

Astr 511: Galaxies as galaxies

University of Washington

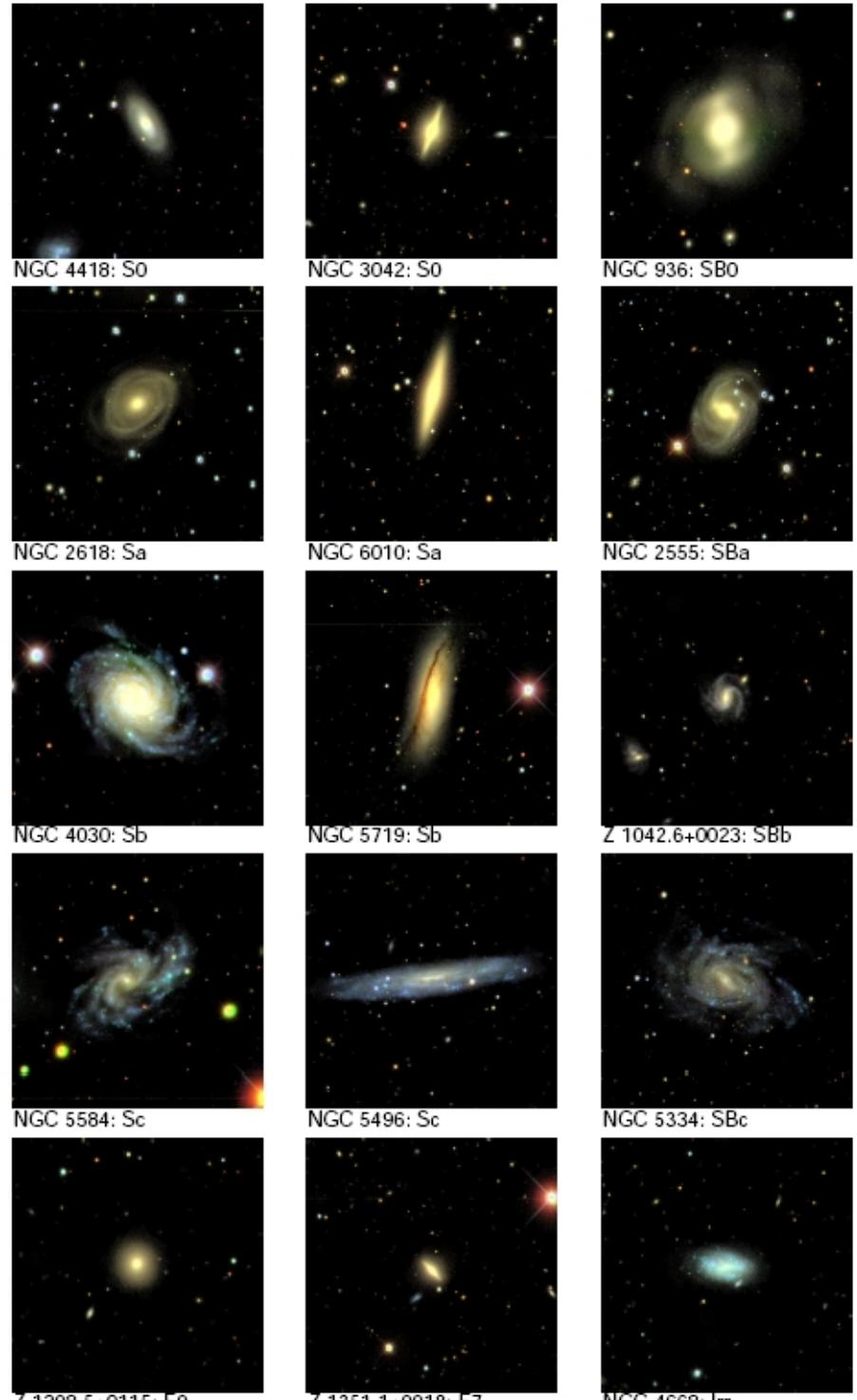
Mario Jurić & Željko Ivezić

Lecture 3: Basic properties of galaxies

Outline

- A Little Bit of History
- Galaxy Types and Classification
- Galaxy Properties
 - Intensity profiles
 - Rotation curves
 - Spiral arms
 - Elliptical galaxies

Hubble's Classification of Galaxies



Galaxies

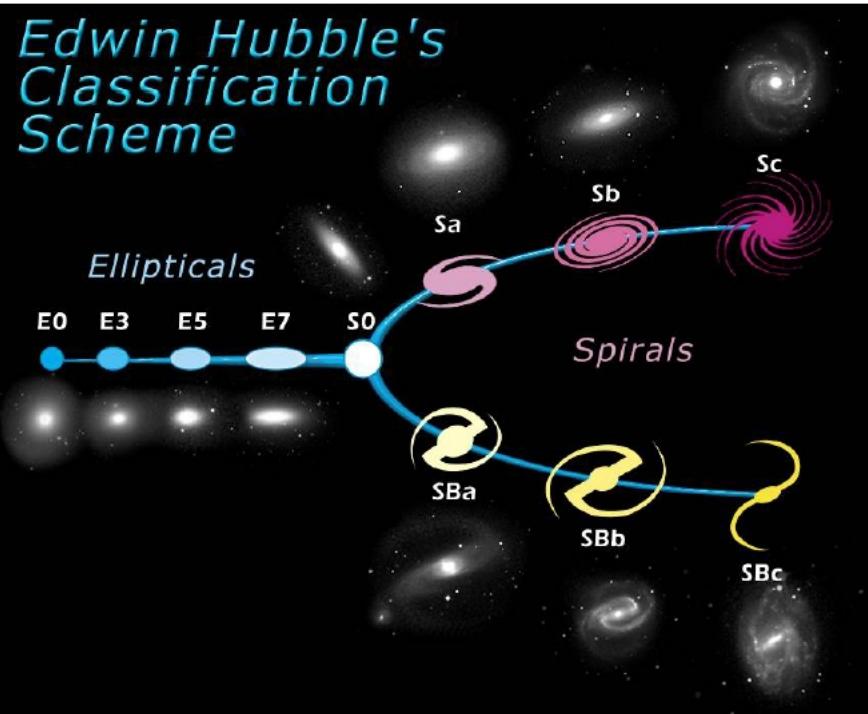
- Galaxies are (mostly) made of stars (also gas, dust, active galactic nuclei – AGN); hence have similar (but not identical!) color distributions
- They come in various shapes and forms (spiral vs. ellipticals; aka exponential vs. de Vaucouleurs profiles)
- Some host AGNs, some have high star-formation rates, some are very unusual (dwarf galaxies, mergers, etc.)
- We are interested in various distribution functions (e.g. for luminosity, colors, mass, age, metallicity, size, etc.) – the hope is to figure out **how galaxies formed and evolved**
- Nearest neighbors: the Andromeda galaxy (M31), Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, the Sgr Dwarf (may be more)

Most important historical breakthroughs in galaxy research

- Around 1610: Galileo Galilei resolves the Milky Way into individual stars
- Around 1750: Immanuel Kant develops the idea of “island universes” – different galaxies just like our own
- Around 1850: William Parsons discovers spiral structure and proposes that some galaxies rotate
- 1923/24: Edwin Hubble resolves M31 and M33 into individual stars – confirms that they are galaxies just like our own
- 1929: Edwin Hubble discoveres the expansion of the Universe

- 1933: Fritz Zwicky claims the existence of “dark matter” based on observed speeds of cluster galaxies (*nobody believes him!* – for a rap song about this see astro-ph/9610003)
- 1970-1980: Vera Rubin’s work on rotation curves of spiral galaxies – dark matter idea becomes widely accepted

Hubble's Morphological Classification



- Broadly, galaxies can be divided into ellipticals, spirals, and irregulars
- Broadly, spirals are divided into **normal** and **barred** (similar frequencies): S and SB
- The subclassification (a, b, or c) refers both to the **size of the nucleus** and the **tightness of the spiral arms**. For example, the nucleus of an Sc galaxy is smaller than in an Sa galaxy, and the arms of the Sc are wrapped more loosely.
- The number and how tightly the spiral arms are wound are well correlated with other, large scale properties of the galaxies, such as the luminosity of the bulge relative to the disk and the amount of gas in the galaxy. This suggests that there are **global physical processes involved in spiral arms**.

Overview of classification systems:

System	Principal criteria	Symbols	Examples
Hubble-Sandage (Sandage (1961-1995))	barrishness; openness of arms/disk-bulge ratio; degree of resolution of arms into stars	E, S0, S, SB, Irr a, b, c	M87=E1 M31=Sb M101=Sc LMC=Irr I
De Vaucouleurs (de Vaucouleurs (1959))	barrishness; openness of arms/disk-bulge ratio; rings or s shapes	E, S0, S, SA, SB, I a, b, c, d, m (r), (s)	M87=E1P M31=SA(s)b M101=SAB(rs)cd LMC=SB(s)c
Yerkes (Morgan (1958-1970))	central concentration of light; barishness/smoothness	k, g, f, a E, R, D, S, B, I	M87=kE1 M31=kS5 M101=fS1 LMC= afl2
DDO (van den Bergh (1960-1976))	richness of disk in young stars; barrishness; central concentration of light; quality and length of arms	E, S0, A, S, Ir B a, b, c I, II, . . . , V	M87=E1 M31=Sb I-II M101=Sc I LMC=Ir III-IV

Spiral (Sa) Galaxies:



NGC 3223: Sa-galaxy

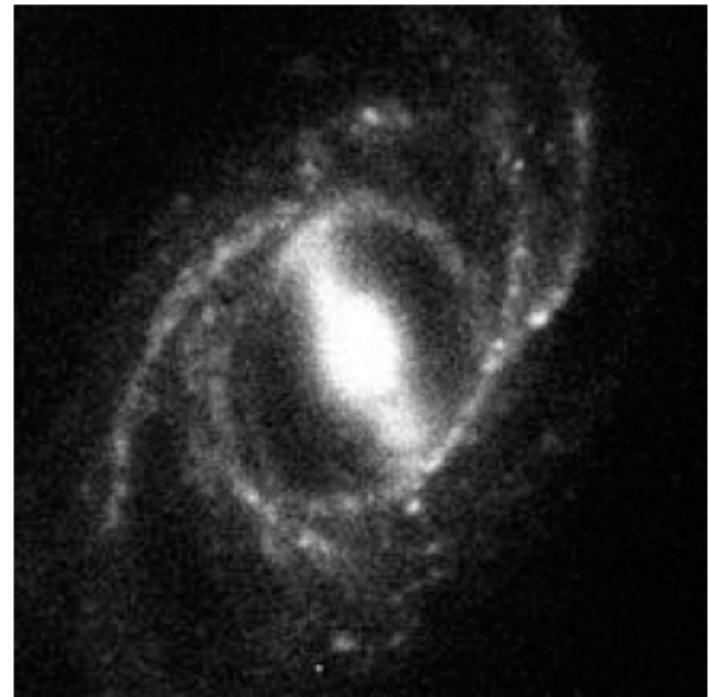


M 104 (Sombrero), Sa-galaxy
(P.Barthel, VLT)

Barred-Spiral (SBb) Galaxies:



M 95: SBb-galaxy



NGC 2523: SBb-galaxy

Irregular (Irr) Galaxies:



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LMC: Irr-galaxy



SMC: Irr-galaxy

- Primary classification criteria of commonly used Hubble-Sandage system:
 - Bulge-to-disk ratio (S0/Sa: 5 to 0.3, Sb: 1 to 0.1, Sc/Irr: 0.2 to 0)
 - Opening angle of spiral arms (Sa: 0 to 10, Sb: 5 to 20, Sc: 10 to 30 degrees)
 - Bars
- Physical parameters varying along the Hubble-Sandage system:
 - Stellar mass M increases from irregulars ($10^8 M_\odot$) to ellipticals ($10^{12} M_\odot$)
 - Specific Angular Momentum J/M of baryons increases from ellipticals to spirals
 - Mean age increases from irregulars through spirals to ellipticals (B-V increases from 0.3 to 1.0, mass-to-light M/L_B ratio increases from about 2 to 10)
 - Mean stellar density of spheroids increases with decreasing spheroid luminosity
 - Mean surface brightness of disks increases with luminosity
 - cold gas content increases along Hubble sequence (fraction of baryonic mass: 0 in E/S0, 0.1 to 0.3 in Sa to Sc, up to 0.9 in Irr)
 - hot gas content only significant in massive E (few percent of baryonic mass)

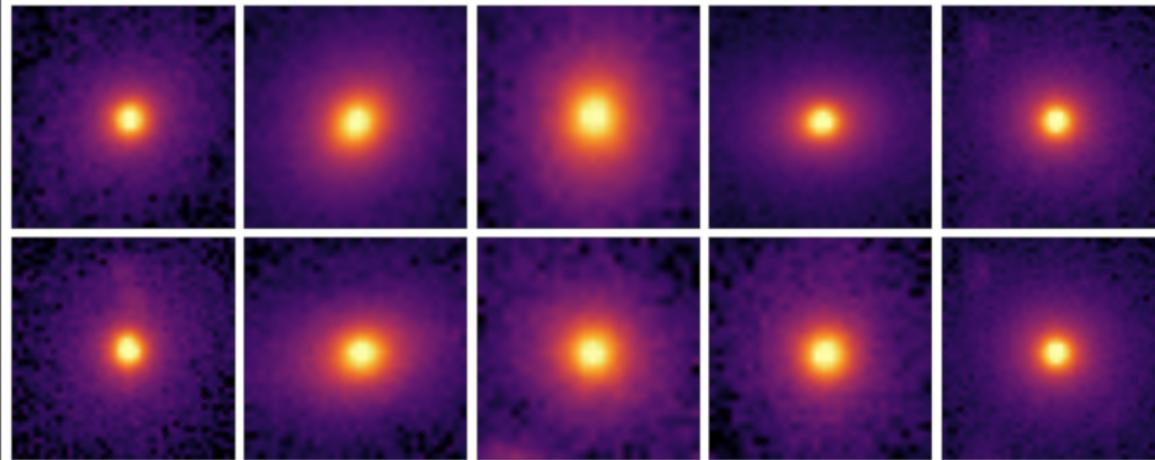
Galaxy types that didn't make it into the Hubble-Sandage system

- dwarf galaxies:
 - dE: dwarf ellipticals or dwarf spheroidals, similar to E but of low luminosity and low surface brightness
 - BCD: Blue Compact Dwarfs, concentrated starburst, faint old stellar components
- cD-galaxies:
 - Yerkes classification for “extra (c) large and diffuse (D)” galaxies, found in the centers of clusters and groups
- low surface brightness (LSB) galaxies: mostly luminous but very low surface brightness disk galaxies
- active galaxies: radio galaxies; galaxies with unusual nuclear emission lines and/or extreme nuclear luminosity (QuasiStellarObjects-QSOs, Seyfert galaxies) and/or with powerful non-thermal radio emission (radio galaxies, quasars)
- interacting, merging and starbursting galaxies (IRAS mergers, ULIRGs, i.e. Ultra-Luminous Infra-Red Galaxies)

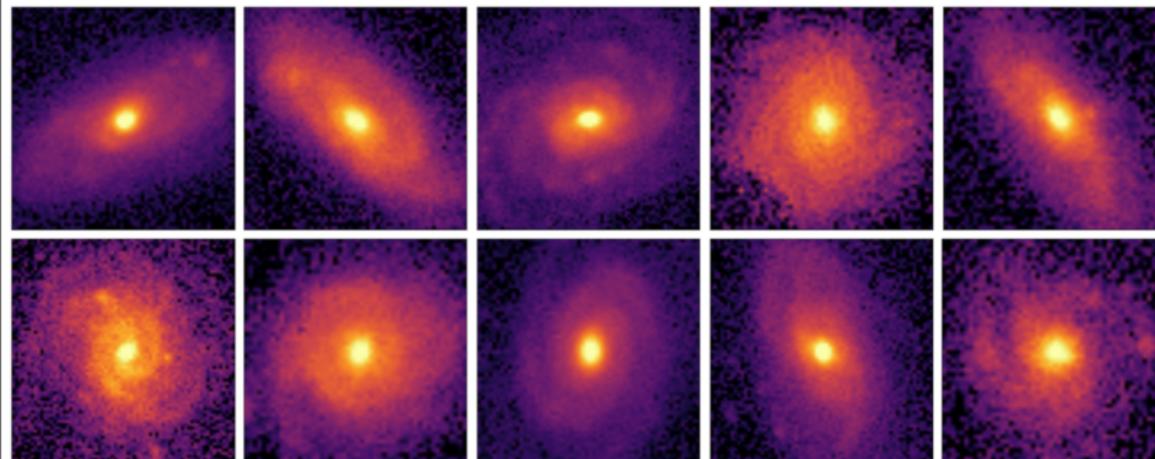
Modern Galaxy Classification

- Digital sky surveys - use machine learning!
- Example of recent work: Barchi et al. (2019, Astronomy & Computing, 30, 100334)
- Left: SDSS images of galaxies classified using Deep Learning (based on images - not parameters derived from images)
- Performance: 99% of overall accuracy for two-class separation and 82% when using three classes

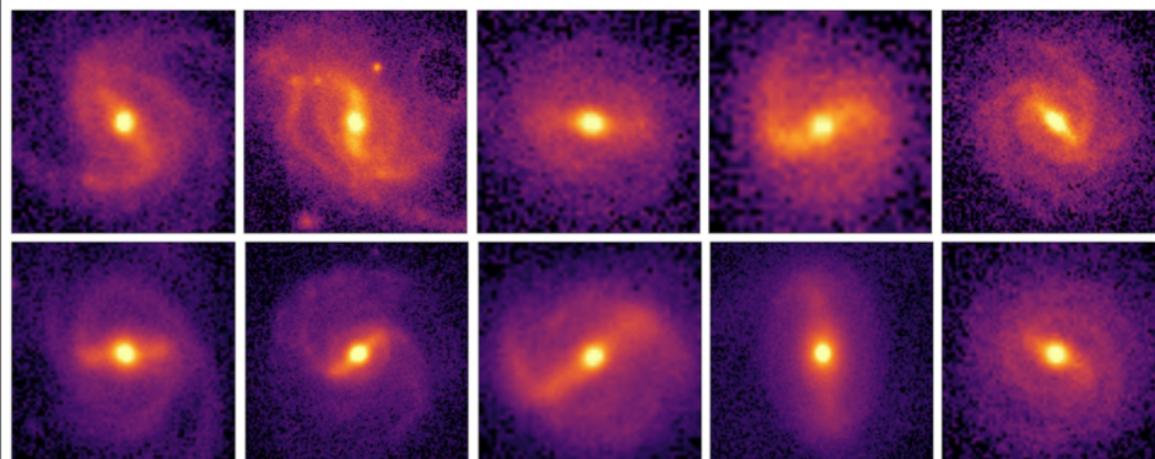
Elliptical galaxies

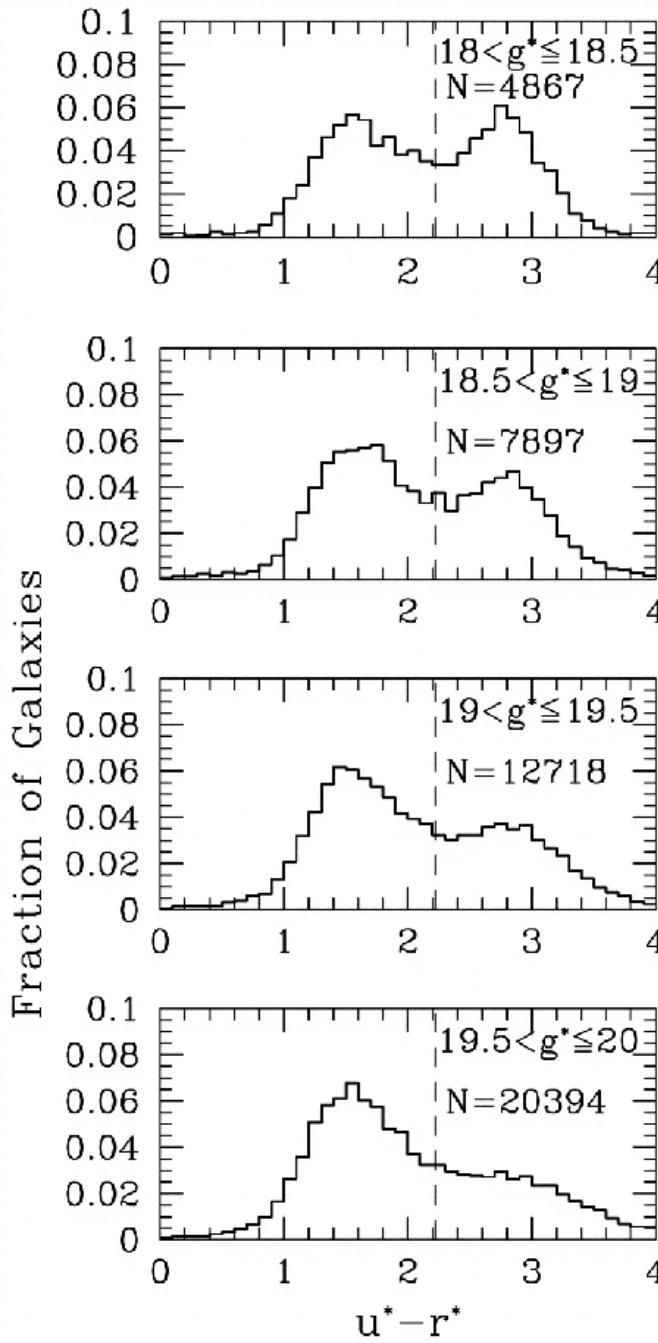


Unbarred spiral galaxies



Barred spiral galaxies





Colors are correlated with morphology

- Galaxies have bi-modal color distribution (e.g. SDSS $u - r$ color: the ratio of the UV and red fluxes): see histograms from Strat-eva et al. (2001, AJ, 122, 1861)
- Colors correlated with shapes and profiles: blue galaxies tend to be spiral and red galaxies tend to be elliptical.
- A good parametrization for shapes (i.e. intensity vs. radius R) is **the Sersic index n** :

$$I(R) \propto \exp(-(R/R_e)^{1/n})$$
- $n = 1$: exponential profile
- $n = 4$: de Vaucouleurs profile

Note the bulge contribution!

