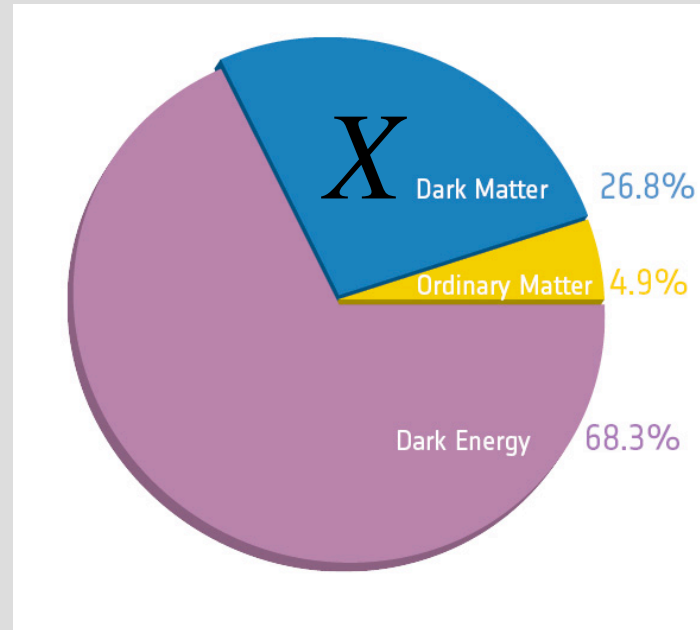
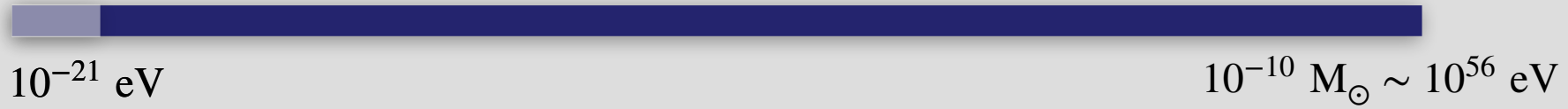


Gravitational probes of ultralight dark matter

Sofia, COSMIC WISPers 11/09/2025

Kfir Blum / Weizmann Institute

m



m



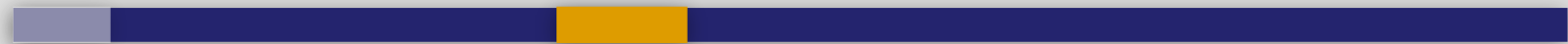
10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

WIMPs

1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
u up	c charm	t top	γ photon	H Higgs Boson
d down	s strange	b beauty	W^{\pm} W boson	X
e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z^0 Z boson	
ν_e neutrino electron	ν_{μ} neutrino muon	ν_{τ} neutrino tau	g gluon	

m



10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

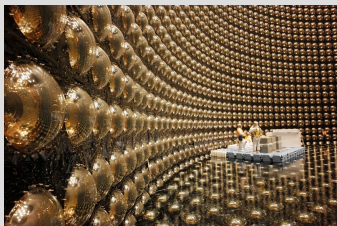
WIMPs



AMS



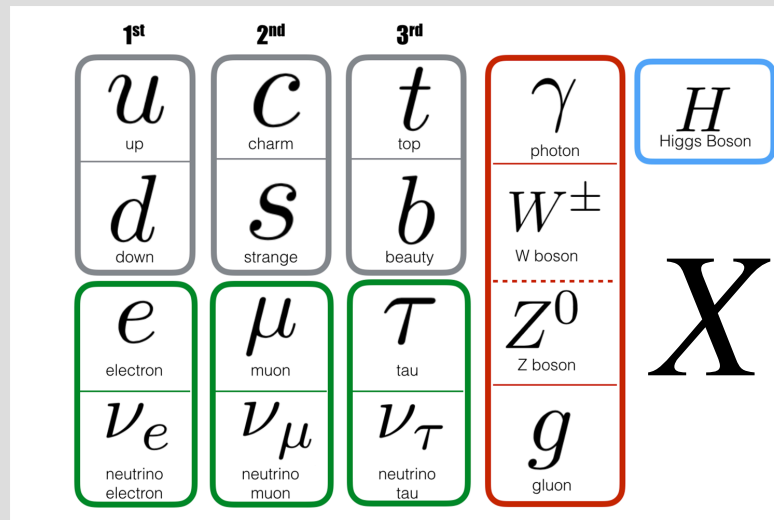
Fermi



Super K



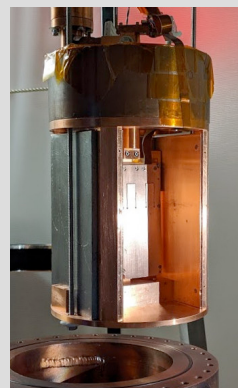
HESS



XENONnT

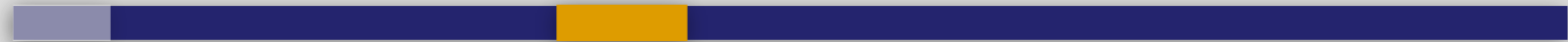


LZ



SENSEI

m



10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

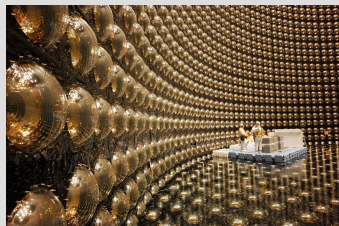
so far, nada



AMS



Fermi



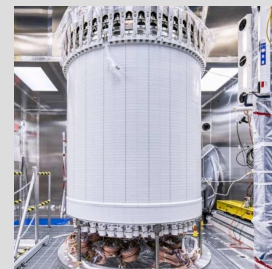
Super K



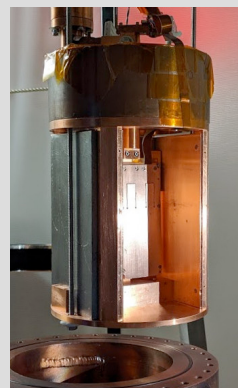
HESS



XENONnT



LZ




SENSEI

m

10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

WISPs

1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
u up	c charm	t top	γ photon	H Higgs Boson
d down	s strange	b beauty	W^{\pm} W boson	
e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z^0 Z boson	
ν_e neutrino electron	ν_{μ} neutrino muon	ν_{τ} neutrino tau	g gluon	

m

10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

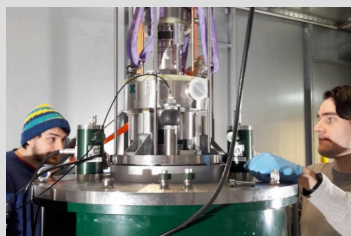
WISPs



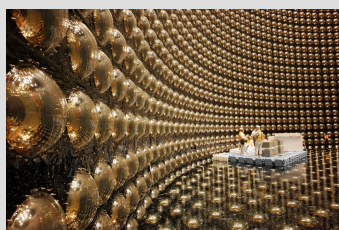
MADMAX



ABRACADABRA



CASPEr



Super K

1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
u up	c charm	t top	γ photon	H Higgs Boson
d down	s strange	b beauty	W^{\pm} W boson	
e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z^0 Z boson	
ν_e neutrino electron	ν_{μ} neutrino muon	ν_{τ} neutrino tau	g gluon	



CAST



DM radio



ADMX

m

10^{-21} eV

$10^{-10} M_{\odot} \sim 10^{56}$ eV

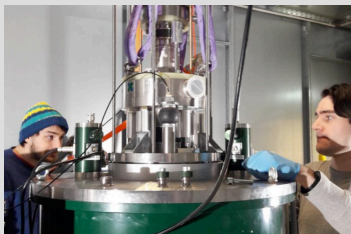
so far, nada



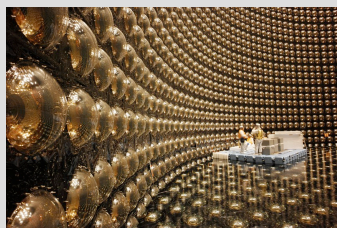
MADMAX



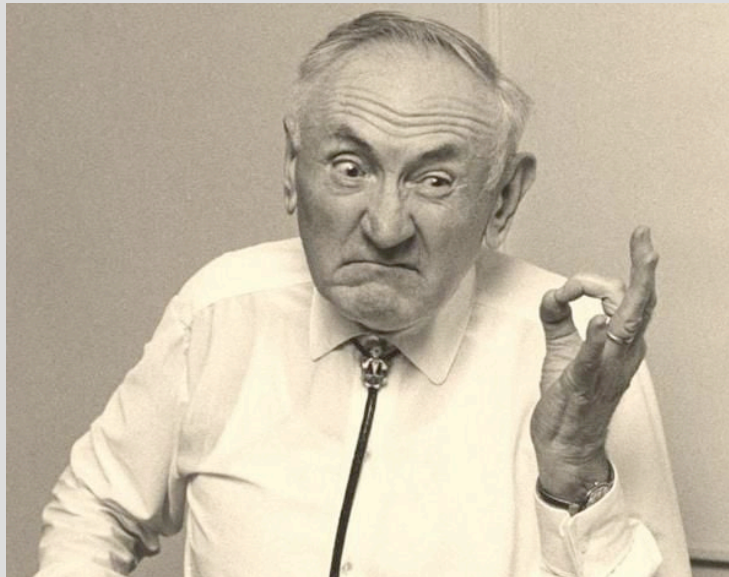
ABRACADABRA



CASPEr



Super K



CAST

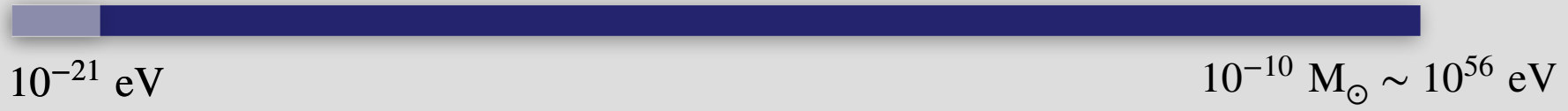


DM radio



ADMX

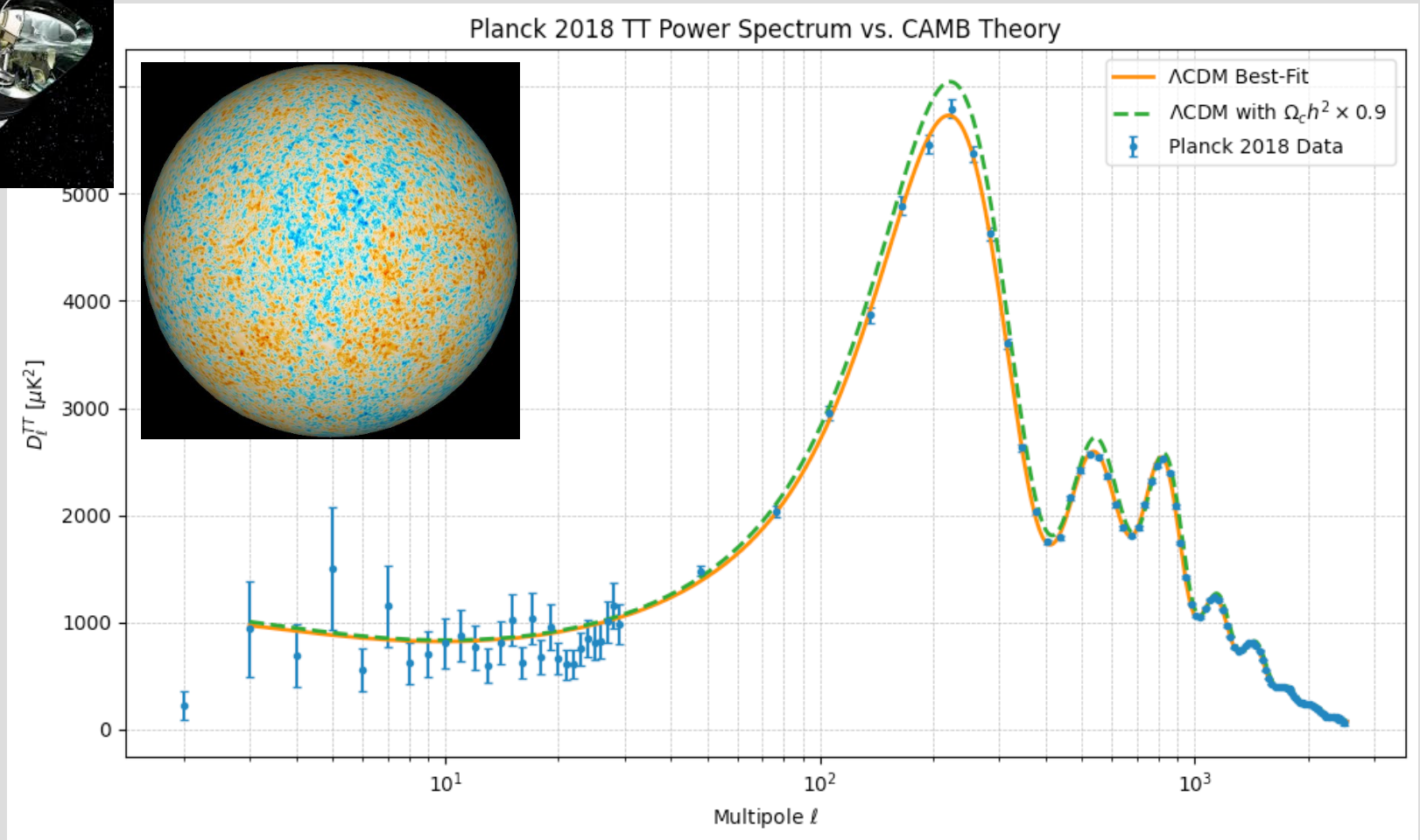
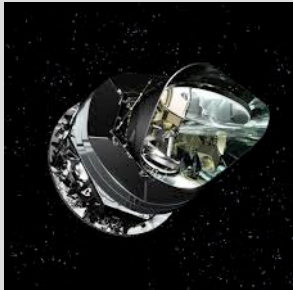
m



Gravitation alone

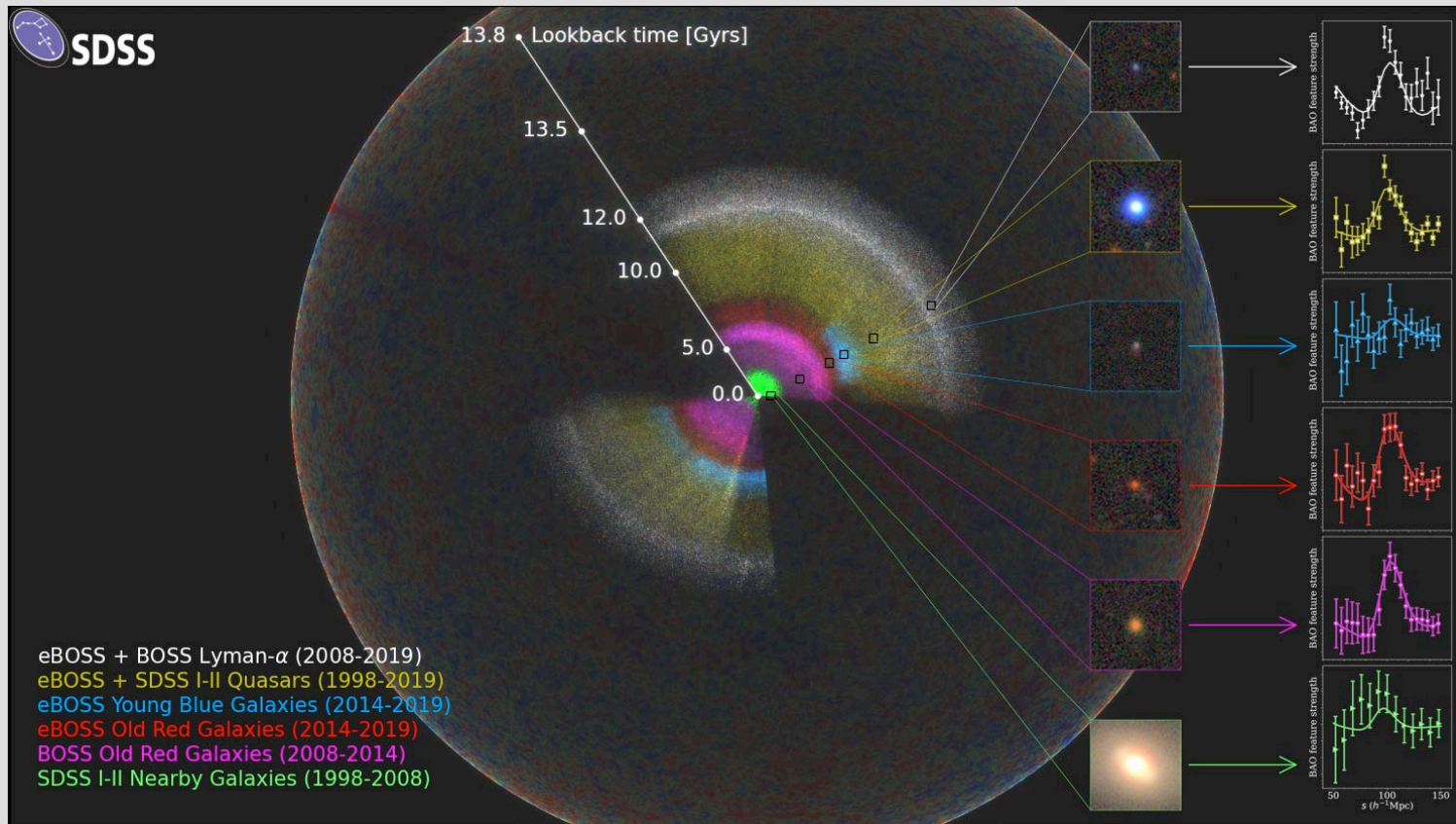


Dark matter: cosmic microwave background (CMB)



* Python code in backup slide

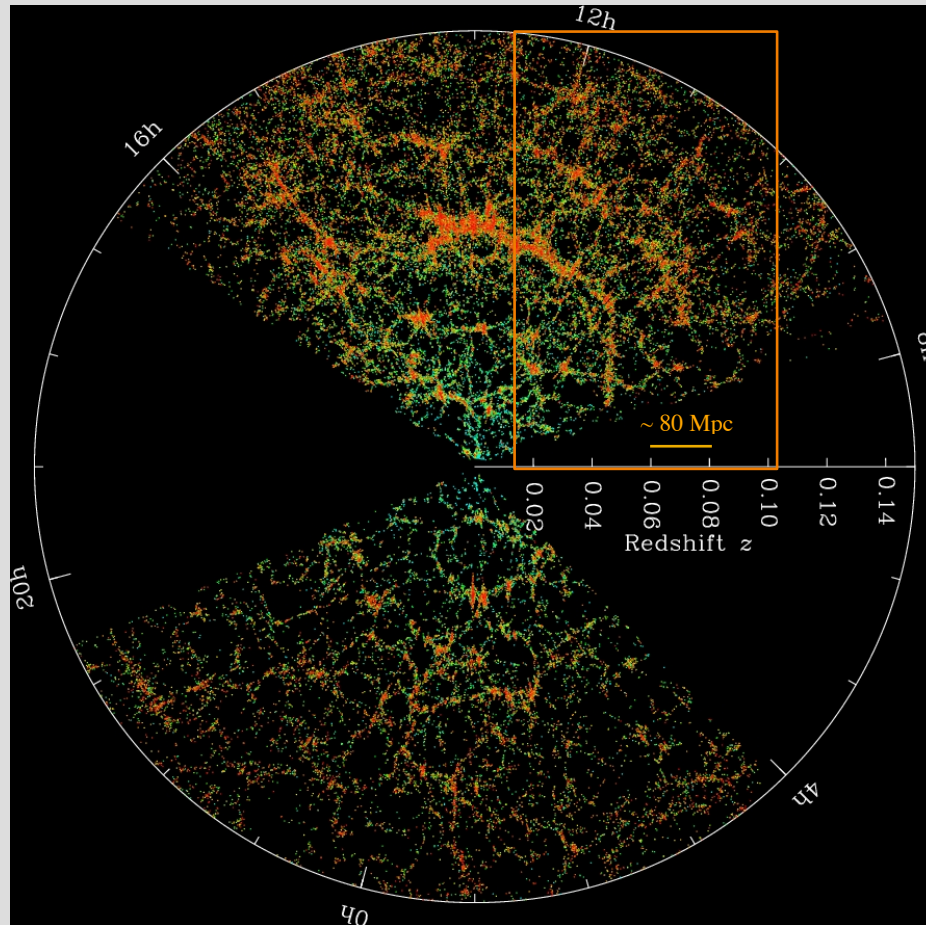
Dark matter: galaxy clustering



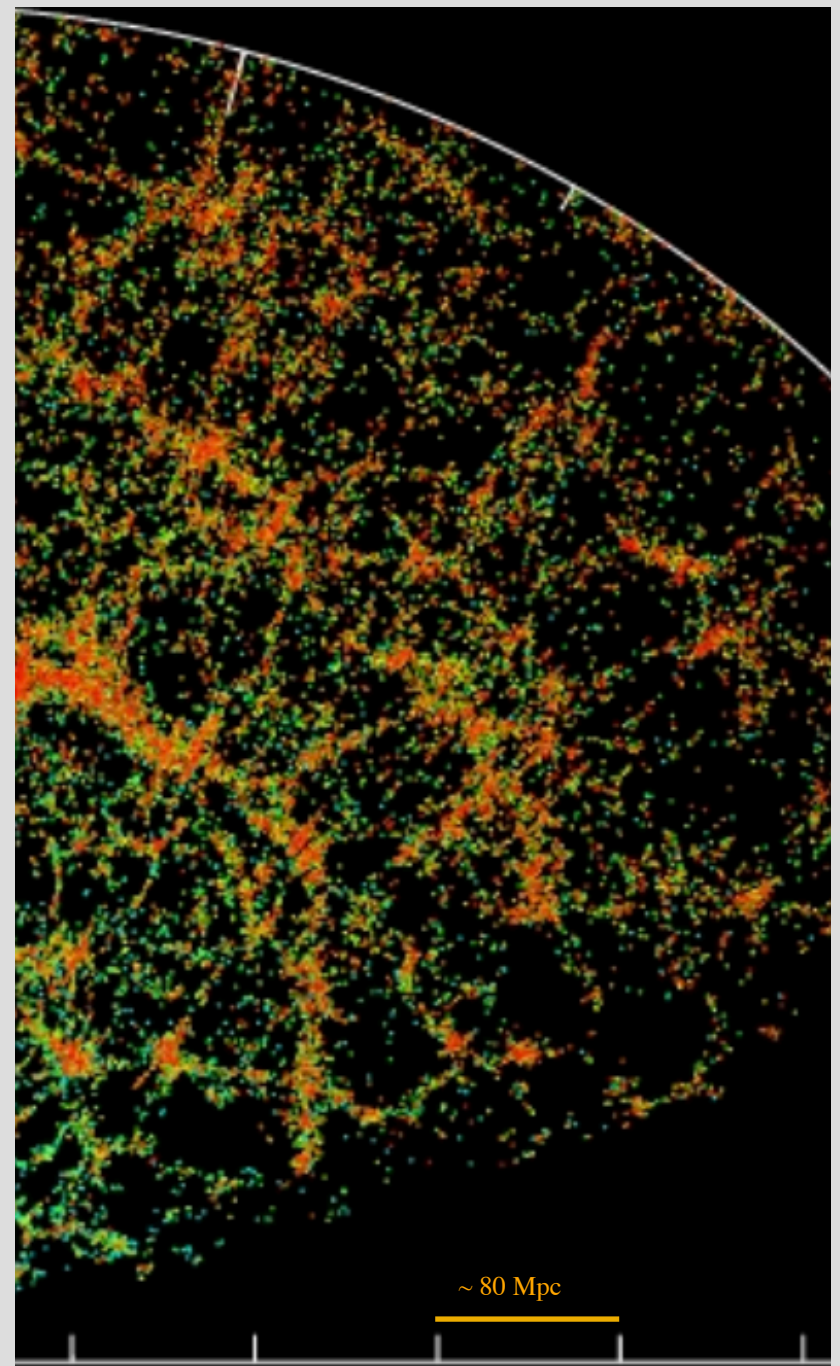
Credit: Anand Raichoor (EPFL), Ashley Ross (Ohio State University) and the SDSS Collaboration

