

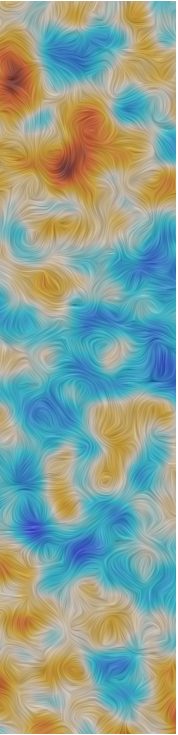
# Cosmology from the first billion years as seen with the 21cm line

Andrei Mesinger

# First billion years - birth of structure and Cosmic Dawn

Image: ESA

**CMB**



$z \approx 10^3$



cosmic time [yr]

$4 \cdot 10^5$

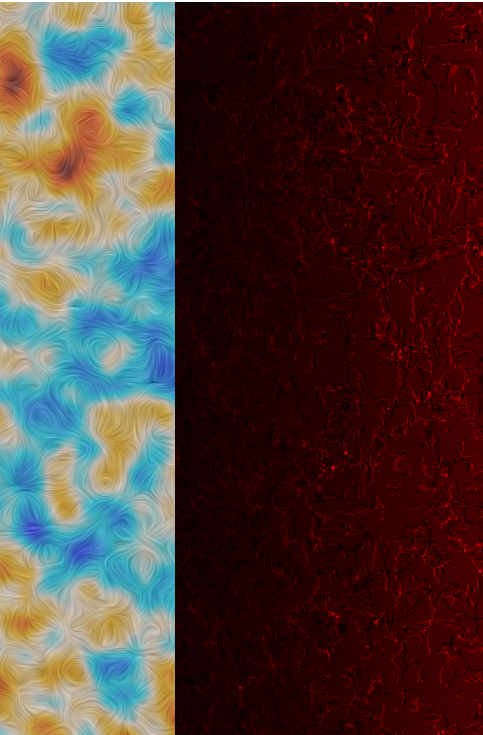


# First billion years - birth of structure and Cosmic Dawn

Image: ESA

AM+2016

## CMB Dark Ages



$z \approx 10^3$

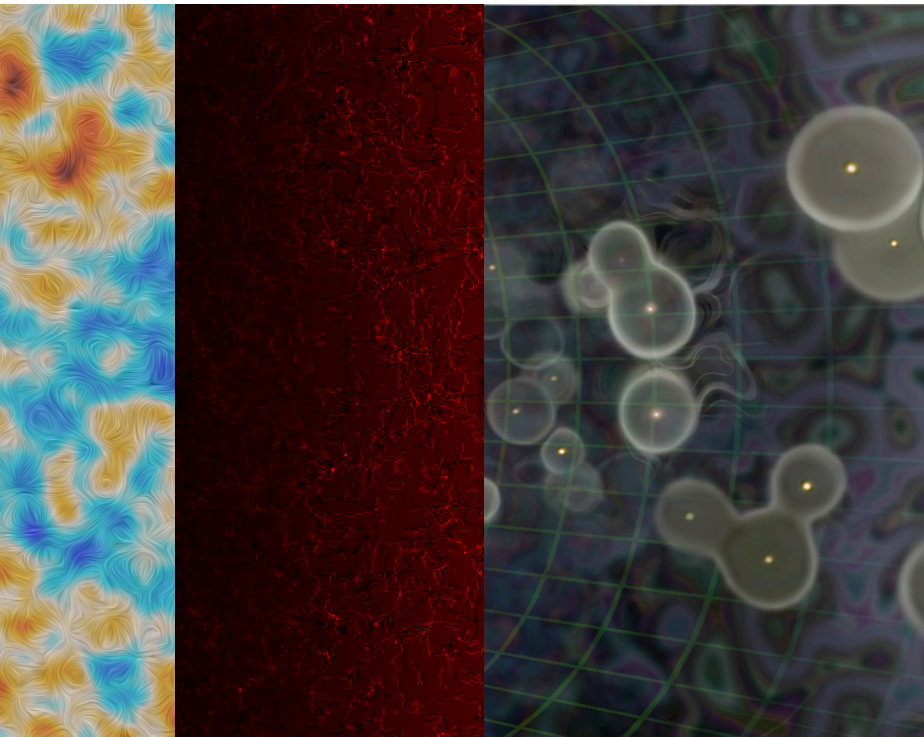
$z \approx 30$

4 · 10<sup>5</sup>      10<sup>8</sup>      cosmic time [yr]

# First billion years - birth of structure and Cosmic Dawn

Image: NASA/  
CXC/M.WEISS  
AM+2016; J. Munoz

CMB Dark Ages **Cosmic Dawn**



$z \approx 10^3$

$z \approx 30$

$4 \cdot 10^5$

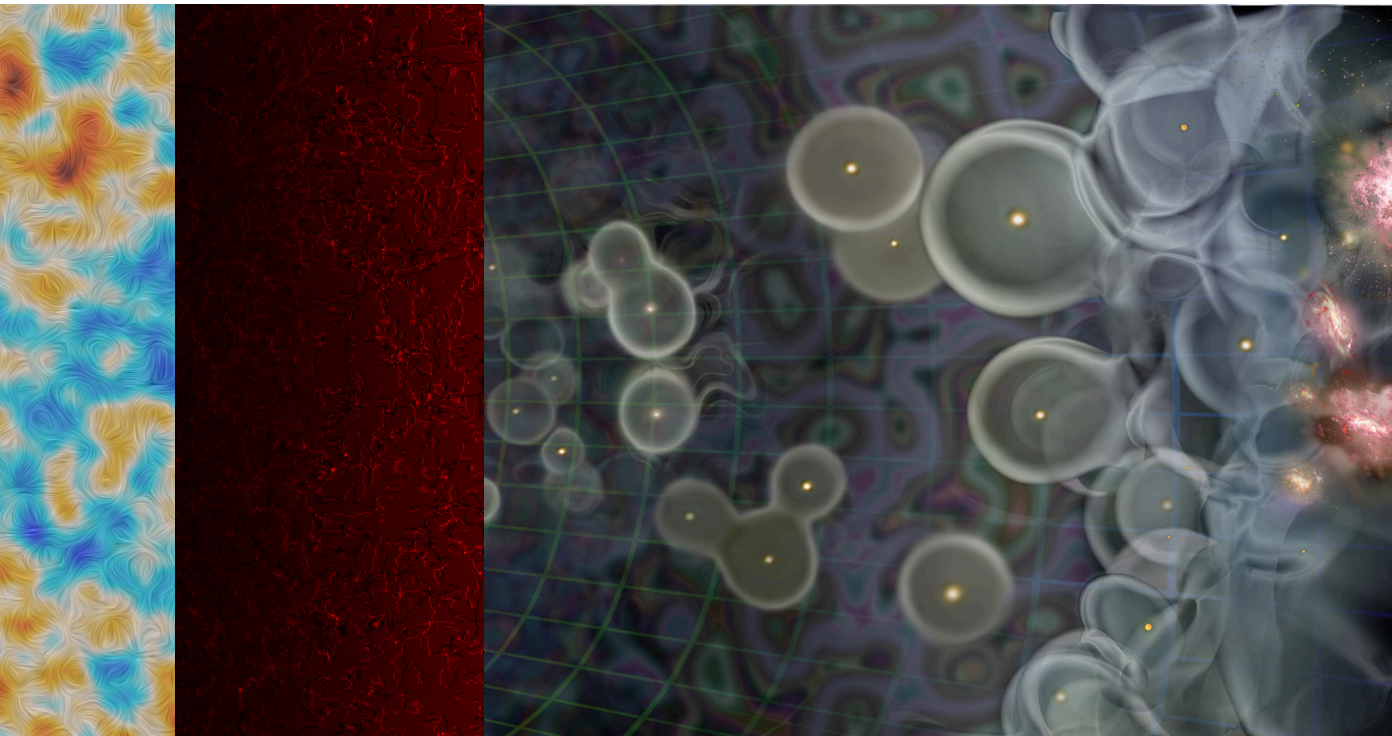
$10^8$

cosmic time [yr]

# First billion years - birth of structure and Cosmic Dawn

Image: NASA/  
CXC/M. WEISS  
AM+2016; J. Munoz

CMB Dark Ages Cosmic Dawn Reionization



$z \approx 10^3$

$z \approx 30$

$z \approx 5$

$4 \cdot 10^5$

$10^8$

$10^9$

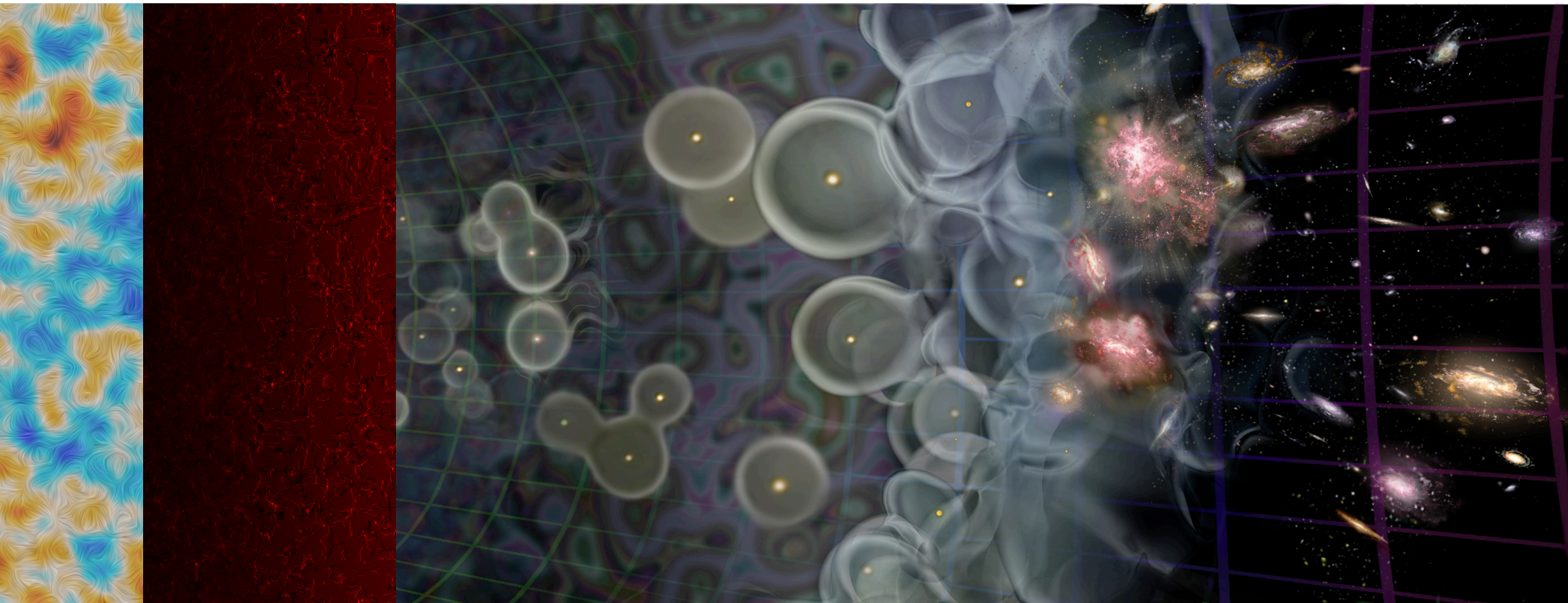
cosmic time [yr]



# First billion years - birth of structure and Cosmic Dawn

Image: NASA/  
CXC/M.WEISS  
AM+2016; J. Munoz

CMB    Dark Ages    Cosmic Dawn    Reionization    Late Universe



$z \approx 10^3$                        $z \approx 30$                        $z \approx 5$                        $z = 0$

cosmic time [yr]

$4 \cdot 10^5$

$10^8$

$10^9$

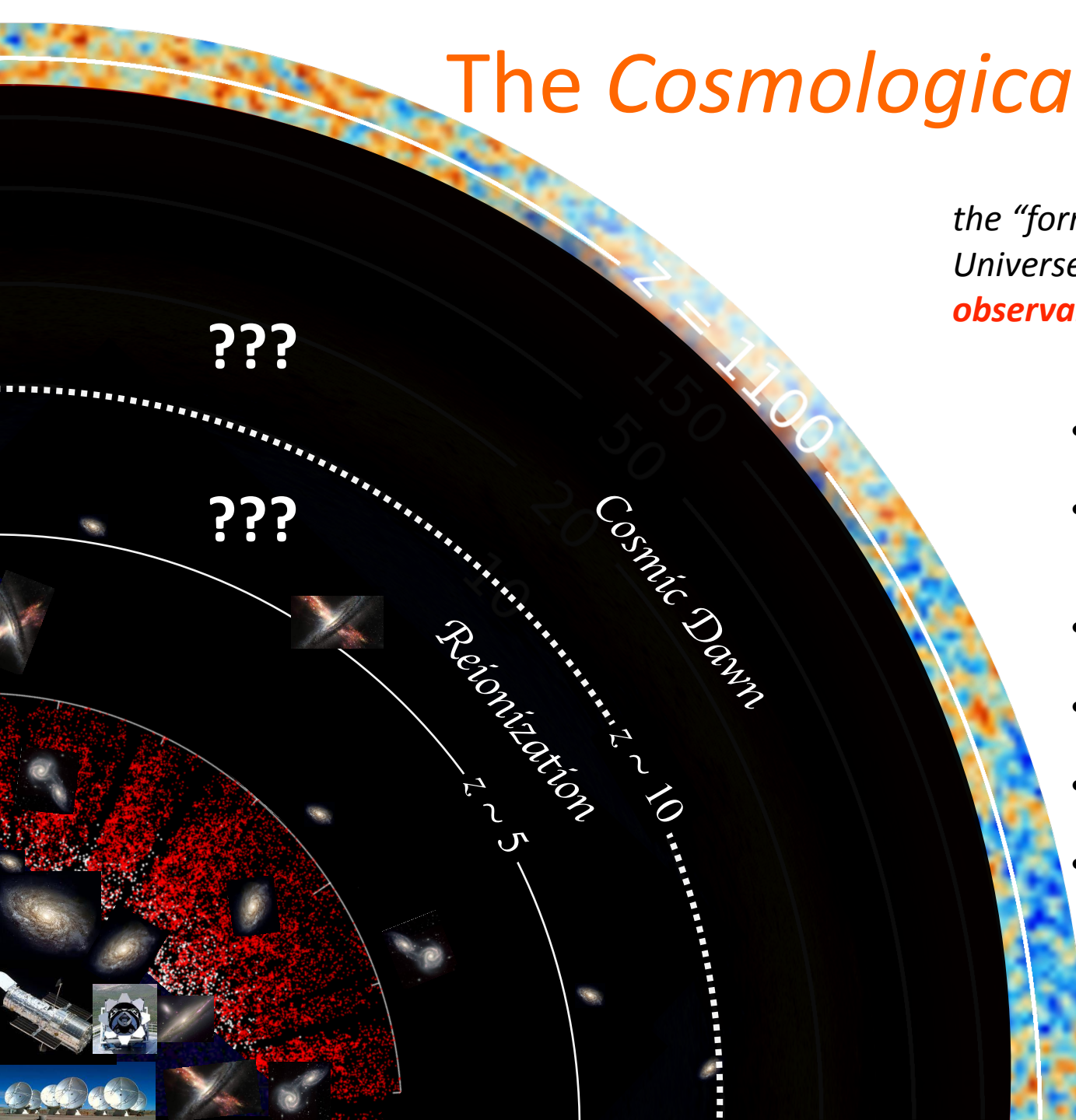
$10^{10}$

# The *Cosmological Frontier*...

the “formative childhood” of the Universe, yet the **majority of the observable volume**

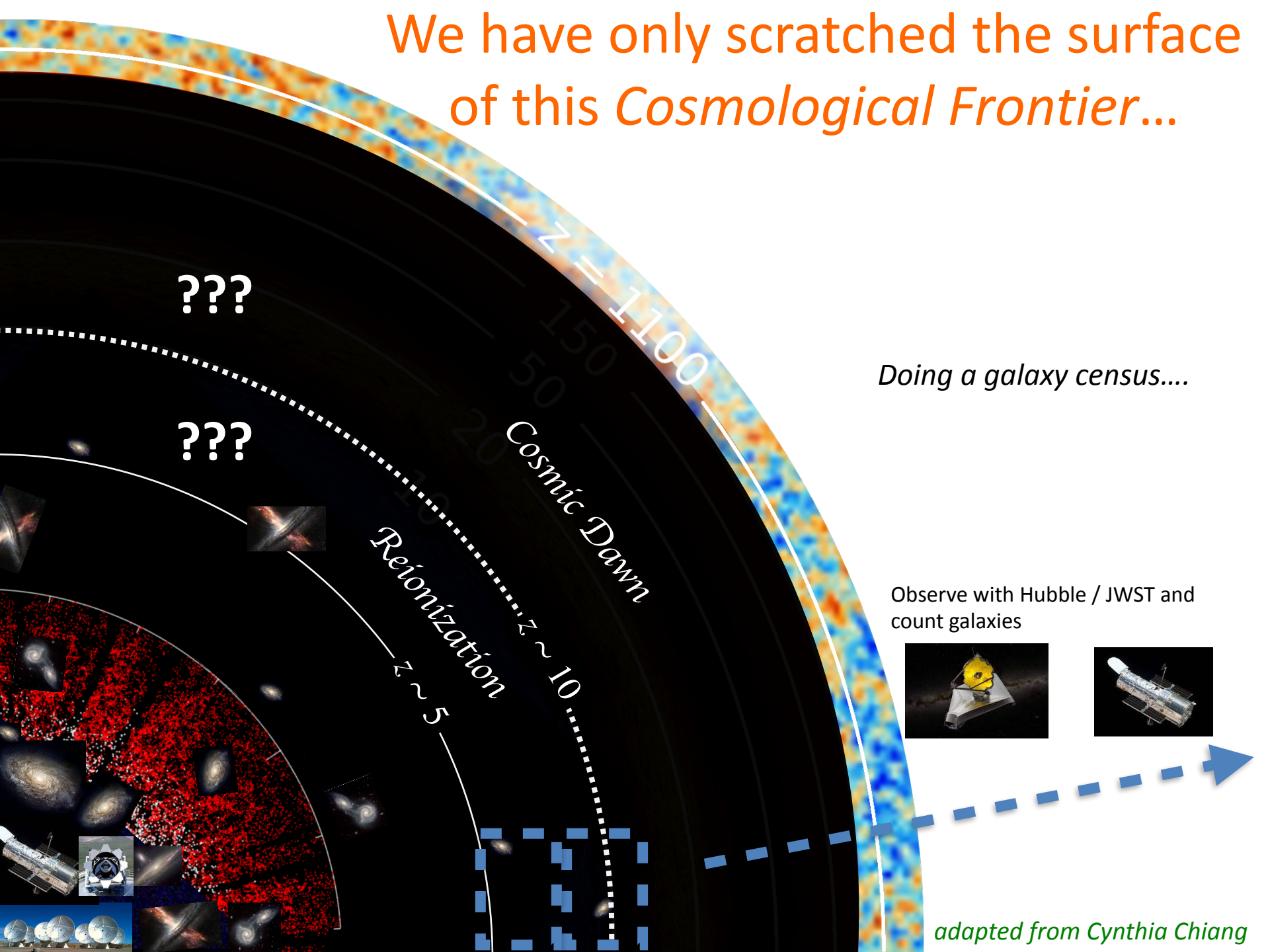
- When and how did the first galaxies form?
- How did they impact each other and their surroundings?
- What are the dominant feedback mechanisms?
- Can we learn about Dark Matter properties?
- How does the Hubble parameter evolve?
- What are the properties of the first stars and black holes?

*adapted from Cynthia Chiang*



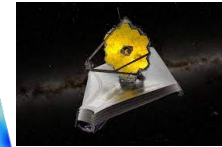


# We have only scratched the surface of this *Cosmological Frontier*...



Doing a galaxy census....

Observe with Hubble / JWST and count galaxies

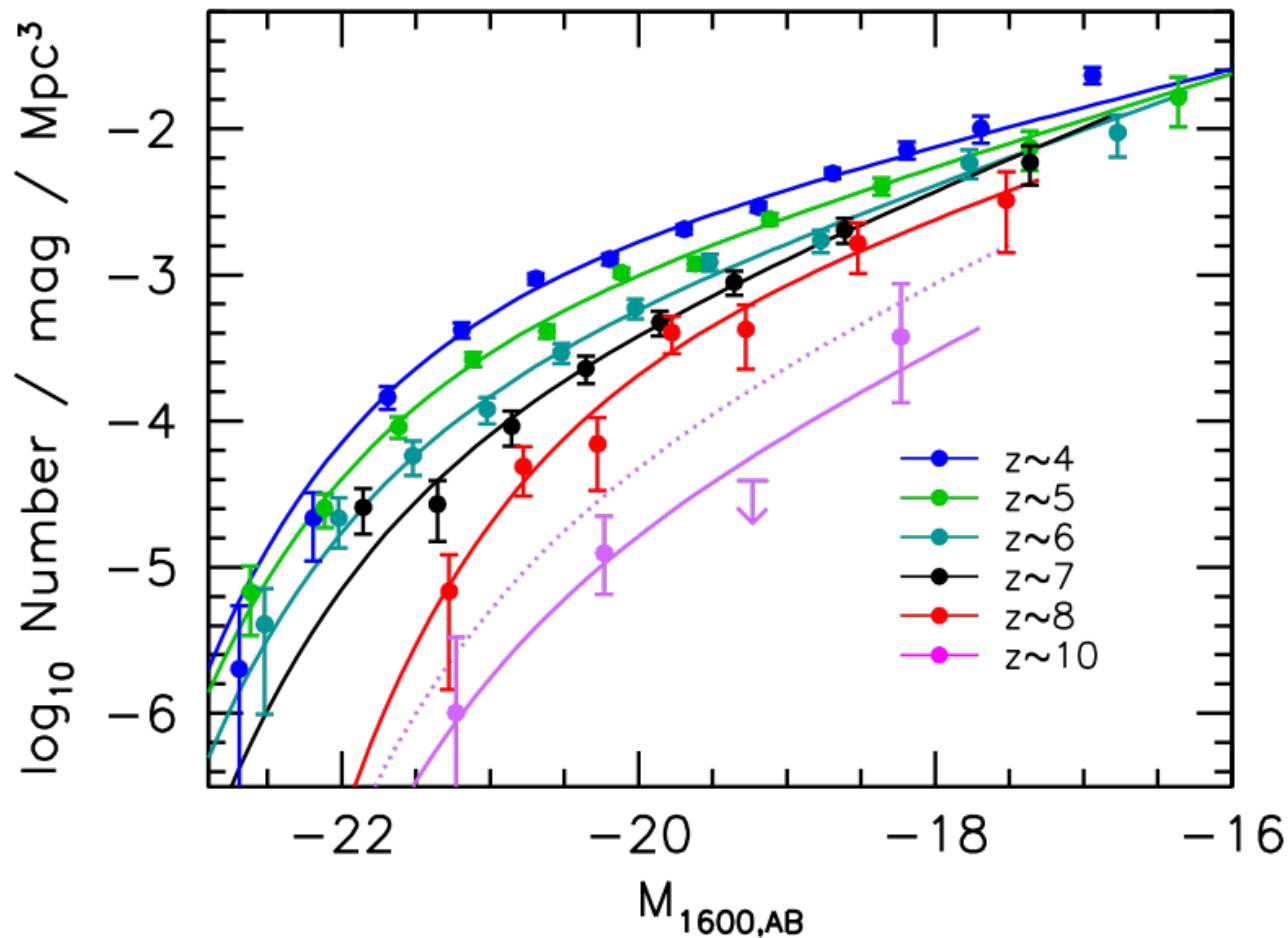


adapted from Cynthia Chiang



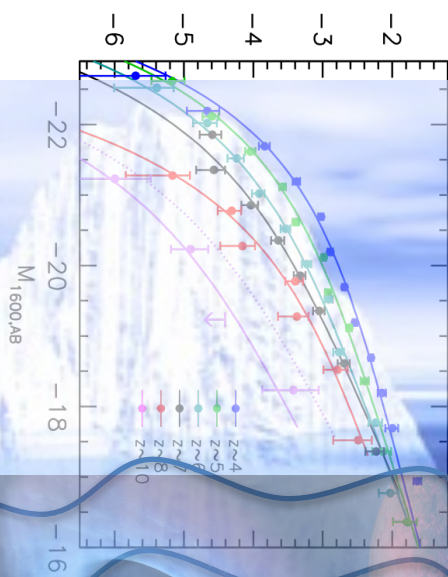
# Galaxies during the first billion years

- Telescopes like Hubble and ALMA have enabled detailed studies of *the brightest galaxies*



Bouwens+ (2015)

$\log_{10}$  Number / mag /  $\text{Mpc}^3$



Hubble limit  
(no lensing)

JWST limit  
(no lensing)

$M_{AB} = -22$

$M_{AB} = -18$

$M_{AB} = -14$

$M_{AB} = -10$

$M_{AB} = -6$

*>99.9% of the first galaxies  
will not be seen even with JWST*

*The first stars and black holes*

hidden population of  
abundant, faint galaxies??

H<sub>2</sub> cooling

H-cooling threshold



$\log_{10}$  Number / mag / Mpc<sup>3</sup>

9 5 4 3 2

$M_{AB} = -22$

$M_{AB} = -18$

$M_{AB} = -14$

$M_{AB} = -10$

$M_{AB} = -6$

Hubble limit  
(no lensing)

JWST limit  
(no lensing)

H-cooling threshold

H<sub>2</sub> cooling







$\log_{10}$  Number / mag / Mpc<sup>3</sup>

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

$M_{AB} = -22$

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6 5 4 3 2

Hubble limit  
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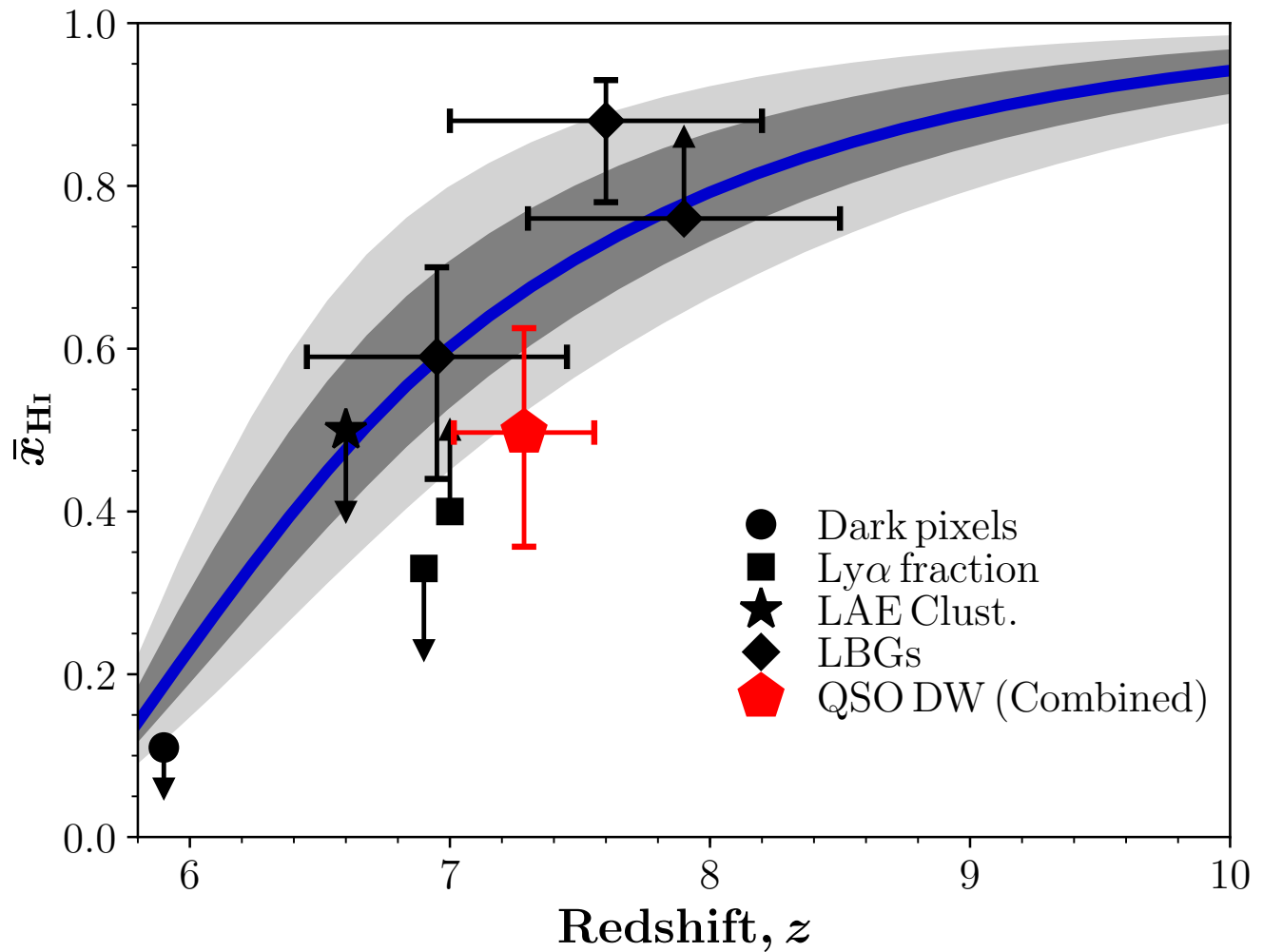
Direct studies of **INDIVIDUAL** galaxies

Indirect studies of **POPULATION AVERAGES** through IGM imprints

We already know something about the *mean* evolution during the Cosmic Dawn and Epoch of Reionization

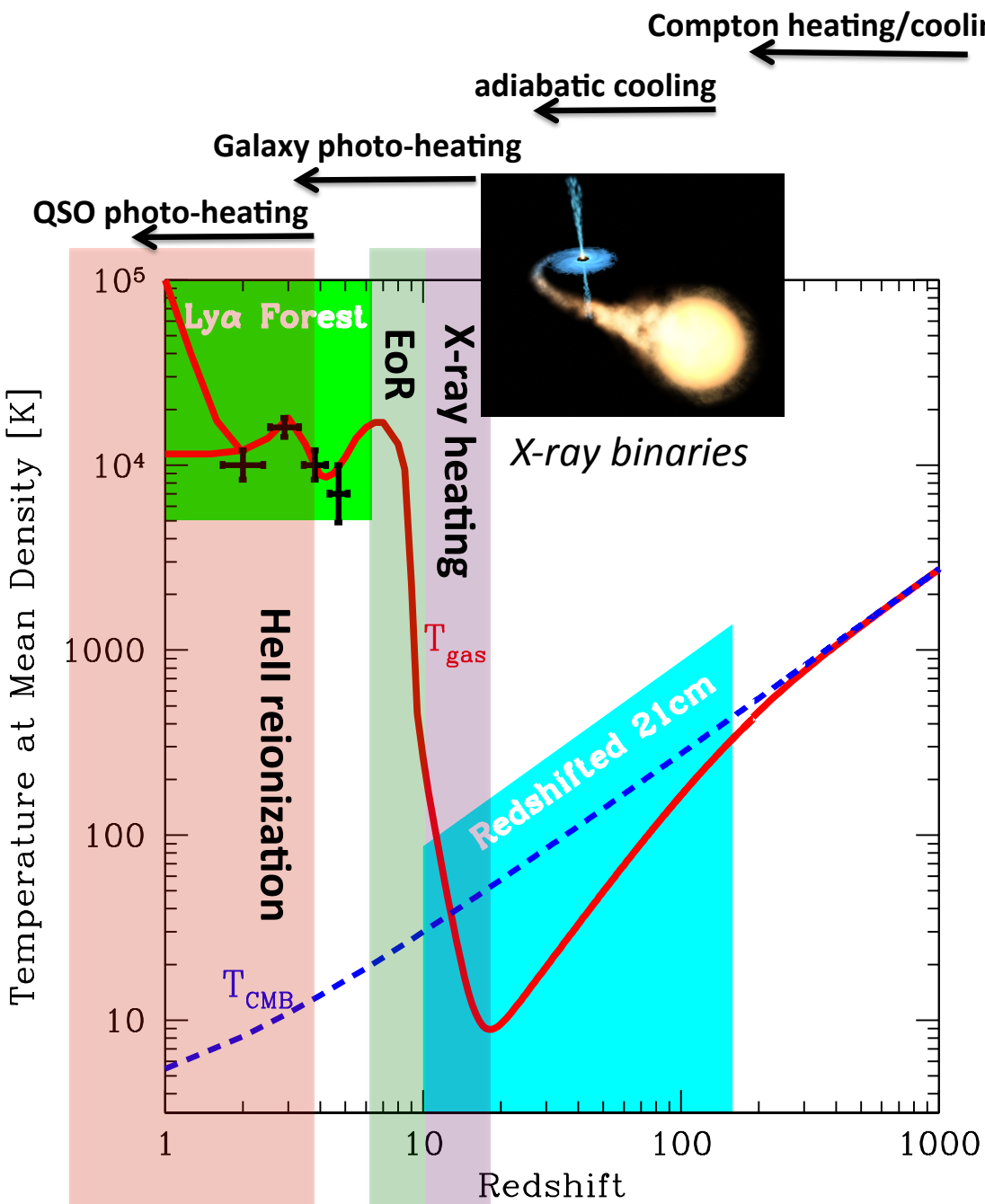


# Understanding the timing of reionization



Greig, AM+ 2021

We now have a reasonable handle on when the **bulk** of reionization happened...



