

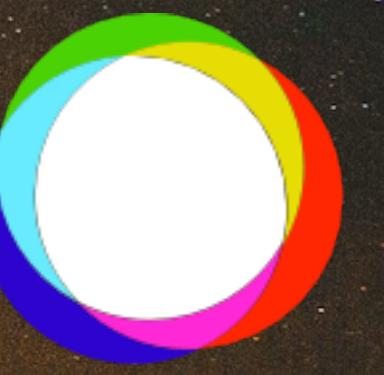
Exploring theoretical solutions to the H_0 and S_8 tensions

Guillermo Franco Abellán

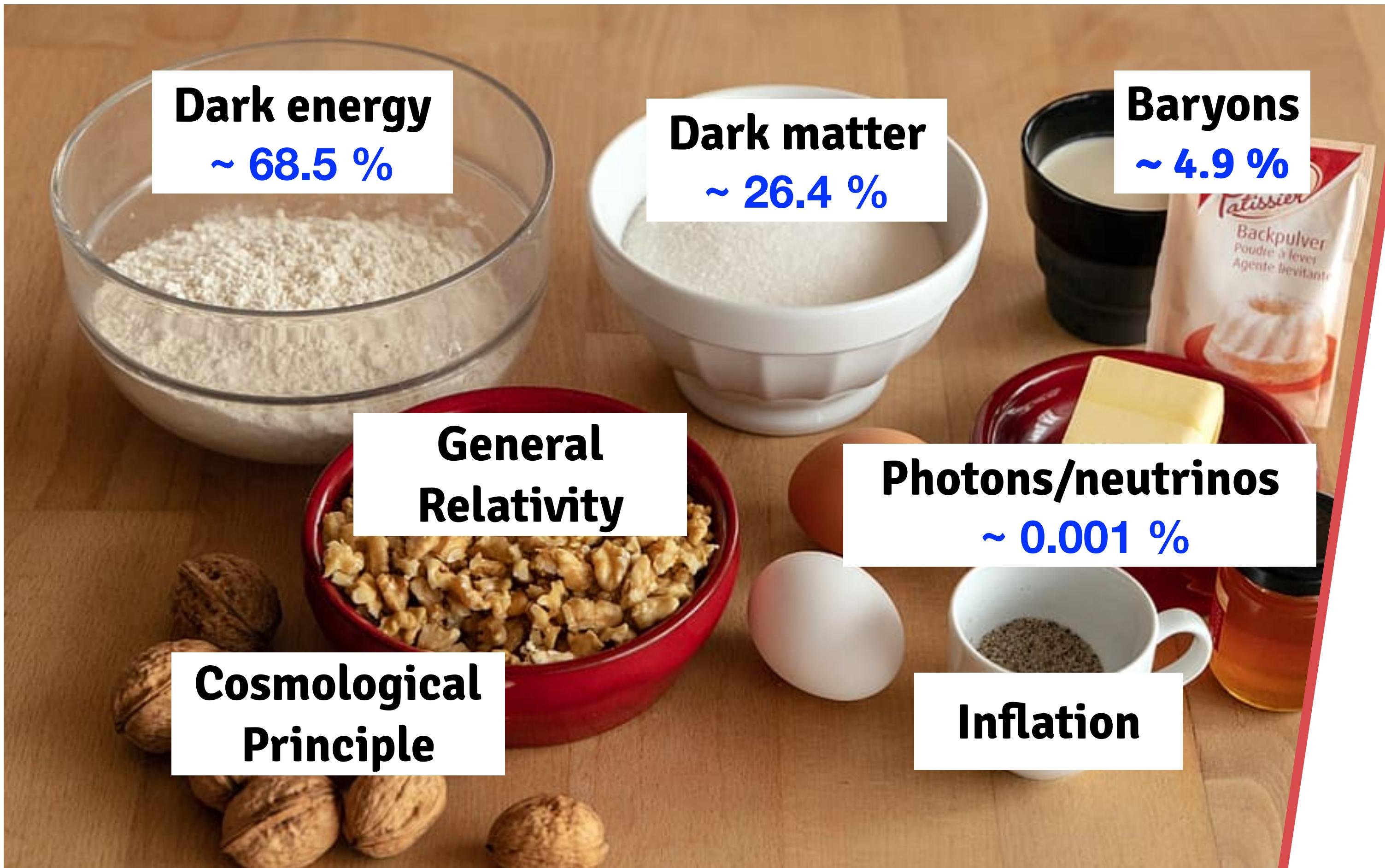
GRAPPA, University of Amsterdam

3 June 2024

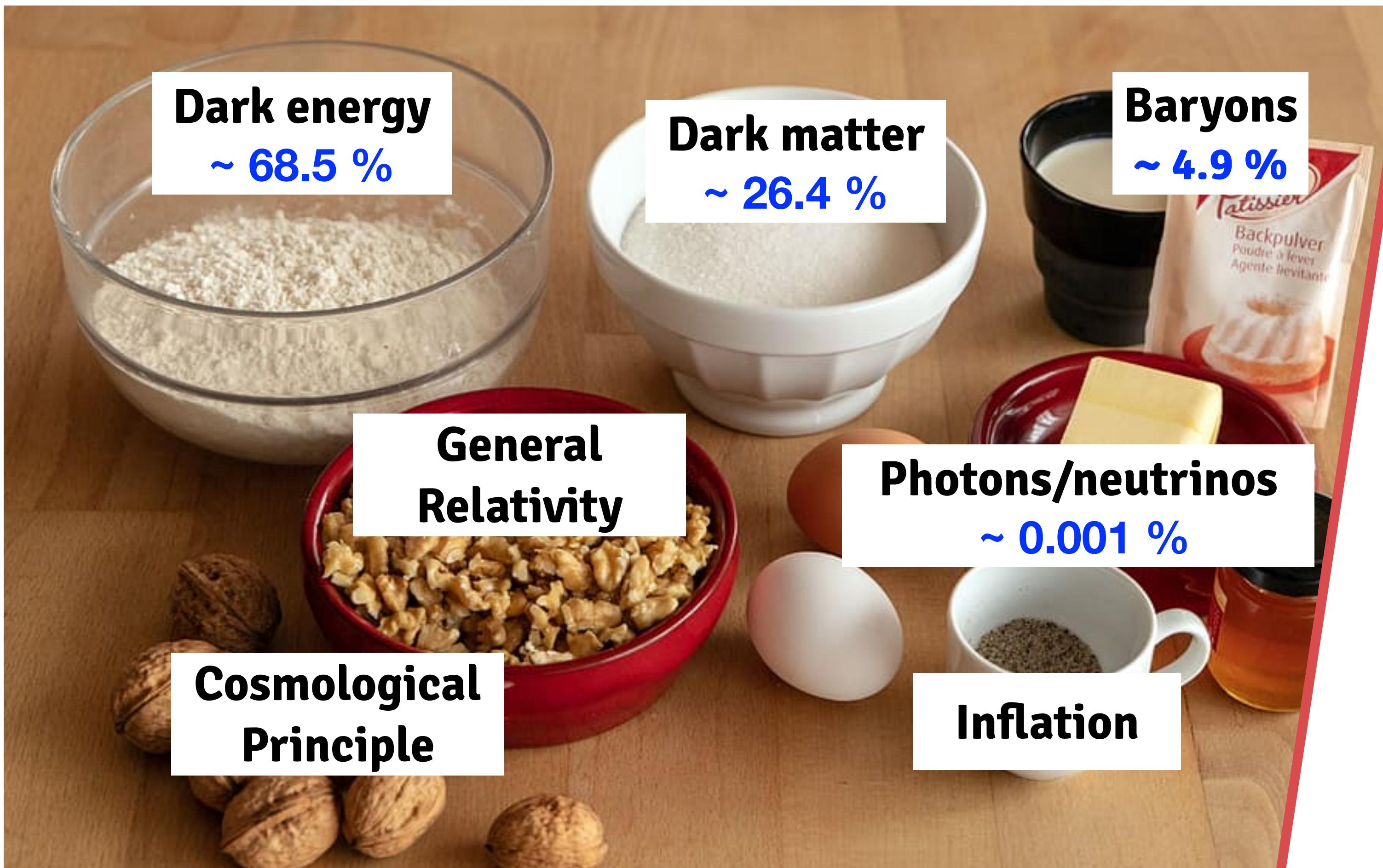
Exploring the Dark Side of the Universe - Tools

GRAPPA 
GRavitation AstroParticle Physics Amsterdam

Concordance Λ CDM model of cosmology:



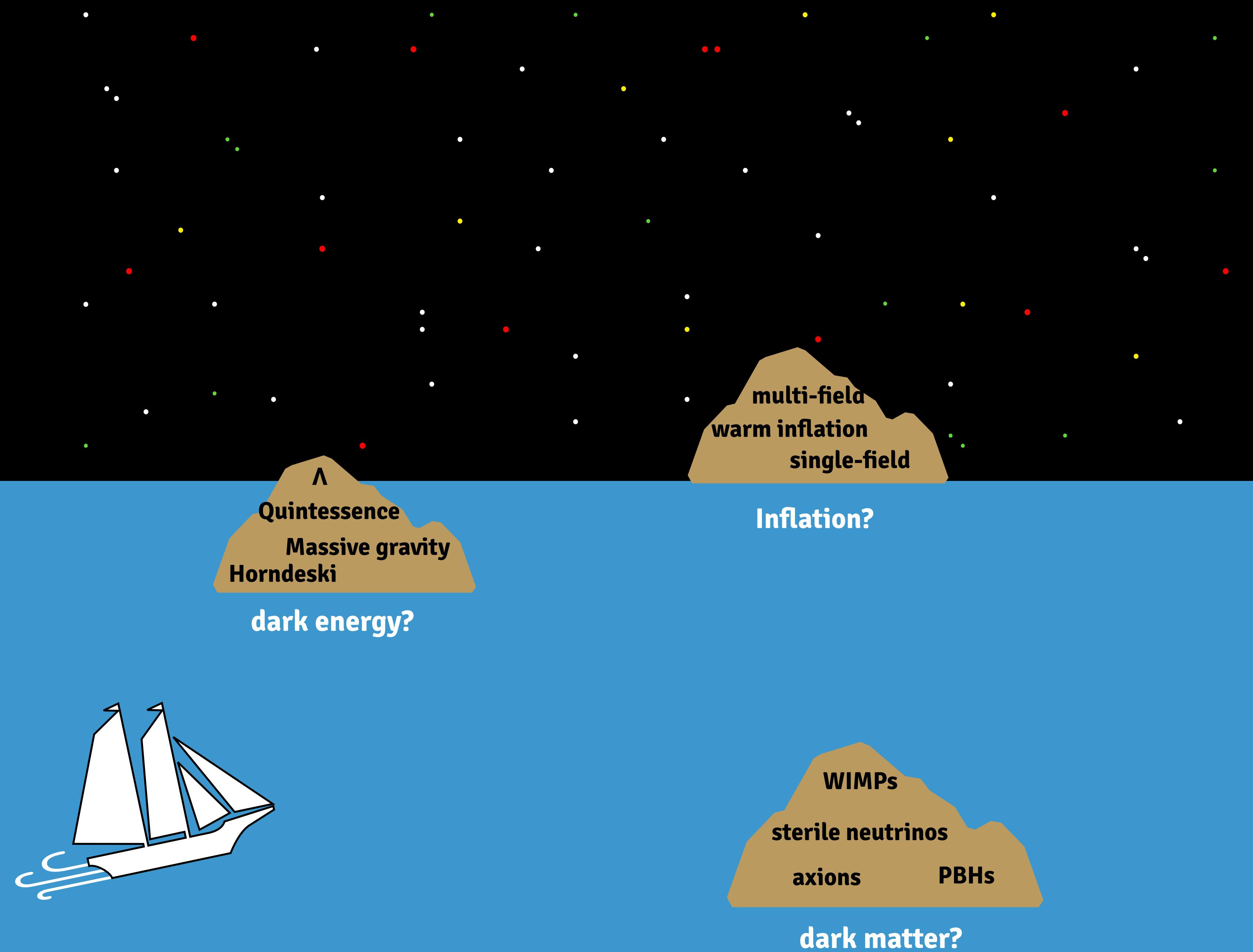
Concordance Λ CDM model of cosmology:



Only 6 free parameters!

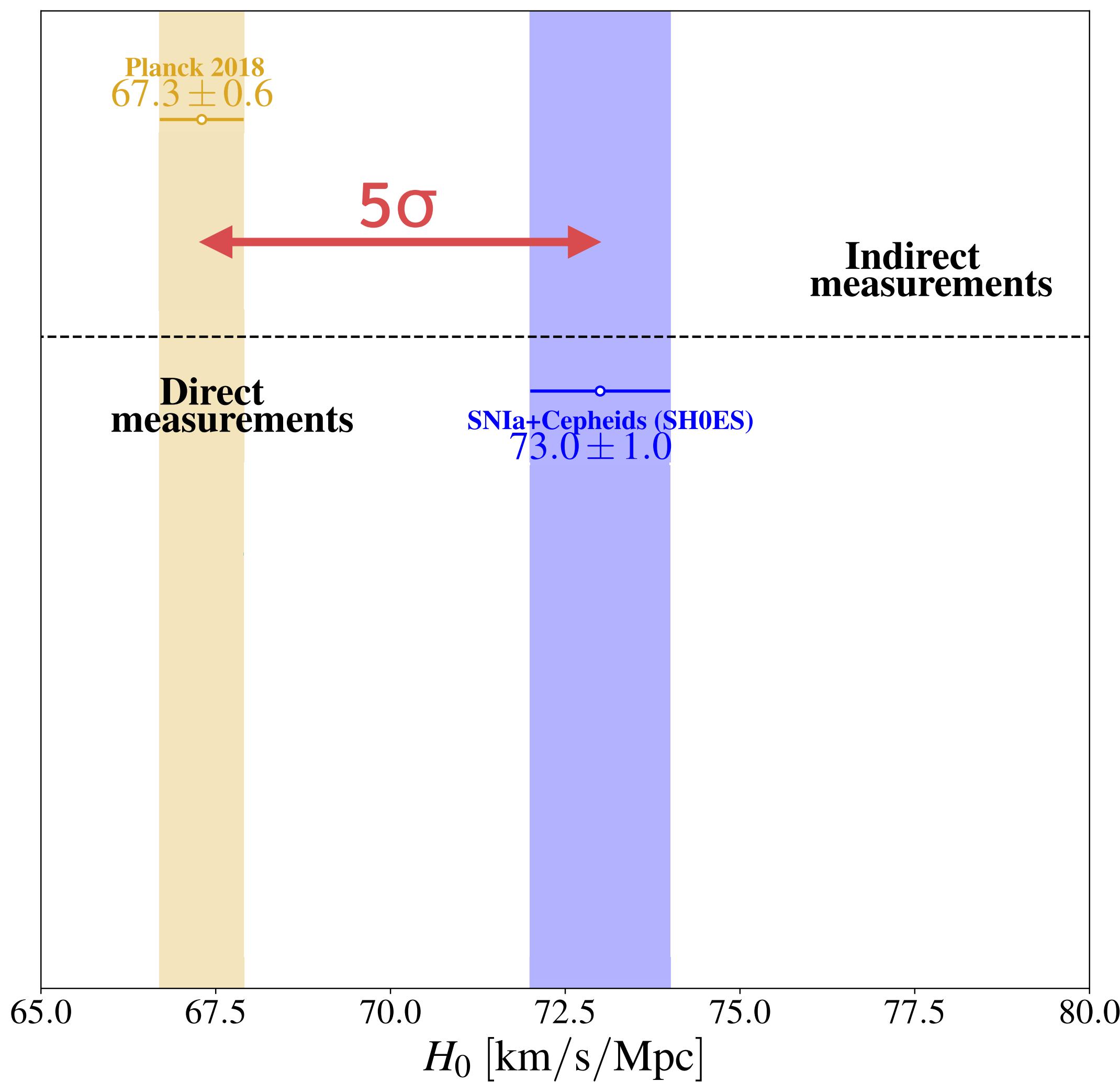
$$\begin{array}{lll} \Omega_c & \Omega_b & H_0 \\ A_s & n_s & \tau_{\text{reio}} \end{array}$$

