

Cosmology from the DESI Year 1  
Baryon Acoustic Oscillations  
Measurements

Uendert Andrade

Leinweber Fellow @ University of Michigan

On behalf of the DESI collaboration

XIII The International Conference on New Frontiers in Physics @ Crete, Greece - Aug 28, 2024



# Outline

- The Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) Overview
  - What is DESI? What does it do? How does it do it?
- DESI observables
  - BAO measurements
  - ~~Full Shape measurements~~
- Blind Watchers of the Sky
- Cosmological Constraints from DESI BAO

# The Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI)



For over six decades, the Kitt Peak National Observatory has resided on the **Tohono O'odham Nation** upon the Quinlan Mountains, also known to the O'odham as **I'ilogam Du'ag** (manzanita bush mountain). [[Ramon-Sauberan, J. \(2021\)](#)]

# DESI Survey: Making the Largest 3D Map of the Universe



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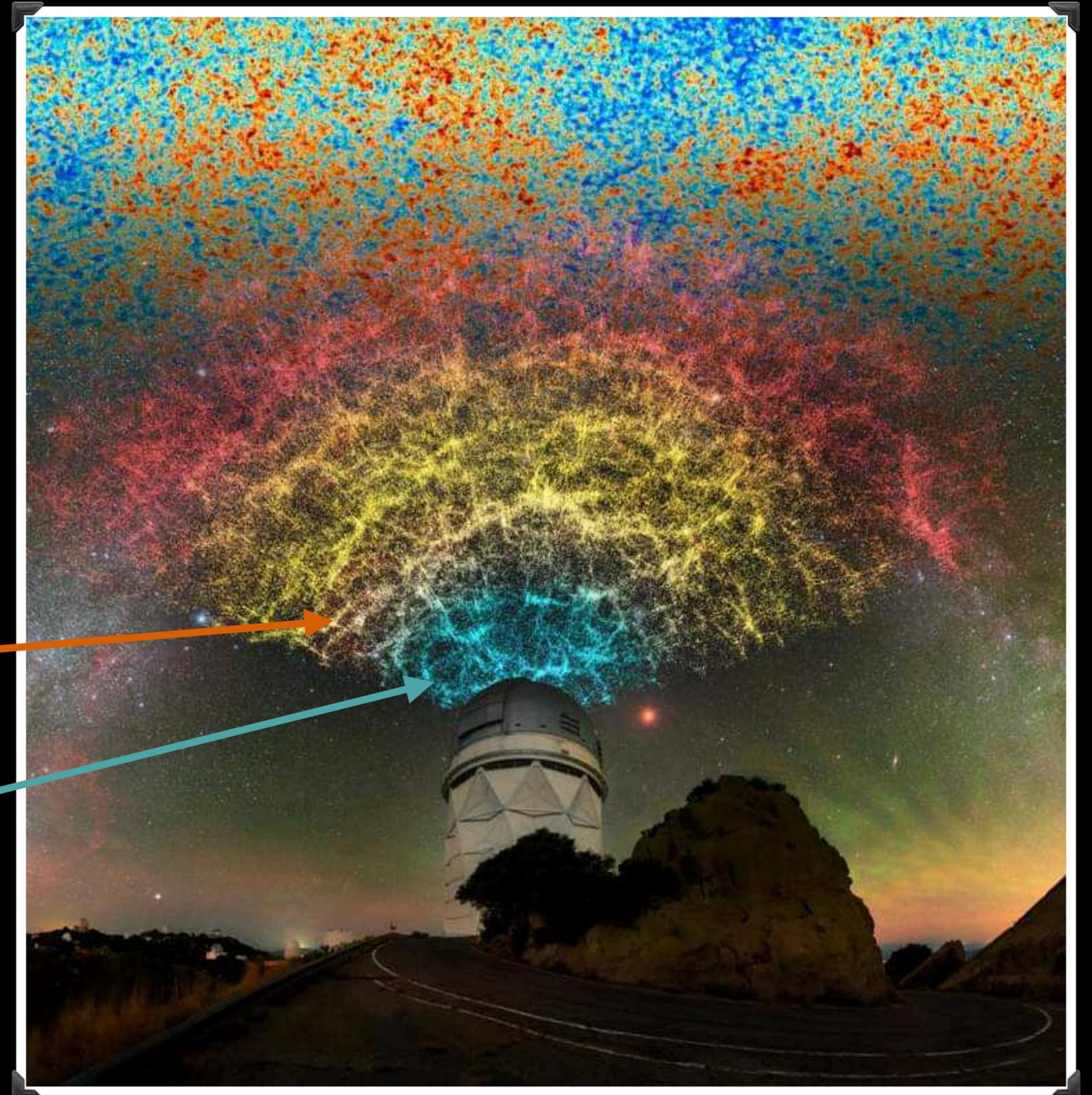


**13.5 million Bright Galaxies**  
**( $0.0 < z < 0.4$ )**

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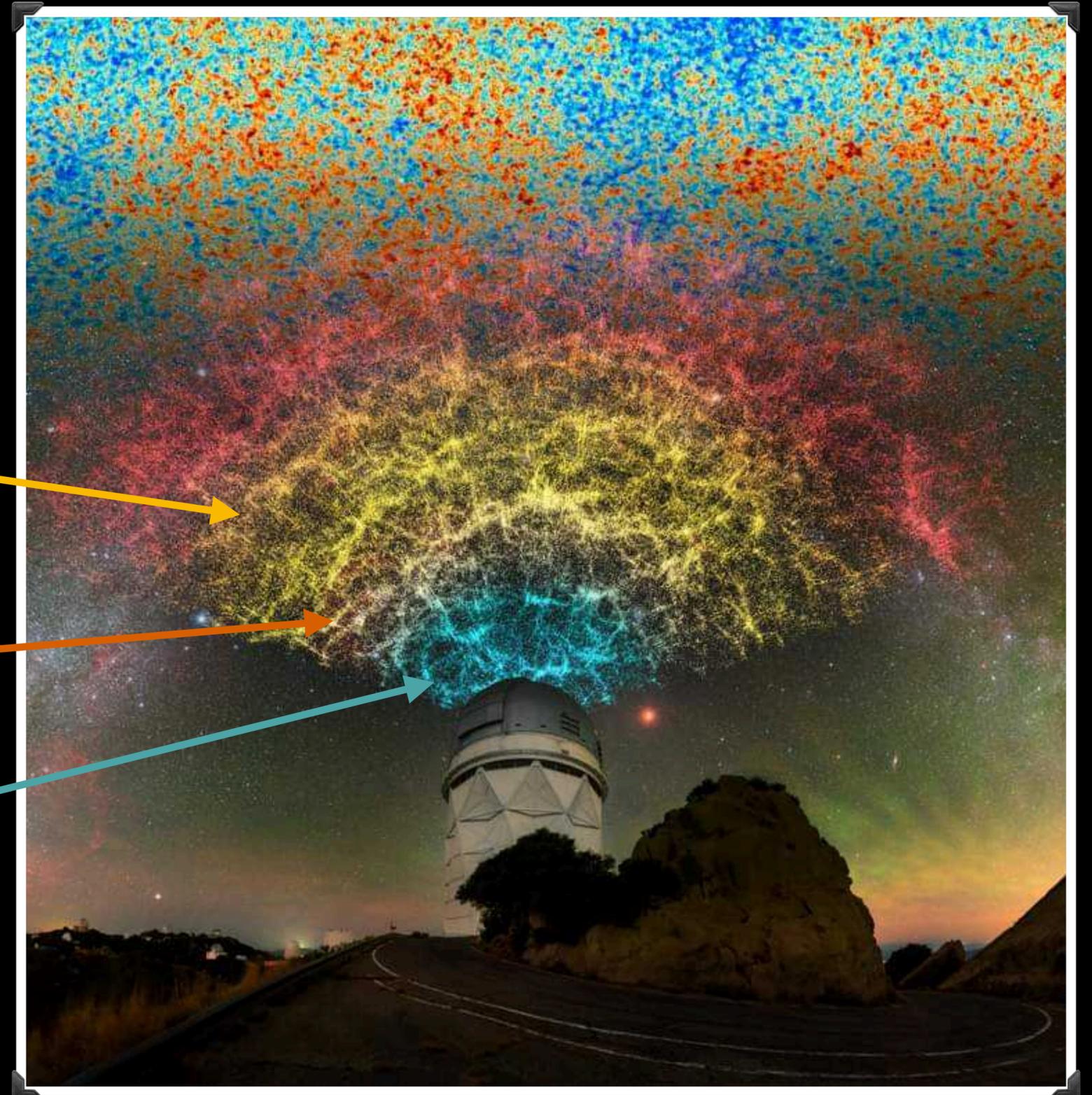


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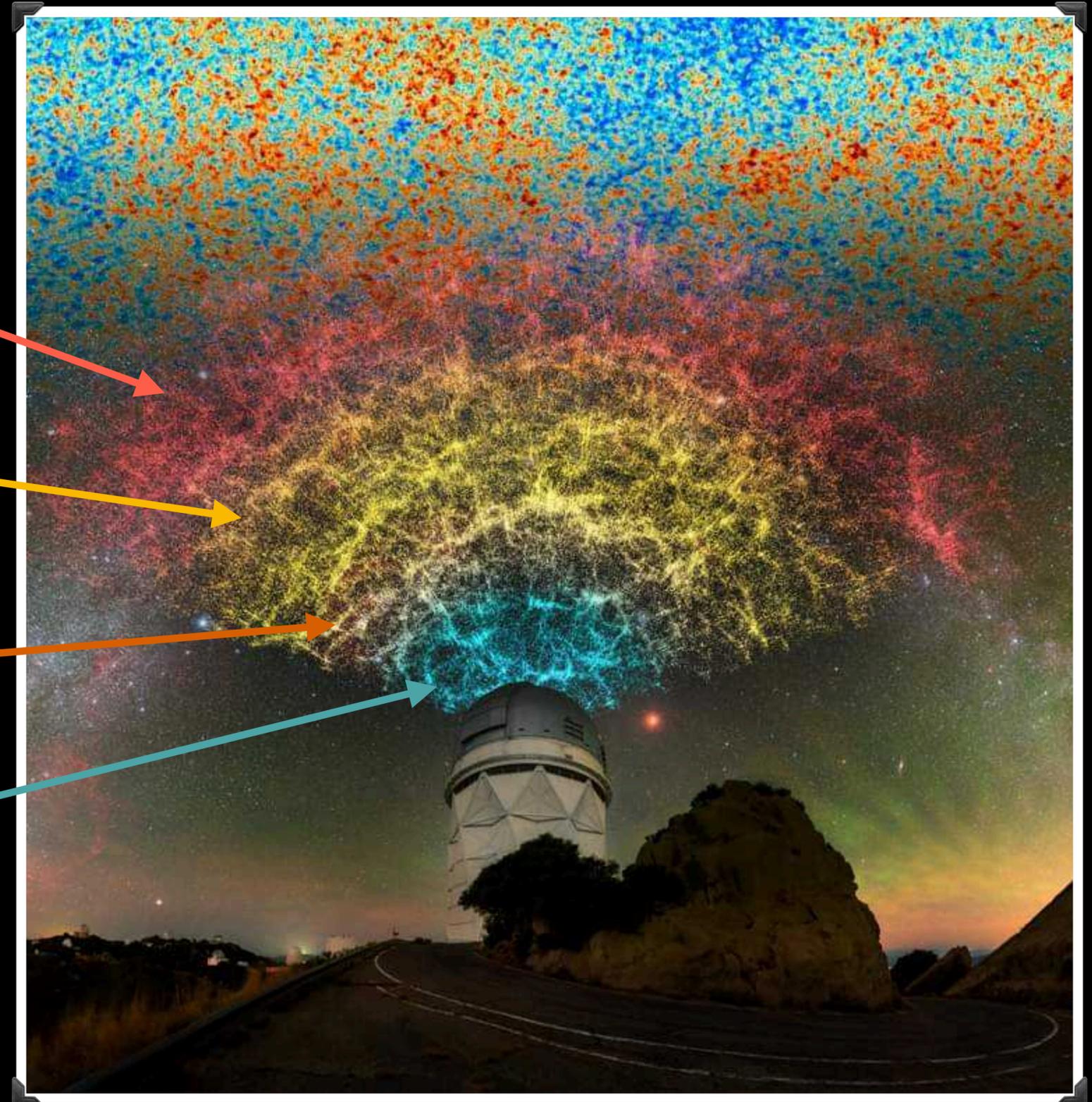
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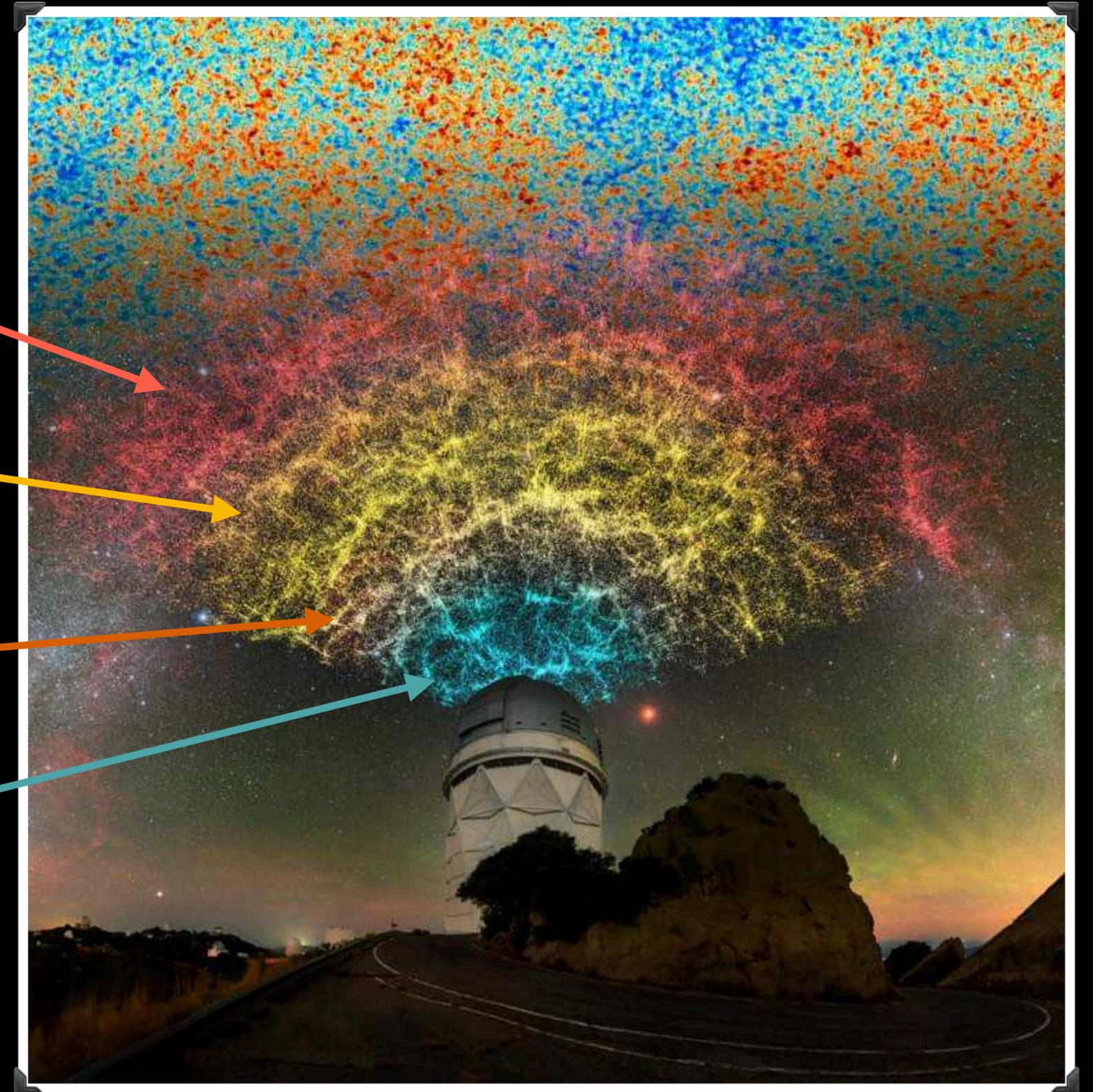
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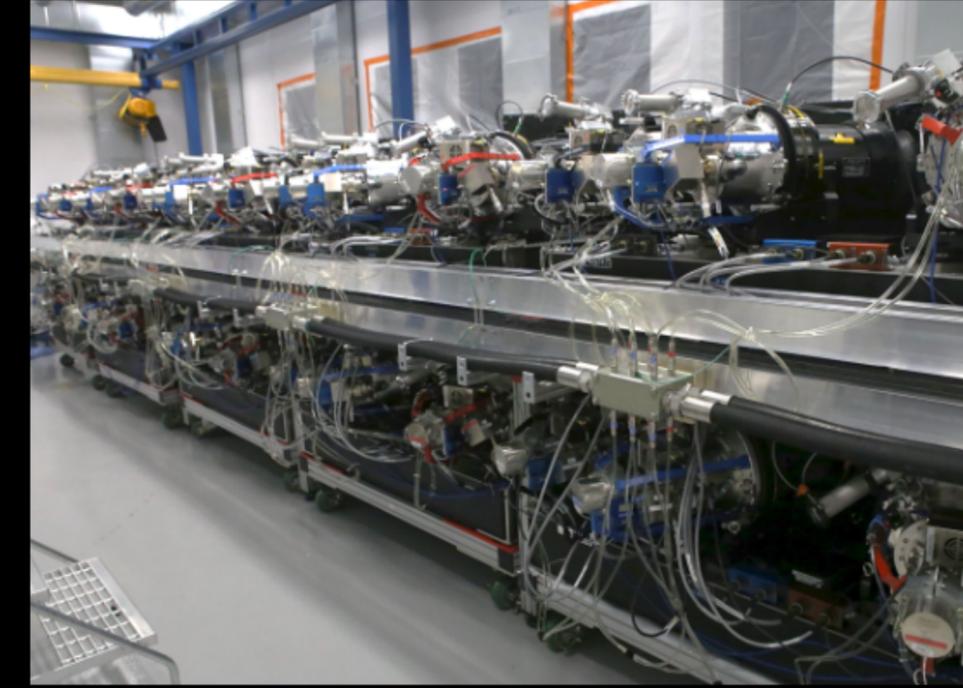
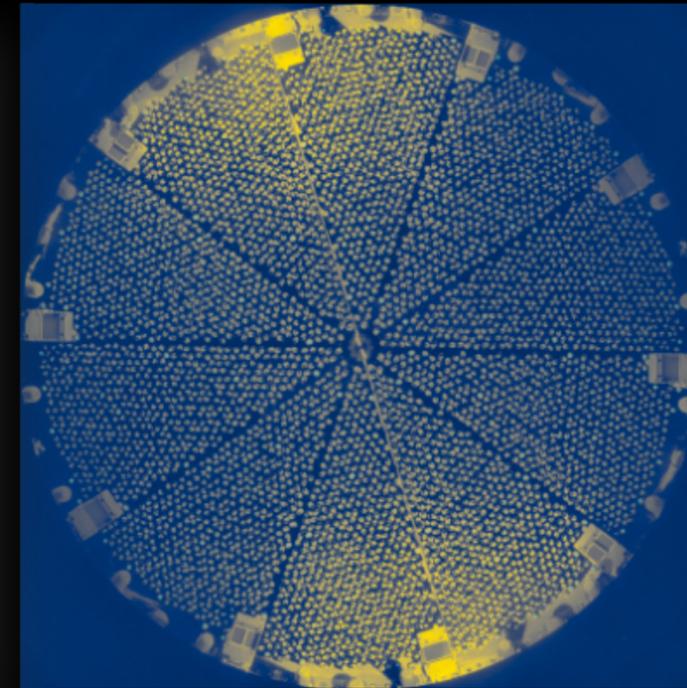
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From 2021-2026 DESI will measure precise redshifts to  
~40 million galaxies over 14,000 deg<sup>2</sup>.

# Key DESI Components



**4m Mayall Telescope, KPNO, Arizona, USA**

**Wide Field Corrector 8 sq. deg. Field of View**

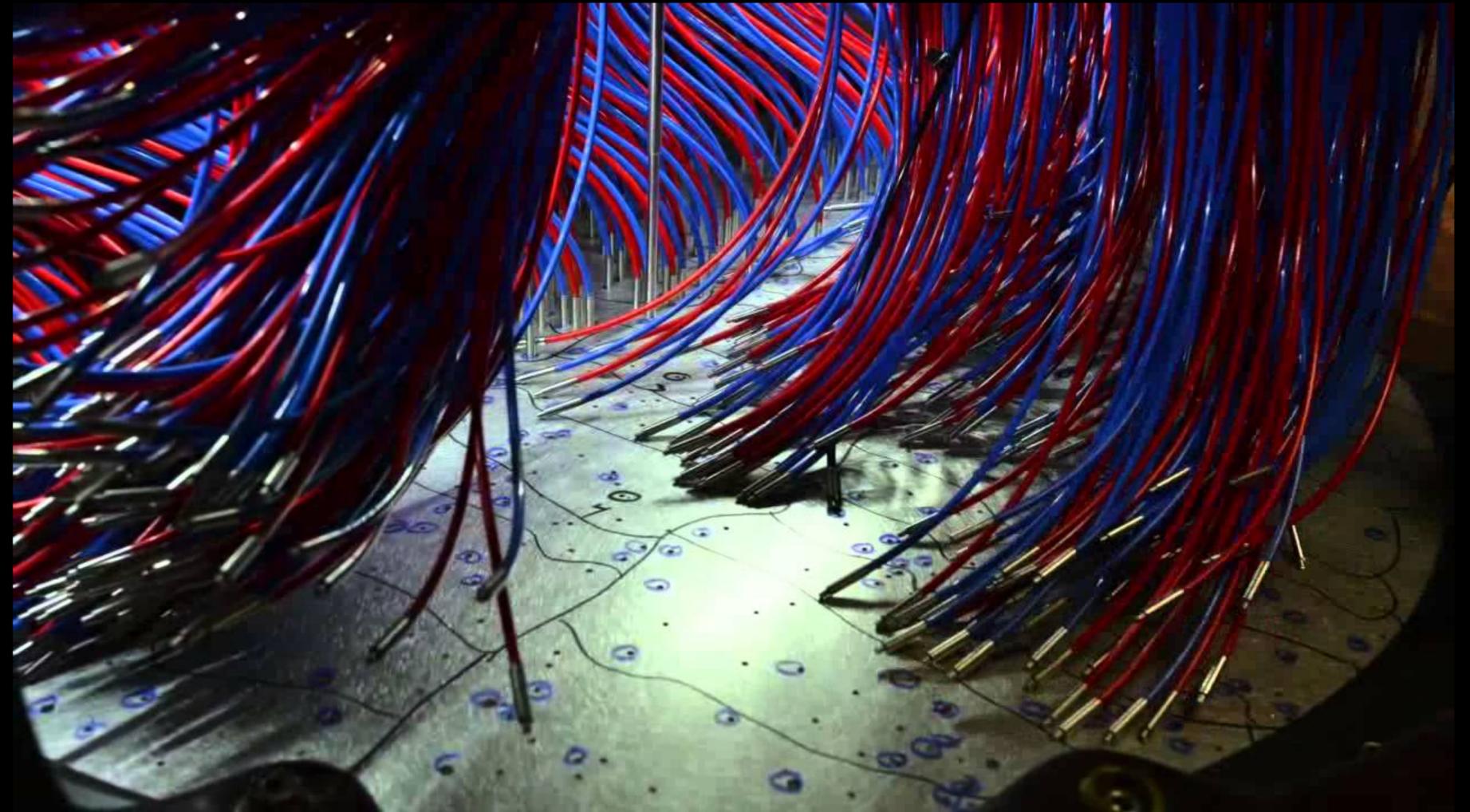
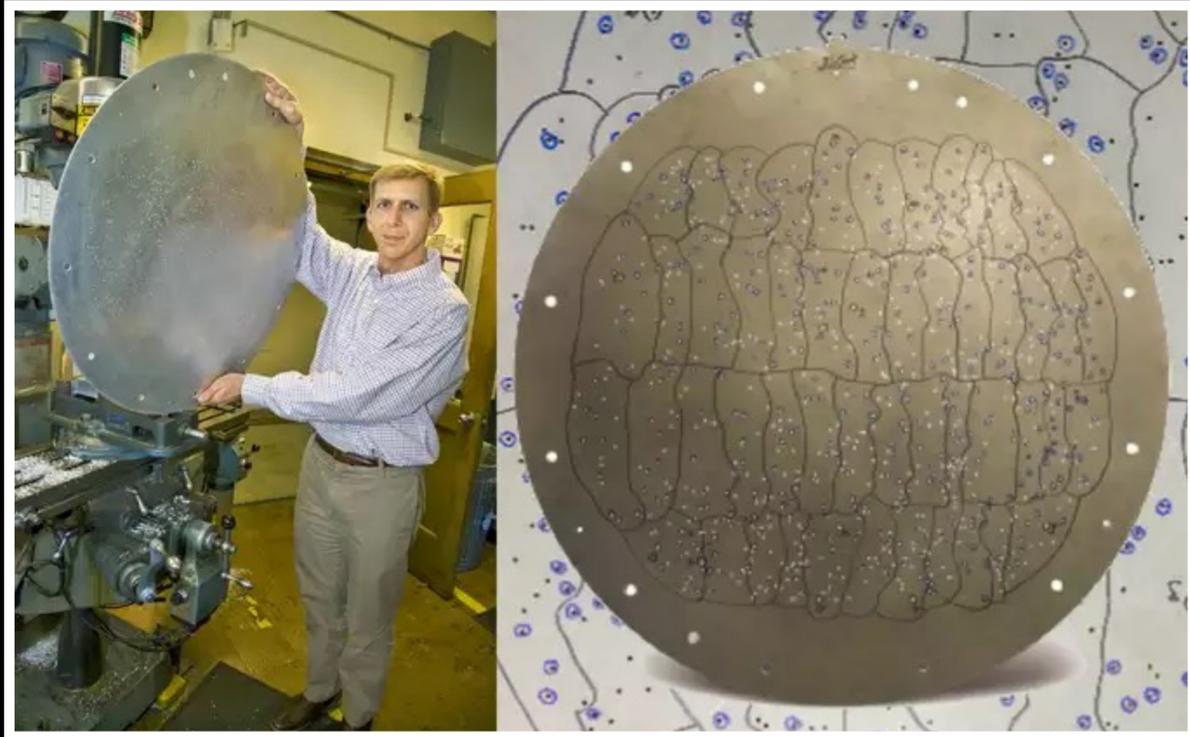
**Focal Plane with 5,000 Fiber Positioners**

**10 Multi-Object Spectrographs**

Designed to optimize survey throughput:

- 5,000 fibers, wide field corrector, 10 spectrographs → maximum number of simultaneous targets
- remotely controlled fiber positioners; align, position, readout in parallel → minimum reconfiguration time
- dynamic field selection, exposure time calculator, autofocus → maximum operational efficiency

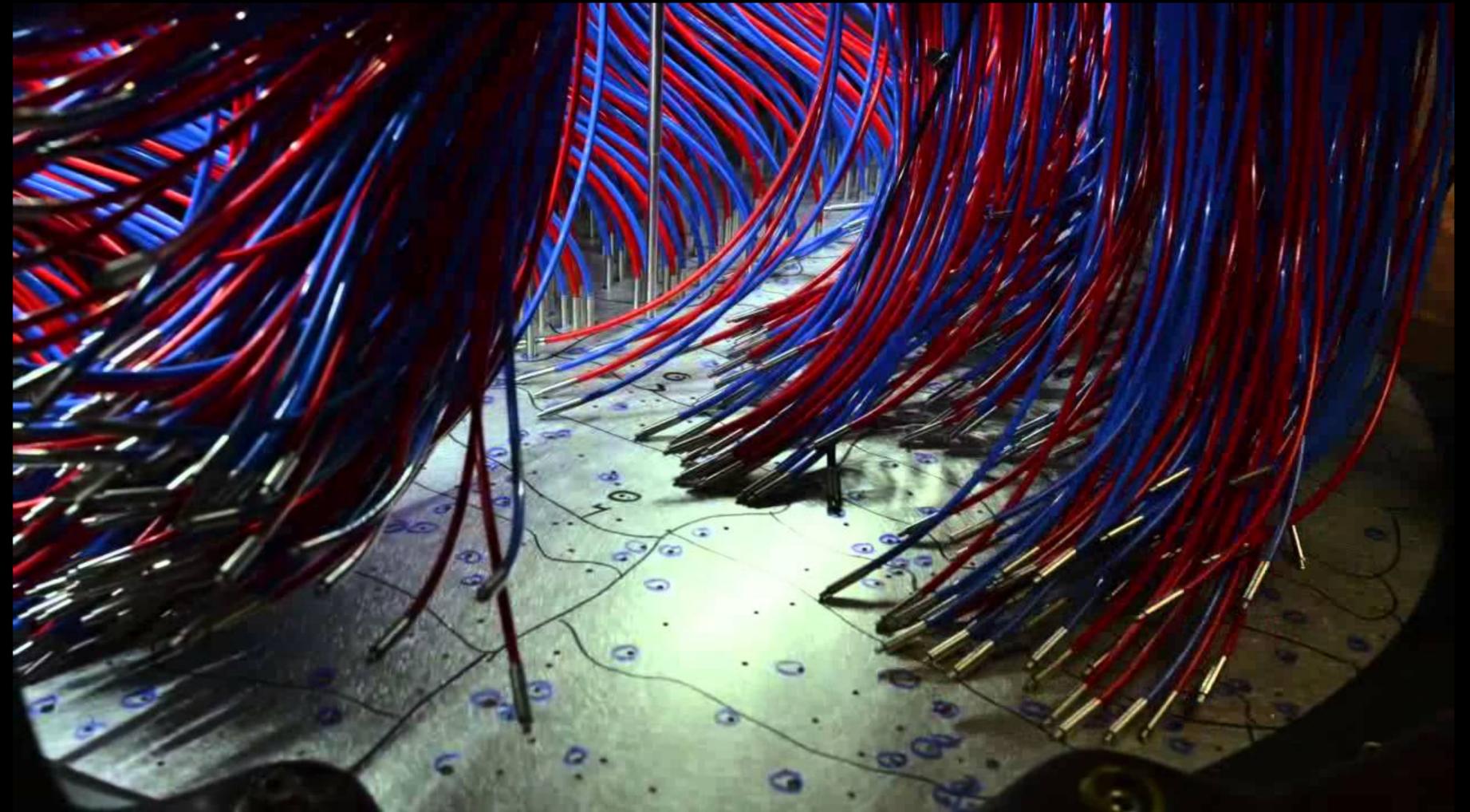
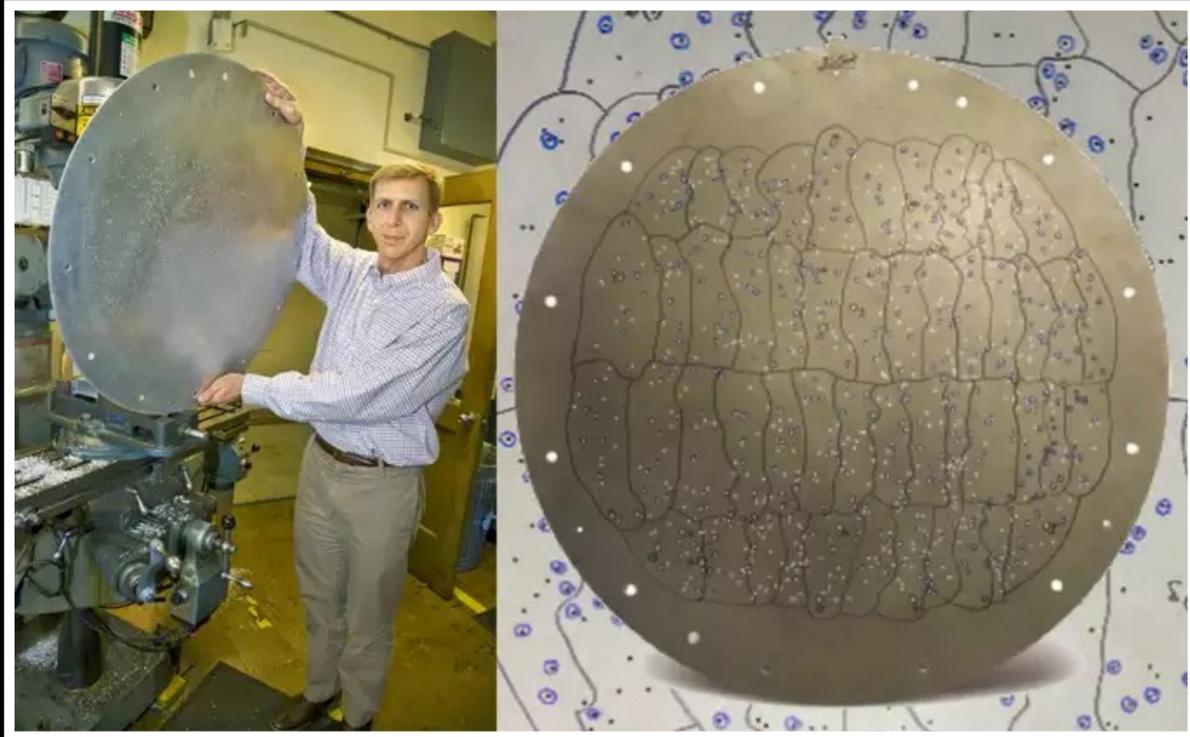
# Fiber assignment before DESI



**Process of plugging optical fibers into plates for observations for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS)**

**Each plate can take anything from 30 mins to several hours to be plugged by the expert SDSS Plate Pluggers.**

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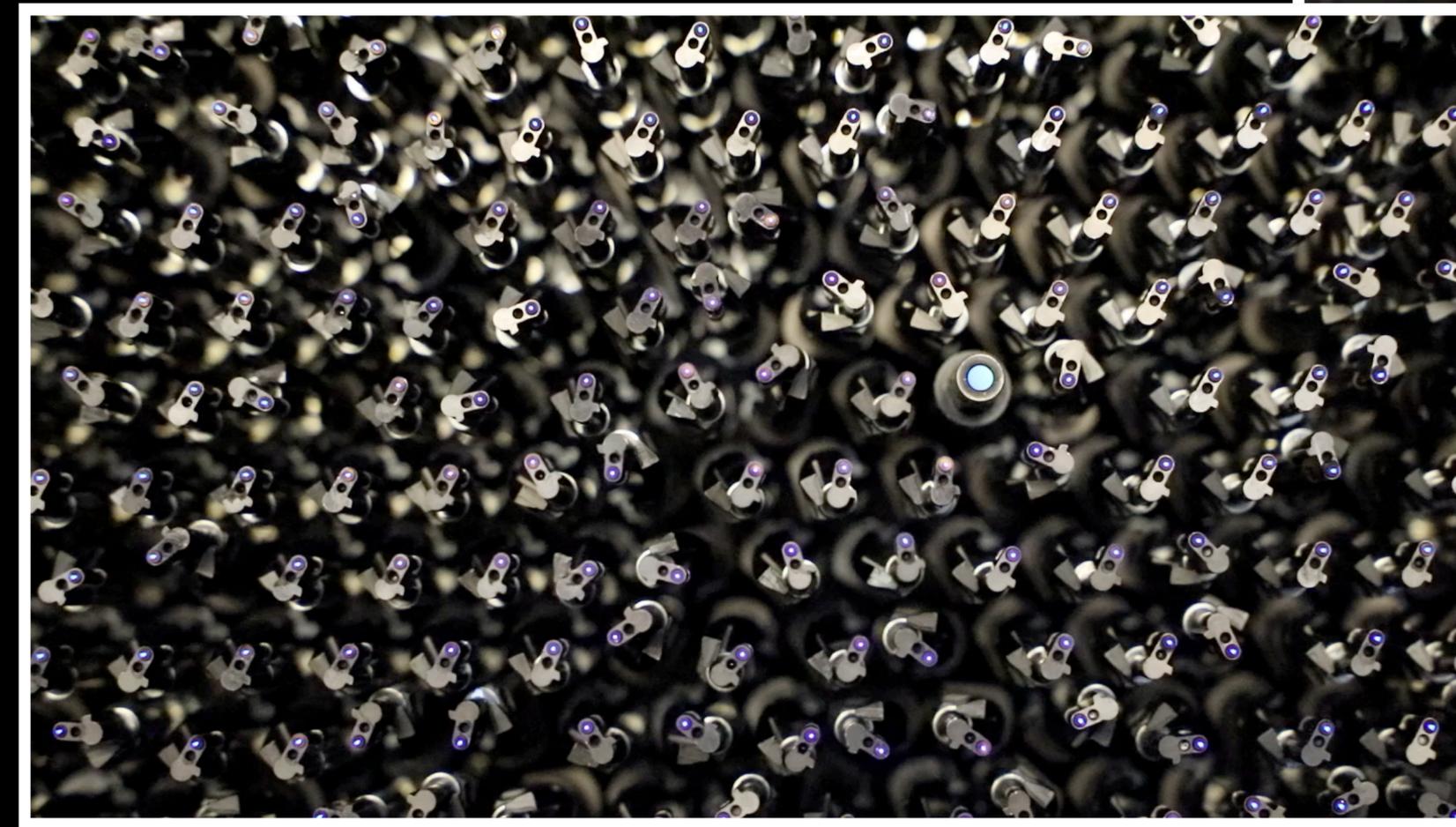
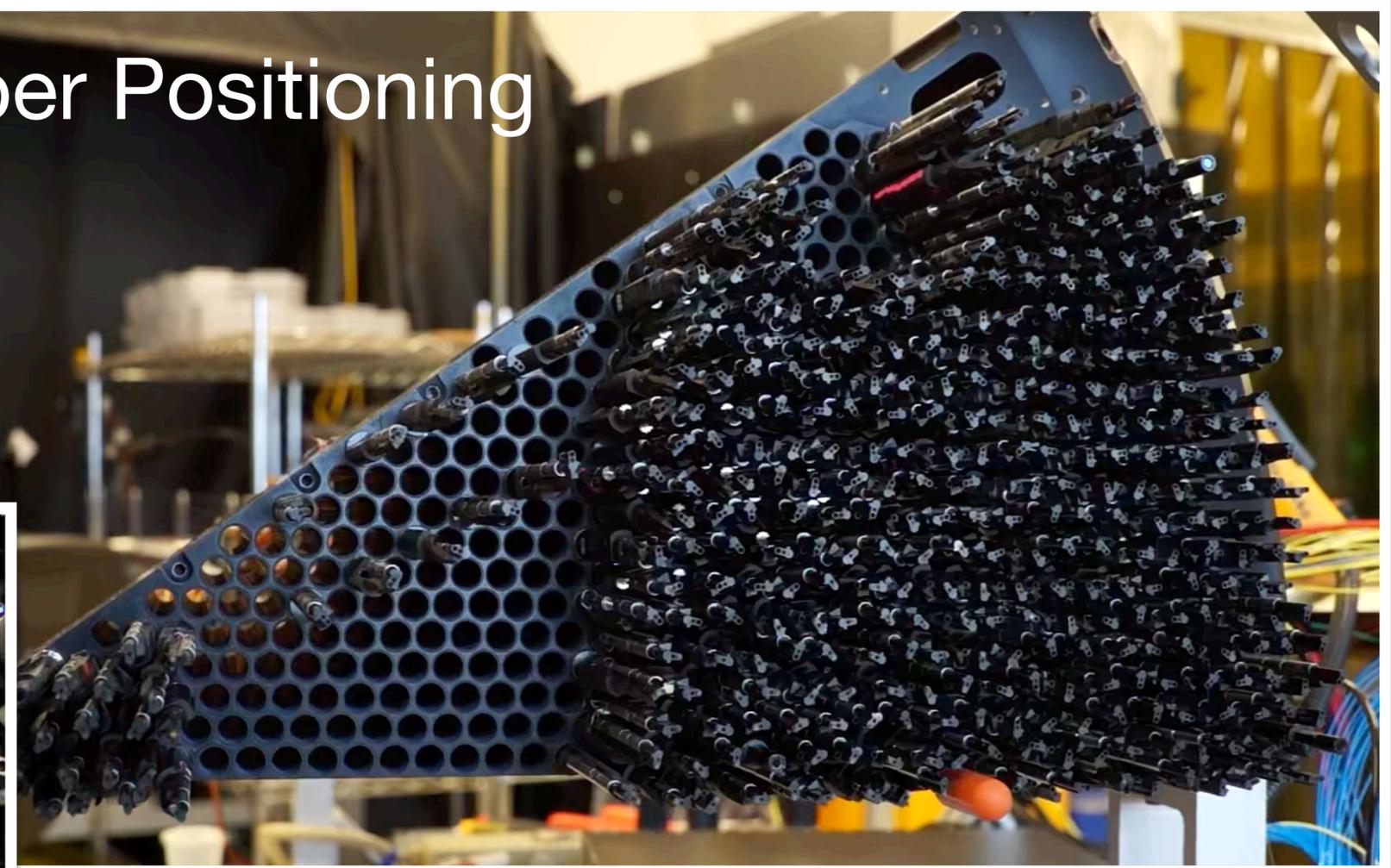
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# Automated dance of 5000 robotic positioners



## Fiber Positioning

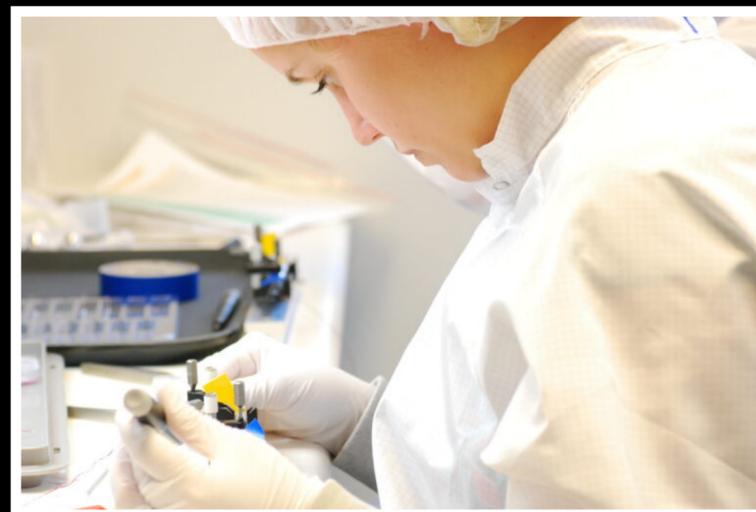
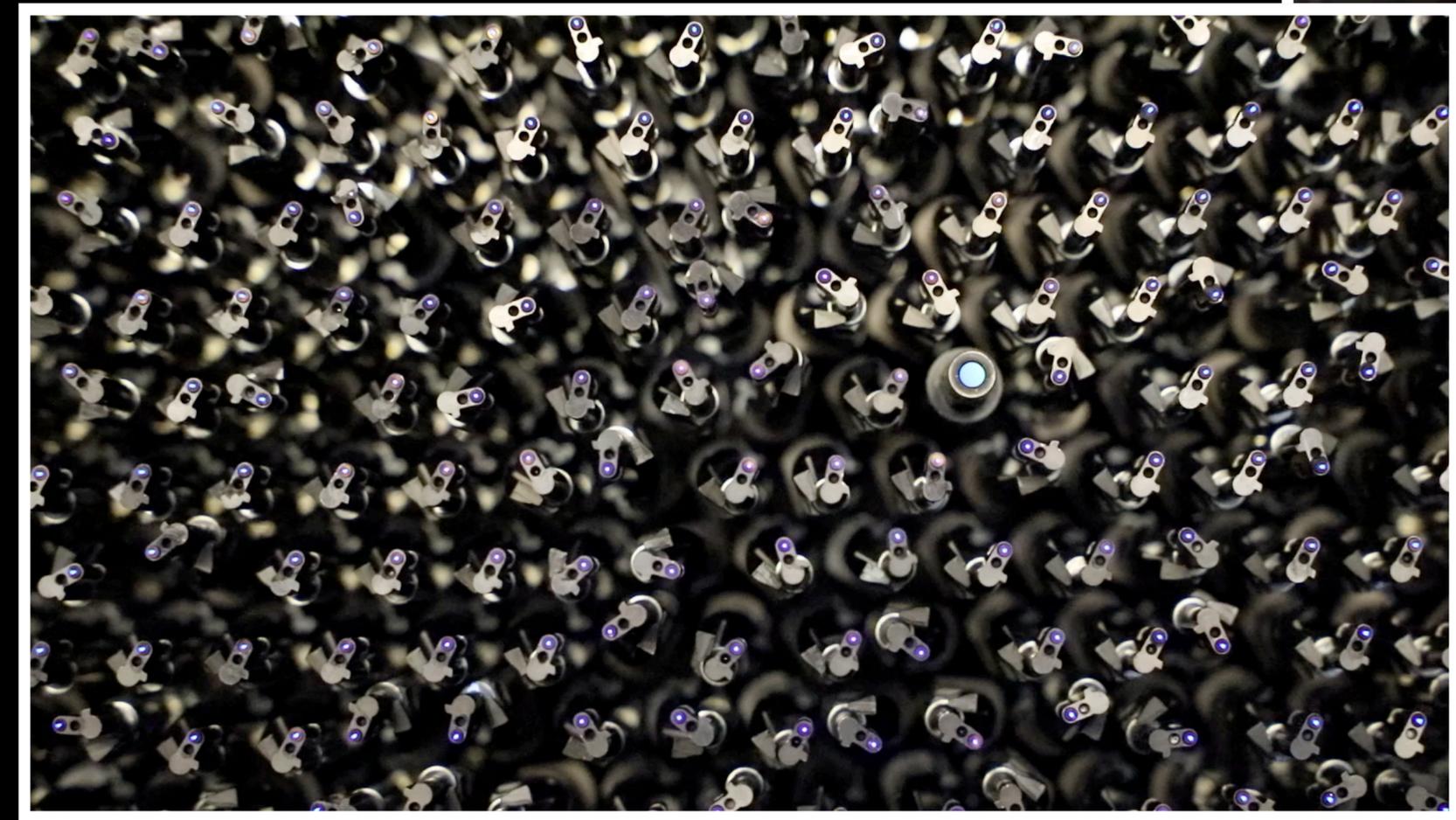
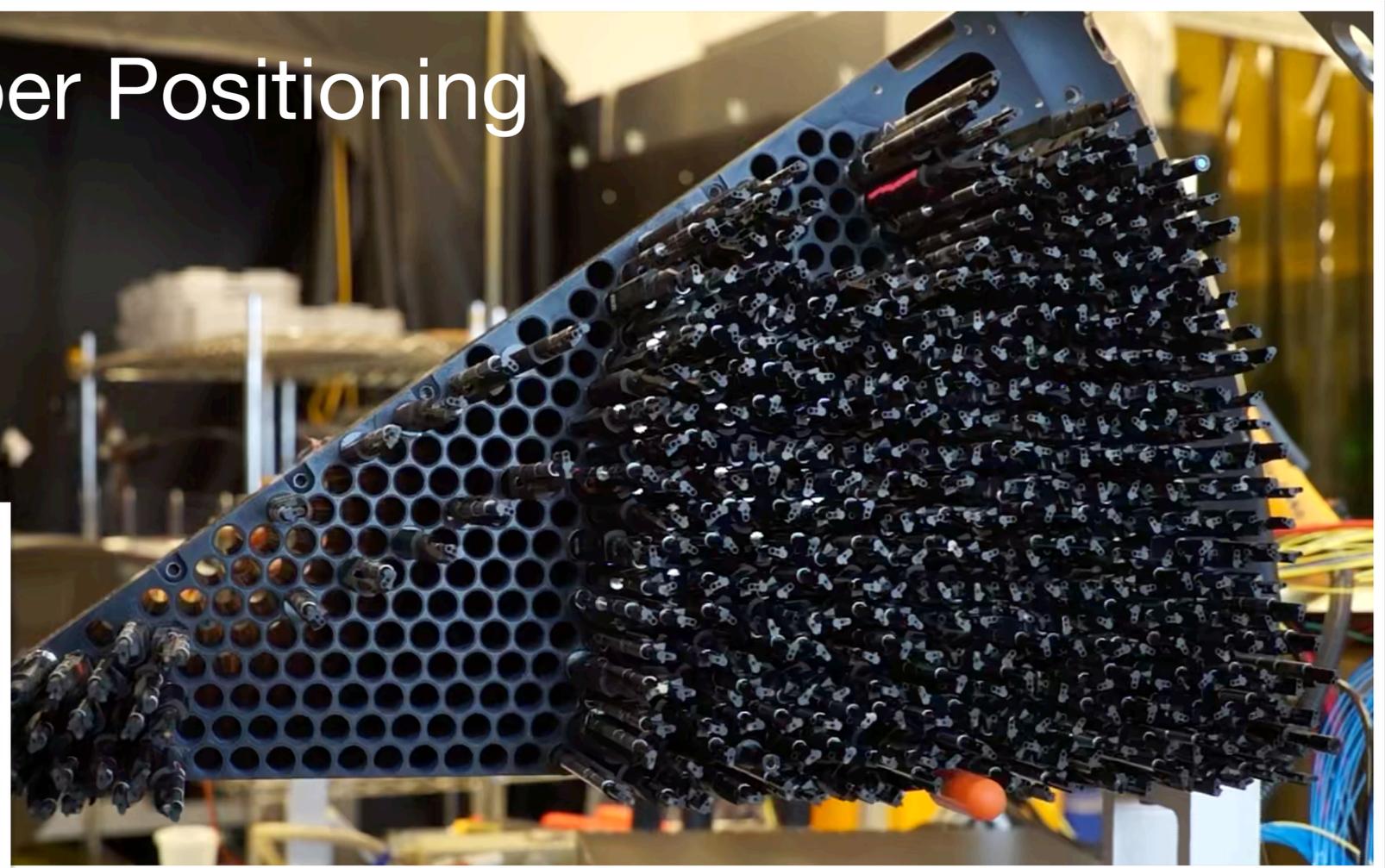


University of Michigan undergraduate Clara Mateju doing a stage 1 assembly.  
*Image credit: Curtis Weaverdyck*

