



# Lyman- $\alpha$ forest perturbative modeling and improved CMB constraining power

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# Based in part on . . .

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## Redshift-space streaming velocity effects on the Lyman- $\alpha$ forest baryon acoustic oscillation scale

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The baryon acoustic oscillation (BAO) scale acts as a standard ruler for measuring cosmological distances and has therefore emerged as a leading probe of cosmic expansion history. However, any physical effect that alters the length of the ruler can lead to a bias in our determination of distance and expansion rate. One of these physical effects is the streaming velocity, the relative velocity between baryons and dark matter in the early Universe, which couples to the BAO scale due to their common origin in acoustic waves at recombination. In this work, we investigate the impact of streaming velocity on the BAO feature of the Lyman- $\alpha$  forest auto-power spectrum, one of the main tracers being used by the recently commissioned Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI). To do this, we develop a perturbative model for Lyman- $\alpha$  flux fluctuations which is complete to second order for a certain set of fields, and applicable to *any* redshift-space tracer of structure since it is based only on symmetry considerations. We find that there are 8 biasing coefficients through second order. We find streaming velocity-induced shifts in the BAO scale of 0.081%–0.149% (transverse direction) and 0.053%–0.058% (radial direction), depending on the model for the biasing coefficients used. These are smaller than, but not negligible compared to, the DESI Lyman- $\alpha$  BAO error budget, which is 0.46% on the overall scale. The sensitivity of these results to our choice of bias parameters underscores the need for future work to measure the higher-order biasing coefficients from simulations, especially for future experiments beyond DESI.

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# Breaking down the paper title

Over the next several slides, we'll address

- Redshift space
- Baryon acoustic oscillations (BAOs)
- Streaming velocity
- Lyman- $\alpha$  forest

# Redshift space

- In real space, objects (like galaxies) are where they appear to be.
- In redshift space, an object's position is distorted along our LOS
  - Caused by peculiar velocities
  - Convention is that line-of-sight lies along the z axis

