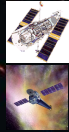


## Transforming Galaxies since $z \sim 3$ via Mergers, Gas Accretion, and Secular Processes

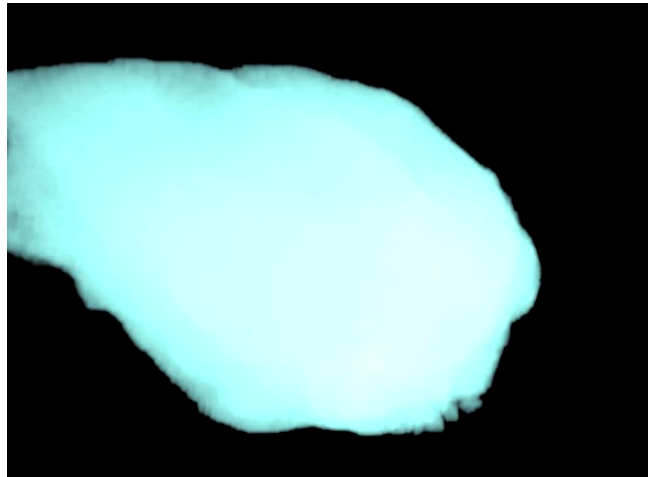
Shardha Jogee

Astronomy Department,  
University of Texas (UT) at Austin



- **Collaborators:** T. Weinzierl (UT/Nottingham), I. Marinova (UT), K. Kaplan (UT), R. Larson (UT), F. Barraza (UT), C. Conselice (Nottingham), H-W. Rix (MPA)  
**Theory:** P. Hopkins (Caltech), L. Hernquist (Harvard), S. Khochfar (MPE/Edinburgh), A. Burkert (MPE), R. Somerville (Rutgers), I. Shlosman (Kentucky)  
**Science Collaborations:** GEMS, GOODS-ACS, GOODS-NICMOS, STAGES, Coma HST Treasury survey, HETDEX, VENGA

## Cartoon Simulation: Building a MW-type Spiral Galaxy over $\sim 12$ Gyr



Courtesy: Fabio Governato

N-body + SPH  
 Gas = Green Cyan  
 New Stars = Dark Blue  
 Old Stars = Red  
 Movie frame  $\sim 80$  kpc  
 Final mass  $\sim 10^{12}$  Mo

Galaxies grow via different processes whose relative importance have to be established:

- Gas Accretion (from halos and cosmological filaments)
- Major Mergers and Minor Mergers
- Internal Secular Processes (e.g. driven by stellar bars, dynamical friction in  $z \sim 2$  clumpy disks)
- Star Formation
- Feedback (from star formation and AGN activity)

### **Outline**

- Overview of Growth Modes: Mergers, Gas Accretion, Secular Process
- Star Formation activity  $z \sim 0-3$ : Contributions of Different Modes
- AGN Formation activity  $z \sim 0-3$ : Contributions of Different Modes
- Bars: Frequency and impact on SF/AGN/Activity ??
- Tracing Assembly History via Structural Archeology
- Structural Evolution From Different Growth Modes (& Use of Structural Archeology )
- Galaxy Merger Rates as  $f(z)$ : Empirical Constraints + Theoretical predictions
- Tensions with LCDM
- (Could combine these two into one : Challenges)
- Summary

### **Galaxy Major Mergers**

Major Merger = merger of 2 galaxies of mass ratio  $M1/M2 < 1/4$



NGC 4736 / The Mice  
Collision between 2 spiral  
galaxies 30 kpc apart.

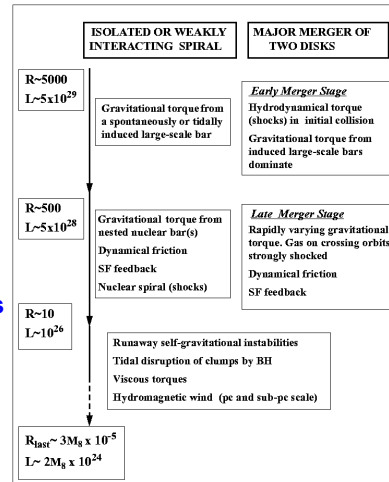


(Credit: NASA/STScI/Hubble Heritage)

The Antennae  
(NGC 4038/NGC 4039)

## Transformational Effect of Major Mergers

- Gas is driven into the inner kpc due to shocks and gravitational torques (exerted by induced bars and by companion).



- These gas inflows  
→ can fuel **high central star formation rates**

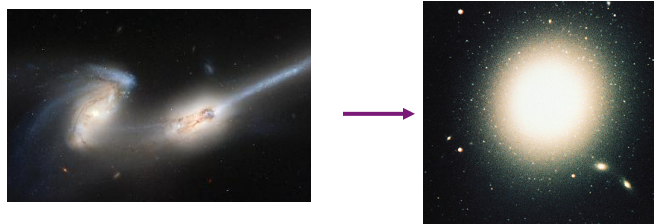
→ may fuel central black holes by helping solve the angular momentum (Jogee 2006)

(Jogee 2006; astro-ph/0408383)

## Transformational Effect of Major Mergers

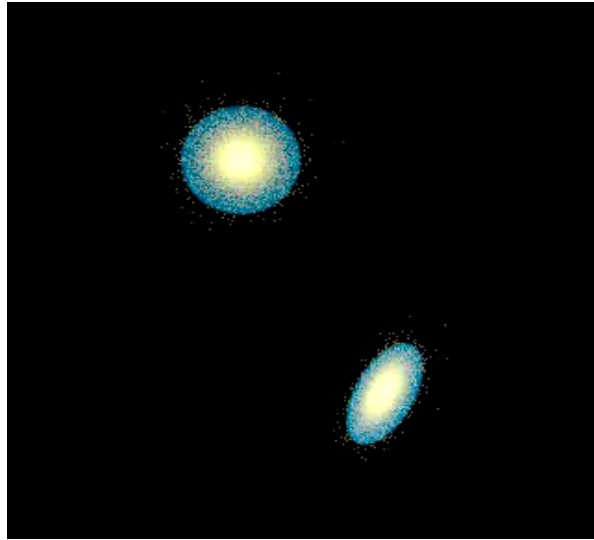
- Due to rapid change in potential, violent relaxation destroys existing stellar disks (flat, rotation-dominated) to form classical bulges or ellipticals (spheroidal, dispersion-dominated).

Traditional view: Major merger of 2 spirals produces a classical bulge or elliptical).

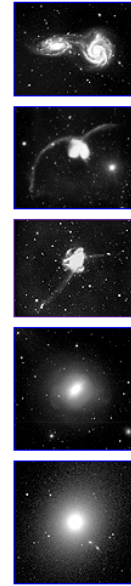


New view: In extremely gas-rich mergers ( $f_{\text{gas}} > 60\%$ ) at very high redshifts, the remnant can host a significant (new) stellar disk, which forms from residual gas at late stages of the major merger, well after the onset of violent relaxation (e.g., Robertson+06; Hopkins+09; Naab+09)

## Transformational Effect of Major Mergers



Above = simulation of a major merger between 2 moderately gas-rich spirals  
Mihos & Hernquist, Summers; Stars =yellow, gas= blue, Duration = 1 Gyr)



*Data*  
**The Toomre Sequence**

## Minor Mergers

Minor mergers have a progenitor mass ratio  $1/10 < M_1/M_2 \leq 1/4$

During the minor merger of a spiral with a satellite we expect the following

- The disk of the spiral thickens due to tidal heating, is tidally distorted with arcs and ripples, but it is not destroyed
- A stellar bar is often induced in the disk and drives gas inflows (Mihos & Hernquist 1995)
- Dynamical friction causes the core of the satellite to sink to the center of the spiral. The outer parts of the satellite can be tidally disrupted

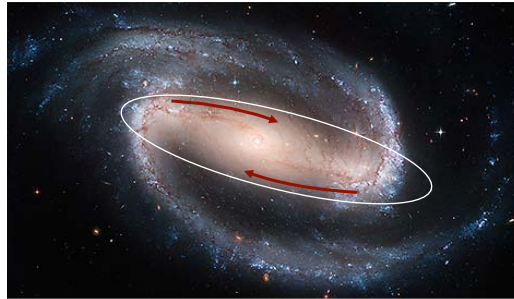


NGC 2782: Minor merger of mass ratio  $1/4$   
(Jogee et al 1999; Smith et al 1999)

