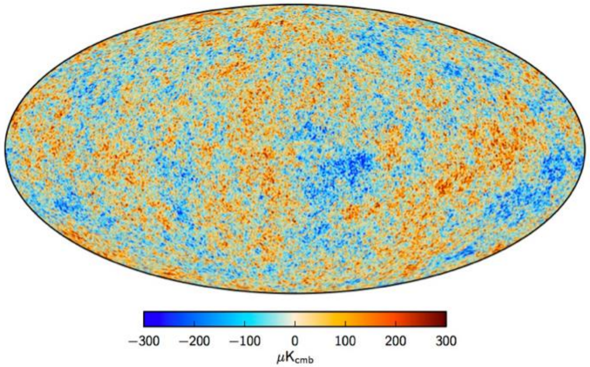
The High Redshift Cosmic Web: Astrophysics and Fundamental Physics

Matteo Viel - SISSA (Trieste, Italy)
Emergence of the Cosmic Web
Workshop – IFPU (8/9/25)

Structure Formation

$\delta T/T \sim 10^{-5}$

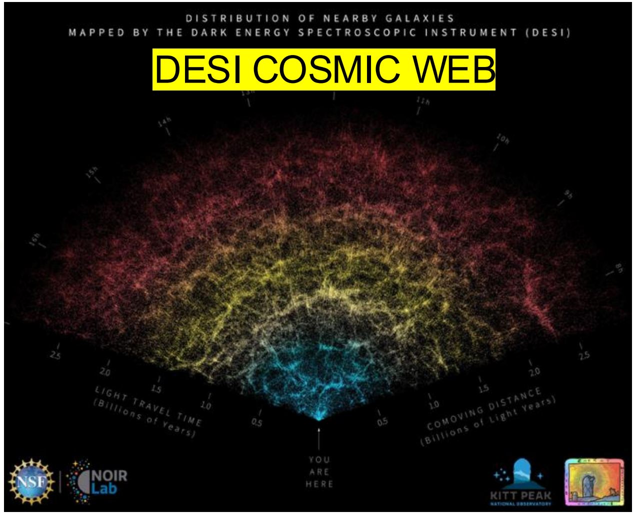
Initial Conditions



13 Gyrs later

Under the influence of gravity and astrophysical processes....

Non-linear Universe



ΛCDM model:

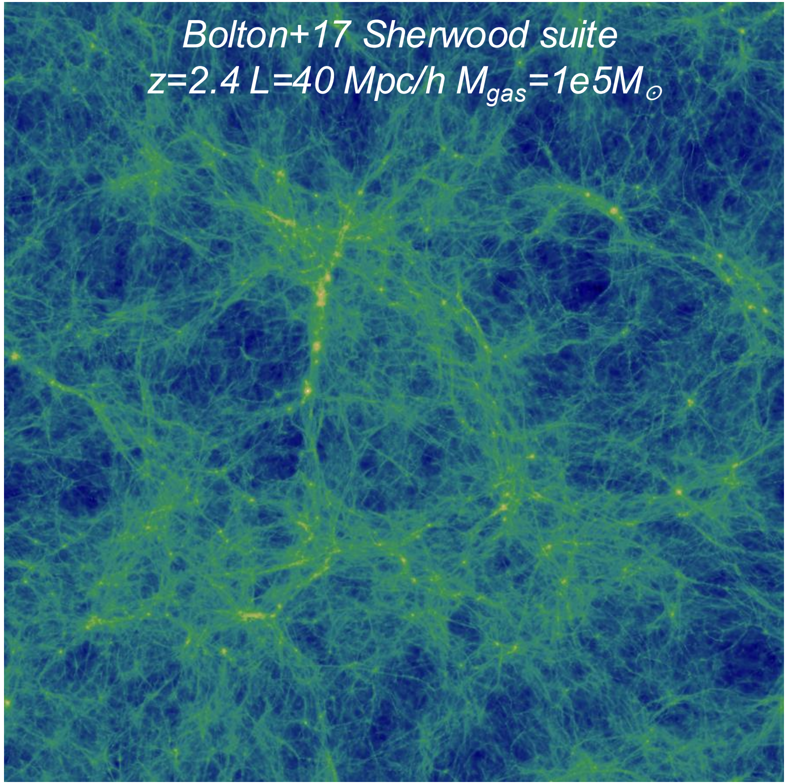
- DM required at >50σ from CMB data alone
- Support for hierarchical structure formation
- Quantitative understanding in terms of linear (Jeans) theory

\+ perturbation theories

\+ hydrodynamic simulations

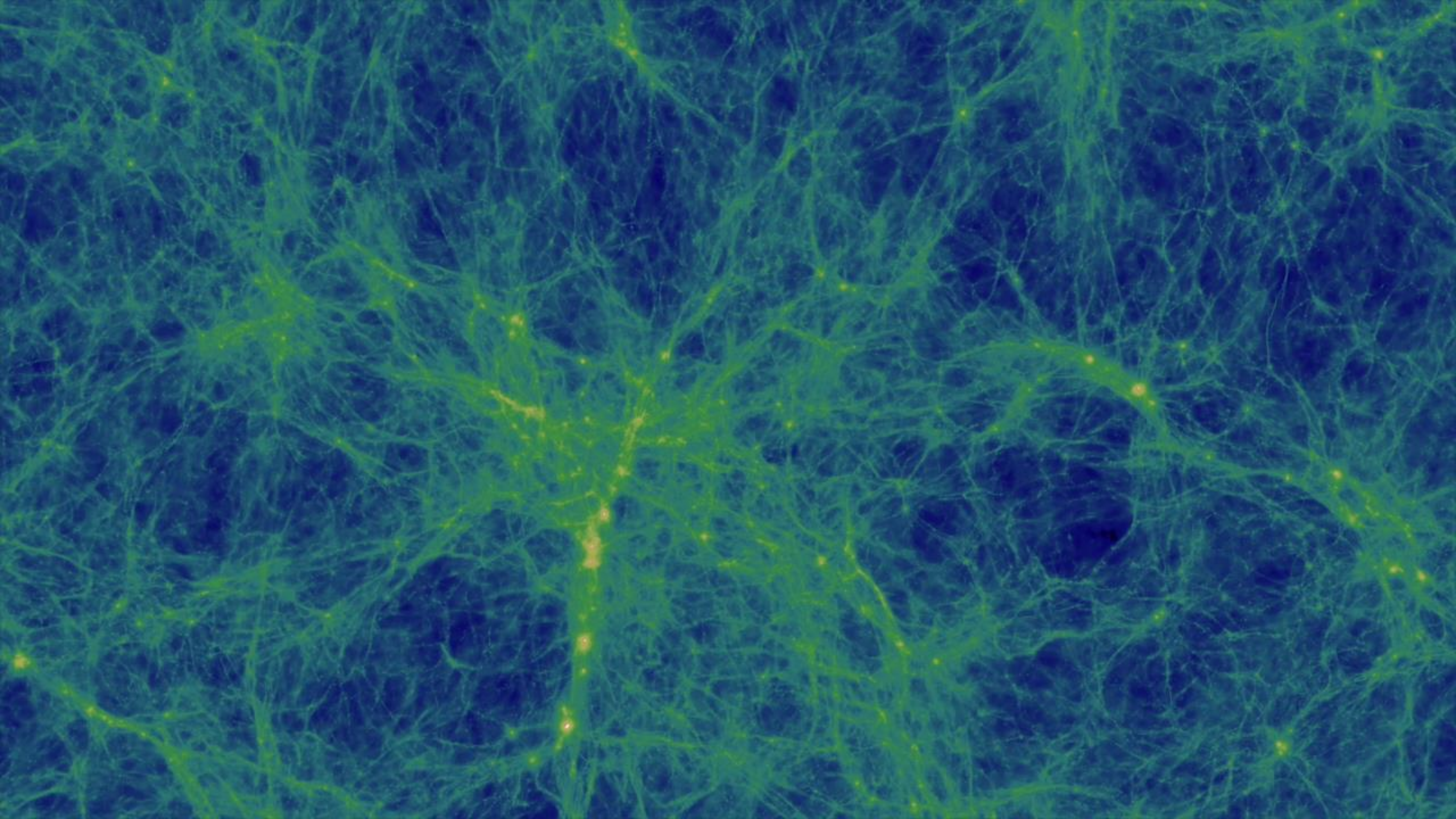
Parameter	Plik best fit	Plik [1]
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.022383	0.02237 ± 0.00015

