



How supernovae launch galactic winds?

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ABSTRACT

We use idealized three-dimensional hydrodynamic simulations of global galactic discs to study the launching of galactic winds by supernovae (SNe). The simulations resolve the cooling radii of the majority of supernova remnants (SNRs) and thus self-consistently capture how SNe drive galactic winds. We find that SNe launch highly supersonic winds with properties that agree reasonably well with expectations from analytic models. The energy loading ($\eta_E = \dot{E}_{\text{wind}} / \dot{E}_{\text{SN}}$) of the winds in our simulations are well converged with spatial resolution while the wind mass loading ($\eta_M = \dot{M}_{\text{wind}} / \dot{M}_*$) decreases with resolution at the resolutions we achieve. We present a simple analytic model based on the concept that SNRs with cooling radii greater than the local scaleheight break out of the disc and power the wind. This model successfully explains the dependence (or lack thereof) of η_E (and by extension η_M) on the gas surface density, star formation efficiency, disc radius and the clustering of SNe. The winds our simulations are weaker than expected in reality, likely due to the fact that we seed SNe preferentially at density peaks. Clustering SNe in time and space substantially increases the wind power.

Key words: methods: numerical – ISM: supernova remnants – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: formation – galaxies: general – galaxies: ISM.

1 INTRODUCTION

Galactic winds help limit the efficiency with which galaxies turn gas into stars by expelling material from the interstellar medium (ISM) and by halting gas inflow into galaxies (e.g. Dekel & Silk 1986; Springel & Hernquist 2003; Faucher-Giguère, Kereš & Ma 2011). They are also responsible for enriching and heating the circumgalactic medium (e.g. Aguirre et al. 2001; Oppenheimer & Davé 2006; Hummels et al. 2013; Fielding et al. 2017). As a result, galactic winds are at the heart of many of the cornerstone relationships of modern astronomy such as the stellar mass function, stellar mass to halo mass relation and the mass–metallicity relation. Many processes are capable of launching galactic winds, but in star-forming galaxies energy deposition by supernovae (SNe) is often thought to be a key driver.

Constraints on the nature of star formation powered galactic winds come from numerous sources. First, extensive observations have directly measured the energy and mass loading of galactic winds in different environments (e.g. Heckman, Armus & Miley 1990; Veilleux, Cecil & Bland-Hawthorn 2005; Chisholm et al. 2017). Secondly, analytic considerations predict the density, temperature and velocity profiles of a galactic wind for a given

energy and mass loading (e.g. Chevalier & Clegg 1985, hereafter CC85, Thompson et al. 2016). Thirdly, cosmological simulations demonstrate that winds with a particular range of efficiencies are required to reproduce many observations (e.g. Finlator & Davé 2008; Somerville & Davé 2015; Muratov et al. 2015). Given all we know about galactic winds there is none the less a surprising degree of disagreement on if/how SNe are capable of launching winds that meet all the necessary constraints.

Numerical simulations of isolated galaxies inform how SNe drive winds – commonly using local stratified Cartesian box simulations with periodic and outflow boundary conditions in and out of the disc plane, respectively (e.g. Joung & Mac Low 2006; Creasey, Theuns & Bower 2013; Girichidis et al. 2016; Kim & Ostriker 2016; Li, Bryan & Ostriker 2016). These stratified box simulations generally predict winds that are subsonic, which may be a result of the geometry, namely the lack of a well-defined escape speed and free space for the wind to expand into (Martizzi et al. 2016, hereafter M16). To more faithfully address how SNe launch galactic winds we designed a new suite of simulations that adopts a global geometry, capturing an entire gaseous galactic disc while resolving most supernova remnants (SNRs). Because we neglect self-gravity, molecular line cooling and other important physics these are not the final word on the true energy and mass loading of SNe-driven winds. But they do significantly sharpen our understanding of the origin and properties of such winds.