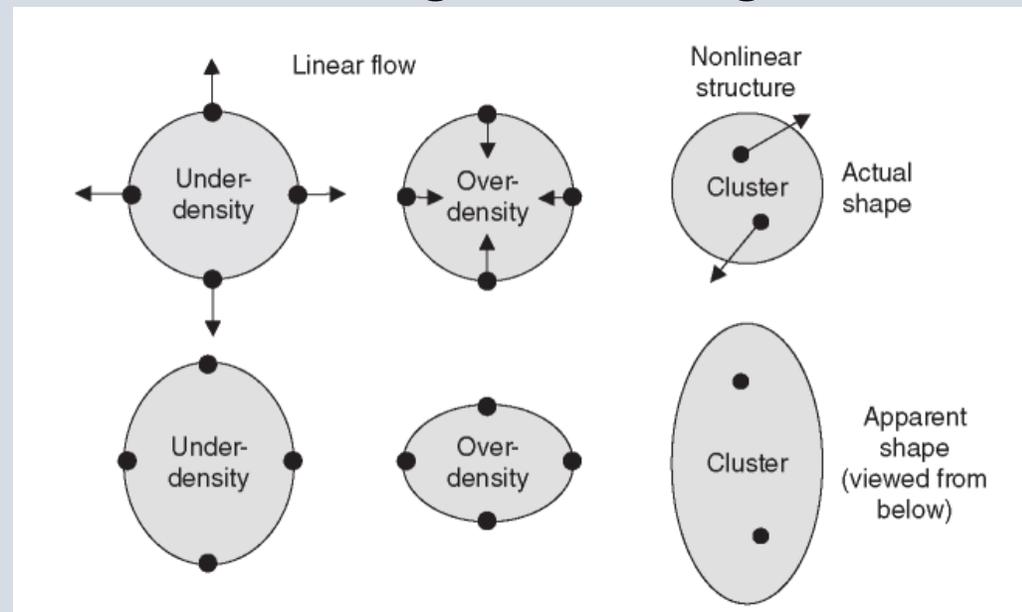


Image credit: Will Percival

# BAOs

Primordial universe is a plasma of photons and baryons

Dark matter overdensities are seeded throughout

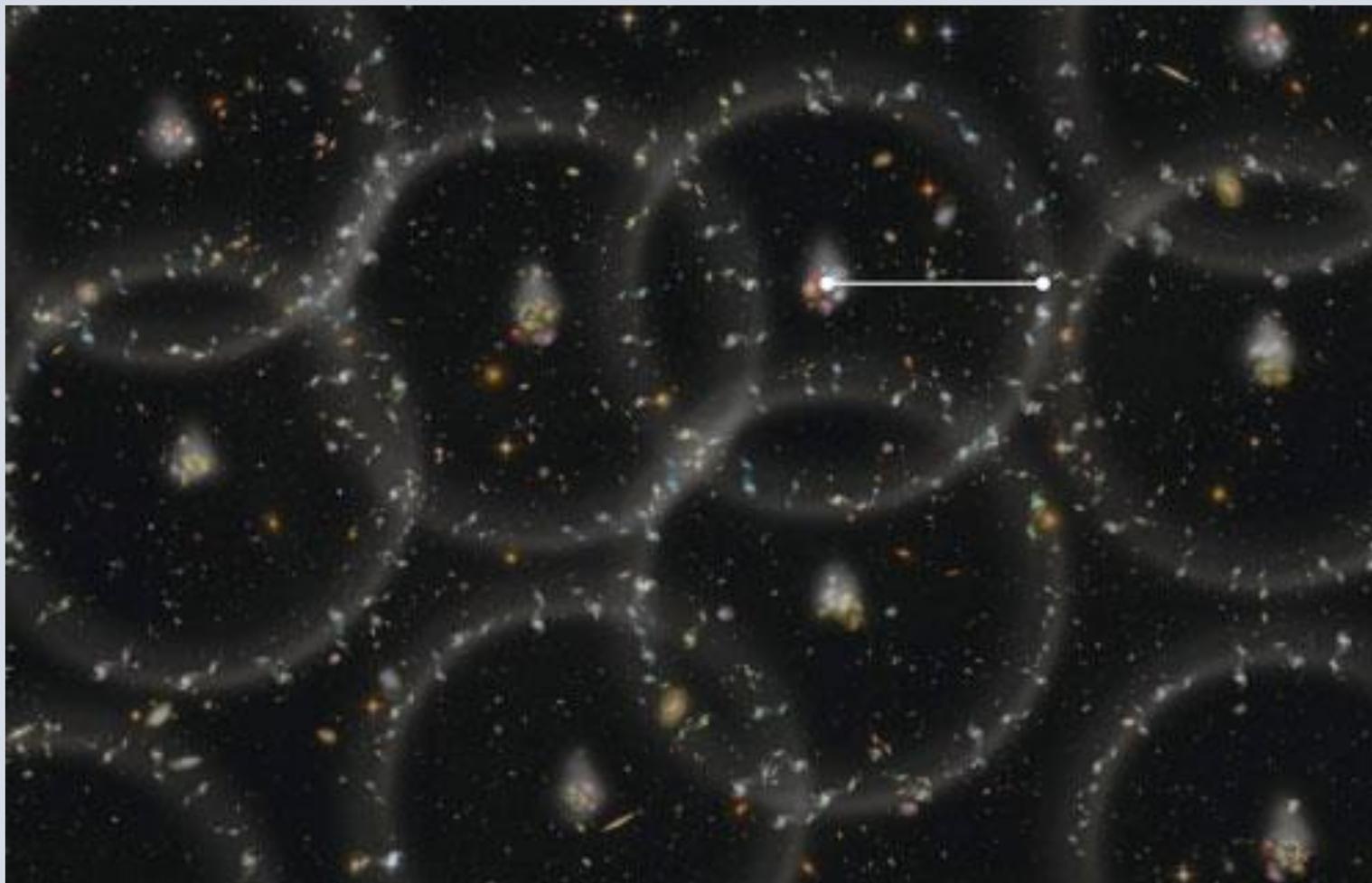
Tug-of-war between gravity and fluid pressure

Generates sound waves called BAOs

Can travel a distance  $r_d = 147$  comoving Mpc before decoupling

Baryons left behind in spherical shell around overdensities

We get a standard ruler!



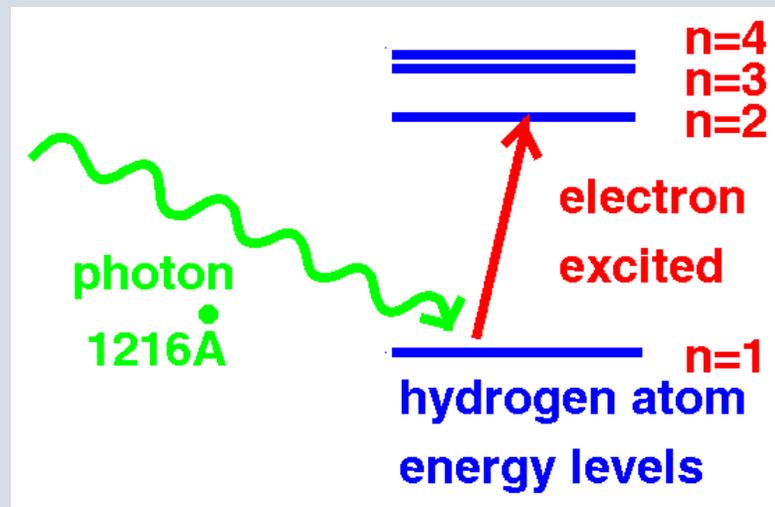
Credit: BOSS Collaboration

# Streaming velocity

- Generated by the same physics that produced BAOs
- Baryons and dark matter have a supersonic relative velocity at decoupling
- More important than usual Jeans criteria for structure formation
  - Changes filtering mass of the intergalactic medium
- Will impact the BAO scale by some amount

