

# Self gravity in protostellar discs: Why (we must) care?

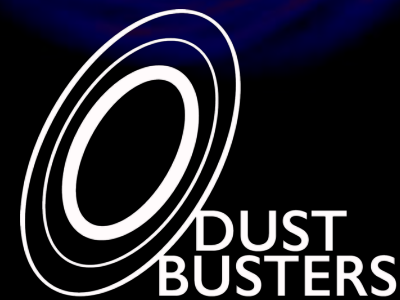
**Cristiano Longarini**

*Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge*

*5th PHANTOM and MCFOST Users Workshop  
February 2024*

Main collaborators:

Giuseppe Lodato, Cathie Clarke, Daniel Price,  
Philip Armitage, Simone Ceppi, Paola Martire,  
Benedetta Veronesi and many others



# Why?

## 1. Self gravity is important to understand disc structure

- Probing the disc masses and sizes
- Importance of thermal stratification
- Veronesi, Longarini et al., Martire, Longarini et al. in prep

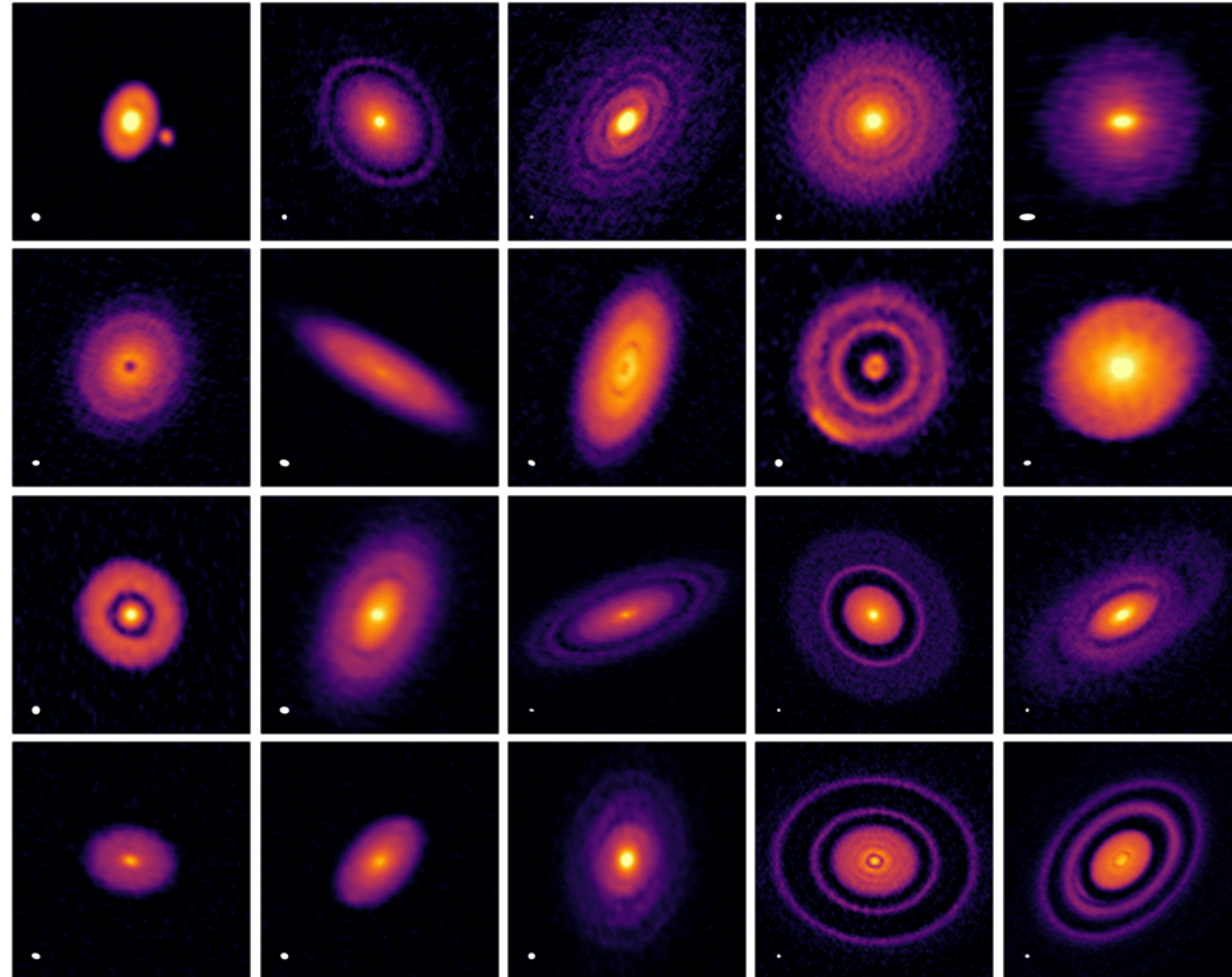
## 2. Self gravity contributes to planet formation in young discs

- Planetary cores formation through dust collapse
- Early evolution of planetary cores

## 3. Cool splash snapshots

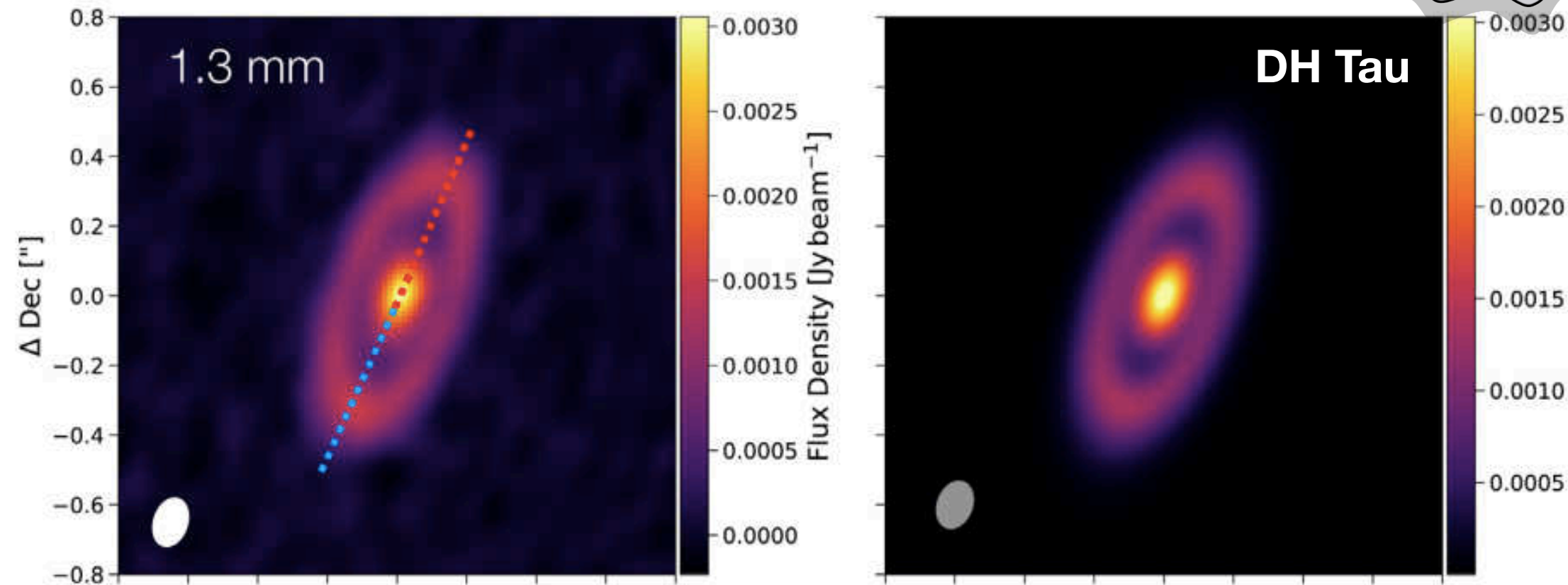


# A zoo of substructures



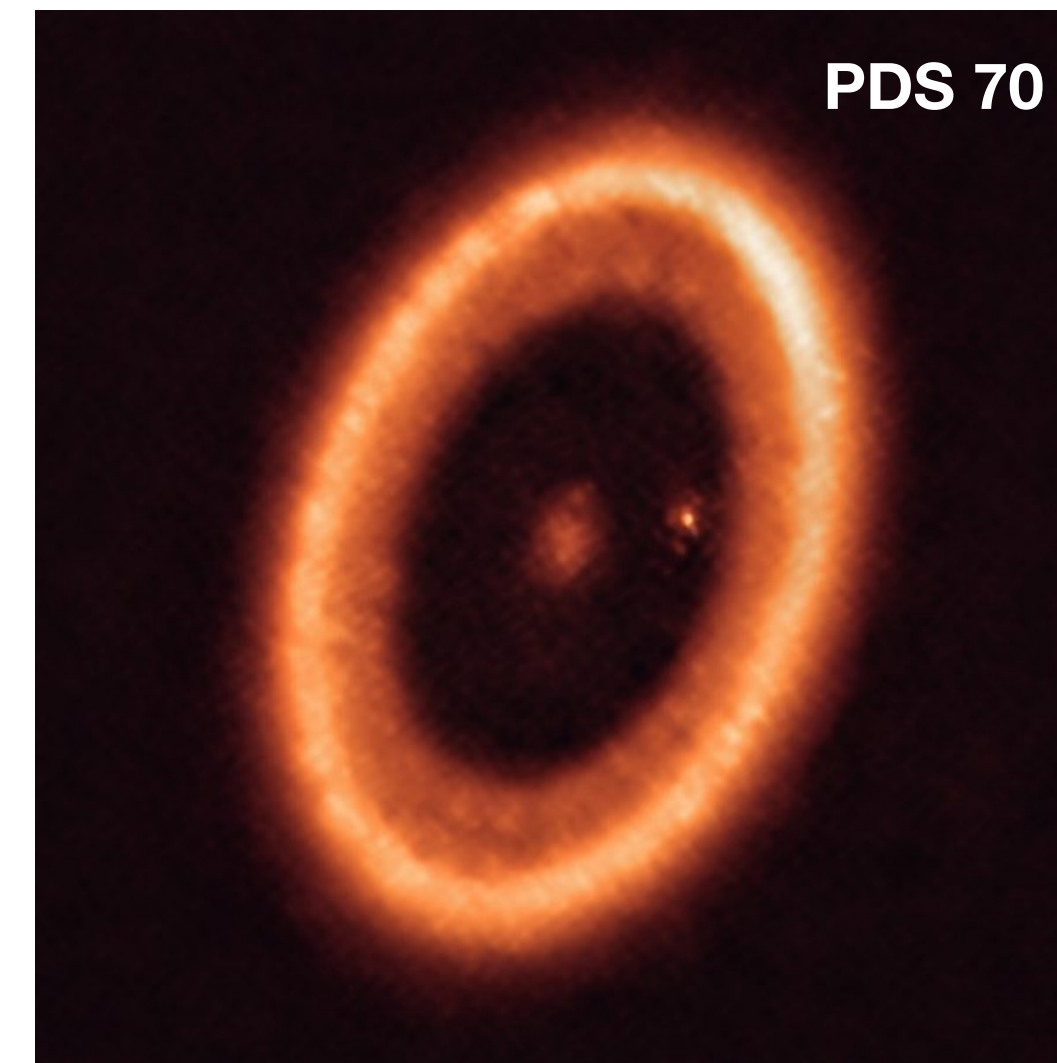
# Planets?

