



IDM 2022



14th International Conference on  
Identification of Dark Matter

18-22 July 2022  
Vienna, Austria

# CAN STELLAR STREAMS SEE DARK MATTER SUBSTRUCTURE?

## Collaborators



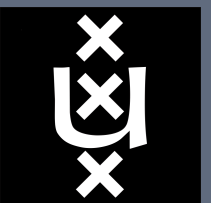
Mathis Gerdes



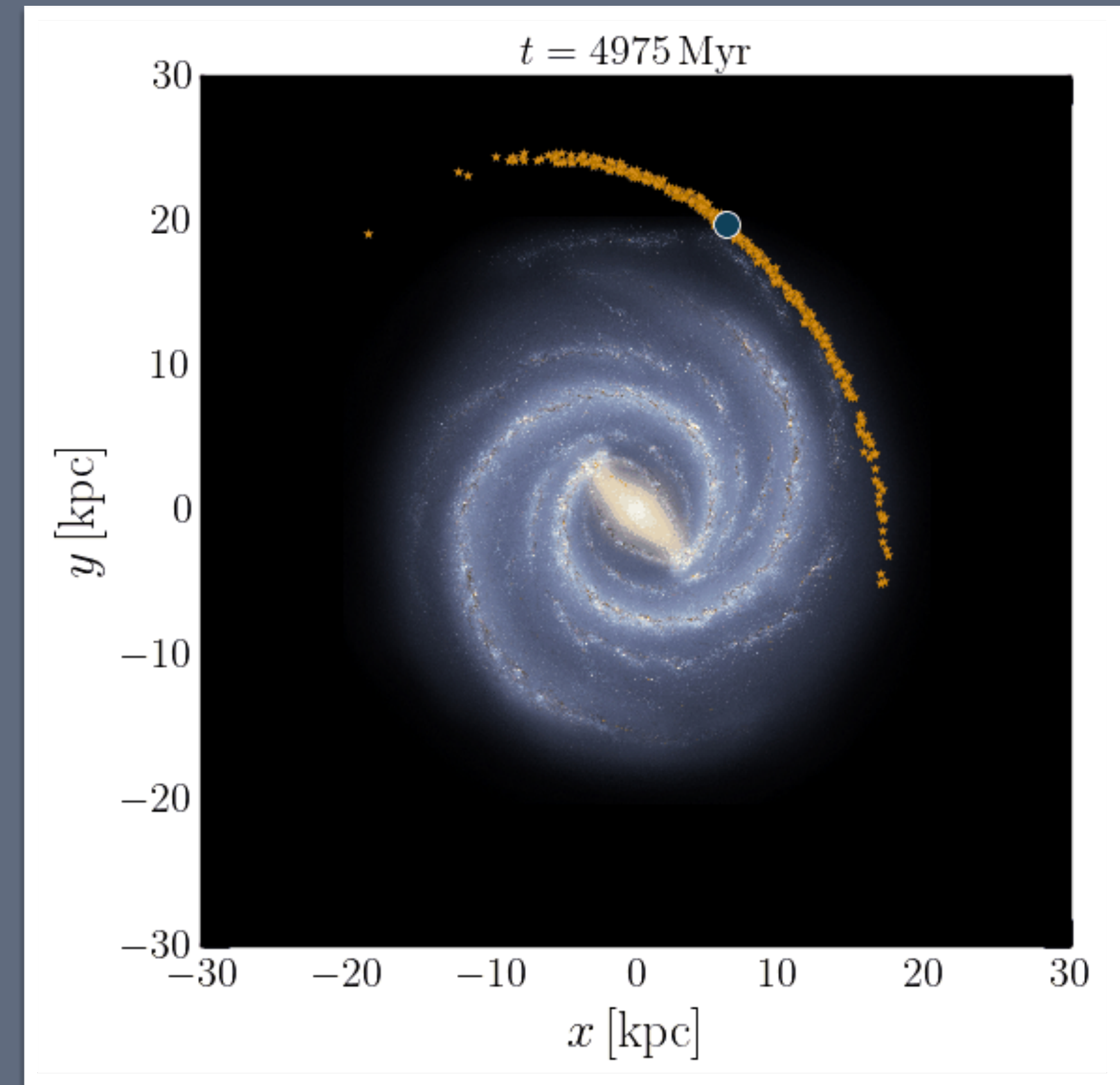
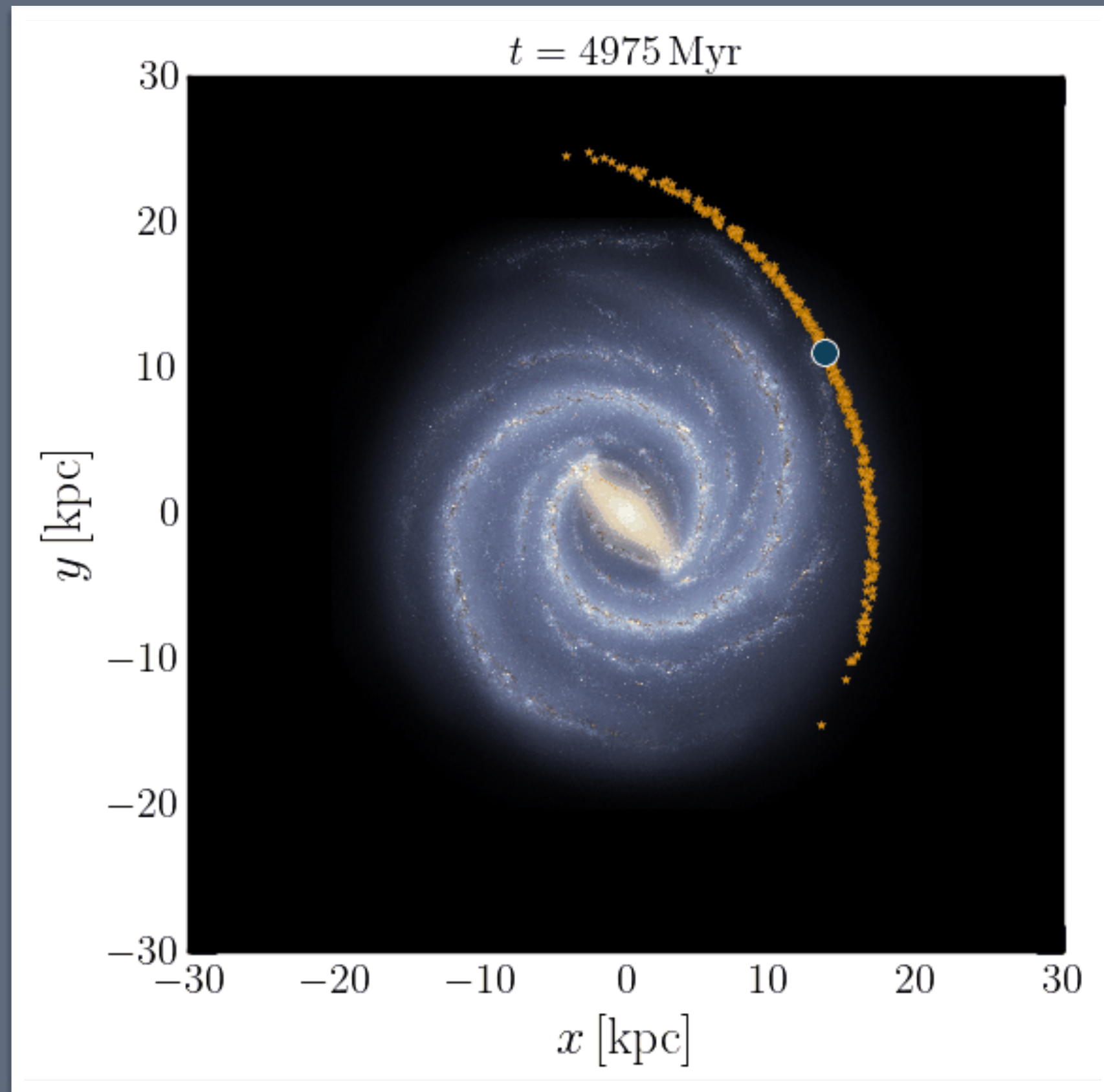
Christoph Weniger

