

Hints for decaying dark matter from S_8 measurements

Guillermo Franco Abellán



Based on:
GFA, Murgia, Poulin, Lavalle, [arXiv:2008.09615](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.09615)

GFA, Murgia, Poulin, [arXiv:2102.12498](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.12498)

20/05/21

The S_8 tension

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

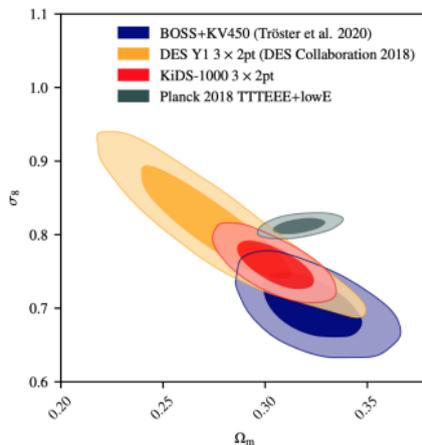
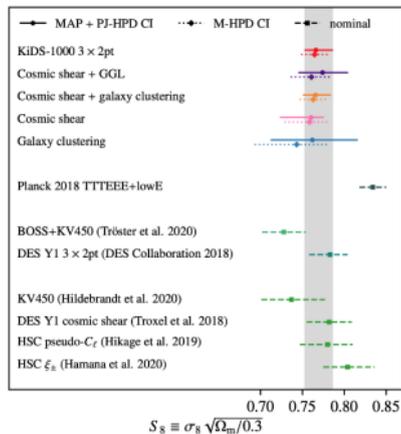
where $\sigma_8 = \int \frac{k^3}{2\pi} P_m(k) W_R^2(k) d\ln k$ at $R = 8 \text{ Mpc}/h$

The S_8 tension

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

where $\sigma_8 = \int \frac{k^3}{2\pi} P_m(k) W_R^2(k) d\ln k$ at $R = 8 \text{ Mpc}/h$

2–3 σ tension between Weak Lensing and Planck (assuming flat Λ CDM)



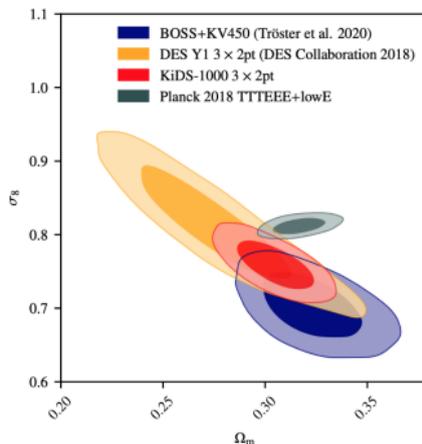
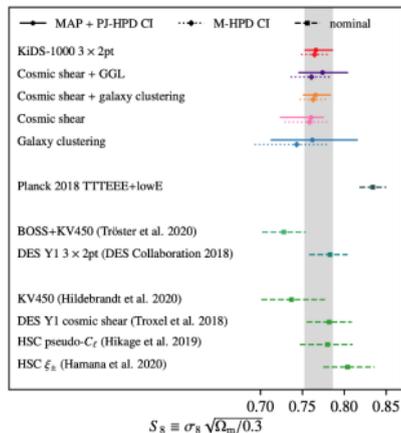
From [2008.11285](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.11285)

The S_8 tension

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

where $\sigma_8 = \int \frac{k^3}{2\pi} P_m(k) W_R^2(k) d\ln k$ at $R = 8 \text{ Mpc}/h$

2–3 σ tension between Weak Lensing and Planck (assuming flat Λ CDM)



From [2008.11285](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.11285)

BOSS+KIDS+2dfLenS analysis revealed tension is mainly **driven by σ_8**

- In Λ CDM, dark matter (DM) is assumed to be perfectly **stable**
 \implies Can we test this hypothesis?

- In Λ CDM, dark matter (DM) is assumed to be perfectly **stable**
 \implies Can we test this hypothesis?
- DM decays are well motivated theoretically:
 - ◇ Models with **R-parity violation**
 - ◇ Models with **hidden U(1)** symmetries
 - ◇ Super Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (**superWIMPs**)

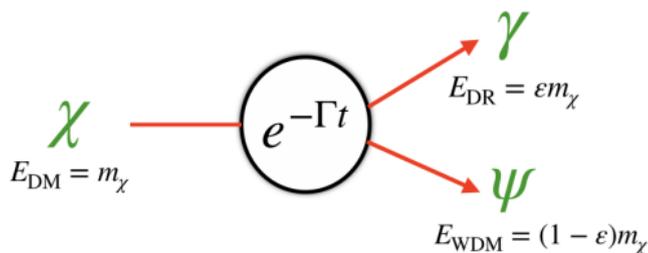
- In Λ CDM, dark matter (DM) is assumed to be perfectly **stable**
 \implies Can we test this hypothesis?
- DM decays are well motivated theoretically:
 - ◇ Models with **R-parity violation**
 - ◇ Models with **hidden U(1)** symmetries
 - ◇ Super Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (**superWIMPs**)
- Could the S_8 tension be explained by **DM decays** ?

