

# A SIMPLE MODEL FOR PULSAR GLITCHES

ArXiv:

**M. Antonelli, P. Pizzochero**

**“Axially symmetric equations for differential pulsar rotation  
with superfluid entrainment”**

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# Outline:

## - **How to construt a model for pulsar glitches that:**

- Framework: two-components model
- Embeds the most important physical ingredients in a simple (but consistent) way
- Non uniform star, realistic EOS & layered structure: “micro(r)” → “hydro(x)”

## - **MAIN WORKING ASSUMPTION:**

- Axial symmetry → at the end the dynamical equtions will depend only on “x”
- The charged component is a rigid body

## - **Results:**

- General set of equations valid for any “cylindrical model”
- Dynamical generalization of the “snowplow model” with entrainment
- Estimate of superfluid angular mometum reservoir → upper limits on NS masses

Details of the cylindrical model are on ArXiv (submitted to MNRAS):

**M. Antonelli, P. Pizzochero**  
**“Axially symmetric equations for differential pulsar  
rotation with superfluid entrainment”**

Mass estimates: in preparation!

**M. Antonelli, B. Haskell,  
P. Pizzochero, S. Seveso**

# PULSAR GLITCHES (basic facts)

- Lack of radiative/pulse profile changes

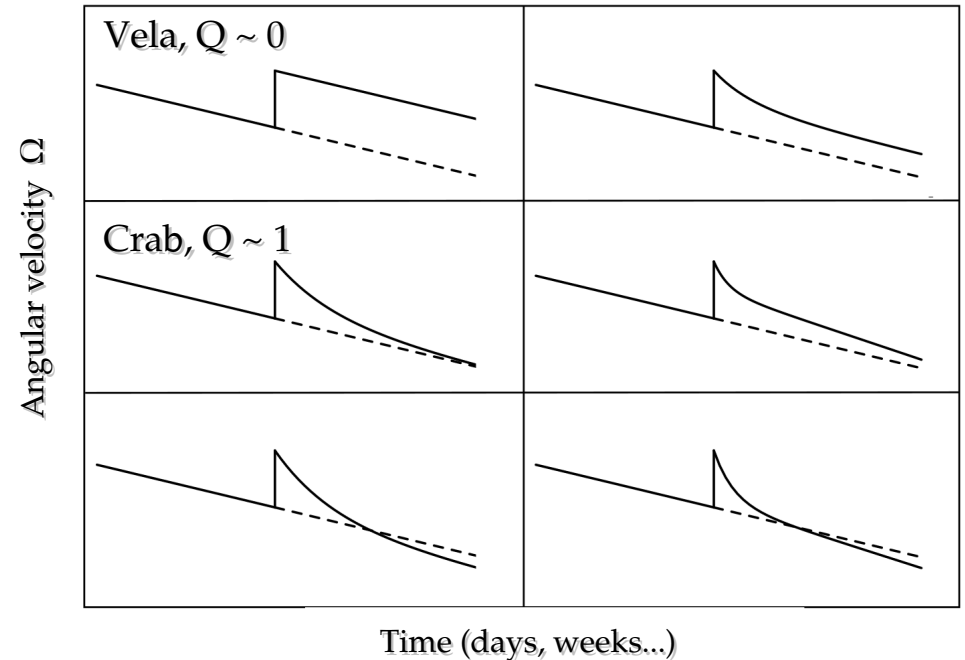
→ Evidence for internal origin

- Long recoveries

→ Thought to be due to superfluid component in the star

- Diverse phenomenology

→ different ages/mass/rotational parameters..?



**Key point:** to describe glitches we need that a NS is comprised of (at least) two components that exchange angular momentum.

**Can we identify the (two?) components ?**

**Which part of the NS provides the angular momentum to spin-up the “observable component” ?**

# The “minimal” model

The inner crust & core contain a neutron superfluid (superfluid n-component).

Everything else (proton superconductor, electron gas) is locked with the solid crust into the magnetic field (rigid p-component).

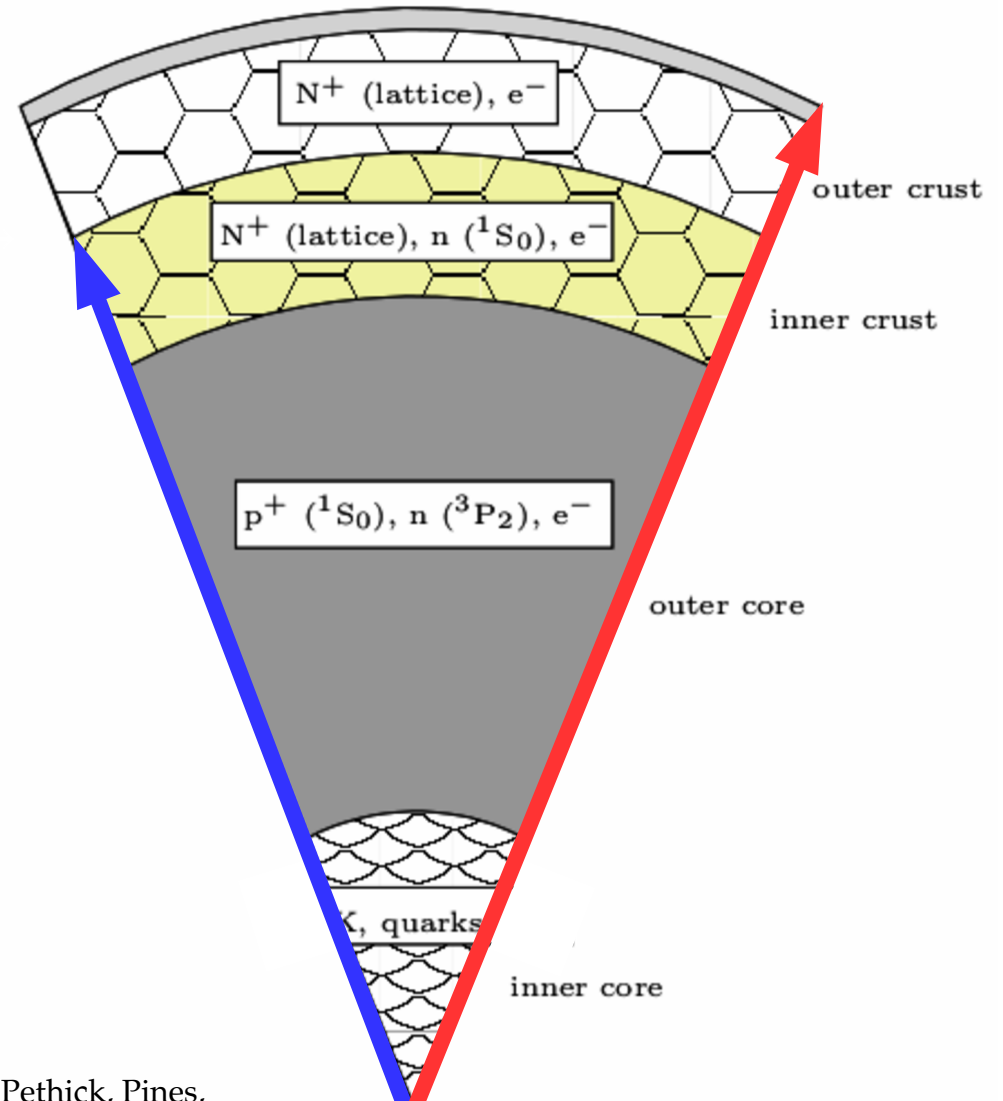
“crust”

$$I_c \dot{\Omega}_c = \underbrace{-\alpha}_{\text{braking torque}} - \frac{I_c}{\tau_c} (\Omega_c - \Omega_n)$$

“neutrons”

$$I_n \dot{\Omega}_n = \underbrace{\frac{I_c}{\tau_c} (\Omega_c - \Omega_n)}_{\text{Mutual friction}}$$

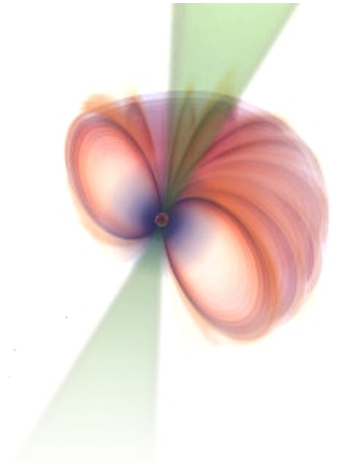
**Mutual friction**



Baym, Pethick, Pines,  
Ruderman (1969)

# Glitch mechanism

- The p-component follows the observed spin down of the pulsar
- Where vortex lines are pinned, the n-component cannot follow p...
  - ...a velocity lag builds up between n and p
  - ...motion of a neutron vortex is affected by fluid flow past it
- Hydrodynamical effect: when the Magnus force  $\simeq$  pinning force the vortex line unpins and is expelled  $\rightarrow$  n loses angular momentum, p gains the same amount



$$\begin{array}{l}
 \mathbf{f}_D = -\eta(\mathbf{x})(\mathbf{v}_L(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{v}_p(\mathbf{x})) \\
 \mathbf{f}_M = \rho_n(\mathbf{x})\boldsymbol{\kappa} \times (\mathbf{v}_L(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{v}_n(\mathbf{x}))
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Drag force} \\
 \text{Magnus force}
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{f}_D \\ \mathbf{f}_M \end{array}} \right\}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Expulsion of} \\
 \text{vortex lines from} \\
 \text{bulk superfluid}
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \text{Expulsion of} \\ \text{vortex lines from} \\ \text{bulk superfluid} \end{array}} \right\}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Vortex mediated} \\
 \text{mutual friction} \\
 \text{between n and p}
 \end{array}$$

UNPINNING  $\rightarrow$  (thermally activated) (soc, "external" trigger?)