## Hydrodynamical modeling

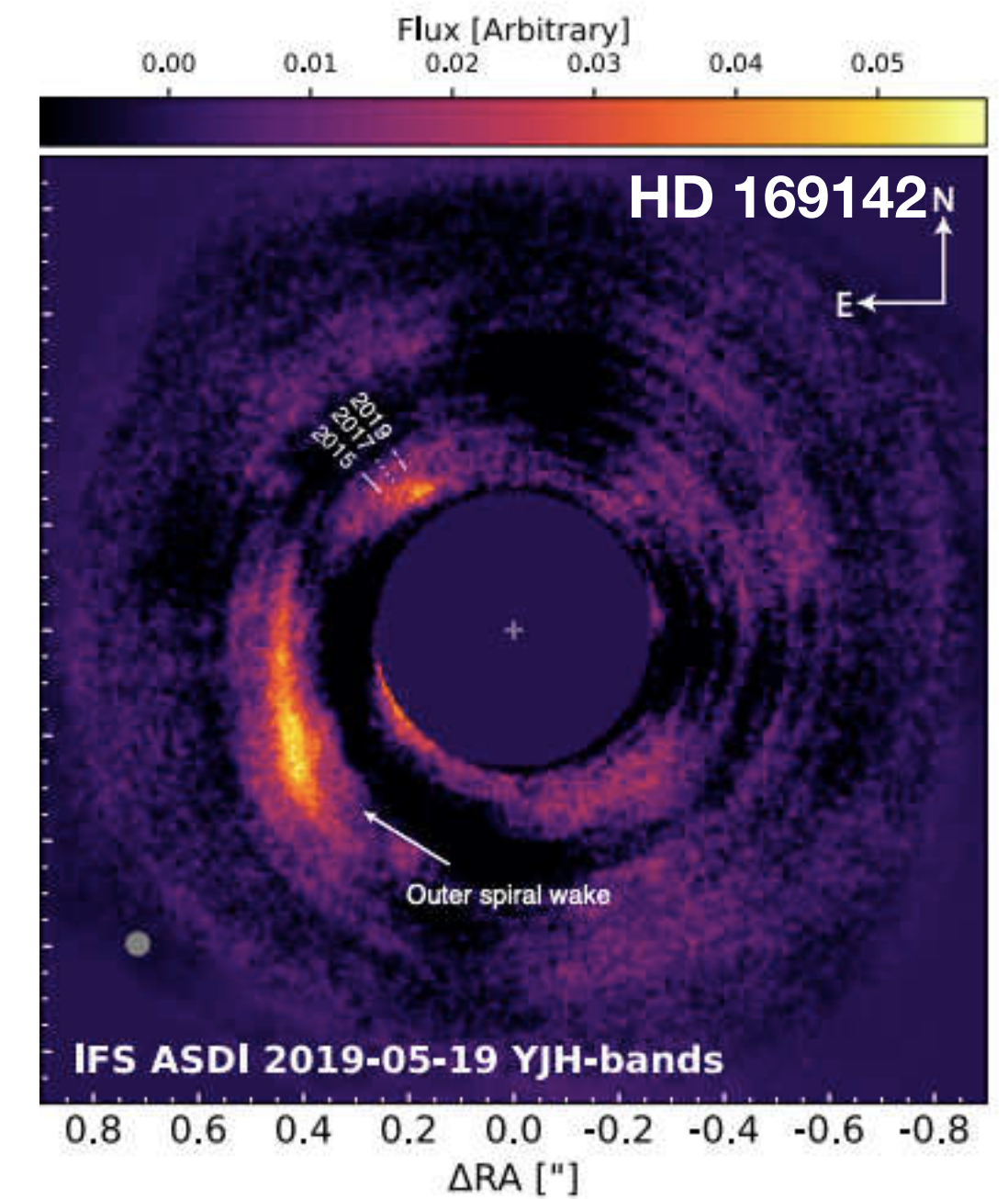


*Veronesi et al. 2020*

## Direct imaging

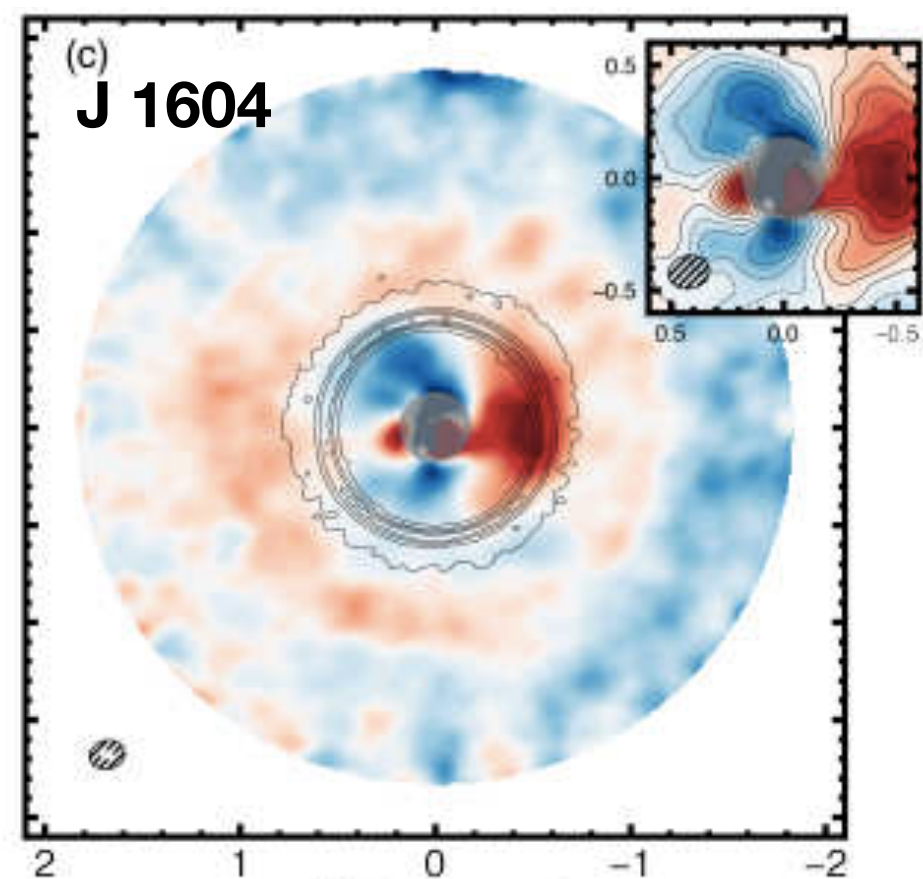


*Benisty et al. 2021*  
*Facchini et al. 2021*

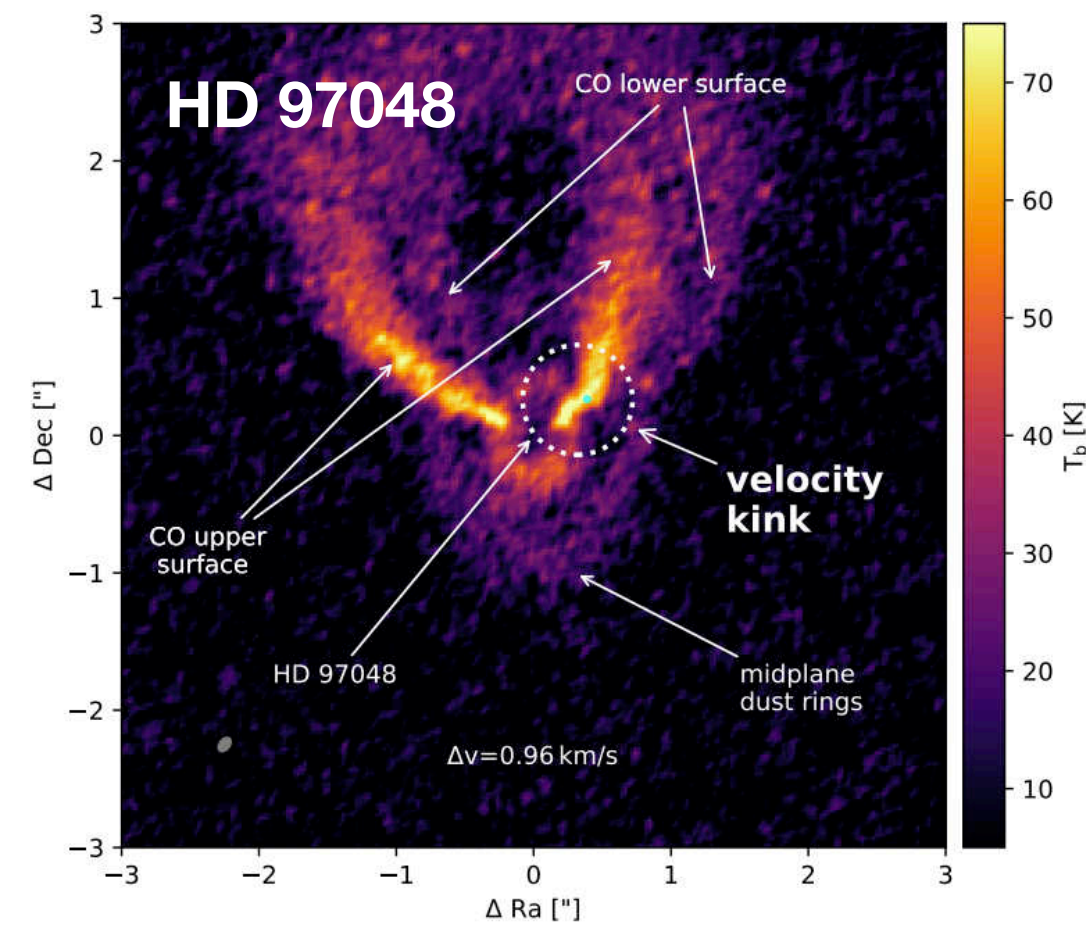


*Hammond et al. 2023*

## Kinematic signatures

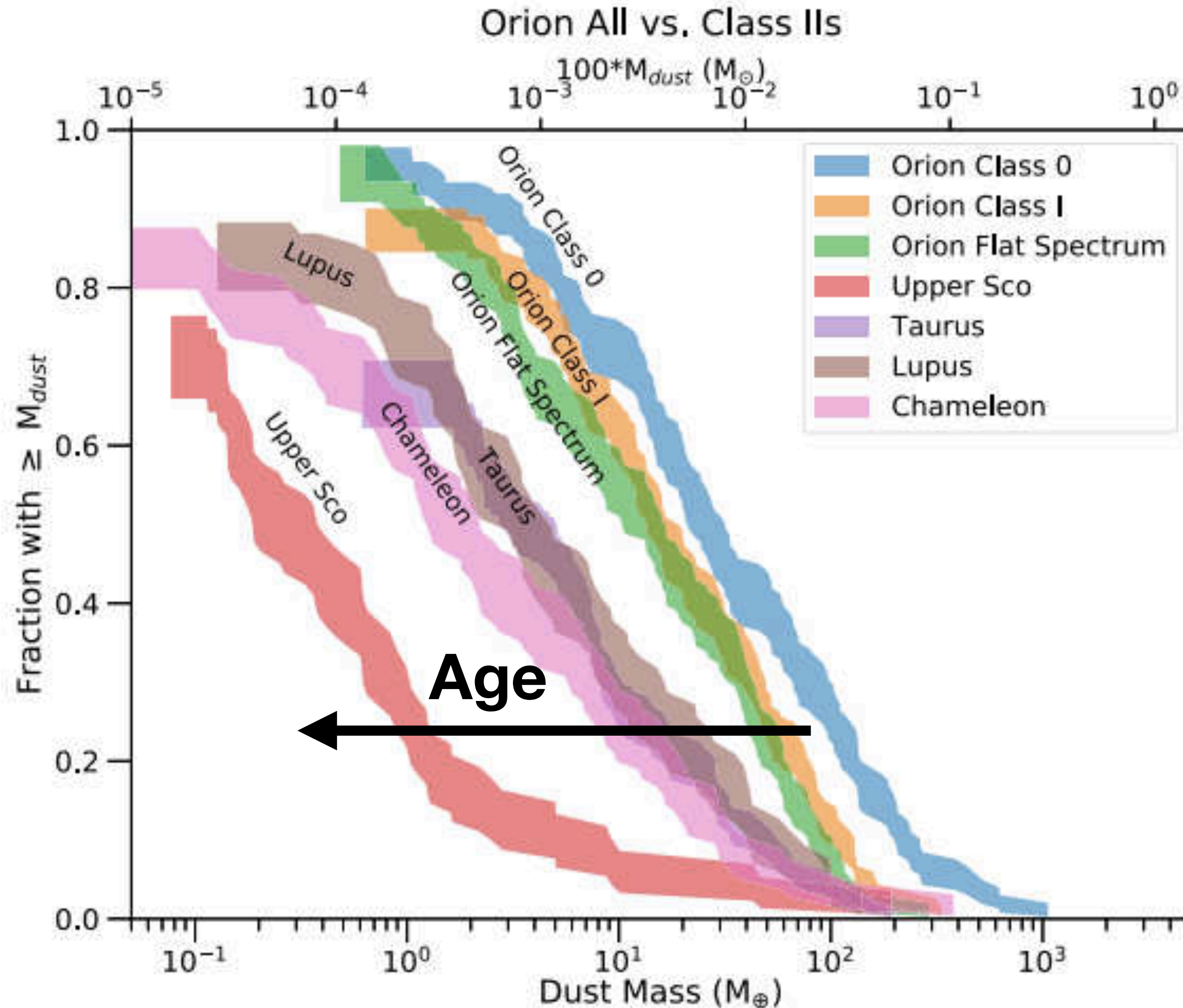


*Stadler et al. 2023*



*Pinte et al. 2019*

# Young protostellar discs



VANDAM Survey of Orion protostars, Tobin 2020

Evidence that in younger SFRs  
mm flux of ppds is higher

Possible interpretation:  
younger discs are more massive

**How does SG influence disc  
structure?**

**How does SG contributes to  
planet formation?**

# Self-gravity: the basic state

$$\frac{M_d}{M_\star} \gtrsim 0.05$$

$$\Phi = \Phi_\star + \Phi_d$$

## Hydrostatic equilibrium

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\Phi_\star + \Phi_d)$$

Hydrostatic height of a SG disc is different

$$H_{sg} = \frac{c^2}{\pi G \Sigma}$$

## Centrifugal balance

$$\frac{v_\phi^2}{R} = \frac{\partial (\Phi_\star + \Phi_d)}{\partial R} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial R}$$

Super Keplerian correction to the rotation curve

$$\propto M_d / M_\star$$

# Rotation curve

$$v_{\phi}^2 = \underbrace{R \frac{\partial \Phi_{\star}}{\partial R}}_{\text{Star}} + \underbrace{R \frac{\partial \Phi_d}{\partial R}}_{\text{Disc}} + \underbrace{\frac{R}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial R}}_{\text{Pressure gradient}}$$

## Star contribution:

*Keplerian* contribution at the position (R,z)

$$R \frac{\partial \Phi_{\star}}{\partial R} = \frac{GM_{\star} R^2}{(R^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

# Rotation curve

## Disc contribution:

$$R \frac{\partial \Phi_d}{\partial R} = G \int_0^\infty \left[ K(k) - \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{k^2}{1-k^2} \right) \left( \frac{R'}{R} - \frac{R}{R'} + \frac{z^2}{RR'} \right) E(k) \right] \sqrt{\frac{r}{R}} k \Sigma(R') dR'$$

Disc mass and size dependance in the surface density (self similar hp)

$$\Sigma(R) = \frac{M_d(2-\gamma)}{2\pi R_c^2} \left( \frac{R}{R_c} \right)^{-\gamma} \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{R}{R_c} \right)^{2-\gamma} \right]$$



# Rotation curve

Pressure gradient:

Vertically isothermal disc

$$P = \underline{c_s^2(R)}\rho(R, z), \quad \rho(R, z) = \rho_{mid}(R)\exp\left[-\frac{R^2}{H^2}\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + z^2/R^2}}\right)\right]$$

After algebra...

$$v_\phi^2 = v_K^2 \left\{ 1 - \left[ \gamma' + (2 - \gamma) \left(\frac{R}{R_c}\right)^{2-\gamma} \right] \left(\frac{H}{R}\right)^2 - q \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (z/R)^2}}\right) \right\} + v_d^2$$

# Rotation curve

$$v_{\phi}^2 = v_K^2 \left\{ 1 - \left[ \gamma' + (2 - \gamma) \left( \frac{R}{R_c} \right)^{2-\gamma} \right] \left( \frac{H}{R} \right)^2 - q \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (z/R)^2}} \right) \right\} + v_d^2$$

If we measure

- height emitting layer  $z(R)$

If we assume

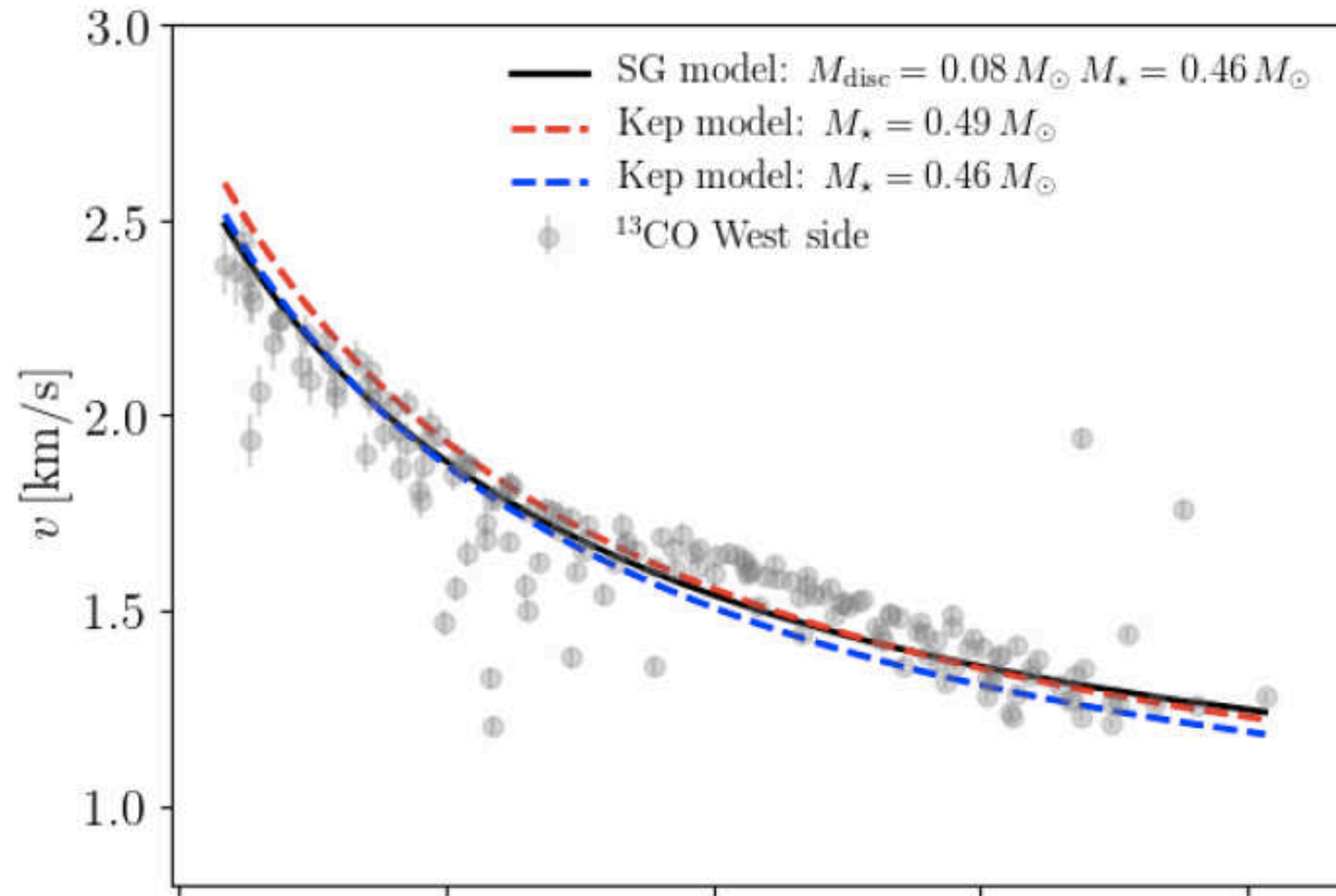
- thermal structure  $H/R, q$
- surface density profile  $\gamma$



We can fit for

- star mass  $M_{\star}$
- disc mass  $M_d$
- scale radius  $R_c$

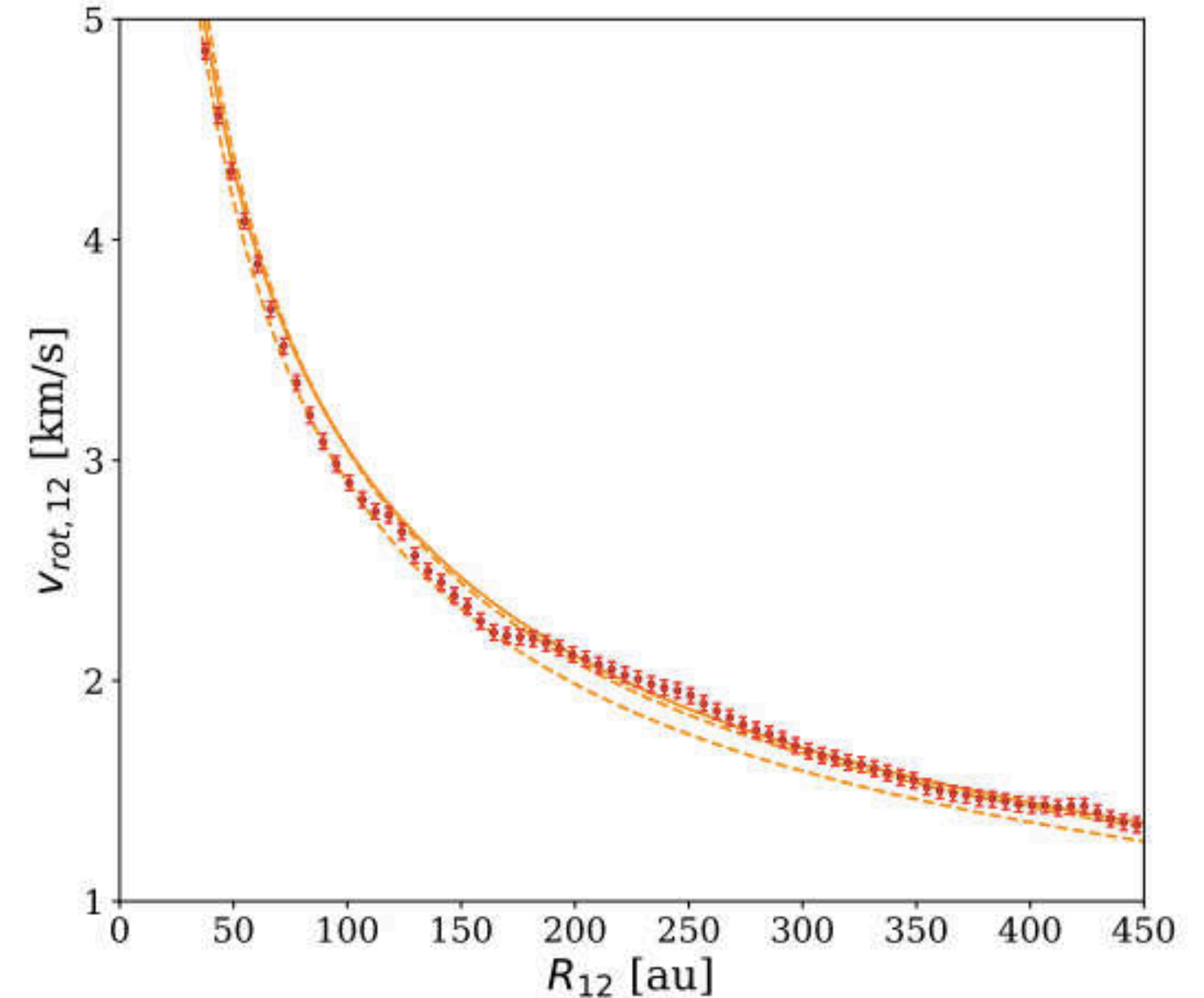
# Dynamical masses and sizes



Elias 2-27

$$M_d/M_{\star} \simeq 17\%$$

*Veronesi et al. 2021*



IM Lup

$$M_d/M_{\star} \simeq 10\%$$

*Lodato et al. 2023*

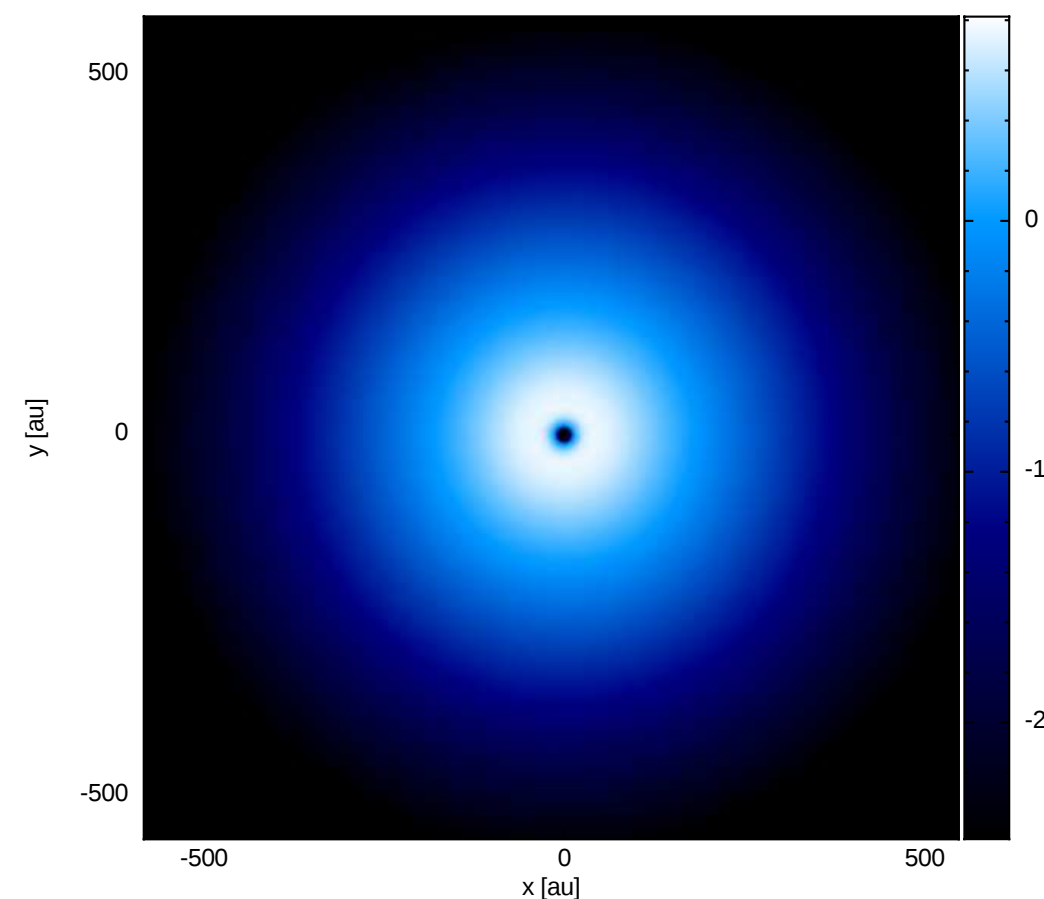
# Benchmarking the method

**PHANTOM**  
hydrodynamics



SG gas discs, no GI (*isosgdisc*)  
Vertically isothermal discs, self  
similar profile with  $R_c = 100\text{au}$

