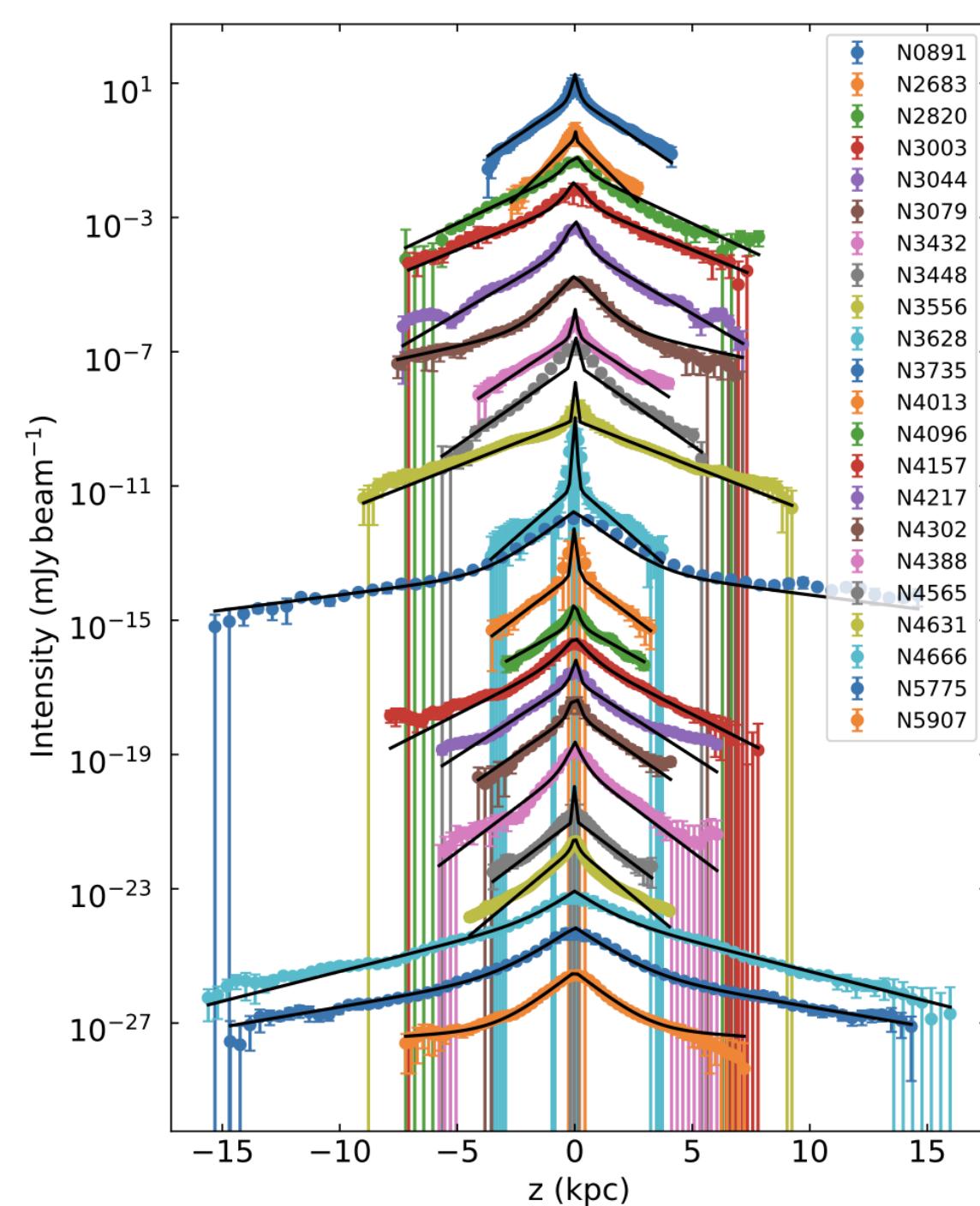
$$\mathcal{M} \approx 0.5 \quad \delta B/B_0 \approx 2$$



