

# How "MOND-like" is Quasilinear MOND?

Investigating the Vertical Acceleration Field of the Milky Way

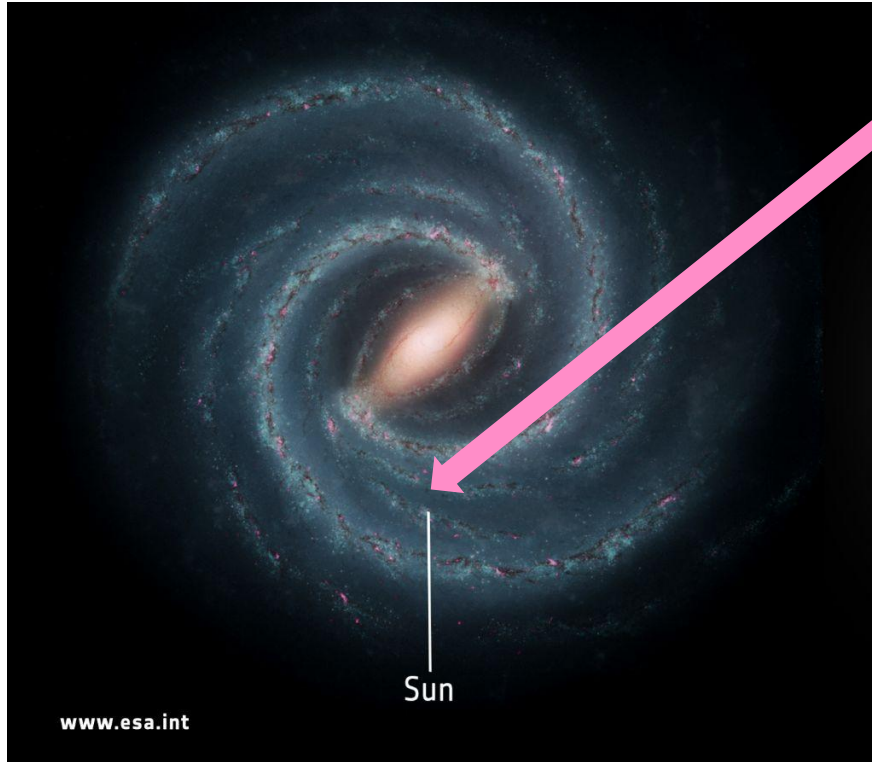
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In collaboration with Professor Katherine Brown, Hamilton College

Discussions: Professor Stacy McGaugh, CWRU



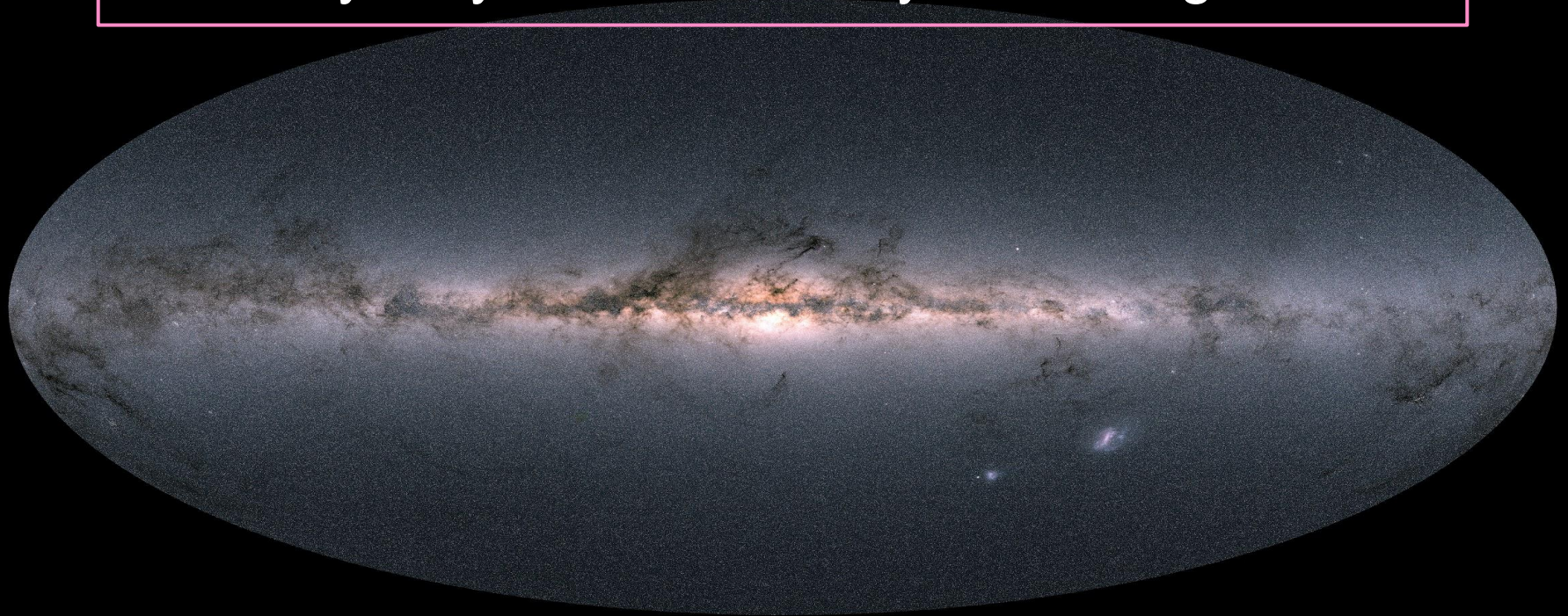
# The Milky Way as a Laboratory for Testing MOND



The sun is around  $2a_0$  (McGaugh 2016)