$$M_d \in [0.01, 0.2]M_\odot$$

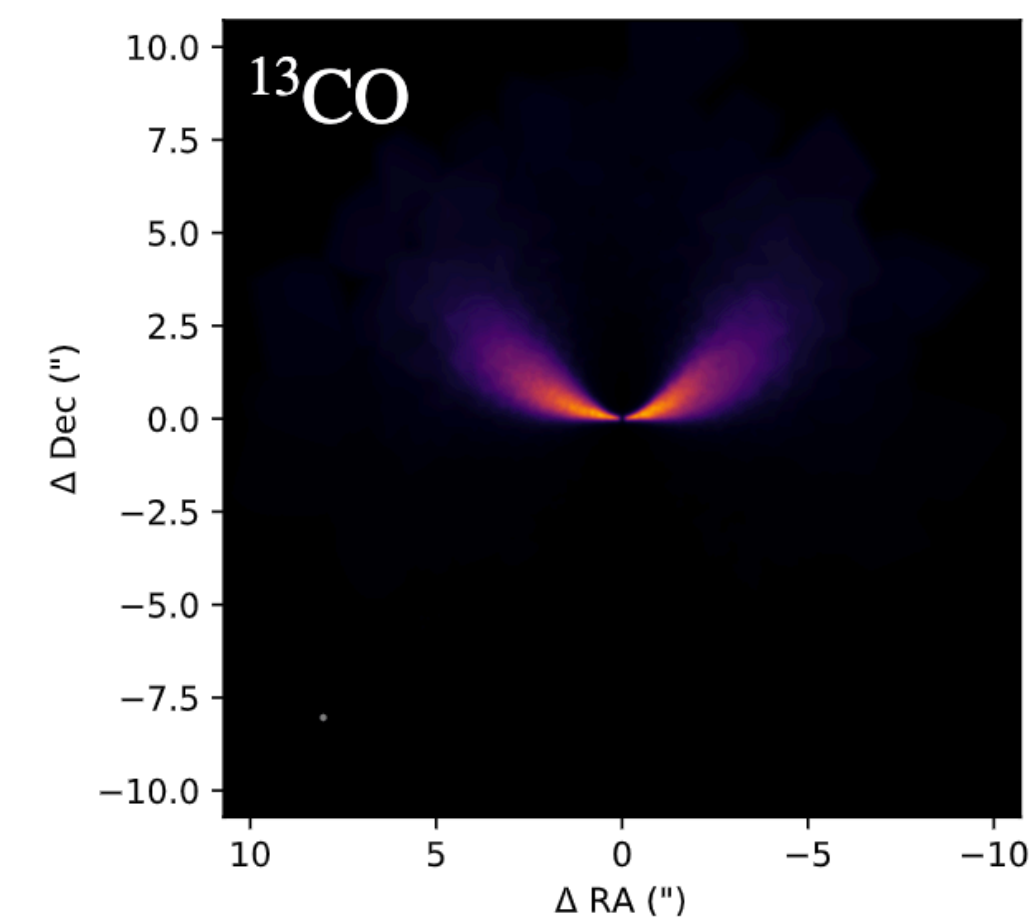


**MCFOST**  
radiative transfer

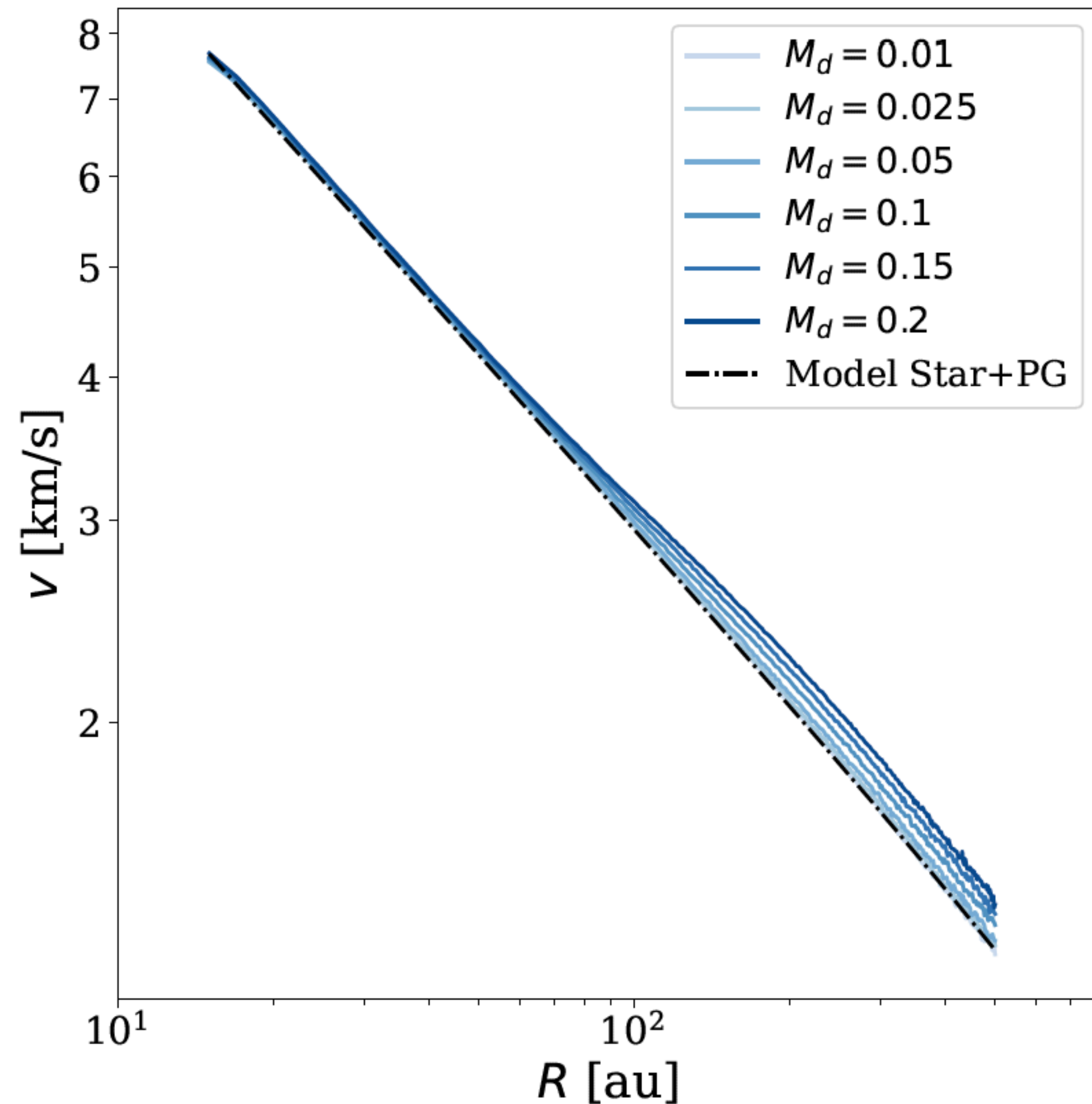


Datacubes of  
12CO, 13CO J=2-1

pymcfost: “pseudocasa”  
 $\Delta x = 0.1''$ ,  $\Delta v = 100\text{m/s}$



# Model verification - hydro curves



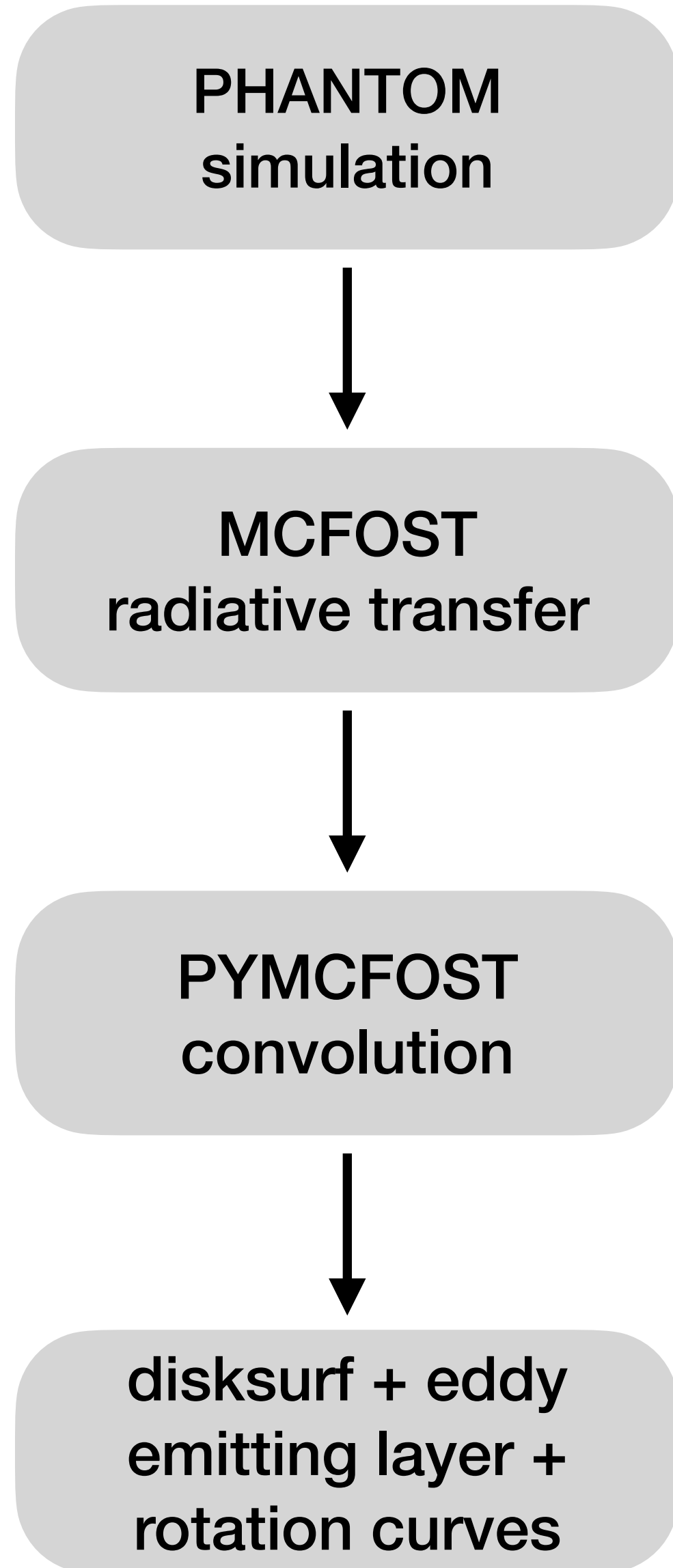
Extraction of the hydro azimuthal velocity at the midplane

- correct scaling with disc mass
- **Visible** differences from a non SG model only for  $M_d/M_\star > 0.05$

Sims	$M_d [M_\odot]$
md0.2	0.19
md0.15	0.14
md0.1	0.1
md0.05	0.05
md0.025	0.028
md0.01	0.017

Results of the fitting procedure on hydro curves

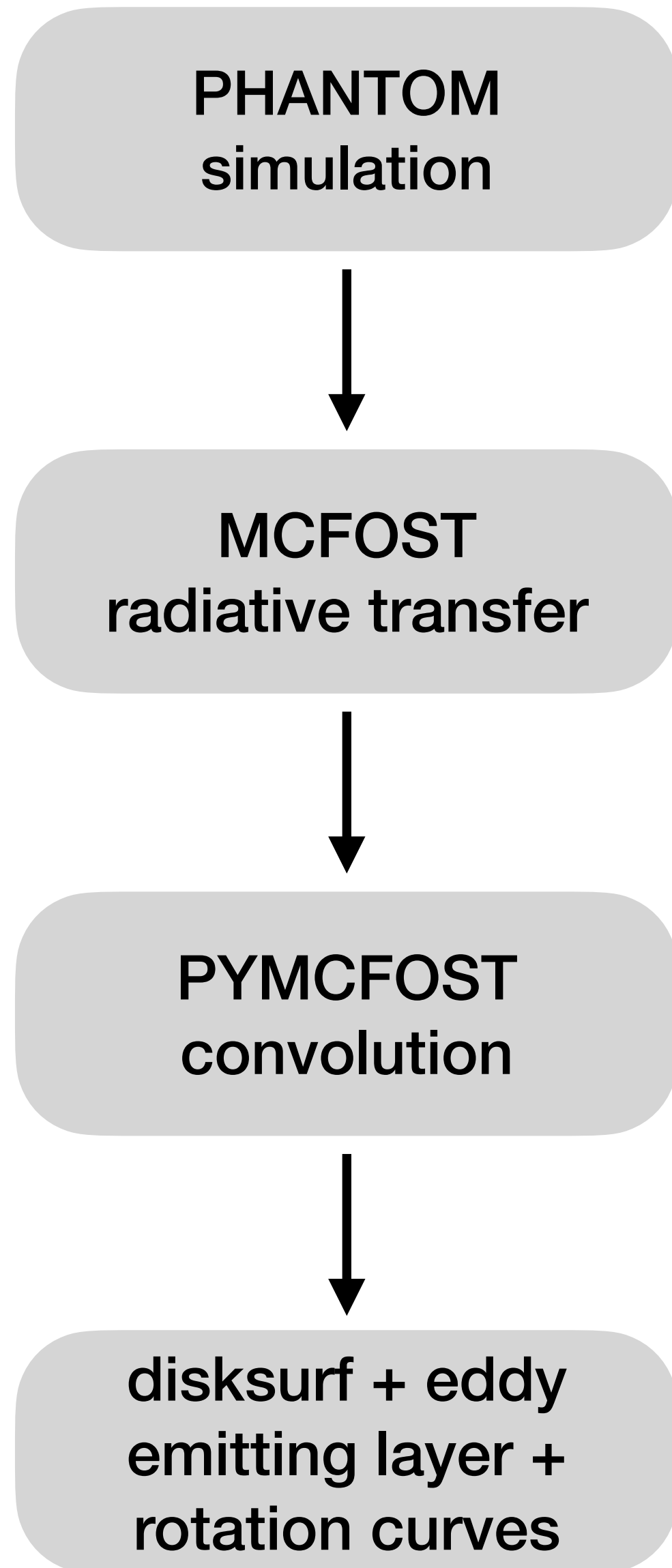
# Complete procedure



Results of the fitting procedure:  $M_{\star}$ ,  $M_d$ ,  $R_c$

	$^{12}\text{CO}$	$\Delta X/X_{^{12}\text{CO}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$	$\Delta X/X_{^{13}\text{CO}}$	Combined	$\Delta X/X_{\text{comb}}$
md0.01	$M_{\star} = 1.02$ $M_d = 0.03$ $R_c = 80.00$	0.02 1.99 0.2	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 105.15$	0.01 1.0 0.05	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 103.7$	0.01 1.0 0.037
md0.025	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.04$ $R_c = 92.17$	0.01 0.6 0.078	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 115.55$	0.01 1.0 0.15	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 115.2$	0.01 1.0 0.15
md0.05	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.044$ $R_c = 102.78$	0.01 0.12 0.028	$M_{\star} = 0.97$ $M_d = 0.07$ $R_c = 94.27$	0.03 0.4 0.057	$M_{\star} = 0.98$ $M_d = 0.055$ $R_c = 97.8$	0.02 0.099 0.022
md0.1	$M_{\star} = 1.04$ $M_d = 0.09$ $R_c = 88.33$	0.04 0.10 0.117	$M_{\star} = 0.97$ $M_d = 0.12$ $R_c = 90.8$	0.03 0.20 0.09	$M_{\star} = 0.97$ $M_d = 0.12$ $R_c = 91.2$	0.03 0.19 0.088
md0.15	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.18$ $R_c = 86.00$	0.0 0.2 0.14	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 87.5$	0.0 0.0 0.125	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 88.114$	0.0 0.0 0.12
md0.2	$M_{\star} = 1.1$ $M_d = 0.165$ $R_c = 87.26$	0.1 0.175 0.13	$M_{\star} = 1.06$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 84.9$	0.06 0.25 0.15	$M_{\star} = 1.12$ $M_d = 0.09$ $R_c = 96.23$	0.12 0.55 0.037

# Complete procedure



Results of the fitting procedure:  $M_{\star}$ ,  $M_d$ ,  $R_c$

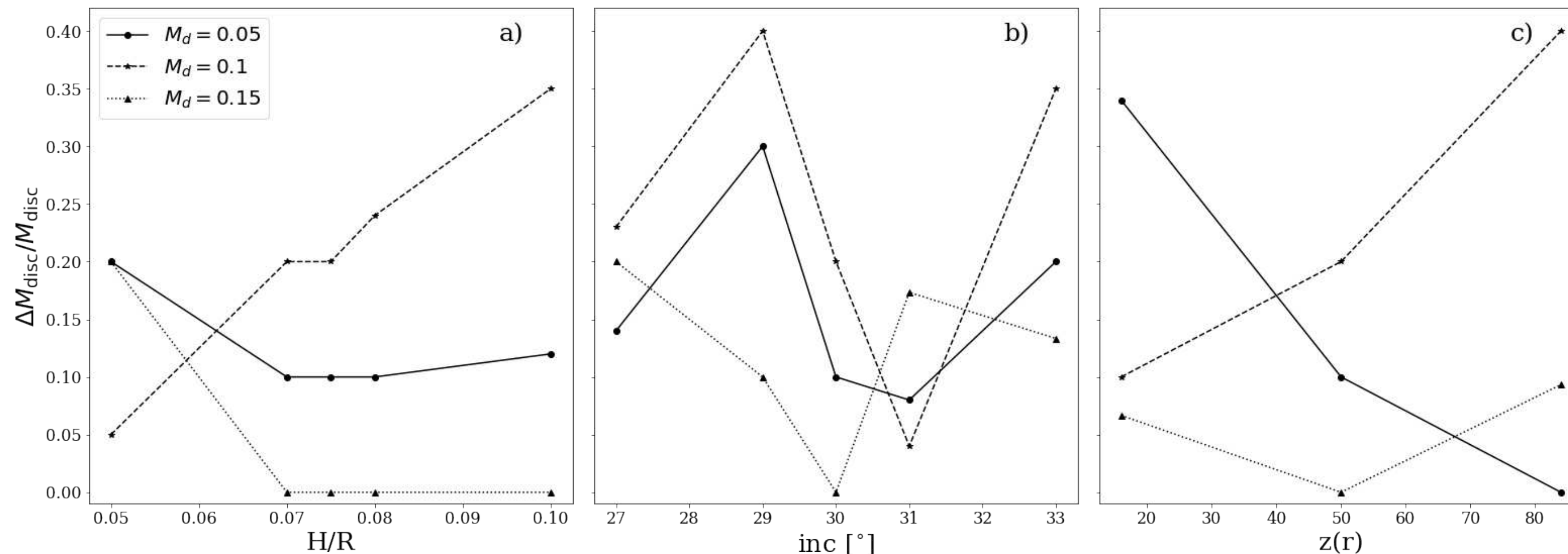
	$^{12}\text{CO}$	$\Delta X/X_{^{12}\text{CO}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$	$\Delta X/X_{^{13}\text{CO}}$	Combined	$\Delta X/X_{\text{comb}}$
md0.01	$M_{\star} = 1.02$ $M_d = 0.03$ $R_c = 80.00$	0.02 1.99 0.2	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 105.15$	0.01 1.0 0.05	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 103.7$	0.01 1.0 0.037
md0.025	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.04$ $R_c = 92.17$	0.01 0.6 0.078	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 115.55$	0.01 1.0 0.15	$M_{\star} = 0.99$ $M_d = 0.00$ $R_c = 115.2$	0.01 1.0 0.15
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md0.1	$M_{\star} = 1.04$ $M_d = 0.09$ $R_c = 88.33$	0.04 0.10 0.117	$M_{\star} = 0.97$ $M_d = 0.12$ $R_c = 90.8$	0.03 0.20 0.09	$M_{\star} = 0.97$ $M_d = 0.12$ $R_c = 91.2$	0.03 0.19 0.088
md0.15	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.18$ $R_c = 86.00$	0.0 0.2 0.14	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 87.5$	0.0 0.0 0.125	$M_{\star} = 1.00$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 88.114$	0.0 0.0 0.12
md0.2	$M_{\star} = 1.1$ $M_d = 0.165$ $R_c = 87.26$	0.1 0.175 0.13	$M_{\star} = 1.06$ $M_d = 0.15$ $R_c = 84.9$	0.06 0.25 0.15	$M_{\star} = 1.12$ $M_d = 0.09$ $R_c = 96.23$	0.12 0.55 0.037

