

The background features a complex network of thin, light-colored lines connecting various sized circles. The circles are primarily in shades of blue and green, with some yellow and orange tones at the bottom. The overall effect is a dynamic, interconnected pattern that suggests a network or a complex system.

# Lagrangian Computational Astrophysics

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Beijing 2024 summer



# Relevance: astrophysical fluids

We are studying (magneto)-  
hydrodynamic systems!

# References

## **SPH**

Smoothed particle hydrodynamics and magnetohydrodynamics  
*Daniel Price 2012*

Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics in Astrophysics  
*Volker Springel 2010*

## **Moving mesh**

E pur si muove: Galilean-invariant cosmological hydrodynamical simulations on a moving mesh

*Volker Springel 2010*

## **Meshless Finite Mass**

A new class of accurate, mesh-free hydrodynamic simulation methods  
*Philip Hopkins 2015*

# Preface

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《易经·系辞》形而上者谓之道 形而下者谓之器

子曰：君子不器

# Lagrangian vesus Eulerian

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A gas cloud

As a group of fluid parcels

As a field on cells

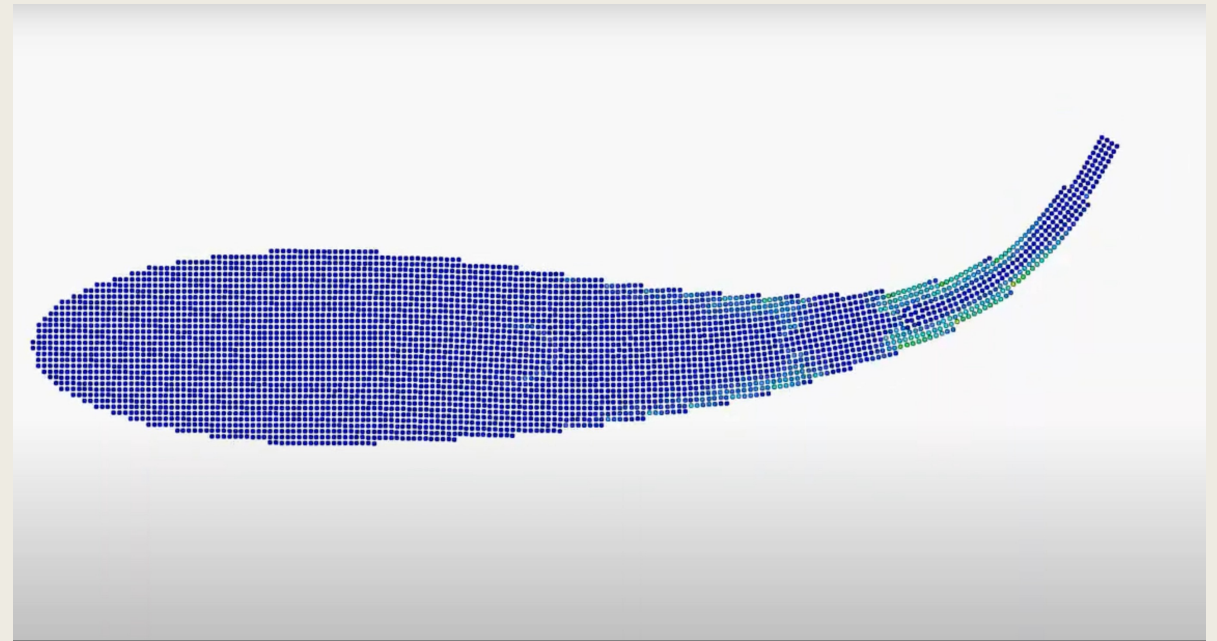
# Evolution of fluid parcels

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$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0,$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} + \frac{\nabla P}{\rho} = 0,$$

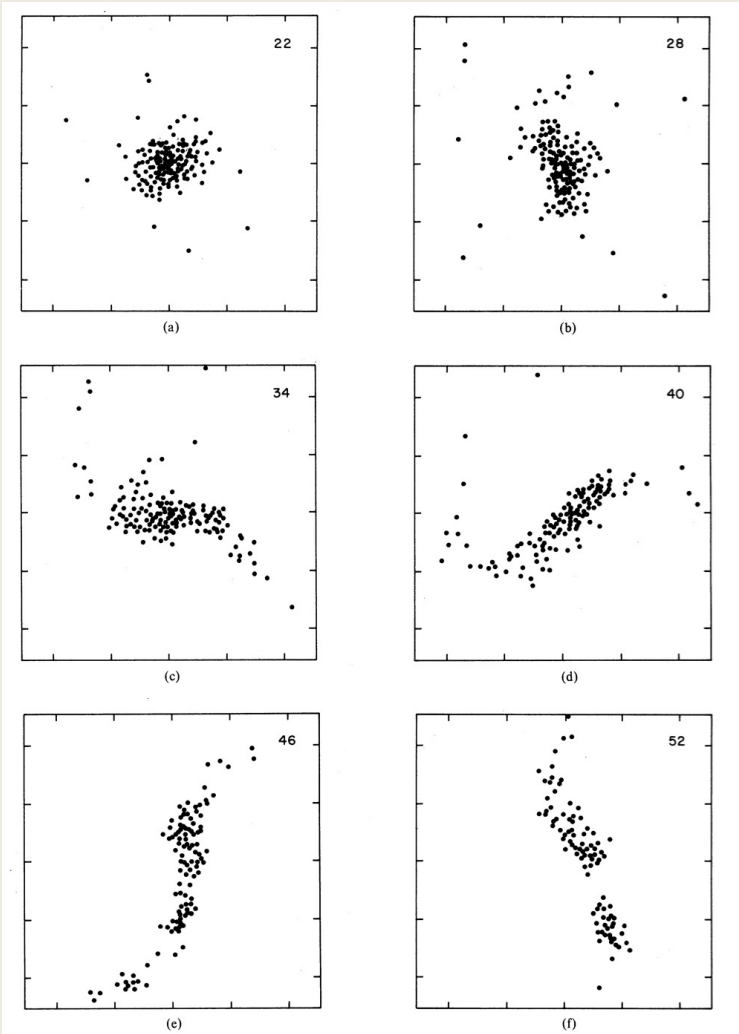
$$\frac{du}{dt} + \frac{P}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0,$$



*Credit: Xiangyu Hu*

$$d/dt = \partial/\partial t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla$$

Material derivative



# Smoothed particle hydrodynamics

The first ever meshless method (Lucy 1977, Gingold & Monaghan 1977) compared to finite difference method by Lewis Fry Richardson in 1920s.

# Heuristic derivation of the density

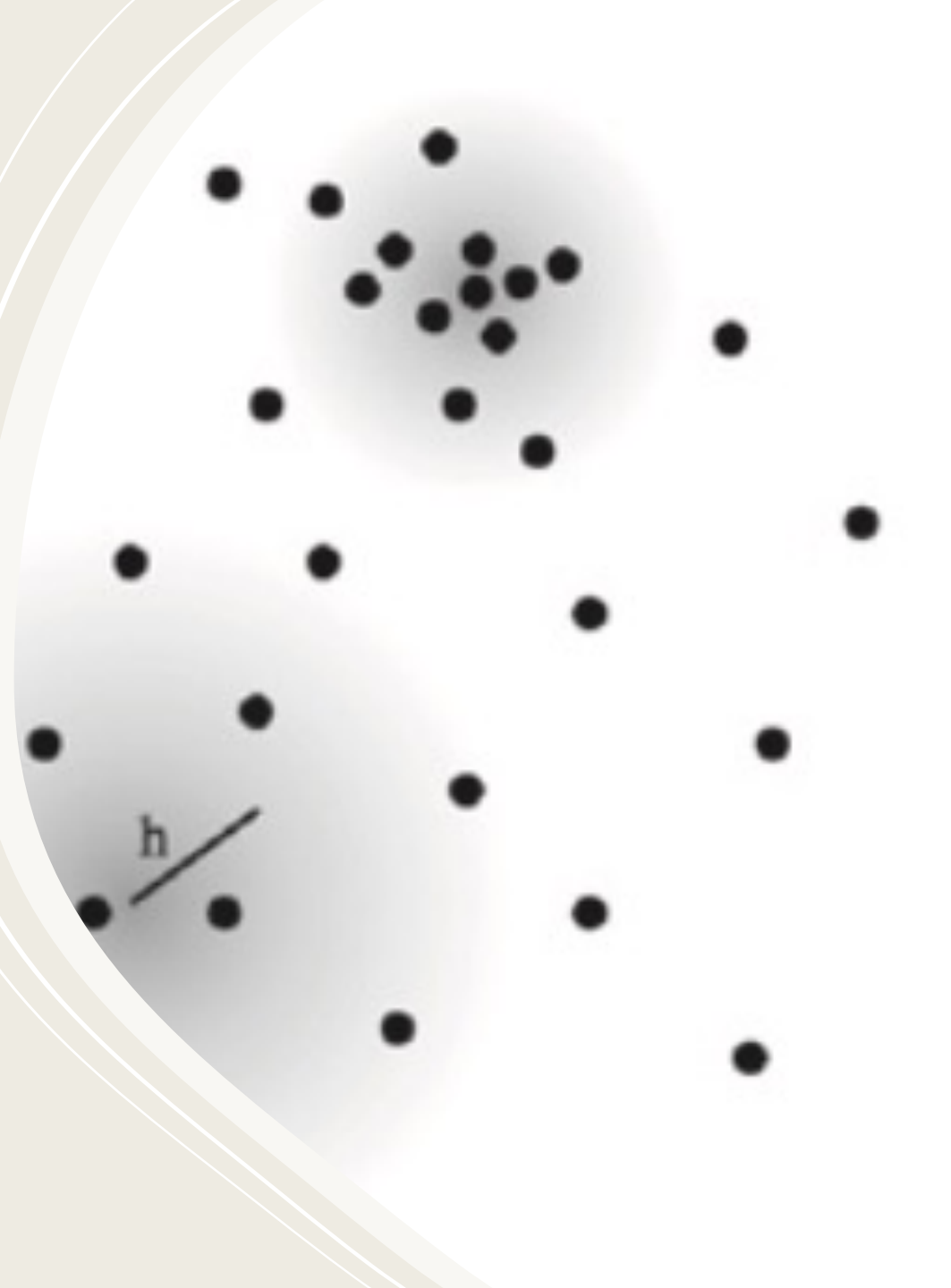
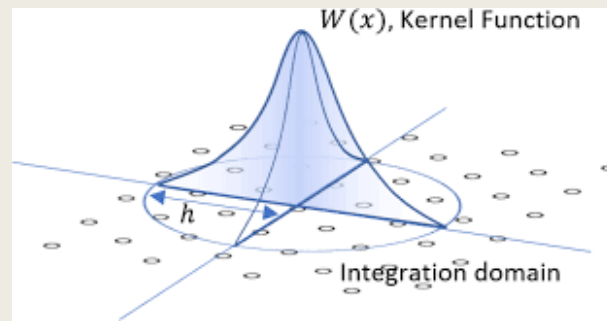
Share with your neighbours, say 60 particles

$$\rho_i = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j, h_i).$$

Smooth of mass distribution -> density

The kernel function should be:

- Smooth
- Isotropic
- Even function





# Varying smoothing length

Denser regions with smaller  $h$   
Constant mass in the kernel

$$\rho_i h_i^3 = \text{const}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial h_j} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} \left[ 1 + \frac{3\rho_j}{h_j} \left( \frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial h_j} \right)^{-1} \right] = -\nabla_i \rho_j.$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = \left( 1 + \frac{h_j}{3\rho_j} \frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial h_j} \right)^{-1} \nabla_i \rho_j.$$

