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# Astrophysics III

## Formation and Evolution of galaxies

Michaela Hirschmann, Fall-Winter semester 2024

# Lecture content and schedule

- *Chapter 1:* Introduction (galaxy definition, astronomical scales, observable quantities — repetition of Astro-I)
- *Chapter 2:* Brief review on stars
- *Chapter 3:* Radiation processes in galaxies and telescopes;
- *Chapter 4:* The Milky Way
- *Chapter 5:* The world of galaxies I
- *Chapter 6:* The world of galaxies II
- *Chapter 7:* Black holes and active galactic nuclei
- *Chapter 8:* Galaxies and their environment;
- *Chapter 9:* High-redshift galaxies
- *Chapter 10:*
  - Cosmology in a nutshell; Linear structure formation in the early Universe
- *Chapter 11:*
  - Dark matter and the large-scale structure
  - Cosmological N-body simulations of dark matter
- *Chapter 12:* Populating dark matter halos with baryons: Semi-empirical & semi-analytical models
- *Chapter 13:* Modelling the evolution of gas in galaxies: Hydrodynamics
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- *Chapter 15:* Stellar feedback processes
- *Chapter 16:* Black hole growth & AGN feedback processes
- *Chapter 17:* Modern simulations & future prospects

Part I:  
Observational  
basics & facts of  
galaxies  
first 7 lectures

Part II:  
Theory & models  
of  
galaxy evolution  
processes  
second 7 lectures

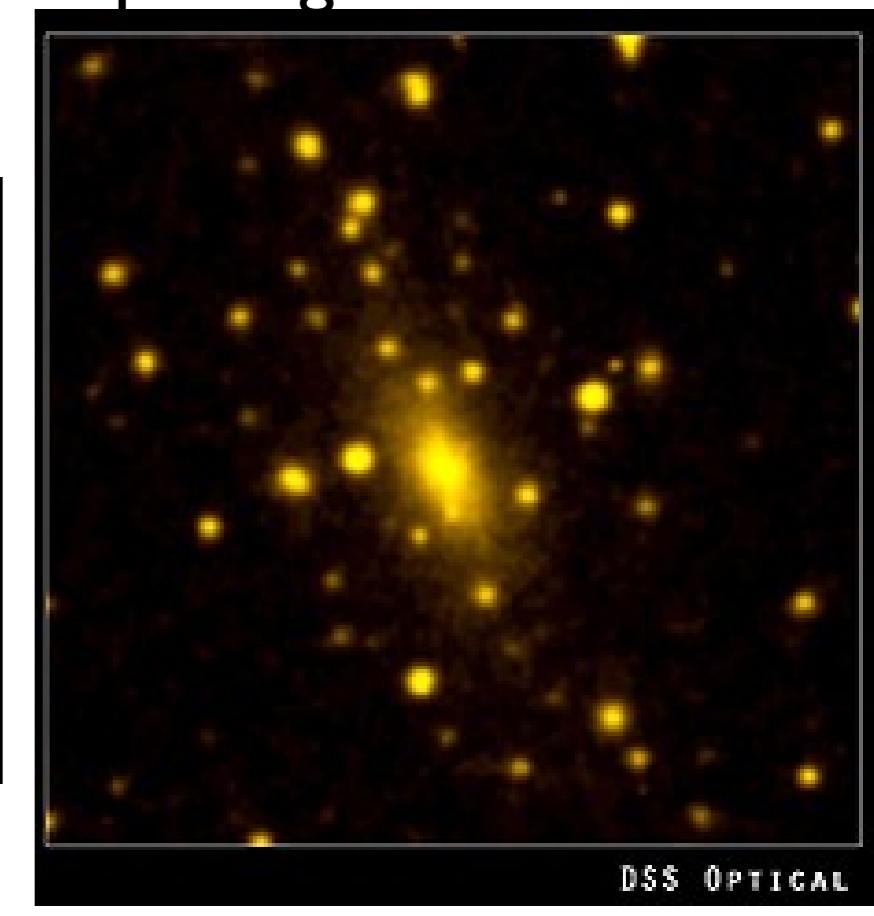
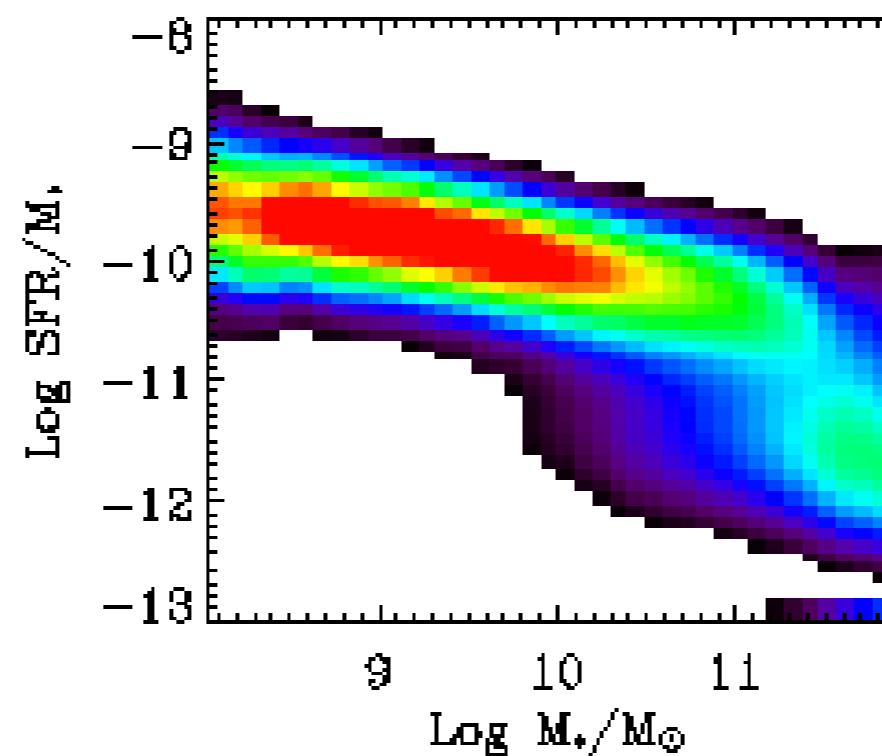
# Outline of Chapter 16

- Motivation for feedback from accreting BHs
- Small-scale physical processes of BH accretion and AGN feedback
- Different models for BH accretion and AGN feedback in cosmological simulations
- AGN feedback and galaxy properties in cosmological simulations

# Persisting problems with massive galaxies

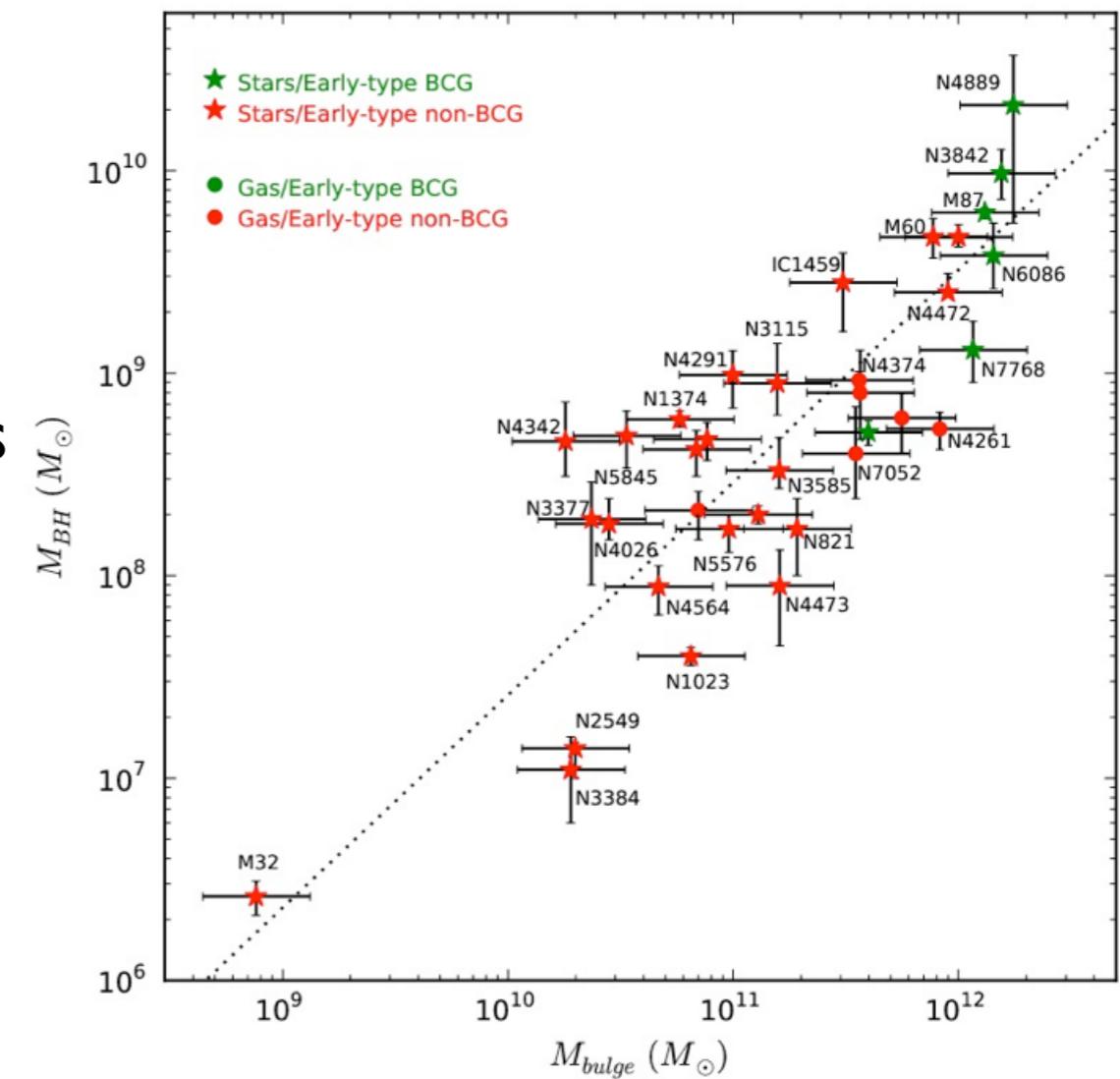
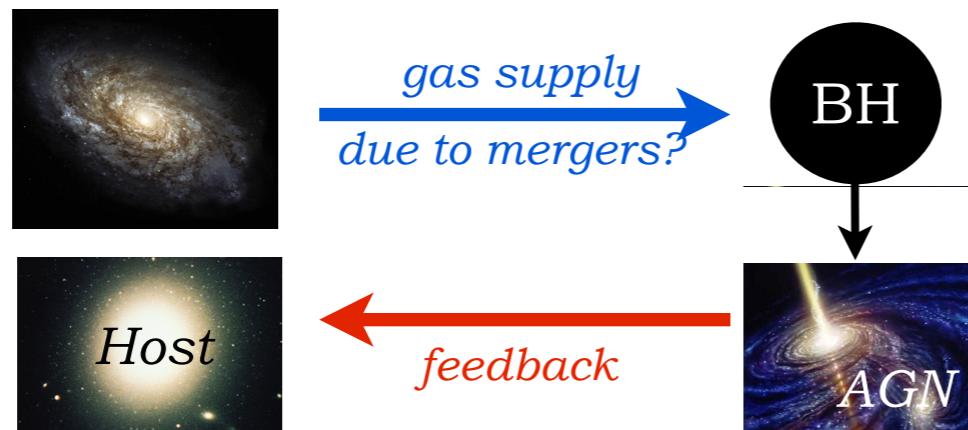
- **Massive galaxies:** stellar fb can be efficient at high  $z$  progenitors, but towards lower redshifts, not enough energy to eject material out of the galaxy resulting in
  - **Over-cooling problem:** too many too massive galaxies
  - Massive galaxies have too high SFRs at late times
  - Massive galaxies have too young and blue stellar populations (no color bi-modality)
  - Massive galaxies have too small sizes/ too compact
  - Massive galaxies often have more disk-like morphologies
  - Cooling flow problem in galaxy clusters

NEED FOR  
OTHER  
ENERGY  
SOURCES



# Supermassive BHs in galaxies

- Possible solution: AGN feedback
- Most if not all galaxies host a supermassive BH in their centre
- BH scaling relations suggest an evolutionary connection between BHs and their hosts



- Theorists “like” BHs as they are extremely efficient energy sources: 10% of rest mass converted into energy
  - Thermal binding energy of a  $10^{13} M_{\odot}$  halo ...  $10^{61}$  erg VS.
  - Accretion energy of a  $10^9 M_{\odot}$  BH ...  $2 \times 10^{62}$  erg

→ Plausible that this energy affects the host...