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## Fiber Positioning



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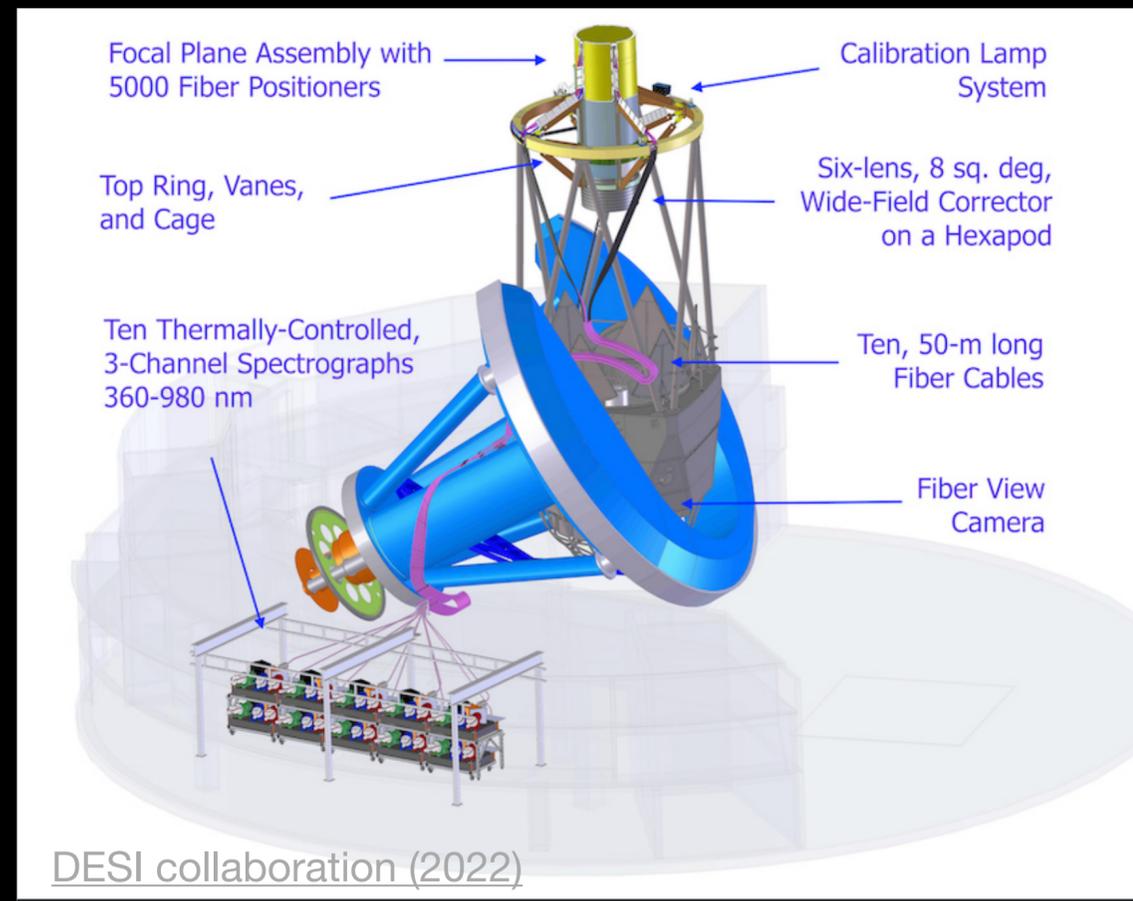
DARK ENERGY  
SPECTROSCOPIC  
INSTRUMENT

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science

# Instrument design



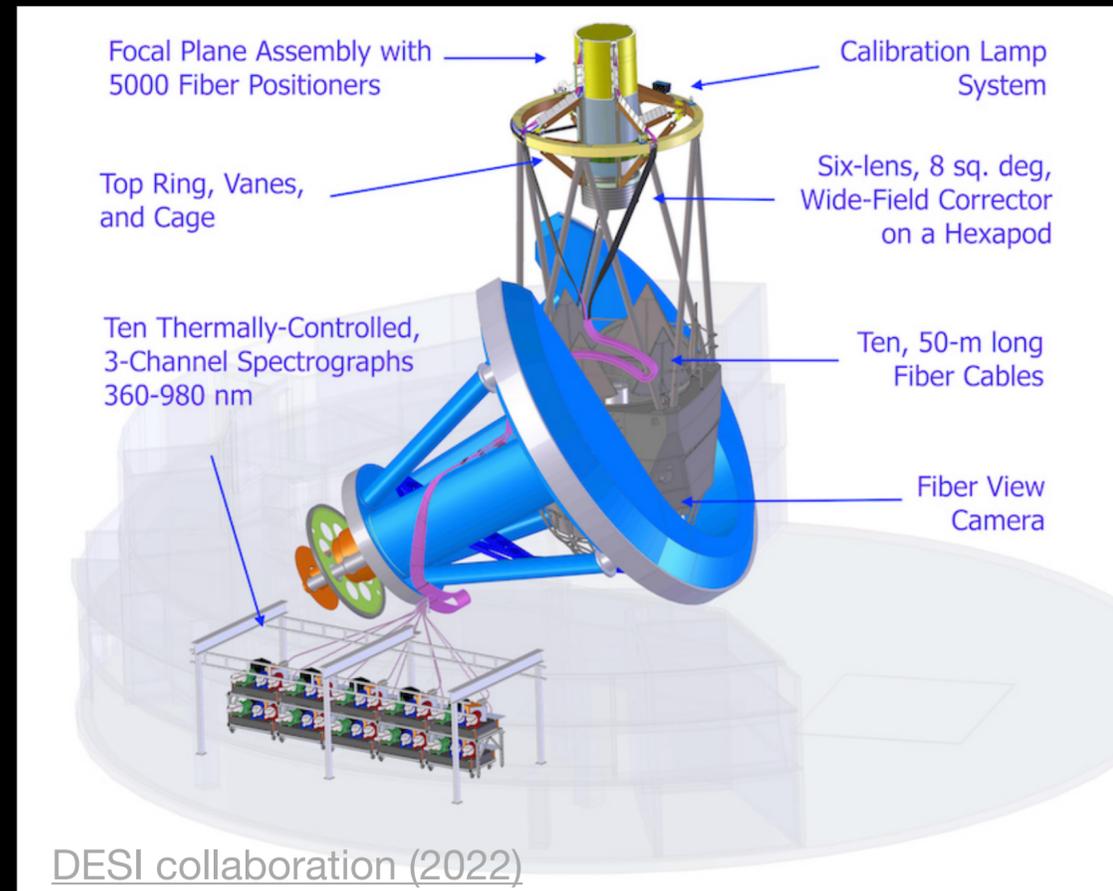
Credit: LBL/KPNO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA



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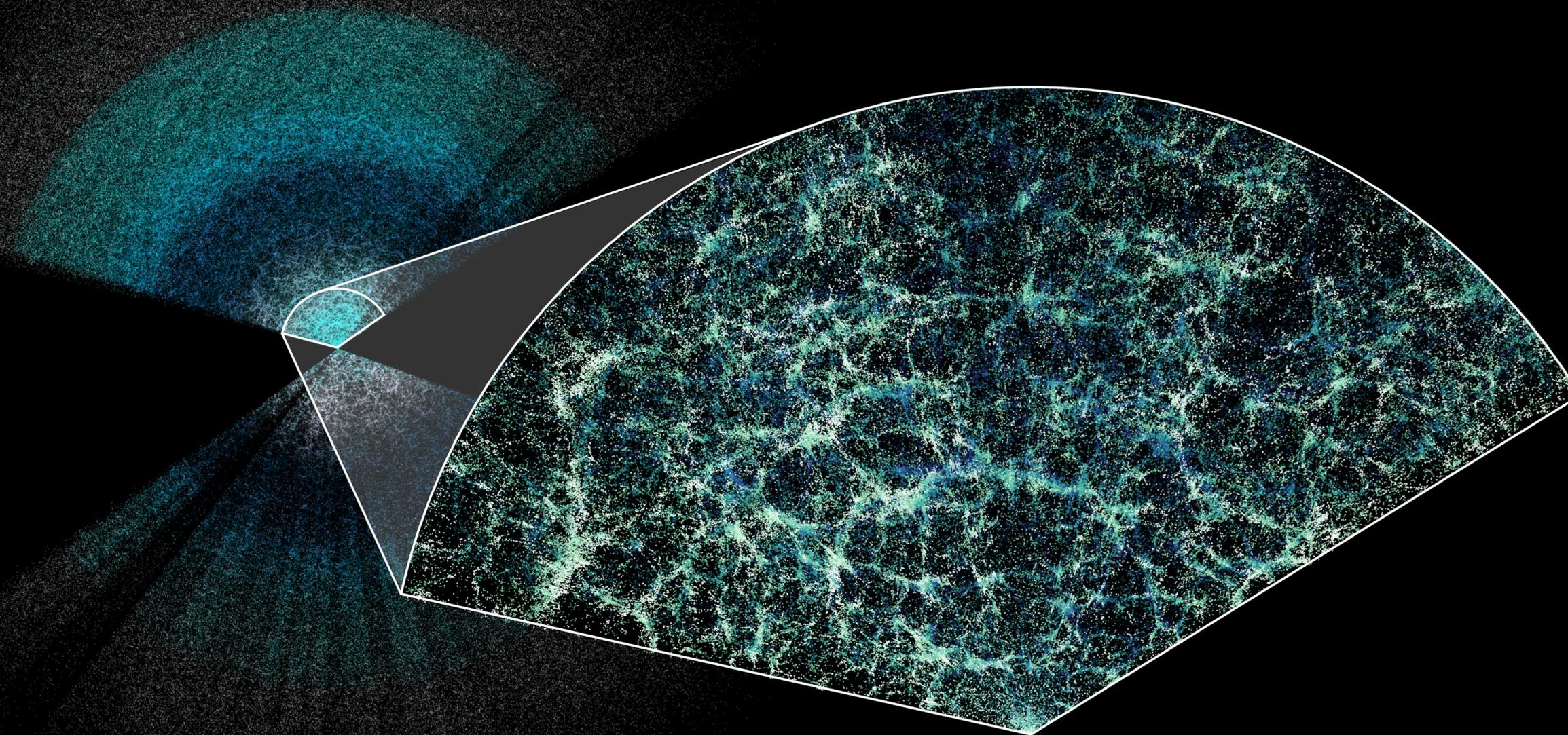
Credit: LBL/KPNO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA



Overall, DESI surpasses its predecessors in terms of speed and quality of data:

- **One single night** collects **200,000 extragalactic redshifts** (same order as the entire 6dF Galaxy Survey (6dFGS), which operated between 2001 and 2006)
- **Ten times faster** to collect photos than SDSS

# The largest 3D map of our Universe to date, constructed by DESI



**Claire Lamman | DESI Collaboration**

*A slice of galaxy positions from DESI's Year One data, colored by galaxy type. The magnified section is colored by declination, which spans 14 degrees. Colormap from cmastro.*

# DESI observables

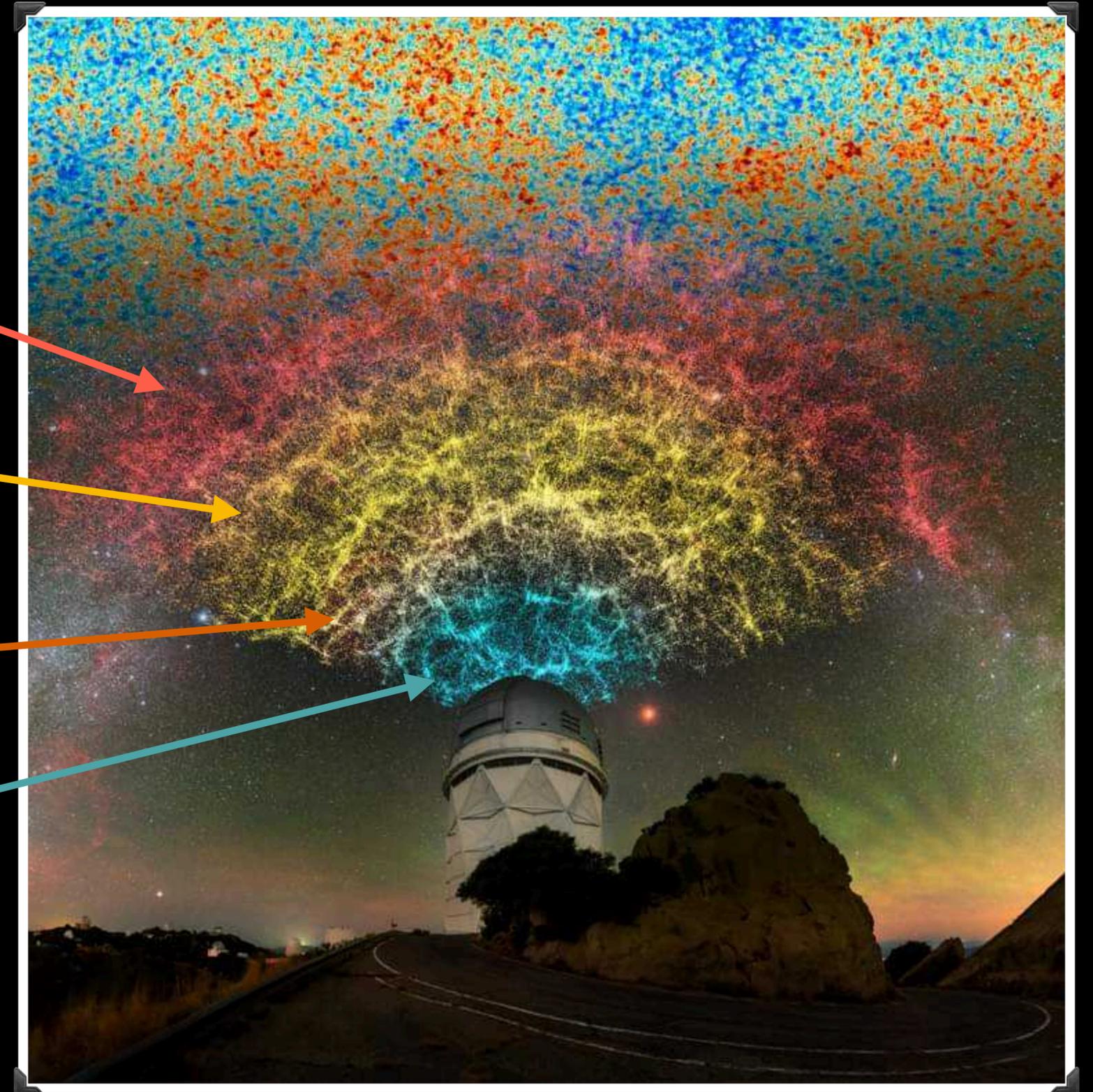
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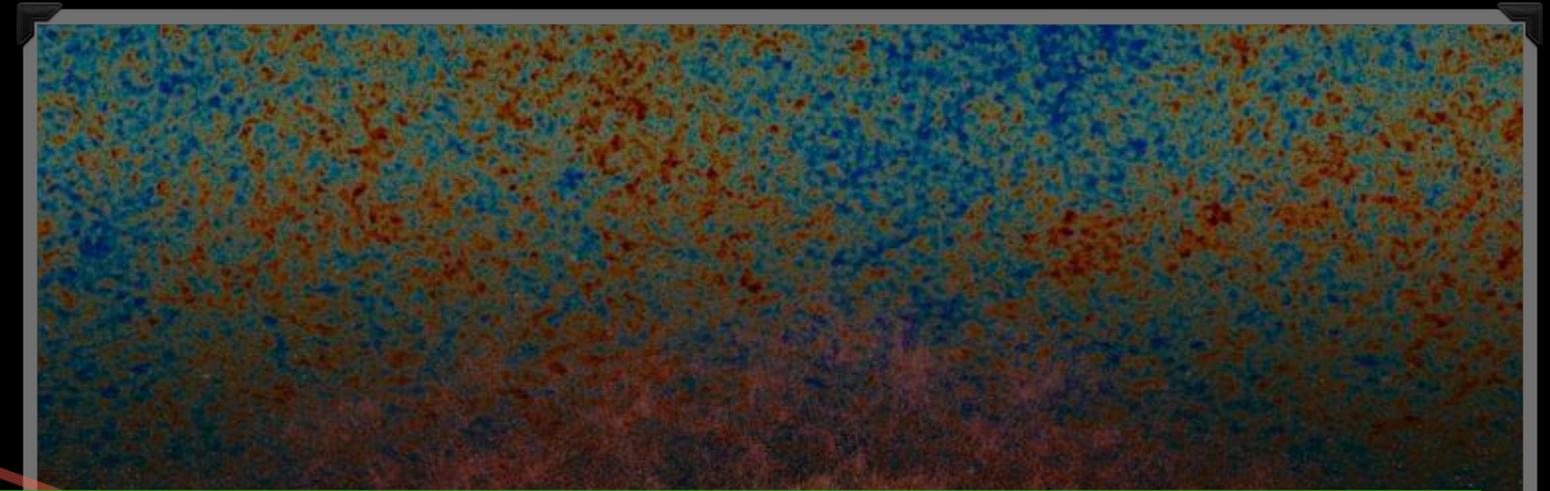
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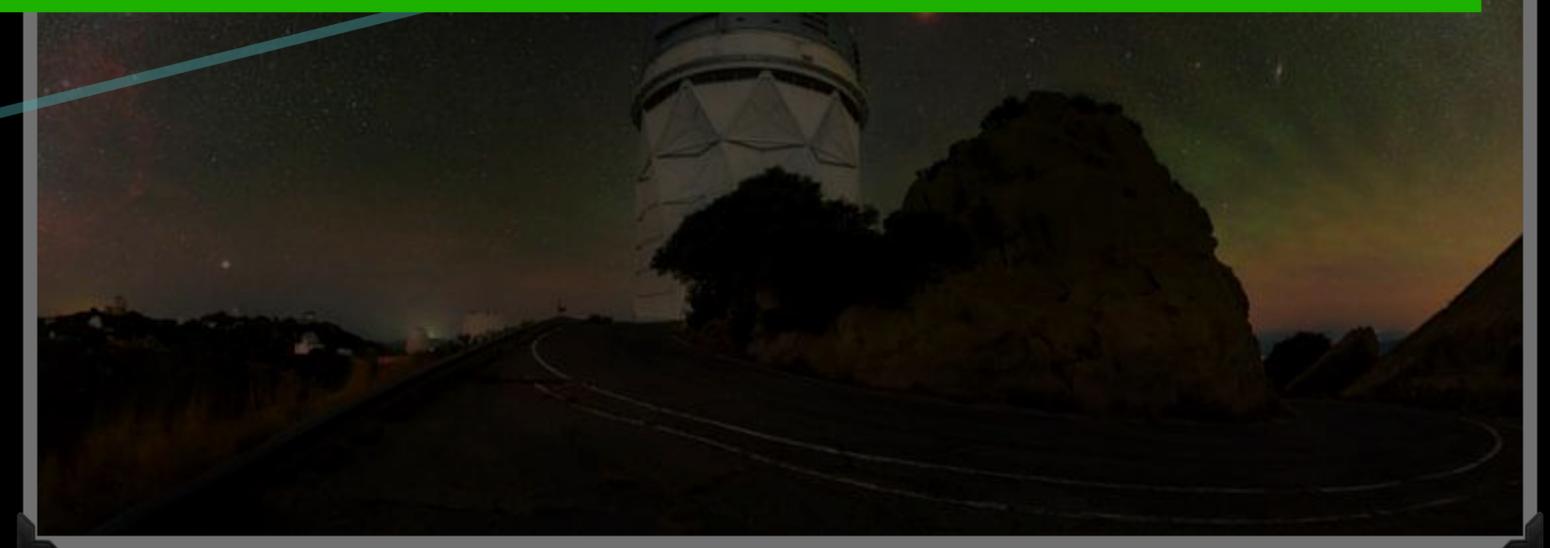


Science drivers:

- Baryon Acoustic Oscillations
- Redshift Space Distortions

( $0.4 < z < 1$ )

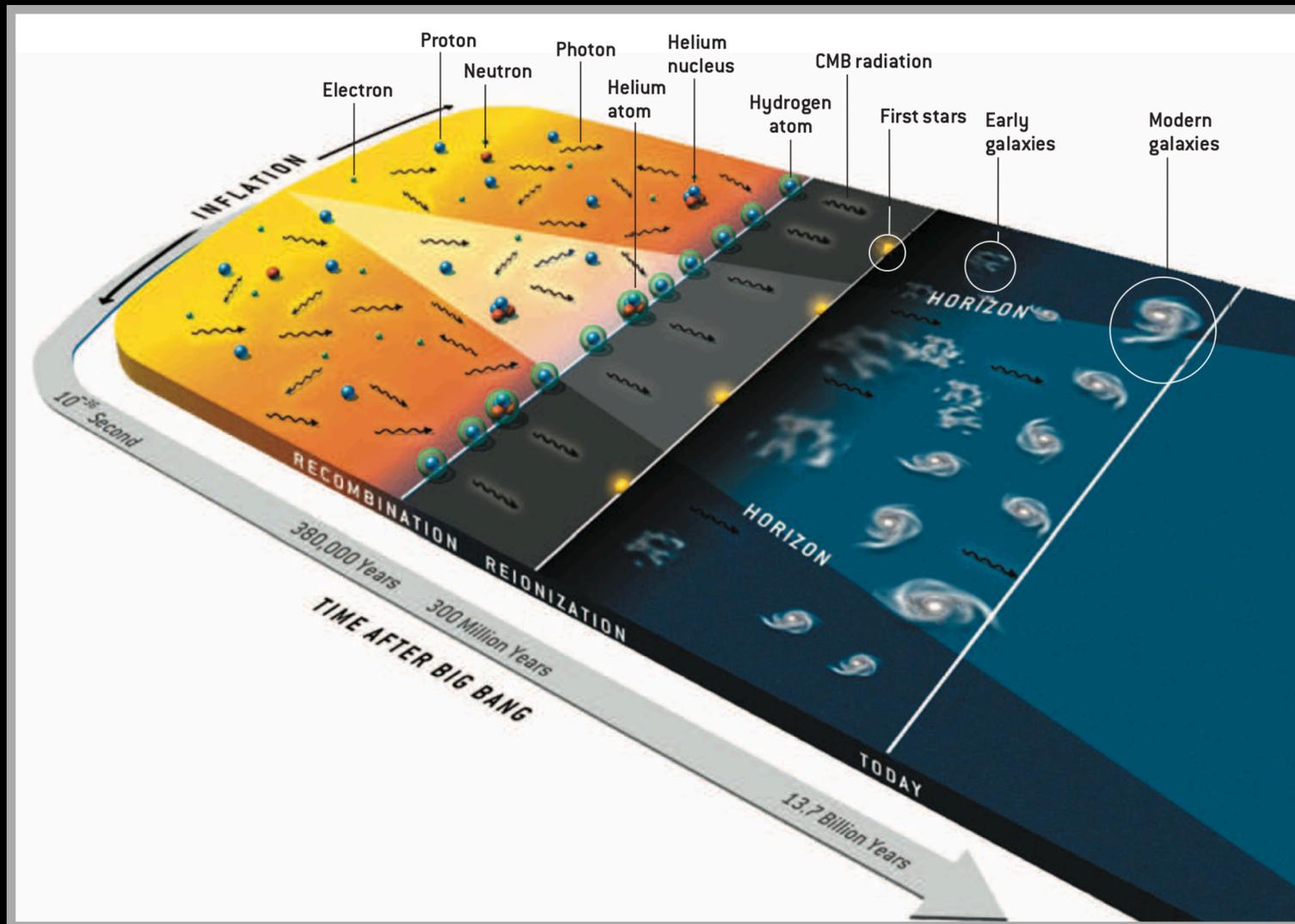
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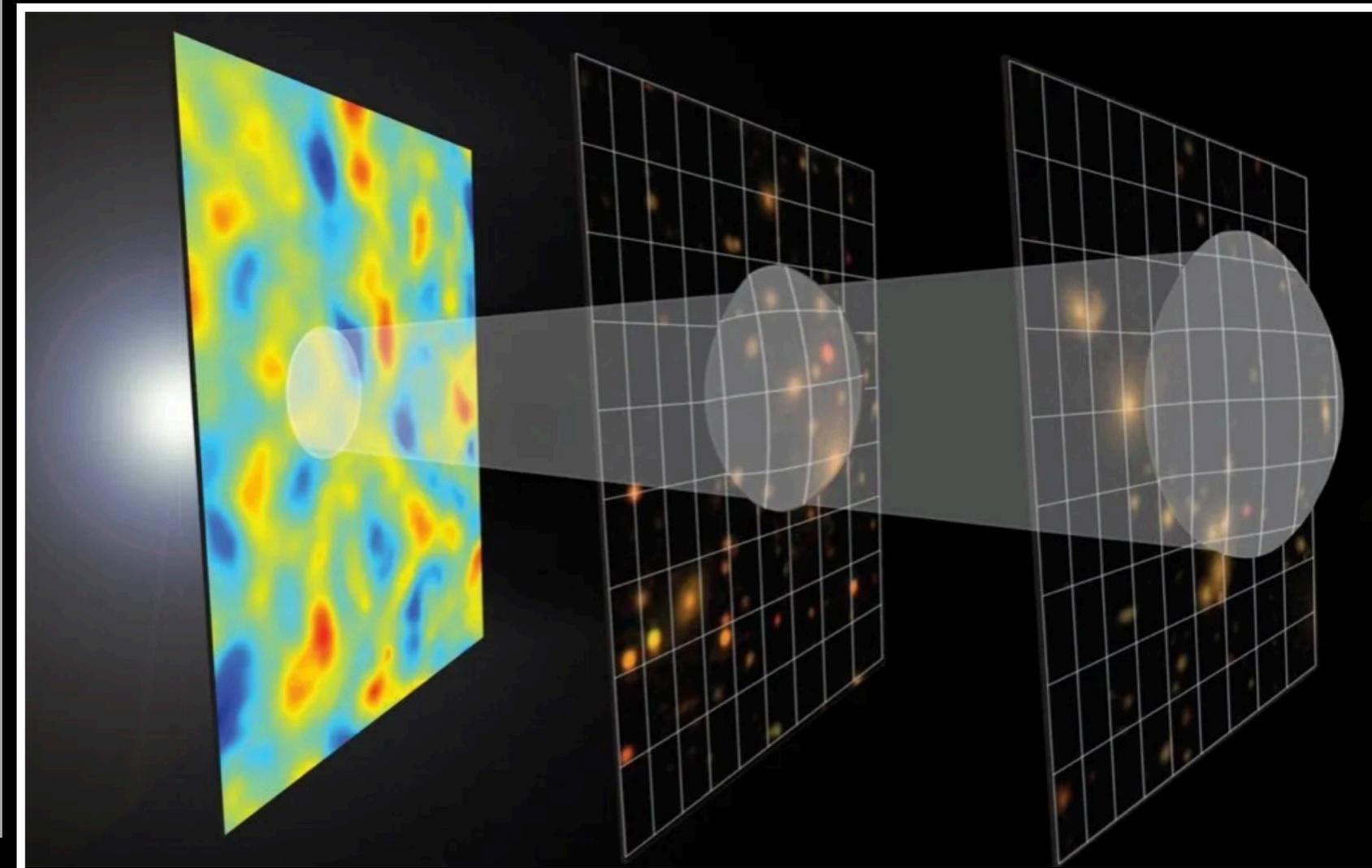
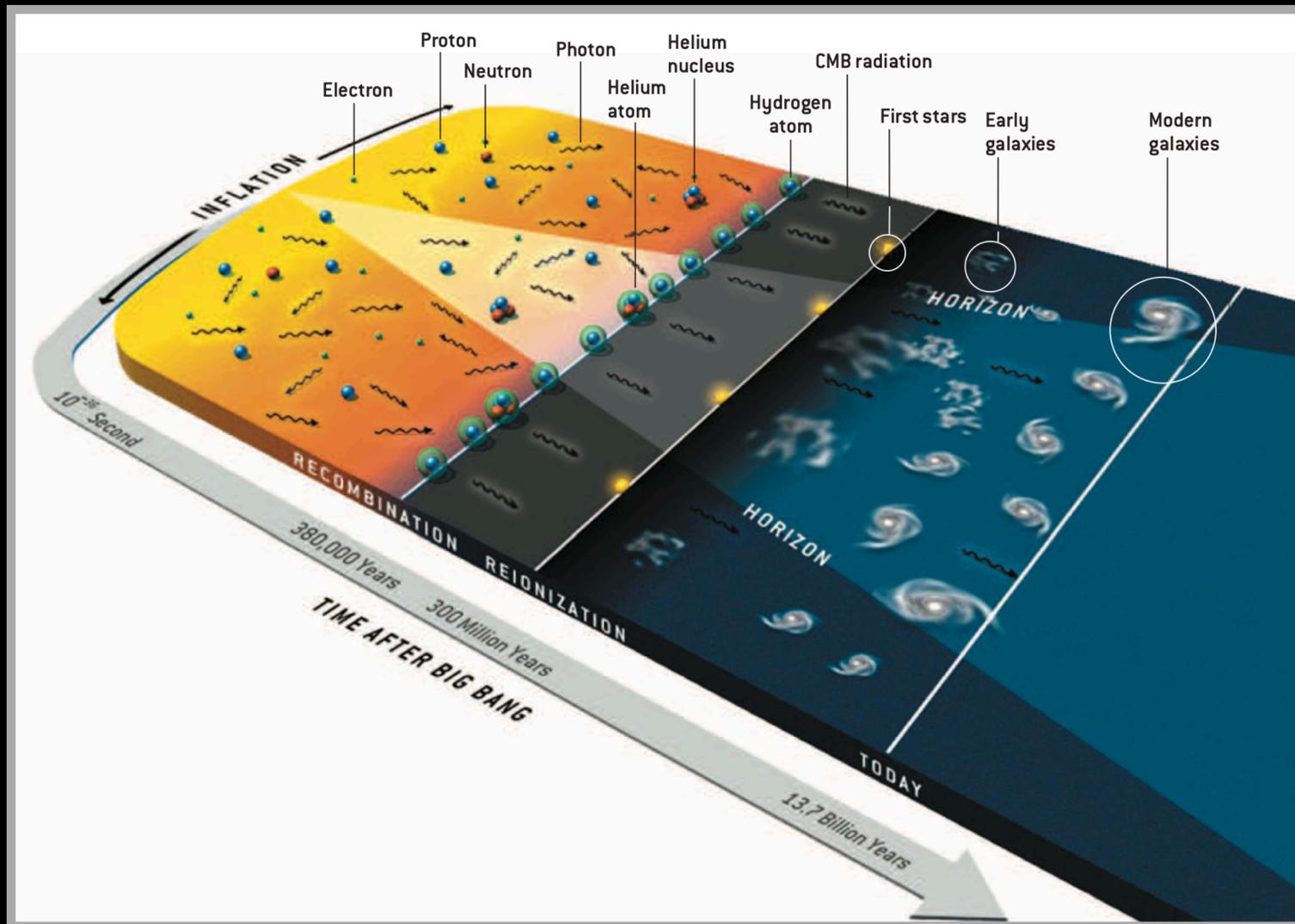
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- Gravity and pressure generated sound waves in the primordial plasma
- When baryons and photons decoupled, the sound waves stopped



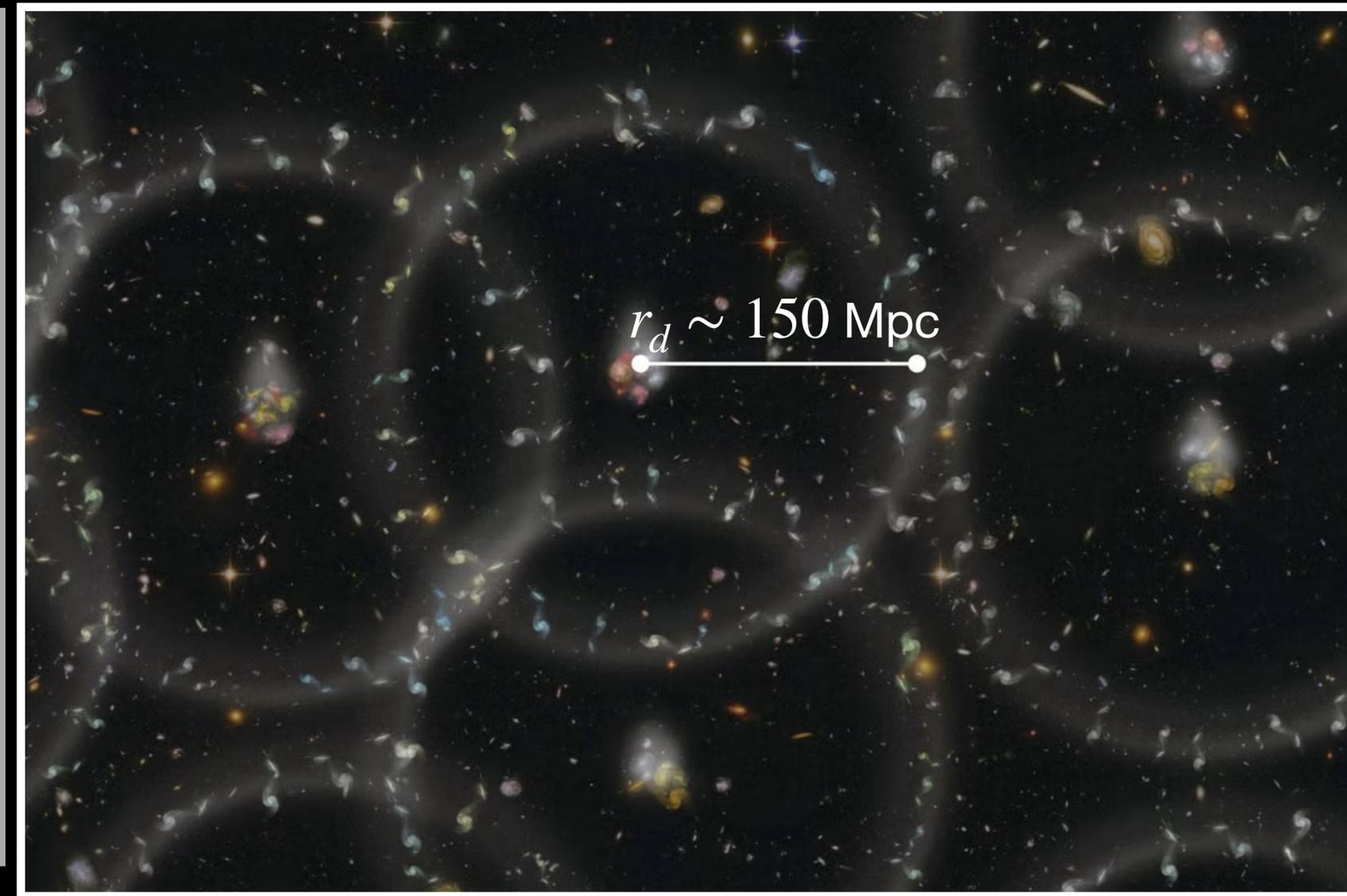
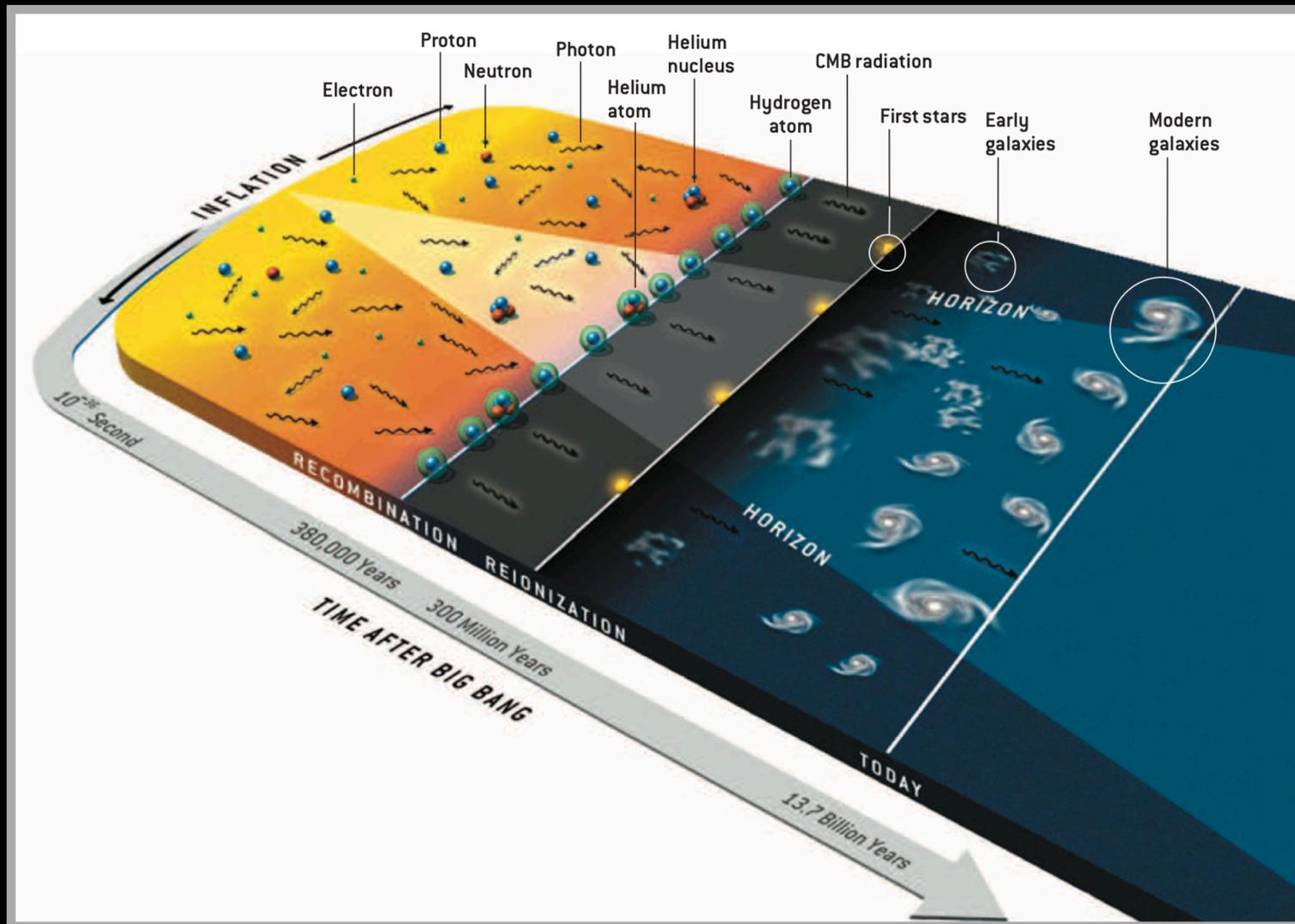
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# How do we learn cosmology from BAO?

- Measure angular positions, and redshifts of tracers (of the underlying matter density field, e.g., BGS, LRG, ELG, QSO, Ly $\alpha$ )
- Work out distances to the tracers.
  - ➔ If we know the characteristic scale from  $r_d$  early physics probes such as CMB or BBN, we measure absolute distances.
  - ➔ Otherwise, we measure distances in units of  $r_d$ .
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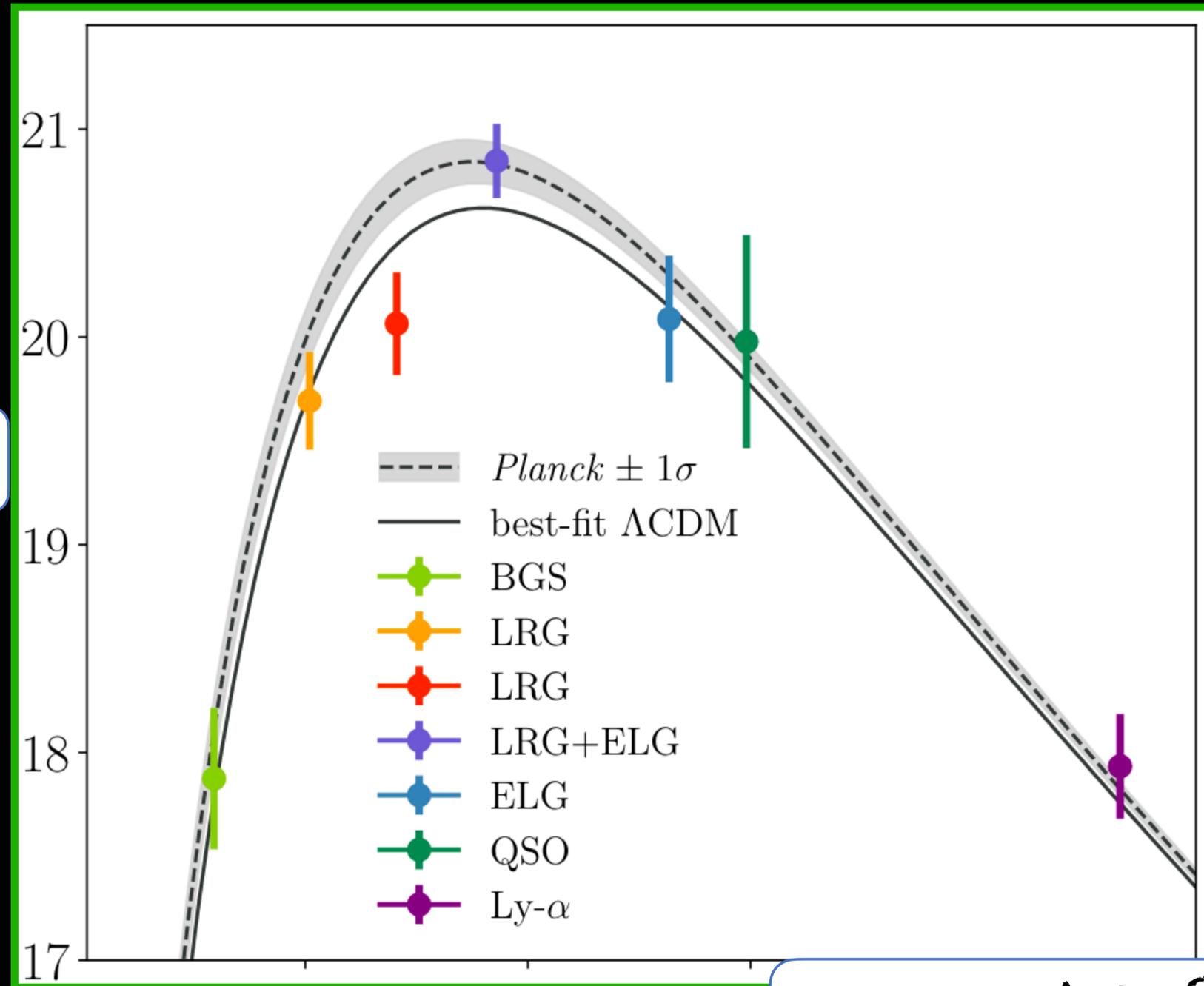
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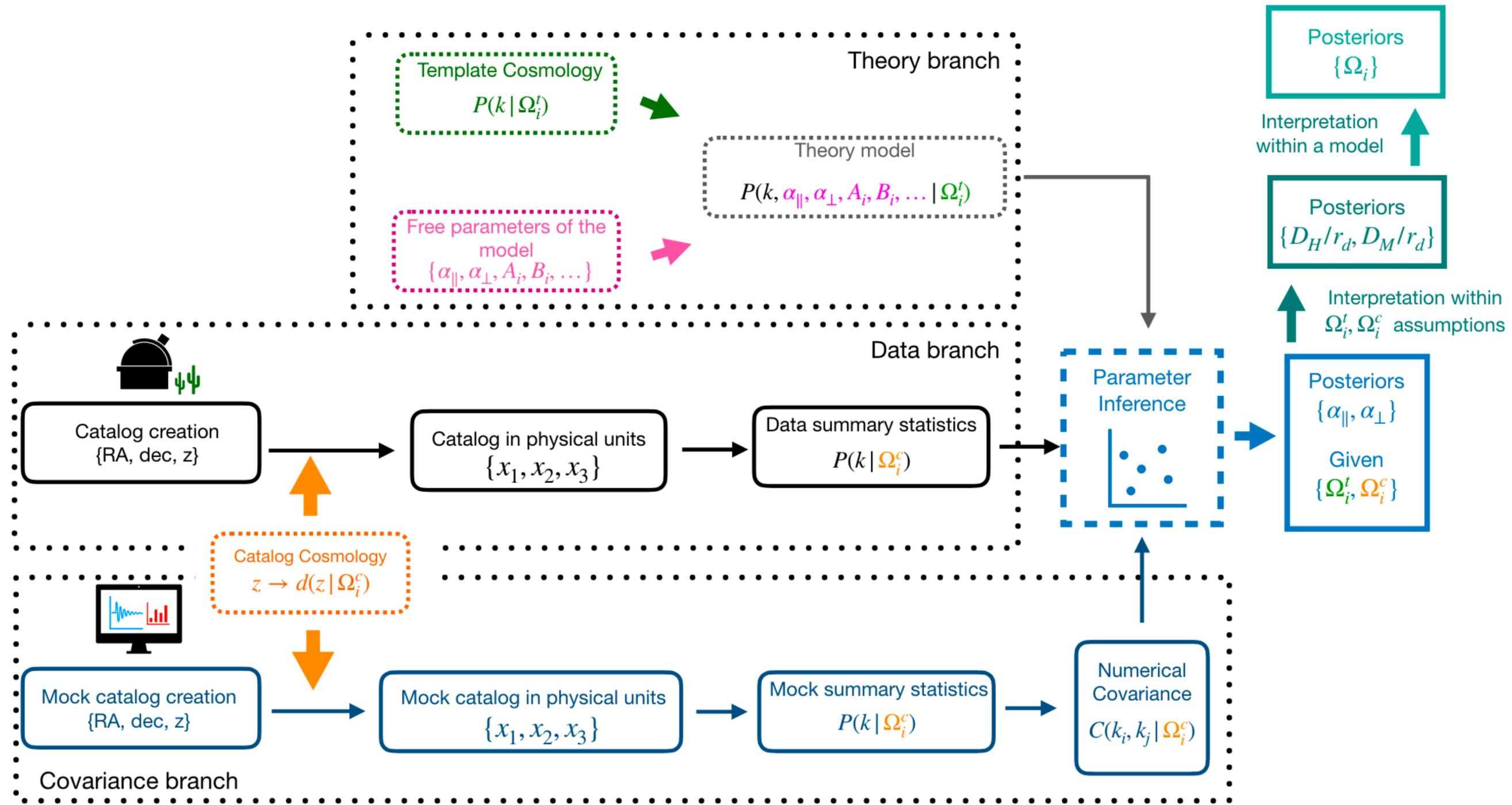
Distance



Redshift

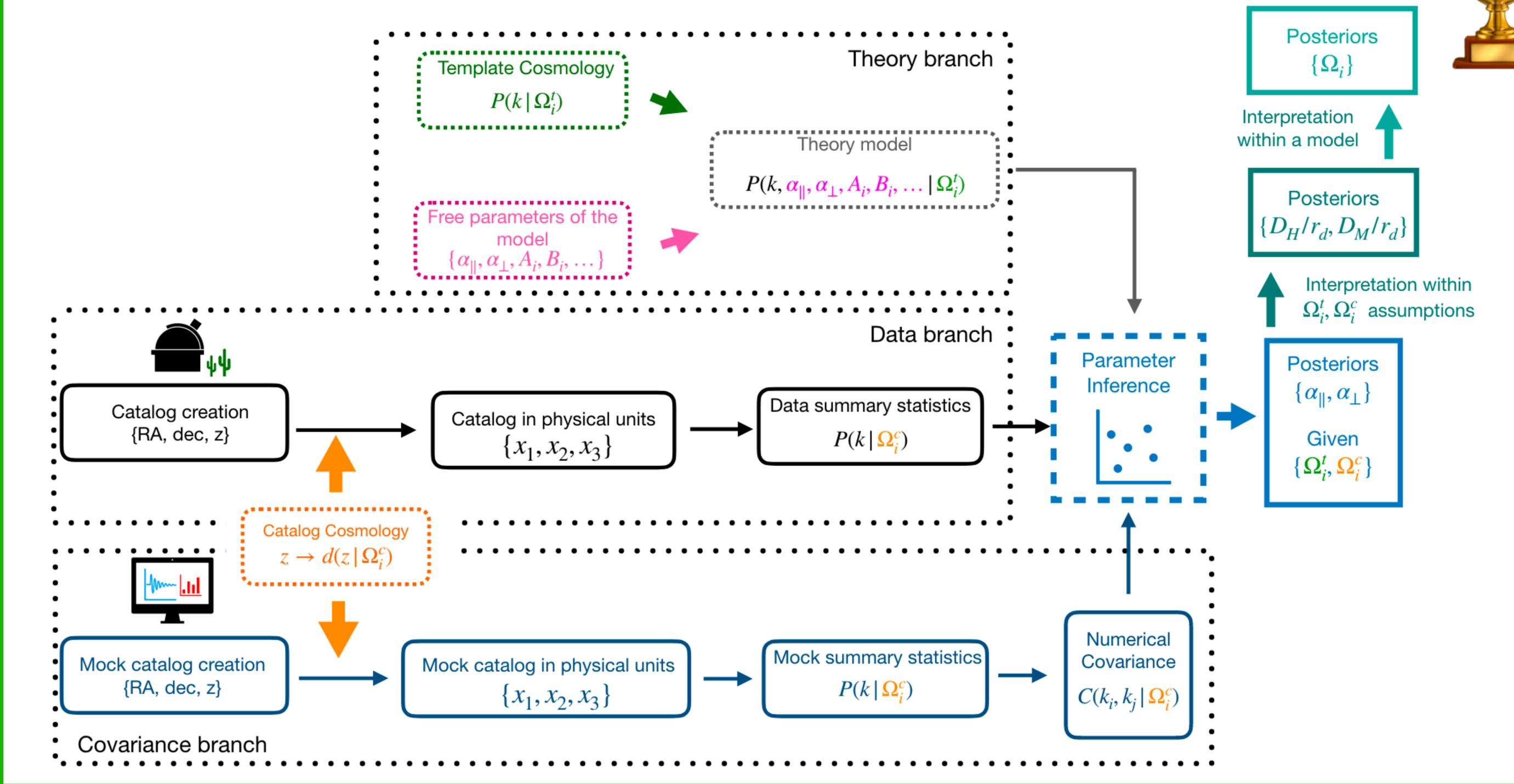
# From $(ra, dec, z)$ to $\Omega_i$ — Cosmo parameters

Santiago Sanz-Wuhl et al (2024): arXiv:2402.03427



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# Blind Watchers of the Sky

# Blinding? In cosmology?



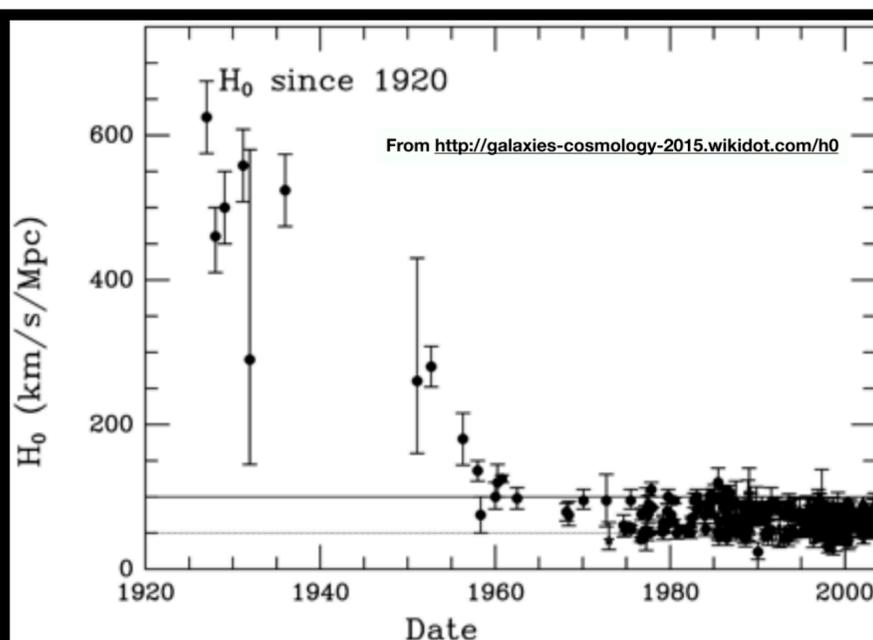
... what's the point ???

