

Exploring theoretical solutions to the H_0 and S_8 tensions

Guillermo Franco Abellán

GRAPPA, University of Amsterdam

3 June 2024

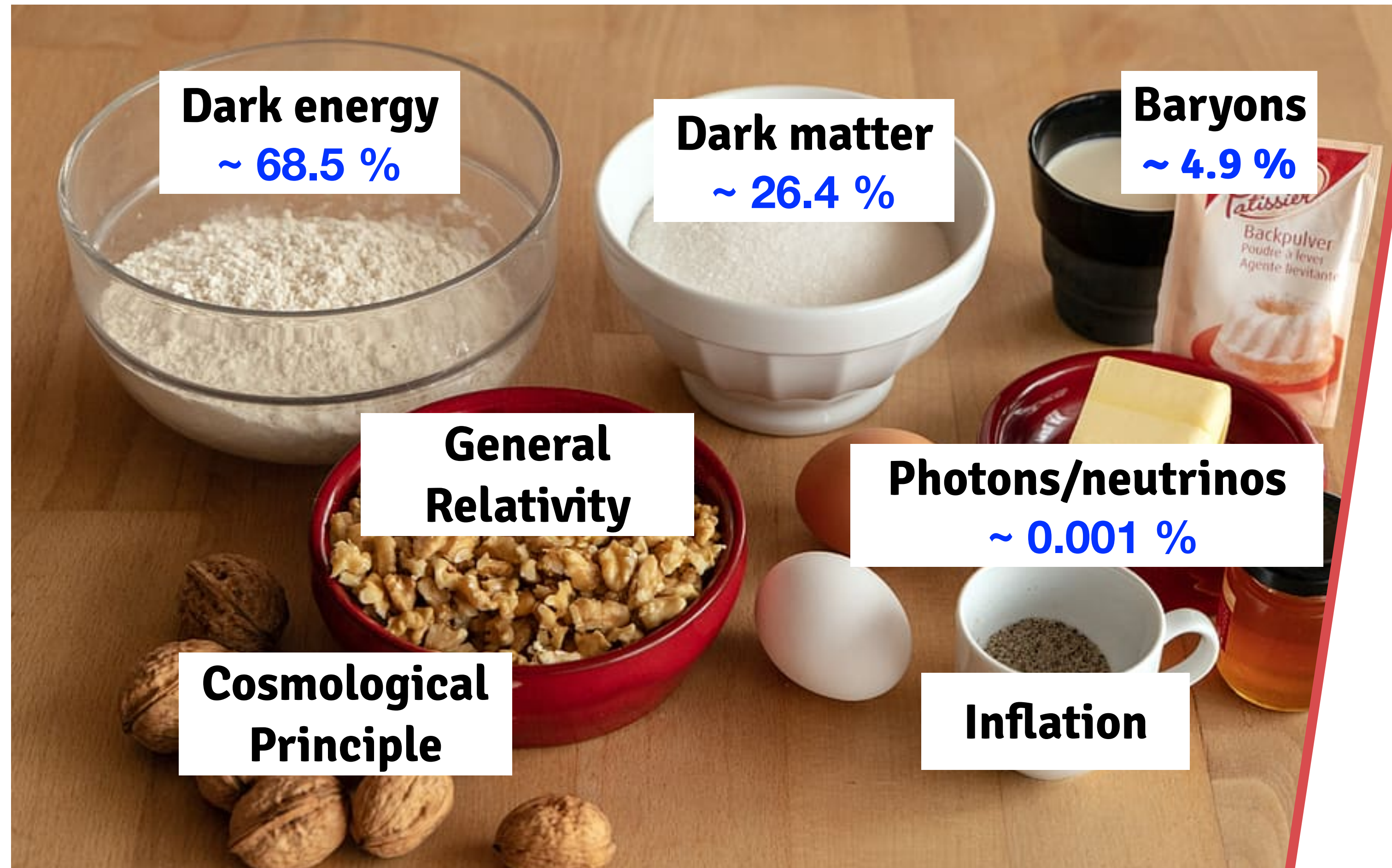
Exploring the Dark Side of the Universe - Tools

GRAPPA 

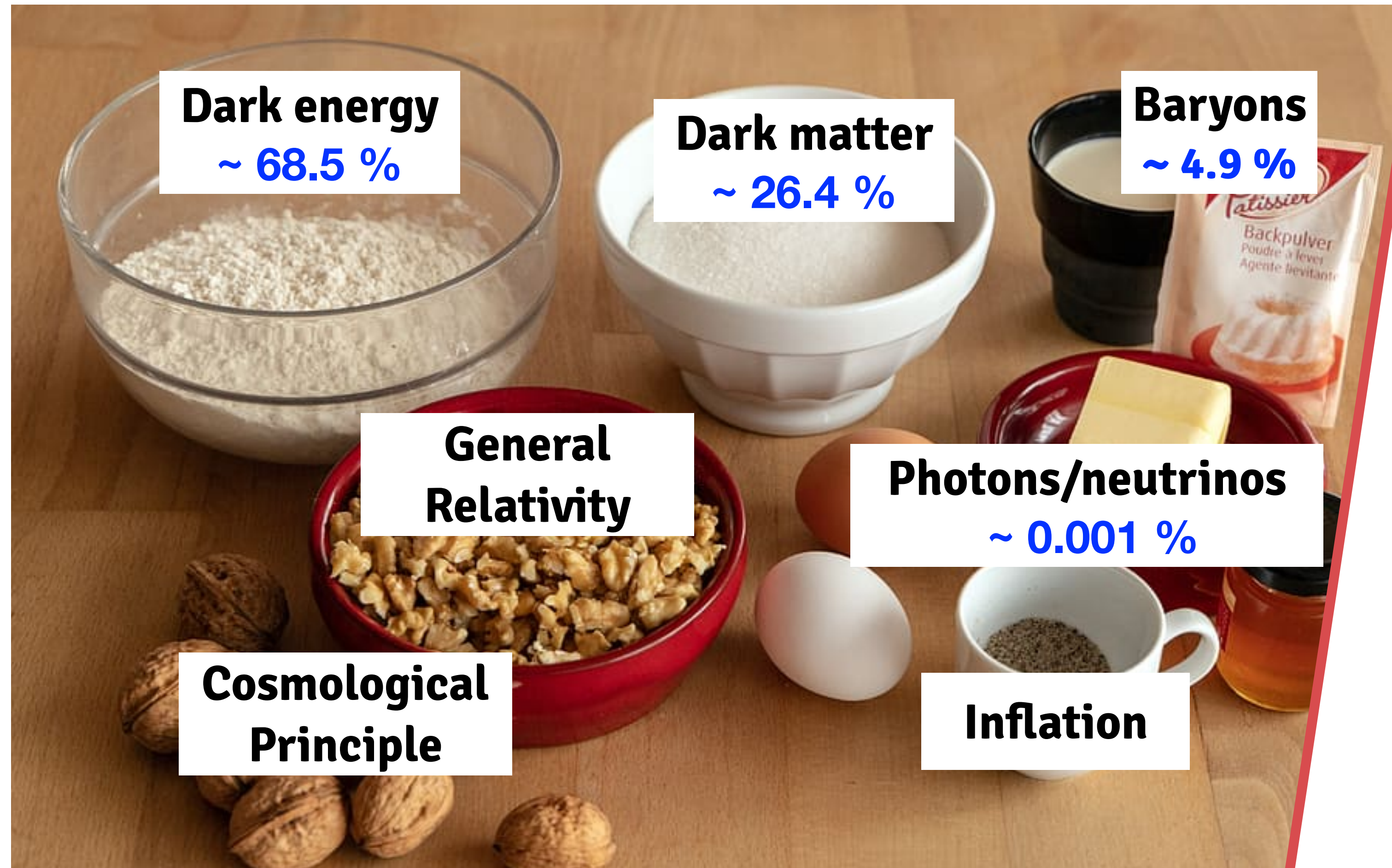


GRavitation AstroParticle Physics Amsterdam

Concordance Λ CDM model of cosmology:



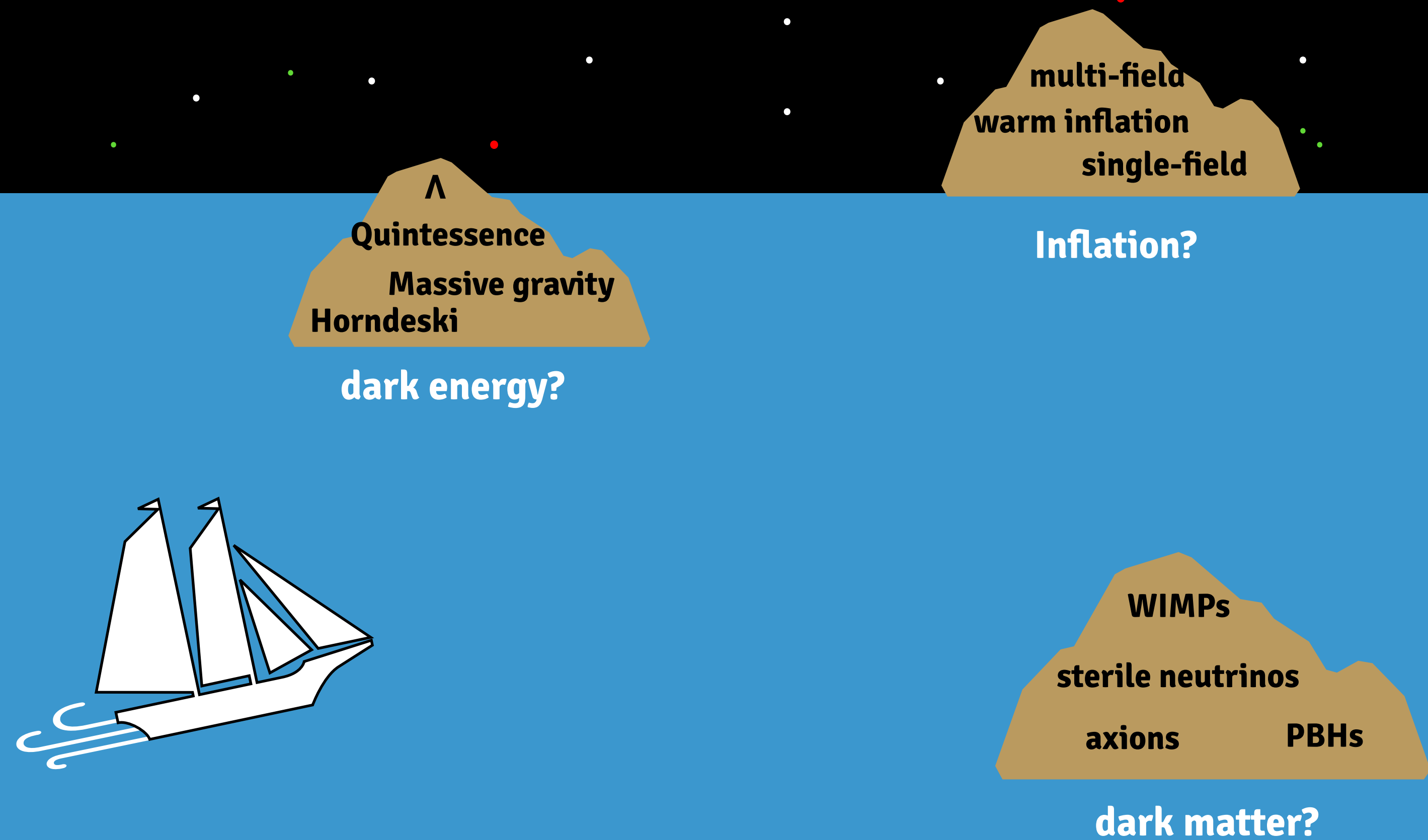
Concordance Λ CDM model of cosmology:



Only 6 free parameters!

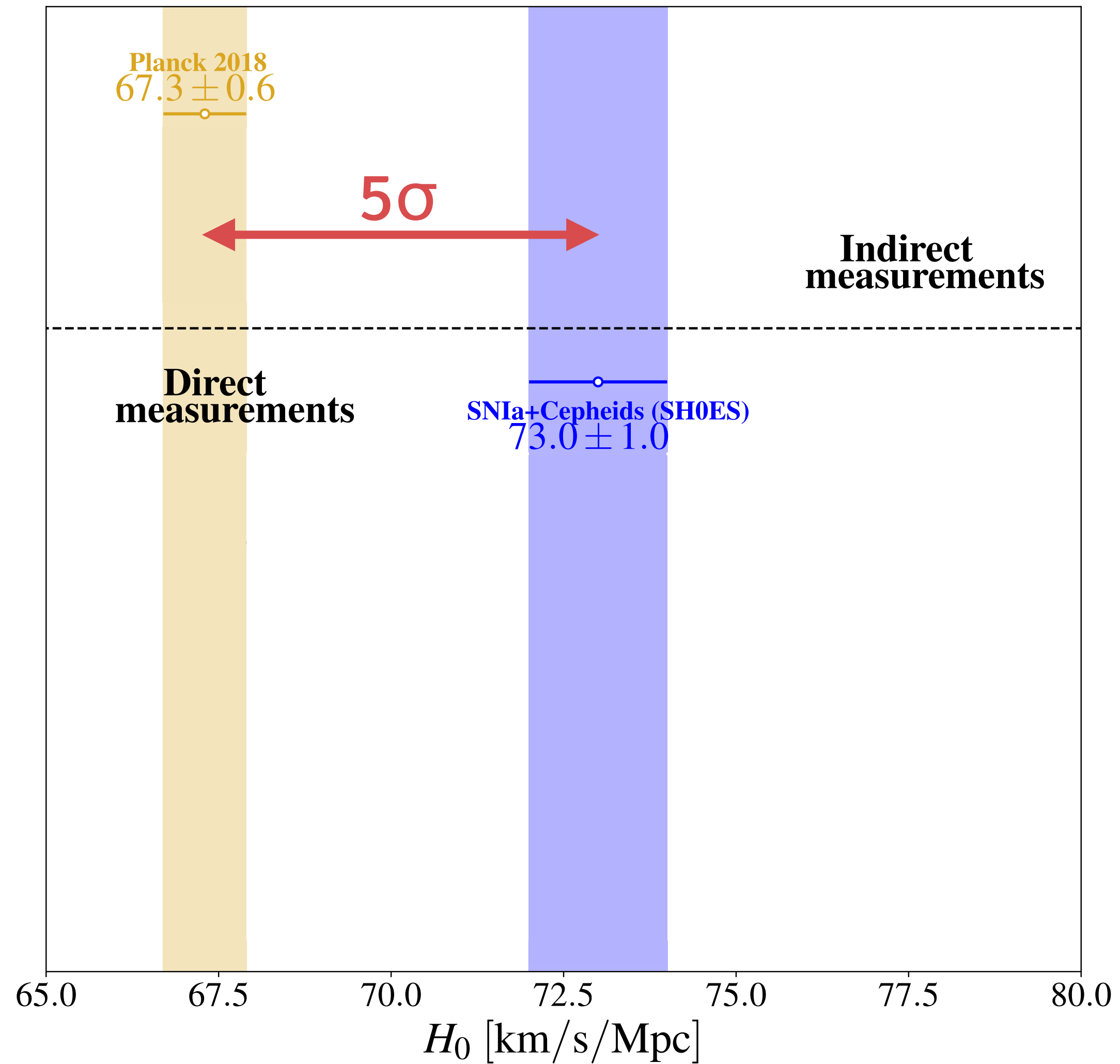
$$\Omega_c \quad \Omega_b \quad H_0$$
$$A_s \quad n_s \quad \tau_{\text{reio}}$$

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



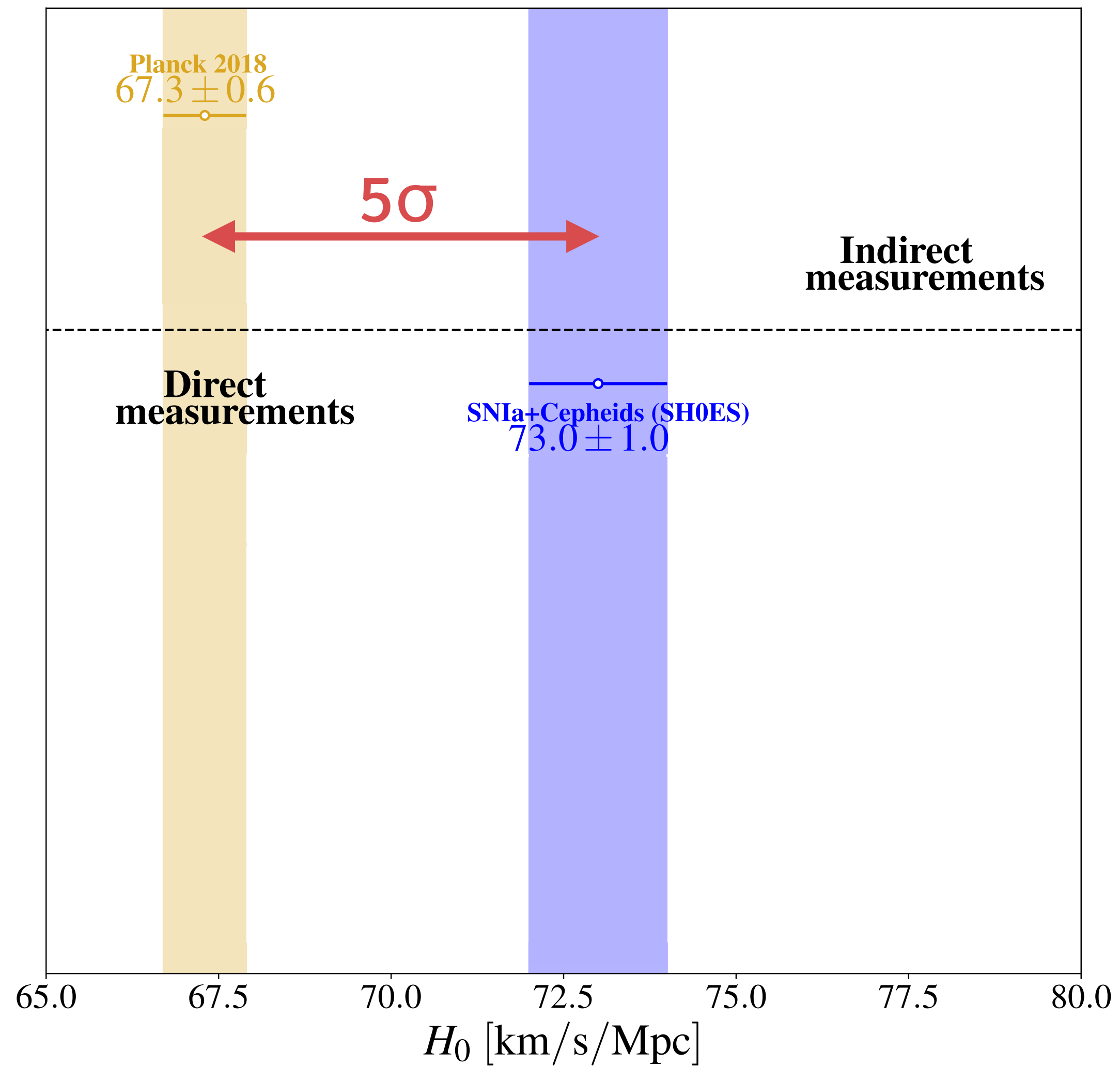
In addition, **discrepancies have emerged**