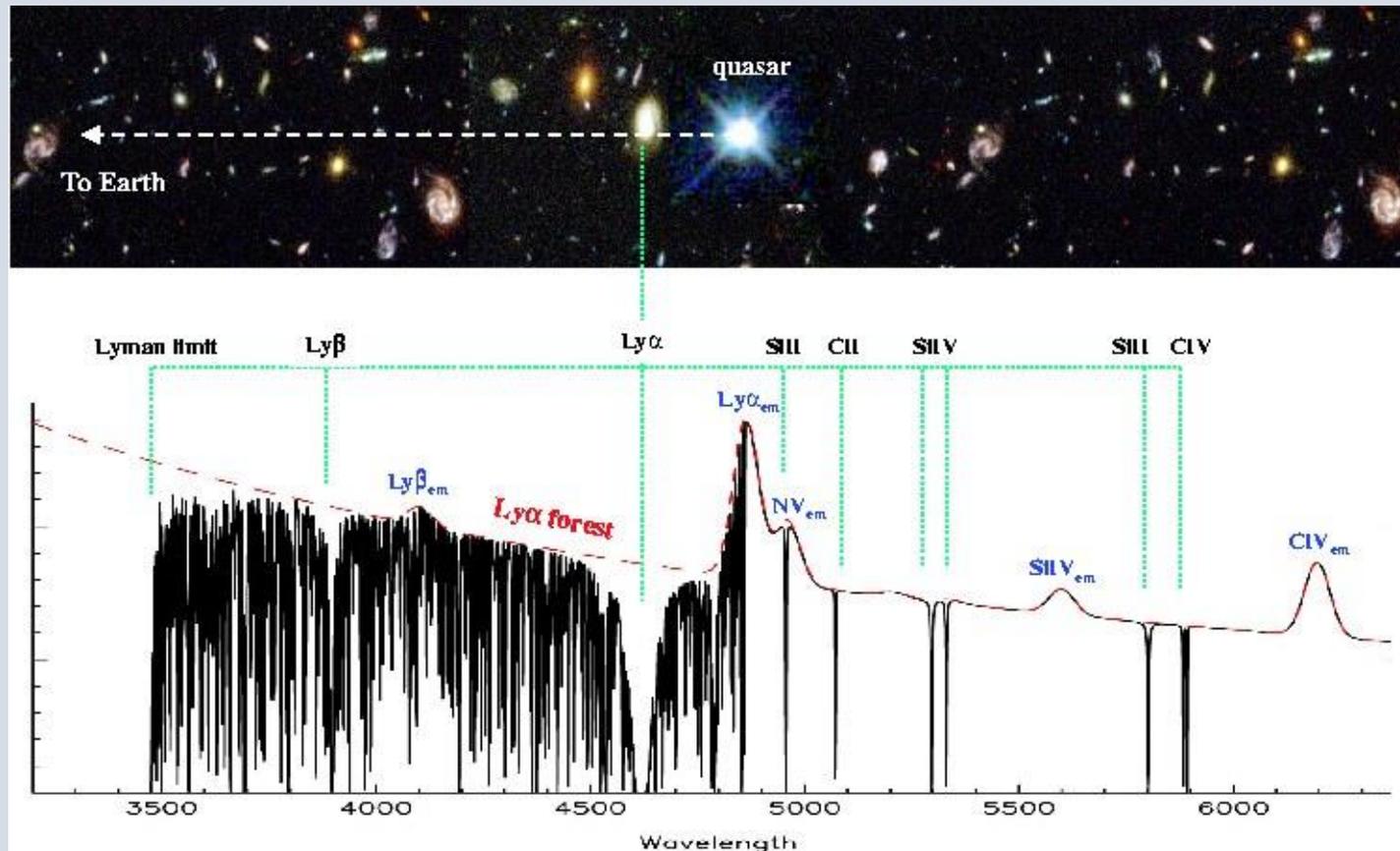
# Lyman- $\alpha$ forest overview

- H I gas clouds spread throughout IGM
- Background quasar shines light, exciting Lyman- $\alpha$  transition
- Absorption in multiple H I clouds along LOS
- Creates a “forest” of absorption features in transmitted flux



