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DOI
10.1209/0295-5075/97/39001

Publication date
2012

Document Version
Final published version

Published in
Europhysics Letters

Citation for published version (APA):
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2012 EPL 97 39001
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Model for common growth of supermassive black holes, bulges and globular star clusters: Ripping off Jeans clusters

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received 12 December 2011; accepted in final form 22 December 2011
published online 6 February 2012

PACS 98.62.Js – Galactic nuclei (including black holes), circumnuclear matter, and bulges
PACS 95.35.+d – Dark matter (stellar, interstellar, galactic, and cosmological)
PACS 98.20.Jp – Globular clusters in external galaxies

Abstract – It is assumed that a galaxy starts as a dark halo of a few million Jeans clusters (JCs), each of which consists of nearly a trillion micro brown dwarfs, MACHOs of Earth mass. JCs in the galaxy center heat up their MACHOs by tidal forces, which makes them expand, so that coagulation and star formation occurs. Being continuously fed by matter from bypassing JCs, the central star(s) may transform into a super massive black hole. It has a fast \( t^{3} \) growth during the first mega years, and a slow \( t^{1/3} \) growth at giga years. JCs disrupted by a close encounter with this black hole can provide matter for the bulge. Those that survive can be so agitated that they form stars inside them and become globular star clusters. Thus black holes mostly arise together with galactic bulges in their own environment and are about as old as the oldest globular clusters. The age 13.2 Gy of the star HE 1523-0901 puts forward that the Galactic halo was fully assembled at that moment. The star formation rate has a maximum at black hole mass \( \sim 4 \cdot 10^{7} M_{\odot} \) and bulge mass \( \sim 5 \cdot 10^{10} M_{\odot} \). In case of merging supermassive black holes the JCs passing near the galactic center provide ideal assistance to overcome the last parsec.

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Introduction. – How galactic bulges and their central, supermassive black holes (BHs) have formed is still a mystery. Where did the matter come from in the first place? Did they grow slowly in their own environment or mainly by merging? How is their growth related to that of the bulge? Why do the heaviest active galactic nuclei involve about ten billion solar masses? With new evidence coming in steadily, these questions are now often debated but still await consensus, see the overview by [1].

Recent observations reveal that supermassive black holes (SMBHs) of up to billions of solar masses must have formed rather early in the history of the universe and that this happened rather smoothly, with black holes growing in tandem with their hosts throughout cosmic history, starting from the earliest times [2]. It is seen that most copiously accreting black holes at these epochs are buried in significant amounts of gas and dust that absorb most radiation except for the highest energy X-rays. This suggests that black holes grow significantly more than previously thought during these early bursts. In line with this, it is observed that merging can not be the driving force for BH growth [3]. On the other hand, the BH mass exhibits no correlation with the dark matter in the halo [4].

There is also evidence for correlations between galactic structures: the mass of the central supermassive black hole (SMBH) correlates with the mass of the bulge [5] and also with the number of globular star clusters [6]. These intriguing relations point at a common dynamical origin.

The standard cold dark matter (CDM) paradigm fits the cosmic microwave background data fairly well\(^1\), but there are ongoing debates about the analysis of WMAP data, see, e.g., [9]. Another weakness is that correlations in galaxy structures at the largest observed scales are stronger than expected from ΛCDM [10]. The CDM particle has still not been found, and time for it is running out [11]. At the time of this writing, December 2011, no trace of supersymmetry has been observed at the Large

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\(^{1}\)WMAP has too many 2 – σ points. The best fit, \( \chi^{2}/\nu = 1.06 \) for \( \nu \sim 1000 \) degrees of freedom, exceeds the Gaussian \( \chi^{2} = \nu \) and leaves space for a \( \sqrt{60} \sigma \approx 8 \sigma \) improvement [7], a conundrum which the Planck data will not resolve [8].
Hadron Collider LHC, which dims the hope to ever observe the CDM particle there. Worse, there are arguments against a CDM particle, since CDM performs badly at the galactic scale. Most known is the missing satellite problem, from the prediction of numerous satellites of the Galaxy. Not only are they not observed, it is now becoming generally accepted that the known satellites lie in a plane, not in random CDM subhalos, and have come in from the same direction, possibly in a collision between the Milky Way and the progenitor of the Magellanic Clouds [12]. On top of this, low surface brightness (dwarf) galaxies contain a lot of dark matter and should be an ideal testing ground, but CDM fails badly in describing them [13]. Scientists like C. Frenk (of Navarro-Frenk-White-profile fame) now investigate other scenarios [14], a fact that has reached headlines2, while also J. Navarro concludes that dark matter halos of dwarf galaxies pose a challenge for the ΛCDM paradigm [15]. These studies break with the attitude within CDM circles to see these phenomena as “(dirty) gas physics”, issues that need not be addressed at first.

