

# NEUTRON STAR OSCILLATIONS

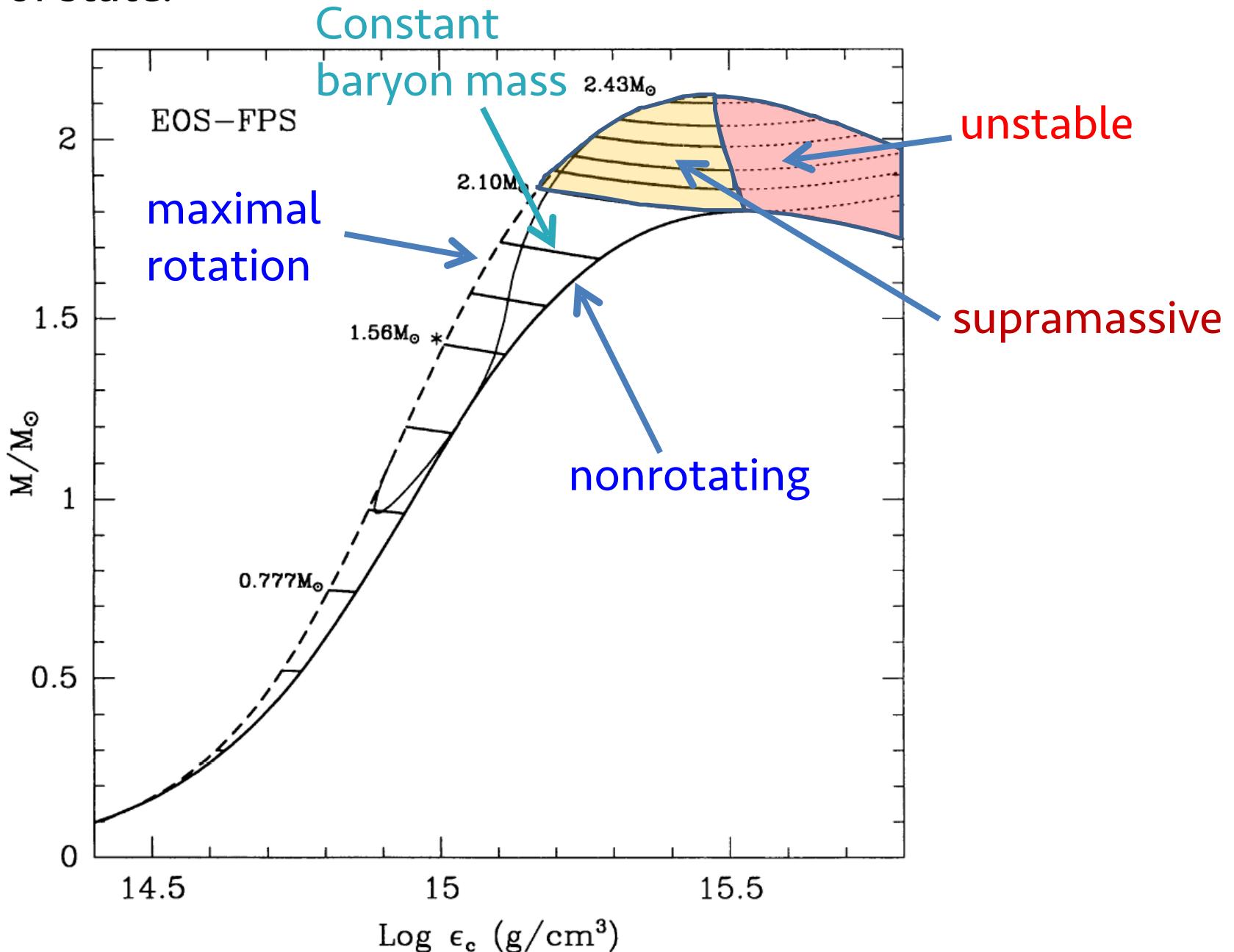
NIKOLAOS STERGIULAS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI



# Equilibria of Rotating Stars

Uniformly rotating equilibrium models for a realistic neutron star equation of state.



# Axisymmetric Instability to Collapse

Rotating stars are subject to a ***secular*** axisymmetric instability, if:

$$\left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial \epsilon_c} \right)_J < 0$$

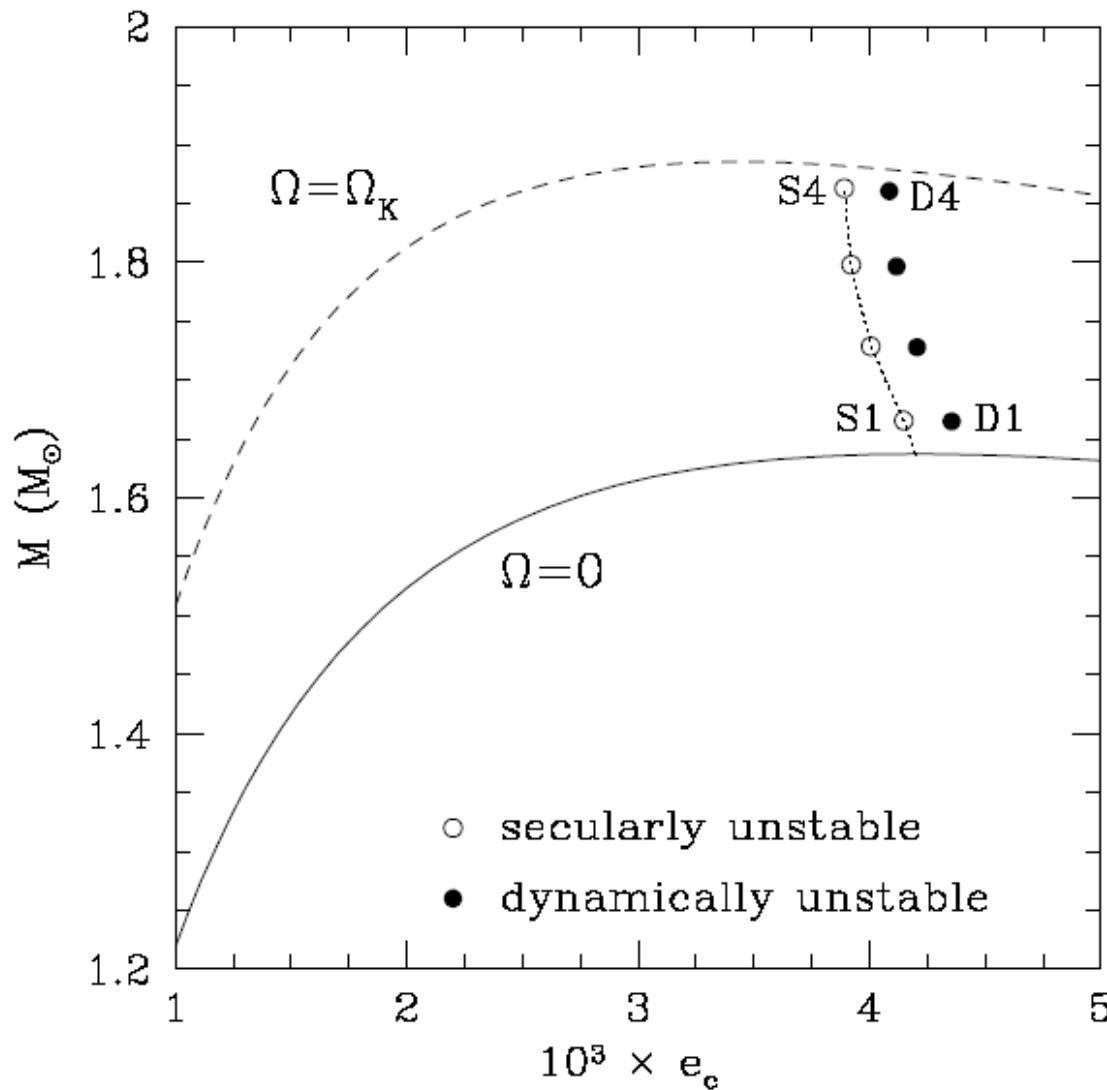
(Friedman, Ipser & Sorkin, 1988).

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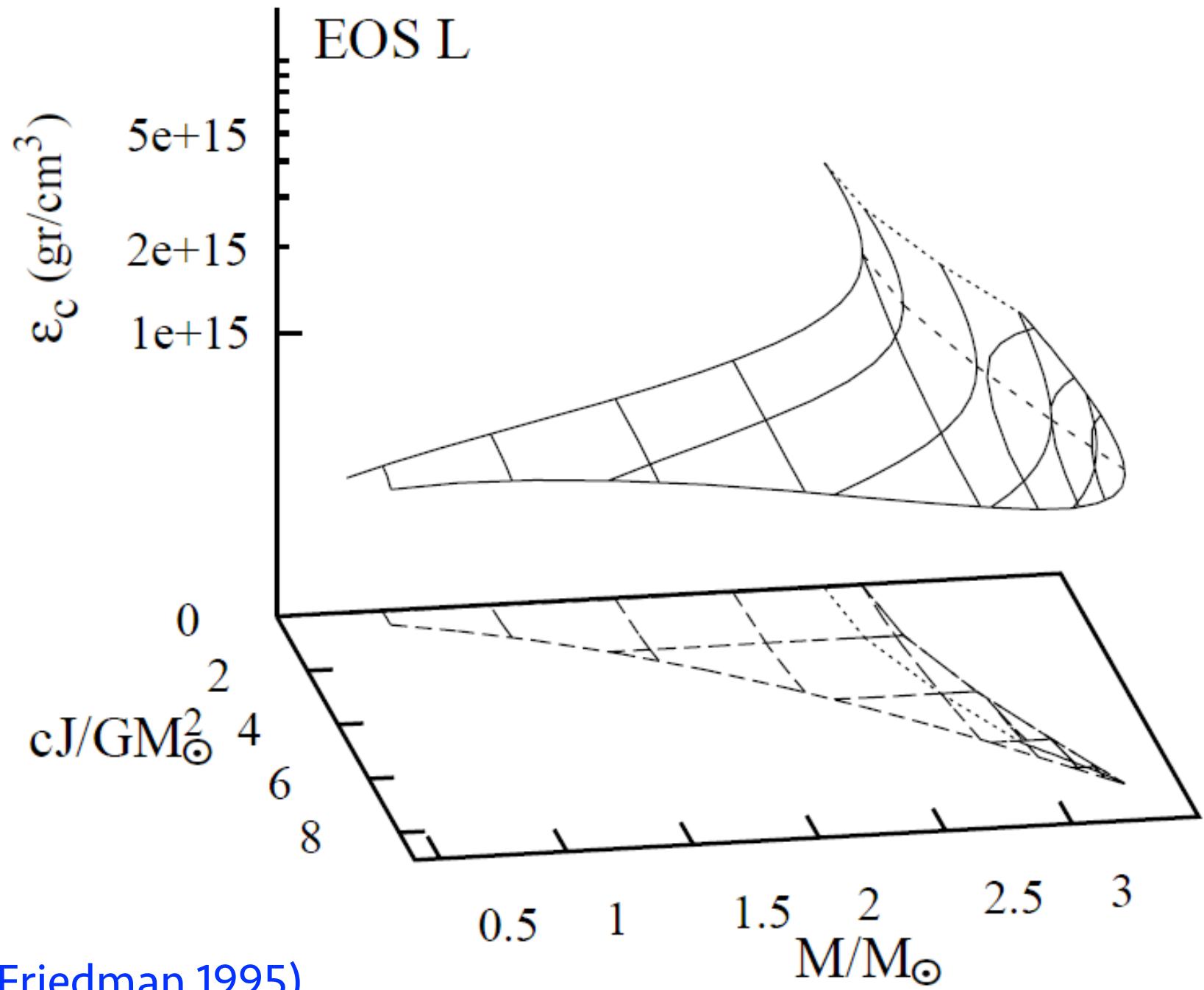
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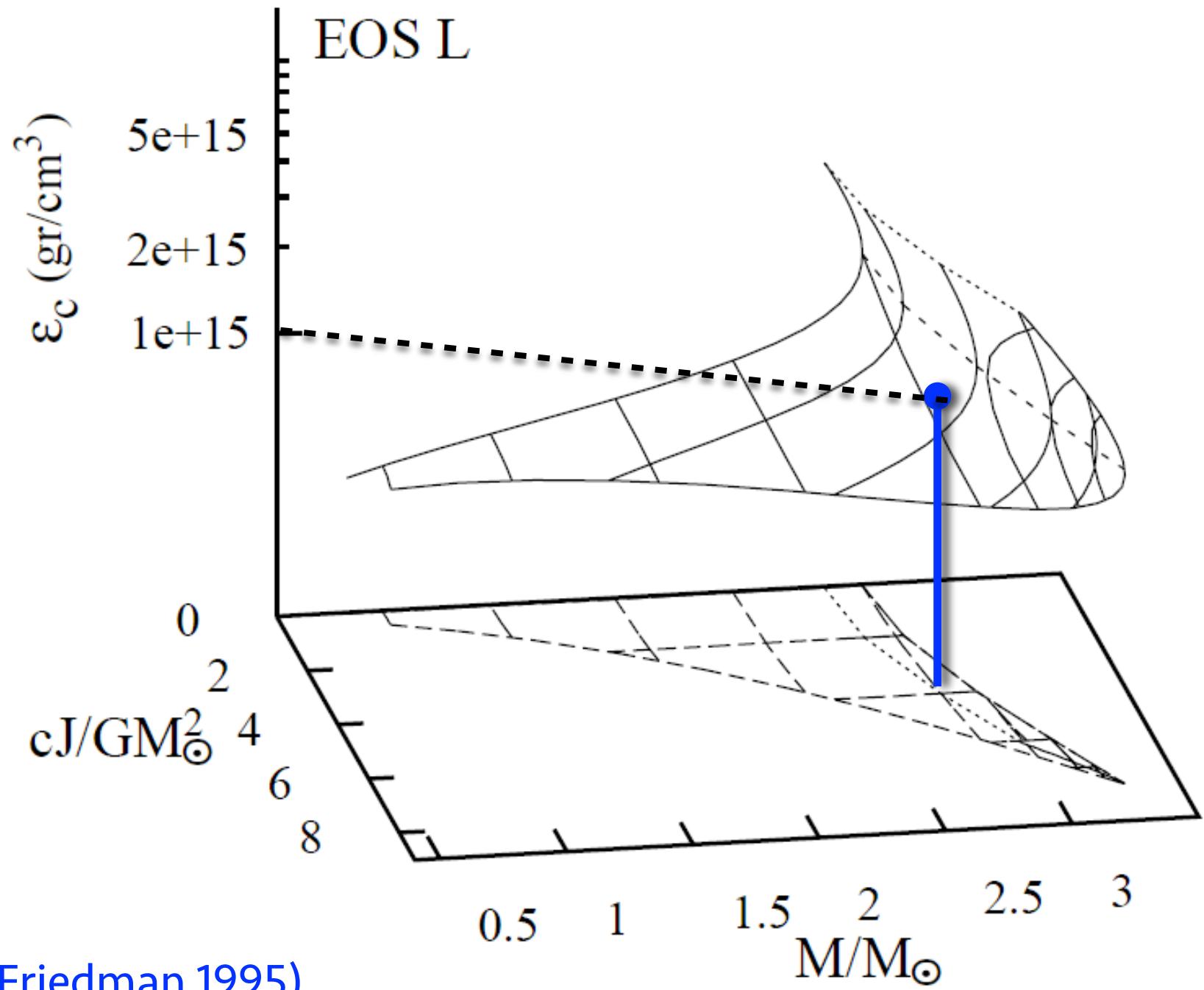


