

# AGN Feedback in Action

A colorful, elongated galaxy with a bright central core, set against a dark background with scattered stars. The galaxy is oriented horizontally and has a distinct reddish-orange outer ring and a cyan inner region. The background is a dark blue/black field with numerous small, multi-colored stars.

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## SMBH – host connection

SMBH in every large galaxy, grown by luminous accretion (Soltan)

but only a small fraction of galaxies are AGN

→ *SMBH should grow at ~ Eddington rate in AGN*

*AGN should show outflows*

*AGN black holes should be underweight*

## *how super—Eddington can AGN be?*

galaxy bulge  $\sim$  isothermal sphere, with mass distribution

$$M(R) = \frac{f_g \sigma^2 R}{G}$$

*maximum possible accretion rate*: this mass falls in dynamical time

$$t_{\text{dyn}} \sim \frac{R}{\sigma}$$

so

$$\dot{M}_{\text{max}} \sim \frac{f_g \sigma^3}{G} \sim 100 \sigma_{200}^3 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

Eddington rate at  $M - \sigma$  mass is

$$\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} = 3\sigma_{200}^4 \eta_{0.1}^{-1} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

so Eddington ratio  $\dot{m}$  is modest

$$\dot{m} = \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{out}}}{\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}}} \ll 30 \frac{\eta_{0.1}}{\sigma_{200}}$$

i.e. we expect  $\dot{m} \sim 1$

AGN are never *very* super--Eddington

## nature of outflows

outflow has optical depth  $\sim 1$ ,  $\rightarrow$  outflow momentum is of order photon momentum: 'single scattering limit'

$$\dot{M}v \simeq \frac{L_{\text{Edd}}}{c}$$

[NB: this condition does *not* constitute 'momentum—driven' flow!]

thus

$$v \simeq \frac{\eta}{\dot{m}} c \sim 0.1c$$

momentum conservation, modest optical depth  $\rightarrow v \sim 0.1c$

NB:  $v \sim 0.1c$  implies large-scale outflow can continue long after quasar has turned off!

mass conservation equation

$$\dot{M}_{\text{out}} = 4\pi b N R^2 m_p v$$

implies ionization parameter

$$\xi = \frac{L_i}{N R^2} = 3 \times 10^4 \eta_{0.1}^2 \left( \frac{l_i}{10^{-2}} \right) \dot{m}^{-2}$$

where  $L_i$  = ionizing luminosity, and  $l_i = L_i/L$

for a given quasar spectrum, ionizing component  $l_i$   
must correspond to photon energy implied by  $\xi$

mass conservation → *X—ray lines*

momentum conservation → *lines blueshifted by  $v \sim 0.1c$*

***cf observed X—ray outflows:  $\sim 50$  now known***

connection between conservation laws and flow speed, ionization works in both directions, i.e.

X—ray lines with  $v \sim 0.1c \leftrightarrow$  Eddington outflow

(unless solid angle of flow  $\ll 1$ )

## outflow shock

outflow must collide with bulge gas, and shock – what happens?  
either

(a) shocked gas **cools**: *this* is ‘momentum–driven flow’  
negligible thermal pressure

or

(b) shocked gas **does not cool**: ‘energy–driven flow’  
thermal pressure > ram pressure