**Local: vortex creep** **Global: avalanche**

# Models of pulsar glitches

Nice review: Haskell & Melatos (2015)

- Exchange of angular momentum → 2 components
- Long timescales → one component is superfluid

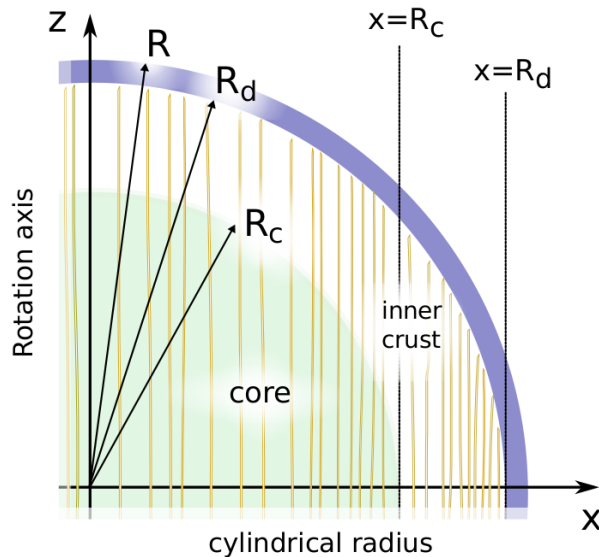
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{p_i^n}{m_n} &= v_i^n + \varepsilon_n (v_i^p - v_i^n) \\ \frac{p_i^p}{m_p} &= v_i^p + \varepsilon_p (v_i^n - v_i^p) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

**Multifluid hydro  
(with entrainment)**

$$\partial_t \rho_x + \nabla_i (\rho_x v_x^i) = 0$$

$$(\partial_t + v_x^j \nabla_j) (v_i^x + \varepsilon_x w_i^{yx}) + \nabla_i (\tilde{\mu}_x + \Phi) + \varepsilon_x w_{yx}^j \nabla_i v_j^x = f_i^x / \rho_x + \nabla_j D_i^j$$

$$f_i^x = 2\rho_n \mathcal{B}' \epsilon_{ijk} \Omega^j w_{xy}^k + 2\rho_n \mathcal{B} \epsilon_{ijk} \hat{\Omega}^j \epsilon^{klm} \Omega_l w_m^{xy} \quad \text{Mutual friction}$$



## “Cylindrical reduction”

By assuming columnar flow we can project the complicated 3D problem into a simpler one (1D radial) → this means that inside the star the vorticity of the superfluid is assumed to be parallel to the rotation axis of the star

# 1D cylindrical model:

$(x, \theta, z)$  usual cyl. coord.

Assumptions:  $\mathbf{p}_n(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta = p_n(x)$  Azimuthal component of the superfluid momentum function of “x” only

$$\mathbf{v}_p = x\Omega_p \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta$$

Charged component rotates as a rigid body

(due to short Alf. timescale & electron screening length)

$$\Omega_v(x) = \frac{p_n(x)}{m_n x}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_n(x, z) = x \frac{\Omega_v(x) - \epsilon_n(r)\Omega_p}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta$$

Is the quantity that obeys Fey. relation

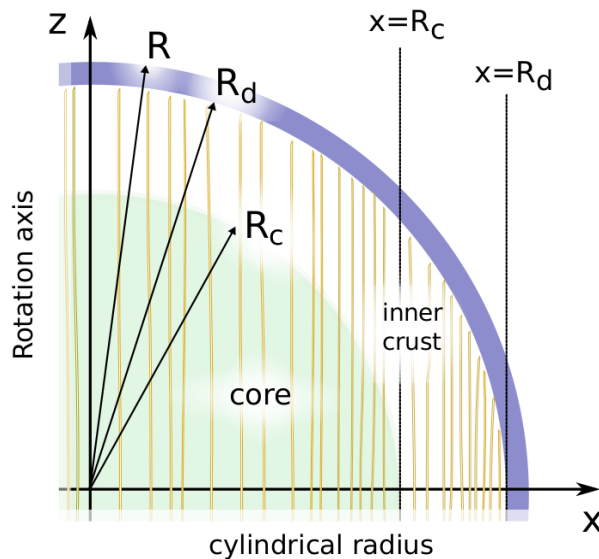
$$\Omega_v(x) = \frac{\kappa N(x)}{2\pi x^2}$$

Even in the simplest situation of straight vortices is non-columnar

To encode entrainment consistently into a cylindrical

model we have to consider a “v” (fictitious)

component and the usual (rigid) “p” component



$$I_v = \frac{8\pi}{3} \int_0^R dr r^4 \frac{\rho_n(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)}$$

$$I_p = \frac{8\pi}{3} \int_0^R dr r^4 \rho_p(r) \frac{1 - \epsilon_n(r) - \epsilon_p(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)}$$

$$I_p + I_v = I$$

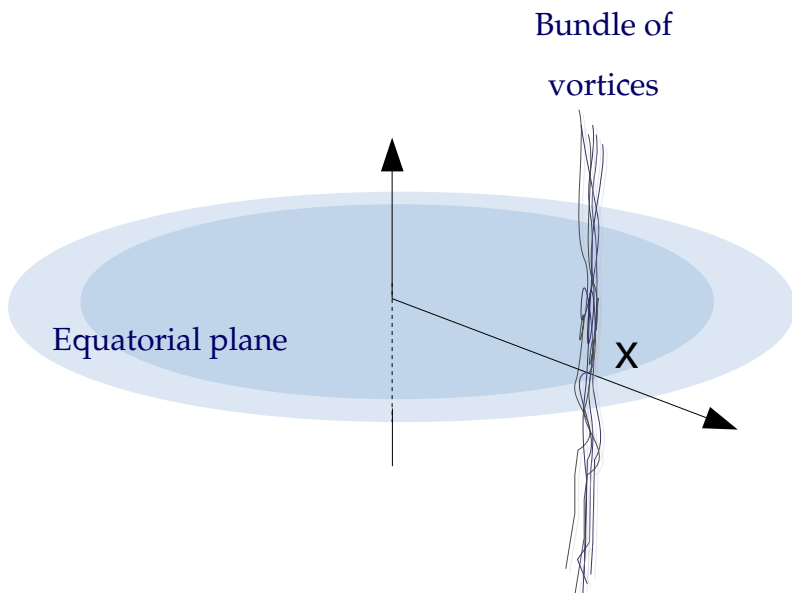
# Macroscopic equations (similar eqs without entrainment → Alpar et al. 1984)

- The star spins-down under a constant external torque:

$$\int d^3x \rho_p(\mathbf{r}) (\mathbf{x} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}_p(\mathbf{x})) = -\mathbf{T}_{ext} - \int d^3x \rho_n(\mathbf{r}) (\mathbf{x} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}_n(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$\mathbf{p}_n(\mathbf{x}) = m_n [(1 - \epsilon_n(\mathbf{x})) \mathbf{v}_n(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon_n(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}_p(\mathbf{x})]$$

- v-component:  $\Omega_v(x) = \frac{p_n(x)}{m_n x} \rightarrow$  Feynman relation + continuity



$$\partial_t n_v + \frac{1}{x} \partial_x (x n_v v_L^x) = 0$$

2D density of vortex lines

Radial vel. of vortices

$$n_v(x) = \frac{(\nabla \times \mathbf{p}_n) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z}{\kappa m_n} = \frac{1}{\kappa} (2\Omega_v(x) + x \partial_x \Omega_v(x))$$

$$v_L^x = x \mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] (\Omega_v(x) - \Omega_p)$$

Dimensionless drag functional    Angular velocity lag v-p

Radial (average) velocity of vortices

# Macroscopic equations

- Just carry out the integrations on the z axis, from 0 to:  $z(x) = \sqrt{R^2 - x^2}$ .