**Dynamical**  
instability  
soon after  
onset of  
secular  
instability.

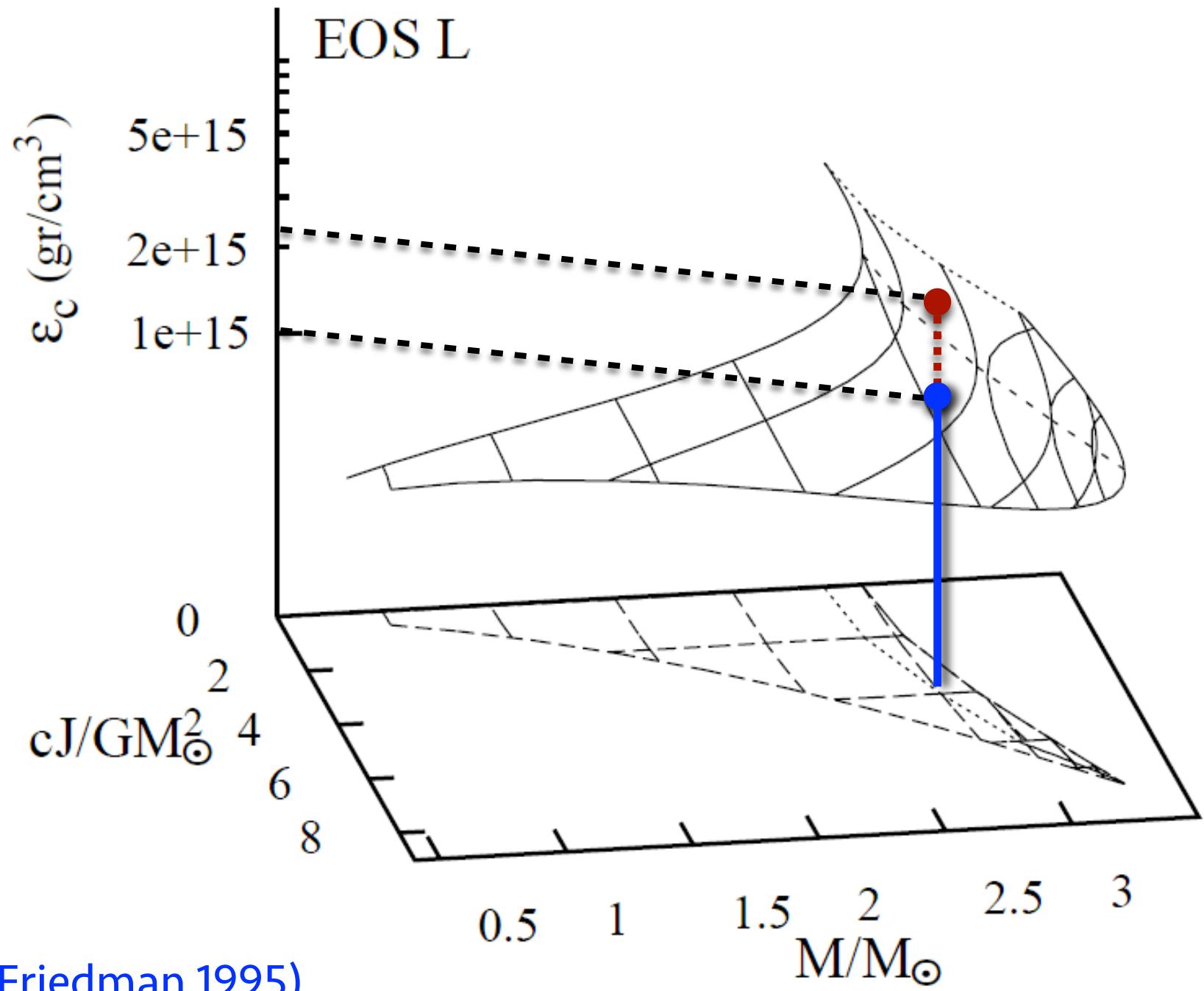
# Equilibrium Sequences



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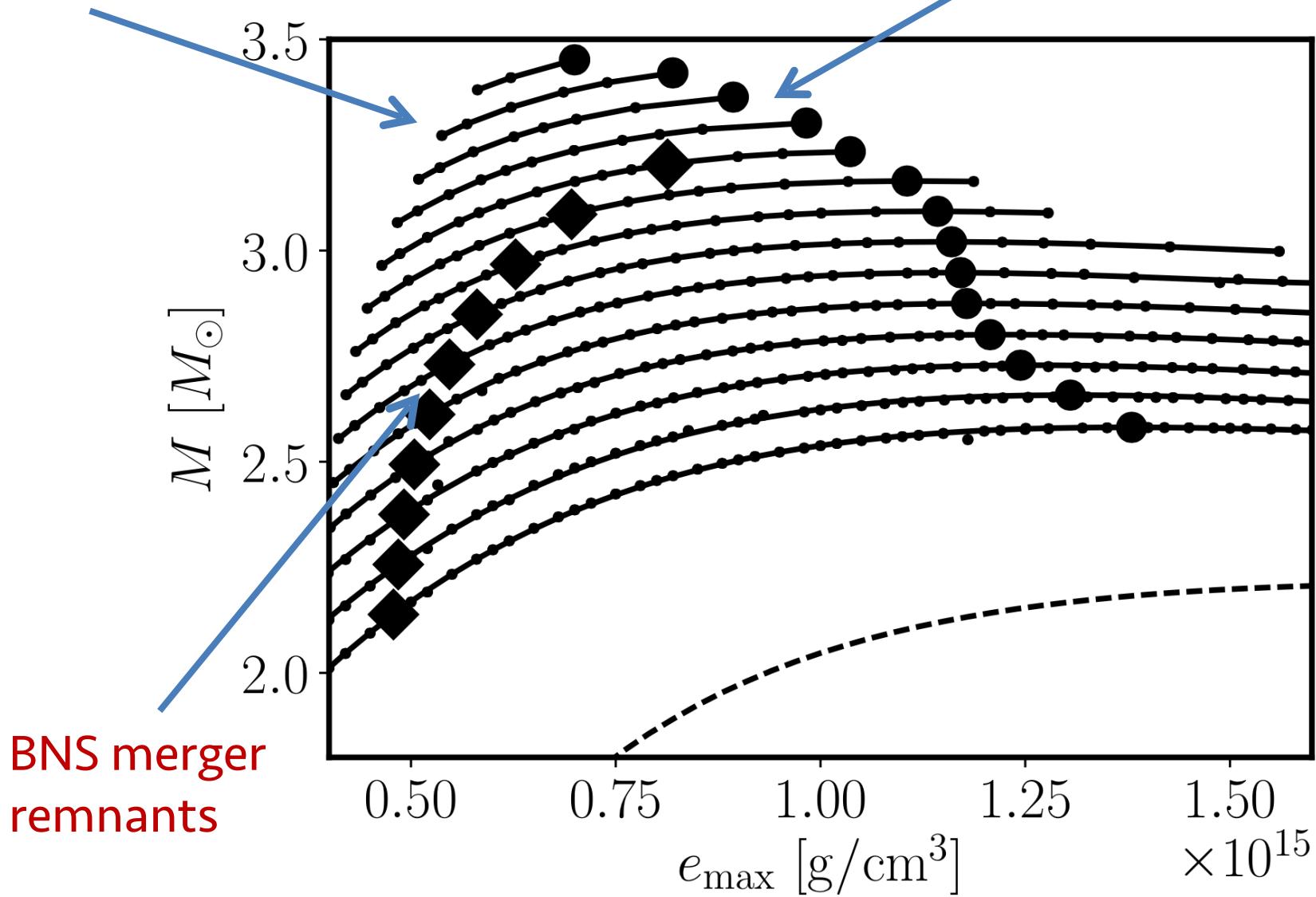
# Equilibrium Sequences



# Differentially Rotating Models

hypermassive stars

Threshold mass

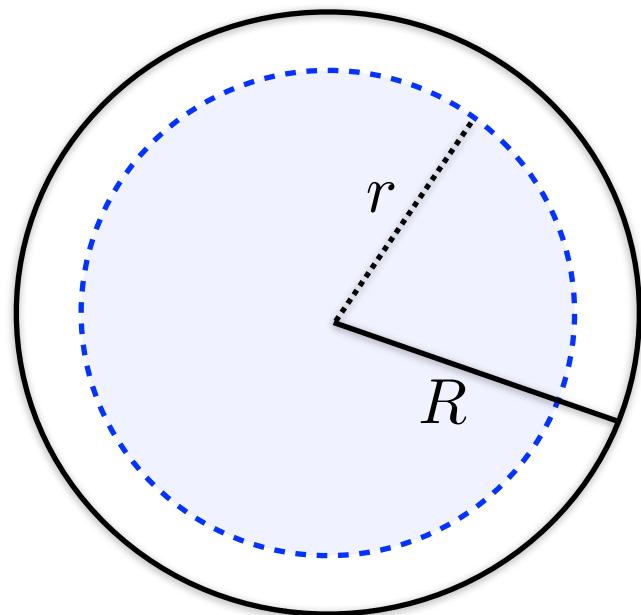


(Bauswein & NS 2017)

# Radial Oscillations

Consider first a nonrotating Newtonian star, with radius  $R$ . The mass contained within an internal radius  $r$  is  $\mathcal{M}_r$ .

The conservation of mass (continuity) and momentum are



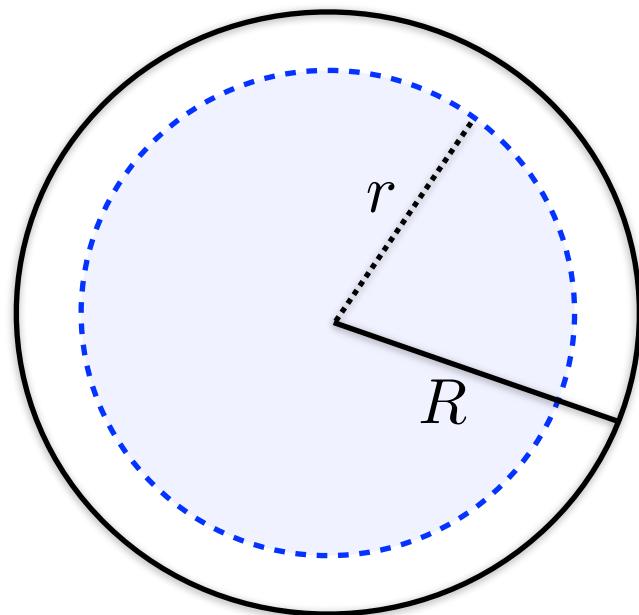
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_r}{\partial r} = 4\pi r^2 \rho$$

$$\ddot{r} = -4\pi r^2 \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mathcal{M}_r} \right) - \frac{GM_r}{r^2}$$

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Next, consider small *Lagrangian perturbations*

$$|\delta r/r_0| \ll 1 \text{ and } |\delta\rho/\rho_0| \ll 1$$

Then

$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho_0} = -3 \frac{\delta r}{r_0} - r_0 \frac{\partial(\delta r/r_0)}{\partial r_0}$$

$$\rho_0 r_0 \frac{d^2 \delta r/r_0}{dt^2} = - \left( 4 \frac{\delta r}{r_0} + \frac{\delta P}{P_0} \right) \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial r_0} - P_0 \frac{\partial(\delta P/P_0)}{\partial r_0}$$

# Radial Oscillations

If we assume a *harmonic time dependence*

$$\frac{\delta r(t, r_0)}{r_0} = \frac{\delta r(r_0)}{r_0} e^{i\sigma t} = \zeta(r_0) e^{i\sigma t}$$

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Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\zeta}{dr} &= -\frac{1}{r} \left( 3\zeta + \frac{1}{\Gamma_1} \frac{\delta P}{P} \right) \\ \frac{d(\delta P/P)}{dr} &= -\frac{d \ln P}{dr} \left( 4\zeta + \frac{\sigma^2 r^3}{G\mathcal{M}_r} \zeta + \frac{\delta P}{P} \right)\end{aligned}$$

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where  $\Gamma_1 = \left( \frac{\partial \ln P}{\partial \ln \rho} \right)_{\text{ad}}$  is the *adiabatic index* in equilibrium.

We have assumed *adiabatic oscillations*, so that

$$\frac{\delta P}{P_0} = \Gamma_1 \frac{\delta \rho}{\rho_0}$$

# Examples

- Assuming *uniform density*, the fundamental mode has  $\zeta = \text{const.}$  and

$$\sigma_0^2 = \frac{4\pi}{3} G \rho (3\Gamma_1 - 4)$$

which reveals a fundamental scaling between frequency and density

$$\sigma \sim \sqrt{\rho} \sim \sqrt{M/R^3}$$

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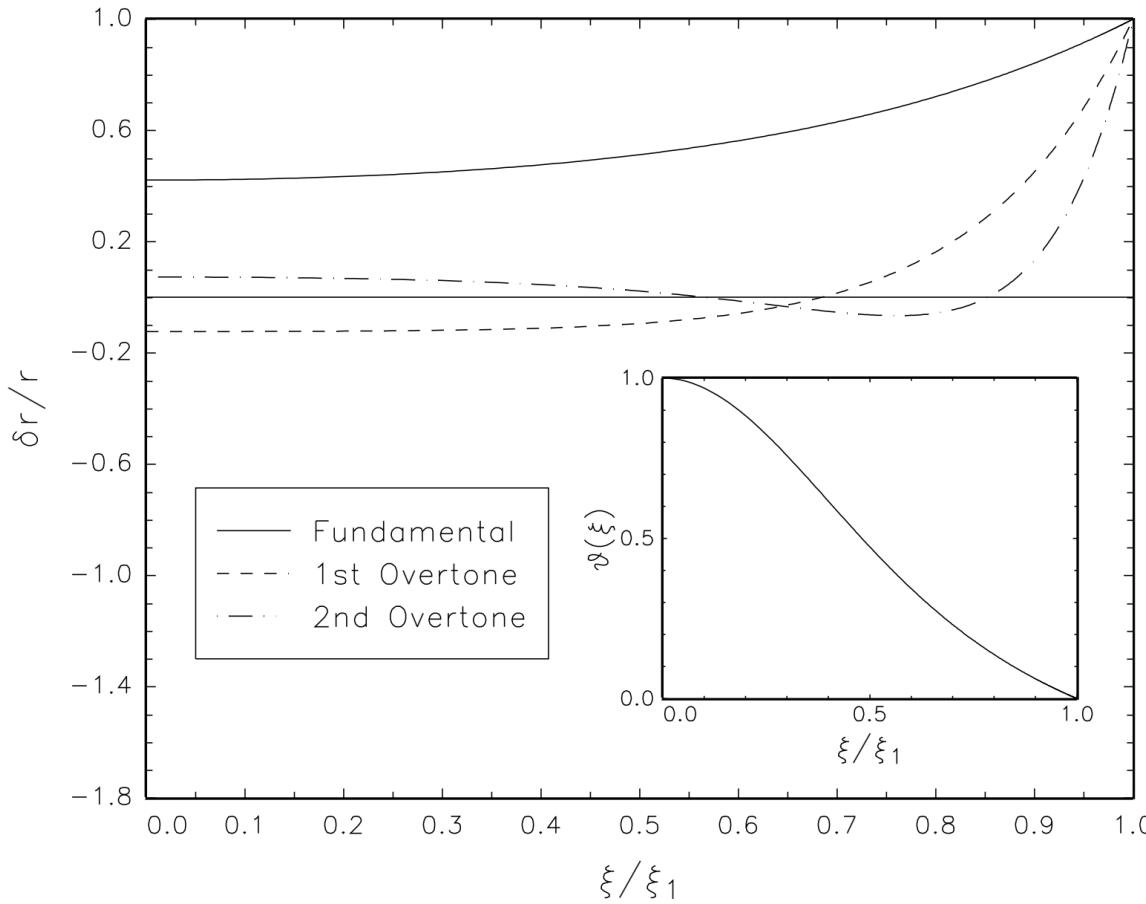
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- For  $n=2$  polytropes, the first three eigenfunctions are:



# Nonradial Oscillations

For nonradial oscillations, we need to consider the general system of the Poisson equation plus energy and momentum conservation, without symmetries

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G \rho$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0$$

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \right) \mathbf{v} = -\nabla P - \rho \nabla \Phi$$

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The displacement vector with harmonic time dependence

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\sigma t}$$

is then decomposed in terms of spherical harmonics as

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\xi}(r, \theta, \varphi) &= \xi_r(r, \theta, \varphi) \mathbf{e}_r + \xi_\theta(r, \theta, \varphi) \mathbf{e}_\theta + \xi_\varphi(r, \theta, \varphi) \mathbf{e}_\varphi \\ &= \left[ \xi_r(r) \mathbf{e}_r + \xi_t(r) \mathbf{e}_\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \xi_t(r) \mathbf{e}_\varphi \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right] Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi)\end{aligned}$$

# Nonradial Oscillations

Notice that

$$Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{2\ell + 1}{4\pi} \frac{(\ell - m)!}{(\ell + m)!}} P_\ell^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\varphi}$$

The Eulerian perturbation in the density is

$$\rho'(r, \theta, \phi, t) = \rho'(r) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) e^{i\sigma t}$$

The perturbed system of equations is of 4<sup>th</sup> order (because of the perturbation in  $\Phi$ ) and admits normal mode solutions that are characterized by the spherical harmonic indices  $l, m$  and the radial order  $n$ .

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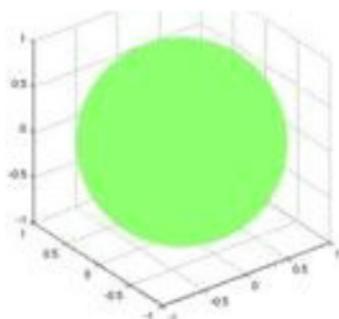
A general perturbation in the density is then

$$\rho'(r, \theta, \phi, t) = \sum_l^{\infty} \sum_m^{\infty} \sum_n^{\infty} a_{lmn} \rho'_n(r) P_l^m(\theta, \phi) e^{i(\sigma_{lmn} t + m\phi)}$$

(but only the  $m=0$  case is relevant for spherical stars).

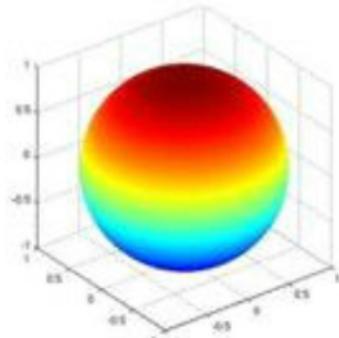
# Nonradial Oscillations

$\ell = 0$

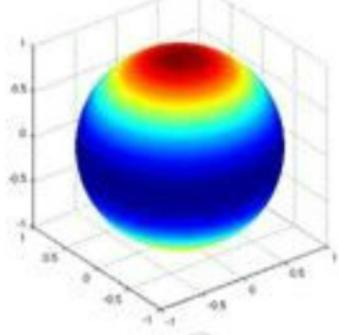


$$\cos(m\phi) \ P_\ell^m(\cos \theta)$$

$\ell = 1$

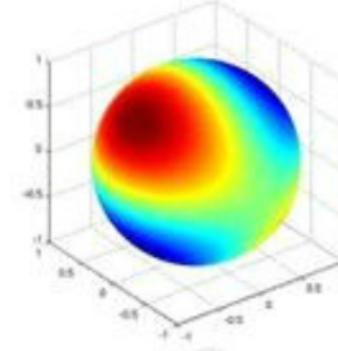


$\ell = 2$

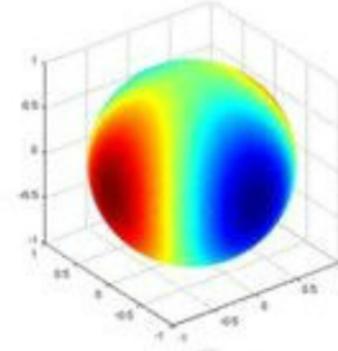


$m = 0$

(zonal)



$m = 1$



$m = 2$

$l = m$  (sectoral)  
 $l \neq m$  (tesseral)

# Nonradial Oscillations of Neutron Stars

Main oscillation modes:

1. *f-modes / p-modes*

fluid modes restored by pressure

2. *g-modes*

restored by gravity/buoyancy in non-isentropic stars

3. *inertial modes (r-modes)*

restored by the Coriolis force in rotating stars

4. *w-modes*

spacetime modes (similar to black hole modes)

GW-detection:      *f-, p-, g-, r-modes* : stable oscillations

instabilities

# Mode Excitation

Various ways to excite modes:

1. Core collapse
2. Binary merger (if HMNS forms)
3. Star quakes (e.g. SGR activity)
4. Secular instabilities ( $f$ -modes,  $r$ -modes)
5. Dynamical instabilities (bar-mode,  $T/W > 0.27$ )
6. Low  $T/W$  instabilities

# Frequency and Pattern Speed

For a nonrotating, uniform density star the  $f$ -mode frequency is

$$\omega^2 = \frac{2l(l - 1)}{2l + 1} \frac{GM}{R^3}$$

For  $l = 2$ , this is  $\sim 2$  kHz for a typical neutron star.

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Since oscillations are proportional to  $e^{i\omega t + m\phi}$ , surfaces of constant phase correspond to

$$m\phi + \omega t = \text{const.} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d\phi}{dt} = -\frac{\omega}{m} := \omega_p$$

which defines the pattern speed, with which a mode revolves around the star (notice that the  $m=0$  modes are standing waves).

# Nonradial Oscillations of Relativistic Stars

In GR, nonradial oscillations with  $l > 1$  radiate gravitational waves and modes become quasi-normal, acquiring an imaginary part.

$$\omega = \sigma + \frac{i}{\tau_{\text{GW}}}$$

The spacetime metric is perturbed as

$$ds^2 = -e^{2\nu} \left( 1 + r^l H_0^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t} \right) dt^2 - 2i\omega r^{l+1} H_1^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t} dt dr \\ + e^{2\lambda} \left( 1 - r^l H_0^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t} \right) dr^2 + r^2 \left( 1 - r^l K^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t} \right) (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2)$$

and the displacement vector is

$$\xi_r = e^\lambda r^{l-1} W^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t},$$

$$\xi_\theta = -r^l V^{lm} \partial_\theta Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t},$$

$$\xi_\phi = -r^l V^{lm} \partial_\phi Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t},$$

# Quasi-normal Modes

The perturbation in the energy density is

$$\delta\epsilon = r^l \delta\epsilon^{lm} Y_{lm} e^{i\omega t}$$

A useful redefinition of variables is

$$X^{lm} = \omega^2(\epsilon + p)e^{-\nu}V^{lm} - \frac{1}{r}\frac{dp}{dr}e^{\nu-\lambda}W^{lm} + \frac{e^\nu}{2}(\epsilon + p)H_0^{lm}$$

One then arrives at a 4th-order system of equations that can be solved for arbitrary complex eigenfrequencies (matching to BH perturbations in the exterior), which includes both incoming and outgoing gravitational waves.

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A discrete set of *quasi-normal modes* is obtained by requiring *purely outgoing* gravitational waves.

