

There are two common forms of galaxies, spirals and ellipticals. Galaxy formation was a bistable process.

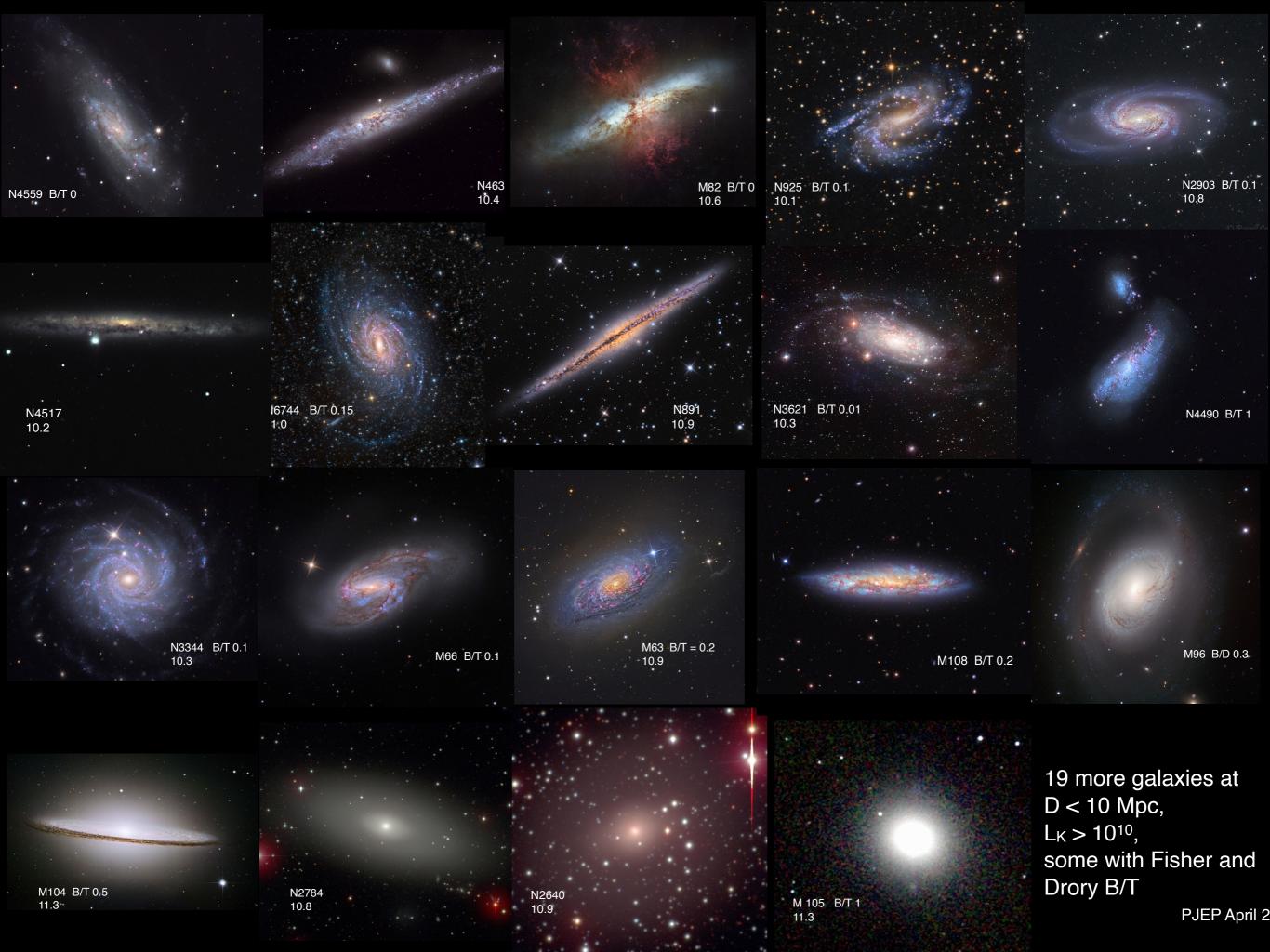


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There are exceptions; they are important but not very common nearby