# Uncertainties

We vary the “fixed” parameters to understand the impact of systematic errors

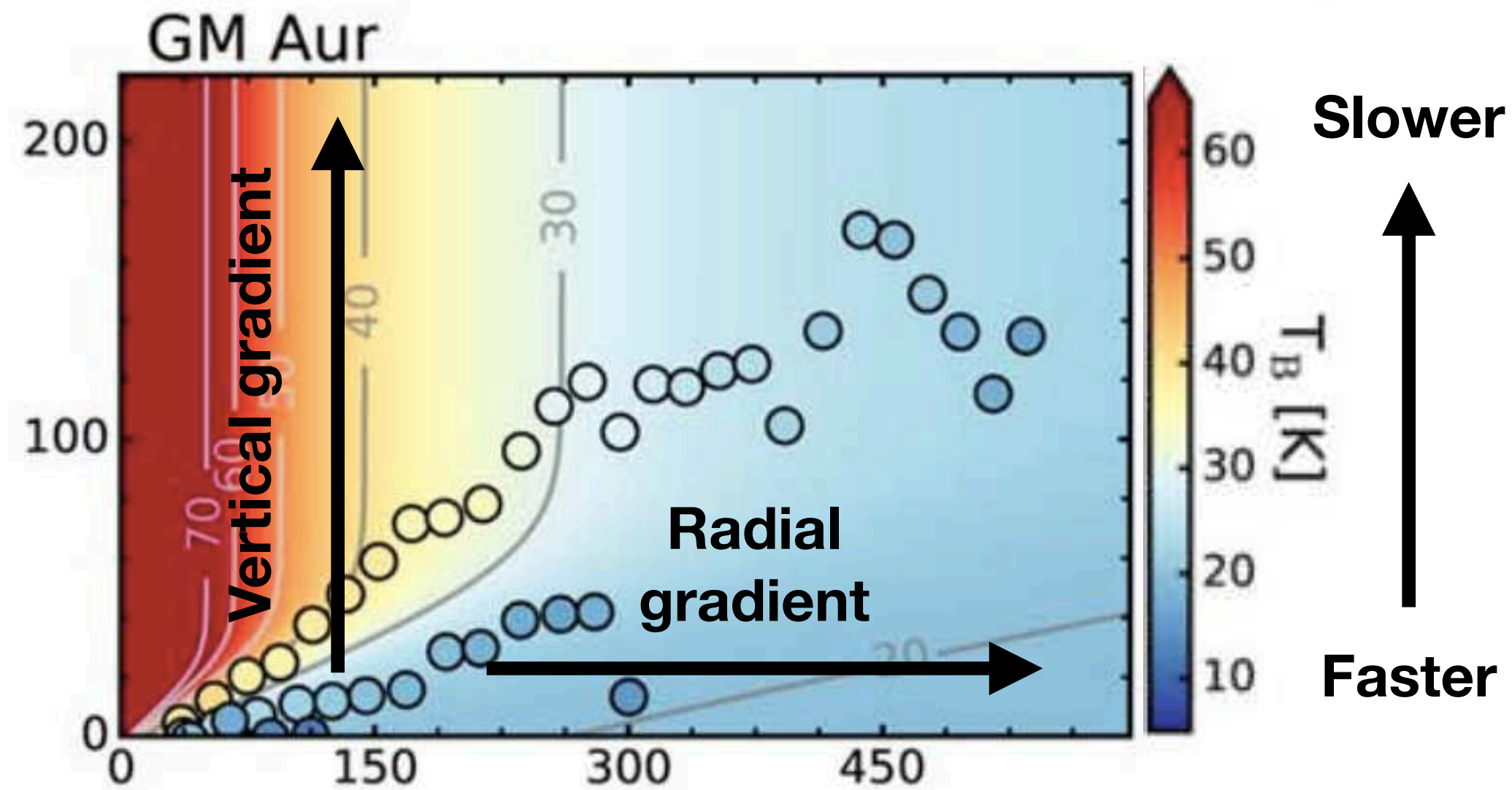
→ Aspect ratio (fit), inclination (extraction) and emitting layer (extraction+fit)

- **Minimum** measurable disc to star mass ratio  $\sim 5\%$
- **Uncertainty** on the disc mass  $\sim 25\%$





# A step forward: vertical stratification



*Law et al. 2021*

There is evidence from molecular line observations that protoplanetary discs are thermally stratified

Consequences on density and velocity?

$$T(R, z) = T_{mid}(R)f(R, z)$$

$$\rho(R, z) = \rho_{mid}(R)g(R, z)$$

From hydrostatic equilibrium + centrifugal balance

$$v_{\phi}^2(R, z) = v_K^2 \left\{ \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{z}{R} \right)^2 \right]^{-3/2} - \left[ \gamma' + (2 - \gamma) \left( \frac{R}{R_c} \right)^{2-\gamma} - \frac{d \log(fg)}{d \log R} \right] \left( \frac{H}{R} \right)_{mid}^2 f(R, z) \right\}$$

# Model verification

## PHANTOM simulations



Vertically stratified disc  
(credits to Caitlyn!)

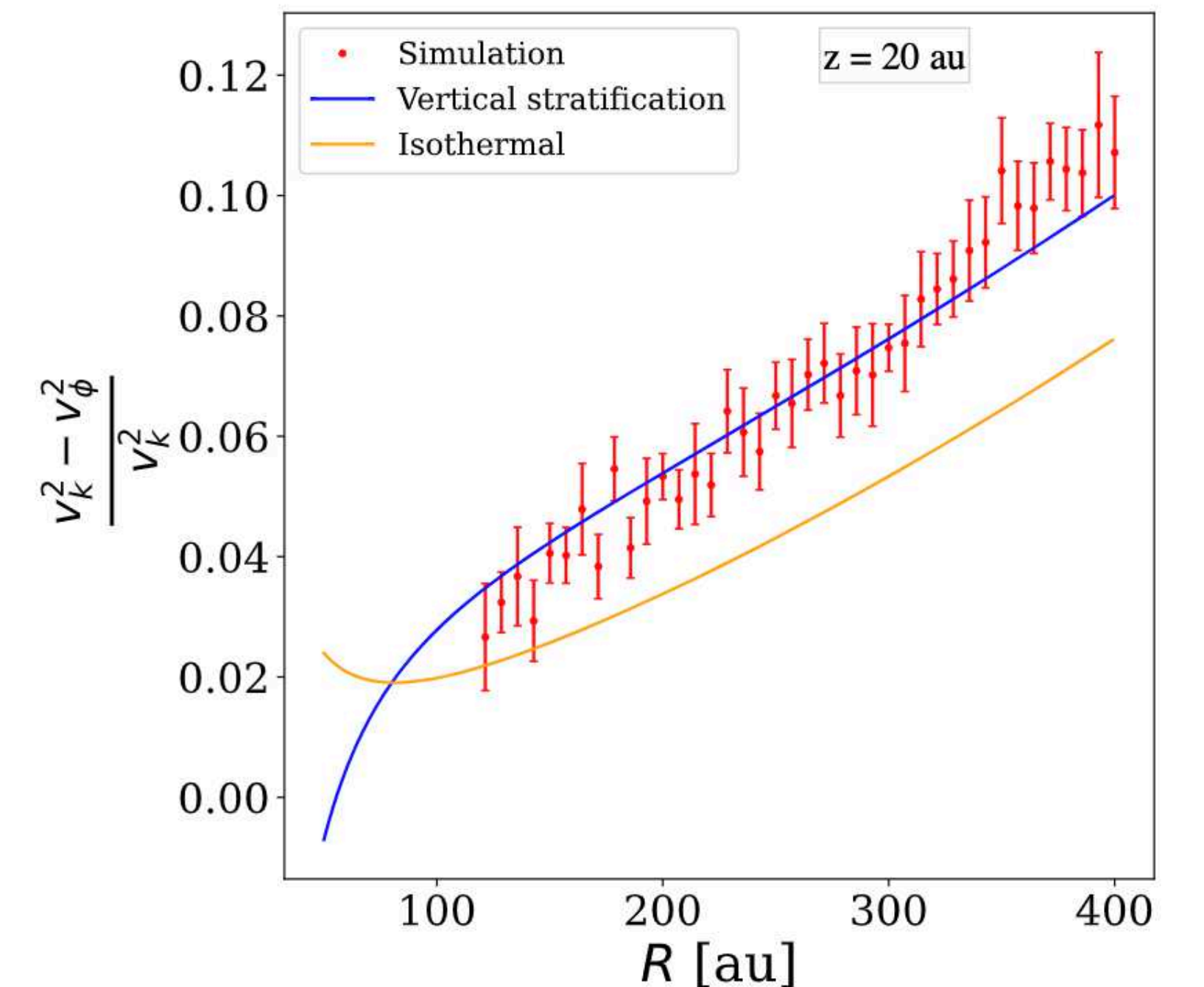
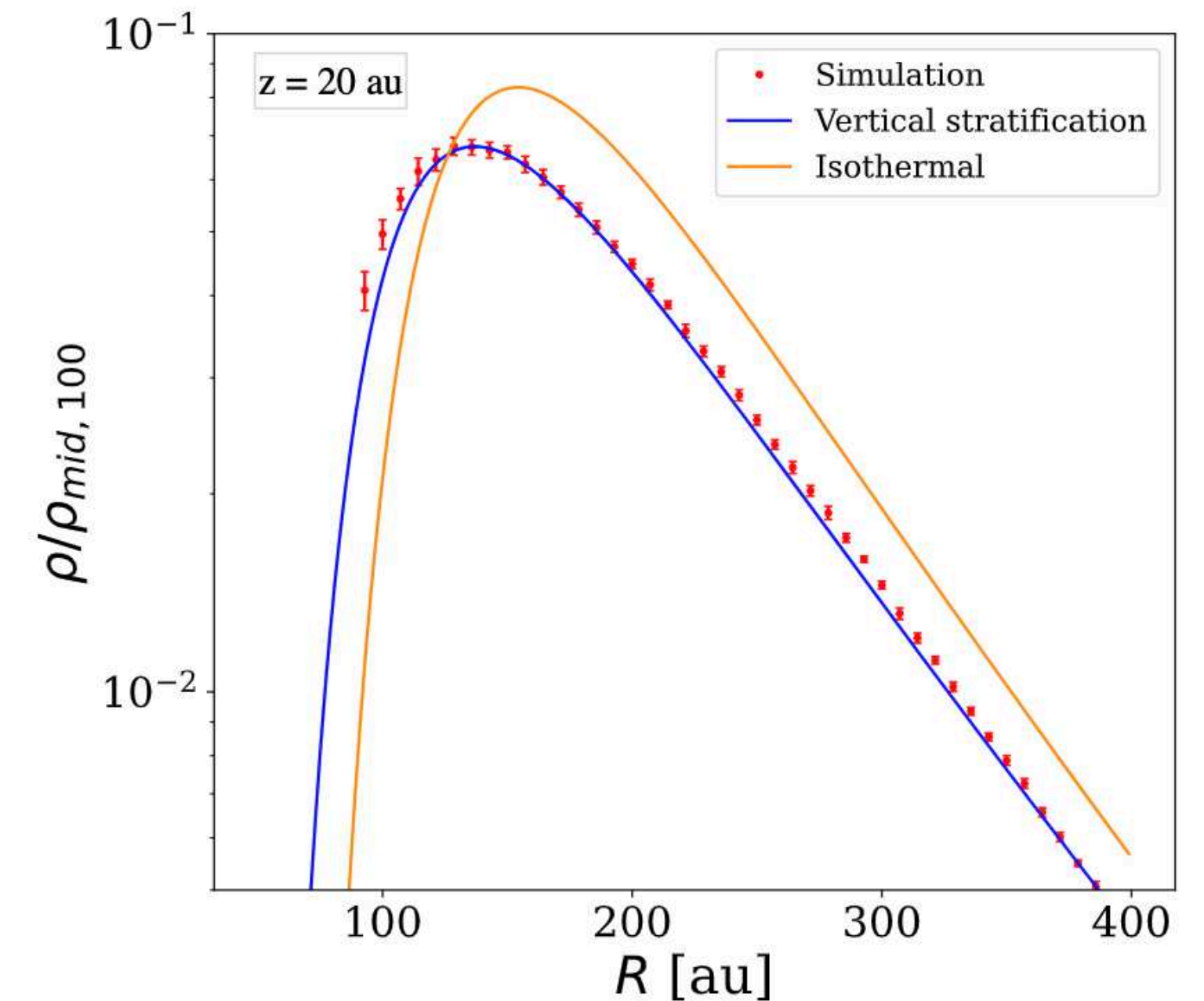
Parameters of GM Aur from Law et al. 2021

$$T(R, z)^4 = T_{\epsilon}^4(R) + \frac{1}{2} T_{\text{atm}}^4(R) \left[ 1 + \tanh\left(\frac{z}{Z_q(R)} - \alpha\right) \right]$$

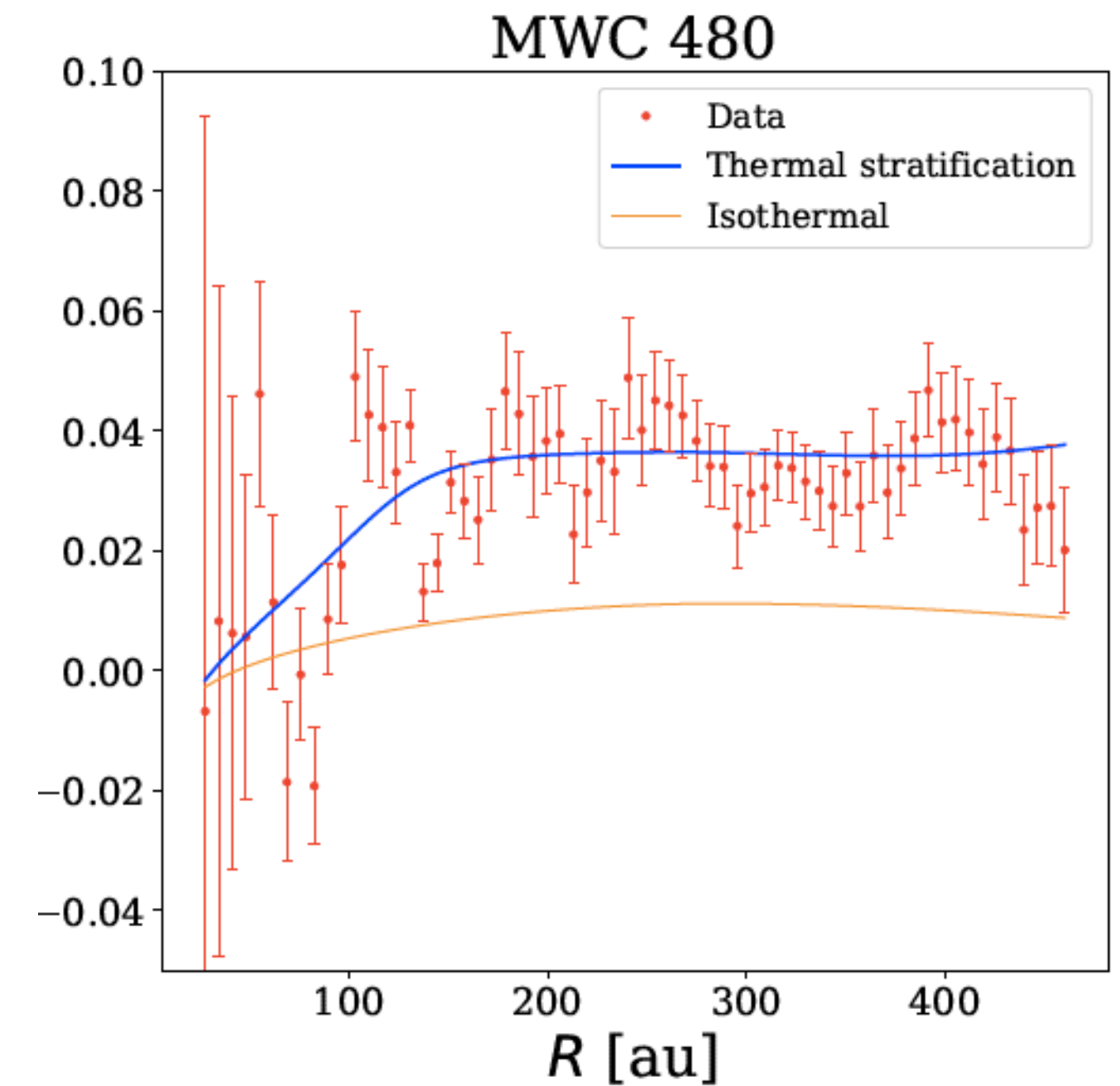
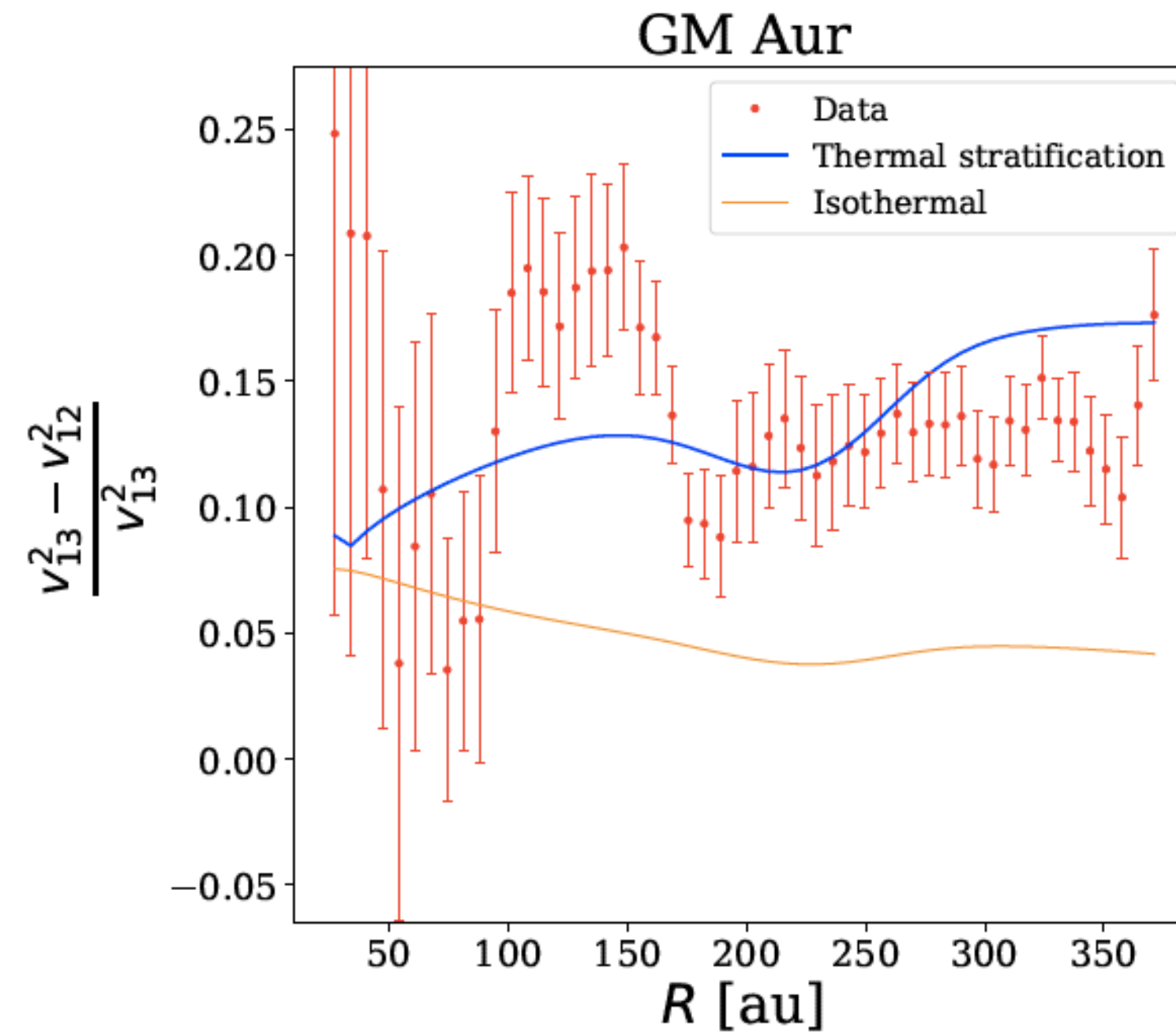
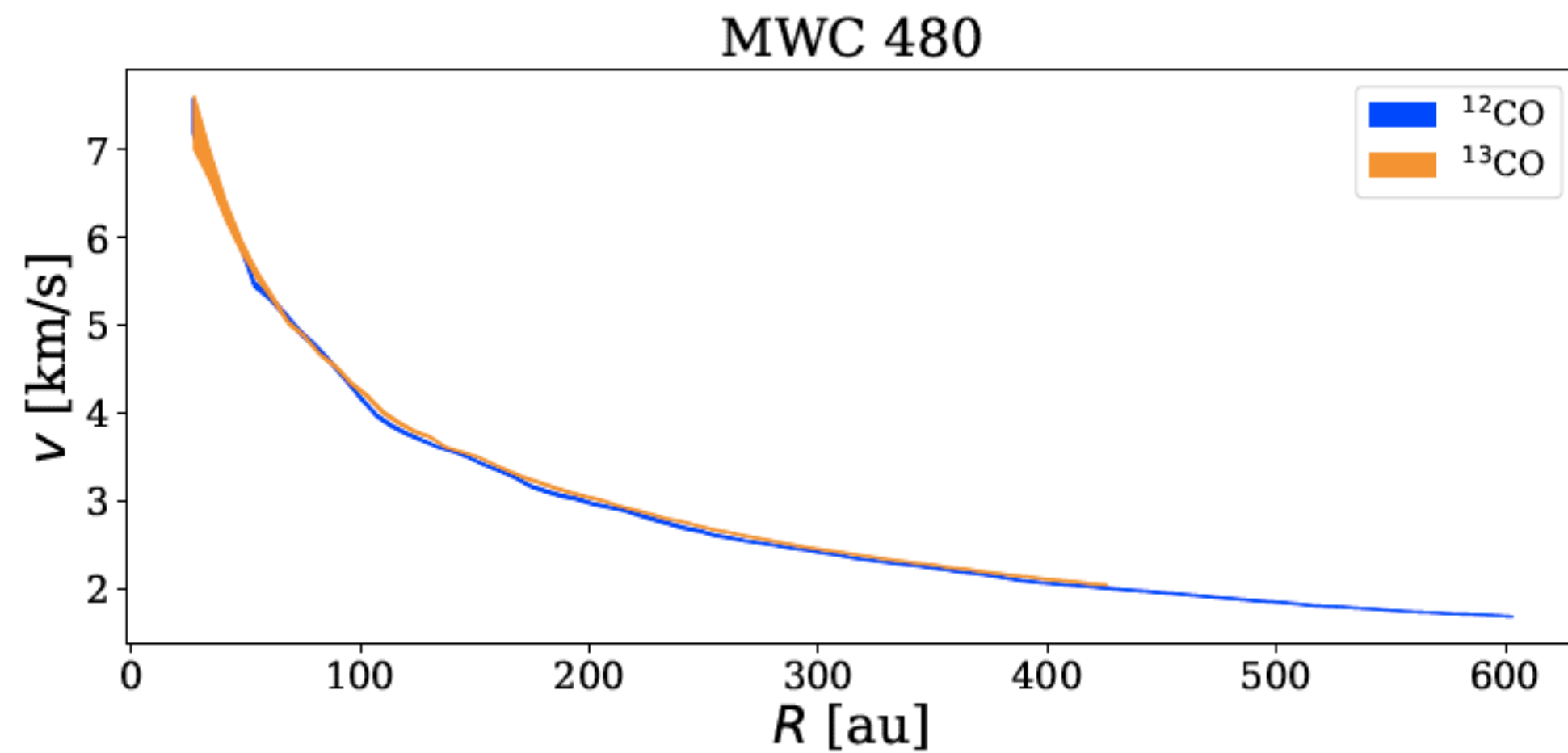
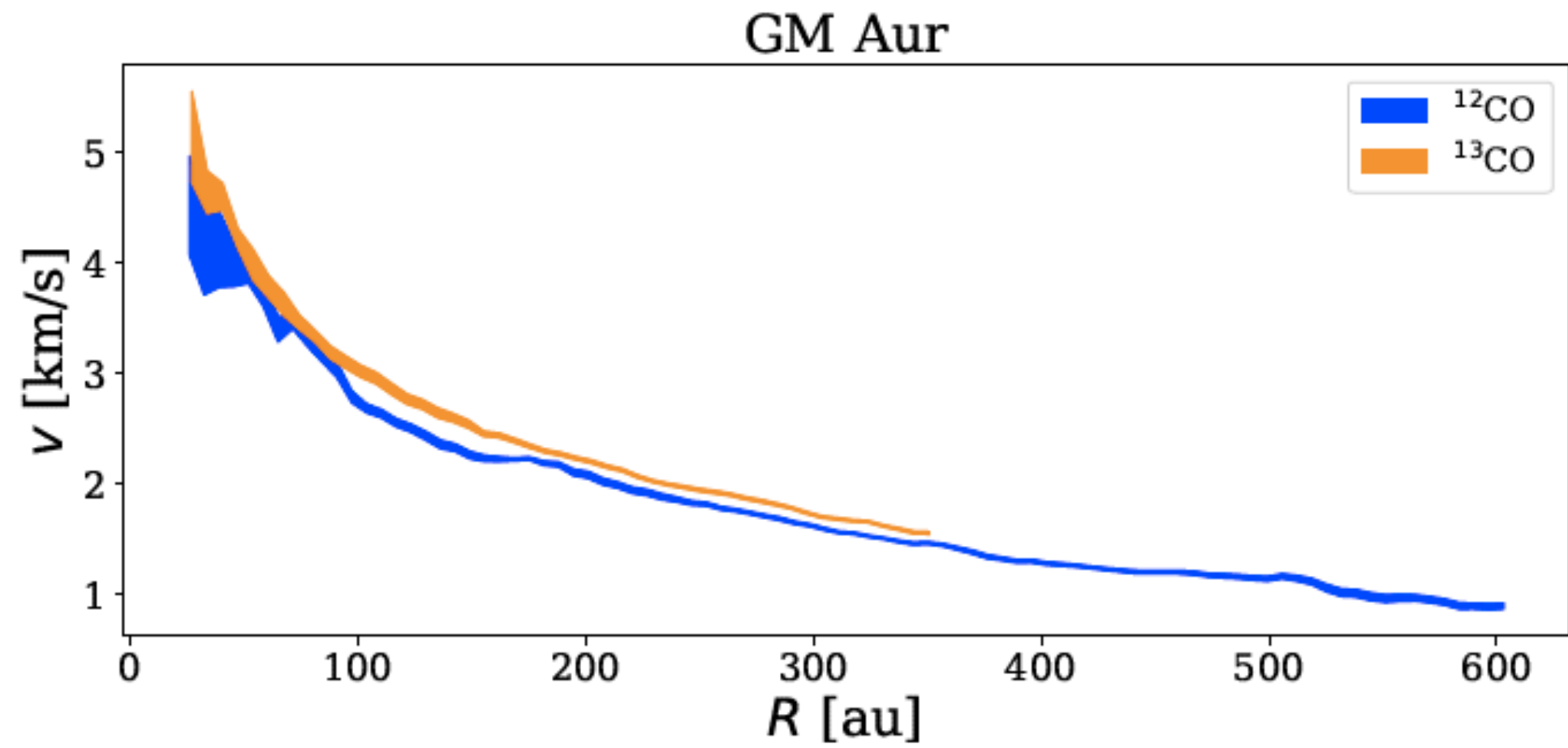
Test whether the model works or not

