Prompt cusps and the dark matter annihilation signal

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SFB1258 Neutrinos and Dark Matter colloquium
October 2022

Outline

Dark matter halos

Prompt cusps of the first halos

Dark matter annihilation and indirect detection

Annihilation in prompt cusps

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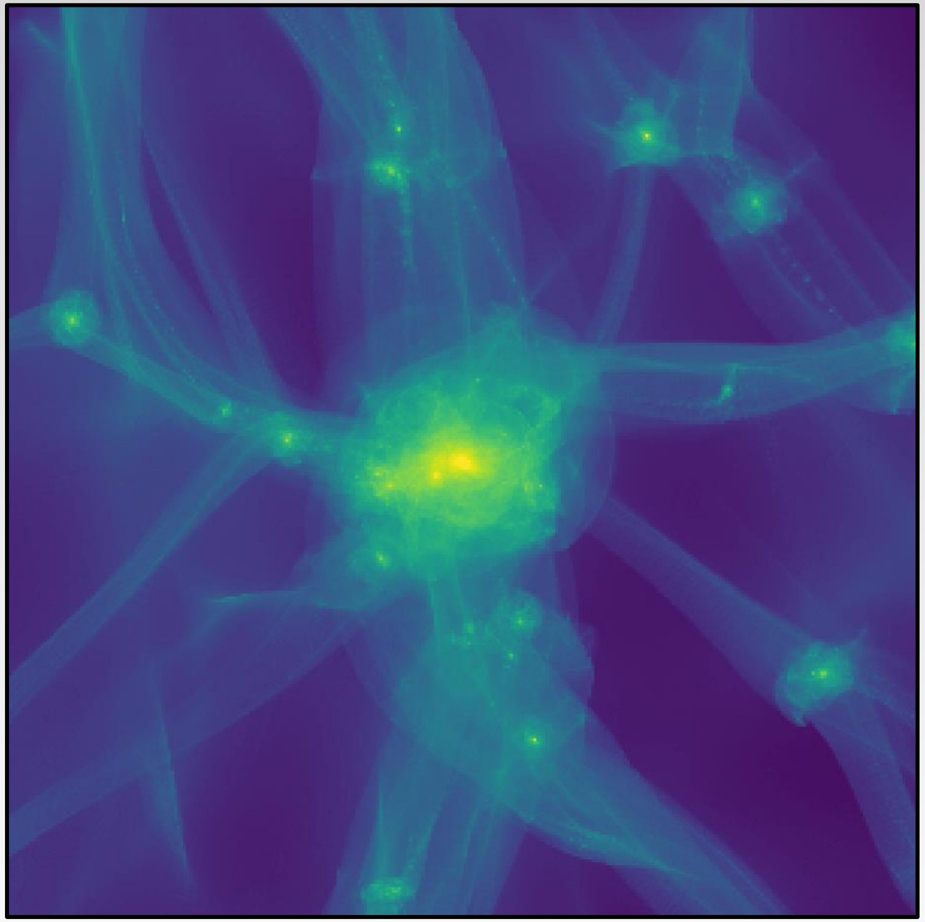
Dark matter halos

- There is ~ 5 times more dark matter than baryons
- Dark matter drives gravitational structure formation

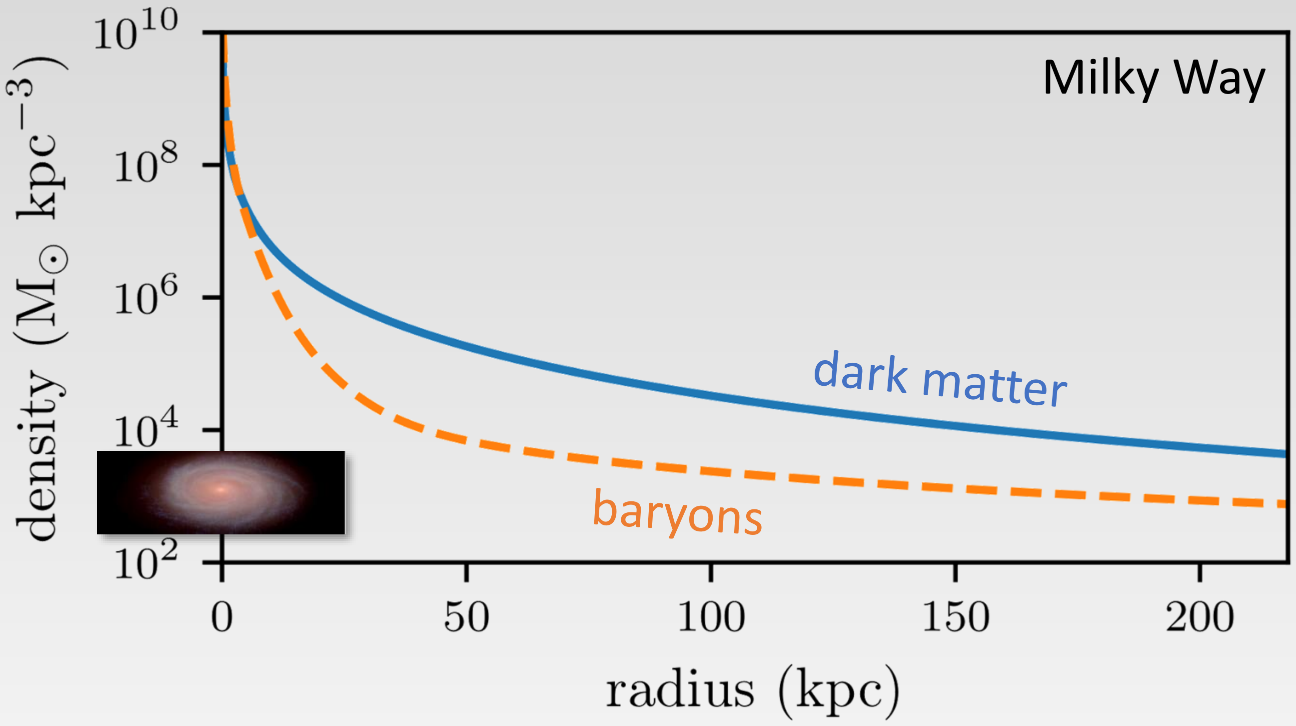
Regions with excess density collapse under gravity to form hot clouds of dark matter

[Unlike visible matter, DM is essentially collisionless and cannot cool]



Dark matter halos

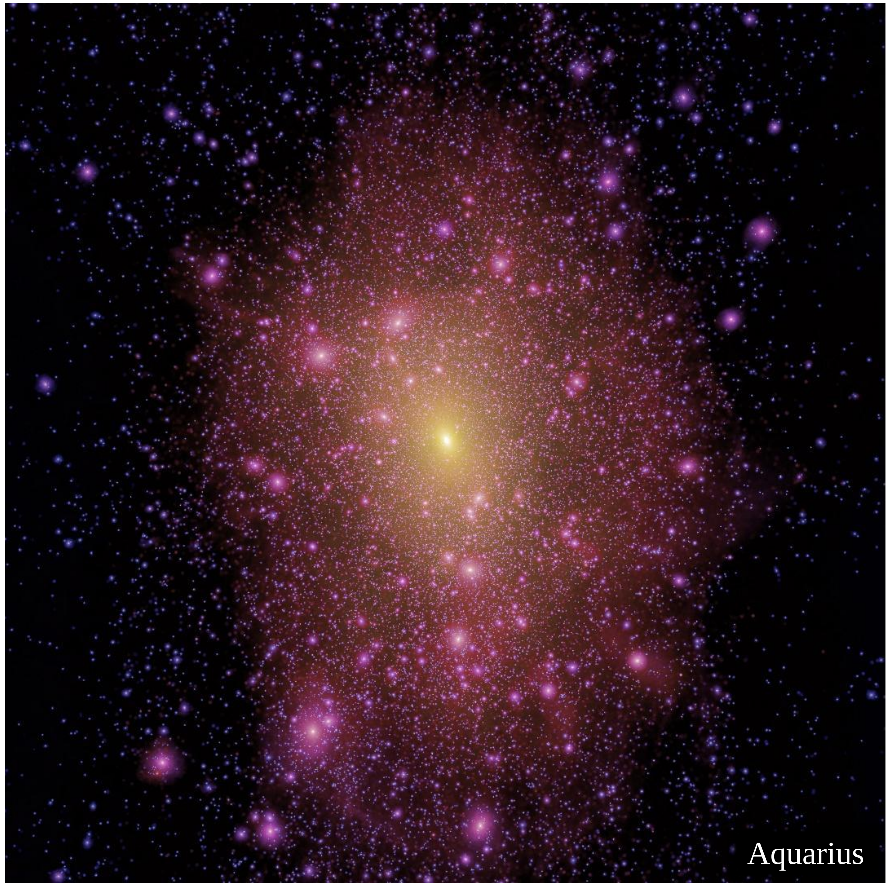
Galaxies form in the centers of these “halos”



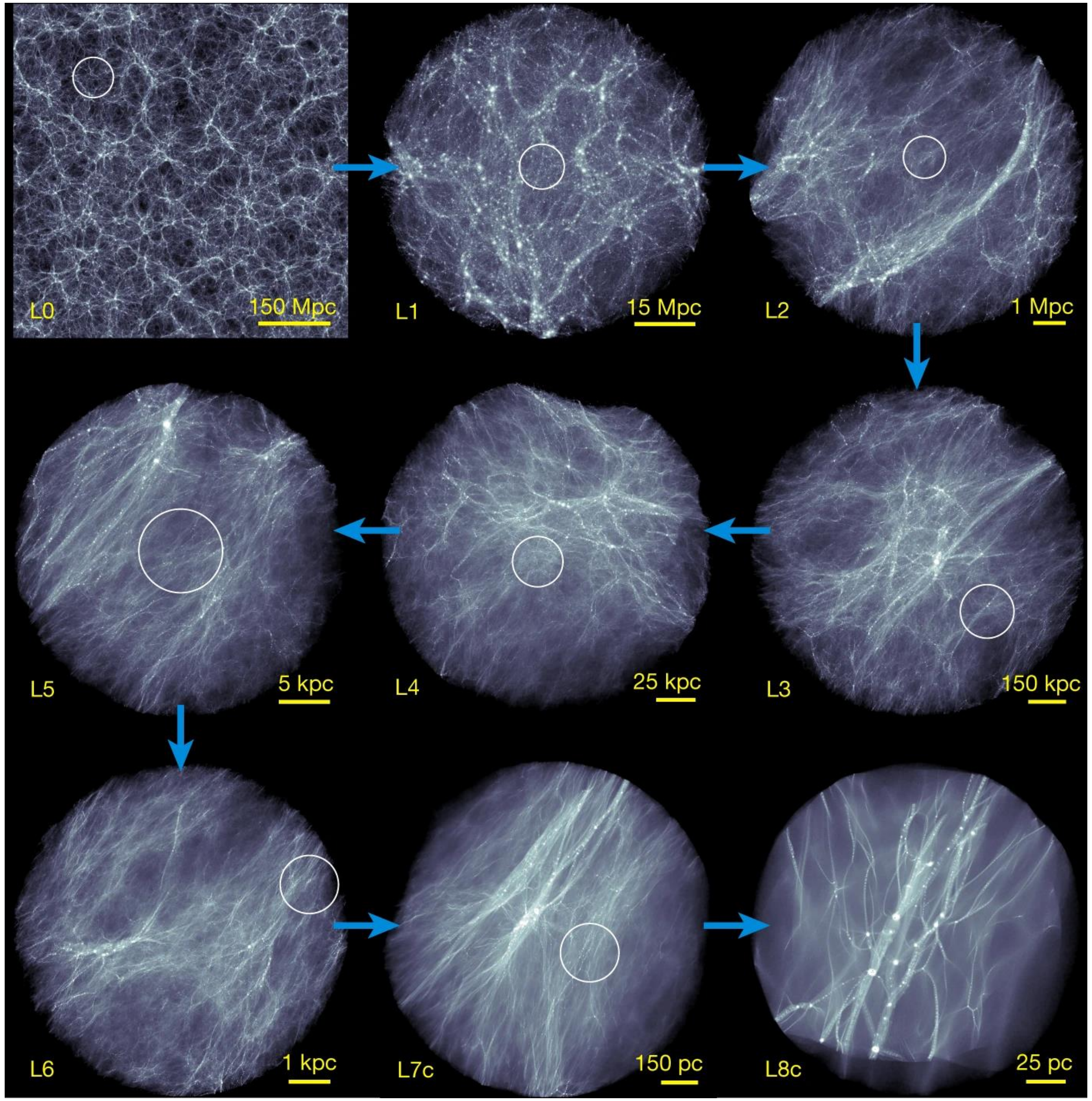
MW mass model: Cautun et al (2020)
picture of simulated MW-like galaxy: Grand et al (2021)

Dark matter halos

Subhalos persist inside other halos:



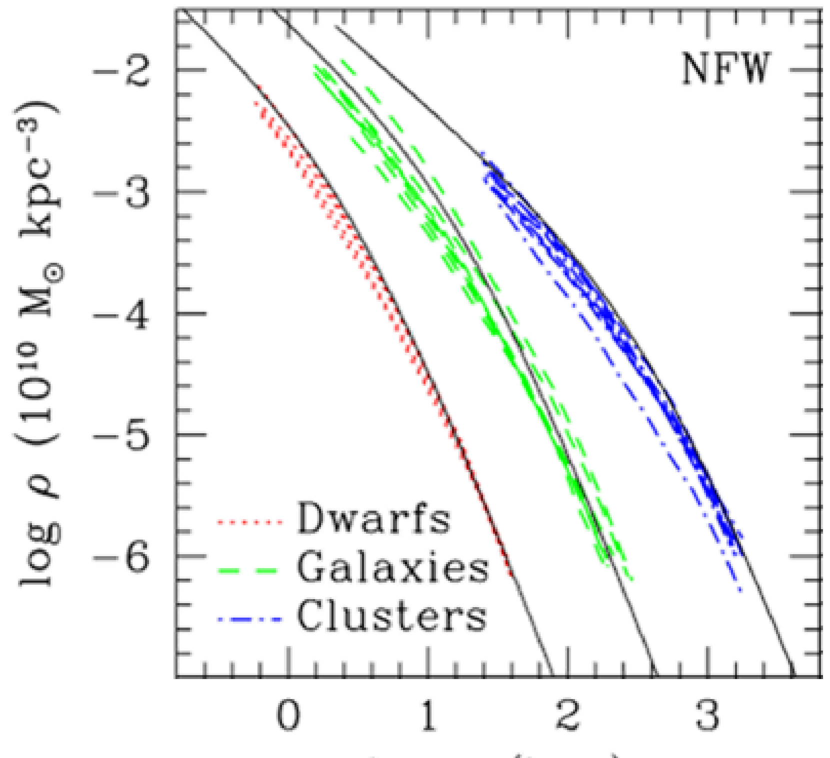
Halos form at all scales:



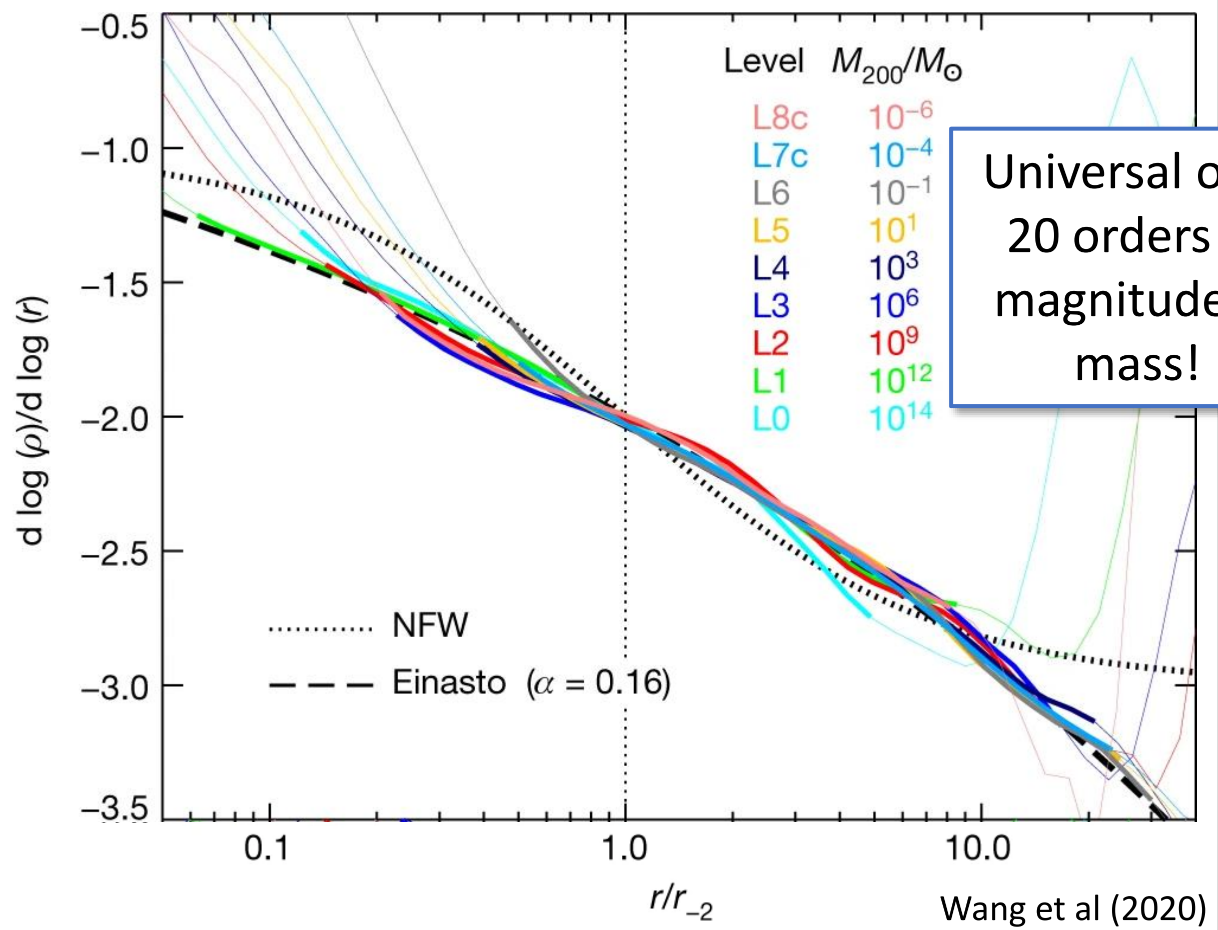
Wang et al (2020)