The general form of the equations  $\rightarrow$  formally the same for the case without entrainment

$$\partial_t \Omega_v(x, t) = -\mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] (2\Omega_v + x \partial_x \Omega_v) (\Omega_v - \Omega_p)$$

$$\partial_t \Omega_p(t) = -(1 + q) \dot{\Omega}_\infty - q \langle \partial_t \Omega_v(t) \rangle$$

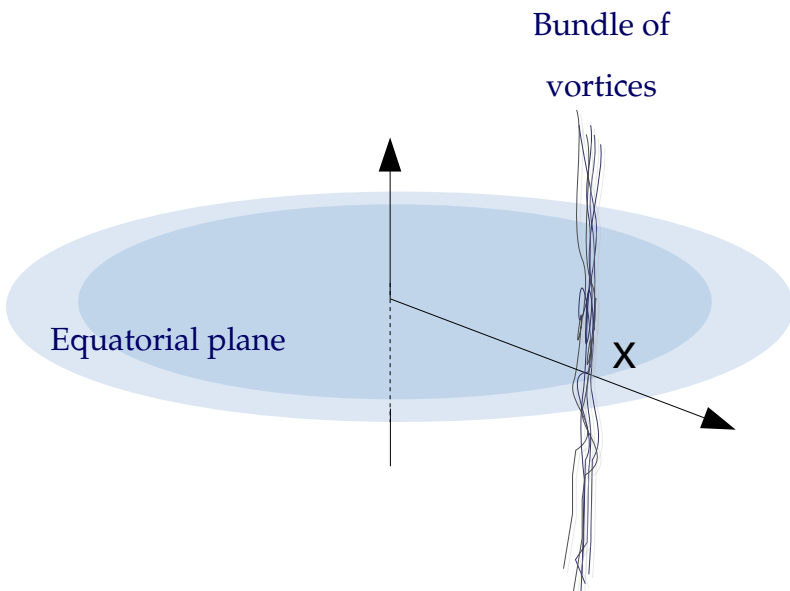
$$q = I_v / I_p$$

$$\dot{\Omega}_\infty = T_{ext} / I$$

$$dI_v(x) / I_v = g(x) dx,$$

Equation of motion for (rigid) vortex lines:

$$\mathbf{F}_{tot} = \int_L dl(\mathbf{x}) [\mathbf{f}_M(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{f}_D(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{f}_P(\mathbf{x})] = 0$$



$$v_L^x = x \mathcal{B}^x(x) \omega(x, t)$$

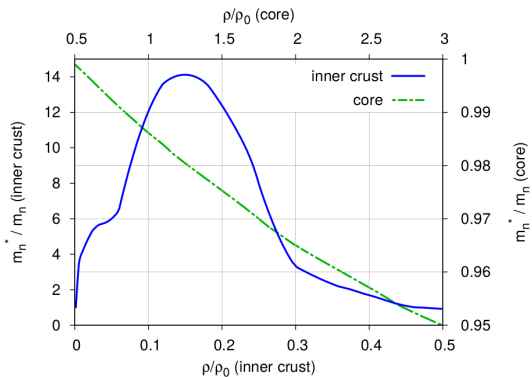
Here: rigid vortices  
approximation  $\rightarrow$  Snowplow  
like drag functional

$$F_P(x) = |\mathbf{F}_M(x)|_{v_L=v_p}$$

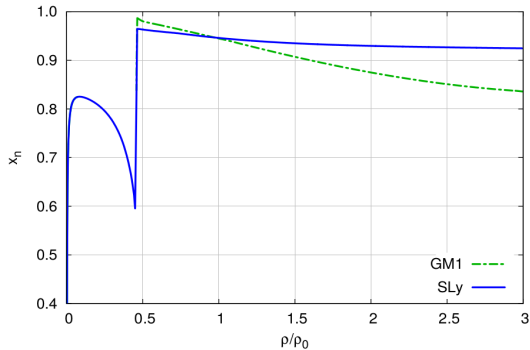
$$Y[\omega, x] = \theta(|\omega(x)| - \omega_{cr}(x))$$

$$\mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] \approx Y[\omega, x] \mathcal{B}^x(x)$$

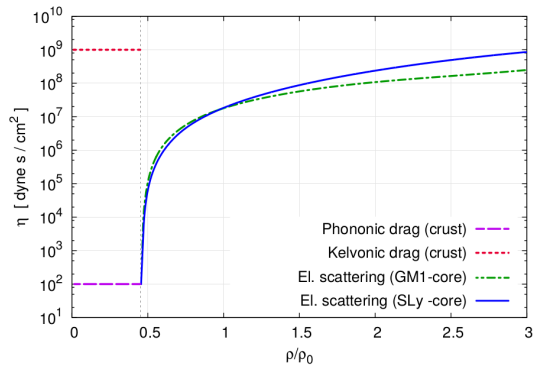
Entrainment parameters



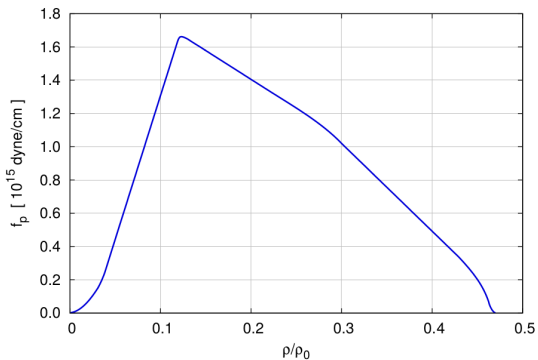
Superfluid fraction



Drag parameters



Mesoscopic pinning forces

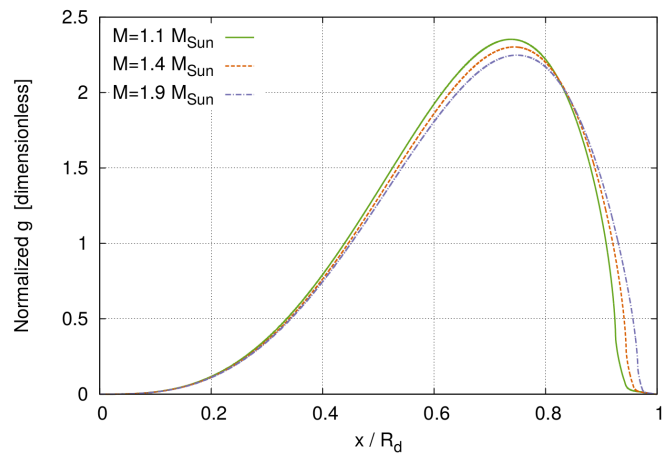


**+ EOS**  
 ↓  
 Solve TOV and obtain the spherical profiles  
 ↓  
 Use the "1D" prescriptions to project to a cylindrical model

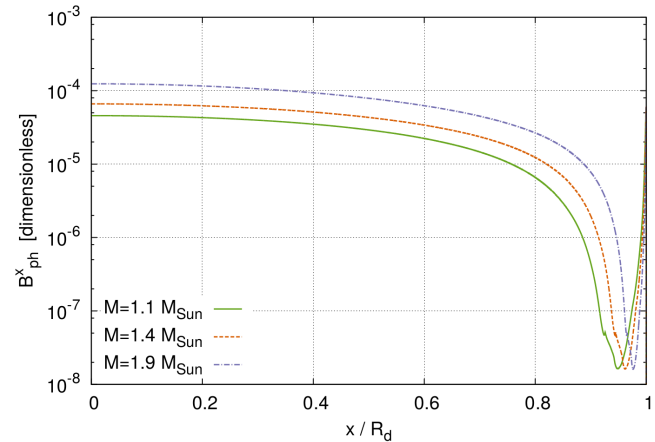
Macroscopic

inputs:

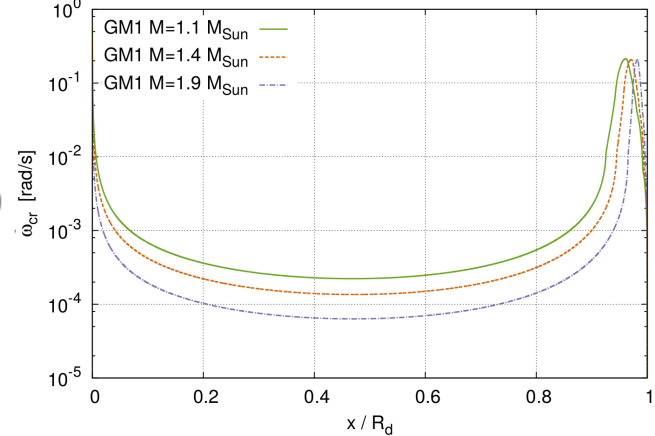
$g(x)$



$B^x(x)$

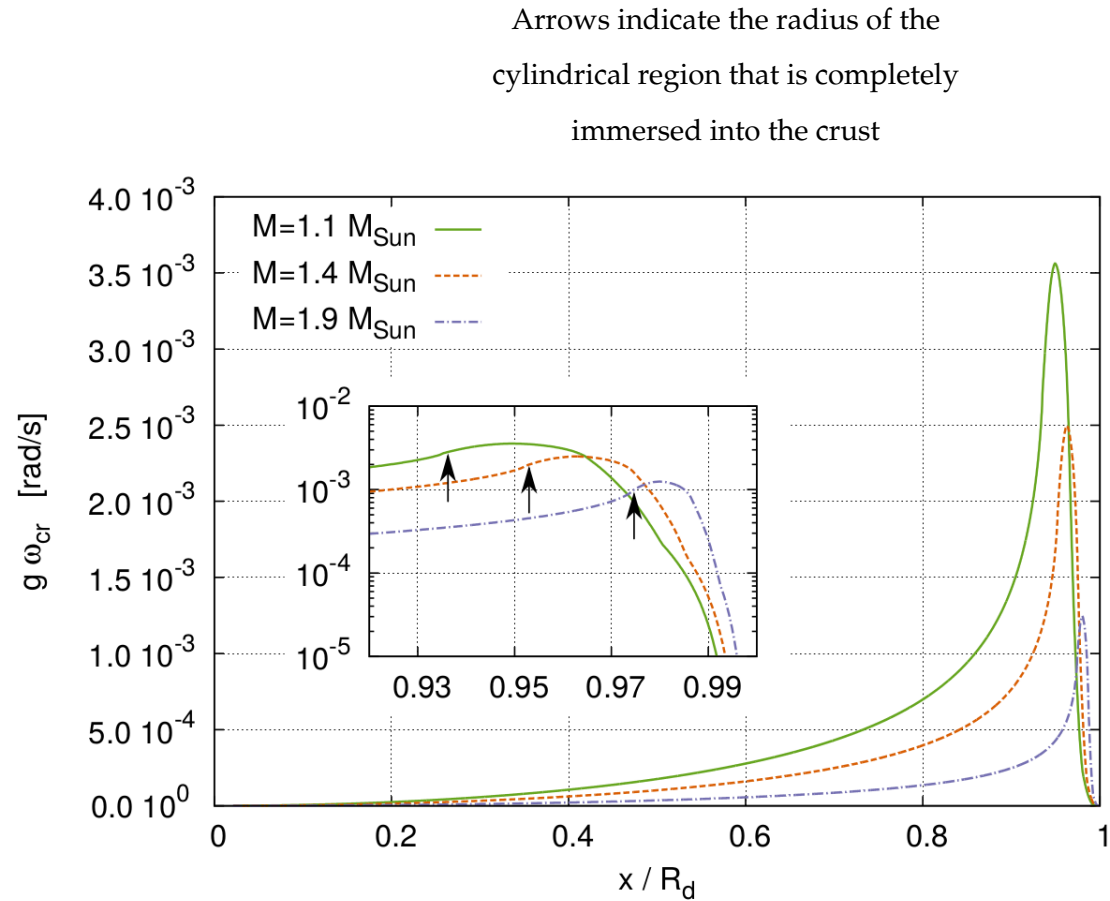
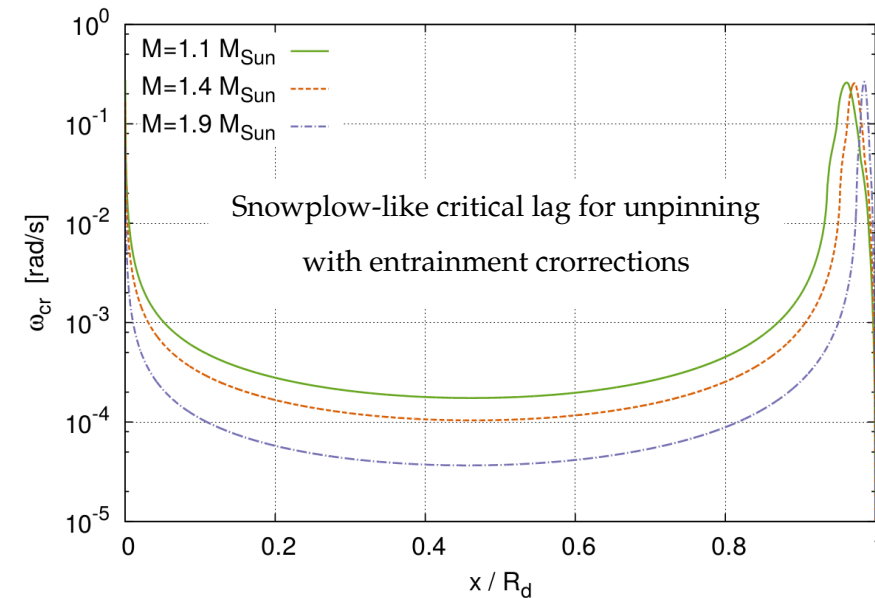
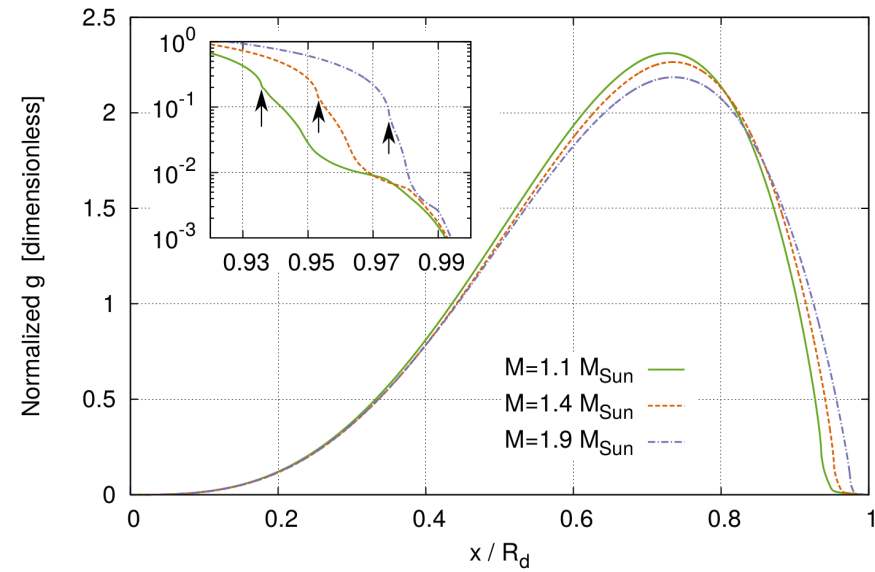


$\omega_{cr}(x)$



$$q = I_v / I_p$$

# Angular momentum reservoir



Examples for Sly EOS.

The product  $g(x) \omega_{\text{cr}}(x)$  is proportional to the contribution to angular momentum reservoir given by a cylindrical shell at radius  $x$   
( given that the lag is critical  $\rightarrow$  **upper bound** )

# ...simulation of a **GIANT** glitch

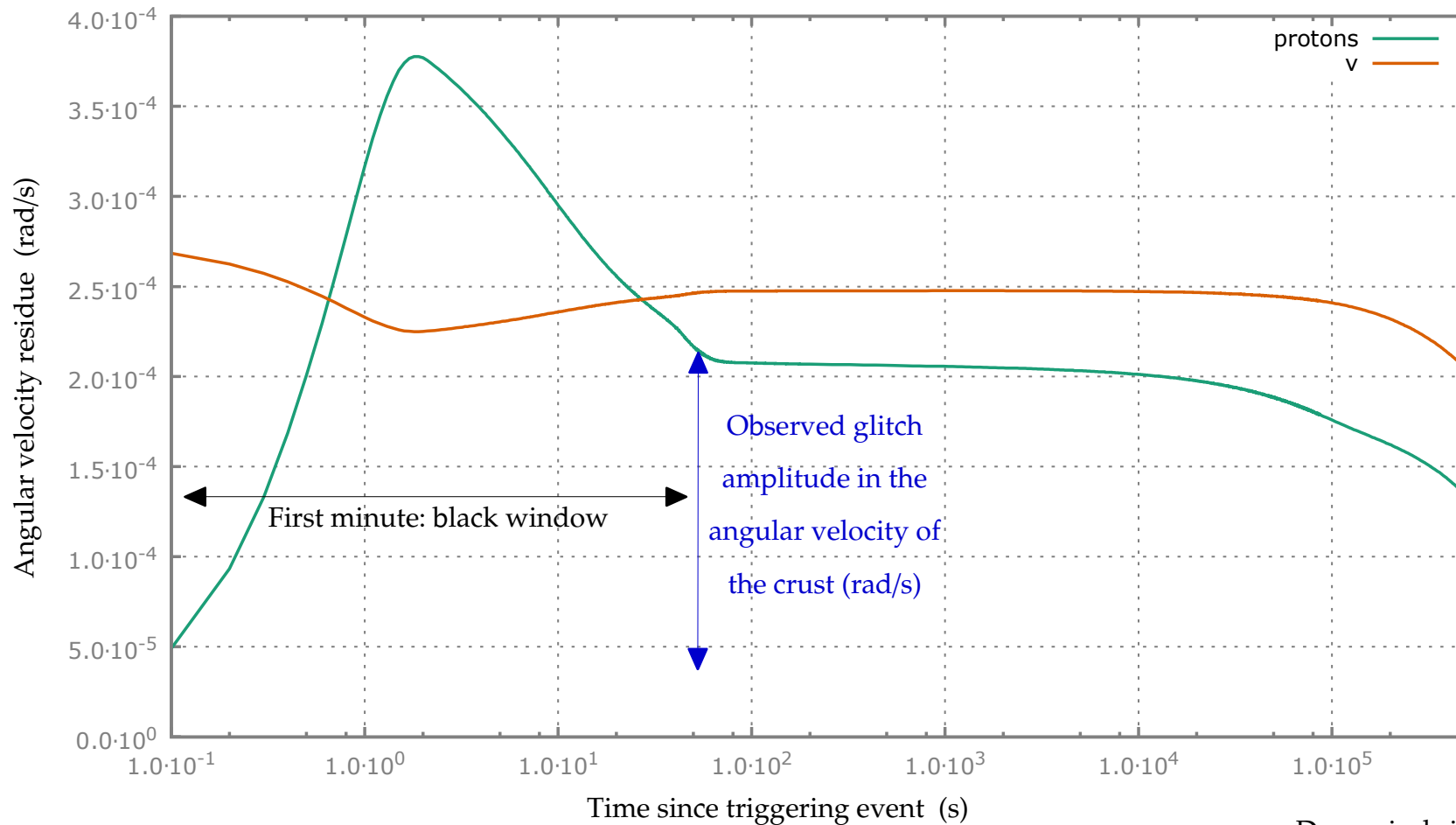
$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \Omega_v(x, t) = -\mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] (2\Omega_v + x \partial_x \Omega_v) (\Omega_v - \Omega_p) \\ \partial_t \Omega_p(t) = -(1 + q) \dot{\Omega}_\infty - q \langle \partial_t \Omega_v(t) \rangle \end{cases}$$