*Credit slide: Samuel Brieden*

# Bandwagon effect

The bandwagon effect is a **psychological phenomenon** where people adopt certain behaviors, styles, or attitudes simply because others are doing so. More specifically, it is a **cognitive bias** by which public opinion or behaviors can alter due to particular actions and **beliefs** rallying amongst the public. [Wikipedia]

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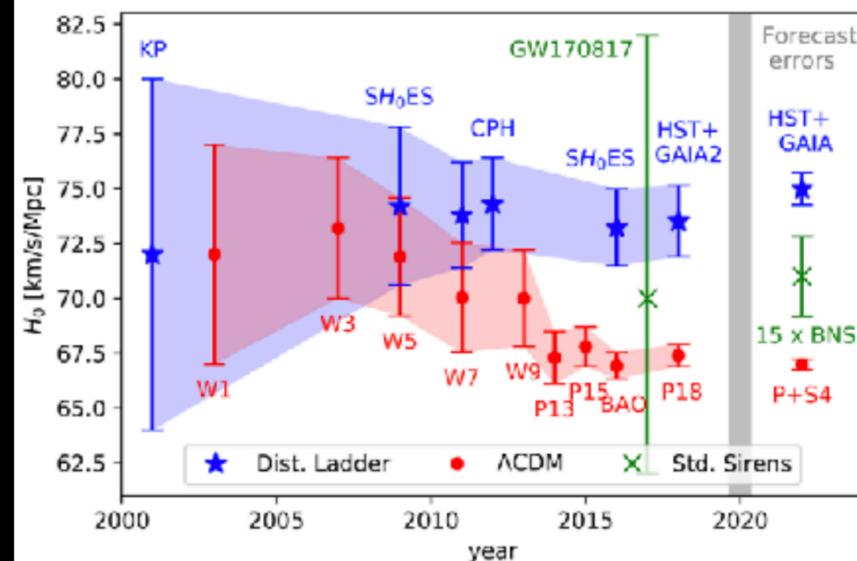
“The question of when to stop the search for sources of error is then very important. One psychologically plausible end point is when the result ‘seems’ right”

–Allan Franklin, *The Neglect of Experiment*

“Although each experiment was honestly made, they were, except for the first, conducted in light of previous results.”

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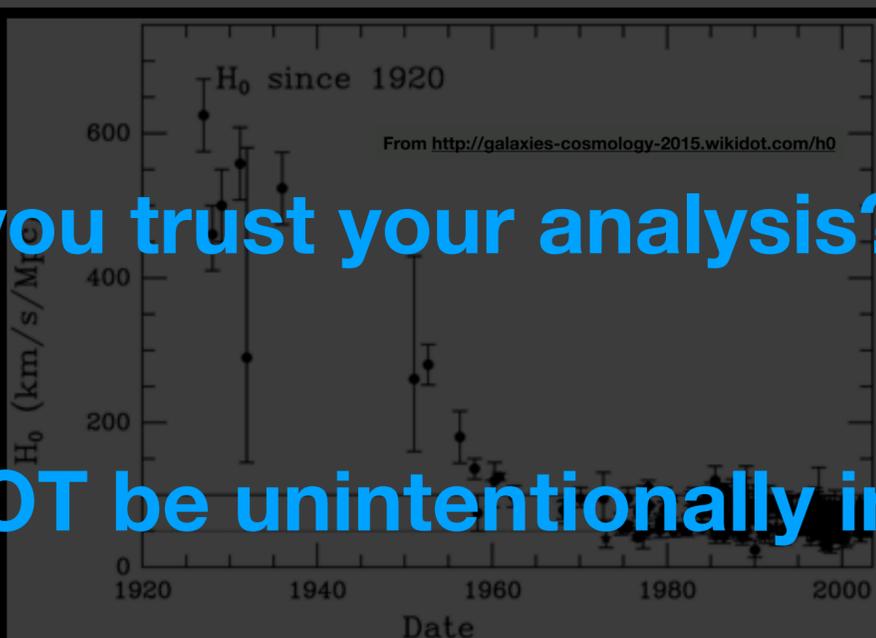
Ezquiaga & Zumalacarregui 2018



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- When do you trust your analysis? When do you say your analysis is validated?
- Can we NOT be unintentionally influenced by what we already know?

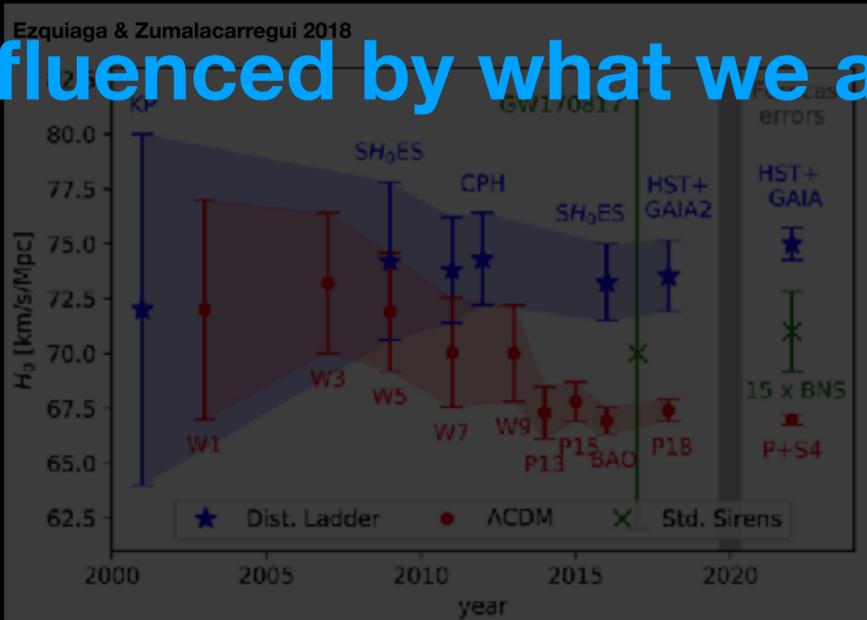


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- The data! – already **the biggest ever BAO dataset** (both in  $n$  and volume)
- **Blind analysis** to mitigate observer/confirmation biases (catalogue-level blinding)
- Theory developments in BAO fitting procedure
- New and improved reconstruction methods
- **Unified BAO pipeline** applied to all tracers/redshifts consistently
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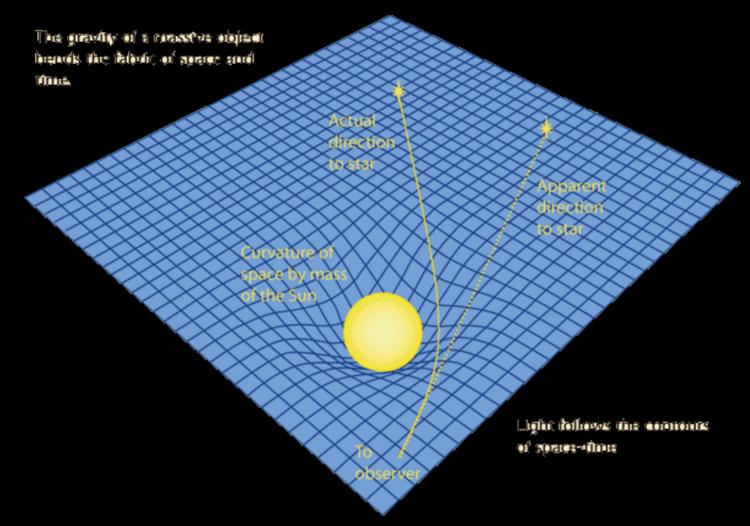
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Validating the Galaxy and Quasar Catalog-Level Blinding Scheme for the DESI 2024 analysis: [U. Andrade et al \(2024\): arXiv:2404.07282](#)

# Cosmological Constraints from DESI BAO

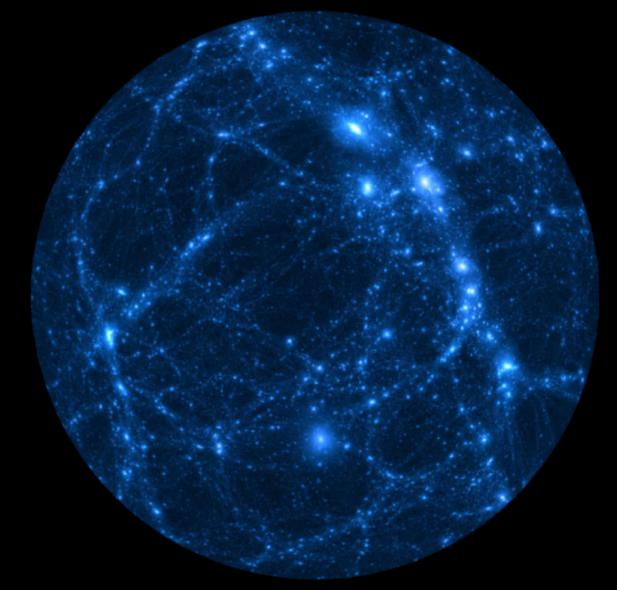
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GR and FLRW metric



+

CDM



+

Cosmological Constant



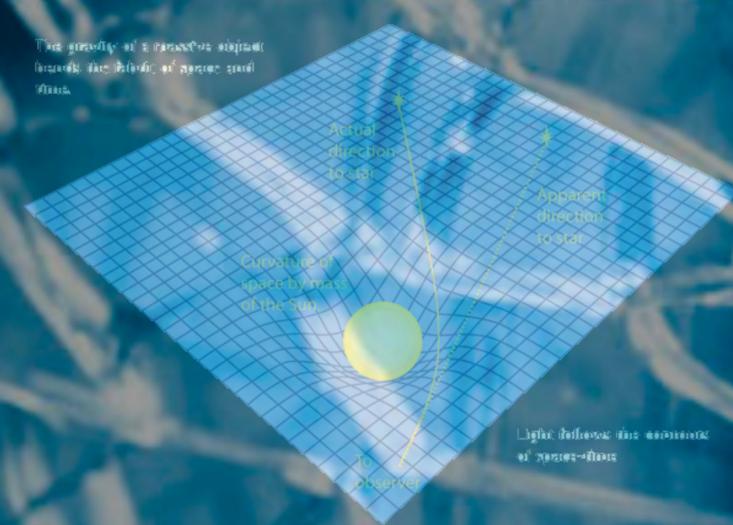
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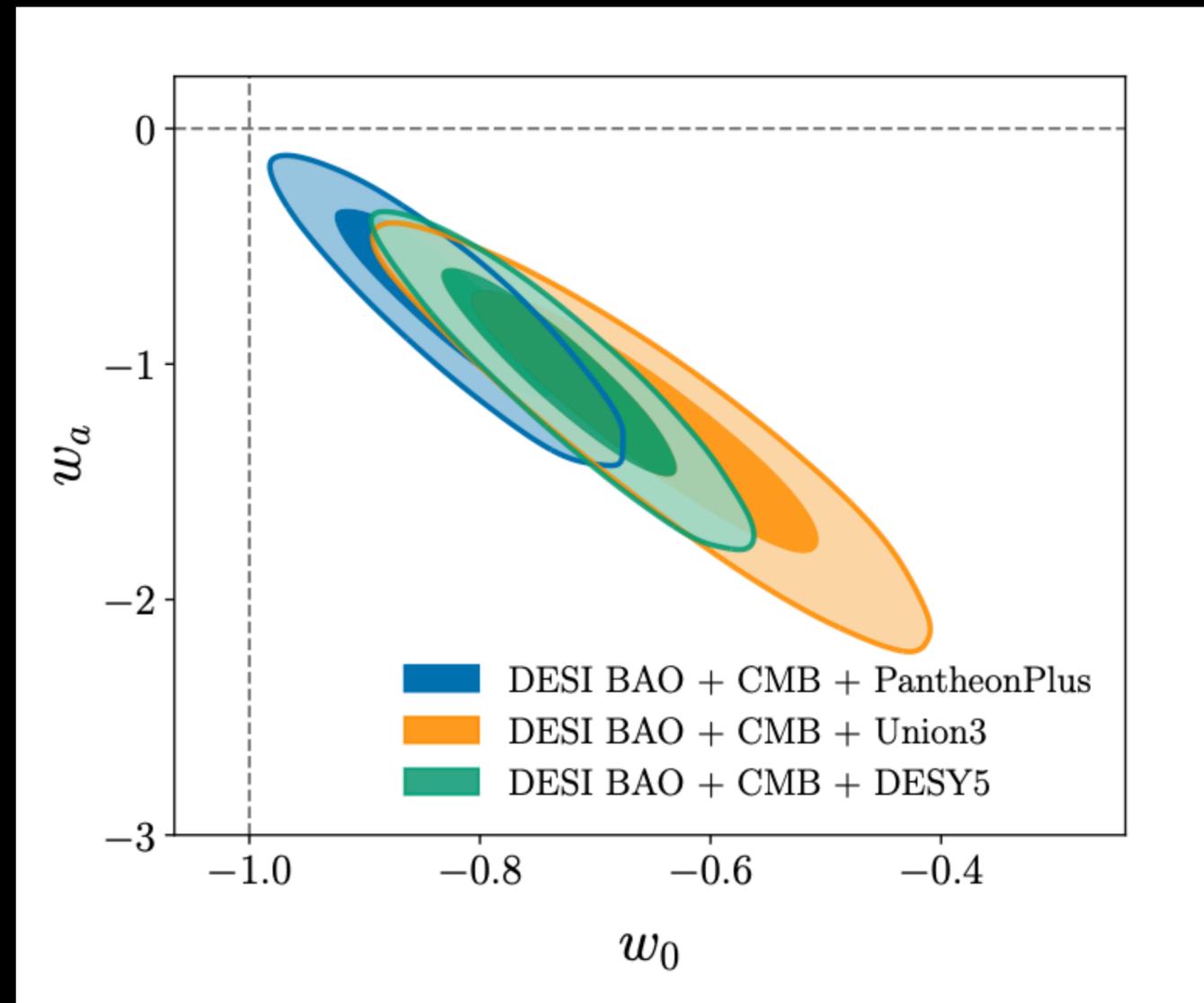
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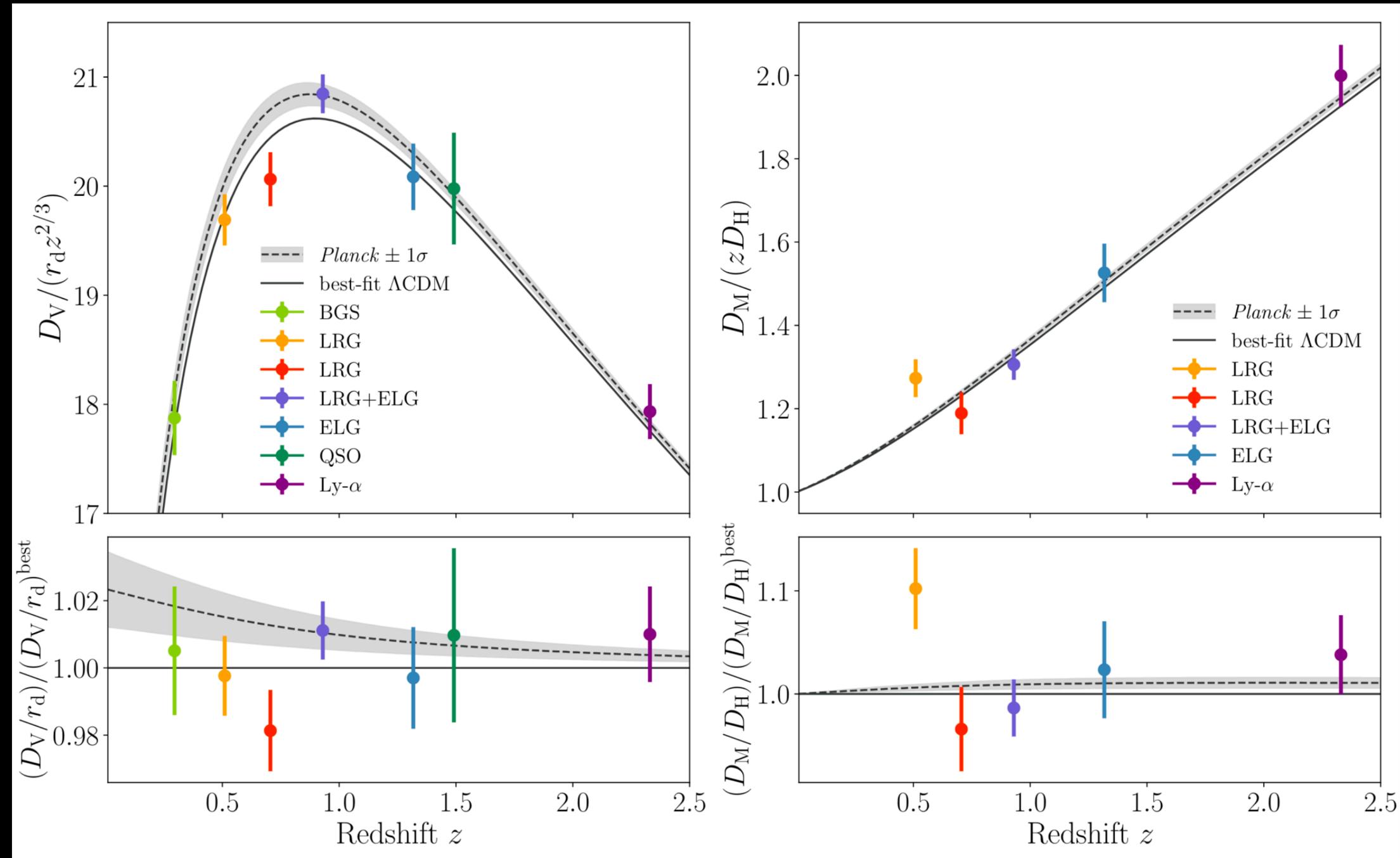
# $\Lambda$ CDM model

# DESI: Breaking the Habit ...

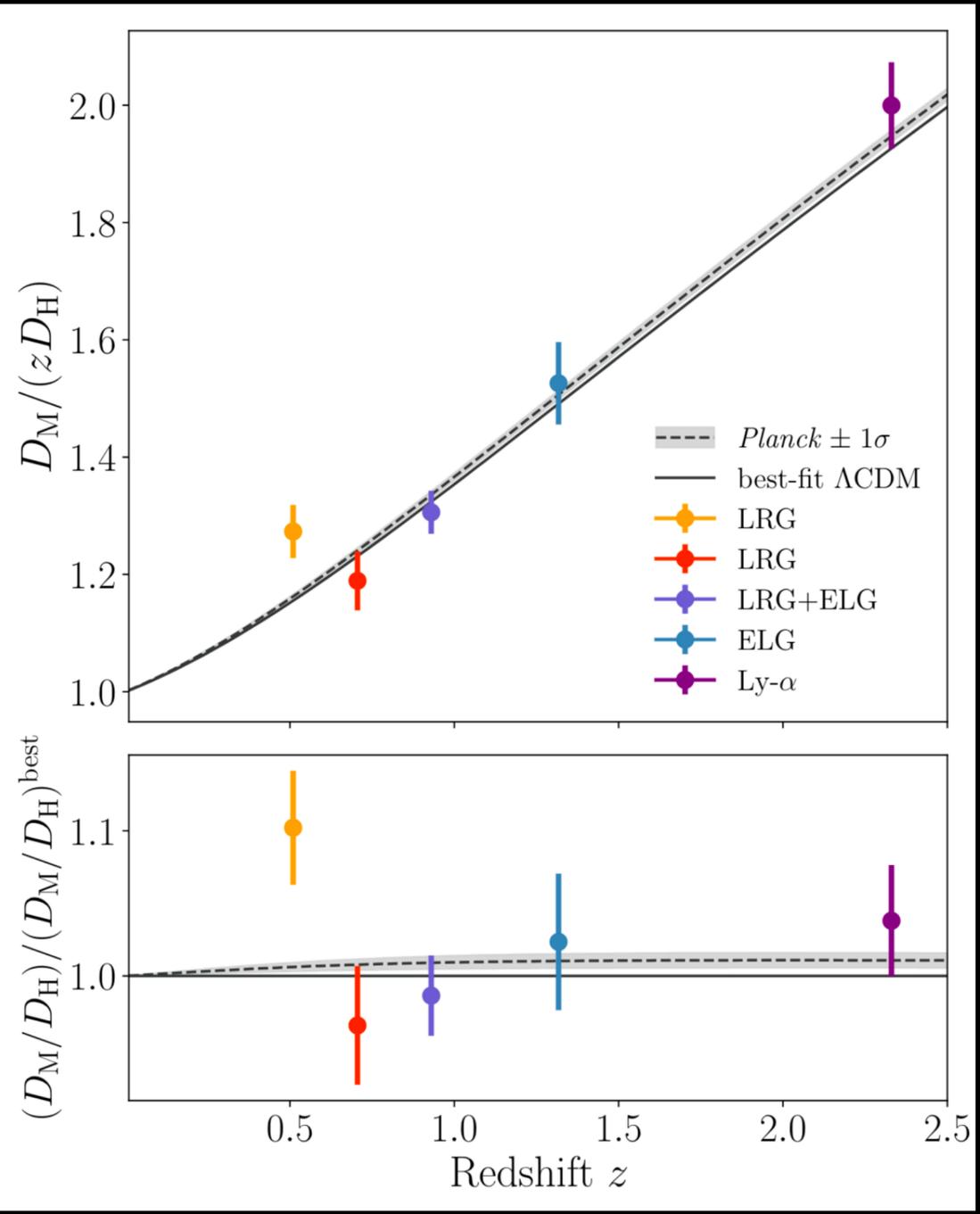
**3.9 $\sigma$**  tantalizing suggestion of deviations from the standard cosmological model



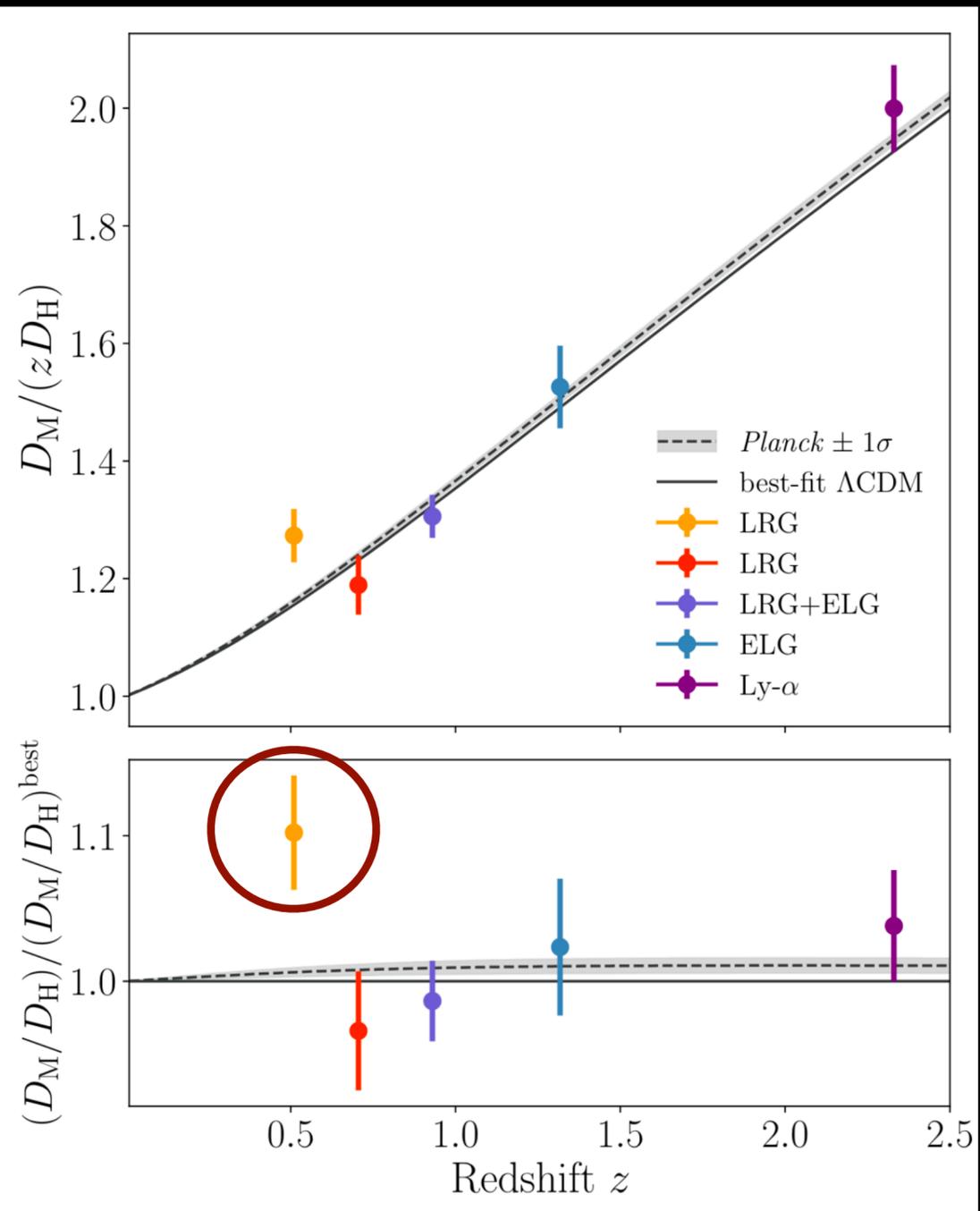
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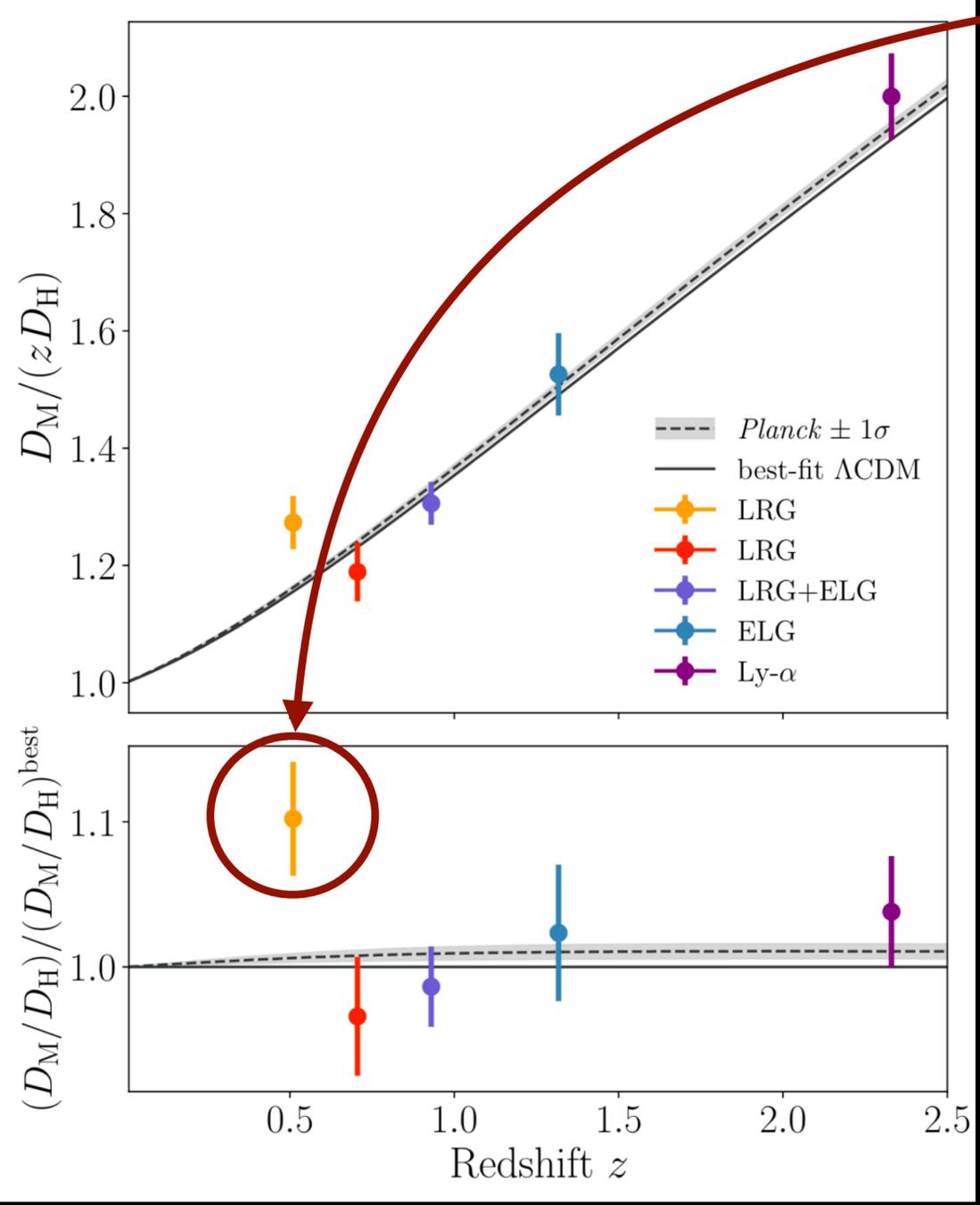


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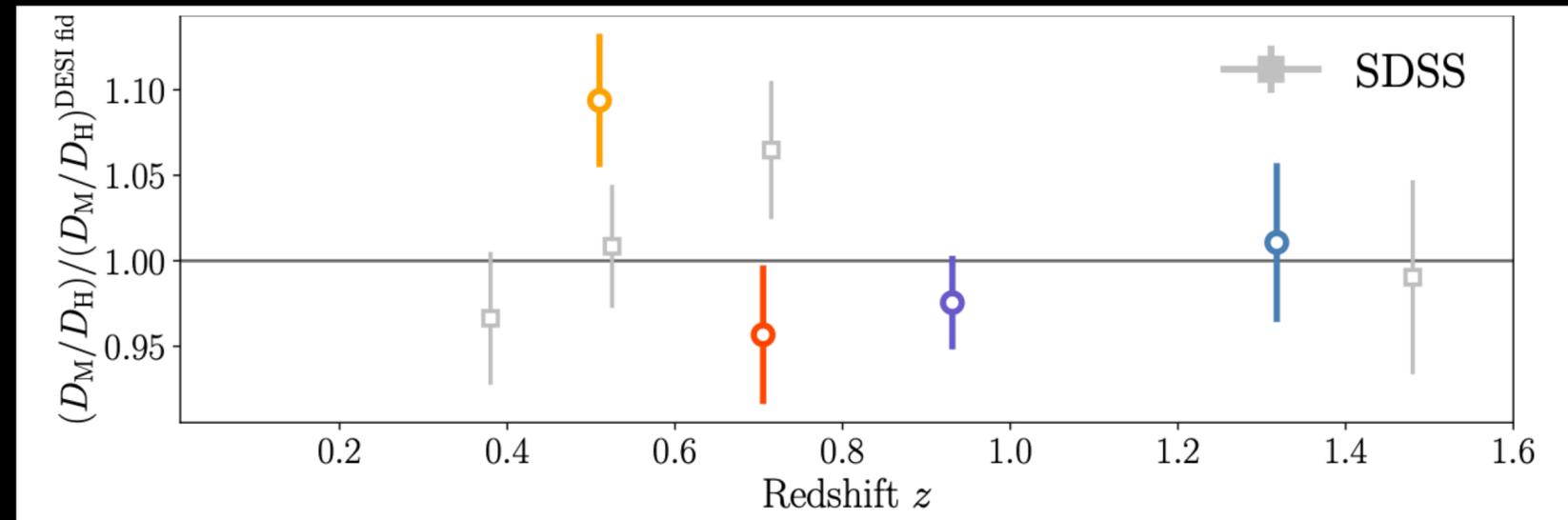
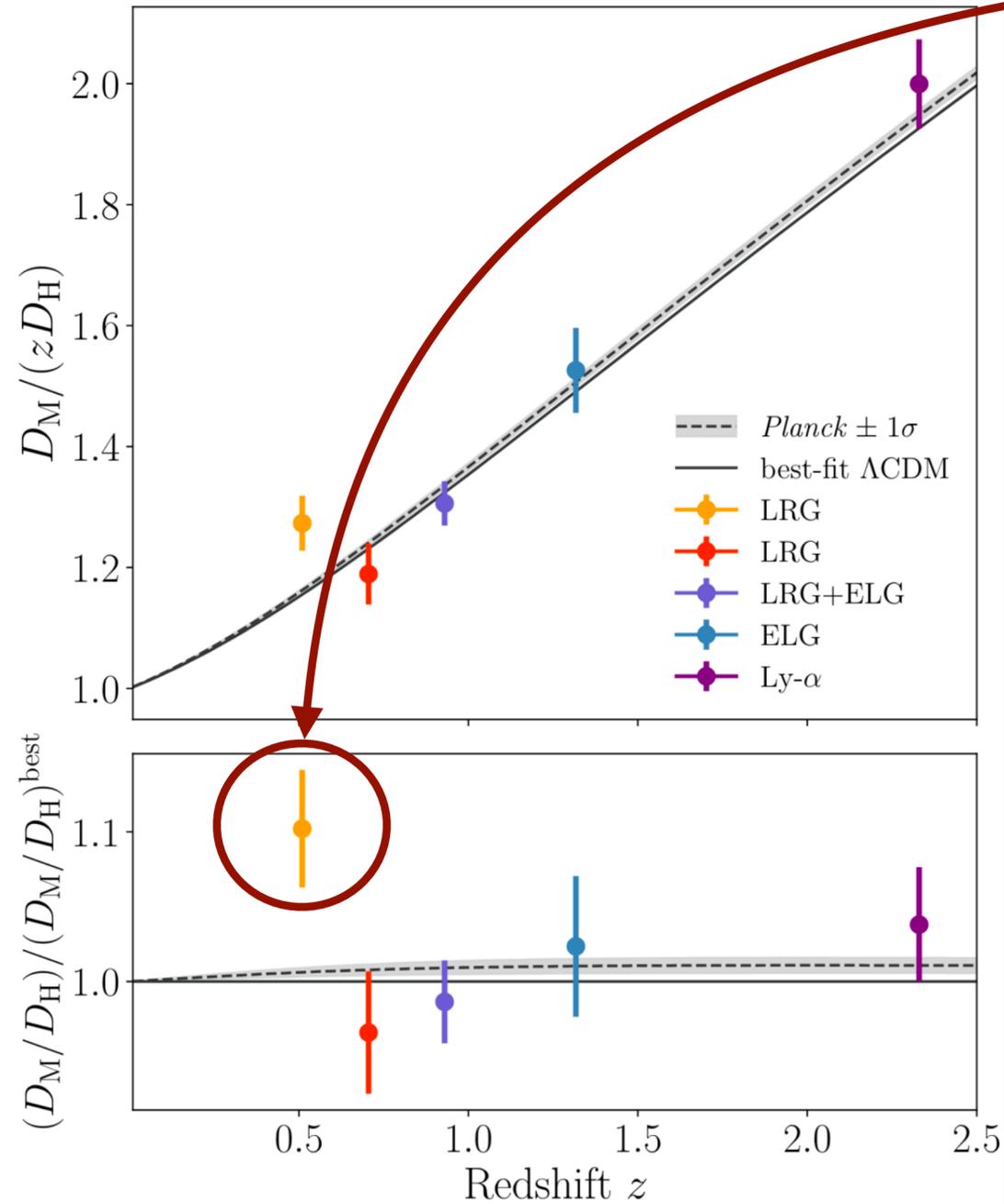
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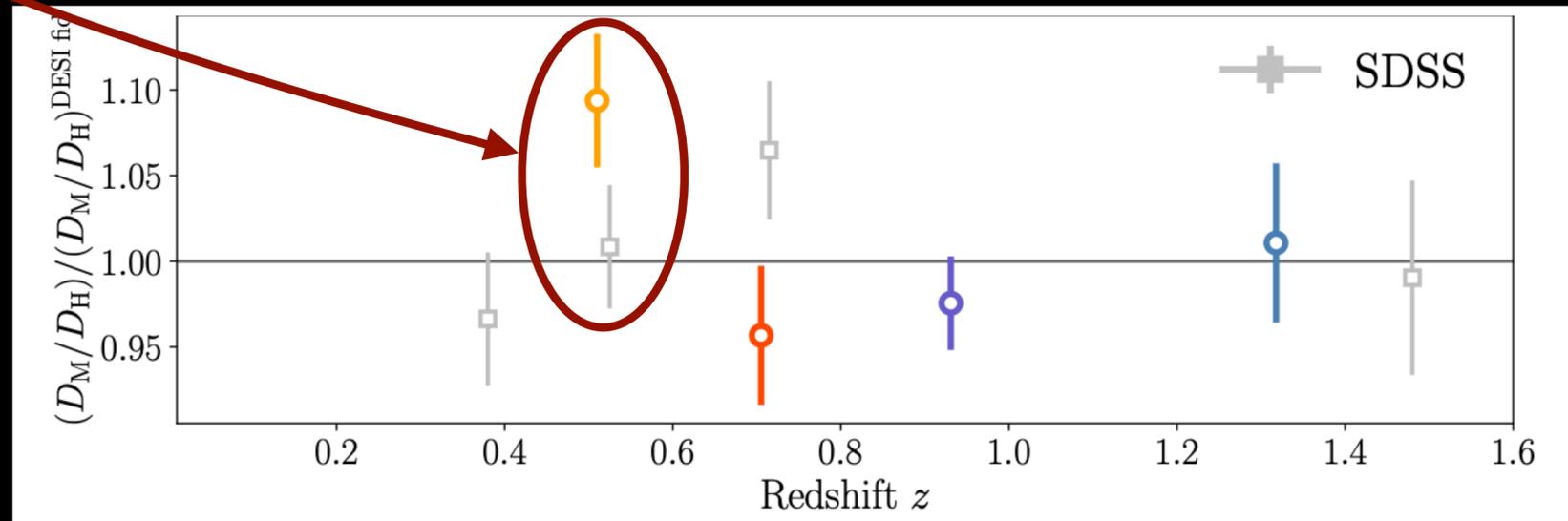
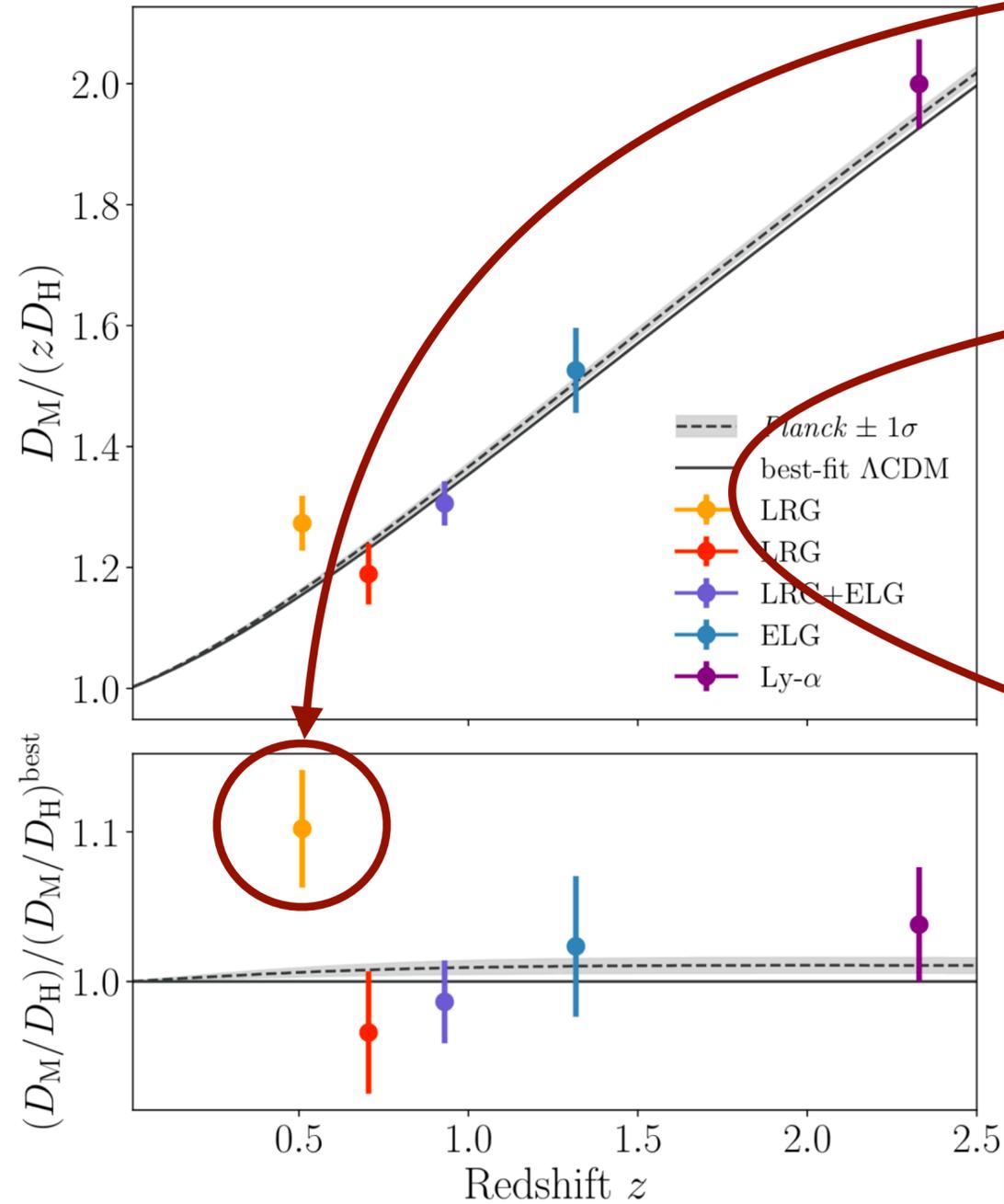
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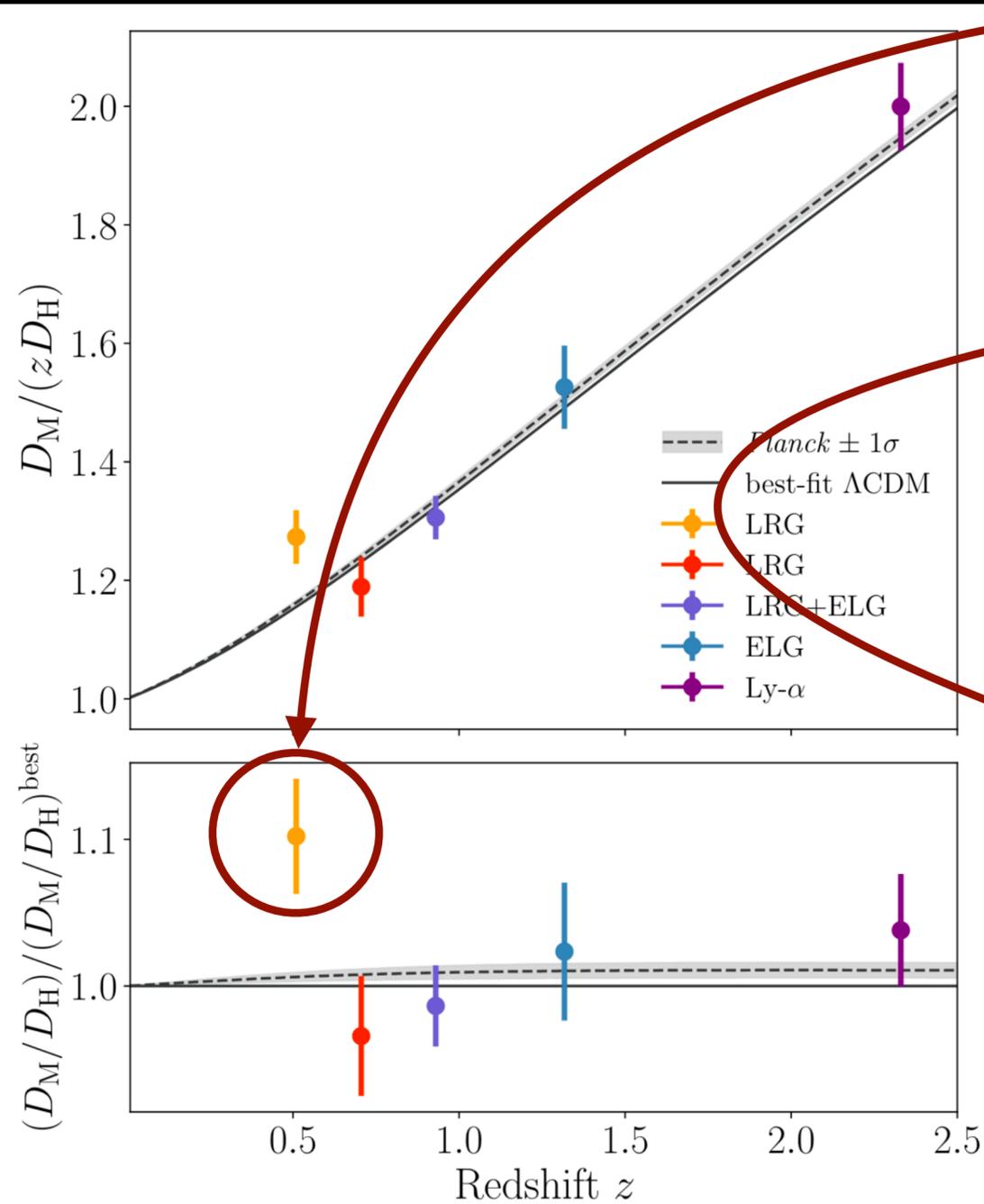
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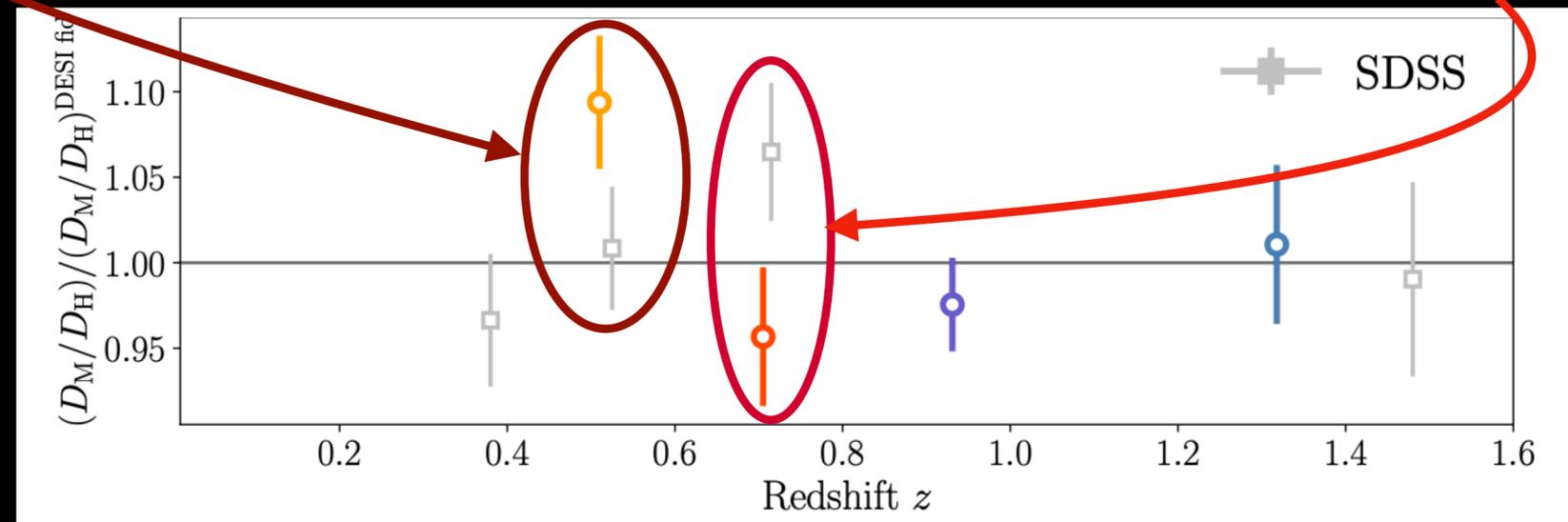
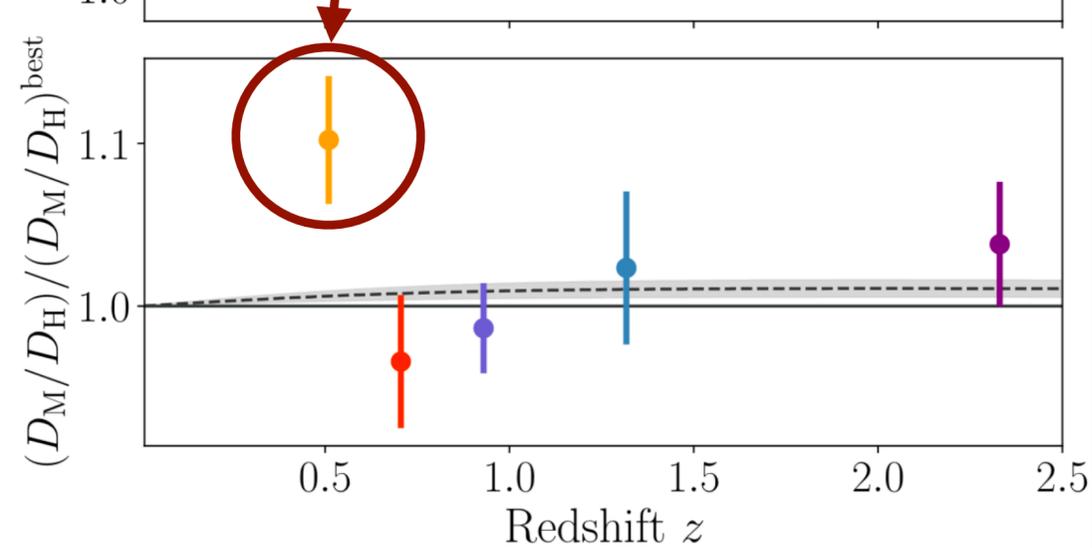


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Although LRG2  $0.6 < z < 0.8$  is  $\sim 2.7 - 3\sigma$  discrepant.

