



NORDITA

The Nordic Institute for
Theoretical Physics

Illuminating the Dark Universe:

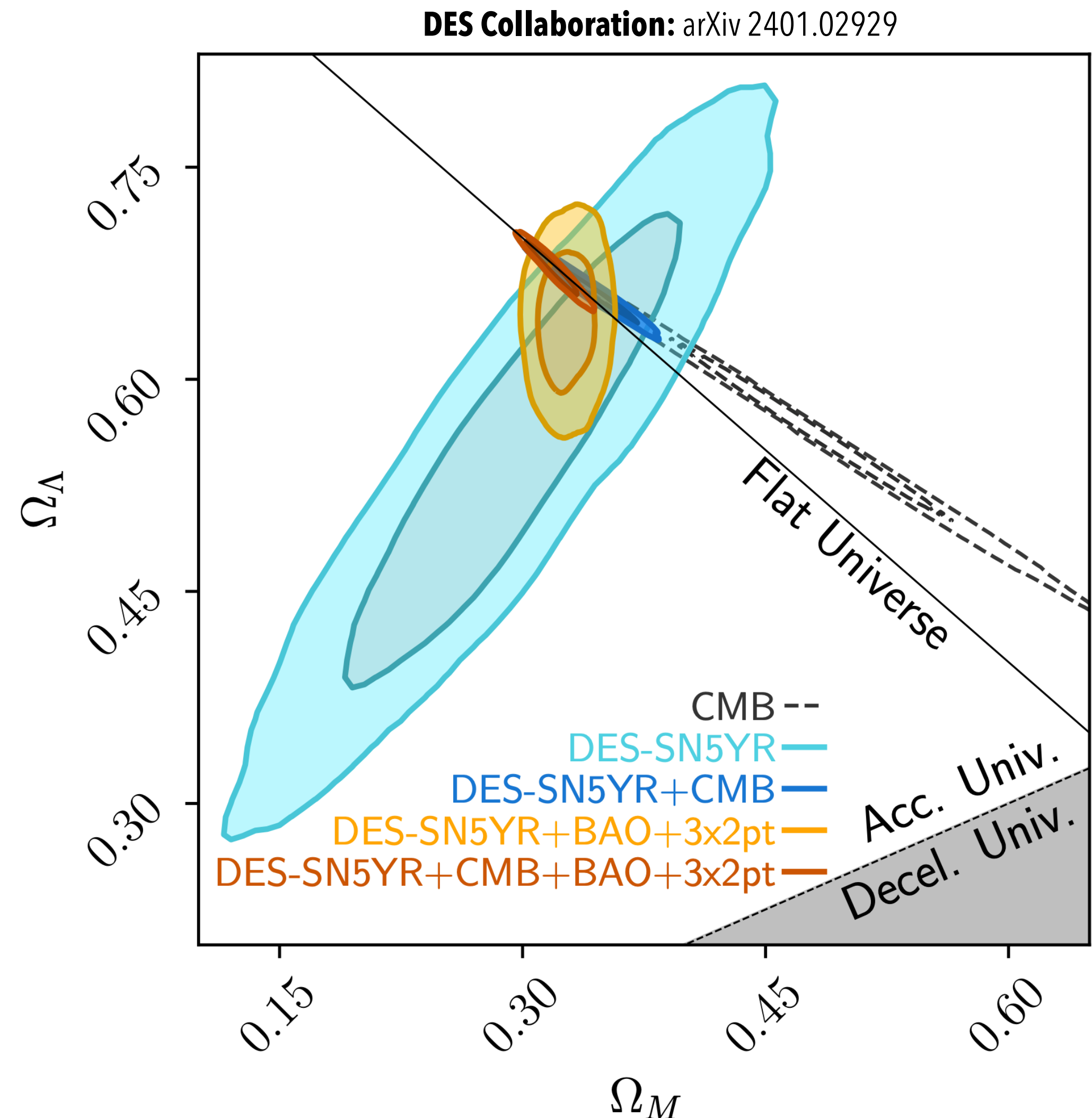
Precision cosmology from weak
lensing and galaxy clustering

Judit Prat Marti

*Nordita fellow at Stockholm
University and KTH. March 2025.
Seminar at University of Iceland.*

A flat and accelerating Universe

- We have known for some time that the Universe is pretty flat from the combination of CMB, SN Type Ia & Large-Scale Structure measurements.
- Supernovae measurements discovered the acceleration of the expansion Universe three decades ago —> There is a missing piece in our understanding driving this accelerated expansion, usually referred to as dark energy.



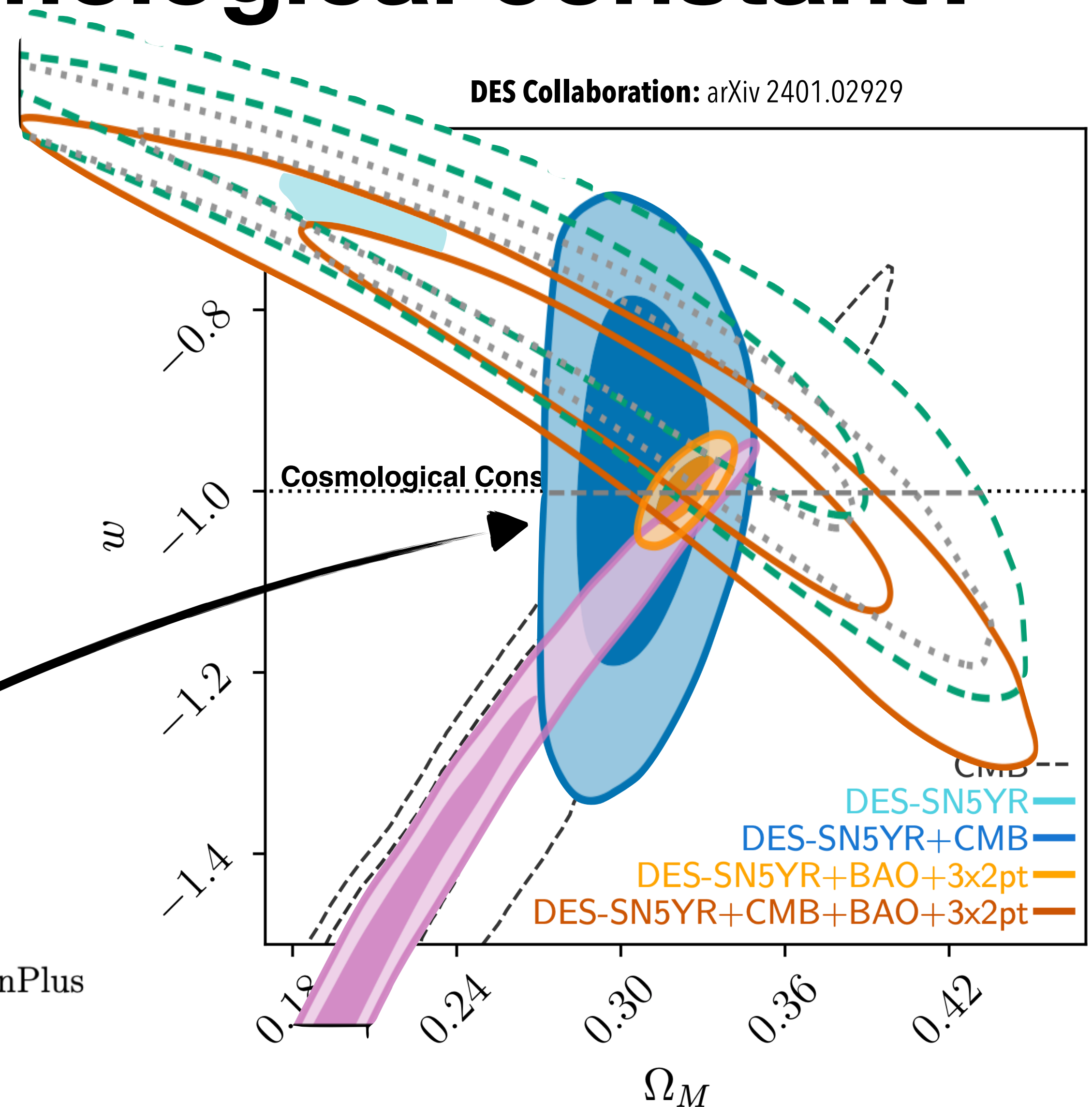
Is Dark Energy a cosmological constant?

- Dark Energy seems to be compatible with a **cosmological constant** with the most recent observations $\rightarrow w$, the parameter describing the evolution of dark energy with time is compatible with -1 given the current uncertainties.

$$w \equiv \frac{P}{\rho}$$



DESI Collaboration: arXiv: 2404.03002

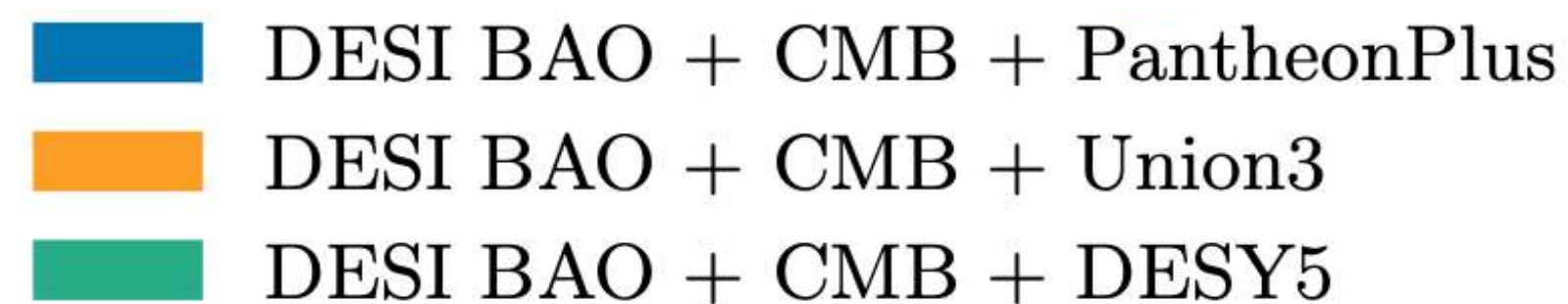


Is Dark Energy a cosmological constant?

- In w_0w_a CDM model there are hints of evolving dark energy at the $\sim 2\sigma$ level.

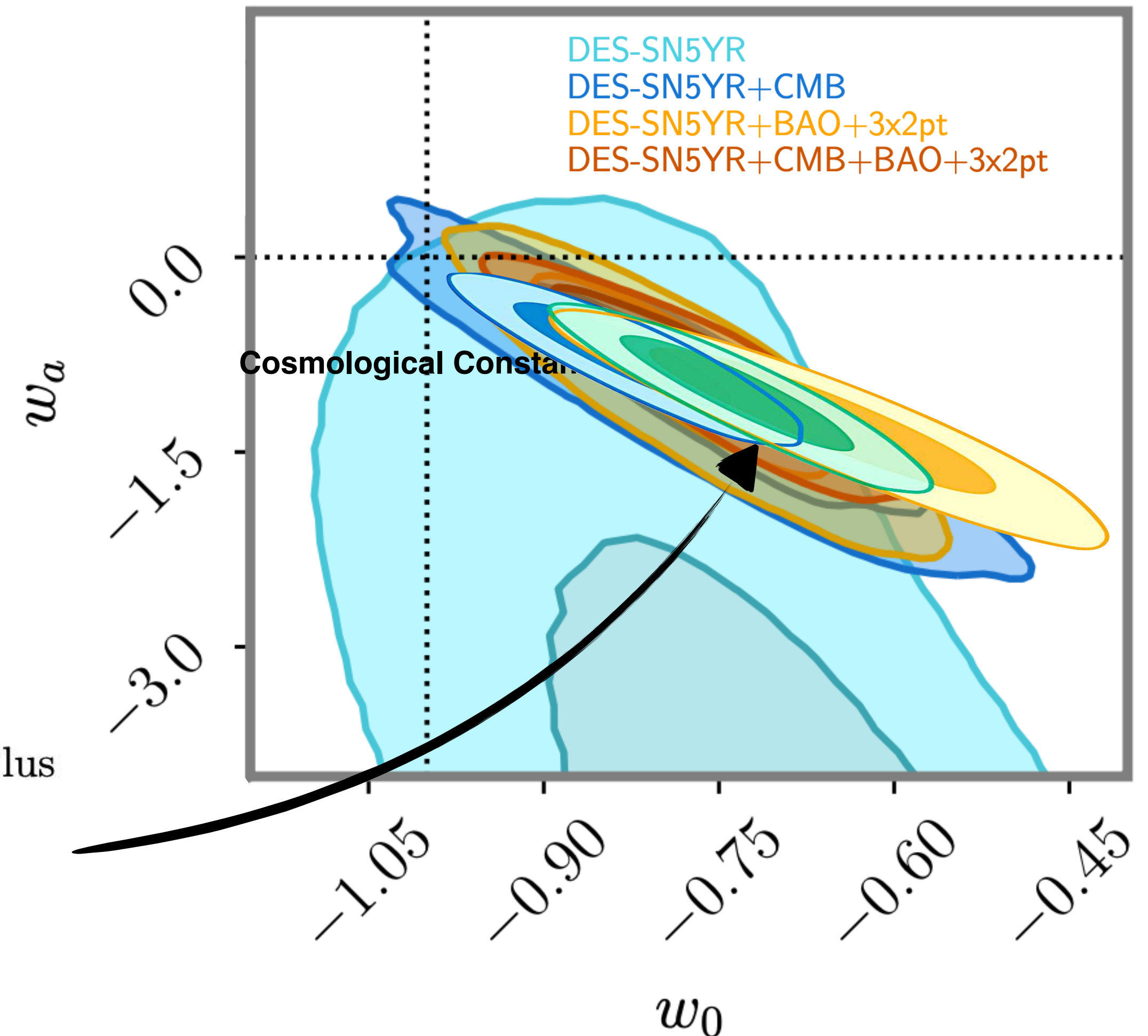
$$w(a) = w_0 + (1 - a)w_a$$

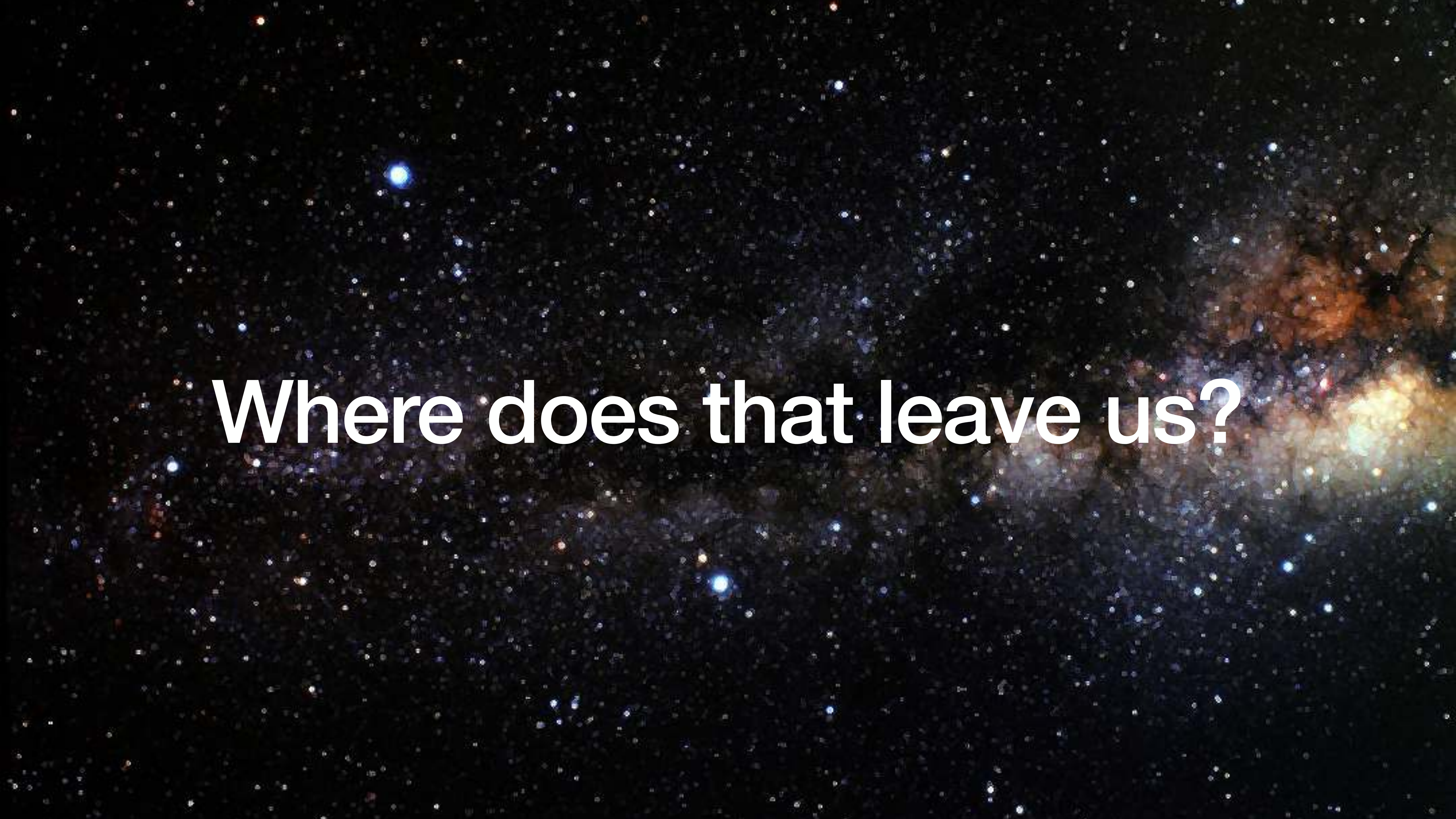
- When including DESI BAO, significance is at $2.5\text{-}3.9\sigma$ level, depending on the supernovae sample.



DESI Collaboration: arXiv: 2404.03002

DES Collaboration: arXiv 2401.02929



A deep space photograph showing a dense field of stars and a bright, colorful nebula on the right side. The text "Where does that leave us?" is overlaid in the center.

Where does that leave us?

The Standard Cosmological model is still standing: Λ CDM

Flat Universe with Dark Energy in the form of a cosmological constant Λ + Cold Dark Matter, assuming general Relativity.

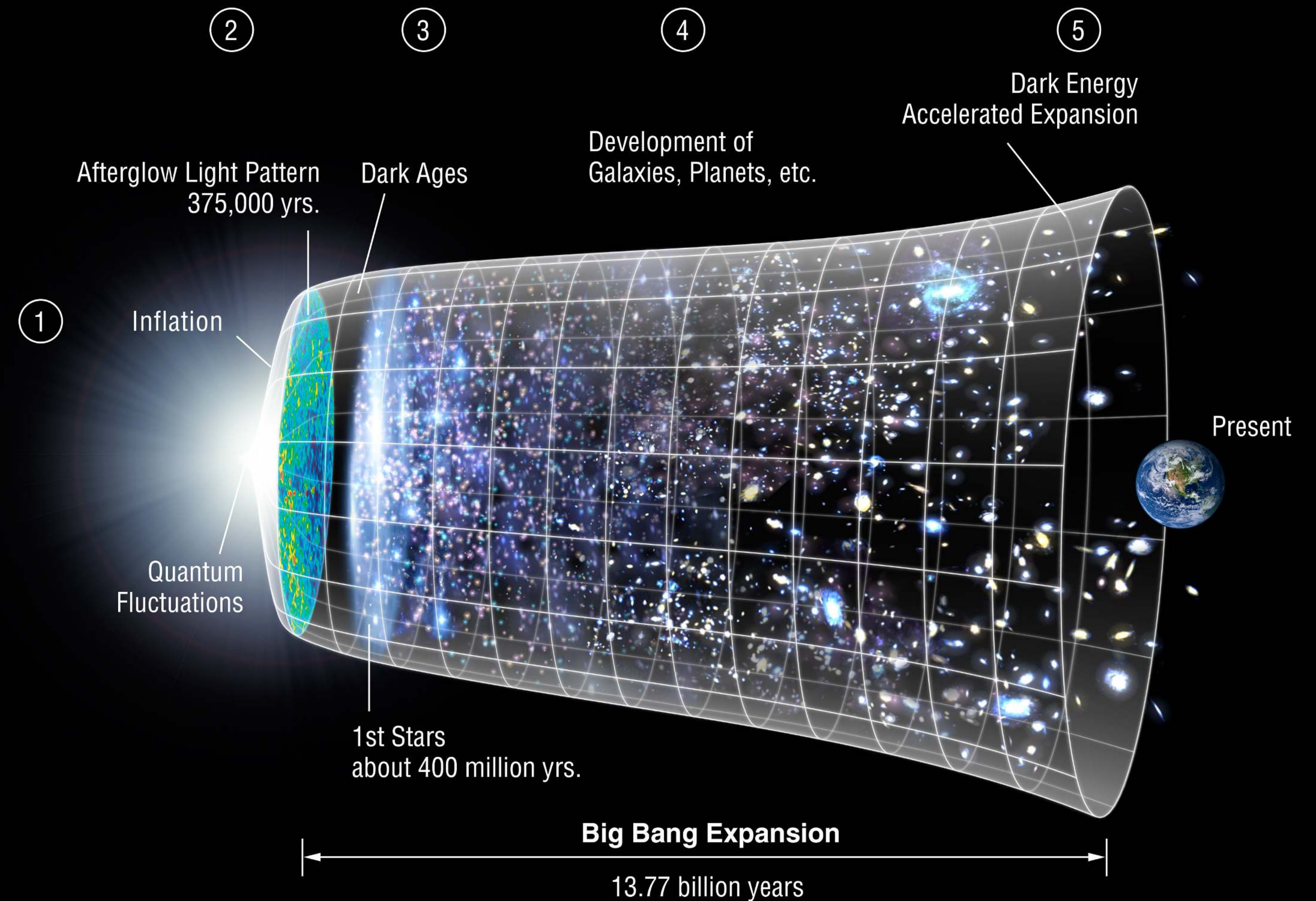


Image Credit: NASA / LAMBDA Archive / WMAP Science Team

However there are a few open questions

Λ CDM model under discussion

Λ CDM adds **2 new components** to the Standard Model of physics, neither of which have been observed in a laboratory.

The cosmological constant interpreted as the vacuum energy is **~ 120 orders of magnitude lower** than the naive prediction coming from particle physics.

Is dark energy evolving with time?

Dark Energy or
modified gravity?

Some paths forward

Λ CDM model under discussion

- Stress-testing Λ CDM.
- Testing if extensions of Λ CDM are preferred. Model comparison.

Stress-testing Λ CDM

Is the late time Universe compatible with the Λ CDM prediction assuming initial conditions from the CMB?

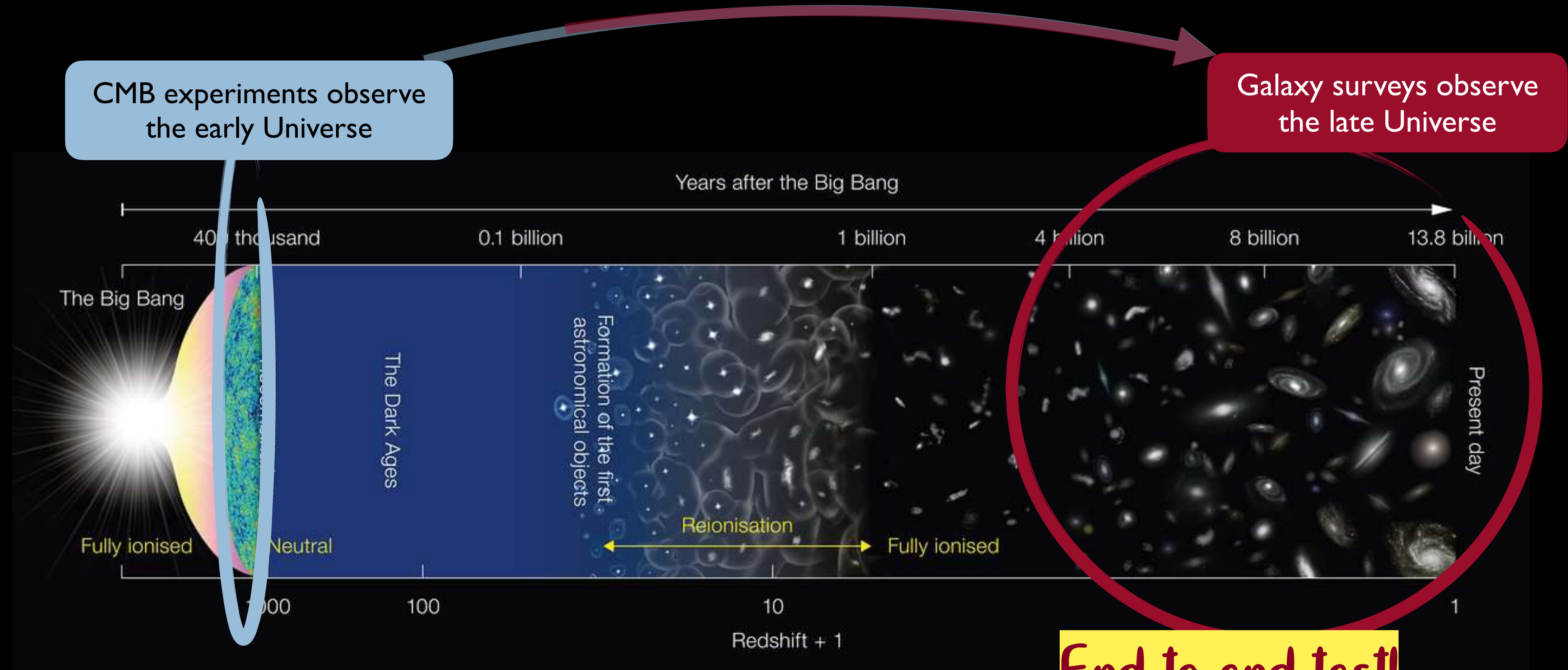
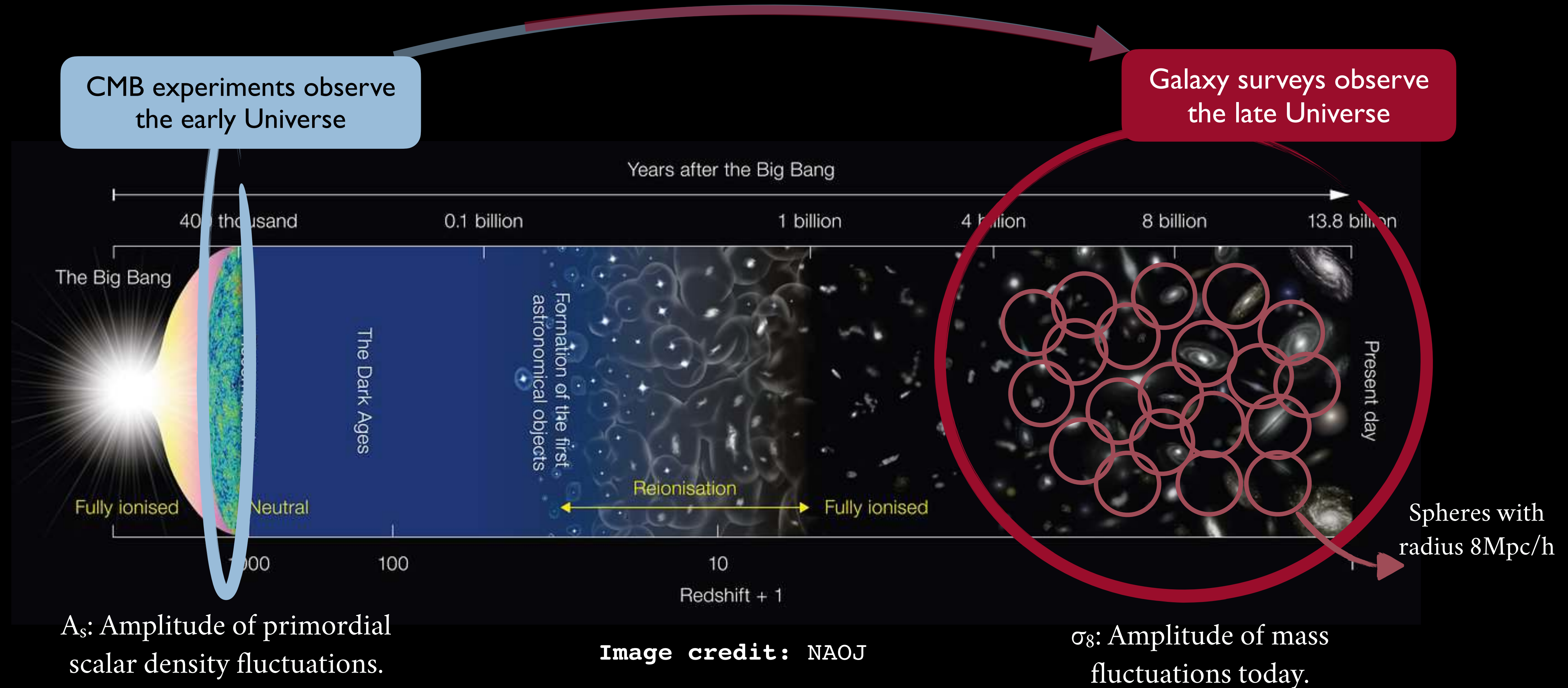


Image credit: NAOJ

Stress-testing Λ CDM

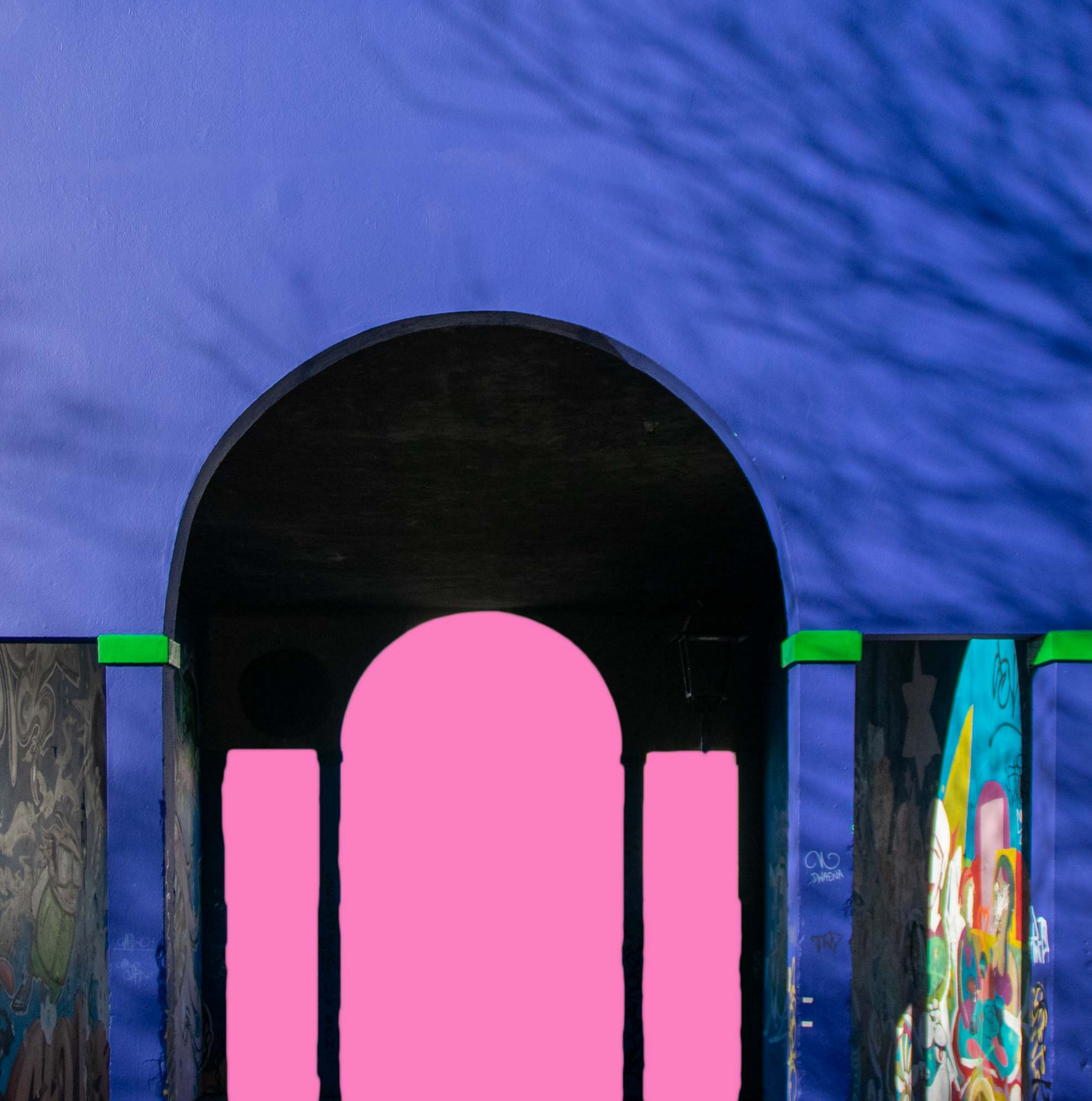
Is the late time clustering compatible with the Λ CDM prediction assuming initial conditions from the CMB?



Some paths forward

Λ CDM model under discussion

- Stress-testing Λ CDM.
- Then, *if measurements with different experiments and epochs agree*, combinations can be used to test if extensions of Λ CDM are preferred. Model comparison.



How can we
probe
cosmological
information?

How can we probe cosmology information?

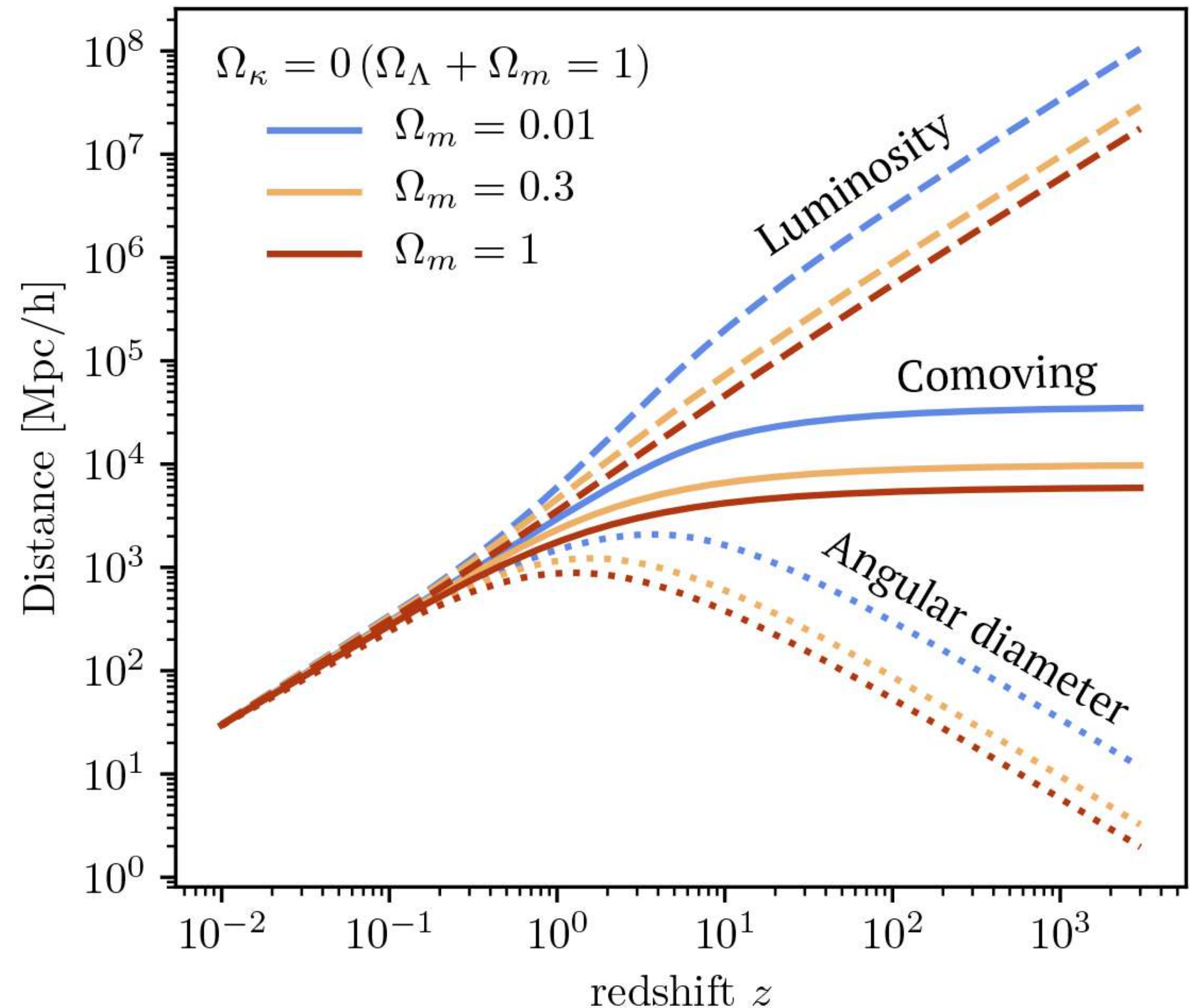
We can probe a cosmological model by studying:

- (i) The history of **expansion** of the Universe (kinematics probe).

$$\chi(z) = c \int_0^{z_e} \frac{dz}{H(z)}$$

Via the first Friedmann equation:

$$H^2(z) = H_0^2 \left[\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_r(1+z)^4 + \Omega_k(1+z)^2 + \Omega_{de}(1+z)^{3(1+w)} \right]$$



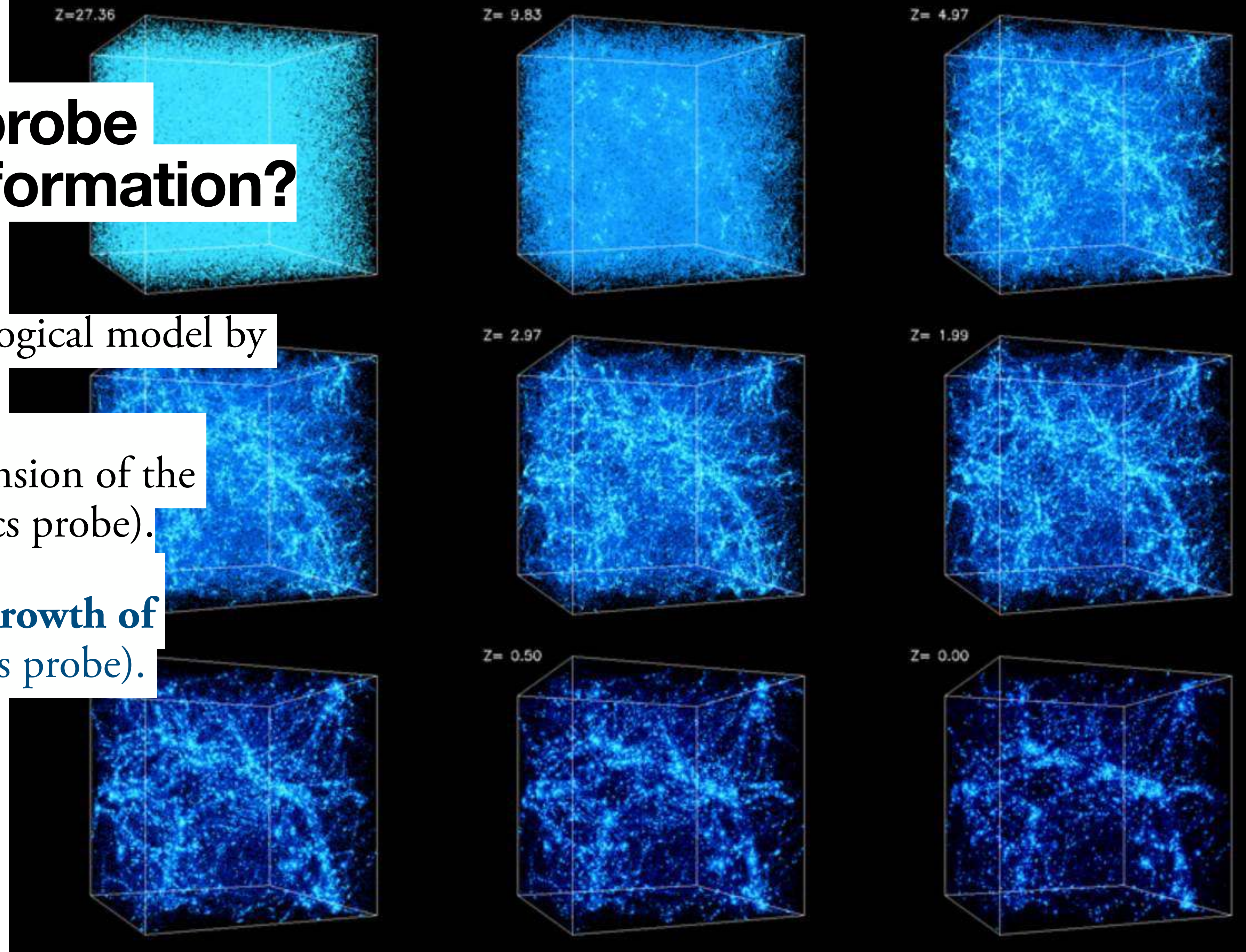
How can we probe cosmology information?

We can probe a cosmological model by studying:

- (i) The history of expansion of the Universe (kinematics probe).
- (ii) The history of the **growth of structure** (dynamics probe).

