



# Disc IMRI Code Comparison

LISA Astro Working Group Project

Andrea Derdzinski (Fisk University) *she/they*

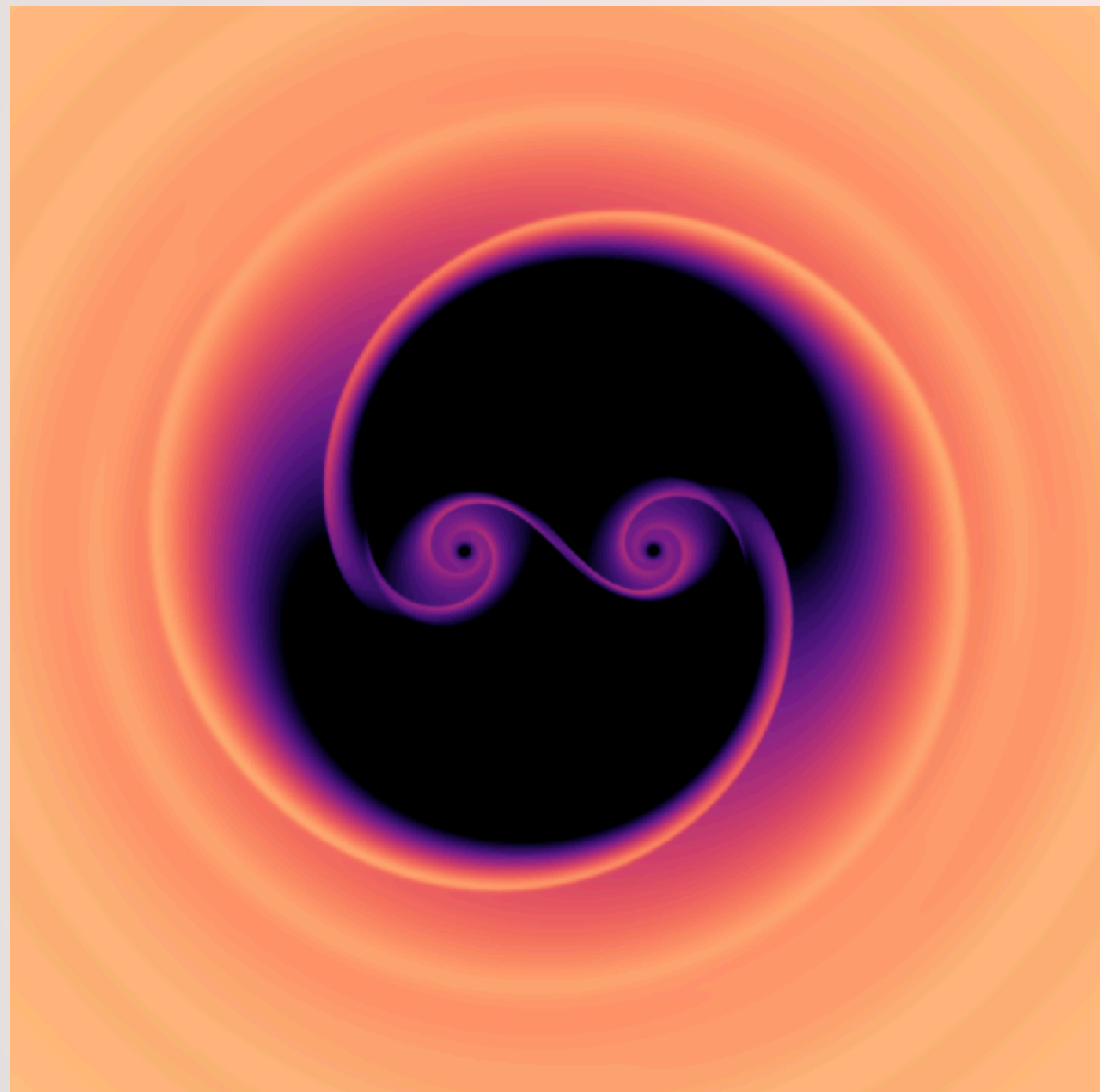
with Alexander Dittmann, Alessia Franchini, Alessandro Lupi,  
Noé Brucey, Pedro Capelo, Daniel J D'Orazio, Mudit Garg, Frédéric Masset, Lucio Mayer, Jonathan Menu, Raphaël Mignon-Risse,  
Michael Rizzo Smith, Roberto Serafinelli, Olga Sergijenko, Martina Toscani, David, A. Velasco Romero, Robert Wissing

LISA Astrophysics Working Group meeting, MPA Garching, 4 November 2024

# Science Target

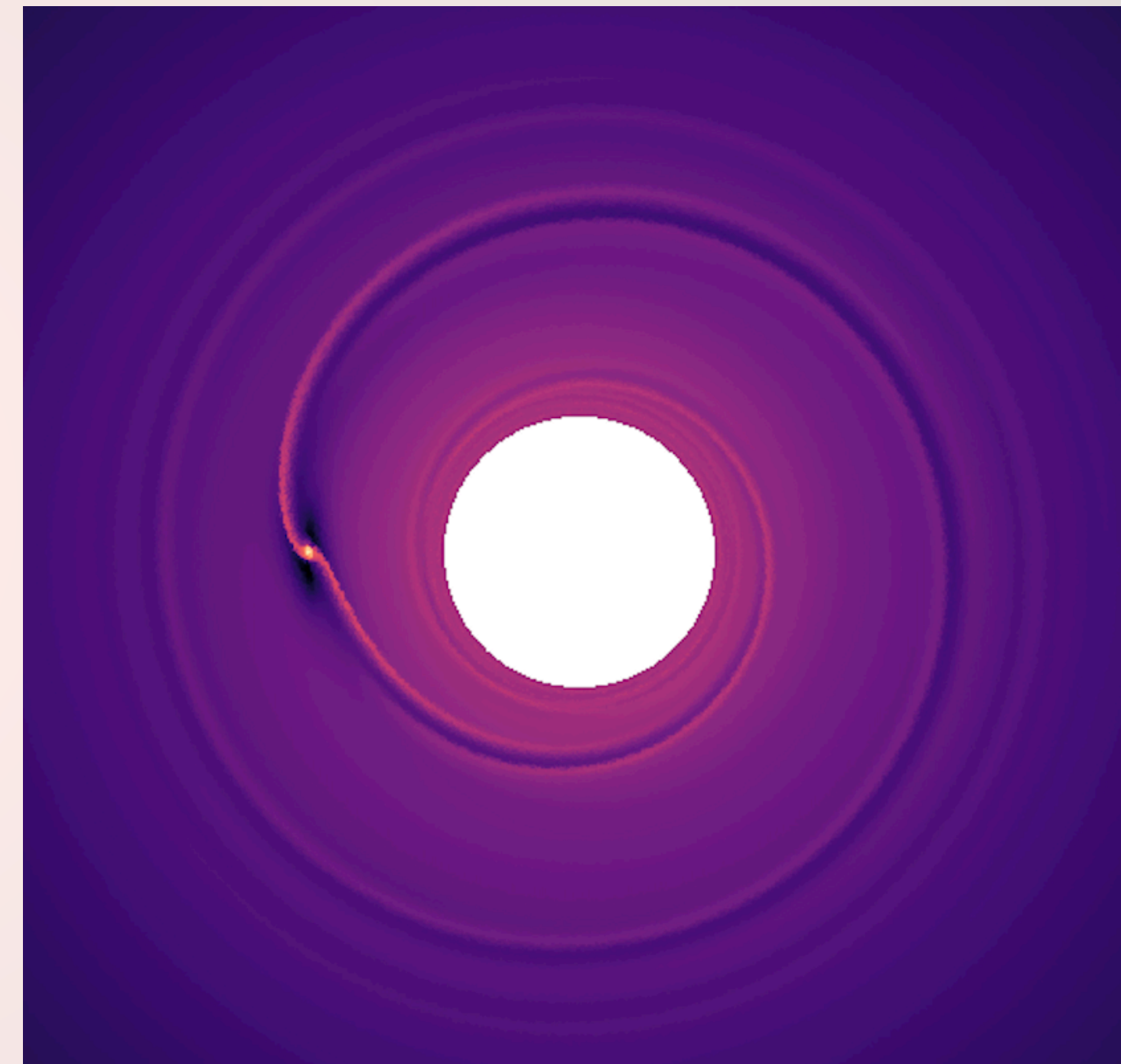
Study the convergence of torques and flow of gas around highly unequal mass binary system.

$$q = M_2/M_1 = 1$$



Duffell et al. 2024

$$q \ll 1$$



This work

# Motivation

- How does gas impede or drive the binary inspiral?
- Are there characteristic EM counterparts?
- Implications for binary formation and merger rates
- How will gas interactions manifest in gravitational waves?

# The Team

Noé Brucey, Pedro Capelo, Daniel J D'Orazio, **Andrea Derdzinski**,  
**Alexander Dittmann**, **Alessia Franchini**, Mudit Garg, **Alessandro Lupi**,  
Frédéric Masset, Lucio Mayer, Jonathan Menu, Raphaël Mignon-Risse,  
Michael Rizzo Smith, Roberto Serafinelli, Olga Sergijenko, Martina  
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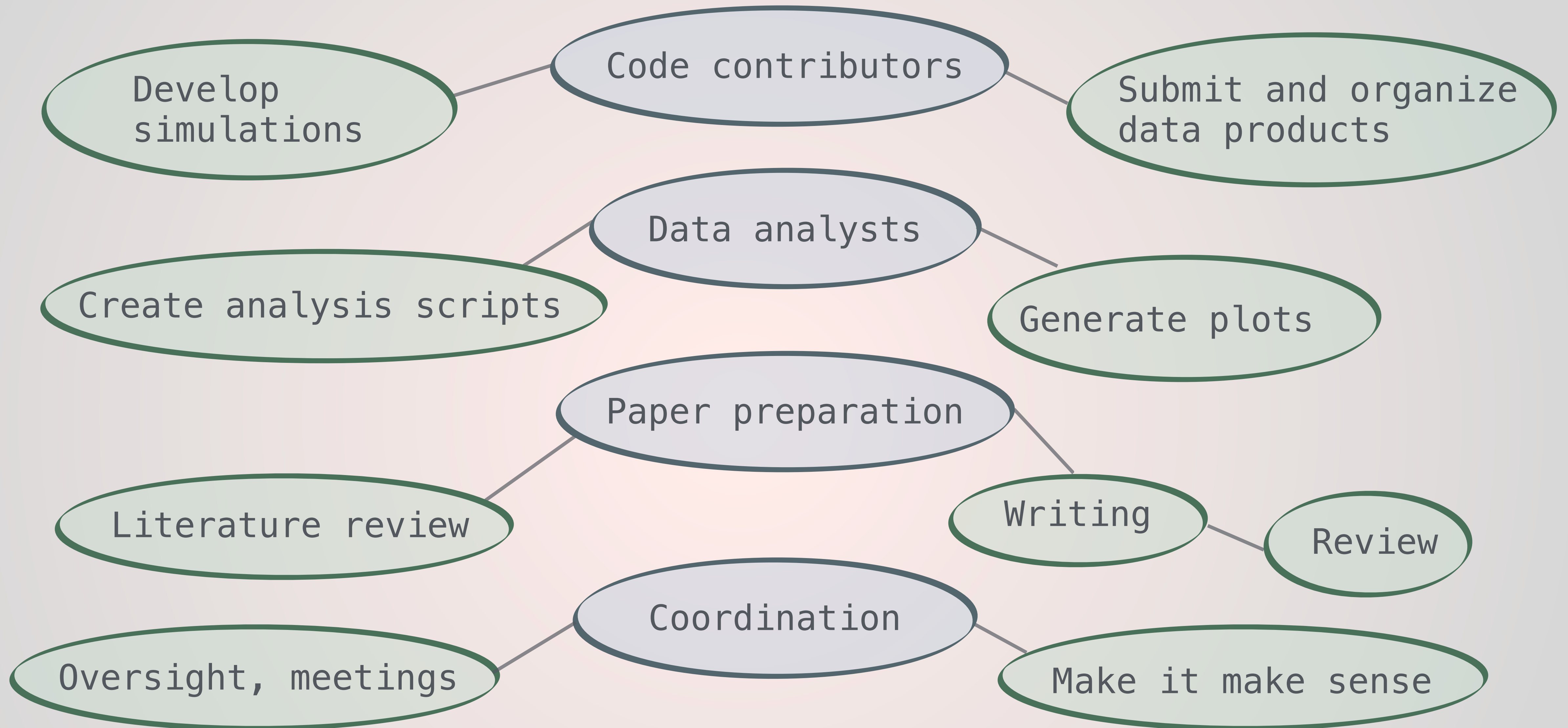


PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

KU LEUVEN



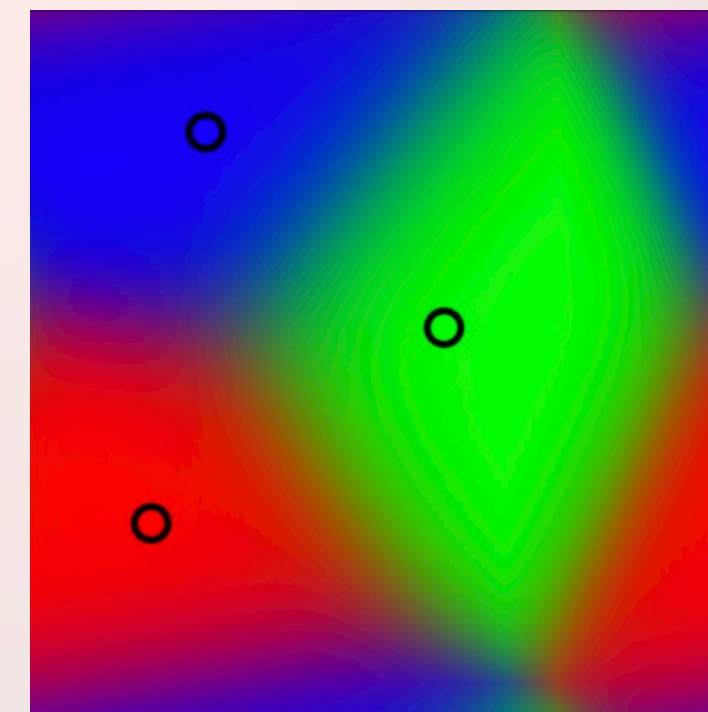
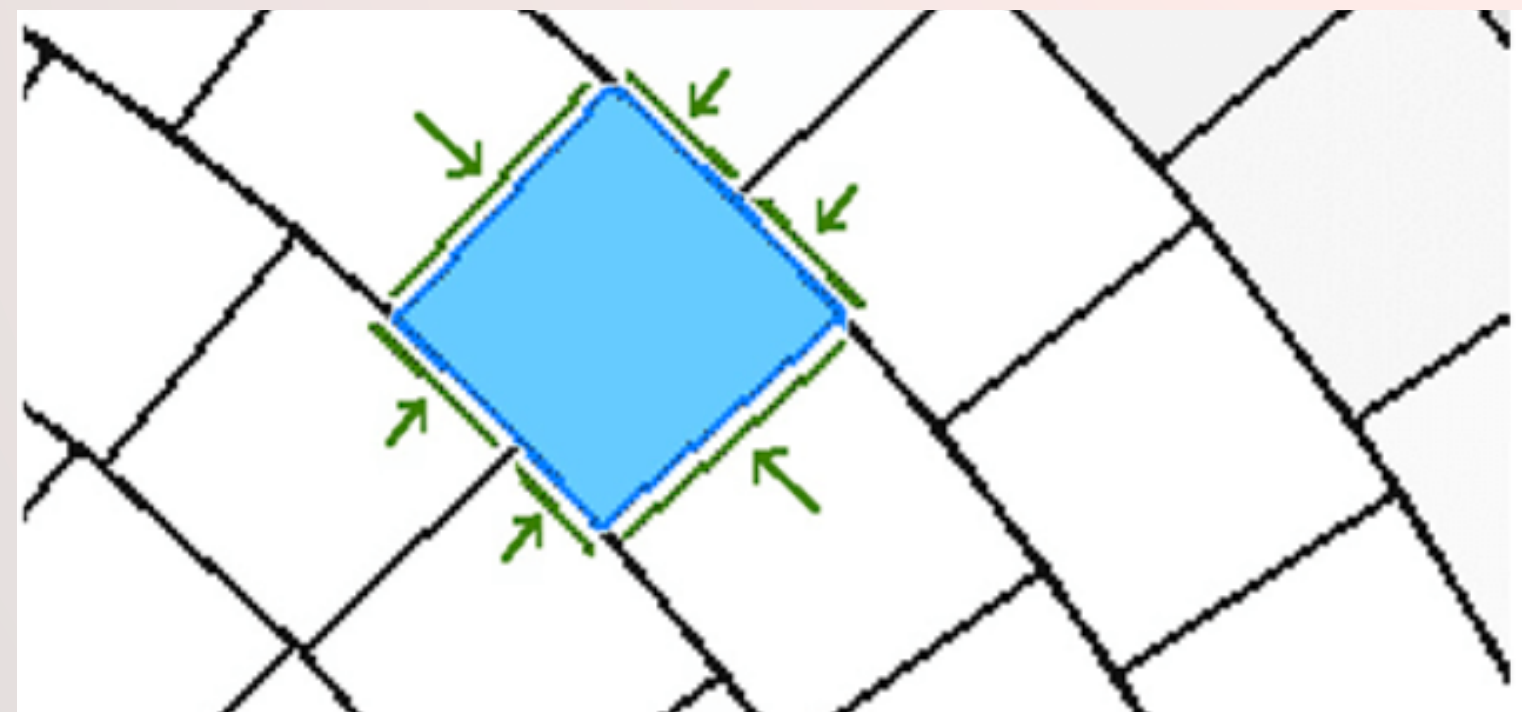
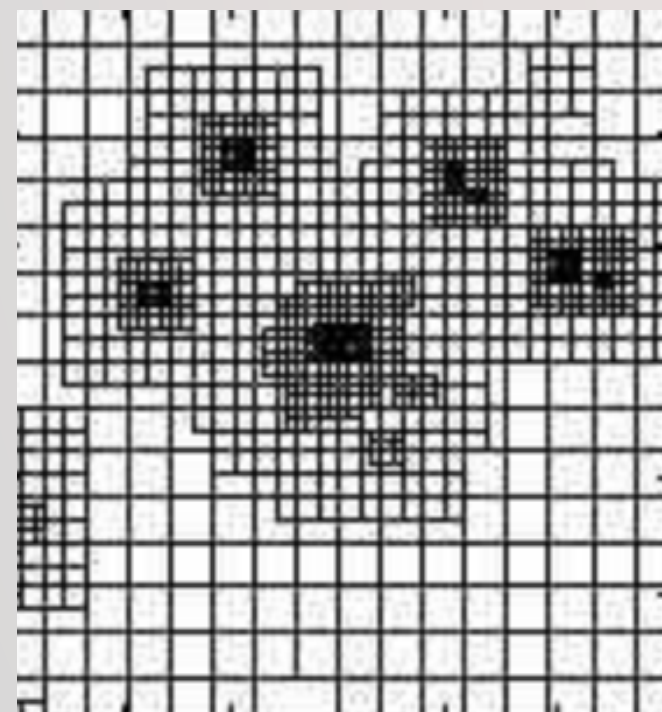
# Collaboration structure



# Codes and techniques

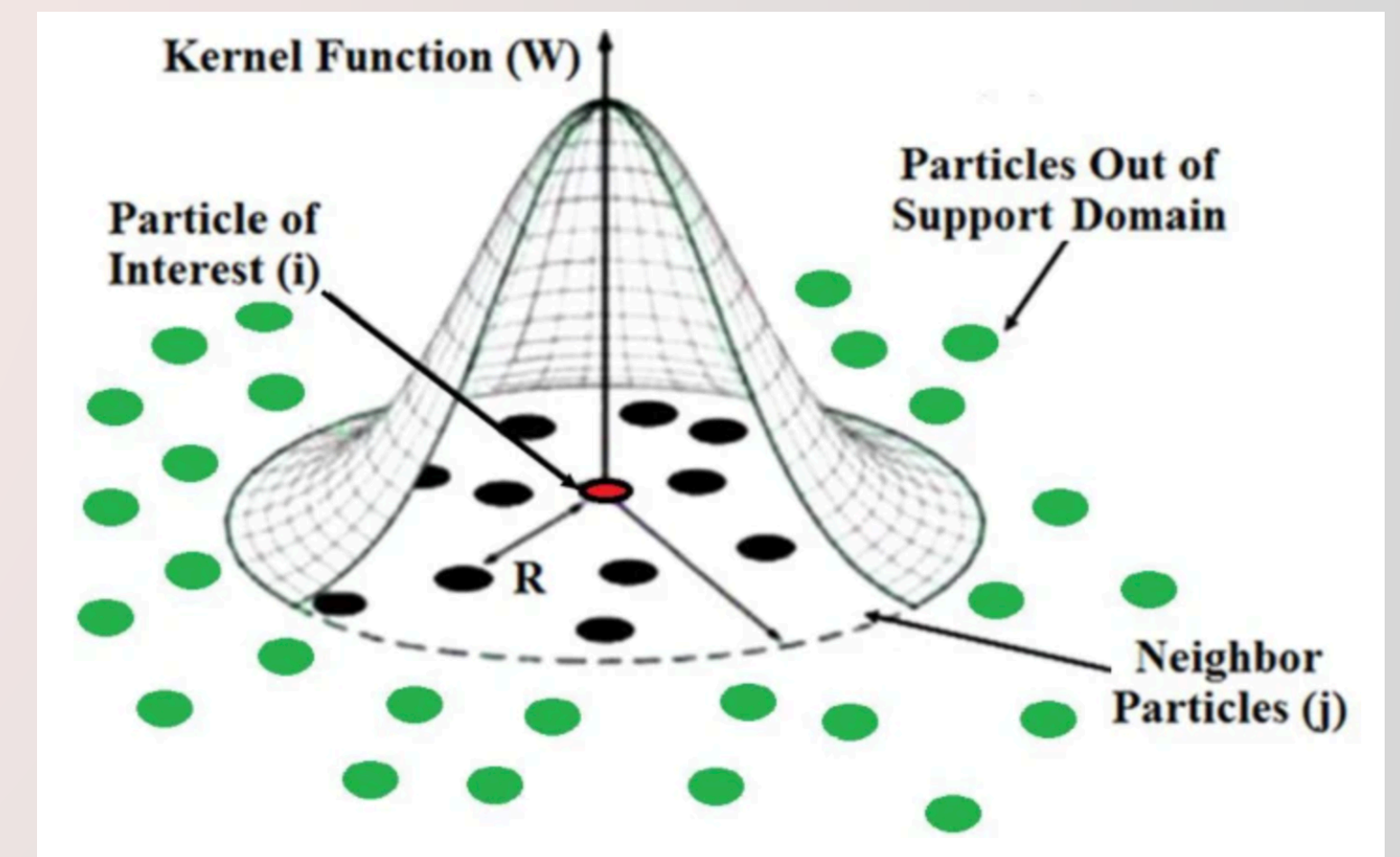
## Eulerian (2D)