- **Invisible** late¹ decays : Less constrained than visible decays, but more **model-independent** \implies Only gravitational impact

¹happening well after recombination

Framework of the 2-body Dark Matter decay

- **Invisible** late¹ decays : Less constrained than visible decays, but more **model-independent** \implies Only gravitational impact
- We explore DM decays to massless (**Dark Radiation**) and massive (**Warm Dark Matter**) particles, $\chi(\text{DM}) \rightarrow \gamma(\text{DR}) + \psi(\text{WDM})$



Two extra parameters:
 Γ and ϵ

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{m_\psi^2}{m_\chi^2} \right) \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2} \right]$$

¹happening well after recombination

- Effects on $P(k)$ and C_ℓ ? \rightarrow Track **linear perturbations** for the daughter particles: δ_i , θ_i and σ_i (for $i = \text{dr, wdm}$)

Evolution of perturbations: full description

- Effects on $P(k)$ and C_ℓ ? → Track **linear perturbations** for the daughter particles: δ_i , θ_i and σ_i (for $i = \text{dr, wdm}$)
- Boltzmann hierarchy of eqs. dictate the evolution of the **p.s.d. multipoles** $\delta f_\ell(q, k, \tau)$
 - ◇ **DR treatment is easy**, momentum d.o.f. are integrated out
 - ◇ **For WDM**, one needs to follow the evolution of the full p.s.d. Computationally expensive → $\mathcal{O}(10^8)$ **ODEs to solve !**

Fluid approximation for the WDM

Based on a **fluid** description for massive neutrinos ([1104.2935](#))

Fluid approximation for the WDM

Based on a **fluid** description for massive neutrinos ([1104.2935](#))

The eqs. (valid at $k\tau \gg 1$) read

$$\dot{\delta}_{\text{wdm}} = -3\mathcal{H}(c_{\text{syn}}^2 - w)\delta_{\text{wdm}} - (1 + w) \left(\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{\dot{h}}{2} \right) + a\Gamma(1 - \varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} (\delta_{\text{dm}} - \delta_{\text{wdm}})$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{wdm}} = -\mathcal{H}(1 - 3c_a^2)\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{c_{\text{syn}}^2}{1 + w} k^2 \delta_{\text{wdm}} - k^2 \sigma_{\text{wdm}} - a\Gamma(1 - \varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{1 + c_a^2}{1 + w} \theta_{\text{wdm}}$$

Fluid approximation for the WDM

Based on a **fluid** description for massive neutrinos ([1104.2935](#))

The eqs. (valid at $k\tau \gg 1$) read

$$\dot{\delta}_{\text{wdm}} = -3\mathcal{H}(c_{\text{syn}}^2 - w)\delta_{\text{wdm}} - (1+w) \left(\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{\dot{h}}{2} \right) + a\Gamma(1-\varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} (\delta_{\text{dm}} - \delta_{\text{wdm}})$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{wdm}} = -\mathcal{H}(1-3c_a^2)\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{c_{\text{syn}}^2}{1+w} k^2 \delta_{\text{wdm}} - k^2 \sigma_{\text{wdm}} - a\Gamma(1-\varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{1+c_a^2}{1+w} \theta_{\text{wdm}}$$

where

$$c_a^2(\tau) = w \left(5 - \frac{p_{\text{wdm}}}{\bar{P}_{\text{wdm}}} - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{a\Gamma}{3w\mathcal{H}} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon} \right) \left[3(1+w) - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{a\Gamma}{\mathcal{H}} (1-\varepsilon) \right]^{-1}$$

and

$$c_{\text{syn}}^2(k, \tau) = c_a^2(\tau) [1 + (1-2\varepsilon)T(k/k_{\text{fs}})]$$

Fluid approximation for the WDM

Based on a **fluid** description for massive neutrinos ([1104.2935](#))