Dark matter: galaxy clustering

<https://classic.sdss.org/legacy/>



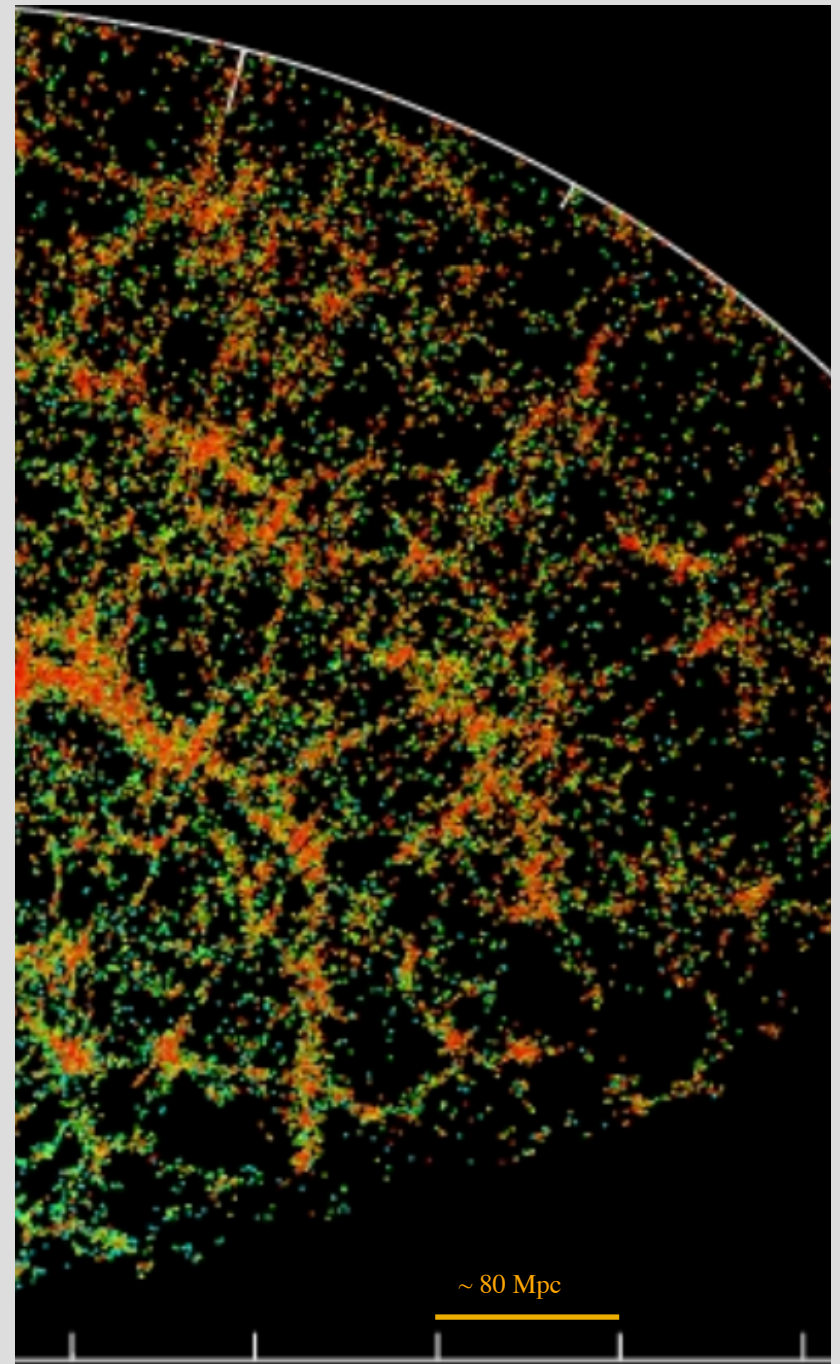
Dark matter: galaxies



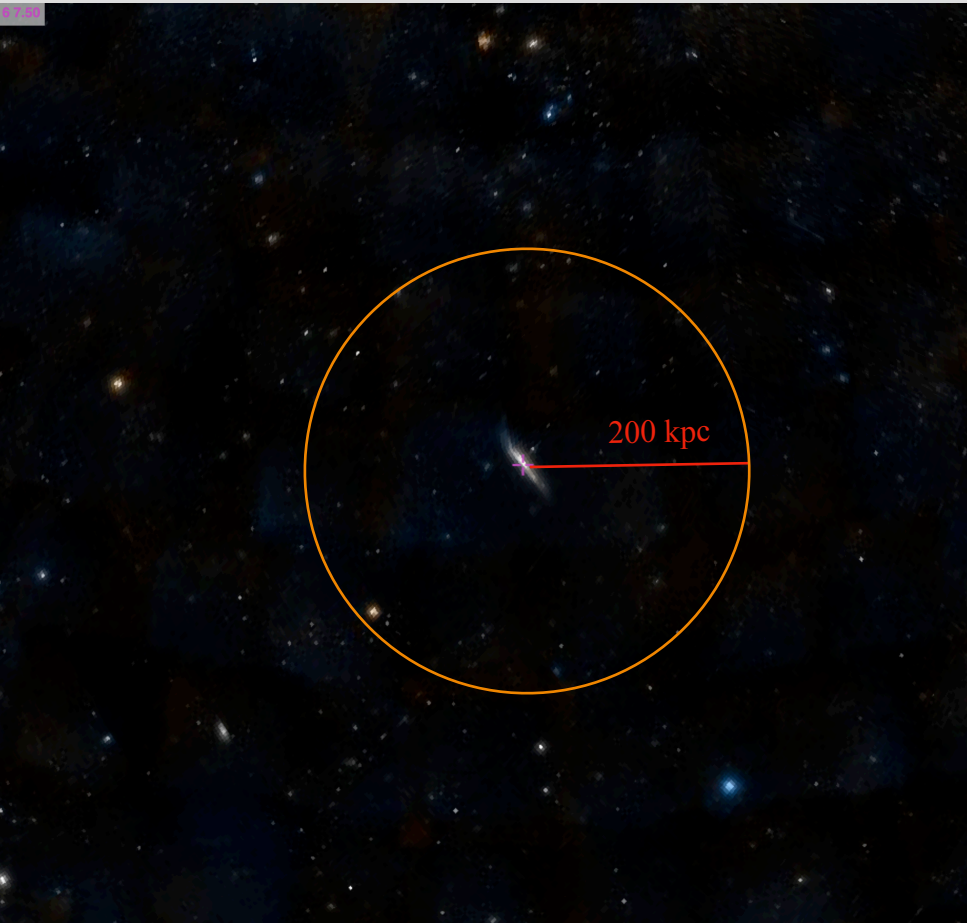
Dark matter: galaxies



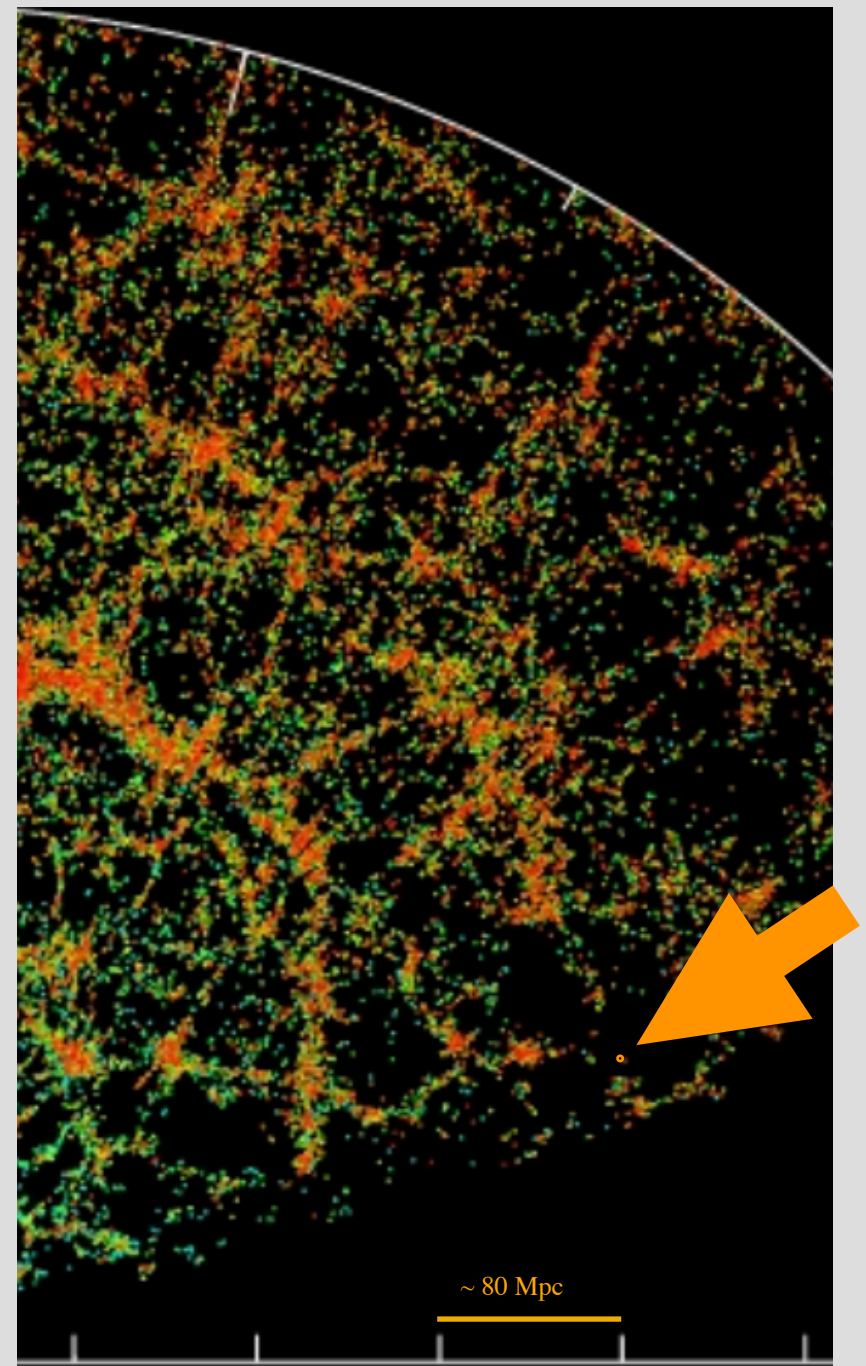
<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-basic?Ident=M31>



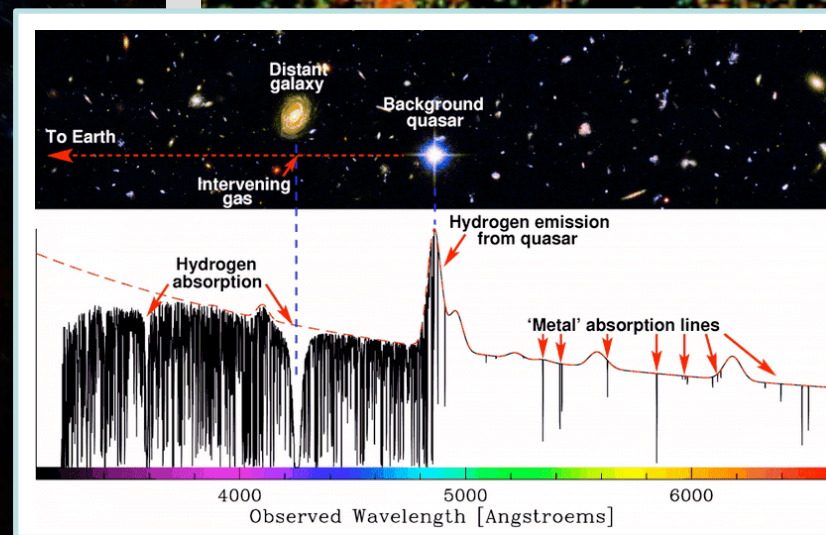
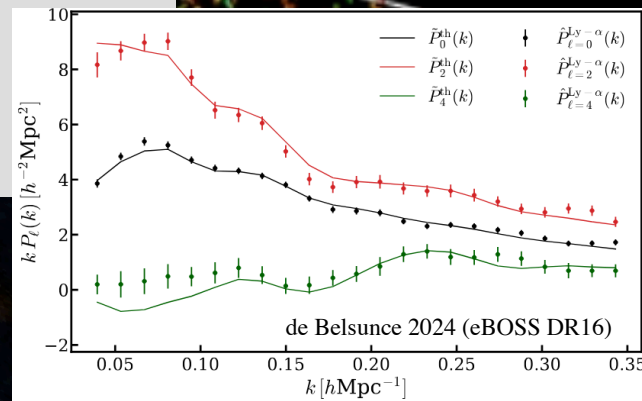
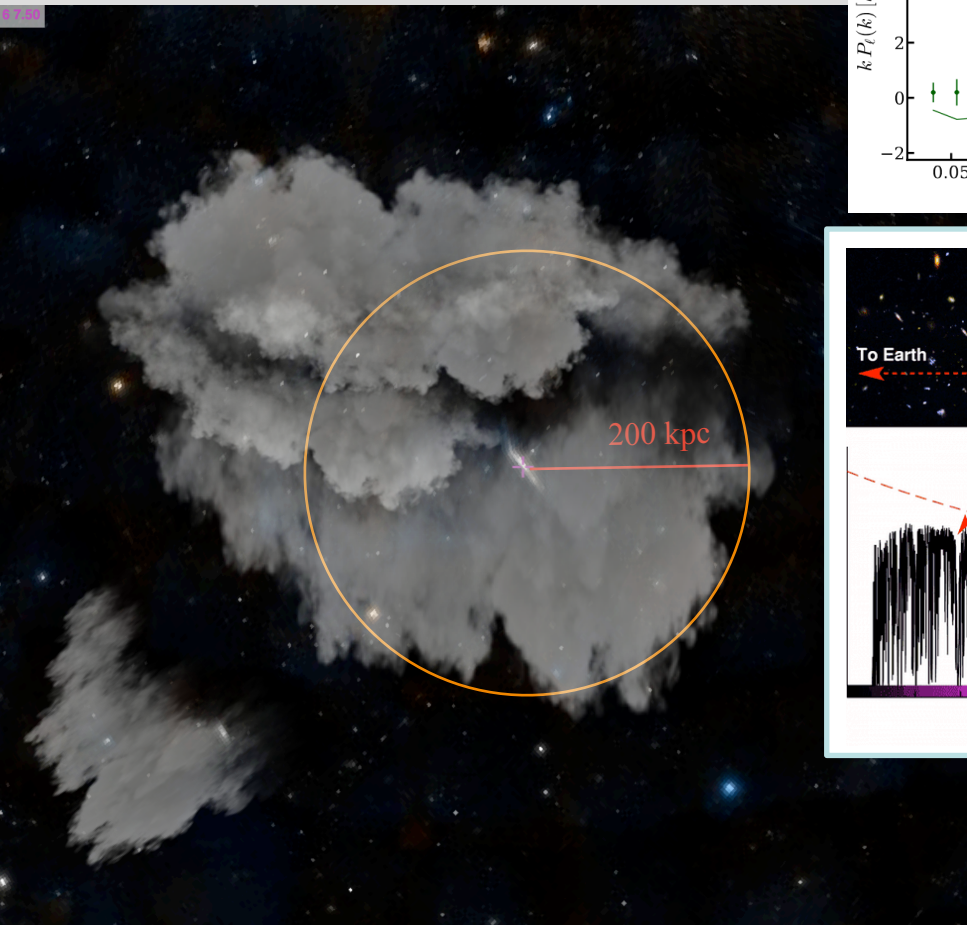
Dark matter: galaxies



<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-basic?Ident=M31>

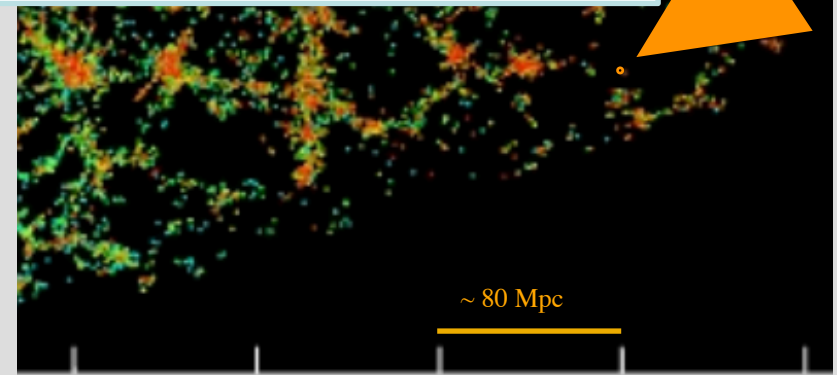


Dark matter: galaxies



This is also the scale size of Lyman-alpha absorbers

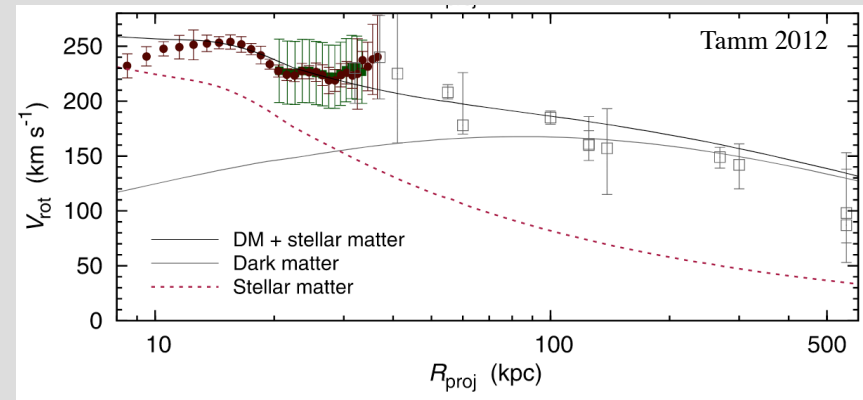
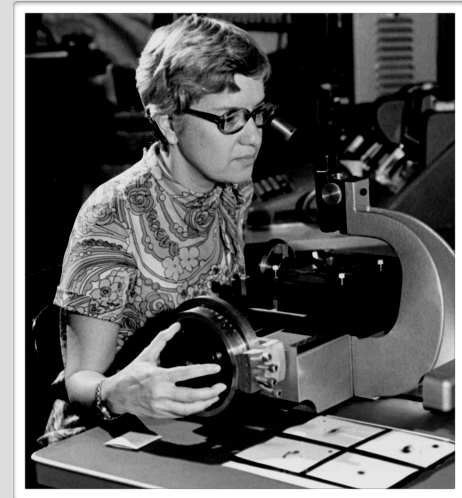
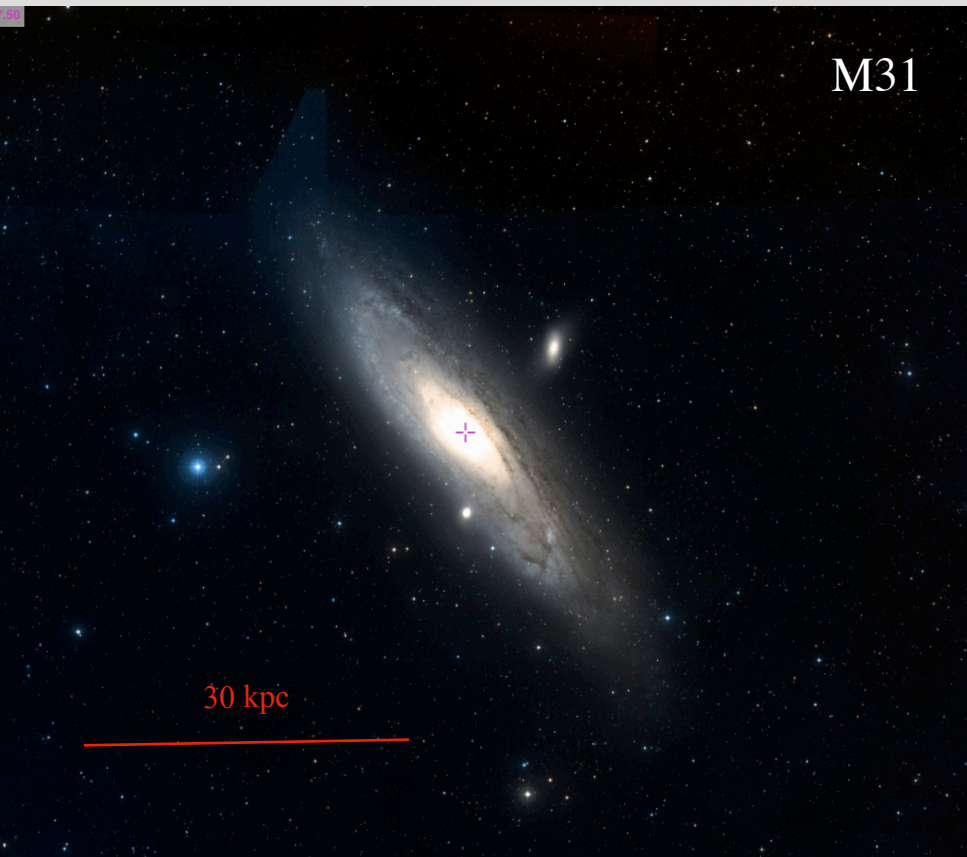
e.g. Bechtold et al 1994