Density a function of particle positions

$$\rho_i = \rho_i(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N, h_i)$$

$$h_i = h_i(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = \nabla_i \rho_j + \frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial h_j} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i},$$

# The equation of motion from the Lagrangian

Lagrangian of invicid fluids

$$L = \int \rho \left( \frac{\mathbf{v}^2}{2} - u \right) dV.$$

Discrete version for ideal gas (not necessary, see Price 2012)

$$L_{\text{SPH}} = \sum_i \left( \frac{1}{2} m_i \mathbf{v}_i^2 - m_i u_i \right), \quad P_i = A_i \rho_i^\gamma = (\gamma - 1) \rho_i u_i,$$

Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = 0.$$

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i},$$

# The equation of motion from the Lagrangian

We know previously

$$\frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = \left( 1 + \frac{h_j}{3\rho_j} \frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial h_j} \right)^{-1} \nabla_i \rho_j.$$

From the density calculation

$$\nabla_i \rho_j = m_i \nabla_i W_{ij}(h_j) + \delta_{ij} \sum_{k=1}^N m_k \nabla_i W_{ki}(h_i),$$

$$W_{ij}(h) = W(|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|, h)$$

The equation of motion

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \left[ f_i \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} \nabla_i W_{ij}(h_i) + f_j \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \nabla_i W_{ij}(h_j) \right]$$

$$f_i = \left[ 1 + \frac{h_i}{3\rho_i} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial h_i} \right]^{-1}$$

# Internal energy equation

The internal energy and density are related by

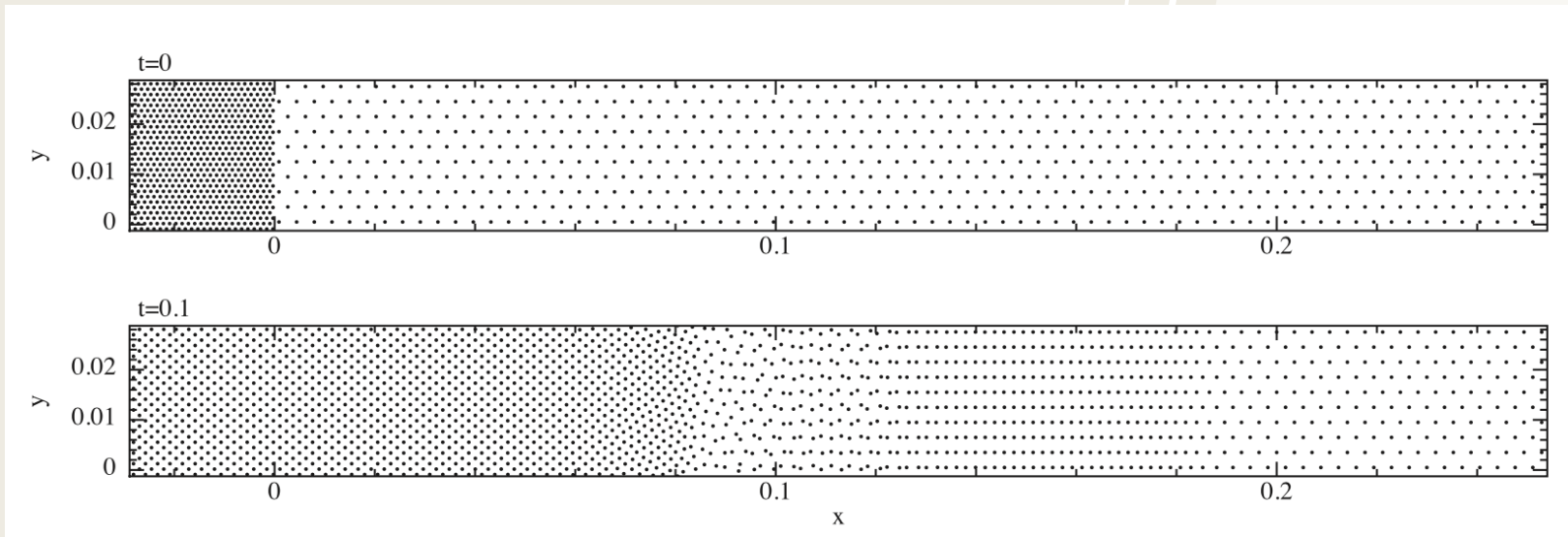
$$P_i = A_i \rho_i^\gamma = (\gamma - 1) \rho_i u_i,$$

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} = \frac{P_i}{\rho_i} \sum_j \mathbf{v}_j \cdot \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial \mathbf{r}_j}.$$

Internal energy evolution

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} = f_i \frac{P_i}{\rho_i} \sum_j m_j (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}(h_i).$$

# Shock capturing



*Price 2012*

Prevent particle interpenetration

# Artificial viscosity

$$\left. \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} \right|_{\text{visc}} = - \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \Pi_{ij} \nabla_i \bar{W}_{ij},$$

$$\bar{W}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} [W_{ij}(h_i) + W_{ij}(h_j)]$$

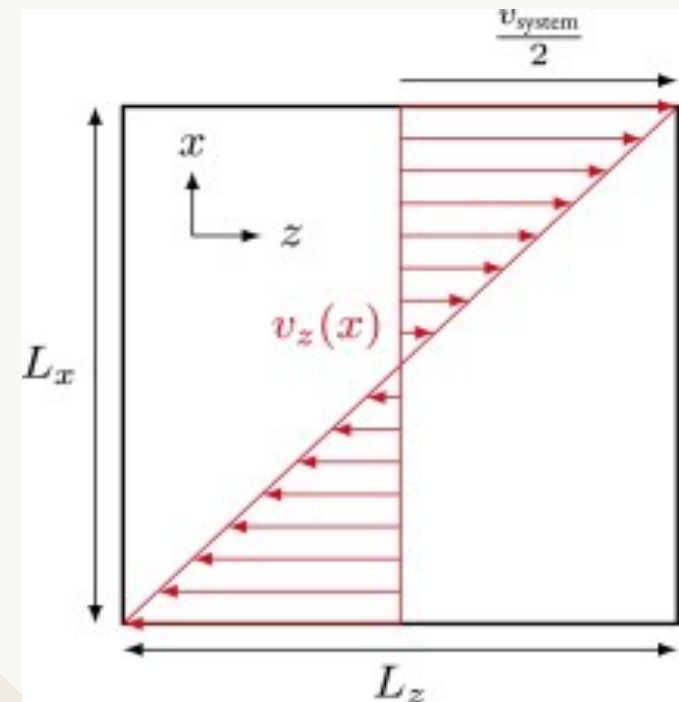
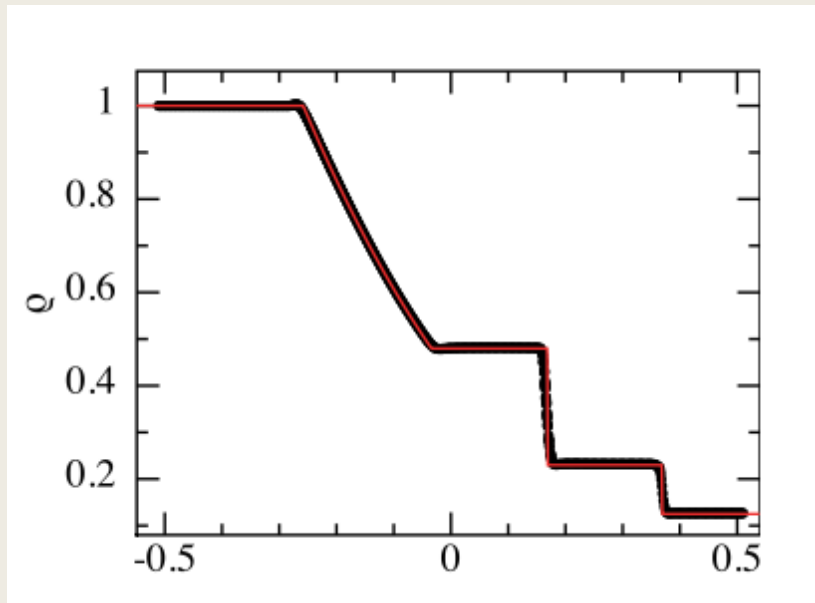
$$\left. \frac{du_i}{dt} \right|_{\text{visc}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \Pi_{ij} \mathbf{v}_{ij} \cdot \nabla_i \bar{W}_{ij},$$

$$\Pi_{ij} = \begin{cases} [-\alpha c_{ij} \mu_{ij} + \beta \mu_{ij}^2] / \rho_{ij} & \text{if } \mathbf{v}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij} < 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{h_{ij} \mathbf{v}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij}}{|\mathbf{r}_{ij}|^2 + \epsilon h_{ij}^2}.$$

Should be applied only at the shock fronts

# Shock capturing and unwanted artificial viscosity



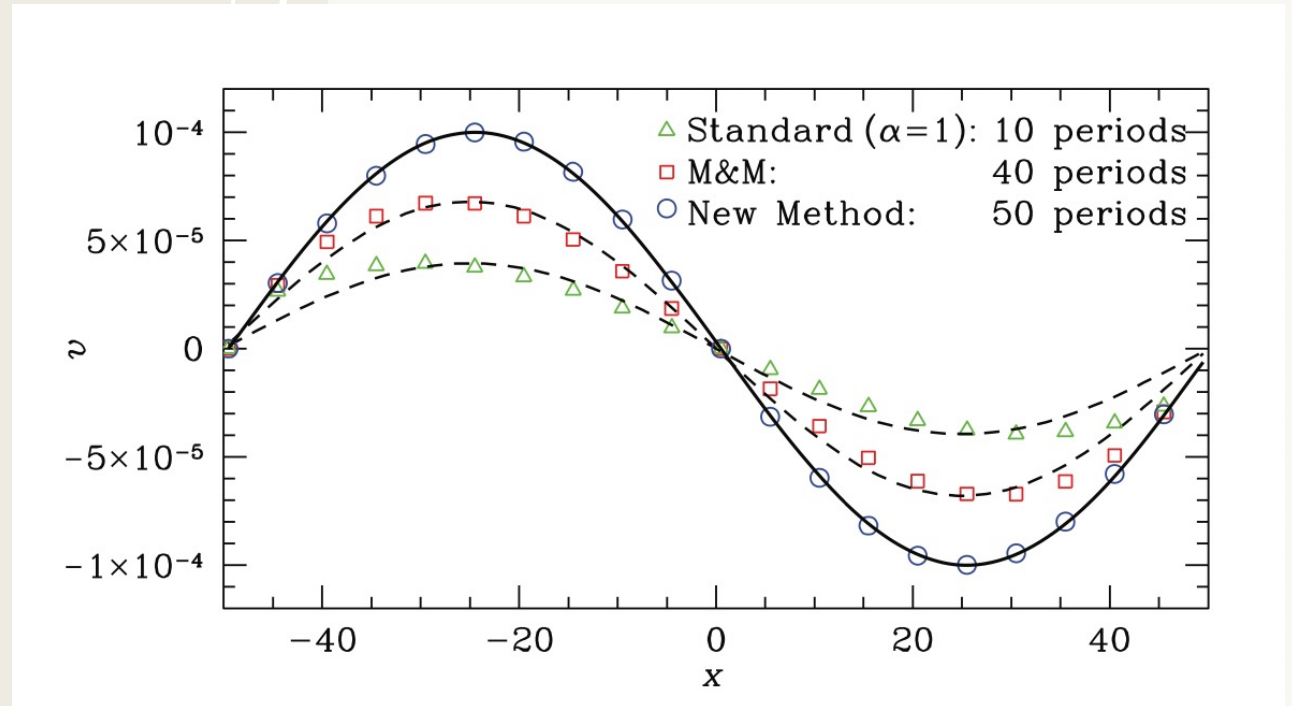
Shear flow can be mis-interpreted as shocks with the previous shock indicator

# Prevent excessive artificial viscosity

New shock indicator

$$\dot{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{v} \equiv d(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})/dt$$

$$\dot{\alpha}_i = (\alpha_{\text{loc},i} - \alpha_i)/\tau_i$$



Cullen & Dehnen 2010

Remove any unwanted viscosity away from shocks



# Implementation of SPH

**To name a few:**

Gadget 1,2,3,4 by Volker Springel et al. (GIZMO)

Gasoline 1,2 by Wadsley et al.

