

Foreground Mismodeling and the Point Source Explanation of the *Fermi* Galactic Center Excess



Siddharth Mishra-Sharma

Based on:

L.J. Chang, SM, M. Lisanti, M. Buschmann, N.L. Rodd, B.R. Safdi [[1908.10874](#)]

M. Buschmann, N.L. Rodd, B.R. Safdi, L. Chang, SM, M. Lisanti, O. Macias [[2002.12373](#)]



NYU

Center for Cosmology
and Particle Physics

CERN-TH BSM Forum

April 2, 2020

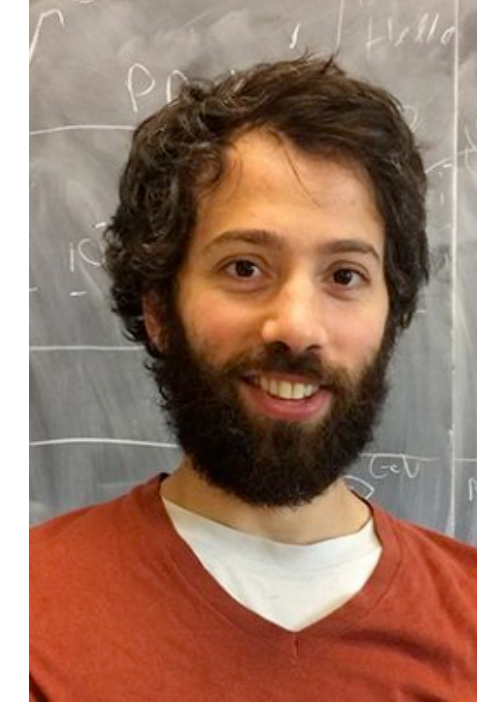
People



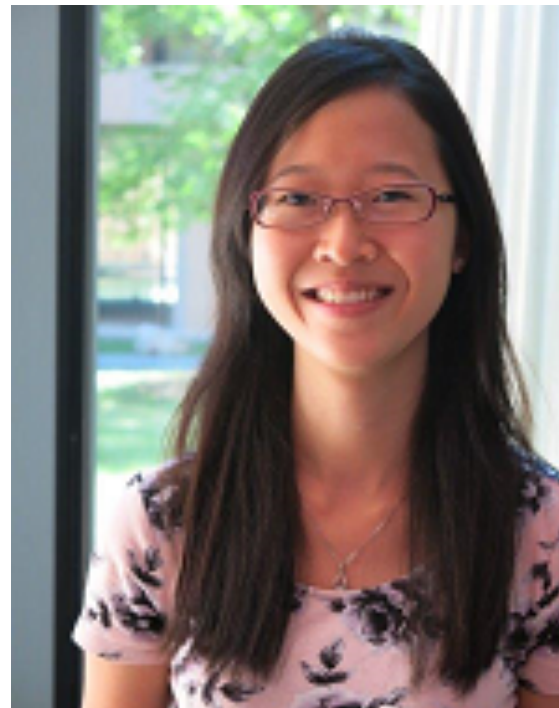
Malte Buschmann
(Michigan)



Nick Rodd
(Berkeley/LBNL)



Ben Safdi
(Michigan)



Laura Chang
(Princeton)



Mariangela Lisanti
(Princeton)



Oscar Macias
(Amsterdam/Kavli IPMU)

People

#ad



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Ben Safdi
(Michigan)

LHC Results Forum Talk Schedule

<https://sites.google.com/site/lhcreresultsforumtalks/>

You can sign up to the LHC Results Forum mailing list by clicking [here](#).

Spring 2020

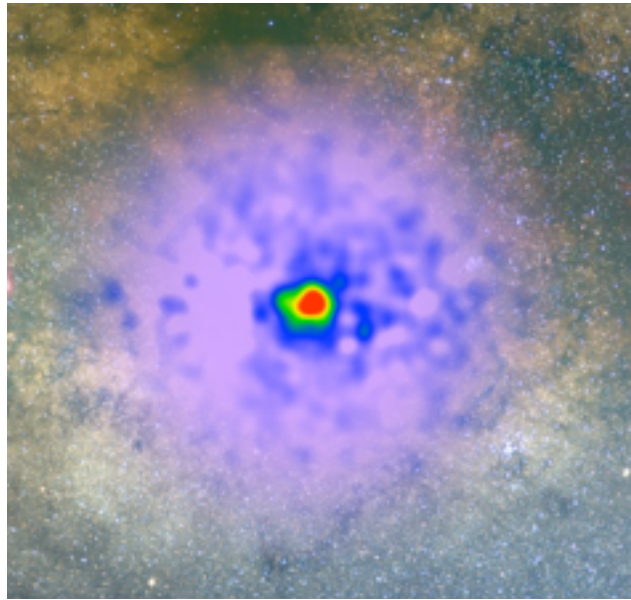
Speaker	Title	Date	Stream	Slides
Raphael Flauger	On H0	2/28/2020 @4pmET	stream	slides
Yoni Kahn	Converging Excesses in Low-Threshold Direct Detection Experiments	3/13/2020 @4pmET	stream	slides
Nick Rodd	Update on Galactic Center Excess	4/3/2020 @4pmET	stream	slides

Laura Chang
(Princeton)

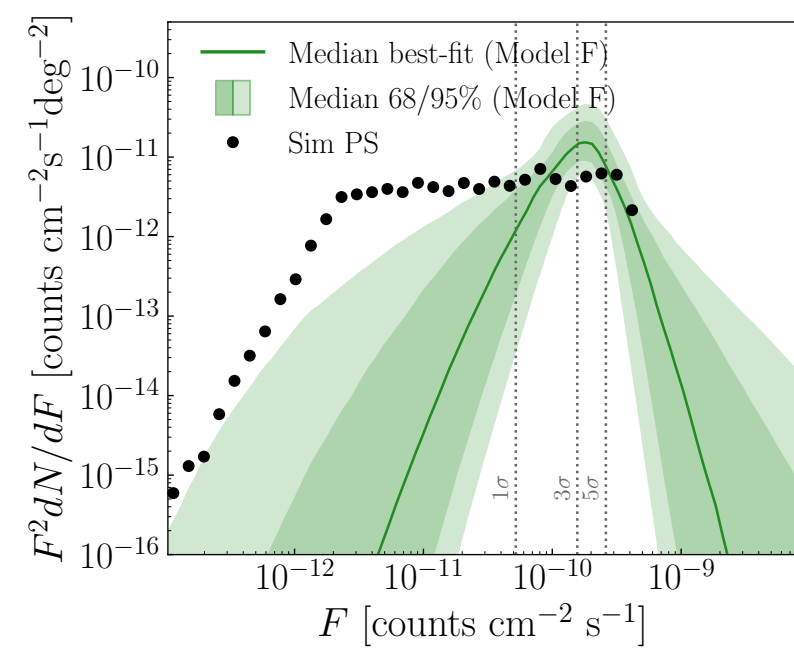
Maria Angela Limóni
(Princeton)

Stefano Profumo
(Amsterdam/Kavli IPMU)

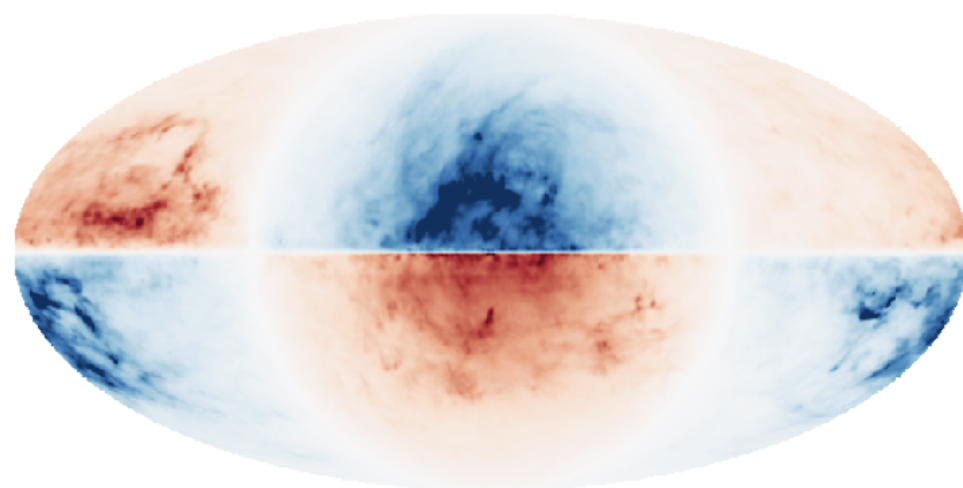
Outline



Galactic Center Excess: Background and Methods

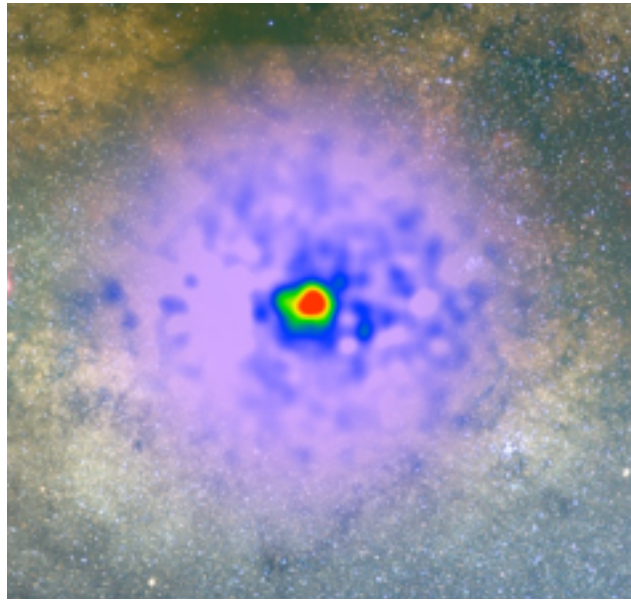


Diffuse mismodeling and lessons from simulation

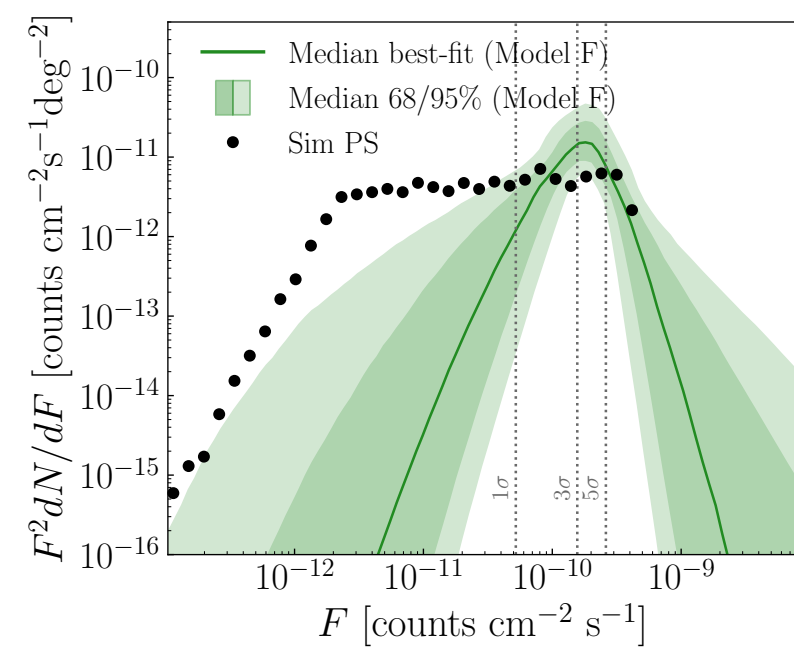


Towards mitigating diffuse mismodeling

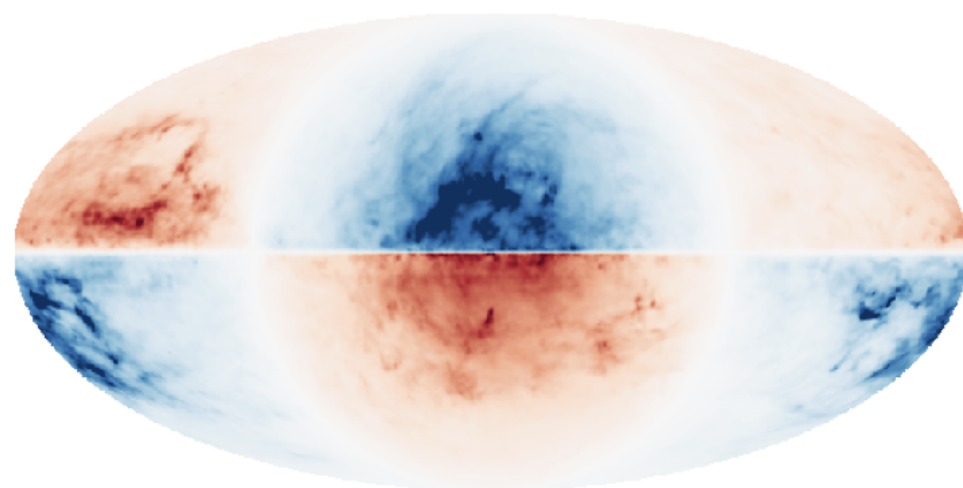
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Galactic Center Excess: Background and Methods



Diffuse mismodeling and lessons from simulation

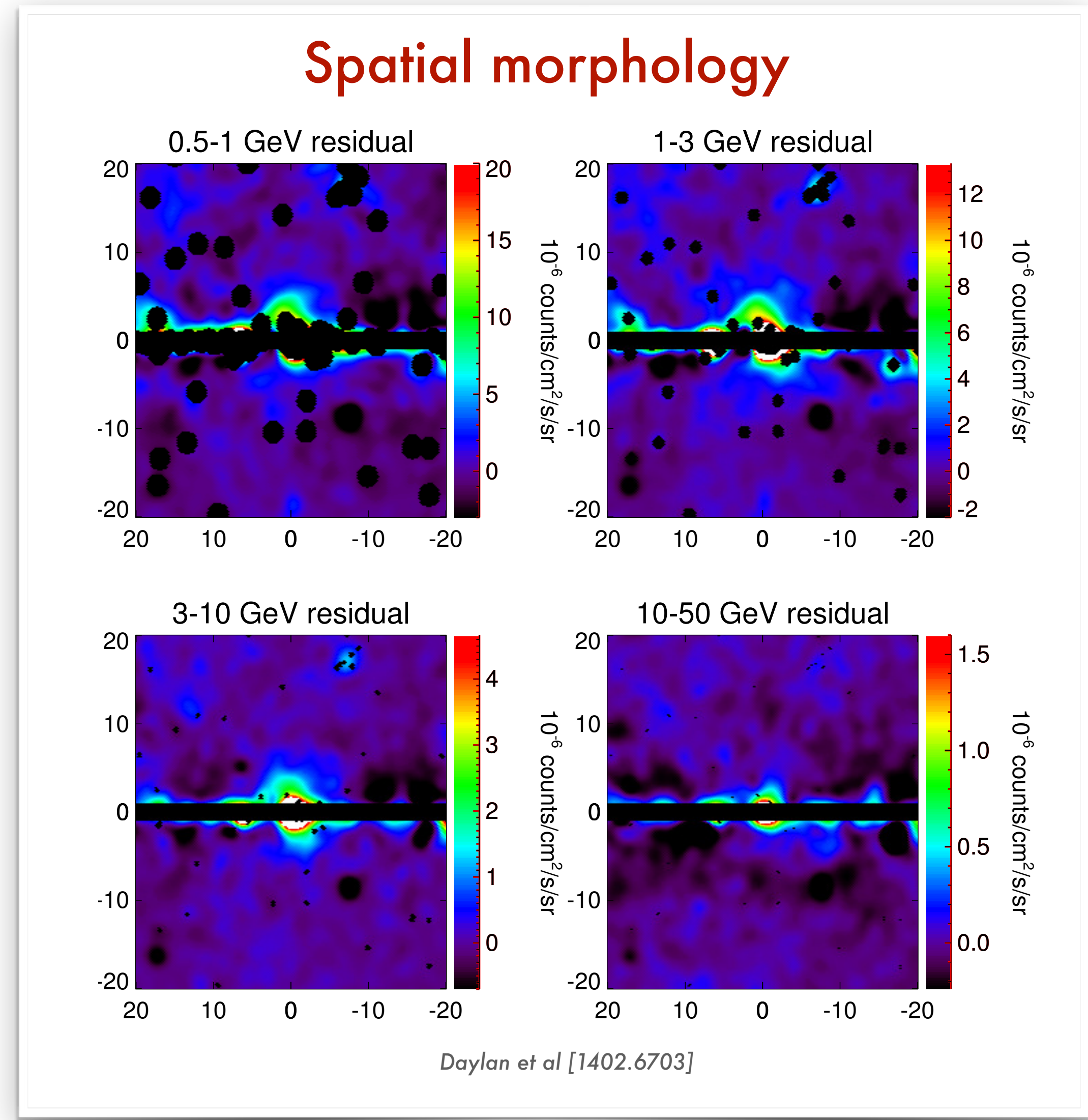
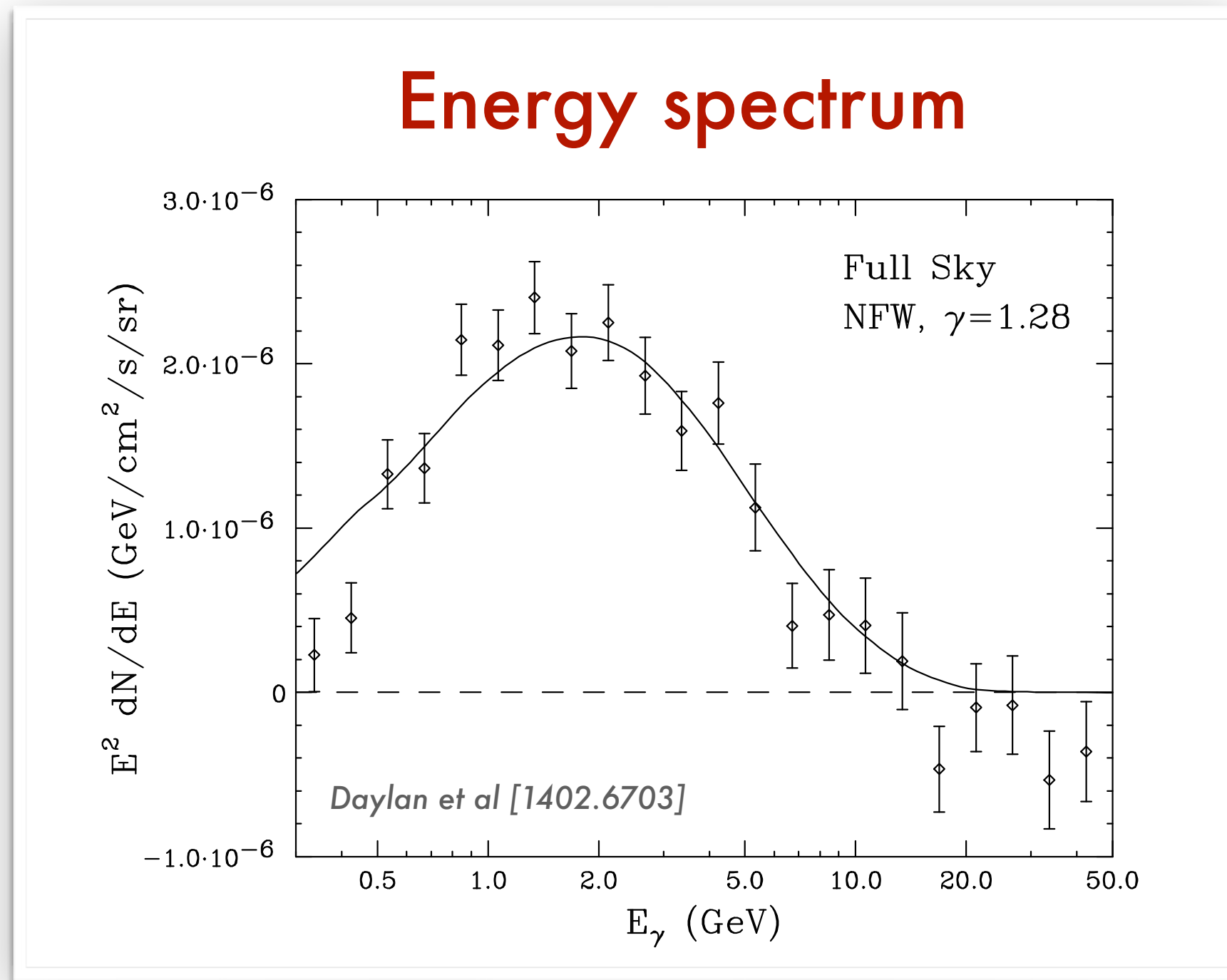


Towards mitigating diffuse mismodeling

The Galactic Center GeV Photon Excess

Some facts:

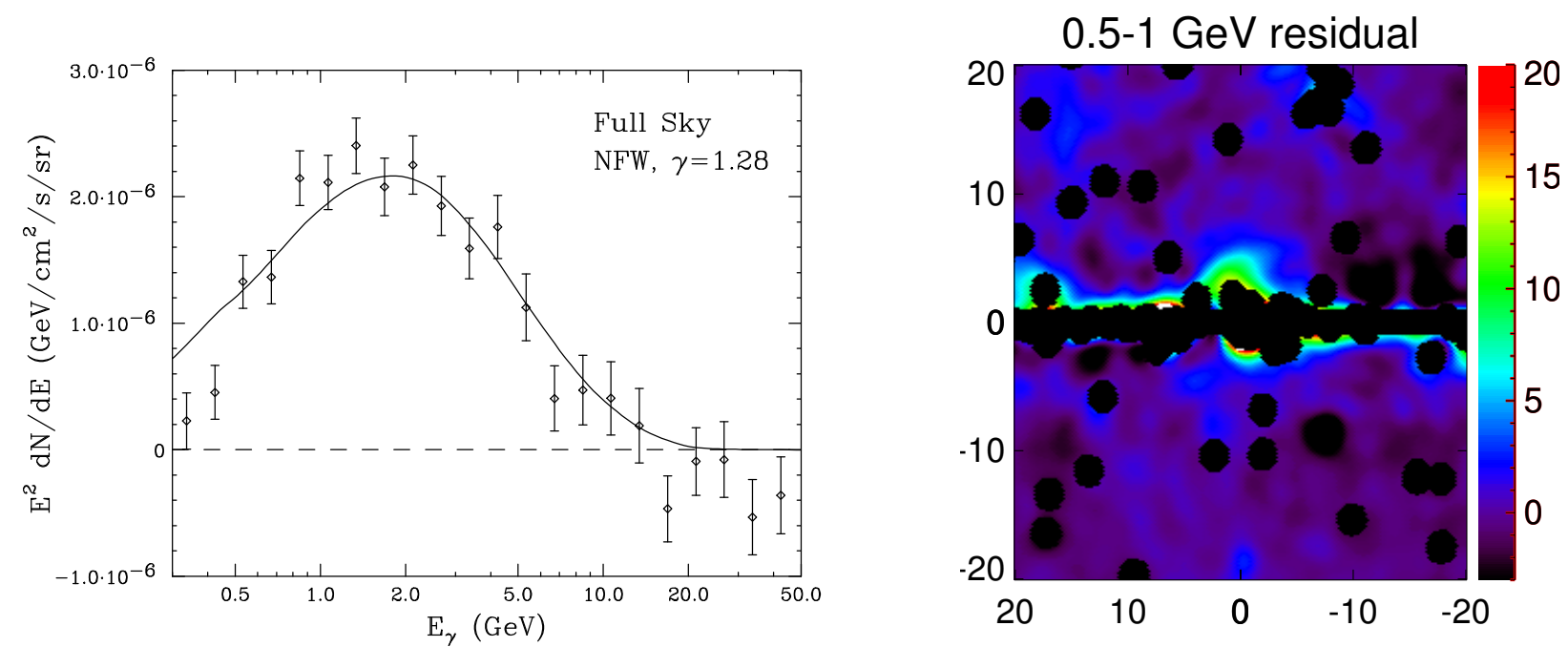
- \sim Spherically symmetric gamma-ray excess in the Inner Galaxy
- Extends out 10° from the center of Galaxy
- Constitutes $\sim 10\%$ total flux



Origin of the GCE

Dark Matter

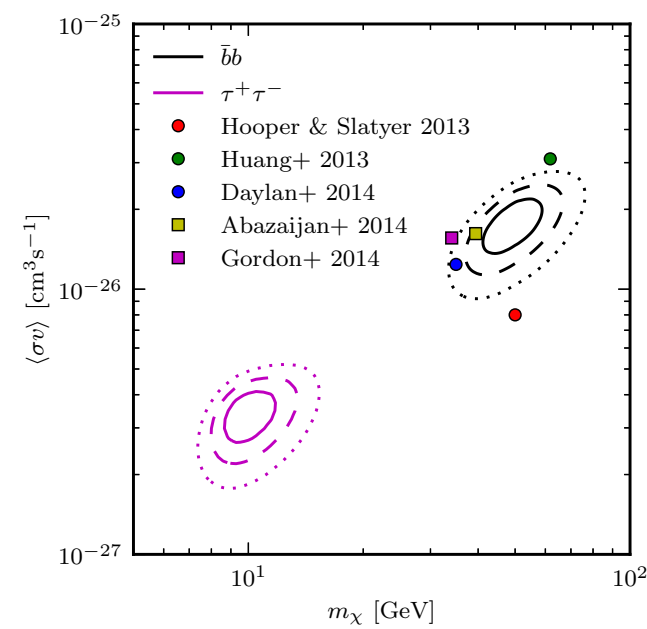
Spectrum and spatial morphology consistent with DM



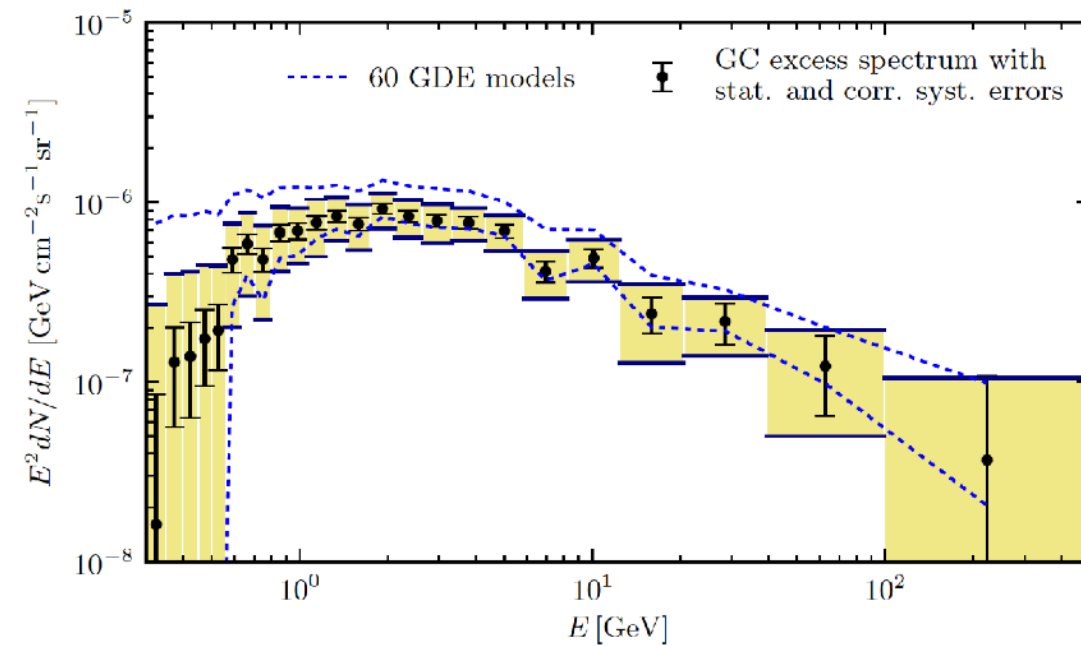
Daylan et al [1402.6703]

Consistent with thermal cross sections

Robust to variation of Galactic diffuse emission



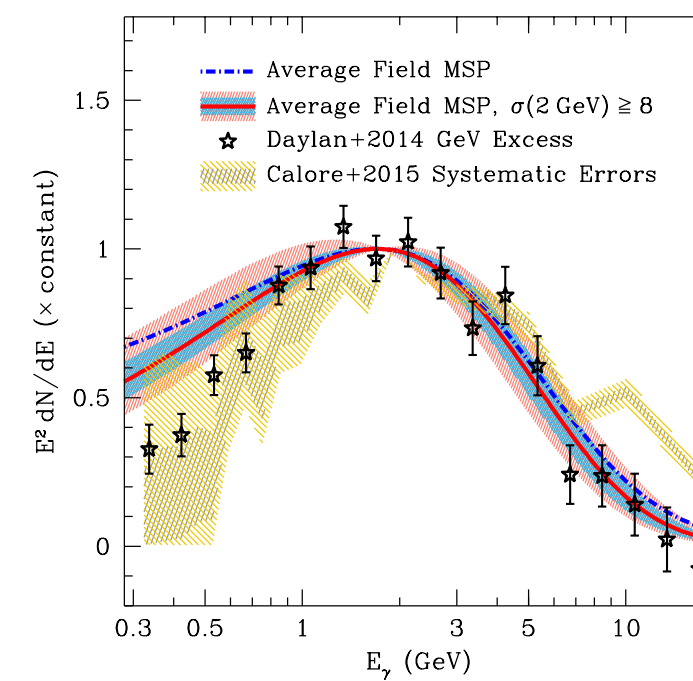
Calore et al [1409.0042]



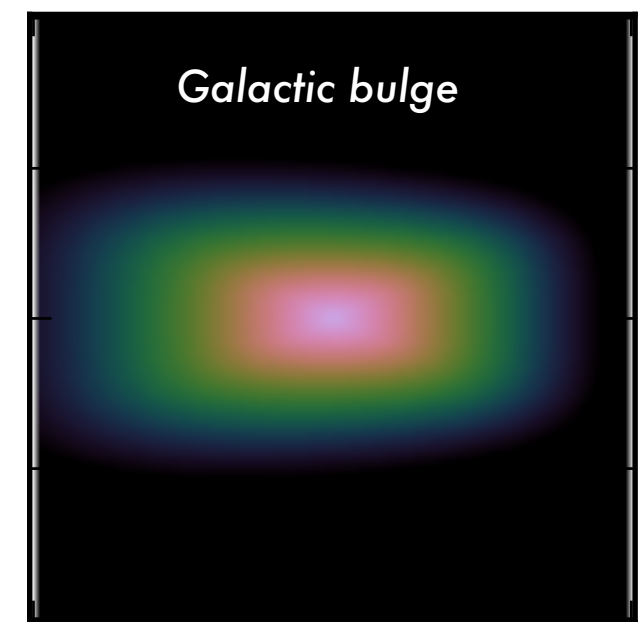
Astrophysics

Spectrum roughly consistent with MSP expectation

Spatial morphology consistent with stellar distribution



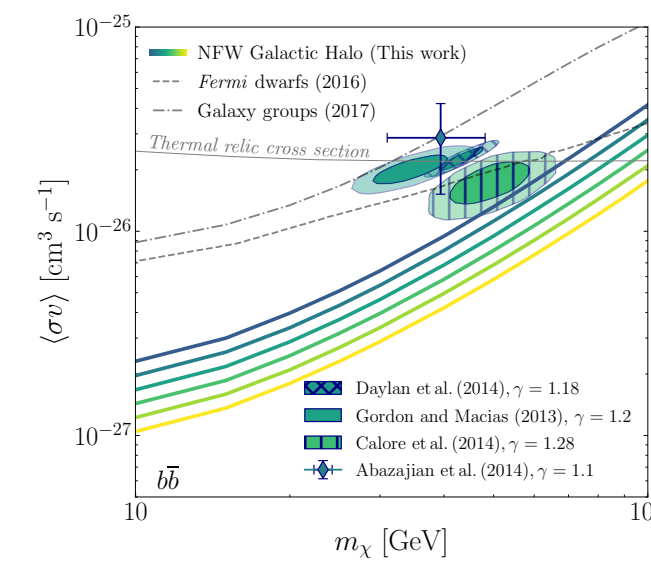
Brandt & Kocsis [1507.05616]



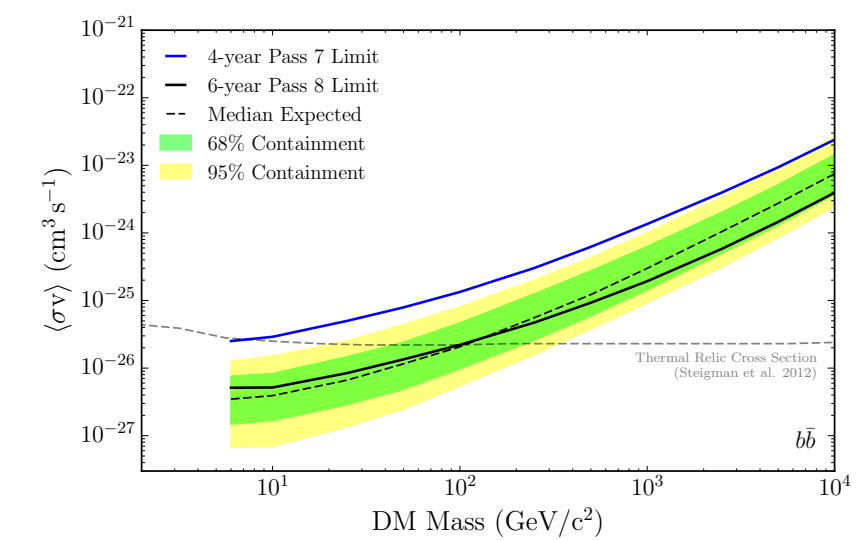
Bartels et al [1711.04778]

+ Macias et al [1611.06644]
Macias et al [1901.03822]

Not seen in other targets

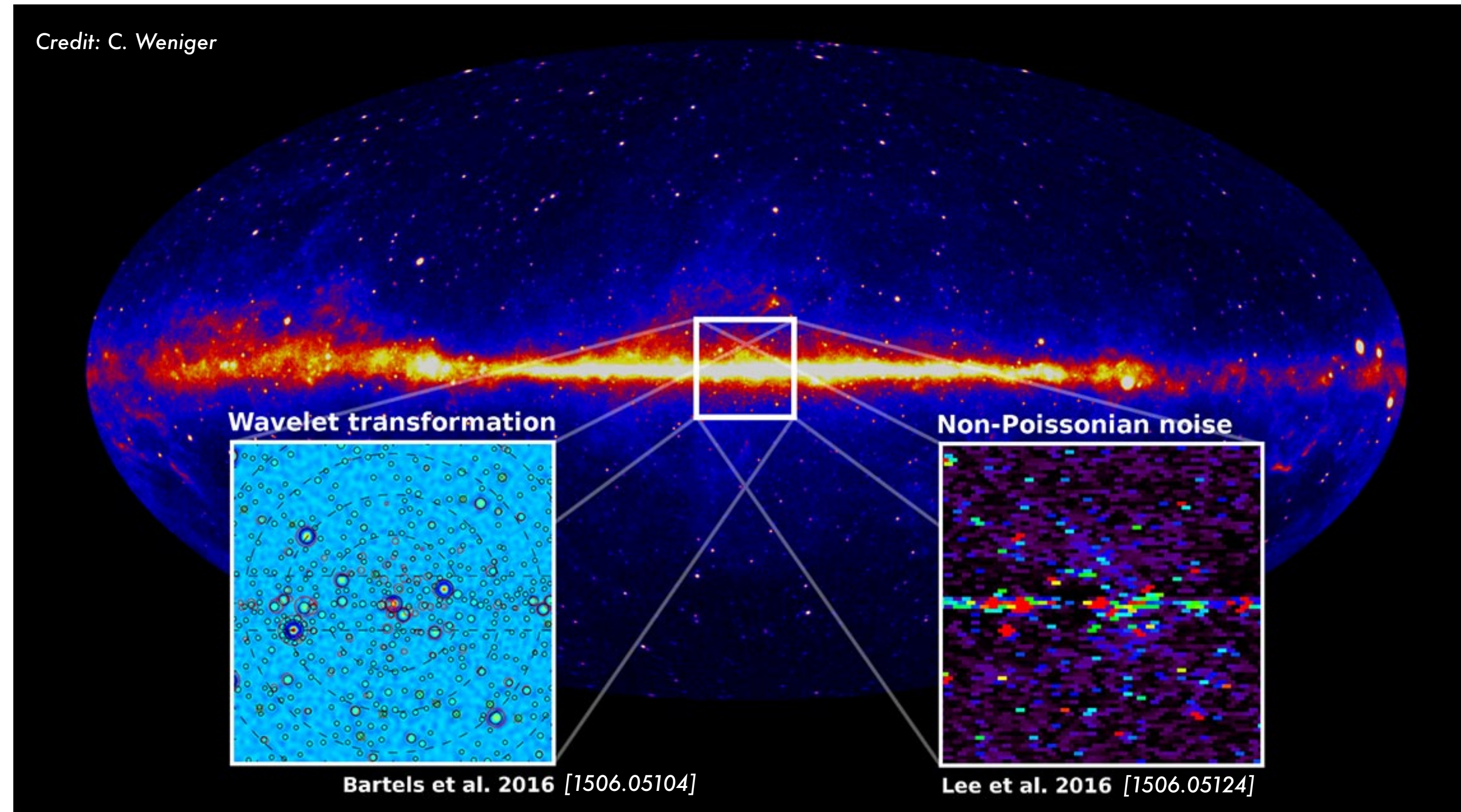


Chang, SM, Lisanti [1804.04132]

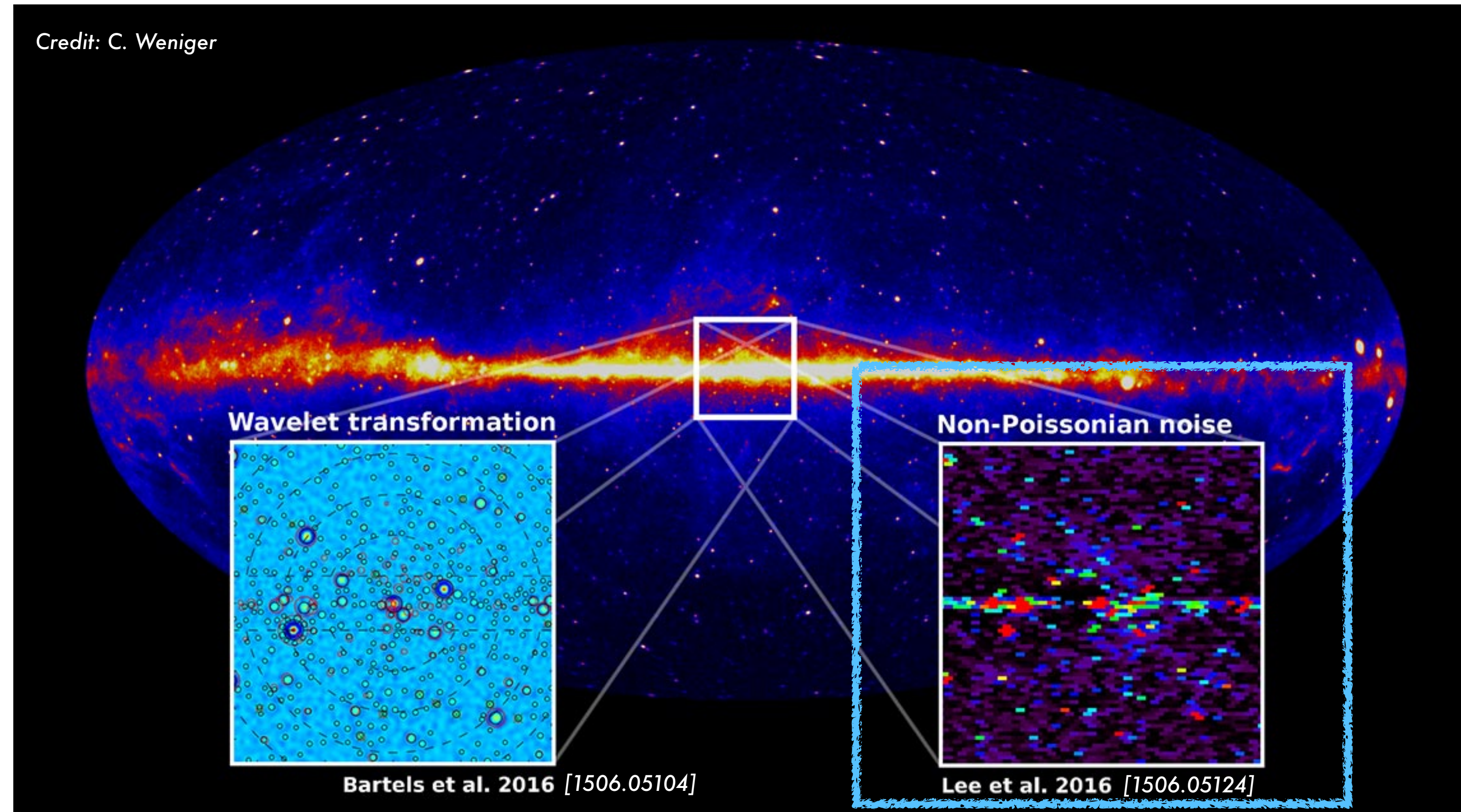


Fermi-LAT Collaboration [1503.02641]