Halo density profiles

$\rho(r)$: shallow (logarithmic) decrease at small r, steep decrease at large r



Navarro et al (2004)



Wang et al (2020)

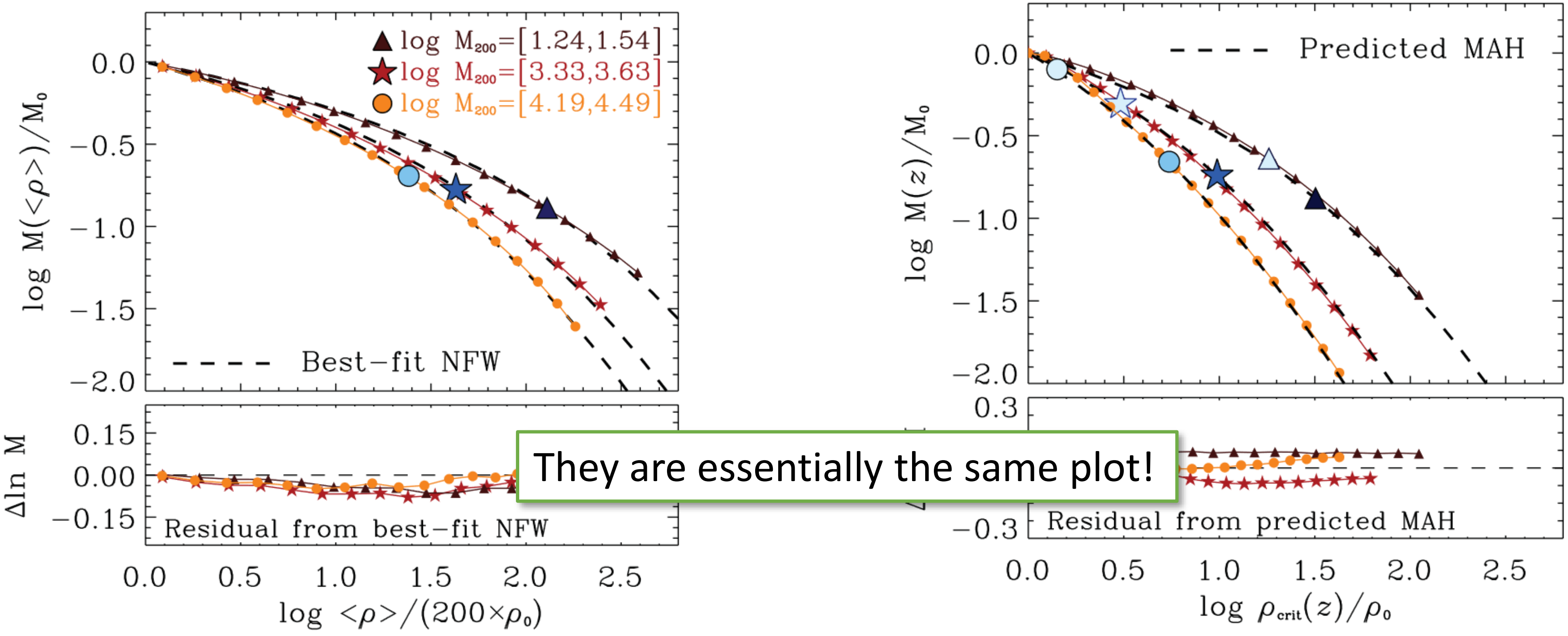
Universal over 20 orders of magnitude in mass!

Density profiles from accretion history

Universal density profiles follow from universal accretion history

Mass inside regions denser than ρ

Mass accreted when the universe was denser than ρ



Ludlow et al (2013)

Outline

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Prompt cusps of the first halos

Dark matter annihilation and indirect detection

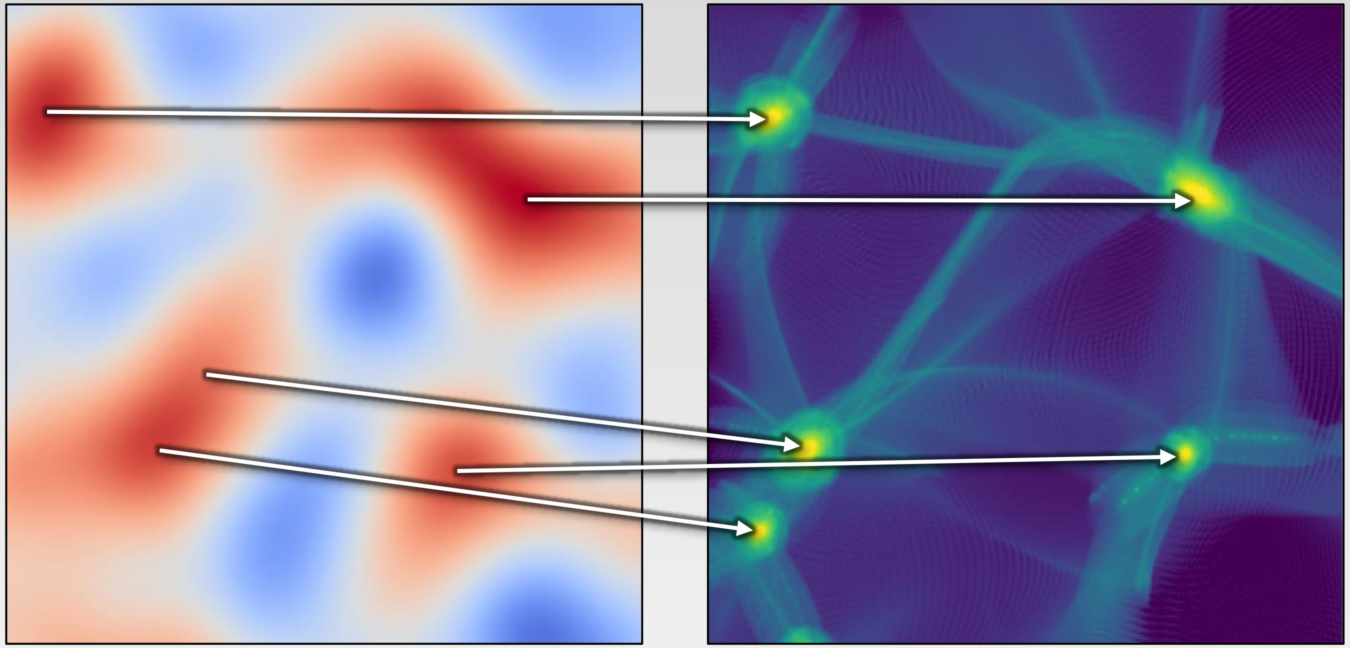
Annihilation in prompt cusps

The first halos

The first dark matter halos form from density peaks.

Initial DM density field

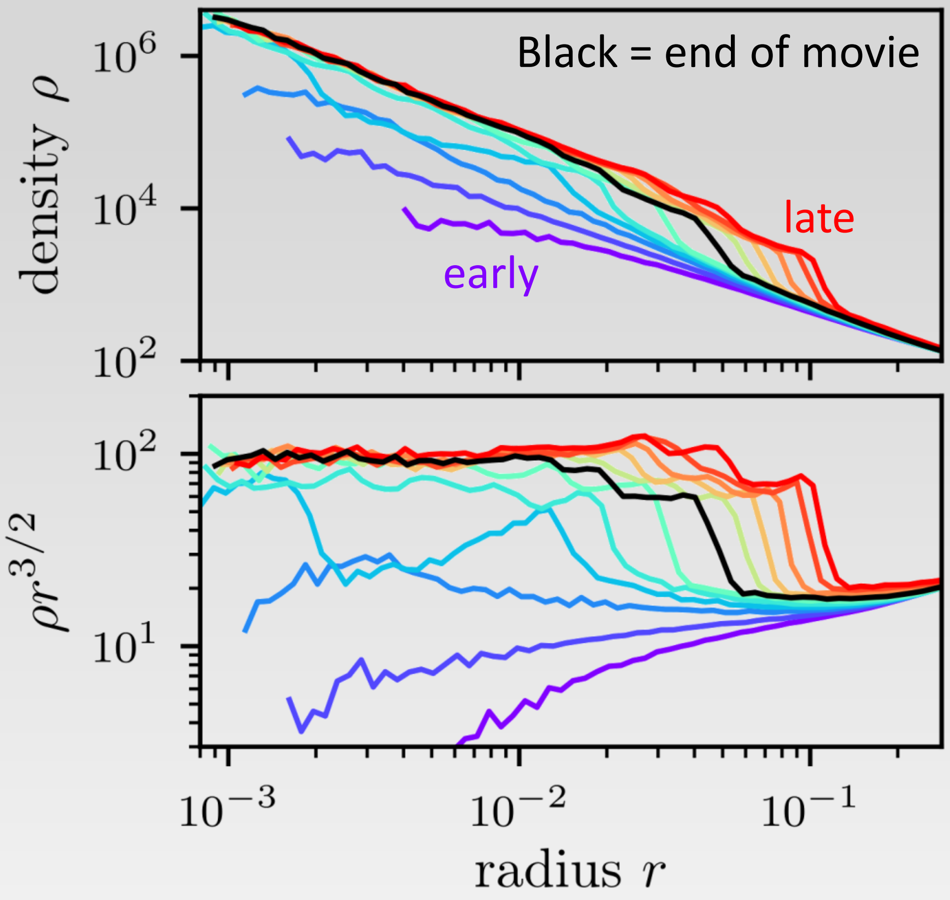
Collapsed DM structures



(smoothed by thermal motion)

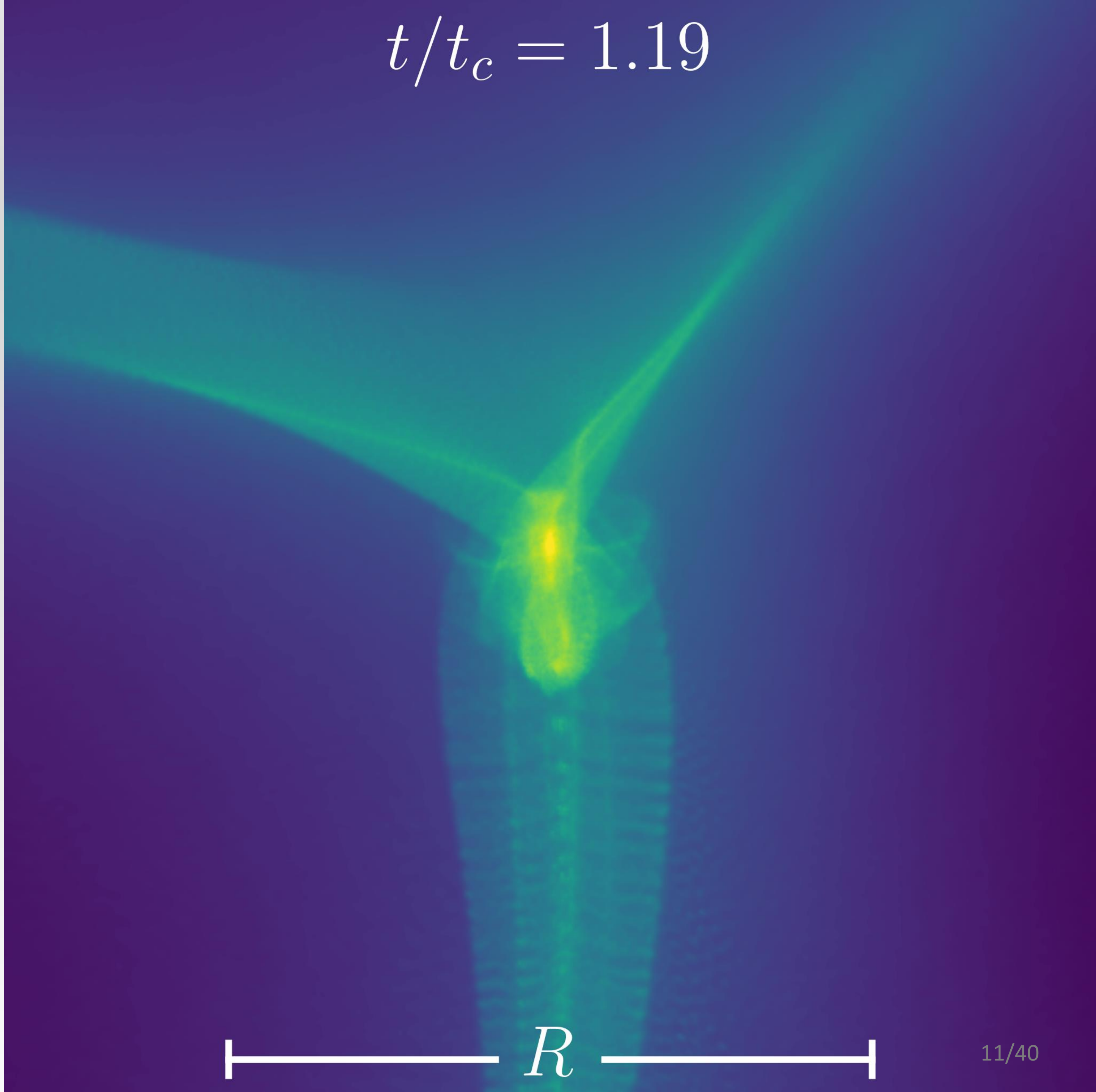
Normally not resolved in simulations [∼earth mass]

Prompt cusps



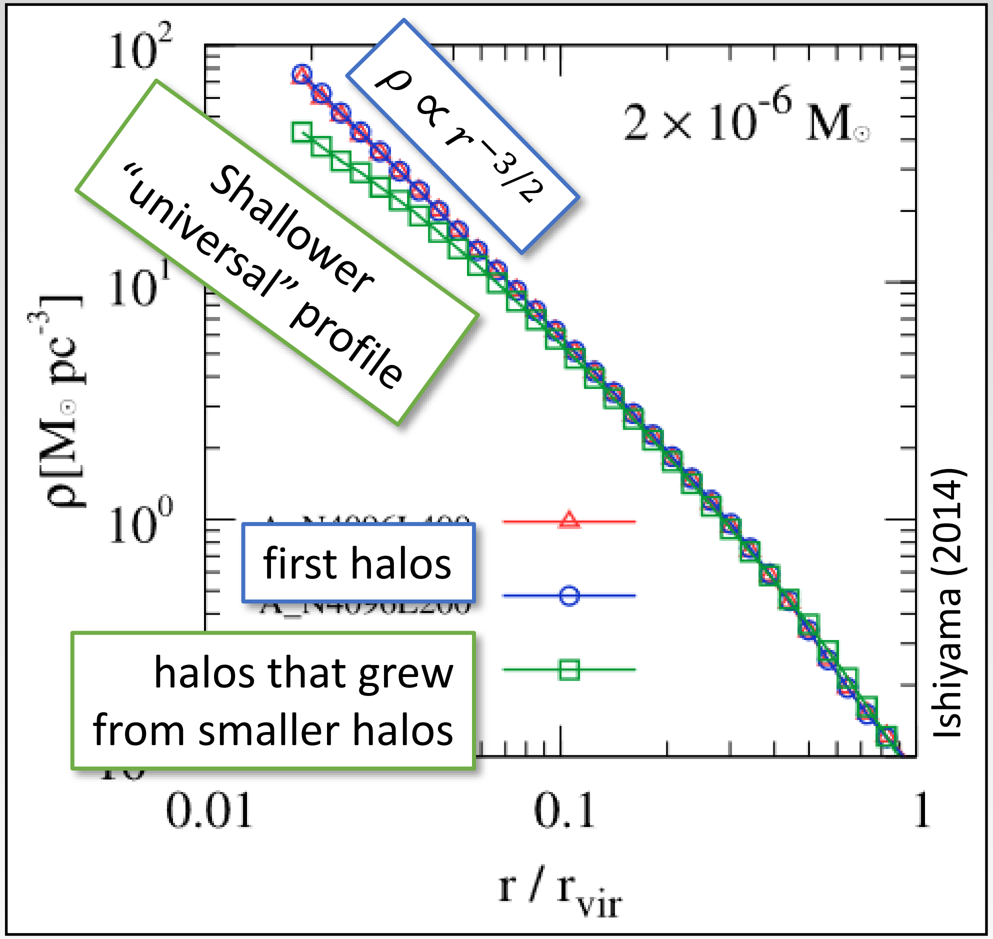
$\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusp stabilizes immediately after formation

"prompt"

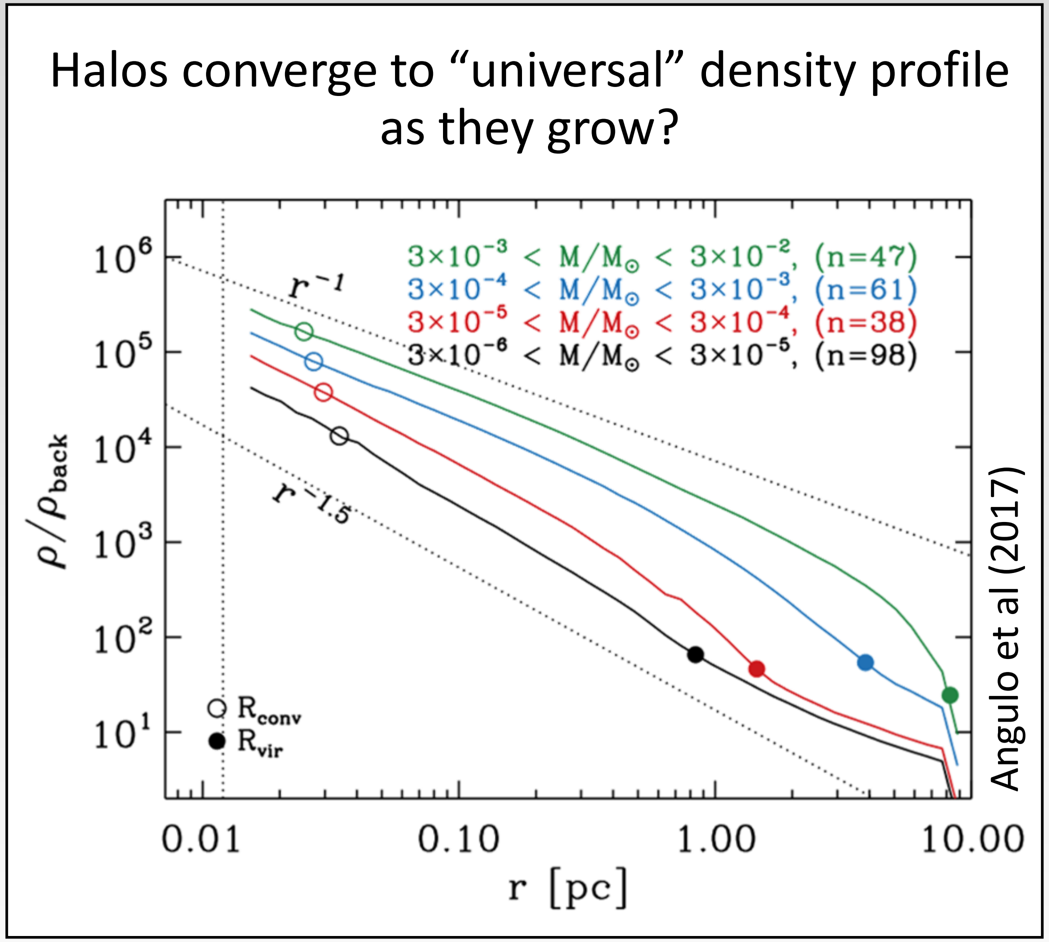


Do prompt cusps survive?

