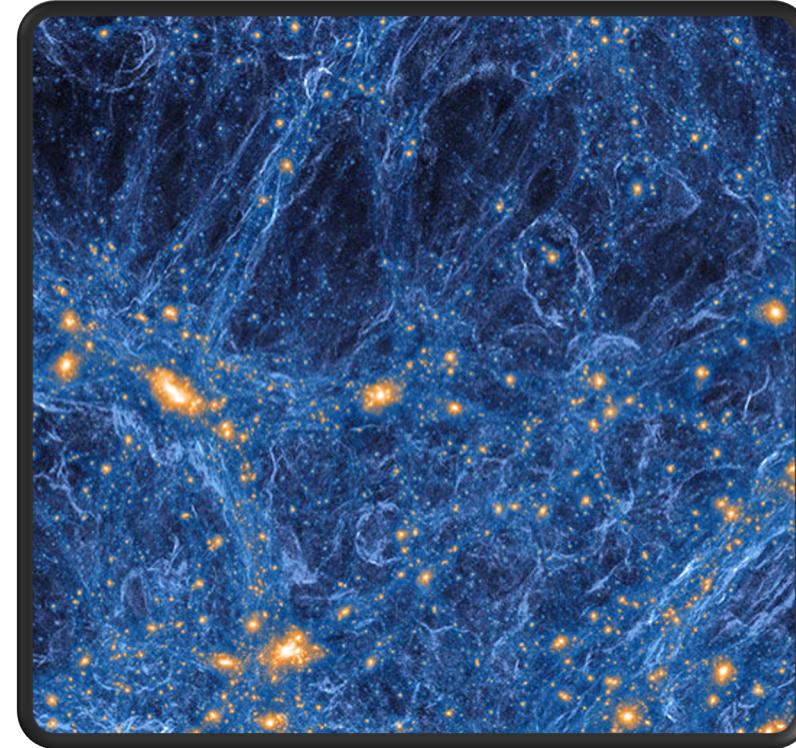


\neq



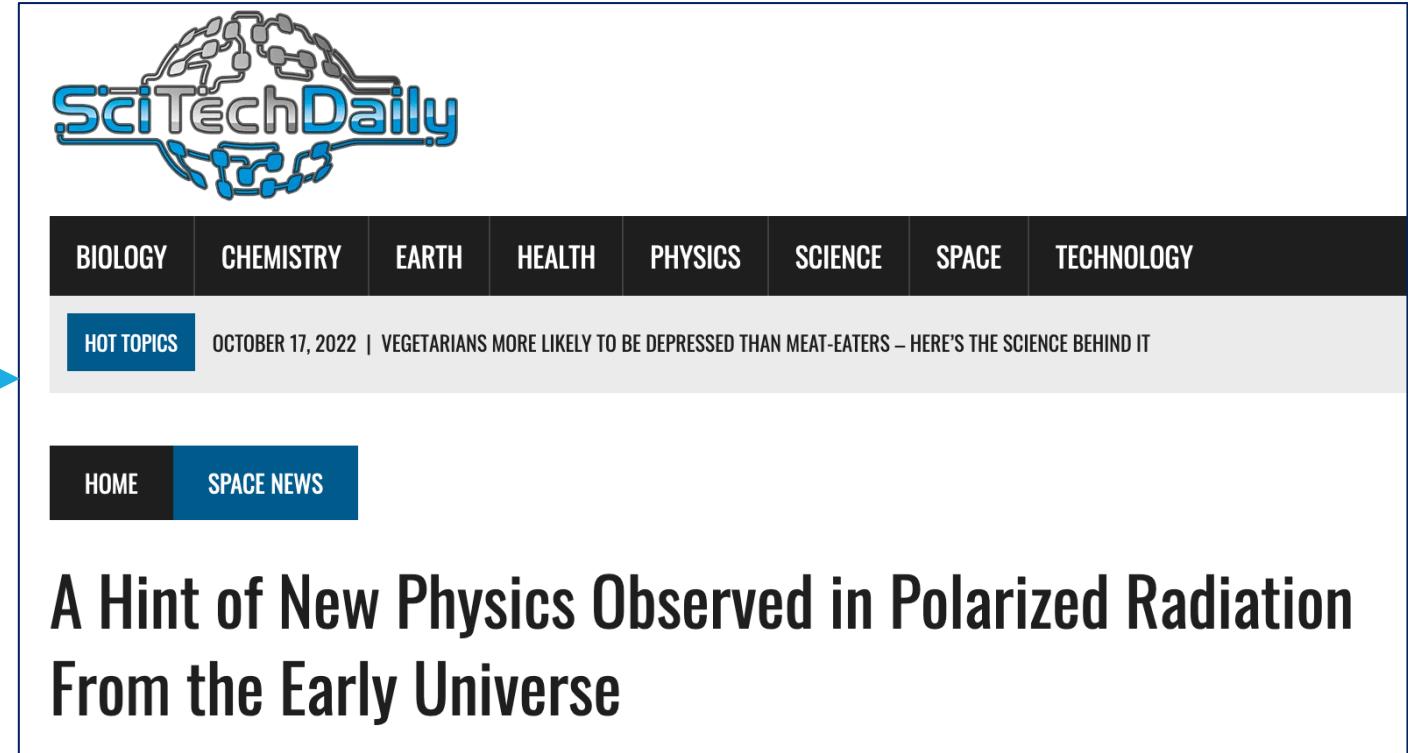
?

Hints of Cosmological Parity Violation

Oliver Philcox (Columbia / Simons Foundation)

HEP/Astro Results Forum, October 2022

November 2020
Parity-Violation from the CMB?



The SciTechDaily website features a header with the logo 'SciTechDaily' in blue and white, with a brain-like circuit board graphic. Below the logo is a navigation bar with categories: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, EARTH, HEALTH, PHYSICS, SCIENCE, SPACE, and TECHNOLOGY. A 'HOT TOPICS' section is visible, along with the date 'OCTOBER 17, 2022 | VEGETARIANS MORE LIKELY TO BE DEPRESSED THAN MEAT-EATERS – HERE'S THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT'. At the bottom of the header are 'HOME' and 'SPACE NEWS' buttons. The main article title is 'A Hint of New Physics Observed in Polarized Radiation From the Early Universe'.



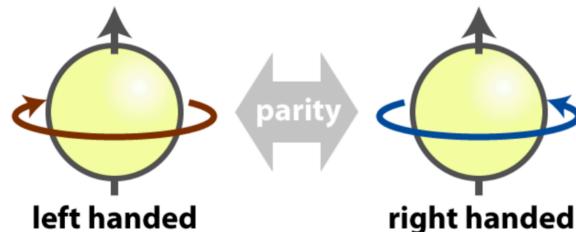
The NewScientist website has a 'NEWSLETTERS' section with a 'Sign up' button. The main navigation menu includes News, Podcasts, Video, Technology, Space (which is underlined), Physics, Health, More, Shop, Courses, and Events. The main headline is 'The universe is surprisingly lopsided and we don't know why'. A subtext below it states: 'Two analyses of a million galaxies show that their distribution may not be symmetrical, which may mean that our understandings of gravity and the early universe are incorrect'.

June 2022
Parity-Violation from Galaxies?

Minami+20, Philcox 22, Hou+22

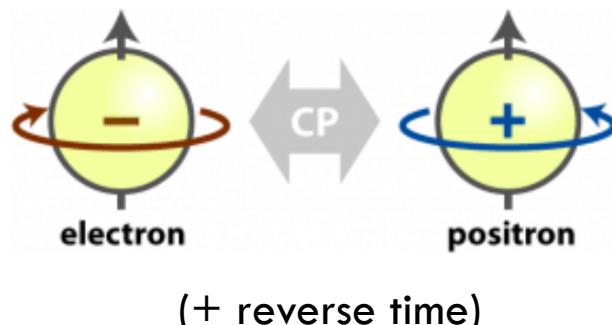
PARITY SYMMETRY IN PHYSICS

- ▶ Parity symmetry = symmetry under **point reflection**



$$\mathbb{P}[f(x_1, x_2, \dots)] = f(-x_1, -x_2, \dots)$$

- ▶ Physics obeys **Charge-Parity-Time** symmetry:



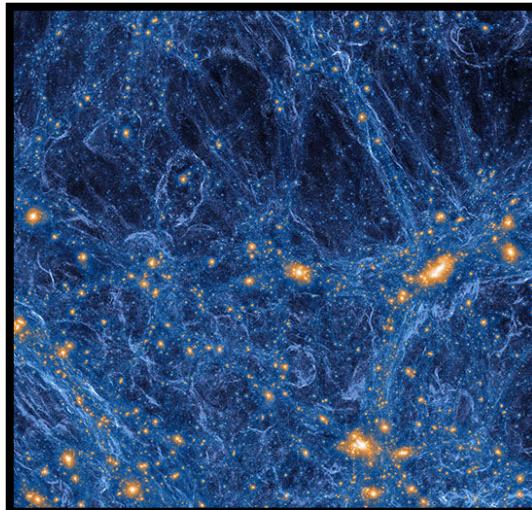
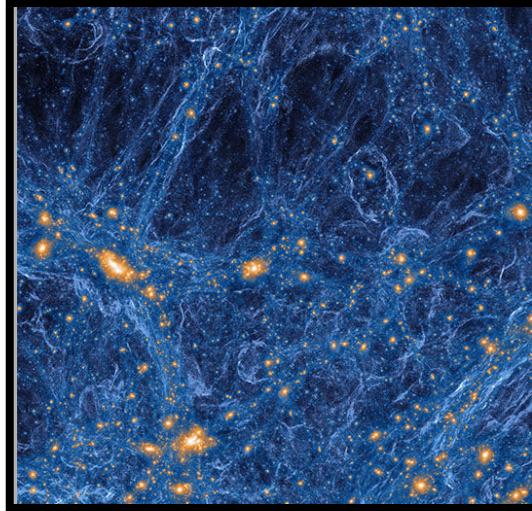
$$f^+(x, t) = f^-(-x, -t)$$

PARITY SYMMETRY IN COSMOLOGY

Large-scale cosmology is controlled by **GR**:

- ▷ No dependence on **charge**
 - ▷ **Time** reversible
- ⇒ Cosmology should be **parity-symmetric**

$$\mathbb{P}[f(x_1, x_2, \dots)] = f(x_1, x_2, \dots)$$



These should be
statistically
indistinguishable!

PARITY-VIOLATION EXISTS IN NATURE

► Human-scale physics is **not** parity-symmetric

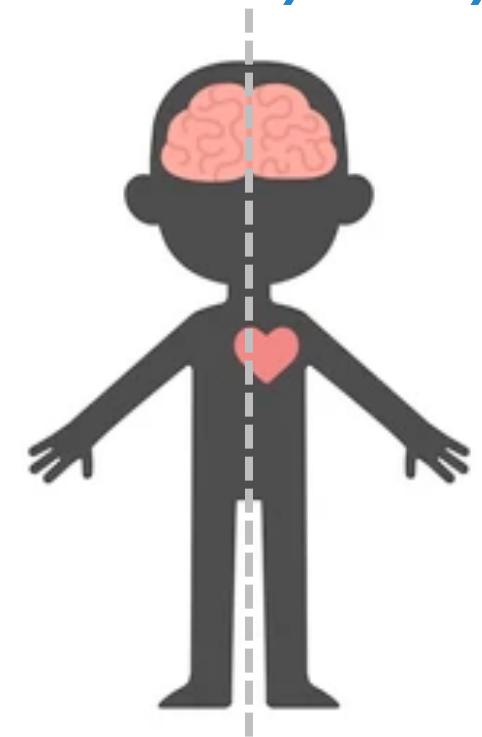
► Chemistry is controlled by the weak force!

► **Baryogenesis** violates charge-parity symmetry

$$n_{\text{Baryon}} \neq n_{\text{Anti-Baryon}}$$

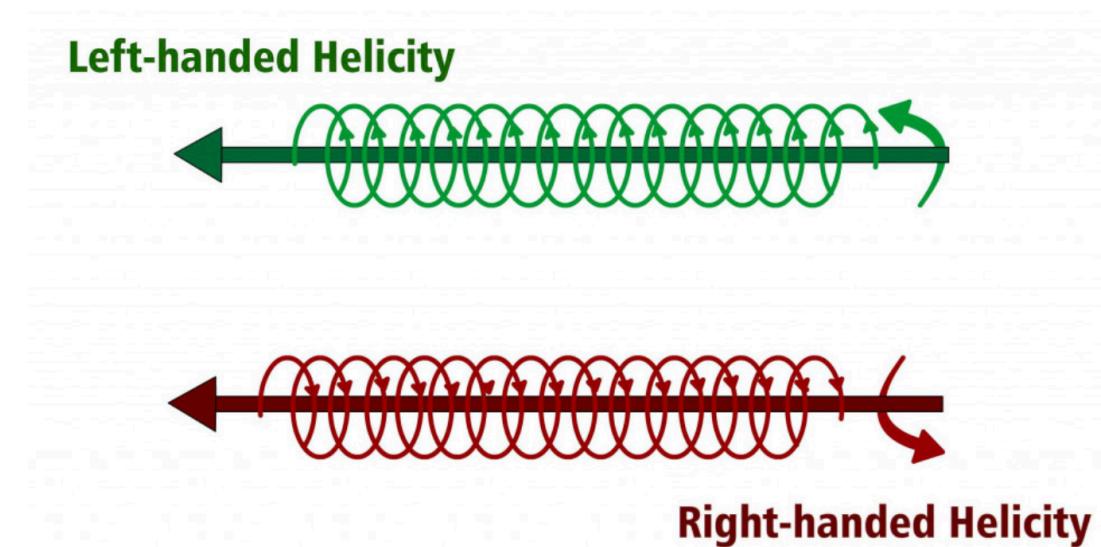
Non-Gravitational Physics can break parity invariance

No mirror symmetry!