- Athena++ (Fixed mesh / AMR)  
Stone et al, 2020
- DISCO (Cylindrical moving mesh)  
Duffell 2016
- FARGO3D (Staggered mesh)  
Benítez-Llambay & Masset 2016
- RAMSES (Cartesian AMR)  
Teyssier 2001



## Lagrangian (3D)

- GIZMO (Meshless Finite Mass)  
Hopkins 2014
- PHANTOM (SPH)  
Price et al. 2018
- GASOLINE2 (SPH)  
Wadsley et al. 2017



# Simulation setup

sub-parsec scale accretion disk around an SMBH

## Disk:

- Geometrically thin  $h \ll r$
- Disk mass  $\ll$  binary mass
- Isothermal
- Viscosity:  $\alpha = 0.1$

## Binary:

- $q = M_2/M_1 = 10^{-4}$
- Fixed, circular orbit

Disk thickness:

$$\text{Mach} = (h/r)^{-1}$$



# Parameter choices

Pushing towards the 'AGN-like' regime: highly viscous thin disk

$$r_{\text{Hill}} = \left(\frac{q}{3}\right)^{1/3} r$$

**Run 1:**  $r_{\text{Hill}} < h$



**Run 2:**  $r_{\text{Hill}} > h$



Linear predictions:  
Tanaka & Ward 2002,  
Tanaka & Okada 2024,  
Paardekooper et al. 2010

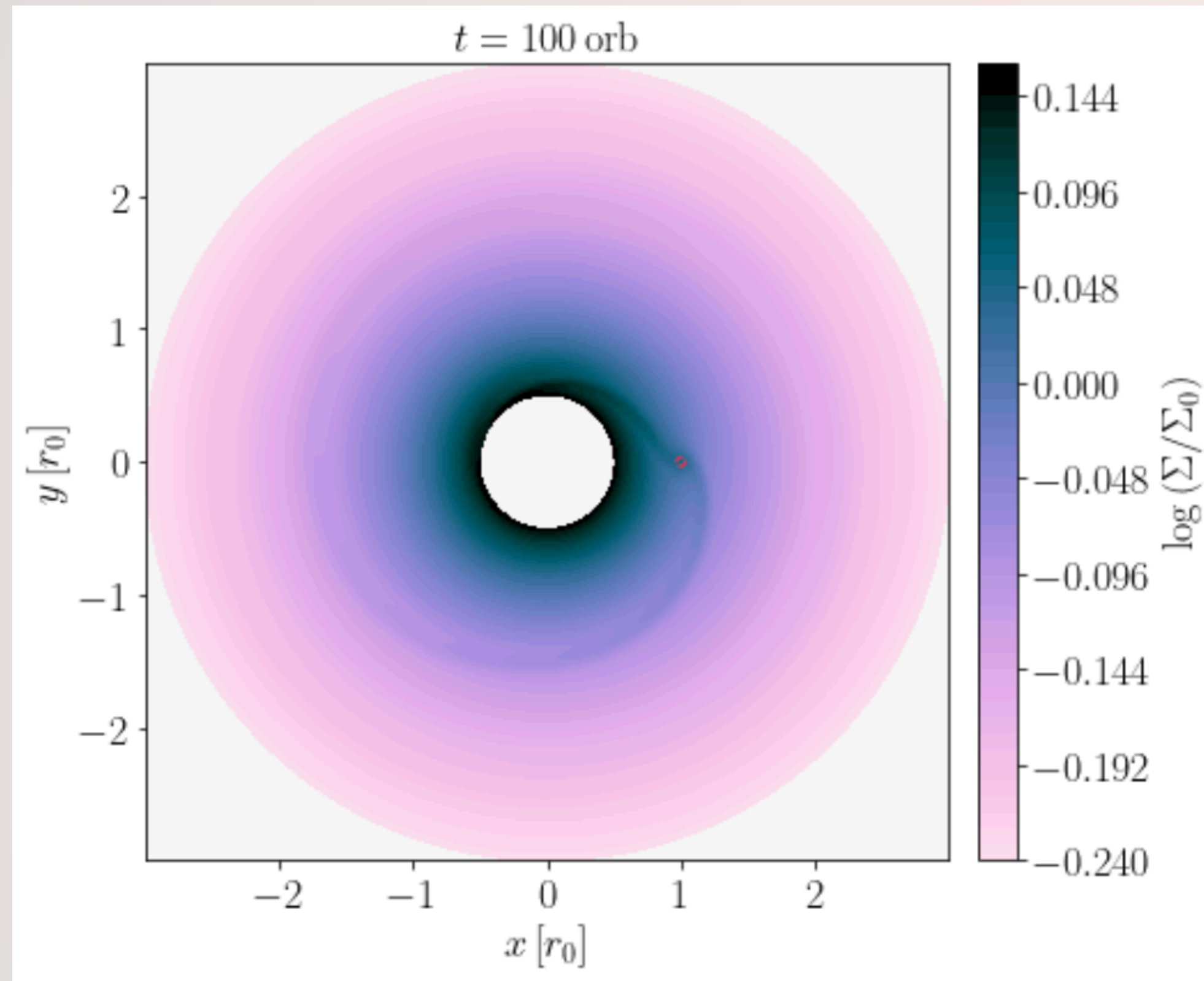
Mass exceeds the thermal  
mass – no analytical  
predictions!