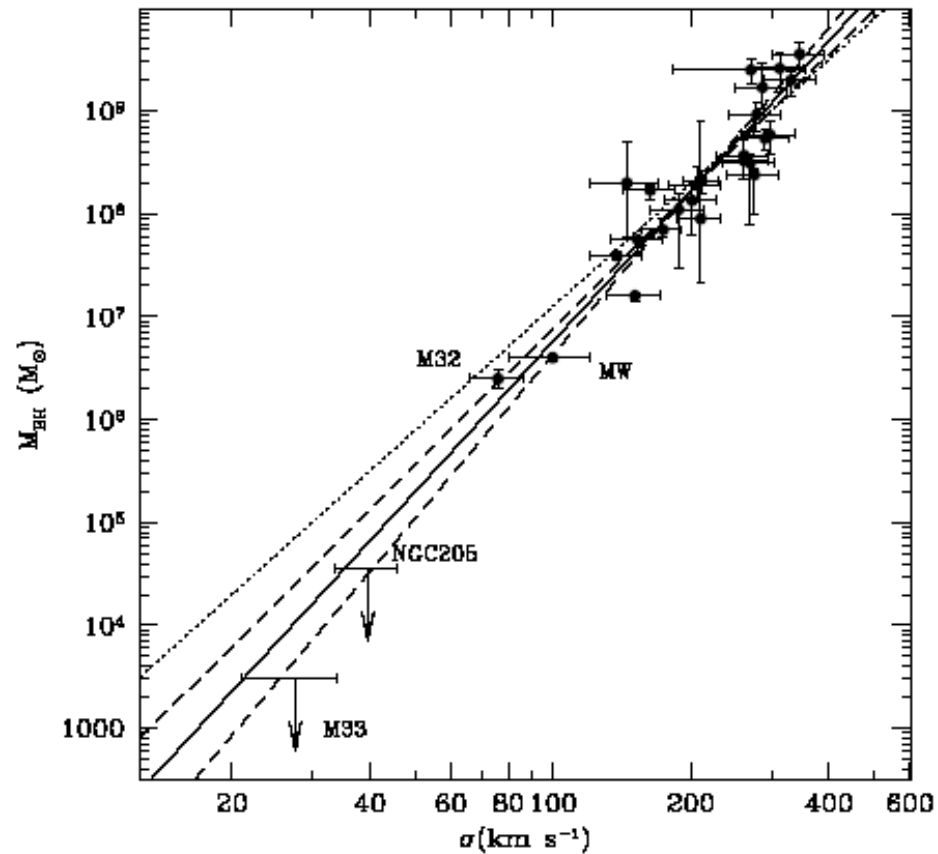
Compton cooling by quasar radiation field very effective out to  
bulge radius  $\sim 1$  kpc (cf Ciotti & Ostriker, 1997, 2001)

outflow is momentum-driven inside this radius →

$M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$  relation (King, 2003, 2005)

but energy-driven outside → *sweeps bulge clear of gas*





$$M = 2 \times 10^8 \sigma_{200}^4 M_{\odot}$$

need to resolve SMBH sphere of influence  $R_{\text{inf}} = 2GM/\sigma^2$

→ relation is *upper limit* to  $M$  for given  $\sigma$  (Bacheldor, 2010)

AGN black holes should be below this limit

## M – sigma relation

(simple derivation)

matter originally distributed so that

$$\frac{GM_{tot}(R)}{R} = 2\sigma^2$$

with

$$\frac{GM_{gas}(R)}{R} = 2f_g\sigma^2 \quad (f_g \approx 0.16)$$

at radius  $R$  total *weight* of shell is

$$\frac{GM_{tot}M_{gas}}{R^2} = \frac{4f_g\sigma^4}{G}$$

BH mass grows until Eddington thrust  $\frac{L_{Edd}}{c}$  supports this weight, i.e.

$$\frac{4\pi GM_{BH}}{\kappa} = \frac{4f_g\sigma^4}{G}$$

or

$$M_{BH} = \frac{f_g \kappa}{\pi G^2} \sigma^4 \quad (\text{King, 2003; 2005})$$

NB: *no free parameter*

total energy communicated to bulge gas to produce  
M – sigma relation is just kinetic energy

$$\frac{1}{2}\dot{M}v^2 = \frac{v}{2c}L_{\text{Edd}} = \frac{\eta}{2\dot{m}}L_{\text{Edd}} \simeq 0.05L_{\text{Edd}}$$