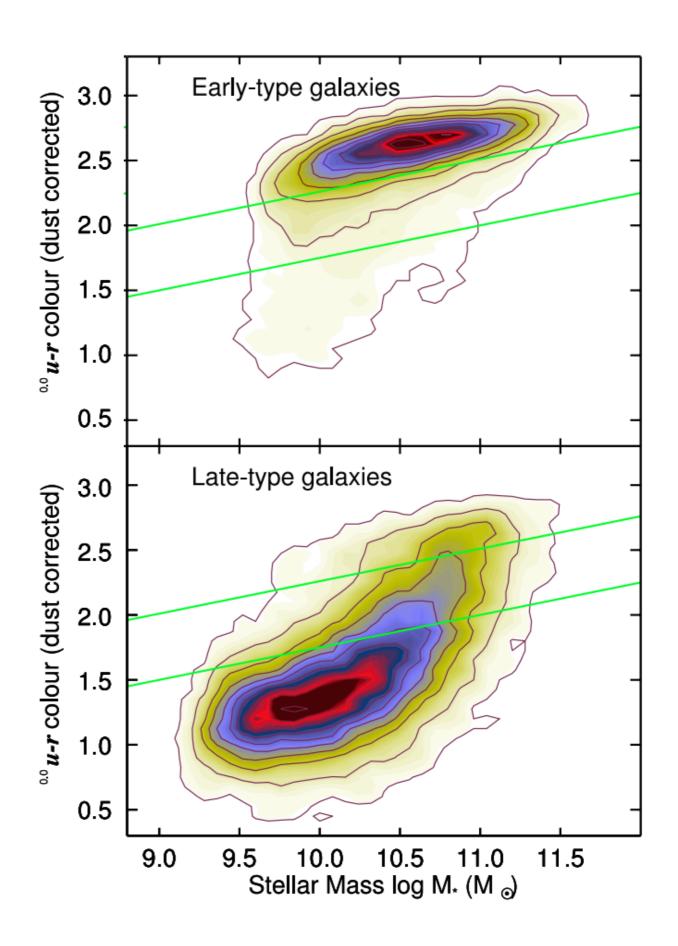


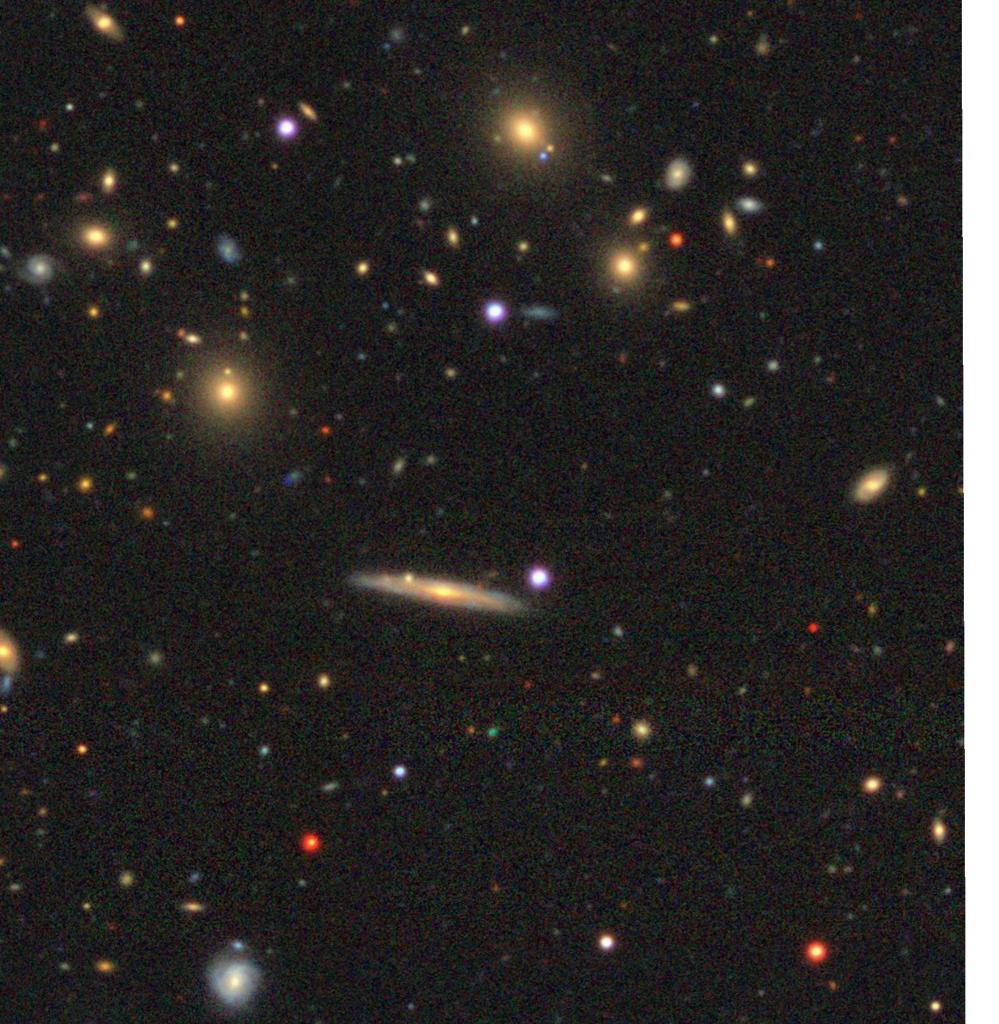


## Megan Urry

and colleagues used the Galaxy Zoo citizen science project "which assigns a morphology to a galaxy when 80 per cent or more of Galaxy Zoo users agreed on the classification." They find that, for their sample of some one million galaxies, "18 per cent are early types, 34 per cent are late types and 45 per cent are indeterminate types. The remaining 3 per cent are mergers." Urry