However, the nature
of the **dark sector**
remains **unknown**



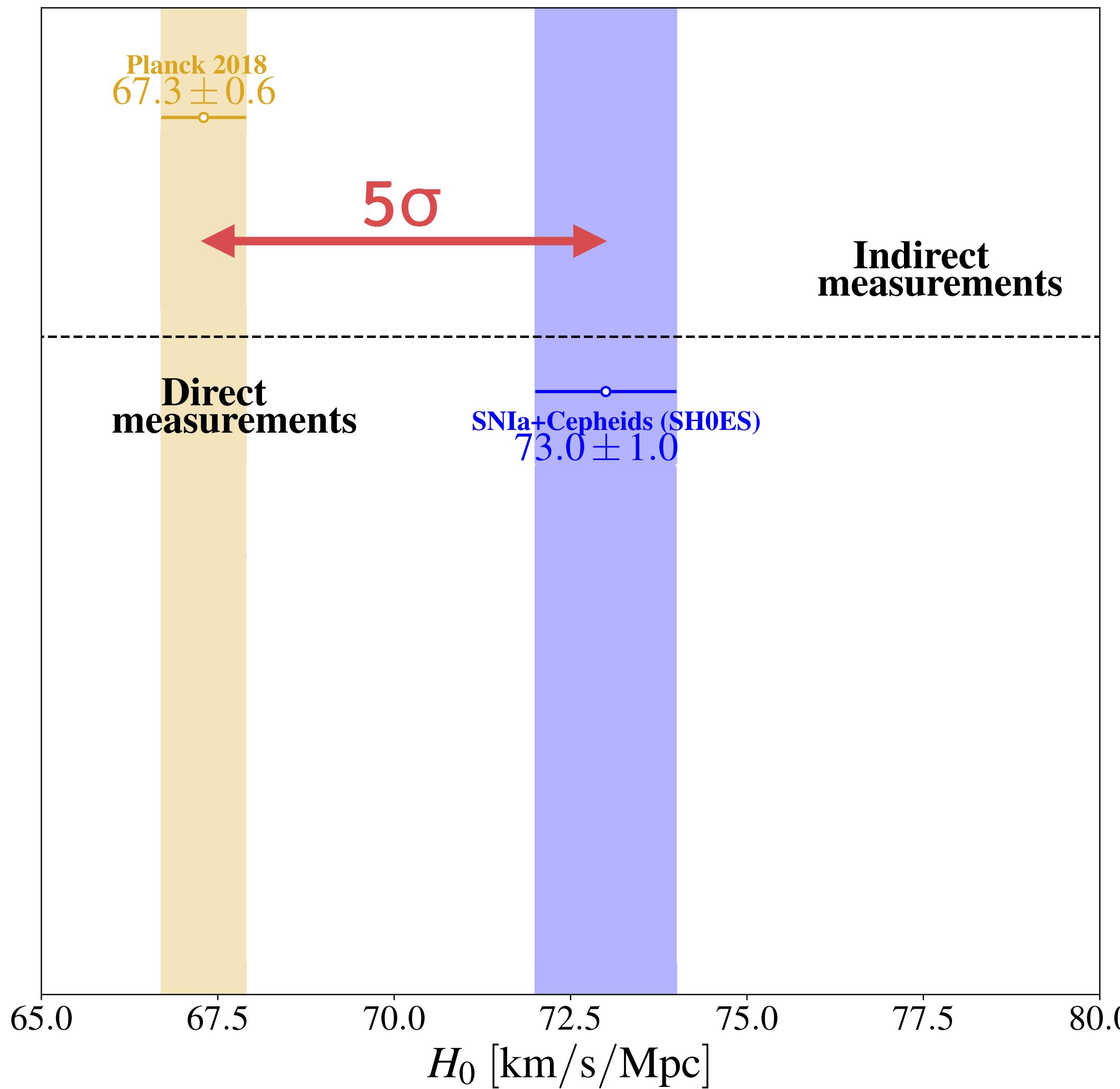
In addition, discrepancies have emerged

H_0 tension

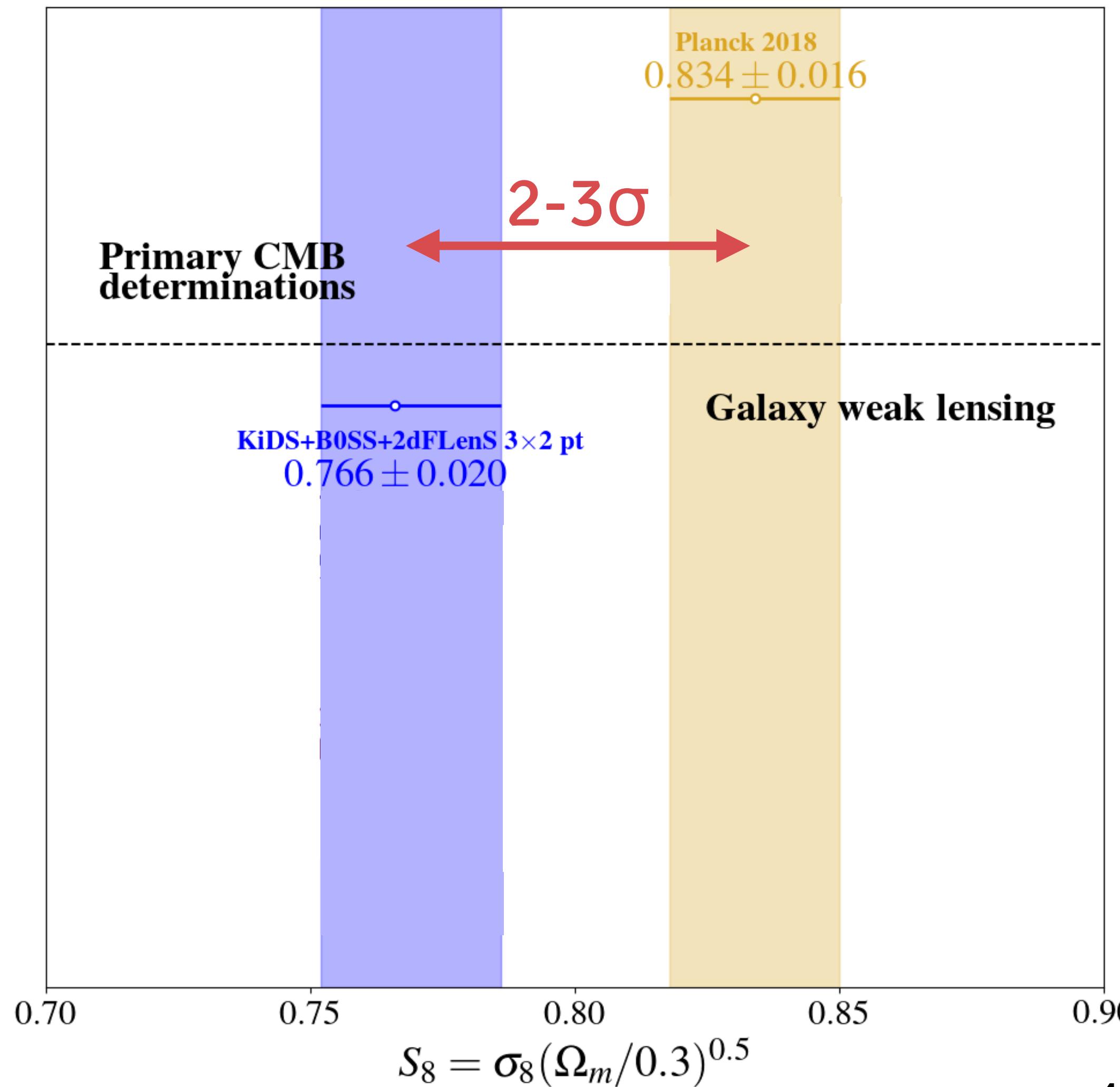


In addition, **discrepancies have emerged**

H_0 tension

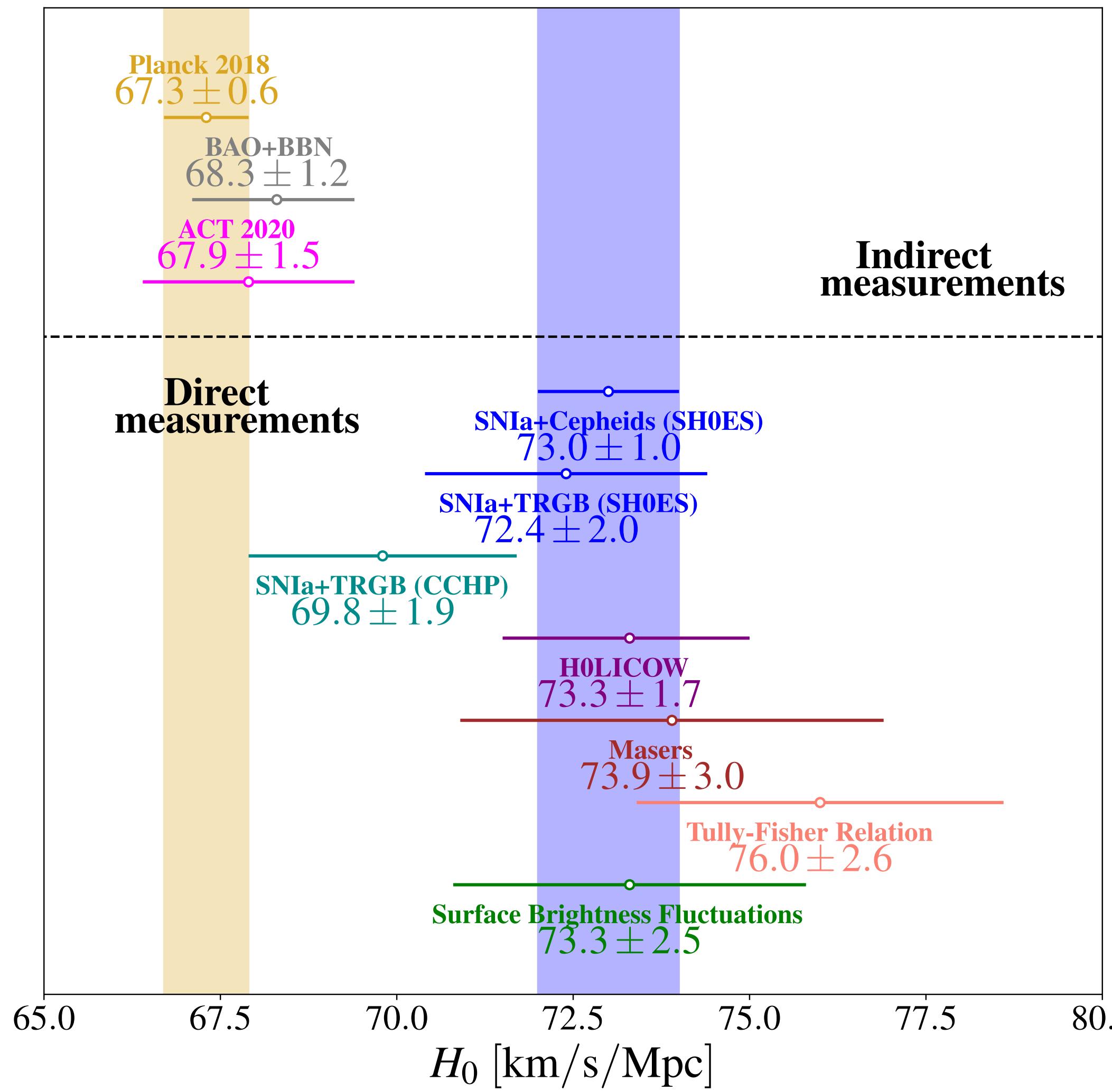


S_8 tension

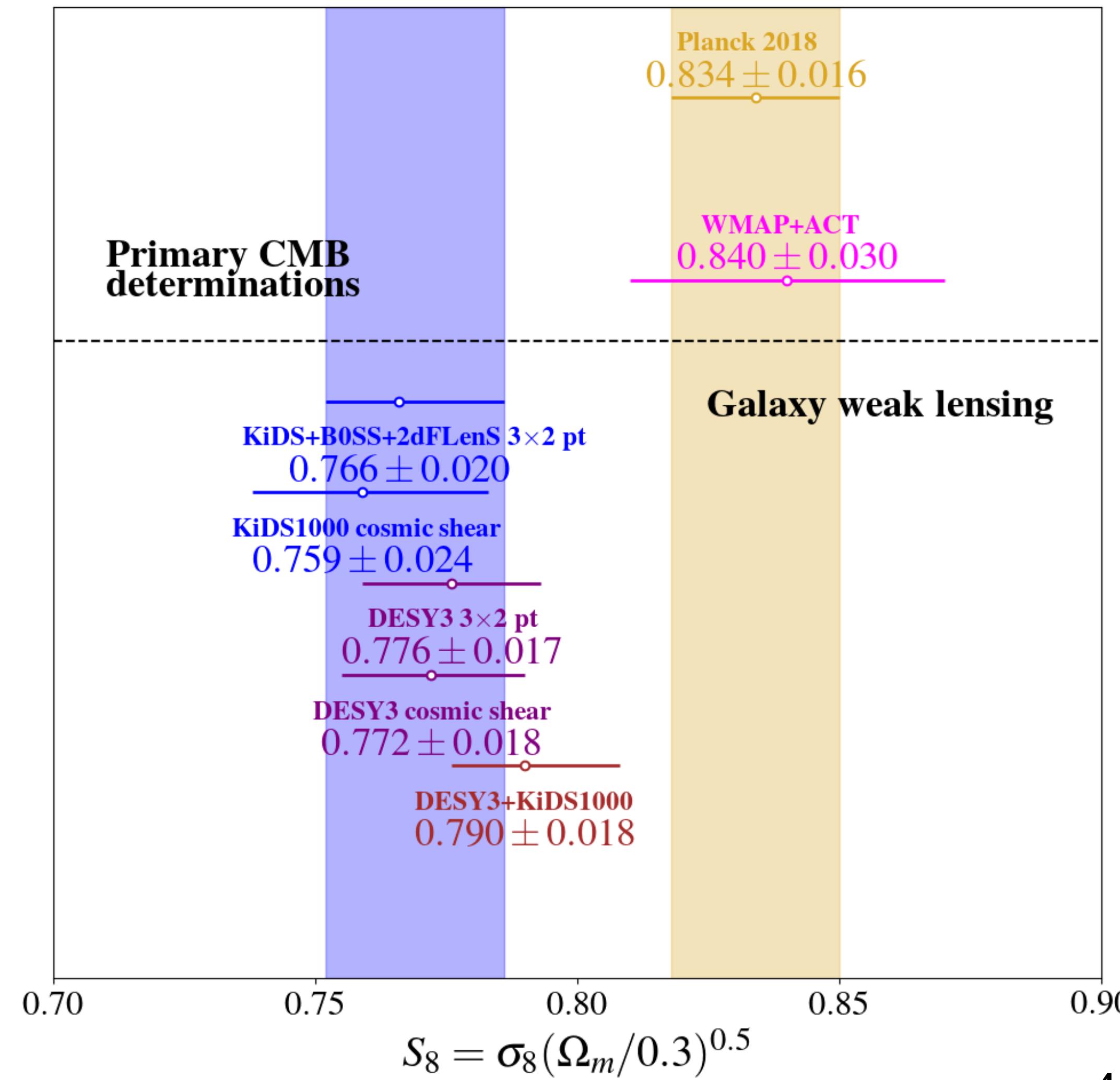


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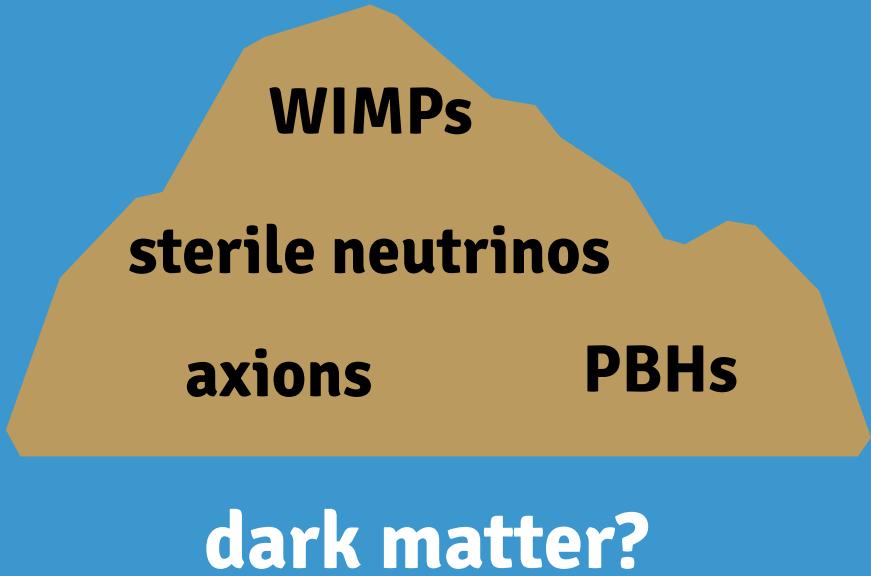
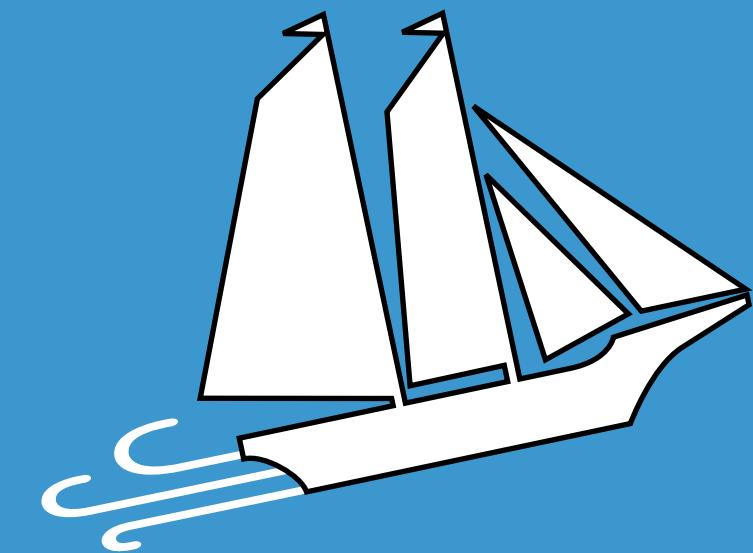
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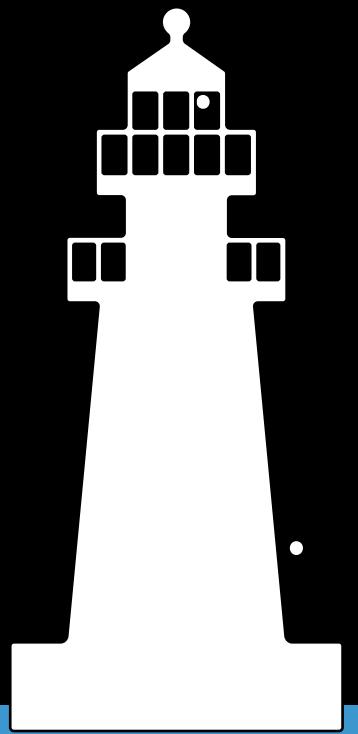


Cosmic tensions can
shed some light on the
mysterious dark sector

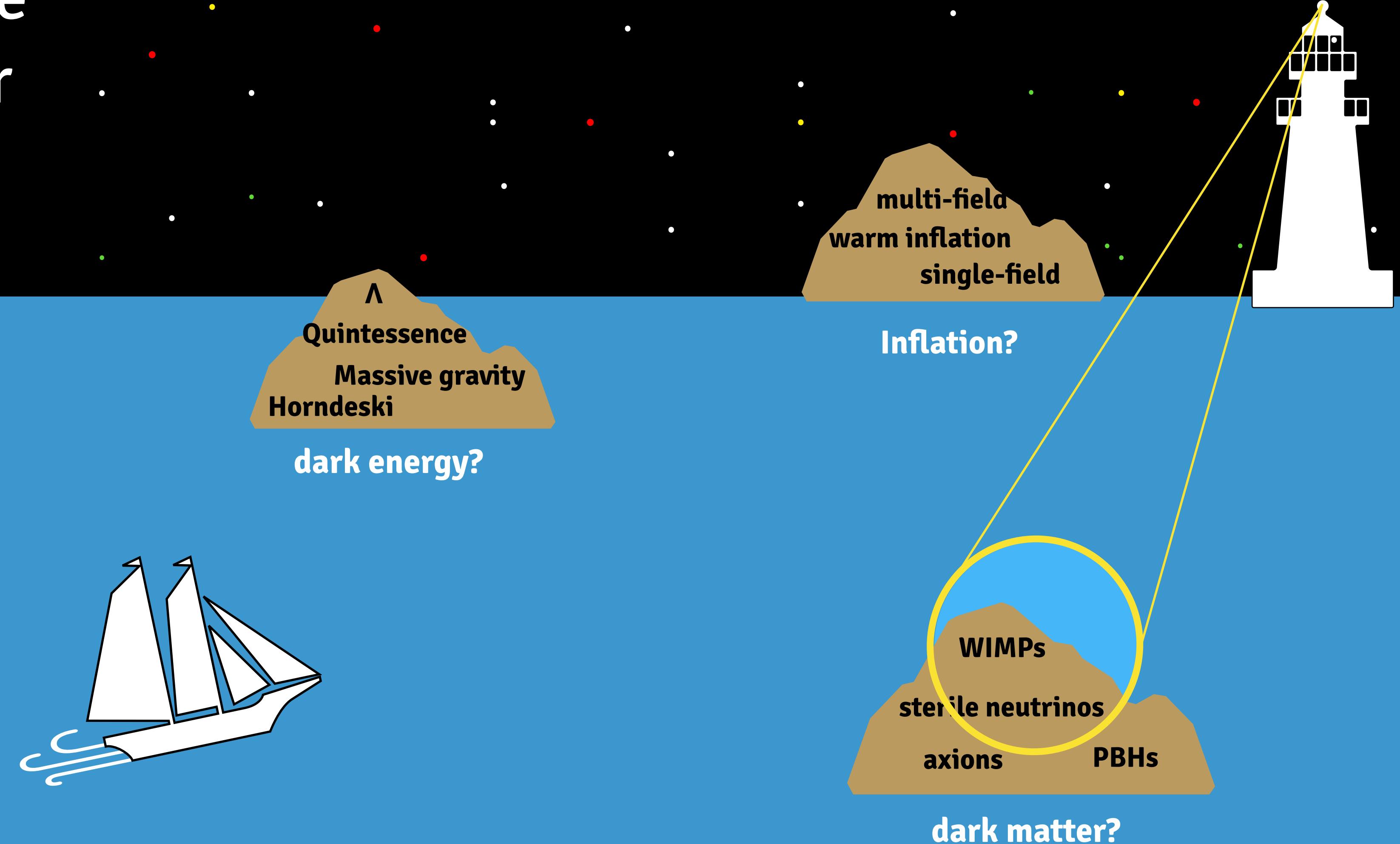


multi-field
warm inflation
single-field

Inflation?



Cosmic tensions can
shed some light on the
mysterious dark sector



Outline

I. Decaying Dark Matter and the S_8 tension

II. Early Dark Energy and the H_0 tension

III. Easing both tensions with Interacting Dark Radiation

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I. Decaying Dark Matter and the S_8 tension



II. Early Dark Energy and the H_0 tension

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What is needed to explain low S_8 values ?

$$S_8 = \sigma_8 \sqrt{\Omega_m / 0.3}$$

$$\sigma_8^2 = \int P_m(k, z=0) W_R^2(k) d\ln k$$

with $R = 8 \text{ Mpc}/h$

One needs to **suppress matter growth**
at scales $k \sim 0.1 - 1 \text{ h/Mpc}$
while **keeping a good fit** to other data

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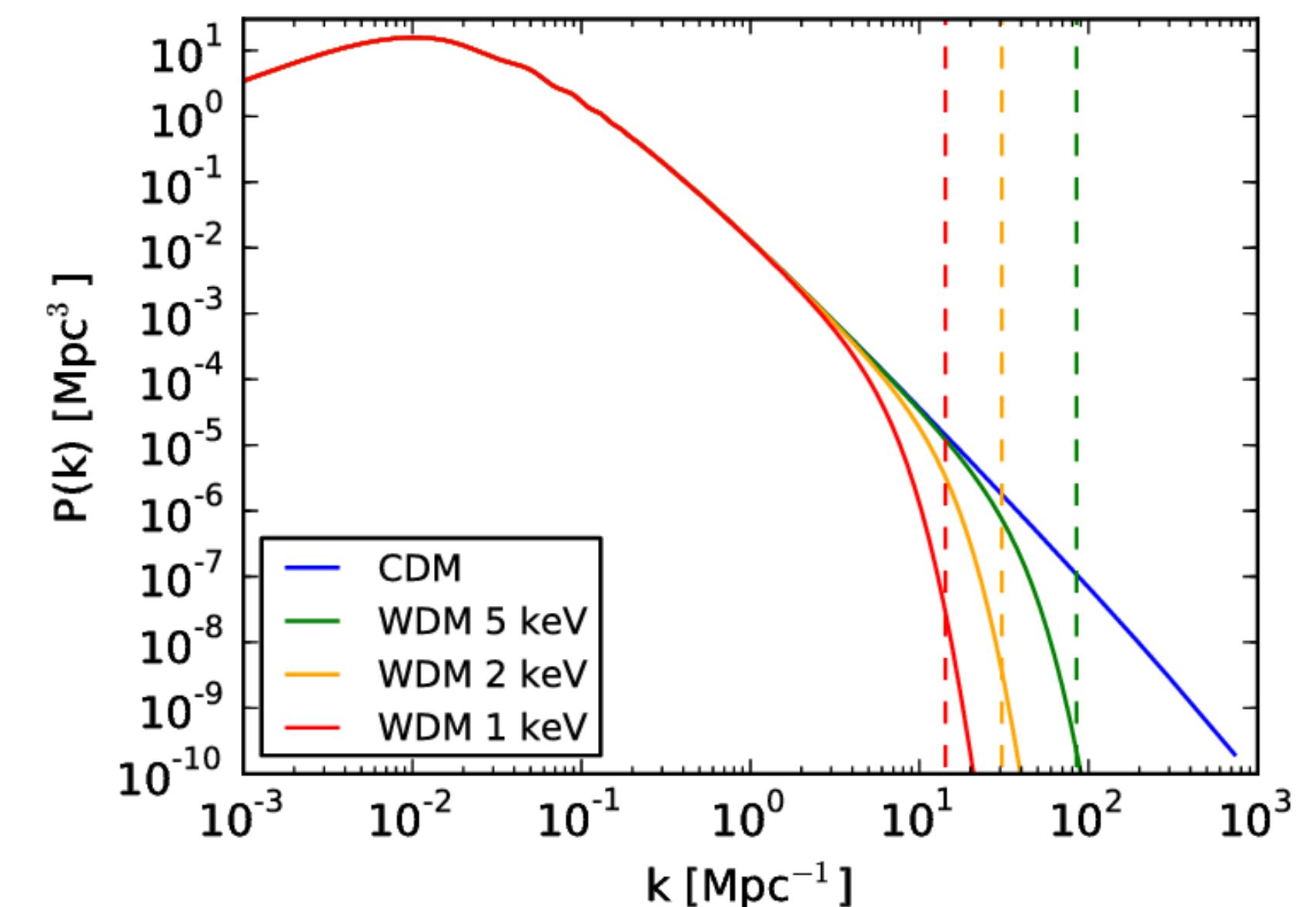
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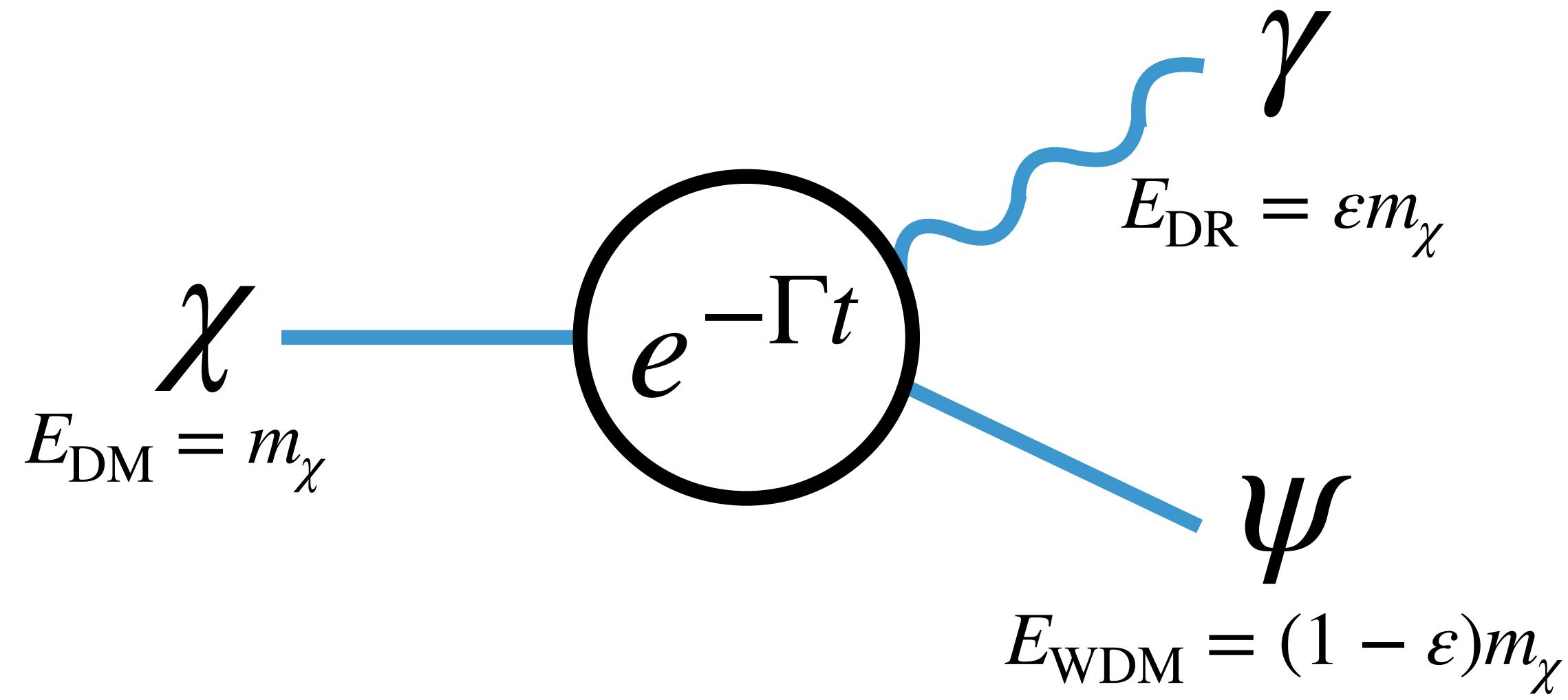
Ex: Warm dark matter



Very constrained by Ly-a !
[Iršič+ 17]