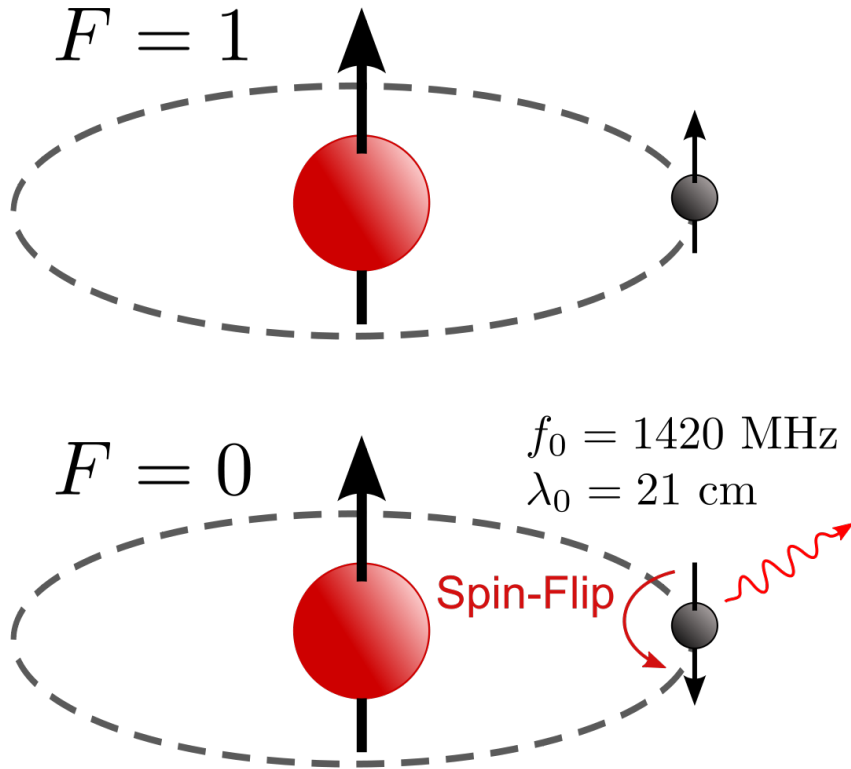
What about the heating history?

*Until recently, only constrained at  $z < \sim 5$ ...*

adapted from McQuinn (2016)

How do we learn more?

# The 21 cm line: the most powerful probe of the IGM during the first billion years



Hyperfine transition in the ground state of neutral hydrogen produces the 21cm line.

It has a “Goldilocks” optical depth for HI!



# Cosmic 21-cm



We measure the difference in intensities of the CMB and the cosmic HI.

# Cosmic 21-cm



We measure the difference in intensities of the CMB and the cosmic HI.

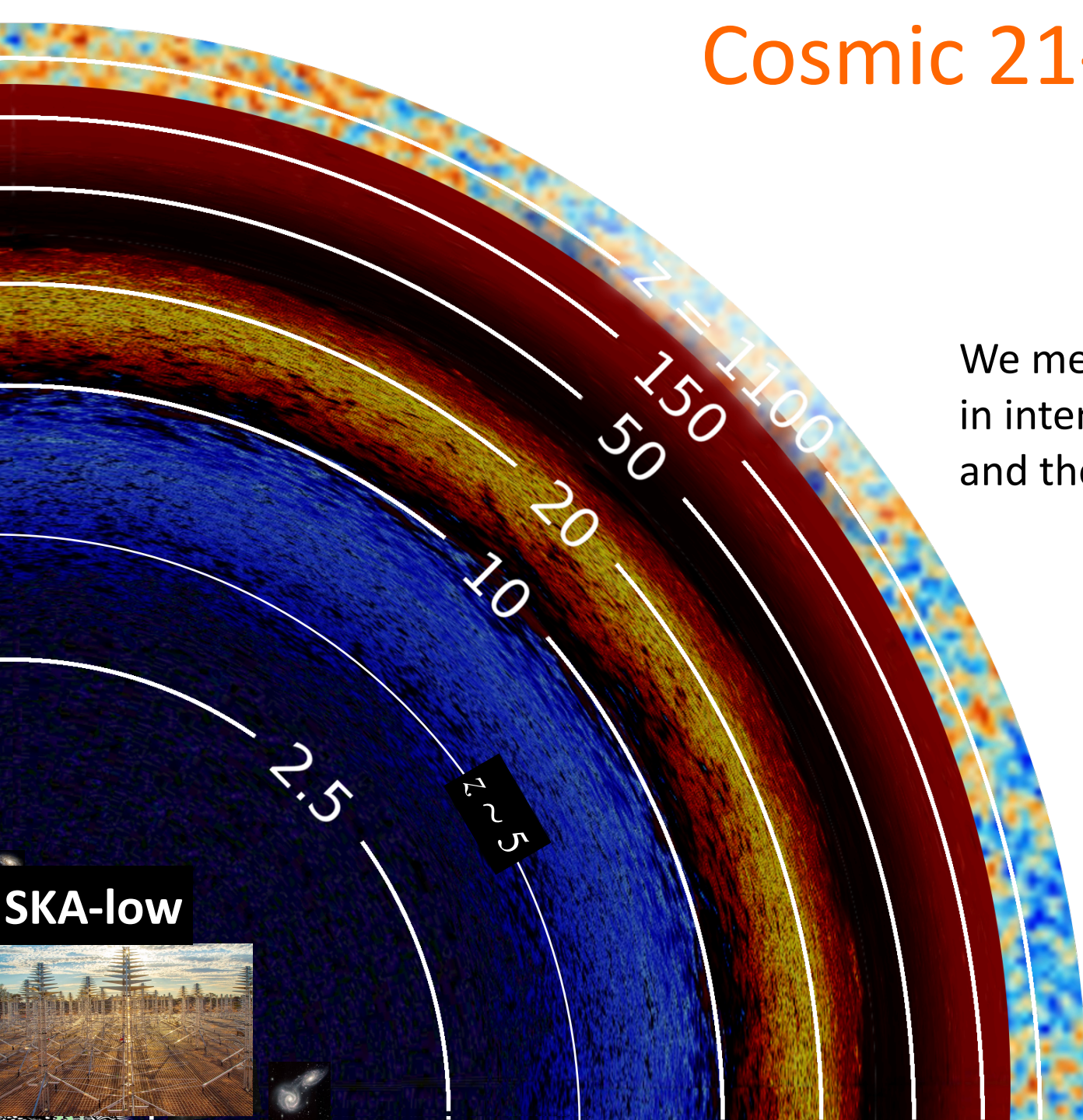
SKA-low





# Cosmic 21-cm

We measure the difference in intensities of the CMB and the cosmic HI.

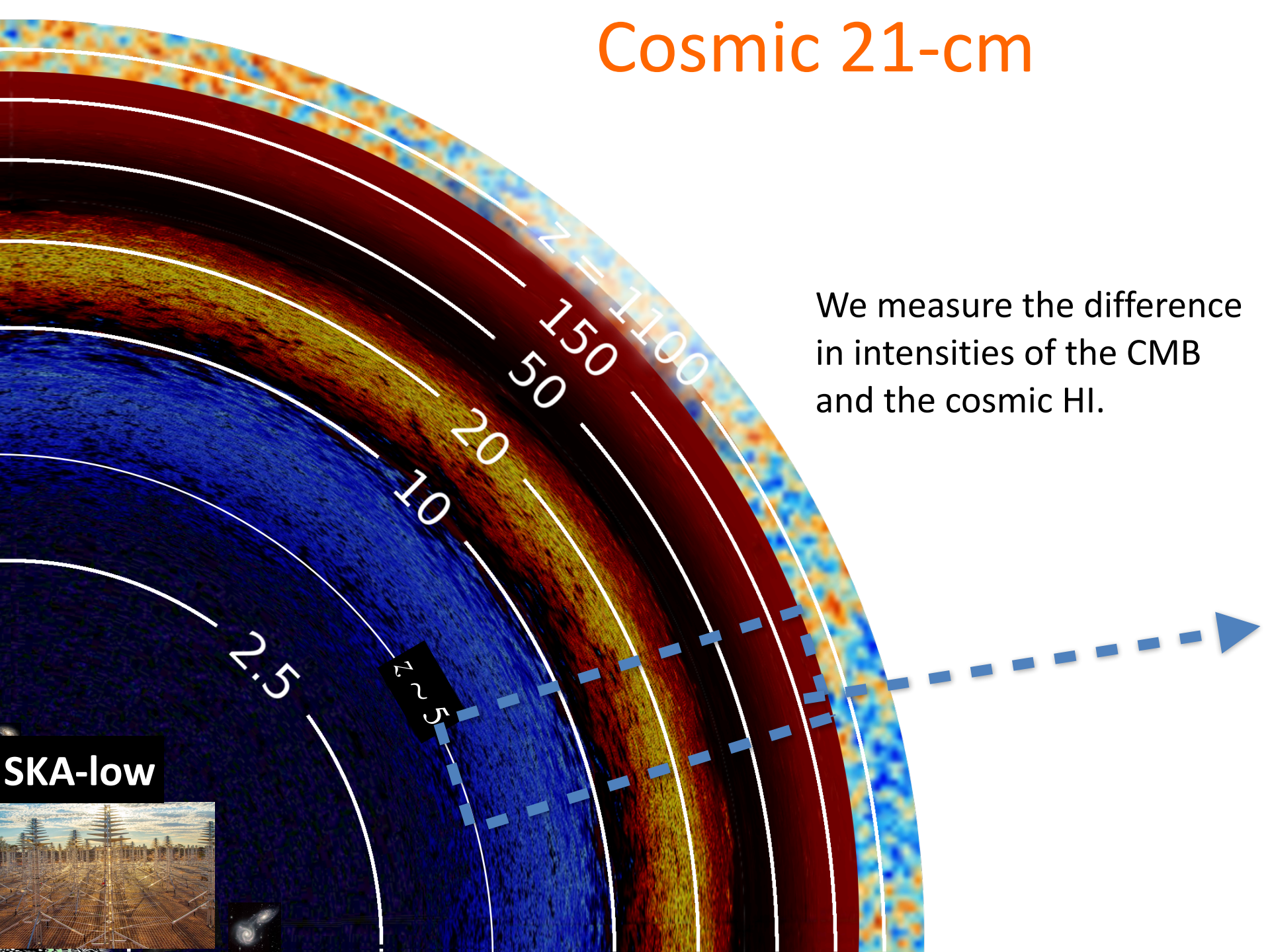


**SKA-low**



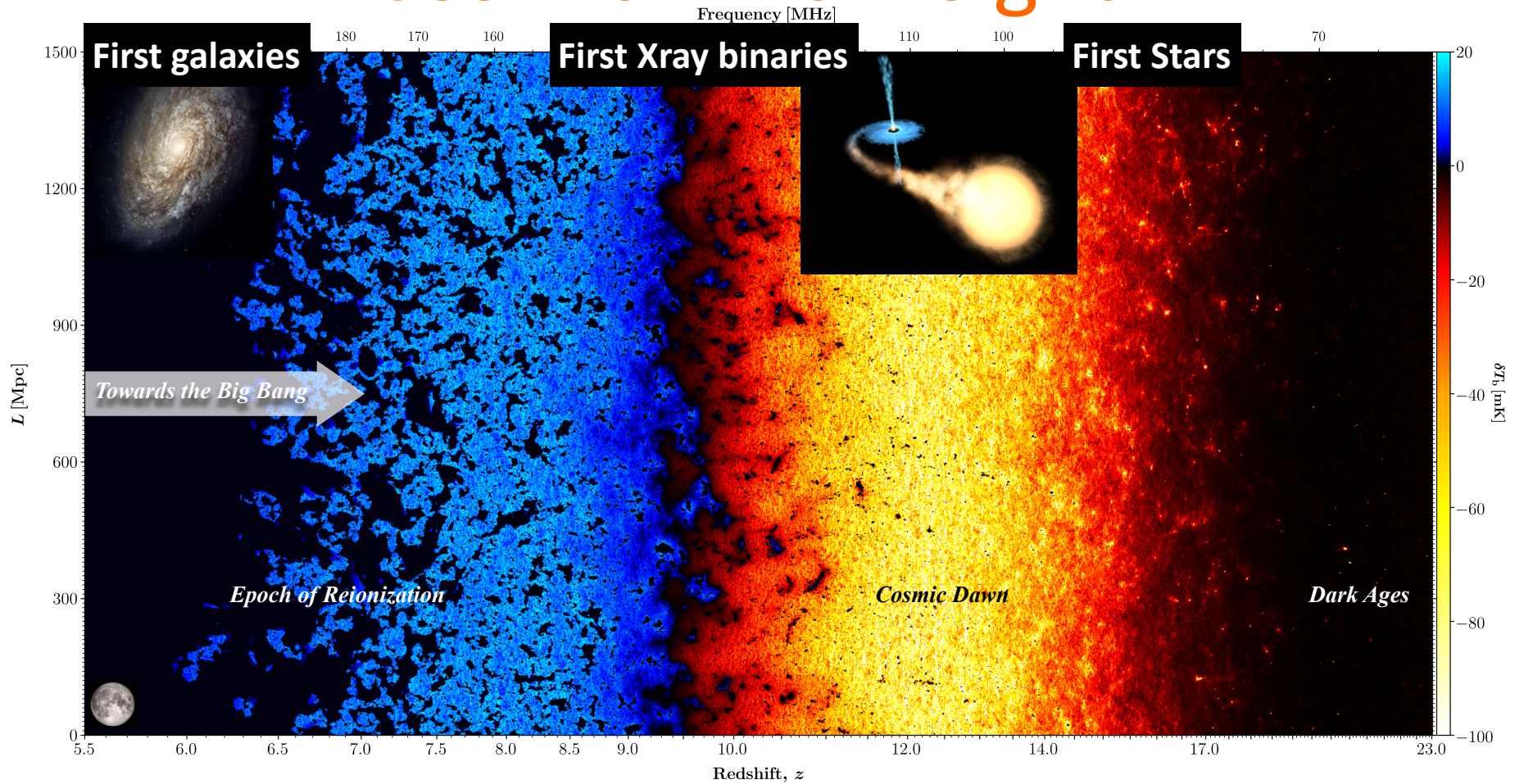


# Cosmic 21-cm



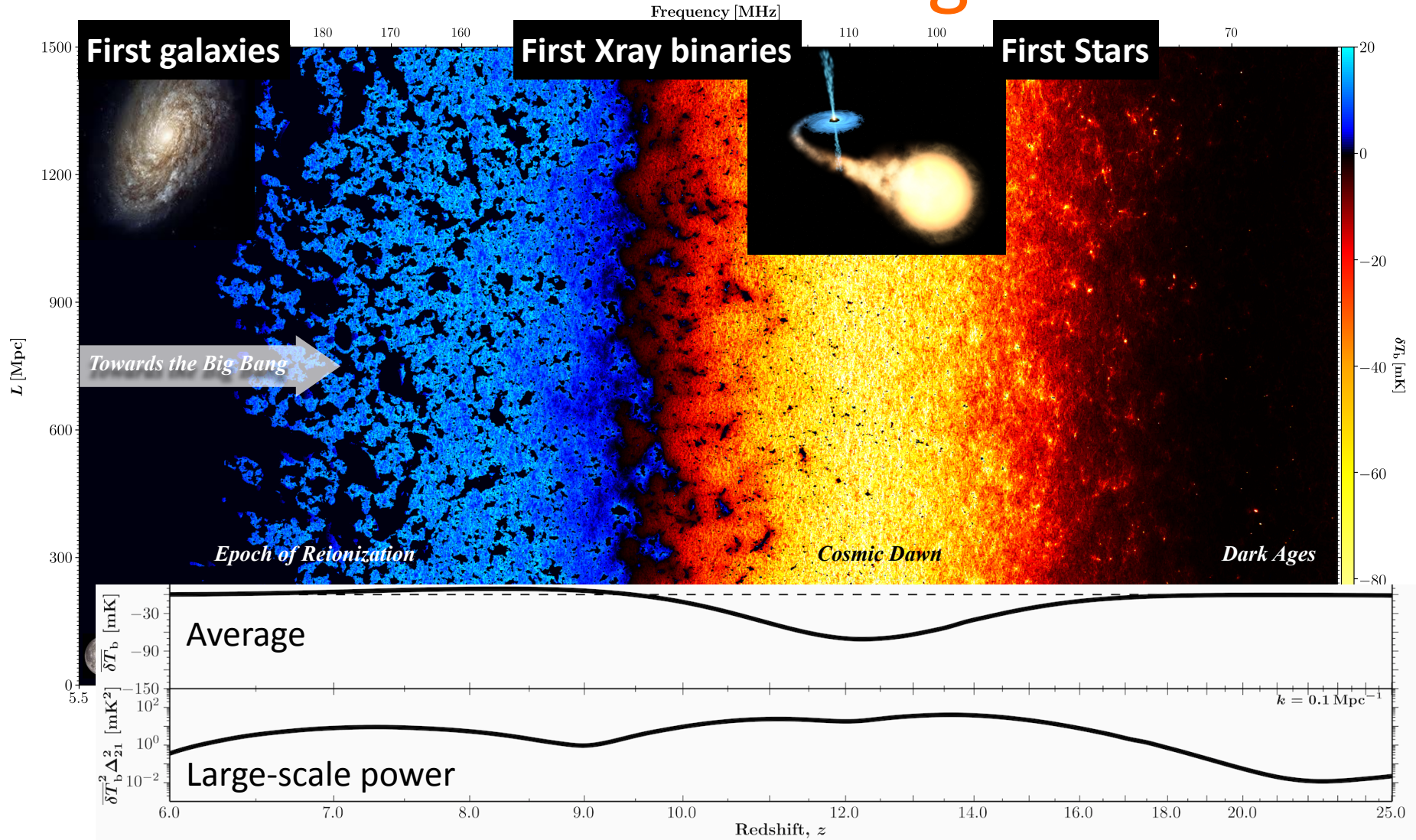


# Cosmic 21-cm signal



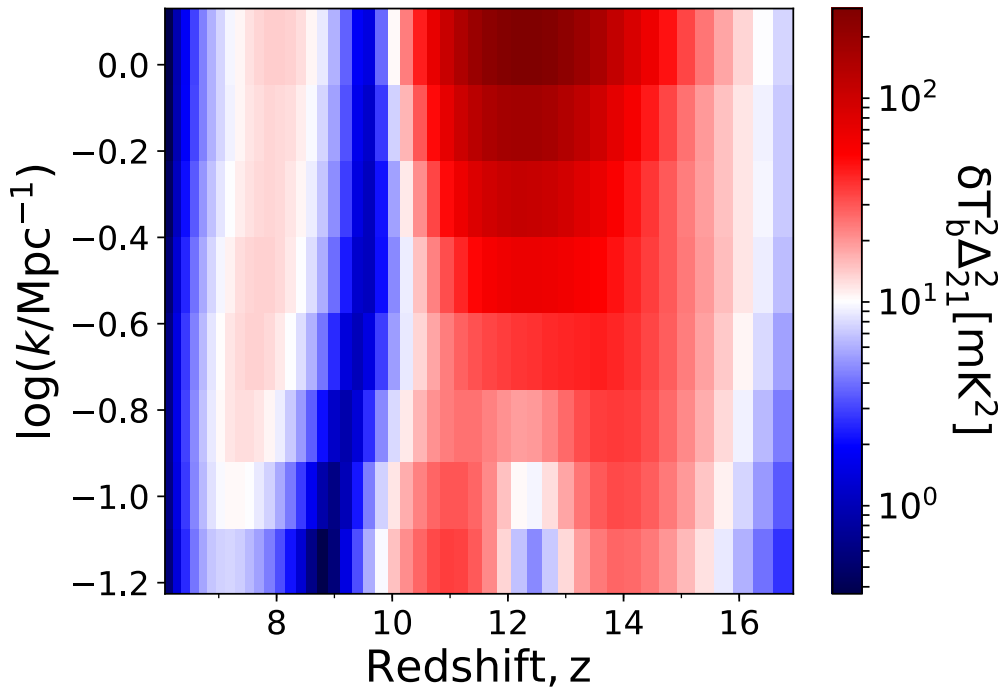
$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 27 \chi_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

# Cosmic 21-cm signal



# The SKA will detect the power spectrum of these fluctuations with very high signal to noise

1D power spectrum from “fiducial model”

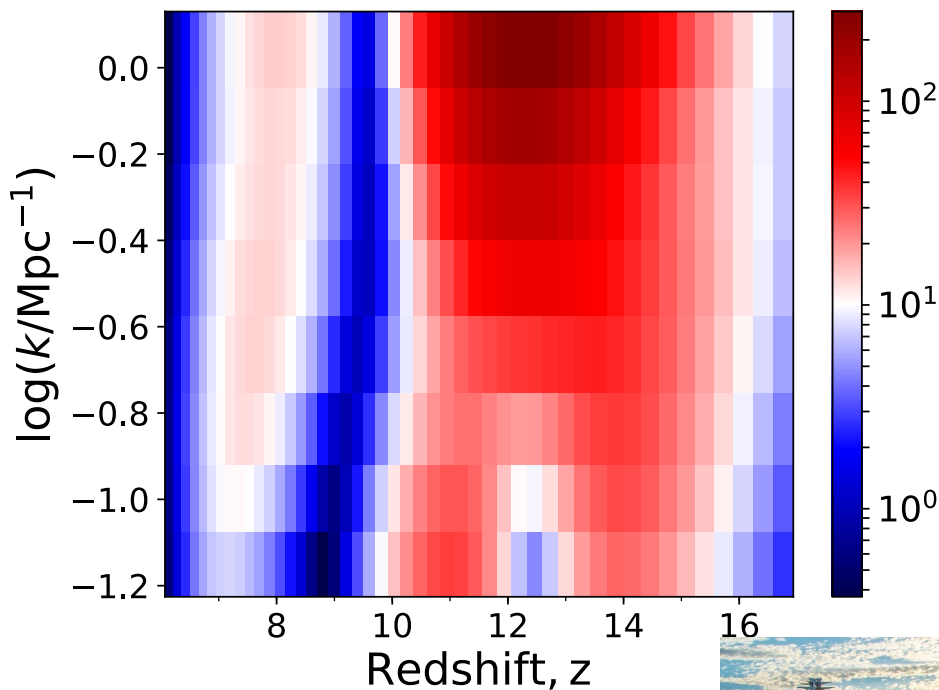


*characteristic “three-peak” structure of the cosmic signal*

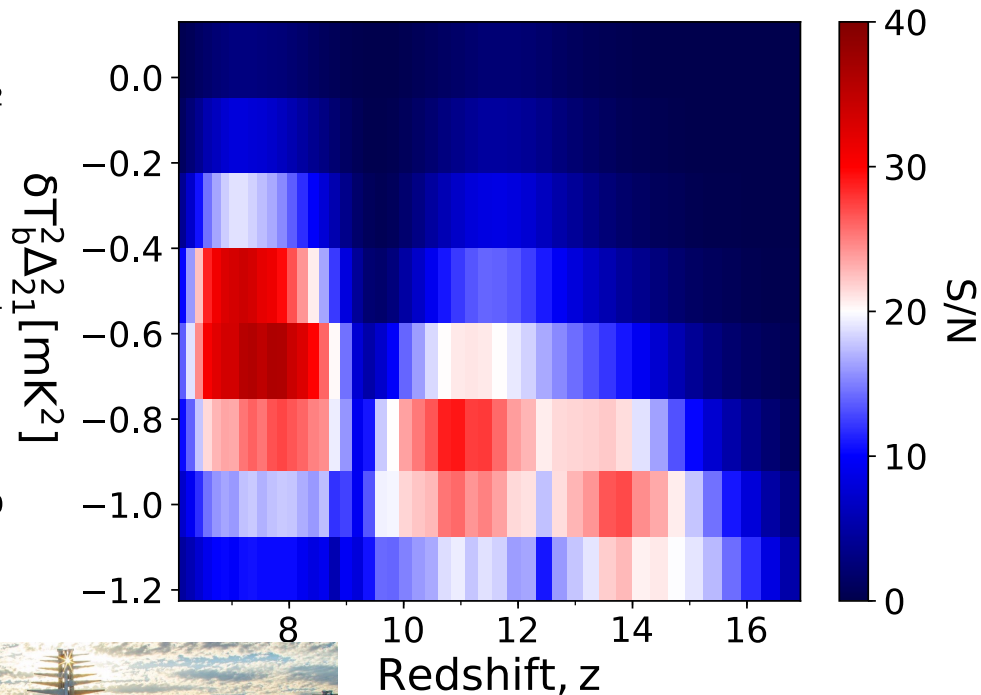


# The SKA will detect the power spectrum of these fluctuations with very high signal to noise

1D power spectrum from “fiducial model”



S/N from a 1000h SKA-low observation

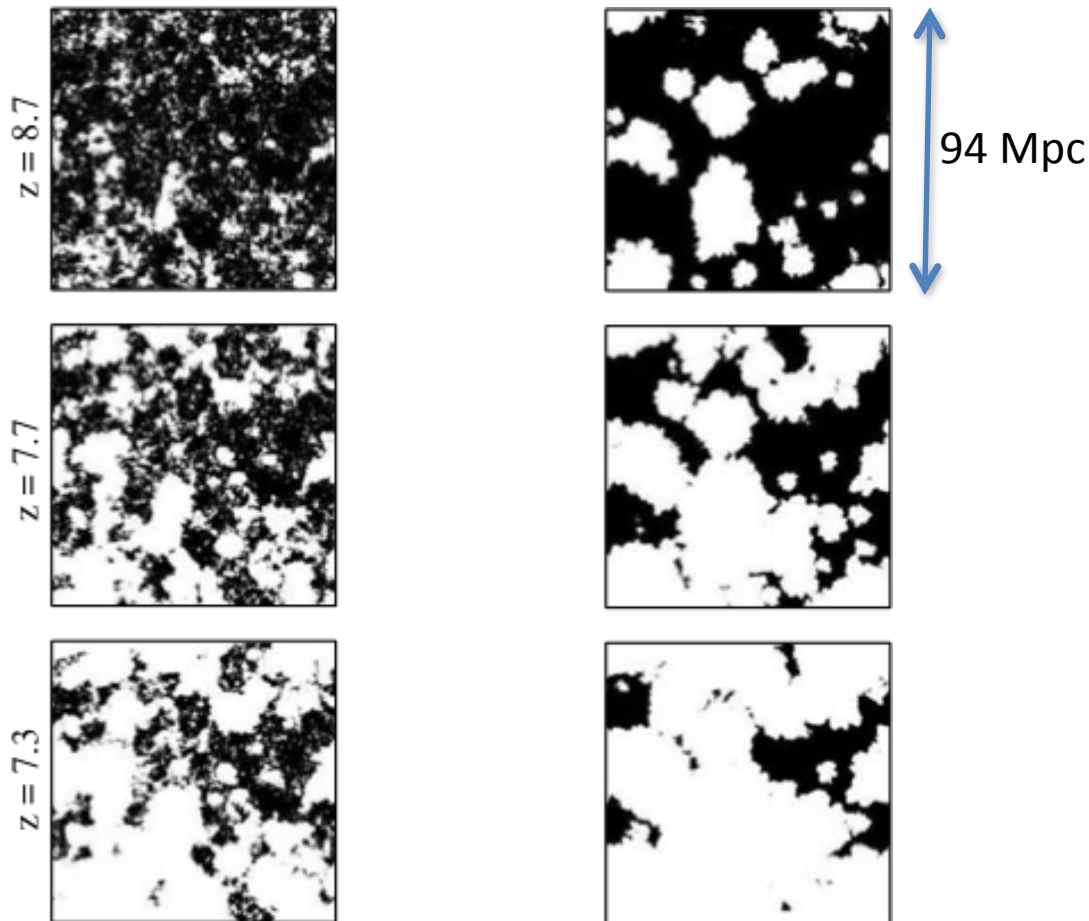




So how do we learn about the unseen,  
“typical” galaxies and physical cosmology,  
from the cosmic 21-cm signal?