**James Alvey**

University of Amsterdam  
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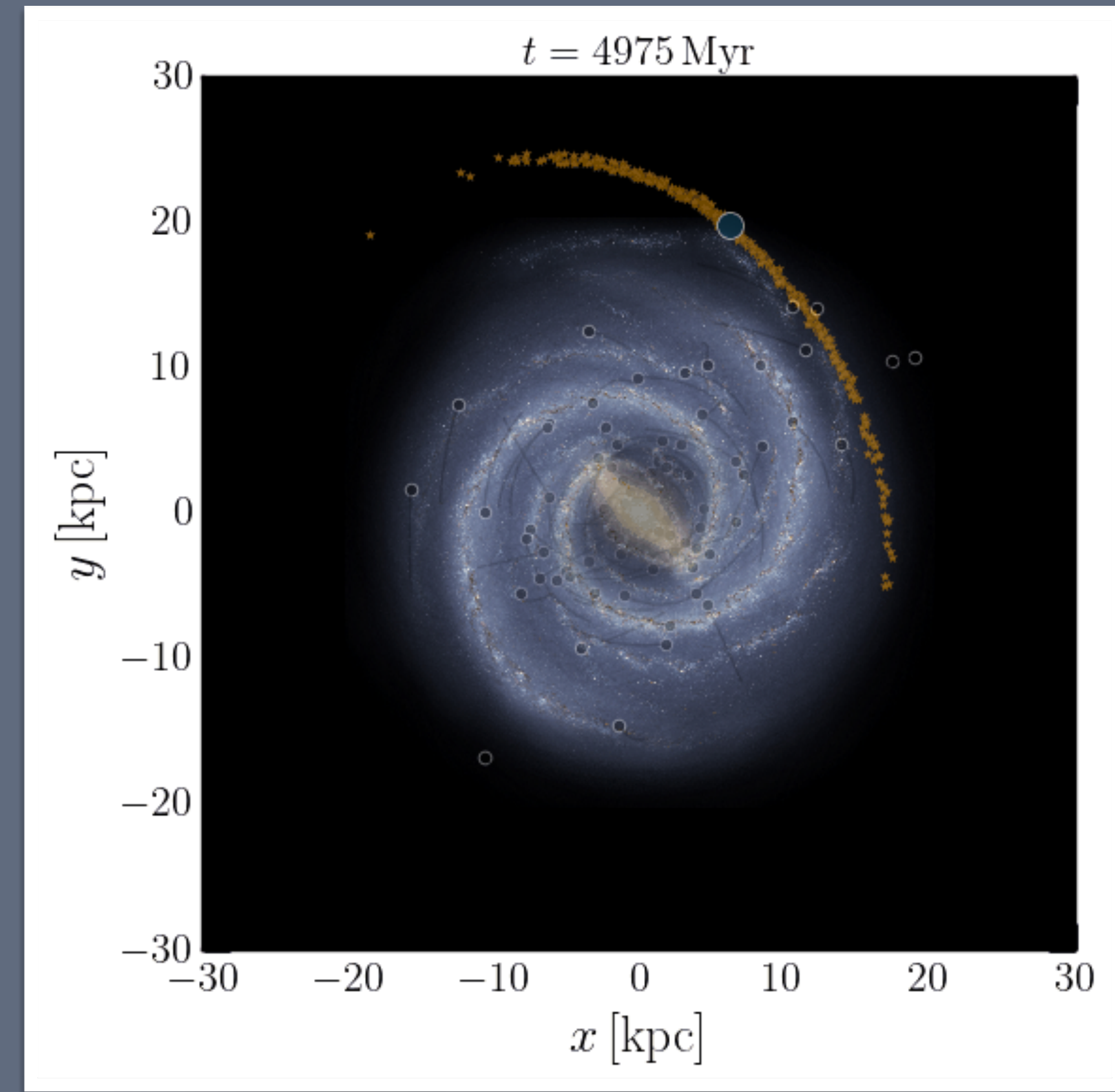
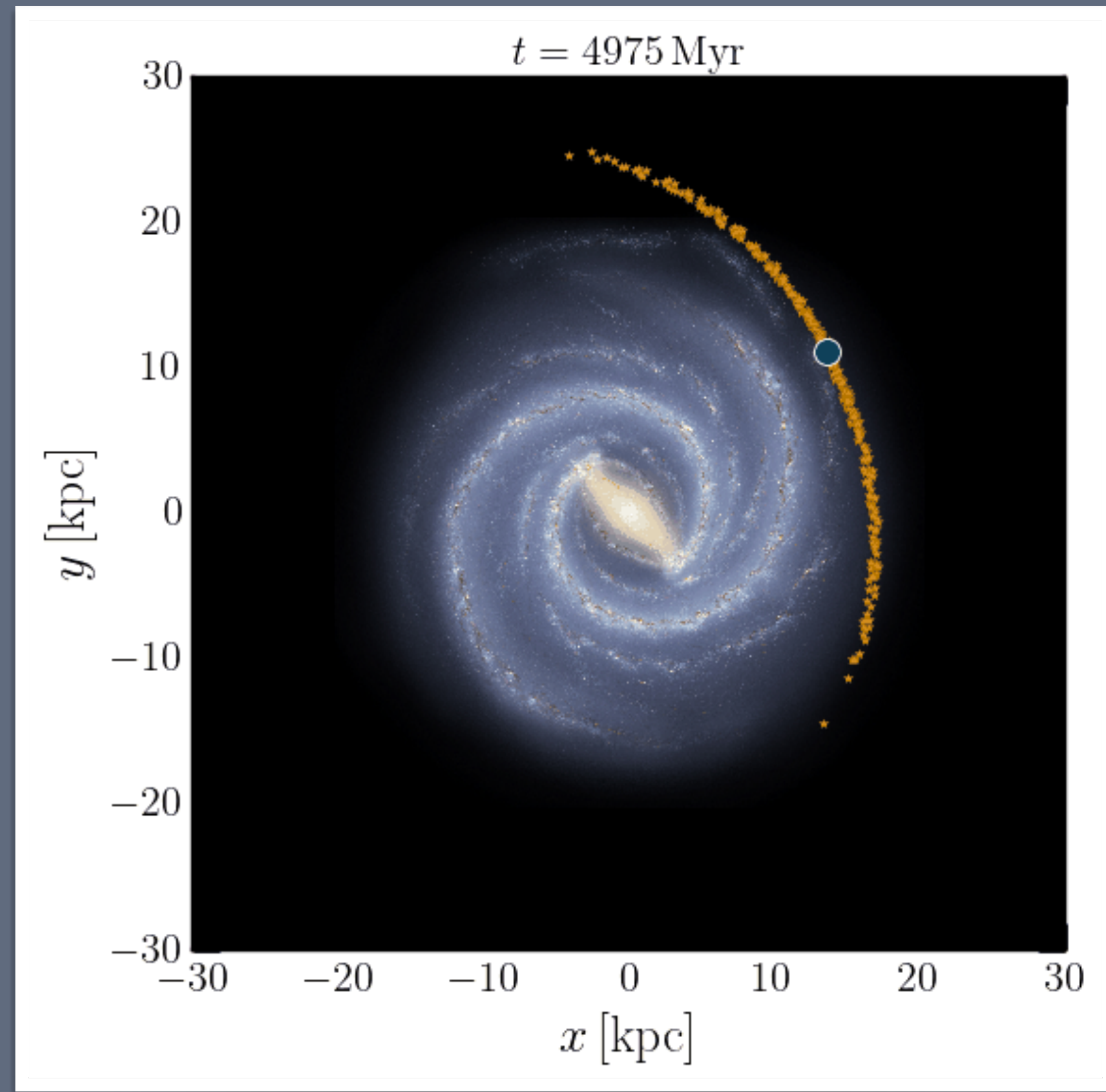


# Warmup Question: Which of these streams was generated in the presence of a CDM-like sub halo population?





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Rest of the talk: How do we quantify this?





