

Planet formation I: dust dynamics and coagulation

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Outline

- Dust dynamics
- Dust coagulation
- Planetesimal formation

Main references:

- Armitage, P. J. 2020, *Astrophysics of planet formation*, Second Edition
- Lesur et al. 2023, *PPVII*, ch. 13

Part I: dust dynamics

Planet formation: evolutions of solids

Aerodynamic coupling

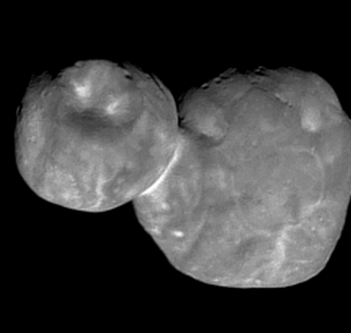
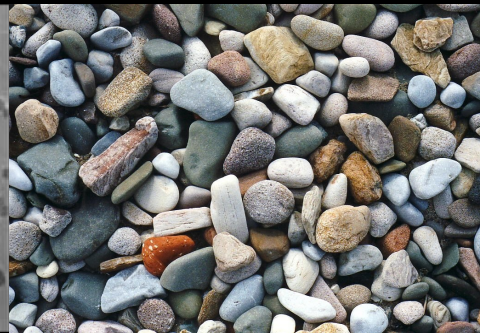
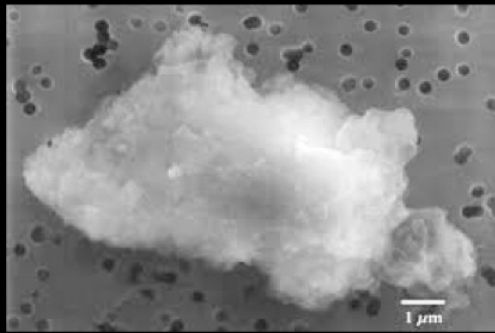
Gravitational coupling

ISM dust

pebble

planetesimal

planet



$\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$

$\sim 10 \text{ cm}$

$\sim 1 \text{ km}$

$\sim 10^4 \text{ km}$

Opt/IR

mm: e.g. ALMA,
ngVLA...

Kepler/TESS/...

Dust size growth

Accretion/migration

Planetesimal formation?

Aerodynamic drag on solid particles

Aerodynamic force for the particle with a velocity Δv relative to gas

Usually in the **subsonic regime** ($\Delta v < c_s$)

- **Epstein drag** (particle size $a \lesssim \lambda$, mean free path of gas; via collision):

$$\text{Collision rate from front side: } f_+ \simeq \pi a^2 (v_{th} + \Delta v) \frac{\rho_g}{\mu m_H}$$

$$\text{Collision rate from back side: } f_- \simeq \pi a^2 (v_{th} - \Delta v) \frac{\rho_g}{\mu m_H}$$

$$\text{Net drag force: } F_D \propto -a^2 \rho_g v_{th} \Delta v$$

- **Stokes drag** ($a \gtrsim \lambda$; via molecular viscosity):

$$F_D \propto -\frac{C_D}{2} \pi a^2 \rho_g \Delta v \Delta v,$$

$C_D \simeq 24\text{Re}^{-1},$	$\text{Re} < 1,$
$C_D \simeq 24\text{Re}^{-0.6},$	$1 < \text{Re} < 800,$
$C_D \simeq 0.44,$	$\text{Re} > 800.$

C_D depends on the Reynolds number $\text{Re} = 2a\Delta v/v_m$ with $v_m = 1/2v_{th}\lambda$

Epstein and Stokes drag transition around $a = 9/4\lambda$

Supersonic regime ($\Delta v > c_s$): $F_D \propto -a^2 \rho_g \Delta v^2$

Stopping time and Stokes number

Stopping time $t_{\text{stop}} = mv/|F_D|$

Epstein drag regime: $t_{\text{stop}} = \frac{\rho_s a}{\rho_g v_{th}}$; for $a < 9/4\lambda$

$$\text{Stokes drag regime: } t_{\text{stop}} = \begin{cases} \frac{2 \cdot \rho_s a^2}{9 \nu_m \rho_g}; \text{ Re} < 1 \\ \frac{2^{0.6} \rho_s a^{1.6}}{9 \nu_m^{0.6} \rho_g^{1.4} v_{th}^{0.4}}; 1 < \text{Re} < 800 \\ \frac{6 \rho_s a}{\rho_g v_{th}}; \text{Re} > 800 \end{cases}$$

Dimensionless stopping time $\tau_{\text{stop}} \equiv t_{\text{stop}} \Omega_K$

Stokes number: $St = t_{\text{stop}}/t_{\text{eddy}}$

For Epstein regime ($a < 9/4\lambda$), $St = \frac{\pi \rho_s a}{2 \Sigma_g}$

Coupling strength between dust and gas

$\tau_{\text{stop}} \ll 1$, strong coupling;

$\tau_{\text{stop}} \gg 1$, decoupling;

$\tau_{\text{stop}} \sim 1$, marginally coupling;

Typical value: $t_{\text{stop}} \simeq 3 \text{ s}$, $\tau_{\text{stop}} \simeq 6 \times 10^{-7} (a/1\mu\text{m})$

($\rho_g = 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\rho_m = 3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $v_{th} = 10^5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$, $a = 1\mu\text{m}$ at 1 au)

For mm dust, $\tau_{\text{stop}} \simeq 10^{-3}$ at 1 au, $\tau_{\text{stop}} \simeq 0.1$ at 30 au

$$t_{\text{stop}} = \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_g} \frac{a}{v_{th}}$$

Dust settling

- Vertical component of stellar gravity balanced by aerodynamic drag

$$|F_{\text{grav}}| = m\Omega^2 z \quad \leftrightarrow \quad |F_{\text{D}}| = \frac{4\pi}{3} \rho s^2 v_{\text{th}} v$$

- Dust settling velocity and timescale ($t_{\text{settle}} = z/|v_{\text{settle}}|$)

$$v_{\text{settle}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{m}} s}{\rho v_{\text{th}}} \Omega^2 z$$

$$t_{\text{settle}} = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\Sigma}{\rho_{\text{m}} s \Omega} \exp \left[-\frac{z^2}{2h^2} \right]$$

- For $1\mu\text{m}$ dust particle at $z \sim h$ at 1 au, $v_{\text{settle}} \simeq 0.06 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$, and $t_{\text{settle}} \simeq 1.5 \times 10^5 \text{ yr} \ll \text{disk life time}$
- Settling is much faster at higher z (dependence on gas density ρ_{g})

Dust settling with coagulation

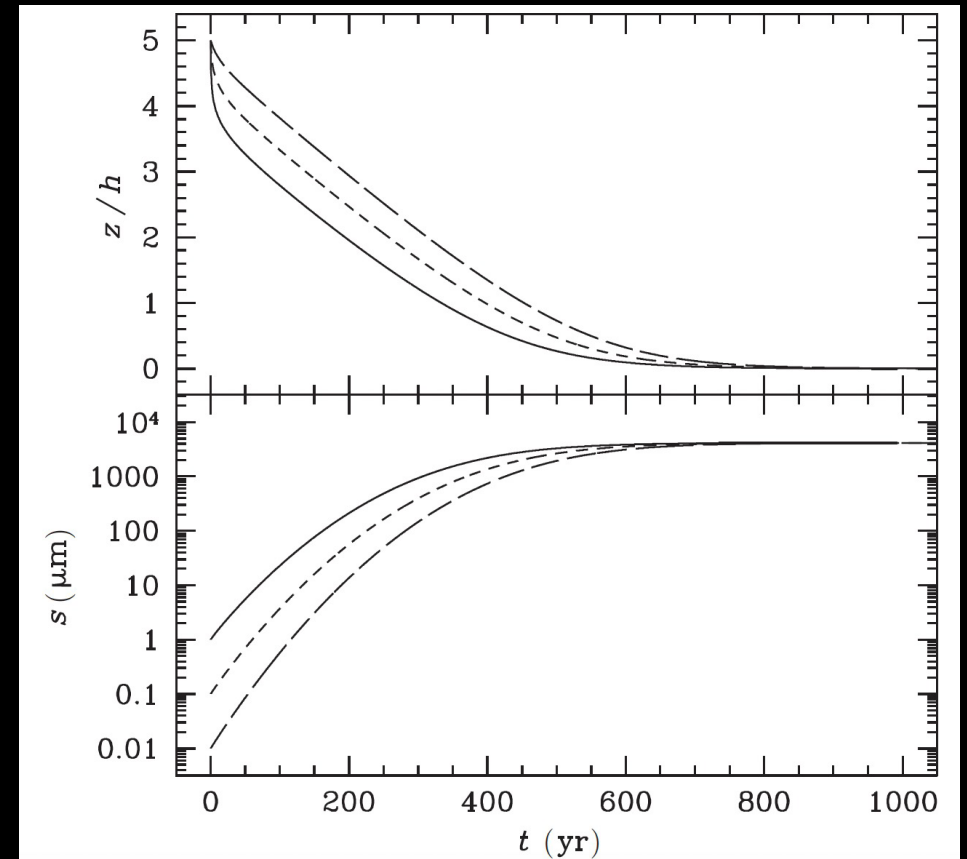
Dust settling depends on its size, and the size will grow during settling.

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \pi s^2 |v_{\text{settle}}| f \rho(z),$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = -\frac{\rho_m}{\rho} \frac{s}{v_{\text{th}}} \Omega^2 z.$$

With coagulation, particles settle to the disk mid-plane on $\sim 10^3$ yr – at least 10^2 faster than non-coagulation case.

Caveats: no turbulence and fragmentation



Dust settling with turbulence

Dust remain suspended in the presence of vigorous air currents

- Turbulence stirs up small solid particles and prevents them from settling into a thin layer at the disk mid-plane.
- Conditions for turbulence to stir up the dust -- dust diffusion time shorter than settling time

$$t_{\text{diffuse}} = \frac{z^2}{D}, \quad D \sim \nu = \frac{\alpha c_s^2}{\Omega}$$

Minimum α for turbulence to oppose settling: $\alpha \gtrsim \frac{\pi e^{1/2}}{2} \frac{\rho_s a}{\Sigma_g}$

with $\Sigma_g = 10^2 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$, $\rho_m = 3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $a = 1 \mu\text{m}$, $\alpha \gtrsim 10^{-5}$; a larger α needed to stir up larger particles

- More formal condition (by solving advection–diffusion equation), $\frac{h_d}{h_g} \simeq \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{t_{\text{stop}}\Omega}}$

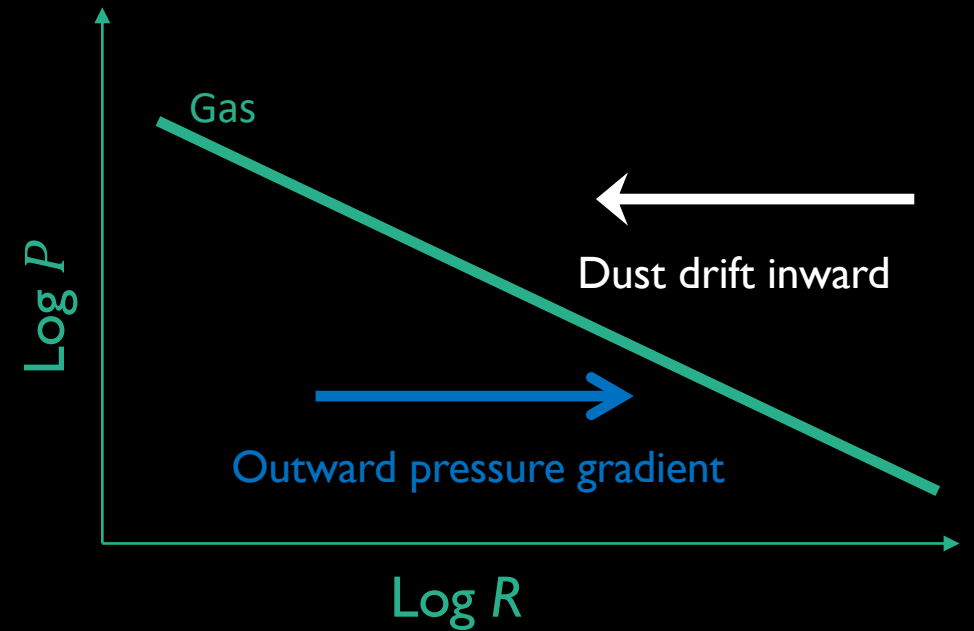
Dust radial drift (I)

- Gas rotates sub-Keplerian velocity due to pressure gradient

$$v_{\phi,g} = v_K(1 - \eta)^{1/2},$$

with $\eta = nc_S^2/v_K^2$

$$\frac{v_{\phi,\text{gas}}^2}{r} = \frac{GM_*}{r^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dr}$$



- Dust experiences head wind \rightarrow lost angular momentum \rightarrow drift inward

(Weidenschilling 1977)

$$v_{d,r} = \frac{v_{g,r} + 2\text{St}\Delta v_{g,\phi}}{1 + \text{St}^2}$$

Dust drift towards higher pressure regions.