Cause of this difference unclear. Might be due to an unlucky sample variance fluctuation.





# BAO dataset from DESI + SDSS

Combining DESI and SDSS to get the most precise BAO measurements ever made.

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## The composite BAO dataset:

- at  $z < 0.6$  where SDSS currently has a larger  $V_{\text{eff}}$ , we use the SDSS results at  $z_{\text{eff}} = 0.15, 0.38$  and  $0.51$  in place of the DESI BGS and lowest-redshift LRG points;
- at  $z > 0.6$  where DESI has  $V_{\text{eff}}$  larger than that of SDSS, we use the DESI results from LRGs over  $0.6 < z < 0.8$ , the LRG+ELG combination over  $0.8 < z < 1.1$ , and ELGs and QSOs at higher redshifts; and
- for the  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  BAO we use the combined DESI+SDSS result from [Eqs. \(3.3\) and \(3.4\)](#) above.

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Combining DESI and SDSS to get the most precise BAO measurements ever made.

However, bear in mind:

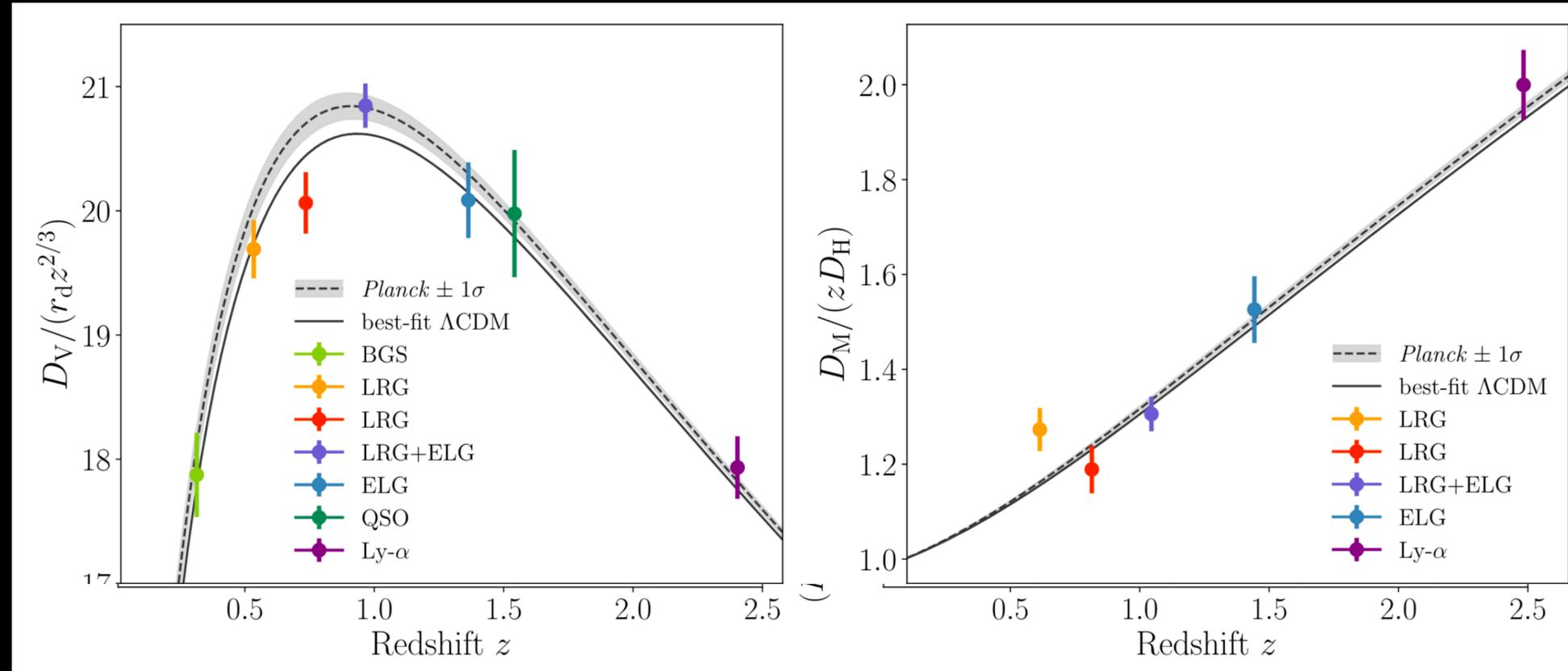
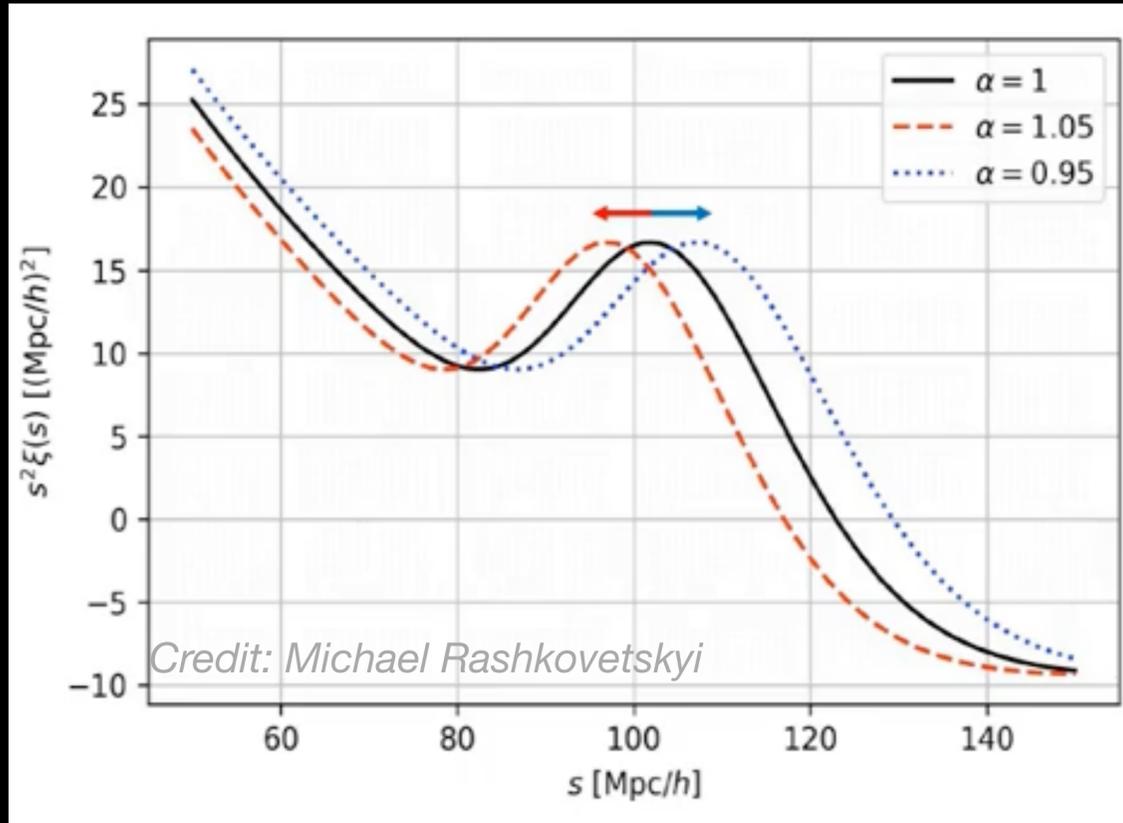
- This is not the same as combining at the likelihood level
- This combined sample should be selected by choosing the results from the survey covering the larger effective volume at a given redshift — to avoid double-counting.

**The composite BAO dataset:**  
(DESI + SDSS)

- at  $z < 0.6$  where SDSS currently has a larger  $V_{\text{eff}}$ , we use the SDSS results at  $z_{\text{eff}} = 0.15, 0.38$  and  $0.51$  in place of the DESI BGS and lowest-redshift LRG points;
- at  $z > 0.6$  where DESI has  $V_{\text{eff}}$  larger than that of SDSS, we use the DESI results from LRGs over  $0.6 < z < 0.8$ , the LRG+ELG combination over  $0.8 < z < 1.1$ , and ELGs and QSOs at higher redshifts; and
- for the  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  BAO we use the combined DESI+SDSS result from [Eqs. \(3.3\)](#) and [\(3.4\)](#) above.

# Distance Measurements

Relation between BAO parameters, e.g.,  $(\alpha_{\parallel}, \alpha_{\perp})$  and distances  $(D_M, D_H, D_V)$



$$\frac{D_M(z)}{r_d} \equiv \frac{D_A(z) (1+z)}{r_d} = \alpha_{\perp} \frac{D_M^{\text{fid}}(z)}{r_d^{\text{fid}}}$$



comoving angular diameter distance  $D_M(z)$

$$\frac{D_H(z)}{r_d} \equiv \frac{c}{H(z)r_d} = \alpha_{\parallel} \frac{D_H^{\text{fid}}(z)}{r_d^{\text{fid}}}$$



Hubble distance  $D_H(z)$

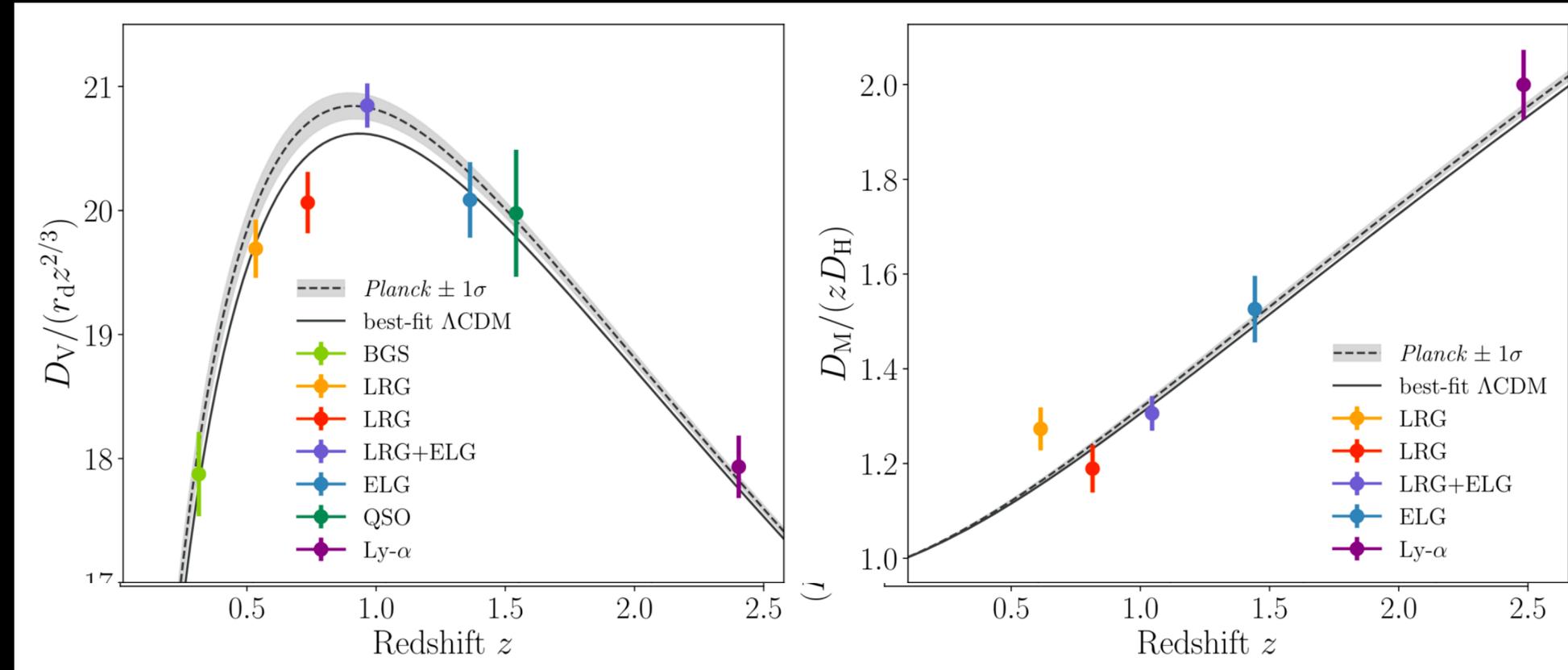
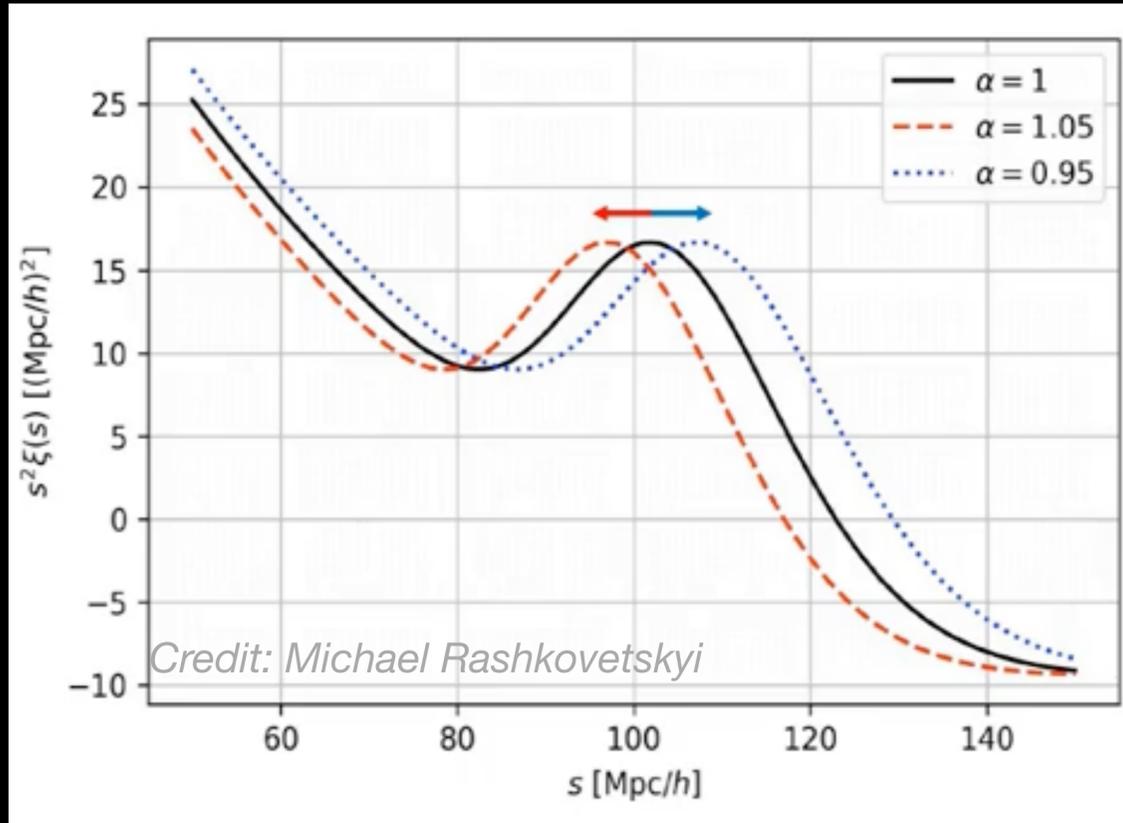
$$\frac{D_V(z)}{r_d} \equiv \frac{[z D_M^2(z) D_H(z)]^{1/3}}{r_d} = \alpha_{\text{iso}} \frac{D_V^{\text{fid}}(z)}{r_d^{\text{fid}}}$$



spherically-averaged distance  $D_V(z)$

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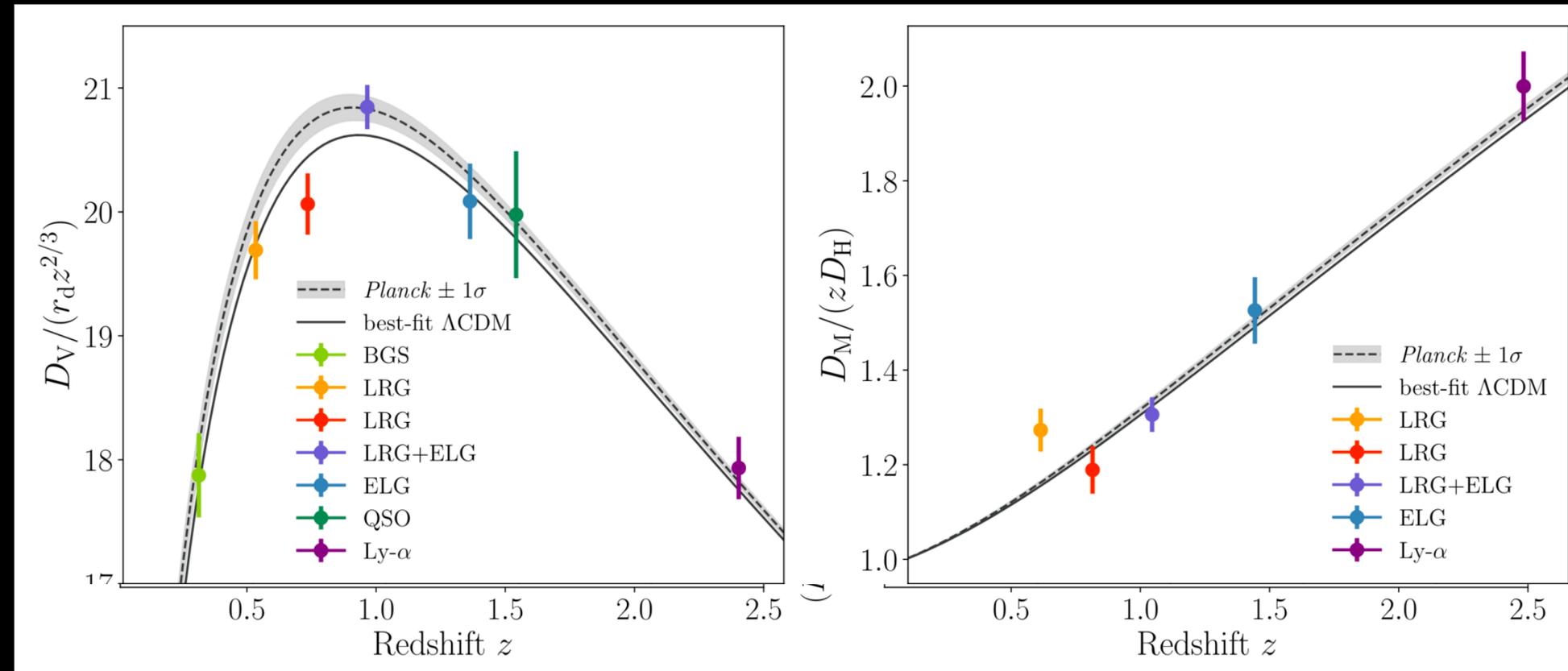
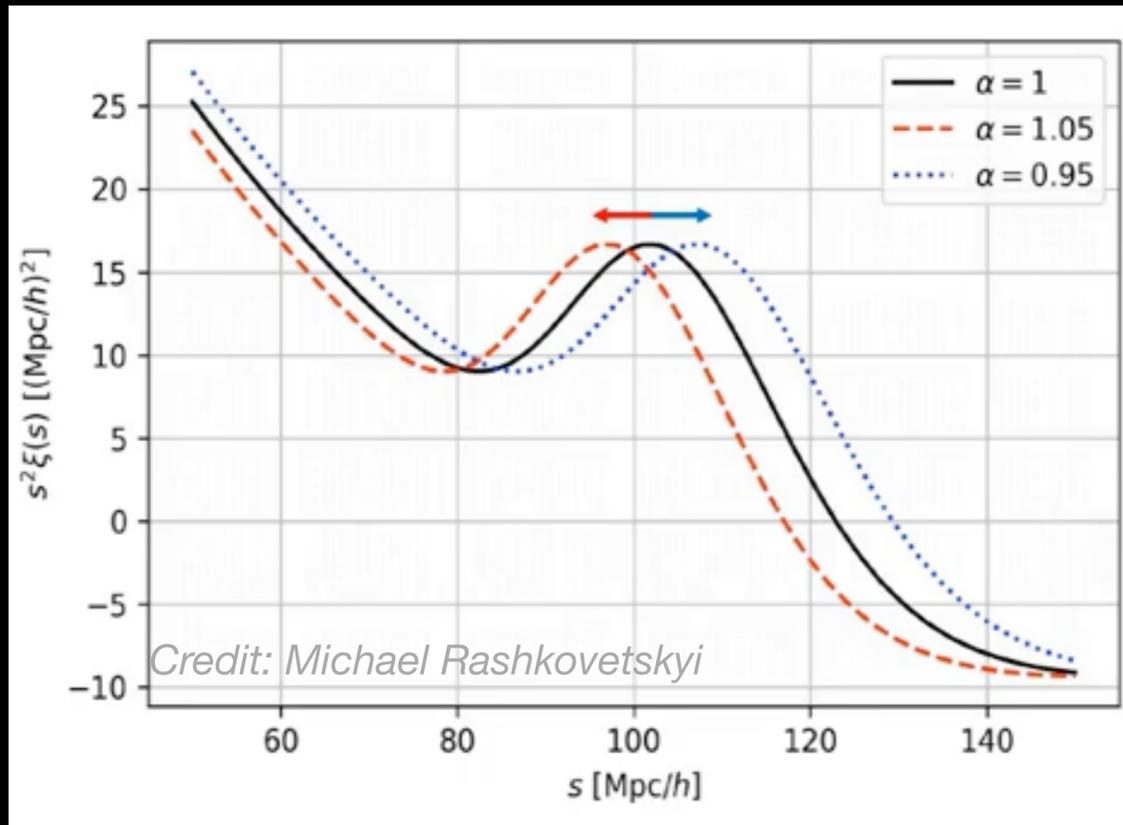
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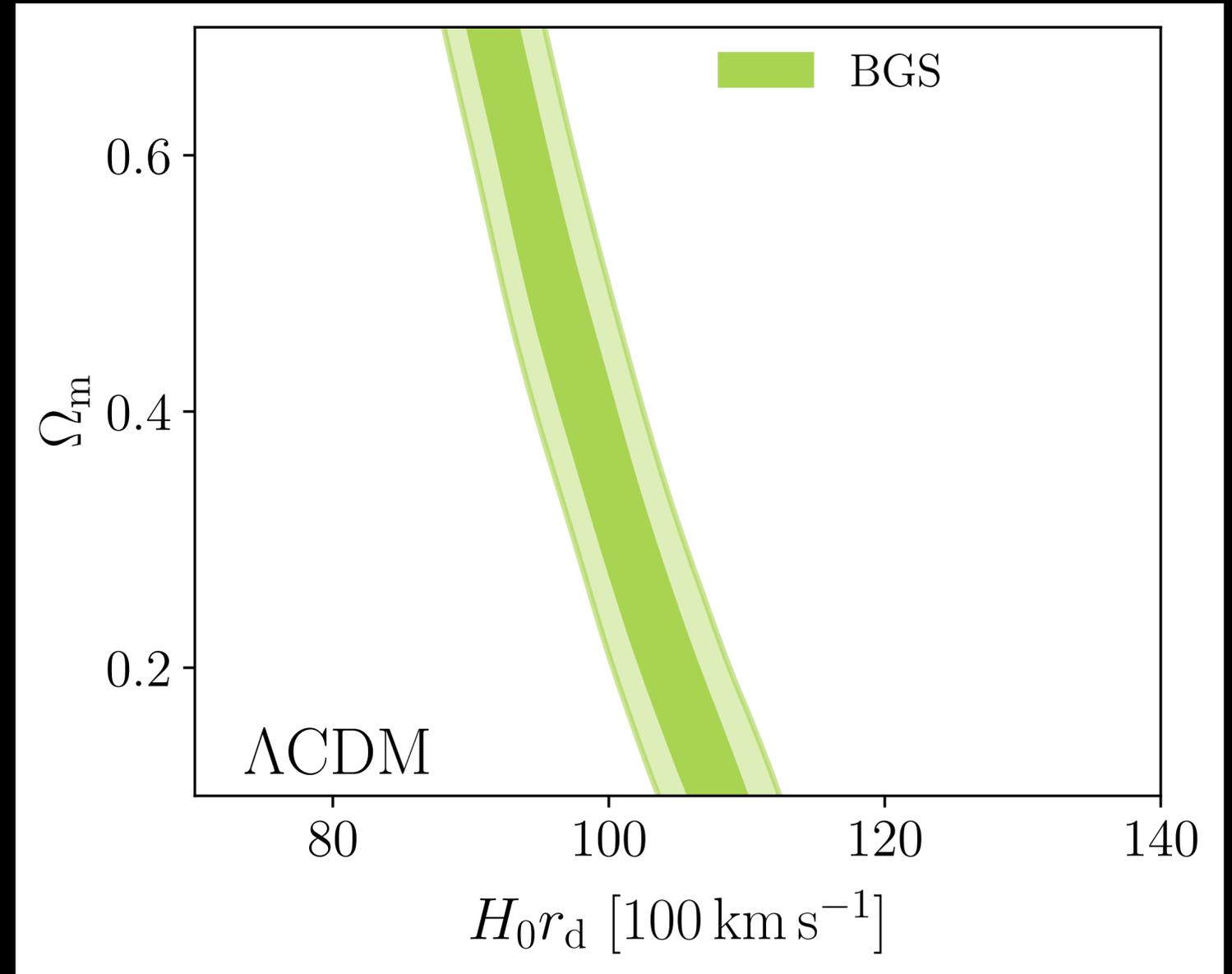
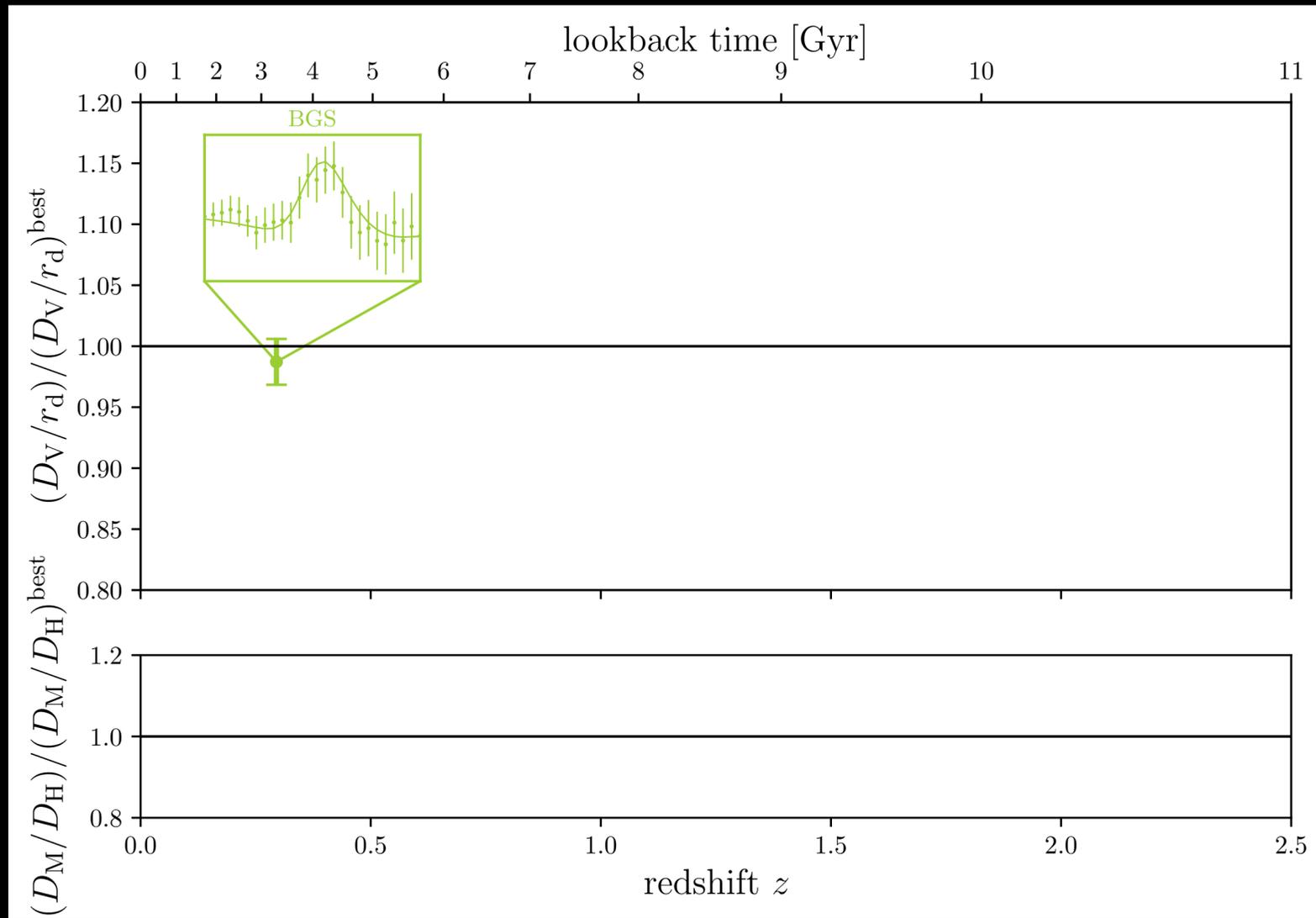
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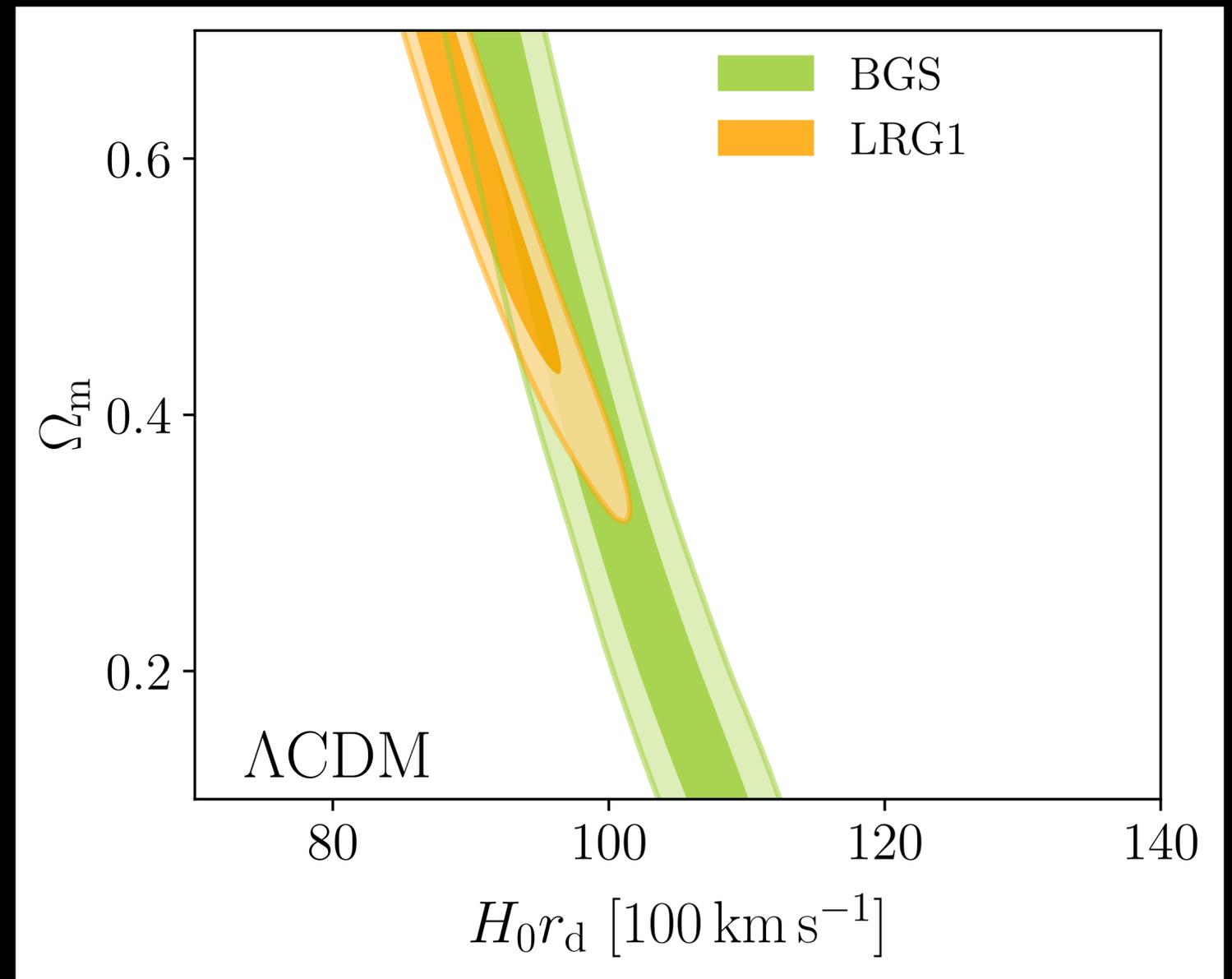
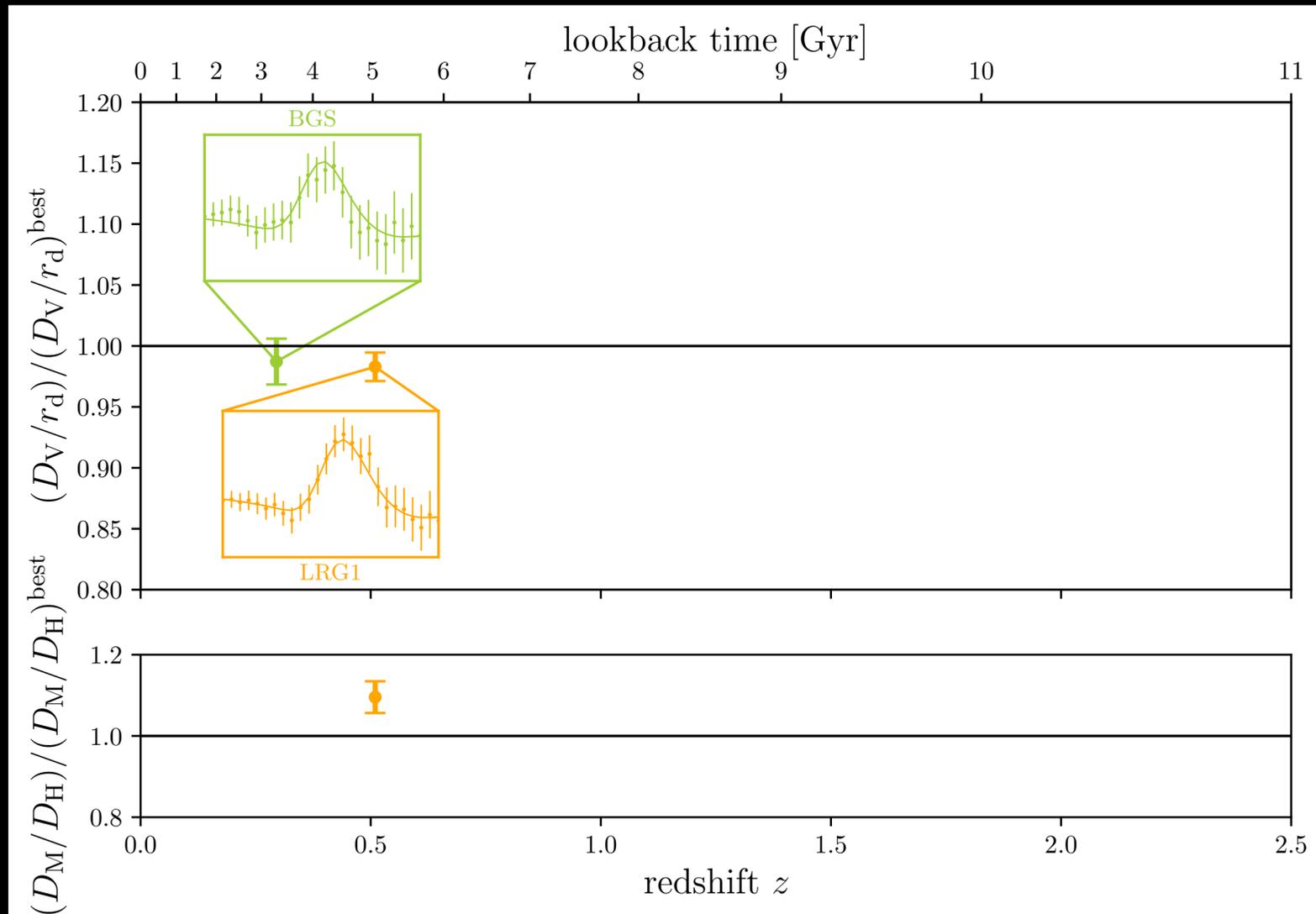
spherically-averaged distance  $D_V(z)$

$$\alpha_{\text{iso}} = (\alpha_{\parallel} \alpha_{\perp}^2)^{1/3}, \quad \alpha_{AP} = \alpha_{\perp} / \alpha_{\parallel}$$

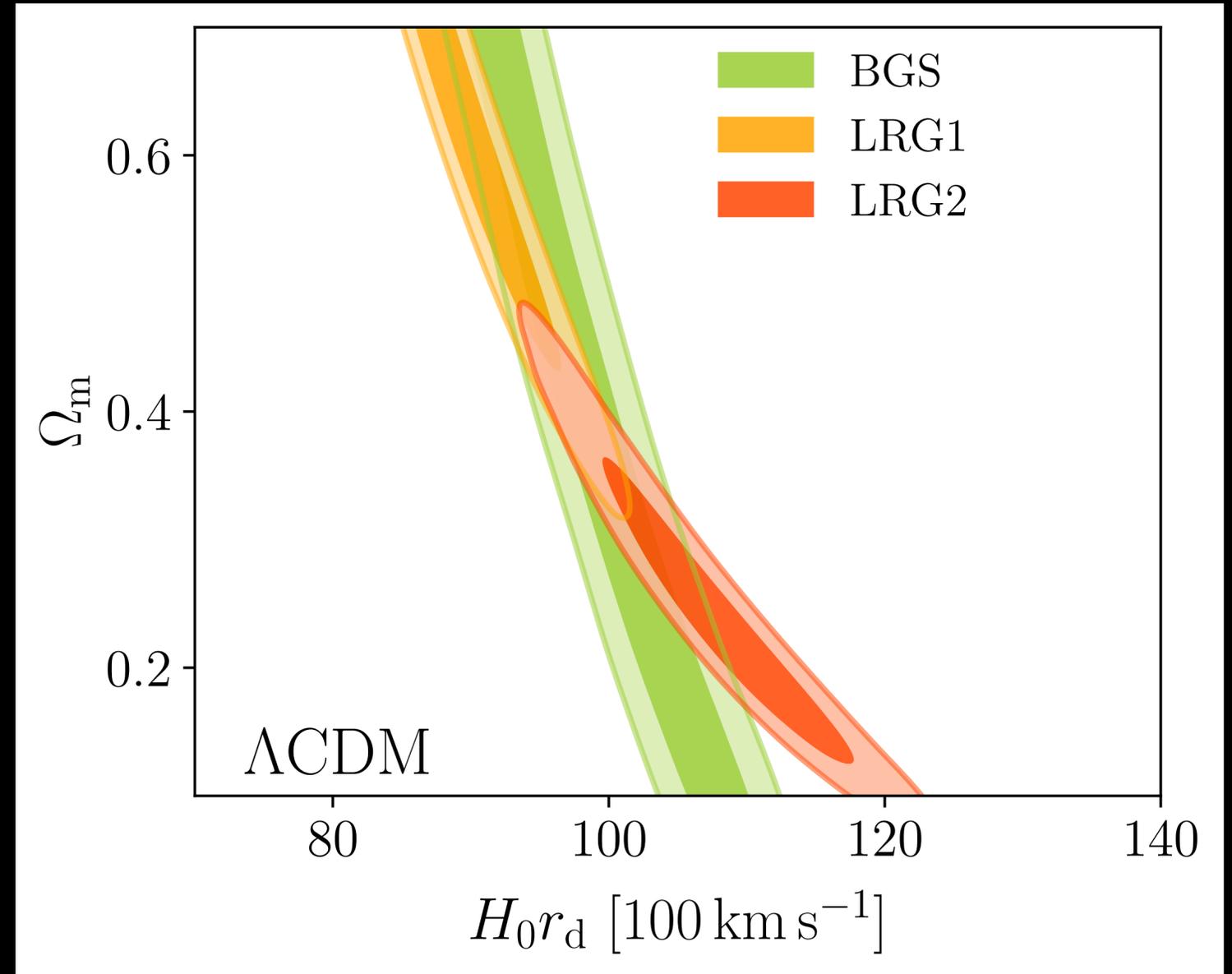
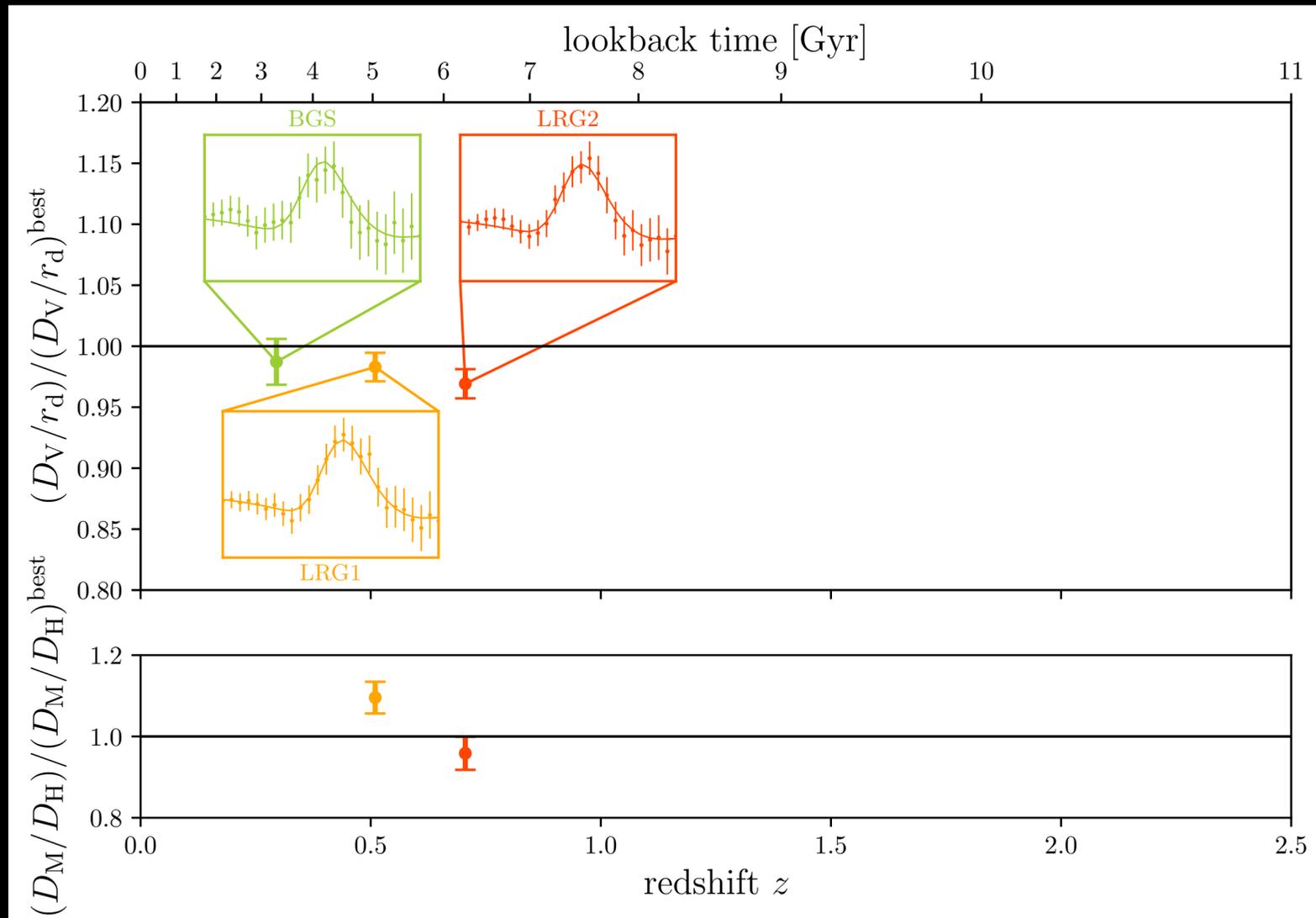
# Internal consistency of DESI results