Dark matter: galaxies

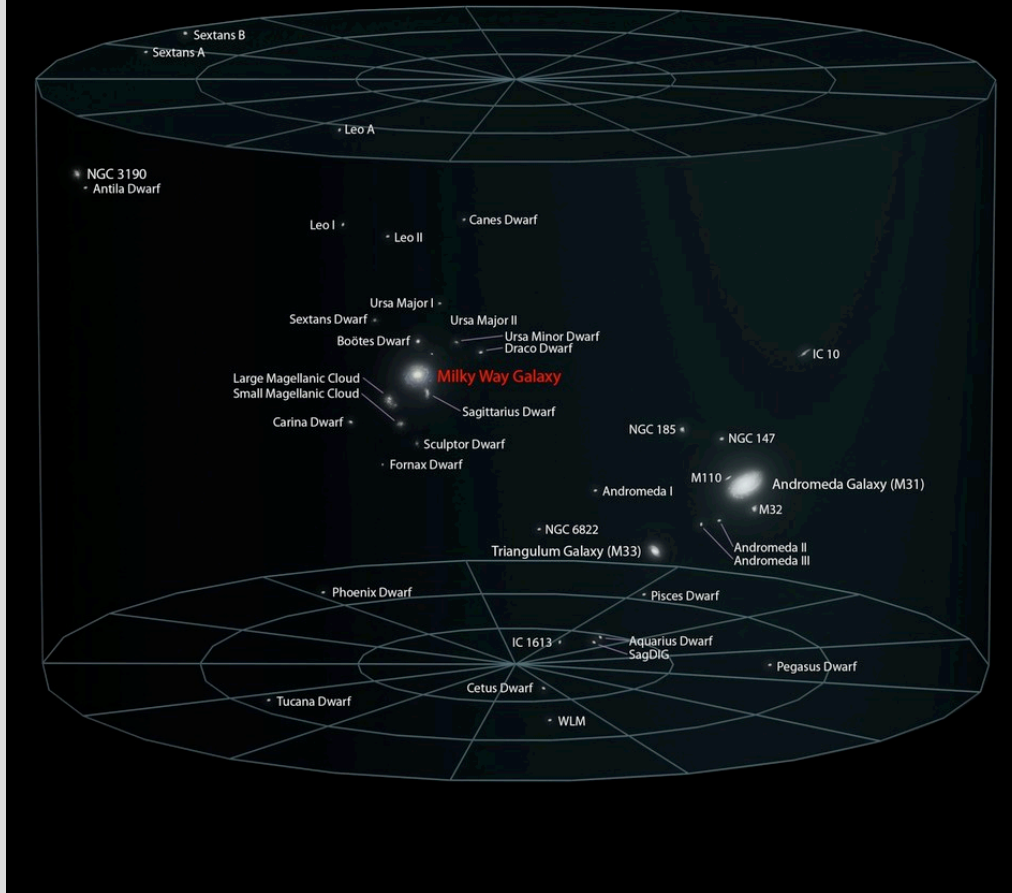


Dark matter: galaxies



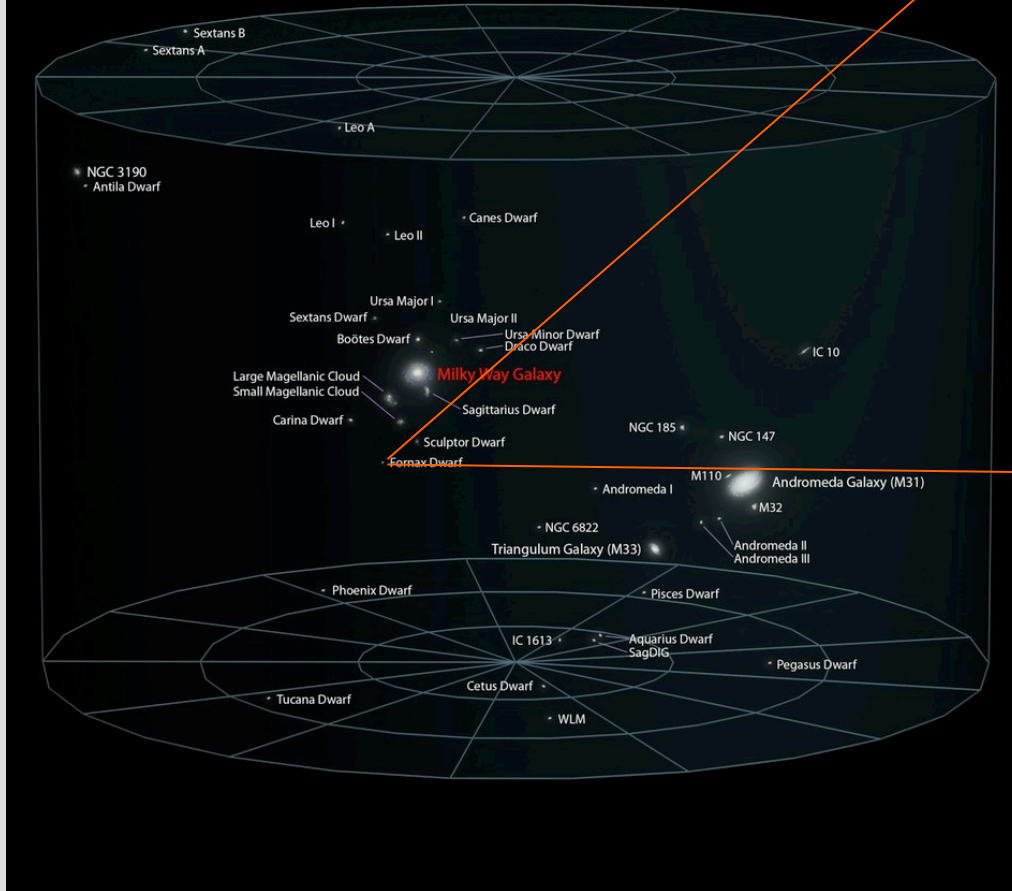
Dark matter: galaxies

Local Galactic Group

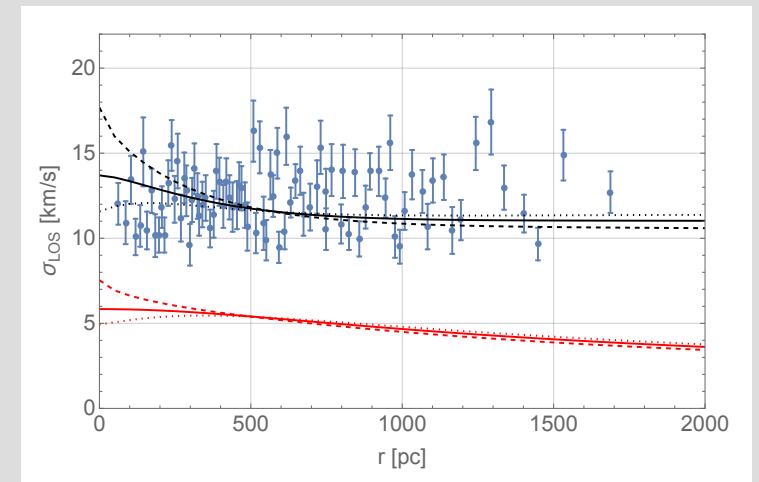


Dark matter: galaxies

Local Galactic Group

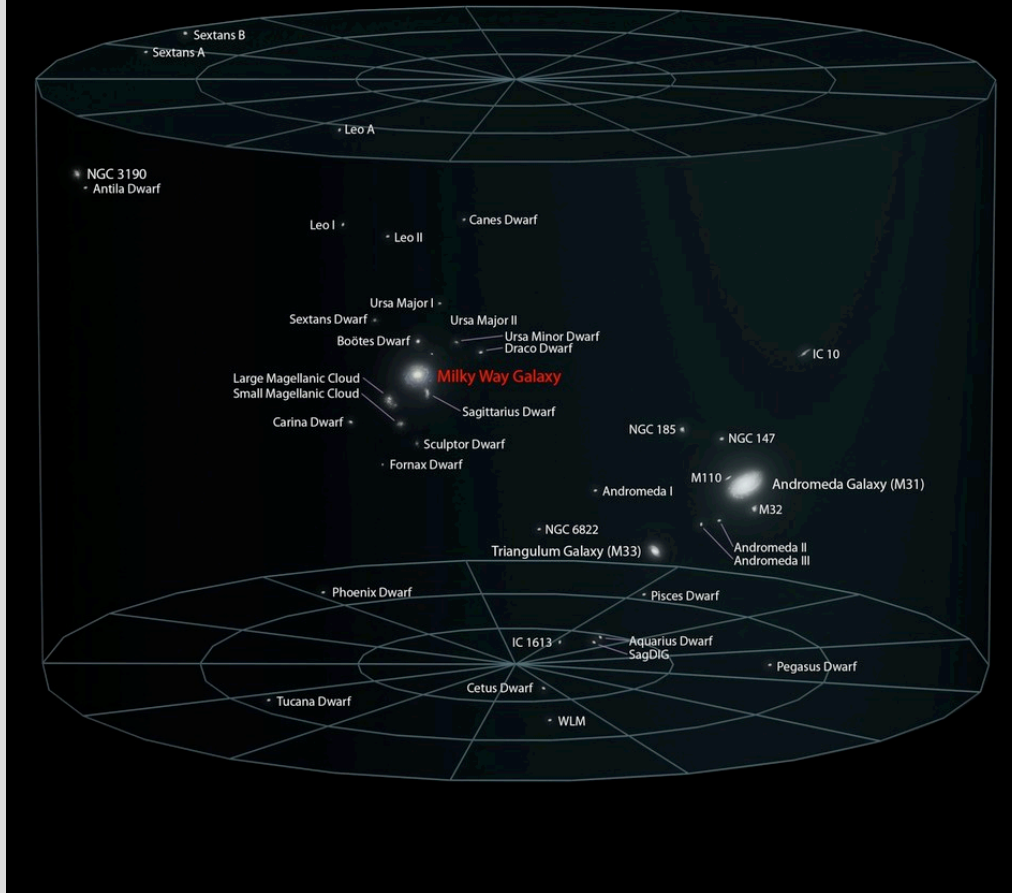


Fornax dwarf galaxy

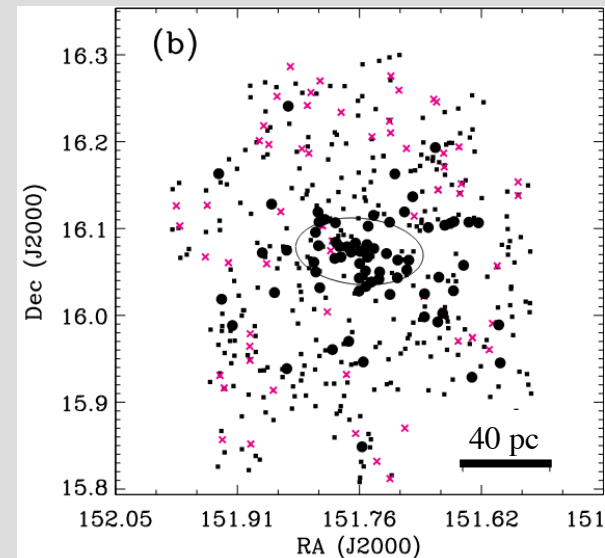


Dark matter: galaxies

Local Galactic Group



Fornax dwarf galaxy



Simon et al
1007.4198

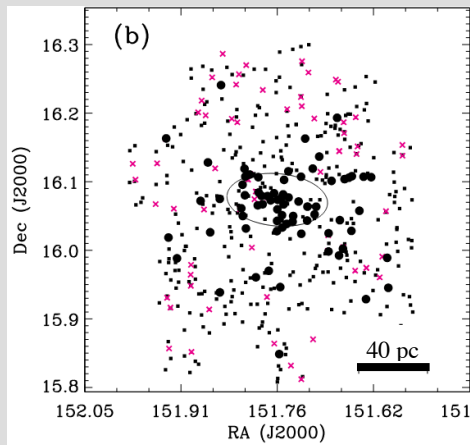
Segue II

As of today, many gravity-only probes of light WISPs.

I will talk about two examples:

1. Lower limit on mass of DM: dwarf galaxies

Teodori et al 2501.07631, 2504.16202

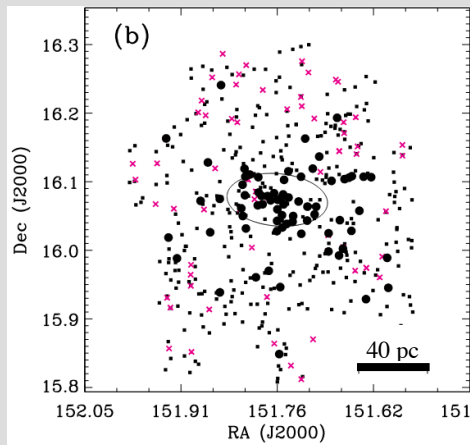


As of today, many gravity-only probes of light WISPs.

I will talk about two examples:

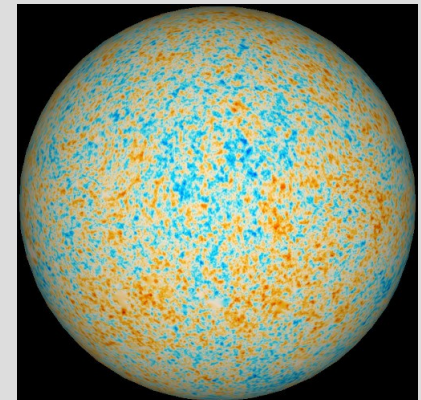
1. Lower limit on mass of DM: dwarf galaxies

Teodori et al 2501.07631, 2504.16202

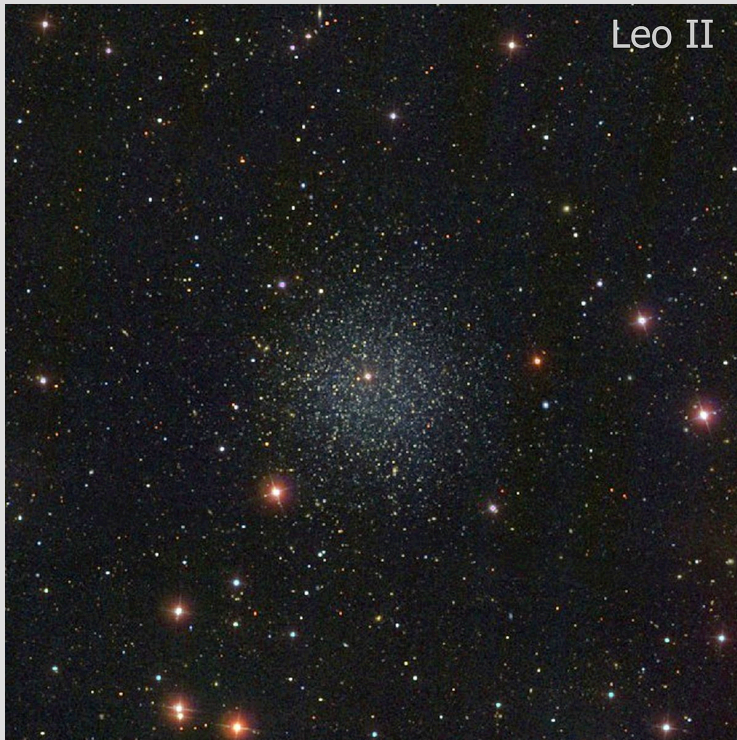


2. Room for discovery: *AxionH0graphy* !

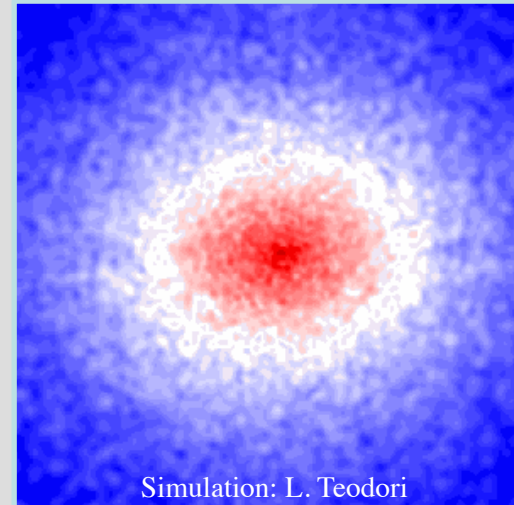
Teodori et al 2105.10873, 2409.04134



Lower bound on m from galaxies



Lower bound on m from galaxies

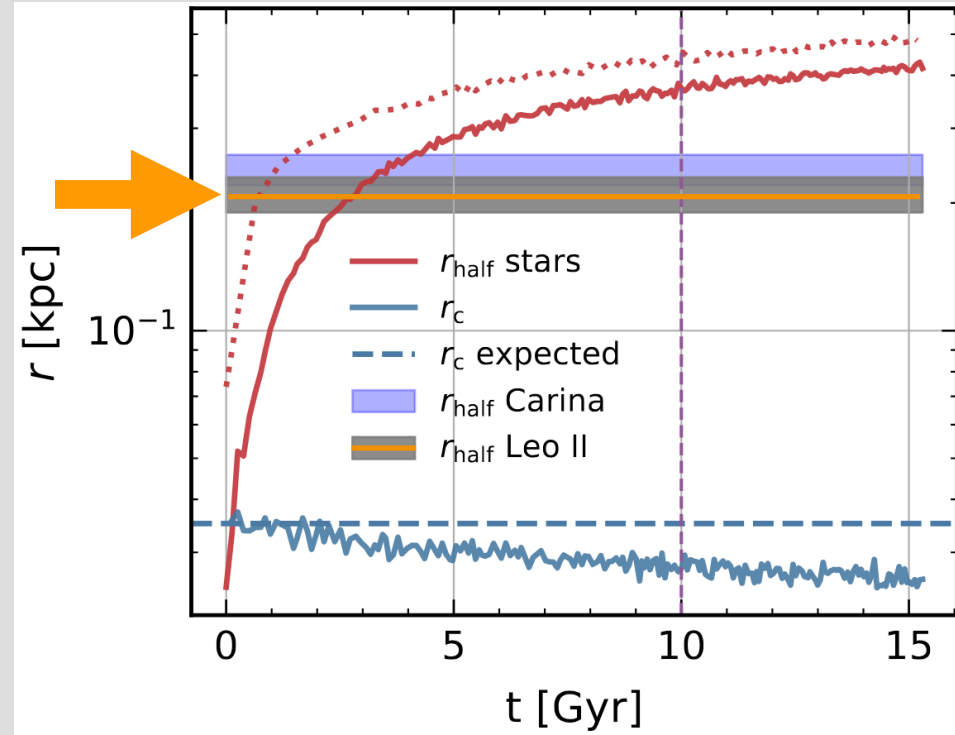
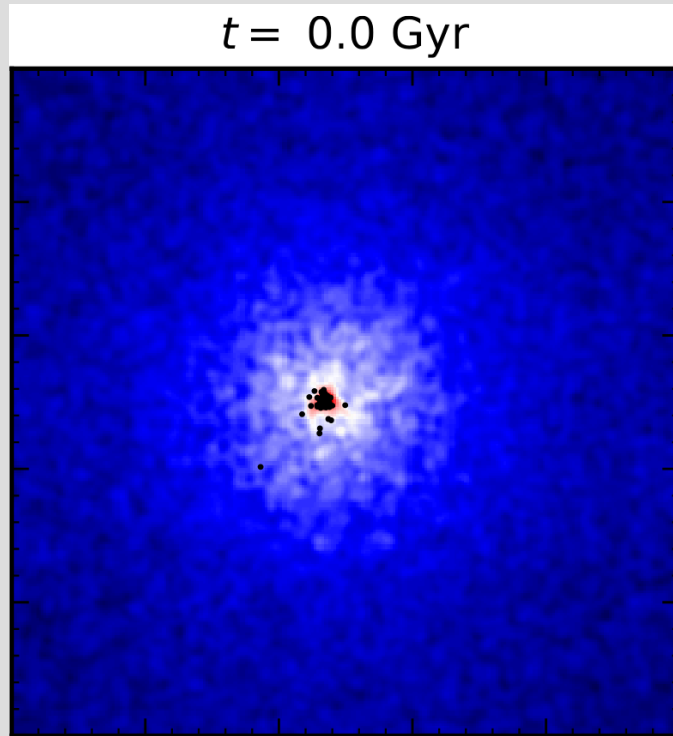


Bar-Or 1809.07673, 2010.10212,
Church 1809.04744,
Schive 1912.09483,
Dutta Chowdhury 2303.08846,
Yang 2403.09845,
Dalal 2203.05750, May 2509.02781
Teodori 2501.07631



Lower bound on m from galaxies

Teodori
2501.07631

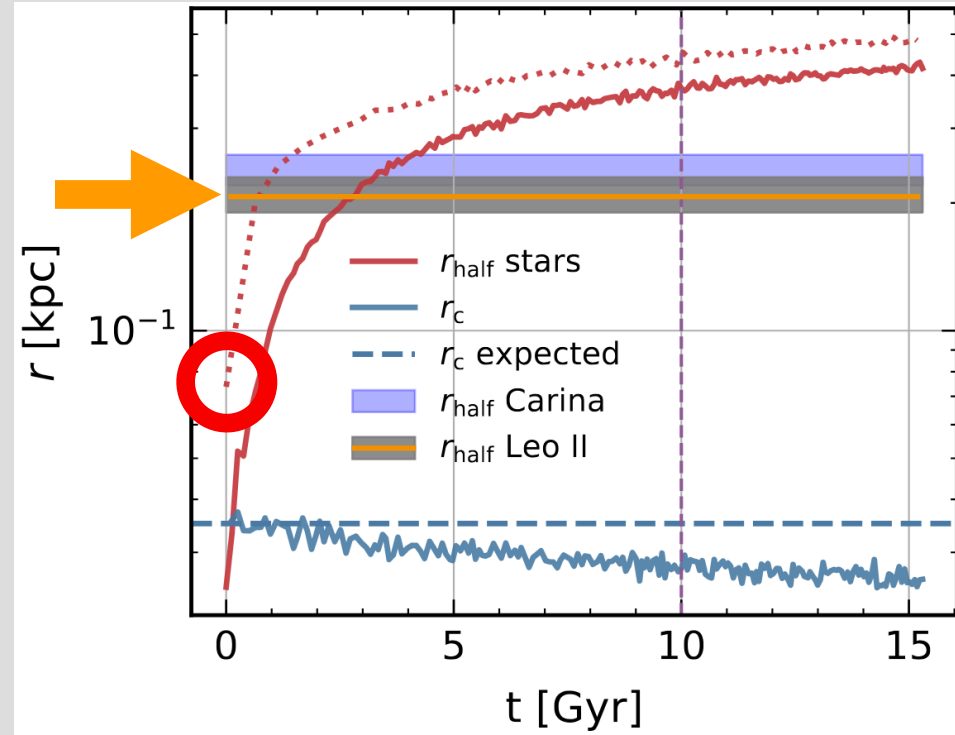
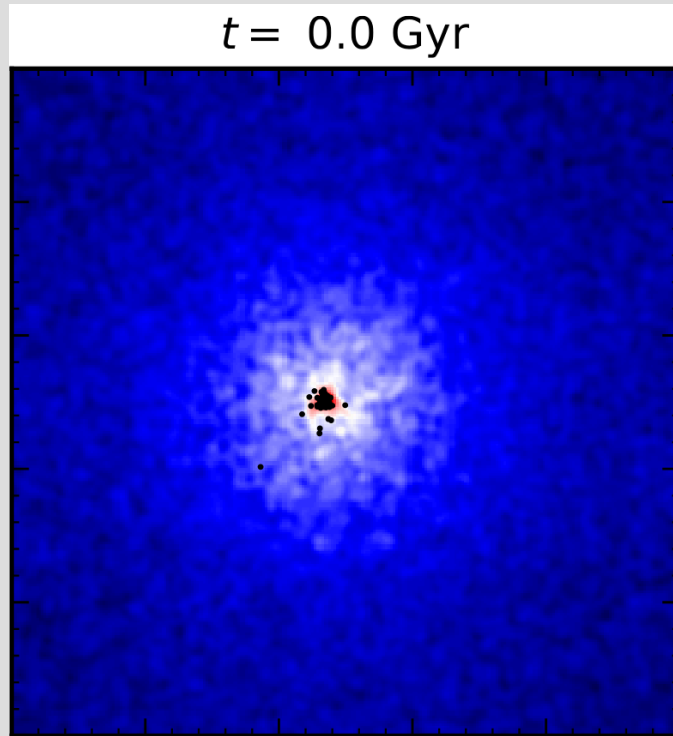