Here: rigid vortices  
approximation  $\rightarrow$  Snowplow  
like drag functional

$$\mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] \approx Y[\omega, x] \mathcal{B}^x(x)$$

Glitch amplitude (Vela):  $\Delta v / v \sim 10^{-6} \rightarrow \Delta v \sim 10^{-5}$  Hz

Differential rotation of the superfluid + NON uniform structure  $\rightarrow$  different timescales in the relaxation



# Mass upper bounds... (just an example!)

$$L_v(t) = I_v \langle \Omega_v(x, t) \rangle$$

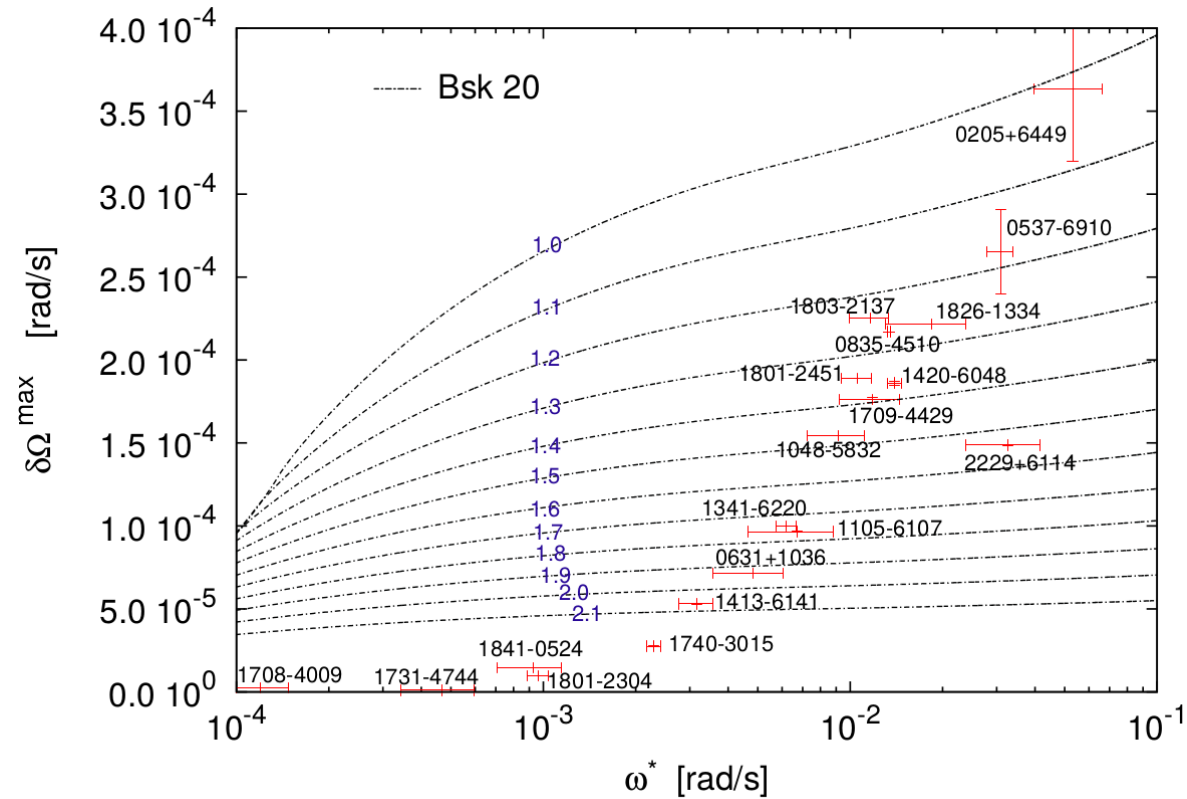
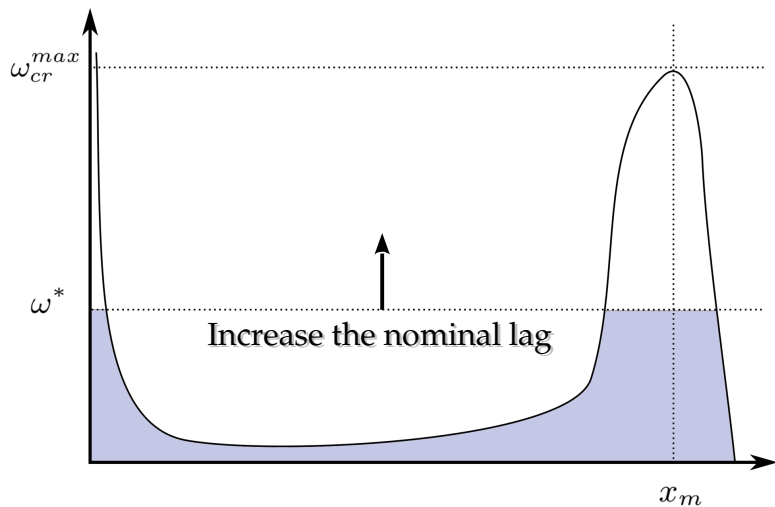
$$\Delta L[\omega] = L_v - I_v \Omega_p = I_v \langle \omega(x) \rangle$$

$$I \Omega_p + I_v \langle \omega_{pre} \rangle = I(\Omega_p + \delta \Omega_p) + I_v \langle \omega_{post} \rangle$$

$$\langle \omega_{post} \rangle = 0,$$

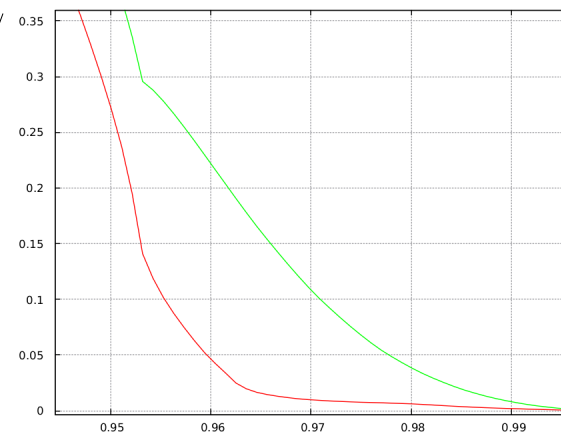
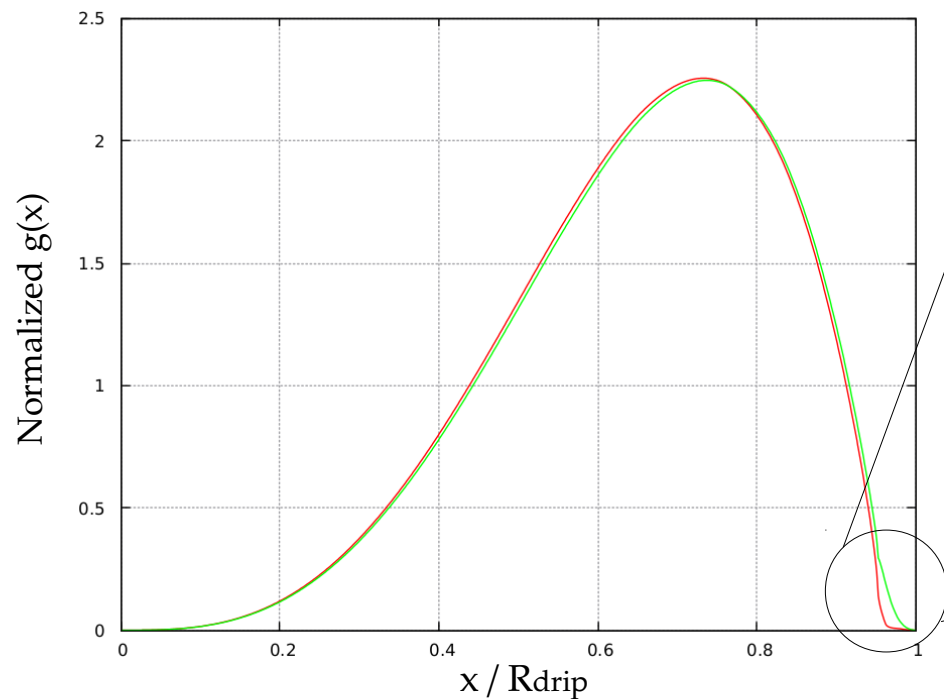


$$\delta \Omega_p^{max} = \frac{I_v}{I} \langle \omega_{cr}(x) \rangle$$



NOTE: it is possible to do the same job using the consistent dynamical equations instead of using this "snowplow-like" prescription