# Observational evidence for AGN feedback

## Which observational evidence does exist for AGN feedback in galaxies?

- **Quasar-driven winds** in local & X-ray obscured AGN, out to  $z=6$ 
  - Broad component of emission lines allows for identification of gas outflows and quantification of outflow velocities
  - High gas accretion rates
- **Observational evidence for hot X-ray cavities, so called radio-lobes**
  - Radio lobes are fuelled by narrow core/BH powered relativistic jets (synchrotron emission)
  - Low gas accretion rates

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# Small-scale physics: BH growth

## AGN luminosity and BH accretion rate:

- With a radiative efficiency  $\epsilon_r$ , a fraction of the rest mass energy of the accreting matter  $dM_{\text{BH}}/dt$  that is converted into observable electromagnetic radiation,

$L_{\text{AGN,bol}}$

$$L_{\text{bol}} = \epsilon_r \frac{dM_{\bullet}}{dt} c^2$$

- $\epsilon_r$  predicted by accretion disk simulations to range between 0.05 and 0.4 (depending on the spin), observations suggest 0.1-0.2

## Upper limit for BH accretion from simple spherically symmetric model:

- Balance between outward directed radiation pressure force and inward directed gravitational force defines the **maximum Eddington accretion rate/luminosity**

$$F_{\text{rad}} = \sigma_T \frac{L}{4\pi r^2 c} \quad F_{\text{grav}} = \frac{GM_{\bullet}m_p}{r^2} \quad L_{\text{edd}} = \frac{4\pi GM_{\bullet}m_p c}{\sigma_T} \approx 1.3 \times 10^{46} \left( \frac{M_{\bullet}}{10^8 M_{\odot}} \right) \text{erg/s}$$

**Q: Do you think it is realistic to assume that in nature BHs can never accrete above the Eddington limit?**

- Eddington ratio  $f_{\text{edd}} := L/L_{\text{edd}}$  used to distinguish between radiatively efficient ( $f_{\text{edd}} > 0.1$ ) and inefficient ( $f_{\text{edd}} < 0.1$ ) BH accretion and AGN

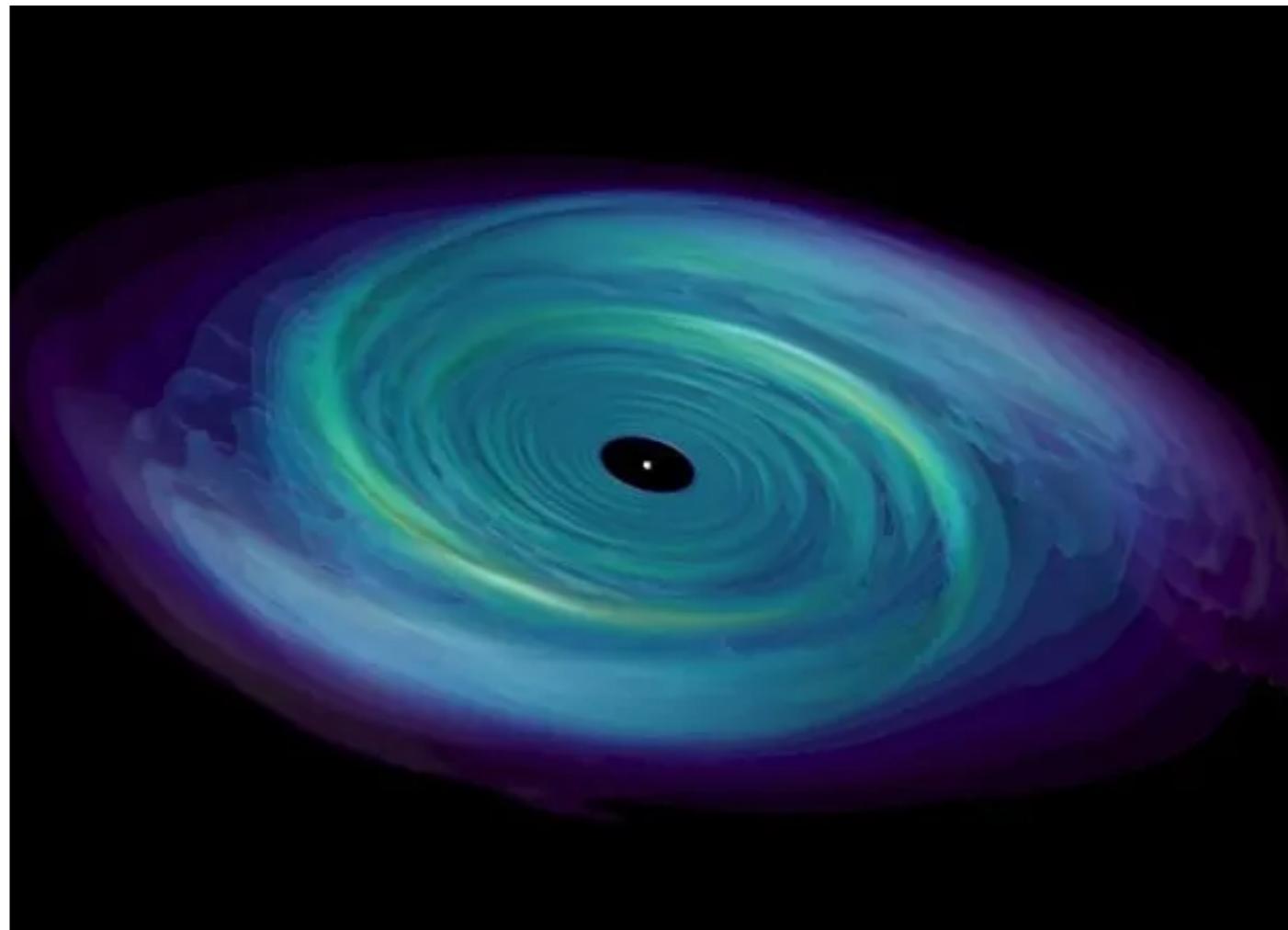
# Small-scale physics: BH growth

But:  $f_{\text{edd}}$  changes with time depending on the gas supply!

Accretion in the radiatively efficient regime:

Geometrically thin (optically thick) accretion disks

- Since gas has angular momentum, accretion most likely through a Keplerian disk
- Gas must loose its angular momentum to accrete to set free gravitational energy
- Viscous processes (due to turbulence and magnetic stress) can transport angular momentum outwards
- Spinning BHs complicate the picture, can de/increase gas accretion

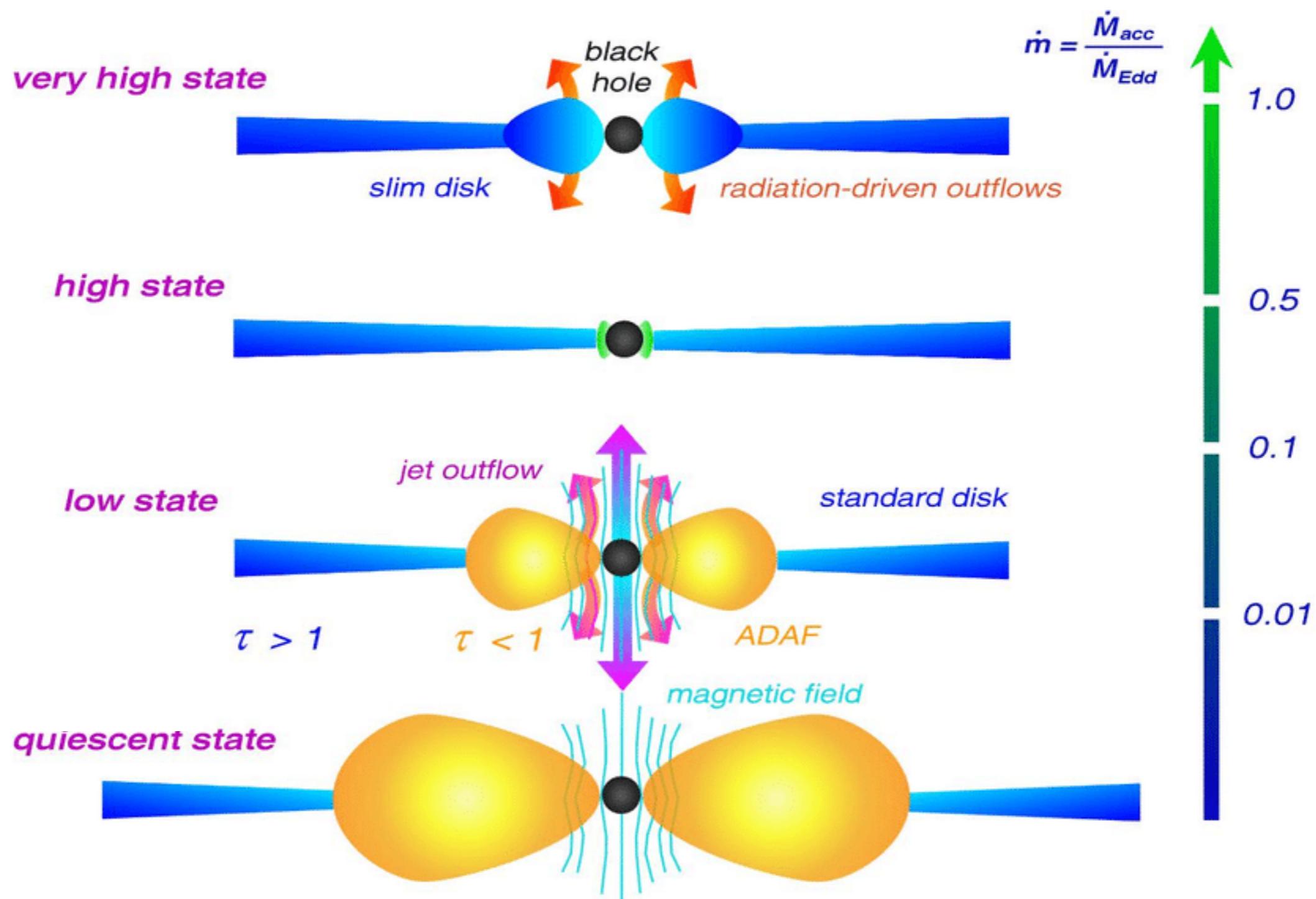


- Analytic Shakura-Sunyaev solution for gas accretion  $dM_{\text{BH}}/dt = M_{\text{gas,disk}}/\tau_{\text{vis}}$  on a viscous time-scale

$$\tau_{\text{vis}} \approx 1.2 \times 10^6 \text{ yr} \left( \frac{\alpha}{0.1} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{R_{\text{circ}}}{100 r_s} \right)^{7/2} \left( \frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^9 M_{\odot}} \right)$$

# Small-scale physics: BH growth

- In a hot, less dense medium: Geom. thin disk model not valid
- Instead, disk because puffed up and optically thin, radiatively inefficient accretion (may power radio galaxies with jets/outflows)