m

5×10^{-21} eV

Lower bound on m from galaxies

Teodori
2501.07631

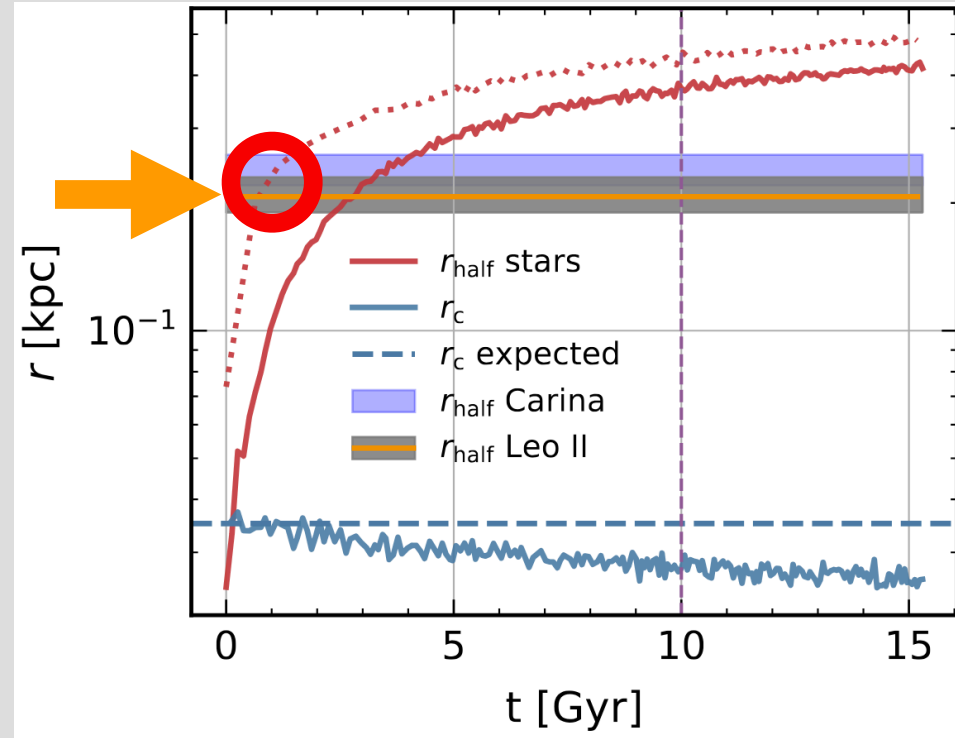
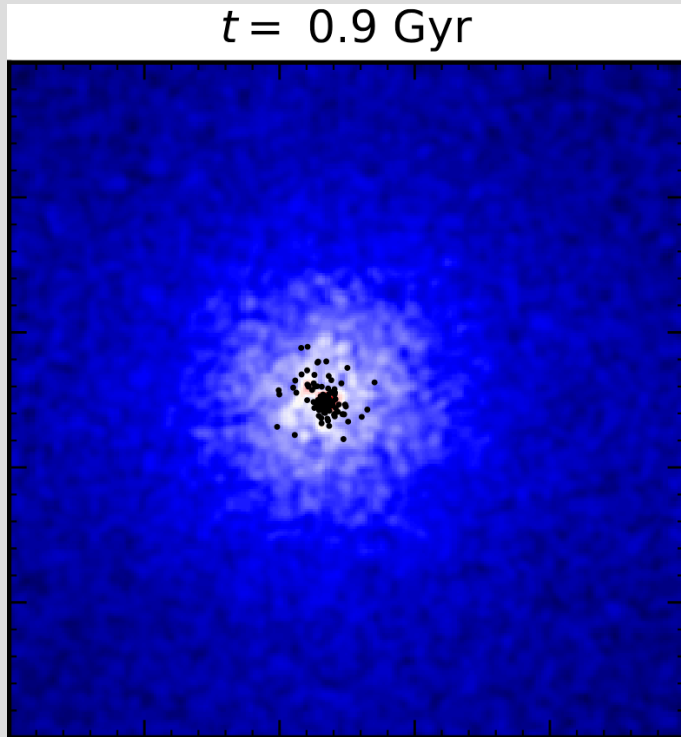


m

5×10^{-21} eV

Lower bound on m from galaxies

Teodori
2501.07631

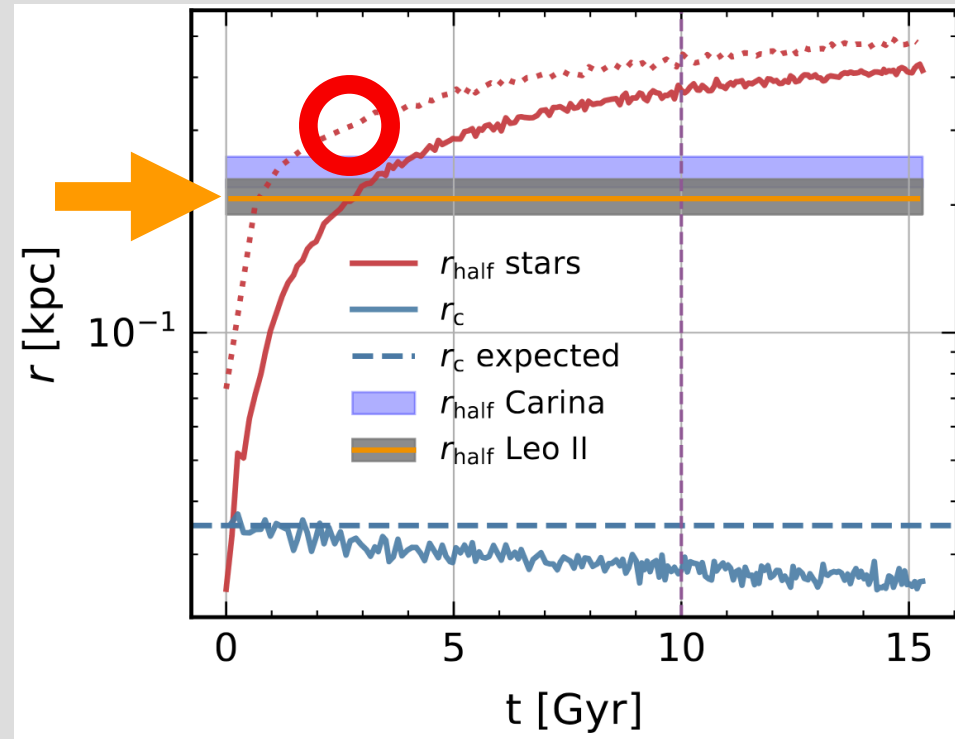
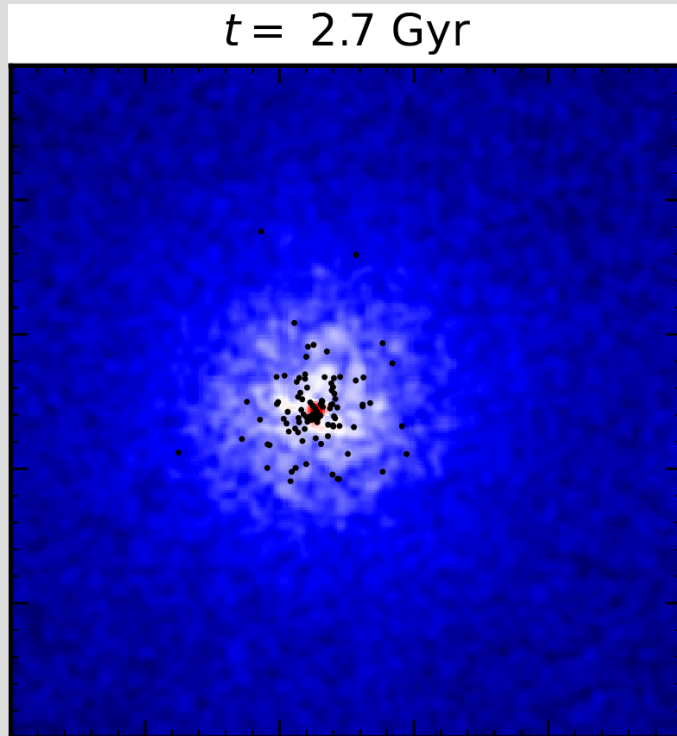


m

$5 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$

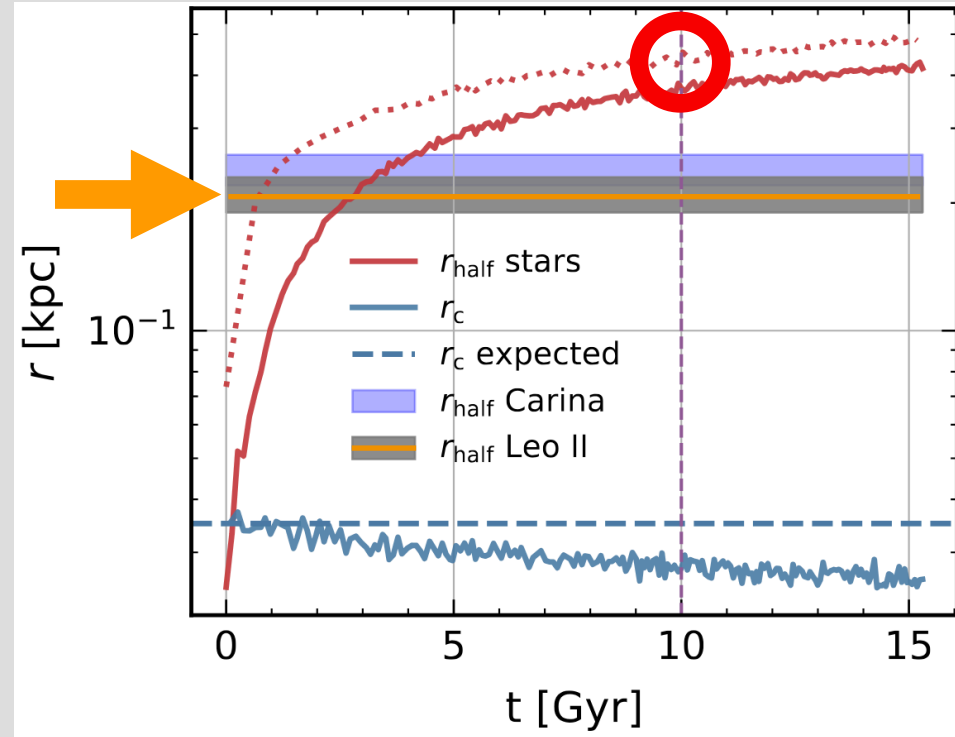
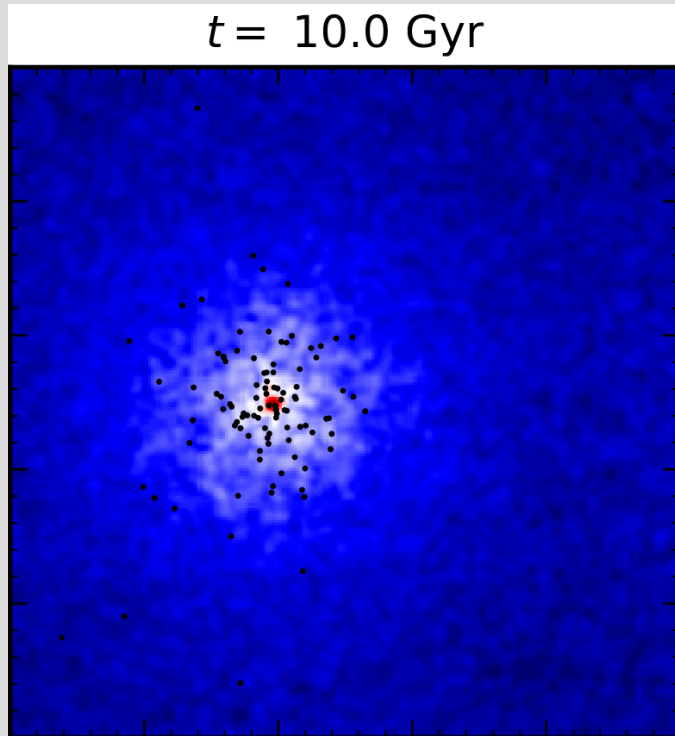
Lower bound on m from galaxies

Teodori
2501.07631



Lower bound on m from galaxies

Teodori
2501.07631



m

5×10^{-21} eV

Lower bound on m from galaxies

Dalal & Kravstov 2203.05750

$$m > 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV}$$

Based on UFDs Segue 1 & Segue 2.

(Make the point that other UFDs exist.)

May et al 2509.02781

$$m > 8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$$

...but in fact simulated 10^{-22} eV .

Soliton formation time, for instance, *much* faster than at $8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$.

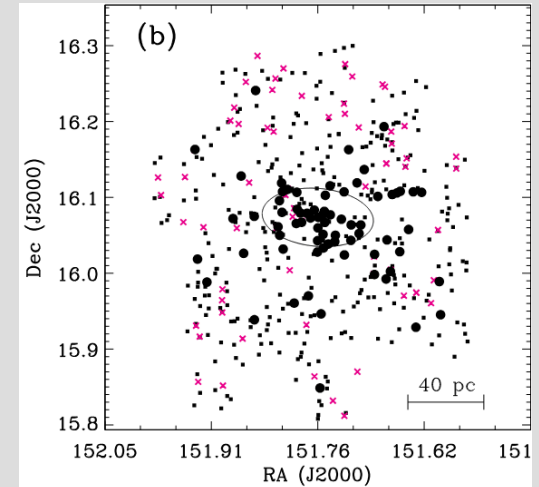
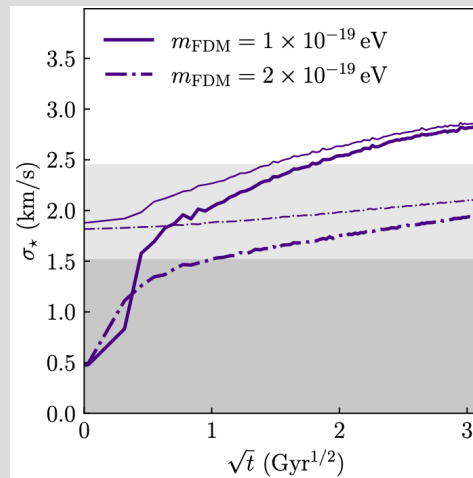
...and is Ursa Major 3/UNIONS 1 an UFD, or a self-gravitating star cluster? (Devlin et al 2504.21301)

Another question. Dynamical heating by ULDM can be understood by means of quasiparticles (Bar-Or 1809.07673, 2010.10212).

Heating occurs by approach to equipartition **when** $M_{\text{QP}} \gg M_{\odot}$. For m of $5 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$, QP mass in Leo II is $M_{\text{QP}} \sim 10^5 M_{\odot}$.

But for $8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$ in UM3/U1 it is $M_{\text{QP}} < 1 M_{\odot}$.

...Why would there be heating?...



Simon et al 1007.4198

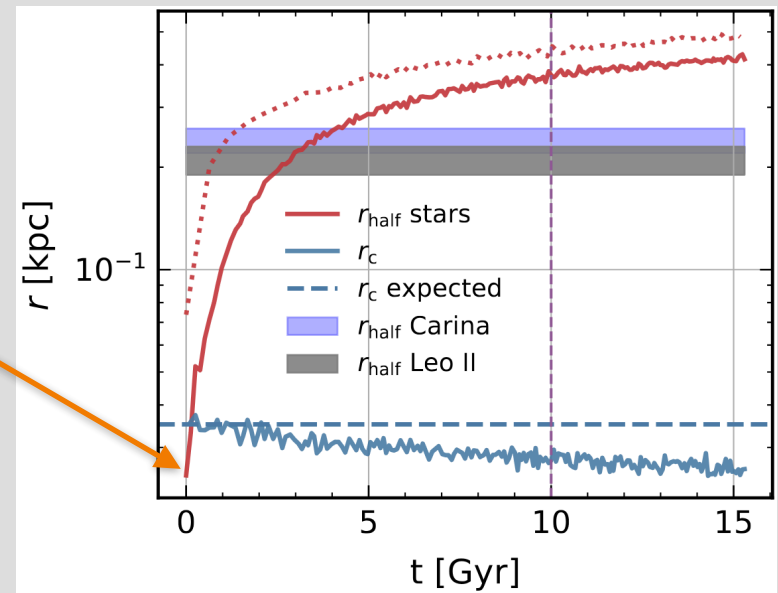


Lower bound on m from galaxies

Caveat in Teodori 2501.07631,
and in Dalal & Kravstov 2203.05750, May et al 2509.02781:
Stellar self-gravity was neglected.
— Should revisit with N-body stars,
rather than test particles.

For Leo II, for example, this stage
is not clearly under control
without star self gravity.

What is the situation for UFDs?
(For claimed bound in 2509.02781,
also QP mass vs. star mass question)



m

$$5 \times 10^{-21} \rightarrow 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV ?}$$
$$8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV ?}$$

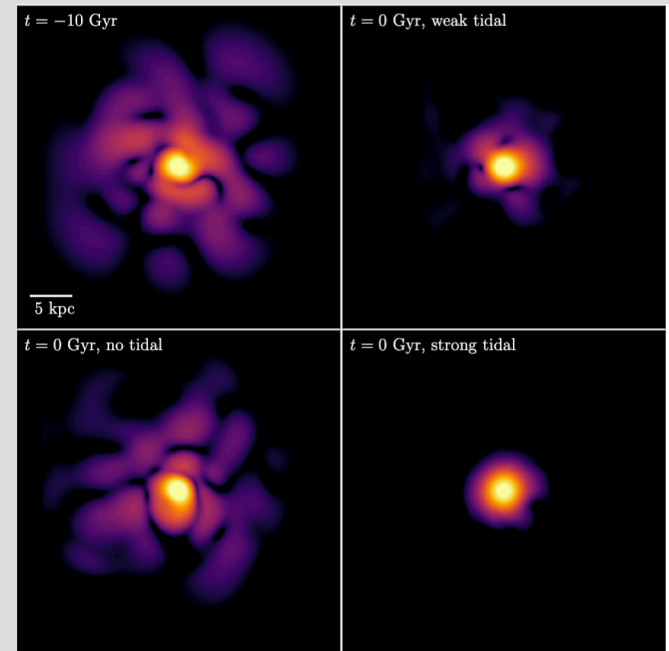
Lower bound on m from galaxies

Another possible caveat in Teodori 2501.07631
(probably not in May et al 2509.02781)

Milky-Way tidal field may strip dwarf satellite halo,
leaving ``bare soliton'' with less heating.

- Demonstrated possible caveat for m of 10^{-22} eV in Fornax
- Does not look like a caveat for $m \gtrsim 10^{-21}$ eV,
but more simulations required to be safe.

Yang et al 2507.01686



m

$5 \times 10^{-21} \rightarrow 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV ?}$
 $8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV ?}$

Lower bound on m from galaxies

Dynamical heating may give the strongest bound. But there are many more observational tests.

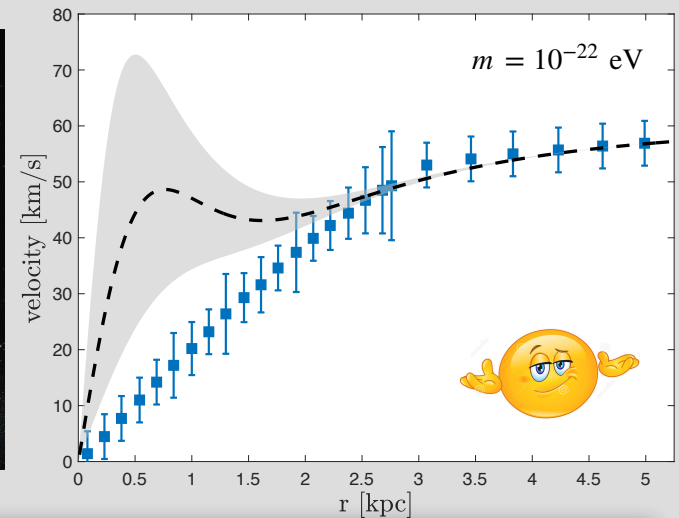
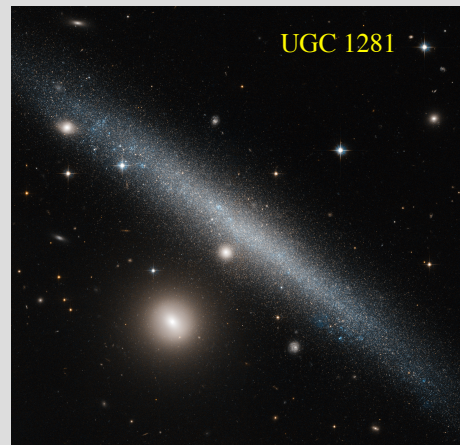
Bounds from stationary Jeans modeling complimentary & consistent.

(Live sims show that Jeans model is reasonable approximation *adiabatically* (e.g. Teodori 2501.07631))

E.g. Zimmerman et al 2405.20374 (Leo II dwarf) $m > 2.2 \times 10^{-21}$ eV

Blum et al 1805.00122 (low-surface-brightness disc galaxies) $m \gtrsim 10^{-21}$ eV

...



m

$5 \times 10^{-21} \rightarrow 3 \times 10^{-19}$ eV ?

8×10^{-18} eV ?

Lower bound on m from galaxies

Dynamical heating may give the strongest bound. But there are many more observational tests.

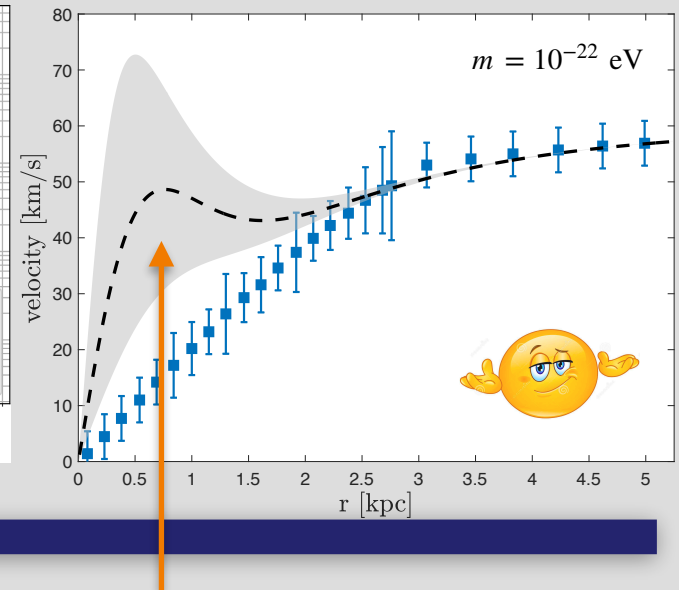
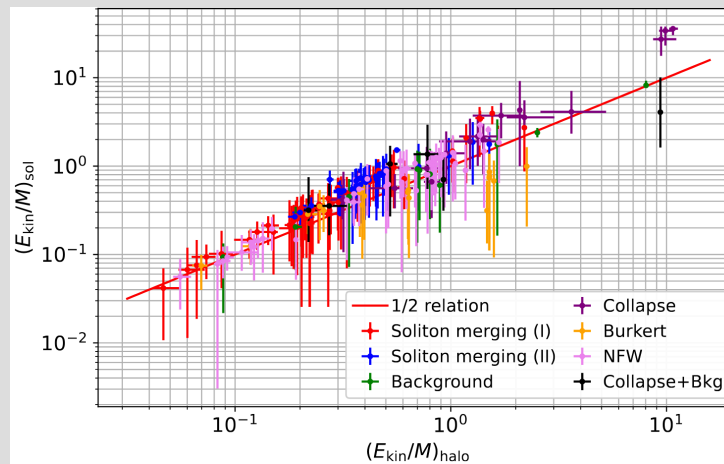
Bounds from stationary Jeans modeling complimentary & consistent.