H_0 tension

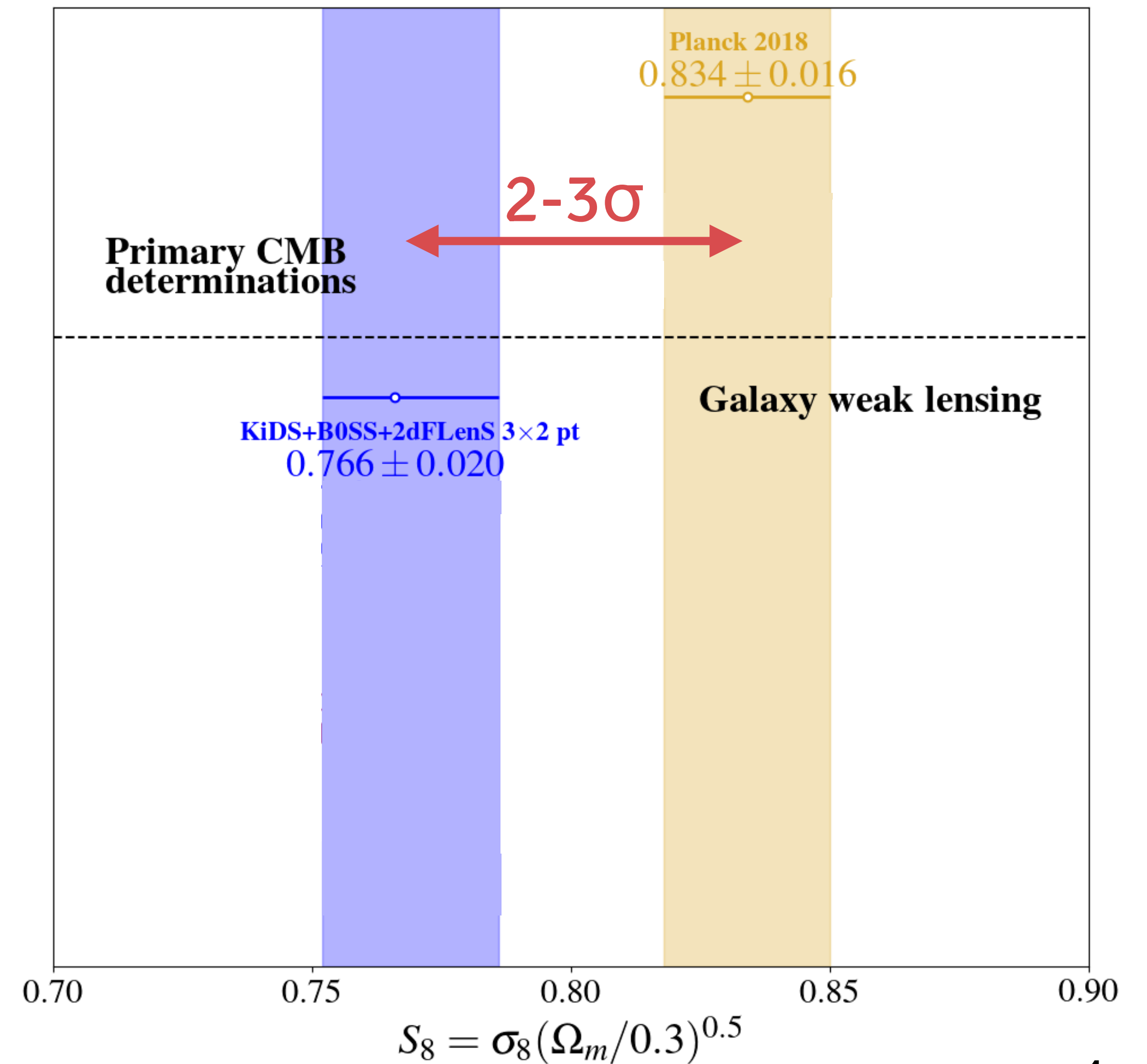


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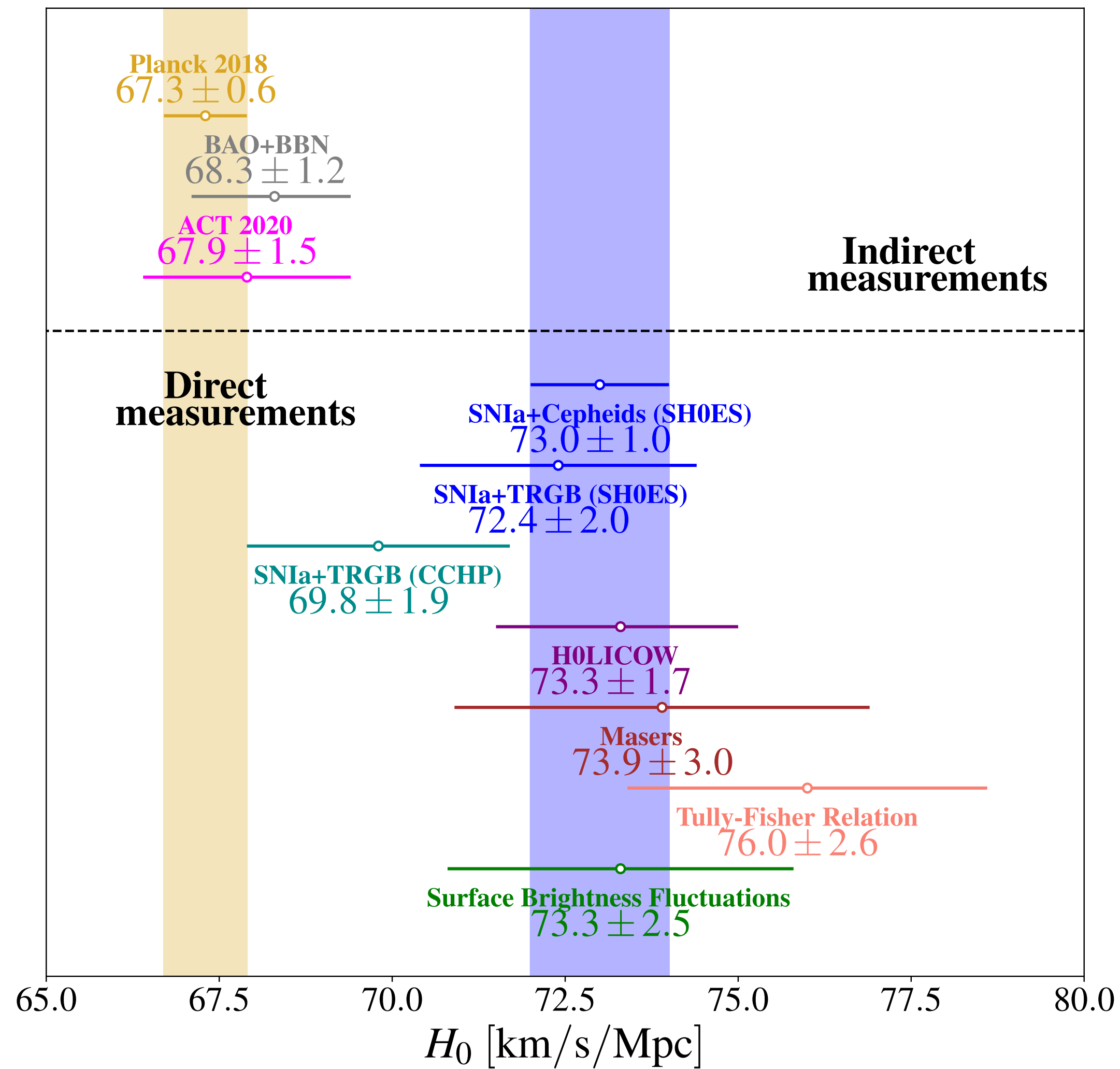


S_8 tension

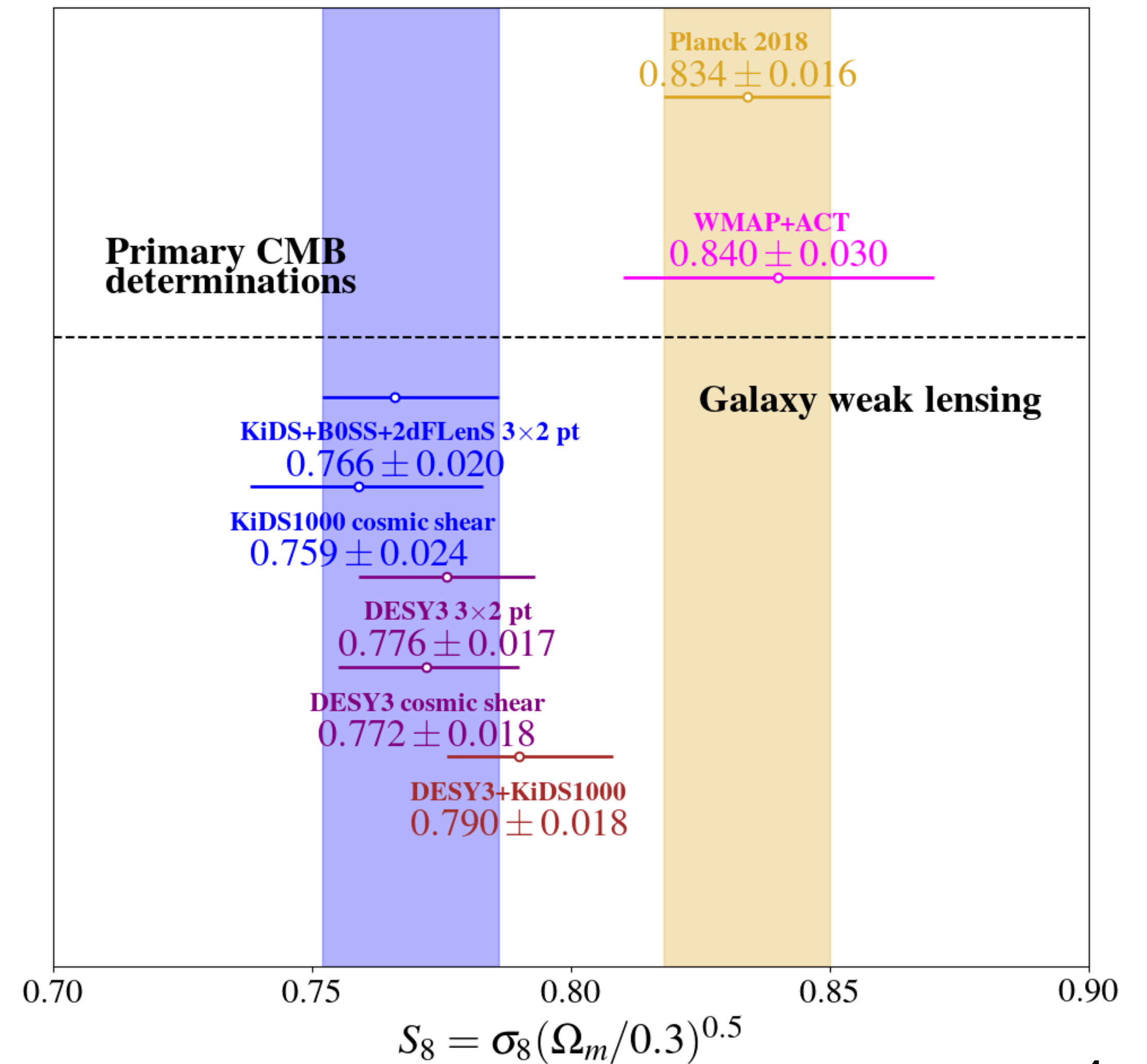


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H₀ tension



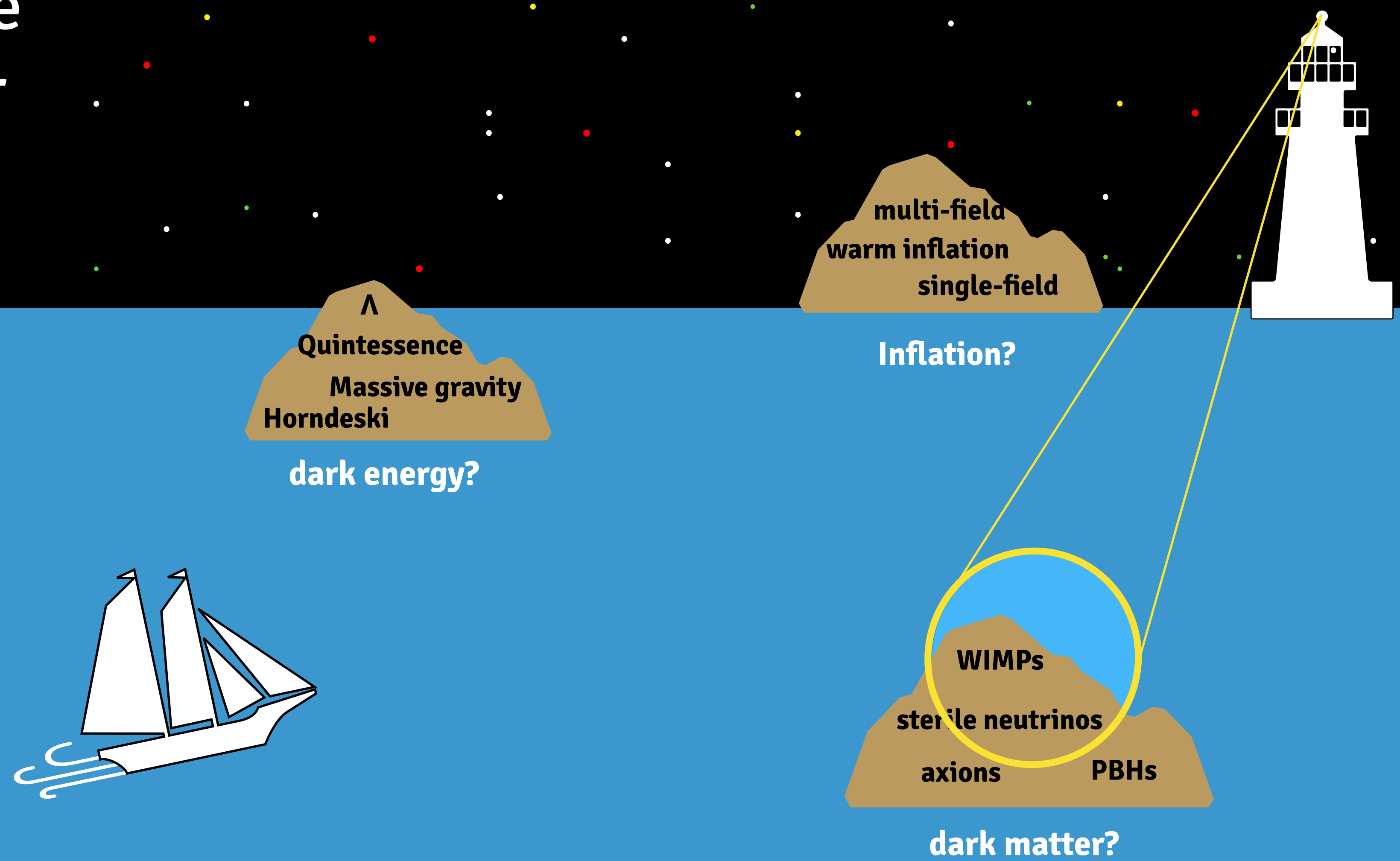
S₈ tension



Cosmic tensions can
shed some light on the
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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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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 $k \sim 0.1 - 1 \text{ h}/\text{Mpc}$
while **keeping a good fit** to other data

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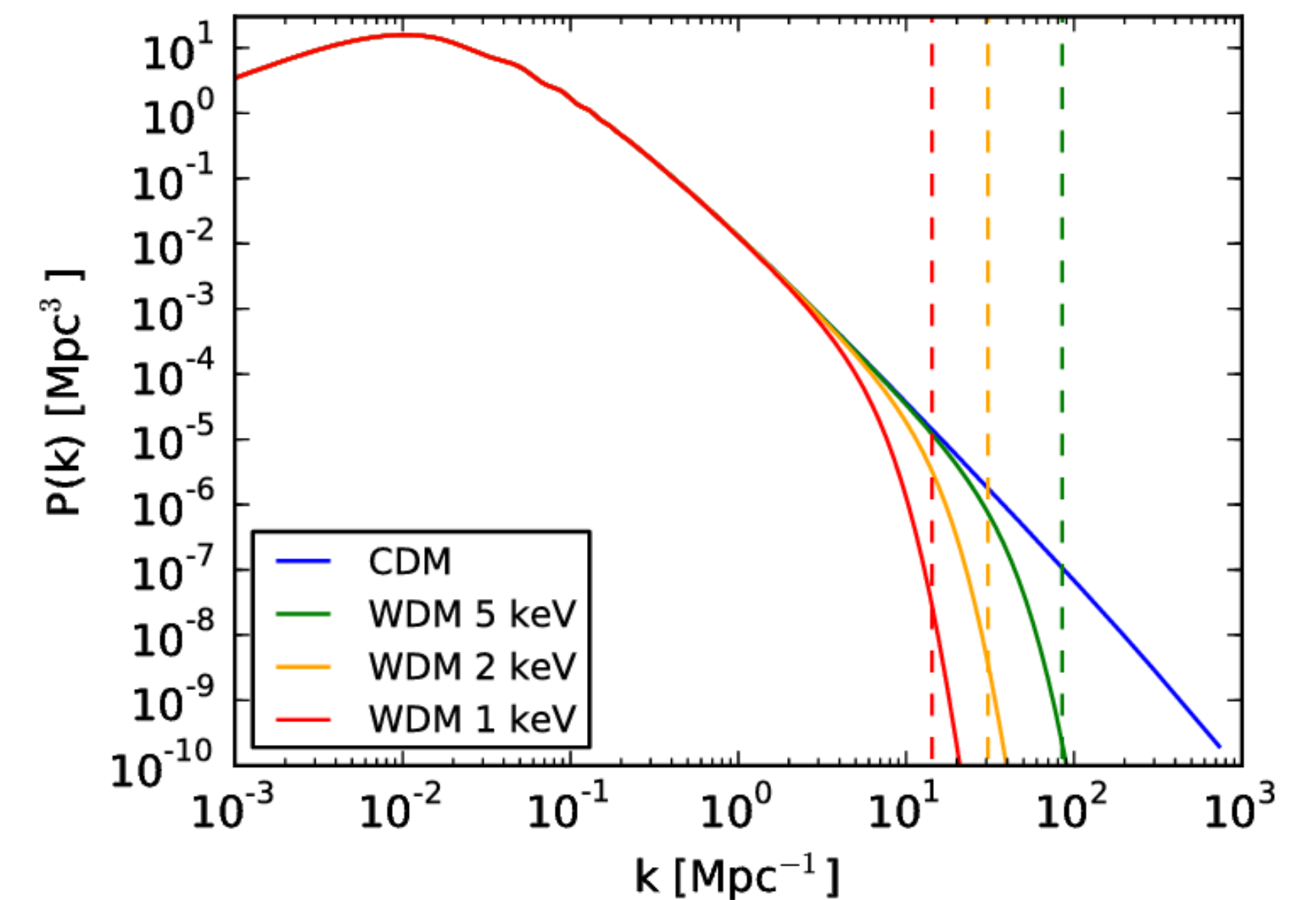
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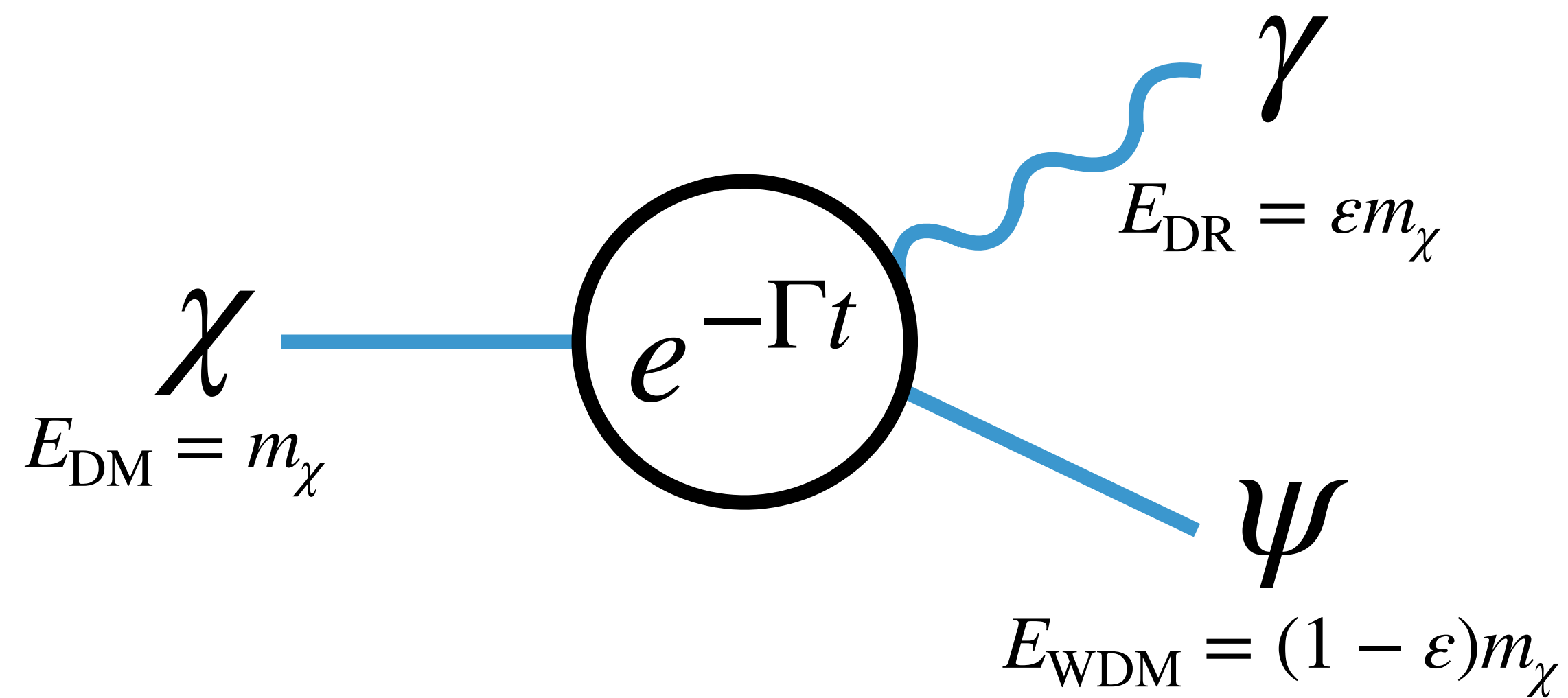
Ex: Warm dark matter