# Timing of reionization and the properties of the (unseen) galaxies that drive it

- Galaxy clustering + stellar properties → *evolution of large-scale EoR/CD structures*



McQuinn+ 2007

**Abundant, faint galaxies** vs **Rare, bright galaxies**

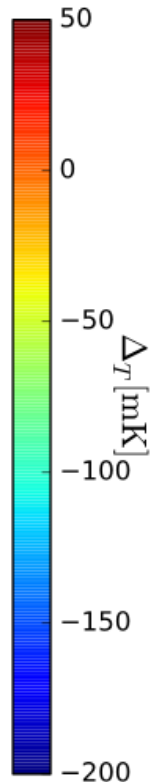
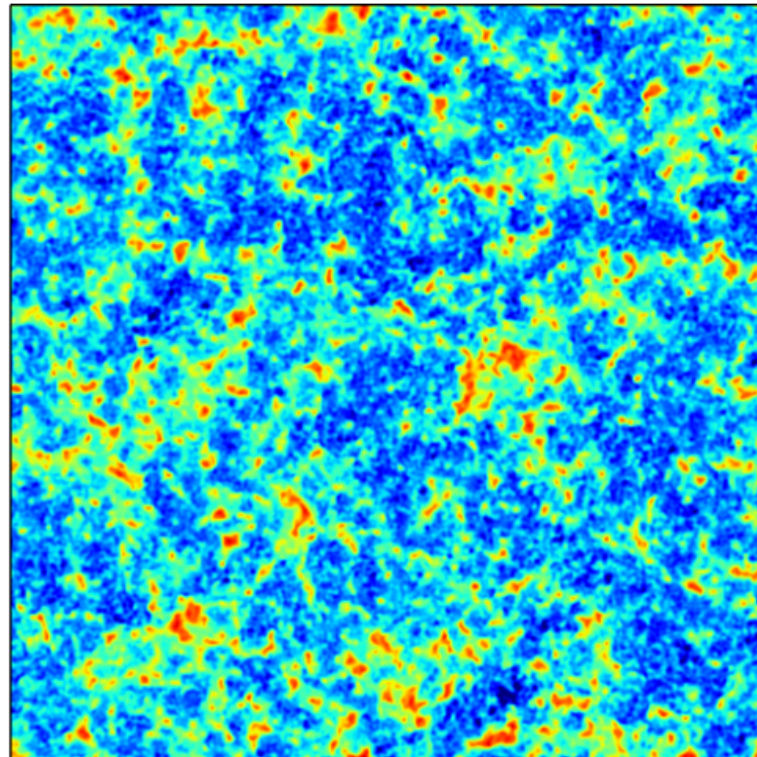
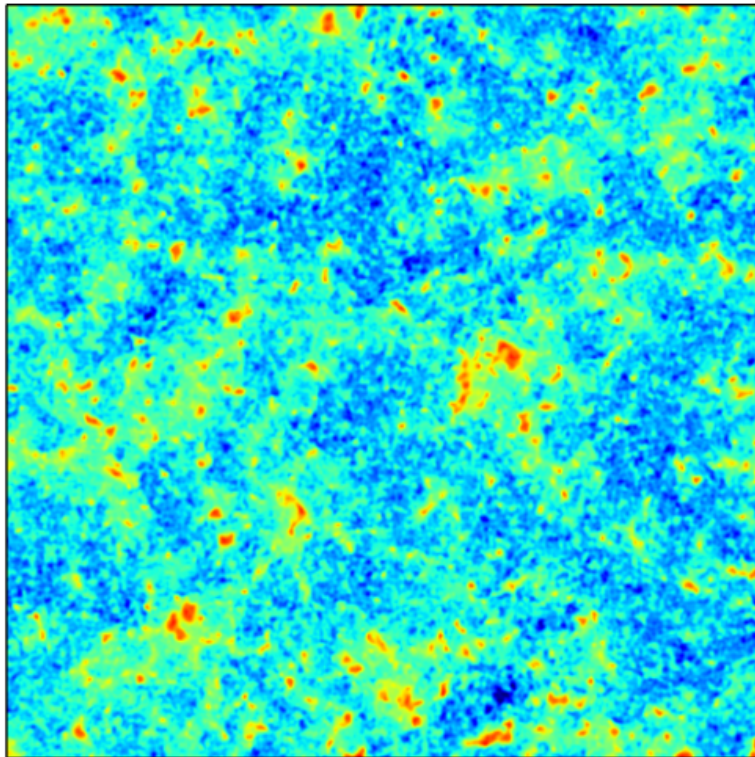
# Patterns in the Epoch of Heating

High-energy processes in the first galaxies are also encoded in the cosmic 21-cm signal

'hard' SED  $\sim$  HMXBs

'soft' SED  $\sim$  hot ISM

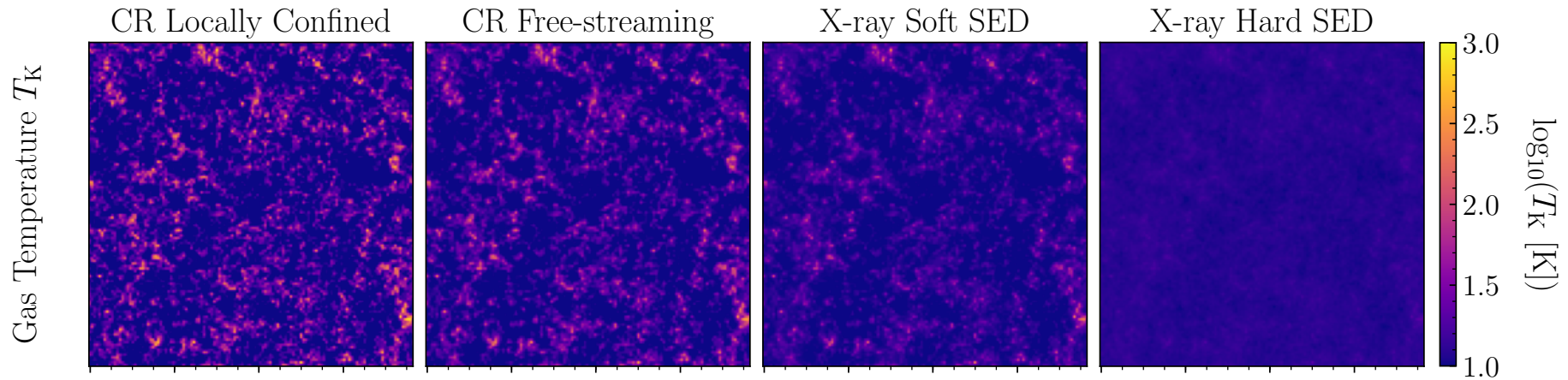
750 Mpc



*differences are easily detectable with HERA and the SKA*

# More exotic sources of early IGM heating?

- Cosmic Rays? (e.g. Leite+2017; Jana and Nath 2018; Gessey-Jones+2023)



Gessey-Jones+2023

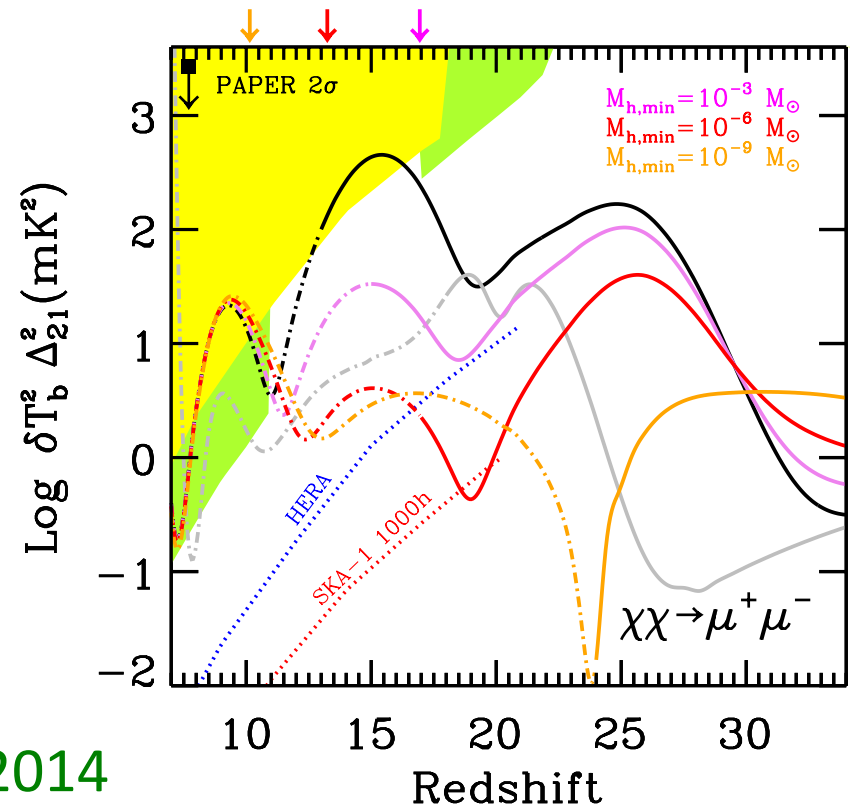
*Different mean free paths  $\rightarrow$  patchiness of heating*



# More exotic sources of early IGM heating?

- Cosmic Rays? (e.g. Leite+2017; Jana and Nath 2018; Gessey-Jones+2023)
- Dark matter annihilations? (e.g. Evoli+2014; Lopez-Honorez+2016)

*heating is more uniform →  
not degenerate with galaxy heating*

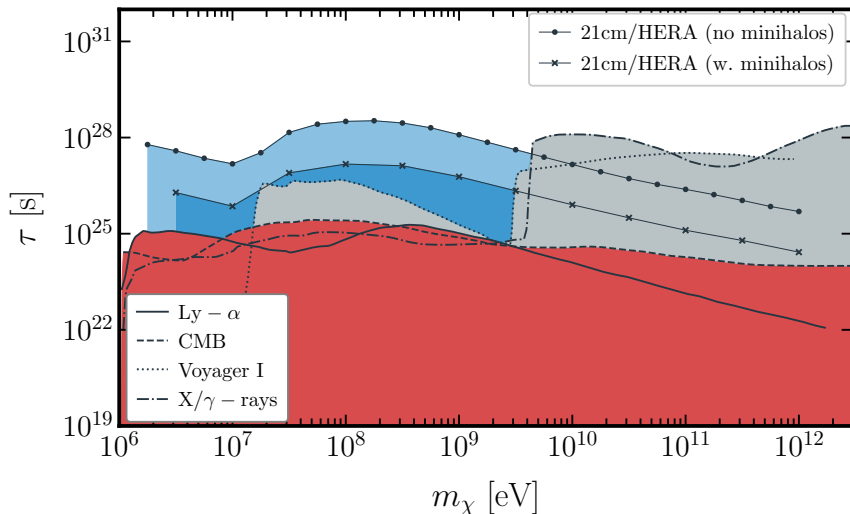


Evoli, AM+2014

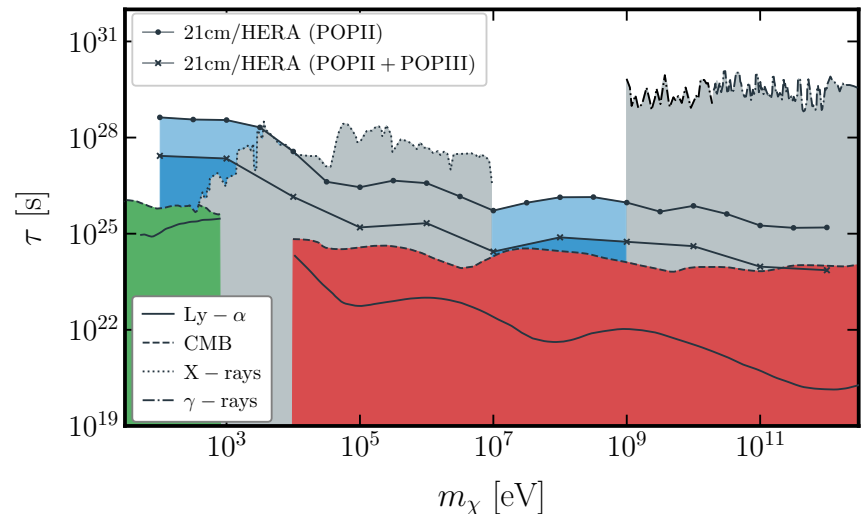
# More exotic sources of early IGM heating?

- Cosmic Rays? (e.g. Leite+2017; Jana and Nath 2018; Gessey-Jones+2023)
- Dark matter annihilations? (e.g. Evoli+2014; Lopez-Honorez+2016)
- Dark matter decay? (e.g. Facchinetti+ 2023)

$$\chi \rightarrow e^+e^-$$

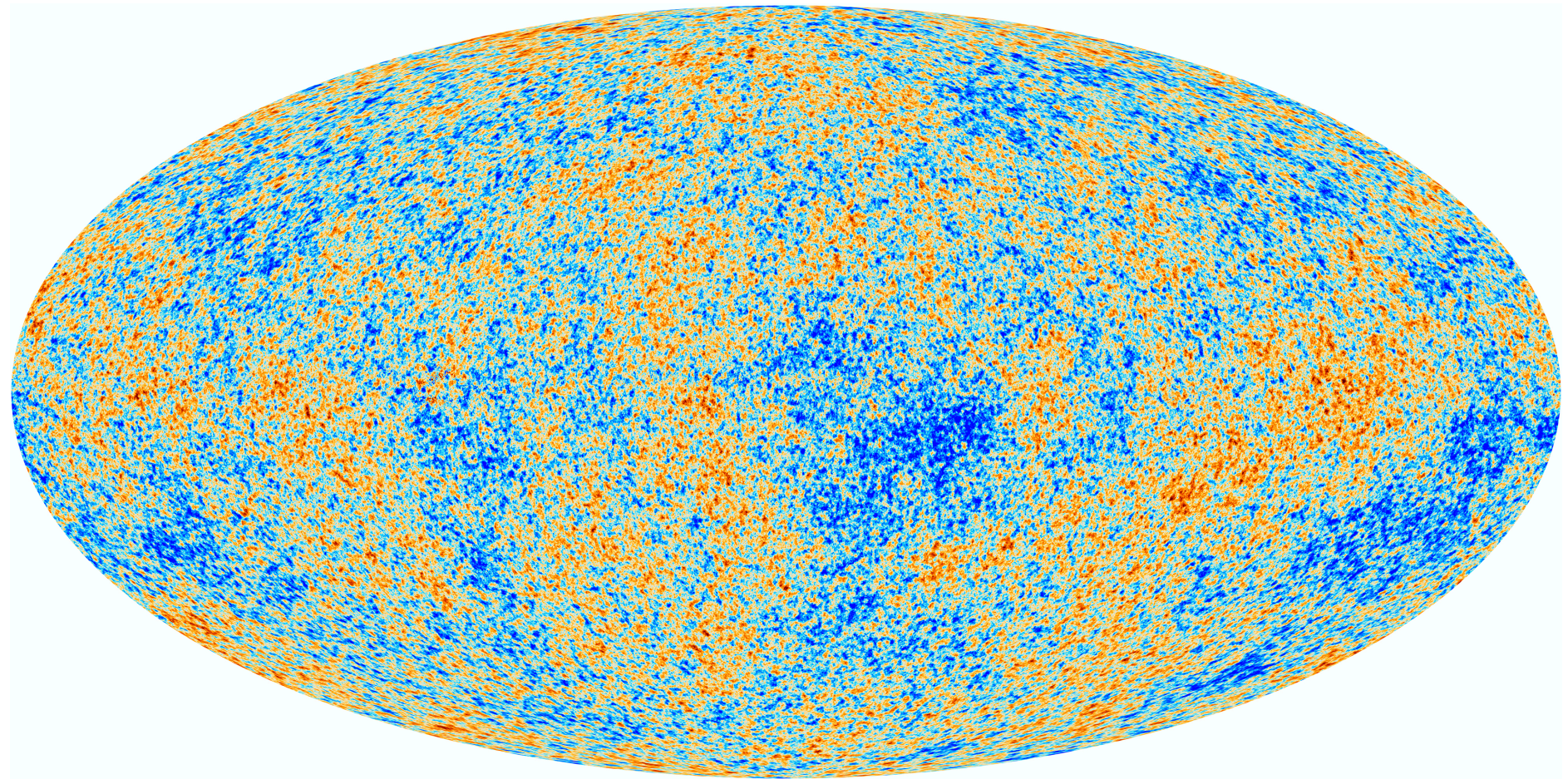


$$\chi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$

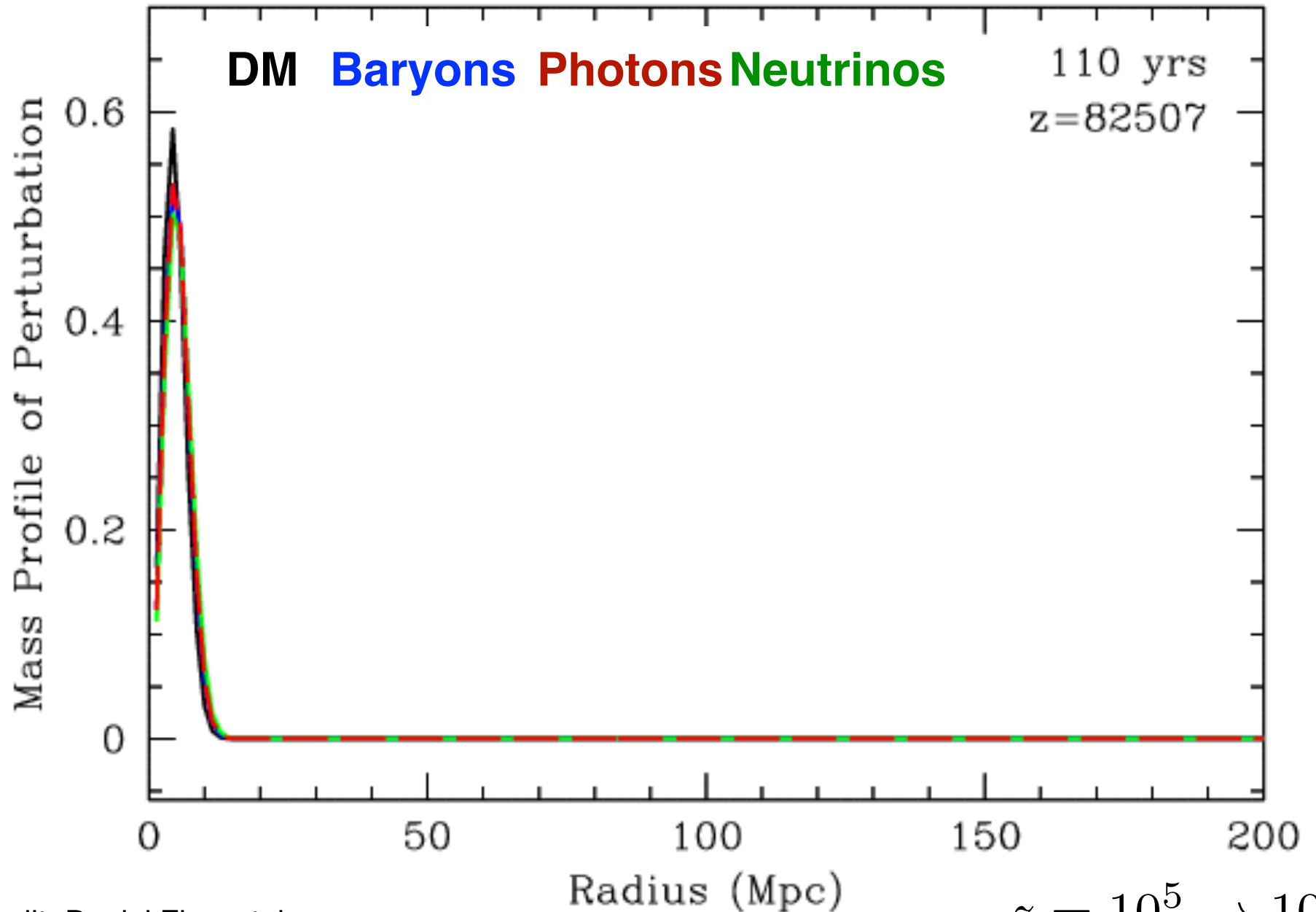




A snapshot of the baryons at  $z=1100$

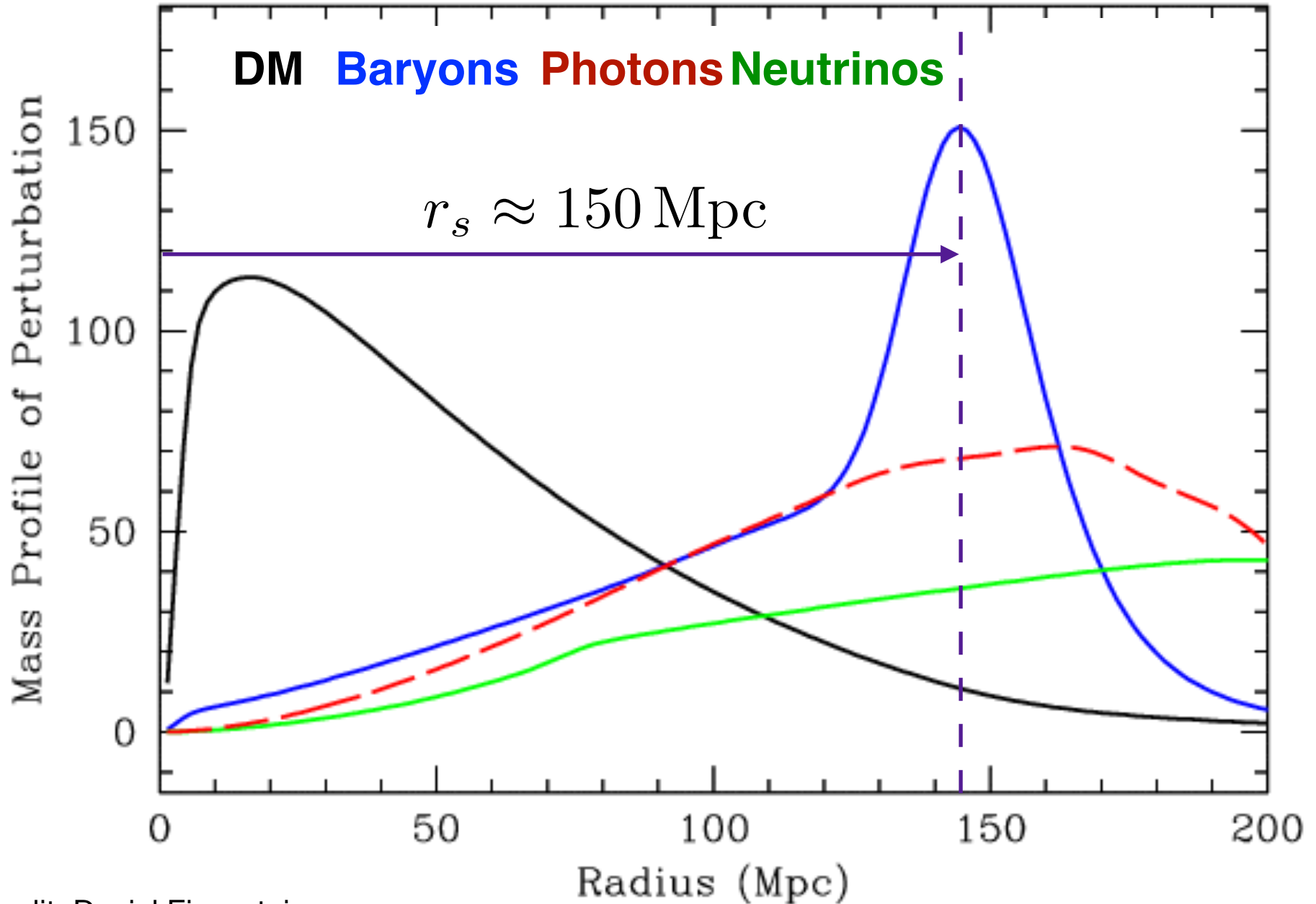


# But DM decouples earlier

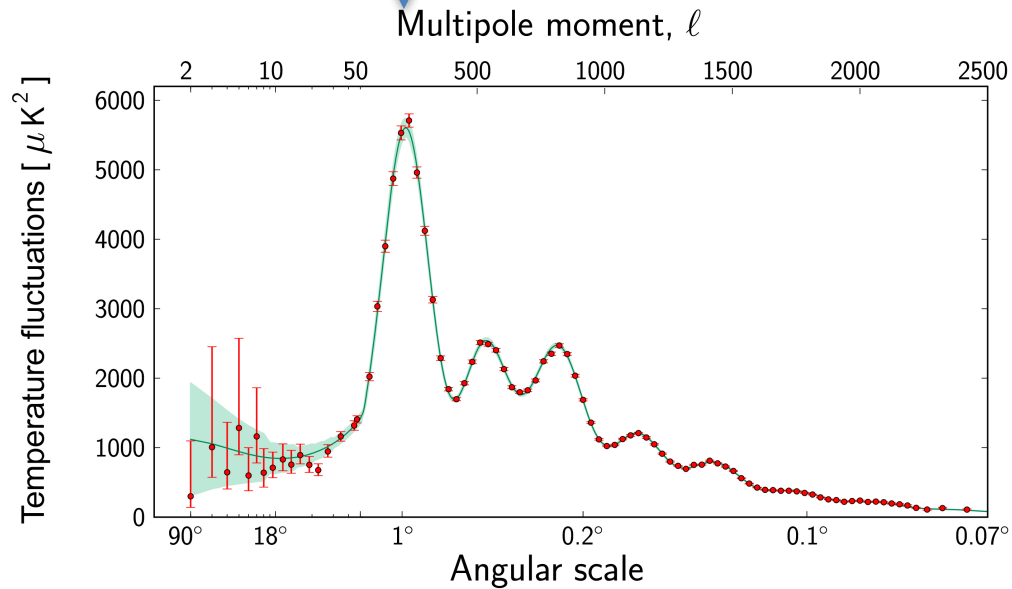
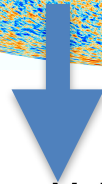
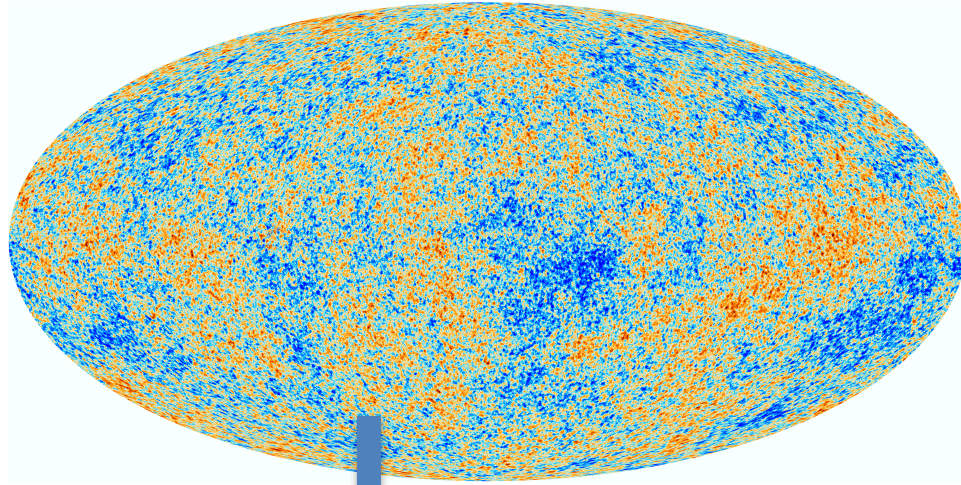