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Table 1. Full range of simulation parameters. Not all combinations are discussed in the text. The fiducial models are in bold. $M_\odot$ is the mass of the external gravitational potential. R_d is the characteristic radius of the gravitational potential and the scalelength of the exponential gas disc. Σ_{gas} is central gas surface density. The parameter f_{cl} is the clustering factor of SNe: the total energy per SNR is equal to $f_{\text{cl}} \times 10^{51}$ ergs while the SN rate $\propto f_{\text{cl}}^{-1}$. The efficiency of star formation is encapsulated in $f_\star = t_\star/t_{\text{dyn}}$, such that a lower $f_\star$ yields more star formation.

$M_\odot[M_\odot]$	$R_d[\text{pc}]$	$\Sigma_{\text{gas}}[M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}]$	f_{cl}	$f_\star/100$
1.0×10^9	100	10, 30, 50	1	0.3, 1, 3
2.8×10^9	300	10, 30, 100, 300	1, 3, 10, 30	0.3, 1, 3
9.2×10^9	1000	10, 30	1	1

2 METHOD

We ran a series of simulations designed to study the launching of galactic winds by SNe in a global geometry using the Eulerian hydrodynamics code *ATHENA* (Stone et al. 2008). We evolve a gaseous galactic disc that is stratified by an external potential – representing the gravitational field from baryons and dark matter – in which intermittent, discrete SNe go off at a given rate. The setup of the numerical experiment is simple and provides a useful counterpoint to analogous experiments that differ essentially only in their use of local Cartesian simulation domains; we compare primarily to our earlier work (M16). The simulations evolve an ideal fluid in three dimensions with cooling and without self-gravity. The gas has solar metallicity everywhere and cooling proceeds assuming collisional ionization equilibrium. Cooling below 10^4 K and photoelectric heating are not included. The gas is initialized in a rotating, 10^4 K disc that is in radial centripetal balance and vertical hydrostatic equilibrium with the background gravitational potential that is given by a Hernquist profile, $\Phi(r) = -GM_\odot/(r + a)$, where r is the spherical radius (R represents the cylindrical radius) (Hernquist 1990). The disc initially has an exponentially declining surface density profile characterized by a central surface density Σ_{gas} and a scalelength R_d that is set to match the characteristic radius of the gravitational potential a .

The simulation parameters are listed in Table 1. In all simulations, the parameters are chosen so that $v_{\text{circ}}(r = a = R_d) = \sqrt{GM(r)/r} = 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. For our fiducial simulations we adopt the relatively small disc scalelength of $R_d = 300 \text{ pc}$, although we study the differences resulting from using a $\sim 3 \times$ smaller and larger disc. Our disc sizes and v_{circ} are similar to those in M82 and NGC 253, but our Σ_{gas} are not quite as high.

The major drawback of running global rather than local simulations is the computational expense of resolving the SNR injection when we are primarily interested in the large-scale structure and wind dynamics. This partially motivates the smaller disc scalelengths considered here, so that SNR evolution can be resolved. To further this goal, we use five levels of static-mesh-refinement. We space our cubical 256^3 grids logarithmically, enabling us to use a domain side length of $L_{\text{box}} \gtrsim 40R_d$ and have high resolution (3 pc) in the disc mid-plane where most of the mass resides (the highest resolution region is $L_{\text{HR}} \gtrsim 2R_d$ on a side).

We seed and inject SNRs in our simulations as in the ‘SC’ model used by M16, so we refer the reader there for more details. In short, the probability of an SN being set off in a given cell containing mass M_{cell} during a given time step of length dt_{hydro} is proportional to the local gas density and inversely proportional to the local star

formation time-scale $t_\star$, which is chosen to be proportional to the dynamical time t_{dyn} , so that

$$P(\text{SN in cell}) = \frac{M_{\text{cell}}}{100M_\odot} \frac{dt_{\text{hydro}}}{t_\star} \propto \frac{n_{\text{cell}}}{t_\star} = \frac{n_{\text{cell}}}{f_\star t_{\text{dyn}}}. \quad (1)$$

This assumes that for every $100 M_\odot$ of stars that form there is one SN. Our fiducial choice of $f_\star$ is 100, which corresponds to a 1 per cent star formation efficiency and results in star formation rate surface densities $\dot{\Sigma}_\star$ that are similar to observations.