Very constrained by Ly- α !
[\[Iršič+ 17\]](#)

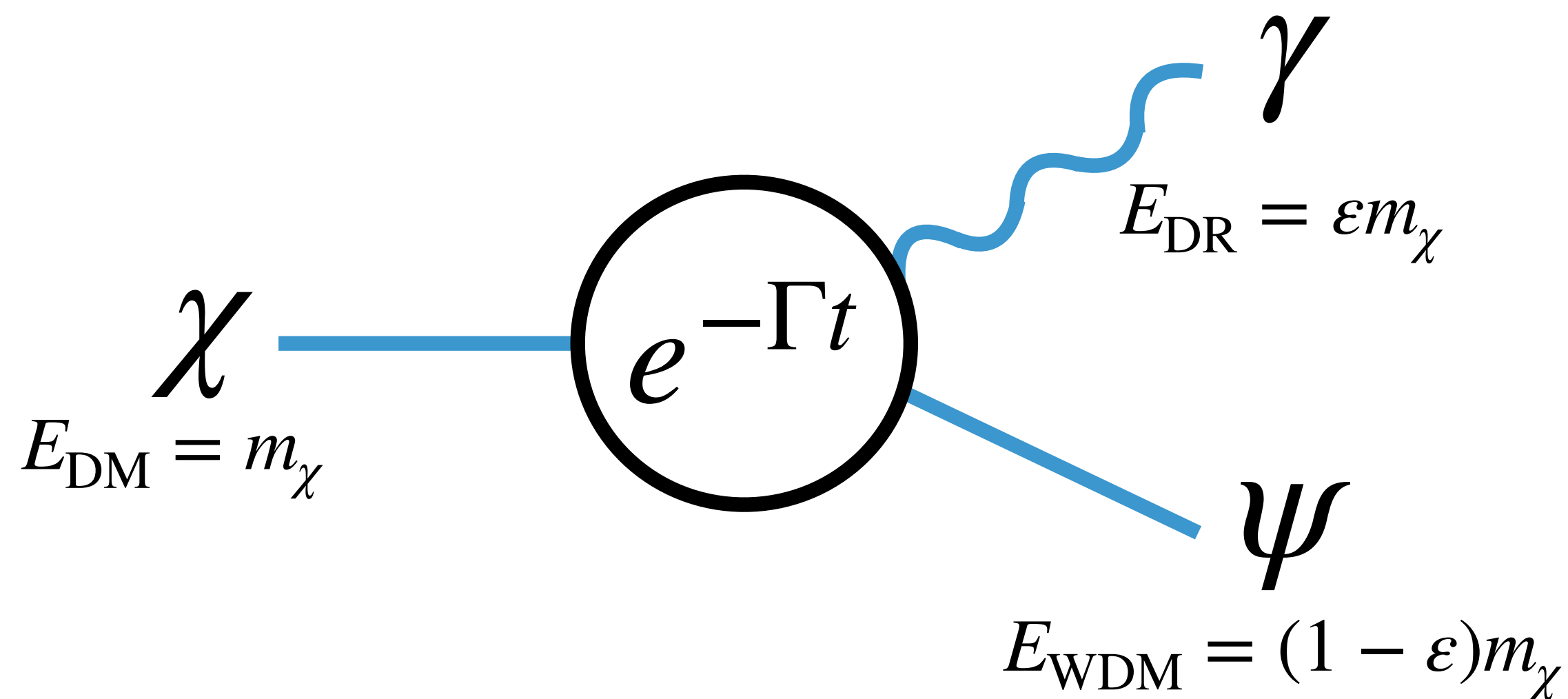
Invisible Dark Matter Decay

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



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2 extra parameters:

Decay rate

$$\Gamma = 1/\tau$$

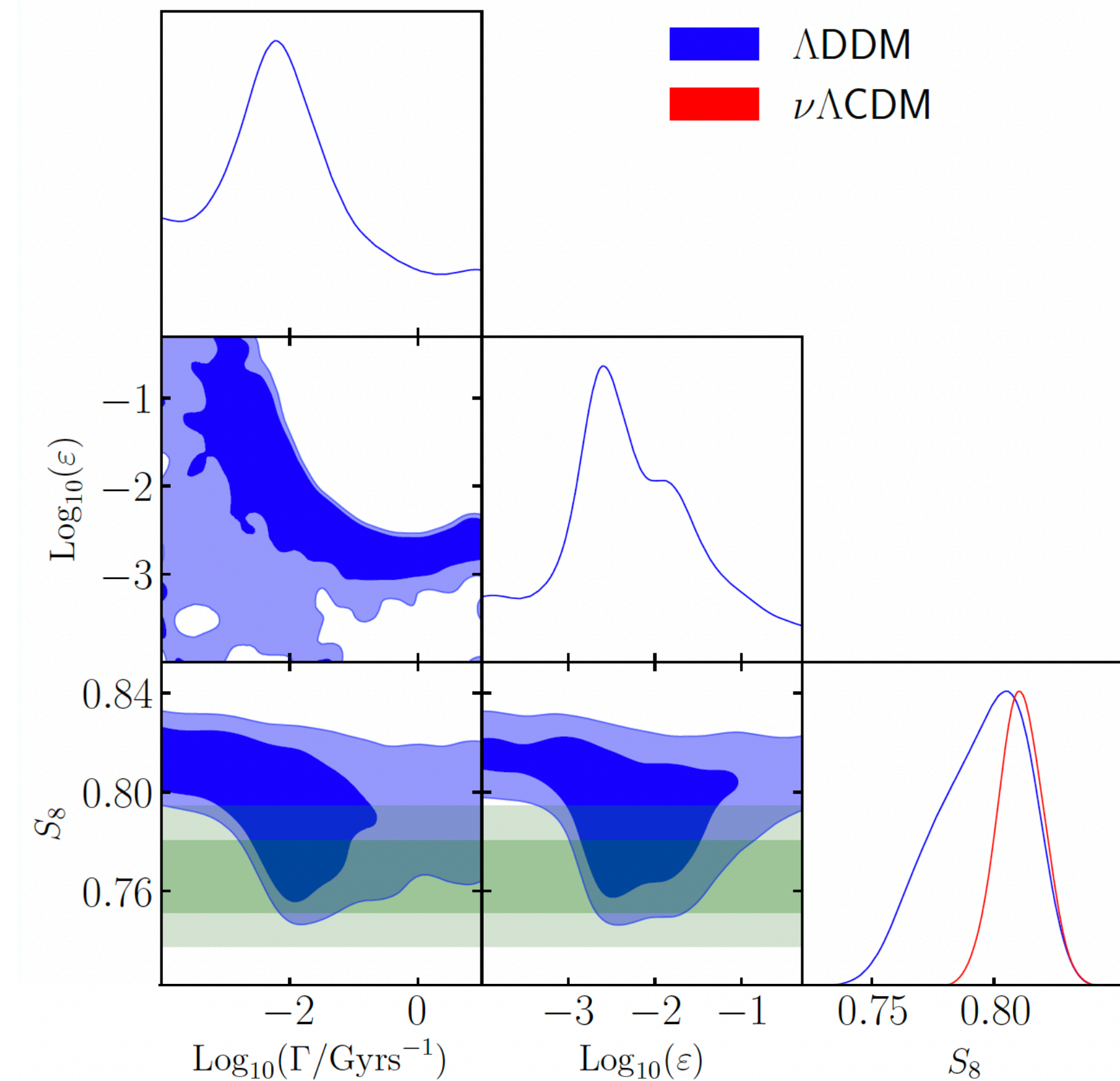
DR energy fraction

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

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)



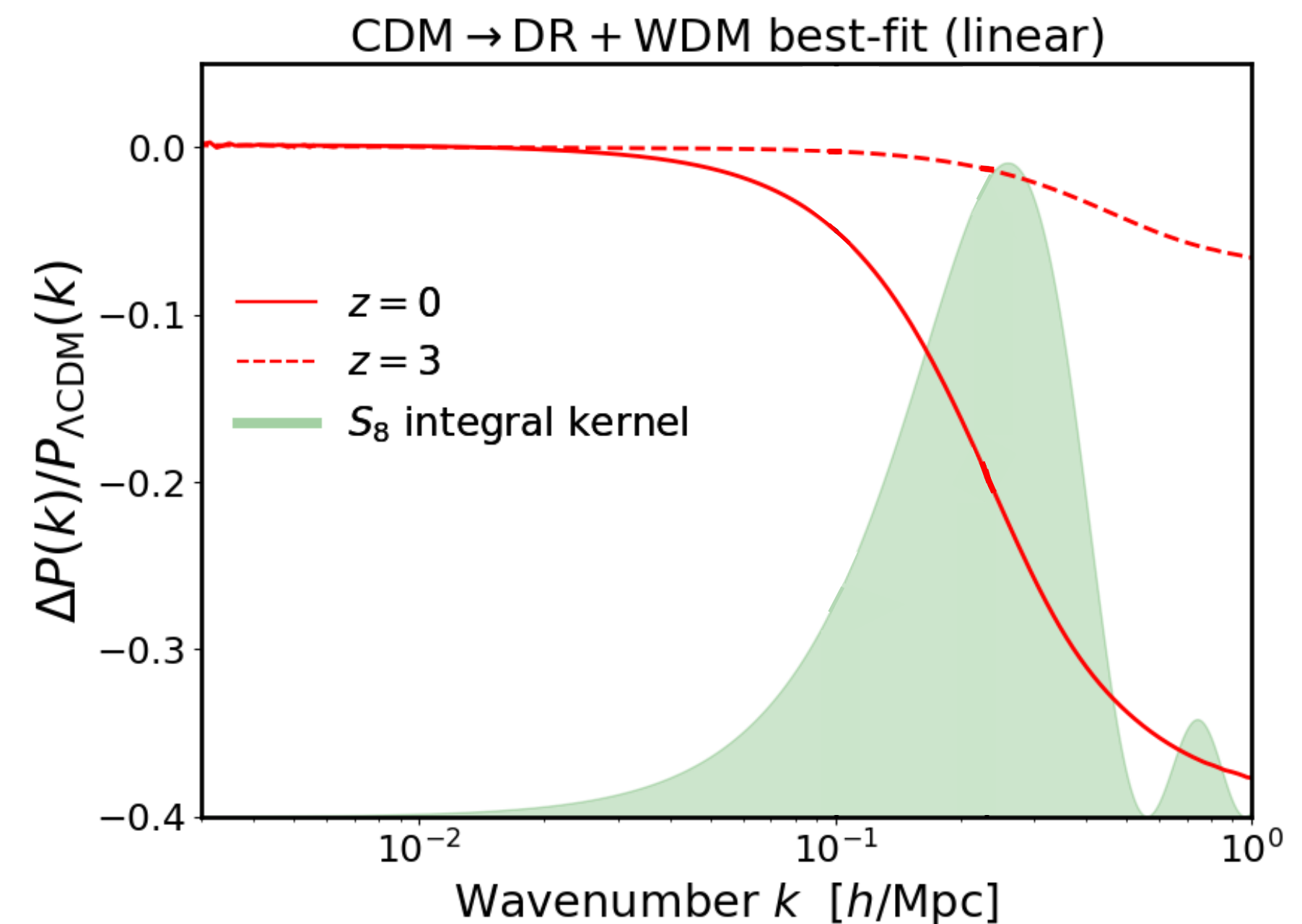
[GFA, Murgia, Poulin 21]

[GFA, Murgia++ 22]

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- 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- α 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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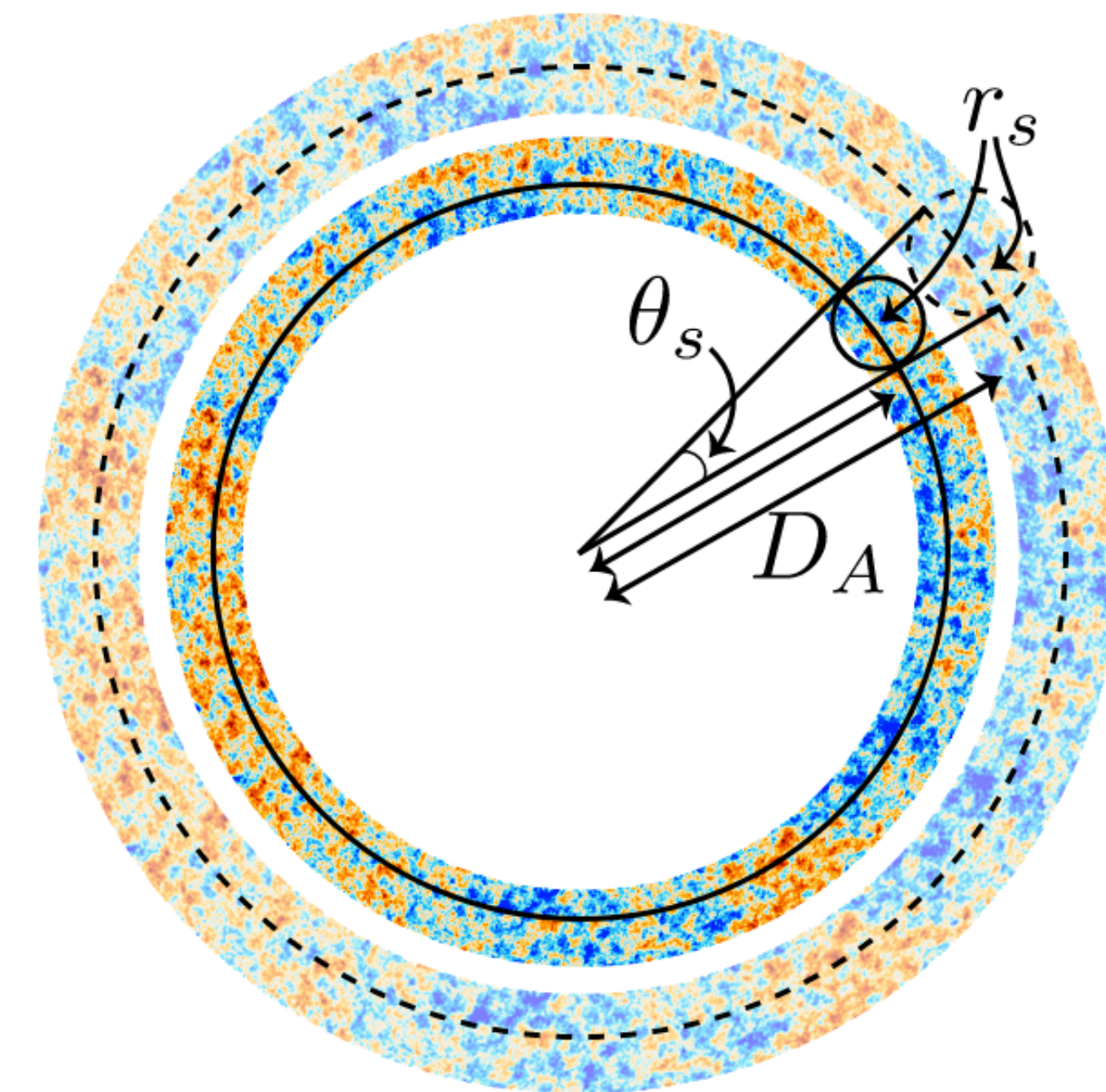
III. Easing both tensions with Interacting Dark Radiation