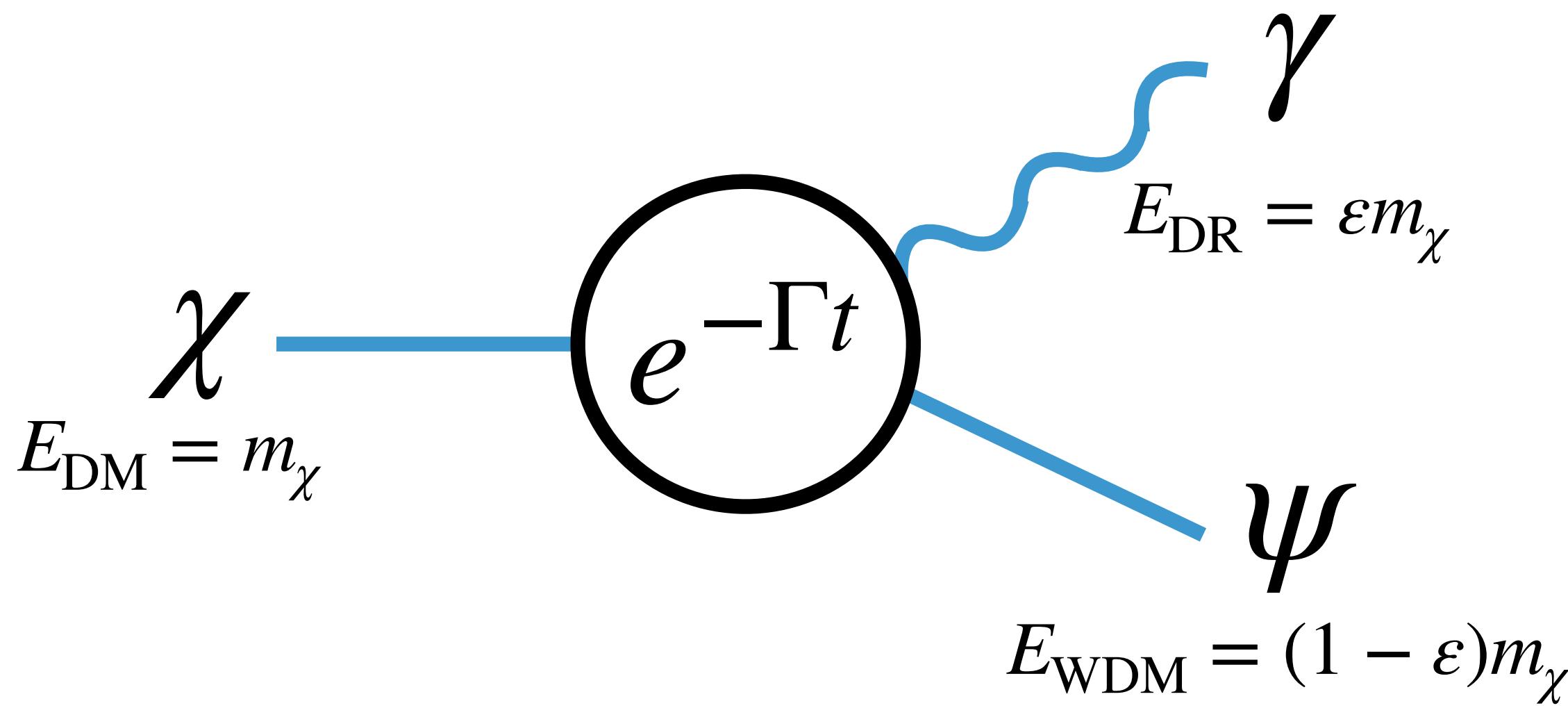
Invisible Dark Matter Decay

We explore DM decays to
massless (**Dark Radiation**) and
massive (**Warm Dark Matter**) particles



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2 extra parameters:

Decay rate
 $\Gamma = 1/\tau$

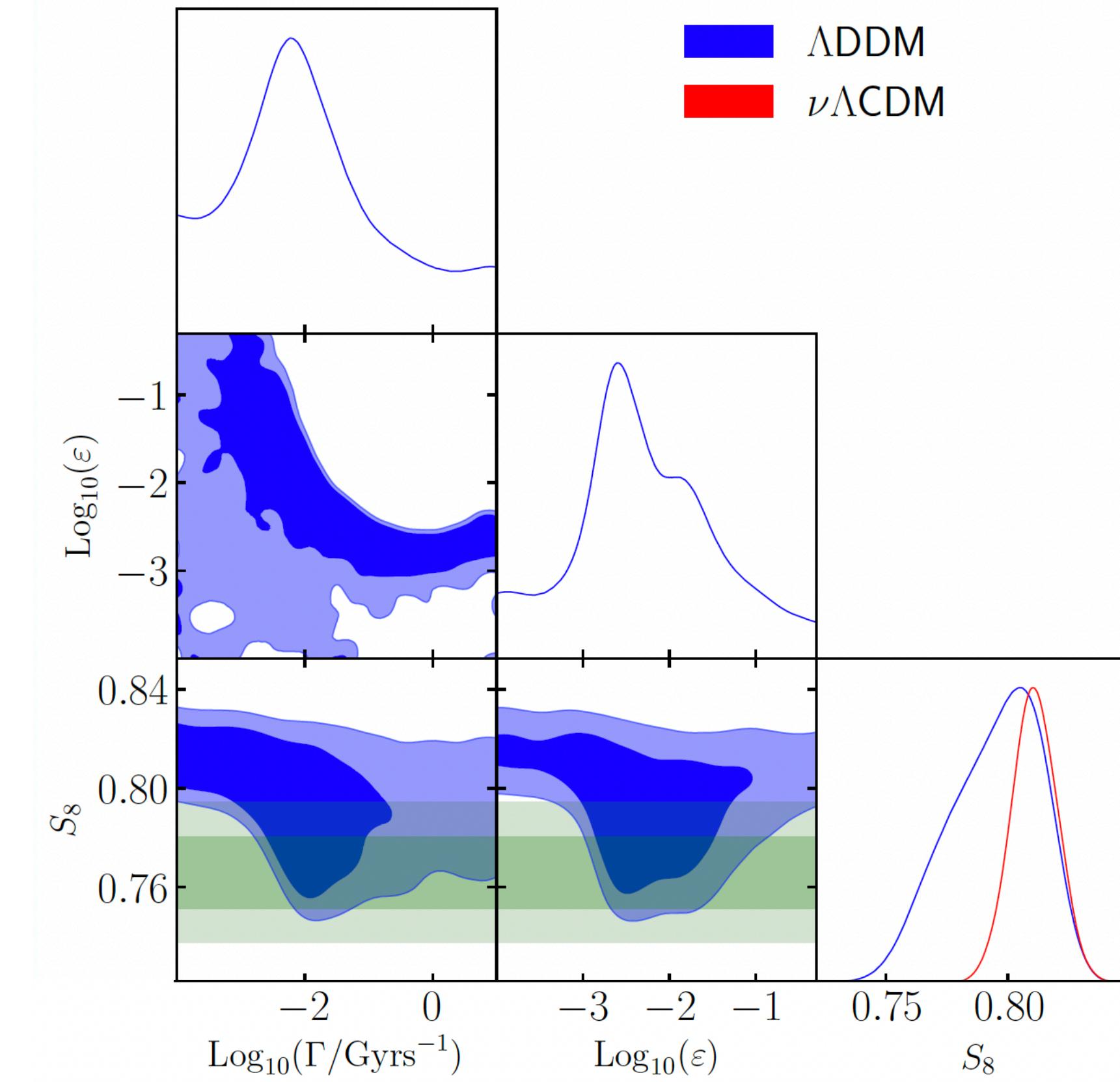
DR energy fraction

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{m_\psi^2}{m_\chi^2} \right)$$

Explaining the S_8 tension

First analysis including linear perts. showed that **DDM can explain S_8 tension** with weak-lensing data

Planck18 + BAO + SNIa
+ S_8 prior (KiDS+BOSS+2dfLenS)



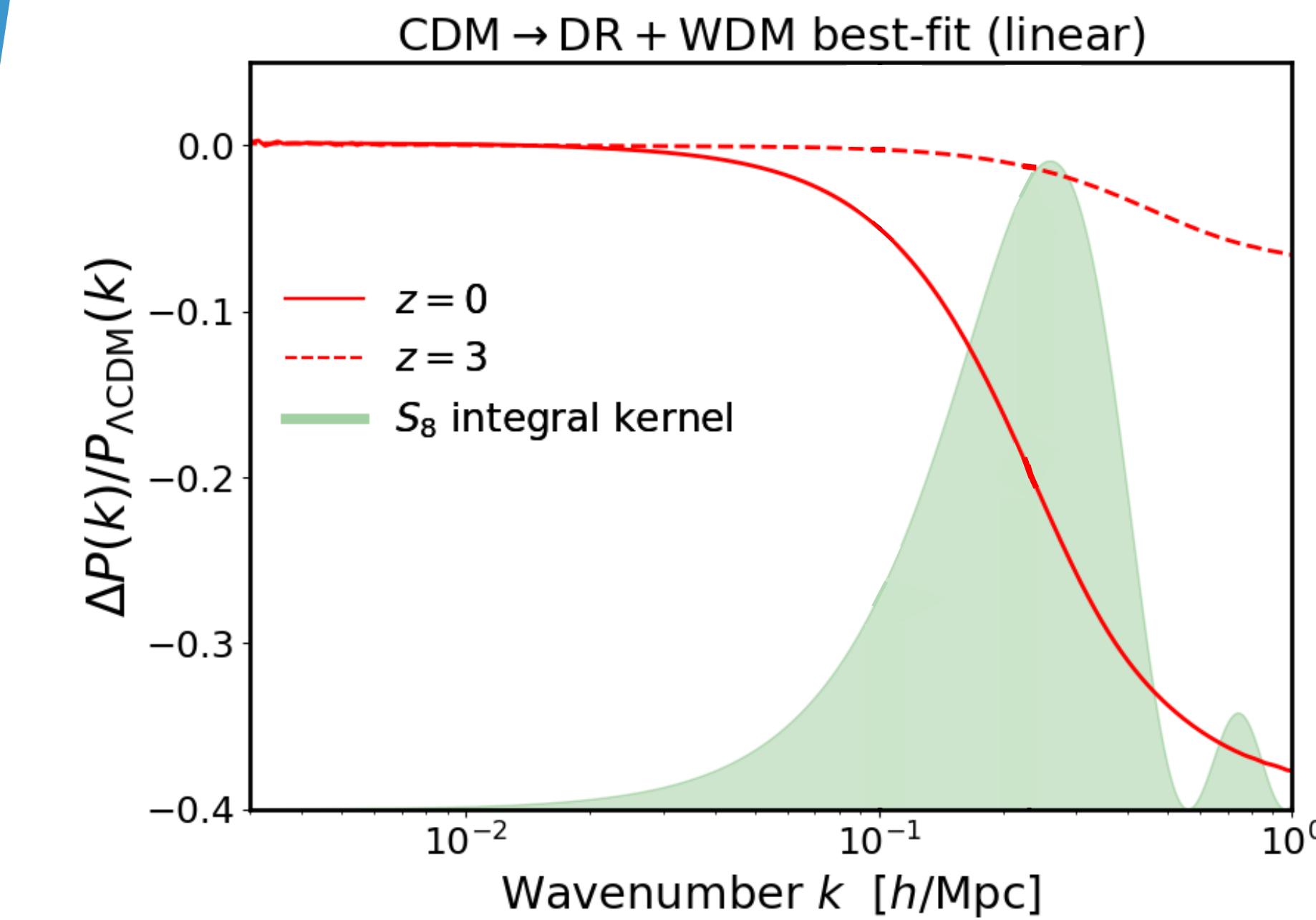
[GFA, Murgia, Poulin 21]

[GFA, Murgia++ 22]

Explaining the S_8 tension

First analysis including linear perts. showed that **DDM can explain S_8 tension** with weak-lensing data

The DDM provides a good fit because it yields a **lower suppression in the past***



* and it also leaves $H(z)$ unaffected

DDM has now been tested with various **LSS observables**, like **galaxy clustering** [[Simon, GFA++ 22](#)], the **MW satellites** [[DES 22](#)], the **Lyman-a forest** [[Fuss & Garny 22](#)], the **SZ clusters** [[Tanimura++ 23](#)], and **WL data** from KiDS-1000 [[Bucko++ 24](#)]

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Various **particle physics models** have been proposed. Ex:

- **Gravitino decays** $\tilde{G}_\mu \rightarrow \tilde{N}_1 + N_1$ [[Choi & Yanagida 22](#)]
- **Minimal model with SM neutrinos** $N_2 \rightarrow \bar{N}_1 \nu \nu$ [[Fuss++ 24](#)]

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II. Early Dark Energy and the H_0 tension



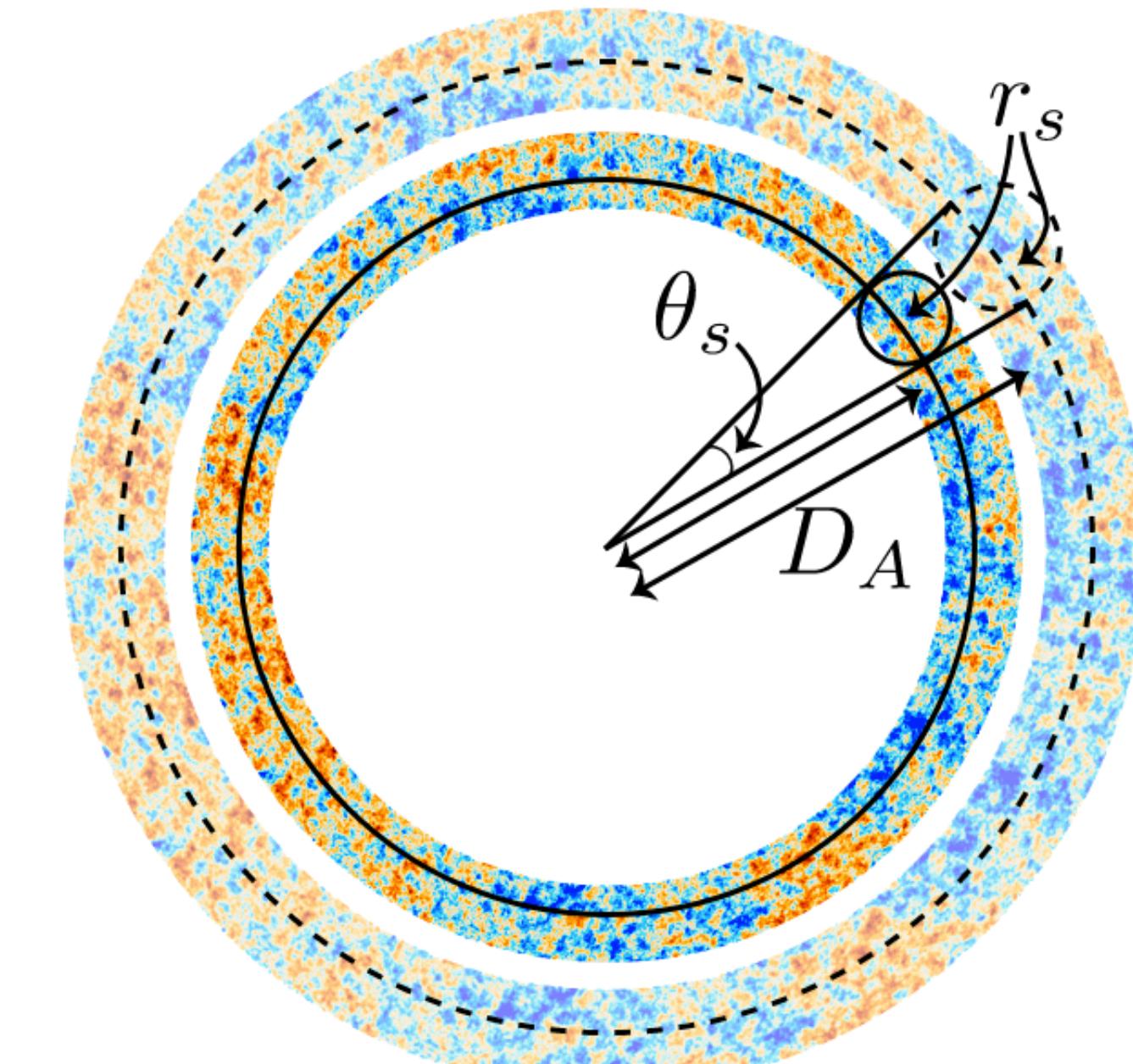
III. Easing both tensions with Interacting Dark Radiation

How does the CMB determine H_0 ?

Angular size of the **sound horizon** is measured at the 0.04% precision

$$\theta_s = \frac{r_s(z_{\text{rec}})}{D_A(z_{\text{rec}})} = \frac{\int_{\infty}^{z_{\text{rec}}} c_s(z) dz / \sqrt{\rho_{\text{tot}}(z)}}{\int_0^{z_{\text{rec}}} c dz / \sqrt{\rho_{\text{tot}}(z)}}$$

$$D_A \propto 1/H_0$$



[T. Smith]

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$$D_A \propto 1/H_0$$

To rise H_0 while keeping θ_s fixed:

Decrease $r_s(z_{\text{rec}})$
(Early-time solutions)

Change $D_A(z < z_{\text{rec}})$
(Late-time solutions)

**...late-time solutions are
disfavored by low-redshift data**

[[Knox & Millea 19](#)]

[[Efstathiou 21](#)]

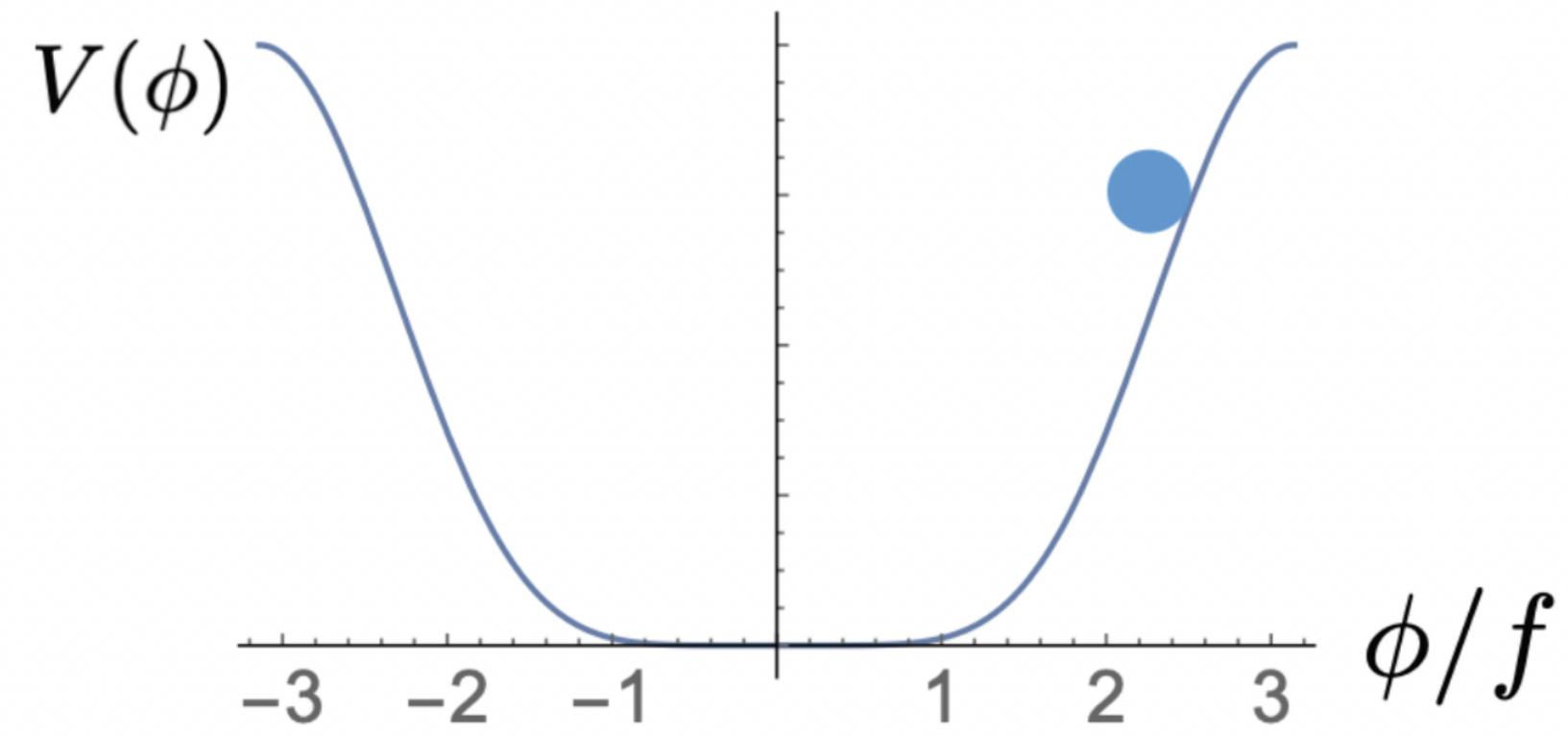
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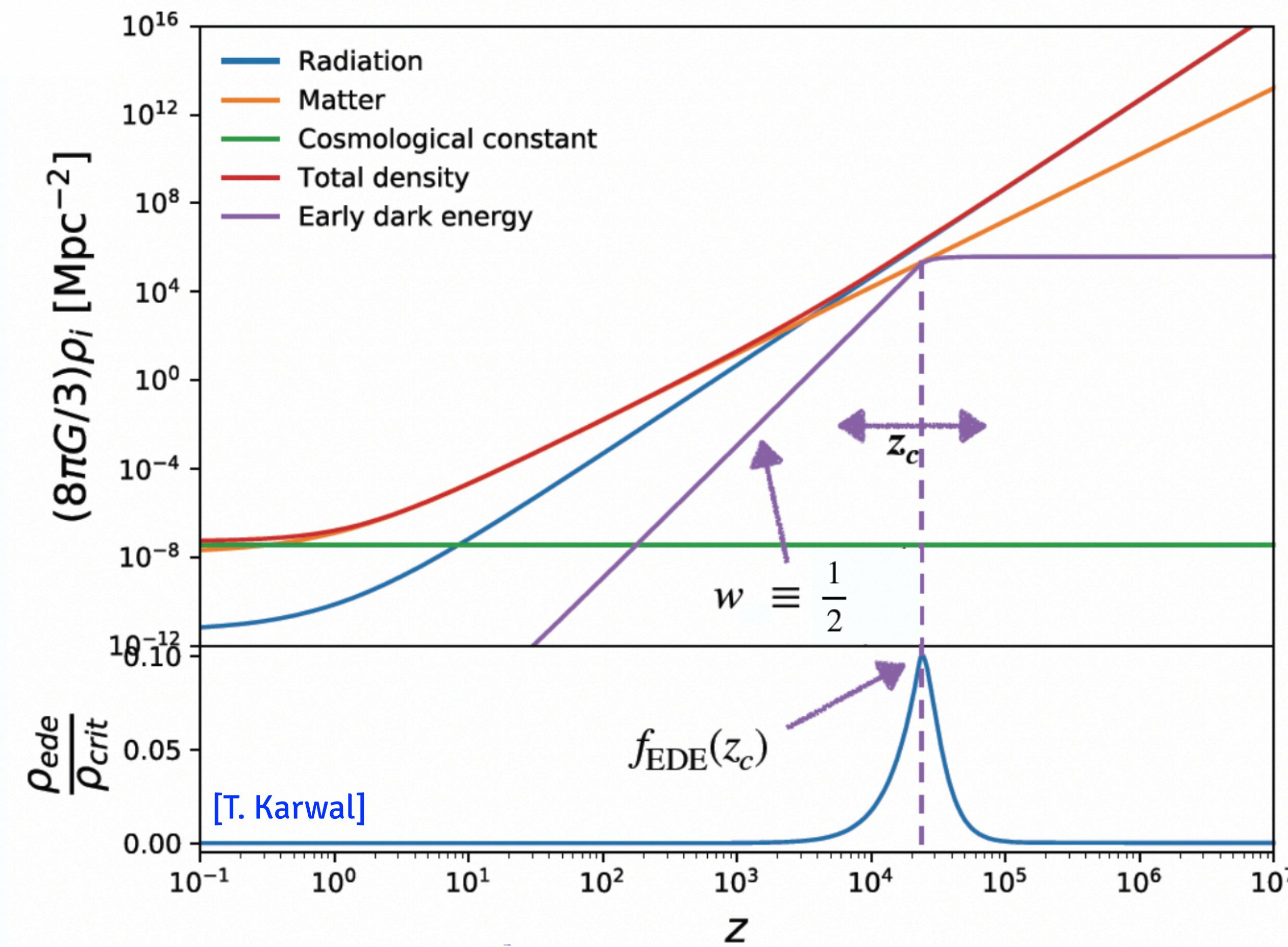
→ **need to lower r_s**

