

# **Caustics as the Natural Boundaries of the Simulated Dark Matter Web**

Sergei Shandarin

# Introduction

Zeldovich Approximation (1970)

# 1 Gravitational Instability

## 1.1 The Transformation Excluding the Expansion of the Universe

Comoving coordinates,  $\mathbf{x}$ , and peculiar velocities,  $\mathbf{v}_p$ , are defined

$$\mathbf{x} = \frac{1}{a(t)} \mathbf{r}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{v} - H(t)\mathbf{r} = a(t) \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt}, \quad (2)$$

where  $a(t) = (1 + z)^{-1}$  is the scale factor, assuming the normalization:  $a(\text{present time}) = 1$ ;  $H(t) = \dot{a}/a$  is the Hubble parameter ( $H(\text{present time}) = H_0 = 100 h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ).

Assuming the  $\Lambda = 0$  universe and  $p = 0$ , the density  $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , peculiar velocities  $\mathbf{v}_p(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , and the perturbation of the gravitational potential  $\phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$  are coupled by three nonrelativistic equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{a} \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}_p) = -3H\rho, \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_p}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{a} (\mathbf{v}_p \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}_p = -\frac{1}{a} \nabla \phi - H \mathbf{v}_p, \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{a^2} \nabla^2 \phi = 4\pi G(\rho - \bar{\rho}), \quad (5)$$

where  $\bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho}(t)$  is the mean density.

Changing the variable from  $t$  to  $D \equiv D_g(t)$  and rescaling the density, peculiar velocity and perturbation of the gravitational potential

$$\eta = a^3 \rho, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{v} = (a\dot{D})^{-1} \mathbf{v}_p = \dot{D}^{-1} \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dD}, \quad (7)$$

$$\varphi = \left(\frac{3}{2}\Omega_0 \dot{a}^2 D\right)^{-1} \phi. \quad (8)$$

one easily obtains

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial D} + \frac{\partial(\eta v_i)}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial D} + v_k \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{\Omega_0}{D f^2} \left( \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} + v_i \right), \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x_i^2} = \frac{\delta}{D}, \quad (11)$$

where  $f(t) = d \ln D / d \ln a$ ,  $\delta = (\eta - \bar{\eta}) / \bar{\eta} = (\rho - \bar{\rho}) / \bar{\rho}$  and summation over dummy indices is assumed.

## 1.2 Zel'dovich Approximation

Assuming that the linear relation  $\partial\varphi/\partial x_i = -v_i$  approximately holds in the nonlinear regime one obtains the set of equations

$$\frac{\partial\eta}{\partial D} + \frac{\partial(\eta v_i)}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial D} + v_k \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} = 0, \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x_i^2} = \frac{\delta}{D}. \quad (14)$$

Equation 13 has an obvious solution

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{q}, D) = \mathbf{q} + D\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{q}), \quad (15)$$

where  $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{q})$  is the initial velocity field. The velocity field remains constant in the Lagrangian space

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q}, D) = \mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{q}), \quad (16)$$

but obviously changes with time in the Eulerian space.

Zel'dovich derived the density from the conservation of mass

$$\eta(\mathbf{x}, D) d^3x = \bar{\eta} d^3q \quad (17)$$

and expressed it in terms of the eigen values  $\lambda_1(\mathbf{q})$ ,  $\lambda_2(\mathbf{q})$ , and  $\lambda_3(\mathbf{q})$  of the initial deformation tensor  $d_{ij}(\mathbf{q}) = -\partial v_{0i}/\partial q_j = \partial^2 \Phi_0 / \partial q_i \partial q_j$

(1) When and where  $D\lambda_i = 0$   
den = infinity (caustic)

$$\eta(\mathbf{q}, D) = \frac{\bar{\eta}}{(1 - D\lambda_1)(1 - D\lambda_2)(1 - D\lambda_3)}.$$

(2) There are 4 kinds of fluid elements:  
which experience 0, 1, 2, or 3  
collapses (18)

(3) In the limit  $|D\lambda_i| \ll 1$  eq.12 gives the density contrast known from the linear theory

$$\delta(\mathbf{q}, D) \approx D \frac{\partial v_{0j}}{\partial q_j} = D(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3). \quad (19)$$

I showed that the density can be also derived from the Poisson equation (14) (Doroshkevich, Ryabenki & Shandarin 1973)

$$\tilde{\eta}(\mathbf{q}, D) = \frac{\bar{\eta}}{(1 - D\lambda_1)(1 - D\lambda_2)(1 - D\lambda_3)}(1 - D^2I_2 + 2D^3I_3), \quad (20)$$

where  $I_2 = \lambda_1\lambda_2 + \lambda_1\lambda_3 + \lambda_2\lambda_3$  and  $I_3 = \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3$  are the invariants of the deformation tensor.

If the Zel'dovich solution was exact both would give the same result:  $\eta = \tilde{\eta}$ .

Obviously  $\eta$  only approximately equal to  $\tilde{\eta}$

$$\frac{\tilde{\eta}}{\eta} = 1 - D^2I_2 + 2D^3I_3 \quad (21)$$

but the ratio  $\tilde{\eta}/\eta$  remains finite even at  $\eta \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\tilde{\eta} \rightarrow \infty$ .

In particular, ZA is exact before shell crossing in 1D ( $\tilde{\eta}/\eta = 1$  because  $I_2 = I_3 = 0$ ).

### 1.3 Eigen Values and Invariants

The joint probability distribution of an ordered set of eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \lambda_3$ , corresponding to a Gaussian field

$$P(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) = \frac{675\sqrt{5}}{8\pi \sigma_\delta^6} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3) \exp\left(\frac{-6I_1^2 + 15I_2}{2\sigma_\delta^2}\right), \quad (22)$$

where  $I_1 = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3$  and  $I_2 = \lambda_1\lambda_2 + \lambda_1\lambda_3 + \lambda_2\lambda_3$  are the invariants of the deformation tensor; the third invariant is  $I_3 = \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3$ . Some moments of the eigen values are

$$\langle \lambda_1 \rangle = -\langle \lambda_3 \rangle = \frac{3}{\sqrt{10\pi}} \sigma_\delta \approx 0.53 \sigma_\delta, \quad \langle \lambda_2 \rangle = 0, \quad (23)$$

$$\langle \lambda_1^2 \rangle = \langle \lambda_3^2 \rangle = \frac{13}{30} \sigma_\delta^2 \approx 0.43 \sigma_\delta^2, \quad \langle \lambda_2^2 \rangle = \frac{2}{15} \sigma_\delta^2 \approx 0.13 \sigma_\delta^2, \quad (24)$$

$$\langle \lambda_1\lambda_2 \rangle = \langle \lambda_2\lambda_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{10} \sigma_\delta^2, \quad \langle \lambda_1\lambda_3 \rangle = -\frac{1}{5} \sigma_\delta^2, \quad (25)$$

$$\langle \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3 \rangle = 0. \quad (26)$$

The mean values of the invariants are

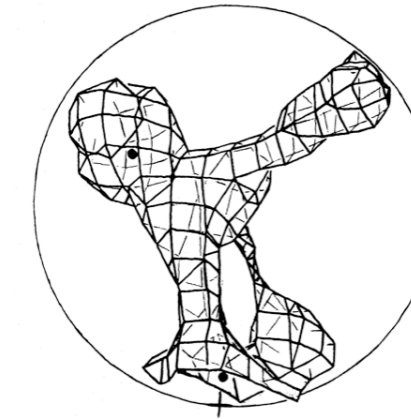
$$\langle I_1 \rangle = 0, \quad \langle I_2 \rangle = 0, \quad \langle I_3 \rangle = 0. \quad (27)$$

# Zel'dovich Approximation (1970)

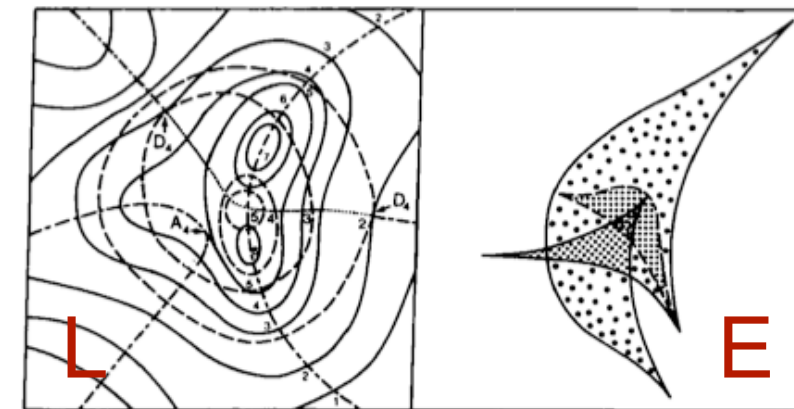
- ✓ Generation of the initial conditions for cosmological N-body simulations (first time in Moscow in 1973, first time in US in 1983)

## Key features of cosmic web predicted by ZA

- ✓ Anisotropic collapse and anisotropic expansion: pancakes/walls (1970), filaments (1982), along with compact clumps and voids

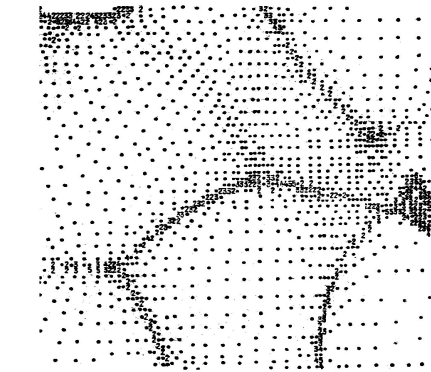


- ✓ Full Set of Caustics (1982)

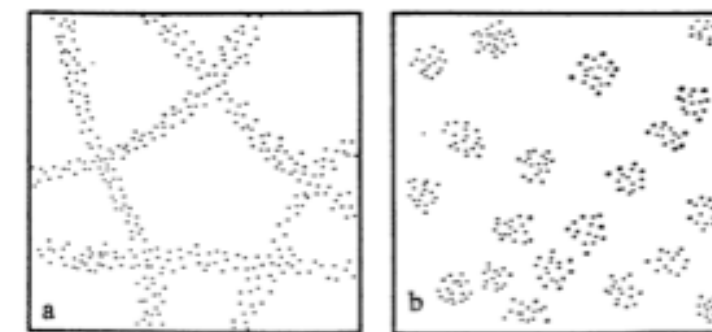
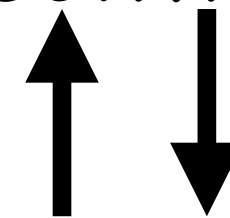


In ZA only  
(not in N-body sim.)

- ✓ Connectivity of the Large-Scale structure (1975)



- ✓ Topology of LSS (1983)



- ✓ Multi-stream flows (1970)

- ✓ Anisotropic accretion of mass on clumps from filaments (1989)

<https://www.astro.rug.nl/~hidding/go/go.html>



# Virial theorem

$\langle T \rangle_t$  is total kinetic energy **averaged over time**

$\langle V \rangle_t$  is total potential energy **averaged over time**

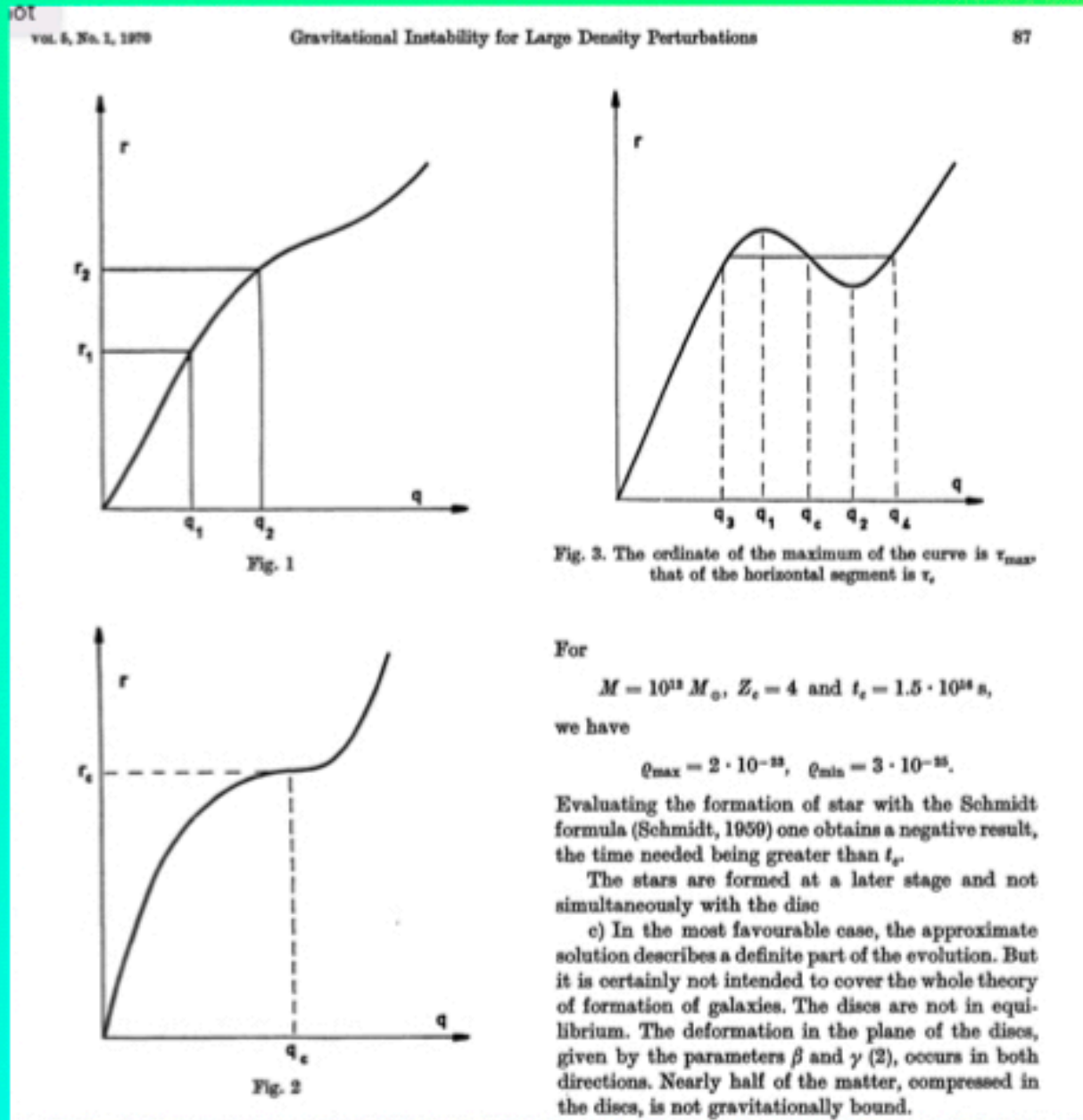
Gravitational potential between two particles  $\sim 1/r$   
results in  $n = -1$

The system must have  **$N_p = \text{const}$**

$$\langle T \rangle_\tau = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N \langle \mathbf{F}_k \cdot \mathbf{r}_k \rangle_\tau = \frac{n}{2} \langle V_{\text{TOT}} \rangle_\tau.$$

# First Evidences of Web in Theory and Observations

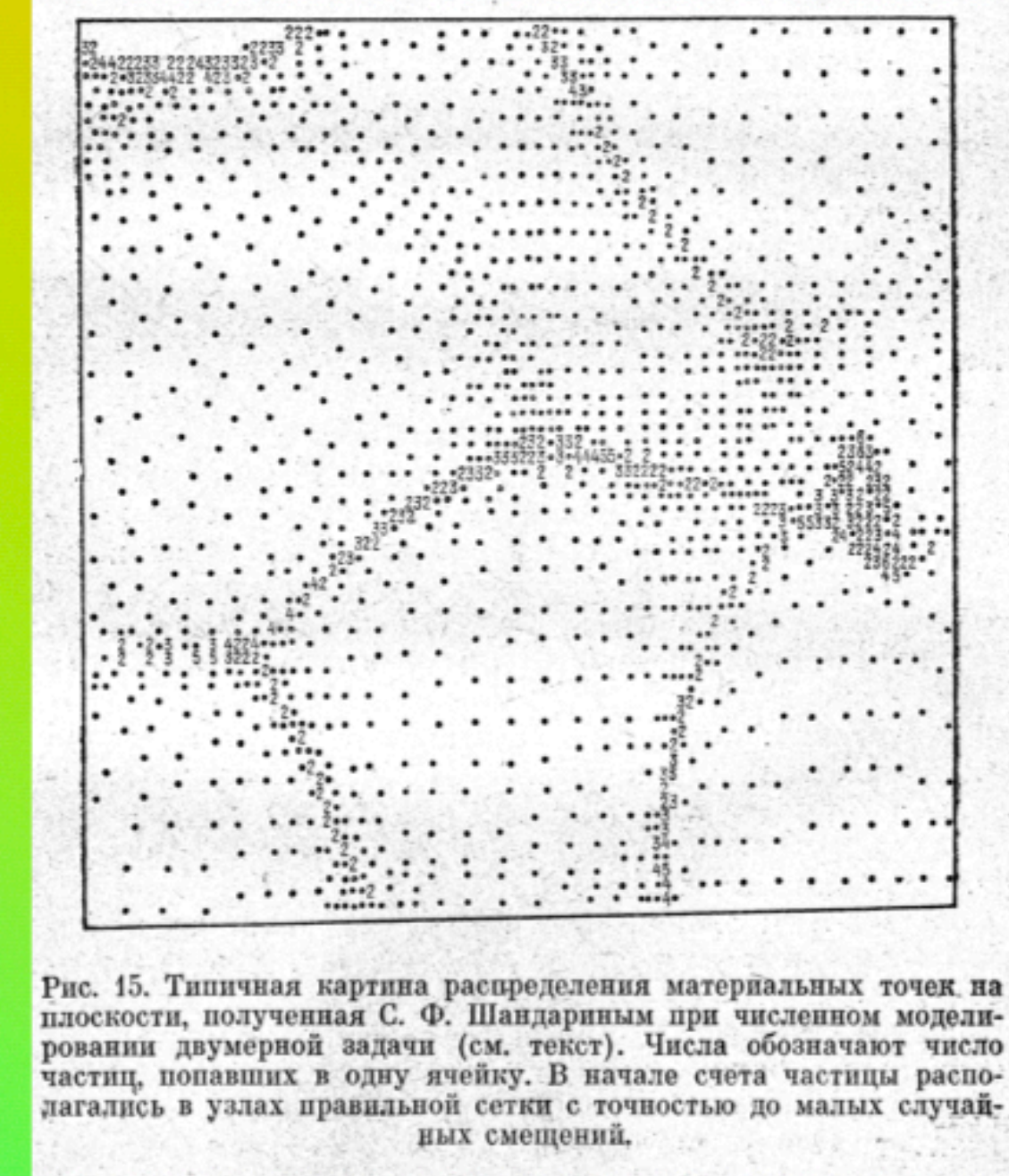
# Zeldovich Approximation (Z 1970)



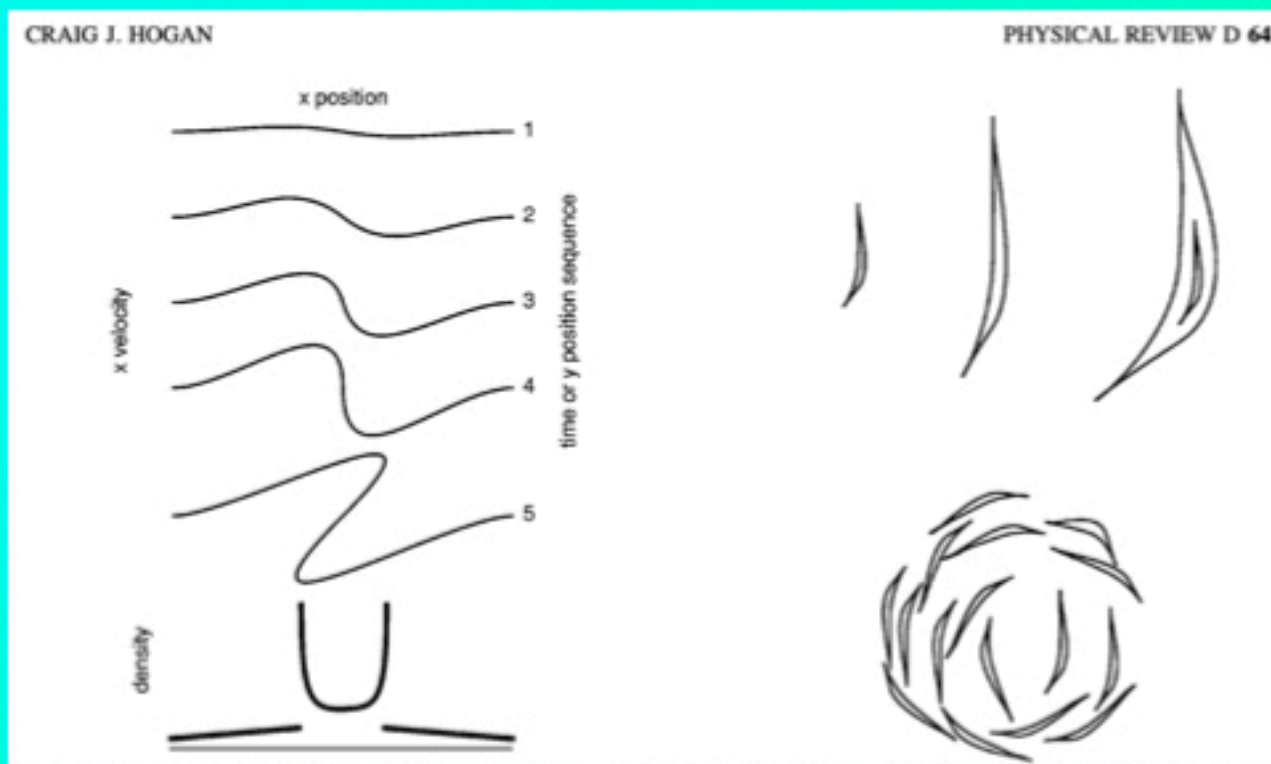
# Shandarin 1974

Publications: Doroshkevich, Sunyev, Zeldovich **1975**  
 Doroshkevich, Shandarin, 1978; Shandarin, Zeldovich 1989  
 Three or four publications by Einasto)

In DSZ publication the caption state that the plot was made by Shandarin



25 years later: Hogan **2001**



**Initial conditions for 3D N-body simulations**  
 Doroshkevich, Rubenkiy, Shandaron **1973**  
 Translated from Astrofizika, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 257-272,  
 April-June, 1973.