Moderate MOND behavior expected

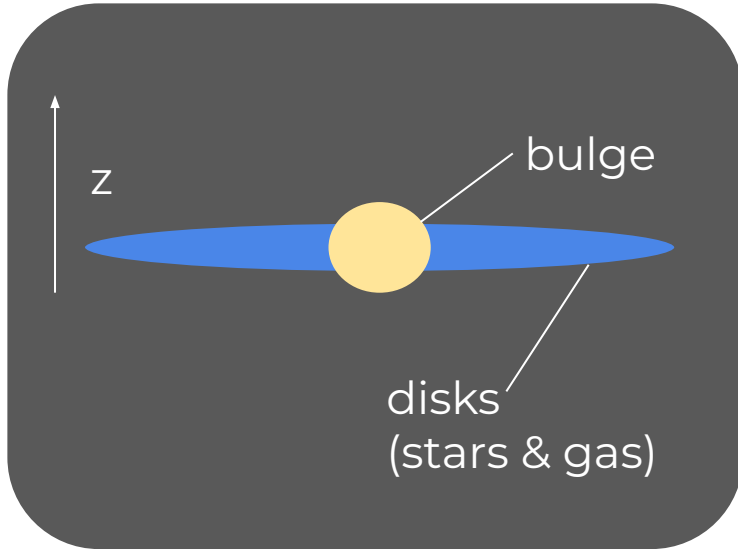
# The Milky Way as a Laboratory for Testing MOND



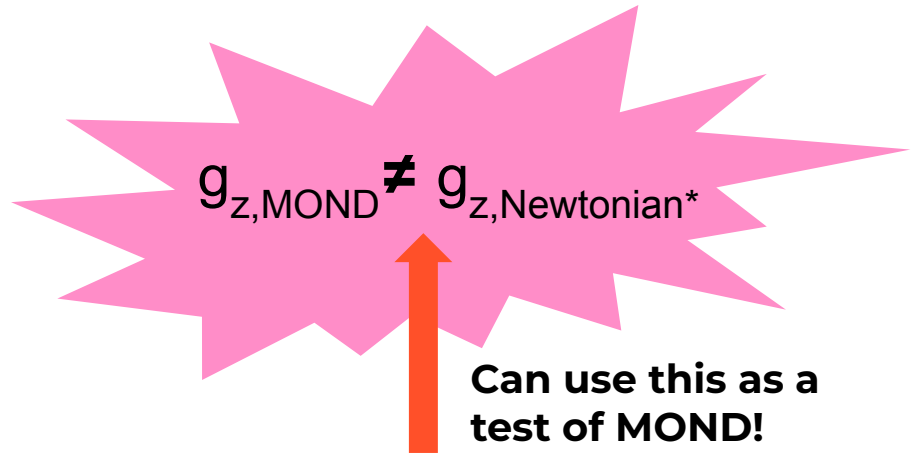
Full astrometric solution (parallax, proper motion, etc.)  
for  $>10^9$  stars in the Milky Way with unprecedented  
resolution ( $\sim 0.01$  mas)

# GAIA

# Vertical Dynamics as a Test of MOND



Acceleration due to gravity  $\mathbf{g}$



Nipoti et al. (2007)

\*Newtonian  $\equiv$  Newtonian gravity + dark matter halo

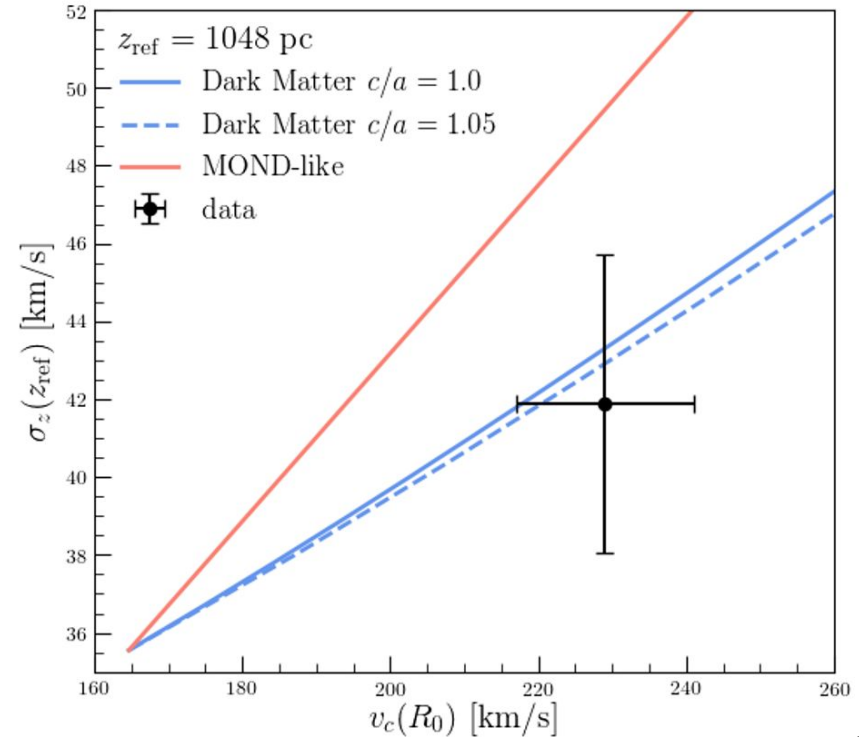
# Vertical Dynamics as a Test of MOND: Previous Work

Nipoti et al. (2007)

- MOND vertical acceleration near the plane and vertical velocity dispersion larger than Newtonian gravity + DM

Lisanti et al. (2019)

- “MOND-like” models enhance radial & vertical accelerations equally  $\rightarrow$  overpredicts vertical acceleration
- Anomalously large stellar bulge and/or anomalously small disk scale radius required to match observations