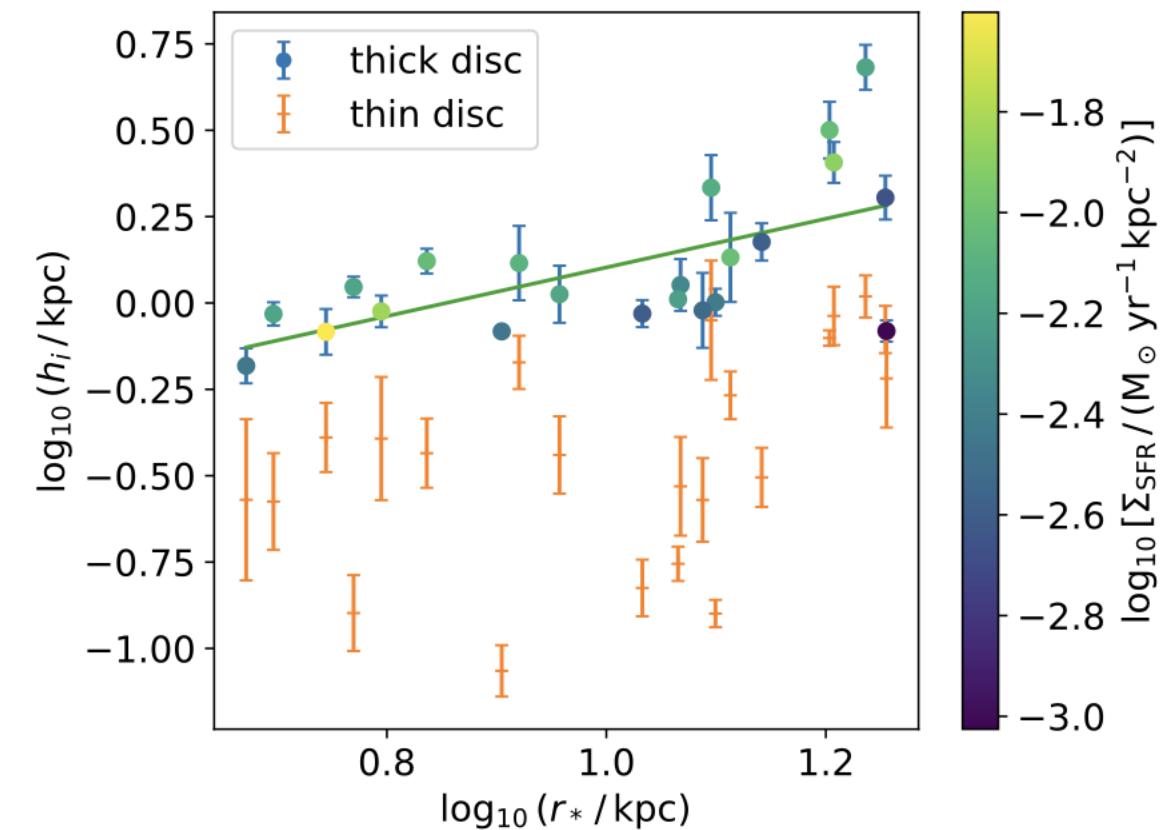
energy-dependent & physically-motivated CR transport