$\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusps have been seen in simulations before…



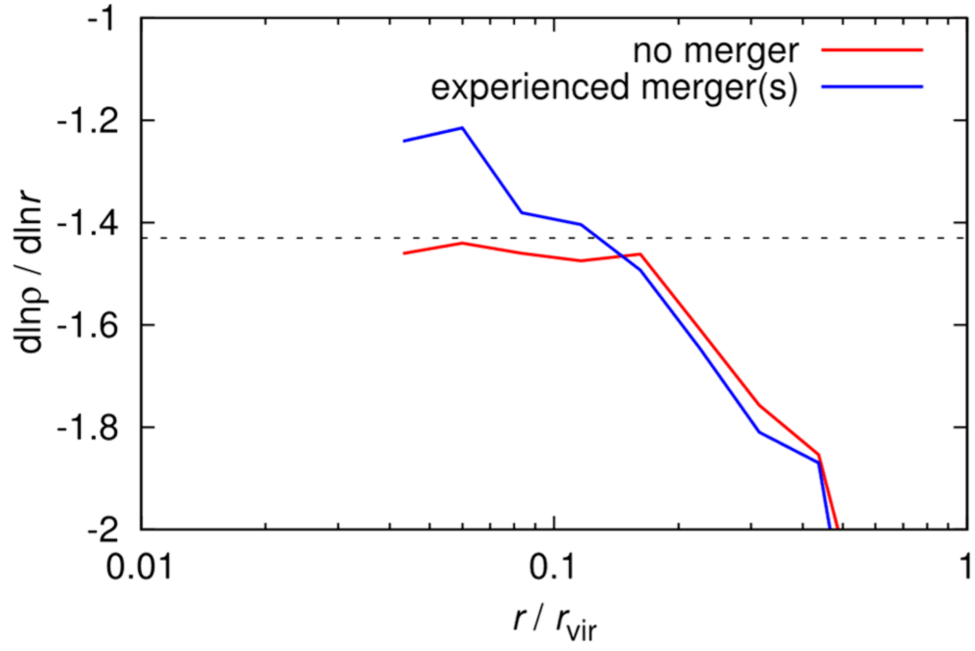
…but their survival was questioned



Cusps shallow due to mergers?

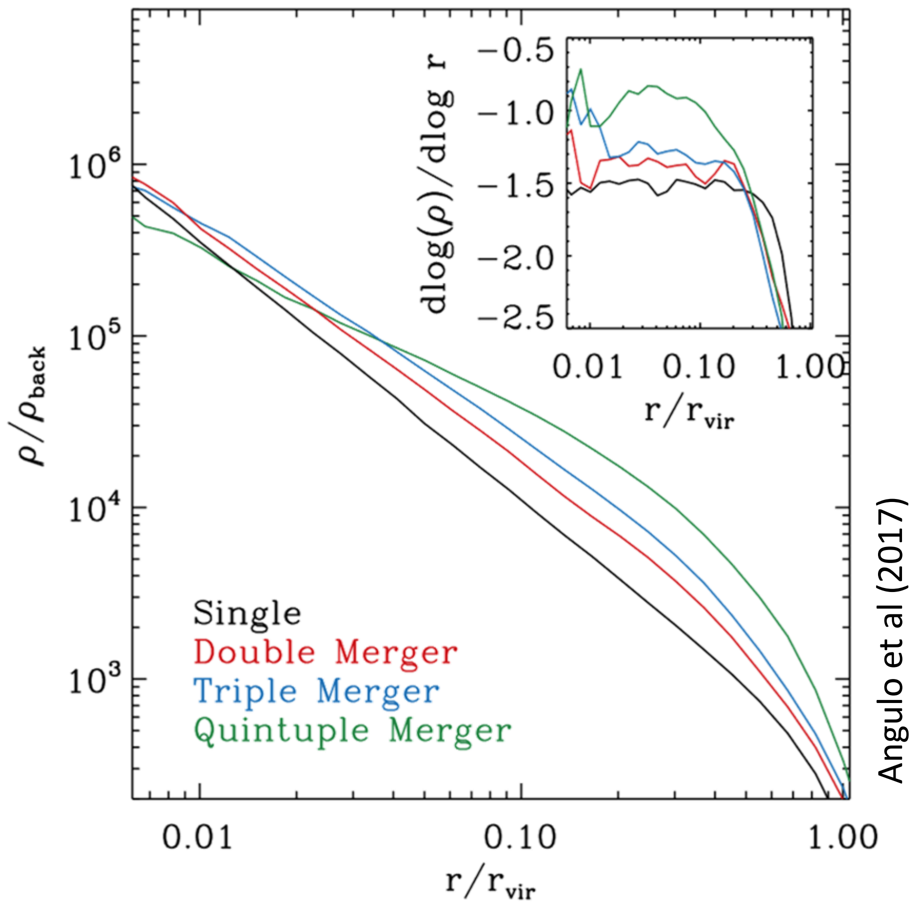
The common view was that mergers disrupt steep cusps

Correlation between mergers and shallow cusps



Ogiya, Nagai, Ishiyama (2016)

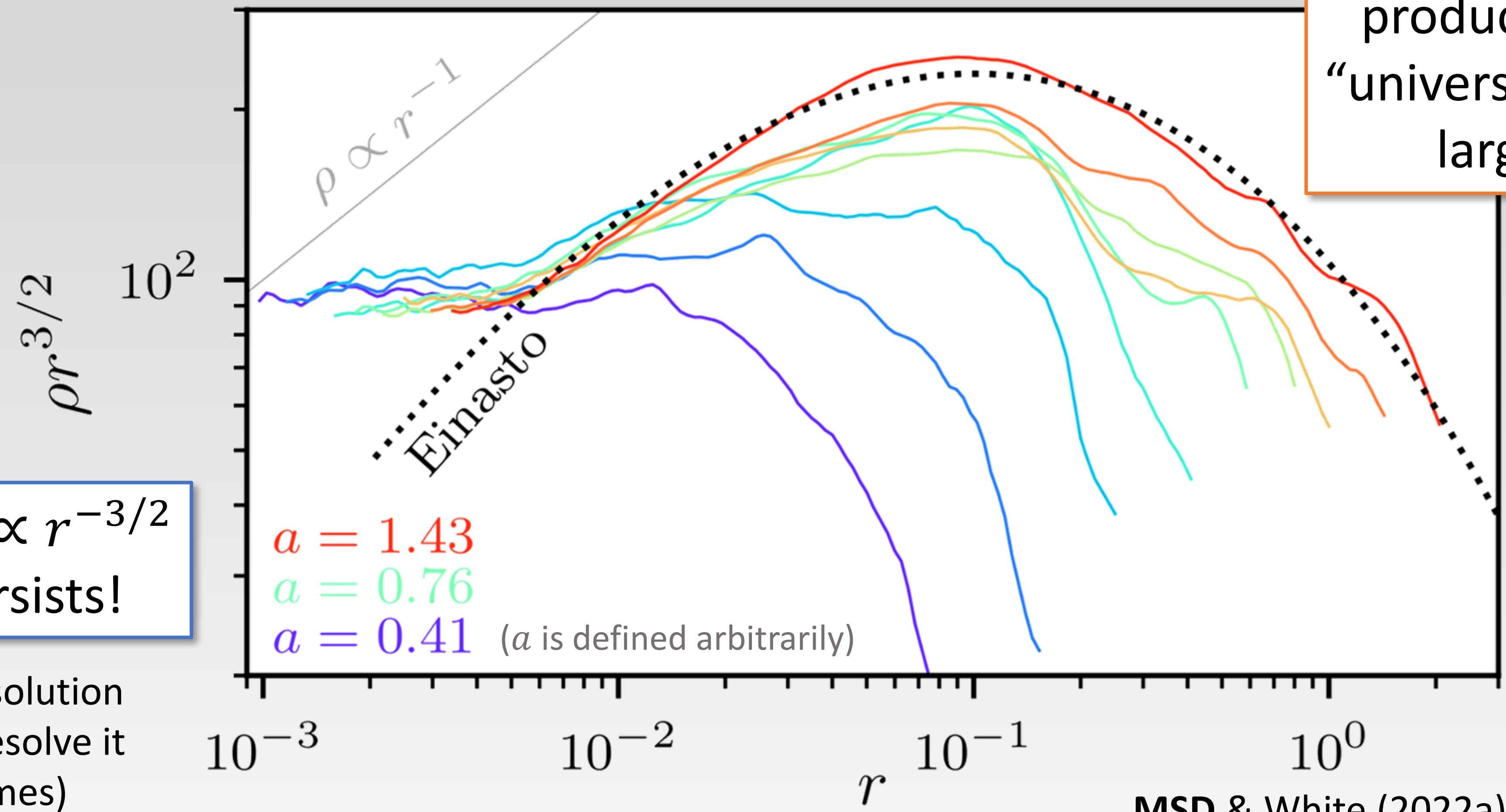
Shallowing in idealized merger simulations



Angulo et al (2017)

Prompt cusp persistence

Buildup of material produces shallow "universal" profile at larger radii



Central $\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusp persists!

(extreme resolution needed to resolve it at late times)

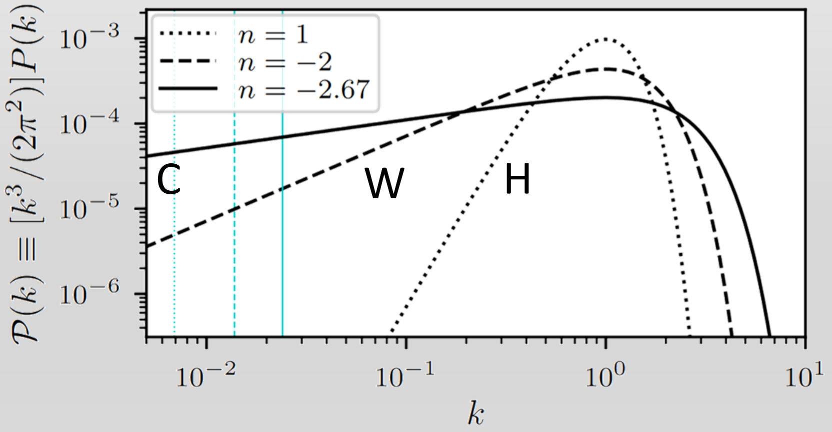
MSD & White (2022a)

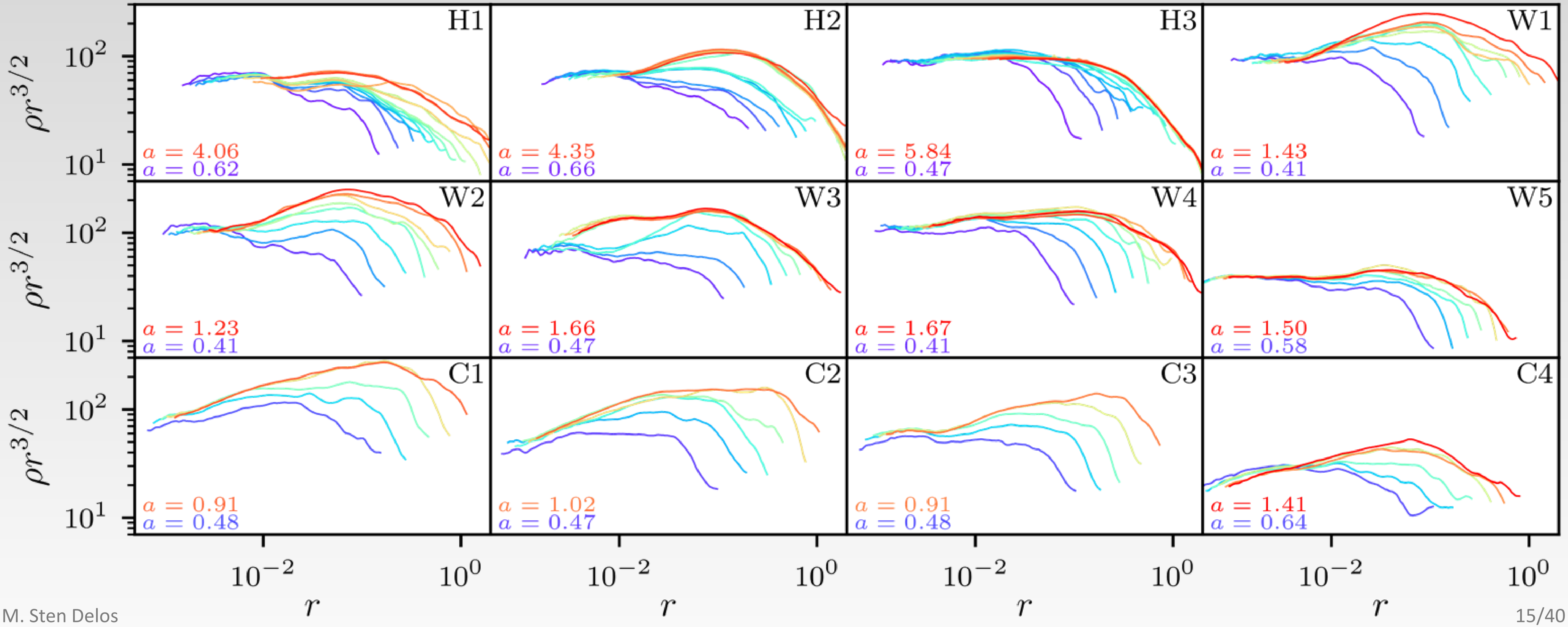
Outcome: standard DM density profile + prompt cusp

Prompt cusps: broader picture

Twelve high-resolution halos from three cosmologies:

Prompt cusp forms at collapse; no evidence for disruption



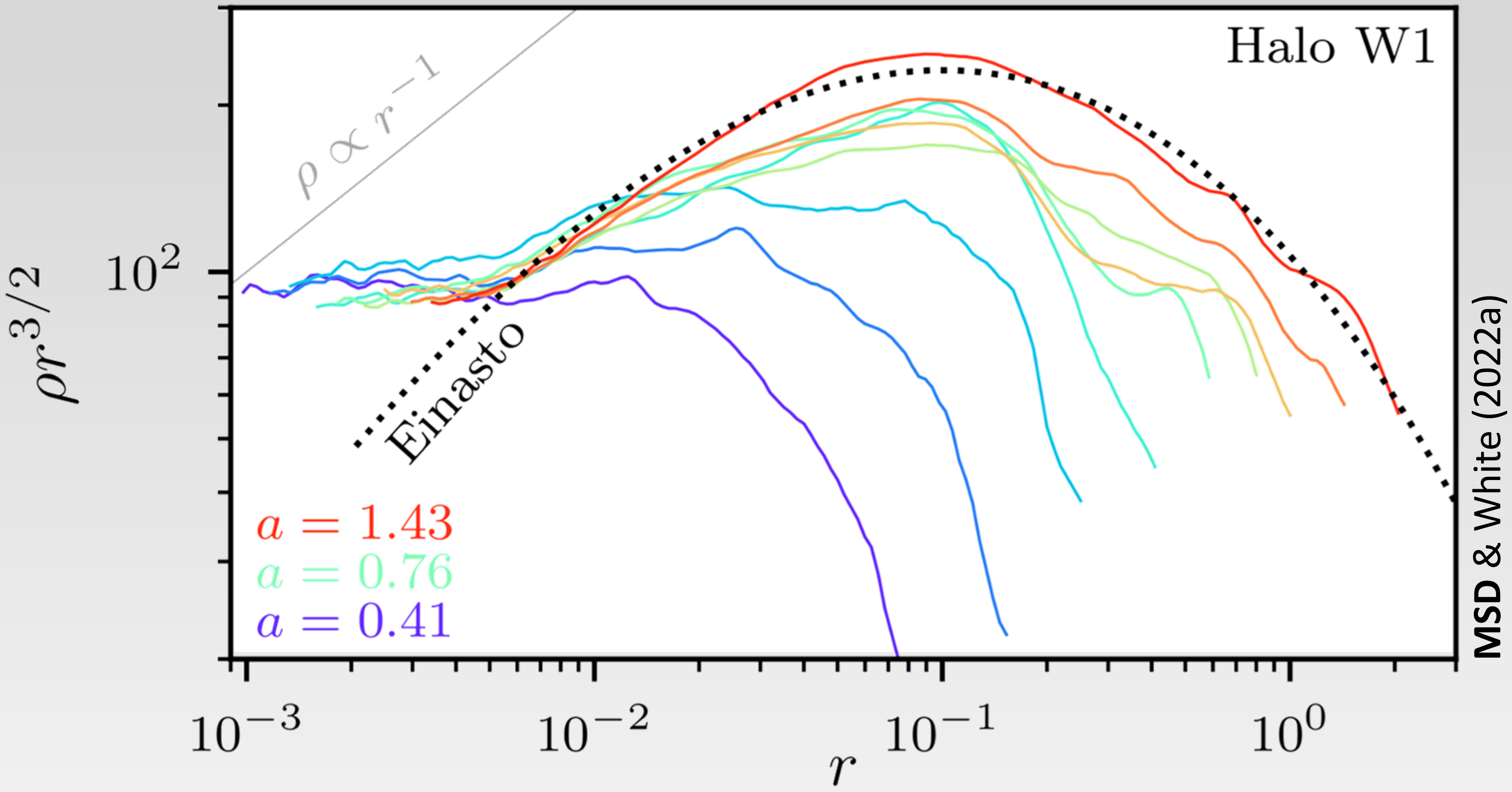


MSD & White (2022a)