Phantom by Price et al.

Swift by Shcaller et al.

Magma 1,2 by Rosswog et al.

Further improvements in SPH

**An integral approach to calculating gradients.** García-Senz et al 2012

**More accurate interpolation with reproducing Kernel** Frontiere et al 2016

[nature](#) > [nature astronomy](#) > [browse articles](#)

## Access Code

Article Type

Access Code (4) ▾

Year

All ▾

**Access Code**

21 Feb 2024

**GADGET**

Volker Springel created the original GADGET code more than 25 years ago. Now it supports some of the largest simulations in astrophysics, and is being developed to do vastly more.

Paul Woods

**Access Code**

15 Nov 2023

**HARM**

Charles Gammie and colleagues wrote the HARM code to tackle the extreme physics close to a spinning black hole. Twenty years later, it is performing a similar task in three dimensions in 1/10,000th of the time.

Paul Woods

**Access Code**

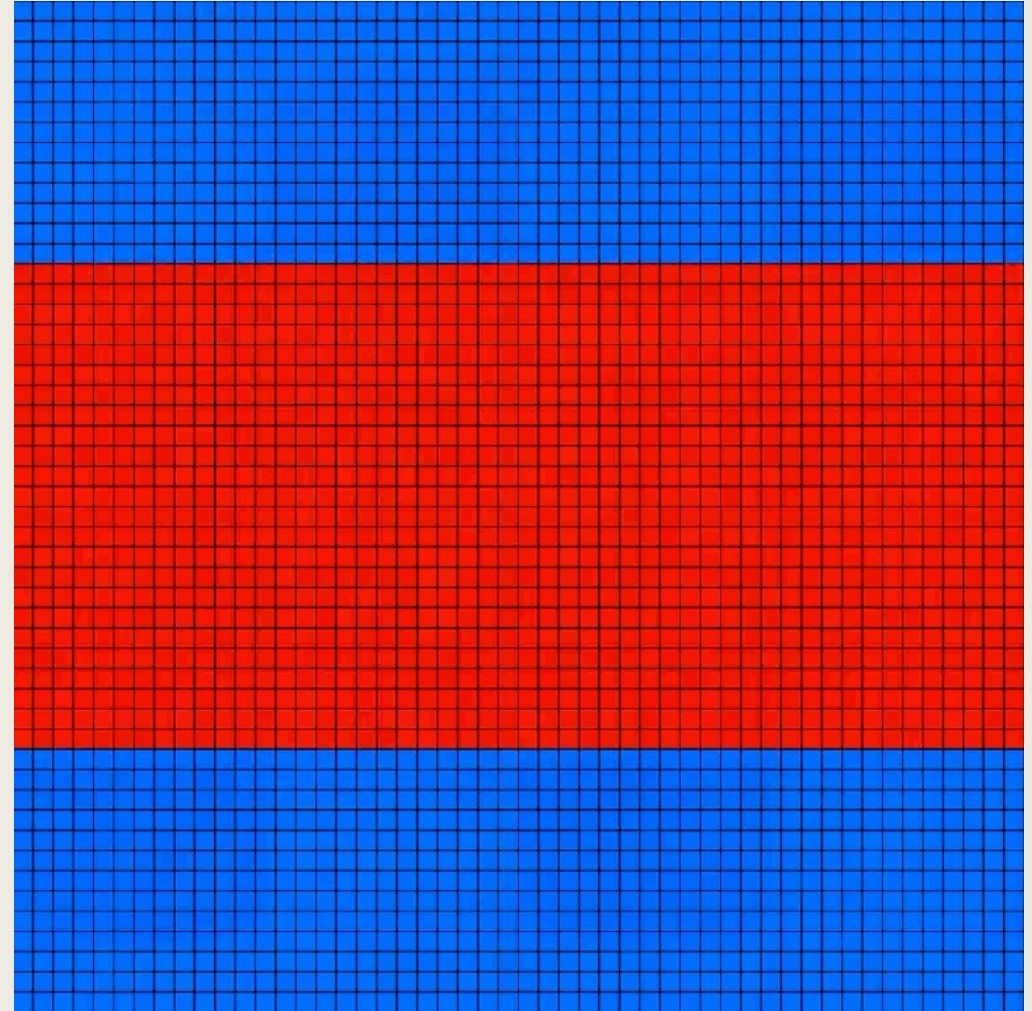
15 Sept 2023

**Athena**

James Stone started developing Athena in the mid-2000s, building on several years' work on numerical methods for compressible magnetohydrodynamics in shocks. A couple of incarnations later, AthenaK is ready to face the exascale computing future.

Paul Woods

**Moving mesh  
with Voronoi  
tessellation**



# Conservation laws in a moving frame

Euler equation in the rest frame

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \rho \mathbf{v} \\ \rho e \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{pmatrix} \rho \mathbf{v} \\ \rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v}^T + P \\ (\rho e + P) \mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

Conservation law in the moving frame

$$\mathbf{Q}_i = \begin{pmatrix} m_i \\ \mathbf{p}_i \\ E_i \end{pmatrix} = \int_{V_i} \mathbf{U} \, dV.$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{Q}_i}{dt} = - \int_{\partial V_i} [\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \mathbf{U} \mathbf{w}^T] \, d\mathbf{n}.$$

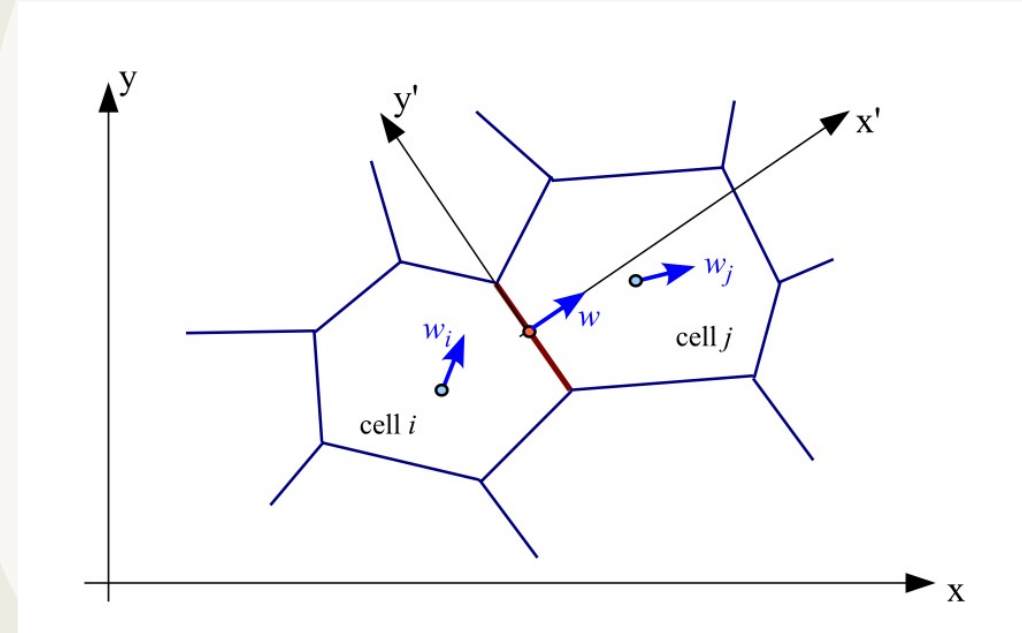


Illustration for AREPO, *Springel 2010*

# Gradients for reconstruction

Gradient at the  $i$ th particle

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \phi(\mathbf{s}_i) + \langle \nabla \phi \rangle_i (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}_i)$$

Prediction at its neighbouring points

$$\phi_j = \phi_i + \langle \nabla \phi \rangle_i (\mathbf{s}_j - \mathbf{s}_i)$$

To minimize the discrepancy

$$S_{\text{tot}} = \sum_j g_j (\phi_j - \phi_i - \langle \nabla \phi \rangle_i (\mathbf{s}_j - \mathbf{s}_i))^2$$

*Pakmor et al. 2015*

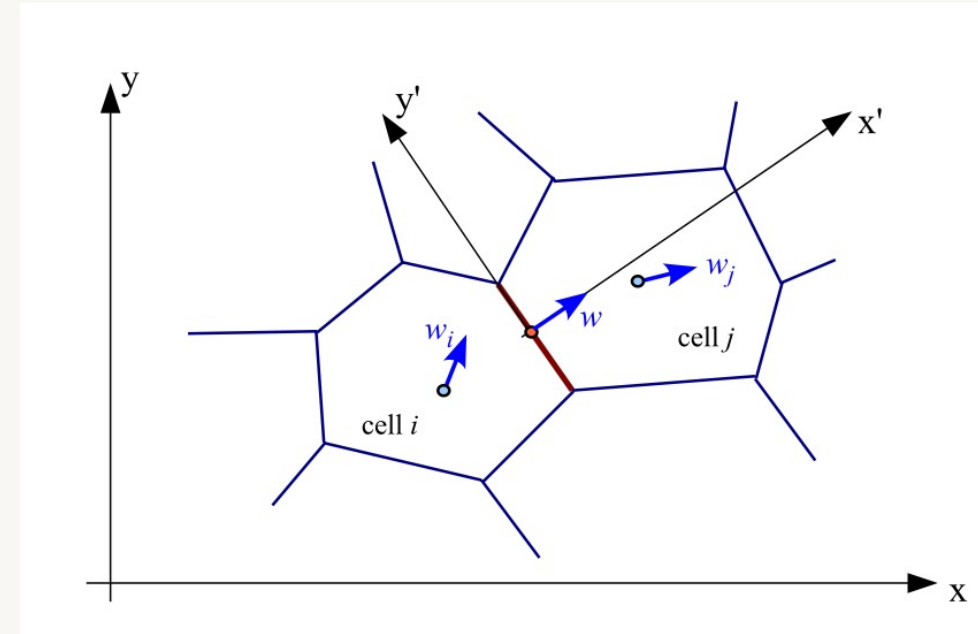
# Solve the Riemann problem

To the comoving frame  $\mathbf{W}_i = (\rho_i, \mathbf{v}_i, P_i)$

$$\mathbf{W}'_{L,R} = \mathbf{W}_{L,R} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{w} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Reconstruction to face center

$$\mathbf{W}''_{L,R} = \mathbf{W}'_{L,R} + \left. \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}'}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \right|_{L,R} (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{s}_{L,R}) + \left. \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}'}{\partial t} \right|_{L,R} \frac{\Delta t}{2}$$