The eqs. (valid at $k\tau \gg 1$) read

$$\dot{\delta}_{\text{wdm}} = -3\mathcal{H}(c_{\text{syn}}^2 - w)\delta_{\text{wdm}} - (1+w) \left(\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{\dot{h}}{2} \right) + a\Gamma(1-\varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} (\delta_{\text{dm}} - \delta_{\text{wdm}})$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{wdm}} = -\mathcal{H}(1 - 3c_a^2)\theta_{\text{wdm}} + \frac{c_{\text{syn}}^2}{1+w} k^2 \delta_{\text{wdm}} - k^2 \sigma_{\text{wdm}} - a\Gamma(1-\varepsilon) \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{1+c_a^2}{1+w} \theta_{\text{wdm}}$$

where

$$c_a^2(\tau) = w \left(5 - \frac{p_{\text{wdm}}}{\bar{P}_{\text{wdm}}} - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{a\Gamma}{3w\mathcal{H}} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon} \right) \left[3(1+w) - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\text{dm}}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{wdm}}} \frac{a\Gamma}{\mathcal{H}} (1-\varepsilon) \right]^{-1}$$

and

$$c_{\text{syn}}^2(k, \tau) = c_a^2(\tau) [1 + (1 - 2\varepsilon) T(k/k_{\text{fs}})]$$

Accurate at the $\mathcal{O}(0.1\%)$ level in C_ℓ , and at $\mathcal{O}(1\%)$ level in $P(k)$

CPU time reduced from ~ 1 day to ~ 1 minute!

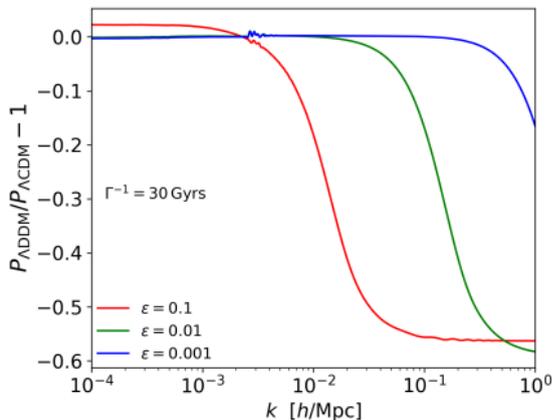
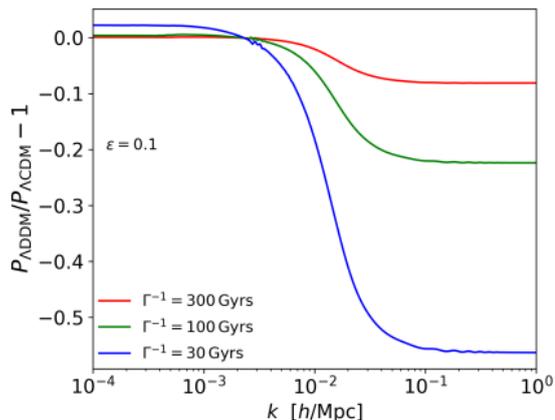
Impact on the linear matter power spectrum

The WDM daughter leads to a **power suppression** in $P_m(k)$
at small scales, $k > k_{\text{fs}}$, where $k_{\text{fs}} \sim \mathcal{H}/c_a$

Impact on the linear matter power spectrum

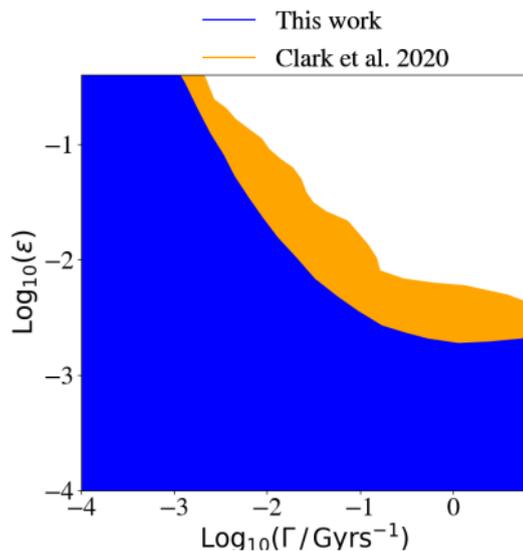
The WDM daughter leads to a **power suppression** in $P_m(k)$ at small scales, $k > k_{\text{fs}}$, where $k_{\text{fs}} \sim \mathcal{H}/c_a$

- Γ controls the **depth** of the power suppression
- ε controls the **cut-off** scale (k_{fs})