Dust radial drift (II)

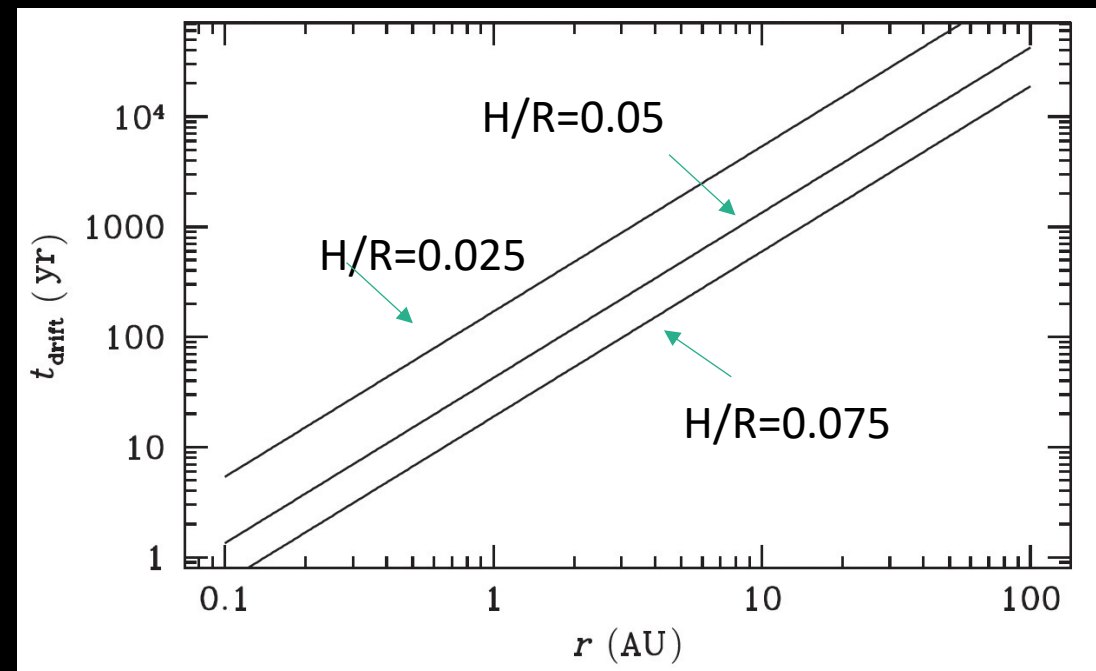
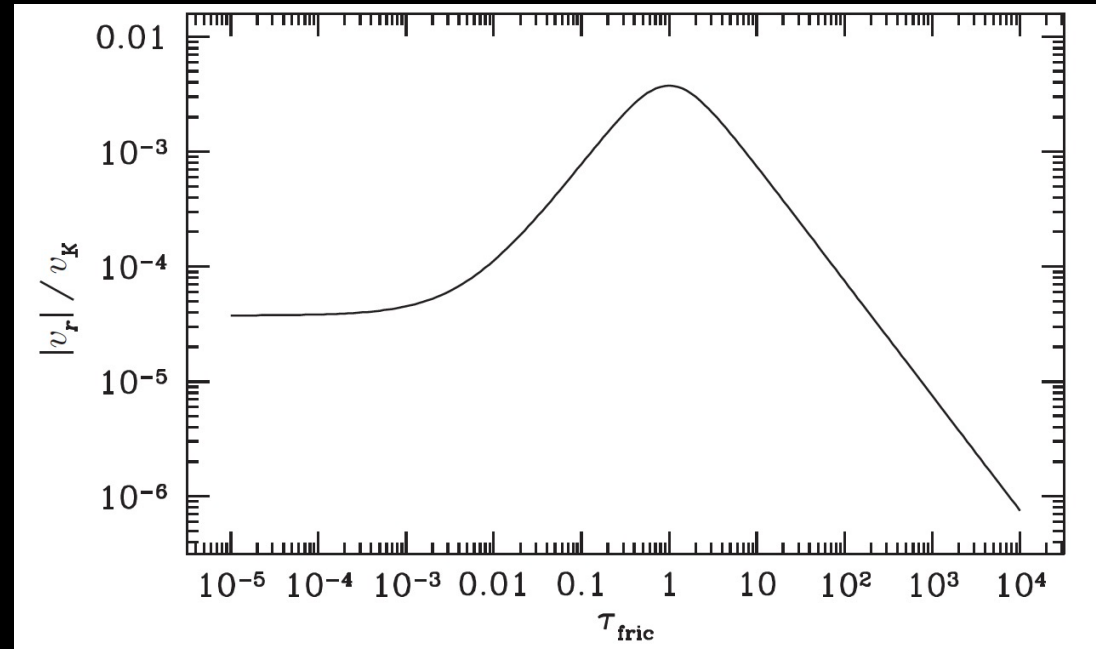
- Drift is most efficient for particles with $St \simeq 1$

$$v_{d,r} = \frac{v_{g,r} + 2St\Delta v_{g,\phi}}{1 + St^2}$$

- At 5 au, with $\Sigma_g = 10^2 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$, $H/R = 0.05$, $St \simeq 1 \rightarrow a \simeq 20 \text{ cm}$; typically in the range of $\sim 10 \text{ cm}$ – a few m range meter-size barrier

Implications

- Planetesimal formation must be rapid
- Radial redistribution of dust is very likely to occur (e.g., dust disk size smaller than gas disk)



Radial drift with coagulation/fragmentation

- With coagulation (only consider radial drift velocity):

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \pi s^2 |v_r| f \rho_0,$$

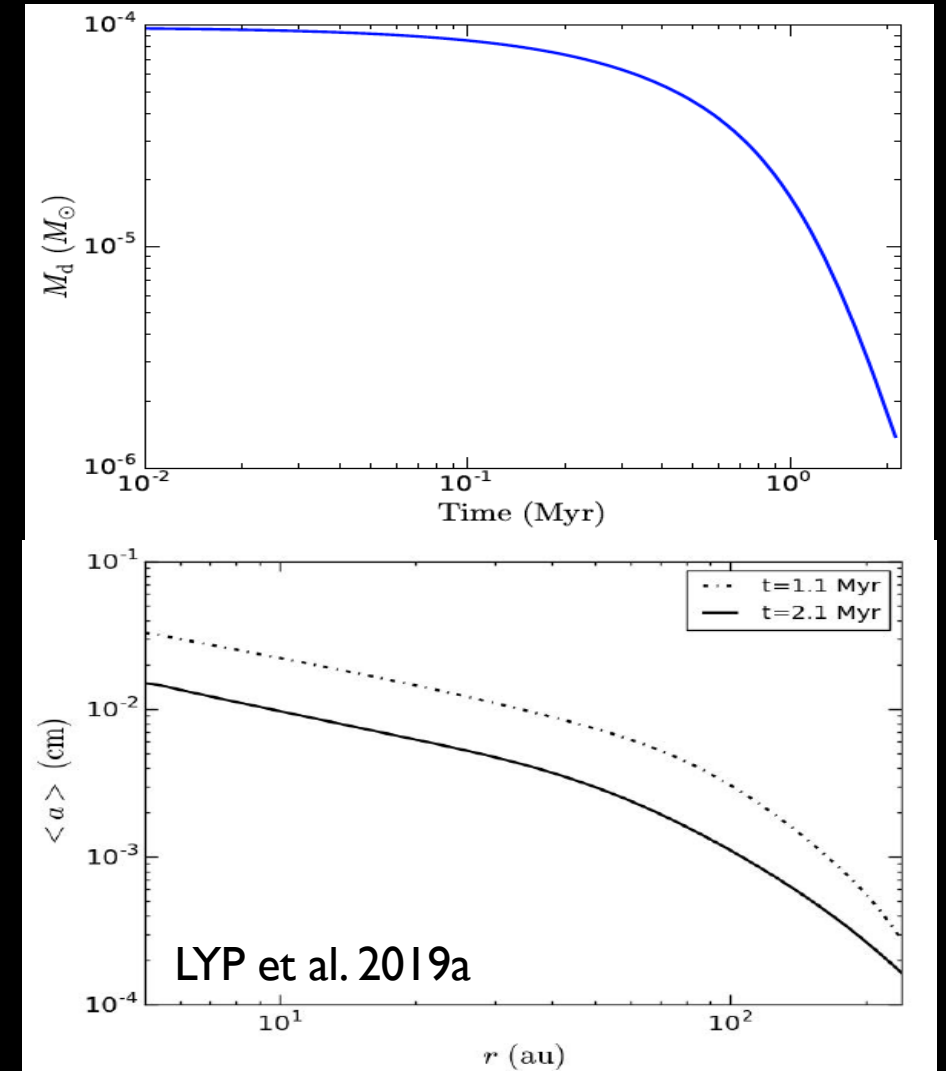
- Particles can grow before drift ($t_{\text{grow}} < t_{\text{drift}}$)

$$s \lesssim \frac{3f}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{h}{r}\right)^{-1} \frac{\Sigma}{\rho_m}$$

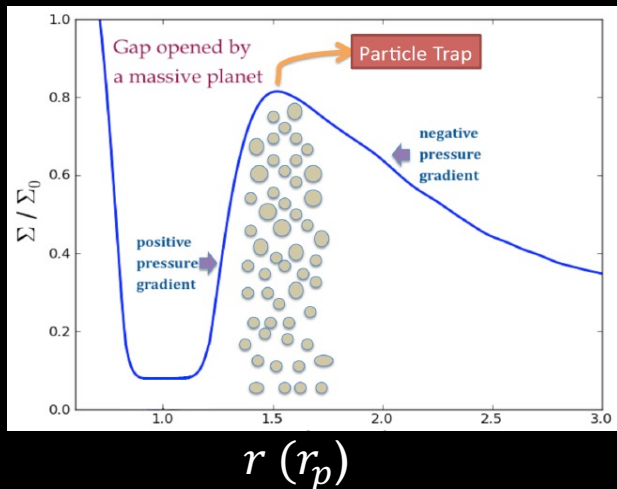
This can be as large as 2 m ($\Sigma_g = 10^3 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$, $H/R = 0.05$, $\rho_m = 3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $f = 0.1$).

Caveats: no fragmentation

- With coagulation/fragmentation:
Most (~99%) of dust is depleted at ~Myr due to radial drift!
Dust size cannot grow efficiently!

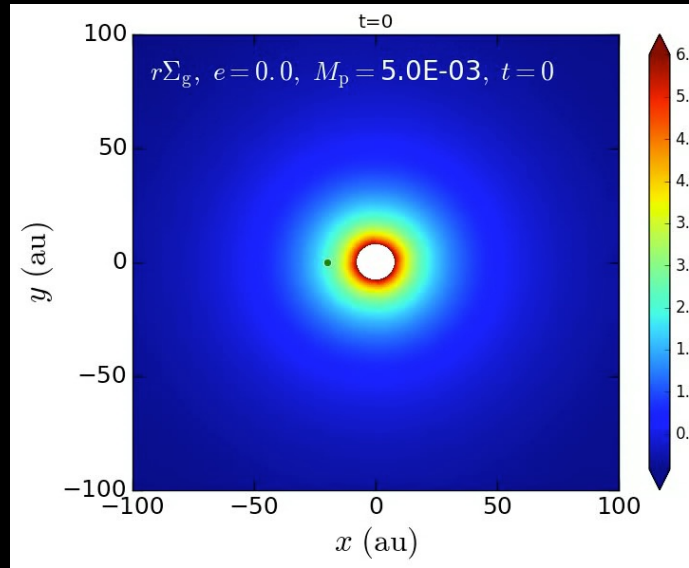


Dust trap by gaseous vortex/ring



A pressure bump at the edge of a planet gap can act as dust trap.