Via the Poisson equation:

$$\nabla_r^2 \Phi(t, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{3\Omega_m H_0^2}{2a(t)} \delta(t, \mathbf{r})$$



Probes to measure cosmological parameters

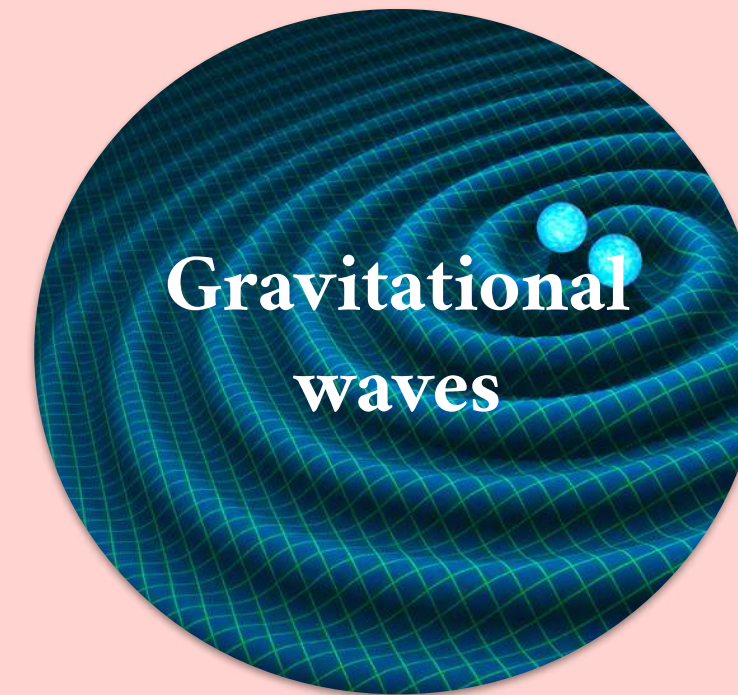
History of Expansion



Supernovae



**Baryon
Acoustic
Oscillations
(BAO)**

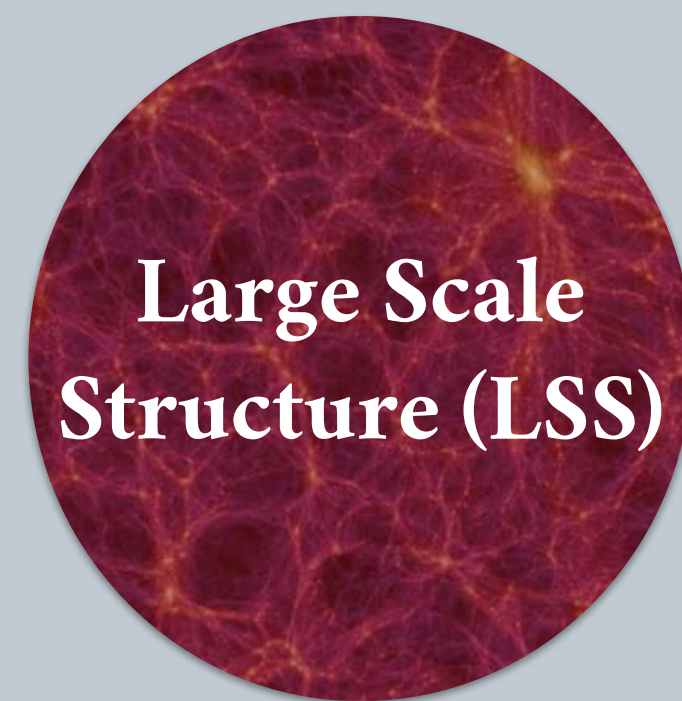


**Gravitational
waves**



**Strong
Lensing**

More Growth, but also a bit of expansion



**Large Scale
Structure (LSS)**

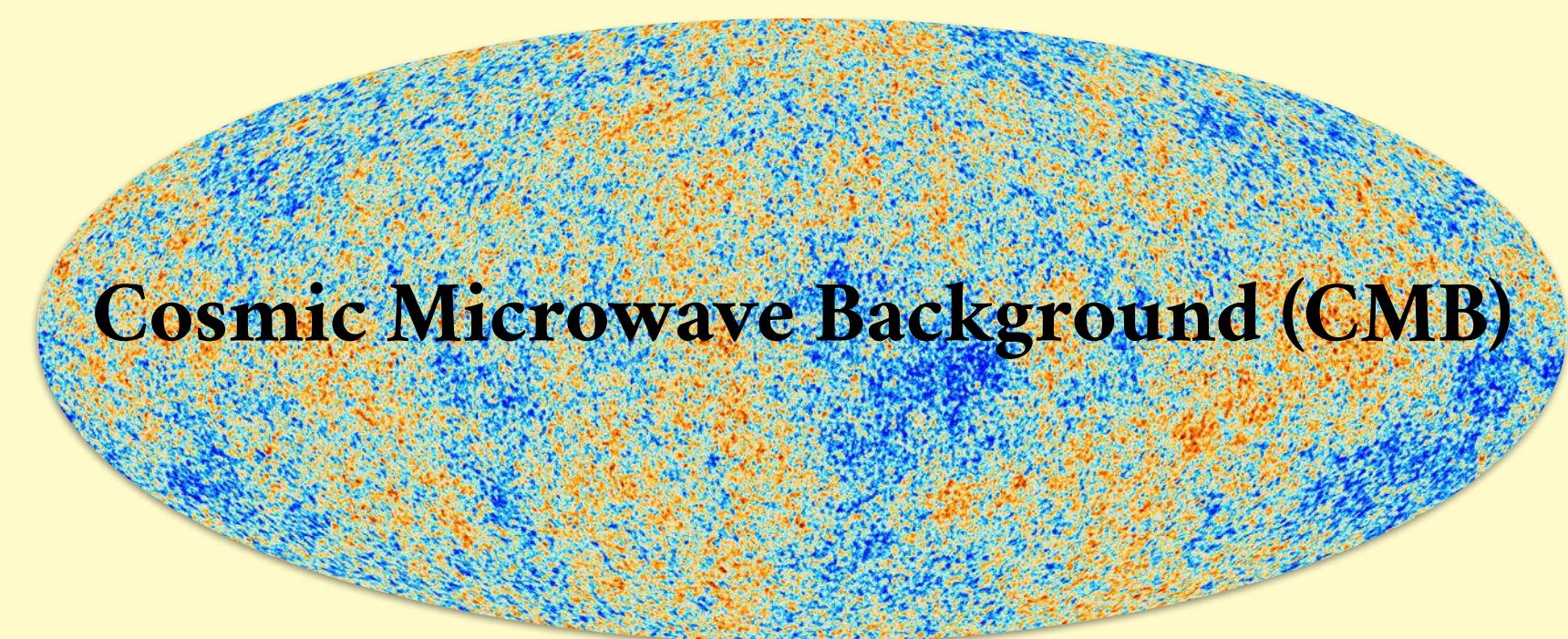


**Weak
gravitational
lensing**



**Galaxy
Cluster
Counts**

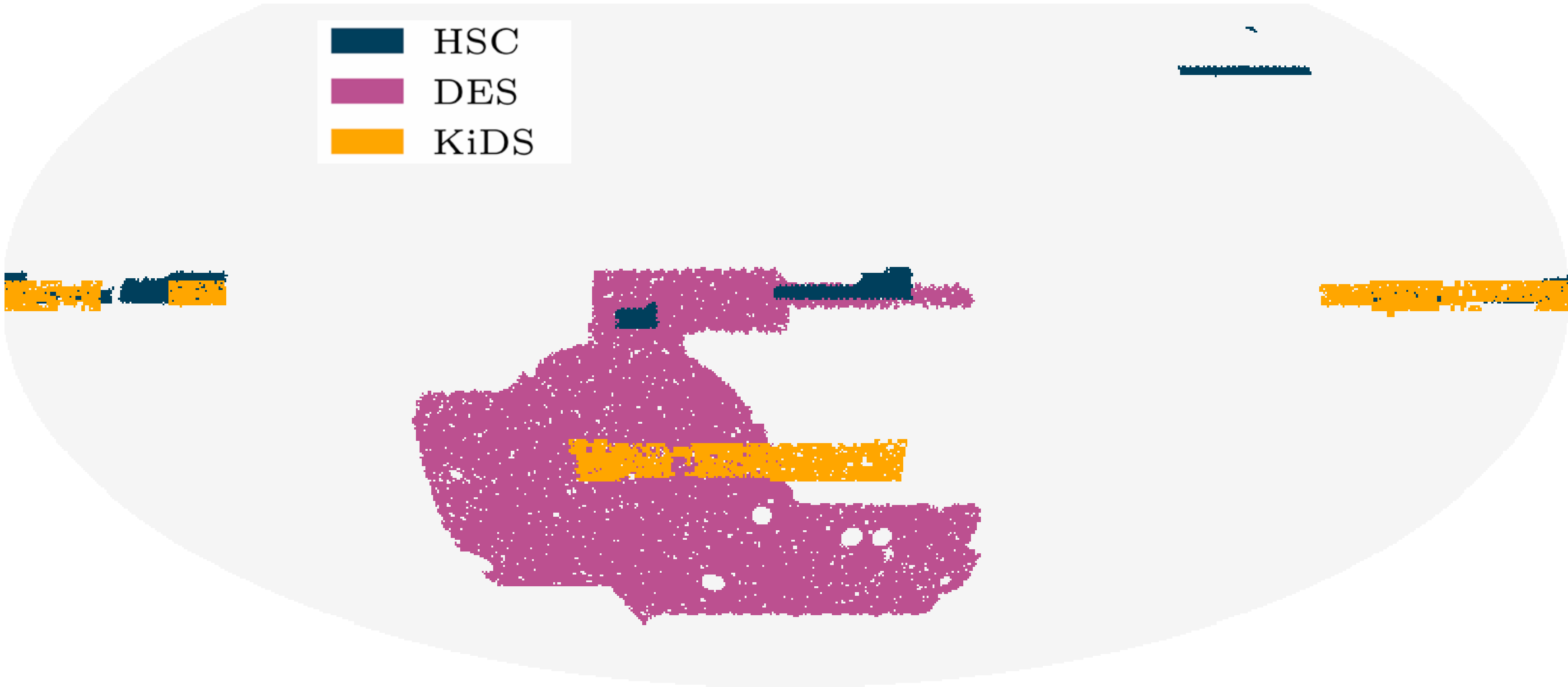
Growth and Expansion



Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

Photometric surveys for weak lensing: Stage III Surveys

	Survey	Area (deg ²)	Source density [arcmin ⁻²]	Redshift range	Observing Status
Stage III	DES Y3	4,143	5.59	0.2 - 1.3	Completed
	KiDS-1000	773	6.17	0.1 - 1.2	Completed
	HSC Y3	416	15	0.3 - 1.5	Ongoing



The Dark Energy Survey (DES)

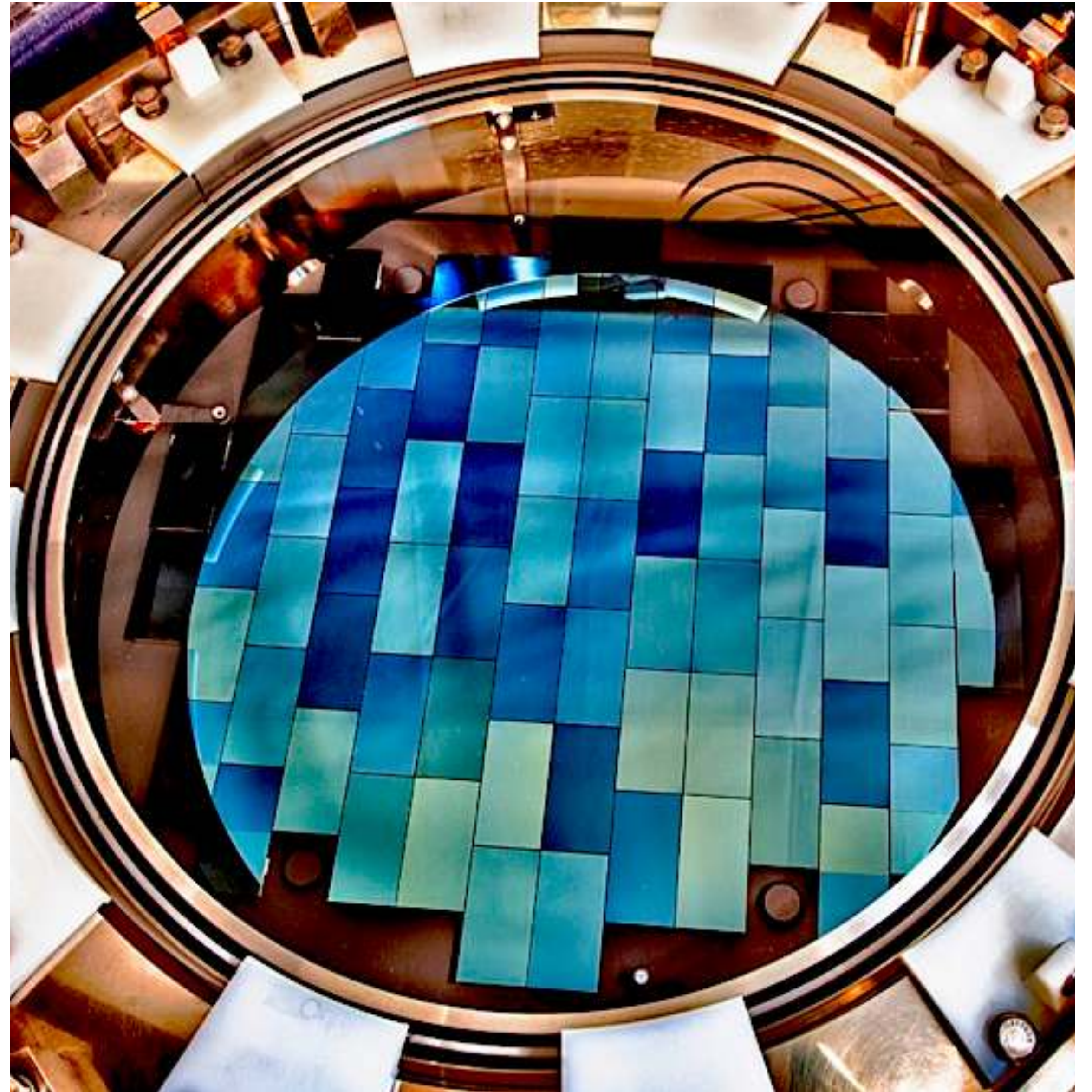
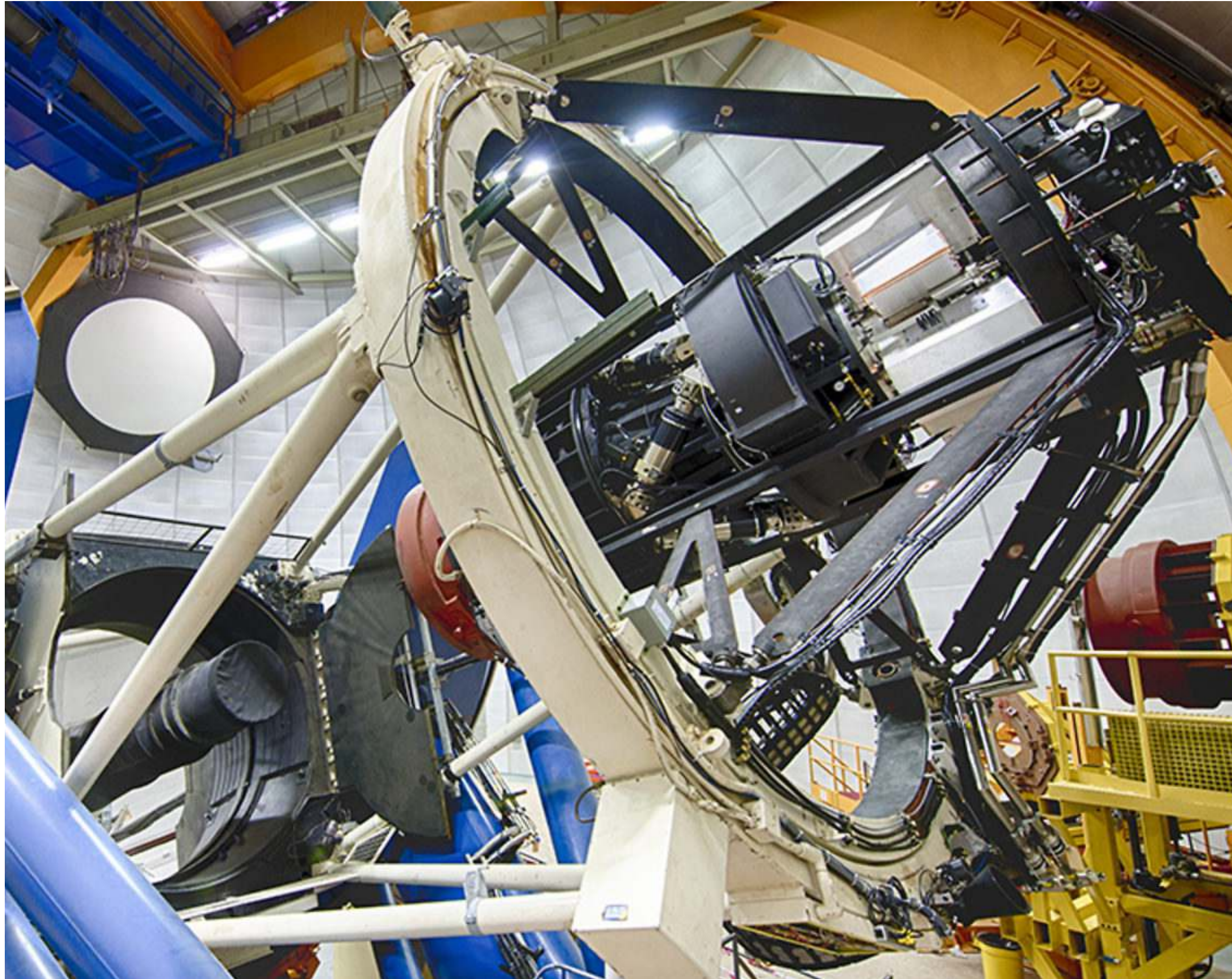
- Imaging galaxy survey.
- 5000 sq. deg. after 6 years (2013-2019)
- 570-Megapixel digital camera, DECam, mounted on the Blanco 4-meter telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (Chile).
- Five filters are used (grizY) with a nominal limiting magnitude $i_{AB} \approx 24$ and with a typical exposure time of 90 sec for griz and 45 sec for Y.

The Dark Energy Telescope

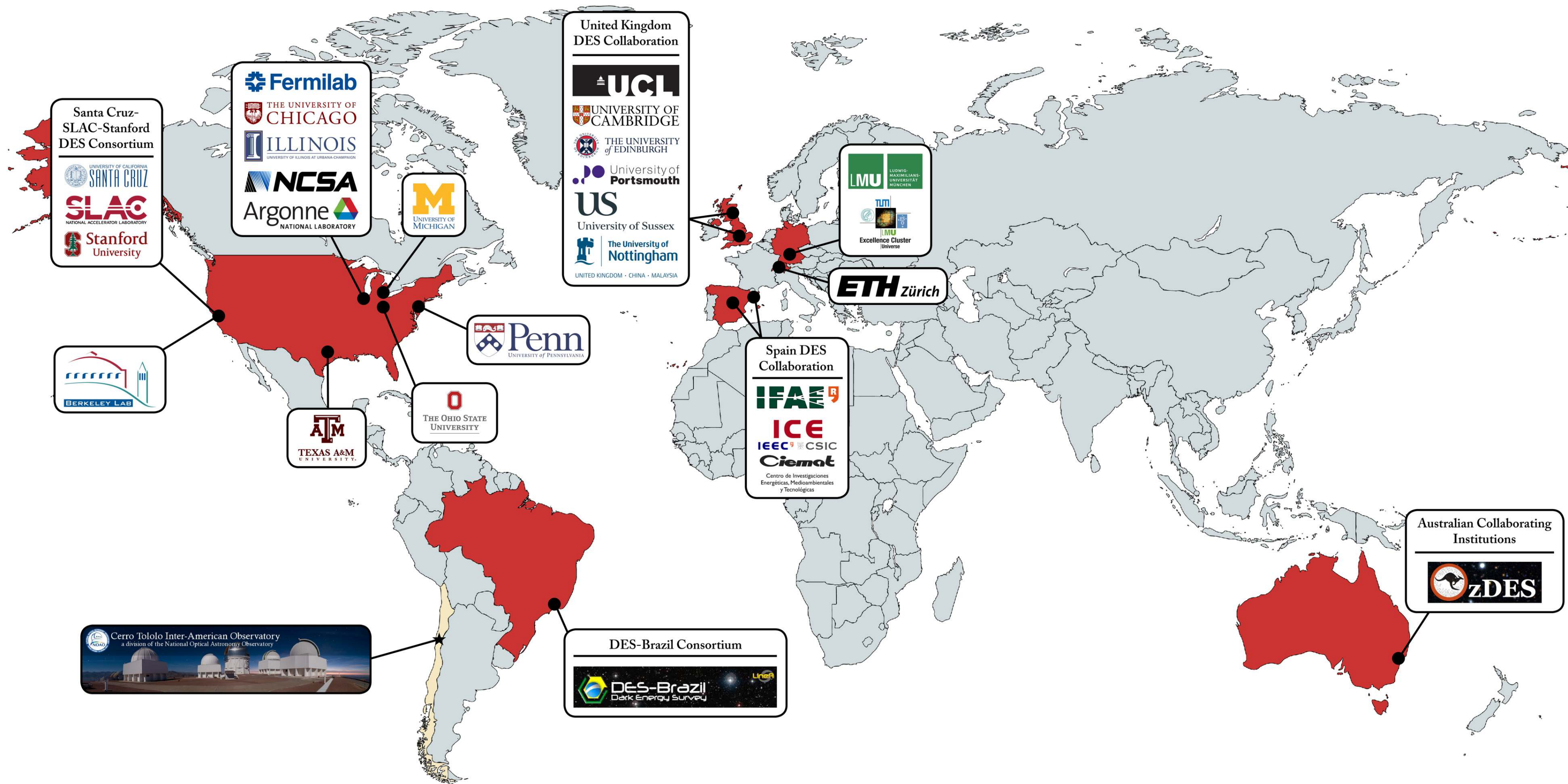


Blanco & DECam

Telescope & Camera



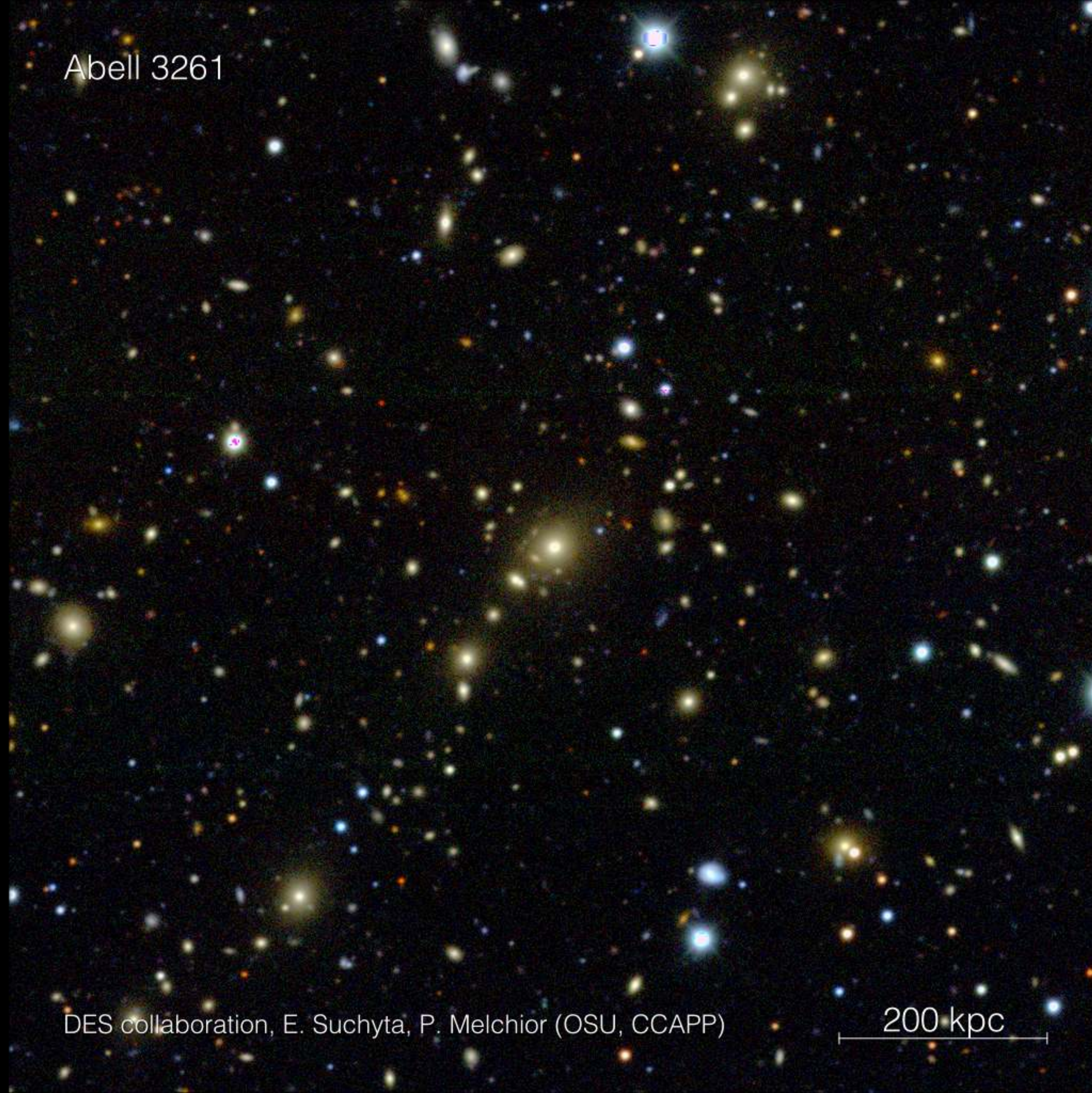
Dark Energy Survey Collaboration



Abell 3261

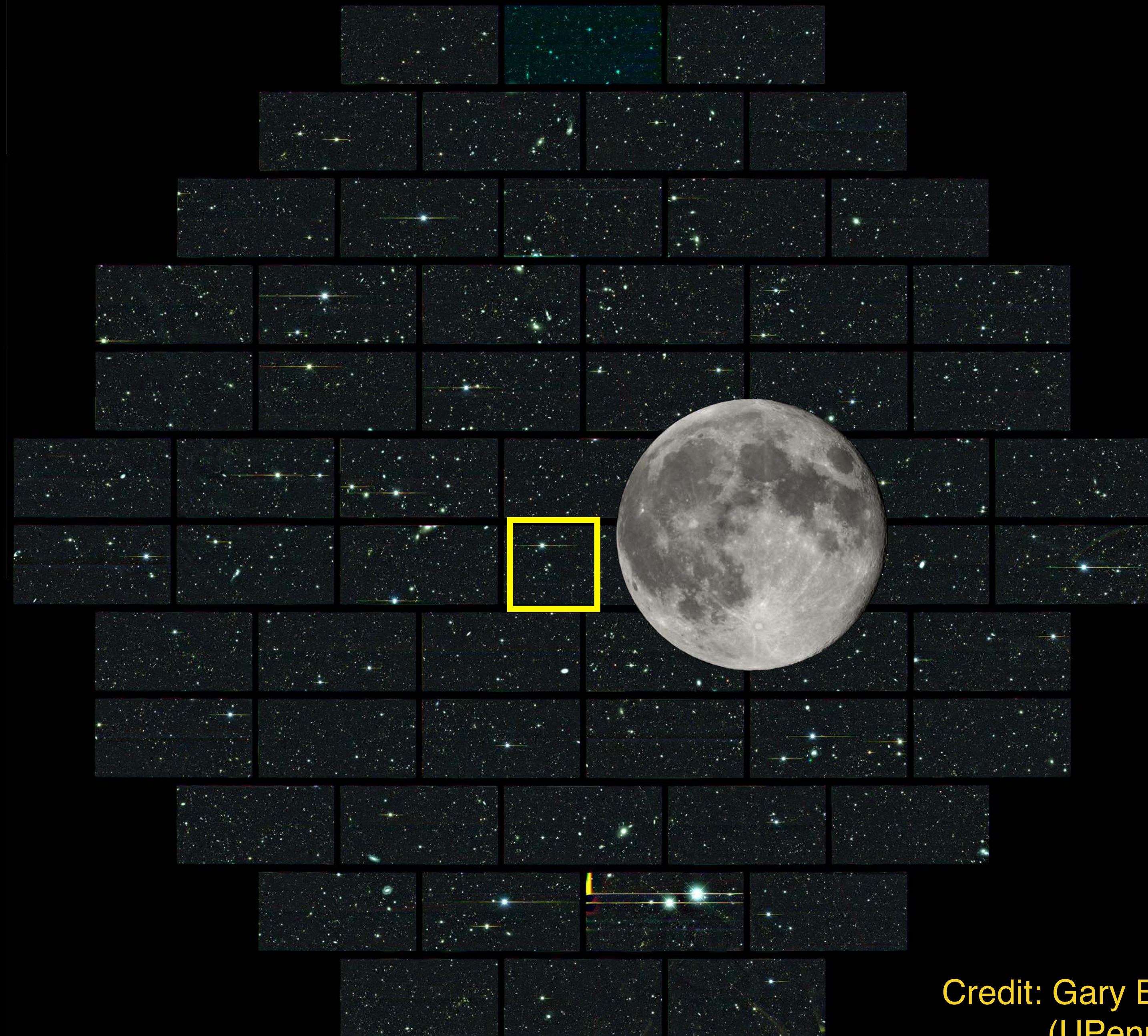
DES collaboration, E. Suchyta, P. Melchior (OSU, CCAPP)

200 kpc

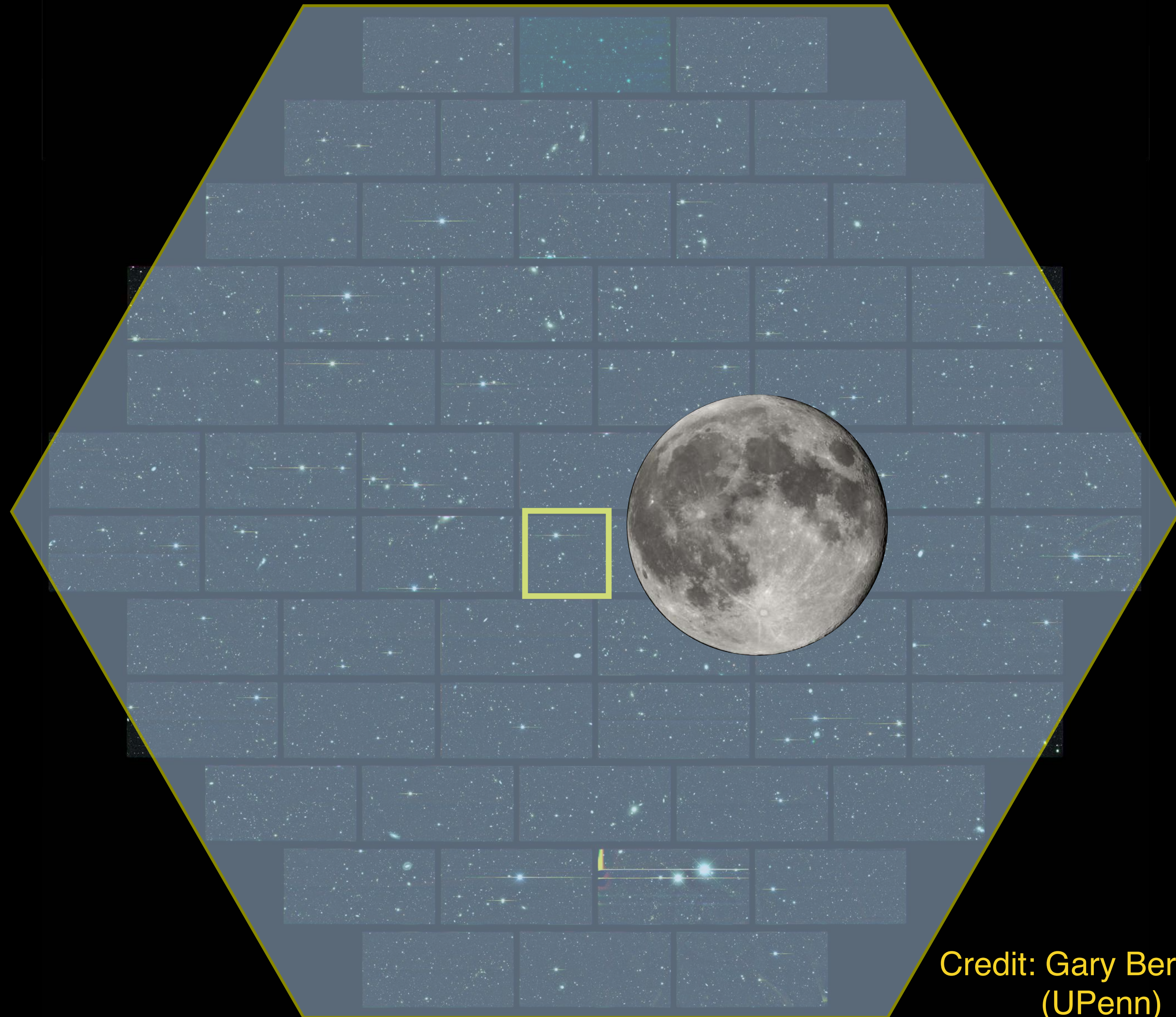




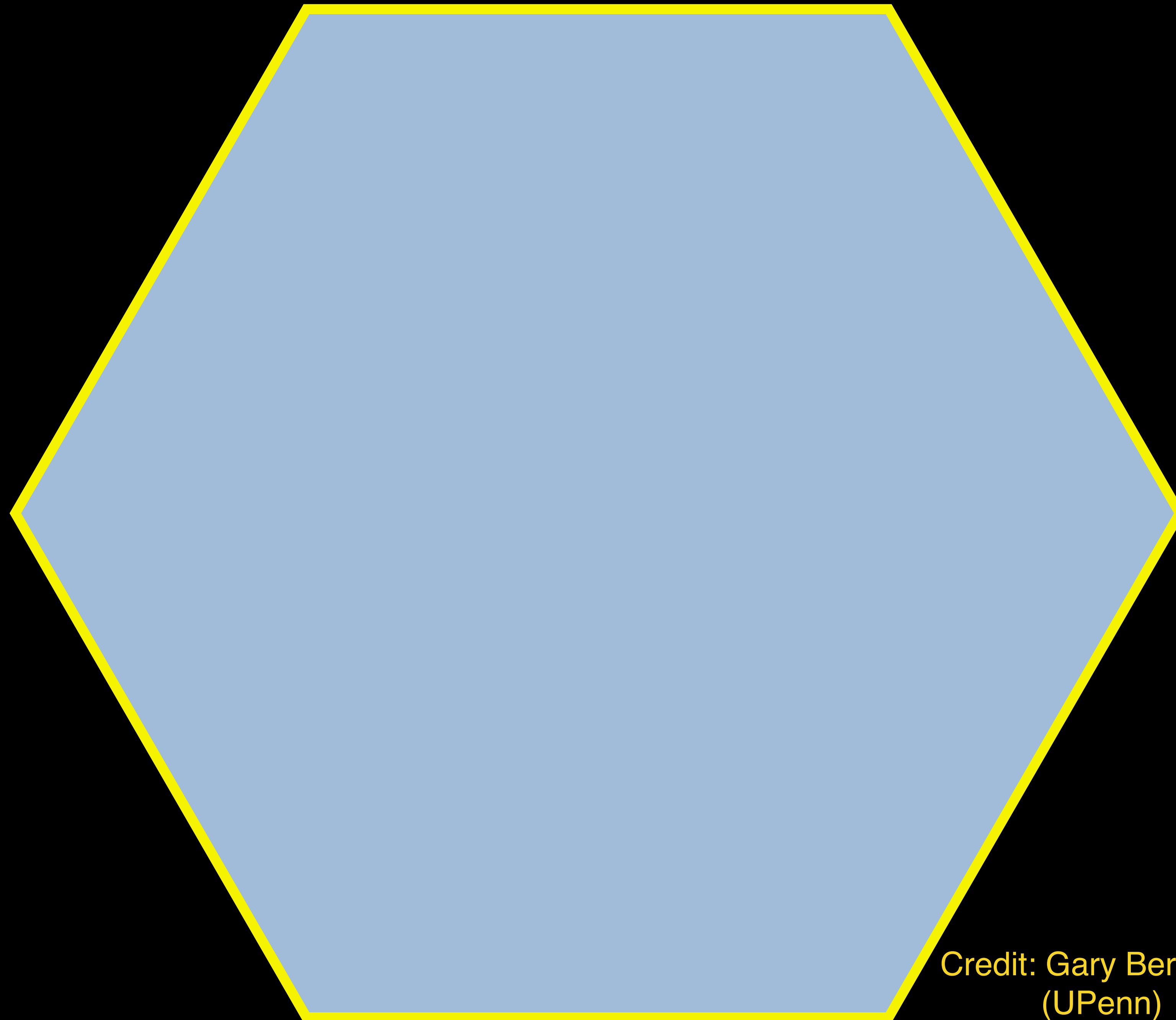
Credit: Gary Bernstein
(UPenn)



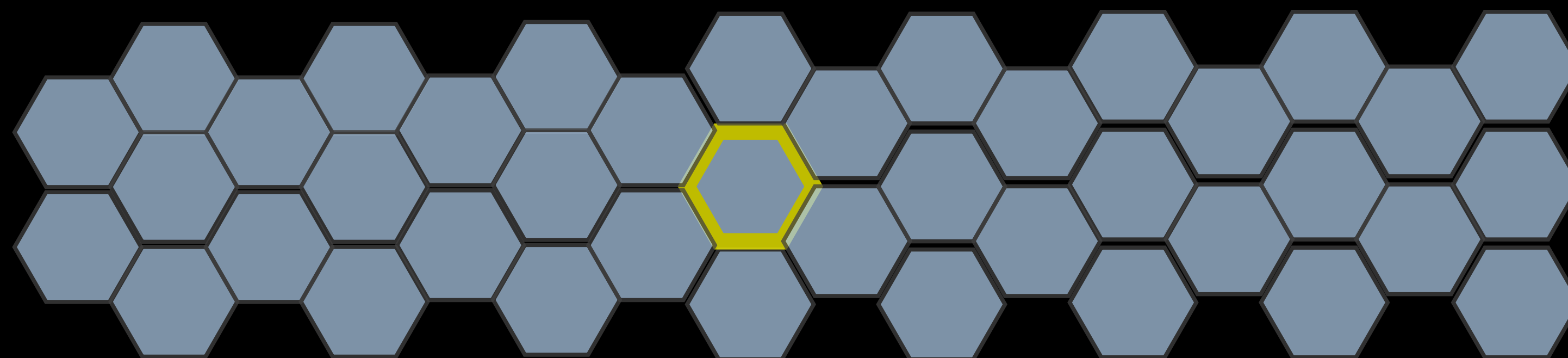
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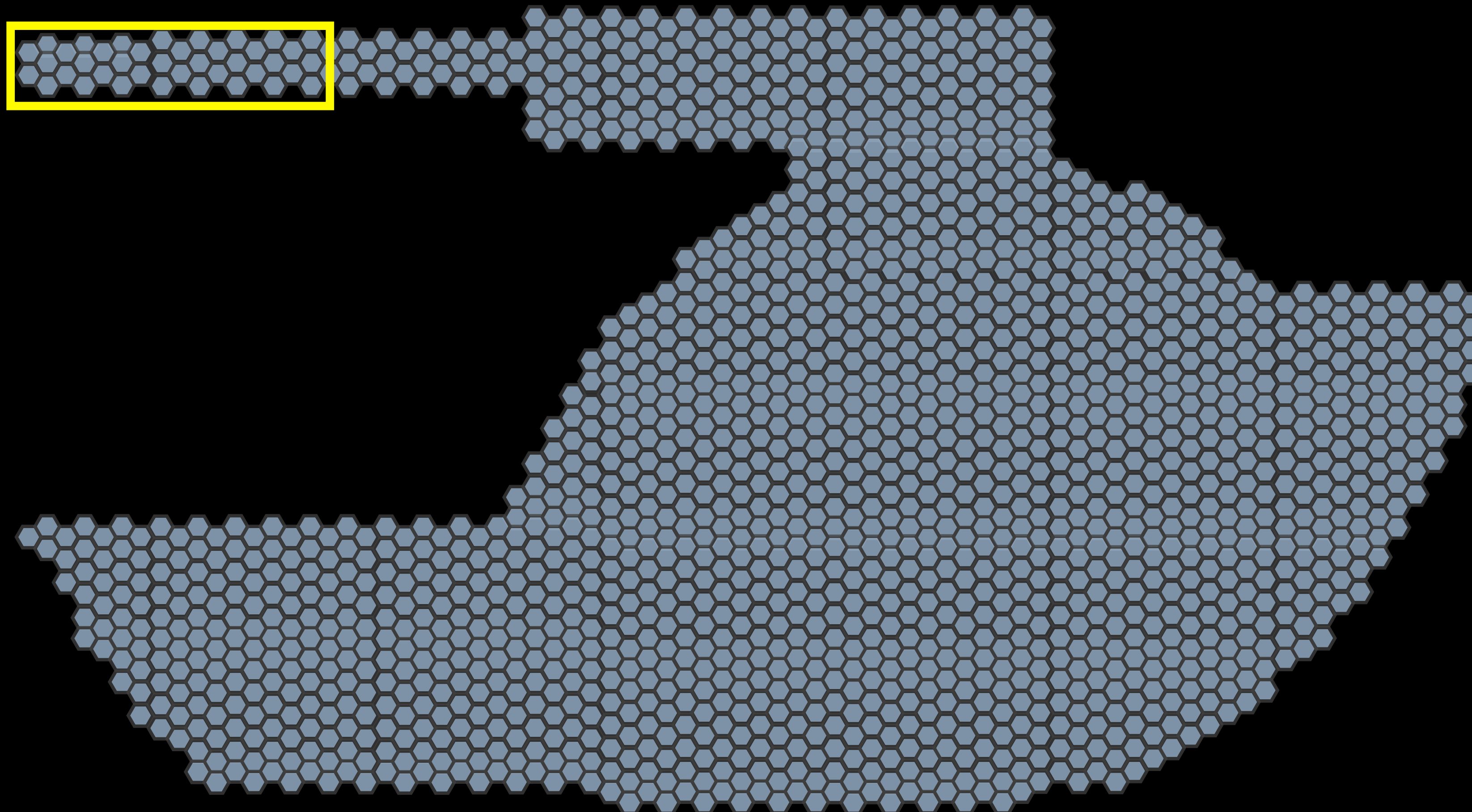
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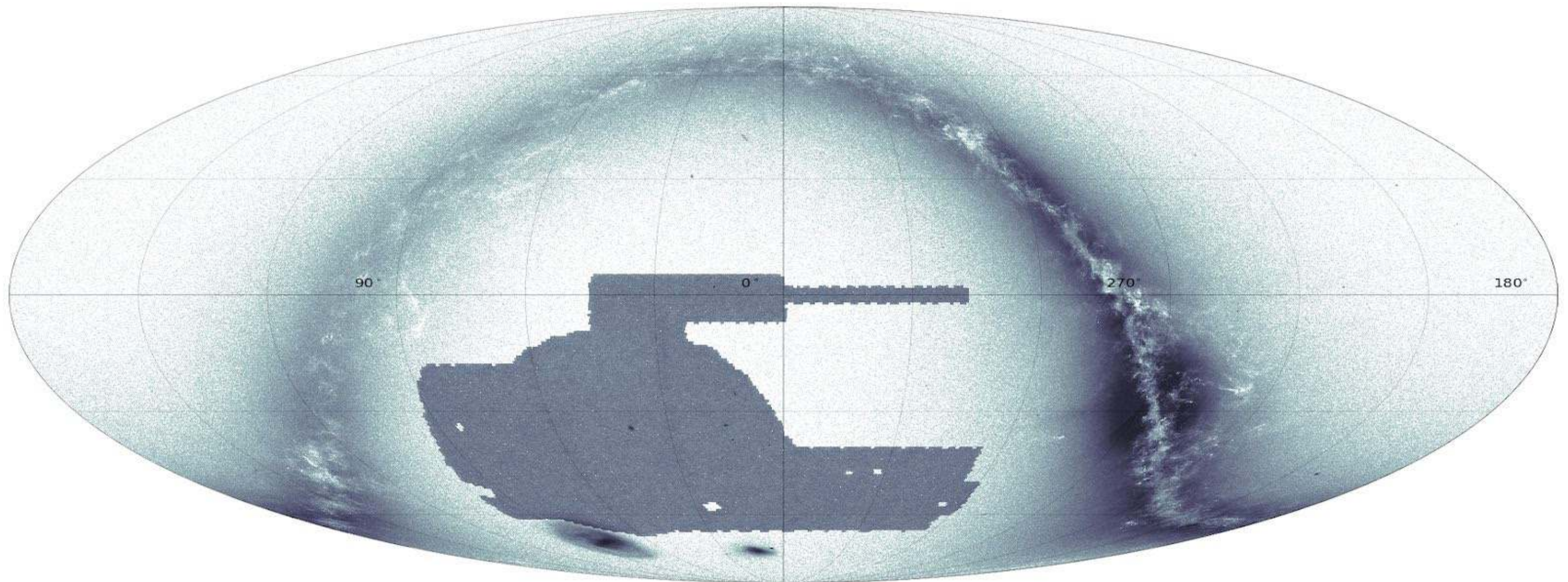