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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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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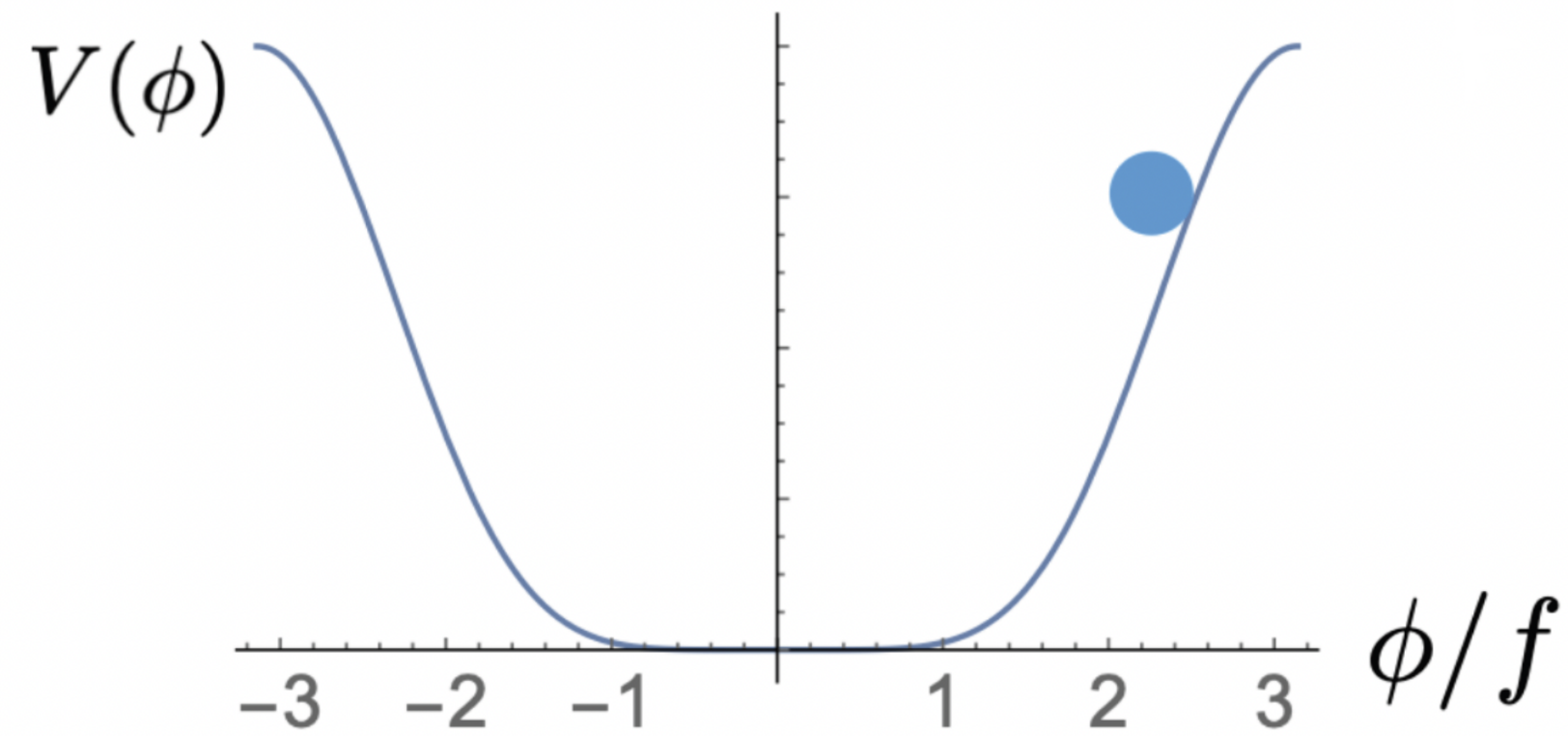
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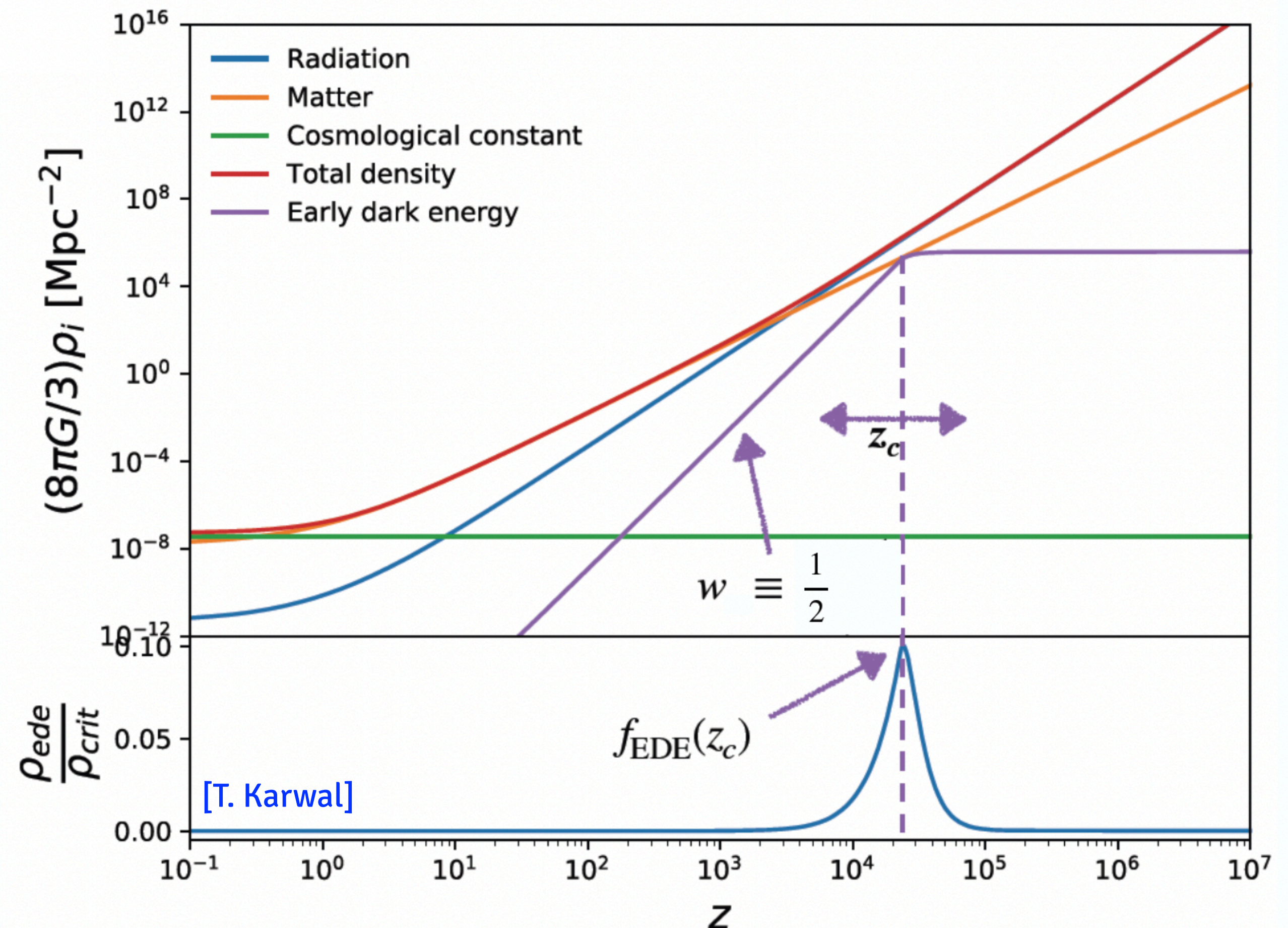
→ need to lower r_s

Early Dark Energy (EDE)

Scalar field initially frozen, dilutes faster than radiation afterwards

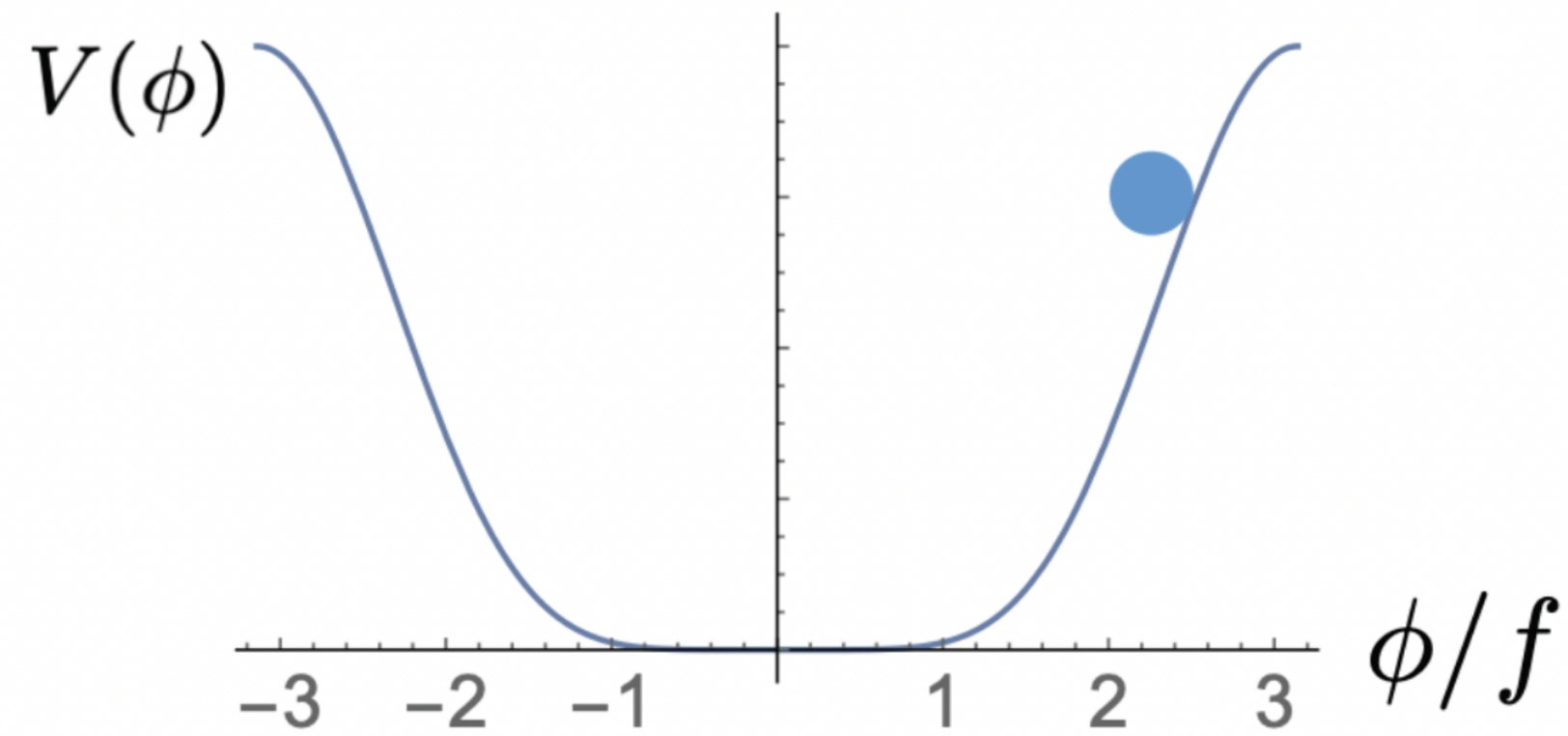


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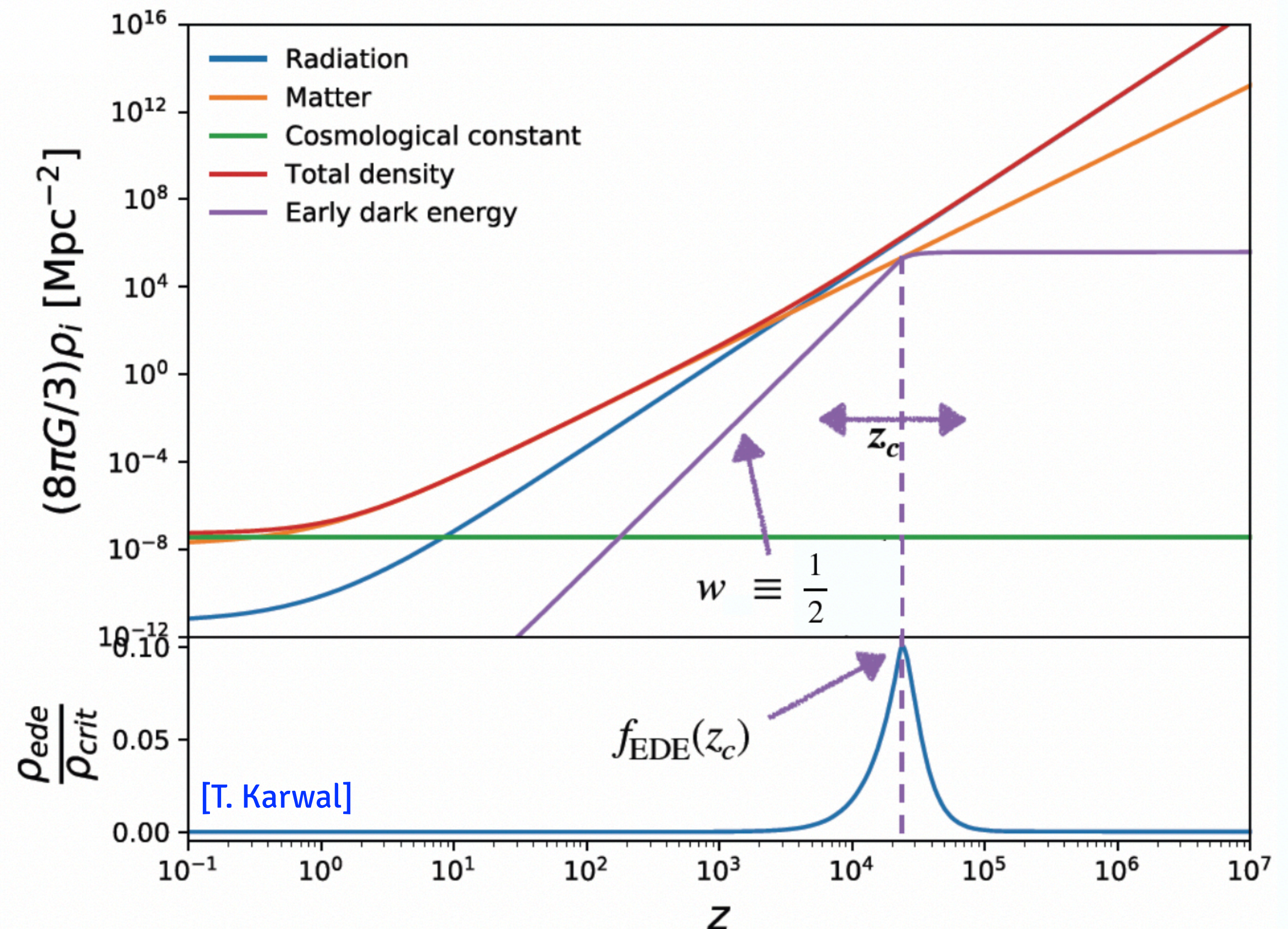


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3 extra parameters:

$$f_{\text{EDE}}(z_c) \quad z_c \quad \phi_i$$

$V(\phi)$ params



“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** \longrightarrow Canonical example, most widely studied in the literature

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

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

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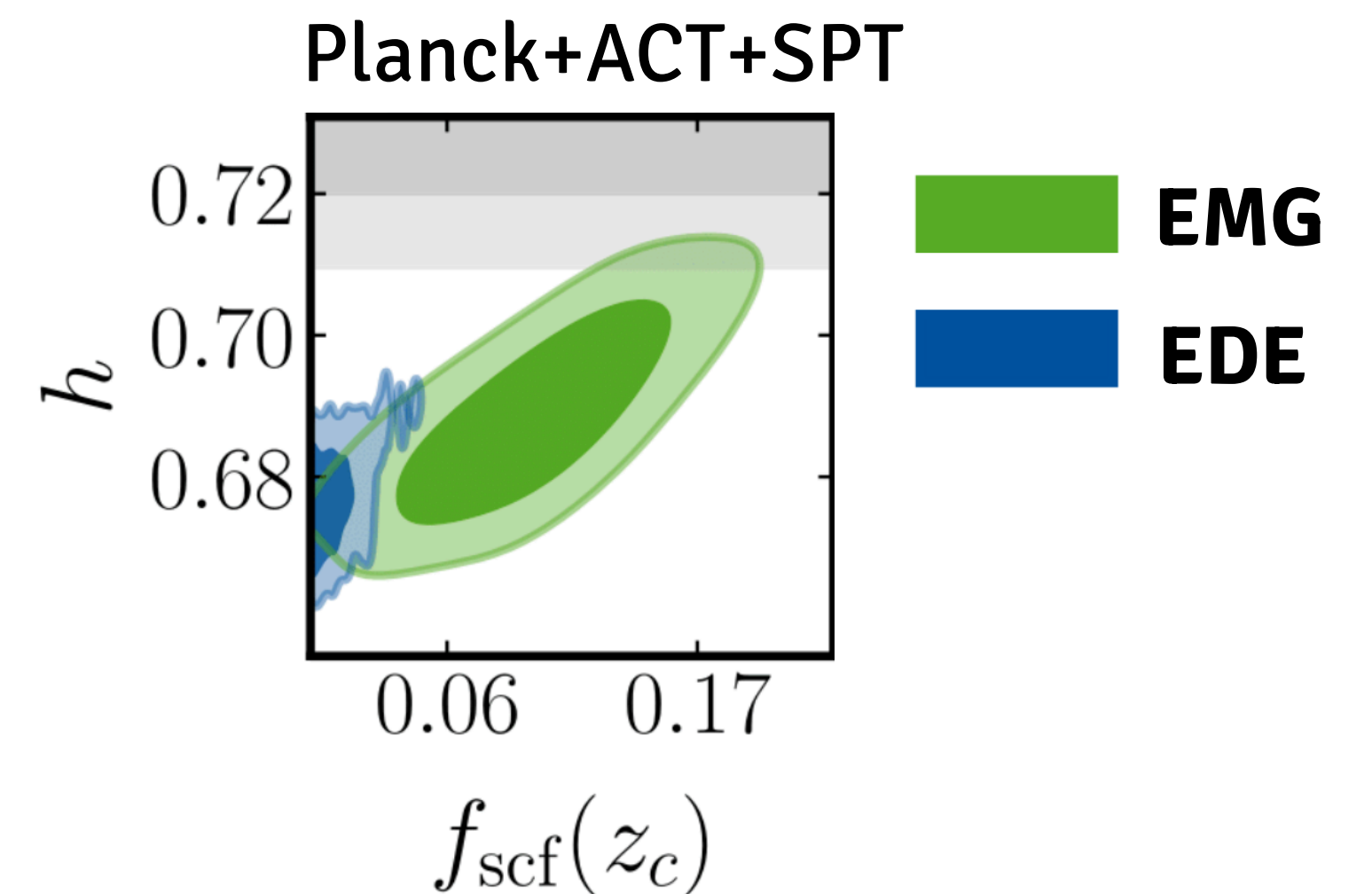
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- Variation: Early Modified Gravity (EMG)**

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

Karsten Jedamzik¹ and Levon Pogosian^{2,3}

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Christina D. Kreisch,^{1,*} Francis-Yan Cyr-Racine,^{2,3,†} and Olivier Doré⁴

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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}

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

ΔAIC

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

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	✓	✓ 🥉
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
$\text{SI}\nu\text{+DR}$	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	✓	✓ 🥈
primordial B	1	$-19.390^{+0.018}_{-0.024}$	3.5σ	3.5σ	X	-11.42	-9.42	✓	✓ 🥉
varying m_e	1	-19.391 ± 0.034	2.9σ	2.9σ	✓	-12.27	-10.27	✓	✓ 🥈
varying $m_e + \Omega_k$	2	-19.368 ± 0.048	2.0σ	1.9σ	✓	-17.26	-13.26	✓	✓ 🥈
EDE	3	$-19.390^{+0.016}_{-0.035}$	3.6σ	1.6σ	✓	-21.98	-15.98	✓	✓ 🥈
NEDE	3	$-19.380^{+0.023}_{-0.040}$	3.1σ	1.9σ	✓	-18.93	-12.93	✓	✓ 🥈
EMG	3	$-19.397^{+0.017}_{-0.023}$	3.7σ	2.3σ	✓	-18.56	-12.56	✓	✓ 🥈
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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Late-time solutions are the most disfavored

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

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EDE	3	$-19.390^{+0.016}_{-0.035}$	3.6σ	1.6σ	✓	-21.98	-15.98	✓	✓ 🥈
NEDE	3	$-19.380^{+0.023}_{-0.040}$	3.1σ	1.9σ	✓	-18.93	-12.93	✓	✓ 🥈
EMG	3	$-19.397^{+0.017}_{-0.023}$	3.7σ	2.3σ	✓	-18.56	-12.56	✓	✓ 🥈
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

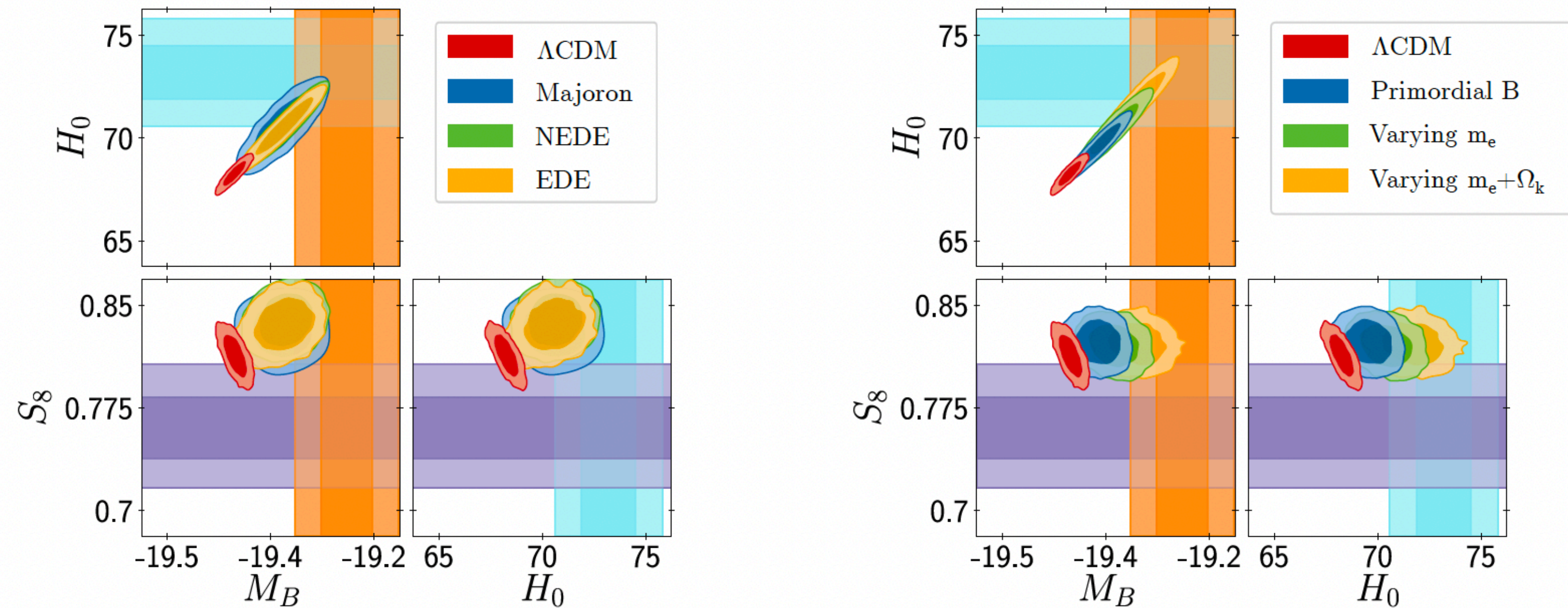
Late-time solutions are the most **disfavored**