Credit: M. White and L. Hernquist

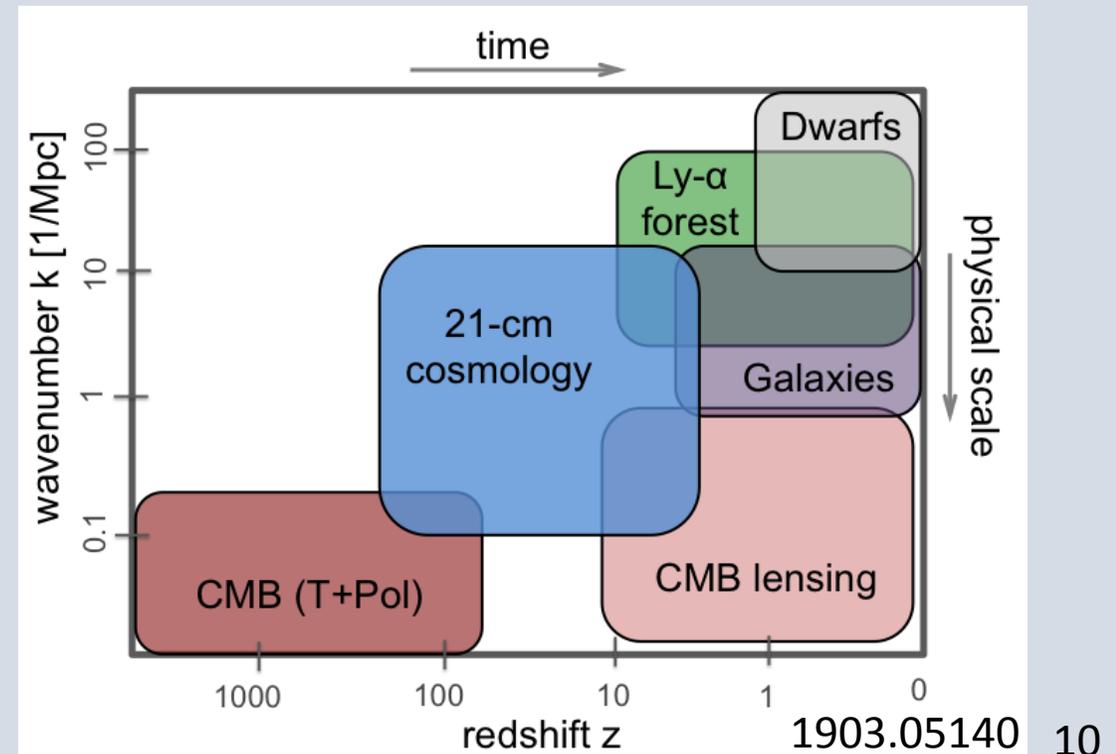
# Visualizing the forest



Credit: John Webb

# Why the Lyman- $\alpha$ forest?

- Robust tracer of structure at  $2 < z < 6$
- Study reionization & thermal history of IGM
- Probe smaller physical scales
- Complement data from other probes



# LSS perturbation theory basics

- Assume underlying matter field smooth, collisionless DM
  - Follows Poisson, continuity, and Euler equations
- At large scales, some fields can be treated as perturbations to others

These fields are perturbations	To these local fields
Density contrast	Cosmic density
Peculiar velocity	Particle velocity
Cosmological gravitational potential	Newtonian potential

- Linearize equations to solve for evolution of fields

# PT and bias in Ly $\alpha$ forest

- Most (purely) PT models are based on linear theory

$$\delta_F = b_\delta \delta + b_\eta \eta$$

- My work introduced a complete 2<sup>nd</sup> order model
  - Applicable to any tracer in redshift space
  - Independently derived, but resembles EFT of LSS for galaxies

$$\delta_F(\mathbf{s}) = c_0 + c_1 \delta + c_2 s_{zz} + c_3 \delta^2 + c_4 s^2 + c_5 \delta s_{zz} + c_6 t_{zz} + c_7 s_{zz}^2 + c_8 (s_{xz}^2 + s_{yz}^2)$$

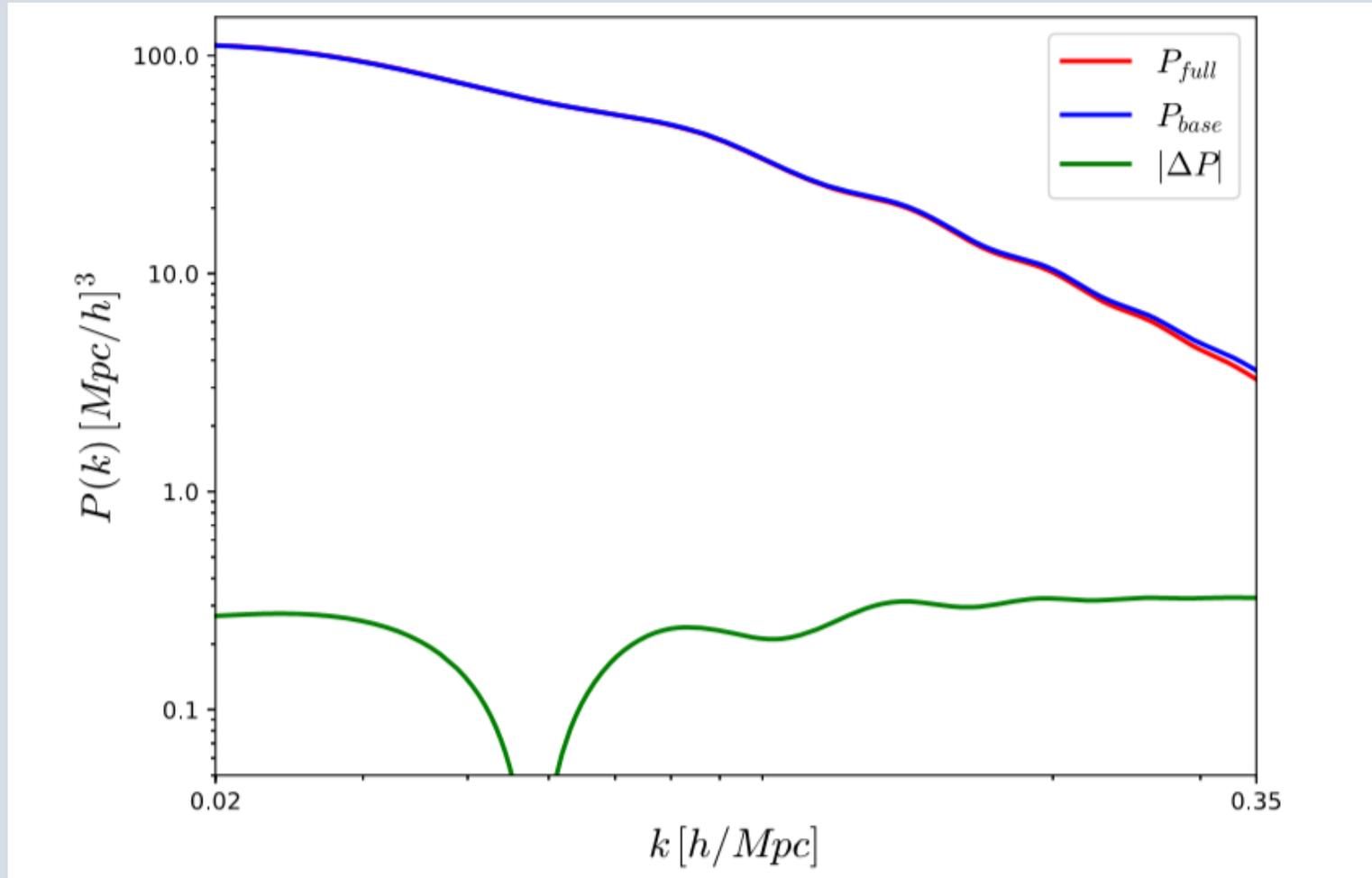
- Streaming velocity contributions added