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(UPenn)

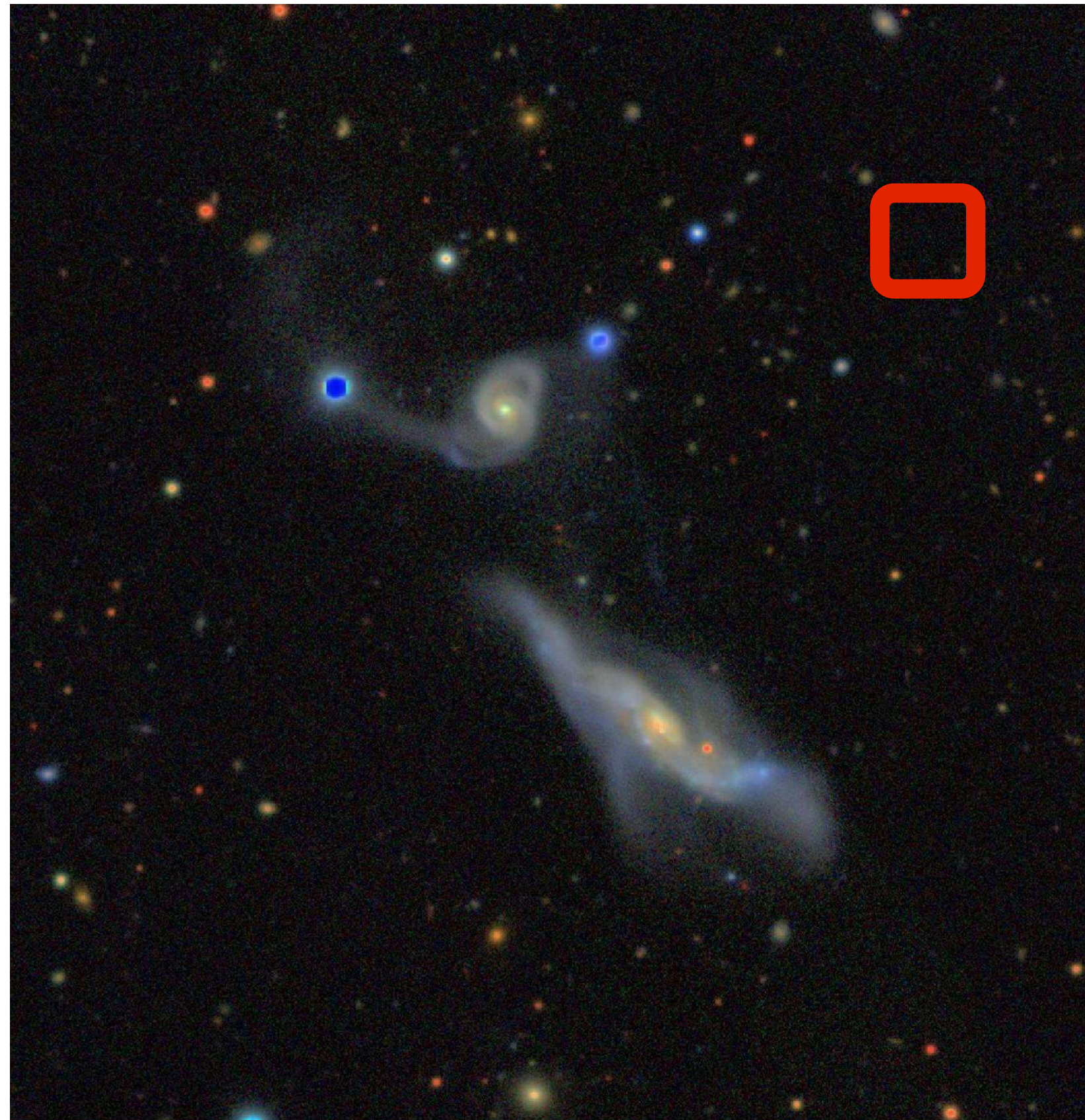


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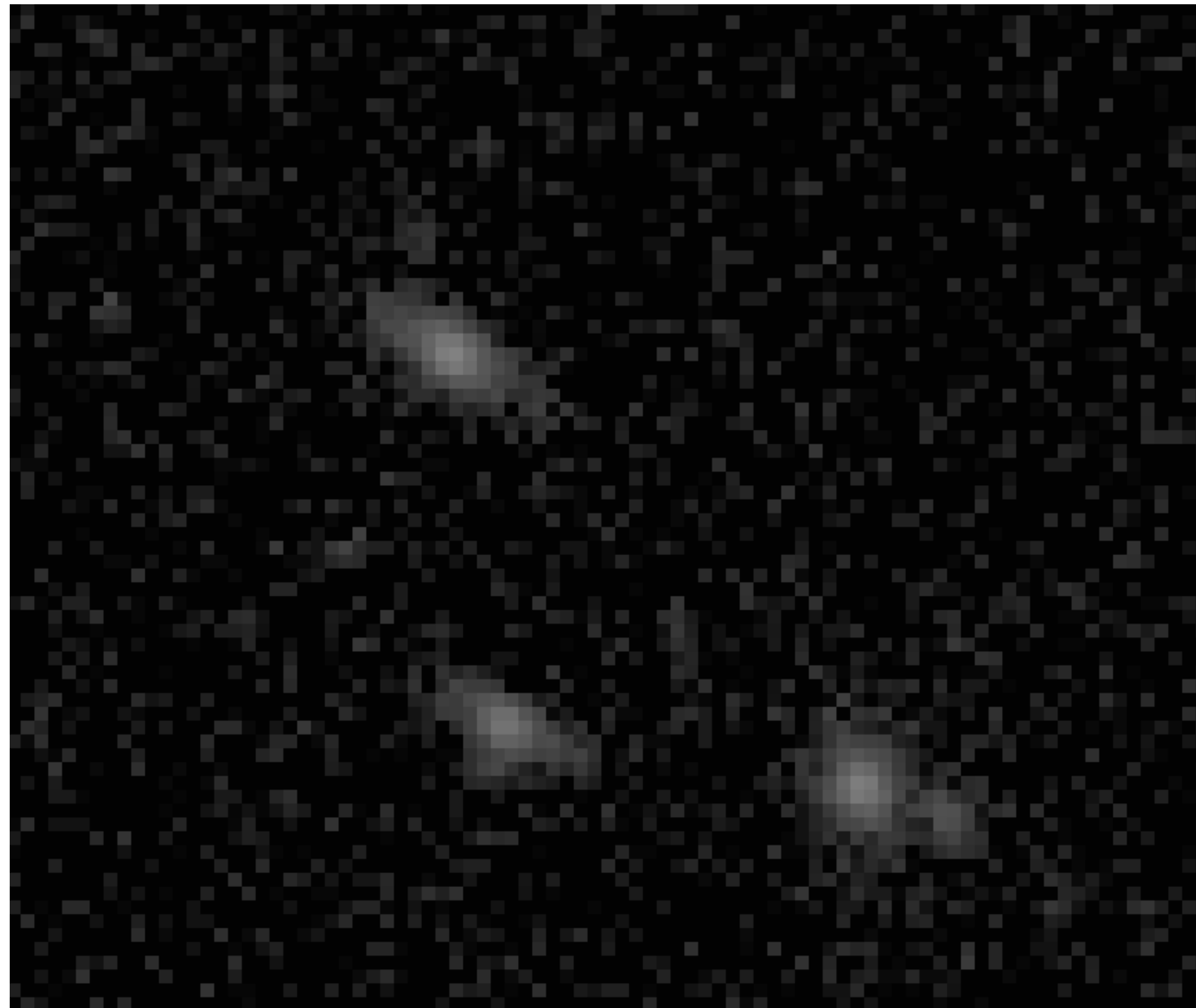
The Dark Energy Survey (DES)



Detecting galaxies

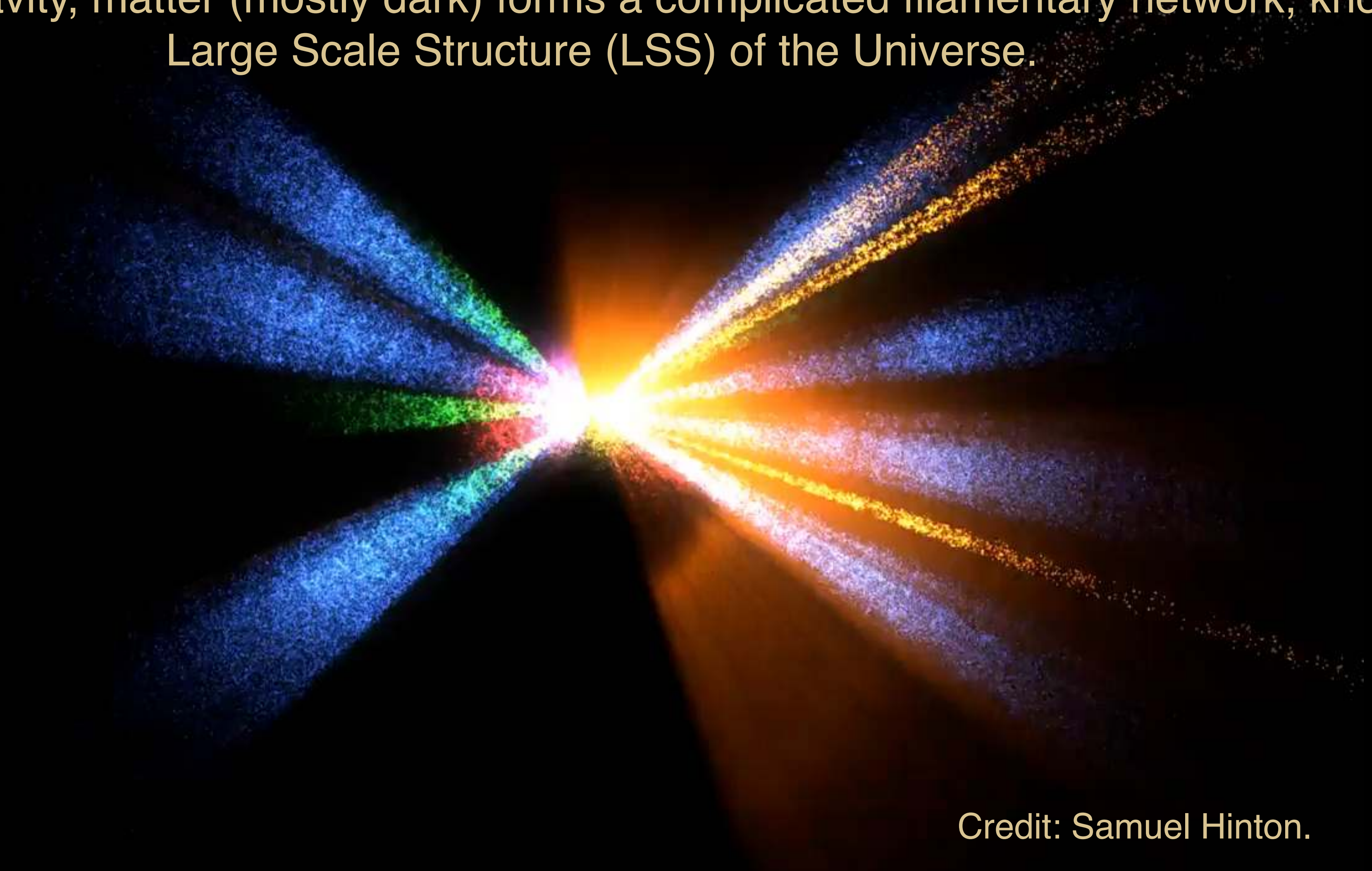


Detecting galaxies



Large Scale Structure (LSS)

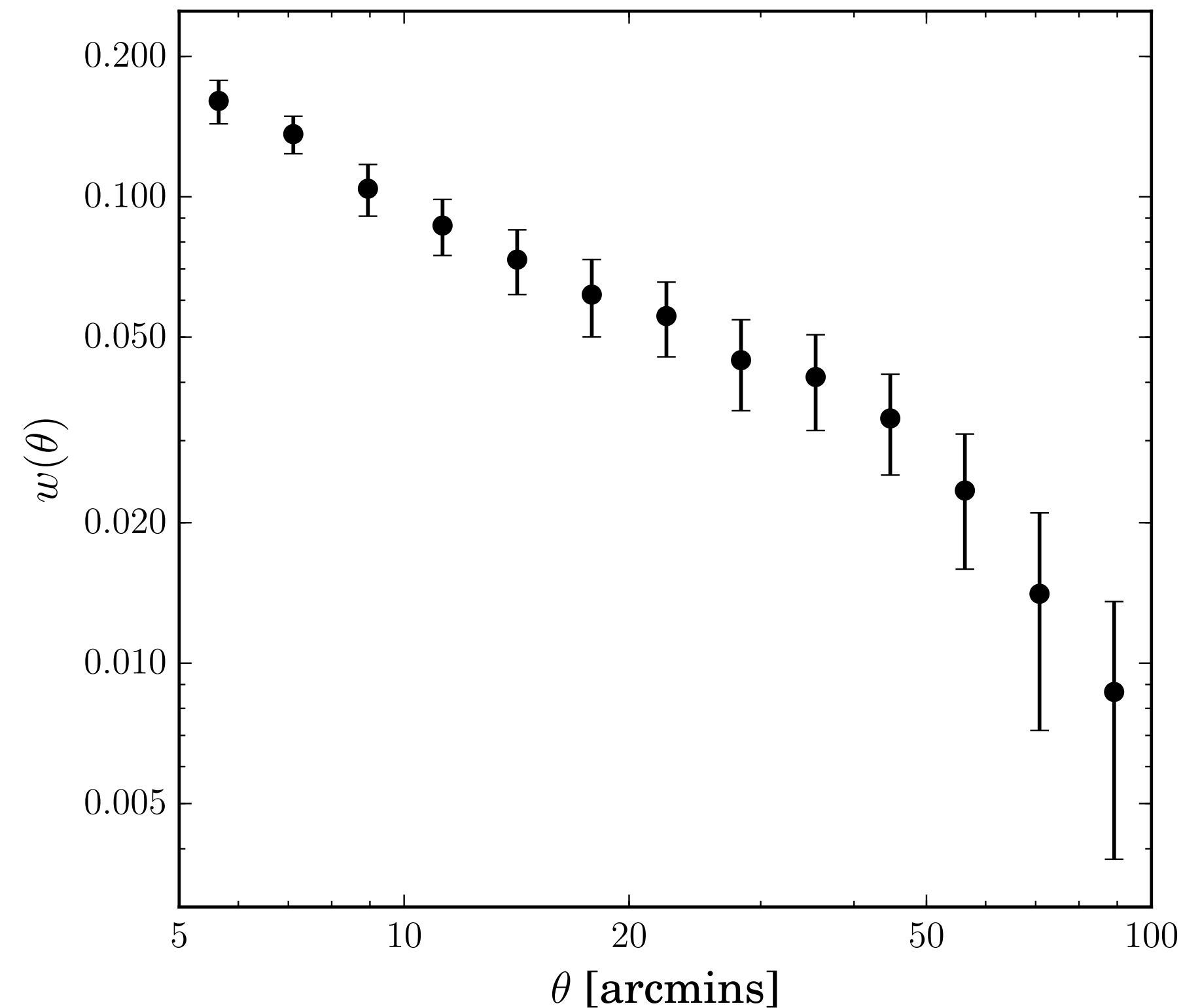
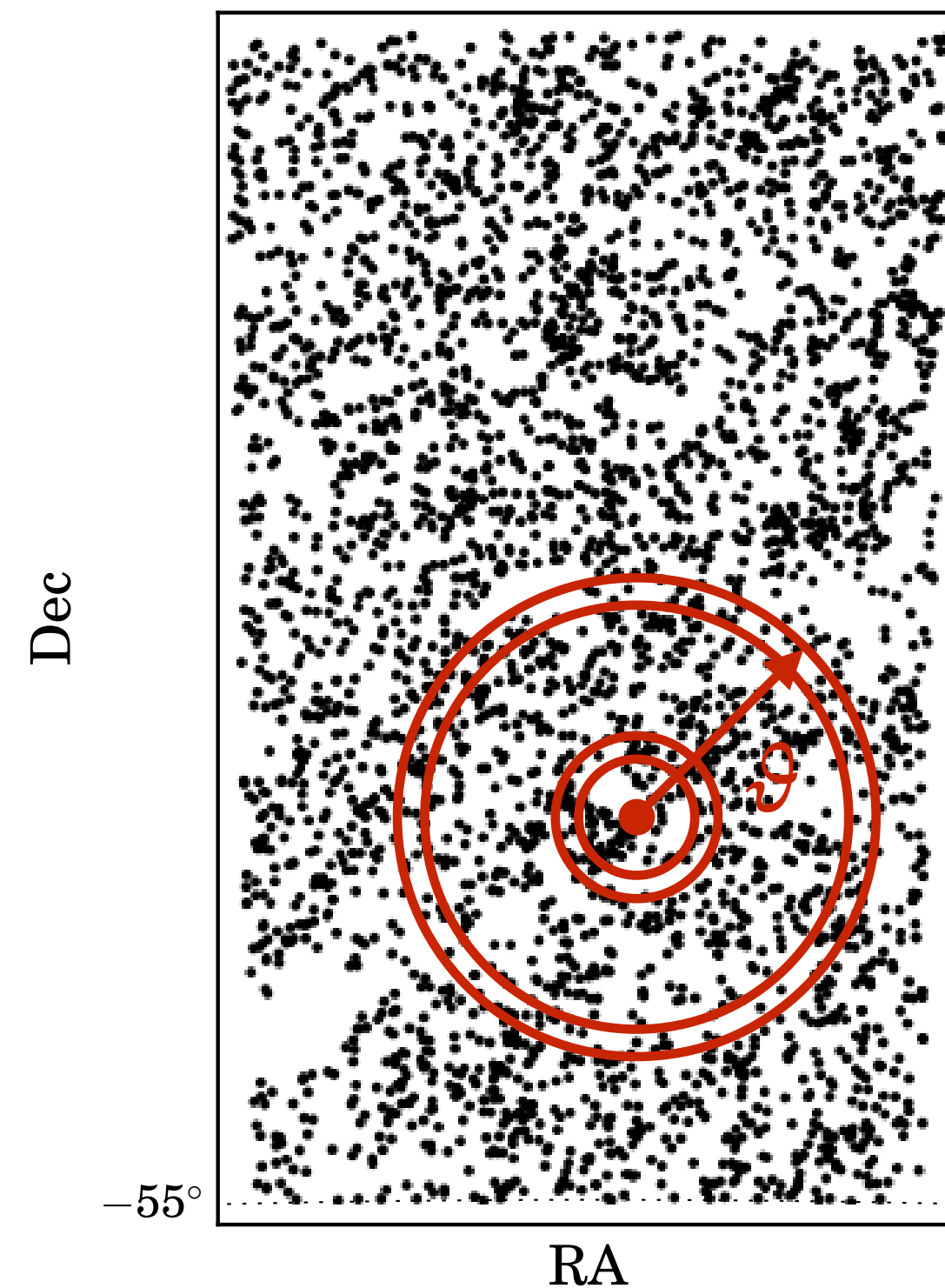
By the effect of gravity, matter (mostly dark) forms a complicated filamentary network, known as the Large Scale Structure (LSS) of the Universe.



Credit: Samuel Hinton.

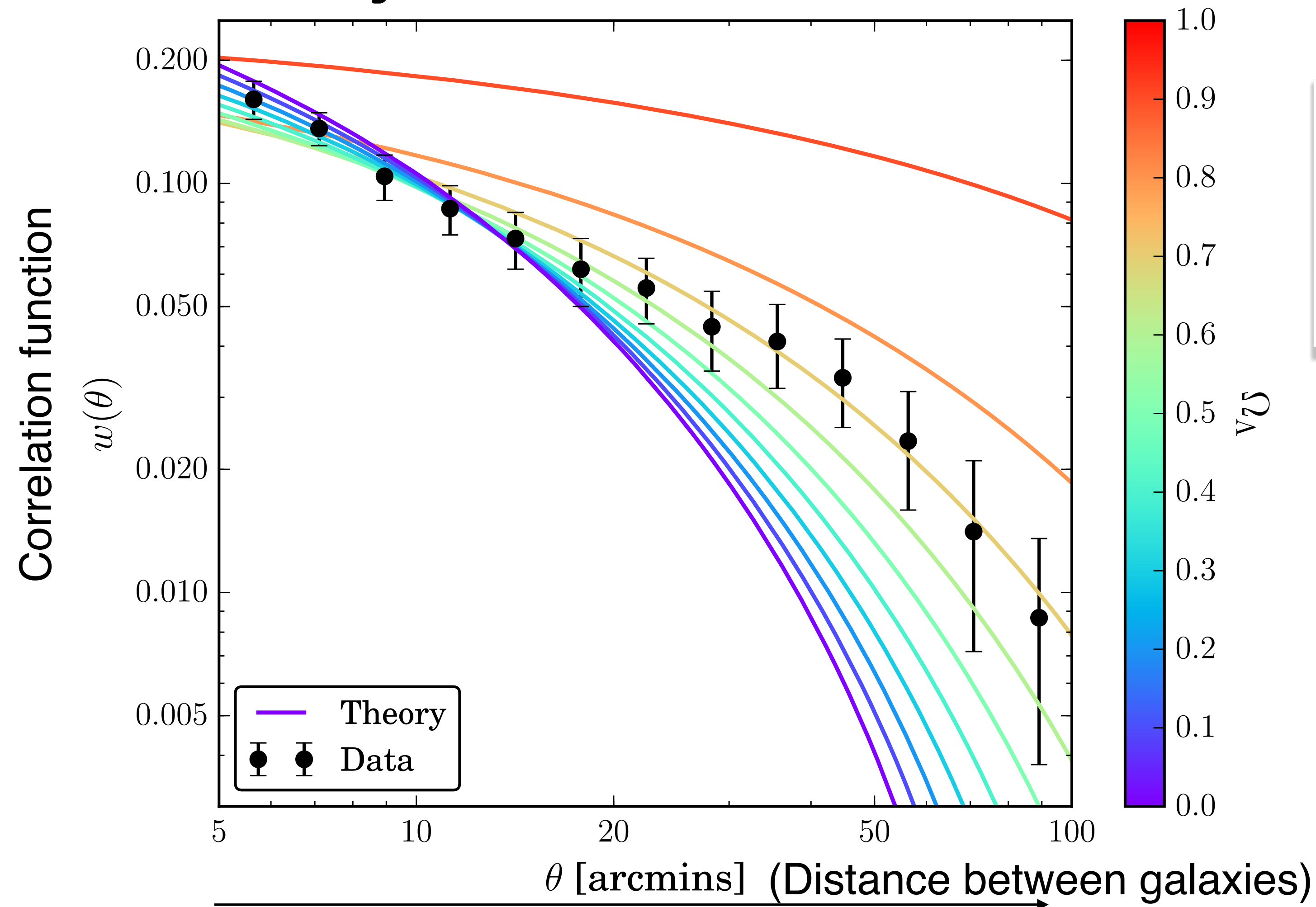
Galaxy clustering: two-point correlation function (2PCF)

- Given a random galaxy in a location, the correlation function describes the probability that another galaxy will be found within a given distance.
- It can be thought of as a lumpiness factor - the higher the value for some distance scale, the more lumpy the Universe is at that distance scale.



Modeling two-point correlation functions...

Figure Credit: Carles Sánchez



$$w^i(\theta) = \int \frac{d\ell}{2\pi} \ell J_0(\ell\theta) \int d\chi \frac{q_{\delta_g}^i\left(\frac{\ell+1/2}{\chi}, \chi\right) q_{\delta_g}^j\left(\frac{\ell+1/2}{\chi}, \chi\right)}{\chi^2} \times P_{\text{NL}}\left(\frac{\ell+1/2}{\chi}, z(\chi)\right)$$

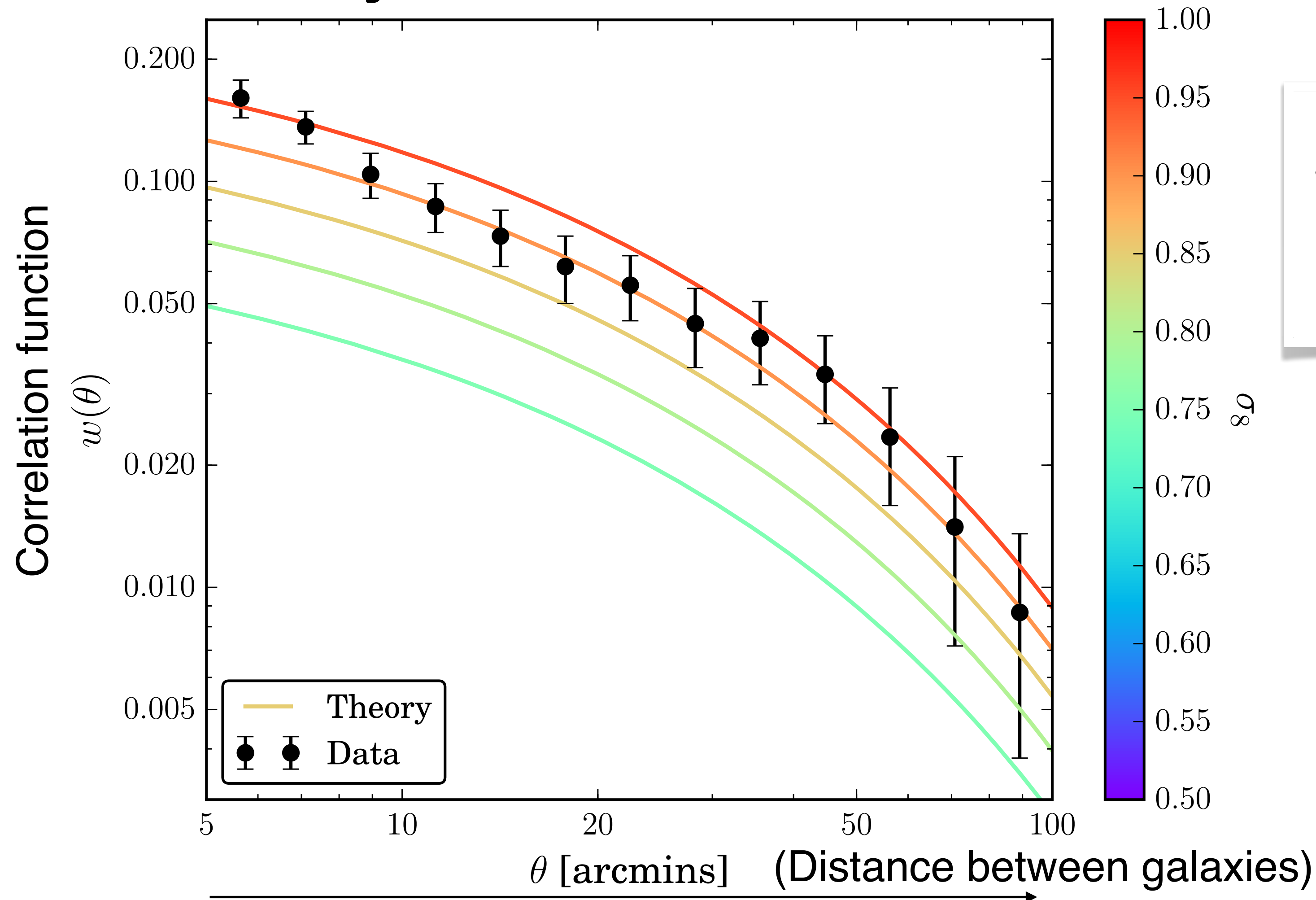
LSS kernel

$$q_{\delta_g}^i(k, \chi) = b^i(k, z(\chi)) \frac{n_g^i(z(\chi))}{\bar{n}_g^i} \frac{dz}{d\chi}$$

It is sensitive to the matter power spectrum (through the galaxy bias)

Modeling two-point correlation functions...

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LSS kernel

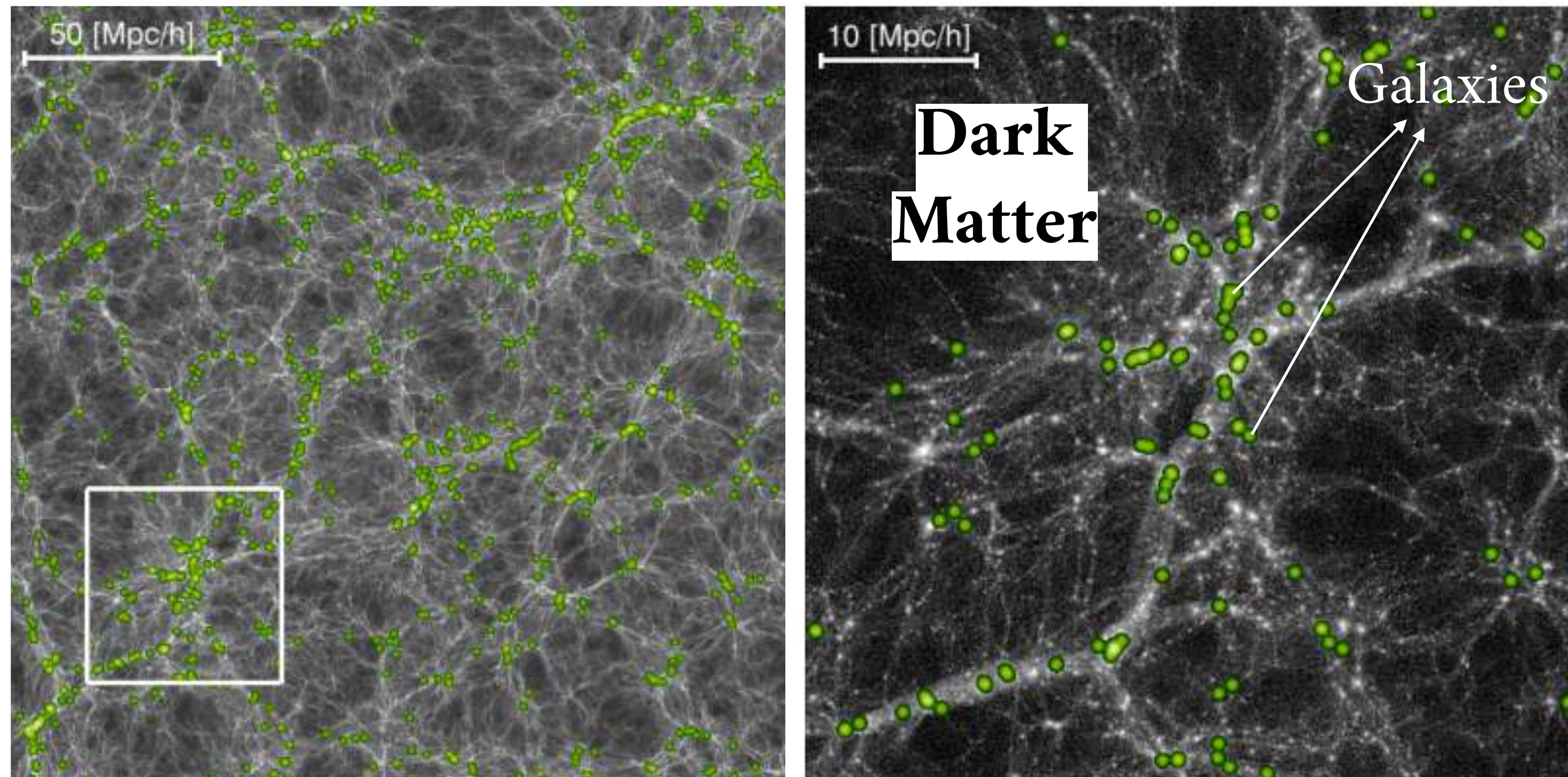
$$q_{\delta_g}^i(k, \chi) = b^i(k, z(\chi)) \frac{n_g^i(z(\chi))}{\bar{n}_g^i} \frac{dz}{d\chi}$$

It is sensitive to the matter power spectrum (through the galaxy bias)

Galaxy bias

- Matter correlation function cannot be observed directly because most matter is in the form of dark matter. Galaxies populate dark matter haloes and thus trace dark matter, but not perfectly.
- **Galaxy bias:** The statistical difference between the clustering of galaxies and that of dark matter.

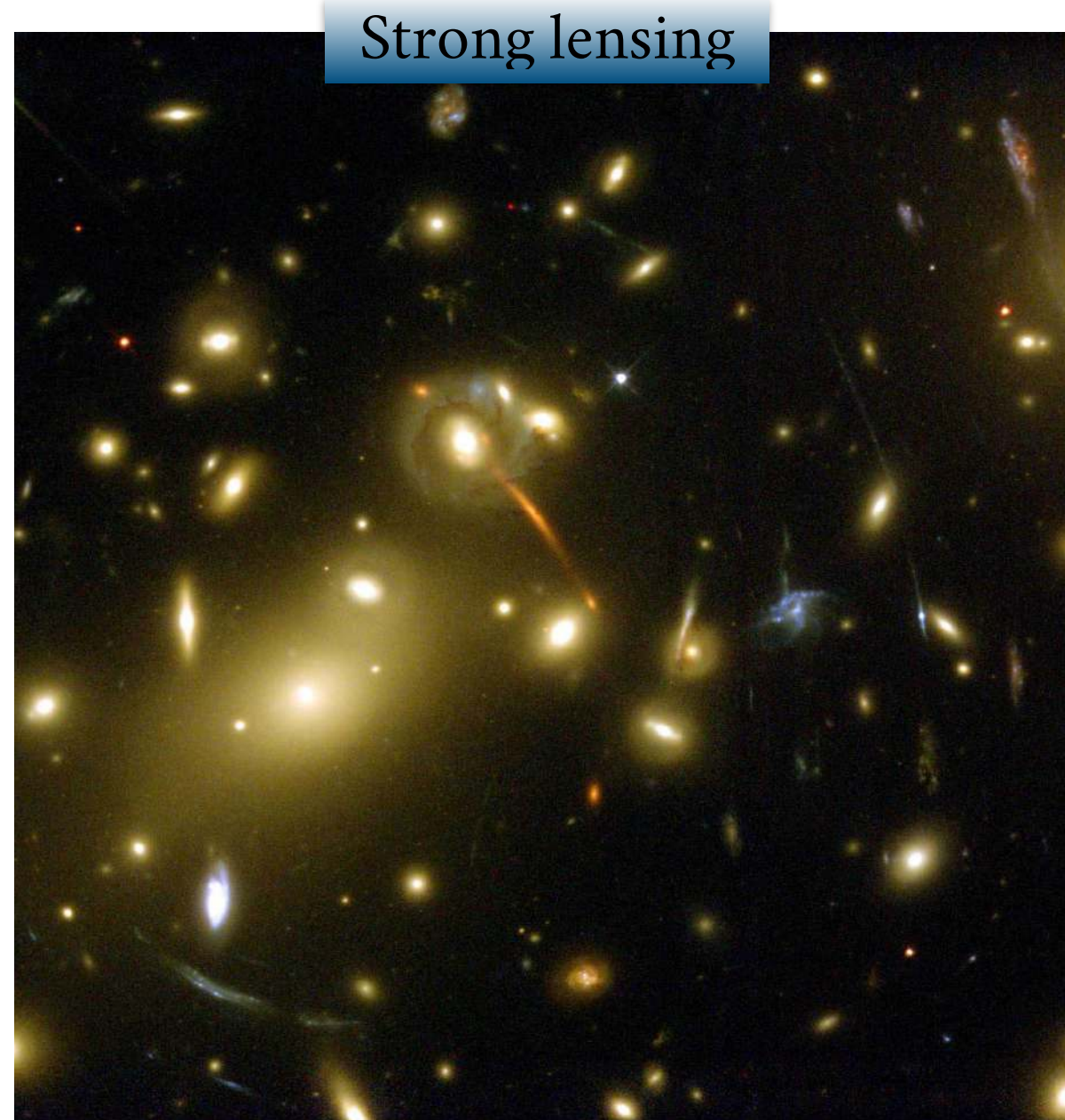
$$\xi_{gg}(r) = b^2(r) \xi_{\delta\delta}(r) \qquad P_{gg}(r) = b^2(r) P_{\delta\delta}(r)$$



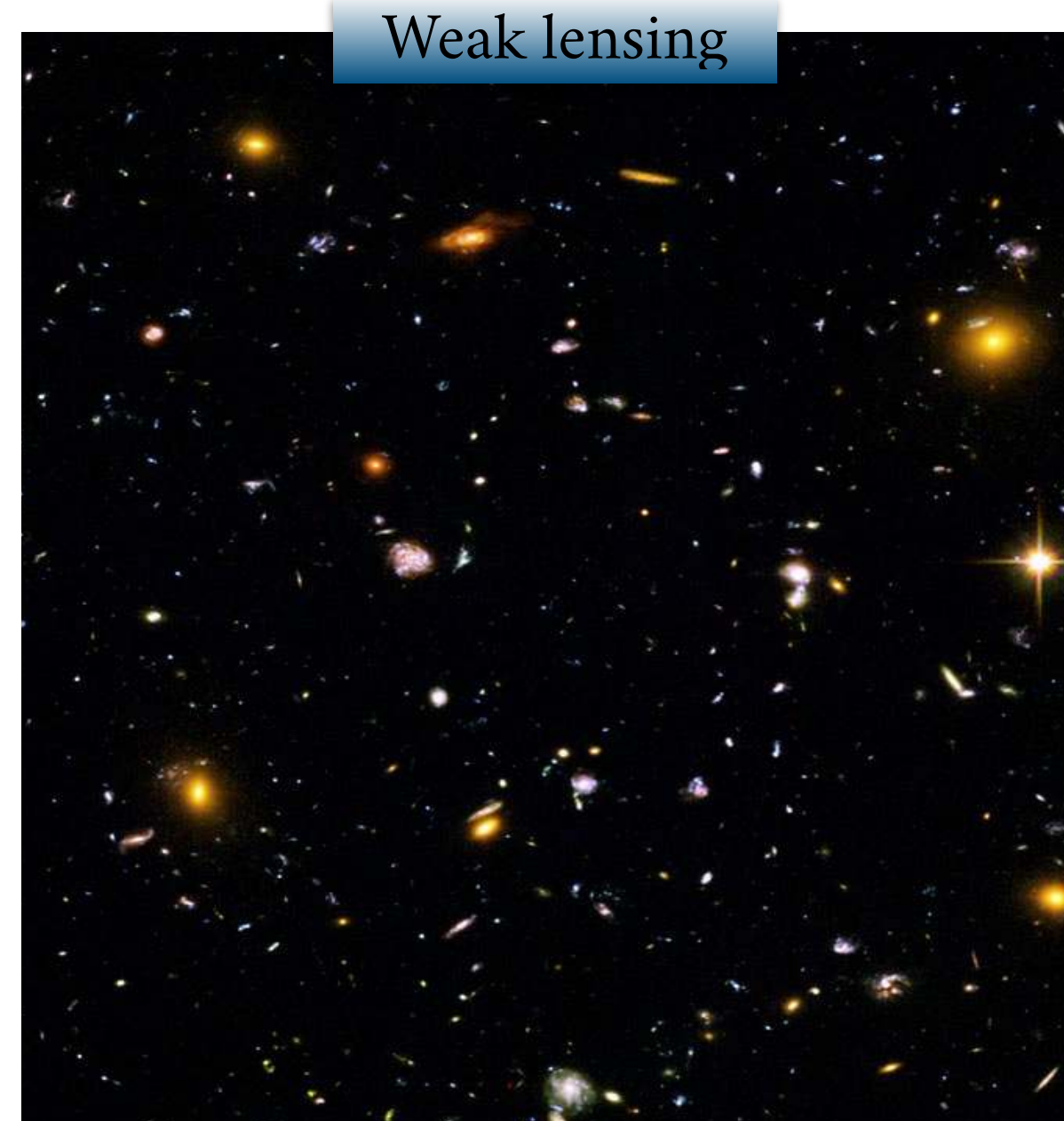
From Orsi et al. (2009)

Gravitational lensing

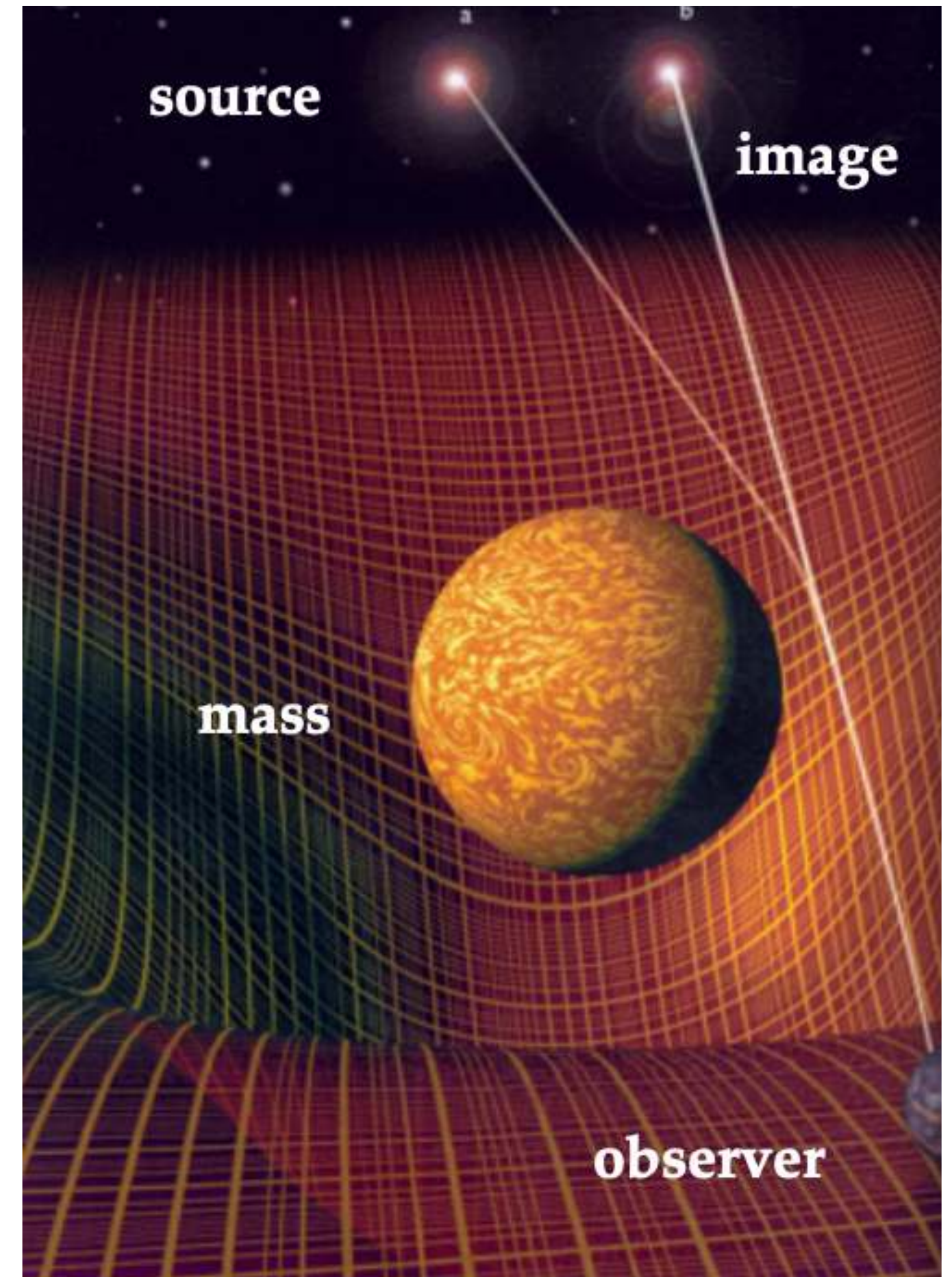
- **Strong gravitational lensing:** If the bending produces multiple images of the galaxy and/or arcs.
- **Weak gravitational lensing:** If the bending is small, the image of galaxies are distorted, stretched and magnified in small amounts. The distortion can be quantified with **shear** (shape) and **convergence** (size).