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

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

Results of the contest

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

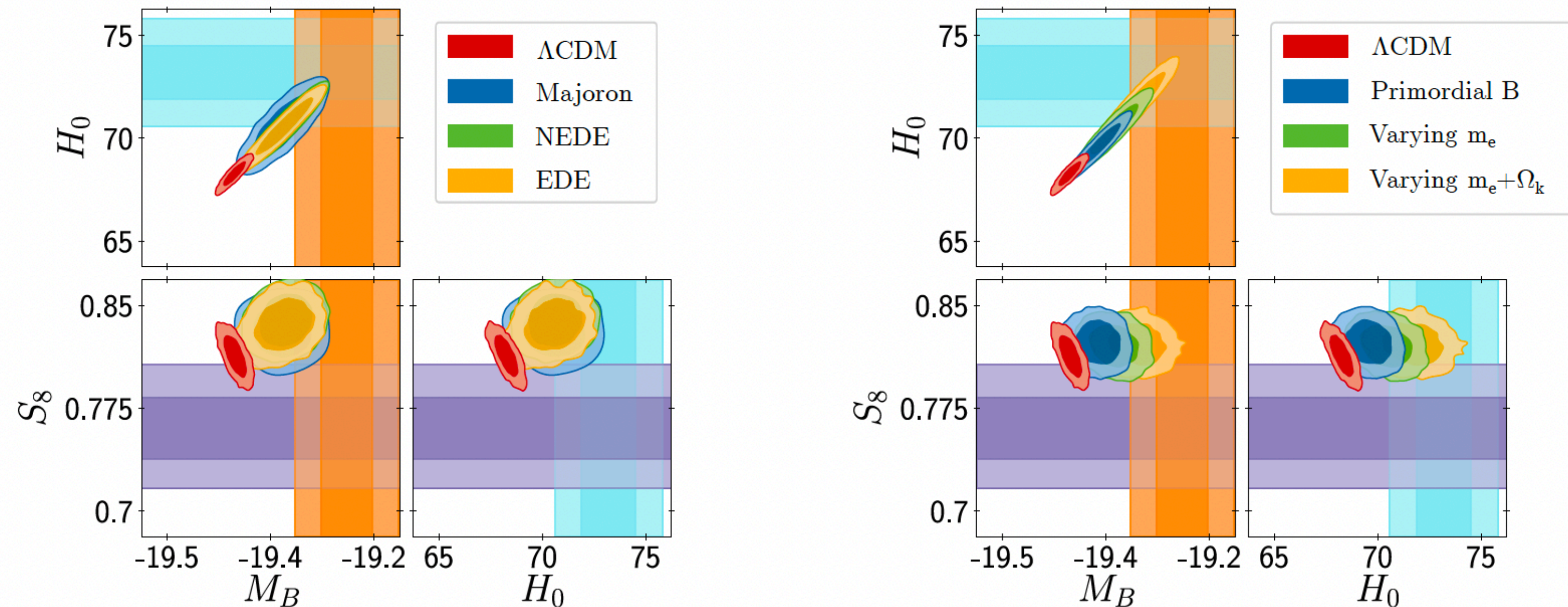


[Schöneberg, GFA++ 22]

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

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

Outline

I. Decaying Dark Matter and the S_8 tension

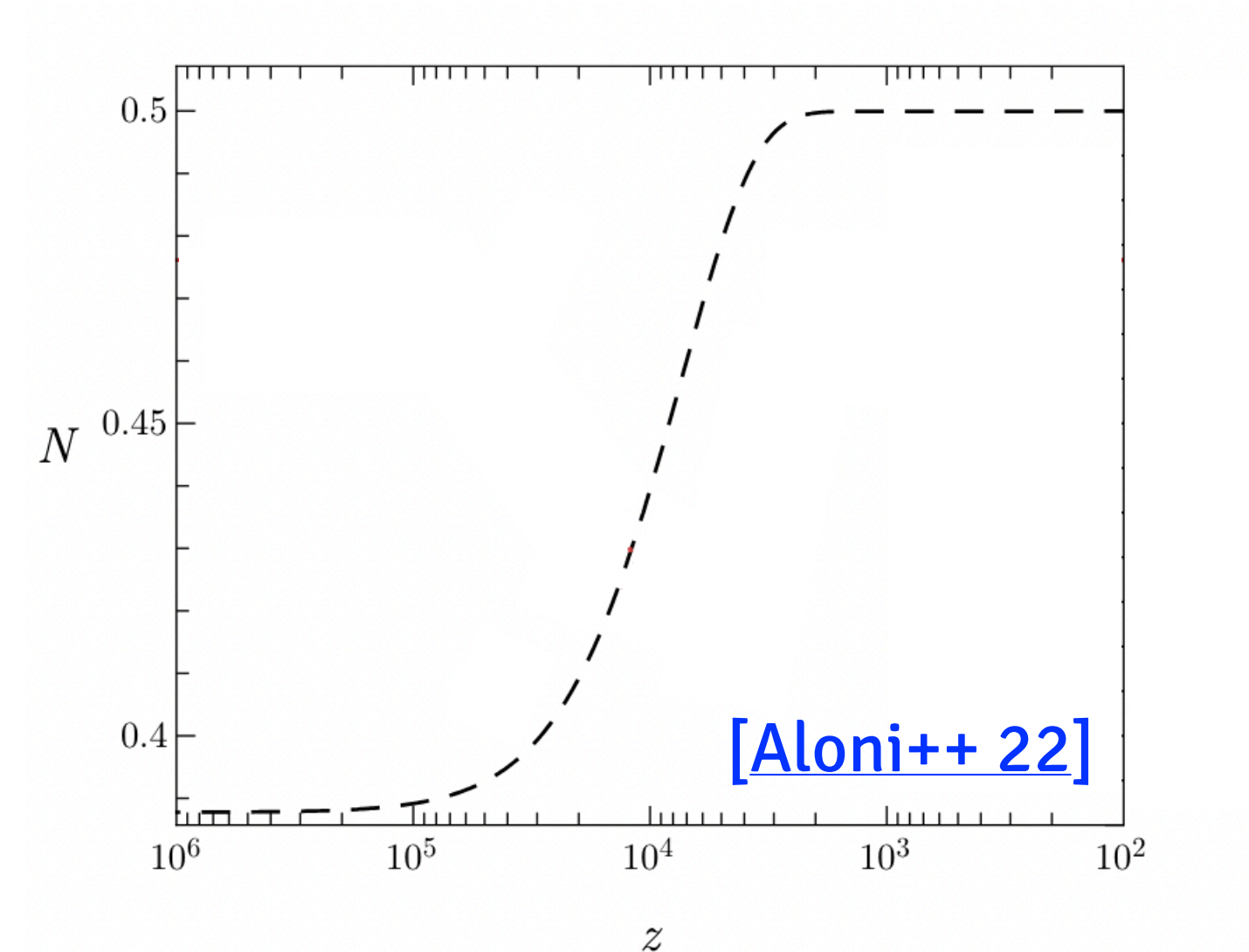
II. Early Dark Energy and the H_0 tension

III. Easing both tensions with Interacting Dark Radiation



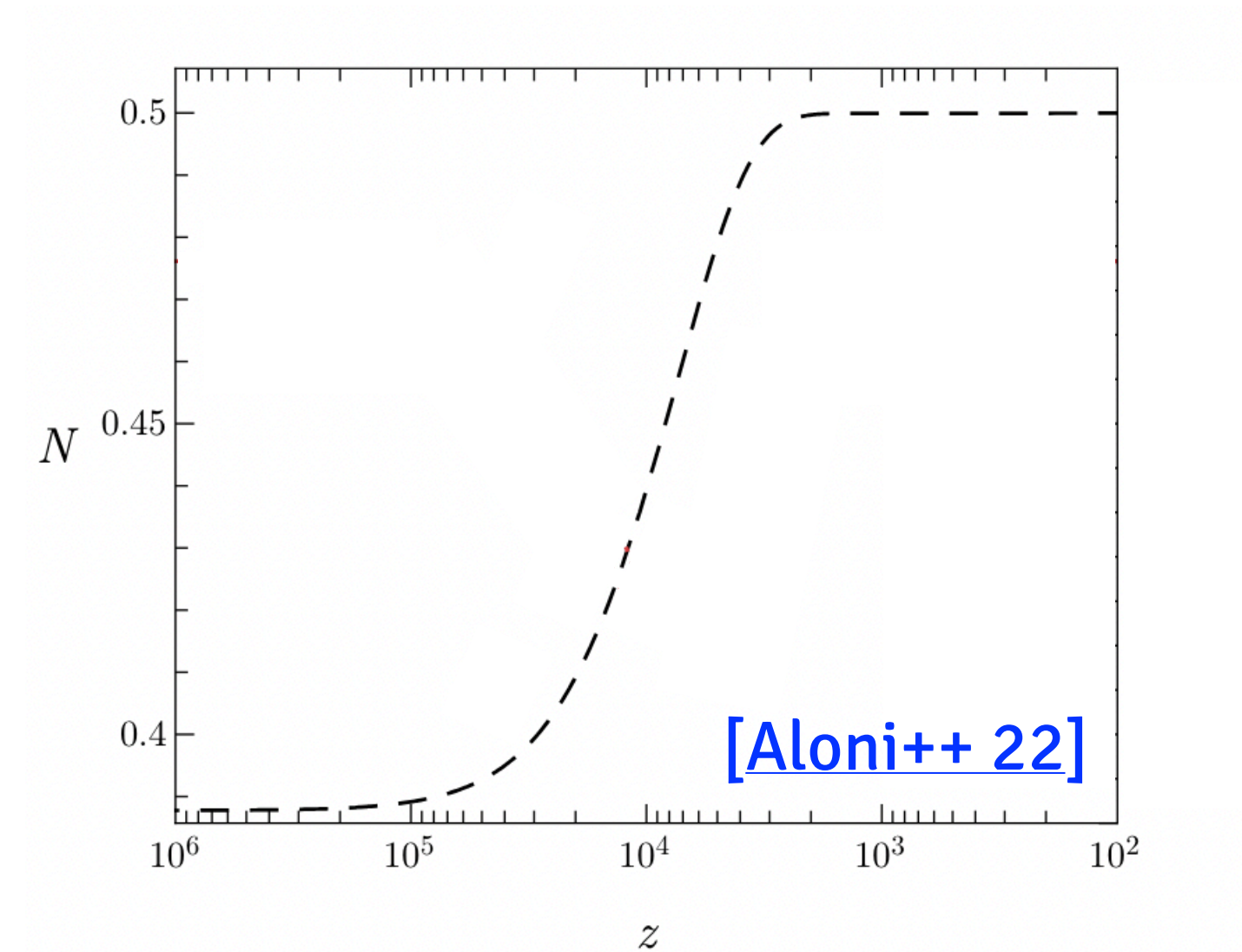
Interacting (Stepped) Dark Radiation

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

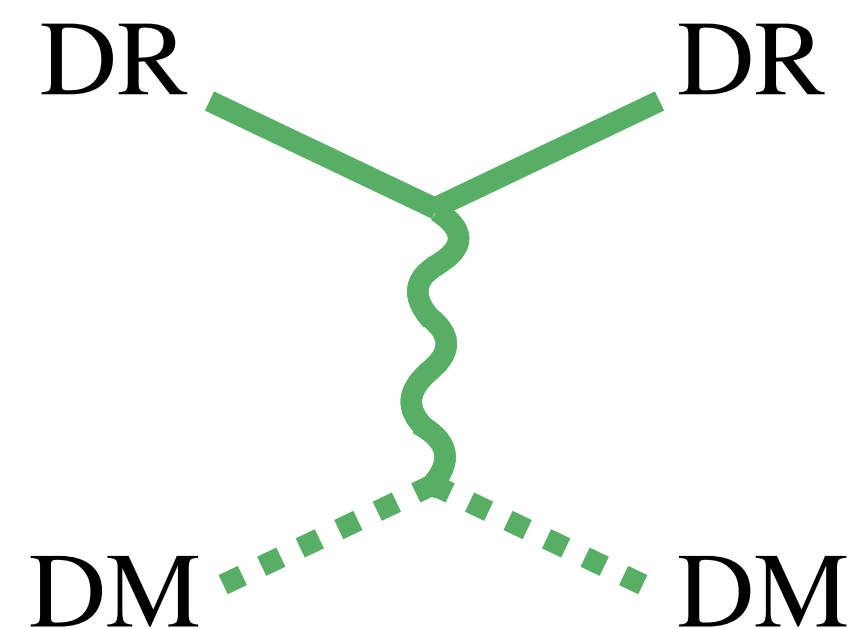


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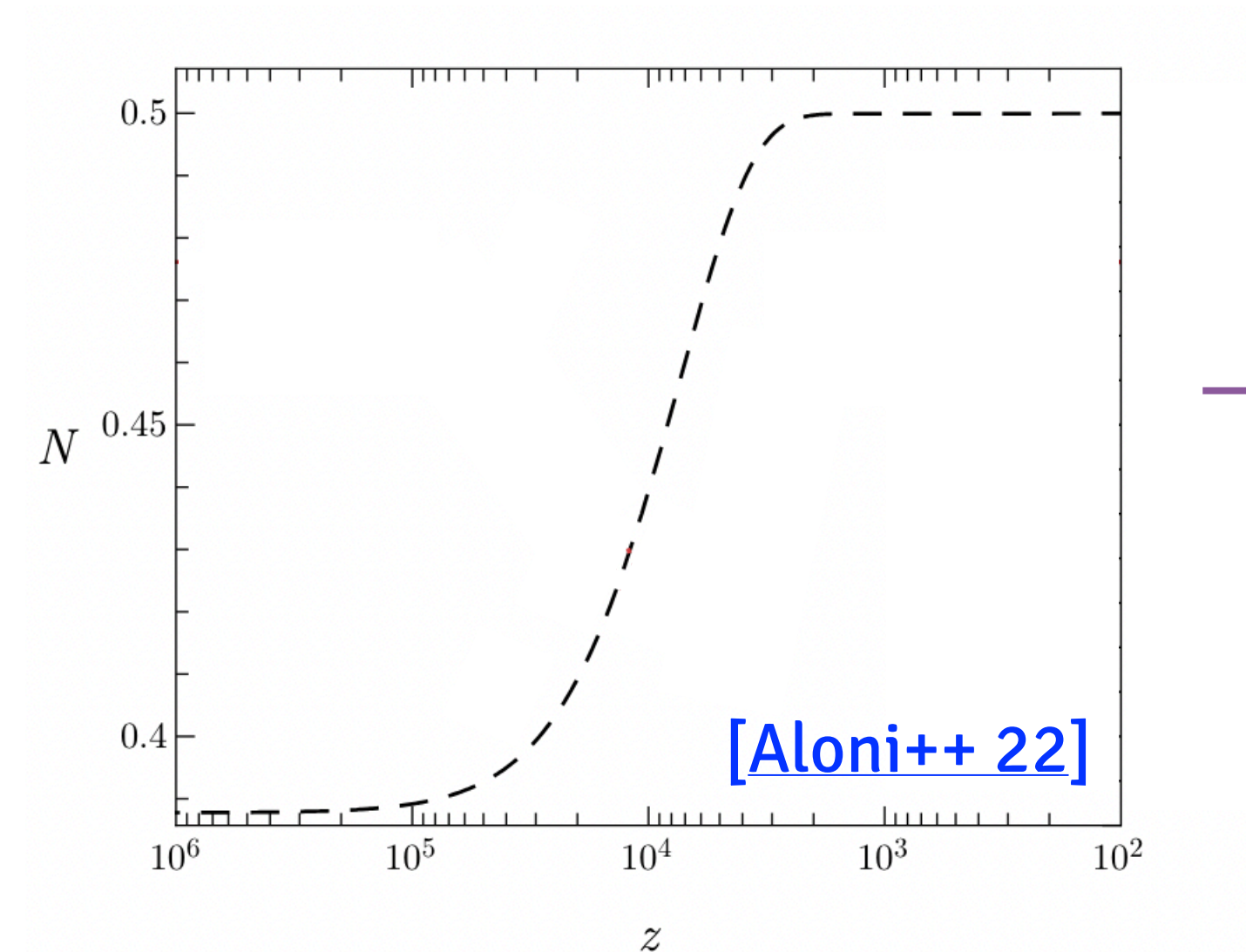