The merit of MOND (MOdified Newtonian Dynamics) is to establish a protocol to predict in galaxies the force, and thus the circular rotation speed, from the luminous matter and gas alone. This does not prove that MOND is right—we are not convinced of it—but it concludes that cold dark matter cannot explain galactic rotation curves. Indeed, being non-dissipational it has no clear reason to act in the same way as the dissipative baryons [16].

These problems of CDM motivate us to investigate a different starting point, namely the old case of galactic dark matter dominated by Earth mass MACHOs. Such objects were observed in quasar microlensing by [17] and in later works on quasars [18], a result that has not been disputed and is supported by studies on other quasars. On the other hand, the EROS, MACHO andOGLE consortia did not observe them in front of the Magellanic Clouds, with the relevant papers for Earth masses being from EROS [19] and from MACHO [20,21]. Despite the quasar detection claim, their non-existence is now the prevailing opinion. But there is mounting evidence that the low-mass MACHO observations have lacked the required precision. The MOA team recently found a new population of Jupiters in the Galactic bulge, twice as common as main sequence stars [22]. MOA-II announced new high cadence observations toward Galactic bulge and Magellanic clouds: Until now, 11 extrasolar planets, 10 free-floating planets, and four MACHO candidates have been discovered [23].

To resolve the conundrum of MACHO observation versus non-observation, it is planned to redo the MACHO searches in front of the Small Magellanic Cloud with the large 6.5 m telescope in Chili [24].

We thus consider it appropriate to assume MACHO dark matter in galaxies. In this letter, we recall its gravitational hydrodynamics basis and apply that to the growth of BHs and to bulges and globular star clusters. Then we consider the SMBH at Sag A* and we close with a discussion.

**Elements of gravitational hydrodynamics.** – We start from the well accepted fact that soon after the decoupling of matter and radiation the newly formed neutral gas breaks up in Jeans clumps of some 600000 solar masses. From gravitational hydrodynamics (GHD) we take one more ingredient: due to turbulence and viscosity, the Jeans clumps are supposed to fragment into hydrogen-helium balls of Earth mass [25,26], now termed micro brown dwarfs (µBDs) or MACHOs. Thereby Jeans clumps become Jeans clusters (JCs) of some 2·10^{11} µBDs [27].

The µBDs are primordial objects basically consisting of H and 26% in weight of 4He. Visible matter, such as stars and hydrogen clouds, should have arisen from them, but most µBDs should still exist, having picked up a variety of metals from their environment. In this picture the dark matter halo of the Galaxy is made up of some 10^{6} Jeans clusters. Essentially, they are the progenitors of globular star clusters. If their joint distribution is an isothermal sphere, the flattening of rotation curves is explained.

This starting point has already explained many puzzling features, such as the formation of young globular clusters in galaxy merging and the iron planet-core problem [27]. It also explains the helium-3 problem [28]. Some Galactic phenomena are so frequent that they are likely related to DM. First, there is the ubiquitous minimal 15 K temperature of “cold cirrus dust” [29]. Second, there occur “long duration radio transients”, mysterious radio events that last long (longer than half an hour but shorter than a few days), are very frequent (∼1000 deg^{-2}y^{-1}, i.e., a new one every second if the rate holds over the 4π sky), can be very bright (>1 Jy), have neither a precursor nor a remnant, and are not visible in the infrared, visible or X-ray spectrum [30]. Both phenomena can be explained by DM from Earth mass MACHOs [27] but have little chance of explanation by any non-baryonic DM, emergent gravity [31], or by modifications of Newton’s law such as MOND.