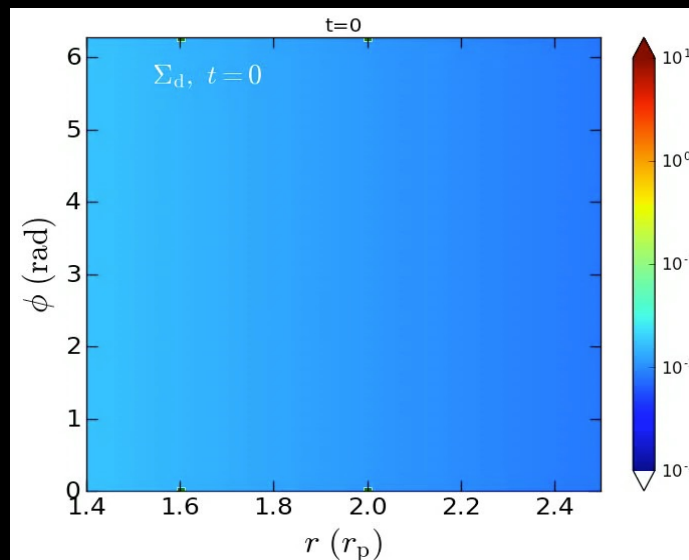
Low viscosity (7×10^{-5}) and High planet mass ($5 M_J$)
→ steep density gradient
→ Rossby wave unstable



2D simulations of dust-gas dynamics

0.2 mm dust
dust/gas = 0.01
With dust feedback

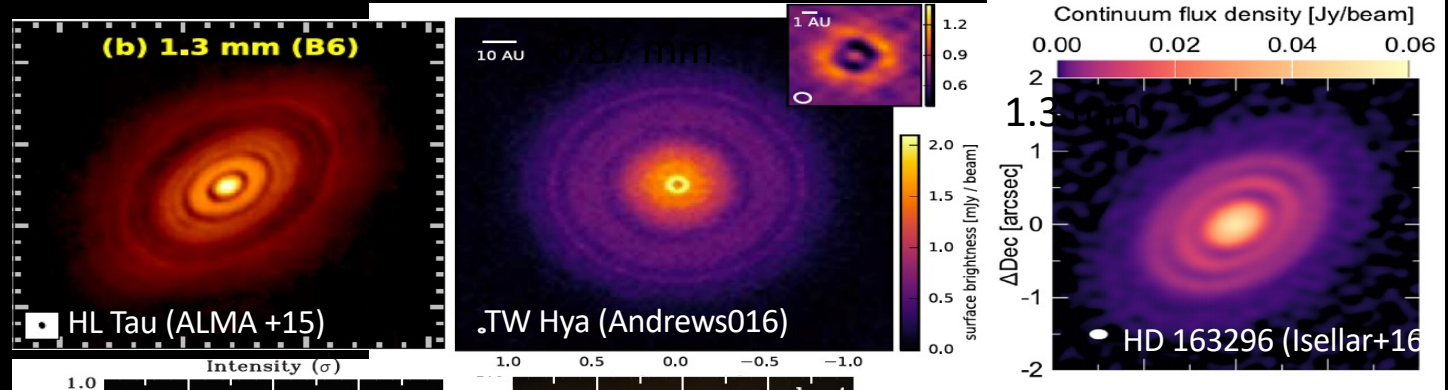
Gas Surface Density



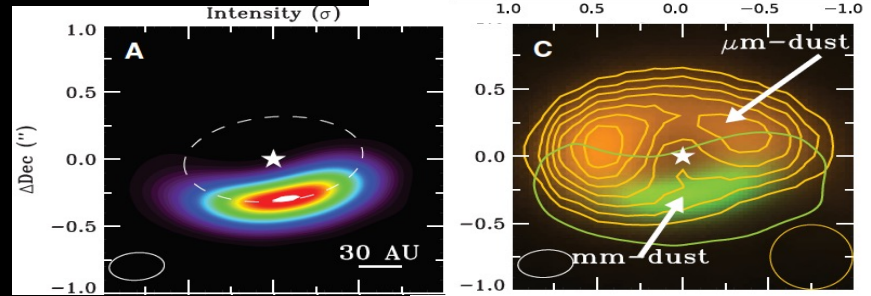
Dust Surface Density

Observational implications

Ringed structures

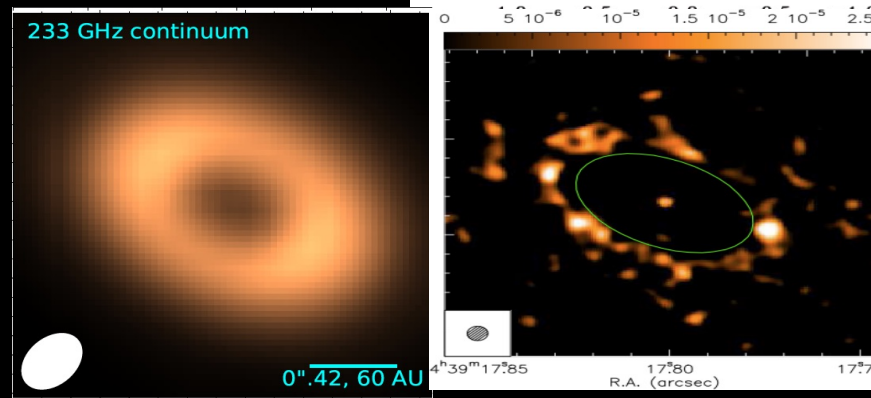


Asymmetry



IRS 48
(van der Marel+2013)

Clumpy



LkCa 15
(Isella+2014)

See also many other: AA Tau (Loomis+17), Elias 24 (Cieza+17; Cox+17; Dipierro+18), AS 209 (Fedele+18), GY 91 (Sheehan +18), V1094 Sco (Ansdell+18; van Terwisga+18), MWC 758 (Boehler+18, Dong+18), 16 disks (van der Marel+19), Long et al. (2018), DSHARP (Andrew et al. 2018)

Turbulent radial drift

- Turbulence does not alter the mean sub-Keplerian flow that is responsible for radial drift.

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma_d}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}_d = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{F}_d = \Sigma_d \mathbf{v} - D \Sigma \nabla \left(\frac{\Sigma_d}{\Sigma} \right).$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r \Sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(D r \Sigma \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) - v_r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}.$$

$f = \frac{\Sigma_d}{\Sigma}$, with continuity equation for gas

- A competition between diffusion and radial advection, described by Schmidt number: $Sc \equiv \frac{\nu}{D}$,

ν : gas kinematic viscosity, D : (particles) diffusion coefficient

Upstream diffusion is important for smaller Schmidt number ($Sc < 0.33$)

Diffusion of large particles

For small particles ($\tau_{\text{stop}} \ll 1$), $D_p \simeq D_g$ and $Sc \simeq 1$.

For large particles ($\tau_{\text{stop}} \gg 1$), $\frac{D_g}{D_p} \sim \tau_{\text{stop}}^2$

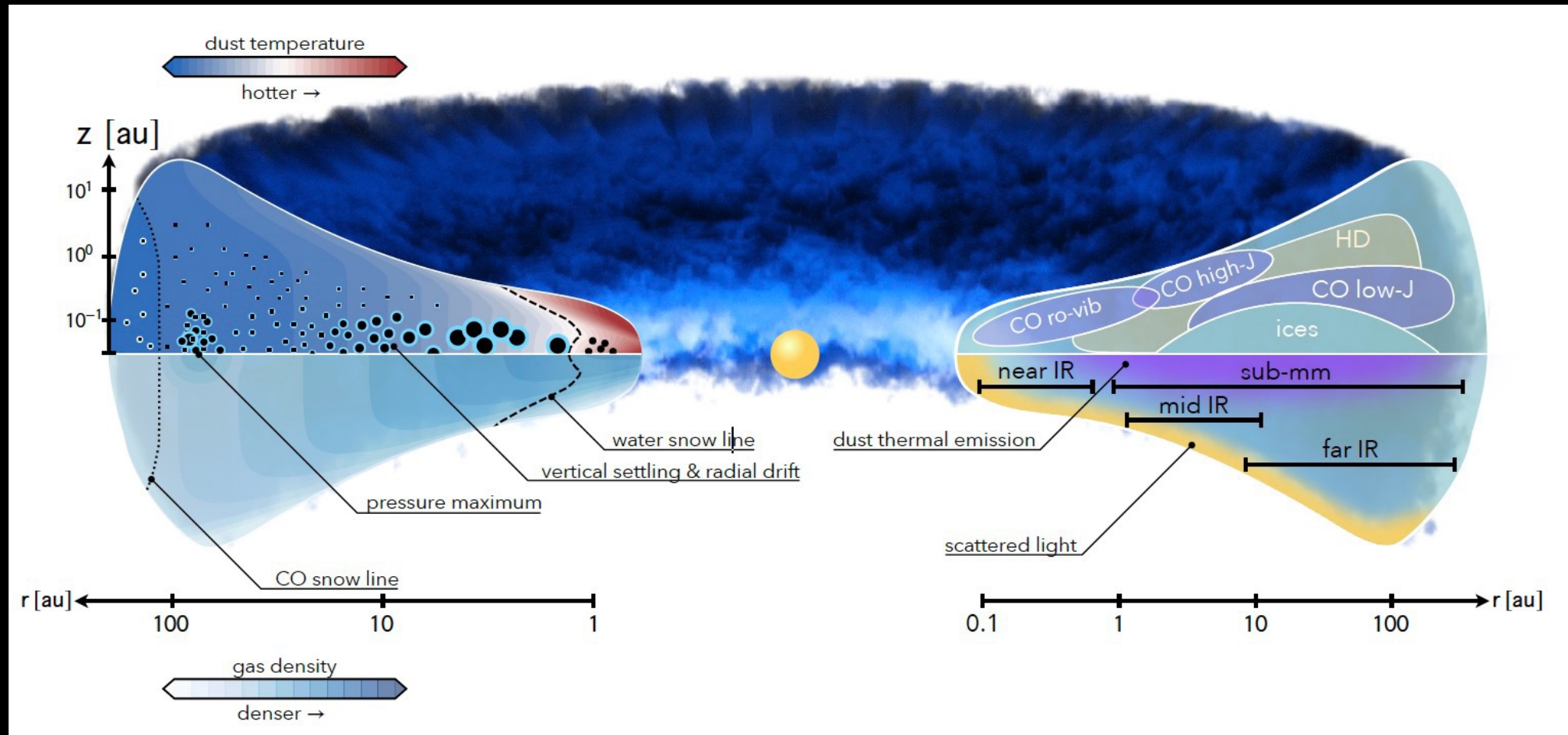
$$\frac{D_g}{D_p} \simeq 1 + \tau_{\text{stop}}^2 \text{ (Youdin \& Lithwick 2007)}$$

$$(D_g \sim \nu \sim \alpha c_s H)$$

Implications:

The radial diffusion is only important for relatively small particles

Dust distribution in protoplanetary disk

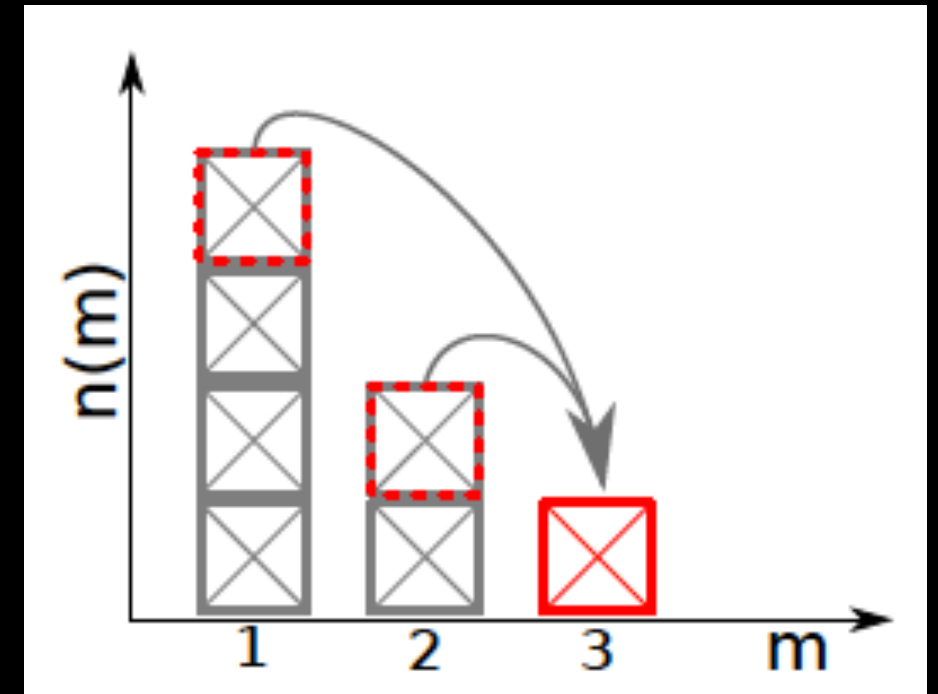


Part II: dust coagulation

Particles growth via coagulation

- Grains stick together or fragment , depending on relative velocity.
- Dust size evolution governed by **Smoluchowski equation**: (Smoluchowski 1916)

$$\frac{\partial n(m)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^m A(m', m - m') n(m') n(m - m') dm' - n(m) \int_0^\infty A(m', m) n(m') dm',$$