tells me that most of the indeterminate ones are spirals with prominent bulges of stars; later types.

So what is the separatrix?





Mass does not seem to be the separatrix.

There are spirals with stellar masses comparable to giant ellipticals, as in this image. There are ellipticals and spirals with masses a tenth of the Milky Way.

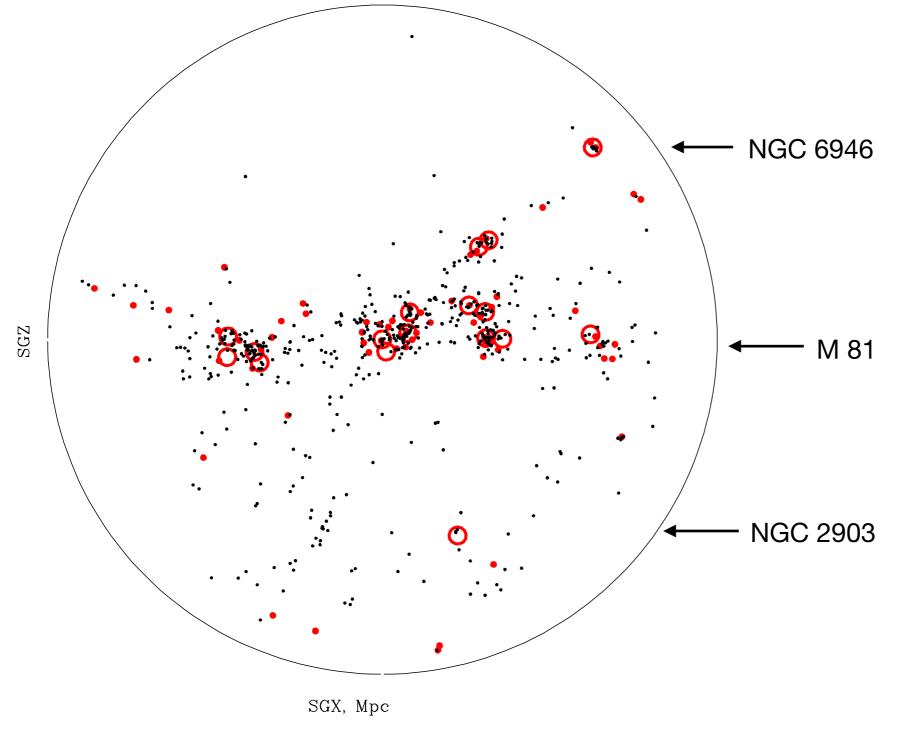
Legacy Sky Survey image, data, and advice courtesy of Patrick Ogle, Space Telescope Science Institute.