Early Dark Energy (EDE)

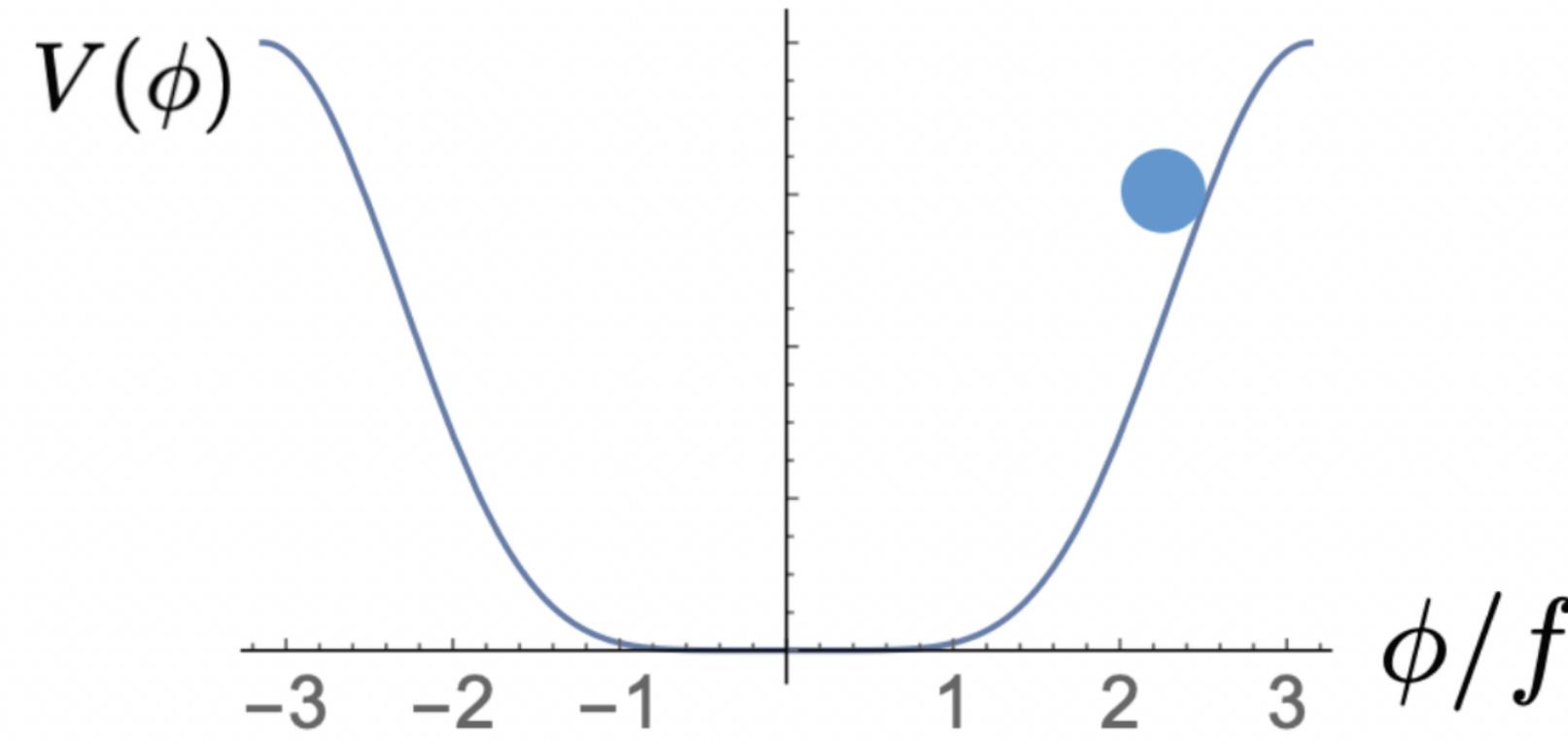


$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$$

Scalar field initially frozen, dilutes faster than radiation afterwards

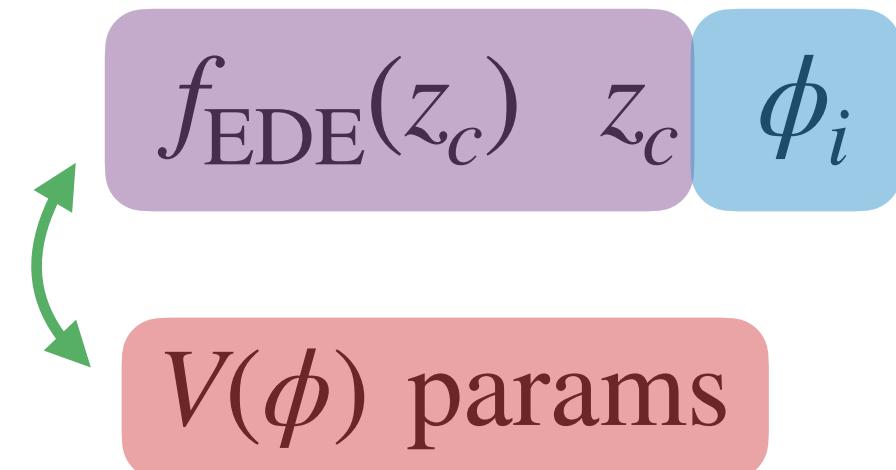


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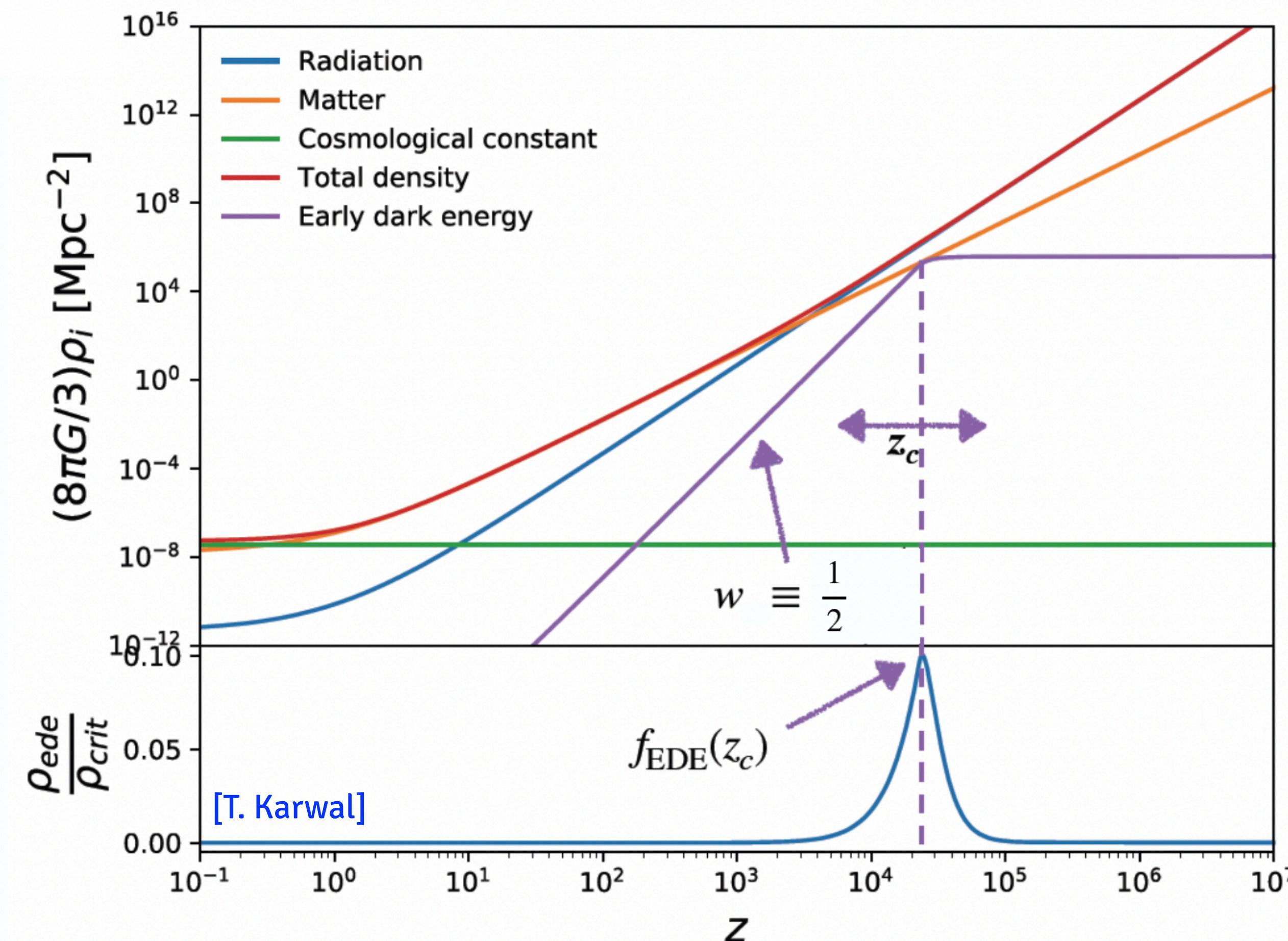


$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$$

3 extra parameters:



Scalar field initially frozen, dilutes faster than radiation afterwards



“EDE can solve the Hubble tension if it contributes $f_{\text{EDE}}(z_c) \sim 10\%$ around $z_c \sim z_{\text{eq}}$ ”

[\[Poulin++ 19\]](#) [\[Smith++ 19\]](#)

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Axion-like potential

$$V(\phi) = m^2 f^2 \left[1 - \cos \left(\frac{\phi}{f} \right) \right]^3$$

→ Canonical example, most widely studied in the literature

See [\[Poulin++ 23\]](#) for a recent review

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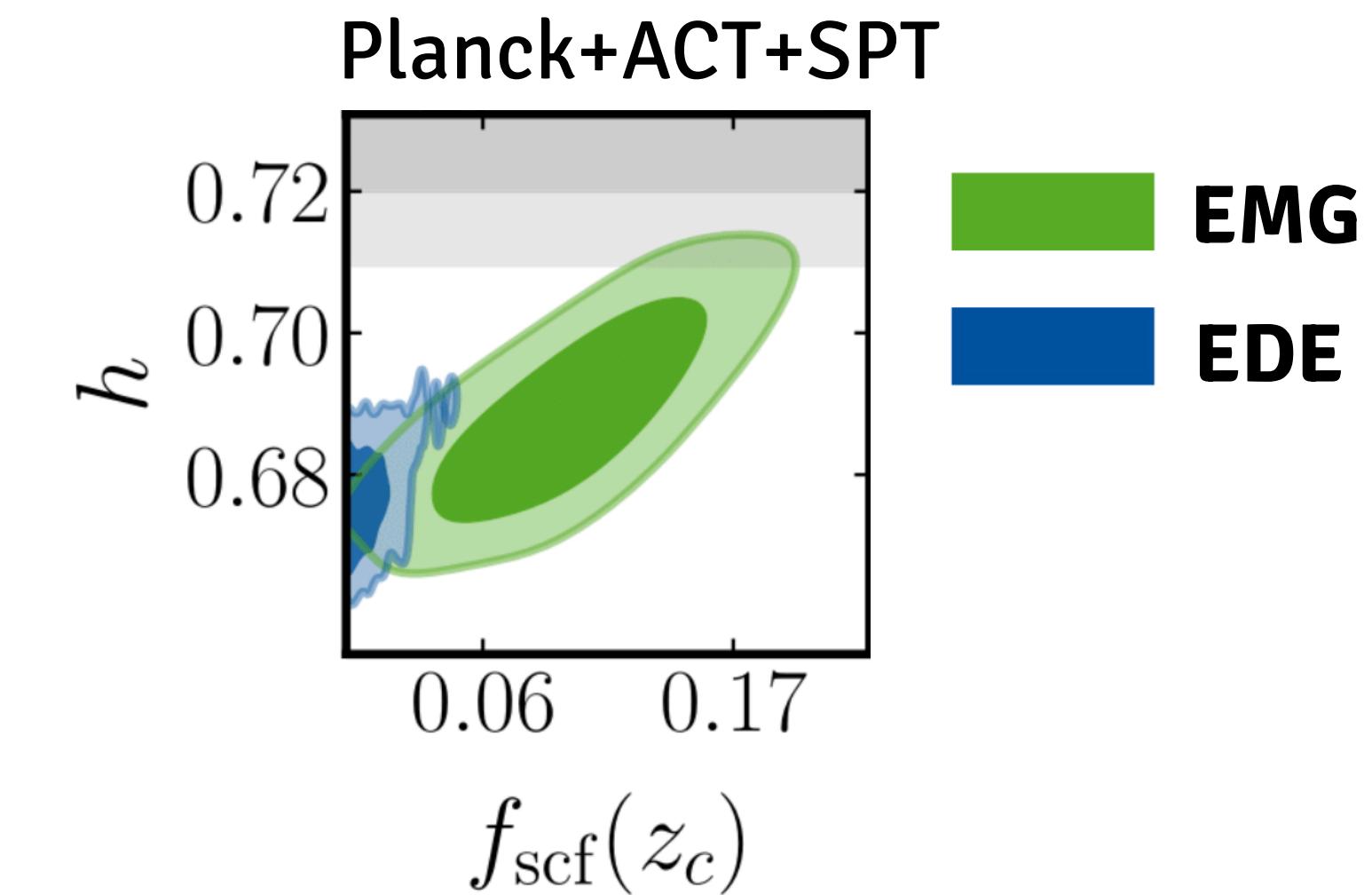
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Variation: Early Modified Gravity (EMG)

The addition of a **non-minimal coupling to gravity** provides a much better fit to CMB data

[\[GFA, Braglia++ 23\]](#)



But **many other models** apart
from EDE have been proposed...

Lost in the landscape of solutions

Early Dark Energy Can Resolve The Hubble Tension

Vivian Poulin¹, Tristan L. Smith², Tanvi Karwal¹, and Marc Kamionkowski¹

Relieving the Hubble tension with primordial mag-

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... is it possible to rank the different models?

The H_0 Olympics

GOAL:

Identify which **underlying mechanisms are more likely** to be responsible for explaining the discrepancy

Take a sample of proposed solutions

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17 different models, spanning early- and late-universe solutions

Ex: EDE

Ex: Λ CDM \rightarrow DR+ WDM

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Use a wide array of data

Planck 2018 + BAO + SNIa + SH0ES

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Apply different metrics

GT

$$\frac{\bar{x}_D - \bar{x}_{SH0ES}}{\sqrt{\sigma_D^2 + \sigma_{SH0ES}^2}}$$

Q_{DMAP}

$$\sqrt{\chi^2_{\min, D+SH0ES} - \chi^2_{\min, D}}$$

ΔAIC

$$\chi^2_{\min, M} - \chi^2_{\min, \Lambda\text{CDM}} + 2(N_M - N_{\Lambda\text{CDM}})$$

Results of the contest

Model	ΔN_{param}	M_B	Gaussian Tension	Q_{DMAP} Tension	$\Delta\chi^2$	ΔAIC	Finalist	
ΛCDM	0	-19.416 ± 0.012	4.4σ	4.5σ	X	0.00	0.00 X	X
ΔN_{ur}	1	-19.395 ± 0.019	3.6σ	3.8σ	X	-6.10	-4.10 X	X
SIDR	1	-19.385 ± 0.024	3.2σ	3.3σ	X	-9.57	-7.57 ✓	✓ ③
mixed DR	2	-19.413 ± 0.036	3.3σ	3.4σ	X	-8.83	-4.83 X	X
DR-DM	2	-19.388 ± 0.026	3.2σ	3.1σ	X	-8.92	-4.92 X	X
SI ν +DR	3	$-19.440^{+0.037}_{-0.039}$	3.8σ	3.9σ	X	-4.98	1.02 X	X
Majoron	3	$-19.380^{+0.027}_{-0.021}$	3.0σ	2.9σ	✓	-15.49	-9.49 ✓	✓ ②
primordial B	1	$-19.390^{+0.018}_{-0.024}$	3.5σ	3.5σ	X	-11.42	-9.42 ✓	✓ ③
varying m_e	1	-19.391 ± 0.034	2.9σ	2.9σ	✓	-12.27	-10.27 ✓	✓ ④
varying $m_e + \Omega_k$	2	-19.368 ± 0.048	2.0σ	1.9σ	✓	-17.26	-13.26 ✓	✓ ④
EDE	3	$-19.390^{+0.016}_{-0.035}$	3.6σ	1.6σ	✓	-21.98	-15.98 ✓	✓ ②
NEDE	3	$-19.380^{+0.023}_{-0.040}$	3.1σ	1.9σ	✓	-18.93	-12.93 ✓	✓ ②
EMG	3	$-19.397^{+0.017}_{-0.023}$	3.7σ	2.3σ	✓	-18.56	-12.56 ✓	✓ ②
CPL	2	-19.400 ± 0.020	3.7σ	4.1σ	X	-4.94	-0.94 X	X
PEDE	0	-19.349 ± 0.013	2.7σ	2.8σ	✓	2.24	2.24 X	X
GPEDE	1	-19.400 ± 0.022	3.6σ	4.6σ	X	-0.45	1.55 X	X
DM \rightarrow DR+WDM	2	-19.420 ± 0.012	4.5σ	4.5σ	X	-0.19	3.81 X	X
DM \rightarrow DR	2	-19.410 ± 0.011	4.3σ	4.5σ	X	-0.53	3.47 X	X

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

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DM \rightarrow DR	2	-19.410 ± 0.011	4.3σ	4.5σ	X	-0.53	3.47 X	X

Late-time solutions are the most disfavored

Results of the contest

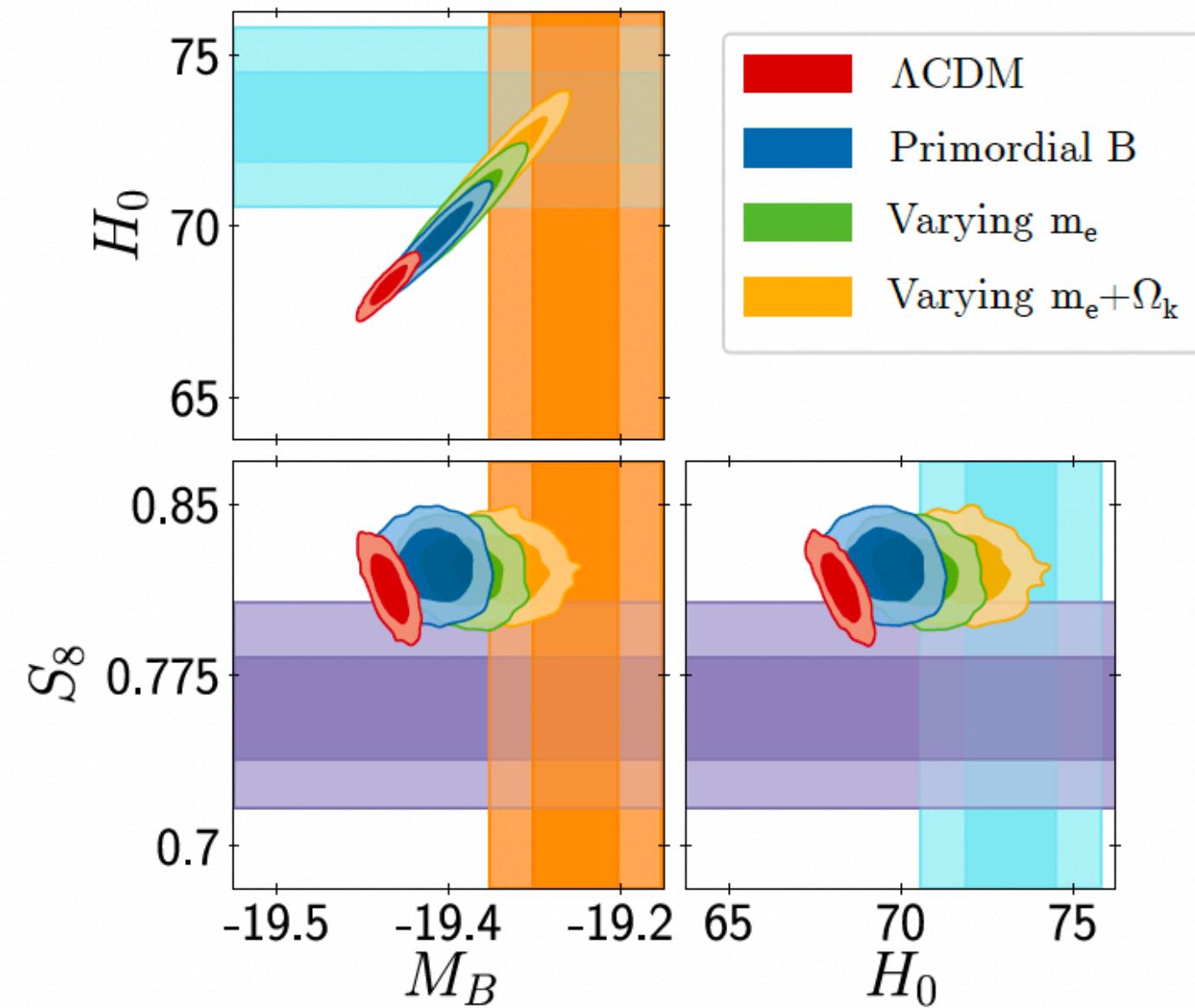
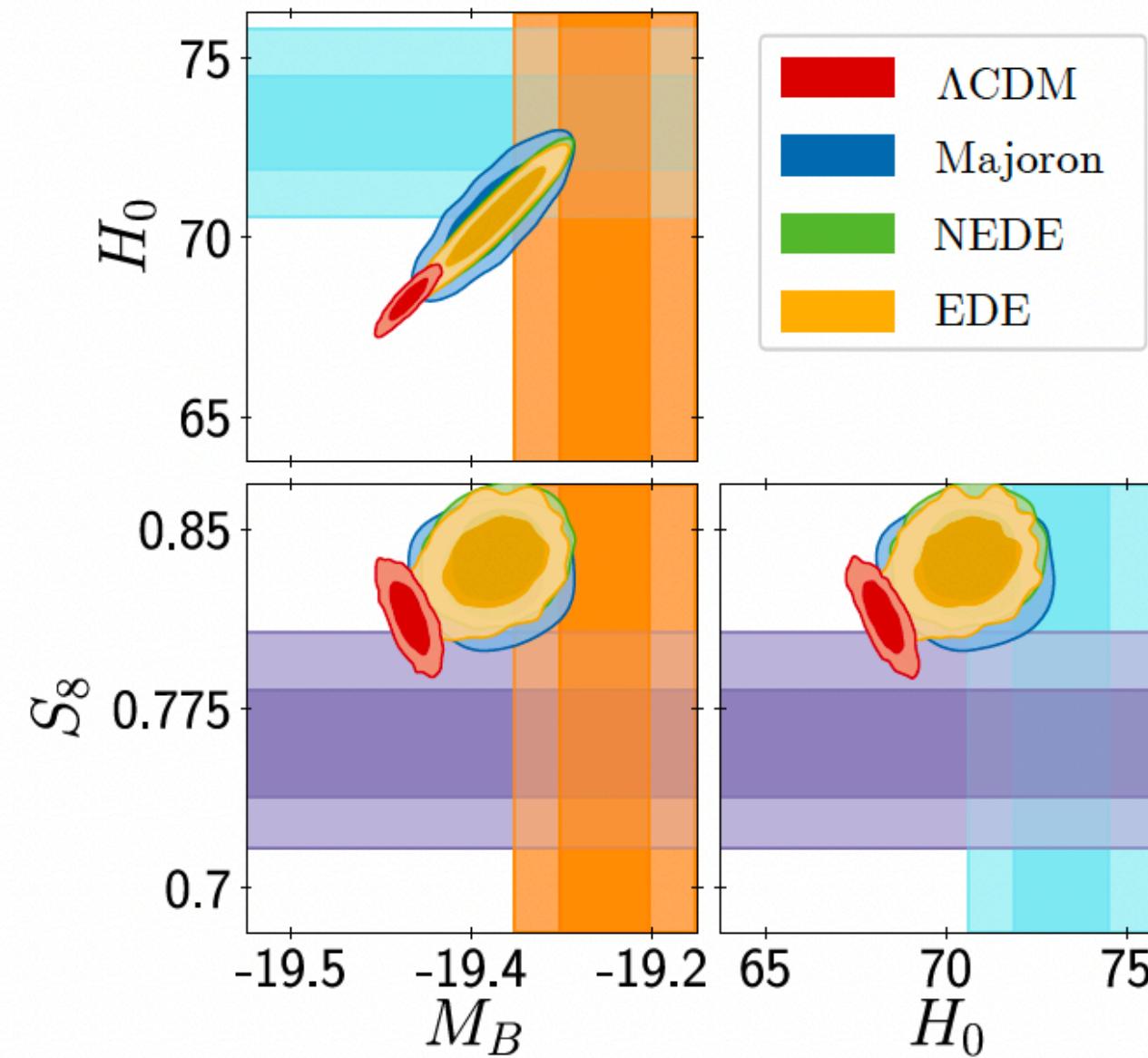
Model	ΔN_{param}	M_B	Gaussian Tension	Q_{DMAP} Tension	$\Delta\chi^2$	ΔAIC	Finalist	
ΛCDM	0	-19.416 ± 0.012	4.4σ	4.5σ	X	0.00	0.00 X	X
ΔN_{ur}	1	-19.395 ± 0.019	3.6σ	3.8σ	X	-6.10	-4.10 X	X
SIDR	1	-19.385 ± 0.024	3.2σ	3.3σ	X	-9.57	-7.57 ✓	✓ ③
mixed DR	2	-19.413 ± 0.036	3.3σ	3.4σ	X	-8.83	-4.83 X	X
DR-DM	2	-19.388 ± 0.026	3.2σ	3.1σ	X	-8.92	-4.92 X	X
SI ν +DR	3	$-19.440^{+0.037}_{-0.039}$	3.8σ	3.9σ	X	-4.98	1.02 X	X
Majoron	3	$-19.380^{+0.027}_{-0.021}$	3.0σ	2.9σ	✓	-15.49	-9.49 ✓	✓ ②
primordial B	1	$-19.390^{+0.018}_{-0.024}$	3.5σ	3.5σ	X	-11.42	-9.42 ✓	✓ ③
varying m_e	1	-19.391 ± 0.034	2.9σ	2.9σ	✓	-12.27	-10.27 ✓	✓ ④
varying $m_e + \Omega_k$	2	-19.368 ± 0.048	2.0σ	1.9σ	✓	-17.26	-13.26 ✓	✓ ④
EDE	3	$-19.390^{+0.016}_{-0.035}$	3.6σ	1.6σ	✓	-21.98	-15.98 ✓	✓ ②
NEDE	3	$-19.380^{+0.023}_{-0.040}$	3.1σ	1.9σ	✓	-18.93	-12.93 ✓	✓ ②
EMG	3	$-19.397^{+0.017}_{-0.023}$	3.7σ	2.3σ	✓	-18.56	-12.56 ✓	✓ ②
CPL	2	-19.400 ± 0.020	3.7σ	4.1σ	X	-4.94	-0.94 X	X
PEDE	0	-19.349 ± 0.013	2.7σ	2.8σ	✓	2.24	2.24 X	X
GPEDE	1	-19.400 ± 0.022	3.6σ	4.6σ	X	-0.45	1.55 X	X
DM \rightarrow DR+WDM	2	-19.420 ± 0.012	4.5σ	4.5σ	X	-0.19	3.81 X	X
DM \rightarrow DR	2	-19.410 ± 0.011	4.3σ	4.5σ	X	-0.53	3.47 X	X