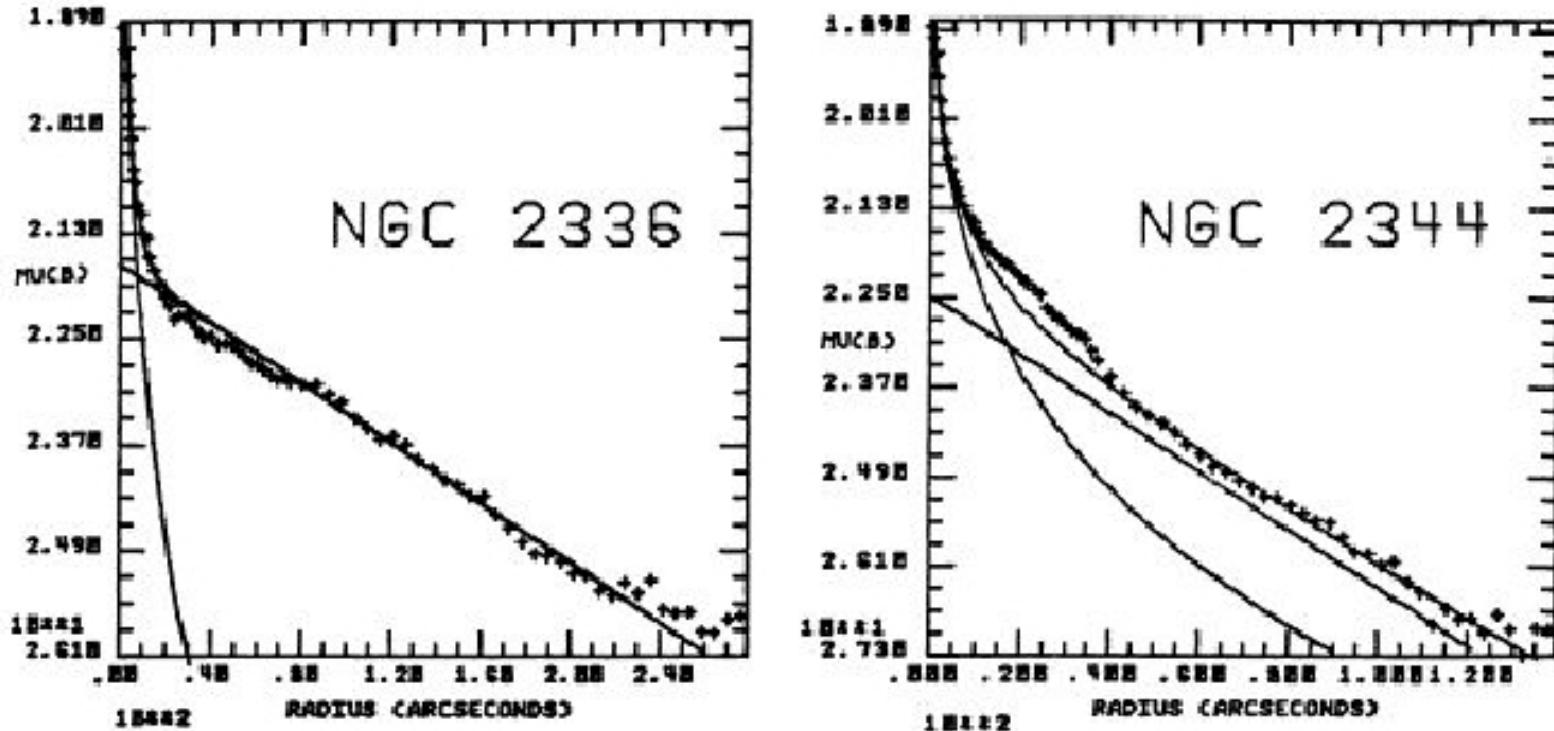


FIG. 6.—Elliptically averaged profiles for the 26 spiral galaxies. For NGC 4594 the north half of the minor axis is shown. Where an iterative decomposition was possible, disk, bulge, and total profiles are shown. In all other cases, only the bulge fit is shown.

The brightness distribution as a function of (elliptical) radius

Astronomers usually express brightness on a logarithmic (magnitude) scale (well, at least optical astronomers do):

$$\log I(R) = a - b R^{1/n} \quad (1)$$

Given an image of a galaxy (i.e. I as a function of R), one can determine a , b and n . Sometimes, n is fixed as a function of galaxy's morphology, and only a and b are fit to the data.

Sometimes, de Vaucouleurs profile is expressed as

$$I(R) = I_o 10^{-3.33 [(\frac{R}{R_{1/2}})^{1/4} - 1]} \quad (2)$$

or for surface brightness (e.g. mag/arcsec²)

$$\mu = -2.5 \log [I(R)] = \mu_o + 8.33 [(\frac{R}{R_{1/2}})^{1/4} - 1] \quad (3)$$

The brightness distribution as a function of (elliptical) radius

Integral of $I(R)$ over the entire galaxy gives flux

$$F = 2\pi \int_0^\infty I(R) R dR \quad (4)$$

This assumes that the profile was averaged in elliptical annuli.
In general,

$$F = \int_0^\infty \int_0^{2\pi} I(R, \phi) R dR d\phi \quad (5)$$

Here, $I(R)$, and this F is measured at some wavelength (and in some band). Integration over all wavelengths gives *bolometric* flux.

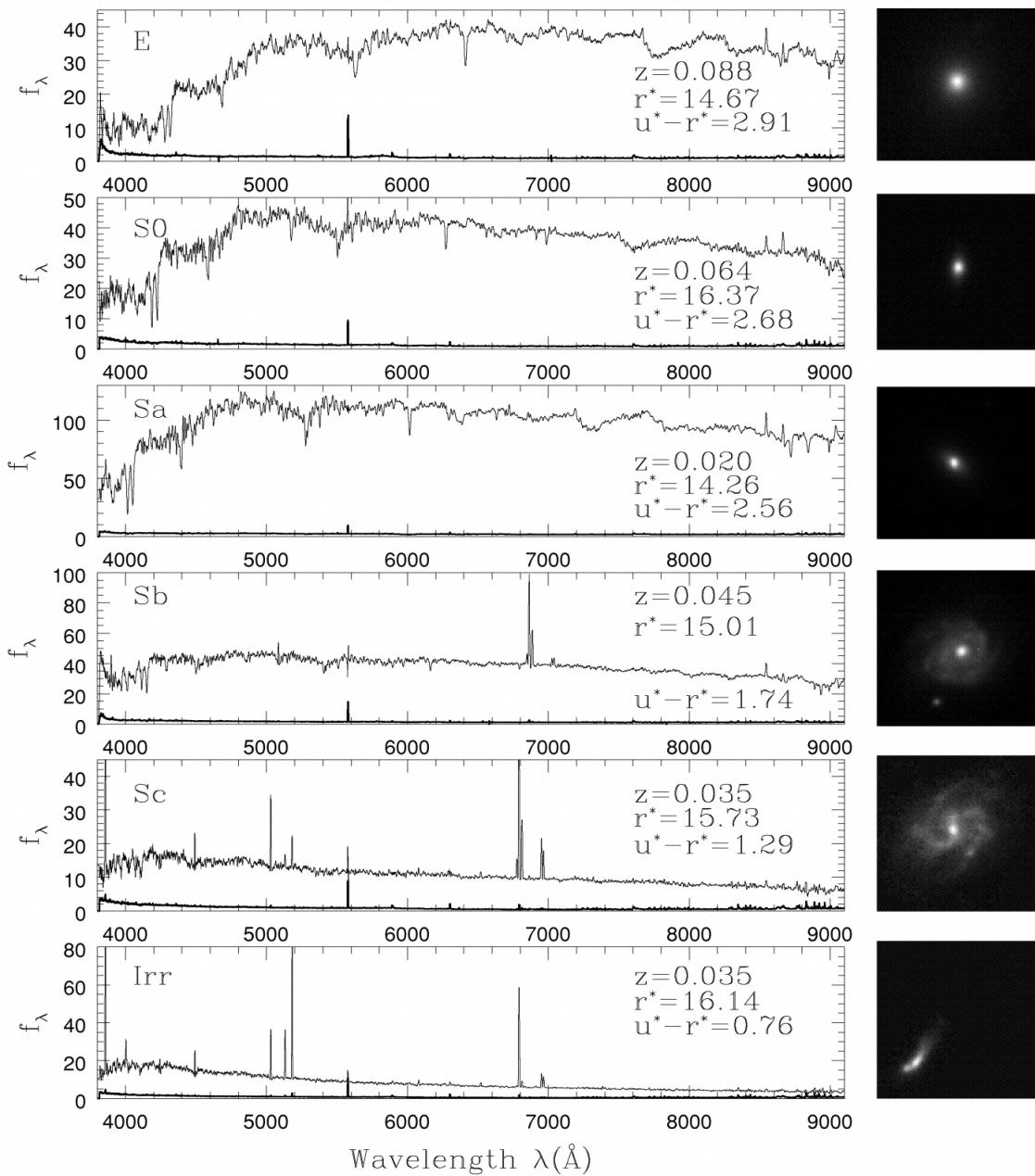
If flux F is multiplied by $4\pi D^2$, where D is distance, one gets *luminosity*. Beware of units!

The brightness distribution as a function of (elliptical) radius

Freeman's law: when $\mu(R)$ is extrapolated to the center of the galaxy ($R=0$, and excluding the bulge contribution), one gets a similar answer (to within 40-50%) for all spiral galaxies! **This means all spiral galaxies have roughly the same surface brightness in the center.** This all (i.e. exp. profile and Freeman's law) applies to disks of spiral galaxies.

What about (luminous) halo? The answer depends on tracer; for the Milky Way

- **globular clusters:** $I(R) \propto R^{-3.5}$
- **RR Lyrae:** $I(R) \propto R^{-3.0}$



- Spectra are correlated with morphology
- Galaxies with weak blue flux tend to be ellipticals (consistent with conclusions based on colors, of course)
- Galaxies with emission lines tend to be spiral galaxies (though not all)
- Both AGNs and star-forming galaxies show emission lines: **How do we separate AGNs from star-forming galaxies?** Using the emission line ratios (which are also correlated with colors and shapes).

Rotation of Stars in the Disks of Spiral Galaxies

- Most stars in spiral galaxies are concentrated in fairly thin disks
- Stars move around the galaxy center – described by the **rotation (circular velocity) curve** $v_c(R)$
- The shape of the rotation curve depends on the distribution of enclosed mass – e.g. for a point mass $v_c(R) \propto 1/\sqrt{R}$ (**try to derive this before class!**)
- In general, $v_c^2(R) = R(d\Phi(R)/dR)$, where Φ is the gravitational potential (Φ follows from the mass density profile via Poisson equation)
- We know the disk light intensity profile; we can assume that mass is following light and predict $v_c(R)$ for an exponential disk (or other profiles).