NB: initial density and velocity are not at hydro equilibrium, we just prescribe the temperature

*Martire et al. subm.*



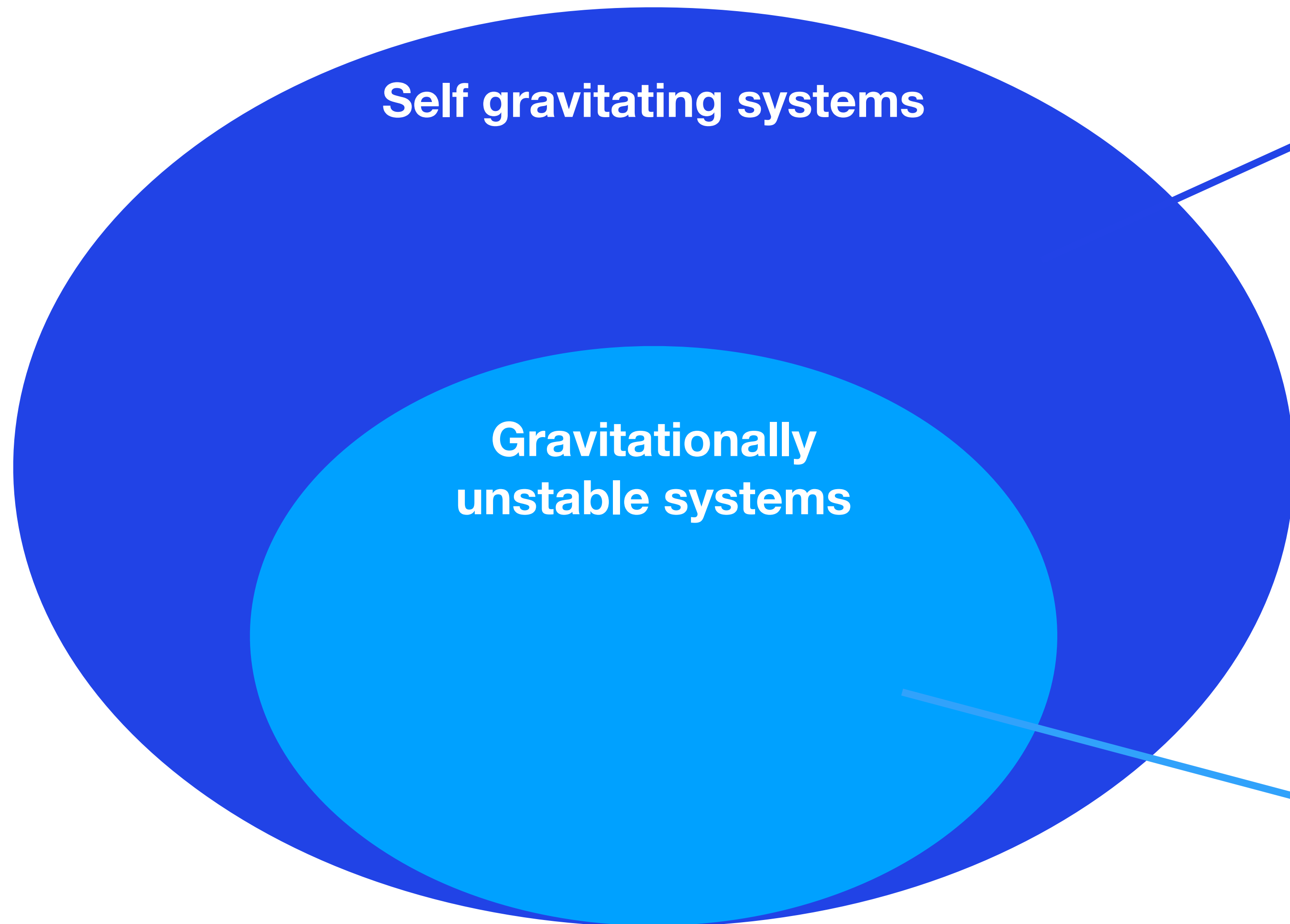
# Vertical stratification in MAPS discs



# Vertical stratification in MAPS discs

	$M_{\star} [M_{\odot}]$	$M_d [M_{\odot}]$	$R_c [\text{au}]$	$\chi_{\text{red}}^2$
<b>MWC 480</b>				
<i>Isothermal</i>	$1.969 \pm 0.002$	$0.201 \pm 0.002$	$80 \pm 1$	11.21
<i>Stratified</i>	$2.027 \pm 0.002$	$0.150 \pm 0.002$	$128 \pm 1$	6.14
<b>GM Aur</b>				
<i>Isothermal</i>	$0.872 \pm 0.003$	$0.312 \pm 0.003$	$56 \pm 1$	90.84
<i>Stratified</i>	$1.128 \pm 0.002$	$0.118 \pm 0.002$	$96 \pm 1$	8.48

# Self gravity VS Gravitational instability



## Self gravitating systems

SG influences disc structure

## Gravitationally unstable systems

## G. unstable systems

Development of large scale spiral structure (transport angular momentum)

$$Q = \frac{c_s \kappa}{\pi G \Sigma} \sim 1 \quad \frac{\text{Pressure, Rotation}}{\text{Self gravity}}$$

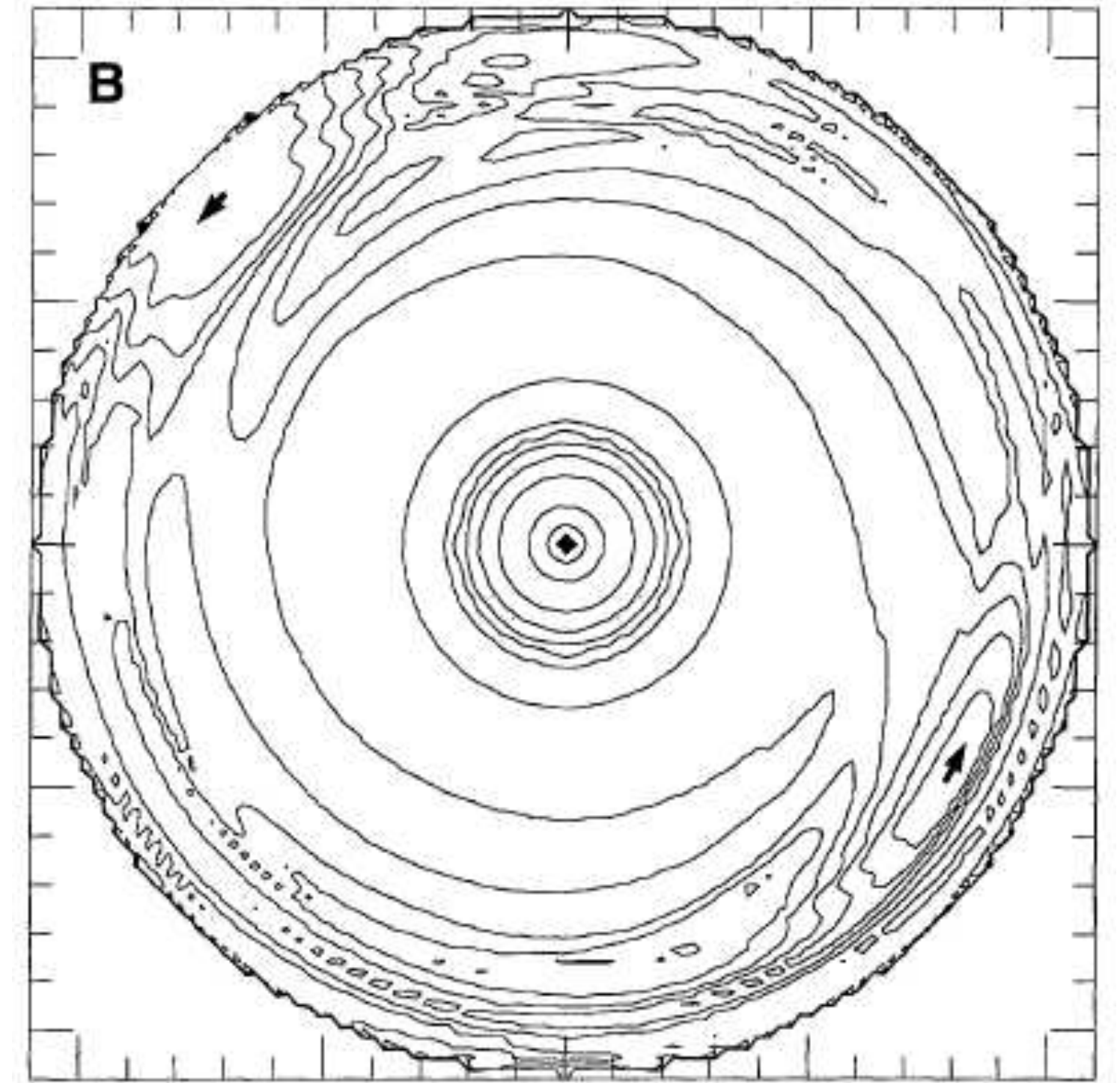
# Gravitational instability and planet formation

## Boss 1997

First hydrodynamical simulations of gravitationally unstable protostellar discs

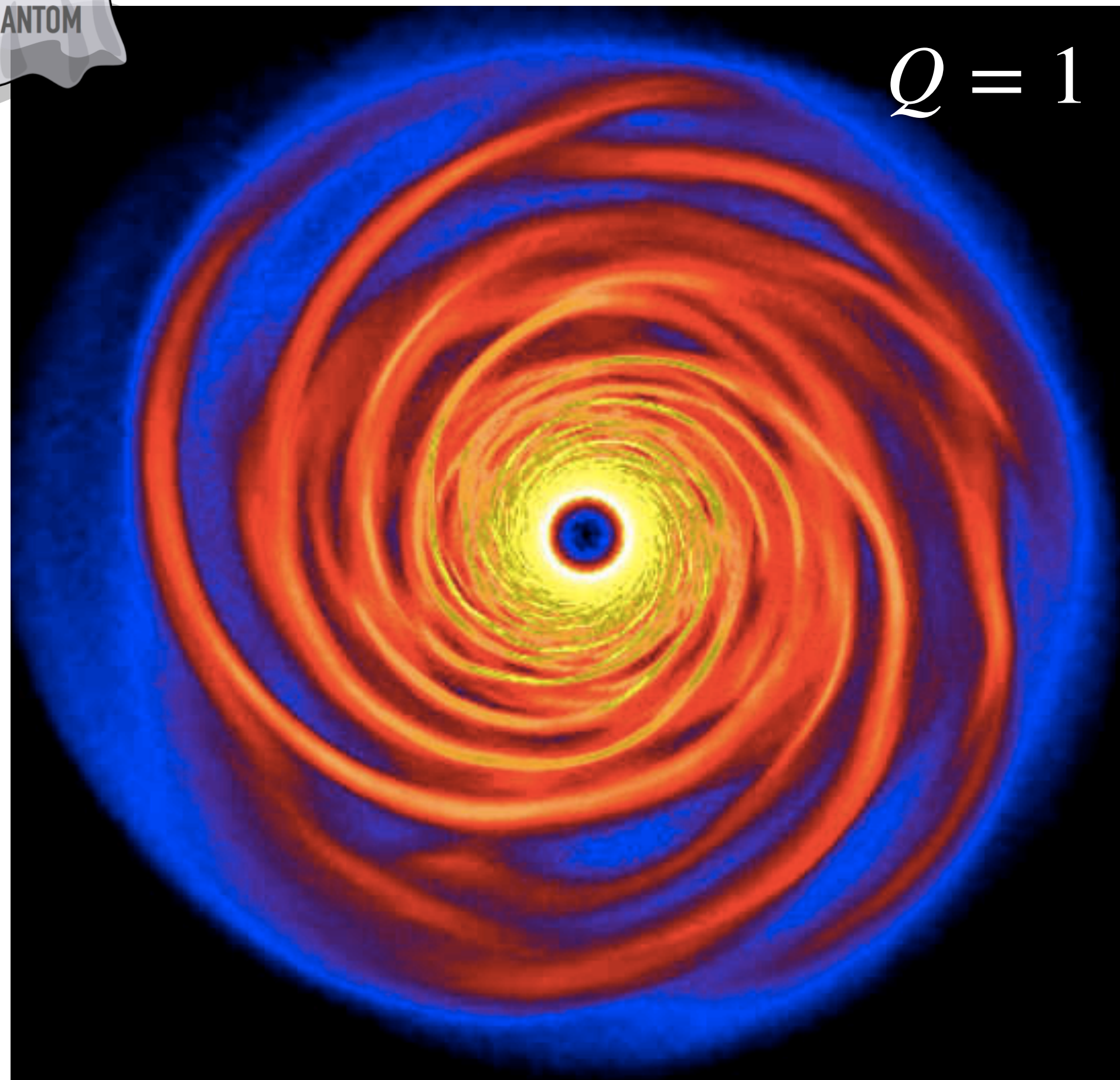
→ Possibility to rapidly form Jupiter mass body through gas fragmentation in the outer disc

**Initial** mass is too high to form a planet because of accretion  
(*Kratter & Lodato 2016*)



*Boss et al. 1997*

# Non (gas) fragmenting case



**$\beta$  cooling**  
*thermodynamics*

$$\beta_{cool} = \Omega t_{cool}$$

$$\delta\Sigma/\Sigma \propto \beta^{-1/2}$$

**Strength** of spiral perturbation is determined by the cooling factor

$$\alpha_{GI} = \frac{4}{9\gamma(\gamma - 1)\beta}$$

# Interplay with dust dynamics

## Rice et al. 2004-2006

First 3D SPH simulations of gas and dust GI discs.