Physics of the gas



Intergalactic Cosmic Web

- ✓ Filamentary gaseous cosmic web as predicted in ΛCDM hydro sims
- ✓ Key physics relatively simple: gas cooling and heating by a (uniform) UV background in an expanding Universe
- ✓ Physical properties can be derived by assuming two physical fluids (DM and gas) evolving, with the latter having its pressure (Jeans scale) – Bi & Davidsen 1997, Schaye 2001, Gnedin & Hui 98



Physics of the gas: filtering scale

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DM

$$\frac{d^2\delta_X}{dt^2} + 2H\frac{d\delta_X}{dt} = 4\pi G\bar{\rho}(f_X\delta_X + f_b\delta_b),$$

GAS

$$\frac{d^2\delta_b}{dt^2} + 2H\frac{d\delta_b}{dt} = 4\pi G\bar{\rho}(f_X\delta_X + f_b\delta_b) - \frac{c_S^2}{a^2}k^2\delta_b$$

$$k_J = \frac{a}{c_S}\sqrt{4\pi G\bar{\rho}}.$$

Thermal history

Equation of motion of gas element

$$\frac{d\boldsymbol{v}}{dt} + H\boldsymbol{v} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{1}{\rho}\nabla P,$$

$$\psi = \phi + \mathcal{H}$$

$$\frac{d\boldsymbol{v}}{dt} + H\boldsymbol{v} = -\nabla\psi$$

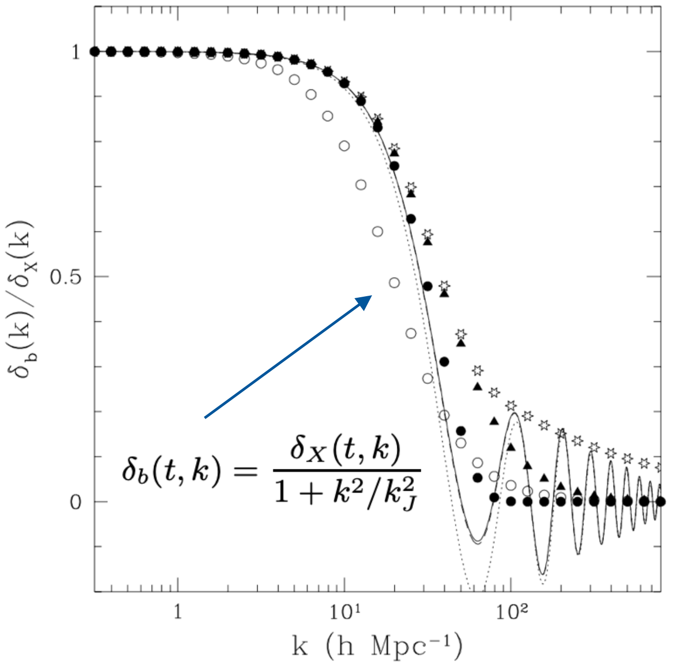
$$\mathcal{H}(\rho) = \frac{P(\rho)}{\rho} + \int_1^\rho \frac{P(\rho')}{\rho'}\frac{d\rho'}{\rho'}$$

Specific enthalpy

Filtering scale

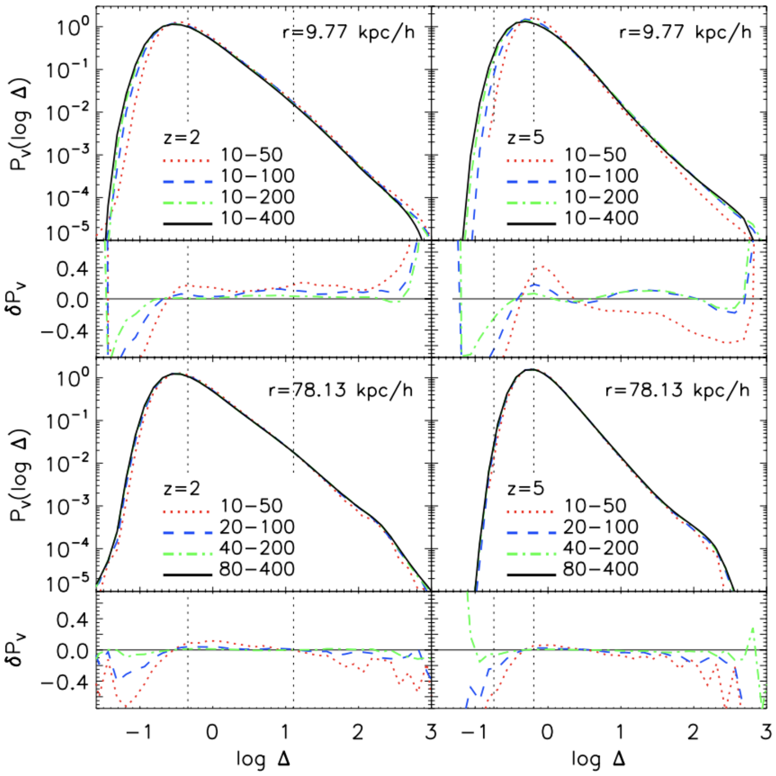
$$\frac{1}{k_F^2(t)} = \frac{1}{D_+(t)}\int_0^t dt' a^2(t')\frac{\ddot{D}_+(t') + 2H(t')\dot{D}_+(t')}{k_J^2(t')}\int_{t'}^t \frac{dt''}{a^2(t'')}$$