...which additionally
scatters with
dark matter



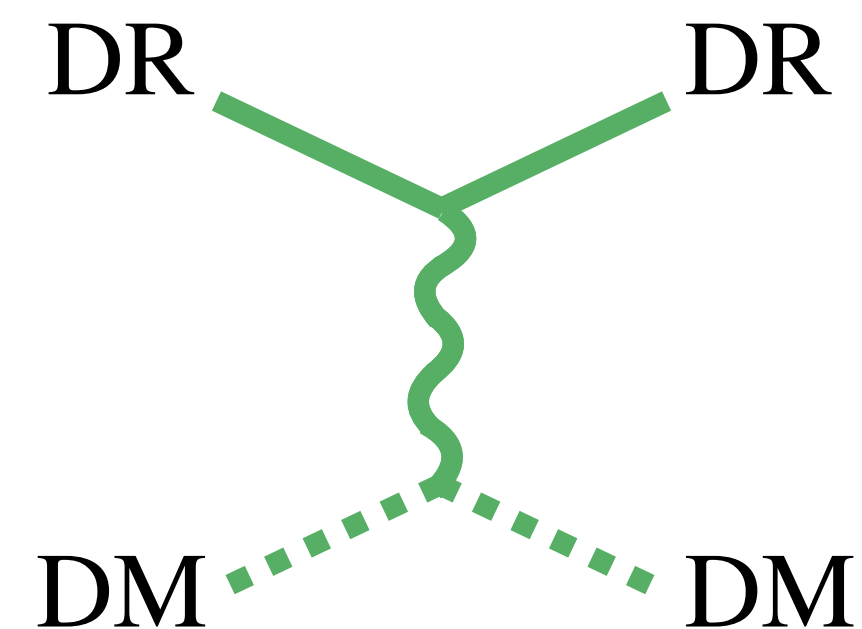
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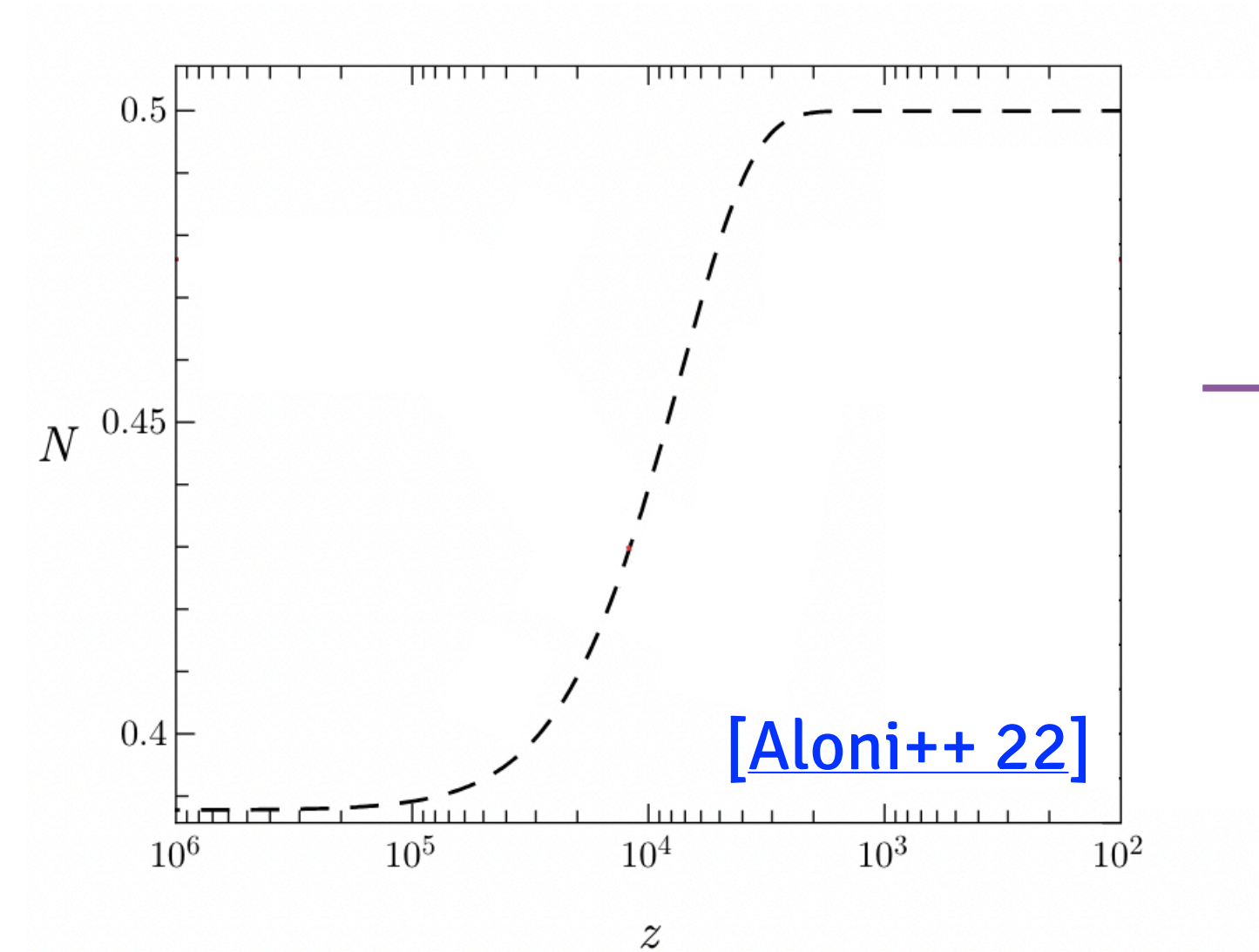
allows to lower r_s
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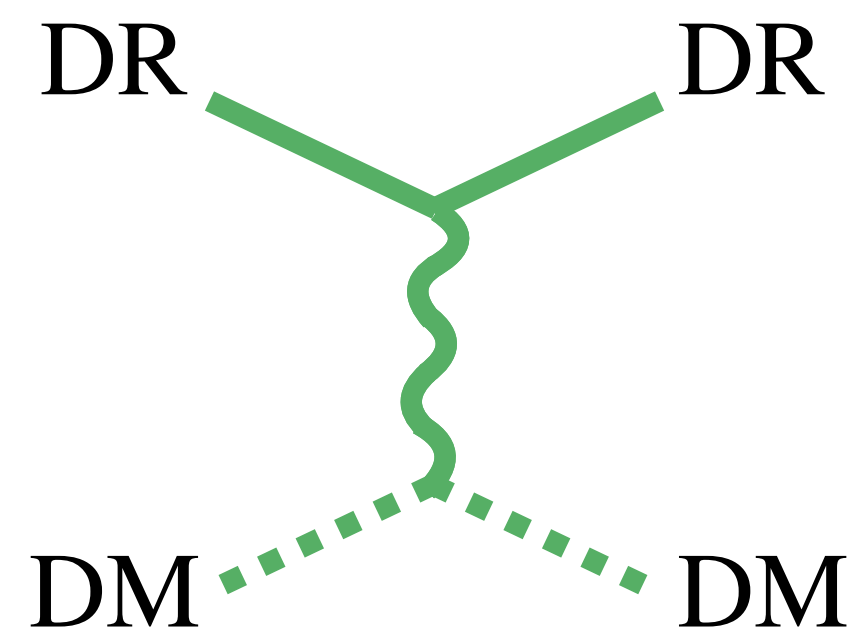
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suppresses matter clustering, leading to a **smaller S_8**

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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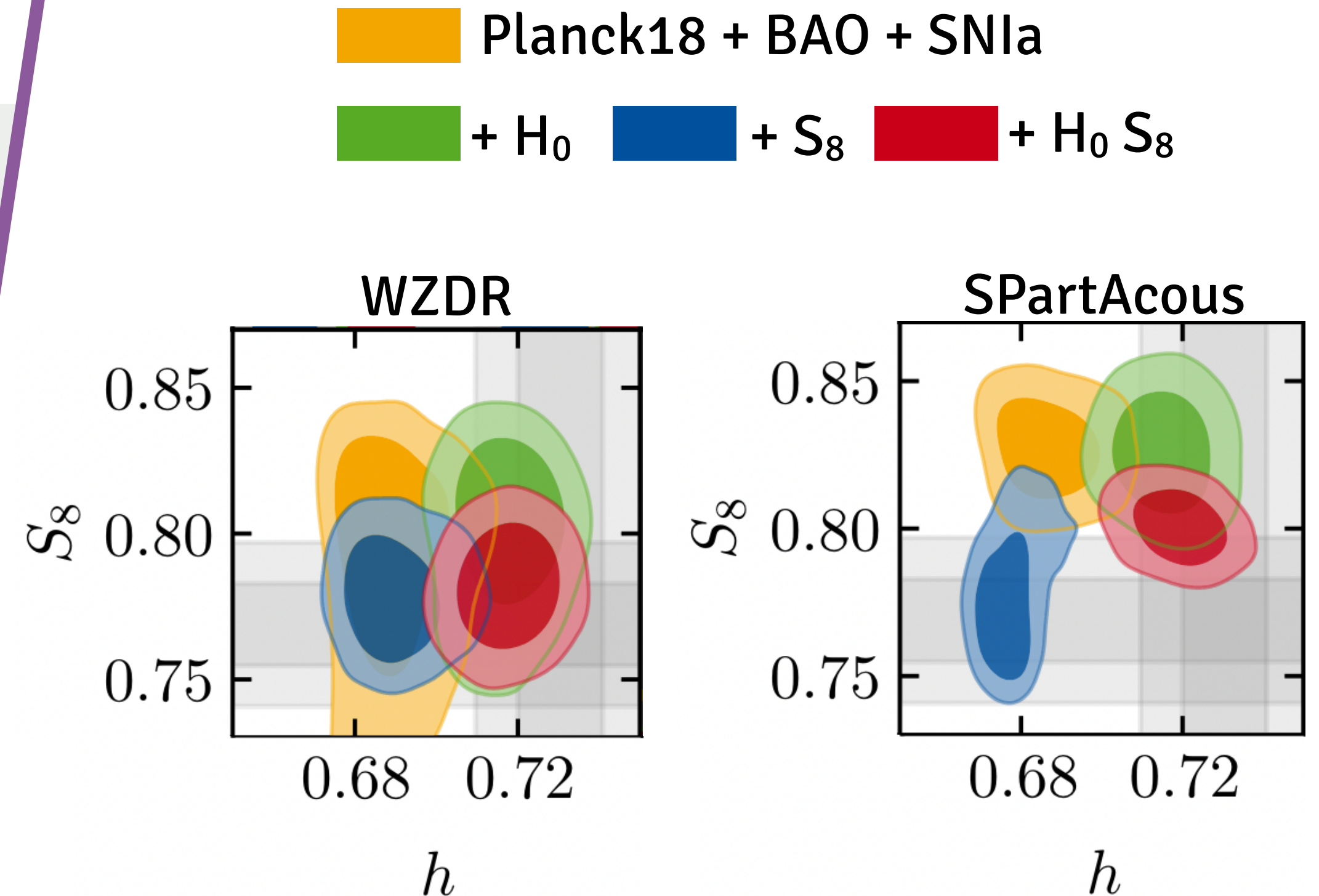
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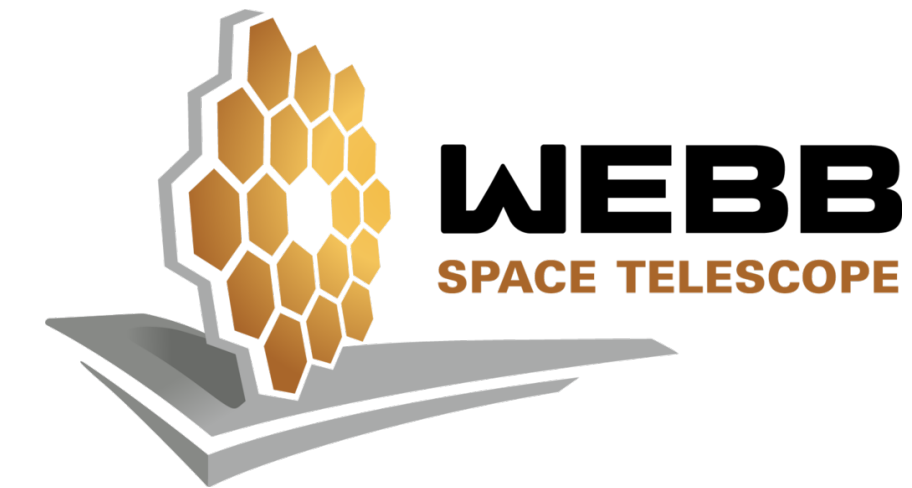
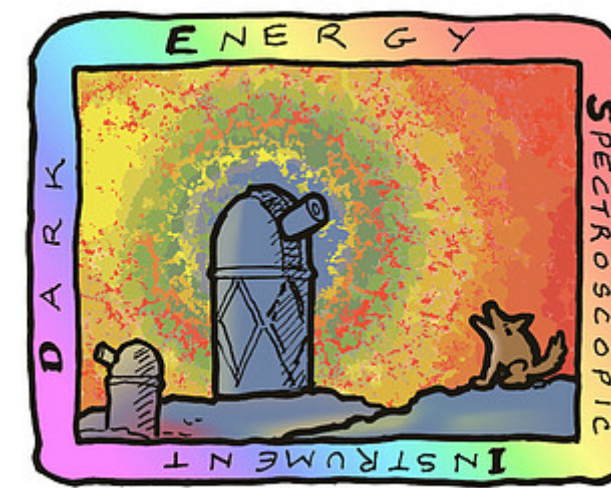


“Only the WZDR model can address both tensions simultaneously”

[Schöneberg, GFA++ 2023]

Prospects

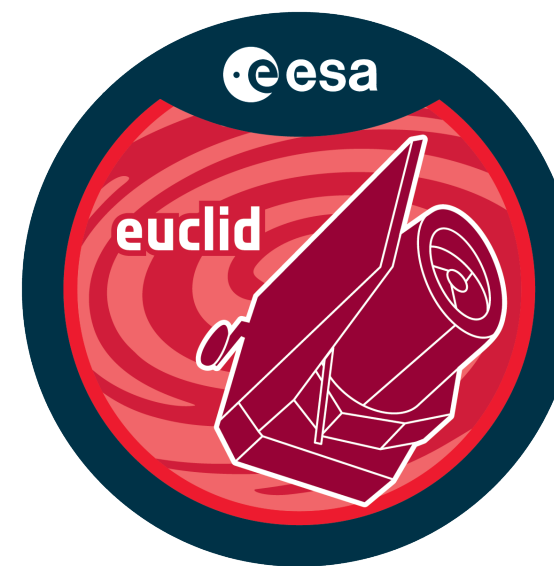
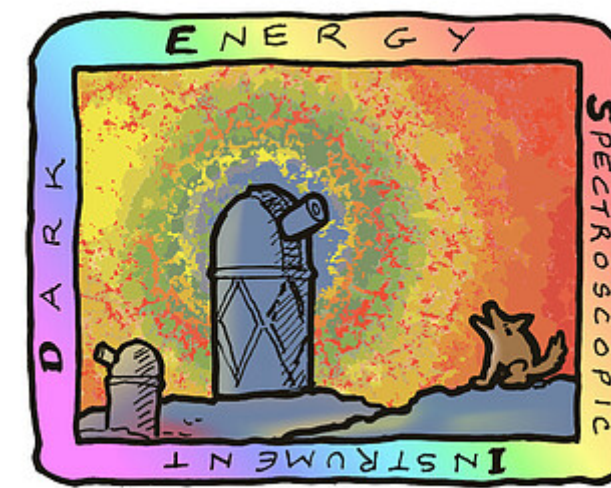
Forthcoming **cosmological surveys** will provide us with unprecedented data to probe the **dark sector...**



Prospects

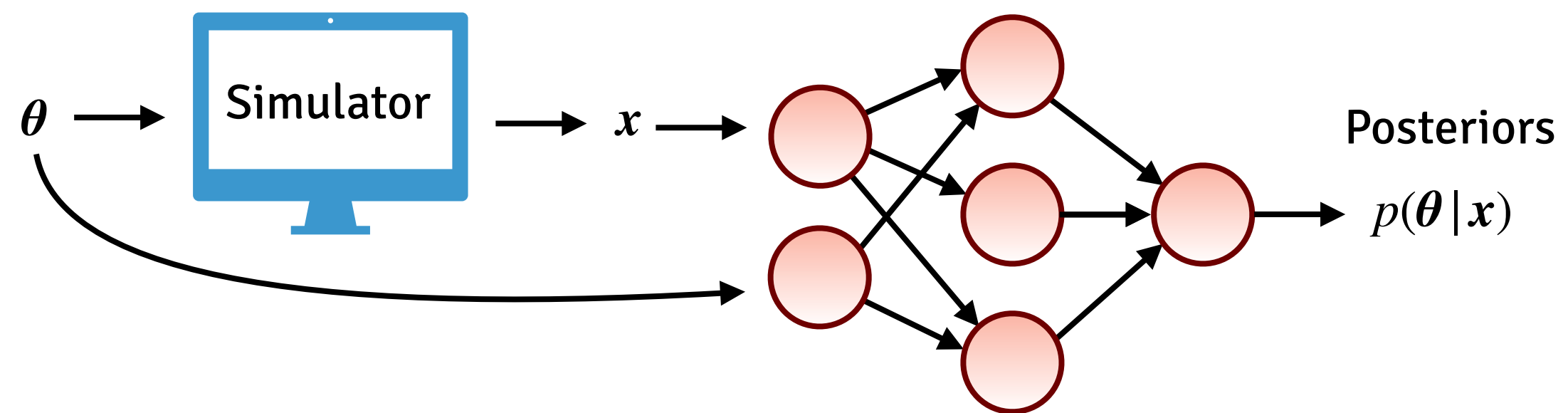
Forthcoming **cosmological surveys** will provide us with unprecedented data to probe the **dark sector...**

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



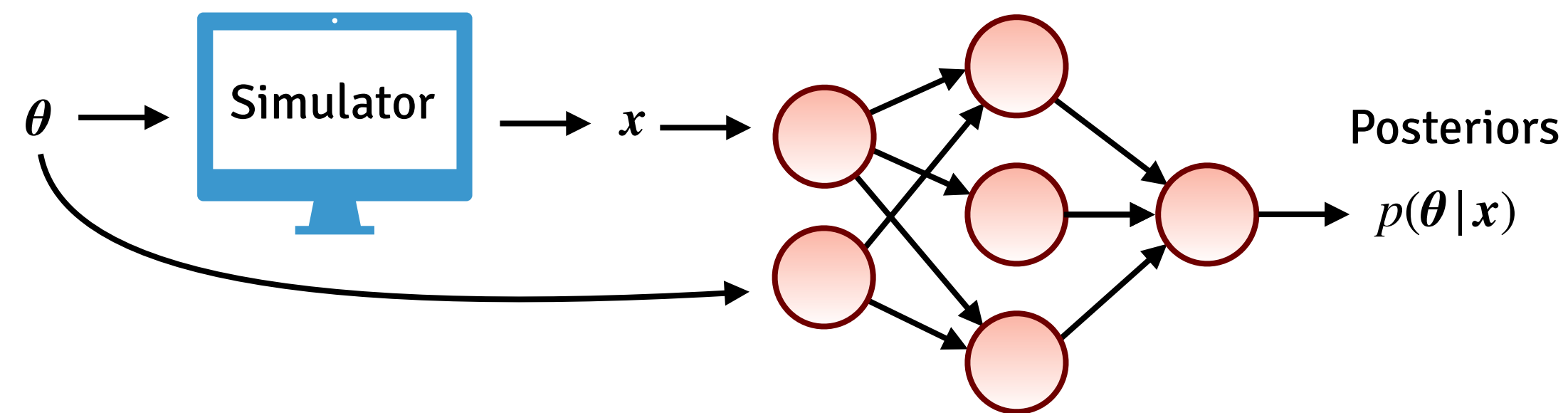
Prospects

New techniques in **deep learning**/
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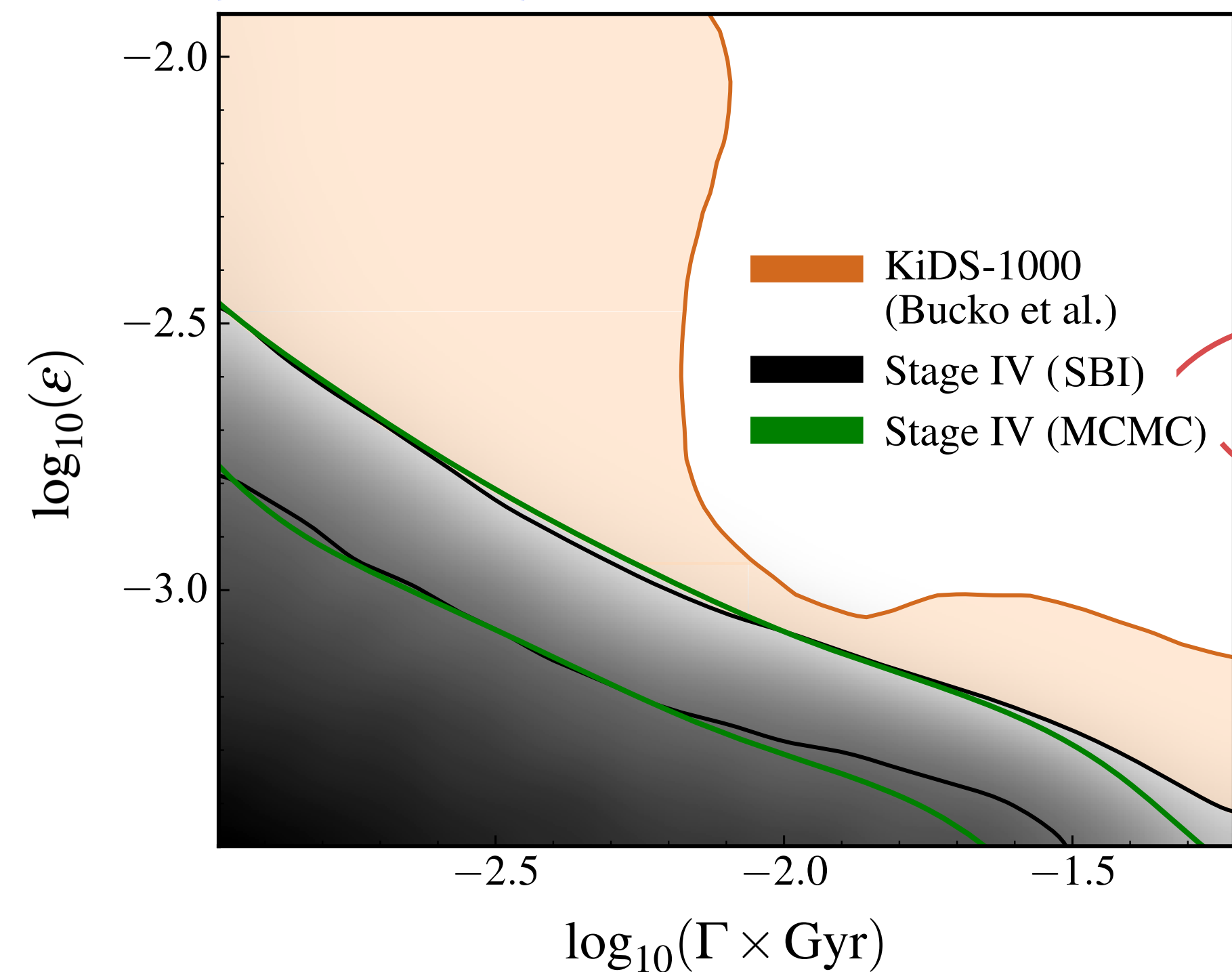
Prospects

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

[GFA++ 2024]



3 hours
vs.
8 days!