- **Efficient** dust trapping inside spiral arms
- Dust is so unstable that **collapses**
- ~  $1M_{\oplus}$  planetesimals

**Warning:** Low resolution

## Booth & Clarke 2016

2D SPH simulations of gas and dust GI discs.

Important parameter is **dust dispersion velocity**

$$c_d \propto St^{1/2} \beta^{-1/2}$$

since it determines the effective “temperature” of the dust

## Longarini et al. 2023a

Analytical study of 2 fluid gravitational instability

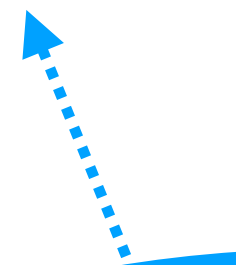
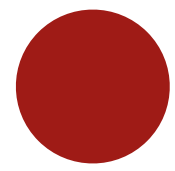
When the dust is enough concentrated and sufficiently cold, it can drive instability

$$M_{Jeans} \simeq 1 - 10M_{\oplus}$$

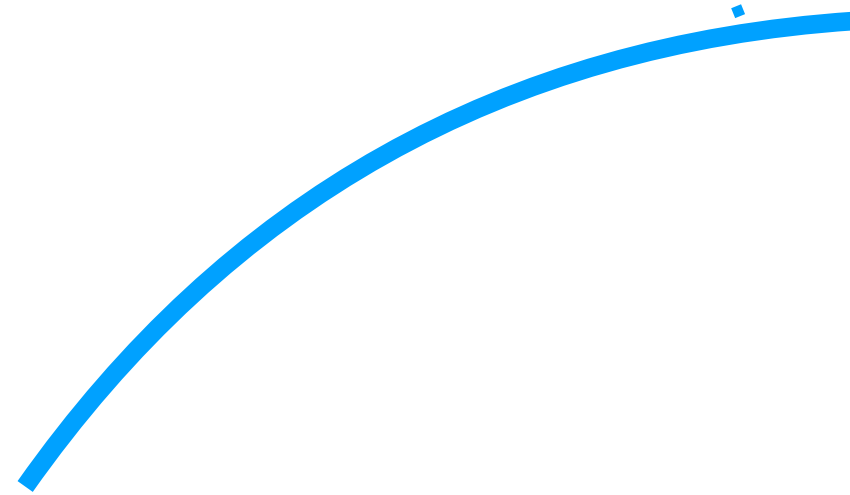


# What happens to dust?

Dust grain



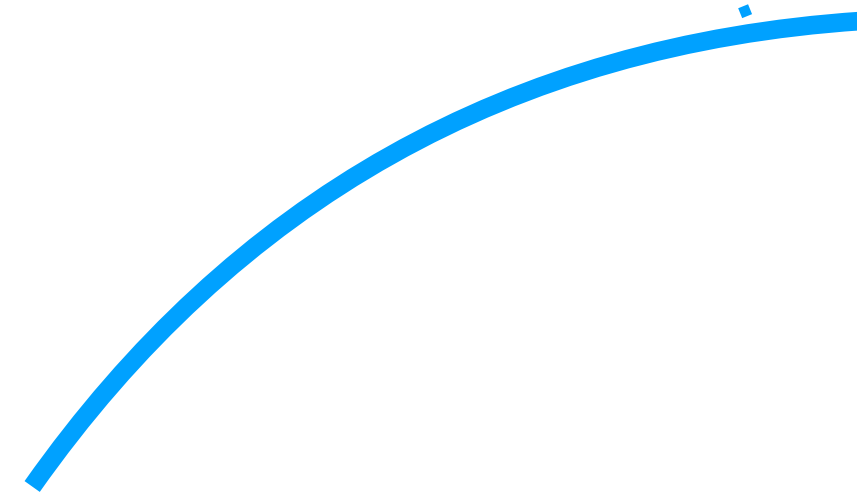
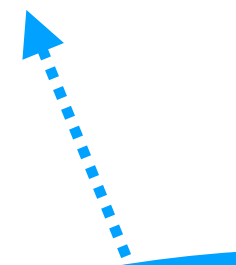
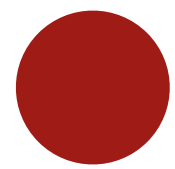
Spiral arm



# What happens to dust?

$$\frac{\delta\Sigma}{\Sigma} \propto \beta^{-1/2}$$

Dust grain



Spiral arm

**Stokes  
number**

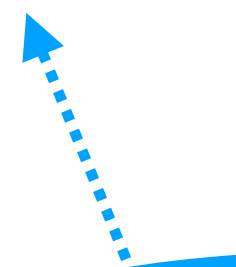
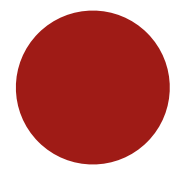
$St$

**Strength of  
the spiral**

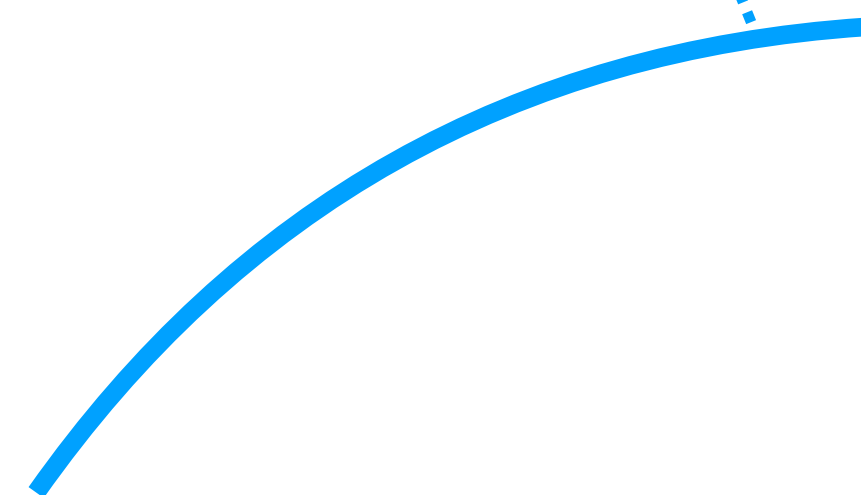
$\delta\Sigma/\Sigma$

# What happens to dust?

Dust grain



Spiral arm



Stokes  
number

$$St$$

Strength of  
the spiral

$$\delta\Sigma/\Sigma$$

$$\frac{\delta\Sigma}{\Sigma} \propto \beta^{-1/2}$$

**Efficiently excited:**

Stronger kick if

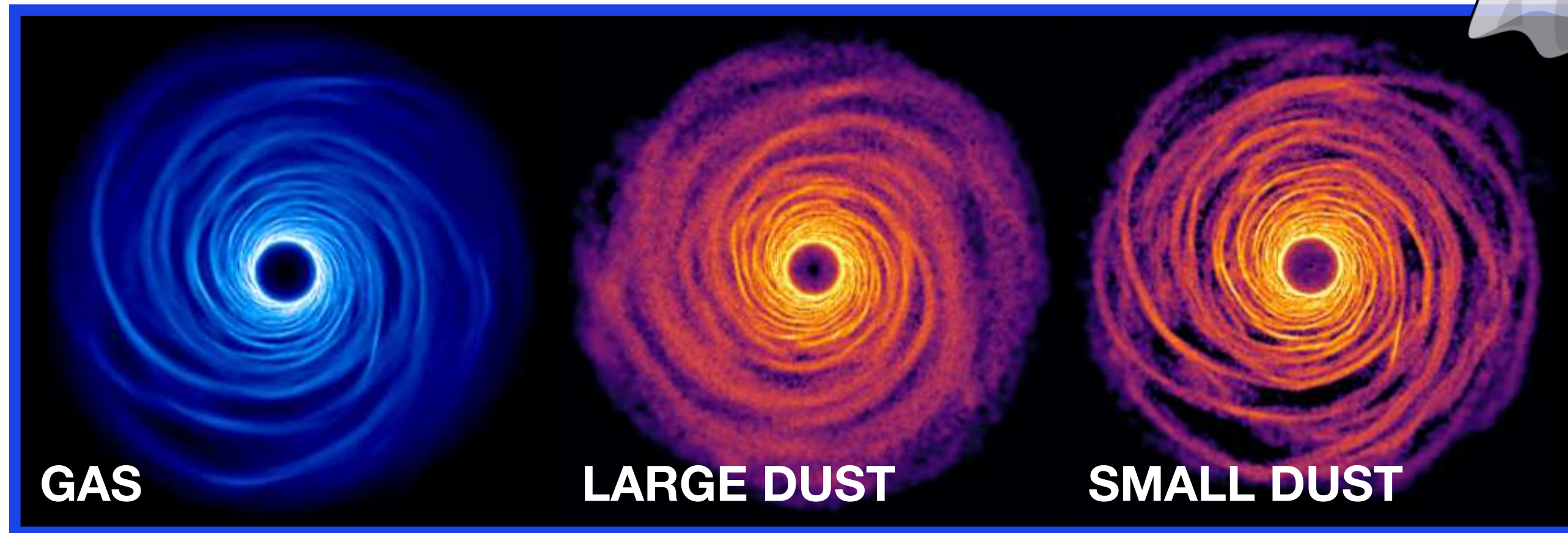
- Low  $\beta$
- High  $St$

**Not efficiently excited:**

Weaker kick if

- High  $\beta$
- Low  $St$

# Hydro simulations



1M - 2M gas particles  
250K - 500K dust particles

Simulation	$M_d/M_\star$	$\beta_{\text{cool}}$	s [cm]	$\langle \text{St} \rangle$	$s_{10}$ [cm]
S1	0.05	8	300	40	3
S2	0.05	10	300	40	3
S3	0.05	15	300	40	3
S4	0.05	8	60	8	0.6
S5	0.05	10	60	8	0.6
S6	0.05	15	60	8	0.6
S7	0.1	8	600	40	6
S8	0.1	10	600	40	6
S9	0.1	15	600	40	6
S10	0.1	8	120	8	1.2
S11	0.1	10	120	8	1.2
S12	0.1	15	120	8	1.2
S13	0.2	8	1500	40	15
S14	0.2	10	1500	40	15
S15	0.2	15	1500	40	15
S16	0.2	8	600	16	6
S17	0.2	10	600	16	6
S18	0.2	15	600	16	6

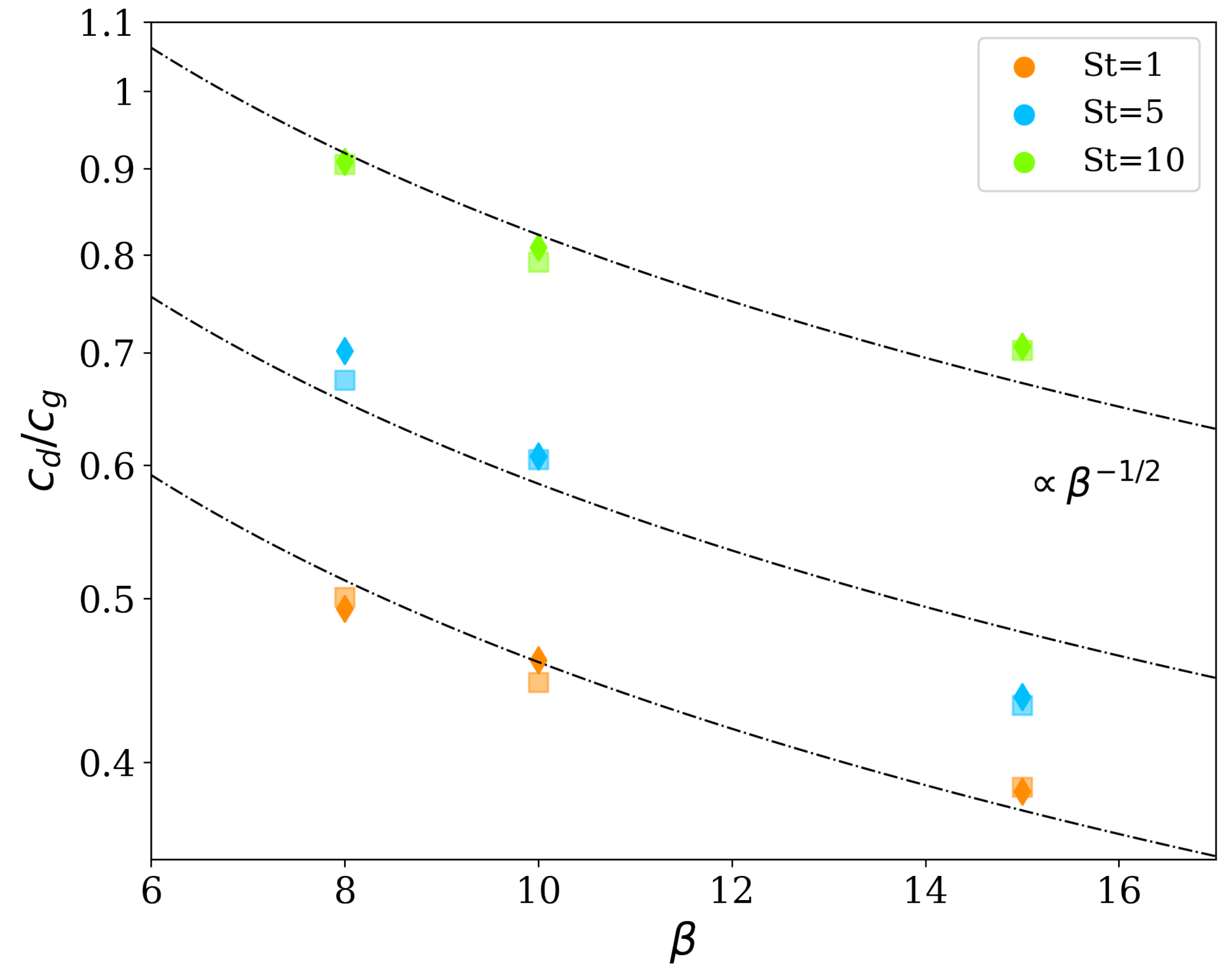
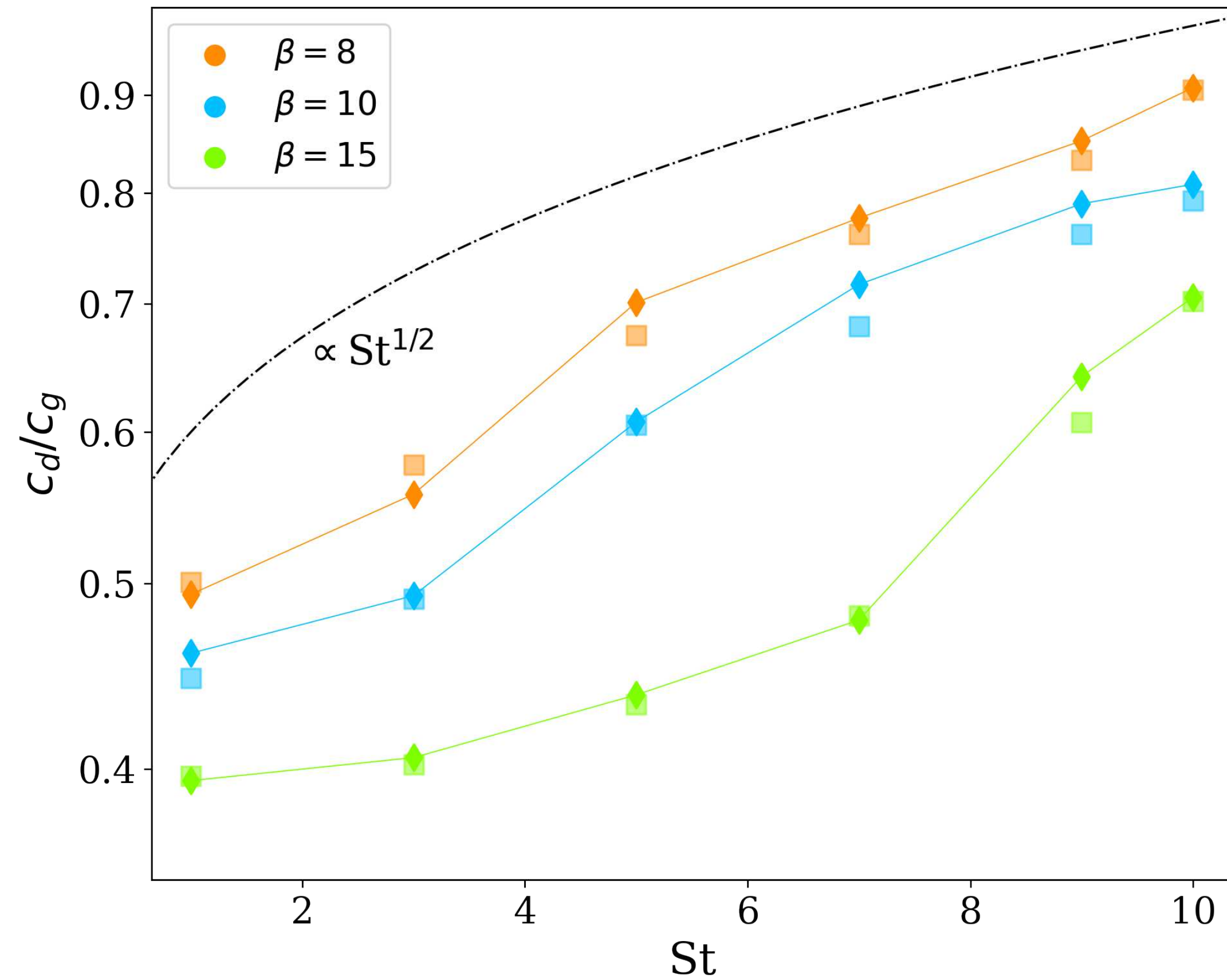
GI strength  
 $\beta$