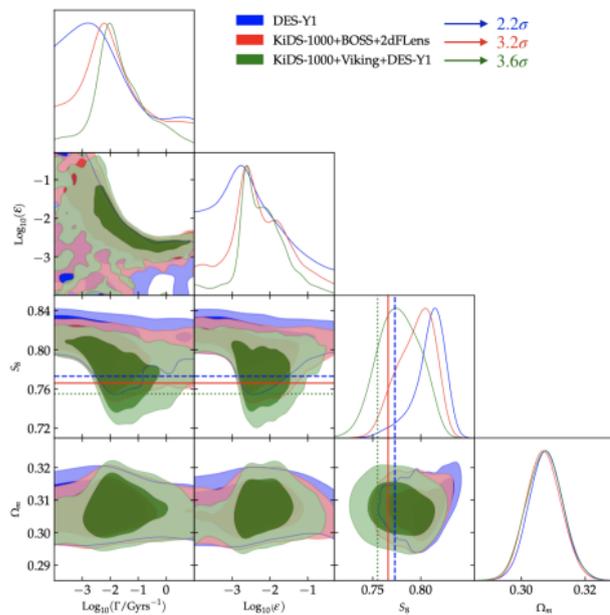
Results: General constraints

Modified version of public Boltzmann solver CLASS
Run MCMC against latest **BAO**, **SN Ia** and **Planck** data



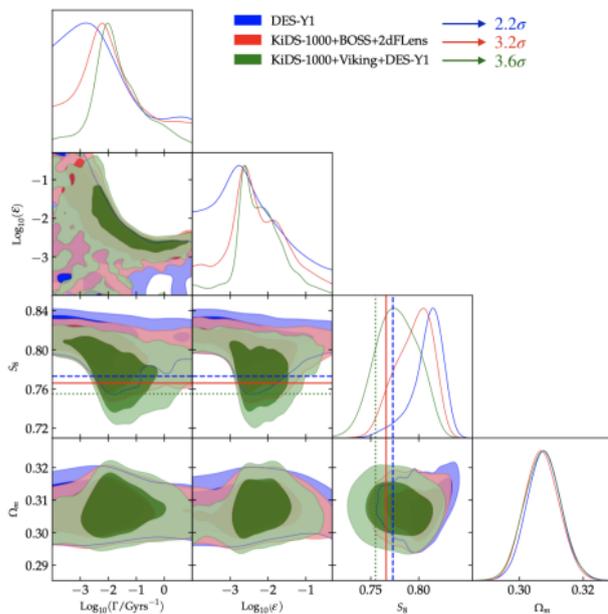
Constraints are up to **1 order of magnitude stronger** than previous literature (due to the inclusion of WDM perturbations)

Results: resolving the S_8 tension



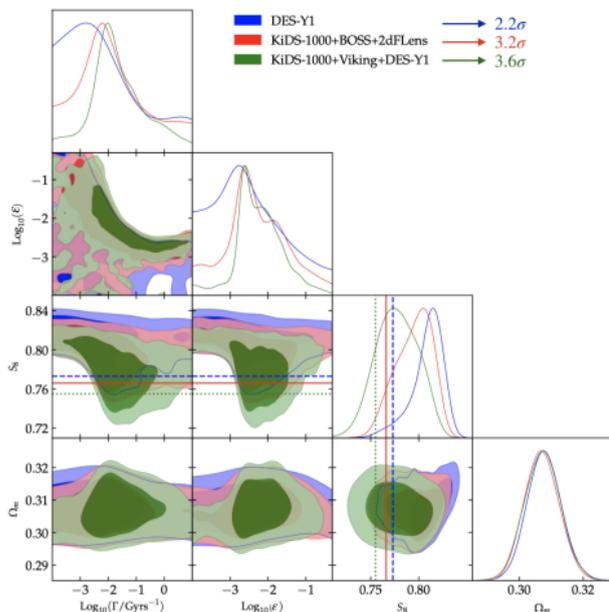
- The reconstructed S_8 values are in excellent agreement with WL data!