Filtering scale k_F rather than k_J is used
And k_F depends on the **whole thermal history** (unlike k_J)



Gnedin & Hui 1998, Gnedin 2000, He & Gnedin 2020

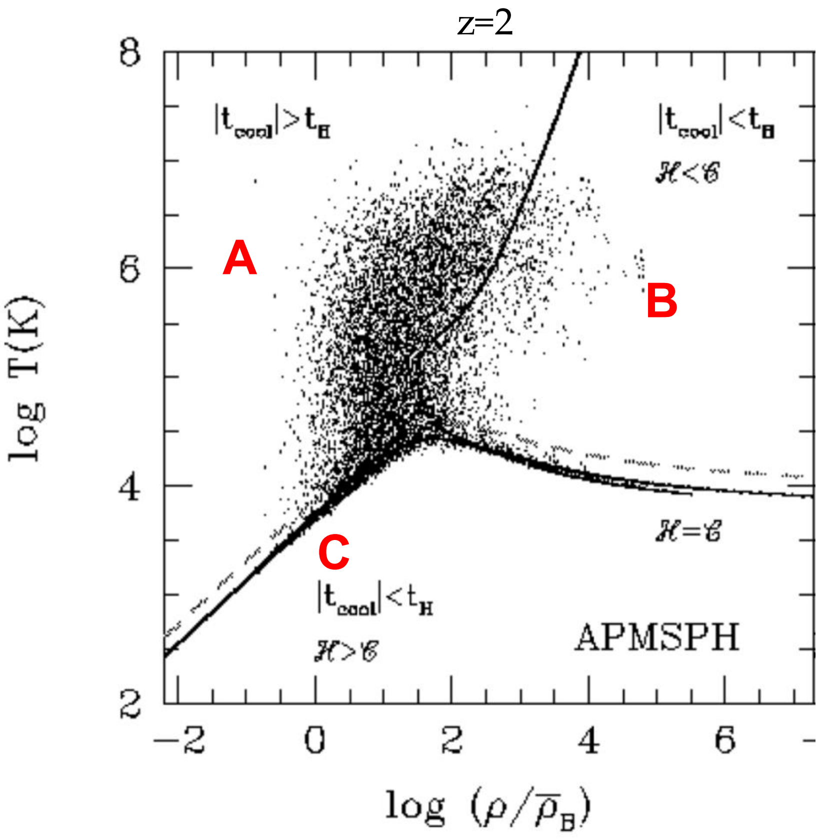
Physics of the gas: the gas PDF



Bolton & Becker 2009, Bi & Davidsen 97

- ✓ Volume-weighted gas pdf is a skewed Gaussian – Lognormal fit works reasonably well
- ✓ 8th order polynomali fit provided in Becker&Bolton 2009, but earlier models are also in agreement (Bi, Miralda-Escude' et al. 97)
- ✓ Unfortunately, this is not observable….

Physics of the gas: the gas thermal state



Theuns+98

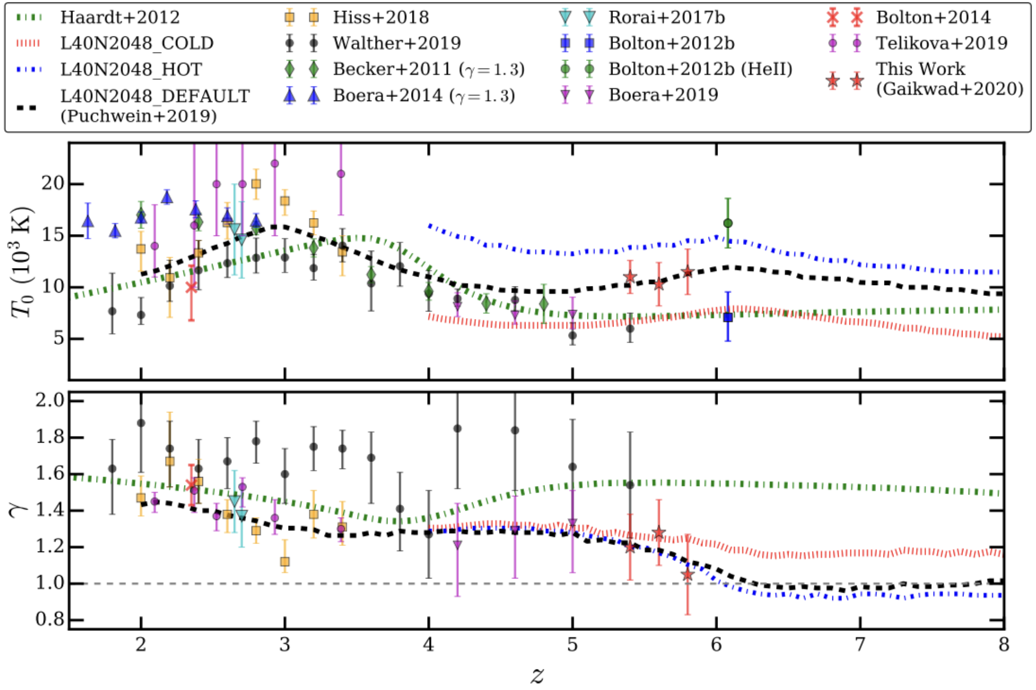
$$t_{\rm cool} = \frac{u}{|\dot{u}|} = \frac{3k_BT}{2\mu}\frac{m_H}{\rho(1-Y)^2(\mathcal{C}-\mathcal{H})}$$

T_{cool}: Cooling time with C an H are normalized cooling and heating rates

- ✓ 3 regions in the T-ρ plane:
  - A) cooling time much longer than Hubble time: C and H are not effective
  - B) Bremsstrahlung and line cooling are effective → $t_{cool}<t_H$
  - C) Region with efficient photoheating (HI and HeII)
- ✓ $T=T_0(1+\delta)^{\gamma-1}$ for the low-density region
- ✓ Most of the gas in a cool/cold phase