Prompt cusp persistence is natural

Most new material has too much energy and angular momentum to sink to the center

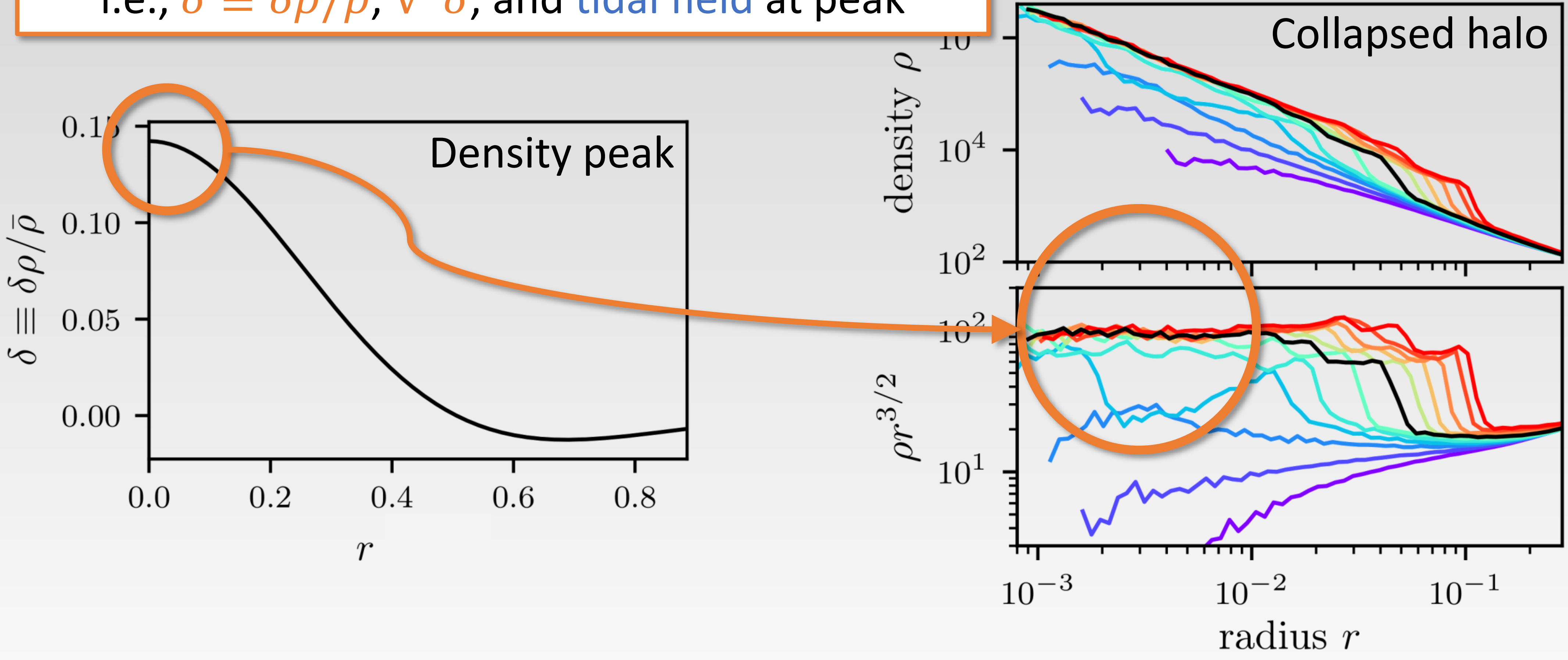
Only major mergers can deposit material into the center, but impact is minor



Consequence: every (sub)halo has a central prompt cusp!

What sets prompt cusp properties?

Cusp set at formation time
∴ only sensitive to neighborhood of density peak
i.e., $\delta \equiv \delta\rho/\bar{\rho}$, $\nabla^2\delta$, and tidal field at peak

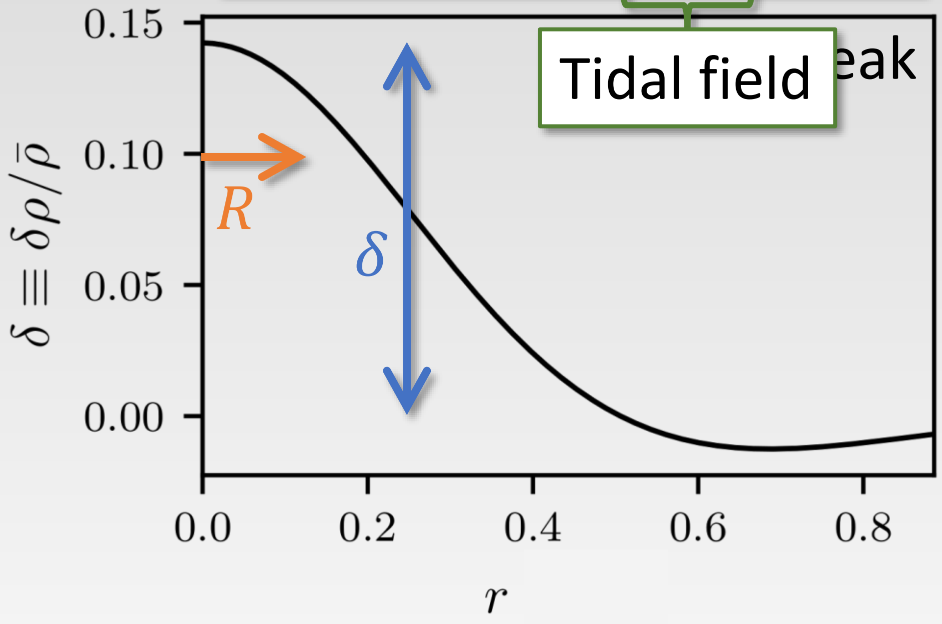


What sets prompt cusp properties?

Peak has comoving size R and collapse time a_c:

$$R \equiv |\delta/\nabla^2\delta|^{1/2}$$

$$D(a_c) = \delta_c(e, p)/\delta$$

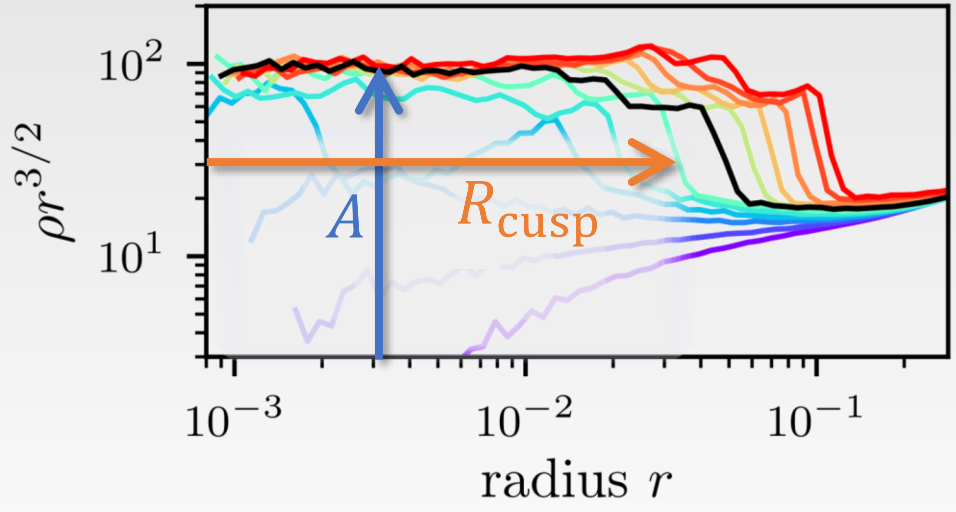


Prompt cusp: $\rho = Ar^{-3/2}$

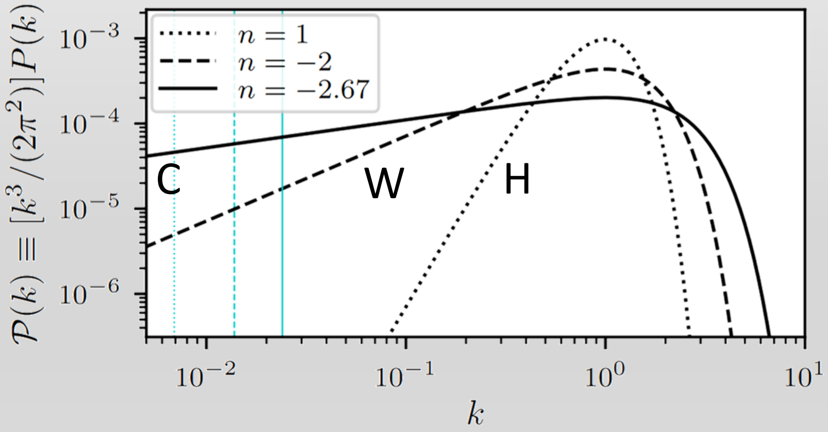
$$A \simeq 24\,\bar{\rho}(a_c)\,(a_c R)^{3/2}$$

$$M_{\rm cusp} \simeq 7.3\,R^3\,\bar{\rho}_0$$

$$R_{\rm cusp} \simeq 0.11 a_c R$$

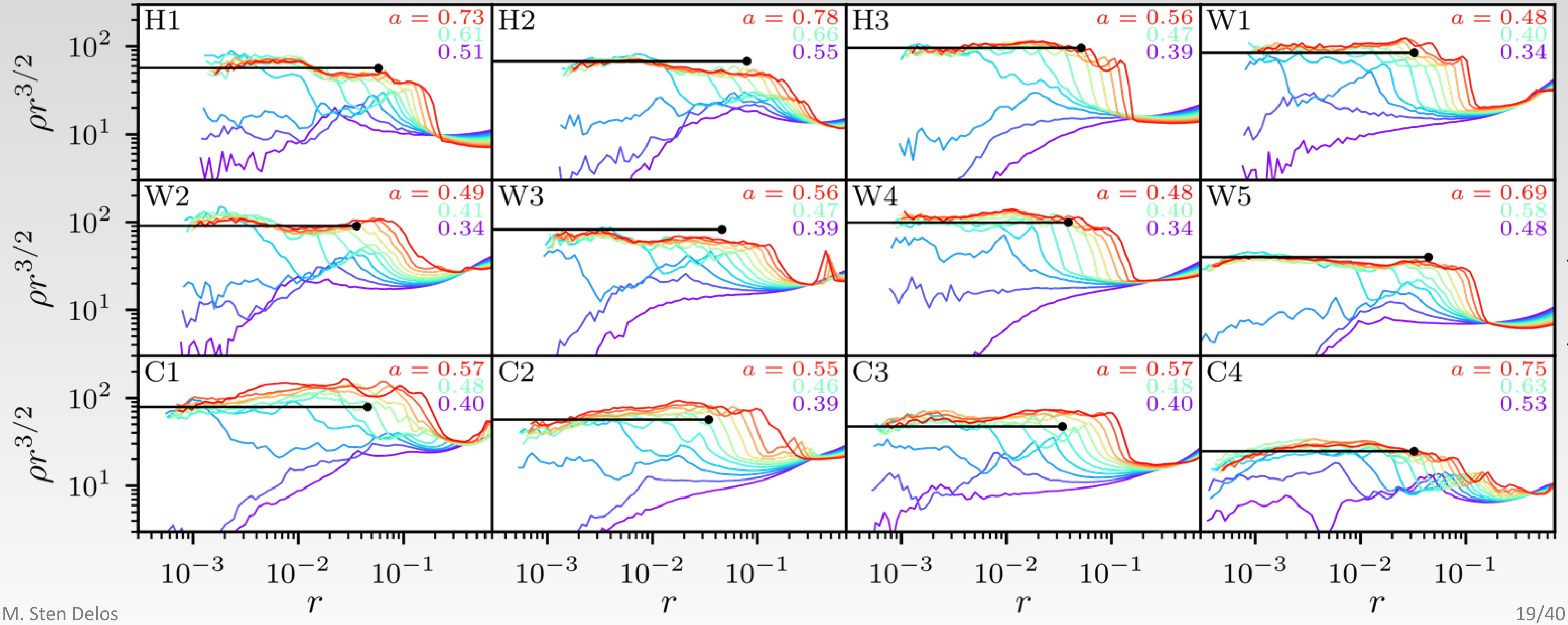


Cusp properties from peaks



Twelve high-resolution halos from three cosmologies:

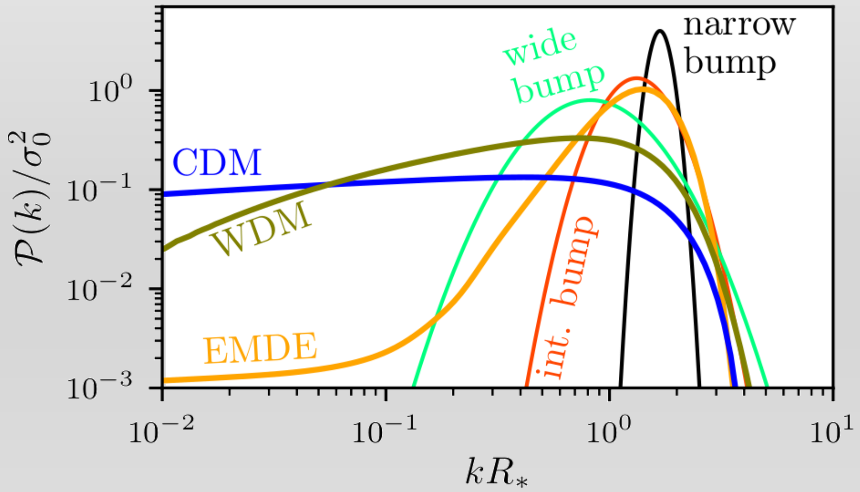
Predictions [black] work well!

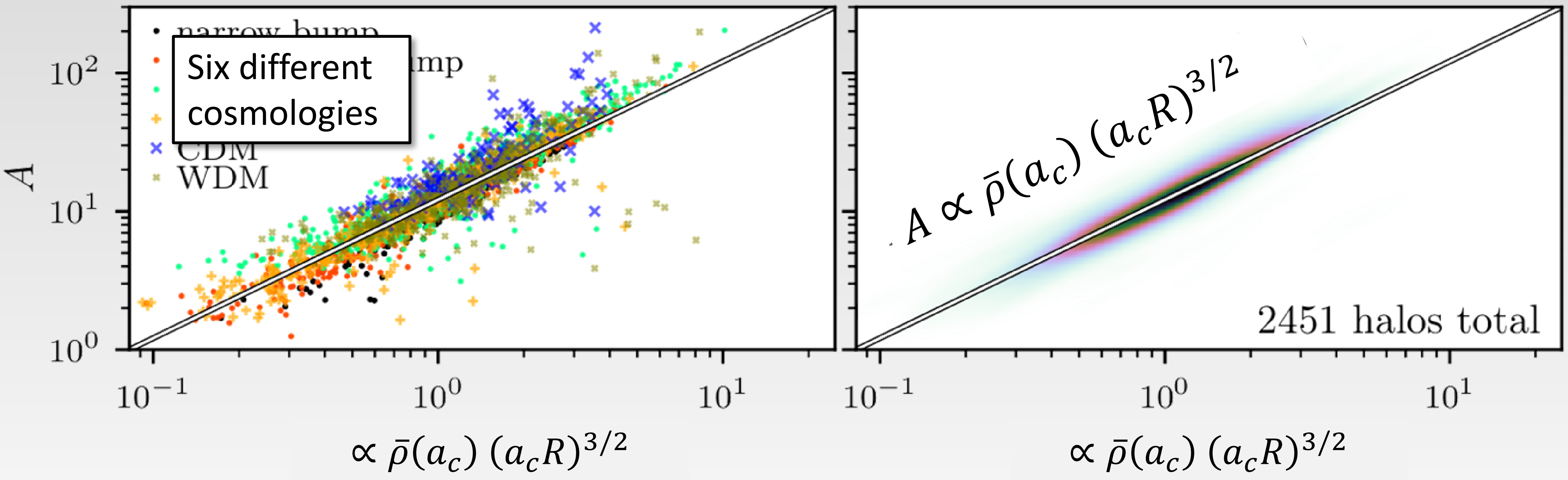


MSD & White (2022a)

Cusp properties from peaks

Prediction for $A = \rho r^{3/2}$ also validated using a much larger halo sample



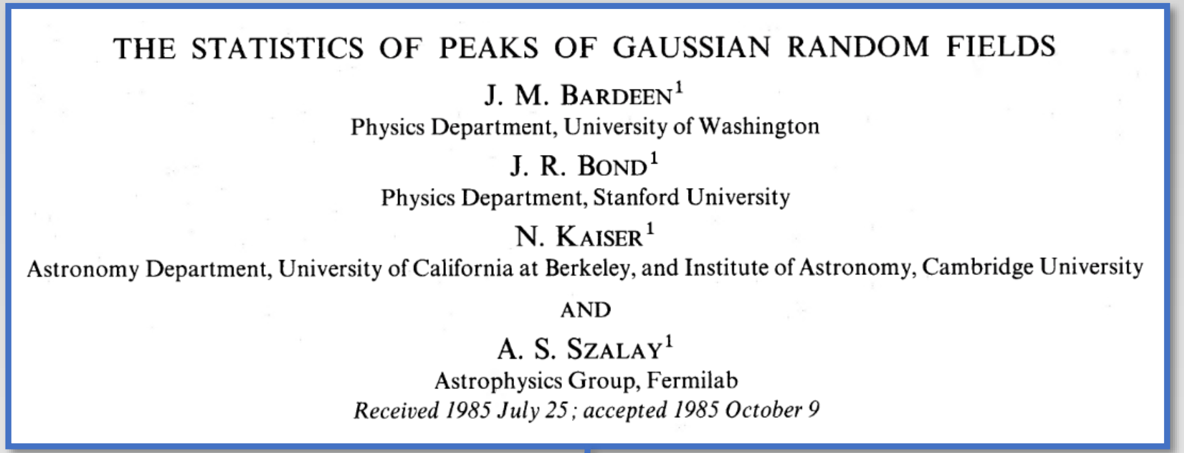


MSD, Bruff, Erickcek (2019)

Statistics of peaks

Connection between cusps and peaks is clear.