The typical size of an µBD can actually be estimated from isothermal modeling (see the discussion below), $R_{bd} = GM_{bd}/2σ_{gas}^{2}$. Here $σ_{gas} = (kBT/μm_{N})^{1/2} \approx 450$ m/s, using the observed minimal temperature $T \approx 15$ K of what is commonly called “cirrus clouds” but expected by us to be µBDs grouped in JCs [27]; furthermore, $μ \approx 0.61$ is the 30% solar metallicity factor and $m_{N}$ the nucleon mass. For $M_{bd} = M_{⊙}$ it follows that $R_{bd} \approx 9.8 \cdot 10^{3}$ km = $1.4R_{⊙}$, which agrees surprisingly well with the 3.7 $R_{⊙}$ from the typical duration ∼1 day of long duration radio transients as explained by merging of two µBDs with typical speeds of 30 km/s [27]. Though it may seem that an Earth mass of gas smeared over a solar size is dilute, the surface density of H atoms, $0.74M_{H}/m_{N}πR_{bd}^{2} \approx 3 \cdot 10^{28}$ cm^{-2}, is very large for a cosmic cloud. That the µBDs have so far escaped direct detection is explained by the fact that their

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individual size is small, as is the fraction of the sky that they cover together \[27\], and that below 20 K they are in the liquid phase.

We may also mention Segue 1, the darkest object known with about 1000 stars and a mass-to-light ratio of 3400. Its total mass within the half-light radius is 600000 solar masses \[32\]. Clearly Segue 1 is DM dominated but no X-ray signal has been observed, so no annihilation or decay of CDM. The GHD explanation is simple: Segue 1 is a Jeans cluster (notice its mass) with little star formation and its DM is baryonic. The same holds for similar low brightness star clusters.

Non-baryonic dark matter must exist too and may consist of non-relativistic neutrinos that appear as the dark matter of clusters \[33\]. The predicted masses of 1.5 eV (if all nearly equal), or in the eV range in general, will be tested in the KATRIN experiment in 2014 \[34\]. If all nearly equal, or in the eV range in general, will consist of non-relativistic neutrinos that appear as the brightness star clusters.

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Final growth phase. The growth mechanism is the more complicated the heavier the BH, in particular for $M_{\text{bh}} \sim 10^6M_\odot$. However, it becomes simpler for the supermassive ones, where a whole JC can be captured. In this regime the relation $\mathcal{M}(R_{\text{ac}}) = M_{\text{bh}}$ yields

$$R_{\text{ac}} = \frac{GM_{\text{bh}}}{2\sigma_{\text{jc}}}$$

(10)

which exceeds $R_{\text{jc}}$ when $M_{\text{bh}} > M_{\text{jc}} \equiv \Sigma^2 R_{\text{ac}} = 2.7 \cdot 10^8M_\odot$. The JCs entering the sphere of radius $R_{\text{ac}}$ in a time interval $dt$ were located between $R_{\text{ac}}$ and $R_{\text{ac}} + \sigma_{\text{jc}} dt$ and had $\dot{r} < 0$, so the average rate of JCs entering per unit of time is

$$\dot{N}(R_{\text{ac}}) = \frac{\rho(R_{\text{ac}})}{M_{\text{jc}}} \frac{2\pi R_{\text{ac}}^2 \sigma_{\text{jc}}}{2GM_{\text{bh}}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{jc}}^3}{GM_{\text{jc}}} \frac{\Sigma^2 \sigma_{\text{jc}}^2}{2R_{\text{jc}}}$$

(11)

It is constant because the surface factor $R_{\text{ac}}^2$ cancels the decay of (1). The probability for a JC to cross the central BH is set by the opening angle [34],

$$\frac{\pi R_{\text{ac}}^2}{2\pi R_{\text{ac}}^2} = 1 - 2 \left( \frac{R_{\text{jc}} \sigma_{\text{jc}}^2}{GM_{\text{bh}}} \right)^2 = 1 - 2 \left( \frac{M_{\text{jc}} \Sigma^2}{M_{\text{bh}}} \right)^2.$$  

(12)

A fraction $f_{\text{lb}}^f = O(1)$ of the JC mass is supposed to end up in the BH and the rest in the bulge or back in the halo. Putting (11) and (12) together, we get

$$\dot{M}_{\text{bh}} = \frac{M_{\text{jc}}^3}{3\tau_{\text{b}} M_{\text{bh}}^2},$$