Physics of the gas: the gas thermal state

Matteo Viel



Gaikwad+20

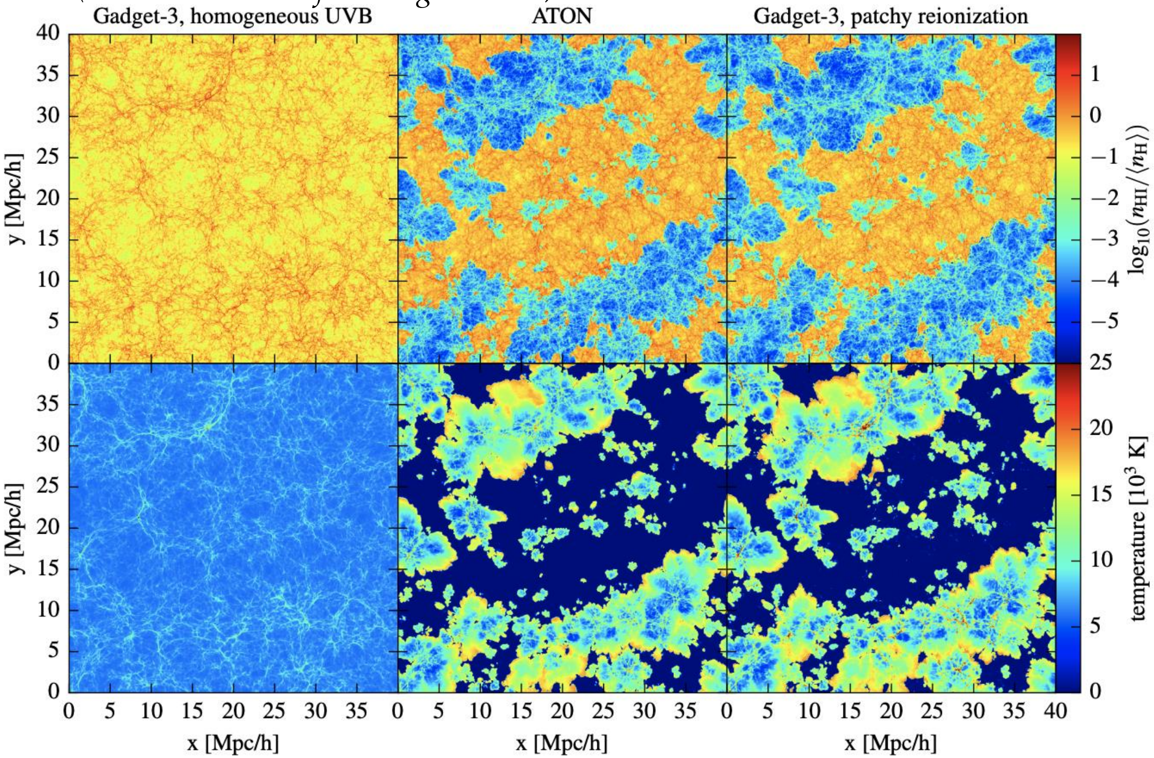
- ✓ Temperature density relation can indeed be measured by using a variety of methods like wavelets, pdf of the gas, power spectrum, bispectrum, Voigt profile fitting.
- ✓ HeII bump quite "prominent"

Simulating the high-redshift cosmic web

Matteo Viel

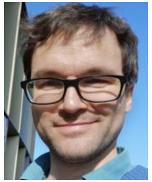
https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/astronomy/sherwood/

z=7 (with reionization finishing at z=5.3)



Bolton+17
Puchwein, Bolton+23

J. Bolton

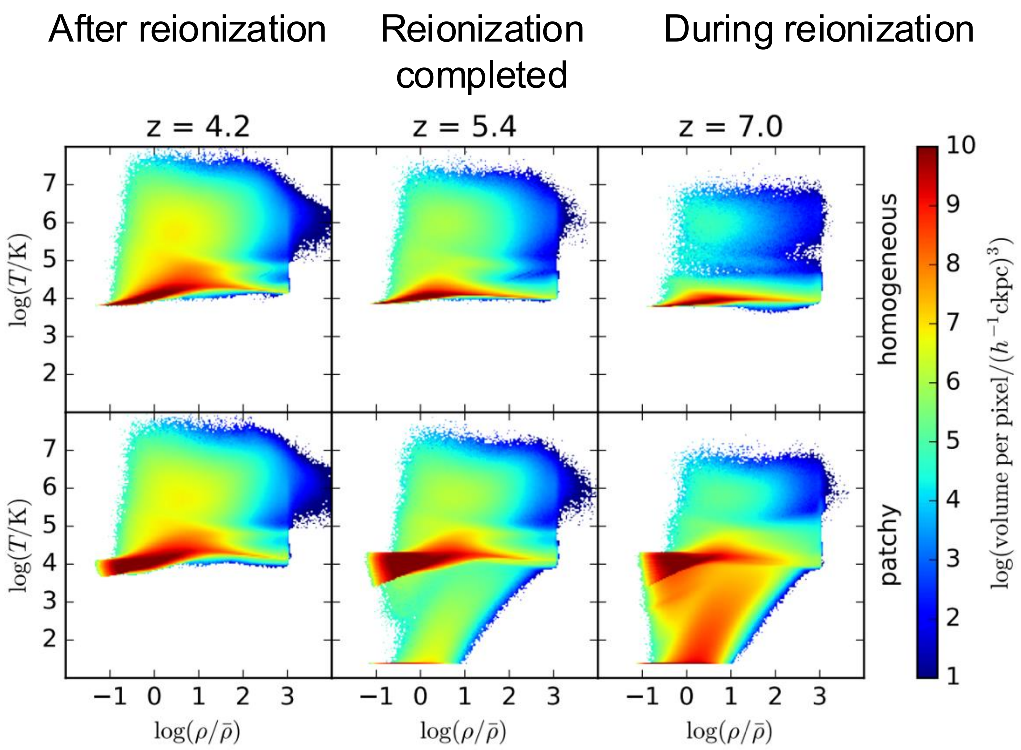


E. Puchwein

- ✓ **Sherwood-Relics suite** (>200 simulations: boxes 5-160 cMpc/h; M_{gas}=3.7e3-6.4e6 $M_\odot$) – about 75 Million CPU hrs
- ✓ G3 code + ATON to perform radiative transfer for patchy reionization
- ✓ Focus (and model calibration) on the high-z (z>4) forest

Physics of the gas: the gas thermal state at high-z

Matteo Viel



Puchwein+23

- ✓ T-ρ relation somewhat flatter at high-z – moving closer to reionization
- ✓ … and prone to the effects of a patchy reionization

