



Contribution ID: 34

Type: recorded talk

The formation of counter-rotating galaxies

In recent years, integral-field spectroscopic surveys have revealed that the presence of kinematically-decoupled stellar components is not a rare phenomenon in nearby galaxies. Among the decoupled stellar components, extended large-scale counter-rotation in disk galaxies has been found in a number of objects. The origin of such phenomenon has been demonstrated, at least in some cases, to be the end result of the acquisition of a gas cloud that settled in the disk plane of a disk galaxy and then formed the counter-rotating stellar disk. In an earlier epoch acquisition events were more frequent and so we expect the formation of counter-rotating disks.

MAVIS-IFS is the perfect instrument to investigate the presence of counter-rotation at $z=0.4-0.6$.

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Session Classification: Resolving the contents of nearby galaxies