Late-time solutions are the most disfavored

Early-time solutions (like EDE) appear the most successful

Results of the contest

Unfortunately, the most successful models
are **unable to explain the S_8 tension**

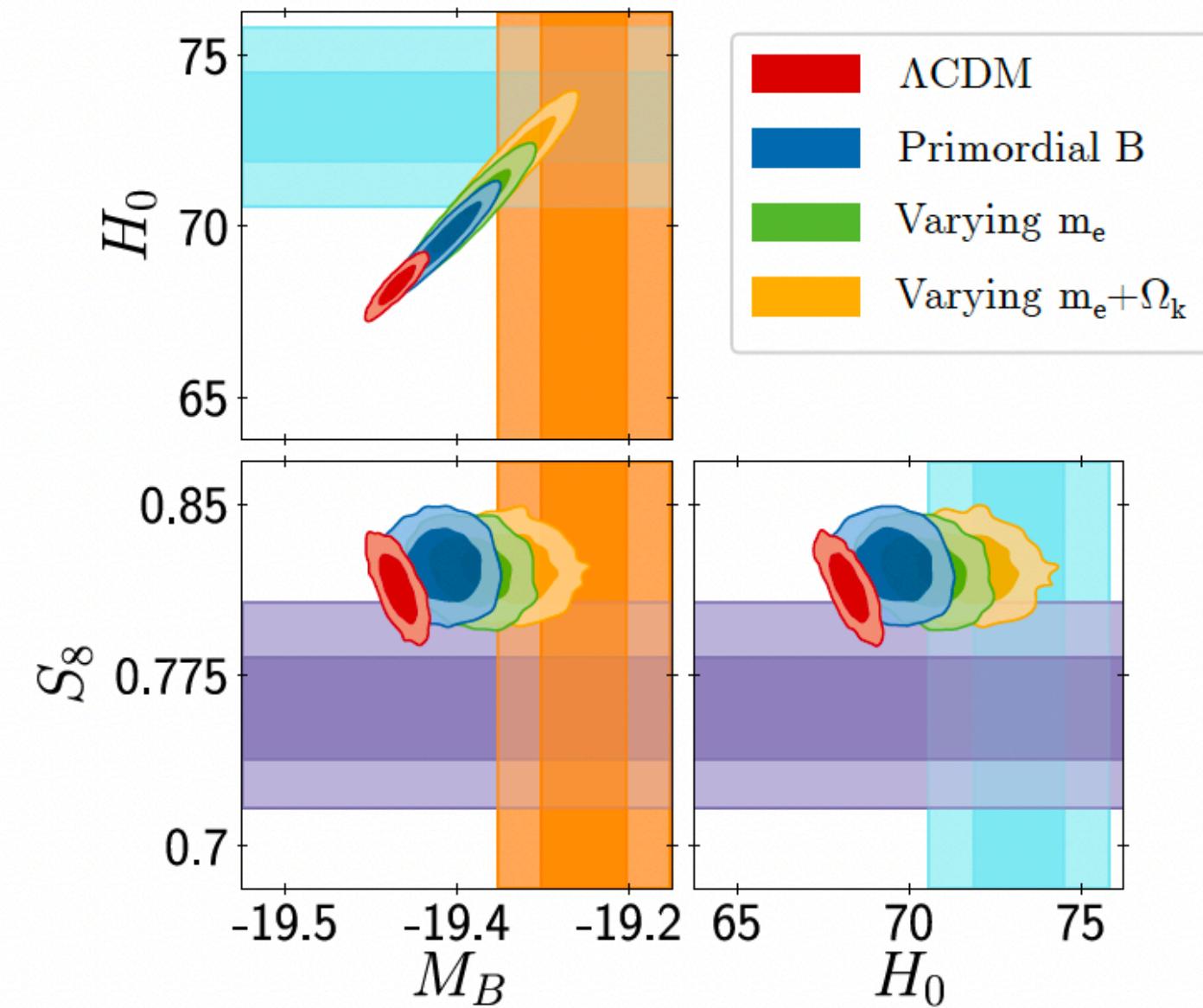
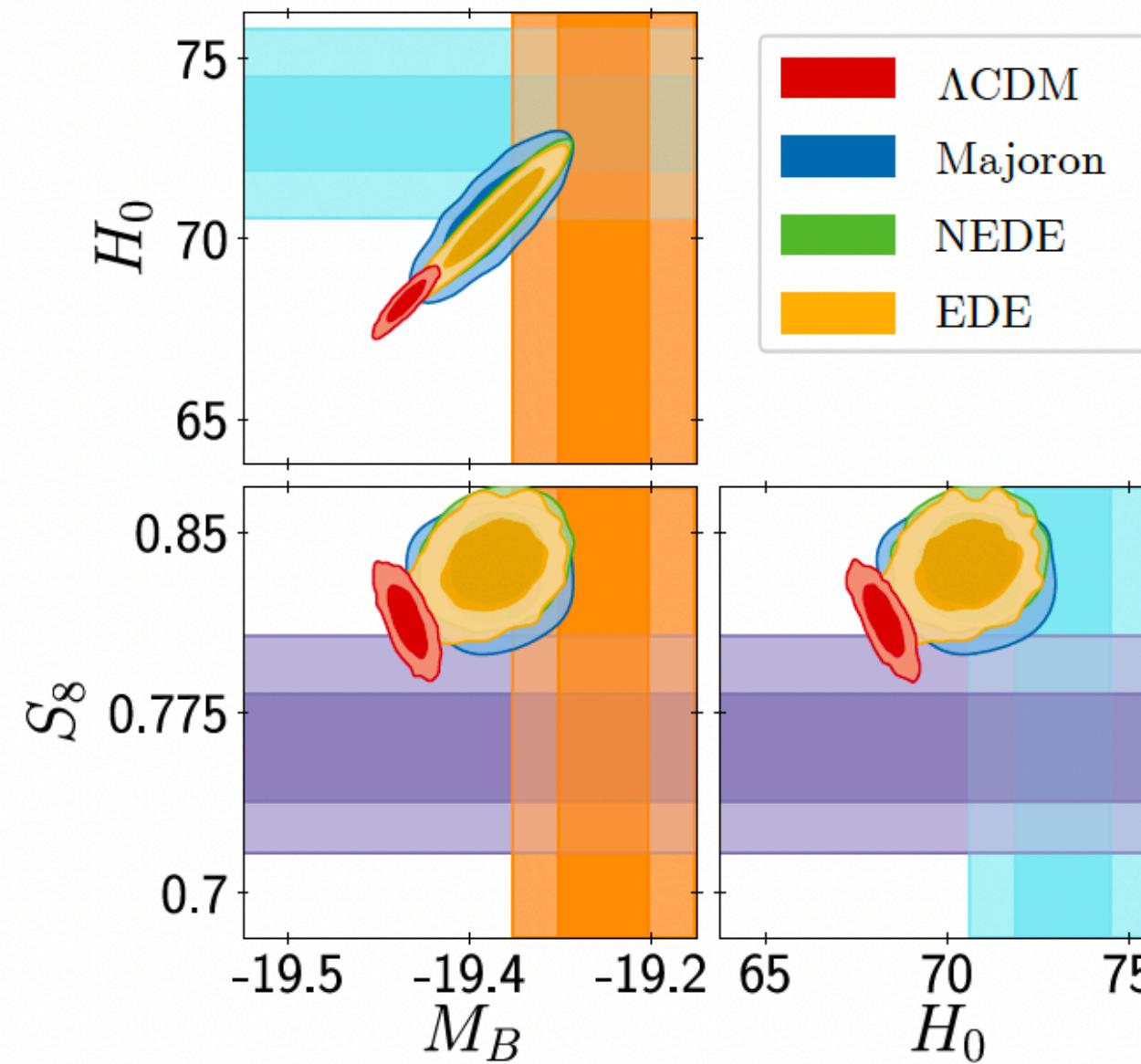


[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

[Khalife++ 24] → Updated version of the contest

Results of the contest

Unfortunately, the most successful models
are **unable to explain the S_8 tension**



What kind of mechanism is required to **address both tensions simultaneously**?

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

[Khalife++ 24] → Updated version of the contest

Outline

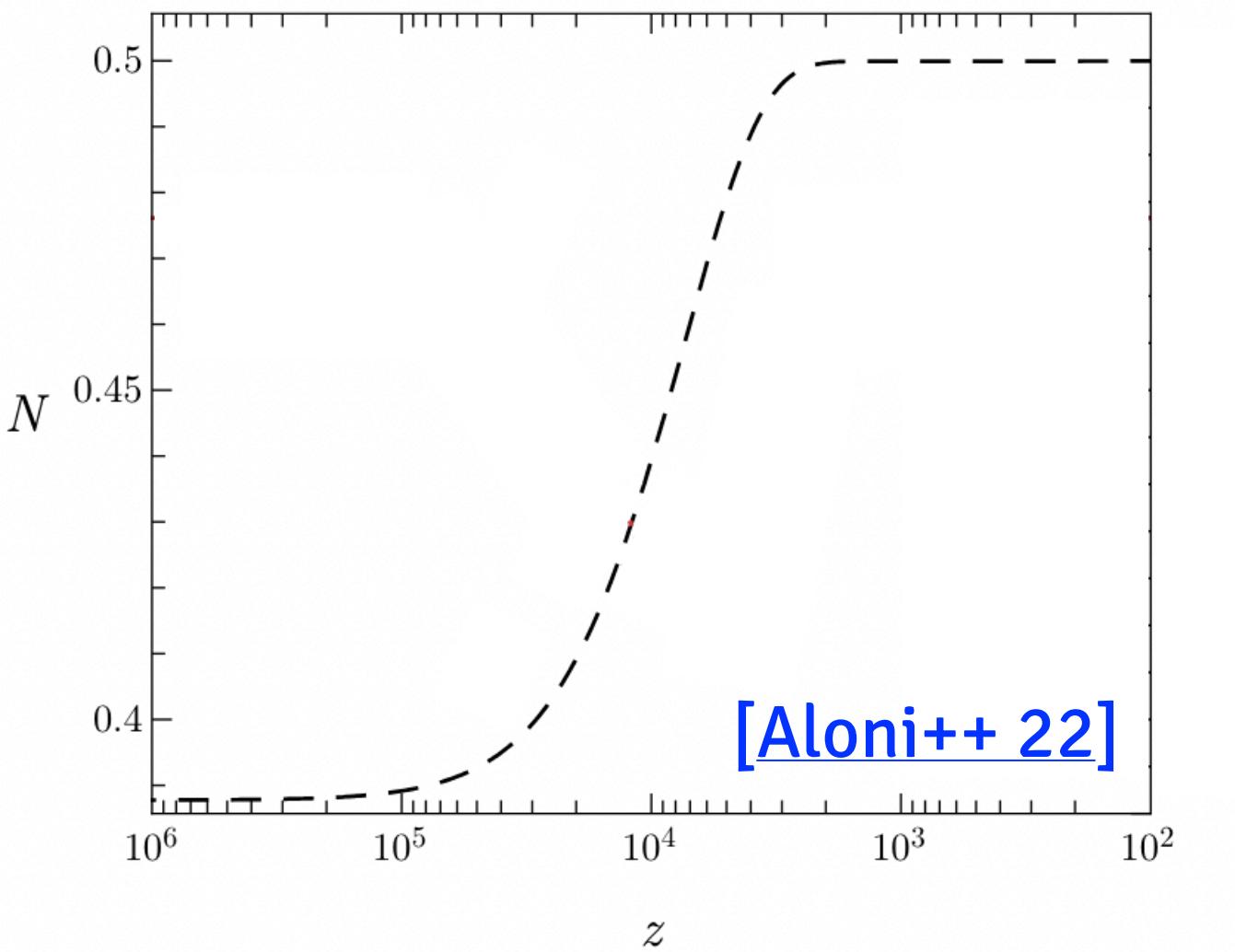
I. Decaying Dark Matter and the S_8 tension

II. Early Dark Energy and the H_0 tension

III. Easing both tensions with Interacting Dark Radiation 

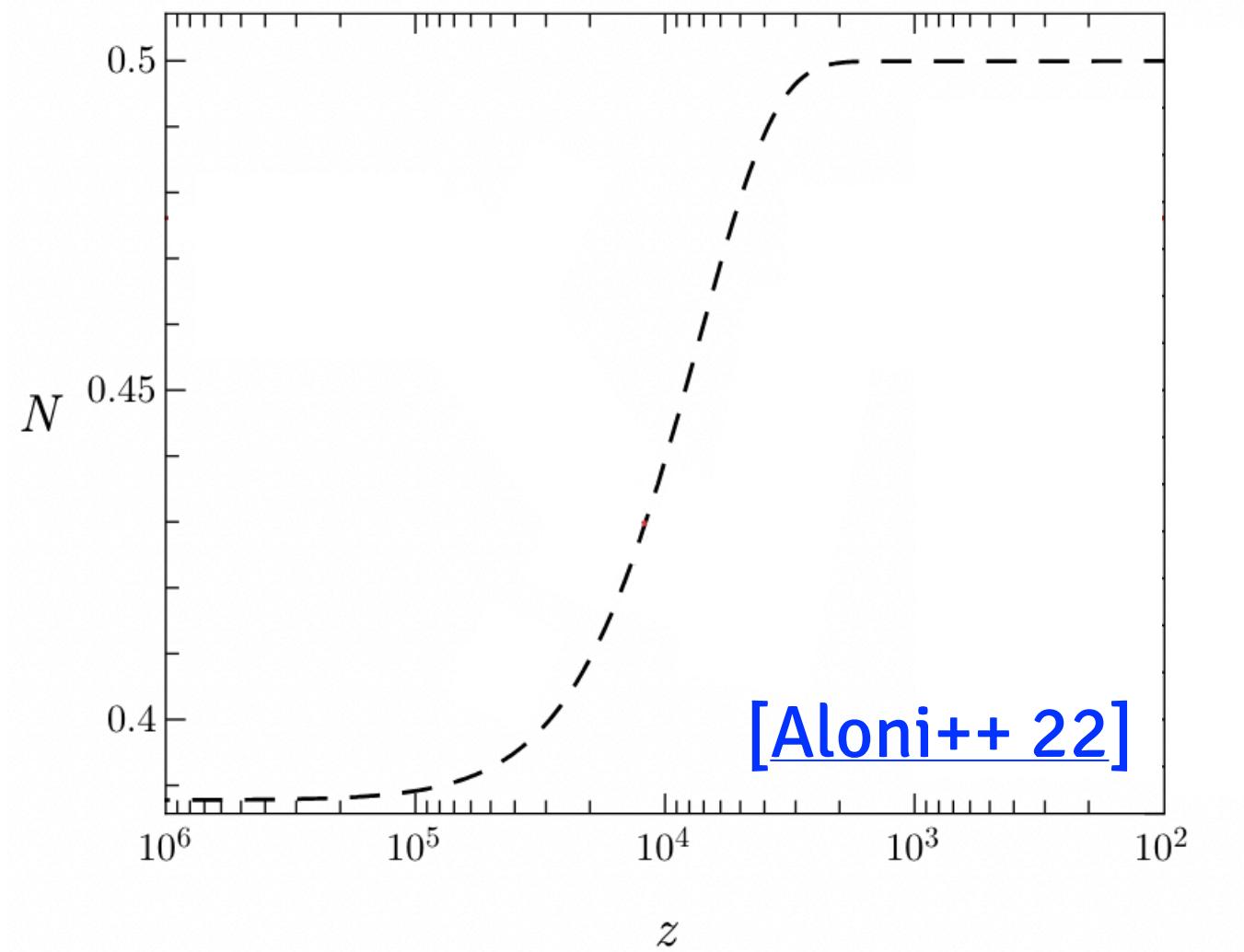
Interacting (Stepped) Dark Radiation

Self-interacting
dark radiation fluid
undergoing a “step”
in its abundance
(when $T < m$)...

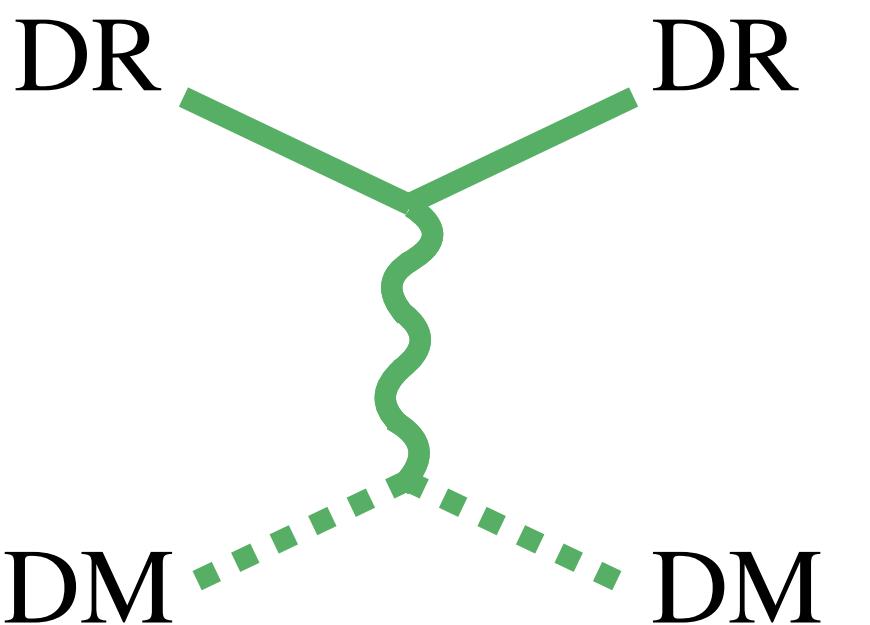


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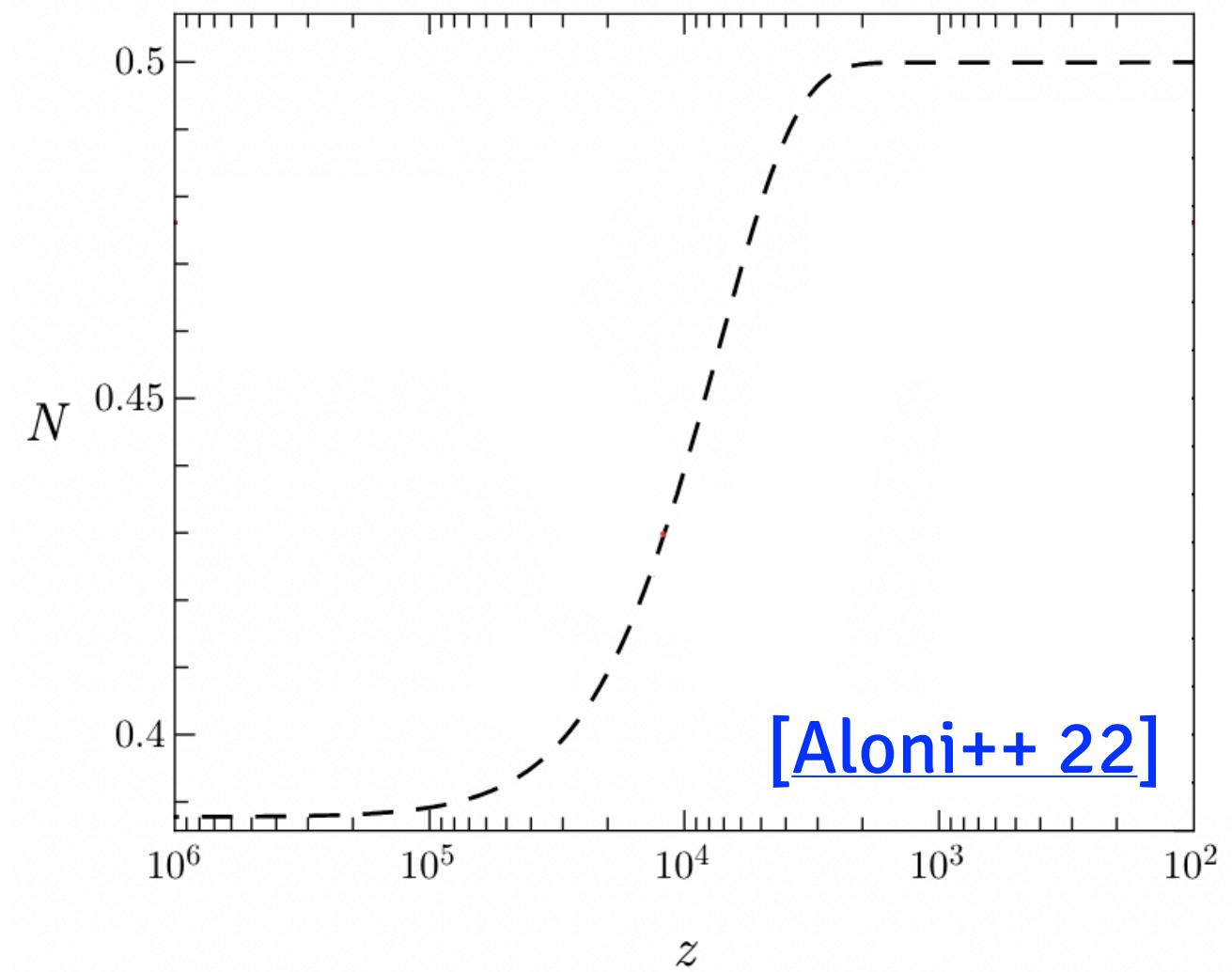