Left cell  $i$ ; right cell  $j$

# Solve the Riemann problem

Rotate the frame, the new face normal being x axis

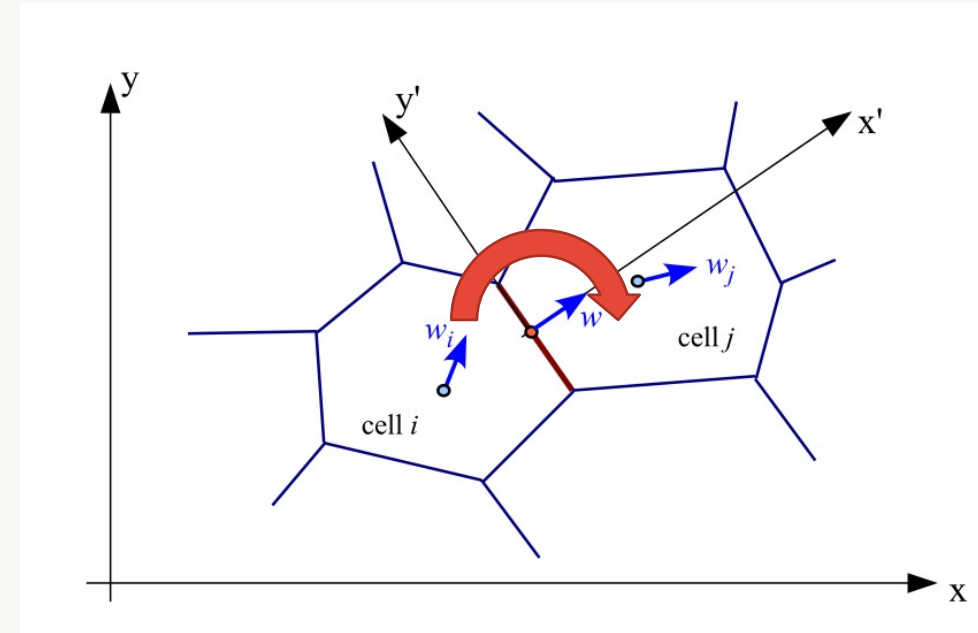
$$\mathbf{W}_{L,R}''' = \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{W}_{L,R}'' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{\Lambda}_{3D} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{W}_{L,R}''.$$

Riemann solver

$$\mathbf{W}_F = R_{\text{iemann}}(\mathbf{W}_L''', \mathbf{W}_R''');$$

Rotate and boost back to lab frame

$$\mathbf{W}_{\text{lab}} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \mathbf{v}_{\text{lab}} \\ P \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1} \mathbf{W}_F + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{w} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



Left cell  $i$ ; right cell  $j$

# The flux is done!

Dump the updated  $\rho, v_{lab}, P$  into the flux function

$$\hat{\mathbf{F}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \mathbf{U}\mathbf{w}^T = \begin{pmatrix} \rho(\mathbf{v}_{lab} - \mathbf{w}) \\ \rho\mathbf{v}_{lab}(\mathbf{v}_{lab} - \mathbf{w})^T + P \\ \rho e_{lab}(\mathbf{v}_{lab} - \mathbf{w}) + P\mathbf{v}_{lab} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{pmatrix} \rho\mathbf{v} \\ \rho\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^T + P \\ (\rho e + P)\mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho \\ \rho\mathbf{v} \\ \rho e \end{pmatrix}$$

Update the equations with the flux

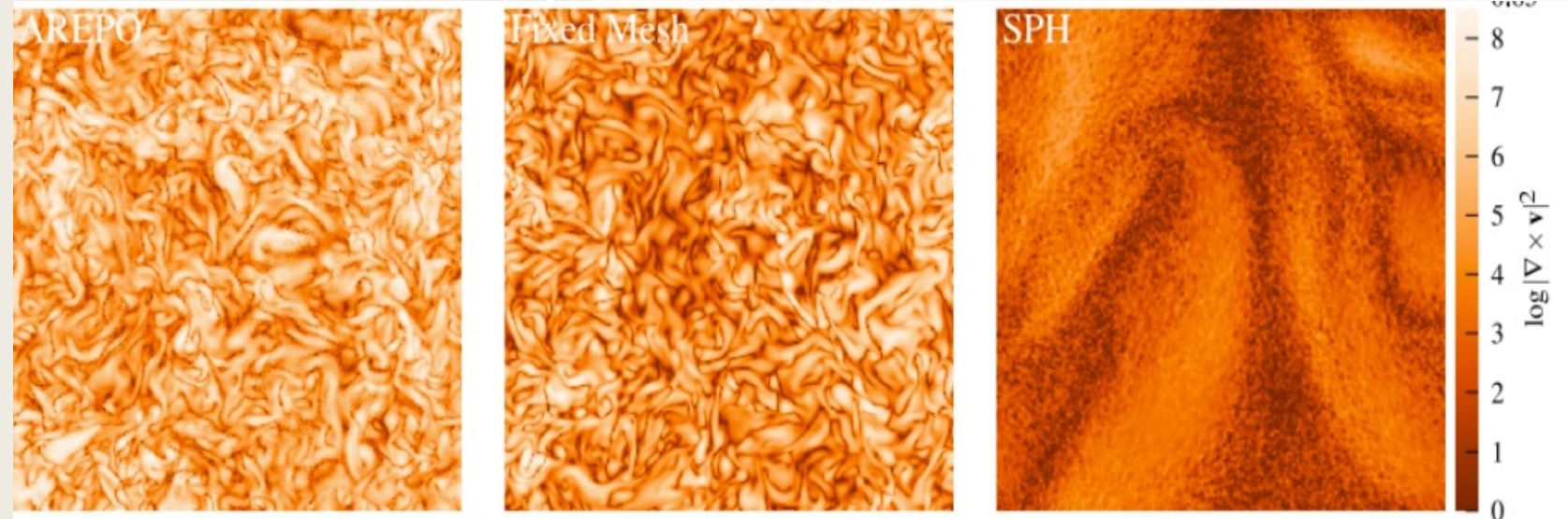
$$\frac{dQ_i}{dt} = - \int_{\partial V_i} [\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \mathbf{U}\mathbf{w}^T] d\mathbf{n}.$$



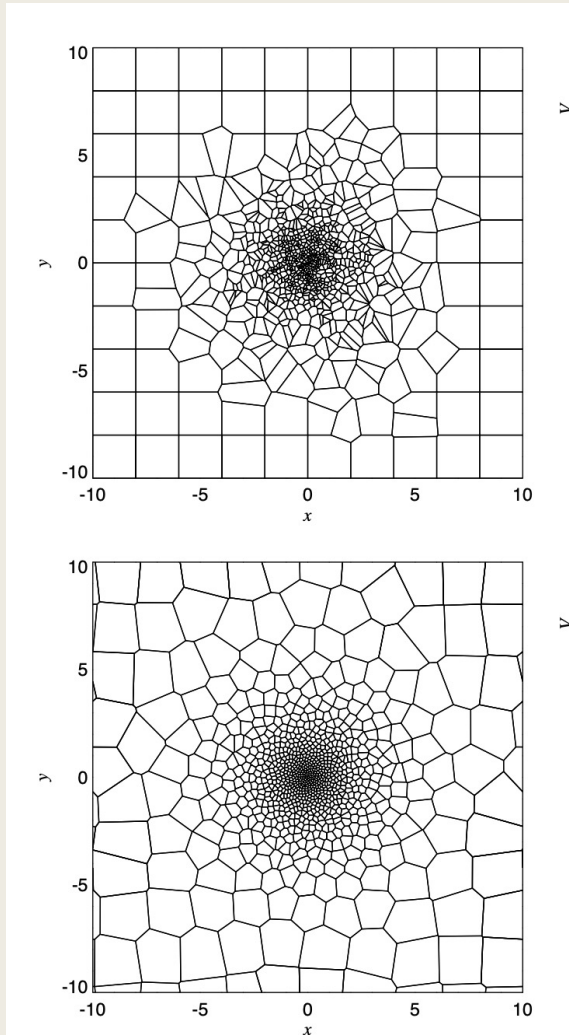
# Advantages over SPH

No artificial viscosity!

No smoothing



Subsonic turbulence, *Bauer & Springel 2012*



# Tricky things: cell regularization

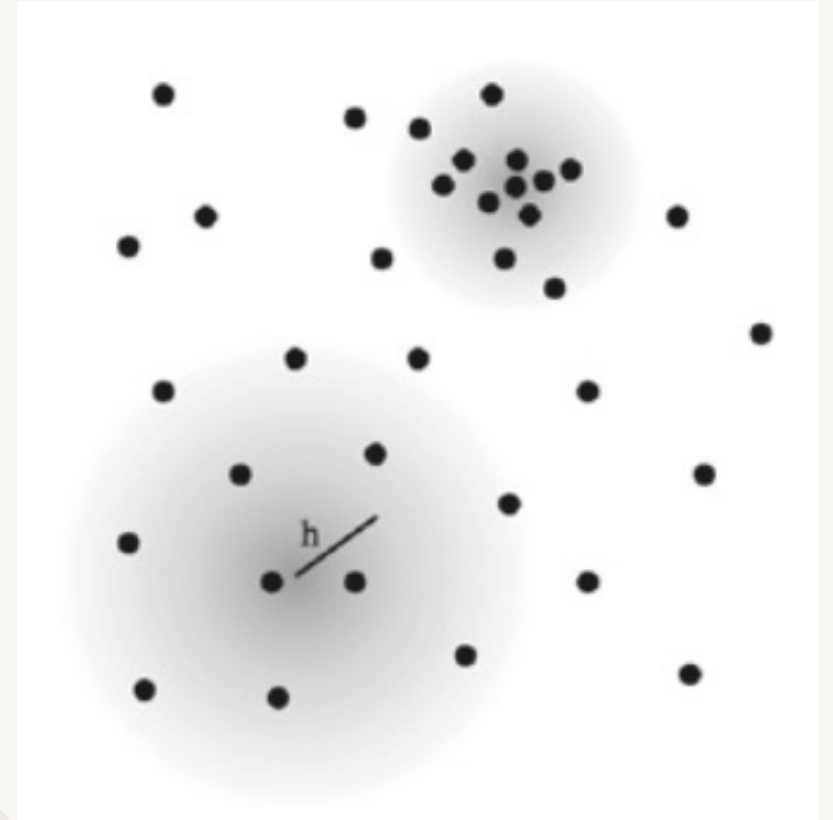
We want more regular cells!