PARITY-VIOLATION IN COSMOLOGY

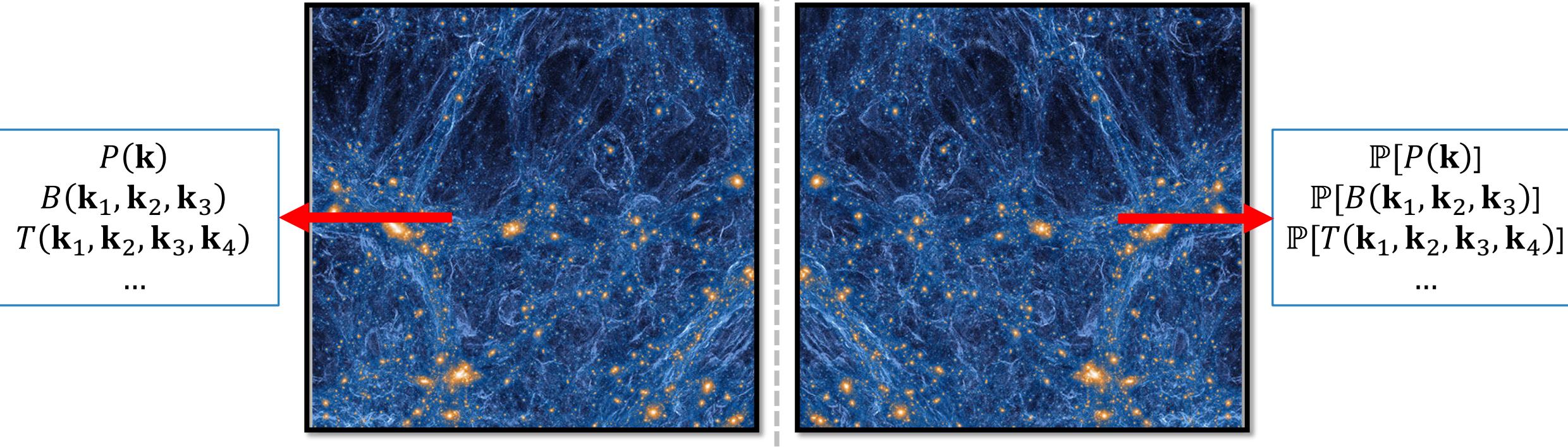
- ▷ Where could parity-violation come from?
- ▷ Cosmic Inflation
- ▷ Reheating
- ▷ Exotic late-time physics



Usually, this requires vectors / tensors!

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) = v_L \mathbf{e}_L(\mathbf{x}) + v_R \mathbf{e}_R(\mathbf{x}) \quad \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{e}_{L/R}] = \mathbf{e}_{R/L}$$

HOW TO SEARCH FOR PARITY VIOLATION



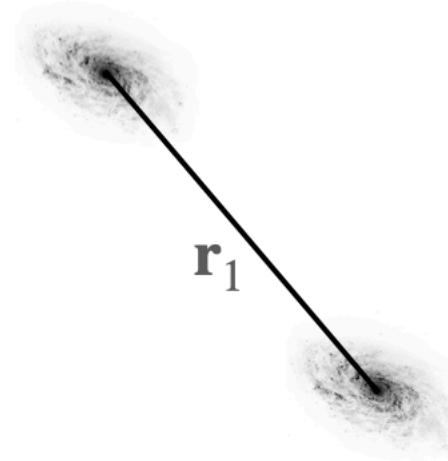
Which statistics are sensitive to parity?

$$X - \mathbb{P}[X] = ?$$

SEARCHING FOR SCALAR PARITY VIOLATION

Let's start with **scalar** observables, e.g.:

- Galaxy **overdensity** [δ_g]
- CMB **temperature** [T]



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Simplest observable

Power Spectrum / 2-Point Function (2PCF)

But parity inversion = rotation

⇒ No signal!

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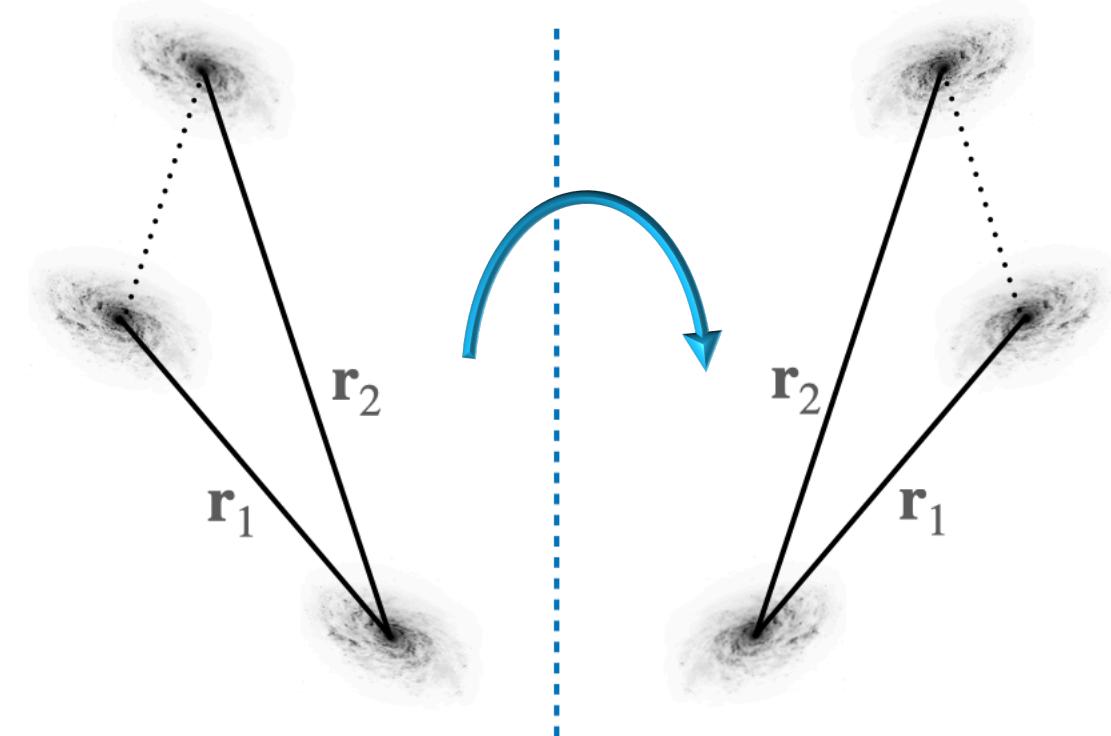
Let's start with **scalar** observables, e.g.:

- Galaxy **overdensity** [δ_g]
- CMB **temperature** [T]

Next observable

Bispectrum / 3-Point Function (3PCF)

*Still parity inversion = rotation
⇒ No signal!*



$$\zeta_3(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)$$

$$\mathbb{P} [\zeta_3(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)]$$

SEARCHING FOR SCALAR PARITY VIOLATION

Let's start with **scalar** observables, e.g.:

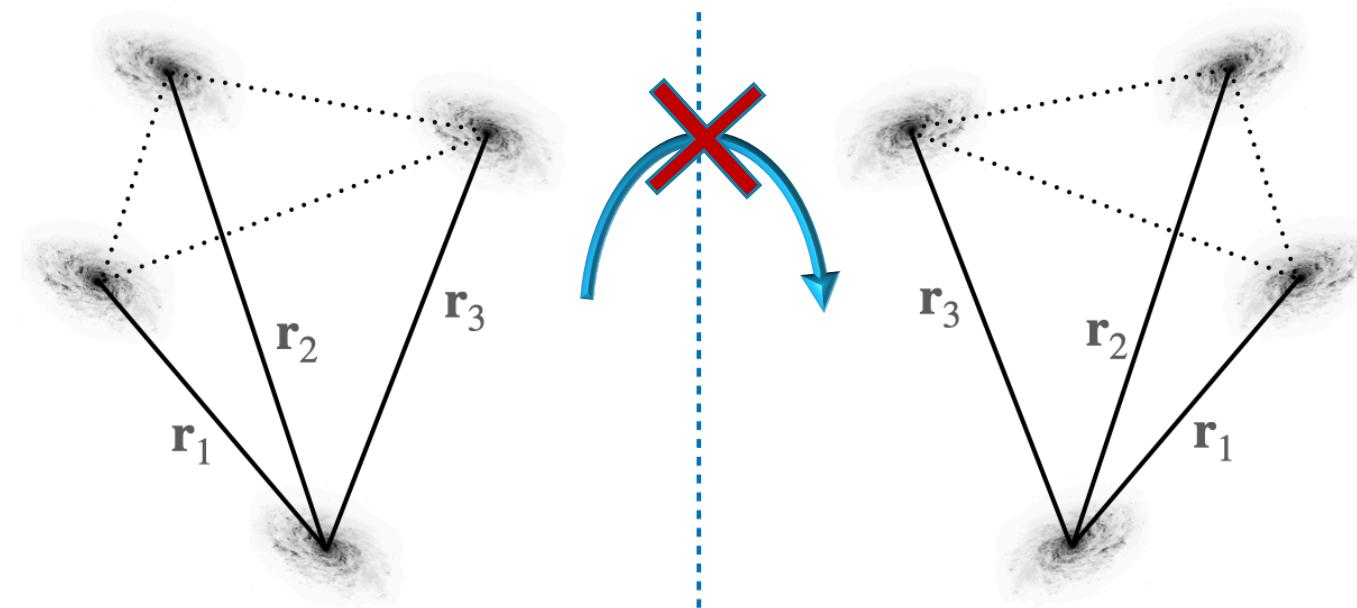
- Galaxy **overdensity** [δ_g]
- CMB **temperature** [T]

Next next observable

Trispectrum / 4-Point Function (4PCF)

Finally parity inversion \neq rotation

⇒ We can get a signal!



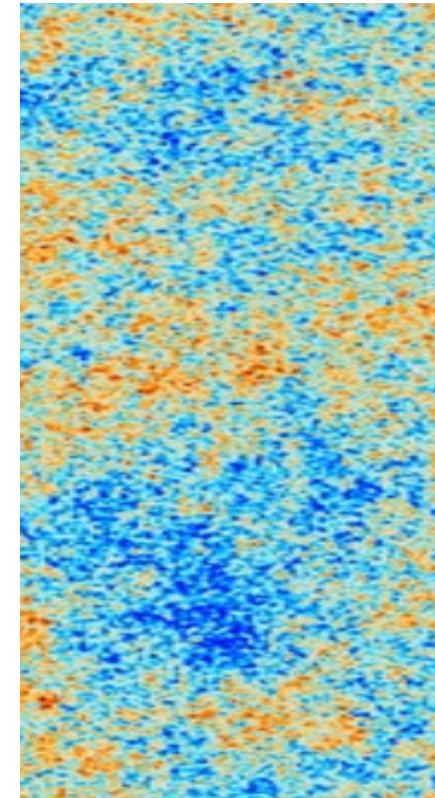
$$\zeta_4(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)$$

$$\mathbb{P} [\zeta_4(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)]$$

SEARCHING FOR TENSOR PARITY VIOLATION

For **vector/tensor** observables, e.g.:

- CMB polarization [E, B]
- Galaxy shear [$\gamma^{E,B}$]



SEARCHING FOR TENSOR PARITY VIOLATION

For **vector/tensor** observables, e.g.:

- CMB polarization $[E, B]$
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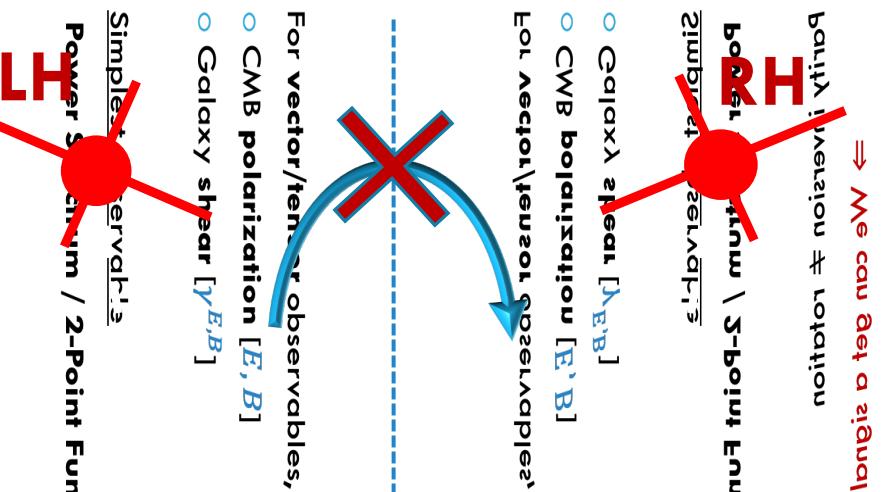
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Power Spectrum / 2-Point Function (2PCF)

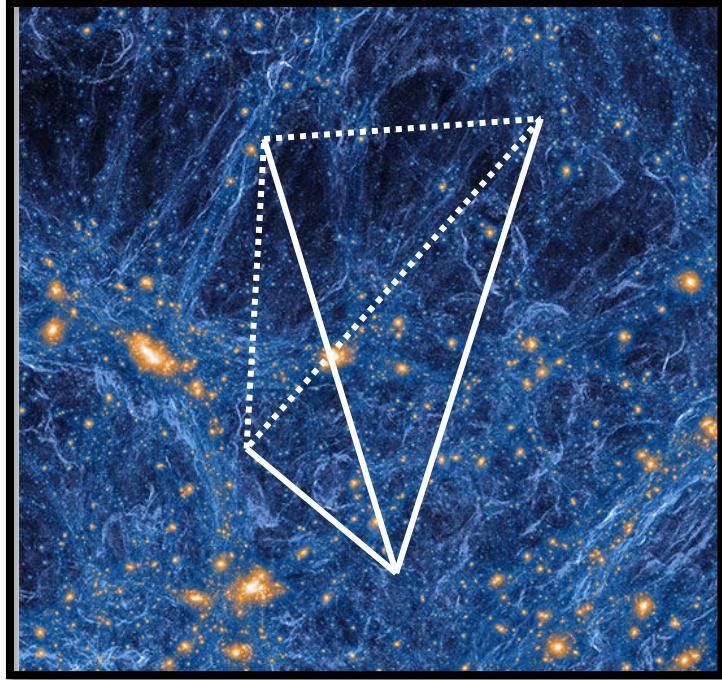
Parity inversion \neq rotation

\Rightarrow We can get a signal!

$$C_\ell^{TB} \neq 0$$

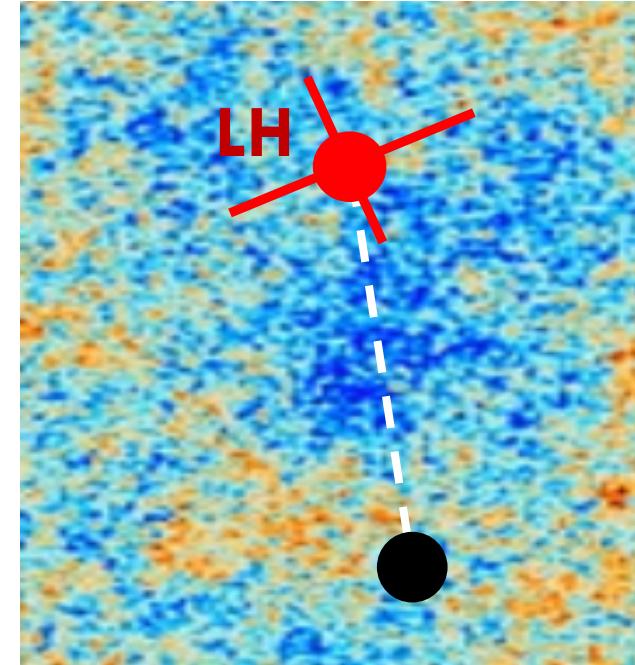


PARITY SENSITIVE OBSERVABLES



Scalars: $\zeta_4 - \mathbb{P}[\zeta_4]$

Look in galaxy surveys or CMB!