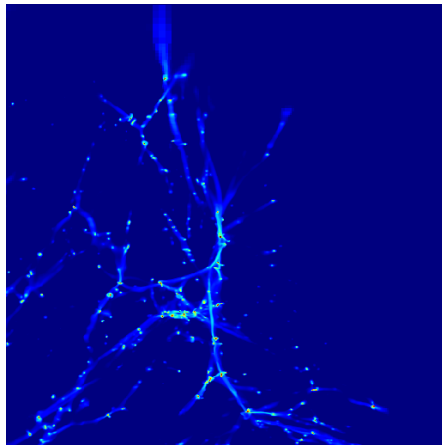
## Internal Secular Processes

Stellar bars and ovals drive important internal secular processes (e.g., Kormendy+1993, 2004 ; Sakamoto+1999; Jogee+1999, 2005; Athanassoula 2005; Weinzierl+2009)

- Bars very efficiently drive gas from outer disk of a galaxy into the circumnuclear (CN) or inner kpc region via gravitational torques and shocks.
- Gas inflows raise the CN gas concentration, fuel CN star formation and build CN disks called pseudo-bulges
- Bars can form boxy/peanut bulges when its stars are driven to large scale heights (Combes+1990; Athanassoula 2005; Martinez-Valpuesta+2005)
- Bars postulated to drive secular evolution along part of Hubble Sequence (Scd-Sb)



## Gas Accretion from halo and cold flows



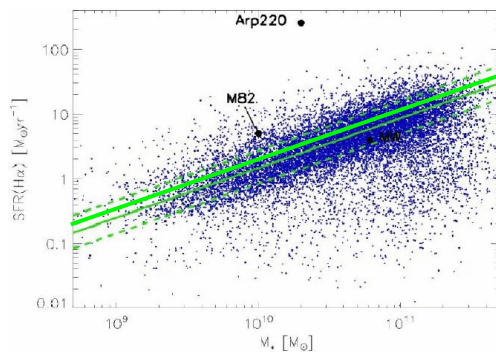
- As galaxies accrete gas, the gas shocks to the halo virial temperature  $T_{\text{vir}}$
- Simulations suggest some accreted gas is unshocked ( $T < T_{\text{vir}}$ ) and accretes along narrow streams called "cold" flows (Keres+05,+08; Dekel+06,+09; Brooks +09)
- Cold flows deliver unshocked gas close to the disk and this gas fuels SF after cooling. This is esp. important in high mass halos ( $M > 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ ) filled w/ hot gas.
- But importance of cold flows is debated (Vogelsberger et al. 2014)

Courtesy: A. Dekel & R. Teyssier (200 Mpc,  $z=5$  to 2)  
Shown: The mass-weighted average density of galactic and intergalactic gas. Most of gas is at  $10^4$  K, while the diffuse gas is hotter

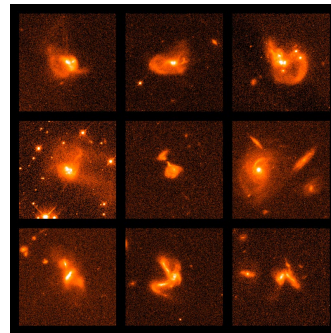
## SF ACTIVITY

### SFR at $z \sim 0$ : Contributions of Different Modes

- At a given redshift, the extreme systems (defined as systems with high  $sSFR = SFR/M_*$ ) wrt to the average main sequence of star formation tend to be have a larger fraction of interactions/mergers than typical systems on the main sequence
- At  $z \sim 0$ , where average typical  $sSFR \sim \text{few} \times 10^{-11} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (for  $M_* = 10^{11} M_\odot$ ,  $SFR \sim \text{few } M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ), UILRS ( $L_{\text{IR}} > 10^{12} L_\odot$ ,  $SFR > 100 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ,  $sSFR \sim 10^{-9} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) are extreme systems and most of them are mergers/interactions (Sanders & Mirabel 1996 & references; Veilleux+2002)



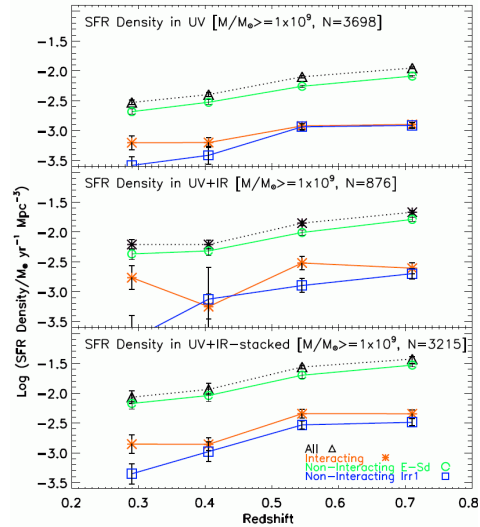
Brinchmann et al. 2004 SDSS  $z \sim 0$



Credit:STScI

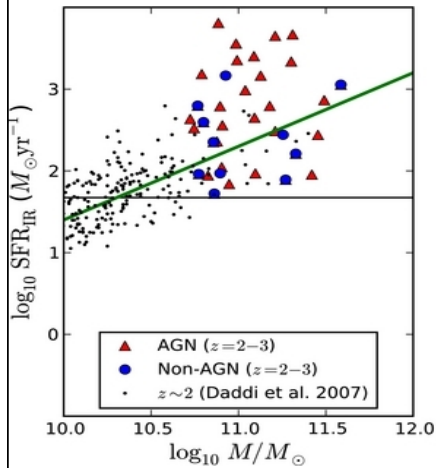
## Out to $z \sim 1$ : at most 30% of the SFR density is in major mergers

- At most 30% of the cosmic star formation rate density over half of the age of the Universe stems from visible major mergers for ( $M > 1 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ) galaxies.
- Bulk of star formation occurs in fairly undisturbed systems
- Consistent with later empirical studies (e.g., Robaina et al. 2010; Lotz et al. 2011).



(Jogee & GEMS team 2009, ApJ)

## SFR at $z \sim 2$ : Contributions of Different Modes

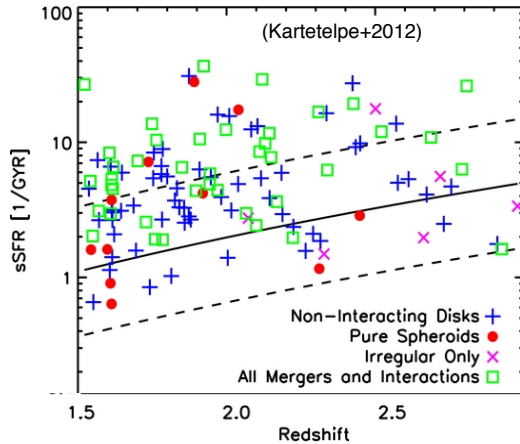


(Weinzirl Jogee & GNS team 2011)

- sSFRs considered extreme at  $z \sim 0$  can be typical at  $z \sim 2$ : (e.g.  $M = 10^{11} M_\odot$ ,  $\text{SFR} \sim 100 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{sSFR} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ )
- At  $z \sim 2$ , extreme systems have  $\text{sSFR} < 10^{-8} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  and include hyper-LIRGs ( $L_{\text{IR}} > 10^{13} L_\odot$ ,  $\text{SFR} > 1000 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) some submm galaxies (SMGs)

## SFR at $z \sim 2-3$ in dusty ULIRGs/Hyper-LIRGs

WFC3 study of [galaxies detected at 60 and 160 micron](#) GOOD-S and GOODS-Herchel (biased toward FIR-bright dusty star-forming systems) (Kartaltepe 2012)