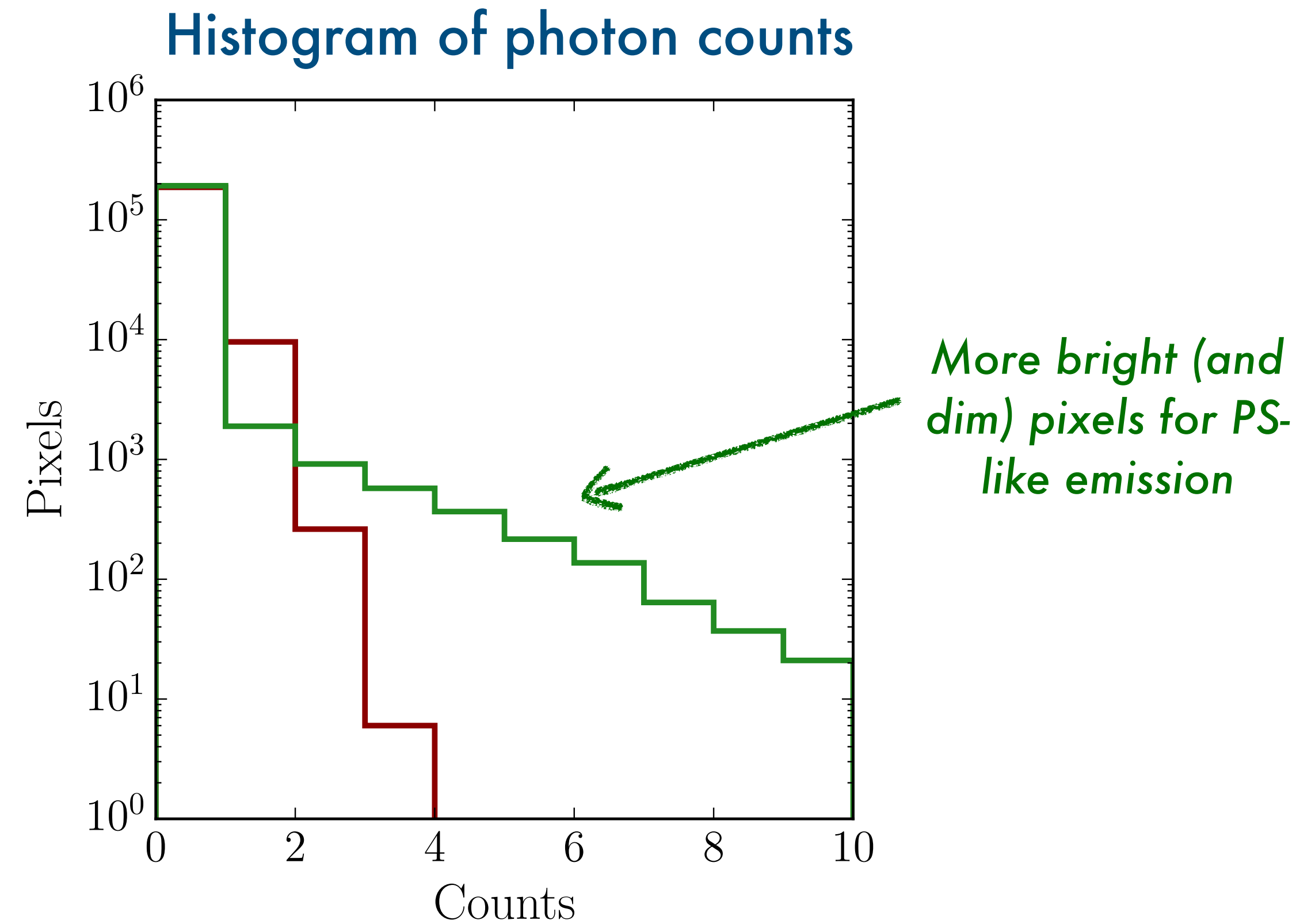
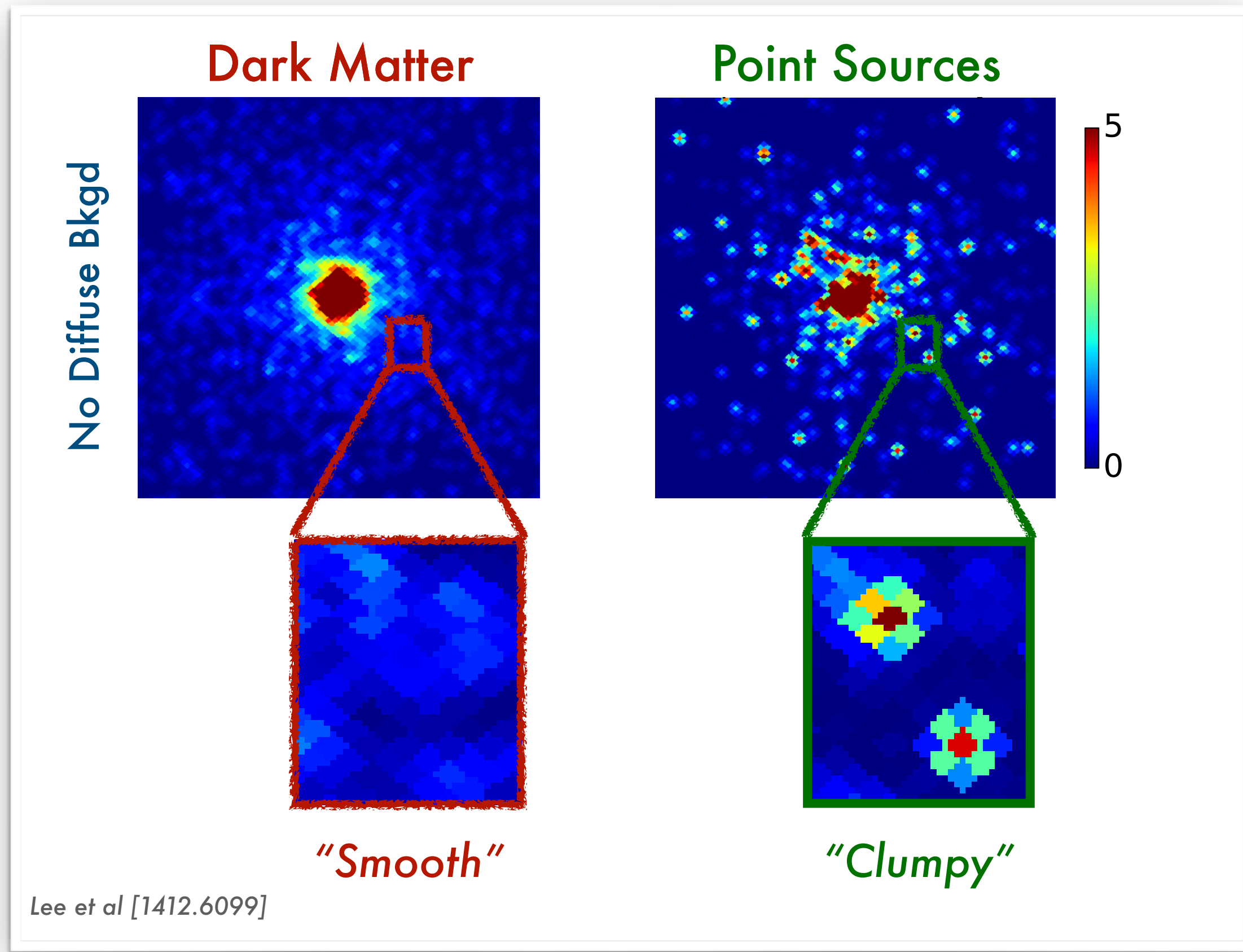
The Status c. 2015: Evidence for Unresolved PSs



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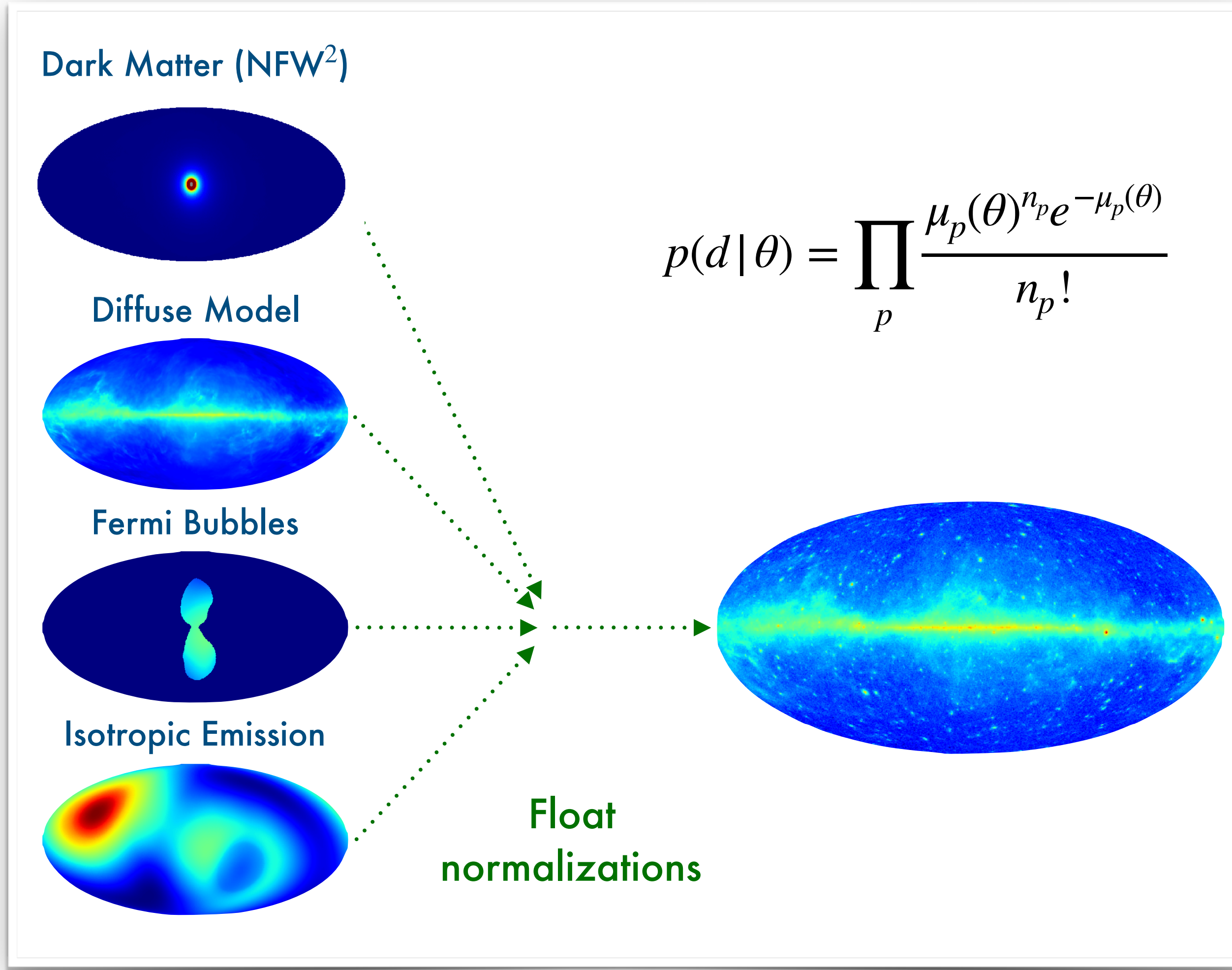
Distinguishing PS from DM with photon statistics



Malyshev & Hogg [1104.0010]

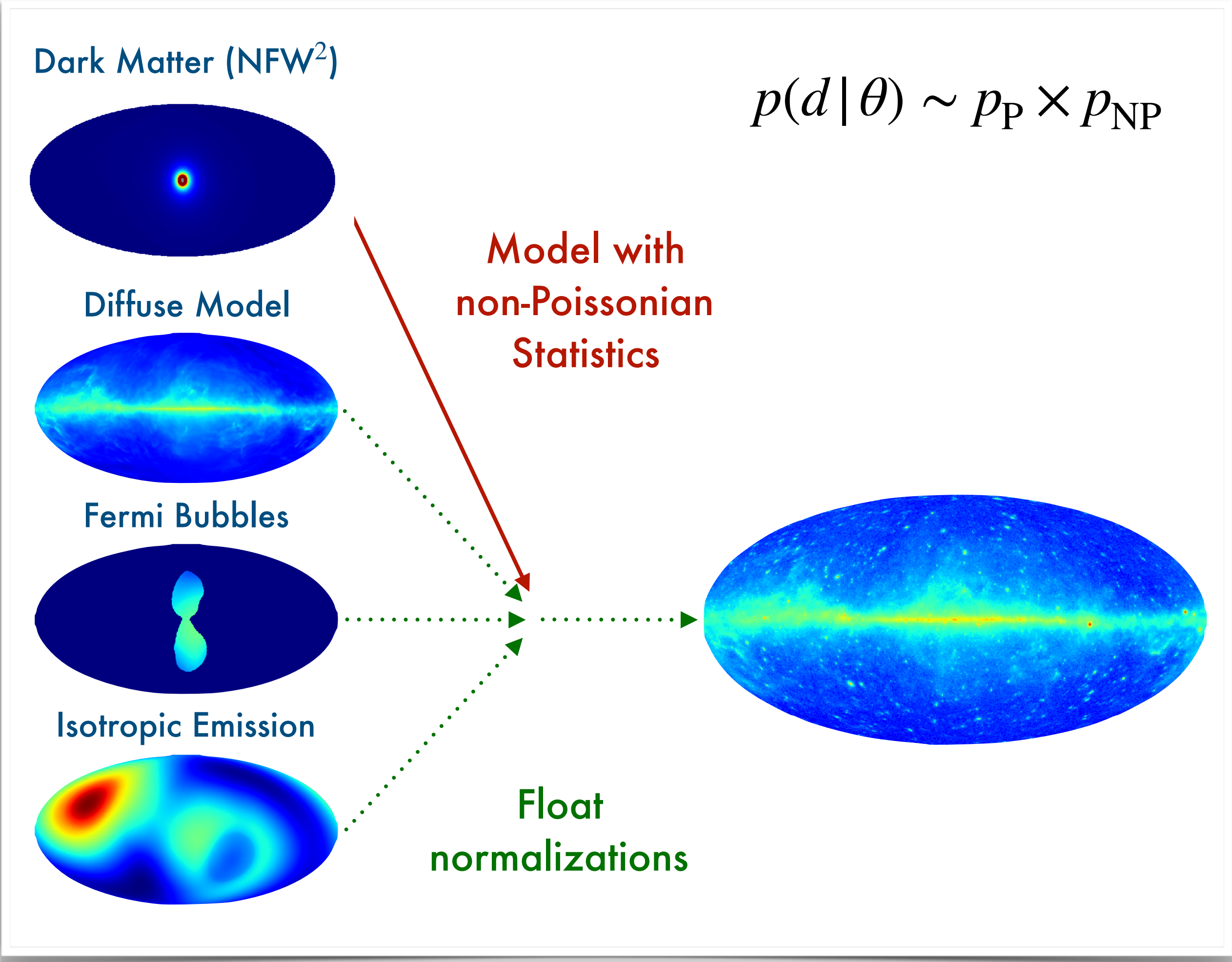
Lee et al [1506.05124]

Poissonian Template Fitting

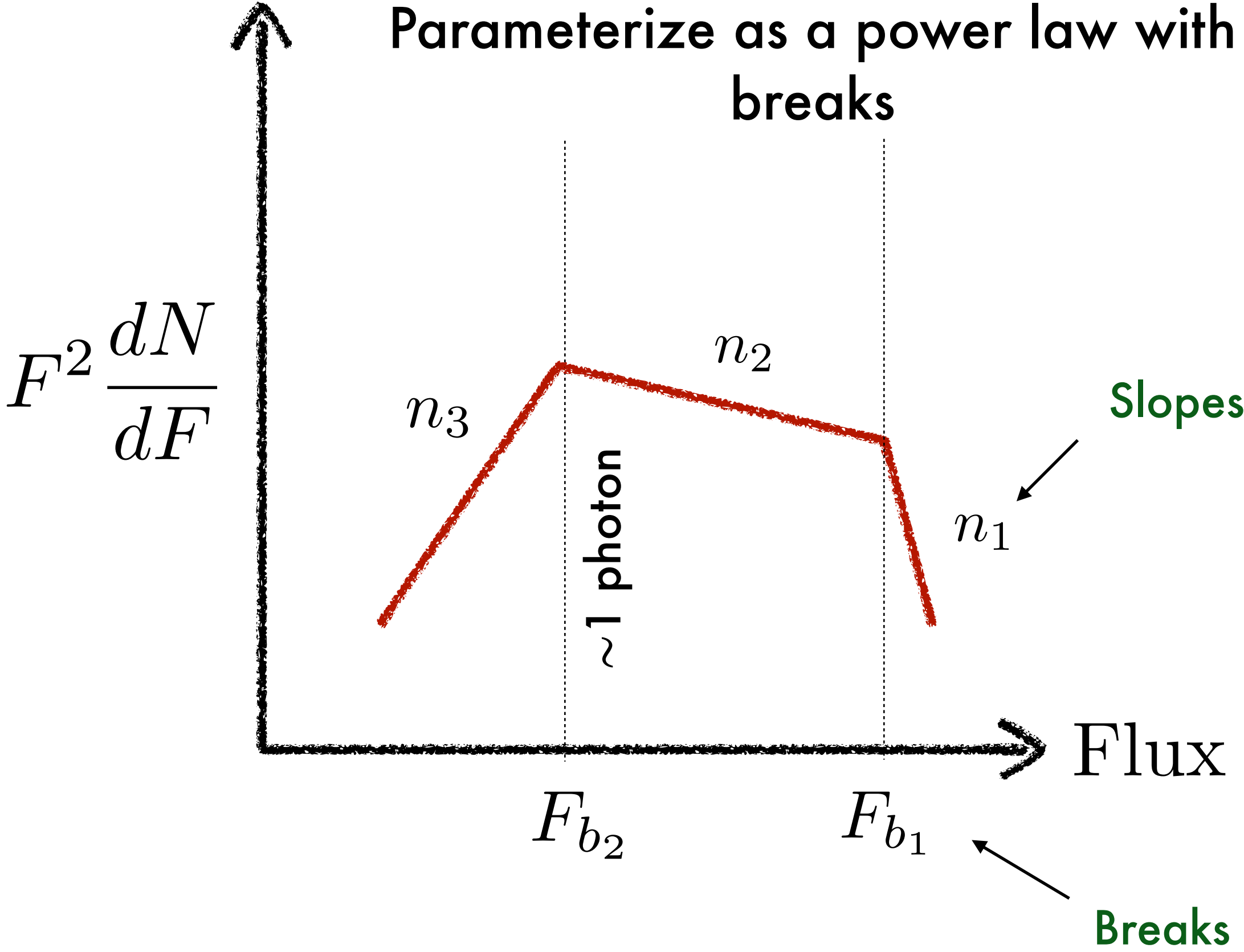


Also point source model
and mask (not shown)

Non-Poissonian Template Fitting



Source-count distribution gives number of sources in a given pixel with a flux between F and $F+dF$

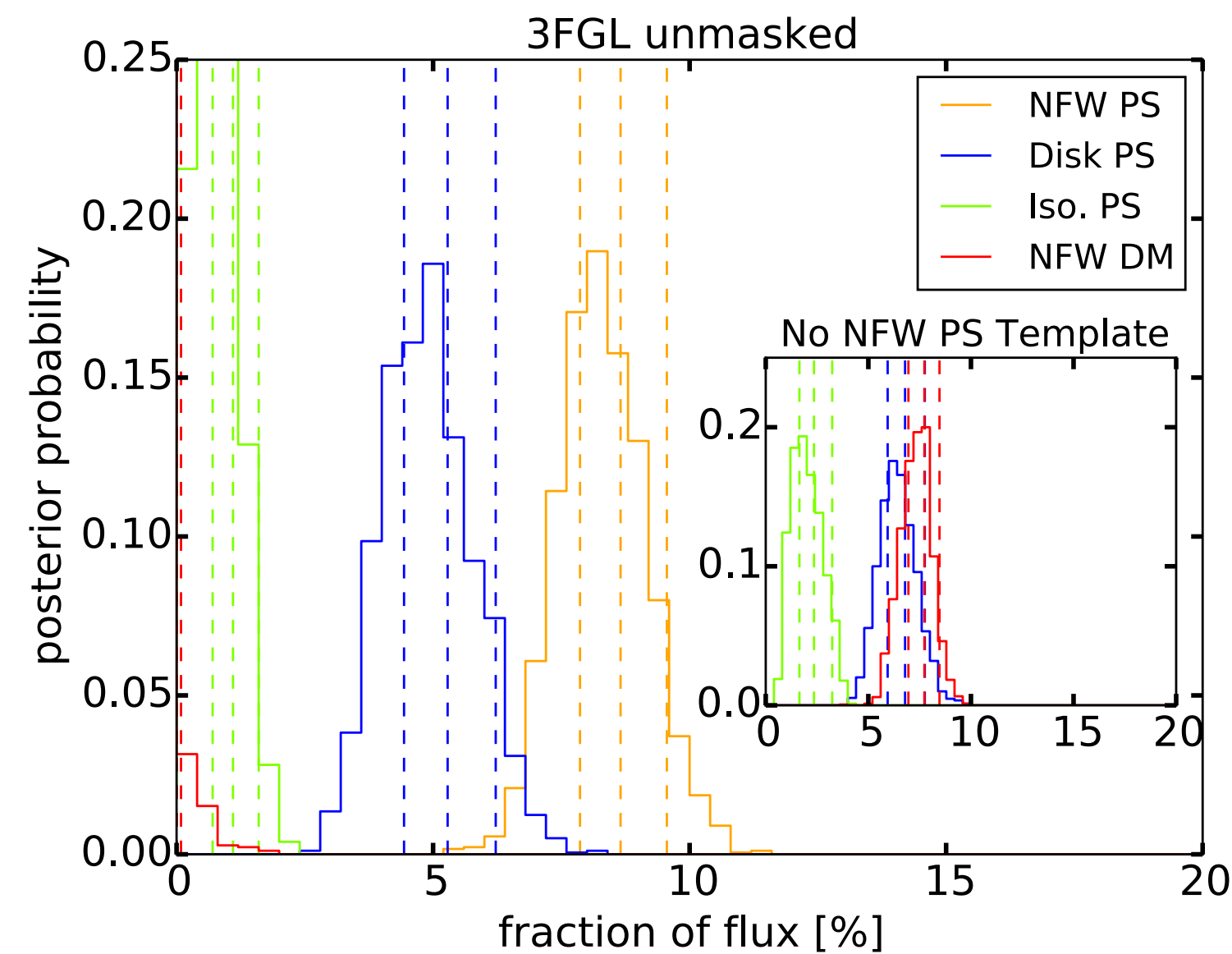
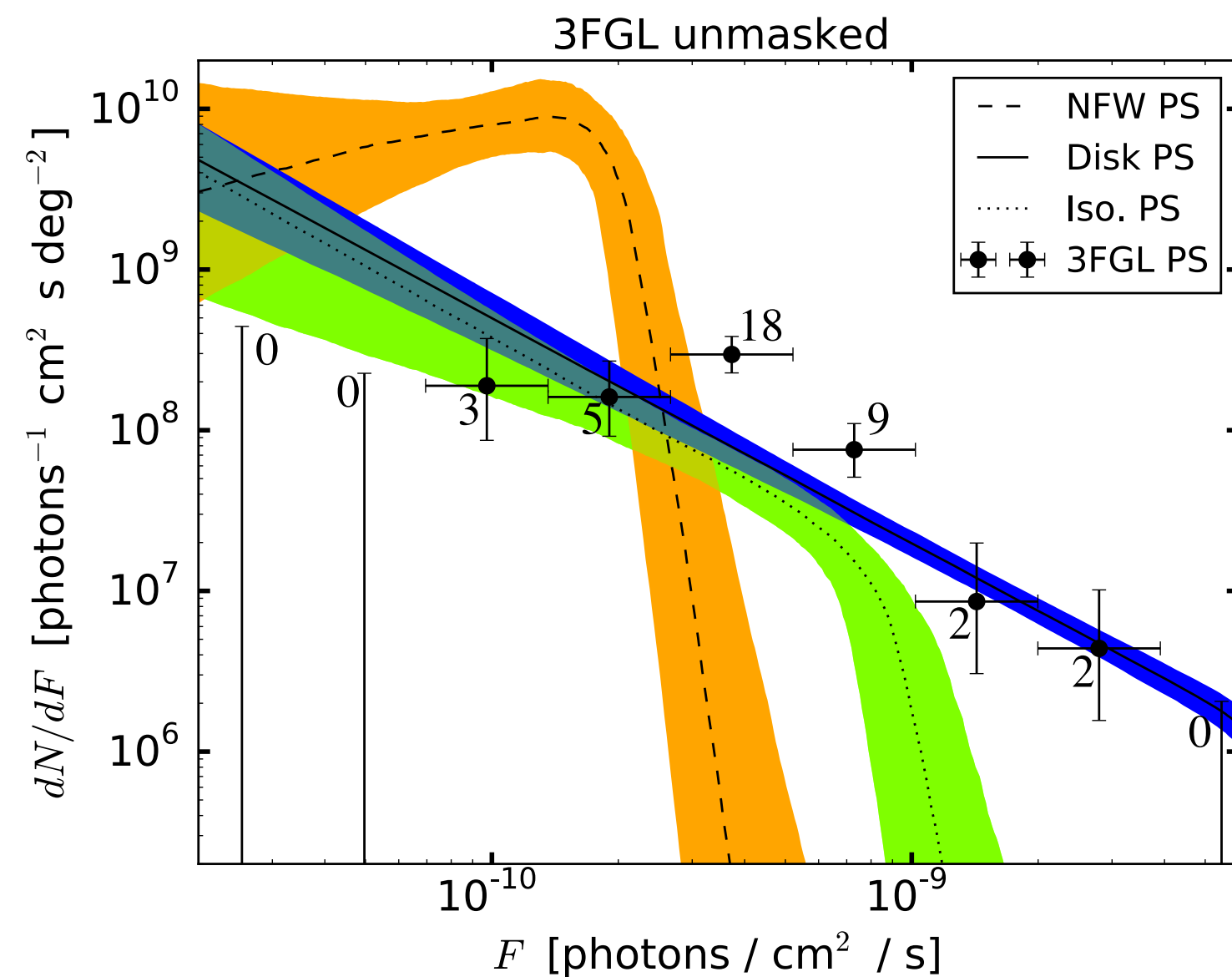
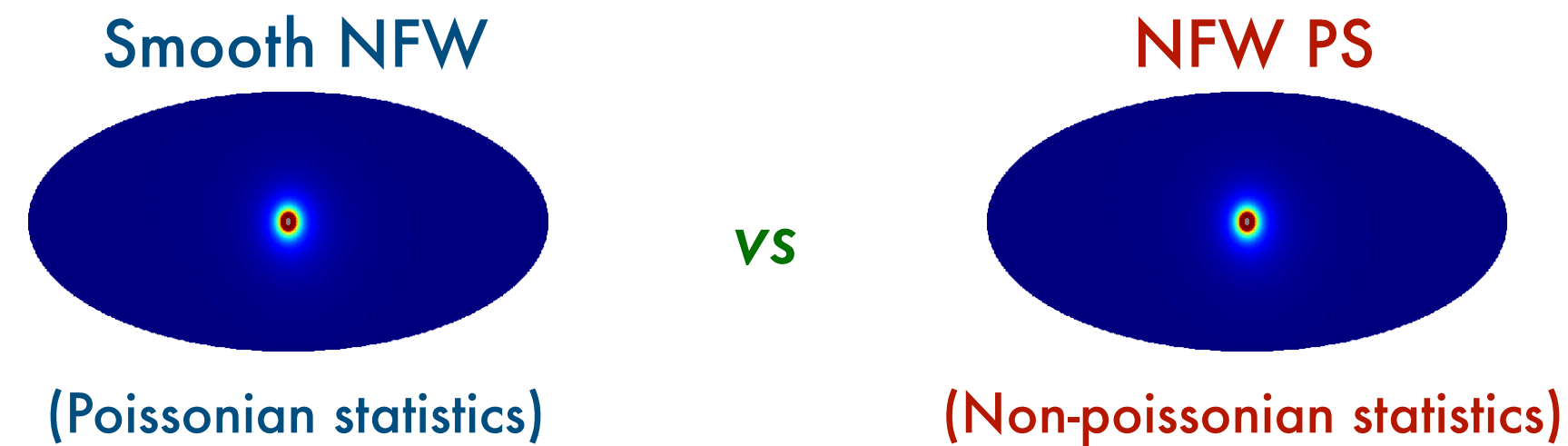


Also point source model and mask (not shown)

Public NPTF implementation available at <https://github.com/bsafdi/NPTFit>

Inner Galaxy NPTF Analysis: *Lee et al (2015)*

Goal: to determine which NFW template provides a better fit to the data

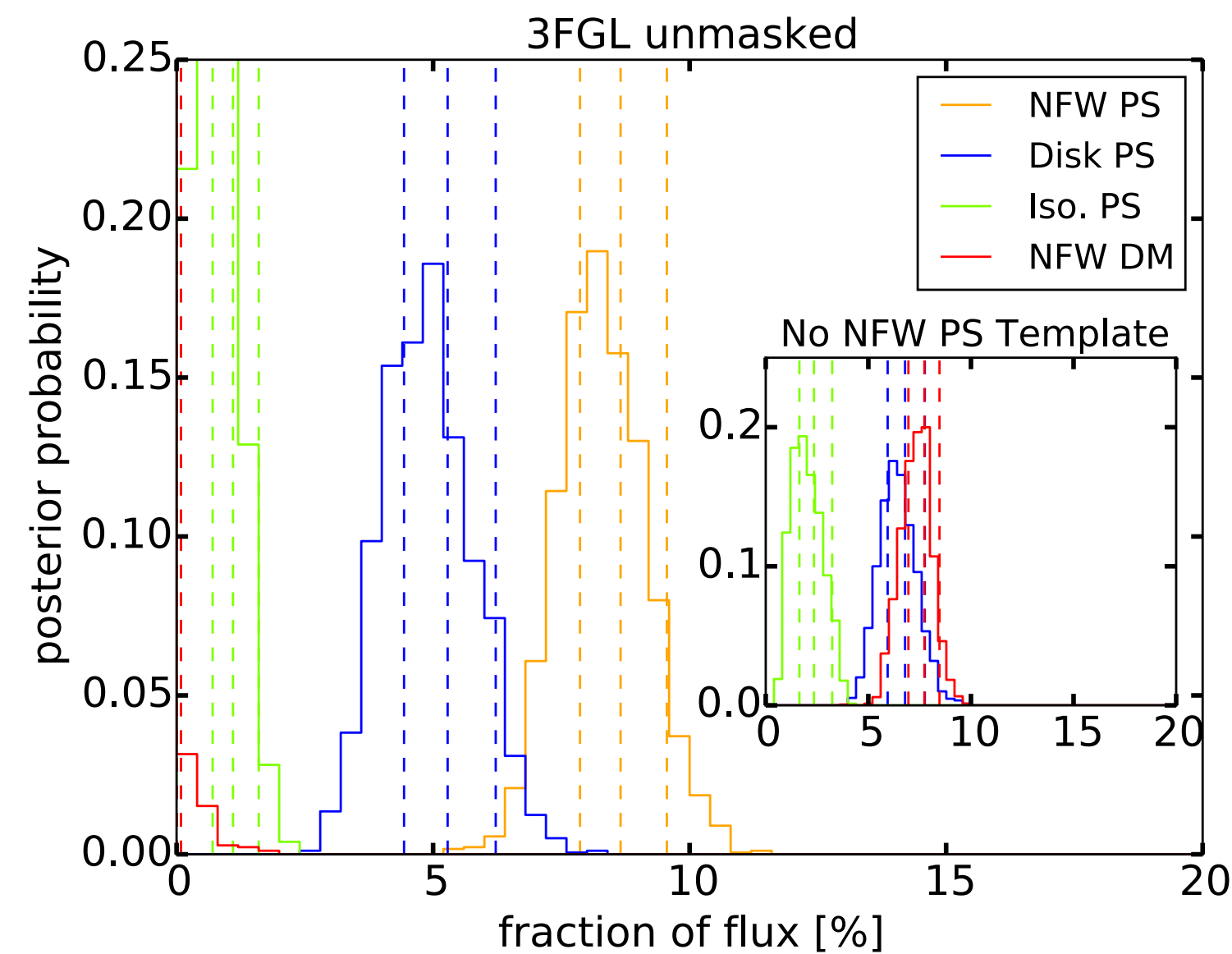
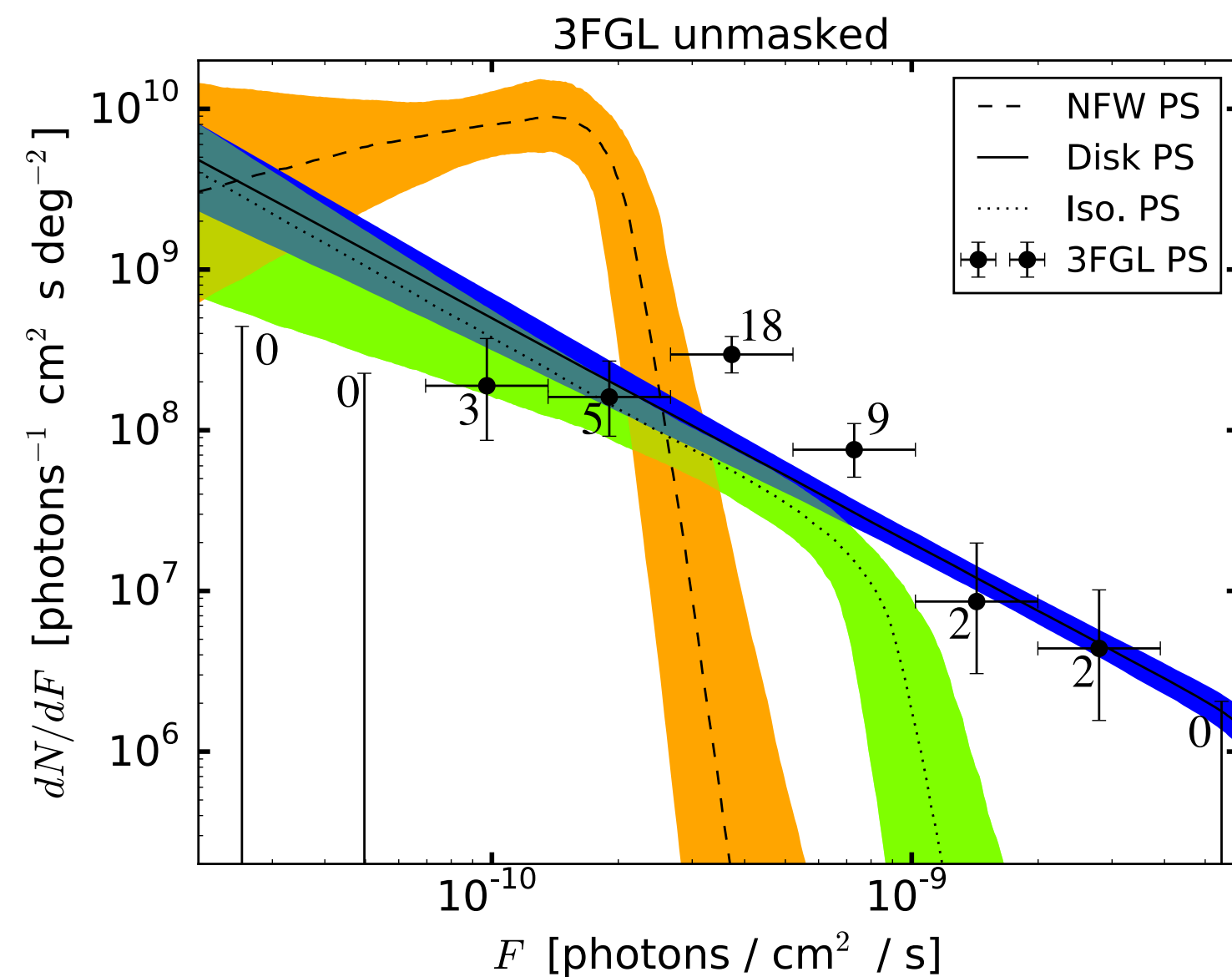
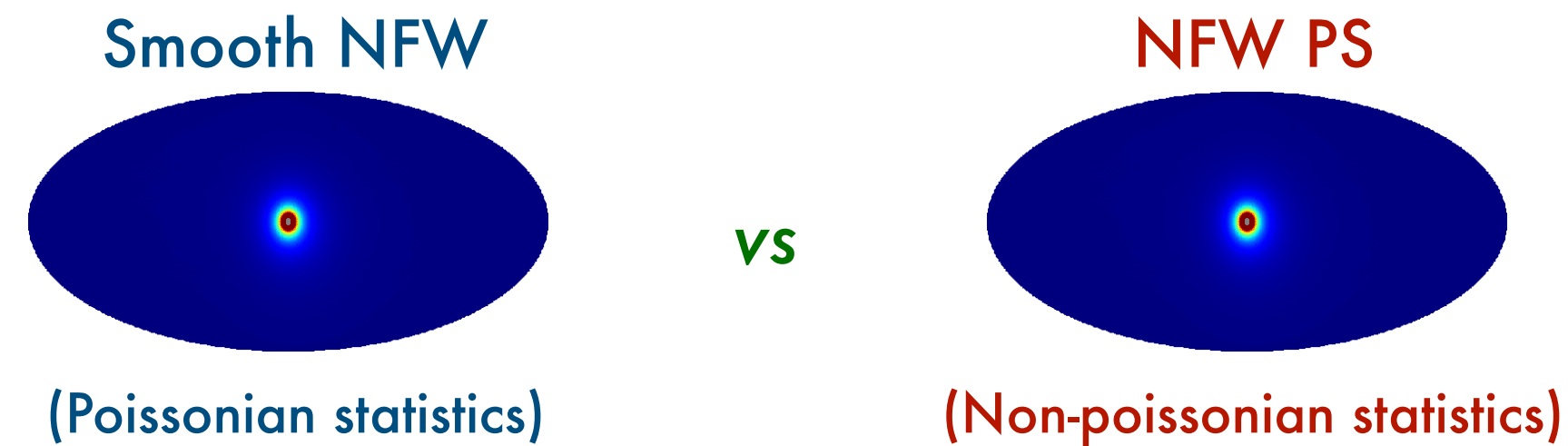


- Excess flux is entirely accounted for by the NFW PS template
- Bayes factor in preference for NFW point sources is $\sim 10^7$

Lee, Lisanti, Safdi, Slatyer, and Xue [1506.05124]

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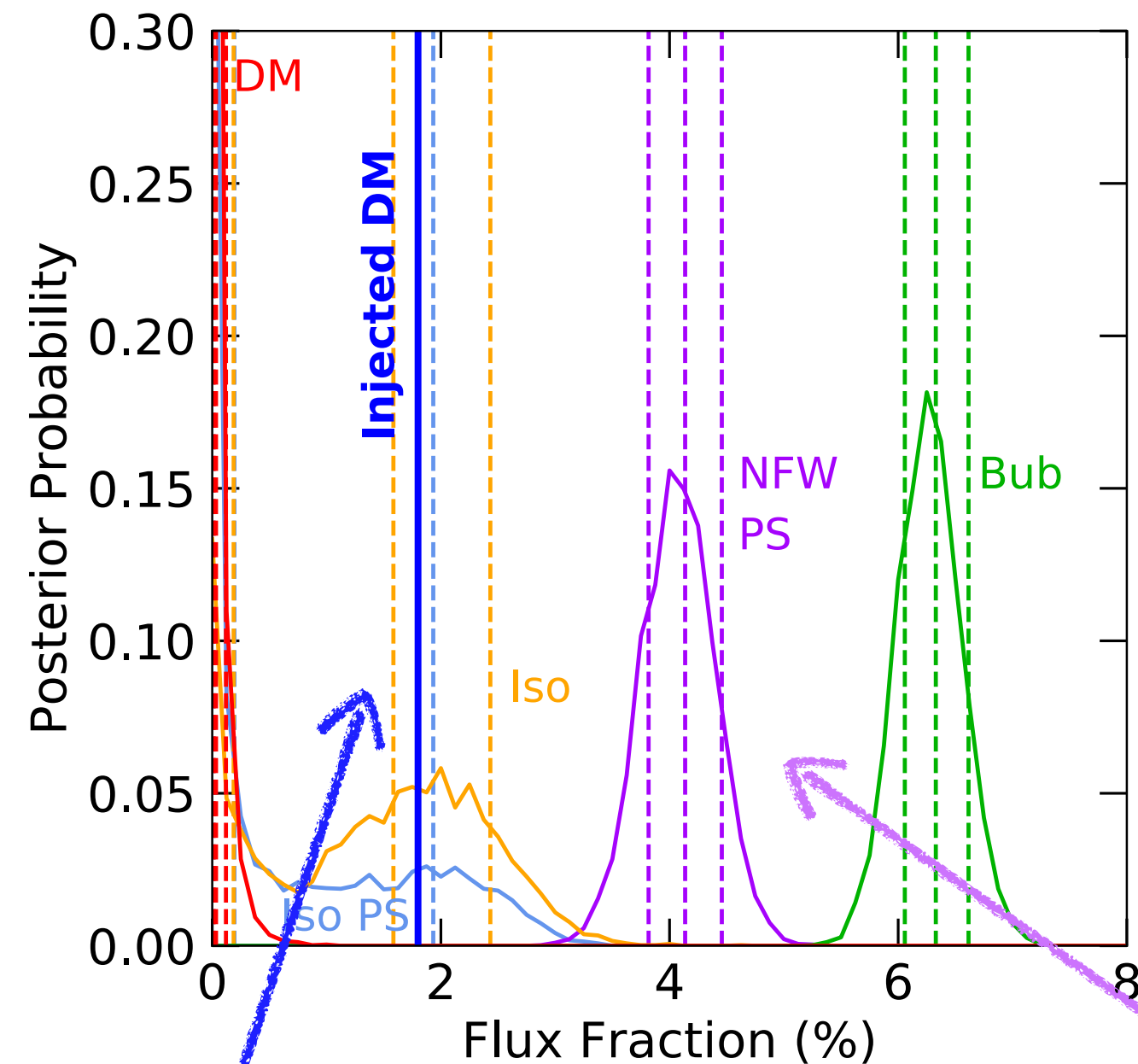
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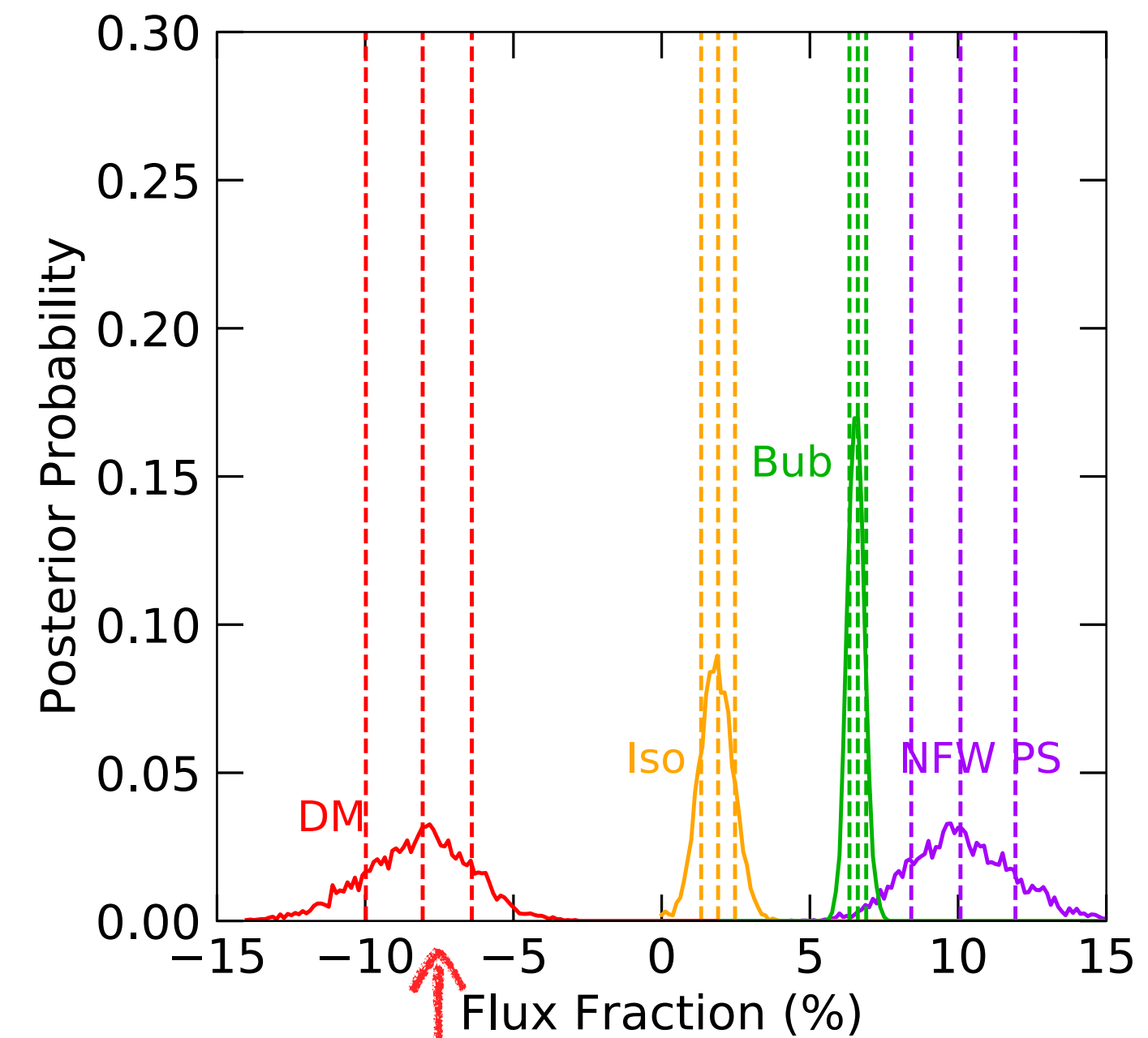
Dark Matter Strikes Back? *Leane & Slatyer (2019)*

Performed a closure test:

Inject a DM signal onto the real data, then try to recover it with the NPTF pipeline



Injected DM flux gets reconstructed as *PSs*



DM flux can go negative if allowed to

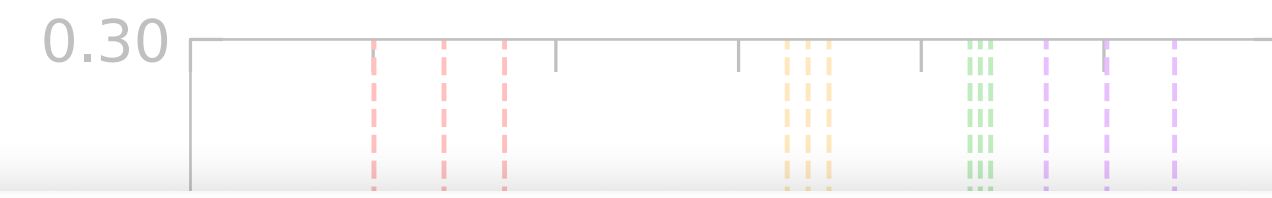
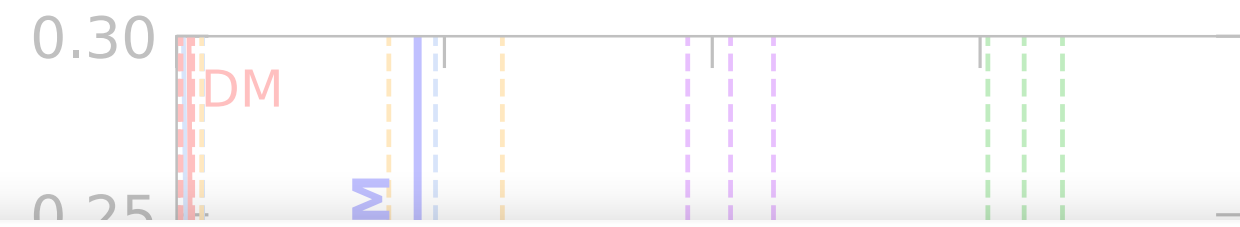
Behaviour attributed to presence of unmodeled PSs or diffuse mismodeling

NB: Not an error in the NPTF method!

