

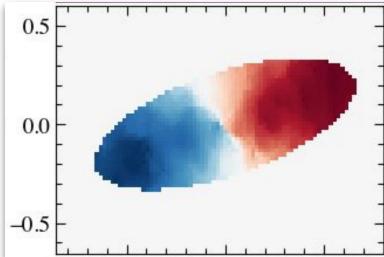
# Stellar Dynamical Mass Measurements of Massive Elliptical Galaxies

More details in:  
[Liepold+20](#),  
[Quenneville+21,+22](#),  
[Pilawa+22](#) (accepted 2 weeks ago!)

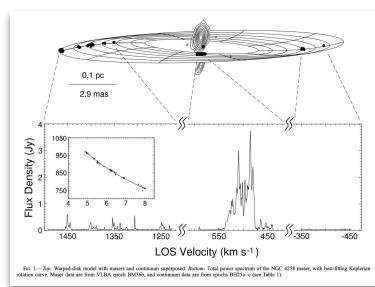
Jacob Pilawa,  
Christopher Liepold, Matthew Quenneville, Chung-Pei Ma  
March 10, 2022

# main techniques for BH discovery:

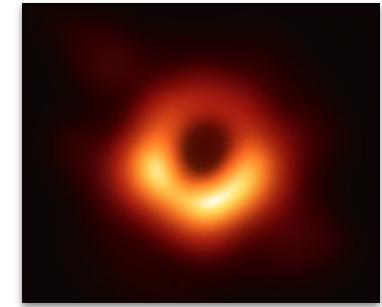
## gas disk dynamics



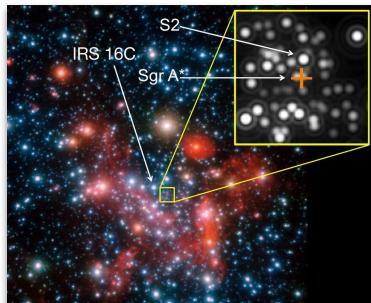
## maser disks



## EHT

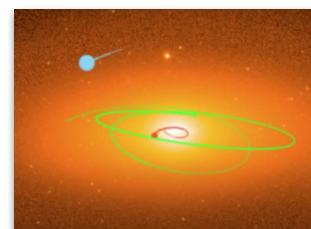


## galactic center



## stellar dynamics

integrated  
light

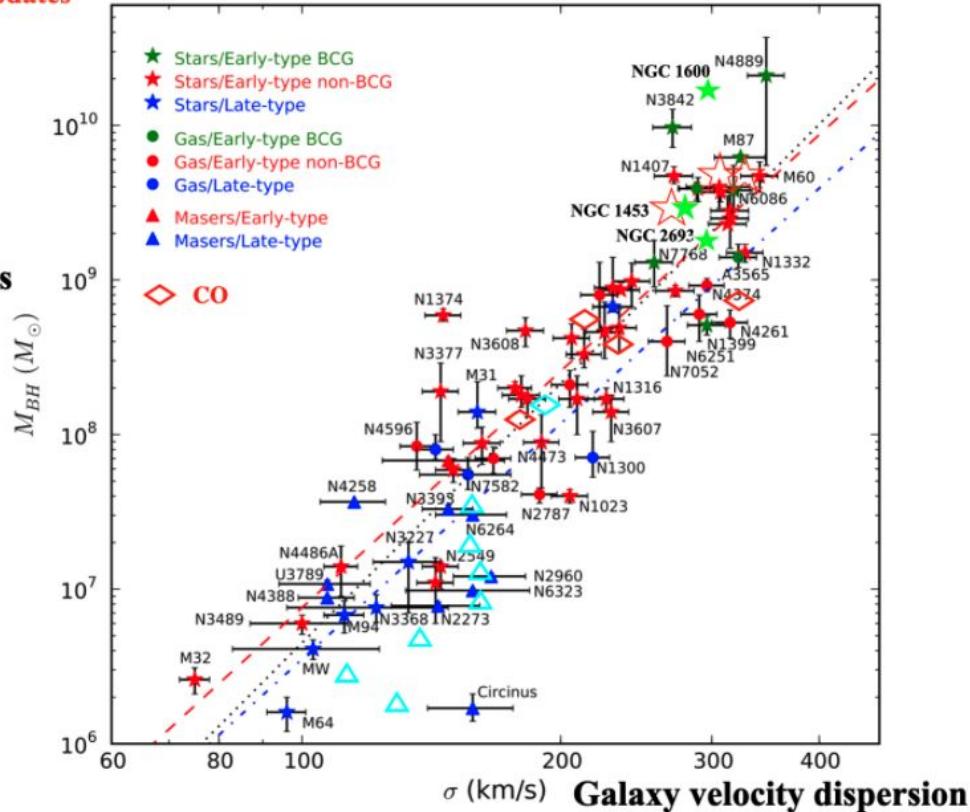


...

see: van den Bosch+08 (stellar),  
Farrington+01, Walsh+10 (gas dynamics),  
Miyoshi+95, Herrnstein+99 (masers).  
slide inspiration: J. Walsh (TAMU)

# BLACK HOLES + GALAXIES

McConnell & Ma (2013)  
+ some updates



$$r_{SOI} \approx \frac{GM}{\sigma^2} \sim 10\text{'s of pc}$$

$$r_{galaxy} \sim 10\text{'s of kpc}$$

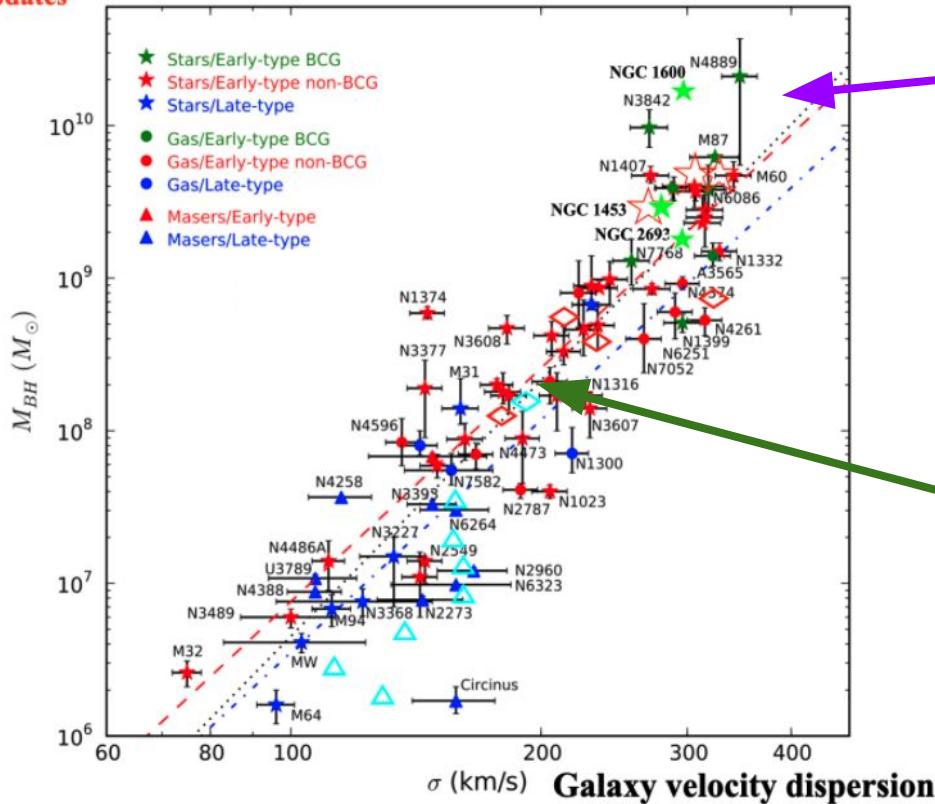


*how do galaxies  
and SMBHs evolve  
together?*

# A CLUE: the most MASSIVE galaxies

McConnell & Ma (2013)

+ some updates



growth by dry mergers

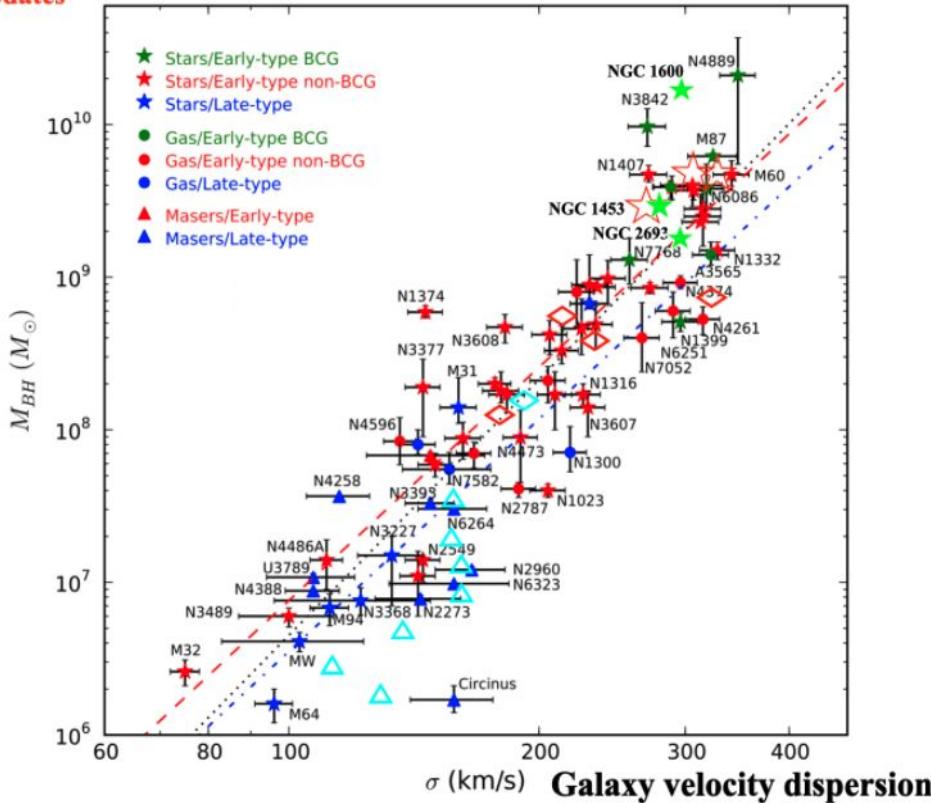
- BH increases
- $\sigma$  saturates
- triaxial intrinsic shapes  
with slow rotation ( $V/\sigma < 0.2$ )