(Live sims show that Jeans model is reasonable approximation *adiabatically* (e.g. Teodori 2501.07631))

E.g. Zimmerman et al 2405.20374 (Leo II dwarf) $m > 2.2 \times 10^{-21}$ eV

Blum et al 1805.00122 (low-surface-brightness disc galaxies) $m \gtrsim 10^{-21}$ eV

...



m

$$5 \times 10^{-21} \rightarrow 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV ?}$$

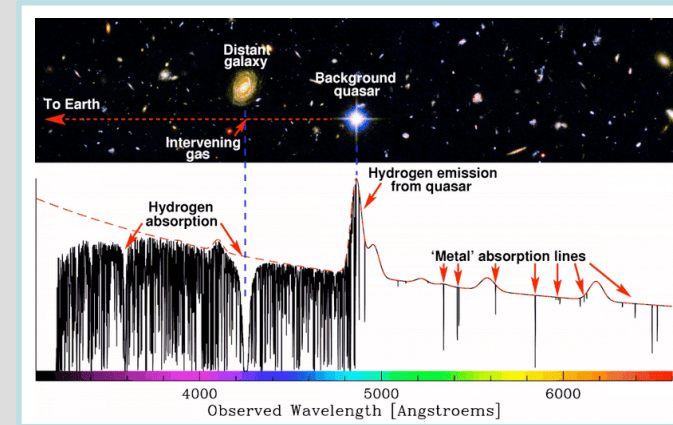
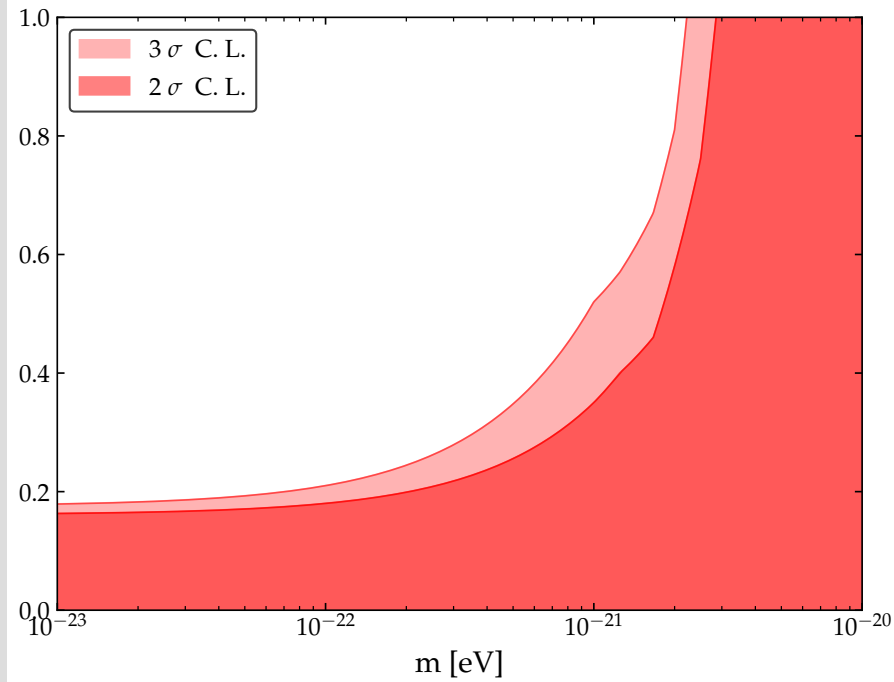
$$8 \times 10^{-18} \text{ eV ?}$$

Soliton robust phenomenon (e.g. Blum et al 2504.16202)

Lower bound on m from cosmology

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}}$$

Kobayashi et al 1708.00015 (Ly-alpha)



Also:

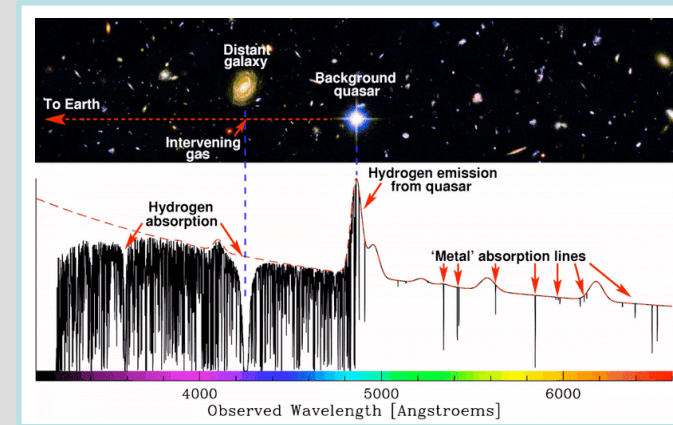
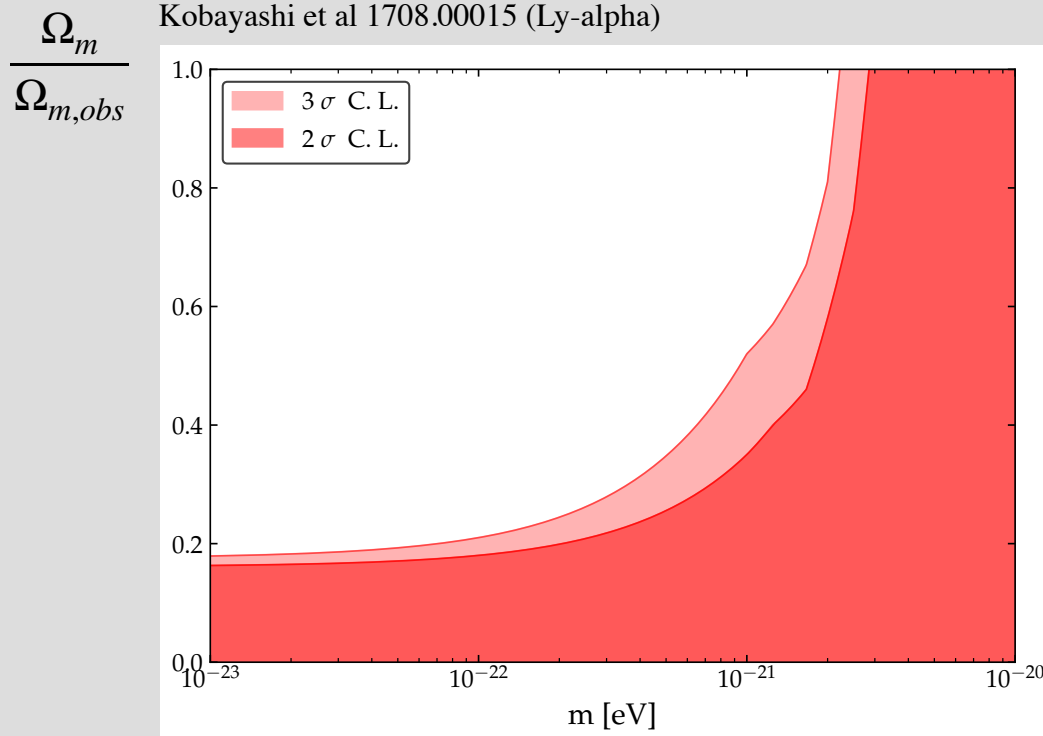
Hlozek et al 1708.05681 (CMB)

Lague et al, 2104.07802 (CMB+LSS)

...


 m
 $3 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$

Lower bound on m from cosmology



Also:

Hlozek et al 1708.05681 (CMB)

Lague et al, 2104.07802 (CMB+LSS)

...

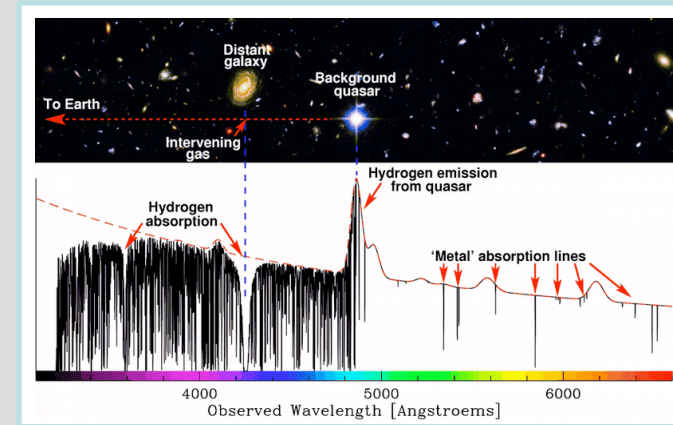
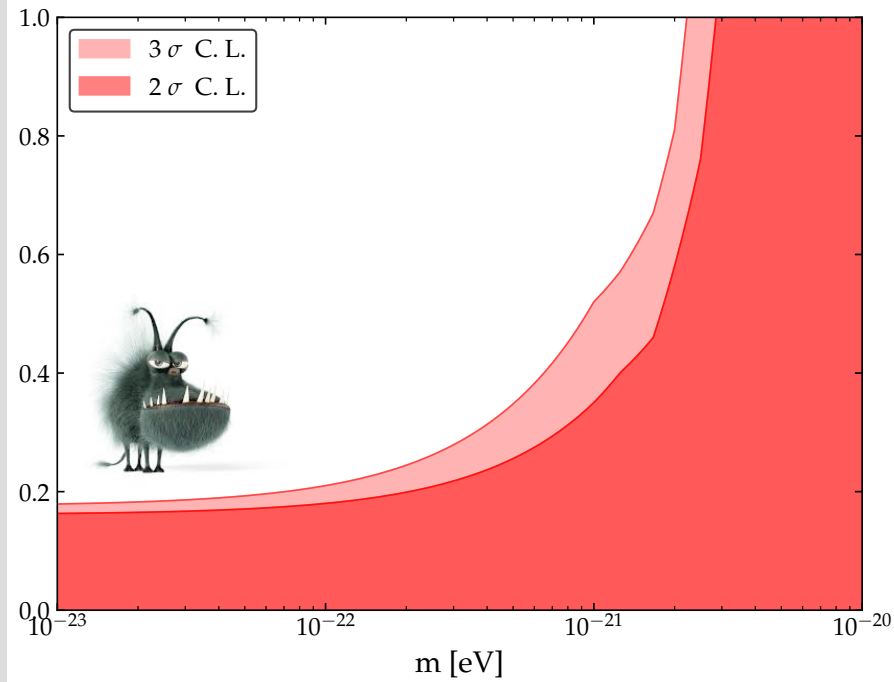


Rogers & Peiris 2007.12705: $m > 2 \times 10^{-20}$ eV

A bit of WISPful thinking

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}}$$

Kobayashi et al 1708.00015 (Ly-alpha)



Also:

Hlozek et al 1708.05681 (CMB)

Lague et al, 2104.07802 (CMB+LSS)

...

We have strong bounds on ULDM being all of DM.

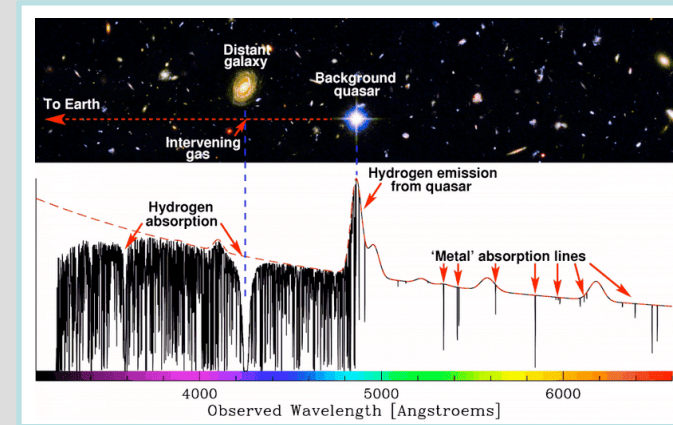
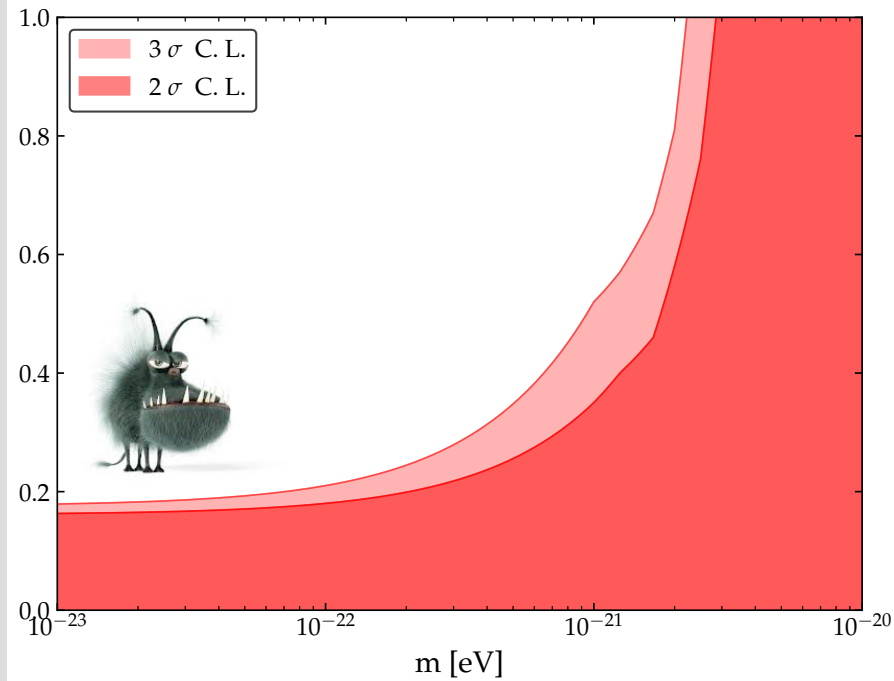
But what about just a fraction? Aka **Axiverse** (Arvanitaki et al 0905.4720)

Here there is plenty of room for a *discovery*.

A bit of WISPful thinking

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}}$$

Kobayashi et al 1708.00015 (Ly-alpha)



Also:

Hlozek et al 1708.05681 (CMB)

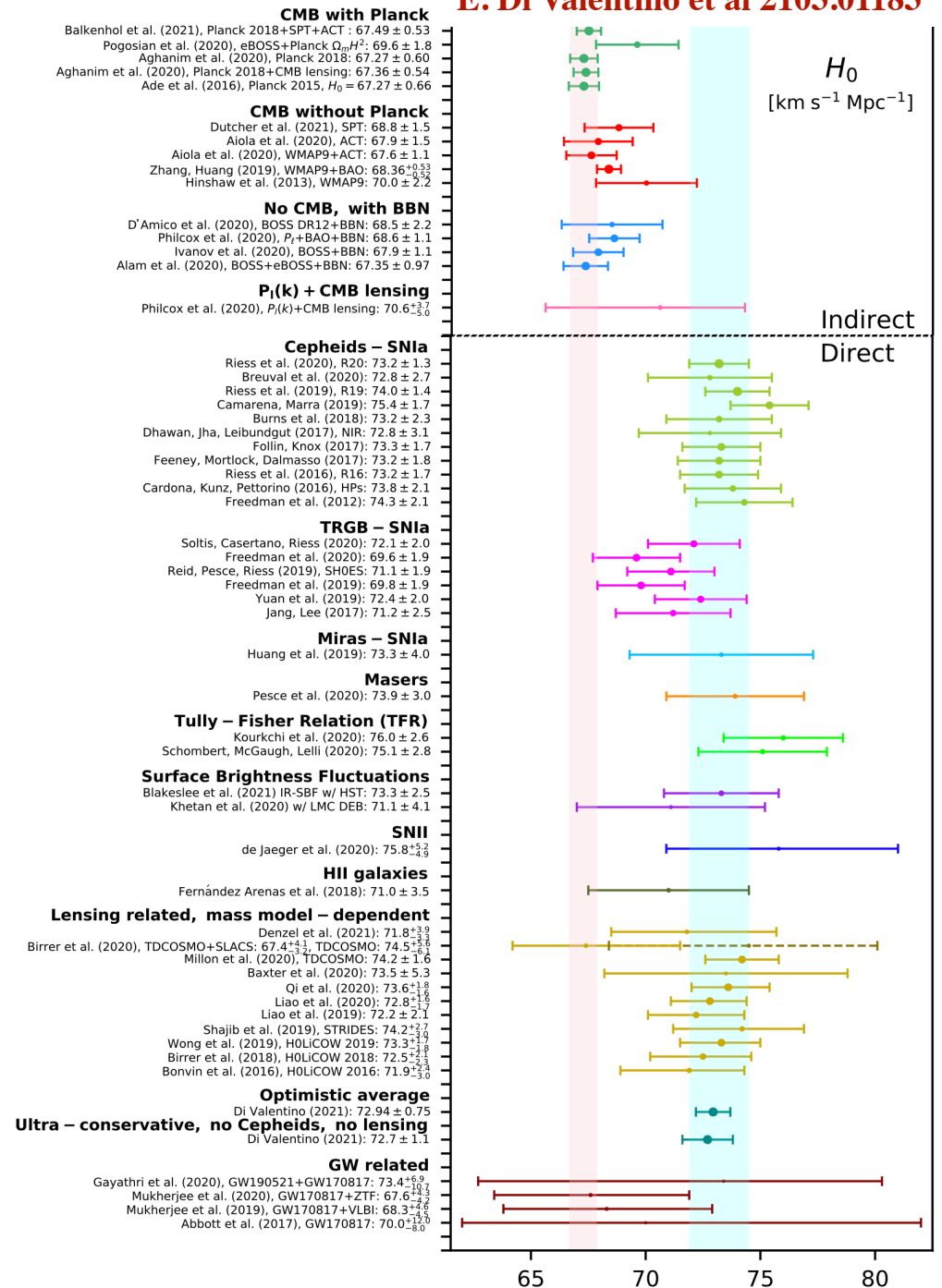
Lague et al, 2104.07802 (CMB+LSS)

...

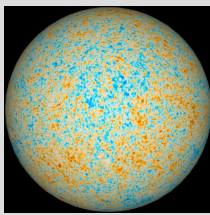
Vacuum misalignment (pre-inflationary)

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}} \approx \left(\frac{m}{10^{-21} \text{ eV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{f}{10^{17} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \approx 0.1 \left(\frac{m}{10^{-25} \text{ eV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{f}{3 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2$$

H₀ tension



H₀ tension



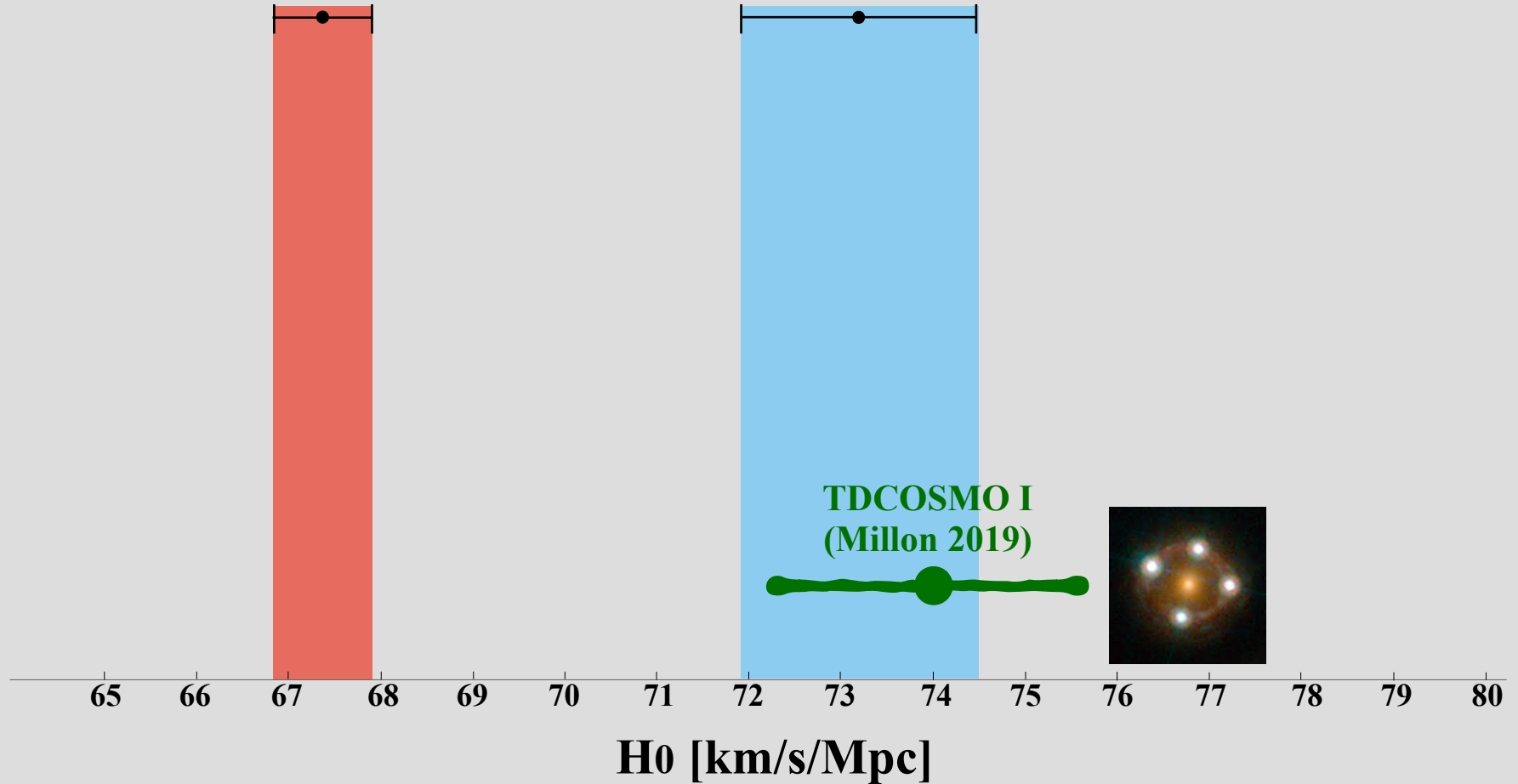
CMB
Planck 2018



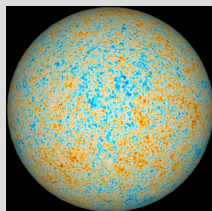
SN Ia/Cepheids
SH0ES 2020



TDCOSMO I
(Millon 2019)