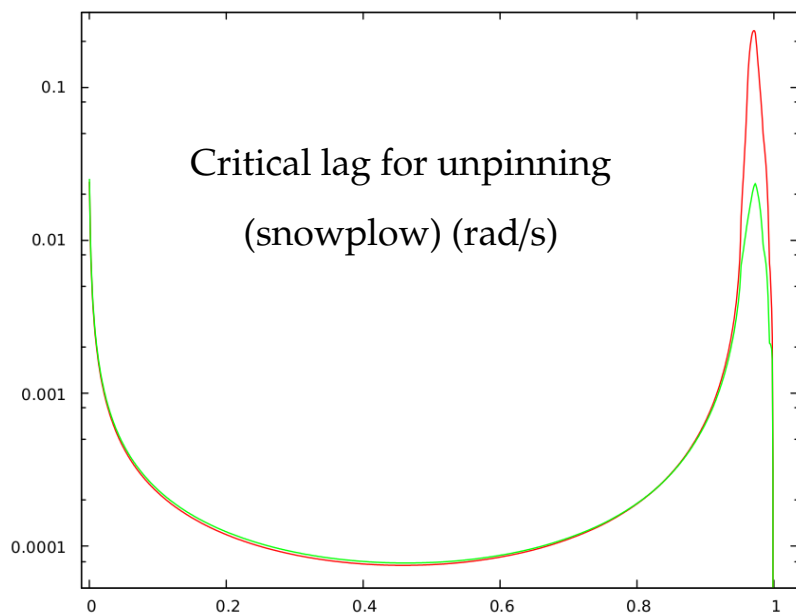
# Entrainment corrections



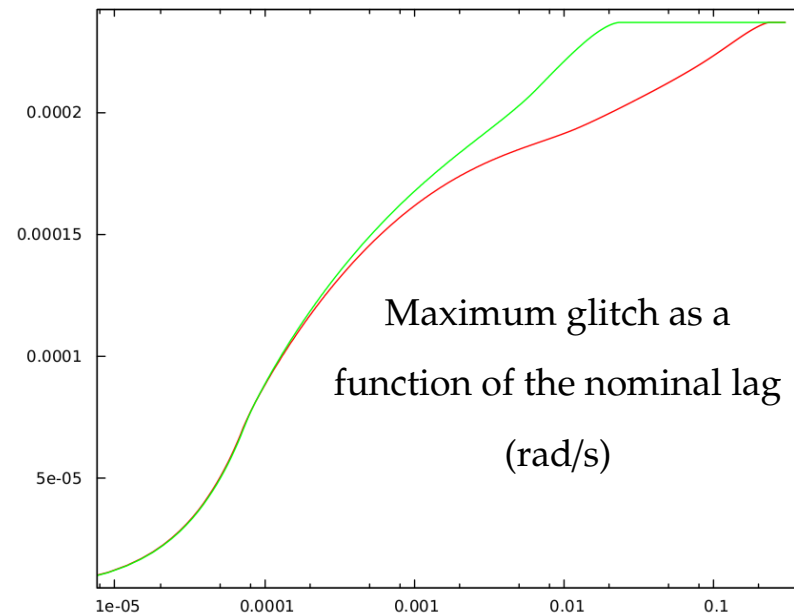
Eos: Sly,  $M = 1.4 M_{\text{sun}}$

Red  $\rightarrow$  with entrainment (Chamel)

Green  $\rightarrow$  no entrainment



Critical lag for unpinning  
(snowplow) (rad/s)



Maximum glitch as a  
function of the nominal lag  
(rad/s)

# Turbulence?

(Andersson, Sidery, Comer - 2007)

Study of mutual friction (force per unit volume) based on superfluid He analogy

Mutual friction for straight vortices...

$$f_i^{\text{mf}} = \mathcal{B}' \rho_n n_v \epsilon_{ijk} \kappa^j w_{\text{np}}^k + \mathcal{B} \rho_n n_v \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon^{klm} \hat{\kappa}^j \kappa_l w_m^{\text{np}} - \rho_n \tilde{\nu} n_v \left[ \mathcal{B}' \hat{\kappa}^j \nabla_j \kappa_i + \mathcal{B} \epsilon_{ijk} \kappa^j \hat{\kappa}^l \nabla_l \hat{\kappa}^k \right]$$

...and with curvature

$$f_i^{\text{mf}} = \frac{8\pi^2 \rho_n}{3\kappa} \left( \frac{\chi_1}{\chi_2} \right)^2 \mathcal{B}^3 w_{\text{pn}}^2 w_i^{\text{pn}}$$

$$f_{\text{HV}} \approx \mathcal{B} \rho_n \kappa n_v w_{\text{pn}}$$

Gorter-Mellink

Straight vortex array: "Hall-Vinen type" force

$$\chi_1/\chi_2 \sim 1 \quad n_v \kappa \approx 2\Omega_n, \quad \kappa = h/2m_n$$

$$w_{\text{pn}} = r \Delta\Omega = r(\Omega_p - \Omega_n)$$

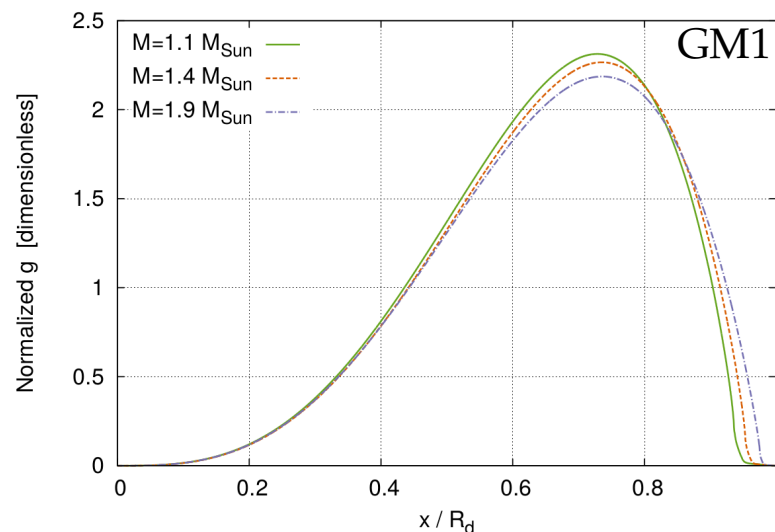
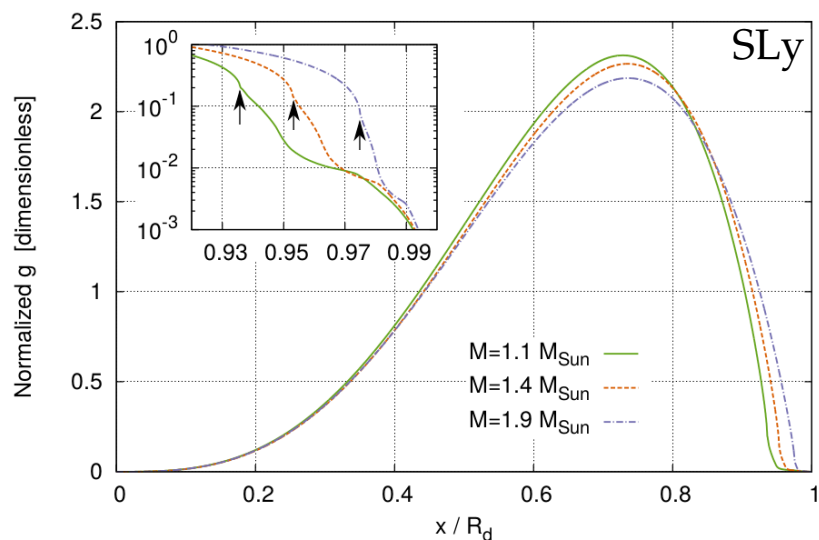
$$\frac{f_{\text{GM}}}{f_{\text{HV}}} \approx 250 \left( \frac{r}{10^6 \text{cm}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Delta\Omega/\Omega_n}{5 \times 10^{-4}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{P}{1\text{s}} \right)^{-1}$$

Here r is the cylindrical radius, GM more important wrt

HV at great r → where vortices are "more pinned"

# Some results for Sly & GM1 equations of state

Moments of inertia weights look the same (also because of normalization on the unit interval)



$$\tau^{-1} = 2(1 + q) \langle \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^x \rangle \Omega_p$$

	$M$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$R_d$ (km)	$R_c$ ( $R_d$ )	$I/10^{45}$ ( $\text{g cm}^2$ )	$I_v$ ( $I$ )	$q$	$\tau_{ph}$ ( $P$ )	$\tau_{kv}$ ( $P$ )	$\langle \omega_{cr} \rangle$ ( $10^{-4} \text{rad/s}$ )	$\delta \Omega_p^{max}$ ( $10^{-4} \text{rad/s}$ )
SLy	1.1	11.41	0.936	0.86	0.928	12.9	62.1	13.2	4.17	3.87
	1.4	11.43	0.953	1.09	0.941	16.1	29.2	12.1	2.51	2.37
	1.9	10.92	0.974	1.35	0.958	22.9	9.0	7.2	0.92	0.89
GM1	1.1	13.08	0.926	1.14	0.901	9.2	445	13.9	6.99	6.30
	1.4	13.28	0.945	1.51	0.913	10.5	261	17.1	4.37	3.92
	1.9	13.24	0.966	2.04	0.916	10.9	136	26.3	2.04	1.87