# Small-scale physics: BH growth

- Instead, disk because puffed up and optically thin, **radiatively inefficient accretion** (may power radio galaxies with jets/outflows)
- BH may rather accrete hot gas via **Bondi-Hoyle accretion scheme**
  - Spherically symmetric accretion (from a hydrostatic hot, ideal gas around BH with no angular mom.), when gravitational potential energy of BH overcomes the thermal energy of the gas

$$\sqrt{\frac{2GM}{R}} \simeq c_s,$$

- This defines the accretion (“Bondi”) radius i.e. radius at which sound speed of gas equals the escape velocity

$$R \simeq \frac{2GM}{c_s^2}$$

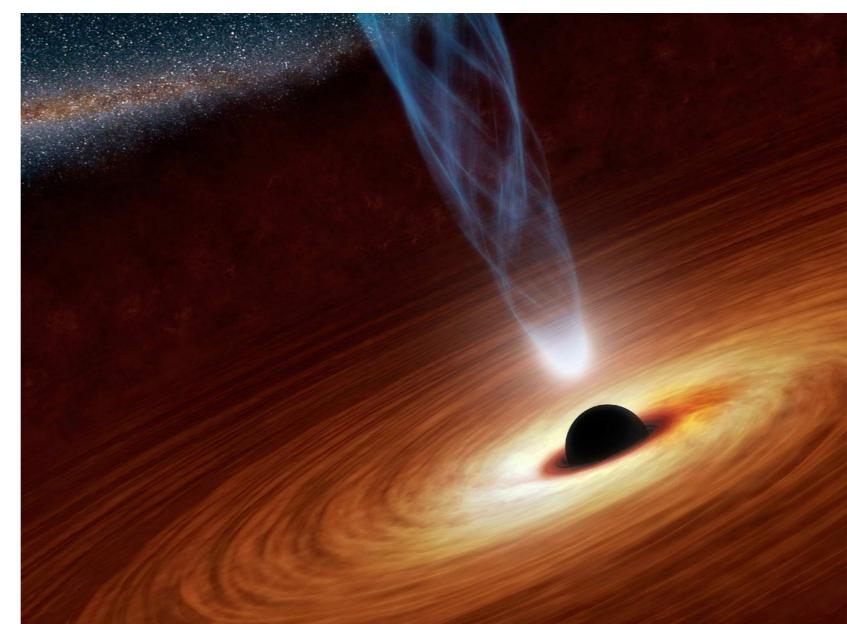
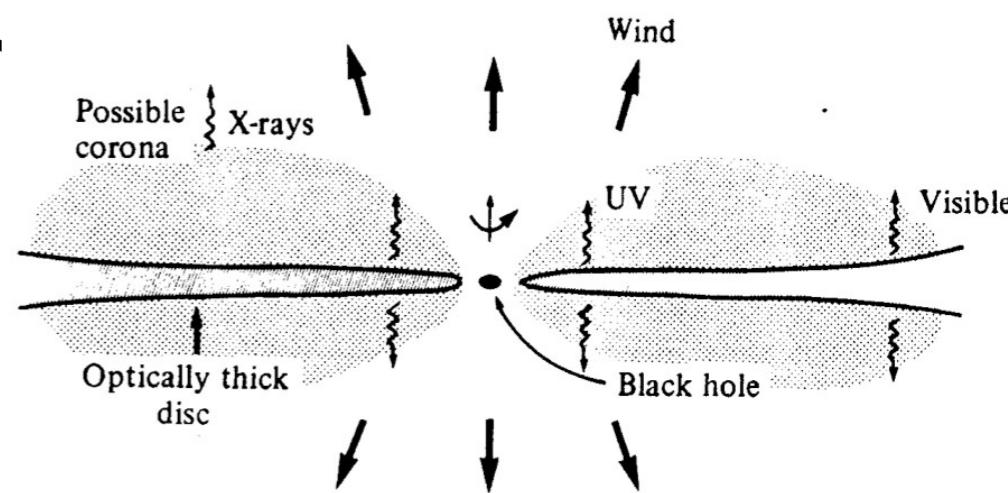
- Accretion rate is roughly

$$\dot{M} \simeq \frac{4\pi\rho G^2 M^2}{c_s^3}$$

- More accurate estimations come from **GRMHD simulations** of gas accretion disk around BHs —> high complexity!

# Small-scale physics: AGN feedback

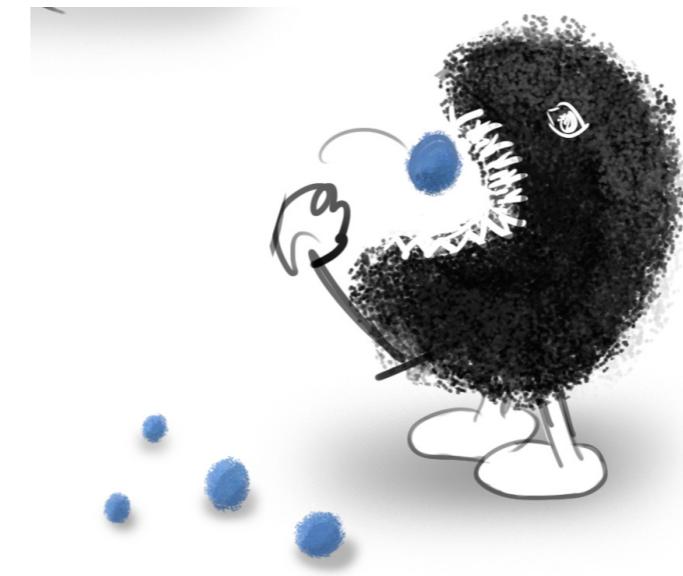
- Gas accretion onto BHs can lead to significant amounts of energy release (radiative and mechanical form)
- Two main modes of energy production:
  - **Thin accretion disk:** Loss of angular mom. in a Keplerian accretion disk (via viscosity, magneto-rotational instability) —> radiation + fast particle winds
  - **Relativistic jets:** Magneto-hydrodynamic processes in form of magnetically arrested disks together with the spin of the BH lead to relativistic particle streams/jets perpendicular to the disk



# Small-scale physics: AGN feedback

Two main mechanisms how energy can couple to the ambient medium

- Radiative interaction between photons and gas: released radiative energy (**photons!**) from bright AGN can act on gas via radiation pressure and photo-ionisation- and Compton-heating
  - mostly relevant for radiatively **efficient** AGN (thin accretion disks)
- Particle-particle (mechanical) interaction: energy and momentum injection of (relativistic) material flows (e.g. winds in quasars, jets in radio galaxies) into ambient gaseous medium
  - similarly large mechanical energy as radiated energy
  - important for both radiatively efficient and inefficient AGN (winds from disk and jets, respectively)



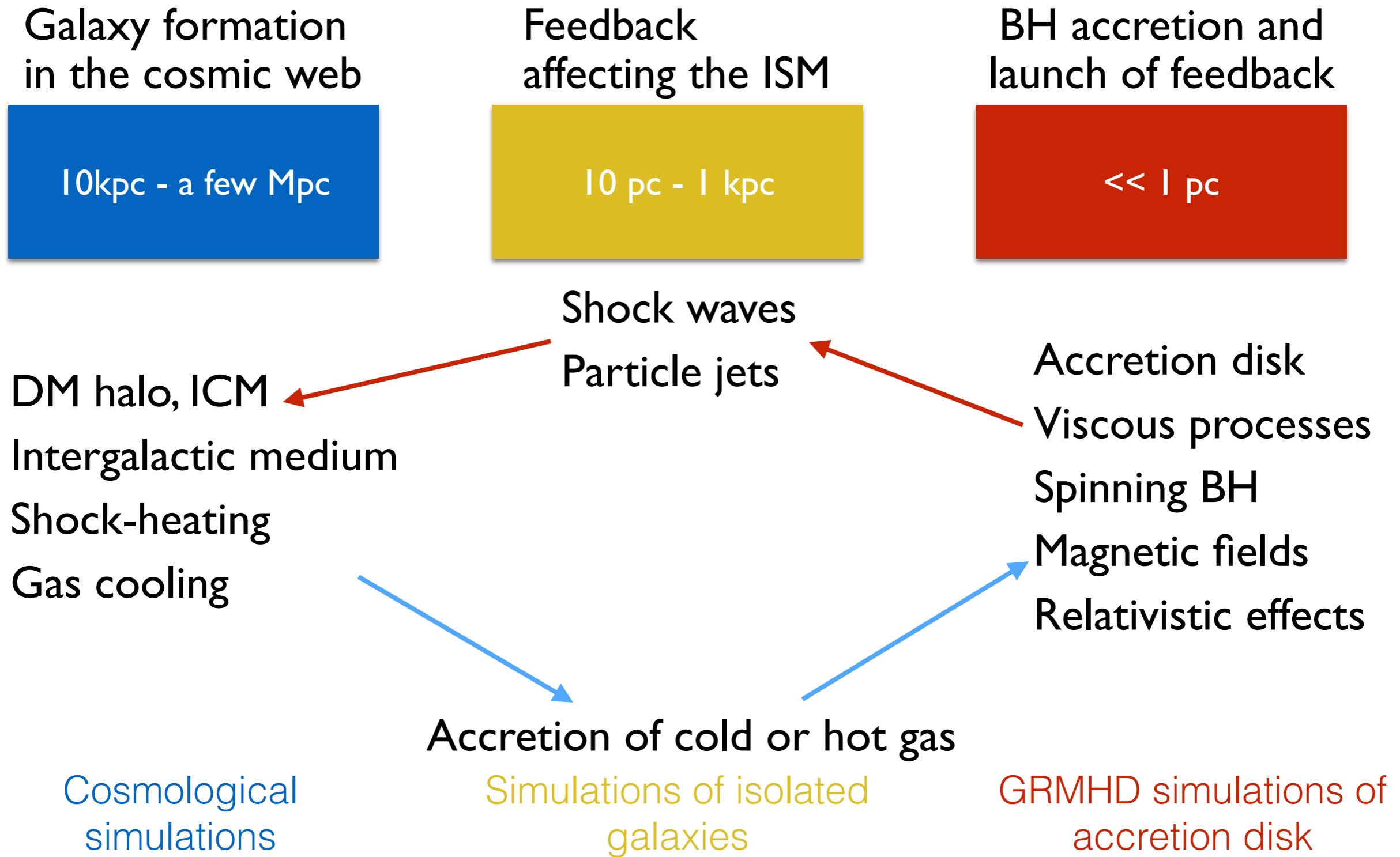
# Small-scale physics: summary

- Simple model of spherical gas accretion onto BHs:
  - maximum accretion at the Eddington limit (balance between gravity and radiation pressure)
  - but may be “violated” in reality under certain conditions (e.g., when we have lots of cold, turbulent around)
- BH accretion physics complex, can be studied with GRMHD simulations
  - Cold accretion via thin, optically thick accretion disk — radiatively efficient, high  $f_{\text{edd}}$
  - Hot accretion via puffed-up disk, radiatively inefficient, low  $f_{\text{edd}}$ , (Bondi approach might be a good approximation)
- BH most efficient energy sources in our Universe
  - Between 10 and 20% of a BH’s rest mass can be converted into energy, e-m radiation
  - Radiation and winds from gas accretion from gas accretion disk (radiative and mechanical processes)
  - Fast relativistic particle jets (mechanical)

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# Scales involved in AGN feedback

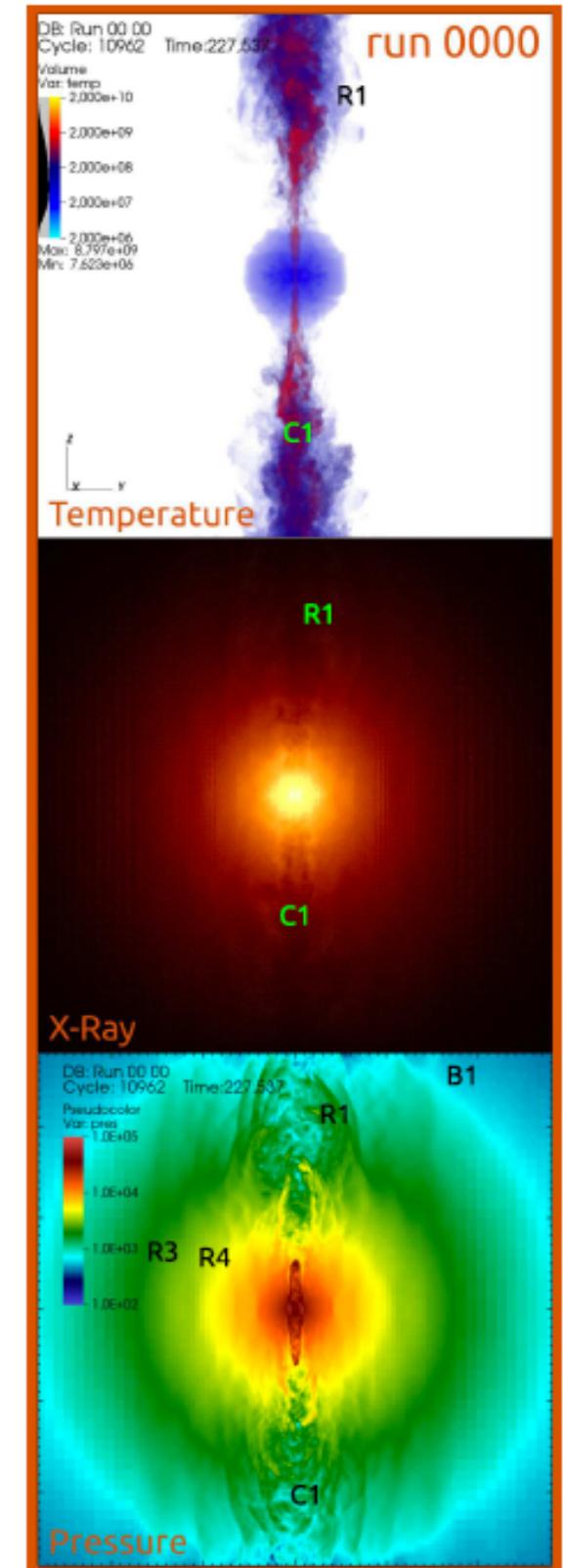
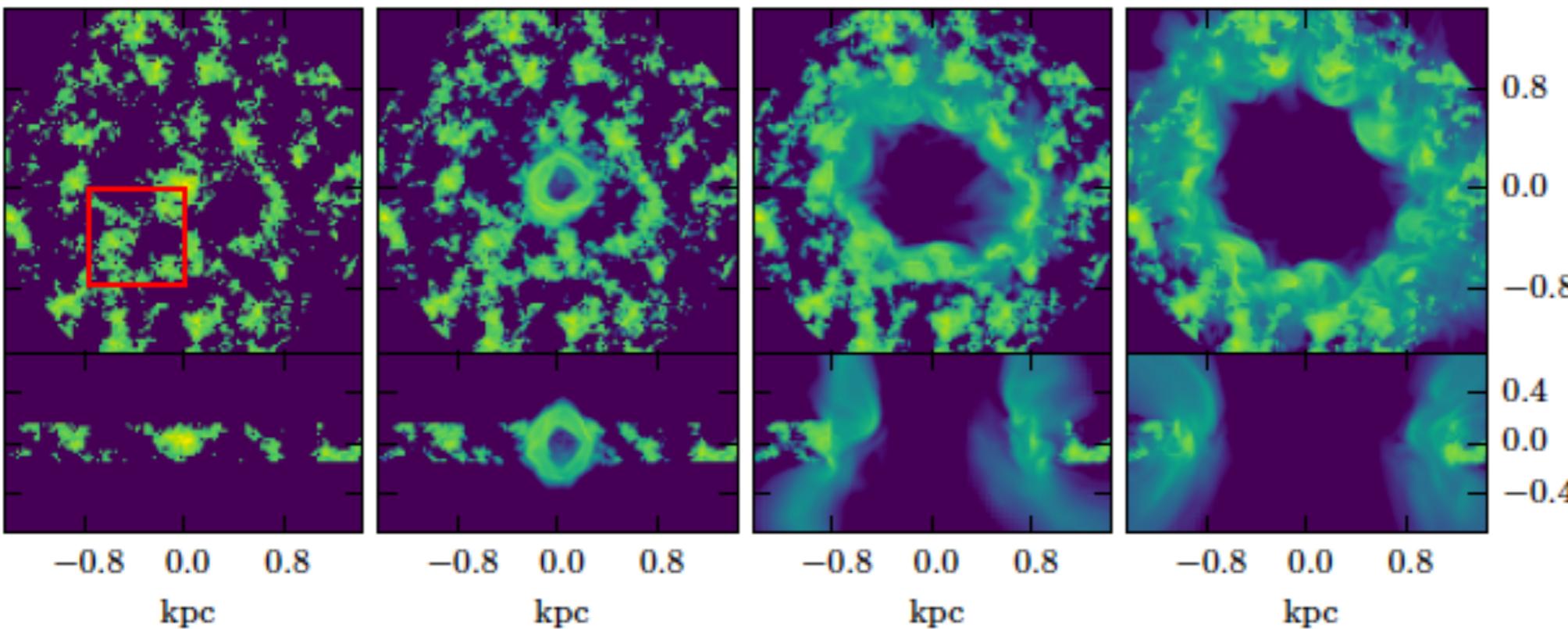