Patchy Reionization

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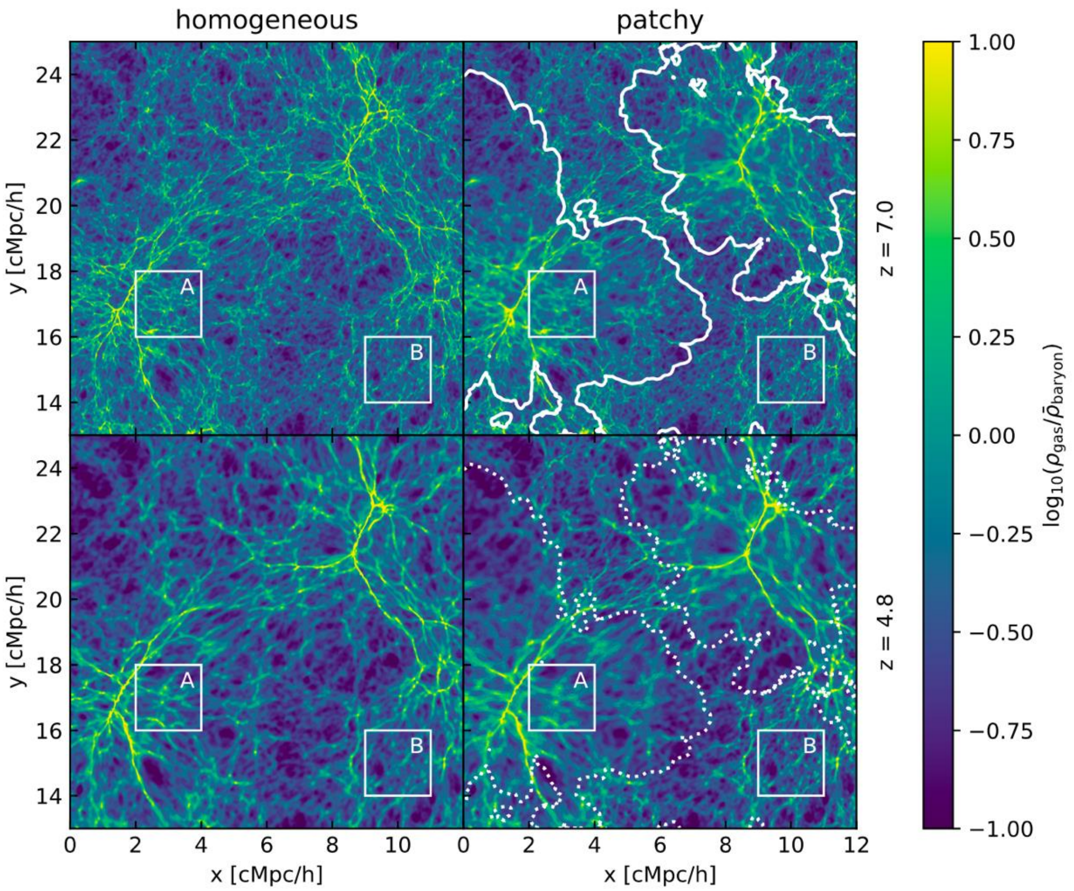
Puchwein+23