SNRs are injected using the subgrid model developed by Martizzi, Faucher-Giguère & Quataert (2015), which accounts for subgrid cooling and injects both kinetic and thermal energy at a value calibrated to high resolution single SNR simulations. Additionally, $3 M_\odot$ of ejecta is added to the SNR per SN, so the ISM mass loading ($\dot{M}_{\text{ej}}/\dot{M}_\star$) is 0.03. One of the primary aims of this study is to determine wind mass and energy loss rates when the SNRs’ cooling radii (r_{cool}) are explicitly resolved, so we chose parameters to ensure that this occurs for our higher resolution simulations. In this limit, our SNe injection model corresponds to 2.9×10^{50} ergs of kinetic energy and 7.1×10^{50} ergs of thermal energy in accordance with the Sedov solution. One new feature we added to the injection scheme relative to M16 is a somewhat crude model for the clustering of SNe in space and time (future work will expand this feature). We allow the injected energy per SN to be scaled up by an integer clustering factor f_{cl} , which represents multiple SNe going off simultaneously (the SN rate is correspondingly reduced by f_{cl} , so that the total injected energy by SNe is unchanged). The cooling radius and other radii in the Martizzi et al. (2015) fits for subgrid injection are scaled up by $f_{\text{cl}}^{2/7}$ in accordance with analytic expectations (Cioffi, McKee & Bertschinger 1988).

3 RESULTS

We begin our presentation of the simulation results with a qualitative description to ground the readers’ intuitions. In Fig. 1, we show density, temperature and spherical radial velocity images from simulations with $R_d = 300 \text{ pc}$, $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10 M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}$, $f_\star = 100$ and both $f_{\text{cl}} = 1$ and $f_{\text{cl}} = 30$, after 300 Myr of evolution ($\sim 16 t_{\text{orb}}$). These images are slices through the computational domain along the rotation axis of the disc. Clearly shown are the strong biconical outflows driven by the SN. Along the rotation axis of the disc densities are low, temperatures are high and velocities reach upwards of 300 km s^{-1} ($\sim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ in the clustered model). In the mid-plane of the disc densities remain high, the temperature remains at roughly 10^4 K and the gas is turbulent with a mass-weighted velocity of $\sim 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. These images show several SNRs breaking out of the disc. These breakout events carve out a region of the disc and dump thermal energy into the low density wind region, thereby powering the wind. The discrete breakouts lead to an inhomogeneous outflow composed of a series of hot, dense and fast fronts of material that are trailed by gas which has expanded, cooled and slowed down. This is reminiscent of what is observed in the M82 wind.

In Fig. 2, we show the time averaged radial profiles of T , n , v_r , c_s , η_E and η_M for the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10 M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}$ simulation. The averages are volume-weighted and computed in a biconical region centred on the disc rotation axis with a half opening angle of 45° . Several features are immediately apparent. The outflow is supersonic. The mass and energy outflow rates are roughly independent of radius beyond a certain point, indicating that we have a steady state outflow. The density of the wind material falls off rapidly and the temperature decreases with radius slower than expected for just adiabatic expansion, which predicts $T \propto r^{-4/3}$. We have omitted the