- How can we simulate such processes on scales beyond tens of parsec?

# Hydro simulation of isolated galaxies

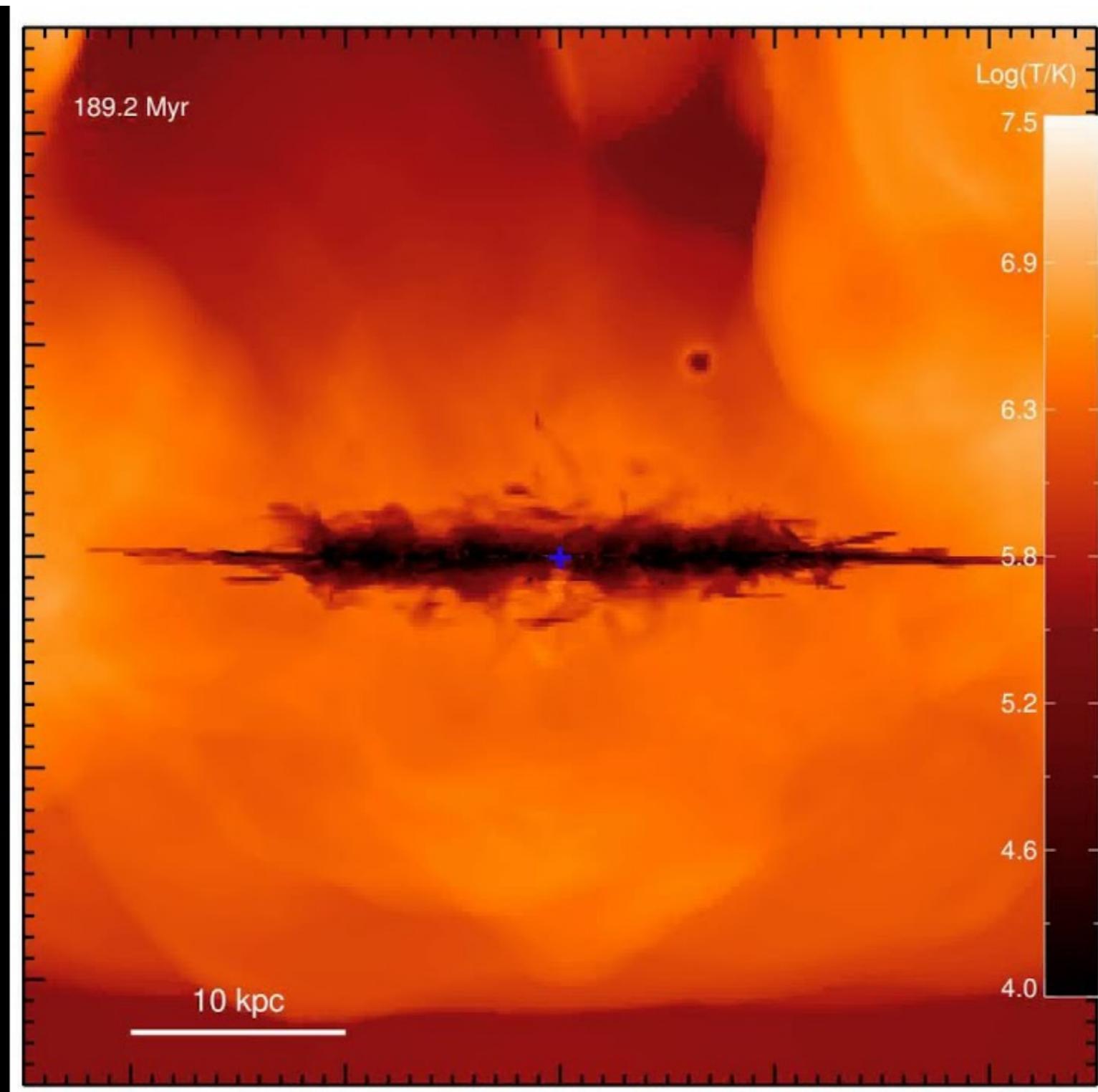
To study possible interactions with host galaxies →  
(Radiation-)Hydrodynamic simulations of isolated galaxies or part of the ISM

- Detailed radio-jet simulations suggest interaction with ISM, heating and outflows (e.g., *Gaibler+12, Gaspari+12, Wagner+12, Mukherjee+16, Cielo+17, Talbot+*)
- Detailed radiation-hydro simulations: Radiative AGN feedback (from accretion disk in quasars) seems to be capable of driving outflows (e.g., *Bieri+17, Costa+17*)
- *Cielo, Bieri+18*: Comparing radiation feedback with jet feedback: “[...] they produce similar outflow properties”
- A lot of on-going research ...



# Hydro simulation of isolated galaxies

To study possible interactions with host galaxies —>  
(Radiation-)Hydrodynamic simulations of isolated galaxies or part of the ISM



# BH growth in cosmological simulations

- BHs are modelled as collisionless “sink” particles, mass of accreted gas part. are added to that of the sink
- BH seeding: Start with “BH seed” of a certain mass putting it into a halo/galaxy above a certain mass limit
- BHs can further grow via mergers and via gas accretion
- Traditional model for gas accretion is Bondi (but other schemes also adopted):

$$\frac{dM_{\bullet}}{dt} = \frac{4\pi M_{\bullet}^2 \rho}{(c_s^2 + v_{\text{rel}}^2)^{3/2}}$$

- Compute probability that neighbouring gas particles are absorbed by the BH
- Often assumed that BH accretion is limited by the Eddington rate
- Merge BHs if they are within one smoothing length of each other and if the relative velocity is smaller than the sound speed

# AGN feedback in cosmological simulations

## Traditional thermal feedback approach:

- Assume that a fraction of radiated luminosity thermally couples to the surrounding gas

$$L_{\text{bol}} = \epsilon_r \frac{dM_{\bullet}}{dt} c^2$$

$$\frac{dE_{\text{therm}}}{dt} = \epsilon_{\text{therm}} \epsilon_r \dot{M}_{\bullet} c^2$$

- Add kernel weighted energy to the thermal energy of the neighbouring gas particles/cells
- $\epsilon_{\text{therm}}$  chosen to reproduce the local BH scaling relations

## Modified bubble feedback approach:

- To mimic hot bubbles for radiatively inefficient AGN,  $\epsilon_{\text{therm}}$  is increased from 0.5% to 2% and energy is sometimes released offset to the AGN/BH

## Kinetic jet/disk feedback:

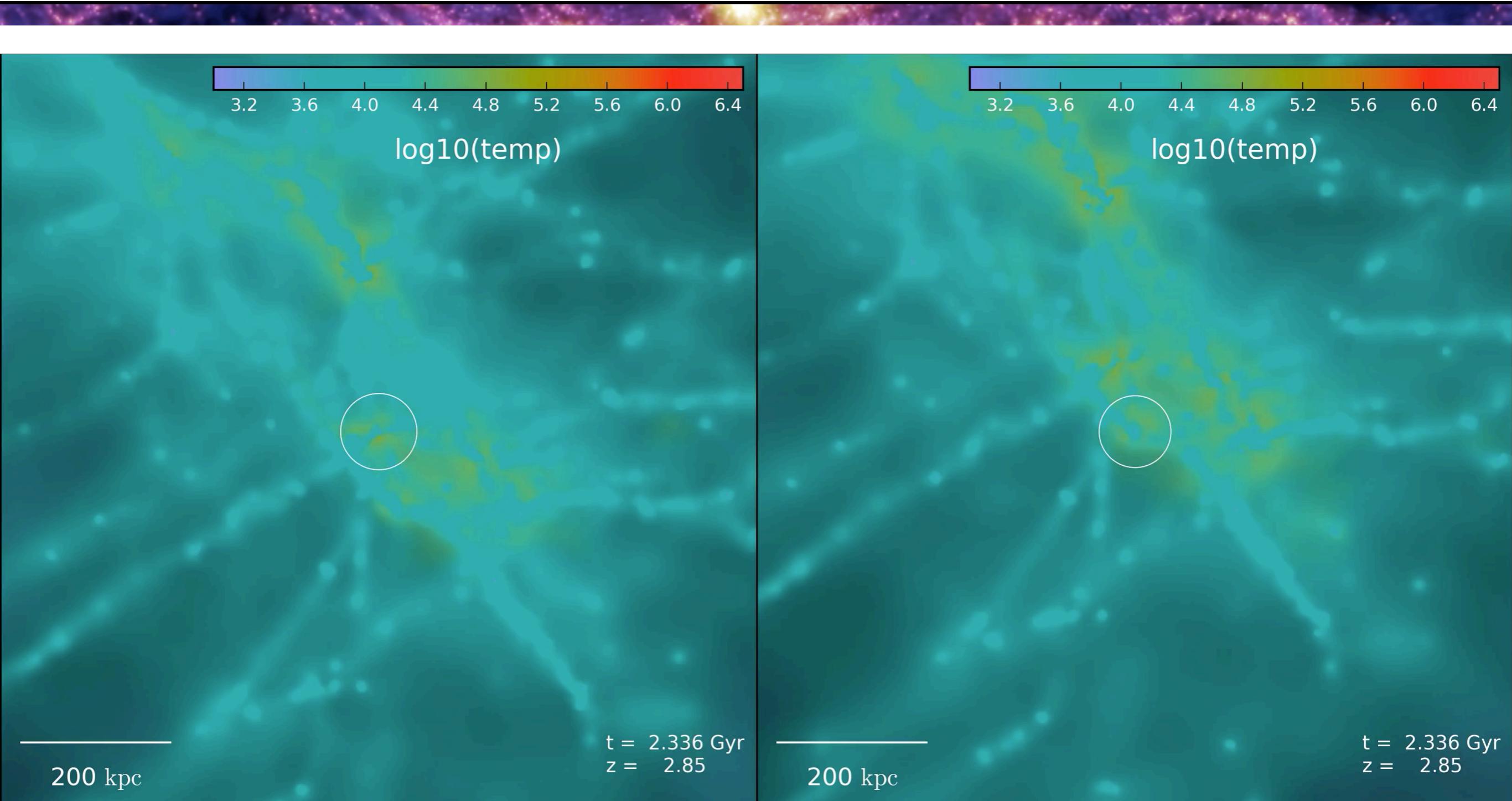
- For radiatively inefficient/efficient AGN: injection of kinetic energy into the ambient medium
- Neighbouring gas particles get kicks with velocities of 1000 km/s (perpendicular to the gas disk)

Stochastic thermal feedback:  $\rightarrow$  Similar approach as for stellar fb

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# Visualization of a zoom-in simulation...