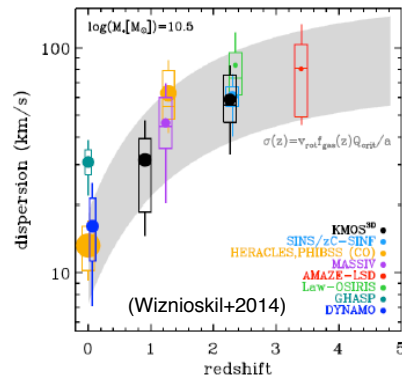
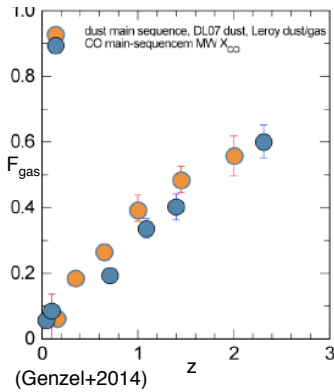
$z \sim 2$ : ULIRGs ( $L_{\text{IR}} > 10^{12} L_{\odot}$ ) host 47% mergers/interactions and 25% **irregular disks**

Among  $z \sim 2$  ULIRGs, merger/int systems make up  $\sim 50\%$  of starbursts (systems more than a factor of 3 above Main Sequence) and only 24% of Main Seq systems

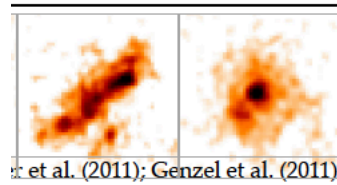
→ In  $z \sim 2$  ULIRGs, disk instabilities + early-stage interactions, minor mergers may be important

## Why are $s\text{SFR}$ at $z \sim 2$ on main sequence $\gg$ at $z \sim 0$

Star forming galaxy disks at  $z \sim 2$  differ from  $z \sim 0$  (higher gas fraction, higher turbulence and  $\sigma$  of ionized gas, clumpy; see Foster-Scheider+2009, Wisnioski+2014, 2015)

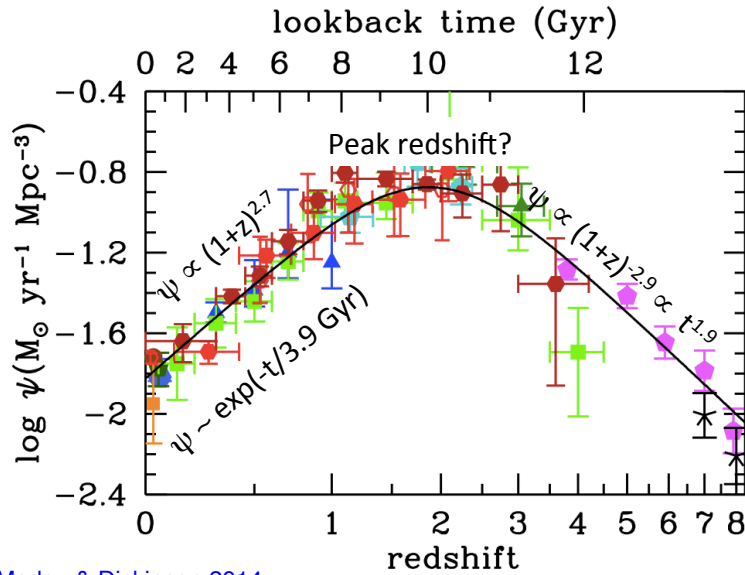


→ Extra pathway for SF and bulge building: massive gas clumps sink via dynamical friction (Bournaud+2011; Elmegreen+2005)





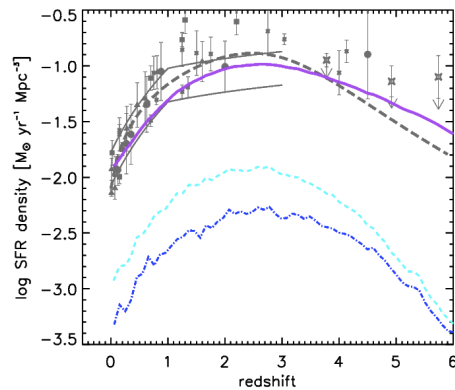
### Cosmic Star Formation History of Galaxies



Madau & Dickinson 2014

### Contributions of Different Growth Modes to Cosmic SFRD

MODEL Purple=Total Blue=Major Merger Cyan =Major+Minor



(Based on Somerville+2011)

In many current models, major merger (blue) account for only a small fraction of the total cosmic SFR density (purple), which is mostly due to smooth accretion (in situ-SF).

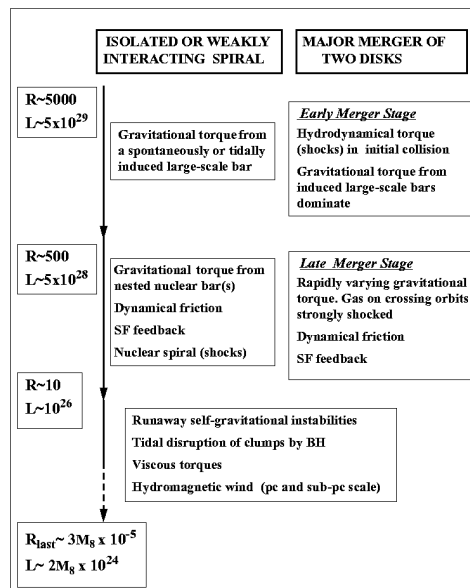
## AGN ACTIVITY

### **Fueling the Central BH :The Angular Momentum Problem**

Gas in the outer disk need its  
specific angular momentum  
 $L$  to be lowered by  $10^5$  before it  
can feed a BH

Bars help only down to  
 $r \sim$  few 100 pc as gas piles  
up in rings inside OILR

Interactions /mergers can  
channel gas down to lower  $r$

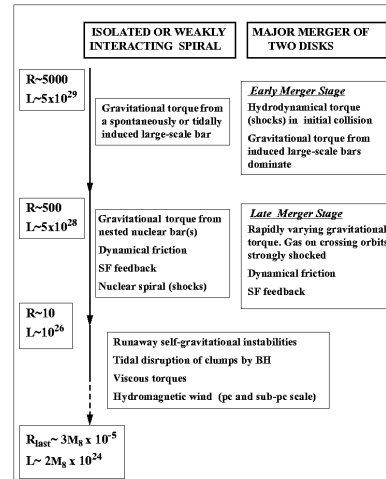


(Jogee 2006, Ch6, AGN Physics on All Scales; astro-ph/0408383 )

## Fueling the Central BH :The Angular Momentum Problem

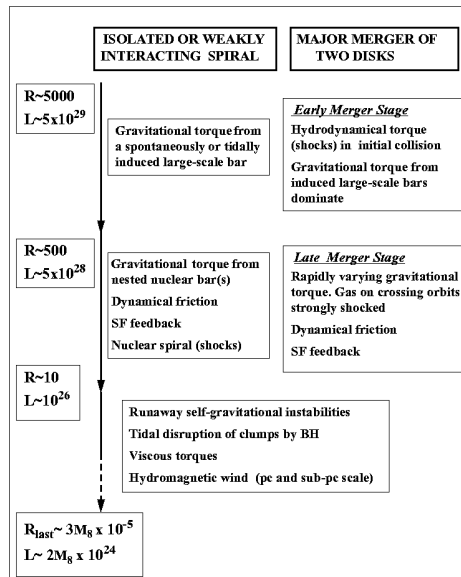
High Lum QSOs have large mass acc rate the gas mass fuel them over many duty cycles >> gas content in inner kpc. Hence they require **external gas accretion + transport of gas from outer region to inner parts**

Low lum AGN



(Jogee 2006, Ch6.; astro-ph/0408383 )

## Why are large-scale properties of AGN and non-AGN at z~2-3 similar?



In order to feed gas from tens of kpc down to an AGN, transport mechanisms on different scales must remove over 99% of its angular momentum

The AGN at z~2-3 have low estimated gas accretion rate  $dM/dt \leq 1 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . The implied accreted gas mass ( $< 10^8 M_{\odot}$ ) over a duty cycle is *much less than the typical gas content in inner kpc of most massive galaxies (except in some gas-starved ultra-compact galaxies).*

Thus, the AGN activity can be triggered by circumnuclear gas transport mechanisms (e.g., dynamical friction on clumps, nuclear bars, shocks)

Large-scale transport or fueling mechanisms (e.g, mergers, large-scale bars) are not necessary conditions to fuel the AGN (but can grow the galaxy as a whole)