# The Perturbed System for Spherical Stars

$$H_1^{lm'} = -\frac{1}{r} \left[ l + 1 + \frac{2me^{2\lambda}}{r} + 4\pi r^2 e^{2\lambda} (p - \epsilon) \right] H_1^{lm} \\ + \frac{e^{2\lambda}}{r} [H_0^{lm} + K^{lm} - 16\pi(\epsilon + p)V^{lm}],$$

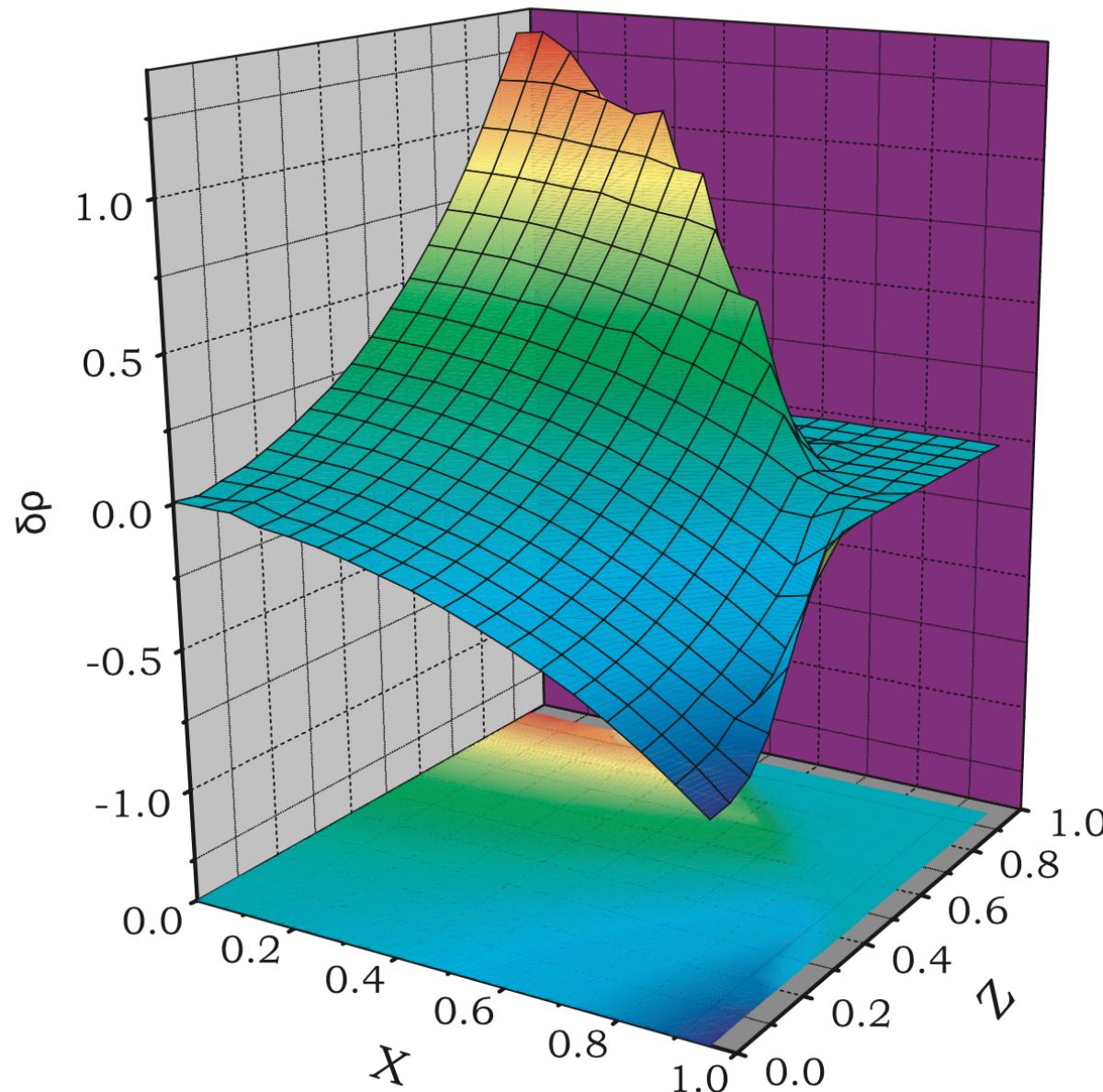
$$K^{lm'} = \frac{1}{r} H_0^{lm} + \frac{l(l+1)}{2r} H_1^{lm} - \left[ \frac{l+1}{r} - \nu' \right] K^{lm} - 8\pi(\epsilon + p) \frac{e^\lambda}{r} W^{lm},$$

$$W^{lm'} = -\frac{l+1}{r} W^{lm} + r e^\lambda \left[ \frac{e^{-\nu}}{v_s^2(\epsilon + p)} X^{lm} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} V^{lm} + \frac{1}{2} H_0^{lm} + K^{lm} \right],$$

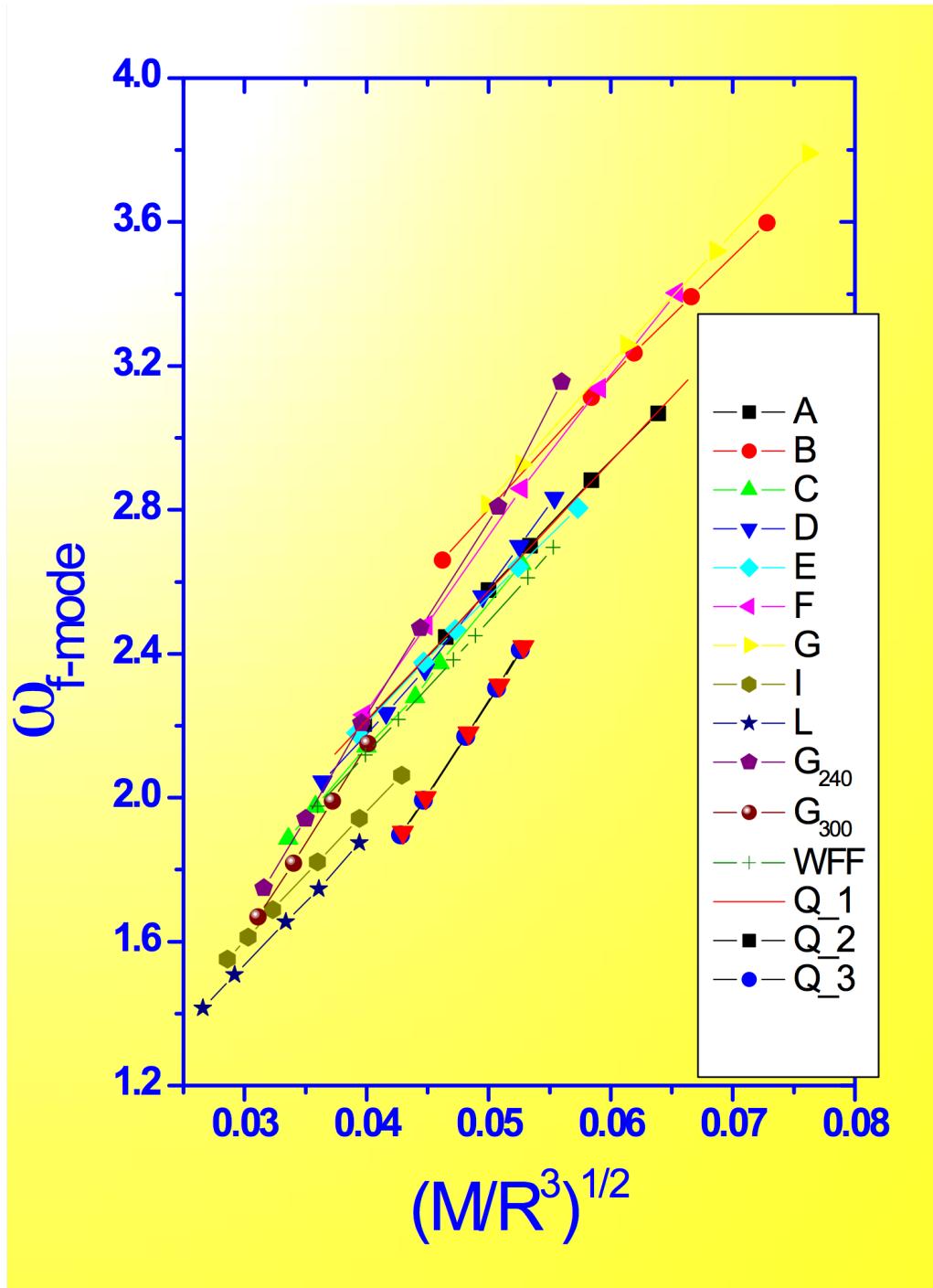
$$X^{lm'} = -\frac{l}{r} X^{lm} + \frac{(\epsilon + p)e^\nu}{2} \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{r} - \nu' \right) H_0^{lm} + \left( r\omega^2 e^{-2\nu} + \frac{l(l+1)}{2r} \right) H_1^{lm} \right. \\ + \left( 3\nu' - \frac{1}{r} \right) K^{lm} - \frac{2l(l+1)}{r^2} \nu' V^{lm} \\ \left. - \frac{2}{r} \left[ 4\pi(\epsilon + p)e^\lambda + \omega^2 e^{\lambda-2\nu} - \frac{r^2}{2} \left( \frac{2e^{-\lambda}}{r^2} \nu' \right)' \right] W^{lm} \right\},$$

# Eigenfunction of Quadrupole Oscillation

Typical example of the eigenfunction  $\delta\rho(r, \theta)$  for the  $l = 2$  mode:



# Quadrupole Frequencies for Nonrotating Stars



Empirical relations for GW asteroseismology:

$$\omega_f(kHz) \approx 0.78 + 1.637 \left( \frac{M_{1.4}}{R_{10}^3} \right)^{1/2}$$

Andersson & Kokkotas (1998)

# GW emission

The luminosity in gravitational waves of the quadrupole mode is:

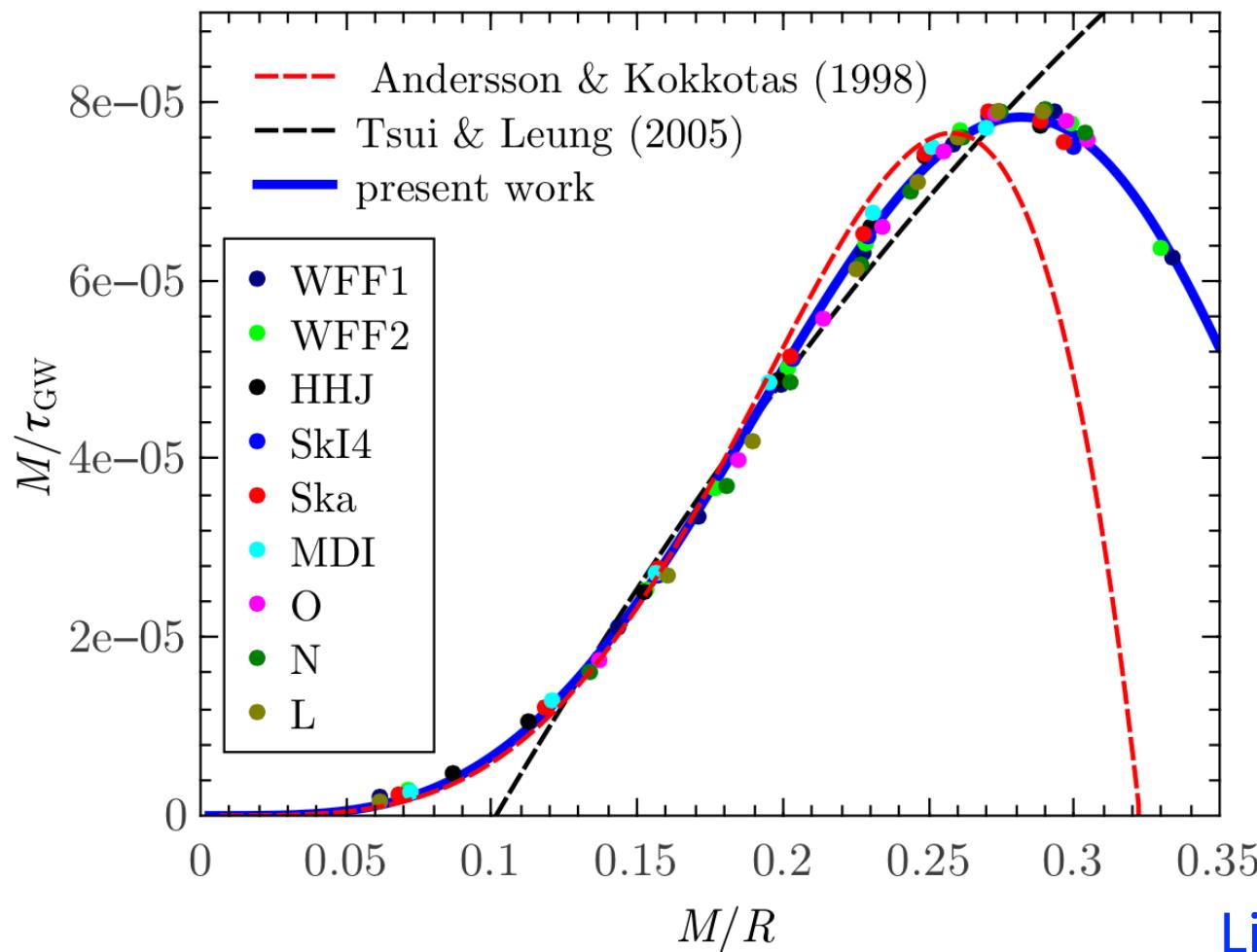
$$\left\langle \frac{dE}{dt} \right\rangle_{\text{GW}} = -\frac{4\pi}{75}\sigma^6 \left( \int_0^R r^4 \delta\rho(r) dr \right)^2$$

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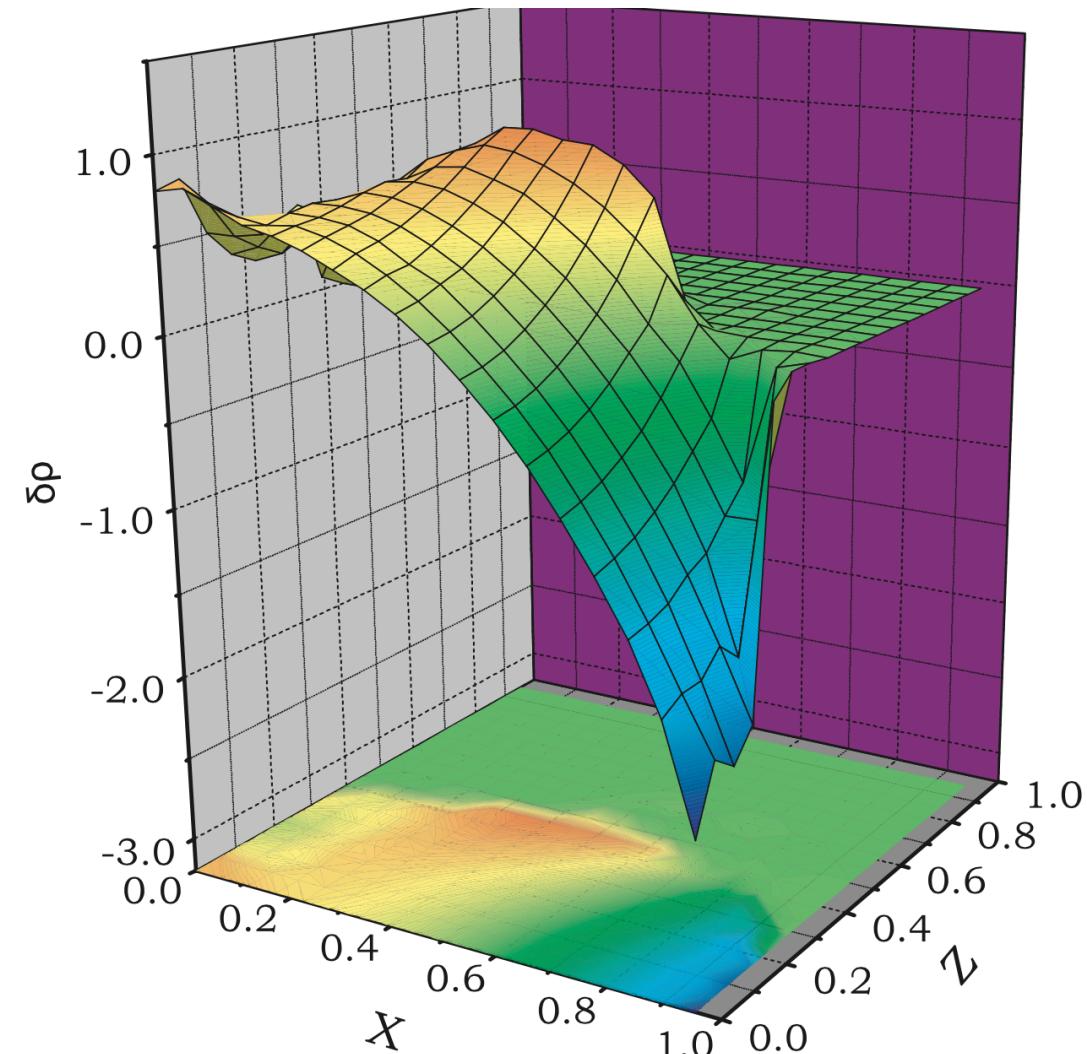
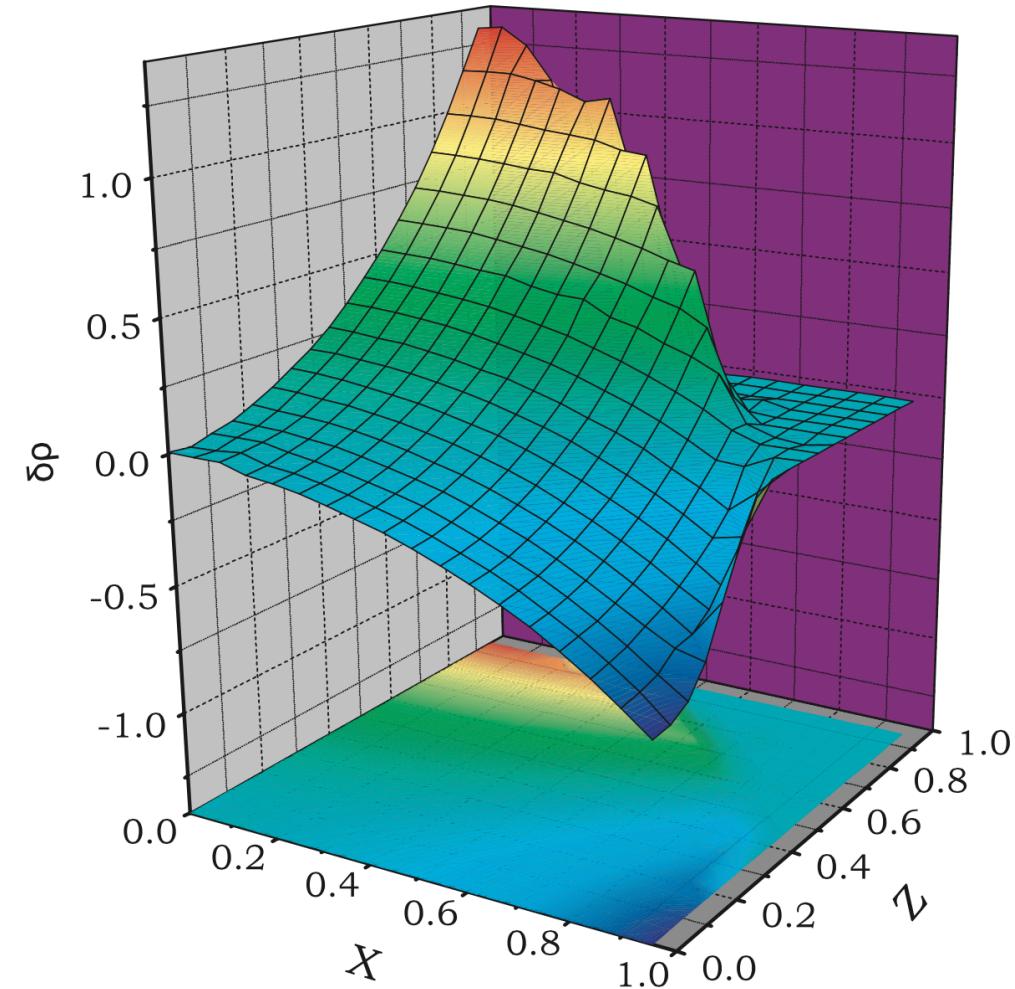
The gravitational-wave damping timescale also satisfies an empirical relation:



# Effects of Rotation on Axisymmetric Modes

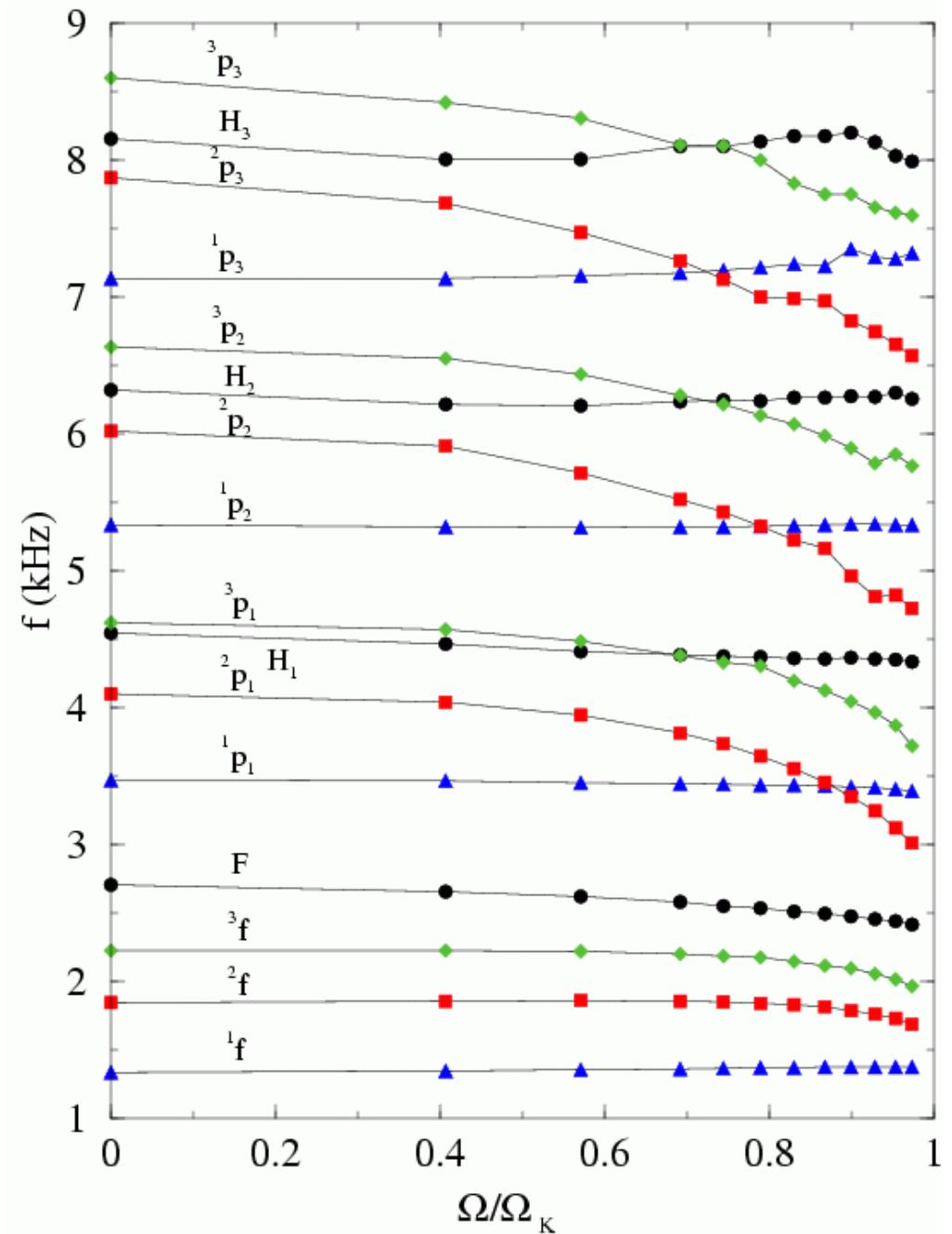
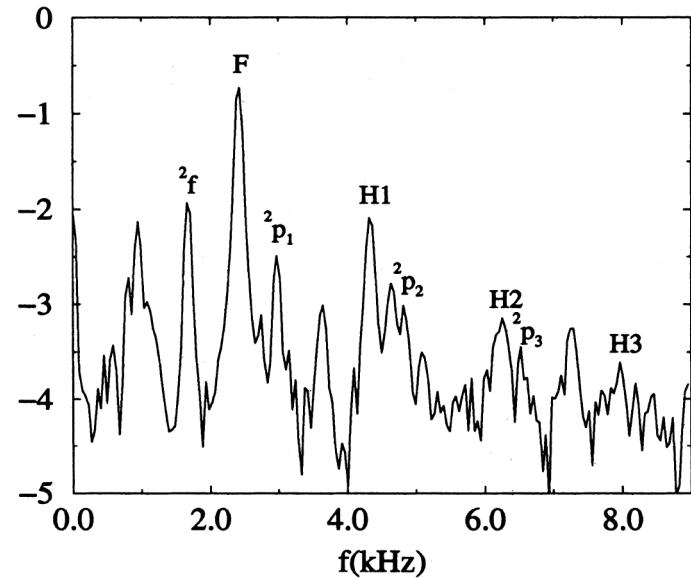
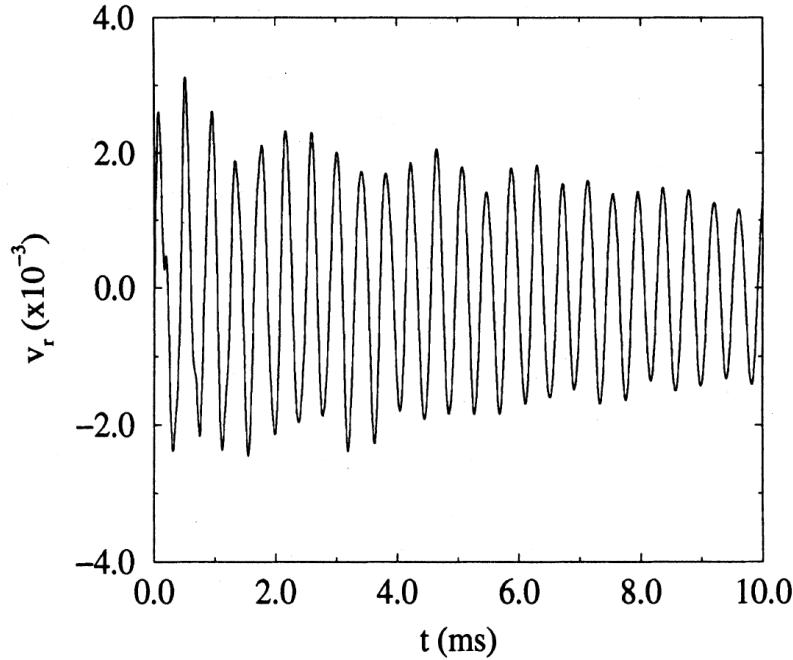
In rotating stars, the mode eigenfunctions are distorted and acquire higher-order terms and axial terms:

$$P_l^{\text{rot}} \sim \sum_{l'=0}^{\infty} (P_{l+2l'} + A_{l+2l' \pm 1})$$



# Axisymmetric Pulsations

Nonlinear simulations of N=1 polytropes in the Cowling approximation:



# Axisymmetric Modes in CFC Approximation

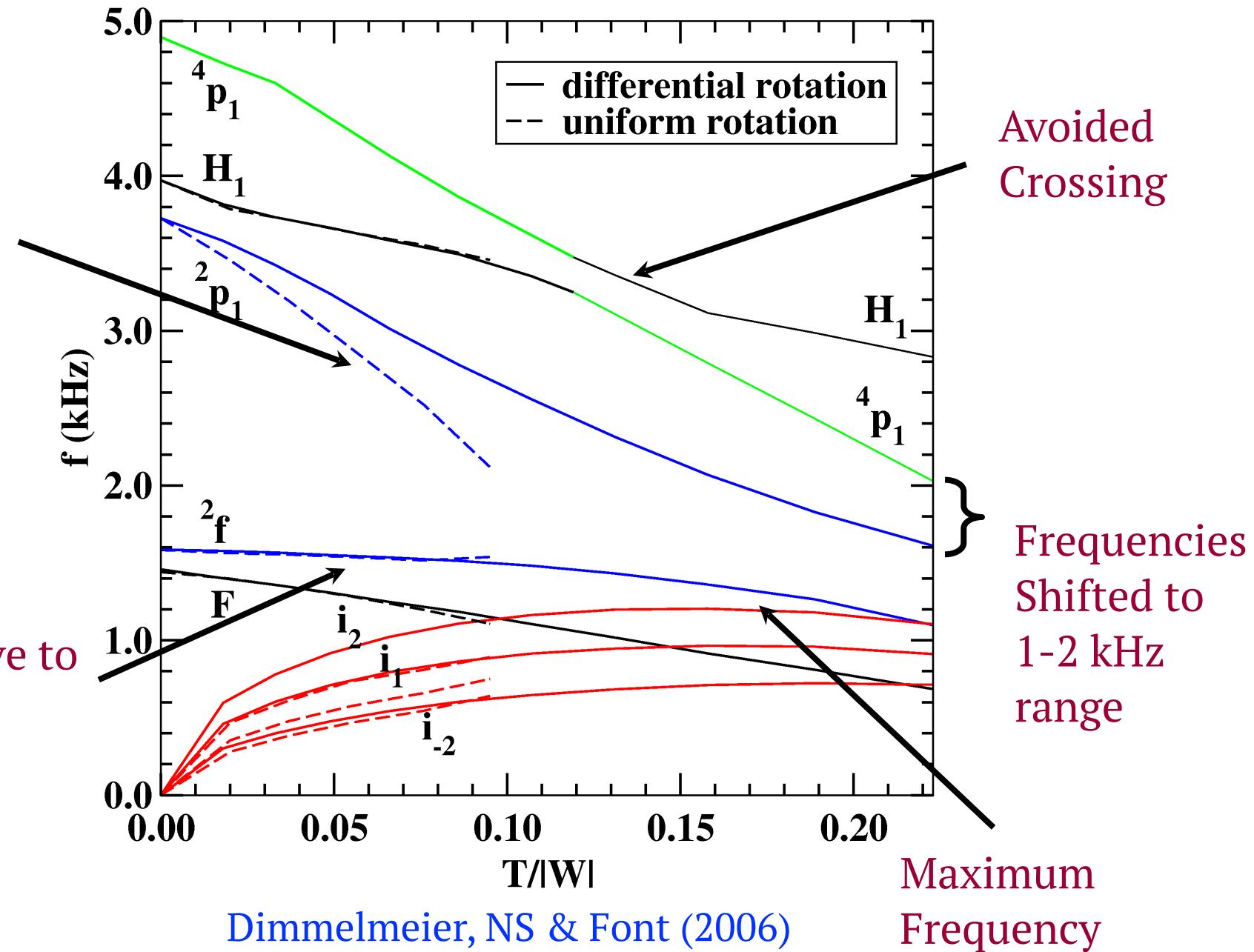
Spacetime evolution with Spatially Conformally Flat Condition (CFC/IWM)

Sensitive to  
Differential  
Rotation

Avoided  
Crossing

Not sensitive to  
Differential  
Rotation

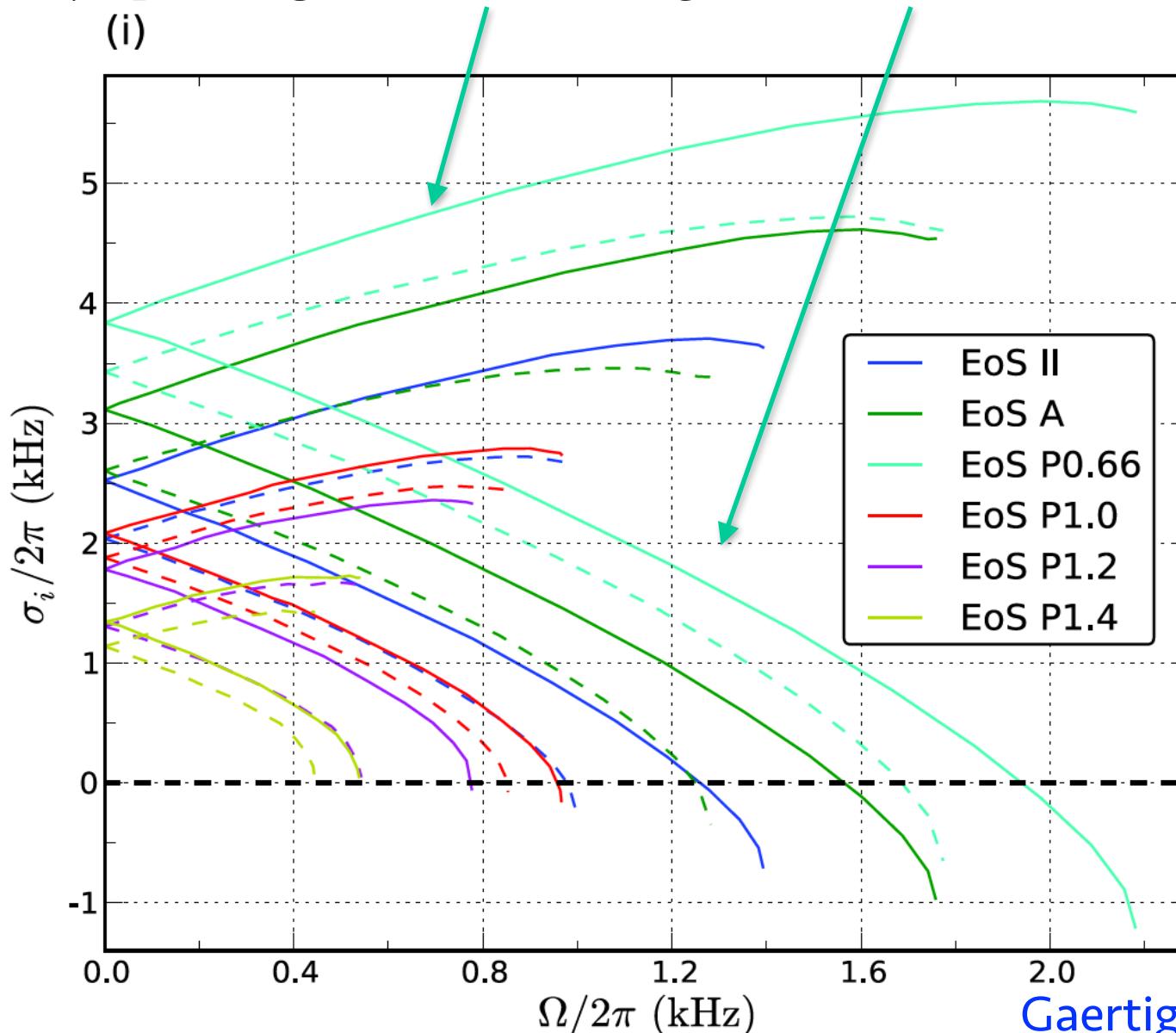
Frequencies  
Shifted to  
1-2 kHz  
range



# Effect of Rotation on Non-axisymmetric Modes

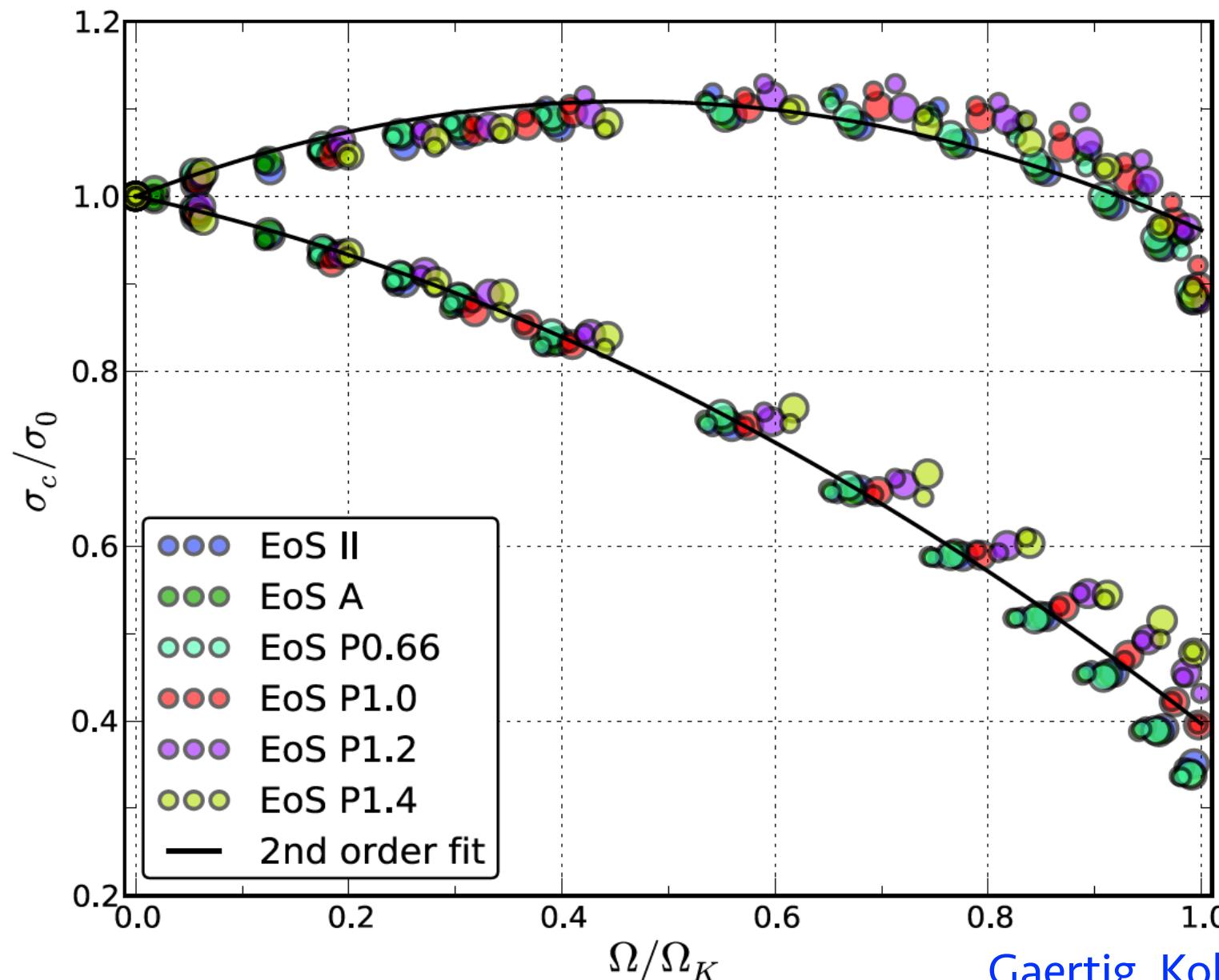
$l = m = +/- 2$   $f$ -mode (in Cowling approximation),

Frequency splitting into *co-rotating* and *counter-rotating* branches.