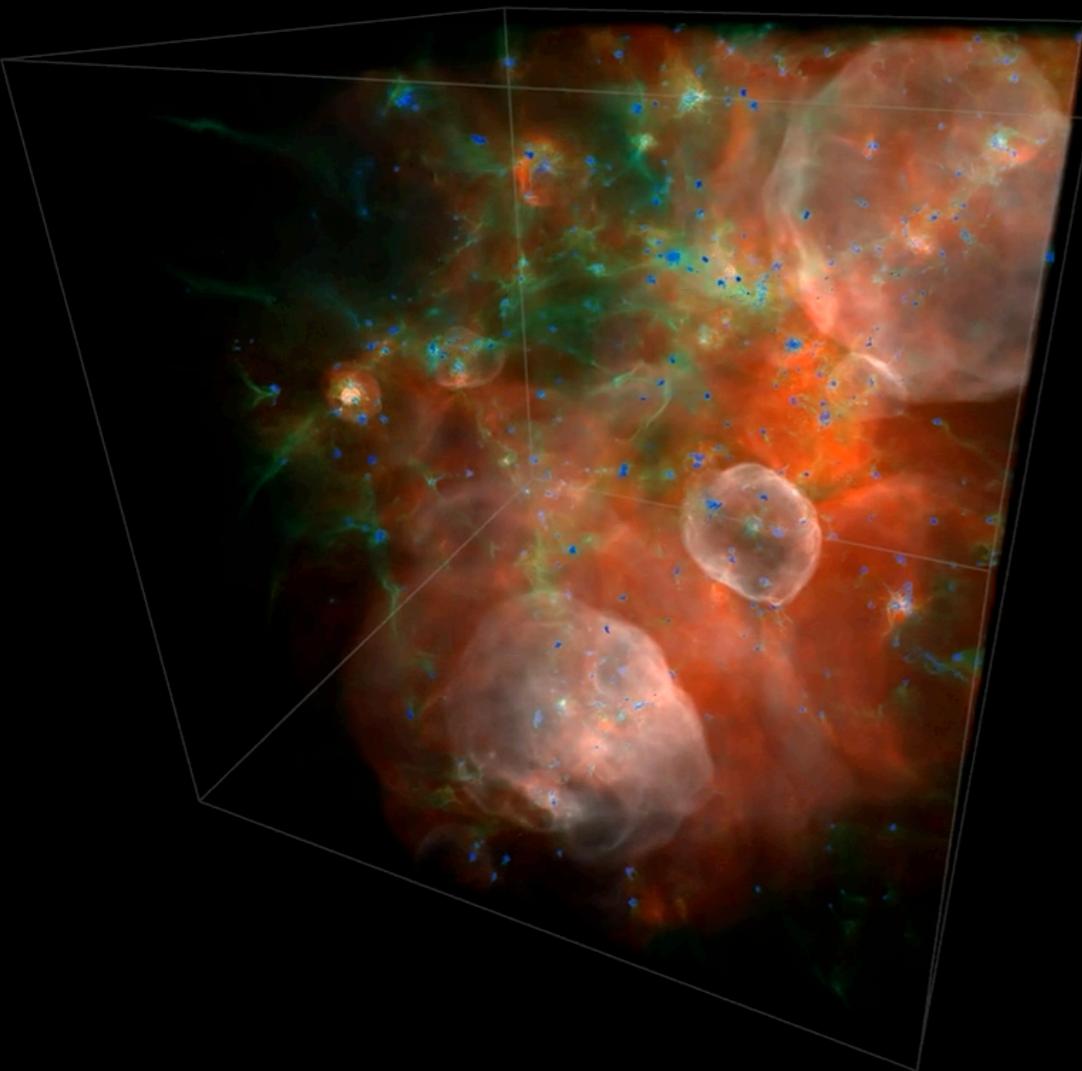


- ...with and without kinetic AGN feedback as described in Choi+17/ Hirschmann+17
- Similar implementations: e.g., Weinberger+18 (IllustrisTNG), Dave+19 (Simba simulation)

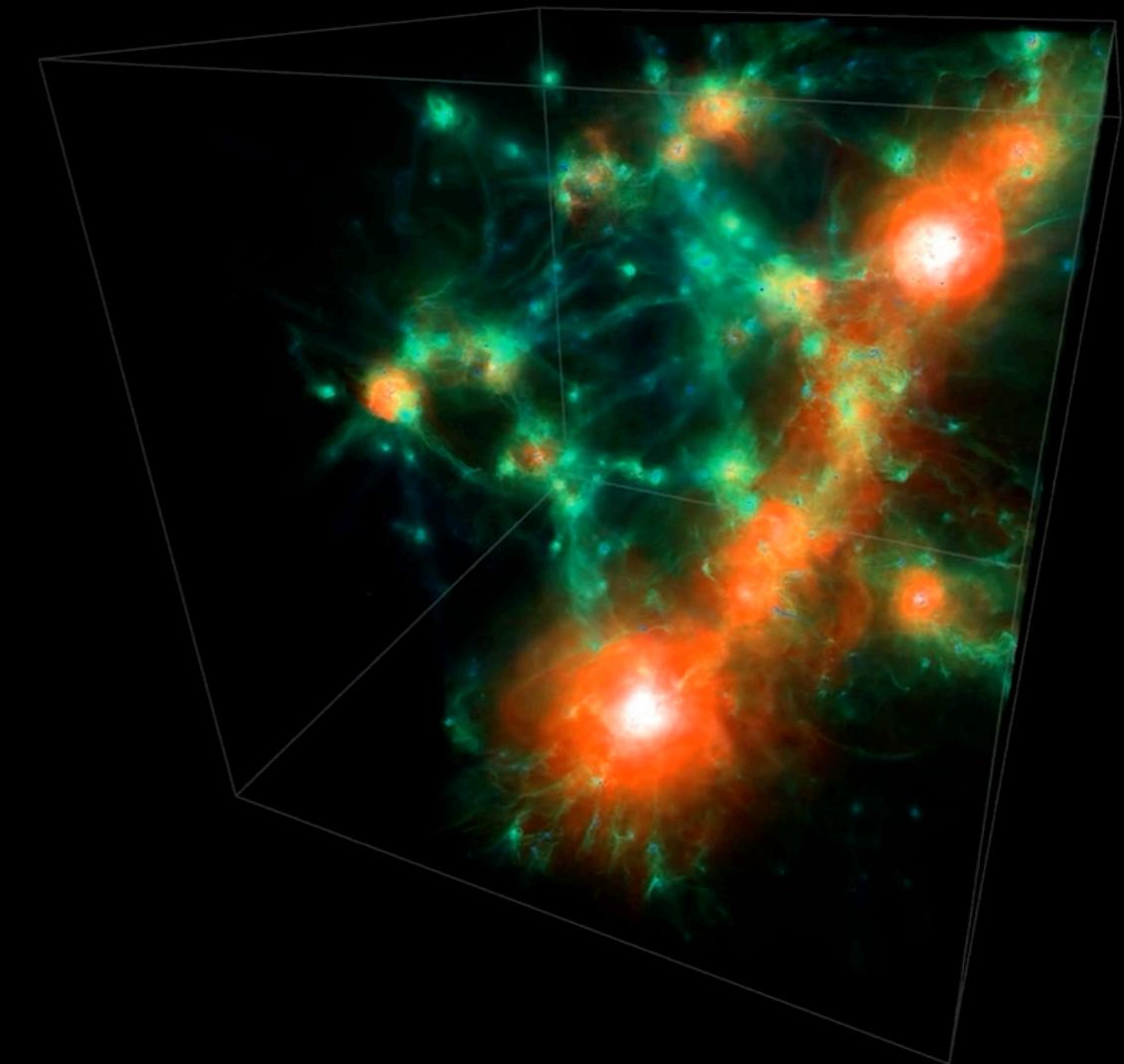
# Intergalactic medium

- Illustris and IllustrisTNG

Illustris (temperature)



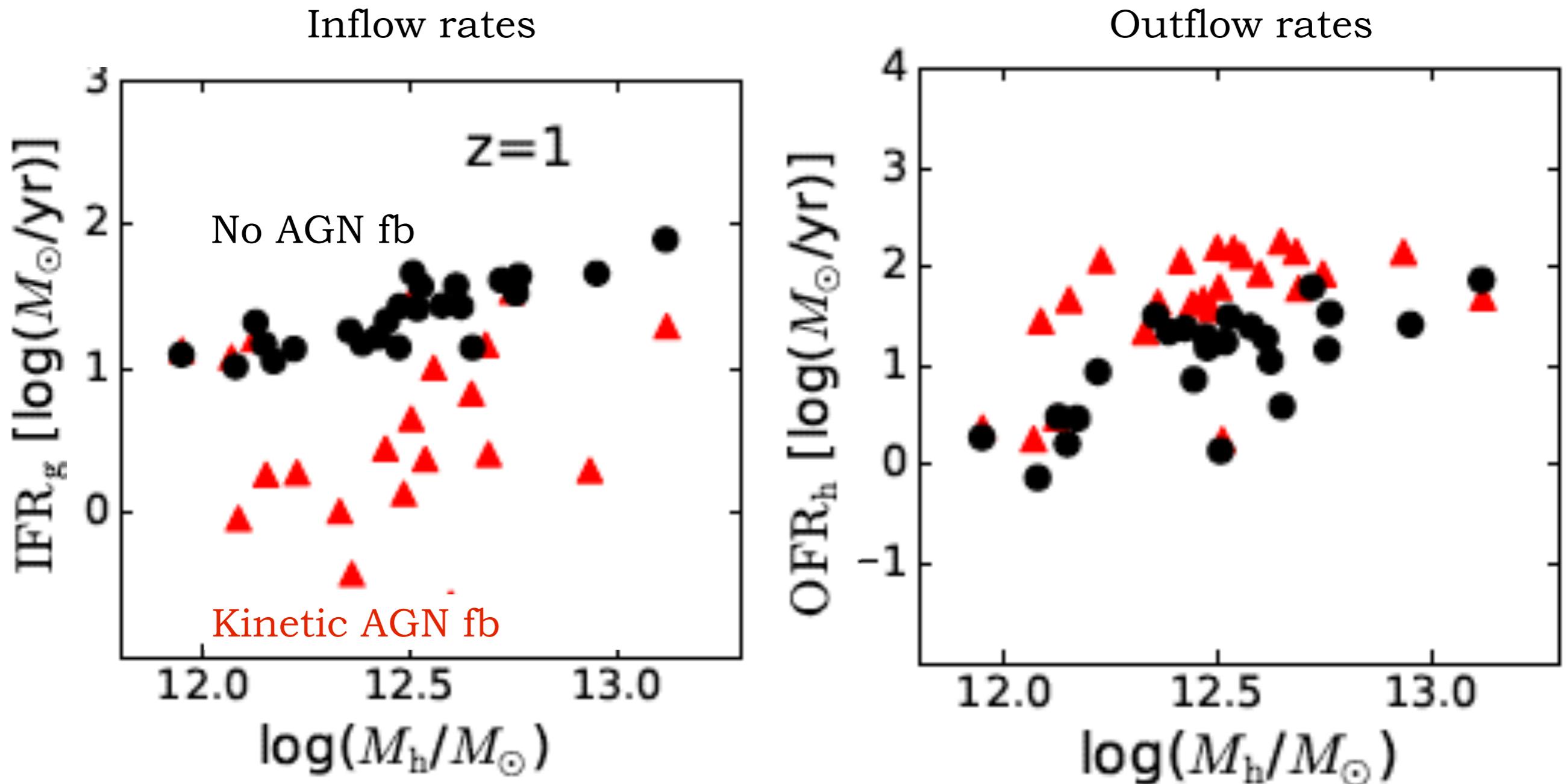
IllustrisTNG (temperature)