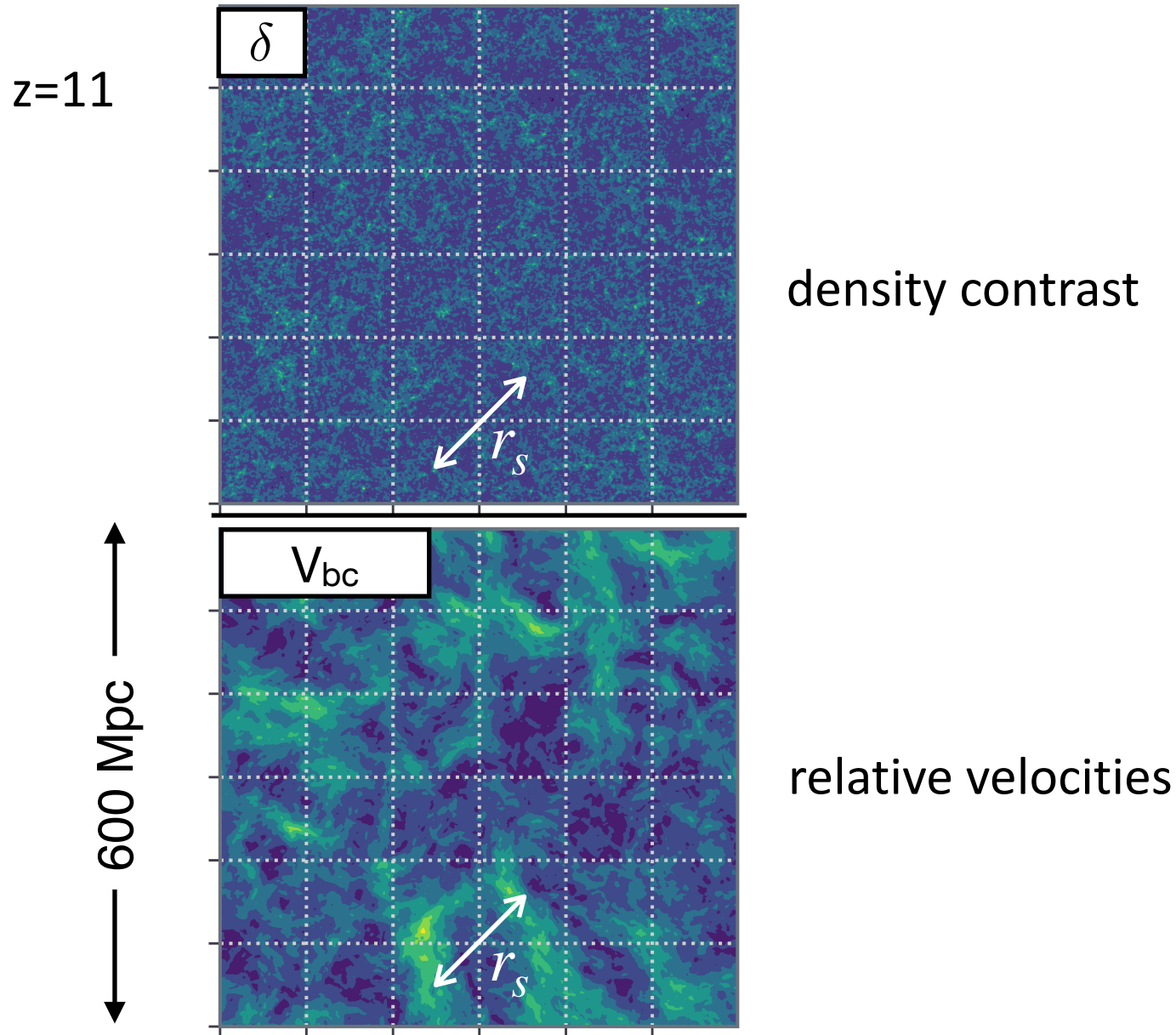
# Baryon Acoustic Oscillations



# A preferred distance scale

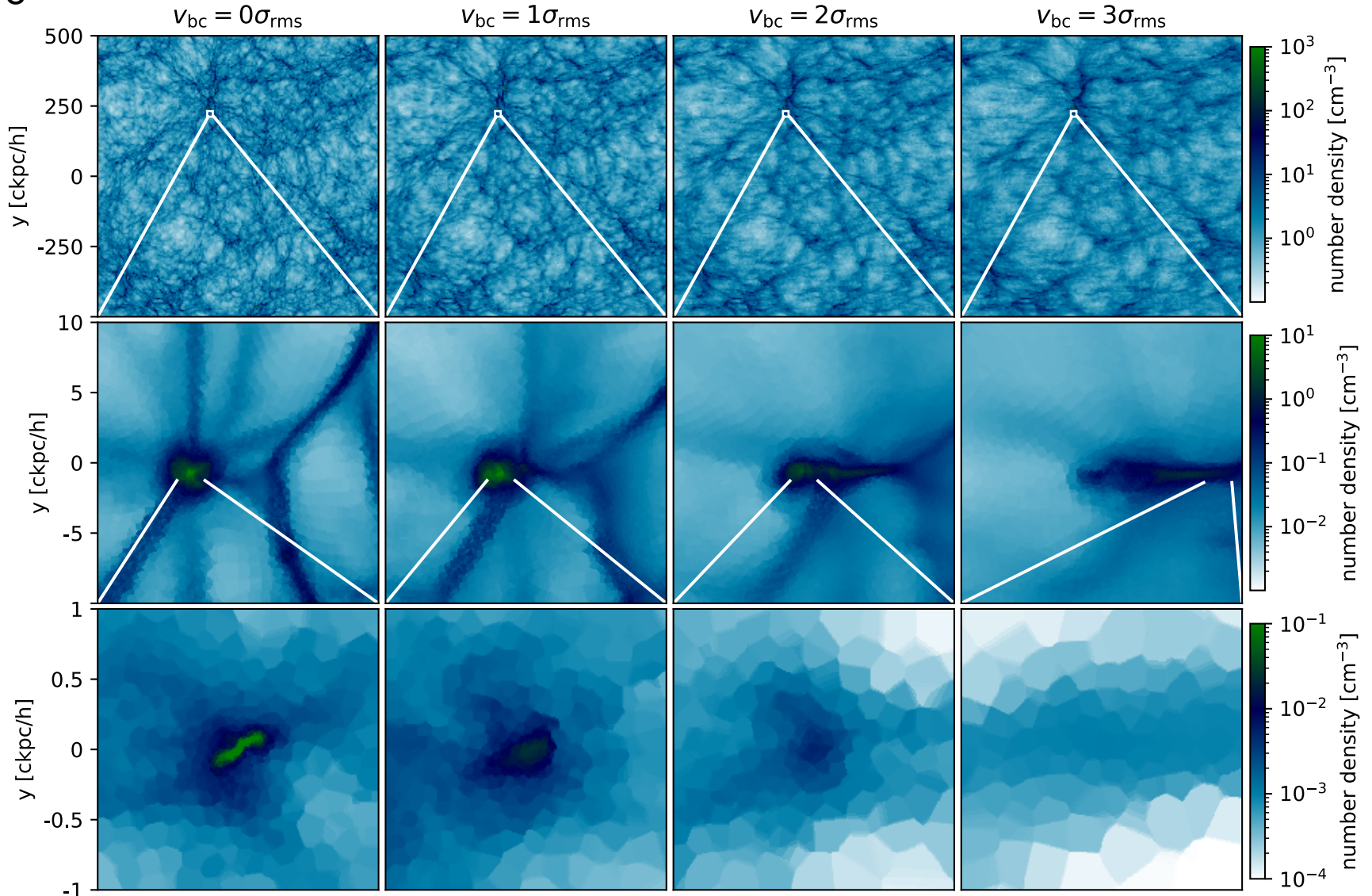


# Acoustic oscillations $\rightarrow$ standard ruler in $v_{bc}$



# Star formation is suppressed in regions with large relative velocities

$z=15$

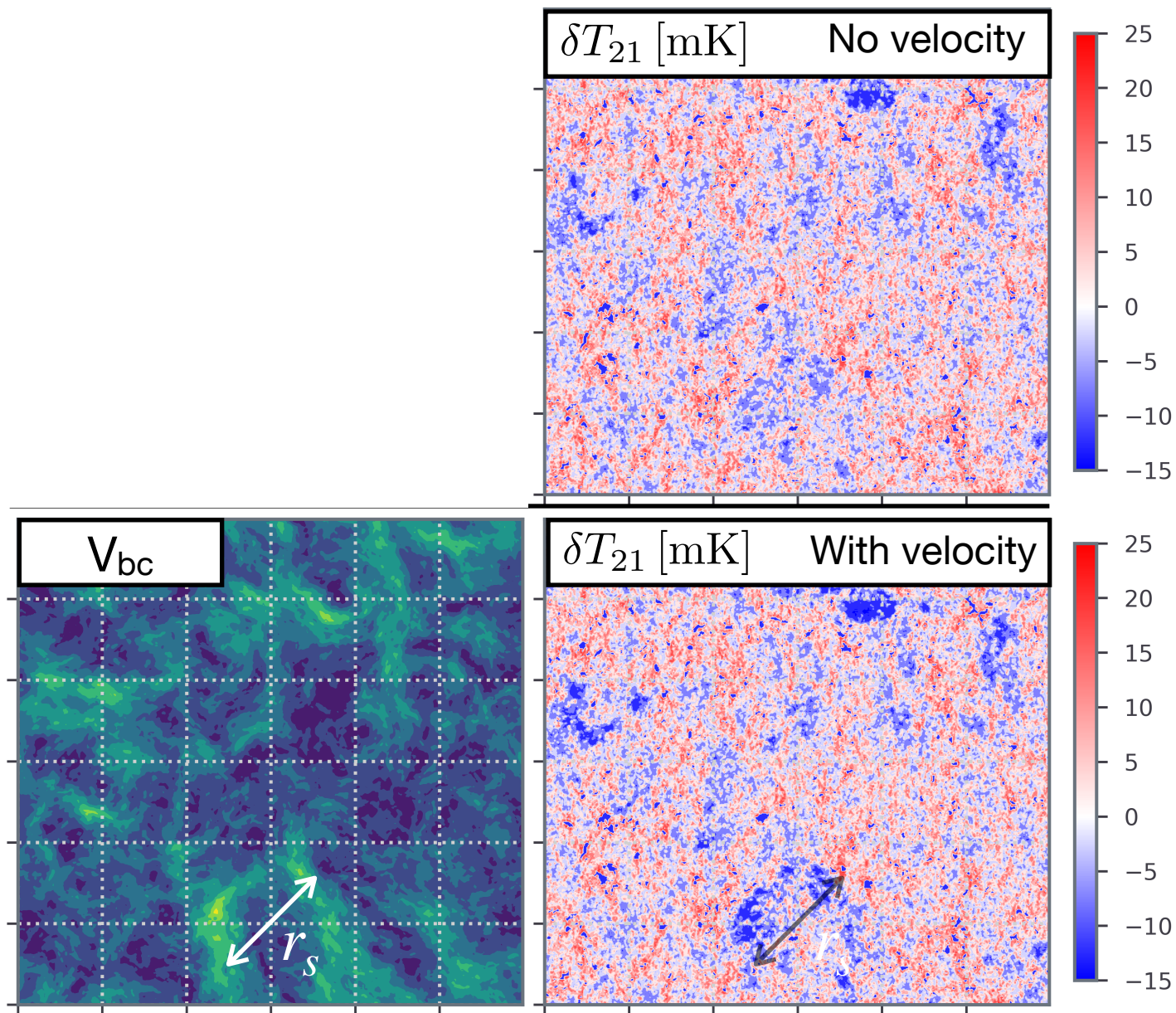


increasing  $v_{bc}$  

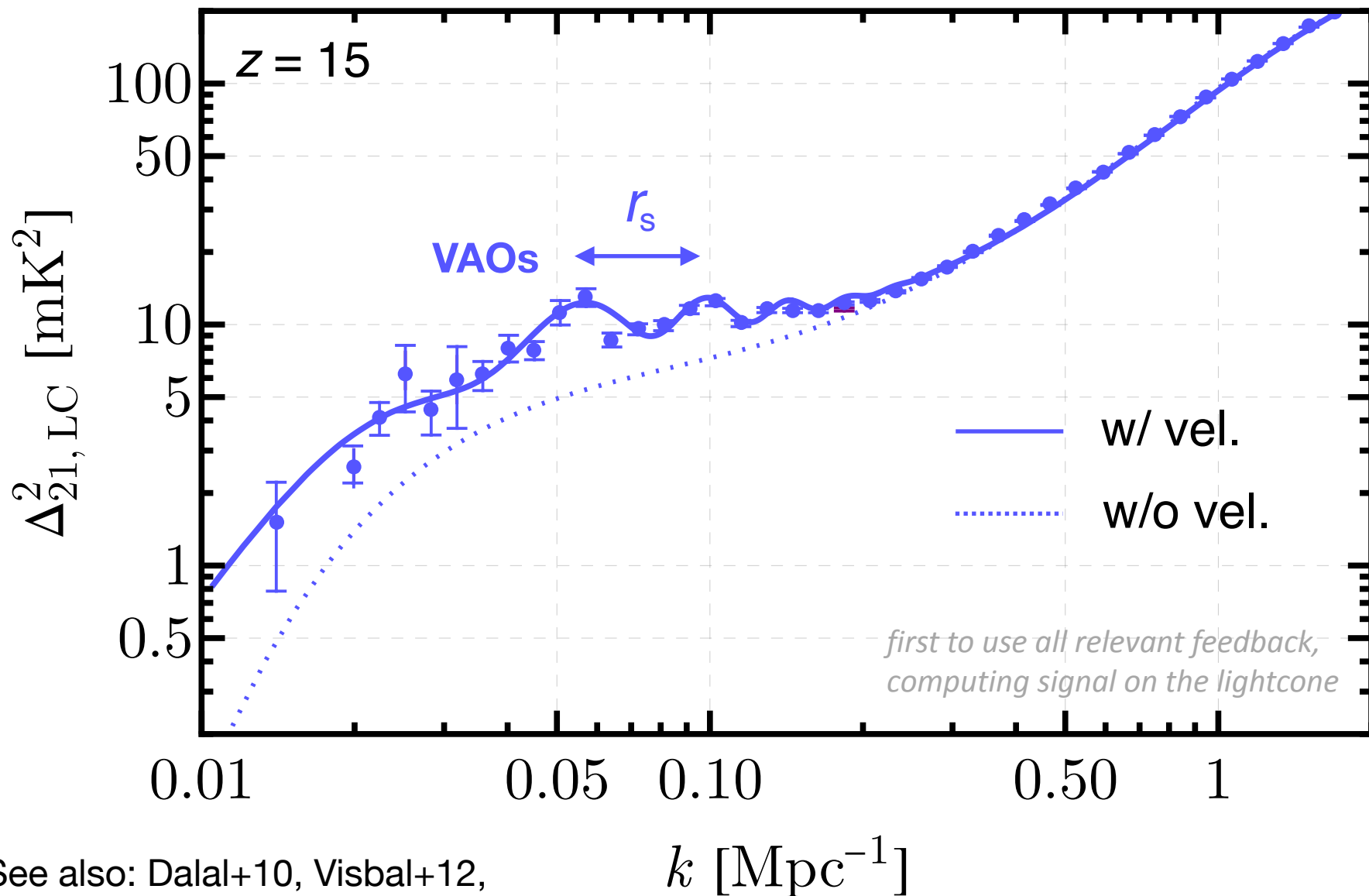
Schauer+2021



# Acoustic oscillations $\rightarrow$ standard ruler in $v_{bc}$



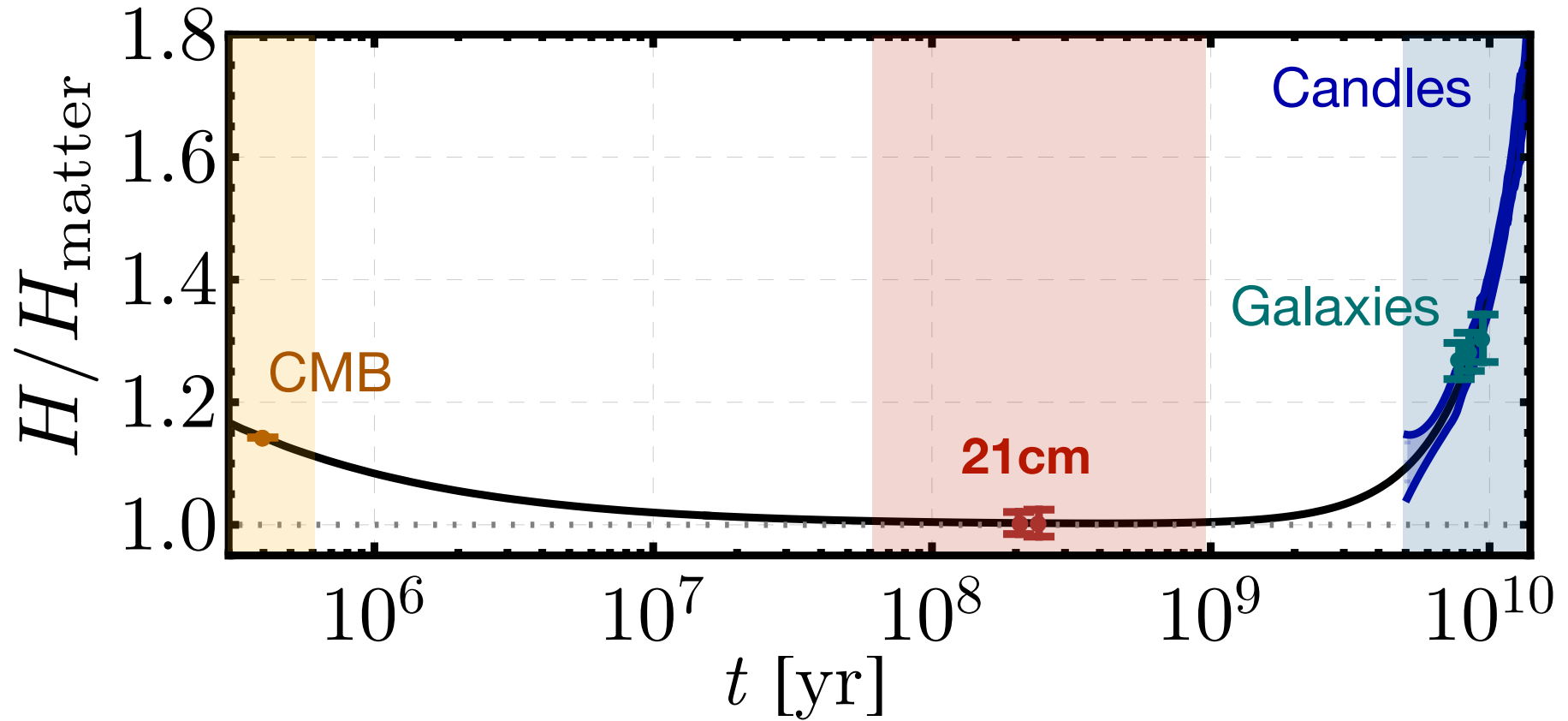
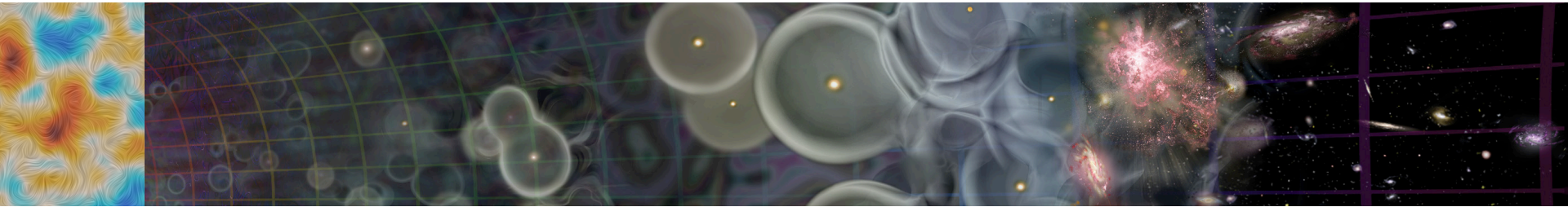
# Standard ruler



See also: Dalal+10, Visbal+12,  
Fialkov+12, McQuinn+12  
Munoz 19, Park+19, Cain+20, Sarkar+22

Munoz, Qin, AM+ 2022

# Measuring the expansion history



That sounds great, but where are we now?



# First generation 21-cm interferometers



**MWA**

**LOFAR**



**PAPER**



**GMRT**



**HERA**

# Observing is HARD!

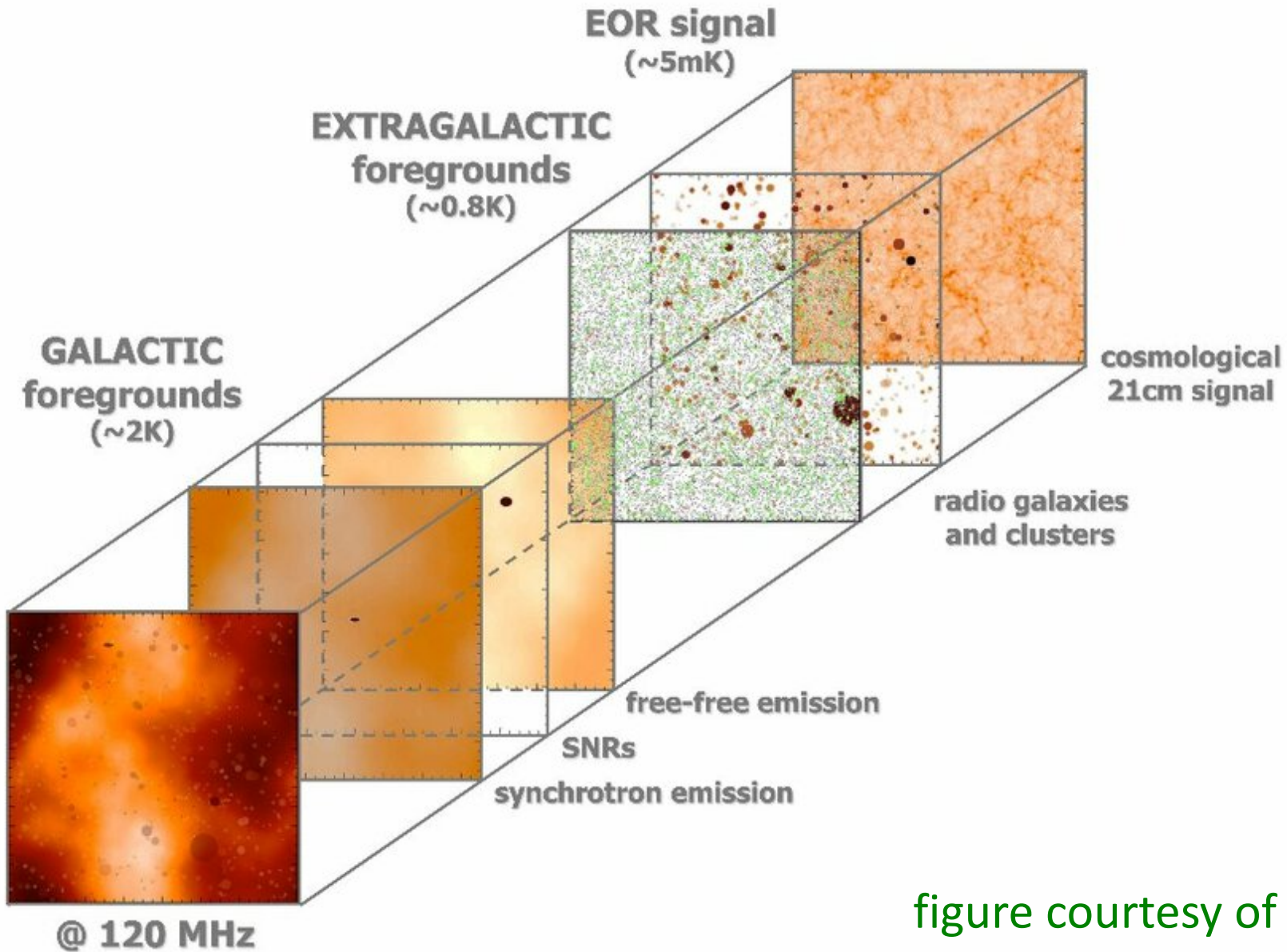
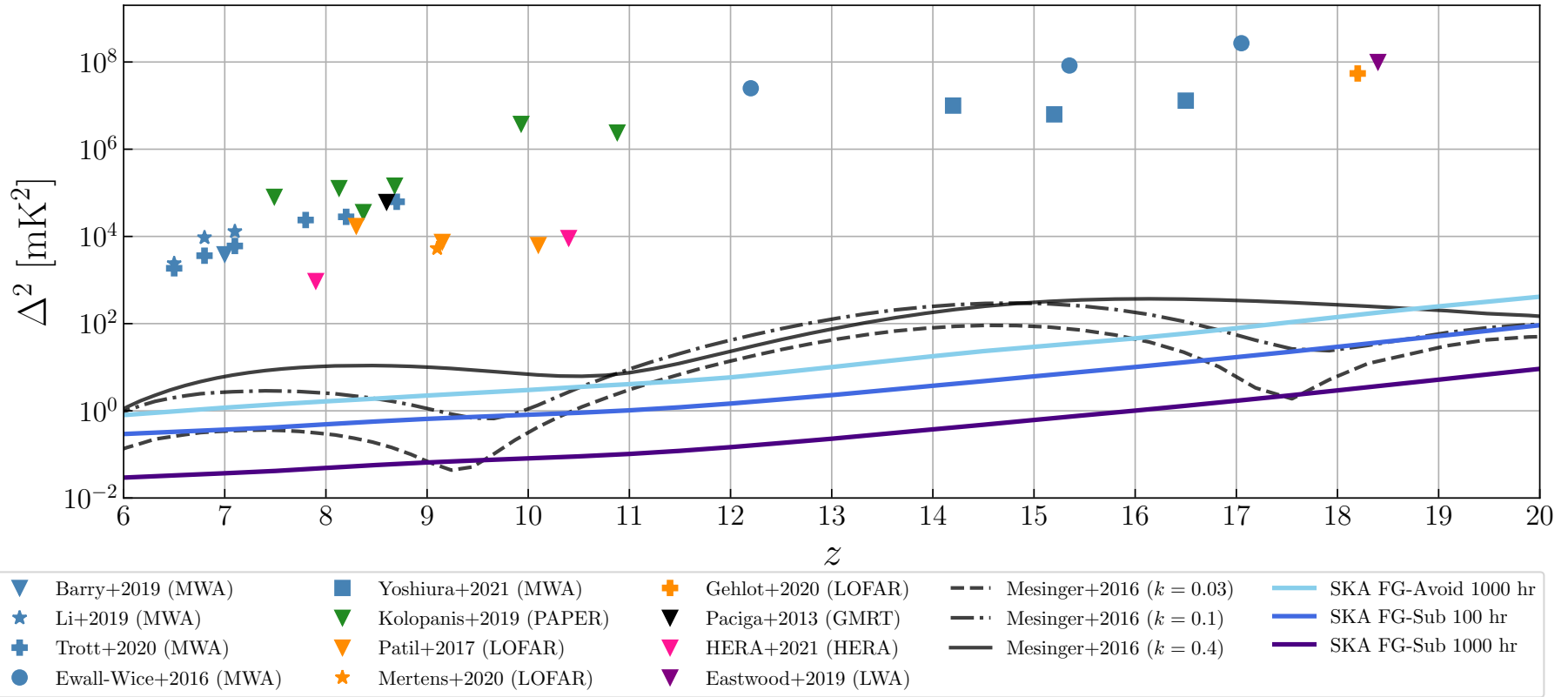


figure courtesy of V. Jelić

# Measurements are improving, but currently only upper limits on the PS

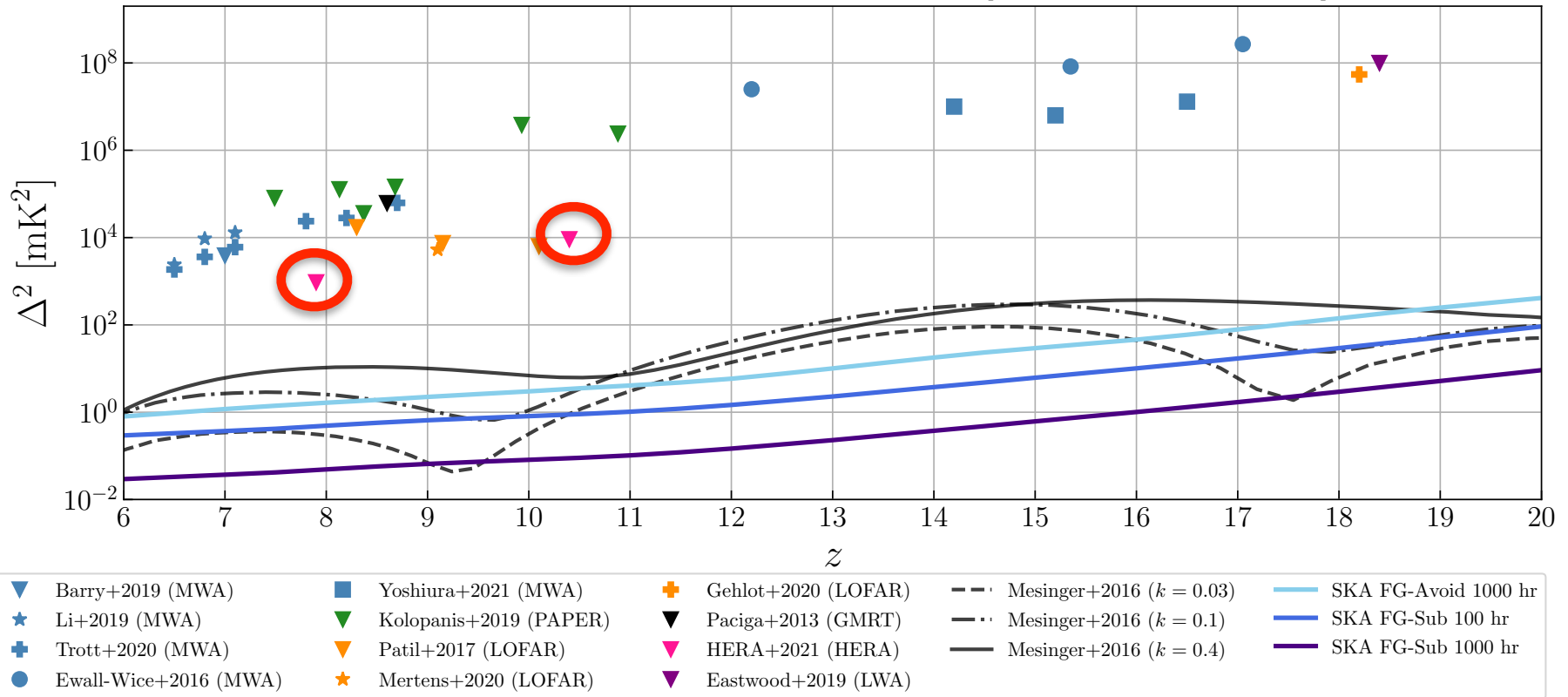
Power Spectrum 95% Confidence Upper Limits [ $0.03 < k < 0.4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ]



Barry+ 2022

# Currently only upper limits on the PS

Power Spectrum 95% Confidence Upper Limits [ $0.03 < k < 0.4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ]



Application to **HERA** (HERA collaboration 2022ab).