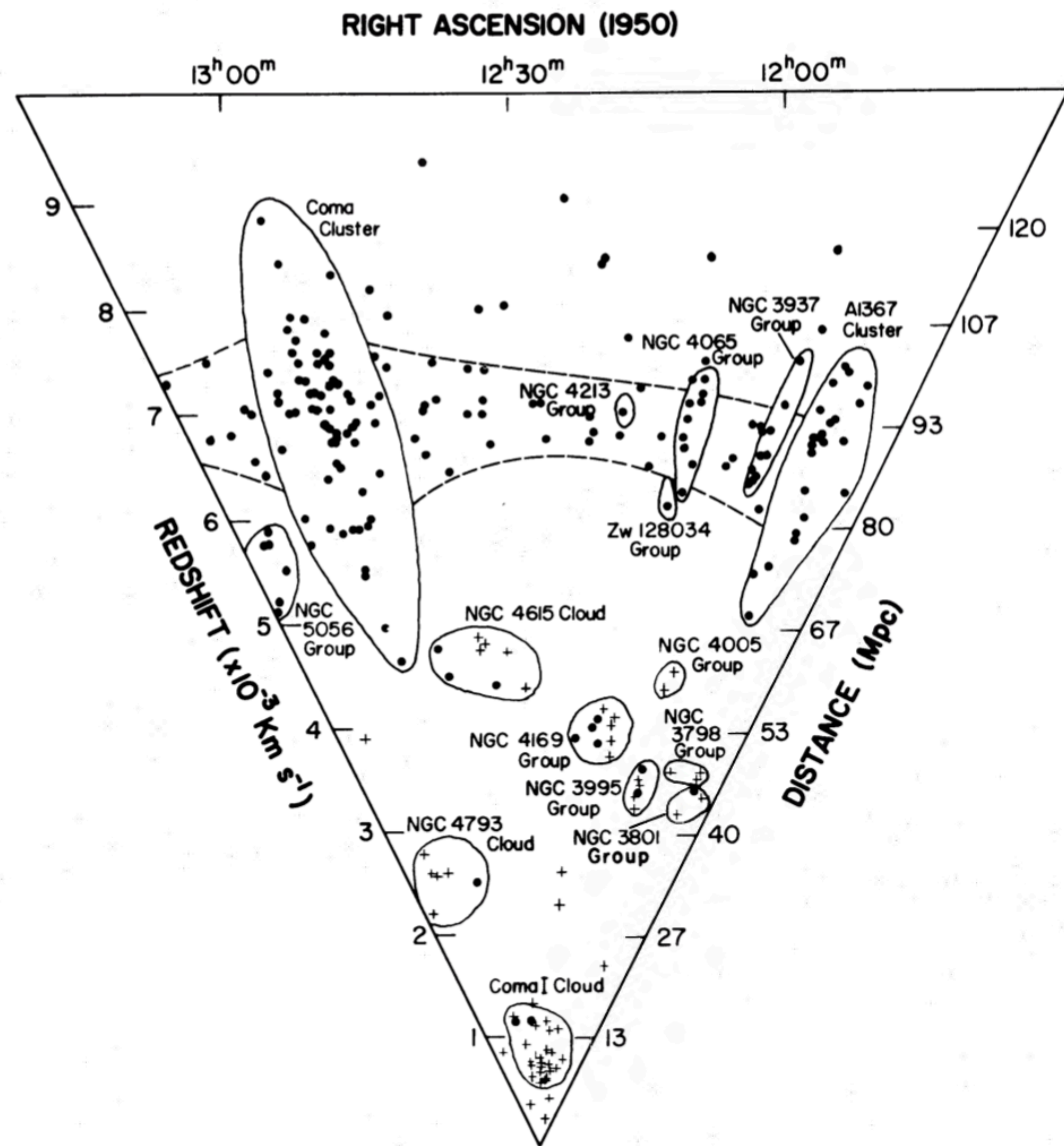
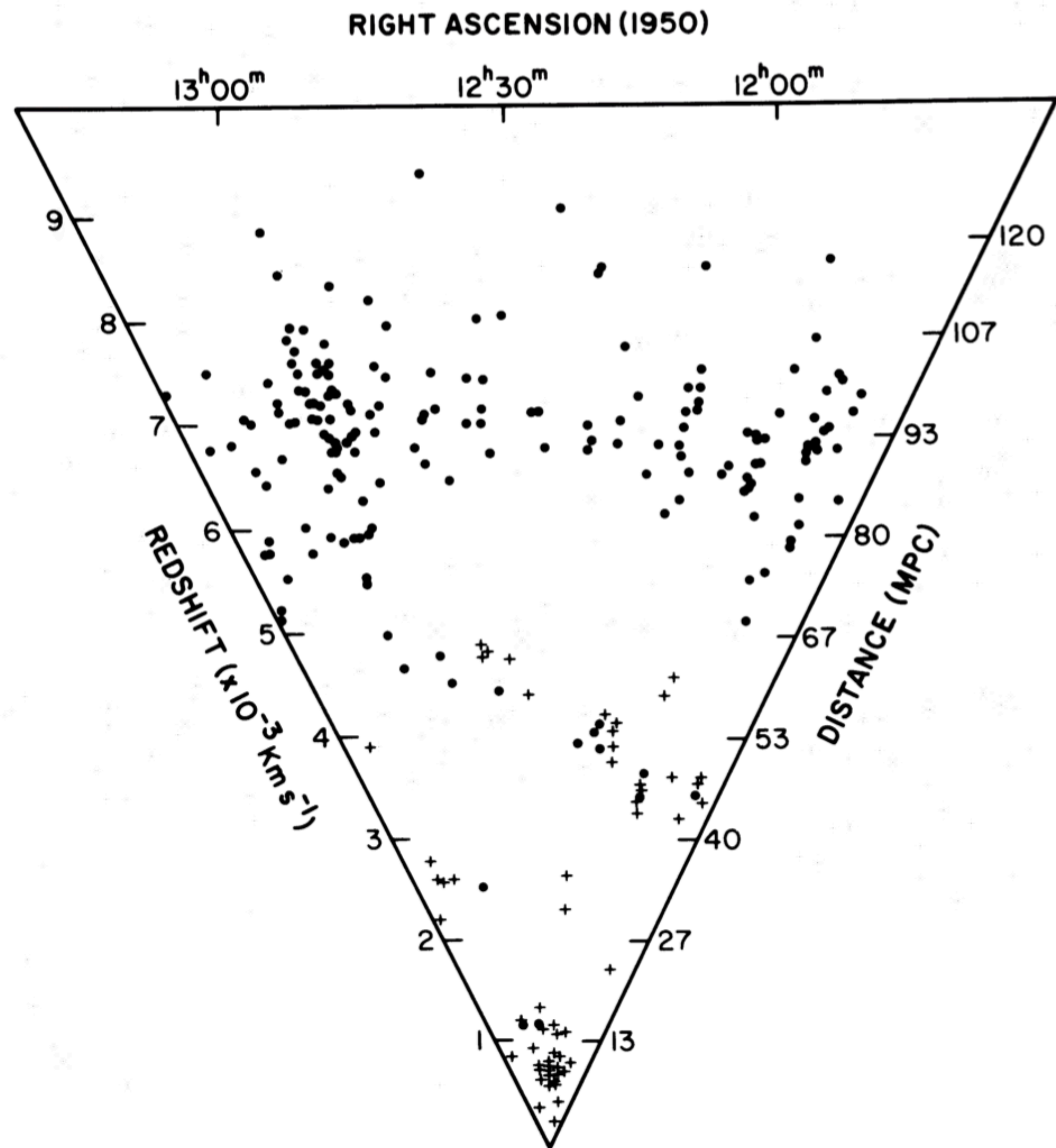


FIG. 2.—(a) (left panel) Wedge diagram for all galaxies in our sample. The Supercluster is clearly seen at an average redshift of approximately  $7000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The distribution of foreground galaxies is very clumpy. Those galaxies with  $V_0 < 5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  that are represented by crosses are too faint to be surveyed if they were at the distance of the Supercluster. The distance scale assumes  $H_0 = 75 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ , and the angular size of the survey has been magnified by approximately 2 times. (b) (right panel) An interpretive form of the wedge diagram.

Gregory, Thompson June 1978

# N-body simulations

**Shandarin 1981, Erics workshop**

In The Origin and Evolution of Galaxies,

Eds. B.J.T. Jones and J.E. Jones

(Reidel, Dordrecht), p.171

**Klypin, Shandarin 1983, MNRAS**

◆ **“The region of high density seem to form a single three-dimensional **web structure**”**

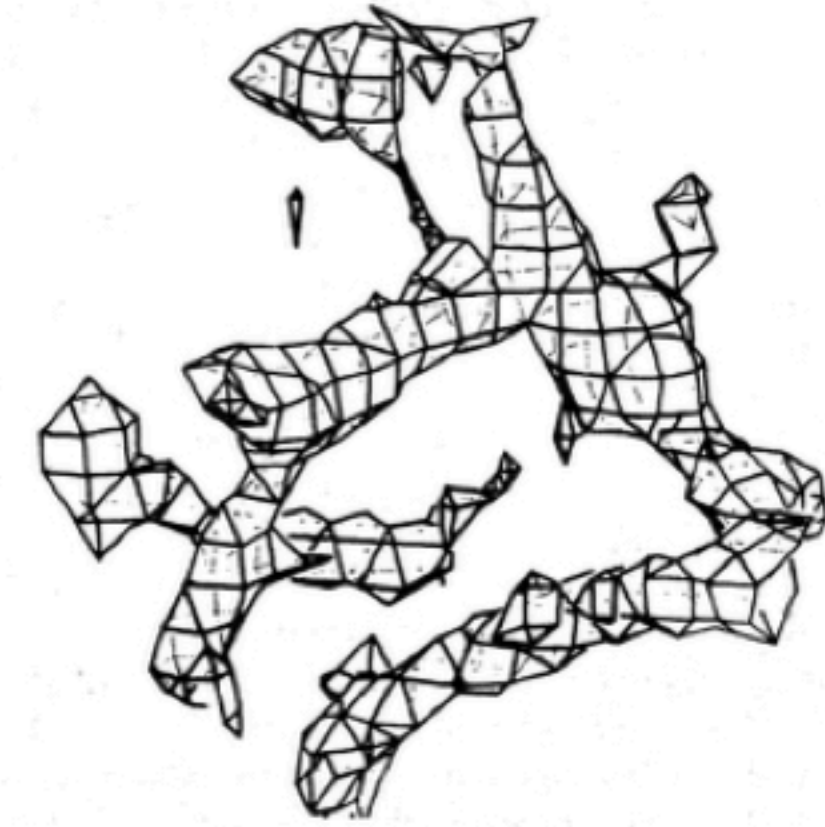


Figure 3. An example of the structures arising in 3D numerical simulations of the adiabatic scenario. The surface is a surface of constant density  $\rho \sim 2.5 \rho_c$ .

3D numerical model of the Universe

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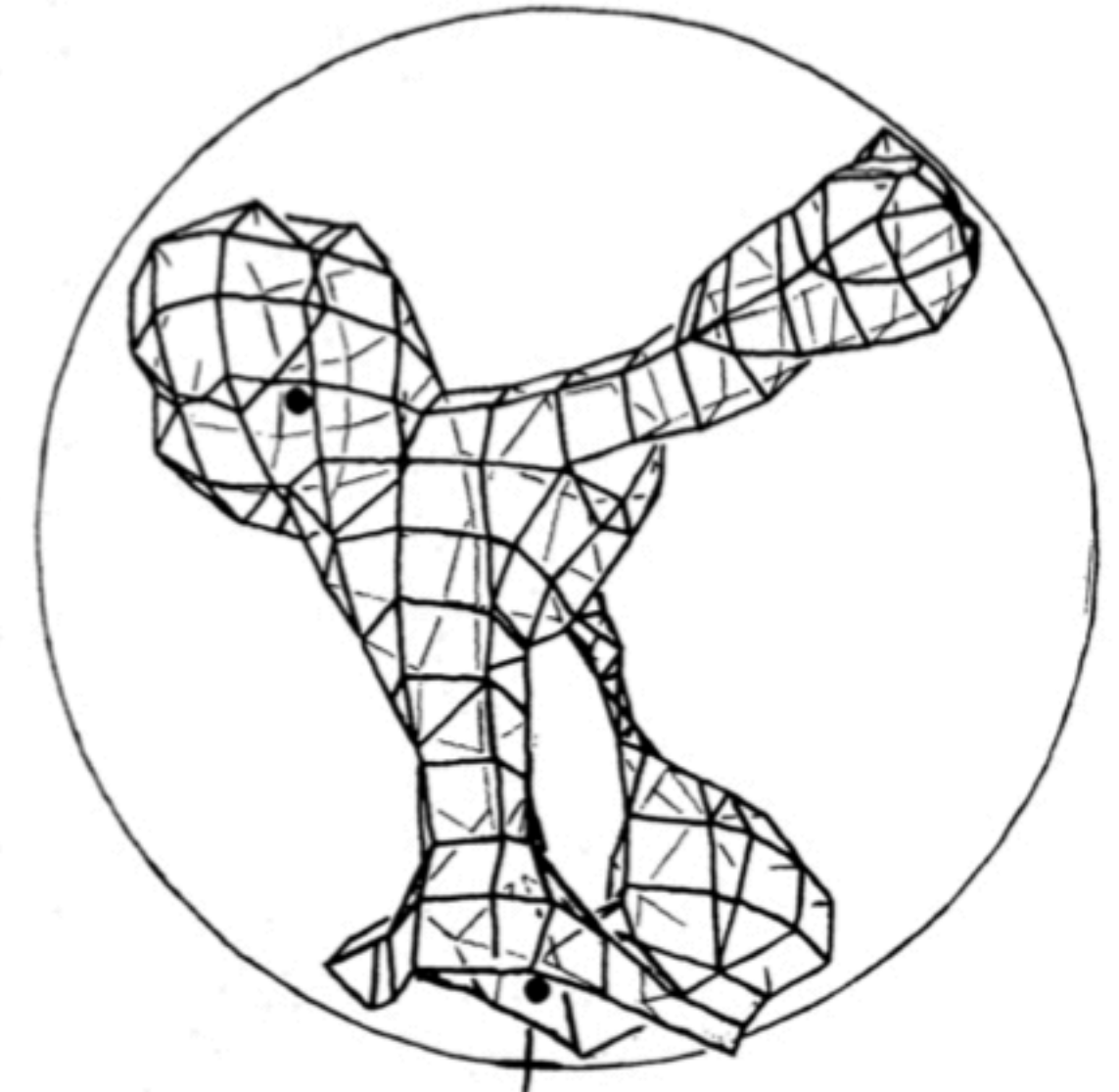


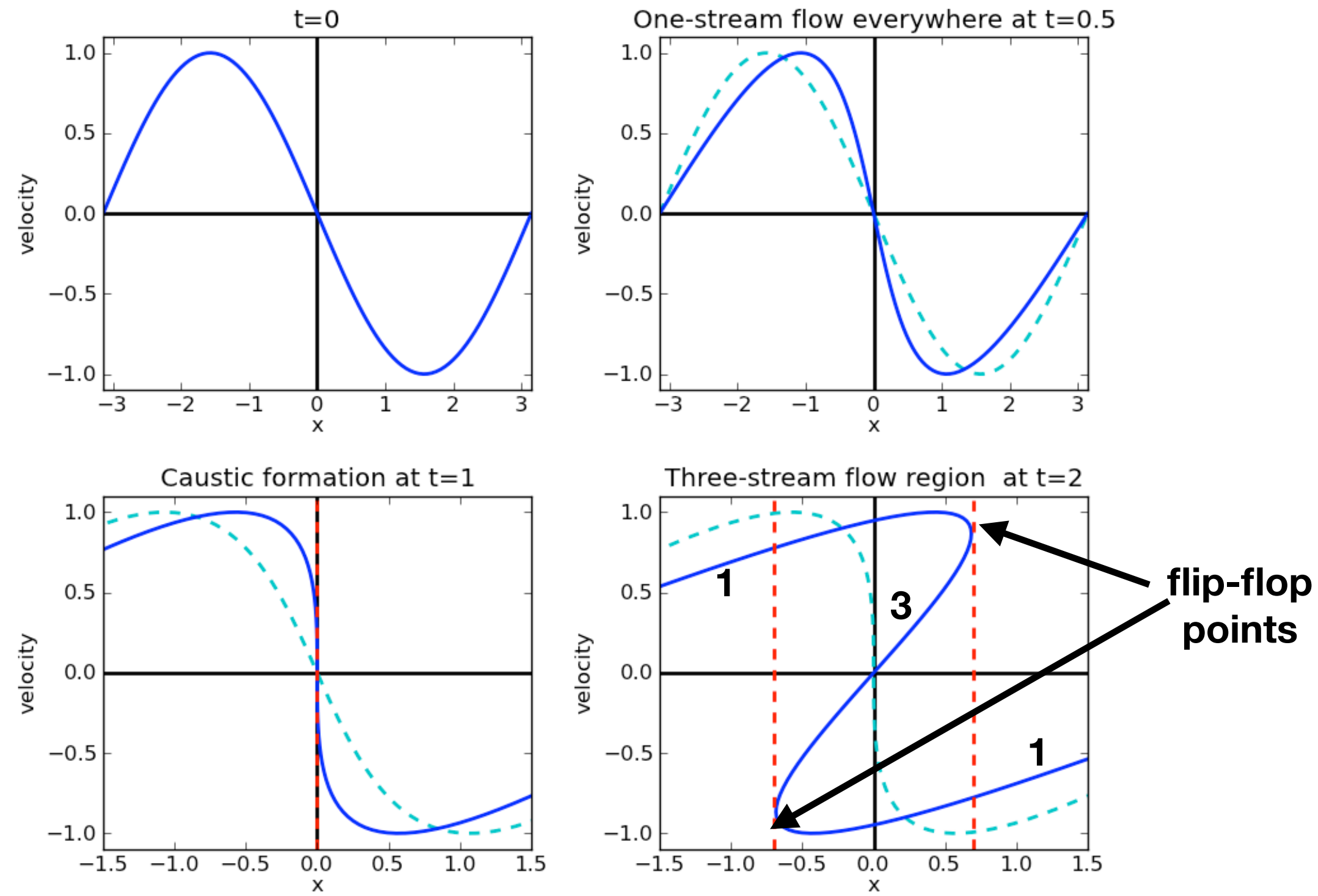
Figure 4. A surface of constant density level is plotted for the same region as that in Fig. 3.

# CAUSTICS

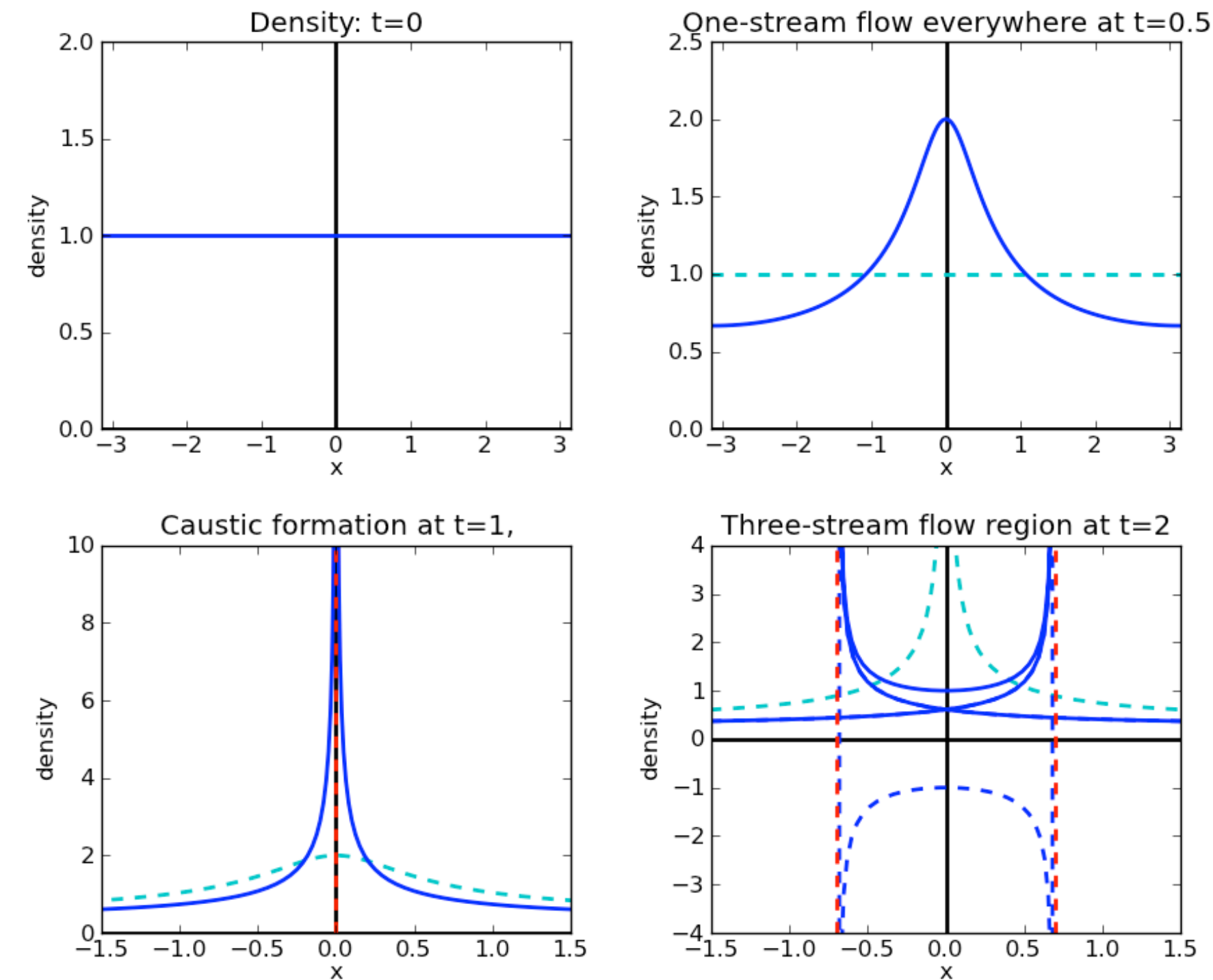
- (1) Density is formally infinite  
(In reality density is discontinuous)
- (2) Caustics separate regions with different number of streams

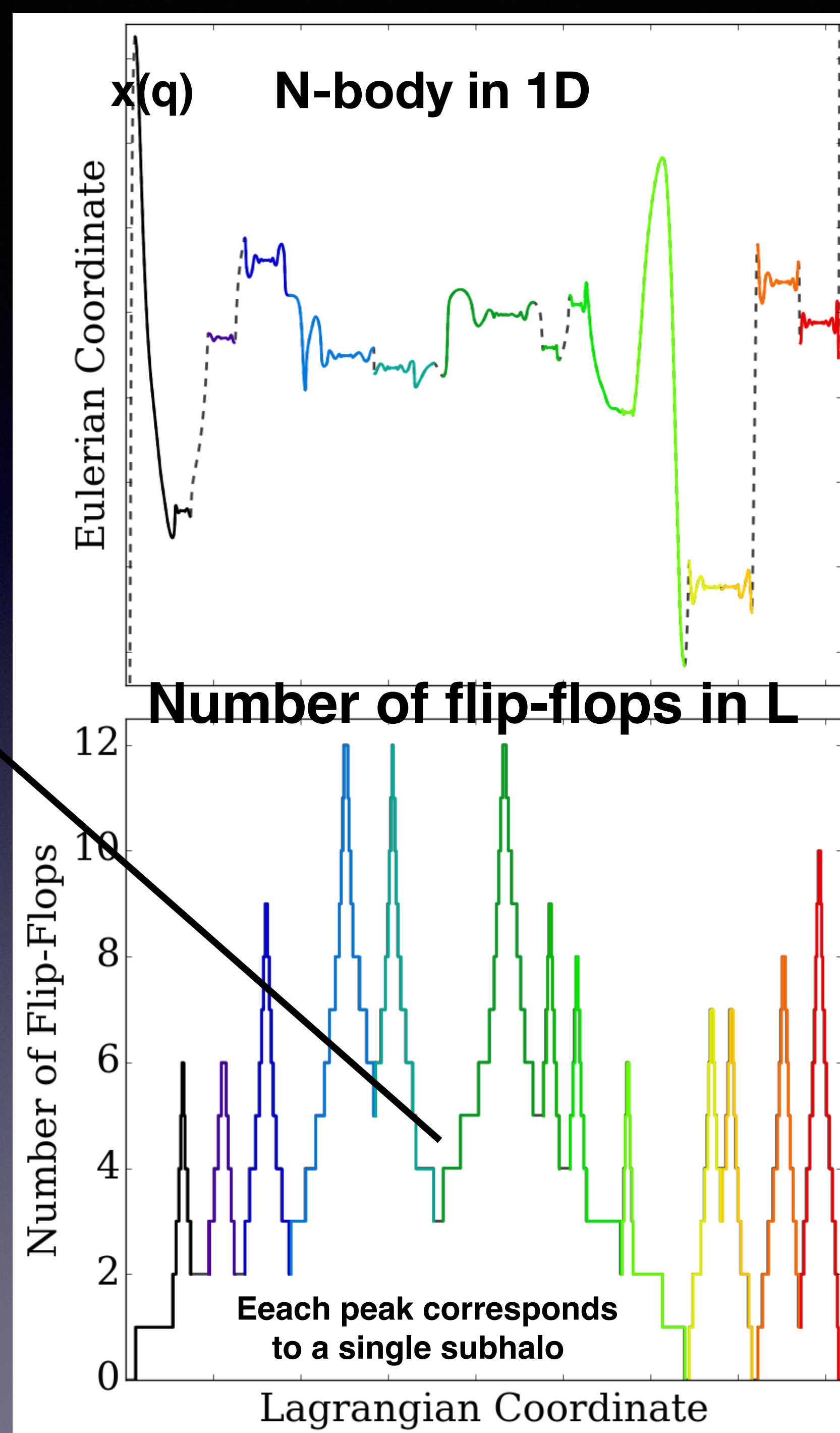
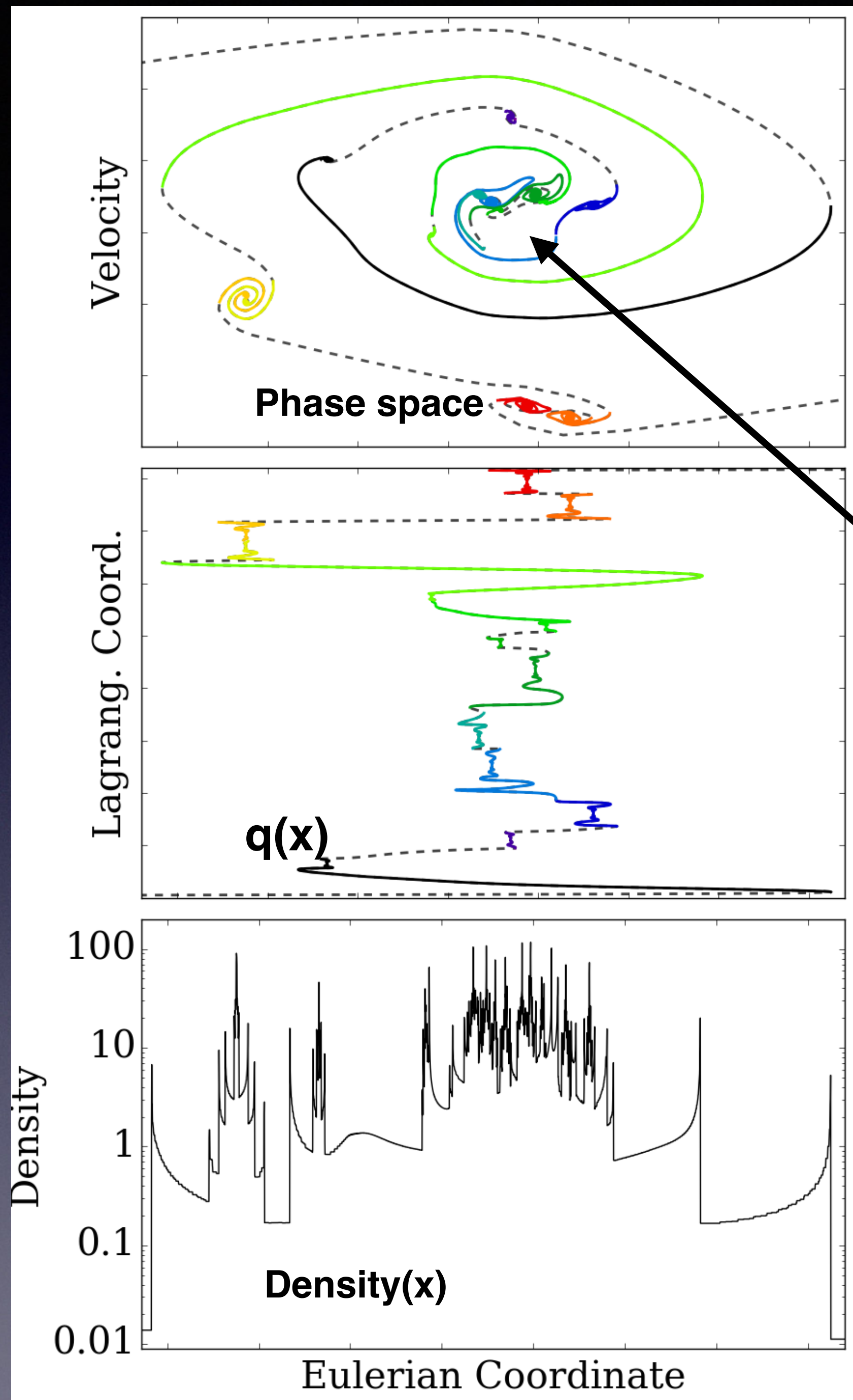
# Zeldovich Approximation in 1D