redshift : 0.52

Time since the Big Bang: 8.4 billion years

# In- and outflow balance

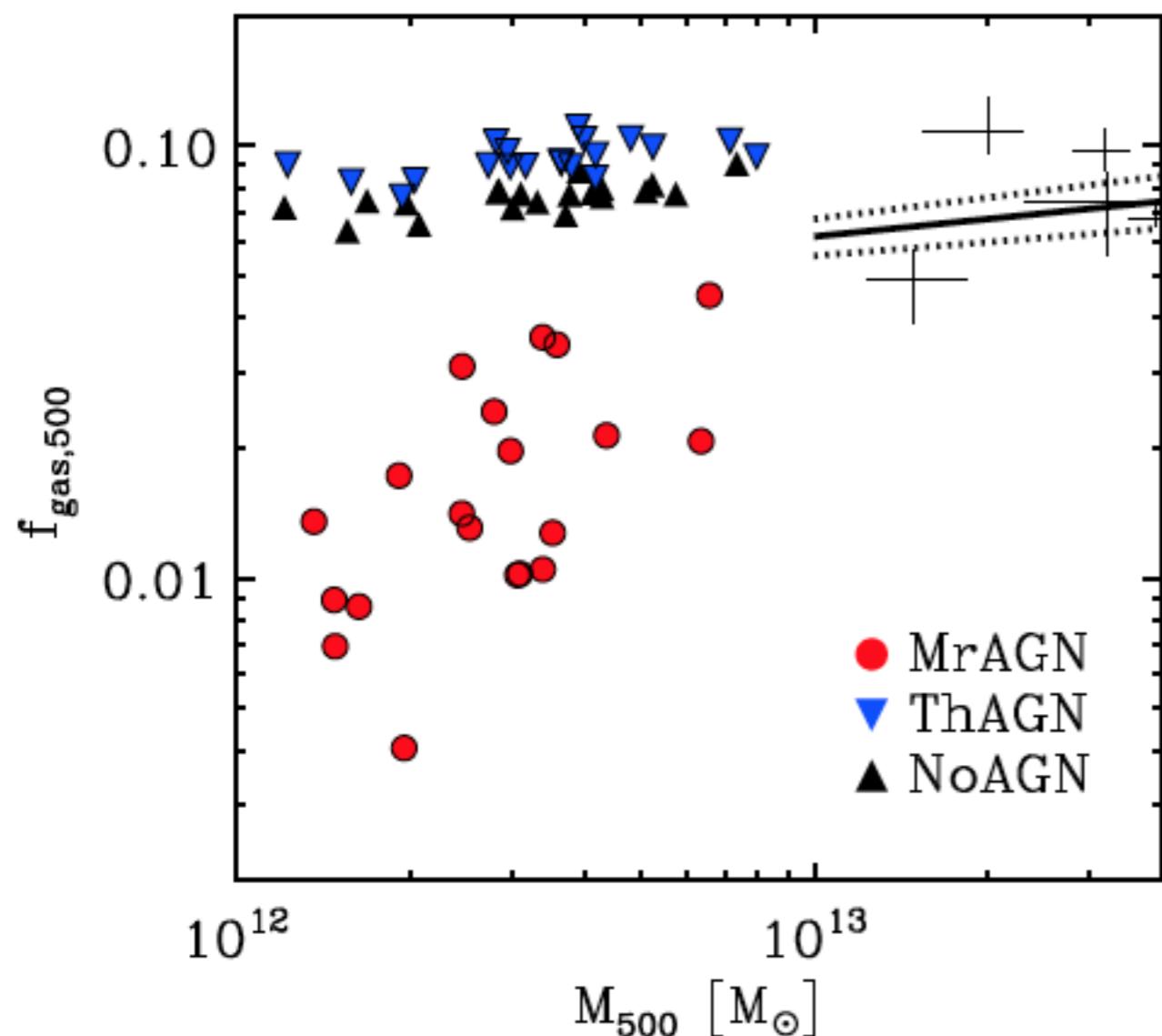


*Brennan, Choi, Somerville, Hirschmann +17*

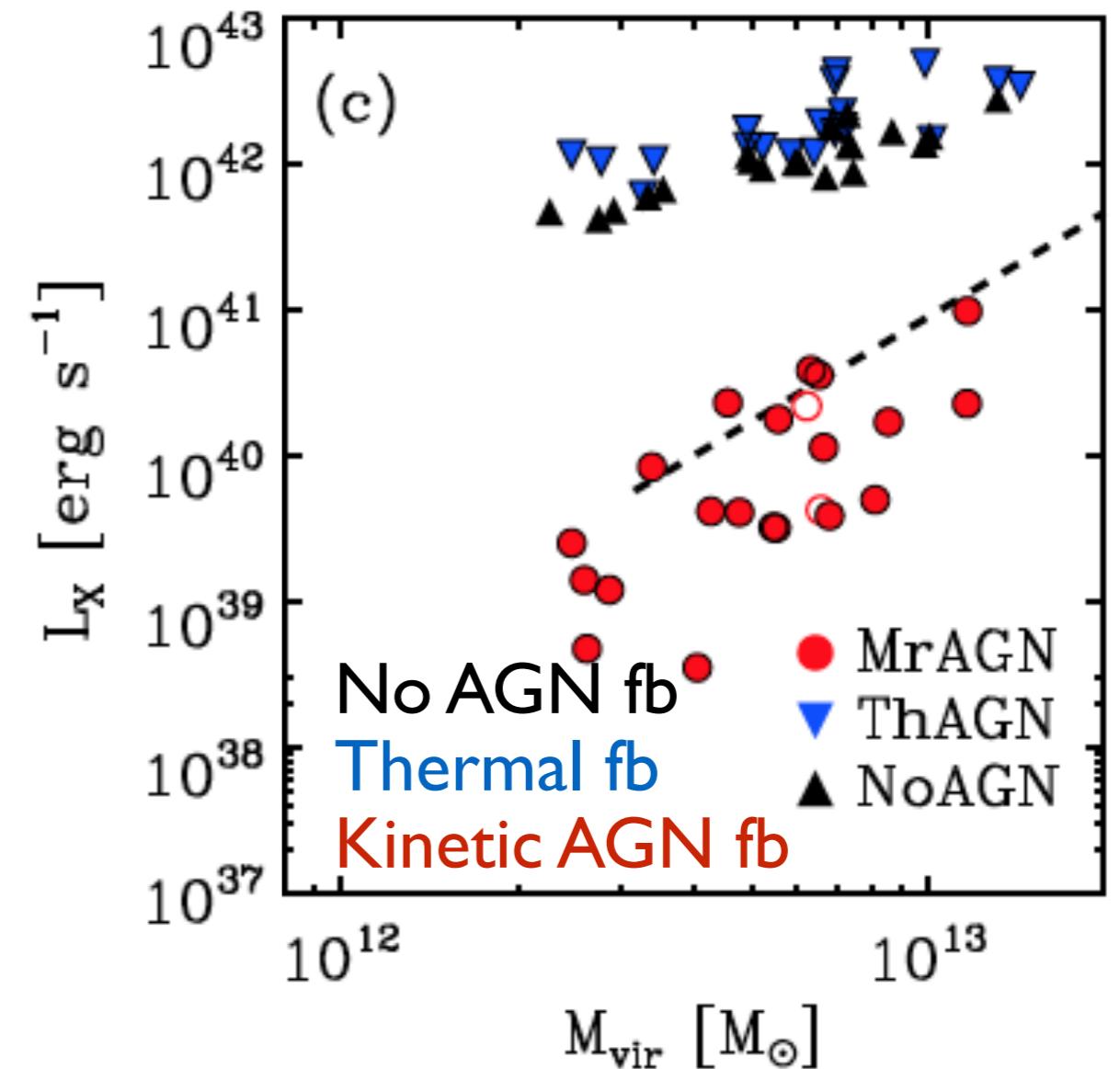
- ▶ Kinetic AGN feedback acts in two ways
  - ▶ Increasing gas ejection rates “ejective mode”
  - ▶ Reducing gas inflow rates “preventive mode”

# Hot gas content in the halo

Hot gas fractions in halo

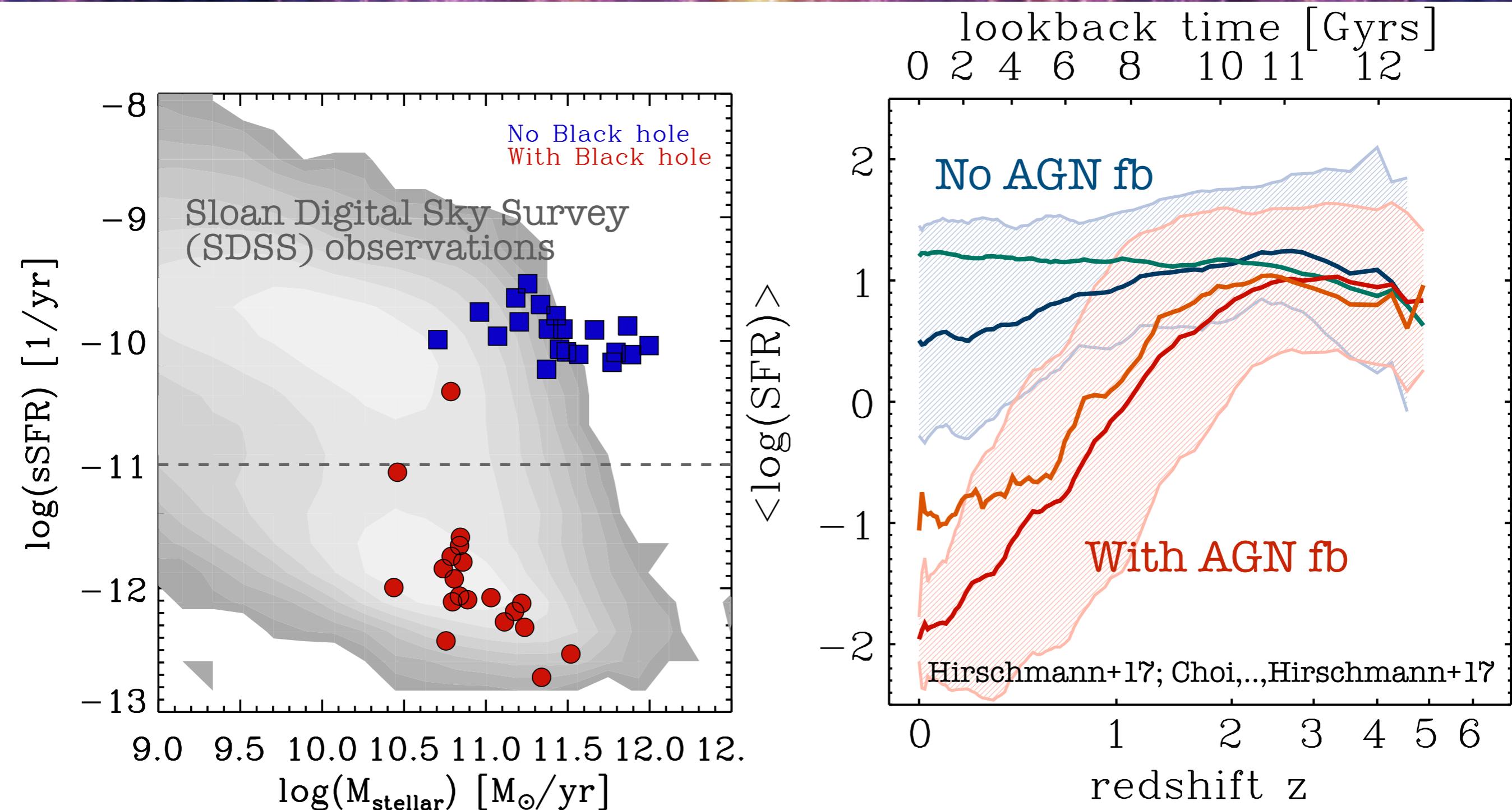


X-ray luminosities of hot gas



- Very sensitive to AGN feedback
- E.g. with dis-centered “bubble” feedback (in Illustris), amount of hot, X-ray luminous gas under-estimated!

