

Spiral structure in nearby galaxies – I. Sample, data analysis and overview of results

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modes. There is no evidence that bars preferentially trigger the spirals, but they do appear to stir up non-axisymmetric structure in the disc. In contrast, there is evidence that strong/close tidal interactions with companion galaxies are associated with strong two-armed spiral structure in the IR, though there are a number of galaxies with relatively weak IR spiral structure that do not possess such companions.