# OUTLINE: USING STELLAR STREAMS TO PROBE DARK MATTER

**PART**

**#1**

**Motivation:** Dark Matter and Data

**PART**

**#2**

**Inference:** Simulation Based Inference

**PART**

**#3**

**Modelling:** Stellar Stream Simulator

**PART**

**#4**

**Application:** Detecting a Subhalo Population

**PART**

**#5**

**Outlook:** Questions to Ask and Future Data





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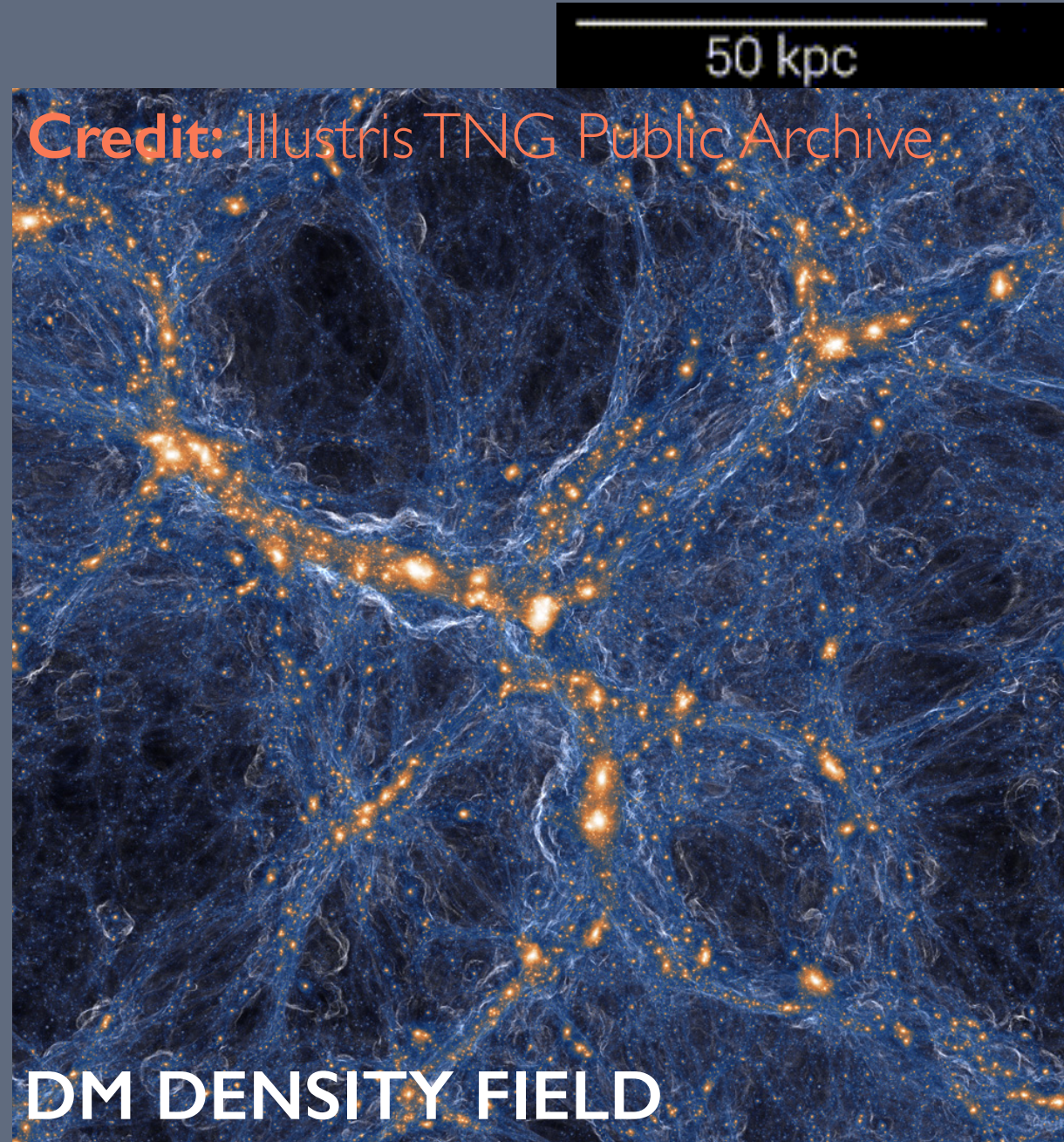
**Outlook:** Questions to Ask and Future Data

**Question:** Why are stellar streams a promising probe of dark matter?

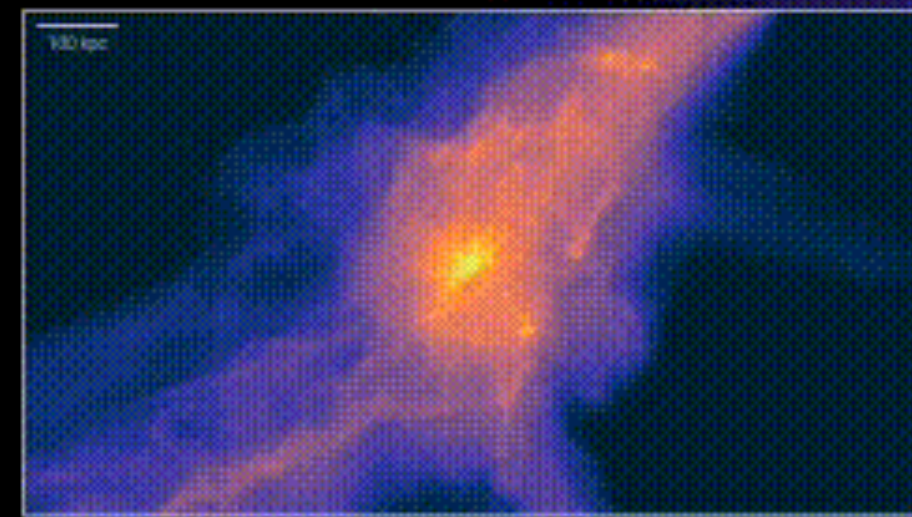




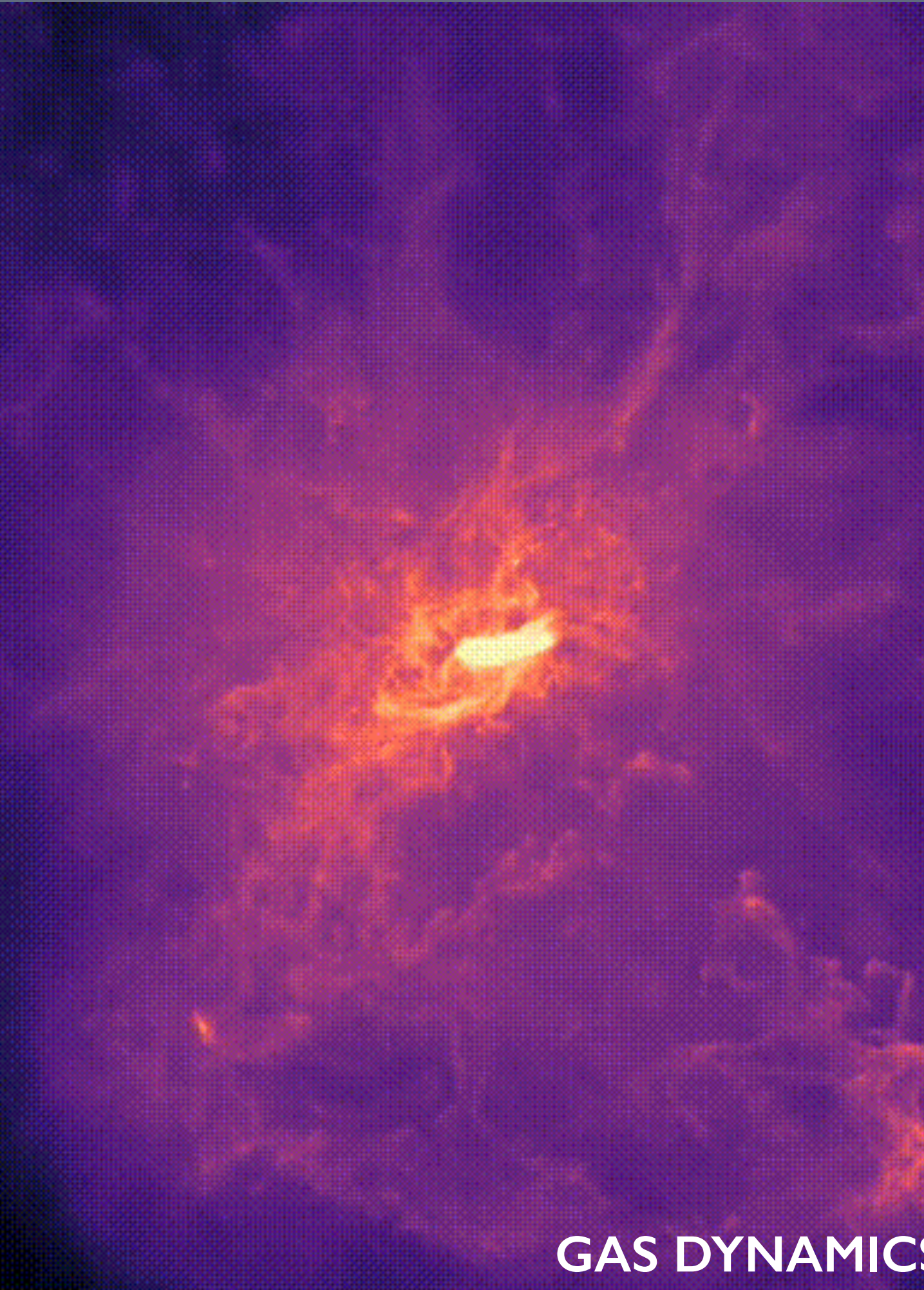
# STRUCTURE FORMATION: INCREASINGLY DETAILED PICTURE OF HOW DARK MATTER CLUSTERS AND GALAXIES FORM