Strong lensing



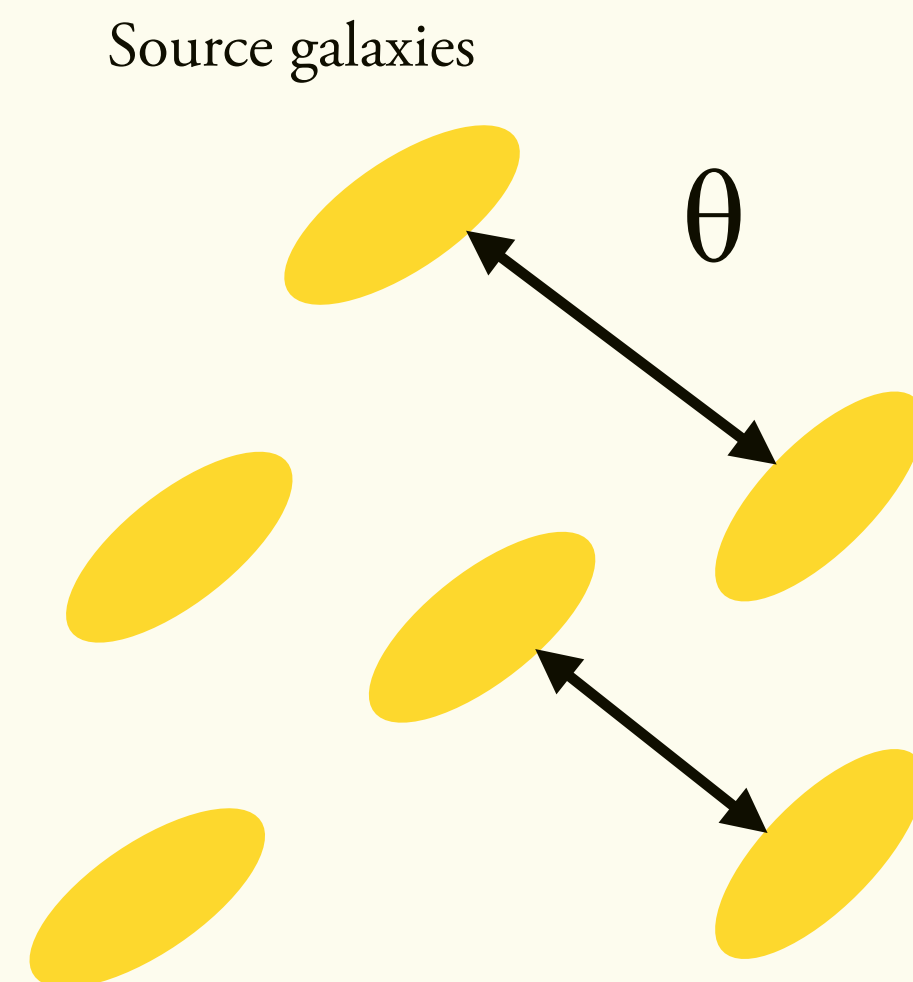
Weak lensing



Weak gravitational lensing two-point correlation functions

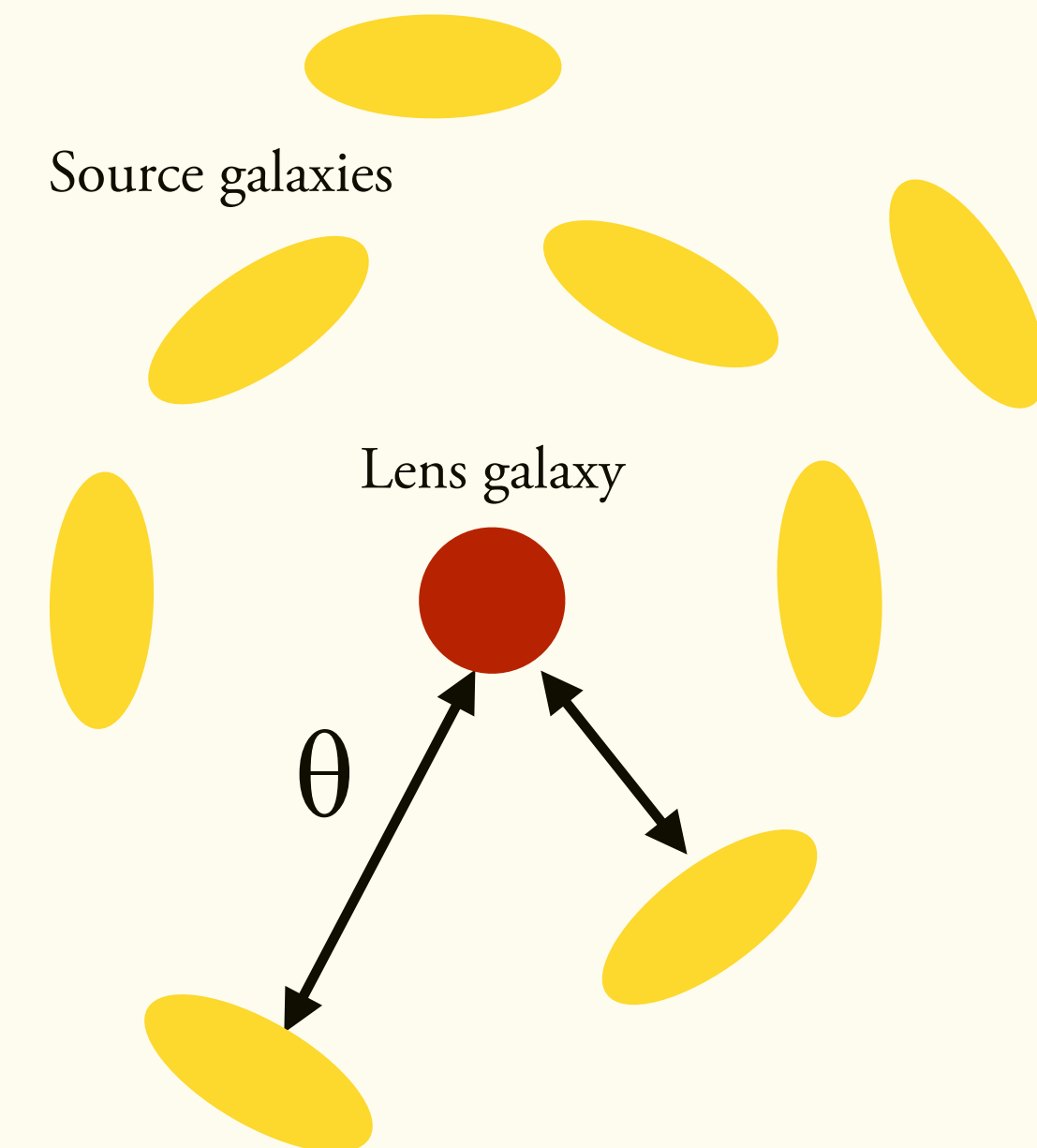
Cosmic shear: source-source correlation

Coherent distortion of galaxy shapes from large-scale structure.

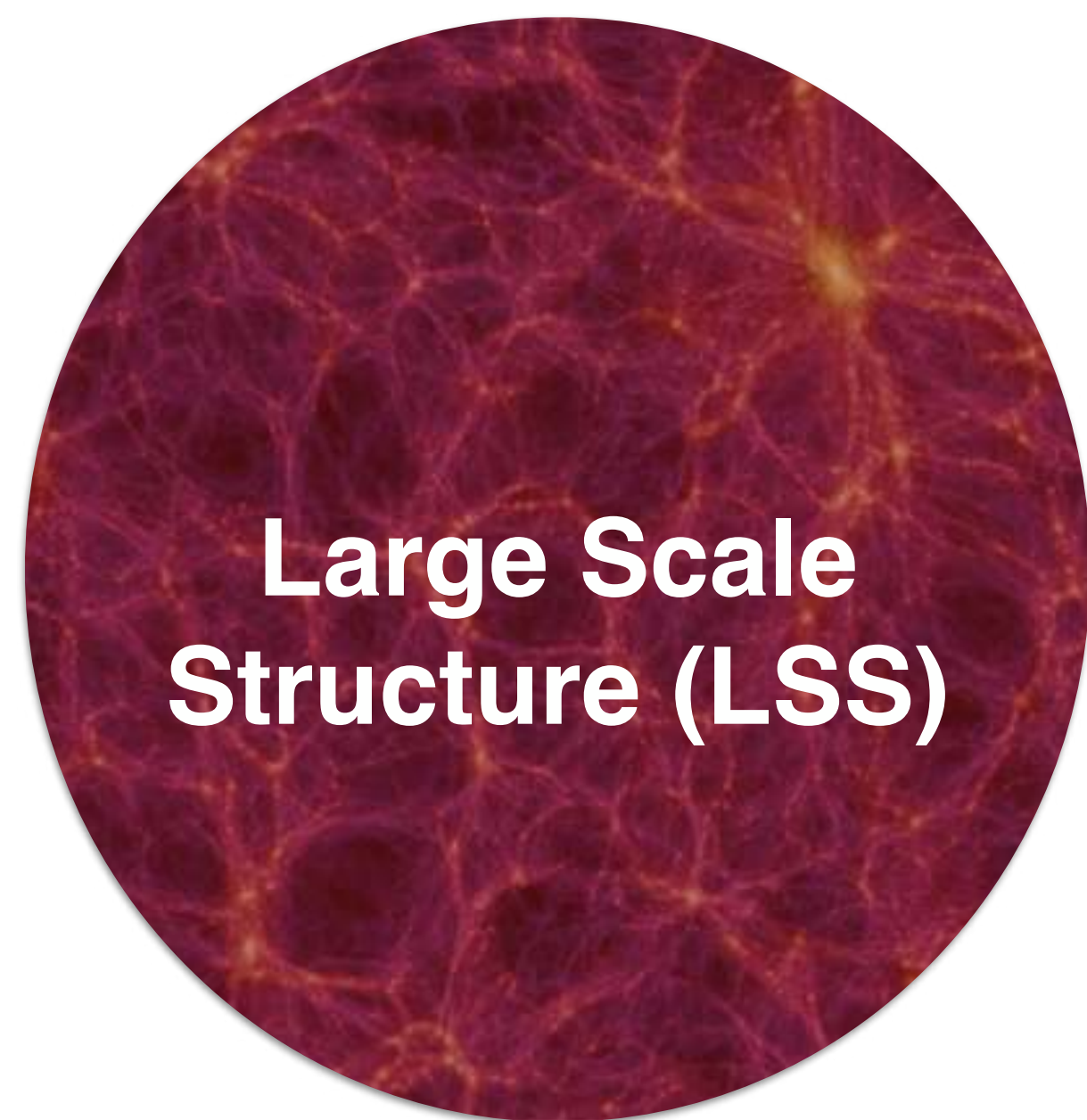


Galaxy-galaxy lensing: lens-source correlation

Tangential distortion of galaxy shapes around individual galaxies in the foreground.



LSS + WL: 3x2pt analysis



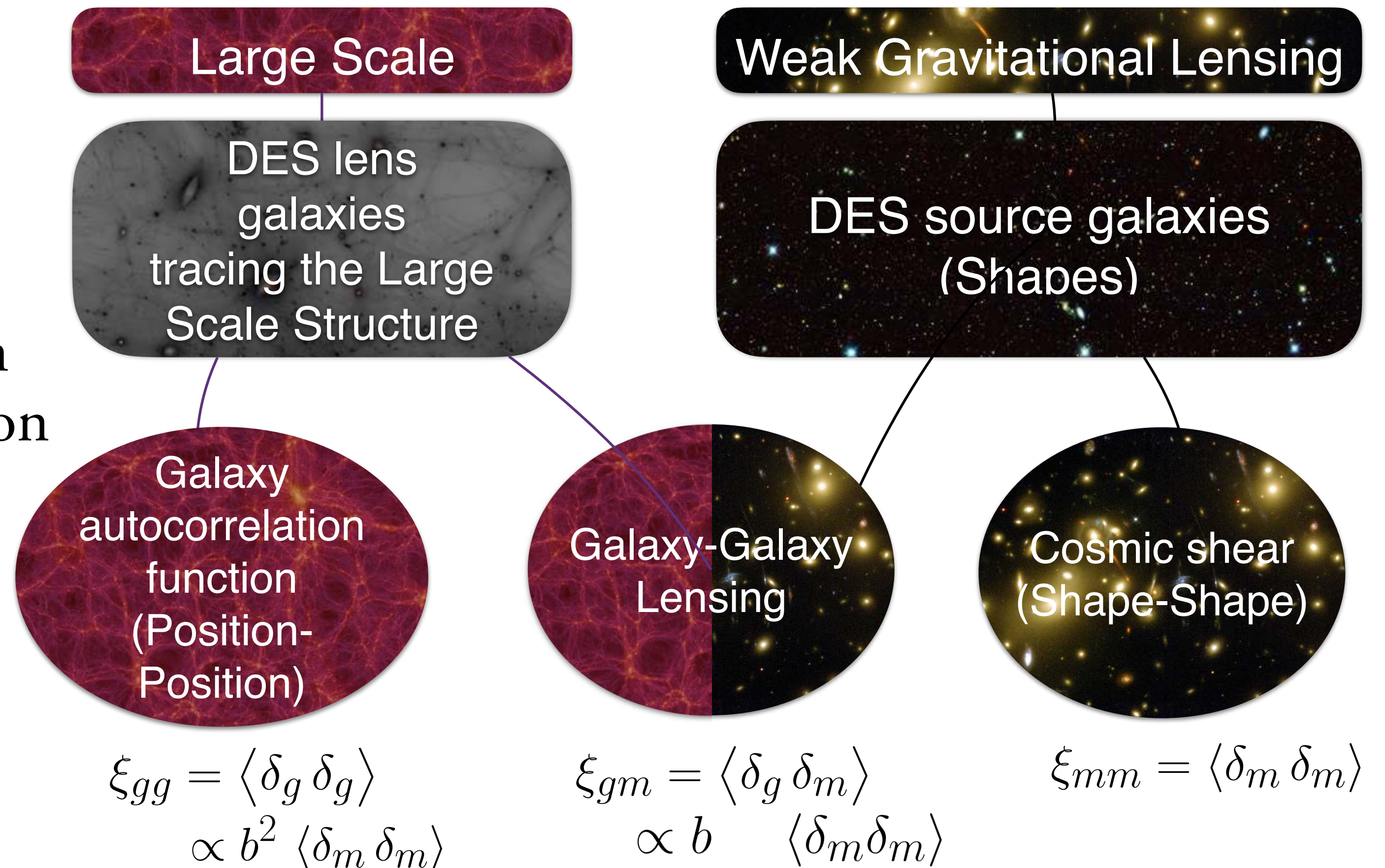
+



LSS + WL

3x2pt analysis

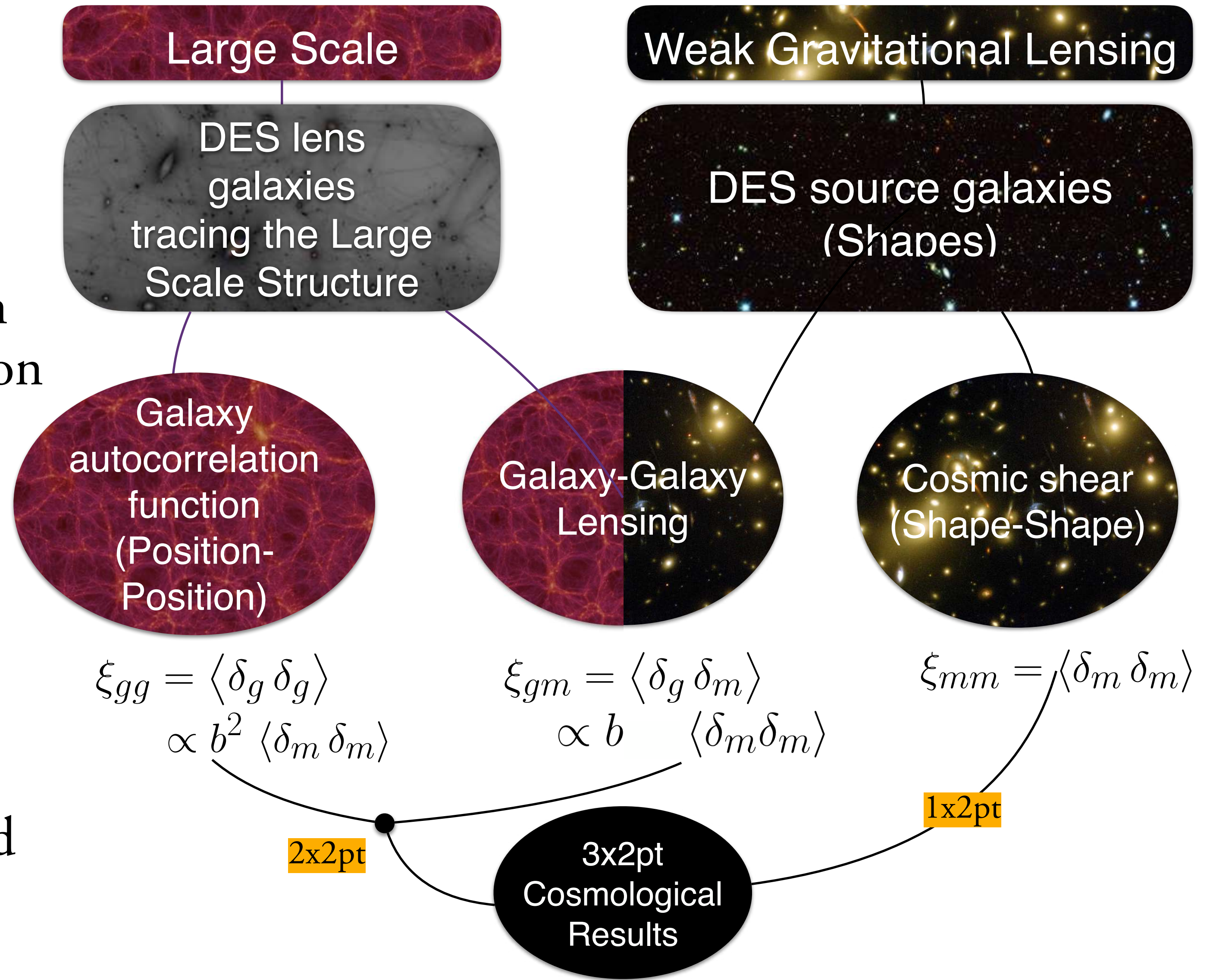
- Using two galaxy samples we can construct three 2-point correlation functions.
- The combination helps break degeneracies and self-calibrate nuisance parameters.
- This kind of analysis has been performed using DES, KiDS and HSC data.



LSS + WL

3x2pt analysis

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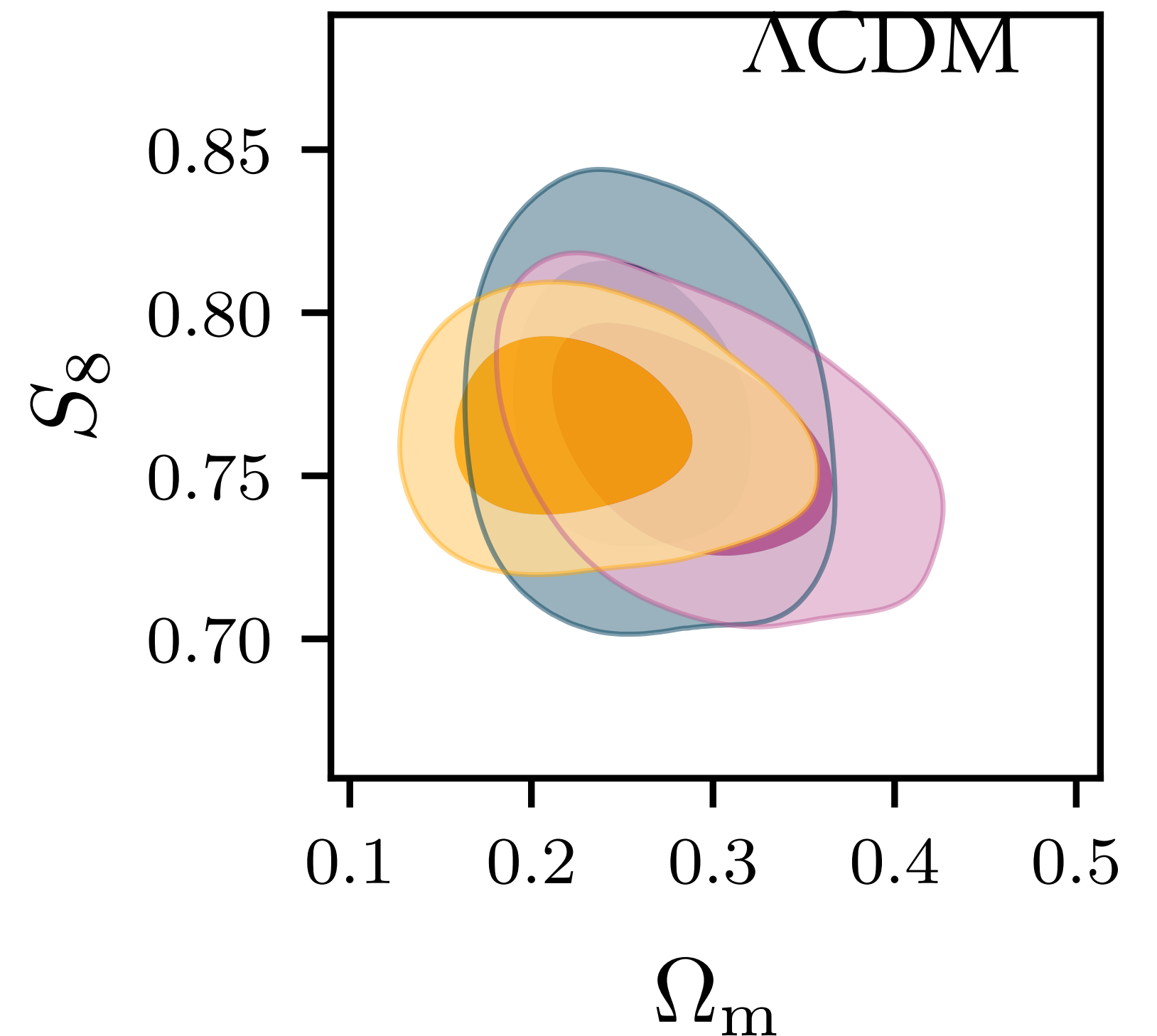
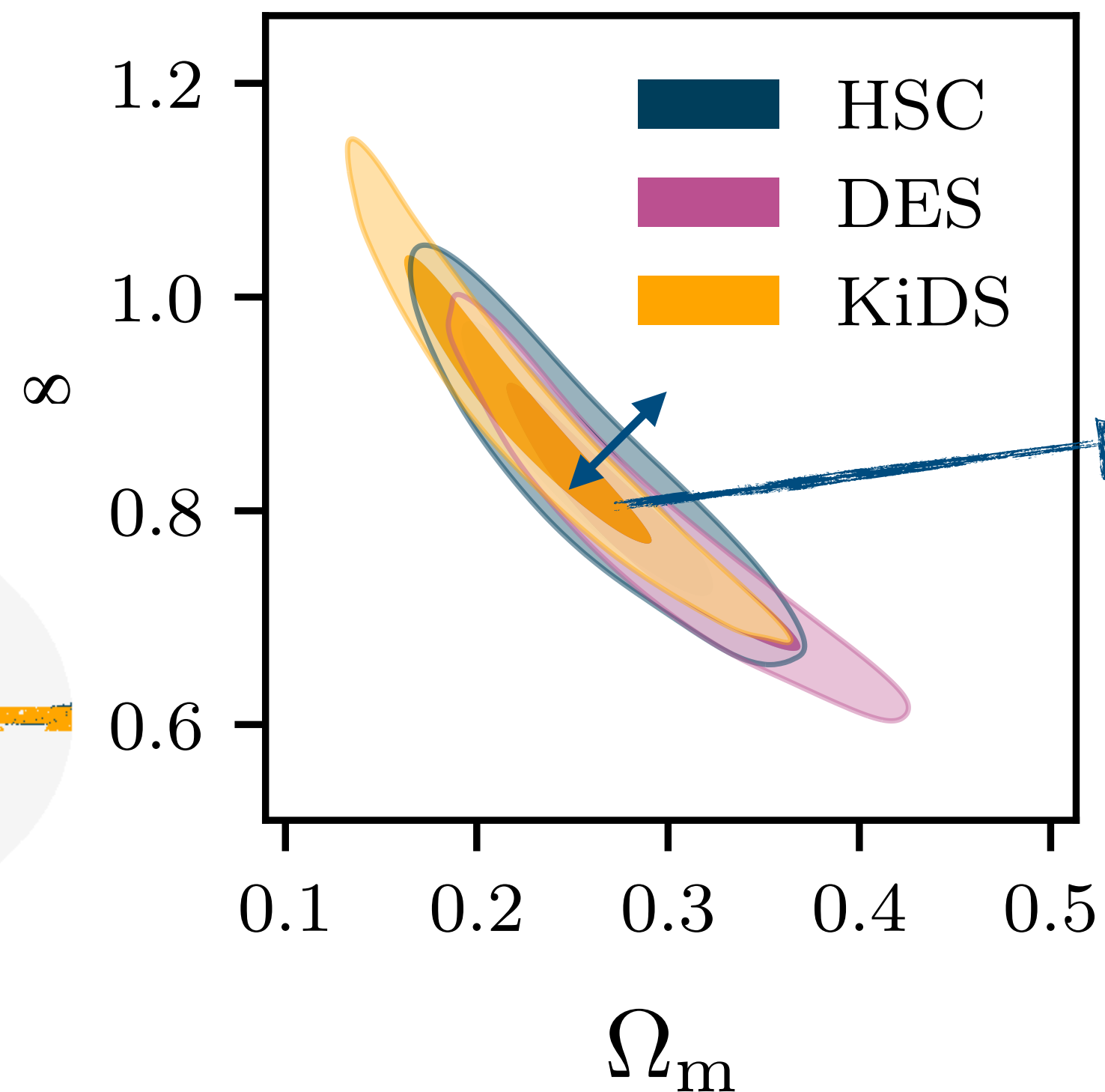
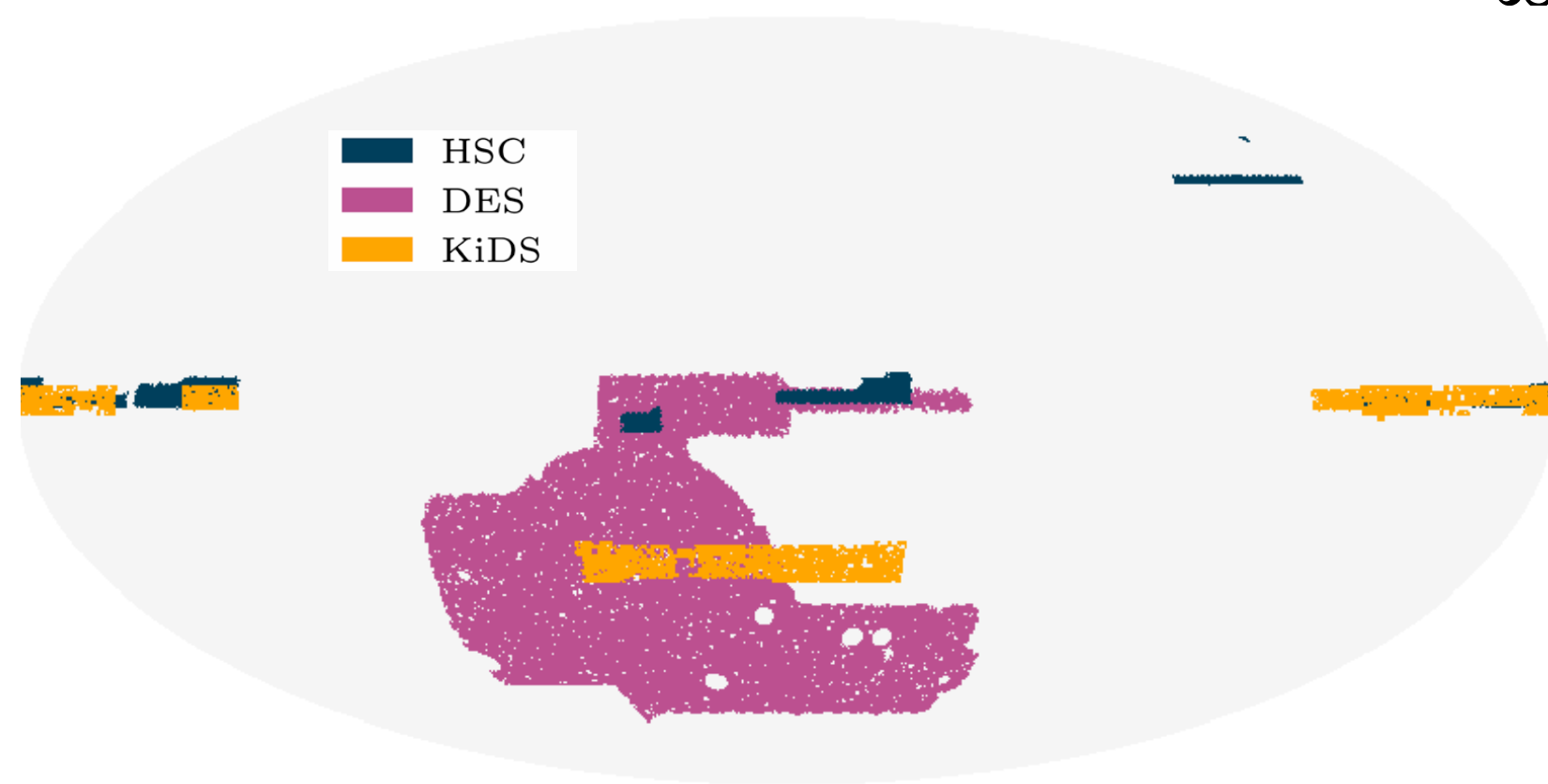


Agreement between surveys: *cosmic shear only*

- All cosmic shear results from Stage III surveys are consistent.

$$\sigma_8^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int k^2 P(k) \left[\frac{3j_1(kR)}{kR} \right]^2 dk$$

$$S_8 \equiv \sigma_8 \left(\frac{\Omega_m}{0.3} \right)^{0.5}$$

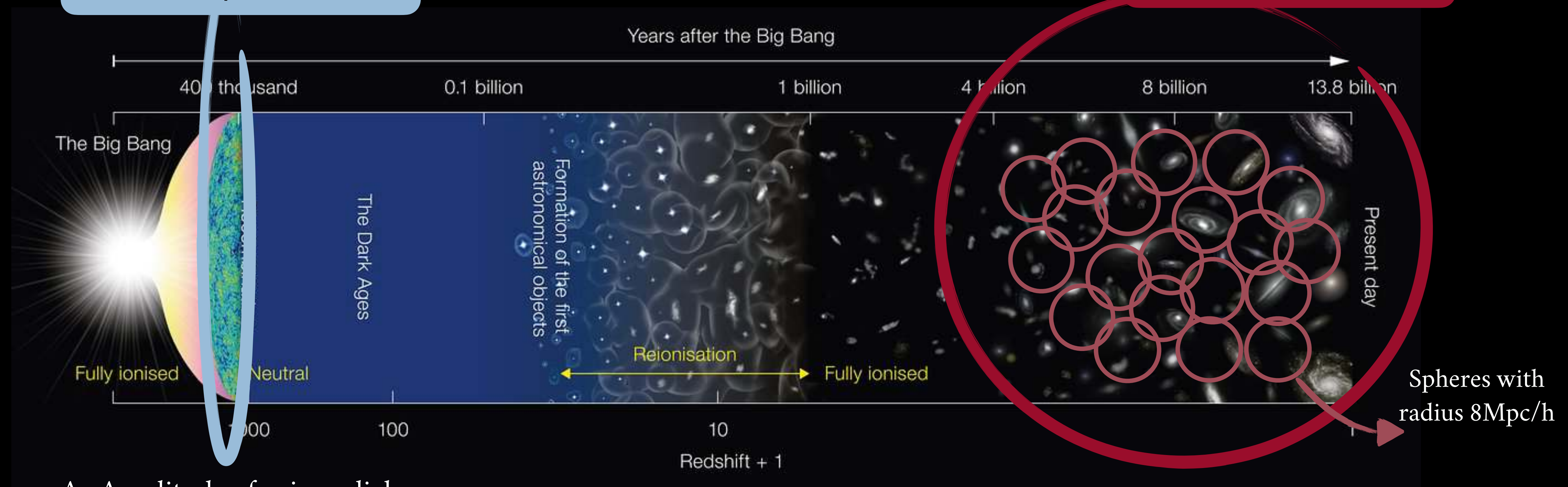


Testing Λ CDM

Is the late time clustering compatible with the Λ CDM prediction assuming initial conditions from the CMB?