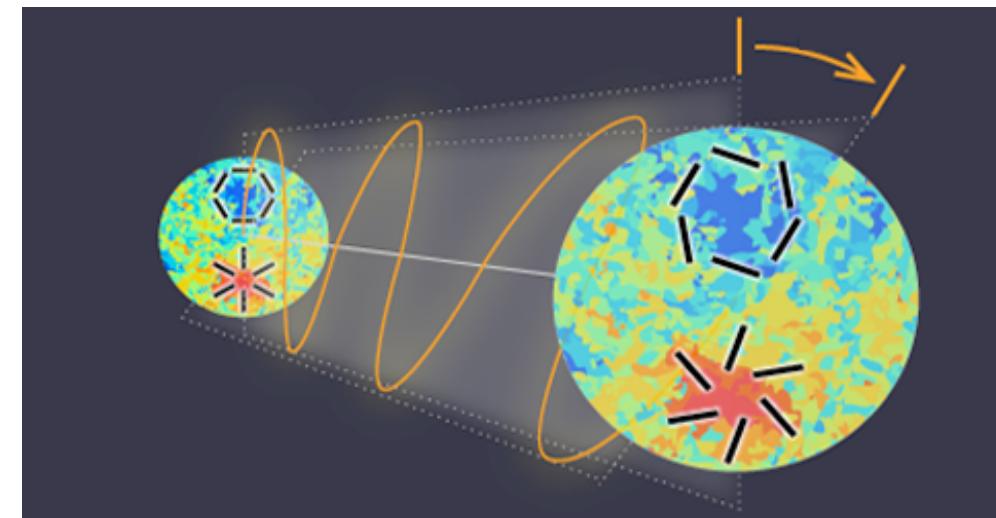


Tensors: $C_\ell^{TB}, C_\ell^{EB}, B_{\ell_1 \ell_2 \ell_3}^{TTB}, \dots$

Look in the CMB and cosmic shear!

OBSERVATION #1: COSMIC BIREFRINGENCE

The screenshot shows the SciTechDaily website. At the top is the logo "SciTechDaily" with a brain icon. Below it is a navigation bar with categories: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, EARTH, HEALTH, PHYSICS, SCIENCE, SPACE, and TECHNOLOGY. A "HOT TOPICS" section displays the headline "OCTOBER 17, 2022 | VEGETARIANS MORE LIKELY TO BE DEPRESSED THAN MEAT-EATERS – HERE'S THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT". At the bottom are links for "HOME" and "SPACE NEWS". The main content area features a large title: "A Hint of New Physics Observed in Polarized Radiation From the Early Universe".



$$C_\ell^{EB} \neq 0 \text{ in Planck!}$$

(after careful correction for calibration errors)

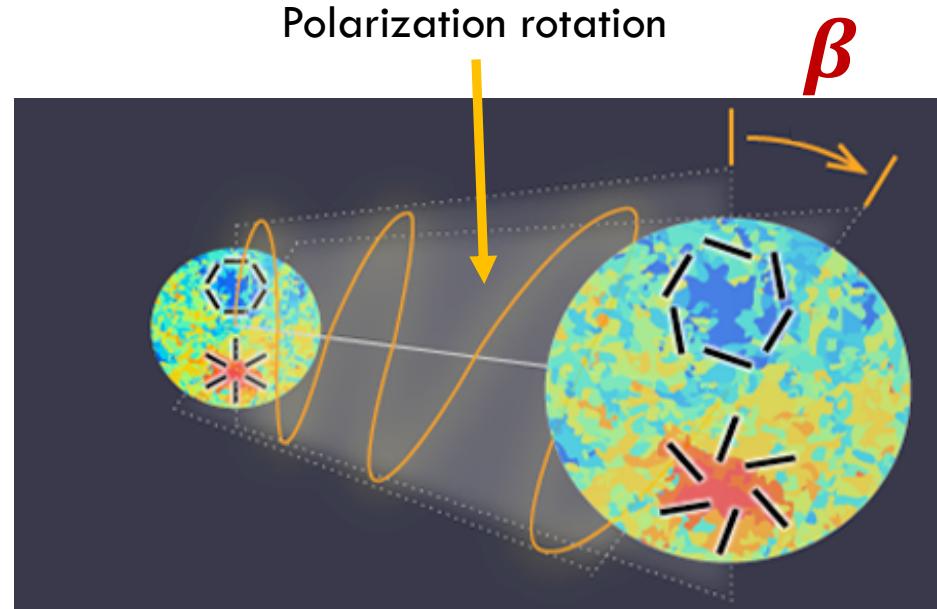
OBSERVATION #1: COSMIC BIREFRINGENCE

Hypothesis:

- ▷ Emitted CMB is parity-symmetric ($C_\ell^{EB} = 0$)
- ▷ Photon polarization plane **rotated** at late times
- ▷ **E-modes** transformed into **B-modes**
- ▷ Observed CMB is **not** parity symmetric ($C_\ell^{EB} \neq 0$)

Rotation angle $\beta = (0.30 \pm 0.11)^\circ [2.7\sigma]$

[Could also be sourced by inflation, but would give unobserved C_ℓ^{BB} signals]



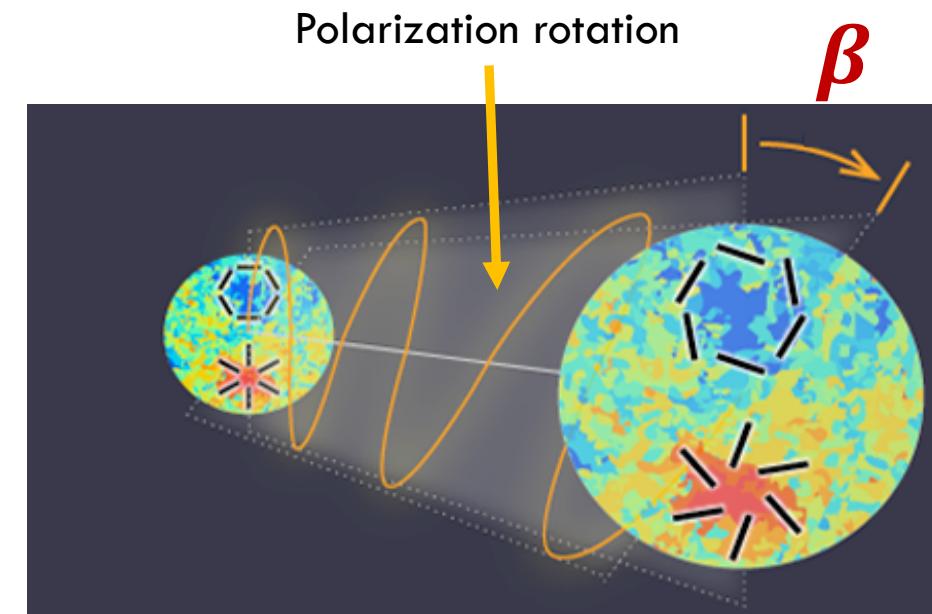
$$C_\ell^{EB} = \frac{1}{2} \sin 4\beta (C_\ell^{EE} - C_\ell^{BB})$$

PROPOSED EXPLANATION: AXION-PHOTON COUPLING

CMB photons could be coupled to **axion-like particles** via a **Chern-Simons** coupling

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{4} g_{\phi\gamma} \phi F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu},$$

Axion Photon



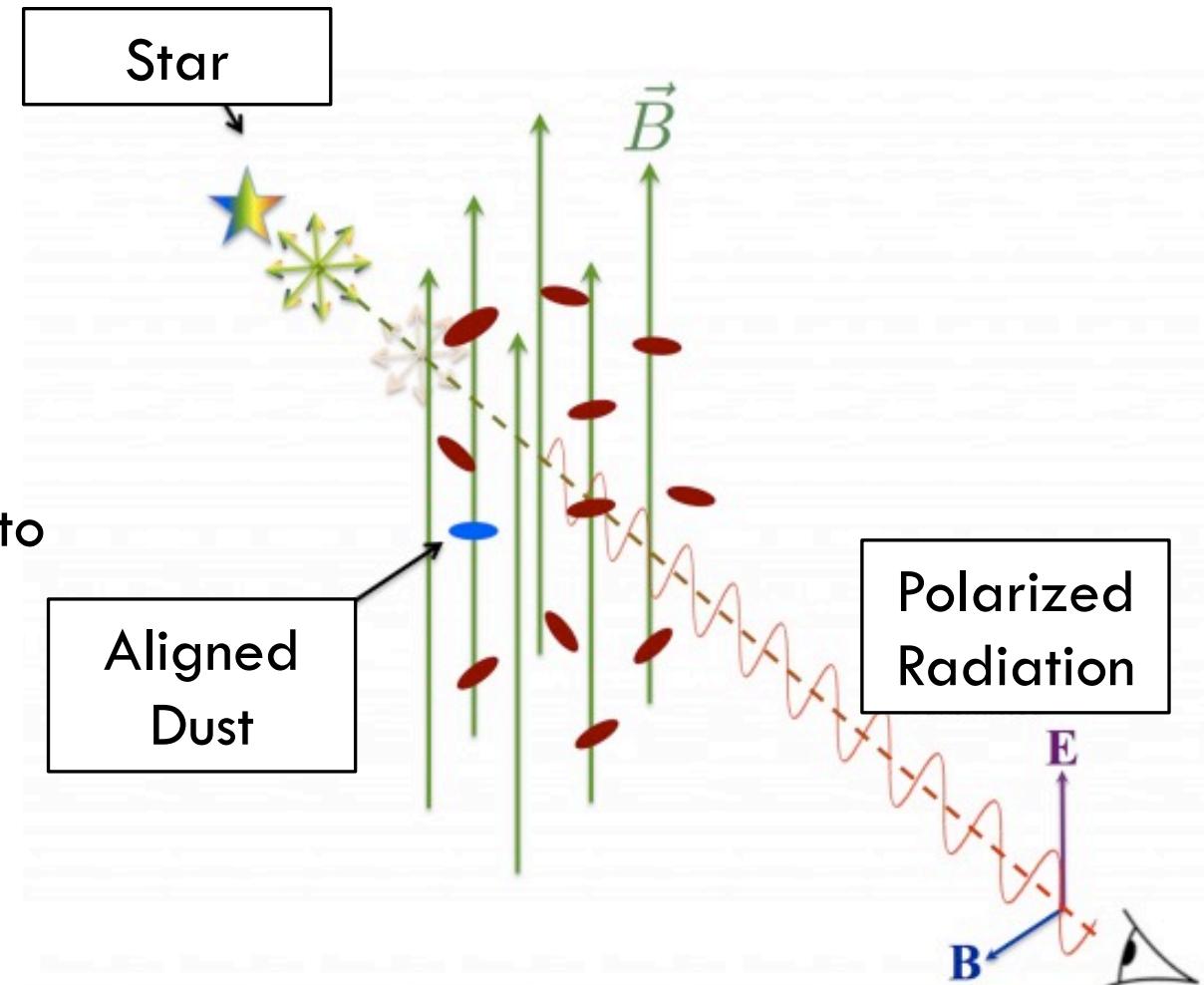
Axion interactions rotate the polarization plane!

$$\beta \propto g_{\phi\gamma} \int dt \dot{\phi} \Rightarrow g_{\phi\gamma} \neq 0?$$

$$C_\ell^{EB} = \frac{1}{2} \sin 4\beta (C_\ell^{EE} - C_\ell^{BB})$$

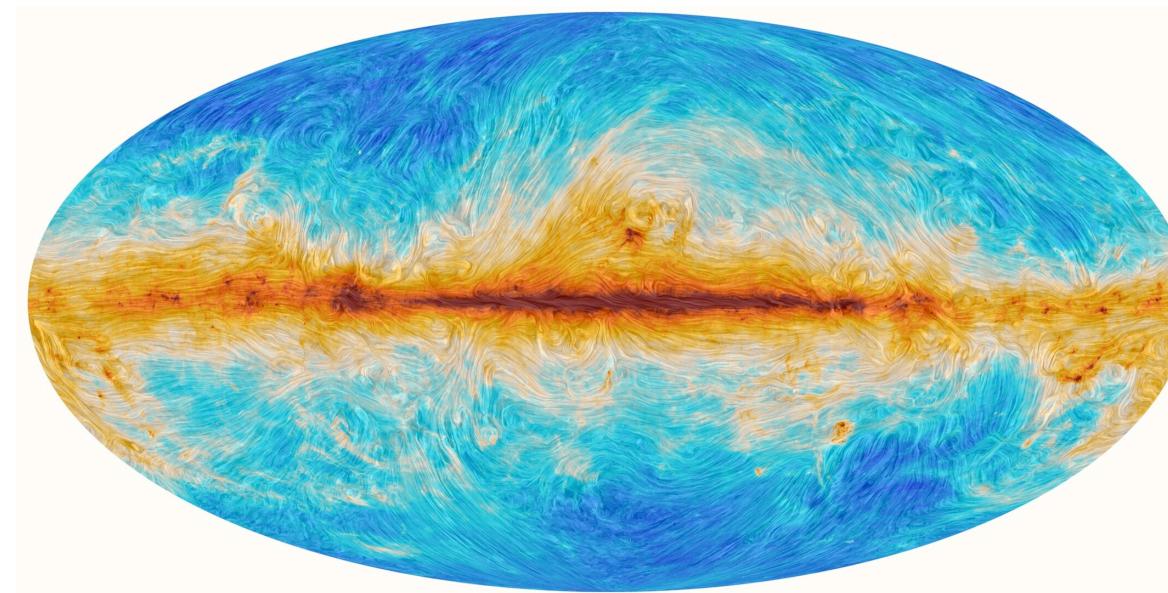
BUT: WHAT ABOUT DUST?