## Phase space



## Density







# L-space ZA E-space in 2D

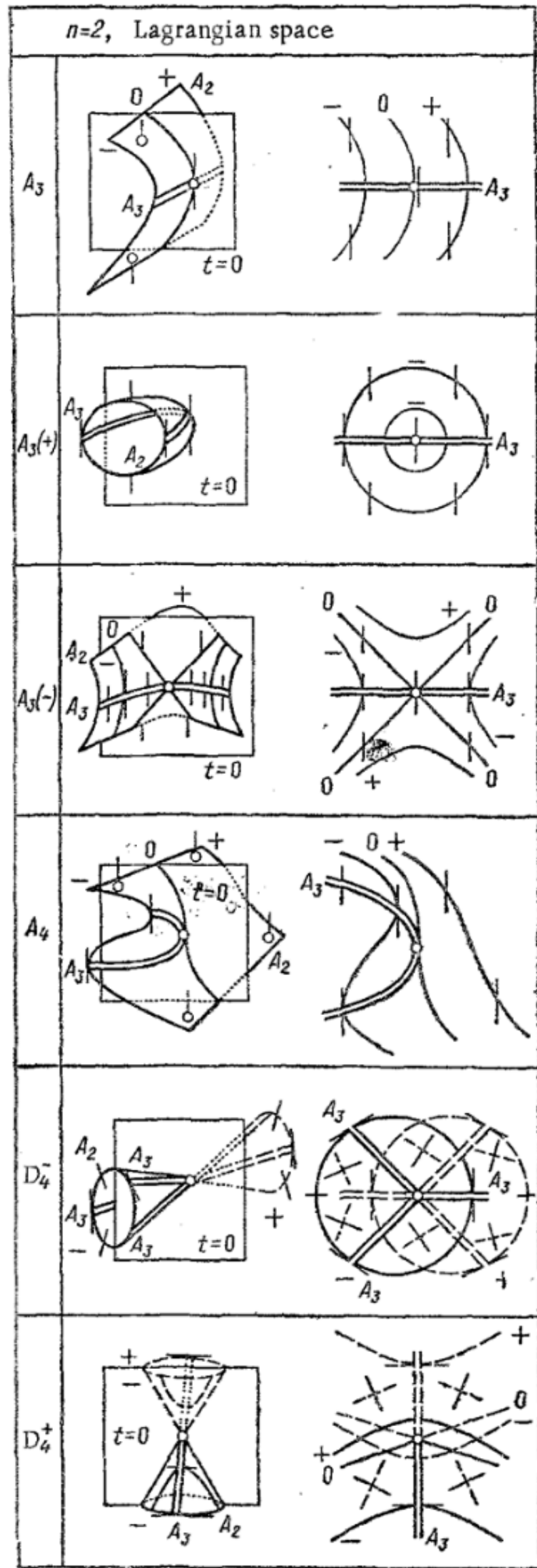


Fig. 4

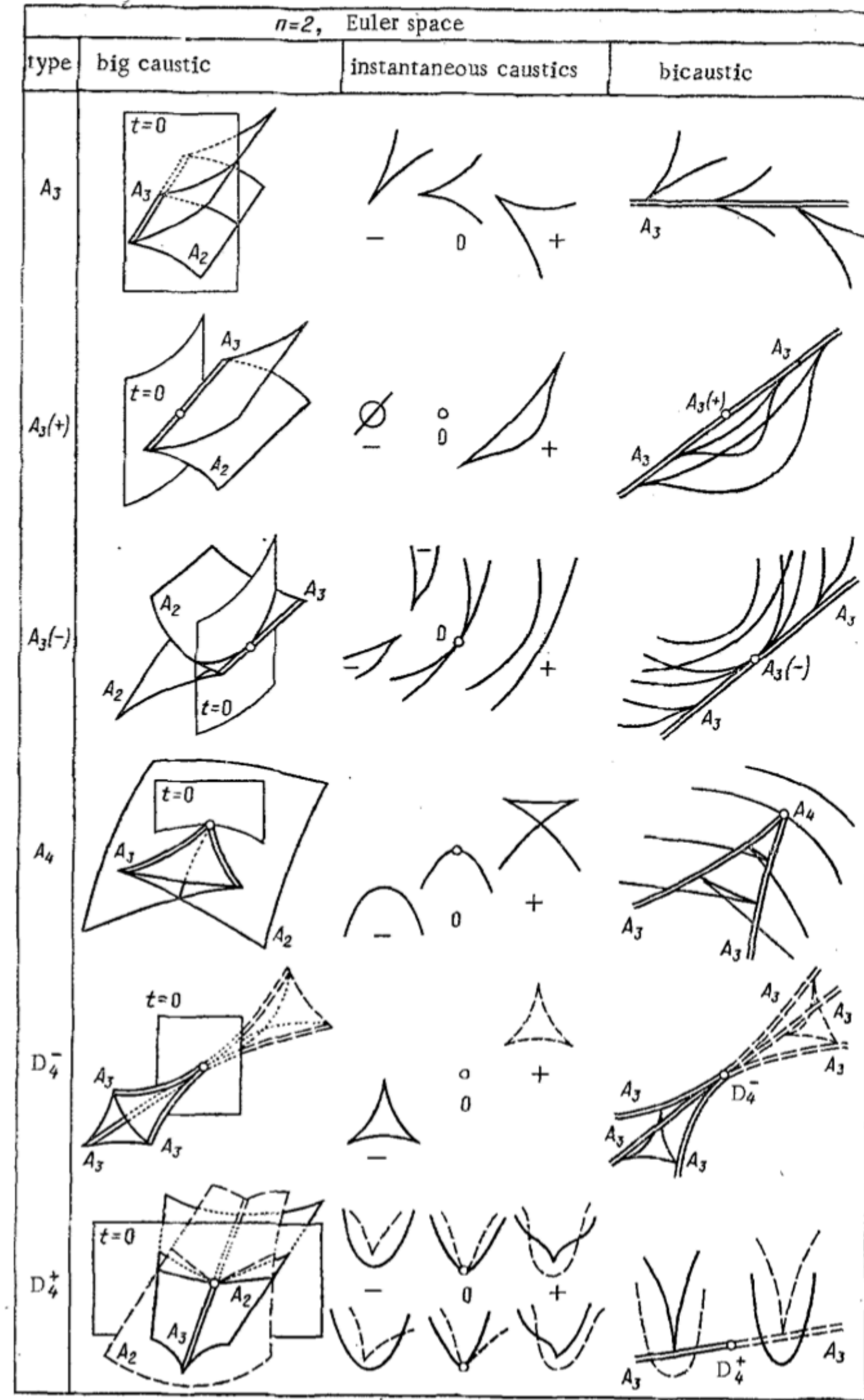
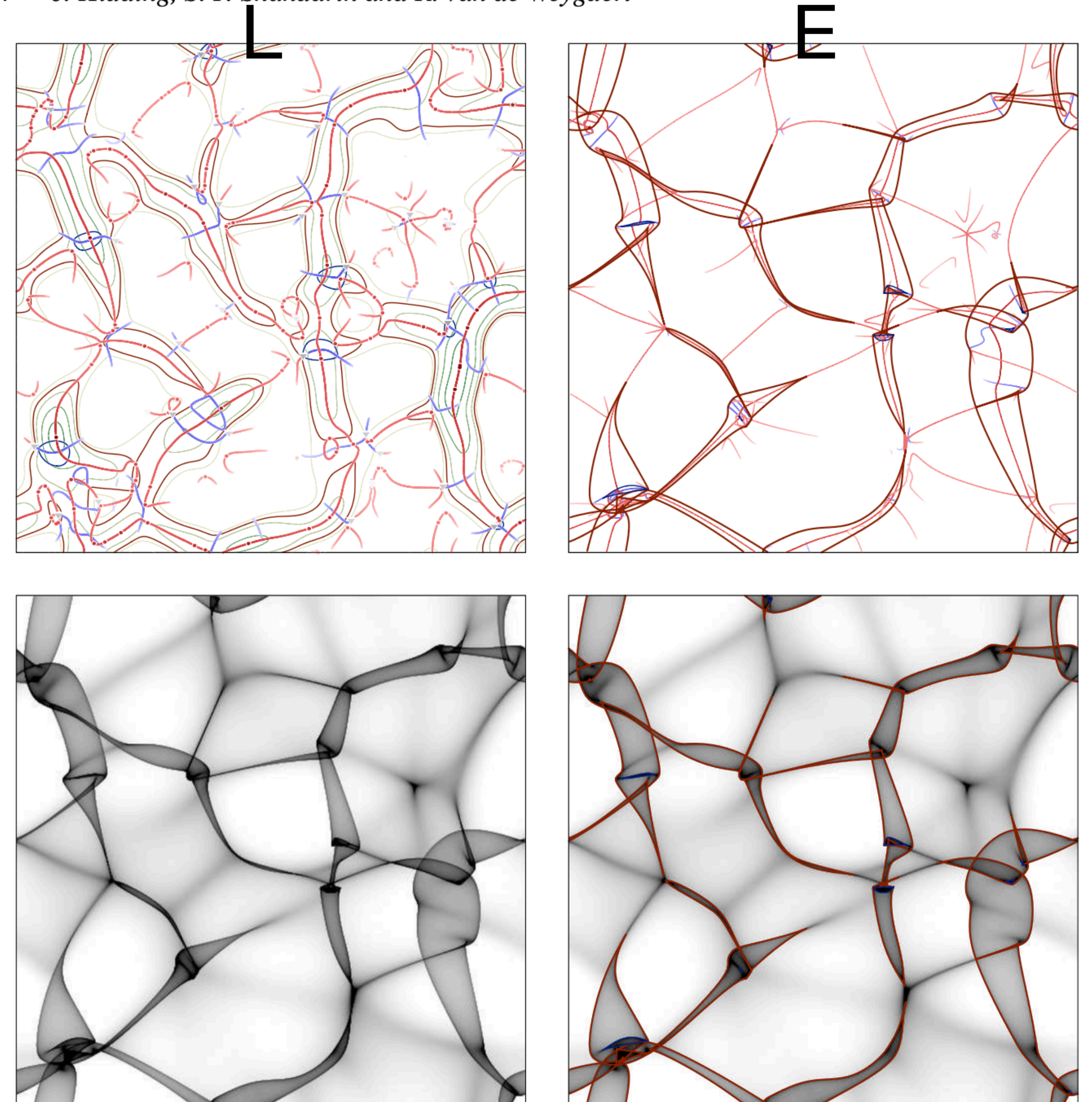


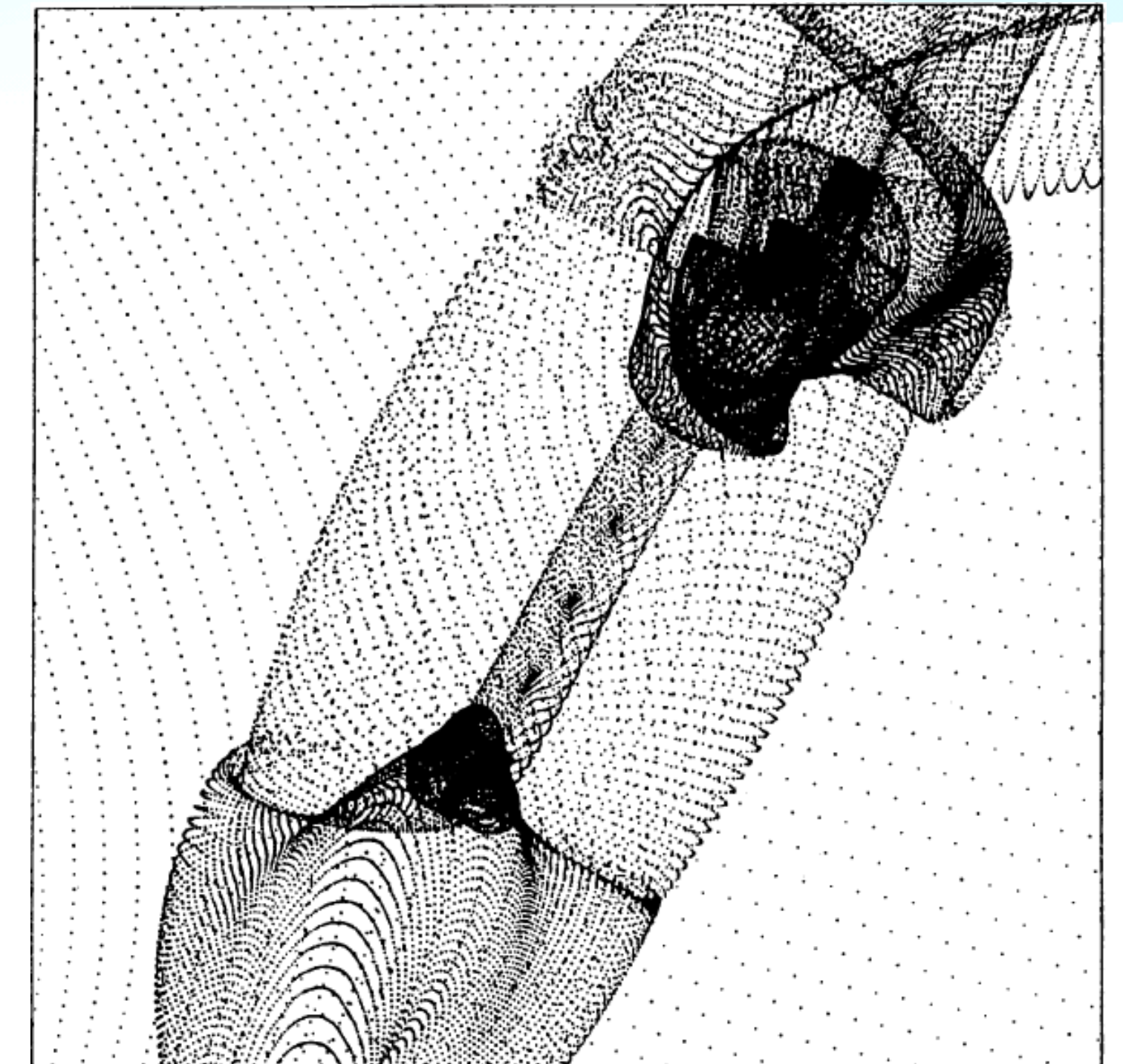
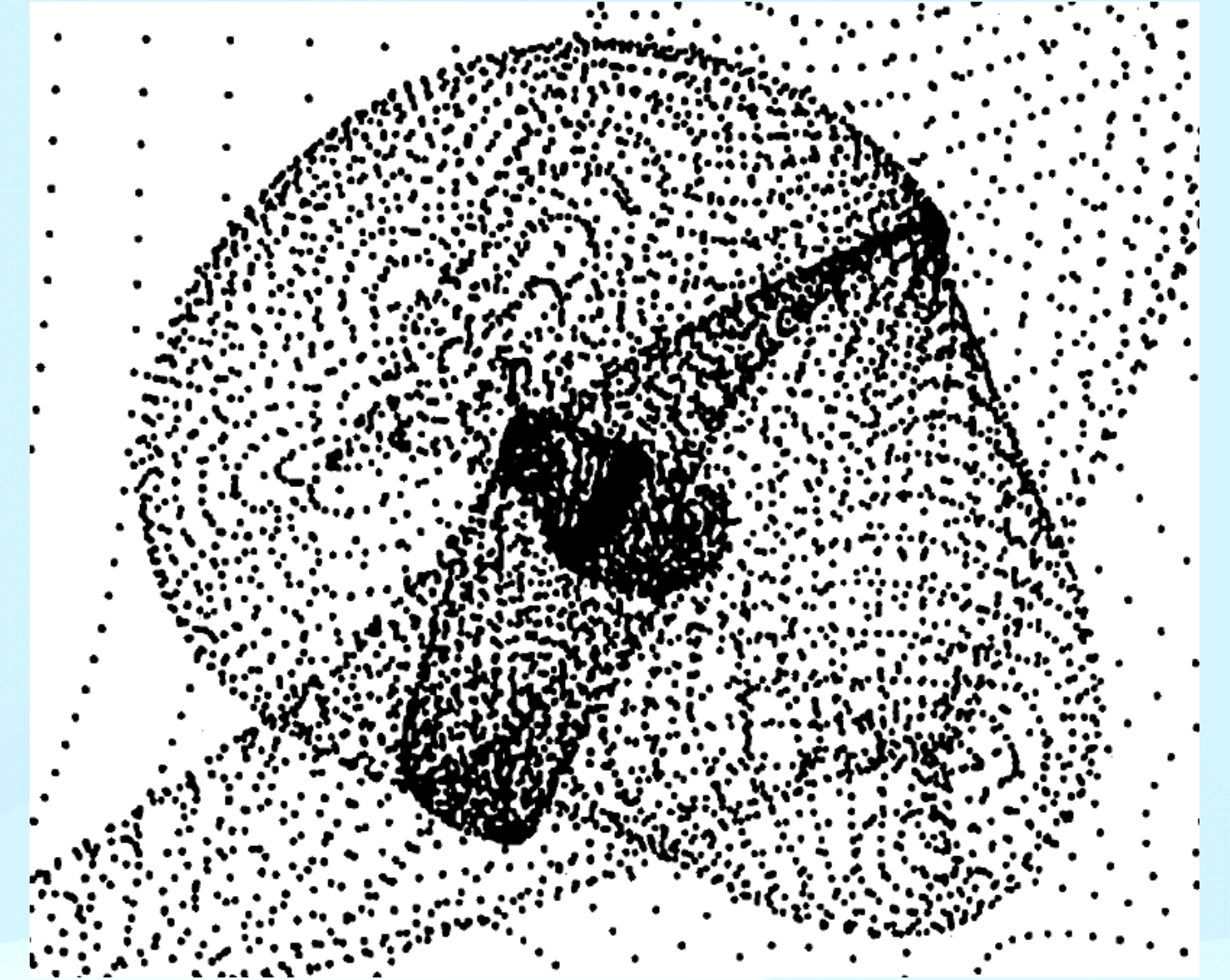
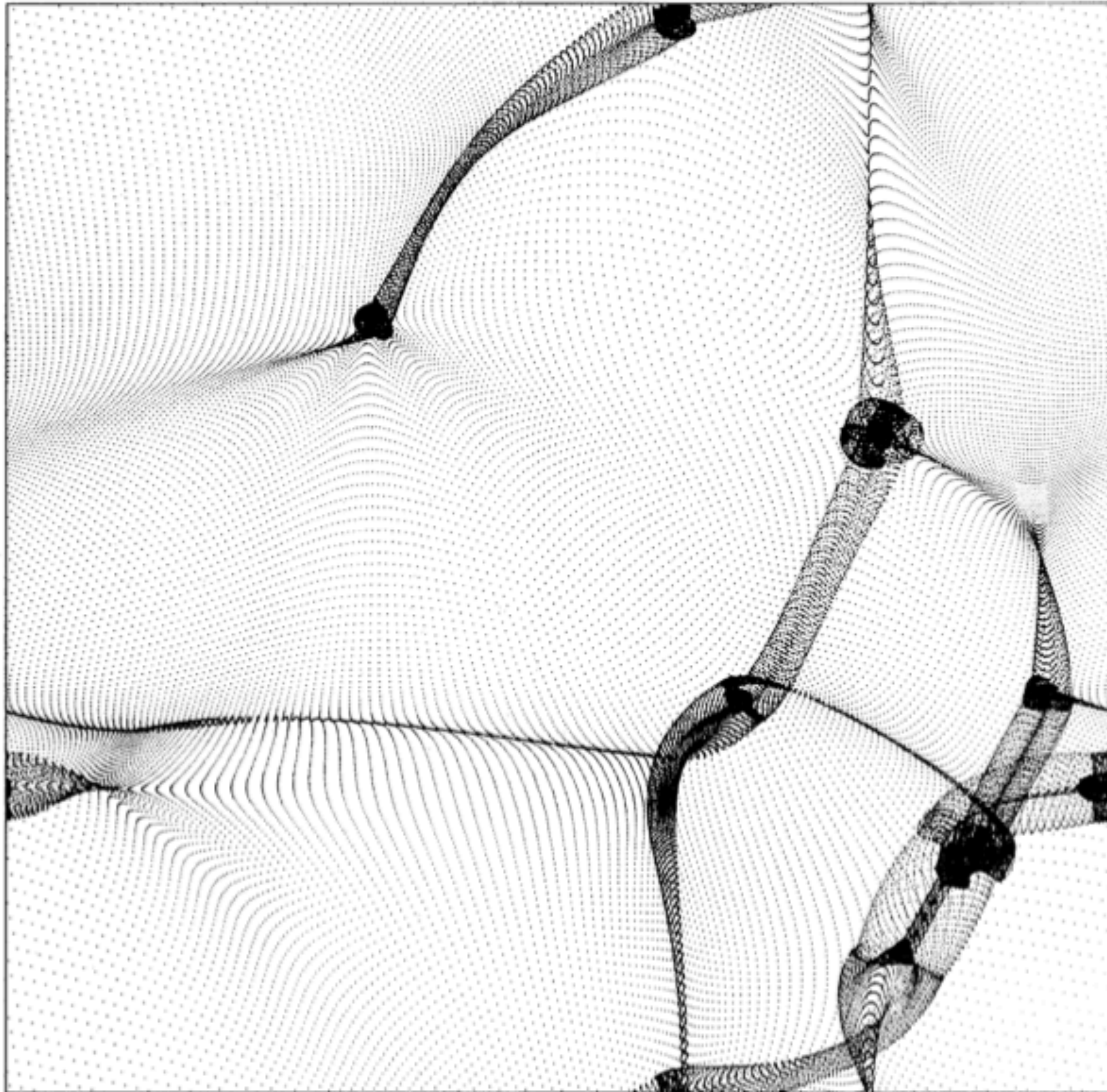
Fig. 3

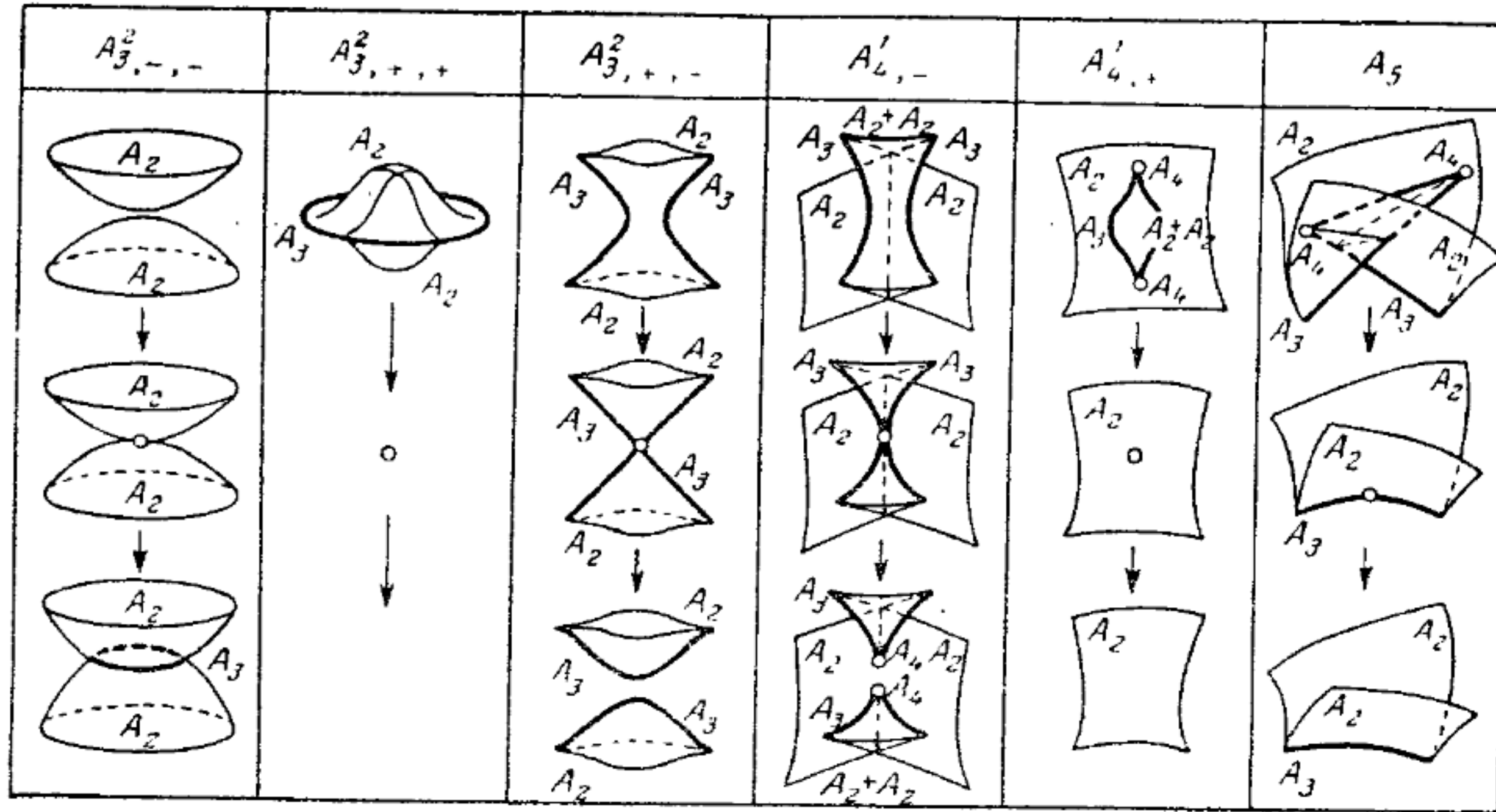


**Figure 1.** ZA: Lagrangian and Eulerian singularity structure. First panel: the Lagrangian skeleton that we find using the method presented in this paper. In dark red is the contour of the major eigenvalue corresponding to the time at which we plotted the Eulerian images that occupy the other three panels. Top-right panel: structural and singularity information from the first panel mapped to Eulerian space, as proscribed by the ZA. Bottom-left panel: density distribution in Eulerian space. Bottom-right panel: density field in Eulerian space, with the singularity outline superimposed (red edges).