Results: resolving the S_8 tension



- The reconstructed S_8 values are in excellent agreement with WL data!
- Due to the $\Delta\chi^2_{\min} < 0$ the DM decay is detected at $\Gamma^{-1} \simeq 55 (\epsilon/0.007)^{1.4}$ Gyrs

Results: resolving the S_8 tension



- The reconstructed S_8 values are in excellent agreement with WL data!
- Due to the $\Delta\chi_{\min}^2 < 0$ the DM decay is detected at $\Gamma^{-1} \simeq 55 (\epsilon/0.007)^{1.4}$ Gyrs
- The level of detection depends on the level of tension with Λ CDM

N.B.: Simpler solutions, like **massive neutrinos**, *don't work*. The 2-body decay gives a *better fit* due to the **time-dependence of the suppression**

Interesting implications

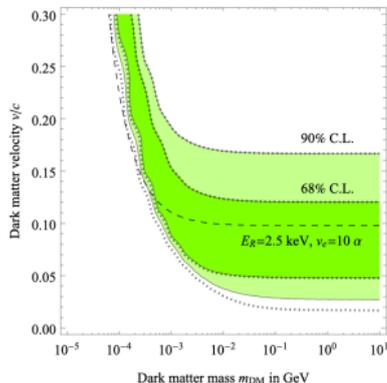
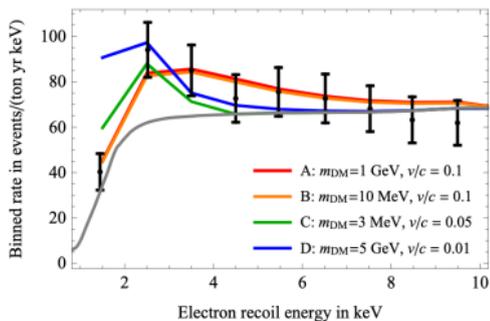
- **Model building:** Why $\varepsilon \ll 1/2$, i.e., $m_{\text{wdm}} \sim m_{\text{dm}}$?
 \implies Supergravity ([2104.02958](#))

Interesting implications

- **Model building:** Why $\varepsilon \ll 1/2$, i.e., $m_{\text{wdm}} \sim m_{\text{dm}}$?
 \implies Supergravity ([2104.02958](#))
- **Small-scale crisis of Λ CDM:** Reduction in the abundance of subhalos and their concentrations ([1309.7354](#), [1406.0527](#))

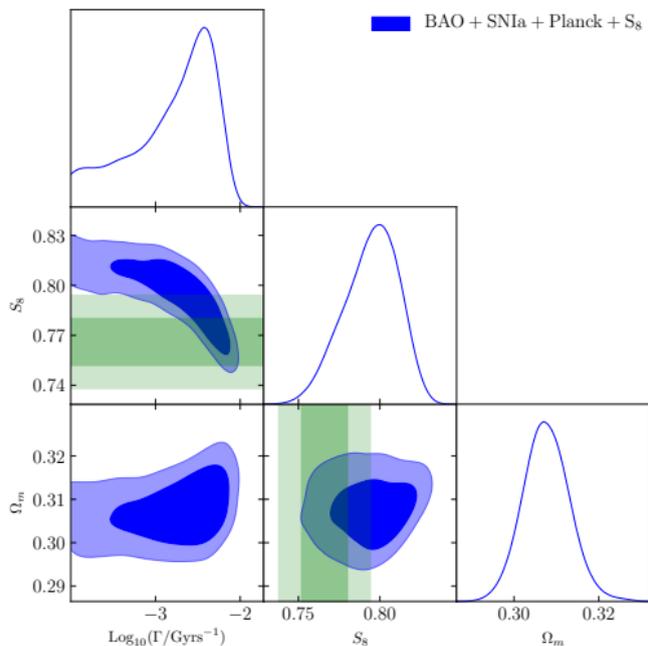
Interesting implications

- **Model building:** Why $\varepsilon \ll 1/2$, i.e., $m_{\text{wDM}} \sim m_{\text{dm}}?$
 \implies Supergravity ([2104.02958](#))
- **Small-scale crisis of Λ CDM:** Reduction in the abundance of subhalos and their concentrations ([1309.7354](#), [1406.0527](#))
- **Xenon-1T excess:** It could be explained by a fast DM component, such as the WDM, with $v/c \simeq \varepsilon$ ([2006.10735](#))



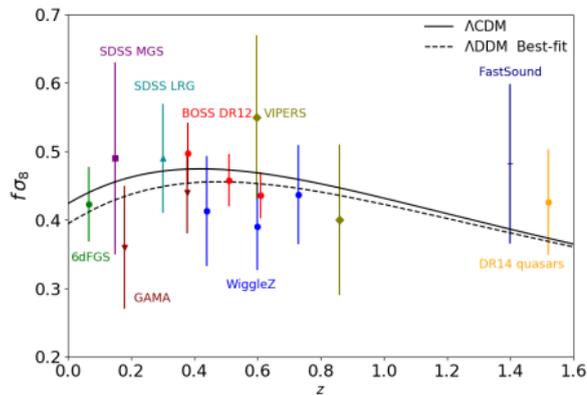
Results: common explanation of the Xenon-1T and S_8 anomalies