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Issues related to mismodeling were discussed in *Lee et al (2015)*

for the NFW PSs changes. In particular, the source-count function for NFW PSs is shifted to lower flux, potentially suggesting that some of the near-threshold sources could either be more disk-like in morphology or associated with mis-modeling the diffuse background. However, the preference for NFW PSs remains high, with the model including NFW PSs preferred over that without by a Bayes factor $\sim 10^4$. Unlike the previous analysis that used a truncated

The results of *Leane & Slatyer (2019)* suggest that these systematics deserve further scrutiny

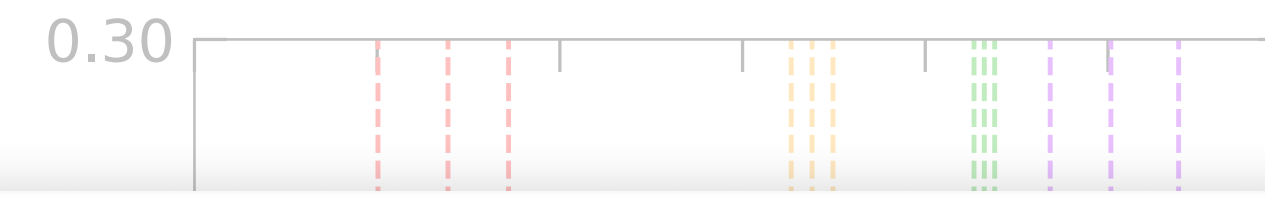
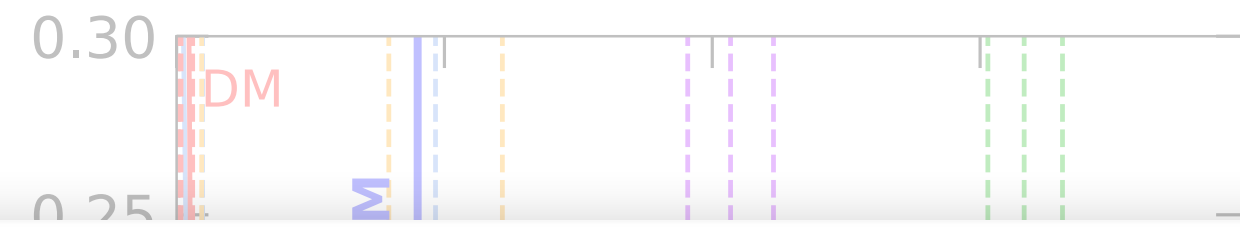
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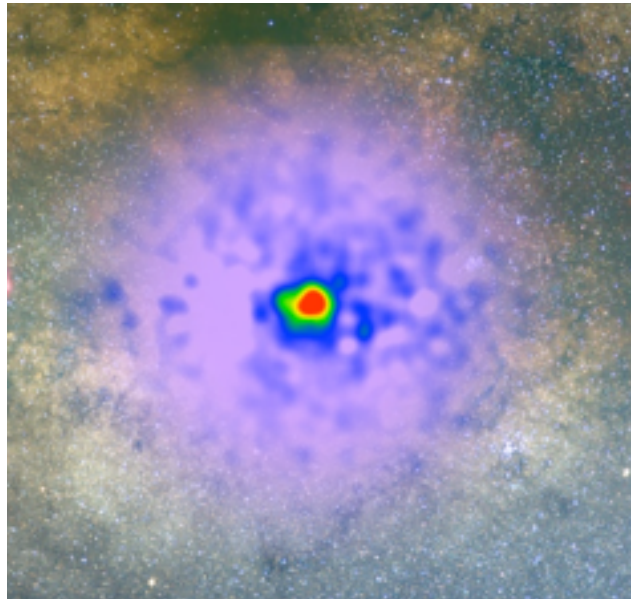
The results of *Leane & Slatyer (2019)* suggest that these systematics deserve further scrutiny

Goal: to understand and mitigate systematic issues associated with the NPTF in the Galactic Center

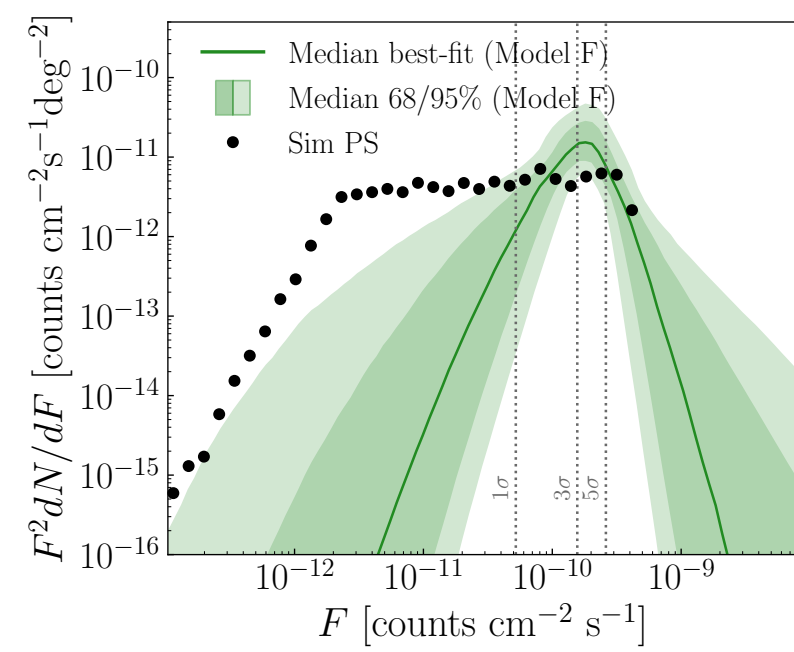
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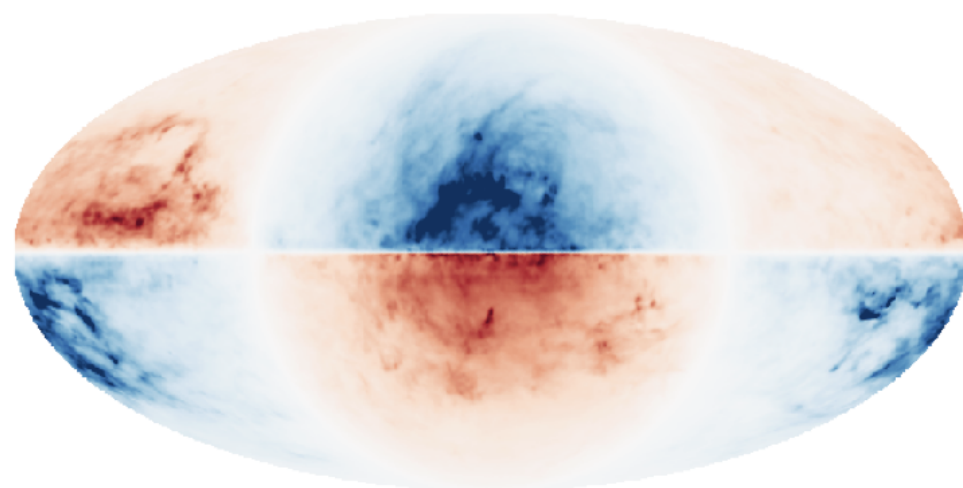
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Galactic Center Excess: Background and Methods

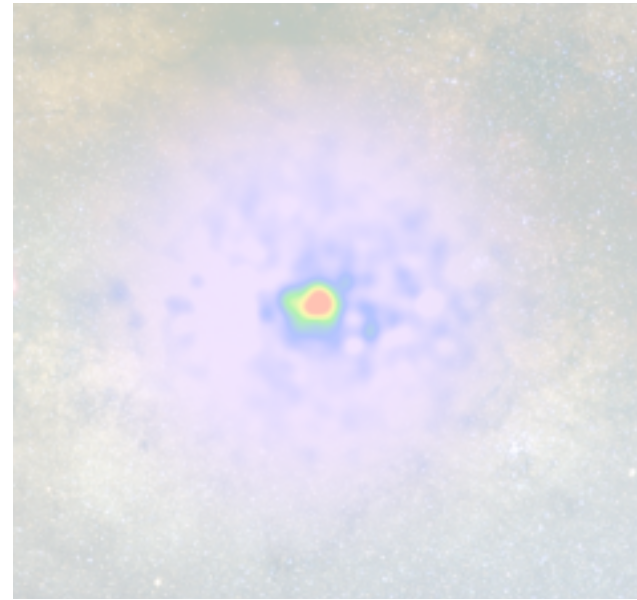


Diffuse mismodeling and some lessons from simulations

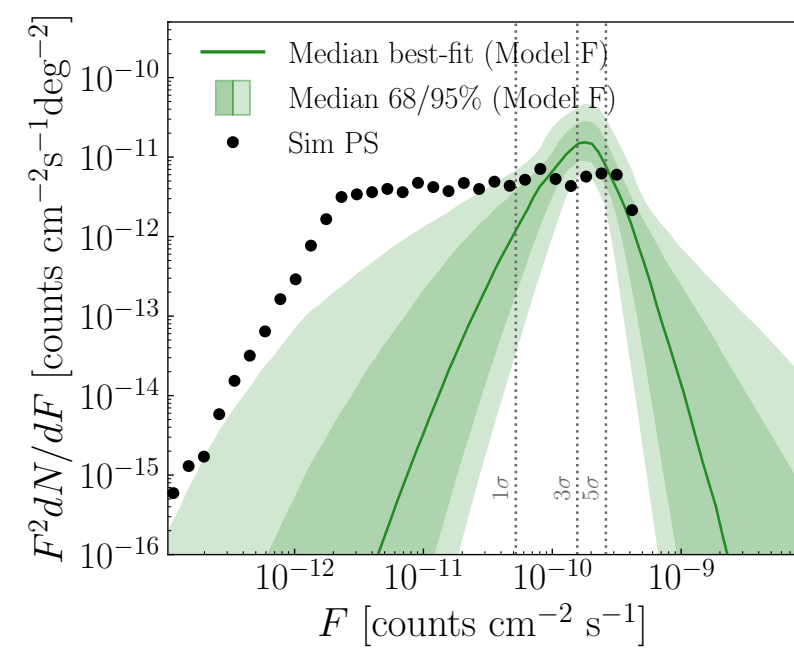


Towards mitigating diffuse mismodeling

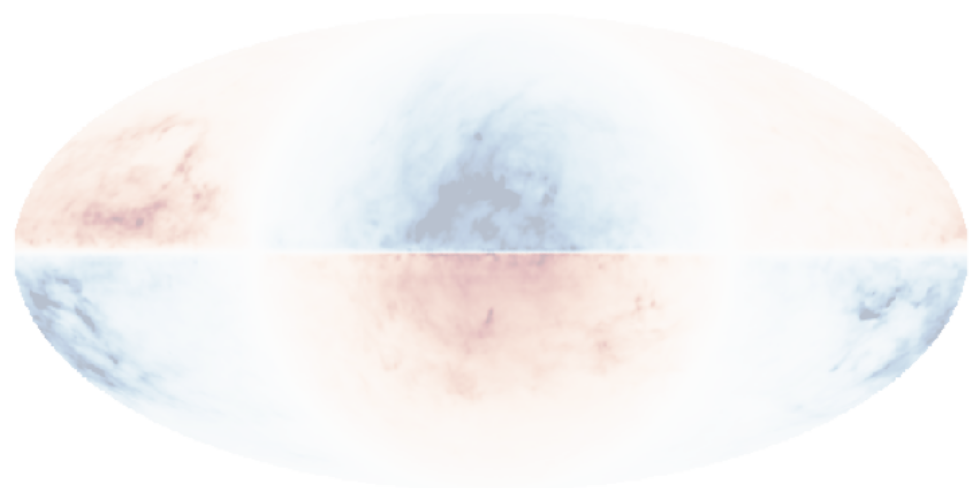
Outline



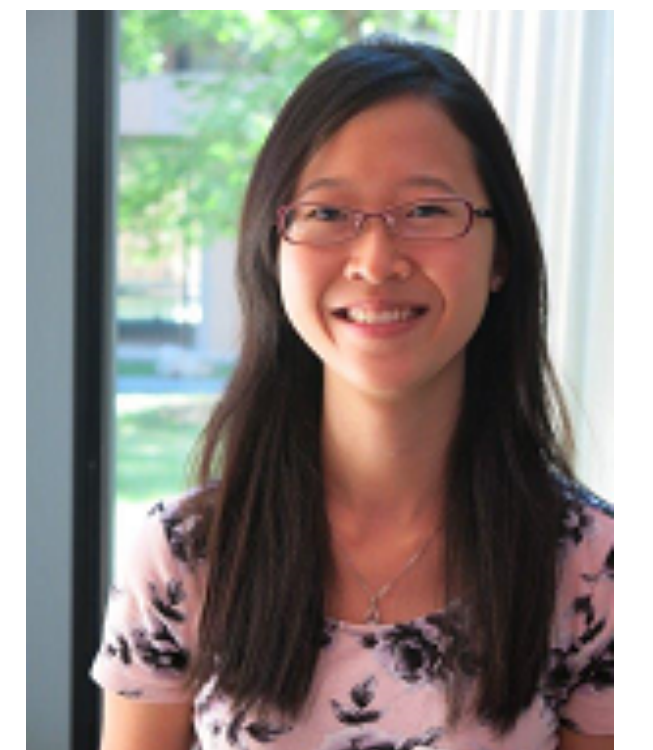
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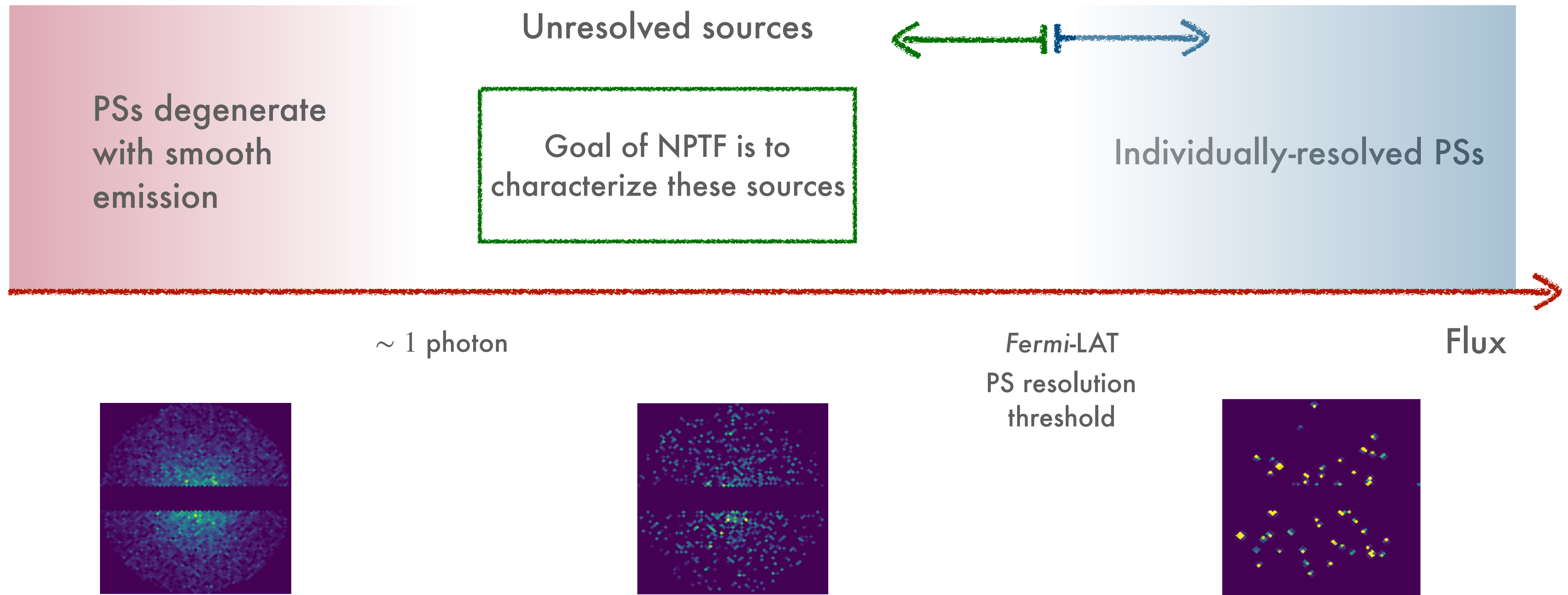
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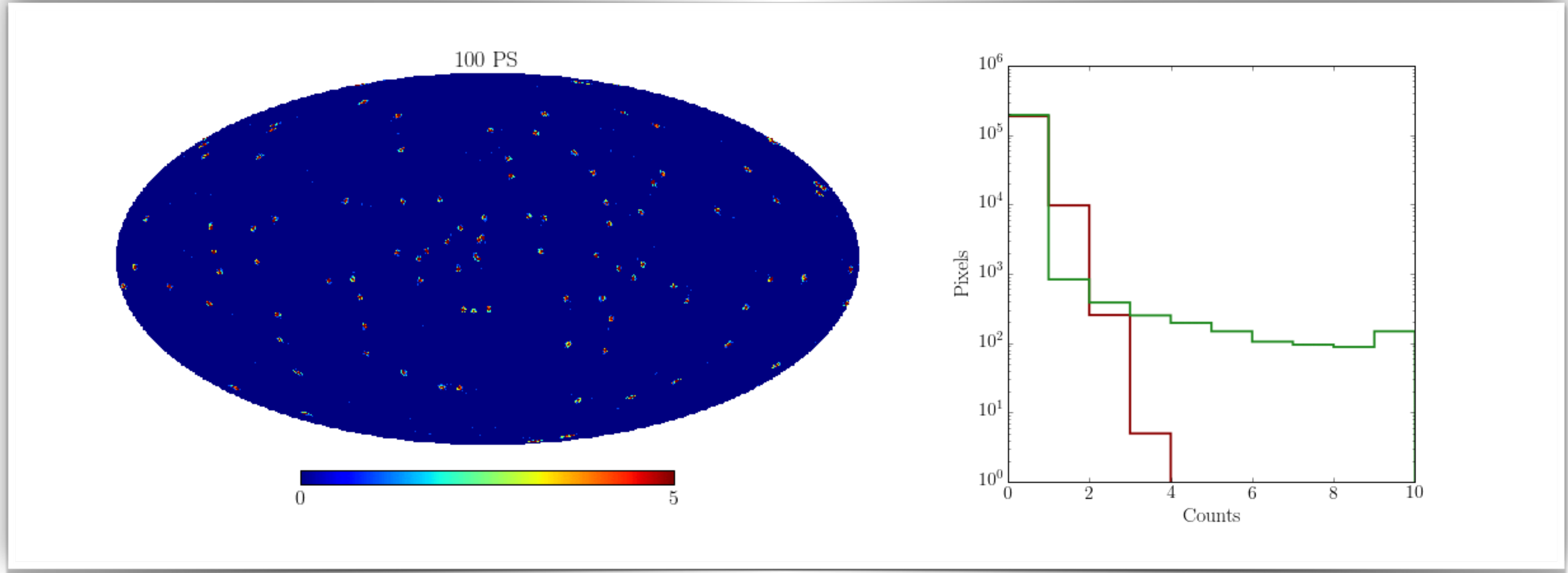
Dissecting the NPTF

Slides inspiration from
Laura Chang

What is the method sensitive to?



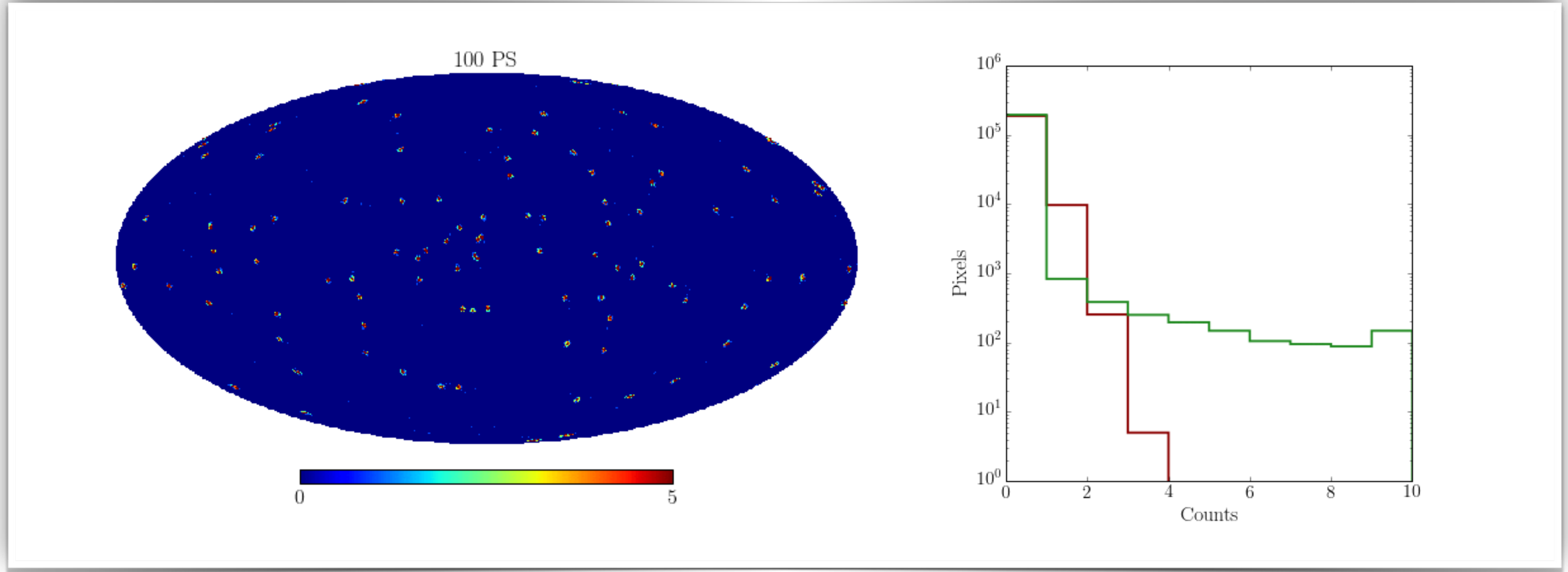
Degeneracy between dim PSs and smooth emission



We can never exclude the PS hypothesis—but we might be able to see evidence for a PS population*

**But we may call it into question by inferring a flux distribution inconsistent with astrophysical expectation*

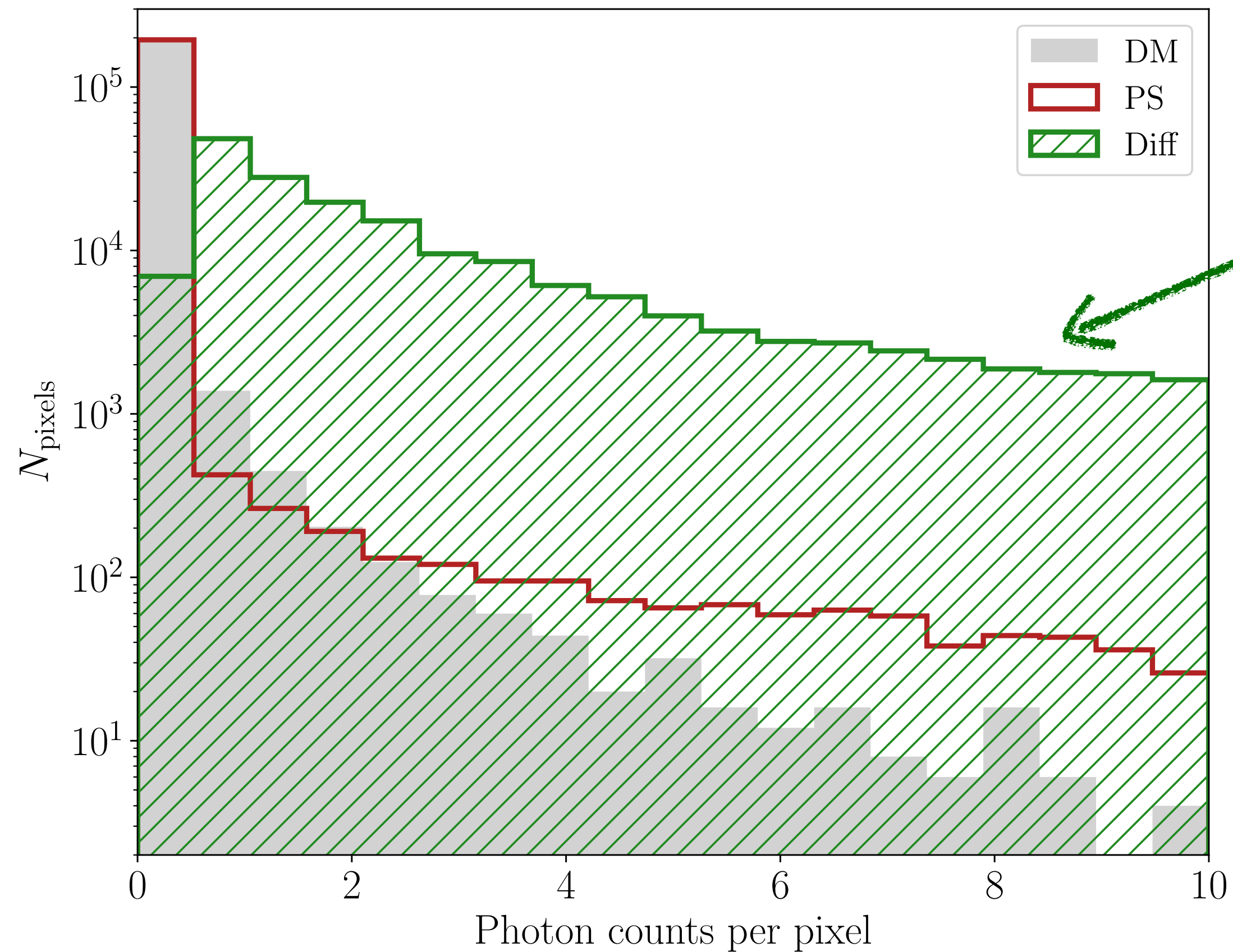
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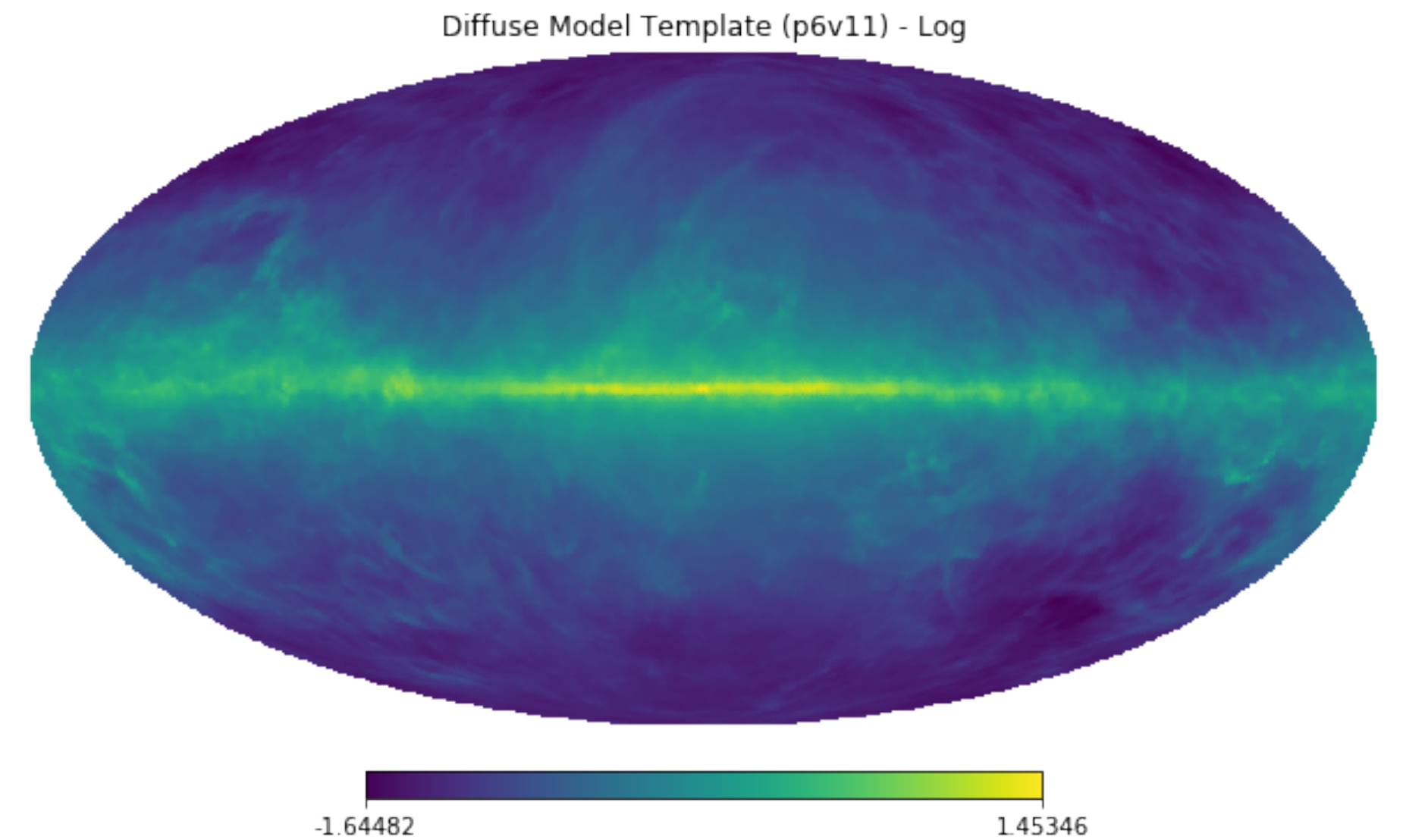
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So far so good. What about Galactic foregrounds?



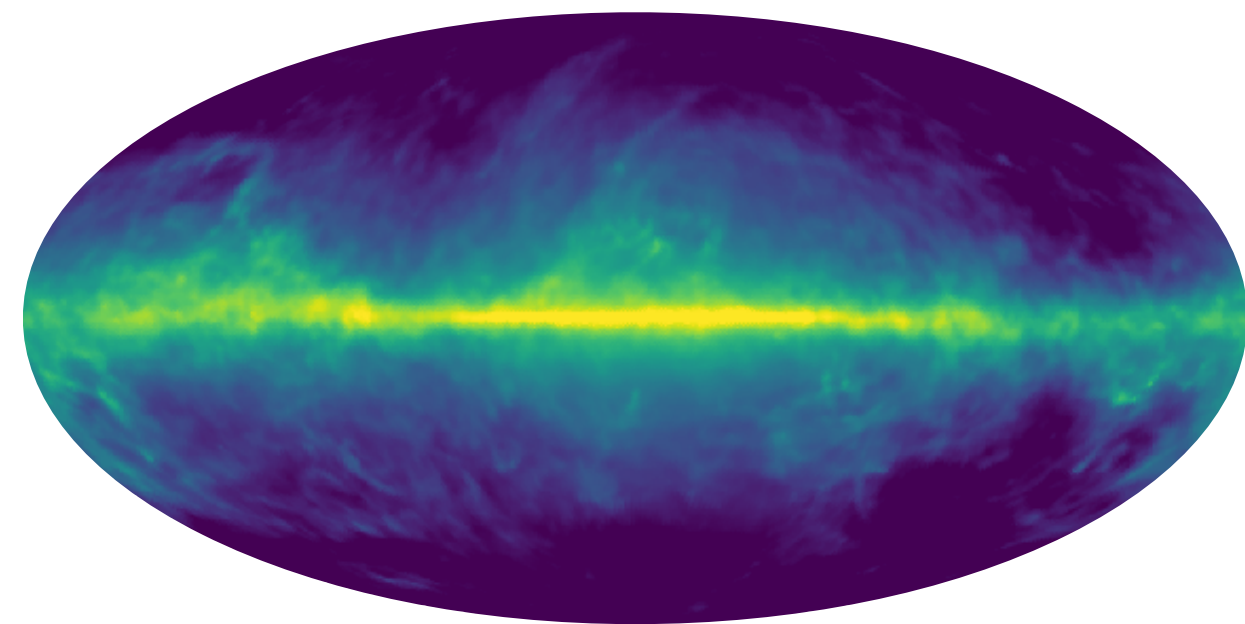
Diffuse foregrounds make up most of the observed emission in the Galactic Center



Much harder problem in the presence of diffuse emission from the Milky Way

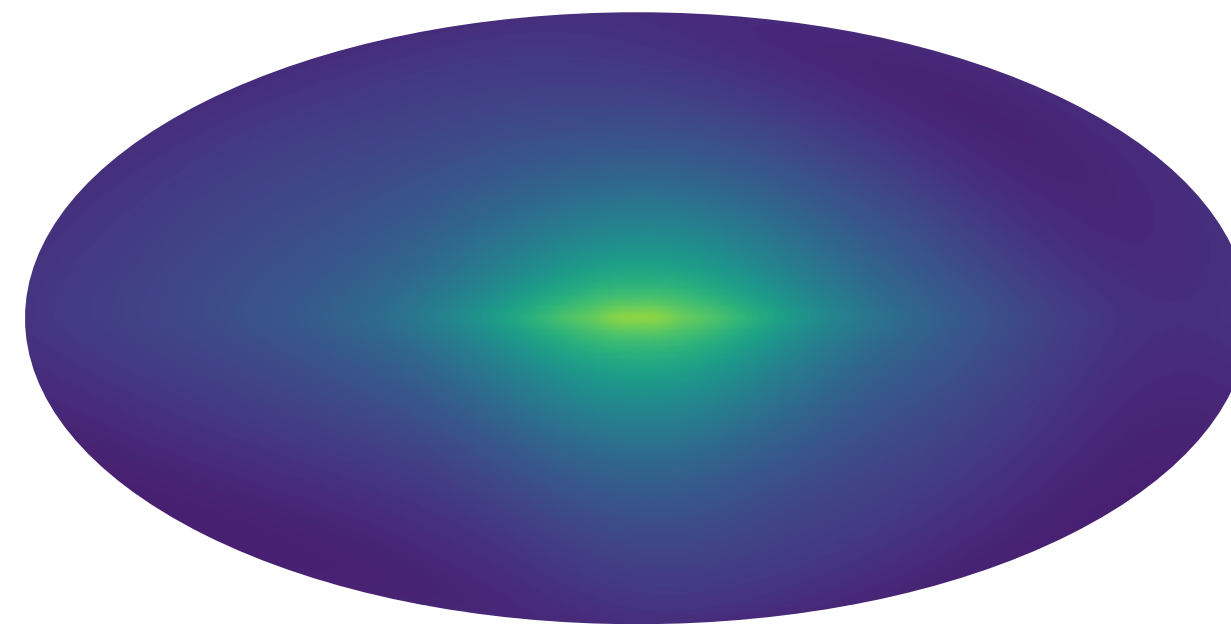
Modeling Galactic foregrounds

Galactic foreground model



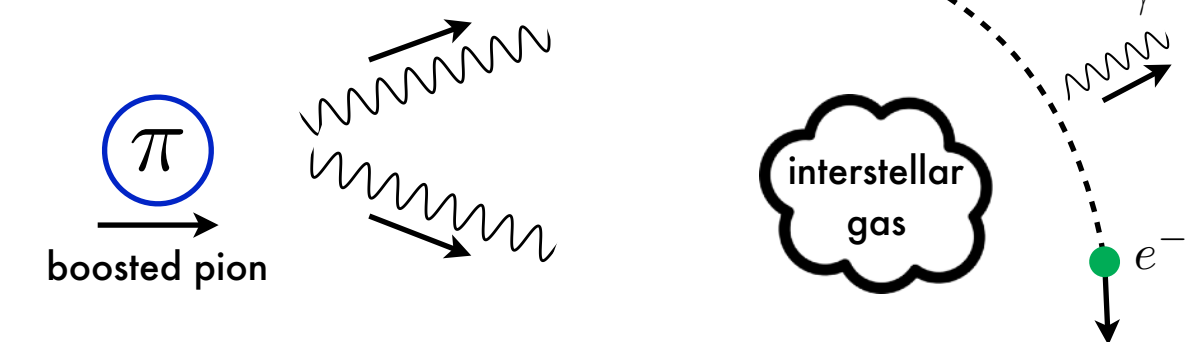
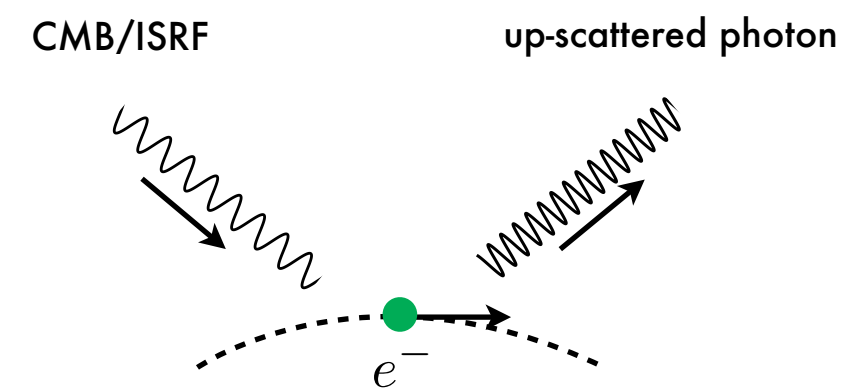
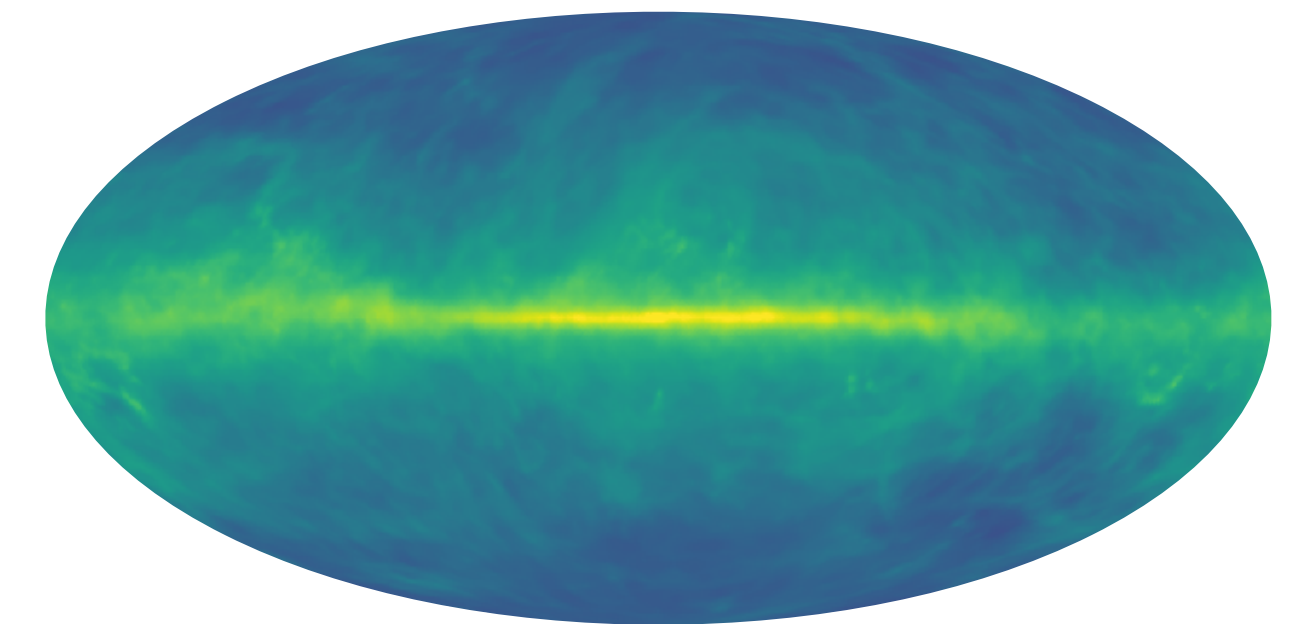
=