Reaction kernel: $P(m_1, m_2, \Delta v)$ probability for adhesion, Δv relative velocity, $\sigma(m_1, m_2)$ cross section

$$A(m_1, m_2) = P(m_1, m_2, \Delta v) \Delta v(m_1, m_2) \sigma(m_1, m_2).$$

Relative velocities

- Brownian motion

$$v_{ij}^{\text{rel,brown}} = \min\left(\sqrt{\frac{8k_B T(m_i + m_j)}{\pi m_i m_j}}, c_s\right)$$

- Vertical settling

$$v_{ij}^{\text{rel,sett}} = \left| h_i \min\left(\text{St}_i, \frac{1}{2}\right) - h_j \min\left(\text{St}_j, \frac{1}{2}\right) \right| \Omega_K$$

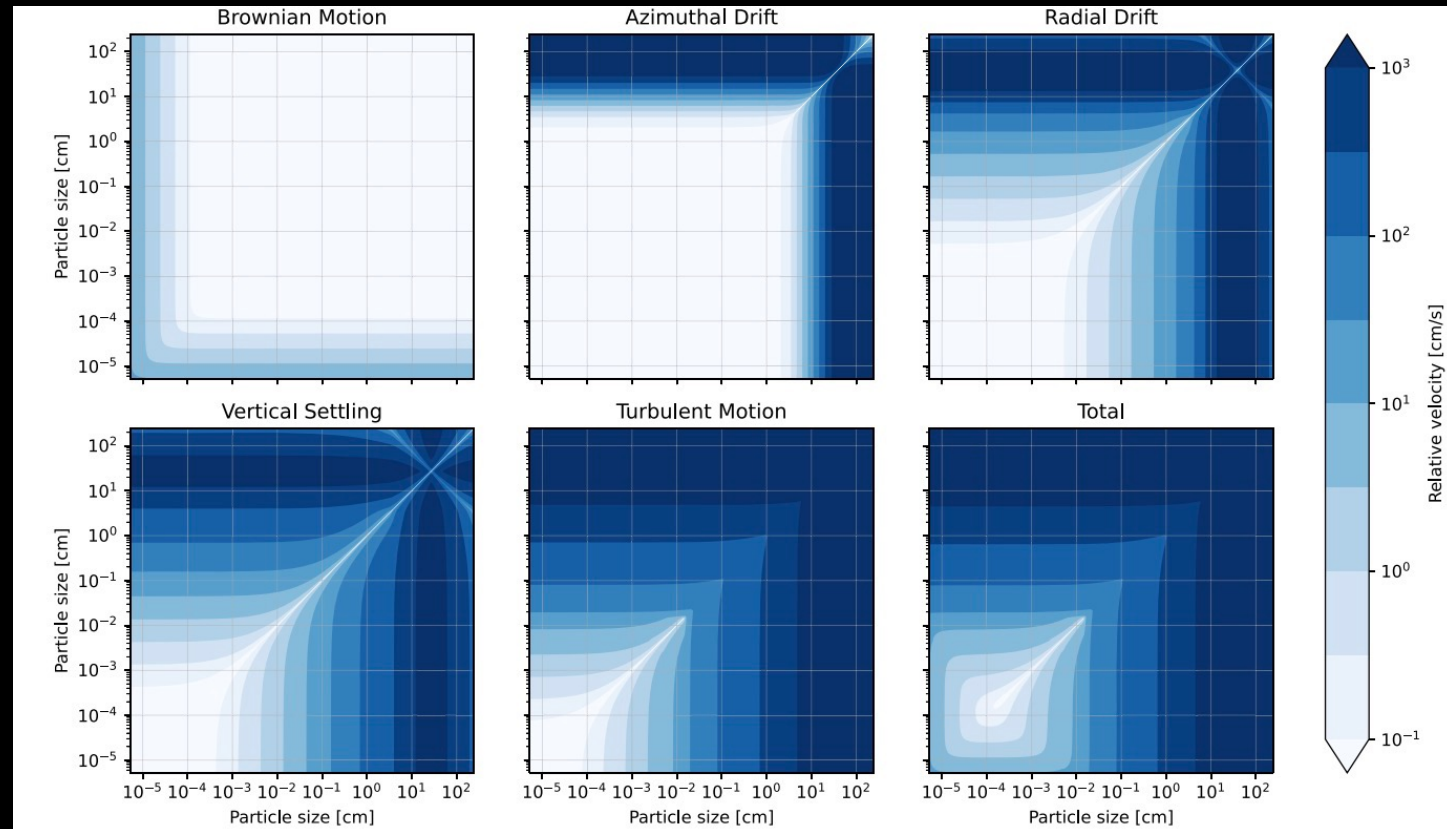
- Radial drift $v_{ij}^{\text{rel,rad}} = |v_{d,i} - v_{d,j}|$

- Azimuthal drift

$$v_{ij}^{\text{rel,azi}} = \left| v_{\text{drift}}^{\text{max}} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \text{St}_i^2} - \frac{1}{1 + \text{St}_j^2} \right) \right|$$

- Turbulence motion (Ormel&Cuzzi, 2007; dominant)

$$\Delta v^2 \simeq 3/2 \alpha \tau_{\text{stop}} c_s^2$$



Different relative velocity at 1 au

Birnstiel et al. 2010; Stammler & Birnstiel 2022

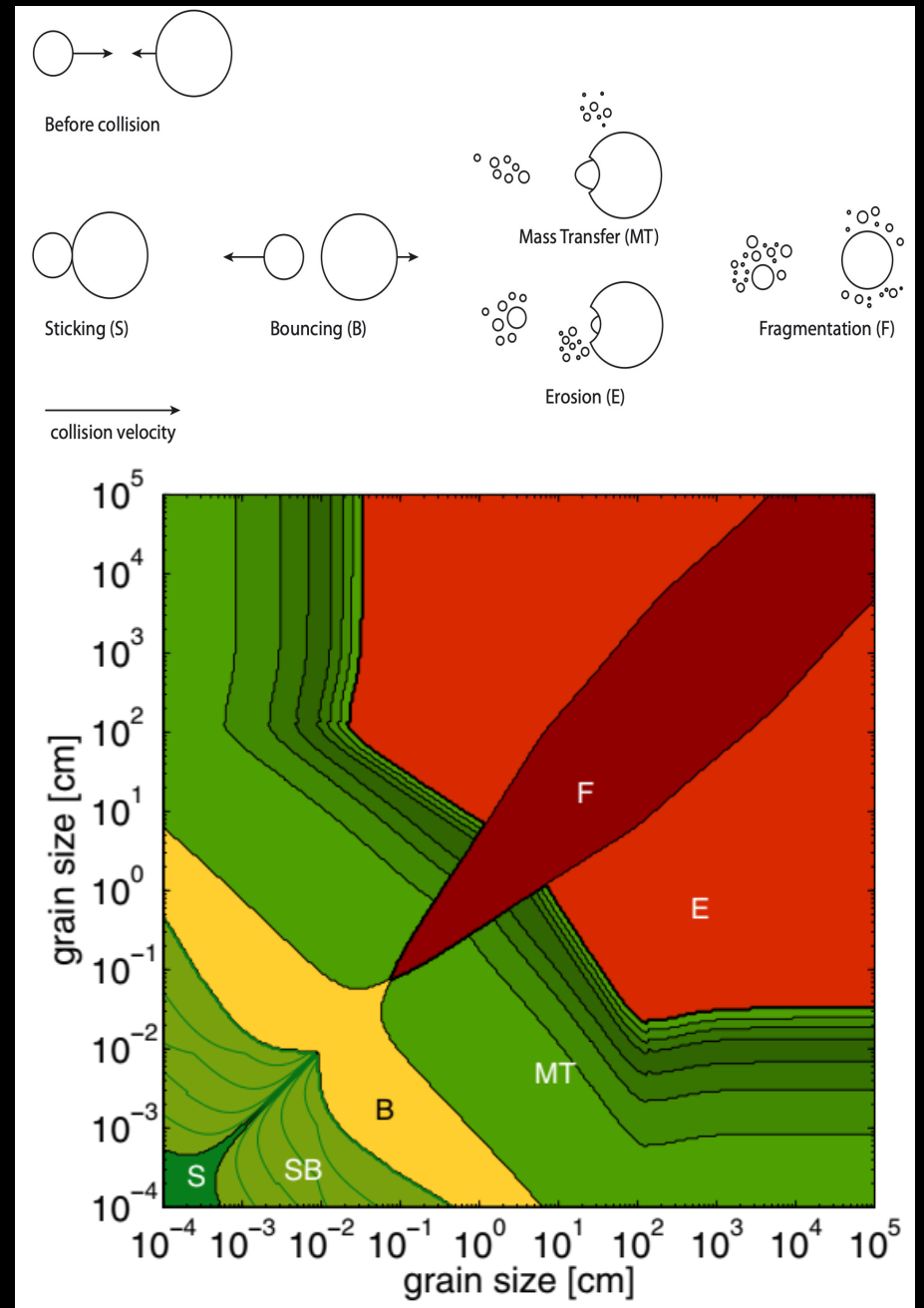
Dust coagulation

Relative velocity $\Delta v > v_{\text{frag}}$ (fragmentation velocity) \rightarrow fragmentation; Otherwise, sticking

Many complications

- Outcome: **Sticking**, bouncing, erosion, mass transfer, fragmentation
- Composition of dust particles (silicates within snow line ($v_{\text{frag}} \sim 1\text{m/s}$), outer region: water and CO ices ($v_{\text{frag}} \sim 10\text{ m/s}$))
- Geometry of particles (porosity etc.),
- Fragment distribution, and temperature dependence of v_{frag} , coupled with disk evolution, etc...

Open code: DustPy by Stammler & Birnstiel (2022)