Estimates of the rise time

(all vortices unpinned)

$$\mathbf{v}_n(x, z) = x \frac{\Omega_v(x) - \epsilon_n(r) \Omega_p}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta \int_x \mathbf{p}_n \cdot d\mathbf{l} = h \pi \int_0^x dy y n_v(y)$$

$$I_p = \frac{8\pi}{3} \int_0^R dr r^4 \rho_p(r) \frac{1 - \epsilon_n(r) - \epsilon_p(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)} \quad \tau^{-1} = 2(1+q) \langle \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^x \rangle \Omega_p$$

$$\Omega_v(x) = \frac{\kappa N(x)}{2\pi r^2} \quad \Omega_v(x) = \frac{p_n(x)}{m_n x} \quad b(x) = 2 \int_0^{z(x)} dz \rho_n(r)$$

$$\Omega_n(x, z) = \frac{\kappa N(x)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)} \frac{1}{2\pi x^2} \frac{1 - \epsilon_n(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)} \quad b(x) = 2 \int_0^{z(x)} dz \frac{\rho_n(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_n(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta = p_n(x) \quad \mathcal{B}^x(x) \quad (x, \theta, z) \quad d(x) = \frac{2}{\kappa} \int_0^{z(x)} dz \eta(r),$$

$$\mathcal{B}[\Omega_v, \Omega_p, x] \approx Y[\omega, x] \mathcal{B}^x(x) \quad z(x) = \sqrt{R^2 - x^2} \quad \delta\Omega_p^{\text{max}} = \frac{I_v}{I} \langle \omega_{cr}(x) \rangle$$

$$\kappa = \kappa \nabla \times \mathbf{p}_n / |\nabla \times \mathbf{p}_n| \quad \langle f(\dots) \rangle = \int_0^R dx g(x) f(x, \dots)$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{tot}} = \int_L d\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{x}) [\mathbf{f}_M(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{f}_D(\mathbf{x})] = 0$$

$$\langle \omega_{\text{post}} \rangle = 0, \quad L_v(t) = I_v \langle \Omega_v(x, t) \rangle \quad g(x) = 2\pi x^3 b(x) / I_v$$

$$\Delta L[\omega] = L_v - I_v \Omega_p = I_v \langle \omega(x) \rangle \quad I_v = \frac{8\pi}{3} \int_0^R dr r^4 \frac{\rho_n(r)}{1 - \epsilon_n(r)}$$

$$\partial_t \Omega_v(x, t) = - (2\Omega_v(x, t) + x \partial_x \Omega_v(x, t)) \frac{v_L^x(x, t)}{x} \quad \langle \omega_{\text{pre}} \rangle = \langle \omega_{cr} \rangle$$

$$I \Omega_p + I_v \langle \omega_{\text{pre}} \rangle = I(\Omega_p + \delta\Omega_p) + I_v \langle \omega_{\text{post}} \rangle$$

**Thanks for the attention,**  
**QUESTIONS ?**

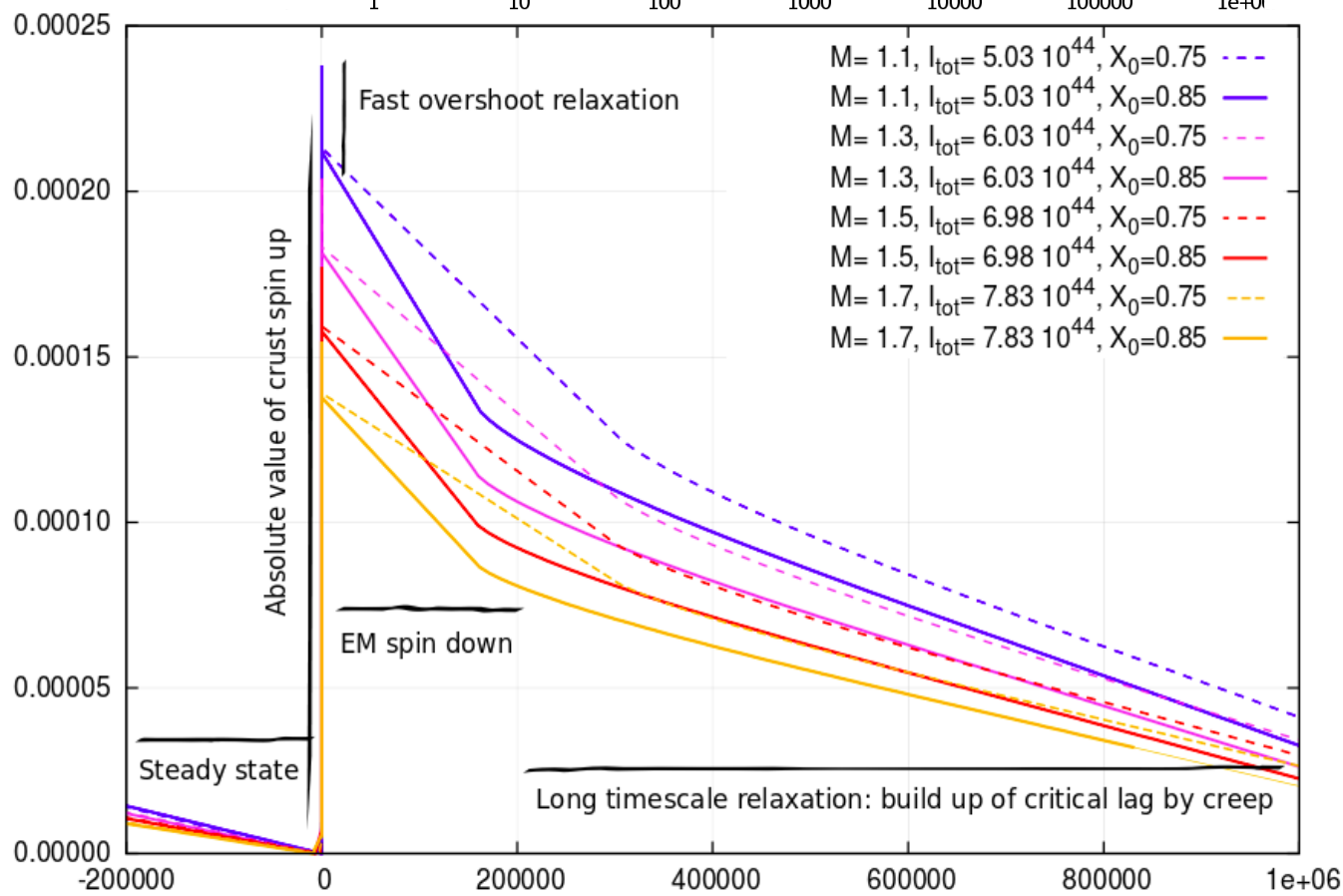
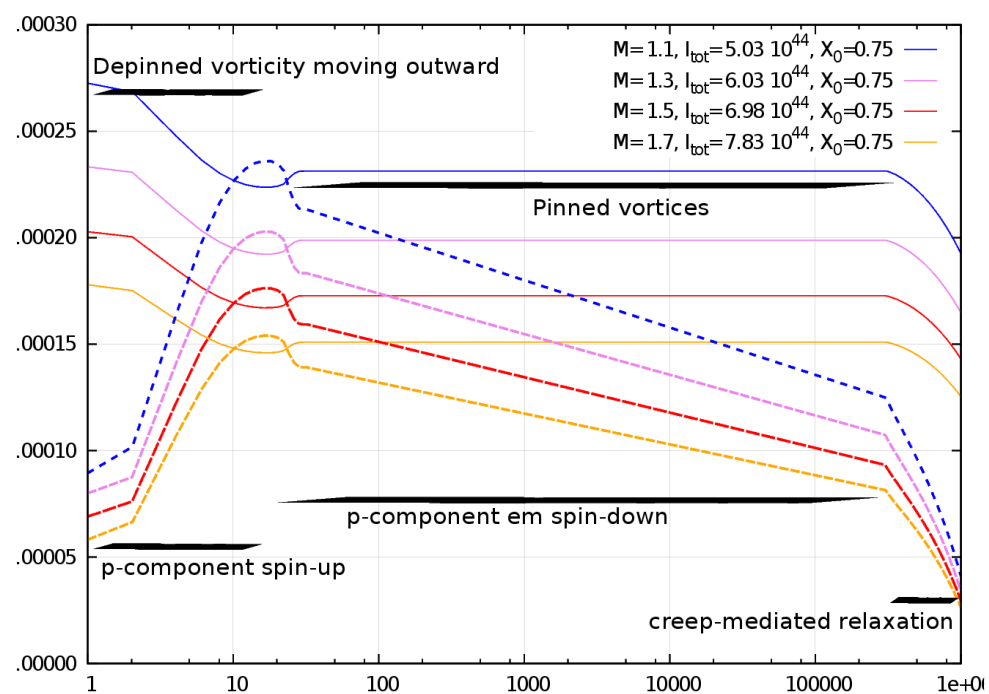
# ...why a **simple** but **consistent** model?