# Meshless moving mesh...

Partition of unit  $\sum_i \psi_i(\mathbf{x}) = 1$

$$\psi_i(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \frac{1}{\omega(\mathbf{x})} W(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i, h(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$\omega(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \sum_j W(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j, h(\mathbf{x}))$$



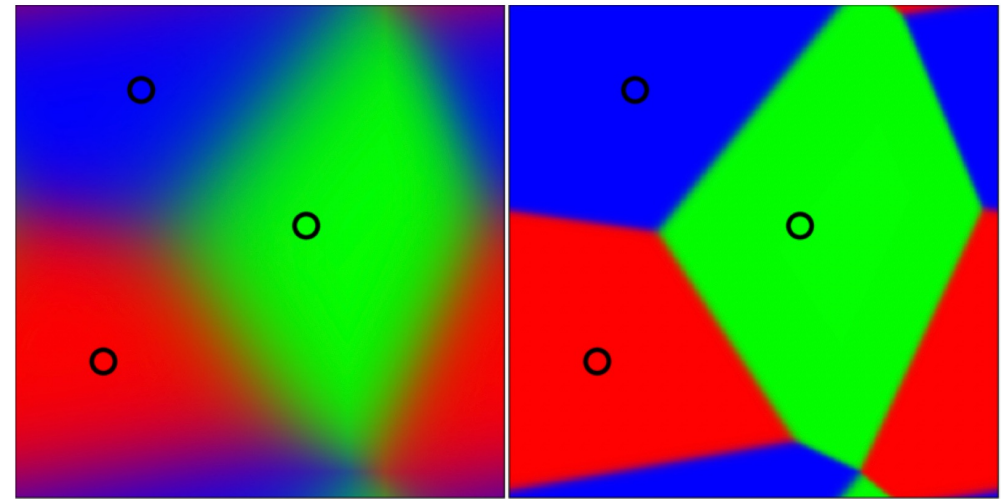
# The effective volume

For arbitrary function, and a kernel function with compact support

$$\begin{aligned}\int f(\mathbf{x}) d^\nu \mathbf{x} &= \sum_i \int f(\mathbf{x}) \psi_i(\mathbf{x}) d^\nu \mathbf{x} \\ &= \sum_i f_i(\mathbf{x}_i) \int \psi_i d^\nu \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{O}(h_i(\mathbf{x}_i)^2) \\ &\equiv \sum_i f_i V_i + \mathcal{O}(h_i^2)\end{aligned}$$

$$V_i = \int \psi_i(\mathbf{x}) d^\nu \mathbf{x}$$

$$W(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i) = \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i)$$



New Meshless Methods Here (MFV, MFM)      Unstructured / Moving-Mesh Methods

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_i(\mathbf{x}) &\equiv \frac{1}{\omega(\mathbf{x})} W(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i, h(\mathbf{x})) \\ \omega(\mathbf{x}) &\equiv \sum_j W(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j, h(\mathbf{x}))\end{aligned}$$

# The conservation law

$$\frac{d}{dt}(V_i \mathbf{U}_i) + \sum_j \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{A}_{ij} = 0$$

With effective faces  $A_{ij}^\alpha$

$$V_i \tilde{\psi}_j^\alpha(\mathbf{x}_i) - V_j \tilde{\psi}_i^\alpha(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$\tilde{\psi}_j^\alpha(\mathbf{x}_i) \equiv \sum_{\beta=1}^{\beta=\nu} \mathbf{B}_i^{\alpha\beta} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i)^\beta \psi_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \equiv \mathbf{B}_i^{\alpha\beta} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i)^\beta \psi_j(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_i \equiv \mathbf{E}_i^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{E}_i^{\alpha\beta} \equiv \sum_j (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i)^\alpha (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i)^\beta \psi_j(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

See e.g. *Hopkins 2015*

**Compared to  
the above  
two methods**

No artificial viscosity

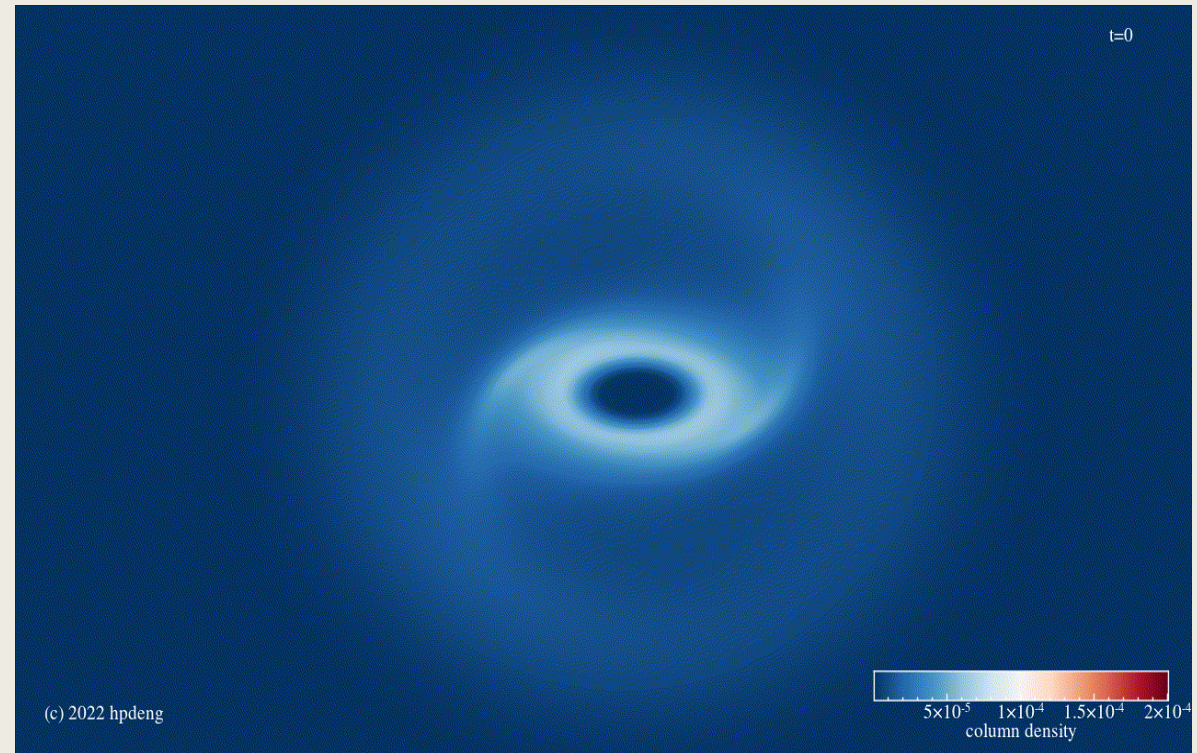
No cell regularization

With smoothing...

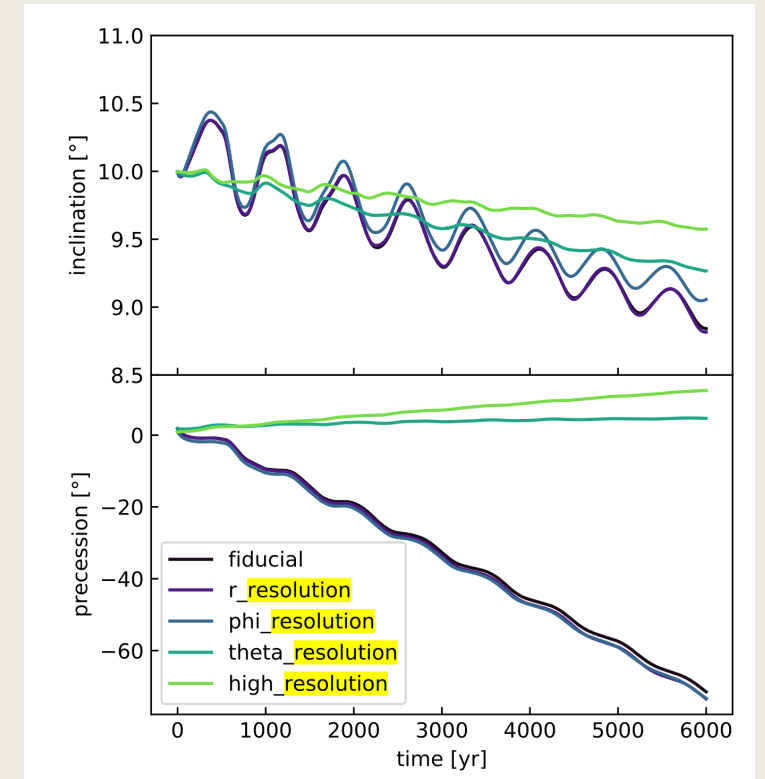
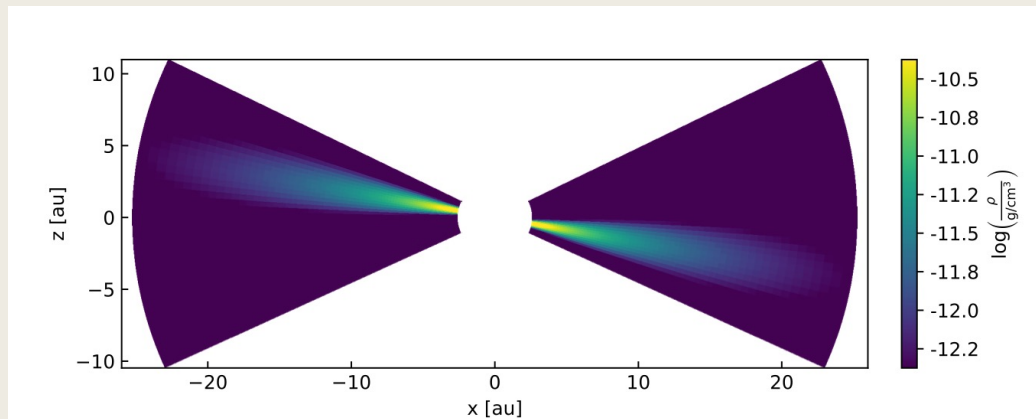
# Features

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- Applicable to arbitrary flow geometry, tracer
- Resolution adaptivity
- Easy self-gravity
- Galilean invariance/ low advection error



# Advection errors



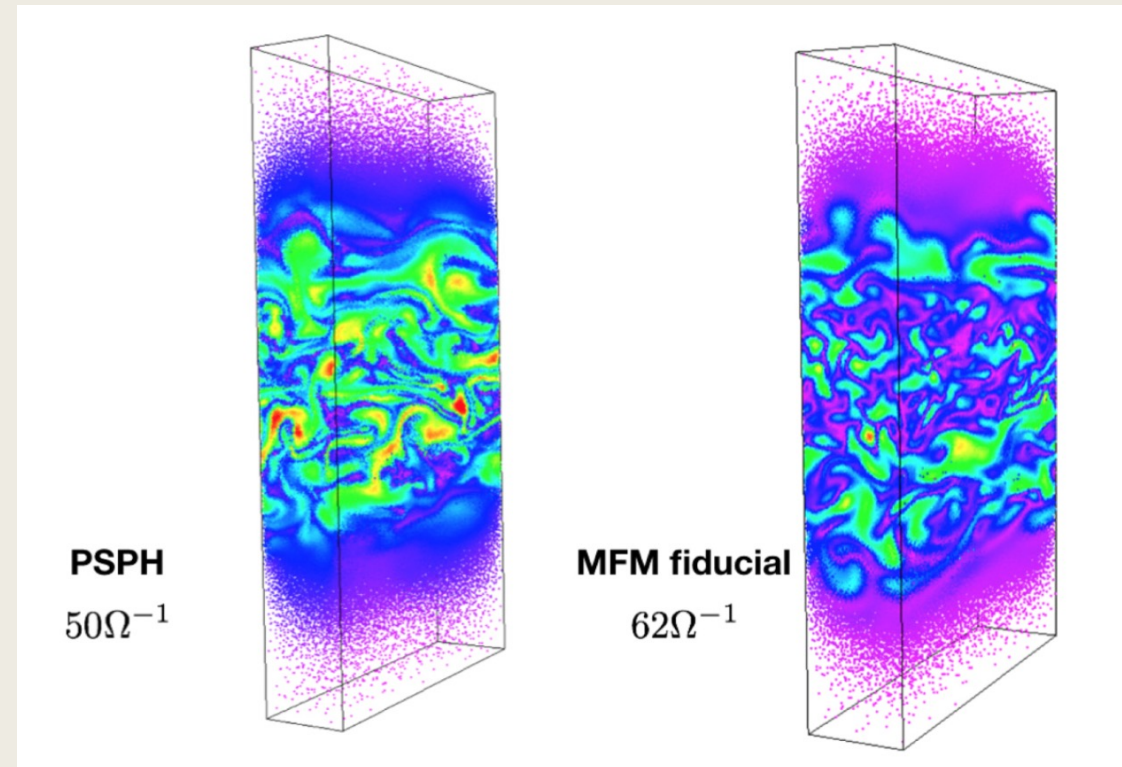
Disk misaligned to grids can be numerically aligned in FARGO3D, even in simulations with 18 cells per disk scale height (Kimming & Dullemond 2024)