- ▷ Galactic dust absorbs and emits **stellar radiation**
- ▷ Spinning dust grains **align** perpendicular to the Galactic **magnetic field**
- ▷ This gives **polarized emission!**



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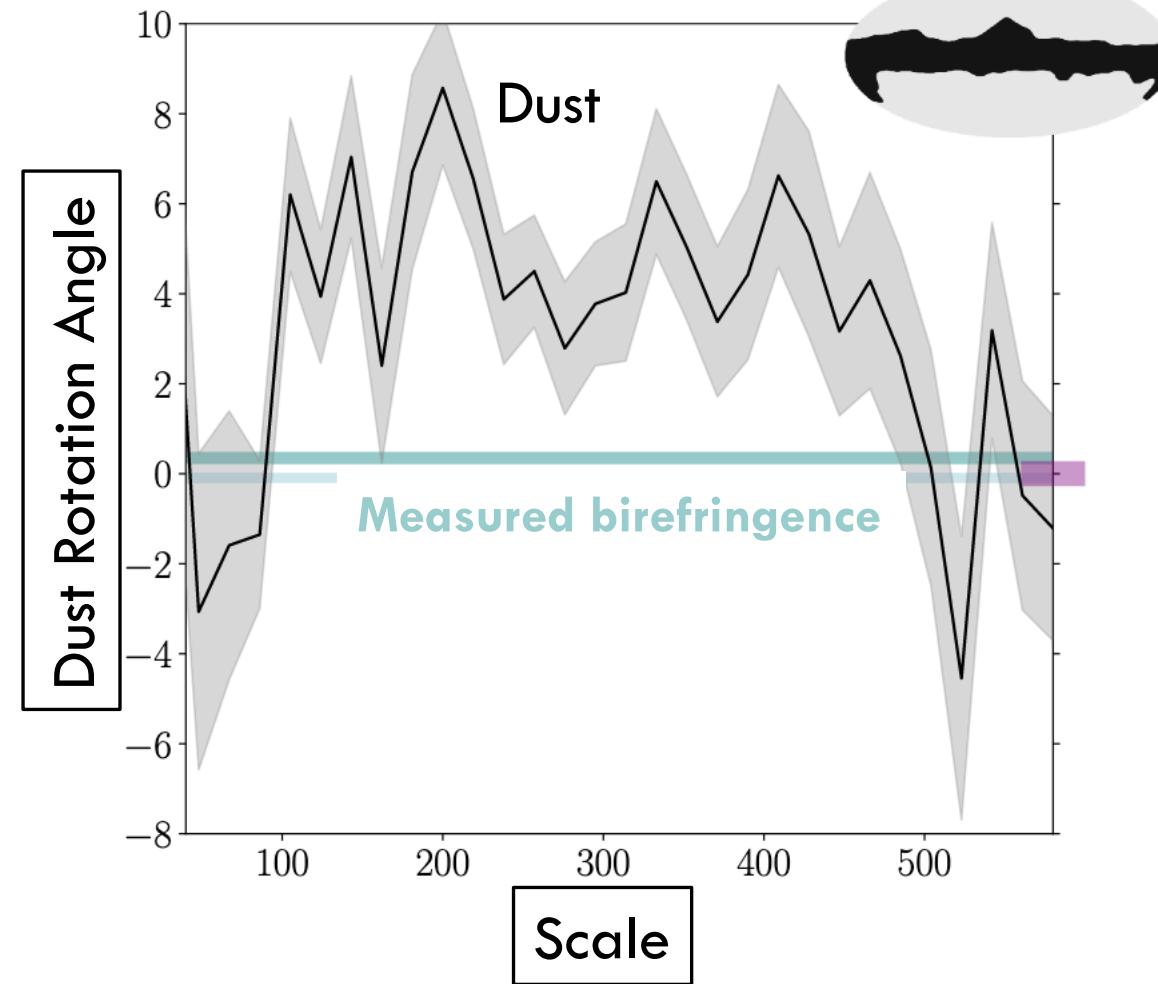
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Dust Polarization Map

BUT: WHAT ABOUT DUST?

- ▶ Since **magnetic fields** are involved, polarized dust emission can **break parity-symmetry** and **generate** C_{ℓ}^{EB}
- ▶ **Dust rotation angle** could explain the observed signal!
- ▶ Not resolved yet - most recent paper says:
"High-precision CMB data and a characterization of dust beyond the modified blackbody paradigm are needed to obtain a definitive measurement..."



OBSERVATION #2: GALAXY FOUR-POINT FUNCTIONS

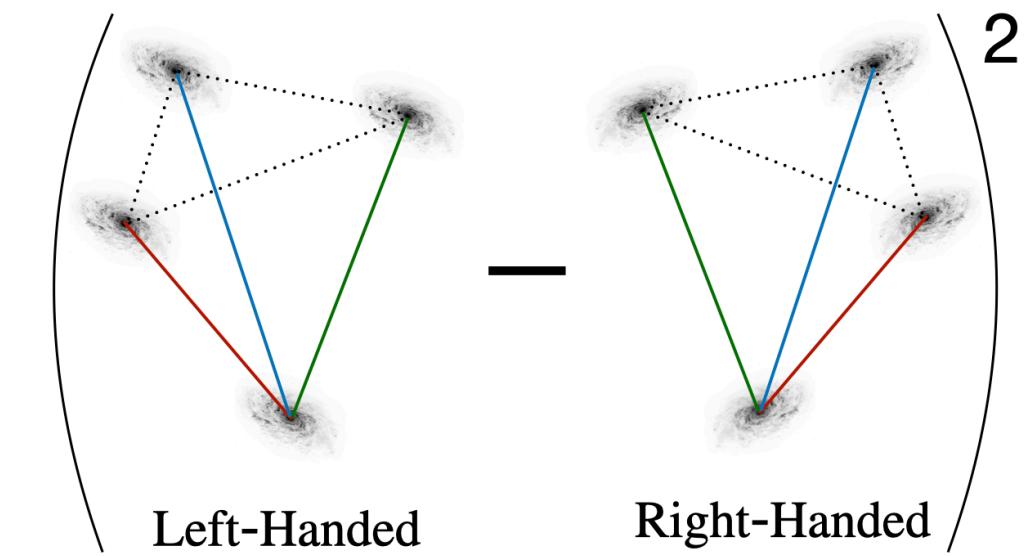
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The universe is surprisingly lopsided and we don't know why

Two analyses of a million galaxies show that their distribution may not be symmetrical, which may mean that our understandings of gravity and the early universe are incorrect



$\zeta_4 - \mathbb{P}[\zeta_4] \neq 0$ in BOSS!

THE GALAXY 4-POINT FUNCTION

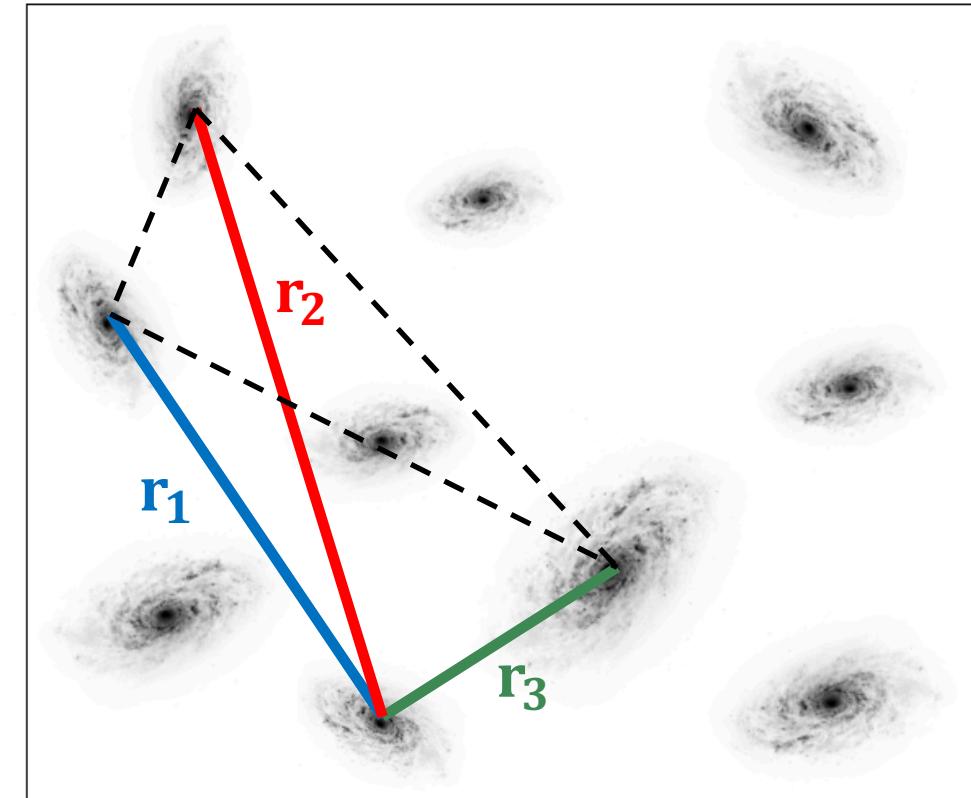
Four-point correlation function (4PCF)

=

Probability of finding a galaxy **tetrahedron**
of a given shape

$$\zeta_4(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3) = \langle \delta_g(\mathbf{x})\delta_g(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}_1)\delta_g(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}_2)\delta_g(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}_3) \rangle_c$$

New methods allow this to be computed
efficiently!