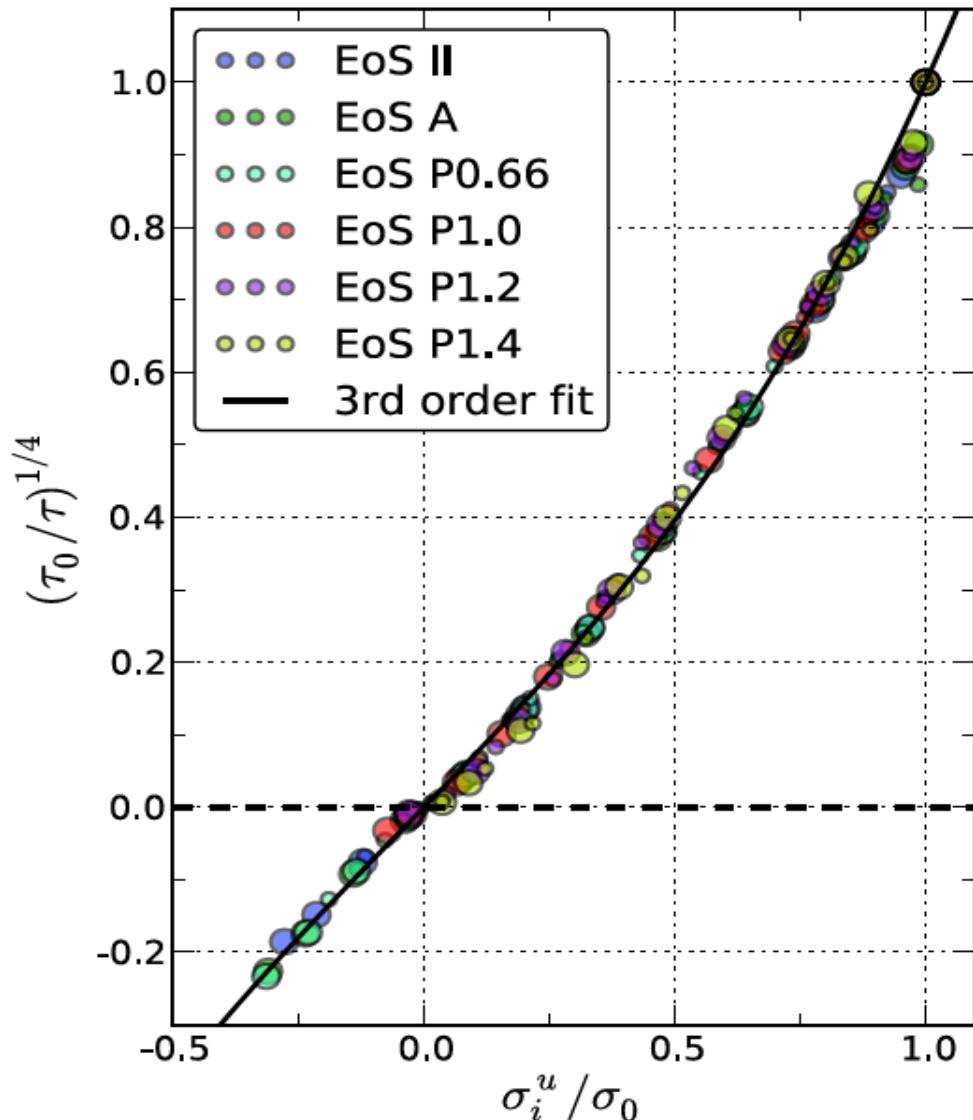


# Effect of Rotation on Non-axisymmetric Modes

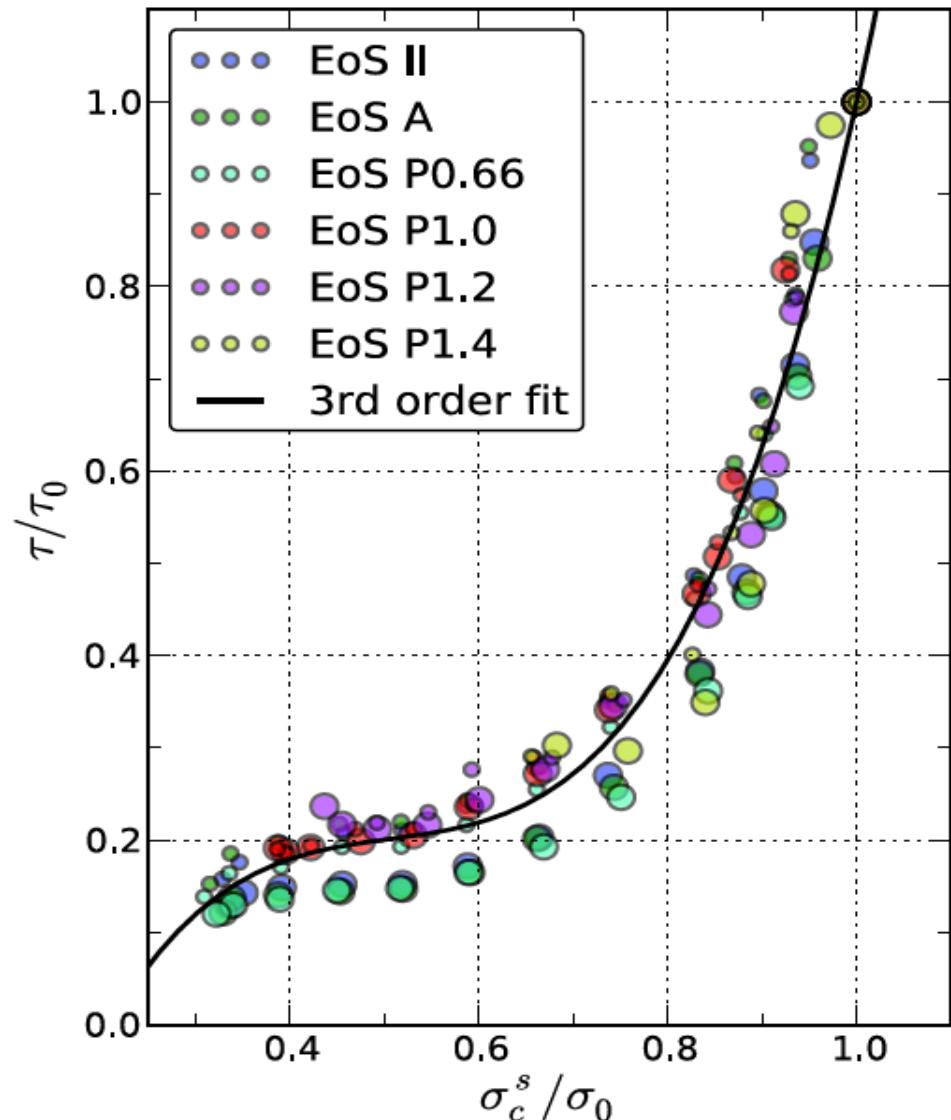
The effect on rotation is universal (independent of EOS)!



# Empirical Relations for Damping Timescale

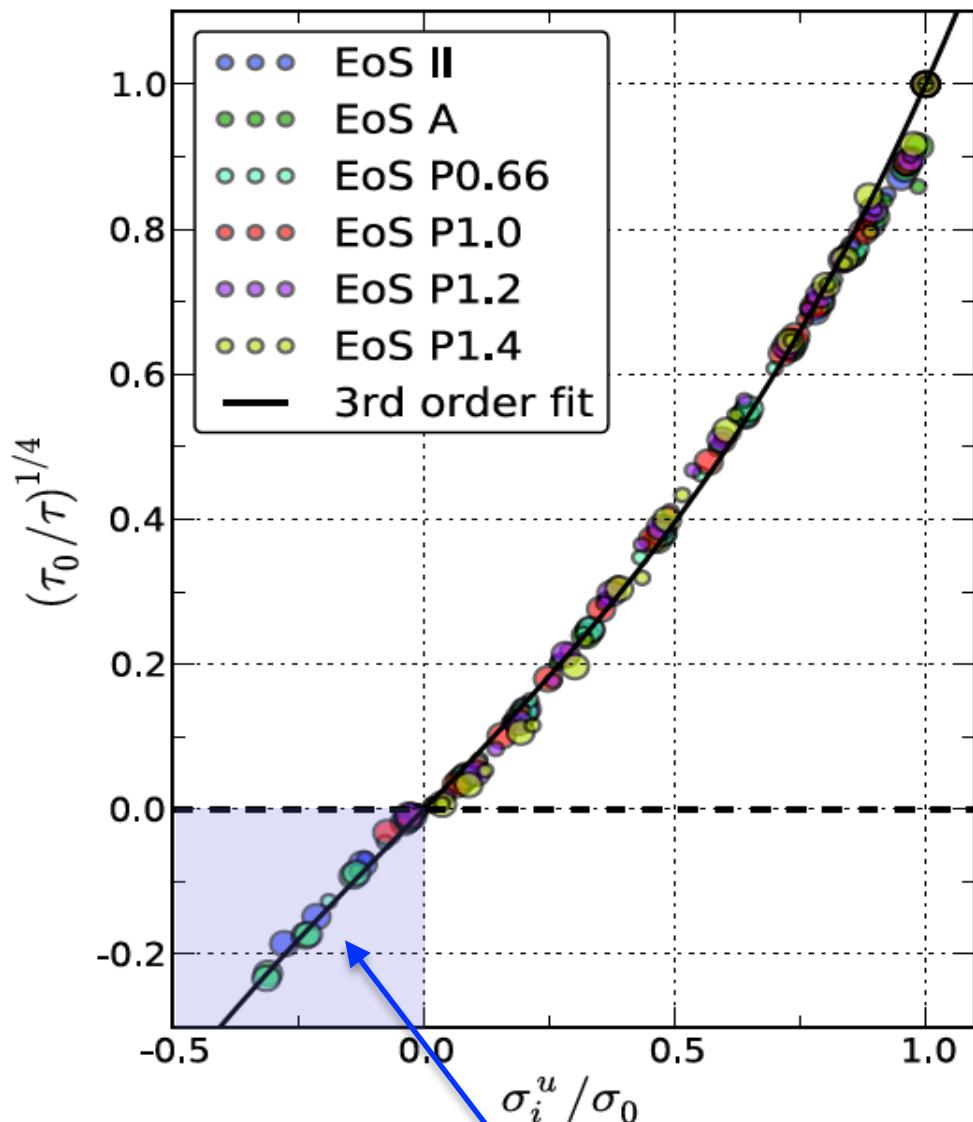


*Counter-rotating (unstable)  
branch vs.  $f$  in inertial frame.*



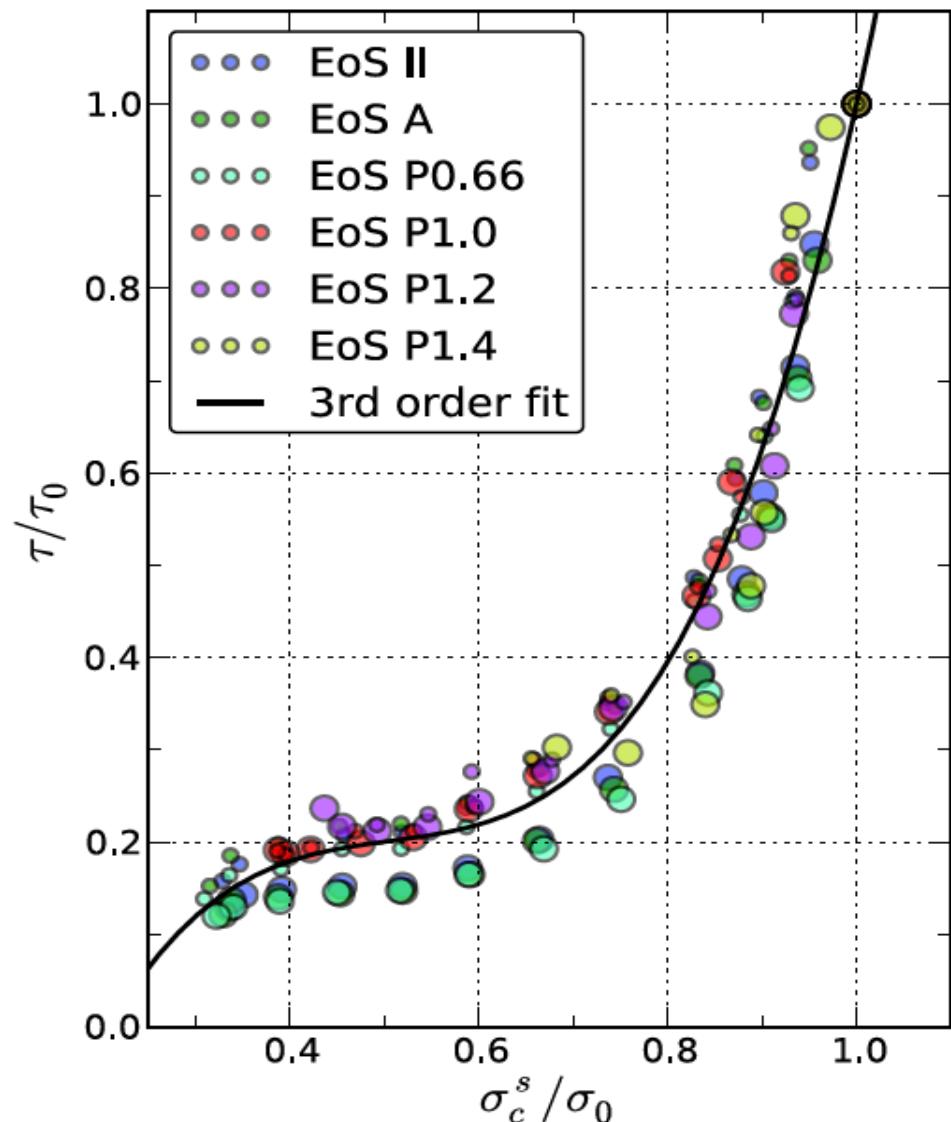
*Corotating (stable) branch vs.  
 $f$  in corotating frame.*

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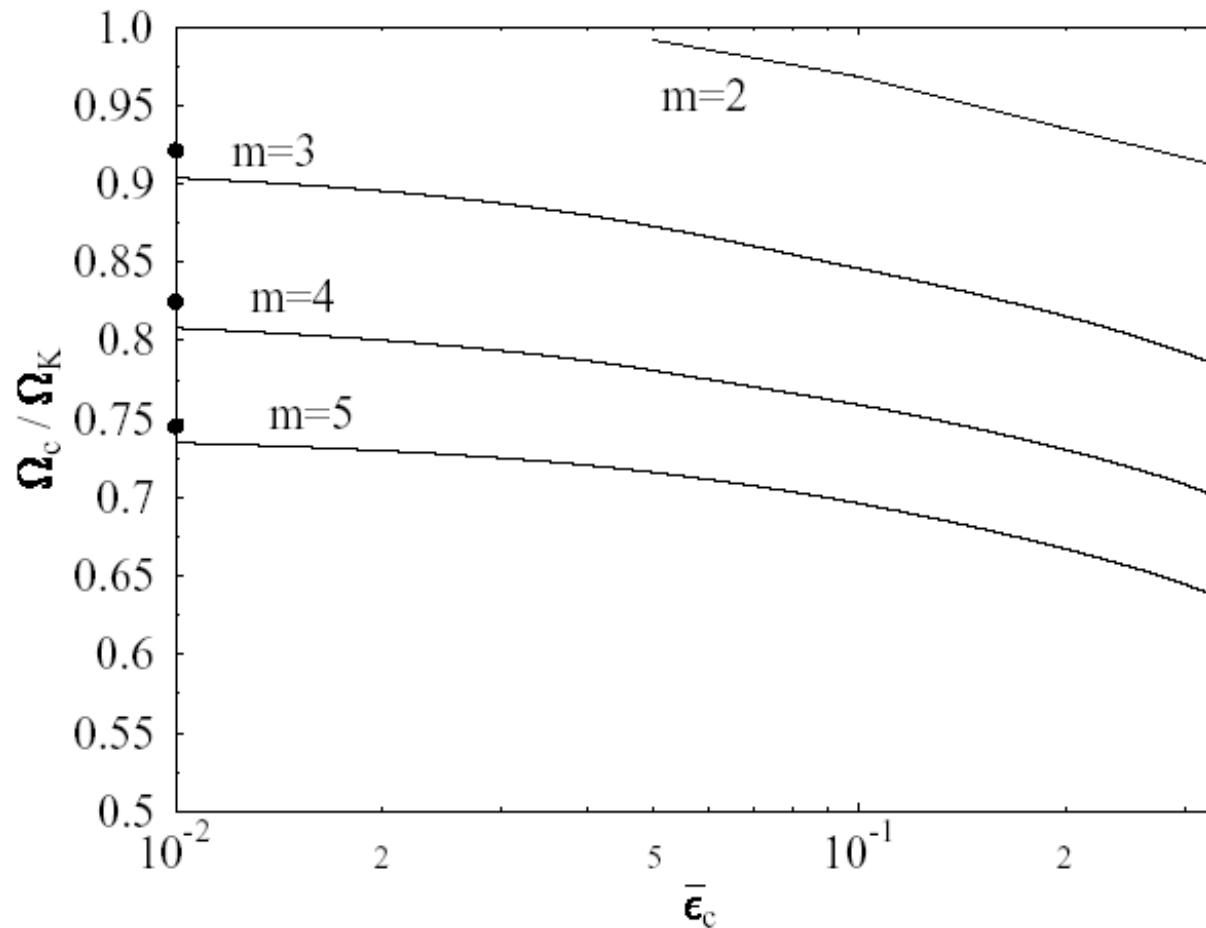
*Counter-rotating (unstable)  
branch vs.  $f$  in inertial frame.*

Chandrasekhar - Friedman - Schutz (CFS) instability



*Corotating (stable) branch vs.  
 $f$  in corotating frame.*

# F-Mode Instability in Relativistic Stars



Onset of  $l = m = 2$  instability for:

$$\Omega > 0.85\Omega_K$$

$$T/W > 0.07$$

$$N < 1.3$$

(Full GR)

$$\Omega > 0.95\Omega_K$$

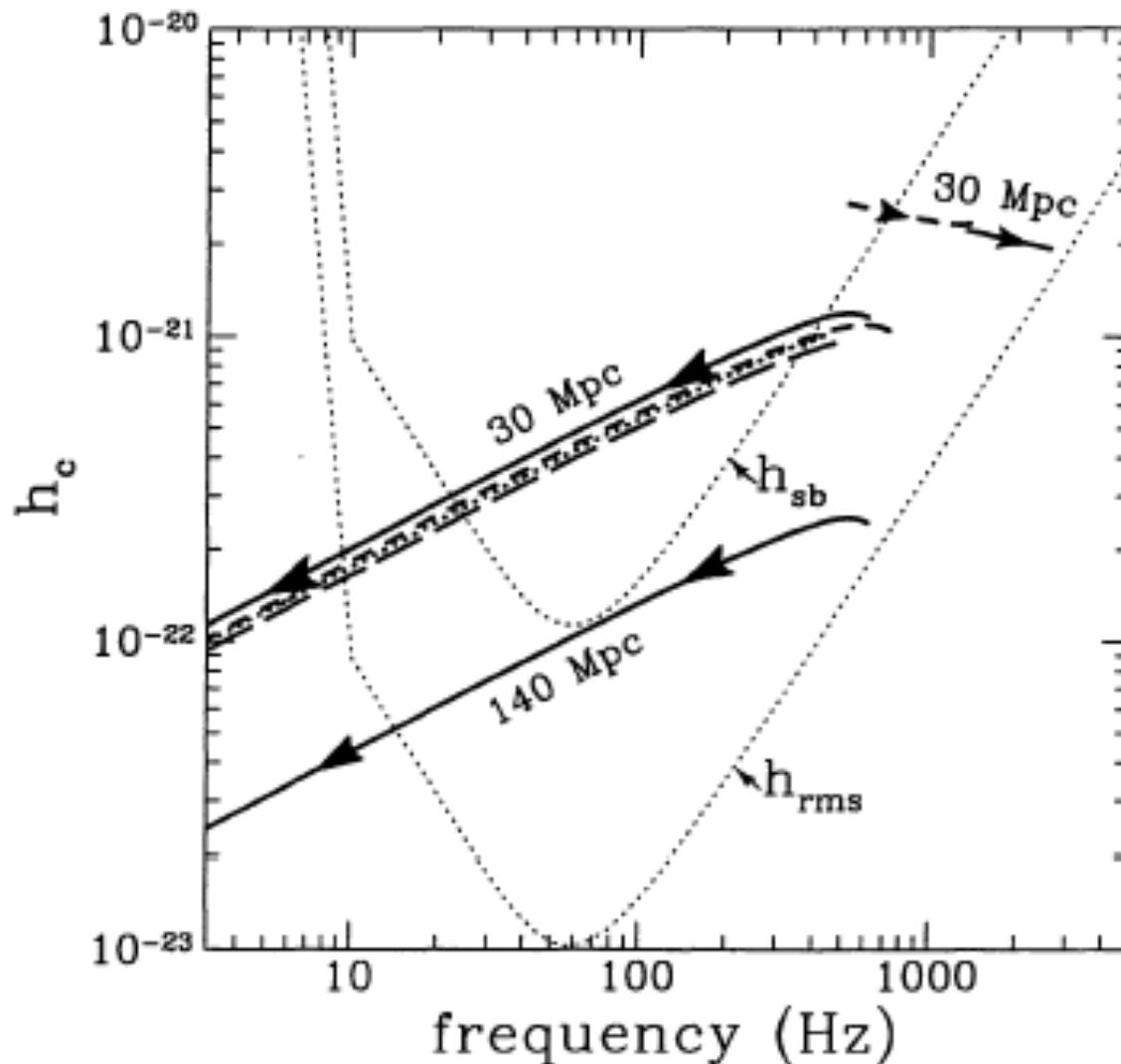
$$T/W > 0.14$$

$$N < 0.81$$

(Newtonian)

( N.S & Friedman 1998 )