Lisanti et al. (2019)

# The relevant flavors of MOND

## Pristine MOND (Milgrom 1983)

- Algebraic interpolation of the Newtonian acceleration due to baryons

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right) \quad \text{Eq. 2 of Milgrom (1983)}$$

- Not derivable from a Lagrangian, energy and momentum not conserved

## Quasilinear MOND (Milgrom 2010)

- Derivable from a Lagrangian
- The Quasilinear MOND acceleration is the curl-free part of the Pristine MOND acceleration (Brown et al. 2018)

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \nabla \cdot \left( \nu\left(\frac{\nabla \Phi_N}{a_0}\right) \nabla \Phi_N \right)$$



# The relevant flavors of MOND

## Pristine MOND

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right) \quad \text{Milgrom (1983) eq. 2}$$

Good for: basic tenets of  
MOND, rotation curve analysis

## Quasilinear MOND (QUMOND)

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \Phi_Q = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left( \nu\left(\frac{\vec{\nabla} \Phi_N}{a_0}\right) \vec{\nabla} \Phi_N \right) \quad \text{Milgrom (2010)}$$



$\mathbf{g}_Q$

Good for: non-test-particle motion

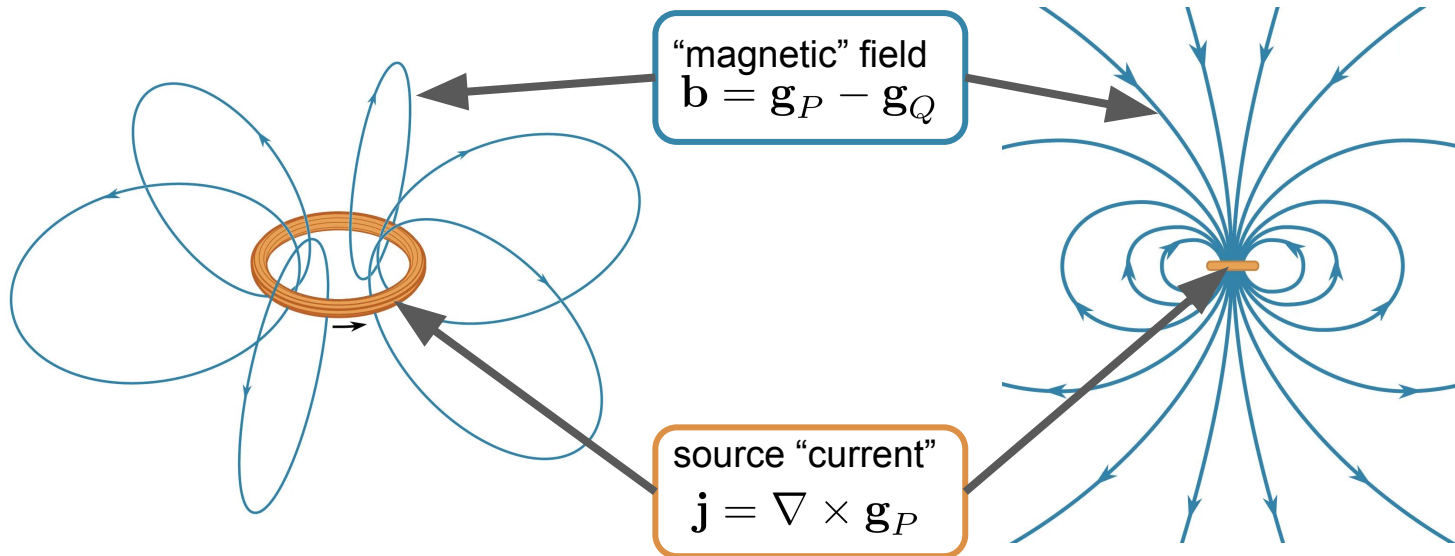
More computationally tractable  
than AQUAL/nonlinear MOND

# Magnetostatics Analogy for Quasilinear MOND

$\mathbf{g}_P$ : Pristine MOND acceleration

$\mathbf{g}_Q$ : Quasilinear MOND acceleration

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{g}_Q &= \nabla \cdot \mathbf{g}_P \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{g}_Q &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \longrightarrow \mathbf{g}_Q \text{ is the curl-free part of } \mathbf{g}_P$$



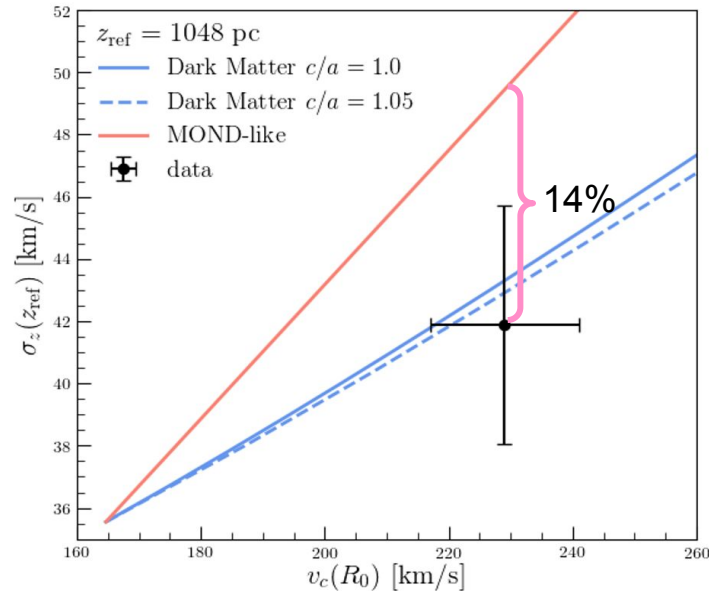
The difference between  $\mathbf{g}_P$  and  $\mathbf{g}_Q$  resembles a magnetic field sourced by the curl of  $\mathbf{g}_P$