THE GALAXY 4-POINT FUNCTION

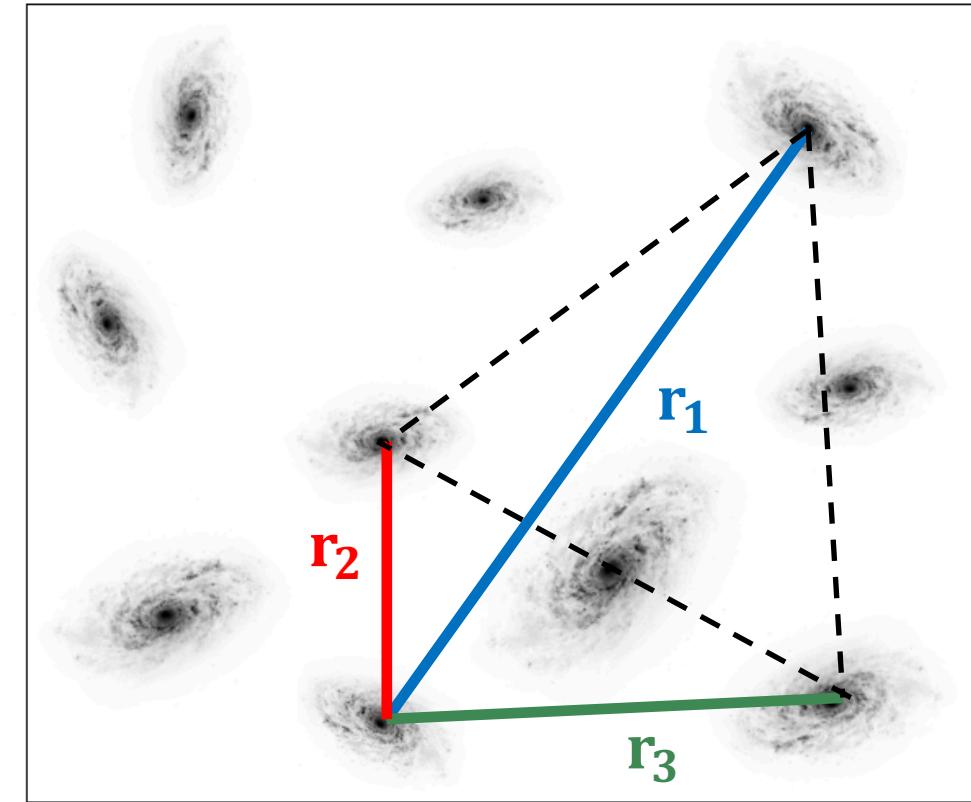
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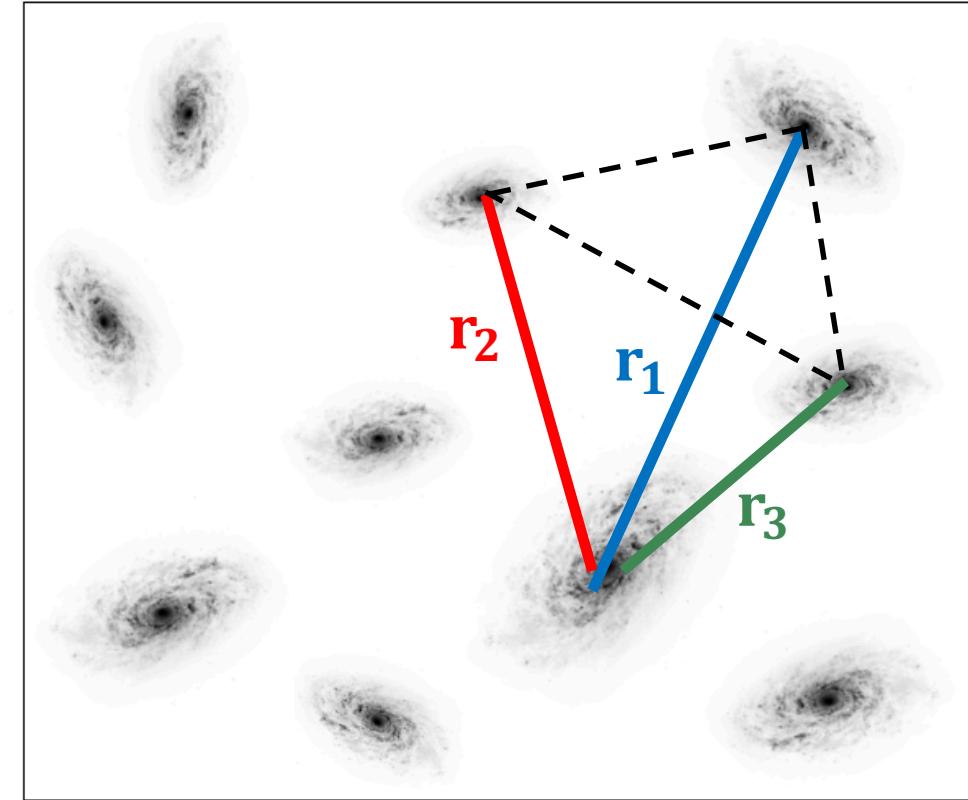
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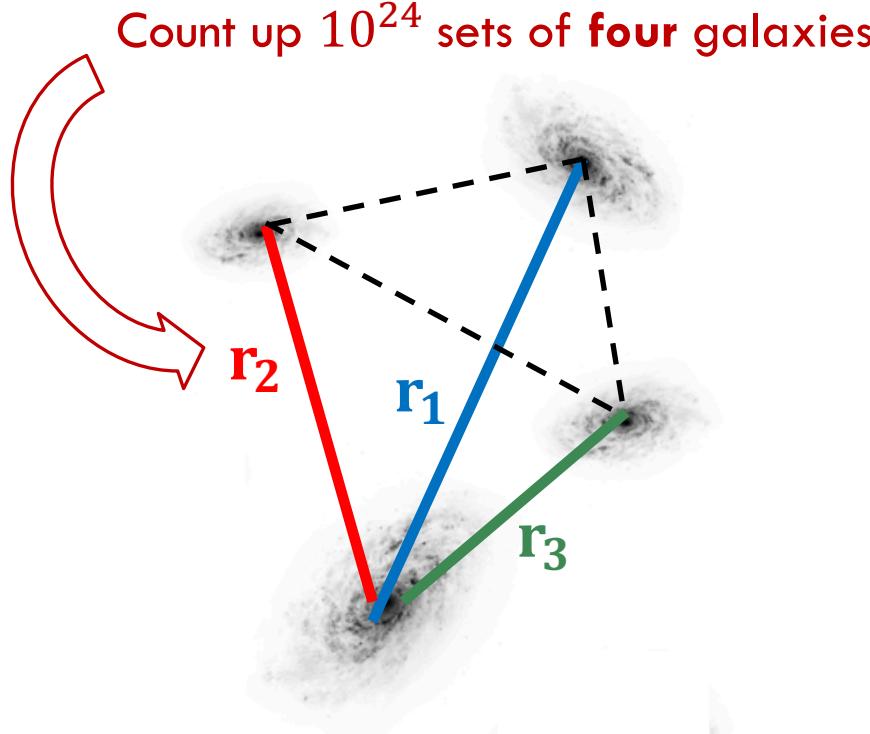
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ONE TETRAHEDRON = THREE VECTORS