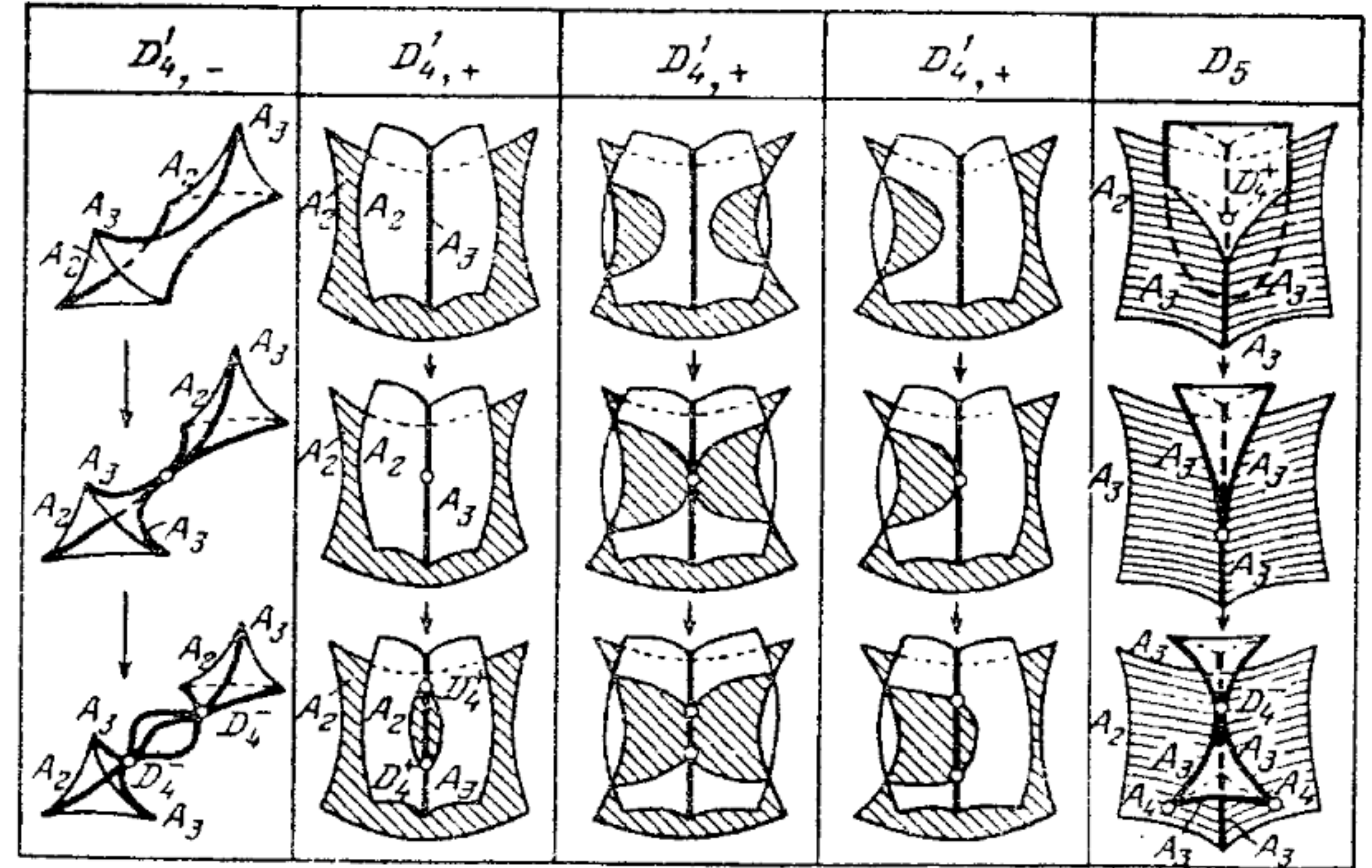
# Castics in 2D N-body simulations

Melott, Shandarin 1989



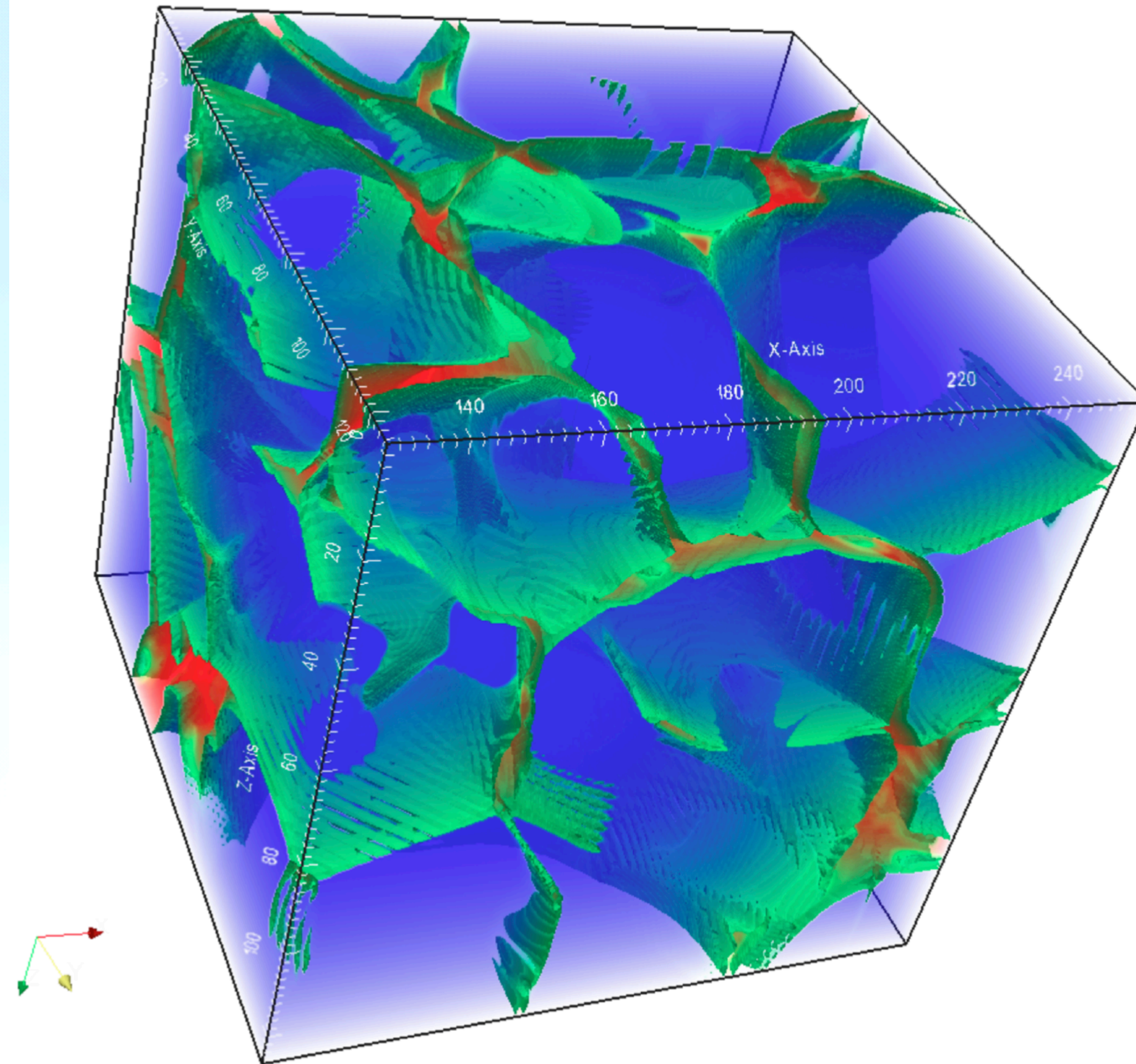


D - caustics in 3D



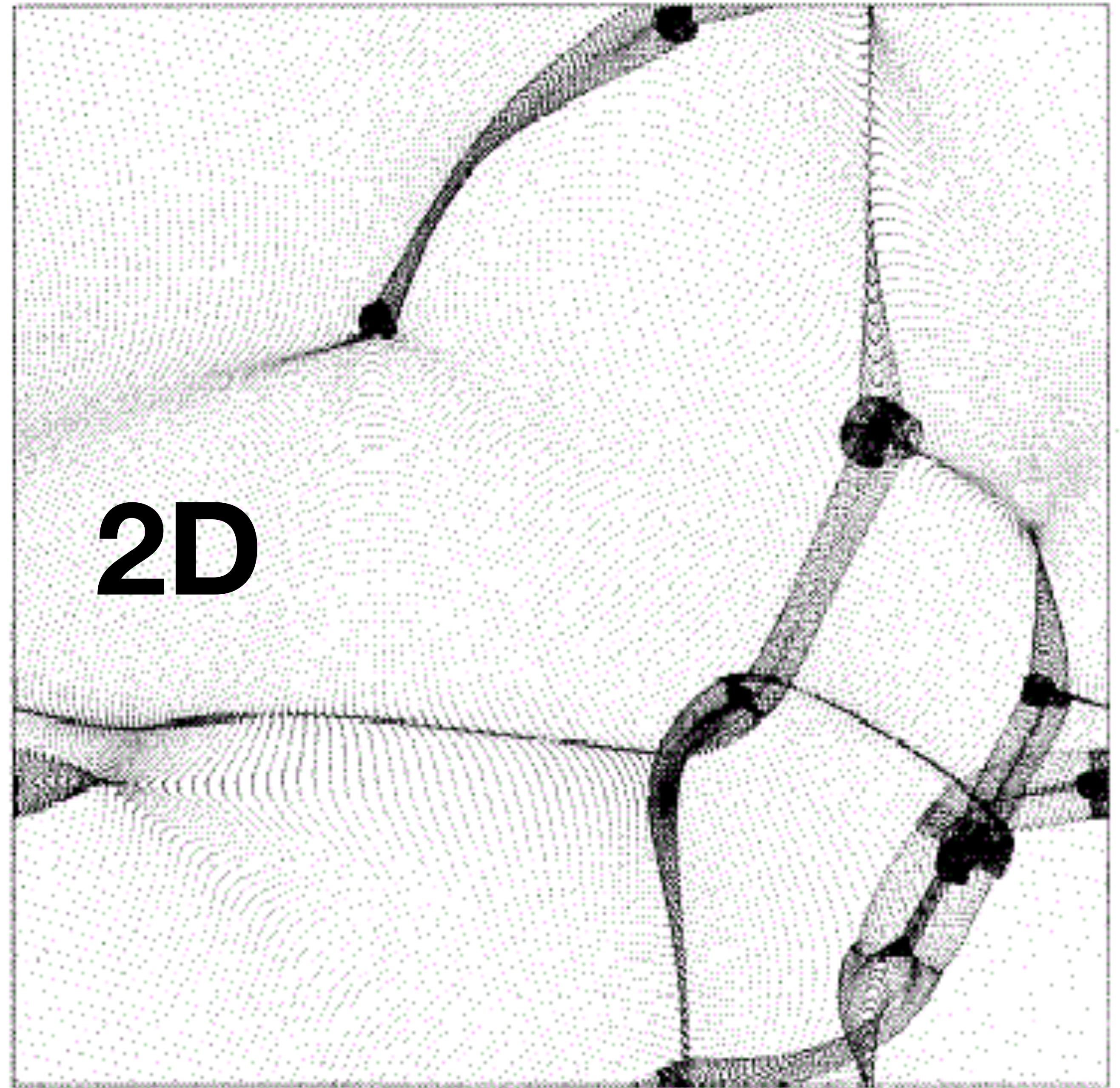
# Caustics in 3D

*J. Hidding, S. F. Shandarin and R. van de Weygaert*



# Caustic Structure of Filaments and Halos

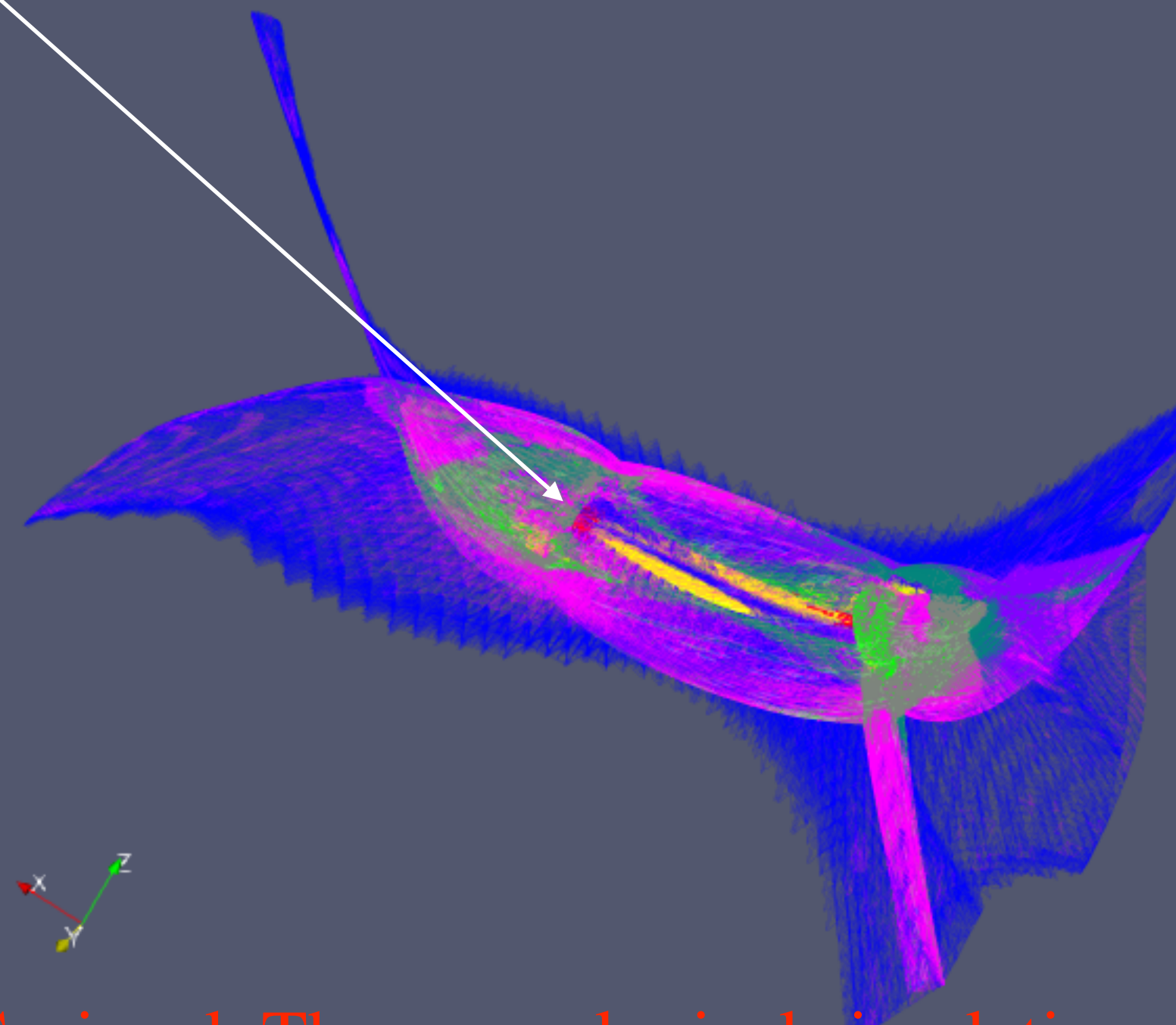
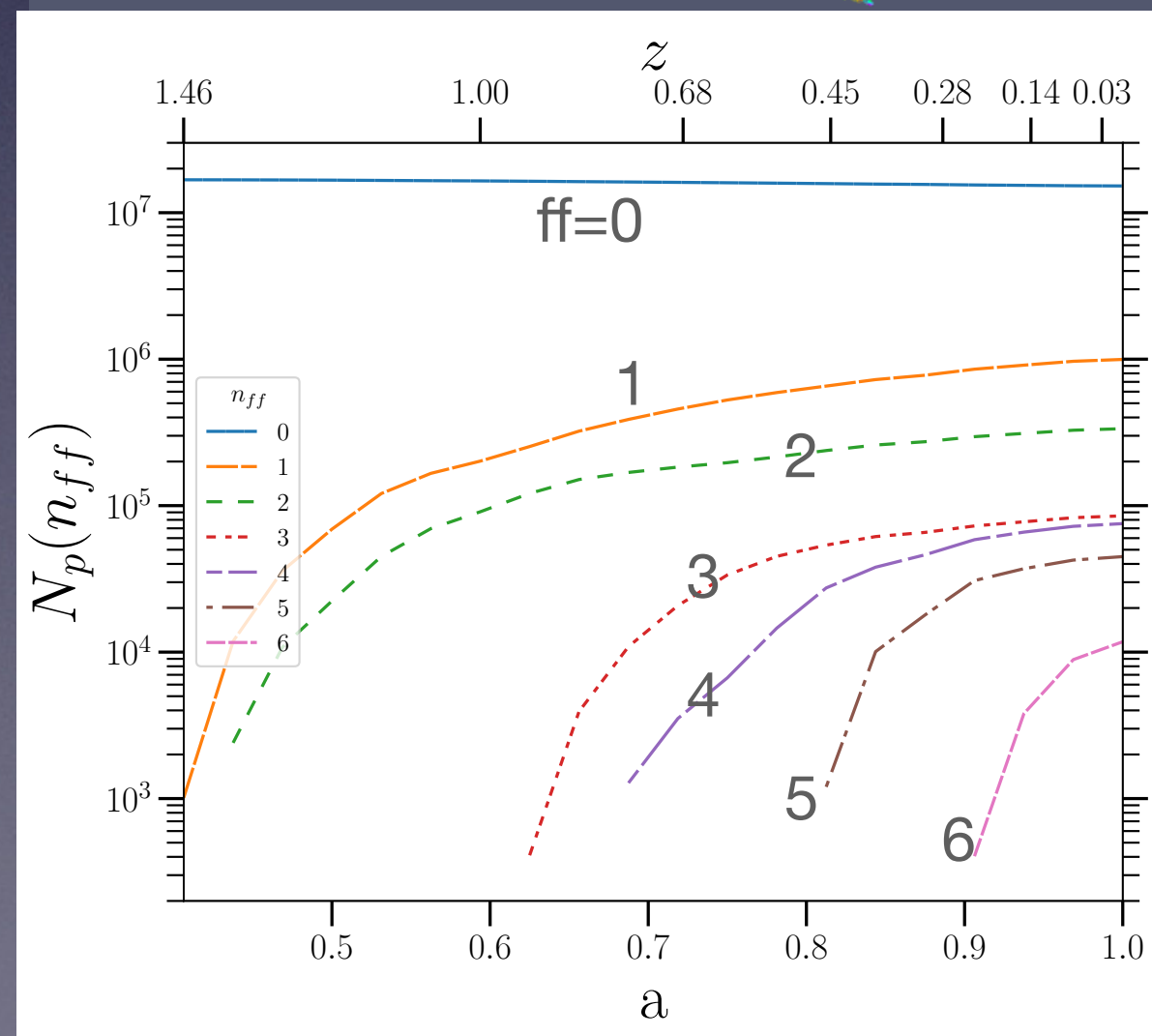
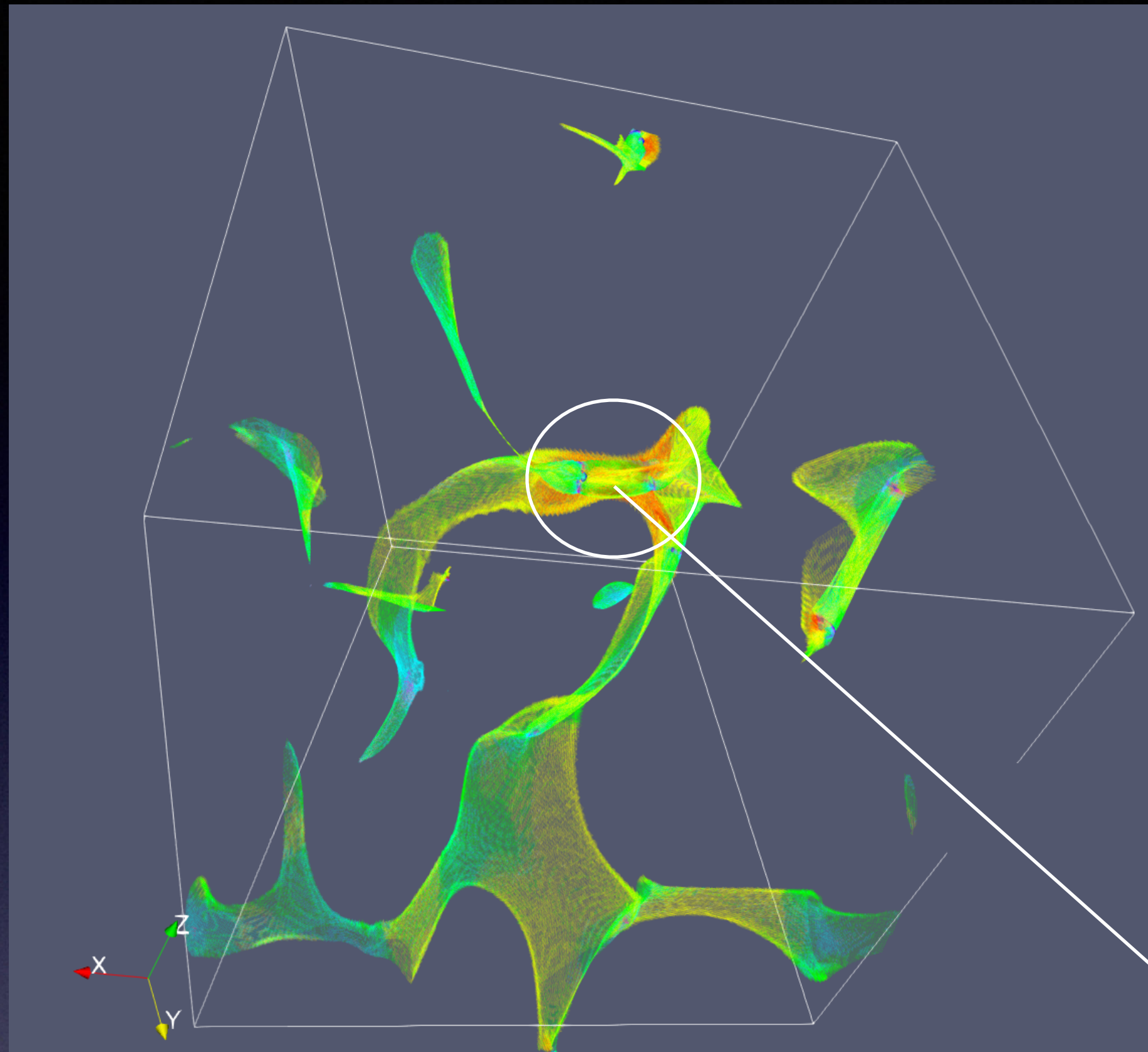
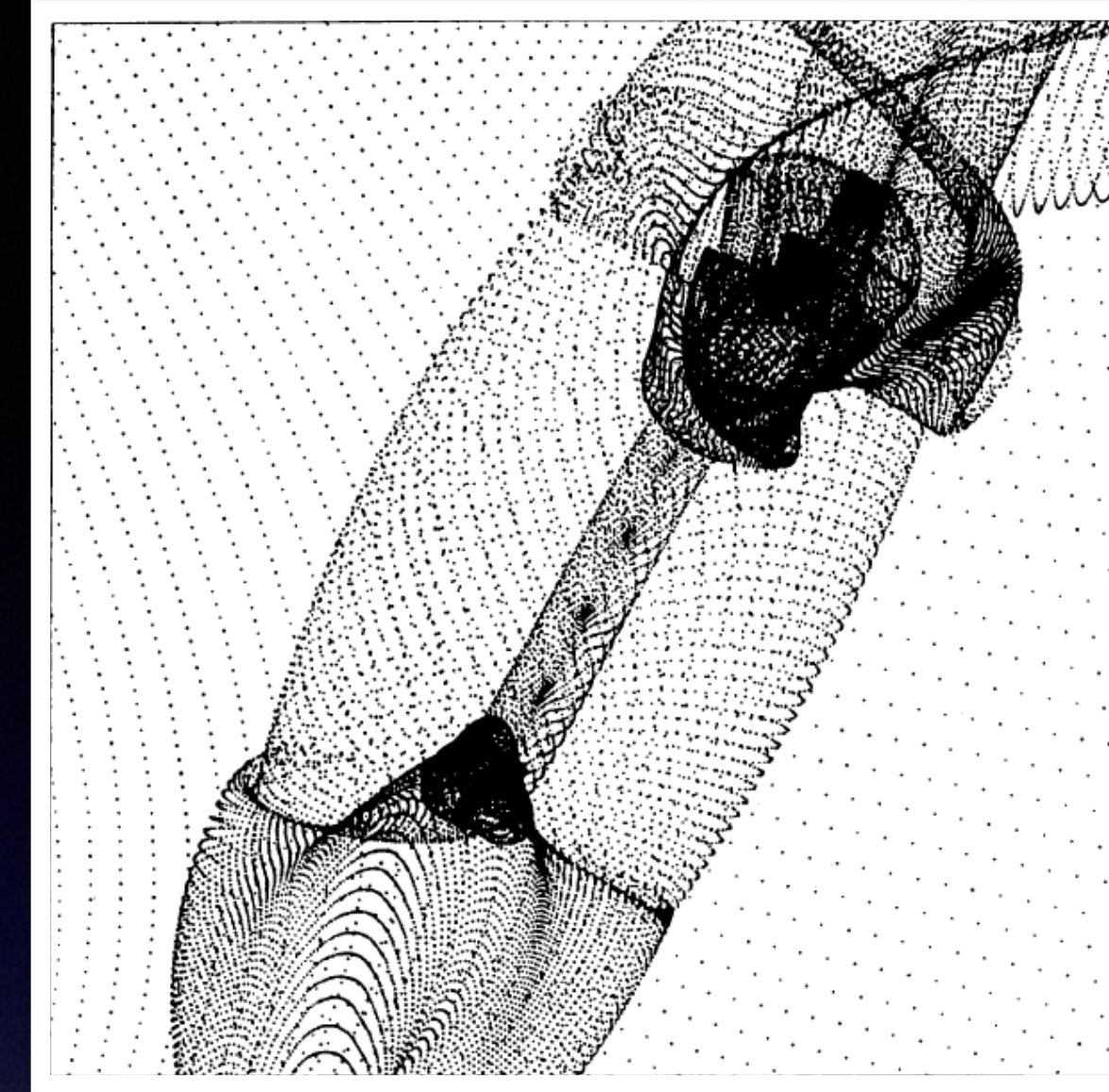
Melot, Shandarin 1989