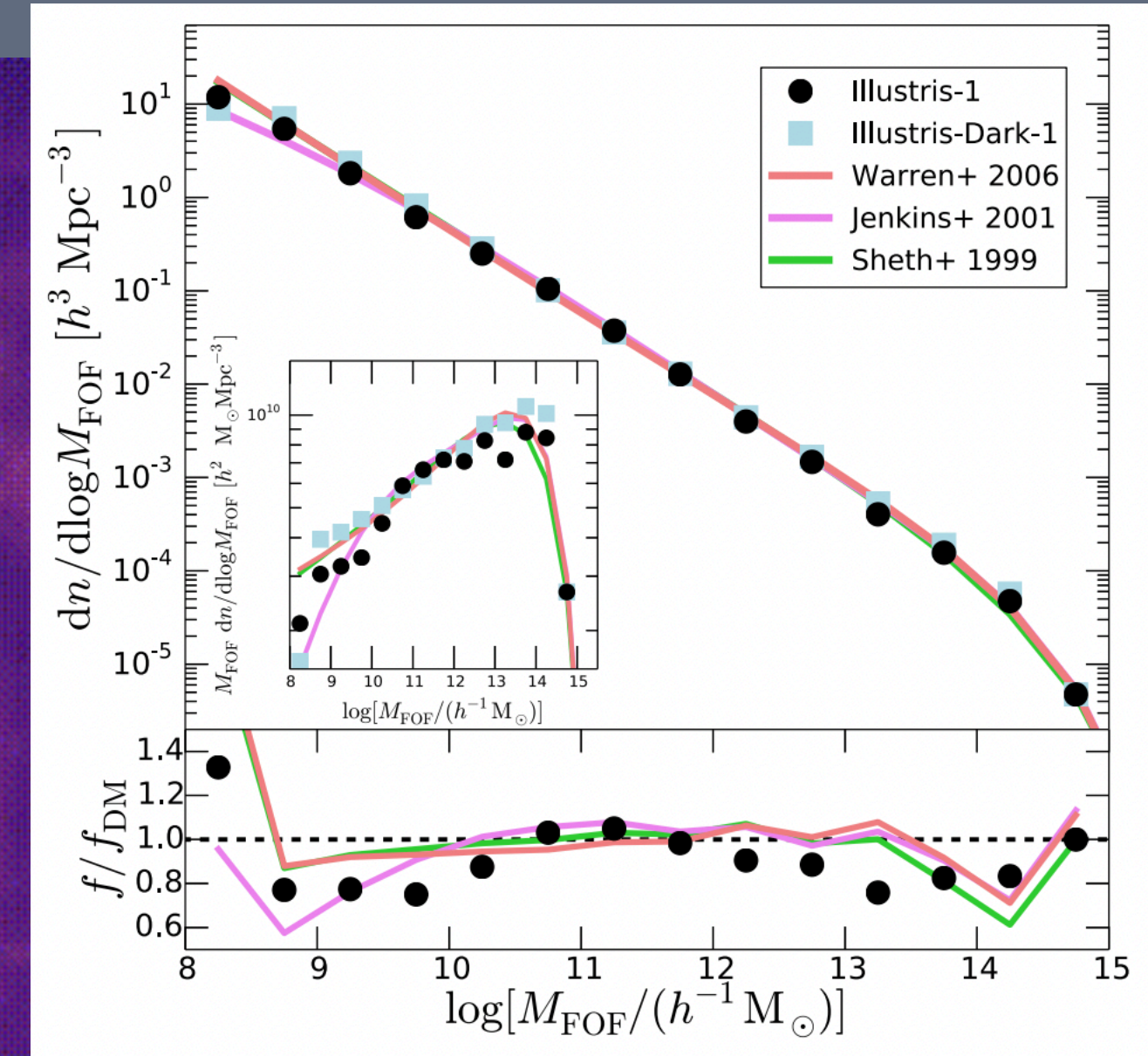
$\log M_{\star} = 10.30$   
 $\text{SFR} = 9.7 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$



Credit: Illustris TNG Public Archive

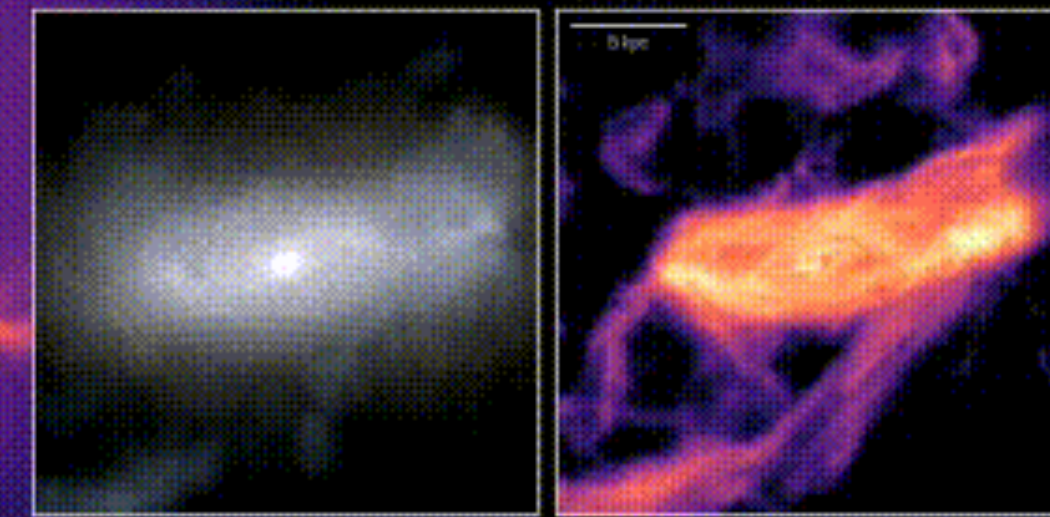


GAS DYNAMICS



SUBHALO MASS FUNCTION

Credit: Vogelsberger et al. (2014)