(Jogee 2006, Ch6, AGN Physics on All Scales; astro-ph/0408383 )

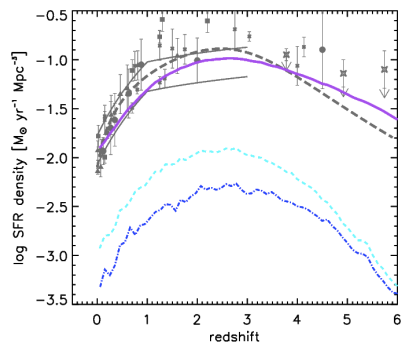
### AGN in Massive Galaxies at $z \sim 2-3$

- AGN identified mainly via X-ray properties ( $L_x$ , G), and some from IR power-law SEDs (Donley+08), IR-to-optical excess (Fiore+08)  
At  $z \sim 2-3$ , 40% (31/77) of massive galaxies host a AGN
- The 20 AGN with X-ray detection are low luminosity Seyfert-type systems  
 $L_x = \text{few} \times 10^{42} \text{ to } 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$   
 $L_{\text{bol}} = \text{few} \times 10^{43} \text{ to } 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  (for  $L_{\text{bol}}/L_x \sim 20$ ; Vasudevan & Fabian 2009)  
 Mass Accretion rate  $< 1 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (for  $e=0.1$ )  
 (Complementary to high luminosity AGN --- Donley's talk]
- Number density
 

Low Luminosity AGN at $z \sim 2-3$ :	$2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$
SMG at $z \sim 2-3$ :	$2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$
QSO at $z \sim 2-3$ :	$\sim 10^{-6} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$ ,
High- $z$ radio galaxies	$\sim \text{few times } 10^{-8} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$

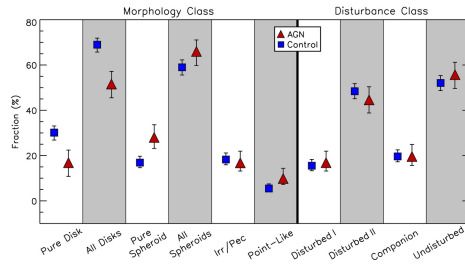
### Merger –AGN fuelling at $z \sim 0$

- mergers and AGN
- \* Correlation expected at high end
  - \* Low Lum AGN mostly in undisturbed disks Wein+2011  
high lum AGN

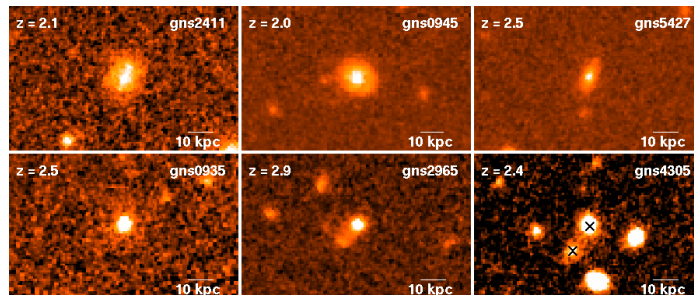


## Merger –AGN fuelling at $z \sim 2$

- 1) For moderate lum AGN ( $L_X \sim 10^{42-44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ) A
- AGNs hosts are no more likely to be involved in an ongoing merger or interaction relative to non-active galaxies of similar mass at  $z \sim 2$ . T
- Low Lum AGN mostly in undisturbed disks Wein+2011

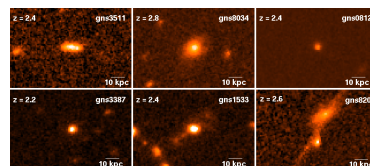


## Only a small fraction of AGN & Non-AGN show visibly strong distortions



AGN

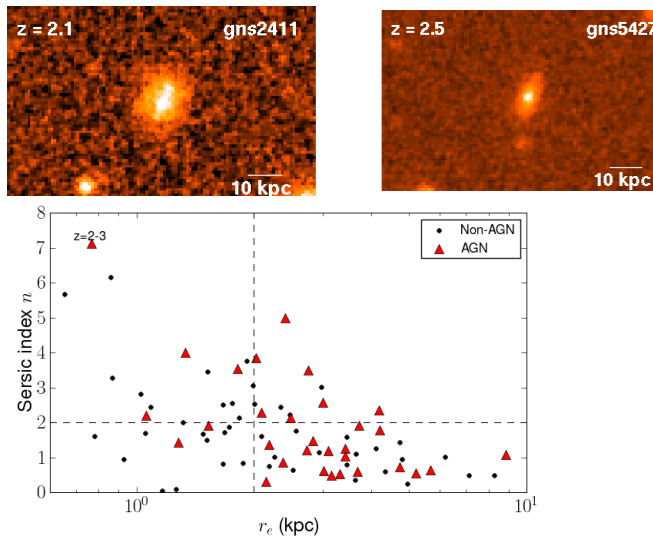
Both AGN and non-AGN hosts have a comparably low fraction (<15%) of strong visible morphological distortions



Non-AGN

However even best current datasets do not have resolution and sensitivity to detect late stages of major merger or minor mergers

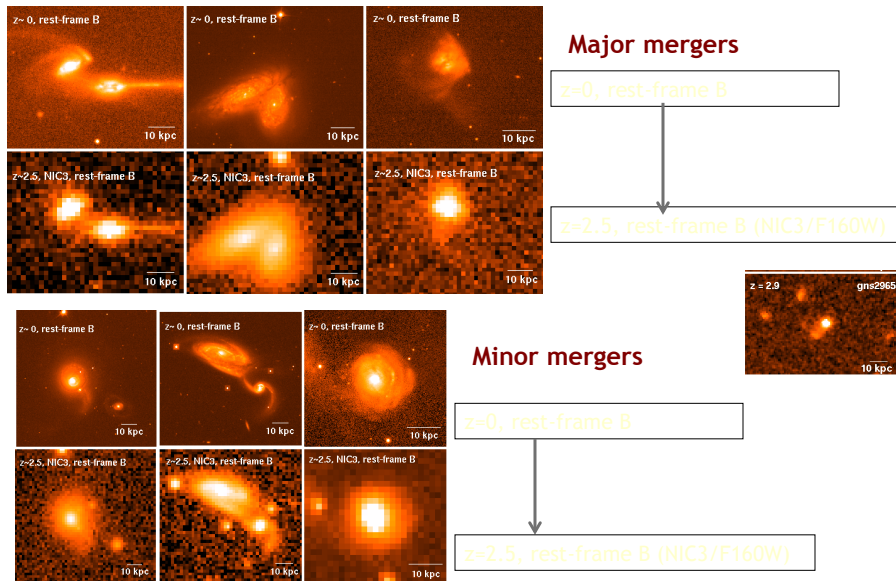
### Morphology of (Low-Luminosity) AGN hosts at $z=2-3$



Most (65%) of AGN hosts are diskly extended galaxies (just like the general population)  
 AGN hosts are  $\sim 3$  times less likely than non-AGN to be ultra-compact (this is likely caused by the fact that many UC are undetected in SFR, gas starved and 'dead'.)

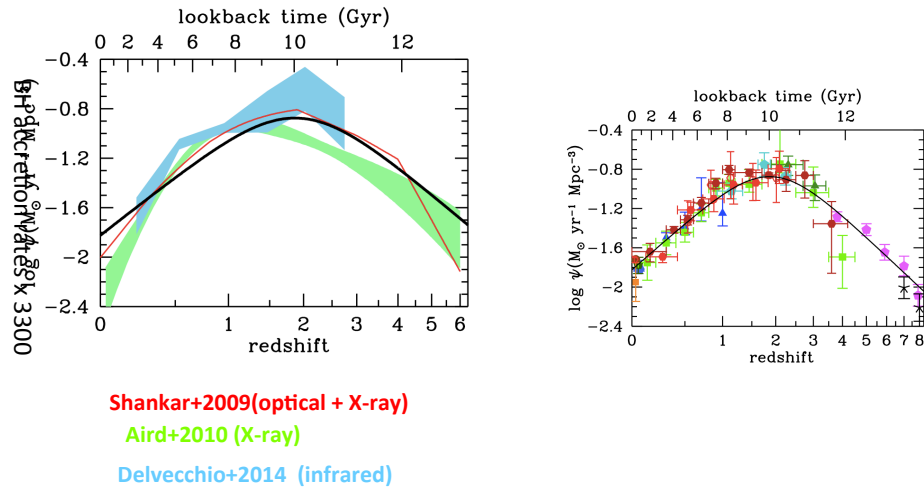
### Can we detect major & minor mergers with deep NIC3 data?