growth by gas accretion/gas-rich mergers

- BH increases
- fast rotators ( $V/\sigma \sim 0.3$ )
- axisymmetric shapes

# A CLUE: the most MASSIVE galaxies

McConnell & Ma (2013)  
+ some updates



*our interpretation depends  
on  $M_{BH}$ 's at the most  
massive end*

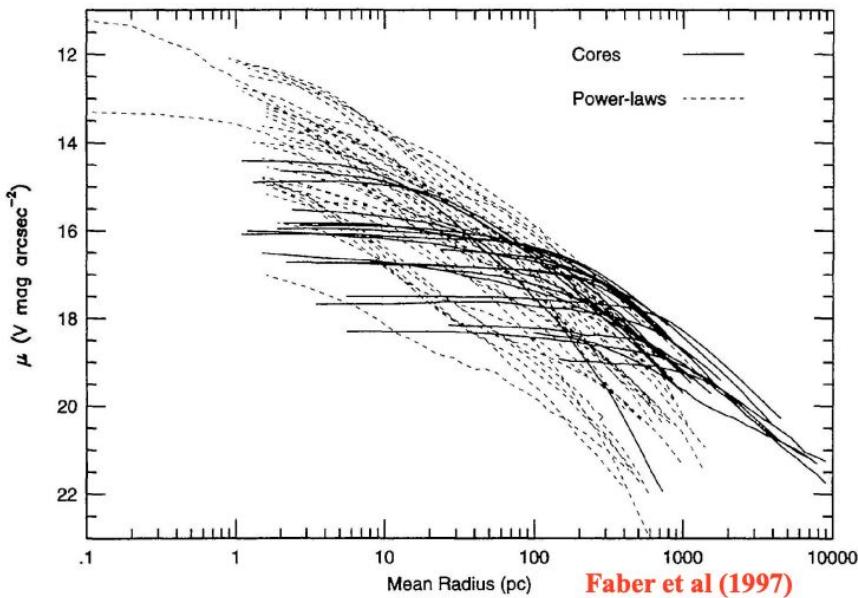
1. Estimating BH Masses
  2. Cross-checking of methods/calibrate reverberation mapping masses
  3.  $z \sim 0$  mass function  $\rightarrow$  BBH merger rates
  4. Comparison to simulations of AGN feedback modes and mechanisms
- ... but it's challenging...

[i.e., Yu+2019 (reverberation mapping), Thater+21 (gas dynamics)],  
[i.e., Shannon+2015, Arzoumanian+2019], [i.e., Li+2019, Habouzit+2020]

# why are massive ellipticals a challenge?

they're both rare, and have  
extremely faint/flat cores

sphere of influence  
is **tiny**



$$r = \frac{GM_{BH}}{\sigma^2} \approx 50\text{pc} \frac{M_{BH}}{10^9 M_\odot} \left( \frac{300 \text{ km s}^{-1}}{\sigma} \right)^2$$

0.1 arcsec at 100 Mpc

→ long exposures on 8-10m telescopes!

# The MASSIVE Survey

a volume-complete survey of the ~100 most **MASSIVE**, local galaxies

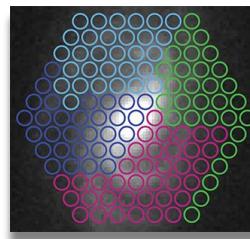
## McDonald Observatory



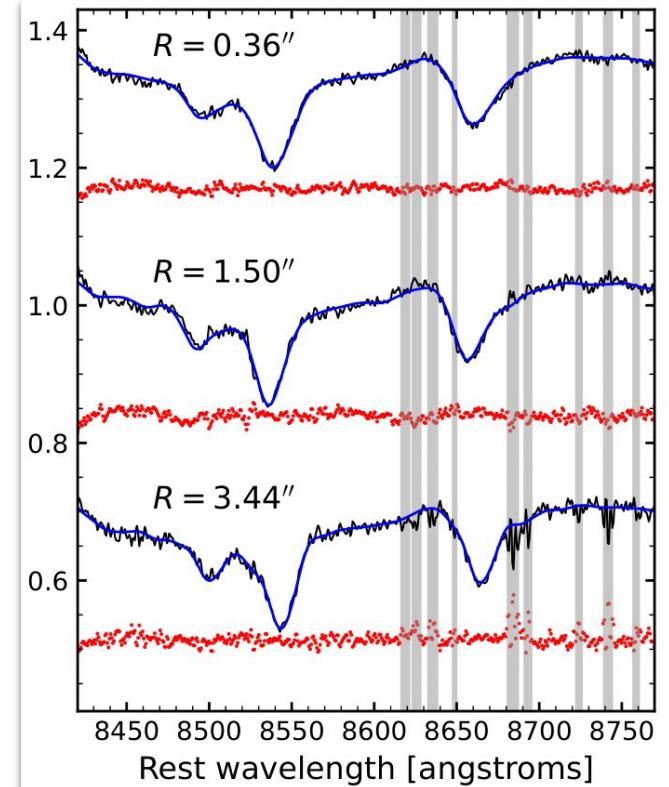
## Gemini North



Wide-field IFU  
(out to  $\sim 2 R_{\text{eff}}$ )



High-resolution,  
**high SNR** IFU  
( $\sim 0.3''$  to  $\sim 5''$  at  
SNR~125)

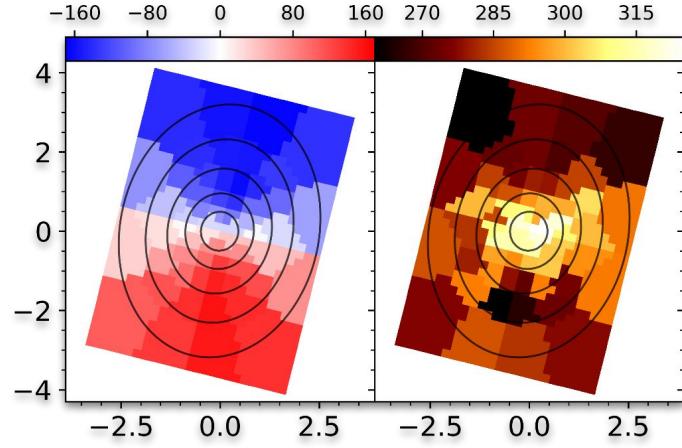


MASSIVE I: Ma+2014,  
MASSIVE II-XVI: Awesome science + other MASSIVE results!  
MASSIVE XVII: Pilawa+22

Spectra from Gemini North/GMOS  
(Pilawa+22)

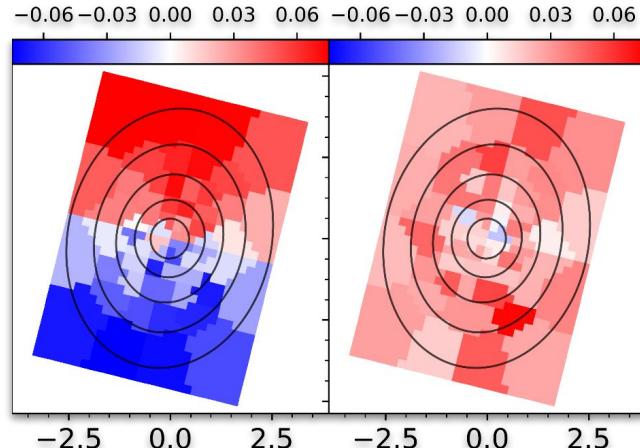
# The MASSIVE Survey

Velocity  
 $V$  [km/s]