Redo the **BAO+SNIa+Planck+S₈** analysis, but fixing $\epsilon = 0.05$ as a proxy for the Xenon-1T detection

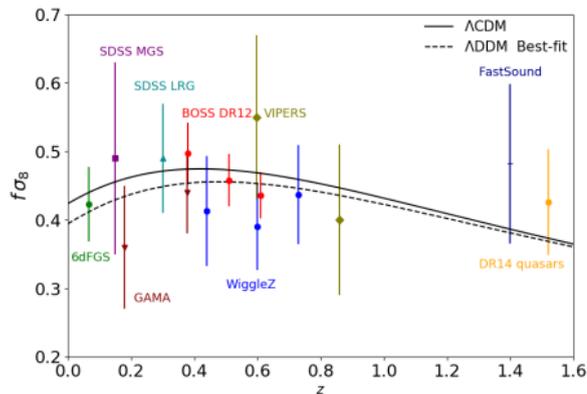


The S_8 tension can still be resolved if DM decays with $\Gamma^{-1} \simeq 275$ Gyrs !

Prospects



Accurate measurements of $f\sigma_8$ at $0 \lesssim z \lesssim 1$ will further test the 2-body decay



Accurate measurements of $f\sigma_8$ at $0 \lesssim z \lesssim 1$ will further test the 2-body decay

- Predict **non-linear matter spectrum** (using either N-body simulations or EFT of LSS)
- Investigate further decaying models that could explain the Xenon-1T excess and survive cosmic constraints

- First thorough cosmological analysis of the 2-body DM decay scenario and **strongest model-independent** constraints up to date
- It can **resolve the S_8 tension** (as opposed to massive neutrinos) but the level of detection depends on the chosen S_8 data
- It could have interesting implications for model building, the small-scale crisis, and the recent **Xenon-1T excess**
- **Future growth factor** measurements can further test this scenario

- First thorough cosmological analysis of the 2-body DM decay scenario and **strongest model-independent** constraints up to date
- It can **resolve the S_8 tension** (as opposed to massive neutrinos) but the level of detection depends on the chosen S_8 data
- It could have interesting implications for model building, the small-scale crisis, and the recent **Xenon-1T excess**
- **Future growth factor** measurements can further test this scenario

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Bonus I: The full Boltzmann hierarchy

$$f(q, k, \mu, \tau) = \bar{f}(q, \tau) + \delta f(q, k, \mu, \tau)$$

Expand δf in multipoles. The Boltzmann eq. leads to the following **hierarchy** (in *synchronous* gauge comoving with the mother)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\delta f_0) &= -\frac{\mathbf{q}k}{\mathcal{E}} \delta f_1 + q \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial q} \frac{\dot{h}}{6} + a \frac{\Gamma \bar{N}_{\text{dm}}(\tau)}{4\pi q^3 \mathcal{H}} \delta(\tau - \tau_q) \delta_{\text{dm}}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\delta f_1) &= \frac{\mathbf{q}k}{3\mathcal{E}} [\delta f_0 - 2\delta f_2], \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\delta f_2) &= \frac{\mathbf{q}k}{5\mathcal{E}} [2\delta f_1 - 3\delta f_3] - q \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial q} \frac{(\dot{h} + 6\dot{\eta})}{15}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\delta f_\ell) &= \frac{\mathbf{q}k}{(2\ell + 1)\mathcal{E}} [\ell \delta f_{\ell-1} - (\ell + 1) \delta f_{\ell+1}] \quad (\text{for } \ell \geq 3).\end{aligned}$$