N-body simulation:  
 $N_p = 256^3$ ,  $L = 100/h$  Mpc  
 Force res. =  $0.8/h$  Mpc  
 $k_{\text{cutoff}} = 4 (2\pi / L)$   
 $R_{\text{sphere}} = 20$  Mpc/h

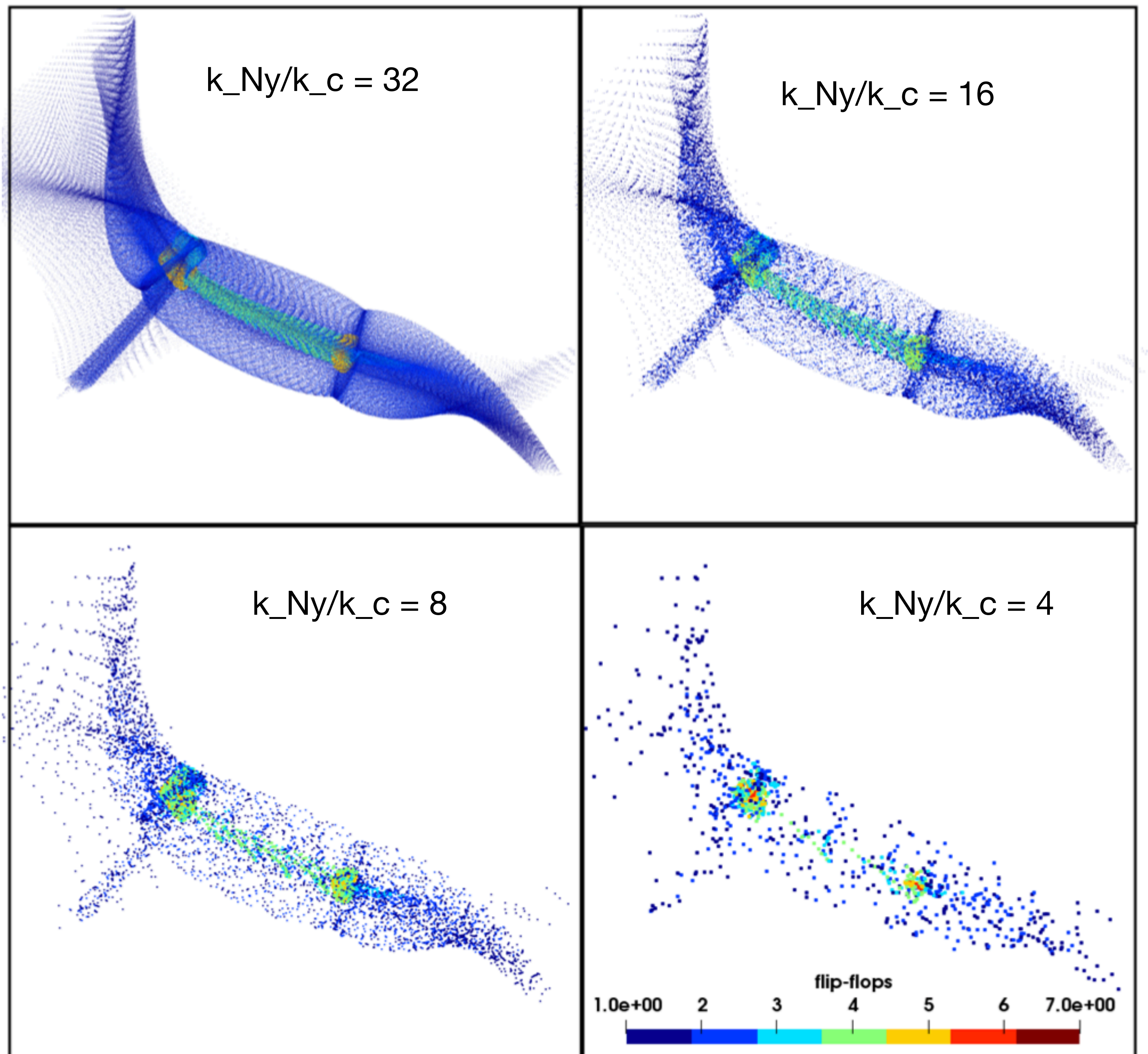
Shandarin 2021

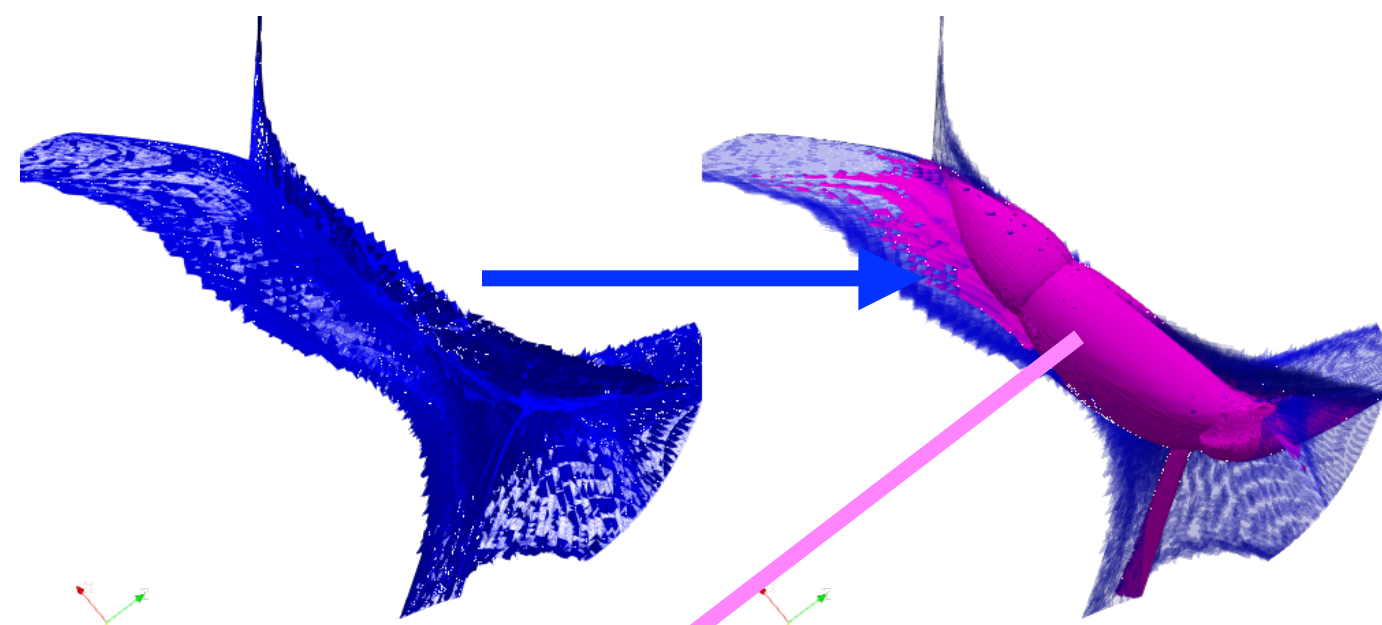
**Flip-flop :**  
 Change of sign of  
 $\det(dx_i/dq_j)$



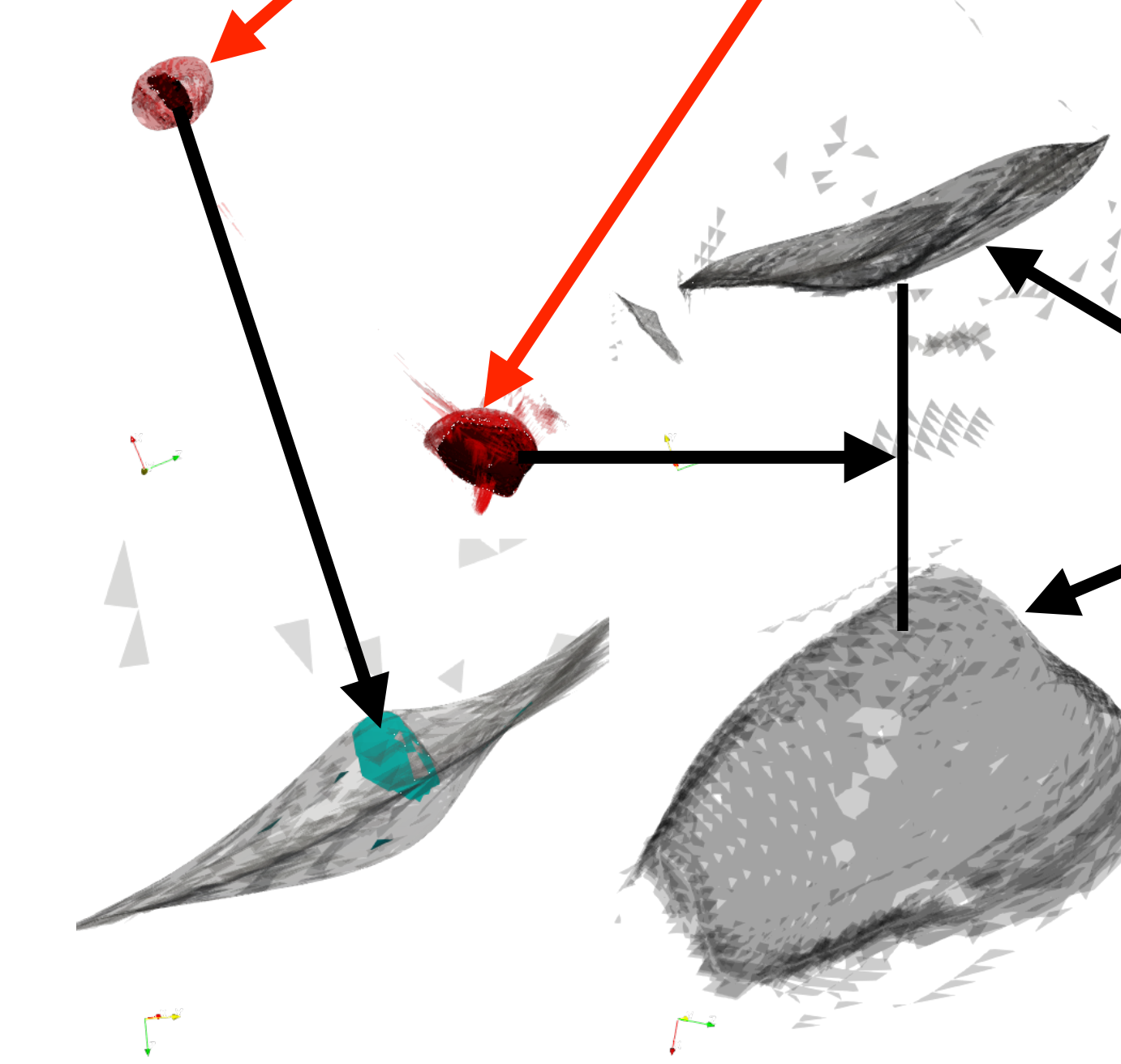
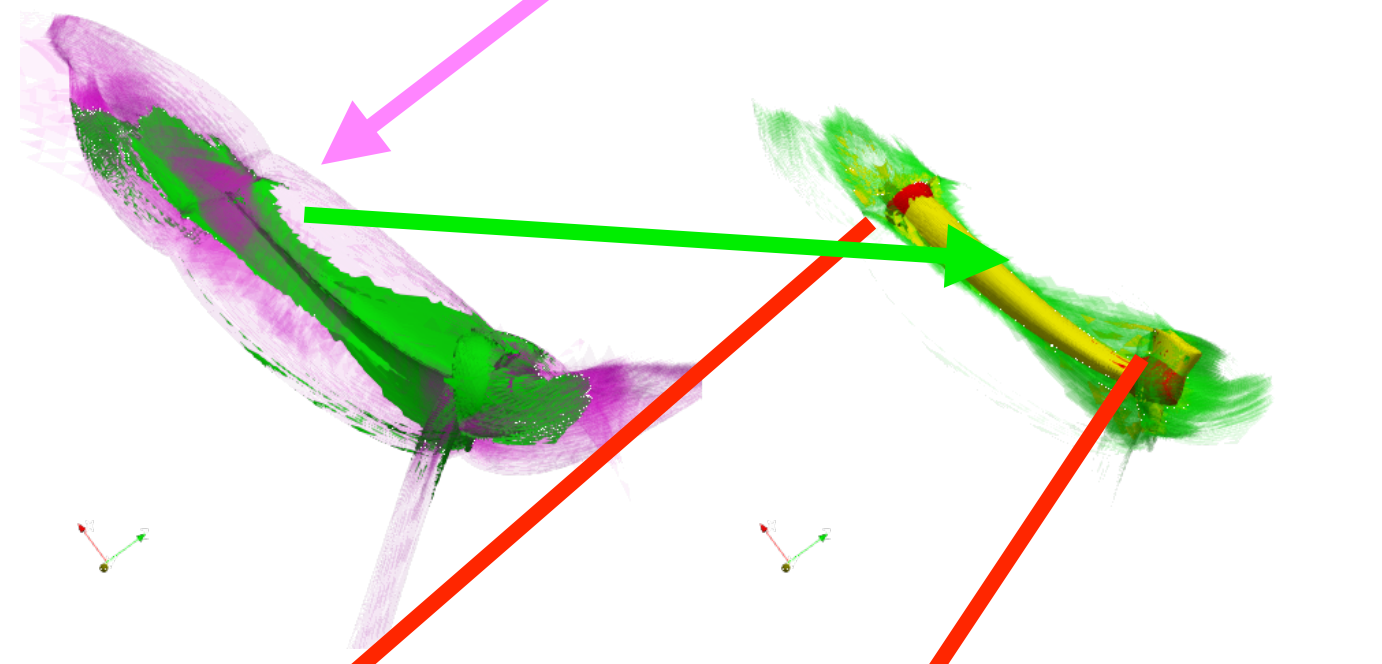
• V. Springel, The cosmological simulation code GADGET-2

# Particles in 3D with number of flip-flops $> 0$





**Five distinct components  
(blue, magenta, green, yellow, and red)  
of the central caustic structure shown  
in bottom right of the previous slide**



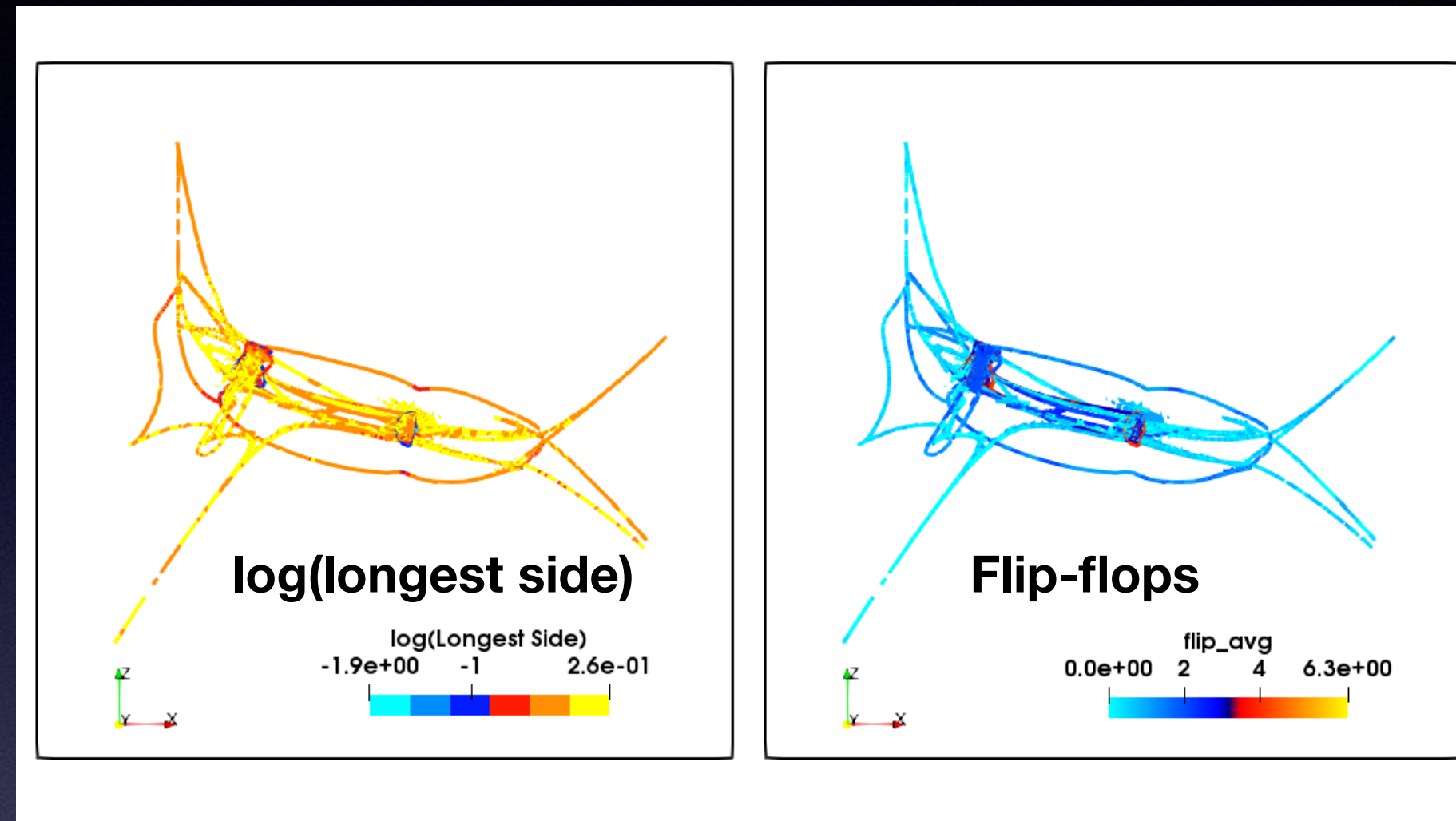
**Caustics (in gray) inside of two red caustics**