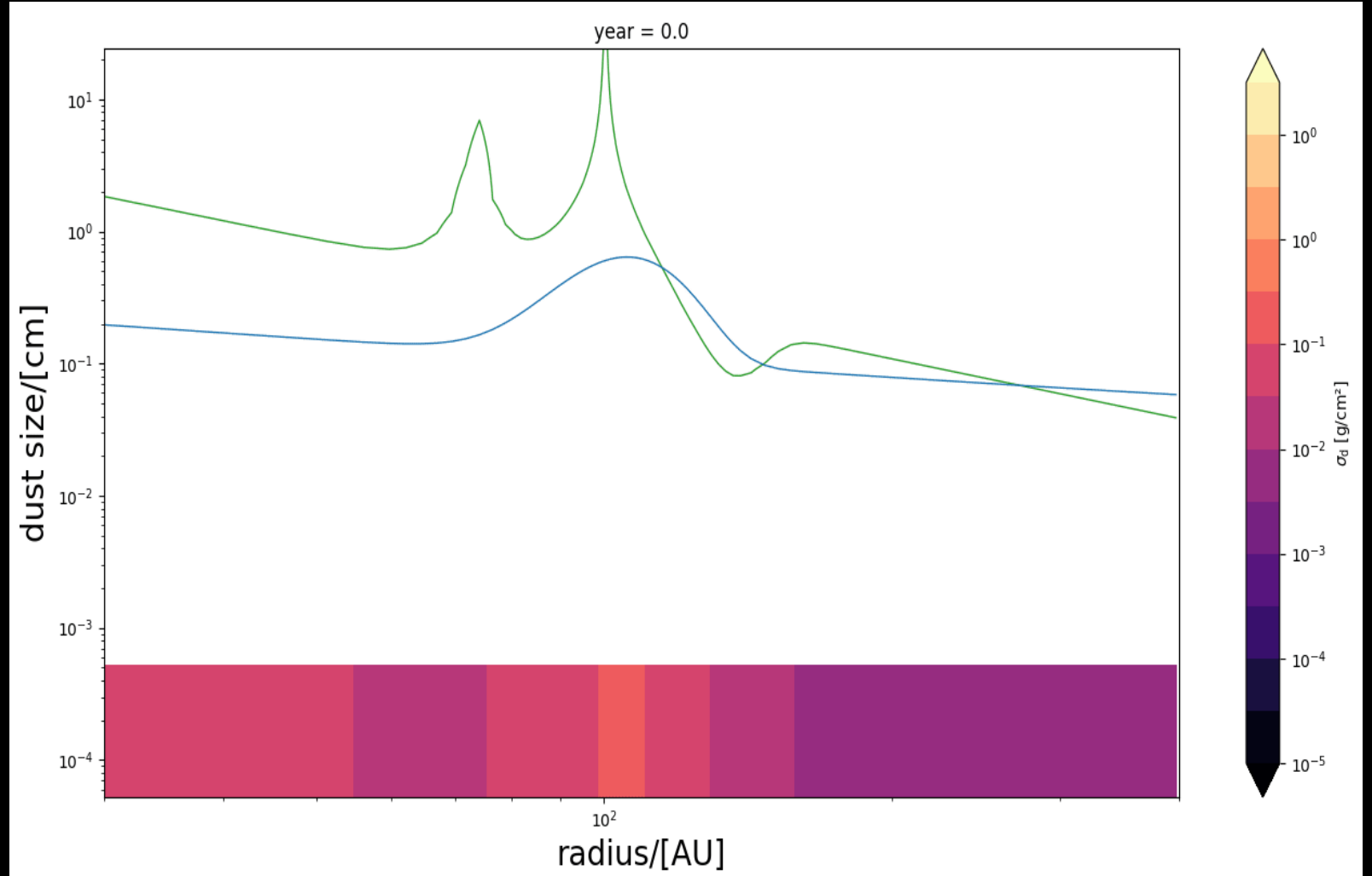


Dust coagulation simulations

Blue line
fragmentation barrier

Green line:
drift barrier

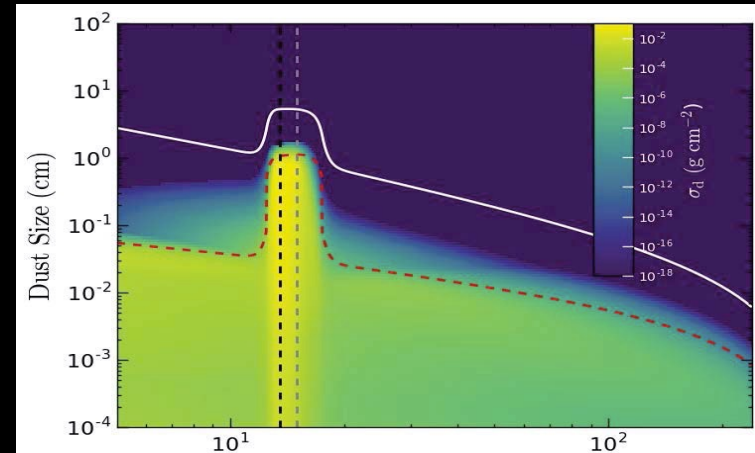
White line: $St = 1$



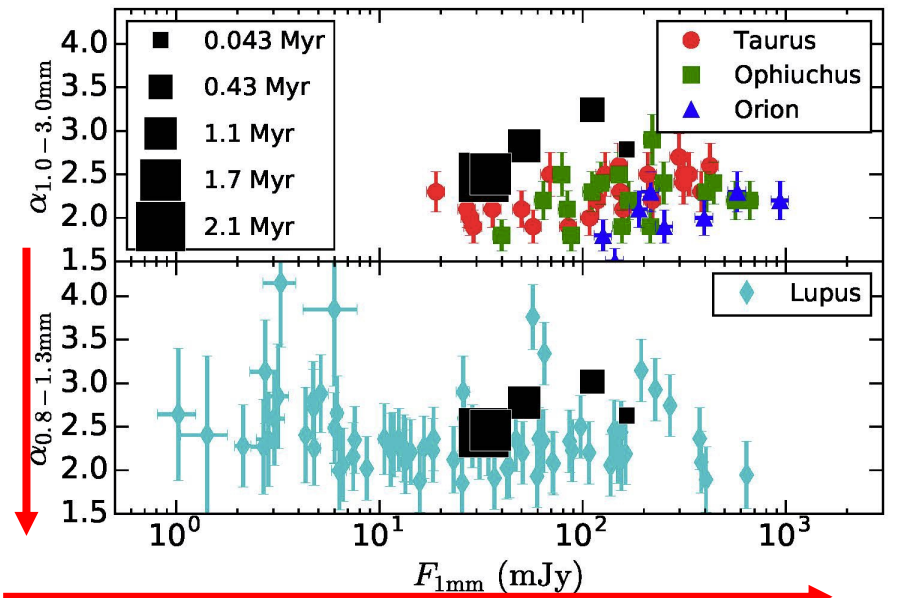
Credit: Linhan Yang using DustPy

Dust coagulation in ringed structures

- Most of dust (95%) and gas trapped in bump
→ essential to retain dust mass/ size growth.
- A power-law distribution for dust in bump
[$n(a) \propto a^{-3.5}$]
- **Efficient size growth in bump, $a_{\max} \sim 1$ cm.**
- **With dust trap:** global spectral index close to $\alpha_{\text{mm}} \sim 2.5$.
- Need fragmentation velocity \sim a few m/s.

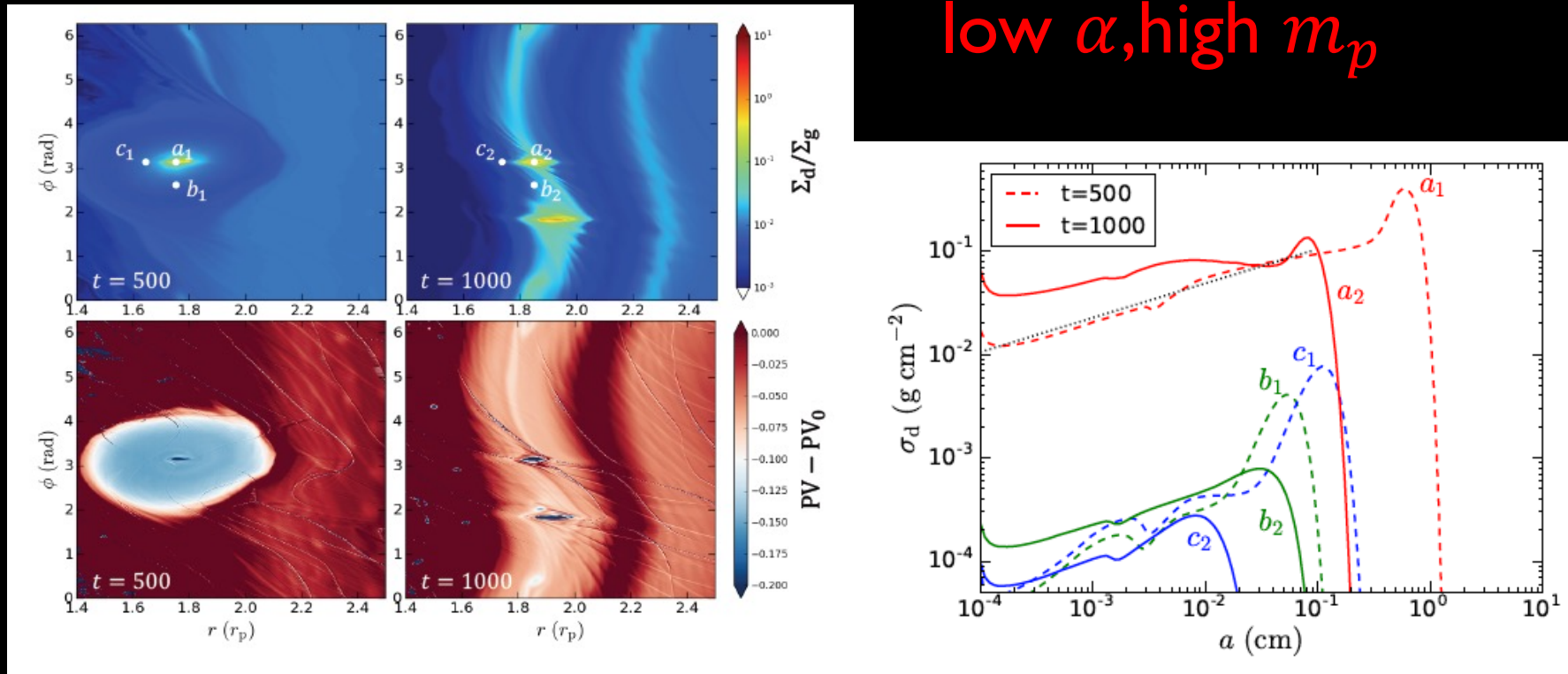


Dust size /
Trapping



Dust Mass

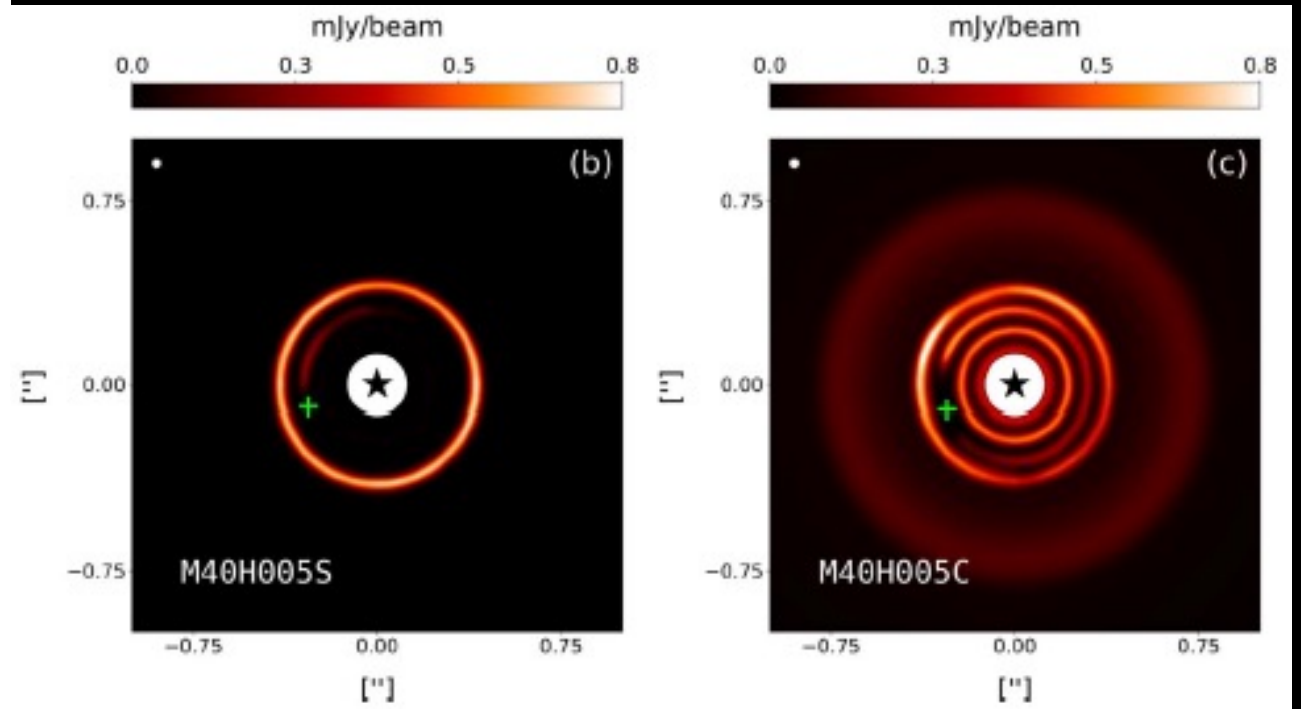
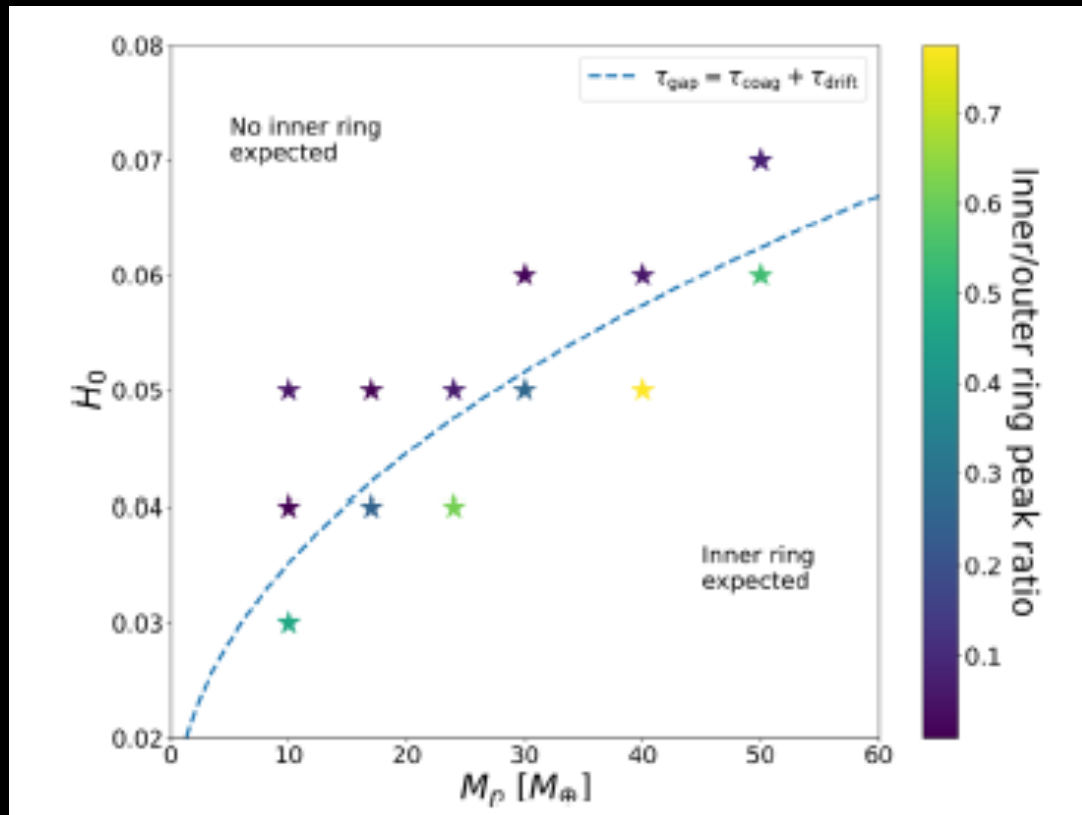
Planet-induced vortices with dust coagulation



- Dust size is quite non-uniform within vortex region
- Dust size growth facilitates the increase of dust/gas ratio.
- Vortex lifetime can be significantly impacted by dust feedback when coagulation included.