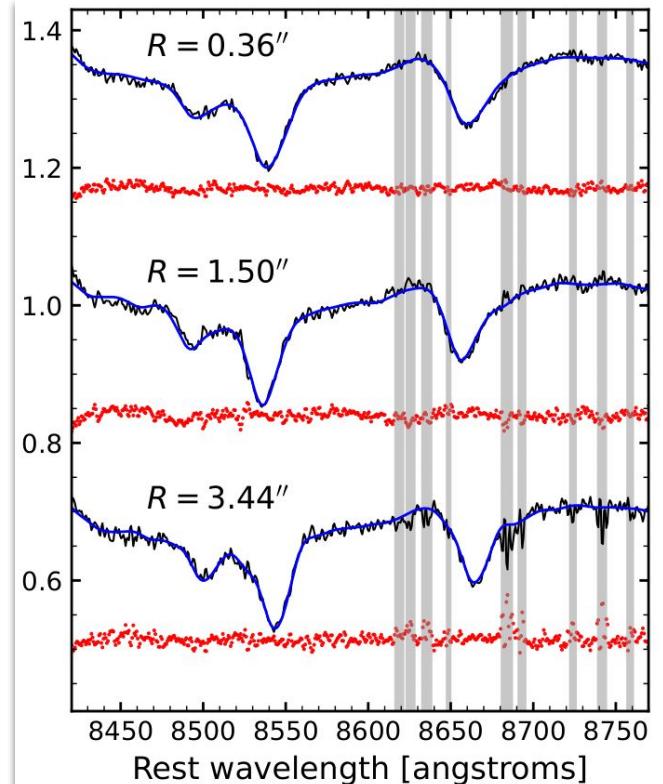
\* rarely determined by others

Skewness  
 $h_3$



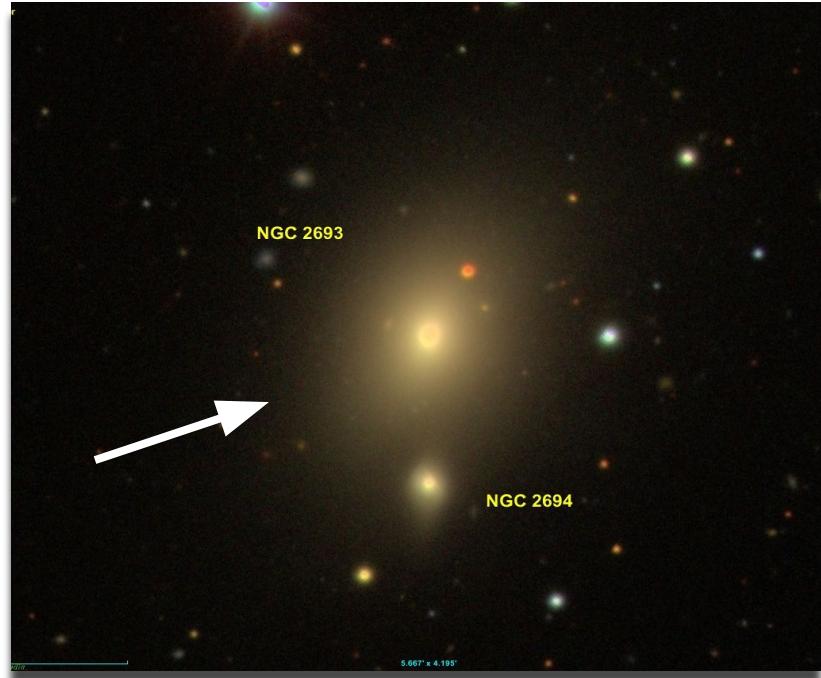
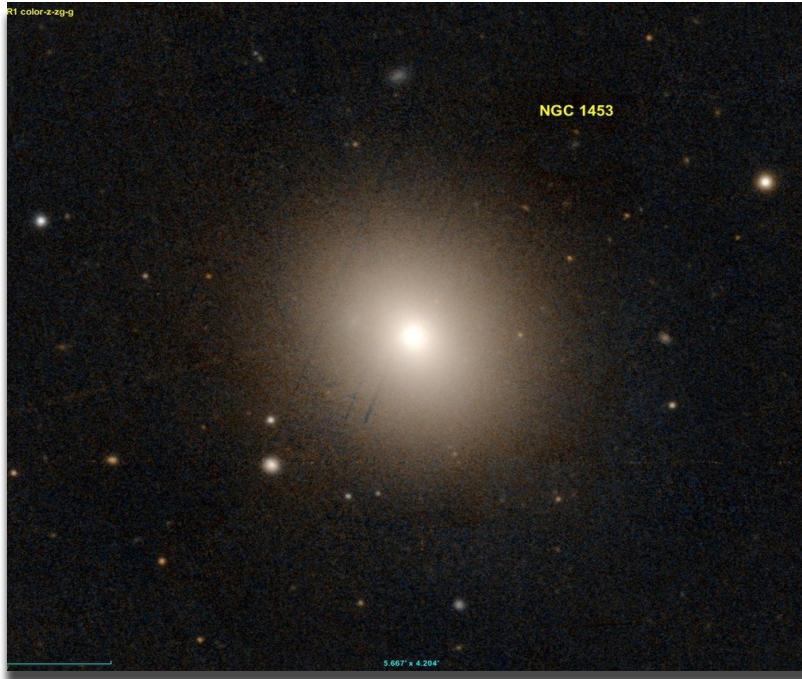
Kurtosis  
 $h_4$

Dispersion  
 $\sigma$  [km/s]



Spectra from Gemini North/GMOS  
(Pilawa+22)

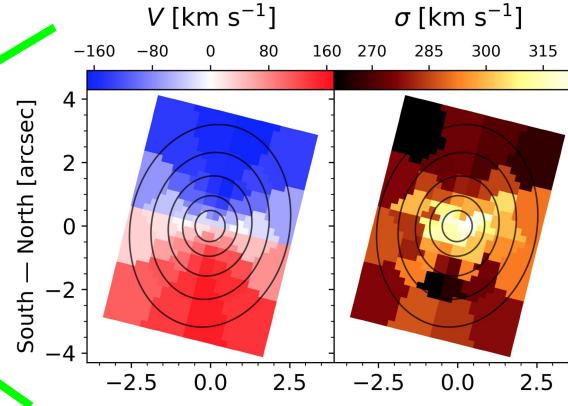
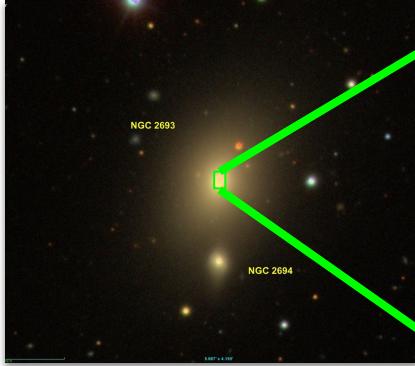
# stellar kinematics of NGC 1453 and 2693



SDSS DR9 Images

# stellar kinematics of NGC 1453 and 2693

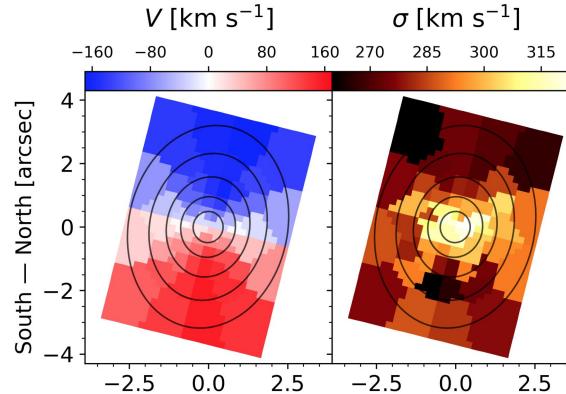
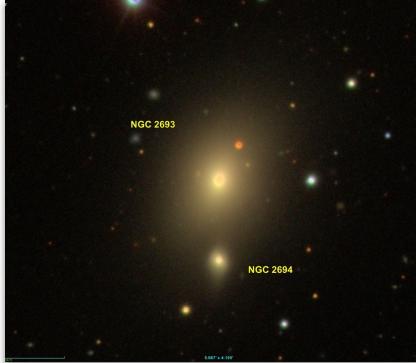
NGC 2693



- regular, fast rotator ( $V \sim 150 \text{ km/s}$ ,  $\sigma \sim 320 \text{ km/s}$ )

# stellar kinematics of NGC 1453 and 2693

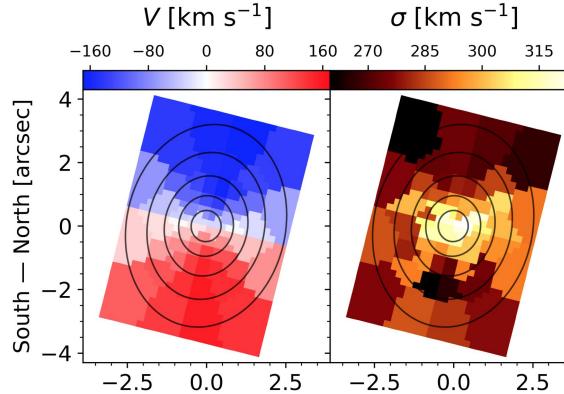
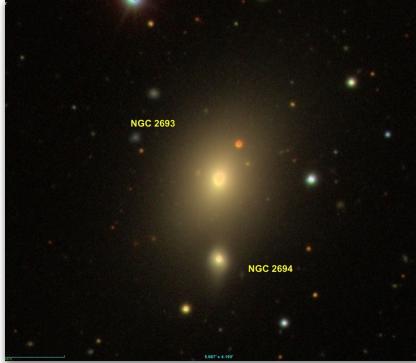
NGC 2693



- regular, fast rotator ( $V \sim 150 \text{ km/s}$ ,  $\sigma \sim 320 \text{ km/s}$ )
- mostly regular, elliptical isophotes

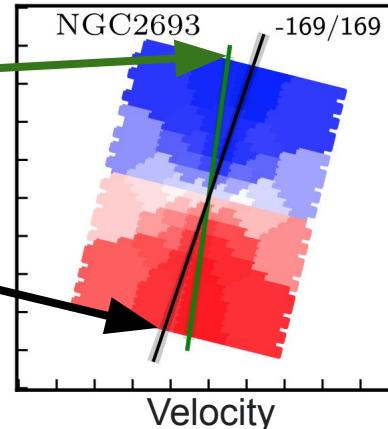
# stellar kinematics of NGC 1453 and 2693

NGC 2693



average orientation of stellar motion

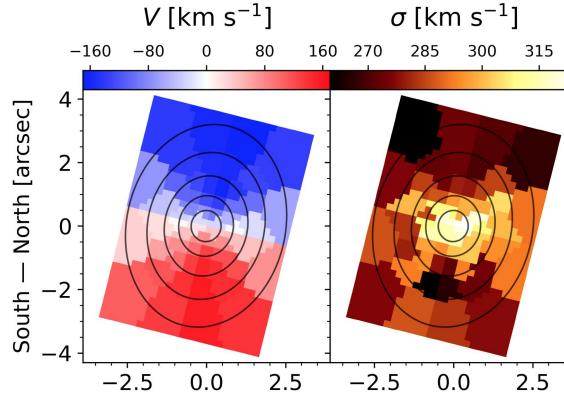
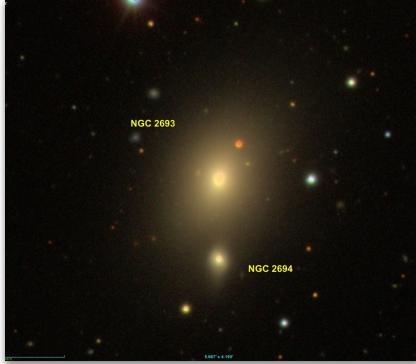
photometric major axis



- regular, fast rotator ( $V \sim 150 \text{ km/s}$ ,  $\sigma \sim 320 \text{ km/s}$ )
- mostly regular, elliptical isophotes
- **kinematic** and **photometric** major axes are **nearly** aligned ( $\Delta\Psi \sim 5^\circ$ )

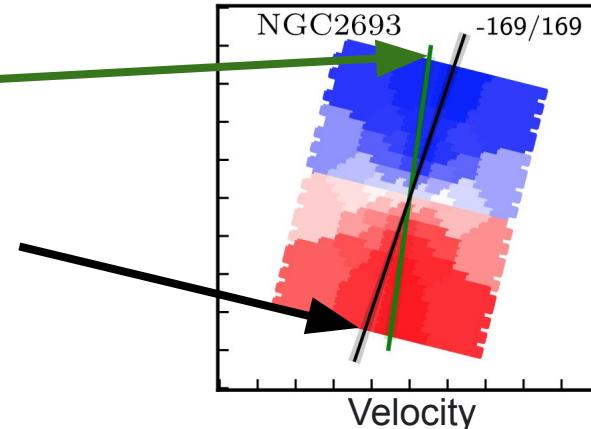
# stellar kinematics of NGC 1453 and 2693

NGC 2693



average orientation of stellar motion

photometric major axis



- regular, fast rotator ( $V \sim 150$  km/s,  $\sigma \sim 320$  km/s)
- mostly regular, elliptical isophotes
- **kinematic** and **photometric** major axes are **nearly** aligned ( $\Delta\Psi \sim 5^\circ$ )

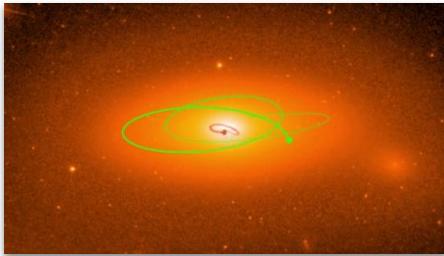
properties consistent with **axisymmetric** intrinsic shapes, so let's test!