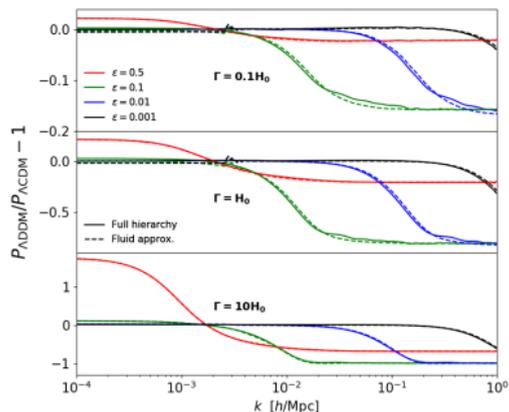
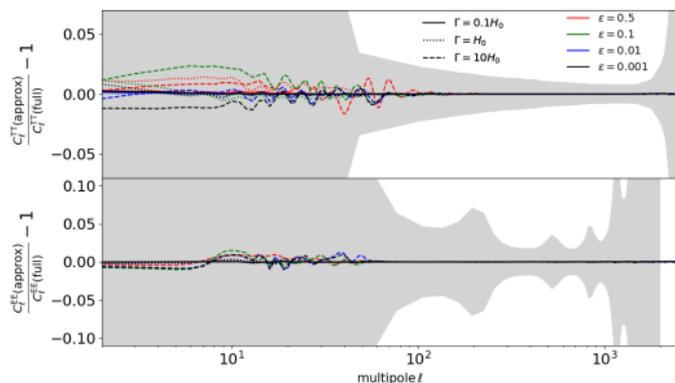
where $q = a(\tau_q) p_{\text{max}}$. In the relat. limit $\mathbf{q}/\mathcal{E} = 1$, so we can take

$F_\ell \equiv \frac{4\pi}{\rho_c} \int dq q^3 \delta f_\ell$ and **integrate out the dependency on q**

Bonus II: Checking the accuracy of the WDM fluid approximation

We compare two configurations

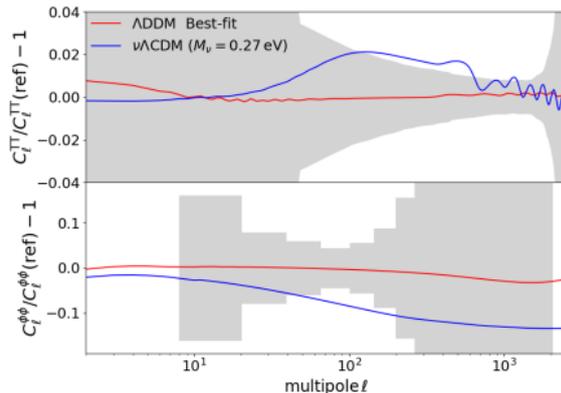
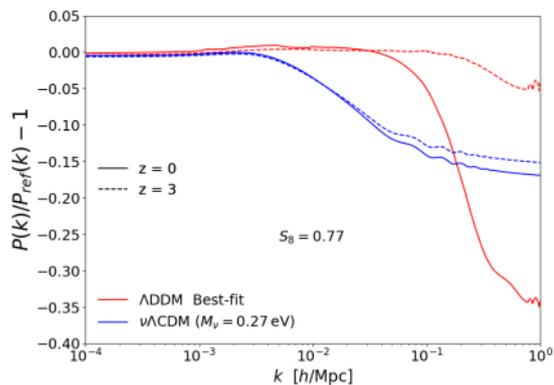
- **Full:** Solve Boltzmann hierarchy with $N_q = 10^4$
- **Approx:** Solve Boltzmann hierarchy with $N_q = 300$ and switch-on fluid eqs. at $k\tau > 25$



The residual error on S_8 is $\sim 0.65\%$, smaller than the $\sim 1.8\%$ error of the measurement from BOSS+KIDS+2dfLenS

Bonus III: Comparison with massive neutrinos

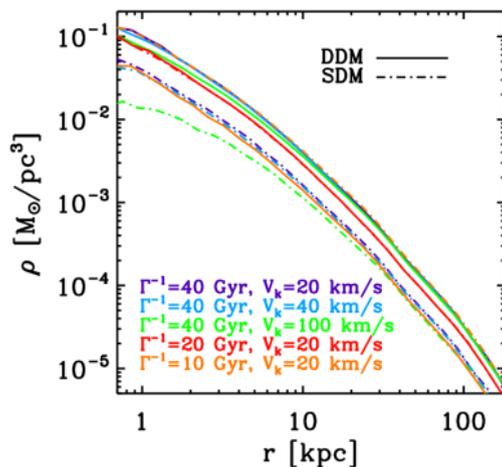
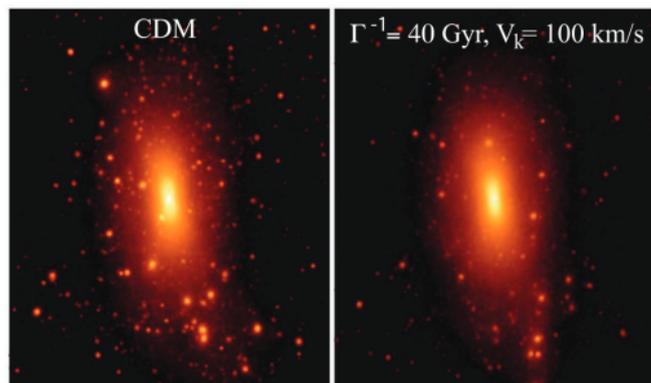
- The WDM leads to the same $S_8 \simeq 0.77$ value as massive neutrinos with $M_\nu = 0.27 \text{ eV}^2$ (ruled out by CMB)
- The 2-body decay gives a better fit thanks to the **time-dependence of the power suppression** and the cut-off scale



²And a smaller ω_{cdm} , to keep Ω_{m} fixed.