# Drawback

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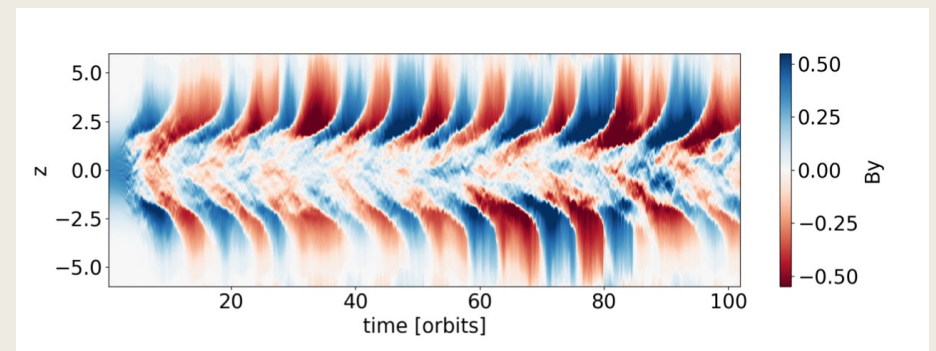
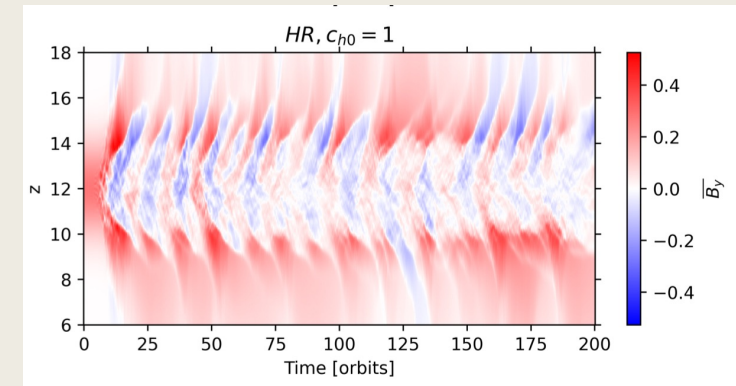
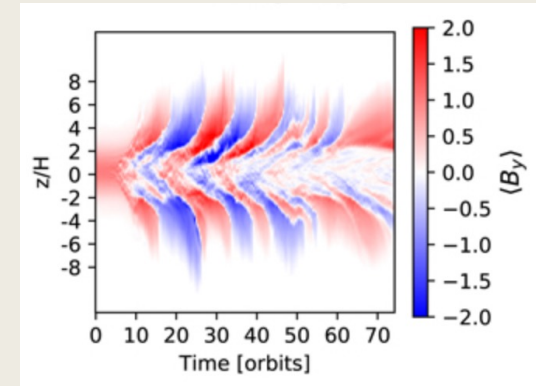
- Numerical noise (esp. artificial viscosity in SPH)
- Divergence of B fields
- Smoothing, though it is adaptive



MRI simulation with Lagrangian codes (Deng et al. 2019)

# Things are improving

Well maintained MRI turbulence  
with SPH & Moving mesh



# Applications in planet formation modeling

Distorted disks: fly by, companion, etc.

Circumbinary disk, triple

Planet disk interaction, be careful

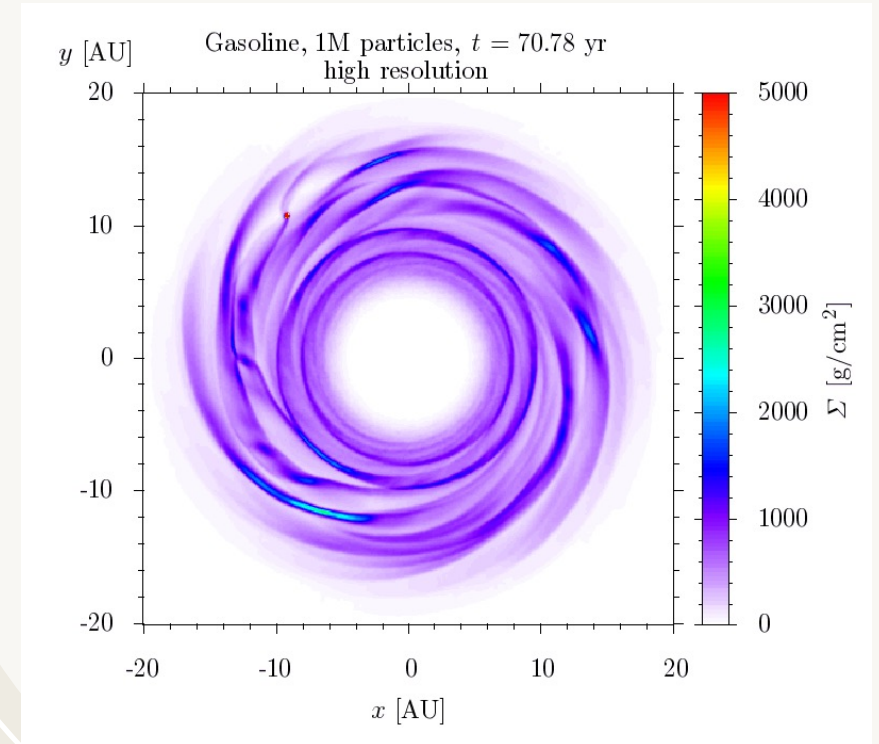
Self-gravitating disks

# Gravitational instability

For short wavelength axisymmetric perturbation

$$\omega^2 = \kappa^2 - 2\pi G\Sigma|k_x| + c^2 k_x^2,$$

$$Q = \kappa c / \pi G\Sigma < 1$$



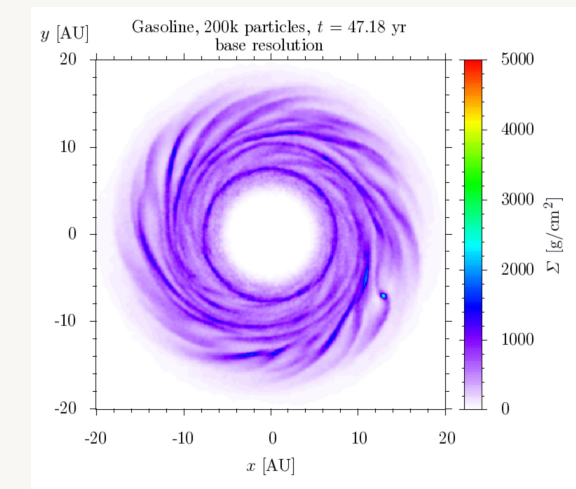
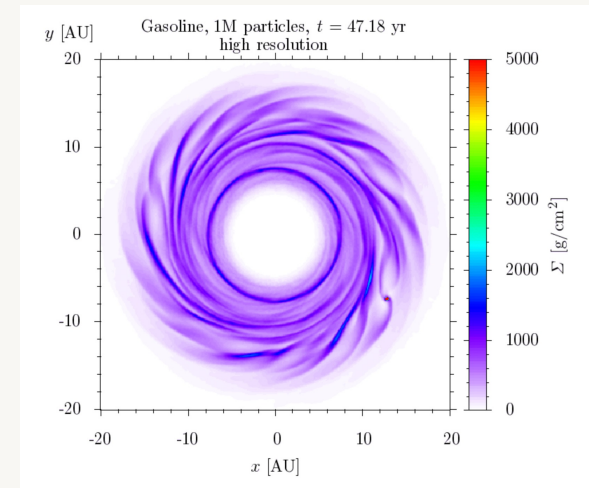
Theory for the growth of spirals (e.g. Deng & Ogilvie 2022)

# GI simulations: code comparison

The Wengen test: Enzo, Flash, Gasoline, CHYMERA

<https://users.camk.edu.pl/gawrysz/test4/>  
#movies

Consistency with as few as 200k particle in SPH simulation

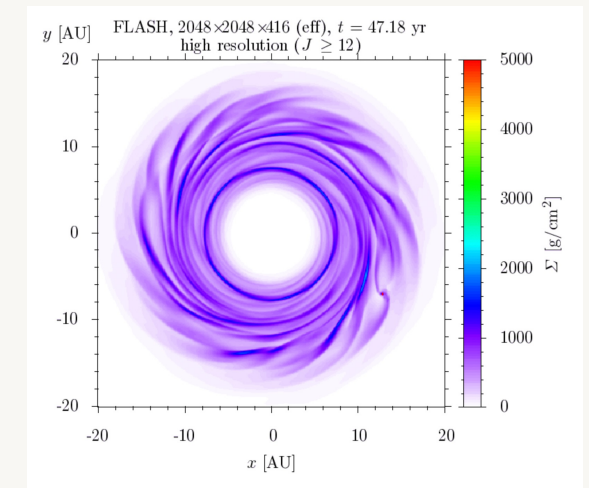
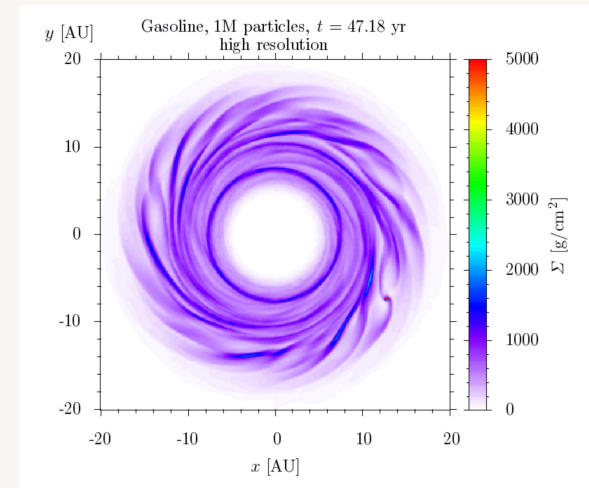


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#movies

1M particles vs 1700M cells...

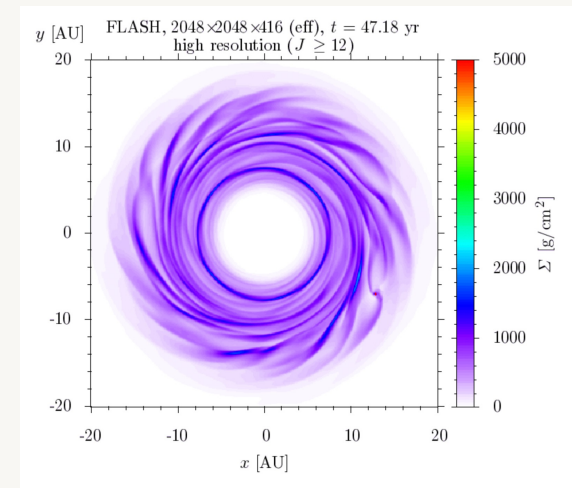
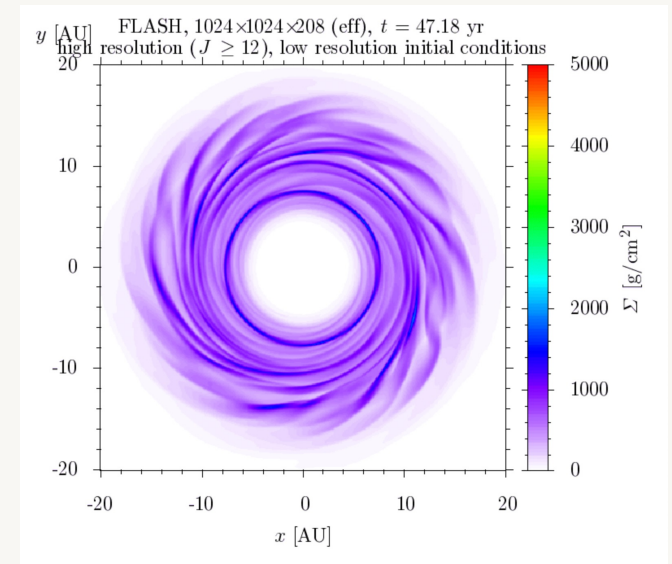