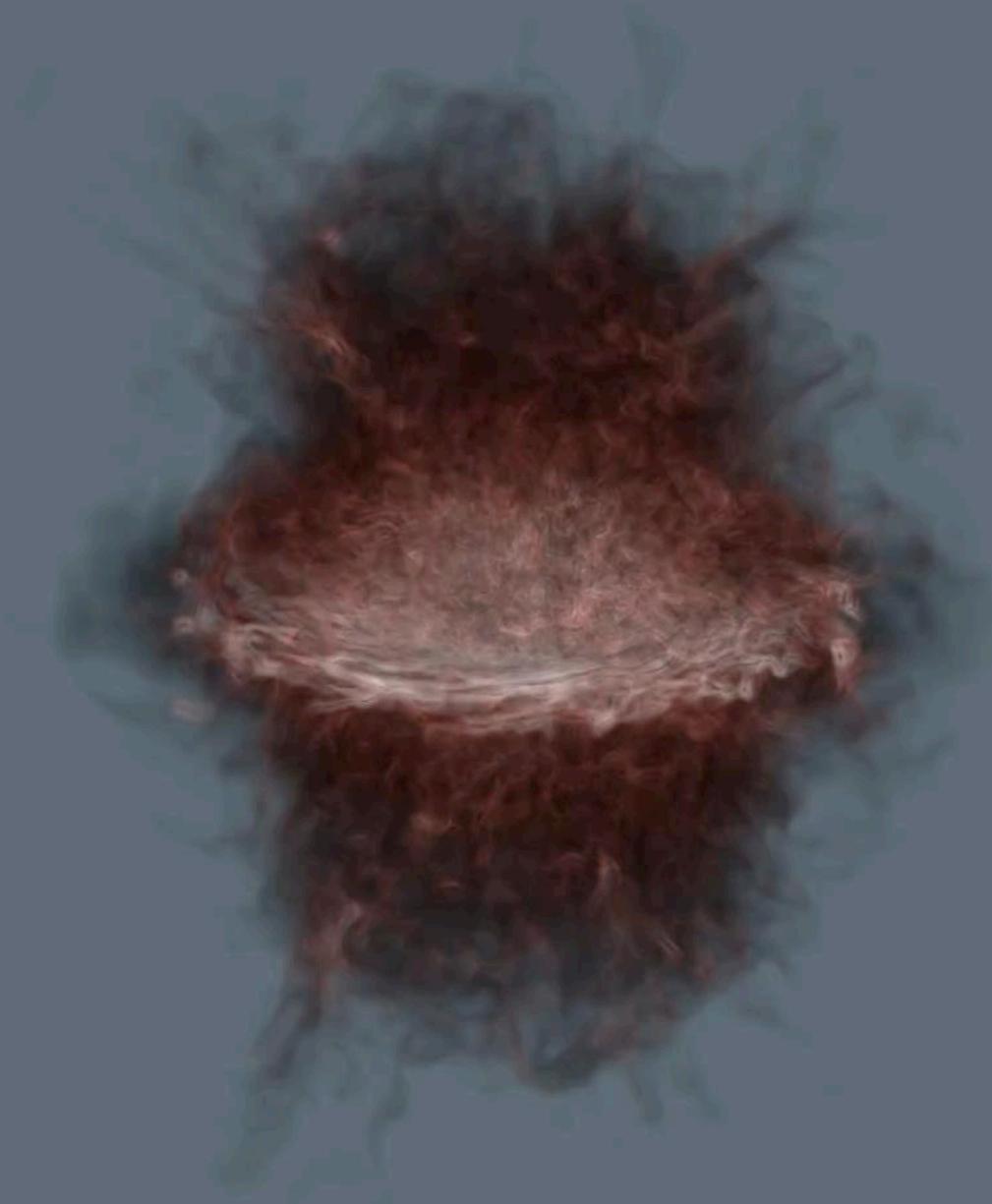


CHANG-ES catalog of edge-on disk galaxies

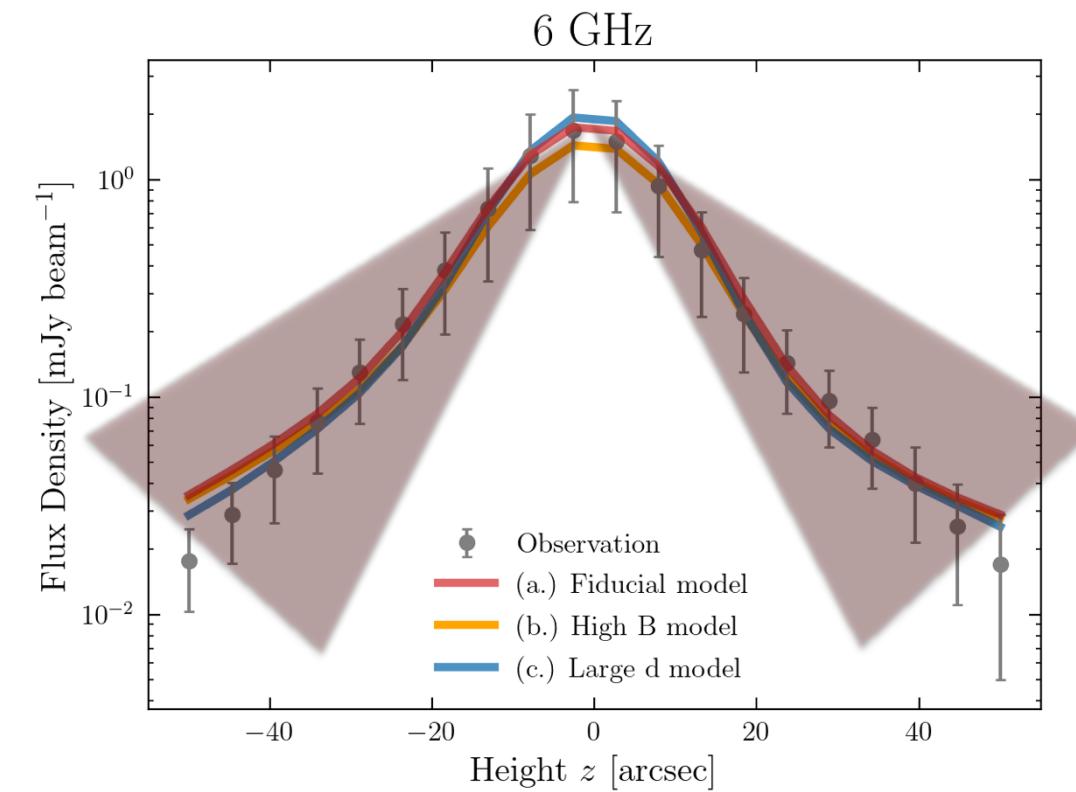