$$b_v (v_s^2 - 1) + b_{1v} \delta (v_s^2 - 1) + b_{sv} s_{ij} v_{s,i} v_{s,j} + b_{vz} \left( v_{s,z}^2 - \frac{1}{3} v_s^2 \right)$$

# Getting bias coefficients and BAO scale shift

- A few of them come from simulations
- Others are derived from fluctuating Gunn-Peterson approximation
  - Formula for deriving optical depth in redshift space
  - Optical depth is related to flux, which is related to  $\delta_F$
- BAO scale parameter  $\alpha$  is set by fitting a model to  $P_F(k)$ 
  - Uses  $\chi^2$  minimization to calculate fitting coefficients
  - Compare  $\alpha$  when  $b_v = 0$  to  $\alpha$  when  $b_v$  is the simulated value

# Visualizing the shift



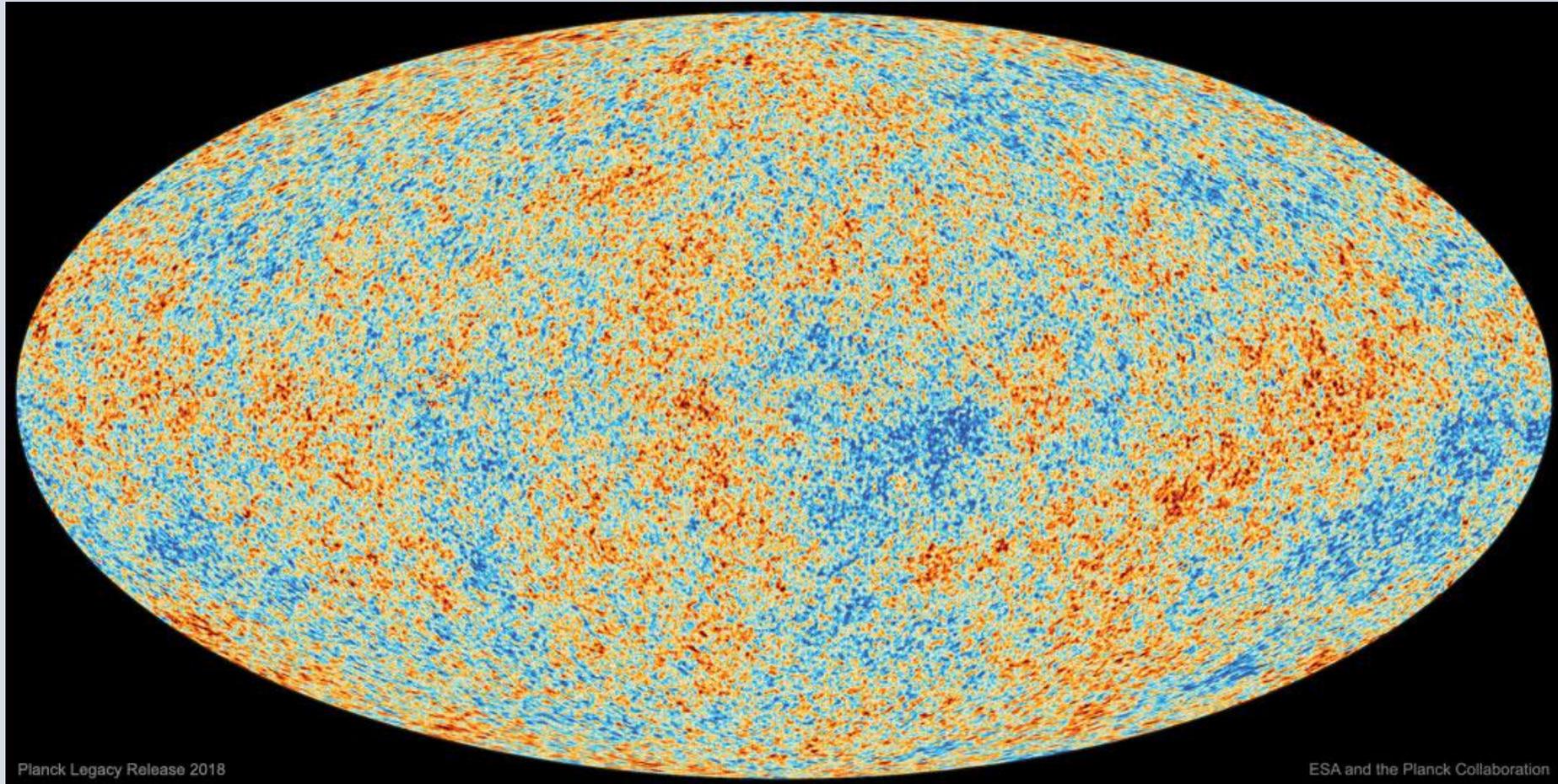
# Paper results and takeaways

TABLE III. The BAO peak shift for three different  $\mu$  values and three different choices of bias coefficients.