For similar studies on **LOFAR** and **MWA** data see (Ghara+2020; Mondal+2020; Greig+2020, Greig+2021)



# HERA

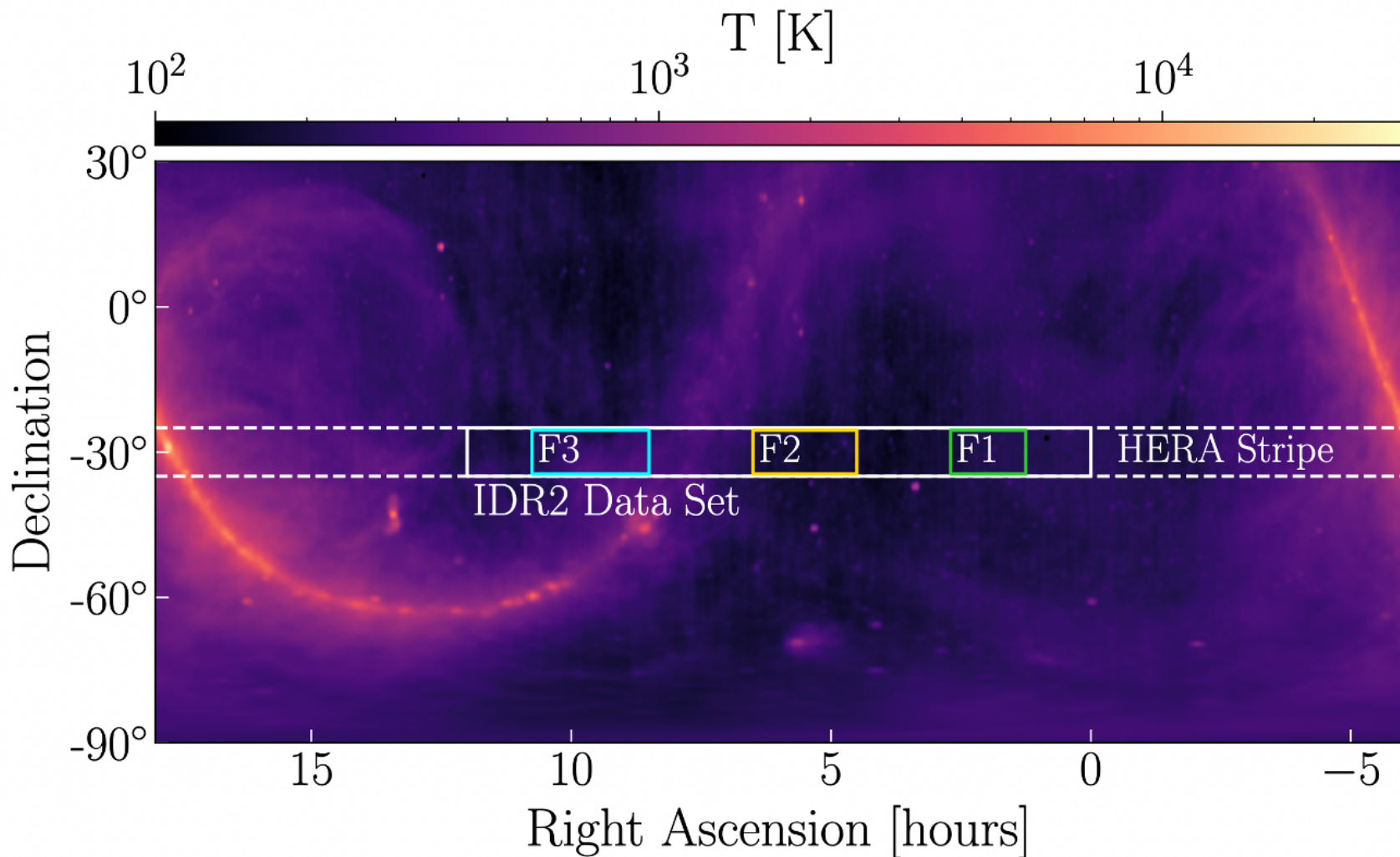


Google Earth  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy

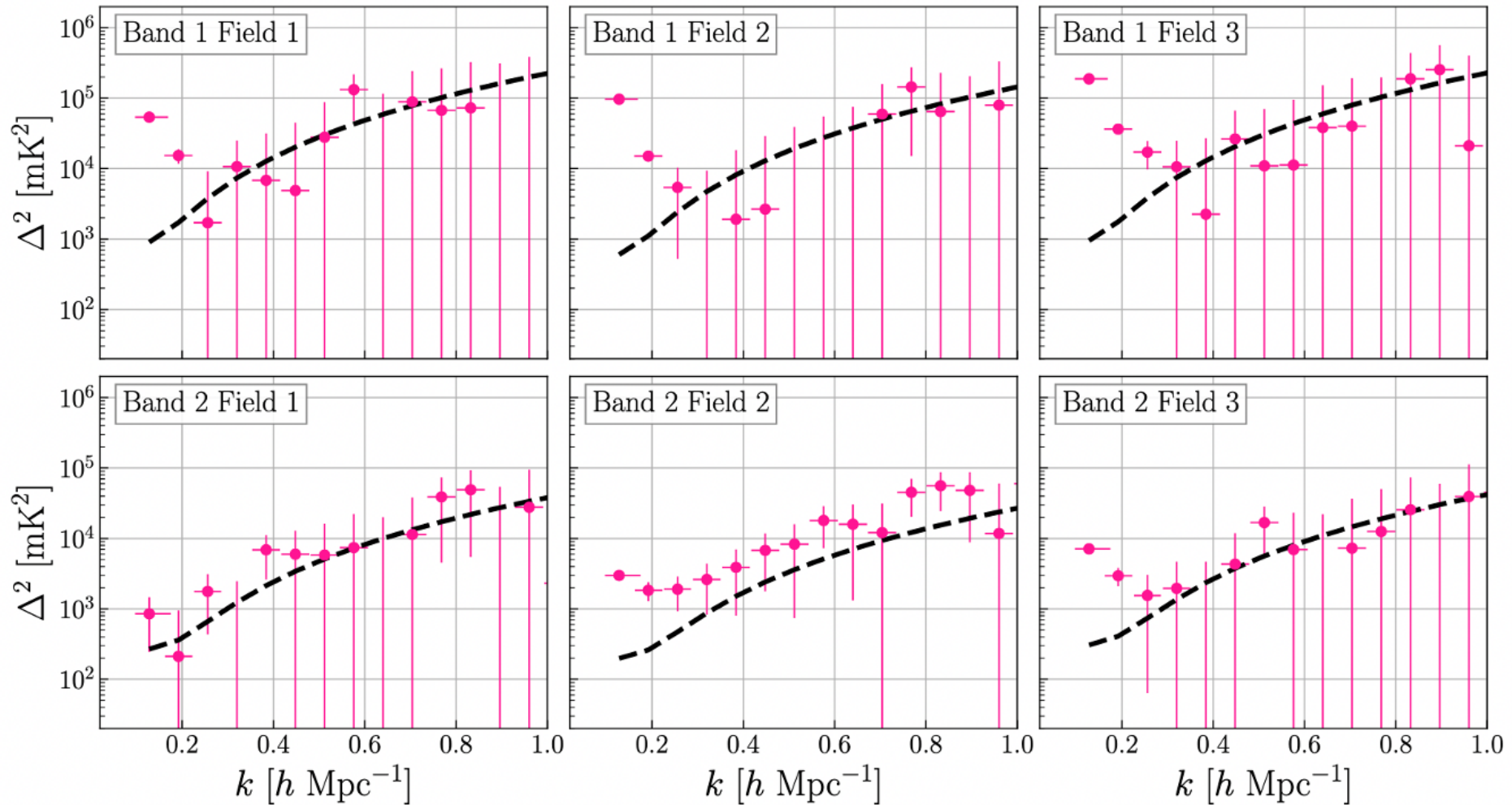
courtesy: J. Dillon

# Recent results from HERA

An initial observing campaign in 2017-18, with just 39/~350 antennas and 18 nights (2108.02263).



# Interpreting recent results from HERA



These are consistent with thermal noise,  
and are still  $\sim 1$ - $2$  orders of magnitude  
above the expected signal

HERA collaboration (2022a;  
*led by Nick Kern*)

Can we learn something from upper limits that are still x10-100 above the expected signal?



What kind of models are the easiest to rule out (i.e. have the largest power)?

$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 27 x_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

What kind of models are the easiest to rule out (i.e. have the largest power)?

$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 2 \tau_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

~ 0 – 1

What kind of models are the easiest to rule out (i.e. have the largest power)?

$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 27 X_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

$\sim 0.1 - 1$

What kind of models are the easiest to rule out (i.e. have the largest power)?

$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 27 \chi_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

$\sim -10(!) - 1$



# What kind of models are the easiest to rule out (i.e. have the largest power)?

$$\delta T_b(\nu) \approx 27 \chi_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_{\text{nl}}) \left( \frac{H}{dv_r/dr + H} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_\gamma}{T_S} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_M h^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) \text{mK}$$

Models that are ruled out must have:

**COLD** IGM:  $T_S \ll T_\gamma$

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+

**Spatial fluctuations** in either:

- *ionization fraction (patchy EoR)*

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+

***Spatial fluctuations in either:***

- *ionization fraction (patchy EoR)*
- *matter density*

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Models that are ruled out must have:

**COLD** IGM:  $T_S \ll T_\gamma$

+

***Spatial fluctuations in either:***

- ***ionization fraction (patchy EoR)***
- ***matter density***
- ***temperature (requires extremely soft SEDs)***

see also e.g. Ewall-Wice+2013; Ghara+2020; Greig+2020; Mondal+2020; Reis+2020; Greig+2021



# Examples

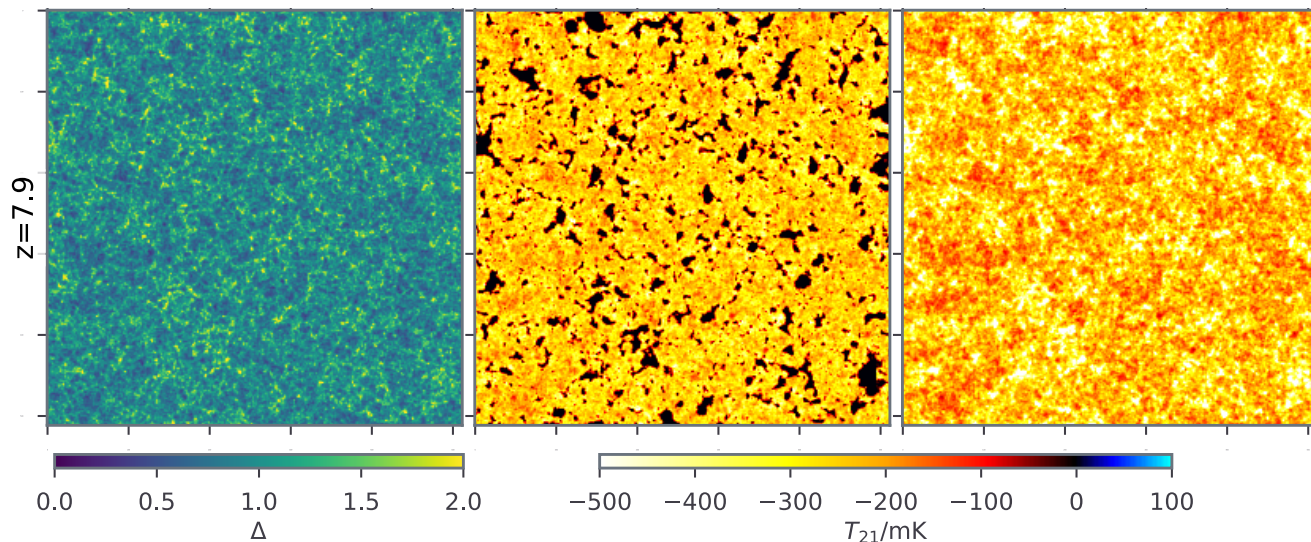
Density

21cm

21cm

*COLD* + EoR

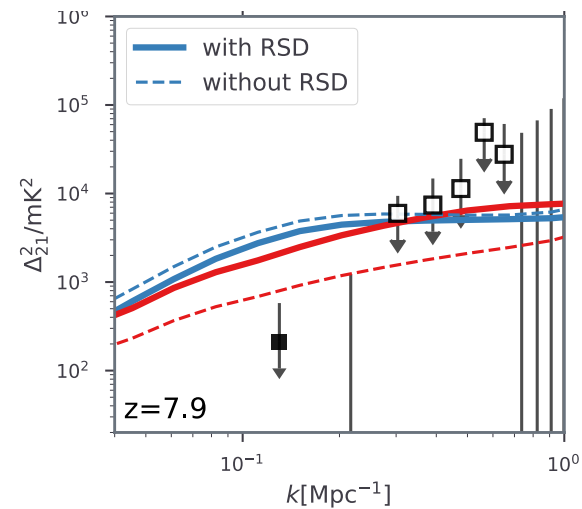
*COLD* + density



$$\bar{x}_{\text{HI}} \sim 0.5$$

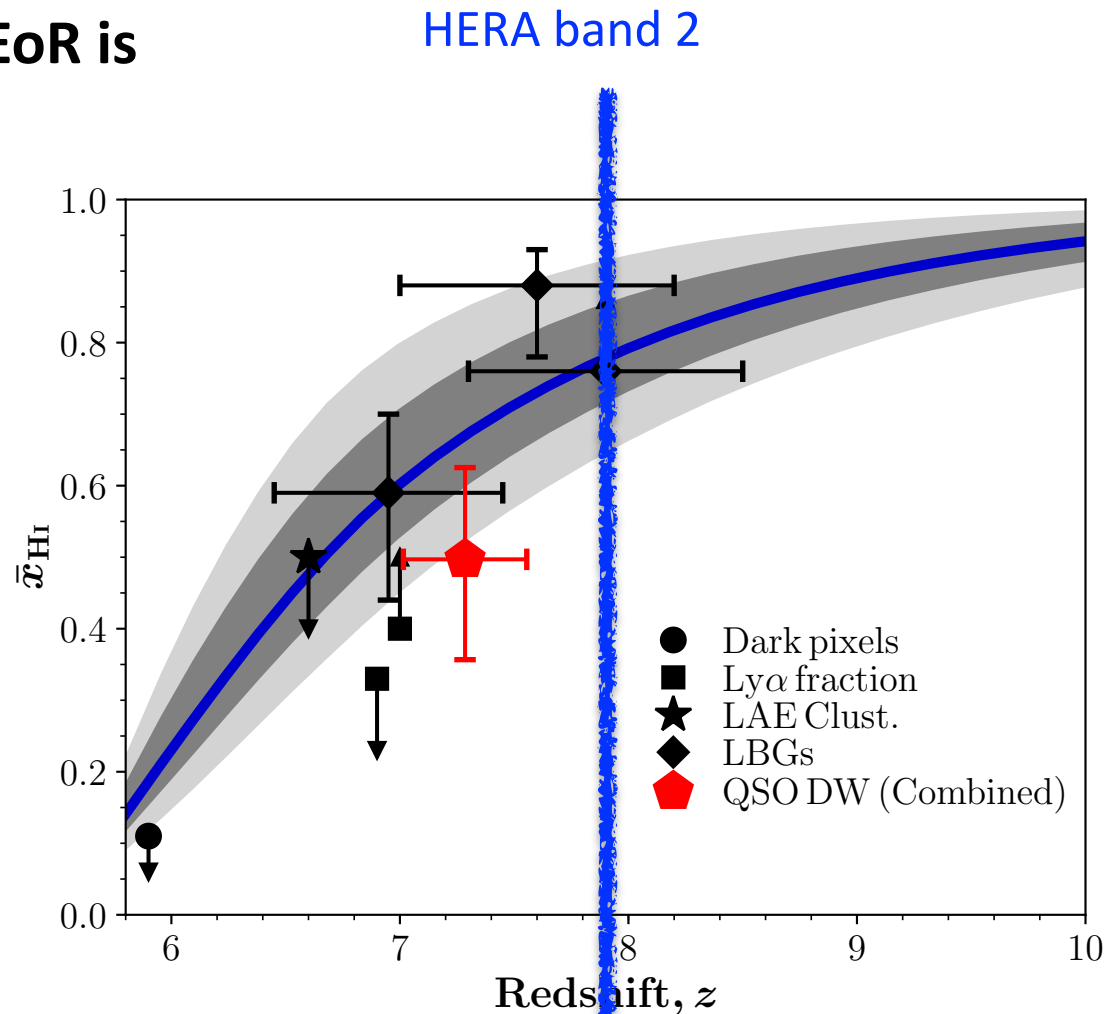
$$\bar{x}_{\text{HI}} \sim 1$$

21cm power



# Current constraints on EoR history

**BUT we know the EoR is underway at  $z \sim 8$ !**



# Current constraints on EoR history

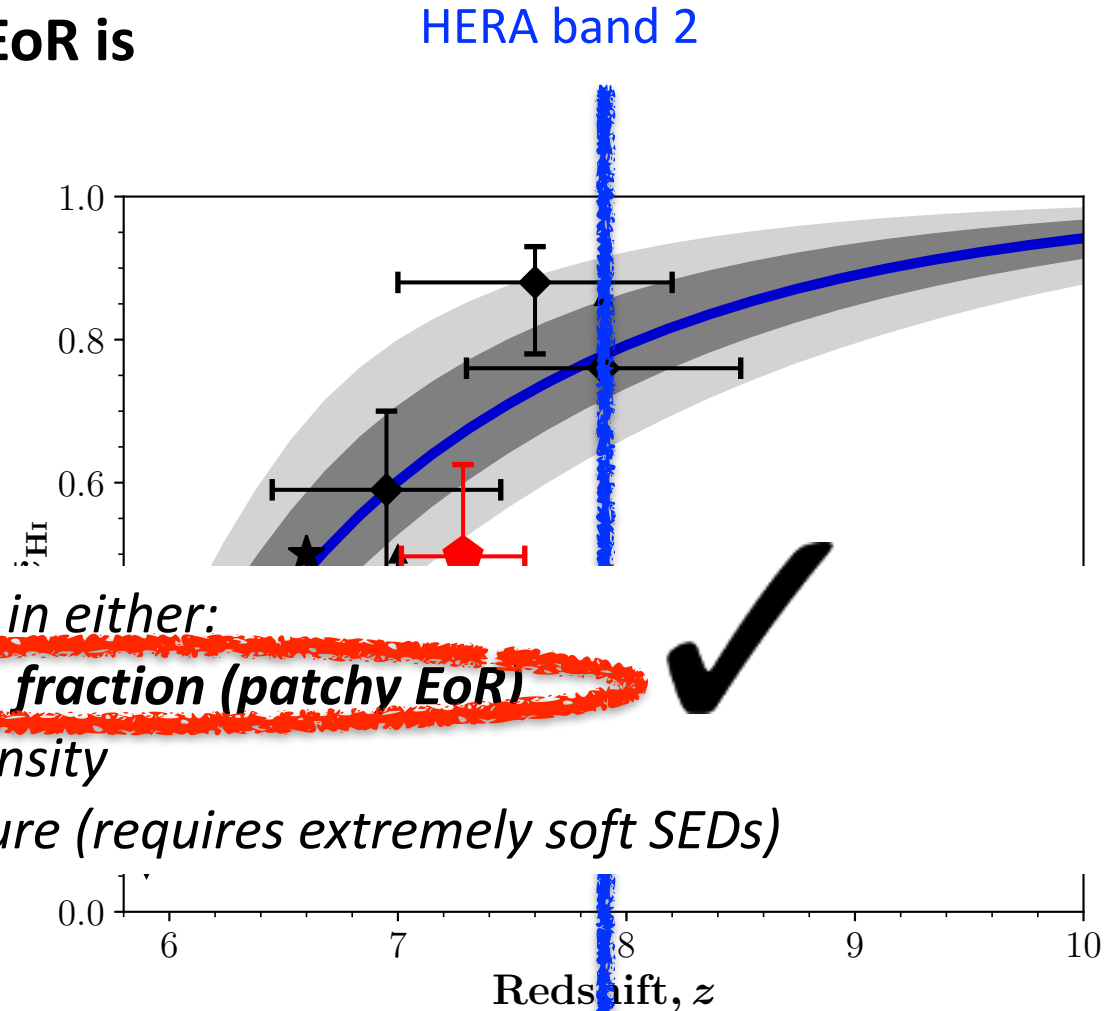
BUT we know the EoR is underway at  $z \sim 8$ !

**COLD** IGM:  $T_S \ll T_\gamma$

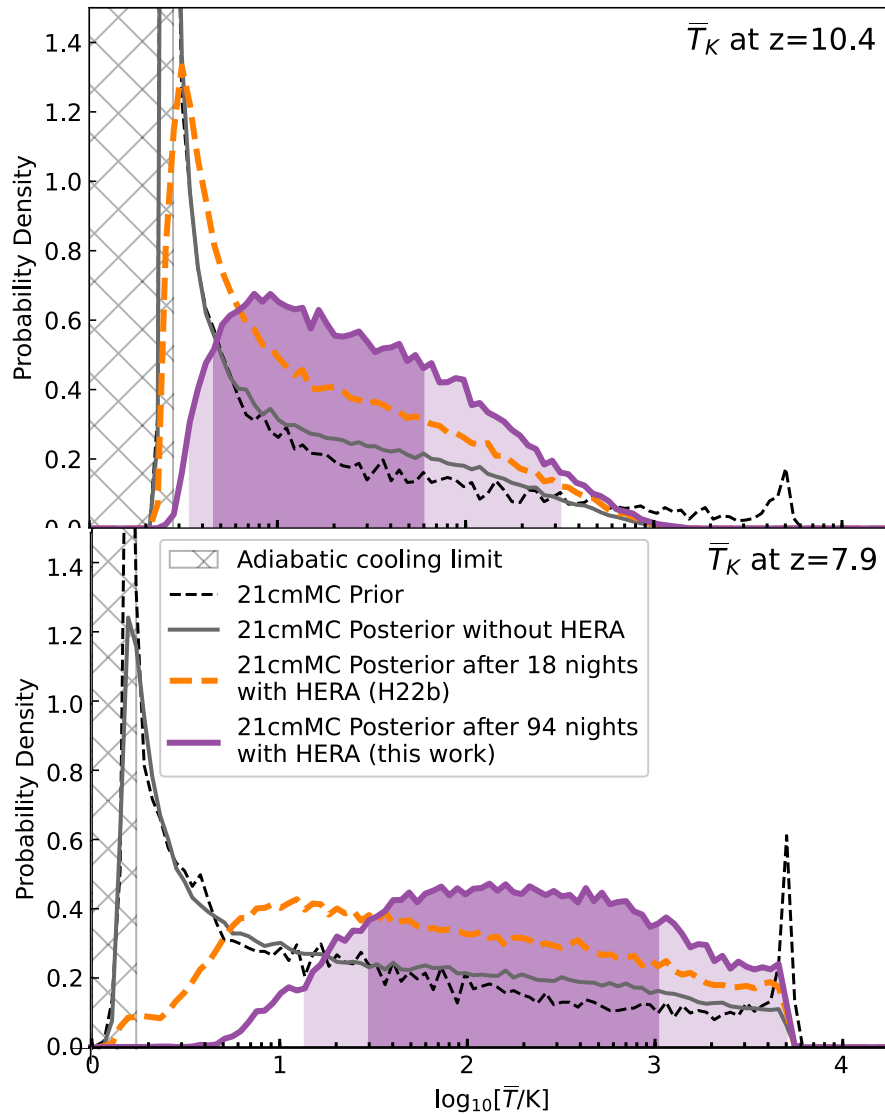
+

*Spatial fluctuations in either:*

- **ionization fraction (patchy EoR)**
- matter density
- temperature (requires extremely soft SEDs)



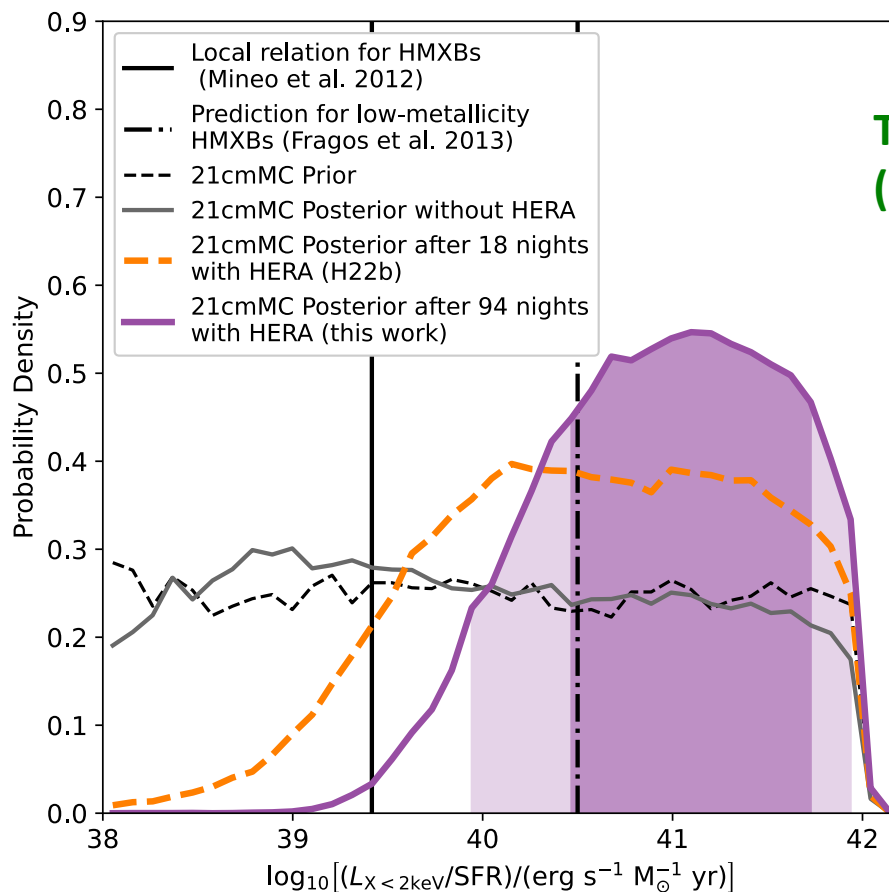
# Constraints on IGM properties



*Something must have heated the IGM at  $z > 10$ !!*



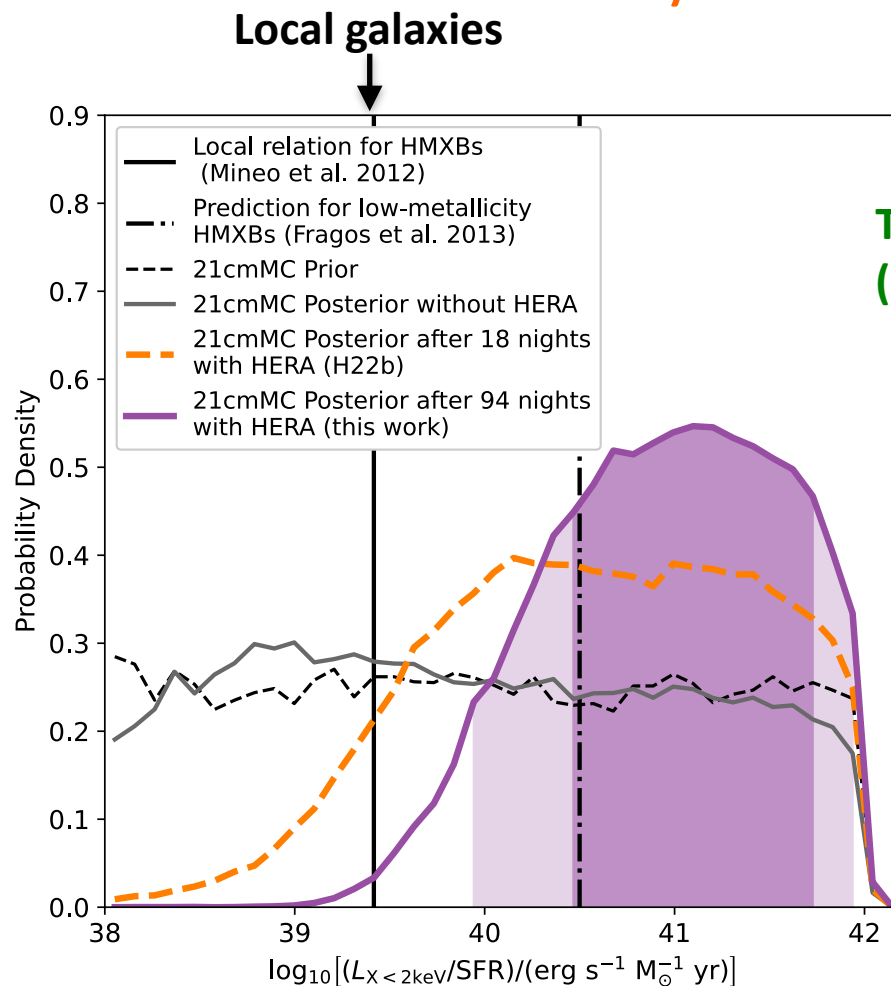
If heating is provided by “normal” galaxies, they would need to be more luminous in X-rays than observed locally



The HERA collaboration  
(2023) - 94 nights of data

The HERA collaboration (2023;  
led by J. Dillon)

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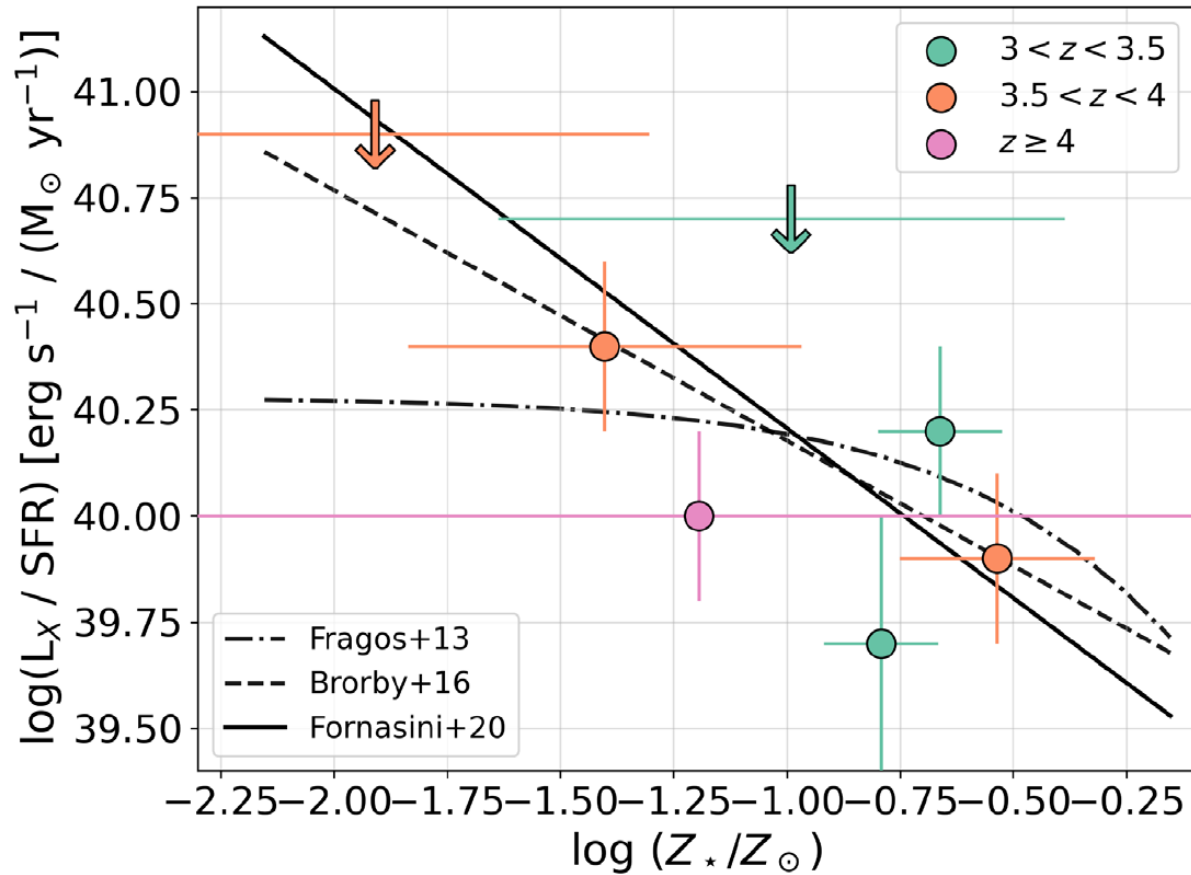
**The HERA collaboration  
(2023) - 94 nights of data**