## Dust parameters

$\epsilon$  : dust to gas ratio  
 $c_d$  : dispersion velocity

# Dust dispersion velocity



$$C_d \propto St^{1/2} \beta^{-1/2}$$

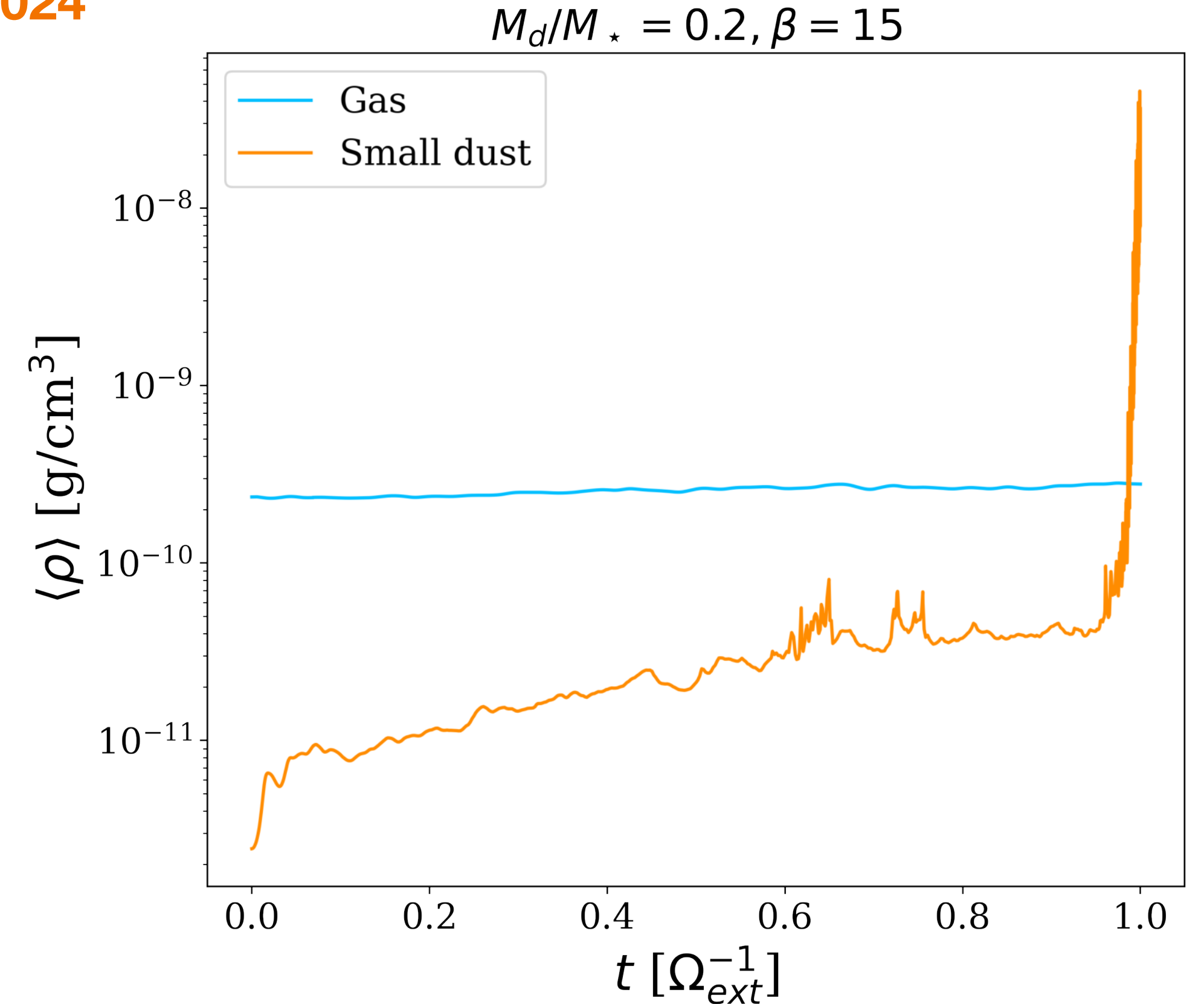
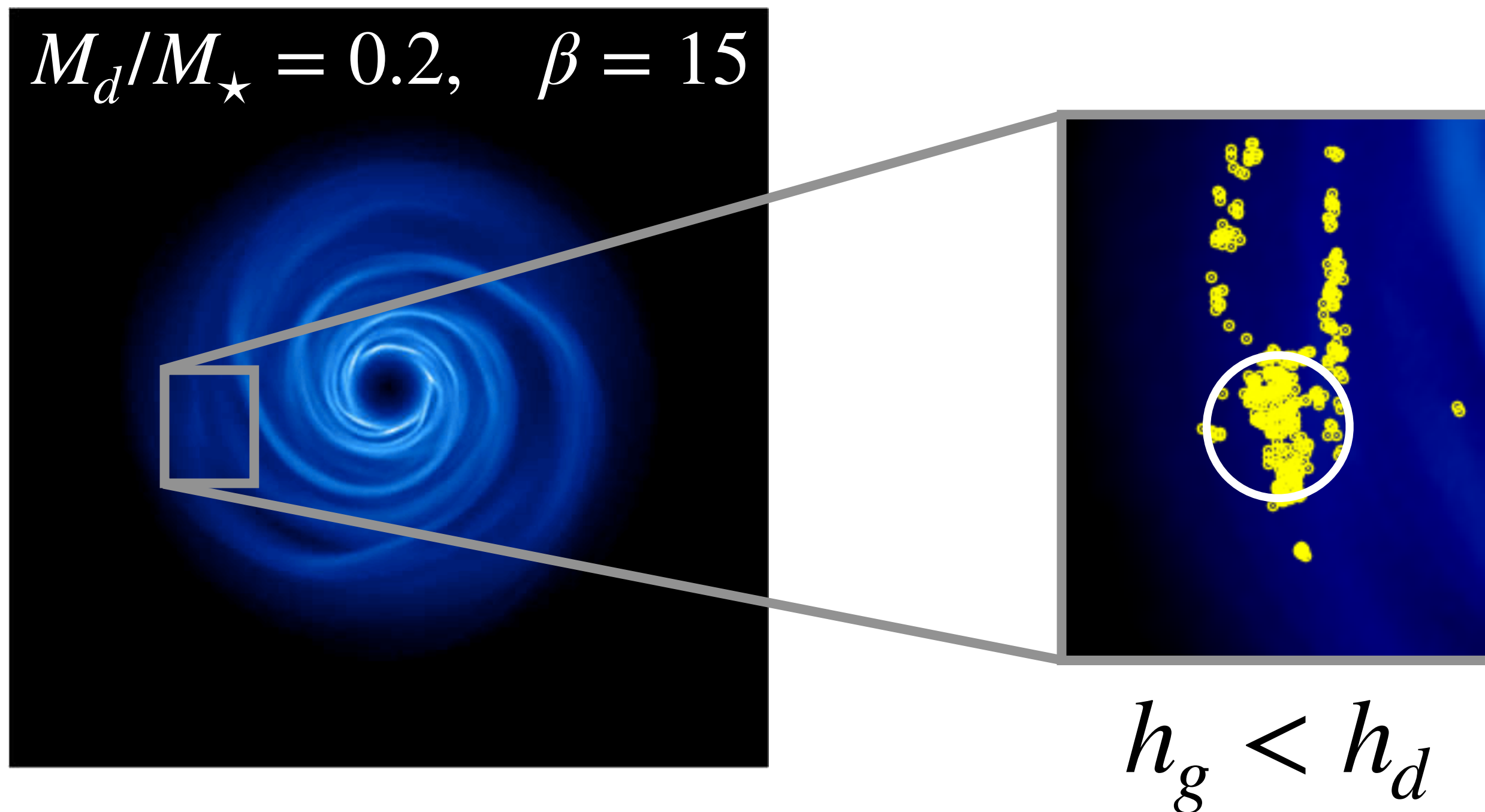
# Dust collapse

In line with Rowther 2024  
See Sahl's talk

We observe dust collapse only for

- Higher disc to star mass ratio ( $M_d/M_\star = 0.2$ )
- Long cooling ( $\beta = 10 - 15$ )
- Small dust particles

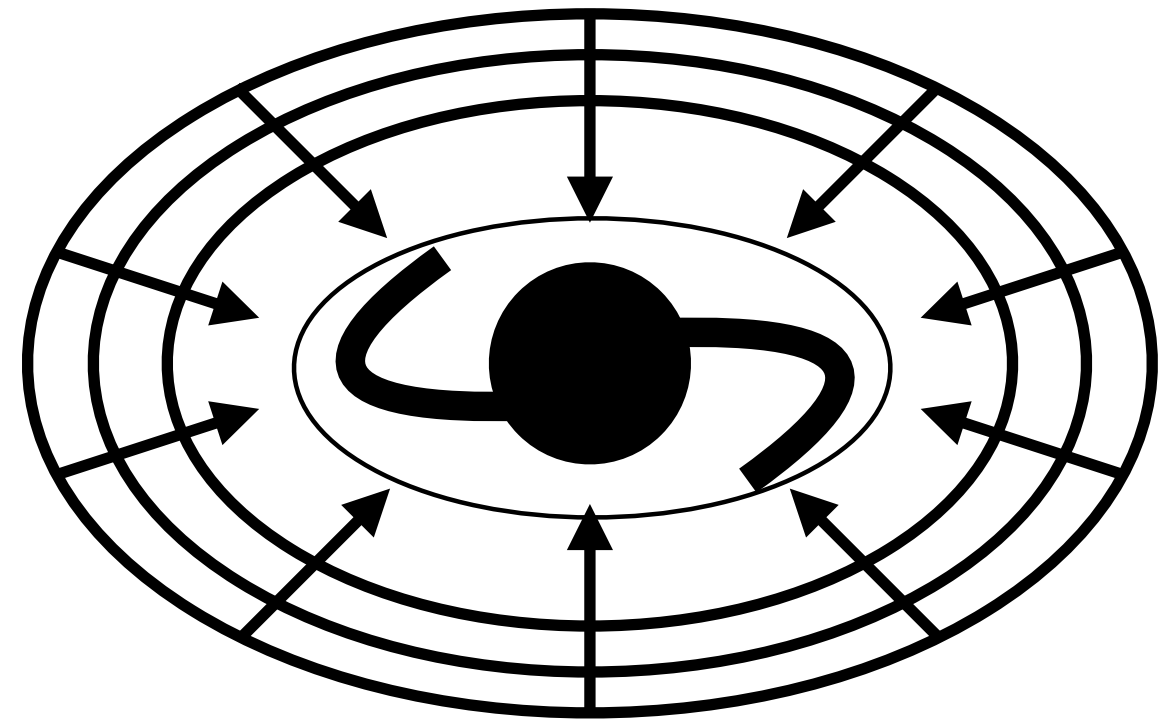
Mass of the clump  $M_{cl} \simeq 1M_\oplus$



Only dust is collapsing  
Simulation stops (too long  
computational time...)

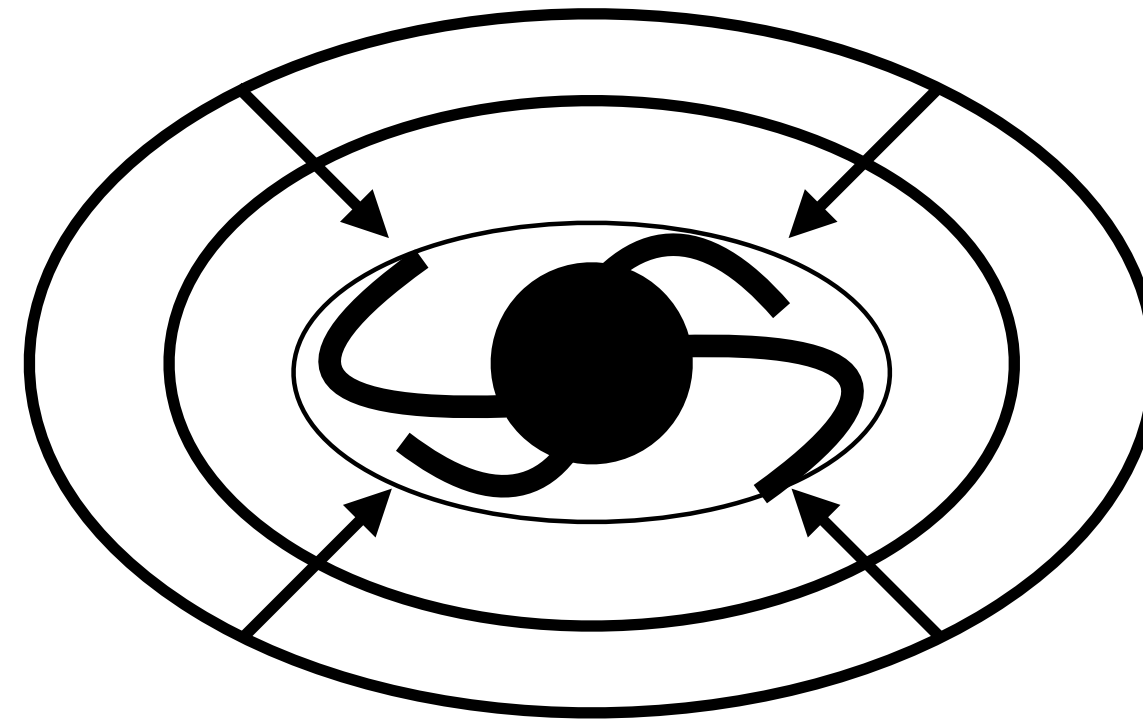
# Evolutionary scenario

Stage 1



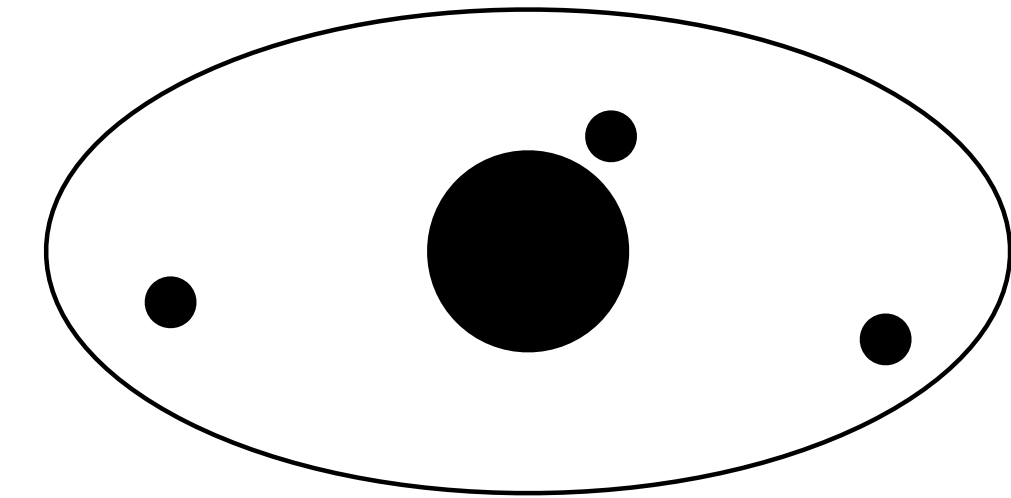
Very massive disc  $M_{d1}$   
strongly gravitationally unstable  
High  $\dot{M}_{inf}$  - Low  $\beta_{cool}$   
Gas likely to fragment  
→ Stellar companions  
formation

Stage 2



Massive disc  $M_{d2} < M_{d1}$   
gravitationally unstable  
Lower  $\dot{M}_{inf}$  - Higher  $\beta_{cool}$   
Dust likely to fragment  
→ Planet formation

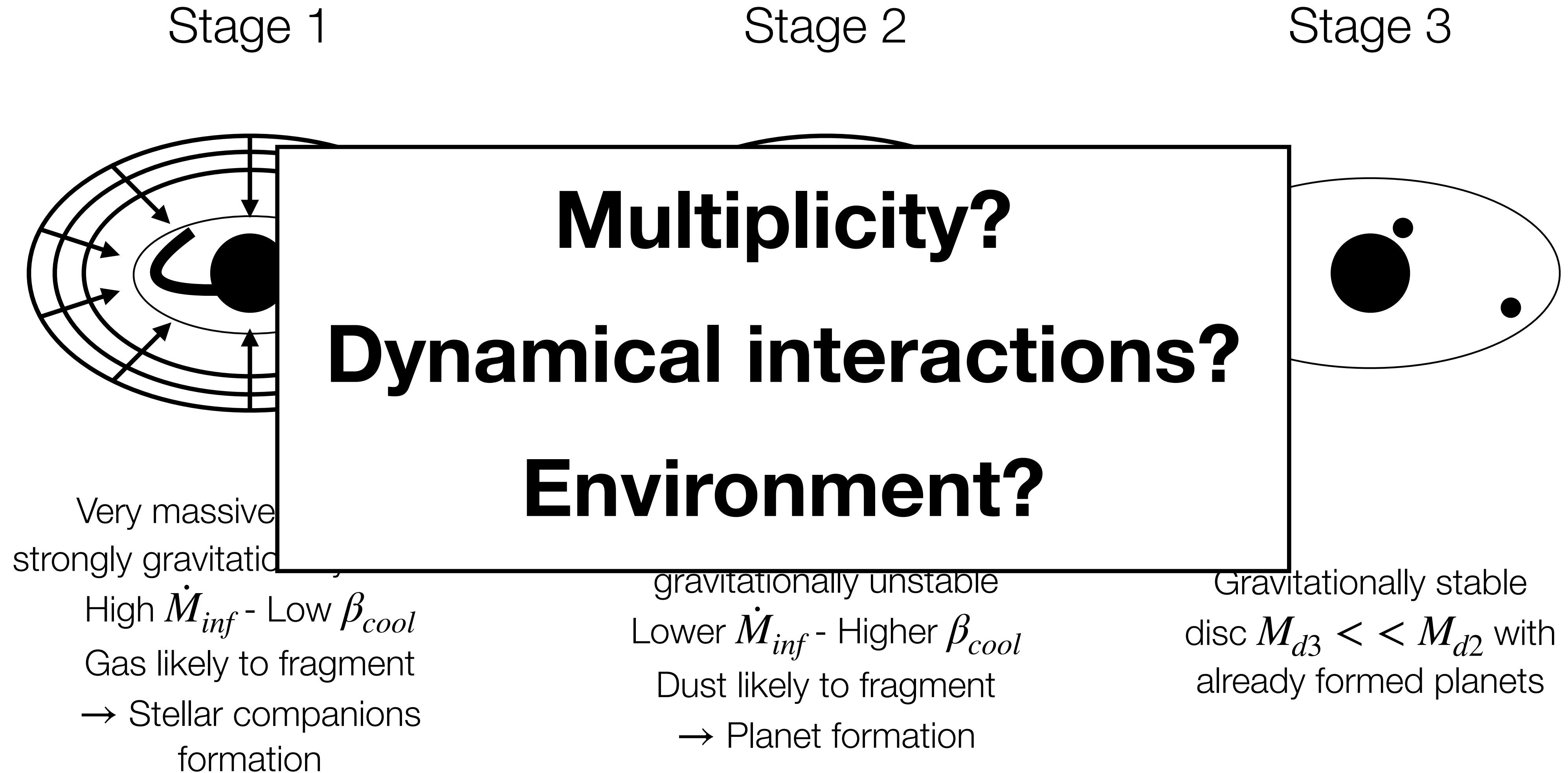
Stage 3



Gravitationally stable  
disc  $M_{d3} \ll M_{d2}$  with  
already formed planets