# Nonlinear Development of F-Mode Instability



Lai & Shapiro, 1995

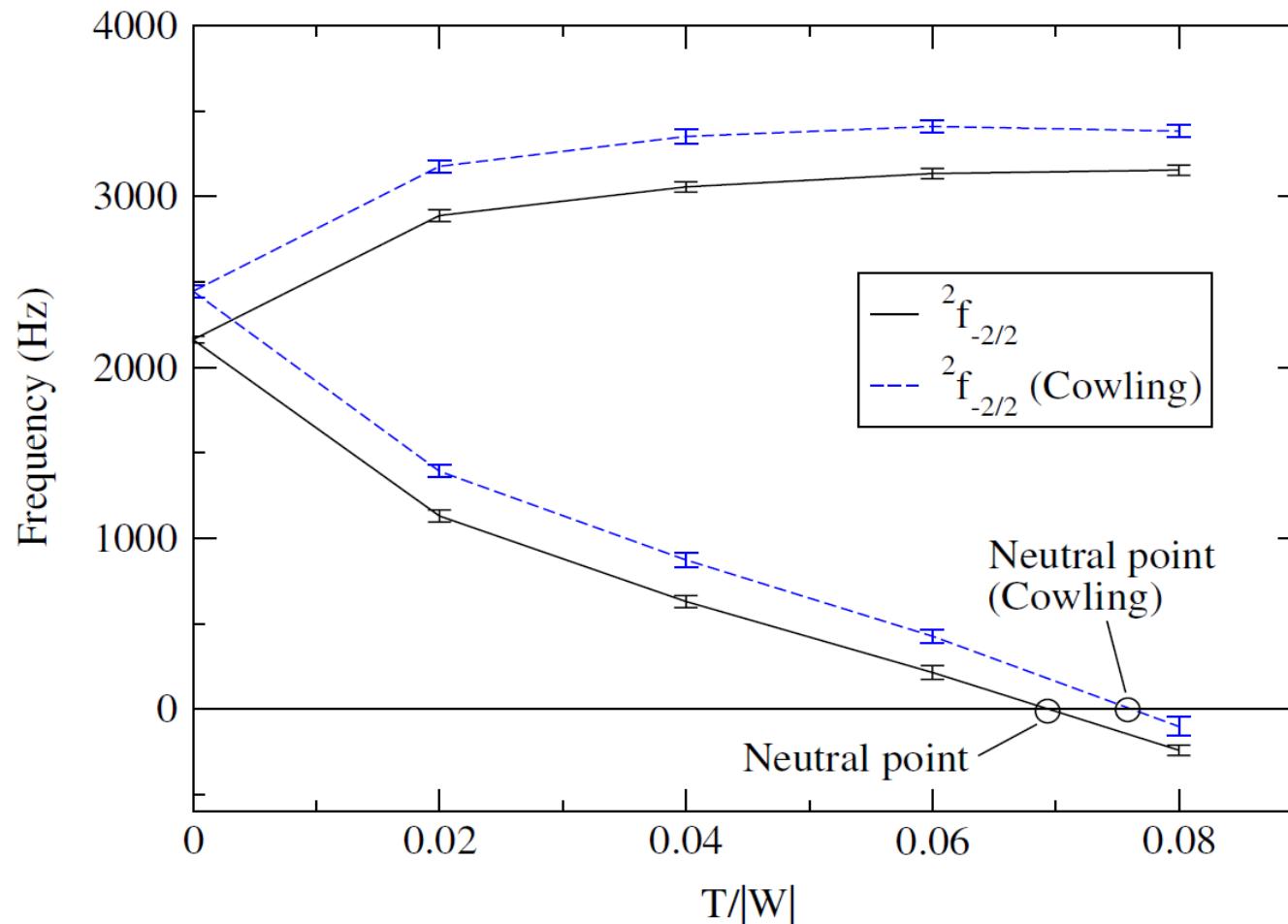
Main uncertainties:

1. Relativistic growth times
2. Nonlinear saturation
3. Initial rotation rates of protoneutron stars
4. Effect of magnetic fields

# Rotational Instabilities

Zink, Korobkin, Schnetter, NS (201

Rapid Rotation, full GR,  $f$ -modes  
(3-D THOR code)

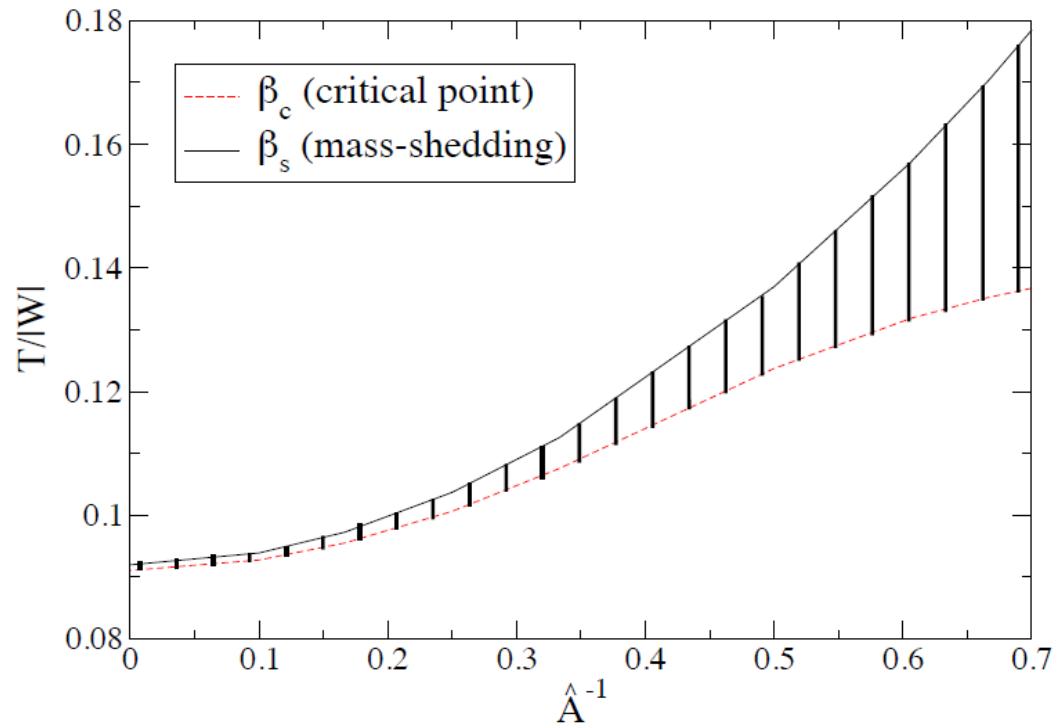
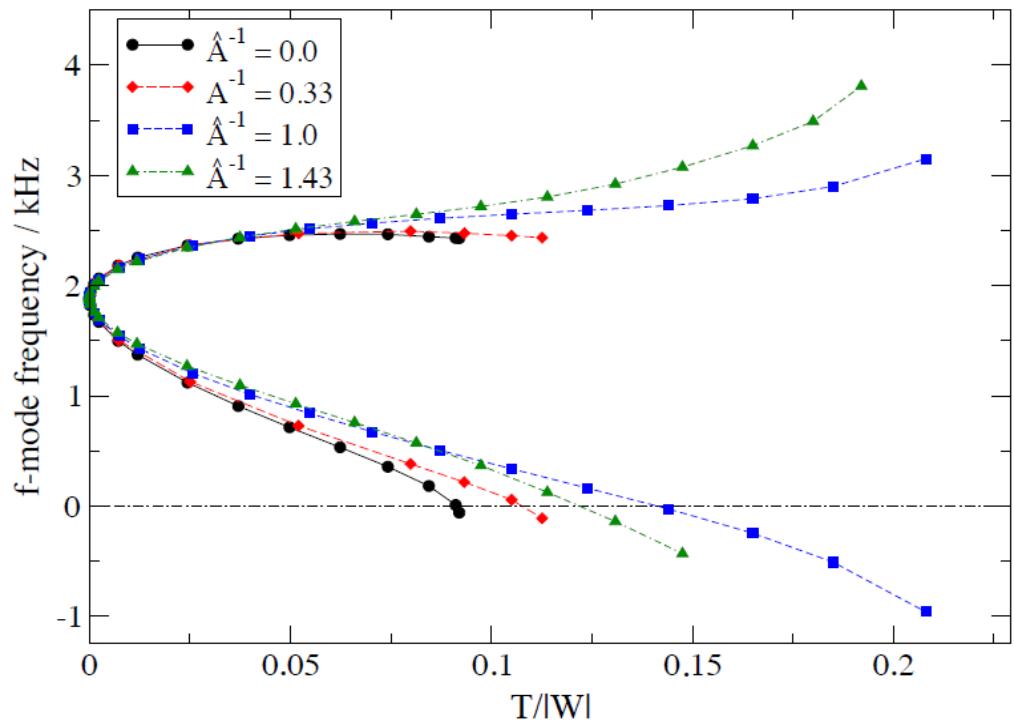


$f$ -mode instability underestimated in Cowling approximation.  
Neutral point near perturbative result by NS, Friedman (1998)

# $f$ -Mode Instability in Differentially Rotating Stars

Krueger, Gaertig, Kokkotas (2012)

Rapid differential rotation, Cowling approximation (linear time-evolution code)

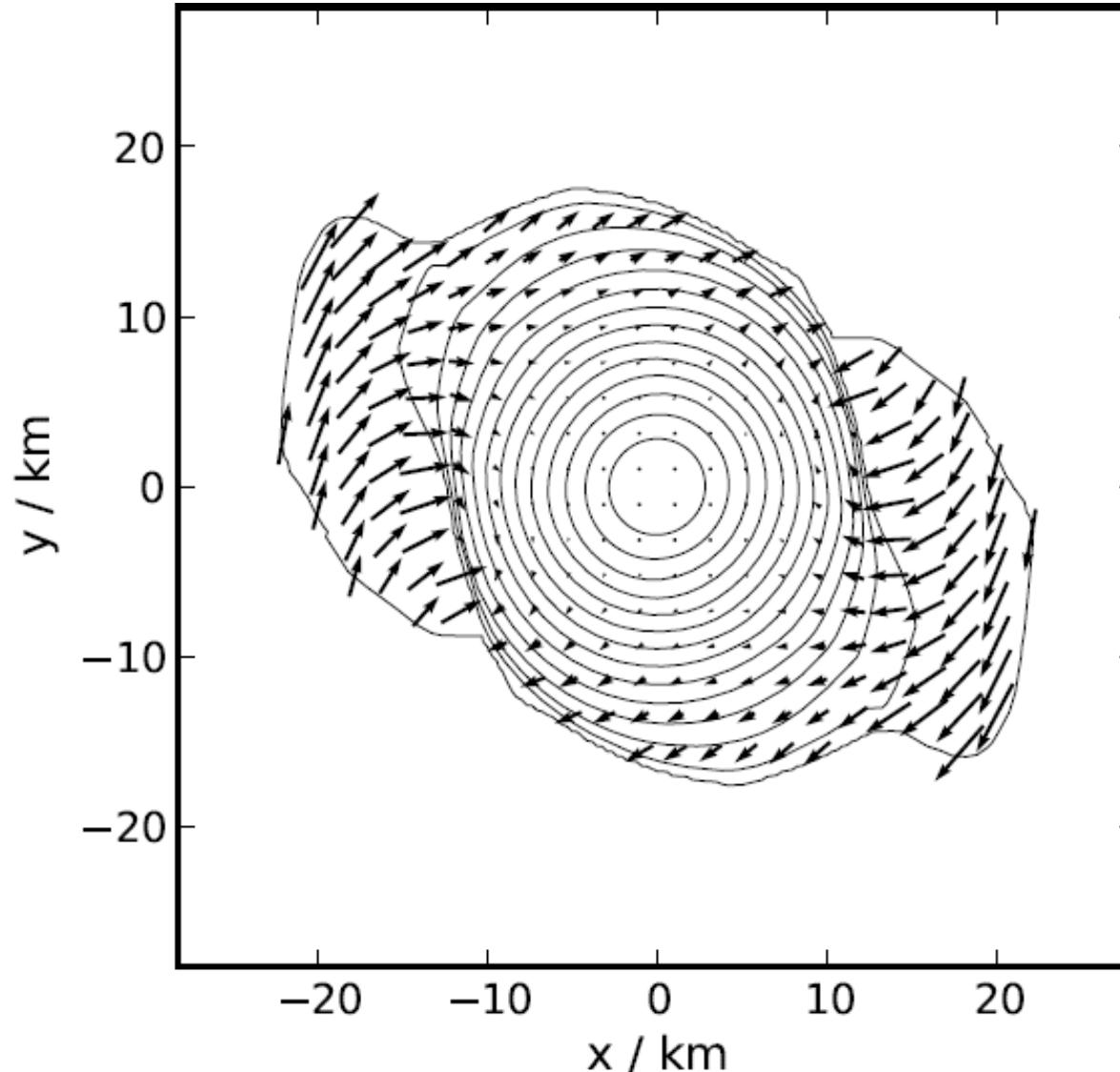


The critical absolute value of  $\beta = T/|W|$  for the instability increases.

At the same time, the value of  $\beta$  at the mass-shedding limit increases much more.

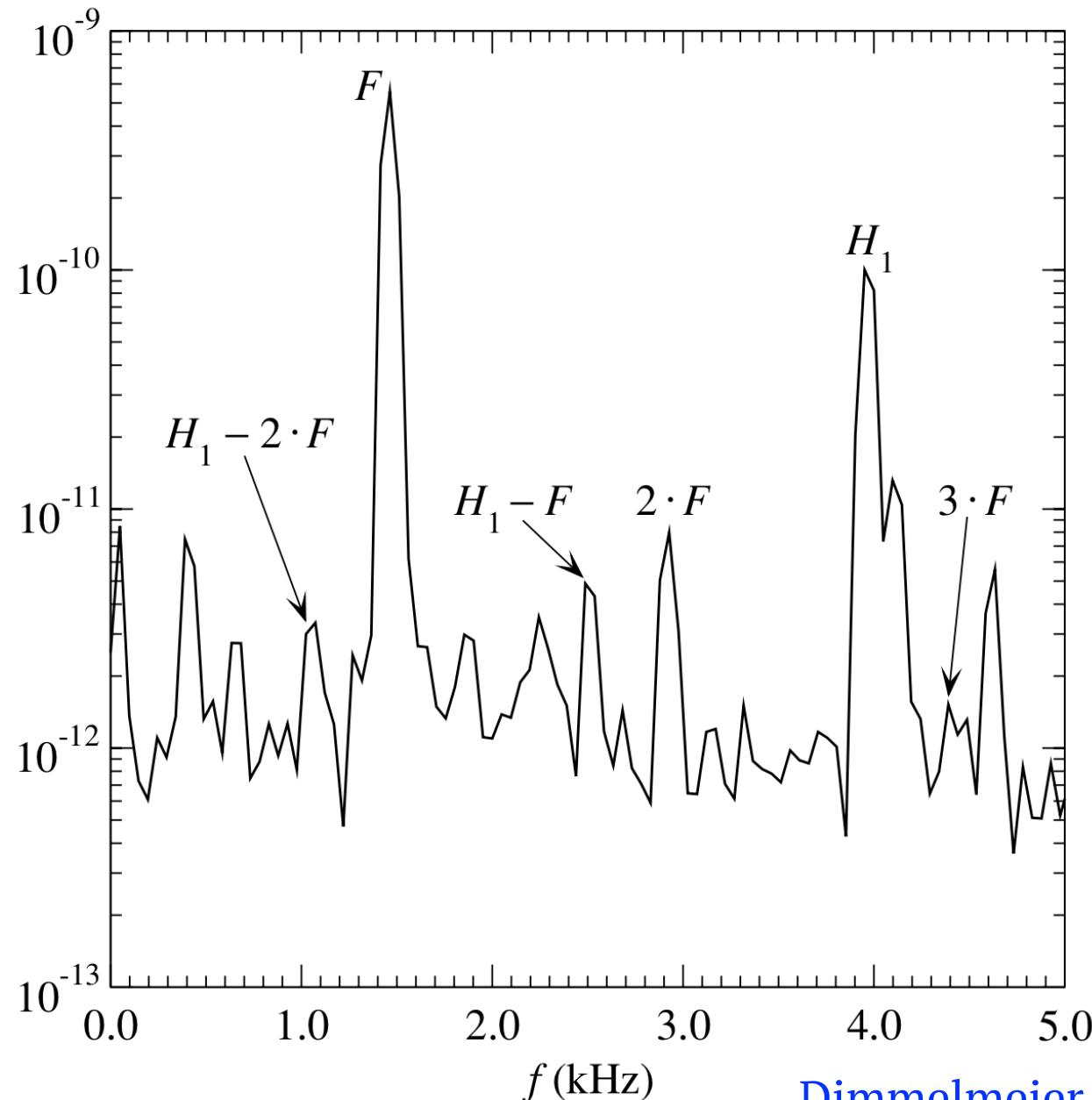
# **Nonlinear Saturation of $l=m=2$ f-Modes**

At amplitude of a few times  $10^{-2}$  the f-mode is saturated by wave-breaking at the surface.



# Quasi-linear Combination Frequencies

Linear sums and differences of linear mode frequencies:

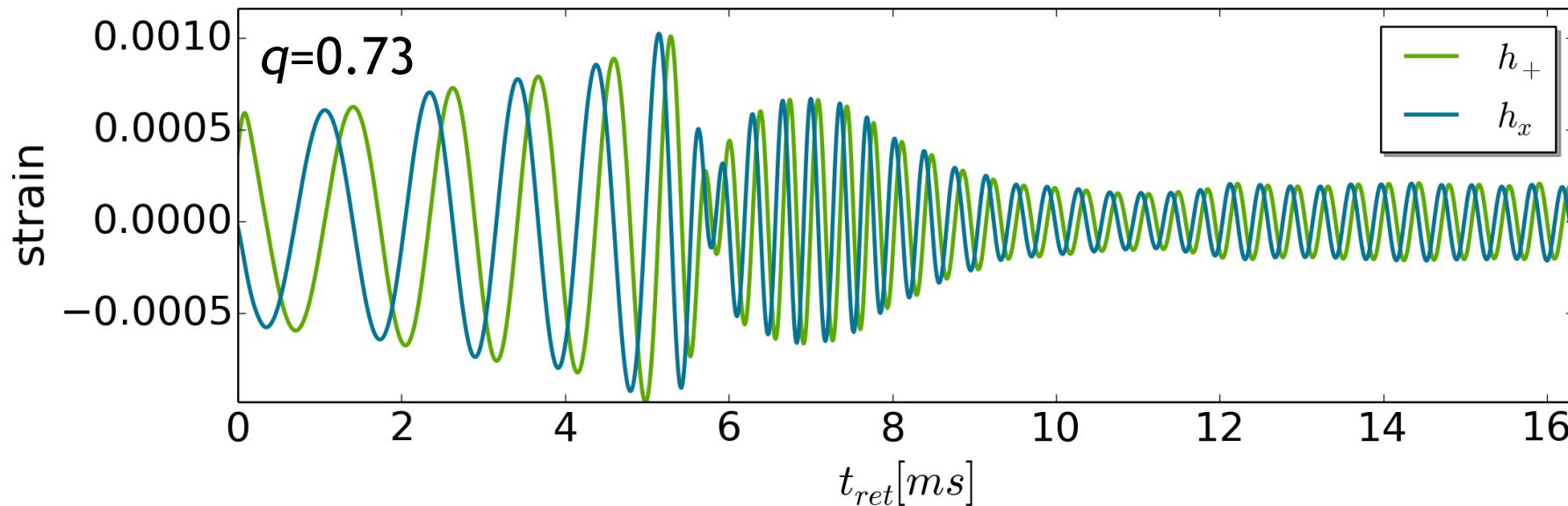
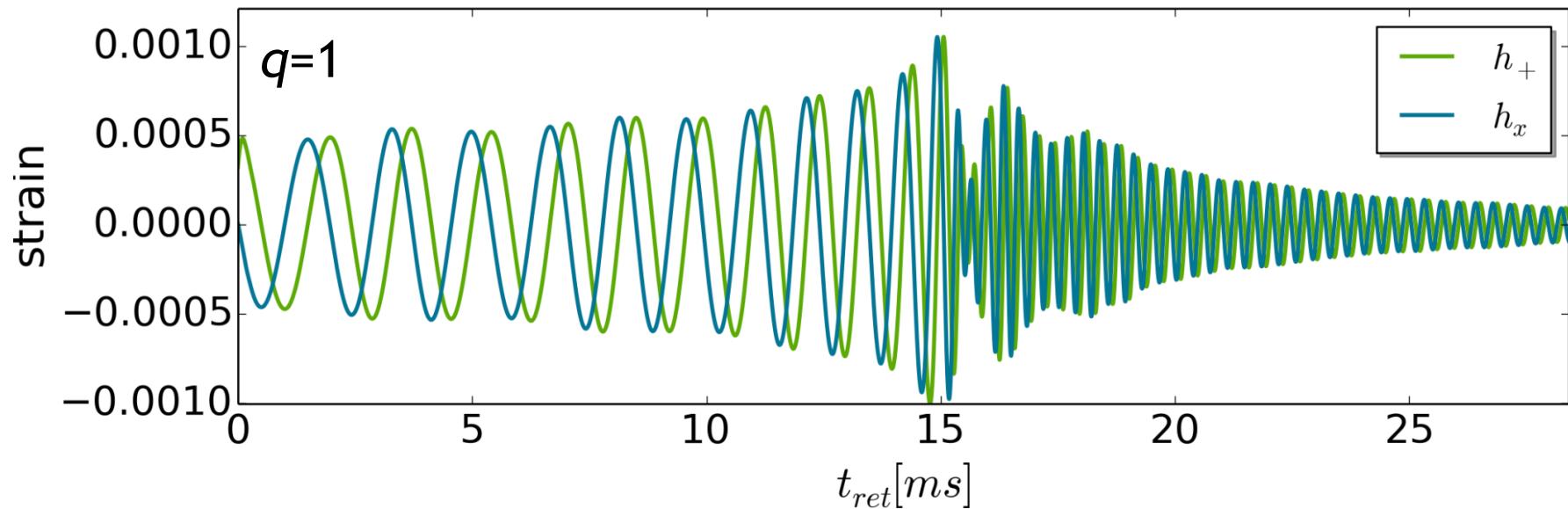


# Gravitational Waves

Soultanis & NS (2018)

Numerical simulations using the MPA1 EOS and  $M_{\text{chirp}} = 1.186$

A hypermassive neutron star (HMNS) is formed, supported by differential rotation.