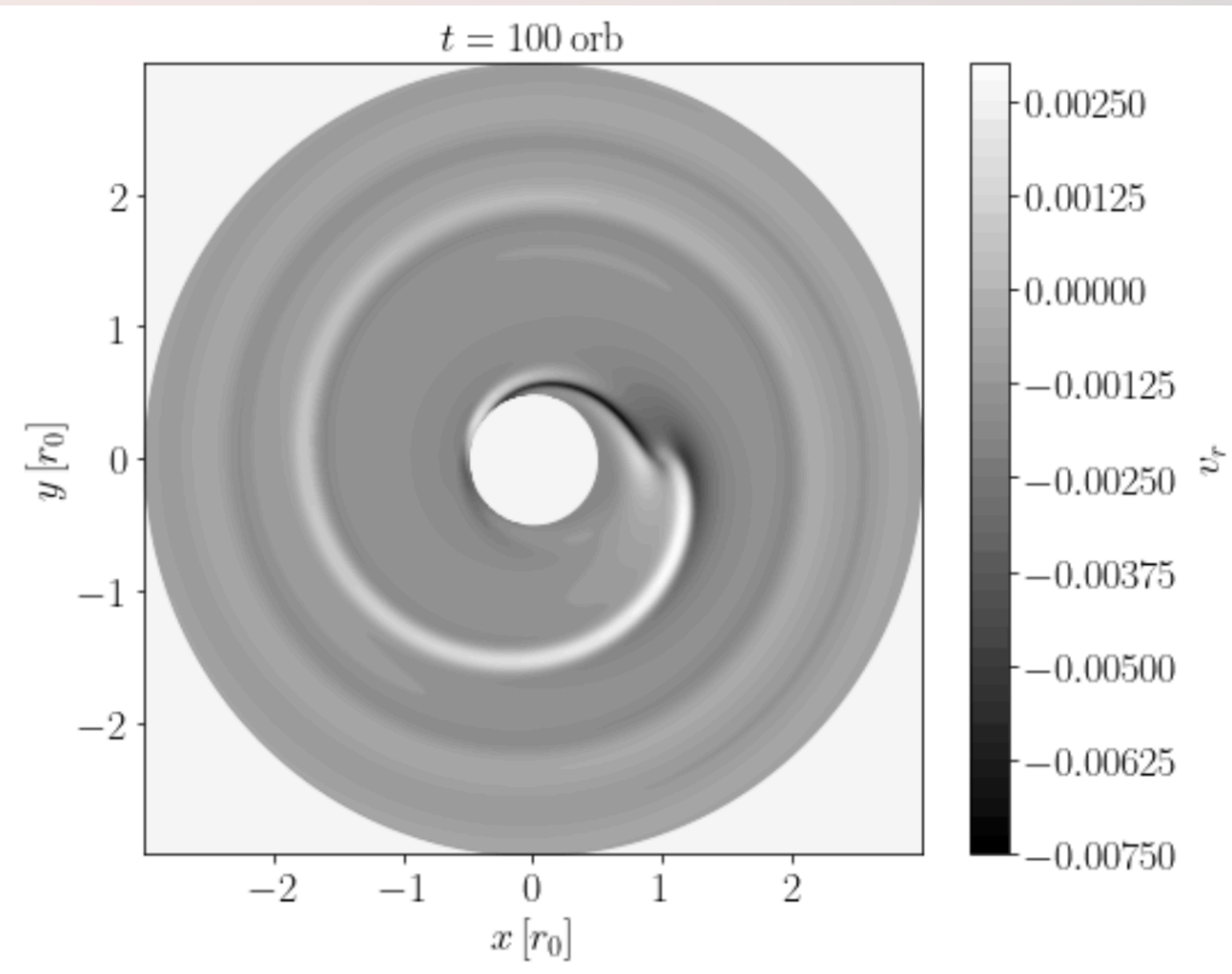
# Gas morphology

Formation of spiral density waves, diffuse with high viscosity

Surface density



Radial velocity

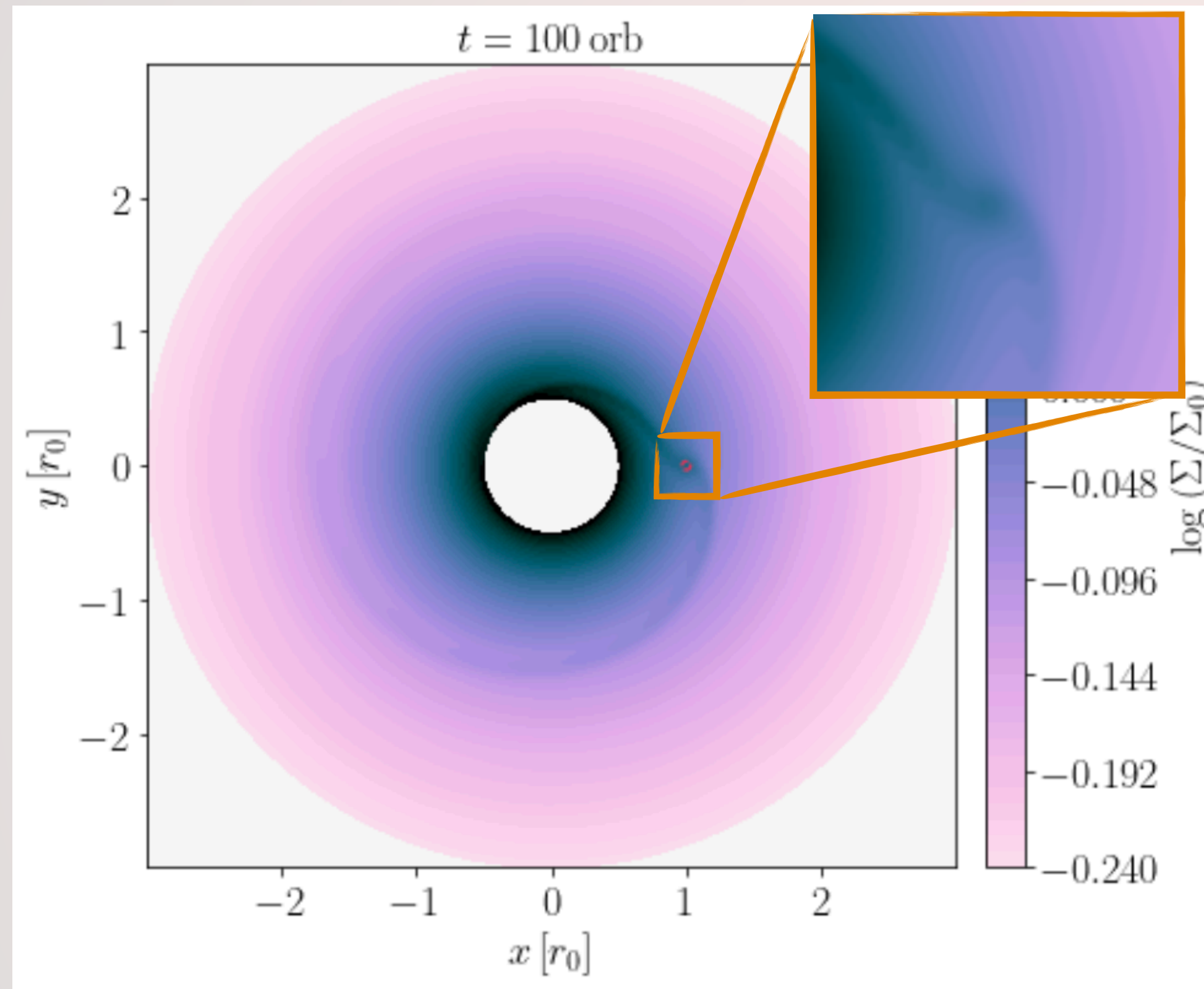


DISCO

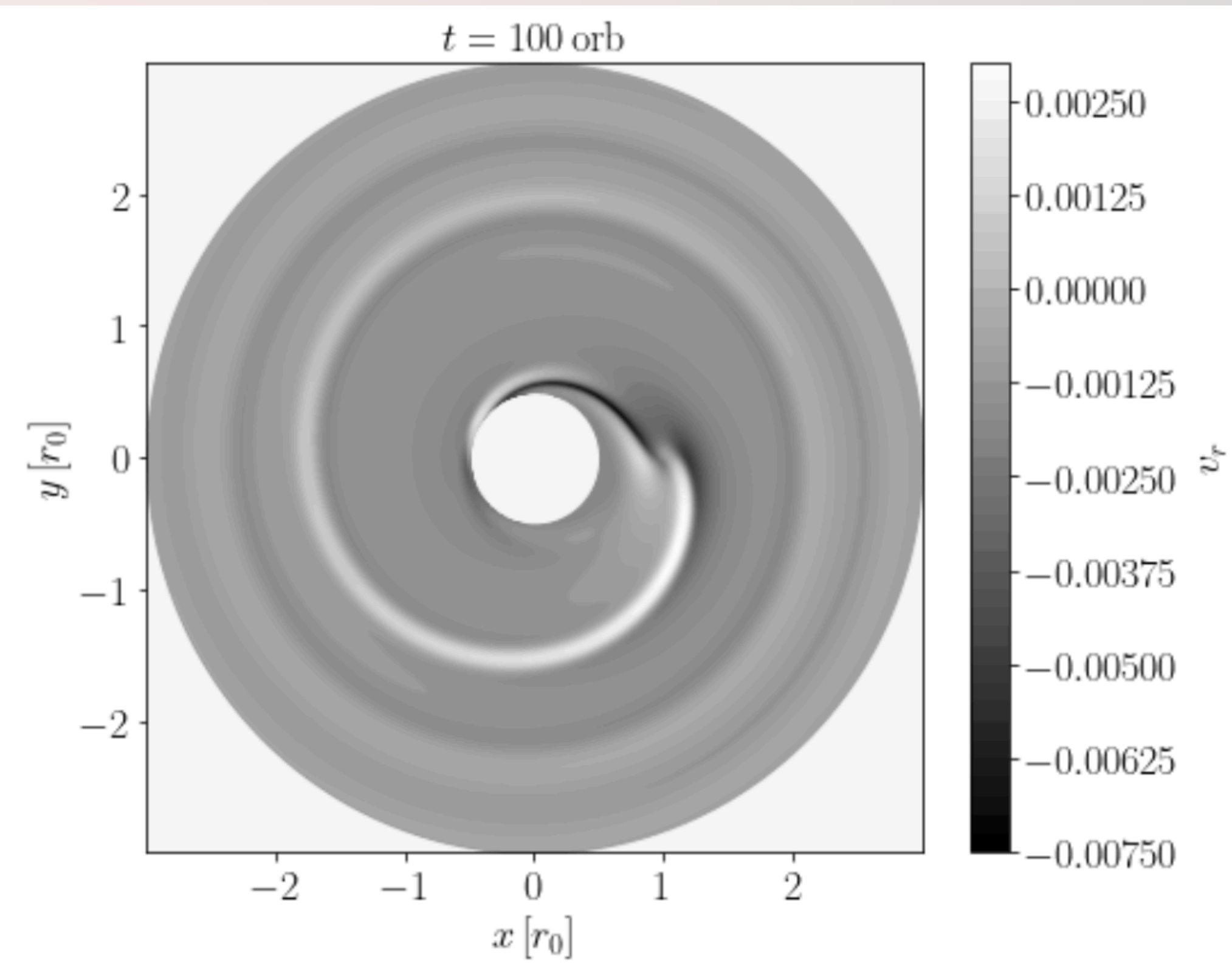
# Gas morphology

Formation of spiral density waves, diffuse with high viscosity

Surface density



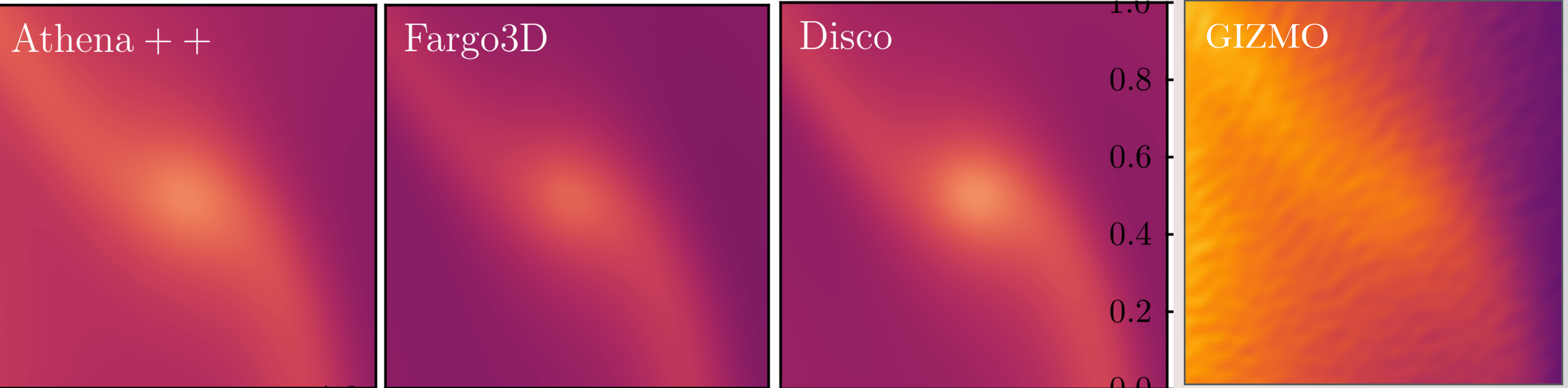
Radial velocity



DISCO

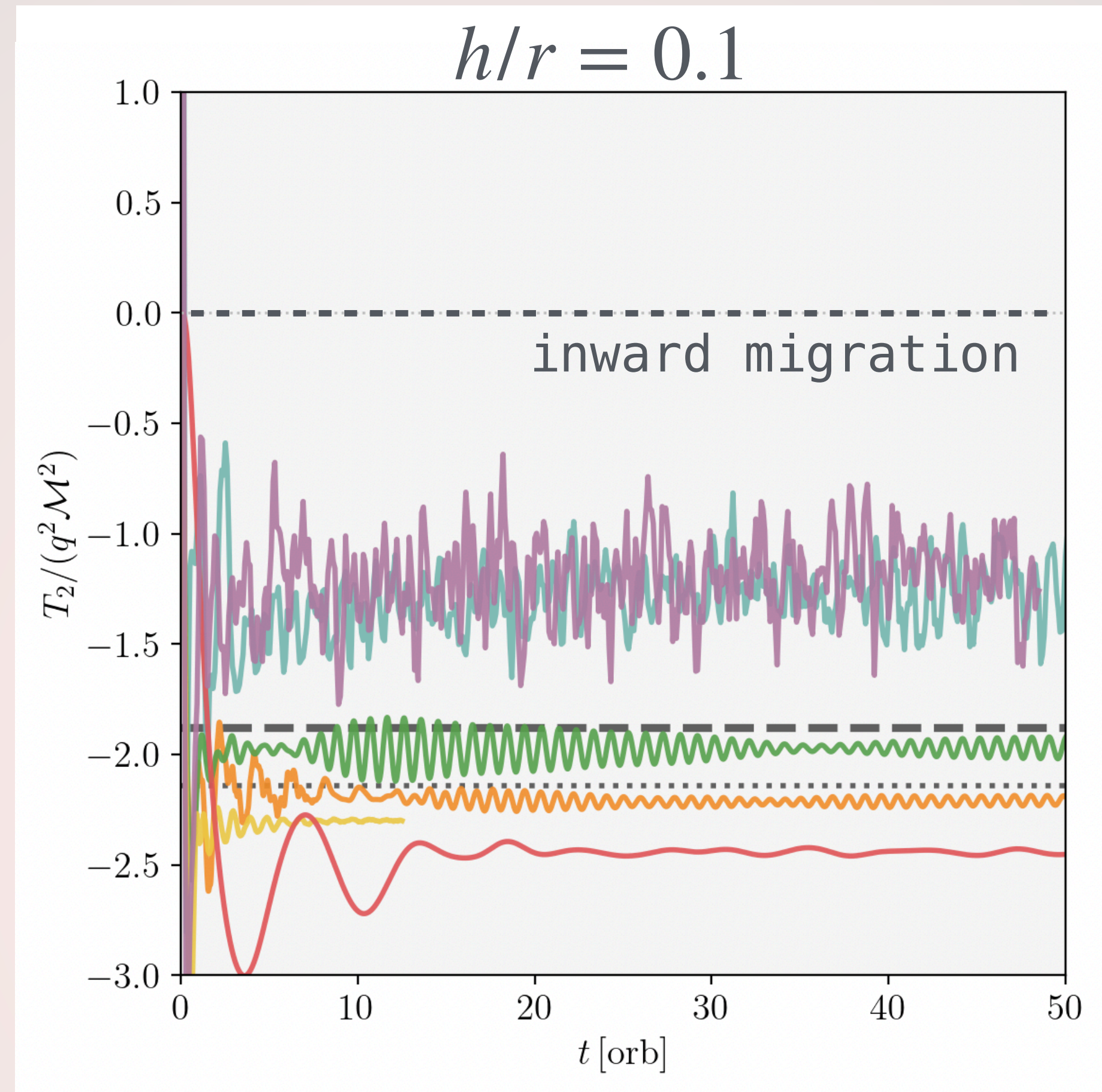
# Gas morphology

Moderately thin disk ( $h/r = 0.1$ )