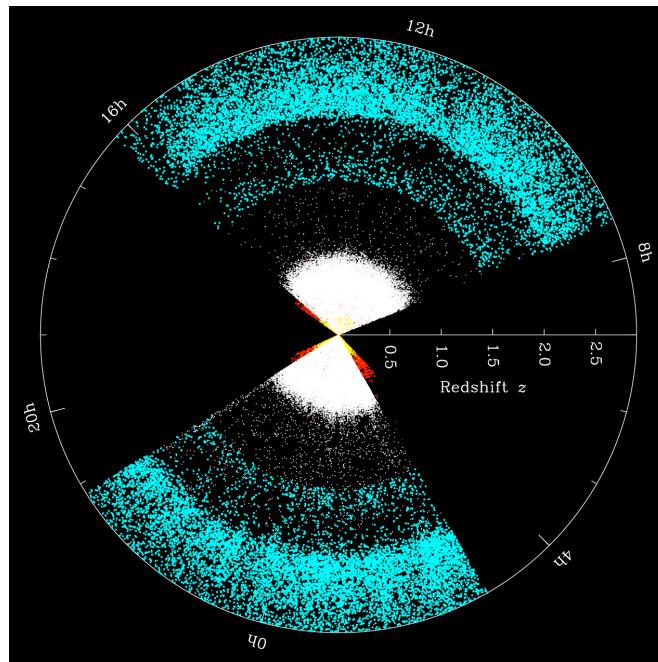
3 lengths + 3 angles

See GitHub.com/oliverphilcox/encore, GitHub.com/oliverphilcox/NPCFs.jl

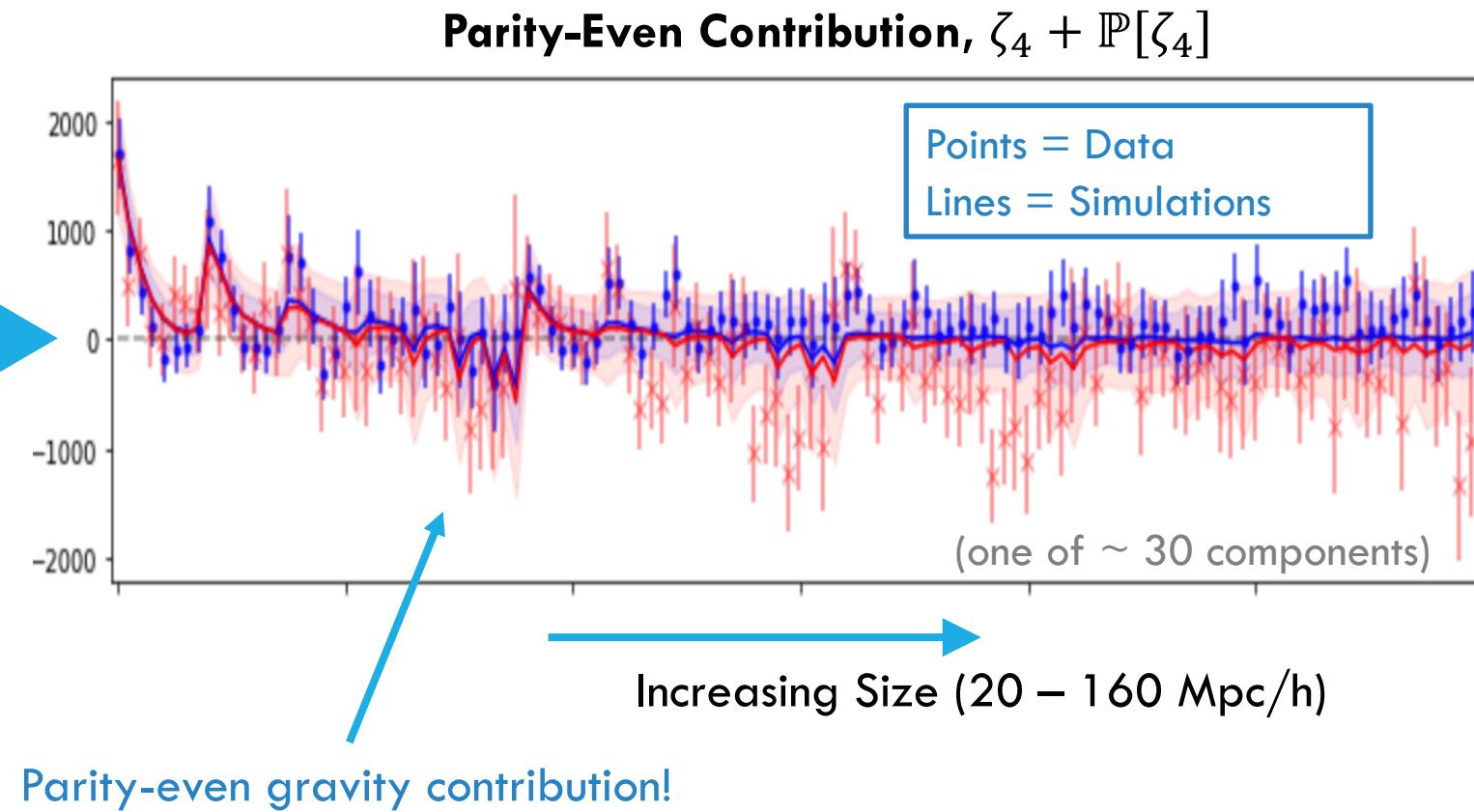
Philcox+21

THE OBSERVED FOUR-POINT FUNCTION

We measure the 4PCF from $\approx 10^6$ BOSS galaxies

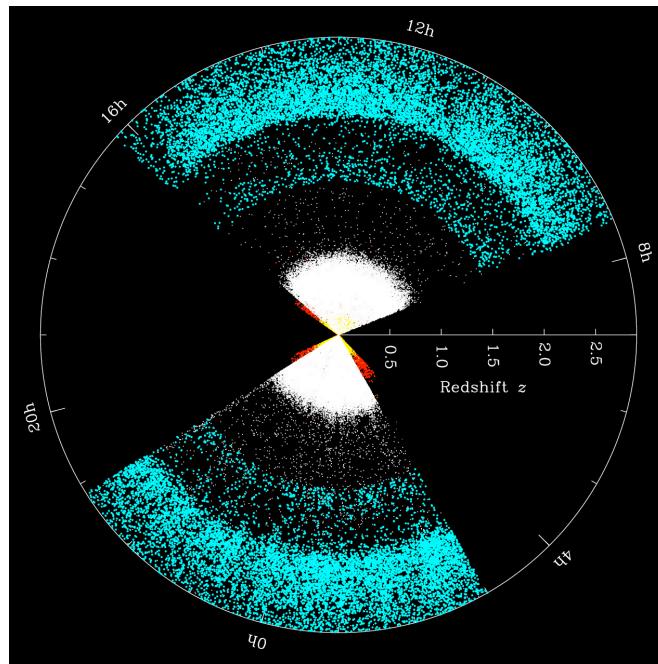


Galaxy Positions

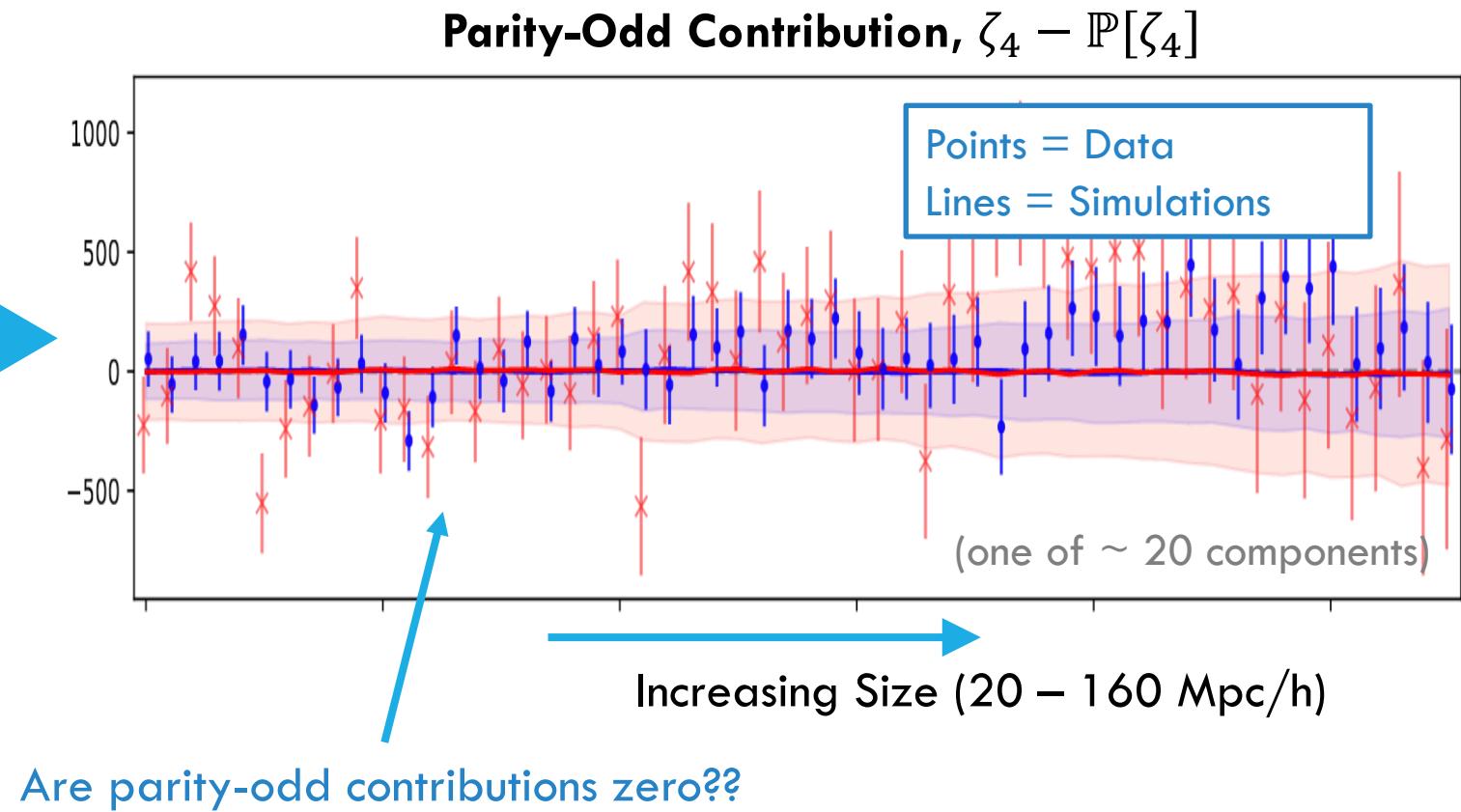


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Galaxy Positions



ANALYZING THE 4PCF

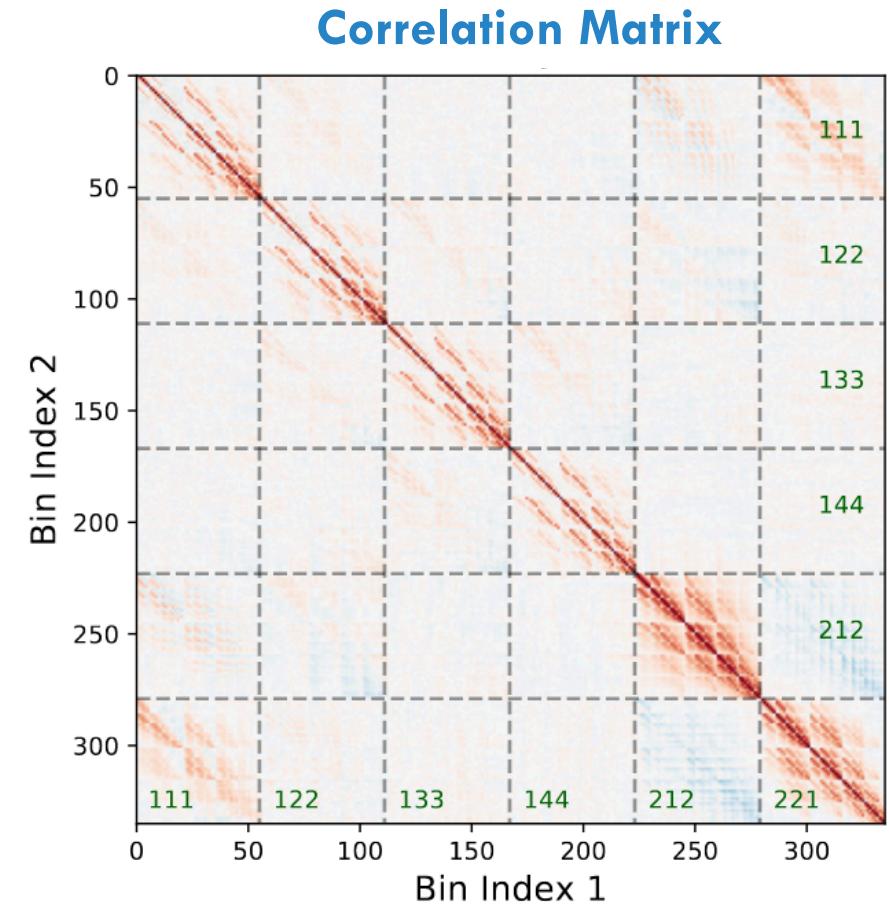
$$\zeta^{\text{odd}} = \frac{1}{2} (\zeta_4 - \mathbb{P}[\zeta_4])$$

- ▶ The 4PCF is a **high-dimensional** object with $\sim 10^3$ **correlated bins**

Standard analysis procedure: look at χ^2

$$\chi^2 \equiv \zeta^{\text{odd}} \text{Cov}_{\zeta}^{-1} \zeta^{\text{odd}}$$

- ▶ Model **covariance** analytically
- ▶ Assume a **Gaussian** likelihood



ANALYZING THE 4PCF

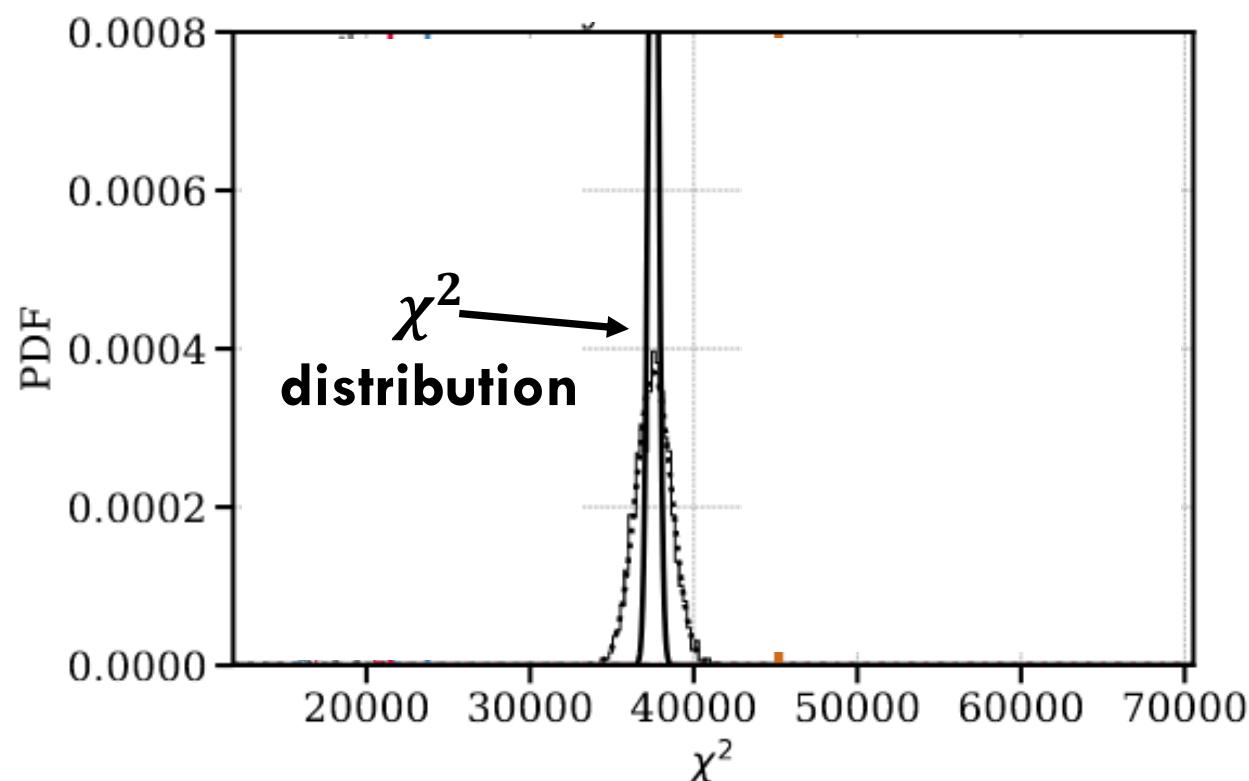
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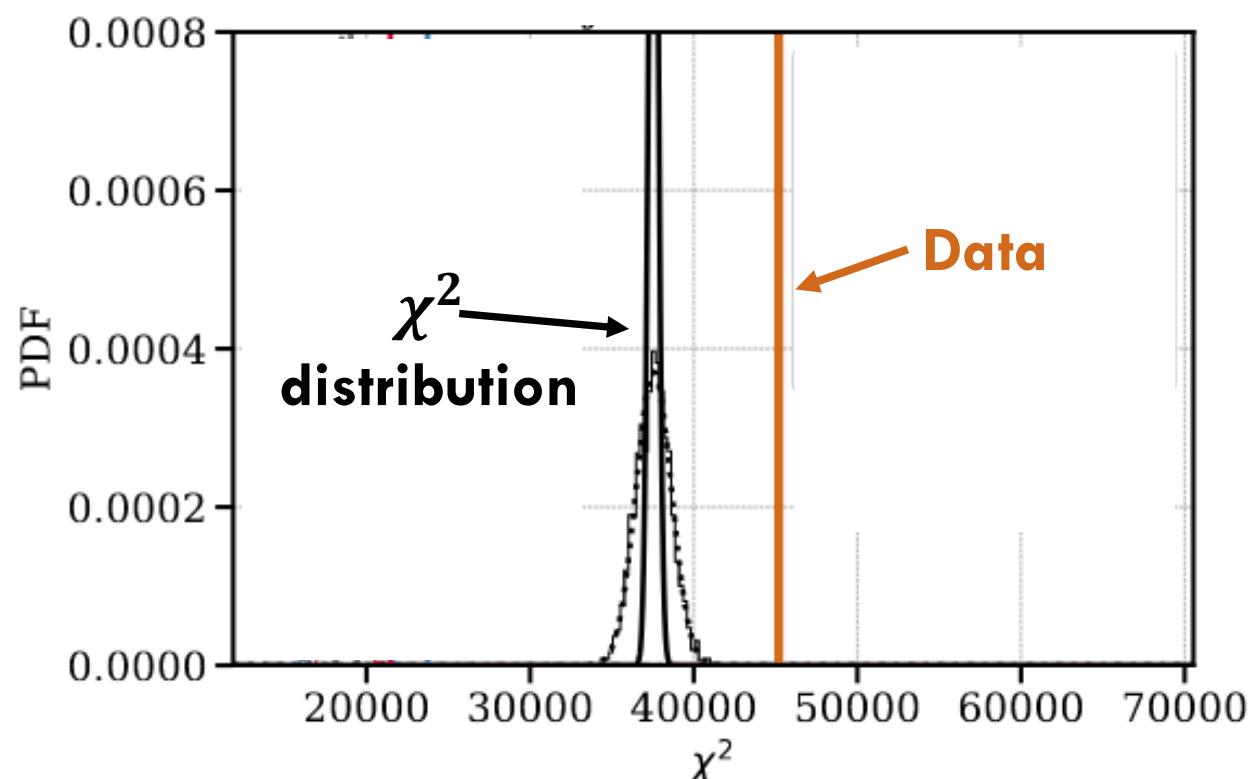
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7.1 σ detection???



ANALYZING THE 4PCF

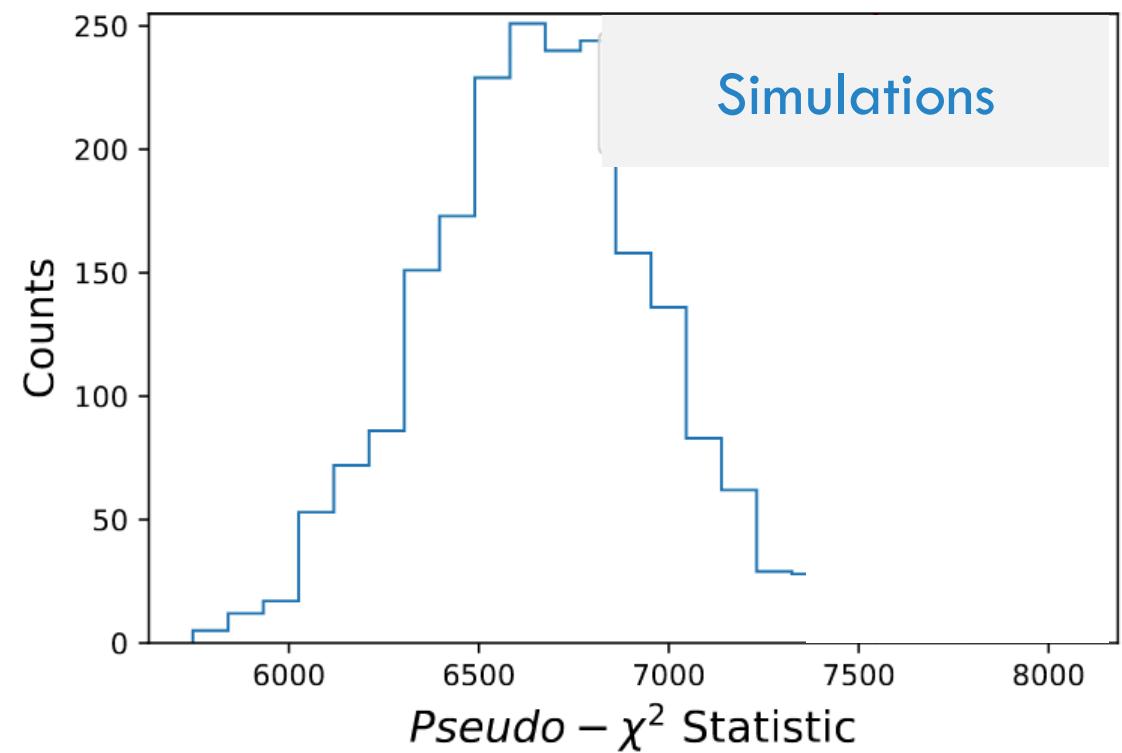
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Alternative analysis procedure

Create **empirical** likelihood based on **simulations**

- ▶ No need to assume **Gaussianity**
- ▶ **Simulation-based covariance**



ANALYZING THE 4PCF

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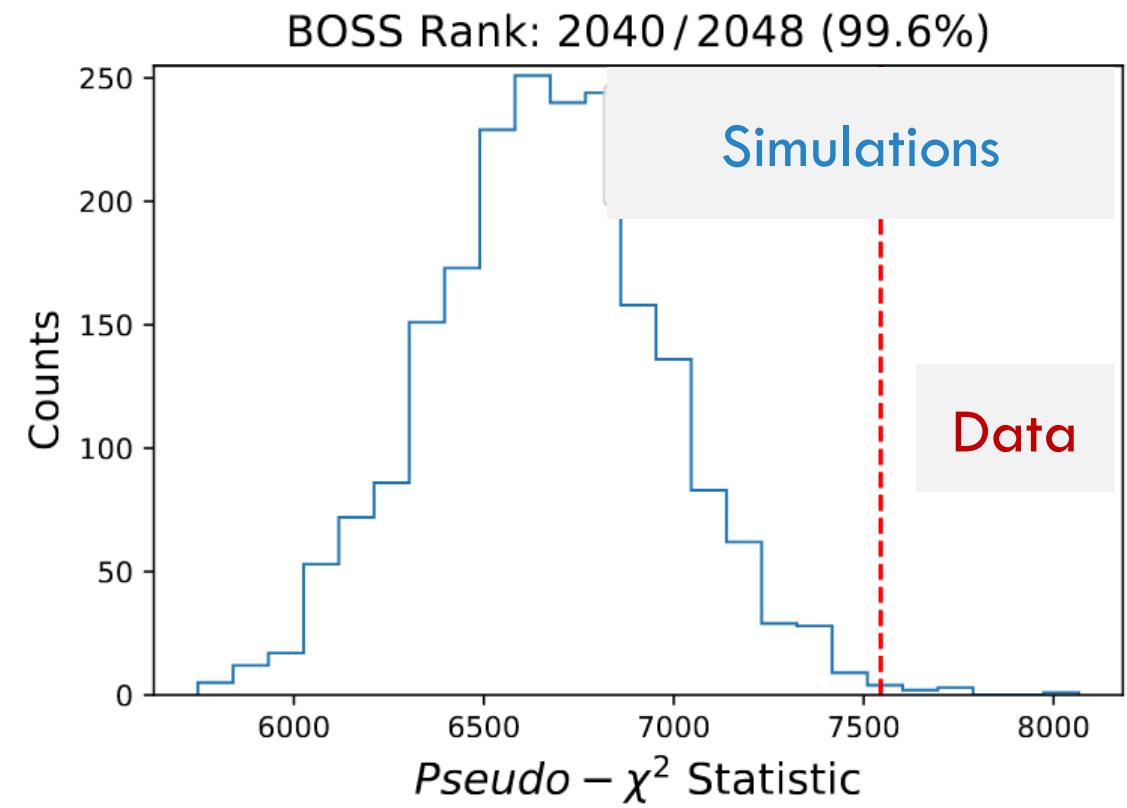
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2.9 σ detection???