# Is MOND “MOND-like”?

Lisanti finds a small overprediction in the vertical acceleration using **Pristine MOND** as a proxy for all “MOND-like theories”

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$



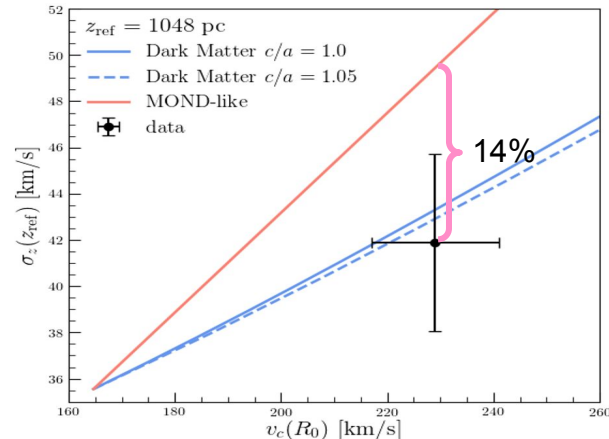
Lisanti et al. (2019)

# Is MOND MOND-like?

Lisanti finds a small overprediction in the vertical acceleration using Pristine MOND as a proxy for all “MOND-like theories”

**Central Question: Could this tension arise simply from the difference between Pristine MOND and Quasilinear MOND?**

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$



Lisanti et al. (2019)

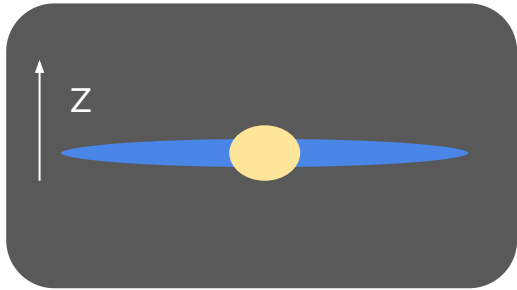
## Is MOND MOND-like?

Lisanti finds a small overprediction in the vertical acceleration using Pristine MOND as a proxy for all “MOND-like theories”

**Central Question: Could this tension arise simply from the difference between Pristine MOND and Quasilinear MOND?**

$$g_{z,\text{PMOND}} \stackrel{?}{\approx} g_{z,\text{QUMOND}}$$

# Quasilinear MOND Poisson Solver



$g_{z,PMOND}$  &  $g_{z,QUMOND}$

QUMOND Poisson solver using Fourier methods and discrete differentiation:

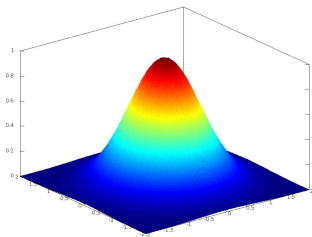
1. Solve Newtonian poisson eq to get Newtonian acceleration (in Fourier domain)
2. Interpolate to get Pristine MOND acceleration (in real domain)
3. Take curl free part to get Quasilinear MOND acceleration (in Fourier domain)

1. Solve the Newtonian Poisson eq. to get the Newtonian acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## The Brown method: Banishing Infinite Galaxies

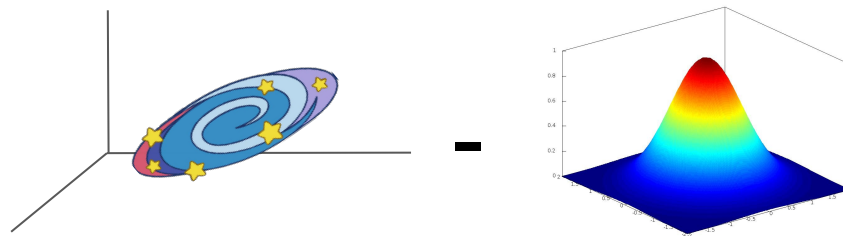
Gaussian subtraction (Brown et al. 2018)

1.



Construct  $\rho_{\text{gauss}}$  with total mass equal to  $M_{\text{gal}}$

2.



Solve the Newtonian Poisson equation for the difference between the two density distributions  $\Phi_{\text{diff}} = \Phi_{\text{gal}} - \Phi_{\text{gauss}}$

3.

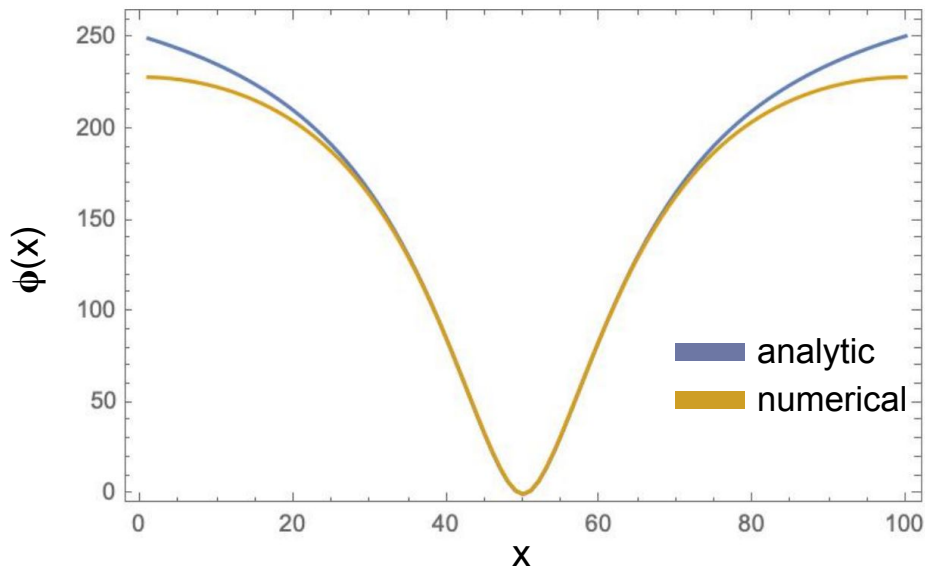
Differentiate to get  $\mathbf{g}_{\text{diff}} = \mathbf{g}_{\text{gal}} - \mathbf{g}_{\text{gauss}}$