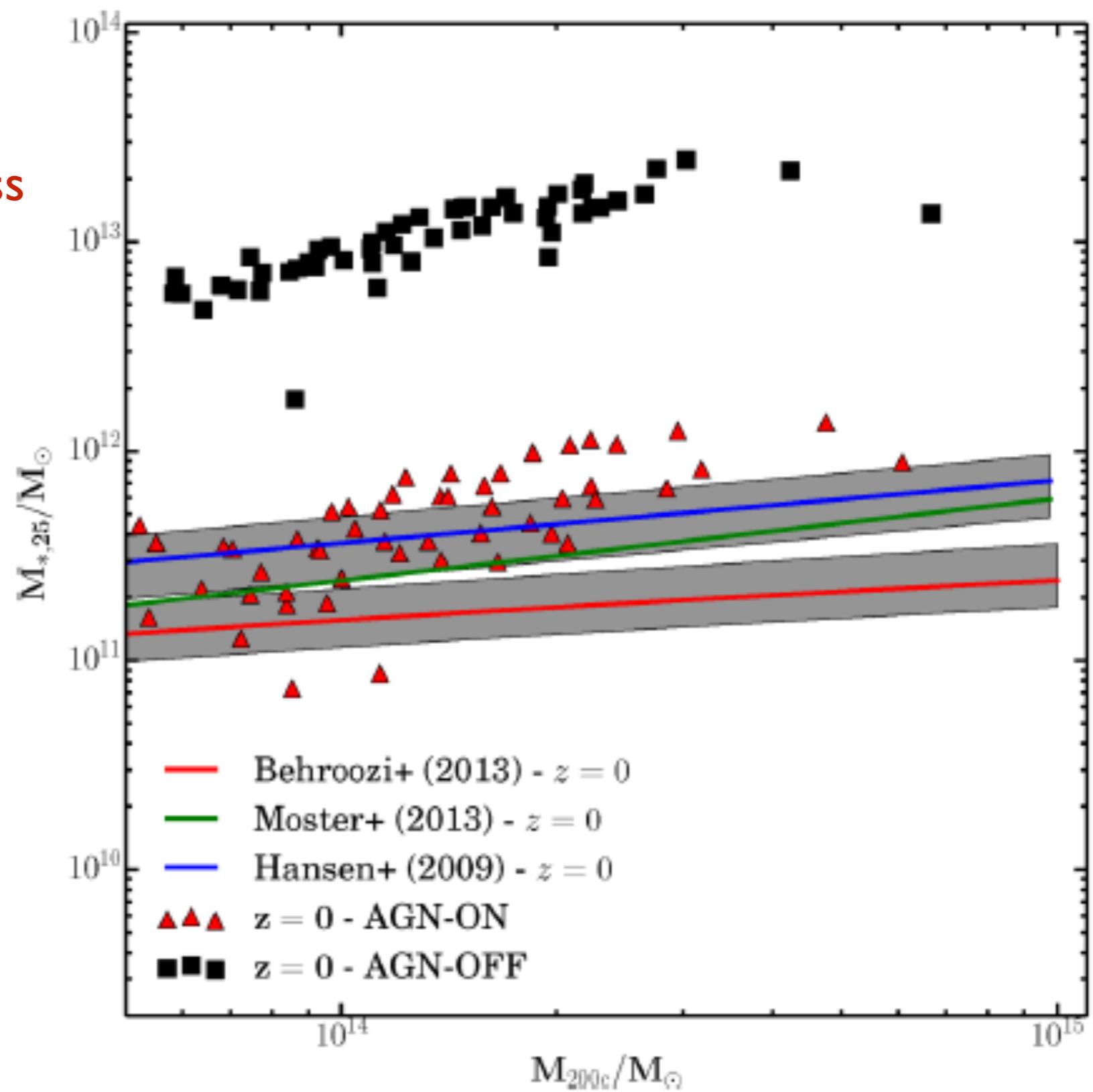
# Star formation rates



- Due to gas ejection and less gas being re-accreted, SFR strongly reduced!
- Effectively turning blue, SF galaxies into red and dead objects!

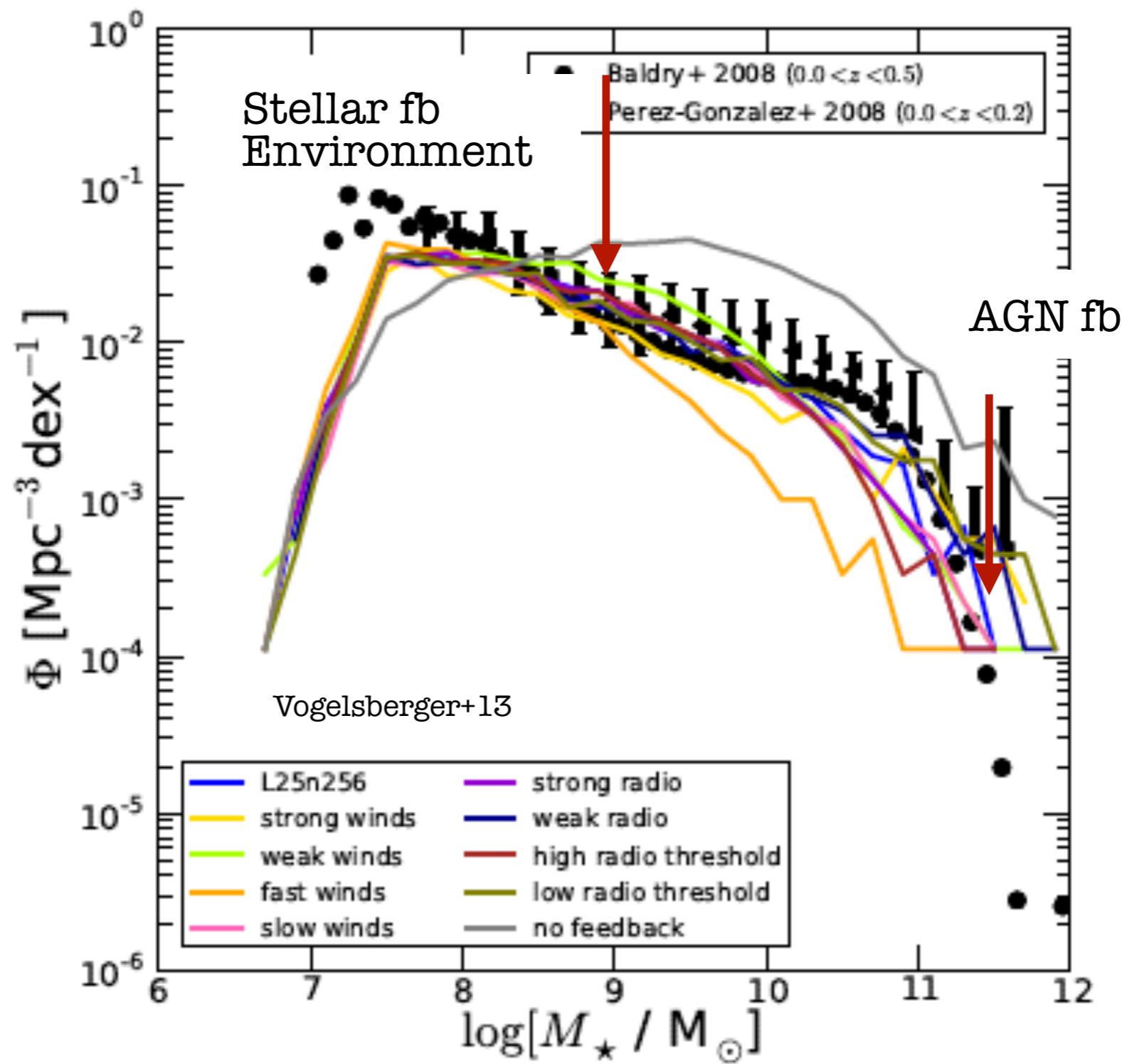
# BCGs in Galaxy clusters

Thermal+jet fb model  
→ reduced stellar  
mass at given halo mass  
in galaxy clusters



# Stellar mass function

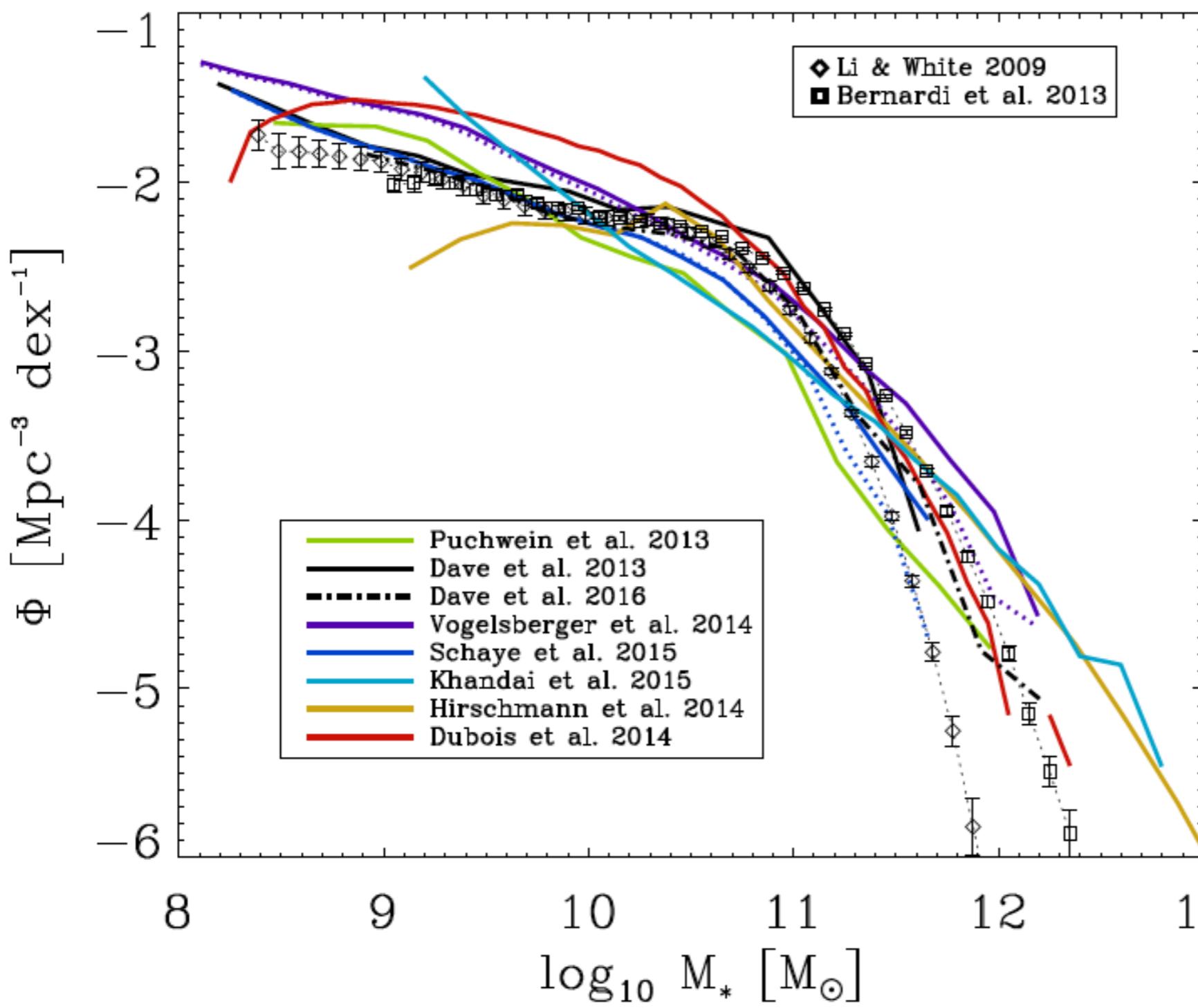
AGN feedback is crucial for reducing the formation of too many massive galaxies — same conclusion as from SAMs!



see also: Croton+06,  
Bower+06,  
Somerville+08,  
Schaye+15 (EAGLE),  
Weinberger+17,  
Genel+14 (Illustris),  
Pillepich+18 (TNG),  
Steinborn, Hirschmann  
+15, Sijacki+07,  
Dubois+13/17,  
Fontanot,.., Hirschmann  
+20 etc...

# Stellar mass function

Modern large-scale cosmological simulations (full boxes) with...