Inverse Compton
Traces electron source populations



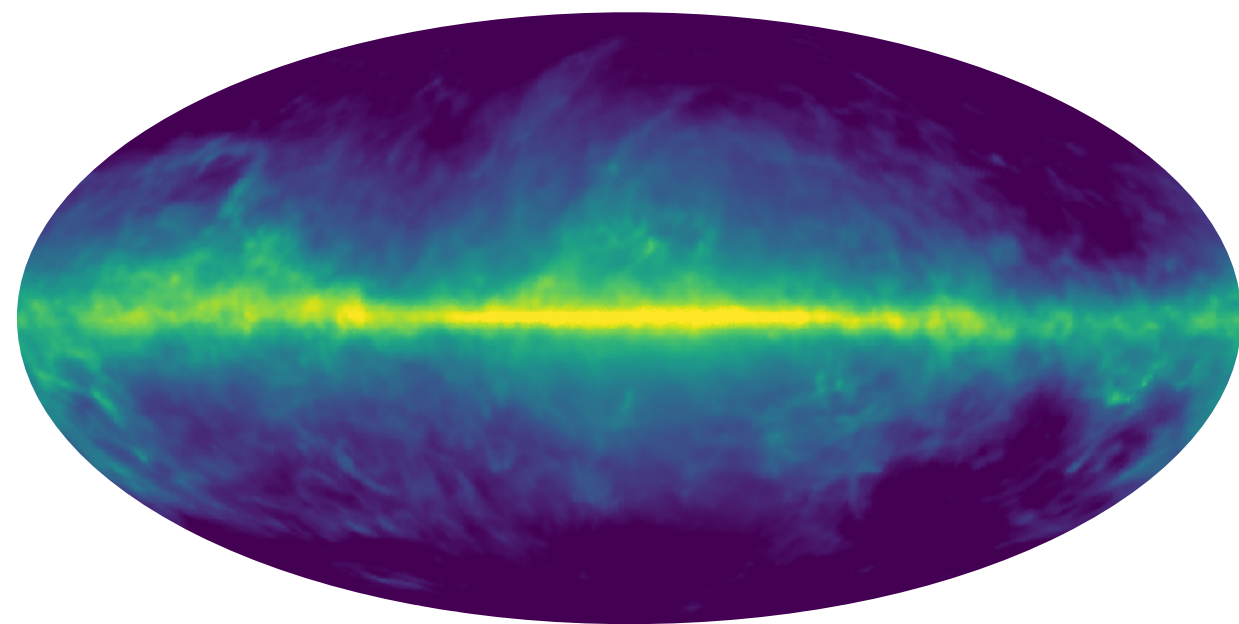
+

π^0 + Bremsstrahlung
Traces gas/dust distribution



Modeling Galactic foregrounds

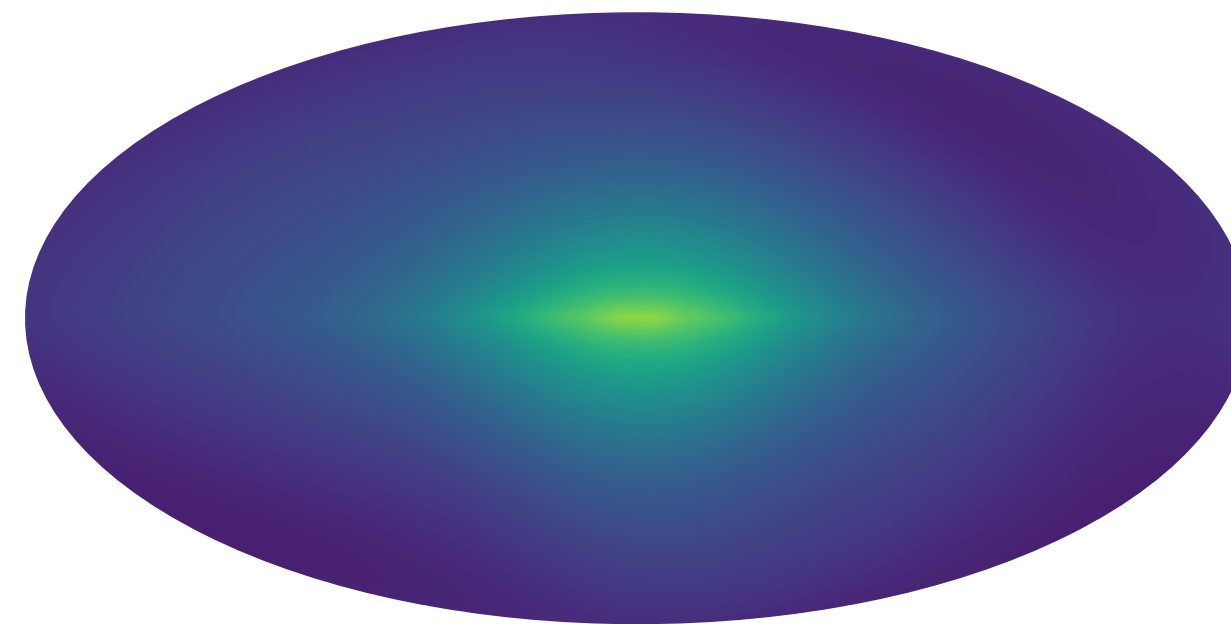
Galactic foreground model



=

Inverse Compton

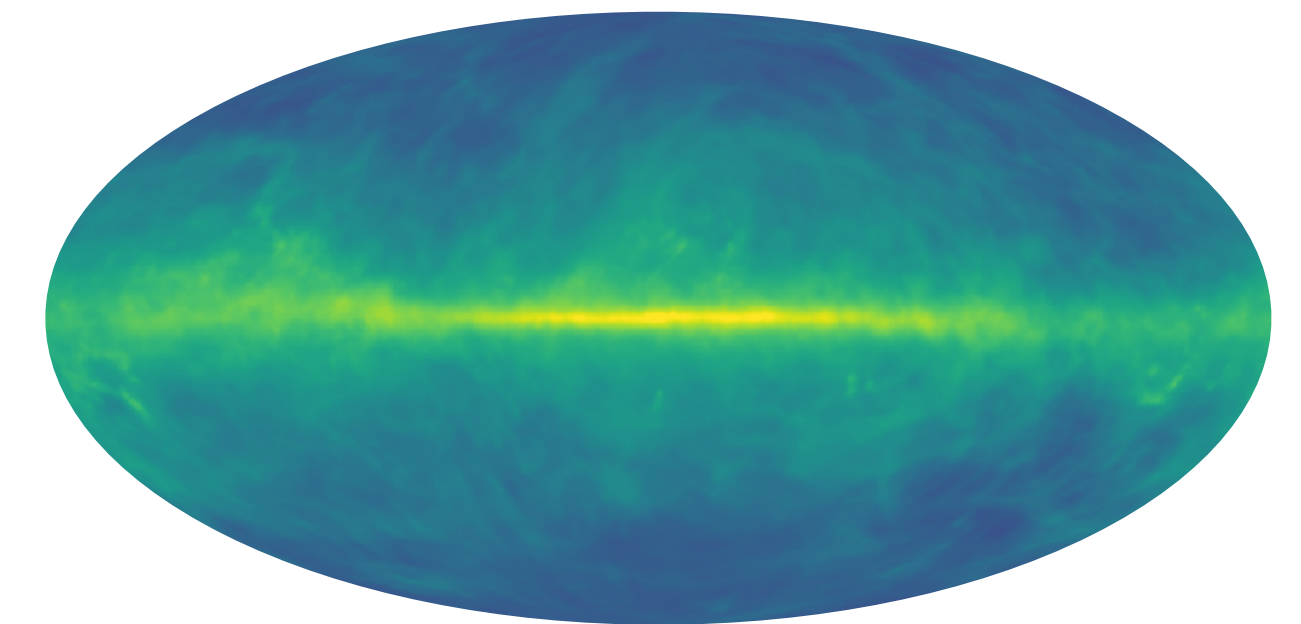
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+

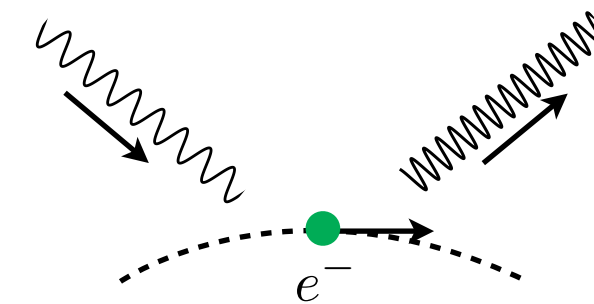
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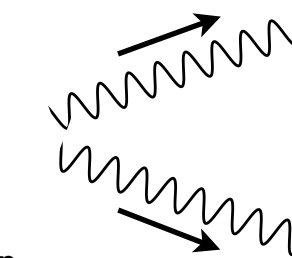


CMB/ISRF

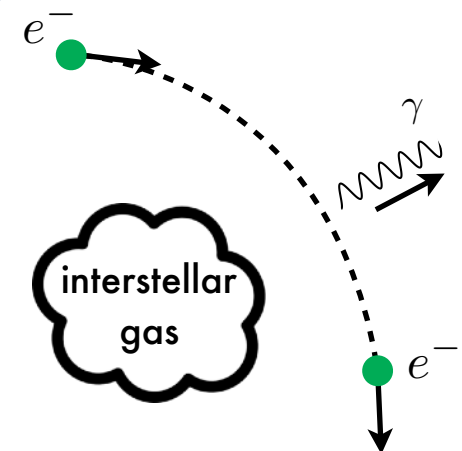
up-scattered photon



π
boosted pion

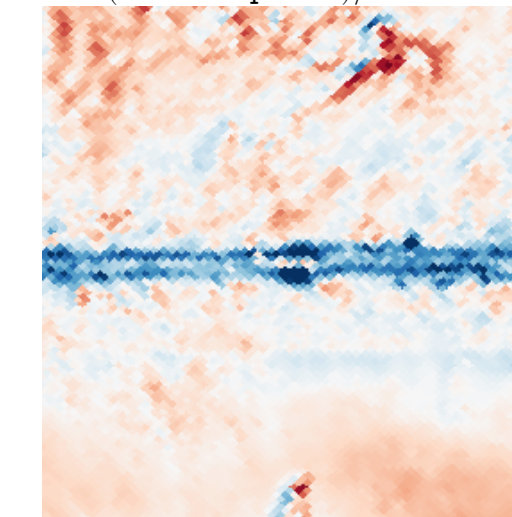


interstellar gas



How well can we model foregrounds?

(Model F-p6v11)/Model F



-0.5 0.5

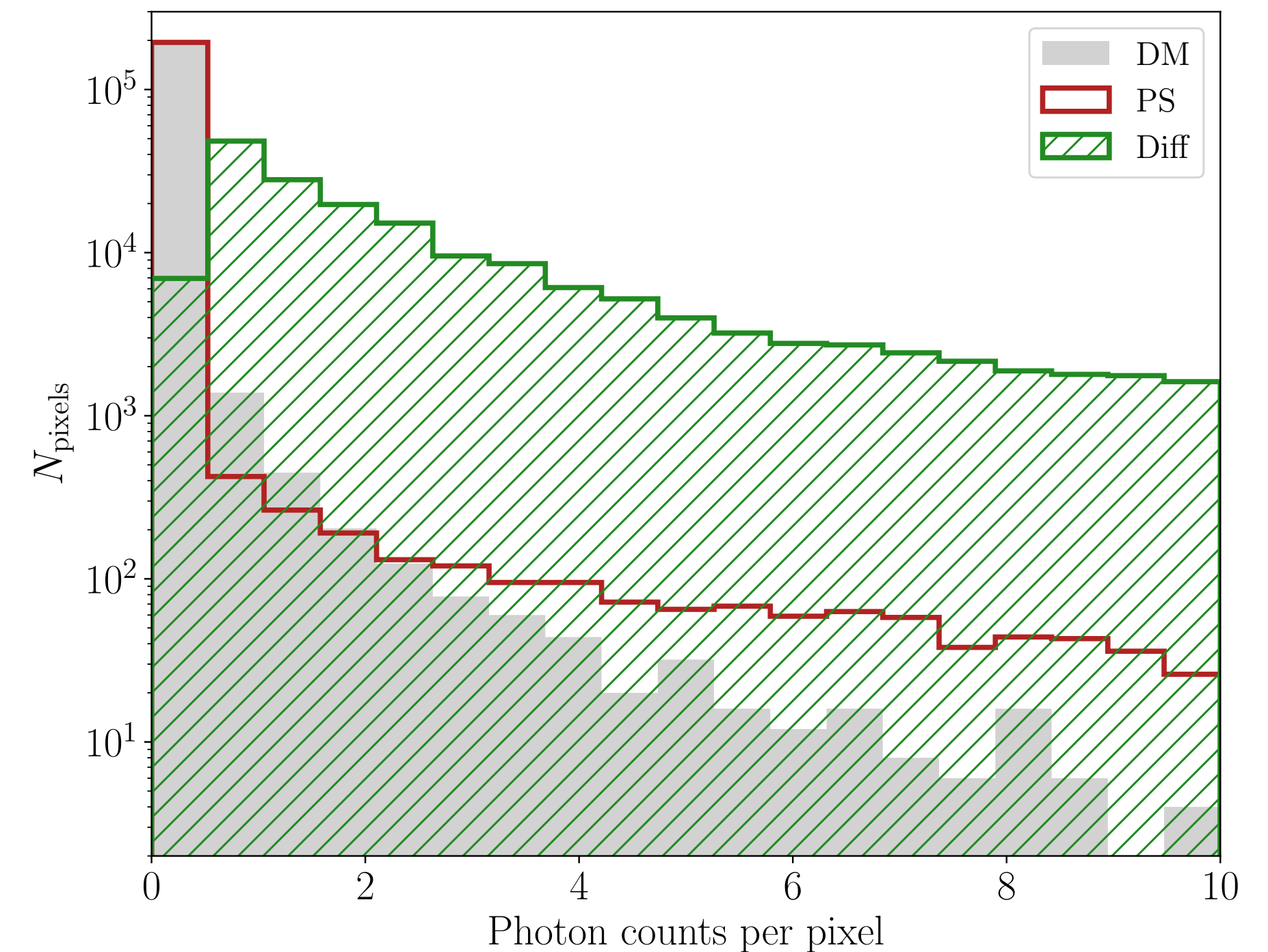
Not very well.

Key question

Given the

1. Degeneracy between dim PSs and dark matter, and
2. Imperfect knowledge of Galactic diffuse foregrounds

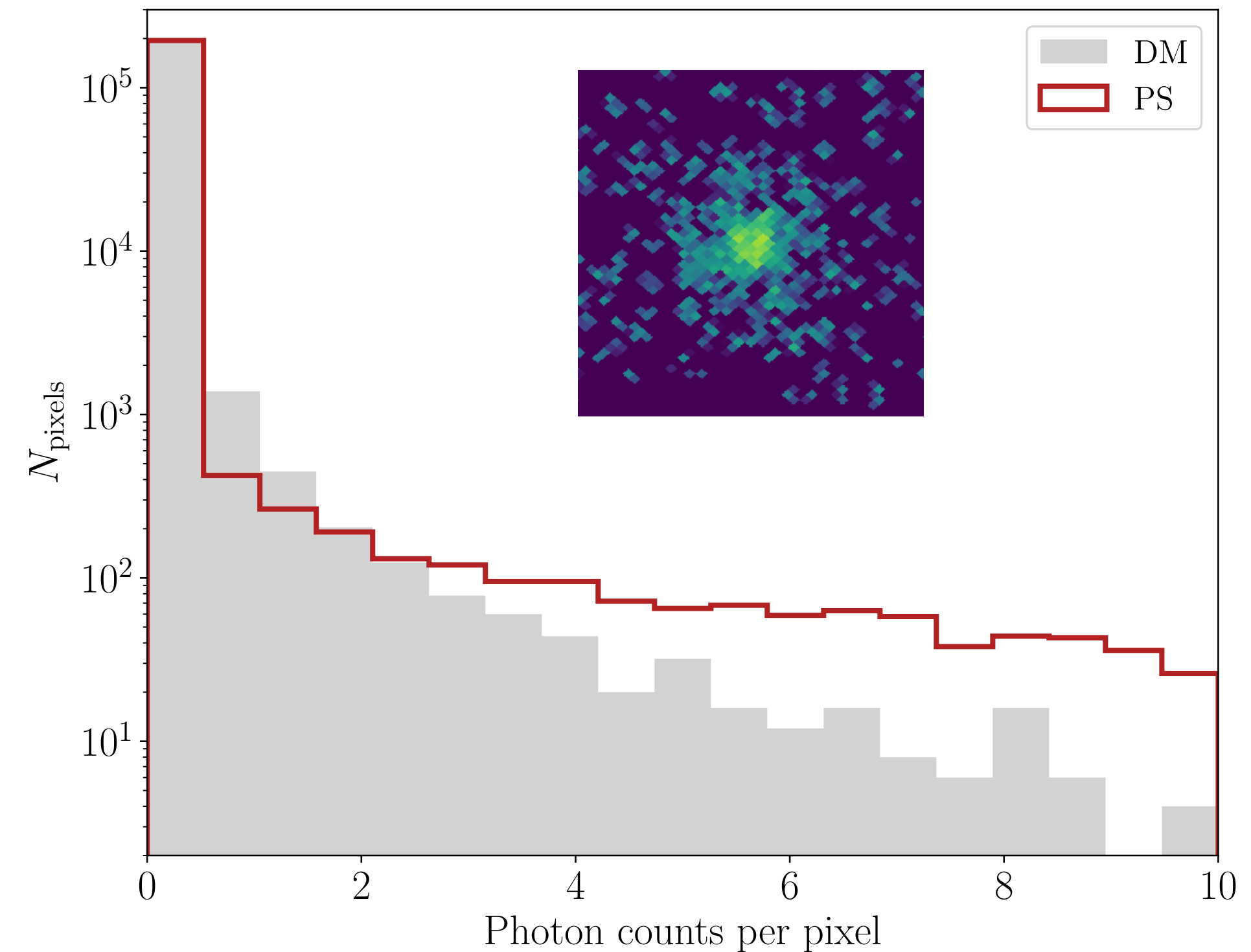
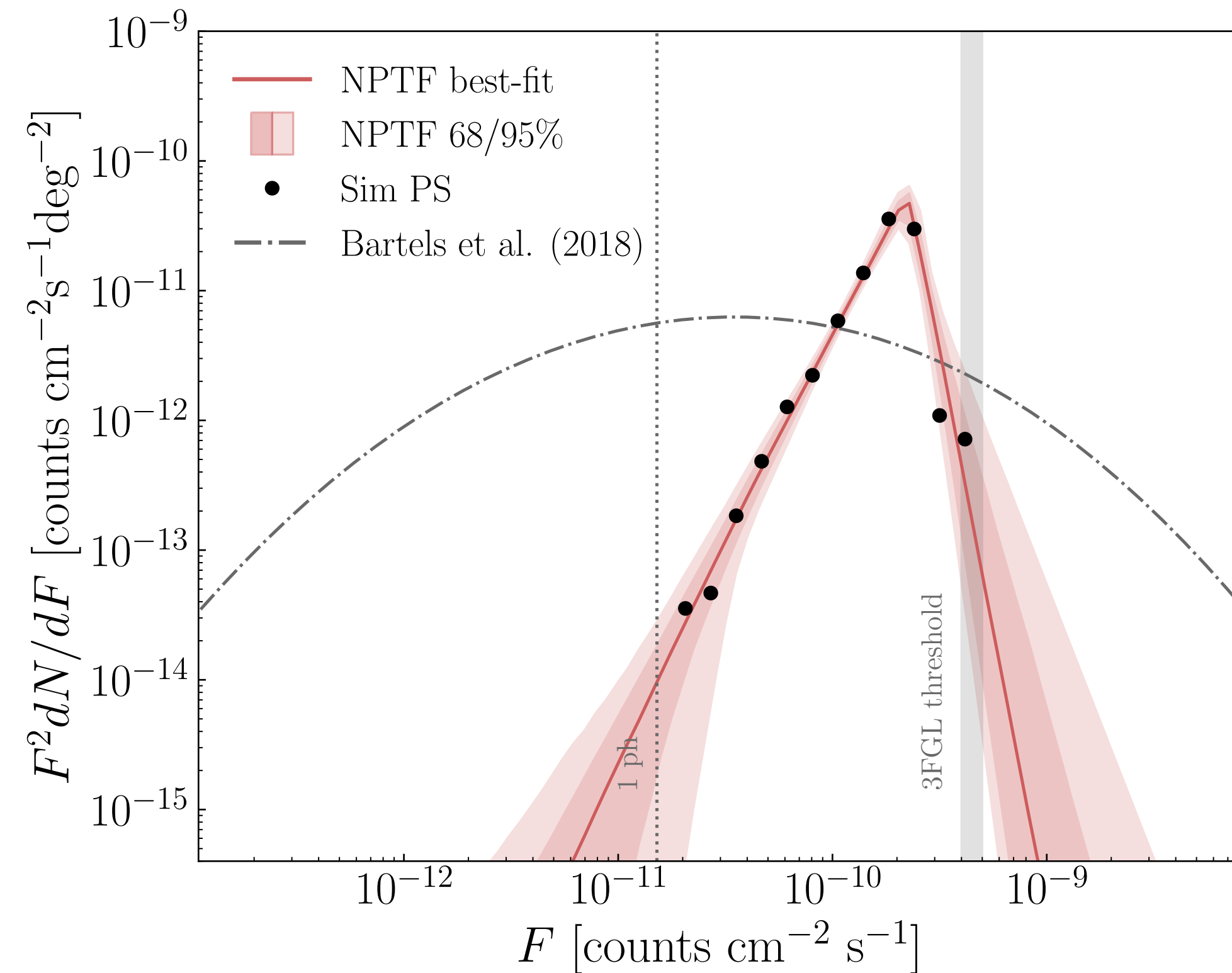
How well can we recover evidence of a sub-threshold PS population?



Explore this question with simulations

Consider two "extreme" PS flux distributions

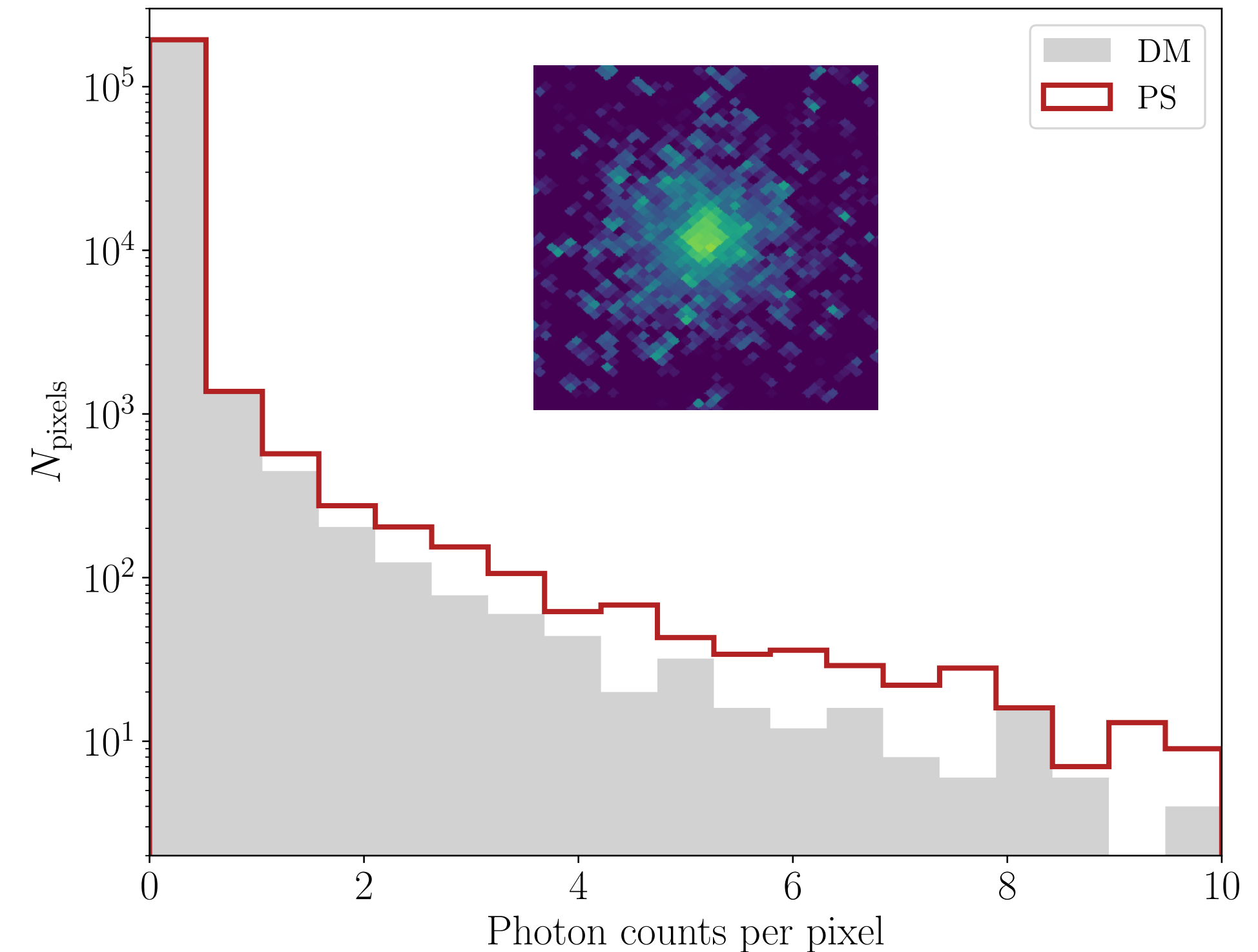
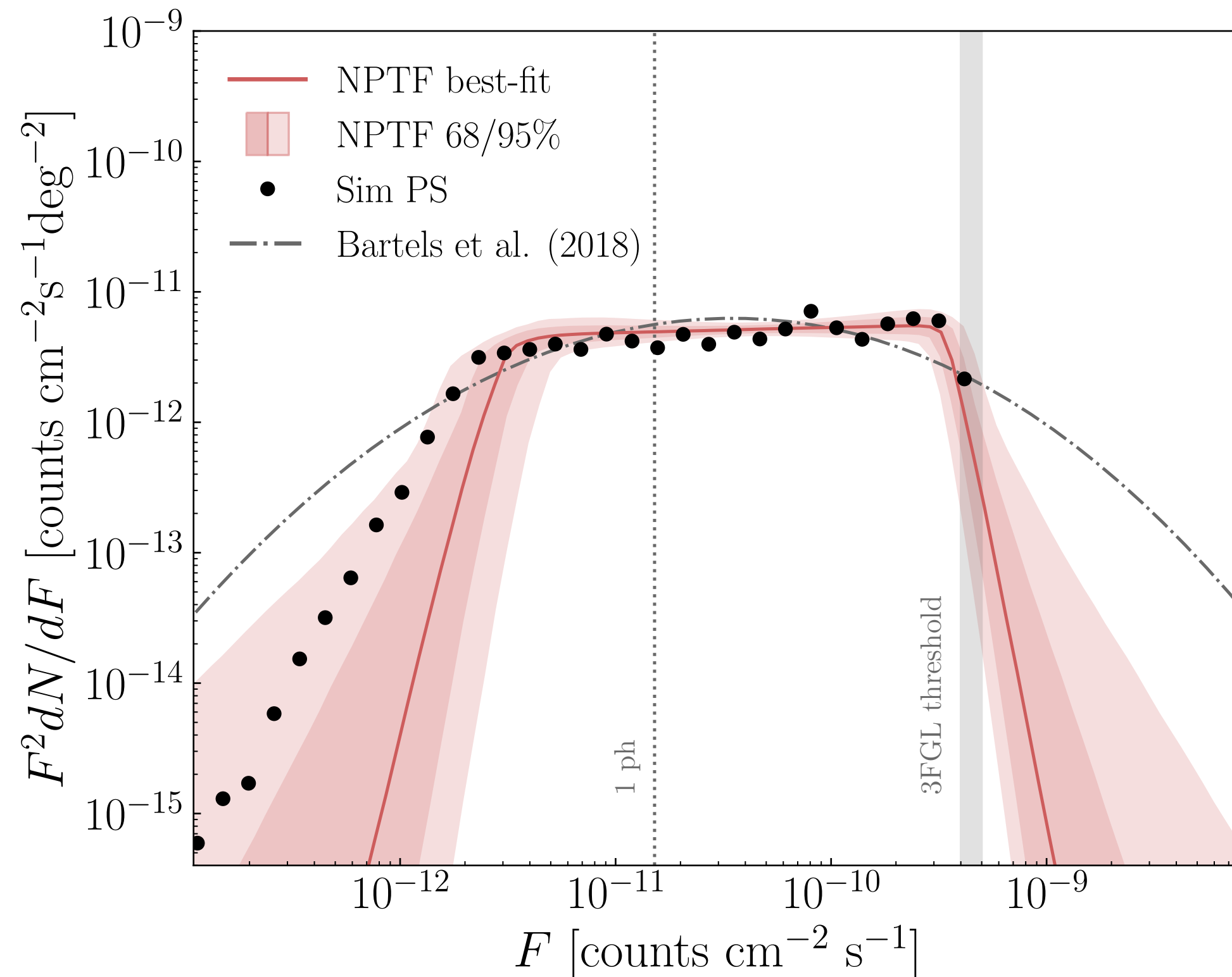
"Hard" flux distribution, most PSs just below detection threshold



Representative of distribution inferred in *Lee et al (2015)*

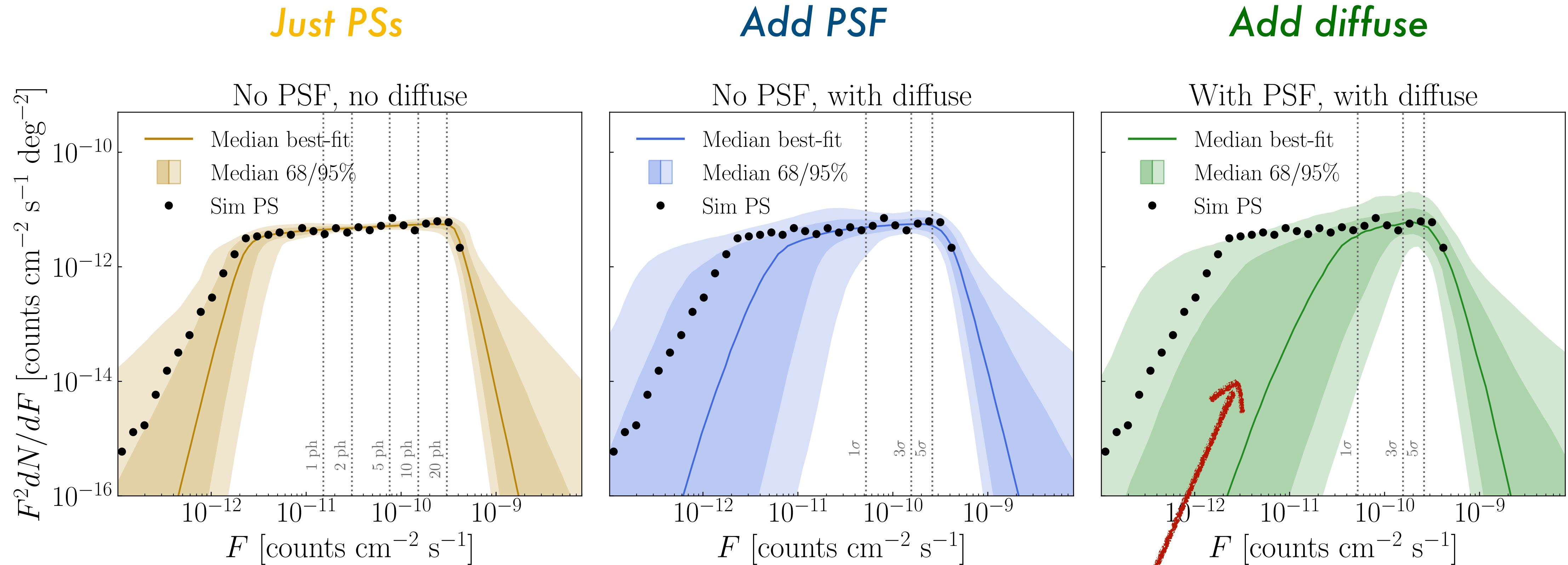
Consider two "extreme" PS flux distributions

"Soft" flux distribution, larger number of dim PSs



Representative of expectations for MSP flux. Use as benchmark.

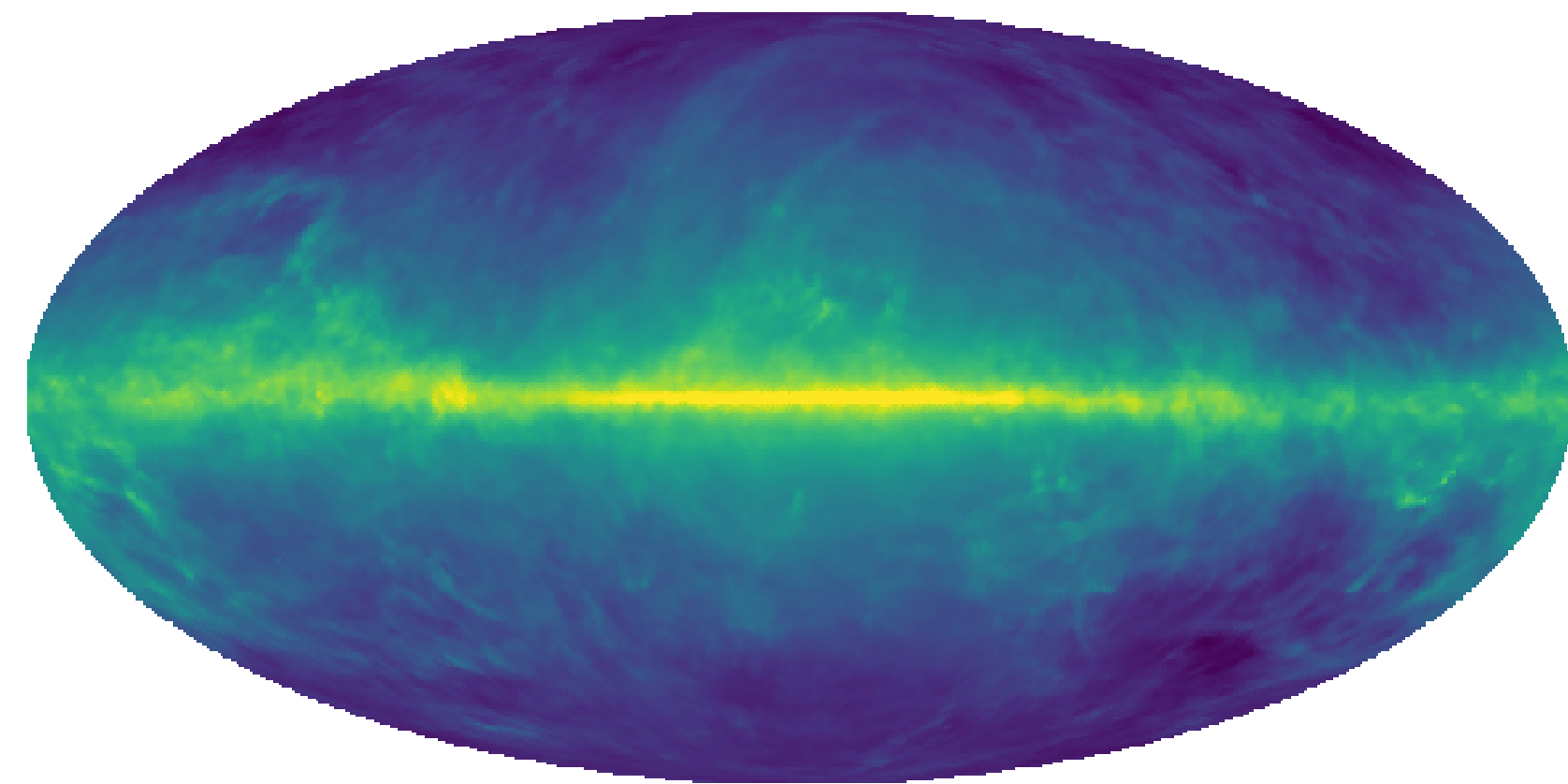
Point source recovery: adding more knobs



Sub-1 σ point sources cannot be reliably characterized

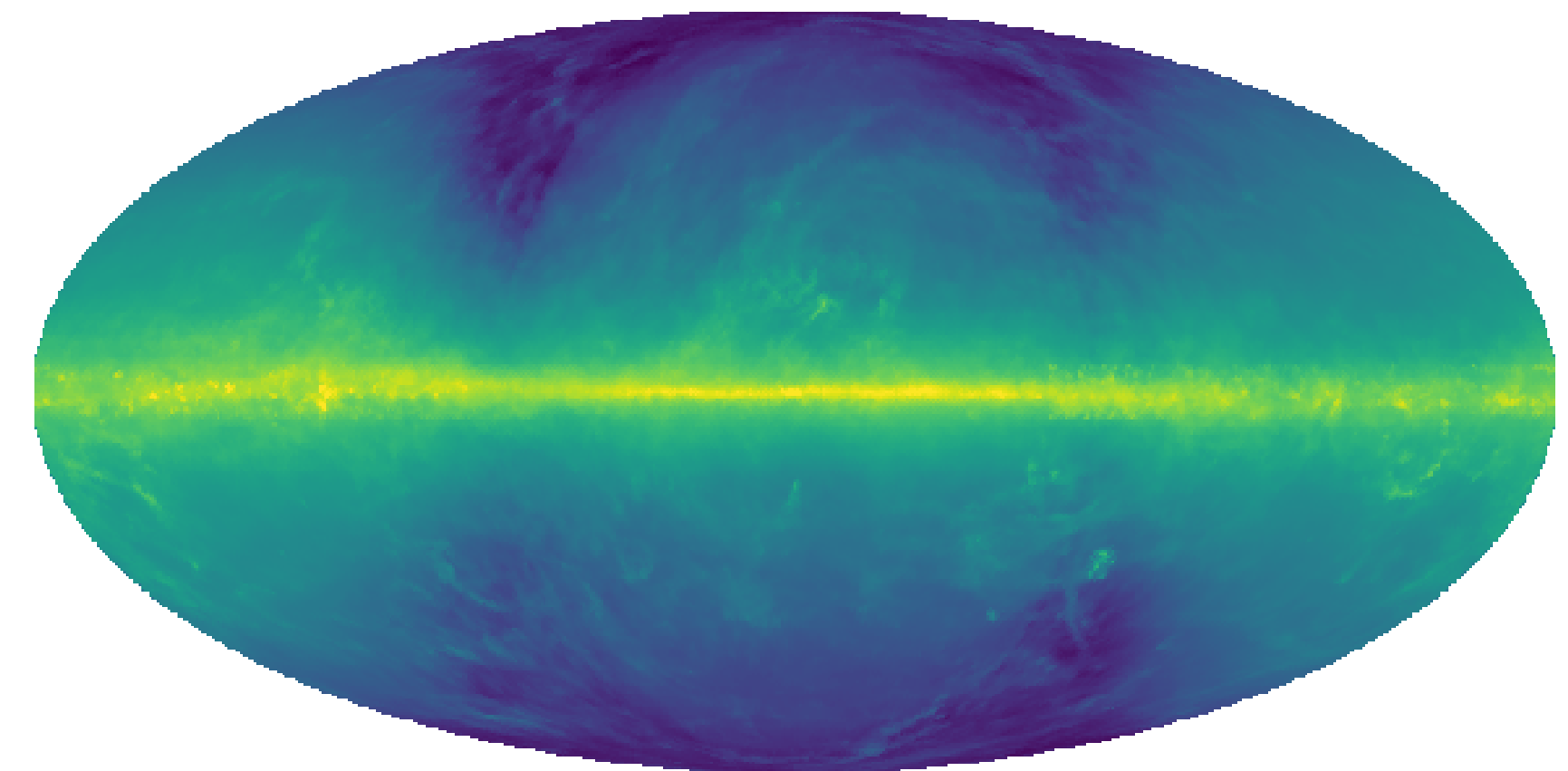
Testing the effect of foreground mismodeling

Create simulation (including PS or DM) with one diffuse model



p6v11

Run NPTF pipeline with different diffuse model



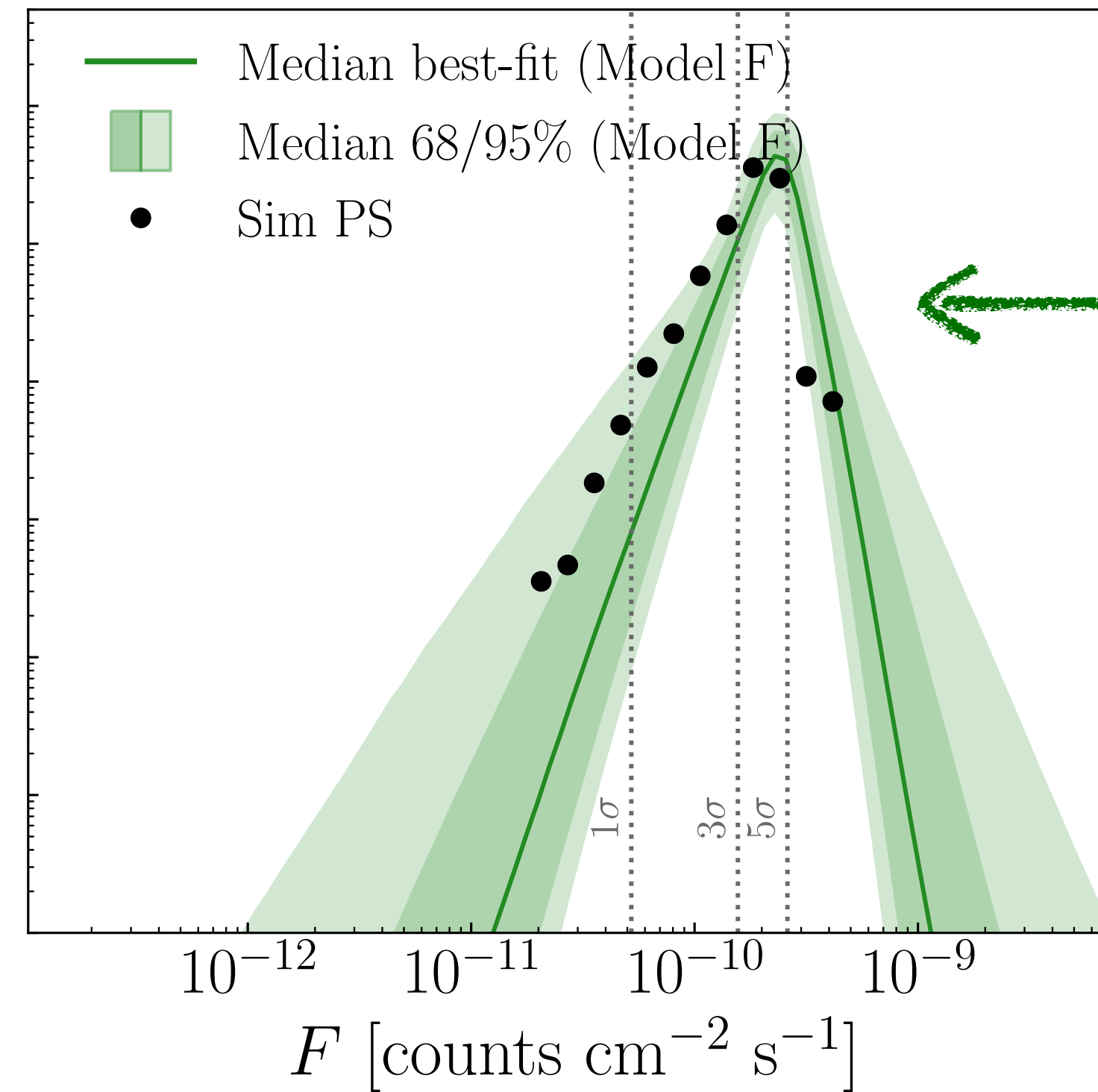
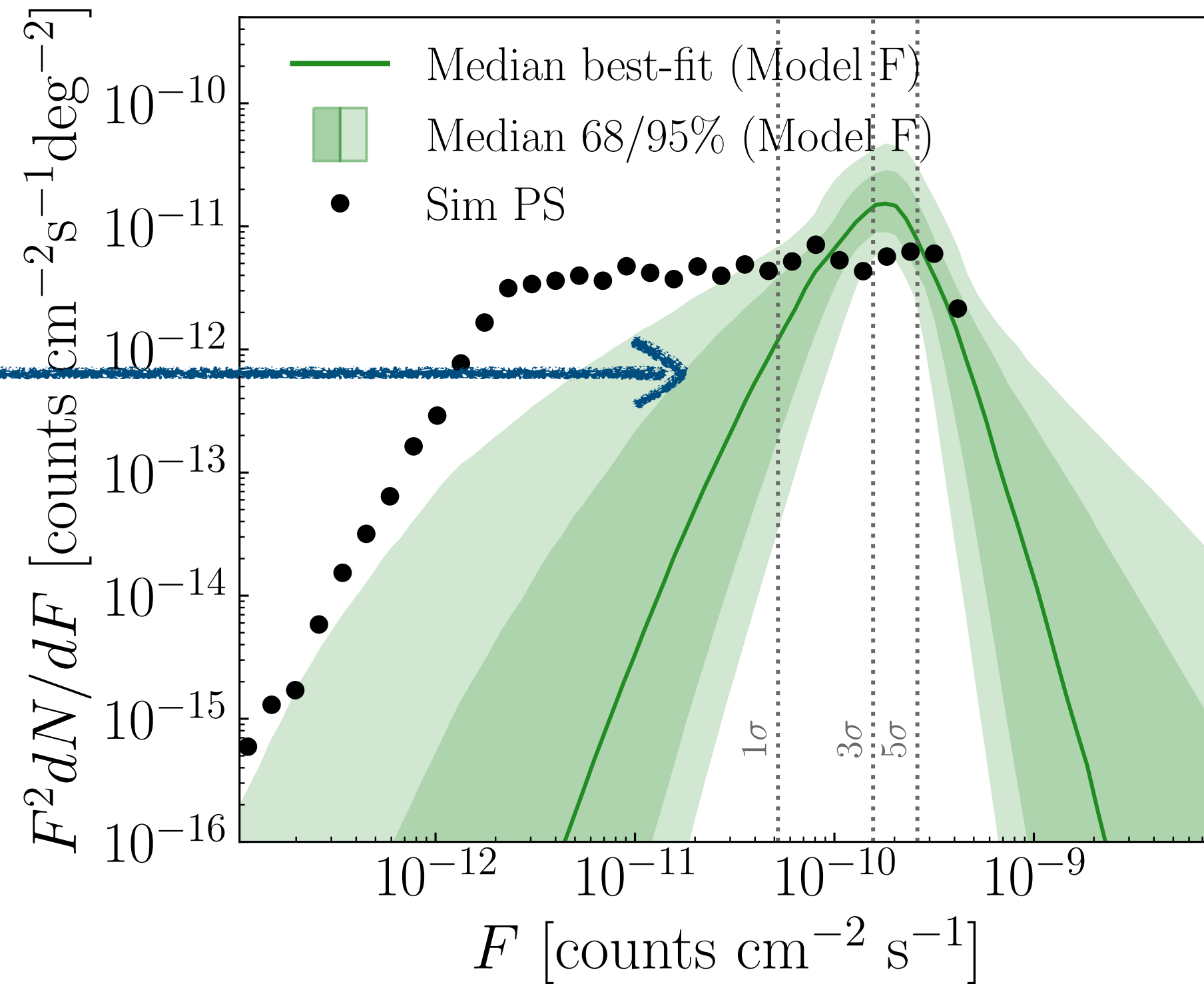
Model F