4.  $\mathbf{g}_{\text{gal}} = \mathbf{g}_{\text{diff}} + \mathbf{g}_{\text{gauss}}$

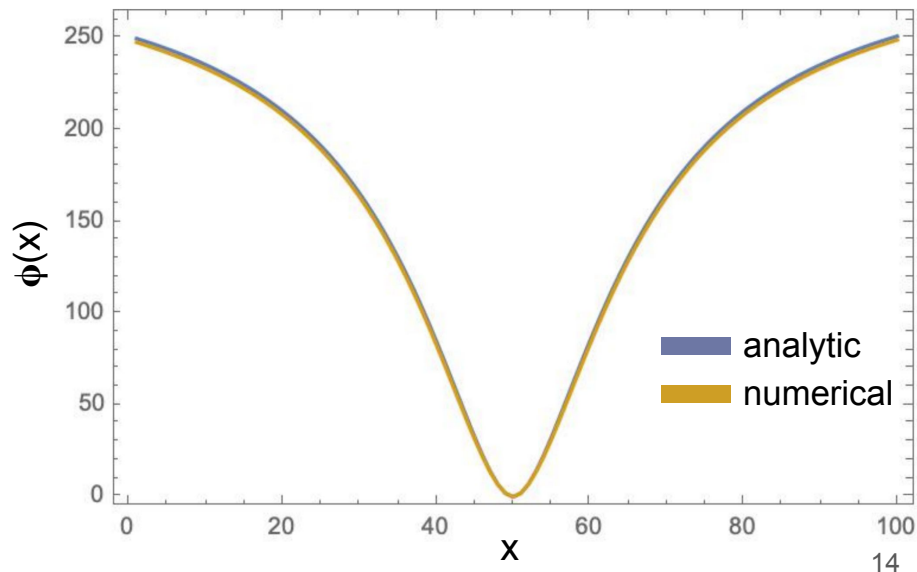
1. Solve the Newtonian Poisson eq. to get the Newtonian acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## The Brown method continued

Newtonian potential along the x-axis due to a spherical exponential galaxy  $\rho = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{r}{\lambda}\right)$  without accounting for periodic boundary conditions



Newtonian potential along the x-axis due to a spherical exponential galaxy  $\rho = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{r}{\lambda}\right)$  after applying Gaussian subtraction



1. Solve the Newtonian Poisson eq. to get the Newtonian acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## QUMOND Poisson Solver





2. Interpolate to get Pristine MOND acceleration (in the real domain)

## QUMOND Poisson Solver



Interpolate

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$

$$\nu(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \exp(-\sqrt{x})}$$

3. Take the curl-free part to get Quasilinear MOND acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## QUMOND Poisson Solver



Interpolate

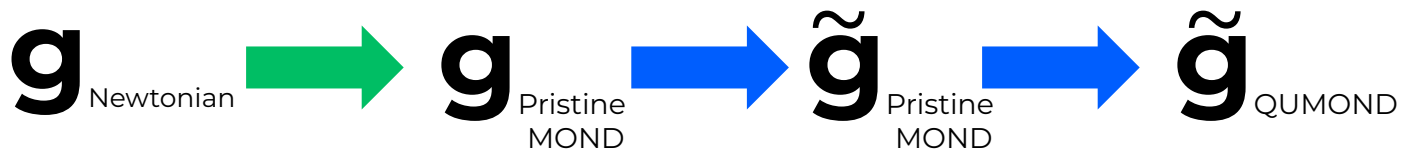
$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$

Fourier  
transform

$$\nu(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \exp(-\sqrt{x})}$$

3. Take the curl-free part to get Quasilinear MOND acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## QUMOND Poisson Solver



Interpolate

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$

$$\nu(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \exp(-\sqrt{x})}$$

Fourier transform

Take the curl free part

$$\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_Q = \frac{\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_P)}{k^2}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_Q = \tilde{\mathbf{b}} + \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_P$$

$\downarrow$   
 $\propto 1/r^4$

3. Take the curl-free part to get Quasilinear MOND acceleration (in the Fourier domain)

## QUMOND Poisson Solver



Interpolate

$$\mathbf{g}_P = \mathbf{g}_N \nu\left(\frac{g_N}{a_0}\right)$$

$$\nu(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \exp(-\sqrt{x})}$$

Fourier transform

Take the curl free part

Inverse Fourier transform

$$\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_Q = \frac{\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_P)}{k^2}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_Q = \tilde{\mathbf{b}} + \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_P$$

  
 $\propto 1/r^4$

# MOND Galactic Model of Lisanti et al.

Lisanti models:

- Stellar disk
  - Gaseous disk
  - Stellar bulge
- $$\left. \begin{array}{l} \rho_i(R, z) = \rho_{i,0} \exp(-R/h_{i,R} - |z|/h_{i,z}) \\ i = *, g \end{array} \right\}$$
- $$\rho_b(r) = \frac{M_* r_*}{2\pi r (r + r_*)^3}$$

Fixed:  $r_* = 600 \text{ pc}$

$h_{g,z} = 130 \text{ pc}$

$h_{*,z} = 300 \text{ pc}$

$h_{g,R} = 2h_{*,R}$

Remaining  
Parameters:

Results of Pristine  
MOND Bayesian  
likelihood analysis  
with local MW data  
(Lisanti et al.  
Table II)

$\rho_{*,0} = 1.37 M_{\odot}/\text{pc}^3$

$h_{*,R} = 2410 \text{ pc}$

$\rho_{g,0} = 0.25 M_{\odot}/\text{pc}^3$

$M_* = 4.29 * 10^{10} M_{\odot}$

# Our Galactic Model

$h_R = 3210$  pc  
(Lisanti et al. RAR  
fit for stellar disk)

$$\rho(R, z) = \rho_0 \exp(-R/h_R - |z|/h_z)$$

Defined so that  
the radial  
acceleration at  
solar radius =  
 $1.9 a_0$

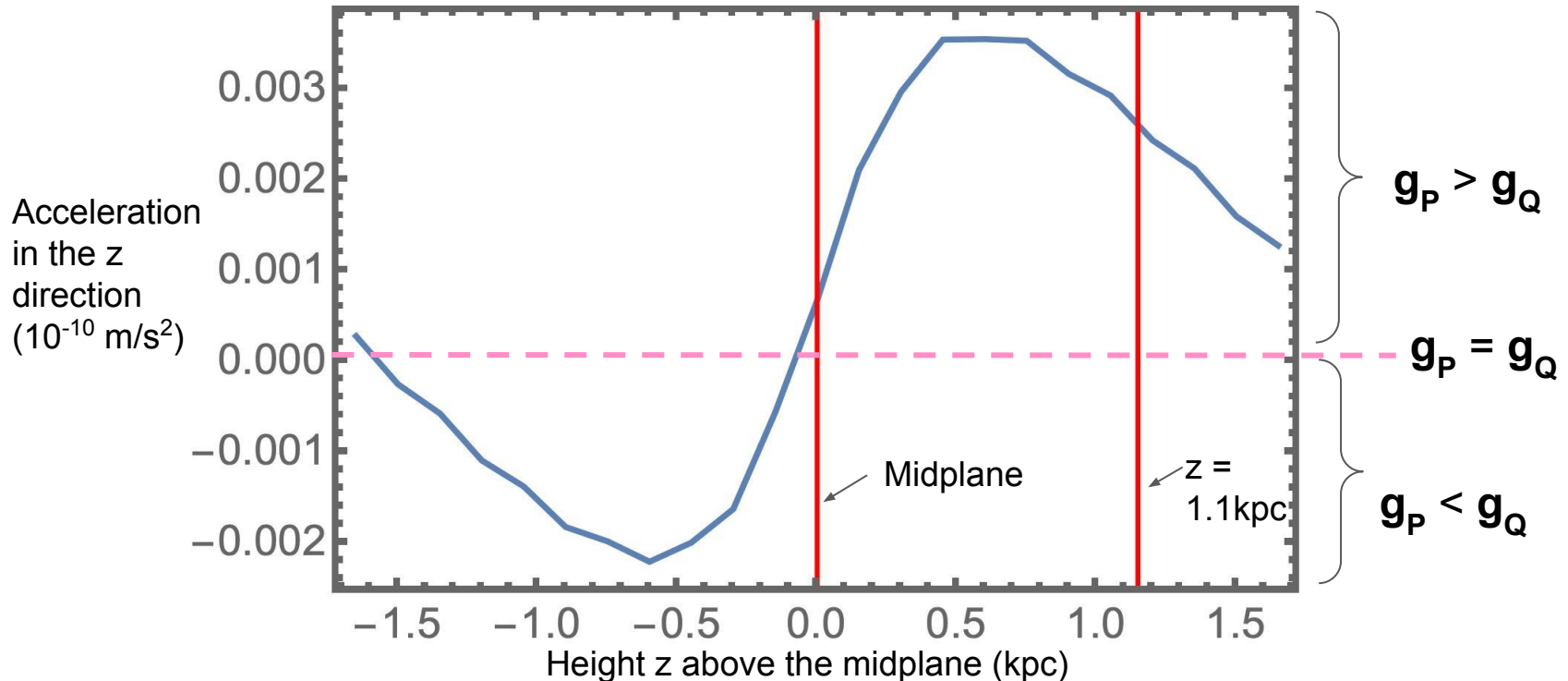
$h_z = 300$  pc  
(From stellar counts,  
Bland-Hawthorn &  
Gerhard 2016)

**! Roughly chosen  
parameters for illustrative  
purposes !**

# Results - MOND is not “MOND-like”

$g_P$ : Pristine MOND acceleration  
 $g_Q$ : Quasilinear MOND acceleration

Difference between Pristine MOND and Quasilinear MOND as a function of  $z$   
at the solar radius ( $g_{Pz} - g_{Qz}$ )