CMB experiments observe the early Universe

Galaxy surveys observe the late Universe



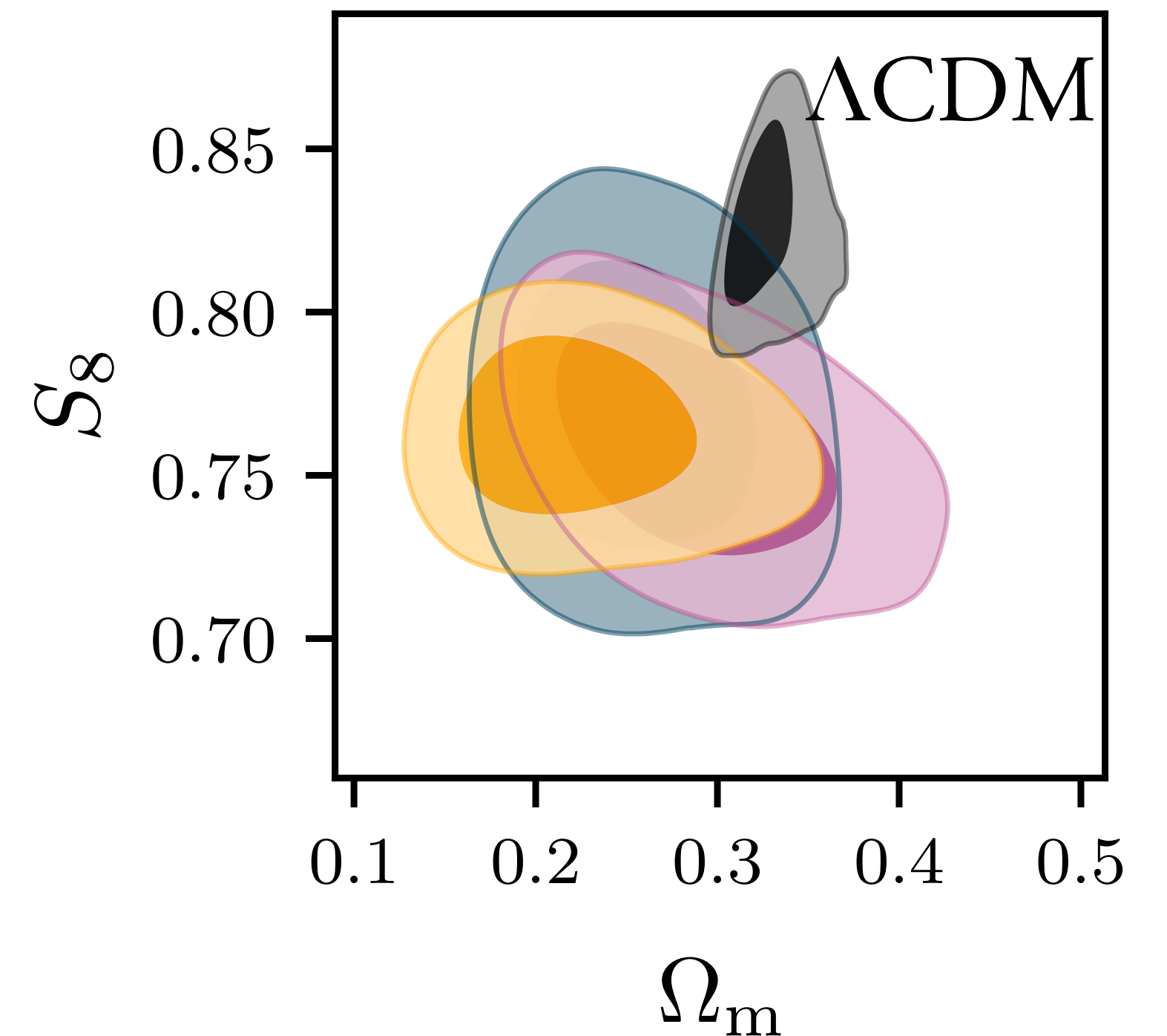
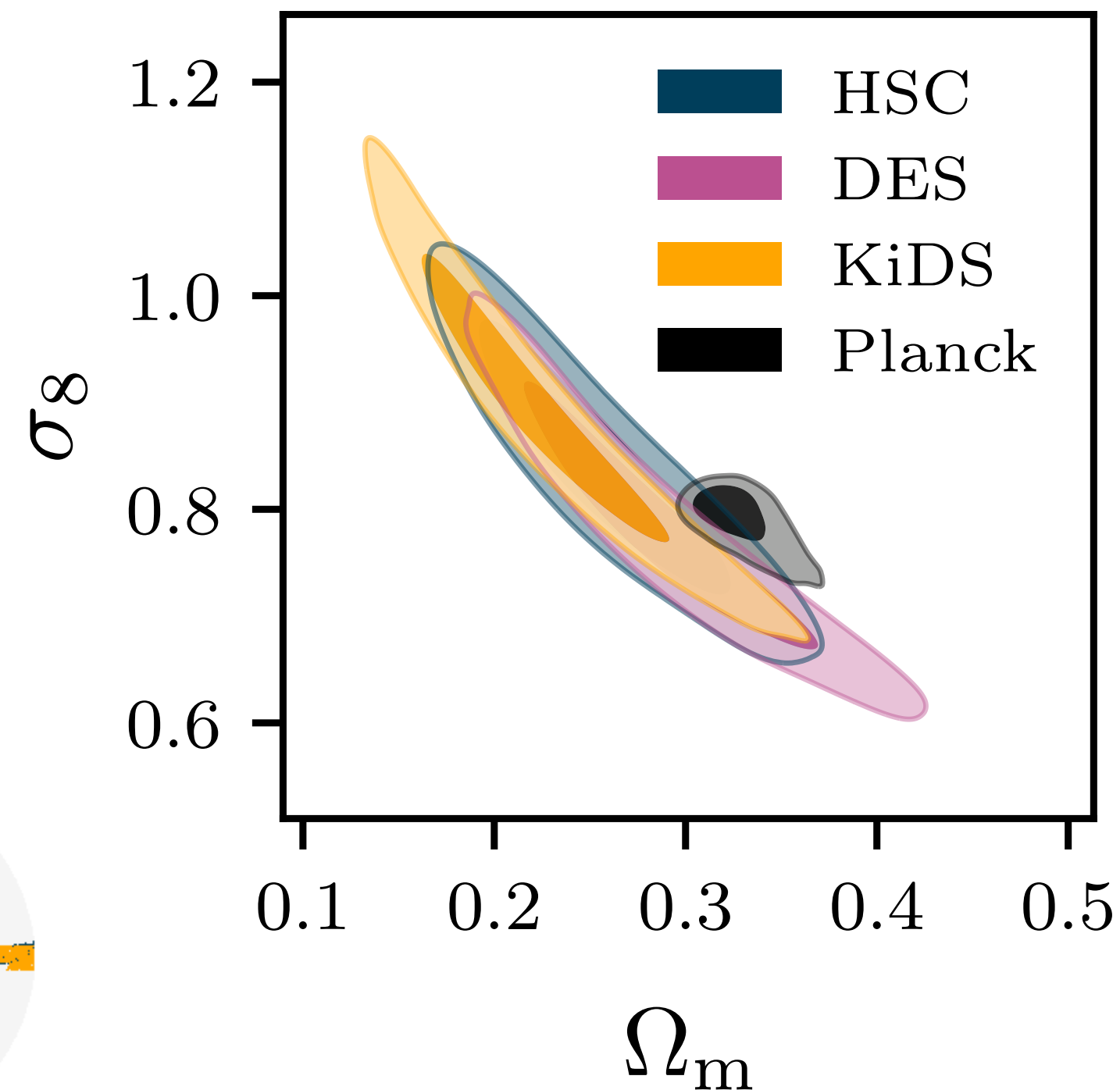
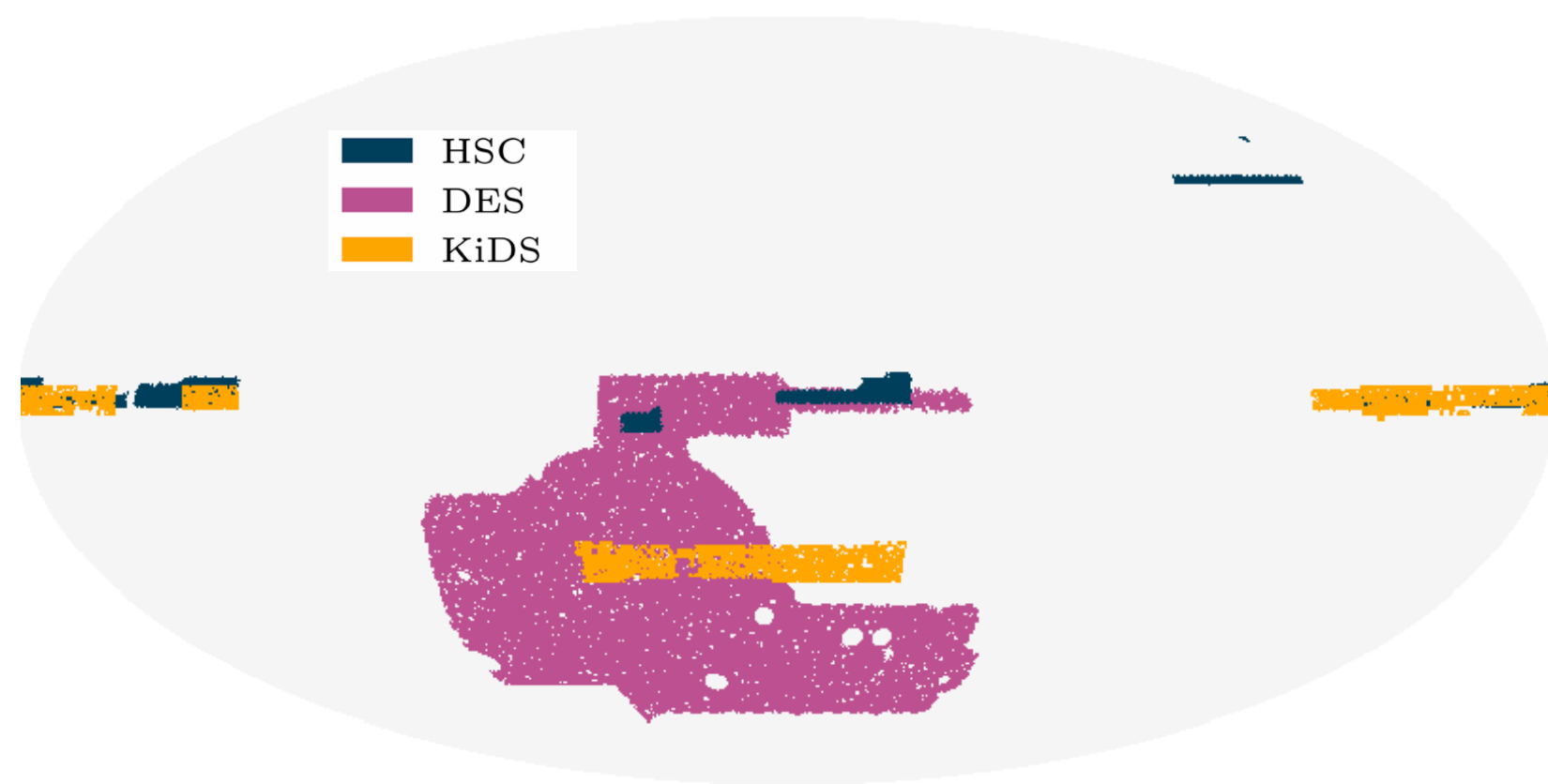
A_s : Amplitude of primordial scalar density fluctuations.

Image credit: NAOJ

σ_8 : Amplitude of mass fluctuations today.

Agreement between surveys: *cosmic shear only*

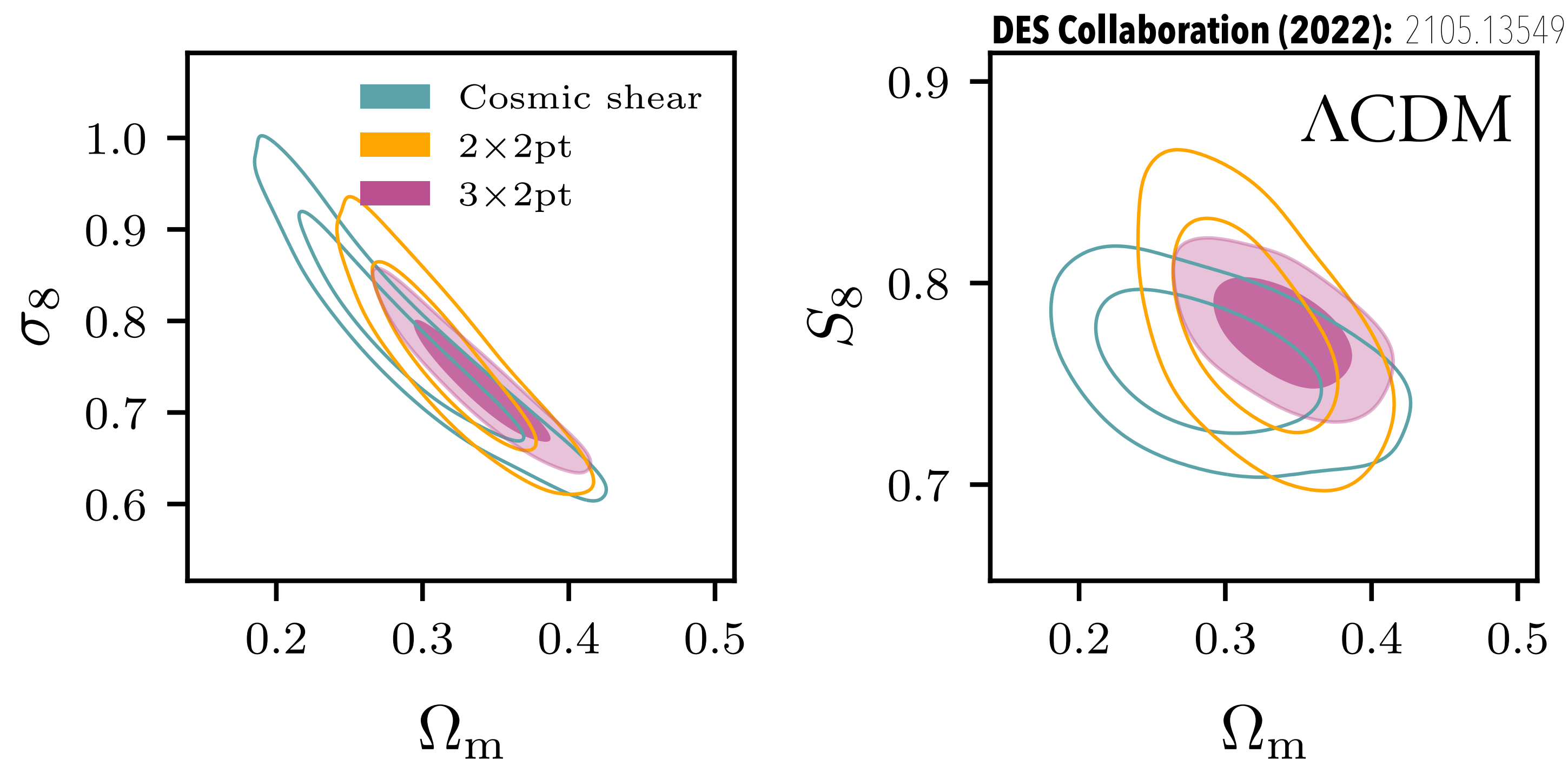
- All cosmic shear results from Stage III are about 2σ lower than the expected result assuming Λ CDM.



3x2pt combination: DES Y3 results

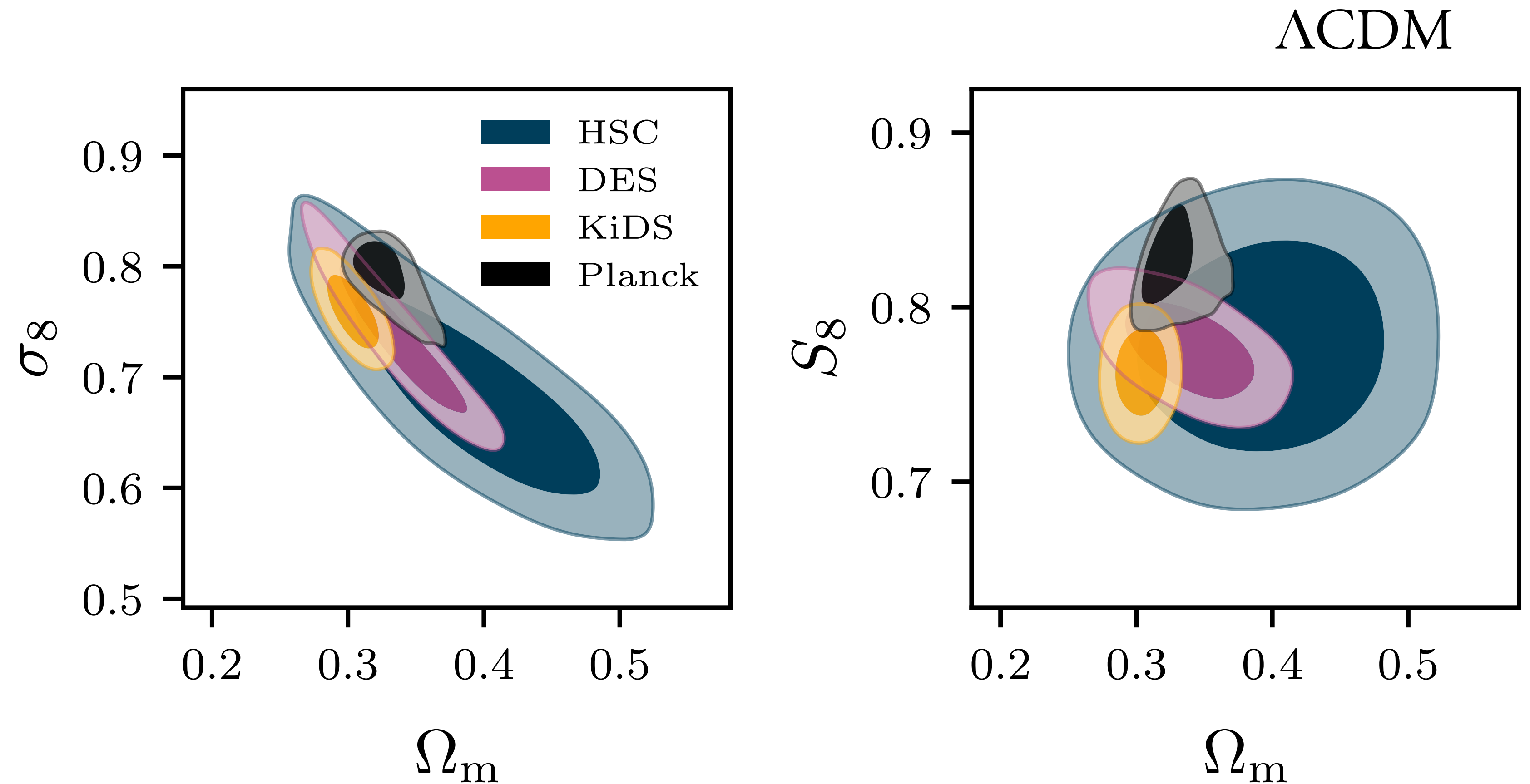
We find consistency between cosmic shear and 2x2pt.

- Cosmic shear more sensitive to clustering amplitude.
- Galaxy clustering and galaxy-galaxy lensing more sensitive to total matter density.



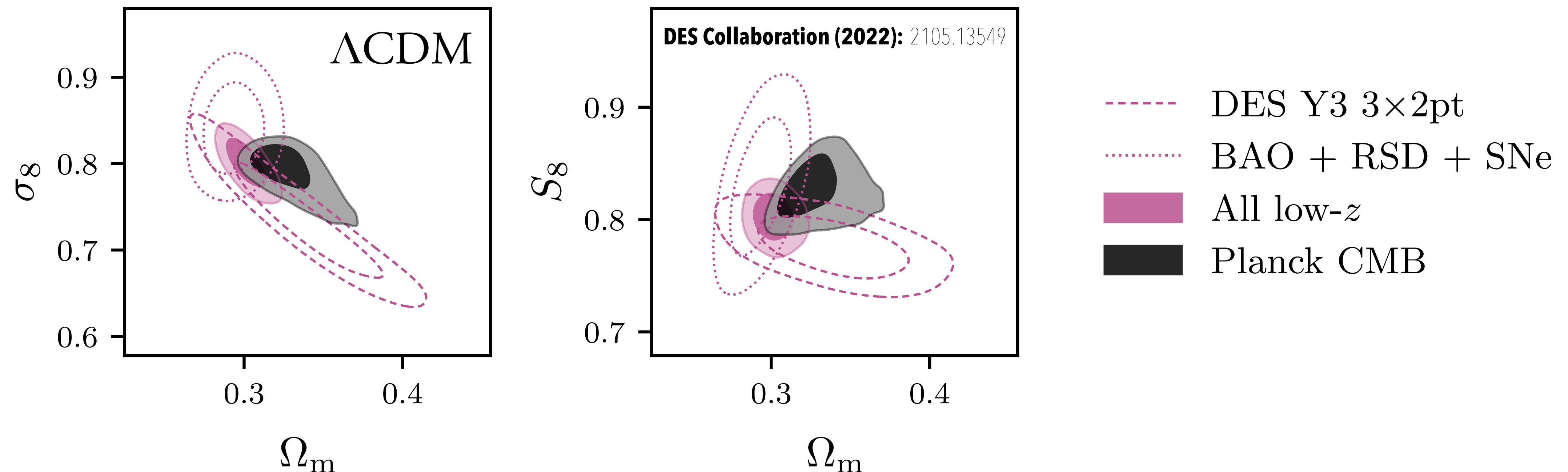
Late time vs early time comparison

- Planck and DES Y3 are consistent assuming the Λ CDM model (1.5σ), although the clustering amplitude is lower for DES Y3 than Planck.
- KiDS is $\sim 2\sigma$ below Planck.



3x2pt in context: *Low redshift Universe constraints*

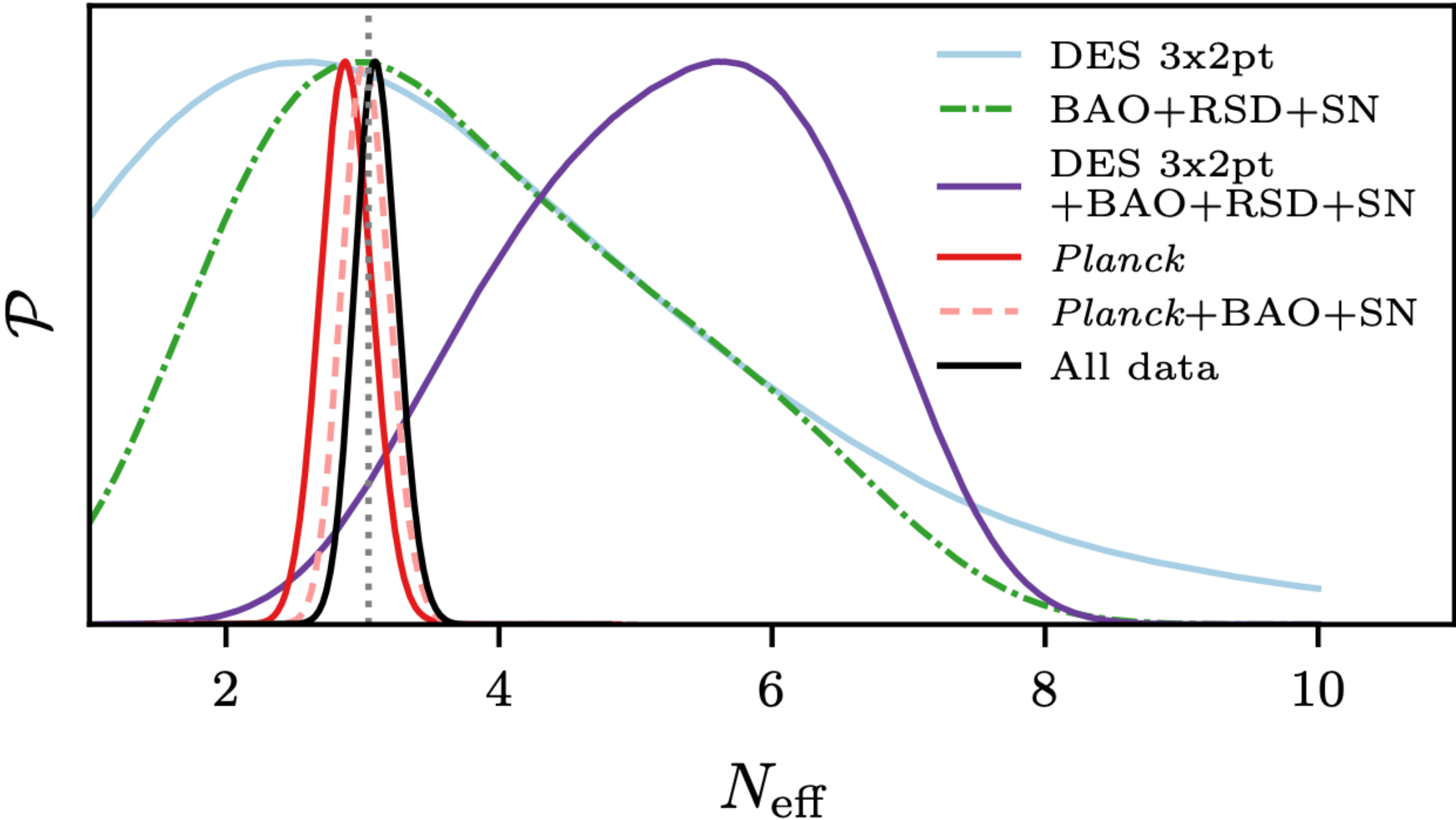
- In Λ CDM, 3x2pt mostly helps in the σ_8 - Ω_m plane.
- When combined with other external redshift probes (*Pantheon SNe IA*, *BOSS BAO*, *BOSS RSD*), they are also consistent (0.9σ), with smaller uncertainties.



DES Y3 results:

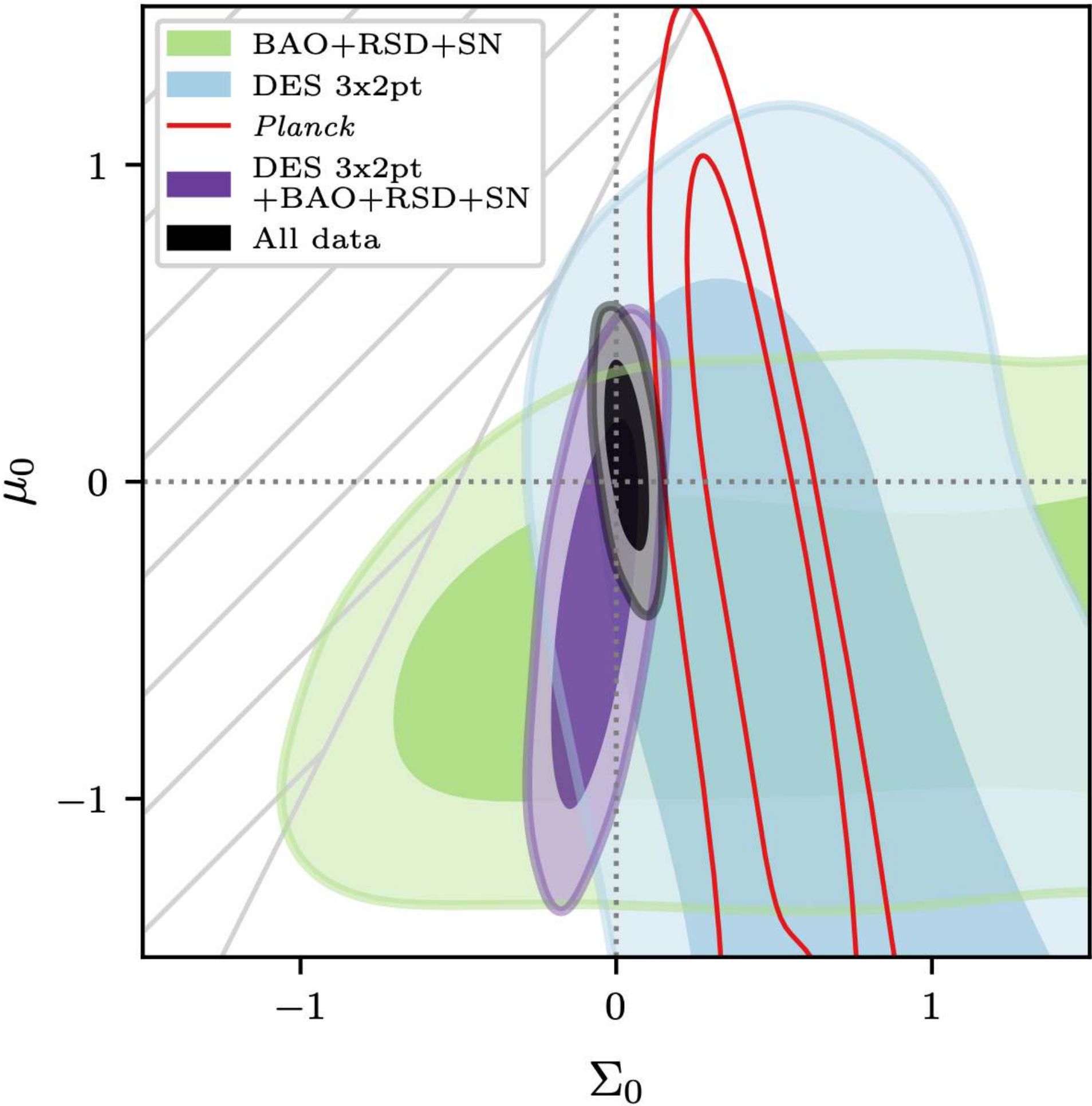
Other extended models

Marginalized posterior on the number of relativistic species.



Modified gravity

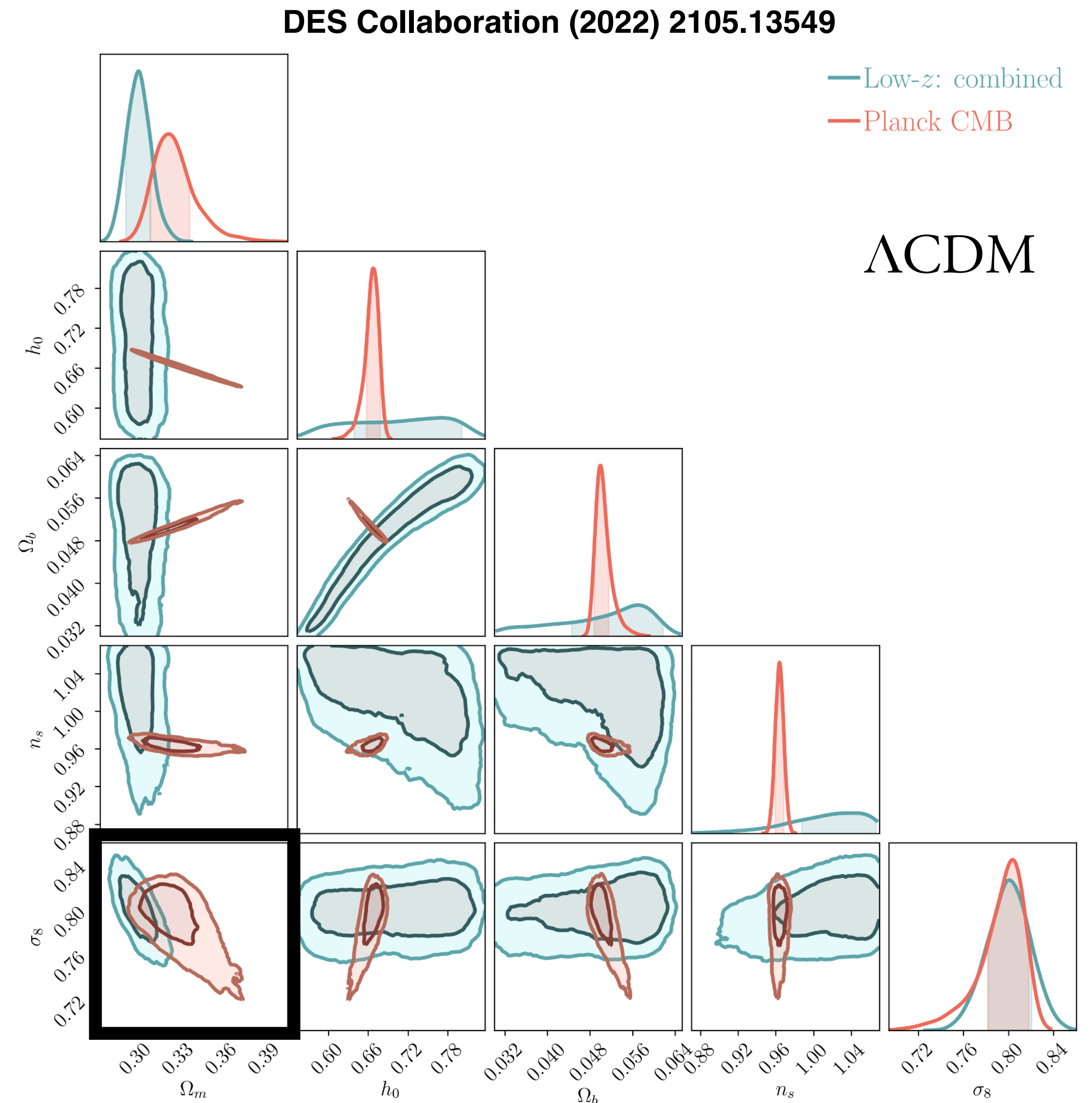
DES Collaboration (2022): arXiv: 2207.05766



Stress testing Λ CDM:

Looking at the full parameter space

- When we look at the full parameter space we can see that only two parameters are constrained to a similar precision as Planck. —> We still have a long way to go to reach the same precision in the late time Universe.
- We have work to do to be able to do an even more compelling test.





Thoughts on
current and
future directions

3 ways to move forward:

What am I doing?

Combining more probes from the late-time Universe

How can we get more precise constraints from the late-time Universe?

Exploring new combinations of data:

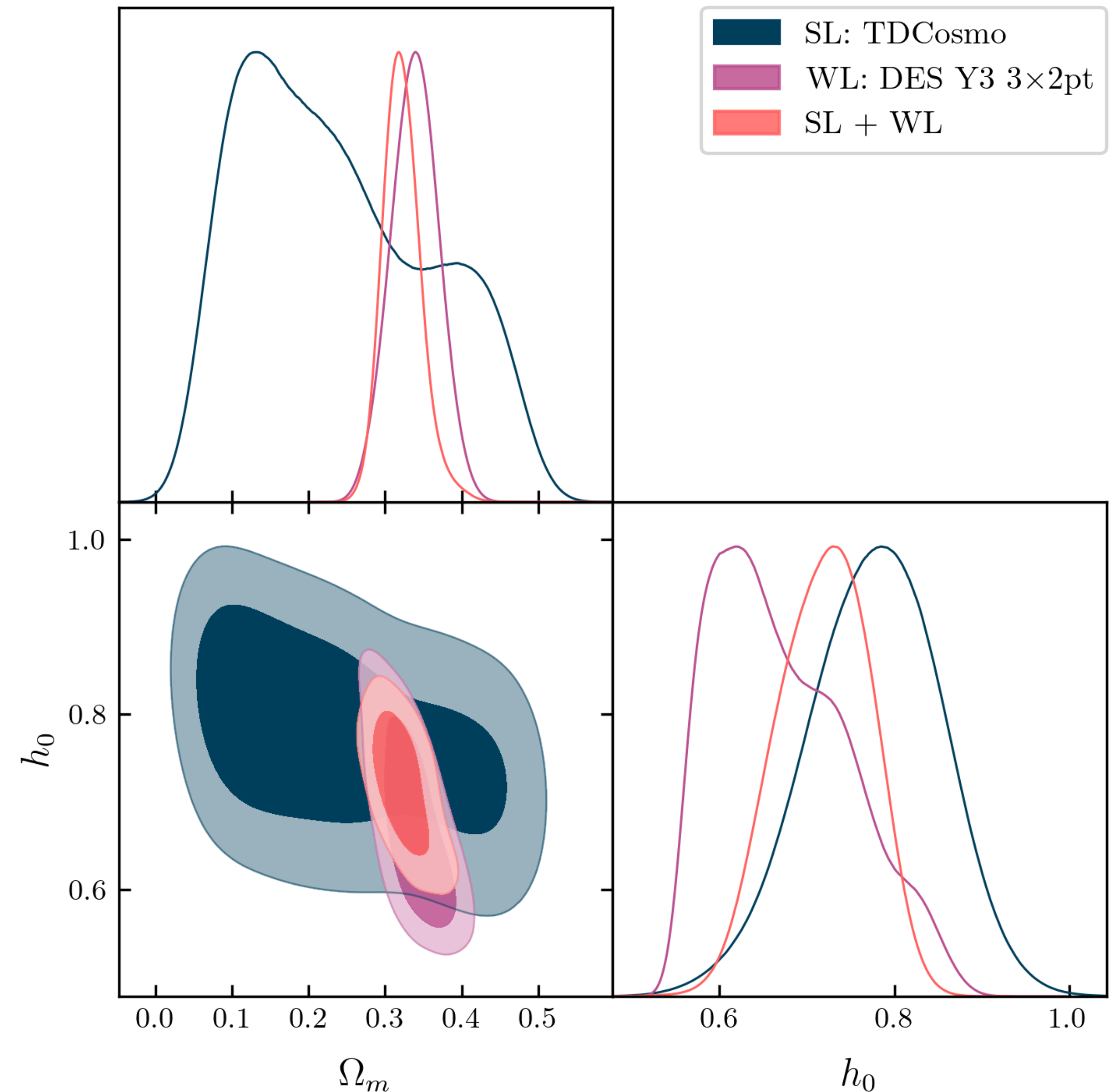
- (i) Strong Lensing + Weak Lensing
- (ii) Cosmological Constraints from Combining Galaxy Surveys and Gravitational Wave Observatories

Gagnon, Anbajagane, Prat et al. (2023): 2312.16289

Strong Lensing + Weak Lensing

- Strong Lensing (SL) + Weak Lensing (WL) is an example of how we can do better by combining emerging synergetic probes.
- SL is sensitive to H_0 , and WL is sensitive to $\Omega_m + \sigma_8$.

TDCOSMO likelihood publicly available in CosmoSIS now thanks to work with Martin Millon (KIPAC) & Simon Birrer (Stony Brook)



3 ways to move forward:

What am I doing?

Combining more probes from the late-time Universe

How can we get more precise constraints from the late-time Universe?

With more data

Extracting more information from the same data

Exploring new combinations of data:

- (i) Strong Lensing + Weak Lensing
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Gagnon, Anbajagane, Prat et al. (2023): 2312.16289

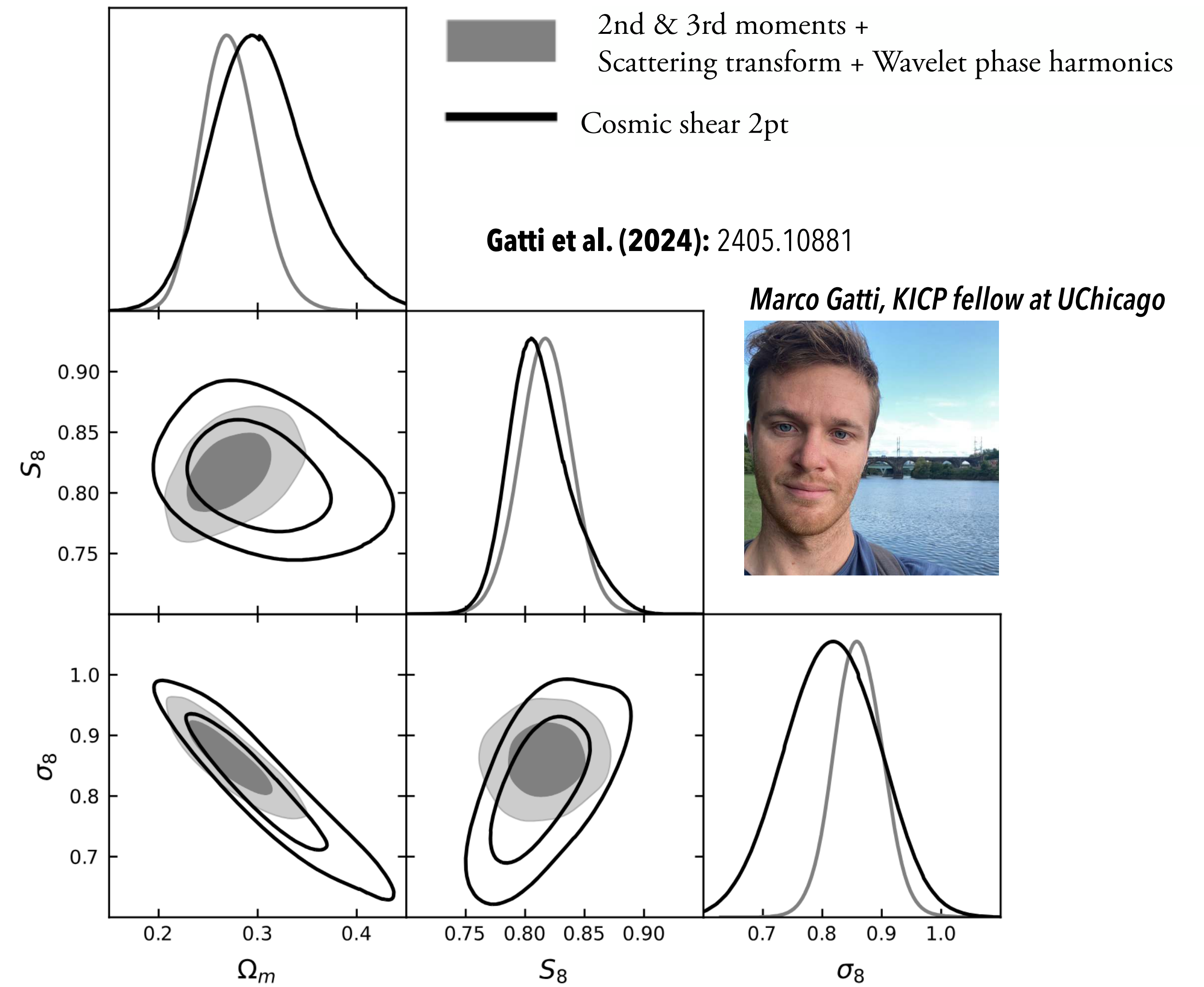
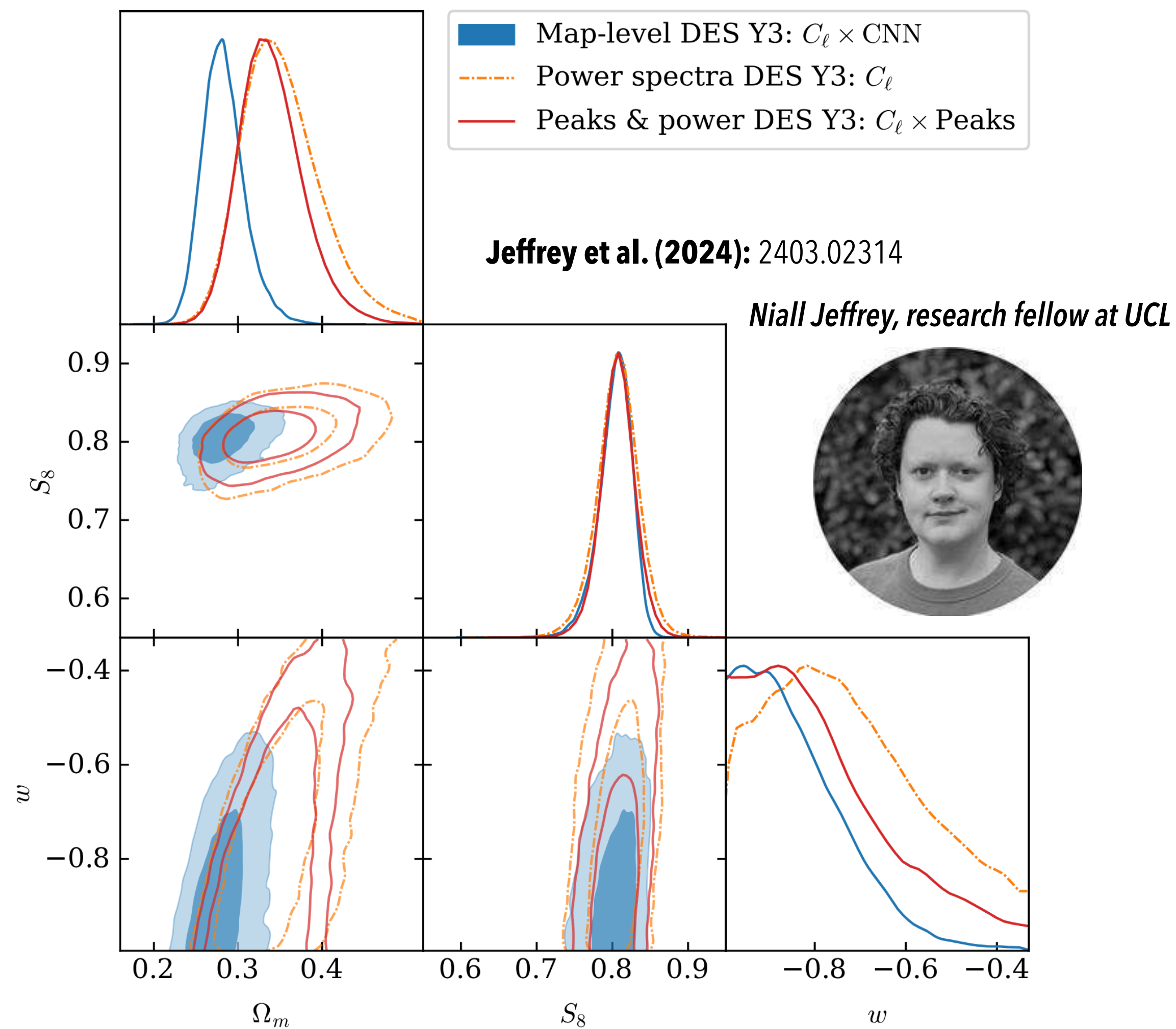
Capture non-gaussian information from the late-time Universe with higher-order statistics:

- (i) Persistent homology applied to DES Y3 WL mass maps
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(i) **Prat et al. (in prep)**
(ii) Ongoing

Where is the gain?