# triaxial dynamical modeling

a new code for  
Schwarzschild modeling:

**TriOS:**  
**Triaxial Orbit  
Superposition**  
(van den Bosch+08,  
Quenneville+21 updates)

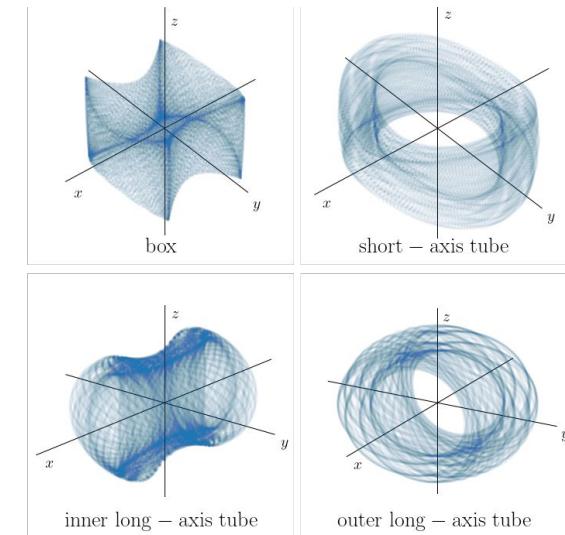
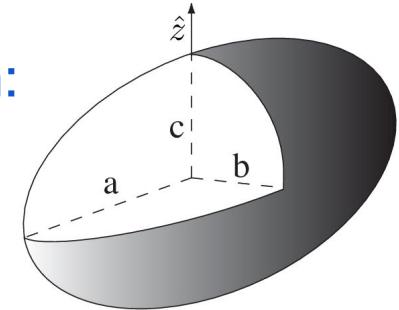
**inputs:** stellar kinematics, surface  
brightness; galaxy model parameters



**outputs:** set of stellar orbits which best  
reproduces the input kinematics

## triaxial systems

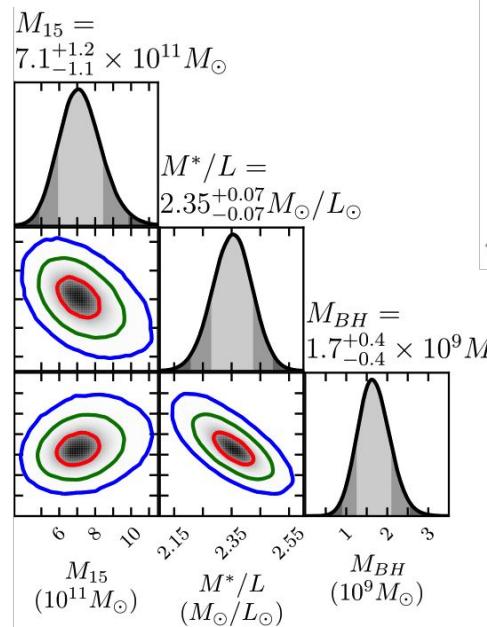
- 6 knobs to turn:
  - BH
  - M/L
  - DM Halo
  - 3 Shape Parameters



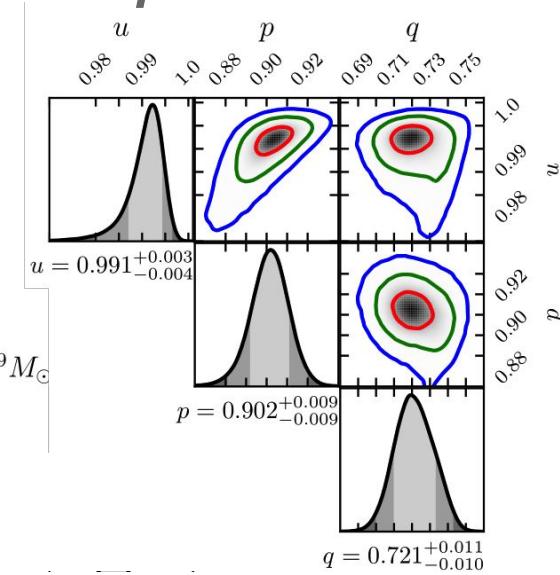
# stellar dynamical modeling: applications to NGC 2693

- first simultaneous measurements of DM mass, BH mass, **and intrinsic shapes**
- neither galaxy is axisymmetric ( $p = 1$ )
  - Intermediate-to-major axis ratio:  $p = b/a \sim 0.9$
  - Minor-to-major axis ratio:  $q = c/a \sim 0.7$
- NGC 2693  $M_{BH} = (1.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$

*mass  
parameters*



*shape  
parameters*



TRIAXIAL

AXISYMMETRIC

NGC 2693 BH:  $(1.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}} \rightarrow (2.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$

# Summary

discovery of two new supermassive black holes:

NGC 1453:  $(2.9 \pm 0.4) \times 10^9 M_{\text{Sun}}$   
NGC 2693:  $(1.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^9 M_{\text{Sun}}$

first simultaneous measurements of **BH + DM halo + galaxy shape**

both NGC 1453 and NGC 2693 are **mildly triaxial** despite appearing axisymmetric

axisymmetric NGC 2693 models prefer a ~25% larger BH, but **more examples are needed**

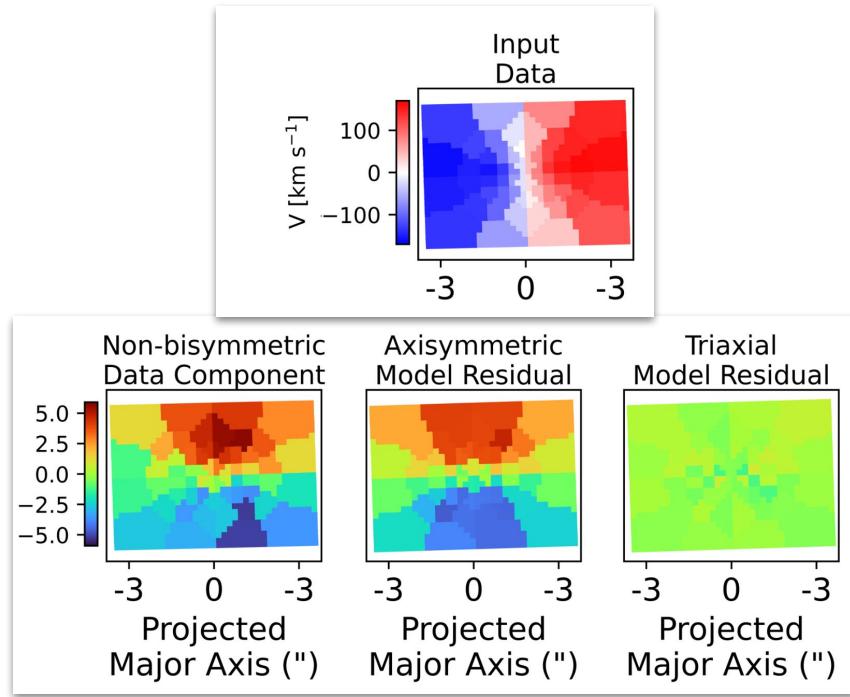
we are ready for more complicated kinematic structure

~20 **MASSIVE** galaxies are ready for modeling, none of which are simple fast rotators

**Thank you!**

# *Extra Slides*

# what about axisymmetric models?



analogy:

$$f(x) = f_{\text{even}}(x) + f_{\text{odd}}(x)$$

$$V(x) = V_{\text{bisymmetric}}(x) + V_{\text{non-bisymmetric}}(x)$$

**triaxial models**

**axisymmetric models**

TRIAXIAL

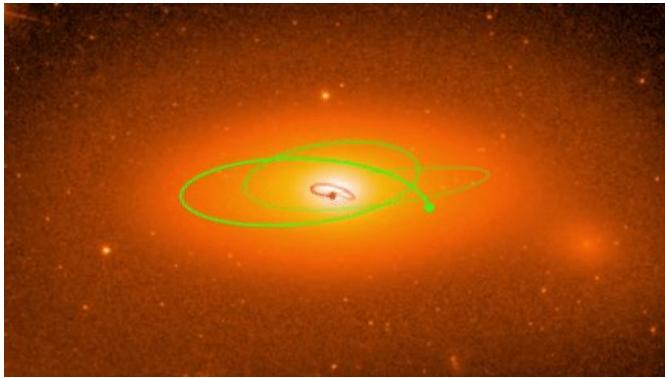
AXISYMMETRIC

NGC 2693 BH:  $(1.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}} \rightarrow (2.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$

# stellar dynamics pt. 2

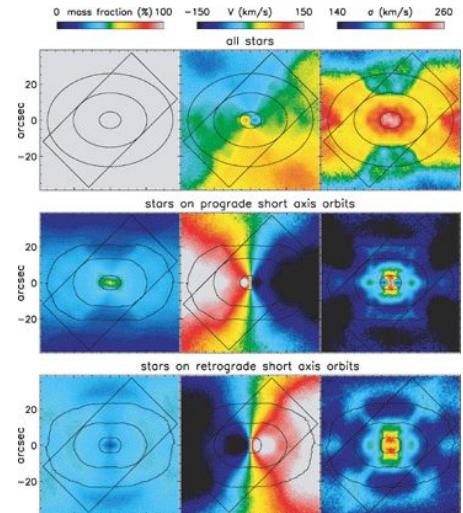
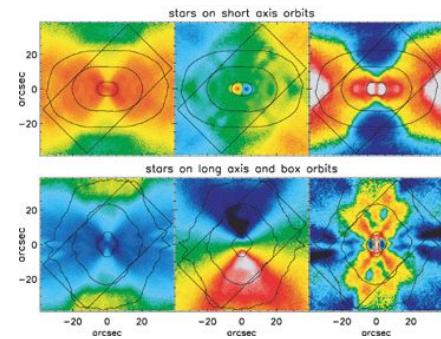
## 1. Choose a trial potential:

$$\text{Galaxy} = (\text{DM}) + (\text{STARS}) + (\text{BH}) + \dots$$



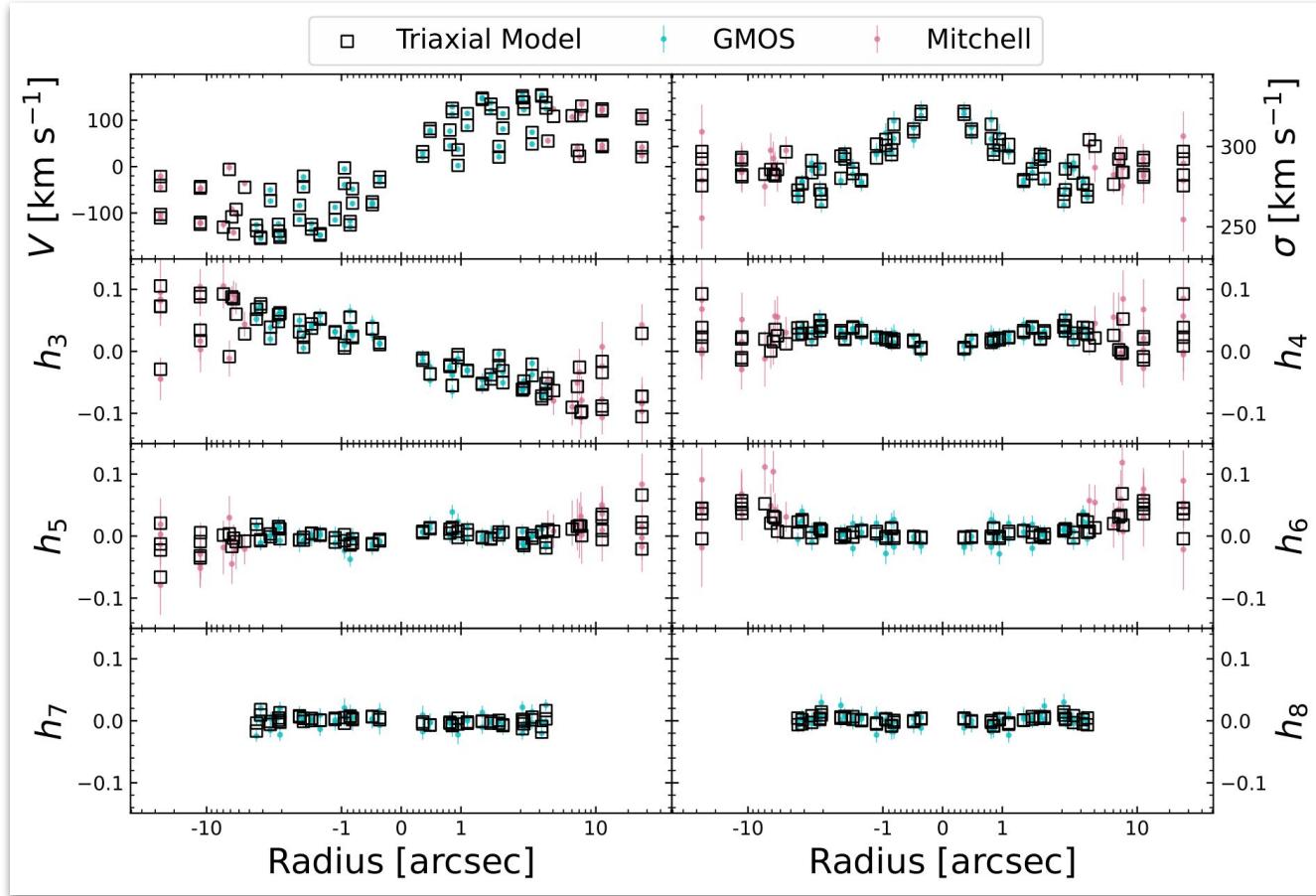
2. Integrate orbits in a given potential  
– store “observations” (i.e., positions,  
velocities of tracers)

3. Assign weights to orbits →  
Reproduce kinematics



4. Repeat for many potentials  
(BH, M/L, DM halo, galaxy  
shape, etc...) and find best fit  
to data.

# modeling results: applications to NGC 2693



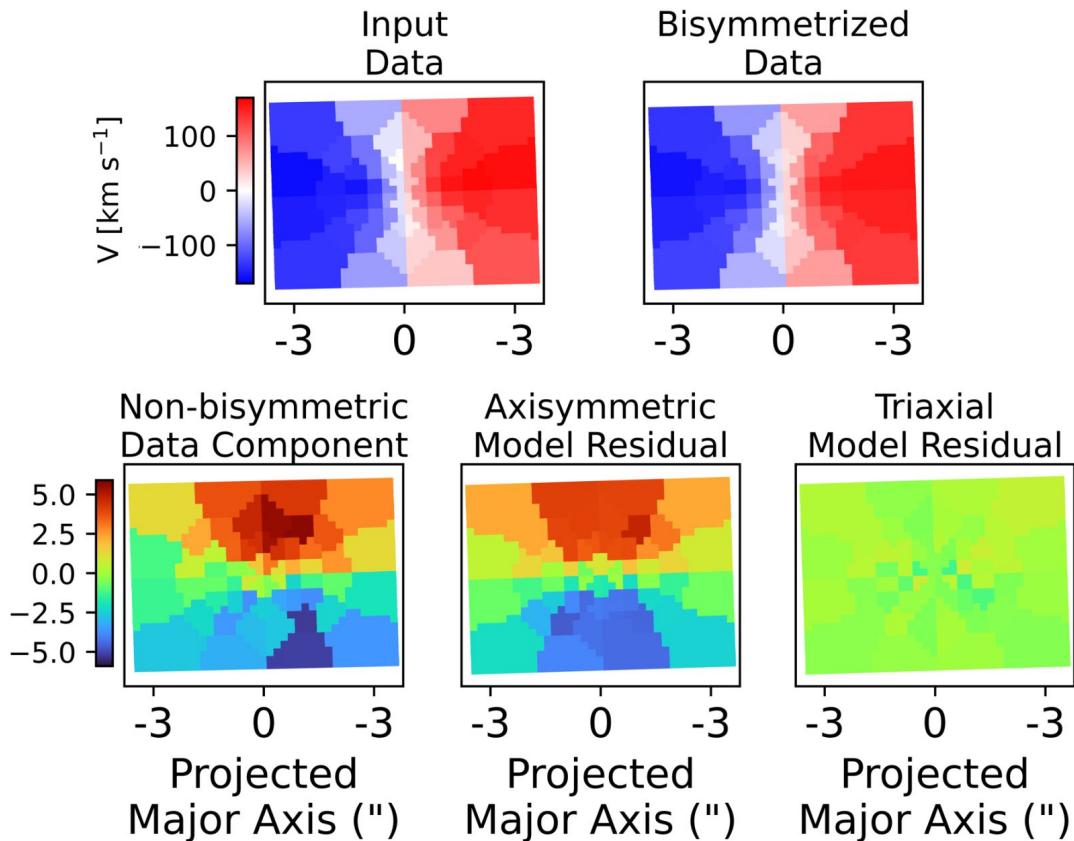
1''~350pc

# axisymmetric vs. triaxial models

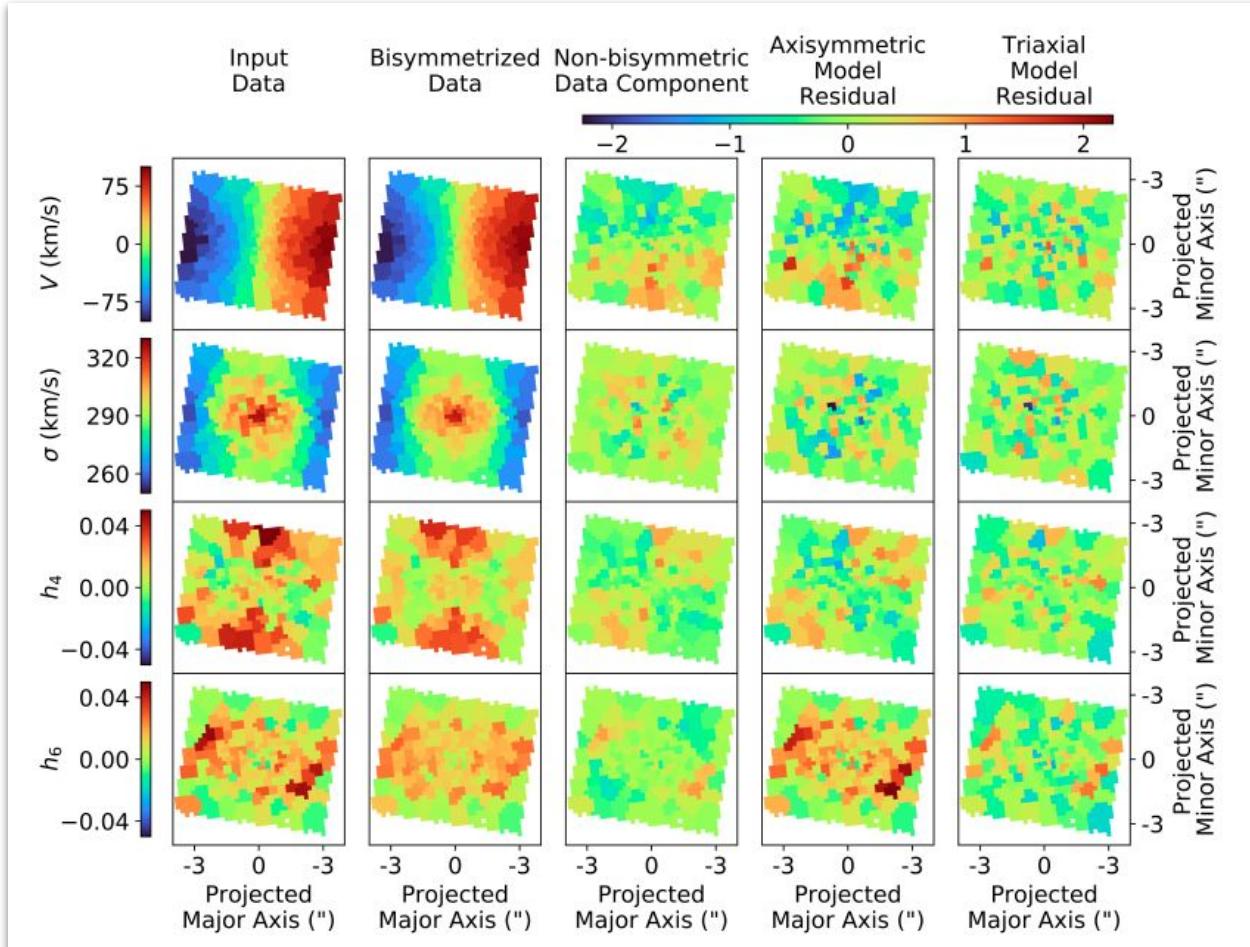
- triaxial model fits data better
- triaxial model also reproduces more complicated velocity structure