# Nonaxisymmetries exert torques

Torque on secondary  
vs time



Analytical estimates

— athena++

— fargo3d

— disco

— Paardekooper + 2010

— gizmo

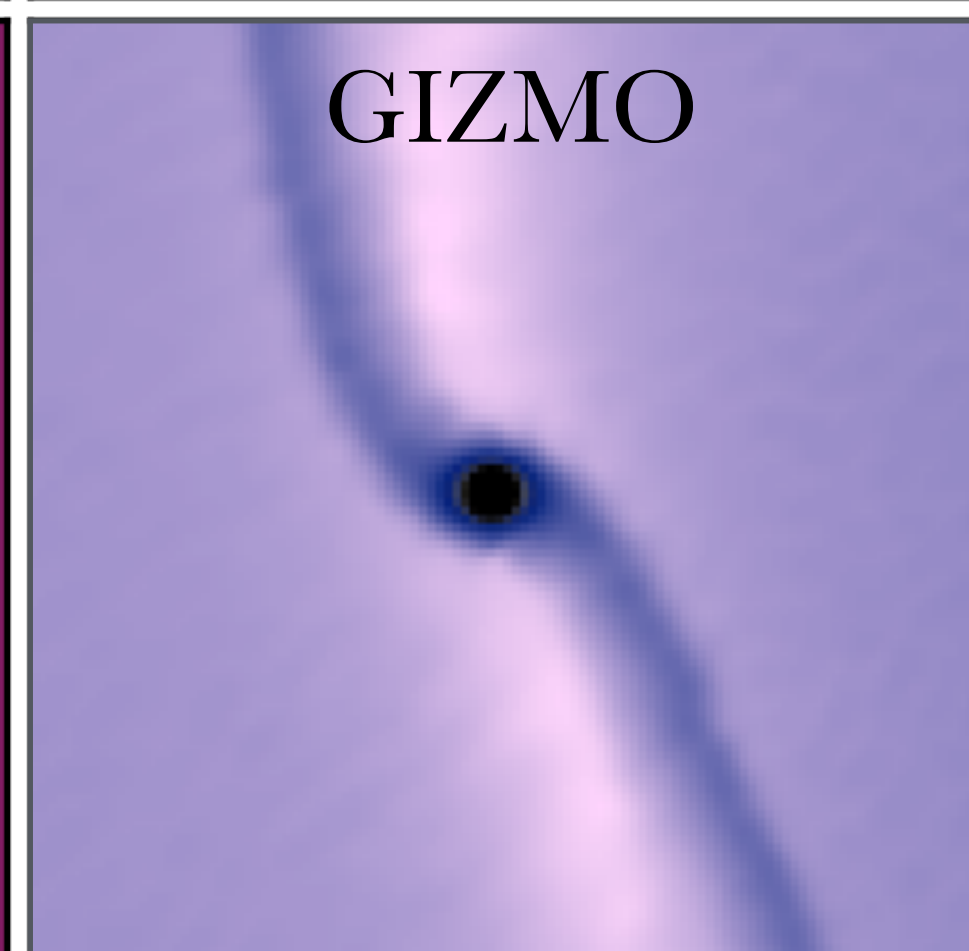