agrees with steady-state 1D solution of Quataert et al. (2022)

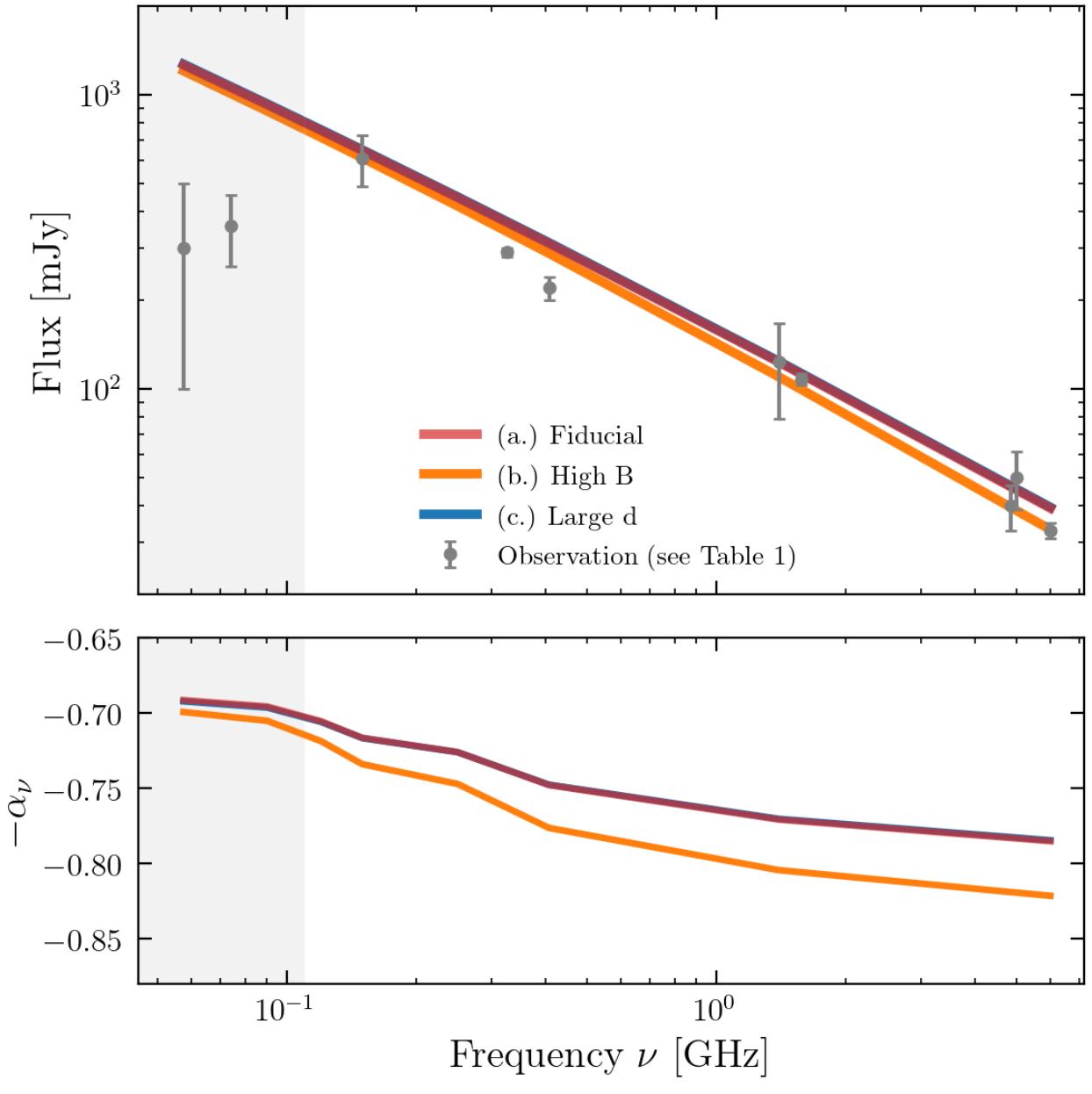
Heesen et al. (2025)