Improvement is on the 2D plane, S_8 is not a good metric to compare methods anymore

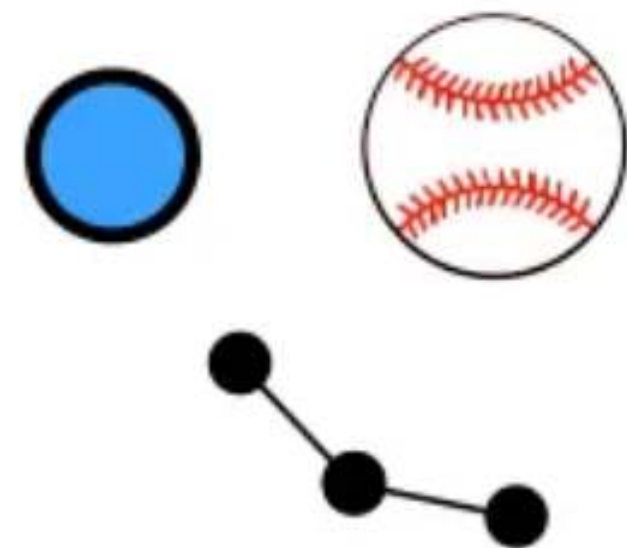


Persistent homology

What is it?

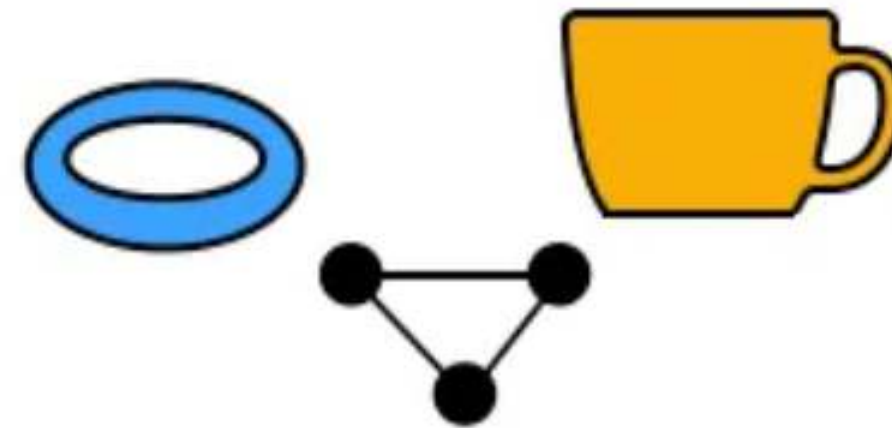
Persistent homology is a method for computing topological features of a space. More persistent features are detected over a wide range of spatial scales and are deemed more likely to represent true features of the underlying space rather than artifacts of sampling, noise, or particular choice of parameters.

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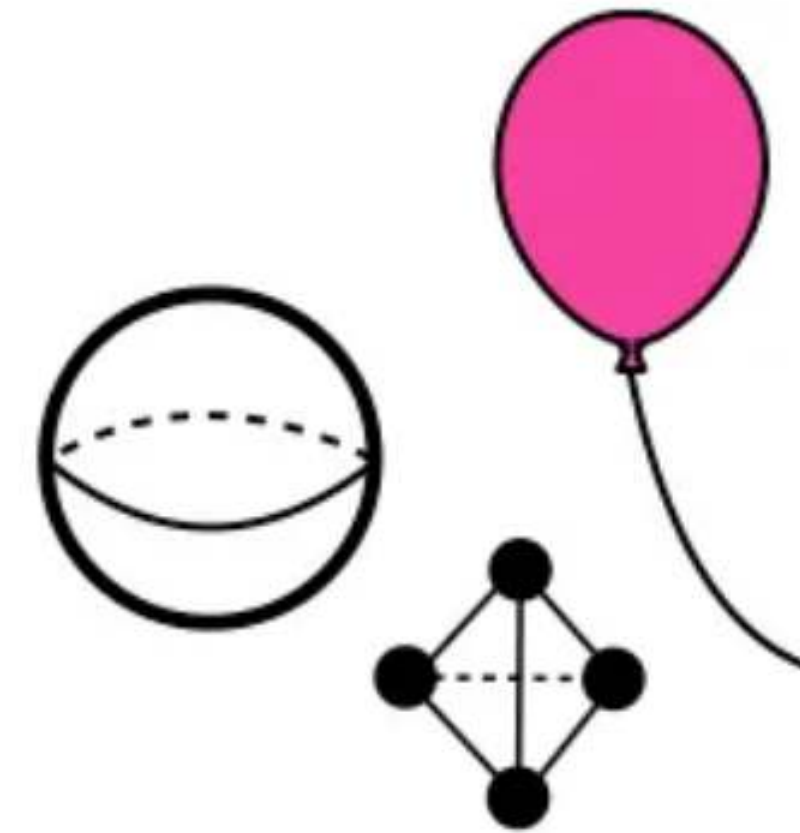
**Connected
Components**

H_0



Holes

H_1

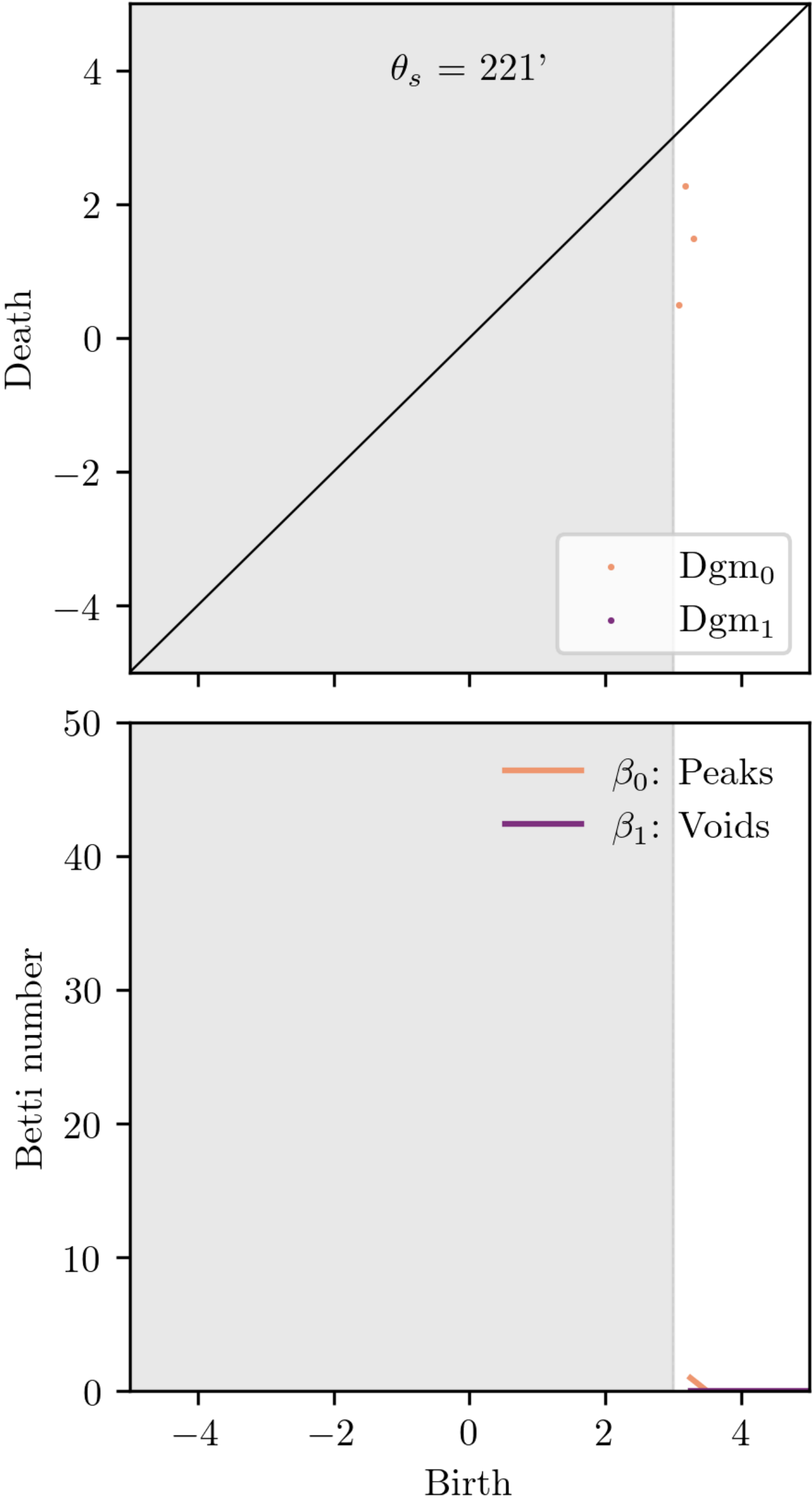
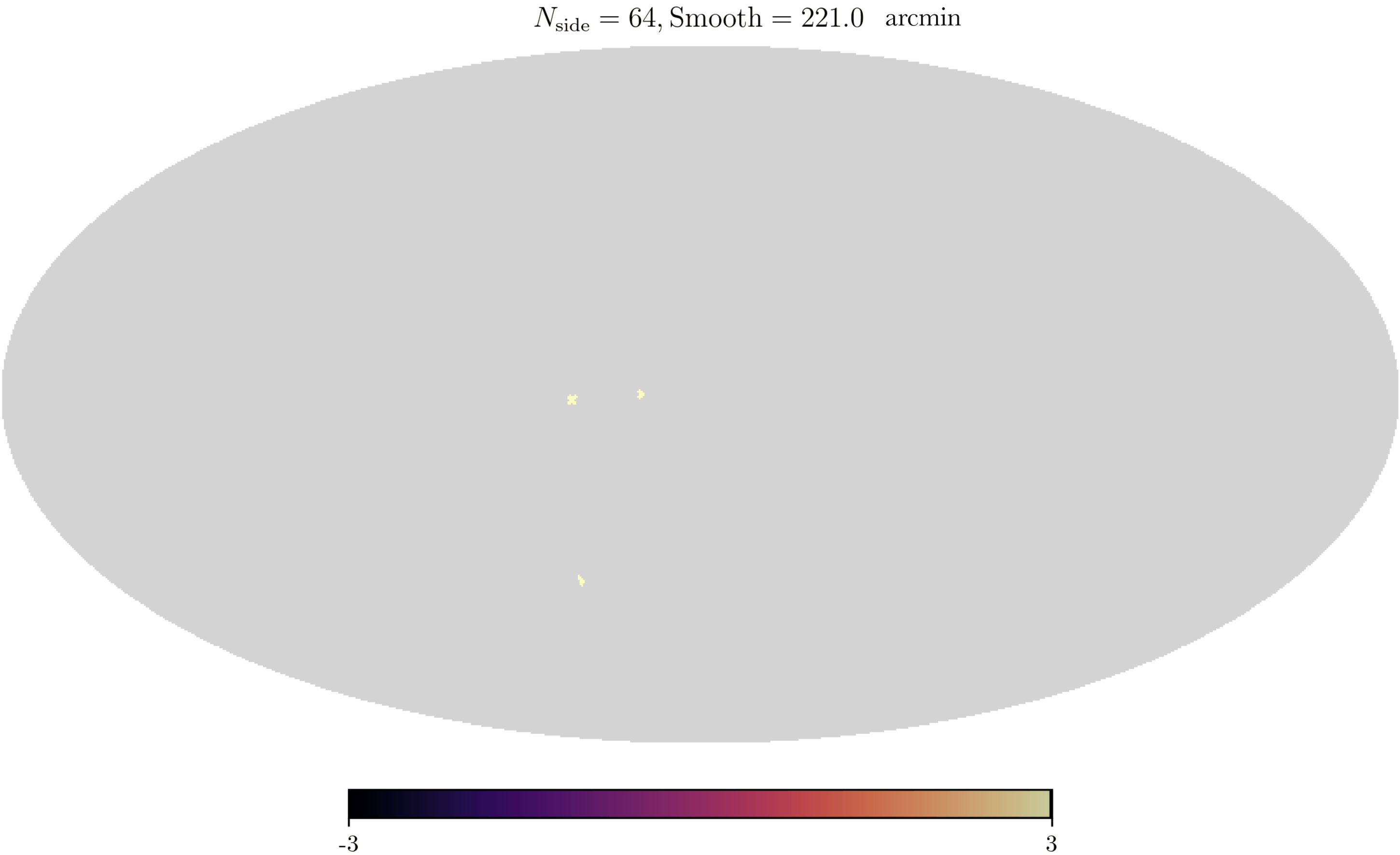


Cavities

H_2

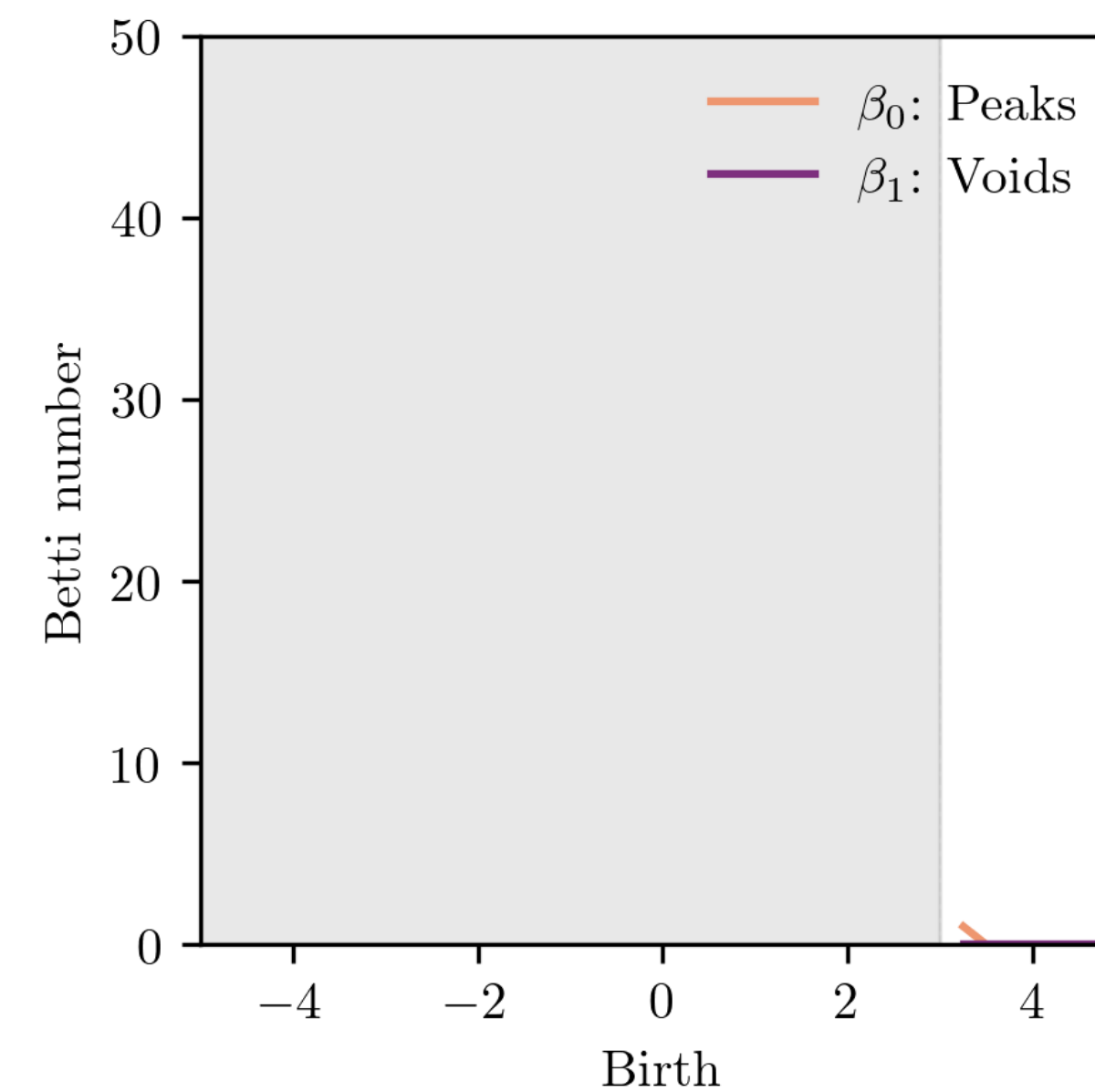
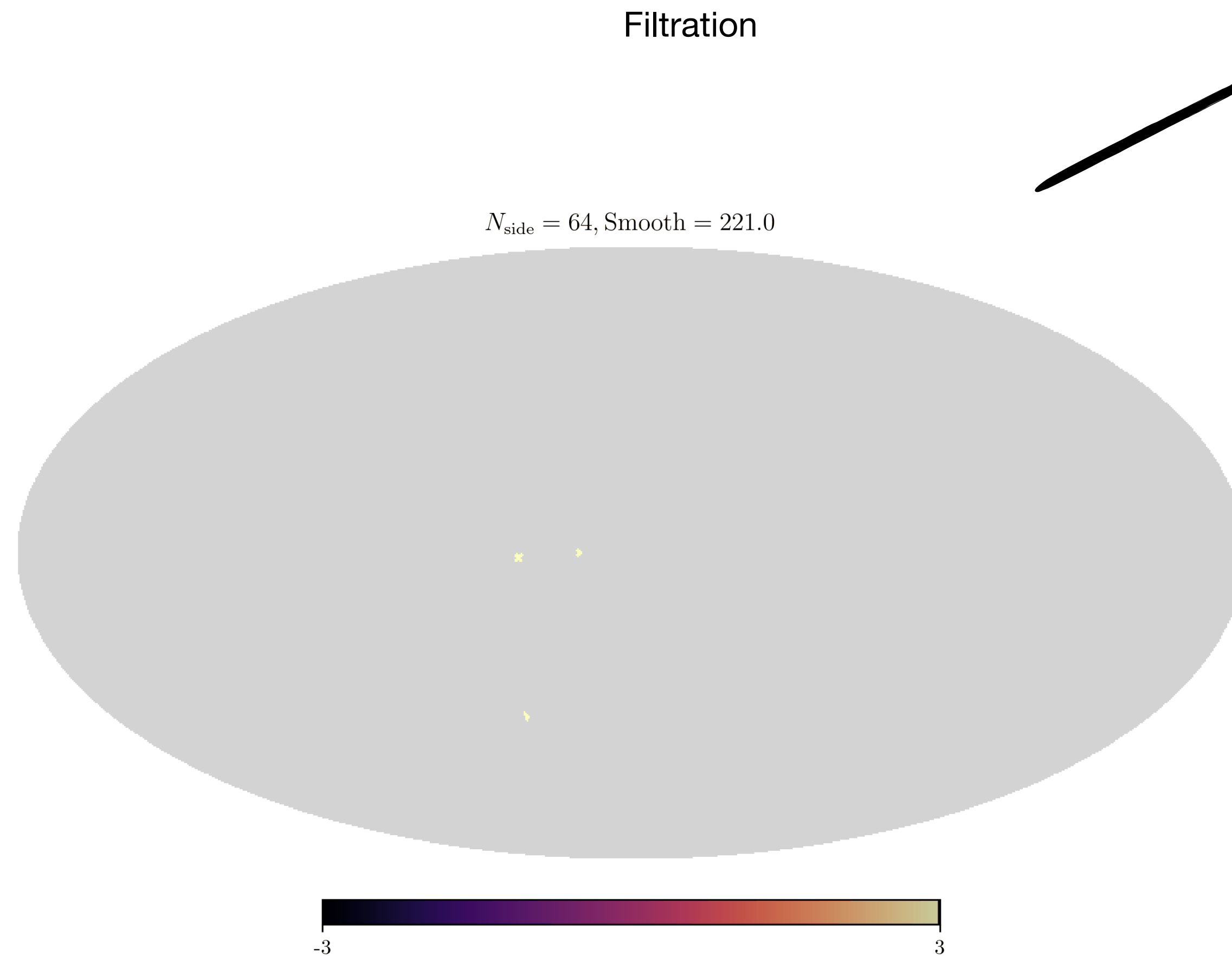
Persistent homology

Persistent diagram and Betti numbers

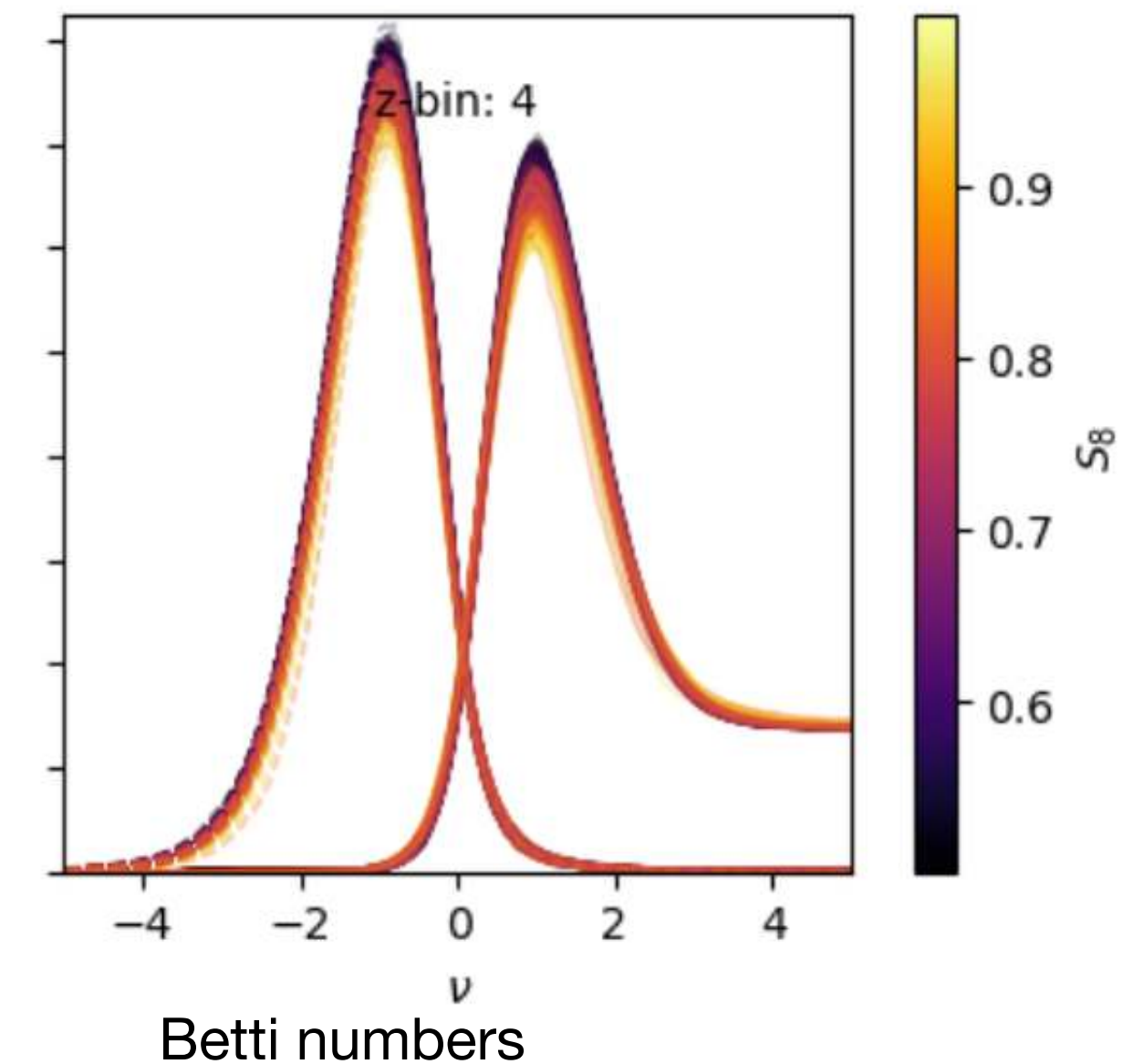


With Marco Gatti (UChicago), Niall Jeffrey (UCL), Pratyush Pranav (Bennett University), Chihway Chang (UChicago), Cyrille Doux (CNRS) ++

Persistent homology



Betti numbers count the number of **connected components** and **holes** that are present above a given threshold $\mathbf{v}_0$. These are called the 'Betti numbers' β_0 (for connected components) and β_1 (for holes).



With Marco Gatti (UChicago), Niall Jeffrey (UCL), Pratyush Pranav (Bennett University), Chihway Chang (UChicago), Cyrille Doux (CNRS) ++

3 ways to move forward:

What am I doing?

How can we get more precise constraints from the late-time Universe?

Combining more probes from the late-time Universe

Extracting more information from the same data

Exploring new combinations of data:

- (i) Strong Lensing + Weak Lensing
- (ii) Cosmological Constraints from Combining Galaxy Surveys and Gravitational Wave Observatories

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Improve modeling (of small scales especially, galaxy-halo connection):

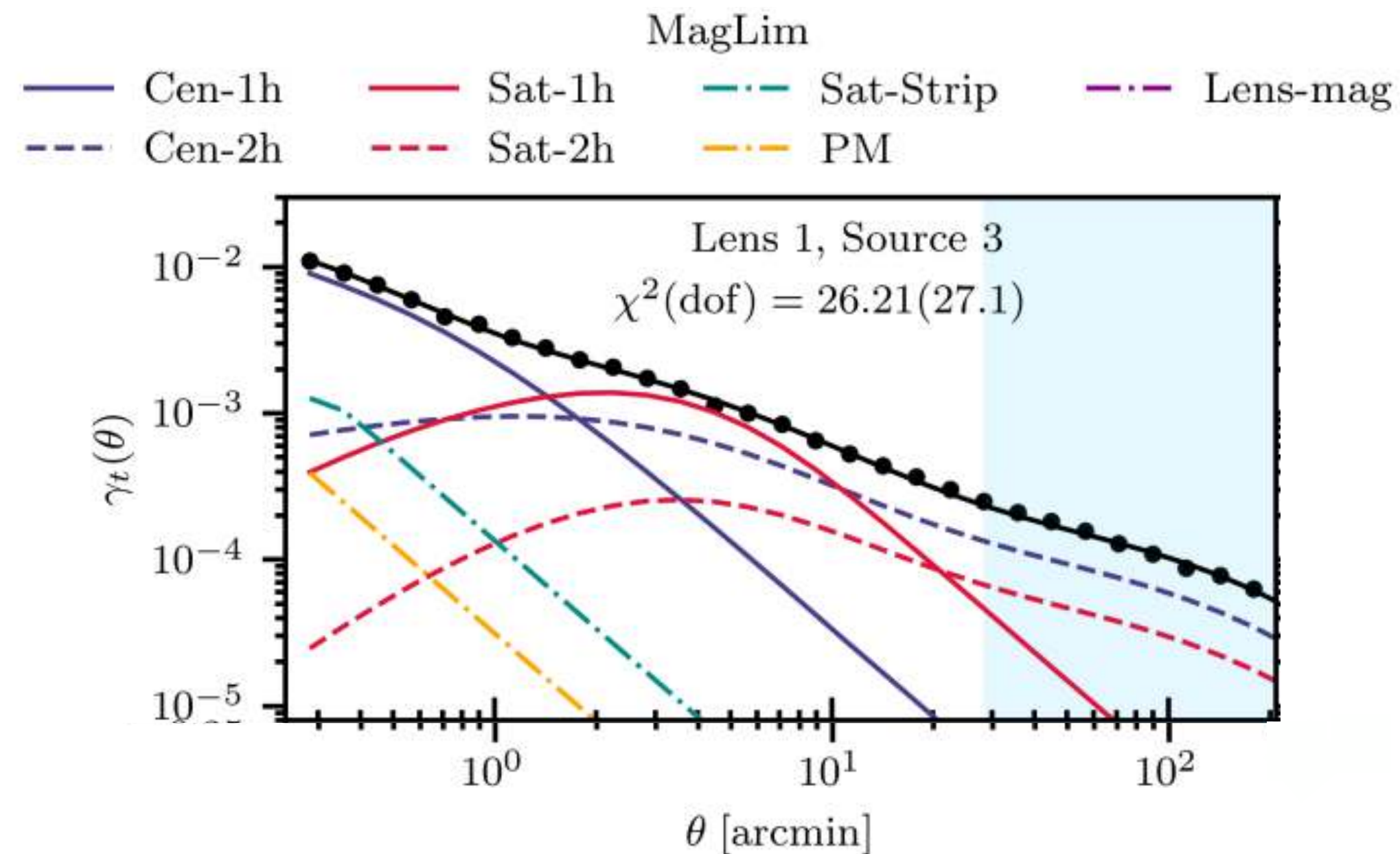
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- (ii) Weak Gravitational Lensing around Low Surface Brightness Galaxies
- (iii) Cosmic filaments on DES Y3 data

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(ii) **Chicoine, Prat et al. (2024)**
(iii) Ongoing

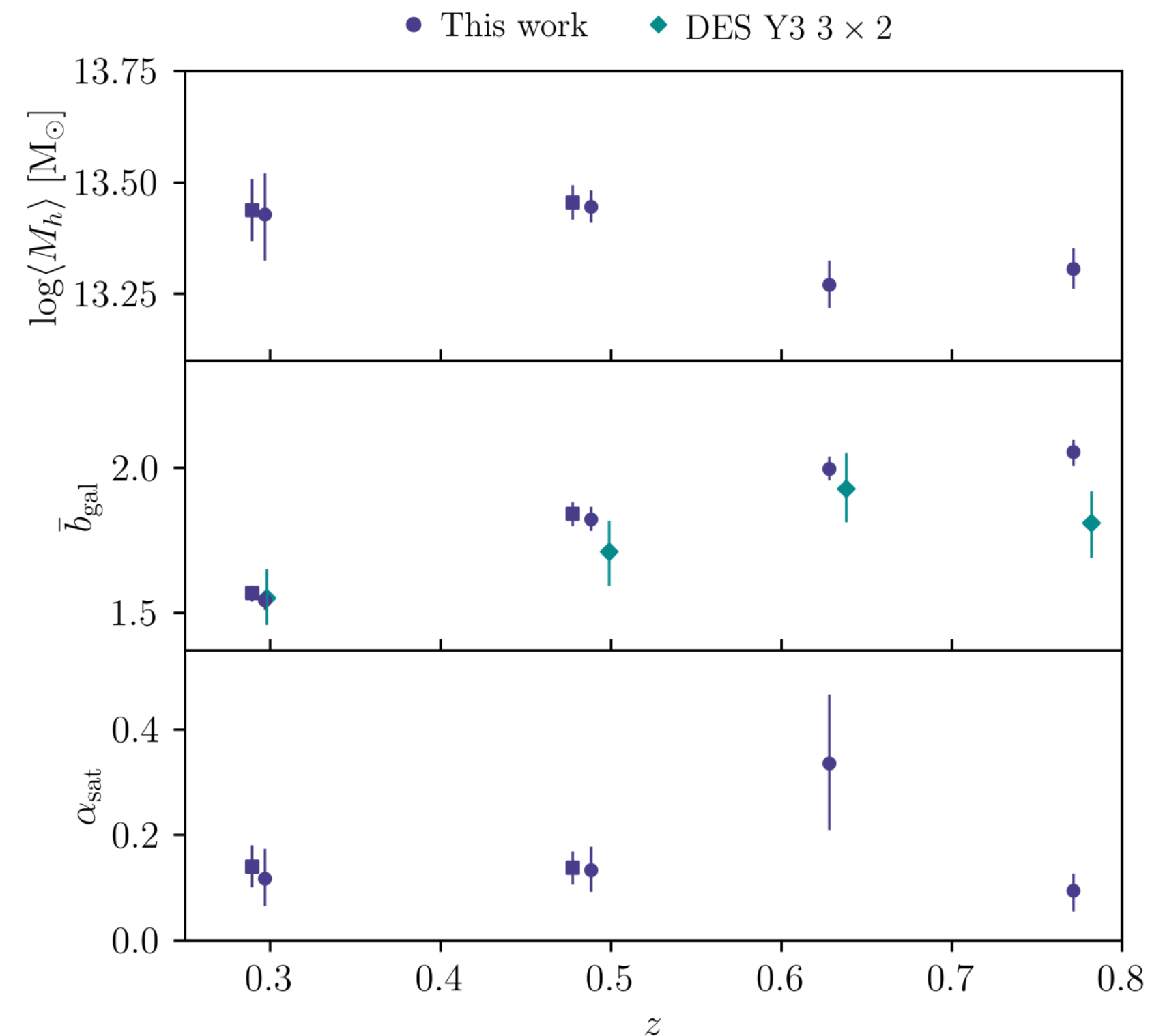
The galaxy-matter connection

Halo Occupation Model (HOD)

- Improving the modeling at small scales is key to extract the full constraining power of our data.
- HOD models allow us to also model the one-halo regime.



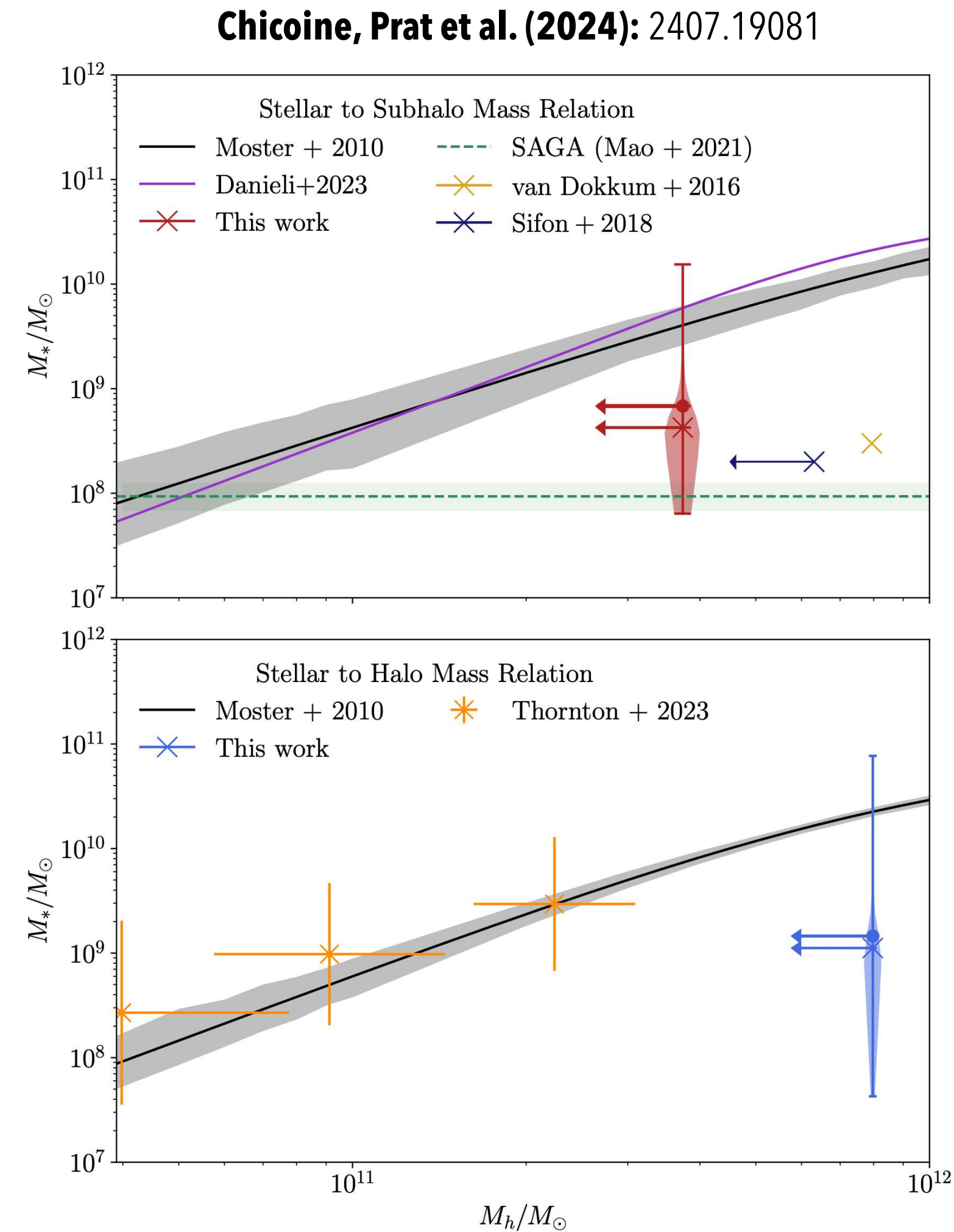
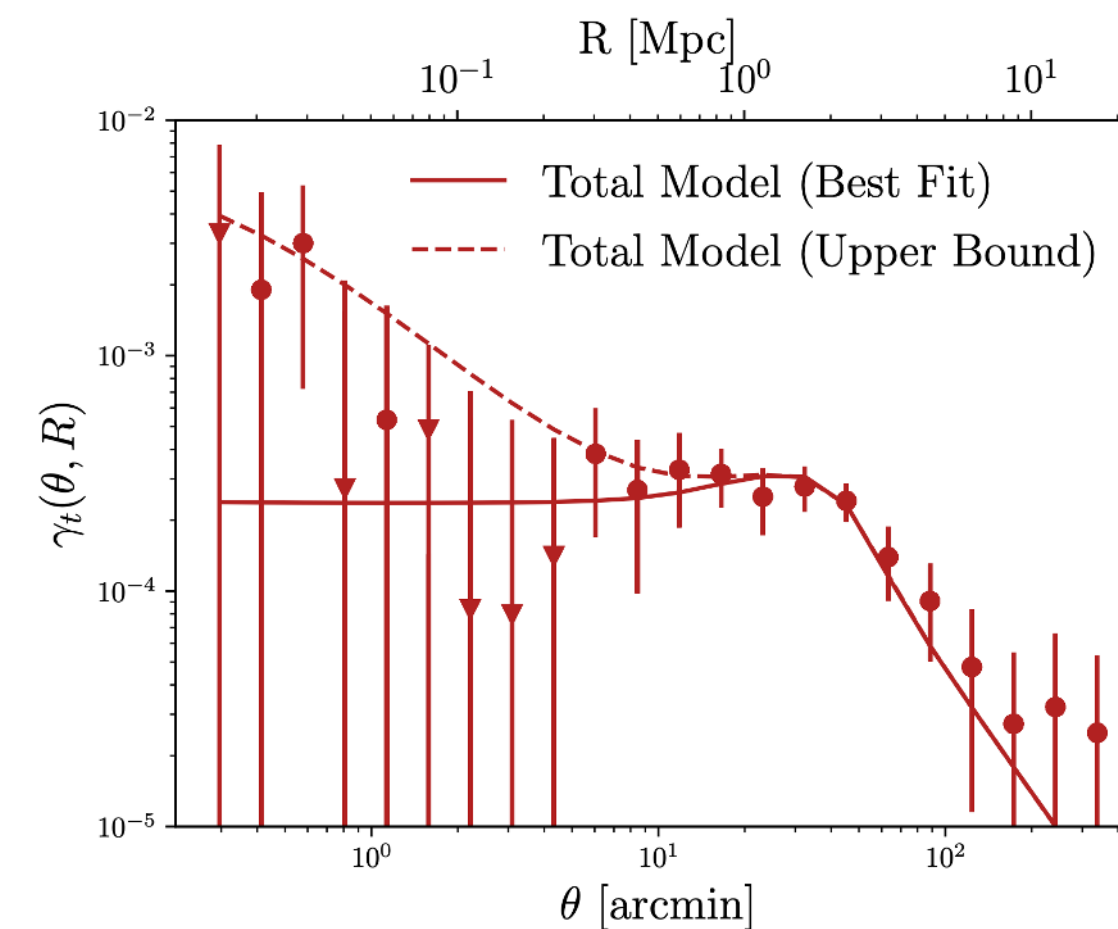
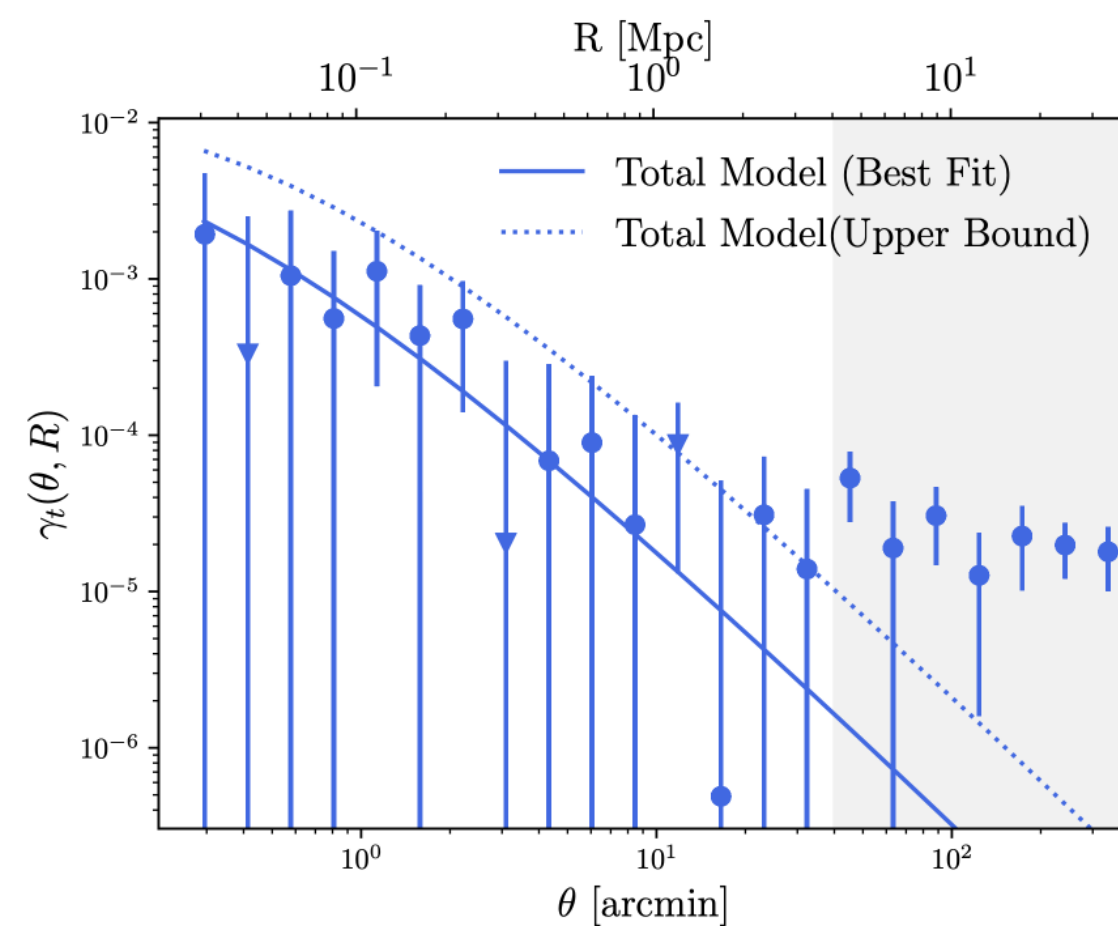
Zacharegkas, Chang, Prat et al. (2021): *arXiv: 2106.08438*



Georgios Zacharegkas,
Postdoc at Argonne
National Laboratory,
previous graduate
student at UChicago

Galaxy-matter with low-surface brightness galaxies (LSBGs)

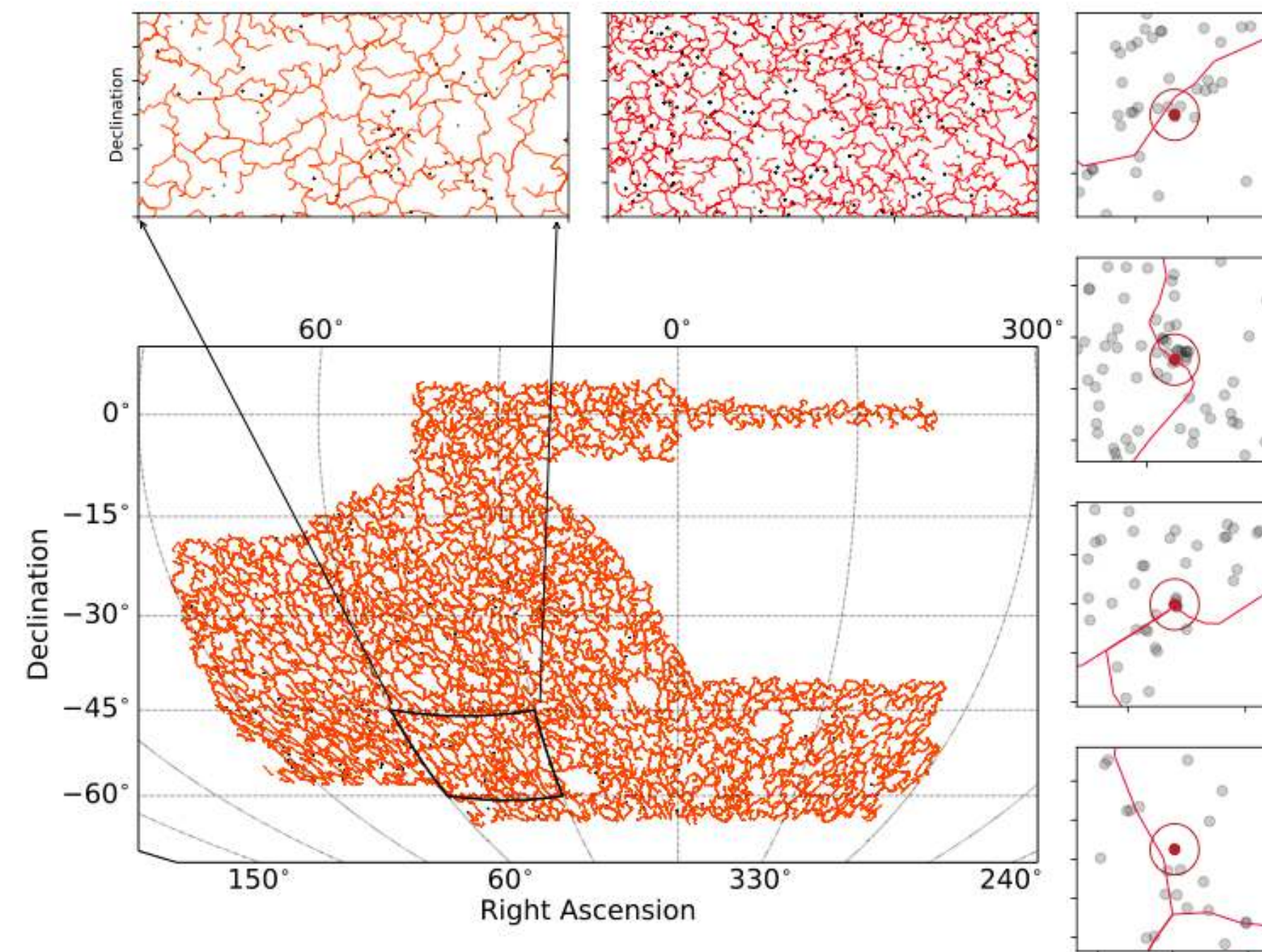
- We performed a weak lensing study around ~24000 LSBGs galaxies using DES Y3 data and measured the halo mass of such galaxies for the first time.
- Stellar-to-halo mass relation at small masses and for satellite galaxies.