**two orthogonal projections**

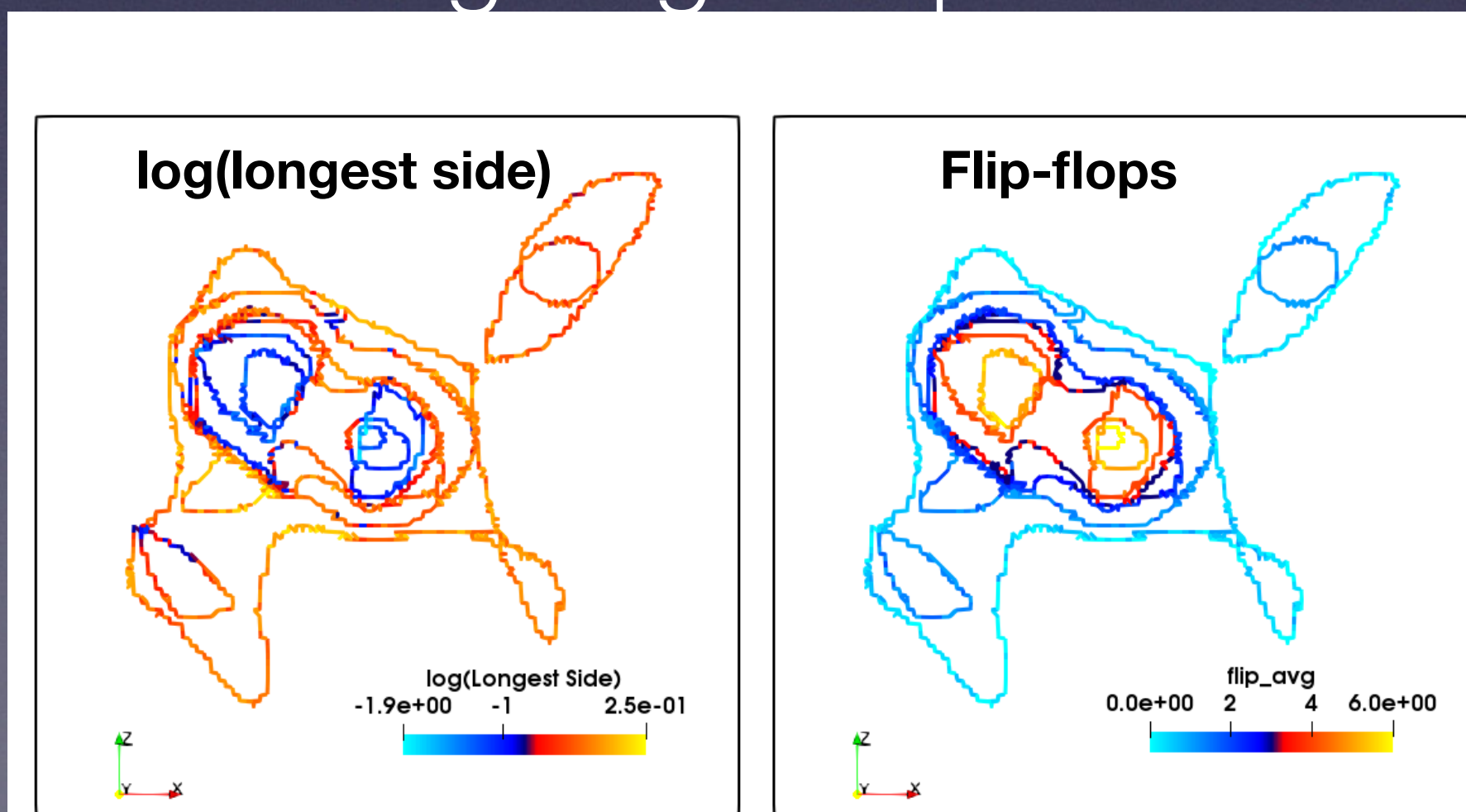


Slice by a plane through two convex red caustic shells

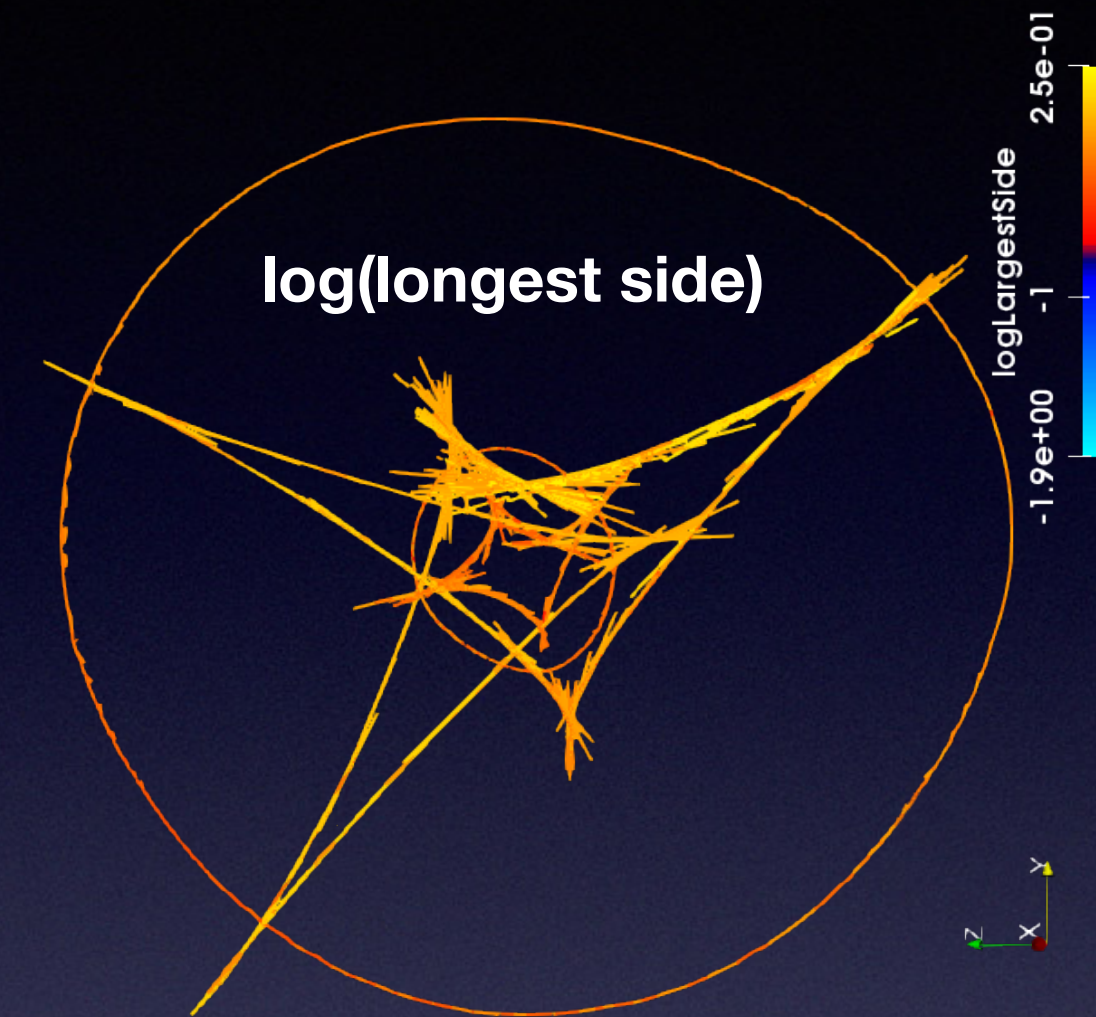
Eulerian space



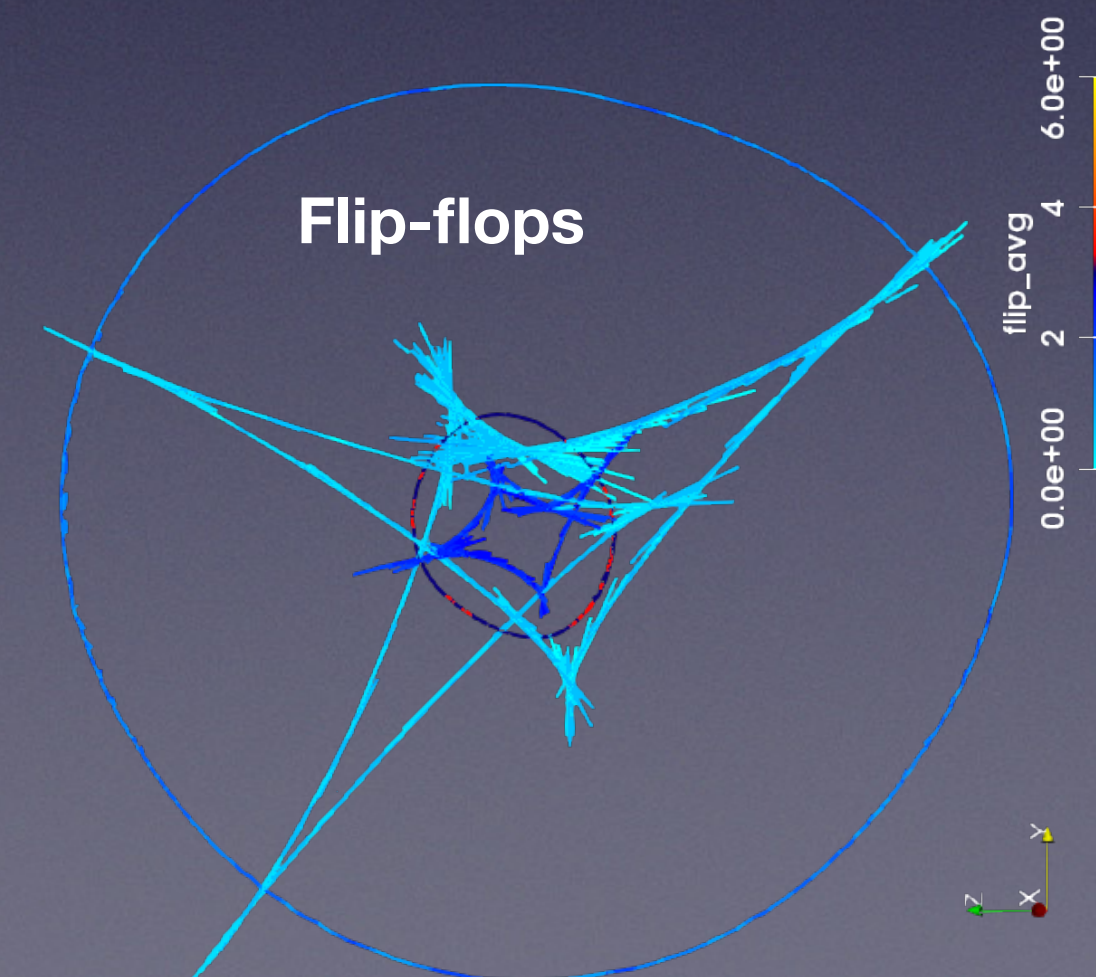
Lagrangian space



Slice by an orthogonal plane through the middle of the structure

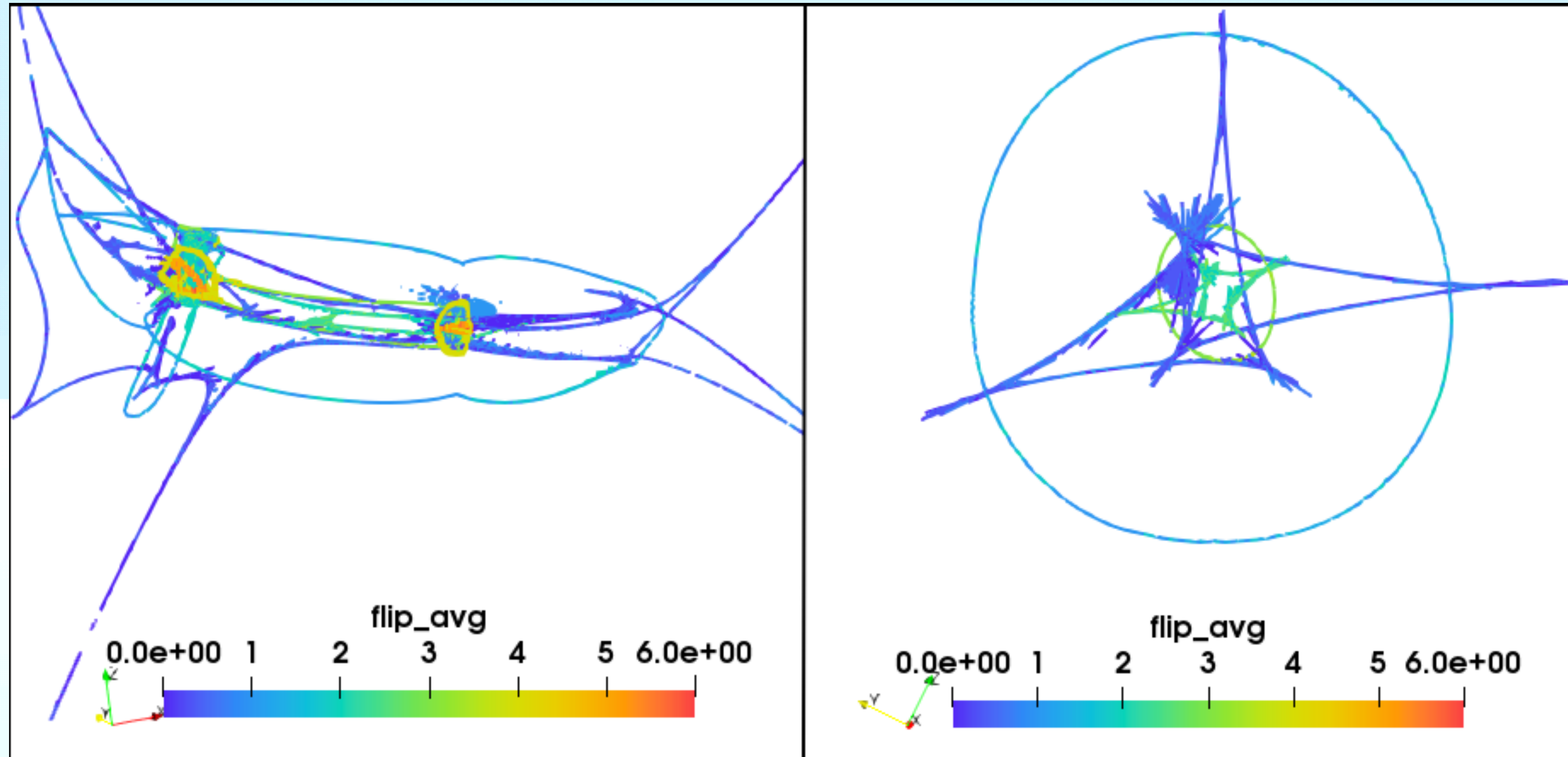


Two circular caustics in slice  
(do not exist in Zeldovich approximation)



Slice by a plane through two convex red caustic shells

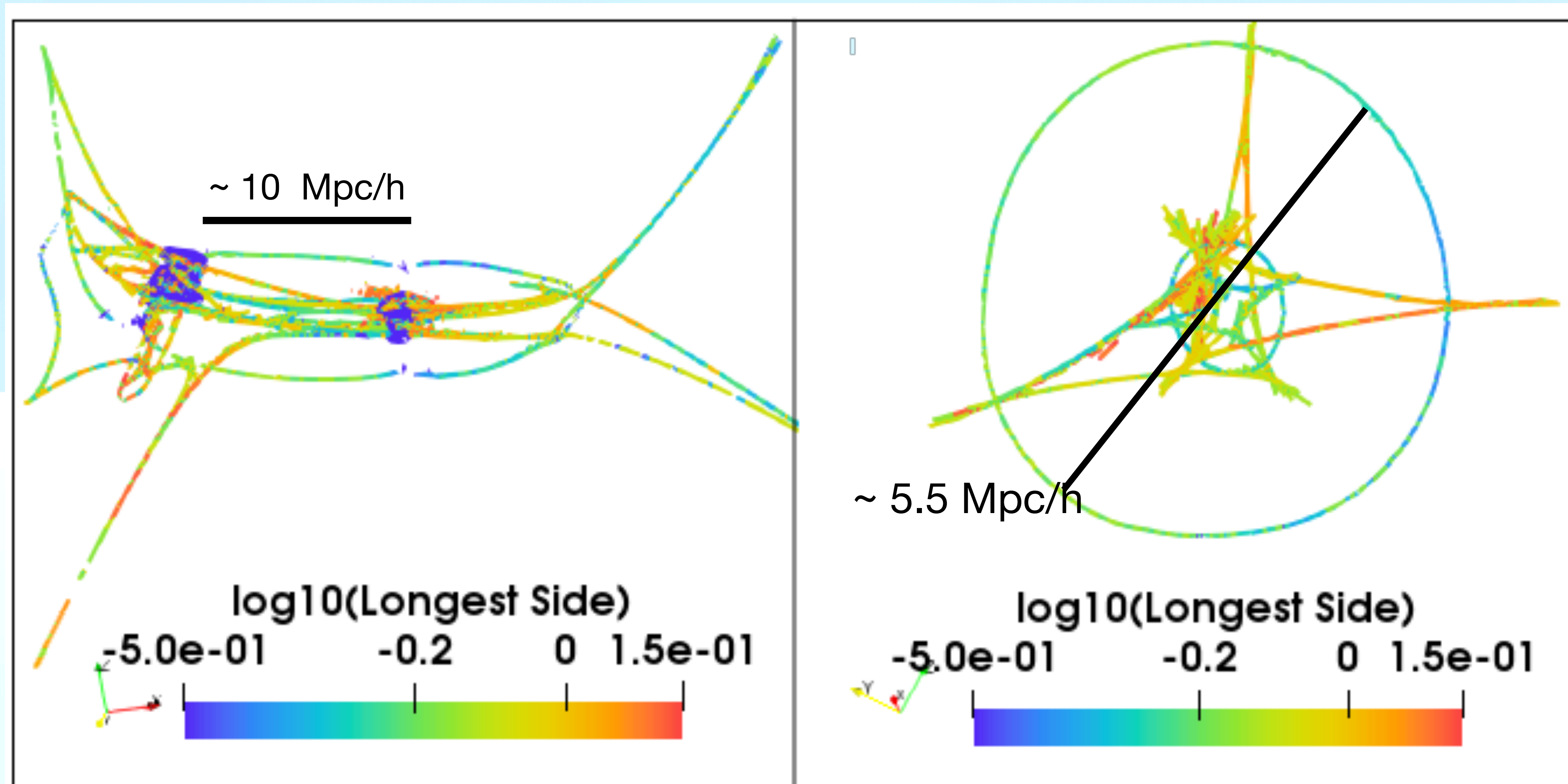
Slice by an orthogonal plane through the middle of the structure



Eulerian space

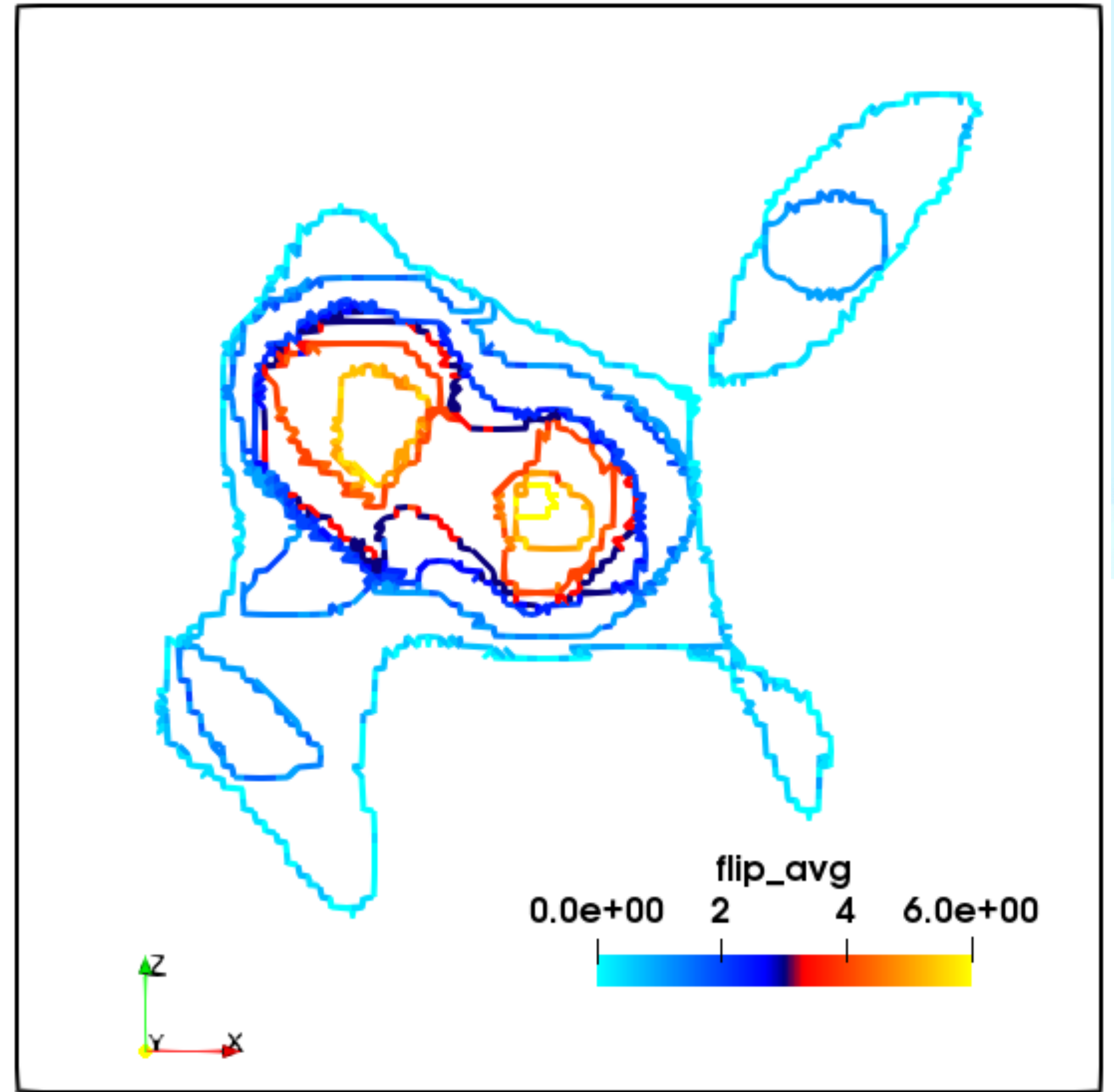
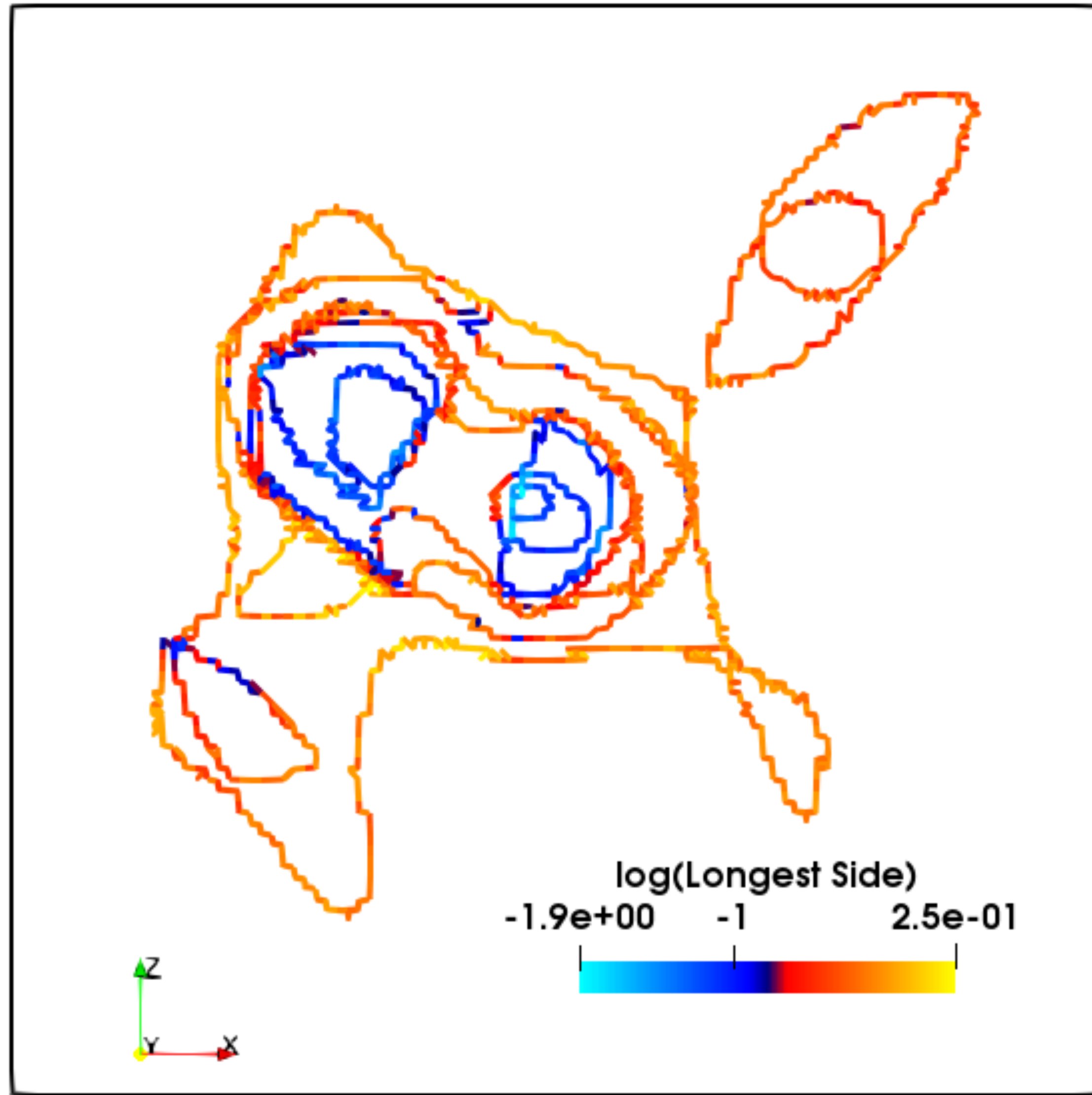
Slice by a plane through two convex red caustic shells

Slice by an orthogonal plane through the middle of the structure



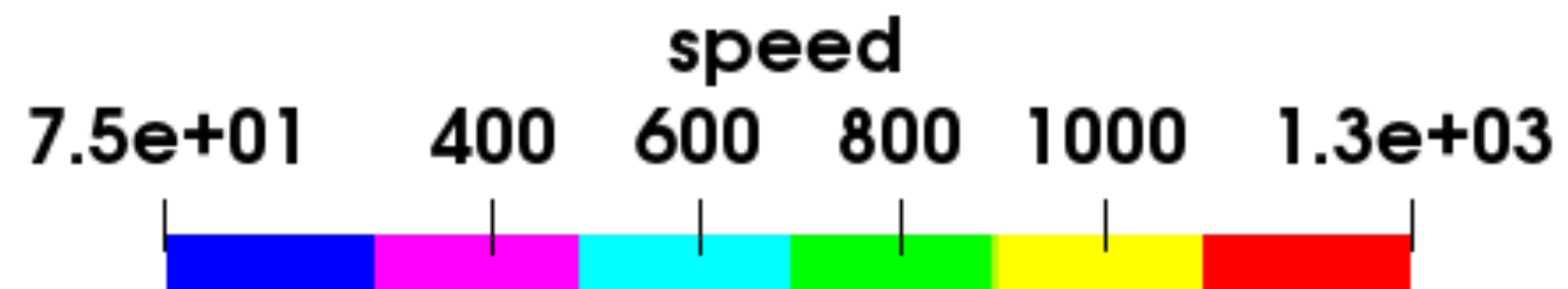
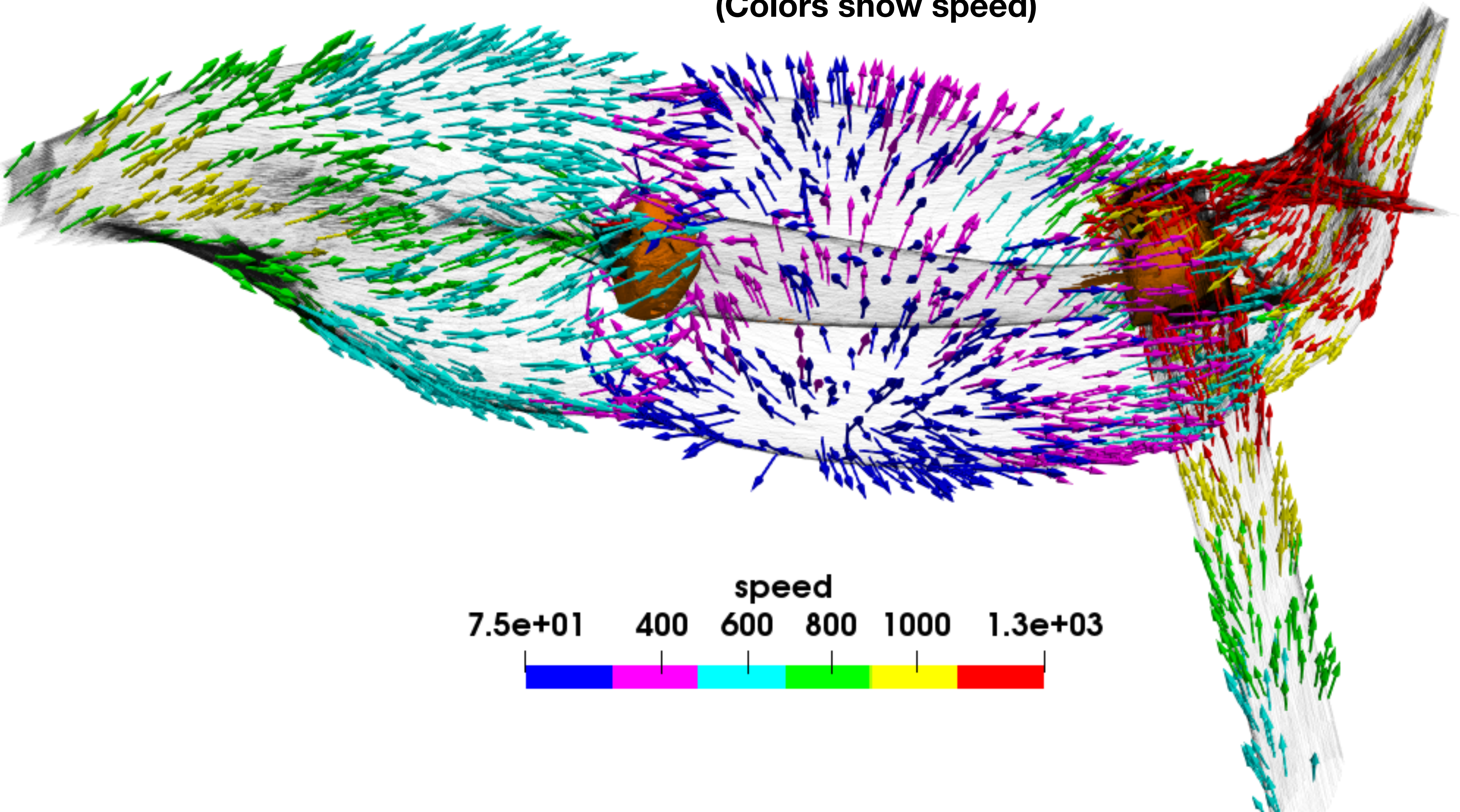
Eulerian space