Thomas et al. (2024)



Chiu, Ruszkowski, Thomas, Werhahn, Pfrommer (2024)



$$\alpha_\nu = (\alpha_e - 1)/2$$

freely cooling: $\alpha_e = \alpha_{\text{inject}}$

steady-state: $\alpha_e = \alpha_{\text{inject}} + \alpha_{\text{steady}}$

; $\alpha_{\text{inject}} \sim 2.1$

freely cooling:

diffusion-dominated: $\alpha_{\text{steady}} \sim 0.3$;

IC/synch-dominated: $\alpha_{\text{steady}} = 1.0$;

$\alpha_\nu \sim 0.55$

$\alpha_\nu \sim 0.7$

$\alpha_\nu = 0.95$

see also other work on spectrally-resolved CR transport

Yang & Ruszkowski (2017)

Werhahn et al. (2021a,b,c)

Girichidis et al. (2022)

Hopkins et al. (2022)

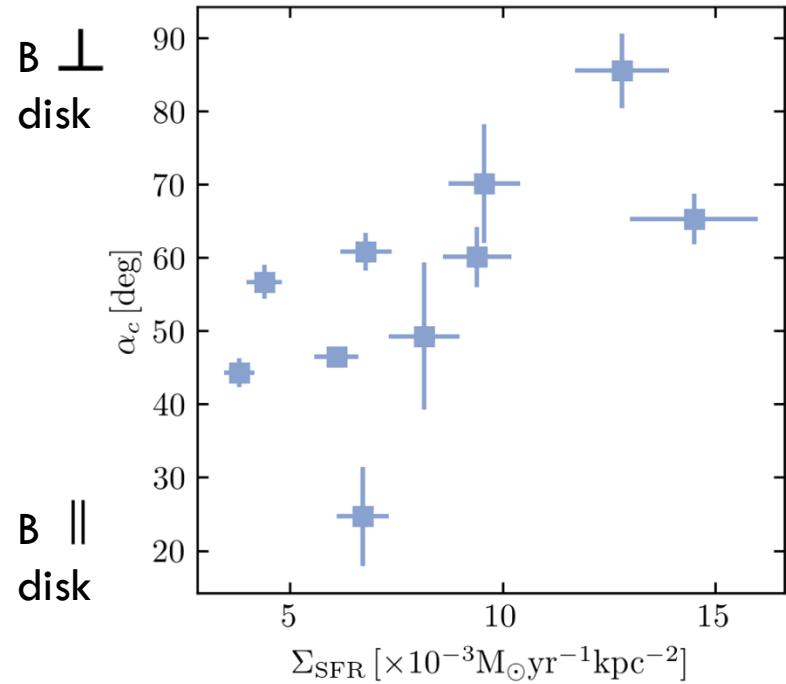
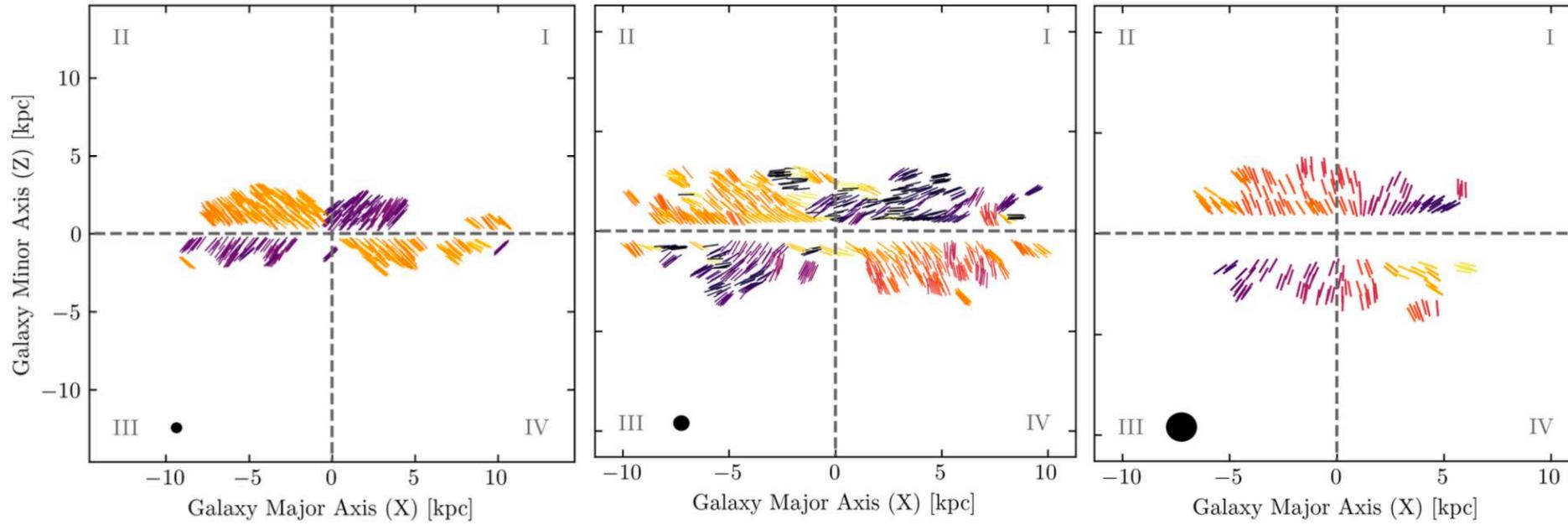
Krumholz et al. (2022)