Artificially redshift rest-frame B light of mergers from  $z=0$  to  $z=2.5$  and re-observe with NIC3/F160W to depth of GNS survey.



## **Cosmic AGN Accretion History**

Recent estimates of the AGN accretion history vary and are not terribly precise, but it is in broad agreement with the cosmic SF history.



**COULD DO A SEPARATE SECTION ON BARS : FREQ AND IMPACTS OF SF AND AGN ACTIVITY**

**REASON FOR SEPARATE: LESS INFO AVAILABLE AS REQUIRE RESOLVED INFO ON CIRCUM SF .....**

### Bars and SF activity at $z \sim 0$

--- slide

- at  $z \sim 0$  Bar show higher gas conc; + Starburst have higher bar frac than unbarred

### Bars and SF activity at higher $z$ ?

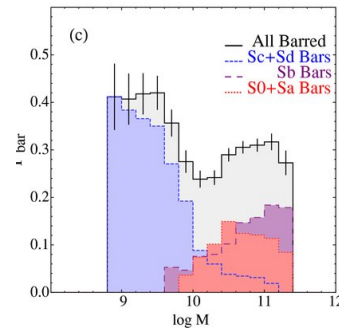
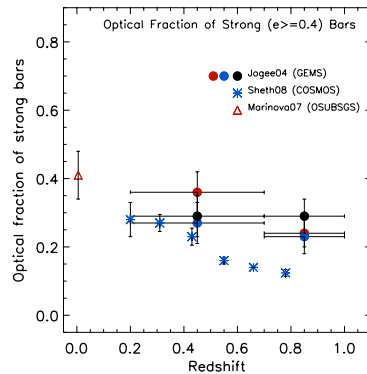
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- at  $z \sim 2$ ; bar-Sf is difficult as have on high res IR tracer of CN SFR
- Herschel HeRS,
- GIVE SOME GENERAL INFO ON FREQ OF BARS HERE? j09, S08, 2010



## **Freq of Bars**

- At  $z \sim 0$ , the optical fraction of strong bars depends strongly on stellar mass (Barazza +2006; Nair & Abraham 2010).
- At  $z \sim 0$  the quantitative NIR-bar fraction is at least 1.3 times higher than in the optical due to obscuration by SF and dust (Laurikainen +04; Menendez-Delmestre+07; Marinova & Jogee 07; Weinzirl+09)

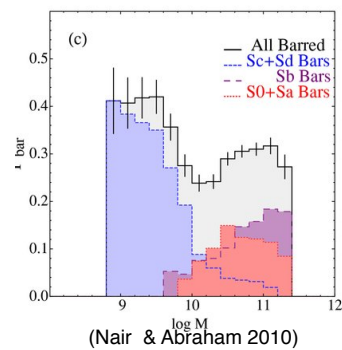


(Nair & Abraham 2010)

- At  $z \sim 0.2-1$ , optically-strong bars ( $e > 0.4$ ) are frequent ( $\sim 10\%$  to  $25\%$ ) over the last 8 Gyr -- an interval long enough to drive significant evolution ((Jogee+04; Sheth+08; Cameron+10)
- Progress requires NIR-based bar fraction as a function of  $M_*$  from  $z \sim 0$  to 1.5 to get the unobscured fraction of strong or all bars.

## **Freq of Bars**

- Add Cosmos results at  $z \sim 2$
- Talk here of models by Shlos and min mass of disk to support bar
- At  $z \sim 0.2-1$ , optically-strong bars ( $e > 0.4$ ) are frequent ( $\sim 10\%$  to  $25\%$ ) over the last 8 Gyr -- an interval long enough to drive significant evolution ((Jogee+04; Sheth+08; Cameron+10)
- Progress requires NIR-based bar fraction as a function of  $M_*$  from  $z \sim 0$  to 1.5 to get the unobscured fraction of strong or all bars.



(Nair & Abraham 2010)

**Structural Evolution From Different Growth Pathways  
Or  
Tracing Assembly History via Structural Archeology**

**Structural Archeology**

- In Galactic archeology, properties of stars (age, metallicity, kinematics) to infer the star formation history of our Milky Way (e.g., AU-led GALAH survey)
- In our structural archeology technique, the ratio of stellar masses of fundamentally different components (disk versus classical bulge/E) in a galaxy is used to constrain its past merger and gas accretion history. Unlike direct observations of distant merging systems, structural archeology is less affected by redshift-dependent systematics (surface brightness dimming, loss of spatial resolution)

1) Stellar disks : Flattened. Stars dominated by ordered motion Includes outer and central disks (called pseudo-bulges)  
→ Forms from gas-rich dissipative events

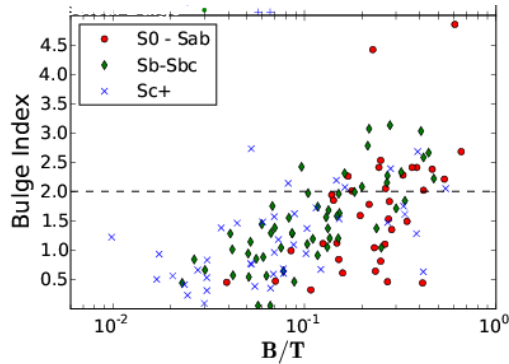


2) Classical Bulges/Ellipticals: Puffed-up (spherical/spheroidal). Stars dominated by random motion  
→ form from violent stellar processes (e.g., major merger of 2 stellar disks)



## **Most nearby massive field spirals do not have classical bulges!**

- See details in Weinzirl, Jogee, Khochfar, Burkert, & Kormendy 2009, ApJ, 696, 411
  - Perform 2D bulge-disk and bulge-disk-bar decomposition on H-band images
  - Sample of 143 spirals ( $M_{\star} \geq 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ , S0/a to Sm,  $i < 70^{\circ}$ ) from OSUBGS (Eskridge+2002)



- Most nearby massive field spiral galaxies
    - have little mass in their bulges (66% with  $B/T < 0.2$ )
    - host bulges that are disks (pseudo-bulges) (77% with  $n < 2$ ) rather than classical bulges!
- (See also Laurikainen et al. 2007; Graham & Worley 2008; Gadotti+09)

## **Comparing with Hierarchical Models of Galaxy Evolution**

Models from Khochar & Burkert (2001), Khochfar & Silk (2006)

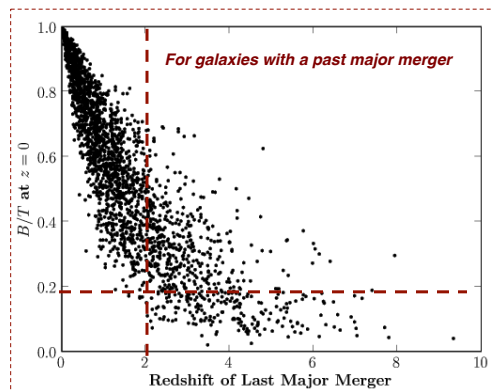
### **Standard approach**

- $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology assumed. Merger trees of DM halos derived from the EPS
- Galaxy merger timescale set by dynamical friction of satellite in halo of central galaxy
- Semi-analytic prescriptions for star formation (Cox+08), cooling, Supernova feedback

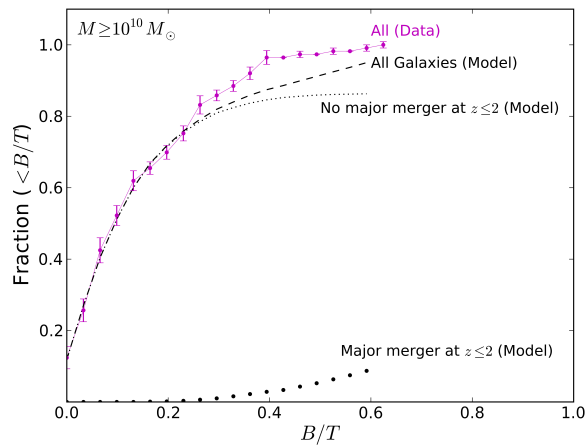
### **During major mergers (1:1 to 1:3).**