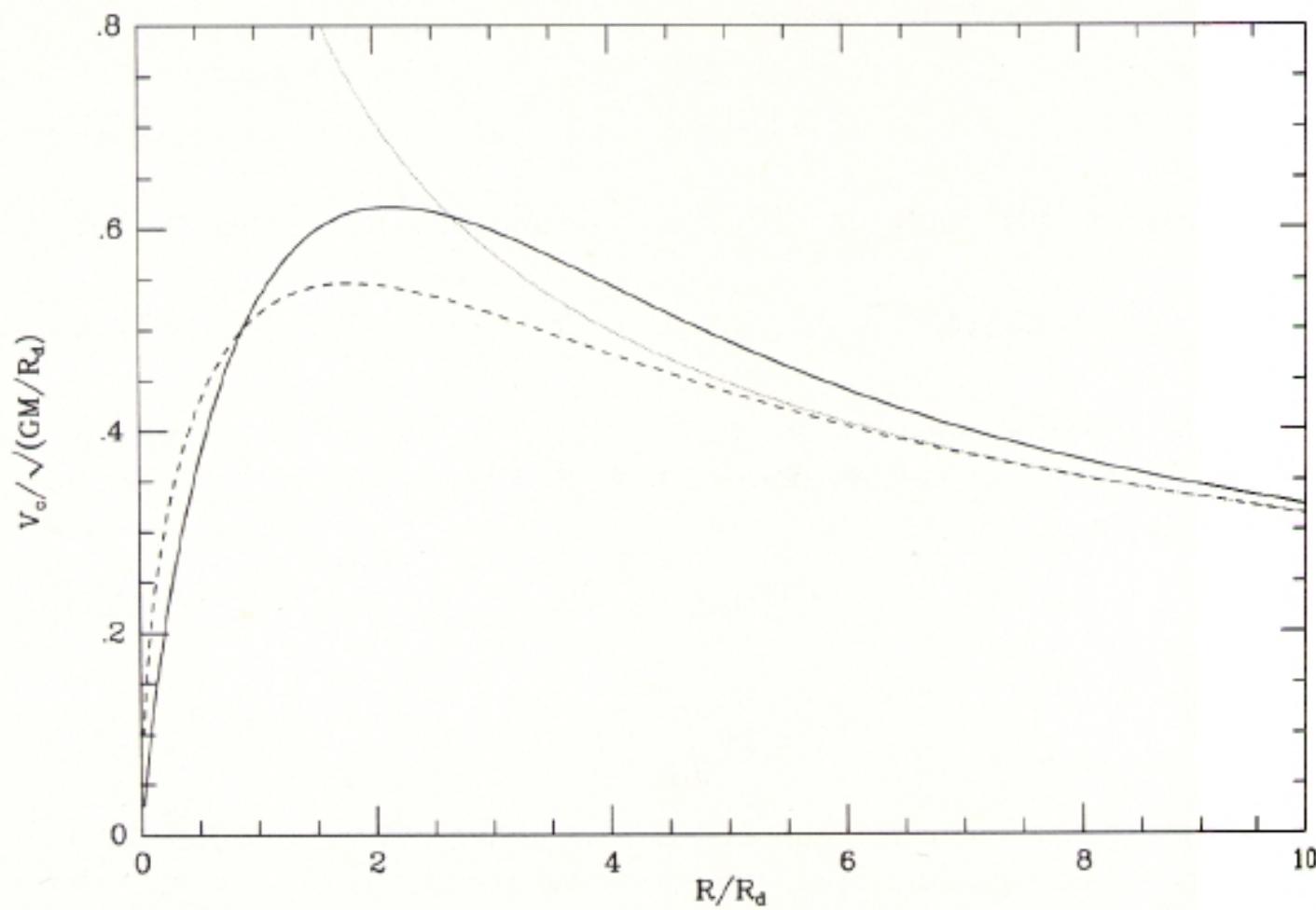


Figure 2-17. The circular-speed curves of: an exponential disk (full curve); a point with the same total mass (dotted curve); the spherical body for which $M(r)$ is given by equation (2-170) (dashed curve).

Rotation of Stars in the Disks of Spiral Galaxies

The prediction for rotation curve in an infinitely thin exponential disk (the previous slide) involves (somewhat) complicated Bessel functions. A much simpler, but still decent approximation is

$$v_c(R) = 0.876 \sqrt{\frac{GM}{R_e}} \sqrt{\frac{r^{1.3}}{1 + r^{2.3}}} \quad (6)$$

where R_e is the scale length ($I(R) \propto \exp(-R/R_e)$), and $r = 0.533R/R_e$.

Note that for $R \gg R_e$, $v_c(R) \propto 1/\sqrt{R}$

FYI: if M is measured in solar masses (M_\odot), R in pc, v_c in km/s, then the gravitational constant is $G = 233$

What do we get from observations?

Measurements of the Rotation Curve

The circular speed can be determined as a function of radius by measuring the redshift of emission lines of the gas contained in the disk:

Hot stars ionize gas: hydrogen emission lines (e.g. H_{α}) in the optical

Neutral atomic hydrogen gas: hyperfine structure transition (due to flip in electron spin) leads to 21 cm radio line

H_{α} measurements

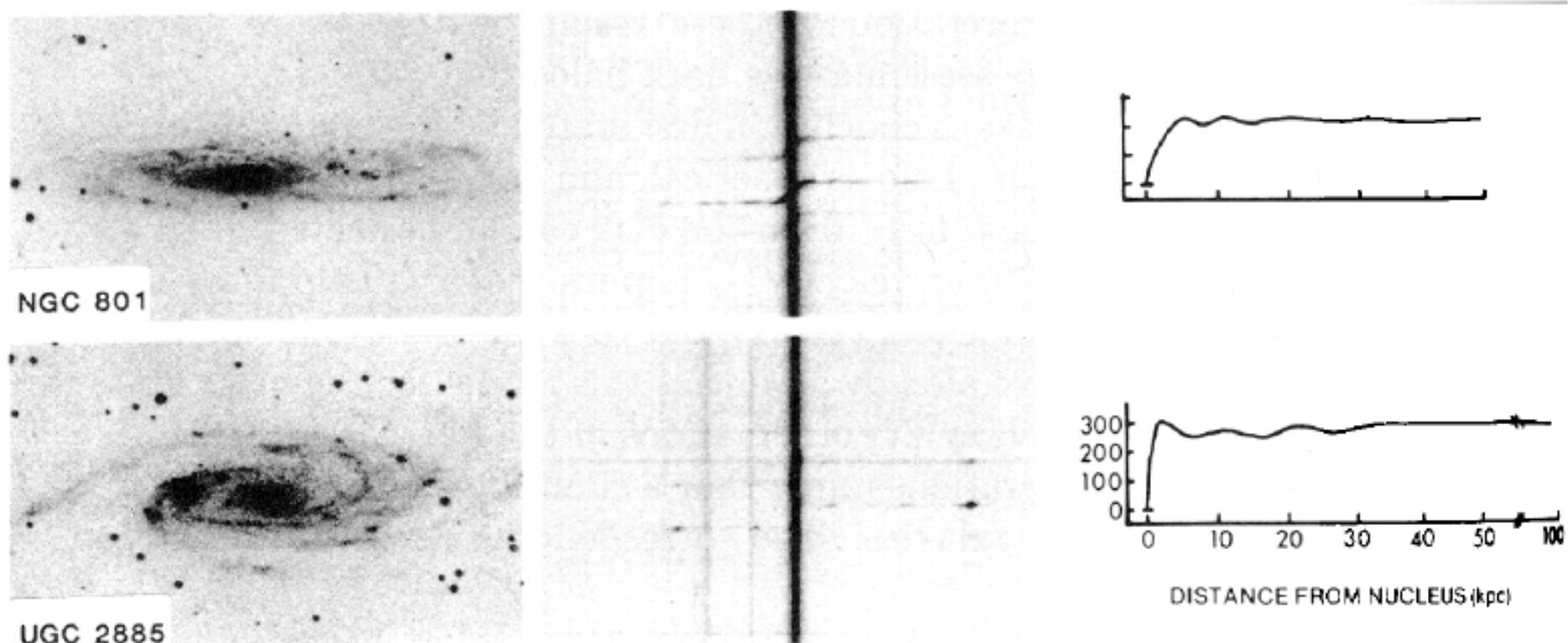


Figure 10-1. Photographs, spectra, and rotation curves for five Sc galaxies, arranged in order of increasing luminosity from top to bottom. The top three images are television pictures, in which the spectrograph slit appears as a dark line crossing the center of the galaxy. The vertical line in each spectrum is continuum emission from the nucleus. The distance scales are based on a Hubble constant $h = 0.5$. Reproduced from Rubin (1983), by permission of *Science*.

“Flat” rotation curves

- The measurements show that rotation curves are “flat” – they are not approaching the $v_c(R) \propto 1/\sqrt{R}$ behavior expected in the outer parts of disks
- Therefore, there must be an invisible galaxy component that is capable of producing gravitational force
- Earlier (1930’s) suggested by Fritz Zwicky, became an accepted view after Rubin’s work
- While, in principle, this discrepancy could also be due to a different gravitational law (i.e. force that is not $\propto 1/R^2$), the modern data, including cosmic microwave background measurements, suggest that indeed that is a “dark matter” component contributing $\sim 5 \times$ more to gravitational effects than stars and gas combined!

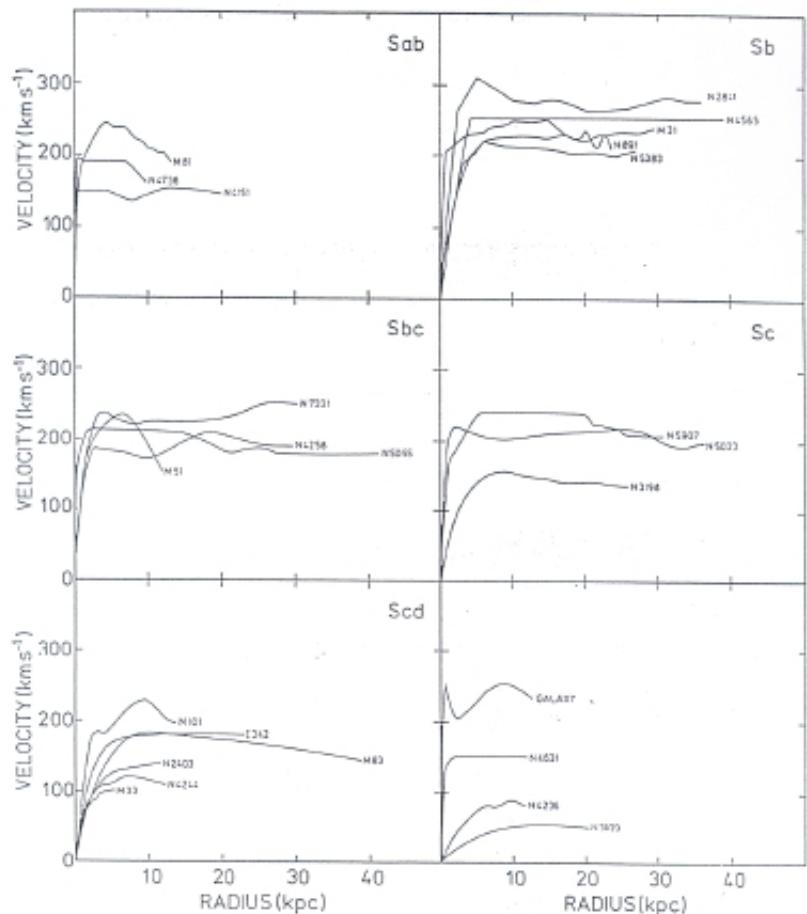


FIGURE 1. Rotation curves of 25 galaxies of various Hubble types.

From A. Bosma’s
PhD Thesis (1978).