**...which additionally
scatters with
dark matter**

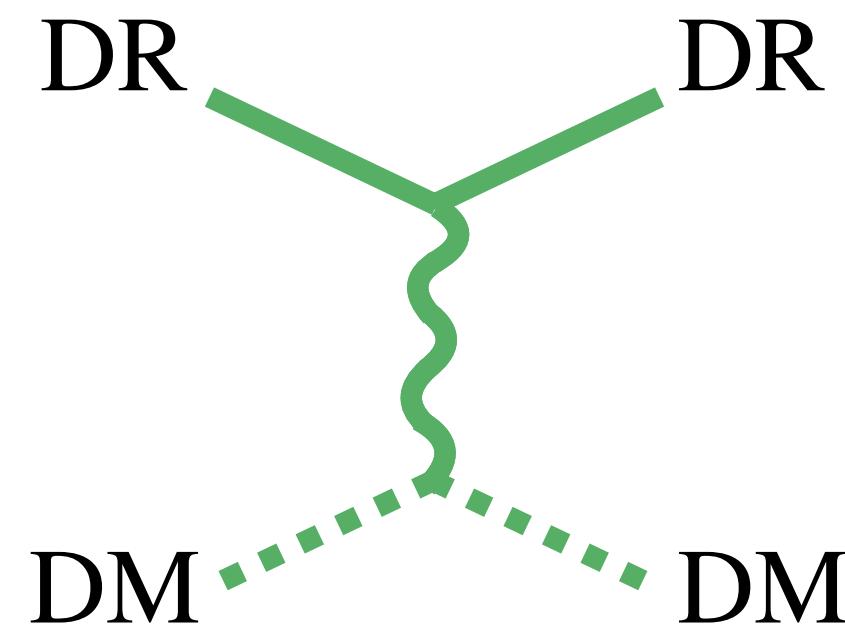


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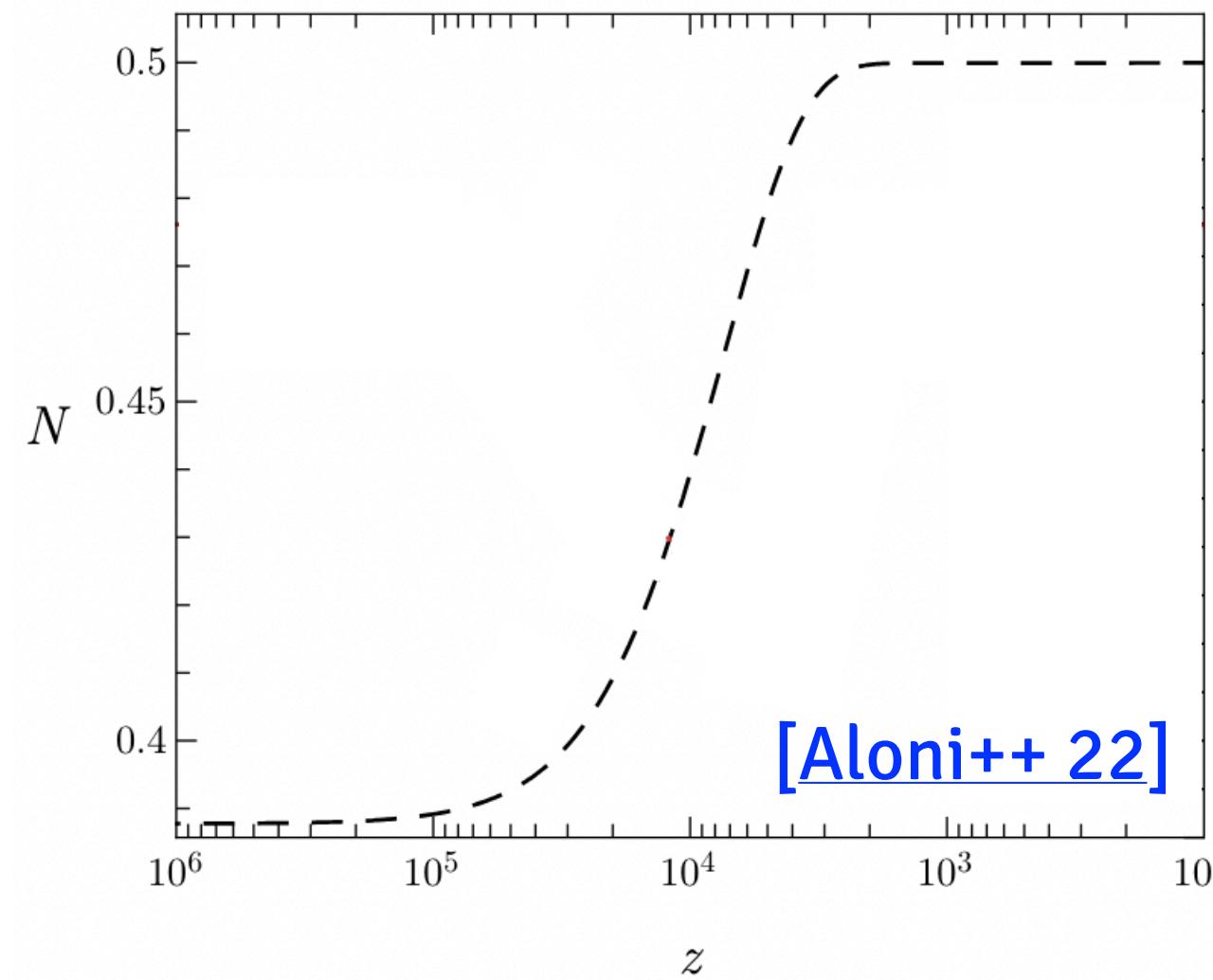
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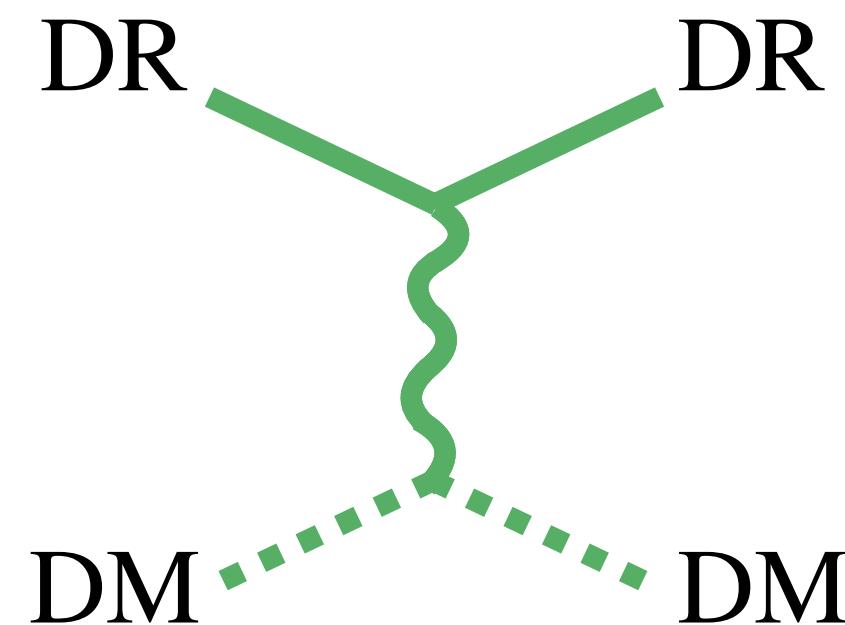
allows to lower r_s
and hence **increase H_0**

Interacting (Stepped) Dark Radiation

Self-interacting
dark radiation fluid
undergoing a “step”
in its abundance
(when $T < m$)...



...which additionally
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allows to lower r_s
and hence **increase H_0**

suppresses matter
clustering, leading
to a **smaller S_8**

Comparing different proposals

Wess-Zumino Dark Radiation (WZDR)
+ Yukawa coupling to Dark Matter

“Interaction is **weak** and with all of DM”

[[Joseph++ 2023](#)]

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**Stepped Partially Acoustic Dark Matter
(SPartAco)¹**

“Interaction is **strong** and with
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[[Buen-Abad++ 2023](#)]

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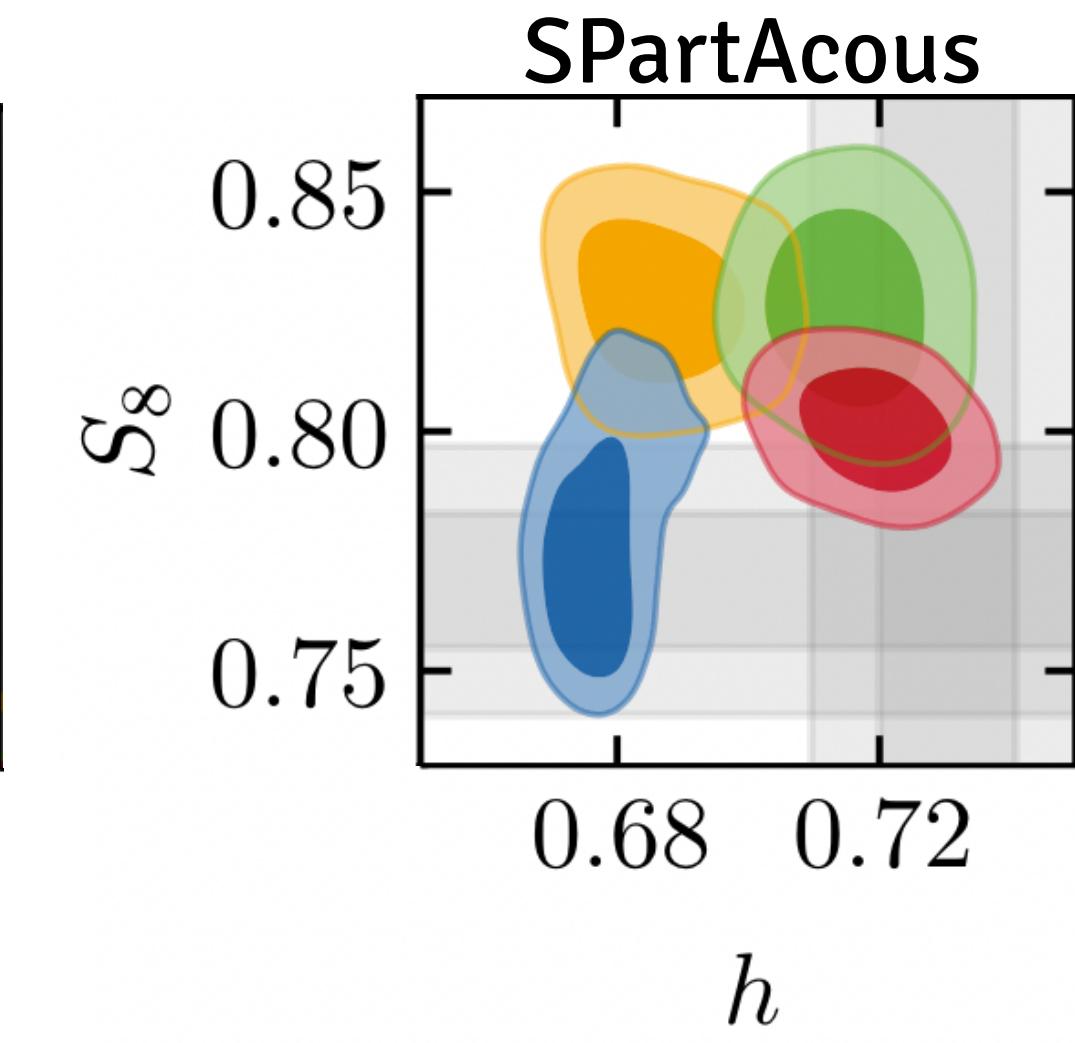
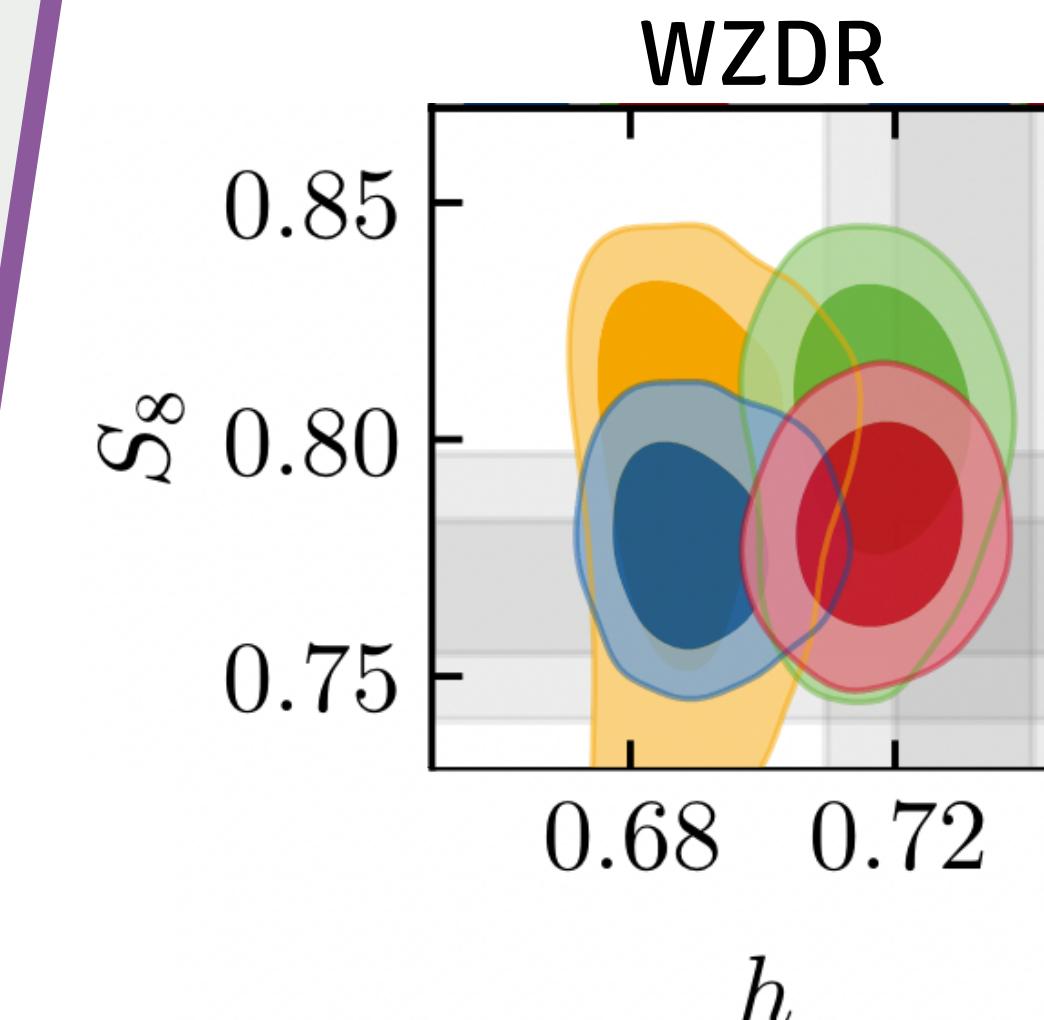
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[Buen-Abad++ 2023]

Planck18 + BAO + SNIa
+ H_0 + S_8 + $H_0 S_8$

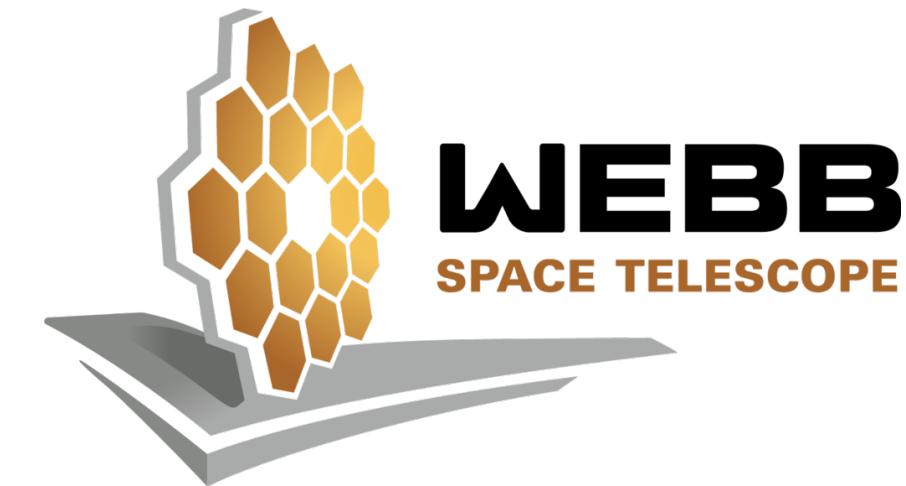
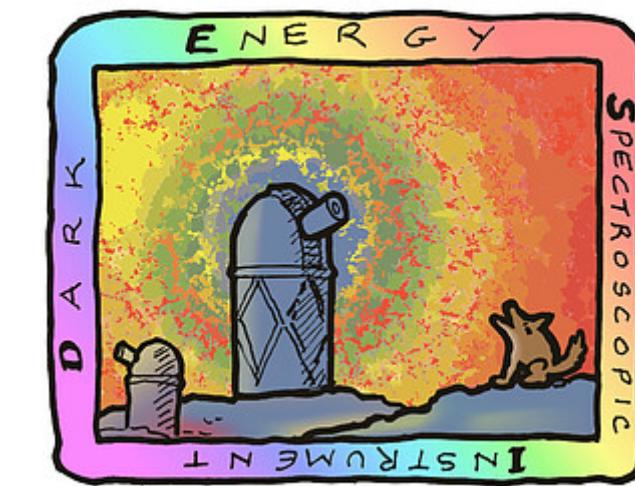


“Only the WZDR model can address
both tensions simultaneously”

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 2023]

Prospects

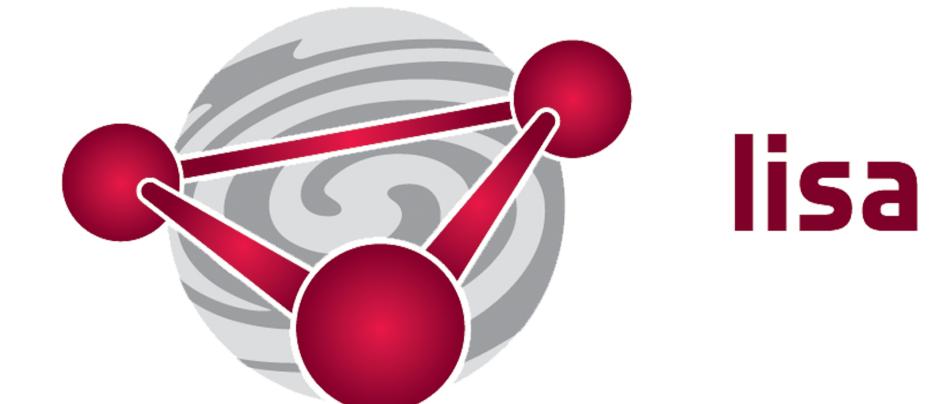
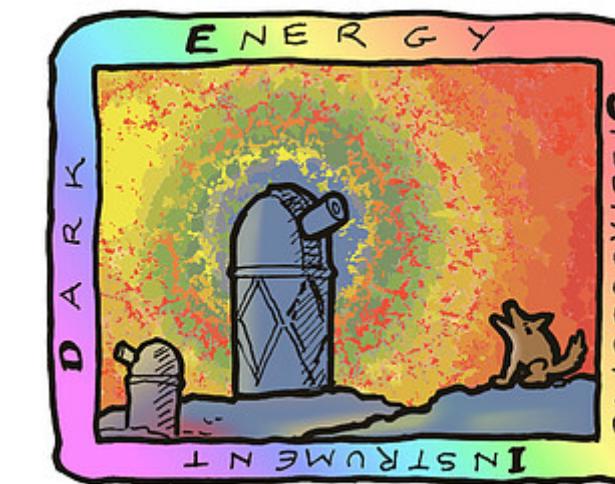
Forthcoming cosmological surveys will provide us with unprecedented data to probe the dark sector...