## Dynamical simulation with:

- Polytropic EOS
- Proton fractions by hand
- Entrainment by hand
- Drag by hand (rise times are the same!)
- “Similar” pinning force profile  
(Pizzochero, “snowplow model”)

## Important:

**Large glitch** → **high mass**

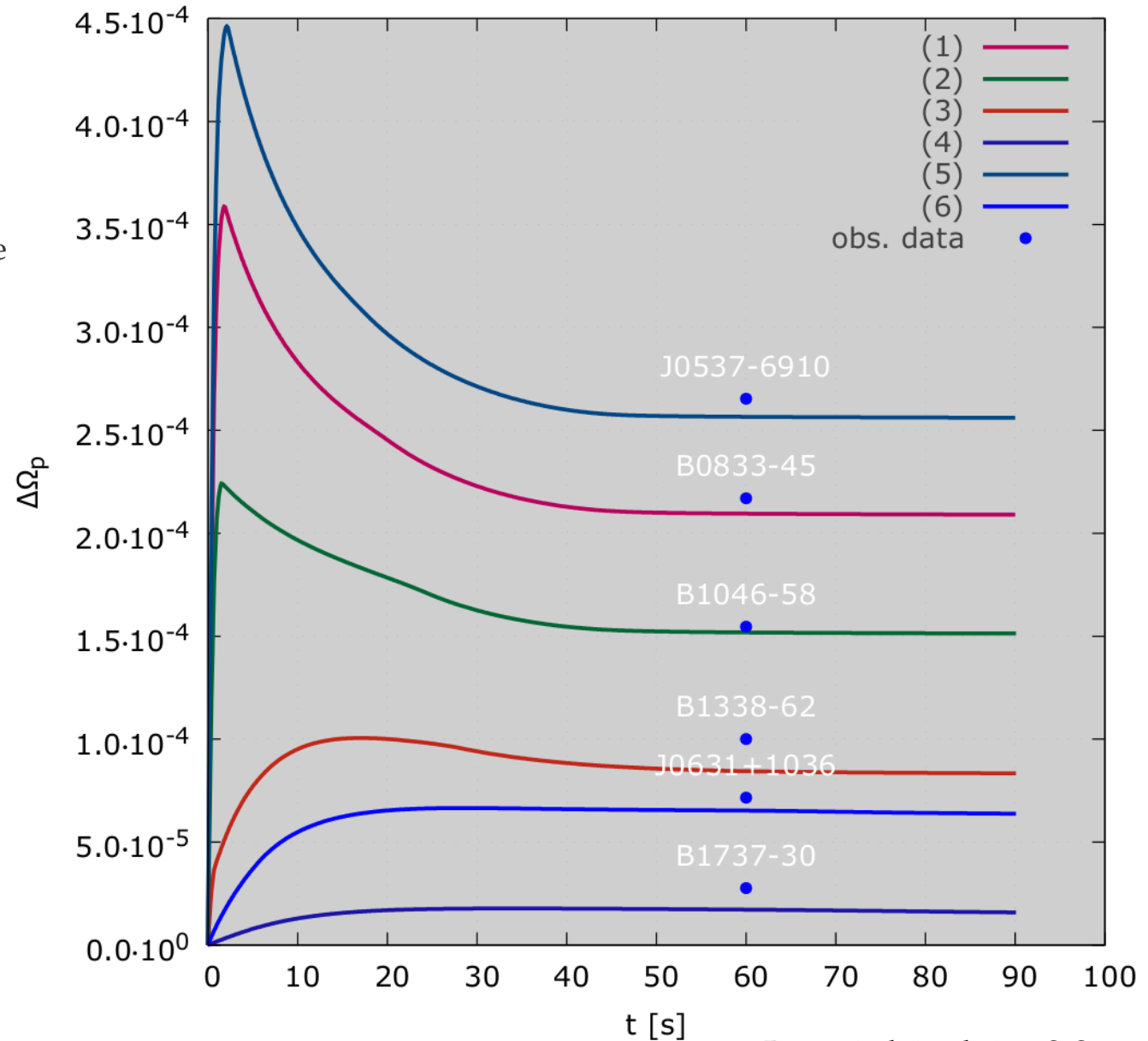


# ...why a **simple** but **consistent** model?

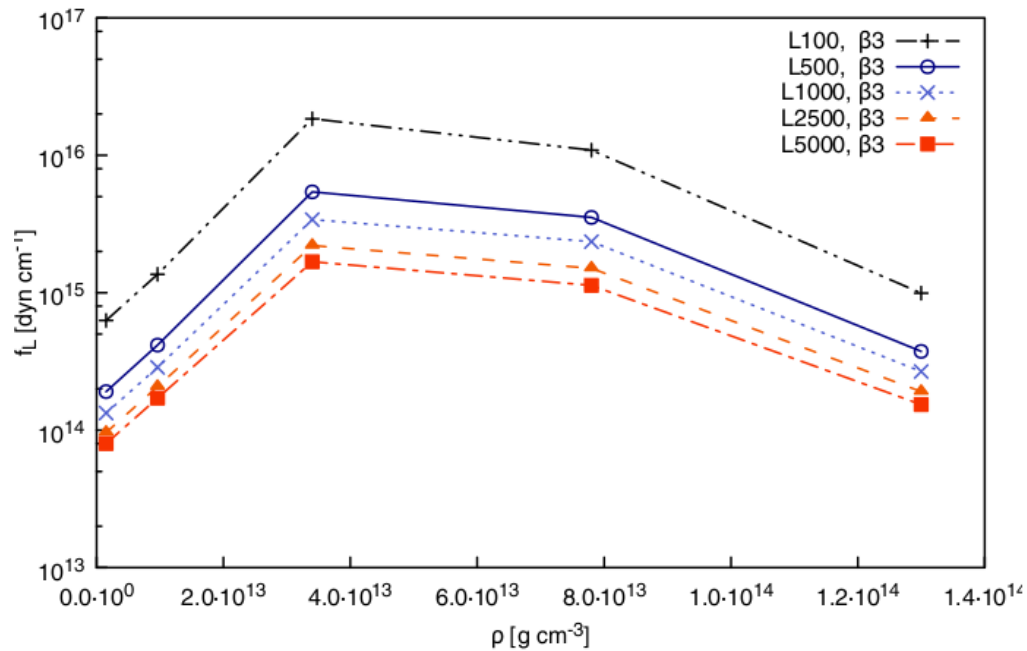
## Dynamical simulations with:

- GM1 EOS
- EOS consistent proton fractions
- Entrainment in the core & crust (Chame
- Consistent drag in the core  
(el. scattering, Alpar, Andersson...)
- Drag in the crust (phonons, Jones 1991)
- New MESOSCOPIC pinning forces  
(Seveso, Haskell, Pzzochero 2016)

**Large glitch** → **low mass**  
(true for all the EOSs that we used)



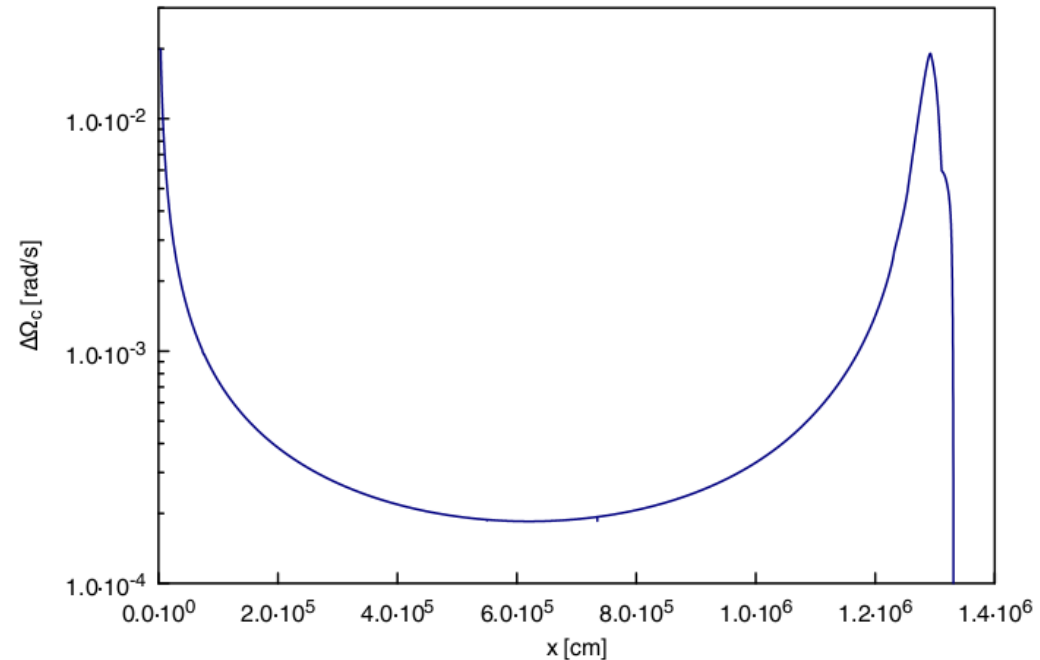
# Mesososcopic pinning forces



Mesososcopic pinning forces

(vortex-lattice interaction per unit length of vortex line)

**S. Seveso, F. Grill,  
P. Pizzochero, B. Haskell**



Resulting critical lag for unpinning (without entrainment)

$$Y[\omega, x] = \theta(|\omega(x)| - \omega_{cr}(x))$$