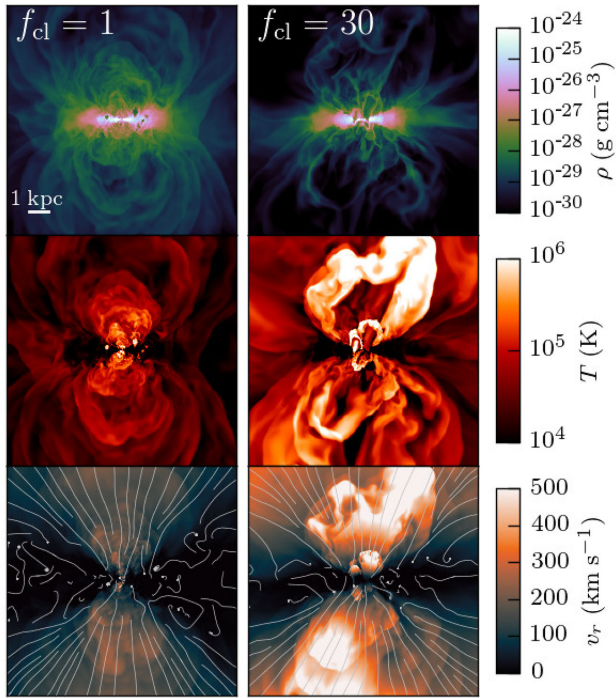


Figure 1. Slices along the disc rotation axis showing the density, temperature and spherical radial velocity for the $R_d = 300$ pc and $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10 M_\odot \text{pc}^{-2}$ simulations with $f_\star = 100$ and $f_{\text{cl}} = 1$ (left column), and $f_{\text{cl}} = 30$ (right column). Each image spans the entire computational domain and is 12.3 kpc across. In several places, an SNR can be seen breaking out of the disc and powering the wind. The streamlines in the velocity plot trace the flow direction and highlight the nearly straight radial outflow in the central biconical region, turbulence in the disc, and shearing and fountain flow between the two. Clustering the SNe ($f_{\text{cl}} = 30$; see Section 2) significantly increases the wind velocity, temperature, and mass and energy outflow rates.

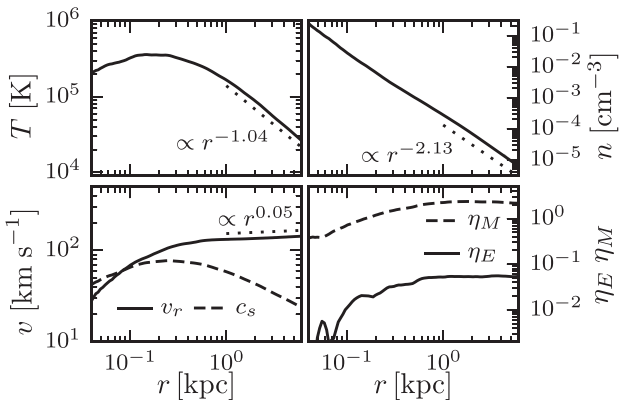


Figure 2. Time-averaged radial profiles of T , n , v_r , c_s , η_E and η_M for the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10 M_\odot \text{pc}^{-2}$ simulation. The averages are volume-weighted and computed in a biconical region with a 45° half-opening angle. The best-fitting power-law slope between 1 and 6 kpc is shown for T , n and v_r . The outflow properties are reasonably consistent with analytic models (CC85).

profiles from simulations with other parameters because they are all sufficiently similar and show the same trends.

Comparing the profiles in Fig. 2 to those from local Cartesian box simulations demonstrates the simulation geometry’s effect on the wind structure. For example, fig. 4 of M16 shows that the sound speed and velocity of the wind are roughly independent of height