What is the distribution of peaks?



THE STATISTICS OF PEAKS OF GAUSSIAN RANDOM FIELDS

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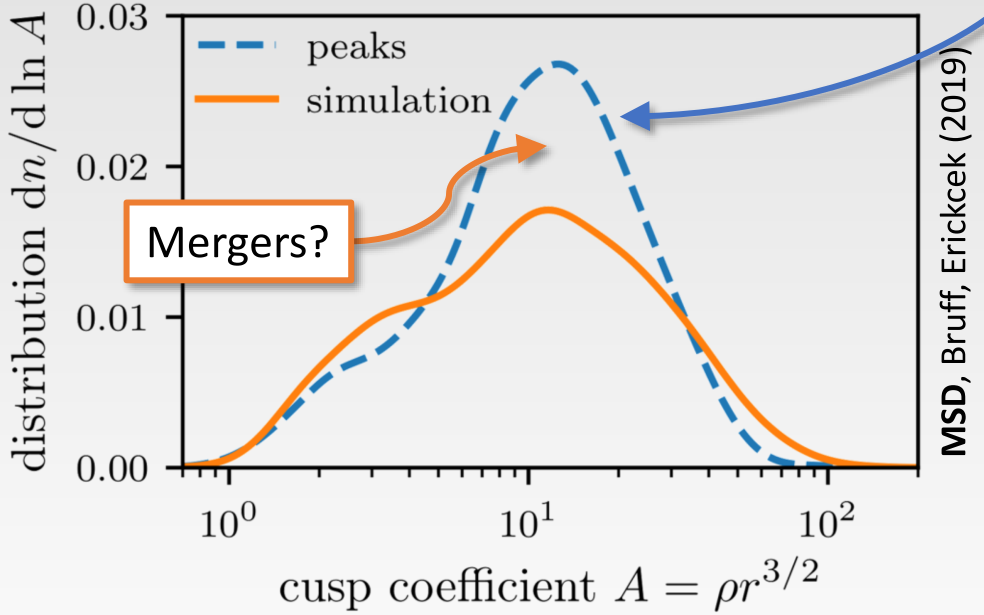
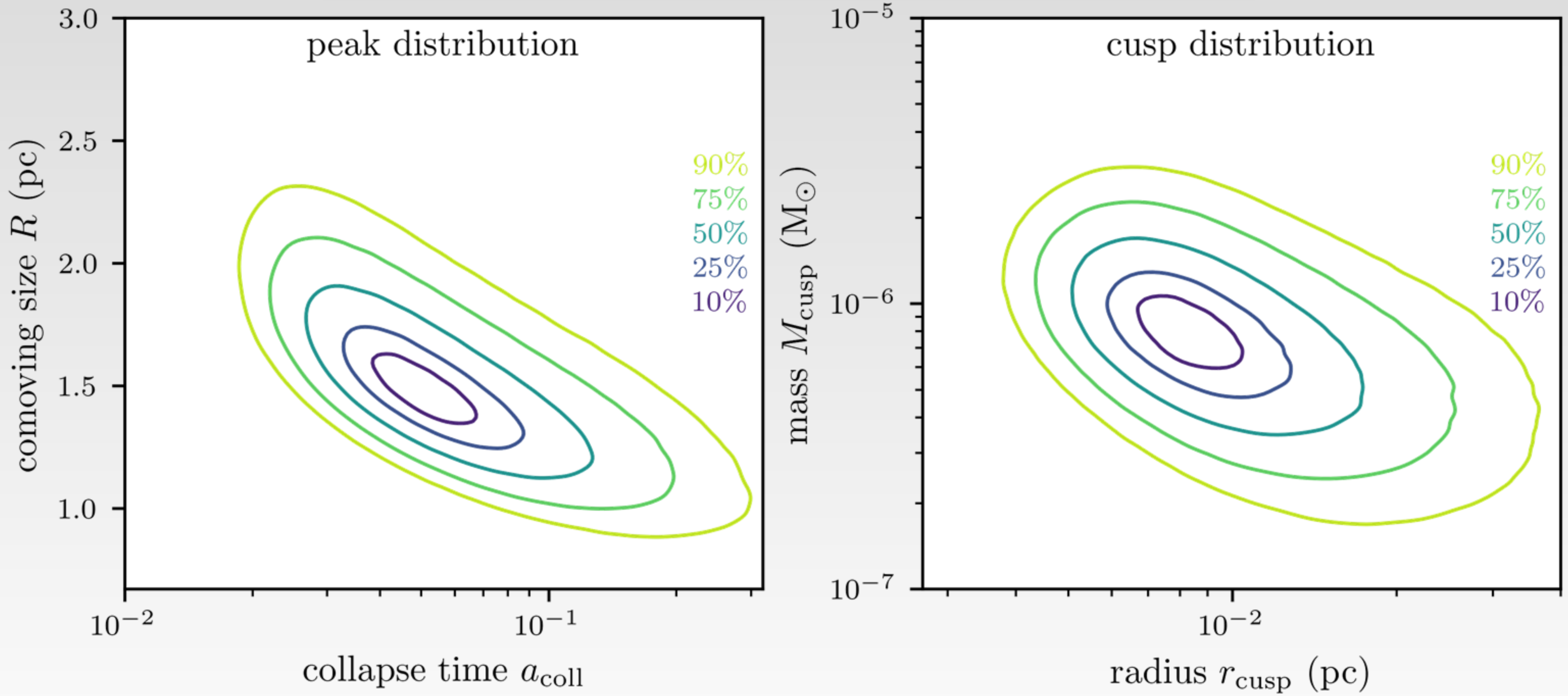


Statistics of prompt cusps

Example: standard 100 GeV WIMP

average peak/cusp number density $\simeq 10^{-3}\ \mathrm{pc}^{-3}$
$\sim 40000\ M_{\odot}^{-1}$



Central cores

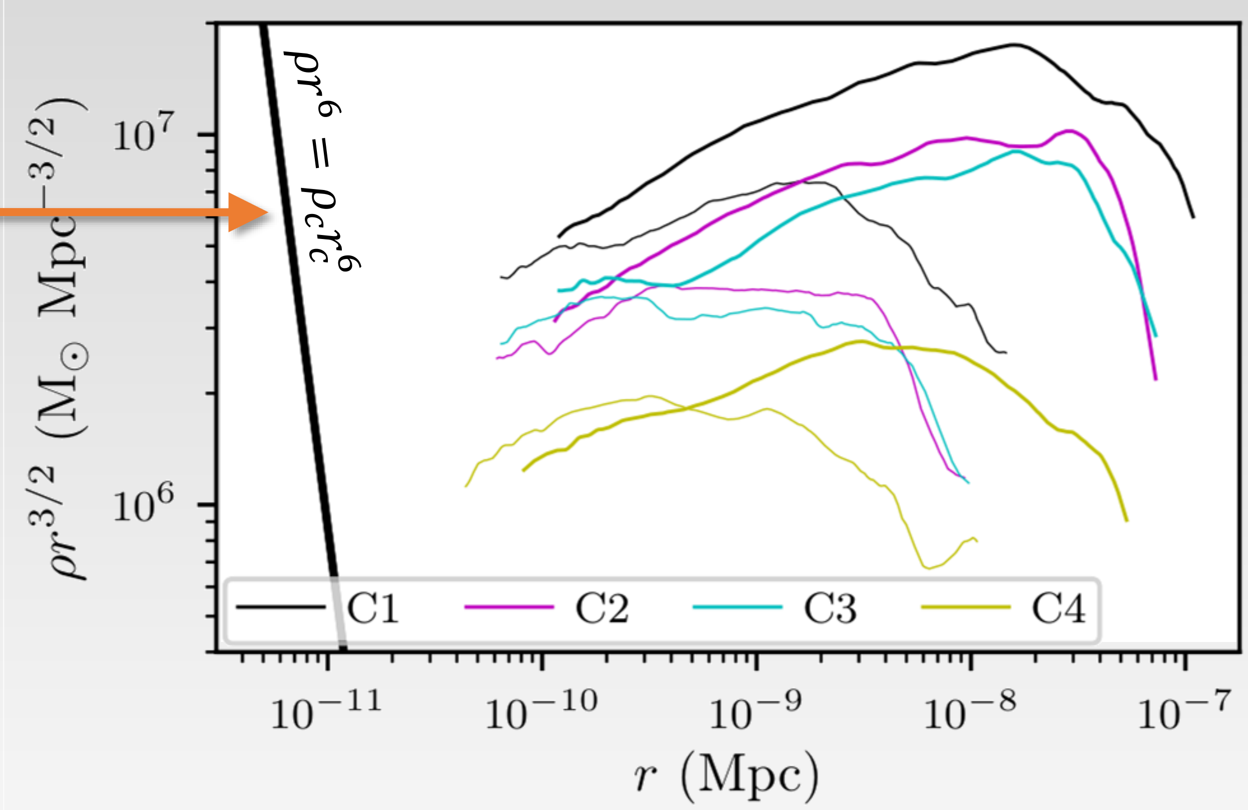
Any density cusp must give way to a finite-density core at small radii due to phase-space conservation

Core radius r_c and density ρ_c

$$\rho_c r_c^6 \simeq 3 \times 10^{-5} G^{-3} f_{\max}^{-2}$$

$f_{\max} =$ phase-space density of the early universe

$\sim \bar{\rho}(a)\sigma(a)^{-3}$



MSD & White (2022a)

$\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusps cover a factor of $R_{\text{cusp}}/r_c \sim 500$ in radius

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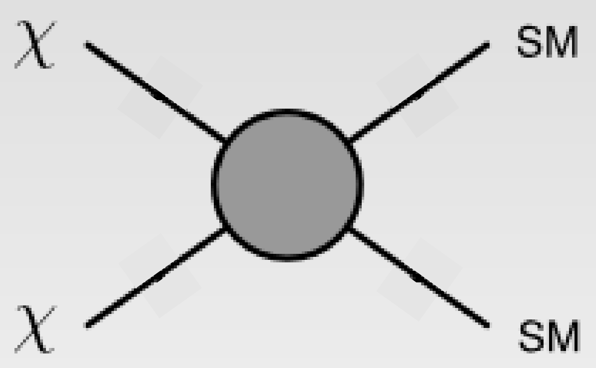
What is dark matter?

Well motivated possibility:
thermal relic dark matter particle χ,
pair-produced in the early universe.



Thermal relic cross section:
$\langle\sigma v\rangle \simeq 3\times10^{-26}\ \mathrm{cm}^3/\mathrm{s}$

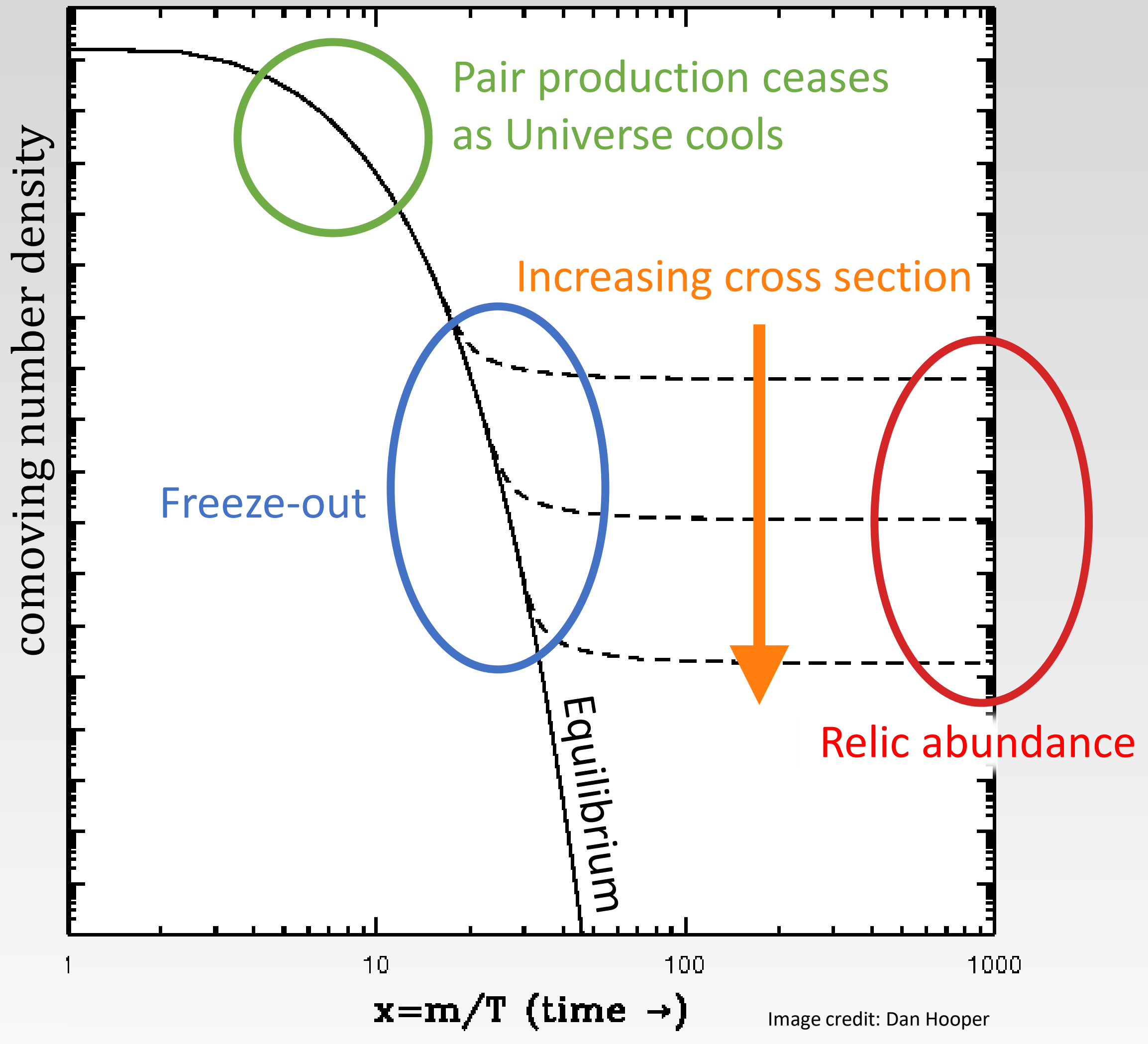
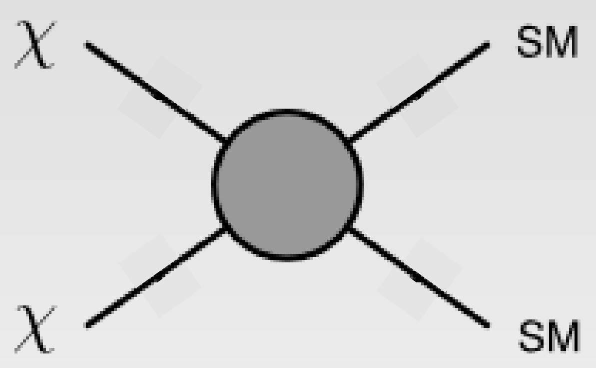