HERA is the first observation to constrain the X-ray luminosities of Cosmic Dawn galaxies (e.g., Fragos+13), *disfavoring the values seen in local, metal-enriched galaxies*

**The HERA collaboration (2023;  
led by J. Dillon)**

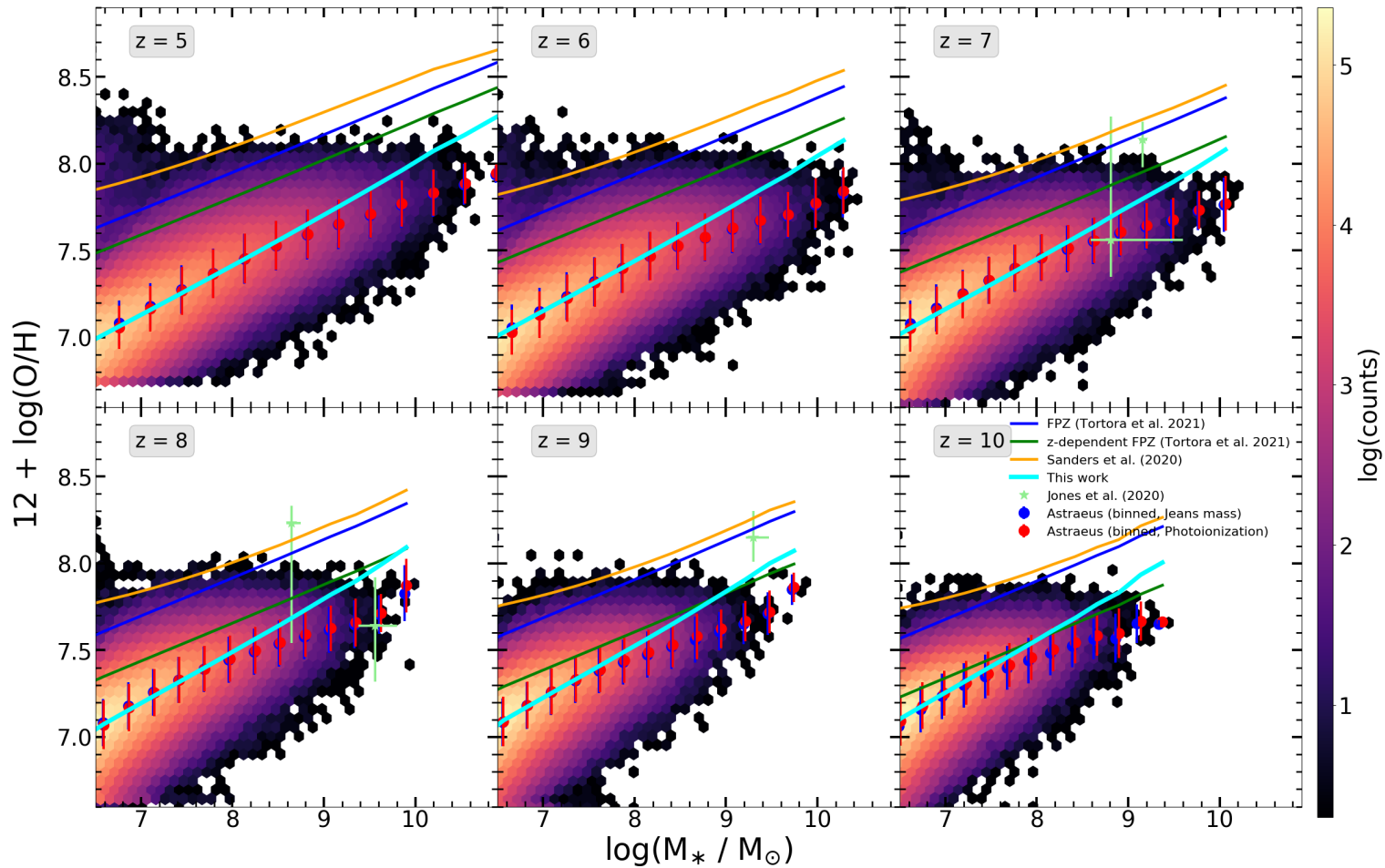
Is this surprising?

# The L<sub>x</sub>-SFR scaling of HMXBs depends on metallicity

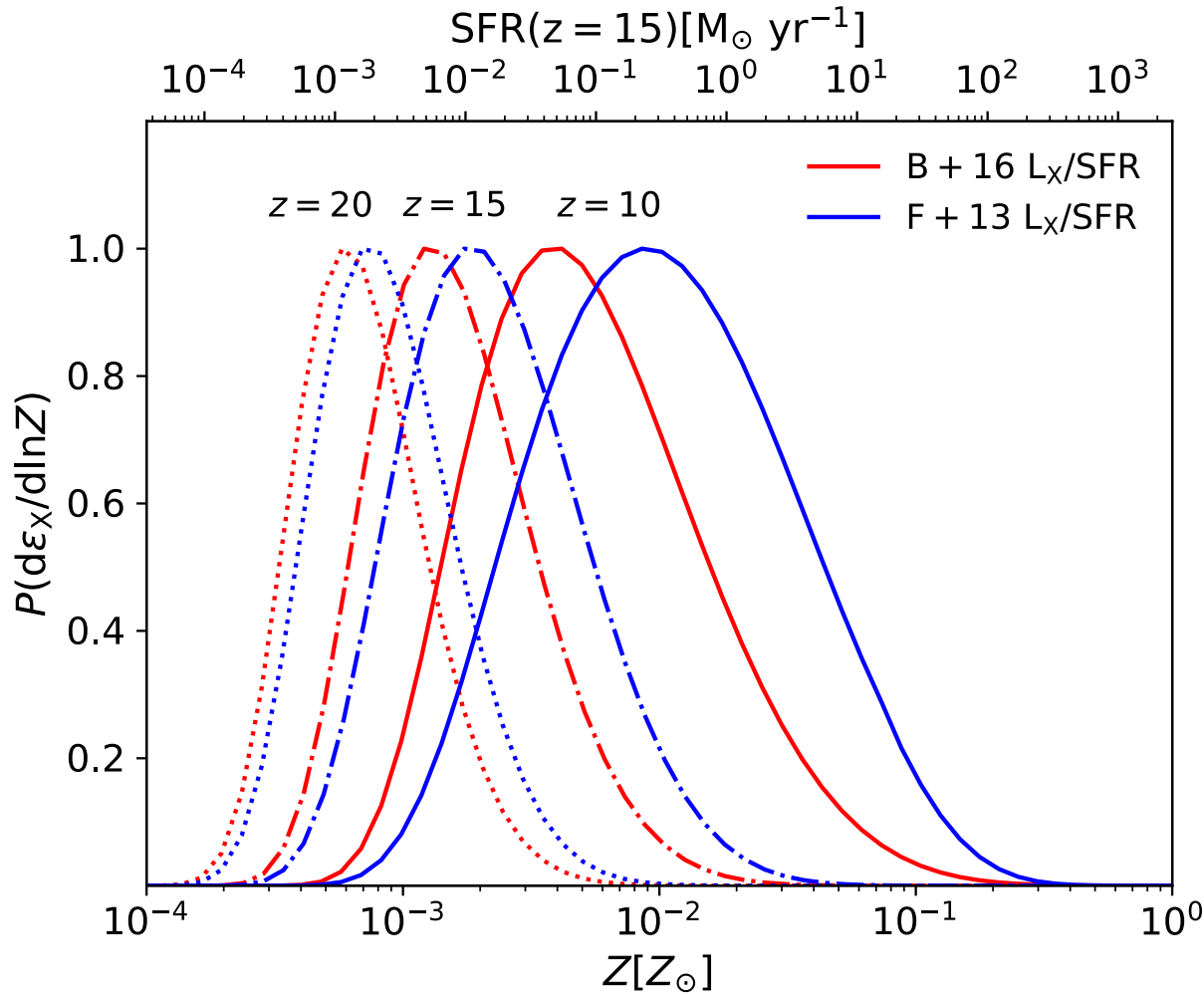




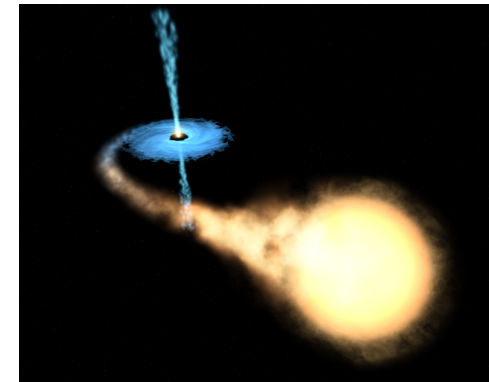
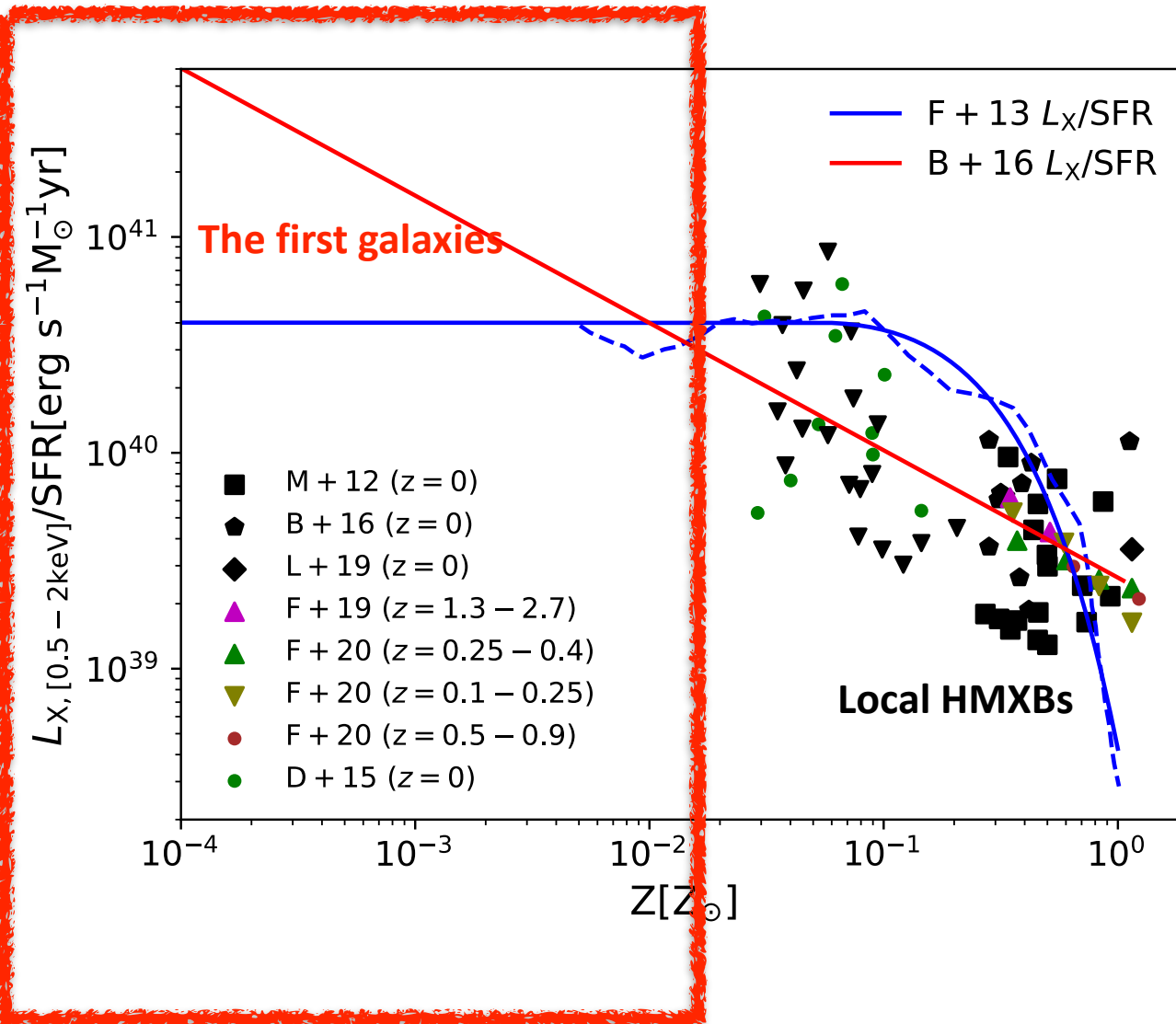
# Metallicity evolves with galaxy mass



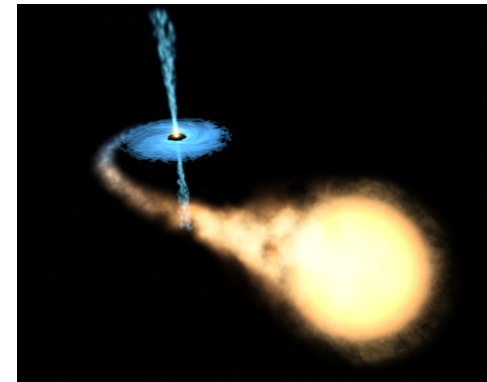
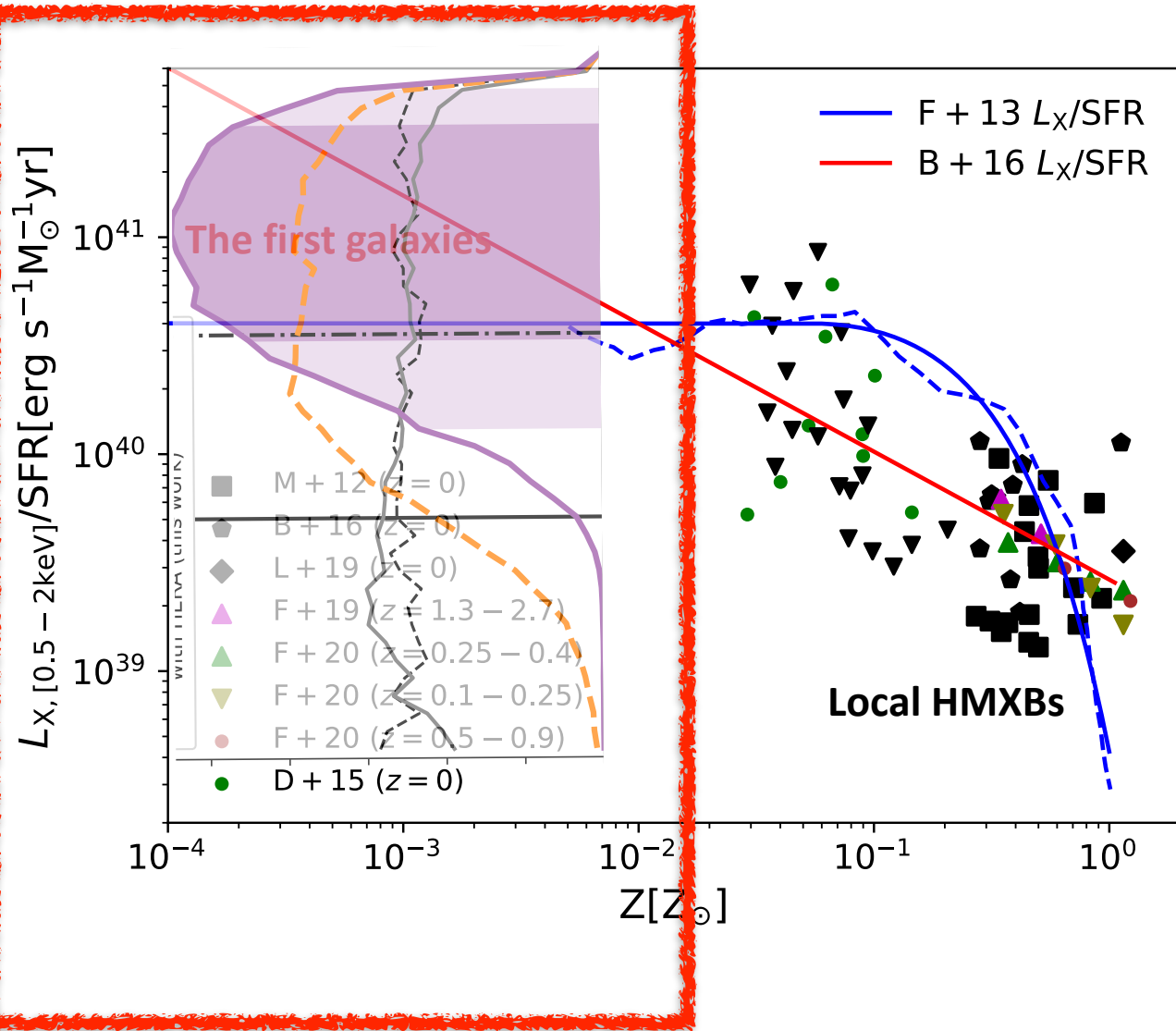
# The 21-cm signal probes a new regime for HMXBs - ultra low mass, low metallicity



# The 21-cm signal probes a new regime for HMXBs: *low mass galaxies + low metallicity*

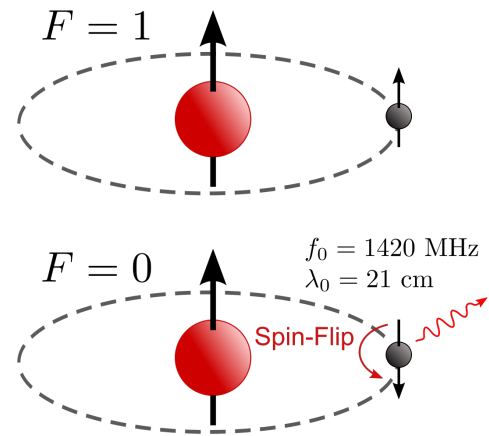


# The 21-cm signal probes a new regime for HMXBs: *low mass galaxies + low metallicity*



# Milestones

*aka* “The path to the 21-cm revolution”





# Where we are now

**Upper limits on the 21-cm power spectrum**

# Where we are now

## Upper limits on the 21-cm power spectrum

- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*

# Where we are now

## Upper limits on the 21-cm power spectrum

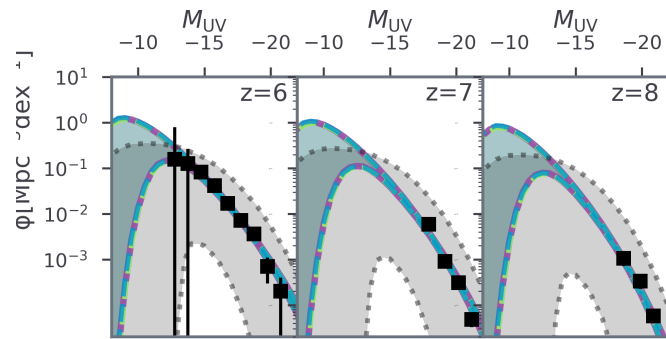
- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*
- *do we have all of the **physics** we need, especially regarding heating sources?*

# Where we are now

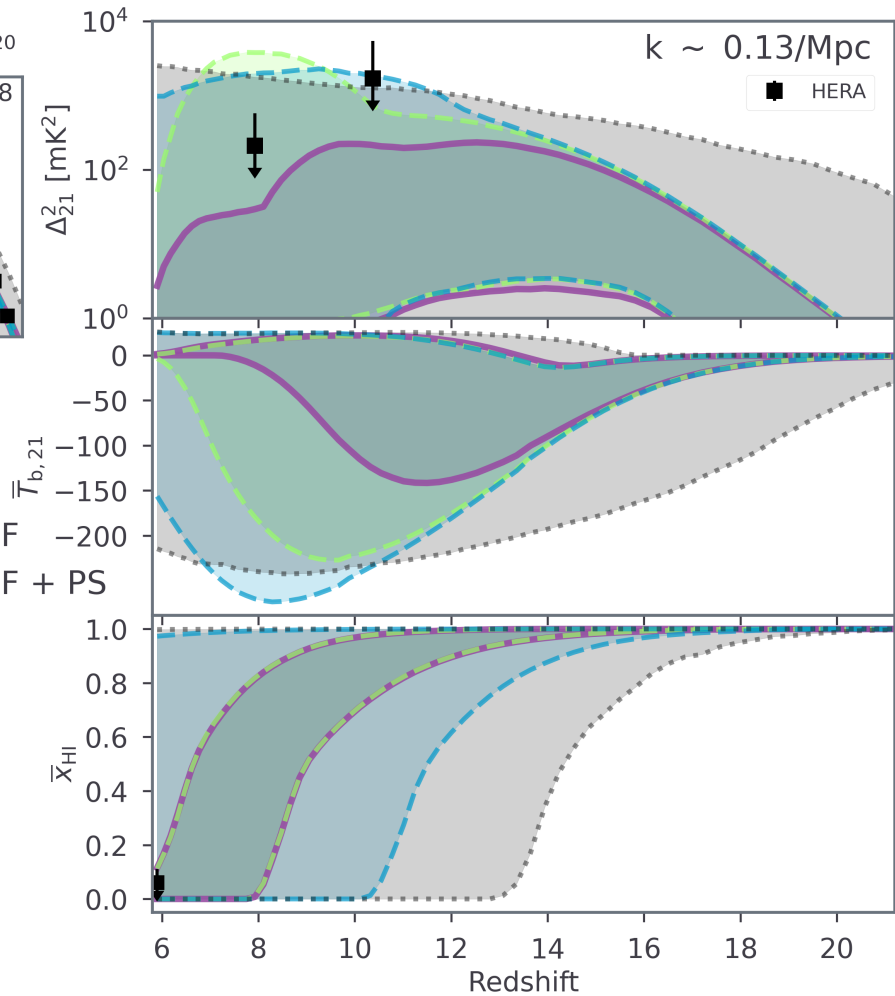
## Upper limits on the 21-cm power spectrum

- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*
- *do we have all of the **physics** we need, especially regarding heating sources?*
- *posteriors will be **prior-dominated** UNLESS we have “realistic” galaxy models that can be constrained by other observations*

# Contribution of different data



- ..... Prior
- - - UV LFs
- - - UV LFs +  $\tau_e$  + NF
- UV LFs +  $\tau_e$  + NF + PS



Breitman, AM+(2023)



# Where we are now

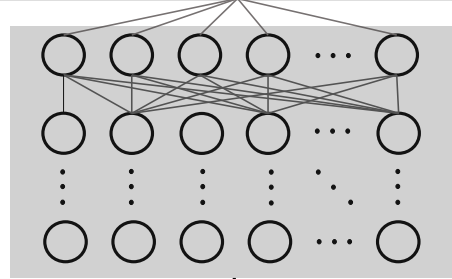
## Upper limits on the 21-cm power spectrum

- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*
- *do we have all of the **physics** we need, especially regarding heating sources?*
- *posteriors will be **prior-dominated** UNLESS we have “realistic” galaxy models that can be constrained by other observations*
- ***emulators are useful! error is currently sub-dominant***  
*(e.g. Kern+2017; Schmit & Pritchard 2017; Shimabukuro & Semelin 2017; Jennings+2019; Ghara+2020; Mondal+2022; Bye+2022a; Lazare+2023; Breitman, AM+2023)*

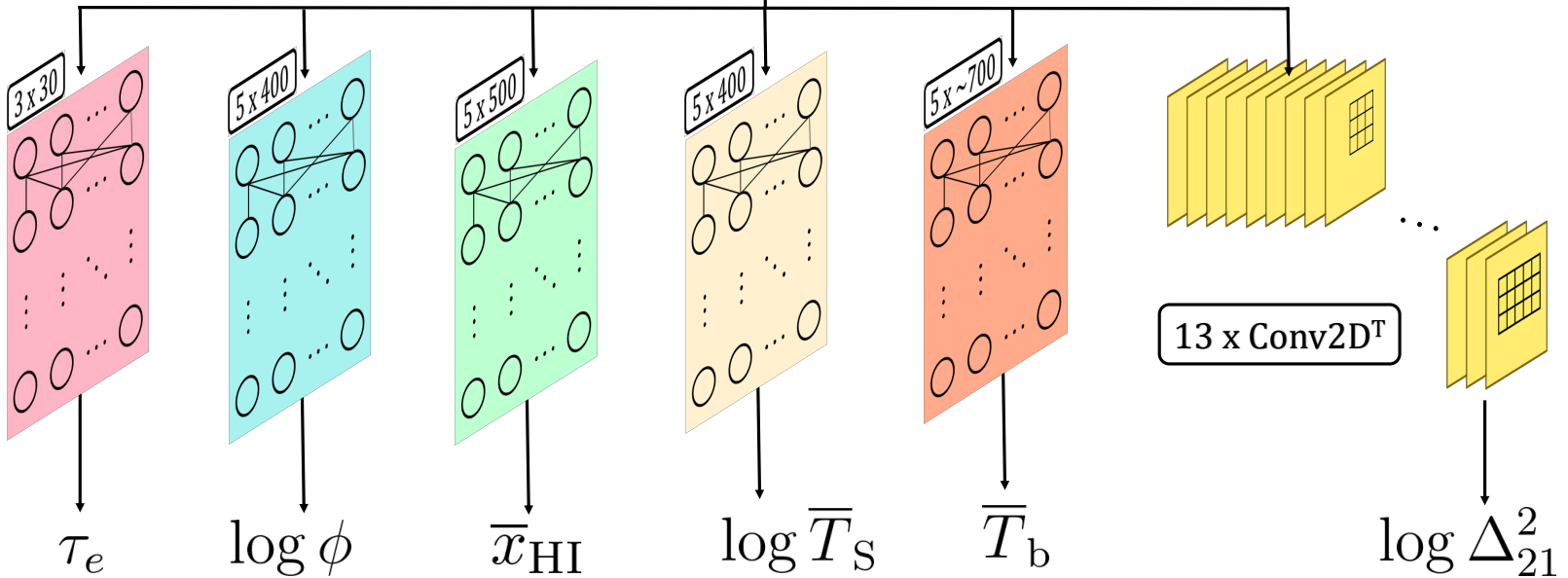
# 21cmEMU emulator



$f_{*,10}, \alpha_*, f_{\text{esc},10}, \alpha_{\text{esc}}, M_{\text{turn}},$   
 $t_*, L_{X < 2\text{keV}/\text{SFR}}, E_0, \alpha_X$



8 x 1000

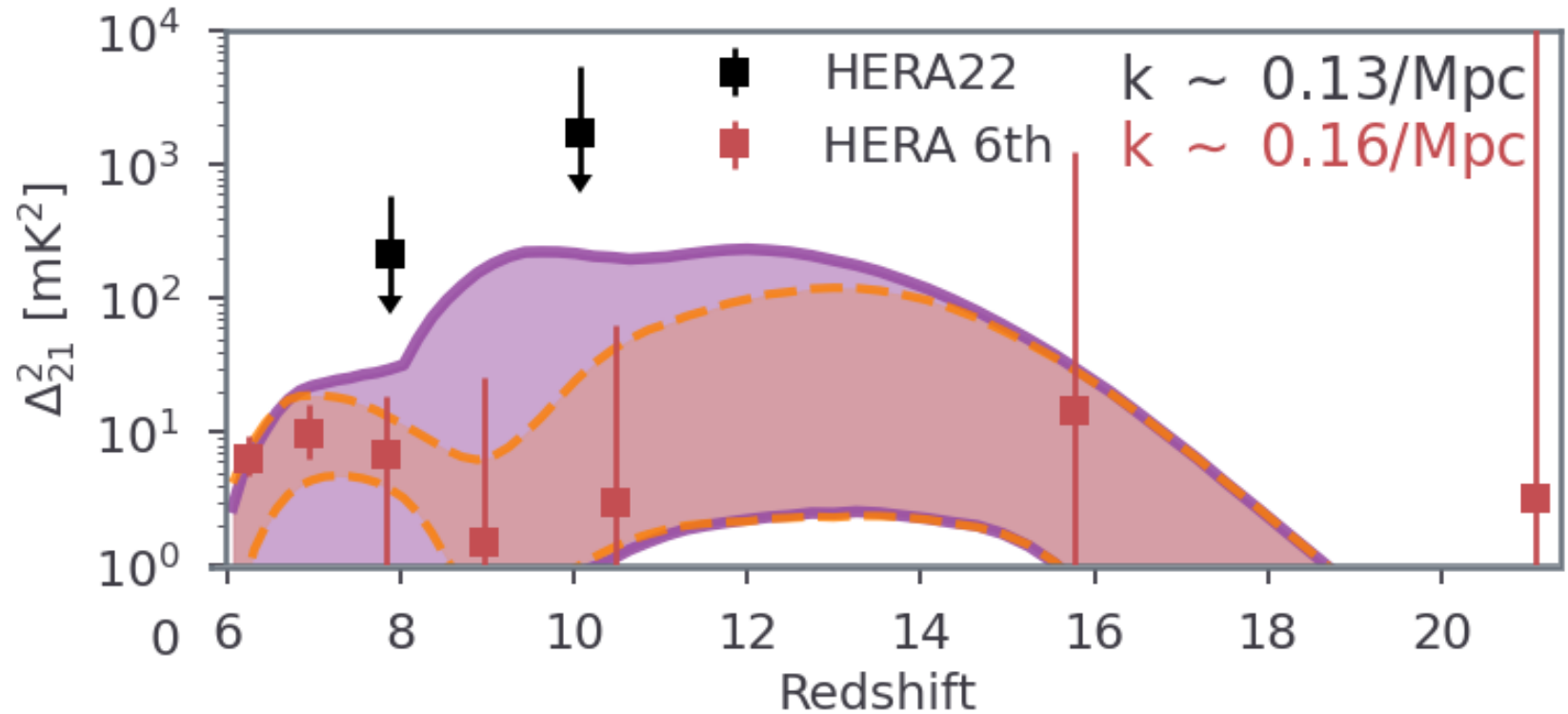


Where we will be soon

**Low S/N detection of the 21-cm PS**

# Where we will be soon

## Low S/N detection of the 21-cm PS



Breitman, AM+(2023)