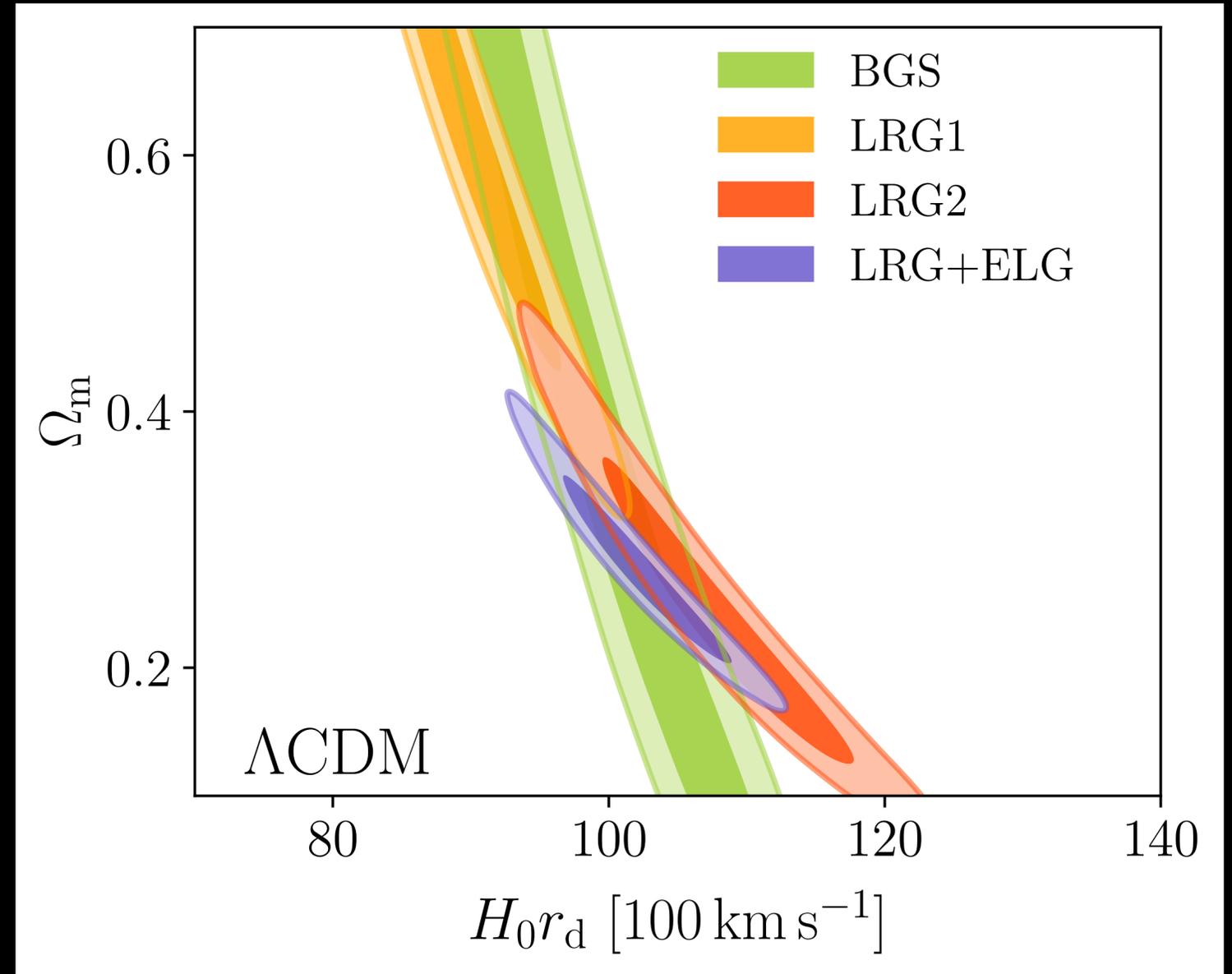
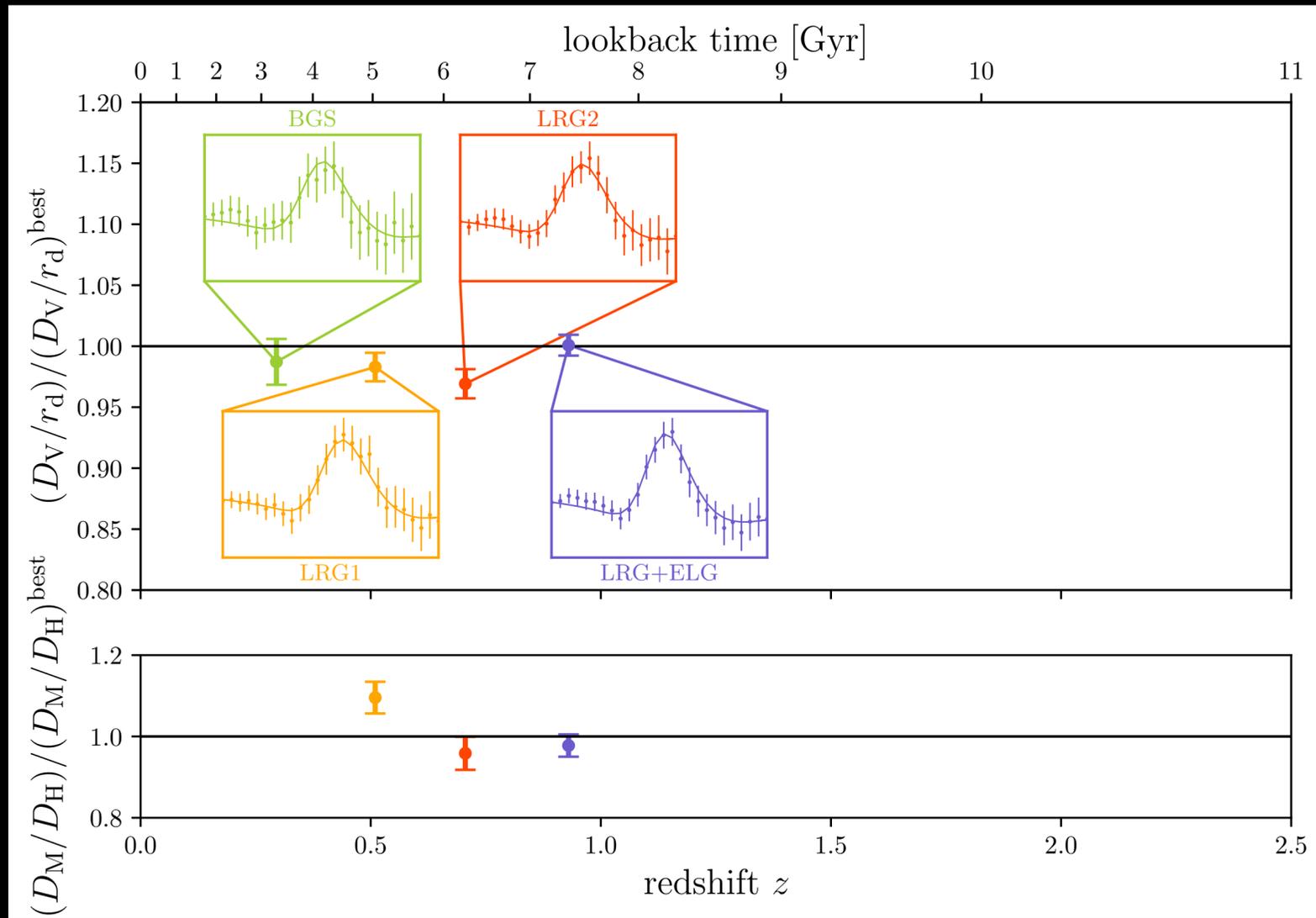
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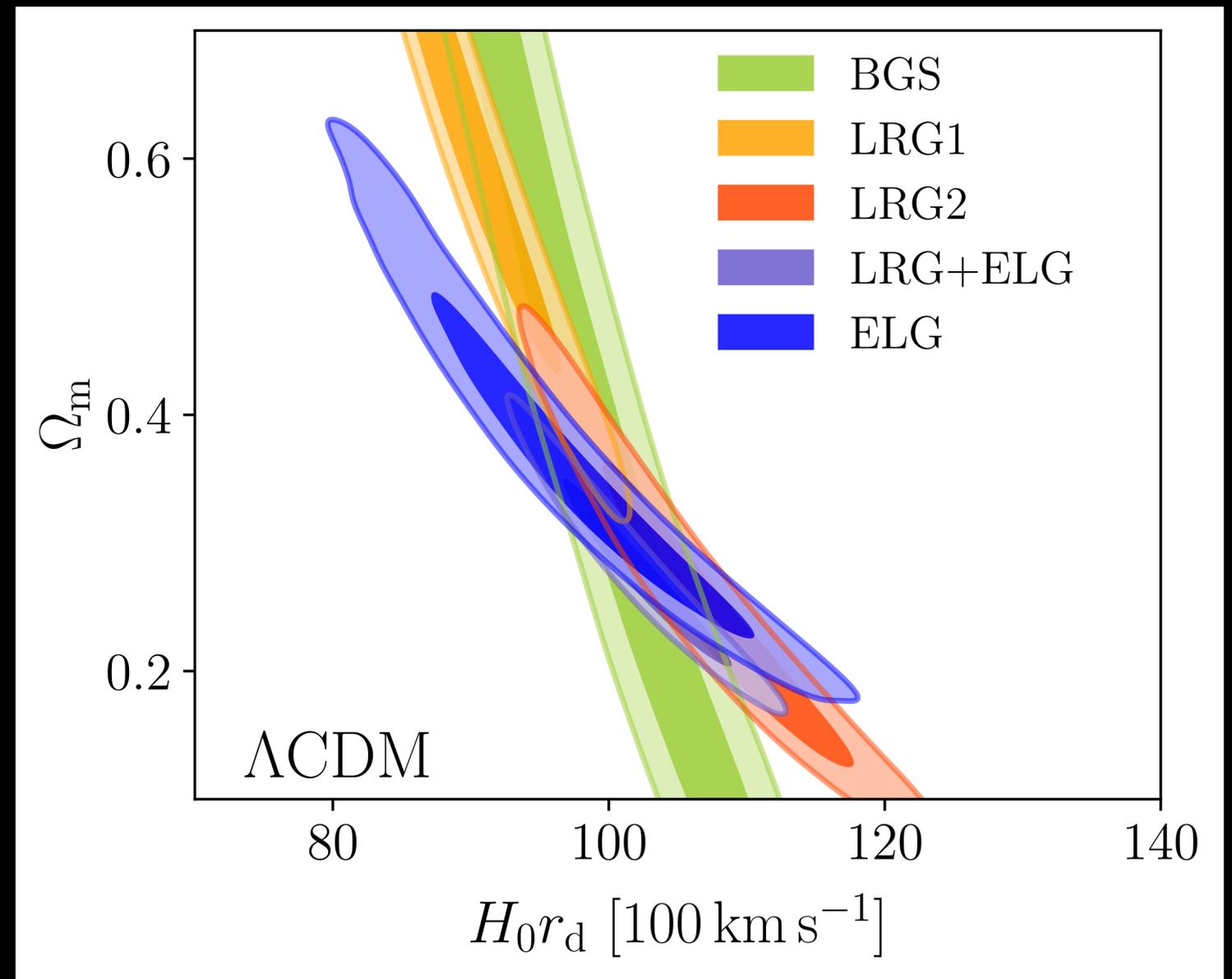
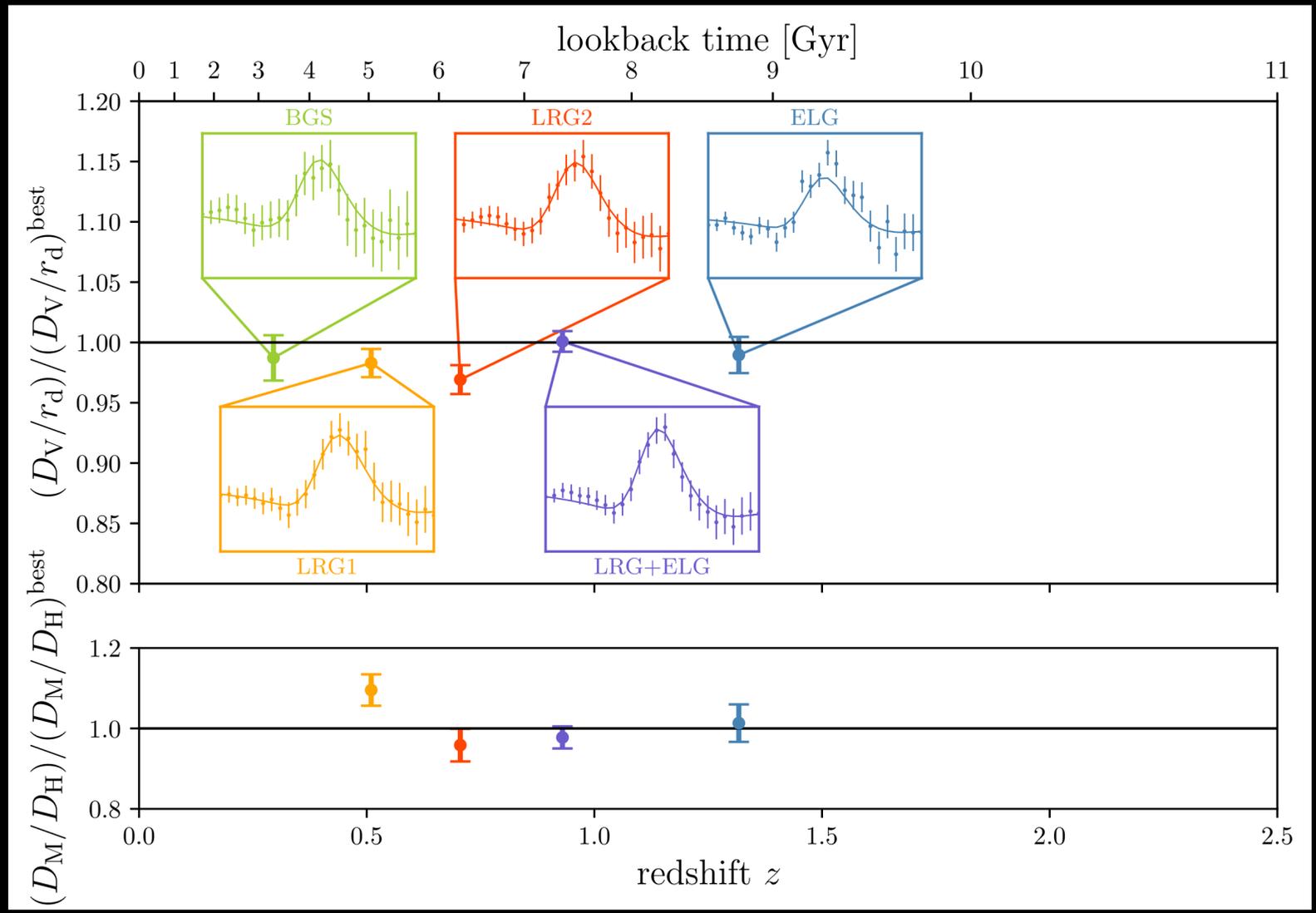
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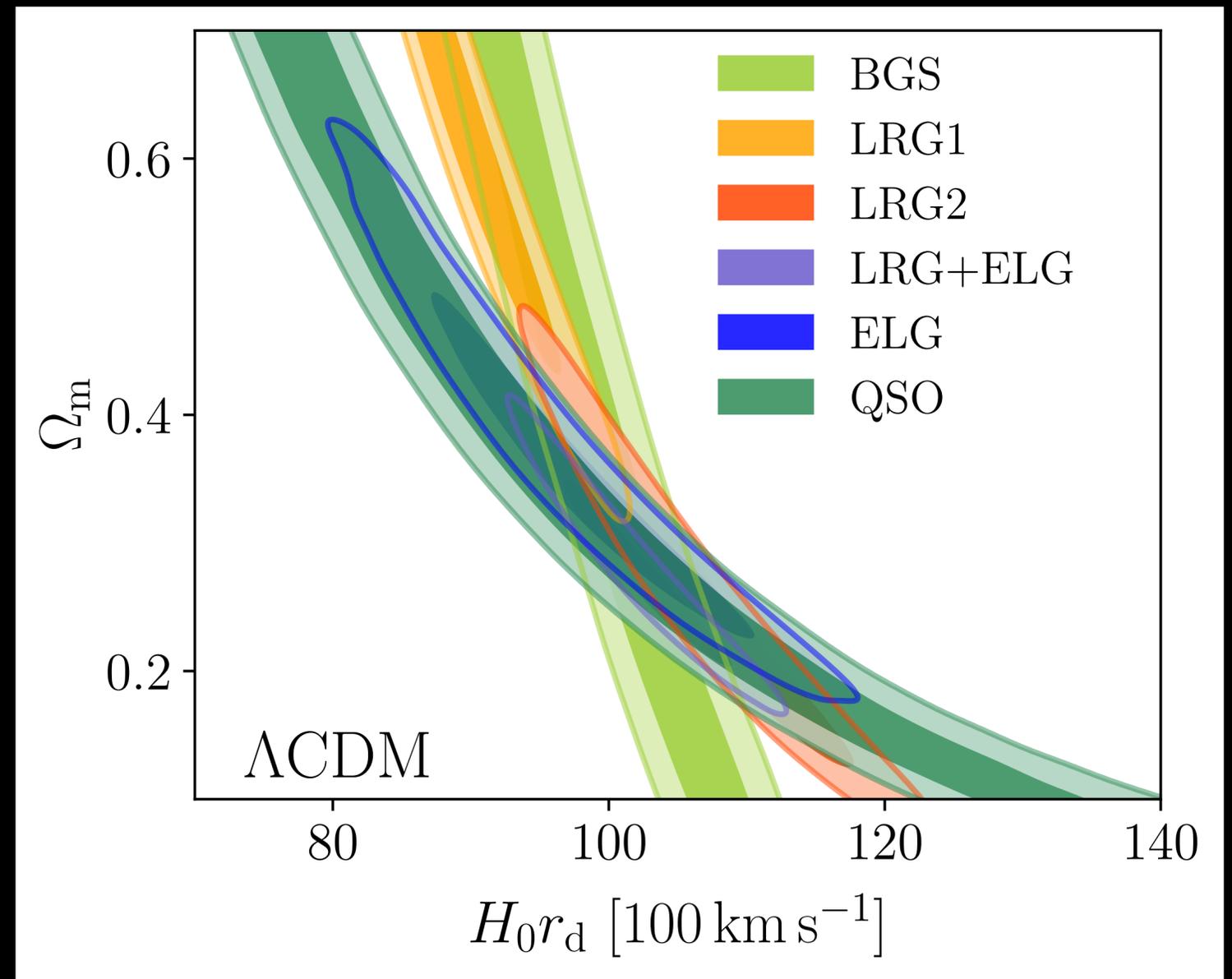
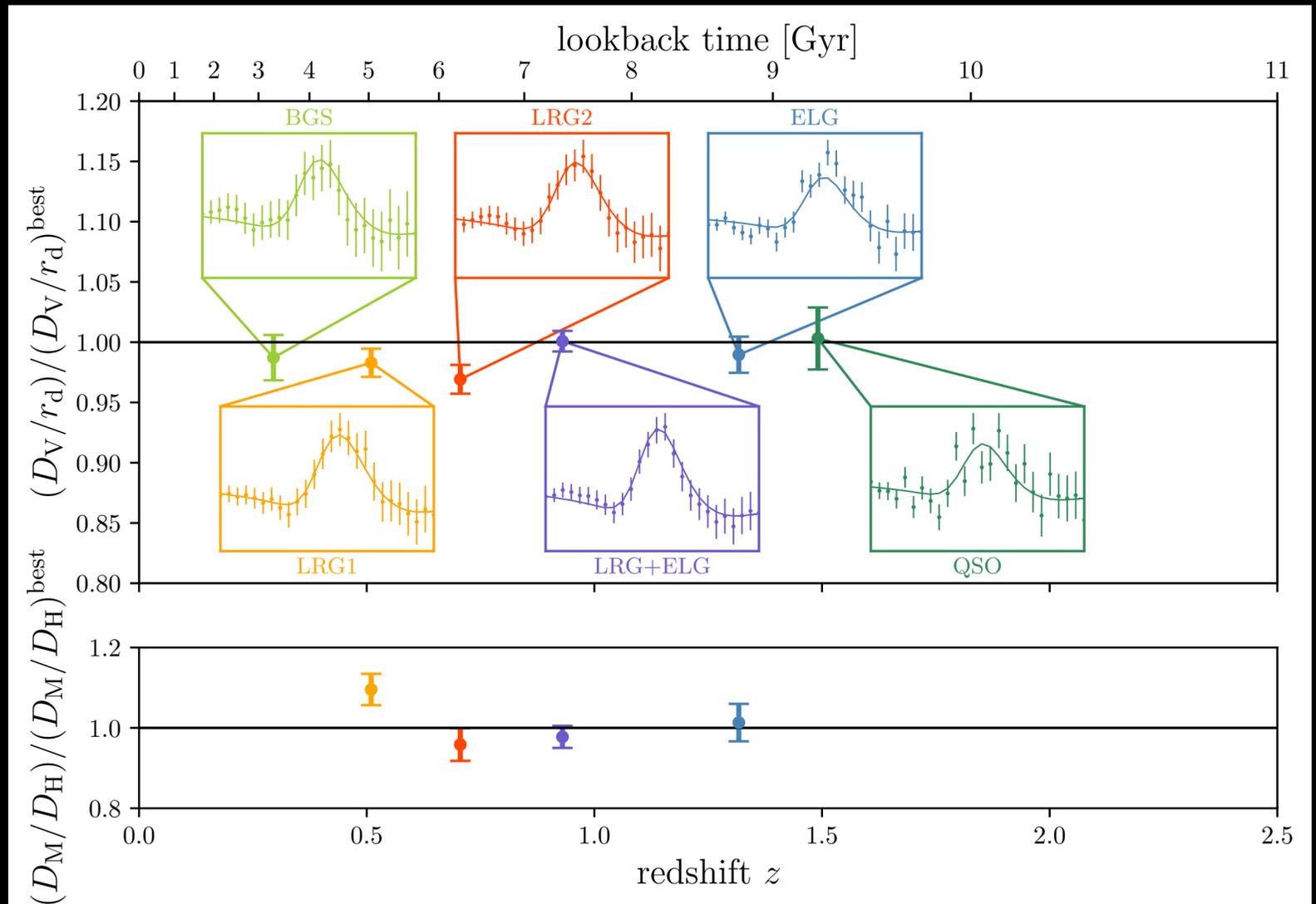
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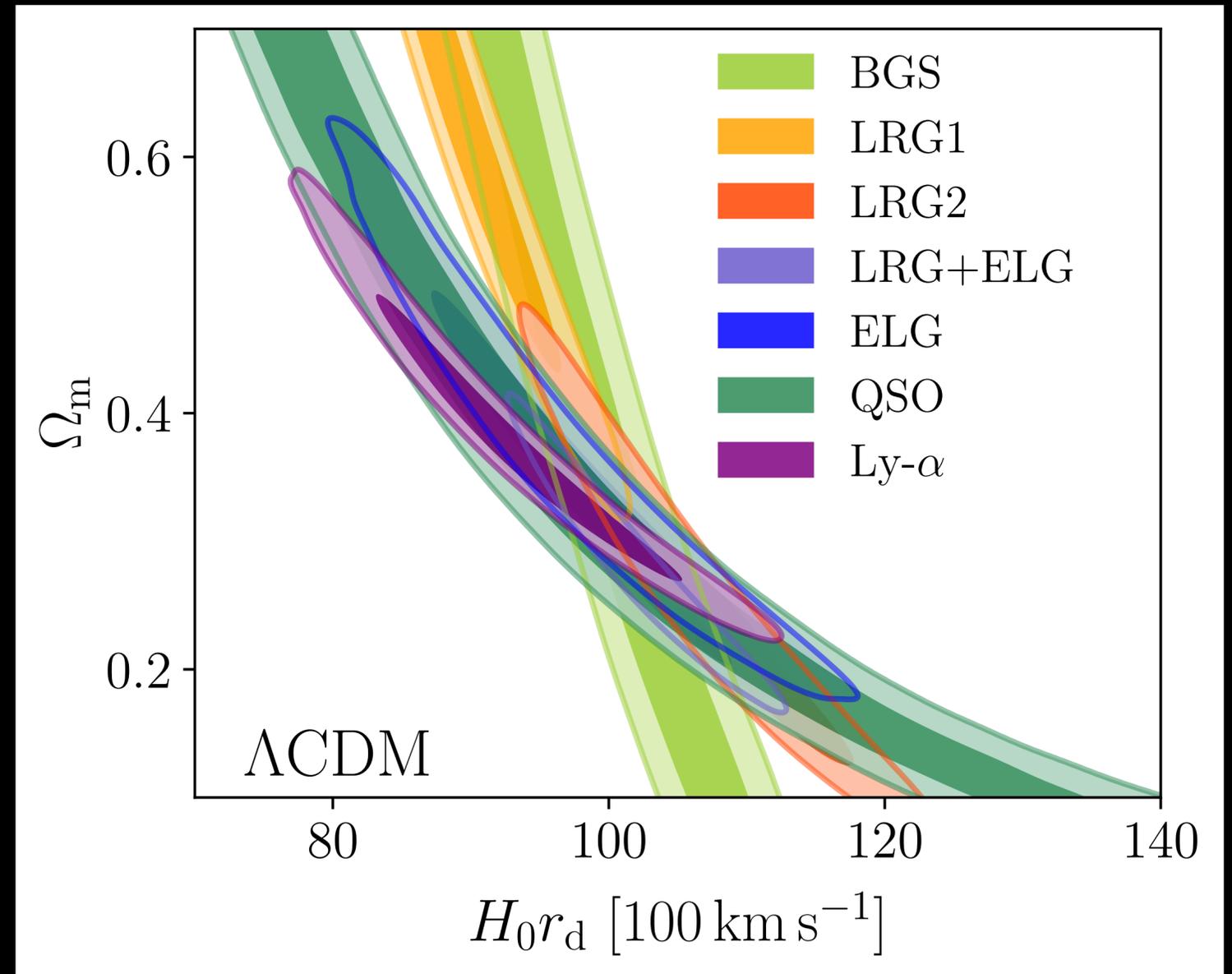
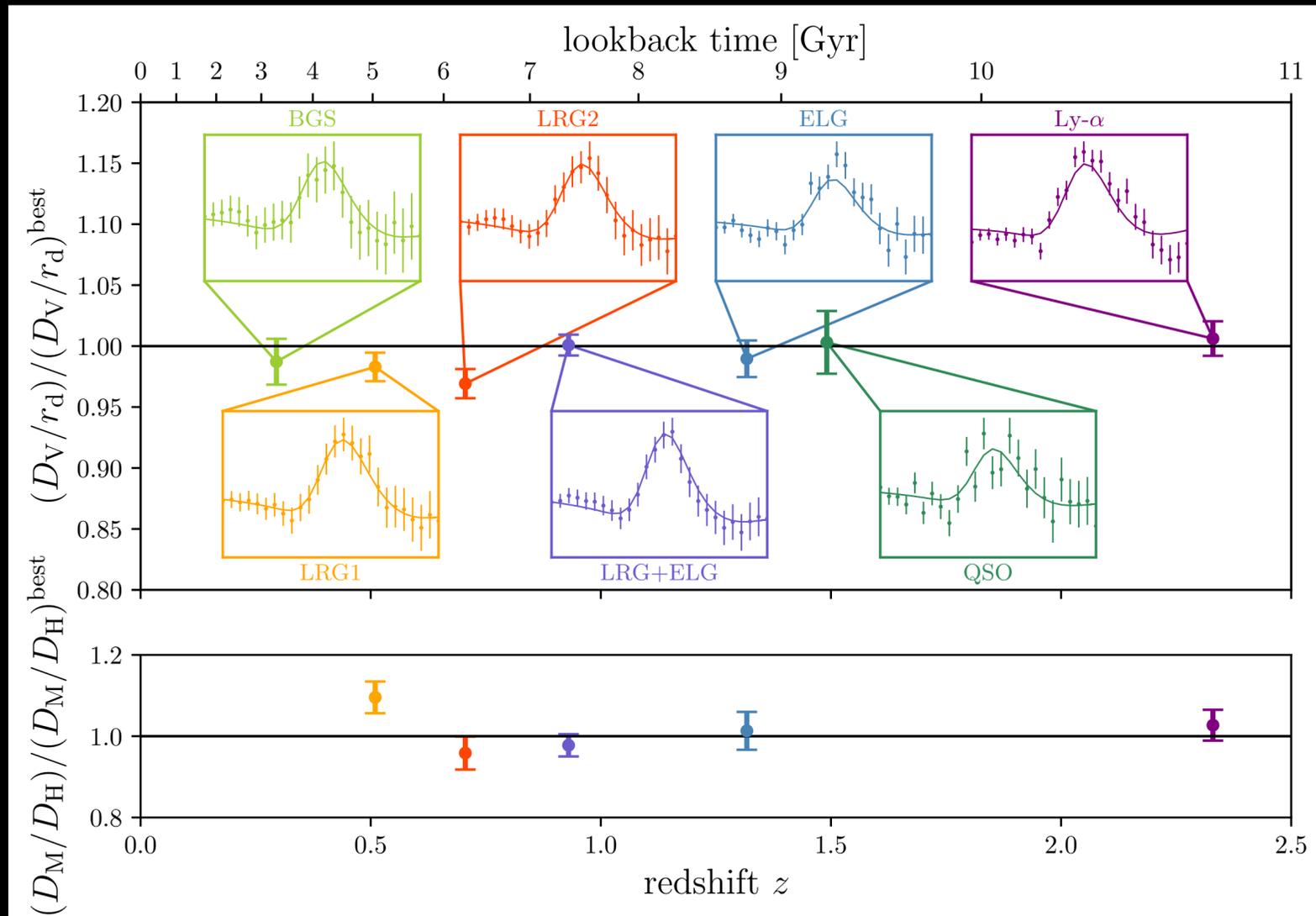
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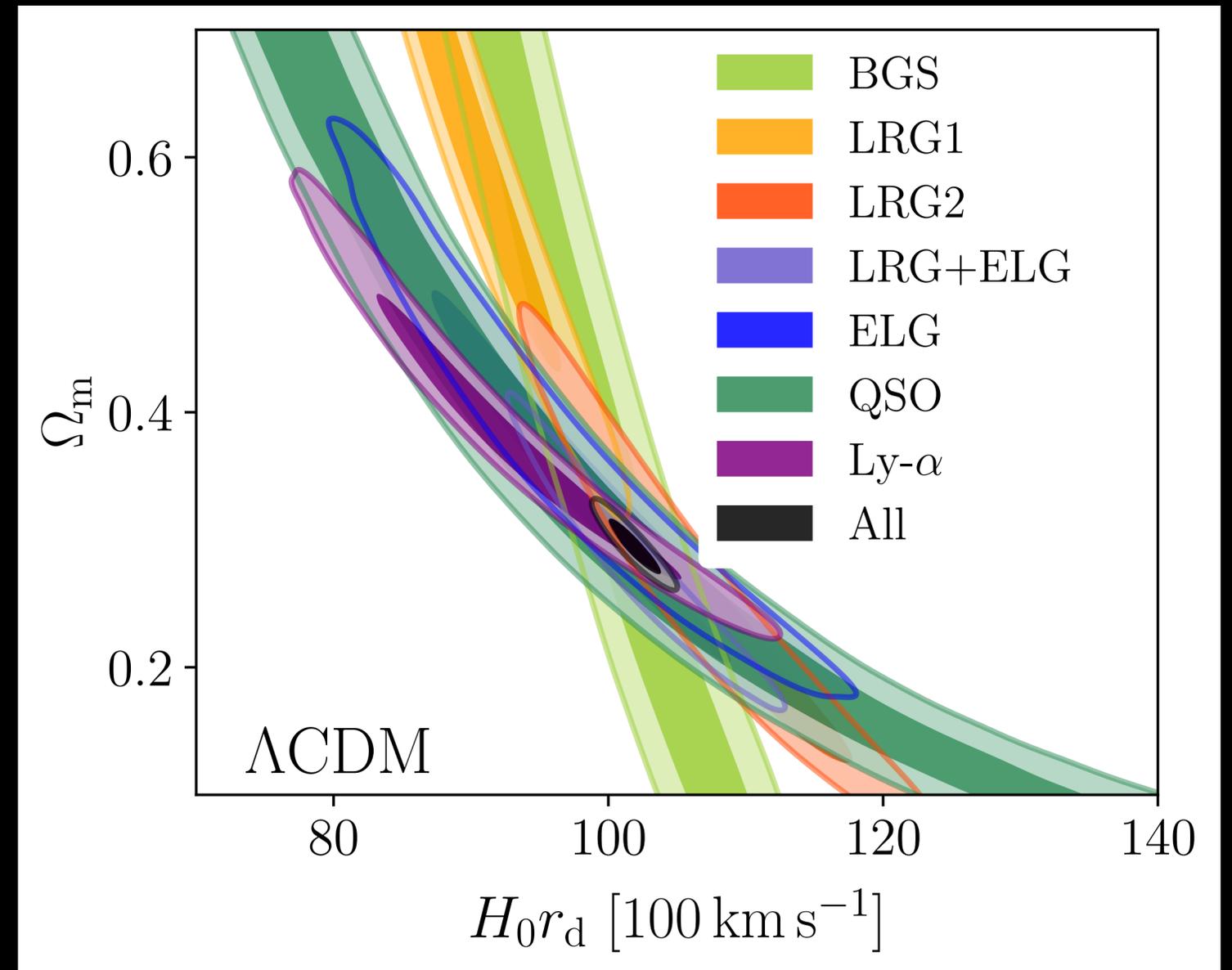
# Internal consistency of DESI results

Consistent with each other —  
and complementary

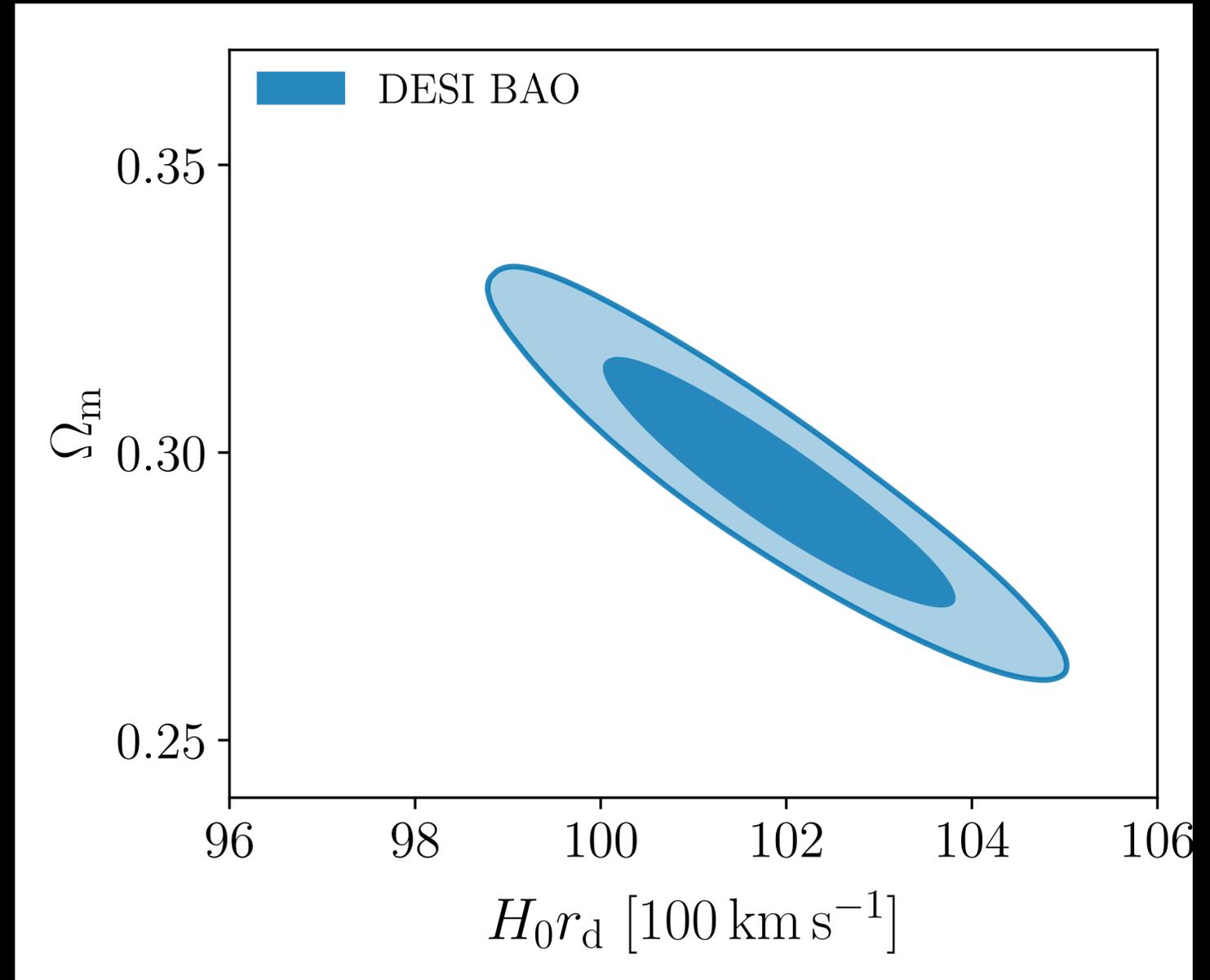
$$\Omega_m = 0.295 \pm 0.015 \quad (5.1\%)$$

$$H_0 r_d = (101.8 \pm 1.3) [100 \text{ km s}^{-1}] \quad (1.3\%)$$

DESI



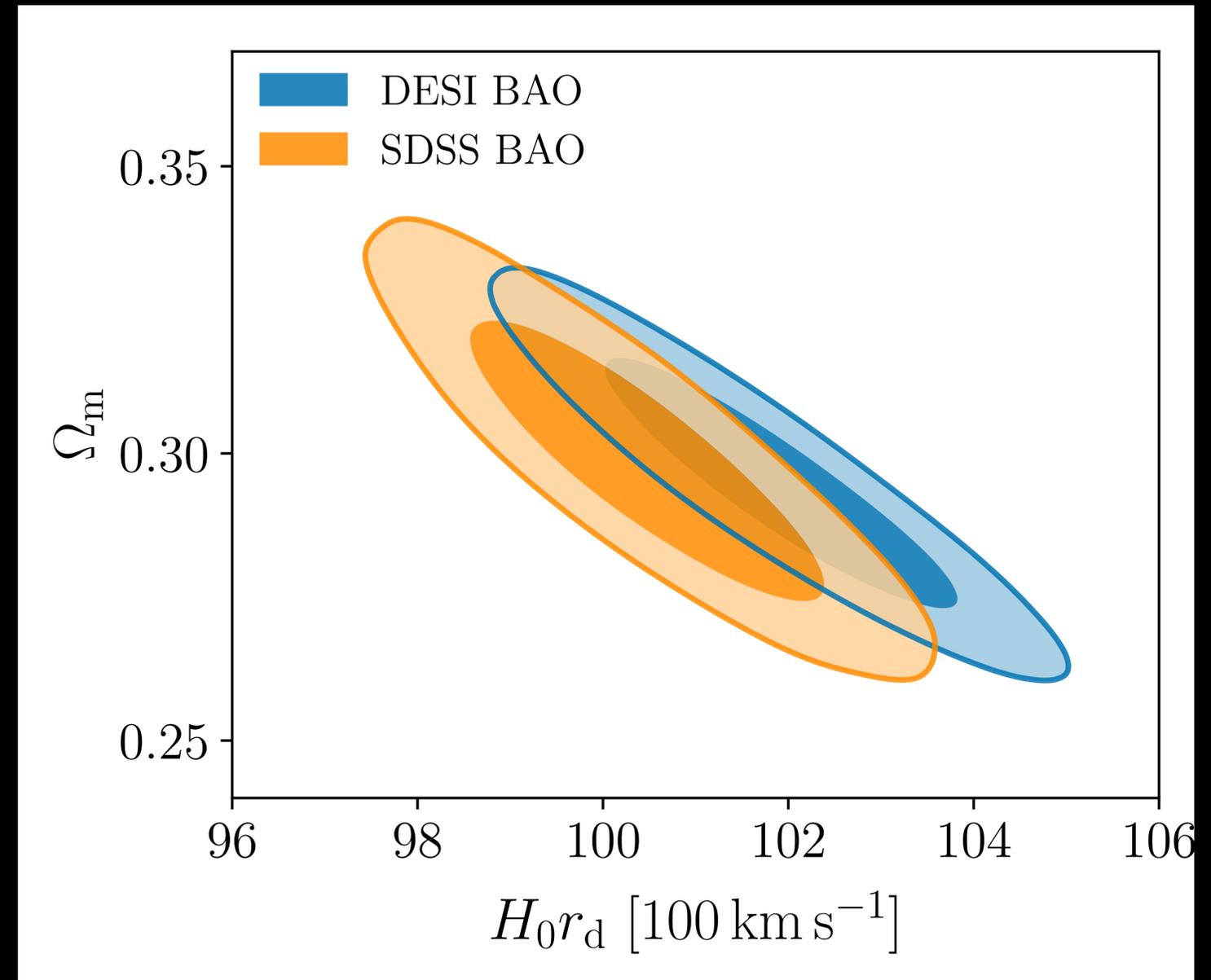
# DESI vs. external probes



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DESI Y1 BAO consistent with:

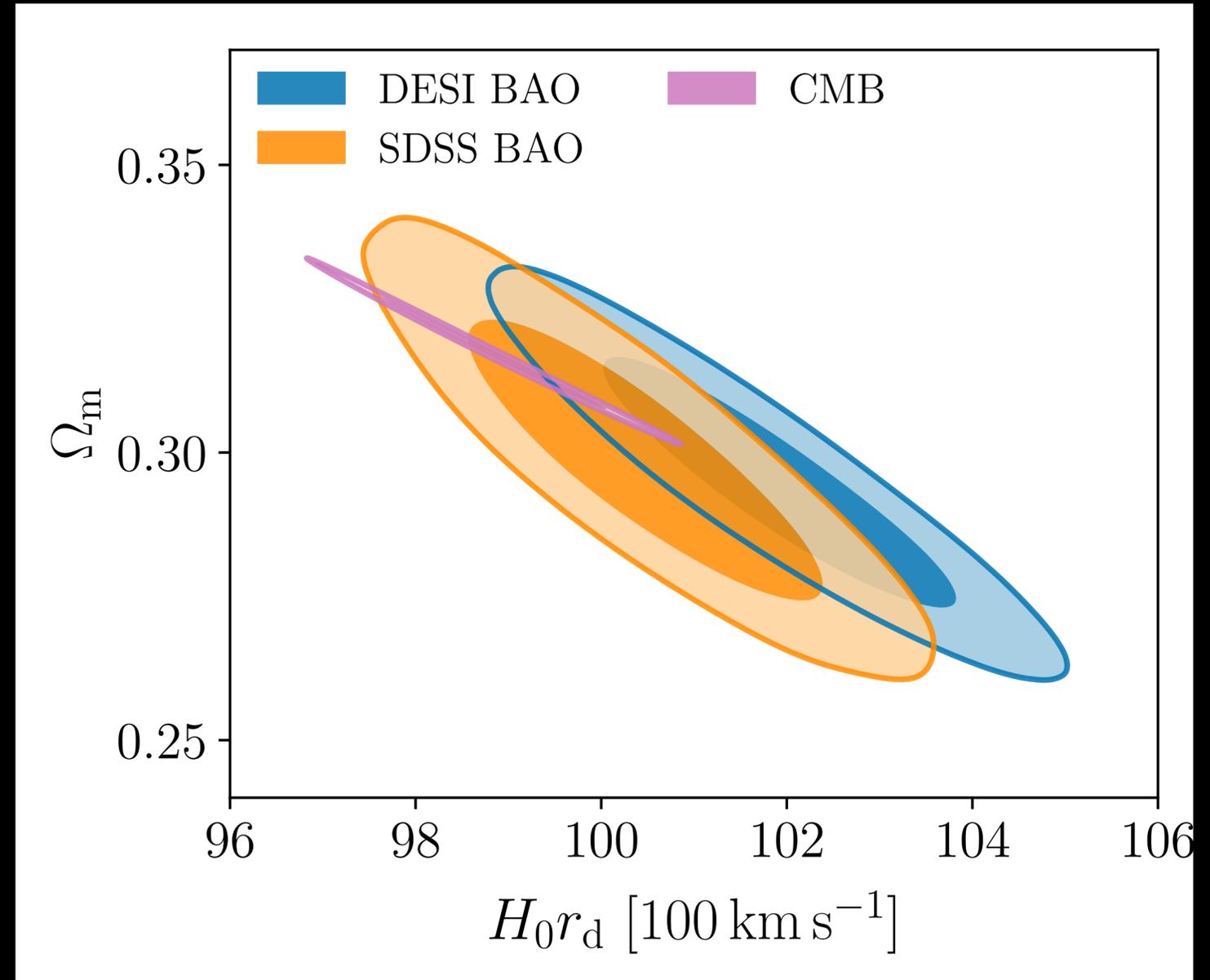
- SDSS ([eBOSS Collaboration, 2020](#))



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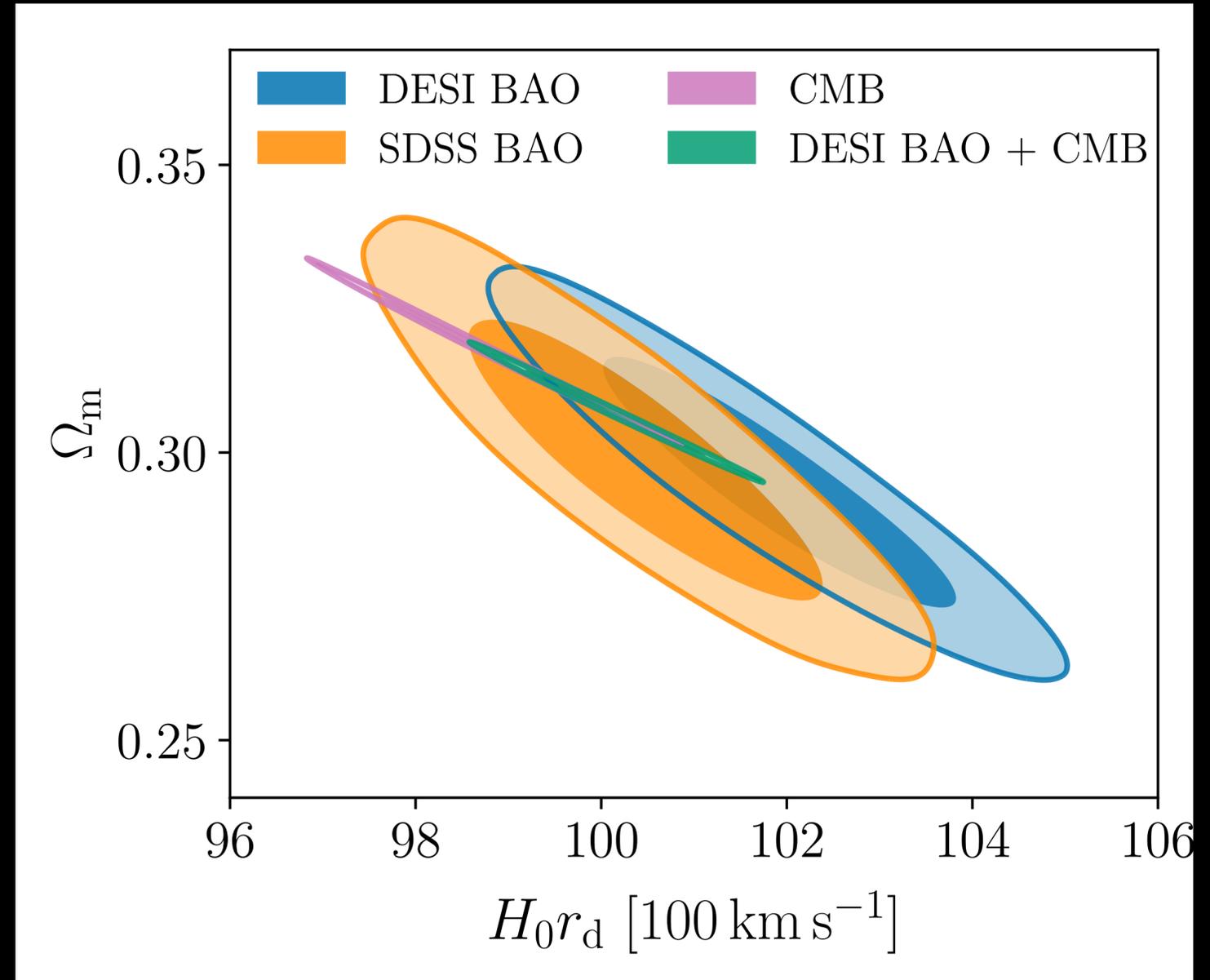
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$$\Omega_m = 0.3069 \pm 0.0050 \quad (1.6\%)$$

DESI + CMB



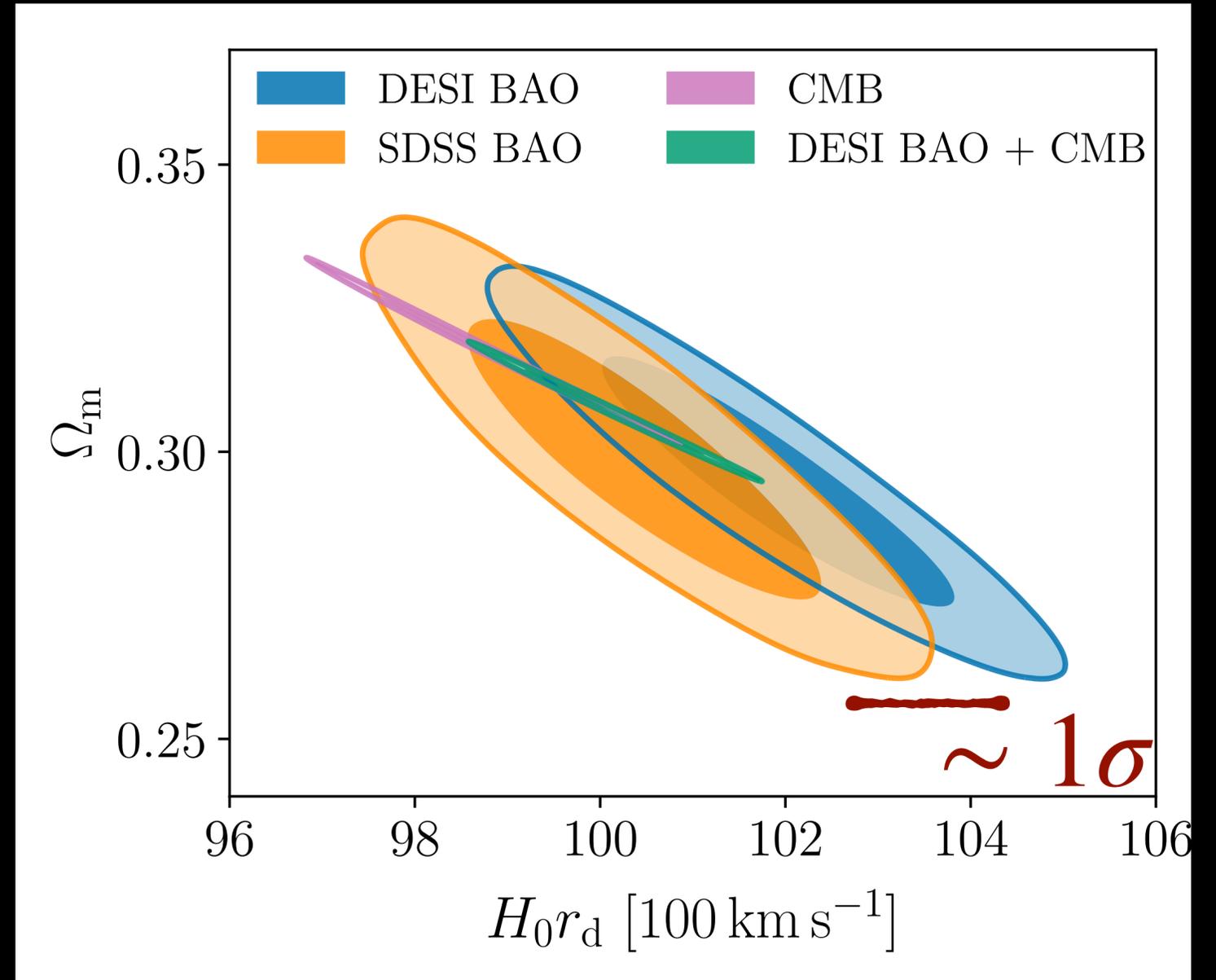
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$\implies$  constrains on  $h$  i.e.  $H_0$

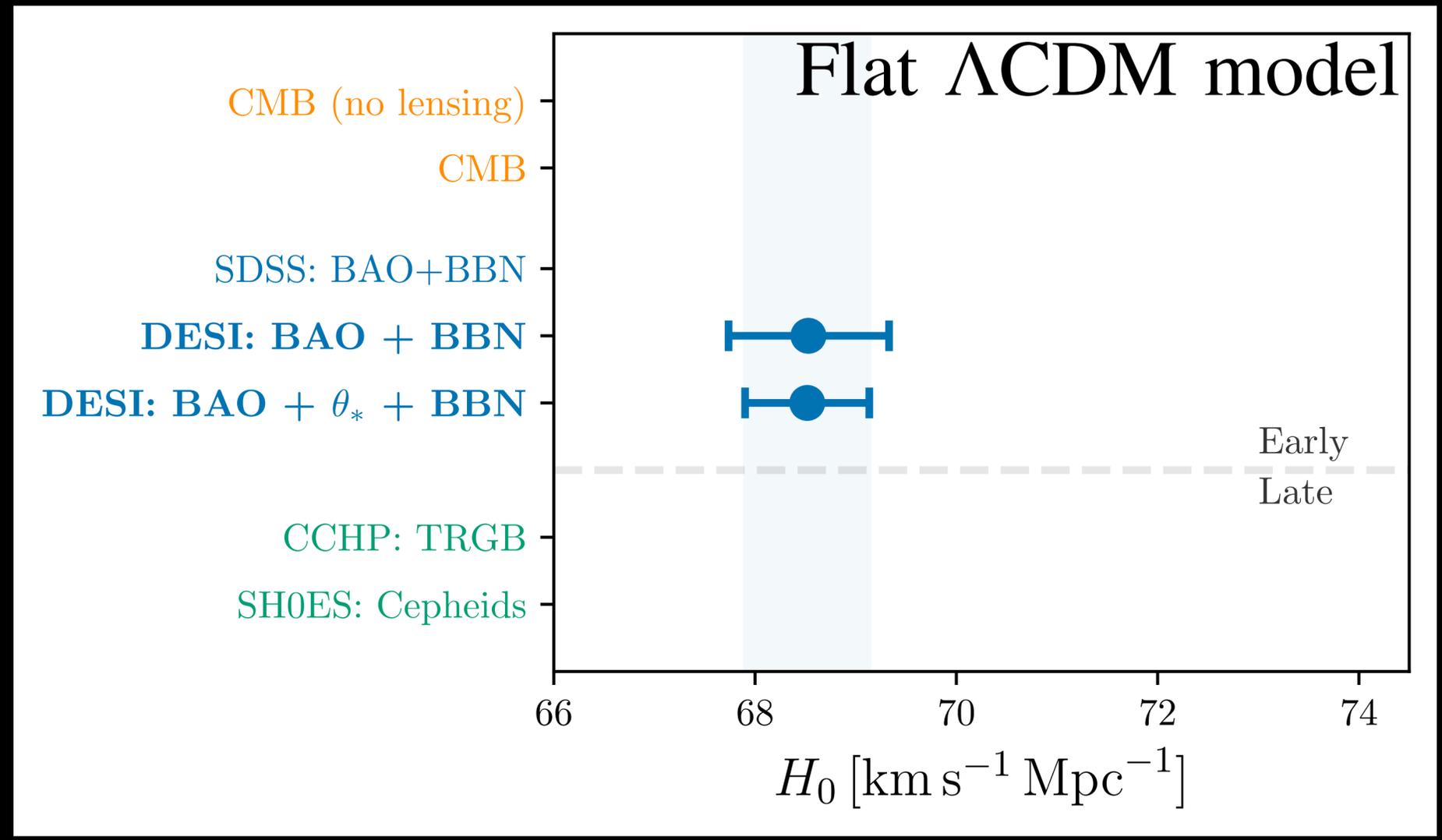
# Hubble constant

$$H_0 = (68.53 \pm 0.80) \text{ kms}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