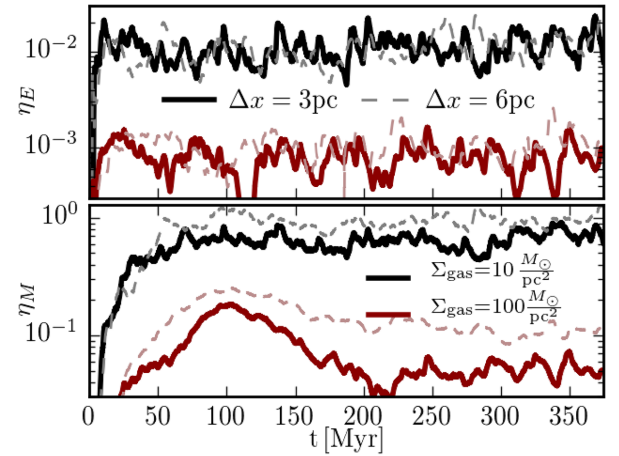


Figure 3. Time evolution of the energy (η_E) and mass (η_M) outflow rates through a 4 kpc sphere normalized by the SNe energy injection rate and mass outflow rate, respectively, for the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10$ (black) and $100 M_\odot \text{pc}^{-2}$ (red) simulations. Simulations with half the resolution are shown with the thin dashed lines demonstrating the convergence of η_E , but not η_M .

beyond the scaleheight of the disc and the flow is always subsonic. Additionally, fig. 9 and B1 of M16 show that η_M decreases dramatically with distance from the disc whereas we find η_M to be roughly constant with radius. It is, therefore, the ratio of wind thermal to kinetic energy and the fraction of wind material that escapes that are primarily affected by the simulation geometry (important quantities for galactic winds!).

Standard theoretical arguments for the structure of a galactic wind of a given η_E , η_M and $\Sigma_\star$ assume spherical symmetry and a uniform injection of energy and mass (e.g. CC85, Thompson et al. 2016). Nevertheless, a comparison to the analytic work is instructive. A generic prediction of these models is that the wind will be supersonic beyond a sonic point that is approximately the radius of the star forming region (unless cooling is too strong). Our simulations agree with this prediction very well as can be seen in Fig. 2 where the sonic point is at $\sim R_d/3$. CC85 predict the asymptotic velocity to be $v_\infty \approx 10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1} (\eta_E/\eta_M)^{1/2}$ and the temperature at the sonic point to be $T \approx 2 \times 10^7 \text{ K } \eta_E/\eta_M$, which agrees strikingly well with our simulations. We indicate the best-fitting power-law slope for the T , n and v_r profiles at large radii in Fig. 2 for comparing observations and analytic models. Interestingly, T falls off slower with distance than is expected for adiabatic expansion ($T \propto r^{-4/3}$), which could be due to cooling at small radii, additional heating beyond R_d either by the rare (but effective) distant SNe or by internal shocks. The biconical n profile falls off roughly as r^{-2} as expected for a freely expanding constant $\dot{M}$ wind. When averaging over a spherical region the n profile falls off much more quickly as $r^{-\alpha}$ with $\alpha \sim 4\text{--}5$ for different simulations. The steeper fall off of the spherically averaged profile indicates that there may be some fall back of wind material on the side of the biconical outflows creating a fountain flow (see Fig. 1). This steeper slope is also consistent with the values inferred for local starburst galaxy M 82 (Leroy et al. 2015).

In Fig. 3, we show the time evolution of η_E and η_M for the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10$ and $100 M_\odot \text{pc}^{-2}$ simulations at the highest and half the highest central spatial resolution. The energy and mass outflow rates of the wind are measured at 4 kpc. After the initial transient the outflow settles into a steady state (quite different from local Cartesian box simulations; e.g. M16 fig. 9 and B1). We performed extensive resolution testing on our simulations and found that with even half the resolution η_E is converged. However, as we increased the

resolution η_M continued to decrease. This is likely due to more mixing from unresolved shear layers with worse resolution and more efficient venting at high resolution. The convergence of η_E does not depend sensitively on the degree to which we resolve the SNRs' r_{cool} . In our calculations, a resolved SNR has $r_{\text{cool}} > r_{\text{inj}} = 2\Delta x$. In the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-2}$ simulation with $\Delta x = 3, 6$ and 12 pc , 97.3, 73.5 and 31.8 per cent of the SNR are resolved, respectively, and yet η_E is the same. In the fiducial $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 100 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-2}$ simulation with $\Delta x = 3, 6$ and 12 pc , 49.0, 12.1 and 1.4 per cent of the SNRs are resolved, respectively. In these higher surface density simulations, η_E is roughly the same for the two higher resolution cases, but at $\Delta x = 12 \text{ pc}$, η_E drops by a factor of ~ 2 . Although in a real system η_M additionally depends sensitively on the structure of the disc and the properties of the surrounding circumgalactic medium (Sarkar et al. 2015), the lack of η_M convergence should be considered whenever simulations similar to ours are compared to observations.