Prospects

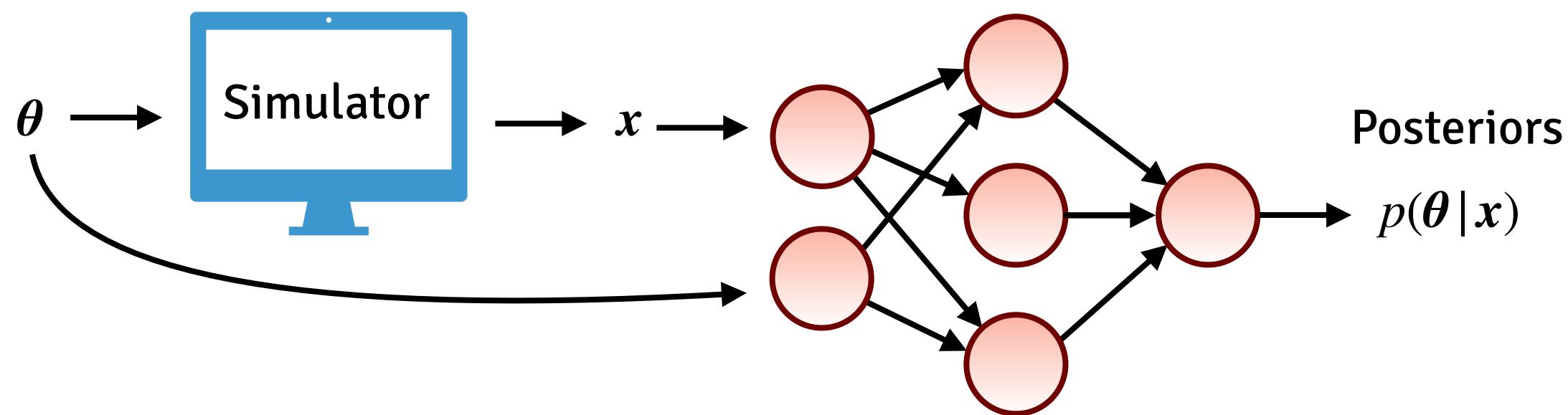
Forthcoming **cosmological surveys**
will provide us with unprecedented
data to probe the **dark sector...**

...but analysing these data will be
extremely **time-consuming** with
standard methods



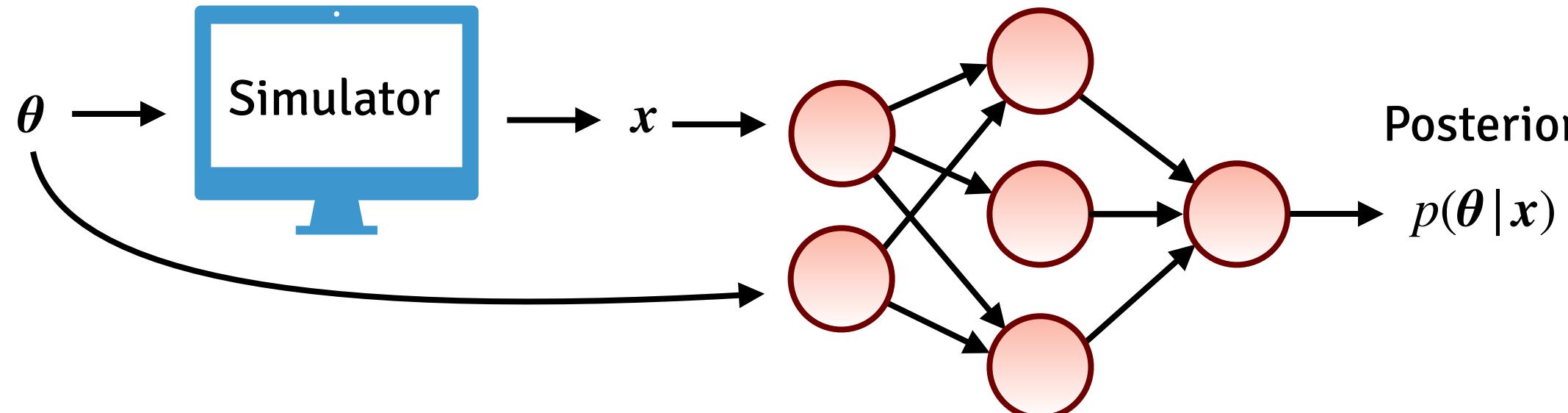
Prospects

New techniques in **deep learning**/
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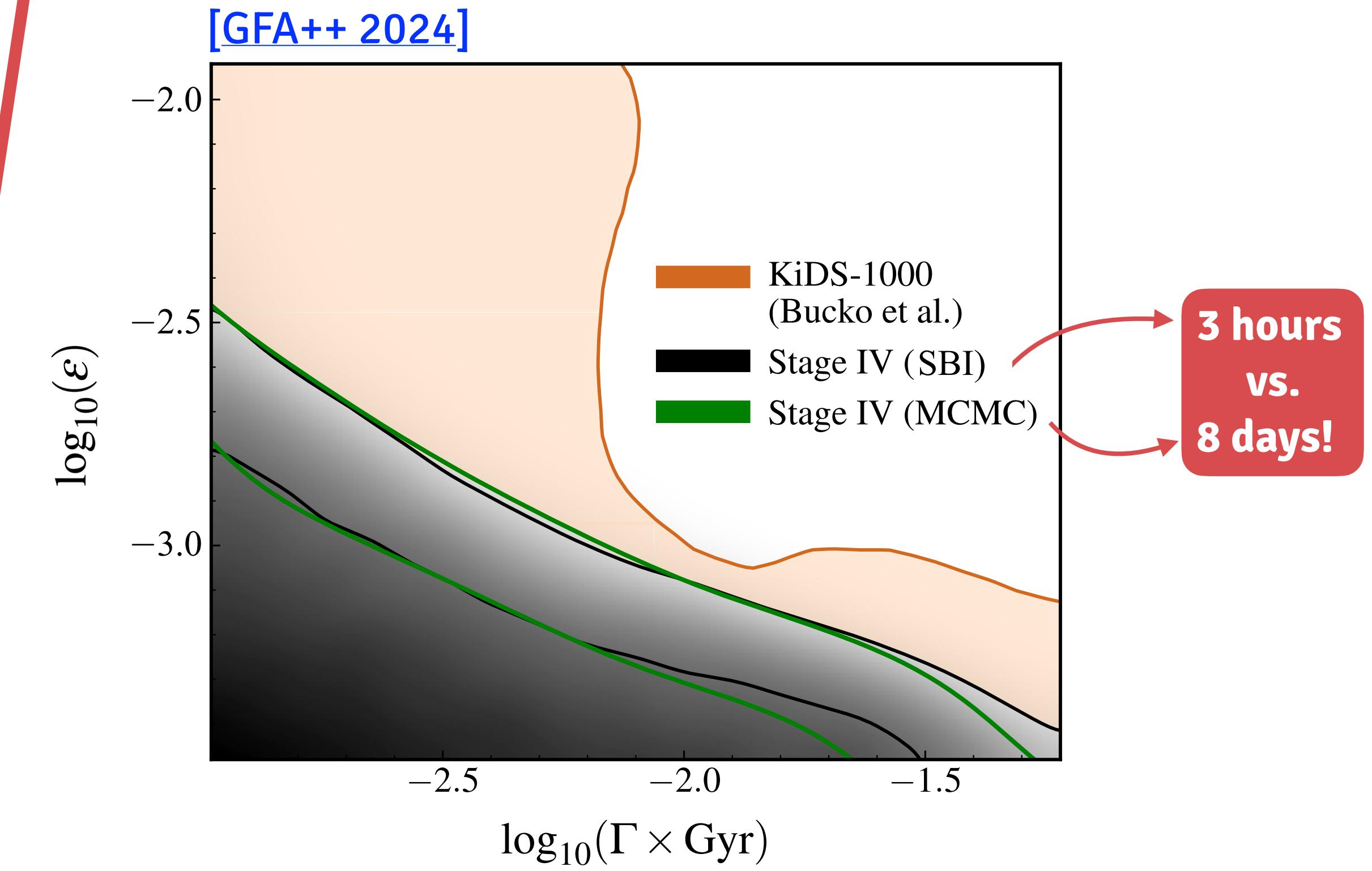


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**Ex: projected limits on decaying DM
from Stage IV galaxy surveys**



Conclusions

Cosmic tensions might represent our best chance to **learn about the dark sector**



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Conclusions

- Cosmic tensions might represent our best chance to **learn about the dark sector**
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- Future surveys** will allow to detect/rule out these models (new deep-learning tools will be crucial)



THANK YOU!

g.francoabellan@uva.nl

BACK UP SLIDES

Impact of decaying DM on cosmological observables

Expansion history $H(z)$

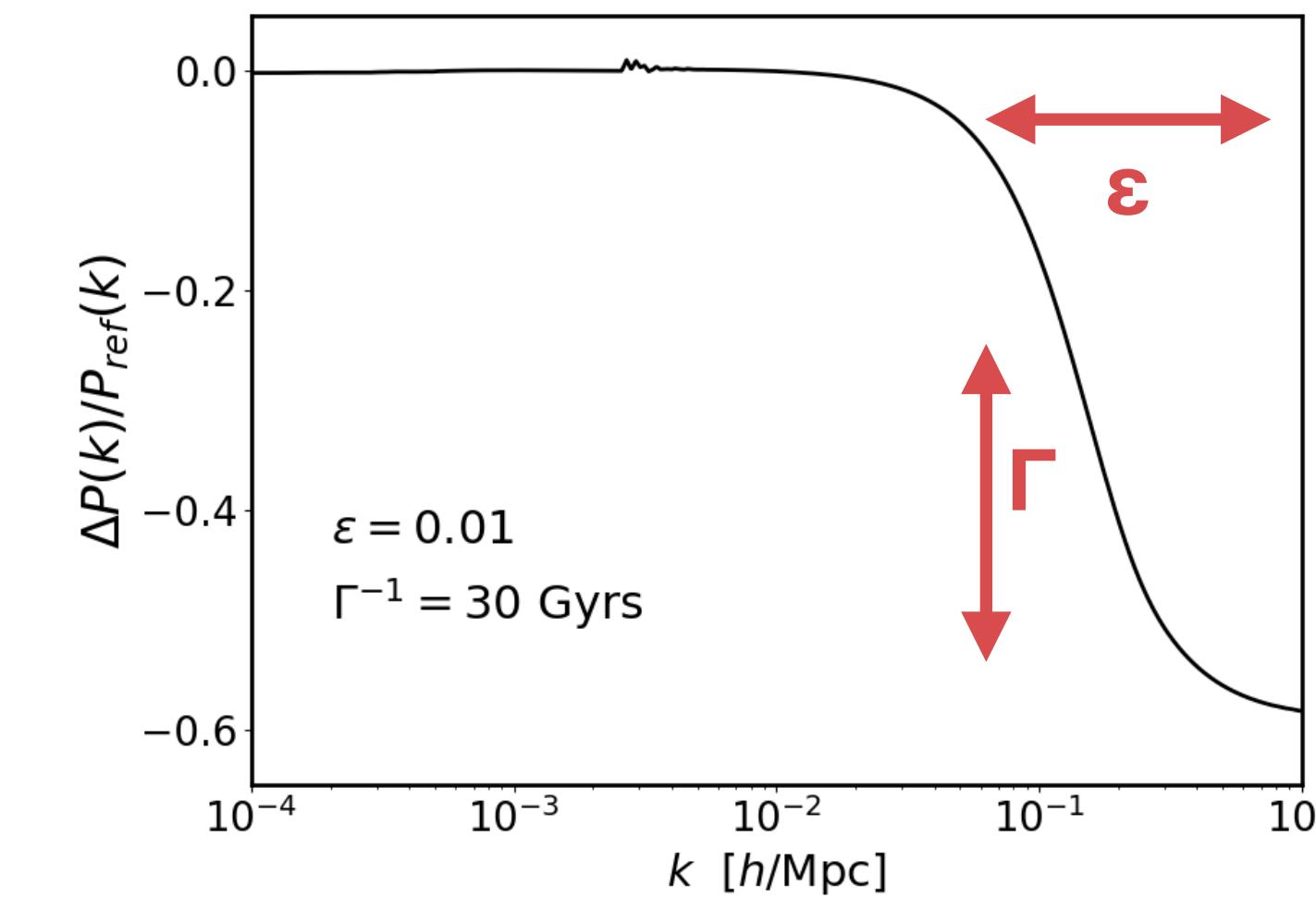
Not much impacted by
 $\text{CDM} \rightarrow \text{DR+WDM}$ ($\rho_{\text{wdm}} \sim \rho_{\text{cdm}} \sim a^{-3}$)

CMB anisotropy spectra $C_\ell^{\text{TT,EE}}$

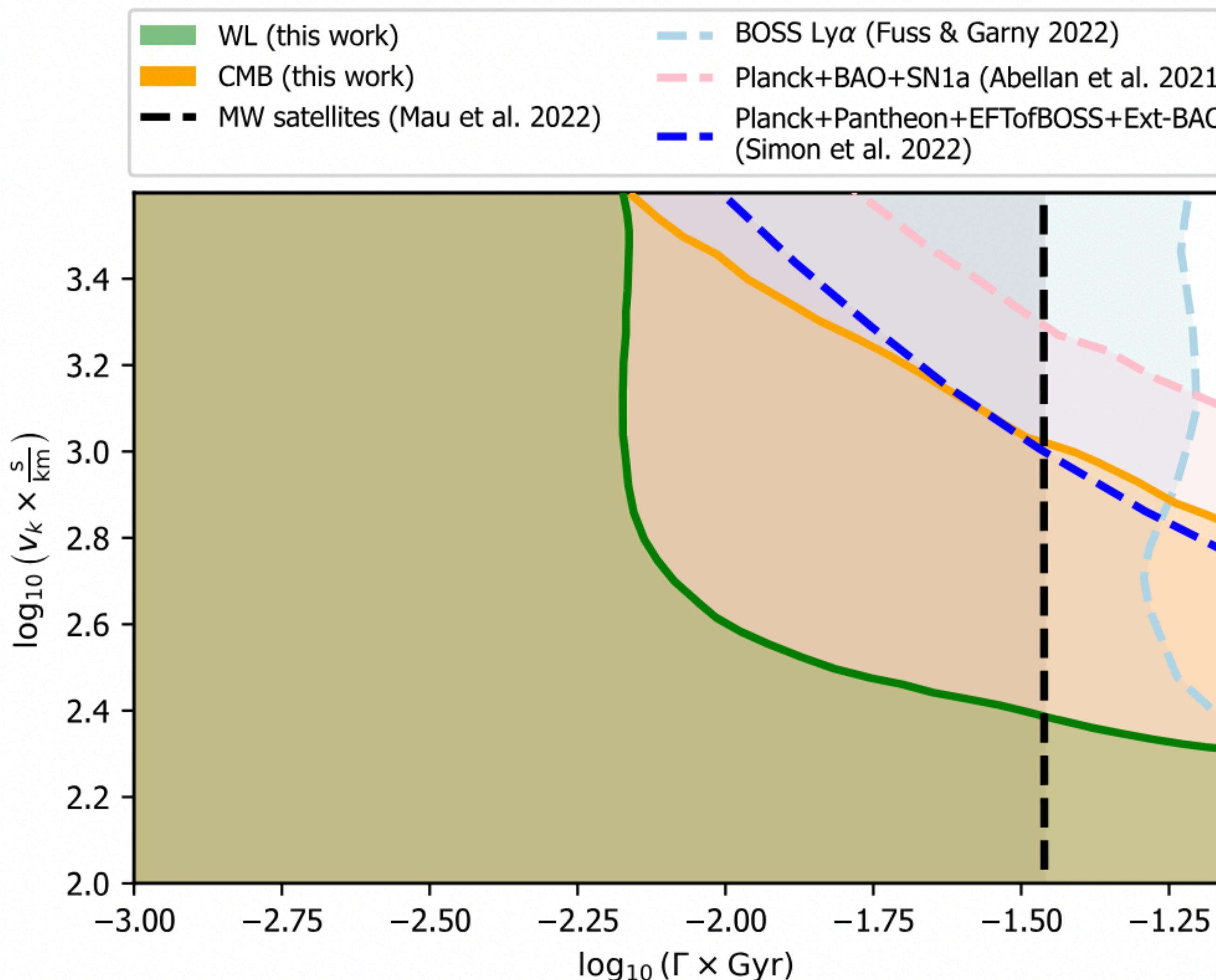
Impact even for late decays,
it affects both LSW
and CMB lensing

Linear matter power spectrum $P_m(k)$

$\text{CDM} \rightarrow \text{DR+WDM}$ suppresses power at $k > k_{\text{fs}}$



Summary of current bounds on invisible DM decay



[Bucko++ 24]

$$\text{Note : } \varepsilon \simeq \frac{v_k}{c}$$

Some caveats of EDE

Fine-tuned?

→ Connexions of EDE with **string theory** and **late DE**

[\[Cicoli++ 23\]](#)

[\[Freese+ 21\]](#)

Shift of other cosmological parameters

$$n_s \nearrow$$

[\[Takahashi++ 21\]](#)

$$t_U \searrow$$

[\[Boylan-Kolchin++ 21\]](#) [\[Bernal++ 21\]](#)

$$\omega_{\text{cdm}} \nearrow$$

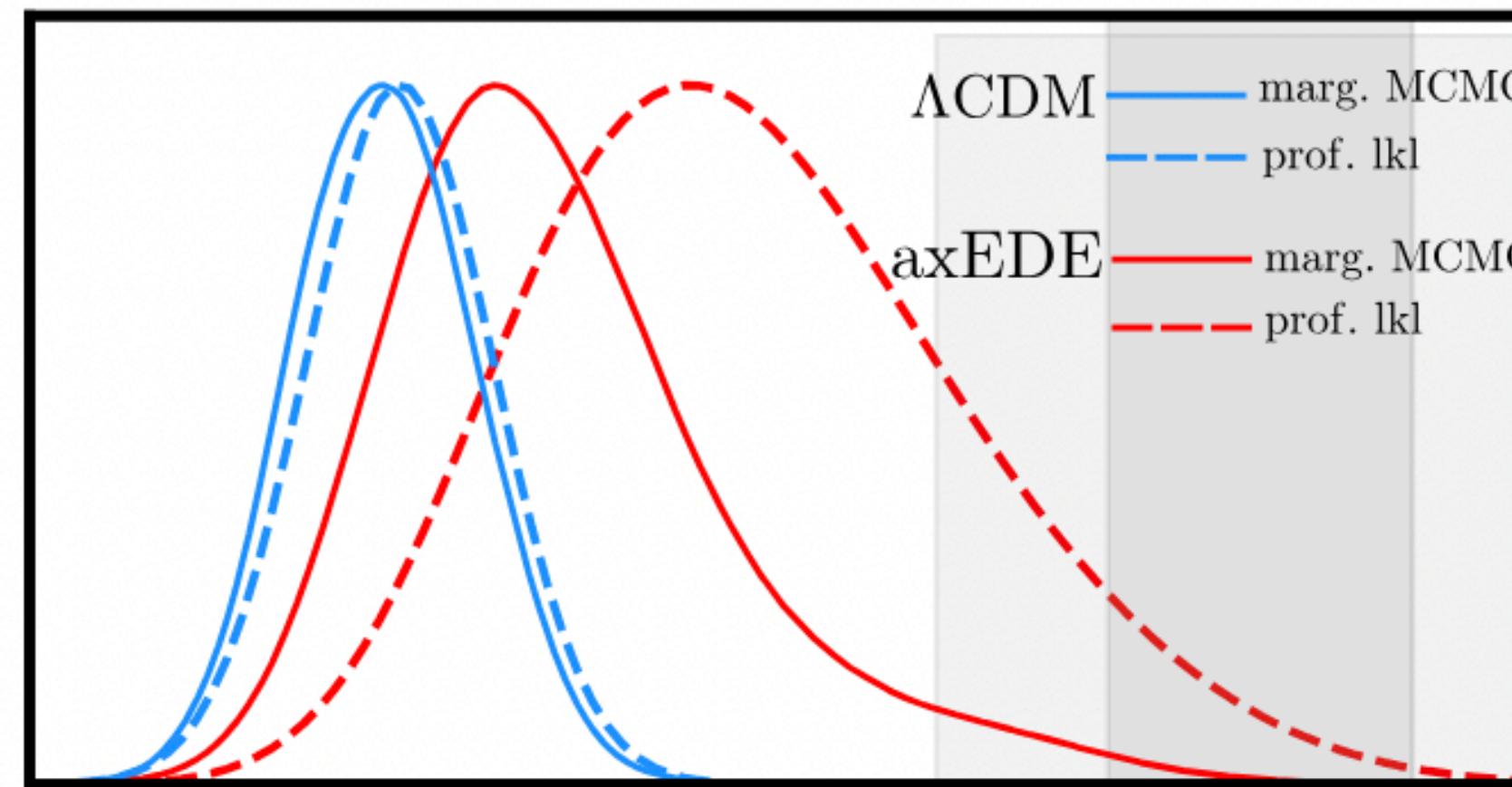
[\[Vagnozzi++ 21\]](#) [\[Jedamzik++ 21\]](#)

$$S_8 \nearrow$$

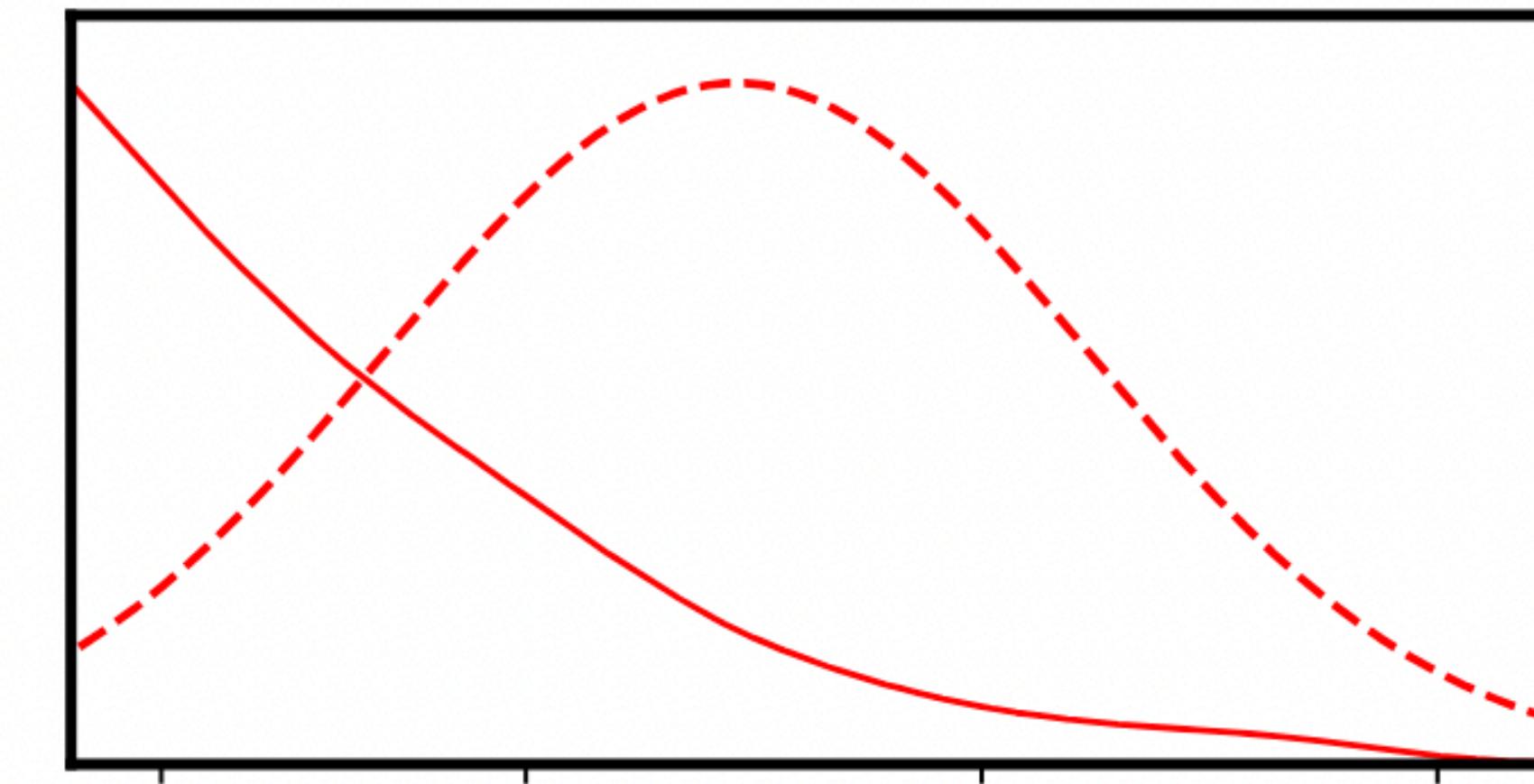
[\[Hill++ 20\]](#) [\[Murgia, GFA++ 20\]](#)