# Where we will be soon

## Low S/N detection of the 21-cm PS

- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*



# Where we will be soon

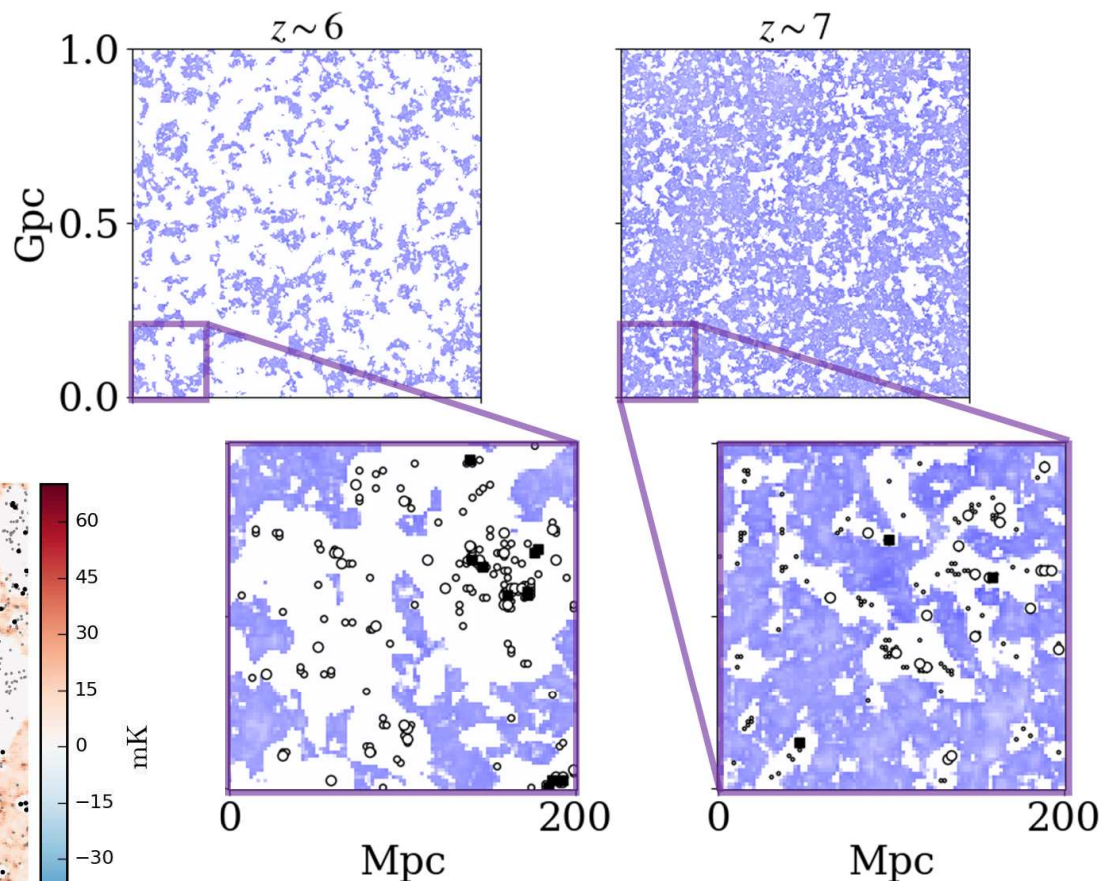
## Low S/N detection of the 21-cm PS

- *understand **systematics!** can we parametrize / sample our uncertainties?*
- *how can we convince ourselves and everyone else that the detection is **REAL** → **cross-correlation with signal of known cosmic origin***

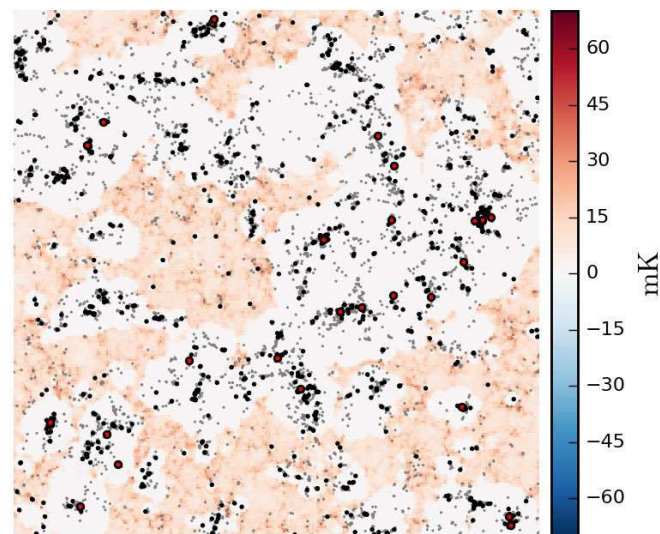
# The importance of cross-correlations

- It is an important sanity check to verify claims of detection/analysis pipeline

Gagnon-Hartman, Davies, AM in prep



Moriwaki+2019



Galaxies

◦  $M_{UV} \in (-17, -18)$

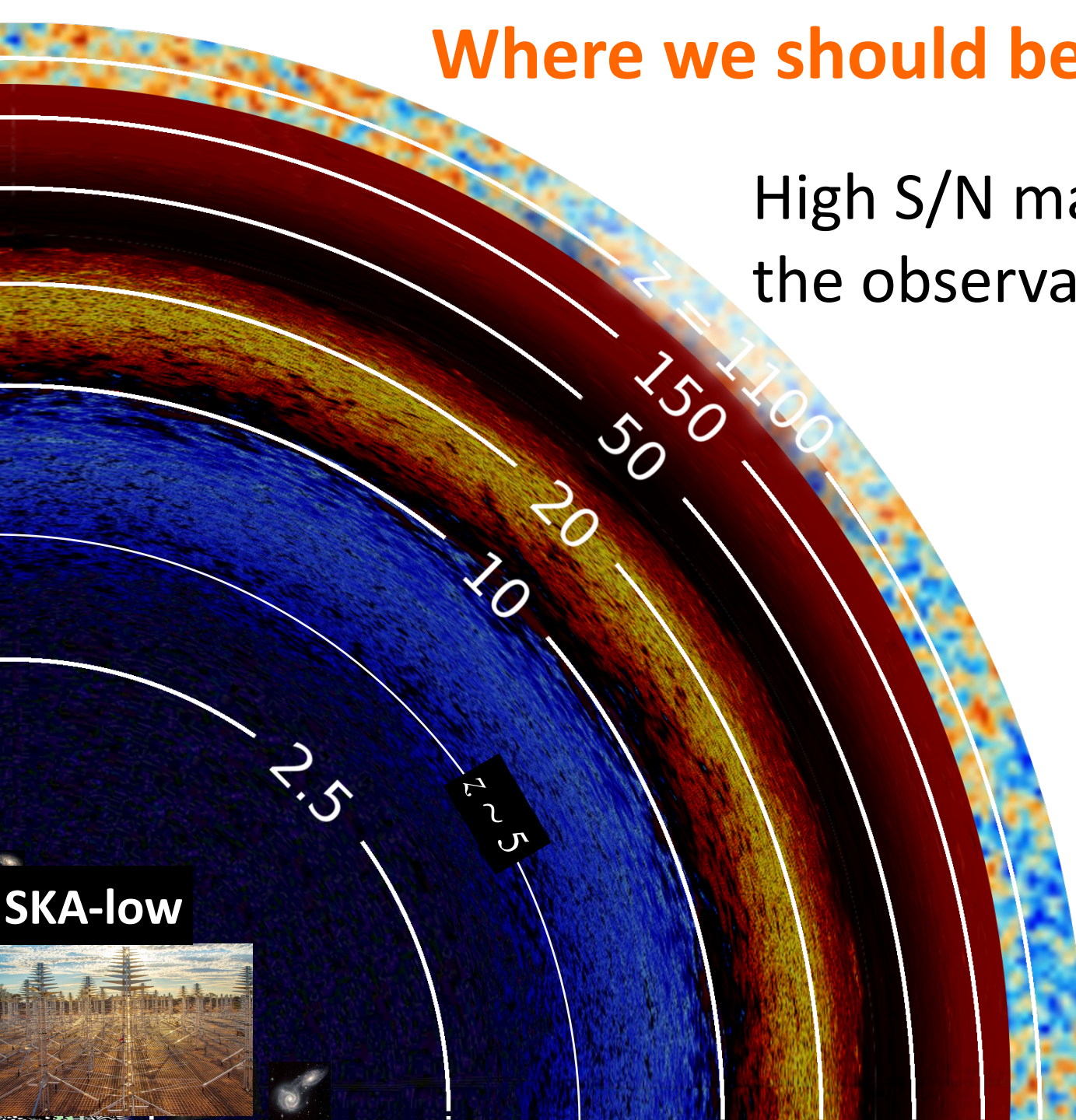
◦  $M_{UV} \in (-18, -19)$

■  $M_{UV} \in (-19, -20)$



# Where we should be >2030-2040

High S/N map of ~50% of the observable Universe



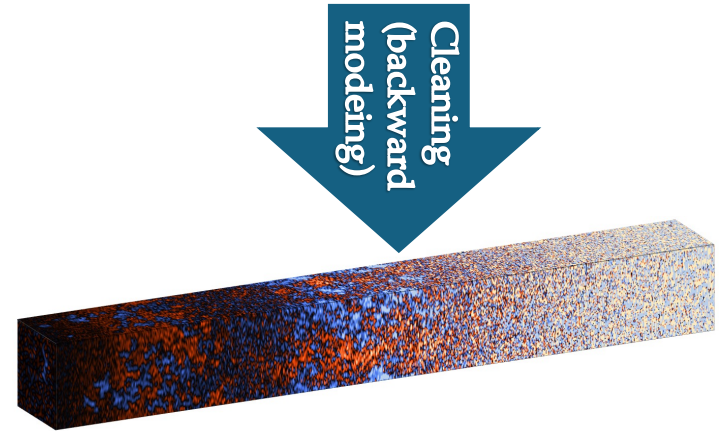
SKA-low



*adapted from C. Chiang*

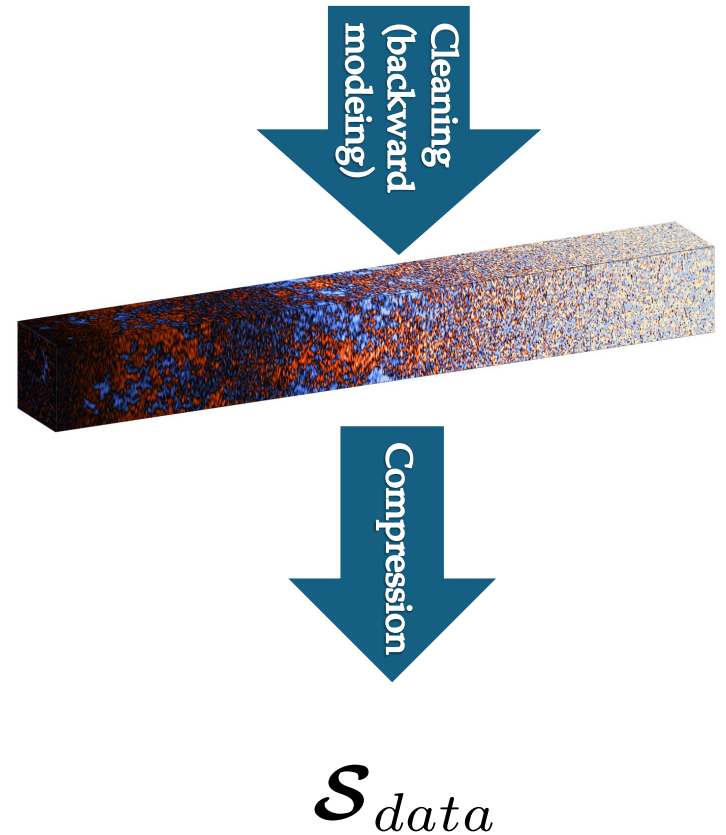
# Inference pipeline

**Observation**



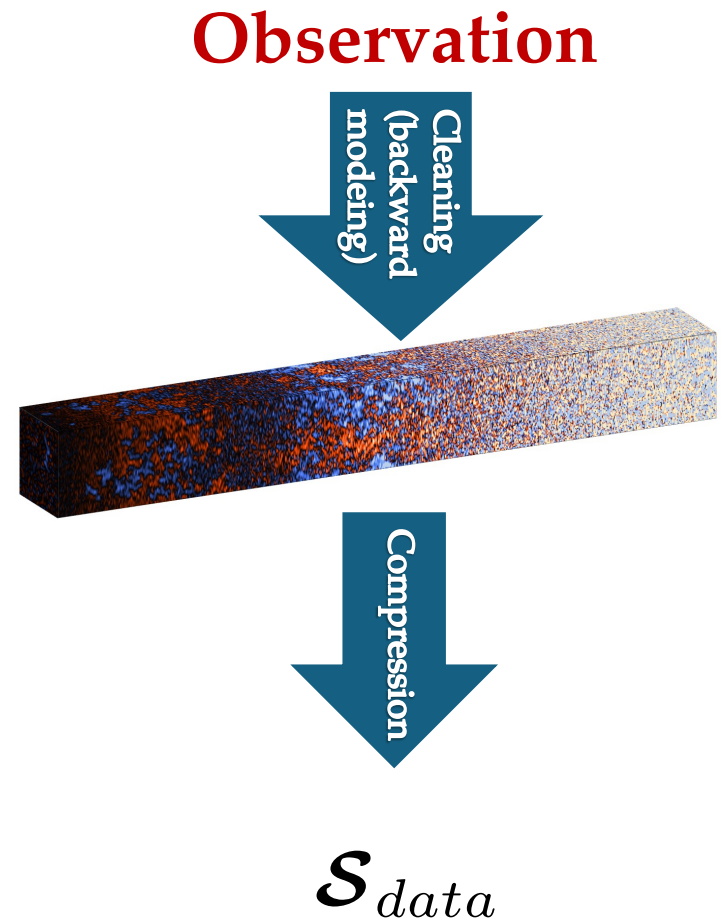
# Inference pipeline

Observation

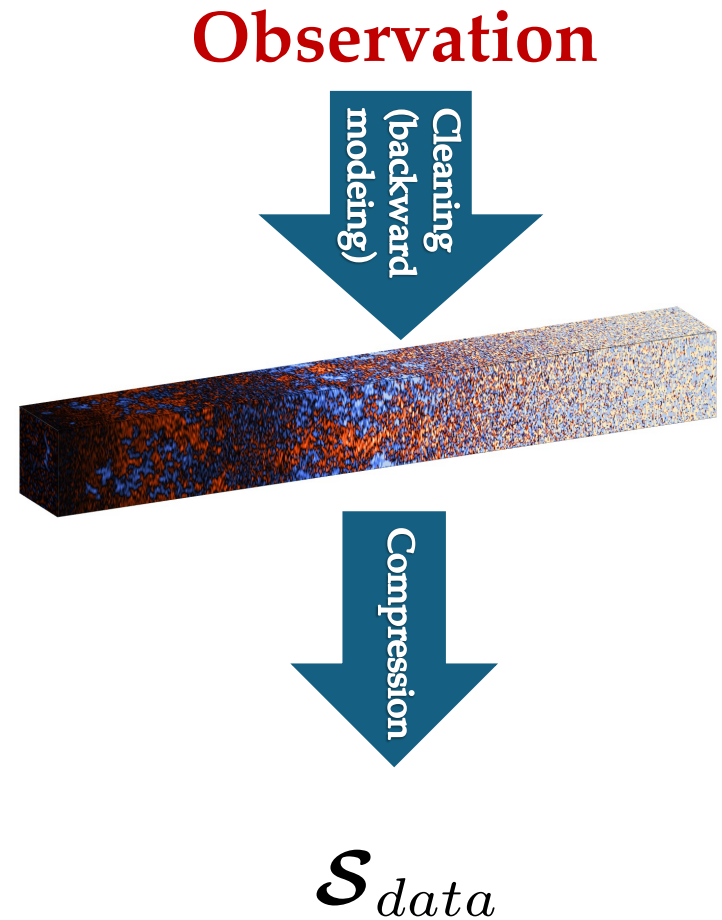
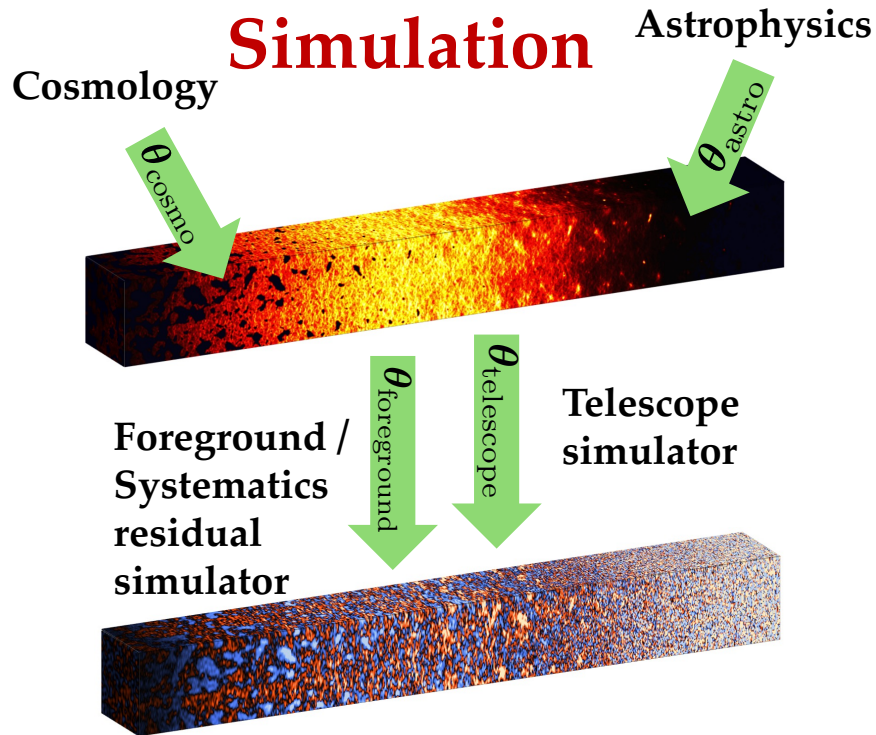