A fraction of the gas forms stars, and all stars are converted into a spheroid giving  $B/T = 1$ . After last major merger,  $B/T$  falls with time as an outer stellar disk grows (from accretion, residual gas, minor merger)

A low  $B/T < 0.2$  at  $z=0$  is realized only if the last major merger was at  $z > 2$



## Data imply quiescent major merger history for field spirals



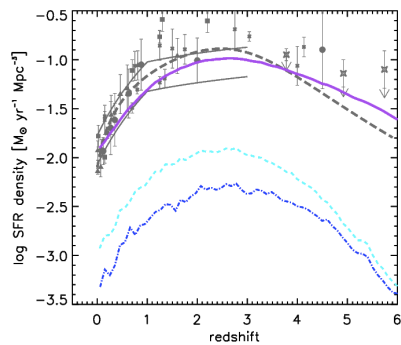
(Weinzirl, Jogee et al. 2009,)

- The fact that most massive nearby field spirals have low-mass, disky, non-classical bulges implies that most spirals have had no recent major merger over the last 10 Gyr (since  $z < 2$ ).
- This is in agreement with several theoretical models (SAMs by Khochfar & Slik 2006; Hopkins+2009) where only ~15% of massive field spirals had a major merger since  $z < 2$

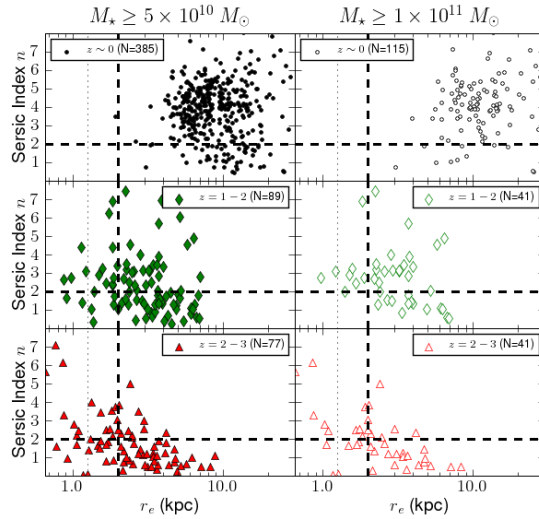
## Brennan work

---- 1 slide

- Mention new growth mode at high  $z \sim 2$ : massive clumps



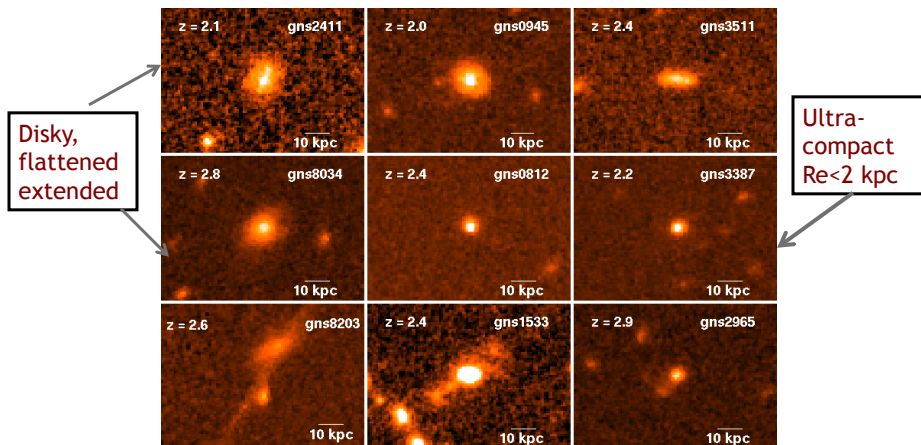
## Structure of Massive Galaxies at $z \sim 2-4$ Gyr Differ Widely from Today



(Weinzirl, Jogee, Conselice + 2011, ApJ, 743)

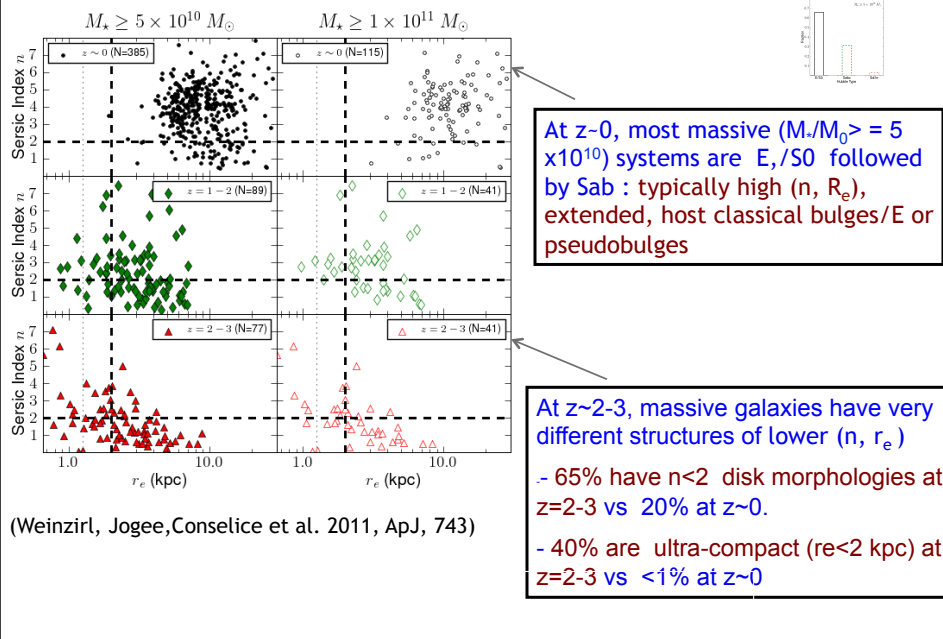
- The fraction (40%) and relative number density of massive ultra-compact ( $r_e < 2$  kpc) systems is over 10 times larger at  $z \sim 2-3$  than at  $z \sim 0$ .
- A large fraction (60%) of massive galaxies at  $z \sim 2-3$  have disk ( $n < 2$ ) structures. They tend to be star forming.

## Rest-Frame Optical Structure of Massive Galaxies at $z \sim 2-3$



- At  $z \sim 2-3$ , among our 77 massive ( $M/M_0 > 5 \times 10^{10}$ ) galaxies:
- Most (65%) have extended ( $R_e > 2$  kpc), flattened/disky ( $n < 2$ ) morphologies
  - 40% are ultra-compact ( $Re < 2$  kpc)
  - A small fraction (<15%) have strong visible distortions

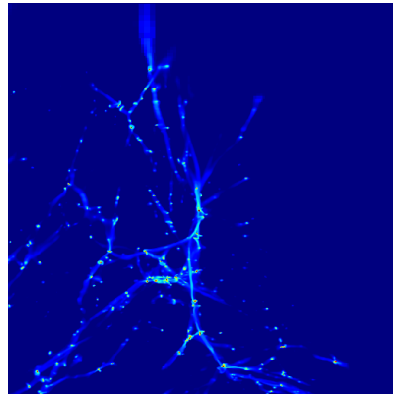
## Rest-Frame Optical Structure of massive galaxies at $z=2-3$ vs $z\sim 0$



## Can Models Form Large Fraction of $z\sim 2$ Disky Massive Galaxies?

- The large population of massive disk galaxies, with high stellar mass densities at  $z\sim 2-3$  must have developed through rapid gas dissipative processes at  $z > 2$ :

- Gas accretion via cold flows helps build disks at  $z > 2$  (e.g., Keres+05; Dekel+09; Brooks+09)
- Gas-rich mergers (which do not make classical bulges)



Courtesy: A. Dekel & R. Teyssier  
(200 Mpc,  $z=5$  to 2)

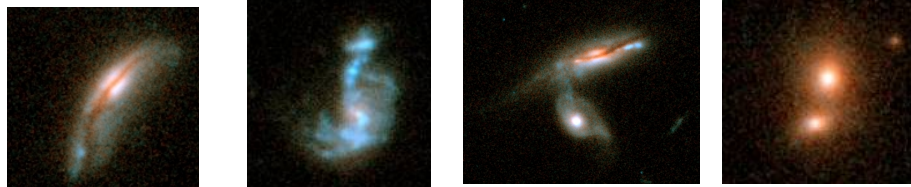
→ EG disk boxy → dry major mergers; Kormendy plot?