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Conclusions

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- **Future surveys** will allow to detect/rule out these models (new deep-learning tools will be crucial)



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 $H(z)$

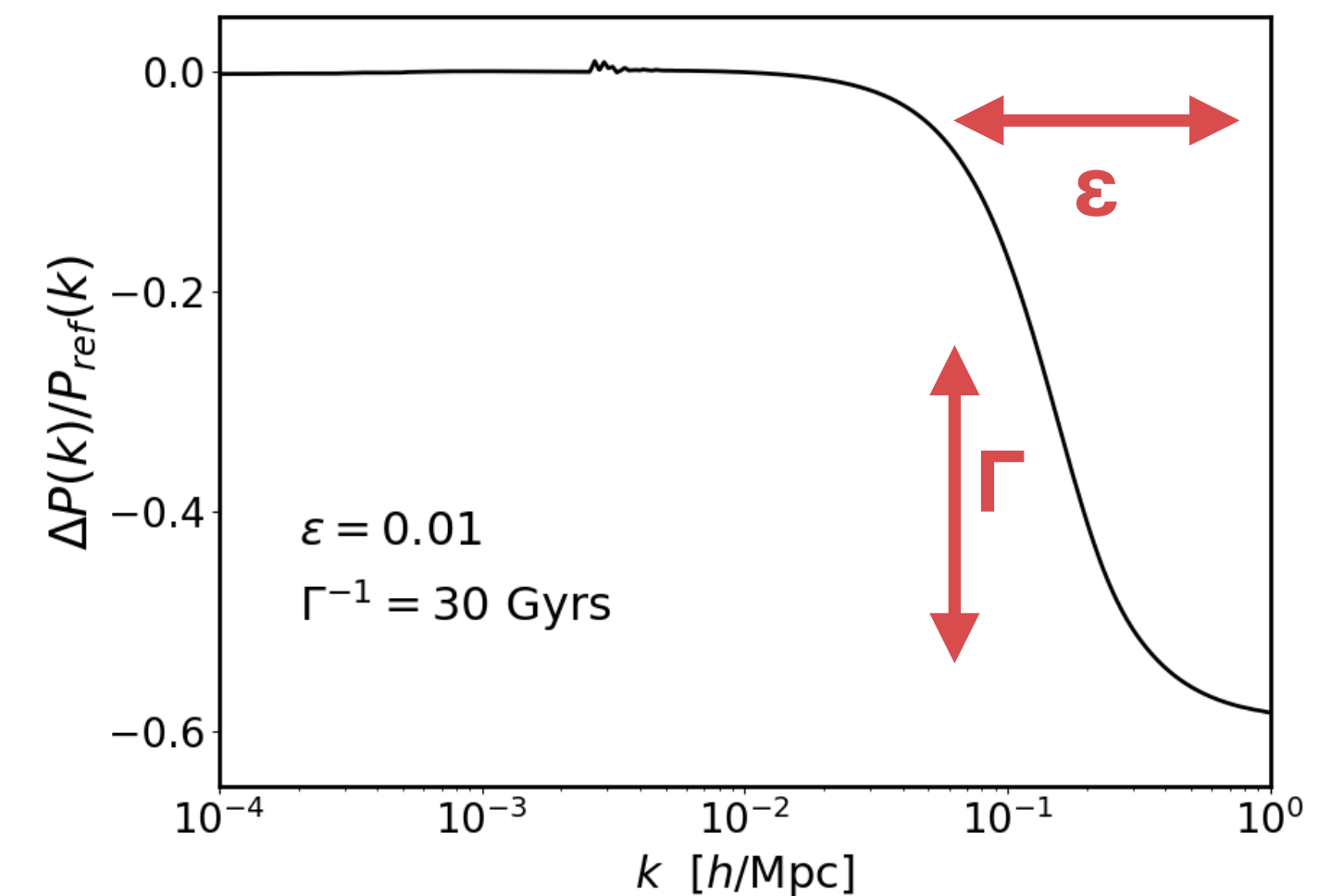
Not much impacted by
CDM \rightarrow DR+WDM ($\rho_{\text{wdm}} \sim \rho_{\text{cdm}} \sim a^{-3}$)

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

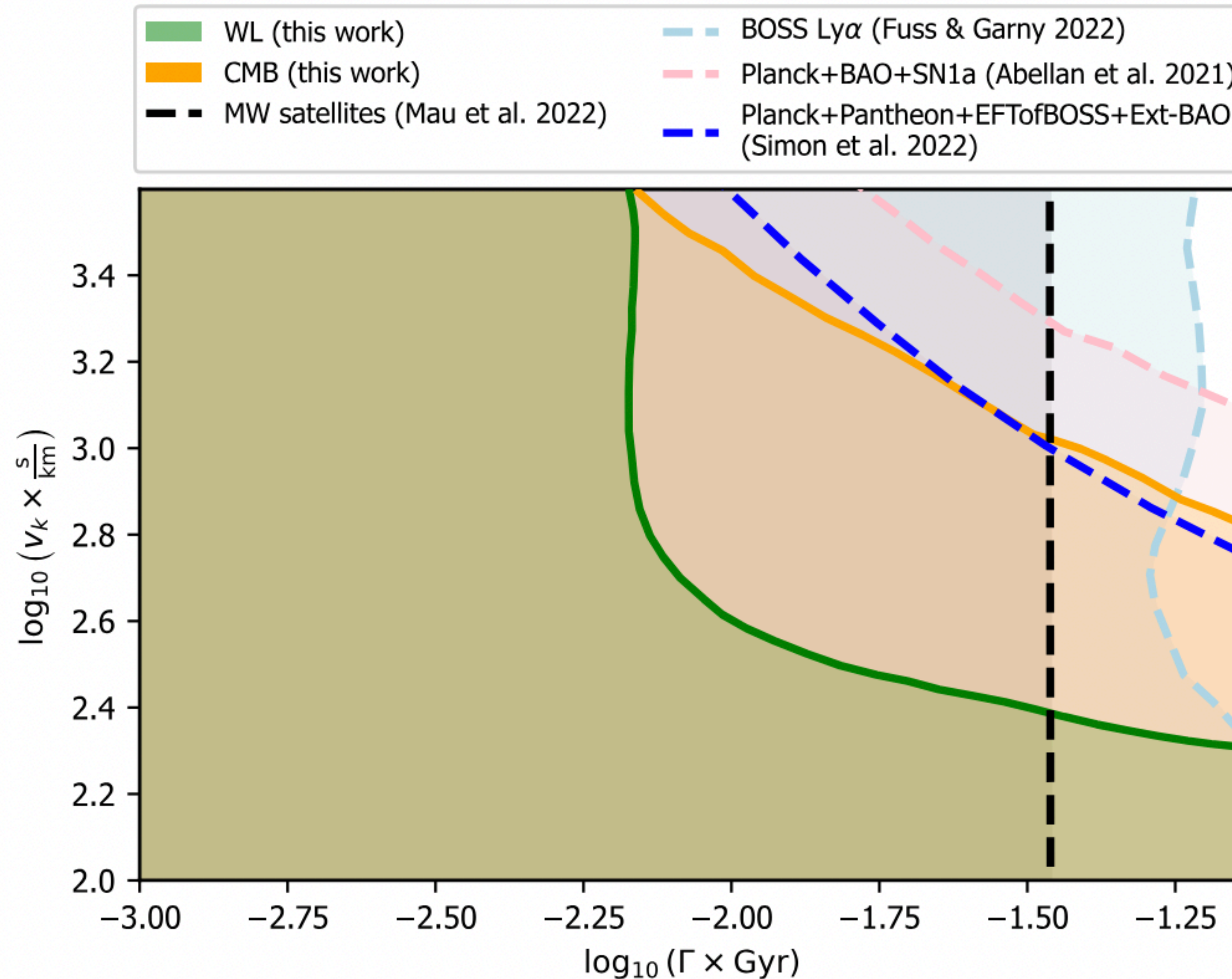
Impact even for late decays,
it affects both LISW
and CMB lensing

Linear matter power spectrum $P_m(k)$

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



Summary of current bounds on invisible DM decay



[Bucko++ 24]

Note : $\epsilon \simeq \frac{v_k}{c}$

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 ↗ [\[Takahashi++ 21\]](#)

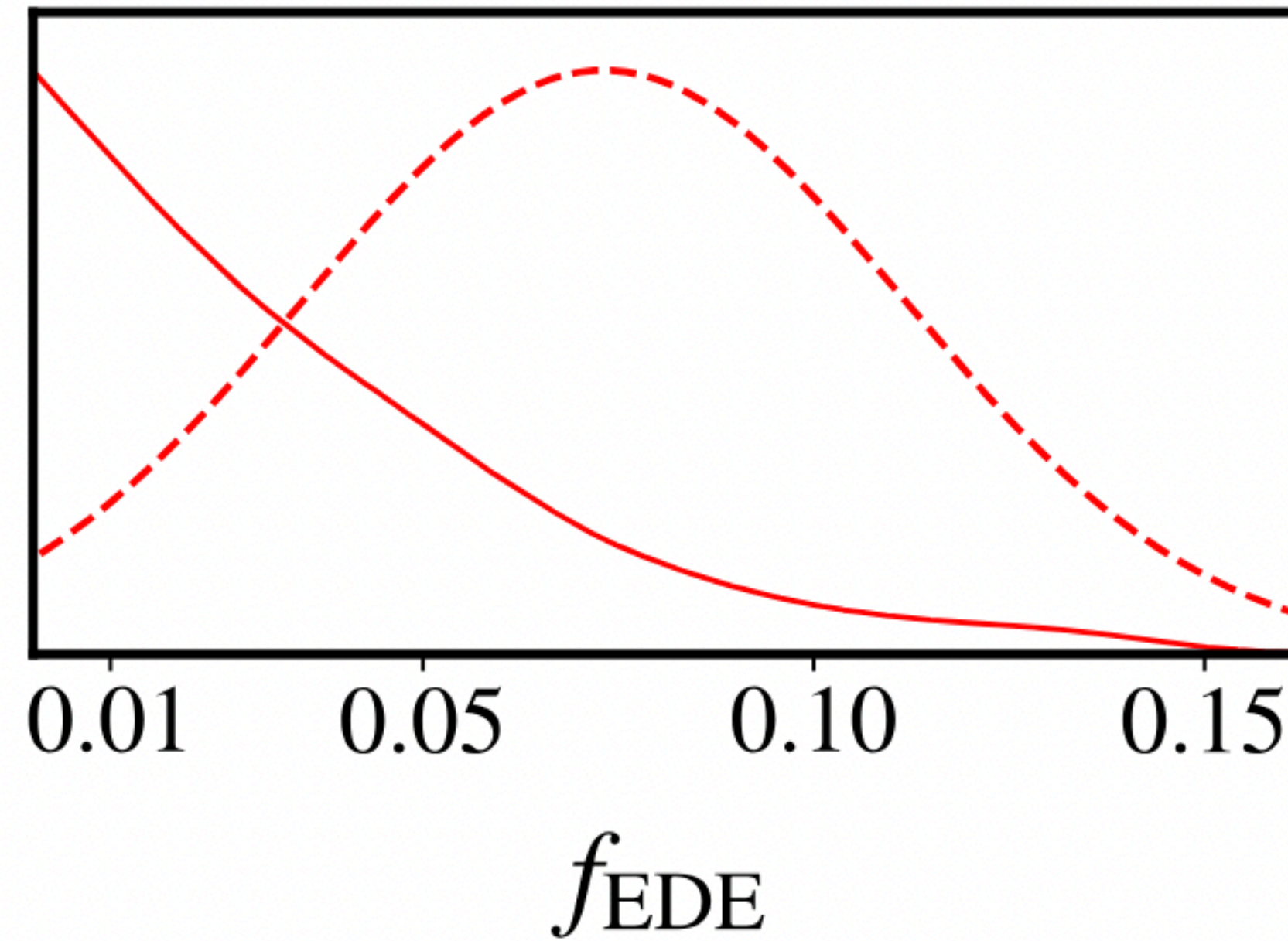
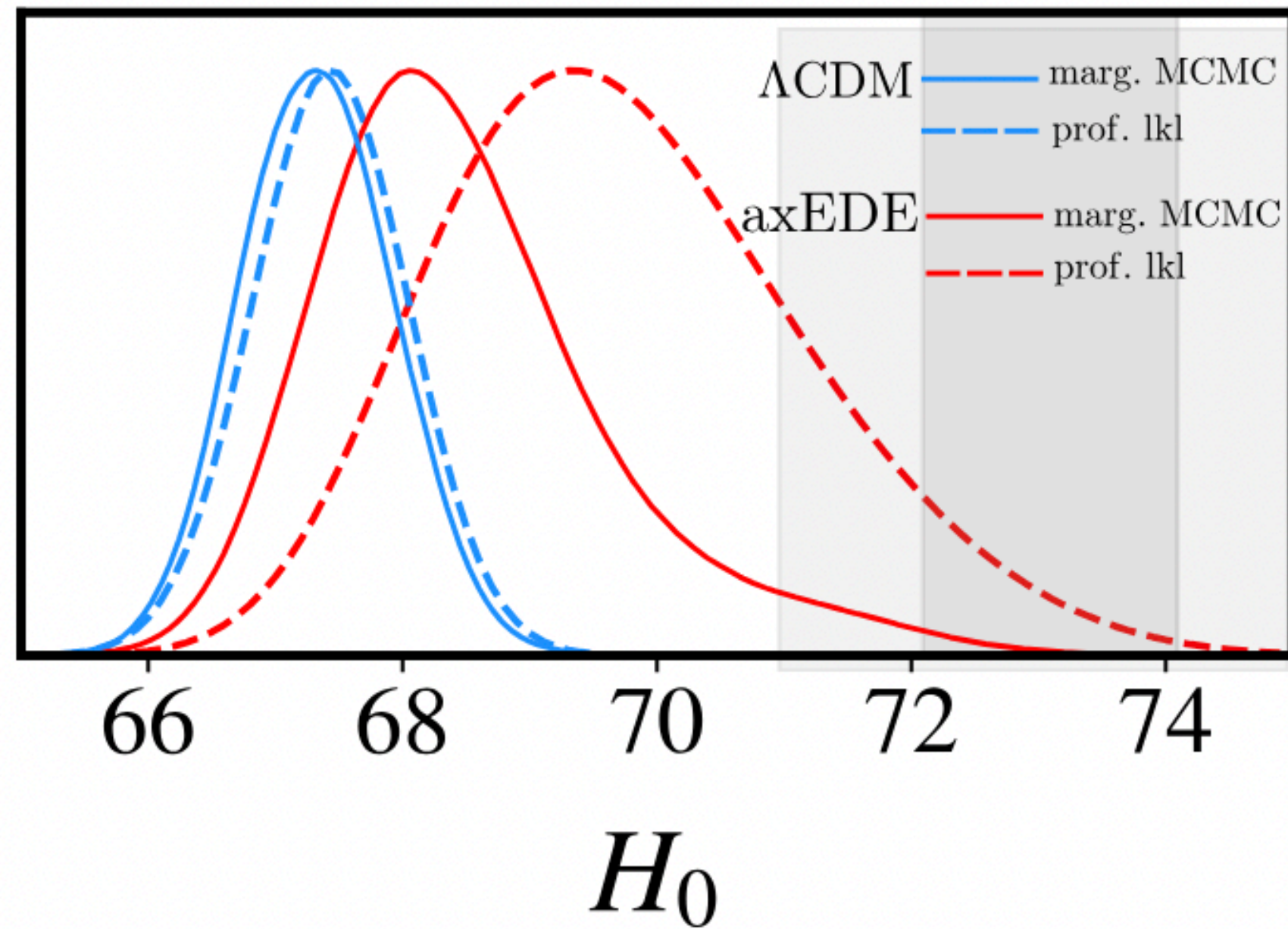
t_U ↘ [\[Boylan-Kolchin++ 21\]](#) [\[Bernal++ 21\]](#)

ω_{cdm} ↗ [\[Vagnozzi++ 21\]](#) [\[Jedamzik++ 21\]](#)

S_8 ↗ [\[Hill++ 20\]](#) [\[Murgia, GFA++ 20\]](#)

Prior-volume effects in EDE analyses

Results for Planck18 alone

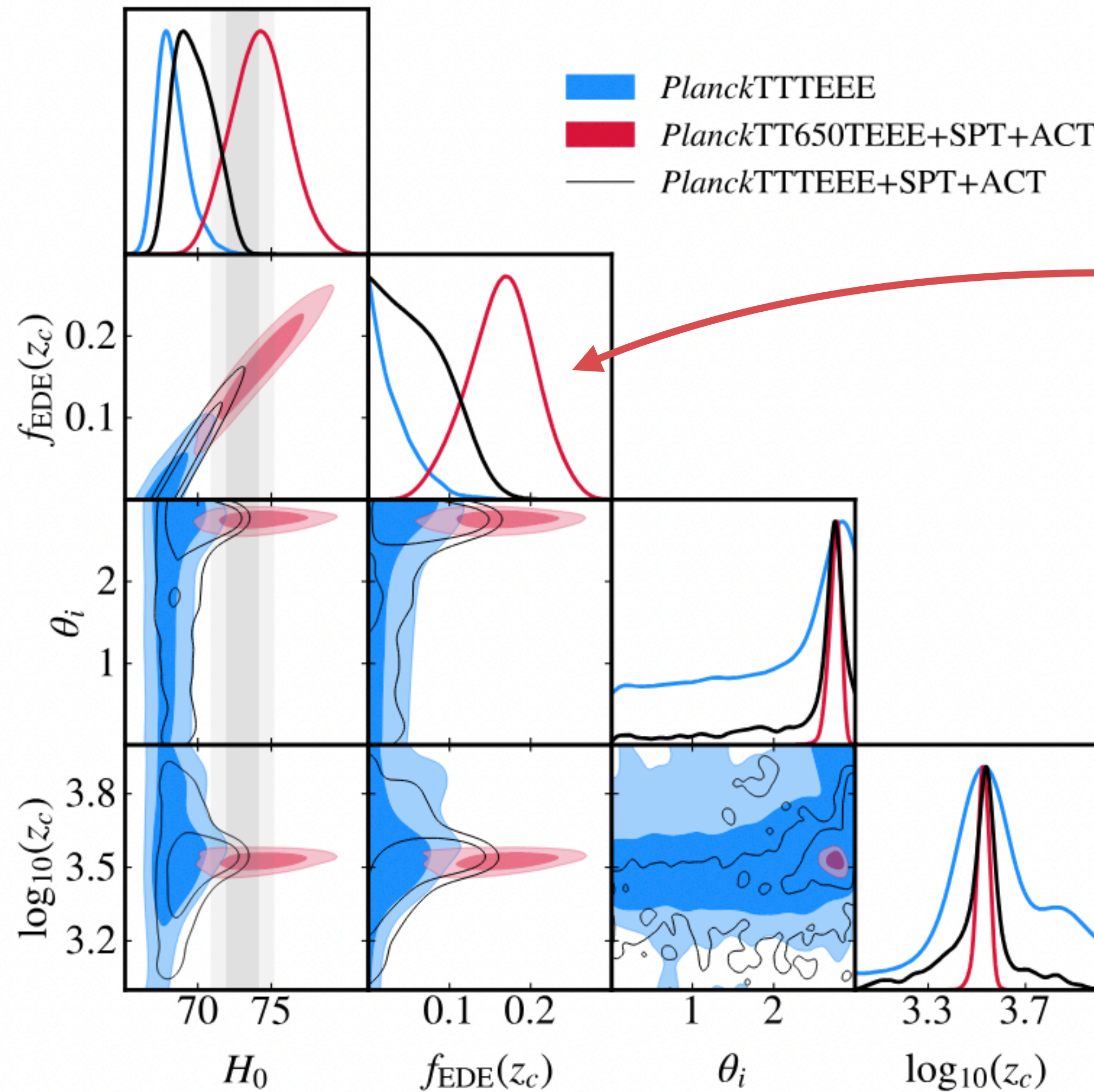


[Poulin++ 23]