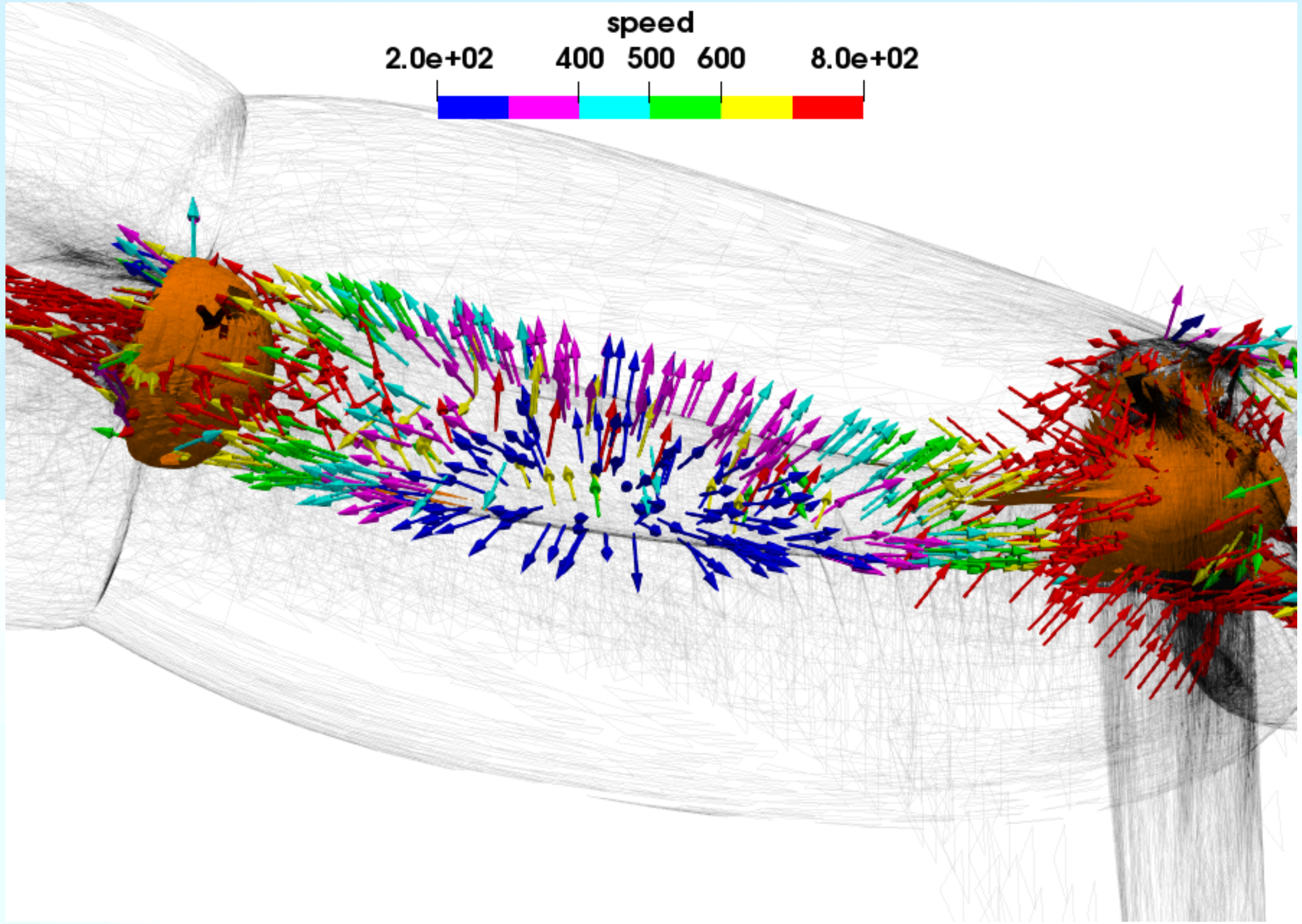
# Lagrangian space

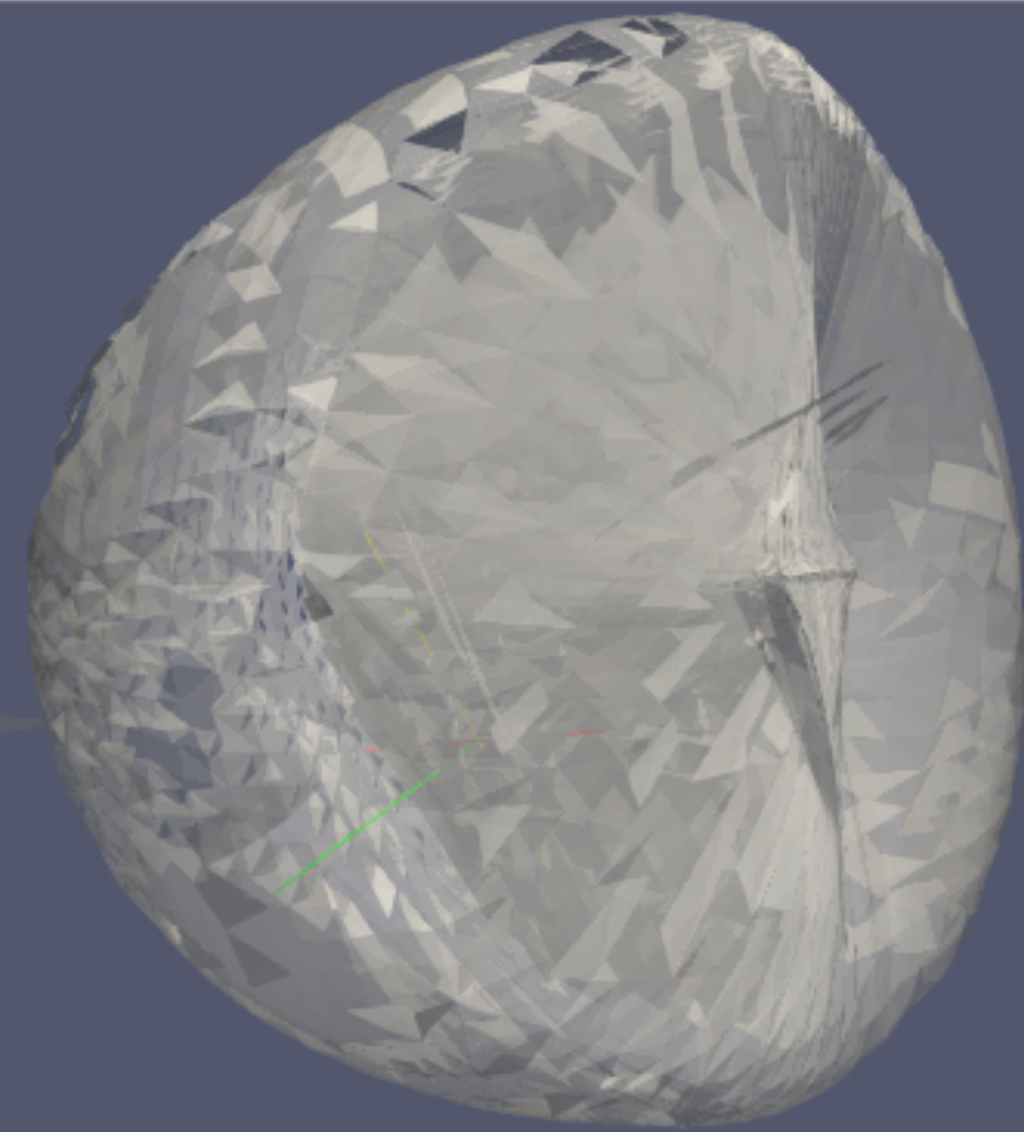


Caustics within a sphere of  $R \sim 25 \text{ Mpc}/h$

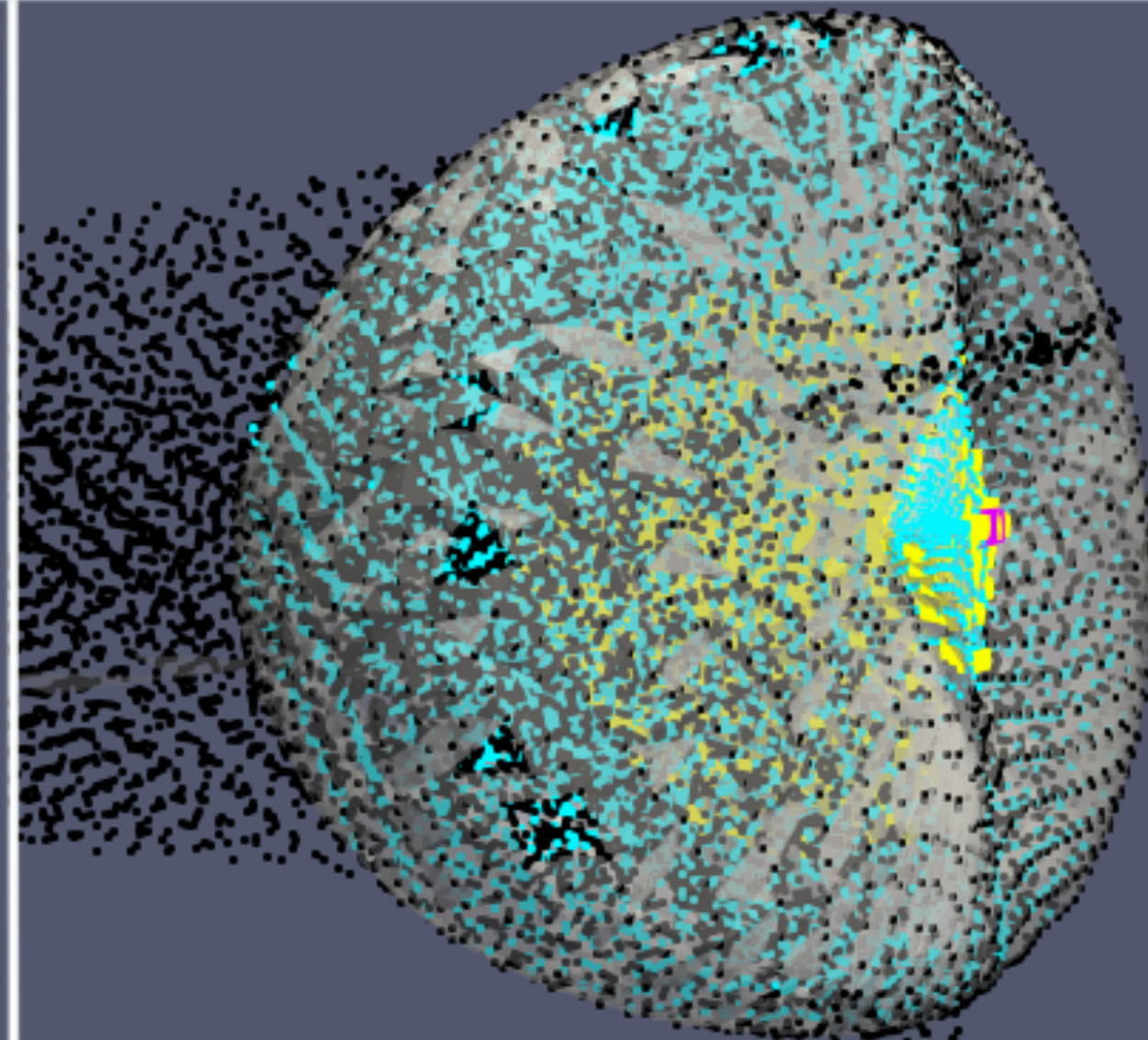
# Velocities (Colors show speed)



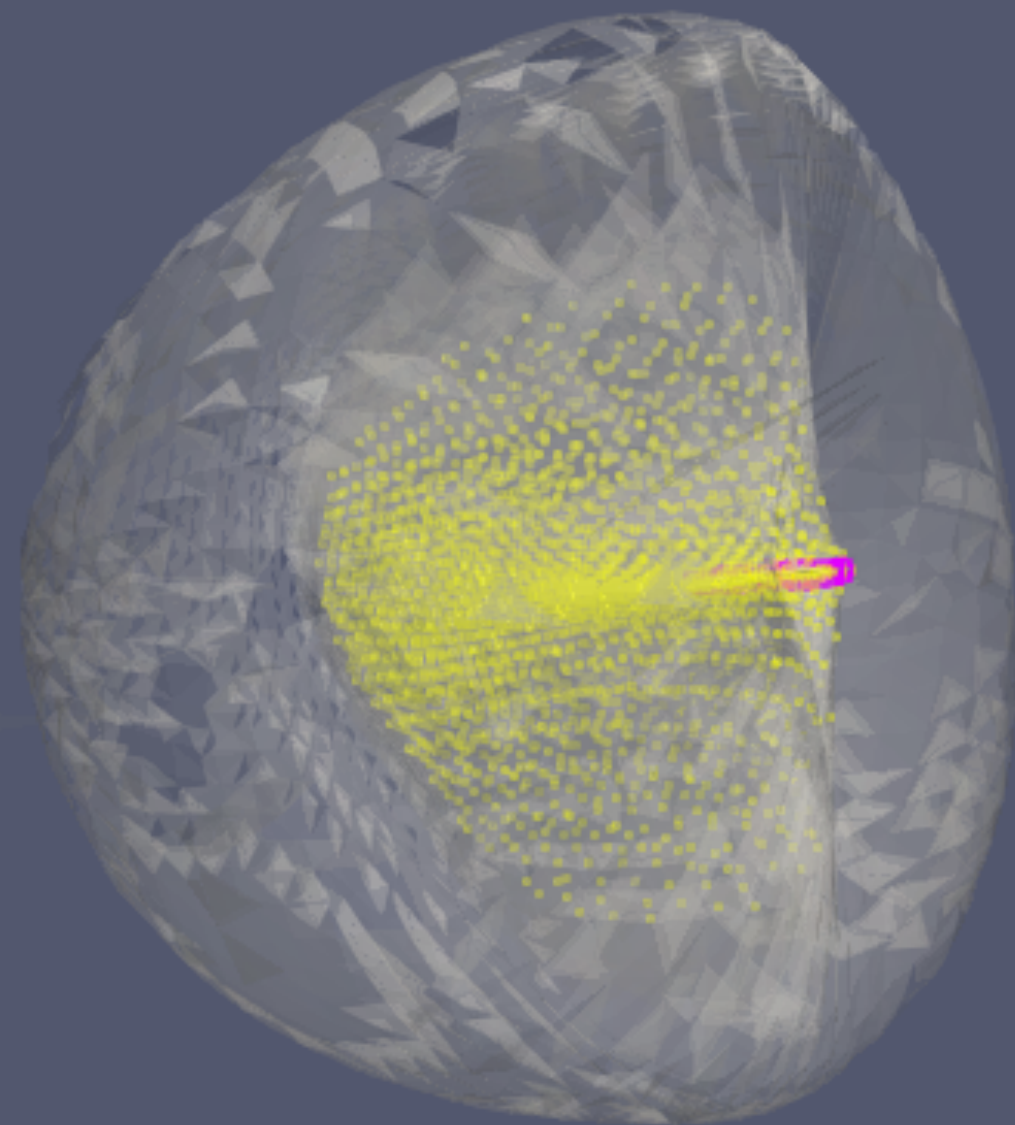
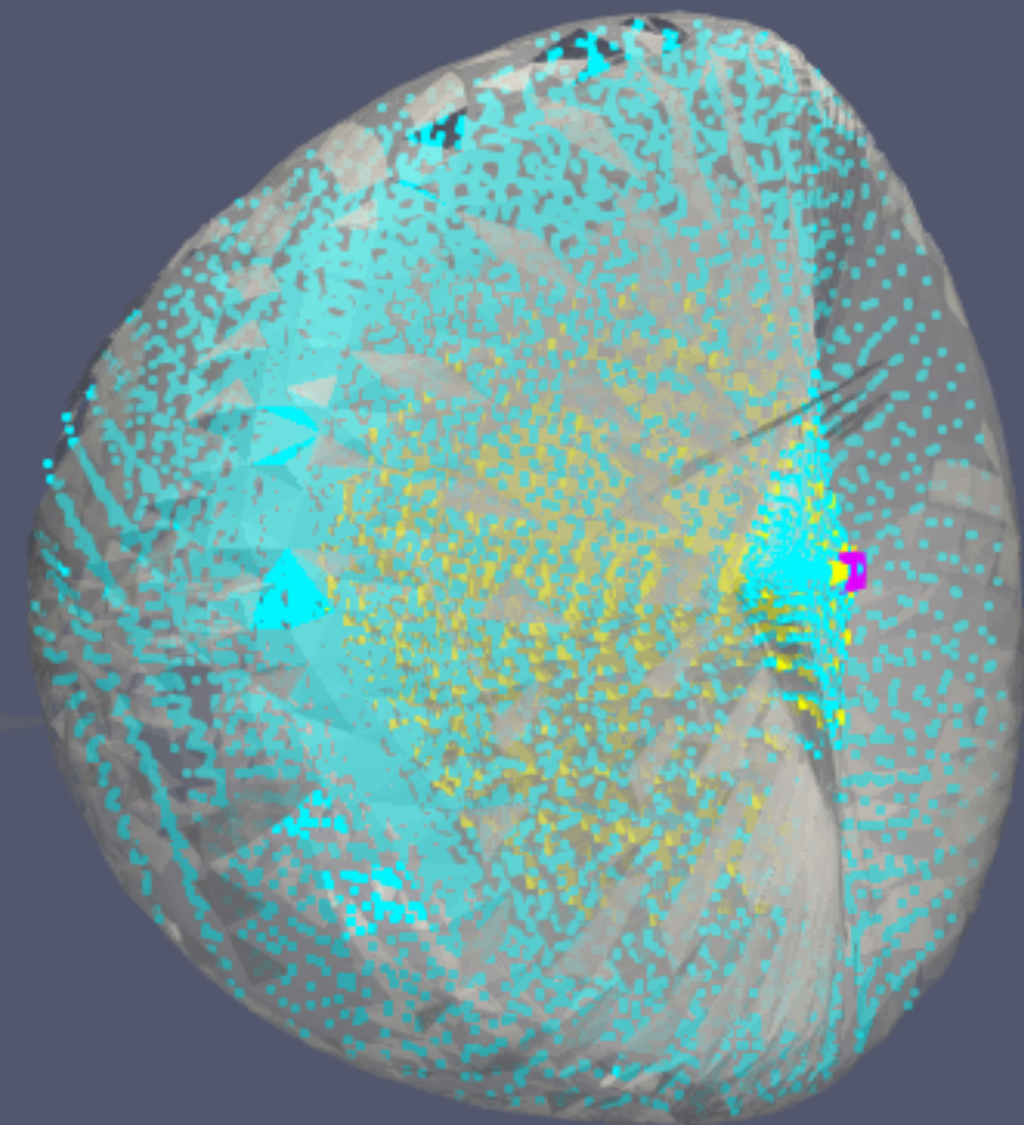


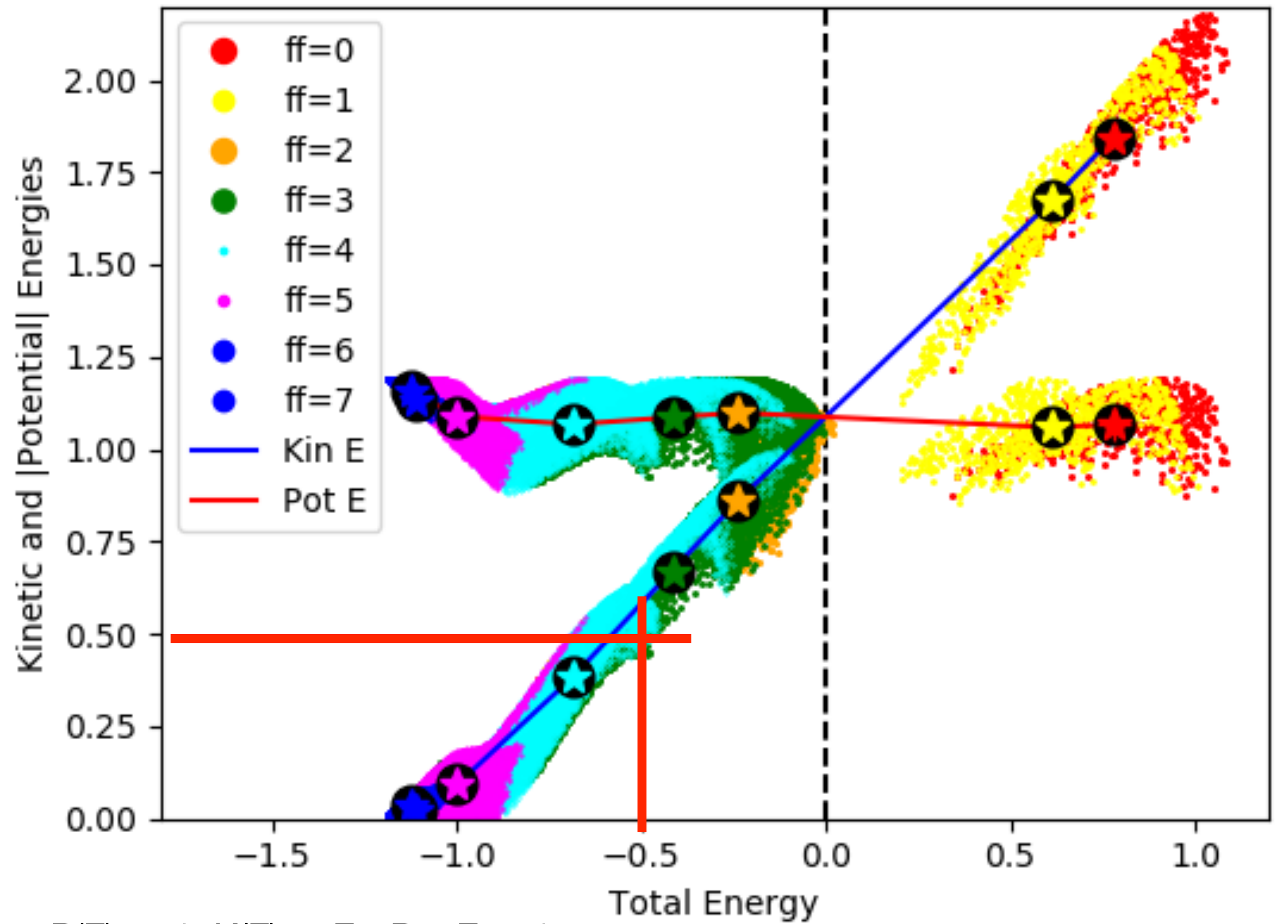
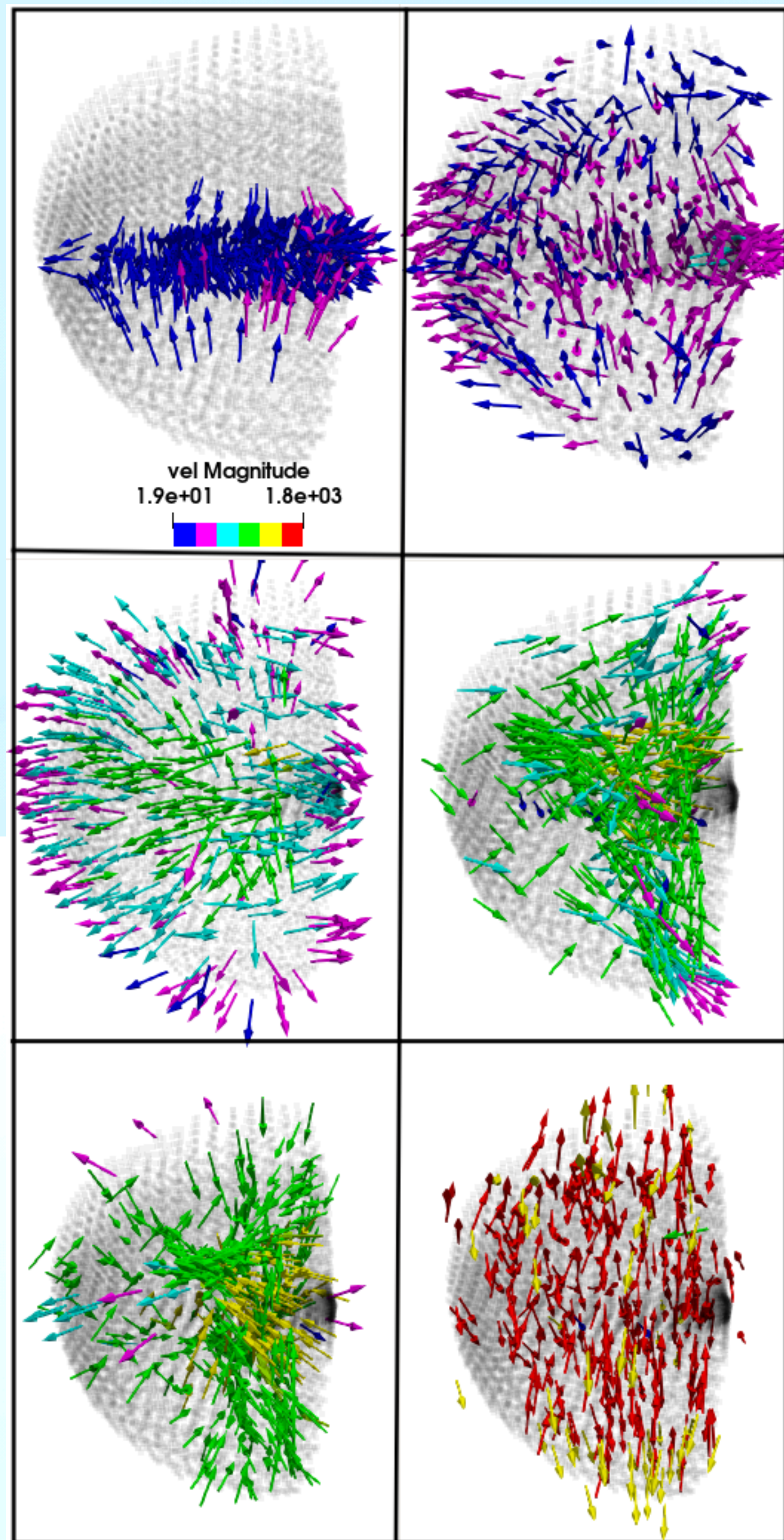