Explore whether significance of PS hypothesis consistent with truth

PS recovery with foreground mismodeling

“Soft” flux distribution

“Hard” flux distribution



Recovered PS distribution shows deviations from truth

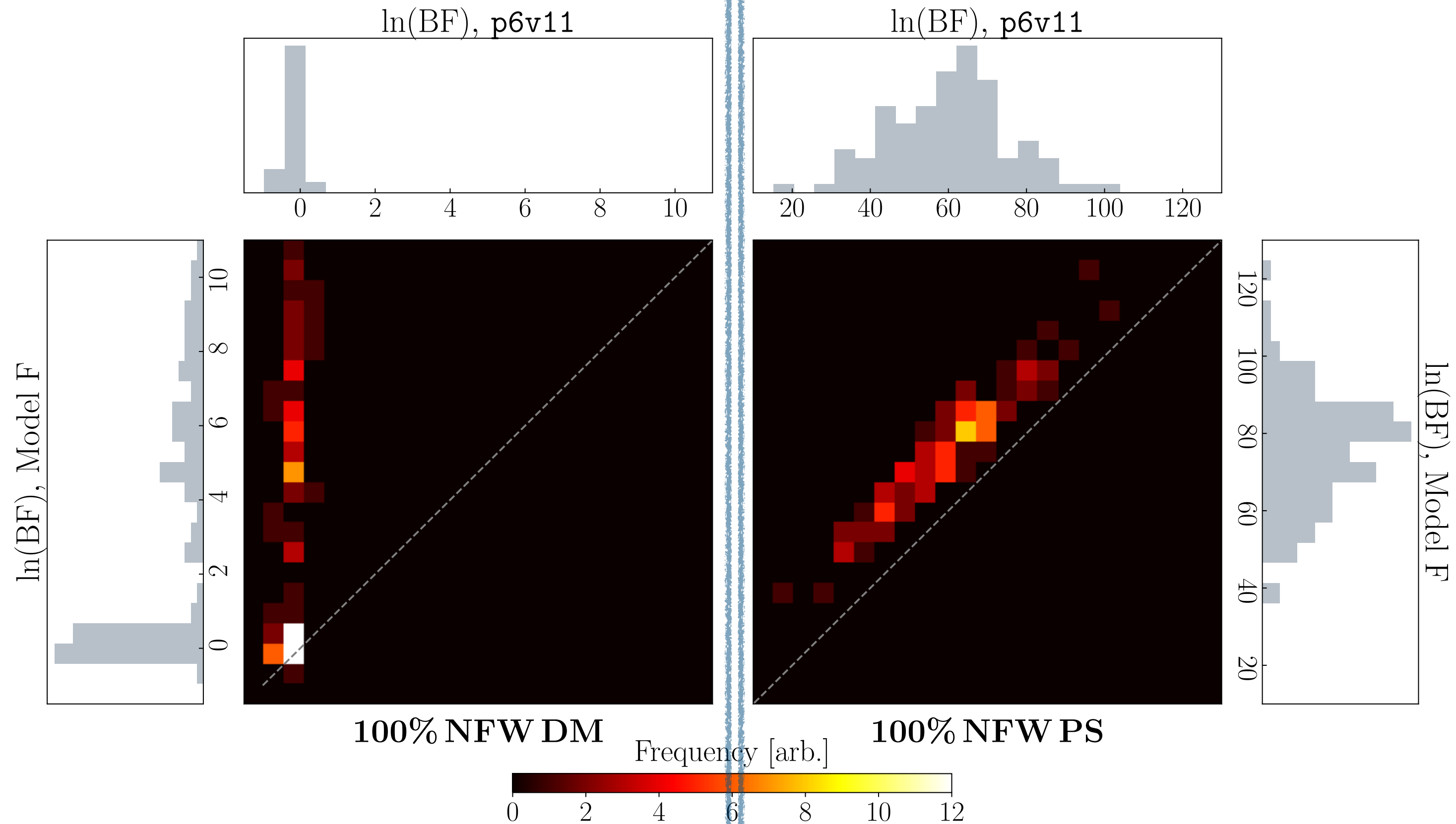
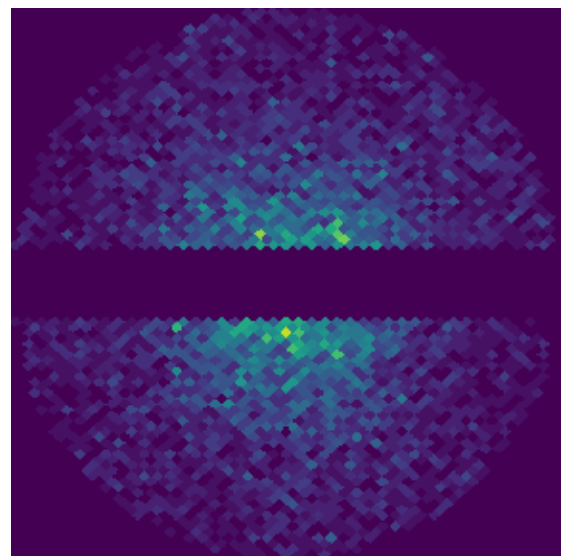
Similar to distribution seen in real data.

PSs well-characterized even with foreground mismodeling

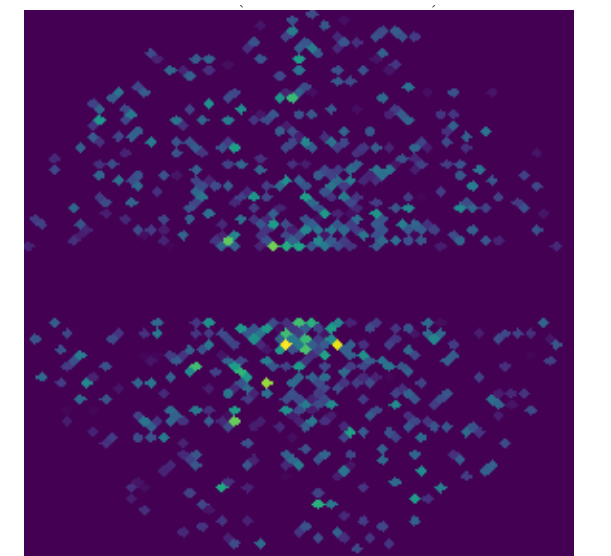
Suggestive of diffuse mismodeling effects in real data

Testing the PS hypothesis

Simulate GCE
with DM



Simulate GCE
with PS

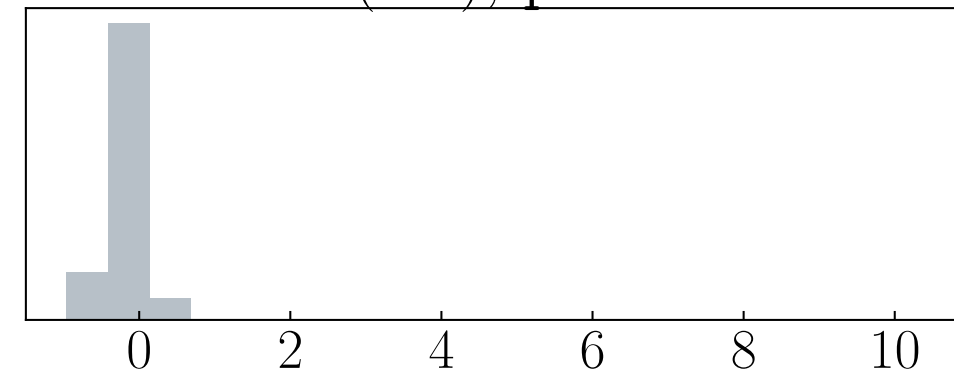


Testing the PS hypothesis

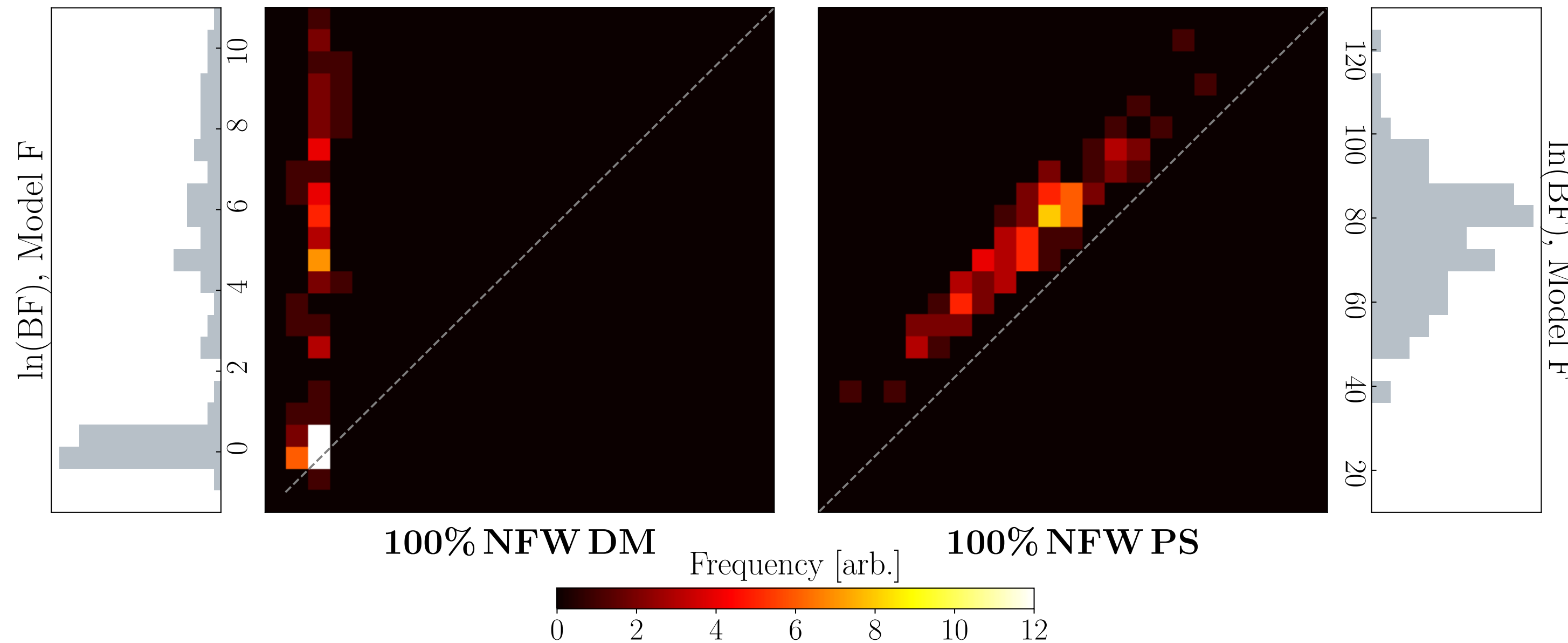
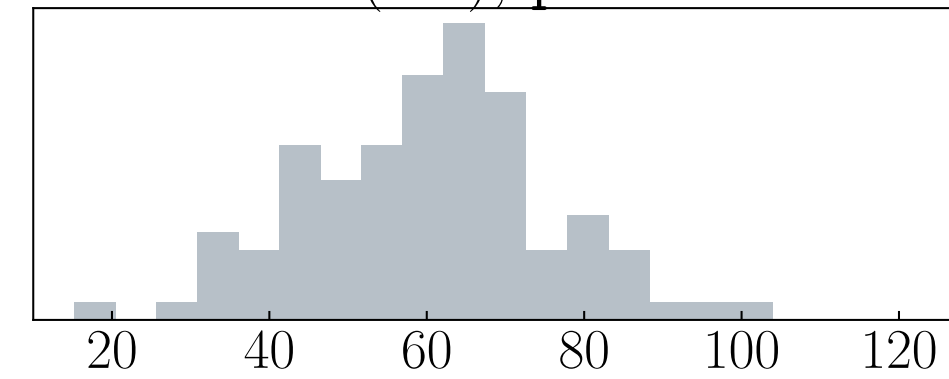
Using truth diffuse model



$\ln(\text{BF}), \text{p6v11}$



$\ln(\text{BF}), \text{p6v11}$

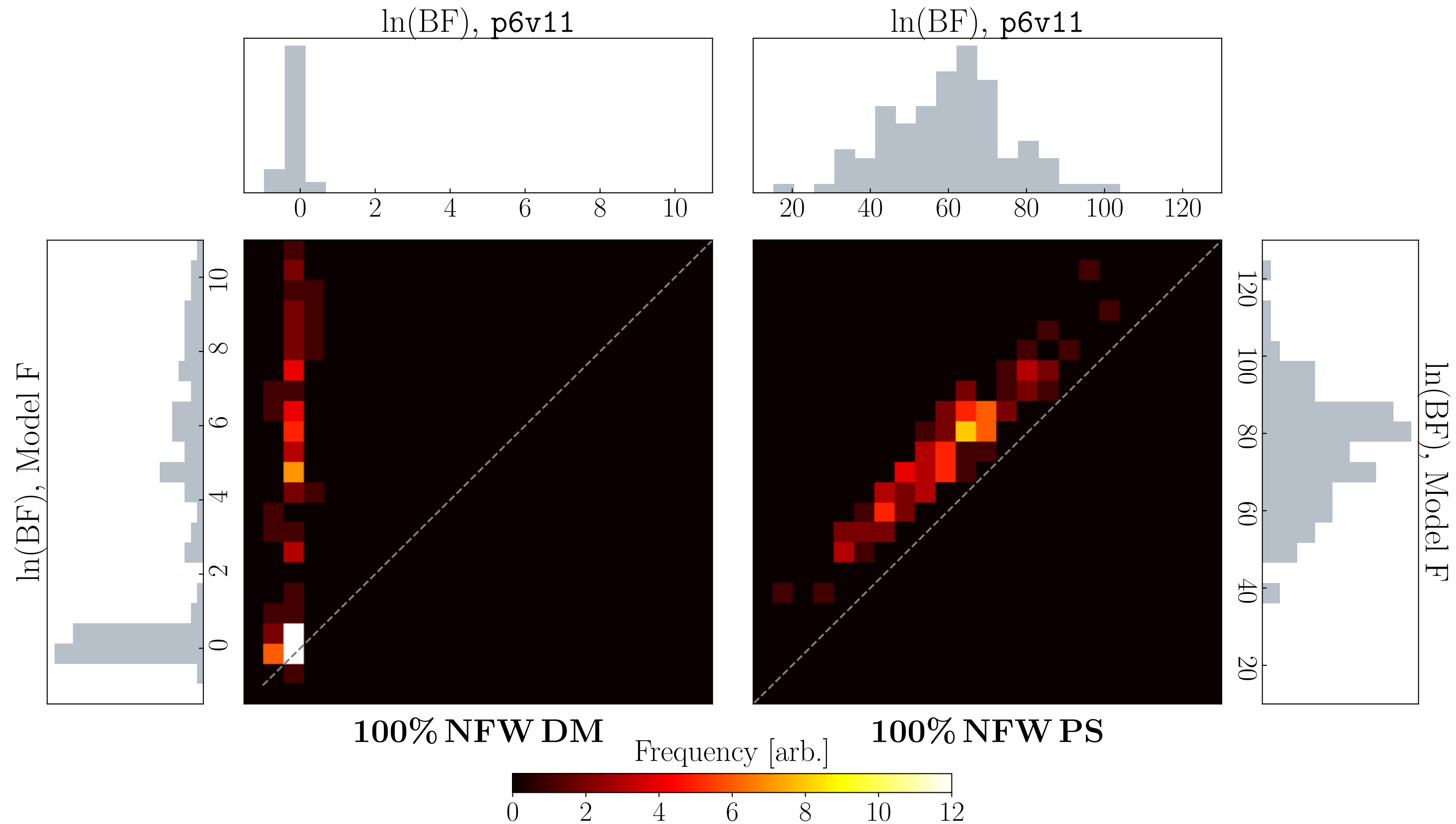


Using incorrect diffuse model



Testing the PS hypothesis

High-variance residuals can lead to spurious evidence for PSs



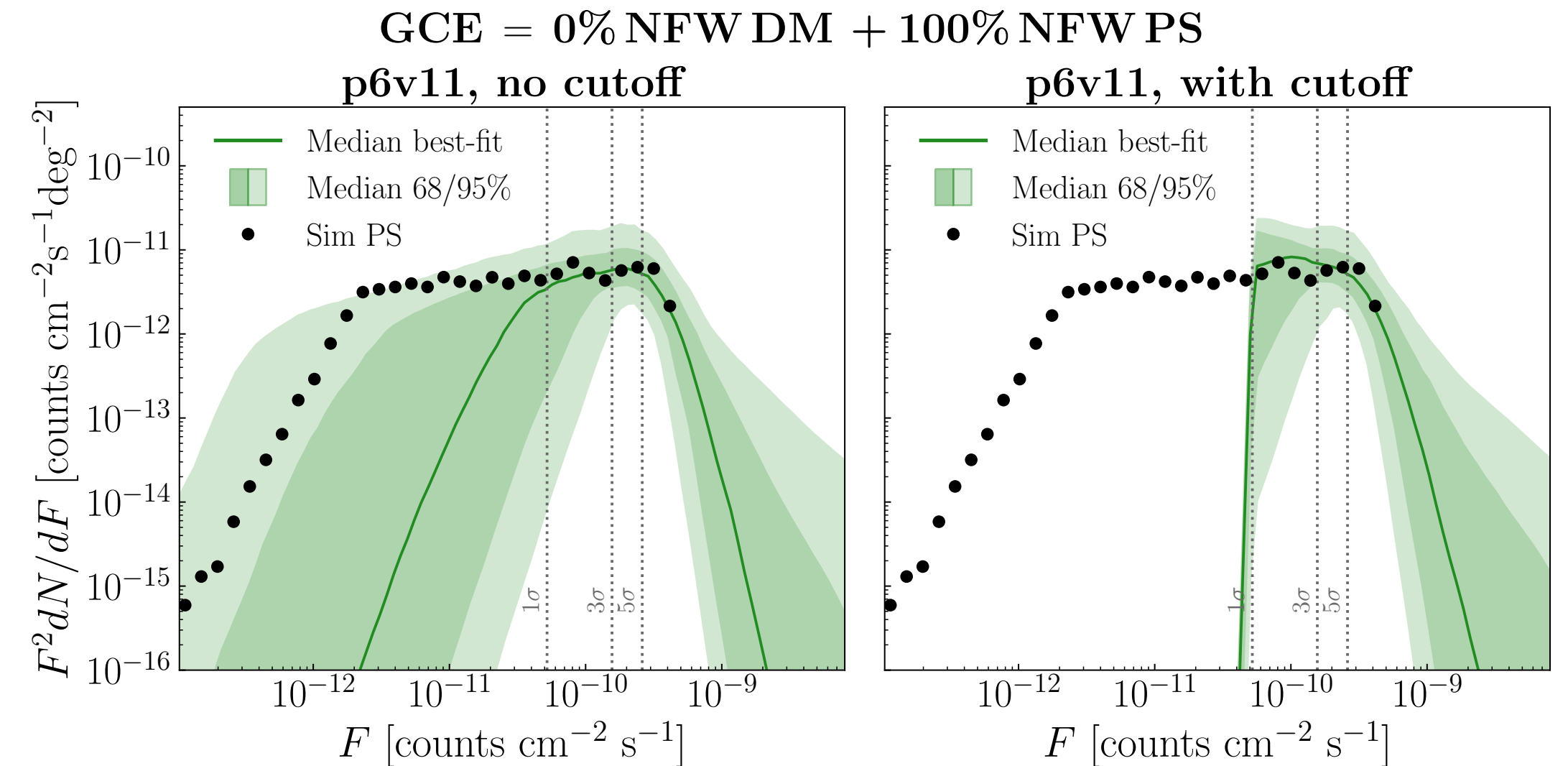
Evidence for PSs generally robust when they are present

Key takeaways

Degeneracy between dim PSs and dark matter can bias inference

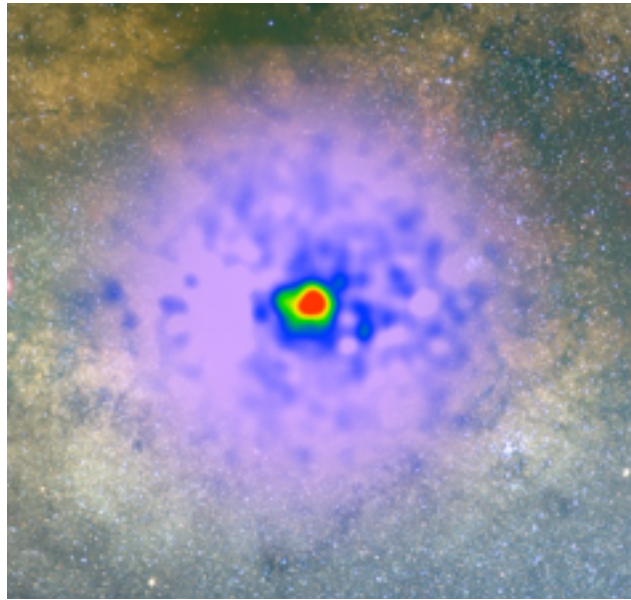
One solution: *cut off flux distribution below $1\text{-}\sigma$ PS detection threshold*

Mismodeling of Galactic diffuse foregrounds can lead to spurious point sources
Much harder problem!

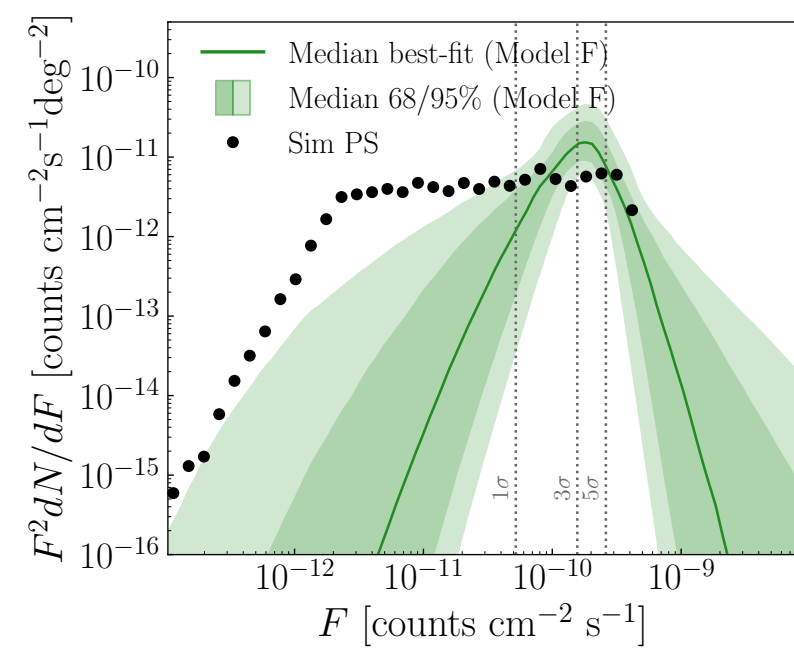


Next: possibilities for mitigating diffuse mismodeling

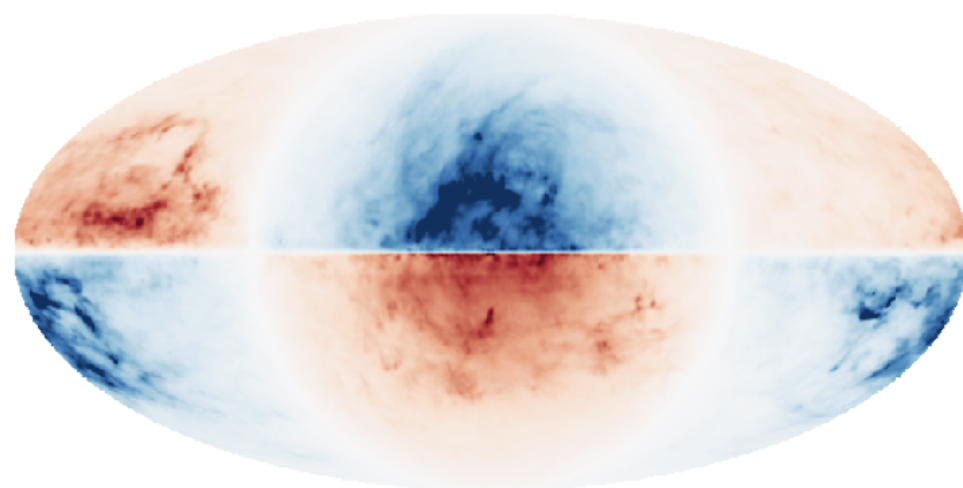
Outline



Galactic Center Excess: Background and Methods

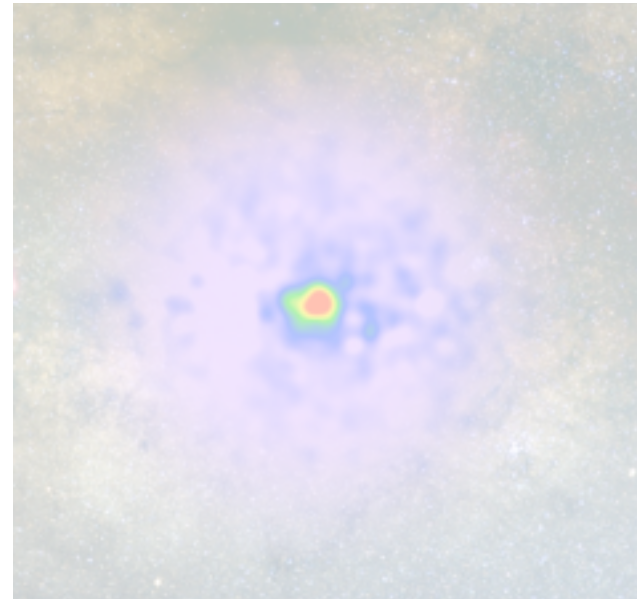


Diffuse mismodeling and lessons from simulation

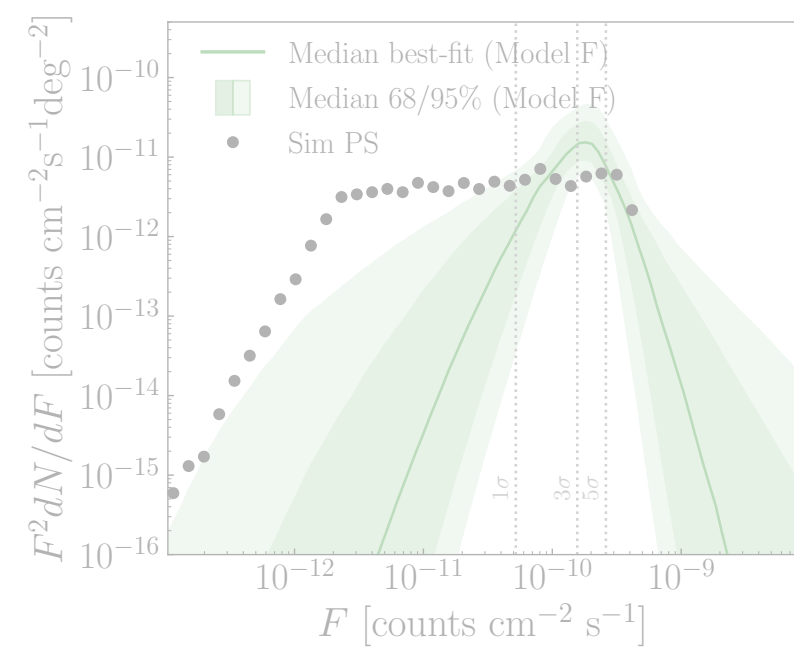


Towards mitigating diffuse mismodeling

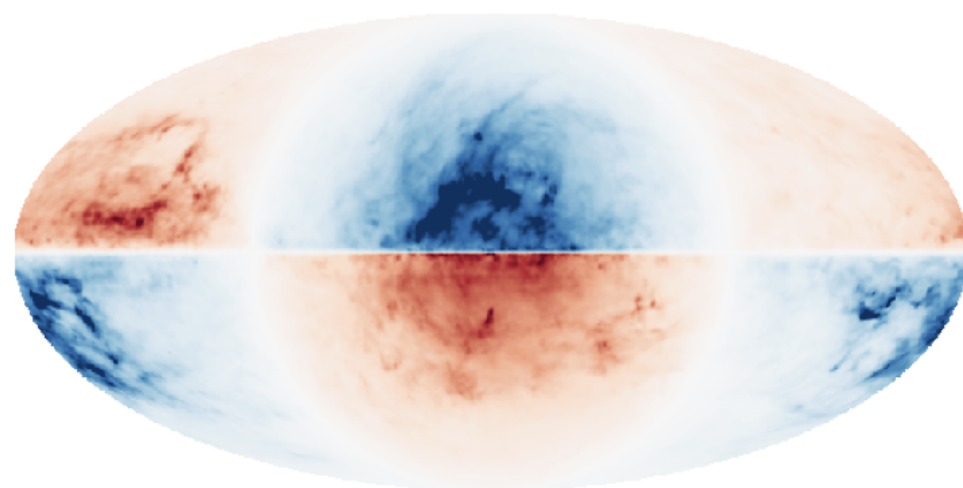
Outline



Galactic Center Excess: Background and Methods



Diffuse mismodeling and lessons from simulation



Towards mitigating diffuse mismodeling



Epistemic classification

Inspired by
Josh Ruderman
and
Don Rumsfeld

Known knowns

*Things we know
we know*

Unknown knowns

*Things we think we know
but we don't know*

Known unknowns

*Things we know
we don't know*

Unknown unknowns

*Things we don't know
we don't know*

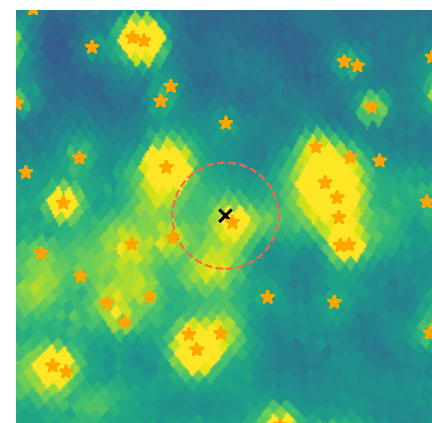
Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Inspired by
Josh Ruderman
and
Don Rumsfeld

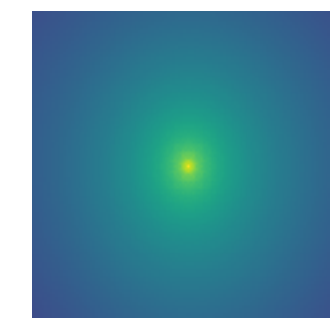
Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Unknown knowns

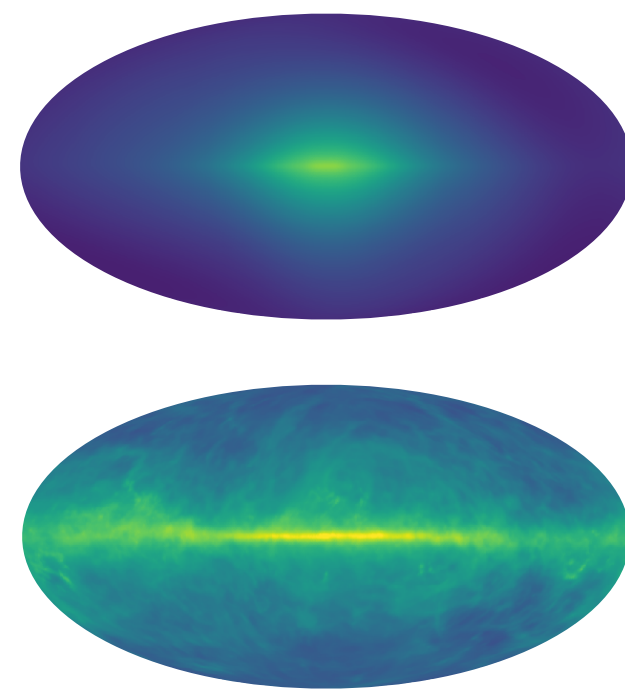
- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

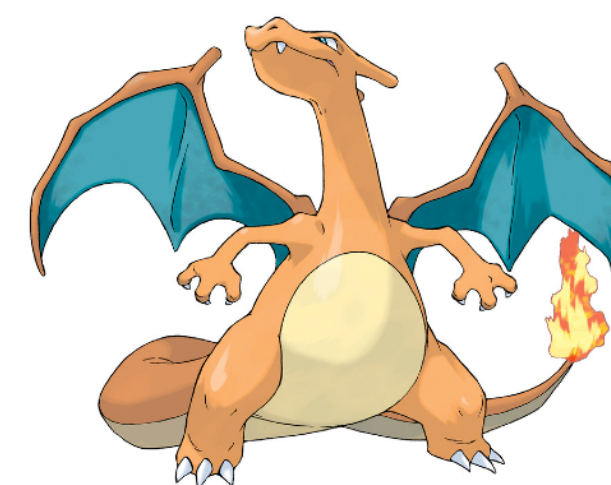
- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?



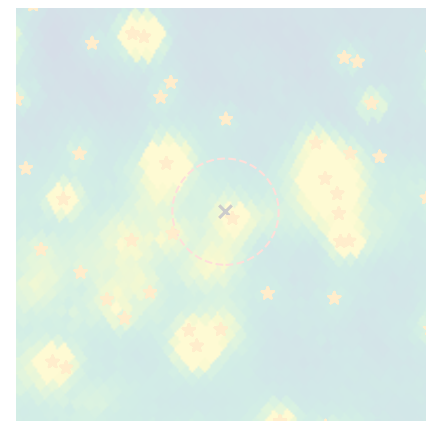
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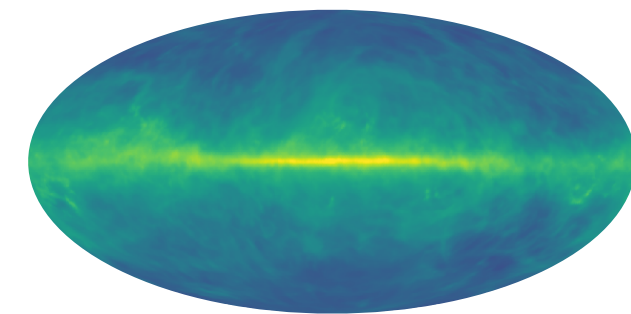
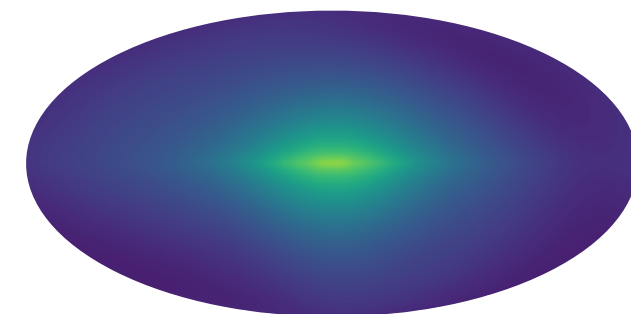
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- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

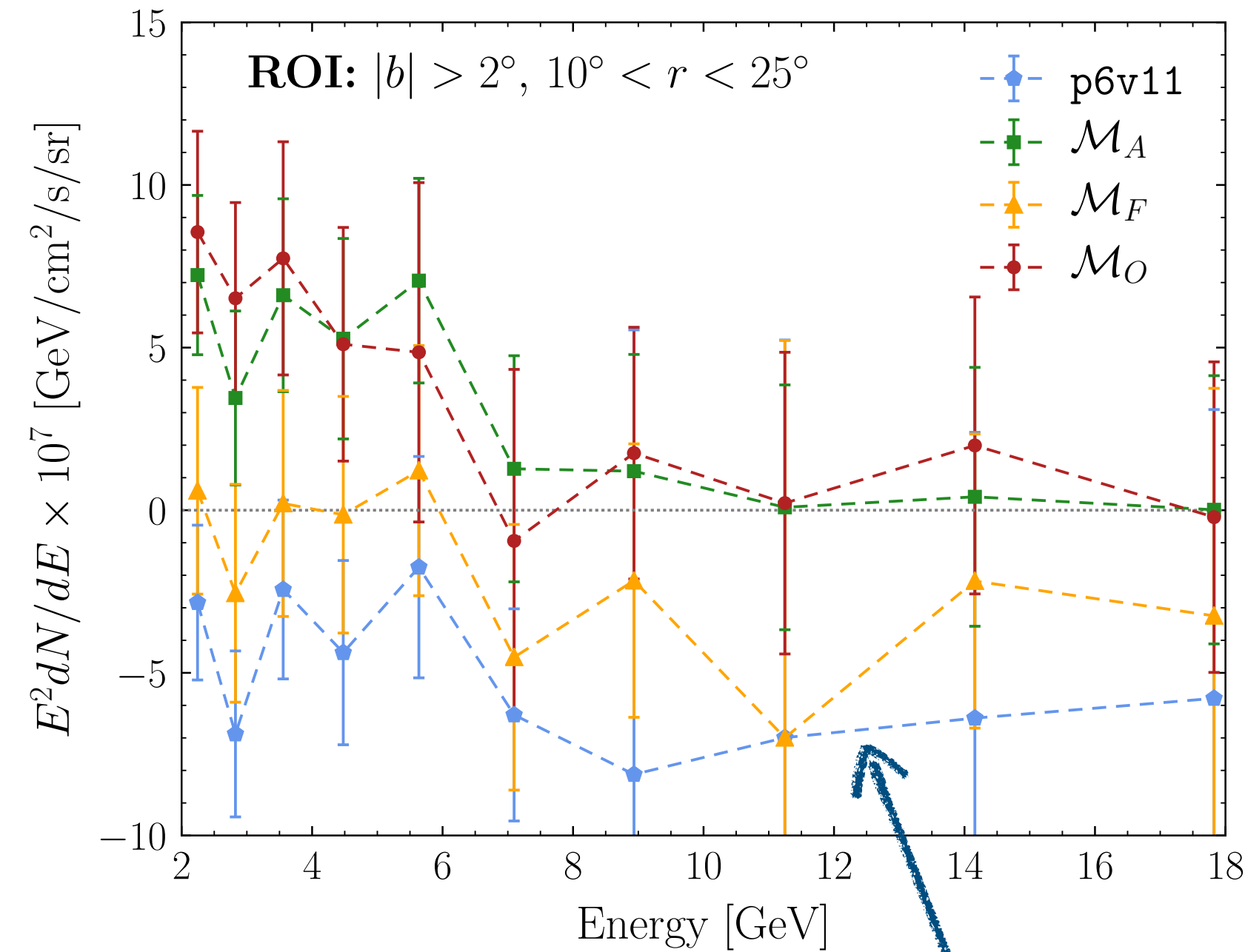
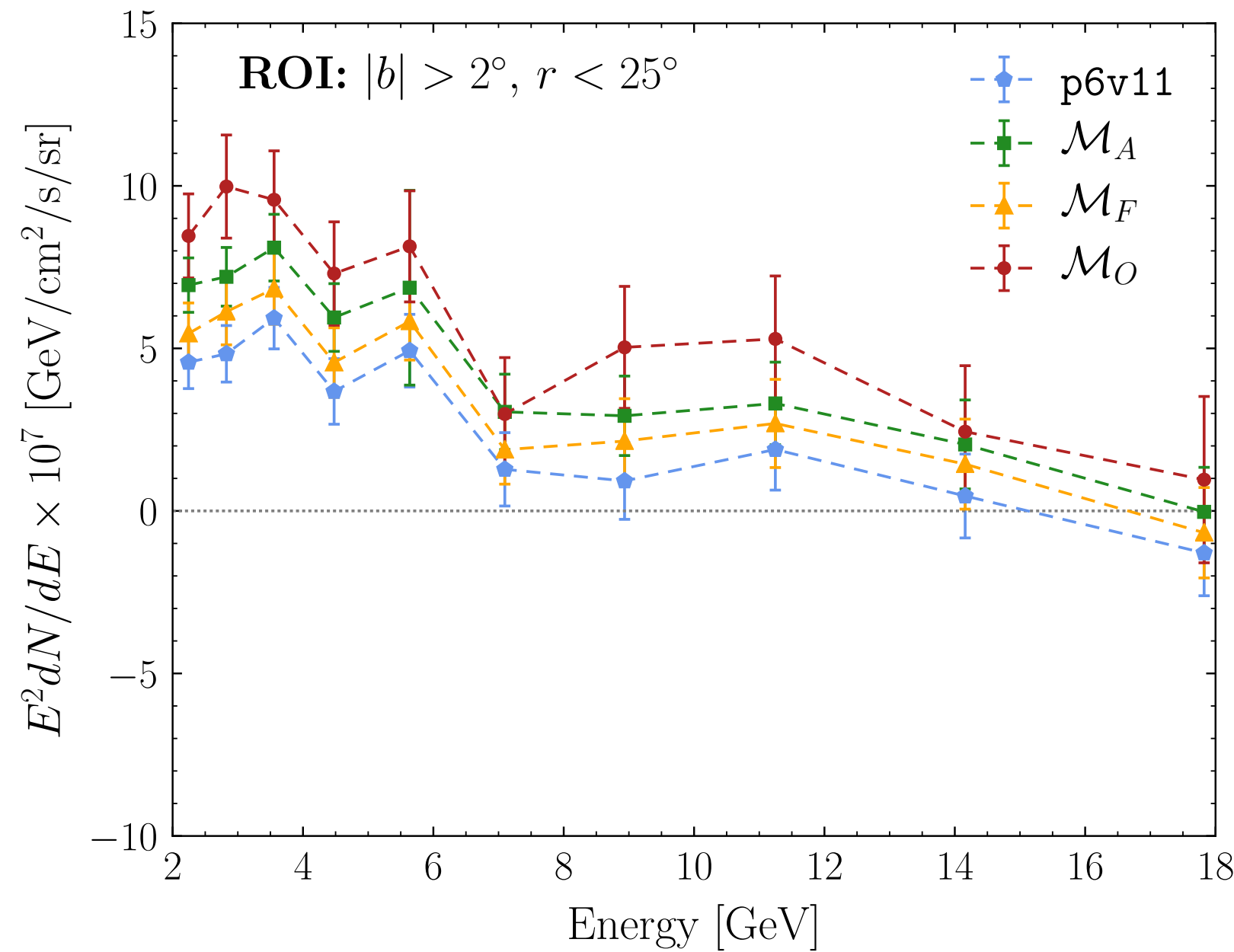
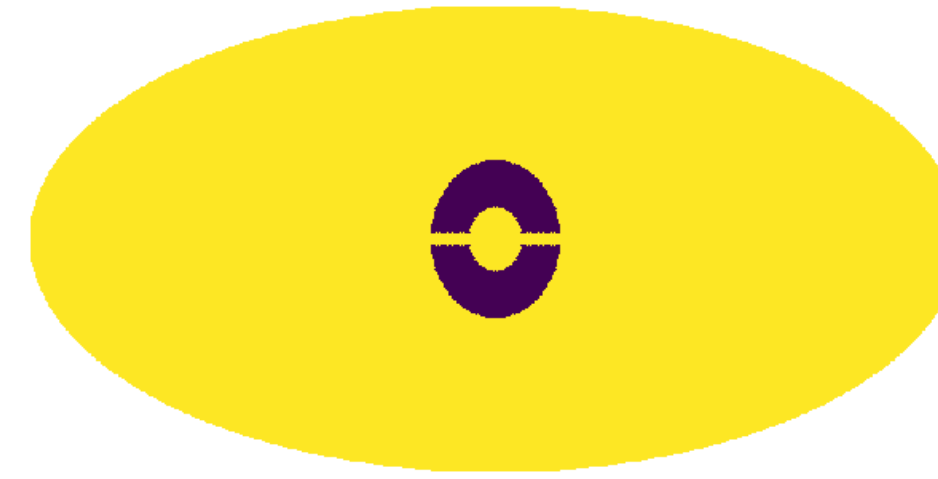
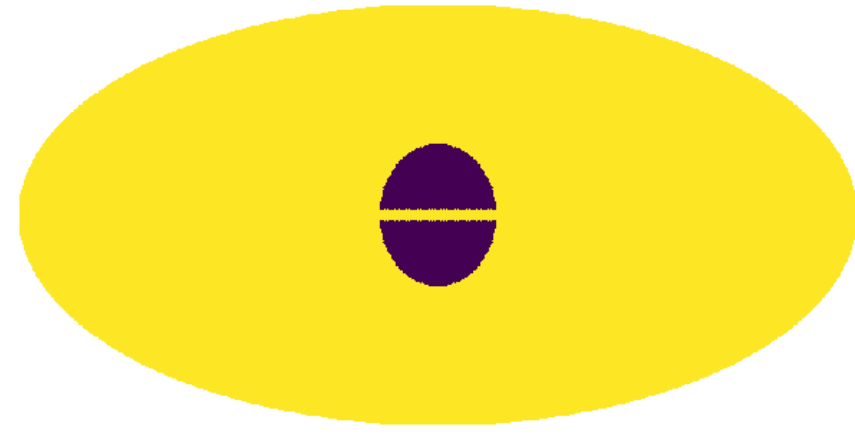
Unknown point source populations

?