A simple analytical model for dark matter halos

$$\rho = \rho_0 \frac{a^2}{r^2 + a^2} \quad (r \gg a \rightarrow \rho \sim r^{-2})$$

$$M(r) = \int_0^r 4\pi \rho r^2 dr \quad (\text{Bronstein No. 65})$$

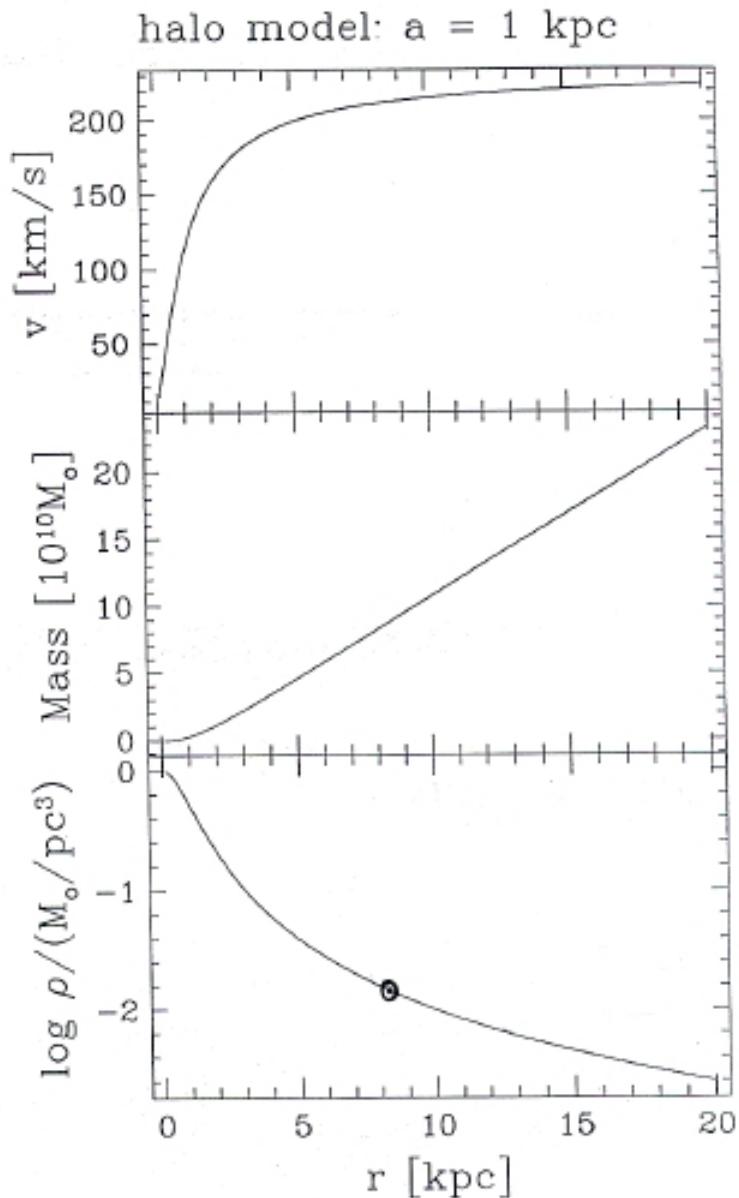
$$= 4\pi \rho_0 a^3 \left(\frac{r}{a} - \arctan \frac{r}{a} \right)$$

circular velocity : $v_c(r) = \sqrt{\frac{GM(r)}{r}}$

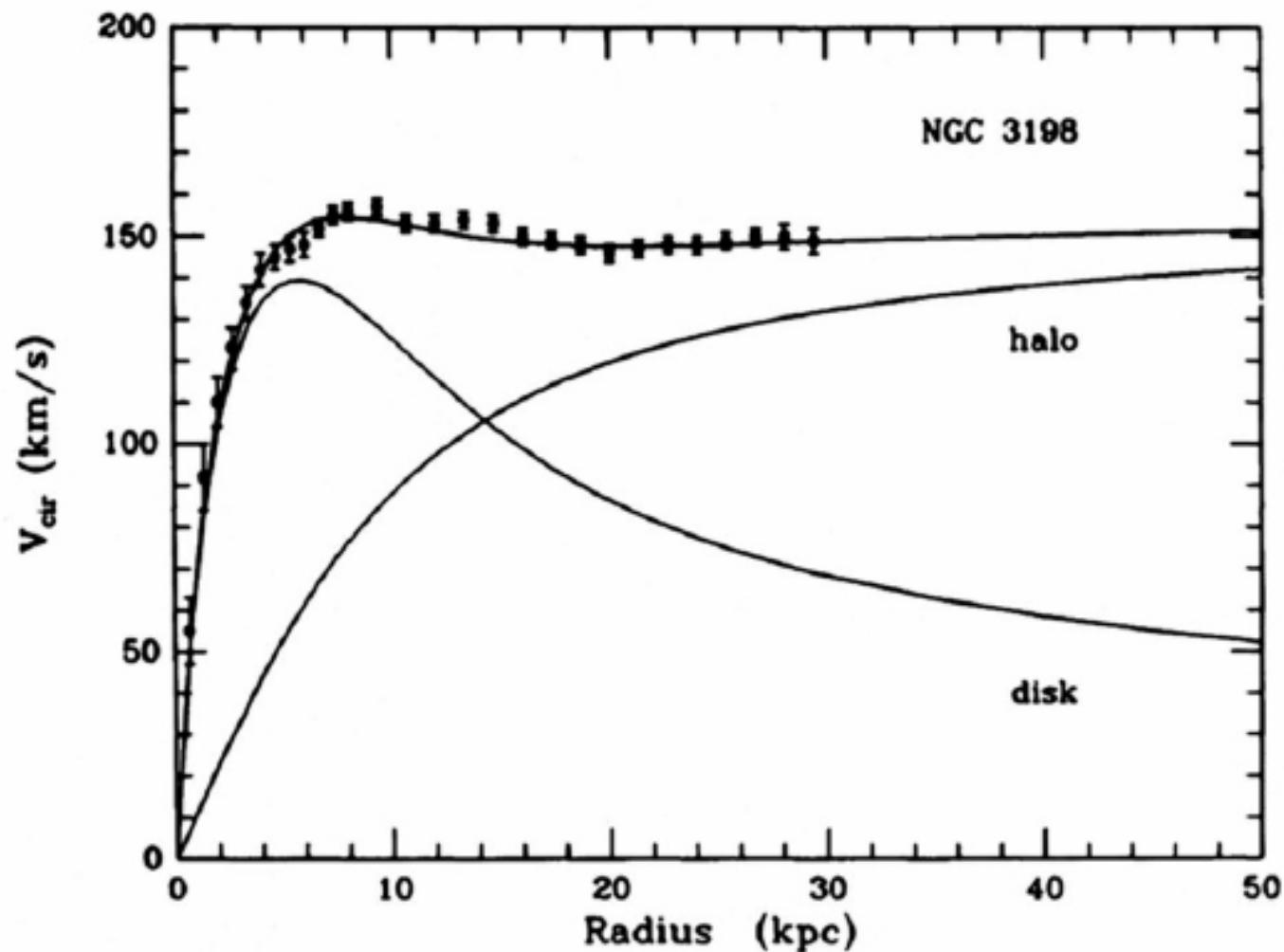
$$v_c(r) = \left[4\pi G \rho_0 a^2 \left(1 - \frac{a}{r} \arctan \frac{r}{a} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$r \gg a : \quad v_c \rightarrow \sqrt{4\pi G \rho_0 a^2} \simeq \text{const}$$

$$r \ll a : \quad v_c \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{4\pi G \rho_0 a^2}{3}} \cdot \frac{r}{a}$$



DISTRIBUTION OF DARK MATTER IN NGC 3198



see: van Albada et al. ApJ 295, 305 (1985)

$$\Phi = \Phi_{halo} + \Phi_{disc} \Rightarrow v_c^2 = v_{c,halo}^2 + v_{c,disc}^2 \quad (v_c^2 = r \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial r})$$

The Tully-Fisher Relation (more in Lecture 6)

The (maximum, the flat part value) rotation velocity is related to galaxy's luminosity:

$$M_B = A \log v_c + B \quad (7)$$

where $A \sim -10$ and $B \sim 3$ depend slightly on galaxy's morphological type.

Another way of expressing the same correlation

$$L \propto v_c^{-0.4A} \propto v_c^4 \quad (8)$$

Why? From the virial theorem, $v^2 \propto M/R$. Also, $L \propto IR^2$, and hence

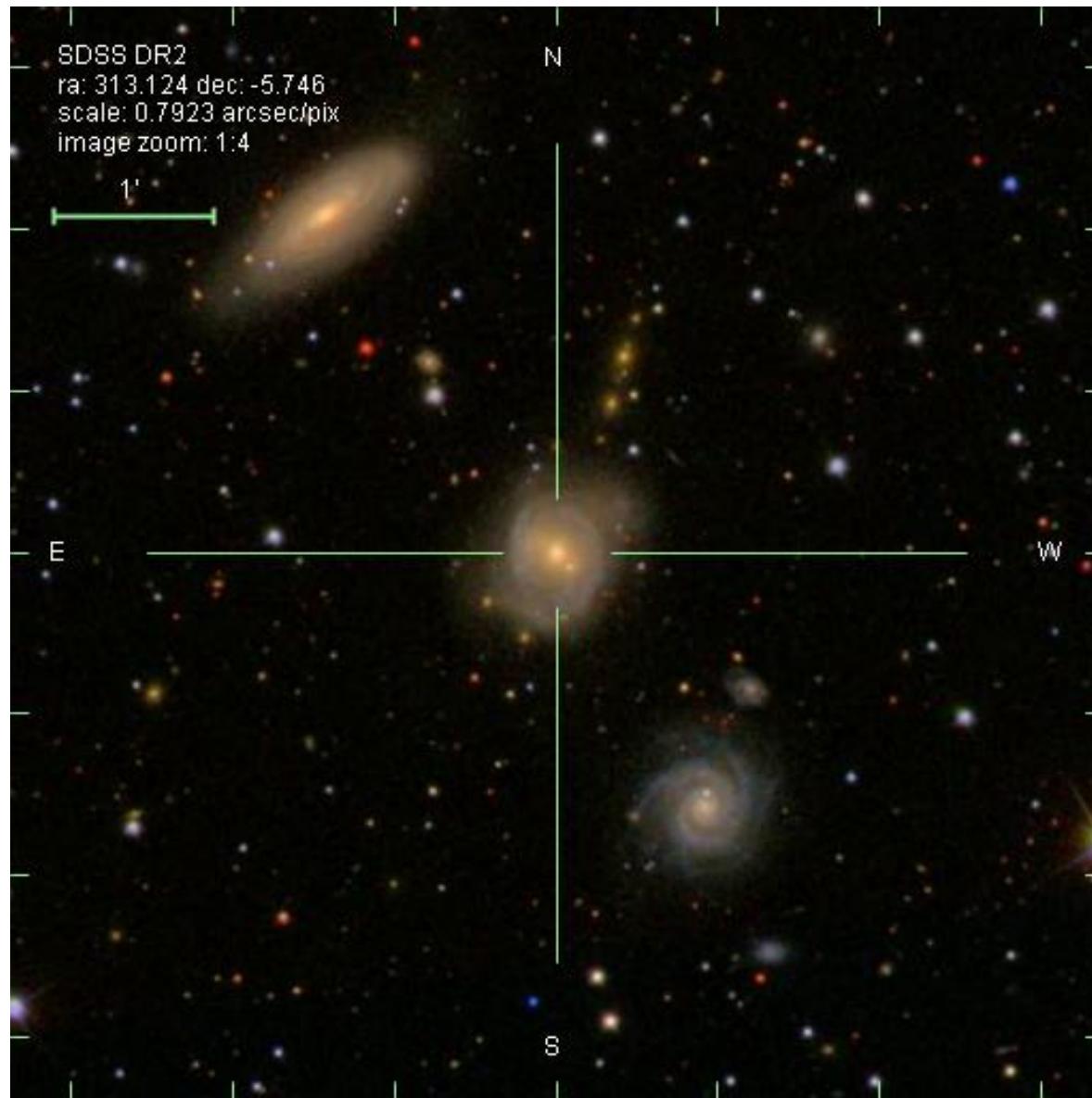
$$L \propto \left(\frac{M}{L}\right)^{-2} I^{-1} v^4 \quad (9)$$

Since $I \sim \text{const.}$ (Freeman's law), the Tully-Fisher relation implies that $(\frac{M}{L}) \sim \text{const.}$ for spiral galaxies (~ 30 in the B band, and in solar units)