H₀ tension



CMB
Planck 2018

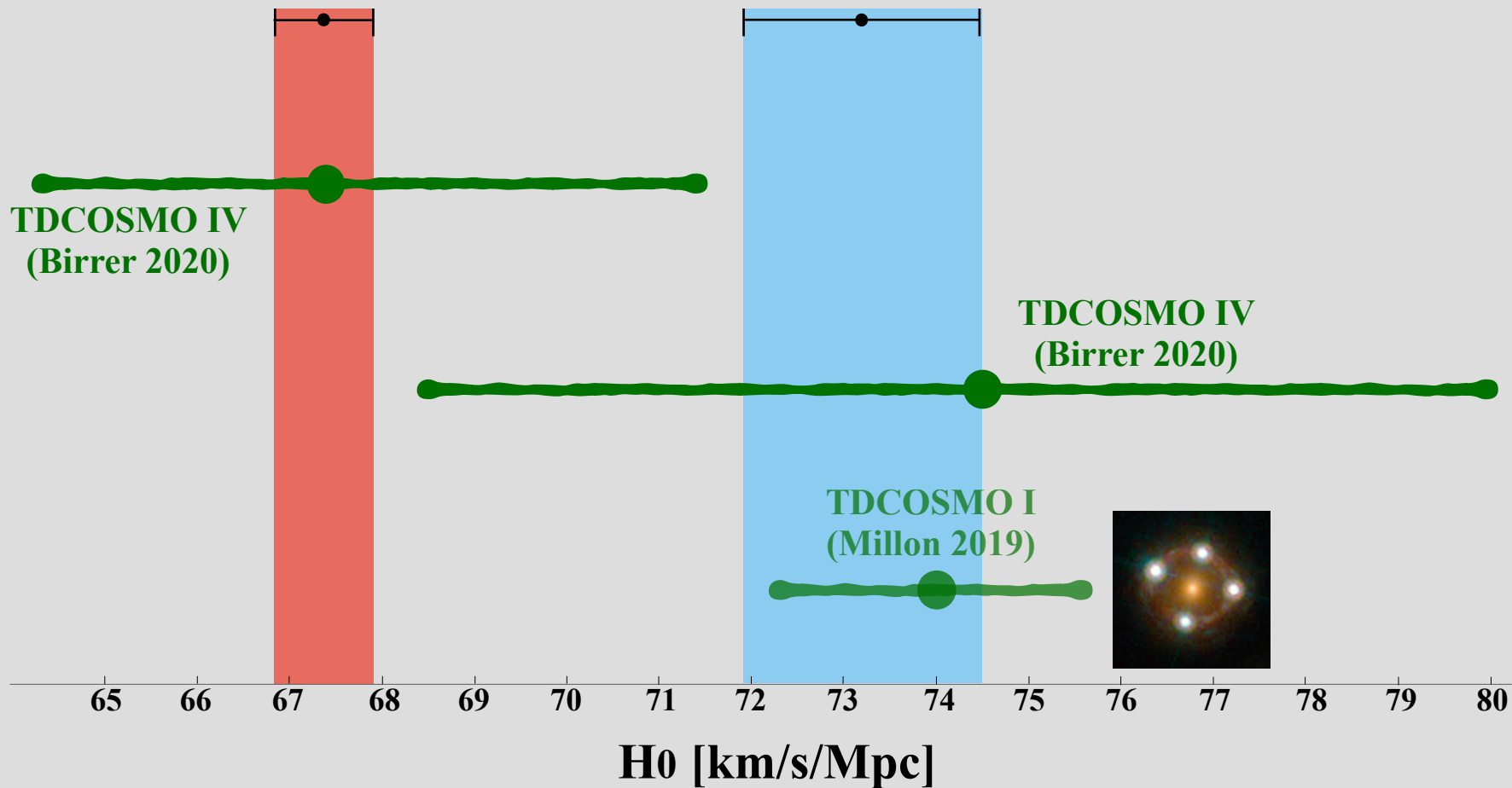


SNIa/Cepheids
SH0ES 2020

TDCOSMO IV
(Birrer 2020)

TDCOSMO IV
(Birrer 2020)

TDCOSMO I
(Millon 2019)

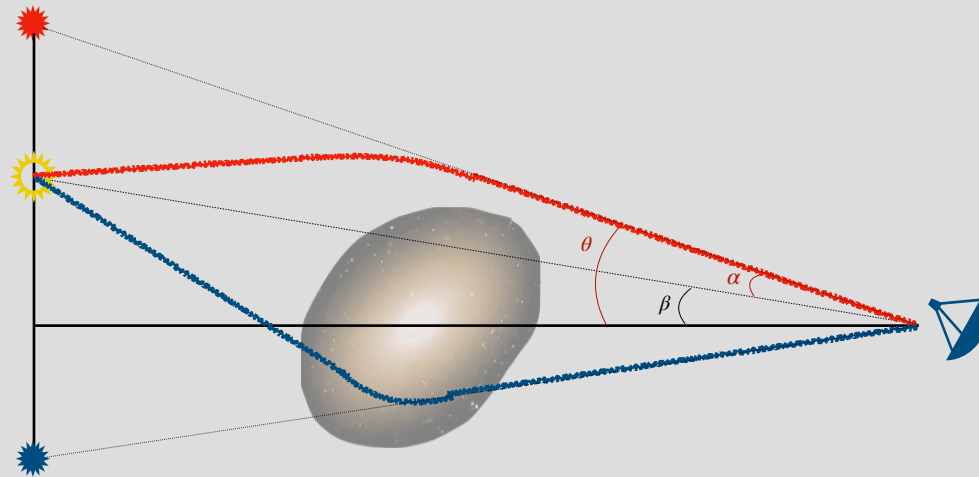


Time delay cosmography:

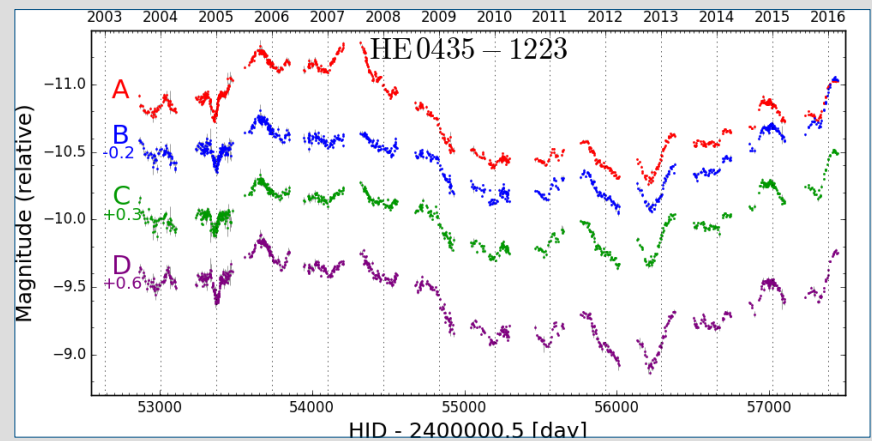
TDCOSMO

<http://www.tdcosmo.org/projects.html>

- H0LiCOW
- COSMOGRAIL
- STRIDES
- SHARP
- COSMICLENS



Bonvin et al, 2016



$$\vec{\theta} = \vec{\beta} + \vec{\alpha}$$

$$= \vec{\beta}_\lambda + \vec{\alpha}_\lambda$$

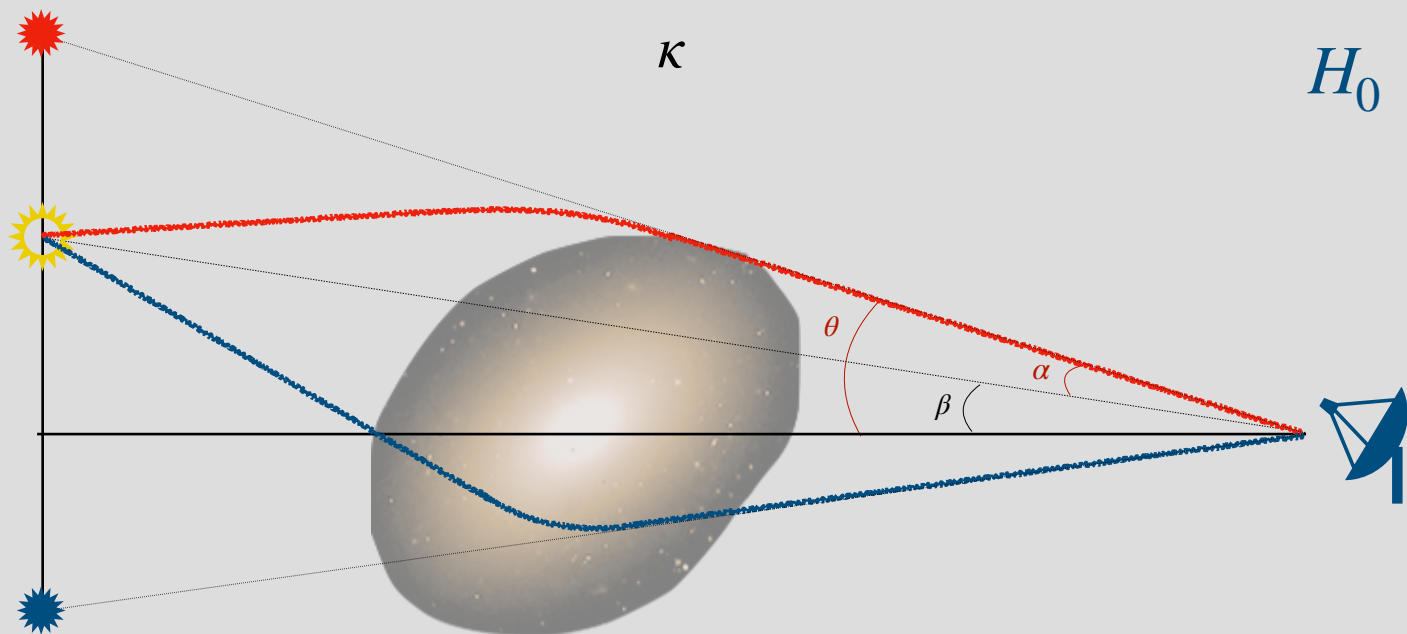
$$= \lambda \vec{\beta} + \lambda \vec{\alpha} + (1 - \lambda) \vec{\theta}$$

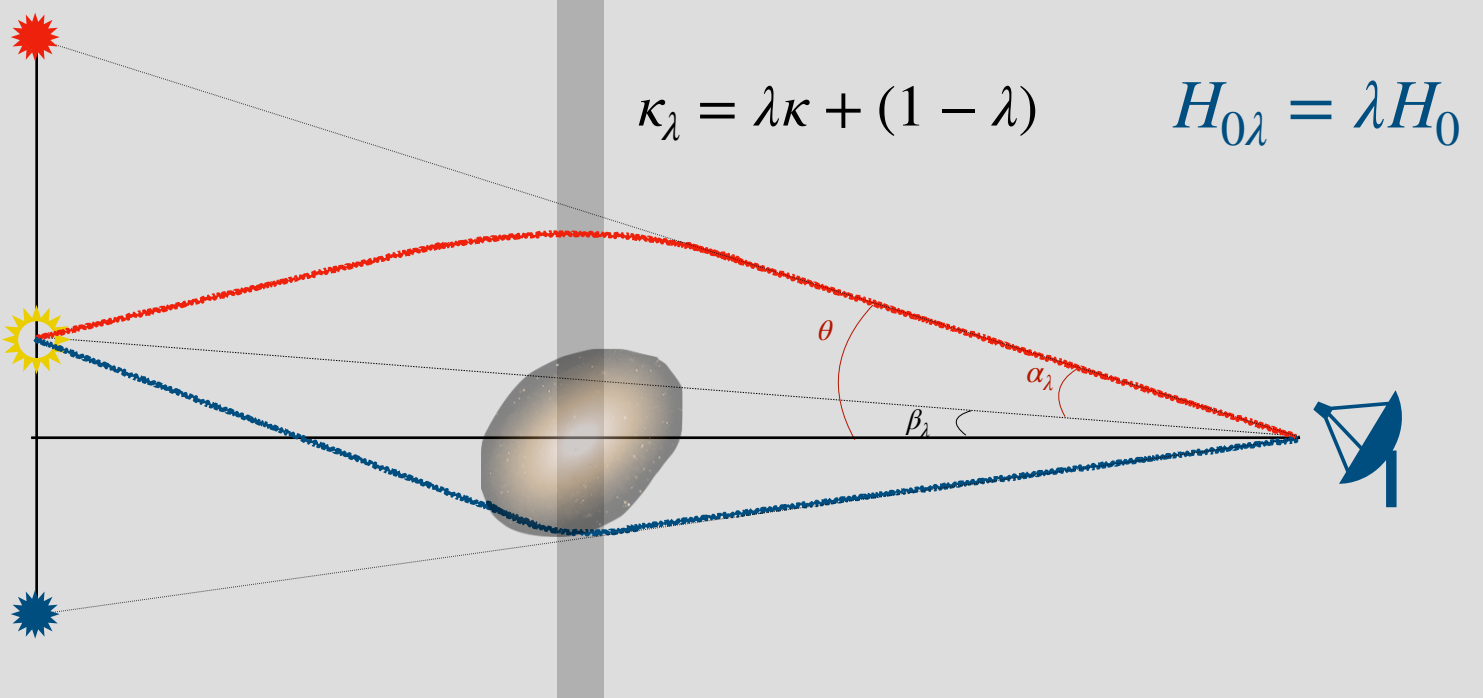
$$= \lambda (\vec{\beta} + \vec{\alpha} - \vec{\theta}) + \vec{\theta}$$