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



Hints coming from **ACT**, but they vanish when including **high- ℓ TT** data from **Planck**

[Smith++ 22]

[Poulin++ 23]

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

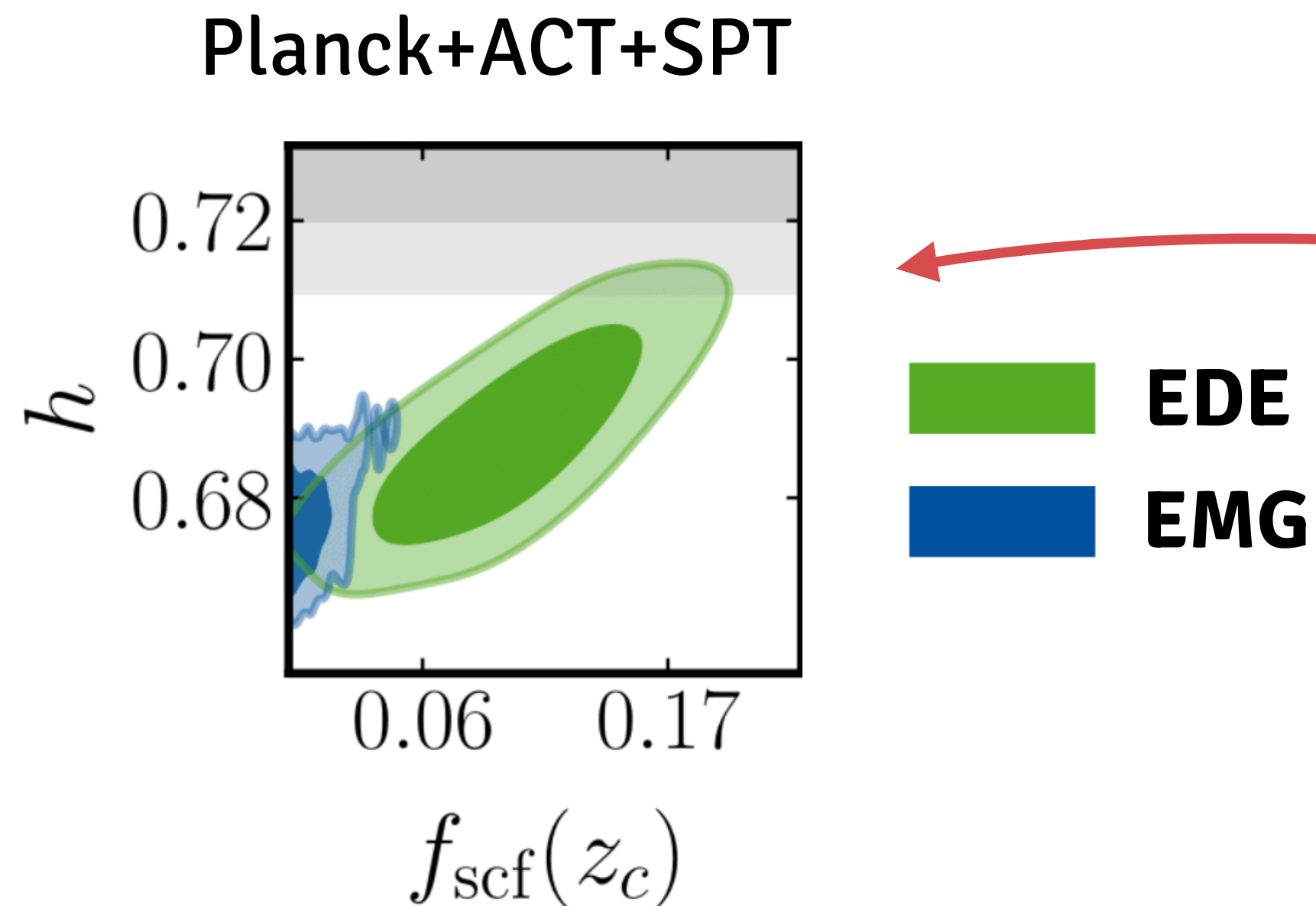
$$F(\phi) = M_{\text{pl}}^2$$

$$V(\phi) = \lambda \phi^4 / 4$$

Early Modified Gravity

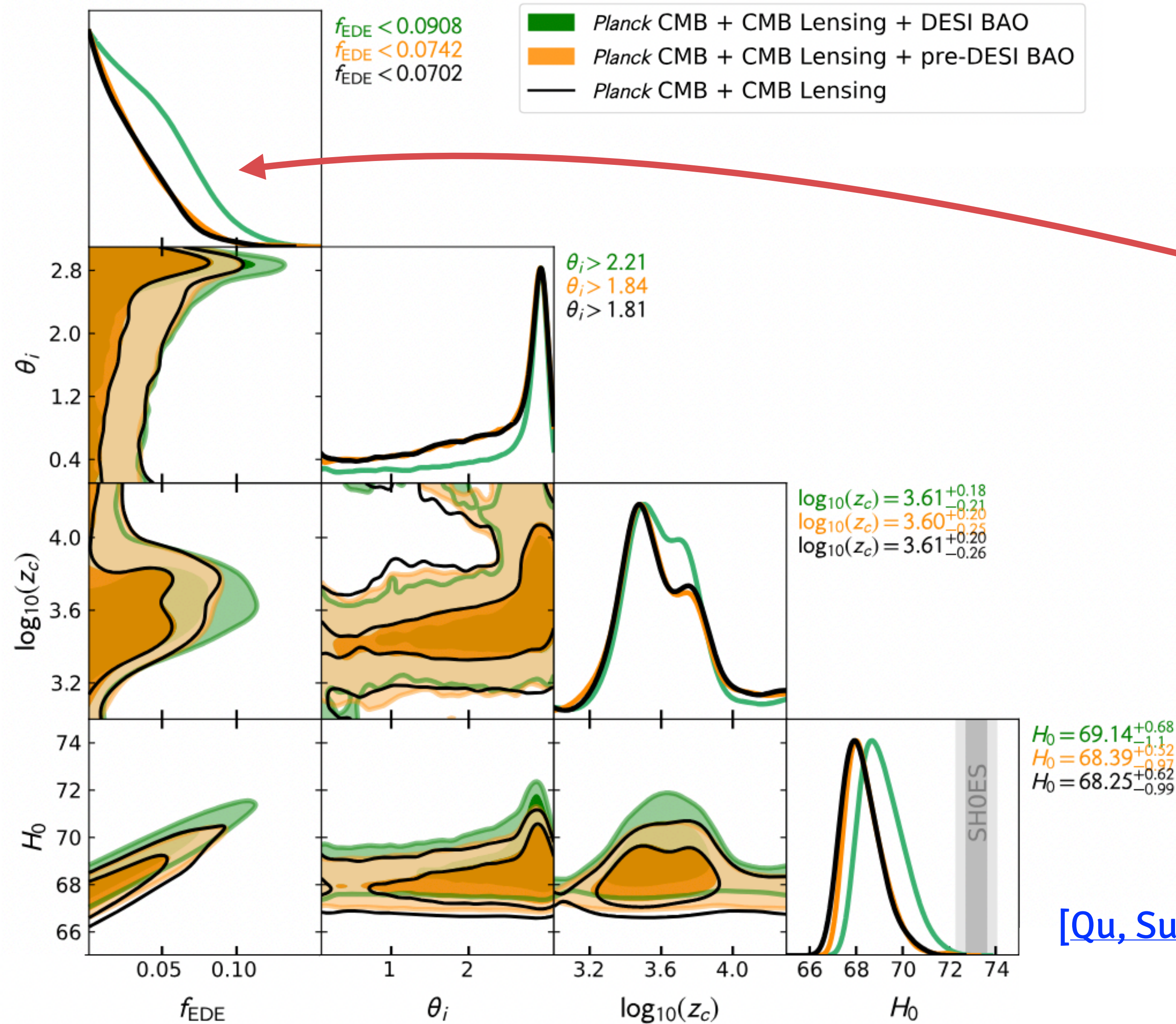
$$F(\phi) = M_{\text{pl}}^2 + \xi \phi^2$$

$$V(\phi) = \lambda \phi^4 / 4$$



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

EDE in light of DESI-Y1 BAO data

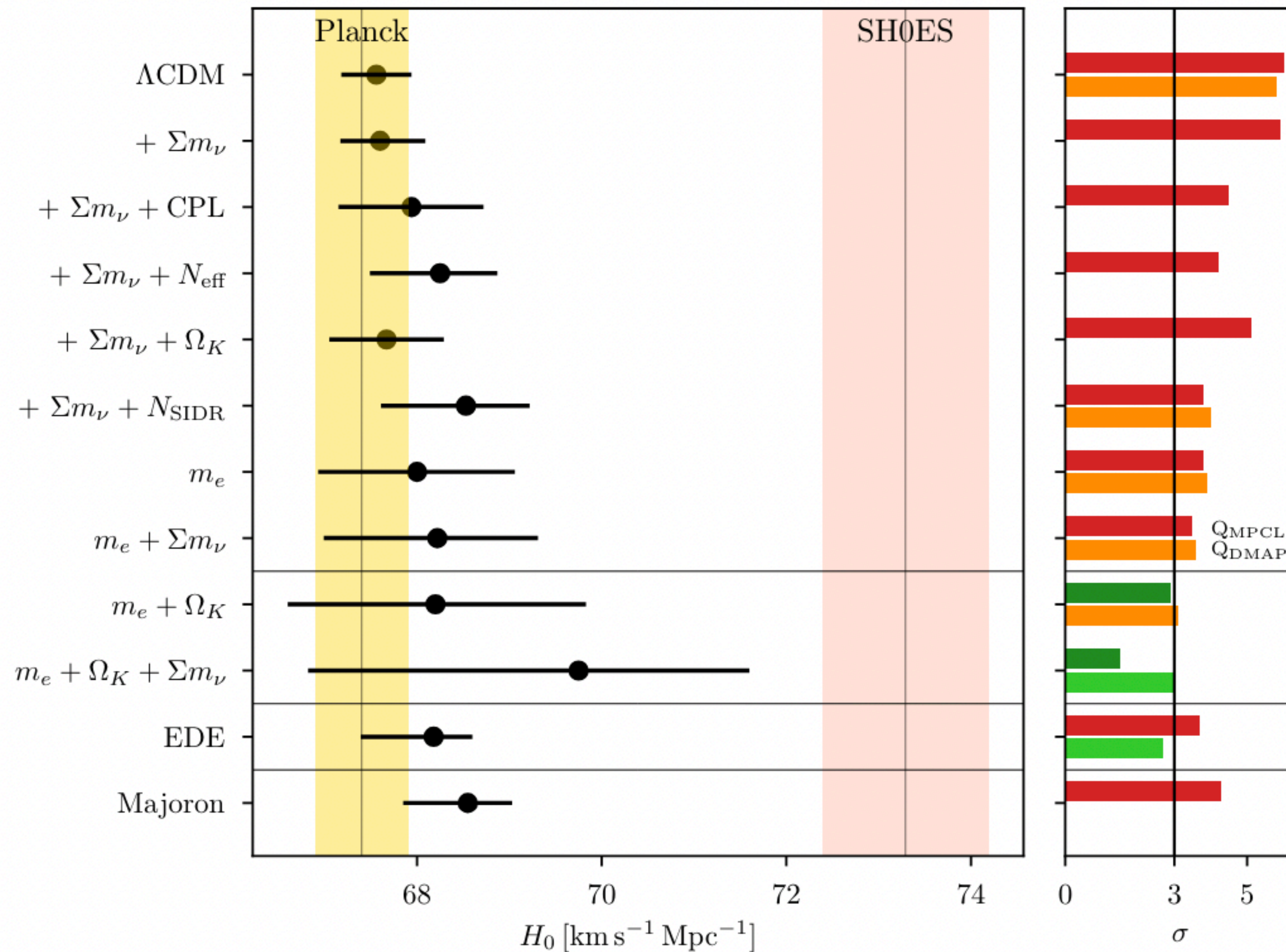


Adding DESI weakens the bounds on EDE, as it prefers a lower Ω_m value (negatively correlated with H_0)

[Qu, Surrao++ 24]

The H_0 Olympics with new SH0ES and SPT data

Results for Planck18 + SPT-3G + BAO + SNIa

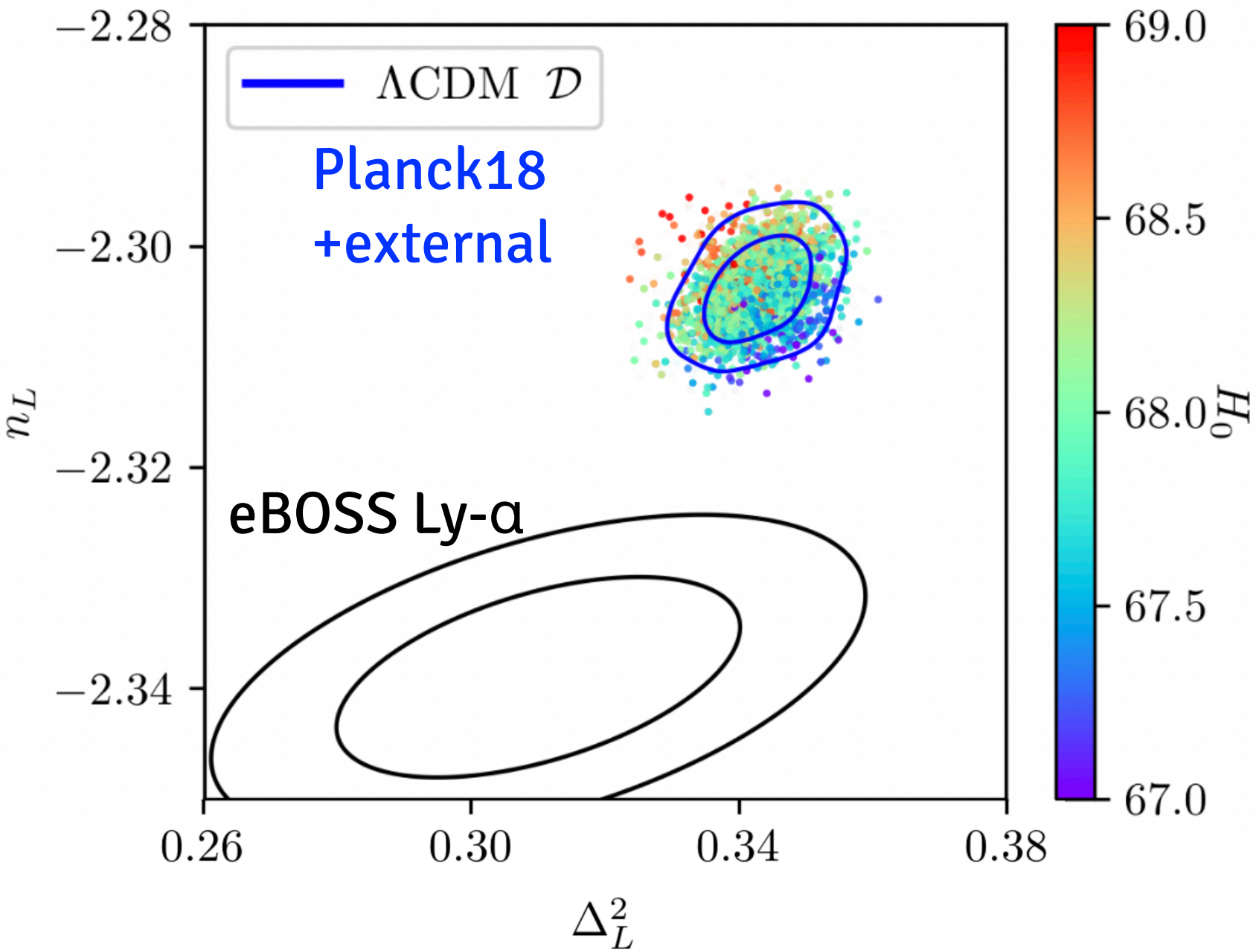


Only **EDE** and **varying $m_e + \Omega_K$** can reduce the tension **below 3σ** (either in a Bayesian or in a frequentist way)

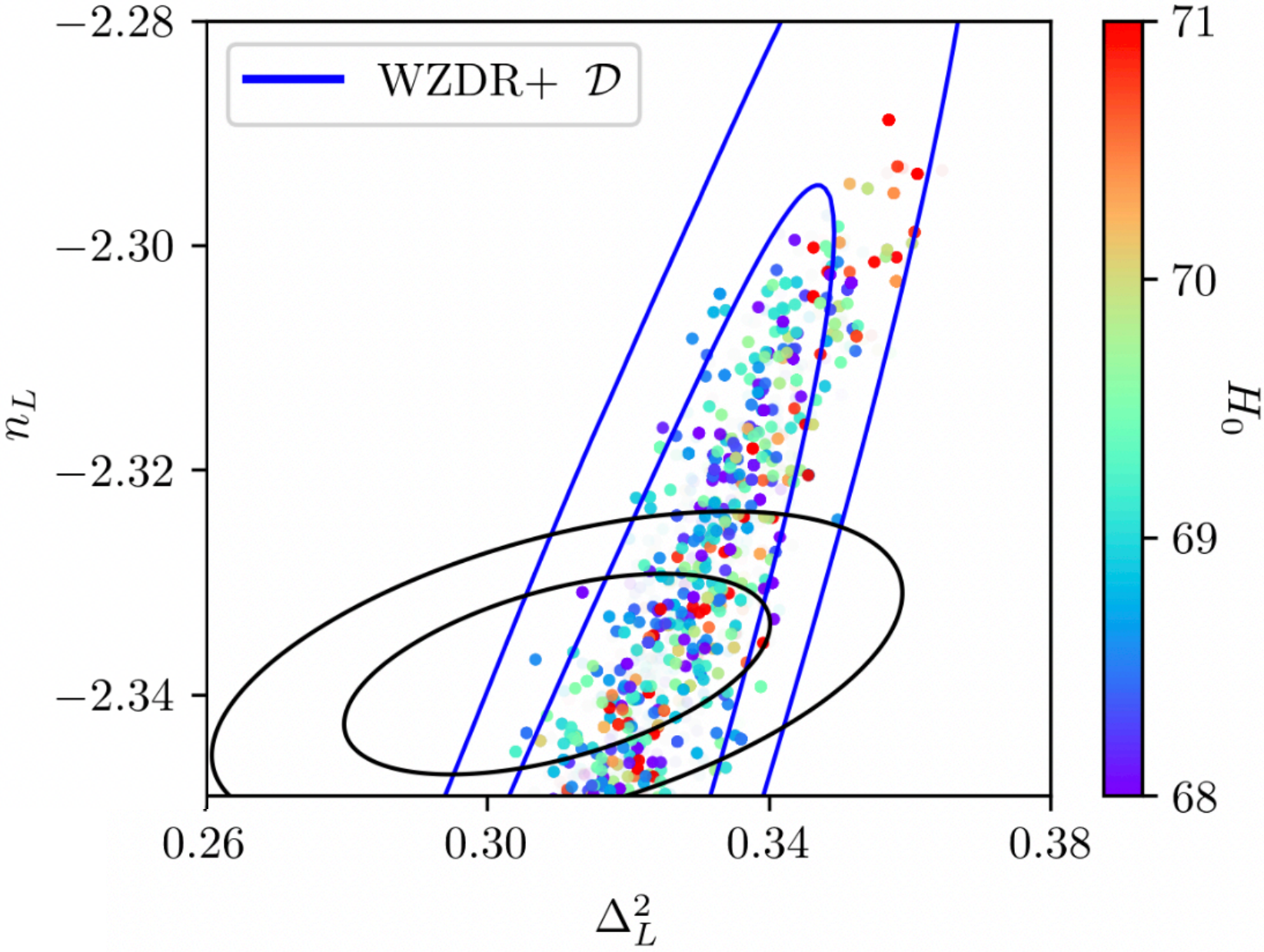
[Khalife++ 24]

What about Lyman- α data?

eBOSS Lyman- α 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- α data (while still reducing the H_0 tension)

[Bagherian++ 24]