Spiral Structure



Lord Rosse in 1845 “discovered” spiral structure in M51 (this is an HST image of M51)



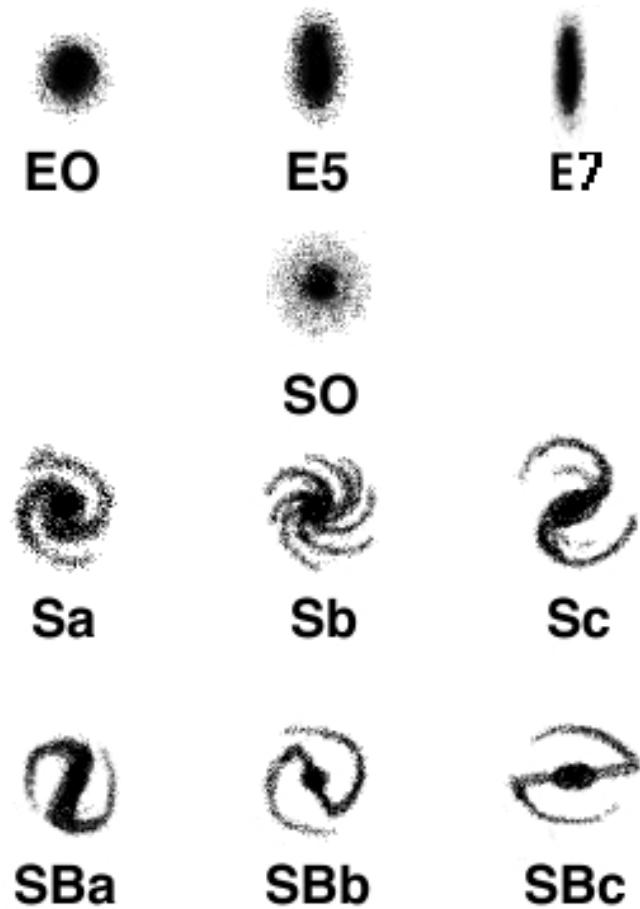
Not all spirals are alike!







Hubble's Morphological Classification



- Broadly, spirals are divided into **normal** and **barred** (similar frequencies): S and SB
- The **subclassification** (a, b, or c) refers both to the **size of the nucleus** and the **tightness of the spiral arms**. For example, the nucleus of an Sc galaxy is smaller than in an Sa galaxy, and the arms of the Sc are wrapped more loosely.
- The number and how tightly the spiral arms are wound are well correlated with other, large scale properties of the galaxies, such as the luminosity of the bulge relative to the disk and the amount of gas in the galaxy. This suggests that there are **global physical processes** involved in spiral arms.



© Anglo-Australian Observatory

A ``grand-design''spiral seen face-on.



M33 © IAC/RGO/Malin
Photo from Isaac Newton Telescope Plates
by David Malin

A flocculent spiral with ragged spiral arms.

In addition to Hubble's classification, there are different types of spiral structure: **grand design** spirals, with clearly outlined and well organised **globally correlated** spiral structure, and **flocculent** (fluffy) spirals with many small short **globally uncorrelated** spiral arms



Theories of Spiral Structure

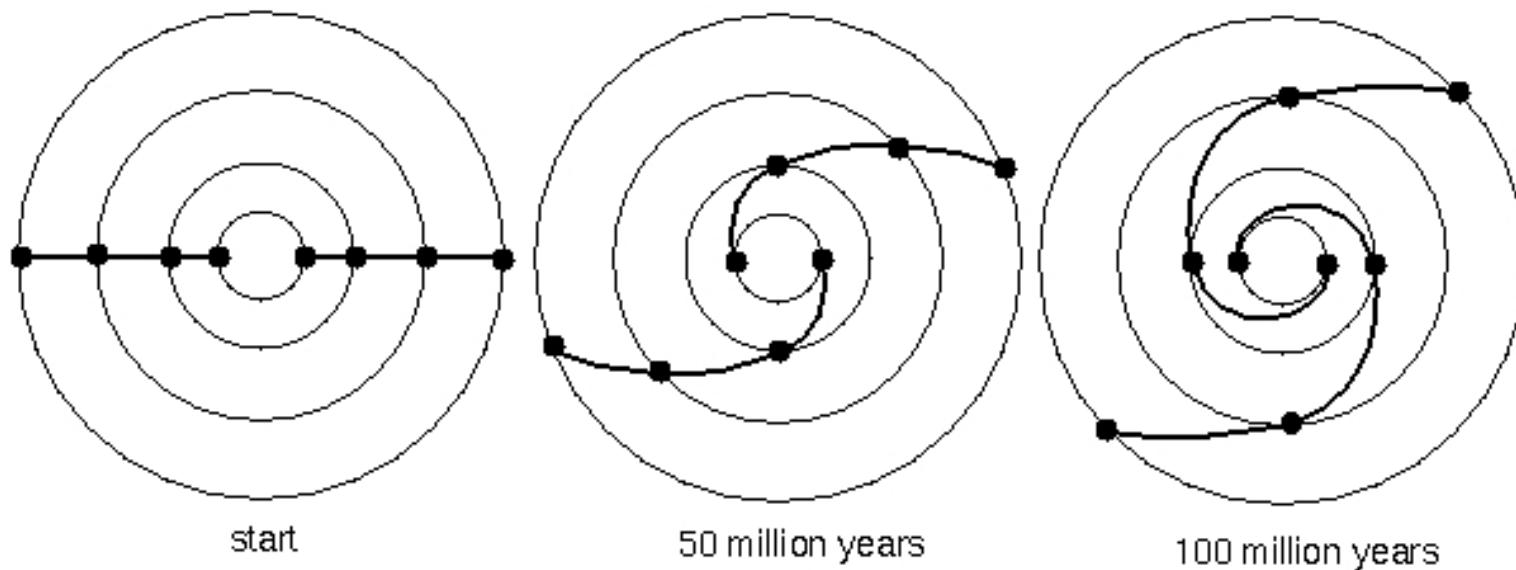
Despite 50 years of work, spirals are not very well understood. It seems clear now that **the spiral structure of galaxies is a complex problem** without any unique and tidy answer.

Differential rotation clearly plays a central role, as well as global instabilities, stochastic spirals, and the shocks patterns that can arise in shearing gas disks when forced by bars.

There are (at least) two popular theories, one of which is more commonly used to explain grand design spirals, the other for flocculent spirals.

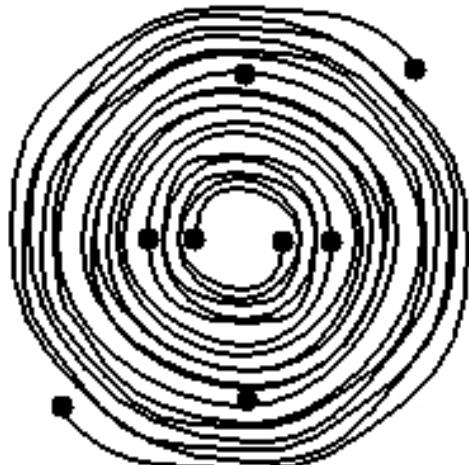
But before proceeding: **winding problem** (Lindblad)

Winding problem

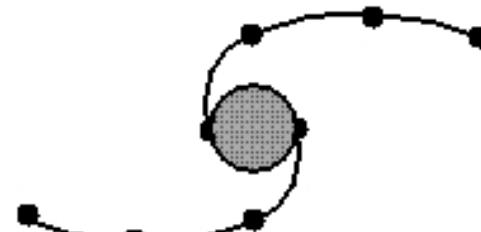


Differential rotation: stars near the center take less time to orbit the center than those farther from the center. Differential rotation can create a spiral pattern in the disk in a short time.

Winding problem



Prediction: 500 million years

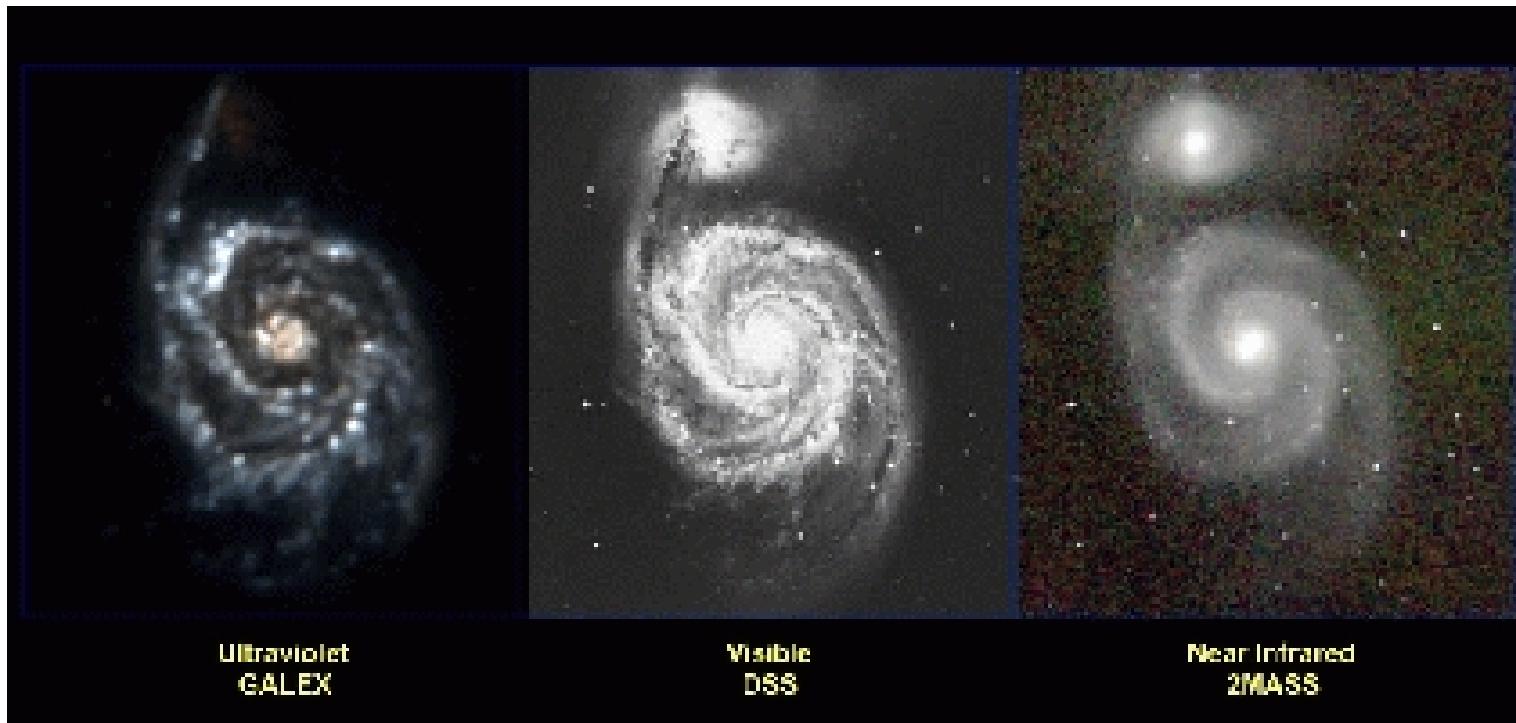


Observation: 15,000 million years

The problem: most spiral galaxies would be tightly wound by now, which is inconsistent with observations.

Spiral arms cannot be a static structure (i.e. at different times, arms must be made of different stars)

Dominated by Young Stars



Note that the smaller galaxy (NGC 5195) is not visible in GALEX image (left).