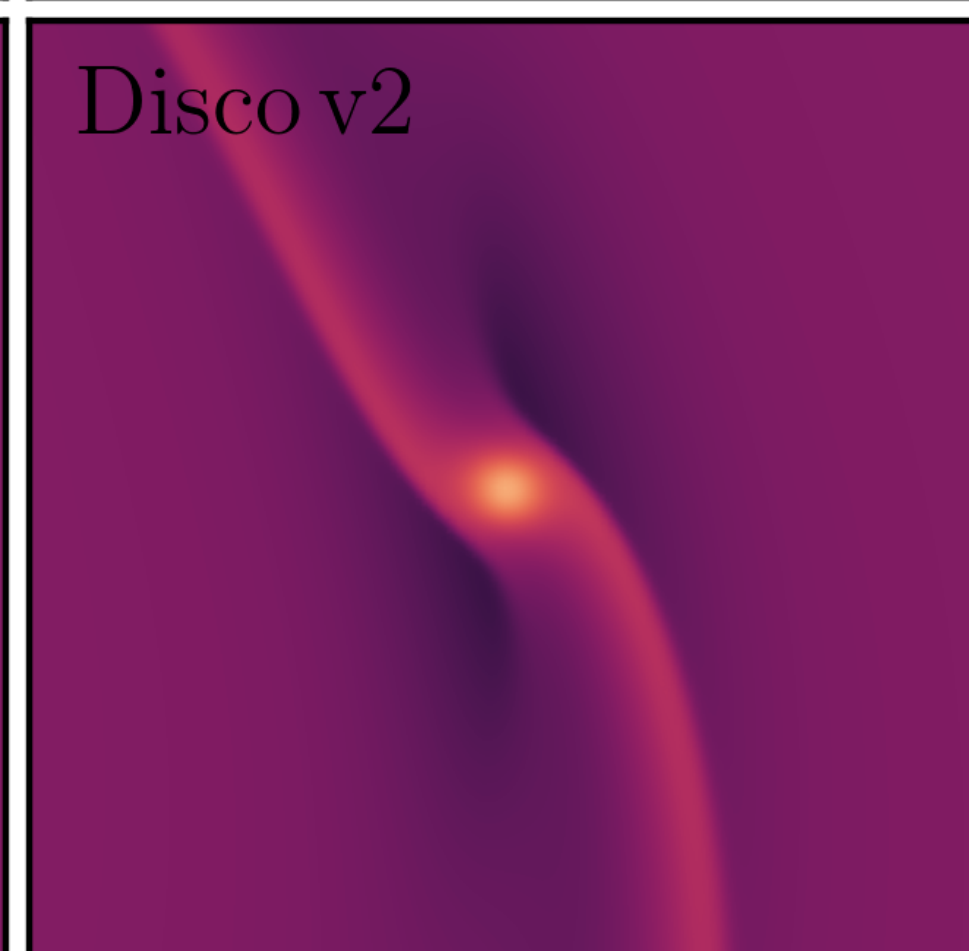
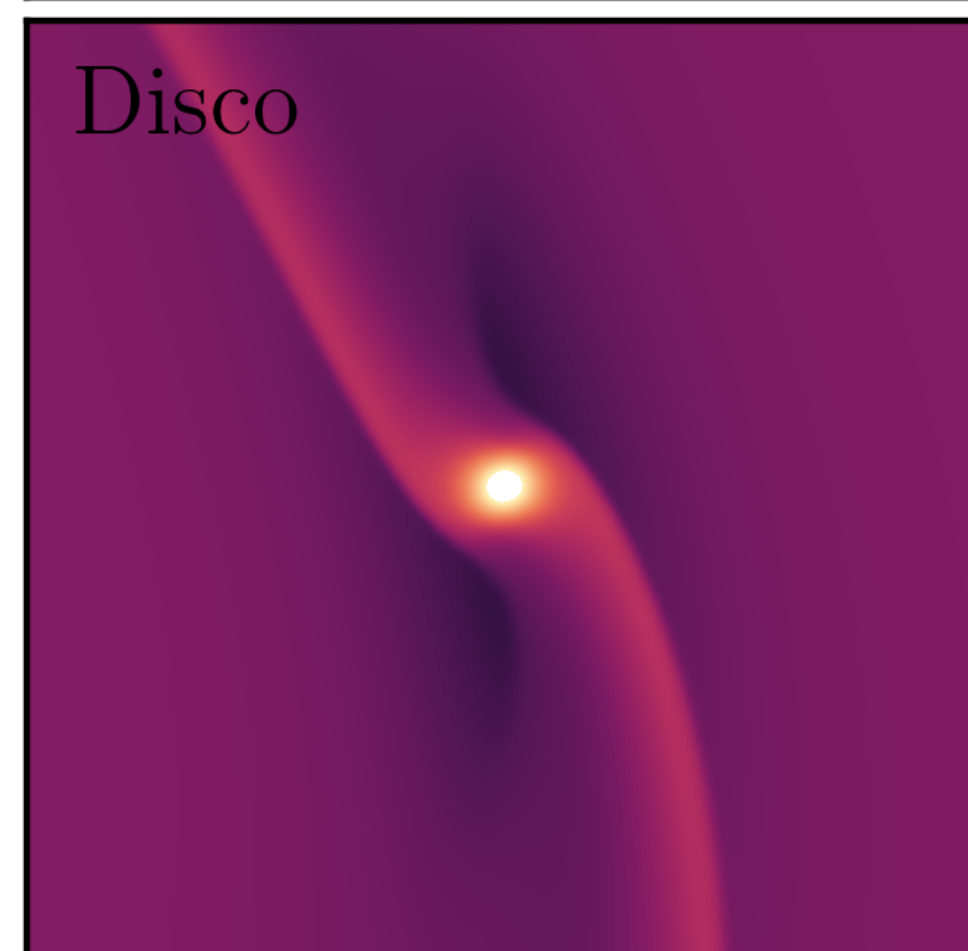
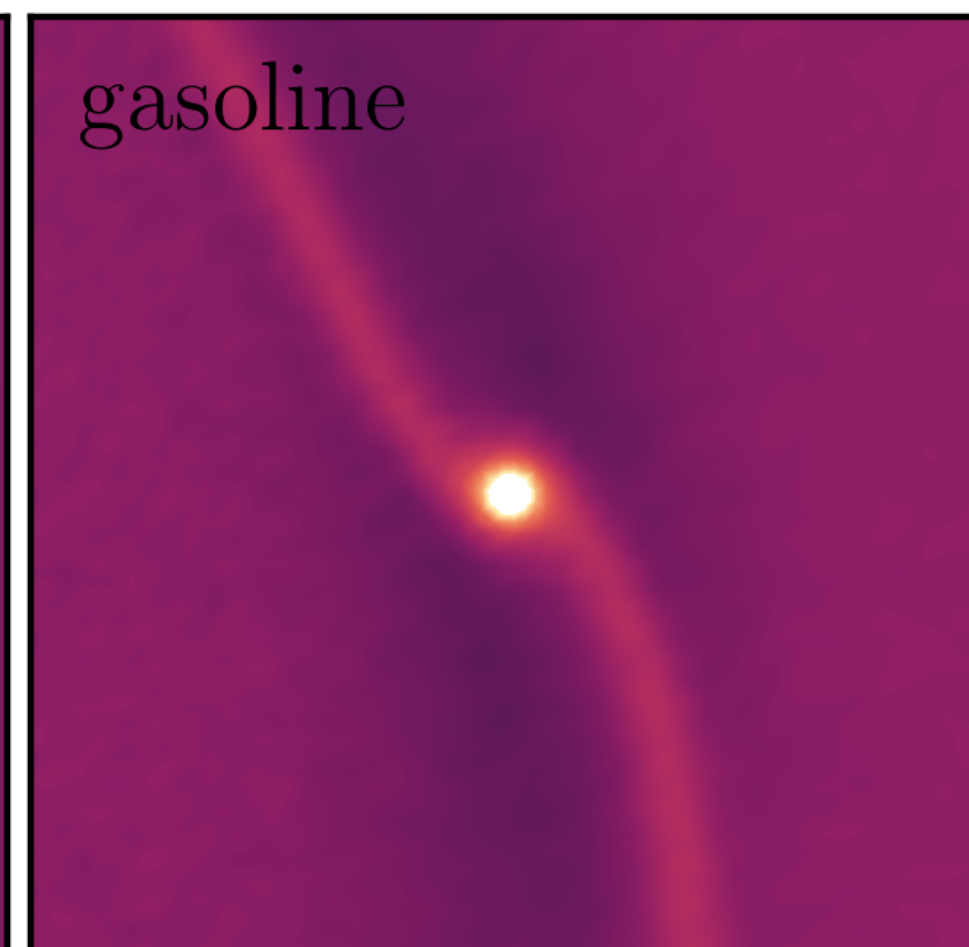
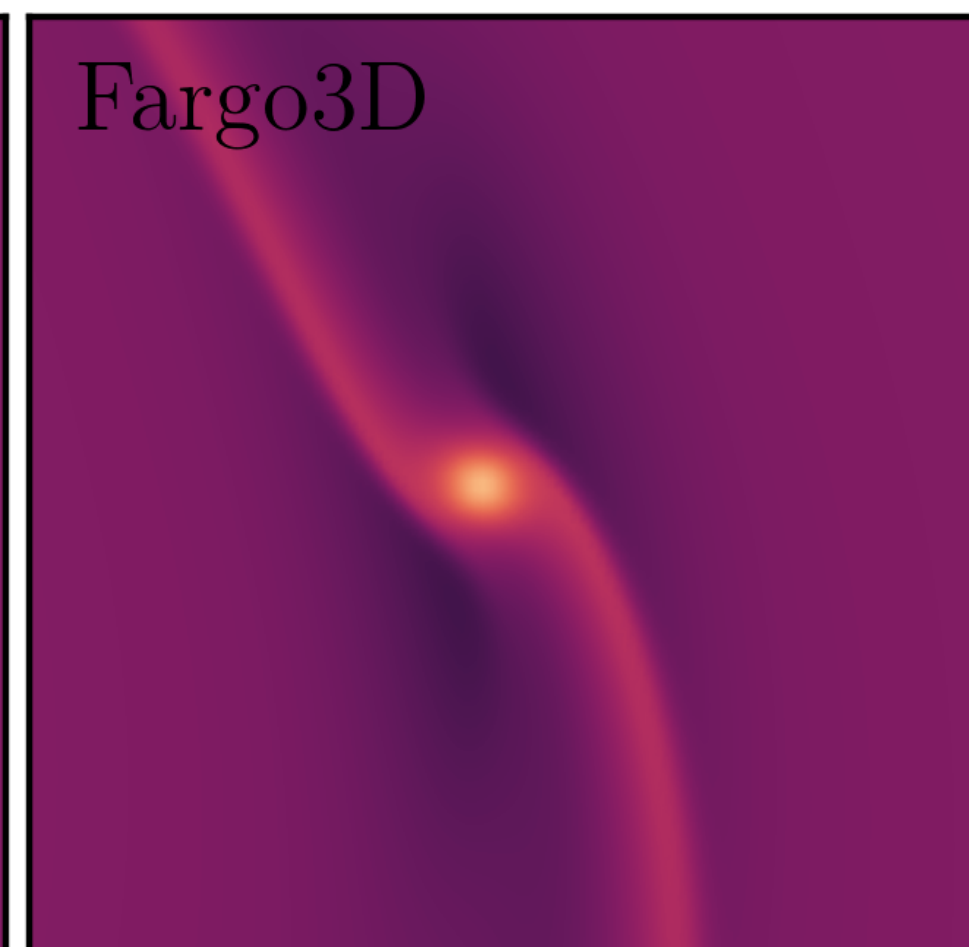
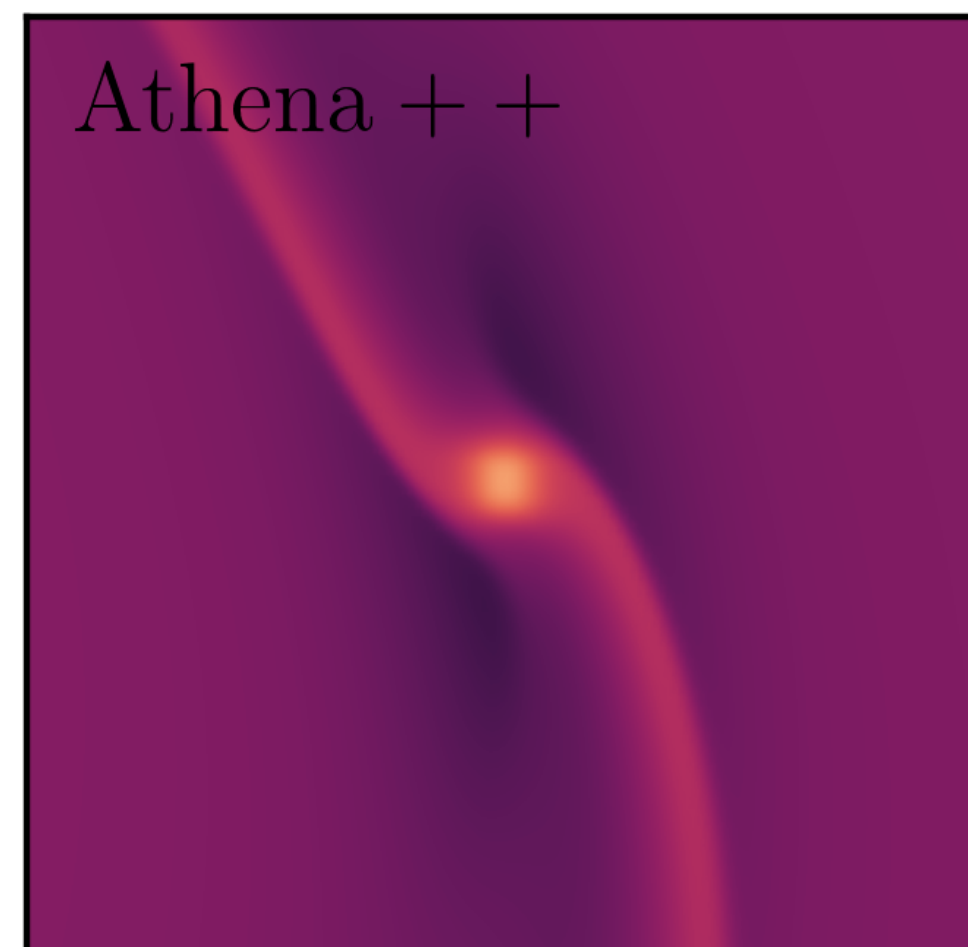
— ramses