Some diffuse models are better than others

A Poissonian example: the GCE spectrum



Over-subtraction
evident in some
diffuse models

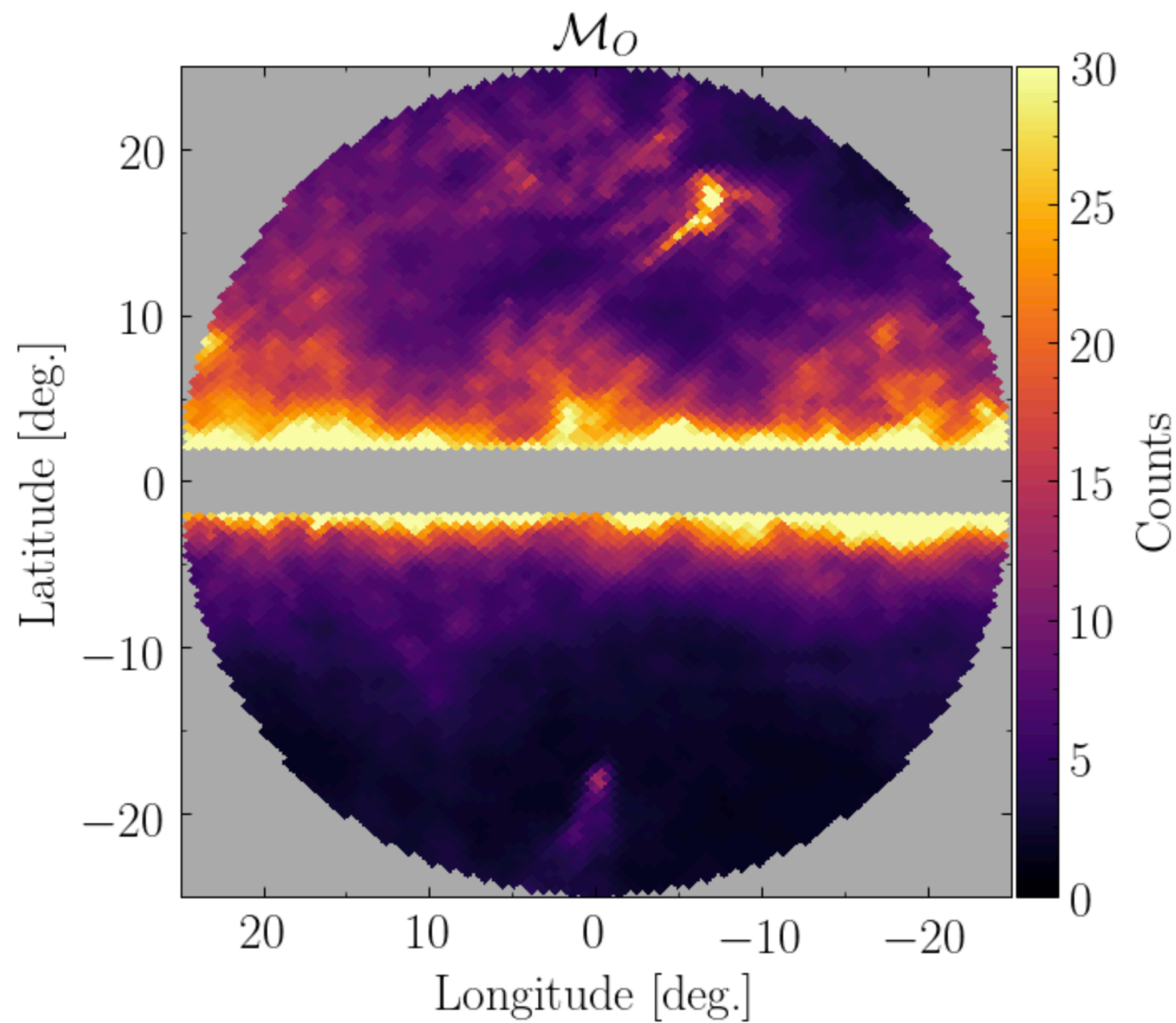
p6v11 model widely used in previous studies

Towards a better diffuse model

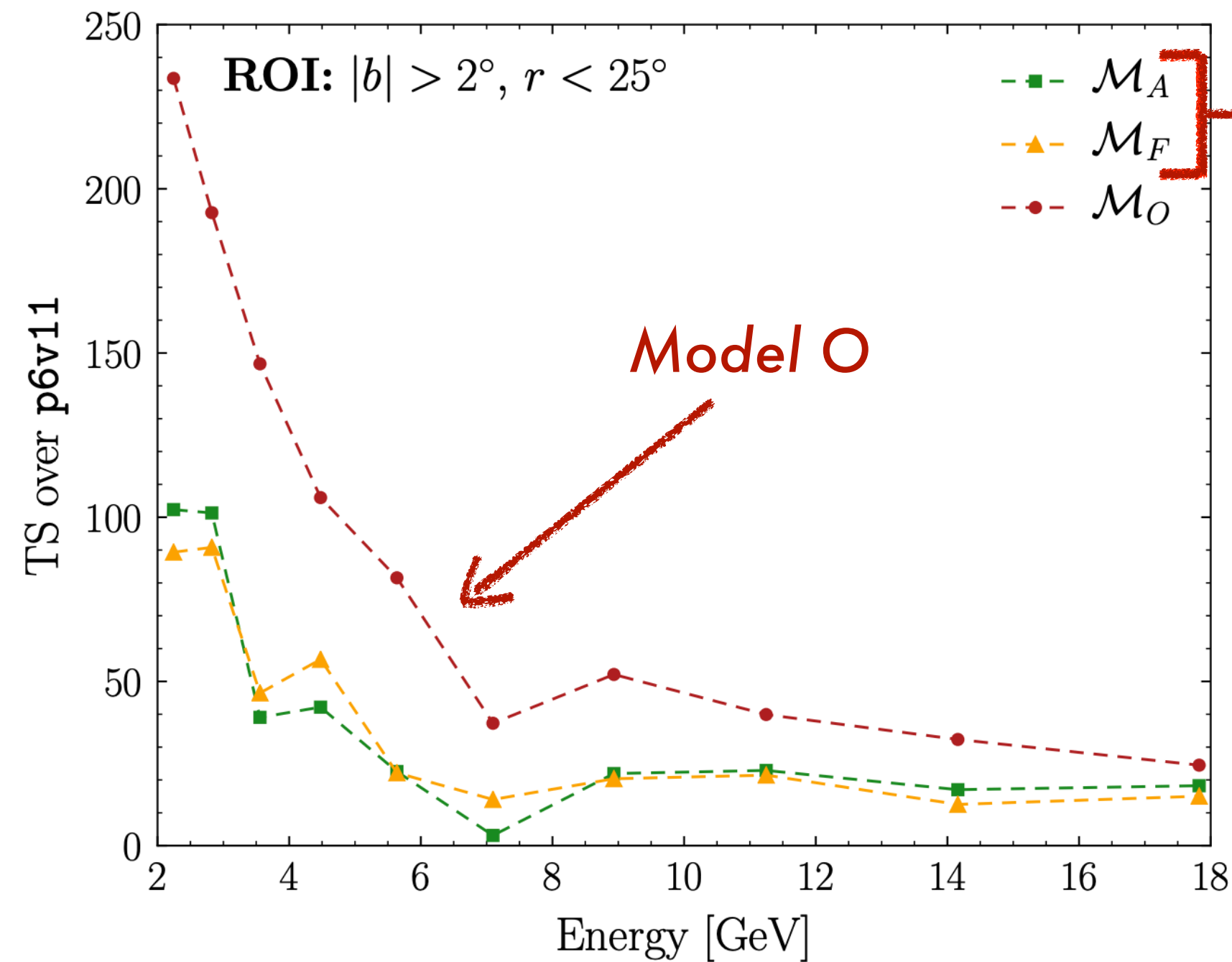


Oscar Macias

Diffuse "Model O"



TS improvement over previous models



Models previous considered in Lee et al (2015) and Leane & Slatyer (2019)

- Updated gas tracers
- 3D radiation field for IC
- Components fit in several Galactocentric rings

Available at <https://github.com/nickrodd/FermiDiffuse-ModelO>

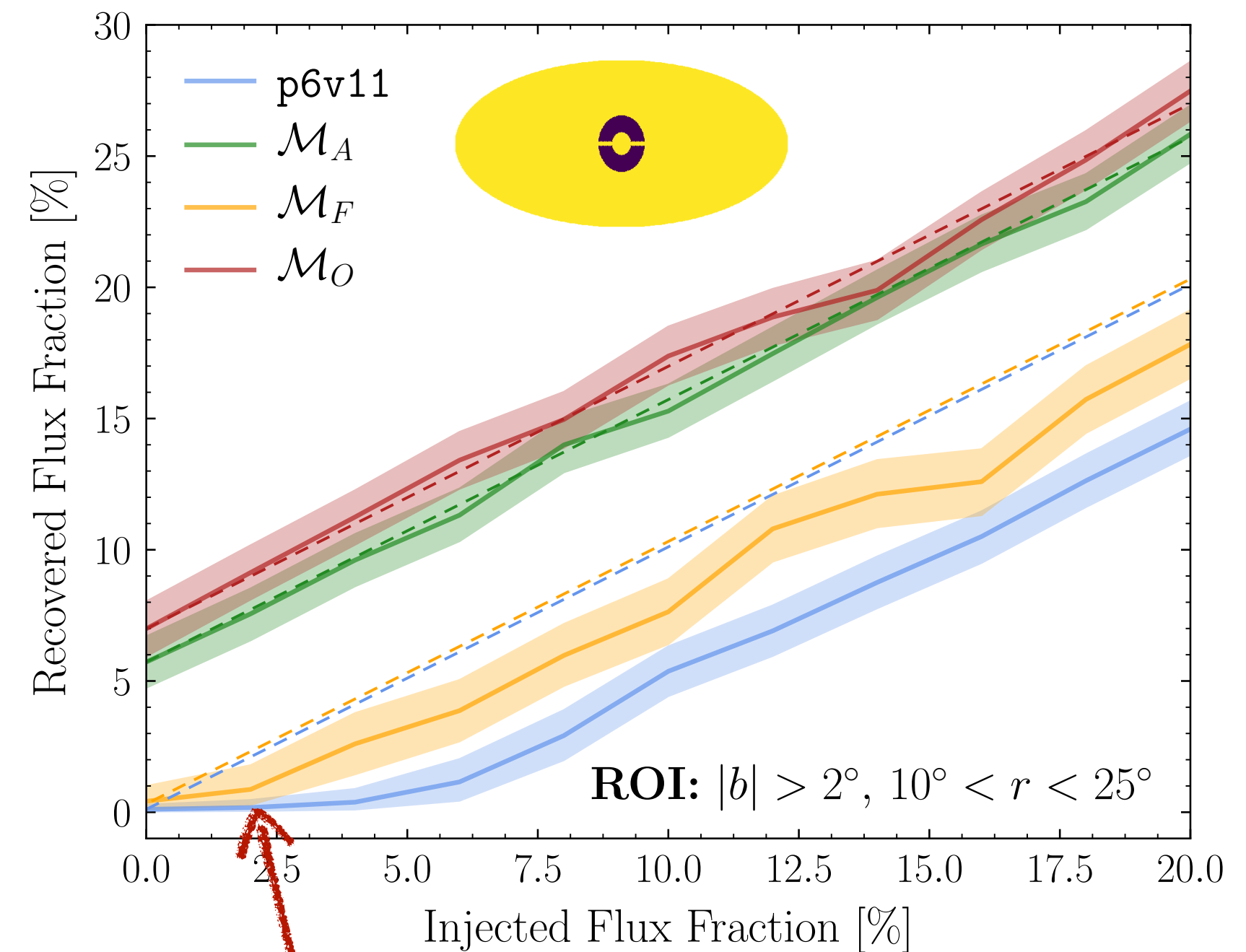
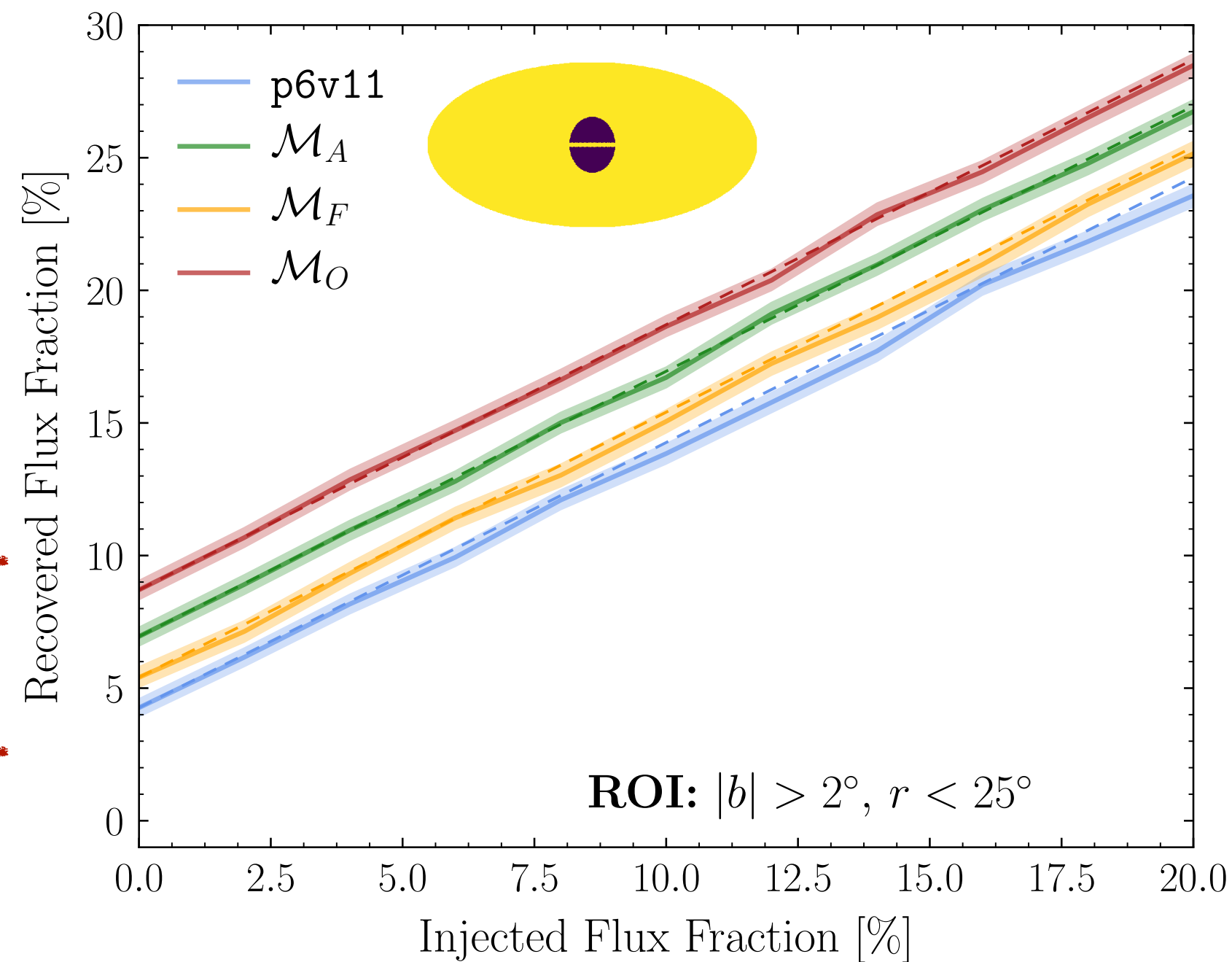
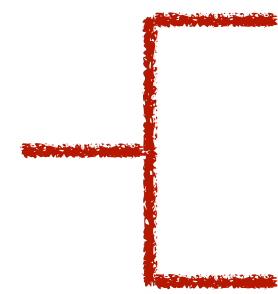
Macias et al [1901.03822]
Macias et al [1611.06644]

Some diffuse models are better than others

A Poissonian example: signal injection on data

A different way of seeing the same thing: injected DM onto the data and try to recover it

**GCE flux
inconsistent
among models**

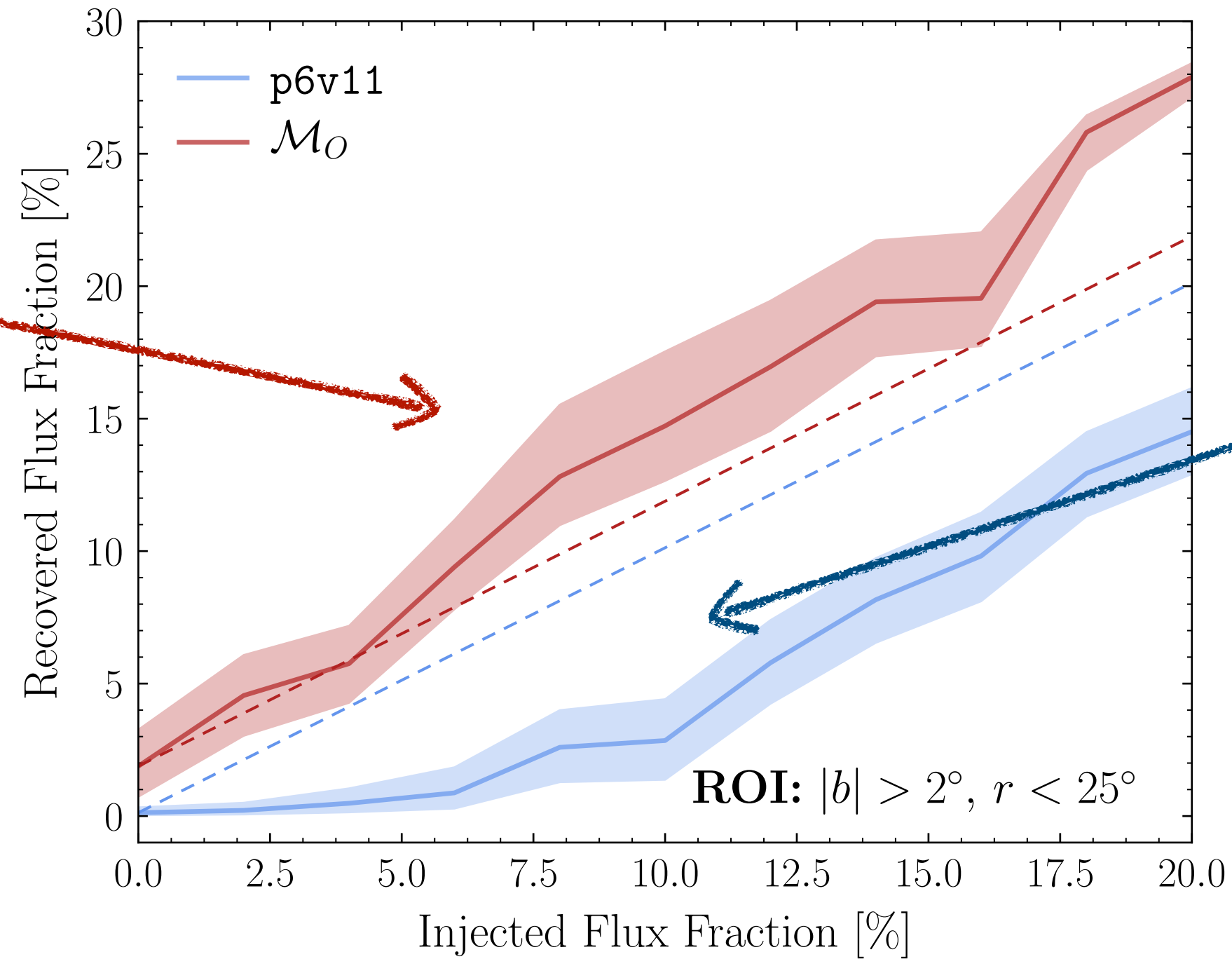


Oversubtraction evident in some diffuse models

Some diffuse models are better than others

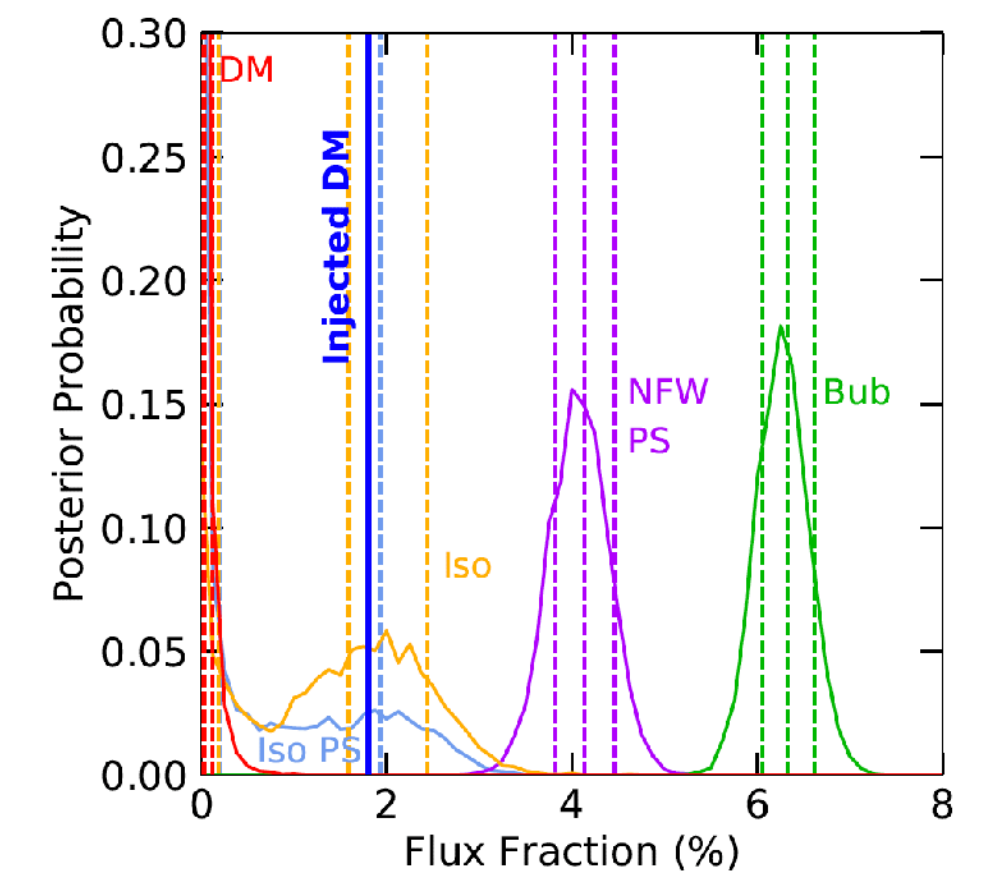
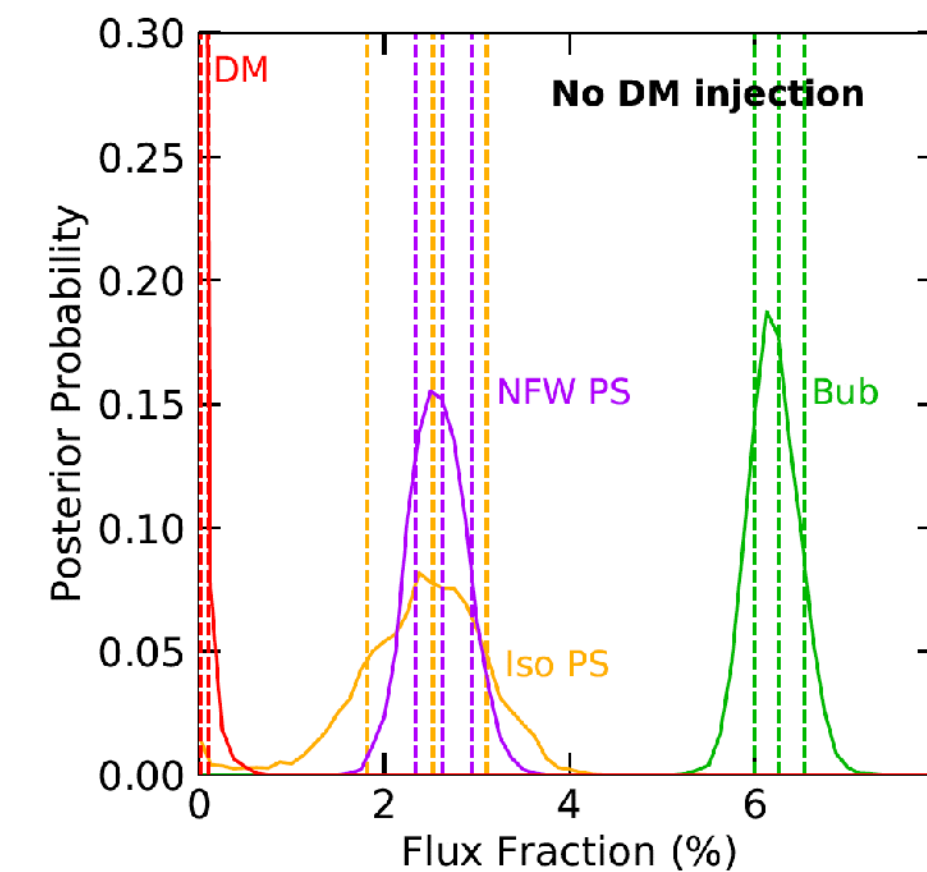
A non-Poissonian example: signal injection on data

Signal injection better-behaved when using diffuse Model \mathcal{O}



Large oversubtraction observed for the p6v11 diffuse model, as pointed out by Leane & Slatyer

Injected DM signal cannot be reliably recovered



Leane & Slatyer [1904.08430]

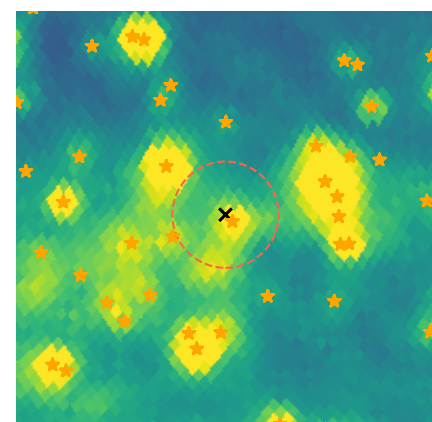
Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Inspired by
Josh Ruderman
and
Don Rumsfeld

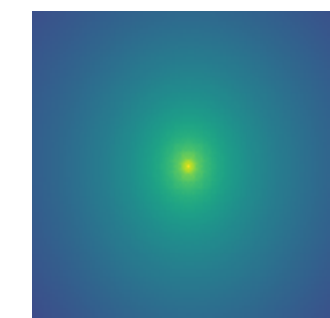
Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Unknown knowns

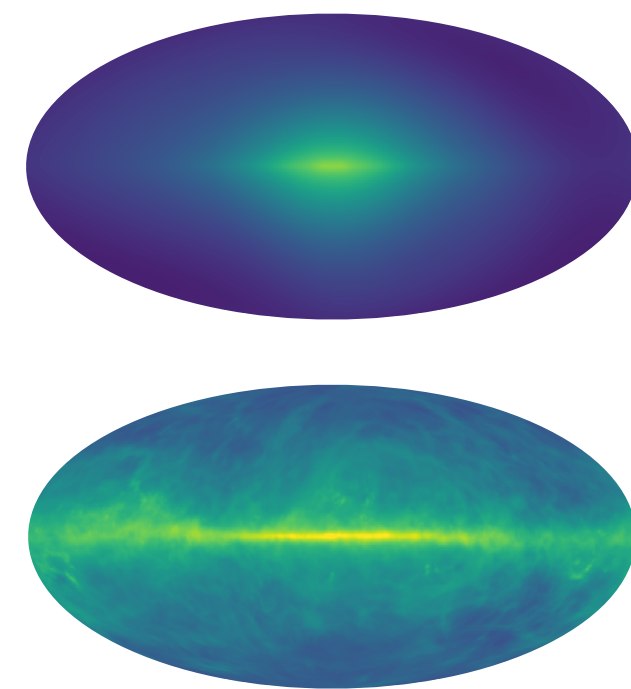
- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

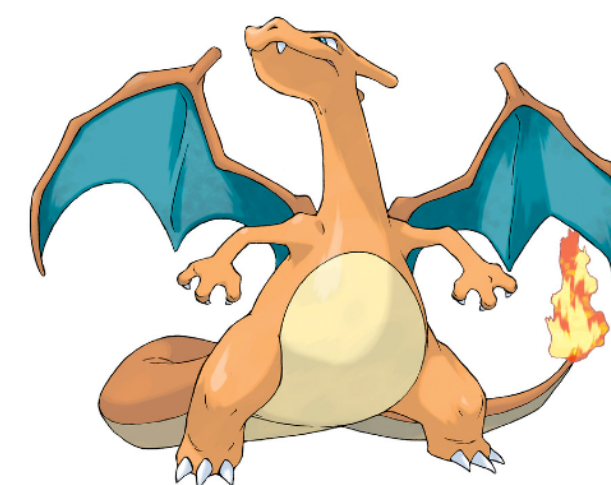
- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?



Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

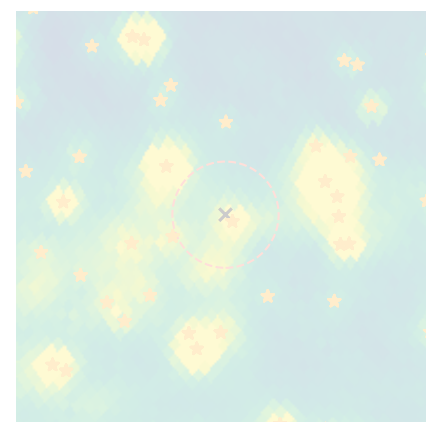
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Unknown knowns

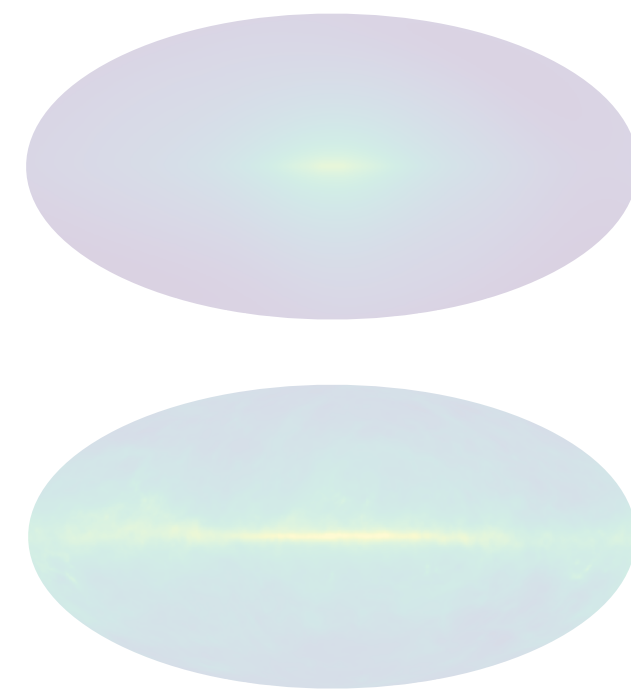
- The morphology of the excess
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- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?



Mitigating diffuse mismodeling

Giving the background model more freedom

Less freedom

More freedom



Less conservative

More conservative

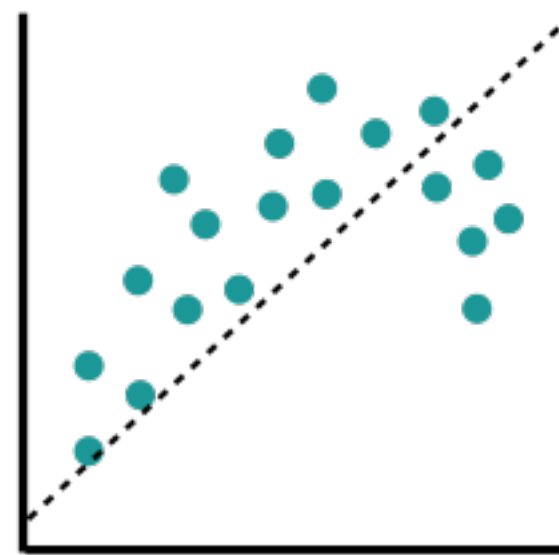
More information about signal

Less extractable information about signal

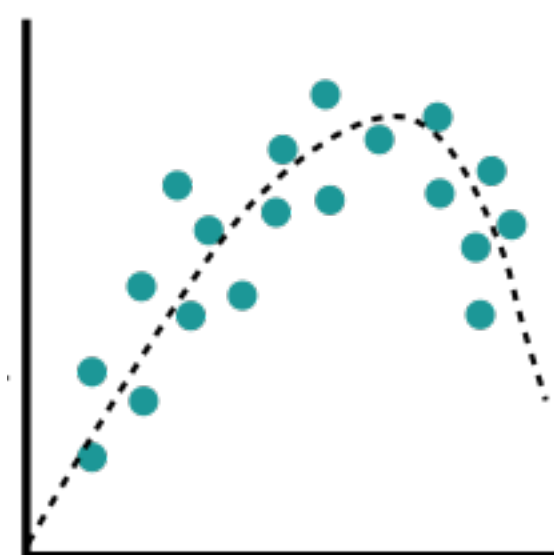
Contingent on background model

"Background model-independent"

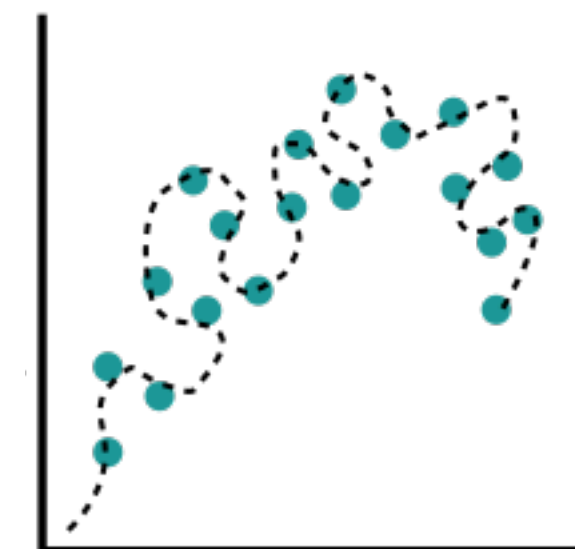
Underfit



Balanced

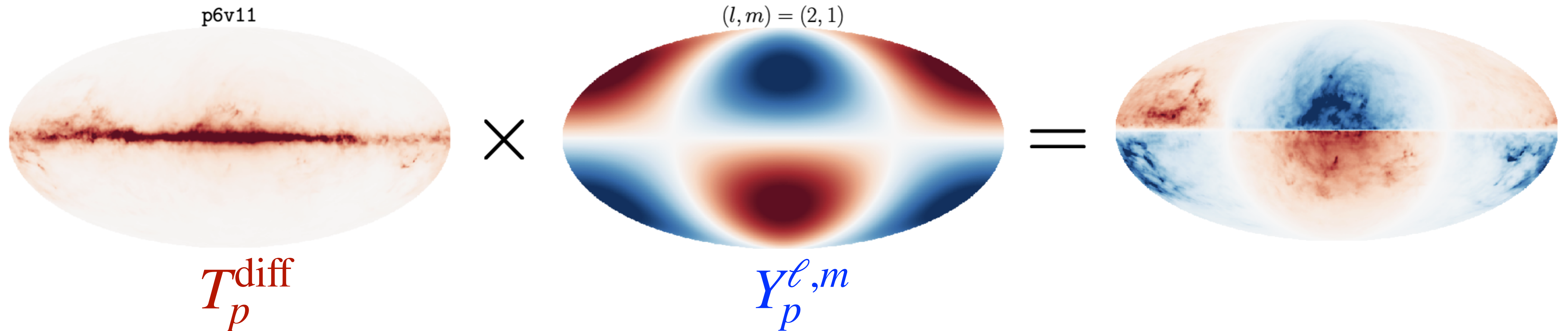


Overfit



(Large-scale) Harmonic marginalization

Extract large-scale harmonic components of diffuse model



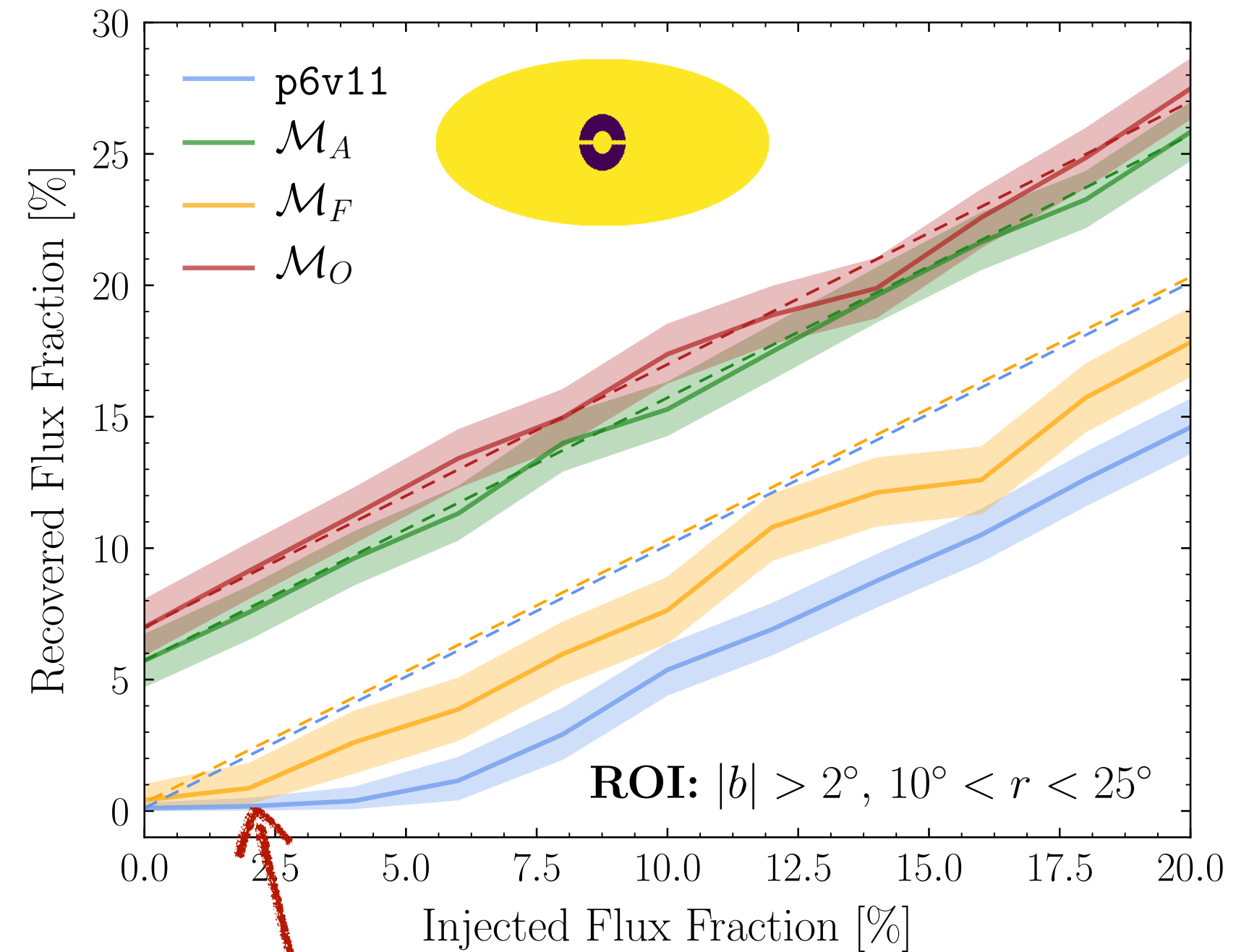
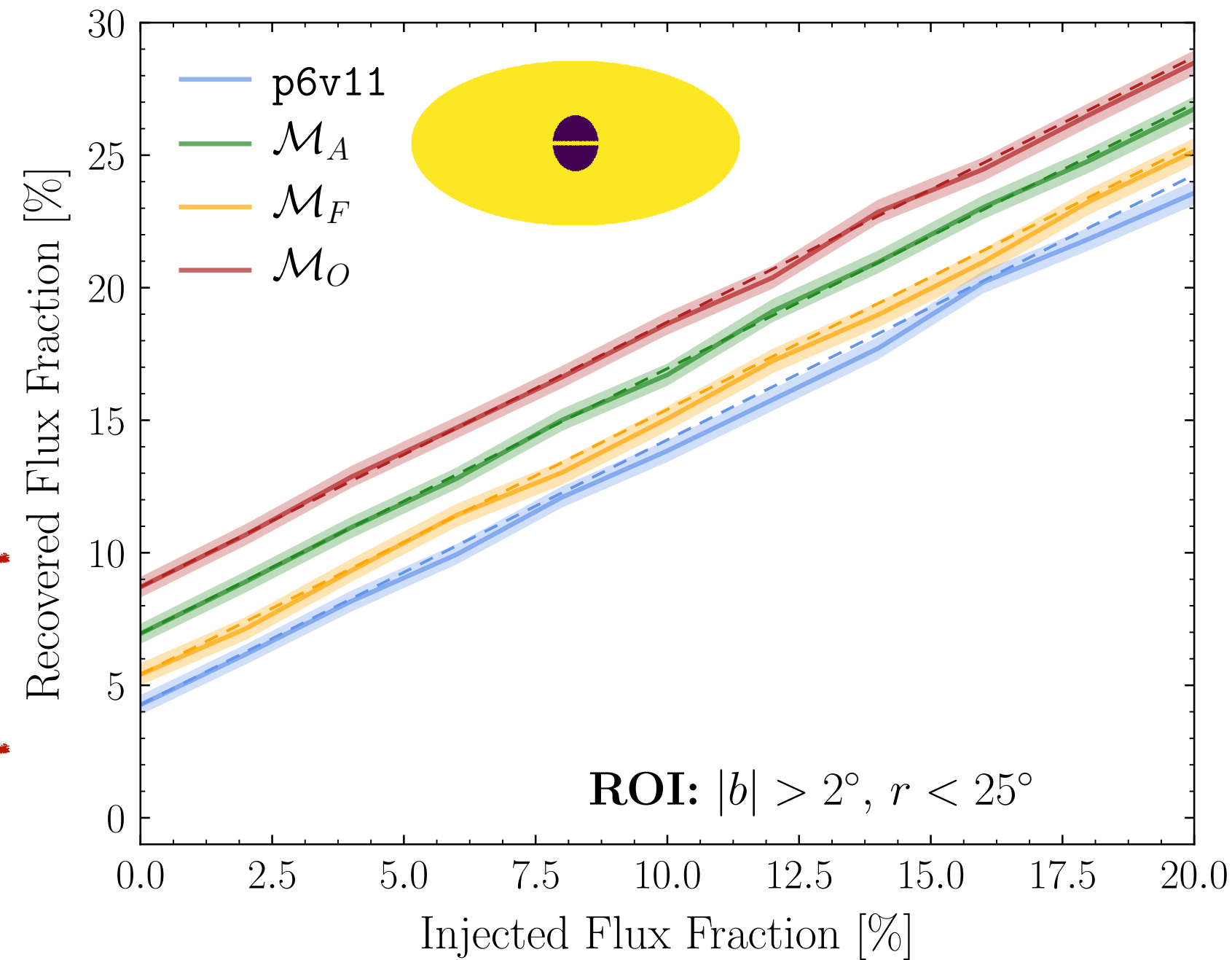
$$T_p^{\text{harm}} \propto \underbrace{\hat{A}_{\text{diff}} T_p^{\text{diff}}}_{\text{Base model}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\ell, m} \hat{A}_{\ell, m} Y_p^{\ell, m} T_p^{\text{diff}}}_{\text{Modulation of large scales}}$$

Give each large-scale component an independent degree of freedom

Coming back to signal injection...