same fraction 0.05 found empirically in cosmological  
simulations

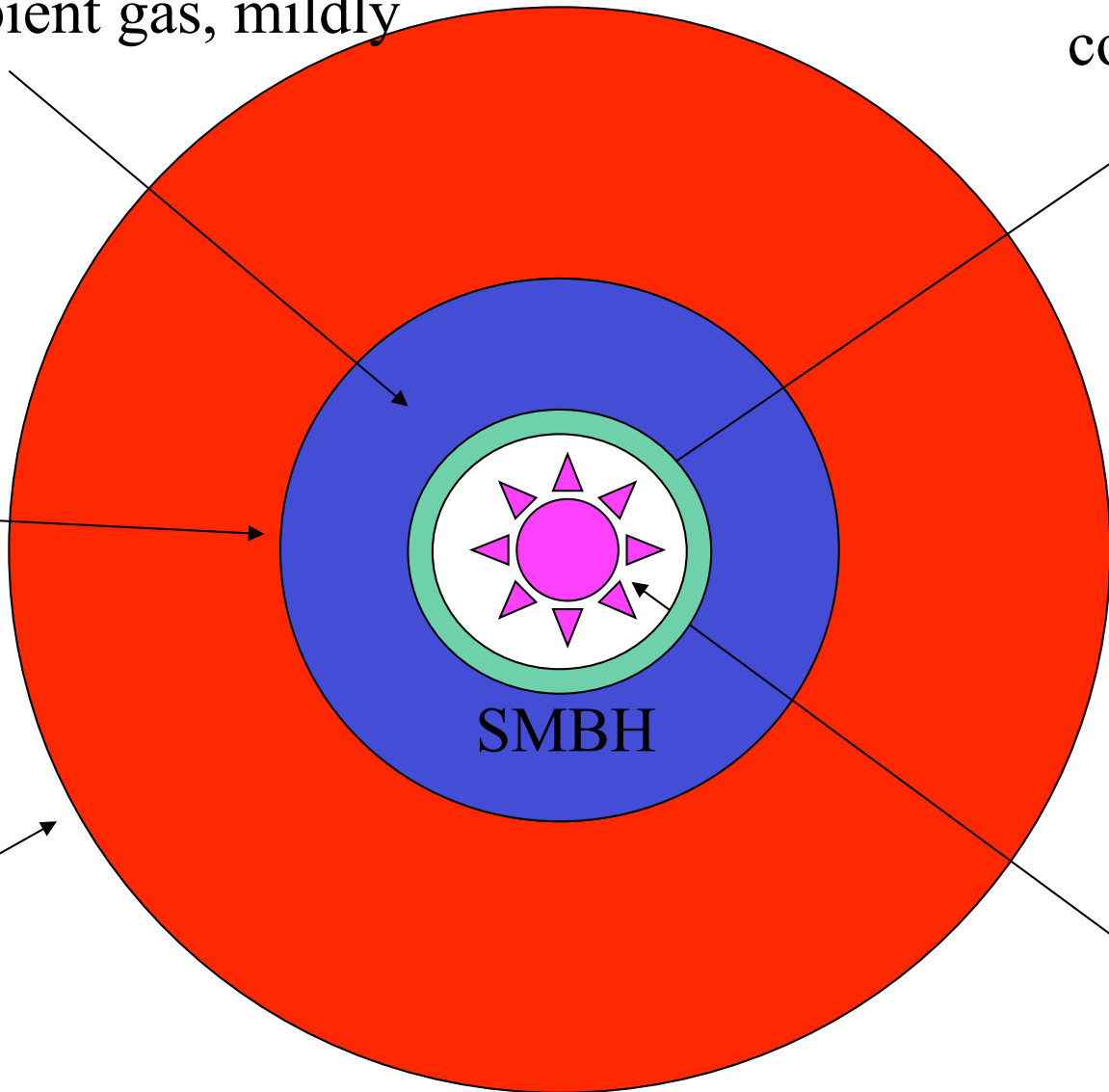
# shock pattern near AGN

swept-up ambient gas, mildly shocked

cooling shocked wind ('momentum-driven')