# Post-merger Oscillations

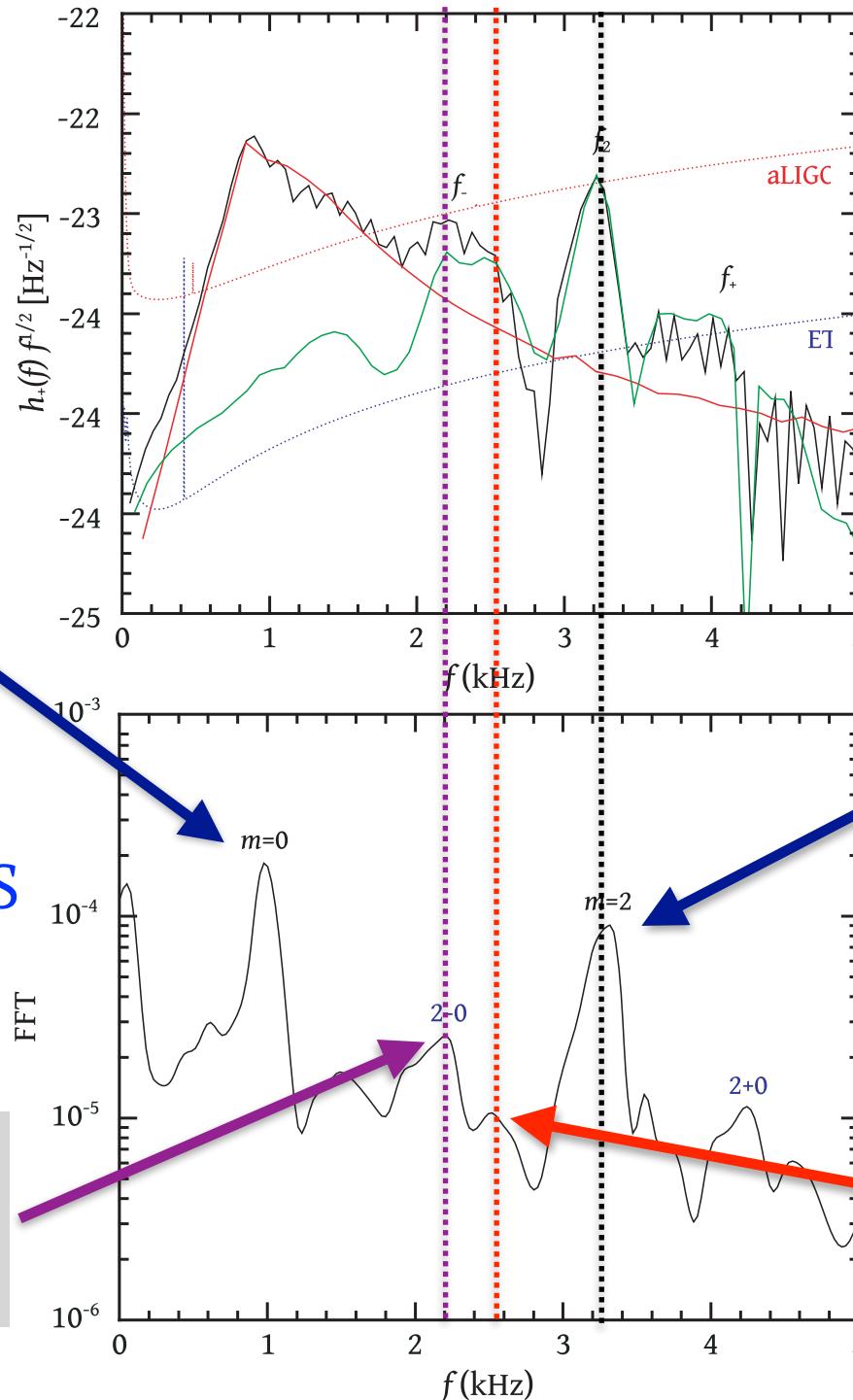
## GRAVITATIONAL WAVE SPECTRUM

$l=m=0$   
linear quasi-radial mode

FFT OF HYDRODYNAMICS IN EQUATORIAL PLANE

“2-0” quasi-linear combination frequency

NS, Bauswein,  
Zagkouris & Janka  
(2011)

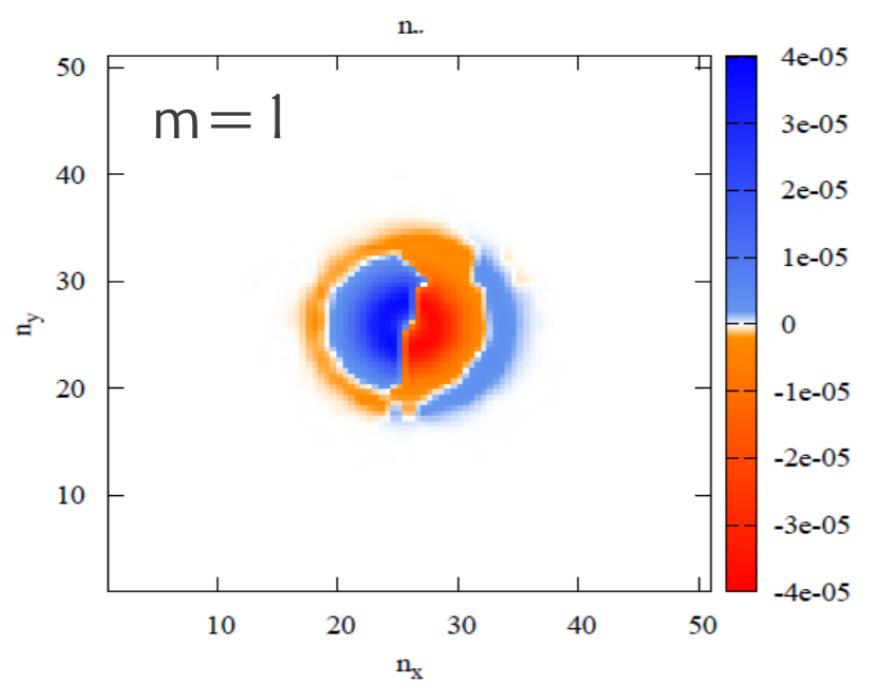
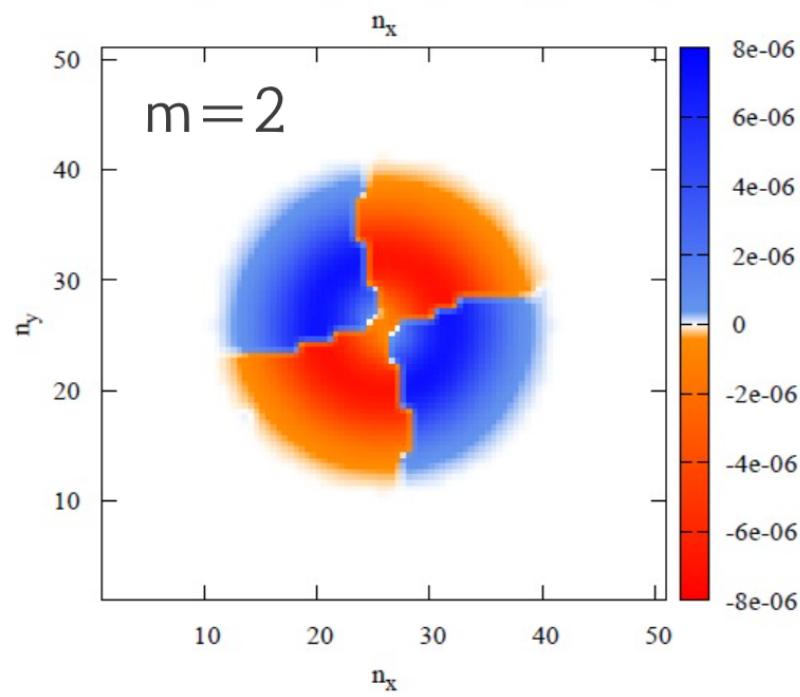
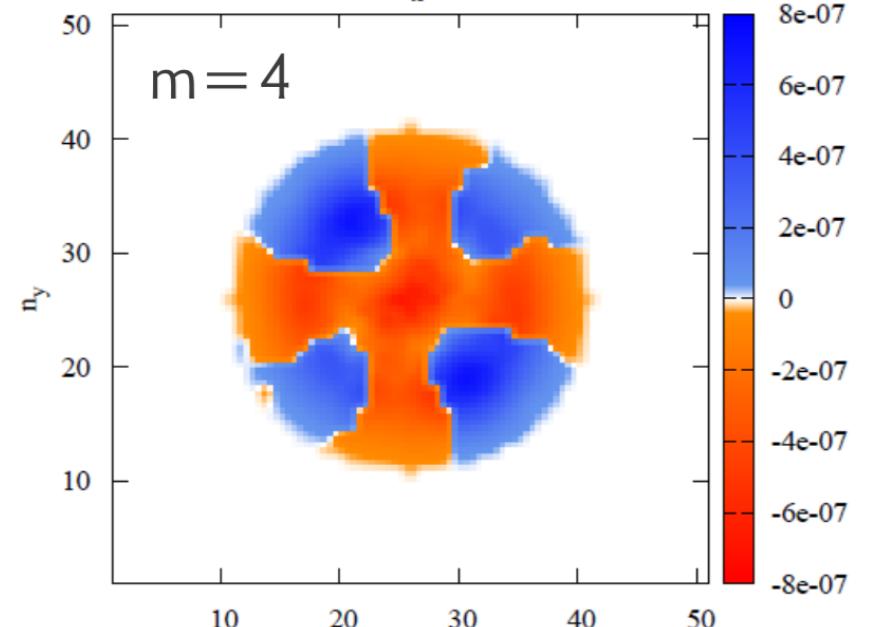
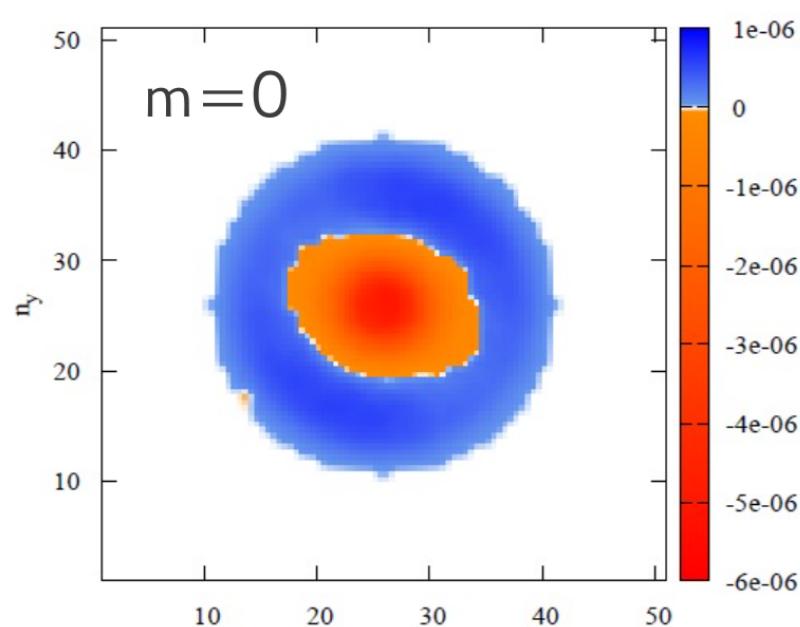


$l=m=2$   
linear f-mode

nonlinear spiral frequency

# Eigenfunctions

$m=0, 2, 4$  (Shen  $1.35M_{\text{sun}} + 1.35M_{\text{sun}}$ )  $m=1$  (MIT60  $1.2M_{\text{sun}} + 1.35M_{\text{sun}}$ )

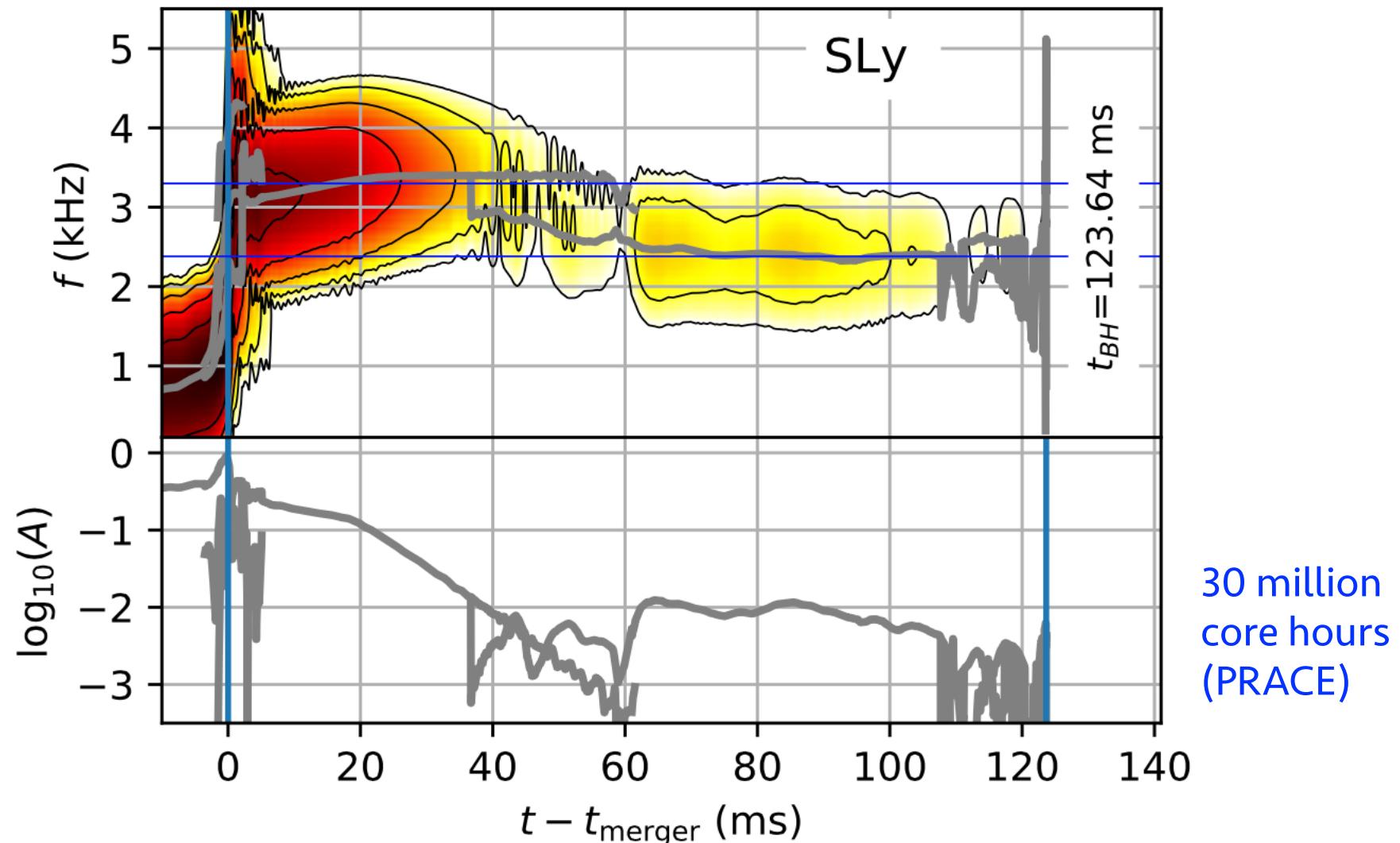


# Inertial Modes!

(PRL, 2018)

## Convective Excitation of Inertial Modes in Binary Neutron Star Mergers

Roberto De Pietri,<sup>1,2</sup> Alessandra Feo,<sup>3,2</sup> José A. Font,<sup>4,5</sup> Frank Löffler,<sup>6,7</sup> Francesco Maione,<sup>1,2</sup> Michele Pasquali,<sup>1,2</sup> and Nikolaos Stergioulas<sup>8</sup>



# Convective Instability

The local convective instability depends on the sign of the Schwarzschild discriminant

$$A_\alpha = \frac{1}{\varepsilon + p} \nabla_\alpha \varepsilon - \frac{1}{\Gamma_1 p} \nabla_\alpha p$$

where

$$\Gamma_1 := (\varepsilon + p)/p(dp/d\varepsilon)_s = (d \ln p / d \ln \rho)_s$$

is the adiabatic index.