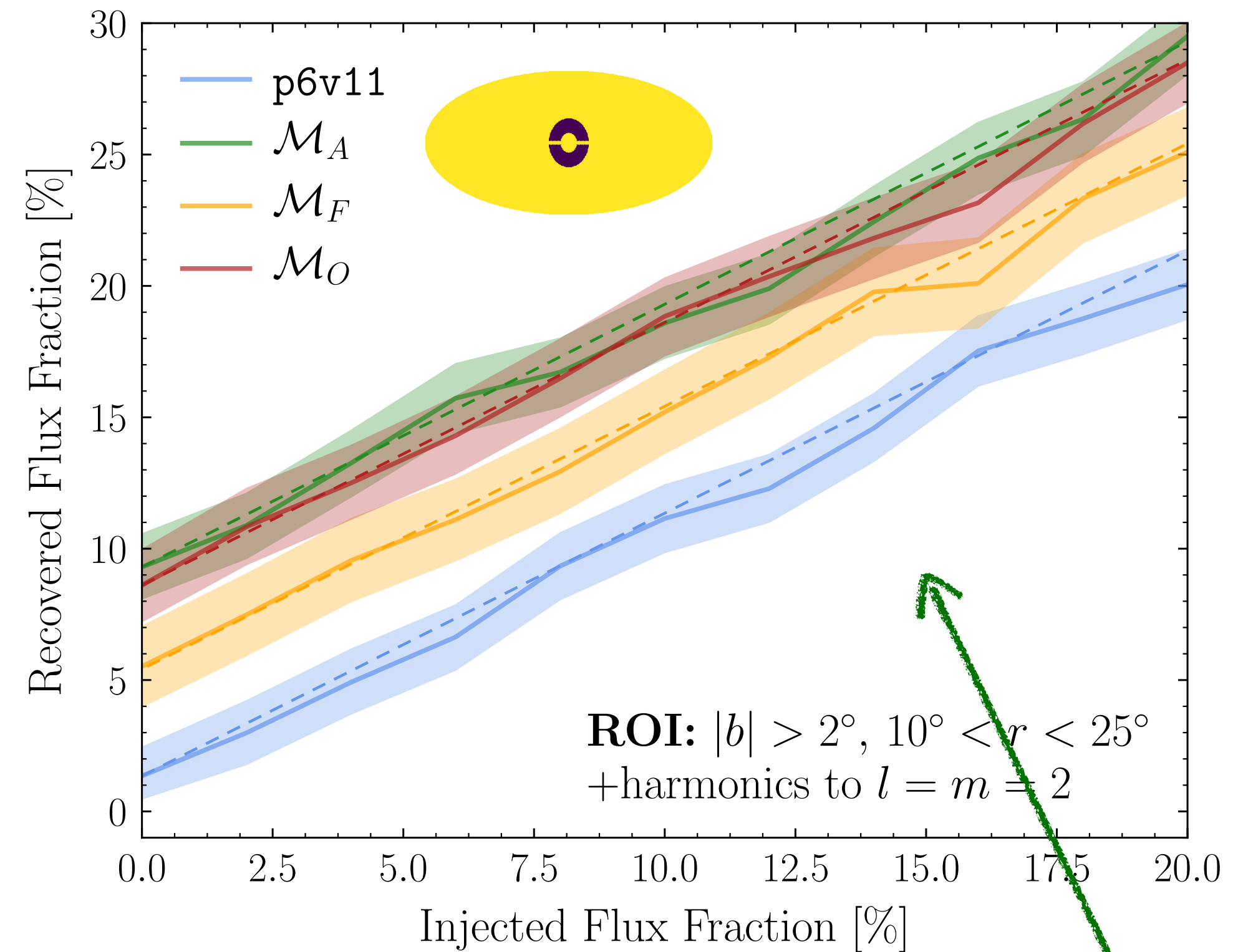
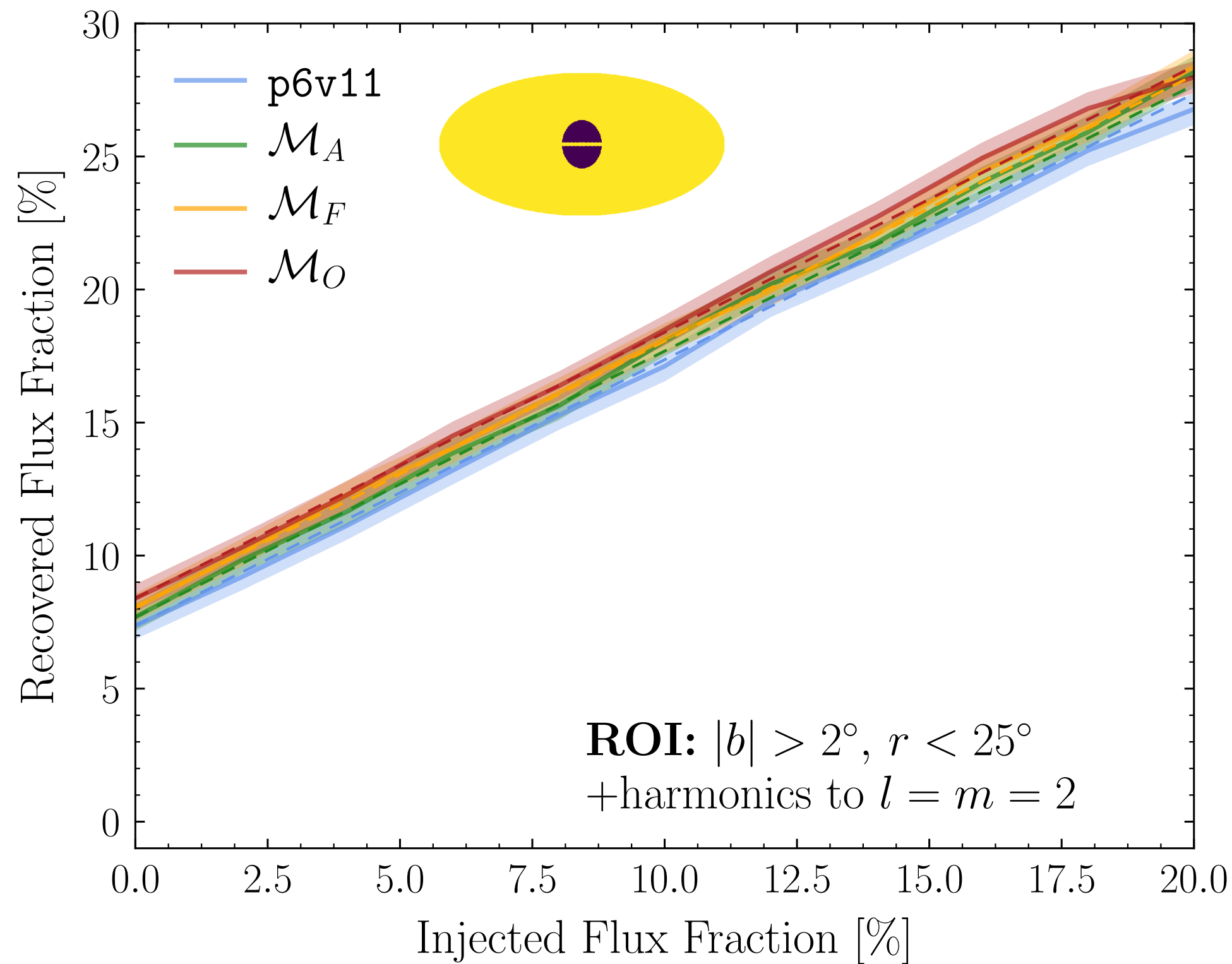
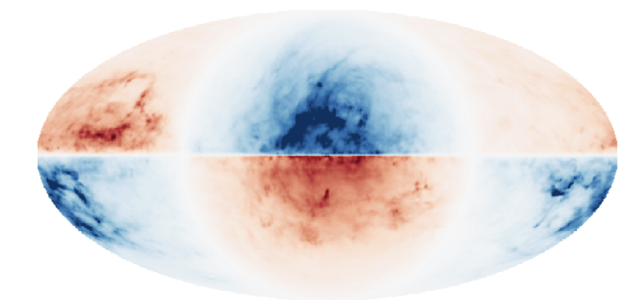
Poissonian example

GCE flux
inconsistent
among models



Oversubtraction evident in some diffuse models

Does Harmonic marginalization help?



Consistency between different diffuse models

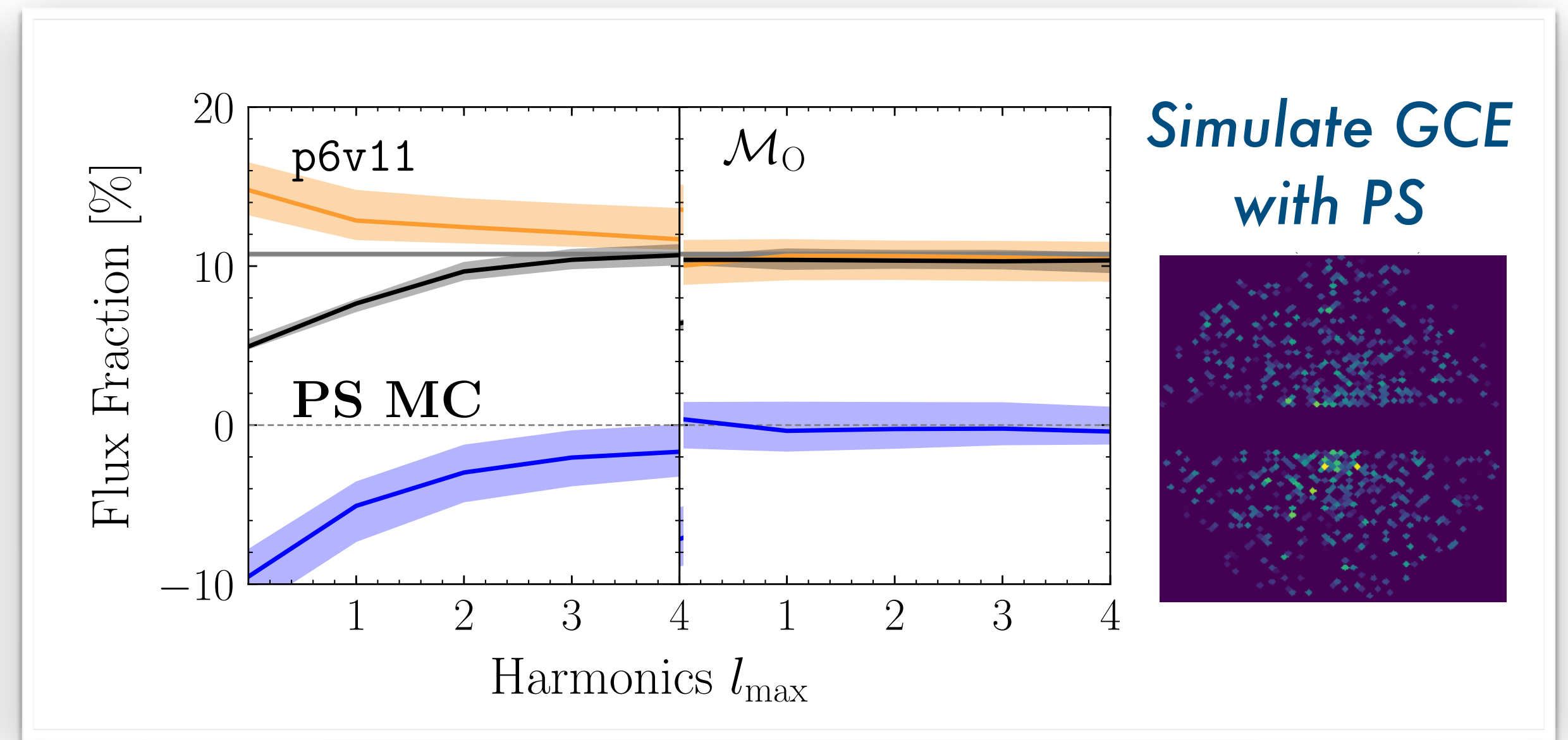
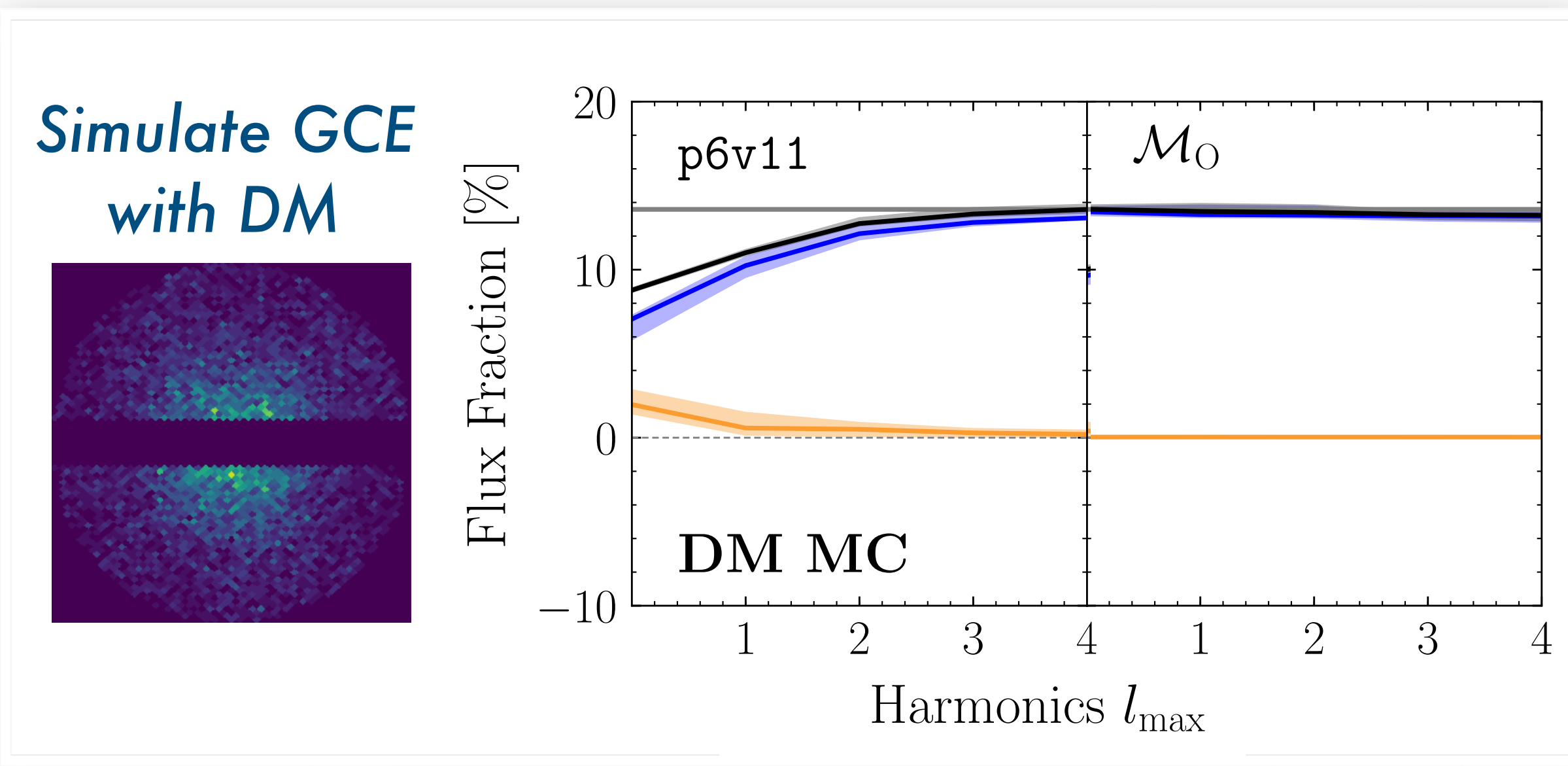
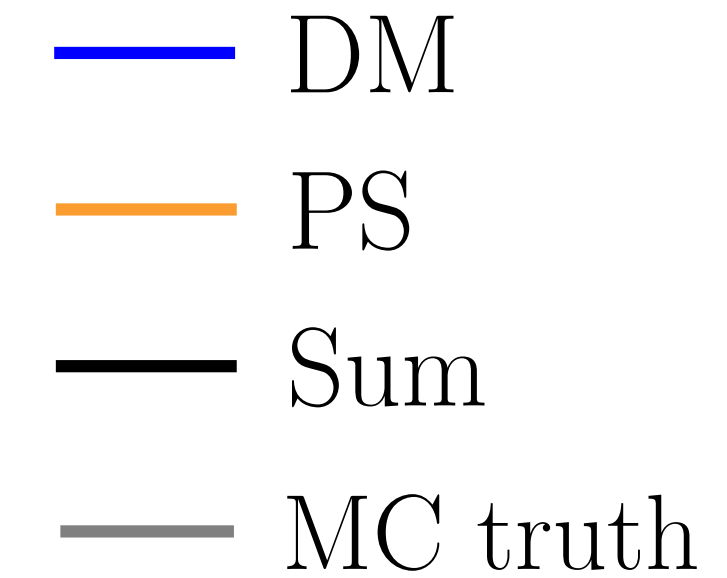
Successful signal recovery

Harmonic marginalization for NPTF

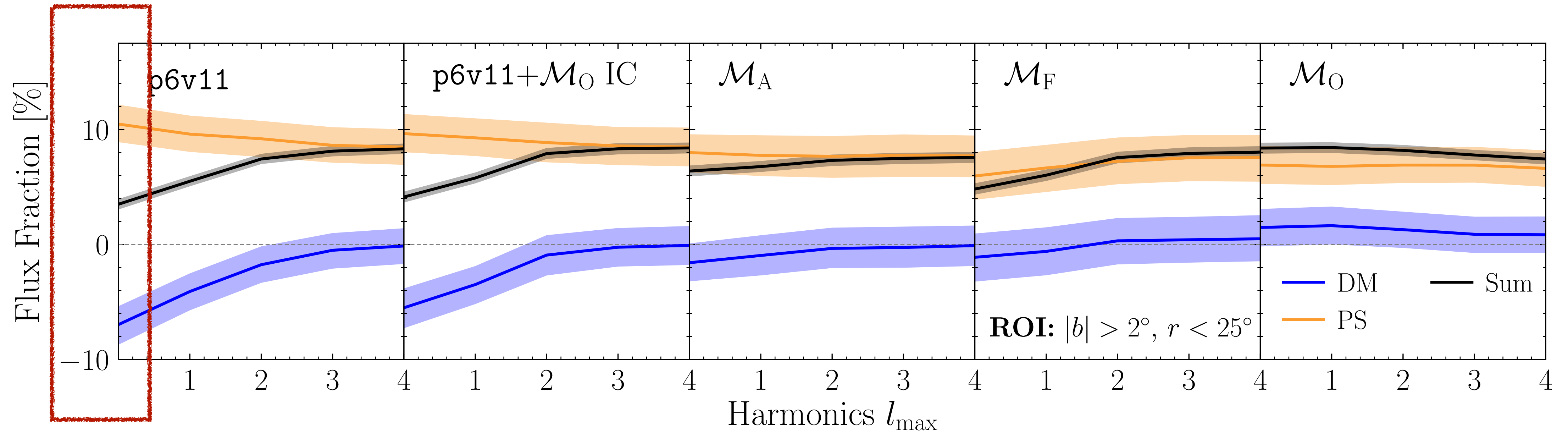
Test with simulations

As before,

1. Create simulation with one foreground model (Model O)
2. Analyze with a different diffuse model (p6v11)

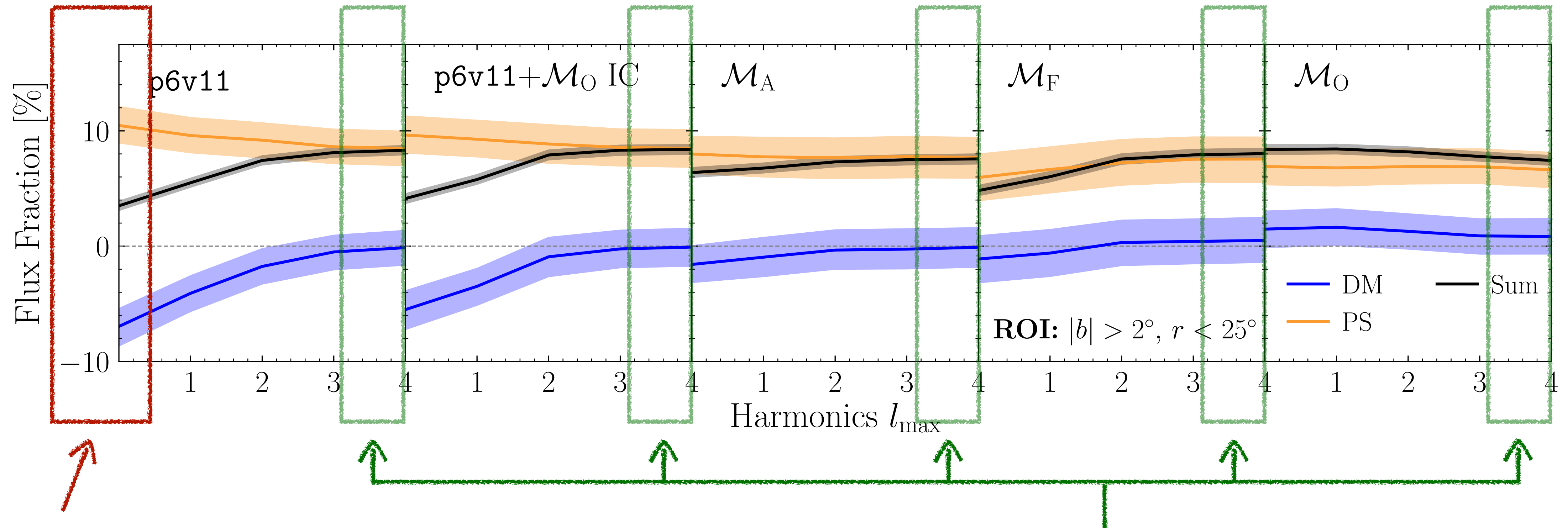


Harmonic marginalization on data



Oversubtraction effect
pointed out by Leane
& Slatyer

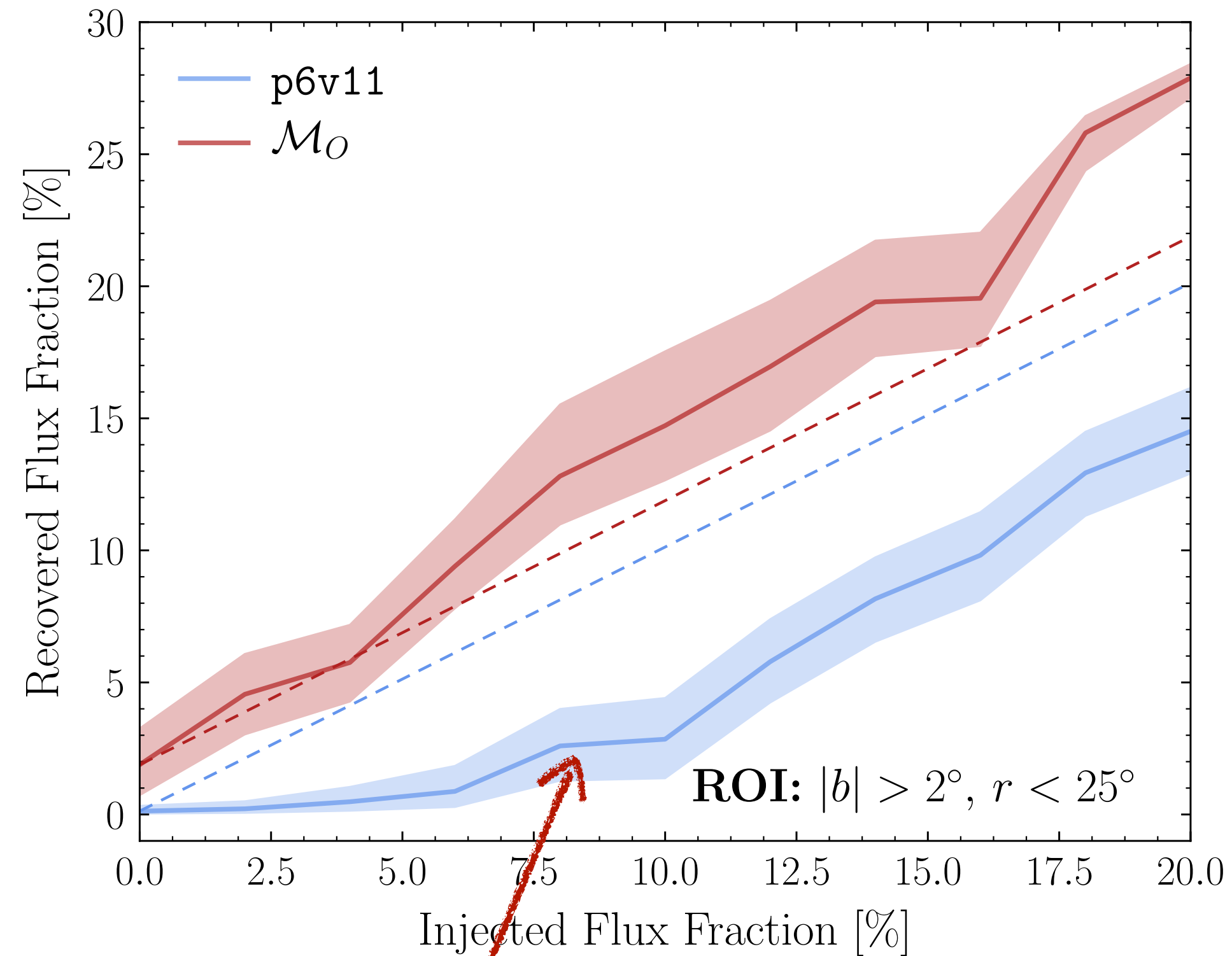
Harmonic marginalization on data



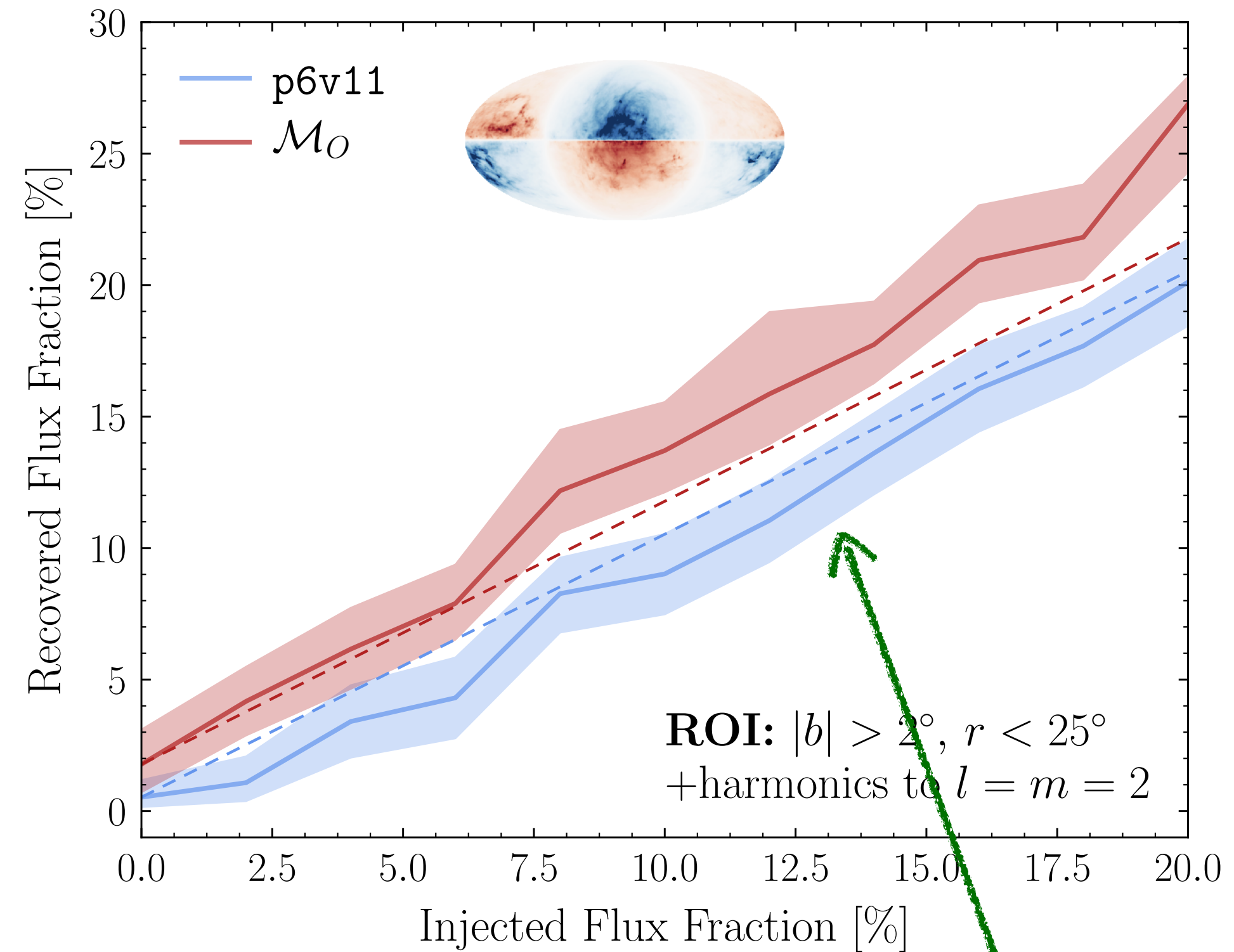
Oversubtraction effect pointed out by Leane & Slatyer

*PS/DM inference consistent between diffuse models
Recovered flux fraction consistent with zero*

Coming back to signal injection on data...

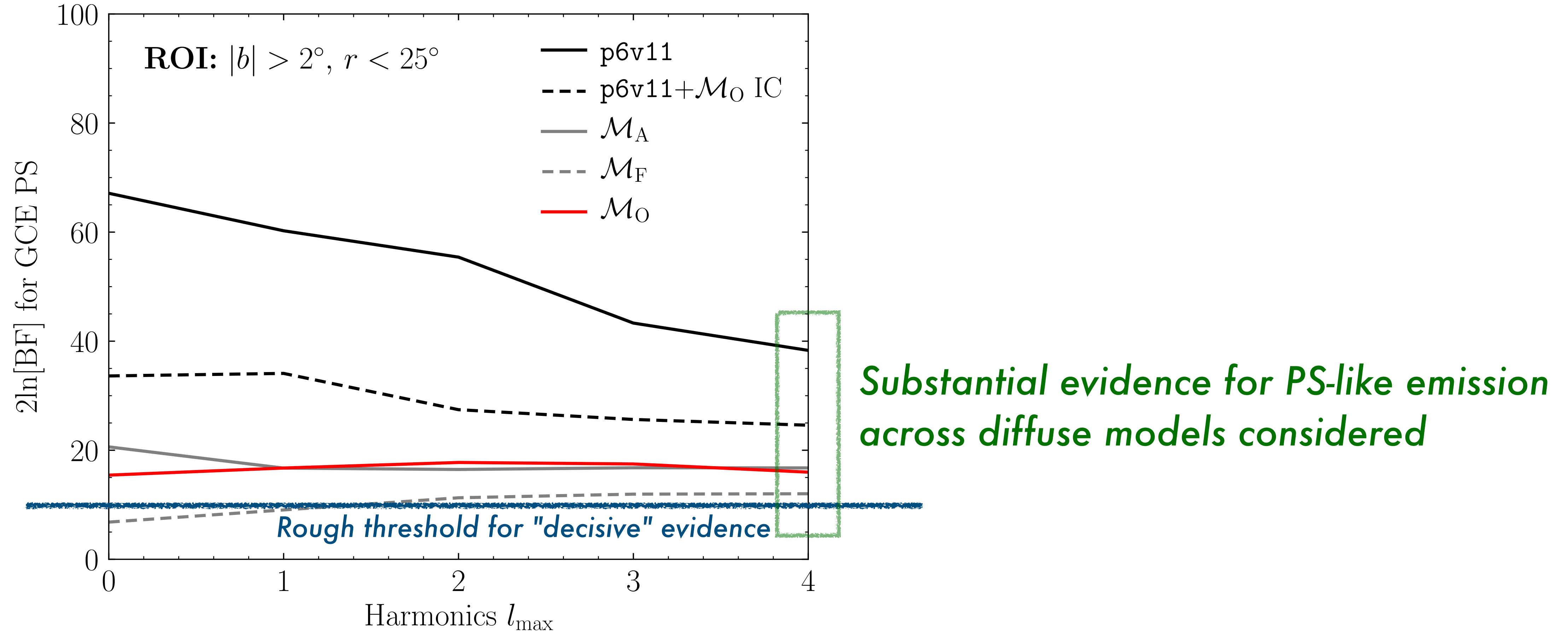


Failure to recover injected signal



Improved behavior of signal injection closure test

Is there a preference for PSs in the data?



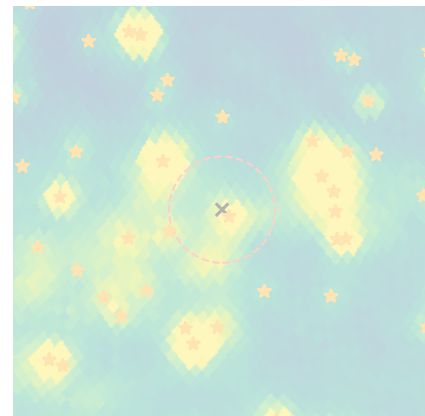
Some caveats and future prospects

Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Unknown knowns

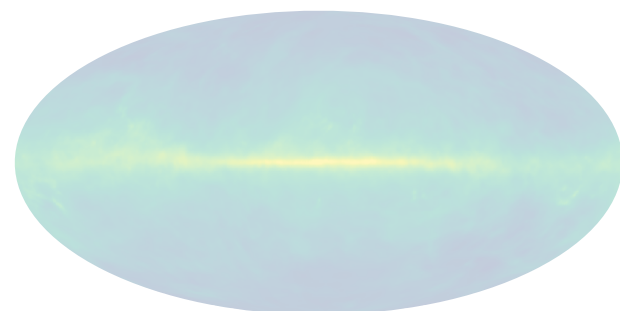
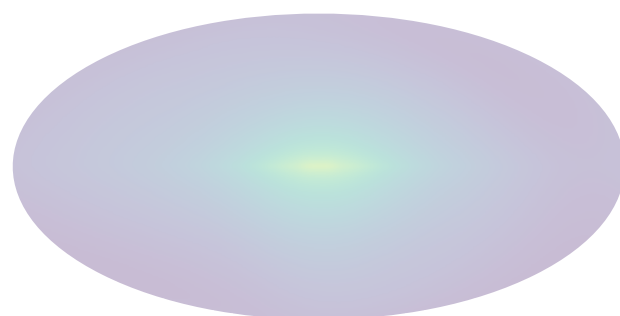
- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?

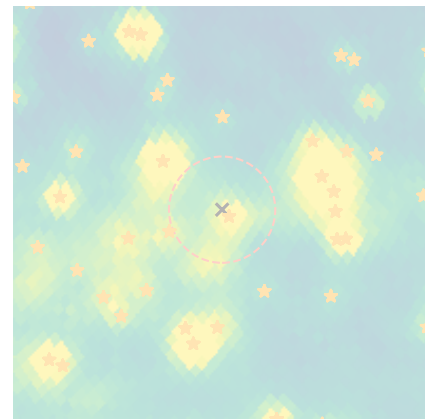


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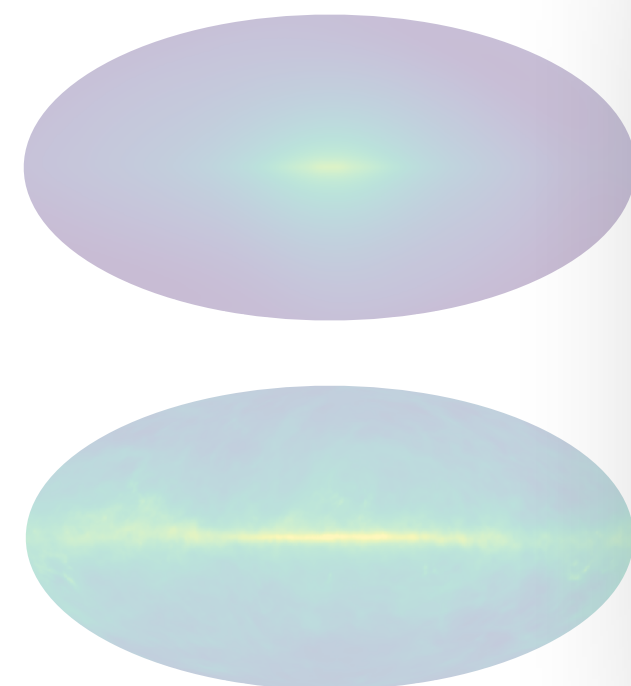
- The morphology of the excess
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Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Bias due to unmodeled PS populations explored in Leane & Slatyer (2019)

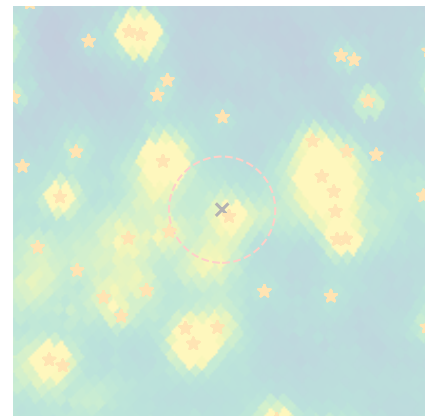
But no evidence for such a population in the data

Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

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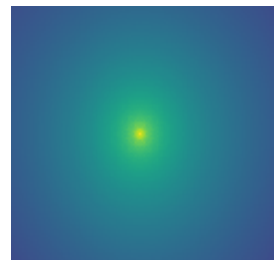
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Unknown knowns

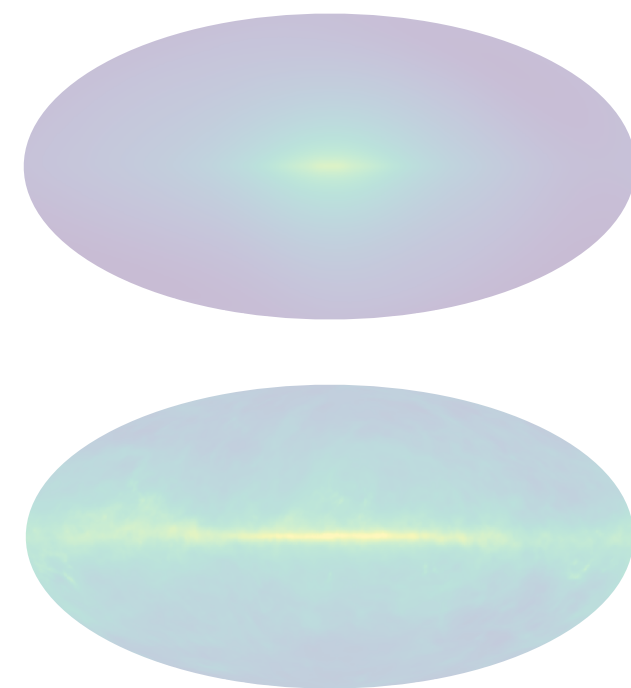
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?

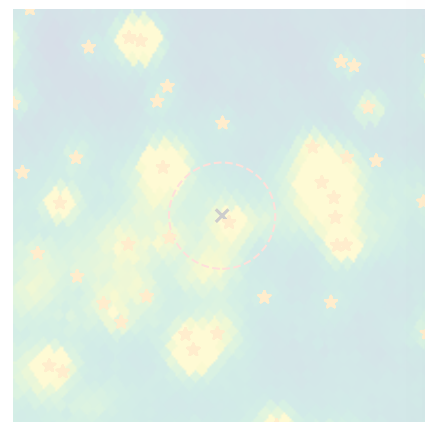


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

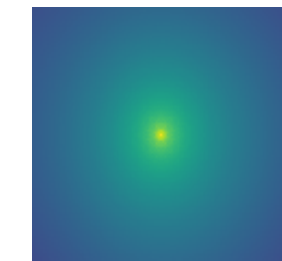
(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

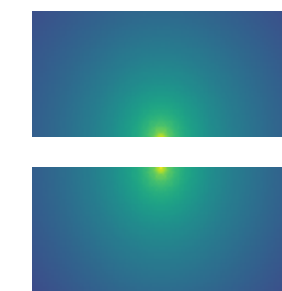
- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Assumed NFW signal morphology



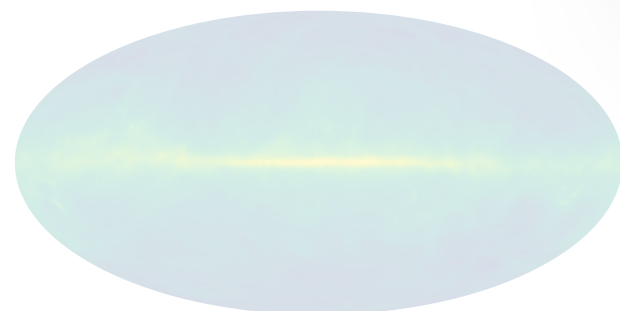
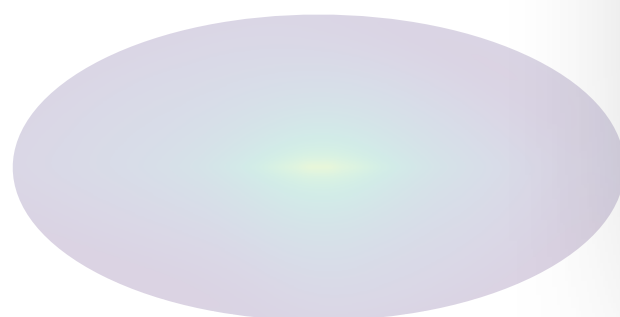
Giving signal more freedom (in North vs South) explored in Leane & Slatyer (2020)



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



?