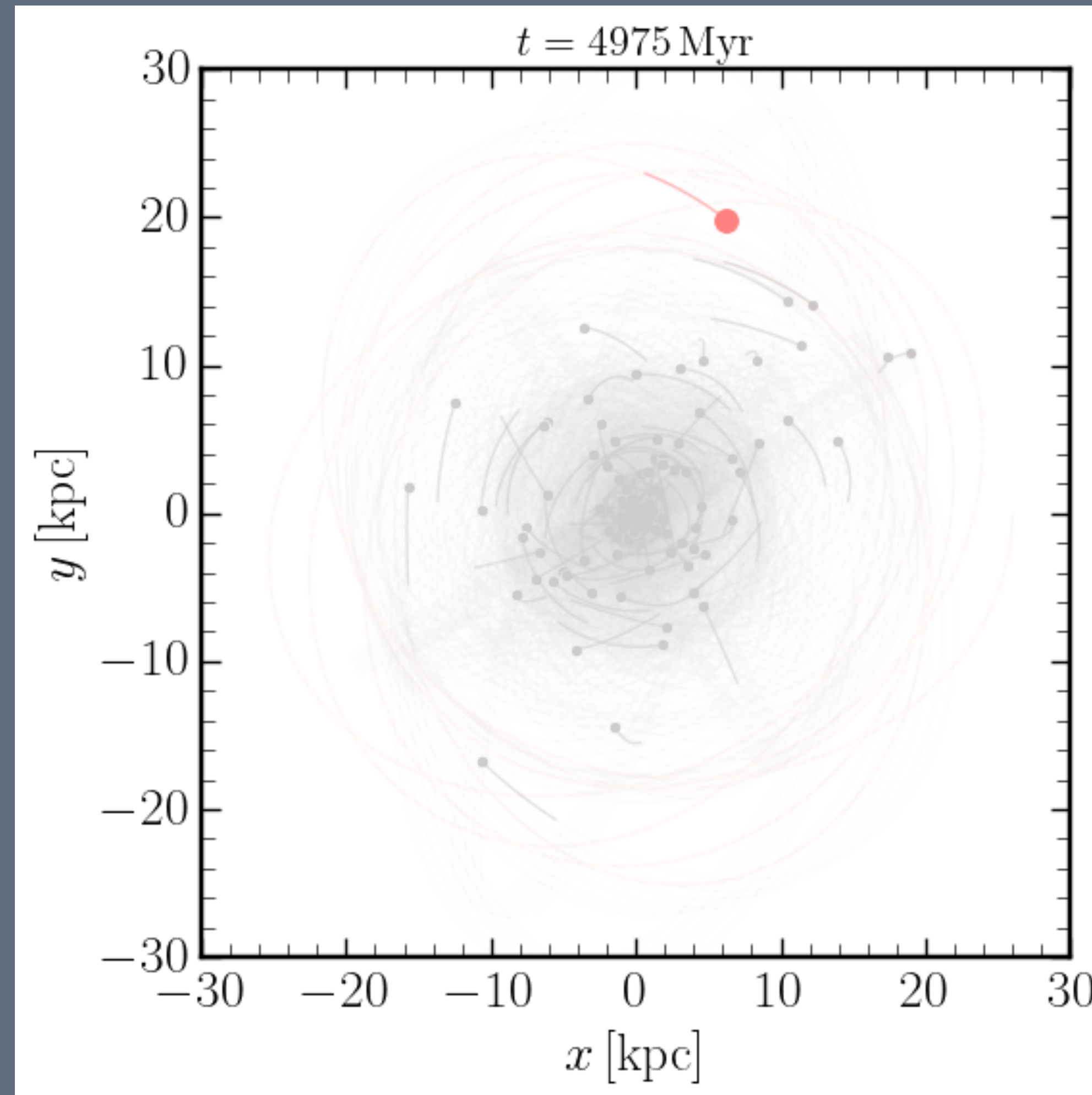


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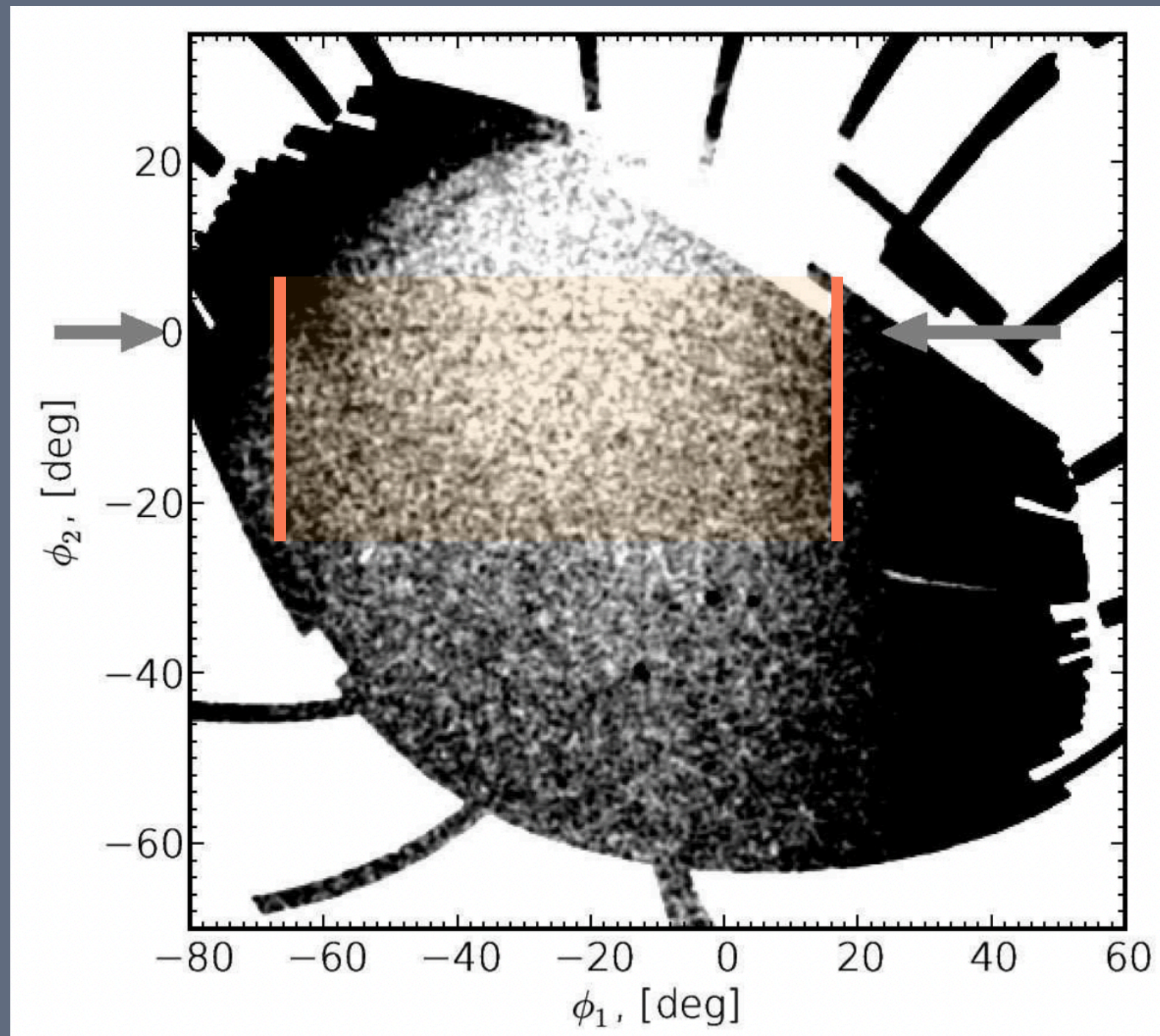


# STELLAR STREAM DYNAMICS: OLD DYNAMICAL OBJECTS THAT TRACE OUT THE MILKY WAY POTENTIAL (INCLUDING SUBHALOS!)



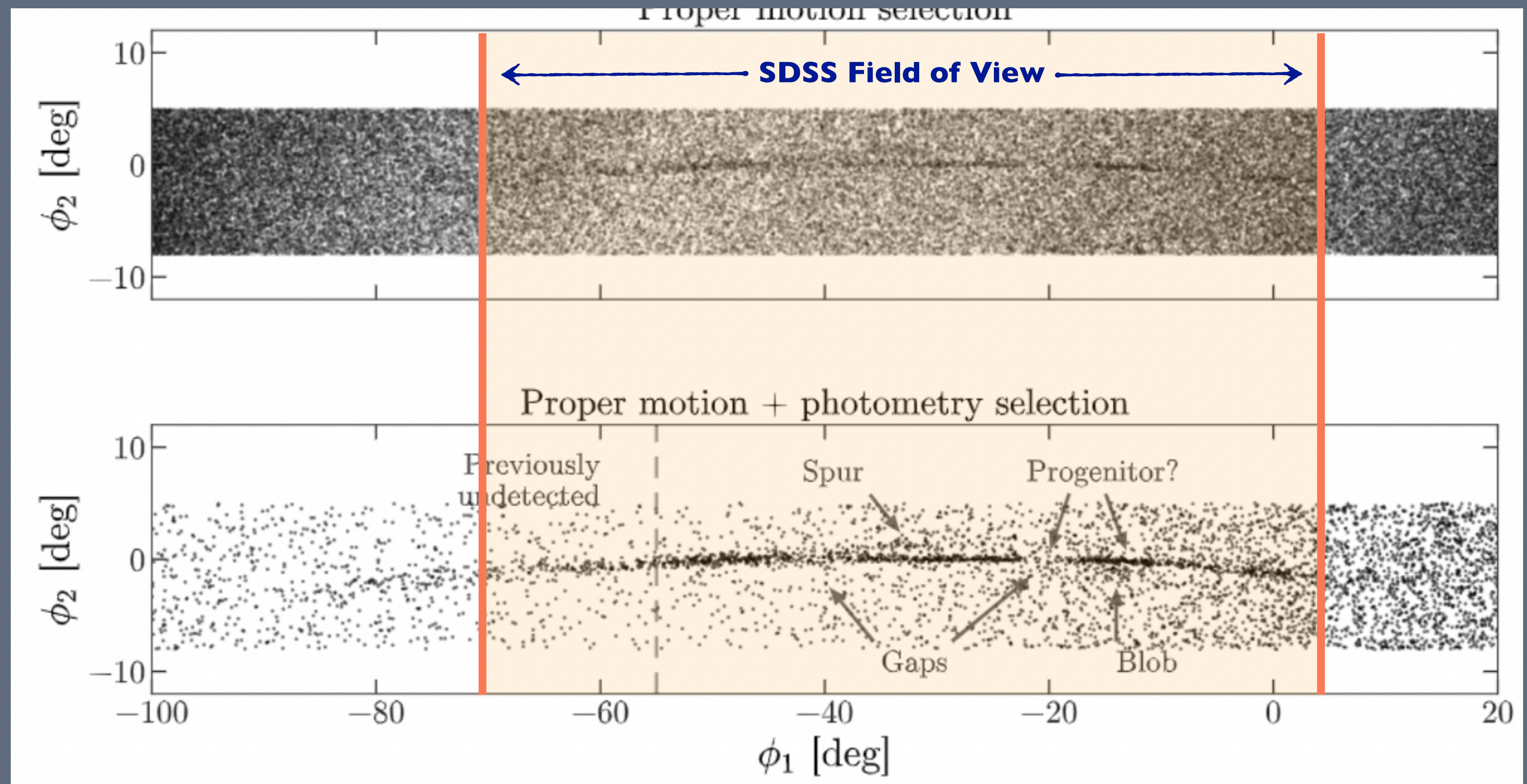


# MILKY WAY OBSERVATIONS: MORE AND MORE PHOTOMETRIC AND SPECTROSCOPIC DATA AVAILABLE



Credit: Koposov et al. (2010)

From SDSS...



Credit: Price-Whelan et al. (2018)

...to GAIA (and beyond)





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**Question:** How do we do parameter estimation with really complex models?





# SIMULATION BASED INFERENCE: KEY FEATURES

See also these talks!



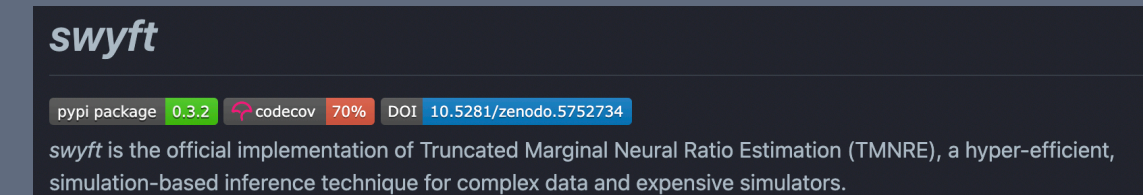
Christoph Weniger  
Thursday @ 10am



Noemi Anau Montel  
...in about 1 hour!

#1

**Implementation:** `swyft` (TMNRE)



<https://github.com/undark-lab/swyft>

#2

**Bayesian:** A fully bayesian framework for parameter estimation

#3

**SBI:** Example of an “implicit likelihood method” (there are more!)

#4

**Approach:** Automatically construct an optimal summary statistic  
...to distinguish between joint and marginal samples

#5

**Marginal:** Directly estimates the params of interest  
...so very simulation efficient!



how/why  
this works!