Ring morphology with dust coagulation

low α , low m_p



inner rings disappears due to dust coagulation and subsequent radial drift (if faster than gap opening timescale)

Part III: planetesimal formation

Gravitational collapse of planetesimals

- Particles grow via collisions
- Large particles settle to midplane
- Gravitational unstable, and collapse into planetesimals

Dispersion relation between ω and k

(c_s : velocity dispersion for particles; κ : epicyclic frequency)

$$\omega^2 = \kappa^2 + c_s^2 k^2 - 2\pi G \Sigma_0 |k|$$

- Most unstable wavelength:

$$\lambda \sim \frac{2\pi}{k_{\min}} = \frac{2\sigma^2}{G \Sigma_s}$$

- Mass of clumps:

$$m_p \sim \pi \lambda^2 \Sigma_s \sim 4\pi^5 G^2 Q_{\text{crit}}^4 \frac{\Sigma_s^3}{\Omega^4}$$

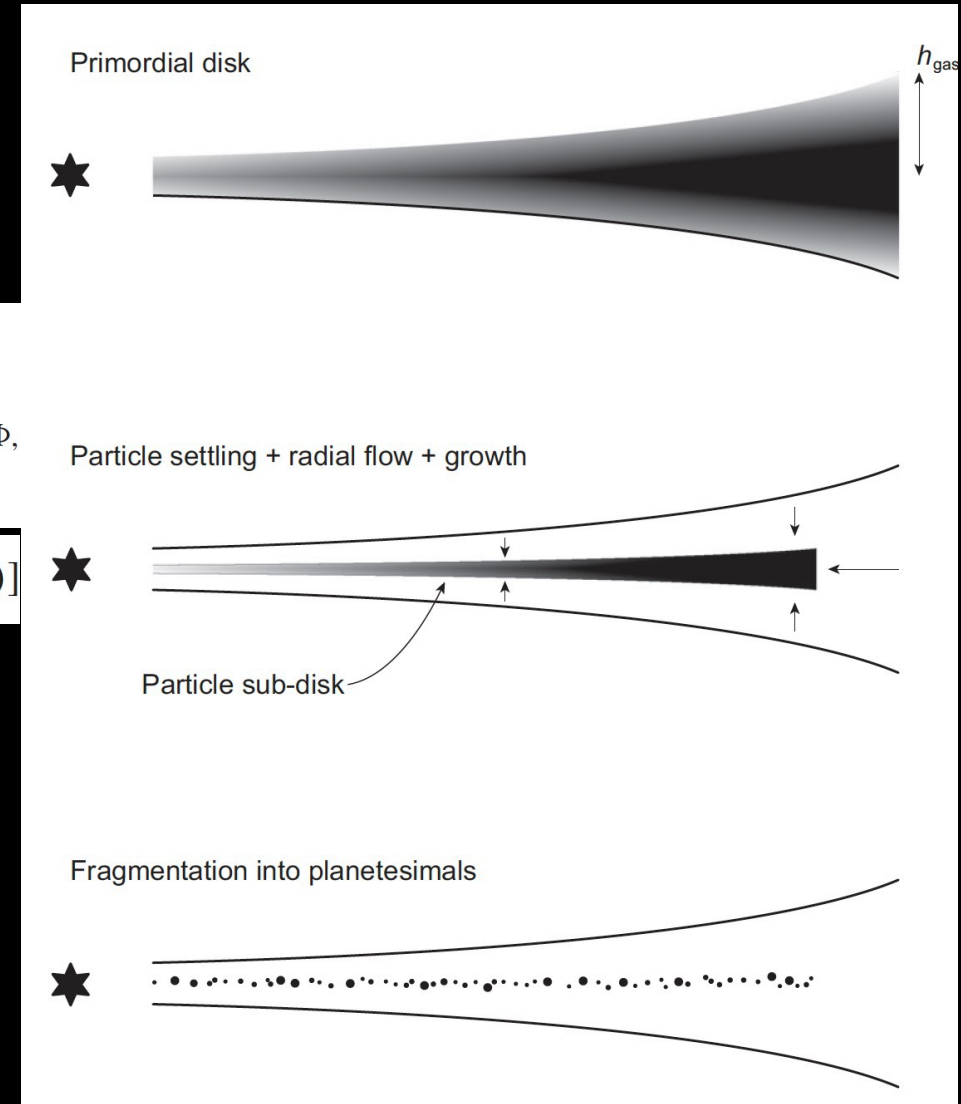
At 1 au, $m_p(1\text{au}) \sim 3 \times 10^{18} \text{g}$ (size $\sim 10 \text{ km}$)

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\Sigma \mathbf{v}) = 0,$$

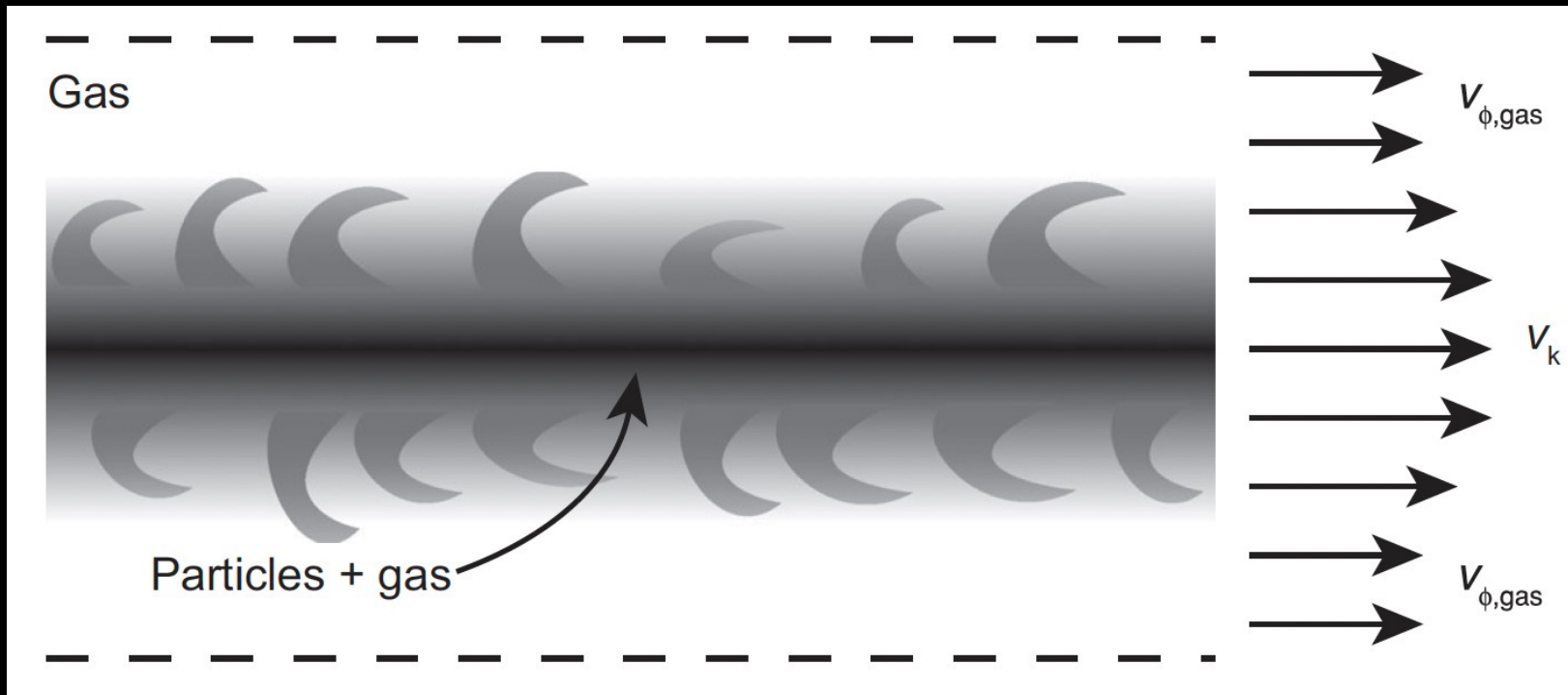
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\Sigma} - \nabla \Phi,$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G \rho.$$

$$\Sigma_1(r, t) \propto \exp[i(kr - \omega t)]$$



Self-excited turbulence



But secular
gravitational instability
(e.g., Shariff & Cuzzi
2011; Youdin 2011)

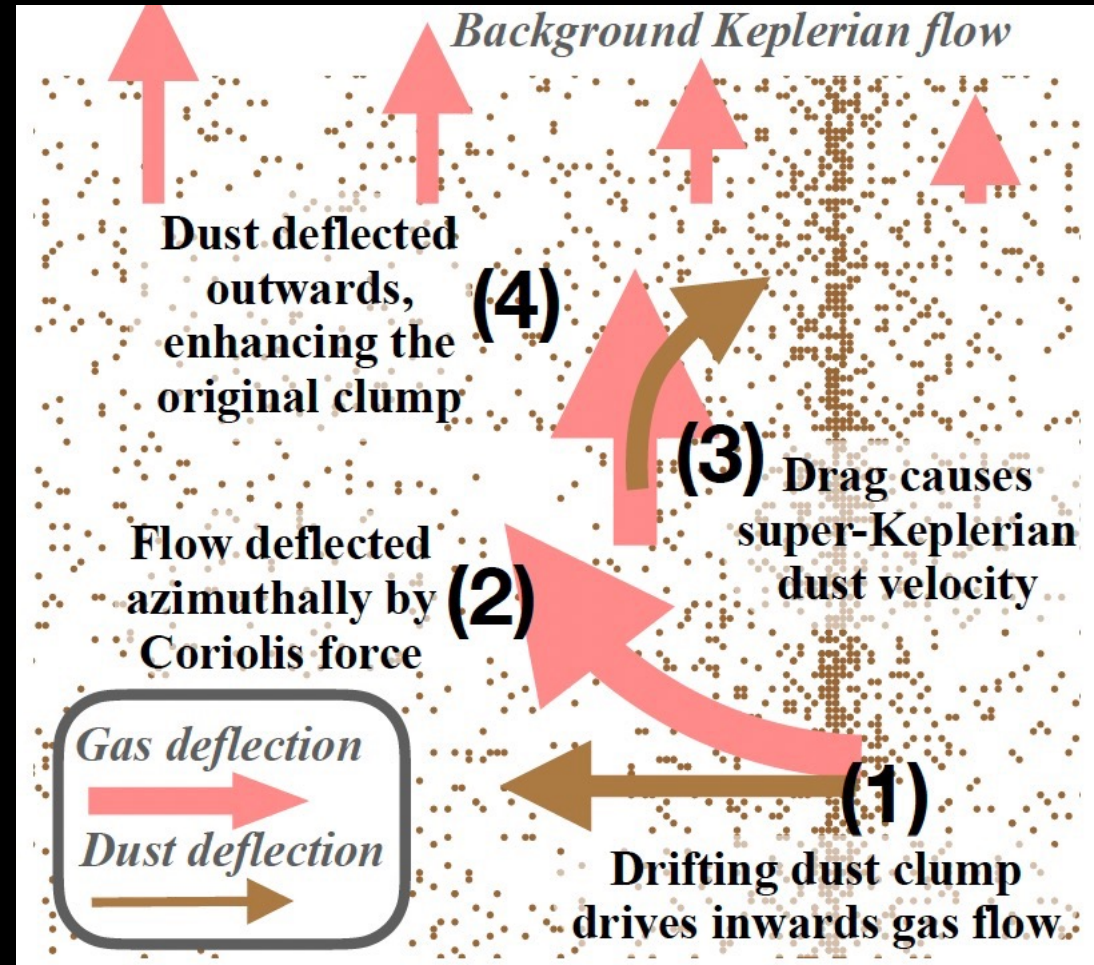
- Settling of dust increases the dust-to-gas ratio at the midplane
- Backreaction becomes stronger, modify gas v_{ϕ} for different z
- Vertical shear can be unstable to Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (KHI)
- Particles cannot settle into a very thin layer

Streaming instability (SI)

- Streaming instability can happen when two fluids (gas and solid particles) have a mutual velocity and interact via aerodynamic forces.