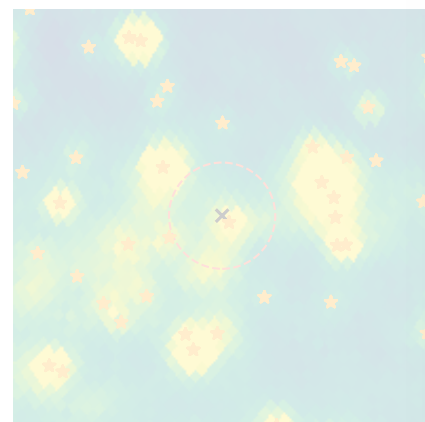


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

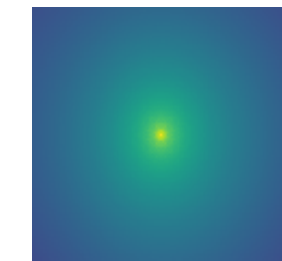
(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

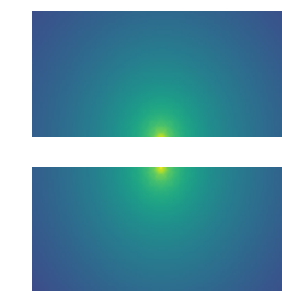
- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Assumed NFW signal morphology



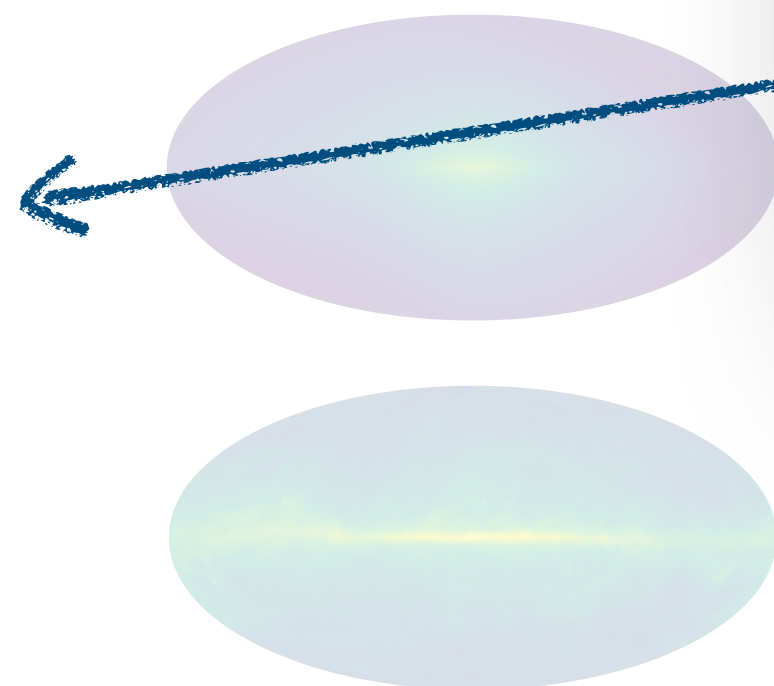
Giving signal more freedom (in North vs South) explored in Leane & Slatyer (2020)



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Large asymmetry may be further evidence for diffuse mismodeling

?

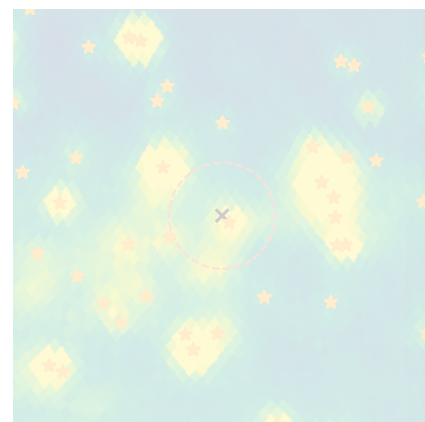


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

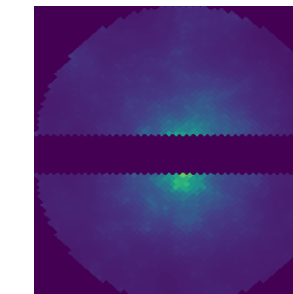
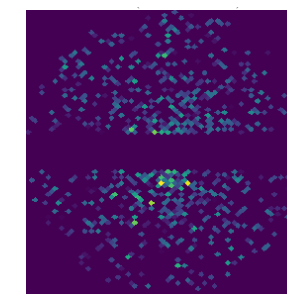
Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



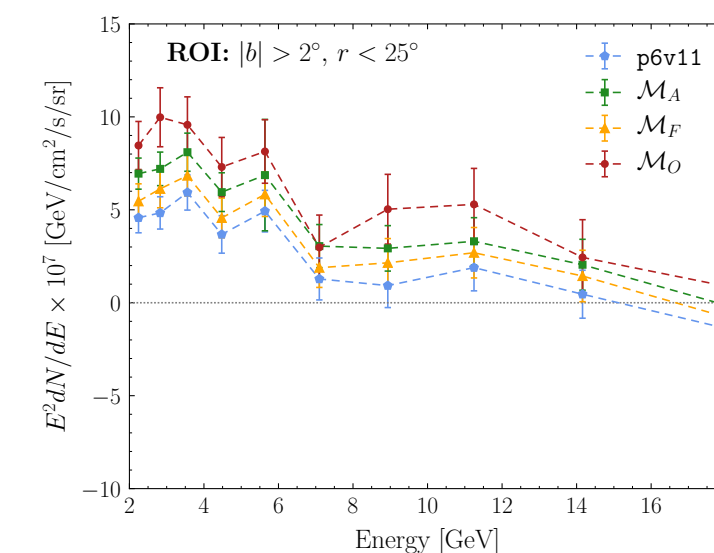
Possible ways to mitigate

- Signal-template independent methods



Reconstruct underlying PS distribution without assuming a template

- Inclusion of energy binning information

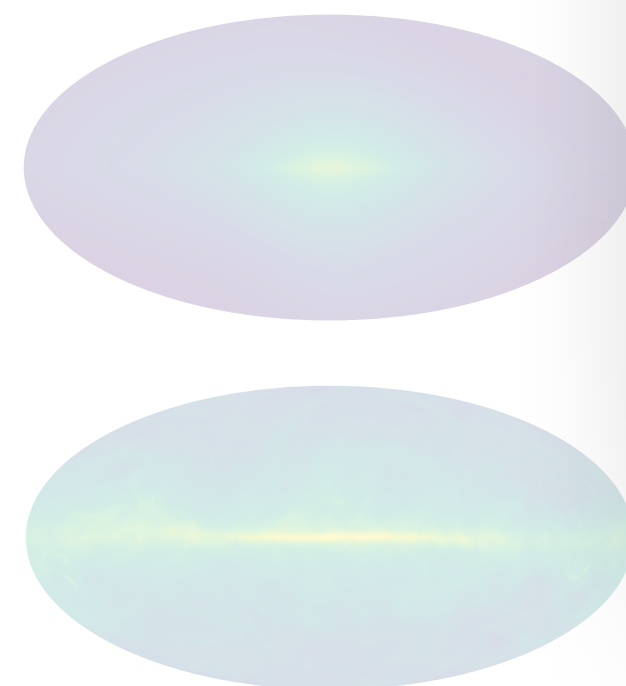


Work in progress by Buschmann, Rodd, Safdi

Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales

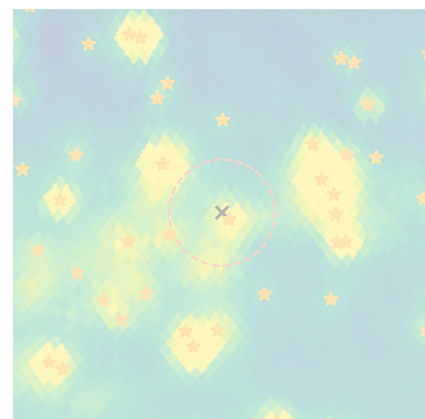


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
- Detector response (PSF)
- Unresolved extragalactic PSs



Unknown knowns

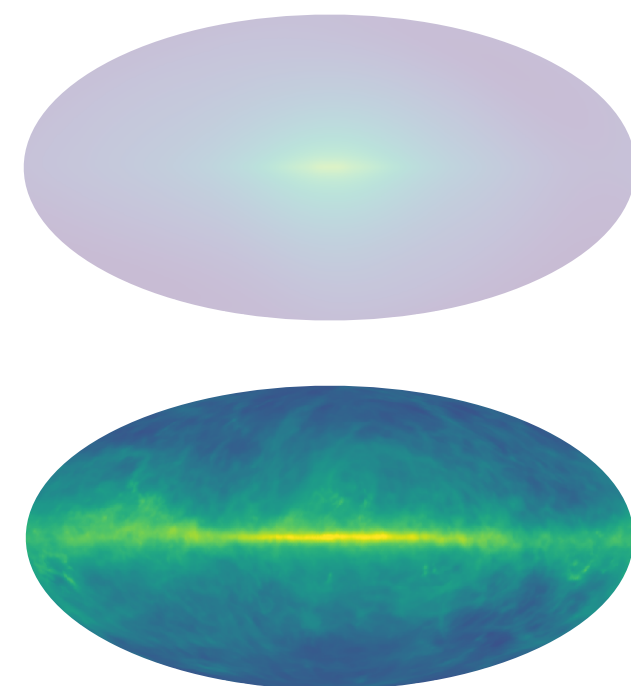
- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?

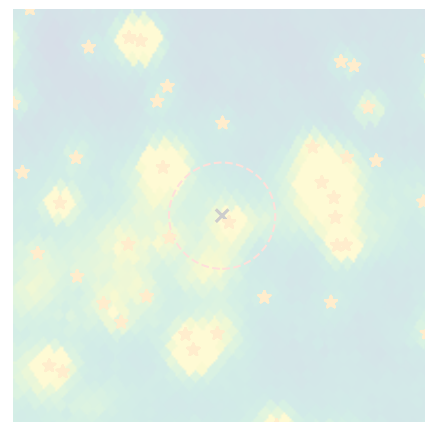


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

- Resolved point sources
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Unknown knowns

- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



NPTF agnostic to nature of PS-like emission

- Millisecond pulsars
- Multiple PS populations
- Small-scale mismodeling of diffuse emission



Not captured by harmonic marginalization

Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

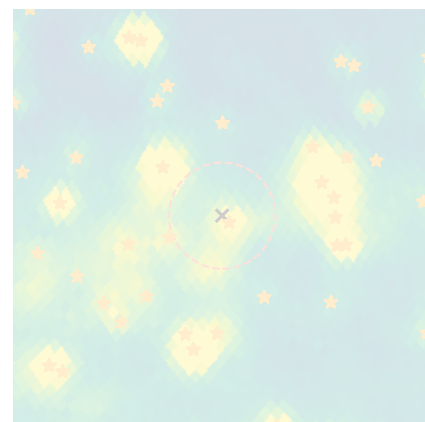


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

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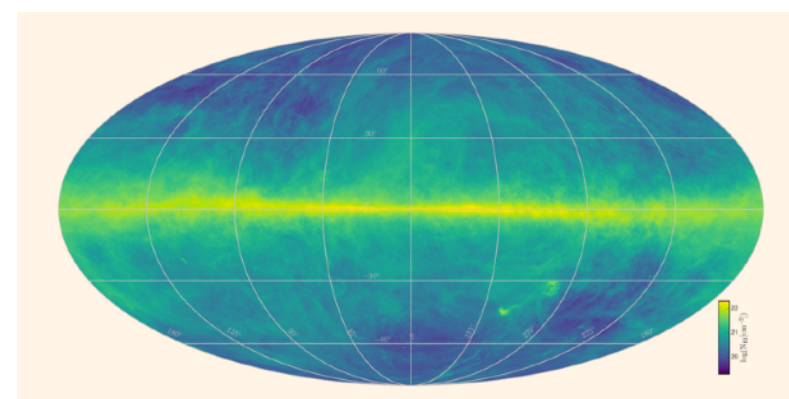
Unknown knowns

- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



Possible ways to mitigate

- Better/higher-resolution diffuse models



HI4PI Collaboration

- (Additional) Data-driven techniques for foreground modeling

Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

?

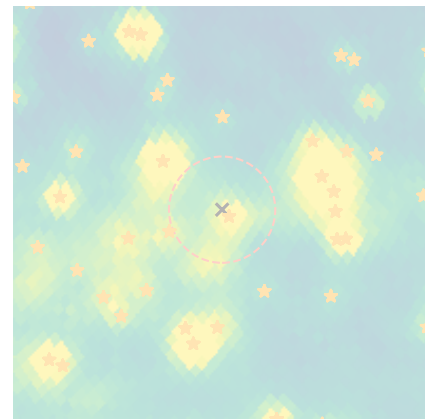


Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

Known knowns

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Unknown knowns

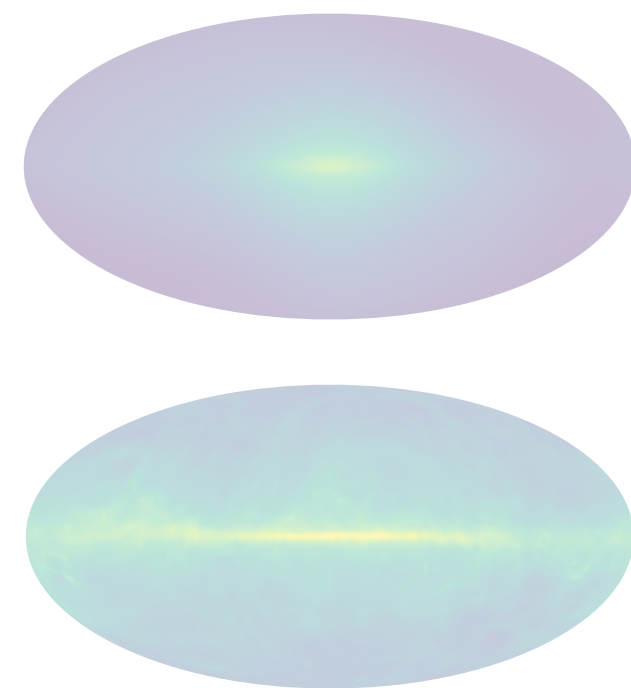
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Known unknowns

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

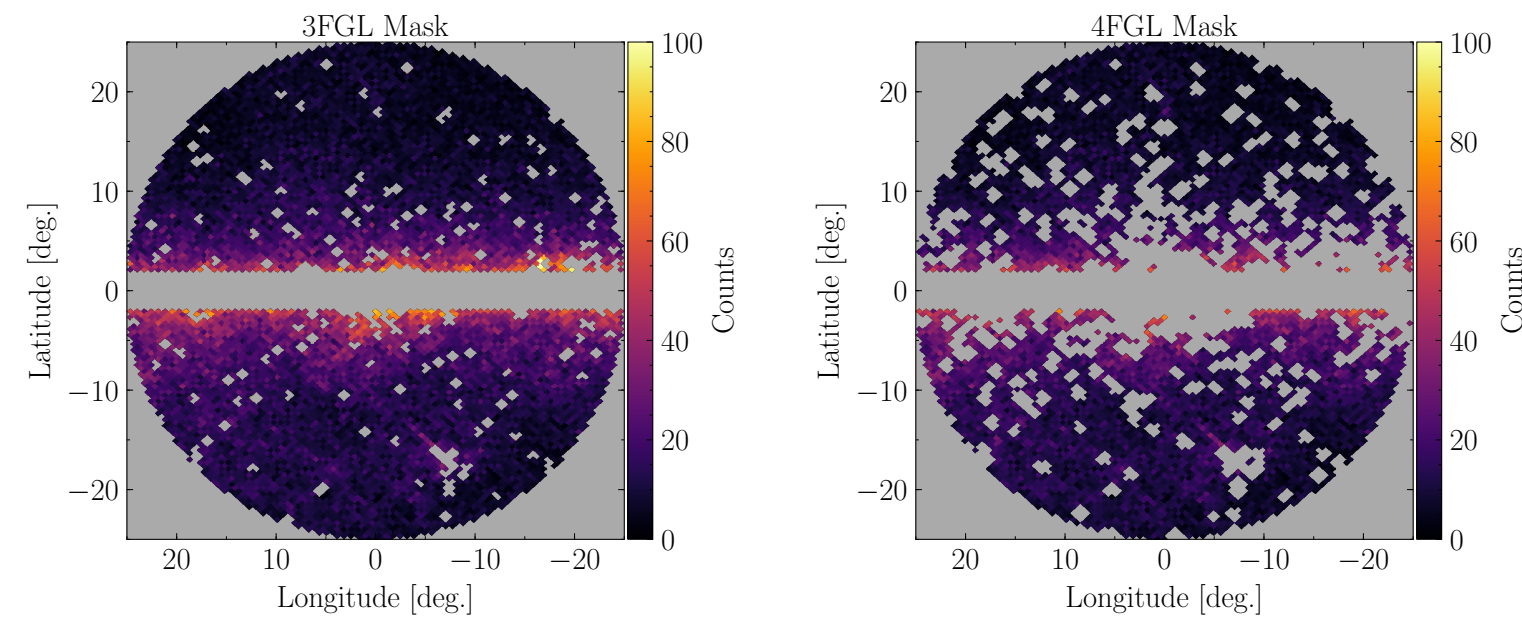
?



Epistemic classification of GCE systematics

(With a focus on the NPTF. Not comprehensive!)

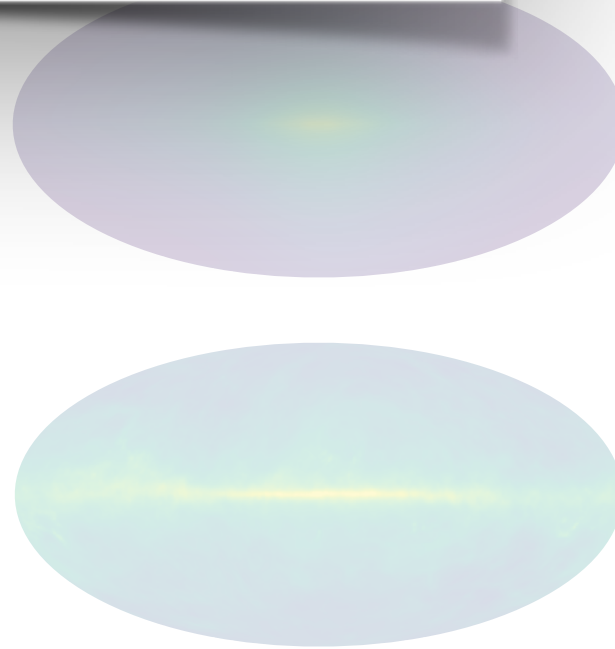
More recent PS catalogs



See GCE wavelets analysis by Zhong et al [1911.12369] using recent 4FGL PS mask

Galactic diffuse emission

- On large scales
- On small scales



Unknown knowns

- The morphology of the excess
- Pixel-to-pixel correlations
- Spectral information



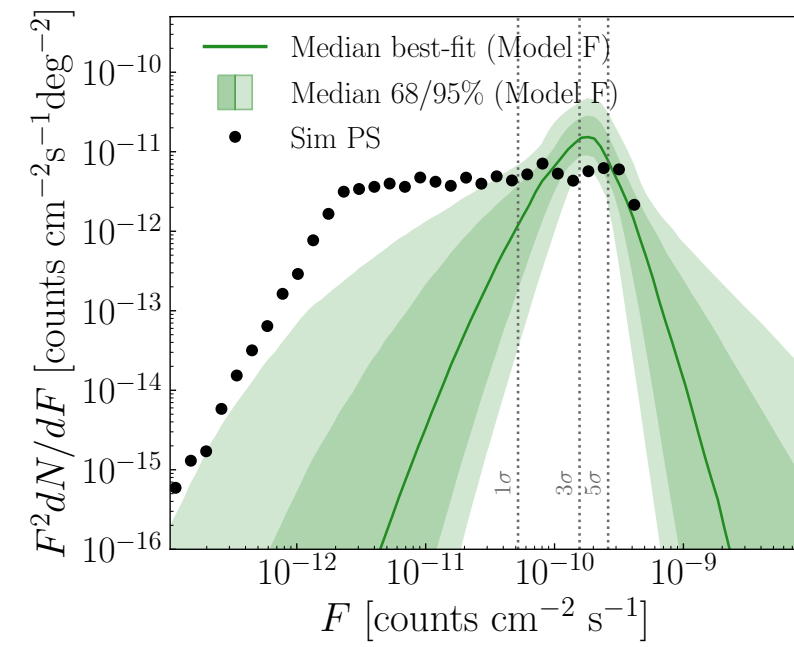
Unknown unknowns

Unknown point source populations

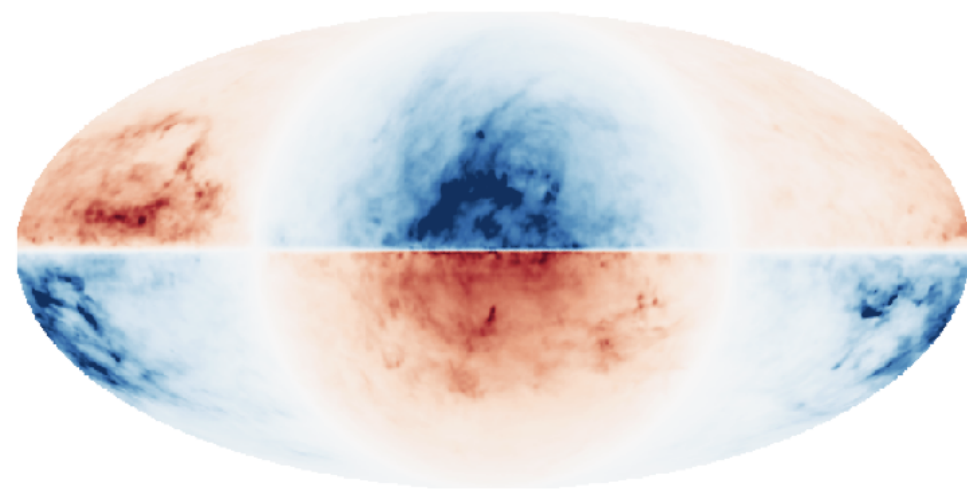
?



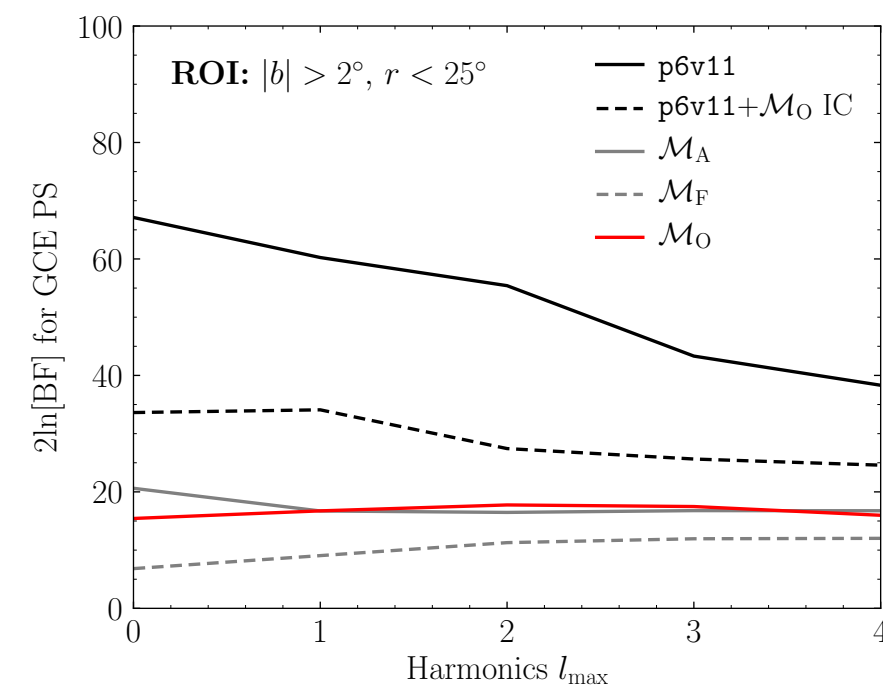
Summary



*Degeneracy between dim PSs and smooth emission
+ diffuse mismodeling can lead to bias PS inference*



*Better Galactic diffuse models and/or additional
diffuse degrees of freedom can mitigate diffuse
mismodeling to a large extent*

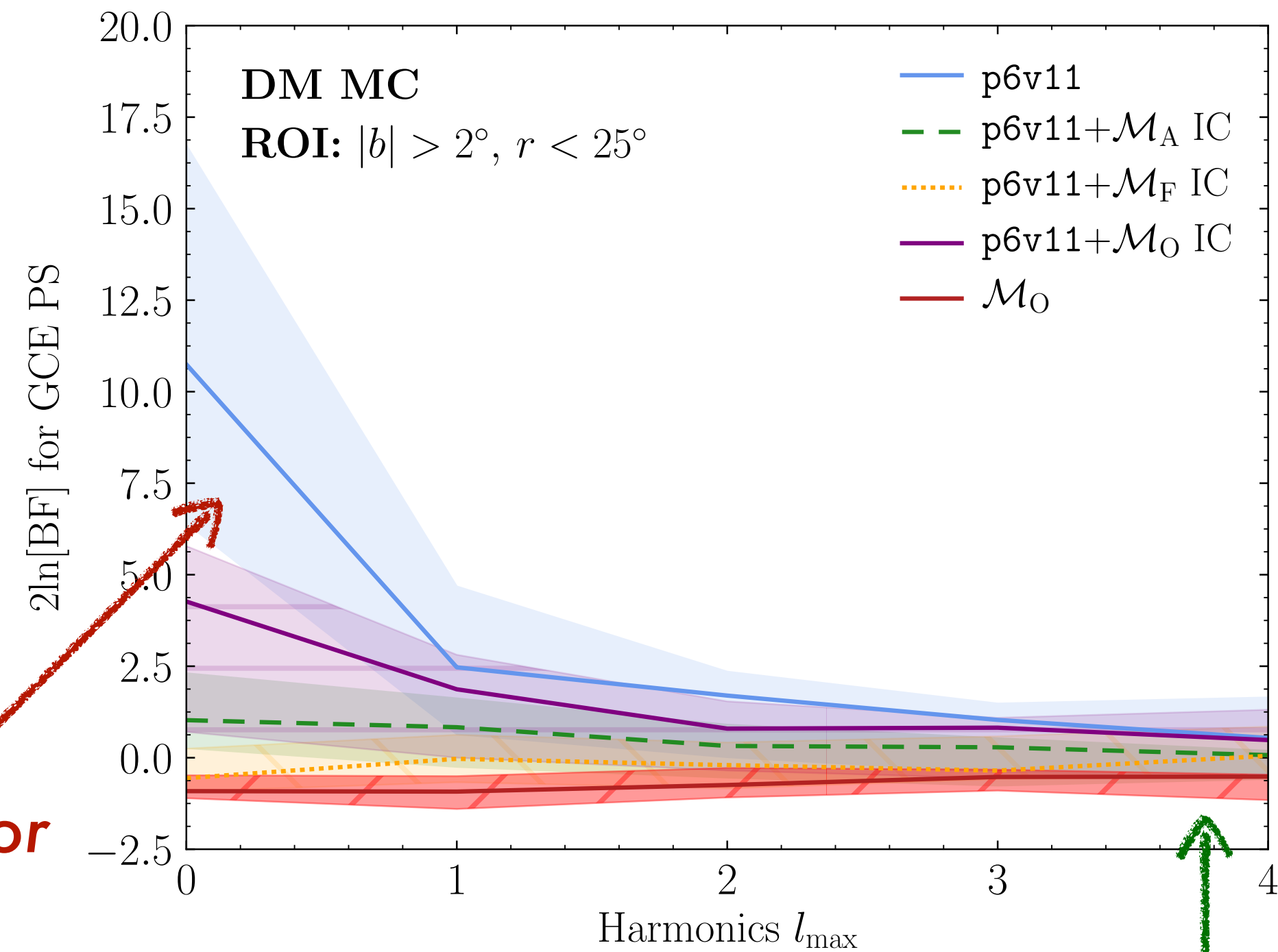


*Evidence for PS-like structure in the data robust so far.
More work to be done!*

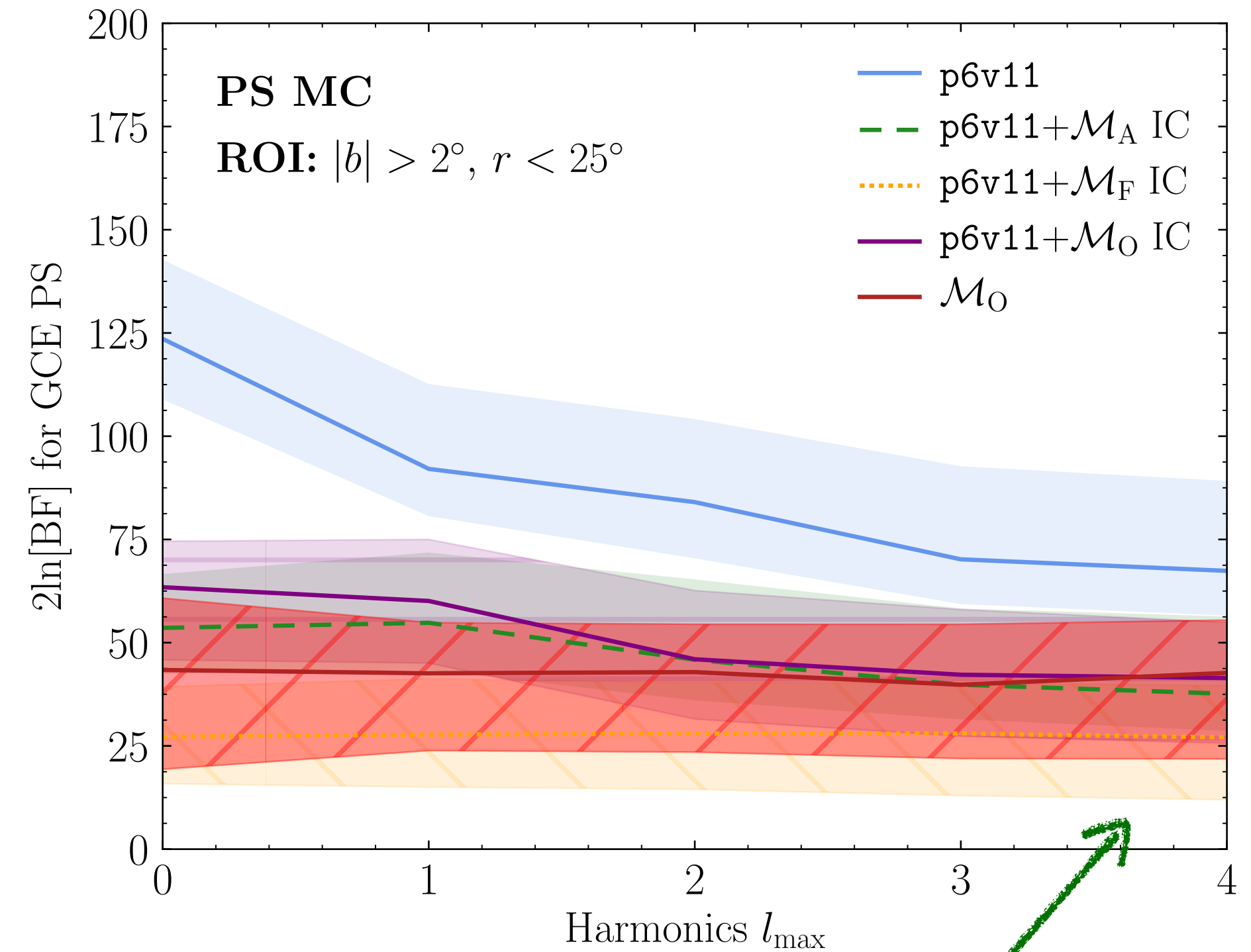
Additional slides

Significance of a PS signal

Test with simulations



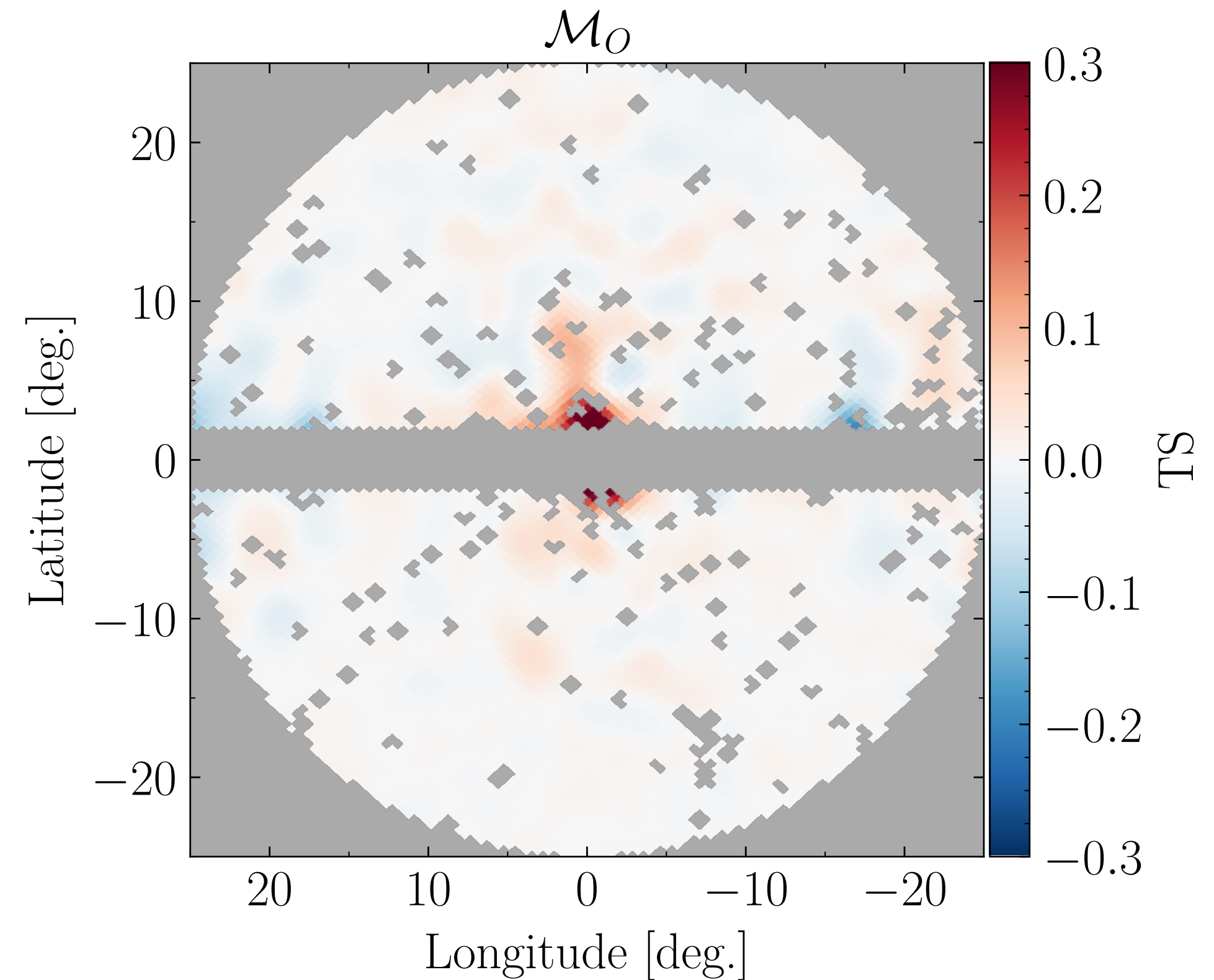
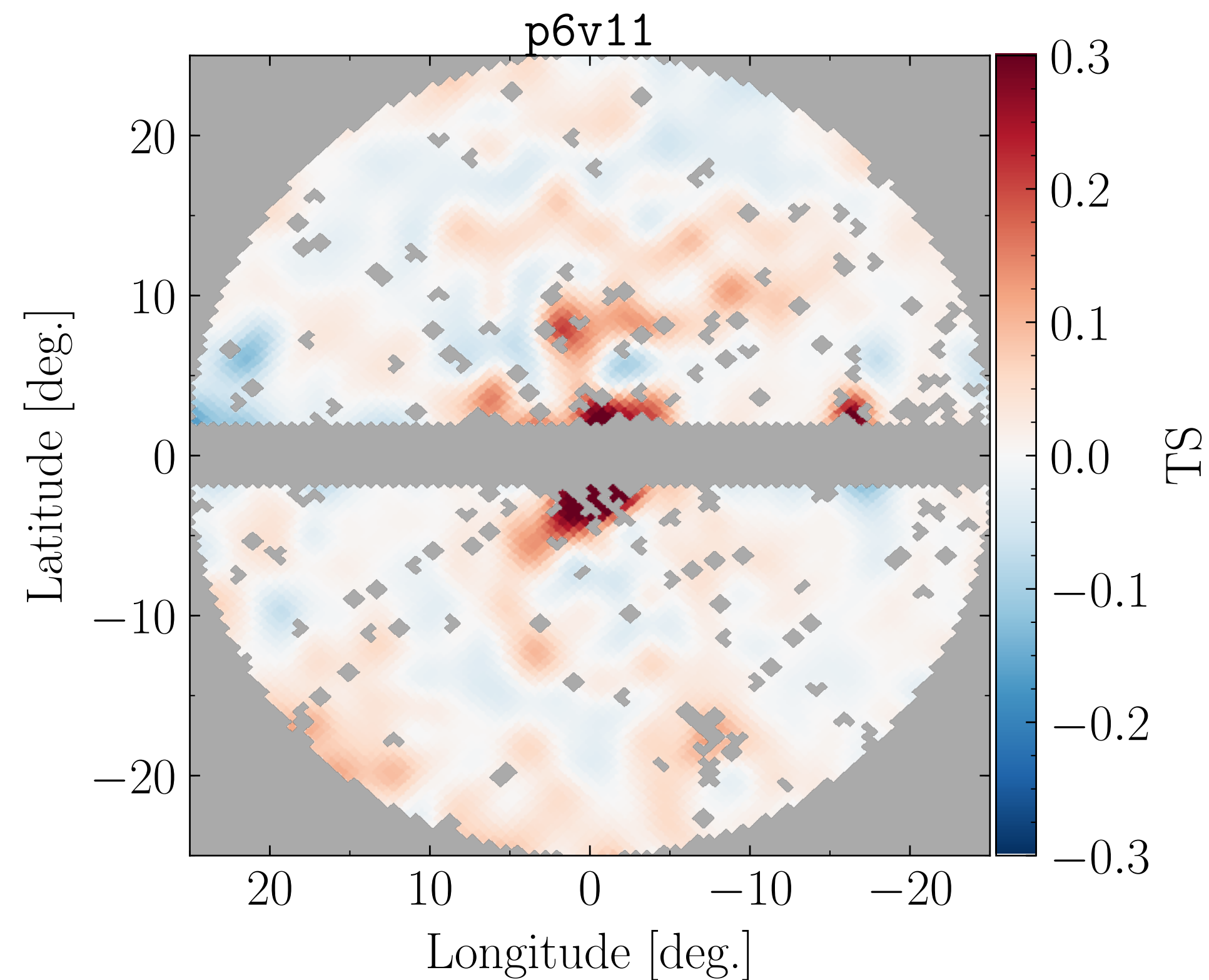
Spurious evidence for PSs



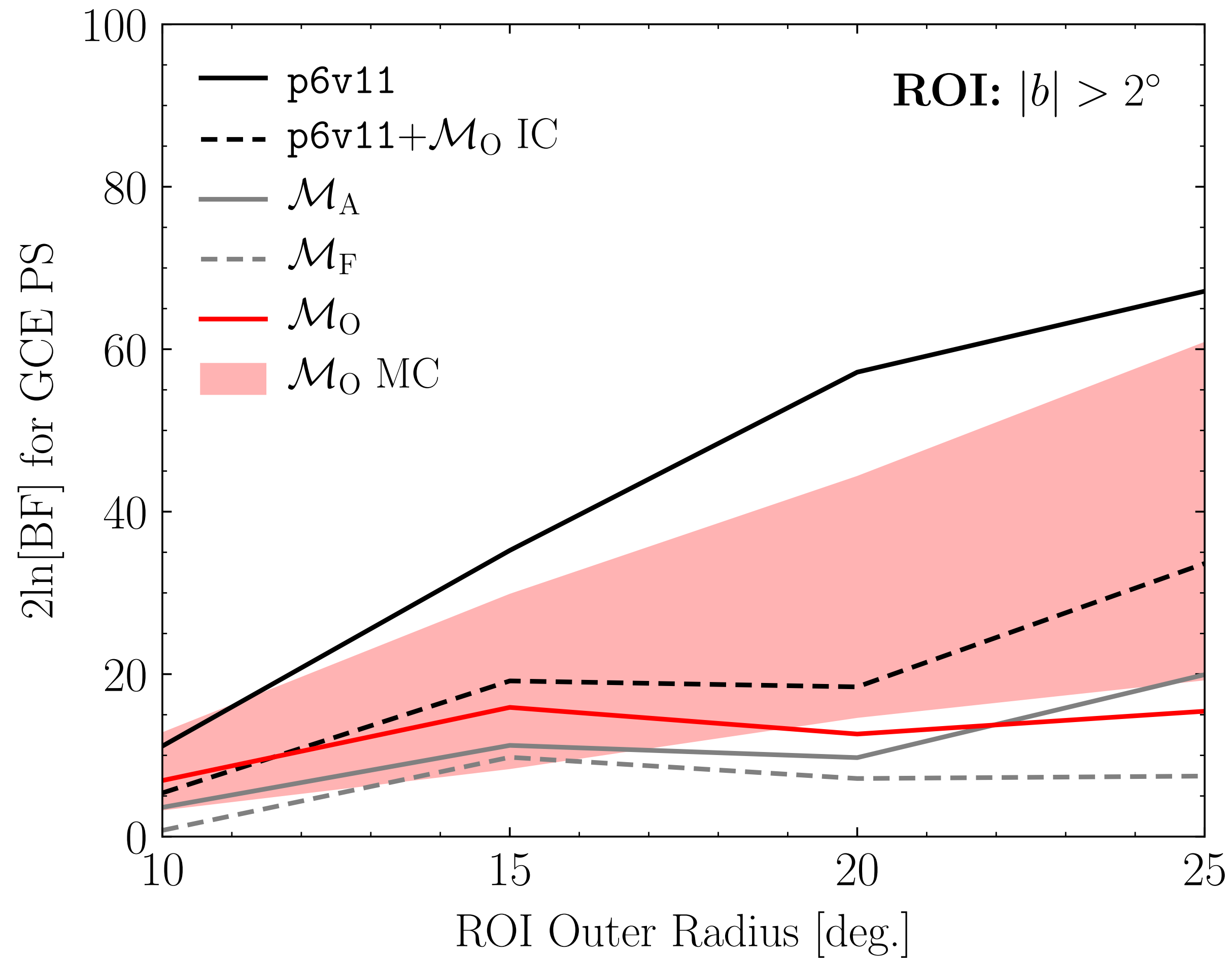
Harmonic marginalization can mitigate mismodeling effects

Some diffuse models are better than others

A non-Poissonian example



NPTF region of interest variations



Diffuse model goodness-of-fit