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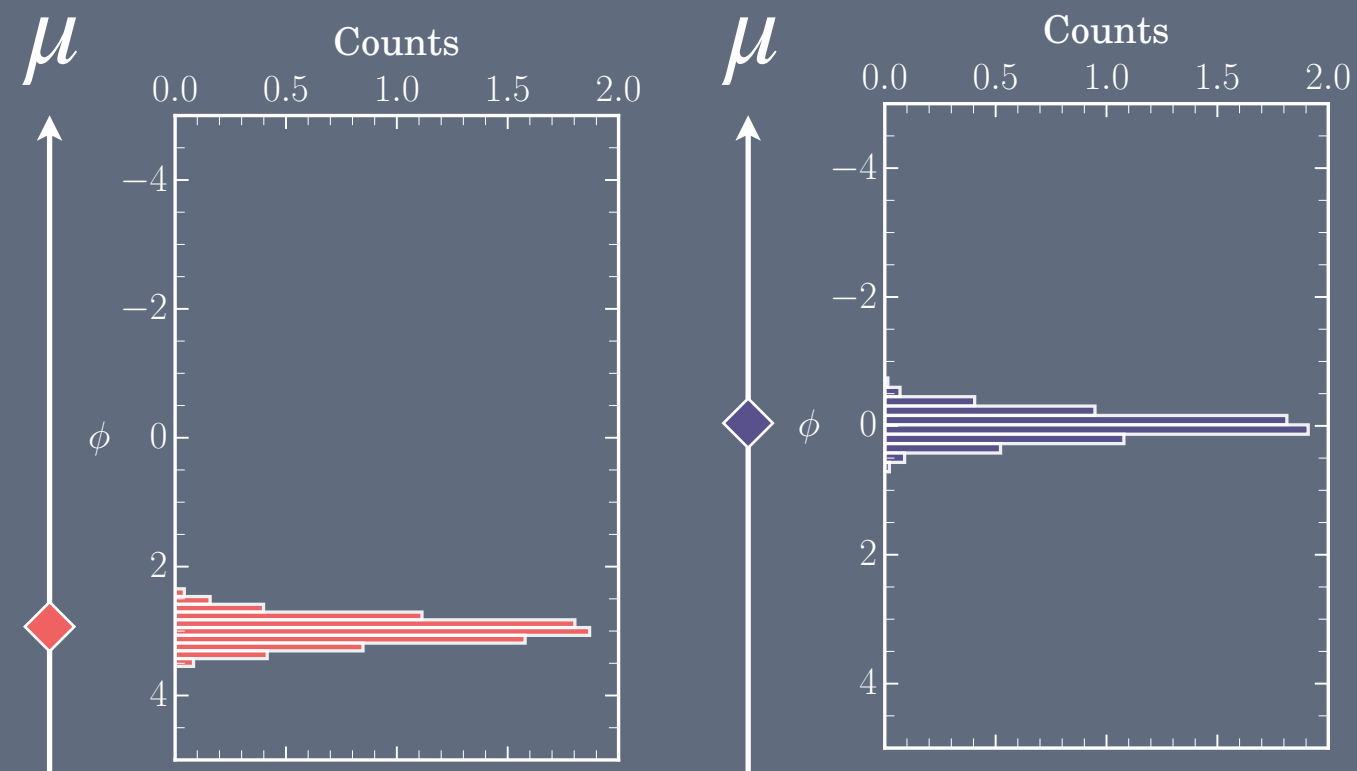
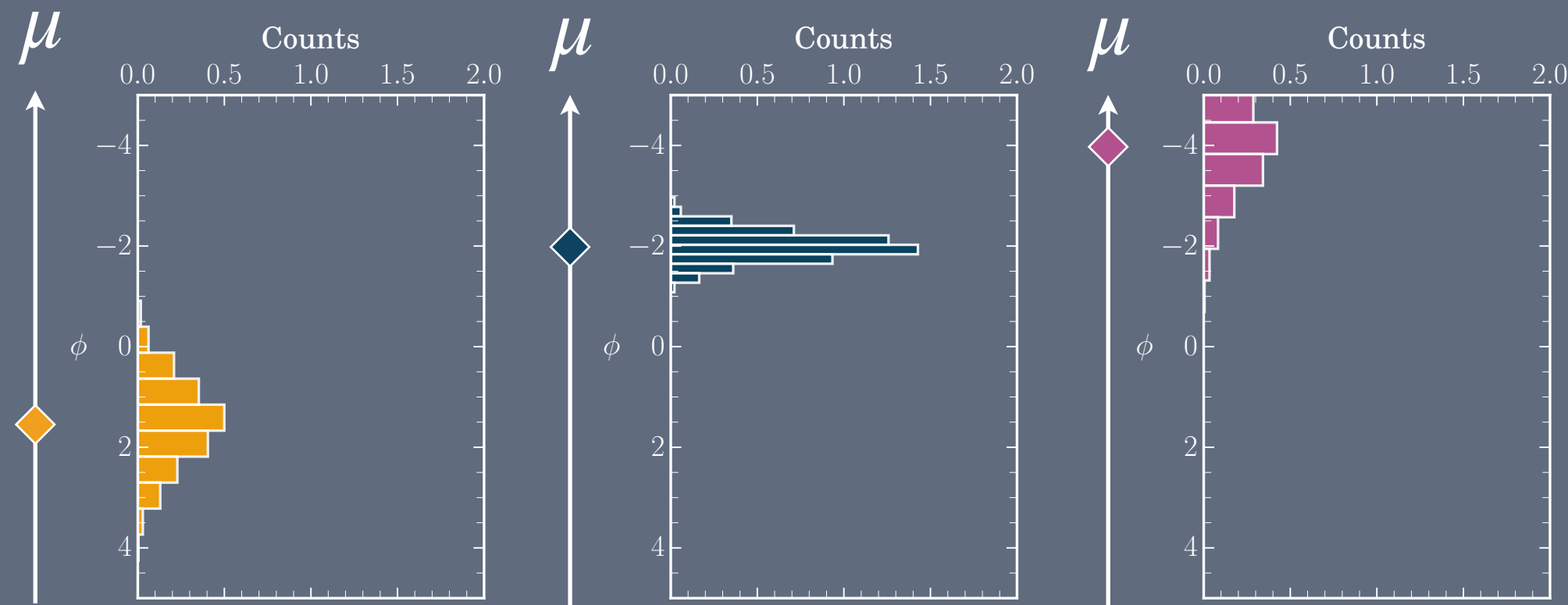