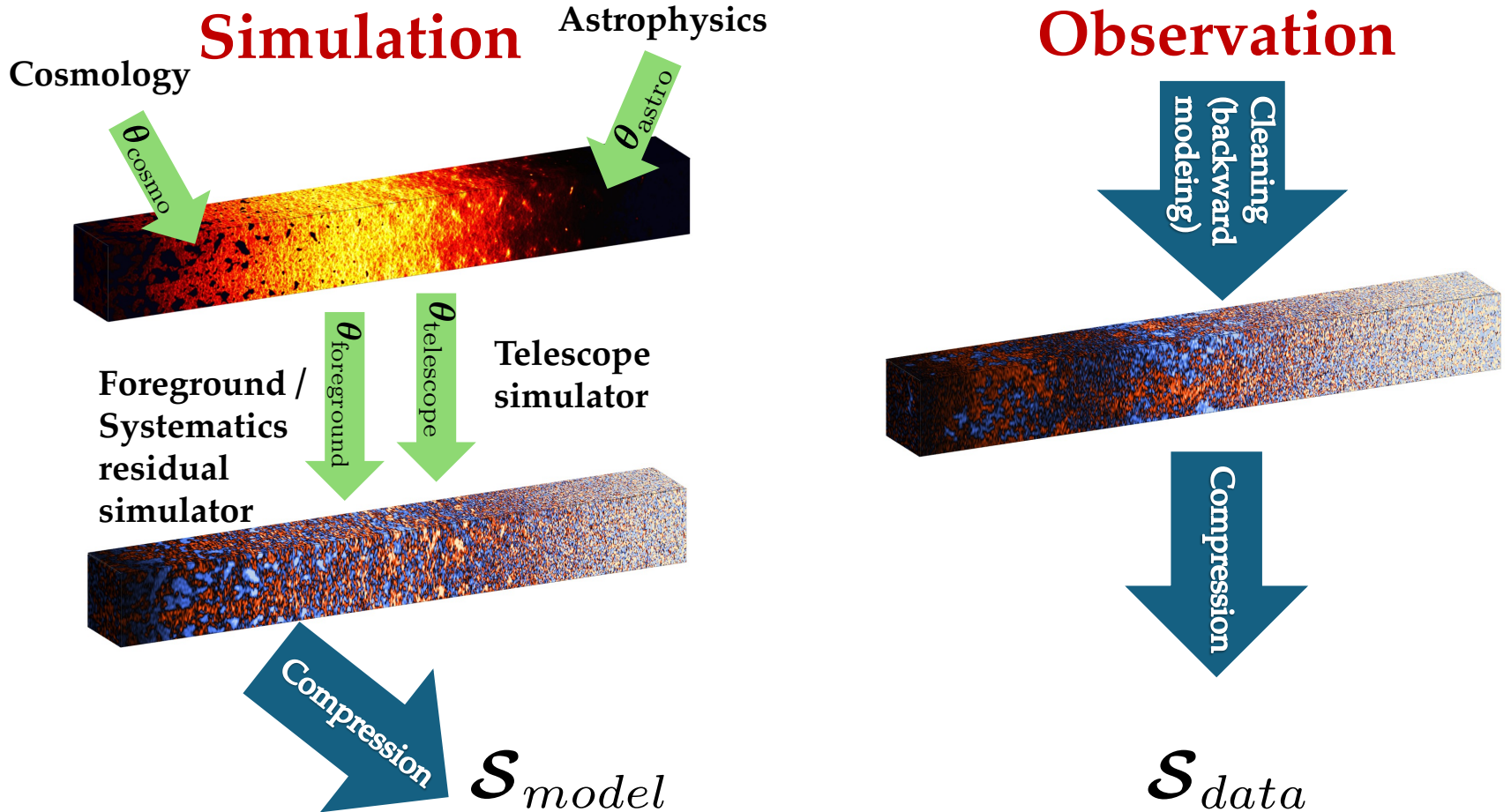
# Inference pipeline



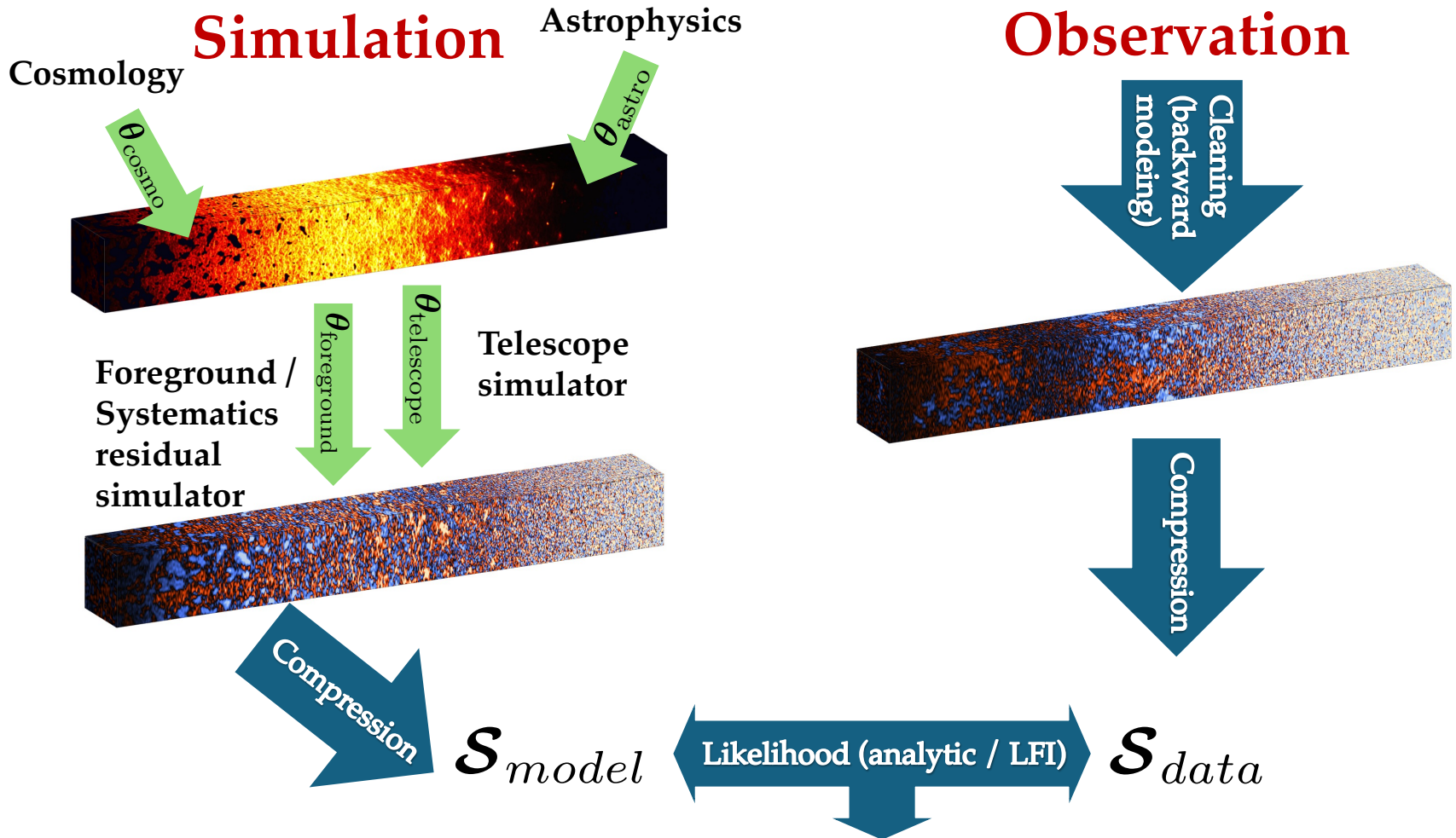
# Inference pipeline



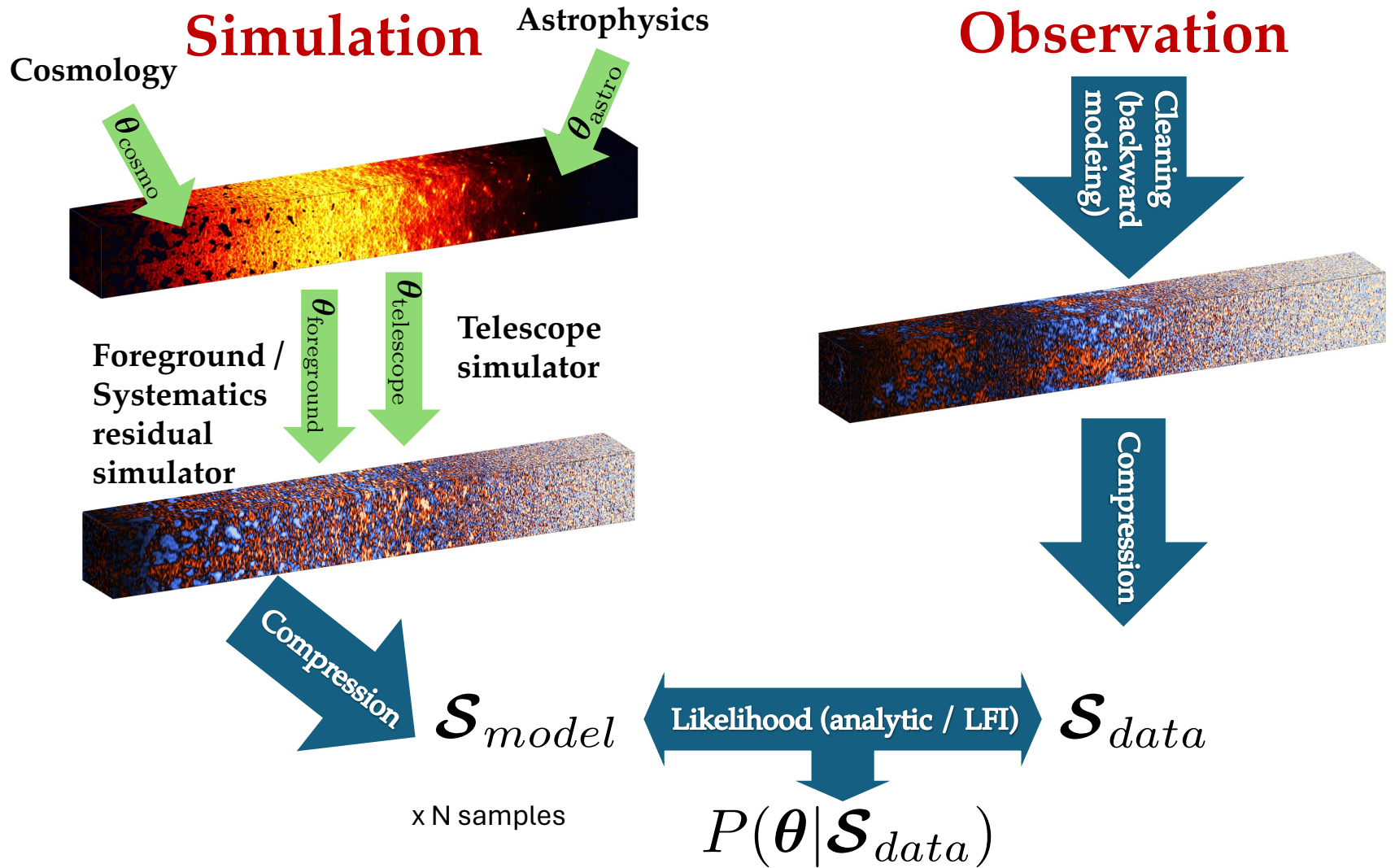
# Inference pipeline



# Inference pipeline

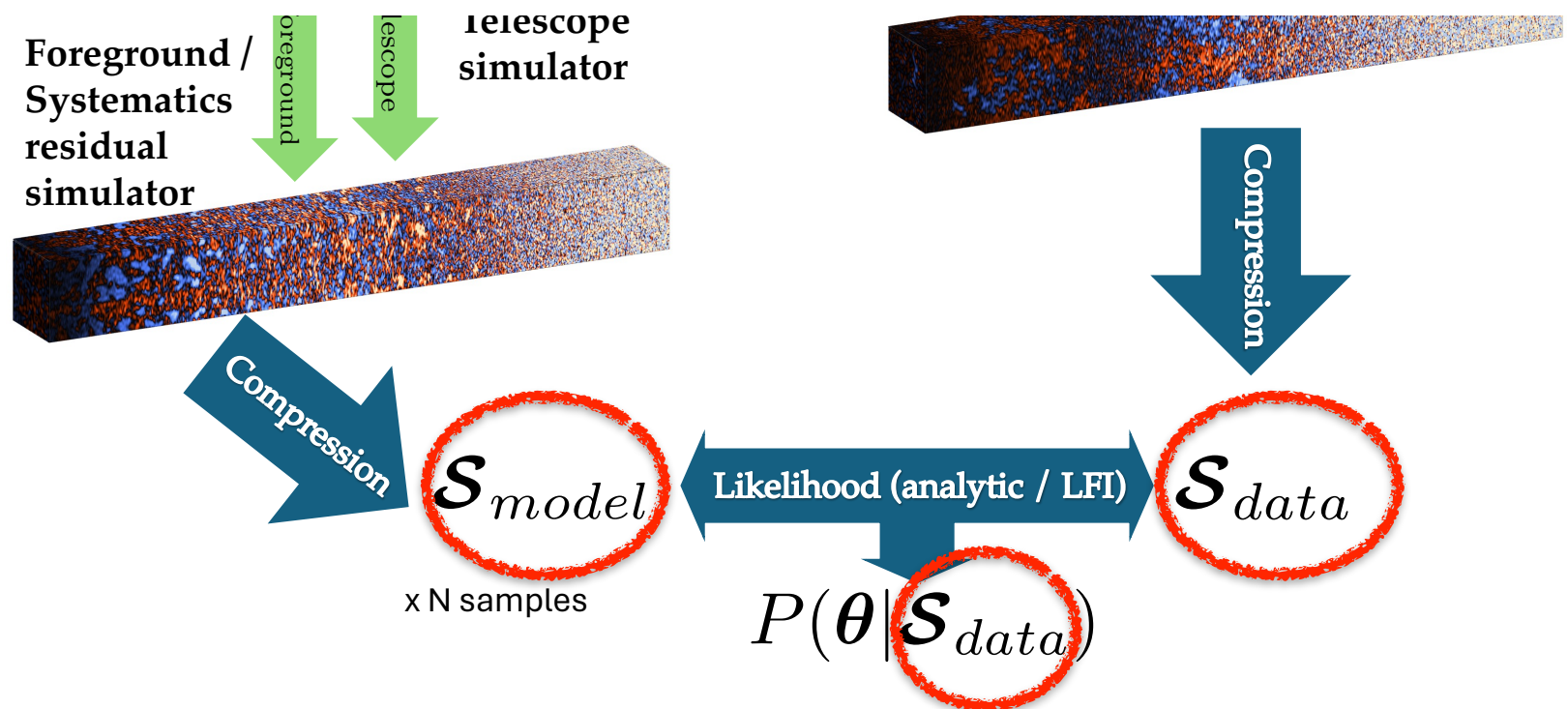


# Inference pipeline



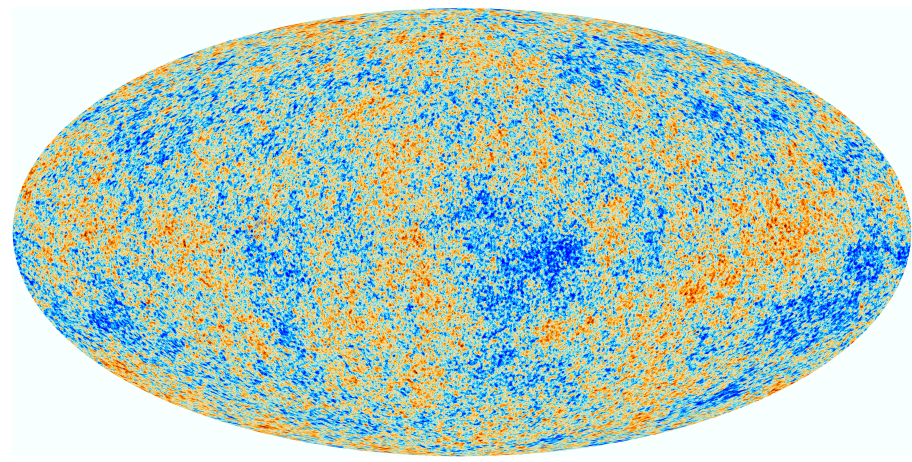


# What is an “optimal” summary???



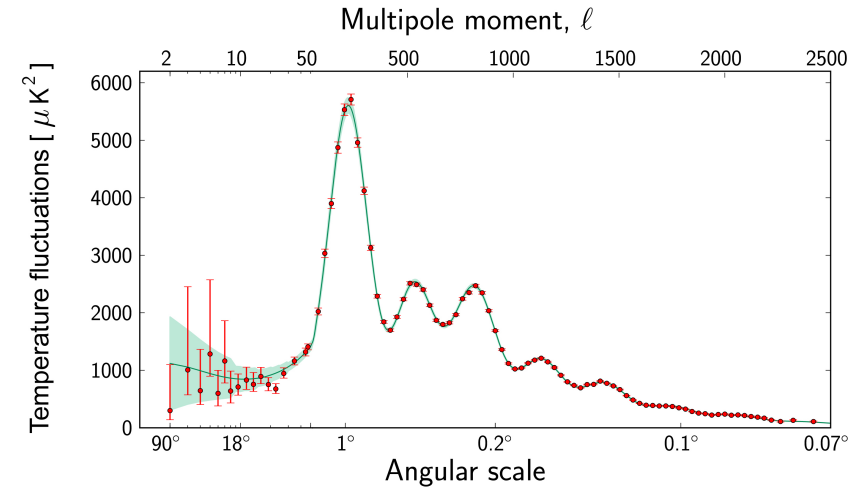
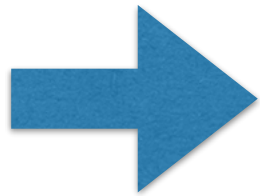
# For Gaussian random fields, the power spectrum contains all information

Planck 2018



$(T, x, y)$

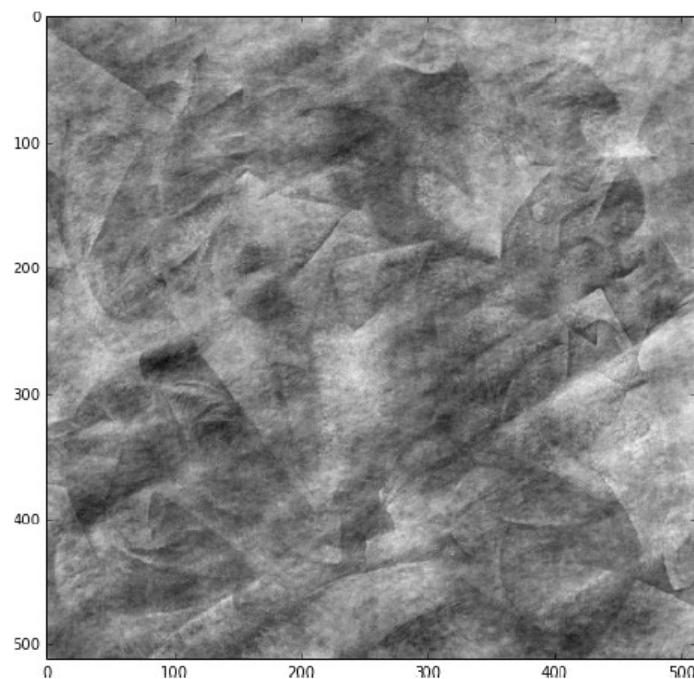
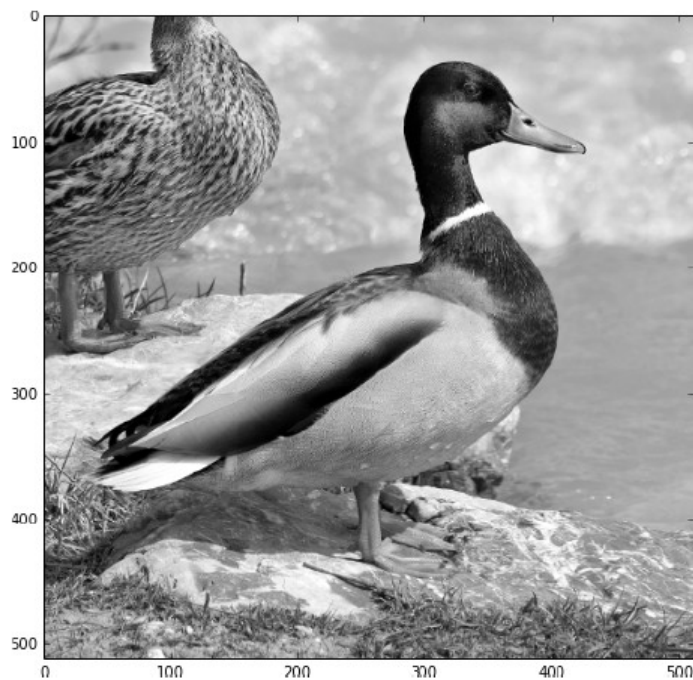
$\sim 10^6$  data points



$P(\ell)$

$\sim 10^2$  data points

# Optimal summary for non-Gaussian fields??



*Figures have the **same power spectra***

*figure courtesy of G. Bernardi*

# Where we should be >2030-2040

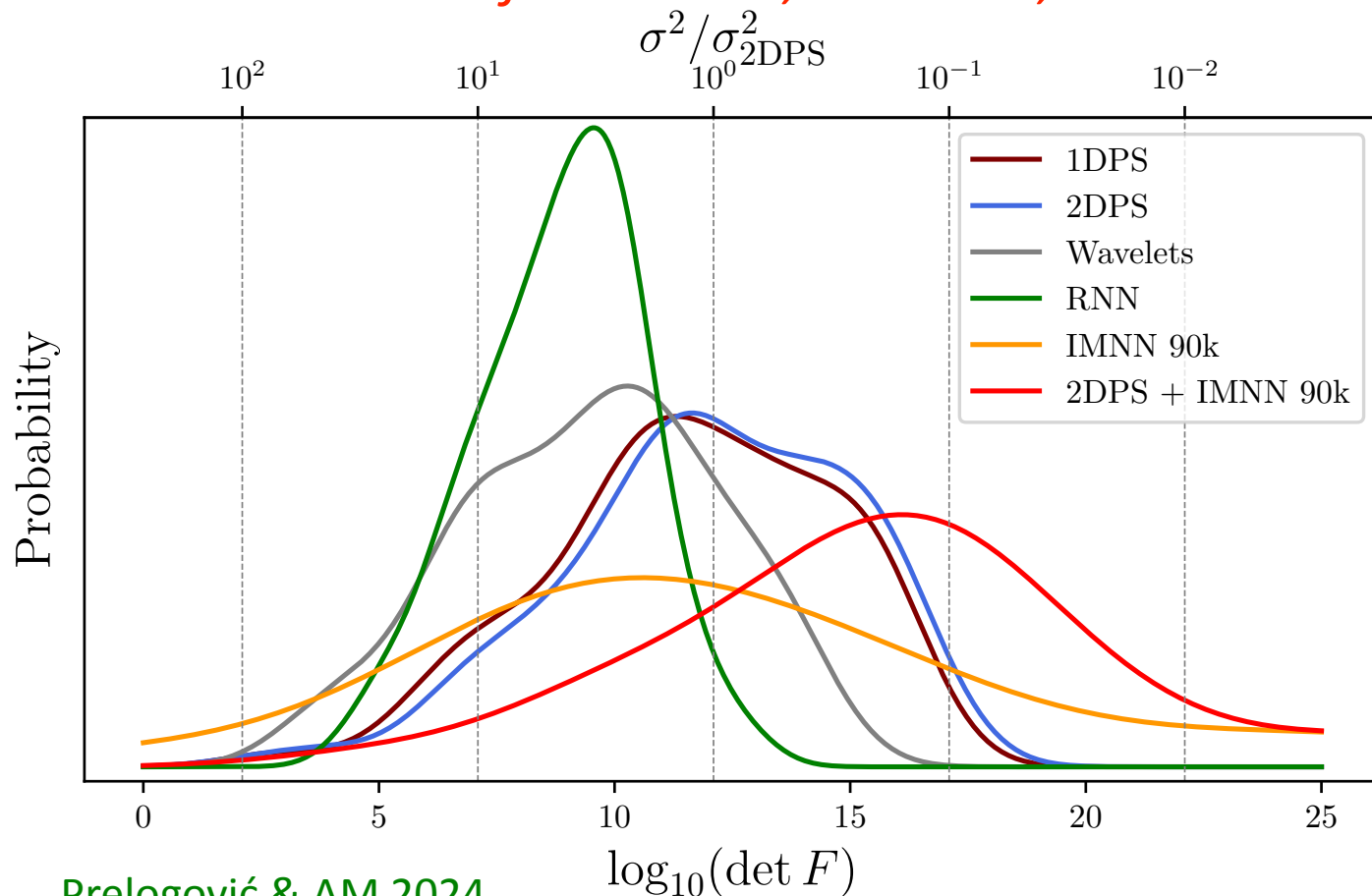
## High S/N map with the SKA

- *optimal compression of **non-Gaussian** signal (e.g. bispectrum, Minkowski functionals, wavelets, data-driven compression...)*

# Where we should be >2030-2040

## High S/N map with the SKA

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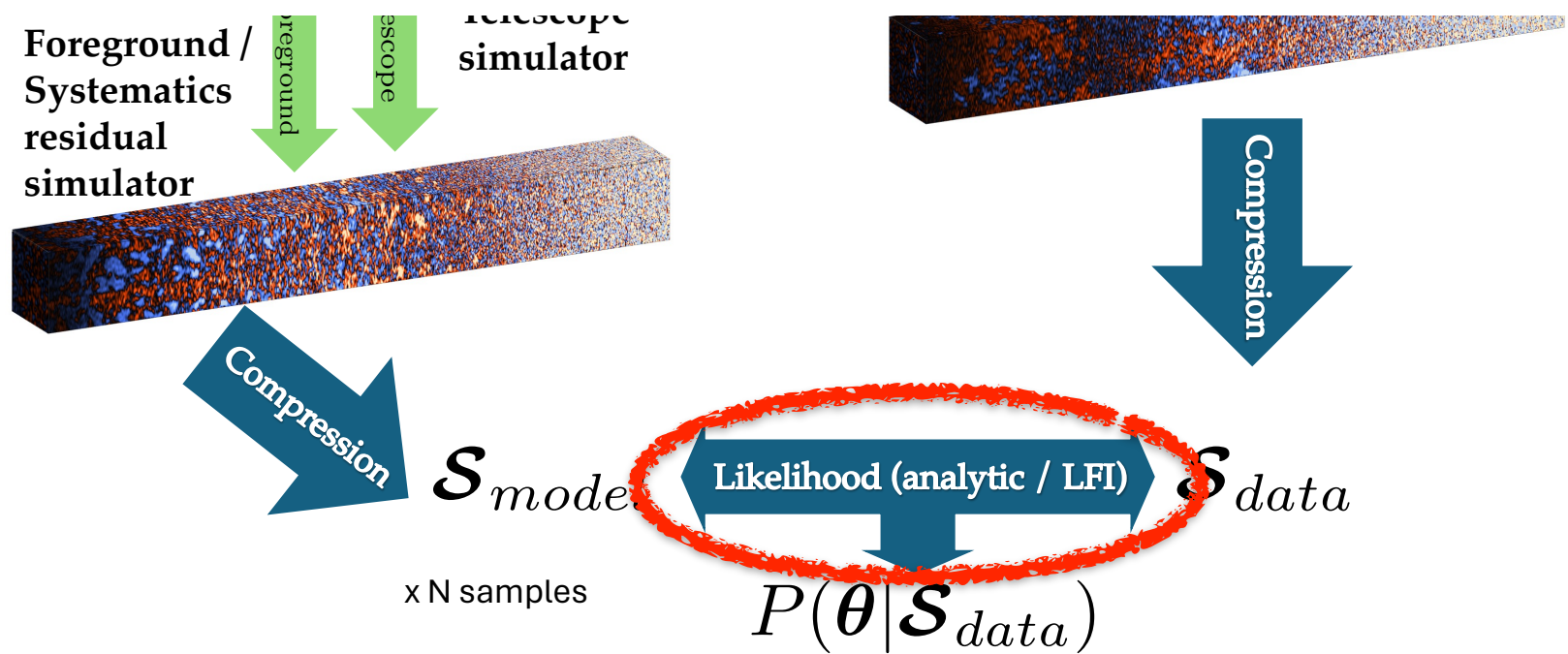
**Compare constraining power of different summaries across prior volume**

Prelogović & AM 2024

(see also, e.g. Watkinson+2017; Majumdan+2020; Chen+2019; Giri&Mellema2021; Kamran+2023...)



For any given summary, how do we write down a *likelihood*??



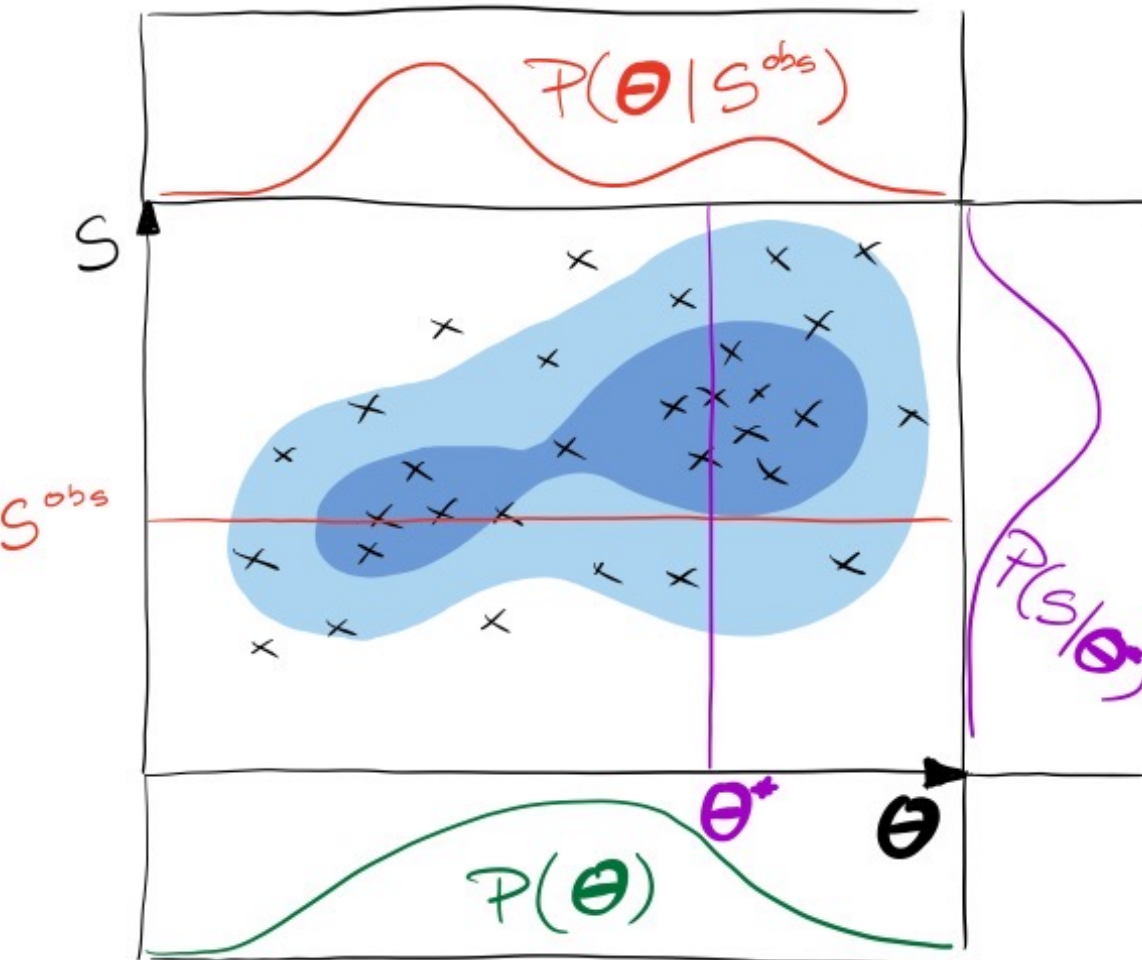
# Where we should be >2030-2040

## High S/N map with the SKA

- *optimal compression of **non-Gaussian** signal (e.g. bispectrum, Minkowski functionals, wavelets, data-driven compression...)*
- *do we actually know the likelihood analytically? —> **Simulation Based Inference (SBI)***

# Simulation Based Inference (SBI)

**Inference using SBI:** if including all main sources of stochasticity, each forward model is a sample from the joint distribution of model & data. The **likelihood** can just be fit with NDEs.

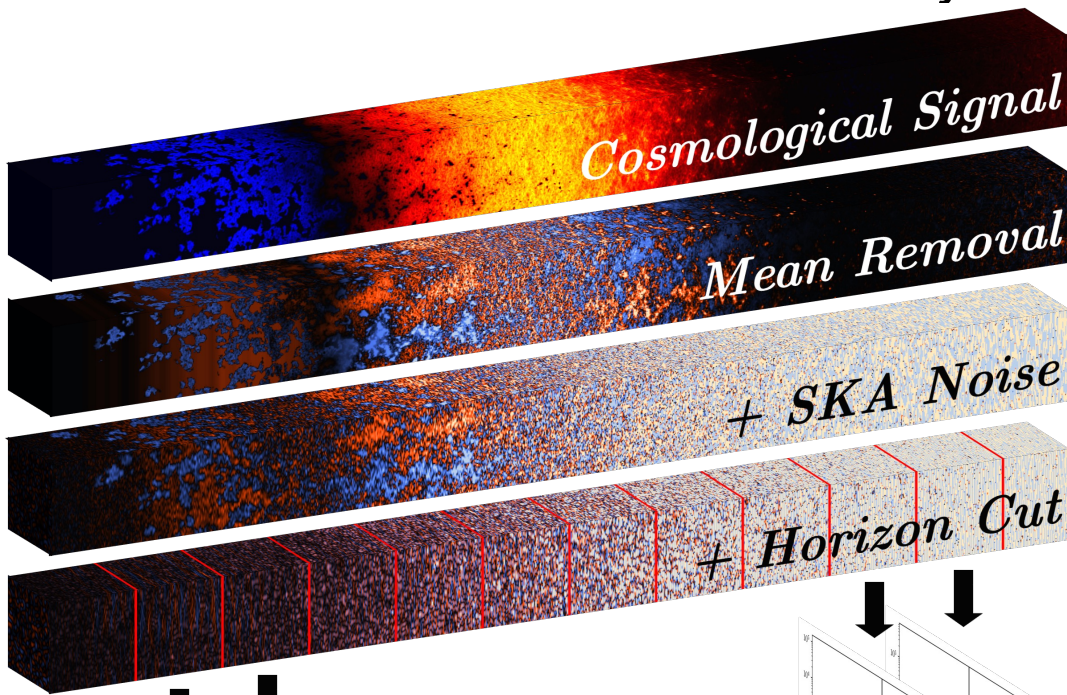


**No need for an analytic likelihood!!!**

*difficult to write down for non-Gaussian and correlated observations*

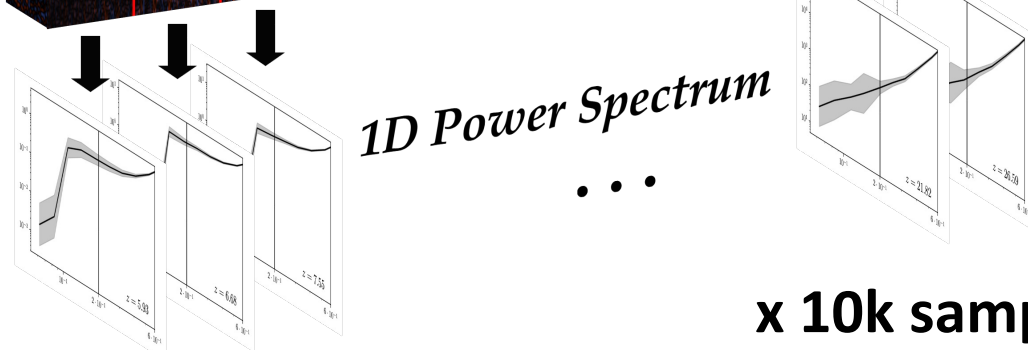
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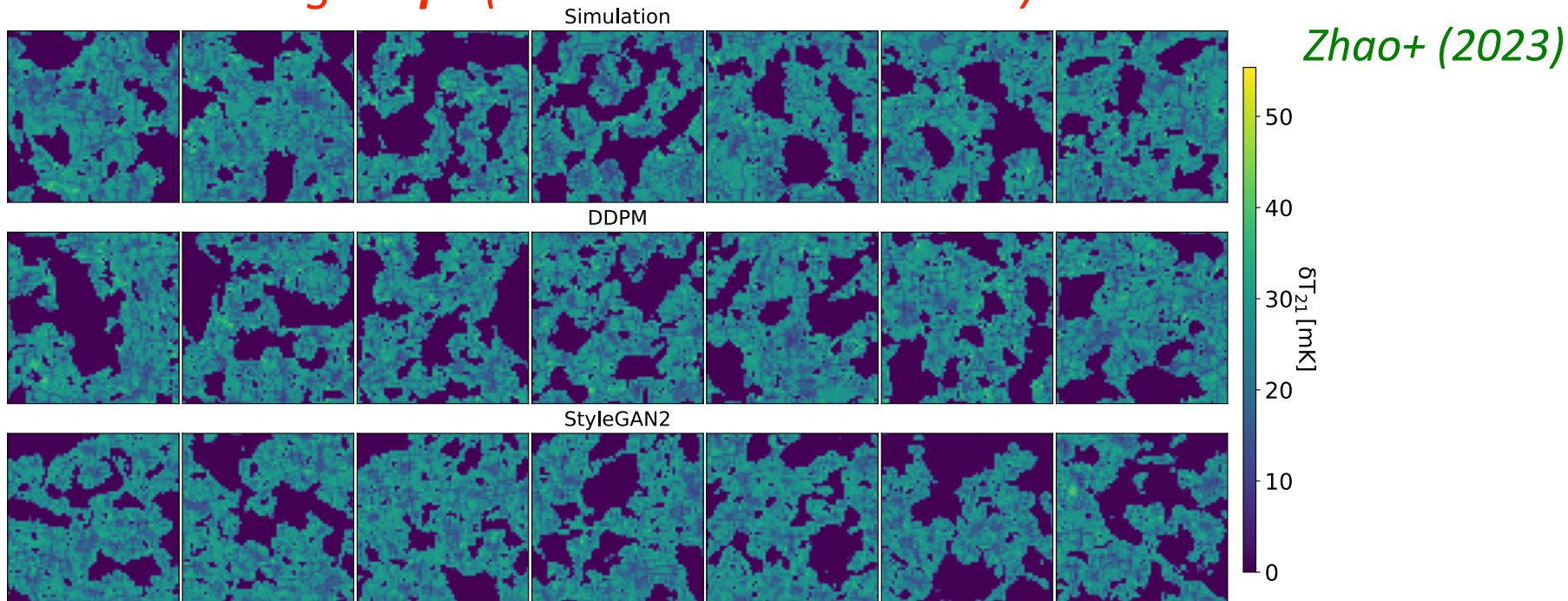
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# Where we should be >2030-2040

## High S/N map with the SKA

- optimal compression of **non-Gaussian** signal (e.g. bispectrum, Minkowski functionals, wavelets, data-driven compression...)
- do we actually know the likelihood analytically? → **Simulation Based Inference (SBI)**
- **emulating maps (do we trust emulators?)**



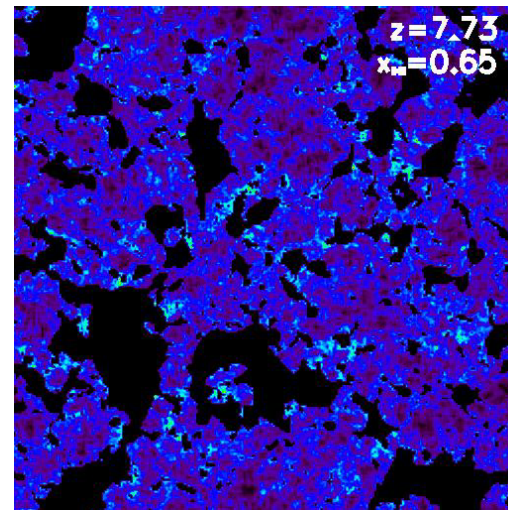
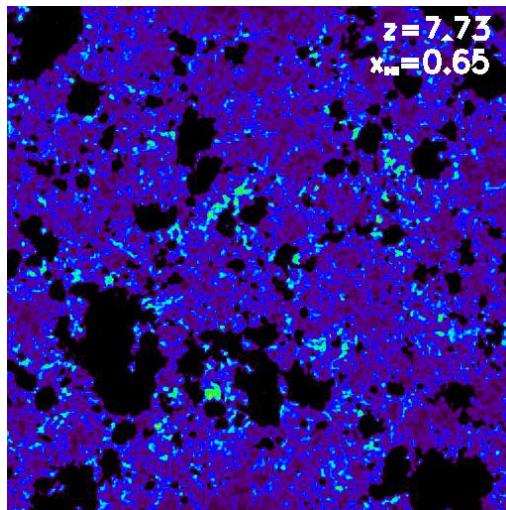


# Where we should be >2030-2040

## High S/N map with the SKA

- *optimal compression of **non-Gaussian** signal (e.g. bispectrum, Minkowski functionals, wavelets, data-driven compression...)*
- *do we actually know the likelihood analytically? —> **Simulation Based Inference (SBI)***
- *emulating **maps** (do we trust emulators?)*
- *how well do we trust our **simulators** (analytic, semi-numeric, moment-based RT, ray tracing, hydro...)??*

AM+ (2011)



# Conclusions

- The cosmic 21cm signal will allow us to learn the **average UV and Xray properties of the unseen first galaxies.**
- SKA will also open a new window on **physical cosmology**, e.g.
  - exotic heating processes, e.g. DM annihilations and decay
  - standard ruler at  $z=10-15$  from velocity-induced feedback on galaxies
- **Upper limits** on the 21-cm power spectrum by SKA precursor, HERA, imply some **heating of the IGM by  $z>10$** . If heating is provided by high mass X-ray binary stars, they are likely **more luminous** than local ones, likely due to their **low-metallicities**.
- **ML** is currently used in **emulation** and **data cleaning**. With high S/N data, ML will be very useful in **optimal compression, implicit likelihood inference, map emulation, mitigating simulator errors**, etc...