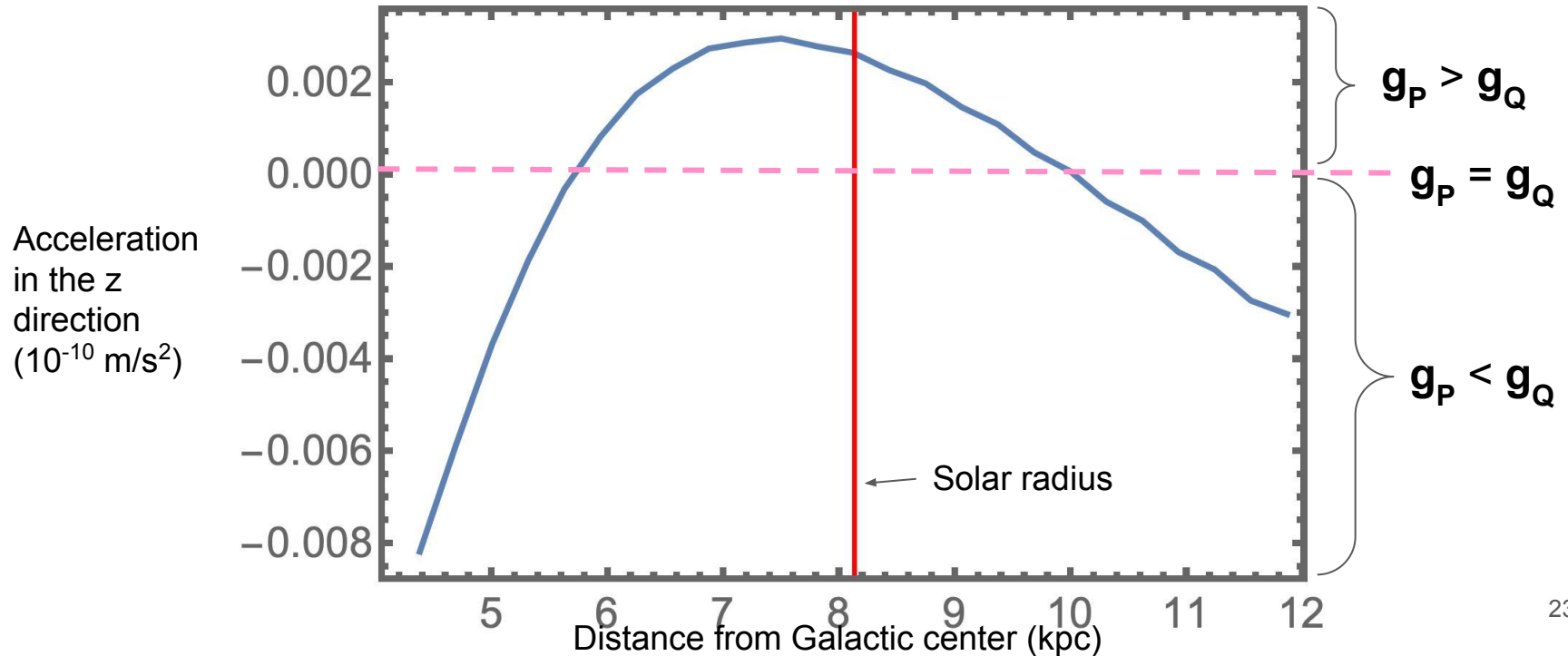




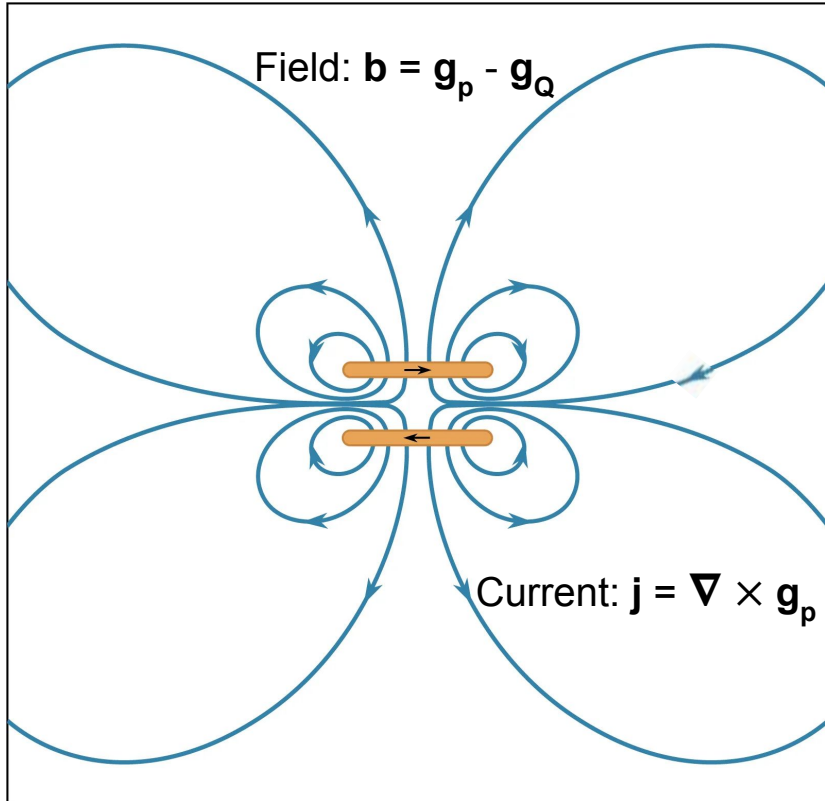
# Results - MOND is not “MOND-like”

$g_P$ : Pristine MOND acceleration  
 $g_Q$ : Quasilinear MOND acceleration

Difference between Pristine MOND and Quasilinear MOND as a function of Galactic radius  
at  $z = 1.1\text{kpc}$  ( $g_{Pz} - g_{Qz}$ )



# Why so small? Magnetostatics Interpretation



Small magnitude field  
due to  
*counterpropagating*  
coils nearly  
cancelling



Small difference  
between  $\mathbf{g}_p$  &  $\mathbf{g}_Q$

Brown et al. (2018)