$$= \vec{\theta}$$

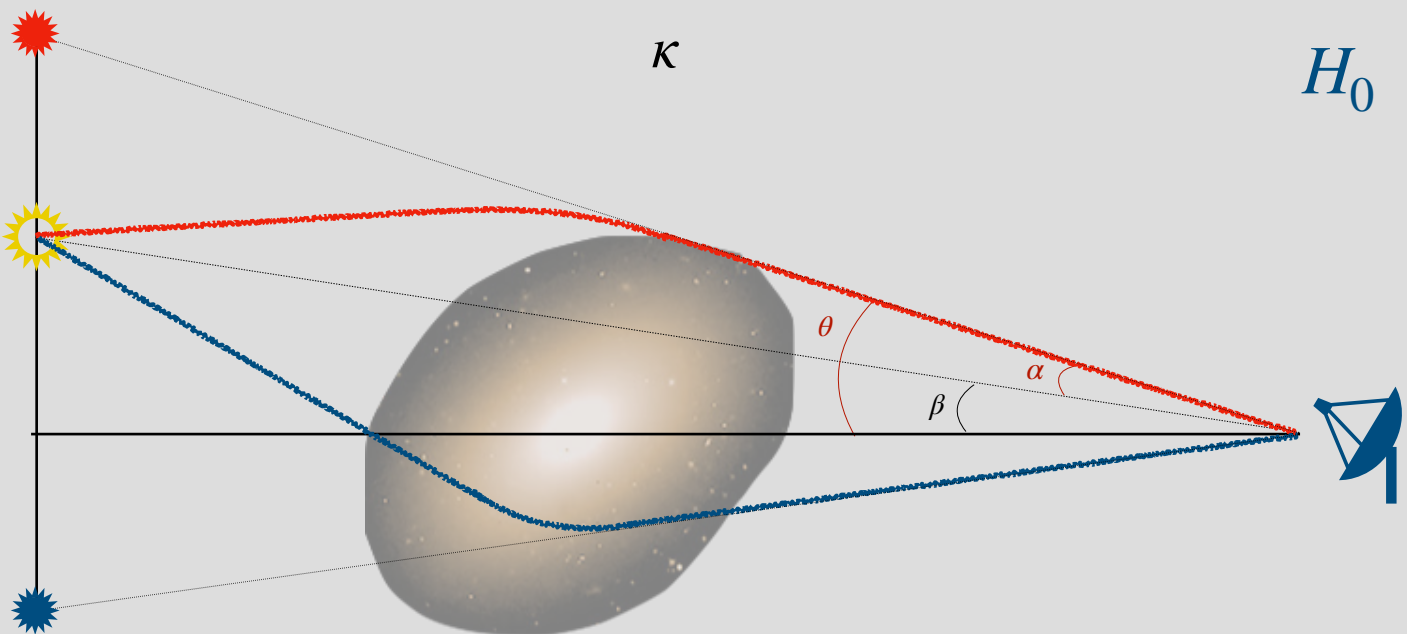


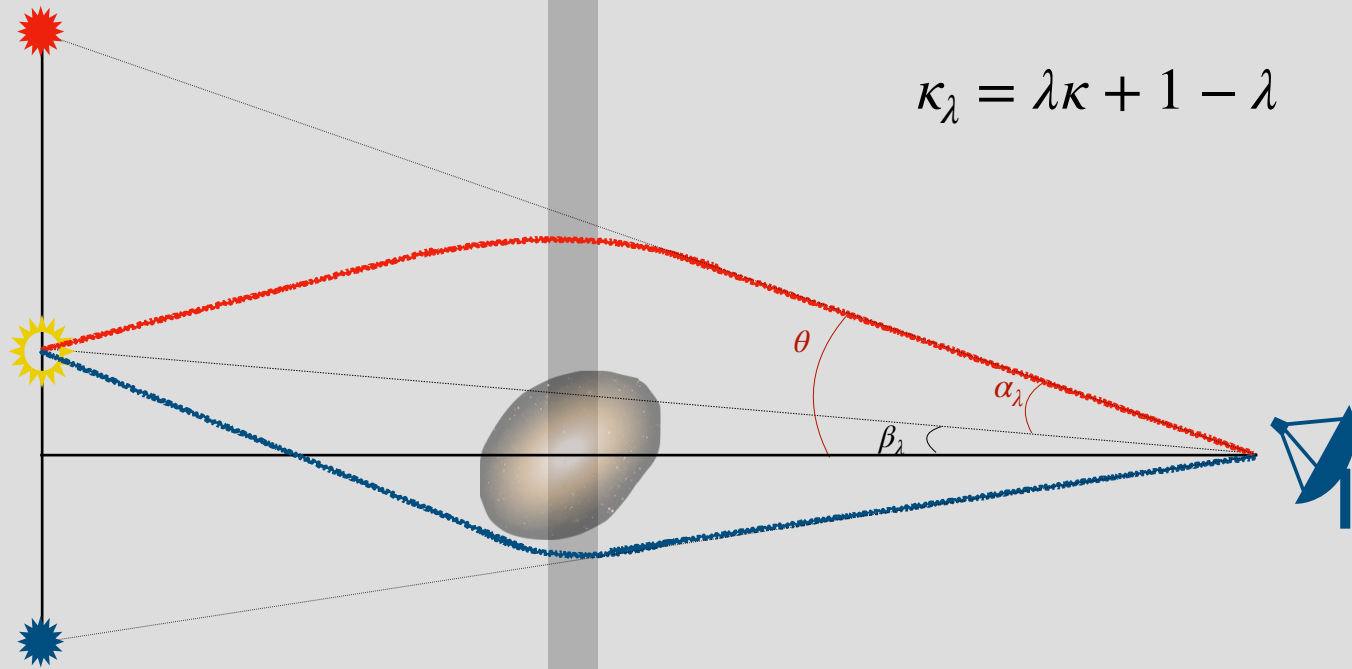
Mass Screen
Degeneracy

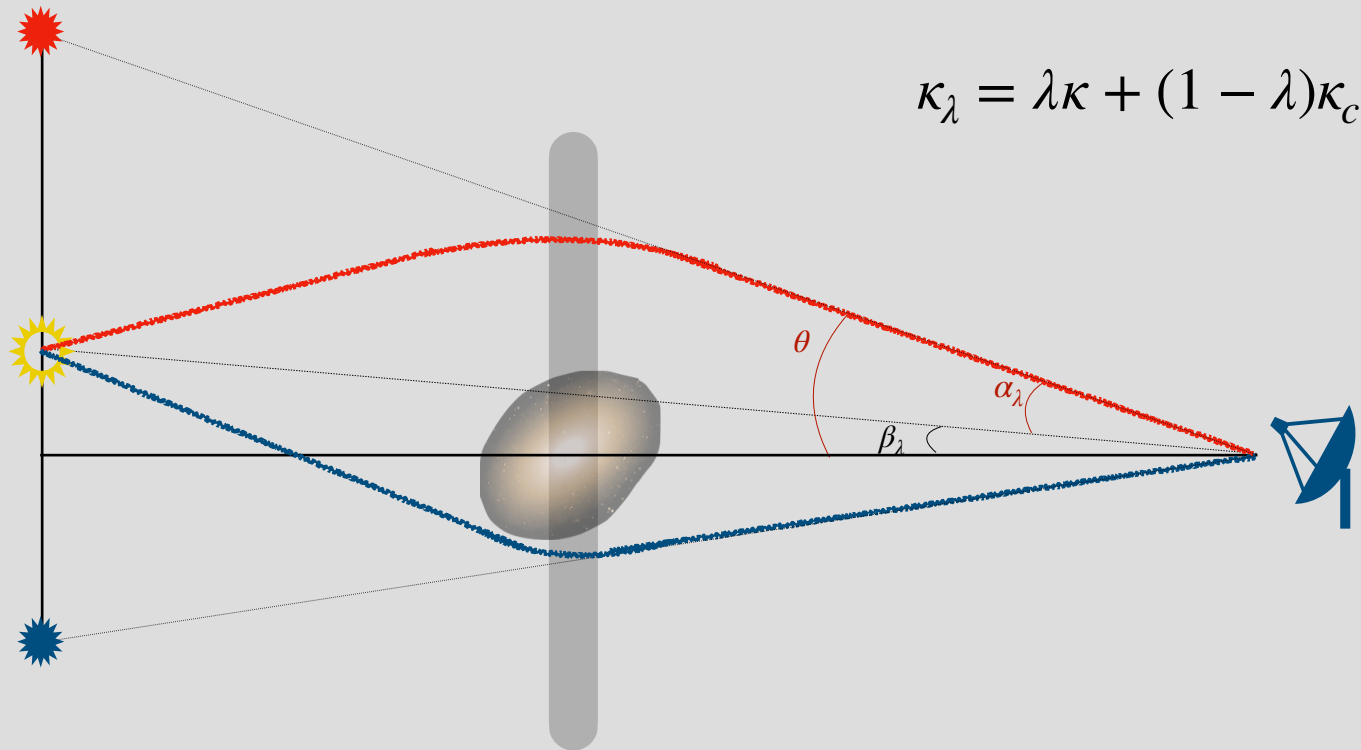


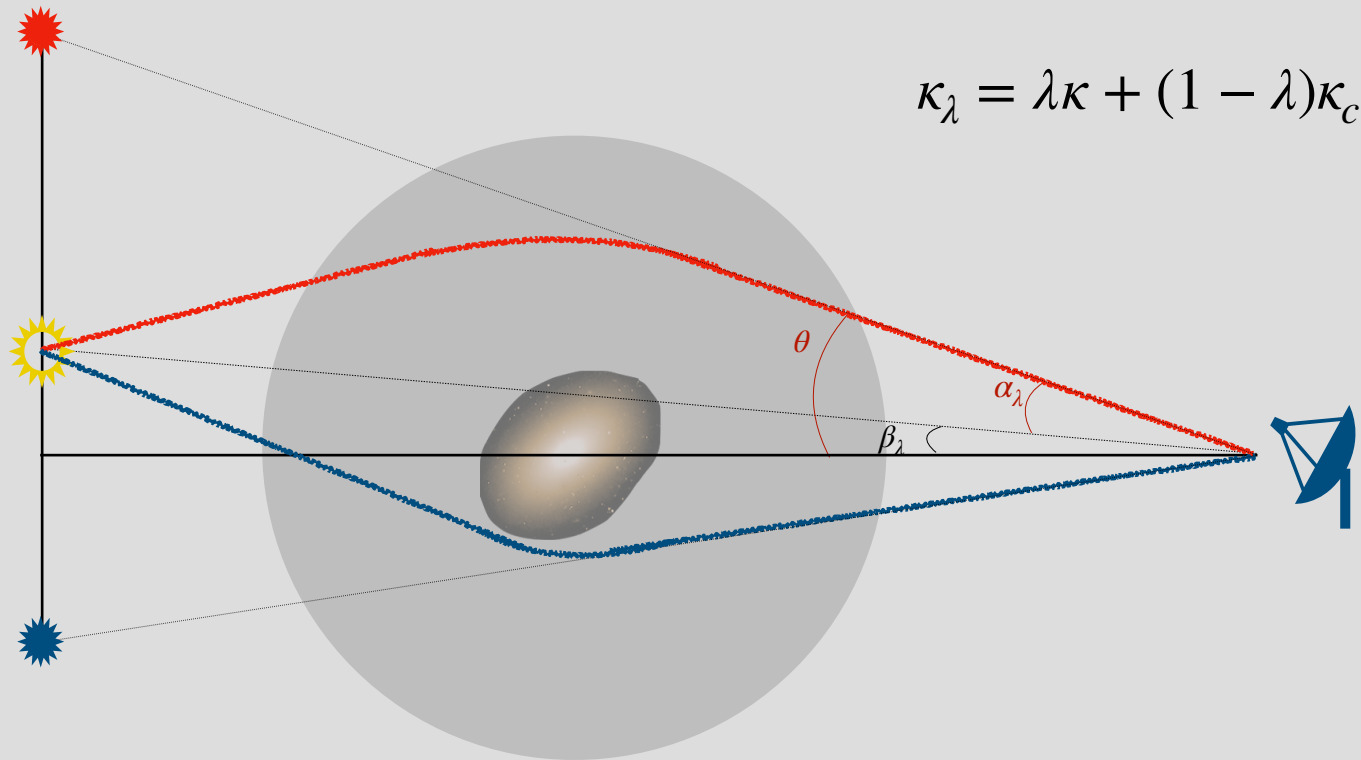


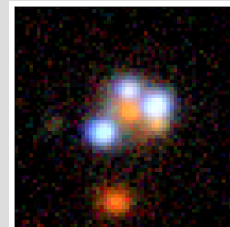
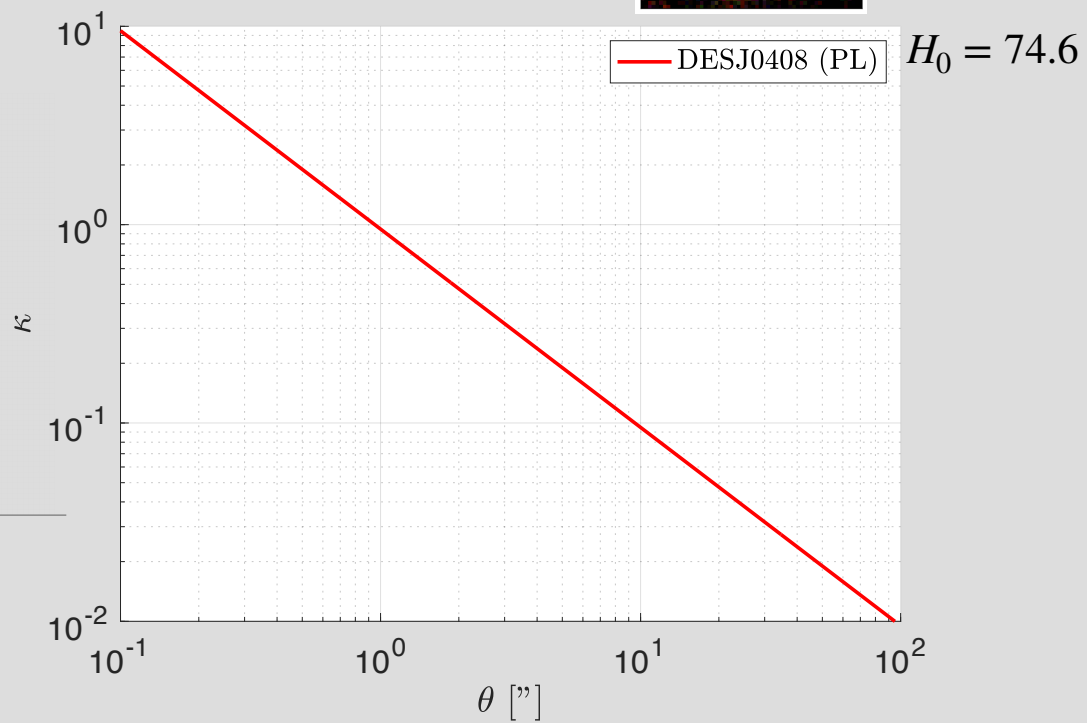
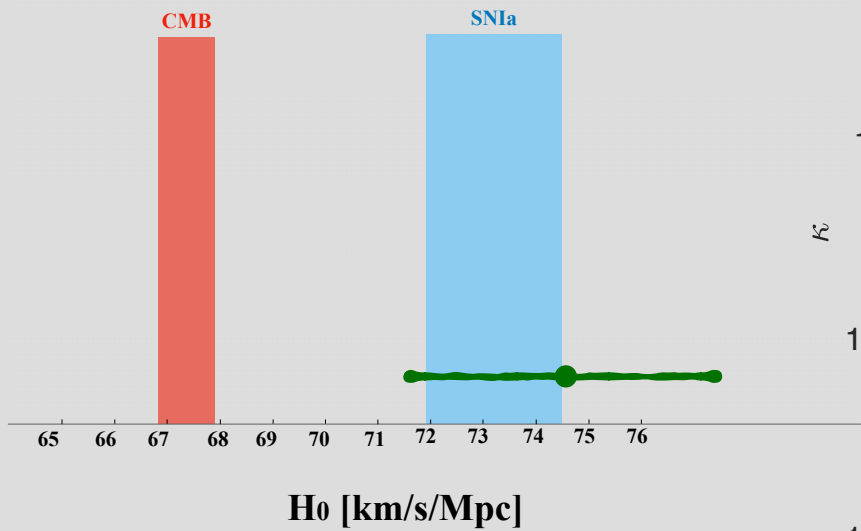
Mass Screen
Degeneracy

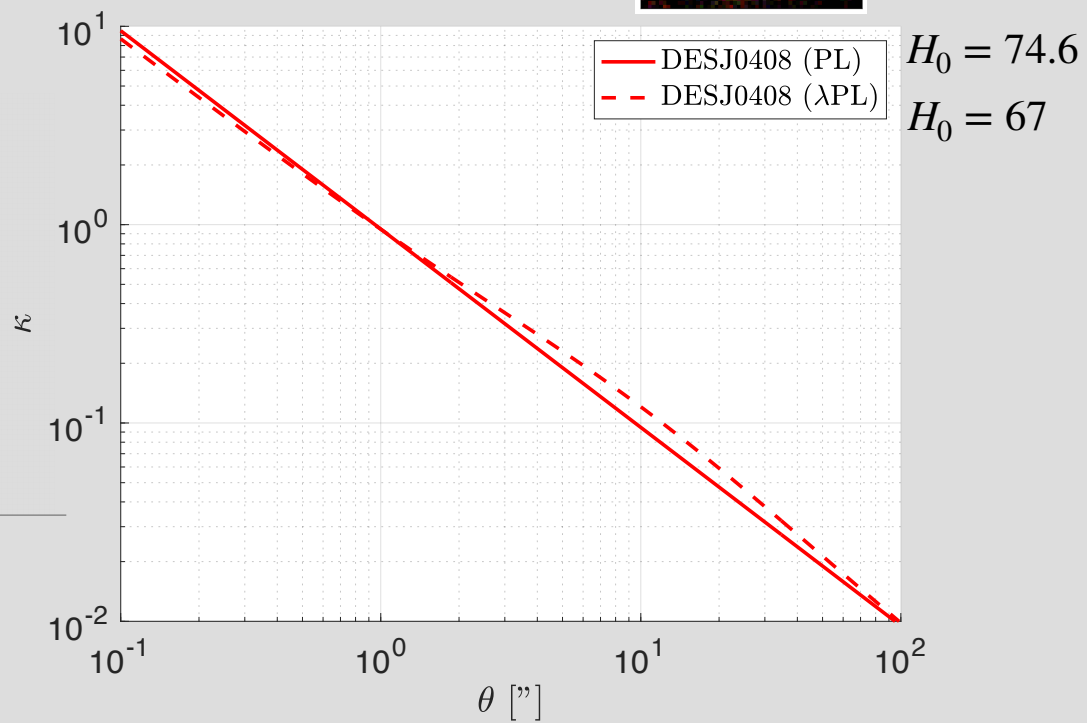
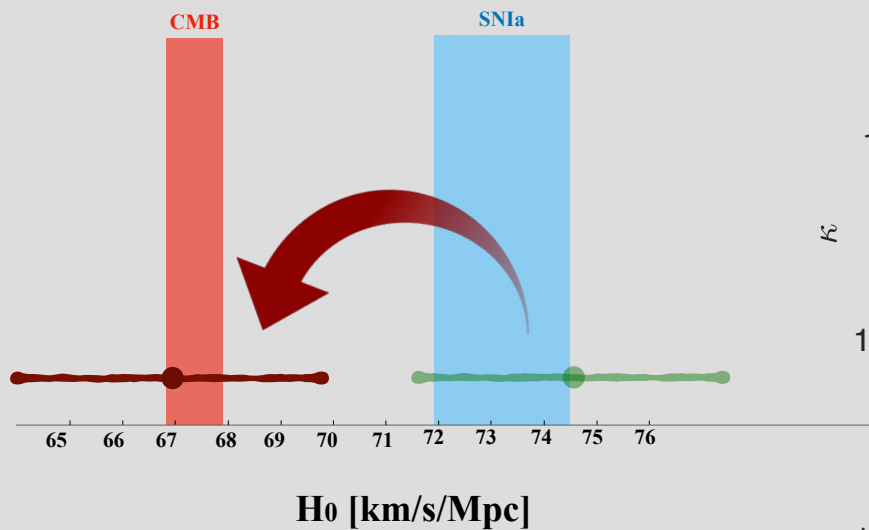
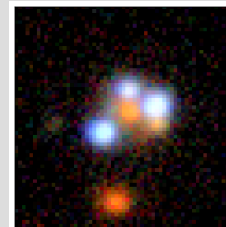


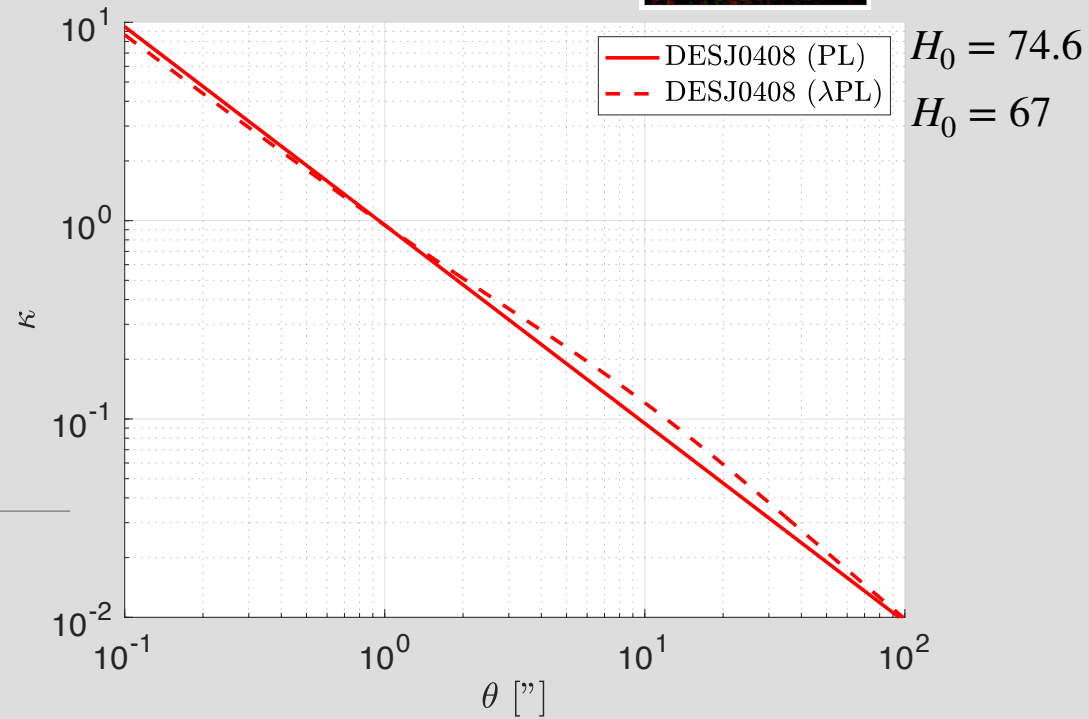
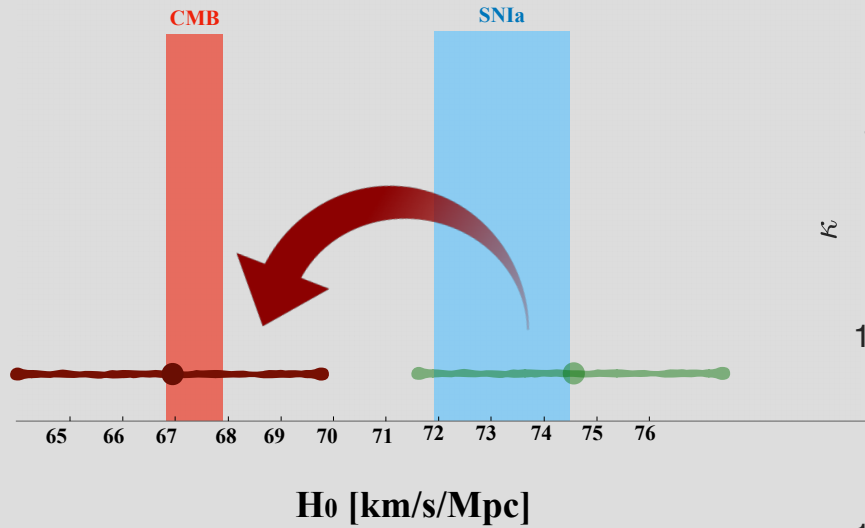
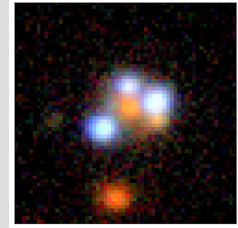








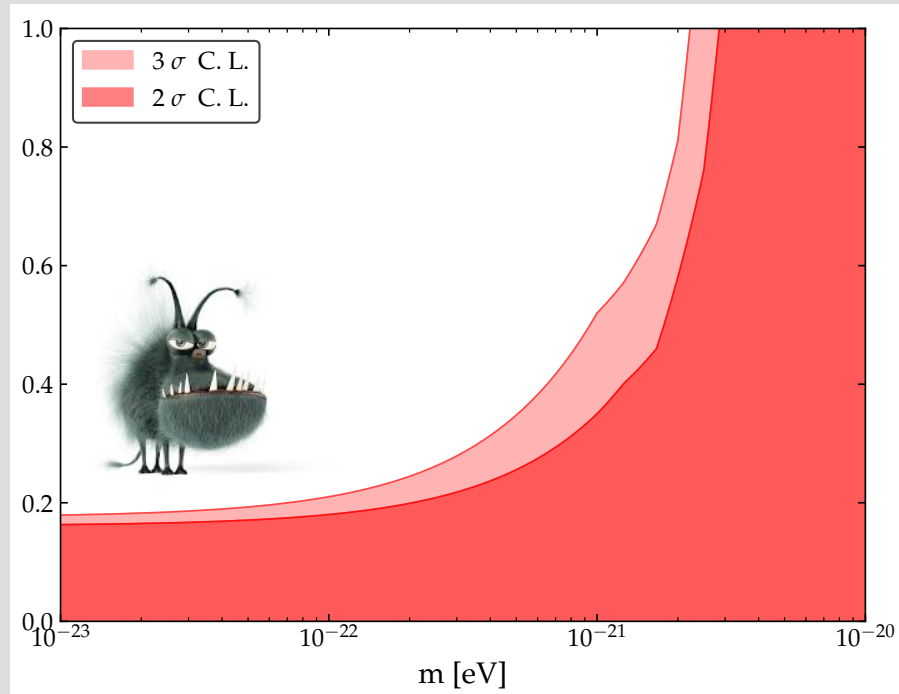




A sub-dominant, extended, core *component* in massive galaxies — can explain the lensing H_0 tension.

What can produce such a core?...

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}}$$



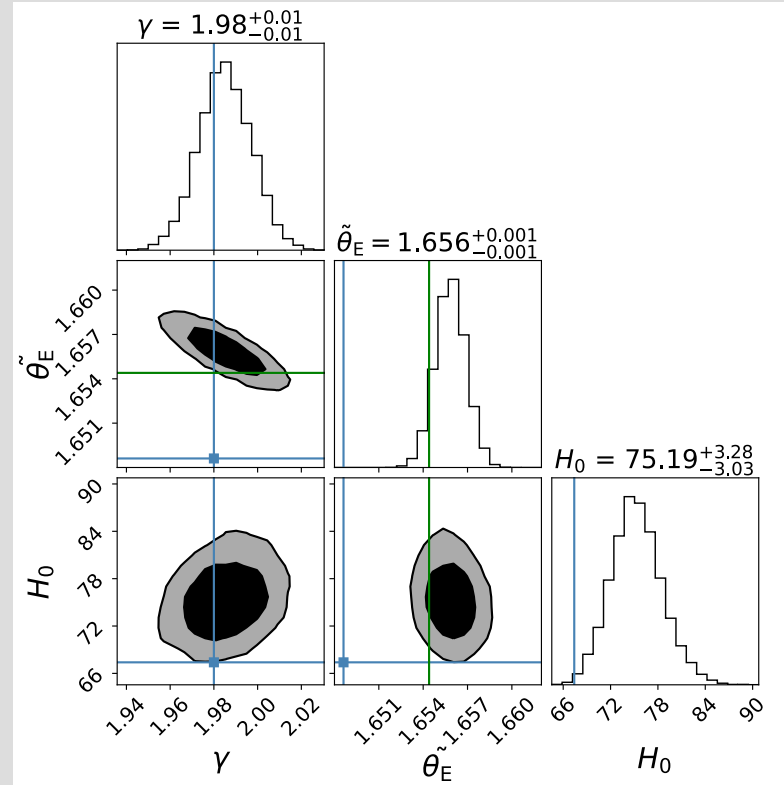
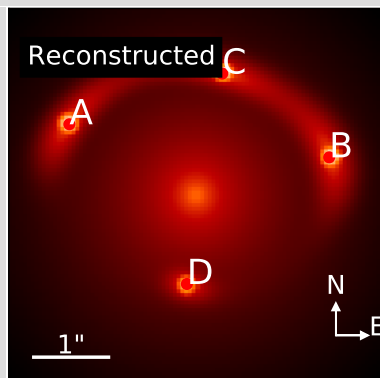
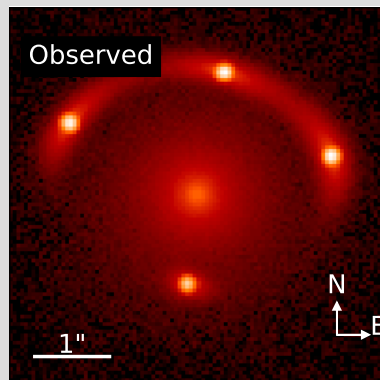
Vacuum misalignment (pre-inflationary)

$$\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_{m,obs}} \approx \left(\frac{m}{10^{-21} \text{ eV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{f}{10^{17} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \approx 0.1 \left(\frac{m}{10^{-25} \text{ eV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{f}{3 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2$$

AxionH0graphy !

Teodori & Blum, 2105.10873, 2409.04134

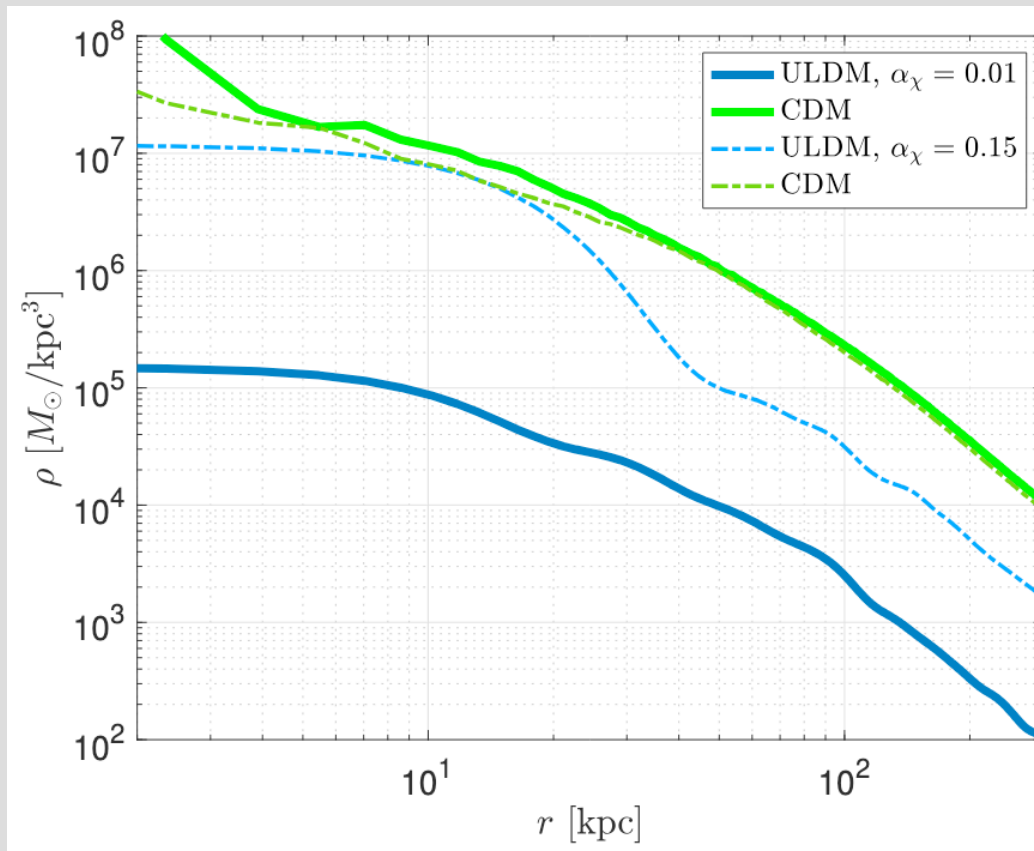
A sub-dominant component of ULDM would dynamically condense around massive galaxies.



m

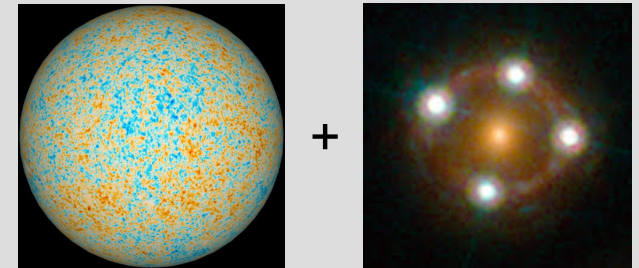
Simulations

Teodori, Blum, 2409.04134 **AxionH0graphy**



If a small fraction ($\sim 10\%$) of DM is ULDM, this may first be seen as a small, but potentially significant bias in quasar time-delay measurements of H_0 .