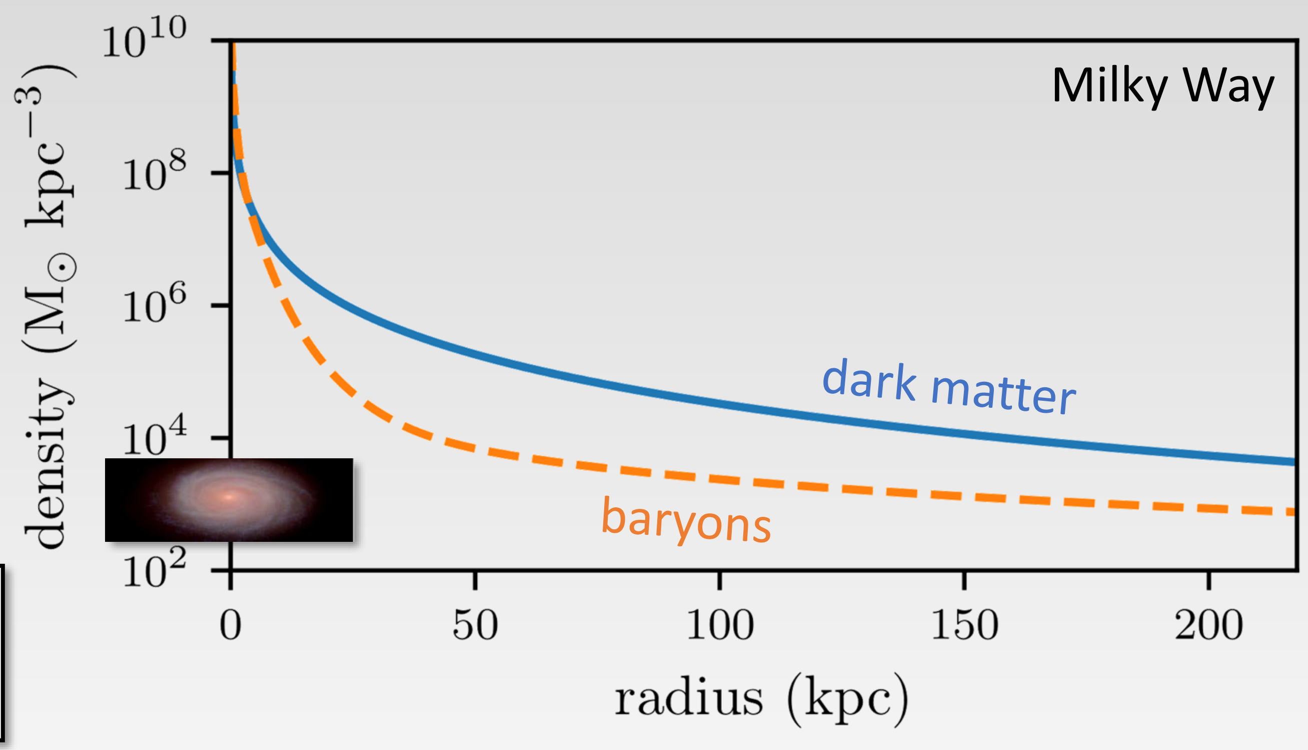
Image credit: Dan Hooper

Indirect detection

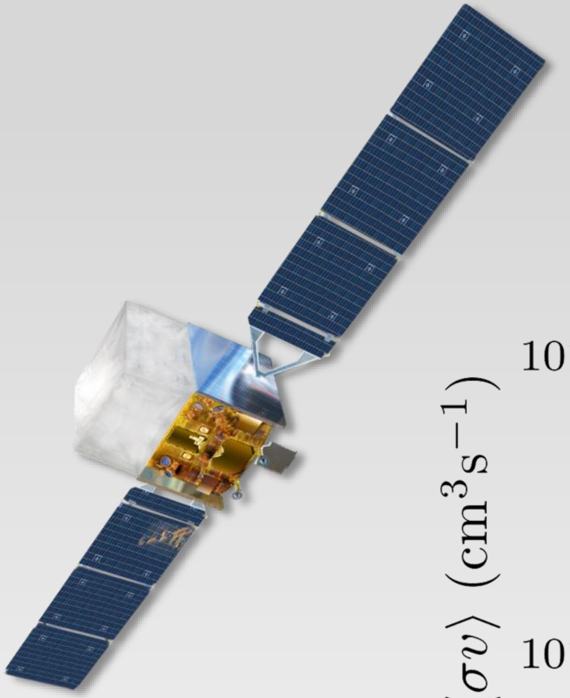
Then dark matter can annihilate
into detectable SM particles today!



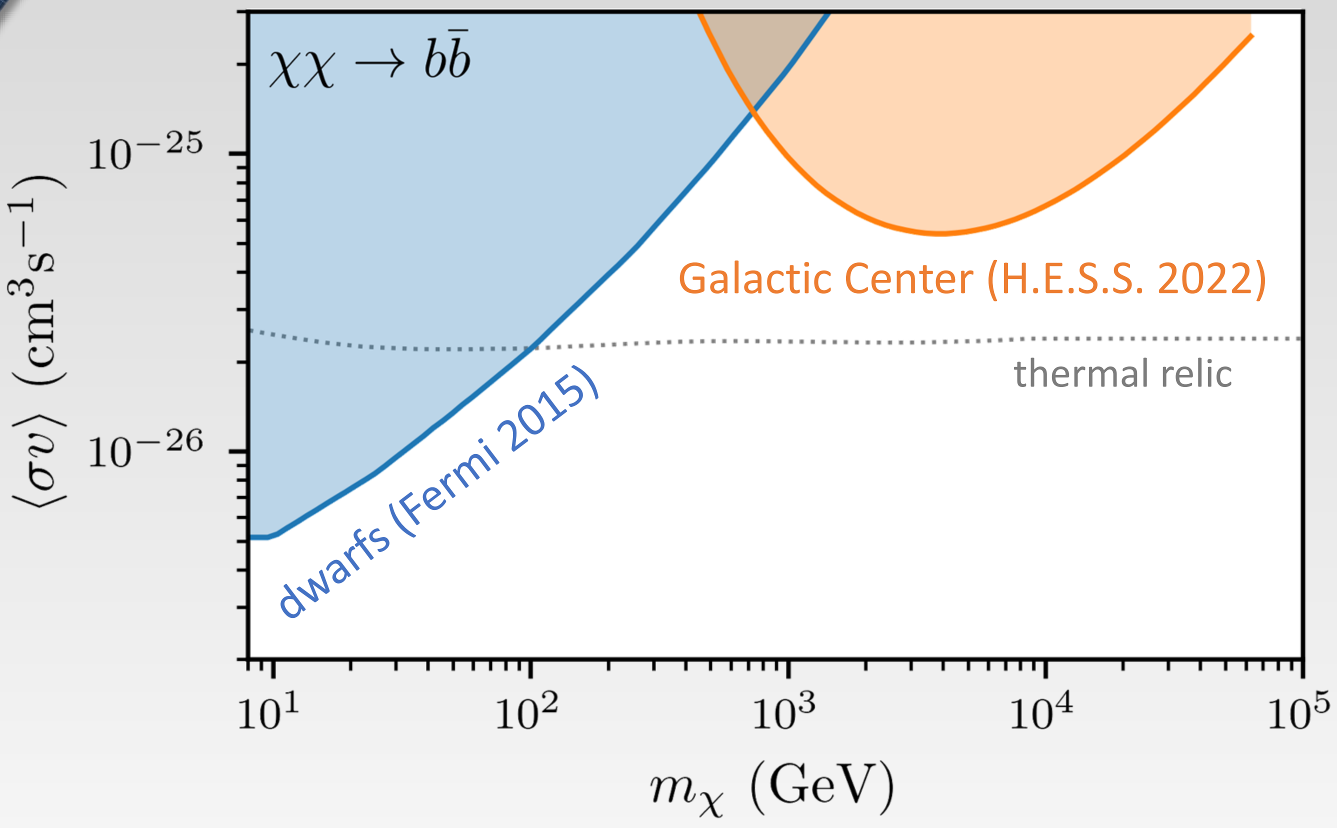
Annihilation rate $\propto \rho^2$:
Search the dense centers of galaxies



Indirect-detection limits



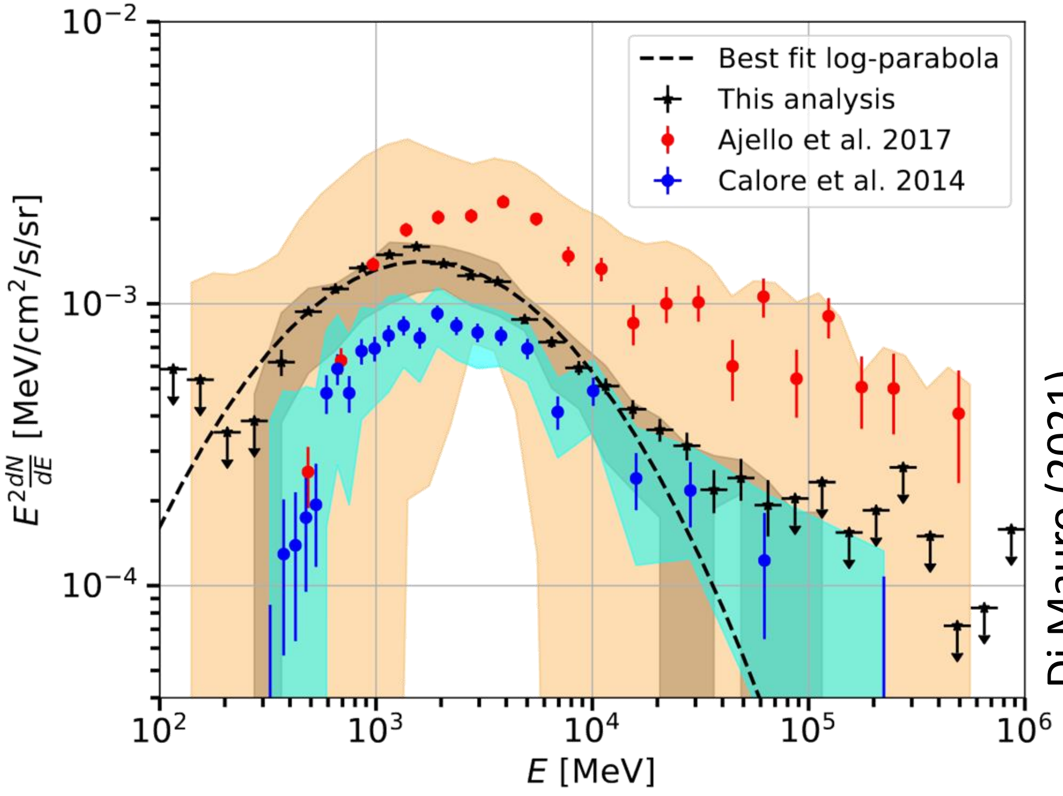
Limits from gamma-ray searches:



Indirect detection?

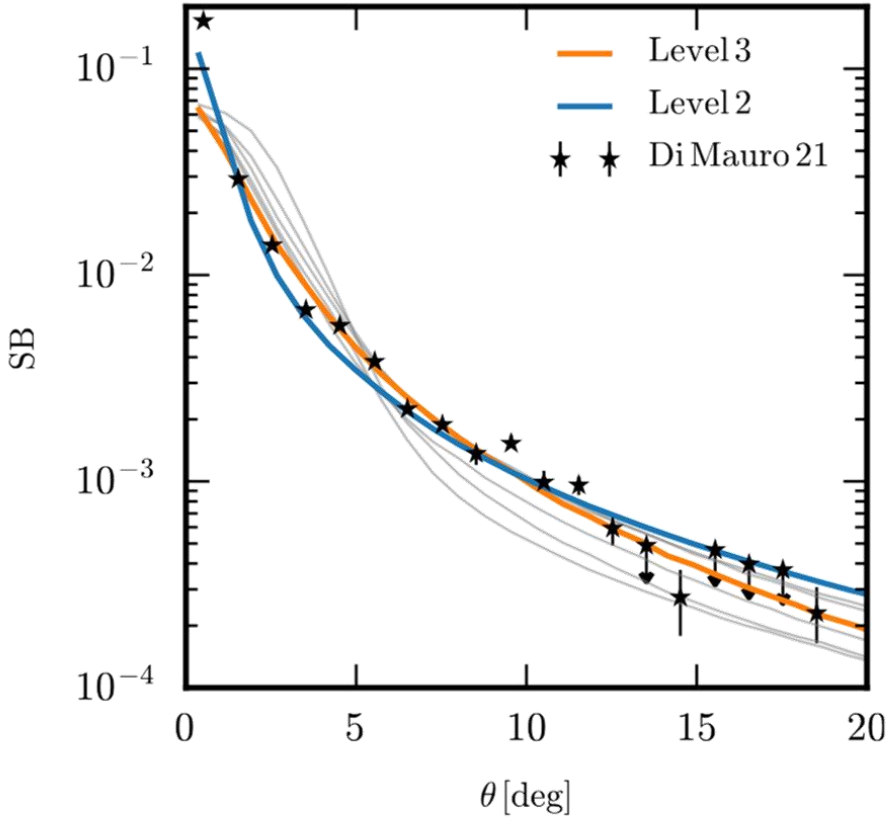
The Galactic Center gamma-ray excess

Excess of γ rays detected by *Fermi* in the 1-10 GeV energy range



Di Mauro (2021)

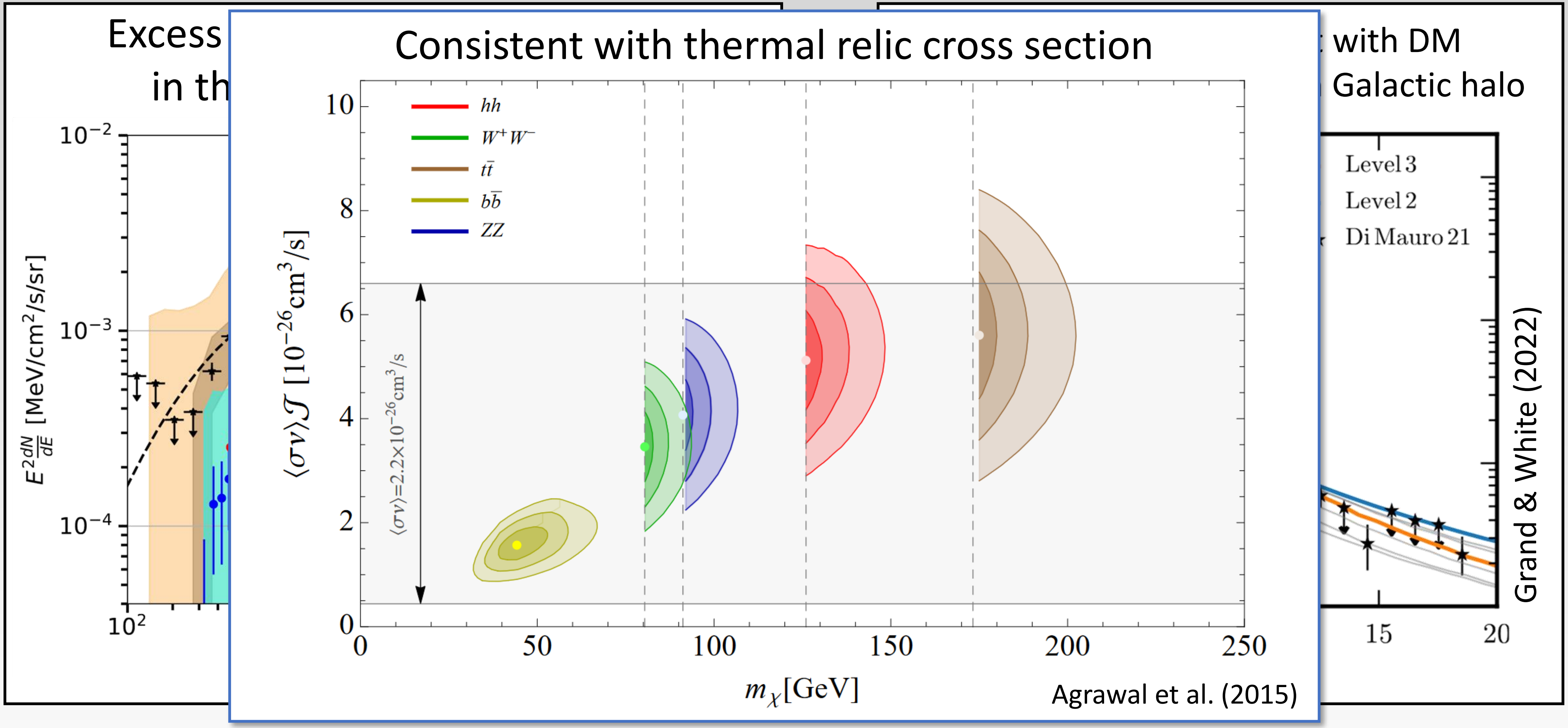
Morphology consistent with DM annihilation from a smooth Galactic halo



Grand & White (2022)

Indirect detection?