## Galaxy Merger Rates as $f(z)$ : Empirical Constraints + Theoretical predictions (8)

### Methods

#### 1) **Disturbed morphology** identified via trained visual classification

- a) Visual classification tailored by simulations of mergers (e.g. Le Fevre et al 2000; Jogee et al. 2009; Kartaltepe et al. 2012)
- b) Automated criteria : CAS ( $A > 0.35$  and  $A > S$ ) (Conselice 2003) or Gini-M20 (Lorz et al. 2008, 2011)



Jogee & the GEMS team 2009, ApJ

- 2) Close galaxy pairs with  $M1/M2 > 1/10$ ,  $z1 \sim z2$ ,  $r < 20-30$  kpc; 1 or 2 galaxies disturbed
- 3) Structural archeology

## Challenges for Empirical and Theoretical Merger Rates

**Empirical estimates** of how galaxy merger rate evolves with  $z$  depend strongly

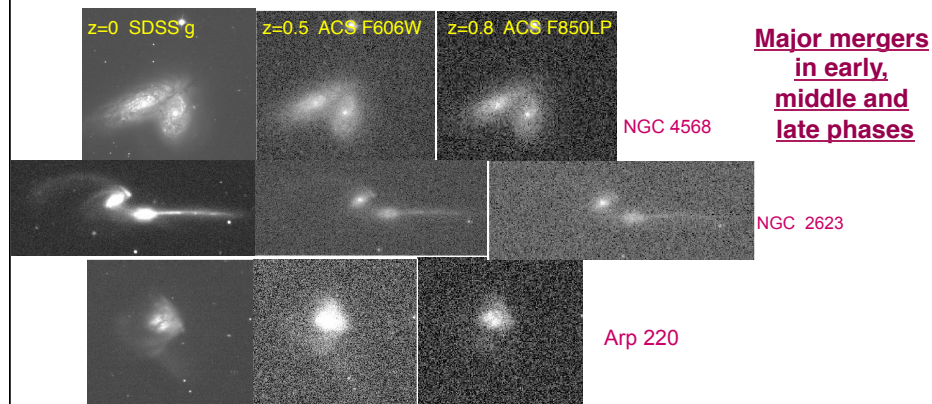
- a) sample selection by mass or constant no density (Lotz 2011)
- b) Mass ratio  $M1/M2$  used to define mergers : halo, baryonic, or stellar mass ratio or flux ratio (e.g., see H10, W14)
- c) Assumed visibility timescale to convert merger fraction to rate  $R = f_{\text{vis}}/t_{\text{vis}}$   
depends on mass ratio and gas fraction (J09; L11)
- d) Impact on SB dimming and loss of resolution
- e) the mass range involved  $M^* > 10^9$ ,  $M^* > 10^{10}$ ,  $M^* > 10^{11}$

**Theoretical predictions** of merger rate depend on

- a) Mass ratio  $M1/M2$  used to define mergers : halo, baryonic, or stellar mass ratio
- b) treatment of  $T_{\text{dyn}}$  friction for satellites (J09 ; Hopkins 2010)
- c) The phase of the merger (infall, max) where mass ratio is measured Rodriguez-Gomez +2015

## Challenge: Surface brightness Dimming + Loss of resolution

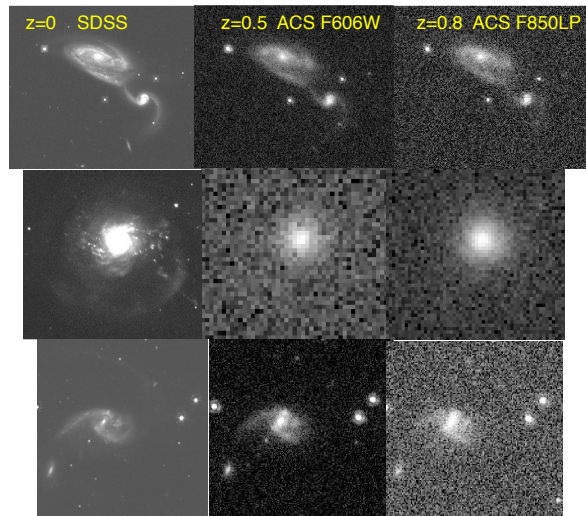
We artificially redshift optical images of present-day mergers to early epochs ( $z \sim 1$  or  $t \sim 6$  Gyr) and re-observe with ACS camera on Hubble Space Telescope



**Major mergers  
in early,  
middle and  
late phases**

- At  $z > 1$  ( $t < 6$  Gyr) it is hard to detect
  - extended faint tidal features (due to SB dimming by a factor  $> 16$ )
  - double nuclei of proto-typical merger Arp 220 (as HST resolution  $0.1'' = 700$  pc)
- Giant Magellan Telescope's large aperture and resolution (30 m,  $0.01''$ ) will help!





NGC 5395

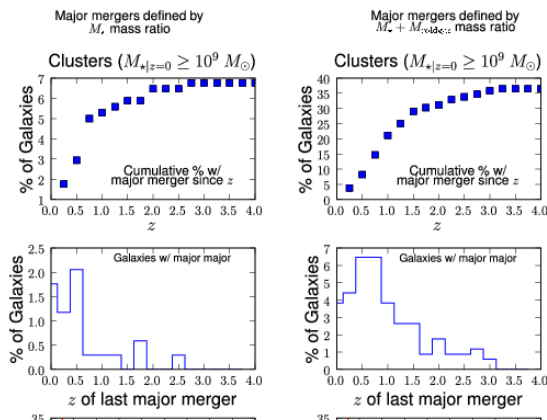
**Minor mergers in early, middle and late phases**

NGC 3310

NGC 5996

**Challenge: Merger Rates Based on Stars vs Baryons Differ!**

- Major and Minor mergers are defined based on mass ratio  $M_1/M_2$
- One should ideally use the total galaxy mass (dark matter halo + gas + stars), but observers cannot easily measure mass of dark matter or gas for large number of galaxies at high redshifts (early epochs). The most common proxy is to use stellar mass  $M_{\text{star}}$



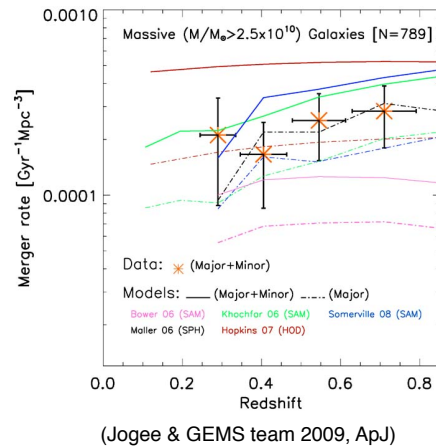
- But merger rates differ by over a factor of 5 depending on whether one use  $M_{\text{star}}$  or baryonic mass ( $M_{\text{star}} + M_{\text{gas}}$ )
- Need ALMA and SKA to add  $M_{\text{gas}}$

(Weinzirl, Jogee, Neistein Khochfar and Coma Treasury Team 2014, MNRAS)

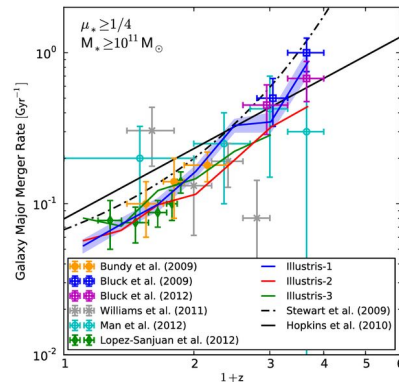
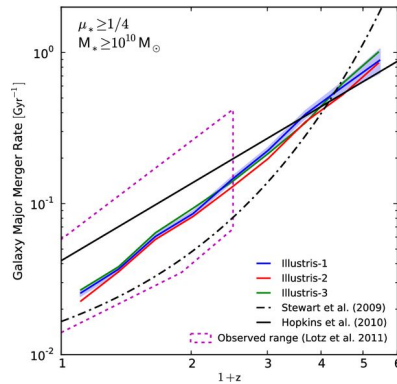
## Minor and Major Merger Rate out to $z \sim 1$

- Among high mass ( $M_* > 2.5 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$ ) galaxies over  $z \sim 0.2$  to  $\sim 1$ :
  - Visible merger fraction varies from 3 % to 10%
  - Minor merger are at least three times as frequent as major mergers (also Lotz+2011)
  - Minor merger frequency is only a lower limit due to strong impact of SB dimming

- Theoretical simulations (SAM and hydro) of merger rates show a factor of 5 dispersion in their absolute values and bracket data within a factor of two.
- This led to subsequent paper by Hopkins+2010 on order of magnitude uncertainties in theoretical merger rates" !