Dust concentration due to radial drift/settling → backreaction to the gas stronger → weaken the headwind → reduce the radial drift, enhance the concentration

- Growth rate: on a time scale intermediate between dynamical and radial drift time scales.
- Consequence: small-scale particle concentration ($\ll h$),

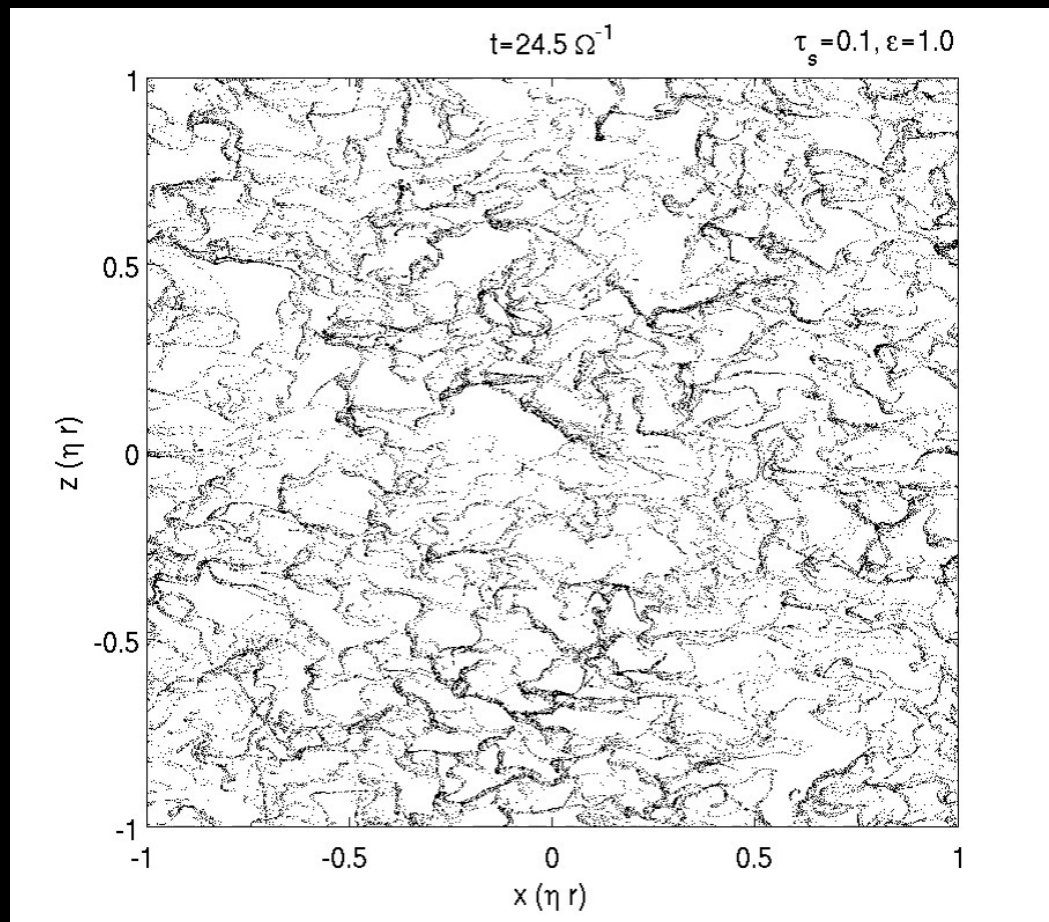


part of a broad class of resonant drag instabilities (Squire & Hopkins 2018).

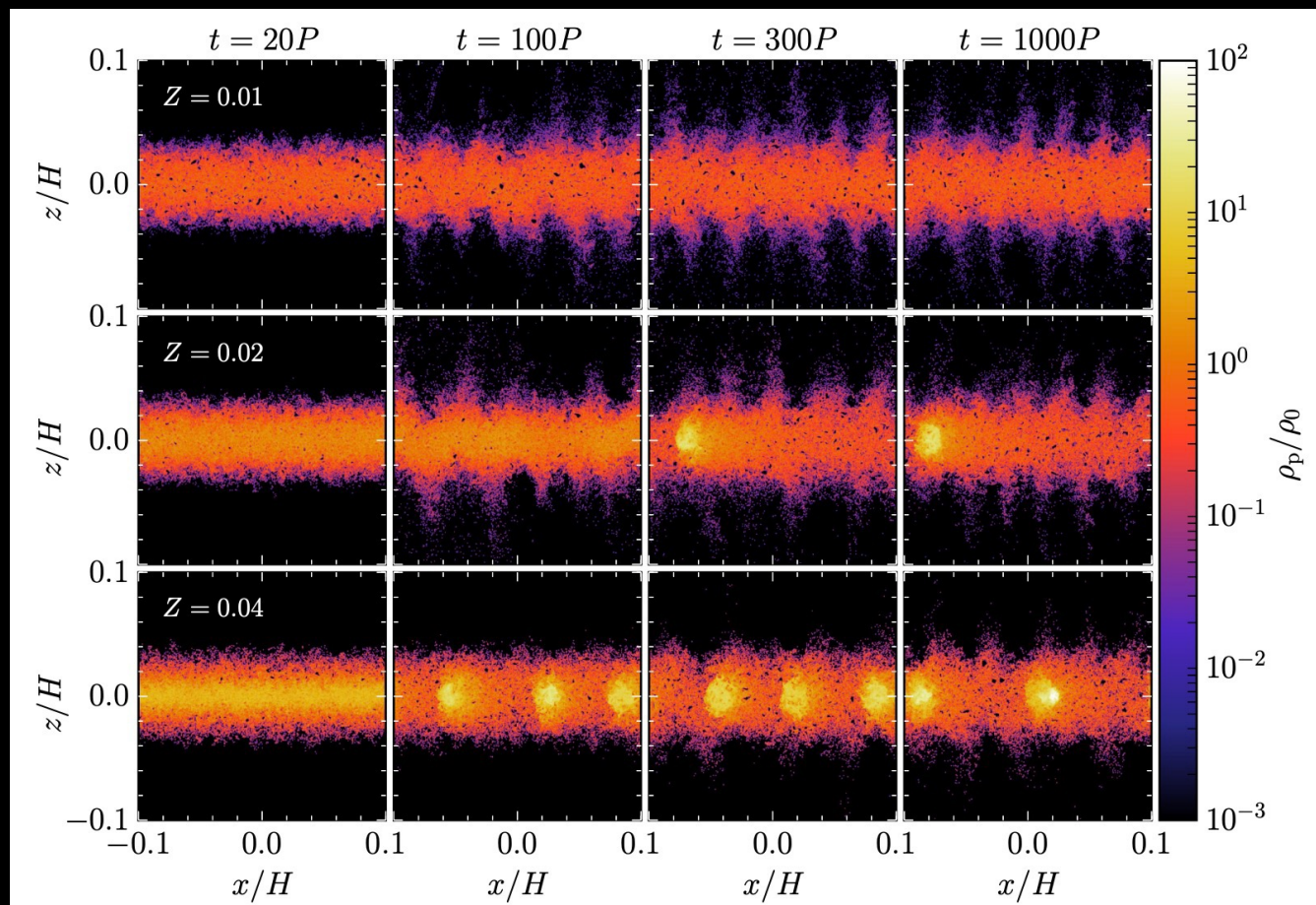
Youdin & Goodman, 2005;
review by Lesur et al. 2023

Basic properties

- Efficiently concentration up to $10^3 \rho_g$
- Particle rings and spacings have width $< 10\%$ gas scale height



Bai & Stone, 2010a



Yang et al. 2017

Condition for clumping

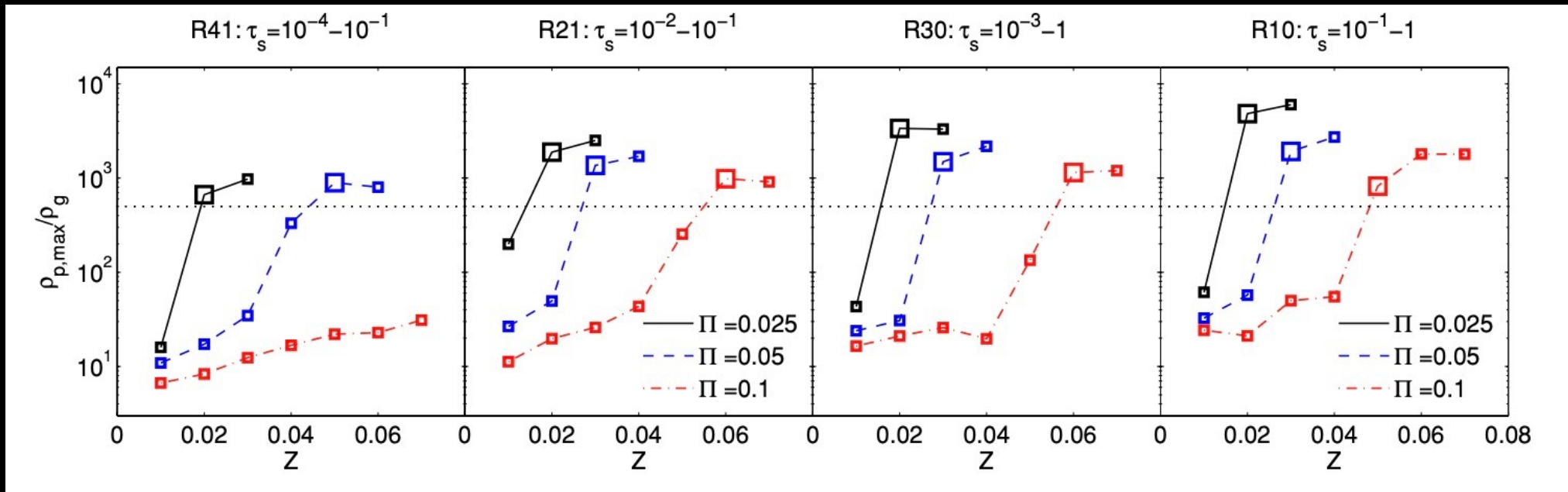
Condition for gravitational collapse: clump density exceeds Roche density ρ_R .

$$a_{\text{tidal}} = \frac{GM_*}{a^2} - \frac{GM_*}{(a+r)^2} \simeq \frac{2GM_*}{a^3}r \quad a_{\text{grav}} \sim \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

$$\rightarrow r \lesssim \left(\frac{m}{M_*}\right)^{1/3} a \quad \rightarrow \rho > \rho_R \sim \frac{M_*}{a^3} = 6 \times 10^{-7} \left(\frac{M_*}{M_\odot}\right) \left(\frac{a}{\text{au}}\right)^{-3} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