**DESI + BBN**

$$H_0 = (68.52 \pm 0.62) \text{ kms}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

**DESI +  $\theta_*$  + BBN**



$\theta_*$  → CMB angular acoustic scale

# Hubble constant

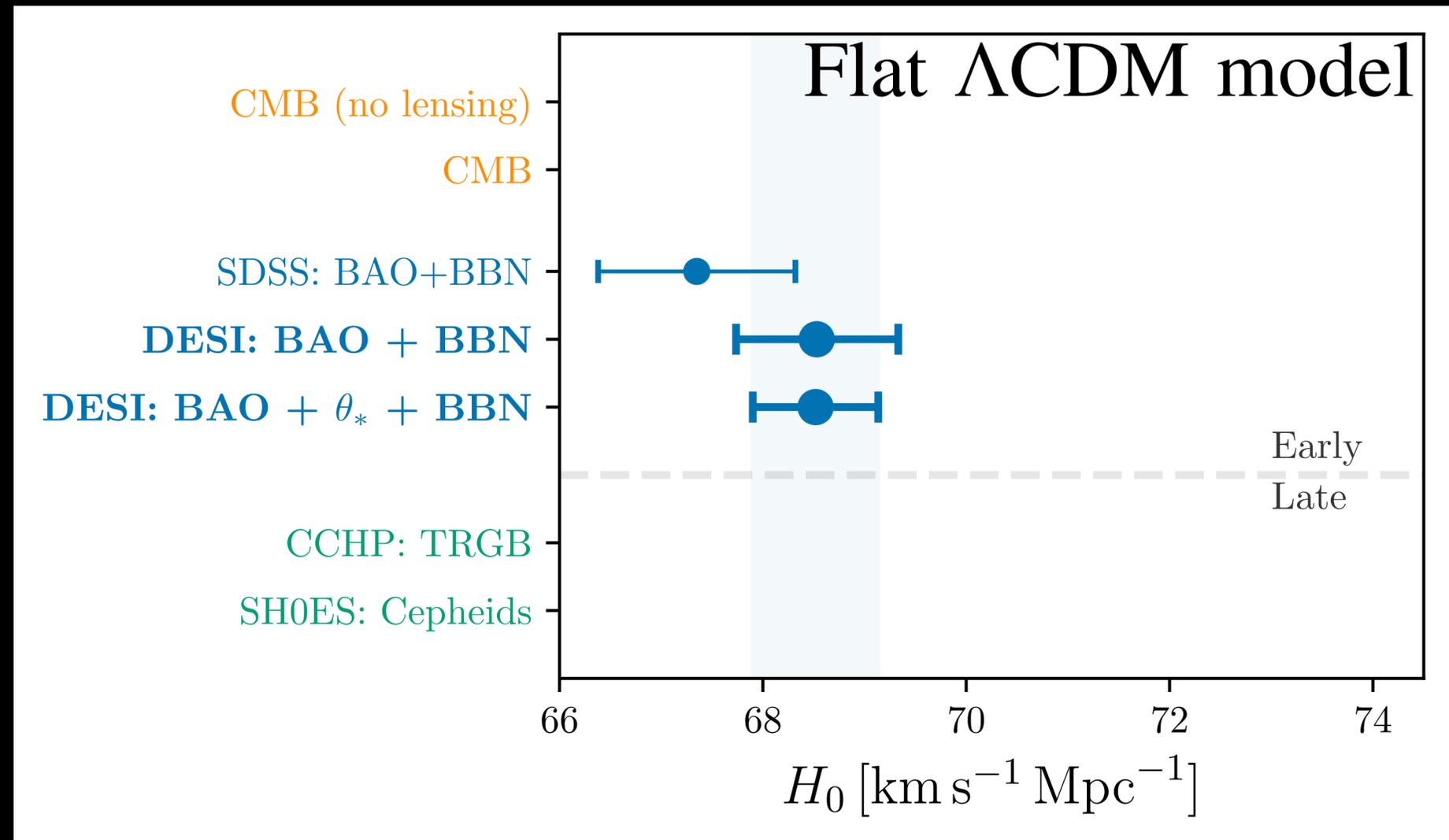
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- Consistency with **SDSS**



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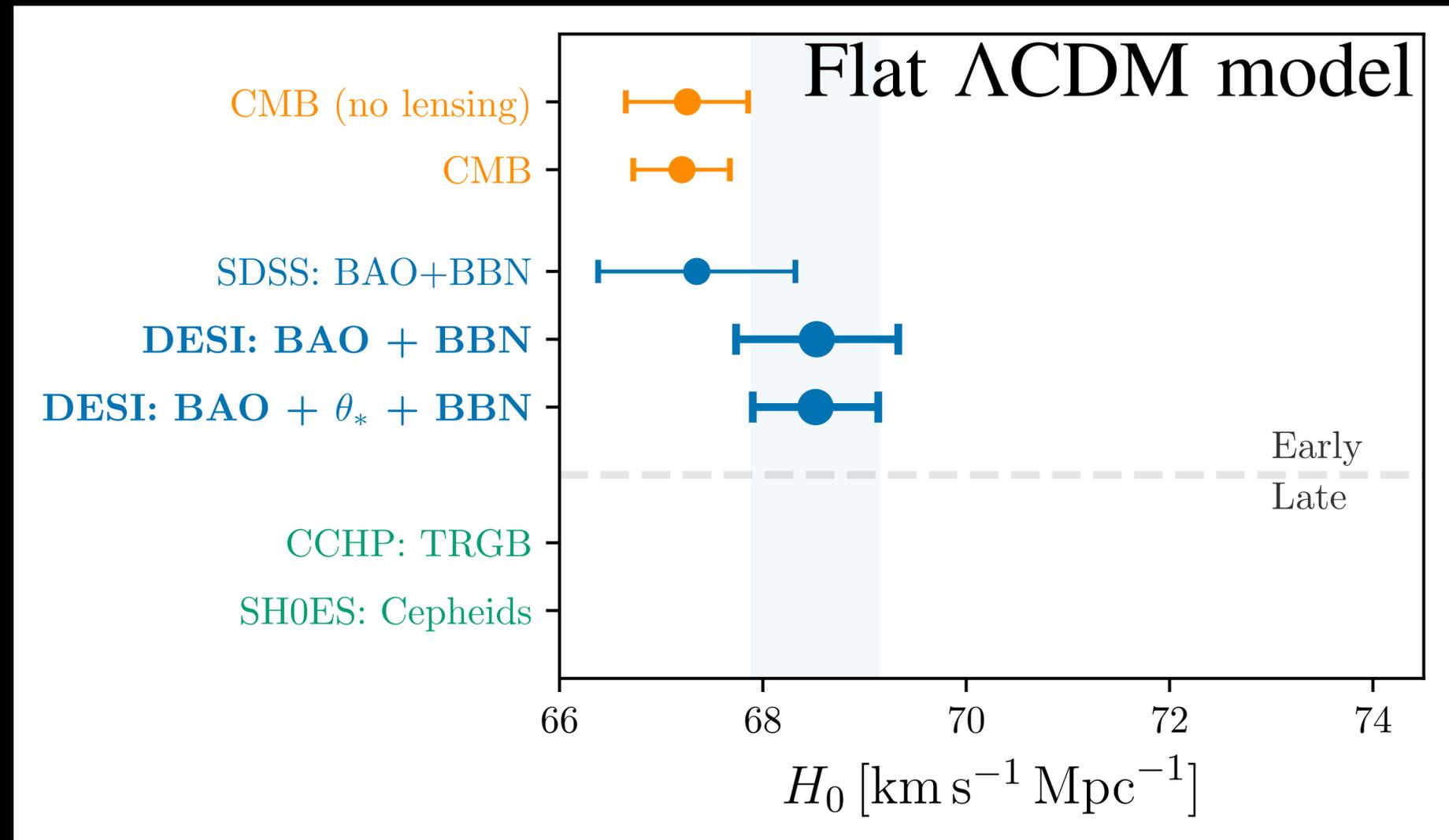
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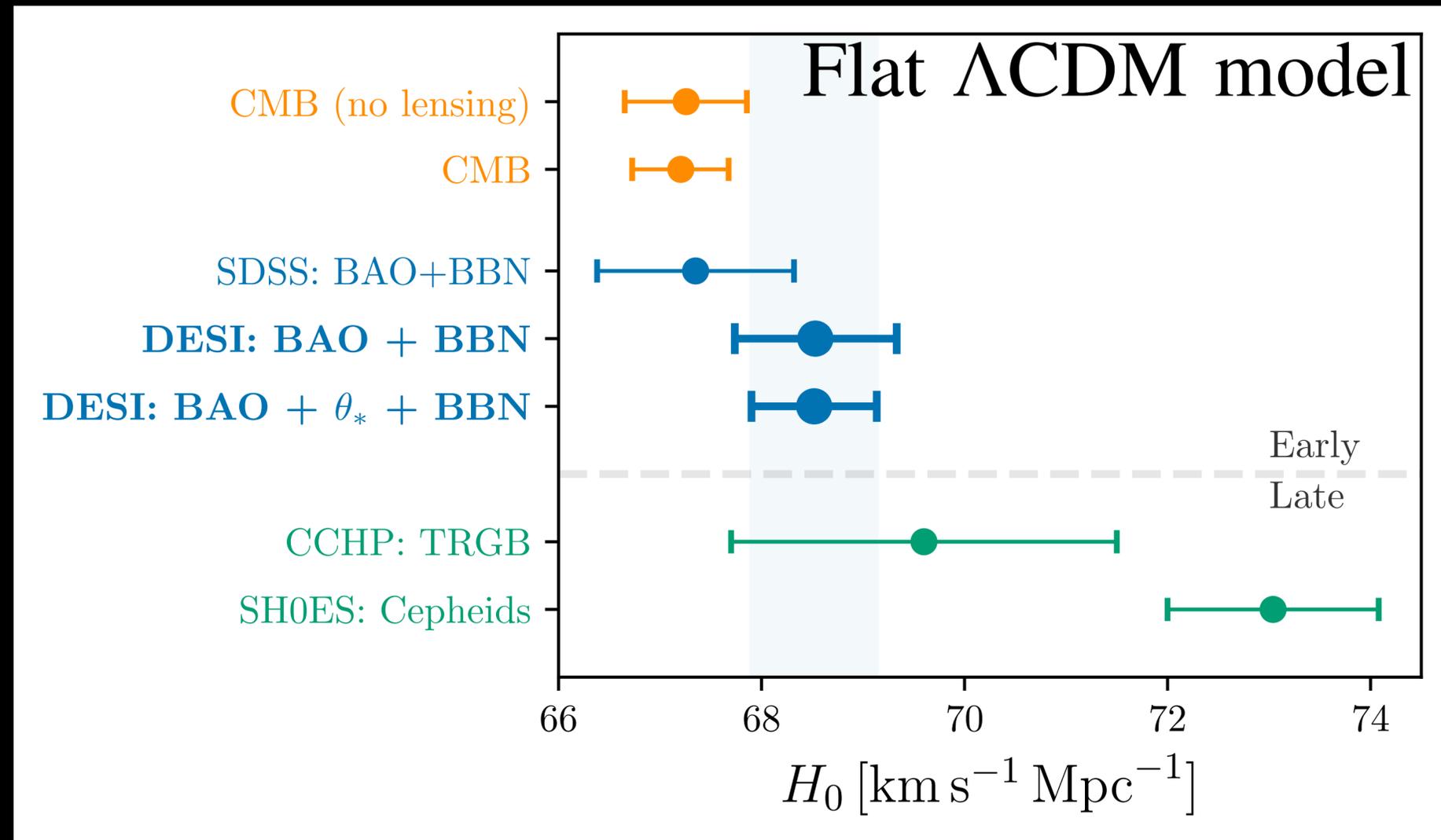
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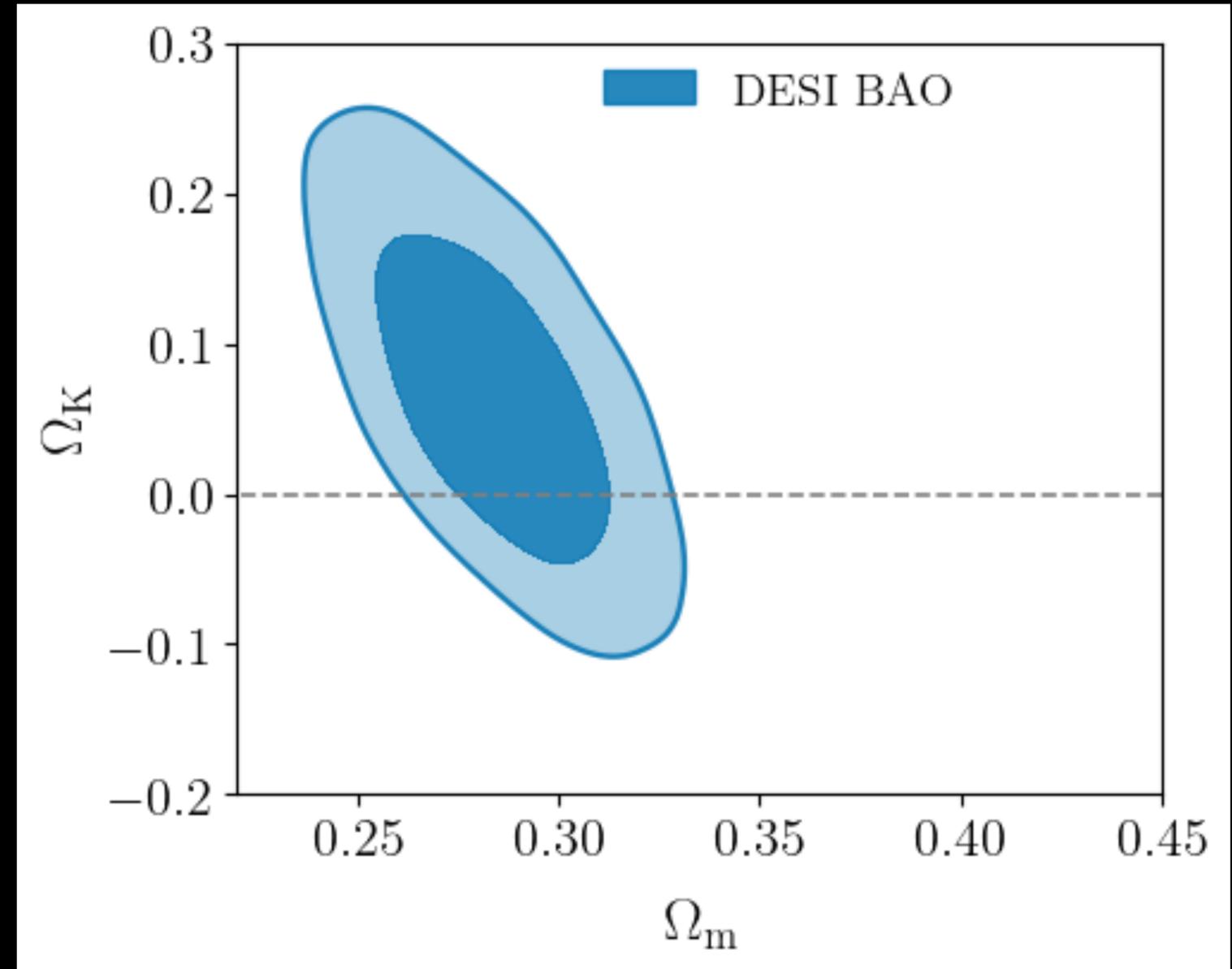
- Consistency with **SDSS**
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- In  $3.7\sigma$  tension with **SHOES**



$\theta_*$  → CMB angular acoustic scale

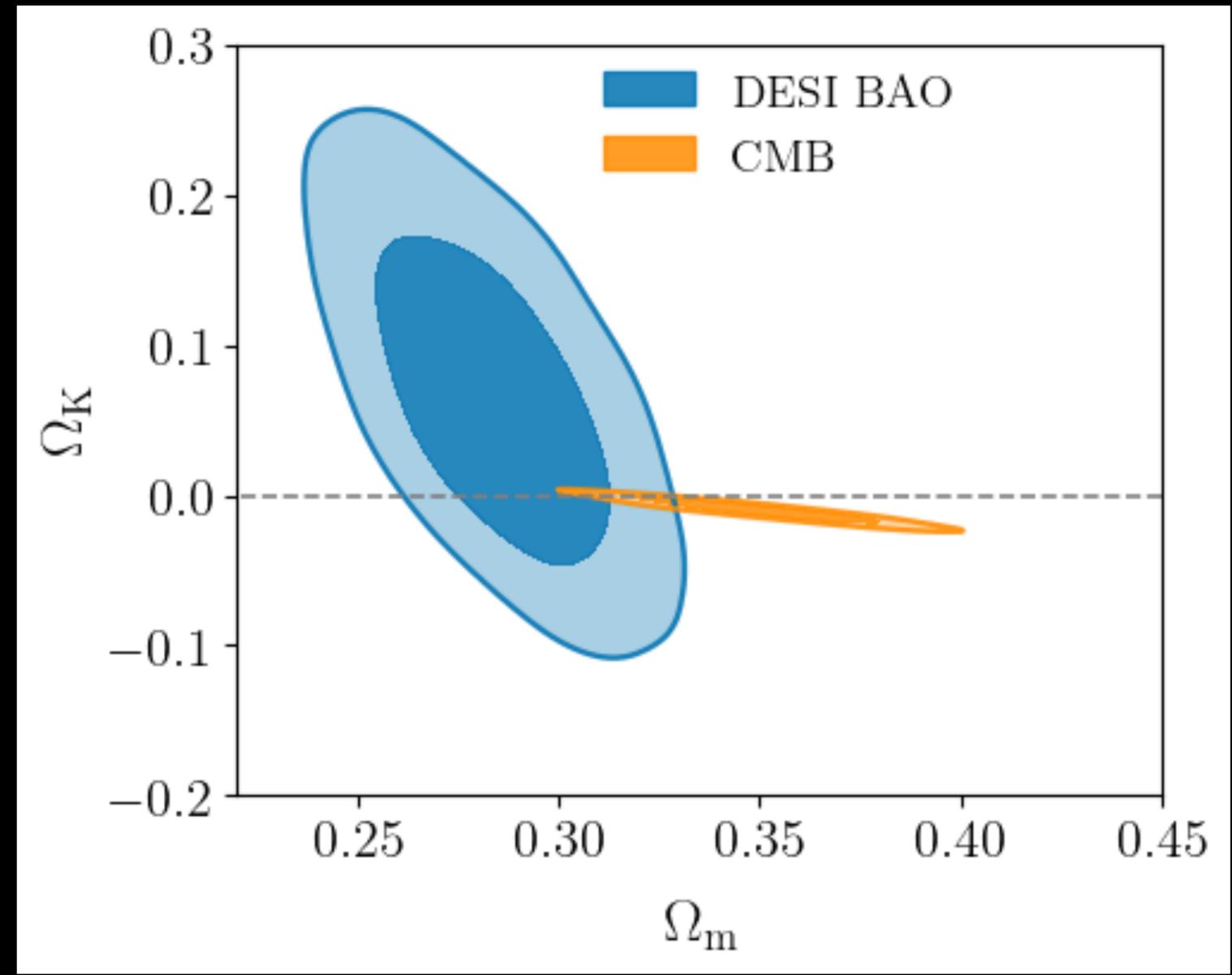
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DESI + CMB measurements favor a flat Universe



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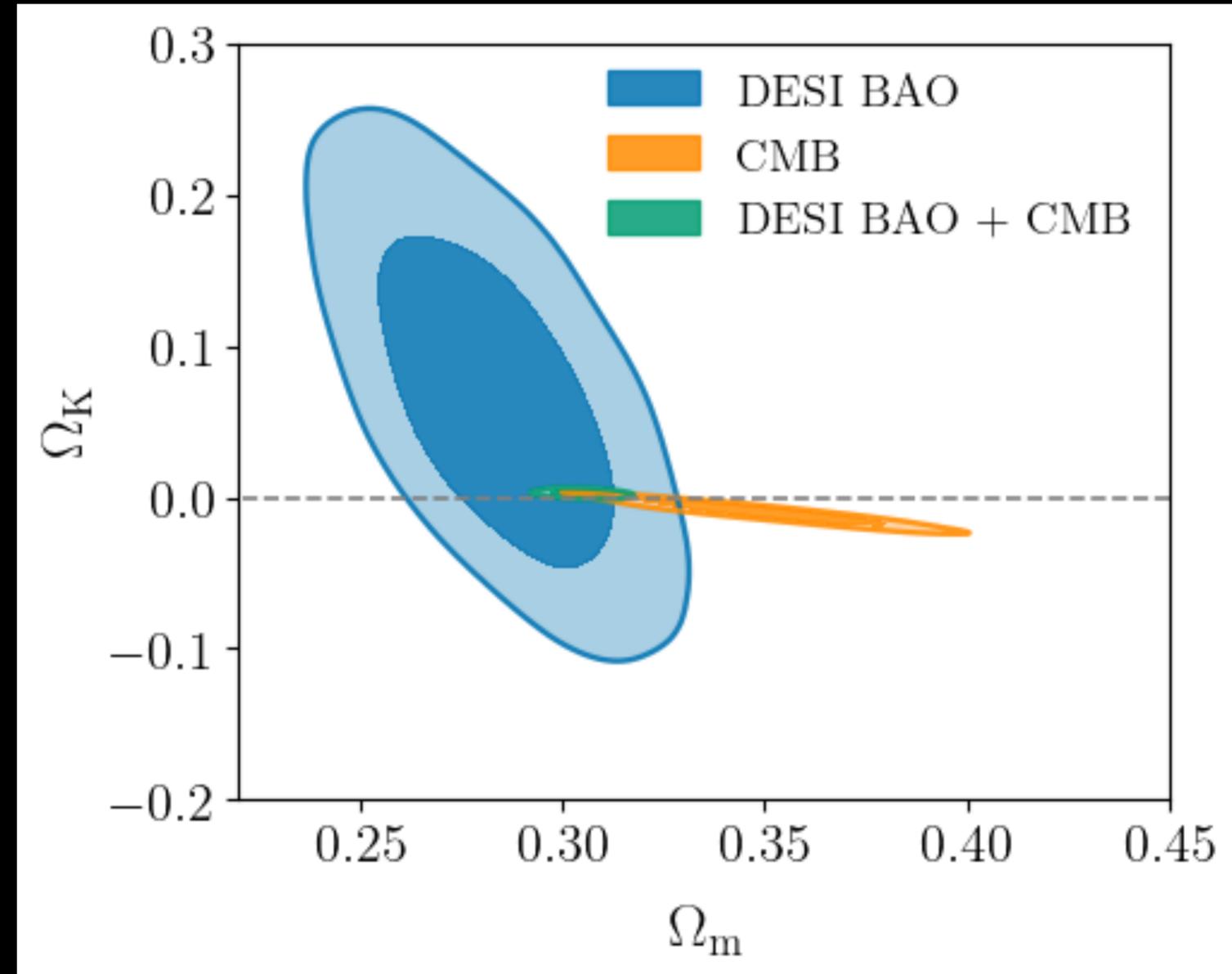


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DESI + CMB measurements favor a flat Universe

$$\Omega_K = 0.0024 \pm 0.0016$$

DESI + CMB



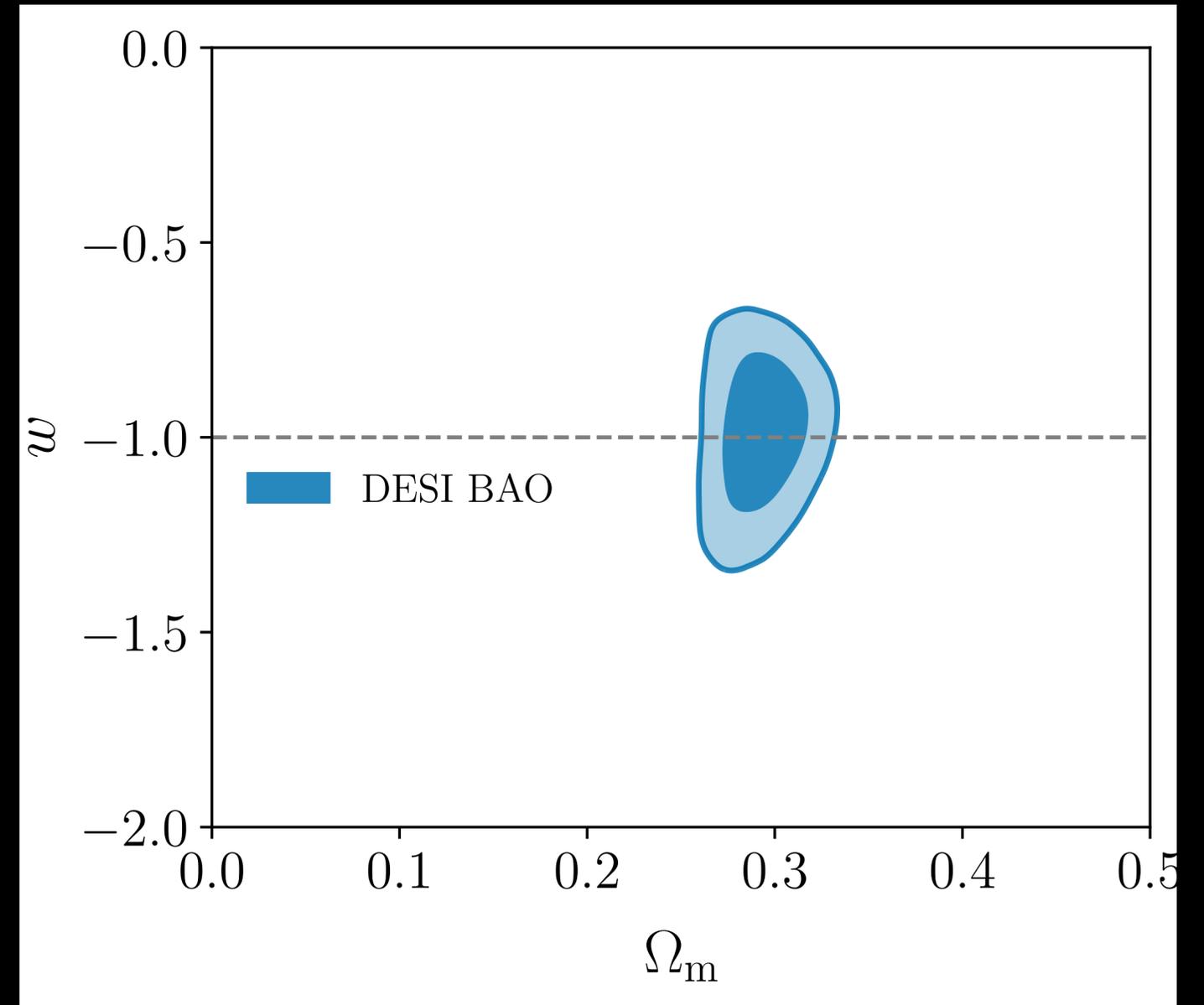
# Dark Energy Equation of State

## Constant EoS parameter $w$

$$\Omega_m = 0.295 \pm 0.15 \quad (5.1\%)$$

$$w = -0.99^{+0.15}_{-0.13} \quad (15\%)$$

**DESI**



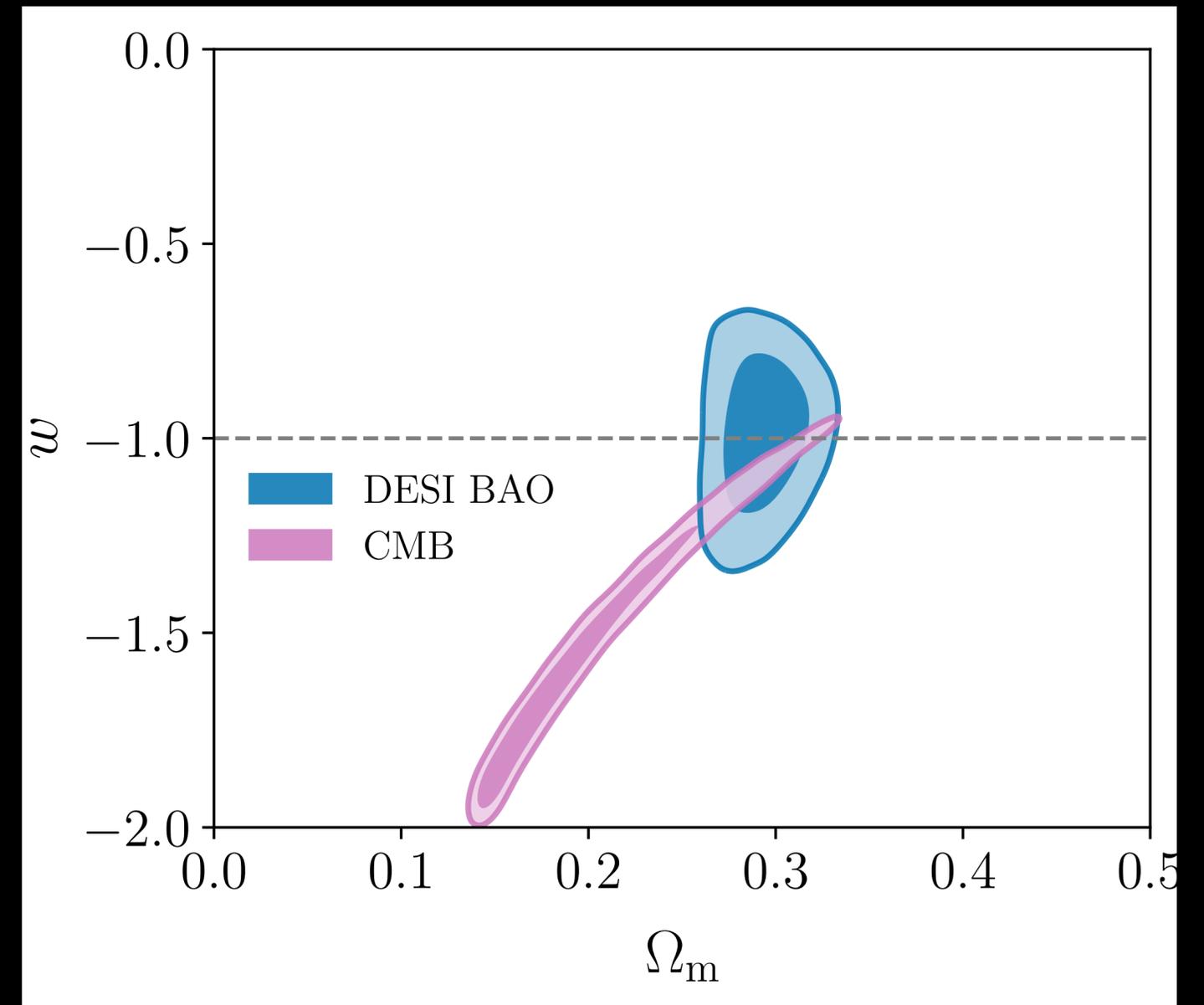
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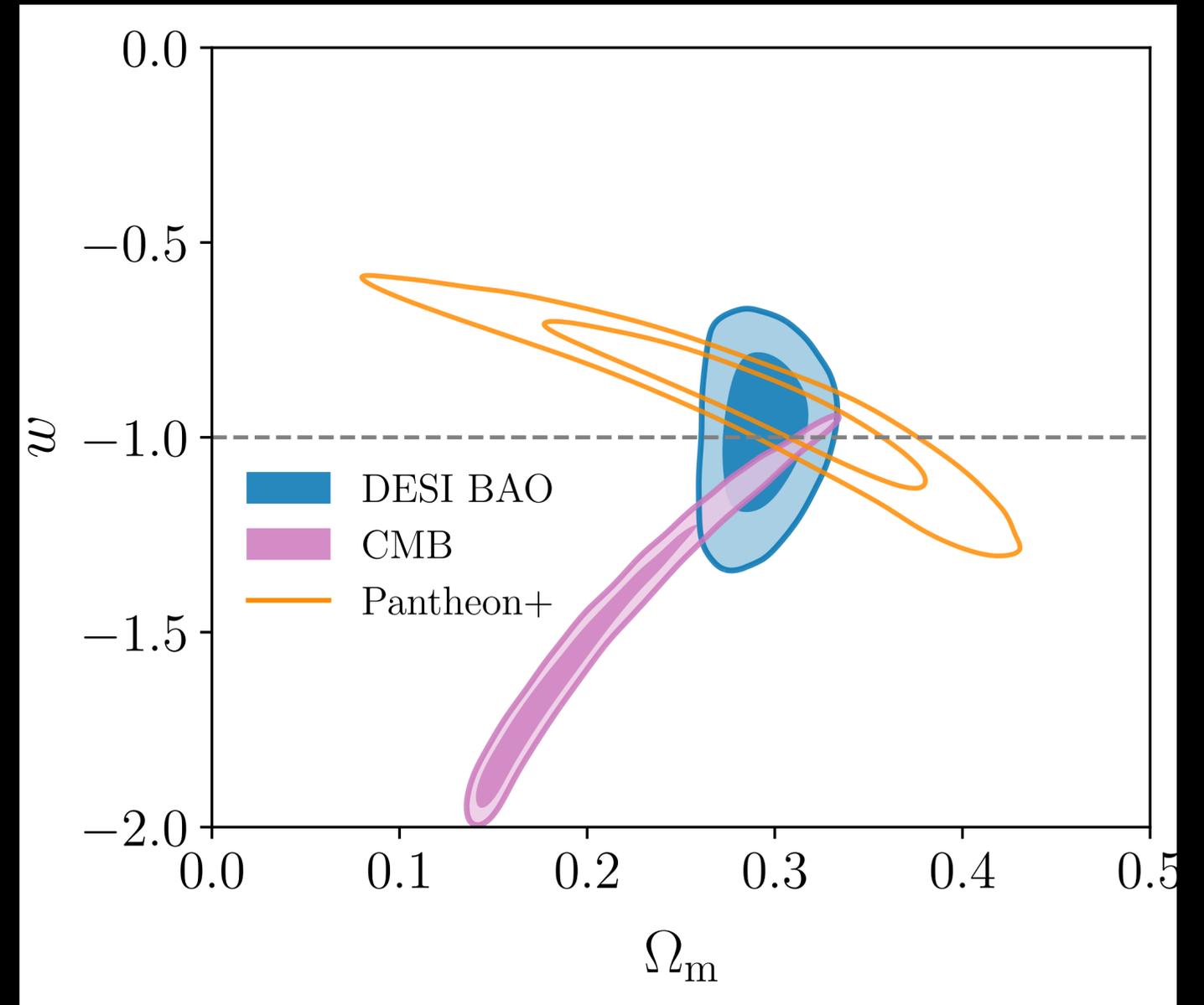
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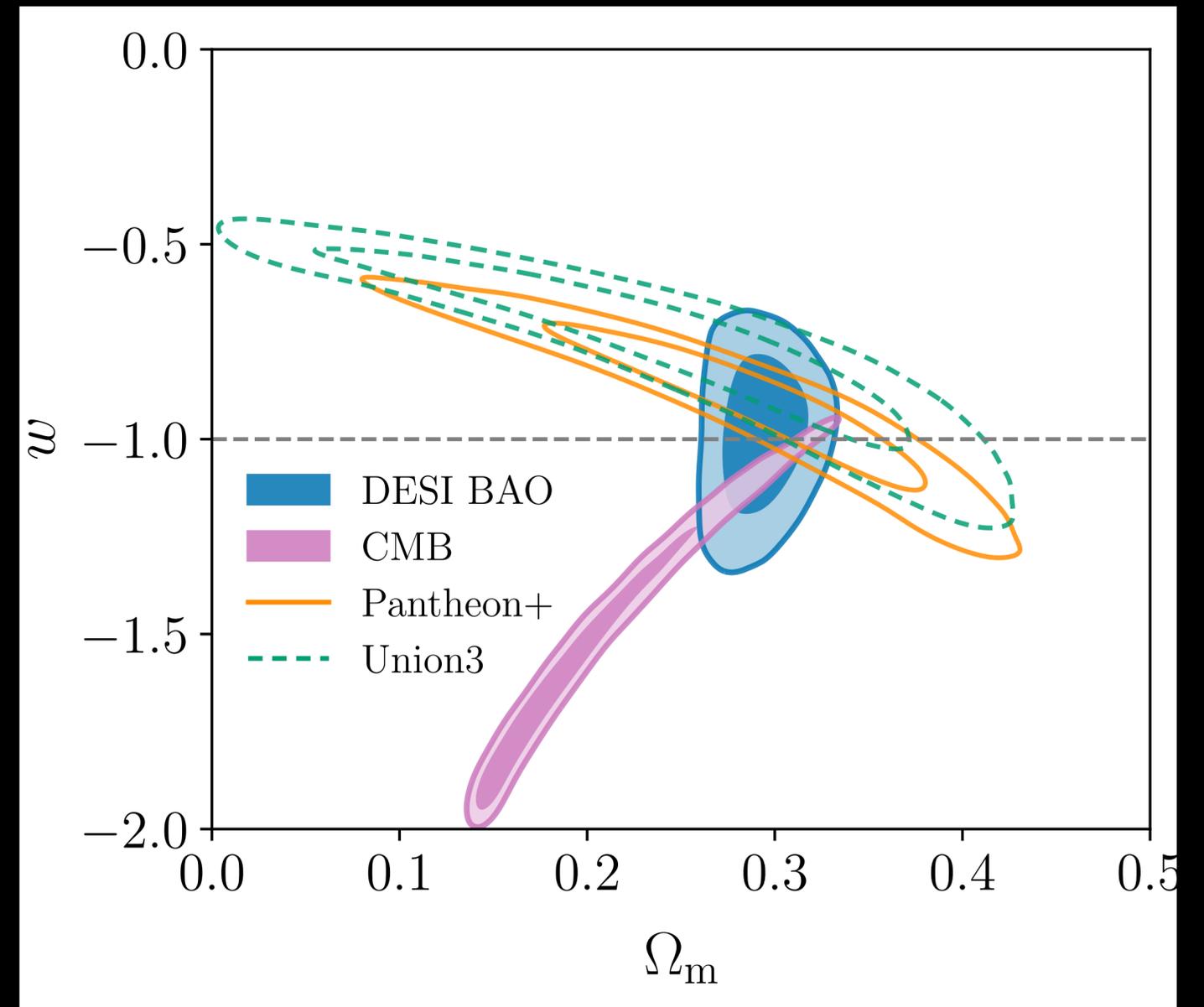
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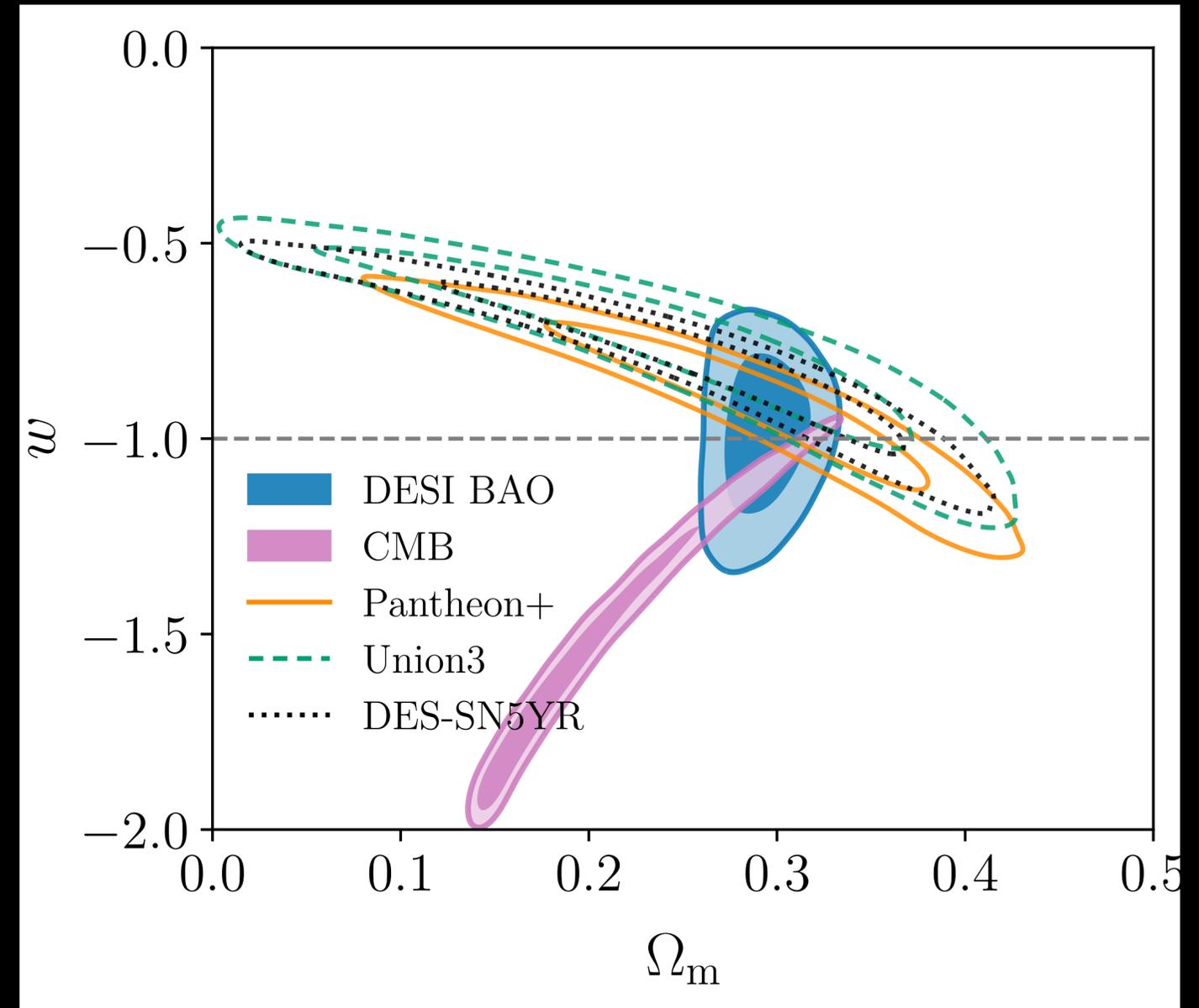
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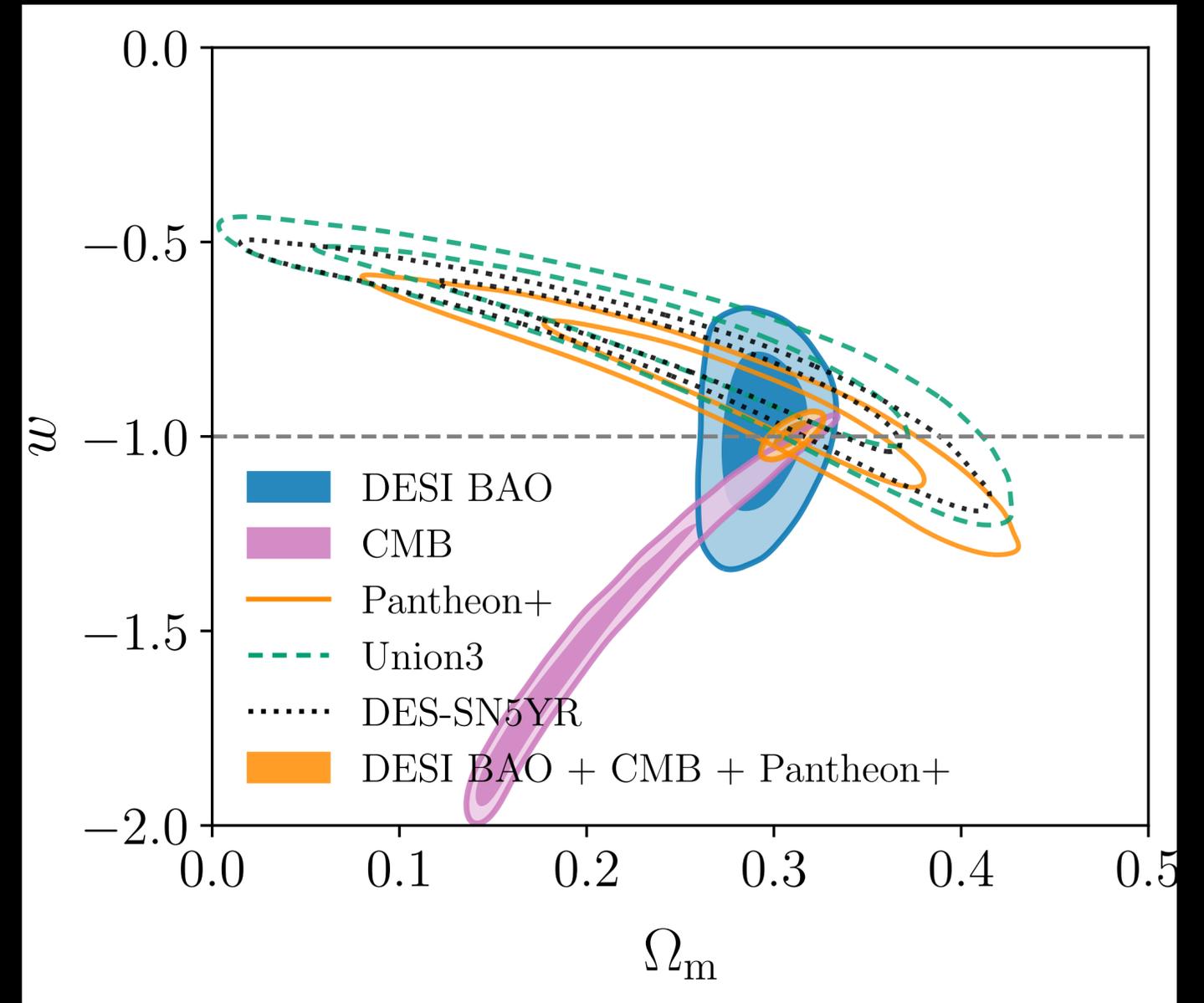
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**DESI**