The spiral structure is associated with (short-lived) hot stars.



The Sombrero Galaxy (VLT ANTU + FORS1)

ESO PR Photo 07a/00 (22 February 2000)

© European Southern Observatory



Disks contain a lot of dust! Spiral arms are almost exclusively seen in disks with a lot of gas and dust, unlike bars which are often seen in galaxies without ISM. Bars are not a wave of star formation – they are orbital features.

To remember:

- Spiral arms cannot be static structures (winding problem)
- Not all spirals are alike: more than one pattern (grand design, flocculents)
- The appearance dominated by young luminous blue stars, but the overall density of *all* stars is elevated by 10-20% in spiral arms
- They're in some ways connected to dust.

Elliptical Galaxies

Types of Elliptical Galaxies

You've seen one, you've seen them all! Not true.

- Giant luminous ellipticals, cD: the largest (1 Mpc!) and most luminous galaxies, very large mass-to-light ratios (lots of dark matter), masses $10^{13} – 10^{14} M_\odot$
- Normal ellipticals: most numerous, masses $10^8 – 10^{13} M_\odot$
- Dwarf ellipticals: masses $10^7 – 10^9 M_\odot$ – fundamentally different from all other ellipticals by having low surface brightness and lower metallicity
- Dwarf spheroidals: masses $10^7 – 10^8 M_\odot$, the low-mass end of normal ellipticals; no gas, high mass-to-light ratios ($\sim 100 – 1000$).

- Blue compact dwarf galaxies: masses $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$, similar to dwarf ellipticals but unusually blue colors – indicates ongoing star formation (yes, they do have lots of gas); very low mass-to-light ratios

The Faber-Jackson Relation

Remember the Tully-Fisher Relation for spiral galaxies?

$$L \propto v_c^4 \quad (10)$$

Here v_c is the **rotational** velocity.

Do we have an analogous relation for elliptical galaxies?

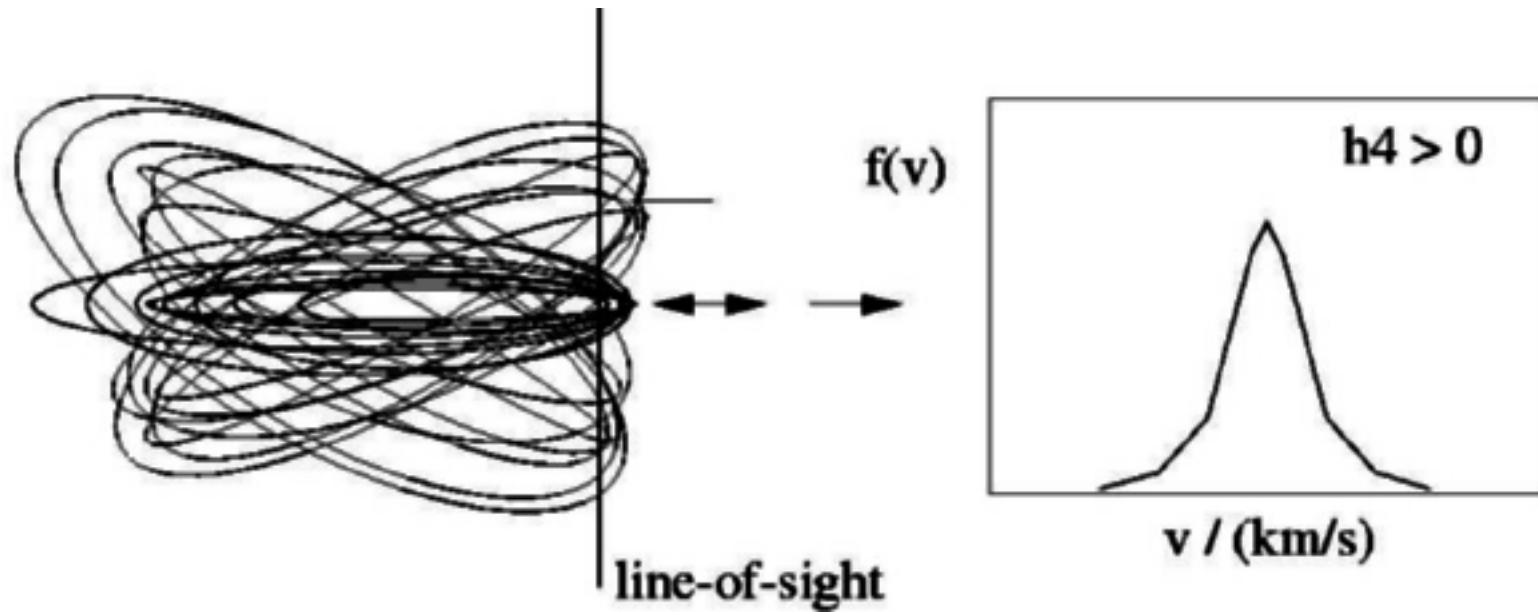
Unlike spiral galaxies, **elliptical galaxies don't rotate** – use the velocity dispersion, σ , instead.

The Faber-Jackson Relation:

$$L \propto \sigma^4 \quad (11)$$

In detail, the exponent varies from 3 to 5, depending on sample and band. The scatter in the FJ relation is decreased by adding another physical parameter – **the fundamental plane**:

$$L \propto \sigma^{2.65} r_e^{0.65} \quad (12)$$



The **velocity dispersion** is the width of the velocity distribution.

The Light Profiles of Elliptical Galaxies

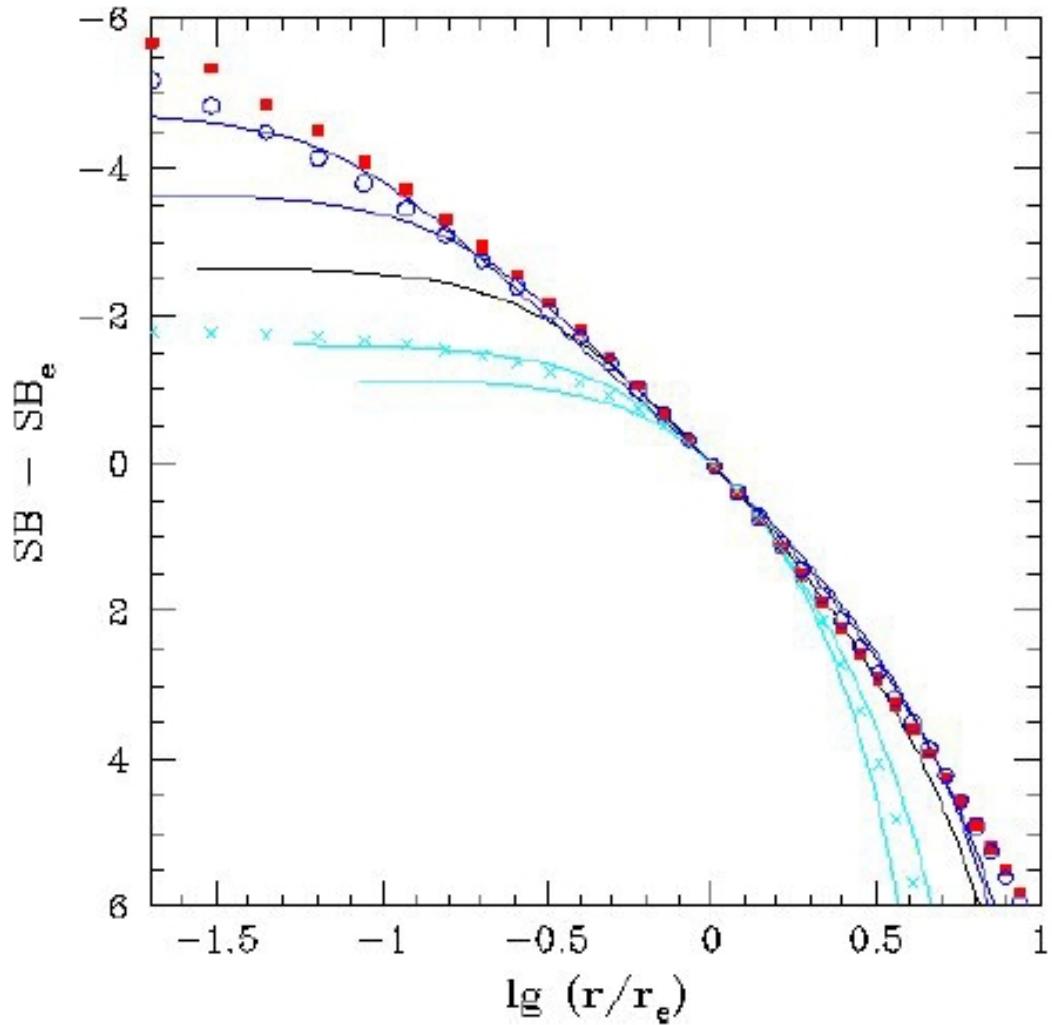
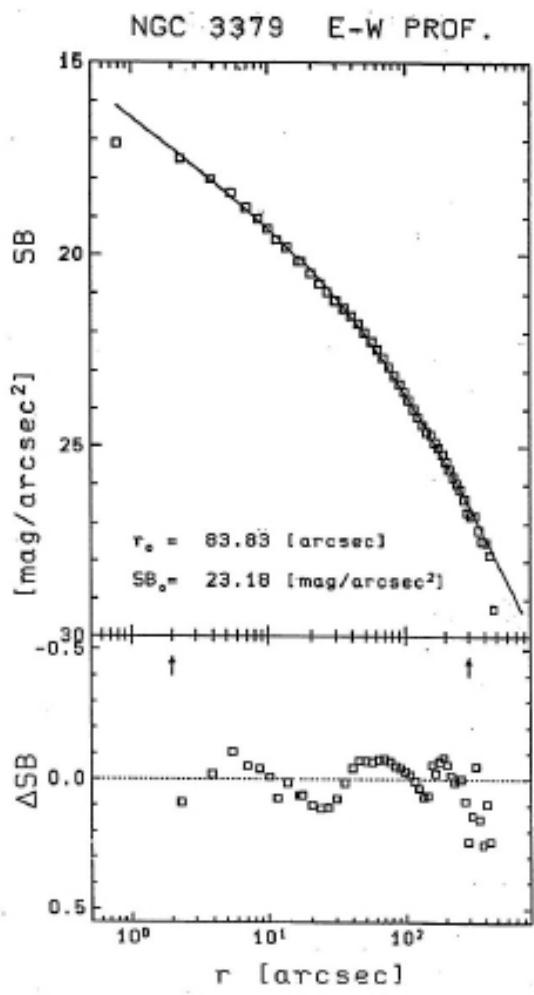
Remember the Sersic profile: $I(R) \propto \exp(-(R/R_e)^{1/n})$? For elliptical galaxies $n = 4$ – de Vaucouleurs profile:

$$I(R) = I_o 10^{-3.33 [(\frac{R}{R_{1/2}})^{1/4} - 1]} \quad (13)$$

Another commonly used profiles are King models (isothermal sphere) and Jaffe's spheres. The latter has almost identical light profile as de Vaucouleurs profile, but the density law and gravitational potential are analytic:

$$\rho_L(r) = \frac{L}{4\pi r_o^3} \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 \frac{1}{(1 + r_o/r)^2} \quad (14)$$

$$\Phi(r) = \frac{GL}{r_o} \left(\frac{M}{L}\right) \ln \left(\frac{1}{1 + r_o/r}\right) \quad (15)$$



Left: Jaffe-fit to the prototypical elliptical NGC 3379 from Surma, Seifert, Bender (1992) A&A. **Right:** Comparison of different SB-profiles of galaxies. Red squares: Jaffe model, blue circles: $r^{1/4}$ -model, cyan crosses: exponential, lines are King models of different binding energy.