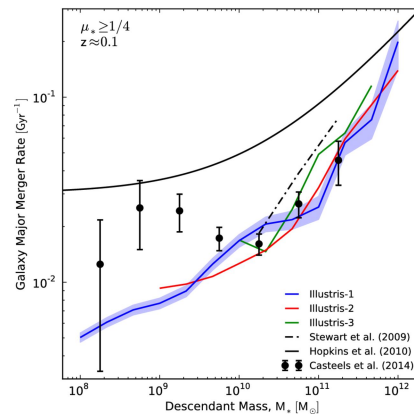
## Evol of major merger rate as $f(z)$ ; obs and theory



- Theoretical simulations (SAM and hydro) of merger rates show a factor of 5 dispersion in their absolute values and bracket data within a factor of two.

(Jogee & GEMS team 2009, ApJ)

## galaxy major merger rate as a function of descendant stellar mass



- Theoretical simulations (SAM and hydro) of merger rates show a factor of 5 dispersion in their absolute values and bracket data within a factor of two.

(Jogee & GEMS team 2009, ApJ)

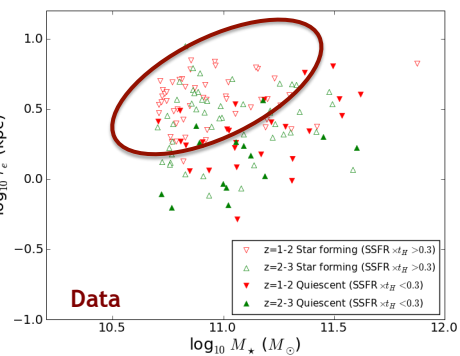
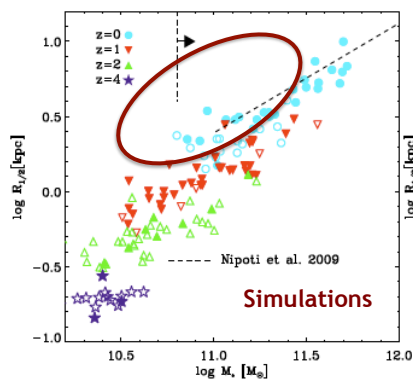
## Chemical Evolution

## Tensions with LCDM

### Can Models Form Large Fraction of $z \sim 2$ Disky Massive Galaxies?

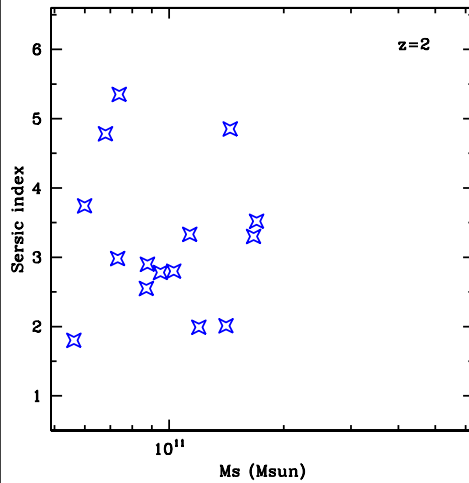
Cosmologically-motivated hydrodynamical simulations by Oser & Naab (2012) with cold streams, halo accretion, satellite accretion

Data from Weinzierl, Jogee & GNS team 2011 + 2014

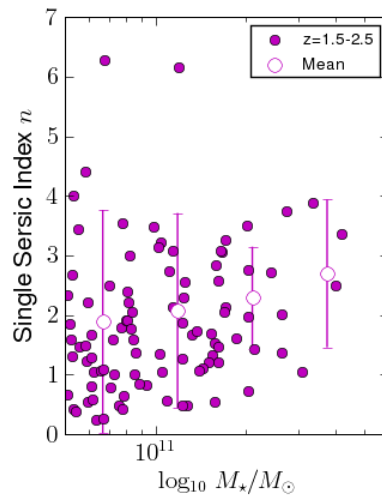


→ simulations fail to produce the large population of extended massive disk galaxies present 10 Gyr ago although they produce the compact systems well. This is reminiscent of the angular momentum problem

## Can Models Form Large Fraction of $z \sim 2$ Disky Massive Galaxies?



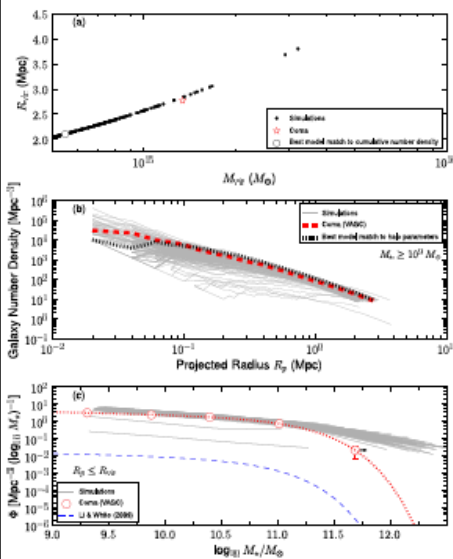
**Simulations**  
(Ceverino+ 2011; Ceverino & Dekel in prep)



**Data from NIC3/H GNS survey**  
(Weinzirl, Jogee, Conselice + 2011, ApJ, 743)

→ Simulations vastly underpredict the fraction of massive disk ( $n < 2$ ) galaxies at  $z \sim 2$

## Need Improved Simulations of Galaxies in Clusters



The Coma cluster is often used as a benchmark for a nearby rich galaxy cluster. Yet, our comparison of its properties with a wide set of theoretical SAM models show that

→ No single SAM model can simultaneously match its main global properties (halo mass/size, galaxy number density, galaxy stellar mass function)

→ SAMS have too many red massive galaxies.

(Weinzirl Jogee, Neistein + Coma Team 2014)

Models used are from Neistein+2010 (combine Millennium DM simulations + baryonic physics)

- Include cold/hot gas accretion, gas cooling, SF and SN feedback, strangulation  $t \sim 4$  Gyr
- Do not include ram pressure/ tidal stripping, AGN feedback, dynamical friction heating

### **Summary: Galaxy Growth Across Cosmic Time and Environments**

Galaxy major mergers were once thought to dominate galaxy growth, but evidence shows more quiescent processes (minor mergers, gas accretion, and secular processes) play a central role:

- Over half of the age of the Universe, among massive galaxies, minor mergers are at least three times as frequent as major mergers, and at most 30% of the cosmic star formation rate density stems from major mergers.
- Structural archeology shows most  $z \sim 0$  massive field spiral galaxies host low-mass disk pseudo-bulges rather than classical bulges. This implies they have experienced no major merger over the last 10 Gyr, consistent with model predictions for field spirals.
- A surprisingly large fraction ( $>50\%$ ) of massive galaxies at early epochs ( $t=3$  Gyr) are disk and star-forming. Cold flows and gas-rich mergers played a key role in their formation.

Theoretical models/simulations face challenges in reproducing the observed galaxy properties in present-day clusters; the correct mix of ultra-compact and extended disk galaxies at early epochs ( $t=3$  Gyr); and the observed number of satellites.

In the next decade, transformational facilities (e.g., GMT, JWST, SKA) will provide a 10-to-100 fold increase in sensitivity, spatial resolution, spectroscopic capabilities, and data volume: This will revolutionize our understanding of how galaxies grow their dark matter and baryons in a dark Universe.