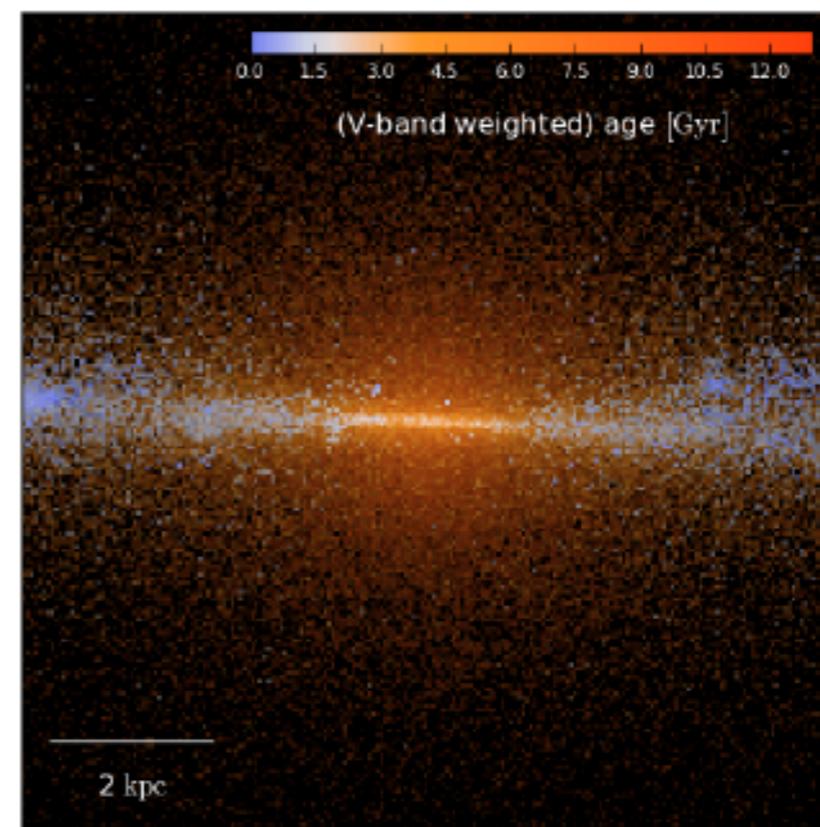
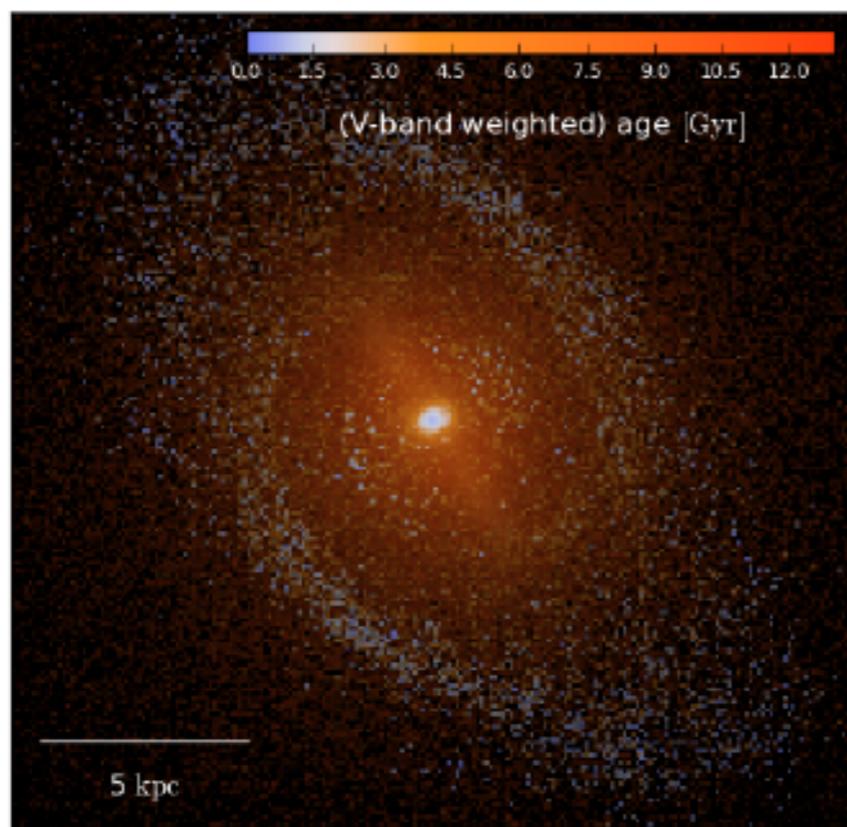


different AGN fb models:  
**Thermal fb**  
**Art. halo quenching**  
**Thermal+offset bubble fb**  
**Stochastic fb**  
**Thermal fb**  
**Thermal+bubble fb**  
**Thermal+kinetic-jet fb**

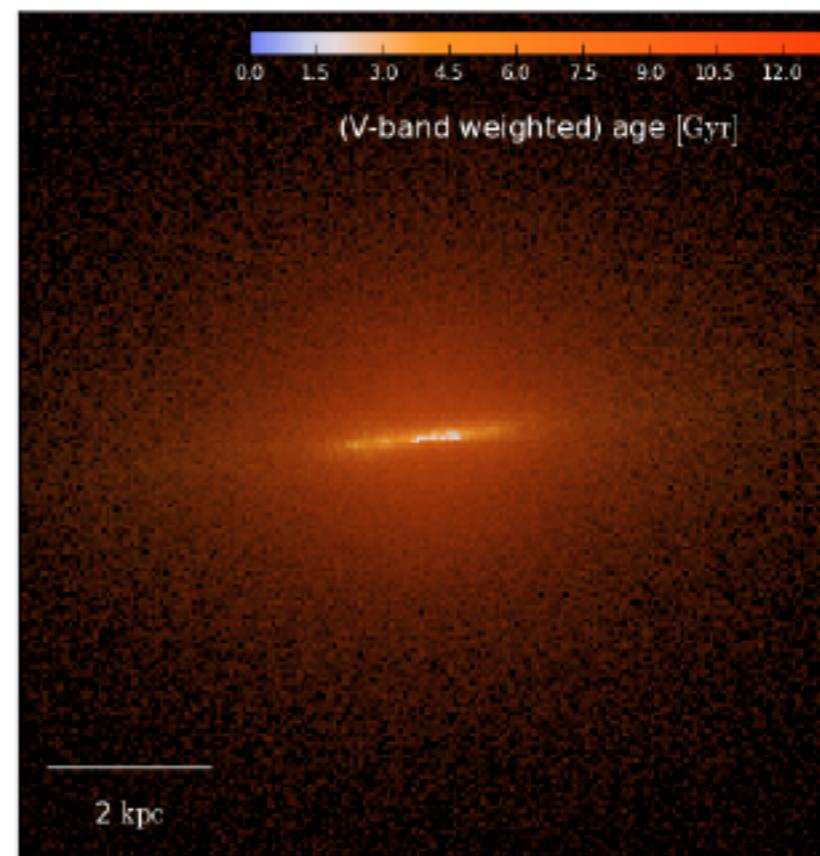
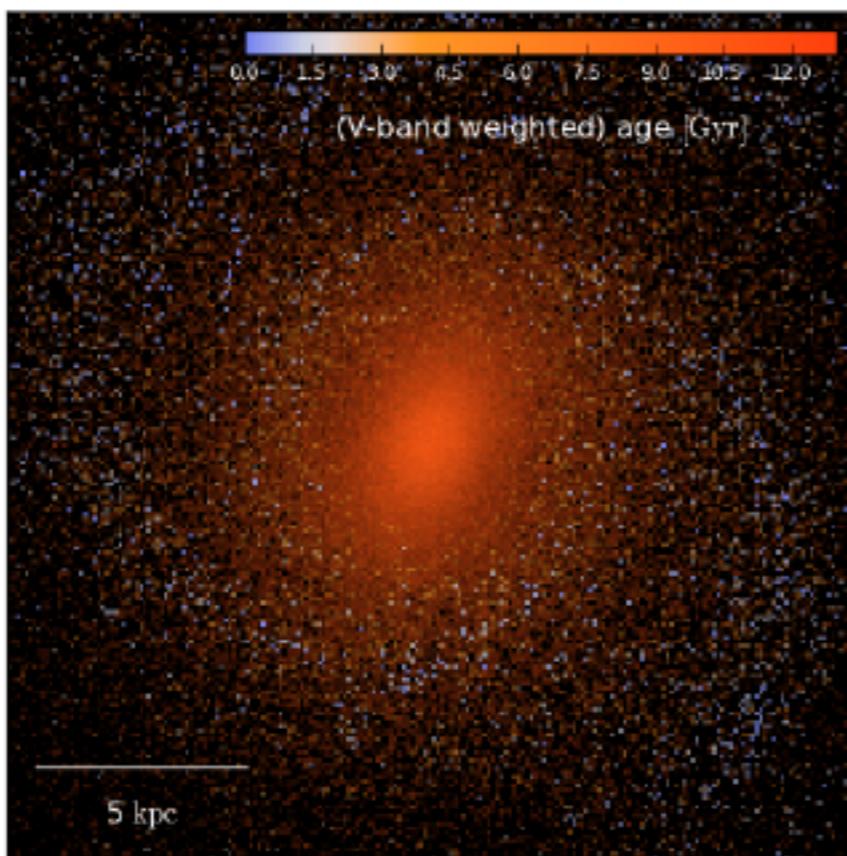
Thermal feedback typically  
too inefficient in  
suppressing SF massive  
galaxies

# Galaxy morphology

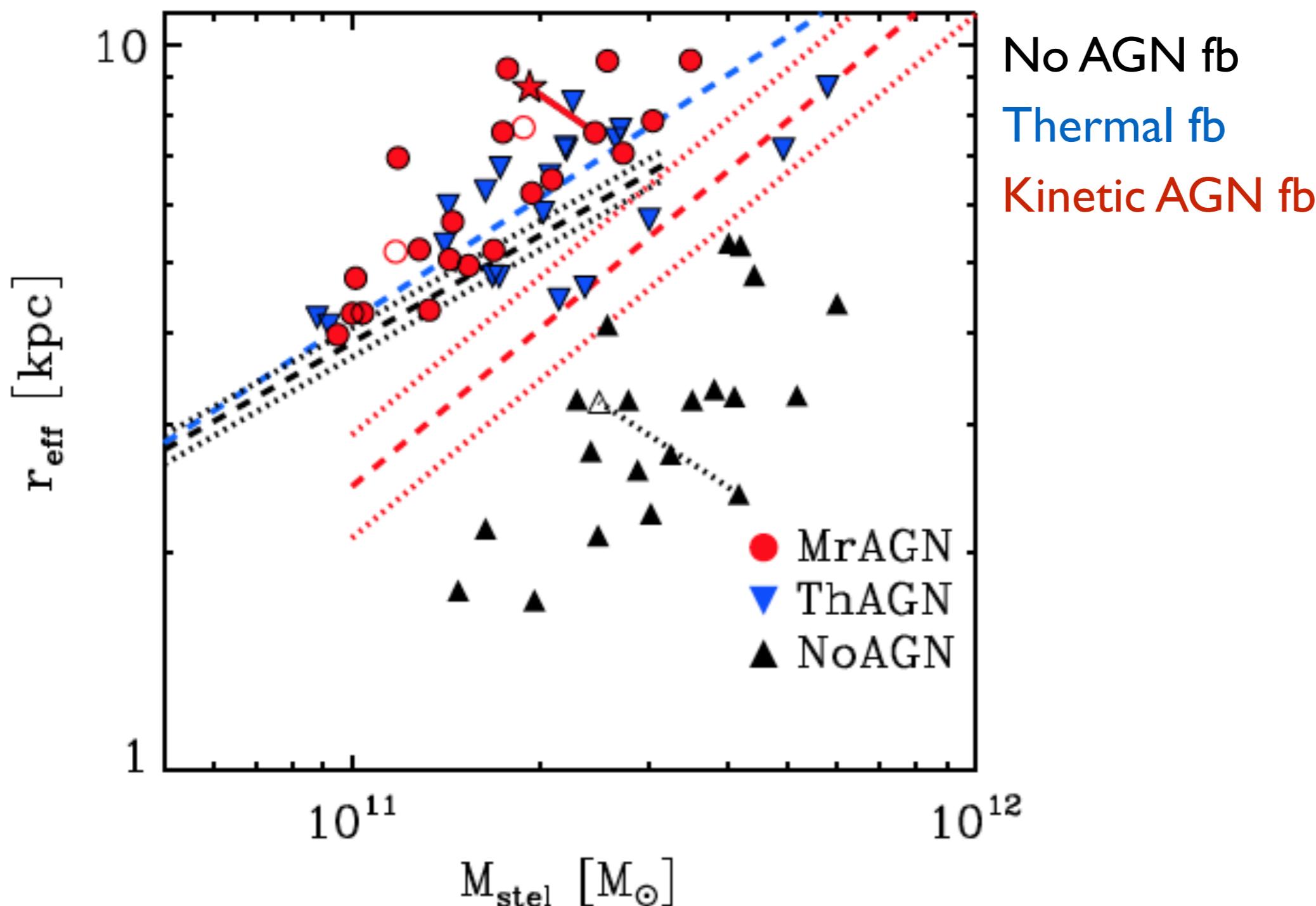
No AGN fb



Kinetic  
AGN fb



# Galaxy sizes



- Increased sizes for a given galaxy stellar mass with efficient AGN fb due to
  - Less dissipative processes —> adiabatic expansion
  - Larger fractions of accreted stellar systems, see *Choi+18*

# AGN in cosmological sims — Summary

- BH physical processes are complex and not yet fully understood
  - Gas is accreted onto BHs via thin accretion disks & via ADAFs
  - Energy can be released from accretion disks (radiation processes and fast particles) and from collimated jets (relativistic particles)
- In cosmological simulations, sub-grid recipes for BH seeding, growth and feedback have to be adopted
- AGN fb primarily affects massive galaxies
  - acts in both an ejective and preventive way
  - lower hot gas content in halo
  - lower/suppressed SF, older stellar ages
  - Elliptical-like shapes and larger sizes
- What are the caveats of BH/AGN models in cosmological simulations?

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