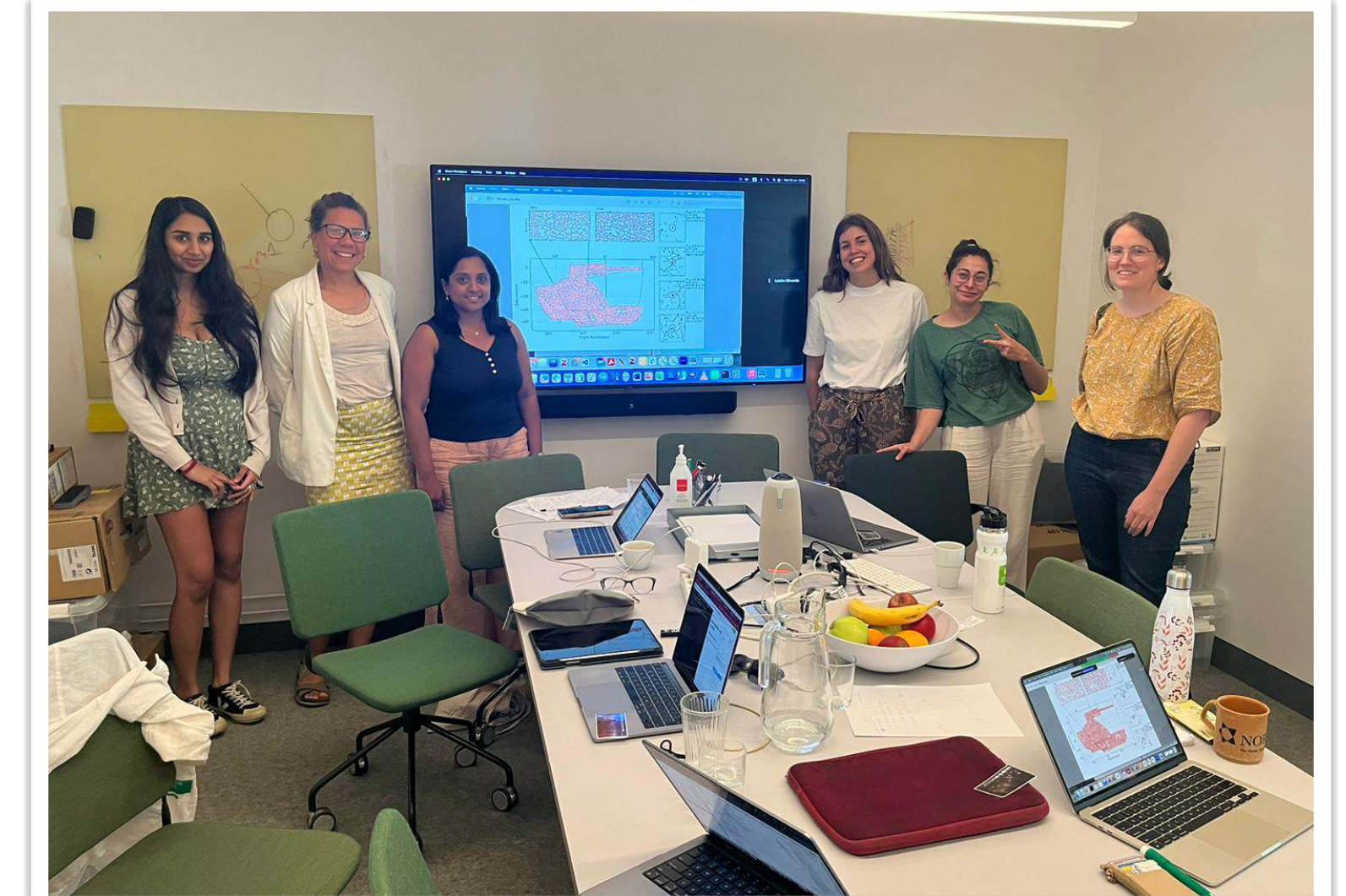
Nathalie Chicoine,
PhD student at
University of
Pittsburg,
previous
undergraduate at
UChicago

Cosmic filaments and connectivity from DES Y3 data

- The study of the cosmic web offers insights into galaxy formation and evolution.



Preliminary – to be submitted soon



- Geetika Gopidas — Undergraduate Student, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
- Punyakoti Ganeshaiah Veena — Postdoc at University of Genoa, Italy.
- Daniela Galárraga-Espinosa — Fellow at MPA, Germany.
- Louise Olivia Violet Edwards — Associate Professor, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
- Celine Gouin — Permanent researcher at Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris.
- Clotilde Laigle — Astronomer at Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris.

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(ii) **Chicoine, Prat et al. (2024)**
(iii) Ongoing

DES Y6 & Preparing for LSST:

- (i) DES Y6 3x2pt
- (ii) Developing and validating the framework for LSST-DESC WL+LSS cosmology

(i) Ongoing
(ii) **Prat, Zuntz et al. (2023):** 2212.09345

The DESC pipeline from catalogs to summary statistics: *TXPipe*

<https://txpipe.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

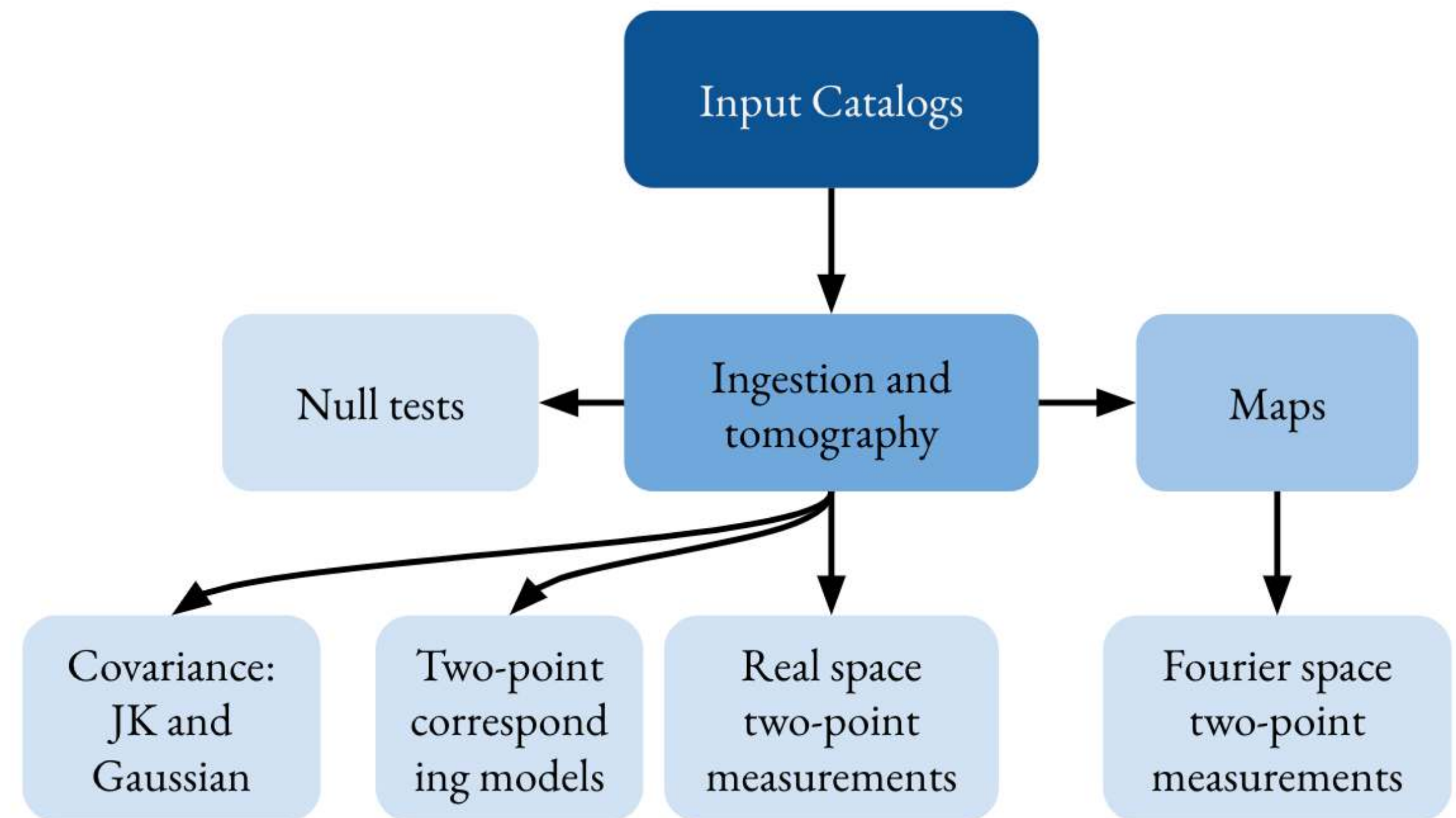
Contributors 25



+ 14 contributors

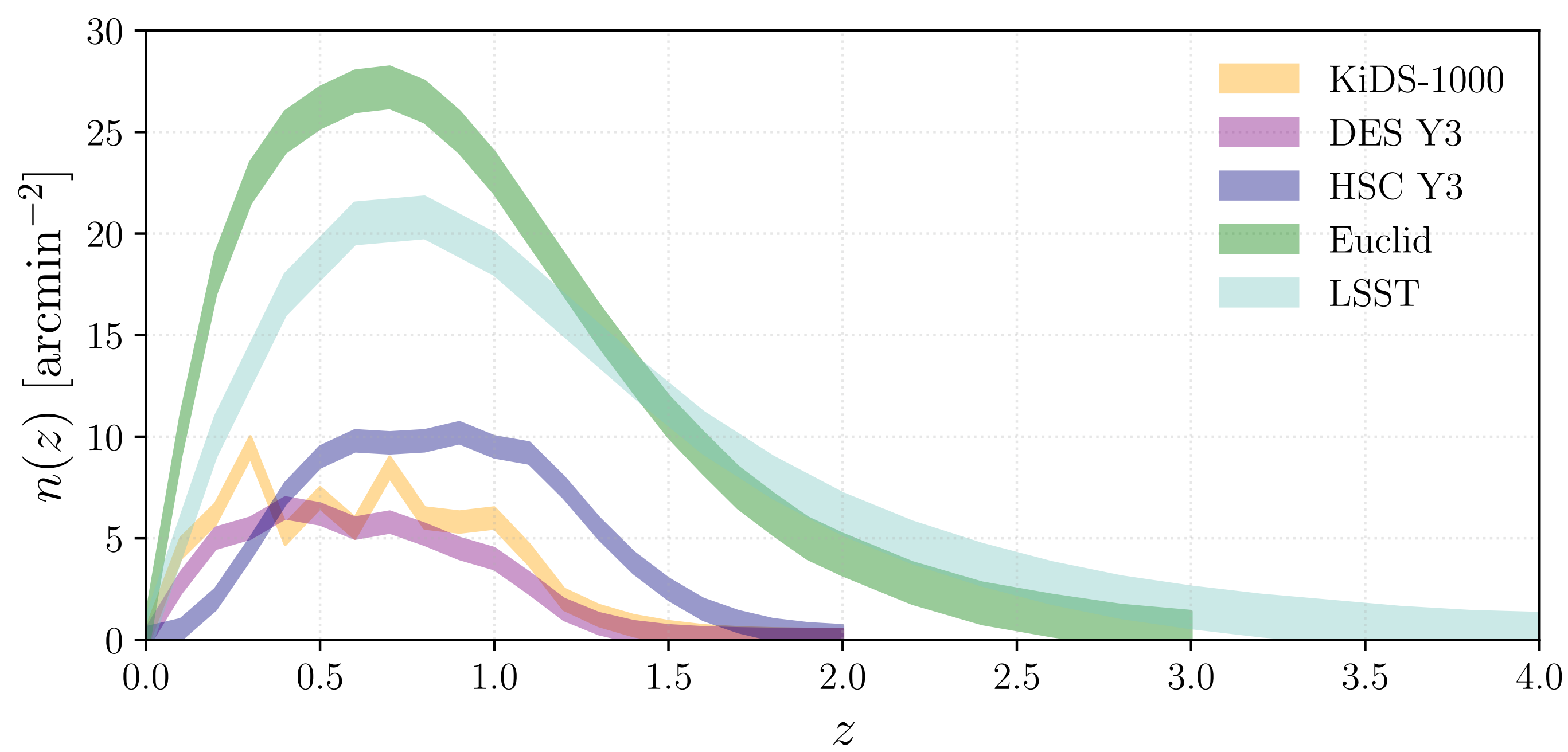
Prat, Zuntz et al. (2023): 2212.09345

- An automatic and reproducible pipeline for the measurements within DESC in preparation for LSST data.
- Connects external codes, wraps each of these tools as a Python class, specifying input and output files required for each.
- Optimized to deal with large quantities of data, minimize memory usage and run in parallel.
- Can be extended as desired to include more features.



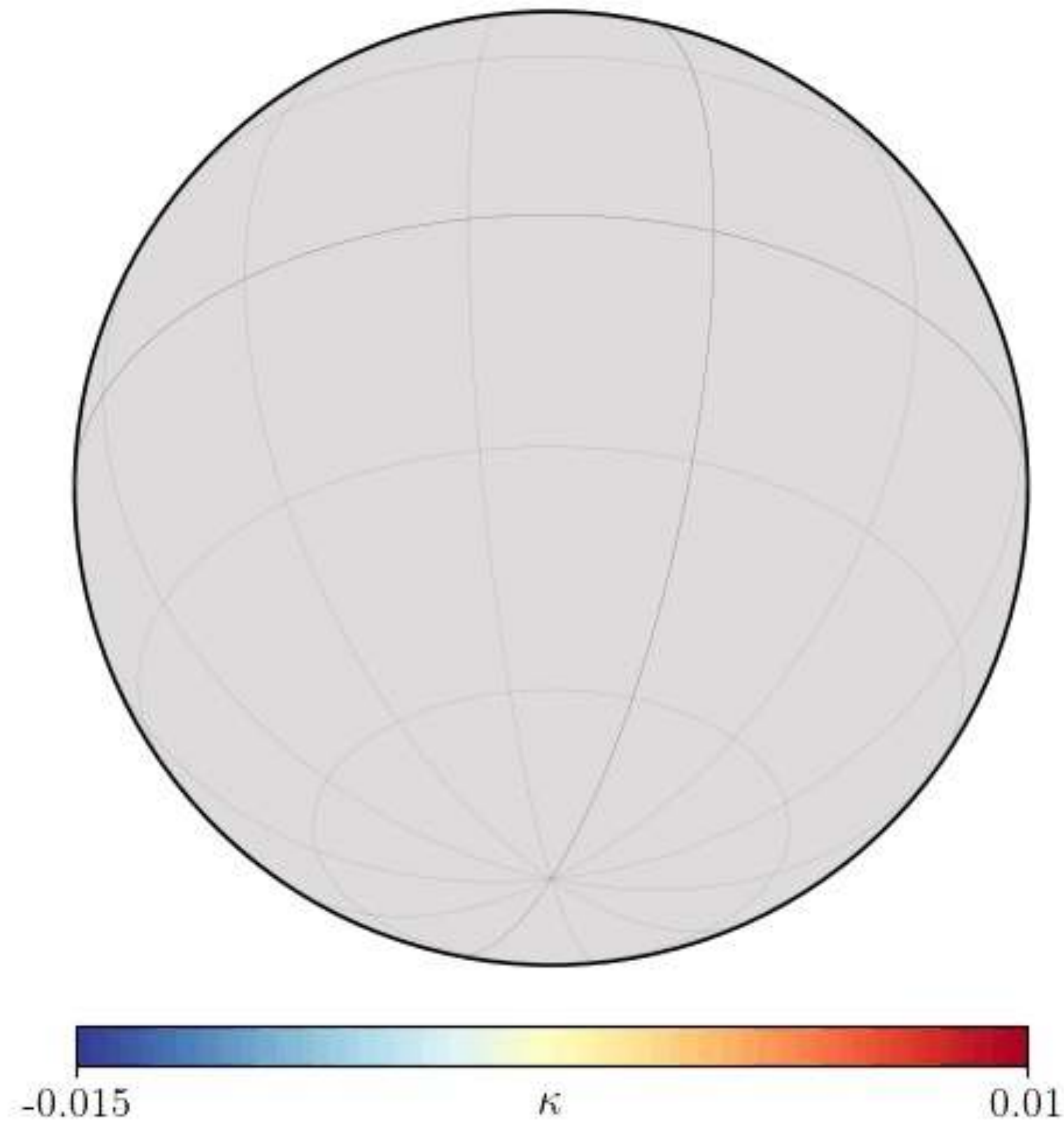
What's coming?

Exciting times ahead!



	Survey	Area (deg ²)	Source density [arcmin ⁻²]	Redshift range	Observing Status
Stage III	DES Y3	4,143	5.59	0.2 - 1.3	Completed
	KiDS-1000	773	6.17	0.1 - 1.2	Completed
	HSC Y3	416	15	0.3 - 1.5	Ongoing
Stage IV	Euclid	14,000	~27	0 - 2+	Ongoing
	LSST	18,000	~27	0 - 3+	Future (2024+)
	Roman	2,000	~50	0 - 3+	Future (2027+)

DES Y6: Stay tuned.. results coming soon



Credit: Chihway Chang,
Marco Gatti, Masa
Yamamoto, Theo Schutt,
and all the DES Y6 shear
team!

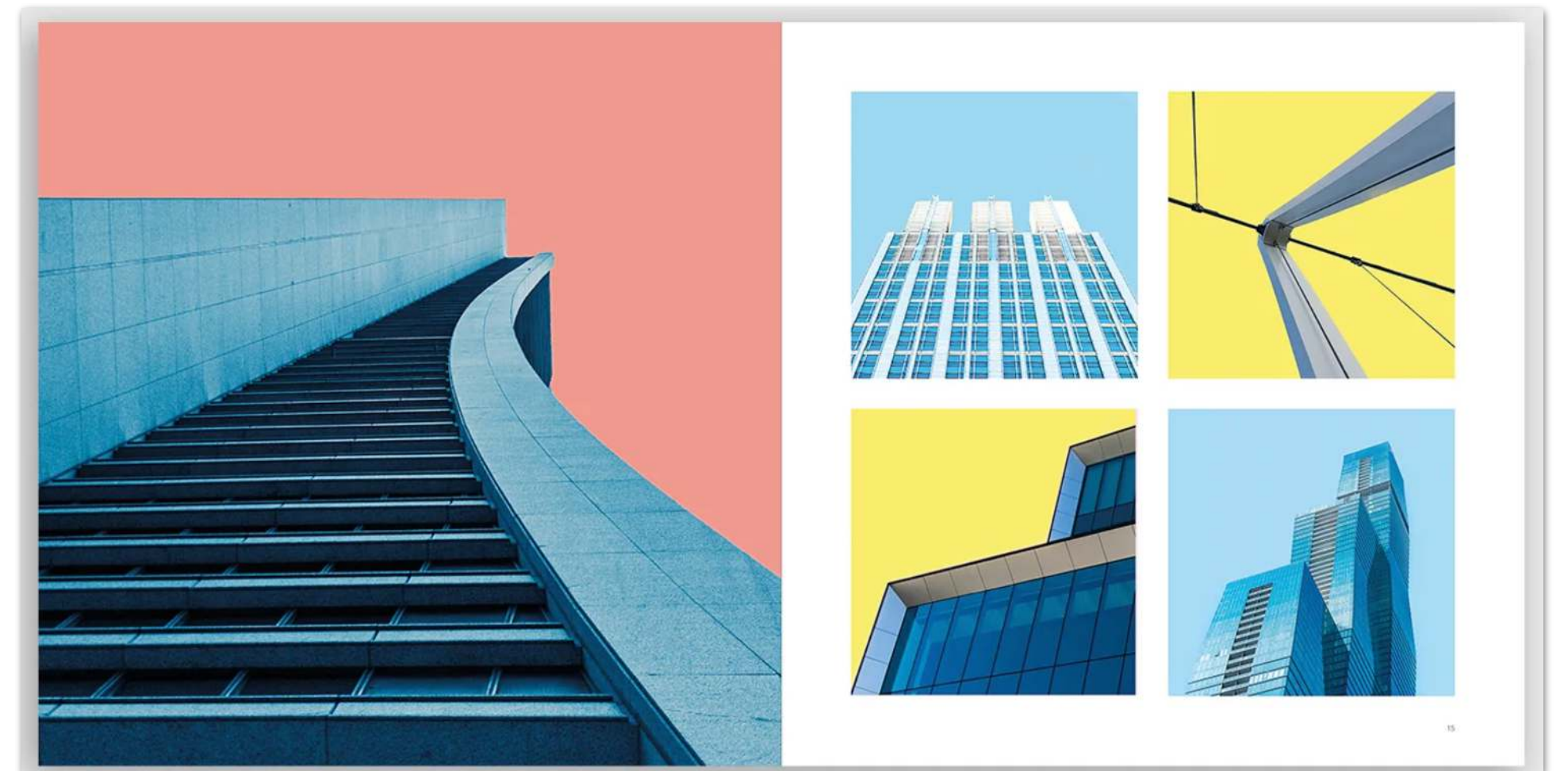
Conclusions and outlook

- The Λ CDM is still standing but there are hints indicating soon we'll reach enough precision that it might break.
- The late-time DES Y3 3x2pt cosmology results are in agreement with early-Universe predictions assuming the Λ CDM model at the 1.5σ level. This is a very important end-to-end test of Λ CDM. Keep an eye for the DES Y6 results coming this year!
- When combined with the other most constraining low- z probes (BAO and RSD from BOSS DR16, and Type Ia Supernova from Pantheon) the agreement is at the 0.9 sigma level, with smaller uncertainties.
- More stringent testing is needed to determine whether Λ CDM holds or not.
- A new generation of galaxy surveys, using more scales and higher order information and emerging probes (such as GW) and maturing of existing ones (such as strong lensing) will (hopefully) provide the answers.

CHICAGO IN COLOR

JUDIT
PRAT MARTÍ

Chicago in Color,
with **Trope Publishing Company,**
Last October.



Thanks!

Judit Prat
University of Iceland
March 2025

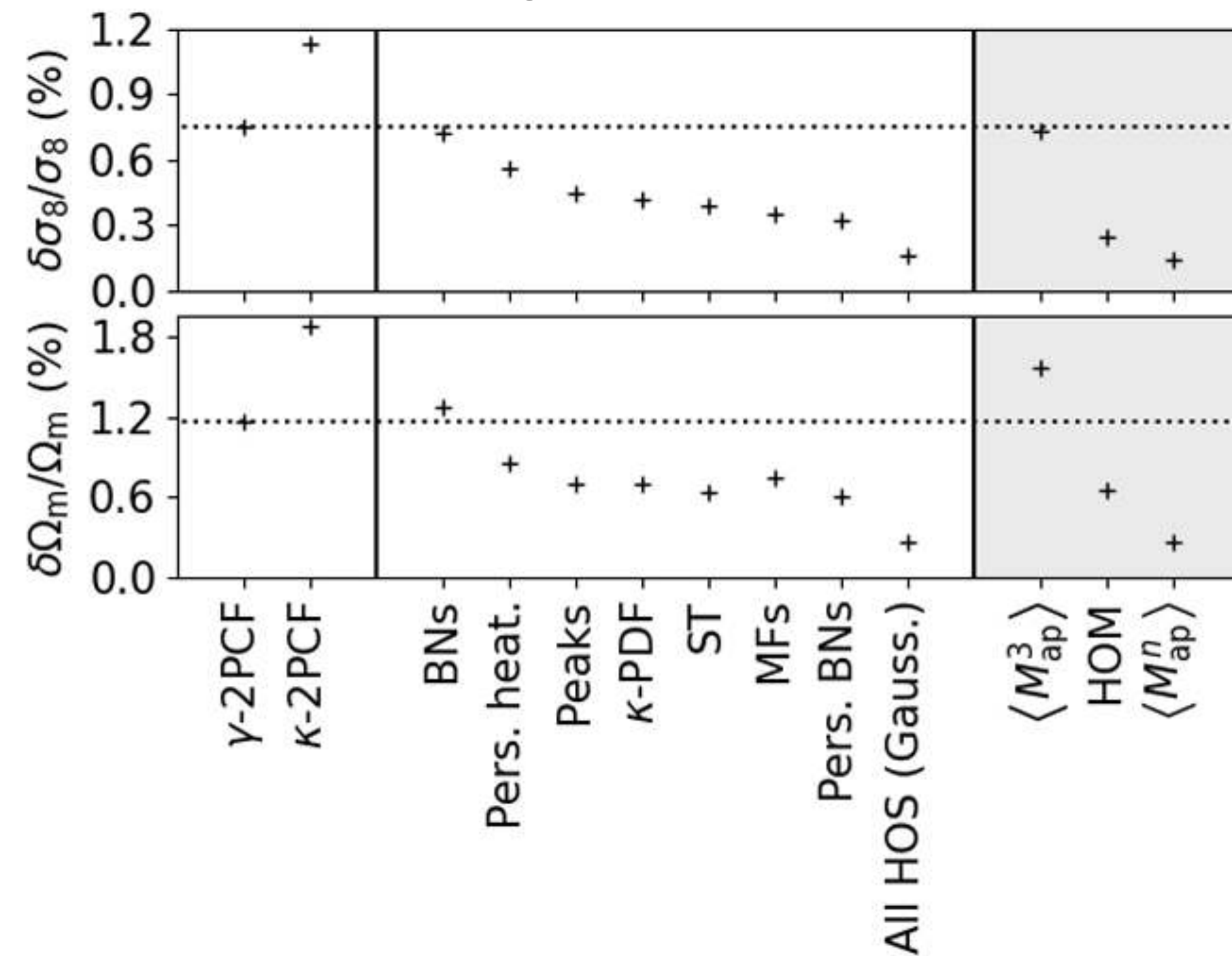


NORDITA
The Nordic Institute for
Theoretical Physics

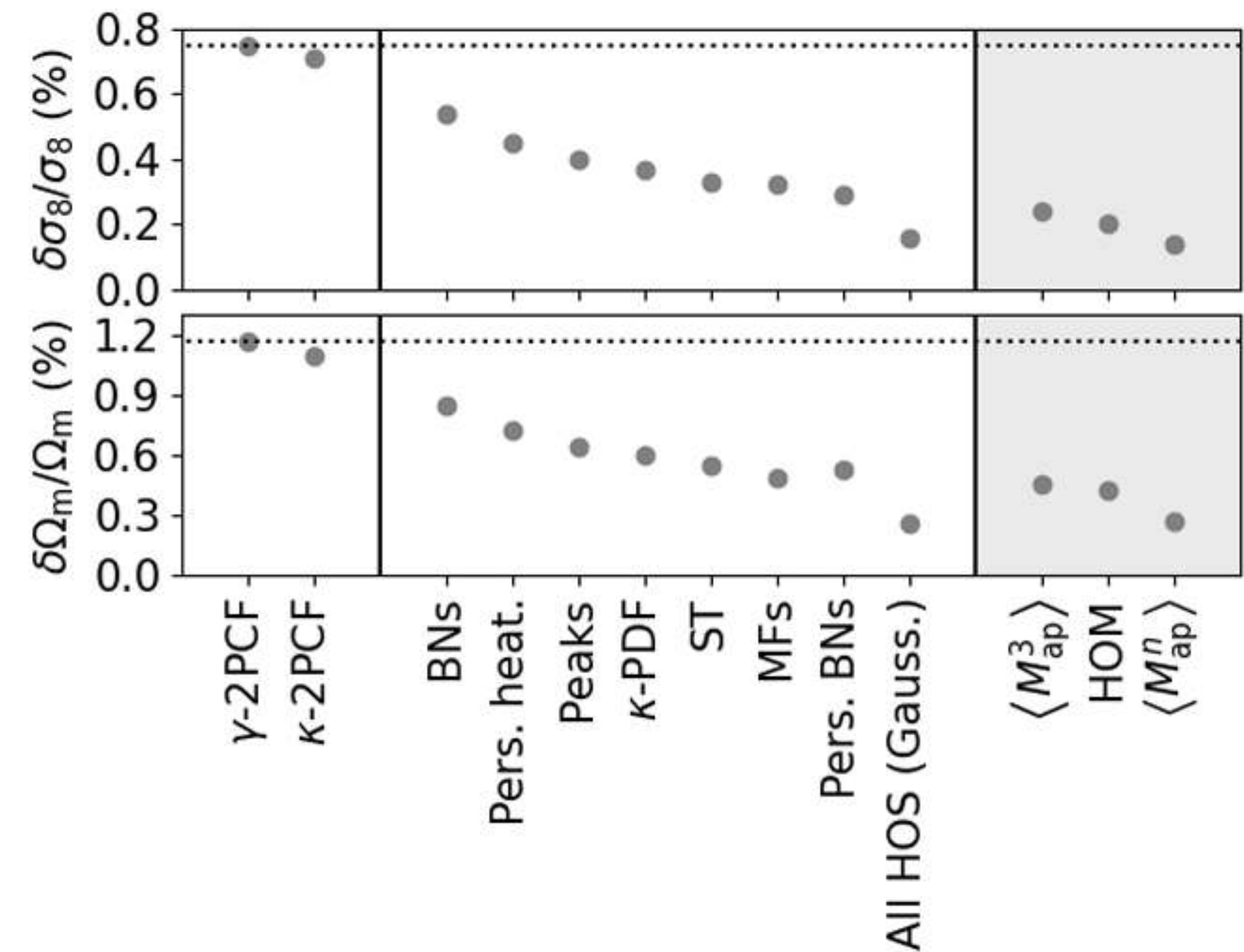
Extracting information from mass maps

Previous work on other collaborations

Higher order only



Higher order + 2pt

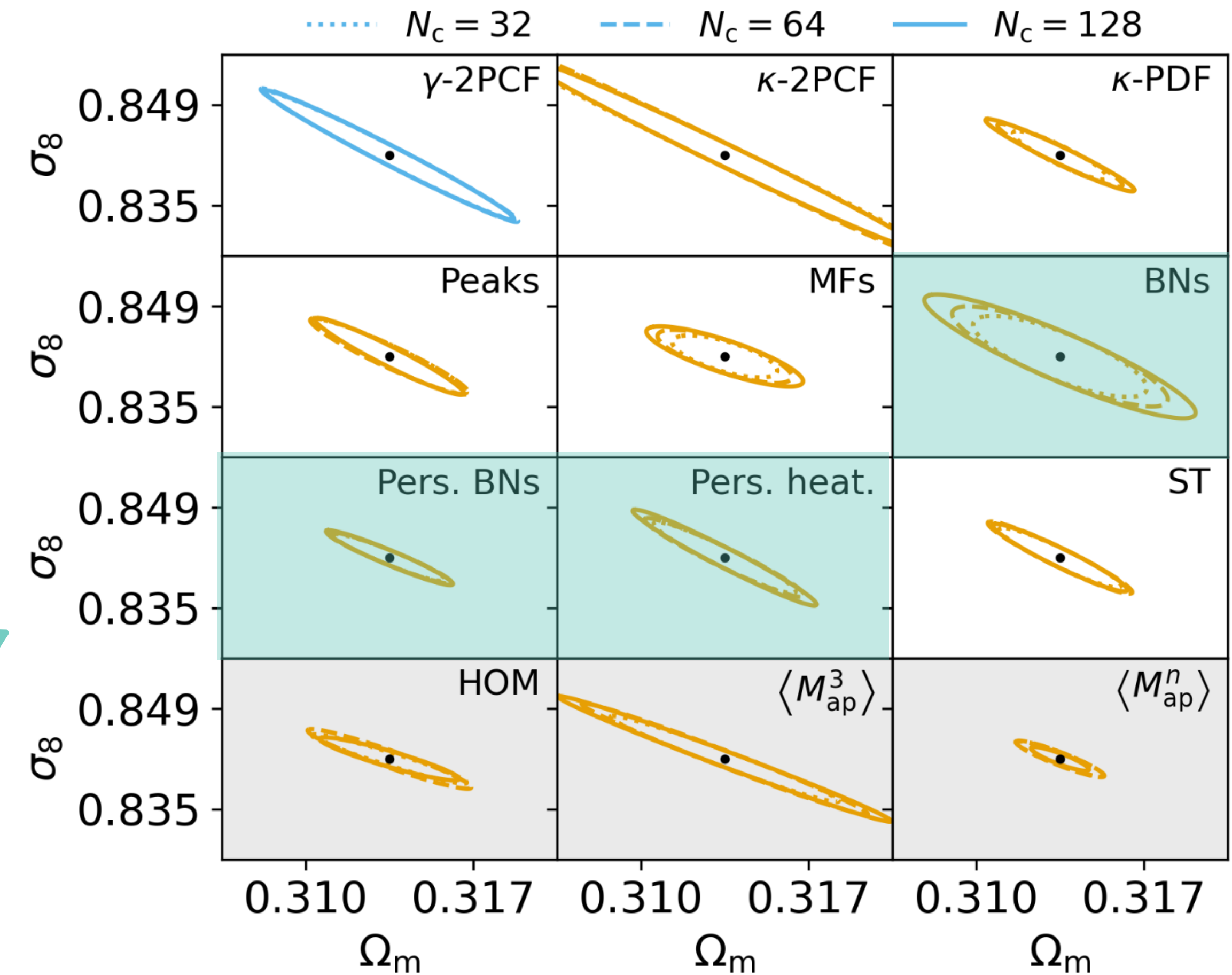


Euclid Collaboration: HOWLS team et al. (2022)

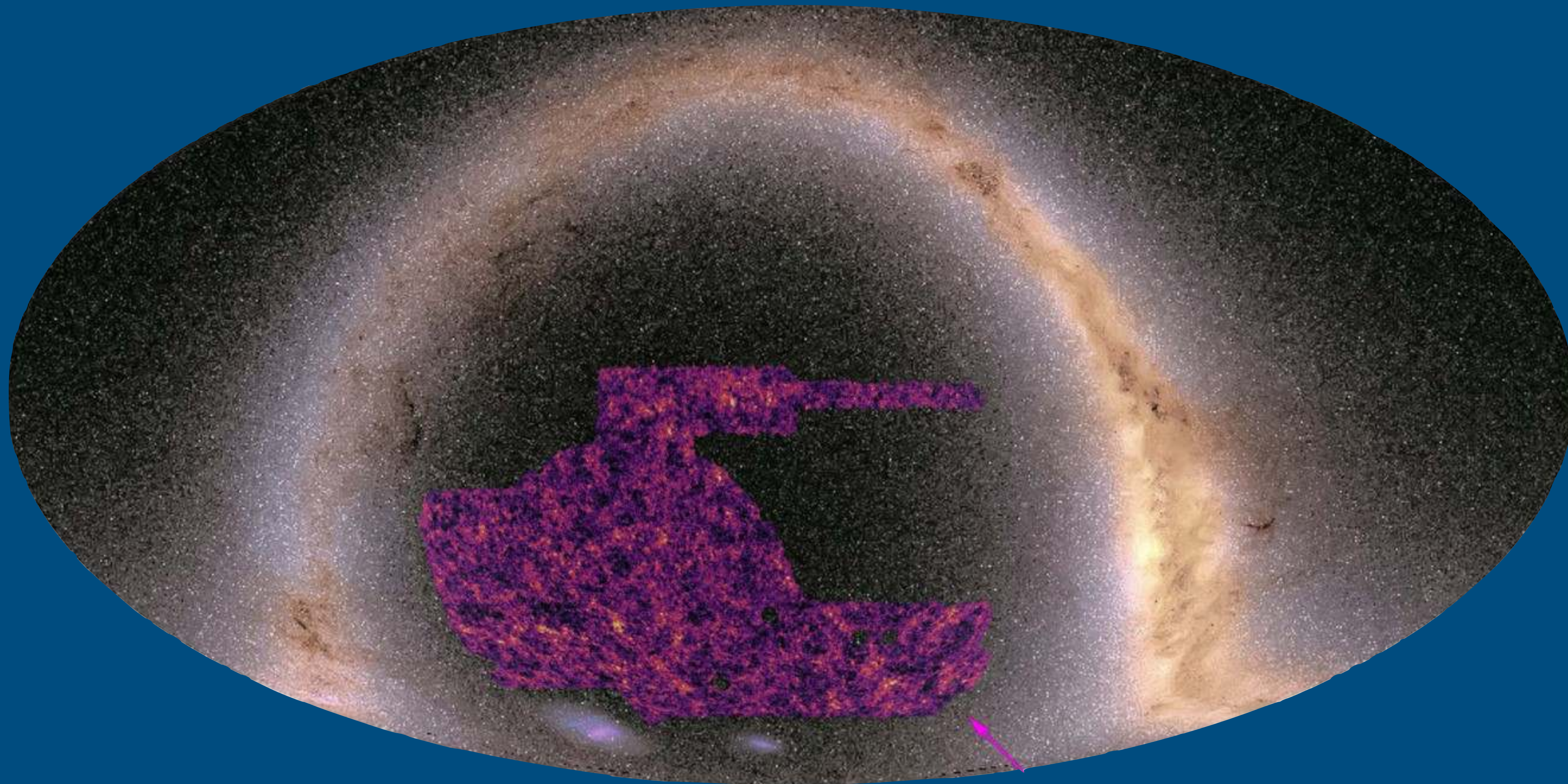
This work in context

Related persistent homology studies

- **Heydenreich et al. (2021, 2022):** 2007.13724, 2204.11831.
 - Persistent homology applied to DES Y1 data. —> *We use DES Y3 data.*
 - Flat geometry (patches were used). —> *We use spherical geometry, full footprint can be analyzed at once.*
 - Cubical complexes —> *Complex (triangulation) is based on HEALPIX grid.*
- **Yip et al. (2024):** 2403.13985.
 - Cosmology with Persistent Homology: a Fisher Forecast.
 - 3D LSS simulations, QUIJOTE SUITE.
- **Euclid Collaboration (2023):** 2301.12890.
 - Forecasts for ten different higher-order weak lensing statistics.
- **Pranav (2021):** 2111.15427
 - Using healpix complex applied to CMB data to find anomalies.