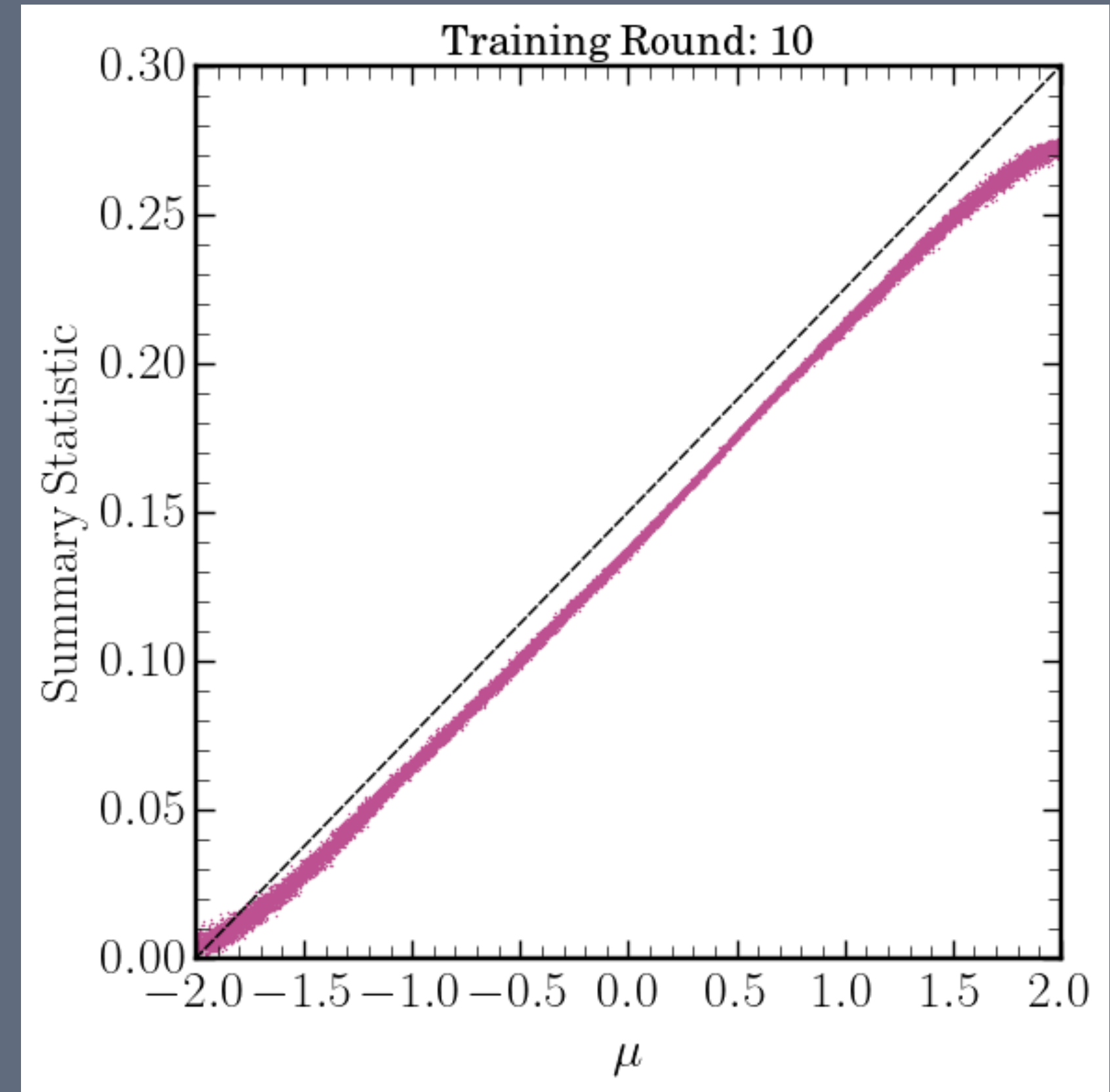
# SIMULATION BASED INFERENCE: EXAMPLE

## MEANINGFUL SUMMARY STATISTICS



MODEL

$$x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1)$$

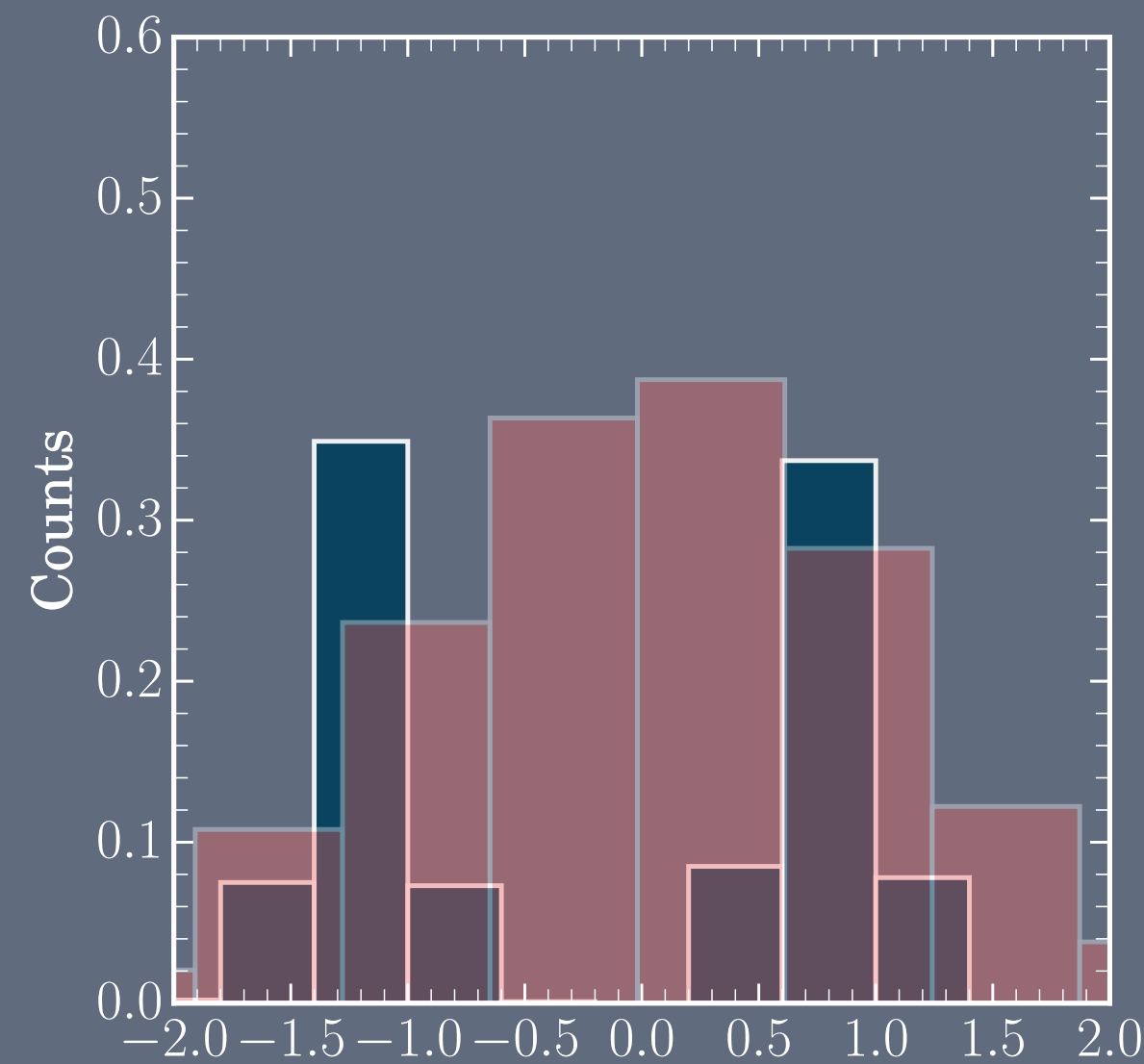




# SIMULATION BASED INFERENCE: EXAMPLE

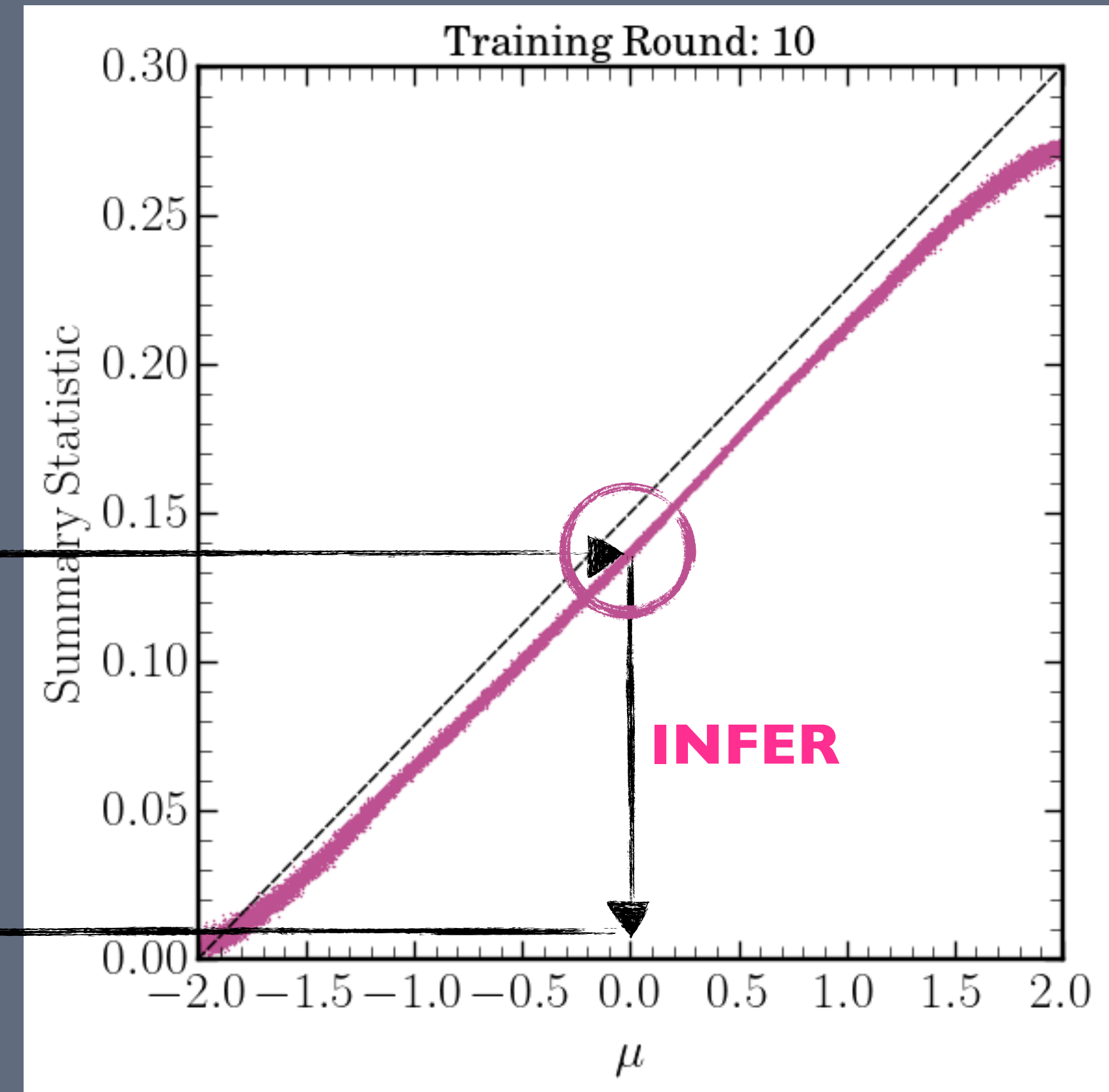
## MEANINGFUL SUMMARY STATISTICS

**WARNING:** What happens if we do inference on this example?



**SUMMARISE**

**REMODEL**



...in other words, we have to be **very sure** that we can generate the features in our data using the simulator



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**Question:** What physics do we resolve in our stellar stream model, and why?