A standard physical picture of models such as CC85 is that winds are launched when the volume filling fraction of hot gas in the disc is large enough so that the number of SNe per cooling time and cooling volume – known as the porosity Q_c (McKee & Ostriker 1977) – is greater than 1. Martizzi et al. (2015) found that $r_{\text{cool}} \approx 20.8 \text{ pc } n_{\text{H}}^{-2/5} f_{\text{cl}}^{2/7}$, and $t_{\text{cool}} \approx 2.9 \times 10^4 \text{ yr } n_{\text{H}}^{-0.54}$. Therefore, the porosity of the disc is $Q_c = (4\pi/3)r_{\text{cool}}^3 t_{\text{cool}} \dot{n}_{\text{SN}} = 6 \times 10^{-5} (n_{\text{H}}/100 \text{ cm}^{-3})^{-4/5} (100/f_{\star})(10^6 \text{ yr}/t_{\text{dyn}})$. In all of the simulations carried out here, $Q_c \ll 1$. As can be seen in Fig. 1, the SNe that contribute to the launching of the wind are the (rare) ones whose SNRs are able to break out of the disc before radiating away their energy. Working under the assumption that SNRs that break out satisfy $r_{\text{cool}} \gtrsim h$, where h is the local scaleheight of the gaseous disc, we now provide a simple argument for the expected scaling of the wind properties with the disc and injection properties. There is a critical hydrogen number density $n_{\text{crit}} = (h/20.8 \text{ pc})^{-5/2} f_{\text{cl}}^{5/7} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, which satisfies $r_{\text{cool}} = h$. Since, by design, the SN rate is proportional to the local density, the fraction of SNe that satisfy $n_{\text{H}} \leq n_{\text{crit}}$ should be roughly equal to the ratio of n_{crit} to the mid-plane density $n_{\text{mid}} \sim \Sigma_{\text{gas}}/2hm_p$ (this need not be true for models with different SN seeding schemes or that account for additional physics). Neglecting further radiative losses post breakout, the fraction of the injected energy that goes into the wind should be equal to the same ratio, which yields

$$\eta_E = \frac{\dot{E}_{\text{wind}}}{\dot{E}_{\text{SN}}} \sim \frac{n_{\text{crit}}}{n_{\text{mid}}} \propto h^{-3/2} f_{\text{cl}}^{5/7} \Sigma_{\text{gas}}^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

The total energy injection rate is $\dot{E}_{\text{SN}} = 10^{51} \text{ ergs } \pi R_d^2 \Sigma_{\text{gas}}/(t_{\star} 100 M_{\odot})$, which follows from the definition of $t_{\star}$ and our model's assumption that there are 10^{51} ergs released per SN and there is one SN per $100 M_{\odot}$ of stars formed. Combining this expression with equation (2) we find that $\dot{E}_{\text{wind}} = \eta_E \dot{E}_{\text{SN}} \propto R_d^2 f_{\text{cl}}^{5/7}/(h^{3/2} t_{\star})$. One particularly interesting feature of this expression is the lack of any dependence on Σ_{gas} . Finally, the ratio of the scaleheight to the disc radius is approximately equal to the ratio of the velocity dispersion to the circular velocity $h/R_d \sim \delta v/v_{\text{circ}}$, which is ~ 0.1 in our model. With this assumption in hand we end up with the following expected scalings for the wind energetics

$$\eta_E \propto R_d^{-3/2} \left(\frac{\delta v}{v_{\text{circ}}} \right)^{-3/2} f_{\text{cl}}^{5/7} \Sigma_{\text{gas}}^{-1}. \quad (3)$$