$$\Omega_m = 0.295 \pm 0.15 \quad (2.1\%)$$

$$w = -0.99^{+0.15}_{-0.13} \quad (2.5\%)$$

**DESI+CMB+PantheonPlus**



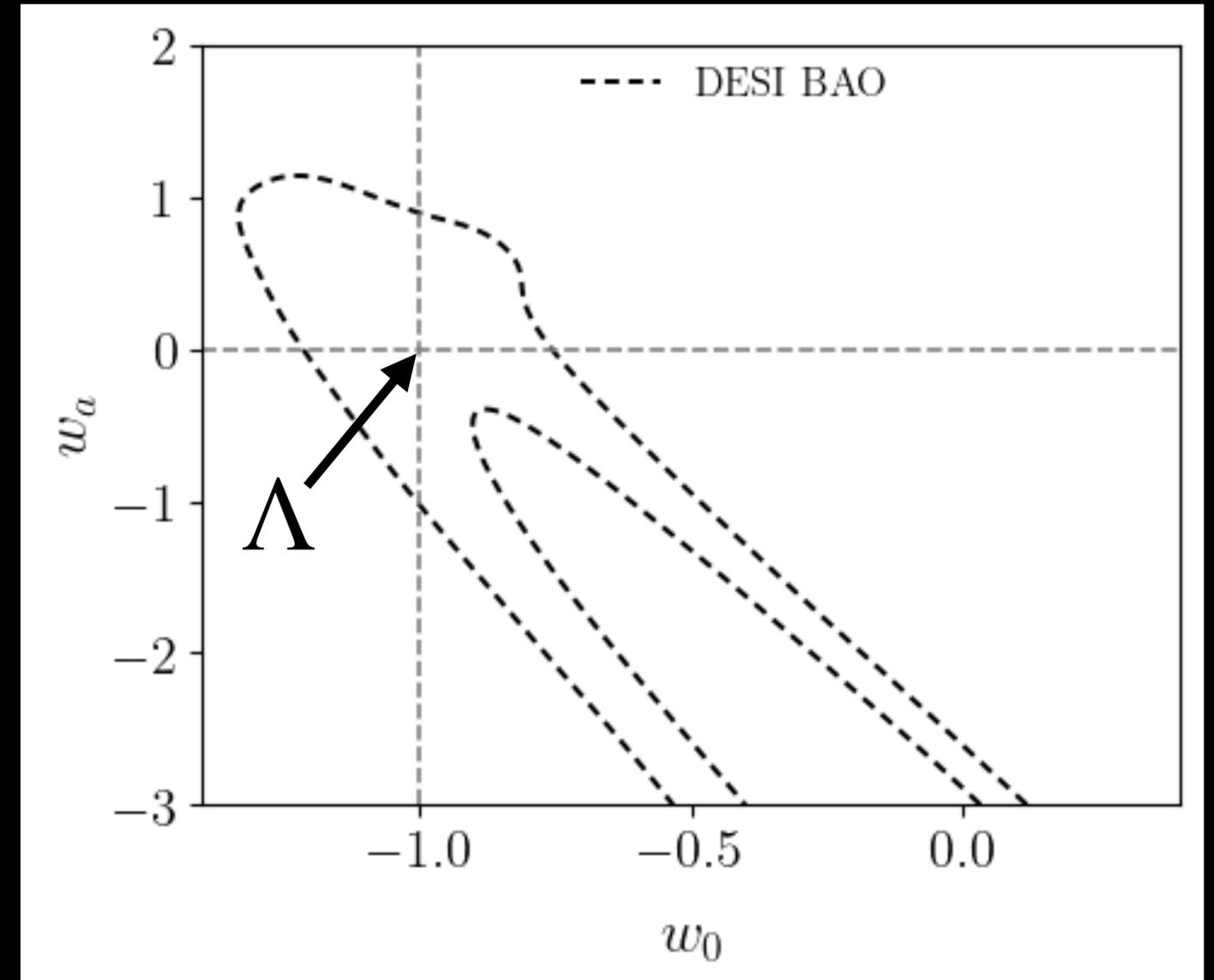
# Dark Energy Equation of State

## Varying EoS

$$w(a) = w_0 + (1 - a)w_a \quad (\text{CPL})$$

$$w_0 = -0.45^{+0.34}_{-0.21}, \quad w_a = -1.79^{+0.48}_{-1.00}$$

**DESI + CMB**  $\Rightarrow$  **2.6 $\sigma$**



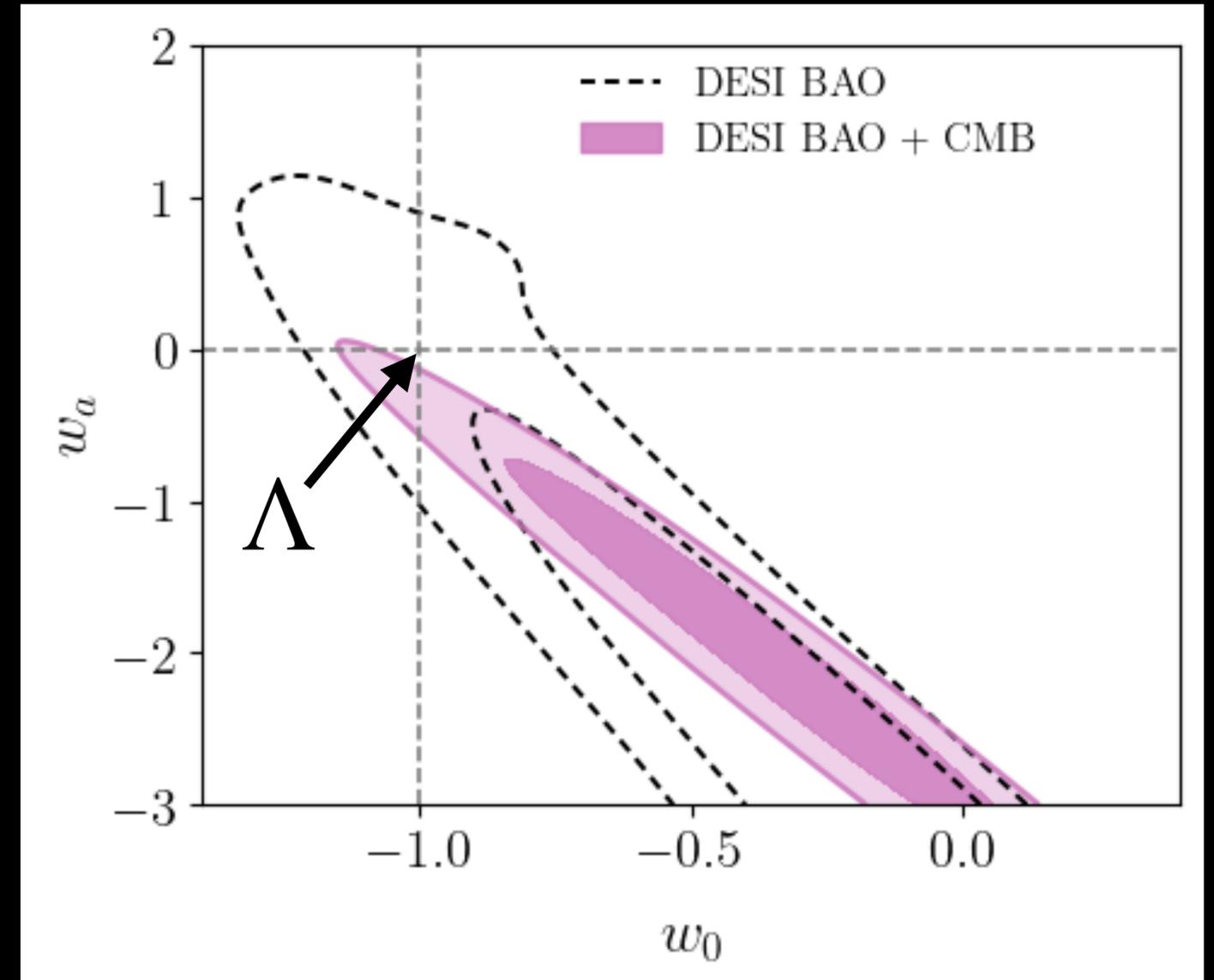
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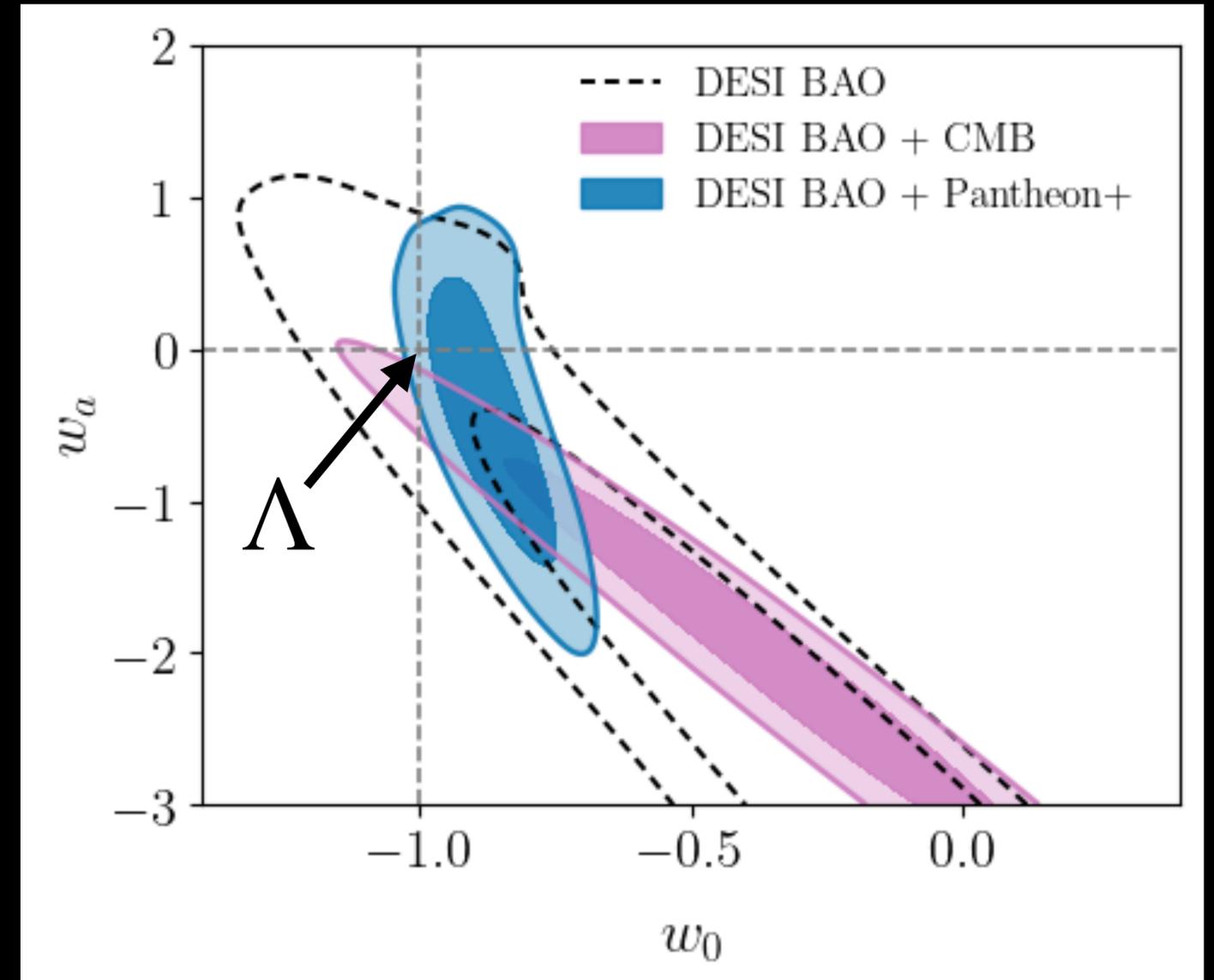
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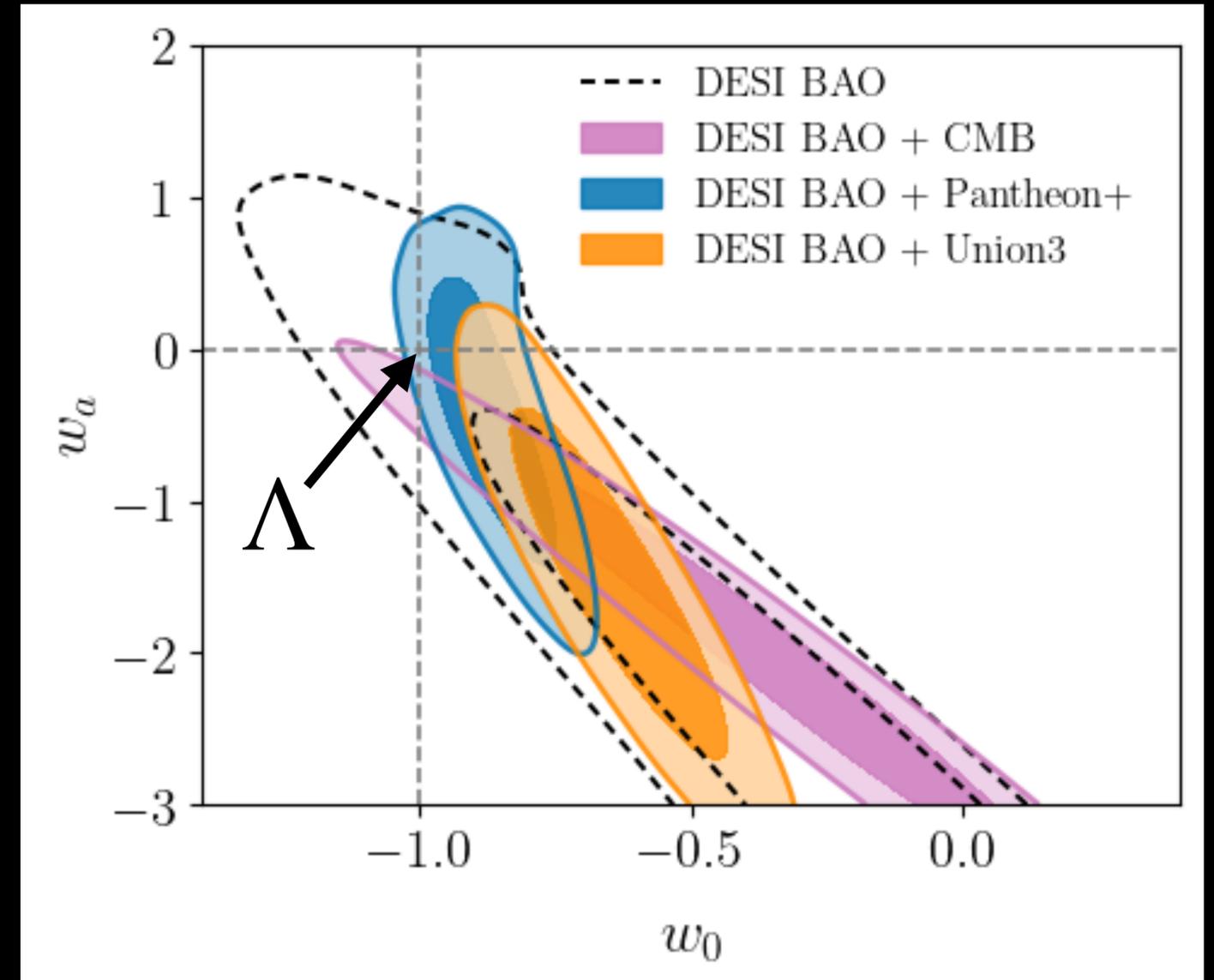
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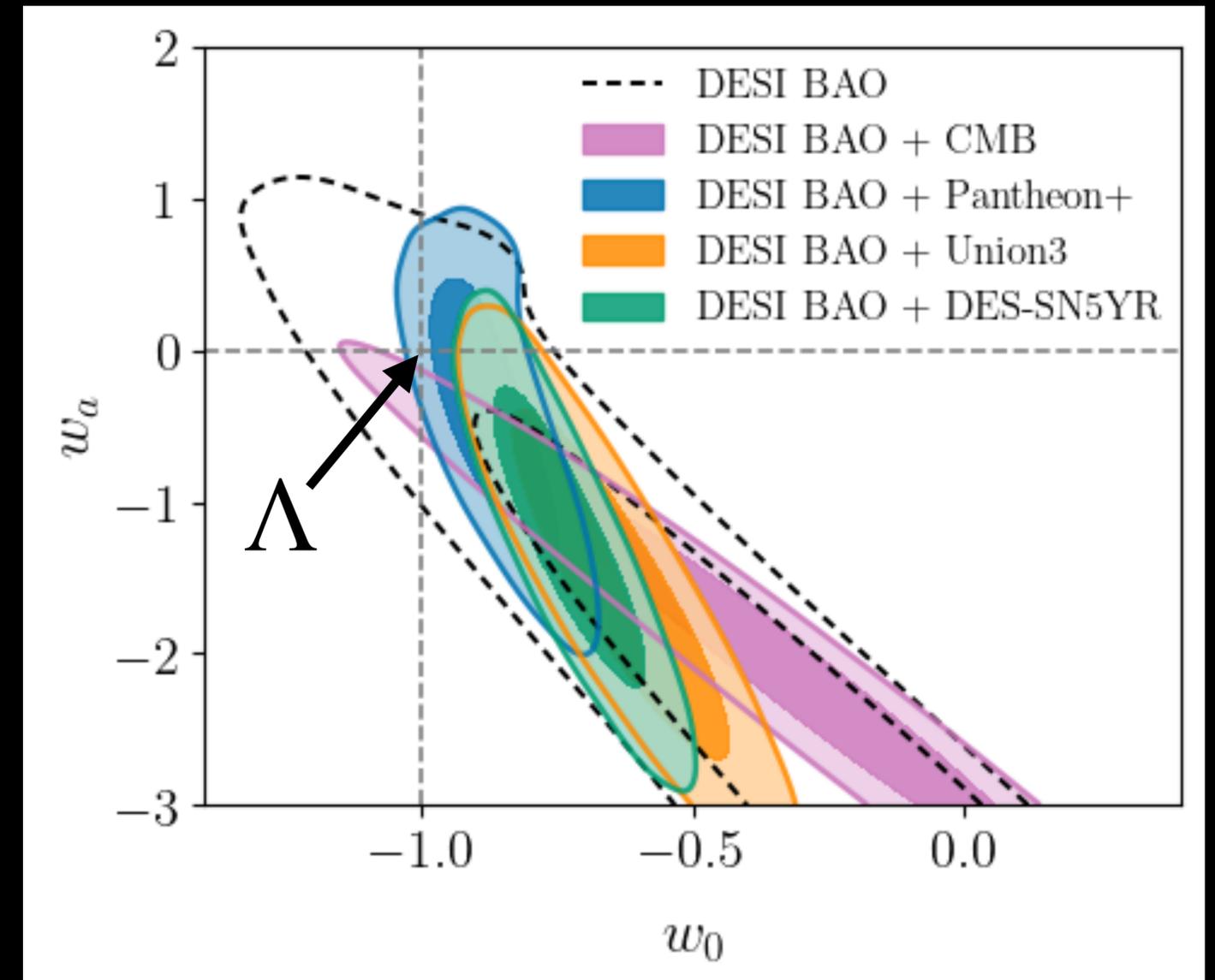
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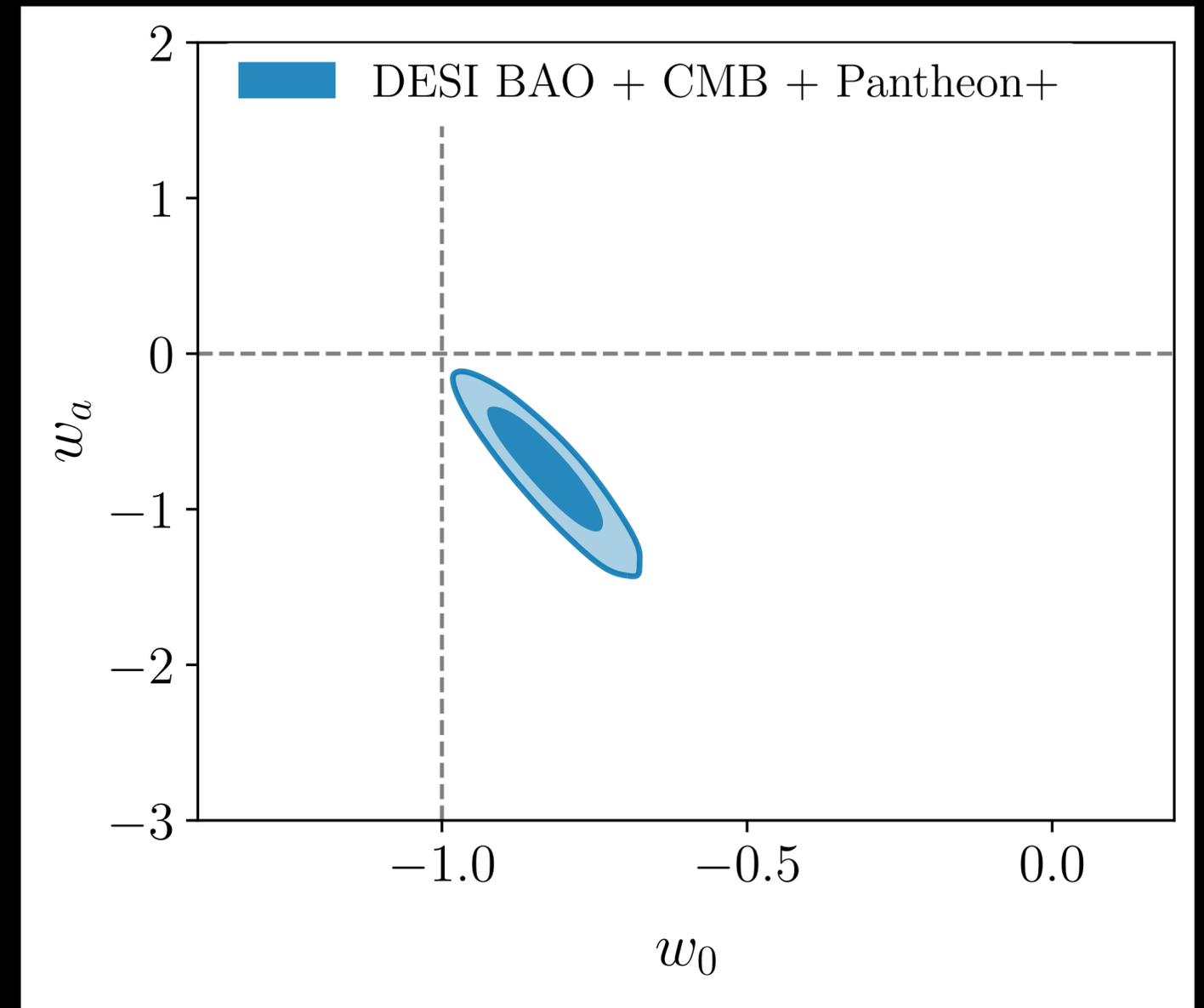


# Dark Energy Equation of State

Combining all DESI + CMB + SN

$$w_0 = -0.827 \pm 0.063, \quad w_a = -0.75^{+0.29}_{-0.25}$$

**DESI + CMB + PantheonPlus  $\Rightarrow 2.5\sigma$**



# Dark Energy Equation of State

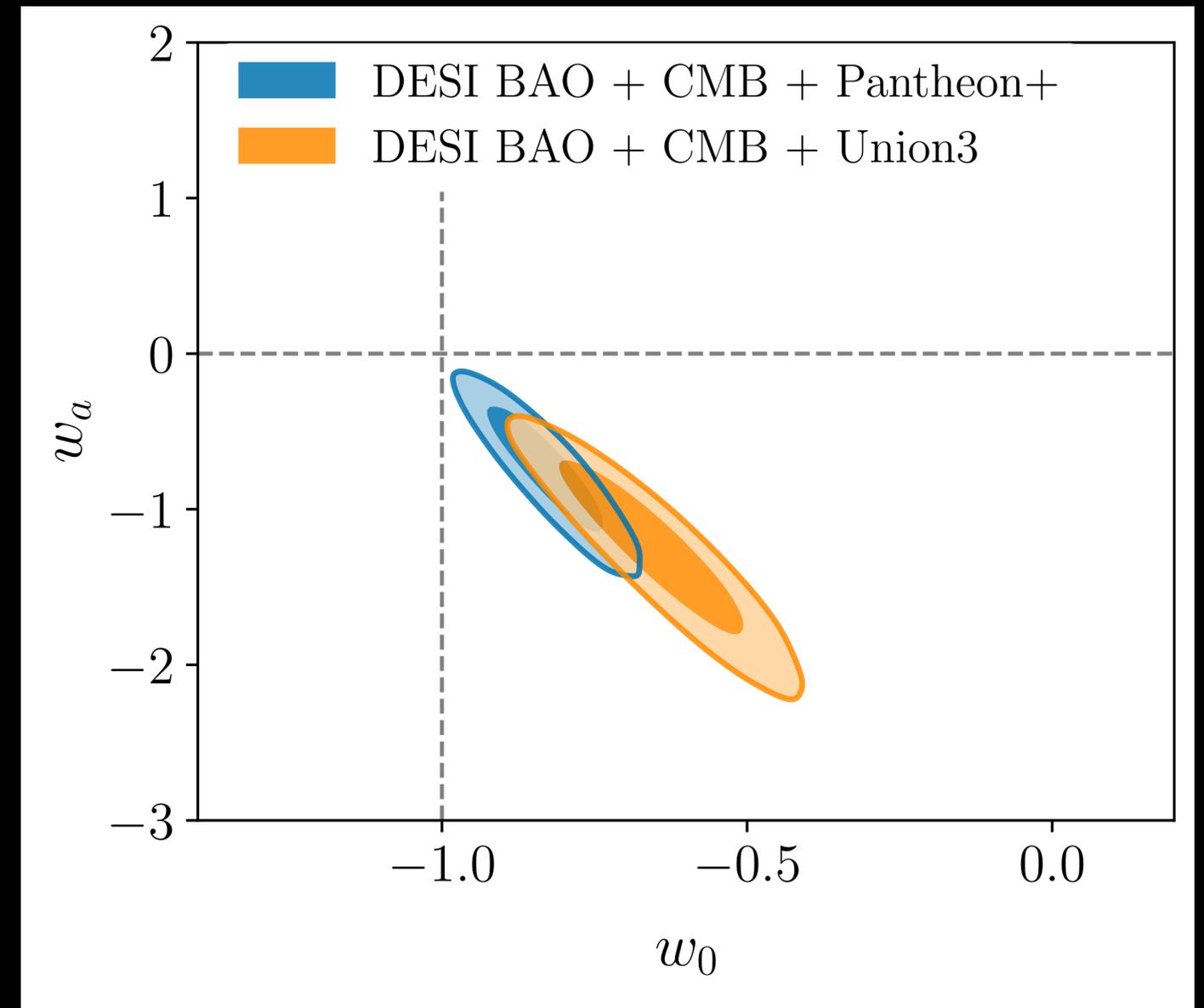
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$$w_0 = -0.64 \pm 0.11, \quad w_a = -1.27^{+0.40}_{-0.34}$$

**DESI + CMB + Union3  $\Rightarrow 3.5\sigma$**



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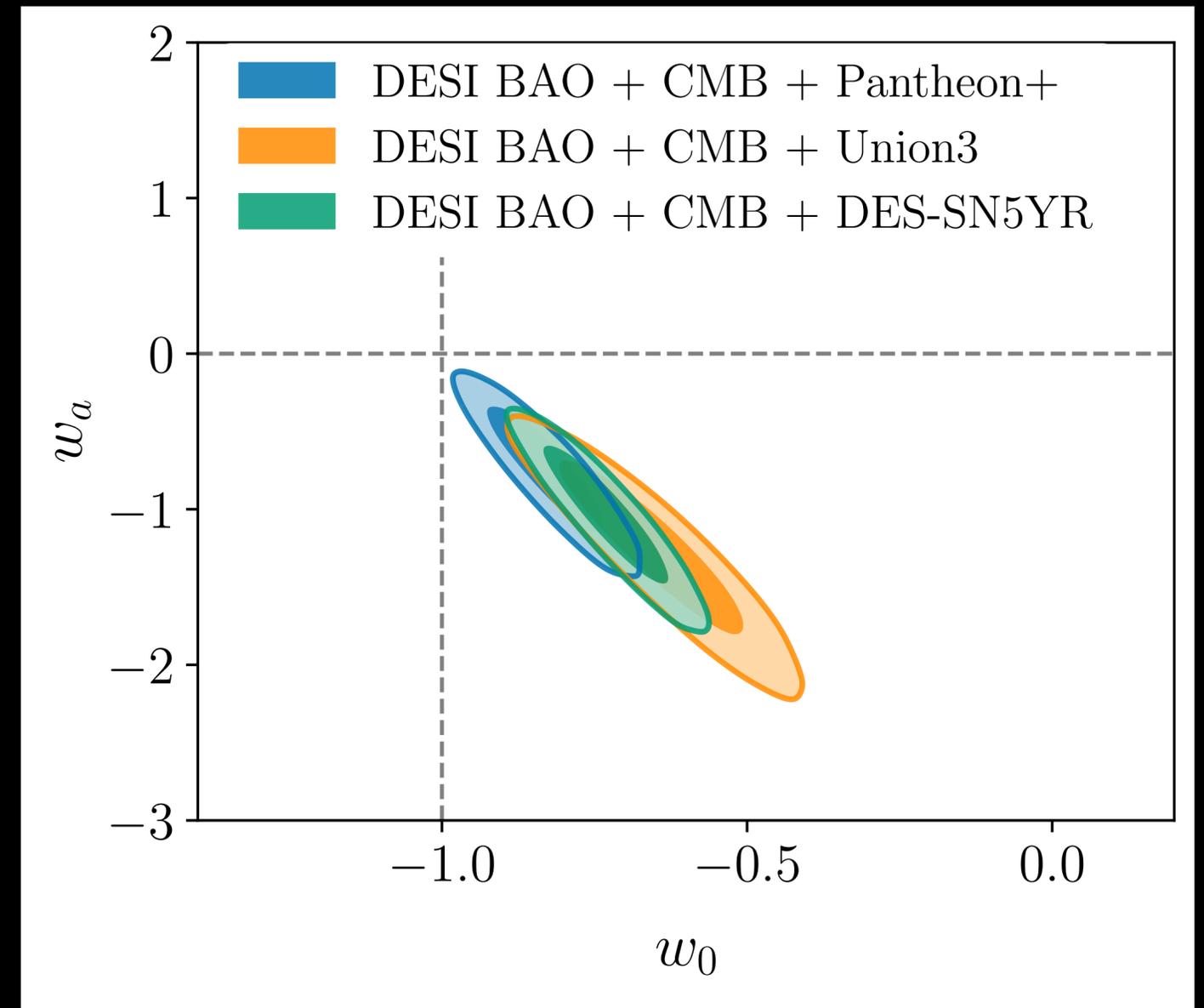
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# Dark Energy Equation of State

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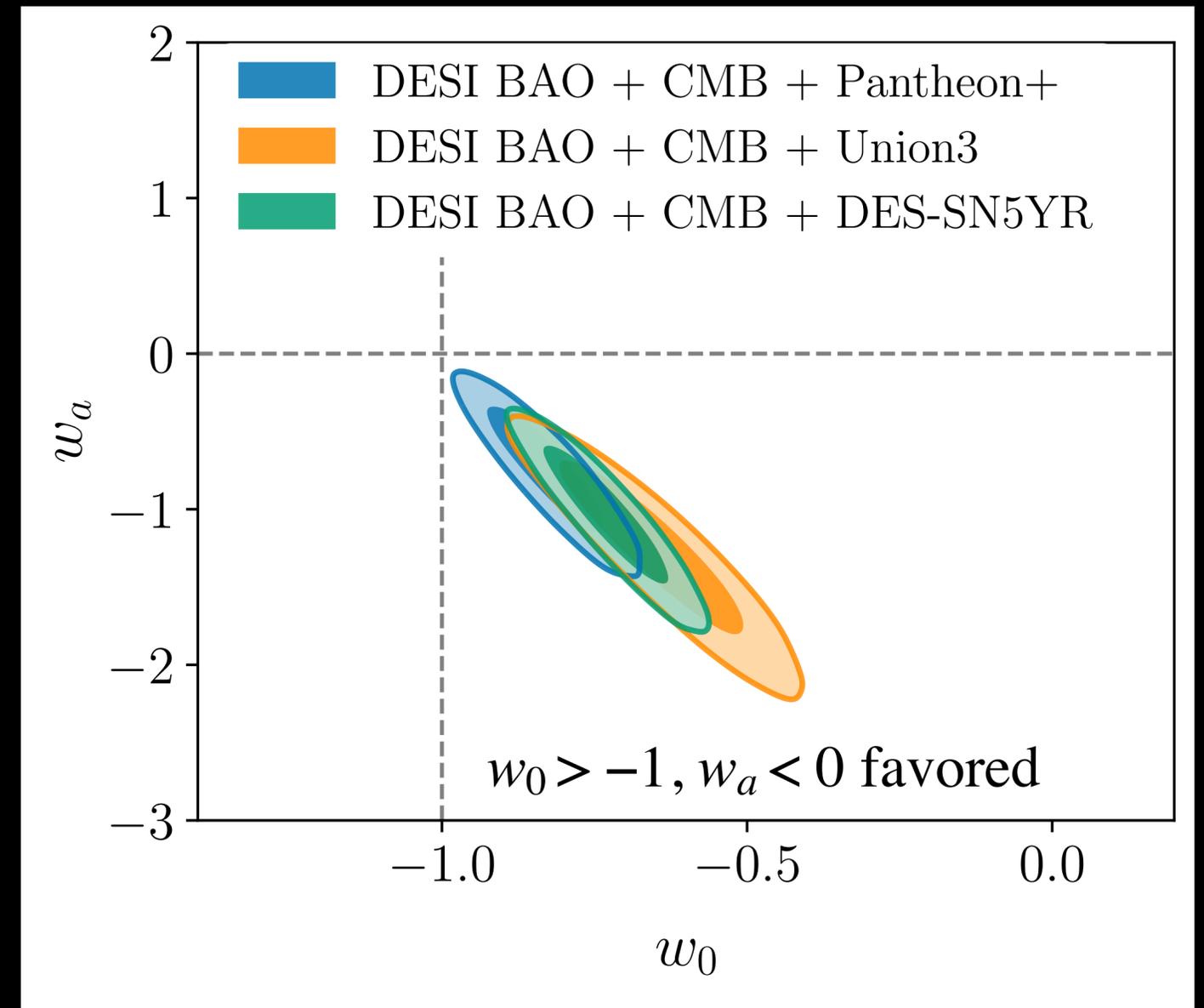
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Cosmological observations are sensitive to both the **number of neutrino species** and their **total mass**



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  - KATRIN gives an **upper bound**  $\sum m_\nu \lesssim 2.4 \text{ eV}$
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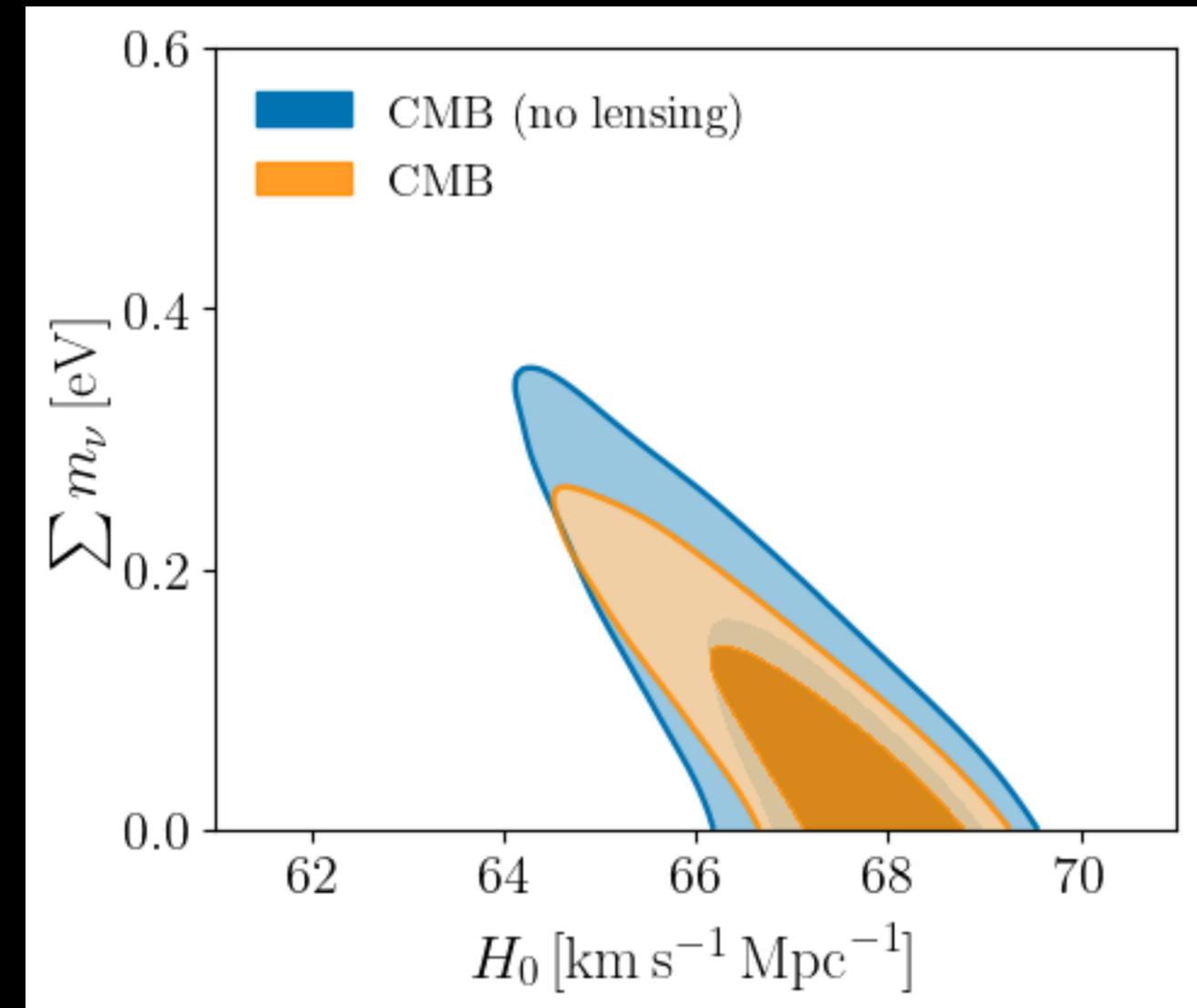
$$NH : \sum m_\nu \geq 0.059 \text{ eV}, \quad IH : \sum m_\nu \geq 0.10 \text{ eV}$$



# Sum of neutrino masses: DESI constrains

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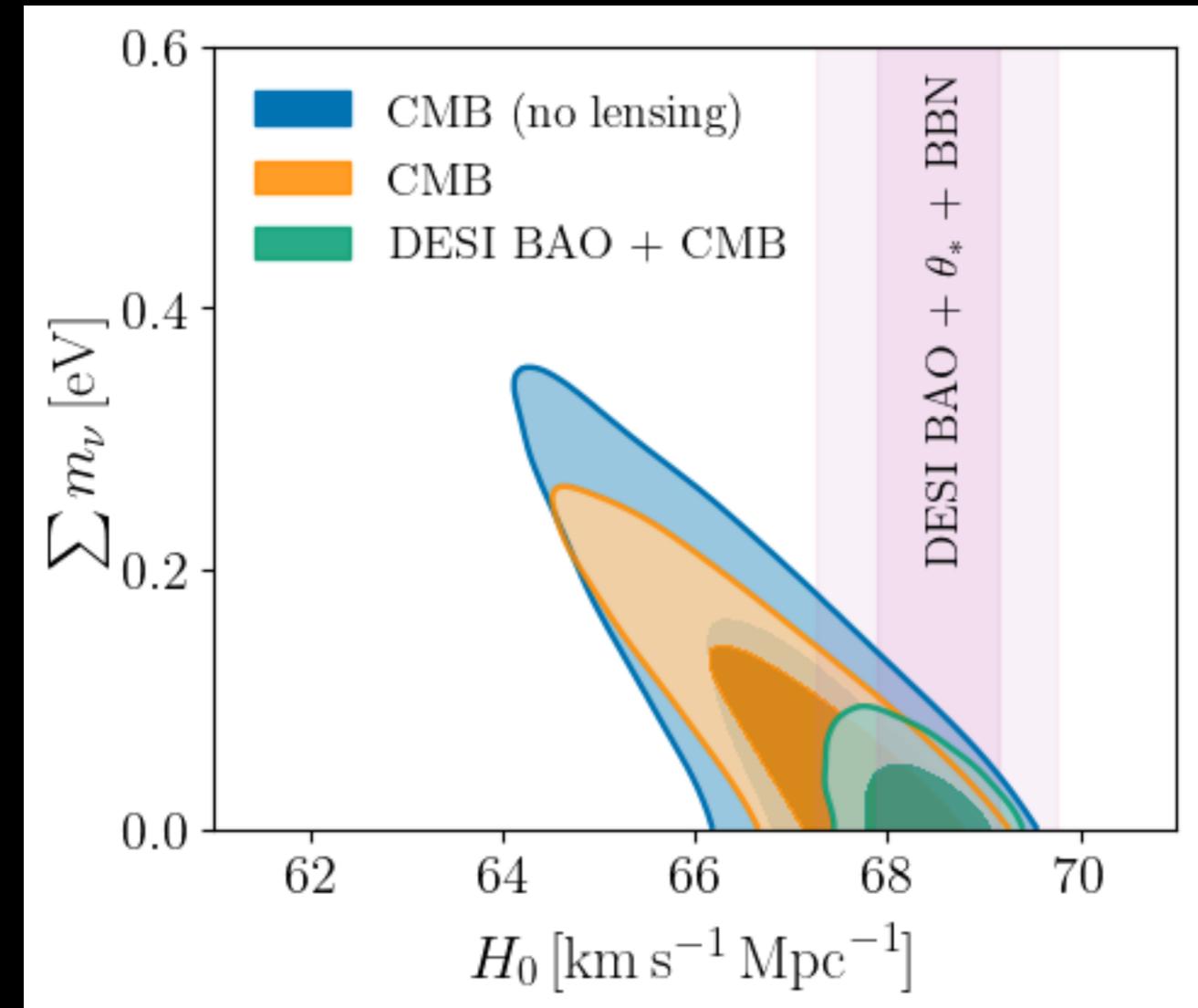
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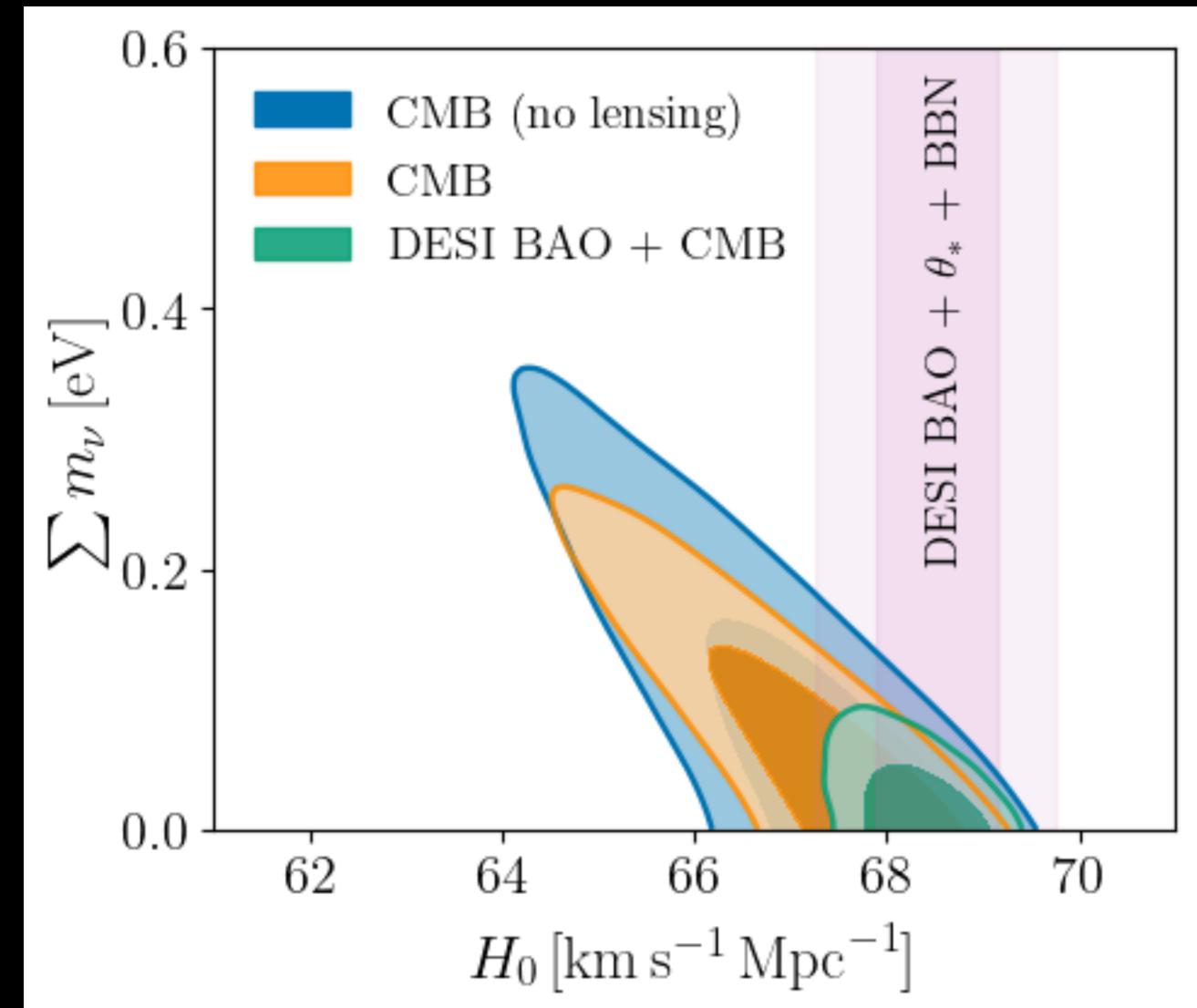
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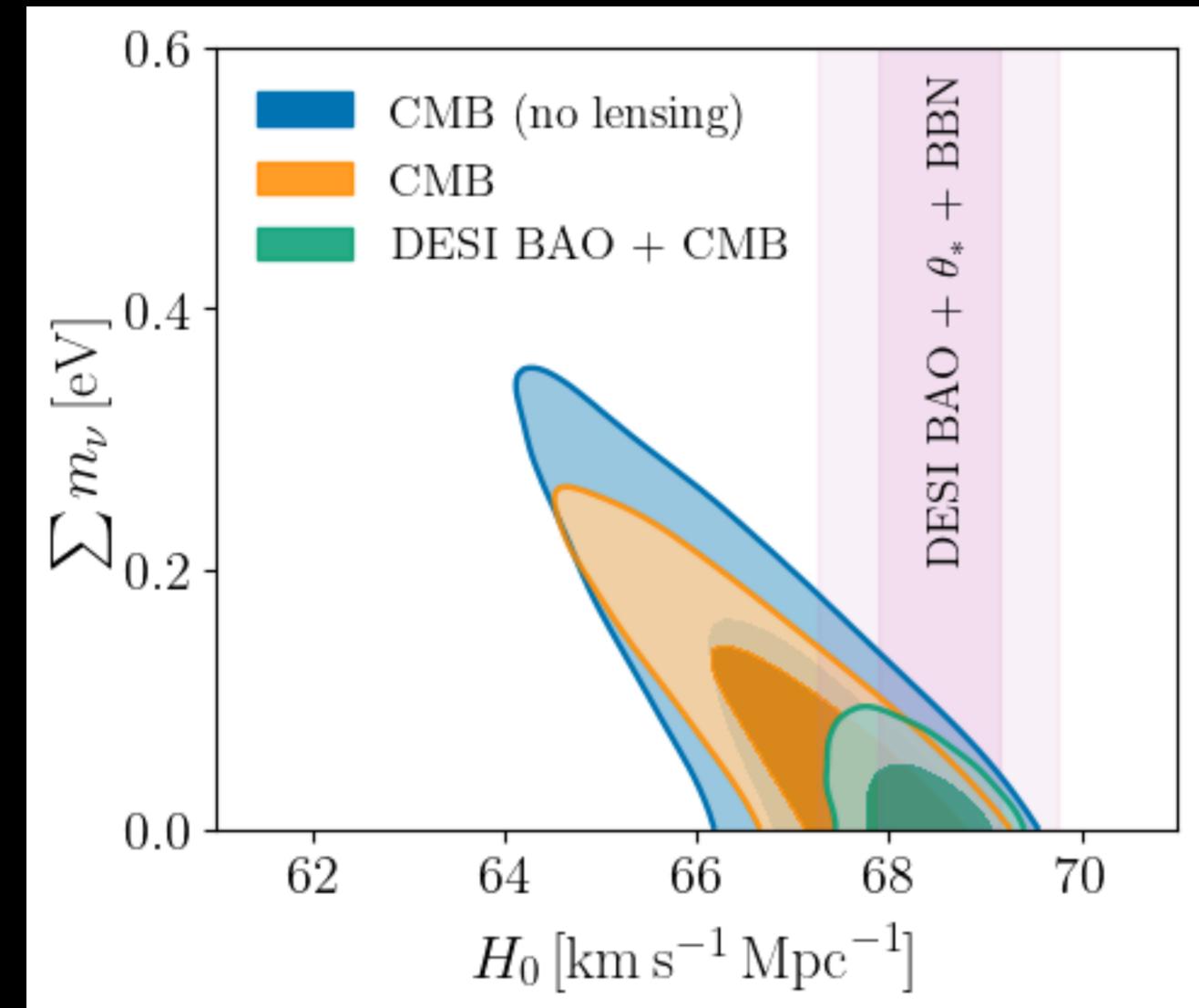
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Limit relaxed for extensions to  $\Lambda$ CDM

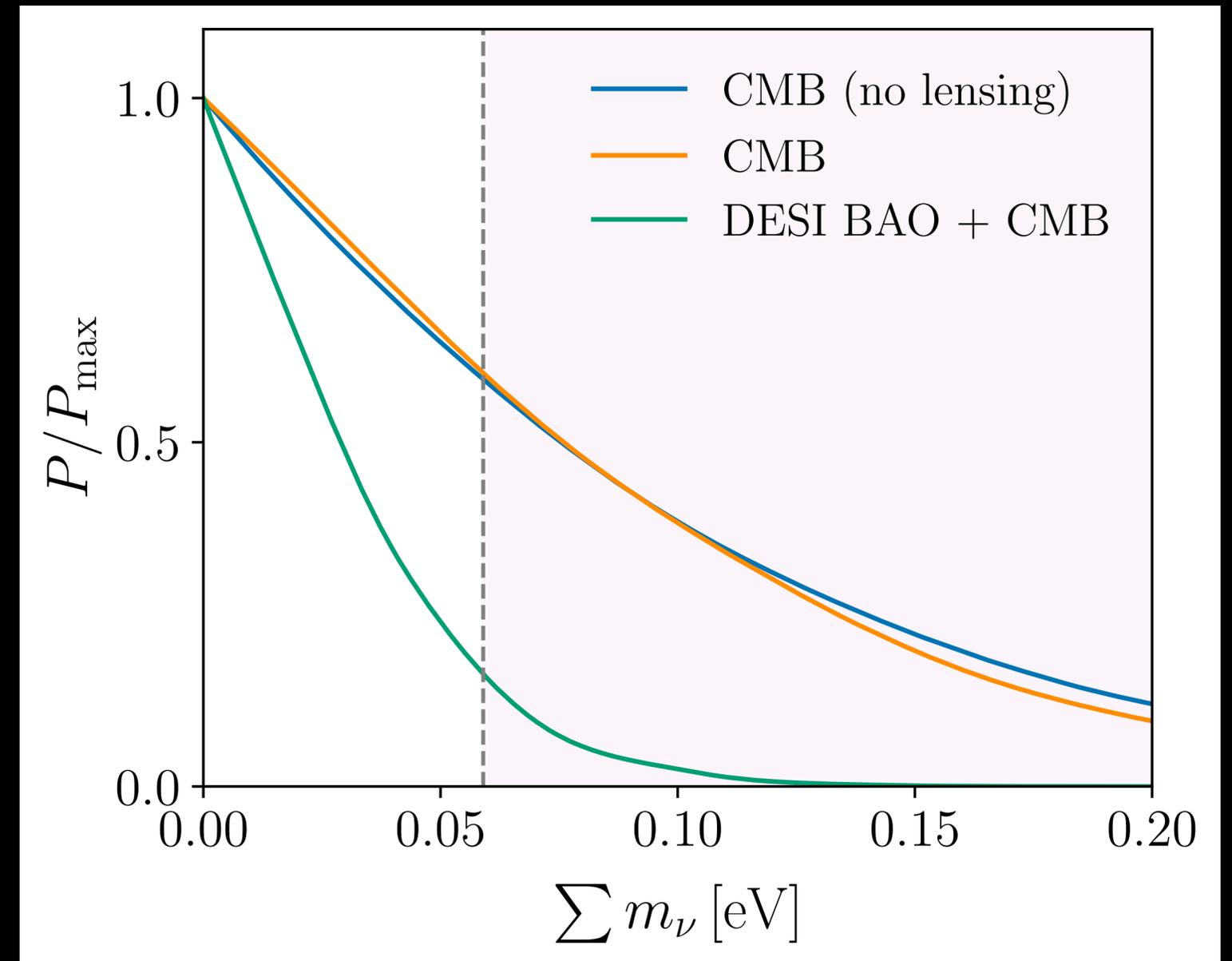
$$\sum m_\nu < 0.195 \text{ eV for } w_0 w_a \text{CDM}$$