$\Delta\alpha$ in %	$c_1, c_2,$ and $c_3$ from simulations, all others are zero	$c_1$ and $c_2$ from simulations, all others are zero	$c_1$ and $c_2$ from simulations, all others from FGPA
$\mu = 0$	0.081%	0.088%	0.149%
$\mu = 1/\sqrt{3}$	0.066%	0.070%	0.093%
$\mu = 1$	0.053%	0.054%	0.058%

- Results for peak shift depend strongly on bias parameters
- DESI precision for Lyman- $\alpha$  forest is 0.46%
  - Streaming velocity alone is important but relatively minor
- Go to higher order PT and get bias parameters

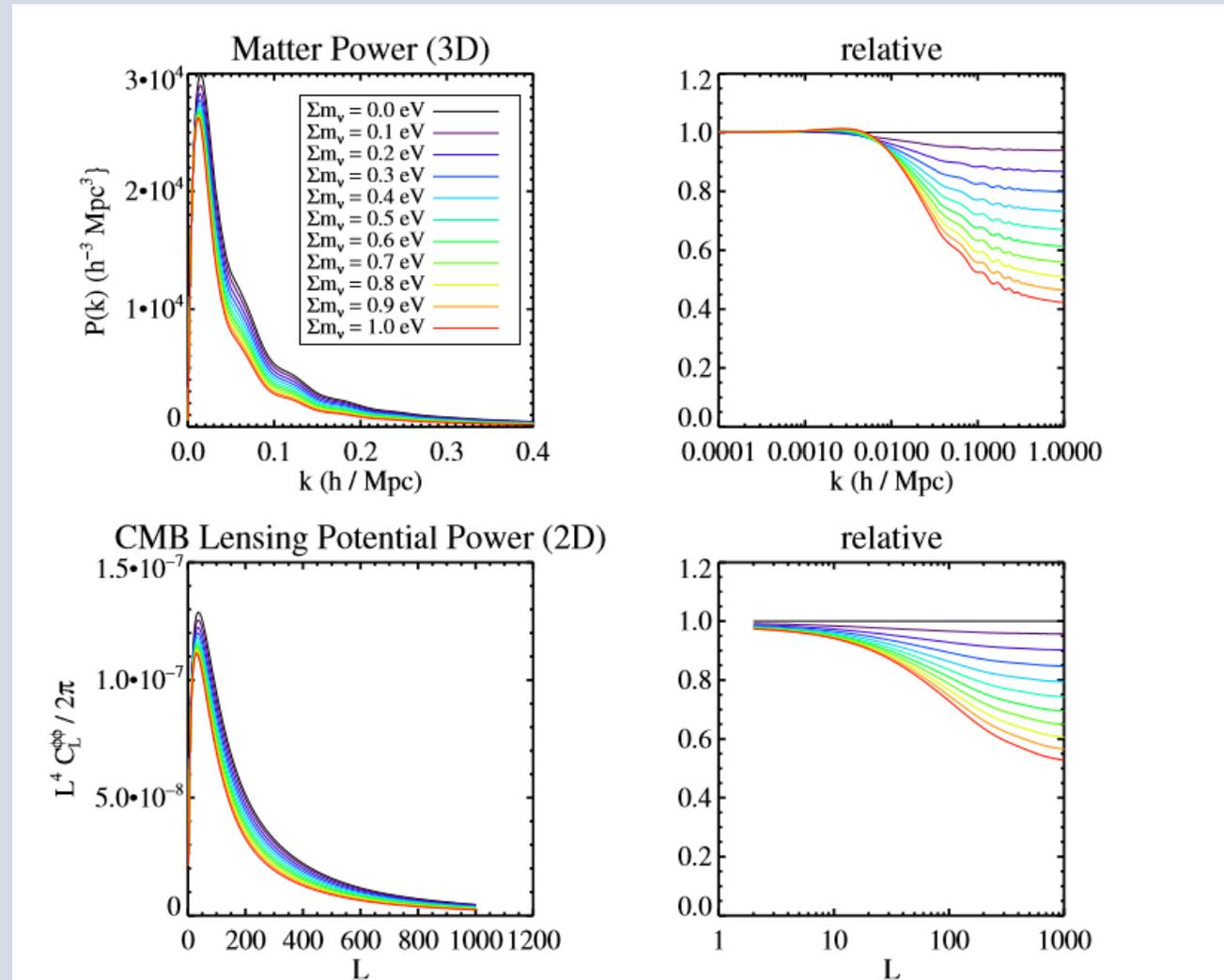
# CMB Constraints



# CMB application: neutrino masses (1/2)

- Expansion history changes as they become non-relativistic
  - Probes sensitive to history, like BAO, can measure the effect
- Neutrino masses suppress late-time amplitude of fluctuations
- Primary CMB spectrum and secondary CMB lensing spectrum