(13)

with

$$\tau_{\text{b}} = \frac{2GM_{\text{jc}}}{3f_{\text{lb}}^f \Sigma^4 \sigma_{\text{jc}}^4} = \frac{0.106}{f_{\text{lb}}^f} \text{yr}.$$  

(14)

The solution is

$$M_{\text{bh}} = M_{\text{jc}} \left( \frac{t}{\tau_{\text{b}}} \right)^{1/3}.$$  

(15)

This behavior holds for $M_{\text{bh}} \gg 2.7 \cdot 10^8M_\odot$. While (9) exhibits a very fast growth at early times, eq. (15) shows that this is strongly slowed down at late times. The result takes the values $M_{\text{bh}} = (1, 2, 3, 18) \cdot 10^9M_\odot$ at times $t = (0.51, 4.2, 14, 3000)/(1/f_{\text{lb}}^f) \text{Gy}$. So though masses of a few times $10^8M_\odot$ should be quite common, no mass is predicted beyond a few billion solar masses. Merging could stretch this upper limit somewhat; the most massive one contains 18 billion solar masses [36]. Indeed, in the nearby universe unexpectedly heavy SMBHs have been observed recently. In NGC 3842, the brightest galaxy in a cluster at a distance from Earth of 98 megaparsecs, the BH has a central black hole with a mass of 9.7 billion solar masses; a black hole of comparable or greater mass is present in NGC 4889, the brightest galaxy in the Coma cluster, which lies at a distance of 103 megaparsecs [37].

The age at redshift $z$ in a cosmology with matter fraction $\Omega_M = 0.3$ and Hubble constant $H_0 = 72 \text{km/s Mpc}$ is $t(z) = 2/3H_0\sqrt{\Omega_M(z+1)}^{3/2}$ at redshift $z > 1$, so that the maximum BH mass at large redshift is

$$M_{\text{bh}}^{\text{max}}(z) = \frac{3.7 \cdot 10^9}{\sqrt{z+1}} M_\odot.$$  

(16)

This typical $z$-dependence can be tested on high-$z$ SMBHs.

Bulge growth and giant molecular clouds. Not all the material of JCs that come close to the BH will end up in it. Heavily distorted JCs will start to create the bulge. Some of them can heat up enough to make most of the $\mu$BDs dissolve, turning the remnant of the JC into a giant molecular cloud —thus explaining their origin. Indeed, giant molecular clouds can have a mass of $100000-400000$ times the solar mass, while our canonical value for the mass of a JC is $60000M_\odot$. In these clouds star formation can occur, in particular if there are still nuclei of original $\mu$BDs, or intact ones, that can aggregate to form stars [38,39].

In the simplest model the rate of increase of bulge mass will be proportional to the BH mass growth rate,

$$\dot{M}_{\text{bh}} = f_{\text{lb}}^f M_{\text{bh}},$$

(17)

and if $f_{\text{lb}}^f$ can be taken as constant, its integral will be

$$M_{\text{bh}} = f_{\text{lb}}^f M_{\text{bu}}.$$  

(18)

Observations show that [5]

$$M_{\text{bh}} = (1.4 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{bu}} \quad \text{at} \quad M_{\text{bu}} = 5 \cdot 10^{10}M_\odot,$$

(19)

so that $f_{\text{lb}}^f = 0.0014$, while ref. [1] gives the typical value $f_{\text{lb}}^f \sim 0.001$. Reference [40] reports that $f_{\text{lb}}^f$ has remained constant in the last 7 billion years (out to $z = 0.9$).

In a linear modeling the star formation rate (SFR) will also be proportional to the BH growth,

$$\dot{M}_{\text{bh}} = f_{\text{sf}} M_{\text{bh}}.$$  

(20)

The relationship between black hole growth and star formation is investigated in Seyfert galaxies [41]. The authors study masses between $3 \cdot 10^5$ and $6 \cdot 10^9M_\odot$ and deduce the star formation rate from near-infrared observations at $1.13 \mu$m,

$$\text{SFR}(1.13 \mu m) = 14^{+11}_{-6} \left( \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{bh}}}{M_\odot \text{y}^{-1}} \right)^{0.95 \pm 0.10} \frac{M_\odot}{\text{y}}.$$  

(21)

Taking this power equal to unity, we observe that this fits within our picture, and we get the estimate $f_{\text{sf}} \sim 0.07$.