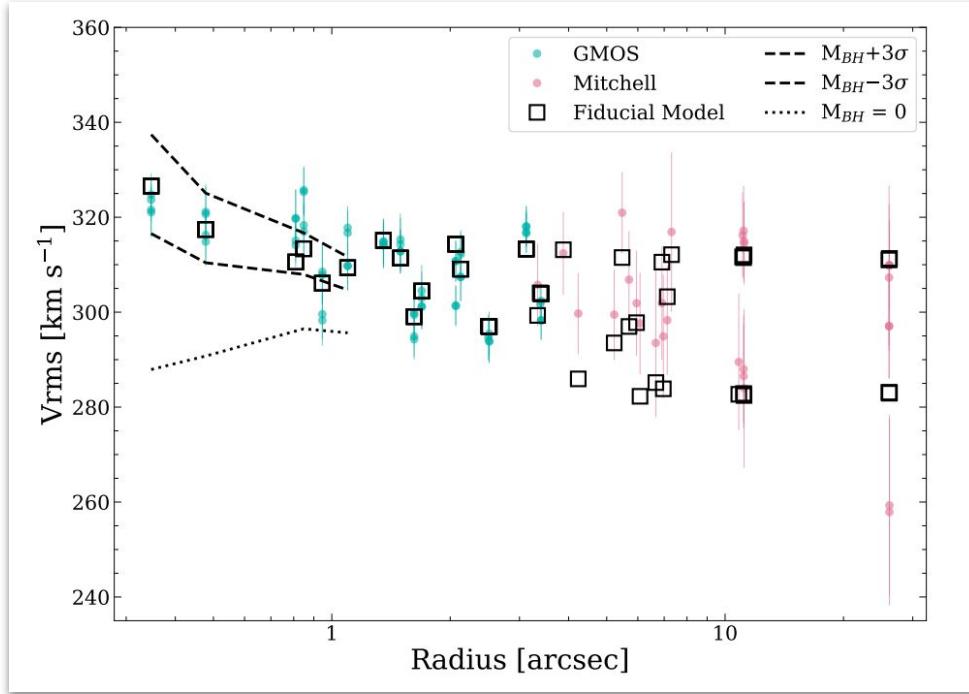
axisymmetric models  
cannot reproduce  
non-bisymmetric  
velocity components



# axisymmetric vs. triaxial models



# Jeans Modeling



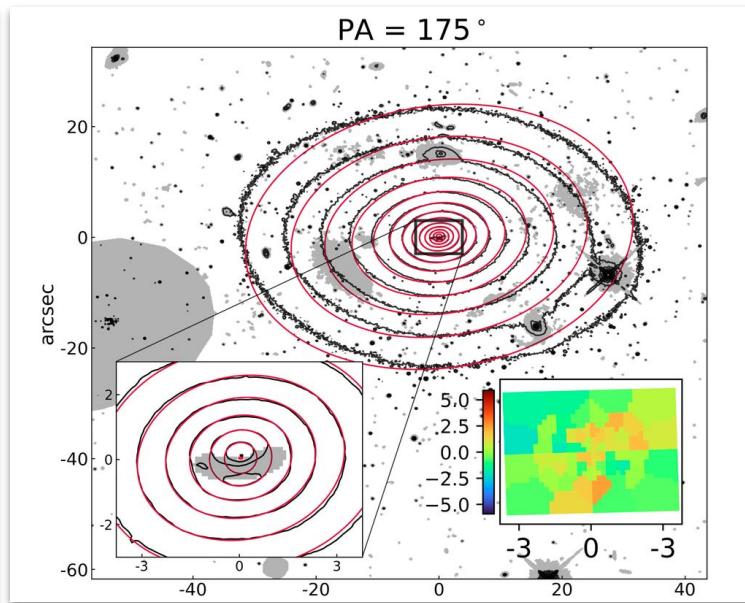
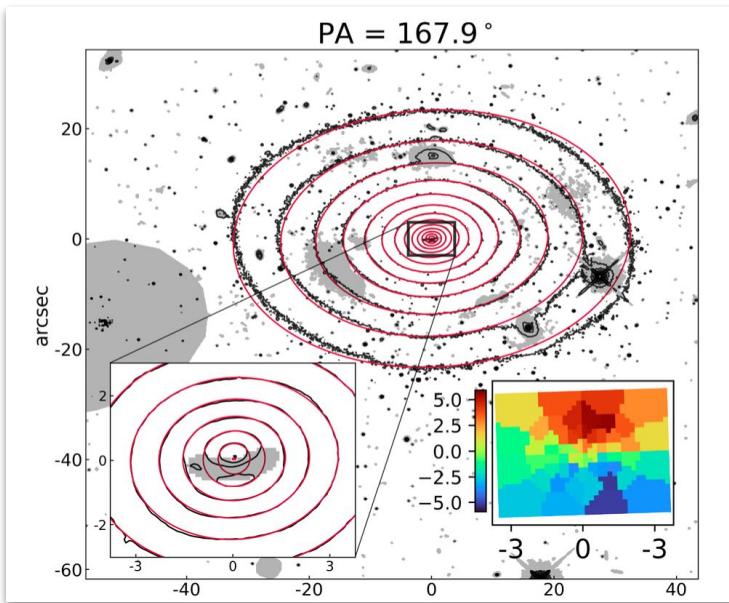
Galaxy Parameter	Triaxial Orbit Model	Axisymmetric Orbit Model	JAM Model
$M_{\text{BH}} [10^9 M_{\odot}]$	$1.7 \pm 0.4$	$2.4 \pm 0.6$	$2.9 \pm 0.3$
$M^*/L [M_{\odot}/L_{\odot}]$	$2.35 \pm 0.07$	$2.27 \pm 0.1$	$2.17 \pm 0.03$
$M_{15} [10^{11} M_{\odot}]$	$7.1^{+1.2}_{-1.1}$	$7.9 \pm 1.3$	$4.7 \pm 0.2$
$\beta_z$	See caption. <sup>†</sup>	See caption. <sup>†</sup>	$0.07 \pm 0.01$
$T$	$0.39 \pm 0.04$		
$T_{\text{maj}}$	$0.09^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$		
$T_{\text{min}}$	$0.17^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$		
$u$	$0.991^{+0.003}_{-0.004}$		
$p$	$0.902 \pm 0.009$		
$q$	$0.721^{+0.011}_{-0.010}$		
$\theta (\text{°})$	$66^{+4}_{-3}$		
$\phi (\text{°})$	$72 \pm 3$		
$\psi (\text{°})$	$93.0^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$		

**Table 2.** Summary of best-fit galaxy models for NGC 2693. For each parameter, we marginalize over the other dimensions and report the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties. The axisymmetric orbit models and JAM models have fixed inclination of  $70^\circ$ . In orbit models,  $\theta$  is the inclination angle in the oblate axisymmetric limit ( $\psi = 90^\circ$ , or equivalently  $p = 1$ ), with  $\theta = 90^\circ$  being edge-on and  $\theta = 0^\circ$  being face-on. <sup>†</sup>We measure  $\beta_z$  in the orbit model as a function of radius, shown in the bottom panel of Figure 6. The best-fit JAM value of  $\beta_z = 0.07 \pm 0.01$  is consistent with the range of  $\beta_z$  values measured from this best-fit model, with values ranging from  $\beta_z = -0.27$  at small radii to  $\beta_z = 0.28$  at large radii in both the triaxial and axisymmetric Schwarzschild models.

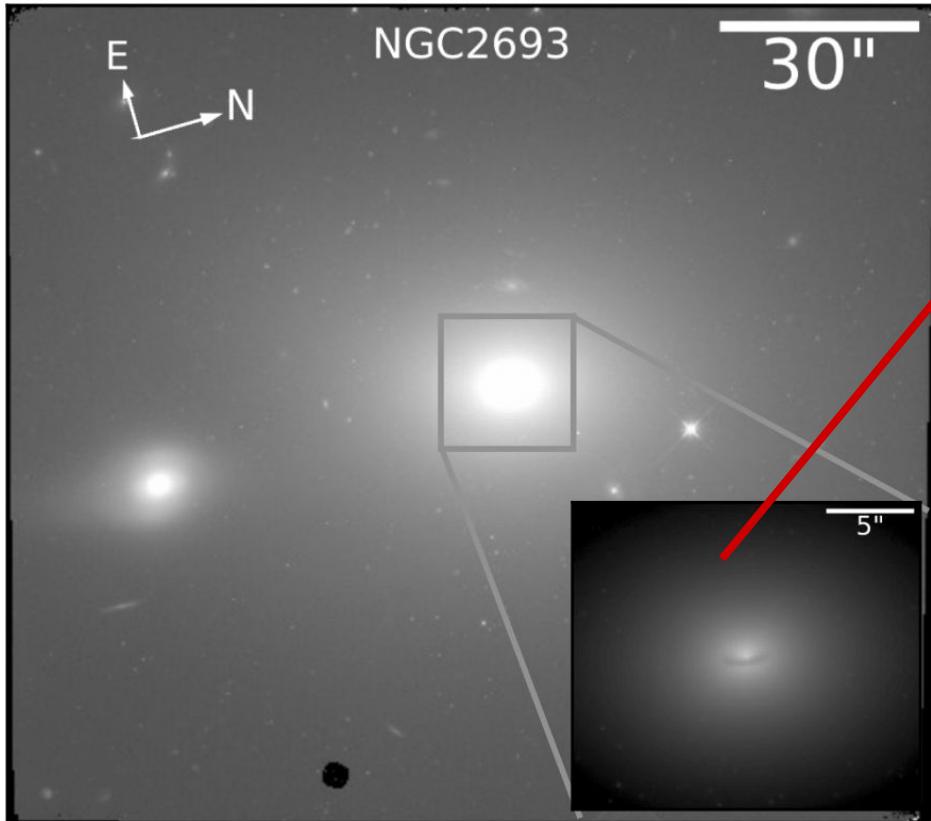
# axisymmetric vs. triaxial models



“rotating away” the non-bisymmetric component gives an inconsistent surface brightness profile



a nice surprise:



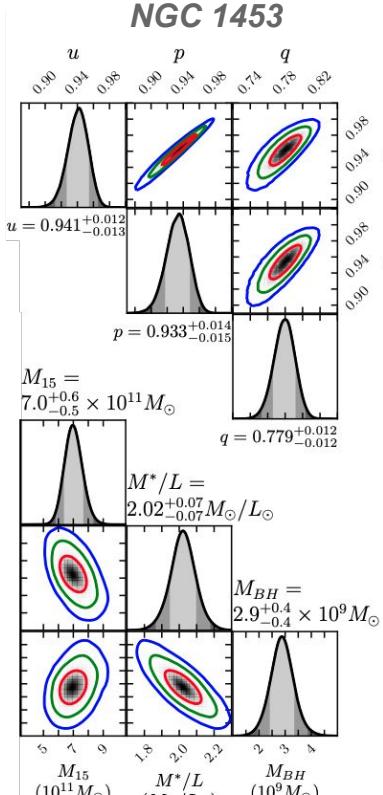
dust disk  
inclination:

$\theta \sim 70$  degrees

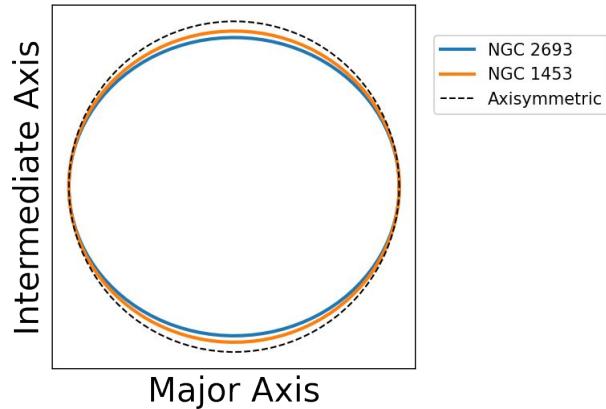
“inclination”  
from the triaxial  
model:

$$\theta = 66^{+4}_{-3} \text{ degrees}$$

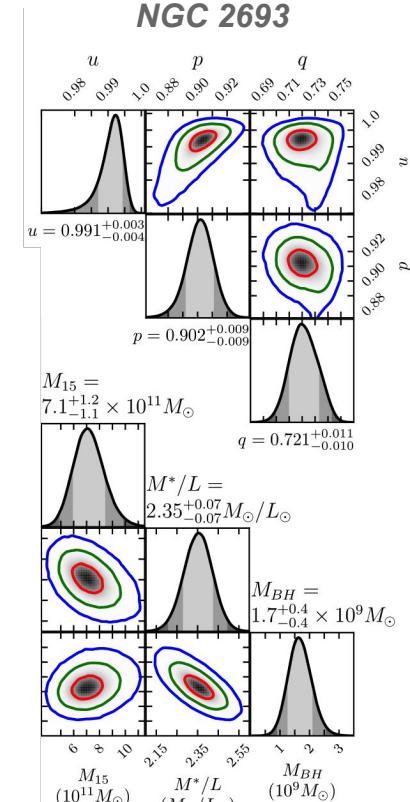
# stellar dynamical modeling: applications to NGC 1453 and 2693



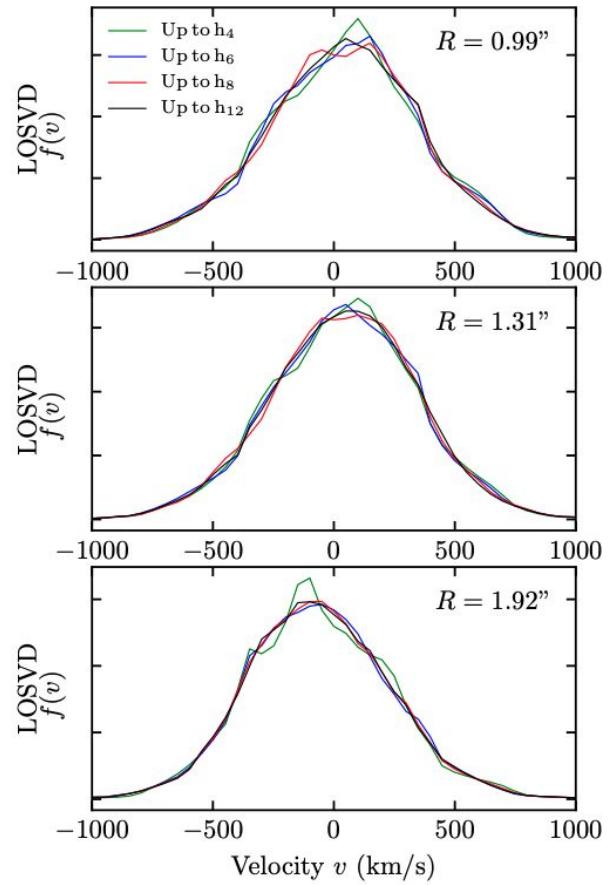
- first simultaneous measurements of DM halo, BH mass, and **intrinsic shapes**
- neither galaxy is **axisymmetric**, despite properties suggesting so



- NGC 1453 BH:  $2.9 \times 10^9 M_\odot$
- NGC 2693 BH:  $1.7 \times 10^9 M_\odot$



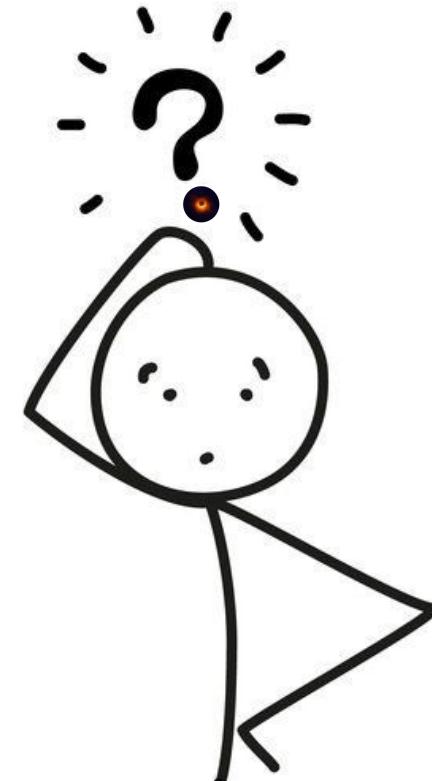
# LOSVDs



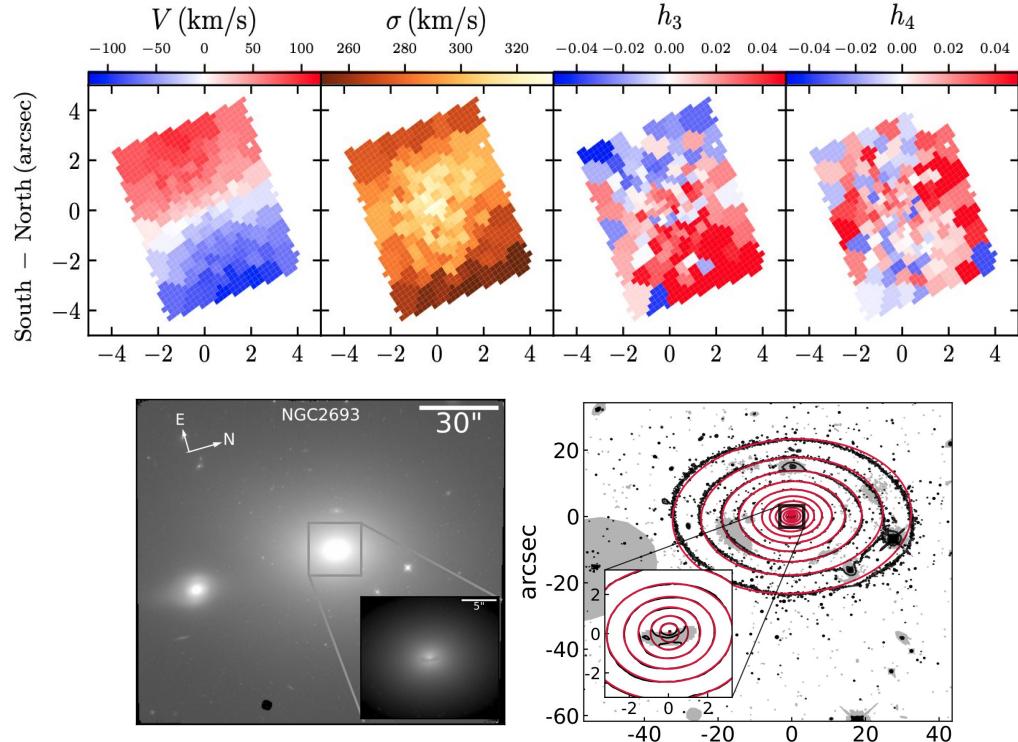
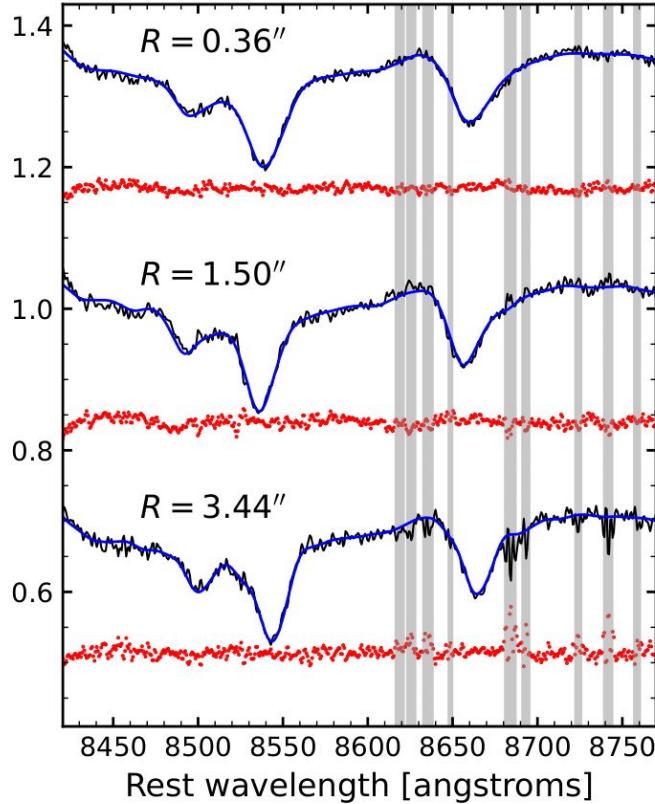
# why else are SMBHs *important*?

1. Estimate BH mass from galaxy properties  
where we can't resolve SOI
  
2. Cross-checking of gas dynamics, mega-maser disks, and reverberation mapping BH masses  
[i.e., Yu+2019 (reverberation mapping), Thater+21 (gas dynamics)]
  
3.  $z \sim 0$  mass function/number density → predictions  
for long- $\lambda$  gravitational wave signal from Pulsar  
Timing Arrays/LISA  
[i.e., Shannon+2015, Arzoumanian+2019]
  
4. Comparison to simulations of AGN feedback  
modes and mechanisms  
[i.e., Li+2019, Habouzit+2020]

...