3 Mpc/h



$4 \leq \text{particles with flip-flops} \leq 7$

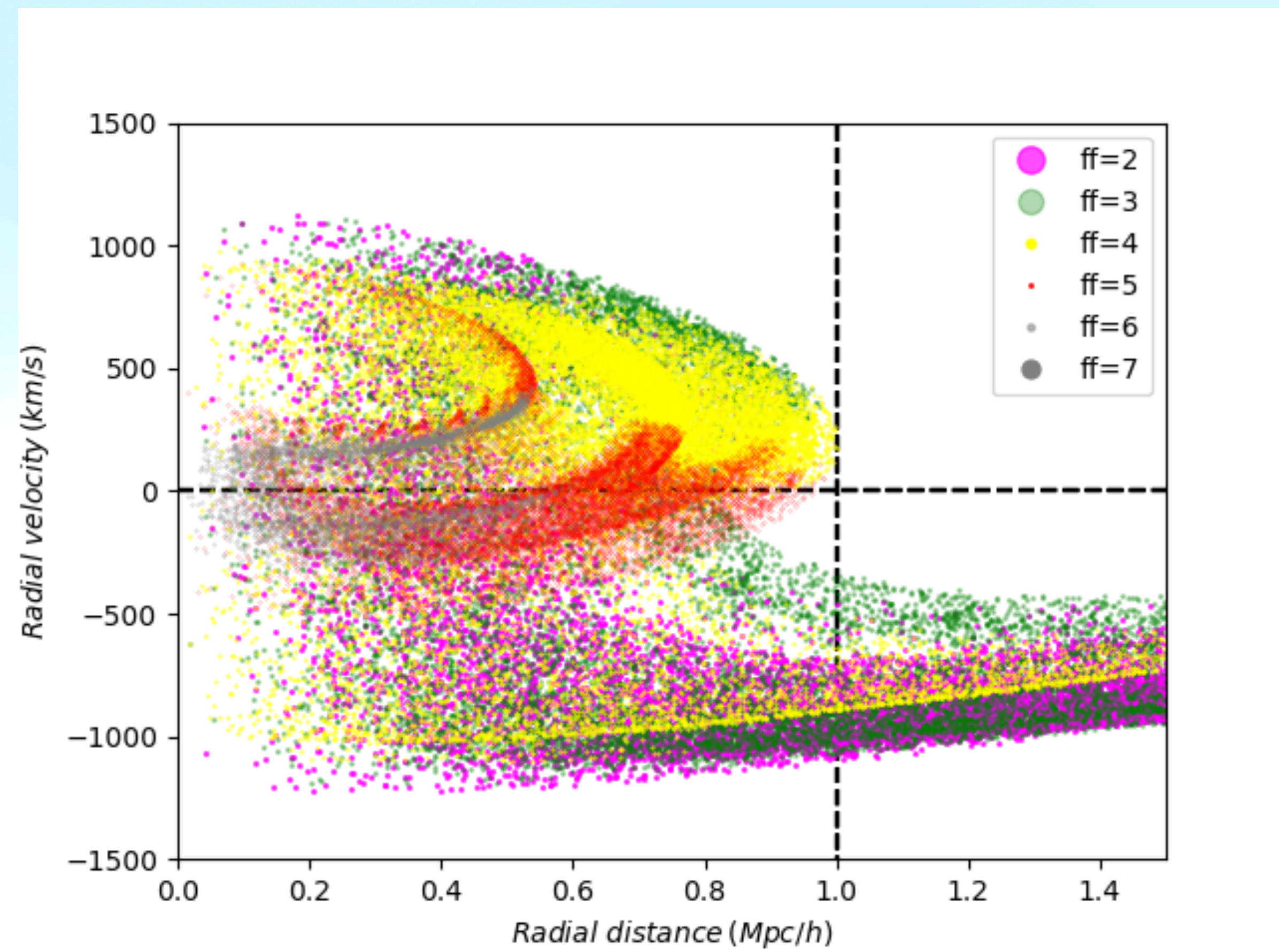
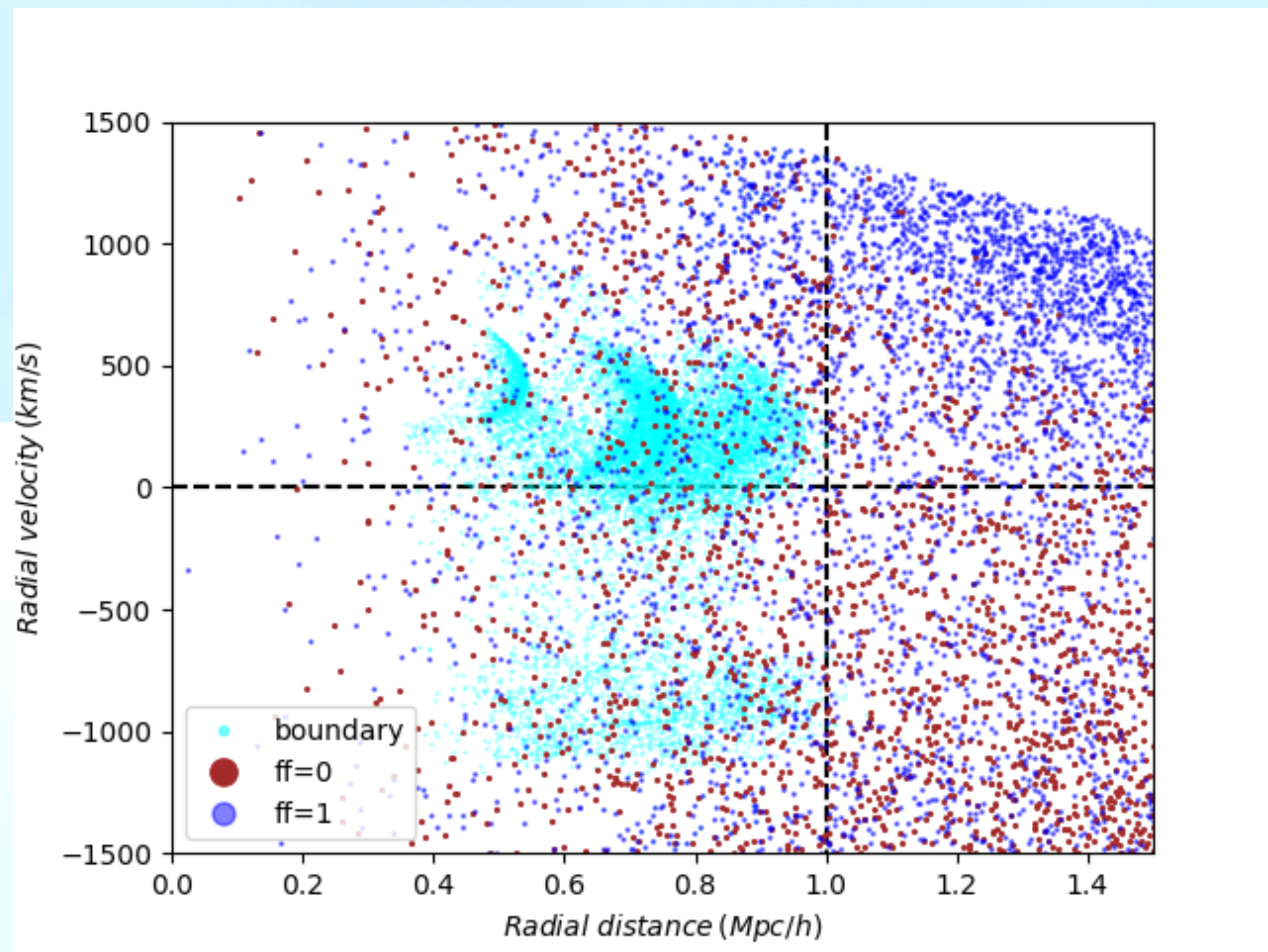




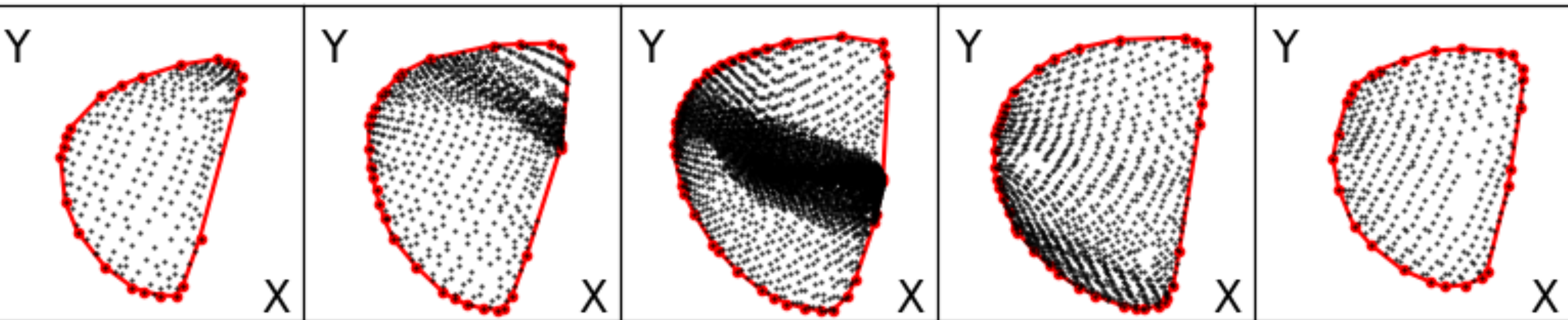
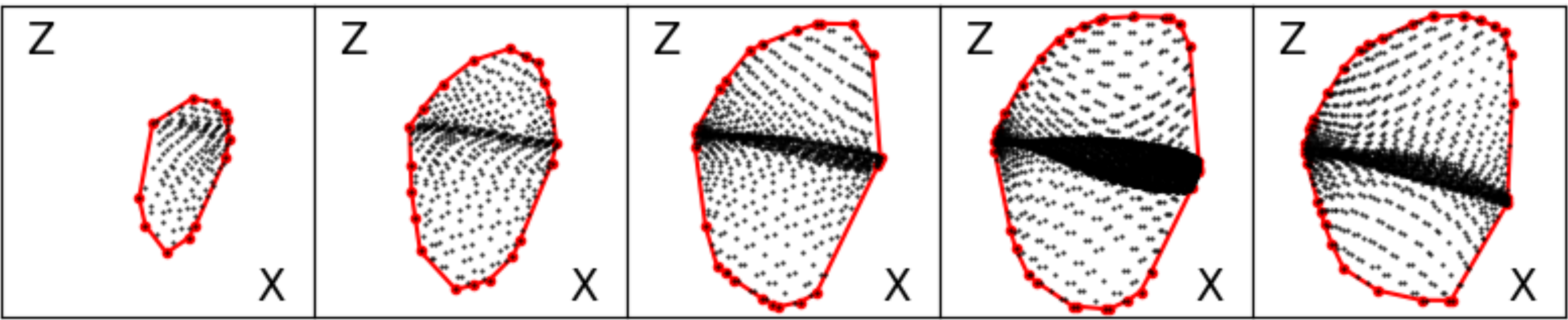
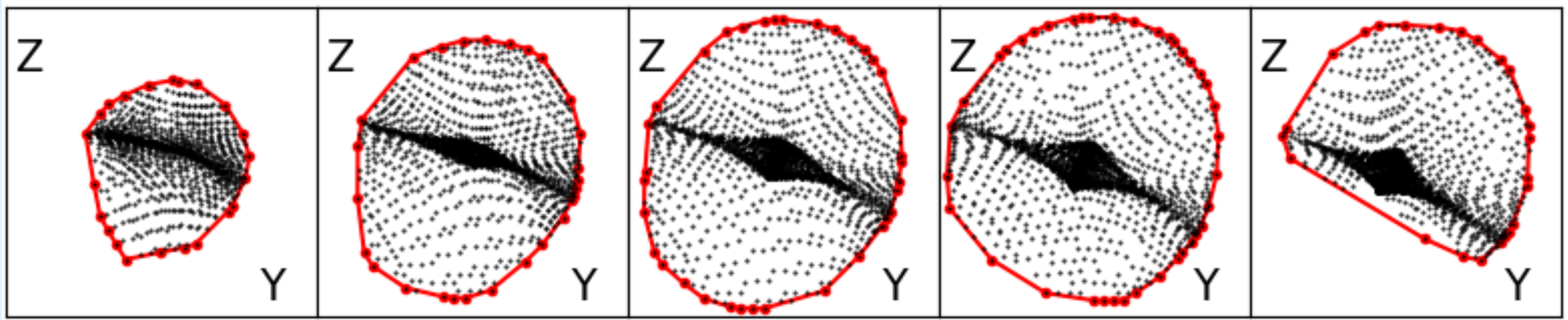
$$P(E) \sim -1; K(E) = E - P = E + 1$$

$$\text{Vir: } K = -E; K = -P/2 = 1/2$$





# Shape of the caustic boundary of the halo in E



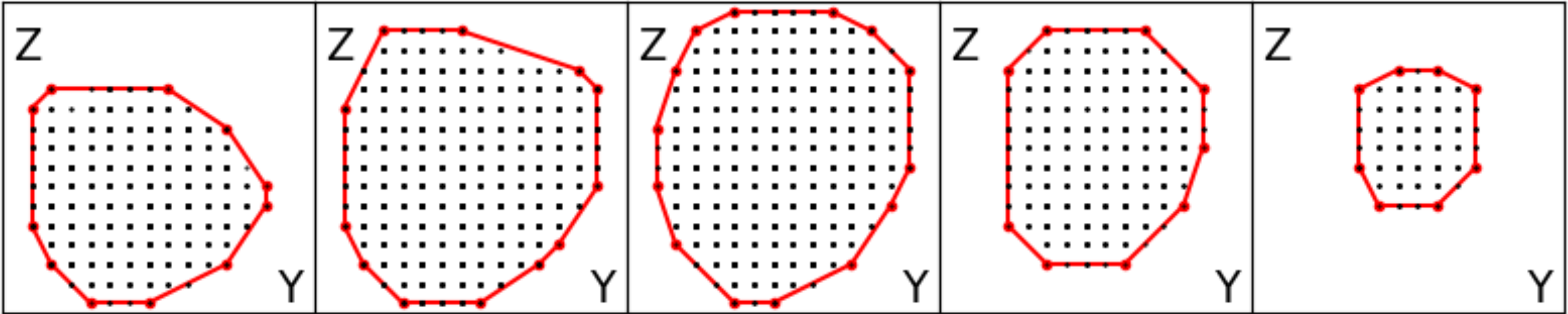
5 slices parallel to X, Y and Z axes

Black dots are particles with  $n_{ff} > 4$

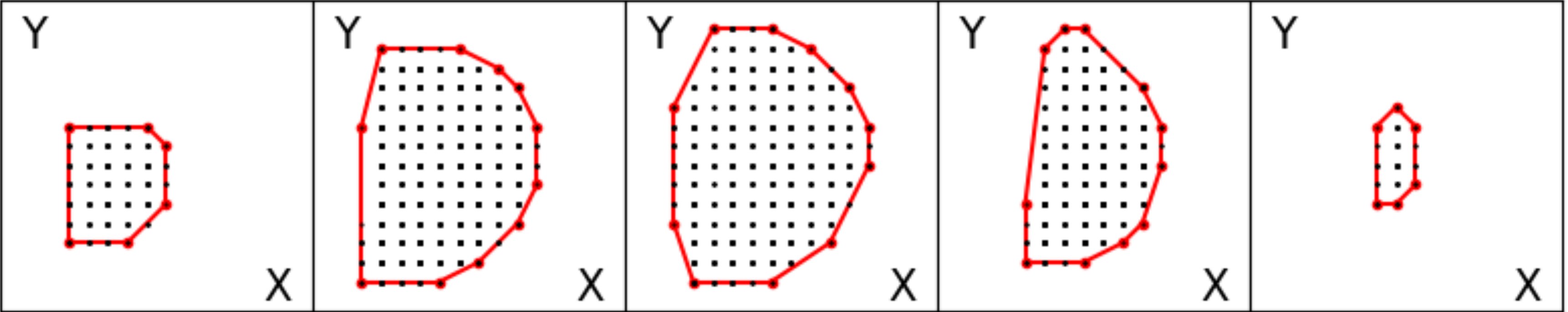
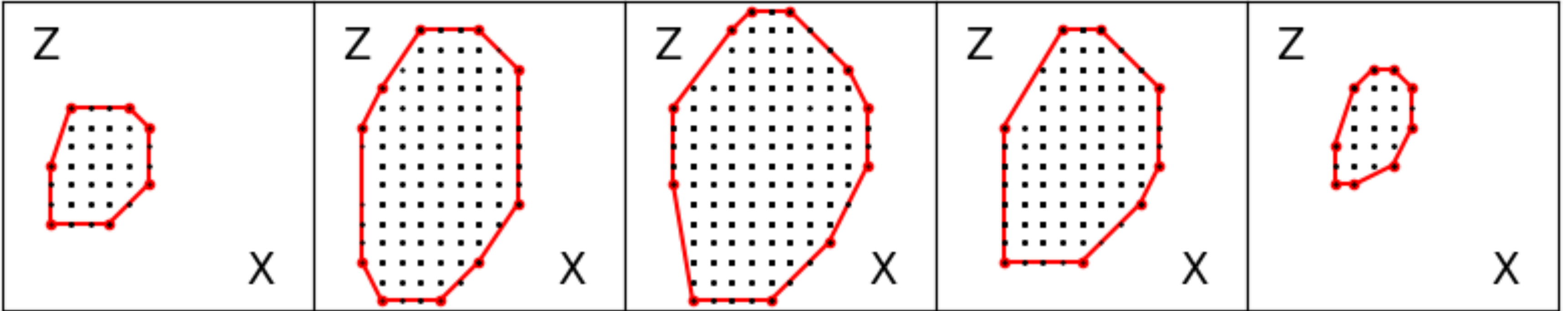
Slice thickness  $\sim 0.1 \text{ Mpc}/h$

Red contours are 2D convex hulls

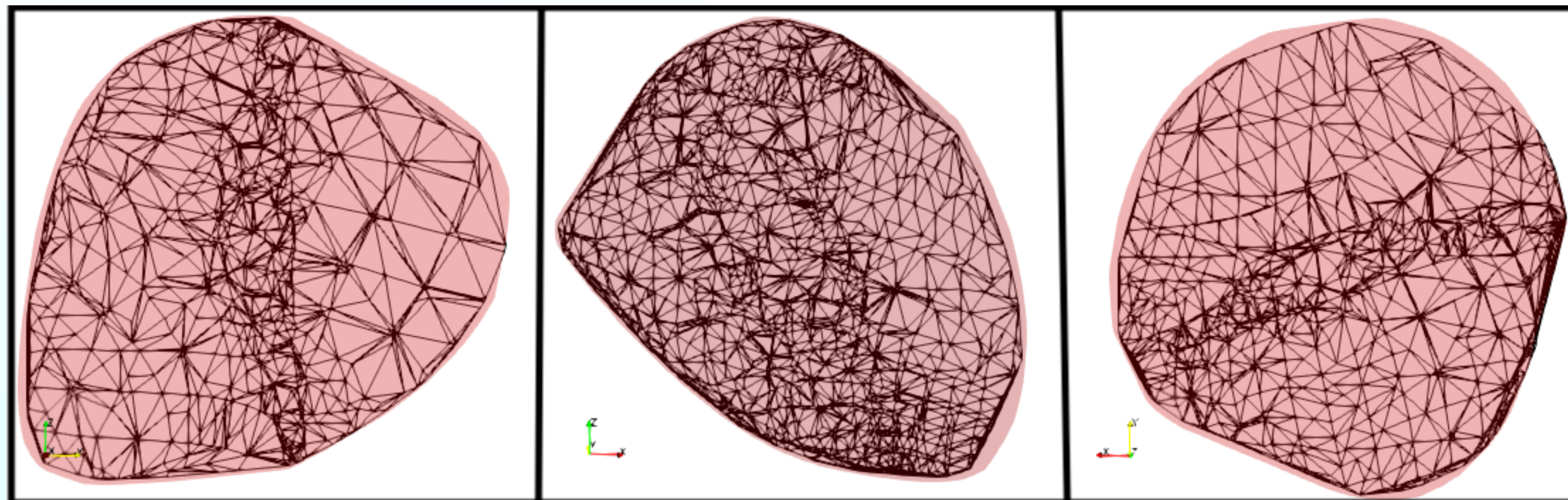
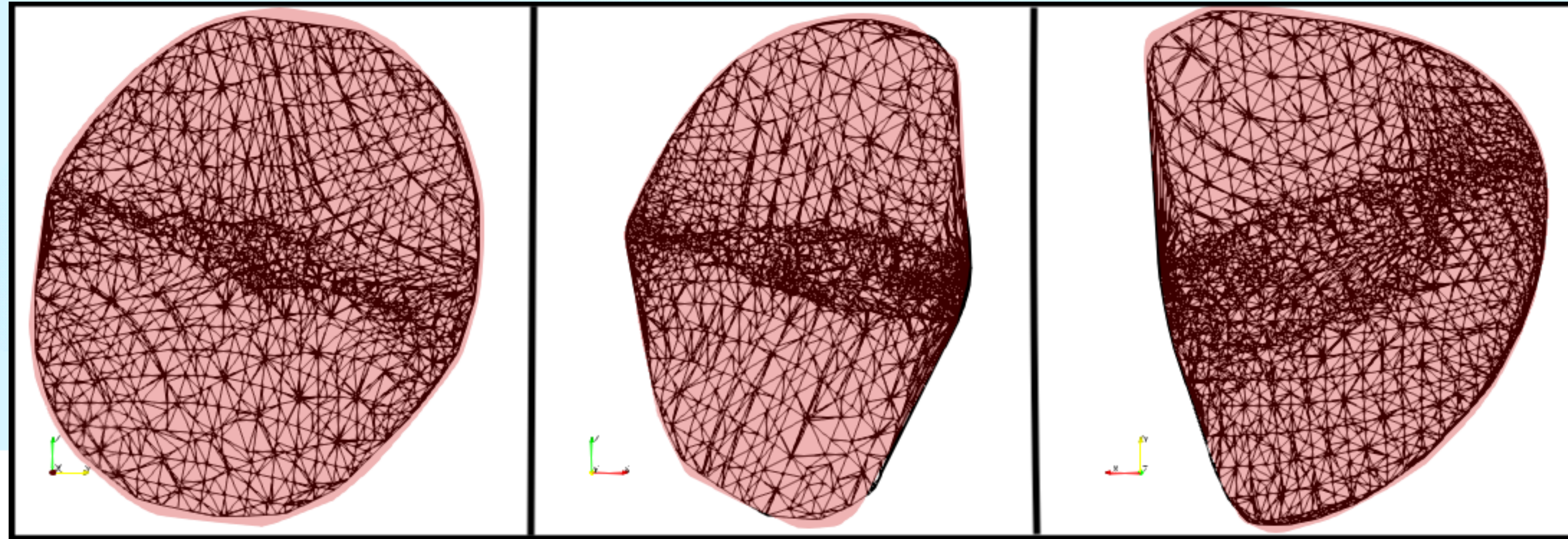
# Shape of the caustic boundary of the halo in L



Slice thickness  $\sim 0.4$  Mpc/h



Three mutually orthogonal slices through Delaunay tessellations of the both hallos in the dumbbell





# Summary

- (\*) Caustics allow to study the shapes of the DM web in cosmological simulations without assumptions about their boundaries.
- (\*) Caustics are not fancy constructions. They are physical objects.
- (\*) The shapes of caustic are direct products to the complex gravitational dynamics in collisionless media.
- (\*) The dumbbell structure consisting of two halos connected by a filament is one of the most common structures occurring in N-body simulations.
- (\*) It demonstrates two cylindrical caustic shells. The radius of the internal shell has the diameter similar to the sizes of the halos attached on both sides.
- (\*) Both caustic tubes supply mass to the halos.

(\*The halos are neither spherical no ellipsoidal.  
However, there shapes look like convex hulls.

(\* The count of flip-flops provide additional indicator helping to sort out multistrim  
Flows.

(\* There are streems that are not gravitationally bound to halos