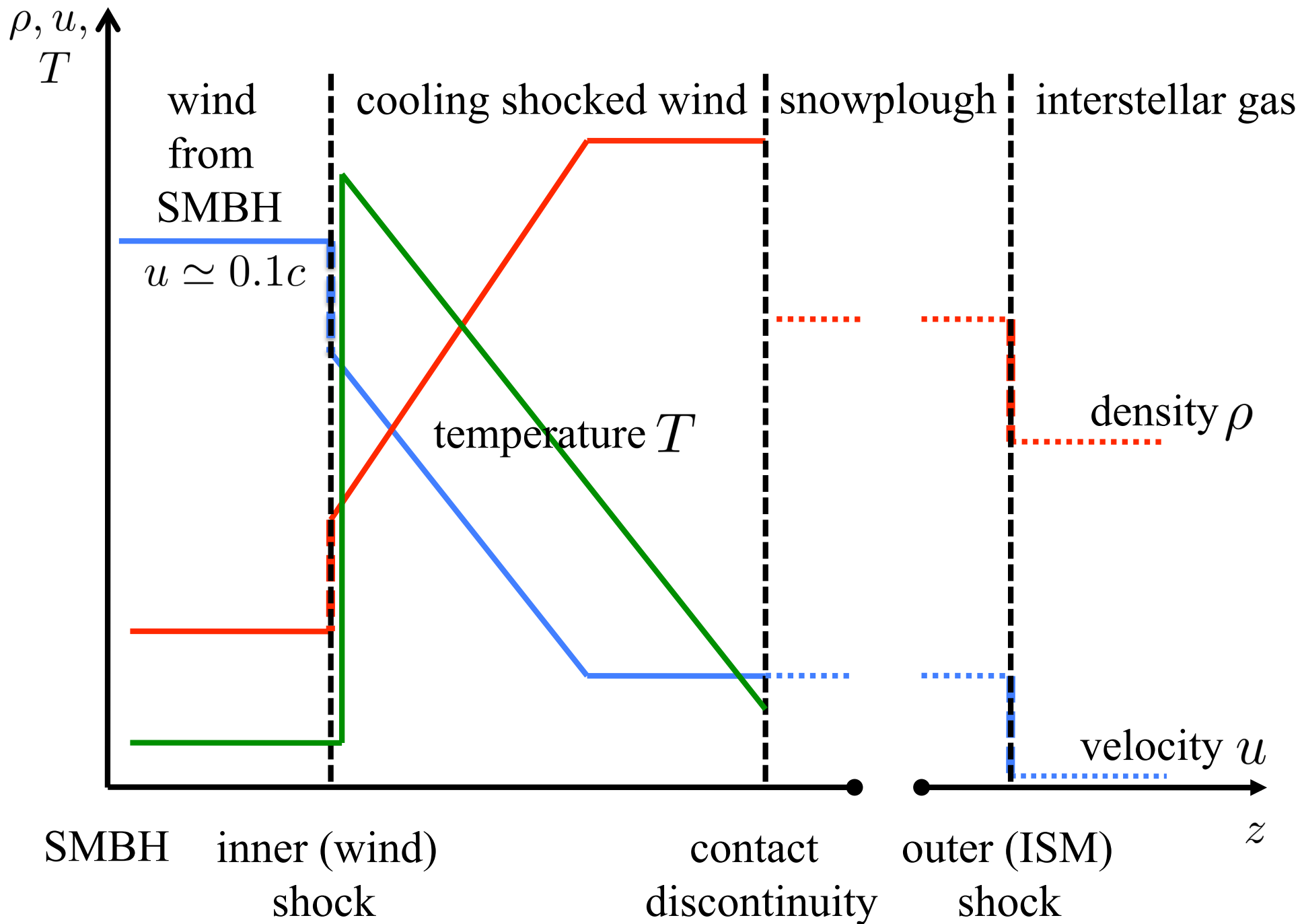
outer shock driven into ambient gas

ambient gas



Eddington wind,  $v \sim 0.1c$

(single scattering limit)



## evidence for cooling shock

*ionization parameter decreases with outflow velocity  
as required by mass conservation*

$$\dot{M}_{\text{out}} \propto \frac{L_i v}{\xi} = \text{const}$$

NGC4051: 10x decrease in  $v$ , seen in 14 species (Pounds et al.),  
correlates with ionization

cf talk by Mat Page

NB: many BH masses estimates use  $M - \sigma$

-- tendency to *overestimate* mass and *underestimate* Eddington factor



# frequency of Eddington outflows

Tombesi et al 2010 a, b:

22/42 radio—quiet AGN, 3/5 BLRGs show outflows with

$$v \sim 0.1c - 0.3c, \quad \xi \sim 10^4$$

and hence  $\dot{M}_{\text{out}} \sim 1 - 10 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , with very large momentum rates

high frequency  $\rightarrow$  solid angles large,  $b \sim 0.5 - 1$ :  $\sim 50\%$  of sample have super—Eddington episodes with significant duty cycles

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## aside: energy—driven flows?

in *energy—driven* flows (e.g. Silk & Rees, 1998) must equate rate of working vs gravity, i.e.