redshift 
$$z = 0.15$$
  
 $R_{25} = 72 \text{ kpc}$   
 $v_{\text{rot}} = 465 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ 

$$M_{25} \sim v_{\rm rot}^2 R_{25}/G$$
  
  $\sim 3 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ 

# Environment does not seem to be the separatrix.

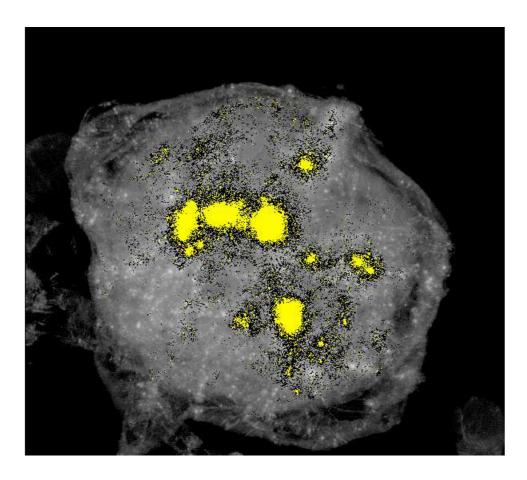
Nearby spirals are in a considerable variety of environments.

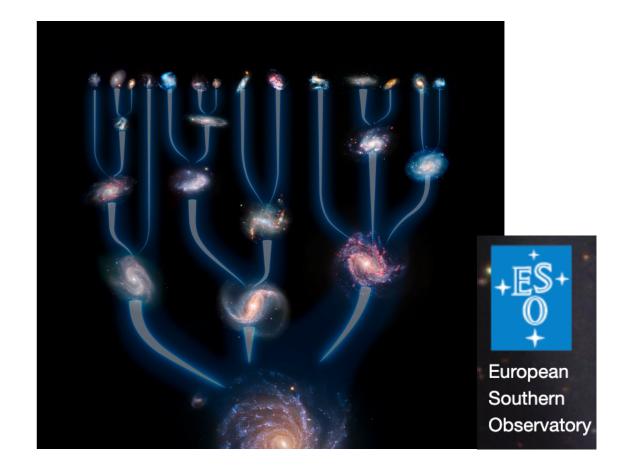


These are the known galaxies closer than 9 Mpc and more luminous than  $M_B = -10$ . The open red circles mark the most luminous.



## The Halo Merger Tree





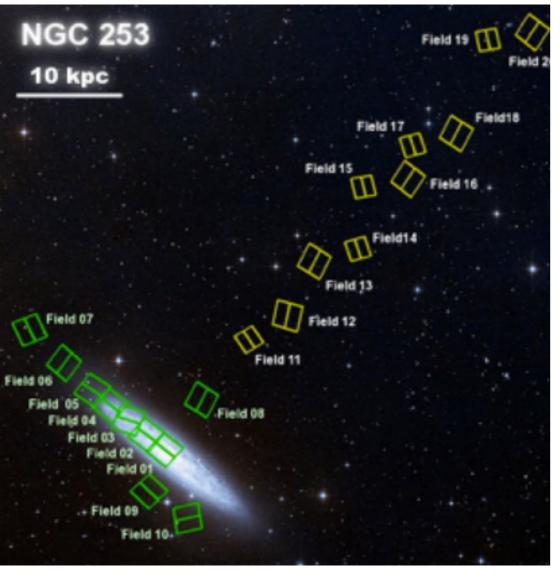
Auriga simulation, image by Jie Wang

The merger tree paradigm is inspired by the standard  $\Lambda$ CDM theory. It is influential; ADS astronomy lists "merger tree," with comments about galaxies, in the contents of

327 papers in 2022, 268 papers in 2021,

274 papers in 2020.