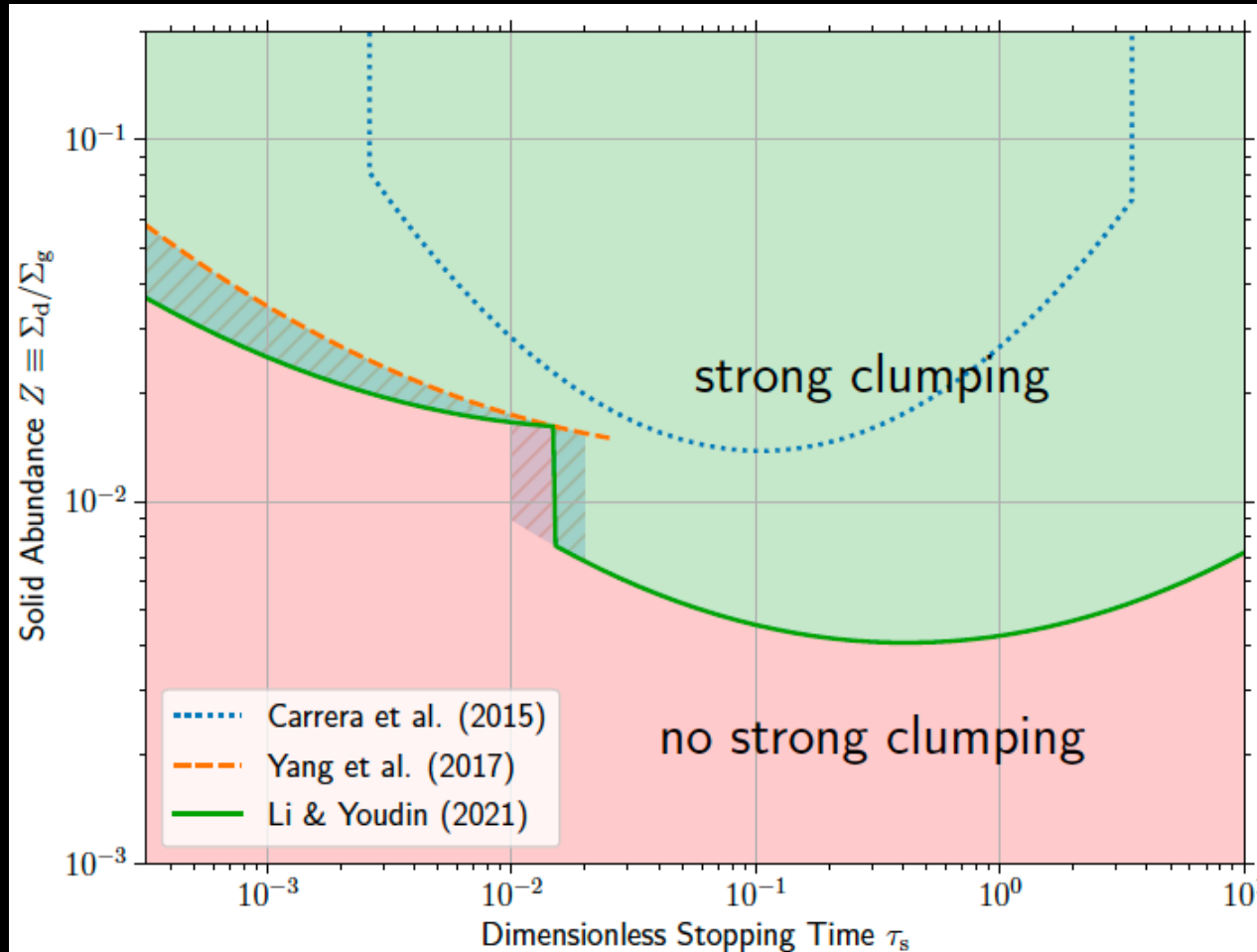
Enhancement of $\frac{\delta\rho_d}{\rho_{d,0}} \sim 10^4$ are needed before gravitational collapse.

Planetesimal formation condition



- Need super-solar metallicity (Z) and marginally coupled dust (moderate τ_s)
- Smaller pressure gradient (smaller Π) is favored for clumping

Streaming instability: clumping condition

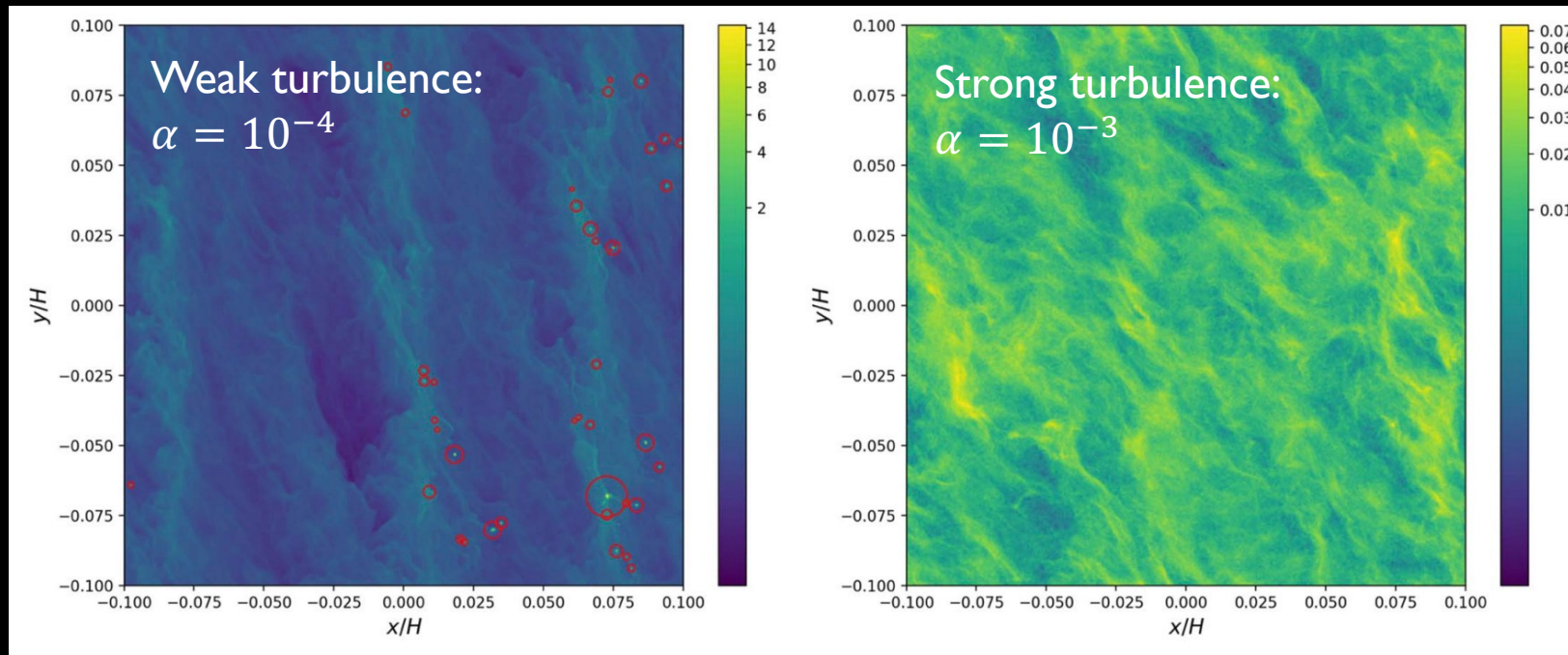


Caveats:
No turbulence
Single dust species

Carrera et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2017;
Li R. et al. 2021; review by Lesur et al.
2023

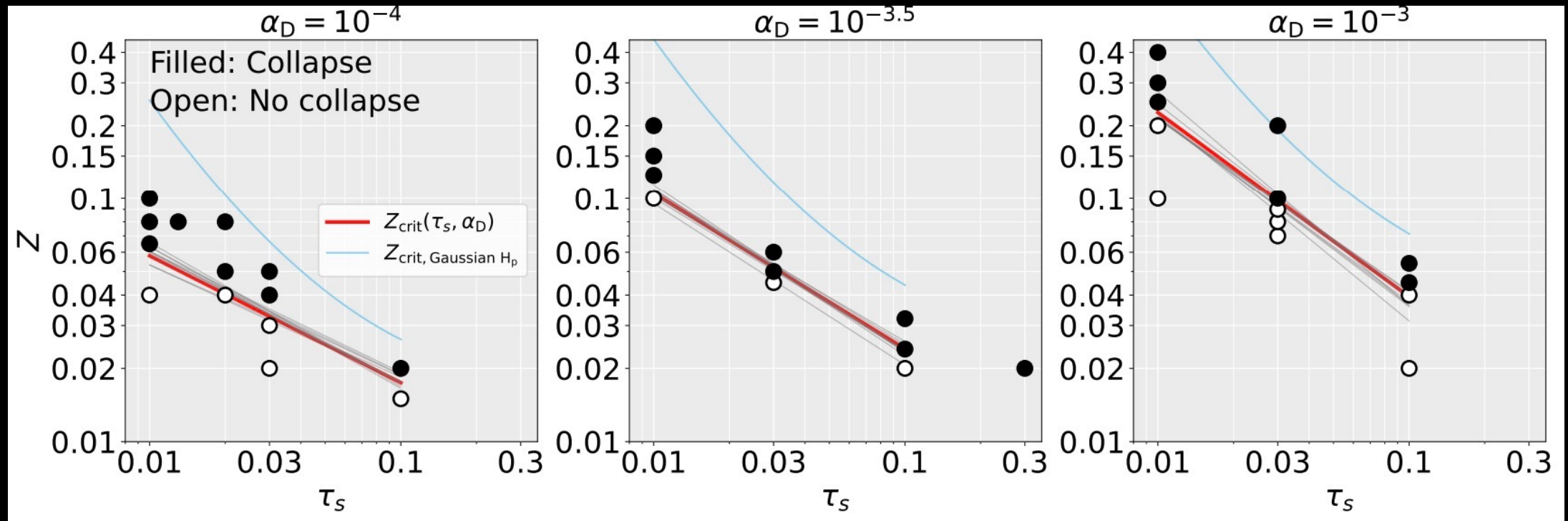
SI with external turbulence

- Linear analysis: turbulence suppresses linear growth of SI (Chen & Lin 2020; Umurhan et al. 2020)
- Confirmed by non-linear simulations (Gole et al. 2020)



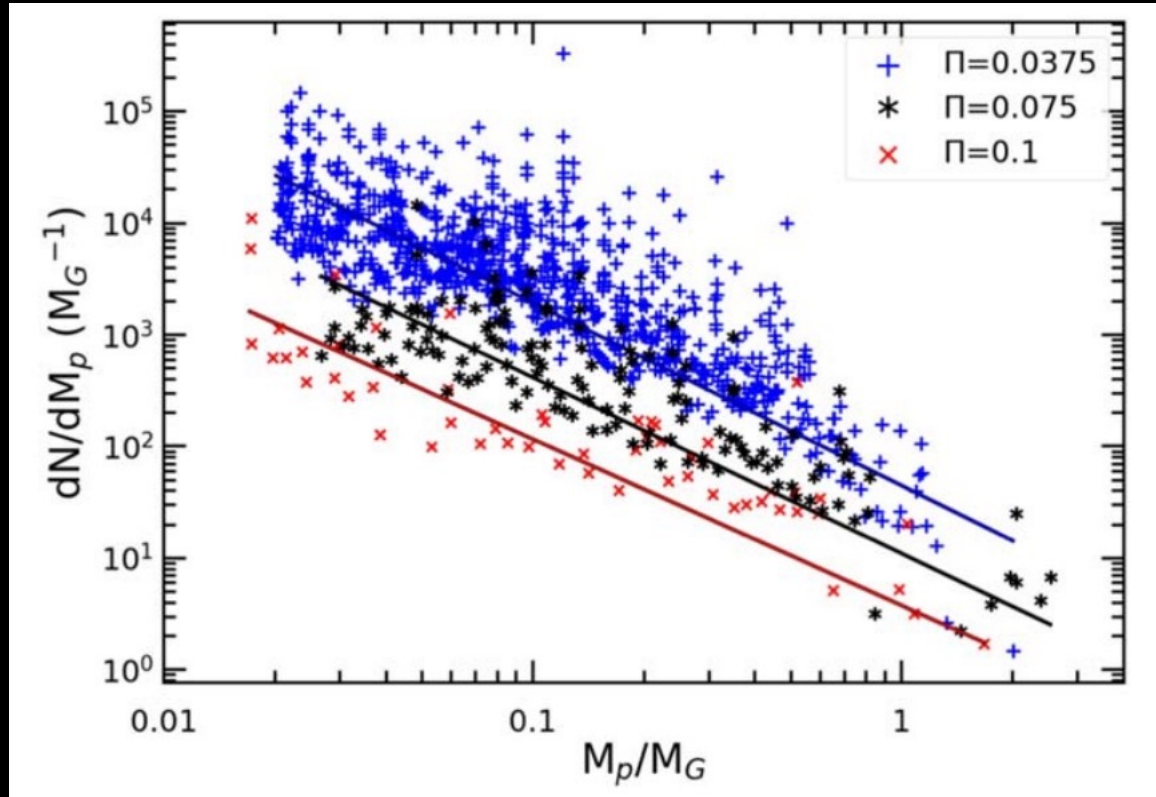
External turbulence
suppress planetesimal
formation if $\alpha \gtrsim 10^{-3.5}$

SI with external turbulence: parameter survey



External turbulence significantly increases the critical value Z_{crit}

Initial mass function of planetesimals



- Power-law distribution $\frac{dN}{dM_p} \propto M_p^{-p}$ with $p \simeq 1.6$
- Not sensitive to pebble size (τ_s) or solid abundance (Z)

Summary

- Dust particles experience radial drift.
- Dust size growth via coagulation: radial drift and fragmentation barrier
- Planetesimal formation
 - Gravitational instability
 - Dust coagulation
 - Streaming instability