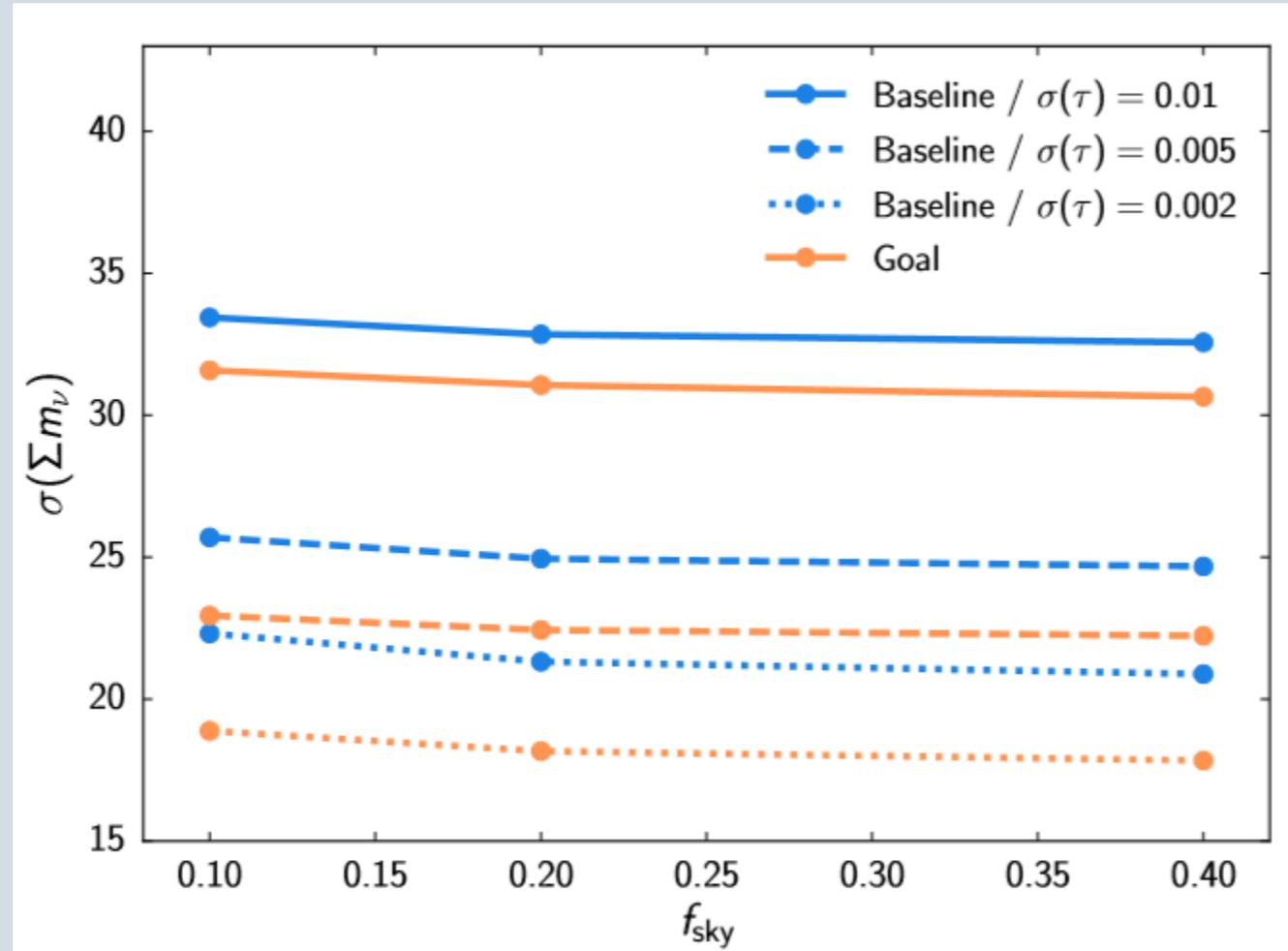
# Suppression of power



# CMB application: neutrino masses (2/2)

- DESI BAO information helps break degeneracy of  $\Sigma m_\nu$  with  $\Omega_m$ 
  - Get BAO from galaxies, quasars, and Ly $\alpha$  forest
- SO (Goal) + DESI BAO +  $\tau$  (LiteBIRD) :  $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 17 \text{ meV}$ 
  - Enable detection of  $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$  at  $3.5\sigma$  and  $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.1 \text{ eV}$  at  $5.9\sigma$