During reionization

After reionization is complete

Note: Reionization ends at z =5.3

Patchy reionization - II

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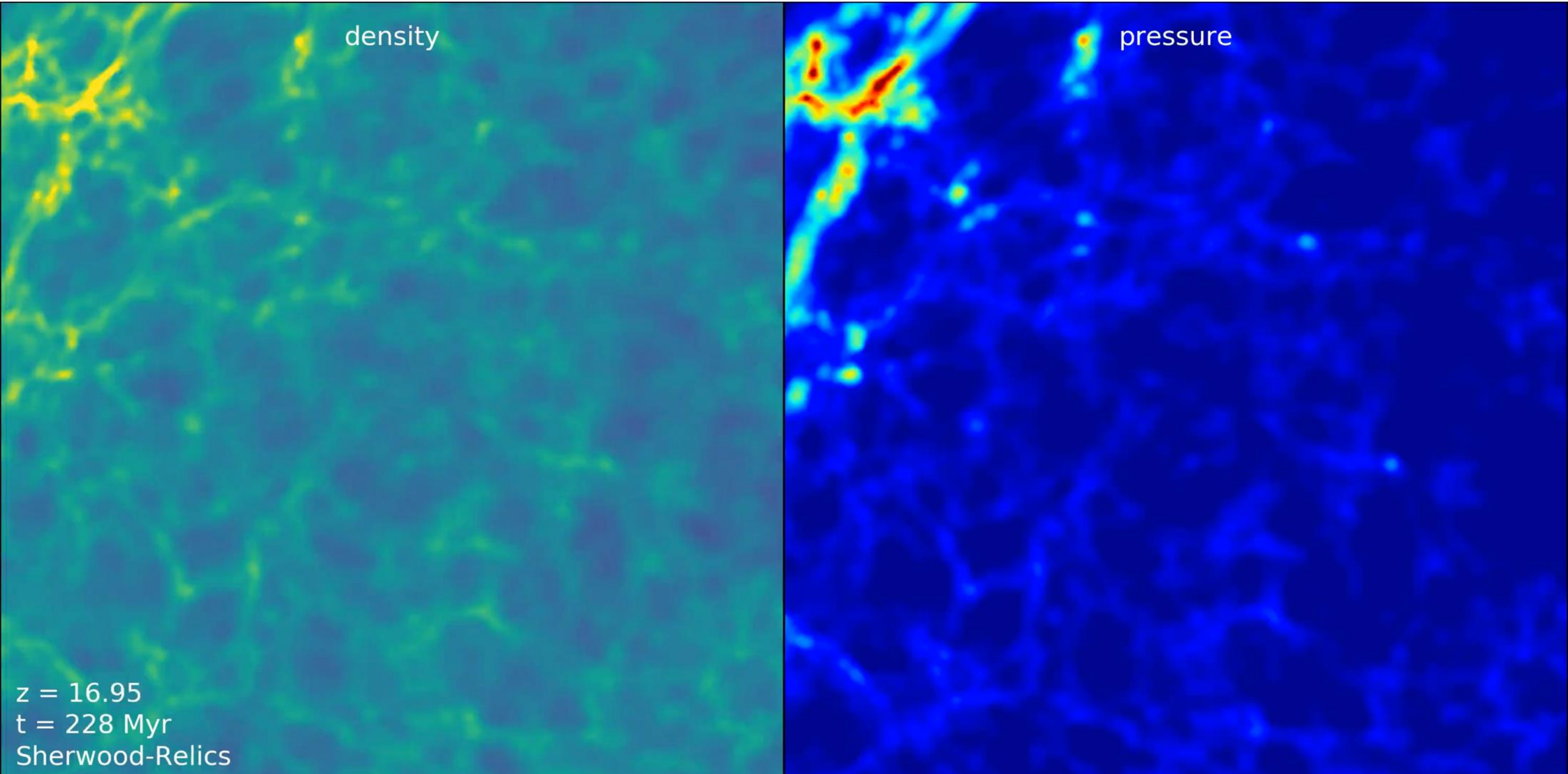
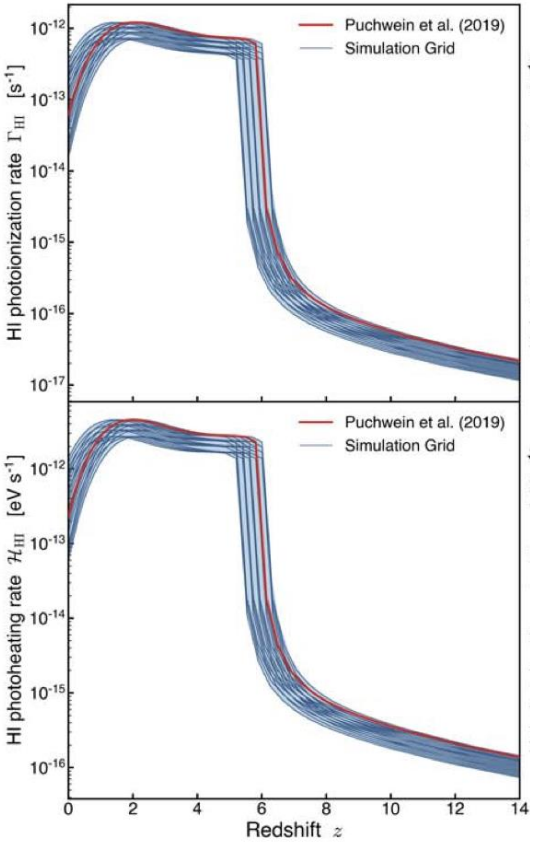
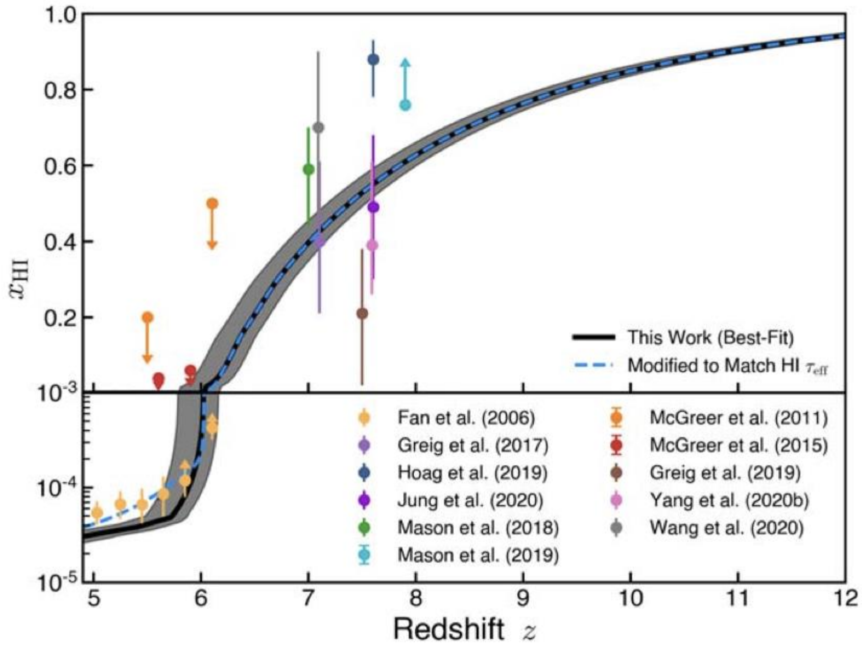