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#movies

Inconsistency with even 218M cells

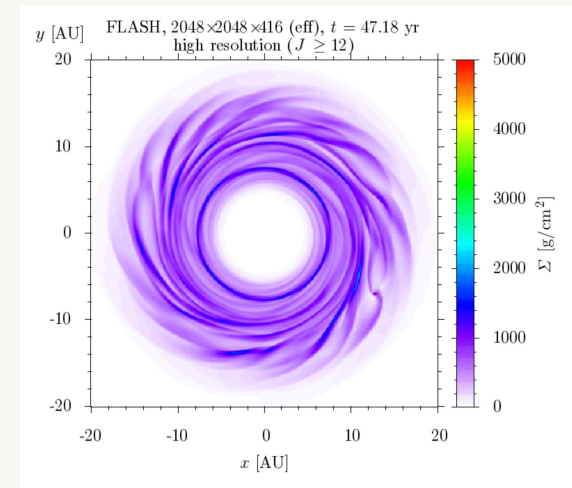
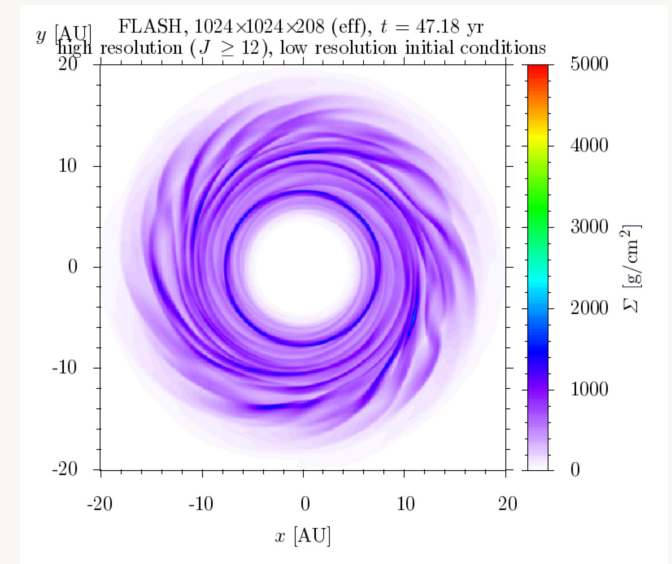


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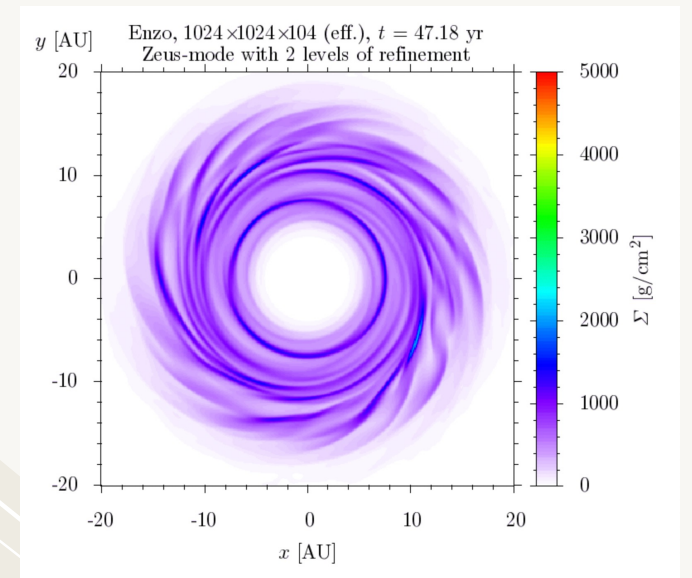
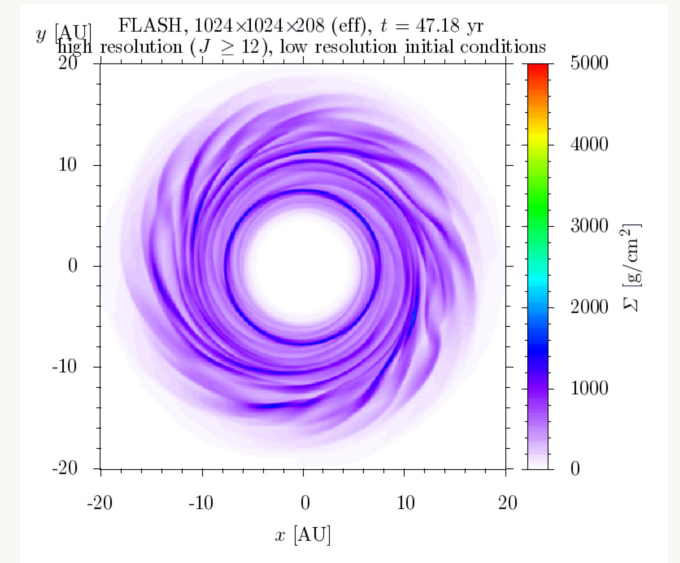


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<https://users.camk.edu.pl/gawrysz/test4/>  
#movies

Seems very high resolution is needed for convergence, and to predict the fragment for some grid codes



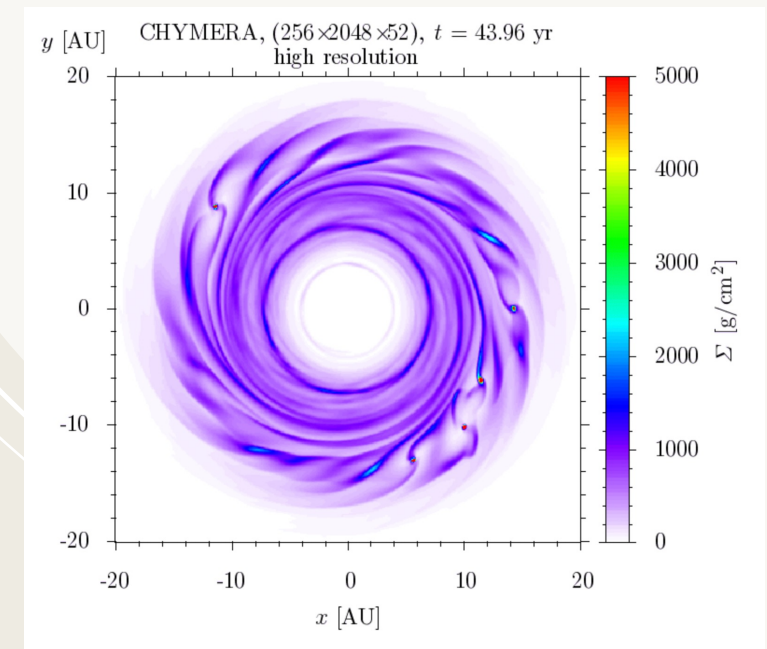
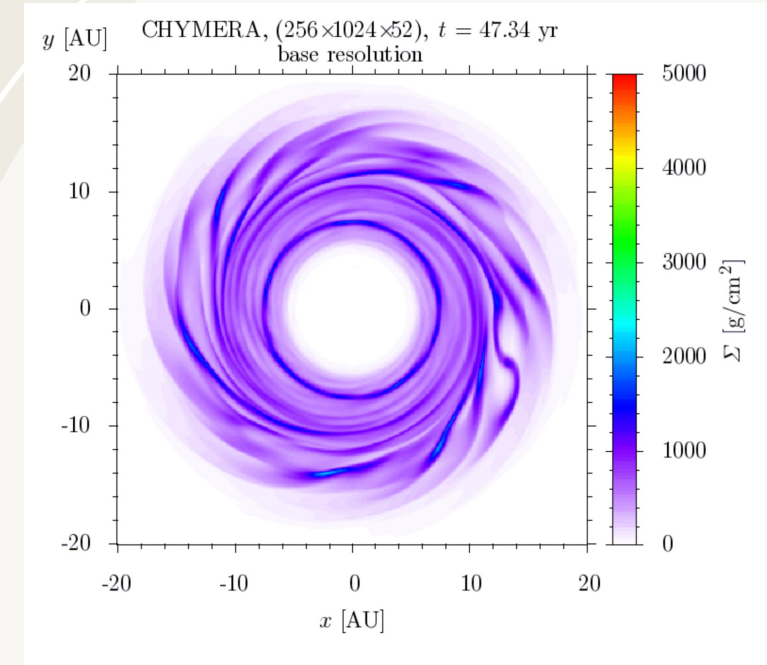
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The Wengen test: Enzo, Flash, Gasoline, CHYMERA

<https://users.camk.edu.pl/gawrysz/test4/>

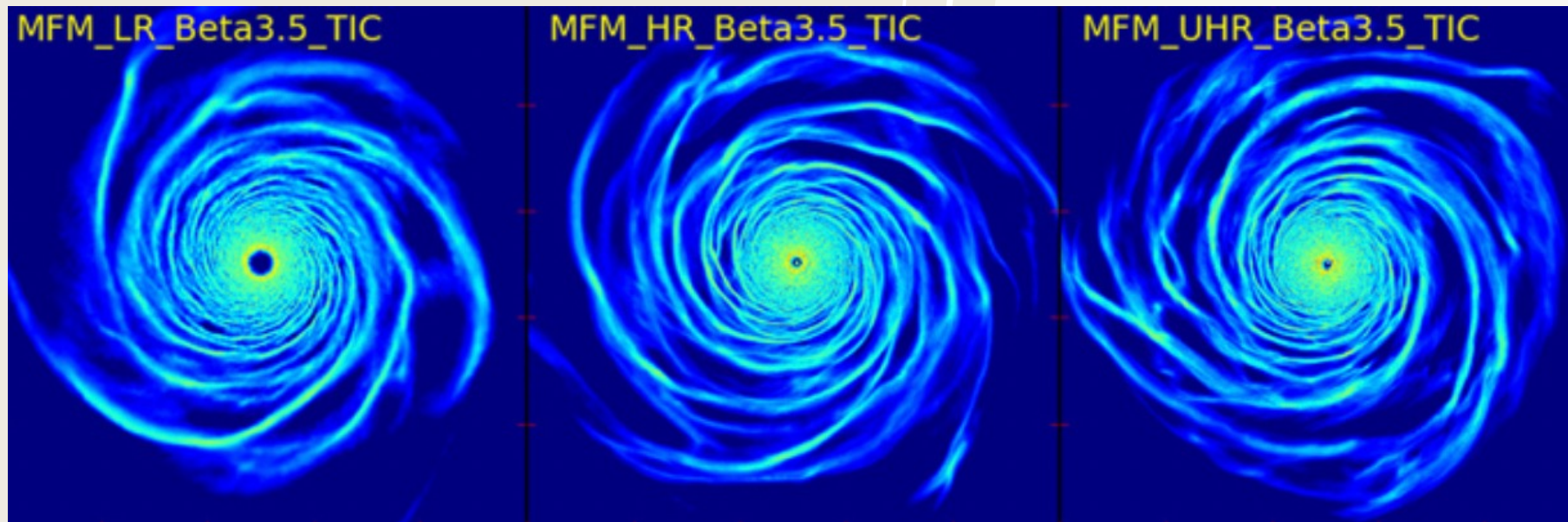
#movies

Grid code simulations, sometime too many fragments...



# GI simulations with moving mesh

Moving mesh and the meshless method, with less numerical viscosity, should be better than SPH



e.g., the critical cooling for spiral to fragment (*Deng et al 2017*)

A circular disk with a central hole, showing a color gradient from red to blue. The text "Distort disks" is overlaid on the right side.