WHAT CAUSES THE DIFFERENCES?

$$\chi^2 \equiv \zeta^{\text{odd}} \text{Cov}_{\zeta}^{-1} \zeta^{\text{odd}}$$

Two analysis of the **same** data at the **same** time get **very** different results



[Submitted on 8 Jun 2022]
Measurement of Parity-Odd Modes in the Large-Scale 4-Point Correlation Function of SDSS BOSS DR12 CMASS and LOWZ Galaxies

Jiamin Hou, Zachary Slepian, Robert N. Cahn



[Submitted on 9 Jun 2022 (v1), last revised 29 Jul 2022 (this version, v2)]
Probing Parity-Violation with the Four-Point Correlation Function of BOSS Galaxies

Oliver H. E. Philcox

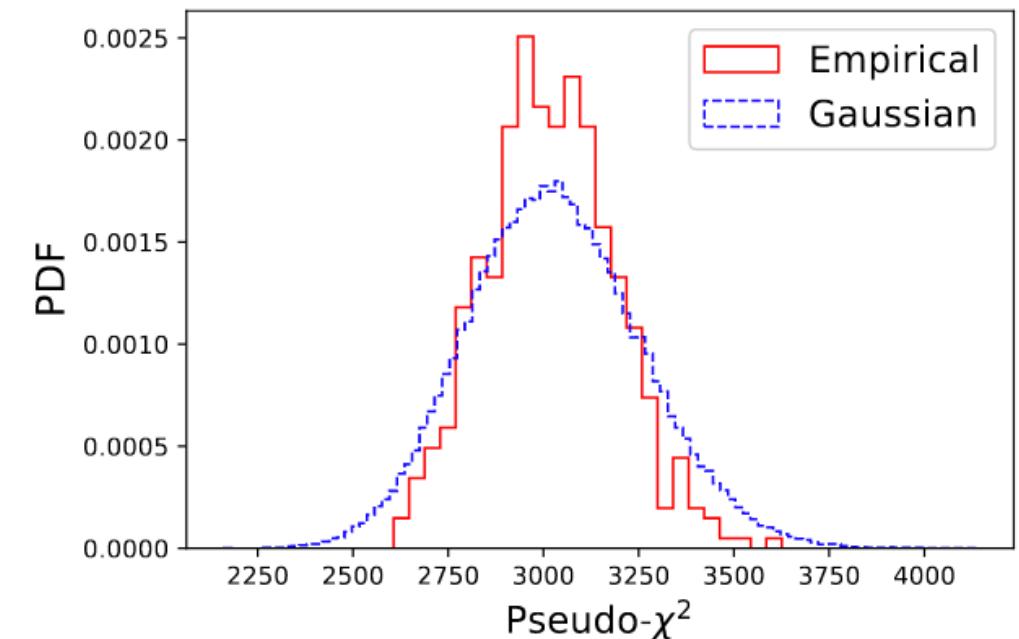
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Two analysis of the **same** data at the **same** time get **very** different results

- ▷ Likelihood might not be **Gaussian**?
- ▷ **Covariance** modelling may be inadequate?

[*linear theory, no RSD, no window*]



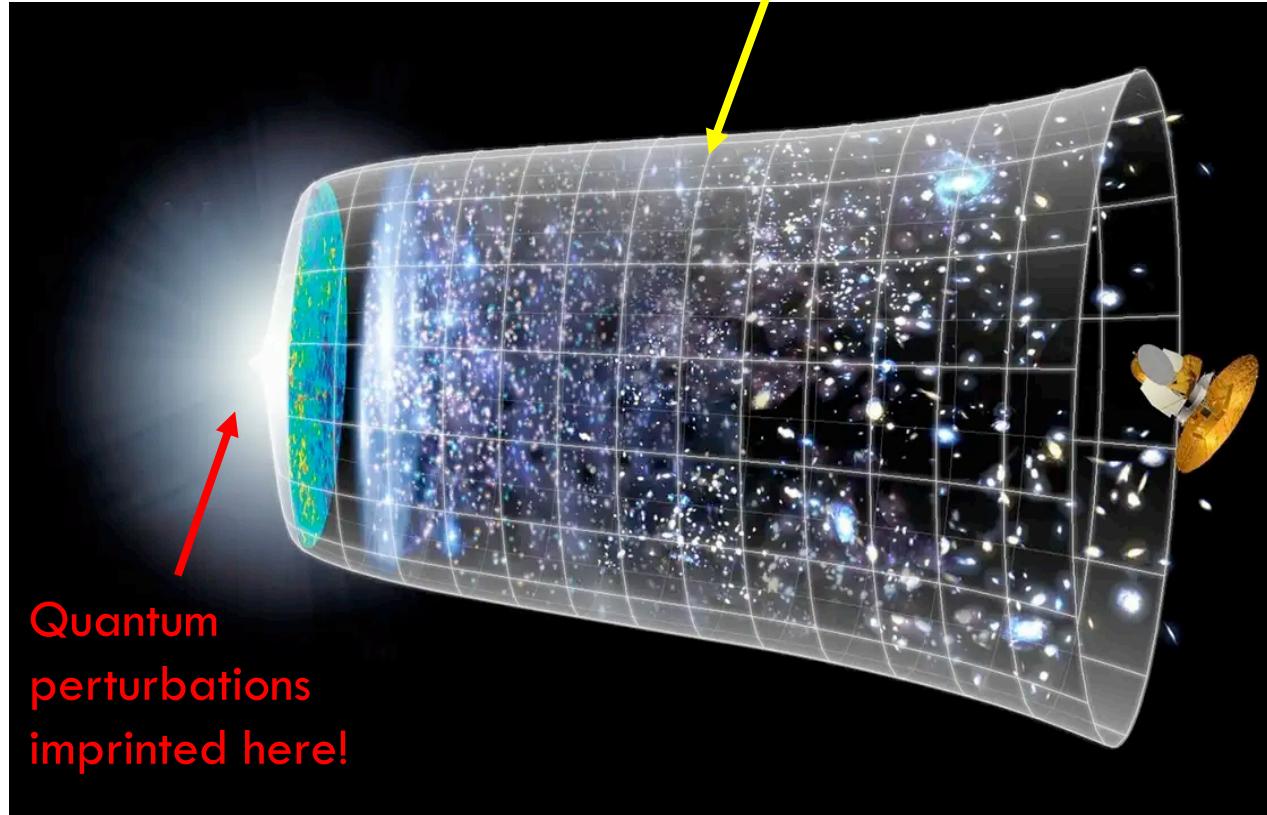
But, both seem to agree there is a signal!

SOURCES OF PARITY VIOLATION

The 4PCF could be sourced

1. **Early:** non-standard inflation?
2. **Late:** modified gravity?

Galaxies have only moved ~ 20 Mpc/h since inflation, so **early** is a more likely scenario!



PRIMORDIAL PARITY-VIOLATION

There is **no** parity violation in inflation if

1. **Scale-invariant** (i.e. exact dS)

and

2. **Scalar** fields (or massless spin fields)

and

3. **Bunch-Davies** vacuum

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There **is** parity violation in inflation if

- ▷ **Not scale-invariant** (*time dependent couplings*)
or
- ▷ **Massive spinning** fields (*cosmological collider*)
or
- ▷ **Non-Bunch-Davies** vacuum (*ghost condensate*)

(and many other scenarios)



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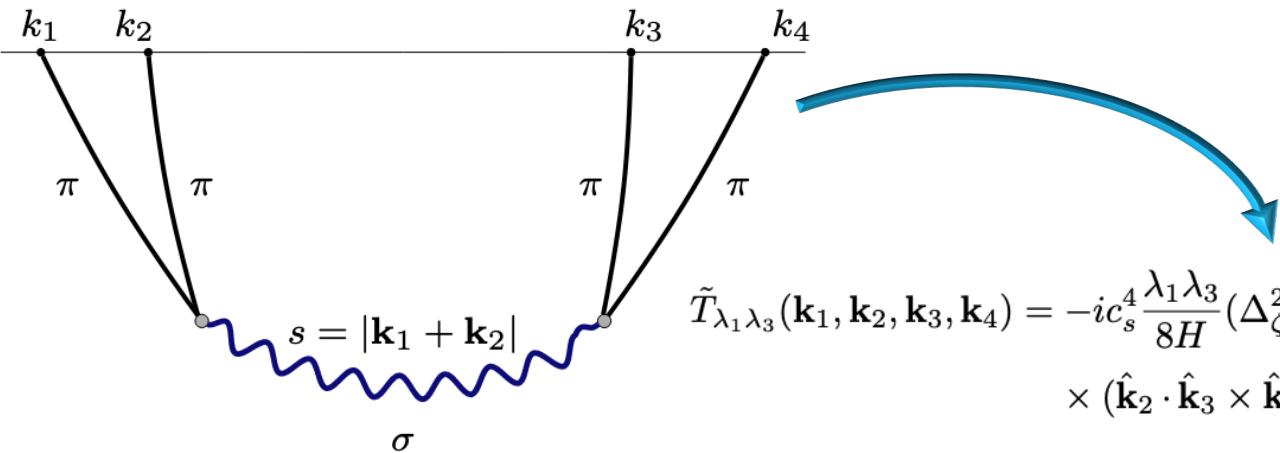


PRIMORDIAL PARITY-VIOLATION: COSMOLOGICAL COLLIDER

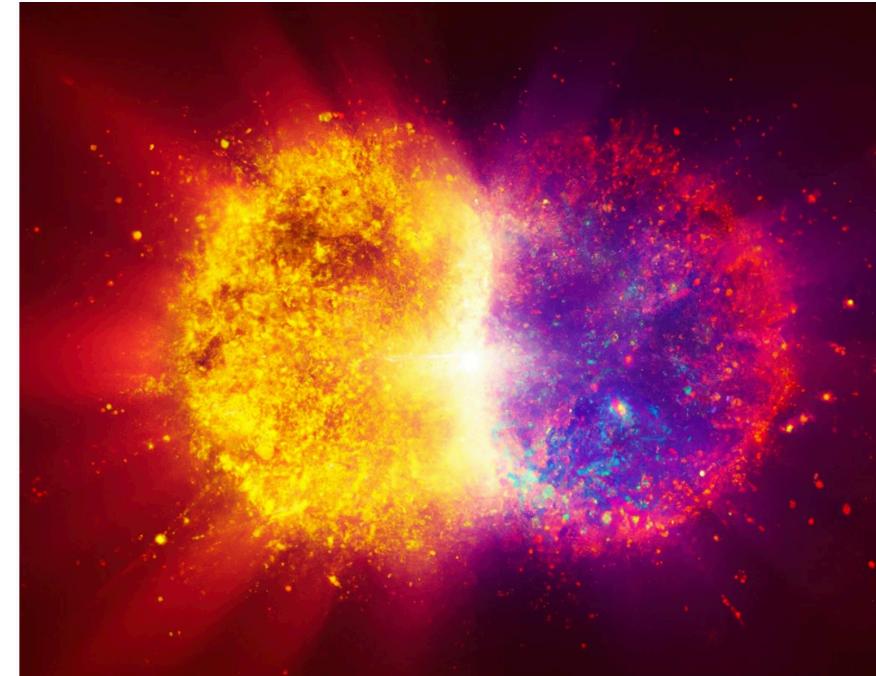
If we have exchanged a **spin-1 particle** during inflation

$$S_{\pi\pi\sigma} = \int d^3x d\eta \left[\lambda_1 \partial_i \pi' \partial_i \partial_j \pi \sigma^j + \dots \right]$$

We generate a parity-odd trispectrum!