# Neutrino mass hierarchies

With  $> 0.059$  eV prior (NH)

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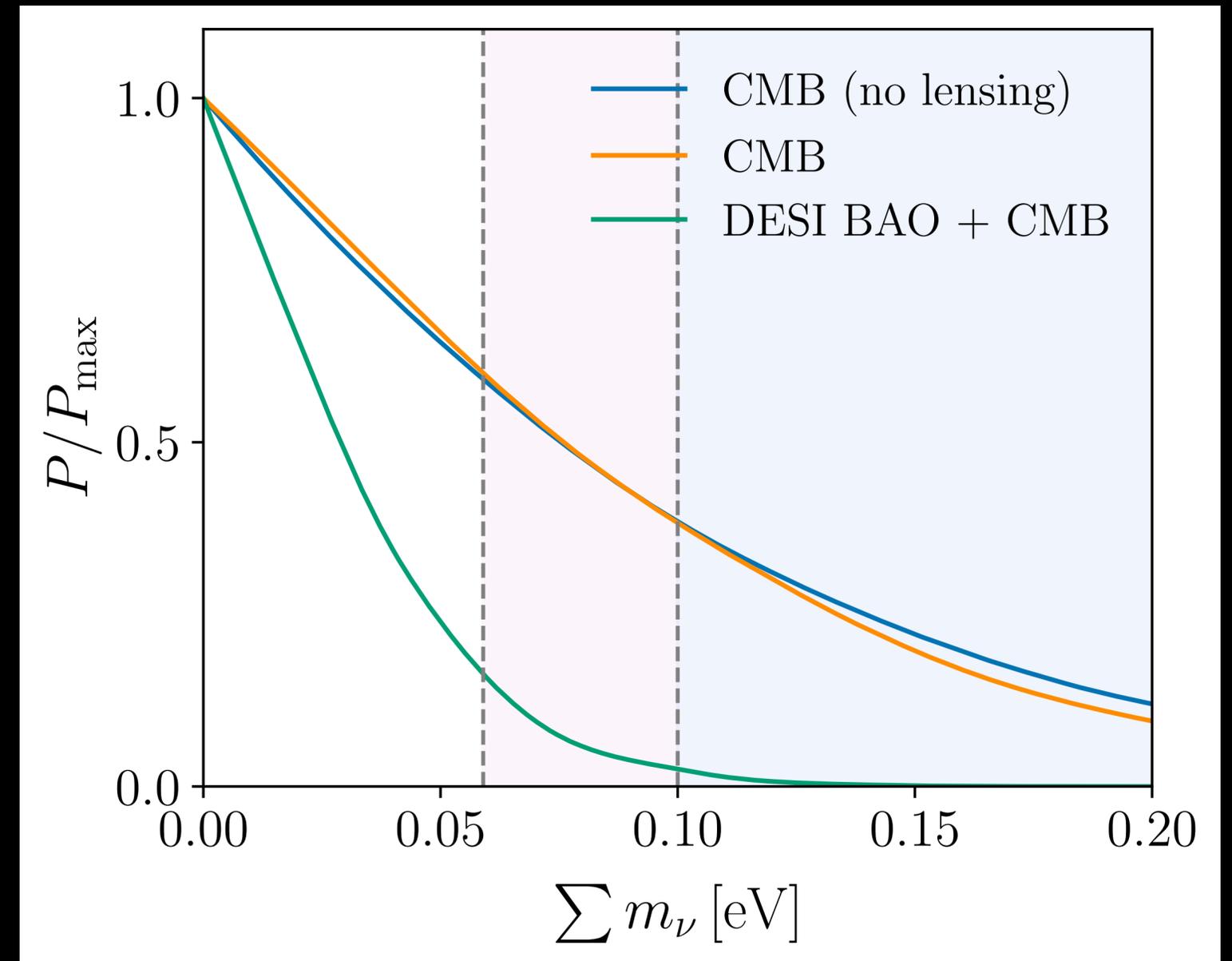
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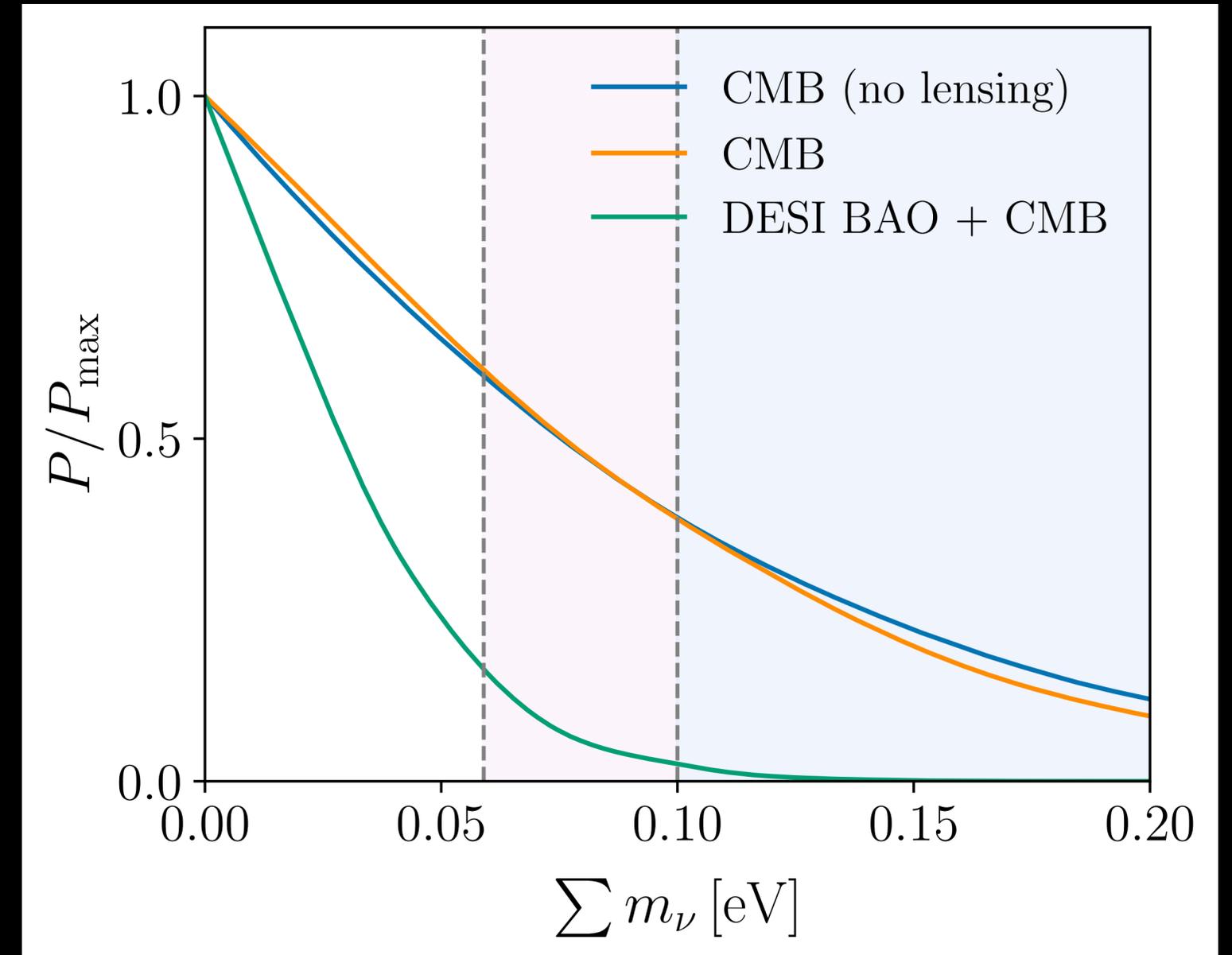
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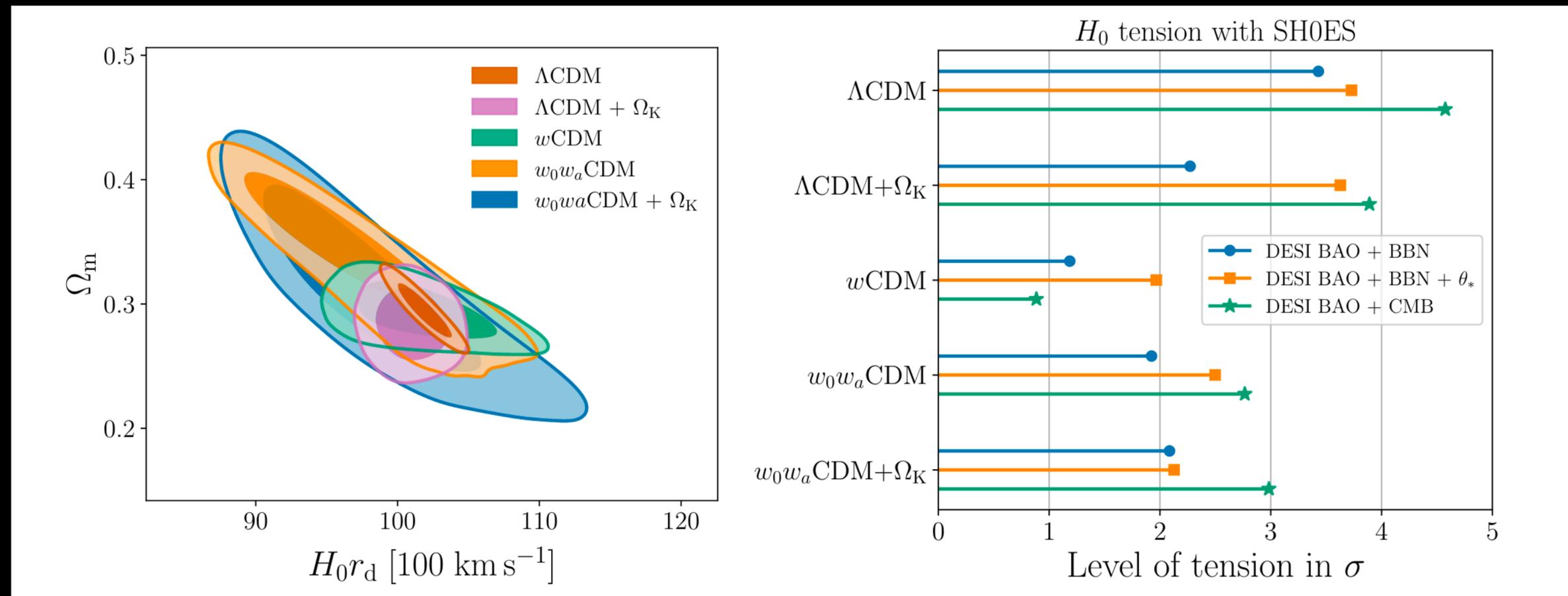
Current constraints do not strongly favor normal over inverted hierarchy ( $\approx 2\sigma$ )

# Hubble tension?

- Extension models: modify the background geometry or late-time expansion history
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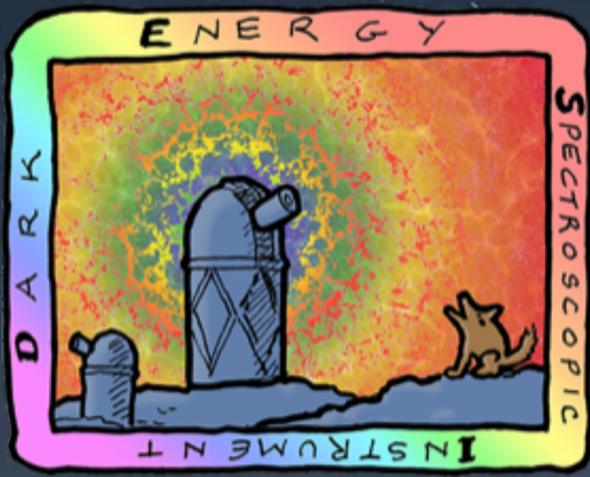
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- DESI + BBN (+  $\theta_*$ ) constrains  $H_0$  to  $\sim 1\%$ ;  $3.7\sigma$  tension w/ SH0ES
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# DARK ENERGY SPECTROSCOPIC INSTRUMENT

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science



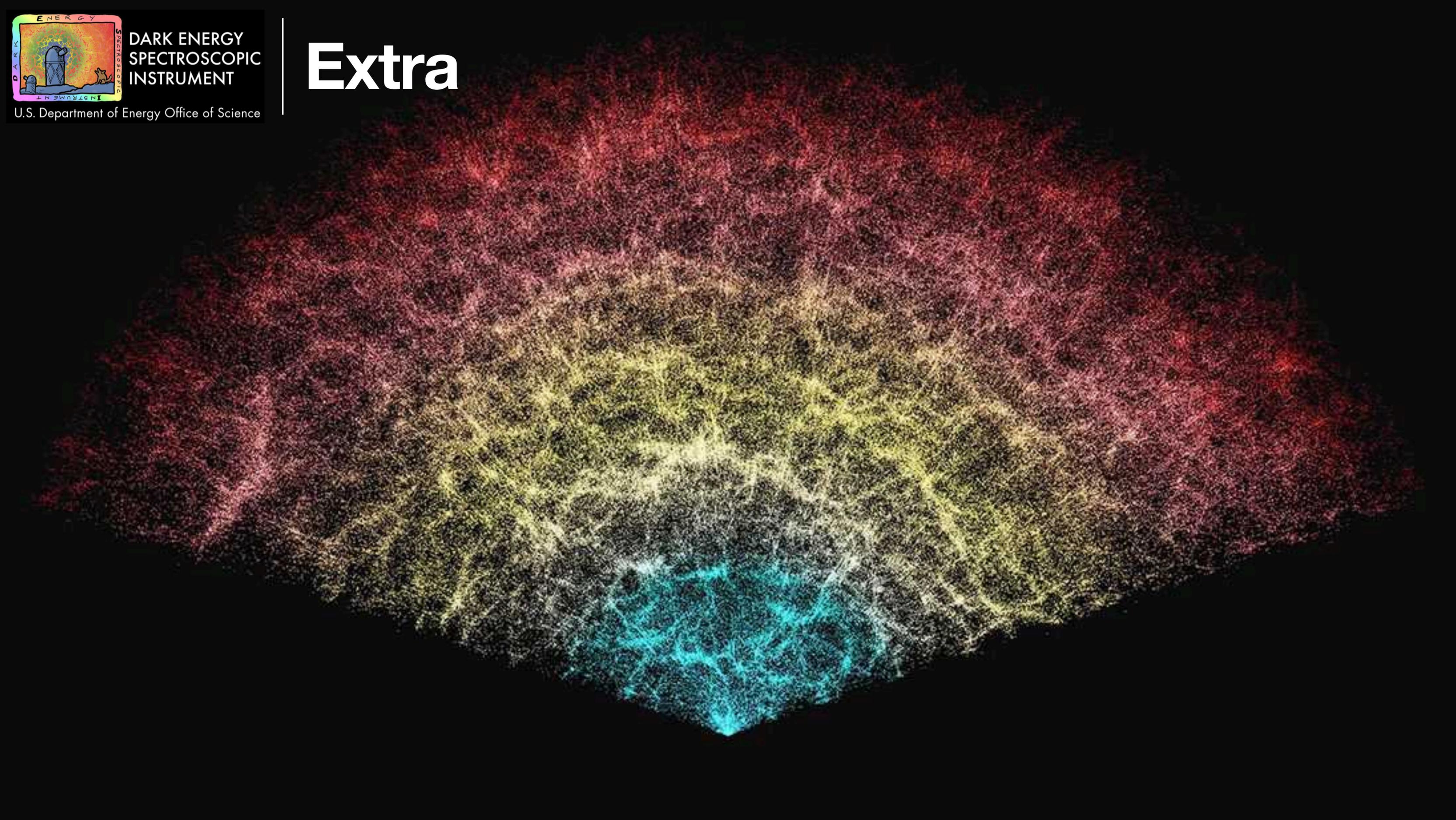
Thanks to our sponsors and  
72 Participating Institutions!





DARK ENERGY SPECTROSCOPIC INSTRUMENT  
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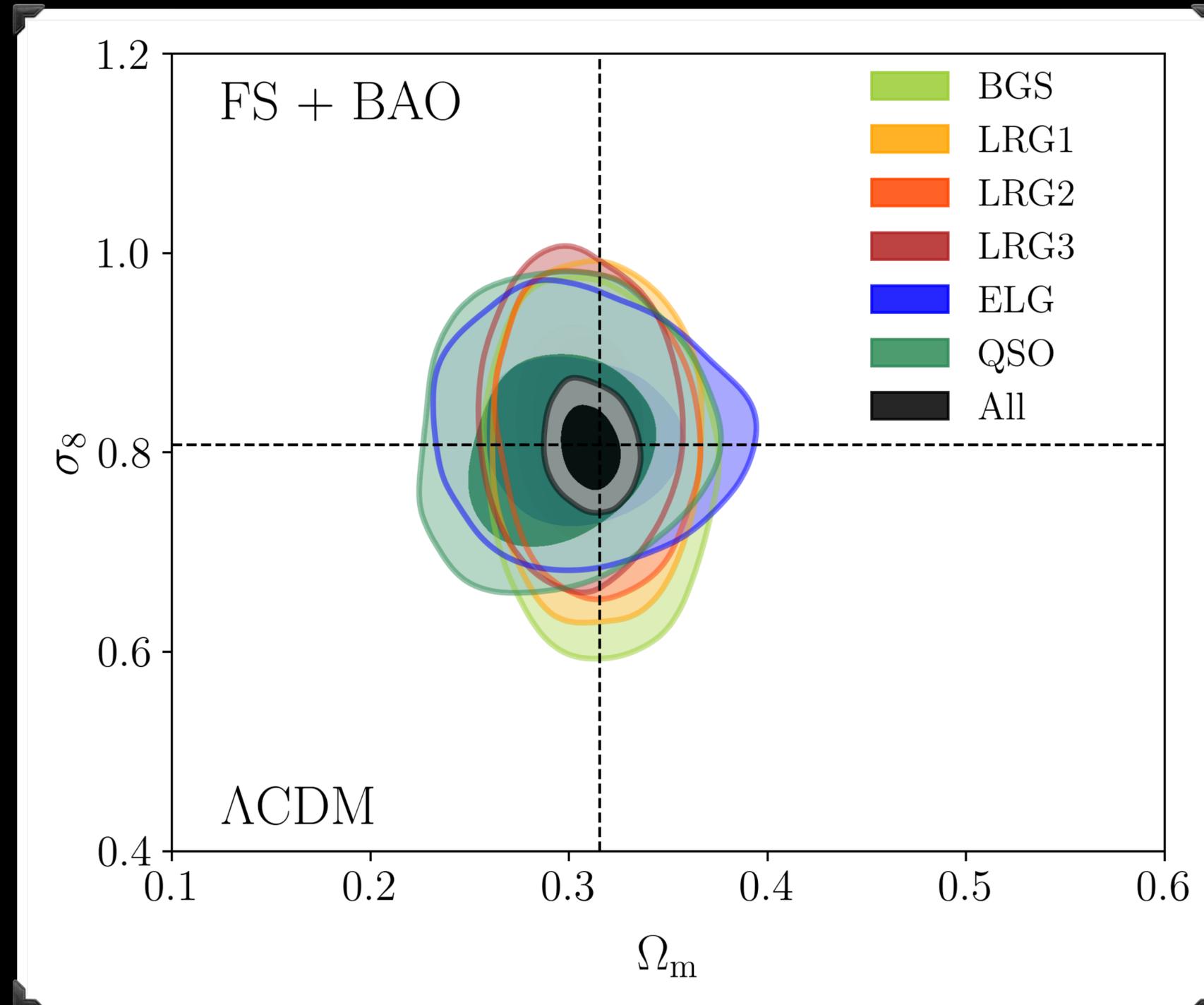
# Extra



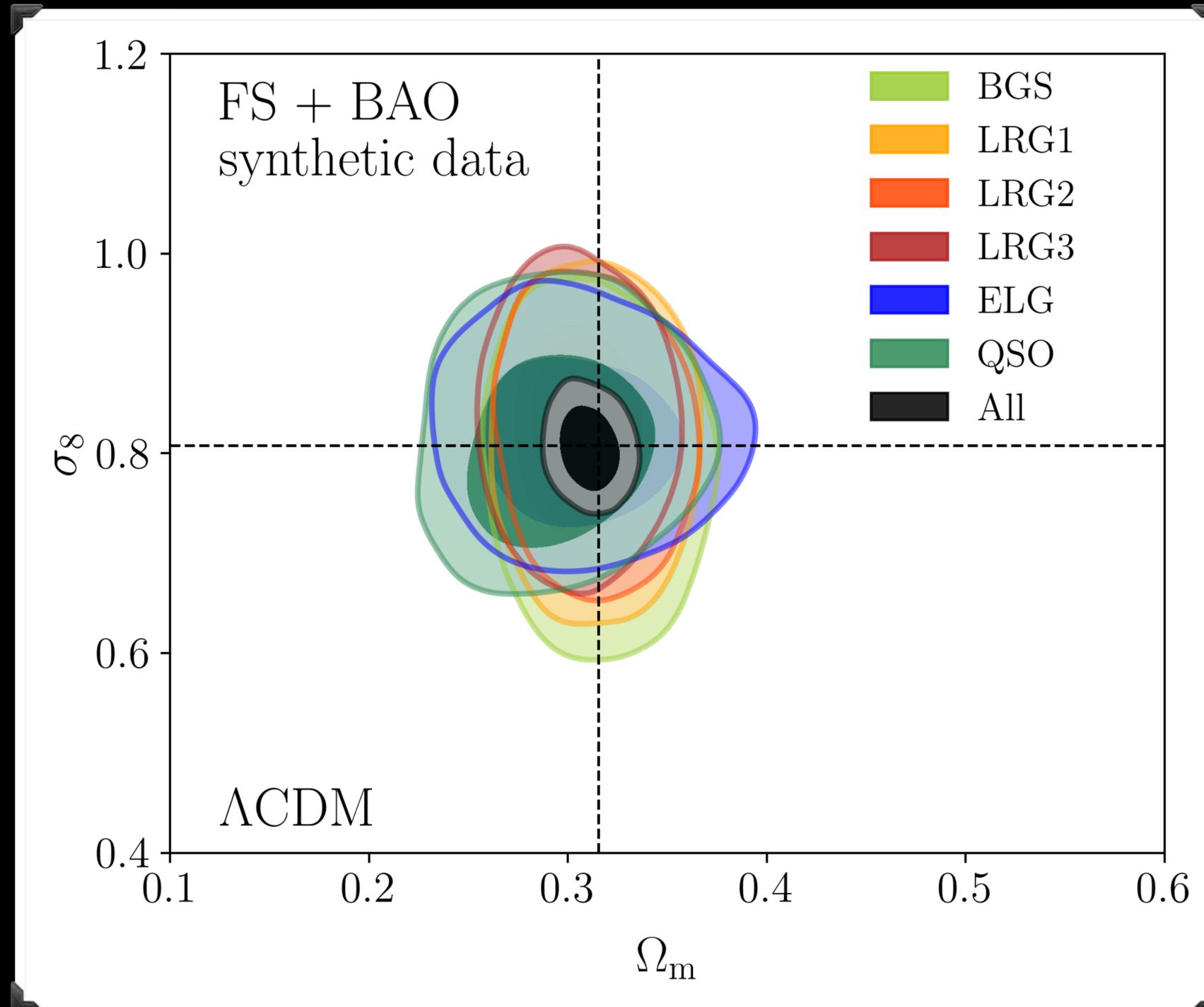


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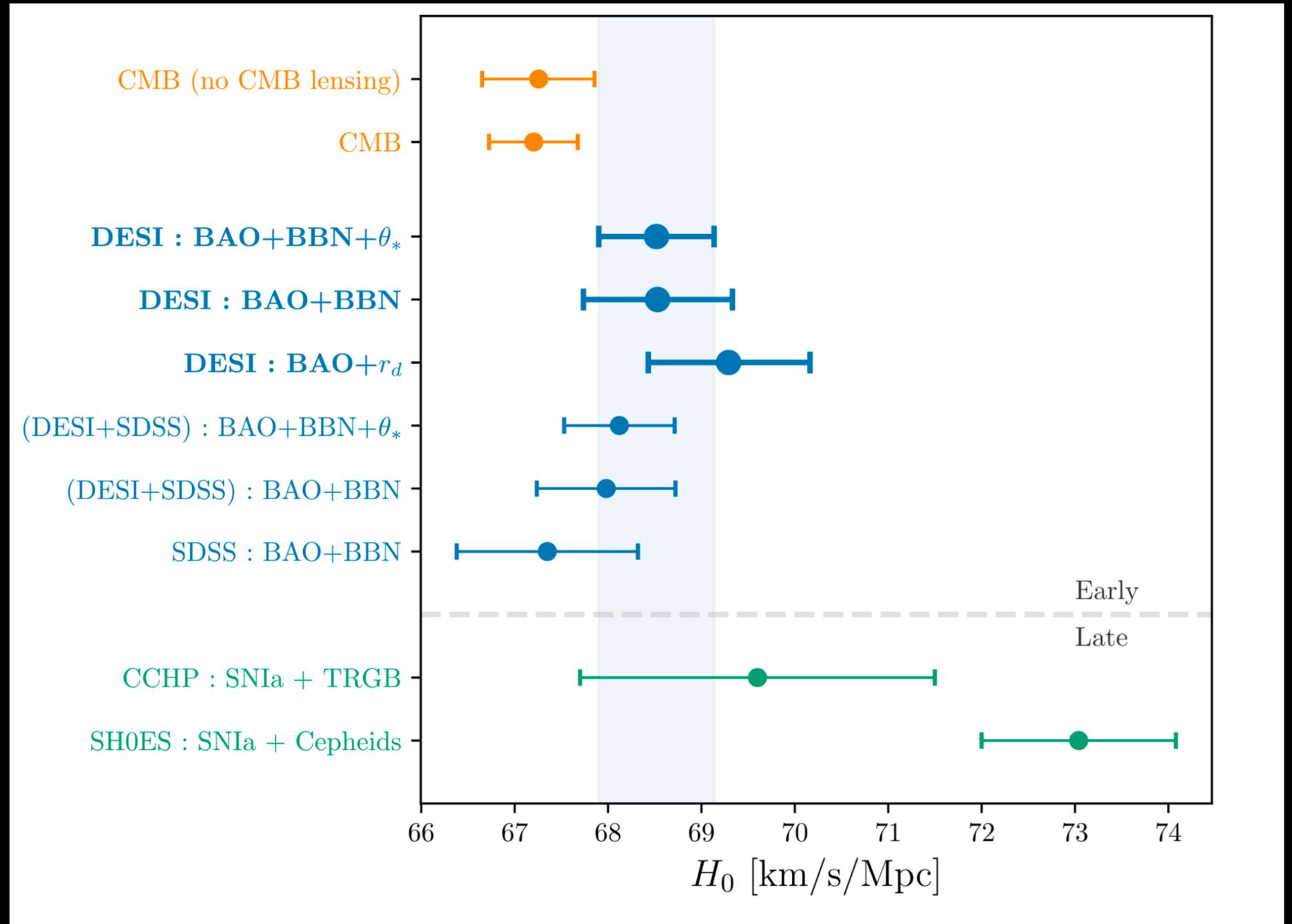
# DESI cosmology from Full-Shape



# Hubble tension

Combination with an external prior:

- CMB measurement of the sound horizon
- CMB measurement of the acoustic angular scale
- BBN



# How is the DESI BAO analysis different?

- The data! – already **the biggest ever BAO dataset** (both in  $n$  and volume)
- **Blind analysis** to mitigate observer/confirmation biases (catalogue-level blinding)
- Theory developments in BAO fitting procedure
- New and improved reconstruction methods
- **Unified BAO pipeline** applied to all tracers/redshifts consistently
- Wide-ranging tests of systematic errors, done before unblinding
- New combined tracer method used for overlapping galaxy samples (LRG and ELG in  $0.8 < z < 1.1$ )

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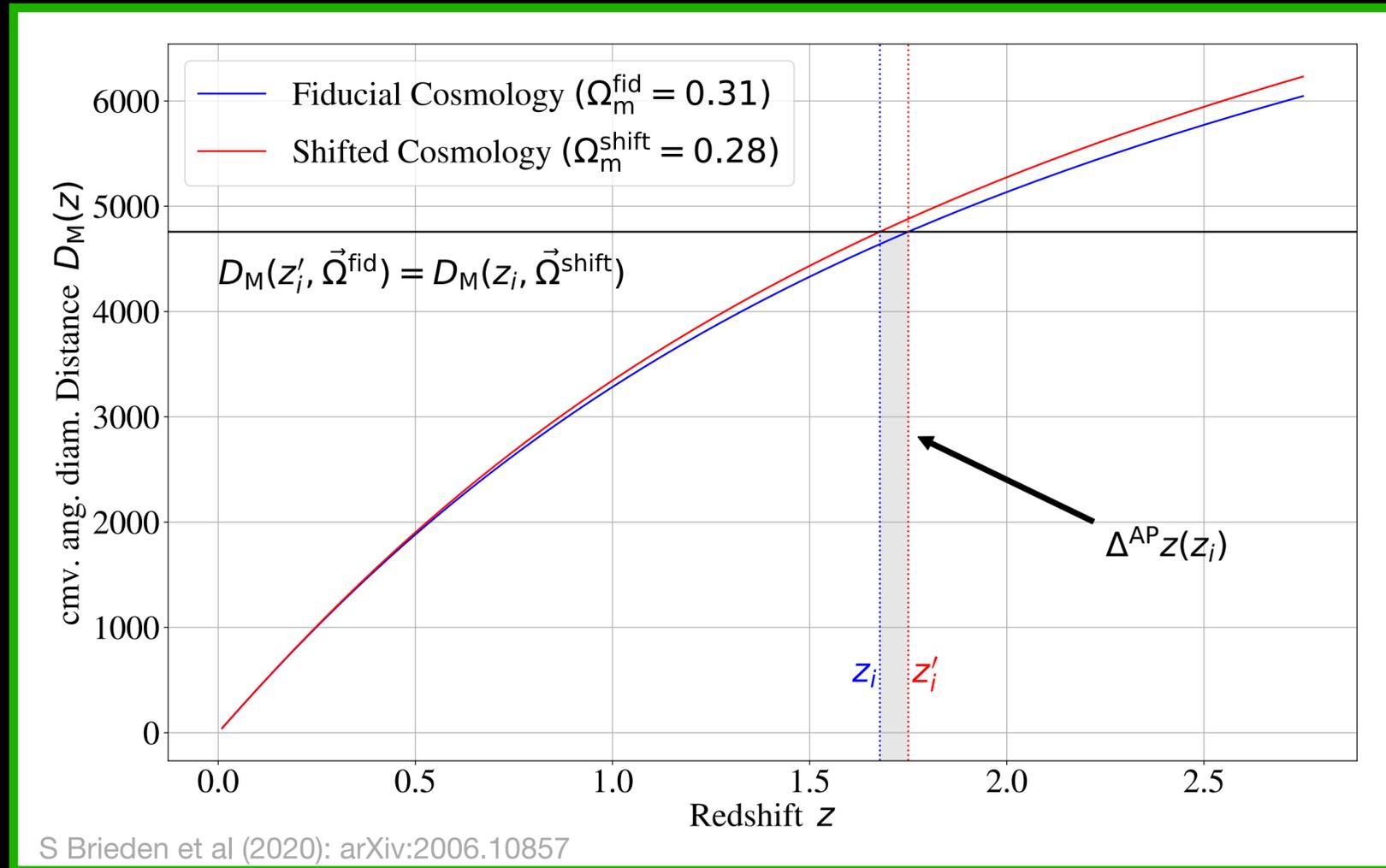
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Blinding happens in three steps:

1. Blinding for BAO;
2. Blinding for RSD;
3. Blinding for primordial non-Gaussianity  $f_{\text{NL}}$ .

# How is the DESI BAO analysis different?

- **First step:** AP-like shift



**blind cosmology**  $w_0, w_a, \Omega_m$  (not revealed!)

$(ra, dec, z) \longrightarrow (X, Y, Z)$

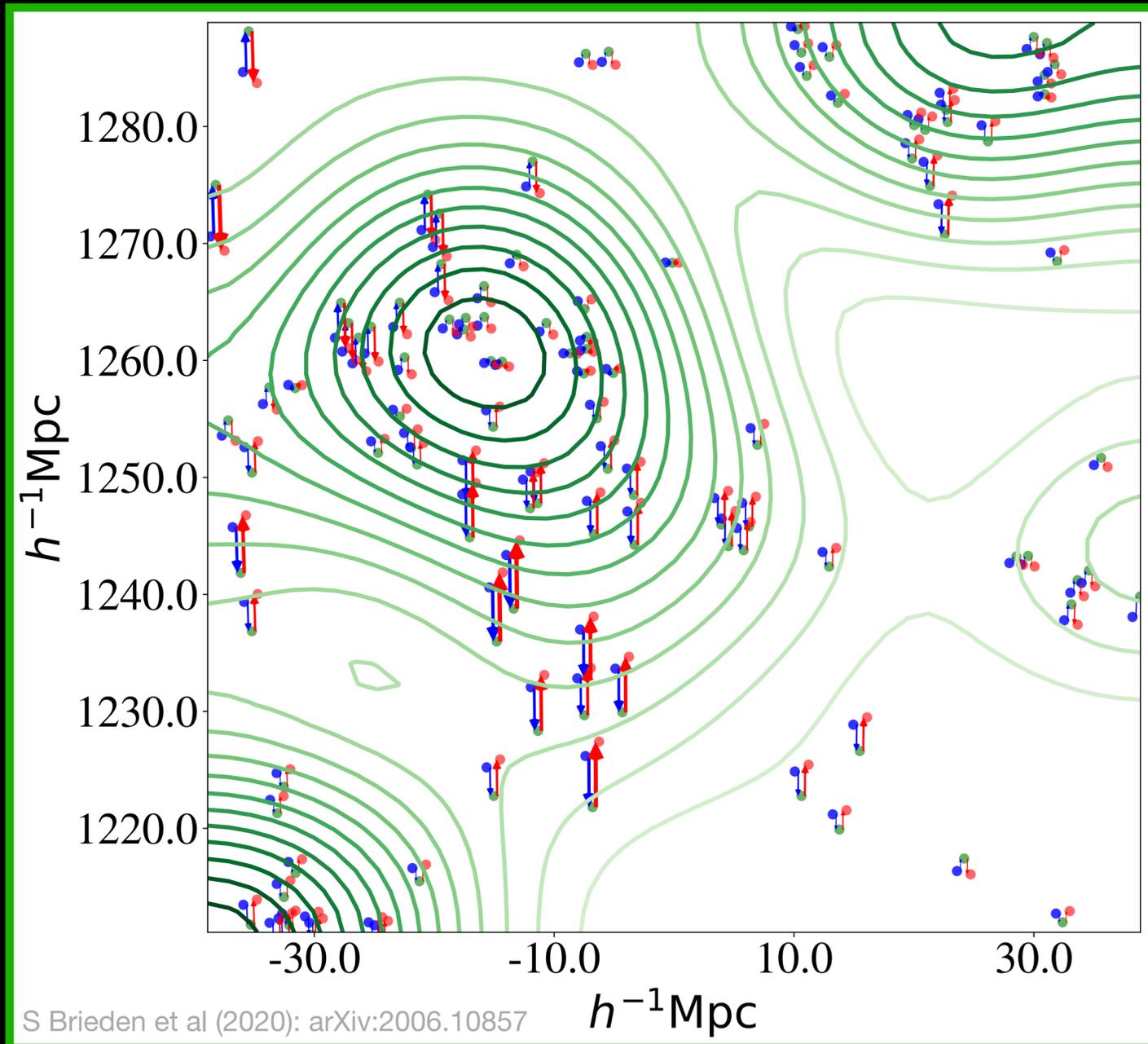
fiducial cosmology

$(ra, dec, z') \longleftarrow (X, Y, Z)$

$$z_i(\Omega_{\text{true}}) \xrightarrow{\Omega_{\text{blind}}} D_M(z_i, \Omega_{\text{blind}}) = D_M(z'_i, \Omega_{\text{fid}}) \xrightarrow{\Omega_{\text{fid}}} z'_i(\Omega_{\text{blind}})$$

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- **Second step:** RSD shift



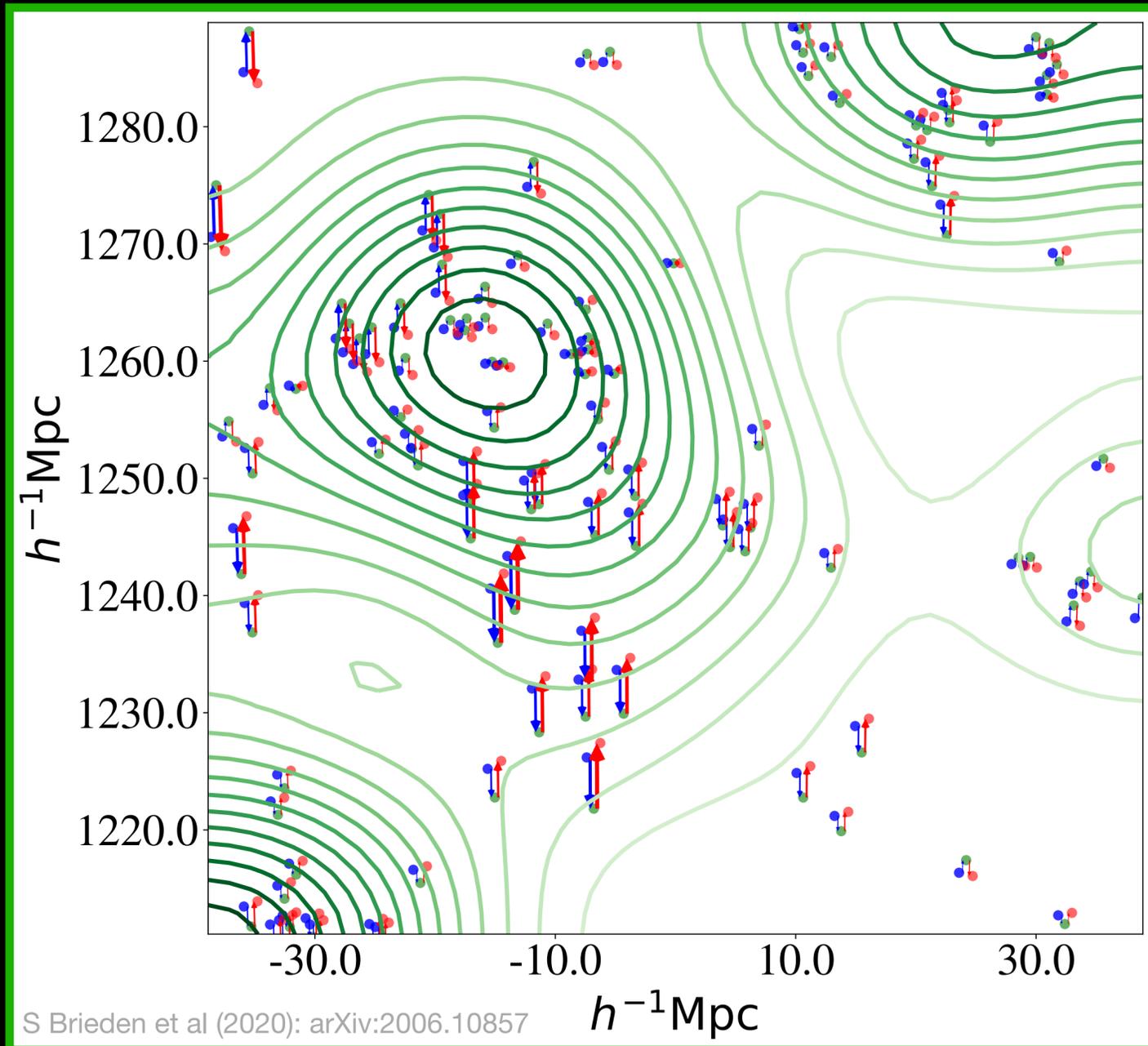
The so-called displacement field:  $\Psi = \nabla \phi$

$$\nabla \cdot \Psi = -\frac{\delta_g}{b_1}, \quad \vec{r} = \vec{x} + f(\Psi \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r}$$

$$\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r} - f^{\text{fid}}(\Psi \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r} + f^{\text{blind}}(\Psi \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r}$$

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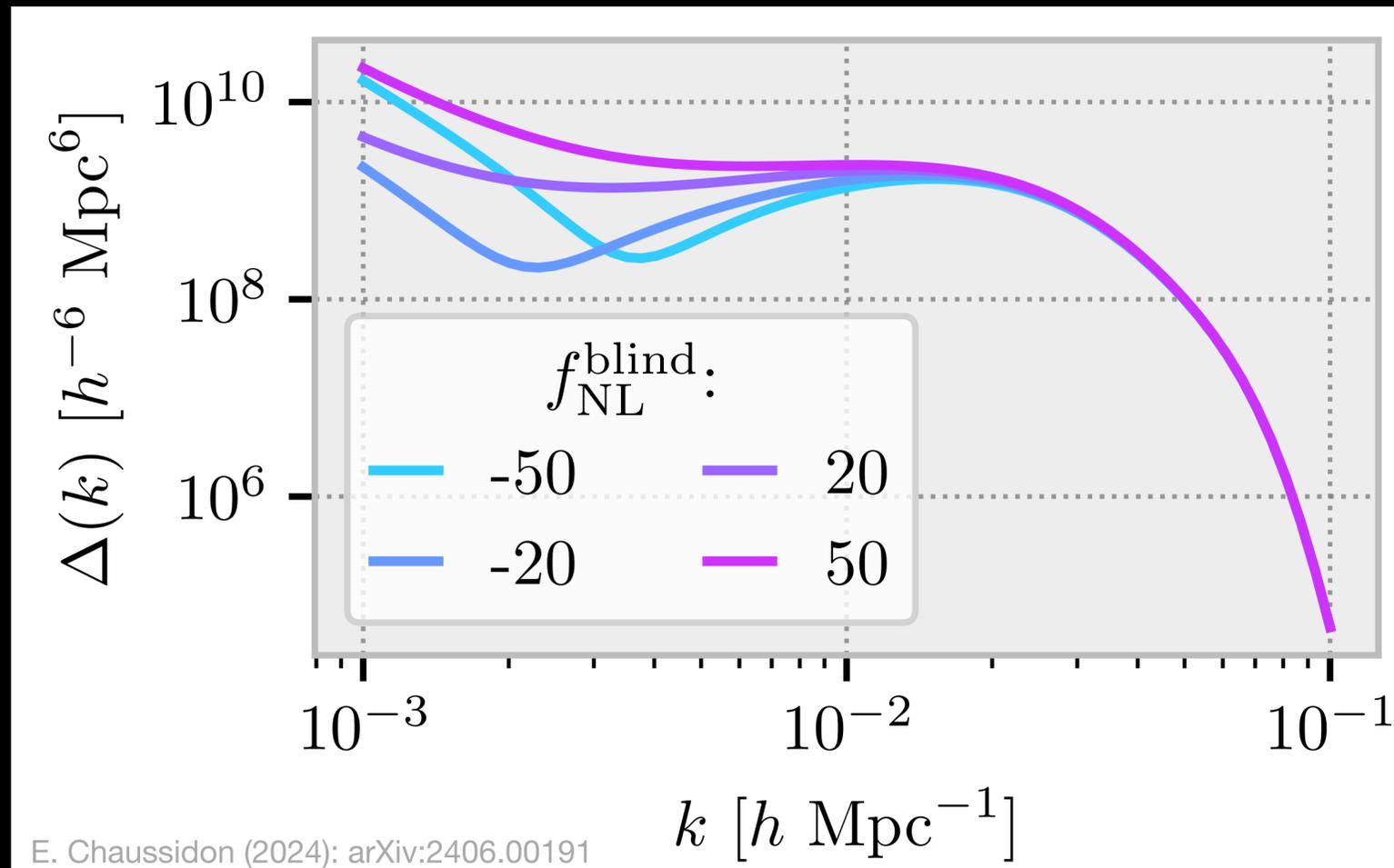
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- **Third step:** weights-based blinding  $f_{\text{NL}}$

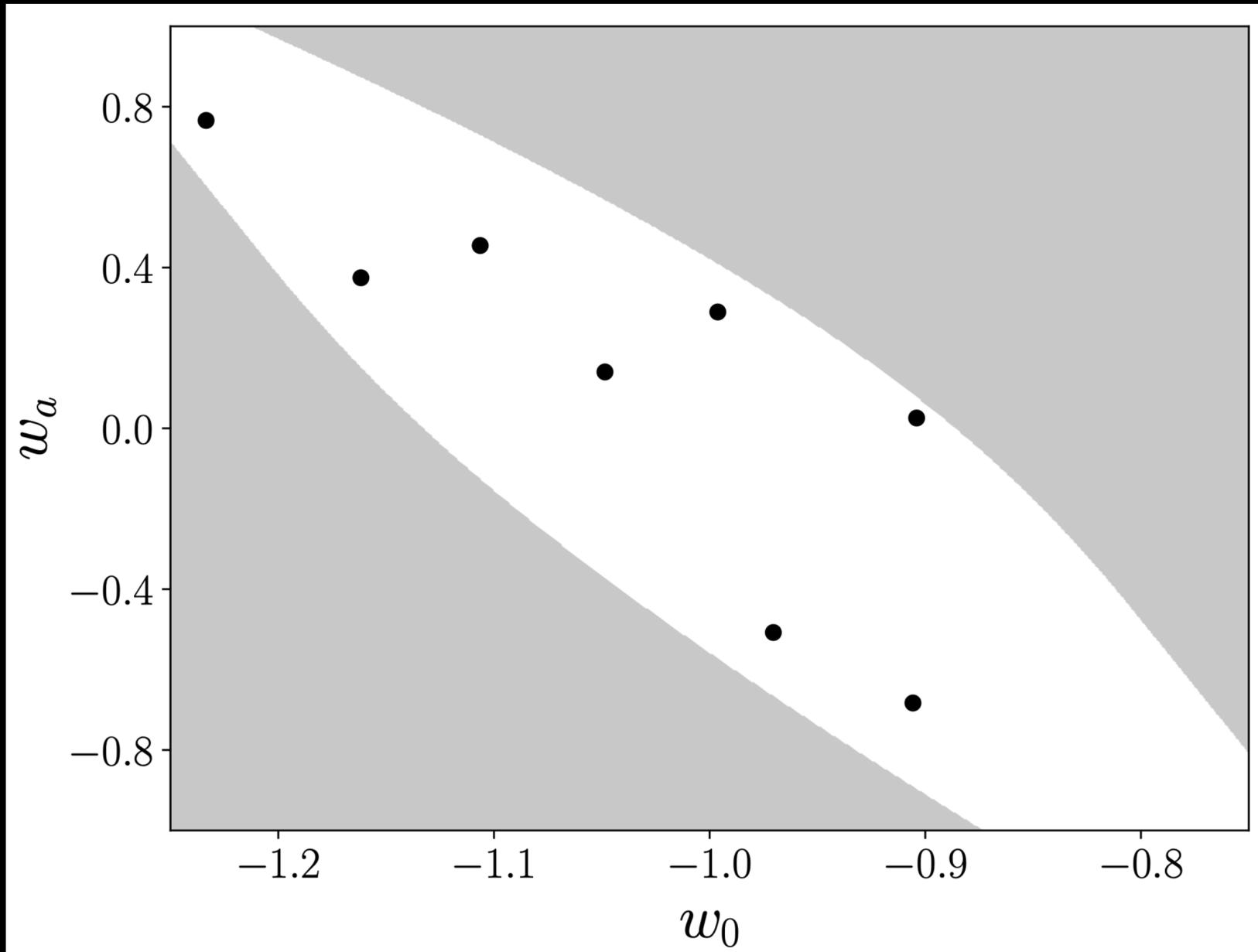


$$P(k, z) = \left( b(z) + \frac{b_{\Phi}(z)}{\alpha(k, z)} f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{loc}} \right)^2 P_{\text{lin}}(k, z)$$

$$w_{\text{blind}}(k) = \frac{b_{\Phi} f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{blind}}}{b\alpha(k)} \times \hat{\delta}^r(k)$$

Alters the measured power spectrum at large scales by including in the catalog an *additional set of **weights***, multiplied by the traditional ones.

# How is the DESI BAO analysis different?



- **Additional requirement:** shifts in the blinded cosmology to specific regions within the  $(w_0, w_a)$  parameter space
- shifts in  $f$  do not exceed 10% of the fiducial value,  $f_{\text{fid}} = 0.8$
- 3% for  $\alpha_{\perp}, \alpha_{\parallel}$  from unity

Validating the Galaxy and Quasar Catalog-Level Blinding Scheme for the DESI 2024 analysis: [U. Andrade et al \(2024\): arXiv:2404.07282](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.07282)

# DESI Y1 Results

**First batch of DESI DR1** cosmological analyses are out: <https://data.desi.lbl.gov/doc/papers/>

- DESI 2024 I: First year data release
- DESI 2024 II: DR1 catalogs
- **DESI 2024 III: BAO from Galaxies and Quasars at  $z < 2$**
- **DESI 2024 IV: BAO from Lyman- $\alpha$  Forest at  $z > 2$**
- **DESI 2024 V: Galaxies and Quasars at  $z < 2$**
- **DESI 2024 VI: Cosmological constraints from BAO measurements**
- DESI 2024 VII: Cosmological constraint from RSD measurements