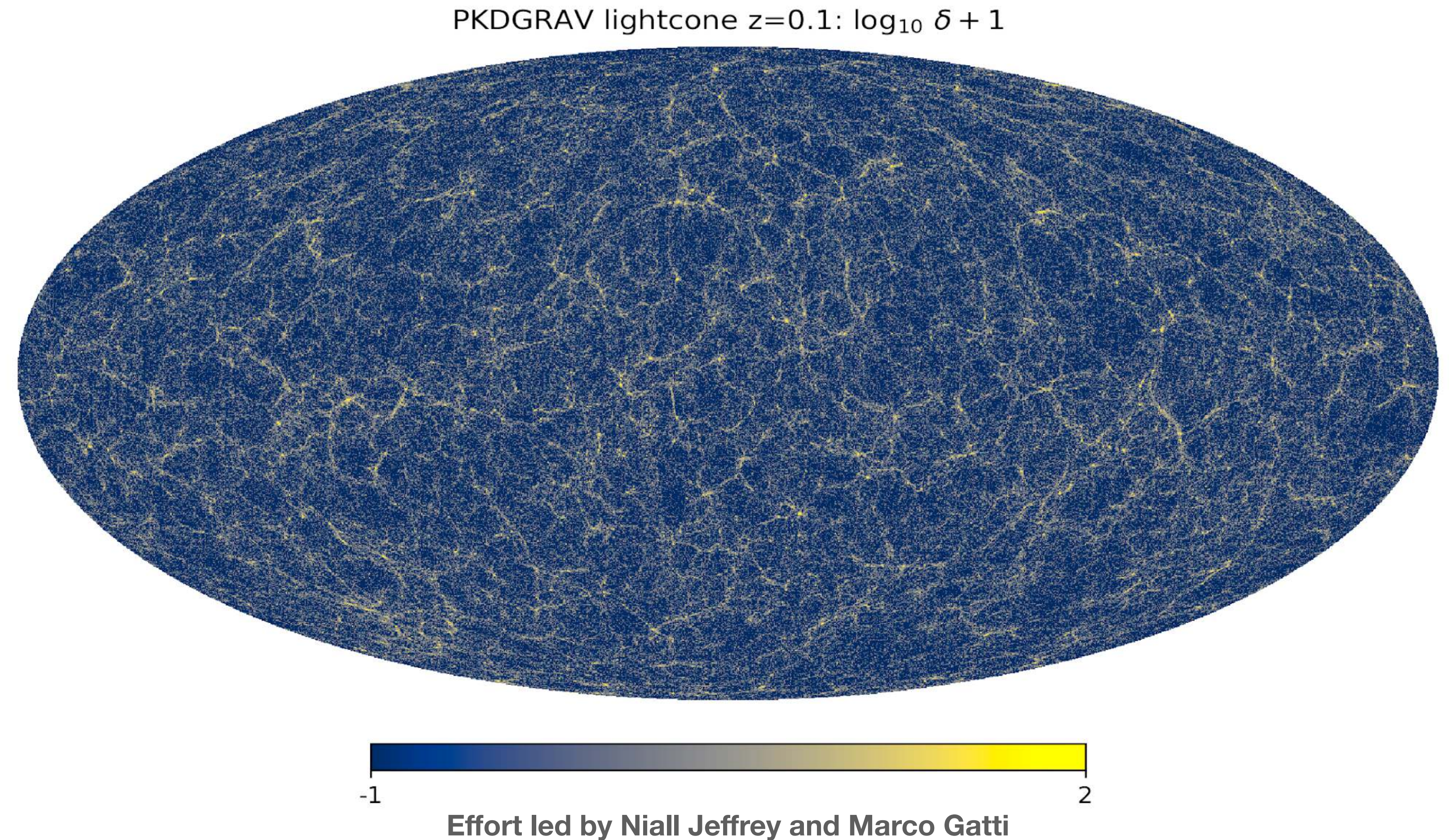
The data: DES Y3 WL mass map



~800 full sky dark matter simulations

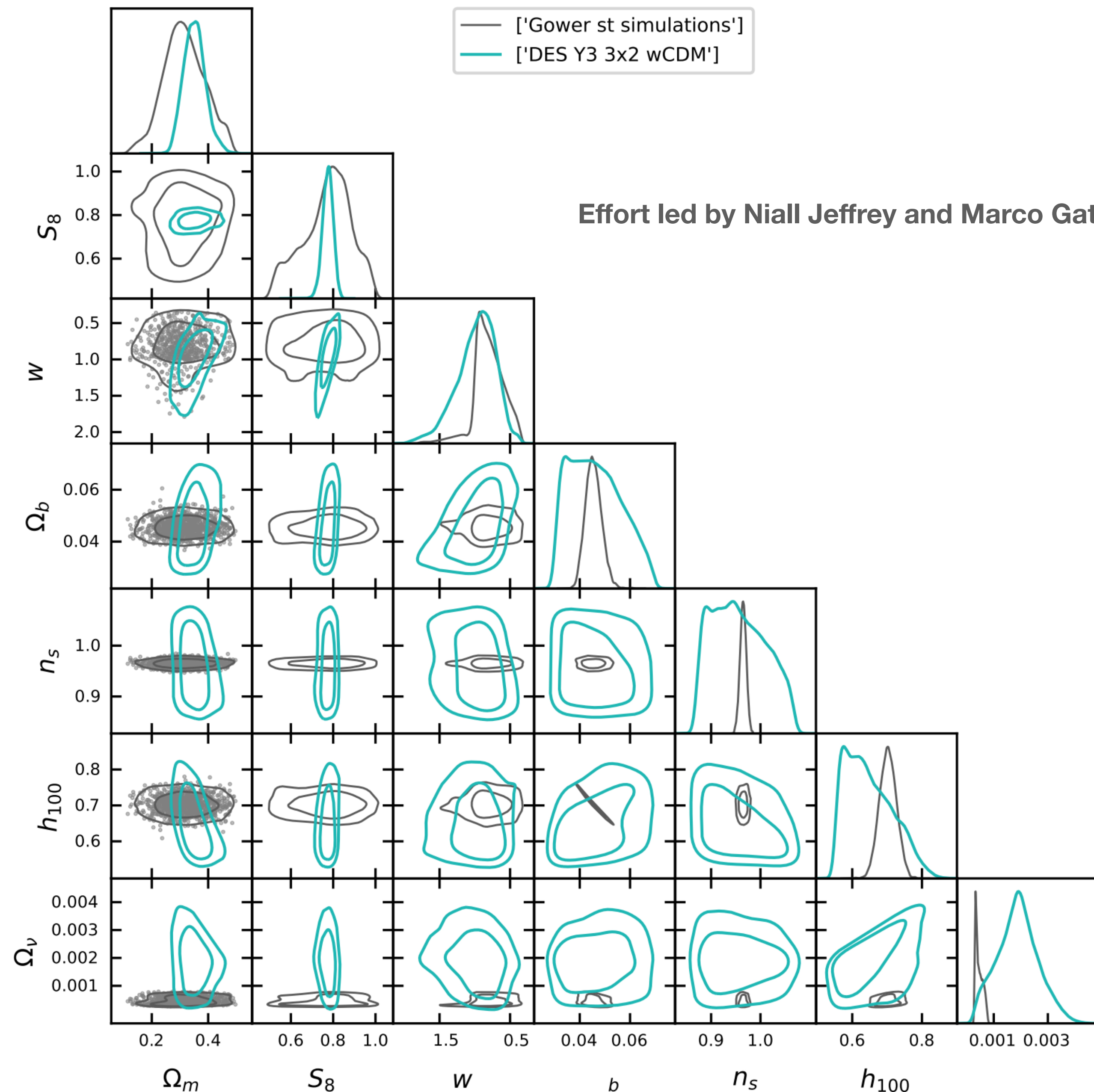
Gower St Sims simulations

- Produced using the PKDGRAV3 code.
- 791 full-sky simulations (Over 3000 DES footprints)
- 1080^3 particles with box size 1250 Mpc/h

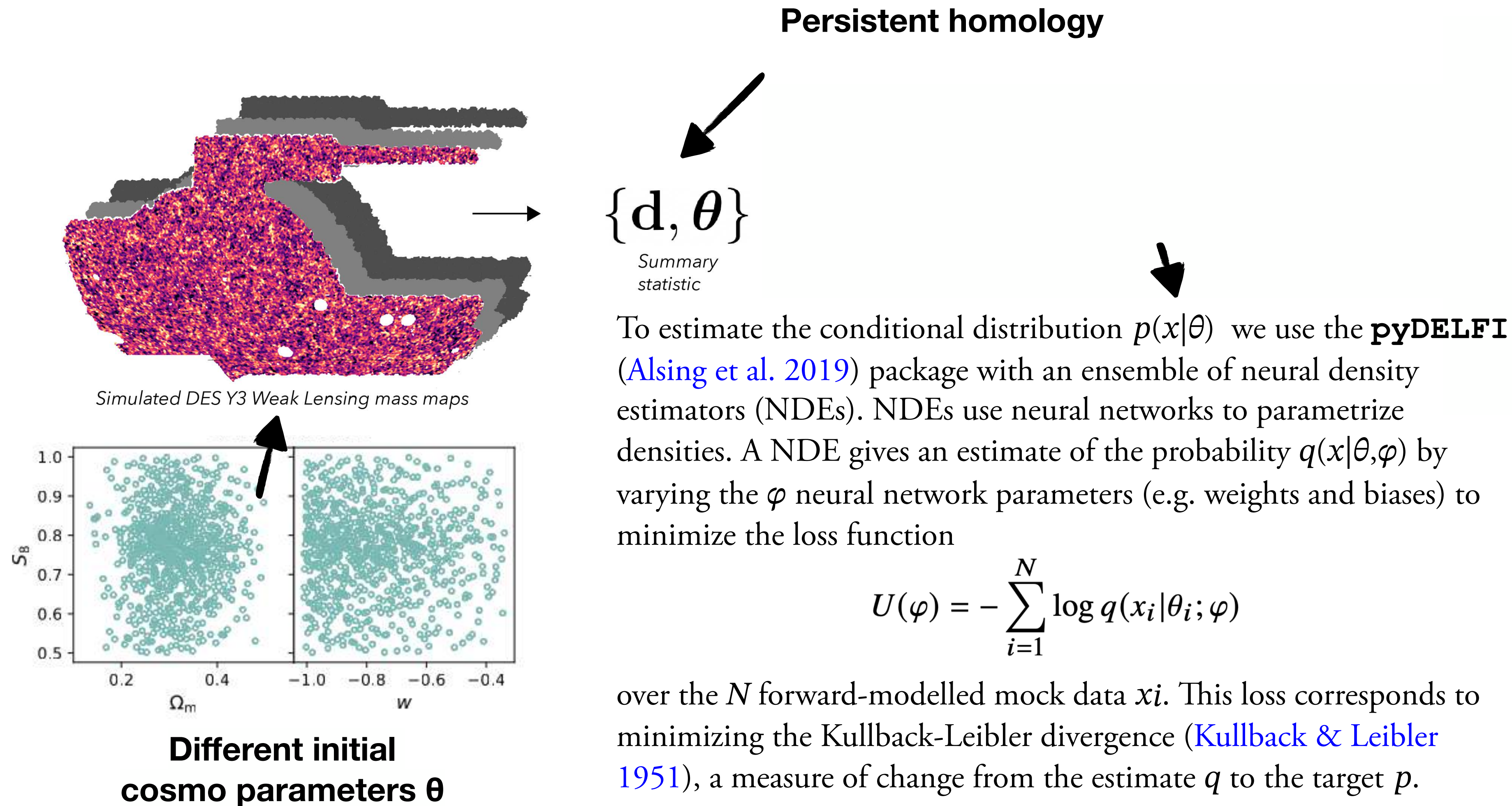


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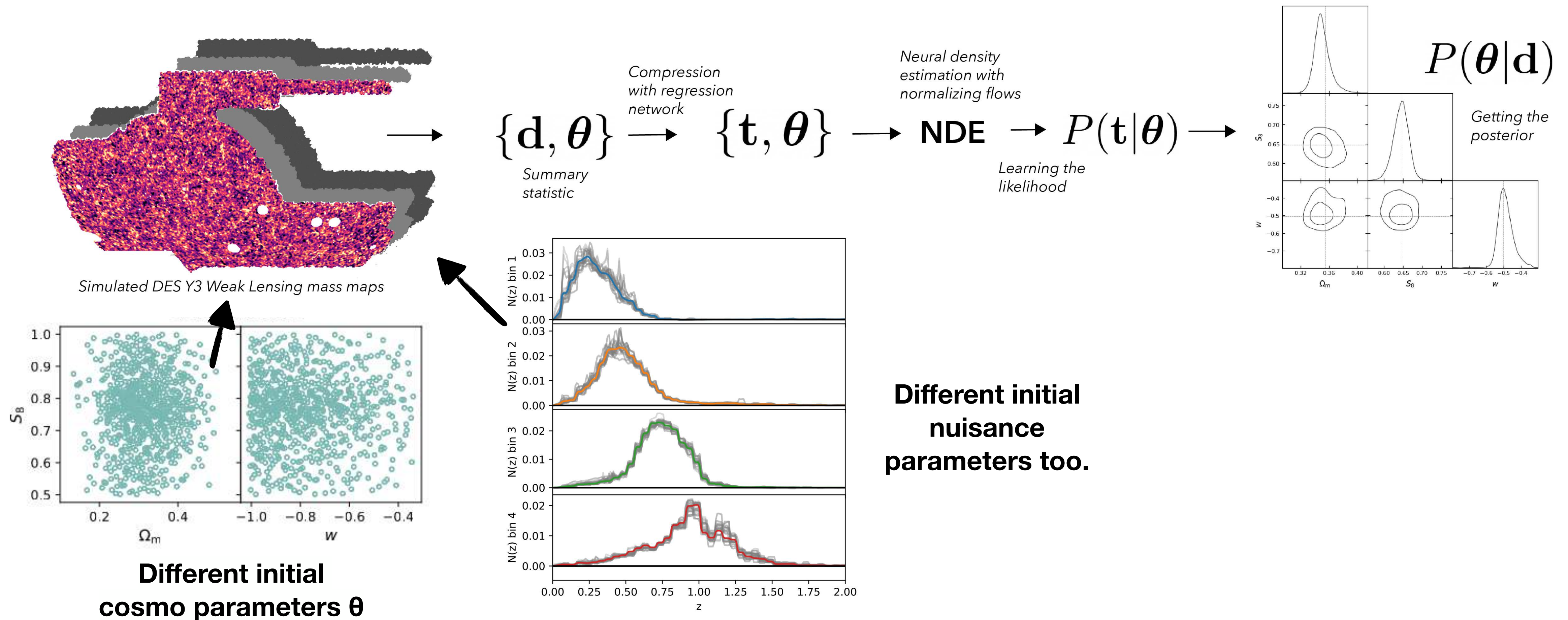
- Varying cosmological parameters: Ω_m , σ_8 , w , Ω_b , H_0 , n_s and m_ν .
 - $n_s \sim \mathcal{N}(0.9649, 0.0063)$; from Planck ([Aghanim et al. 2020](#)) but with the standard deviation boosted by a factor of 1.5.
 - $h \sim \mathcal{N}(0.7022, 0.0245)$; consistent with both SH0ES ([Riess et al. 2022](#)) and Planck ([Aghanim et al. 2020](#)).
 - $\Omega_b h^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0.02237, 0.00015)$; from Planck ([Aghanim et al. 2020](#)).
 - $w \sim \mathcal{N}(-1, 1/3)$, but with values less than -1 or greater than $-1/3$ then discarded. However, for the first 128 runs (part of the ‘science verification’ runs), this discarding was not done (resulting in approximately 64 runs with $w < -1$. These runs have been kept as they help to smooth what would otherwise be the discontinuity at $w = -1$.



Simulation based inference: *In practice*



Simulation based inference: *In practice*

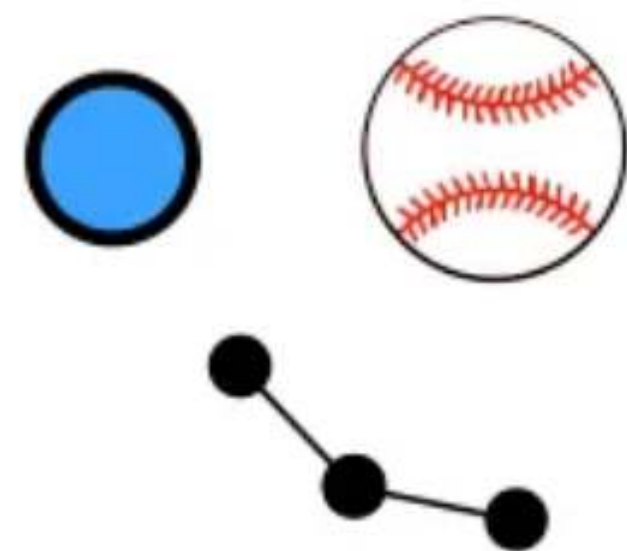


Persistent homology

What is it?

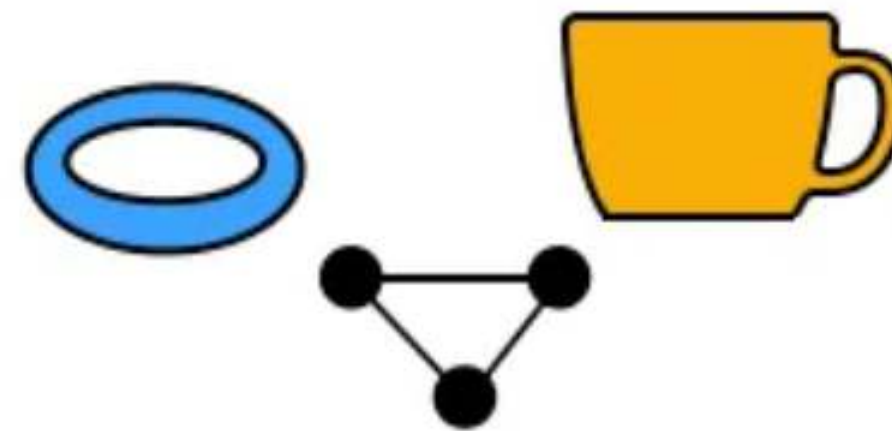
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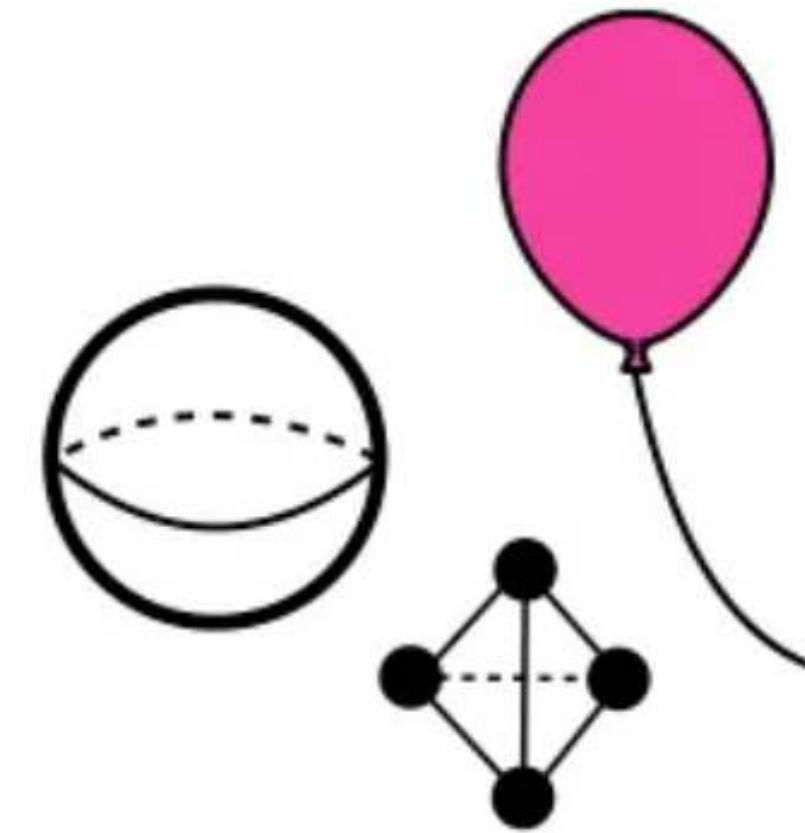
**Connected
Components**

H_0



Holes

H_1

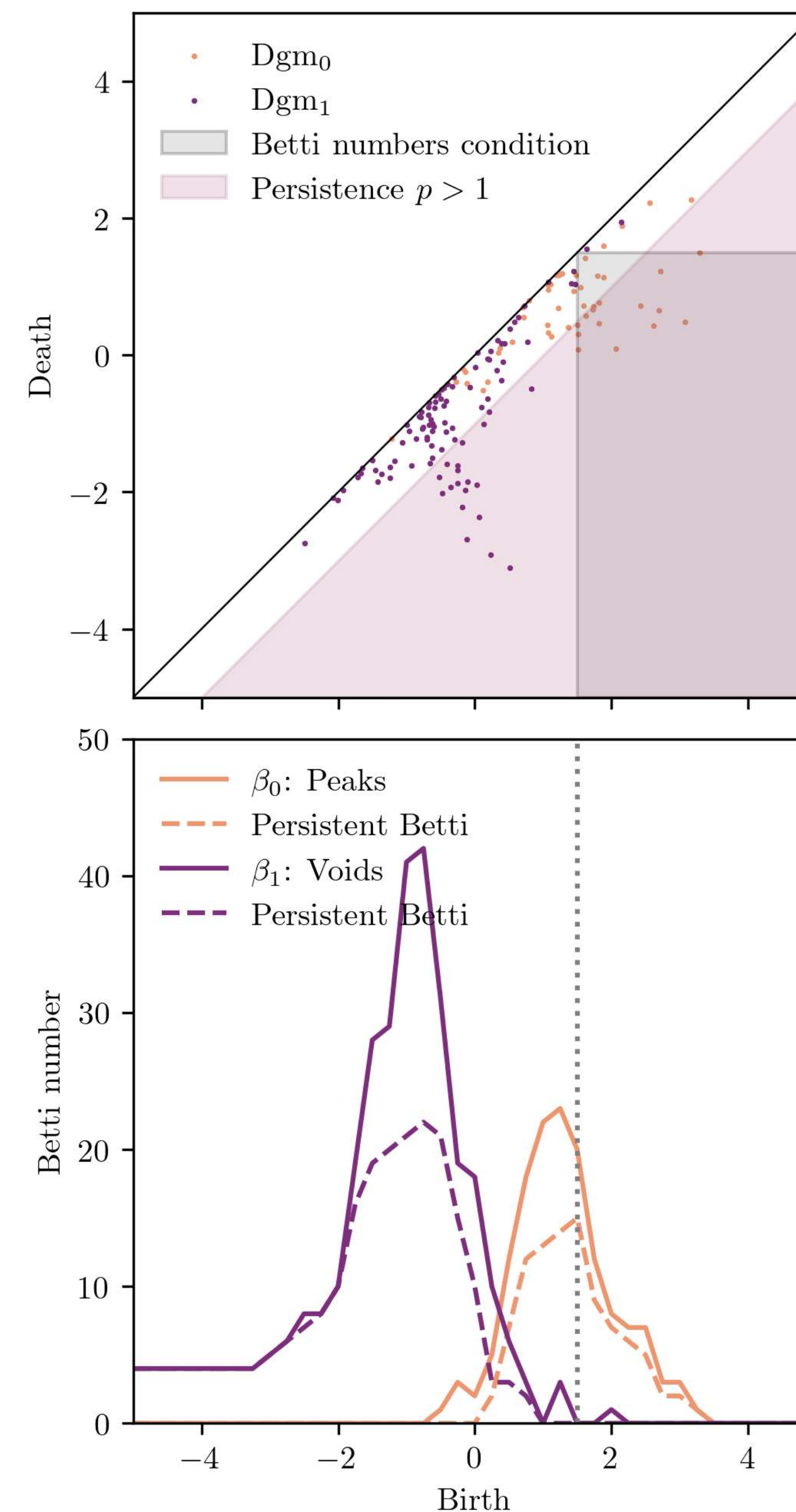


Cavities

H_2

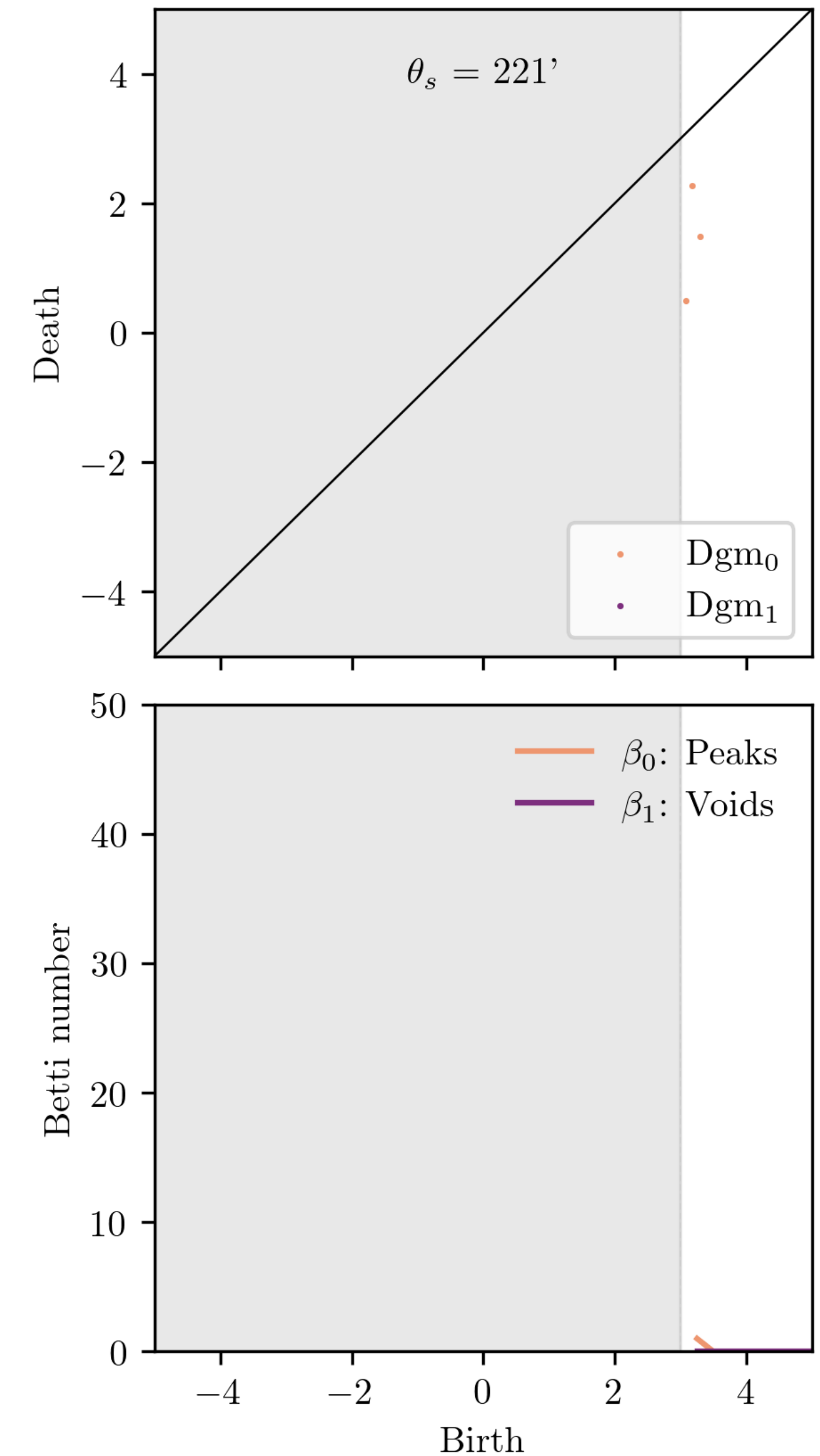
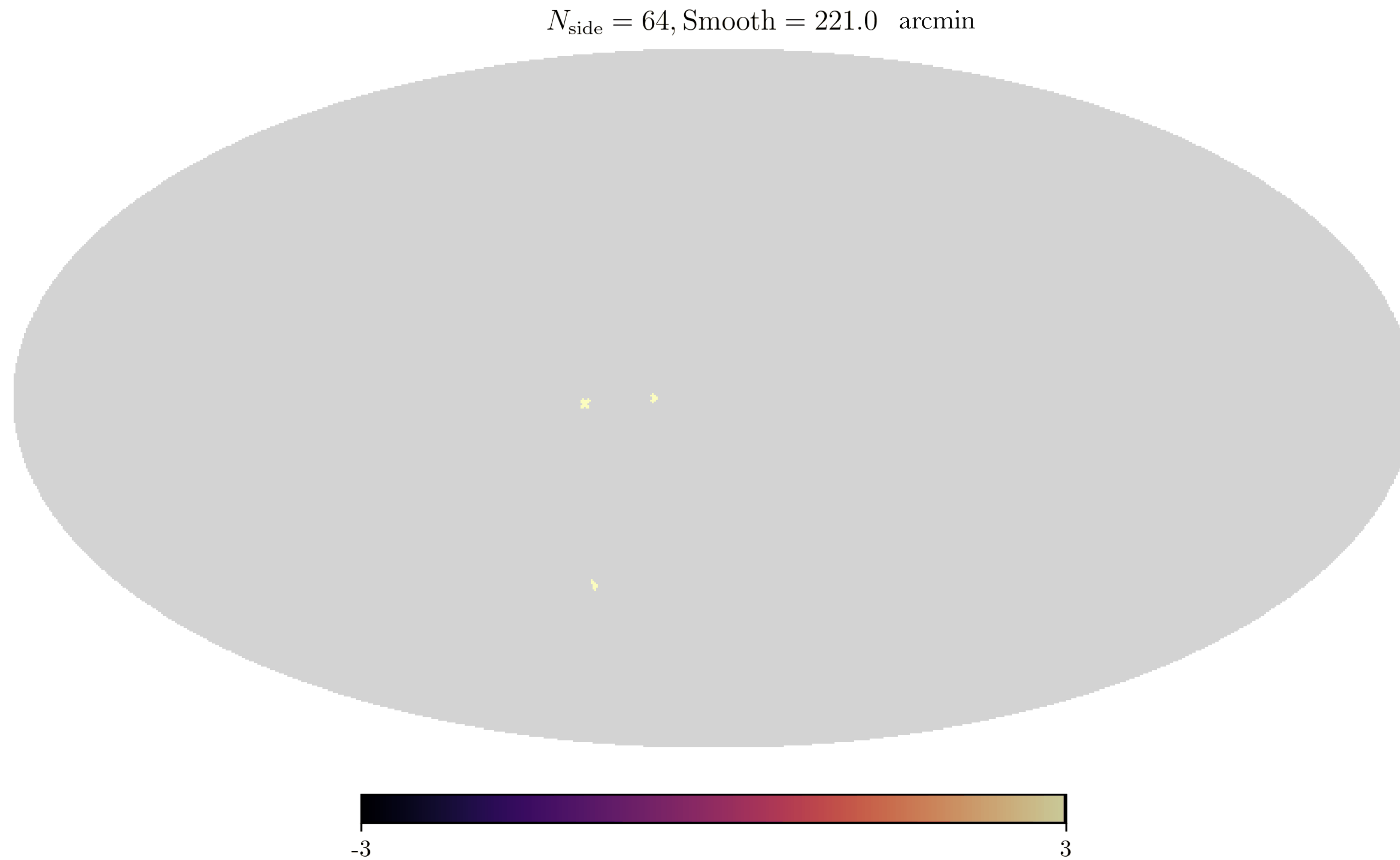
Betti numbers and persistent Betti numbers

Betti numbers count the number of **connected components** and **holes** that are present above a given threshold v_0 . These are called the ‘Betti numbers’ β_0 (for connected components) and β_1 (for holes).



Building a filtration

Persistent diagram and Betti numbers



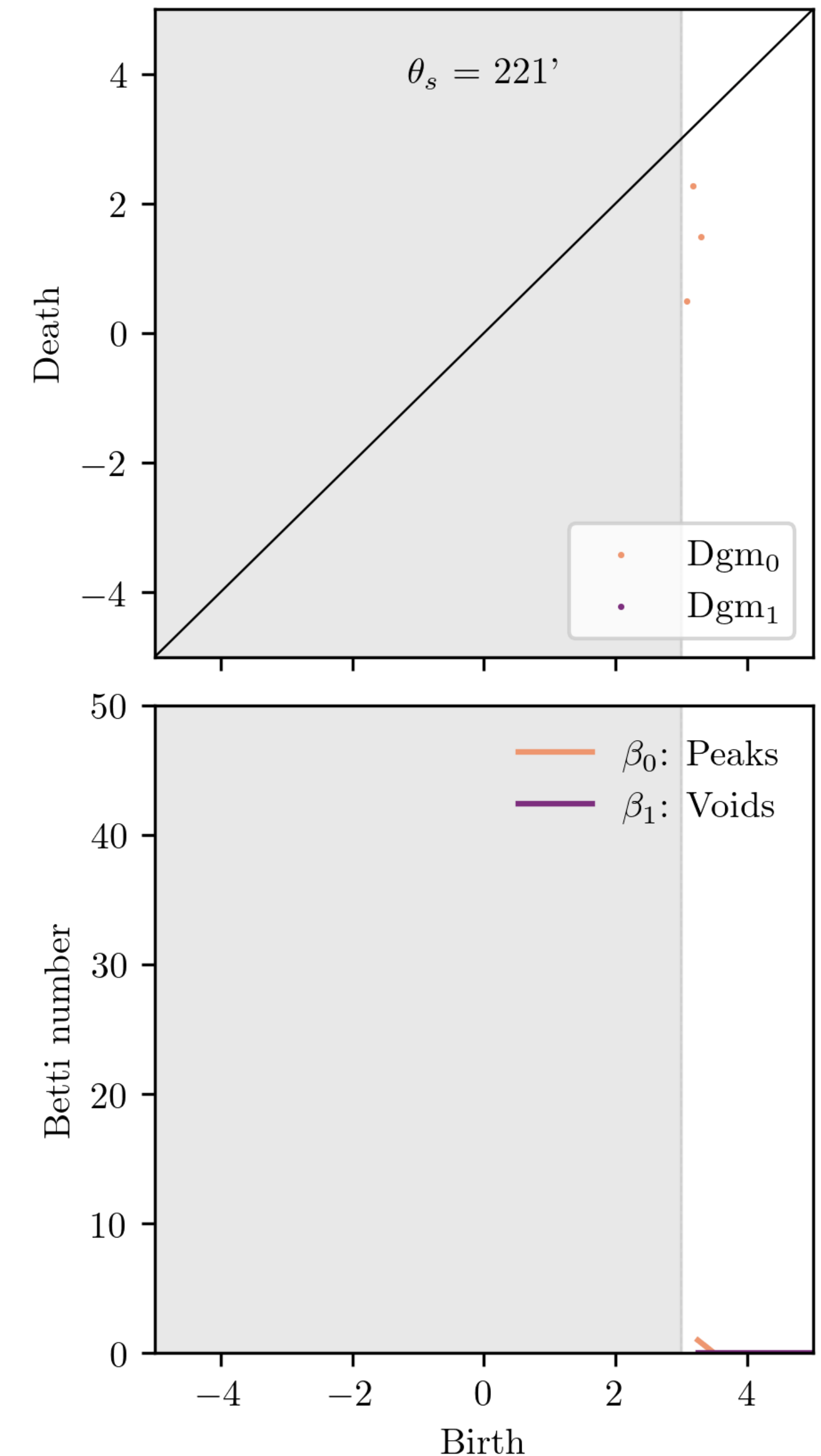
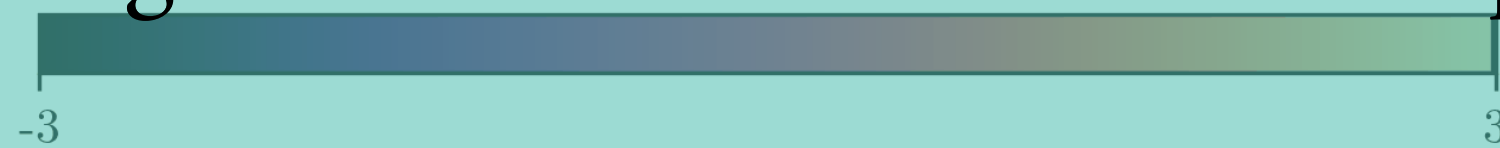
Building a filtration

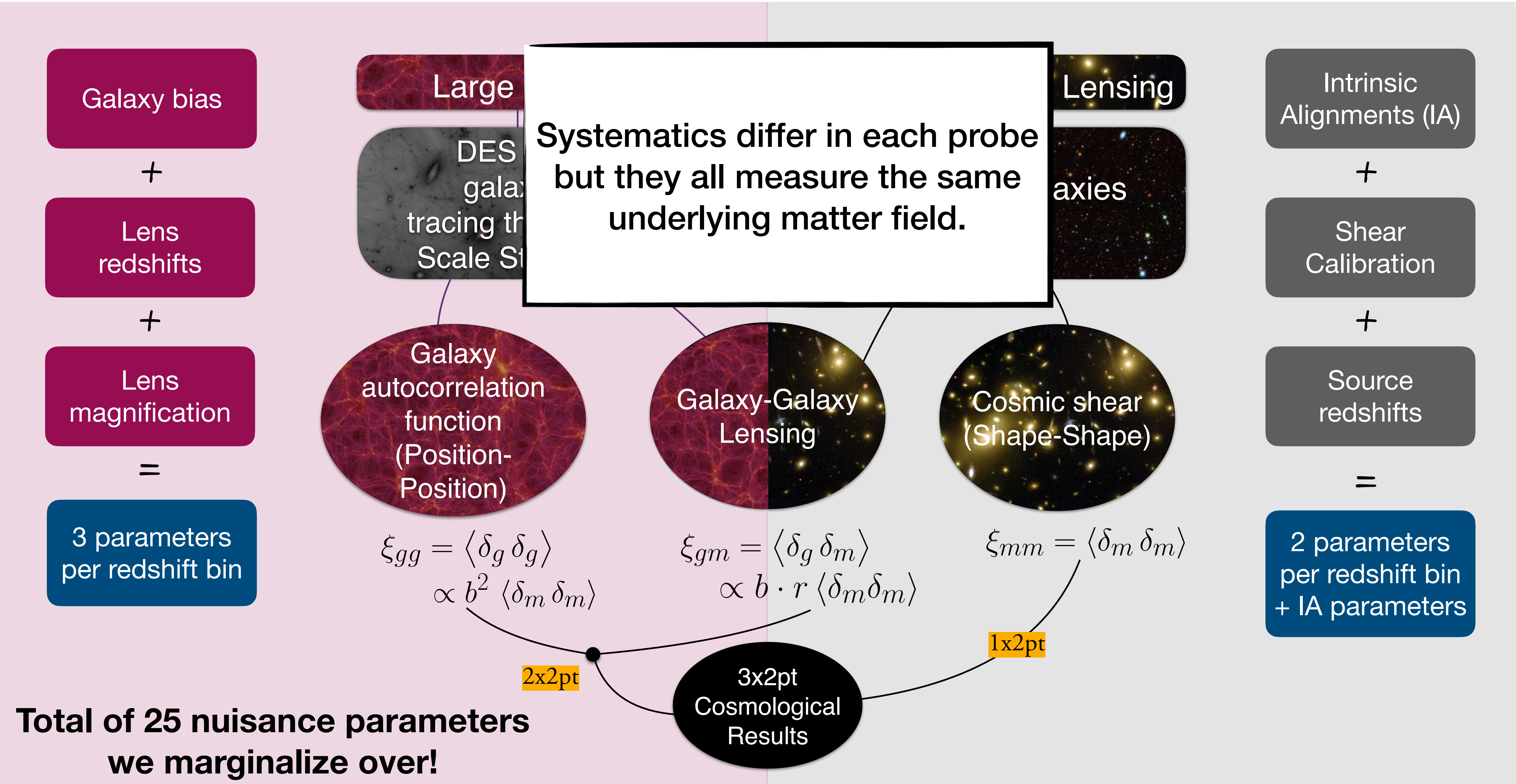
Persistent diagram and Betti numbers

$N_{\text{side}} = 64$, Smooth = 221.0

To compute this, we use TOPOS2 code, a C++ code developed by Pratyush Pranav to run on Planck CMB data. Pros:

- Fast (C++ code)
- Spherical geometry.
- Specifically targeted to work with HEALPIX maps.
- Validated.





My most relevant research outputs