$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{\lambda_1 \lambda_3}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3, \mathbf{k}_4) = & -ic_s^4 \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_3}{8H} (\Delta_\zeta^2)^4 \sin \pi \left(\nu + \frac{1}{2} \right) k_1^{-2} k_2^{-1} k_3^{-1} k_4^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{k}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}_2) (\hat{\mathbf{k}}_3 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}_4) (k_1 - k_2) (k_3 - k_4) \\ & \times (\hat{\mathbf{k}}_2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}_3 \times \hat{\mathbf{k}}_4) [k_{12} J_3(c_s k_{12}, s) + c_s k_1 k_2 J_4(c_s k_{12}, s)] [k_{34} J_4(c_s k_{34}, s) + c_s k_3 k_4 J_5(c_s k_{34}, s)] \end{aligned}$$



PRIMORDIAL PARITY-VIOLATION

There is **no** parity violation in inflation if

1. **Scale-invariant** (i.e. exact dS)
and
2. **Scalar** fields (or massless spin fields)
and
3. **Bunch-Davies** vacuum

There **is** parity violation in inflation if

- ▷ **Not scale-invariant** (*time dependent couplings*)
- or**
- ▷ **Massive spinning** fields (*cosmological collider*)
- or**
- ▷ **Non-Bunch-Davies** vacuum (*ghost condensate*)

(and many other scenarios)

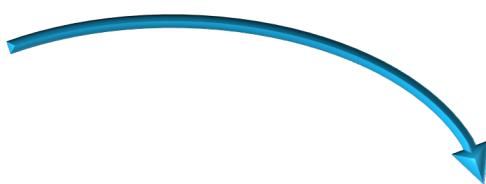
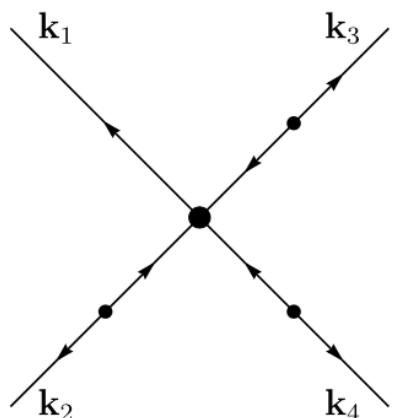


PRIMORDIAL PARITY-VIOLATION: GHOSTS

If the inflaton has a **quadratic** dispersion relation, $\omega \propto k^2$

$$S_{\pi\pi} = \int d^3x d\eta a^4(\eta) \left[\frac{\Lambda^4}{2} \frac{\boxed{\pi'^2}}{a^2(\eta)} - \frac{\tilde{\Lambda}^2}{2} \frac{\boxed{(\nabla^2\pi)^2}}{a^4(\eta)} \right]$$

We generate a parity-odd trispectrum!



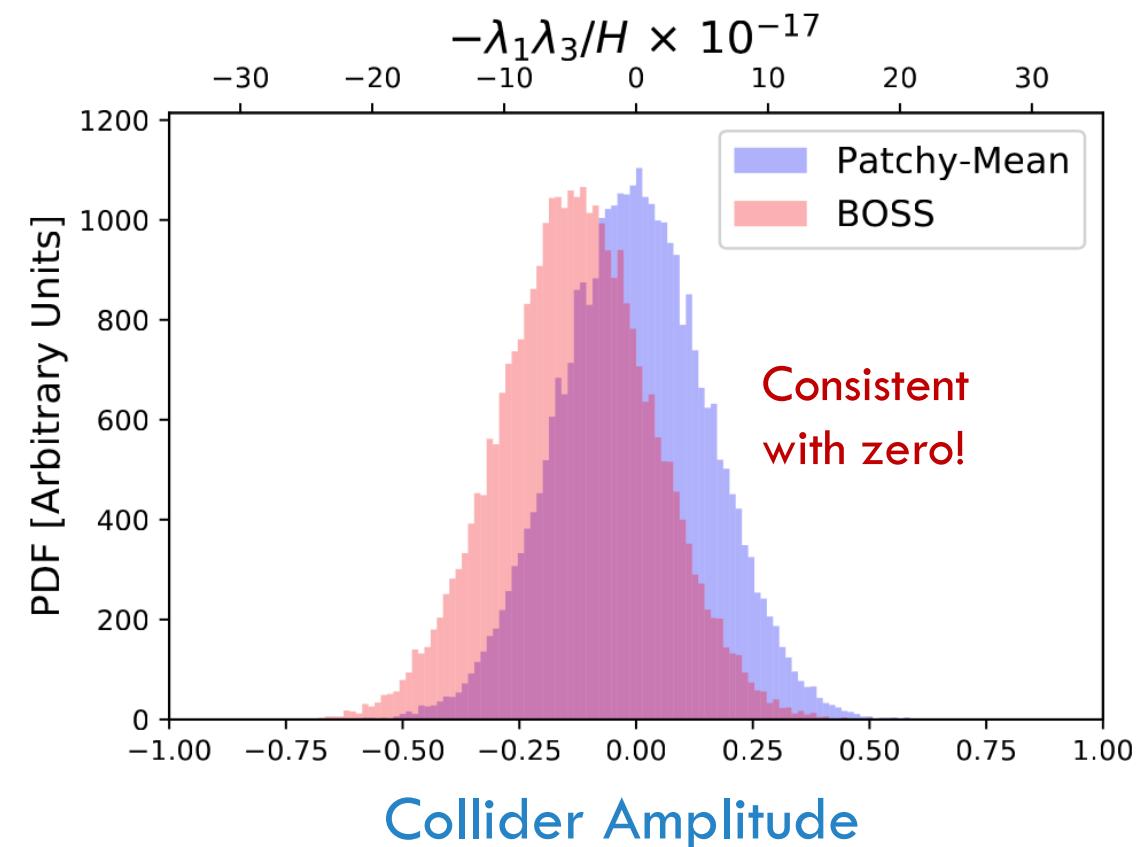
$$\tilde{T}_{\Lambda_{\text{PO}}^2}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3, \mathbf{k}_4) = \frac{512i\pi^3\Lambda^5(H\tilde{\Lambda})^{3/2}}{\Lambda_{\text{PO}}^2\tilde{\Lambda}^6\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})^2} (\Delta_\zeta^2)^3 (\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2 \times \mathbf{k}_3) (\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2) k_1^{-\frac{3}{2}} k_2^{\frac{1}{2}} k_3^{\frac{1}{2}} k_4^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{T}_{0,0,0,1}^{(13)}(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4)$$



ARE THESE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARITY-ODD SIGNAL?

- ▷ We can **predict** the galaxy 4PCF from the **primordial trispectrum***
- ▷ Does this match the BOSS signal?

No evidence for an *inflationary source* so far...



*with a lot of effort

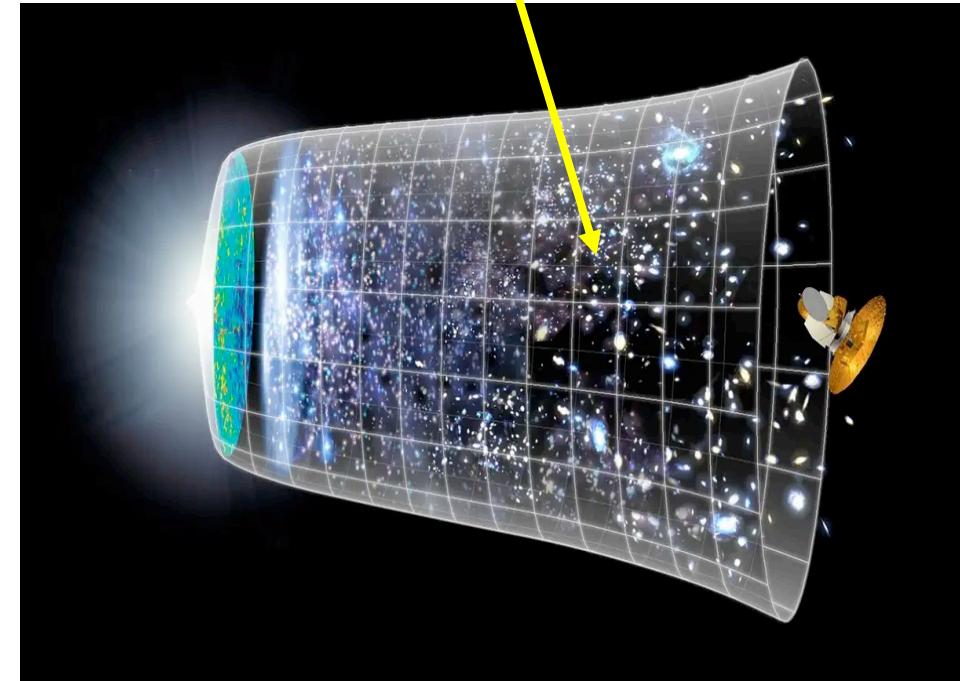
LATE-TIME PARITY VIOLATION

Could the **same** physics be responsible for
birefringence and **4PCFs**?

- ▷ **Unlikely!**
- ▷ Chern-Simons couplings affect photon **polarization**
- ▷ We observe galaxy **intensity**, which **isn't** affected

In general, **late-time** sources would mainly affect
small scales – but our signal is at $r > 20 \text{ Mpc}/\text{h}$

Non-linear gravitational
evolution here!



WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGNAL?

Cosmological options

- ▶ Some other model of inflation
- ▶ Late-time physics with **large** characteristic scale

Non-cosmological options

- ▶ Systematics in **data**
- ▶ Systematics in **analysis**

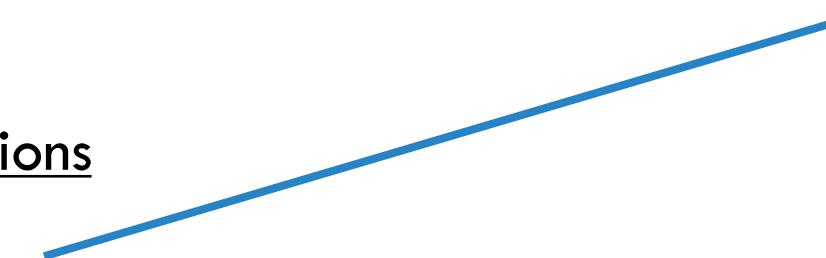
WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGNAL?

Cosmological options

- ▷ Some other model of inflation
- ▷ Late-time physics with **large** characteristic scale

Non-cosmological options

- ▷ Systematics in **data**
- ▷ Systematics in **analysis**



Errors in the mask?

[mocks are unbiased]

Errors in the fiber collisions?

[mocks are unbiased]

Errors in the selection function?

[shouldn't violate parity]

Other systematics?

[very possible]

WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGNAL?

Cosmological options

- ▷ Some other model of inflation
- ▷ Late-time physics with **large** characteristic scale

Non-cosmological options

- ▷ Systematics in **data**
- ▷ Systematics in **analysis**

Errors in the covariance?

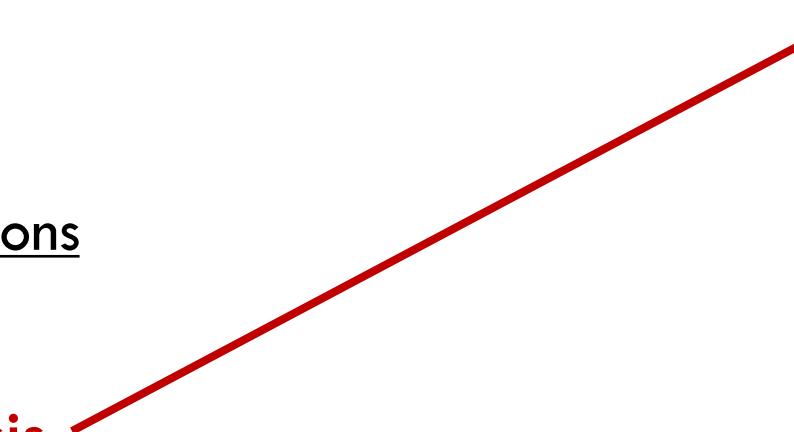
[analytic modeling insufficient?]

Errors in the likelihood?

[non-Gaussianity is likely!]

Errors in the simulations?

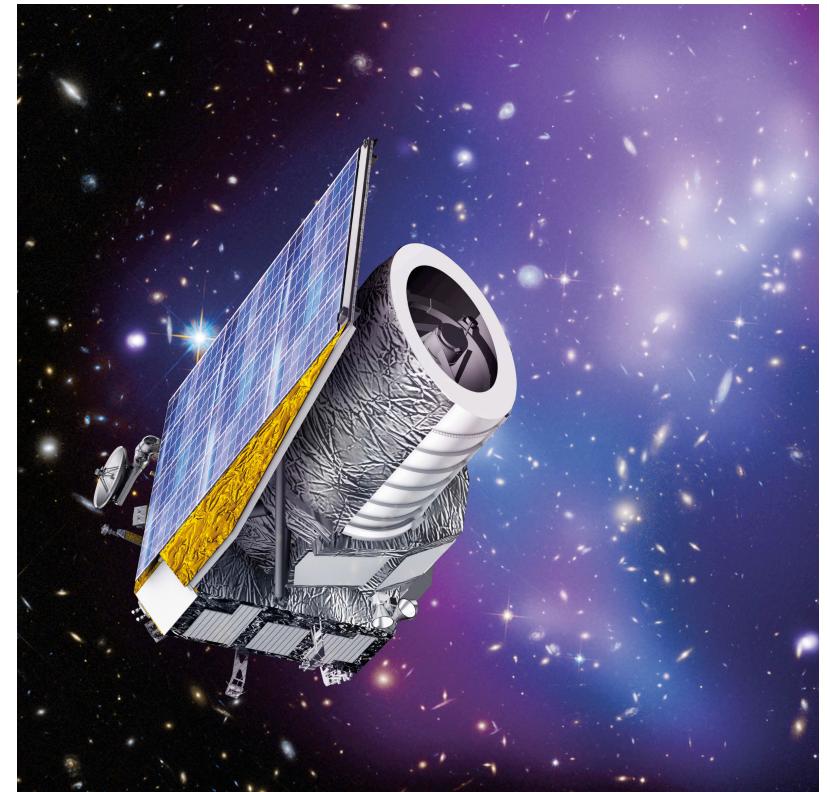
[do our mocks reproduce the noise properties of the data?]



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▷ New data from DESI, SPHEREx, Euclid, etc. will **significantly** reduce error-bars
- ▷ But systematics might not go away!
- ▷ We can look at **other datasets**, e.g., the CMB trispectrum

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^4 a_{\ell_i} m_i \right\rangle^{\text{odd}} = 0? ?$$



arXiv

[2011.11254](#)

[2210.07655](#)

[2206.04227](#)

[2206.03625](#)

[2210.02907](#)

CONCLUSIONS

- **Birefringence** and the galaxy **4-point function** may hint at **parity-violation** in the Universe
- If true, this would imply **new physics** in **inflation** and/or the **late Universe**
- But, could also be explained by **dust** and **imperfect analyses**. There is much more to learn!

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