The origin of stellar breaks as probed by S⁴G Juan Carlos Muñoz Mateos (ESO) Kartik Sheth, Armando Gil de Paz, Sharon Meidt + the S⁴G team



EWASS 2015 June 22-26 Tenerife

Type I (10%)Single exponential

Type II (60%)
 Downbending exponential

Type III (30%)
 Upbending exponential

Work by Freeman, van der Kruit, Erwin, Pohlen, Trujillo...



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Two scenarios for break formation

Redistribution of angular momentum by bars and/or spirals.



Debattista et al. (2006)

Two scenarios for break formation

Redistribution of angular momentum by bars and/or spirals.

Radial changes in the star formation efficiency.





The Spitzer Survey of Stellar Structure in Galaxies (Sheth+2010)

2352 galaxies (+ 465 ETGs) observed at 3.6 & 4.5µm

Dist < 40 Mpc, Ibl > 30° m_{Bcorr} < 15.5, D₂₅ > 1'

Very deep IR images $\mu_{3.6\mu m} \sim 27 \text{ ABmags/arcsec}^2$ (~1 M_o/pc²)

Directly probing old stars

We can easily see through dust





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Data access at IRSA irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/SPITZER/S4G



Muñoz-Mateos et al. (2015) Salo et al. (2015) Querejeta et al. (2015)

	Table Selection Standard Lo	ong For	m			Sex	agesimal Output No
Name	Description	Sel	Low Limit (include >,≥,=)	<u>Up Limit</u> (include <,≤,=)	Units	Indx	DBType
<u>bject</u>	Galaxy name						varchar2(17)
<u>a</u>	Right ascension (J2000)				deg	х	float(126)
ec	Declination (J2000)				deg	х	float(126)
na1_25p5	Semi-major axis at mu_3.6 = 25.5 AB mag/arcsec2	≤			arcsec		float(126)
<u>A1_25p5</u>	Position angle at mu_3.6 = 25.5 AB mag/arcsec2	≤			deg		float(126)
lip1_25p5	Ellipticity (1-b/a) at mu_3.6 = 25.5 AB mag/arcsec2						float(126)
ag1	Asymptotic magnitude at 3.6 microns				AB		float(126)
nag1	Growth-curve fitting error in mag1				AB		float(126)
ag2	Asymptotic magnitude at 4.5 microns	ø			AB		float(126)
nag2	Growth-curve fitting error in mag2				AB		float(126)
1_1	r75/r25 concentration index at 3.6 microns	✓					float(126)
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Measuring breaks and bars



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The break/bar ratio depends on mass



Many breaks lie at the bar OLR

For a flat rotation curve:

- V = constant
- $\Omega \propto 1/r$
- R_{OLR} ~ 1.7 R_{CR}
- In general:
 - R_{CR} ~ 1.2 R_{bar}
 (e.g. Elmegreen et al. 1996)
- Therefore:
 - R_{OLR} ~ 2 R_{bar}



Rotation curves are not always flat



Rising rotation curves push the OLR further out



Rising rotation curves push the OLRfurther out

Breaks at large radii in low-mass disks could still have a dynamical origin!



A second family of breaks at 3-4 R_{bar}



Bars and spiral arms can couple



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Debattista et al. (2006)

Bar/spiral coupling can yield breaks at large radius

- More efficient than a single pattern.
- Radial mixing in only ~ 3 Gyrs! (Minchev et al. 2010).













Conclusions

Breaks are signposts of disk assembly.

- In-situ star formation?
- Radial stellar migration?

Migration can create breaks at large radii.

- Rising rotation curves (in low mass disks).
- Spiral/bar coupling.

Molecular profiles are broken too.

• Sharper break than in the stellar profile.