# stellar dynamical modeling: applications to NGC 1453 and 2693



+ ~10,000 individual  
galaxy models

# Nested Sampling in A Single Slide

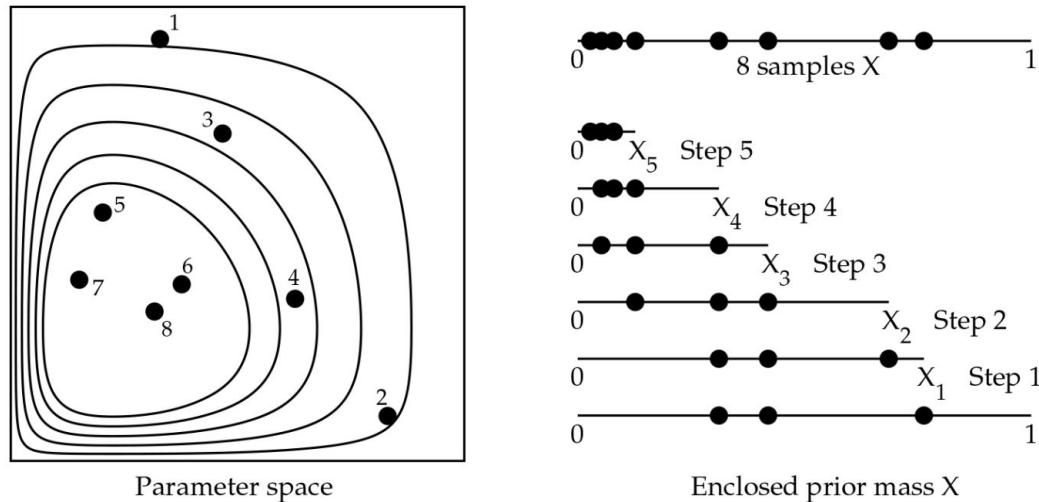


Figure 4: Nested sampling for five steps with a collection of three points. Likelihood contours shrink by factors  $\exp(-1/3)$  in area and are roughly followed by successive sample points.

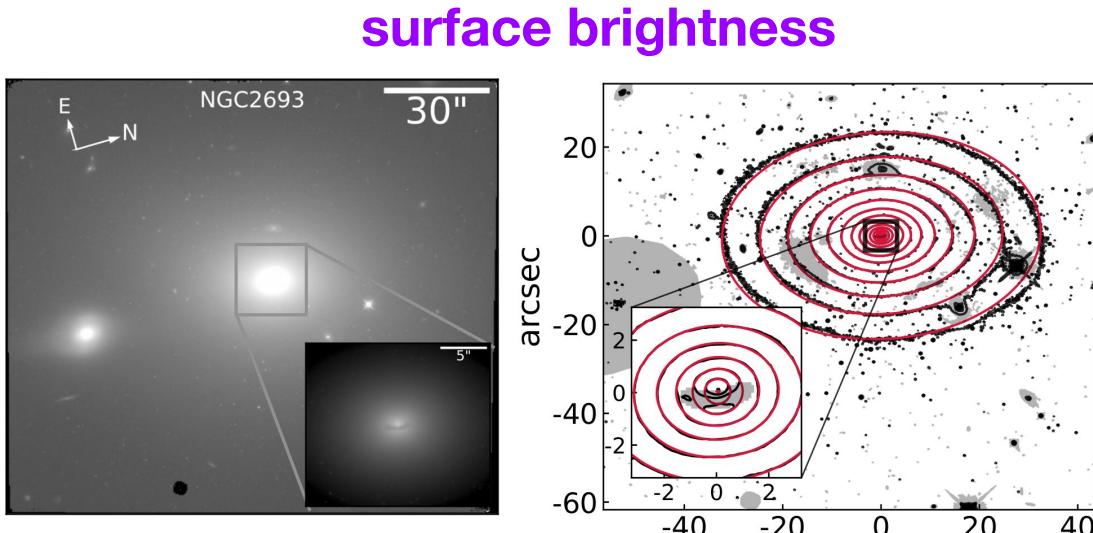
\*J. Skilling 2006

**idea : iteratively sample points, getting rid of lowest likelihood at each step → volume shrinks to maxima of distributions**

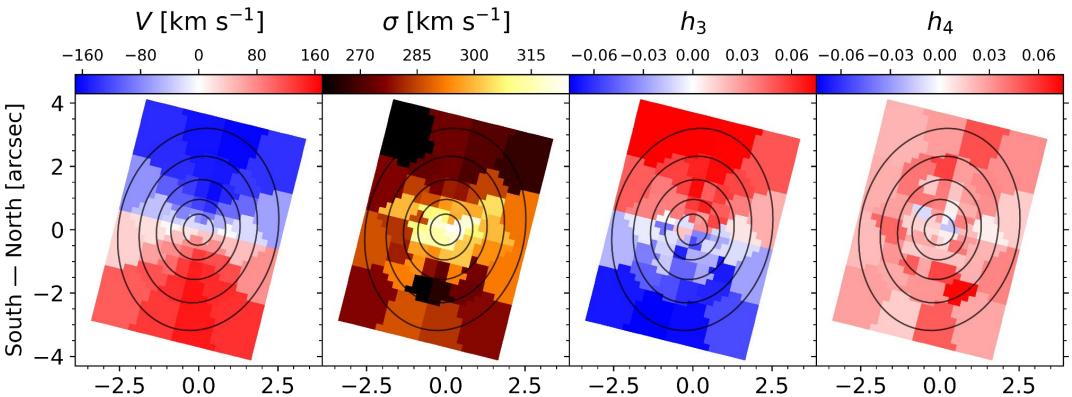
# stellar dynamical models

## CENTRAL IDEA:

given kinematics + surface brightness of NGC 2693,  
can we determine the galaxy's mass components  
by integrating the orbits of stars in a gravitational potential?



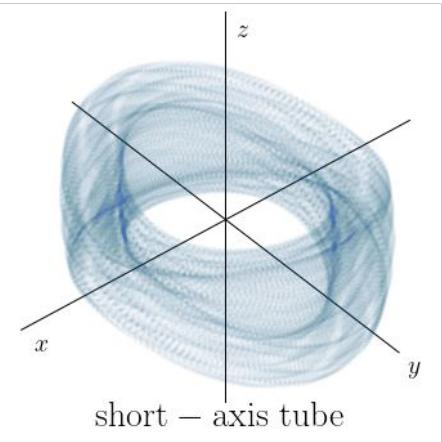
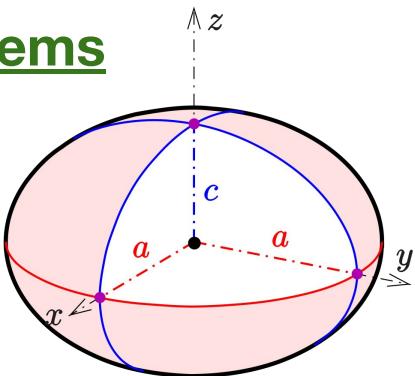
## line of sight velocity distribution



# triaxial dynamical modeling

## axisymmetric systems

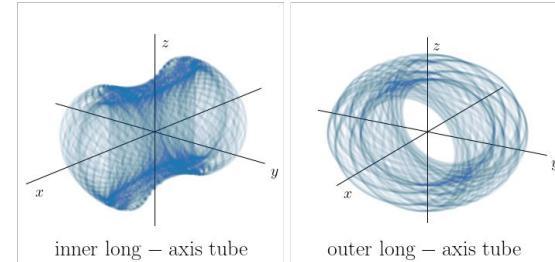
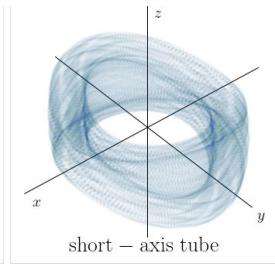
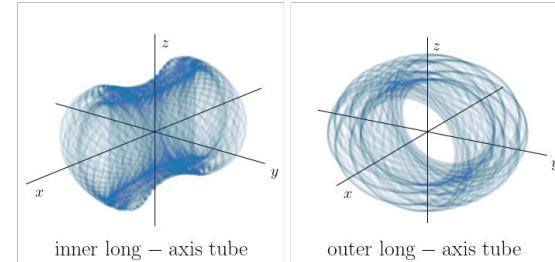
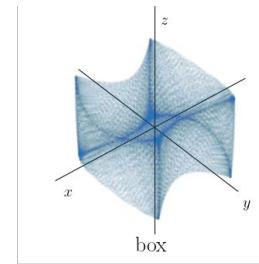
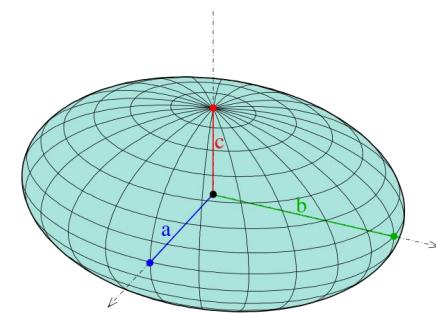
- 4 parameters:
  - BH
  - M/L
  - DM Halo
  - Inclination



**important:**  
axisymmetric  
systems are, by  
construction,  
**bisymmetric**

## triaxial systems

- 6 parameters:
  - BH
  - M/L
  - DM Halo
  - 3 Shape Parameters

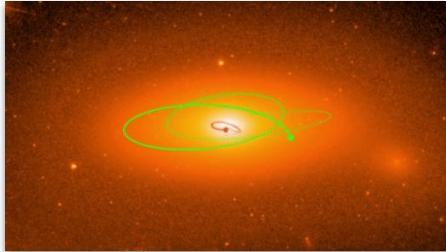


# triaxial dynamical modeling

1. Choose a trial potential:

$$\text{Galaxy} = (\text{DM}) + (\text{STARS}) + (\text{BH}) + \dots$$

2. Generate stellar orbits in trial potential



3. Determine which orbits most accurately reproduce **kinematics** + **photometry** for a *single* trial potential

4. Find which assumed potential fits **kinematics** + **photometry** best **across trial potentials (BH, ML, Shapes)**

## triaxial systems

- 6 knobs to turn:
  - BH
  - M/L
  - DM Halo
  - 3 Shape Parameters