$$\frac{GM_{\text{tot}}M_{\text{gas}}}{R^2}\sigma$$

to Eddington *luminosity*, so

$$M_{\text{BH}} = \frac{f_g \kappa}{\pi G^2 c} \sigma^5$$

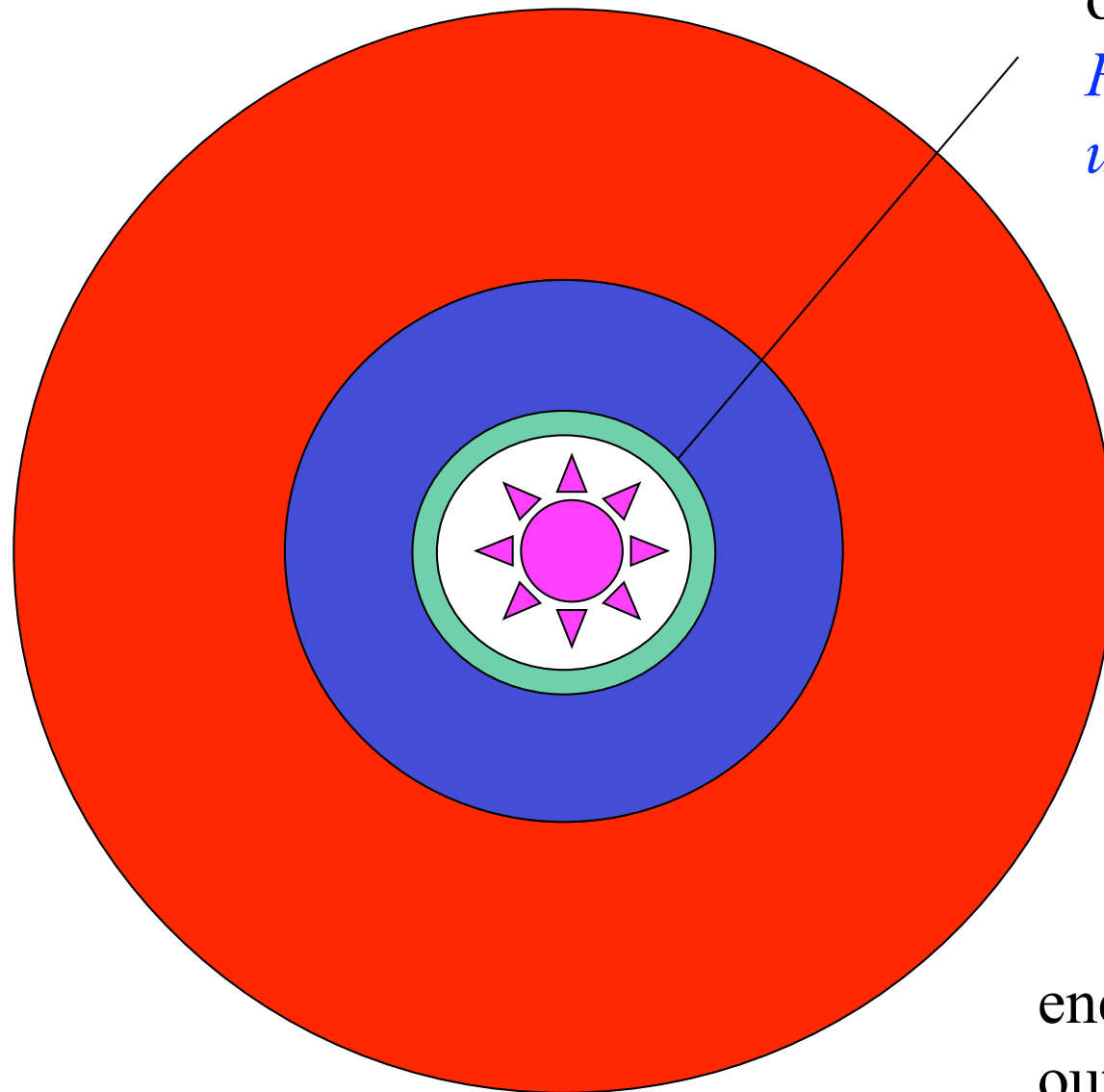
and

$$M_{\text{BH}}(\text{energy}) = \frac{\sigma}{c} M_{\text{BH}}(\text{momentum}) \simeq 1.3 \times 10^5 M_{\odot} \sigma_{200}^5$$