**Distort disks**

t=15300

Even more disks



-8 -6 -4 -2

log column density

# Practical issue: initial condition

How to sample a density field with particles?

Invert the probability function or Monte-Carlo sampling (rejection sampling)

**The density field as  
the probability function  
of the particle distribution**

# Practical issue: initial condition

Assign other fields according to particles positions

Relax the initial condition by damping unwanted random velocity noise in the sampling process.

**Try the GIZMO code (SPH+meshless) and other Lagrangian methods if you like. I am glad to help out.**

# projects

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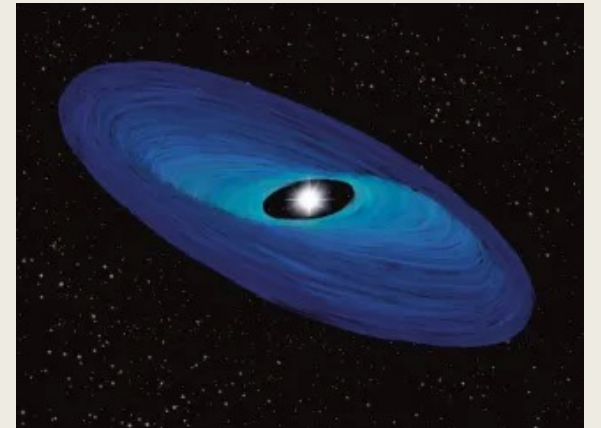
1. Solving for uniformly precessing warp disk structures (cf. Deng & Ogilvie 2022).

Variation of  $\langle L \rangle$  with respect to  $\beta$  gives

$$\frac{d}{dR} \left[ \Sigma_0 H_0 \left( -\frac{d\bar{L}}{d\chi} \right) e_1 \right] = \frac{\Sigma_0 Q^2 \cos \beta \sin \beta}{R^2 (1 - e_1^2)^{3/2}} \quad (20)$$

and variation of  $\langle L \rangle$  with respect to  $e_1$  gives

$$R^2 H_0 \left( -\frac{d\bar{L}}{d\chi} \right) \frac{d\beta}{dR} = \frac{Q^2 (3 \cos^2 \beta - 1) e_1}{2(1 - e_1^2)^{5/2}}. \quad (21)$$

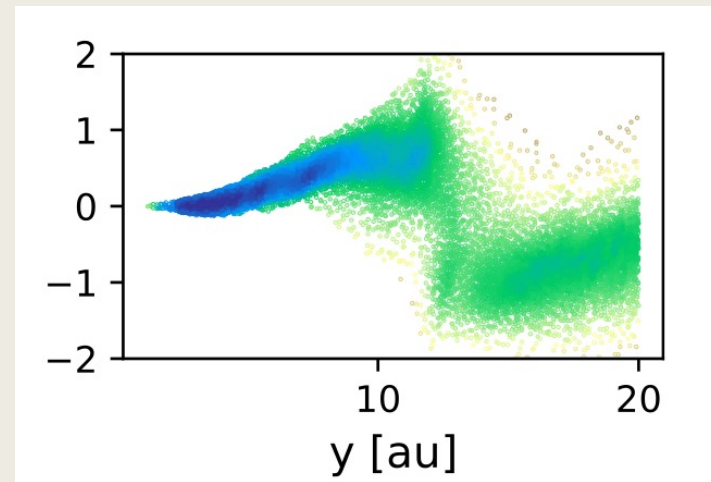
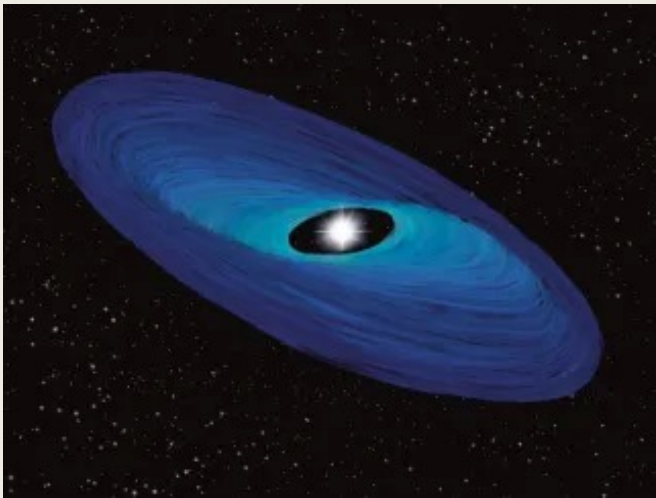




# projects

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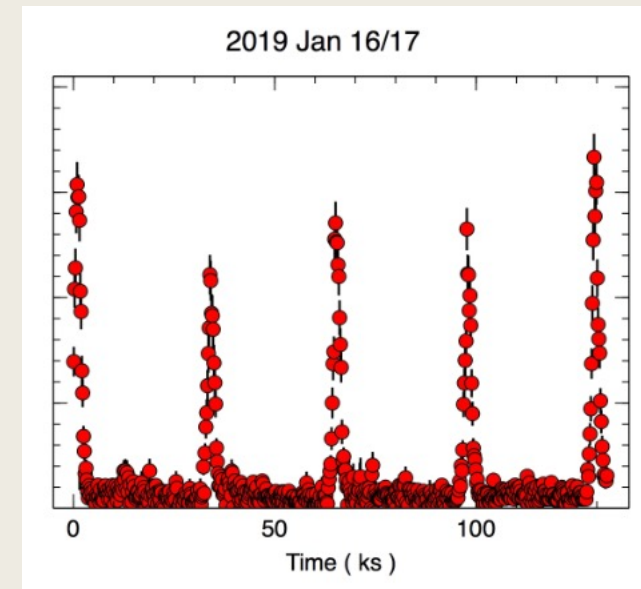
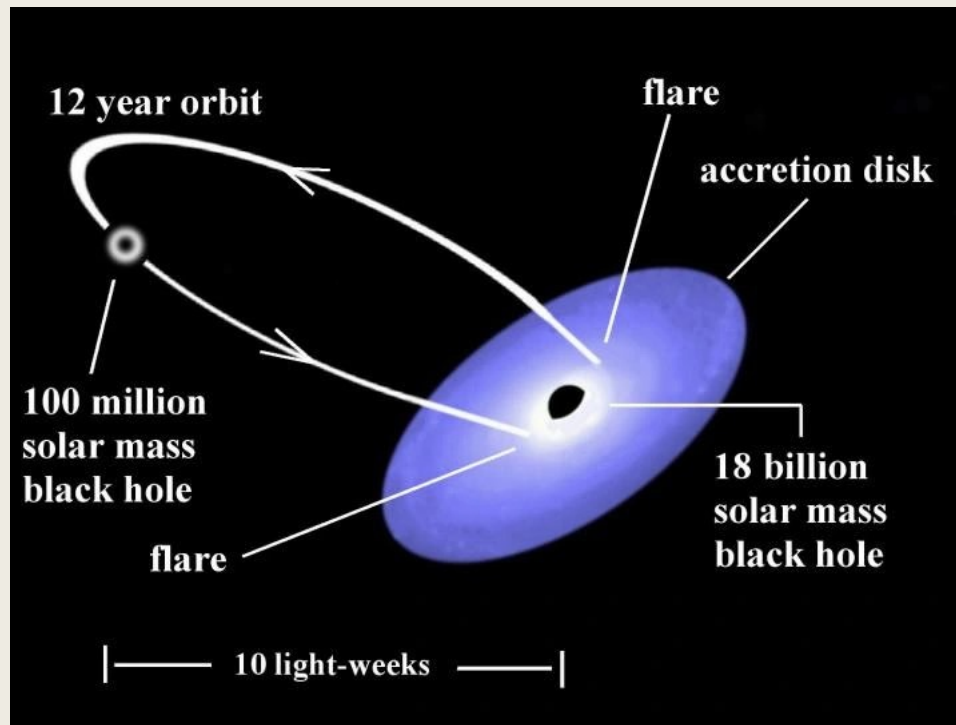
2. Break up a warped disk in hydrodynamic simulations



# projects

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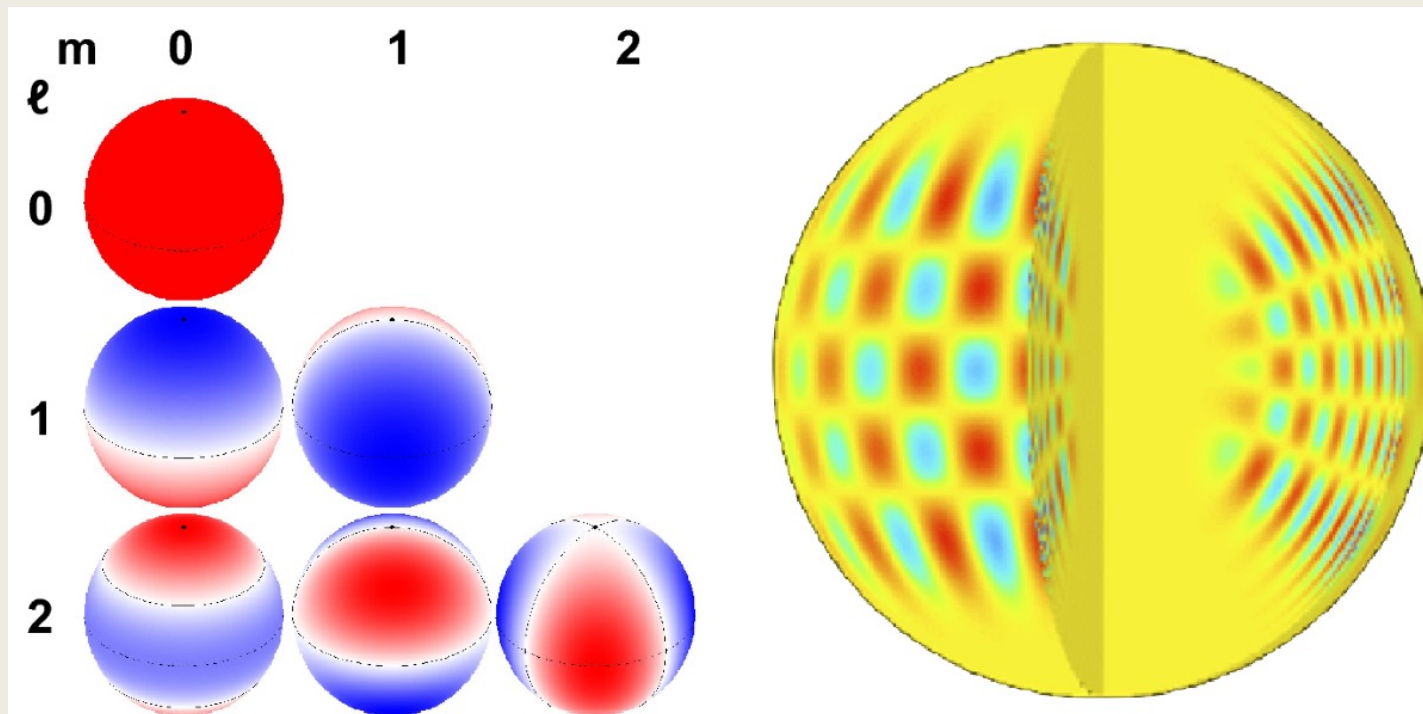
## 3. Punching a disk and eruptive events



# projects

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4. Hydrodynamic simulation of oscillating stars to pave the way towards direct simulations of convections in tidally distorted stars.



# projects

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5. Applying moving mesh method in the AREPO code to planetary impact by merge our EOS library into the AREPO code.