We notice a discrepancy between the amount of mass entering the bulge $\sim f_{\text{lb}}^f M_{\text{bh}}$ and the mass in star formation $\sim f_{\text{lb}}^f M_{\text{bh}}$, which may imply that the factors $f_{\text{lb}}^f$ and $f_{\text{sf}}$ are not constants.

The SFR equals $f_{\text{lb}}^f M_{\text{bh}}$, which grows for small BH mass as $M_{\text{bh}}^{2/3}$ according to eq. (9), while it decays as $M_{\text{bh}}^{-2}$ according to (15). If $f_{\text{lb}}^f \approx f_{\text{lb}}^f$, these asymptotic behaviors cross at $M_{\text{bh}}^* = 3.7 \cdot 10^9M_\odot$ and, with (18), $M_{\text{bh}}^* \sim 5 \cdot 10^{10}M_\odot$. This corresponds to SFR $= 500 f_{\text{lb}}^f M_\odot \text{y}^{-1}$, a reasonable upper bound for the maximal SFR.
Globular star cluster formation. – It is commonly assumed that globular star clusters arise through the Jeans mechanism. The combination of the fragmented structure of JCs and the agitation by the SMBH provides a mechanism to induce star formation and hence transform JCs into globular clusters. Some JCs will pass by close enough to the BH to be agitated by tidal forces, though remaining enough intact to go back into the halo. When the μBDs get heated so that they expand and coalesce, they form stars. This may in the end yield a number of globular clusters (GCs) proportional to the BH mass,

\[ N_{gc} = f_{gc} \frac{M_{bh}}{M_{jc}}. \tag{22} \]

Burkert and Tremaine [6] were the first to investigate a possible connection between the number of globular clusters and they BH mass. They derive from observations

\[ \frac{M_{bh}}{M_\odot} = 1.7 \cdot 10^5 N_{gc}^{1.08 \pm 0.04}, \quad \frac{M_{bh}}{M_{gc}} = 0.283 N_{gc}, \quad \text{(23)} \]

yielding \( f_{gc} \sim 3.5 \). Forcing the slope to be 1, the best fit is [42]

\[ \frac{M_{bh}}{M_\odot} = 4.07 \cdot 10^5 N_{gc}, \quad \text{(24)} \]

so that we get the estimate \( f_{gc} \sim 1.5 \).

Such a transformation of dark JCs into young GCs is believed to happen also in galaxy mergers, where young globular star clusters arise long after the merging process has taken place [25,27]. An example is the Tadpole galaxy, where about 11000 GCs have been analyzed by [43]. The most luminous of the “knots” has an age of 4–5 My and estimated mass \( 6.6 \cdot 10^5 M_\odot \) [44], reminiscent of a JC.

Solution to the last parsec problem. – It has long been suspected that SMBHs arise from merging of smaller ones. Though we have proposed a different main mechanism, merging will definitely also occur. To merge, a BH pair can scatter a star and become more tightly bound. But the dynamical friction with the stellar background is ineffective in shrinking the binary below separations of 1 parsec [45,46]. This conundrum has puzzled the community for decades, see, e.g., [47]. But GHD offers a simple way out: galactic centers are crowded with JCs of μBDs. The JC size is in the parsec regime, so they offer an ideal frictional environment for a rapid merging of the BHs.

The Galaxy and its SMBH at Sag A*. – The Sun is located at 8 kpc from the center of the Galaxy. It is a cored Sersic galaxy with a bulge surface density \( \Sigma_0 = \Sigma_0 \exp(-r/R_d) \) with \( R_d \approx 2.5 \) kpc. In the center there is a nuclear star cluster and the density has a cusp, with \( M_* \sim 10^8 M_\odot \) at \( r < 4 \) pc [48]. These aspects stem with our picture of central JCs. Our estimate for the mass of singular isothermal cores, \( M(R_{gc}) = 2\pi^2 M_{gc} \) yields the right order of magnitude, \( 5.3 \cdot 10^5 M_\odot \) for \( R_{gc} = 1.43 \) pc.