True shapes of elliptical galaxies

- The classification of elliptical galaxies (E0–E7) is based on **apparent** flattening: are the true shapes bi-axial (as expected for rotation), or triaxial (as expected for randomly distributed orbits)?
- **Elliptical galaxies are modestly triaxial** – $a:b:c \sim 1:0.95:0.7$ (nearly *oblate*, $a=b>c$, like an UFO, as opposed to *prolate*, $a>b=c$, like a football)
- We know that because of the effect called "**isophote twist**", which doesn't happen for bi-axial shapes, only for triaxial
- Therefore, (most) **elliptical galaxies are NOT supported by rotation**
- Isophotes are not exactly elliptical: *boxy* vs. *disky*. The latter can be explained as a superposition of an elliptical bulge on a faint edge-on disk.

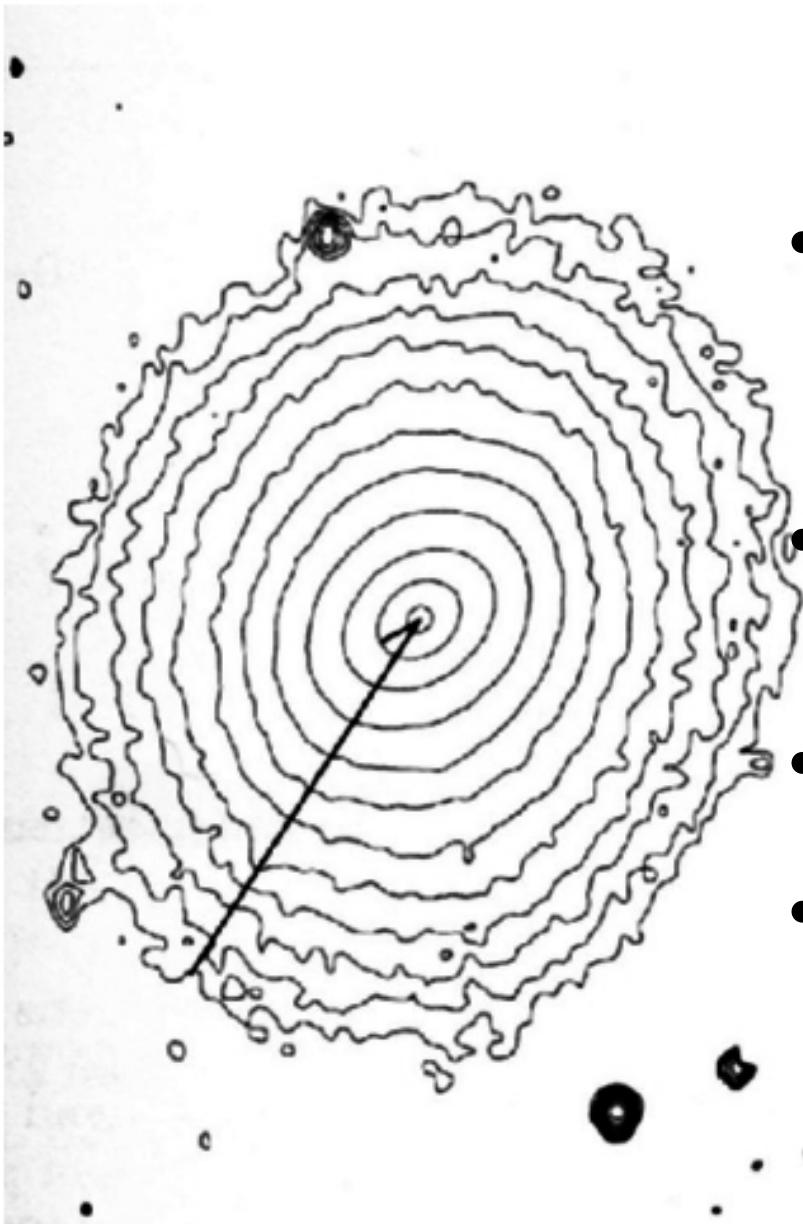


FIGURE 3. — Distribution of the ellipticity classes for all observed elliptical galaxies.

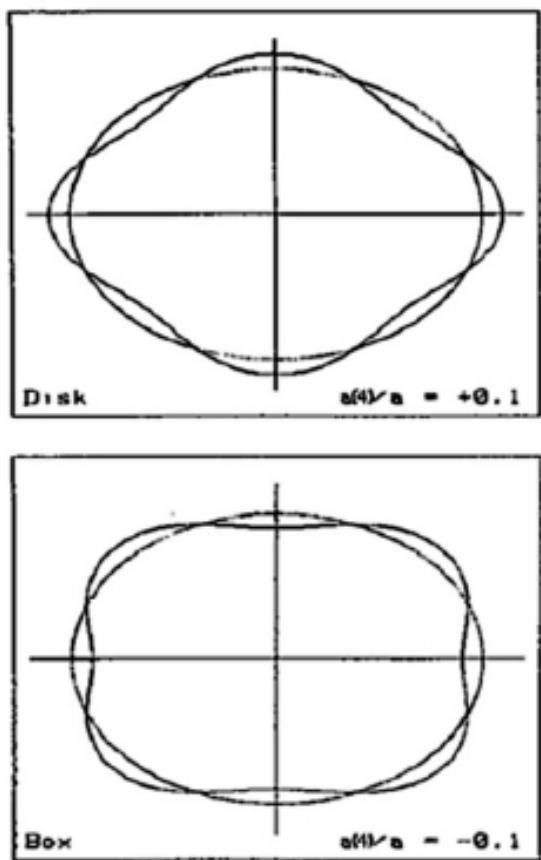


FIGURE 5. — Schematic drawing illustrating isophotes with $a(4)/a = +0.1$ and $a(4)/a = -0.1$.

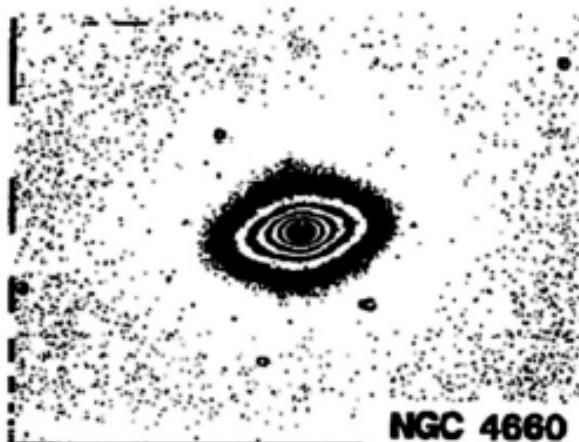


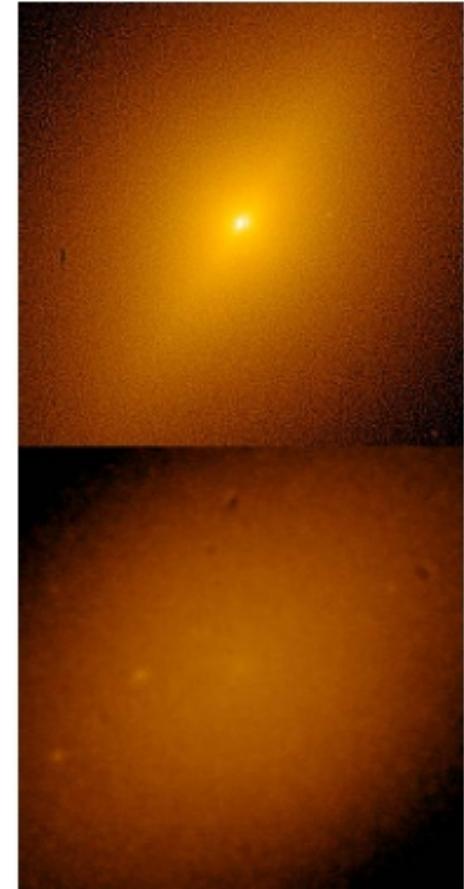
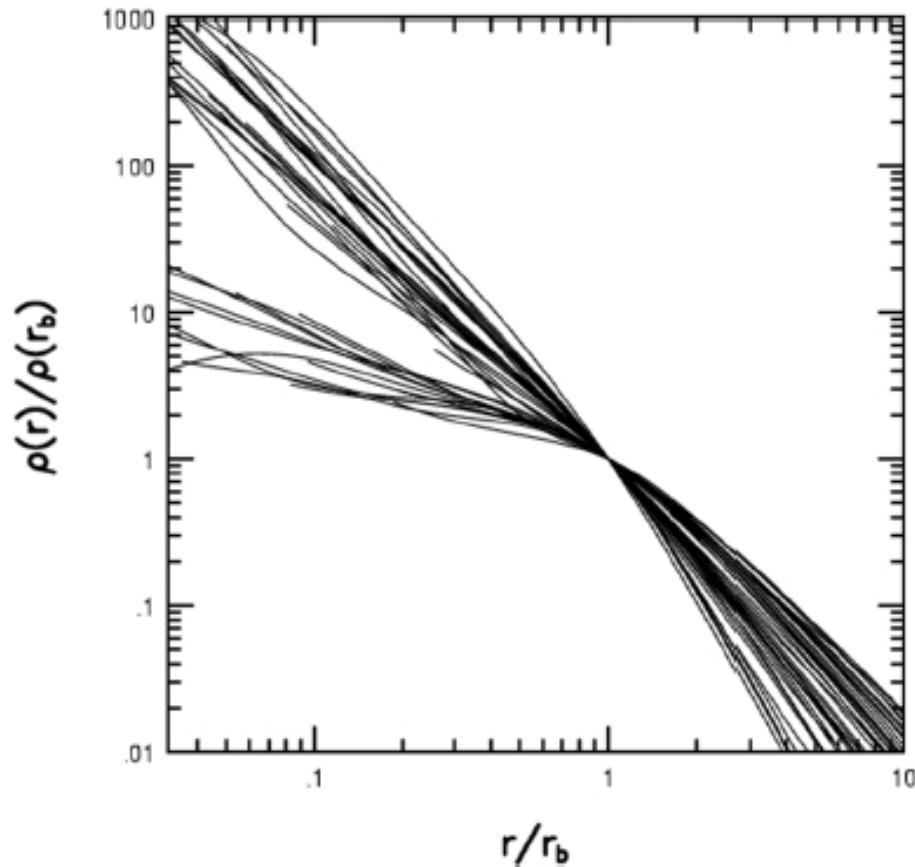
FIGURE 6. — R-image of NGC 4660, an elliptical galaxy with a disk-component in the isophotes ($a(4)/a \sim +0.03$).



FIGURE 7. — R-image of NGC 5322, an elliptical galaxy with box-shaped isophotes ($a(4)/a \sim -0.01$).

Examples for boxy and disky isophotes from Bender et al. 1988

The central regions of elliptical galaxies include two types of profiles: **cuspy cores** and **power-law cores**



Dark Matter in Elliptical Galaxies

In the central part of elliptical galaxies there is no evidence for dark matter (mass-to-light ratio $\sim 5\text{--}10$ in solar units – typical for old stellar populations). In the outer parts it is harder to find such evidence because there is no gas on circular orbit as is the case for spiral galaxies.

Nevertheless, there are several methods that indicate [the presence of dark matter in elliptical galaxies](#):

1. Analysis of stellar kinematics (detailed models of motion in gravitational potential)
2. Gravitational lensing
3. X-ray halos (application of virial theorem)