Prior-volume effects in EDE analyses

Results for Planck18 alone



H_0



f_{EDE}

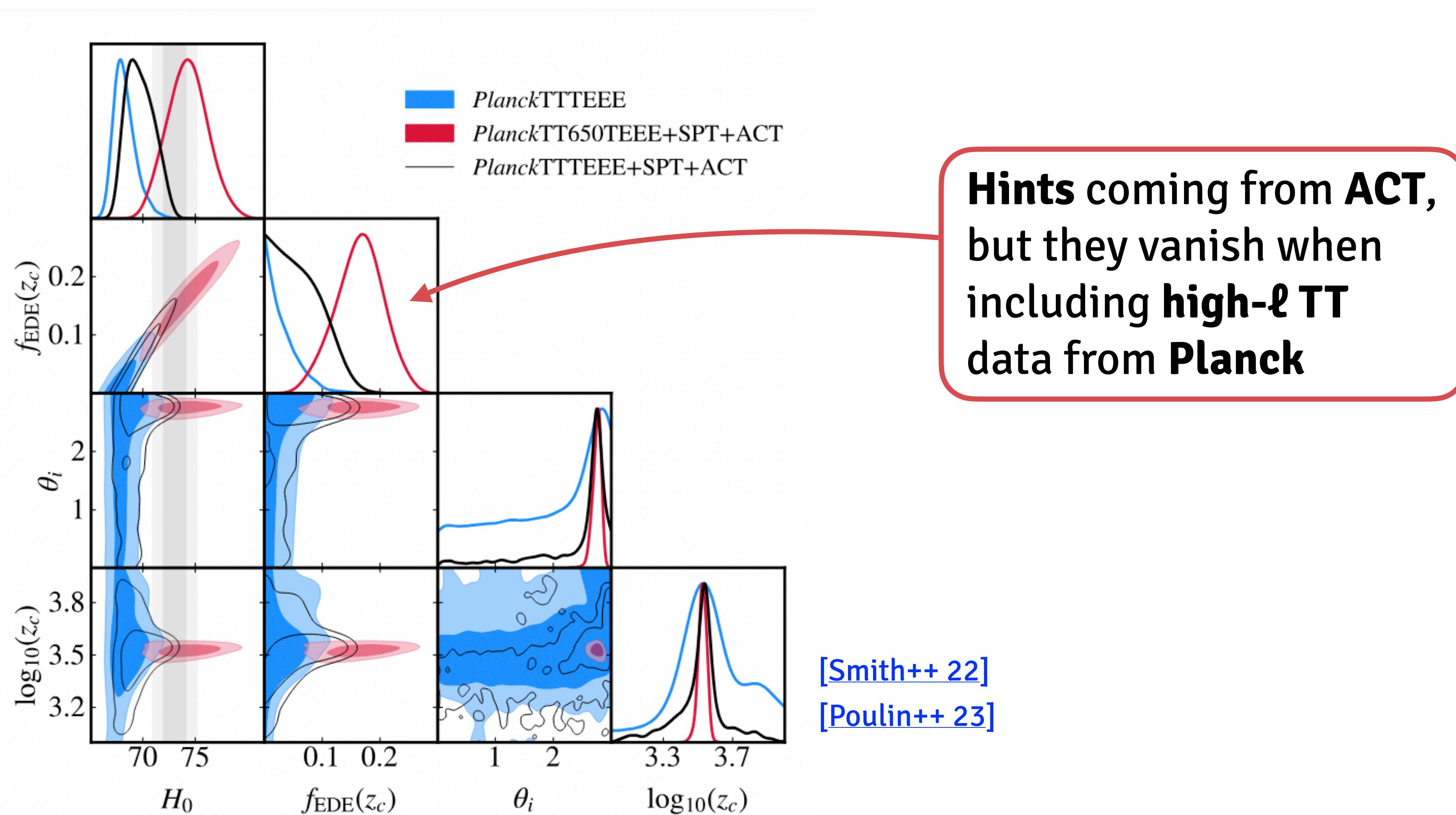
[Poulin++ 23]

For $f_{\text{EDE}} \lesssim 4\%$, parameters z_c and ϕ_i become irrelevant, so **posteriors are weighted towards Λ CDM**



Marginalised posteriors and profile likelihood strongly disagree

EDE in light of CMB data from ACT and SPT



Comparing two simple EDE scenarios

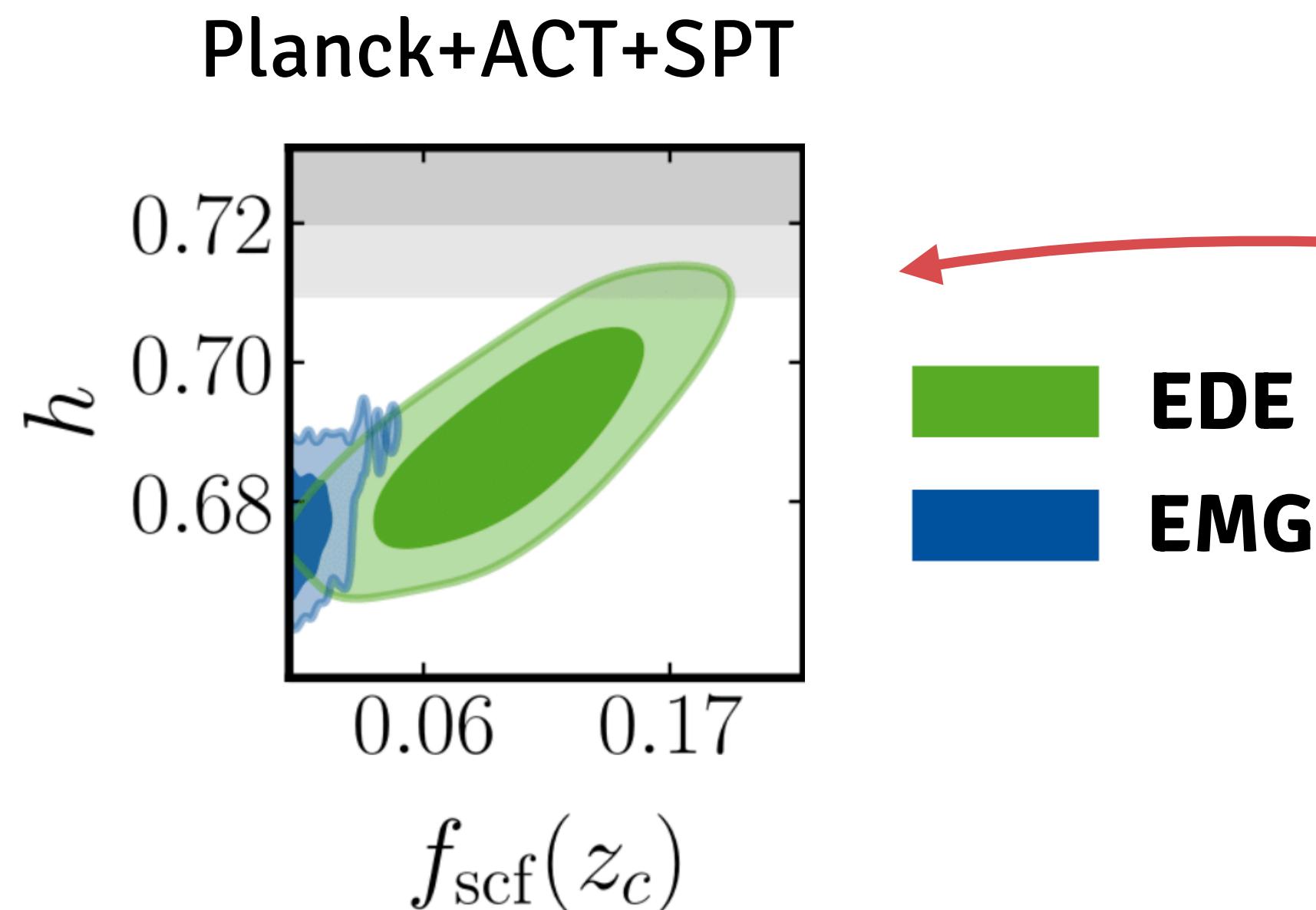
$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{F(\phi)}{2} R - \frac{g^{\mu\nu}}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \Lambda - V(\phi) + L_m \right]$$

Early Dark Energy

$$\begin{aligned} F(\phi) &= M_{\text{pl}}^2 \\ V(\phi) &= \lambda \phi^4 / 4 \end{aligned}$$

Early Modified Gravity

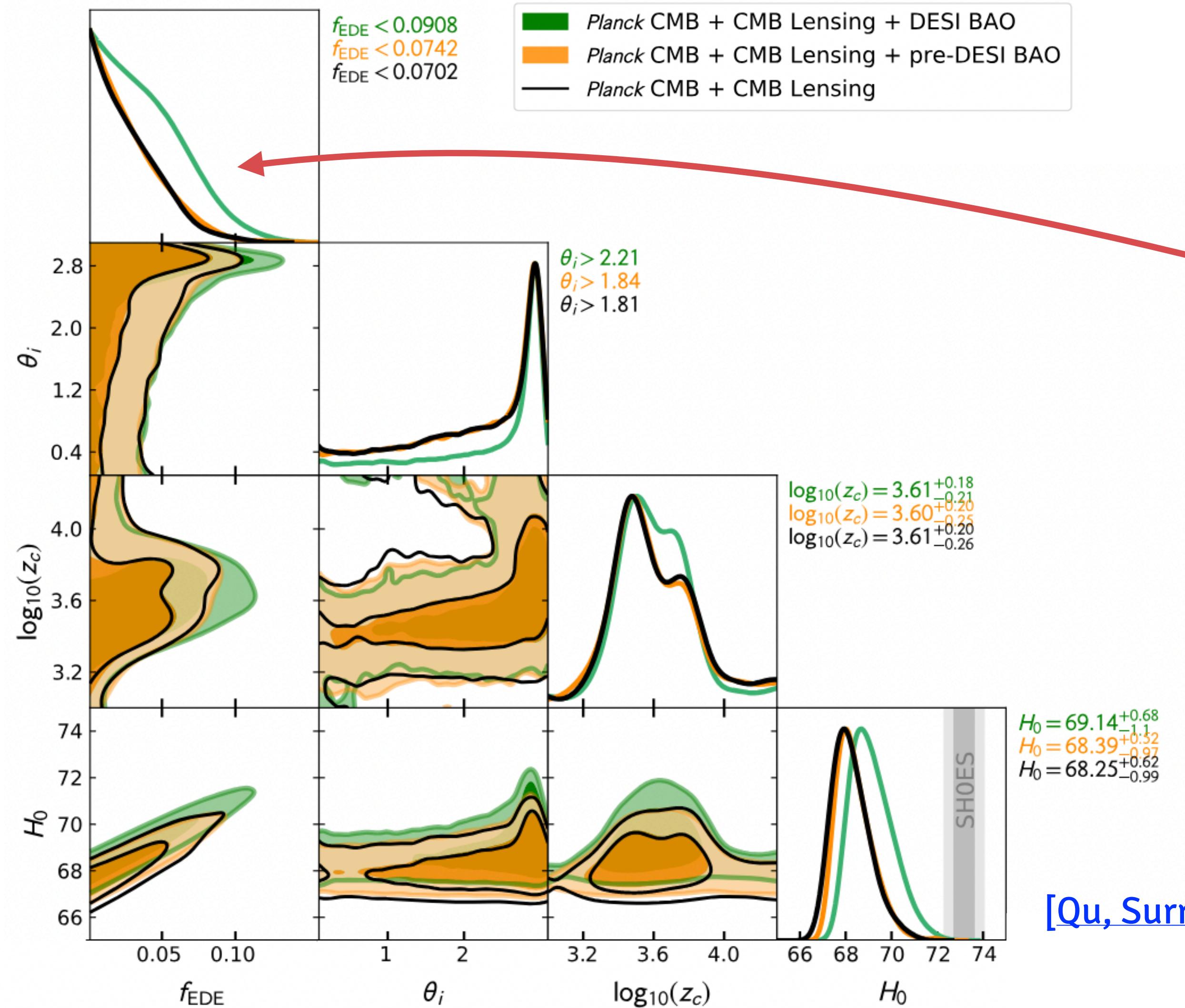
$$\begin{aligned} F(\phi) &= M_{\text{pl}}^2 + \xi \phi^2 \\ V(\phi) &= \lambda \phi^4 / 4 \end{aligned}$$



This combination of CMB data shows a **preference for a non-minimal coupling to gravity**

[GFA, Braglia++ 23]

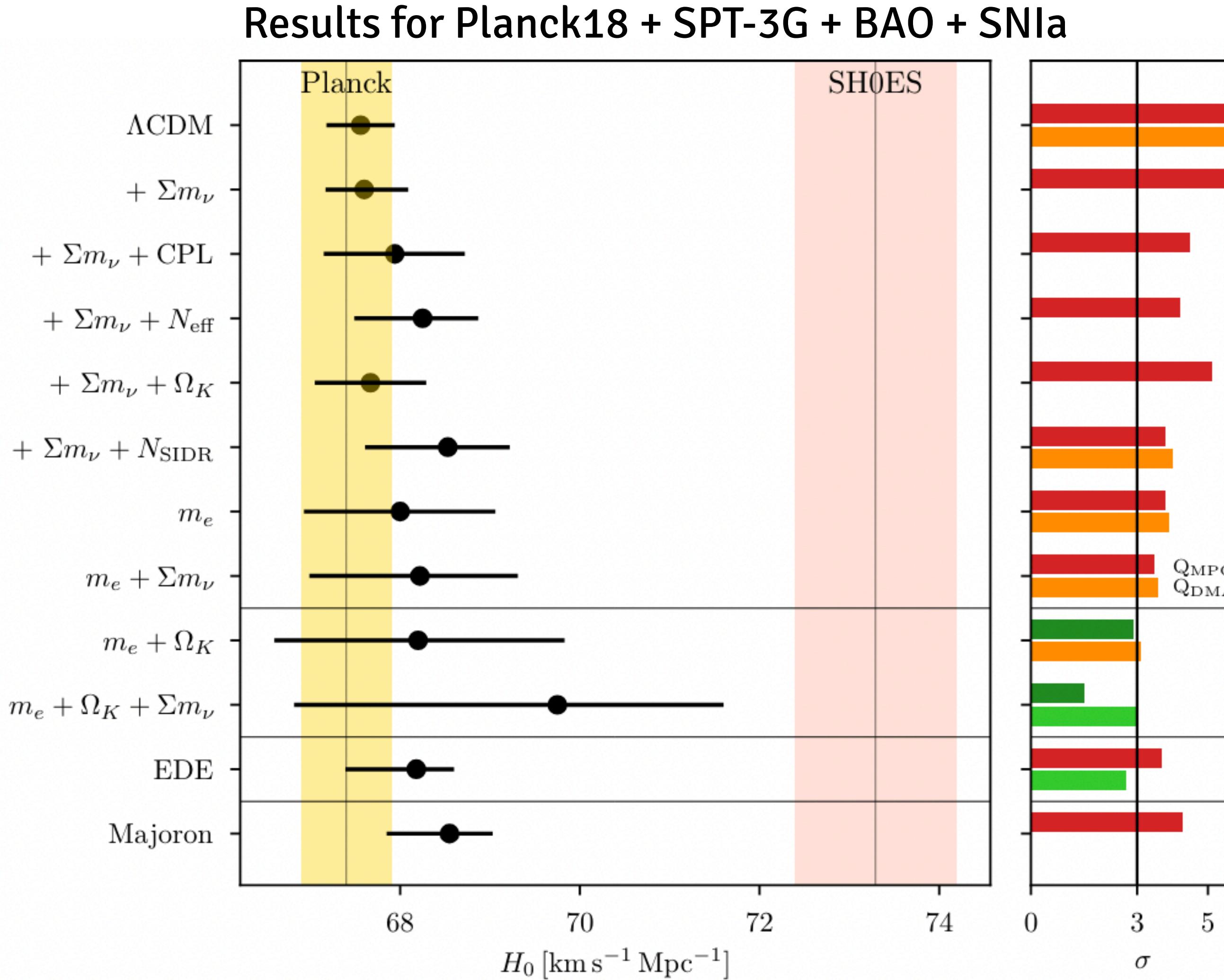
EDE in light of DESI-Y1 BAO data



Adding DESI **weakens** the bounds on EDE, as it prefers a lower Ω_m value (negatively correlated with H_0)

[Qu, Surrao++ 24]

The H_0 Olympics with new SH0ES and SPT data

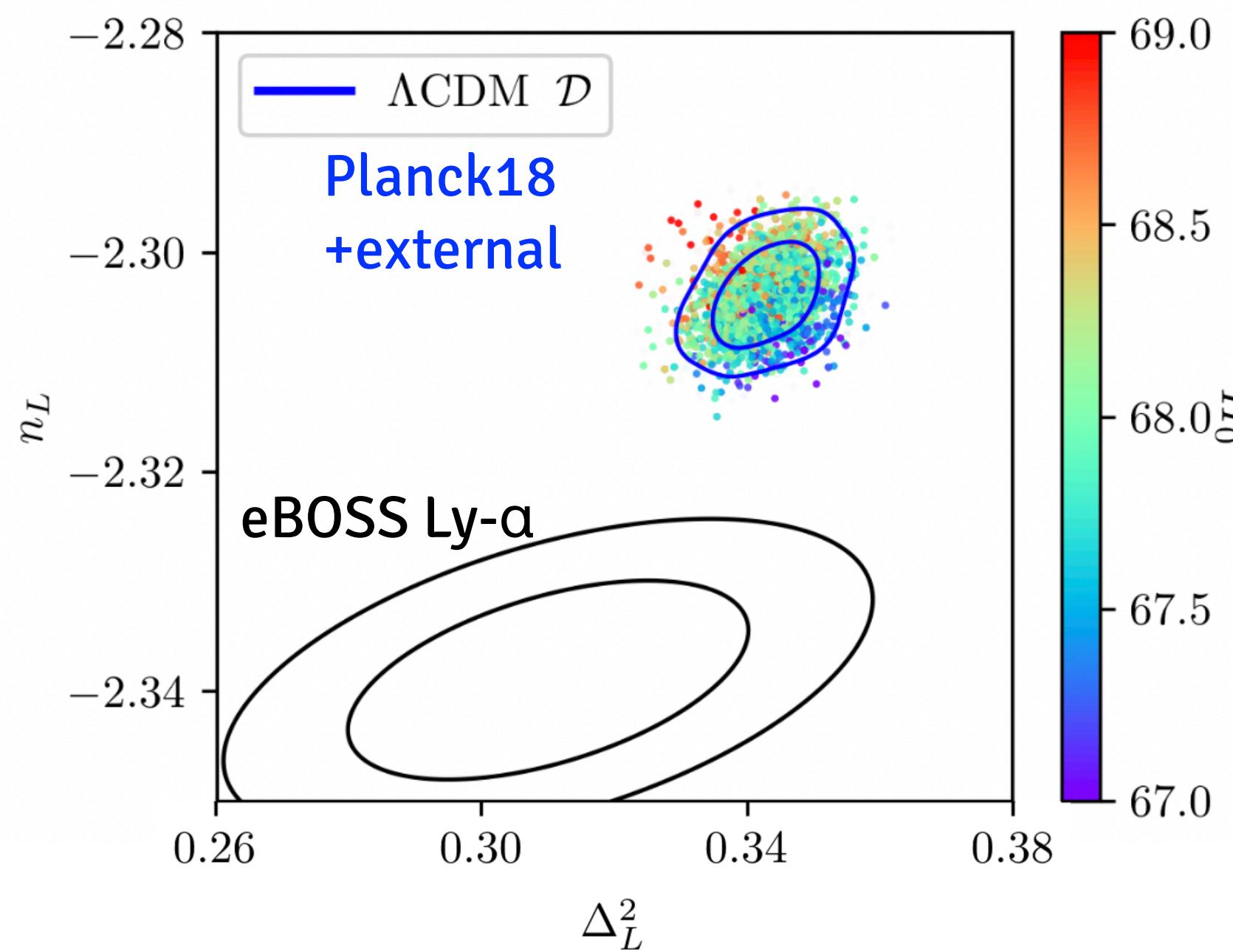


Only EDE and varying $m_e + \Omega_k$ can reduce the tension below 3σ (either in a Bayesian or in a frequentist way)

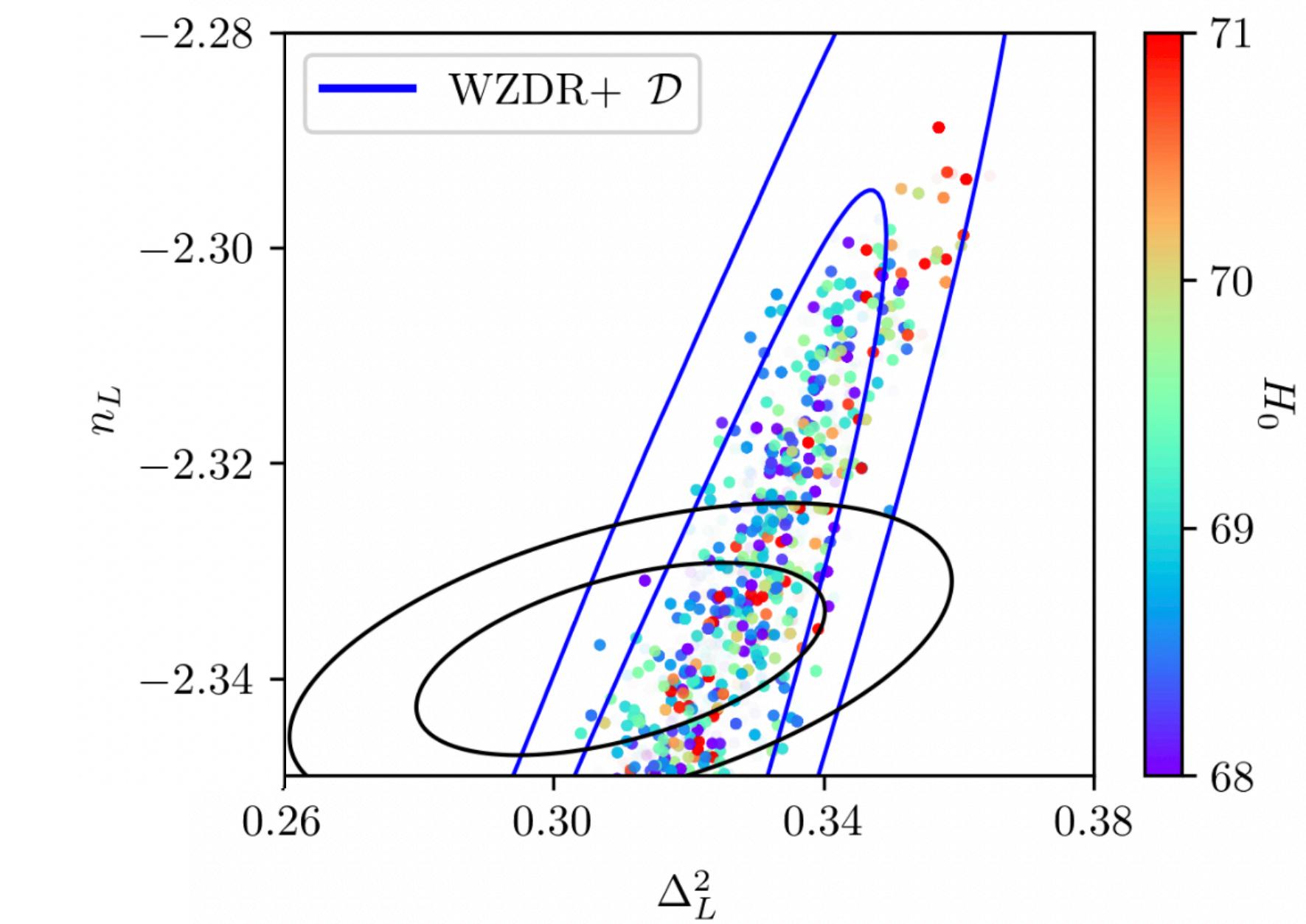
[Khalife++ 24]

What about Lyman-a data?

eBOSS Lyman-a data shows a **$\sim 5\sigma$ tension with Λ CDM** fit to CMB (preferring a **steeper slope** of $P(k)$ at \sim Mpc scales) [Rogers & Poulin, 24]



Tension worsened for EDE [Goldstein++ 23]



Wess-Zumino Dark Radiation (WZDR) coupled to DM can restore concordance with Ly-a data (while still reducing the H_0 tension)

[Bagherian++ 24]