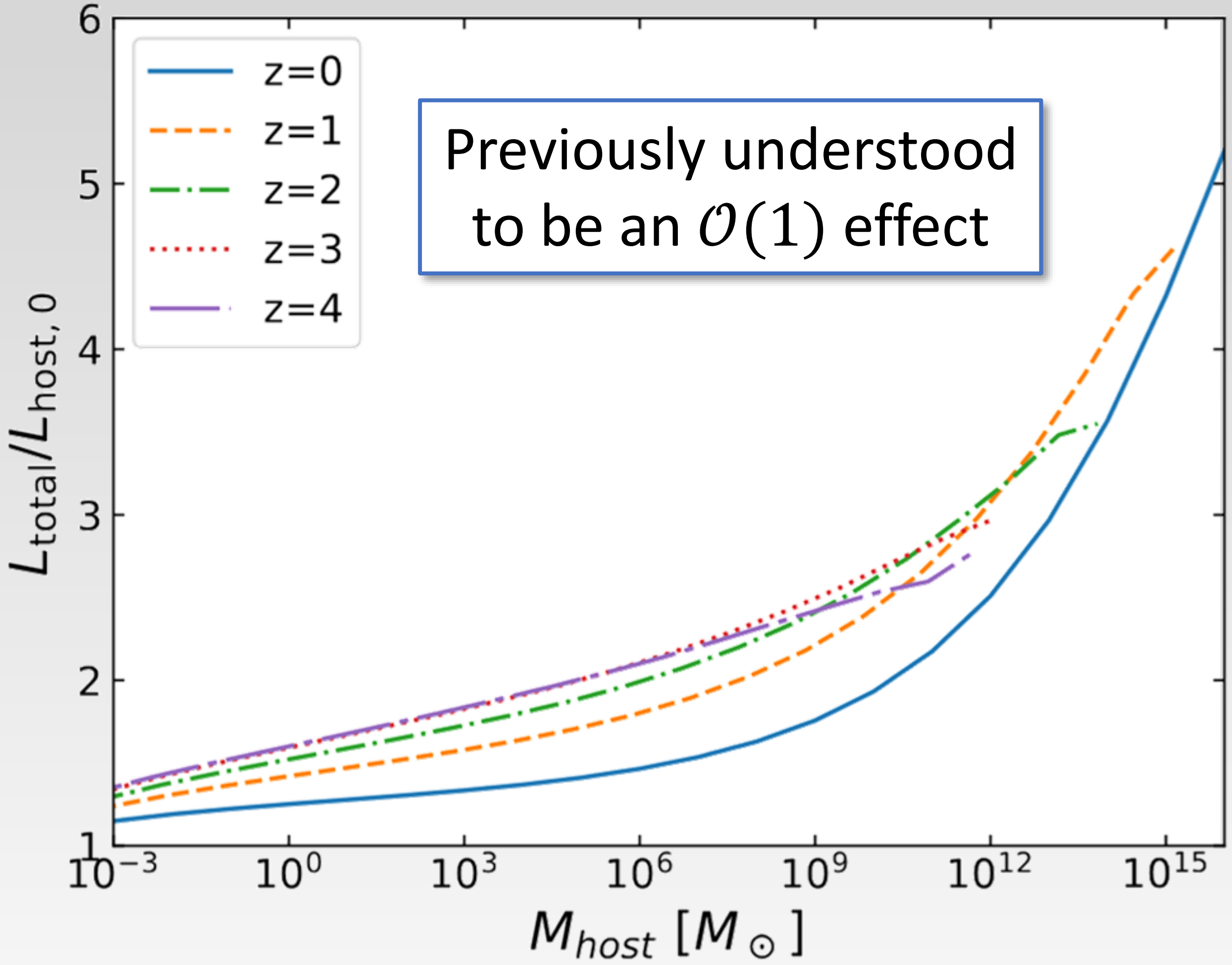
The Galactic Center gamma-ray excess



Substructure boost

The annihilation rate inside a halo is boosted by the presence of subhalos

(due to ρ^2 scaling)



Ando, Ishiyama, Hiroshima (2019)

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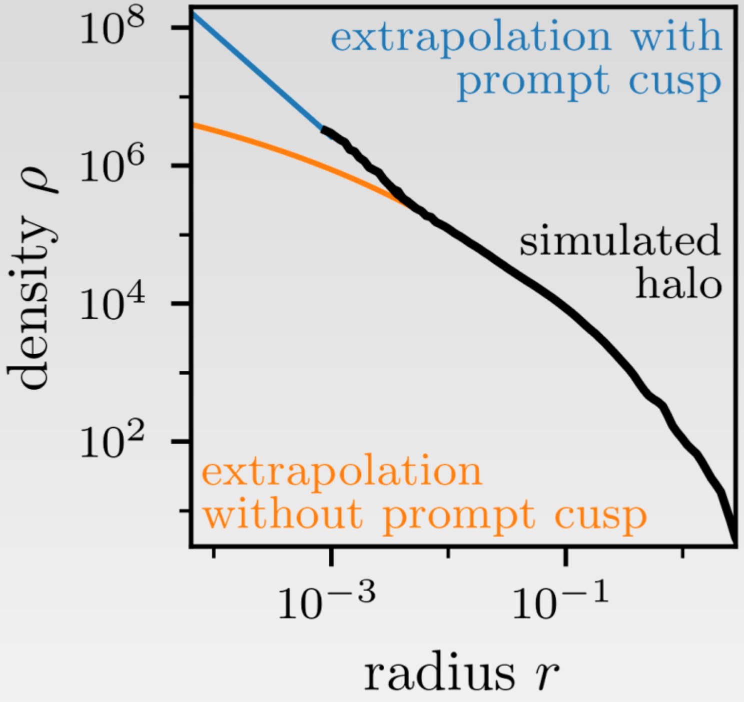
Prompt cusps and dark matter annihilation

Prompt cusp survival implies
every halo and subhalo has one

Extreme density inside prompt cusps
boosts the annihilation rate

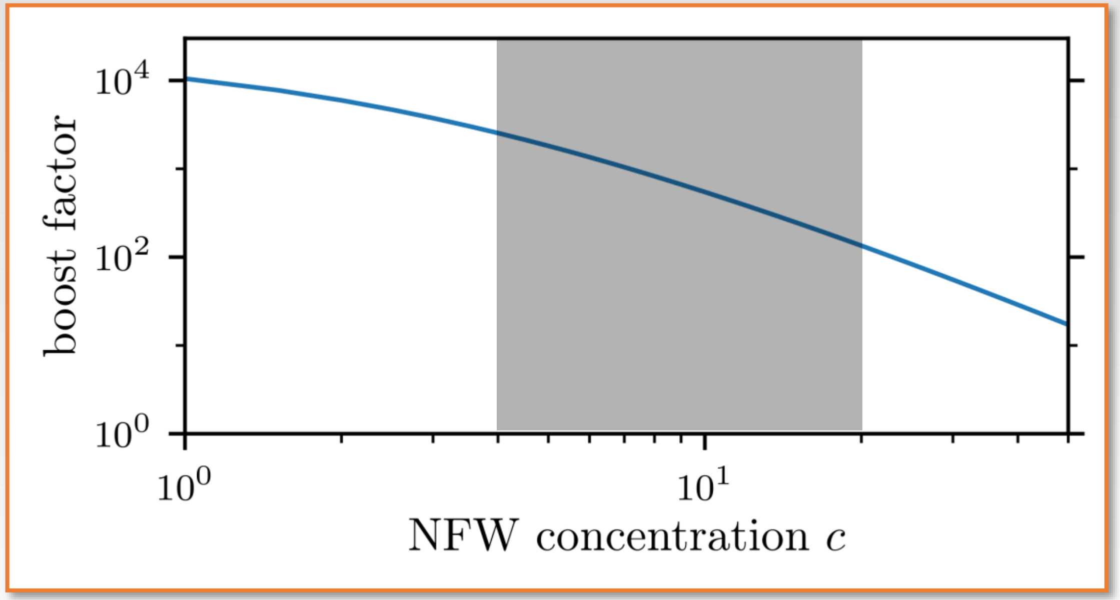


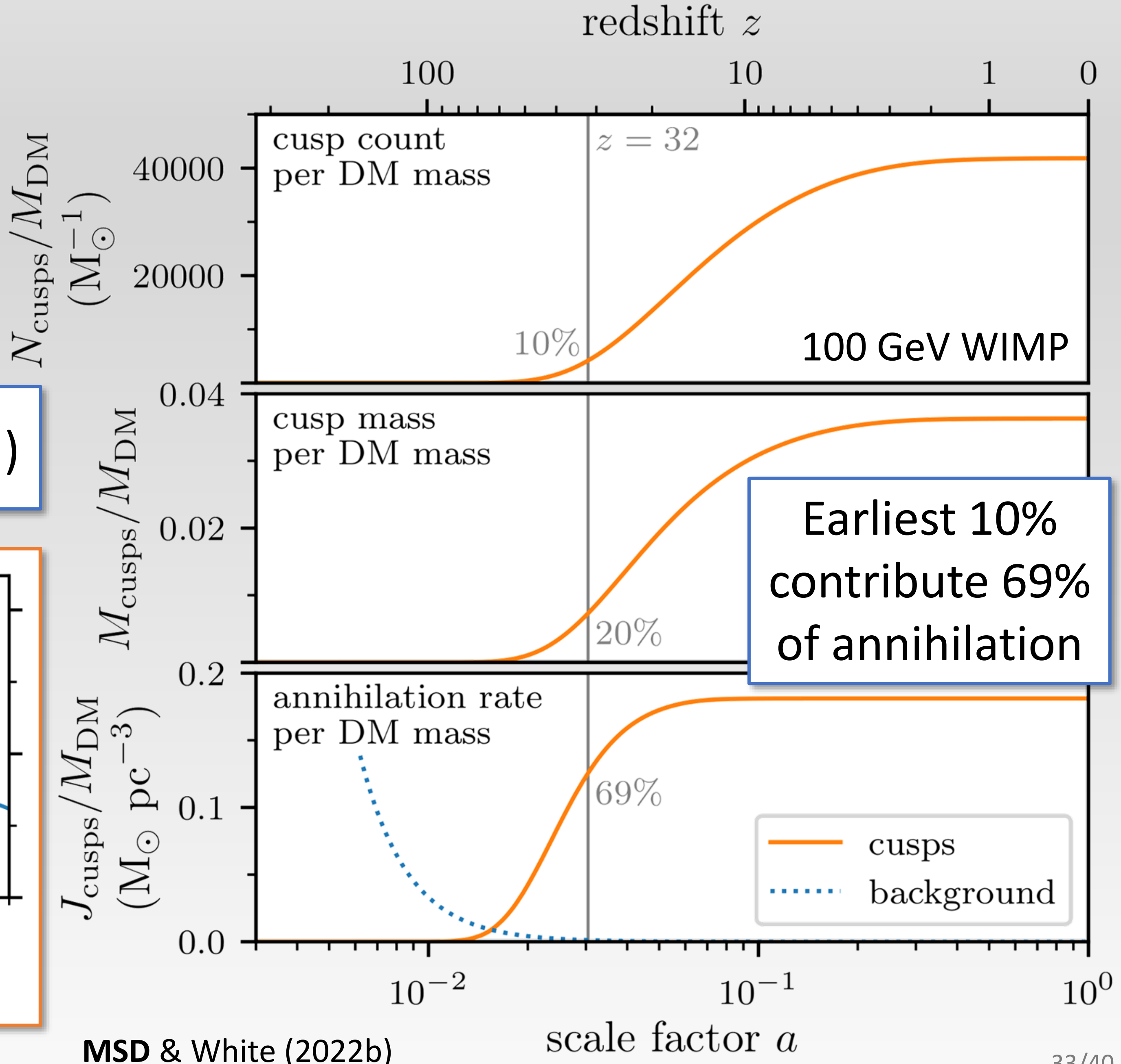
Egalitarian: every halo, no matter its size, has (roughly) **the same prompt cusp**

Annihilation in prompt cusps

Compute using peak statistics

$$\frac{\text{annihilation rate}}{\text{DM mass}} \propto \frac{\int \rho dM}{M_{\mathrm{DM}}} \simeq 150\bar{\rho}(z=32)$$





MSD & White (2022b)

Prompt cusp survival

Subhalo evolution studies have focused on $\rho \propto r^{-1}$ cusps;
steeper cusps are not well studied. However:

Theoretical studies

- Stücker et al 2022
- Drakos et al 2022
- Benson & Du 2022
- Amorisco 2021

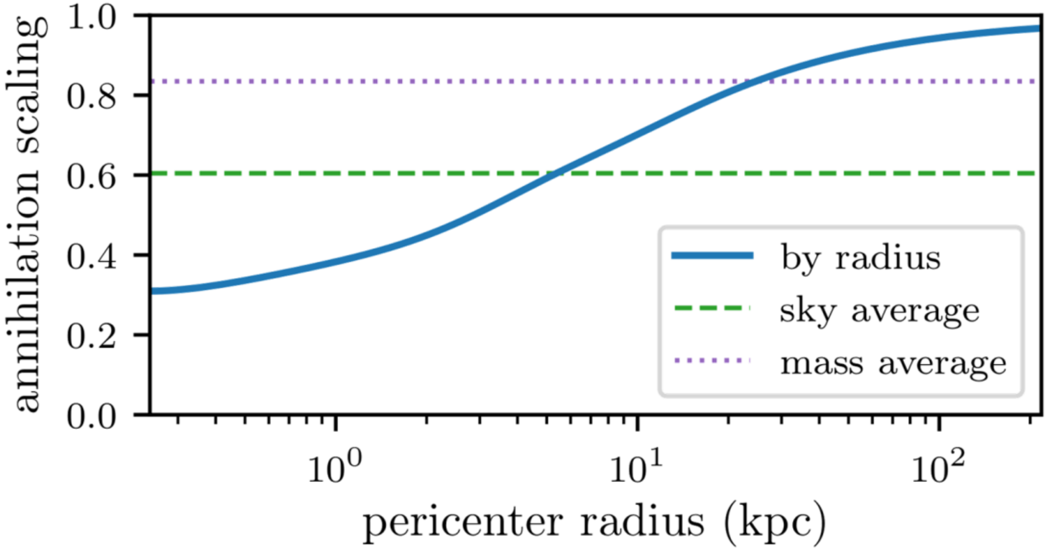
predict cusps are always preserved at sufficiently small radii

Steeper cusps are more resistant to tidal effects:

- More tightly bound
- Lower particle apocenters

Annihilation rate in a $\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusp is only logarithmically sensitive to the outer radius

Adiabatic-tides (Stücker et al) prediction for prompt cusp survival in our Galactic halo:

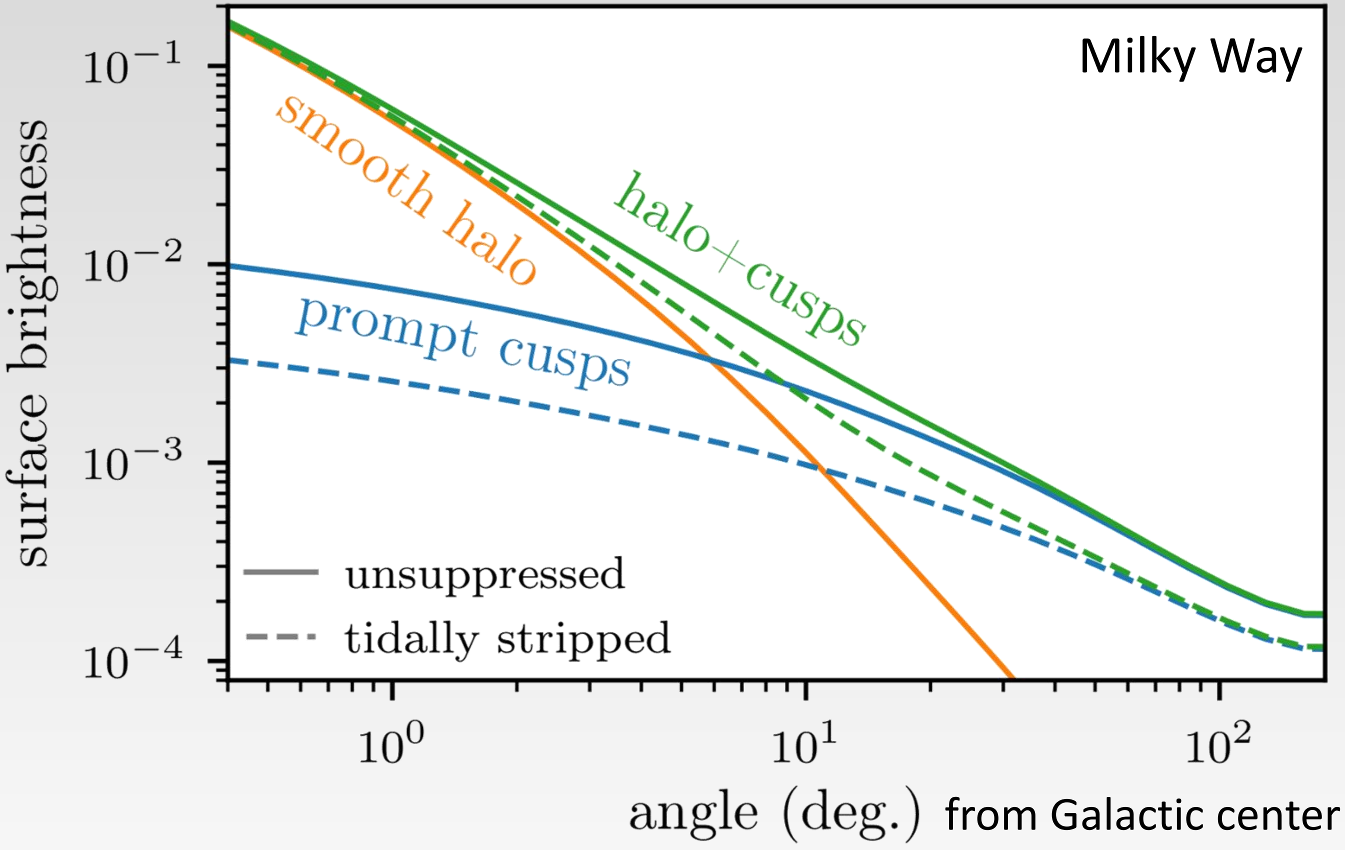


MSD & White (2022b)

Annihilation signal

Spatial distribution of annihilation signal changes:

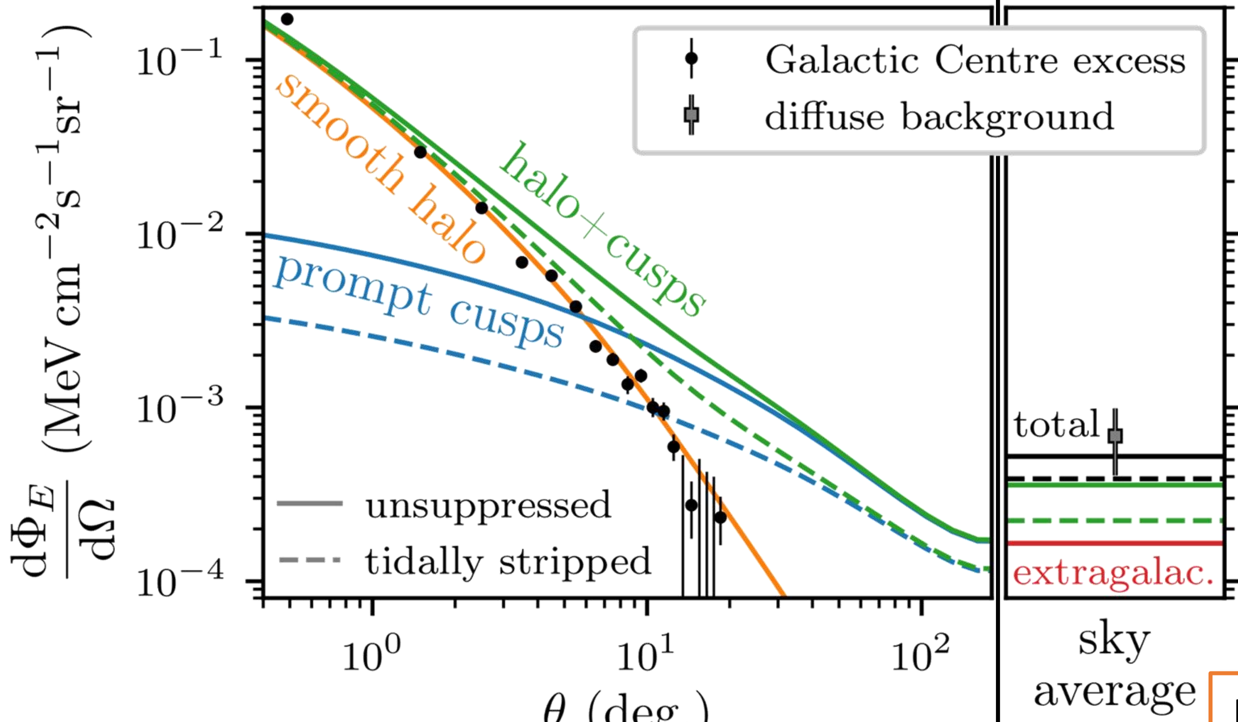
annihilation rate in prompt cusps $\propto$ smoothed density ρ, not ρ^2



from Galactic center

Prompt cusps and the Galactic Center excess

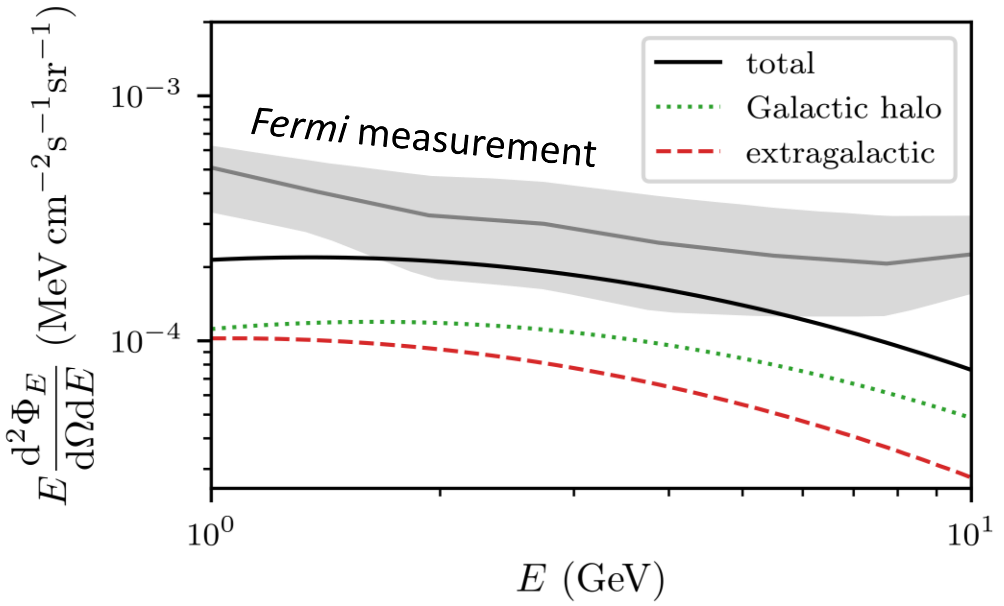
Prompt cusps alter the DM annihilation morphology (ρ, not ρ^2)



GCE is no longer consistent with annihilating DM.

Uncertainty about disruption by stars, though…

Prompt cusps boost the background annihilation signal



If GCE is annihilating DM, diffuse γ-ray background must also be largely annihilating DM…

Galactic halo mass model: Cautun et al (2020)

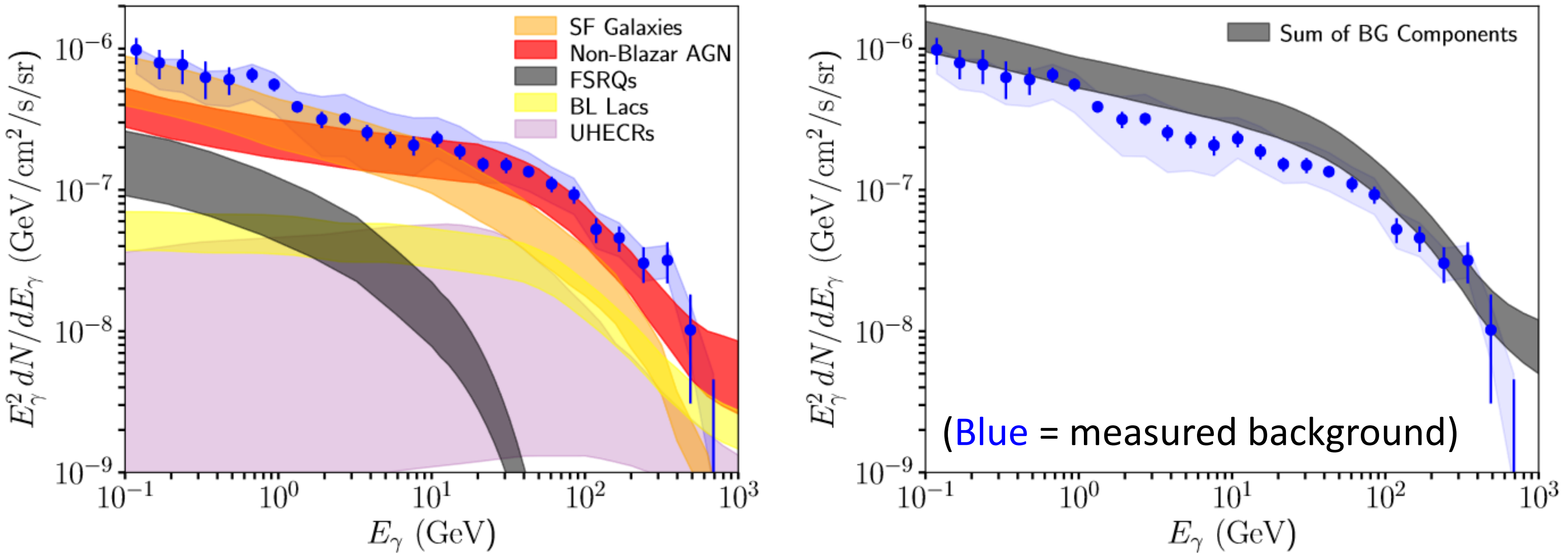
MSD & White (2022b)

Prompt cusps and the Galactic Center excess

If GCE is annihilating DM, diffuse γ-ray background must also be largely annihilating DM…

In tension with claims that almost all of the diffuse background comes from known astrophysical sources:

Blanco & Hooper (2019)

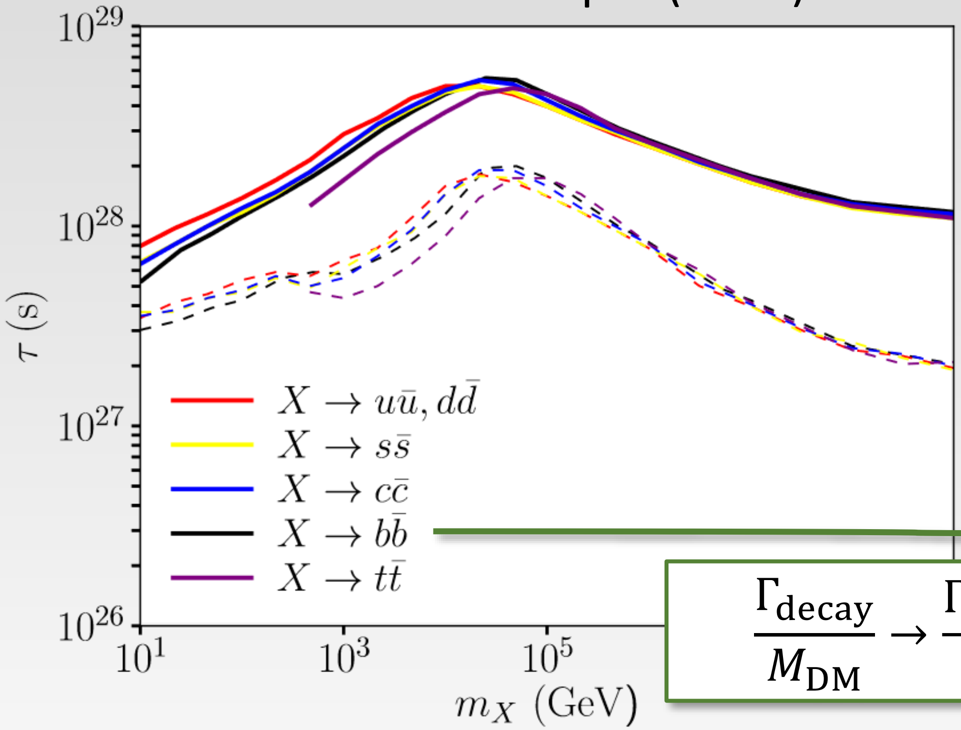


Limits on DM annihilation

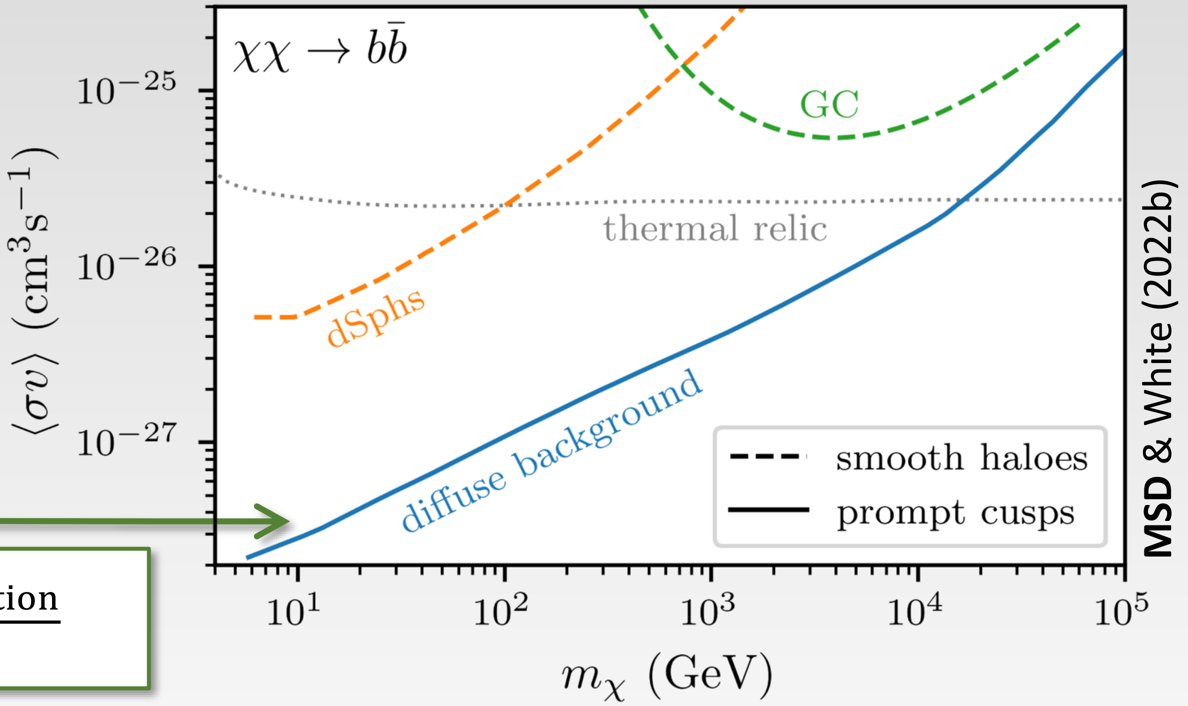
Signal from DM annihilation in unresolved prompt cusps ≃ signal from DM decay

so we can convert between them:

Blanco & Hooper (2019)



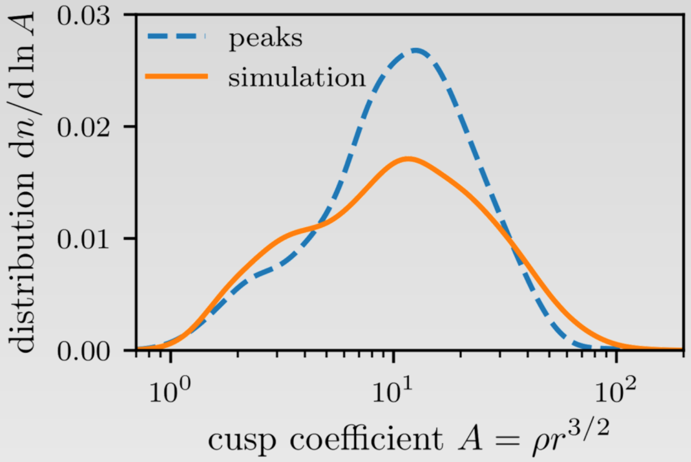
$$\frac{\Gamma_{\text{decay}}}{M_{\text{DM}}} \to \frac{\Gamma_{\text{annihilation}}}{M_{\text{DM}}}$$



(different DM candidate)

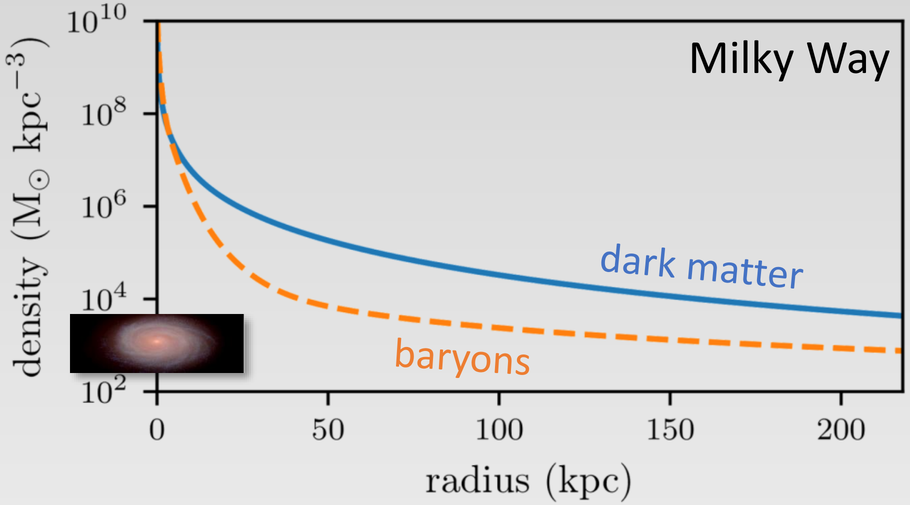
Outlook

Reduction in prompt cusp number due to mergers?



(highly unequal masses lead to subhalo, both cusps preserved)

How much disruption by stars?



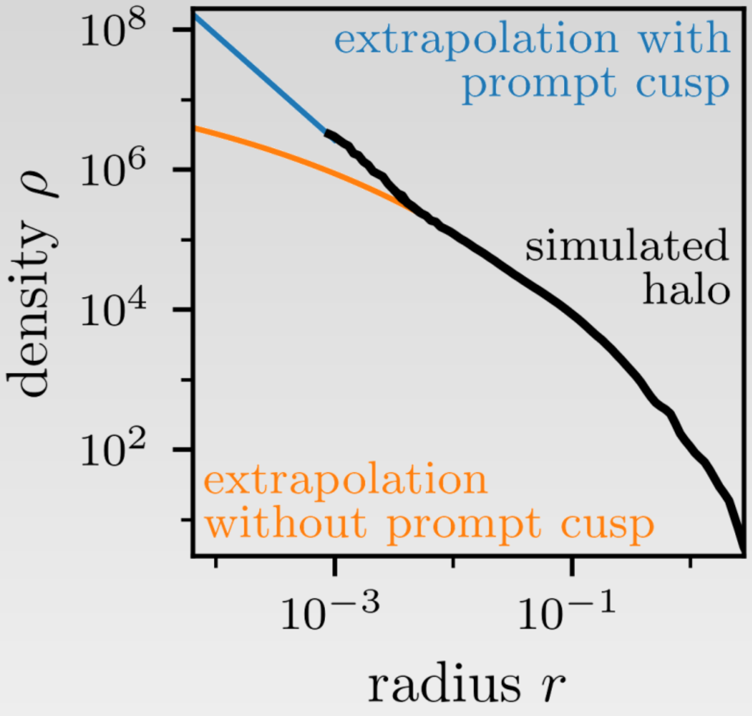
~30% of Galactic DM crosses disk

If DM is a thermal relic, expect an annihilation signal not only from the densest regions **but from diffuse regions as well**

Summary

The first halos develop prompt $\rho \propto r^{-3/2}$ cusps, which

- persist through halo growth
- are particularly resistant to subhalo evolution
- have straightforwardly predictable properties



Prompt cusps have a major impact on DM annihilation

- Boost factors can range from hundreds to thousands
- Different morphology: rate $\propto \rho$ instead of ρ^2
- Unprecedentedly strong limits on annihilating DM

If DM is a thermal relic, expect an annihilation signal not only from the densest regions **but from diffuse regions as well**