Bonus IV: Implications for small-scale crisis

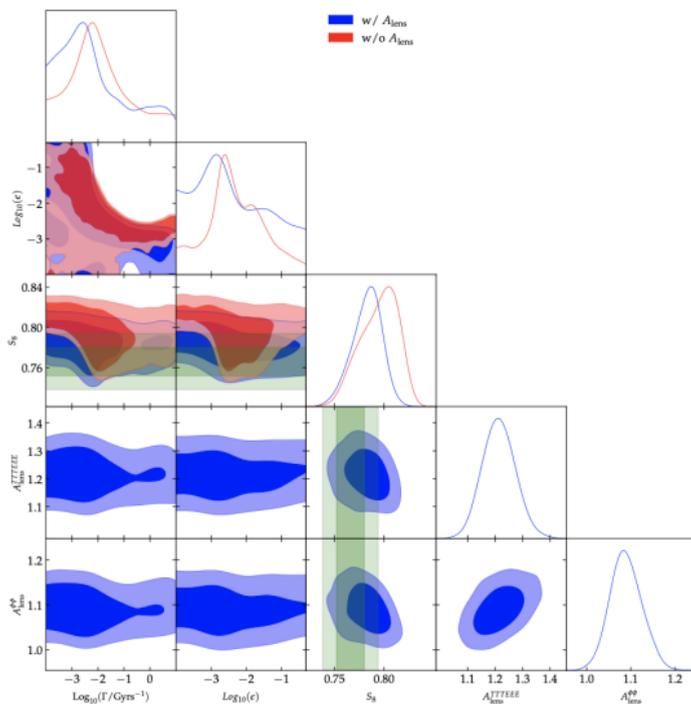
Results of N-body simulations from [1406.0527](#)



Recoil kick velocity received by WDM given by $V_k \sim \epsilon c$

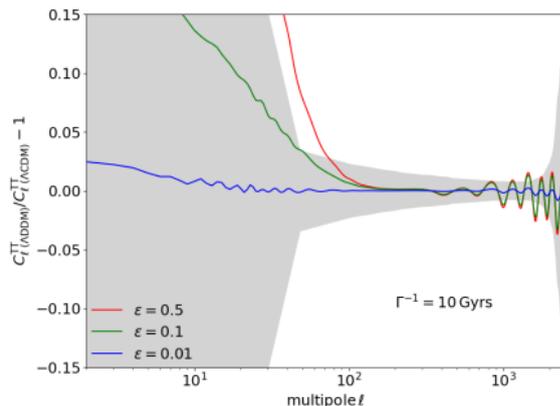
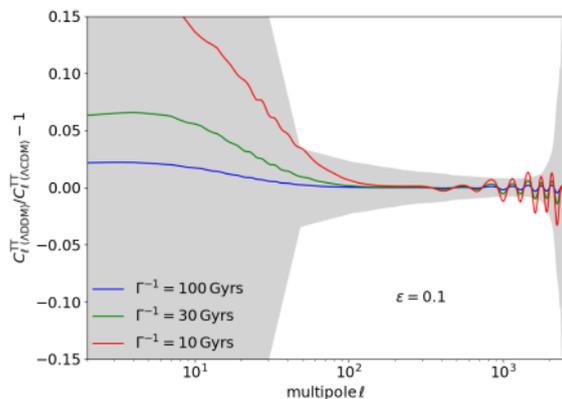
Bonus V: Relation to the A_{lens} anomaly

Redo the **BAO+SN Ia+Planck+S₈** analysis,
but *marginalising over lensing information* ($A_{\text{lens}}^{\phi\phi}$ and $A_{\text{lens}}^{\text{TTTEEE}}$)



Bonus VI: Impact on the CMB temperature anisotropy spectrum

Low- l : **enhanced** Late Integrated Sachs-Wolfe (**LISW**) effect
High- l : **suppressed** lensing (higher contrast between peaks)



Similar signatures for large Γ and small ϵ or vice-versa