— phantom

· · · Tanaka&Okada2024(3D)

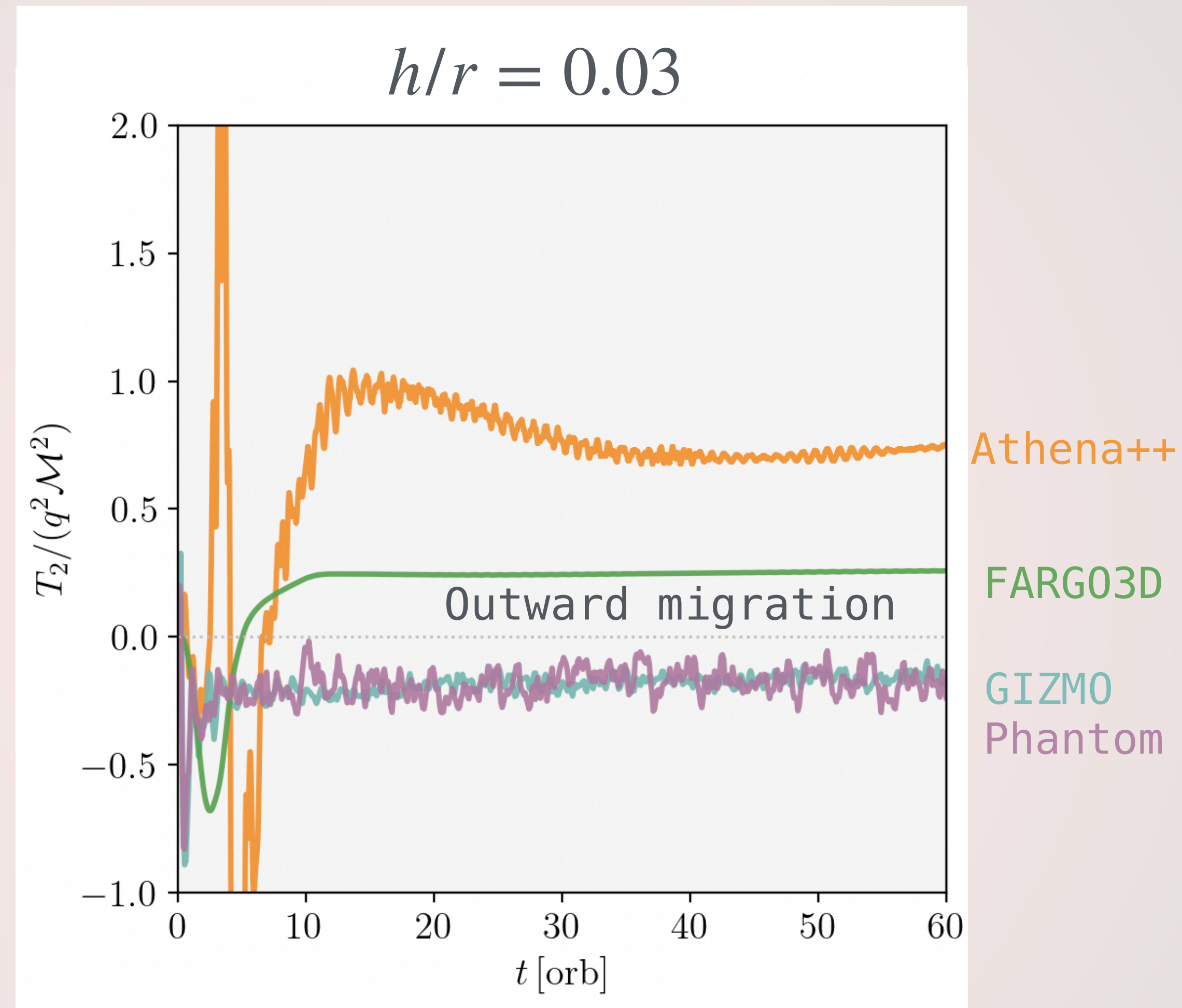
# Gas morphology

Thin disk run ( $h/r = 0.03$ ): sharper features



# (Mostly) positive torques for thinner disk

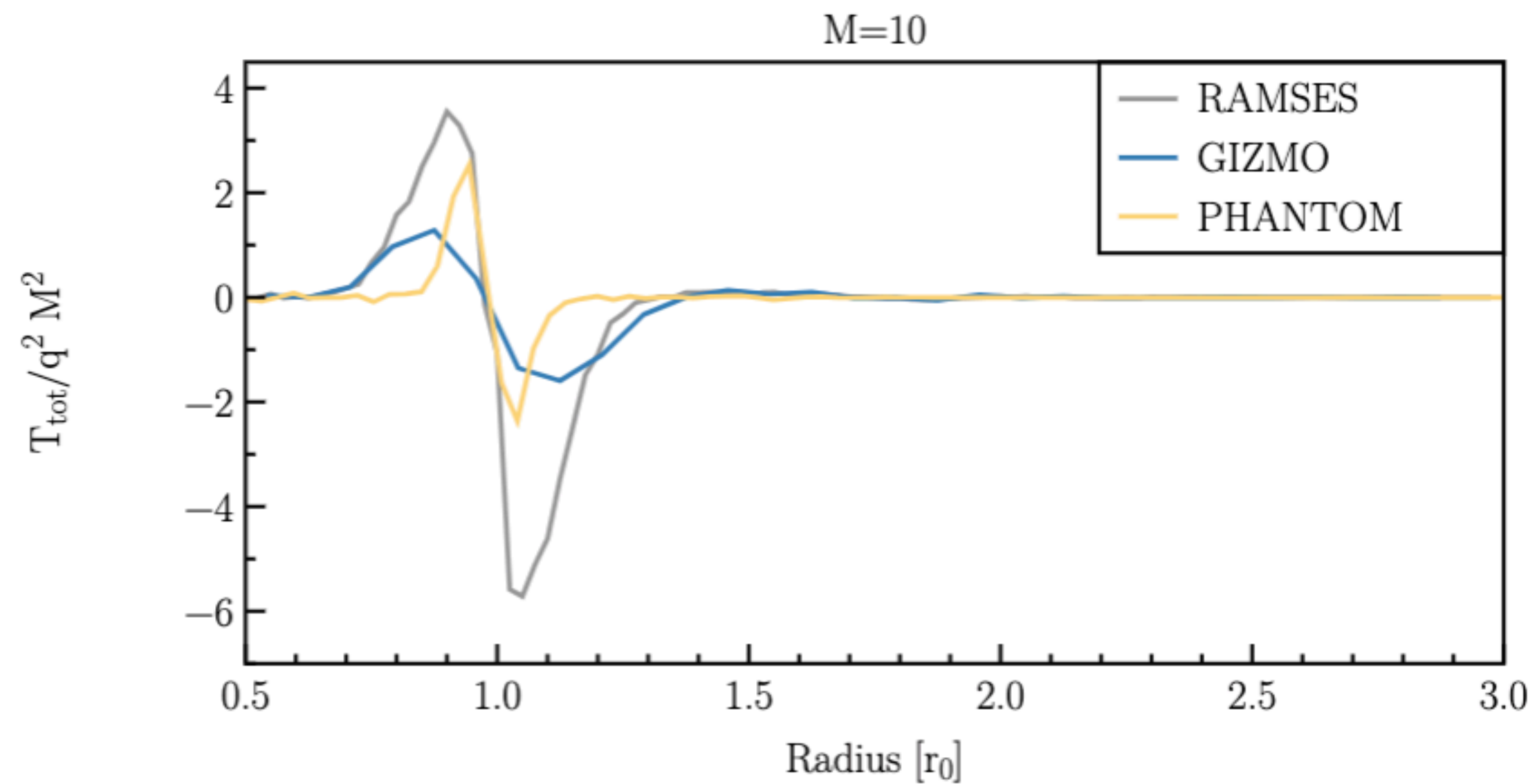
Torque on secondary  
vs time



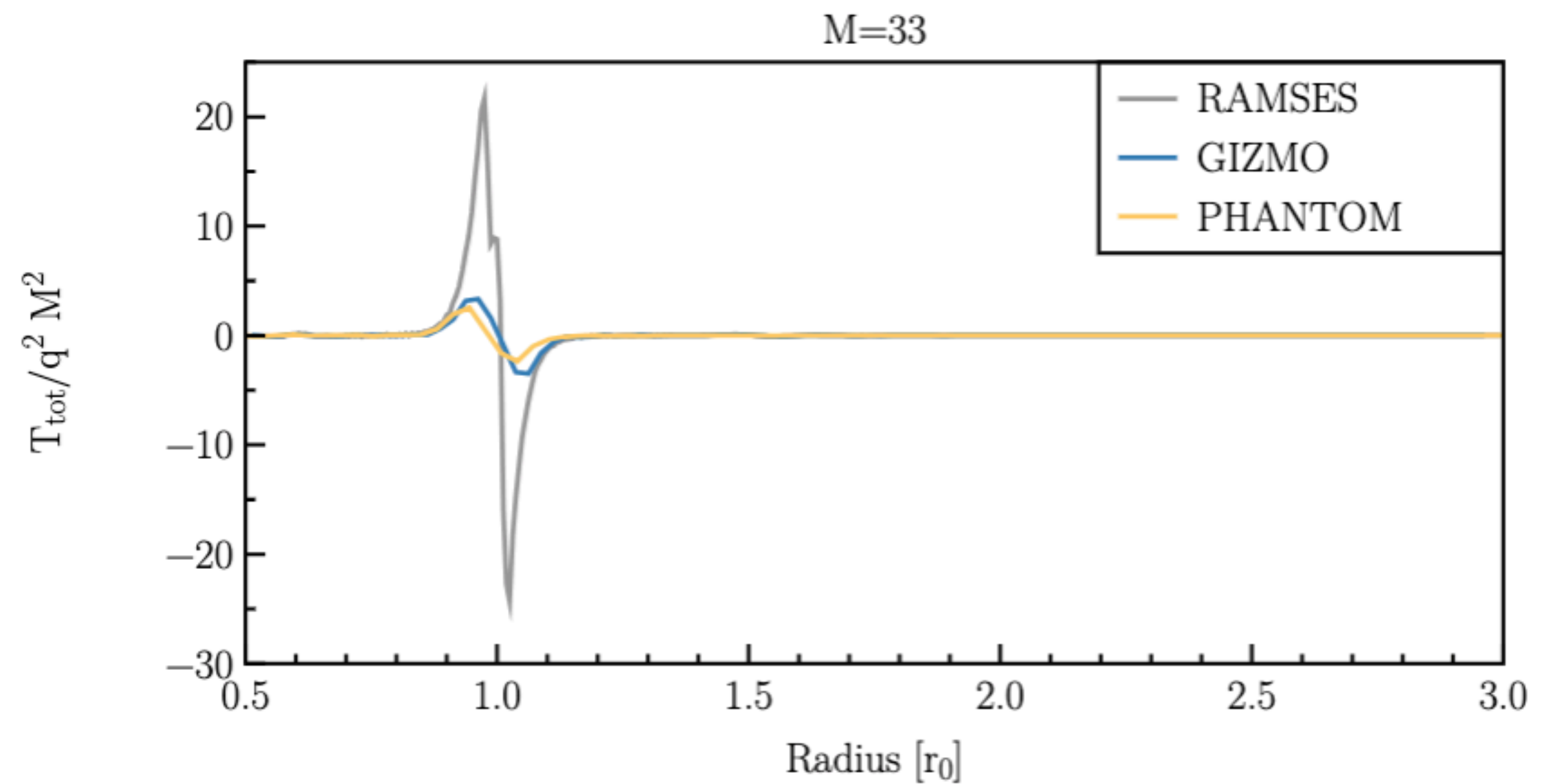
# Dissecting the torque

Azimuthally averaged torque density profile

$$h/r = 0.1$$



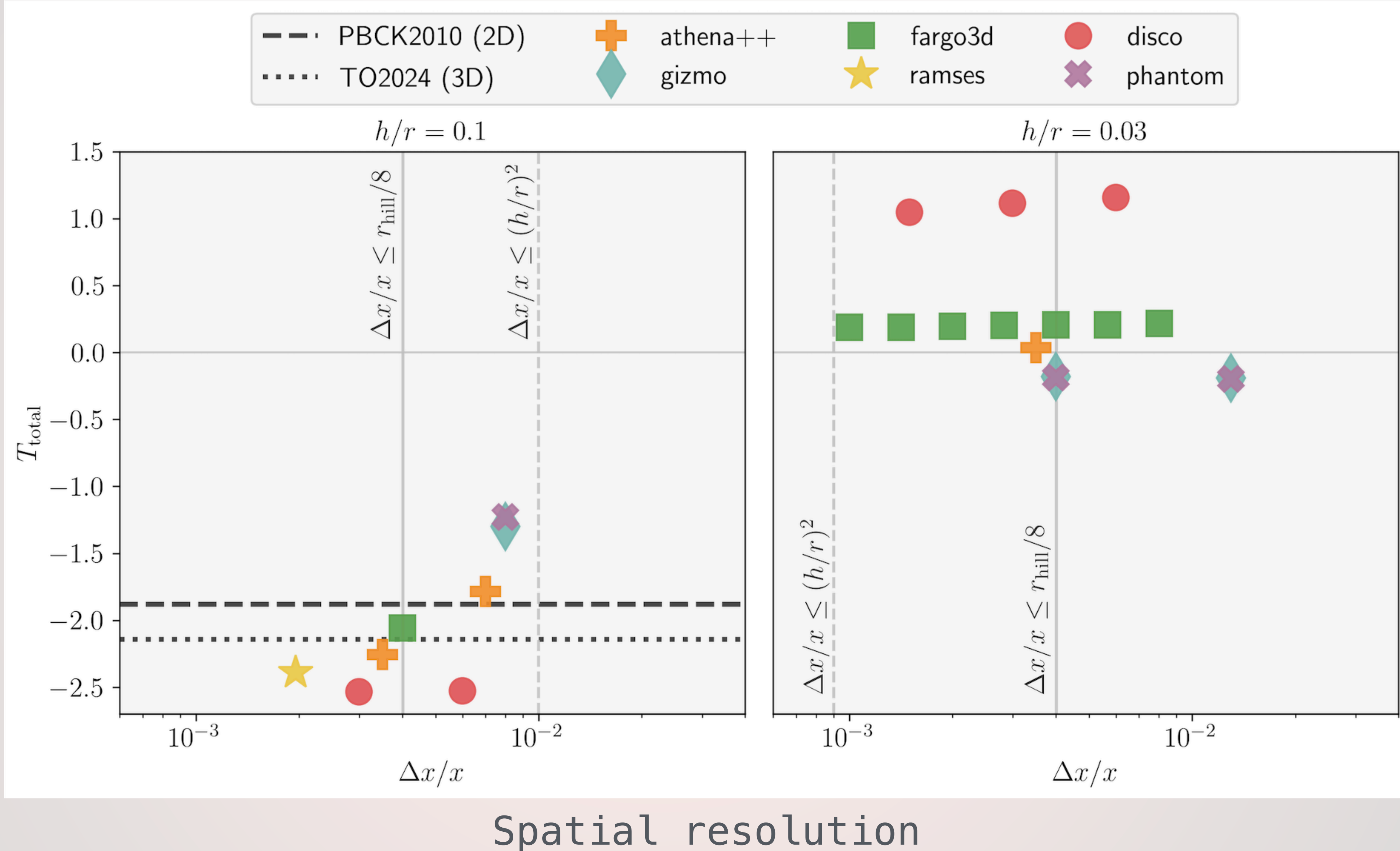
$$h/r = 0.03$$



# Convergence?

More data points on the way :)