i.e. *far too small*, and  $\sigma^5$ , not  $\sigma^4$

this results because for observed SMBH masses,

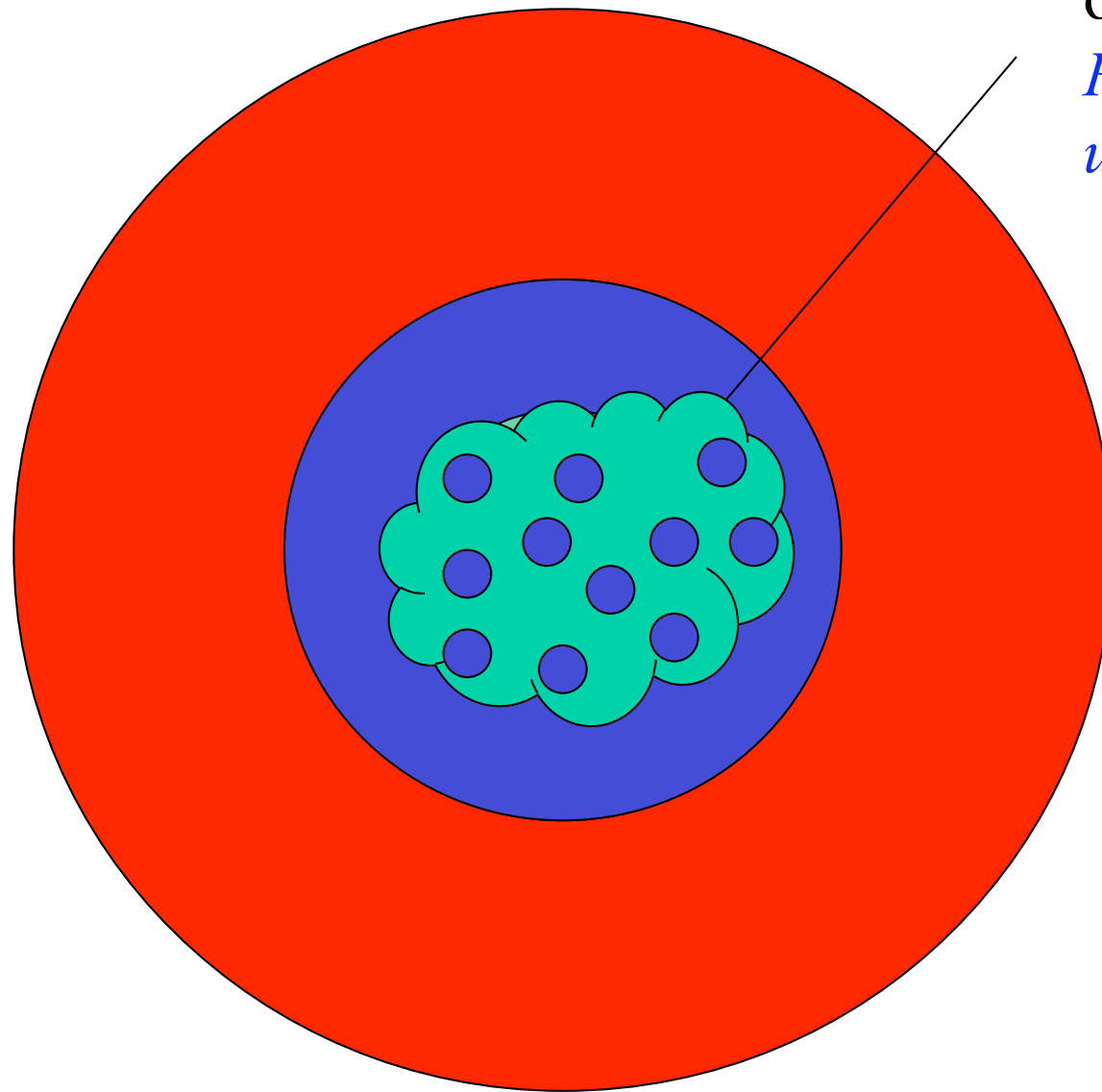
*BH binding energy*  $\gg$  *bulge binding energy* – outflow must cool!



outflow shock is  
*Rayleigh-Taylor*  
*unstable* unless

$$M \sim M_{\sigma}$$

energy-driven  
outflows always  
R – T unstable



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BH masses in AGN are probably  $\sim M_{\sigma}/\text{few}$