**Time**

# Evolutionary scenario



**Time** →



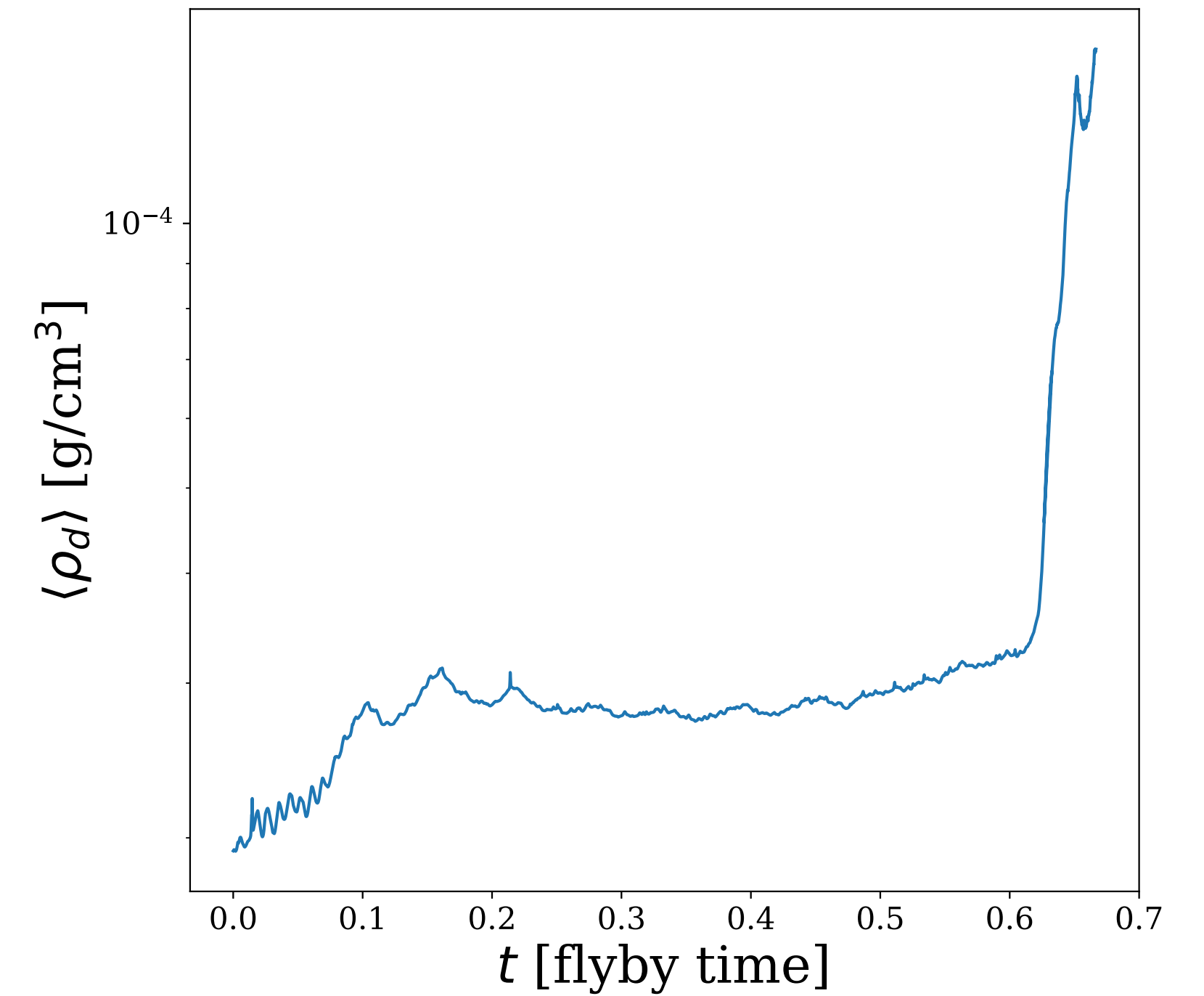
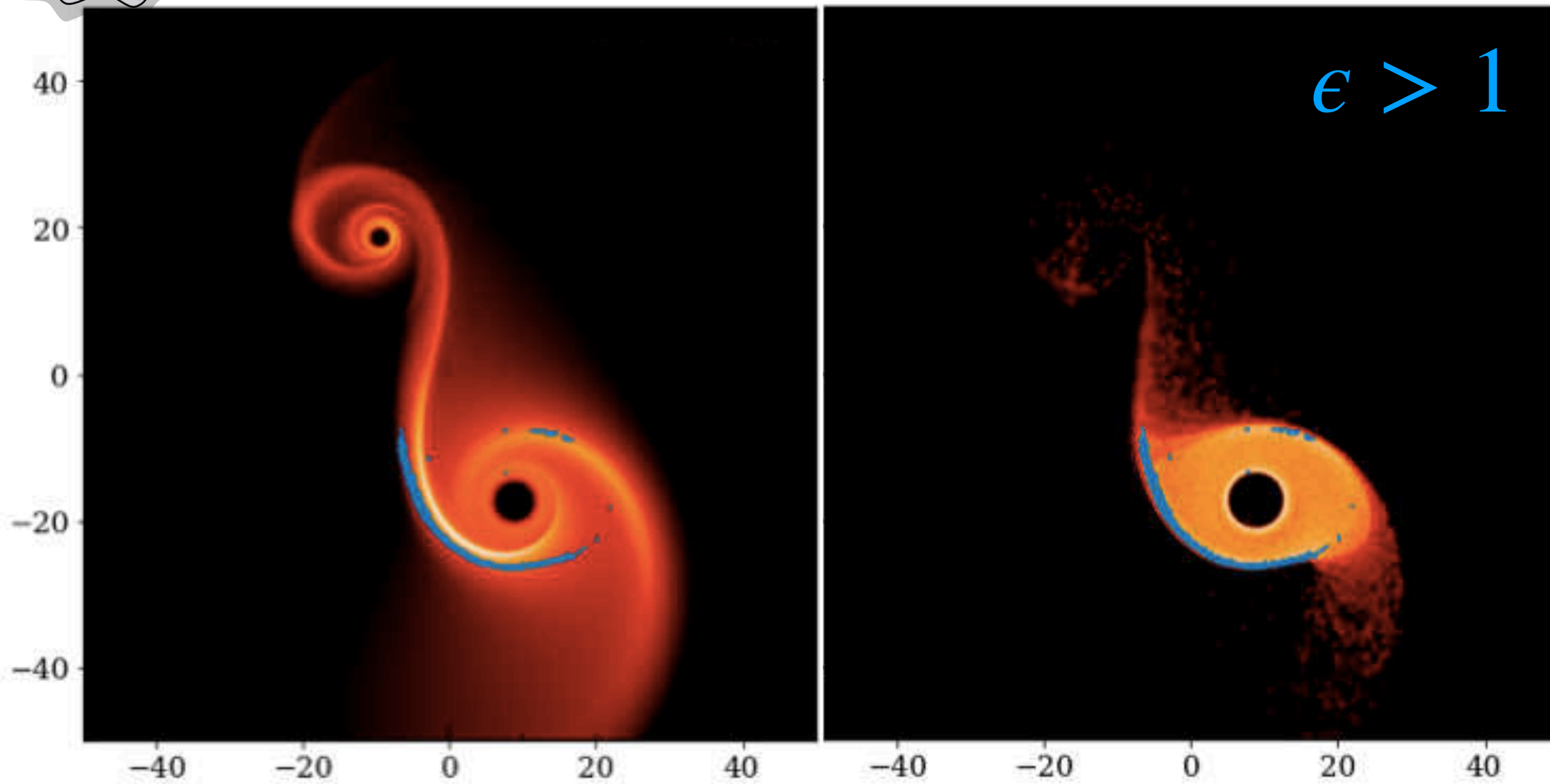
# Other possible scenarios

Vasu Prasad, PhD Student  
@ IoA, Cambridge



Gas surface density

Dust surface density



# What after?

**Planetary cores (1-10 Earth) formation in the outer disc in massive discs at the end of the GI phase (SG disc)**

Planetary cores are sub-thermal mass → Type I migration

**Type I migration  
timescale**

*Tanaka et al. 2002*

$$t_{M1} = \frac{M_{\star}}{M_p} \frac{M_{\star}}{\Sigma R_p^2} \left( \frac{H}{R} \right)_p^2 \Omega_p^{-1}$$

**Time to reach the thermal  
mass through accretion**

*D'angelo & Lubow 2008*

$$t_{acc} = \frac{M_{th}}{\dot{M}_p} = 3 \left( \frac{H}{R} \right)_p^4 \frac{M_{\star}}{M_p} \frac{M_{\star}}{\Sigma R_p^2} \Omega_p^{-1} \eta^{-3}$$

# Survival of the cores

Antonio Costantinou,  
Master student @ IoA



$$\tau = \frac{3}{\eta^3} \left( \frac{H}{R} \right)_p^2$$

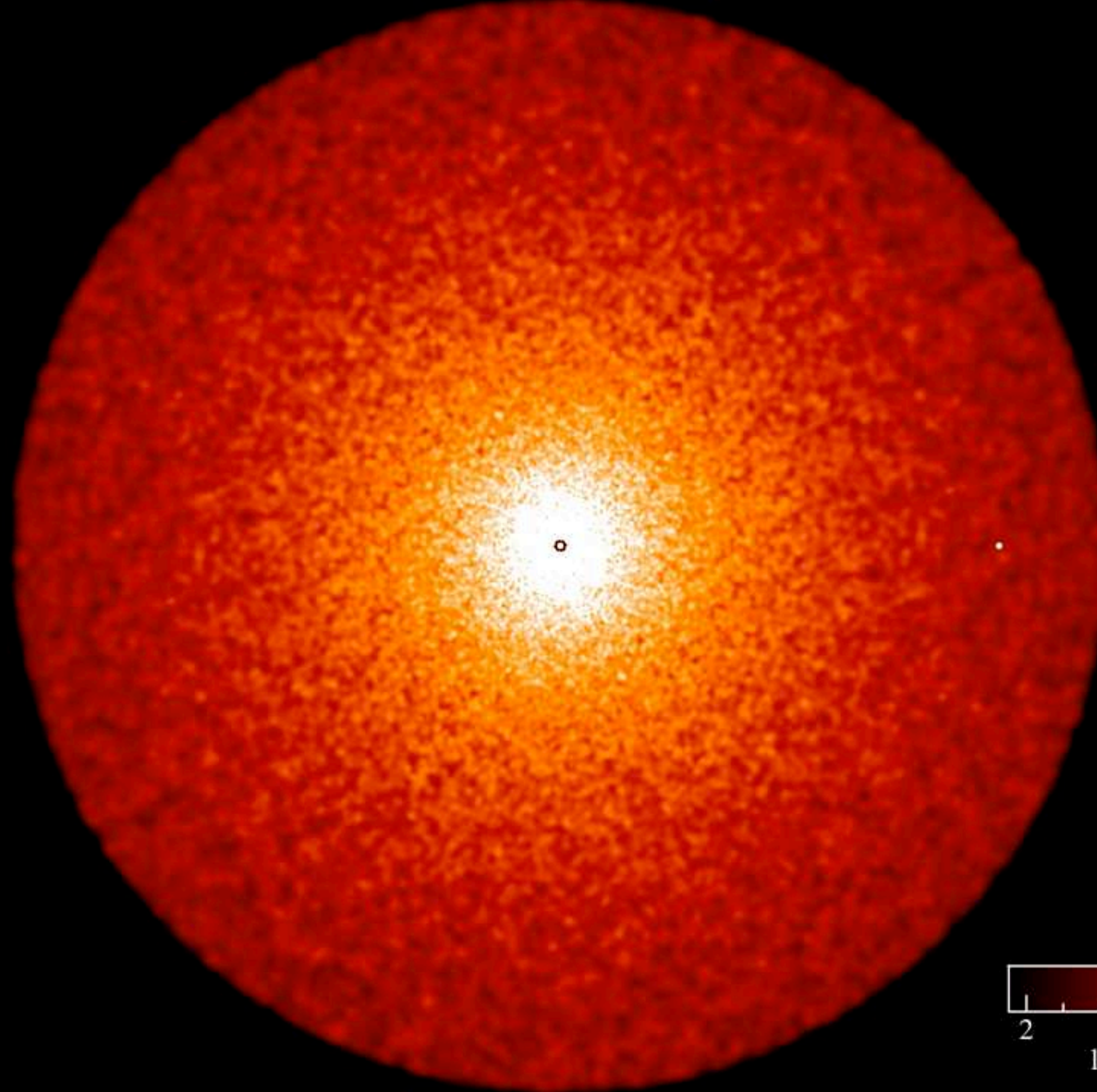
$\frac{\text{Accretion ts}}{\text{Migration ts}}$

$$\eta = R_{acc}/R_h$$

$\tau > 1 \rightarrow$  Planetary core does not survive

$\tau < 1 \rightarrow$  Planetary core survives

	<b>H/R</b>	$\eta$	<b>M<sub>p</sub></b>	$\tau$
<b>Sim1</b>	0.1	0.25	10	~1
<b>Sim2</b>	0.1	0.5	10	<1
<b>Sim3</b>	0.2	0.25	10	>1
<b>Sim4</b>	0.1	0.25	20	~1



t=0 yrs

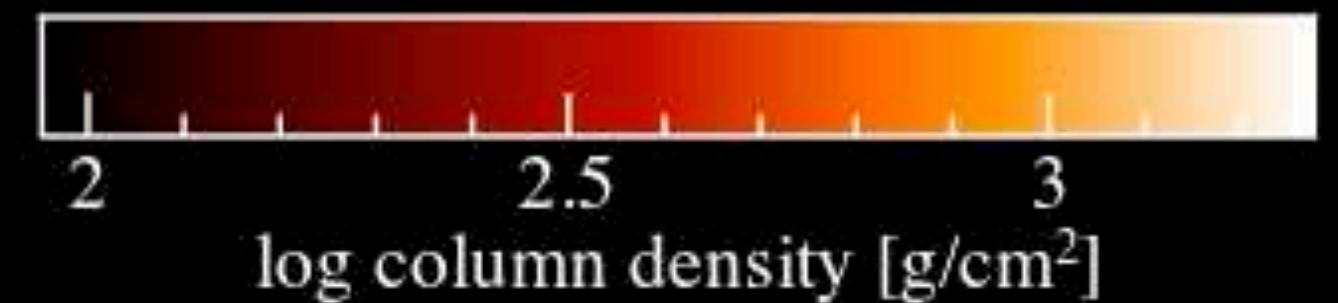
$$\tau \sim 1$$

$$M_p = 10M_{\oplus}$$

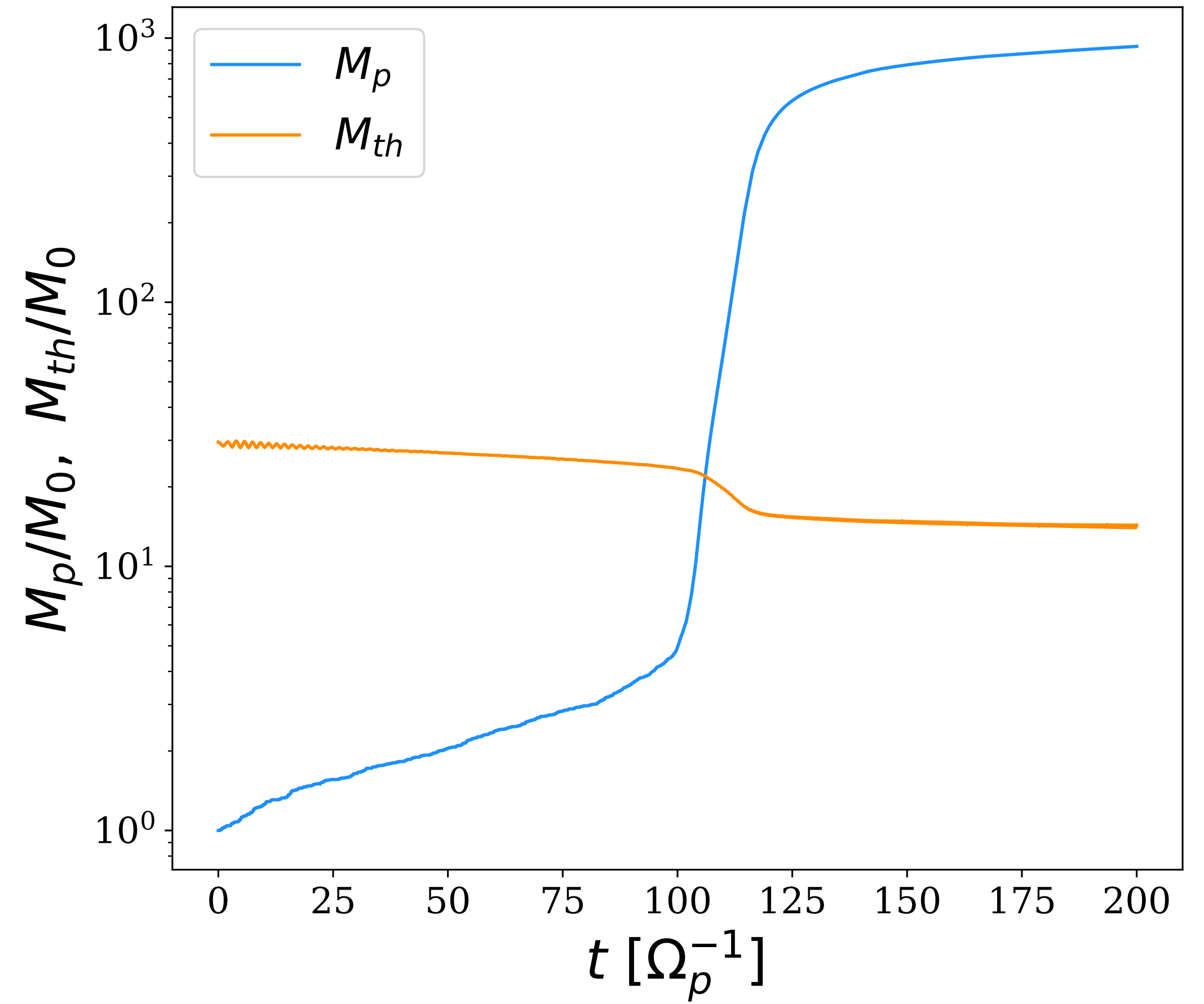
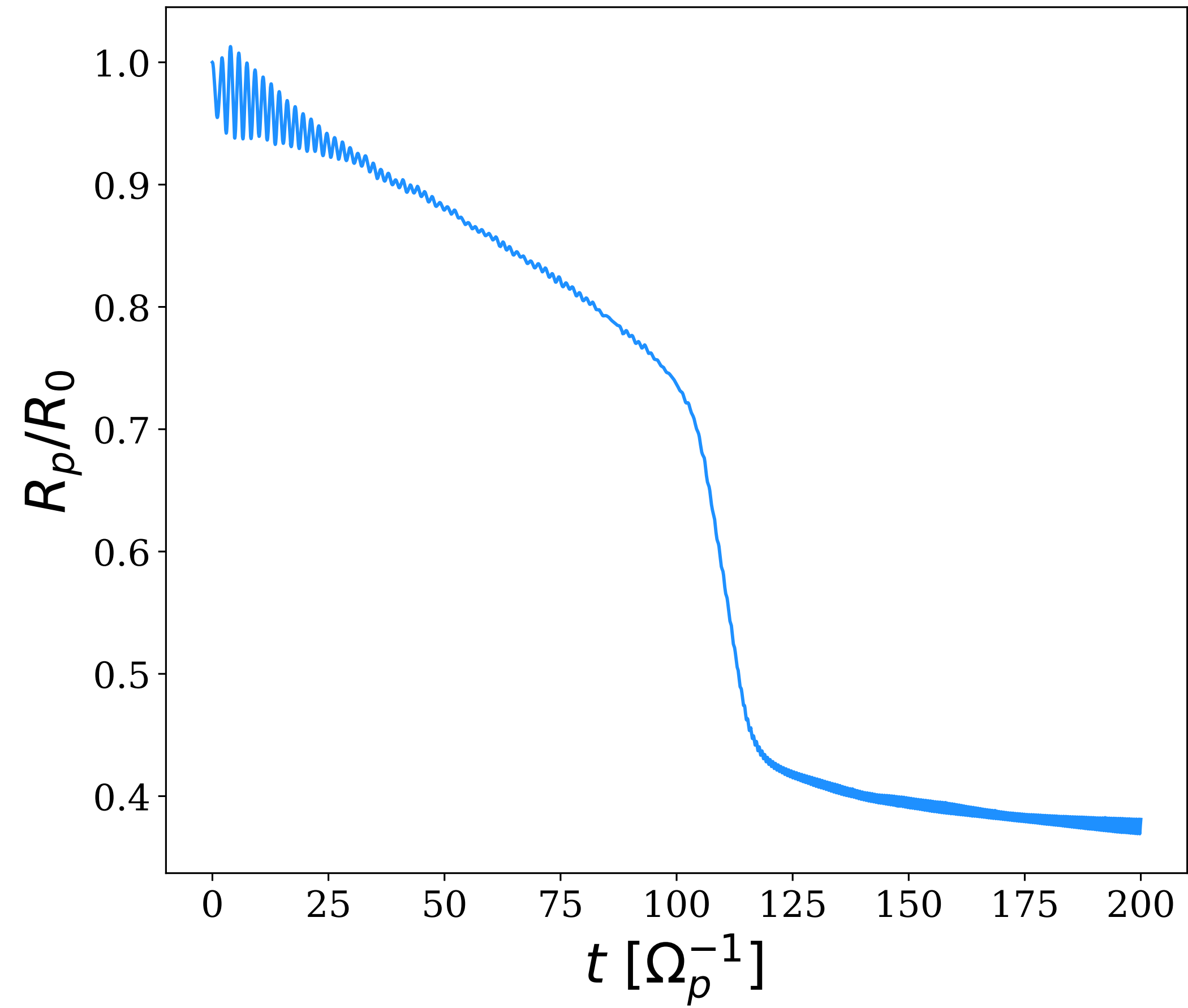
$$(H/R)_p = 0.1$$

$$\eta = 0.25$$

$$M_d = 0.1M_{\star}$$



# Migration VS accretion



# Conclusion and future perspectives

- Precisely modelling the **rotation curve** gives a unique opportunity to investigate protoplanetary discs structure
  - How many information can we get from the rotation curve? Is it possible to directly reconstruct the thermal structure?

For PHANTOM: Implement correct initial condition (hydro eq. + centrifugal balance) in the .tmp

- The dynamical role of dust in GI discs is crucial and it can explain the formation of **planetary cores** in young protoplanetary discs
  - Can these cores survive in young discs?

For PHANTOM: Allow for the creation of sink particles from dust