Böss et al. (2023)

Baldacchino-Jordan et al. (2025)

Armillotta et al. (2025)

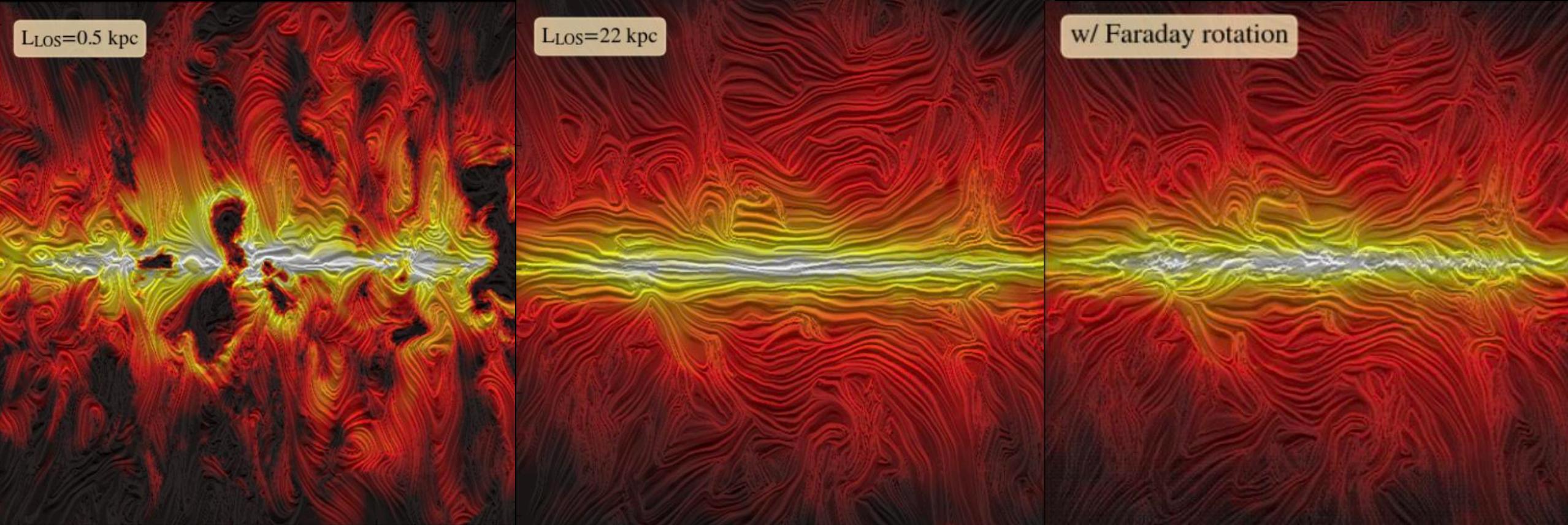
Linzer et al. (2025)