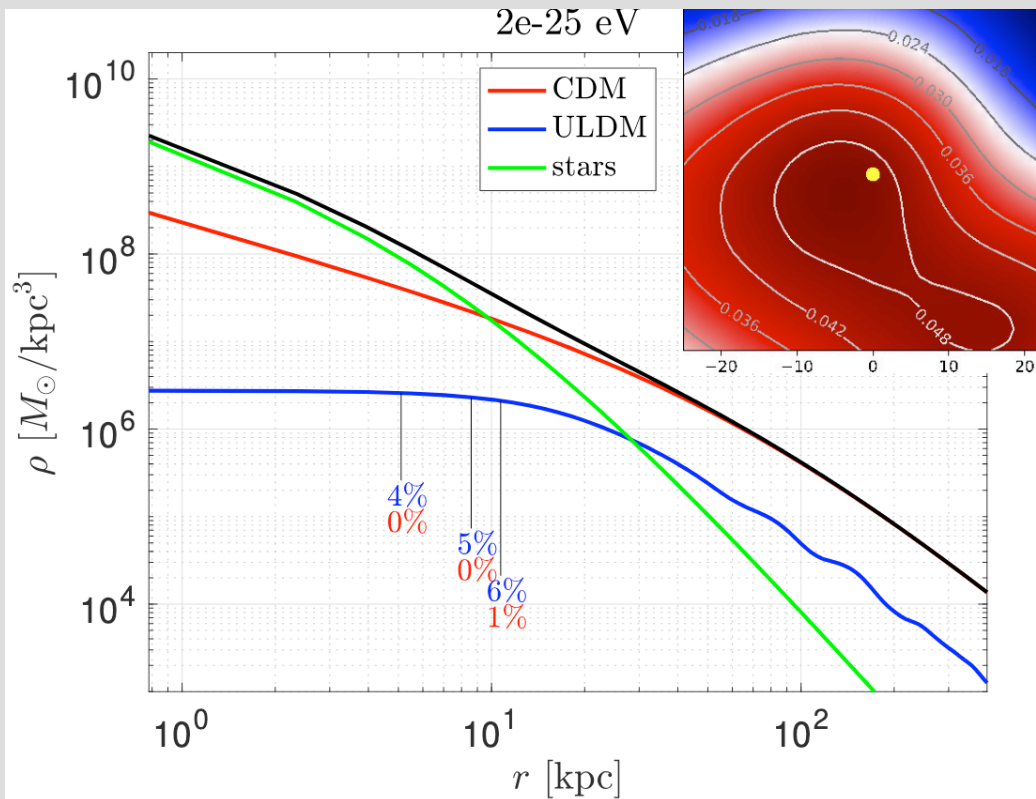
Needs H_0 prior!
e.g. SNIa, or CMB.



m

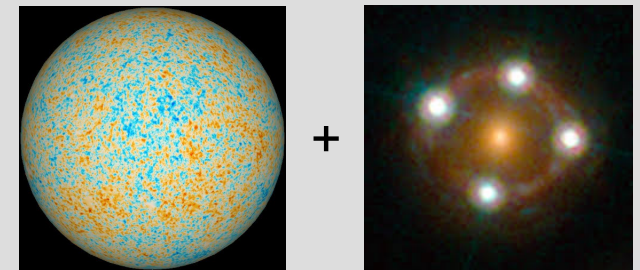
Simulations

Teodori, Blum, 2409.04134 **AxionH0graphy**



If a small fraction ($\sim 10\%$) of DM is ULDM, this may first be seen as a small, but potentially significant bias in quasar time-delay measurements of H_0 .


Needs H_0 prior!
e.g. SNIa, or CMB.

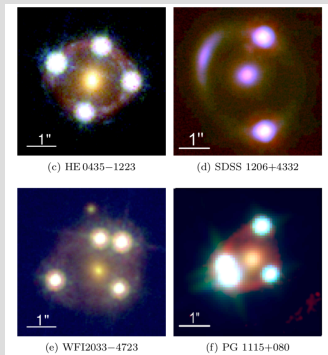


Summary

Summary


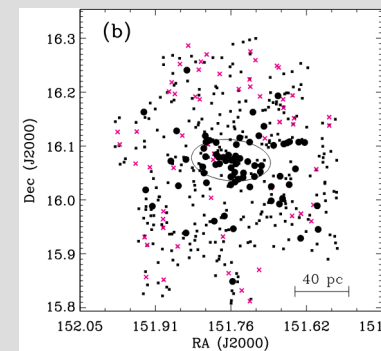
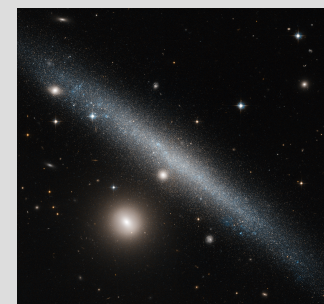
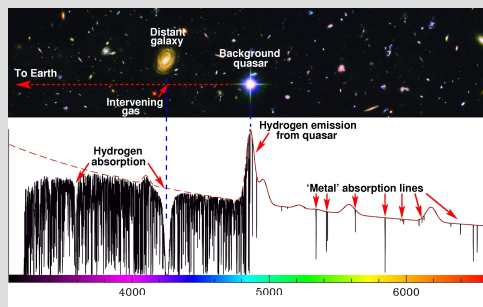
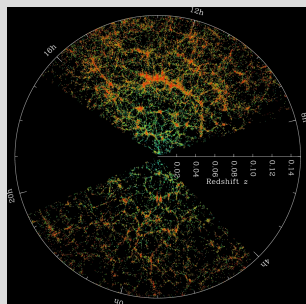
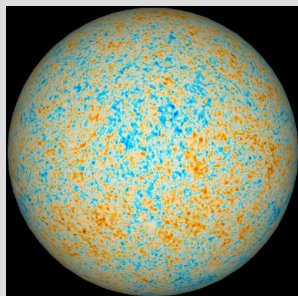
WISPs

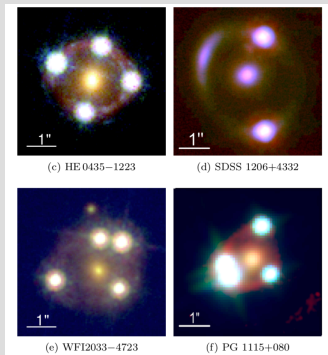
1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
u up	c charm	t top	γ photon	H Higgs Boson
d down	s strange	b beauty	W^{\pm} W boson	
e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z^0 Z boson	
ν_e neutrino electron	ν_{μ} neutrino muon	ν_{τ} neutrino tau	g gluon	



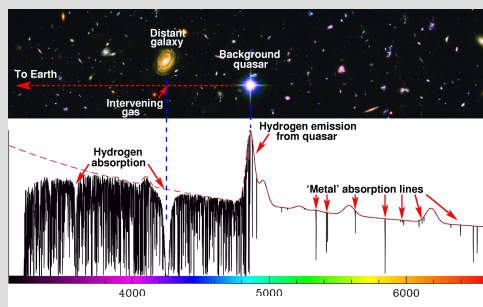
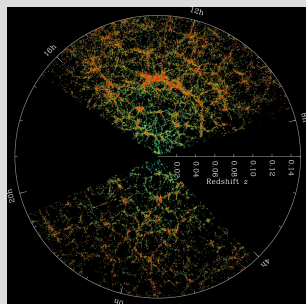
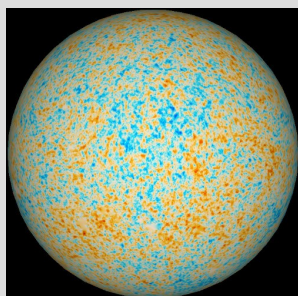
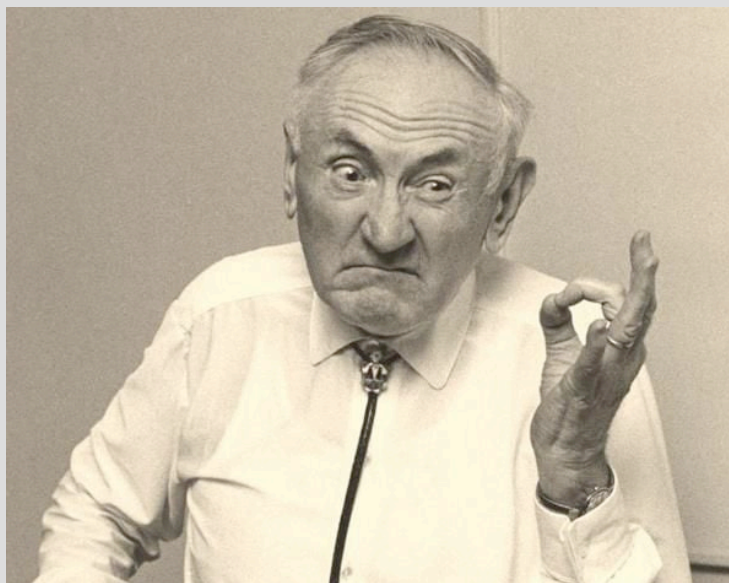
WISPs

1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
u up	c charm	t top	γ photon	H Higgs Boson
d down	s strange	b beauty	W^{\pm} W boson	
e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z^0 Z boson	
ν_e neutrino electron	ν_{μ} neutrino muon	ν_{τ} neutrino tau	g gluon	

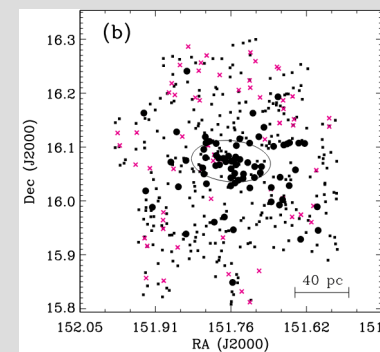





so far, nada?



Thank You!



Xtra

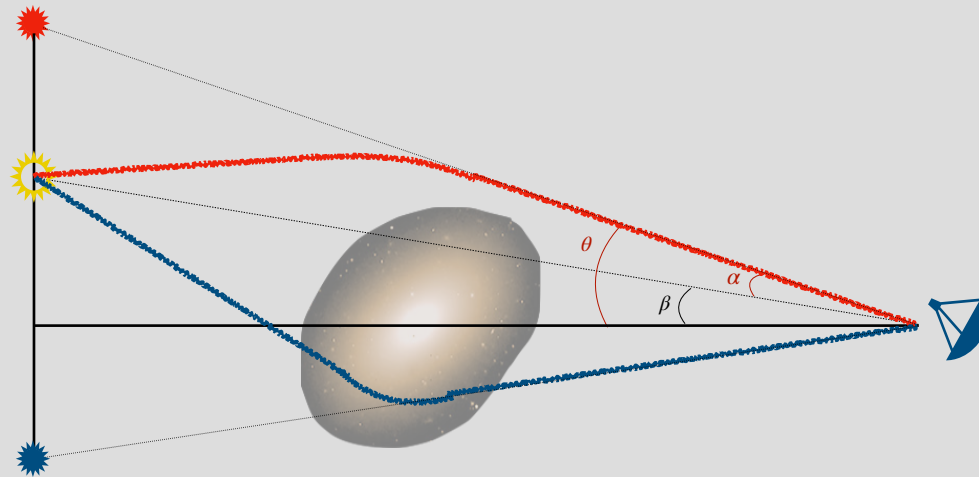
Time delay cosmography:

1. From the image, reconstruct a model $\kappa(\theta)$, β
2. Given the model and Δt_{ij} , extract $\mathcal{D} \propto 1/H_0$

TDCOSMO

<http://www.tdcosmo.org/projects.html>

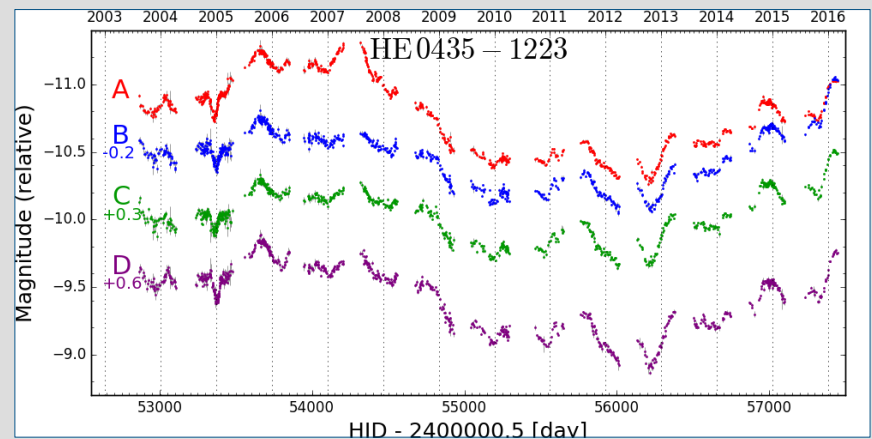
- H0LiCOW
- COSMOGRAIL
- STRIDES
- SHARP
- COSMICLENS



Bonvin et al, 2016

Observables:

- Extended source image
- Time delay Δt_{ij}

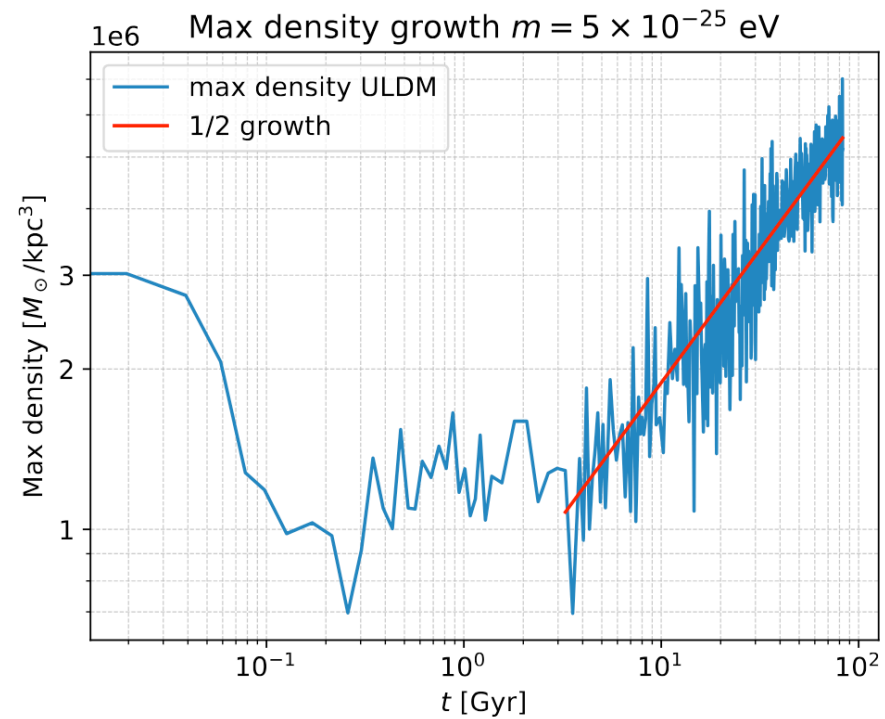
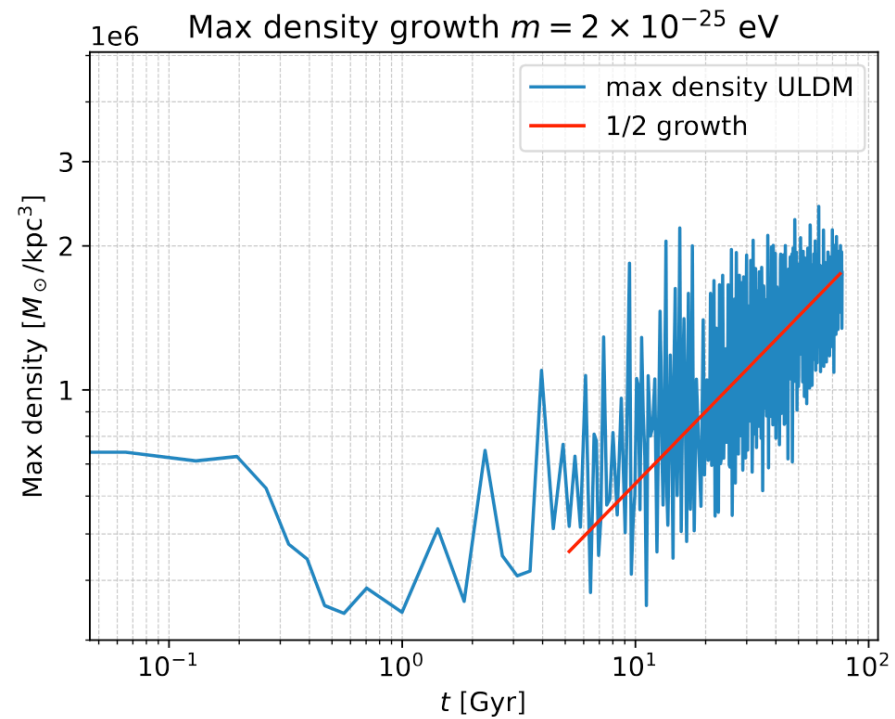


m



Simulations

Teodori, Blum, 2409.04134 *AxionH0graphy*



Copy-paste to Jupyter nb with access to internet:

```
# Optional: Install CAMB if not already installed
!pip install camb
```

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import requests
from io import StringIO
import camb
from camb import model, initialpower
```

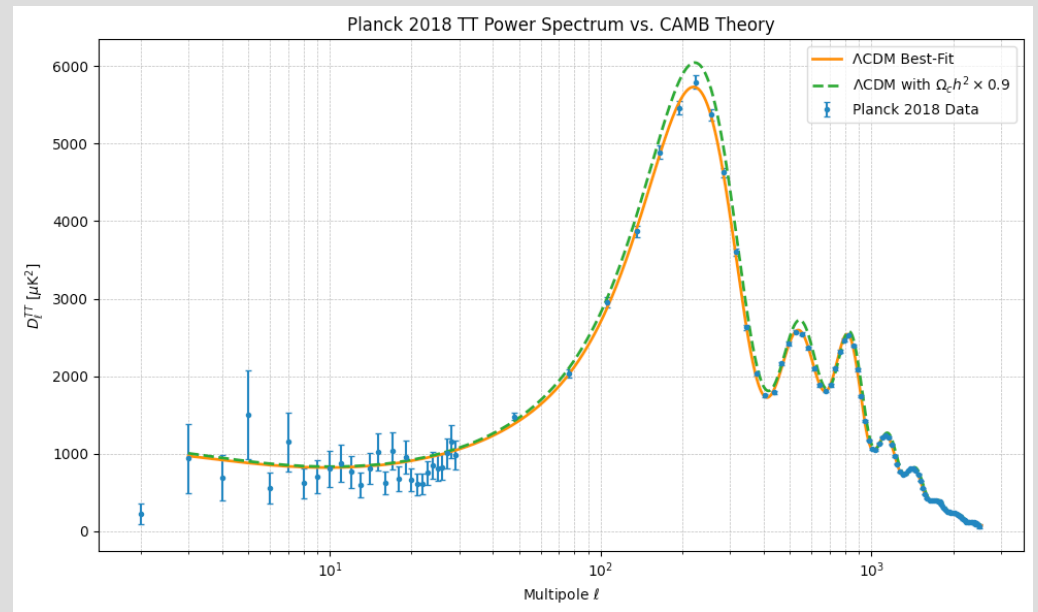
```
# URLs for full and binned TT spectrum
urls = {
    "full": "https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/Planck/release_3/ancillary-data/cosmoparams/COM_PowerSpect_CMB-TT-full_R3.01.txt",
    "binned": "https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/Planck/release_3/ancillary-data/cosmoparams/COM_PowerSpect_CMB-TT-binned_R3.01.txt"
}
```

```
# Function to download and parse Planck data
def fetch_planck_tt_data(url):
    r = requests.get(url)
    r.raise_for_status()
    data = np.genfromtxt(StringIO(r.text))
    ell, Dl, err = data[:, 0], data[:, 1], data[:, 2]
    return ell, Dl, err
```

```
# Fetch Planck data
ell_full, Dl_full, err_full = fetch_planck_tt_data(urls["full"])
ell_binned, Dl_binned, err_binned = fetch_planck_tt_data(urls["binned"])
```

```
# Combine: use unbinned for ell <= 29, binned for ell >= 30
mask_low = ell_full <= 29
mask_high = ell_binned >= 30
```

```
ell_data = np.concatenate([ell_full[mask_low], ell_binned[mask_high]])
Dl_data = np.concatenate([Dl_full[mask_low], Dl_binned[mask_high]])
err_data = np.concatenate([err_full[mask_low], err_binned[mask_high]])
```



```
# Function to compute Dl_theory for a given omch2
def compute_theory_curve(omch2):
    pars = camb.CAMBparams()
    pars.set_cosmology(H0=67.36, ombh2=0.02237, omch2=omch2, tau=0.0544)
    pars.InitPower.set_params(As=np.exp(3.0448)/1e10, ns=0.9649)
    pars.set_for_lmax(2500, lens_potential_accuracy=1)
    pars.WantCls = True
    pars.Want_CMB_lensing = True
    results = camb.get_results(pars)
    powers = results.get_cmb_power_spectra(pars, CMB_unit='μK')
    totCL = powers['total']
    ell = np.arange(totCL.shape[0])
    Dl = totCL[:, 0]
    return ell[ell > 2], Dl[ell > 2]
```

```
# Theory curves
ell_theory, Dl_best = compute_theory_curve(0.1200)
_, Dl_reduced = compute_theory_curve(0.1200 * 0.9)
```

```
# Plot
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.errorbar(ell_data, Dl_data, yerr=err_data, fmt='o', capsize=2, markersize=3, label='Planck 2018 Data')
plt.plot(ell_theory, Dl_best, lw=2, label='ΛCDM Best-Fit')
plt.plot(ell_theory, Dl_reduced, lw=2, ls='--', label=r'ΛCDM with $\Omega_c h^2 \times 0.9$')
plt.xlabel(r'Multipole $\ell$')
plt.ylabel(r'$D_{\ell}^{TT}$ [μK$^2$]')
plt.title("Planck 2018 TT Power Spectrum vs. CAMB Theory")
plt.xscale("log")
plt.grid(True, which='both', ls='--', lw=0.5)
plt.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

The government in my country does NOT represent me.

I do NOT represent the government in my country.

(Not any more than Iranian exiles represent theirs.)

We are fighting in the streets in all means of non-violent protest
to bring down this government.

Any even remotely sensible democratic government would have been down by now.

There are no real zero-sum game solutions to the tragedy in Israel and Palestine.
There is no fuc%#ng reason for this to be painted as a zero-sum game.

End this fuc%#ng war. Release Oct 7 hostages.
Kick out the extremists on both sides.

اليهود والعرب يرفضون أن يكونوا أعداء

יהודים וערבים מסרבים להיות אויבים