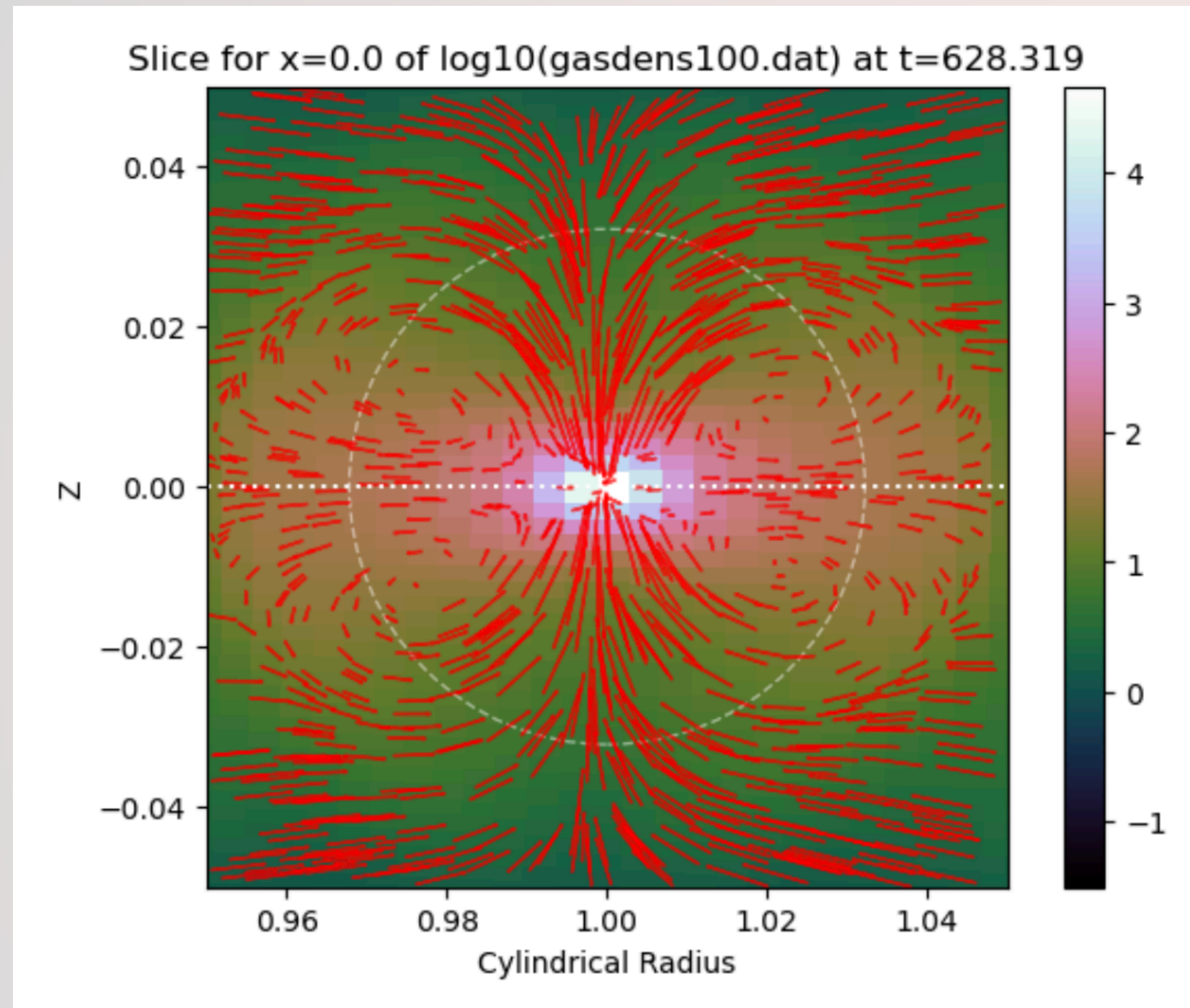
Total torque on binary





# 2D versus 3D

Thin disk run  $h/r = 0.03$



FARGO3D

Grid code:

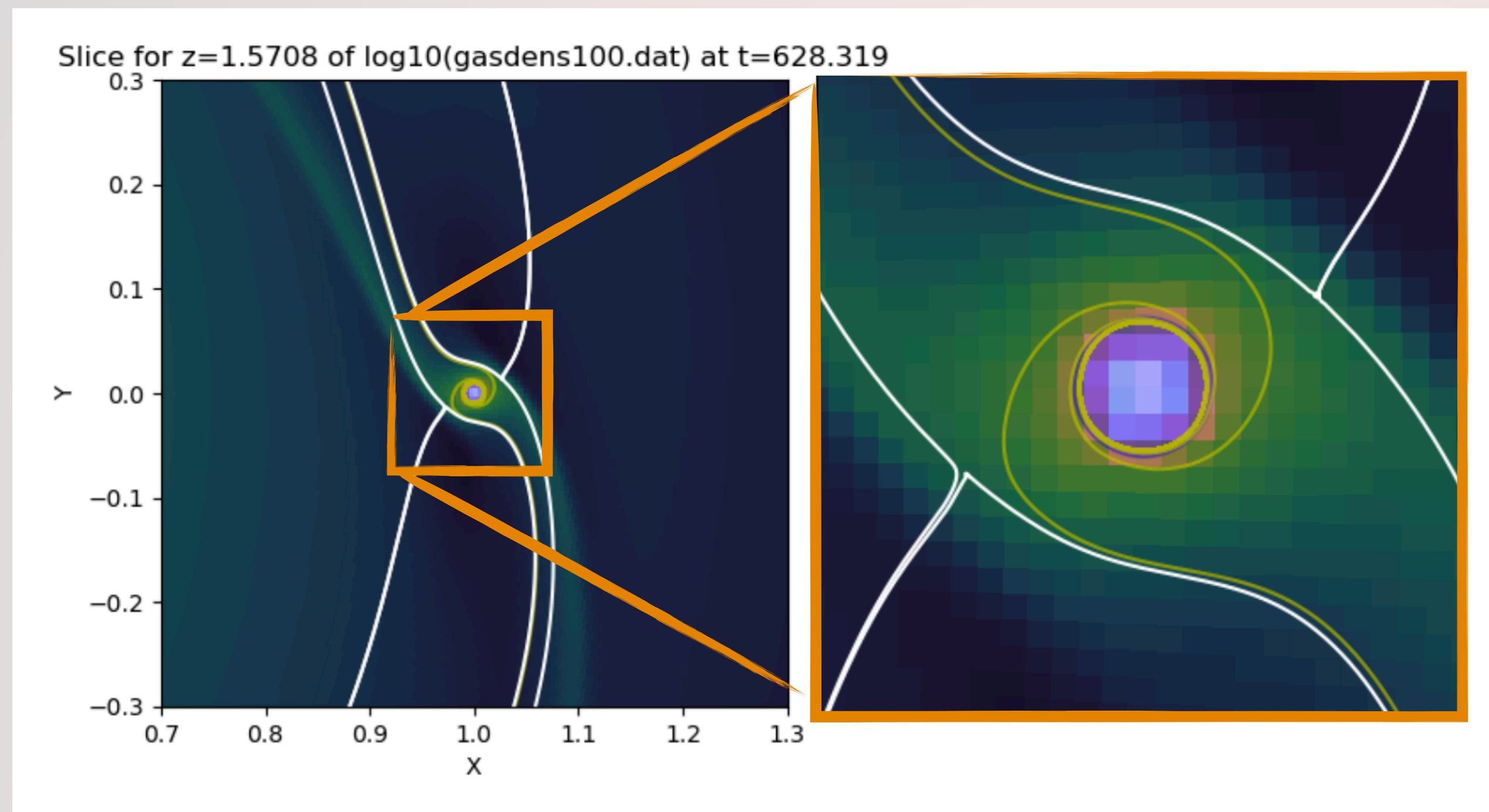
Strongly positive torques in Hill region

Particle codes:

Hill sphere torque positive if  
gravitational softening is sufficiently  
small

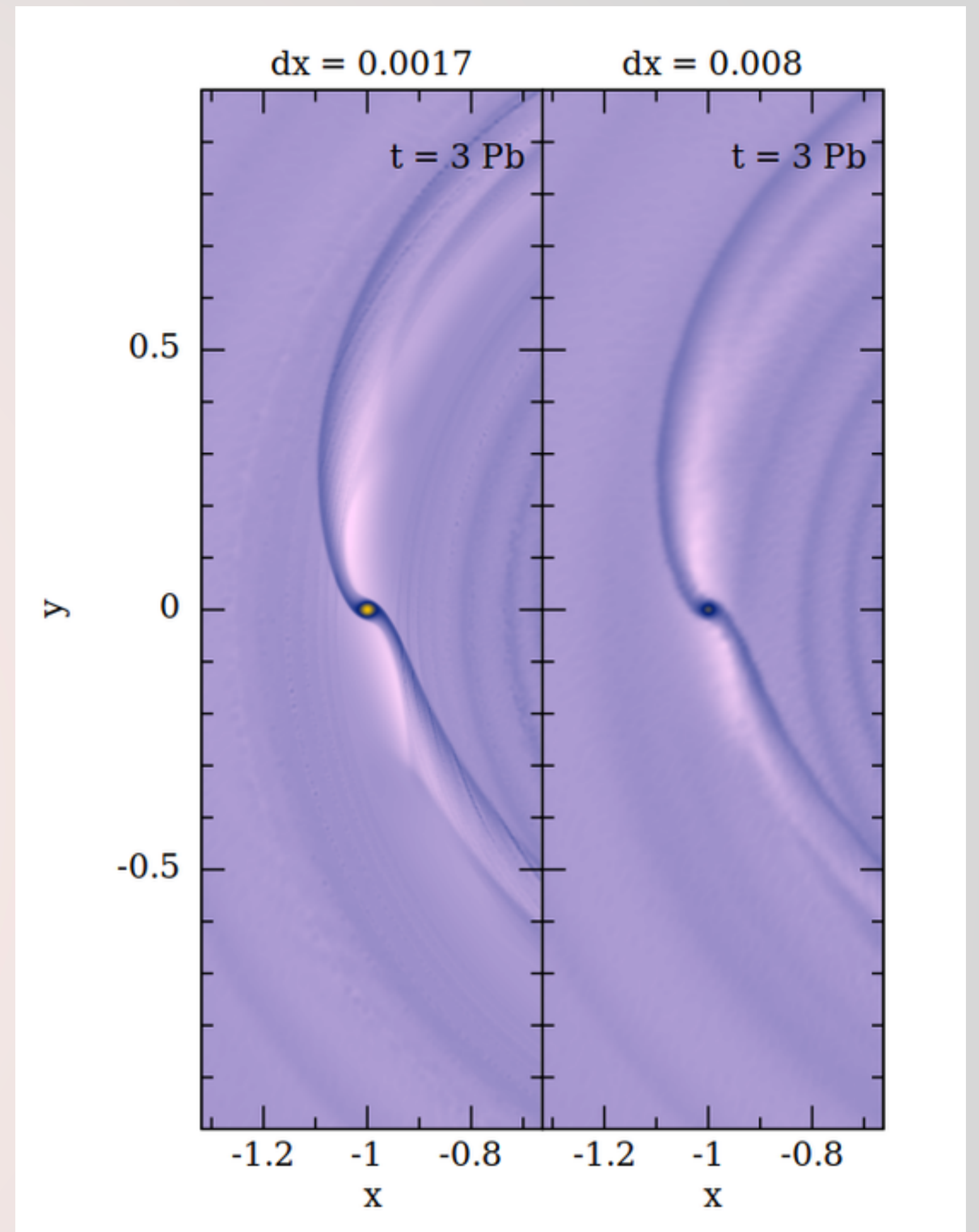
# Diagnostic tests ongoing

FARGO3D



Streamlines around the secondary BH

GIZMO



Particle resolution tests

# Preliminary results

avg\_discimri\_chairs @ lisamission.org

- The runs are running!
- Good agreement between all codes for the thicker disk run
- Sensitivity to gas morphology in the co-orbital region leads to the strongest differences amongst codes (determines torque sign)
- Particle runs show weaker torques than 2D?

## Upcoming:

- Analysis of streamlines and gas flow through the coorbital region
- Analysis of torque oscillations (origin?)
- Applying results to LISA binaries
- ★ Computational resources and environmental impact assessment