Ionization history

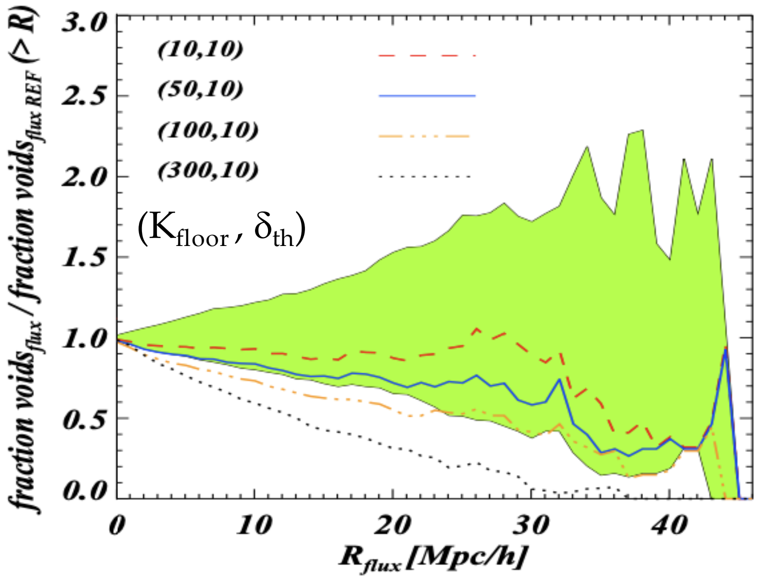




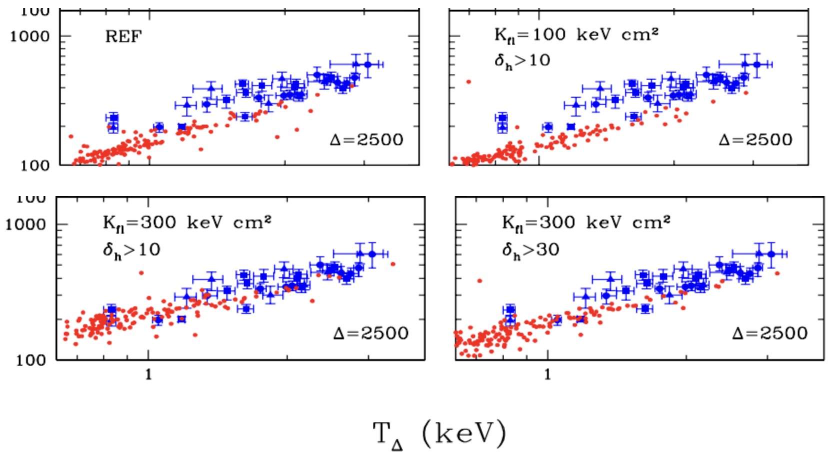
Villasenor+22

Connection to low z: entropy-temperature relation of groups

Forest Voids' statistics at z=2



CHANDRA entropy-temperature profiles



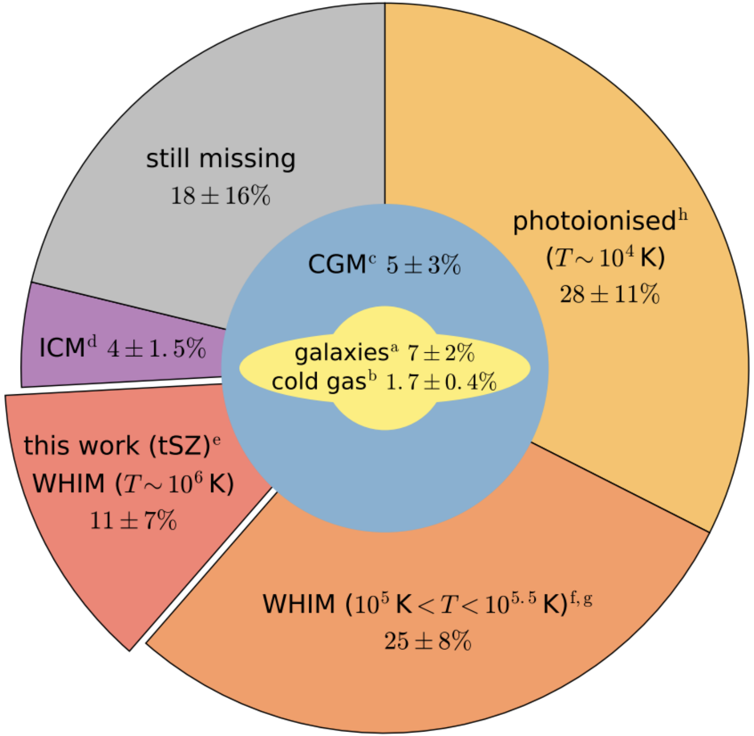
Pre-heating: gas at z=4 with $\delta > \delta_{th}$ and $K < K_{floor}$

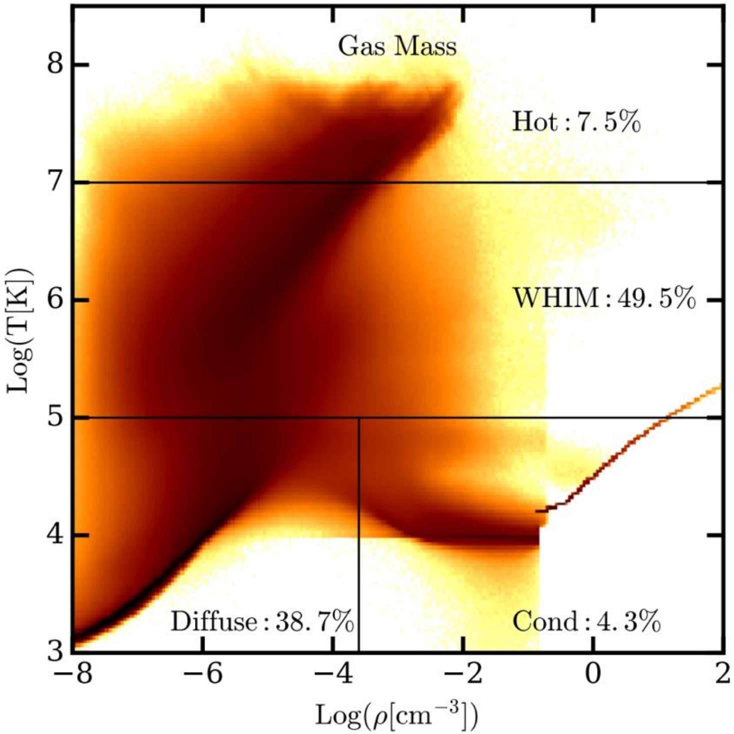
Must occur at $\delta > 10$-30 and/or at $z < 1$

Borgani & Viel 2009

Connection to low z: census of the baryons at z=0

Matteo Viel

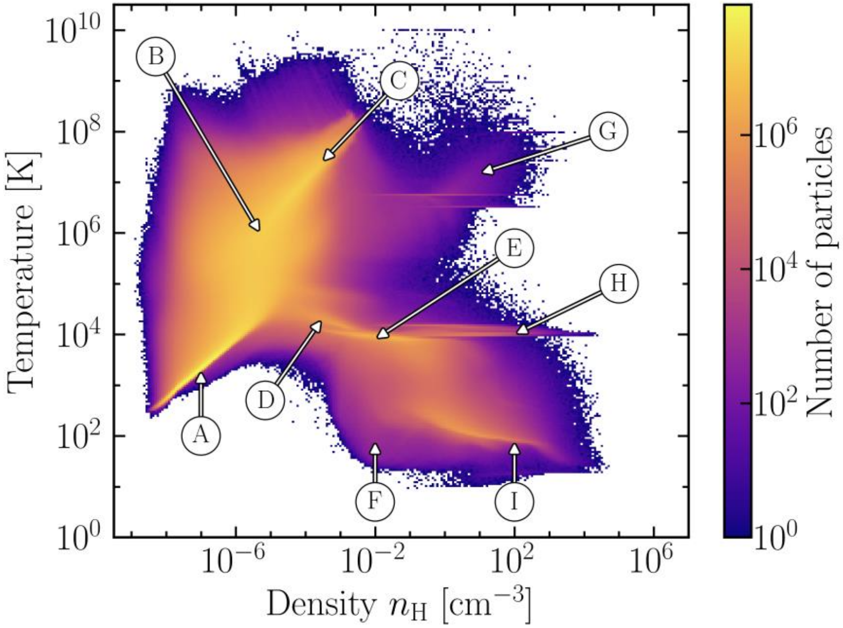




De Graaf et al. 2019
Parimbelli, Branchini, MV, Villaescusa-Navarro, ZuHone 2023

Torrey+19 [IllustrisTNG]

Connection to low-z: The physics of the T-ρ relation (z=0)



Schaye+25 COLIBRE simulations

Impressive dynamical range

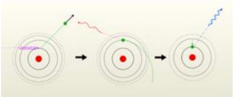
- ✓ A: diffuse IGM
- ✓ B: WHIM and CGM
- ✓ C: ICM
- ✓ D: cool CGM
- ✓ E: thermal equilibrium of low Z gas
- ✓ F: cold ISM
- ✓ G: hot ISM (from feedback)
- ✓ H: HII ionized regions
- ✓ I: very cold ISM