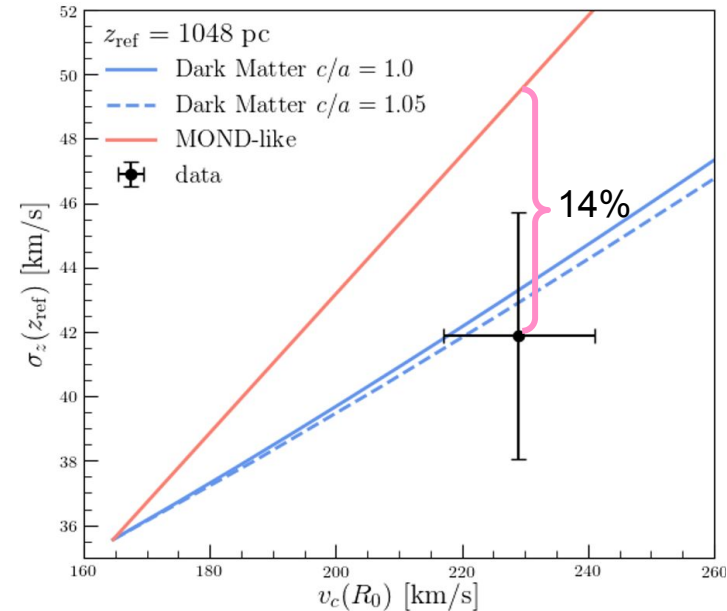
$\mathbf{g}_p$ : Pristine MOND acceleration  
 $\mathbf{g}_Q$ : Quasilinear MOND acceleration

# Revisiting the Tension of Lisanti et al.

Is the 14% tension meaningful?

Lisanti's bulge mass is in tension with known data for both MOND *and* Dark Matter (Flynn 2006)

- Unrealistic prior on bulge mass (0 - 100  $10^{10} M_{\odot}$ )
- Minimal amount of data used to constrain the parameters
  - Most sources eg. Binney & Tremaine Galactic Dynamics (2007) uses double the amount of constraints

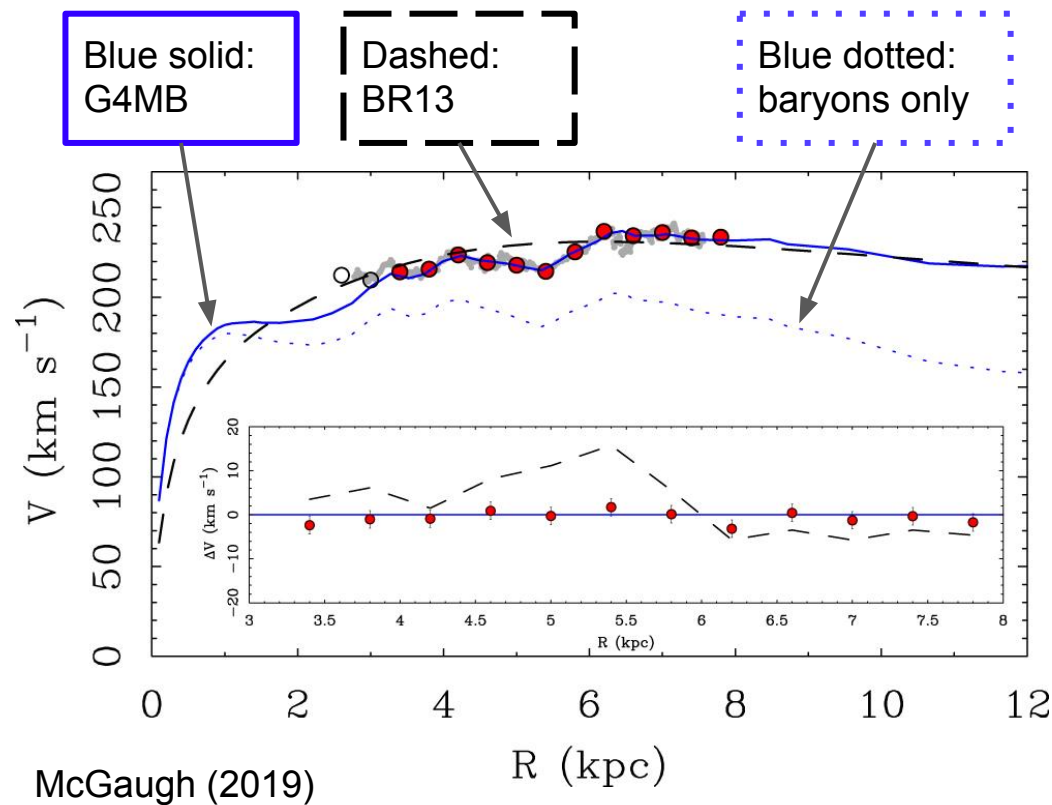


# Revisiting the Tension of Lisanti et al.

→ The Galactic model of Lisanti et al. may be in tension with most commonly used data

Ignoring the bulge in our single disk model is acceptable because  $M_{\text{bulge}} \ll M_{\text{disks}}$

# Limitations of Smooth Exponential Model



**Table 1**  
Reduced  $\chi^2_\nu$

Model	$V_c(R)$	$K_Z(R)$	Excluding $44 < \ell < 55^\circ$	
			$V_c(R)$	$K_Z(R)$
BR13	14.35	0.75	6.06	...
Q4MB	0.60	1.69	...	1.02

**Note.** BR13 from Bovy & Rix (2013); Q4MB from McGaugh (2016).

# Limitations & Future Work

## Limitations:

- Computational time
- Galactic models built on assumption of Newtonian gravity
- Vertical motions not in equilibrium (Haines et al. 2019)

Future work to study the success (or failure) of QUMOND in the solar neighborhood:

- Use for more detailed Galactic models
- Take full advantage of GAIA data & other constraints

# Conclusions & Discussion

- MOND is **not** “MOND-like”
- It is not clear that there *is* a serious tension between QUMOND and local observables as stated in Lisanti et al.
- Further work remains to be done in order to evaluate the success of QUMOND in the vertical direction

Question for the audience:

- How much variation should we expect between MOND theories? Since the differences are detectable, should we be able to differentiate them?

**Thank you!**