The scalings above have been derived for η_E because the condition $r_{\text{cool}} \gtrsim h$ is explicitly a statement about energetics, but simi-

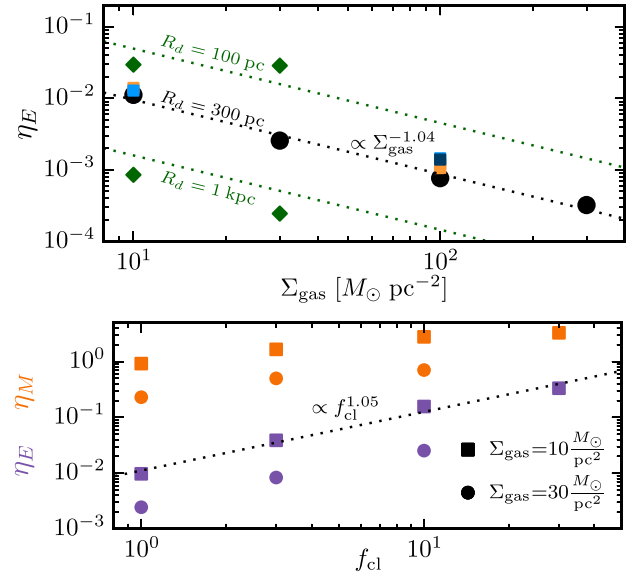


Figure 4. (Top) The time-averaged energy loading η_E versus Σ_{gas} . The black circles correspond to simulations with $f_{\star} = 100$ and $f_{\text{cl}} = 1$, coloured squares correspond to different $f_{\star}$, which controls the star formation rate (orange is higher SFR, blue is lower) and the green diamonds show η_E for different disc sizes. The black dotted line shows the best fit to the fiducial models and the green dotted lines show the predicted η_E for different R_d from our analytic model (equation 3). (Bottom) The dependence of the time averaged η_E (purple) and η_M (orange) through a 4 kpc sphere on the degree of clustering f_{cl} (Section 2) for $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10$ and $30 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-2}$ shown with squares and circles, respectively. Clustering the SNe significantly boosts the wind energy and mass-loss rates.

lar reasoning can be applied to mass loading. Assuming that each SNR that breaks out contributes to the wind all of the mass it swept up prior breakout, $M_{\text{swept}} = (4\pi/3)r_{\text{cool}}^3 \rho \approx 1200 M_{\odot} n_{\text{crit}}^{-1/5}$, yields $\eta_M \approx (n_{\text{crit}}/n_{\text{mid}})(M_{\text{swept}} \dot{N}_{\text{SN}}/\dot{M}_{\star}) = 12 \eta_E n_{\text{crit}}^{-1/5}$. Therefore, we expect η_M to scale similarly to η_E and to be 1–2 orders of magnitude larger than η_E .

The top panel of Fig. 4 demonstrates that, all other properties being equal, η_E is inversely dependent on Σ_{gas} exactly as predicted by equation (3). Increasing the star formation efficiency by decreasing $f_{\star}$ leads to an increase in $\dot{E}_{\text{wind}}$, but no appreciable change in η_E as expected. Likewise, equation (3) captures roughly the correct behaviour for the scaling of η_E with R_d seen in Fig. 4, which demonstrates that more compact systems launch more powerful winds.