The central BH of our Galaxy appears to verify several fundamental aspects of our picture. Located at Sag A* it has mass of \( 4 \cdot 10^6 M_\odot \), a modest value for a supermassive BH. Observations have revealed a puzzling disk of over 50 young stars (age \( \sim 1 \) My) within 0.14 pc of Sag A* that probably formed in situ but in a more complex geometry than a simple, thin circular disk. Lacking a clear explanation, this conundrum has been termed the “paradox of youth” [49]. A new scenario is offered by GHD: a Jeans cluster was passing close to Sag A*. This has agitated the μBDs by tidal forces, so that they have grown in size, merged and finally turned into stars, in the same way as they do in galaxy mergers [25,27]. Indeed, the active radius (10) takes the value \( R_{ac} = 0.2 \) pc, which is comparable with the observed 0.14 pc radius. This view is supported by the fact that the observed out-of-the-disk velocity dispersion of the young stars of \( 28 \pm 6 \) km s\(^{-1}\) [49] fits well with the typical \( \sigma_{bd} = 30 \) km s\(^{-1}\) velocity dispersion of μBDs inside JCs. The scenario of by passing JCs is supported by the fact that the very old globular cluster NGC 6522 is (presently) situated close to the Galactic nucleus [50]. Also in M31 (Andromeda) a cluster of blue (young) stars is found to surround the nuclear black hole; its size, estimated at a few parsec, corresponds to a Jeans cluster, as we would expect. Like the black hole in the Milky Way, the one in M31 is closely surrounded by apparently young stars [51].

Conclusion. – The prediction of gravitational hydrodynamics that after the decoupling the newly formed Jeans gas clumps fragment in micro brown dwarfs of Earth weight is considered here under the assumption that these Jeans clusters (JCs) build the galactic halo by reaching a dynamical quasi-equilibrium that we model by a singular isothermal sphere. This picture provides a simple answer for the growth of central (supermassive) black holes, the bulge, giant molecular clouds and globular star clusters. The mass of the BH grows quickly, \( \sim t^1 \), at early times, and a \( 10^6 M_\odot \) mass can be accumulated in, say, 100000y. The final growth is slower, \( \sim t^{1/3} \), and in a Hubble time a black hole of weight up to a few billion solar masses can grow. These different behaviors imply a maximal star formation rate at BH mass of \( \sim 4 \cdot 10^7 M_\odot \), and bulge mass of \( \sim 5 \cdot 10^{10} M_\odot \). Merging may create even heavier BHs because the last parsec is again overcome with the help of Jeans clusters at the galactic center. The heaviest SMBHs (as well as the typical ones) are expected to have a mass scaling as \( 1/\sqrt{T+z} \) for \( z > 1 \).

In our top-down approach the observed age 13.2 Gy of the star HE 1523-0901 [52] puts forward that the galactic halo was sufficiently assembled at that moment.

In the present work it has been tacitly assumed that the isothermal distribution remains singular at the galactic center and exhibits no depletion. Such an effect is likely to occur, however, leading to a pause between spurts of black hole growth, as observed by [53] and often connected to BH jets. This may explain both why the Galactic BH at Sag A* is quiescent and why some black holes are quasars.
and others not. The repletion mechanism may also address the Faber-Jackson relation and variants of it; they are not explained in our approach, but repletion may imply a common cause for them.

We have presented a basic model for these behaviors. Many details can be learned from numerical simulations.

Additional remark: After submitting the manuscript we noticed surprising observations that support our theory but are unexpected from ΛCDM. 1) A cloud of $3M_\odot$ heads towards the supermassive BH at Sgr A*, the center of our Galaxy [54]. We view it as a typical μBD feeding the BH, after disruption from a by-passing JC. The many μBDs of the JC can absorb angular momentum to facilitate the cloud’s central orbit. A test is to identify this JC and one that was long outside the bulge, thus having picked up few metals. Upon heating, the μBDs evaporated and the JCs expanded. 3) In accordance with the GHD top-down structure formation, the higher the stellar mass, the lower the age of the Universe at which certain $z > 4.7$ galaxies formed [56]. 4) Ultra-compact dwarf galaxies are consistent with just being the bright tail of the globular cluster population (JCs with star formation) rather than being tidally transformed dwarf galaxies [57]. 5) A large star formation rate ($\sim 100 M_\odot y^{-1}$) occurs already in a very early galaxy at 12.9 Gyr distance ($z = 7.2$) [58]. Our theory allows this, and connects it a growing super massive black hole.

REFERENCES