most galaxies exhibit **X-ray shaped B-fields**

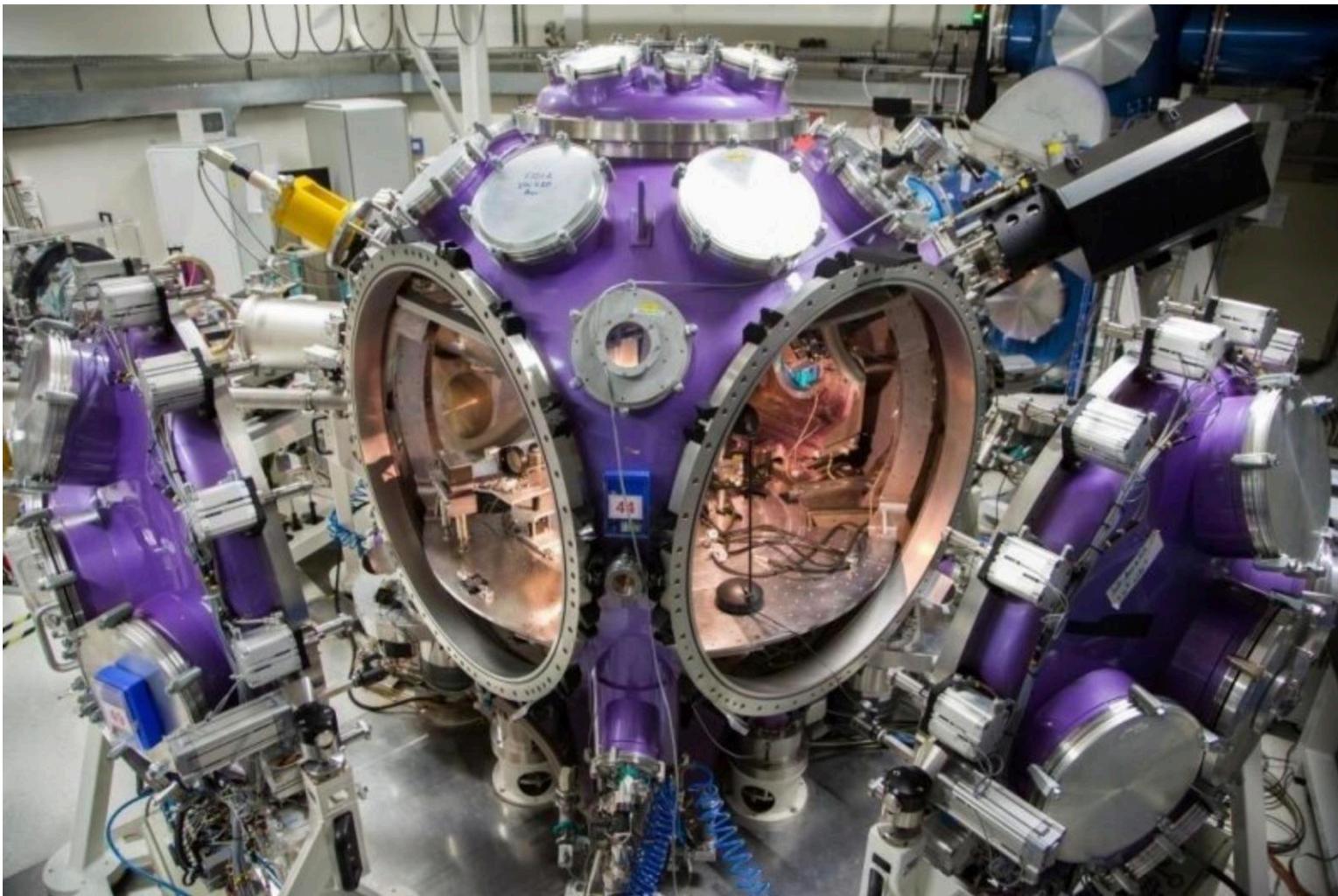
B-fields more vertical for higher SFR surface density

Stein et al. (2025)



X-ray shaped B-fields

LULI2000 = LABORATOIRE POUR L'UTILISATION DES LASERS INTENSES



Summary

(stellar) CR feedback

New CR acceleration mechanisms

CR transport processes are crucially important for controlling star formation & galactic wind properties

CR may play an important role in open star cluster formation and clustered SN feedback

Impact of CRs in CGM can be dramatic and depends critically on CR transport physics

CR wind models are broadly consistent with radio observations of galaxies

CR transport is fundamentally important

We need a complete **CR transport** theory

We need to test it in **laboratory** settings