The bottom panel of Fig. 4 shows how η_E and η_M scale with f_{cl} for $R_d = 300 \text{ pc}$ discs with $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 10$ and $30 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-2}$. In these simulations η_E increases roughly linearly with f_{cl} – somewhat more strongly than predicted in equation (2). Regardless of the exact scaling, the strong f_{cl} dependence of η_E may be critical for understanding the launching of real galactic winds that are powerful enough to match observations and satisfy the requirements from cosmological simulations. This is because stars – massive stars in particular – are expected to form in clusters and it is likely that their SNRs will be nested or overlap rather than being spatially and temporally separated as in our $f_{\text{cl}} = 1$ simulations. Although η_M also increases with f_{cl} , the measured scaling is less robust due to the lack of $\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}$ convergence. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that for nearly all cases η_M surpasses 0.03 – the value corresponding to all wind material coming from SNe ejecta.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Using global galactic disc simulations, we have quantified the properties of galactic winds driven solely by SNe for a range of disc and star formation properties. We have focused on small discs ($\sim 0.1 - 1$ kpc in size) in order to ensure that the cooling radii of most of the SNRs in our simulations can be resolved. Our simulations roughly reproduce the supersonic wind structure expected from analytic models (e.g. CC85). Previous simulations that attempted to study galactic winds launched by SNe in a stratified medium often adopted local Cartesian domains (with periodic and outflow boundary conditions in and out of the disc plane, respectively) and found subsonic outflows with outflow rates that depend on box height (e.g. Girichidis et al. 2016; Kim & Ostriker 2016; Martizzi et al. 2016). The more physical global geometry we adopt allows the winds to adiabatically expand causing them to accelerate to supersonic velocities, and the gravitational potential with a well-defined escape velocity leads to outflows with radially constant $\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}$ and $\dot{E}_{\text{wind}}$ (Fig. 3). Other numerical models for studying galactic winds inject a fixed $\dot{E}$ uniformly in a given volume (Strickland & Heckman 2009; Sarkar et al. 2015). Our calculations compliment these by addressing the key question of how discrete SNe collectively drive a wind.

In analytic galactic wind models, the mass (η_M) and energy (η_E) loading of the wind are free parameters. Our simulations determine these wind properties as a function of the underlying disc structure (e.g. Σ_{gas} and R_d) and the SN seeding model (e.g. degree of clustering f_{cl}). In our simulations the winds are driven by SNe that go off in low density regions where the cooling radius r_{cool} is larger than the local scaleheight h ; this enables SNRs to drive the wind without radiative losses sapping their energy. In general, only a small fraction of the SNe satisfy this constraint because at the disc mid-plane $r_{\text{cool}} \ll h$. We present a simple model based on this concept (see equation 3) that predicts, among other things, that $\dot{E}_{\text{wind}}$ should be independent of Σ_{gas} , increase with the degree of SNe clustering f_{cl} and the star formation efficiency f_* , and decrease with increasing disc size. This simple model successfully explains many of the trends we find in our simulations (Fig. 4). Although this analytic model and the numerical scaling of wind efficiency with disc and SNe parameters are likely to be somewhat modified with different SNe seeding schemes, we expect that the general trends found here are likely to be more robust – in particular the simple criterion that $r_{\text{cool}} \gtrsim h$ for the SNe that drive the wind.

The mass and energy loading of the galactic winds driven by SNe we find are likely lower than suggested by observations. This may be due to the fact that our SNe are set off preferentially at density peaks and that the ISM is relatively homogeneous. A more realistic (or a spatially random) SNe seeding scheme that separates the SN locations from density peaks and/or clustering the SNe would increase the efficiency of the outflows (e.g. Sharma et al. 2014; Girichidis et al. 2016; Kim & Ostriker 2016; Gentry et al. 2017). Indeed, in our calculations, we implemented a simple model of clustering in which each SNR's energy is increased by a factor of f_{cl} , and the SN rate decreased by the same factor, leaving the total energy input rate the same. The resulting galactic wind energy loss rate increases roughly linearly with f_{cl} (Fig. 4). The wind power might well be further increased if additional physics were included such as molecular line cooling (Li et al. 2016) and stronger ISM turbulence possibly enhanced by self-gravity and/or galactic inflows (Sur, Scannapieco & Ostriker 2016). These would result in larger density inhomogeneities, causing more of the ISM volume to be filled with low density gas, and thereby allowing more SNe to go off in low density regions and break out of the disc.

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