$A_\alpha < 0$  convective stability

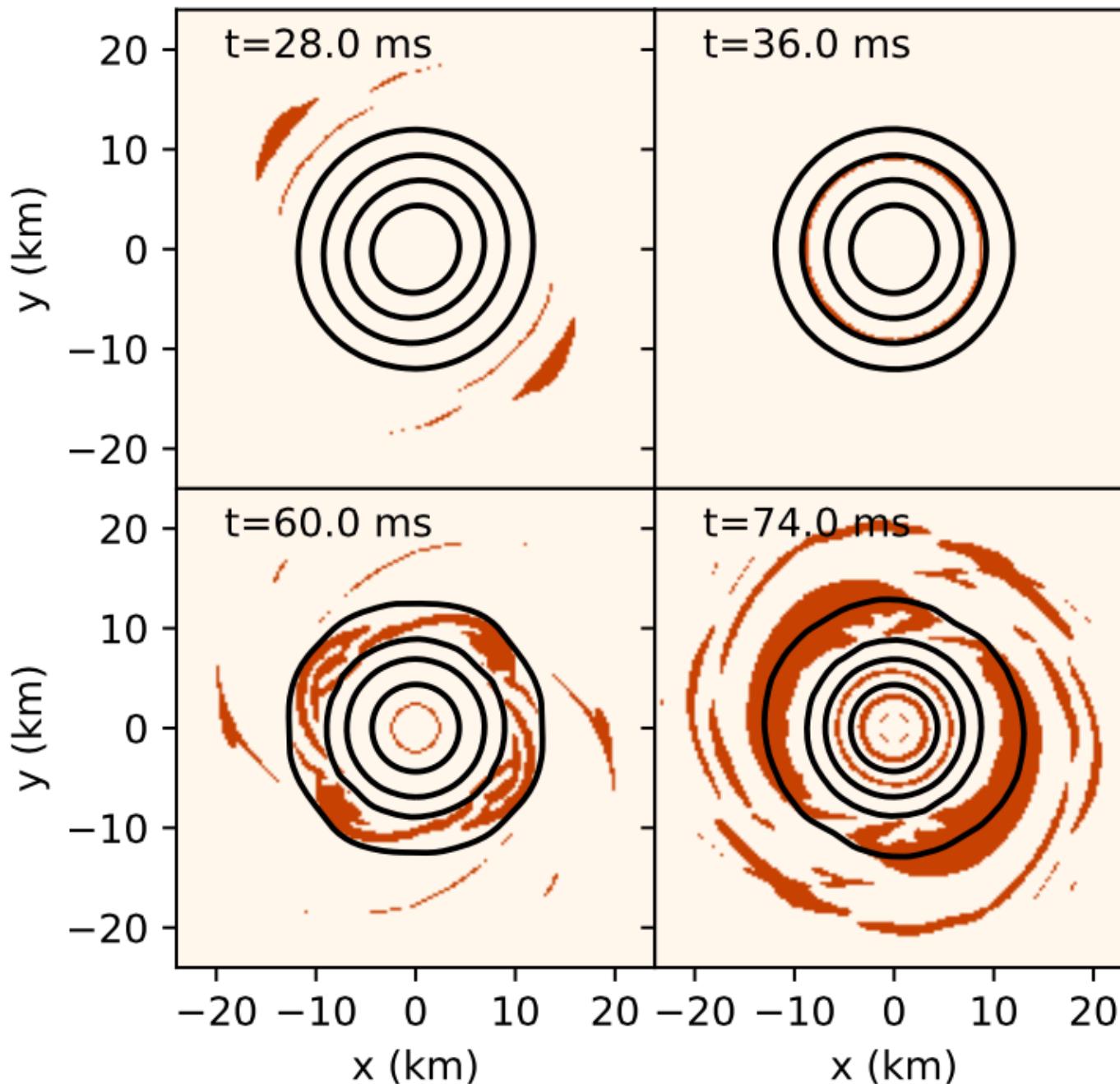
$A_\alpha > 0$  convective instability

For a piecewise-polytropic EOS with a thermal component, we find analytically:

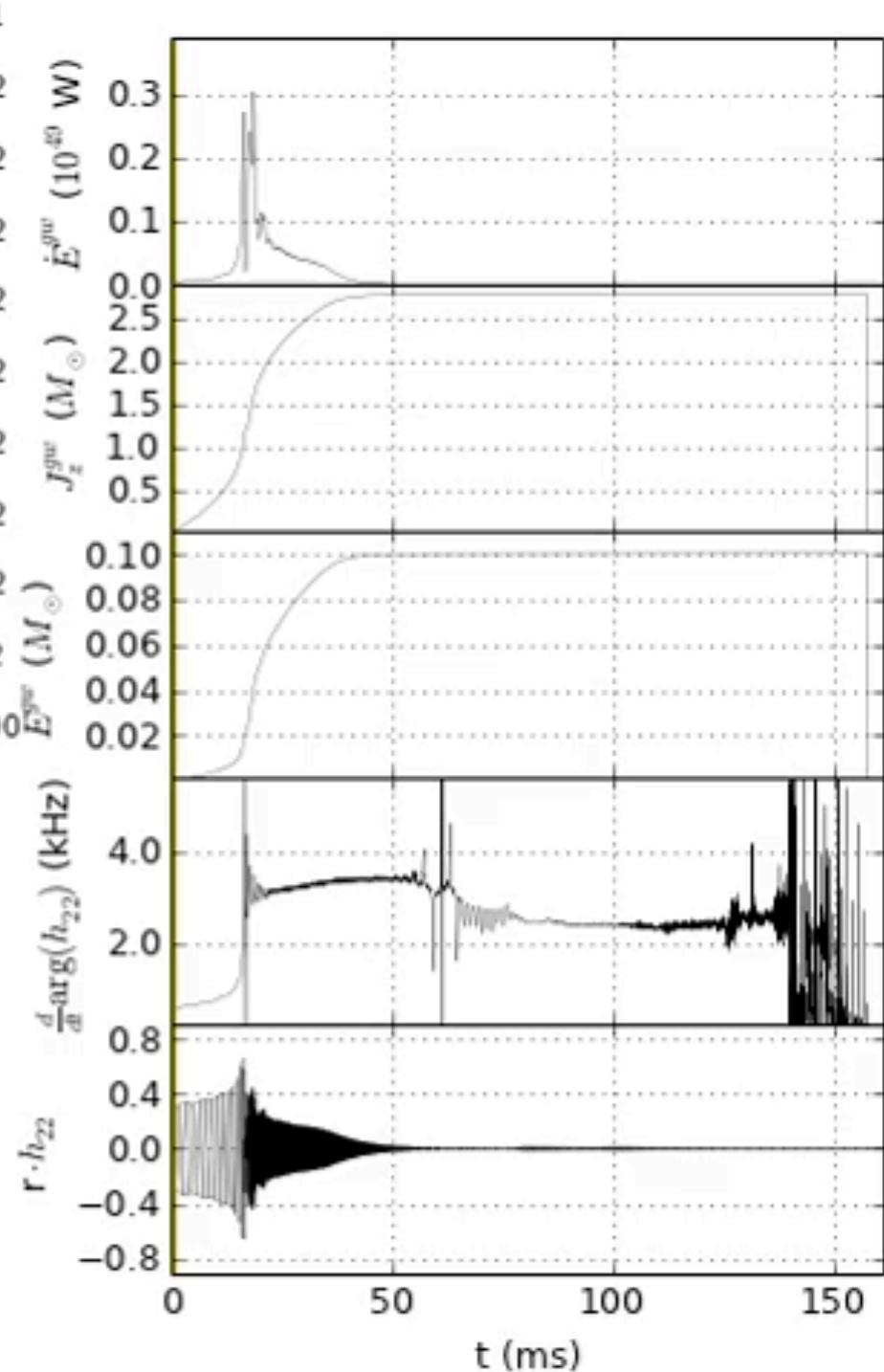
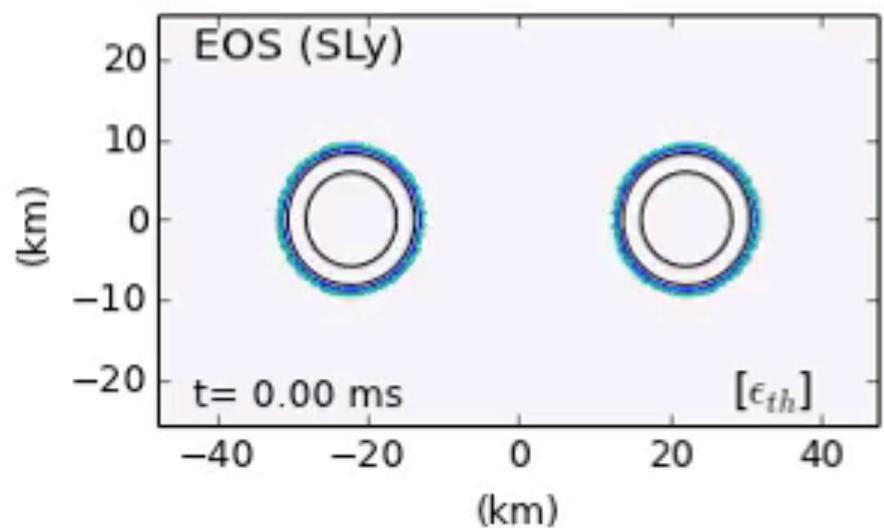
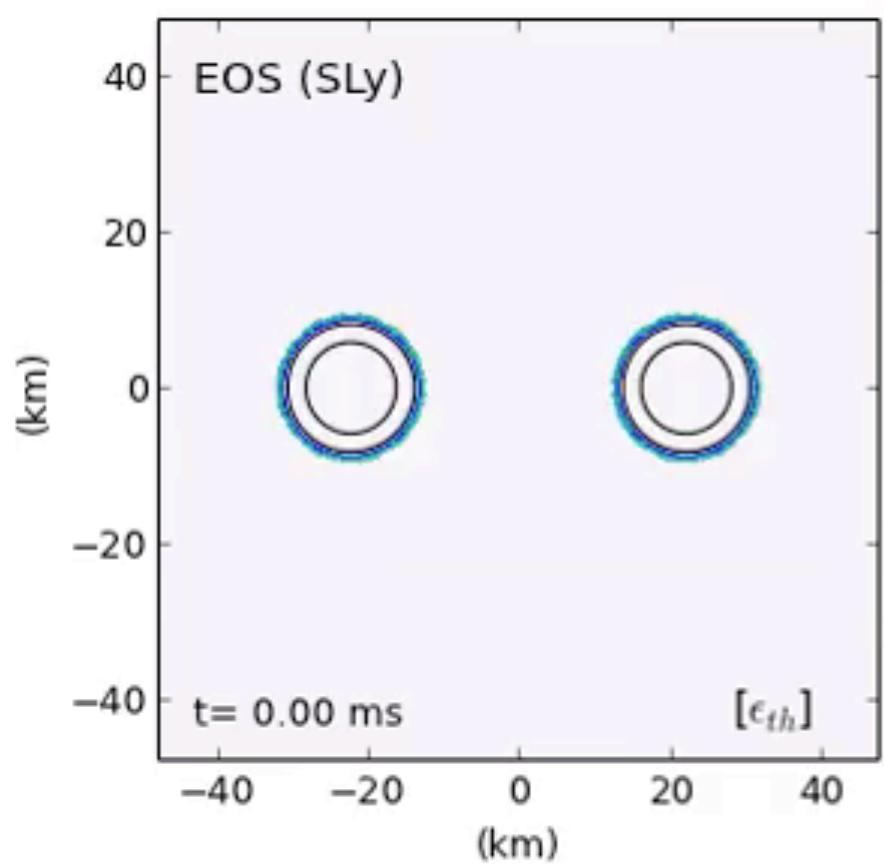
$$\Gamma_1 = \Gamma_{\text{th}} + (\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{\text{th}}) \frac{K_i \rho^{\Gamma_i}}{p}$$

# Convective Instability

The sign of  $A_r$  in the equatorial plane:

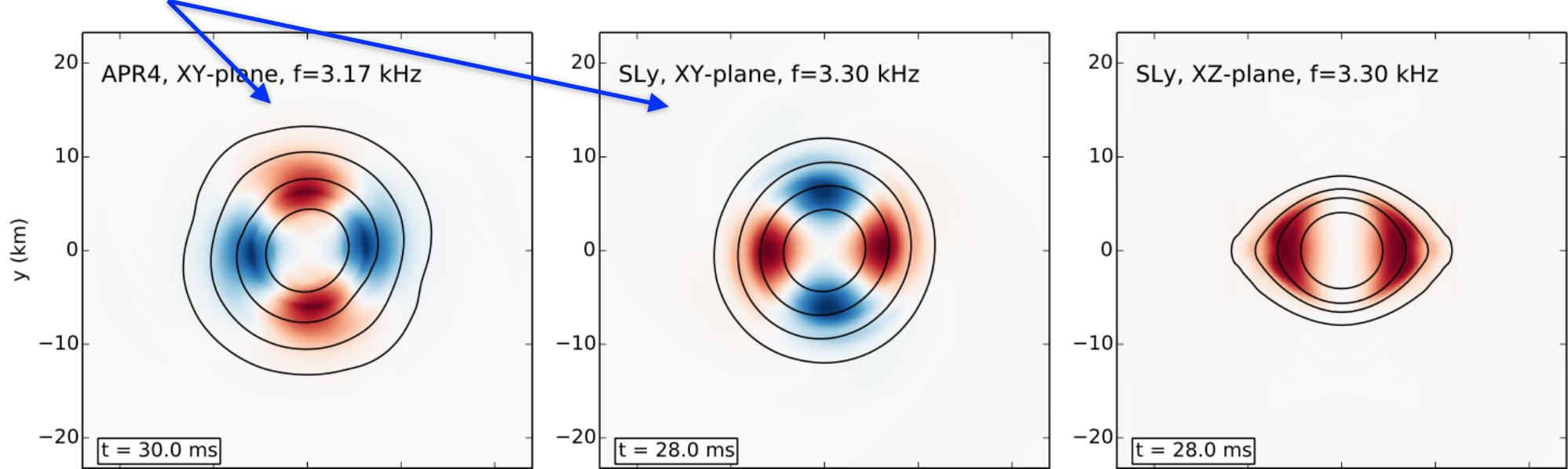


# Thermal Evolution



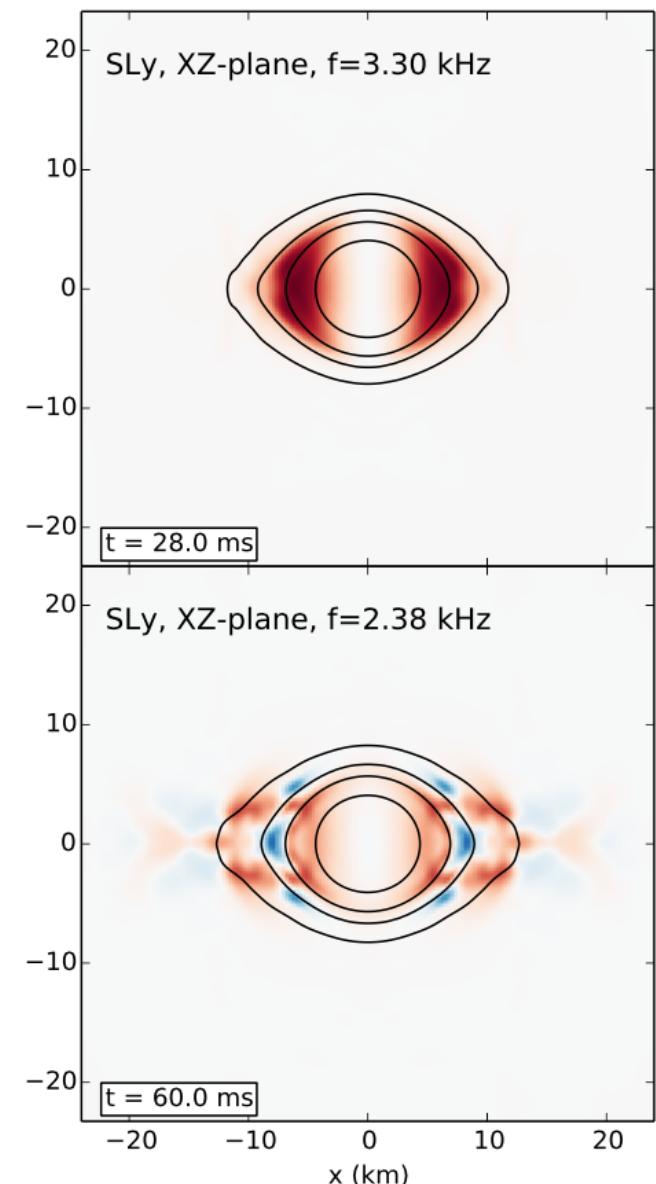
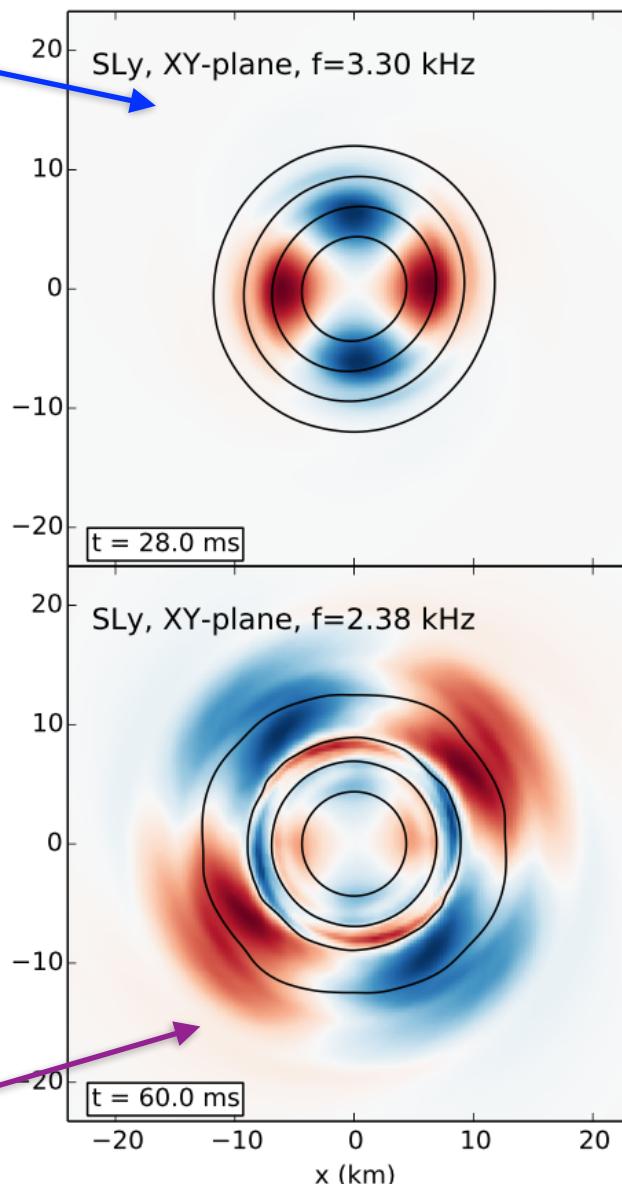
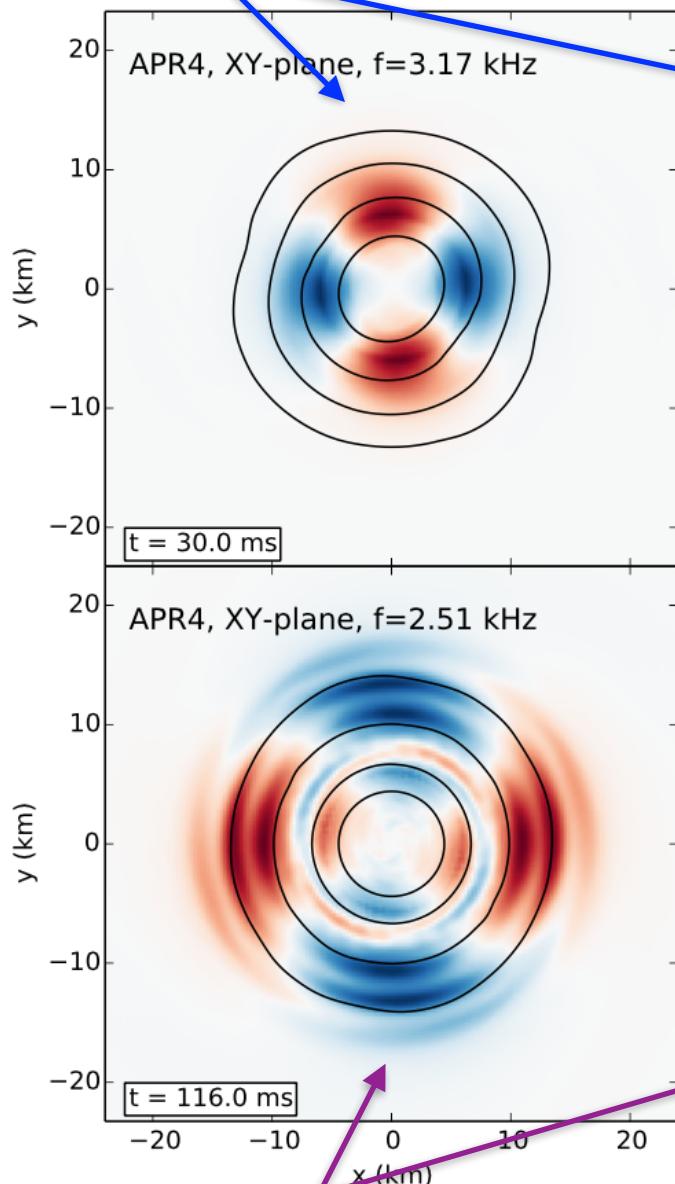
# Oscillations

**f-modes**

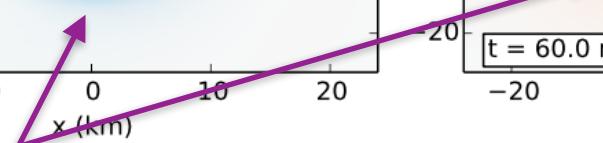


# Oscillations

**f-modes**



**inertial modes**



# Gravitational Wave Spectrum