# MODELLING A STELLAR STREAM: CHALLENGES

**#1 Gravitational Potential:** Milky Way stars + DM, subhalos, dSphs, GMCs...

**#2 Progenitor Evolution:** Orbit dynamics, stellar composition

**#3 Subhalo Properties:** Subhalo mass function, radial distribution, density profile

**#4 Stream Formation:** Tidal stripping of progenitor, interaction with subhalos

**#5 Data:** Realistic comparison to Gaia data for e.g. GD-1

+ others we haven't thought of yet!

Coming soon (~Sep.): a fully self-consistent code to generate streams





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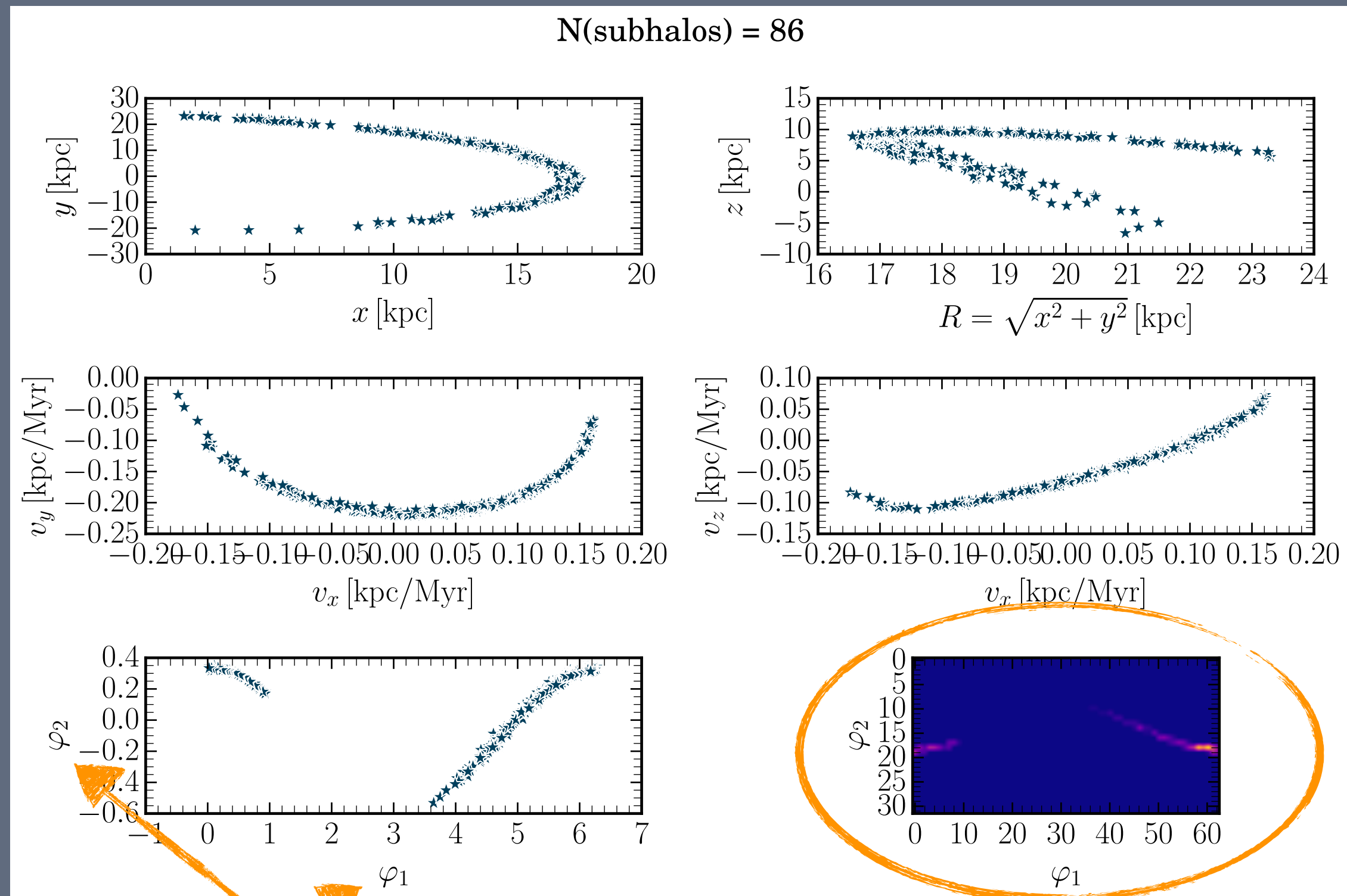
**Outlook:** Questions to Ask and Future Data

**Question:** Can we use simulation based inference to reliably infer properties of stellar stream?



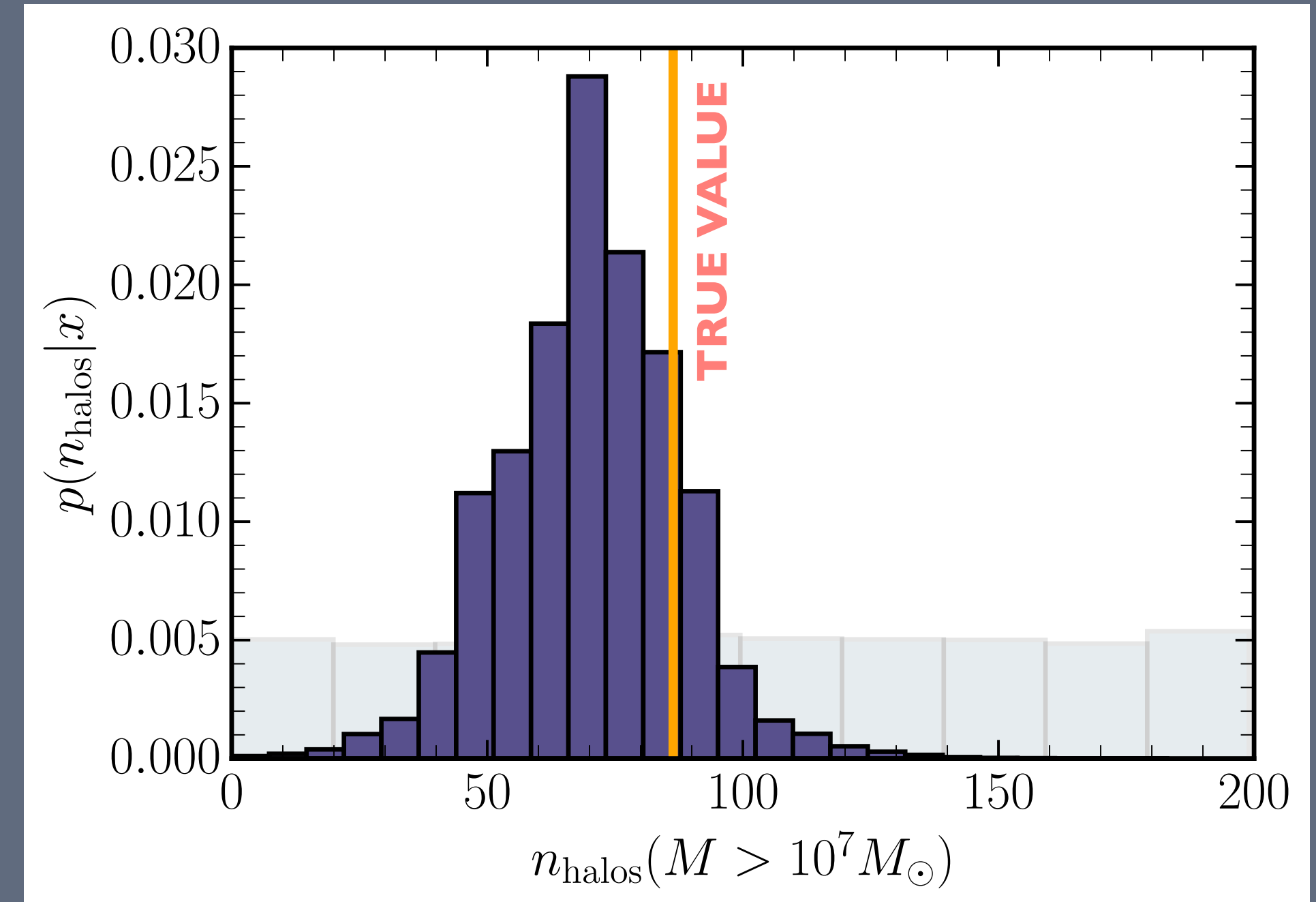


# TRAILER: DETECTING A SUBHALO POPULATION



GD-I centric co-ordinates

Shown to swyft



## CAVEATS TO THIS RESULT

1. Calibrated on the simulator only, not GD-I data
2. Only varying the number of subhalos, not all parameters
3. Evolves halos with  $M > 10^7 M_{\odot}$  with CDM-like distribution





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**Question:** What sort of physics questions can we ask (and answer!) with this approach?



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## **Future Directions:**

- Coupling with N-body simulations
- Simultaneous analysis of multiple streams (c.f. LSST)
- Development of globular cluster evolution models
- Mapping onto DM production models

Thank you for your attention  
(...and keep an eye out on arxiv/Github)!