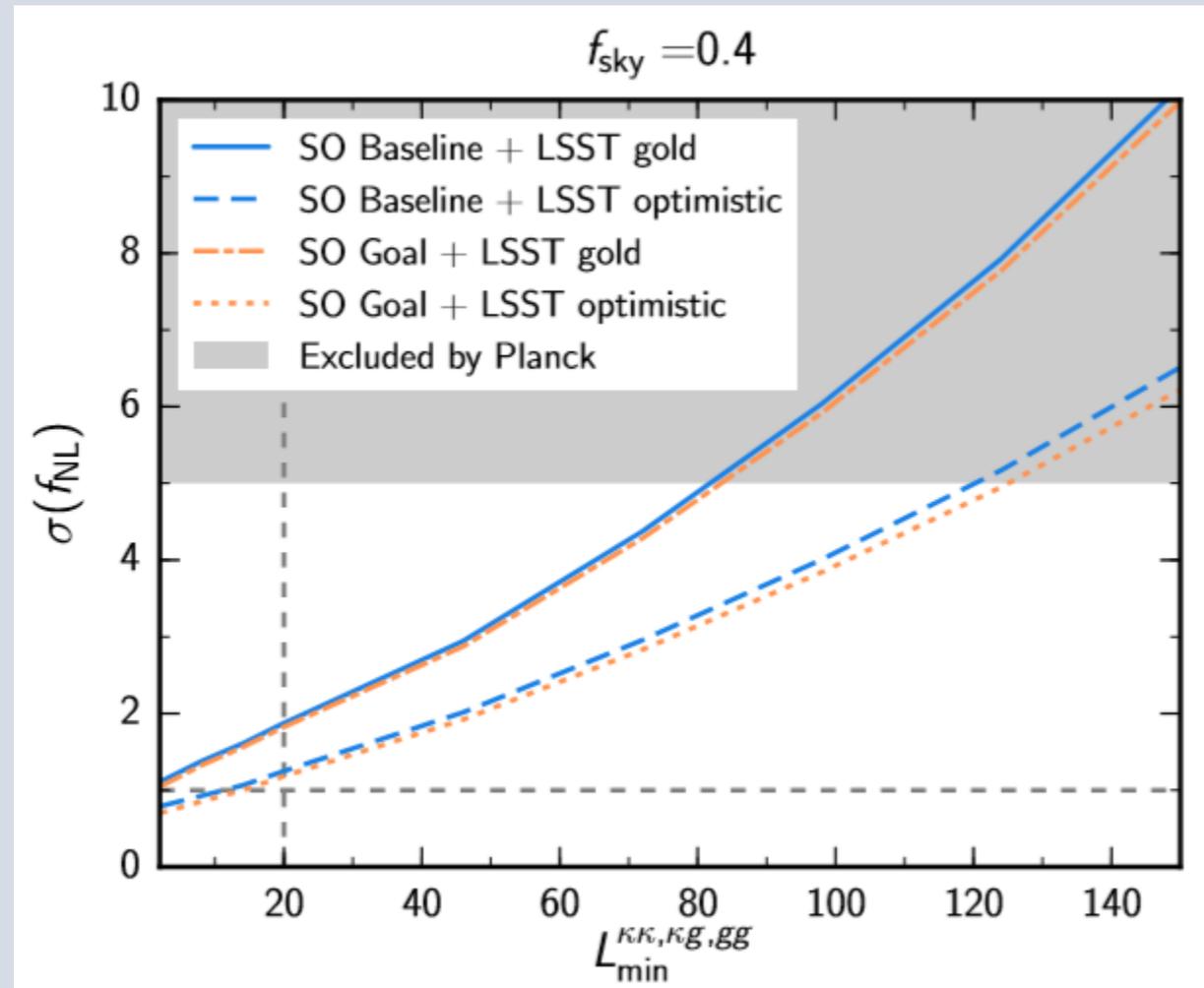
# Limits from Simons + DESI + $\tau$



# CMB application: primordial non-Gaussianity

- Local PNG parameterized by  $f_{NL}$ 
  - Can place constraints on inflationary models
- Causes galaxies to exhibit scale-dependent bias  $b(k) \propto f_{NL}/k^2$
- The same dependence is present in the Ly $\alpha$  forest
  - See U. Seljak, JCAP 03 (2012) 004 and S. Chongchitnan, JCAP 10 (2014) 034
- Could CMB + Ly $\alpha$  improve PNG constraints from CMB + galaxies?

# Limits from Simons lensing + Rubin clustering



# Conclusions

- Ly $\alpha$  forest is great for studying smaller scales at earlier times
- Perturbative modeling must improve to get accurate cosmology
  - In the future: complete 1-loop model and bias coefficients
- Complements CMB measurements including  $\Sigma m_\nu$ , PNG
- LSS + CMB data will help achieve unprecedented precision



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CHECK  
BACKUP SLIDES**

# Where did $\delta_F(s)$ come from?

- Get a physical picture of the situation
- Ask what symmetries are present (azimuthal symmetry)
- Consider all relevant fields
- Use group theory!
- Prove our expansion is the most general one possible for fields we consider

# Physical picture