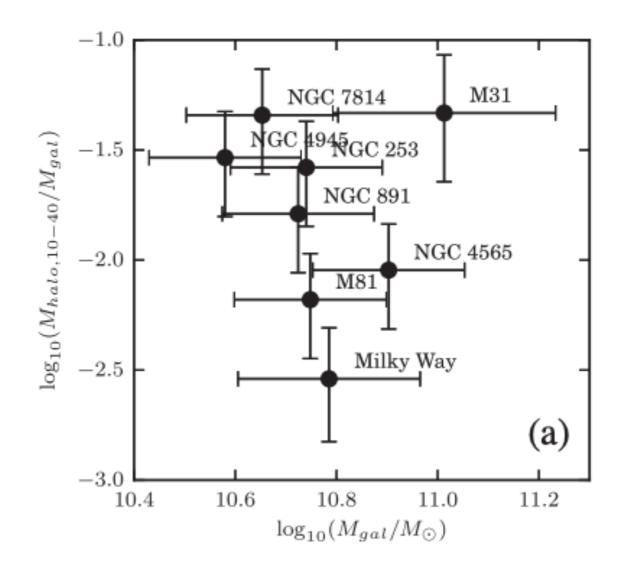


MNRAS 466, 1491–1512 (2017) Advance Access publication 2016 November 22

doi:10.1093/mnras/stw2992

#### Diverse stellar haloes in nearby Milky Way mass disc galaxies

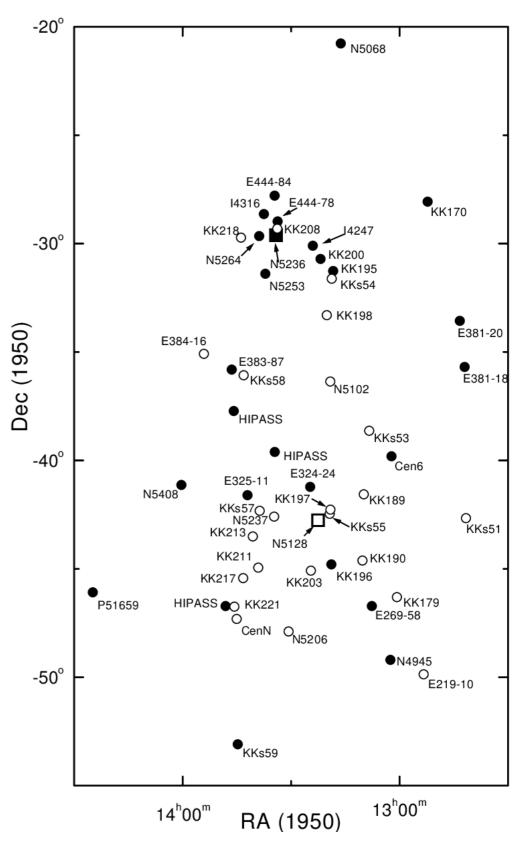
Benjamin Harmsen,<sup>1★</sup> Antonela Monachesi,<sup>2★</sup> Eric F. Bell,<sup>1★</sup> Roelof S. de Jong,<sup>3</sup> Jeremy Bailin,<sup>4,5</sup> David J. Radburn-Smith<sup>6</sup> and Benne W. Holwerda<sup>7</sup>



## It is said that ellipticals formed by dry mergers, spirals by wet mergers







### Karachentsev et al. 2002

The open and filled circles are early- and late-type galaxies.