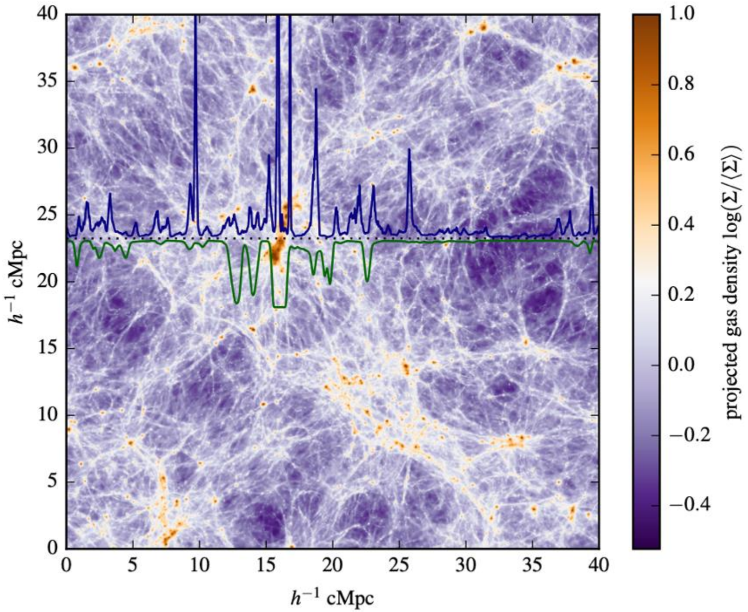
Summary

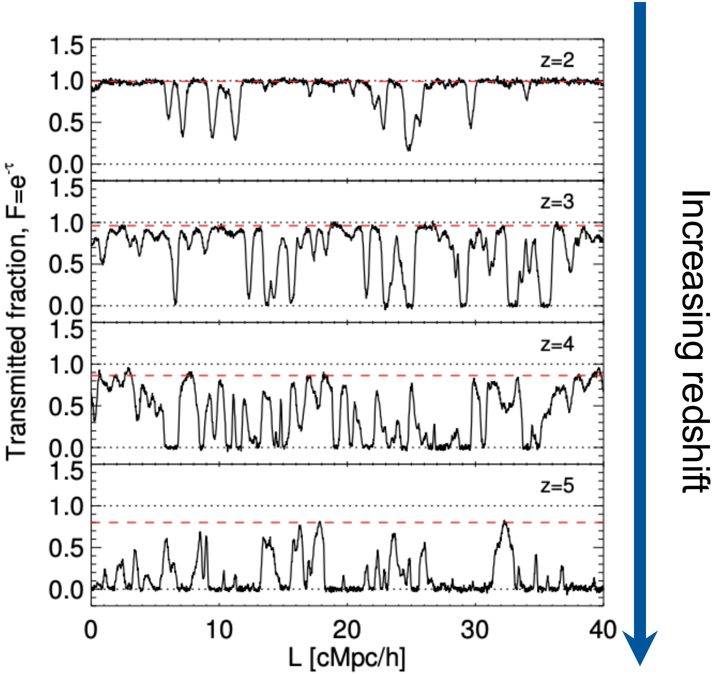
- ✓ There is a physical model of the low-density cosmic web based on gravitational instability, hydrostatic equilibrium (Jeans scale) + UV background, at z=2-5.
- ✓ Cosmic filaments do trace underlying gravitational (DM) potential above the filtering scale
- ✓ Thermal and ionization history are reasonably constrained and support: **patchy reionization**, HeII heating bump
- ✓ Feedback effects are small, impact more the low z regime, no evidence for turbulence
- ✓ Any astrophysical or fundamental physical process able either to:
  - dump heat in the low density IGM
  - or modify the matter power spectrum

  could have an impact
- ✓ How can we observe this?

The Lyman-α forest



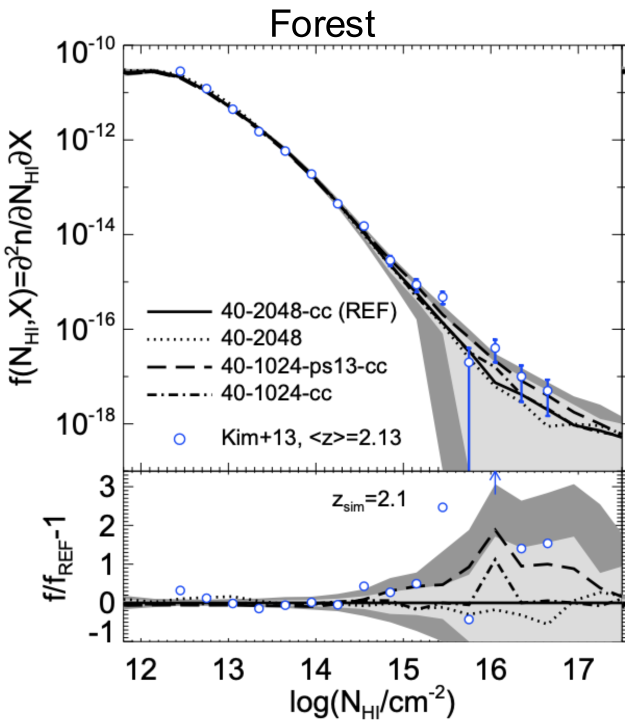




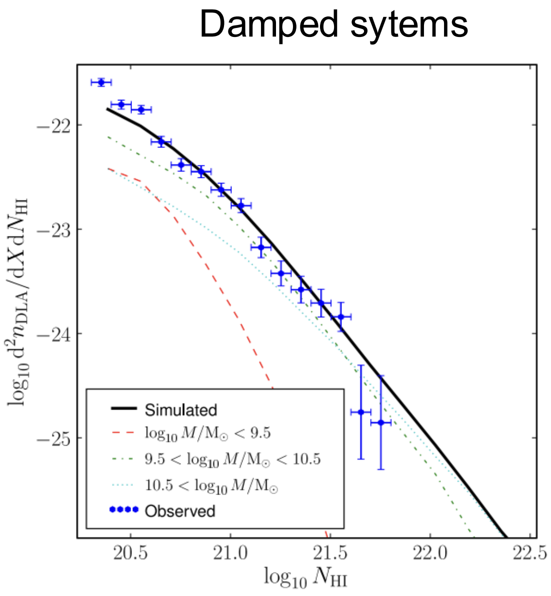
Most of the flux statistics are in agreement with ΛCDM – 216,000 flux models fed into MCMC analysis

Increasing z → increasing HI → more Absorption – at high z even underdense gas can produce absorption

HI column densities



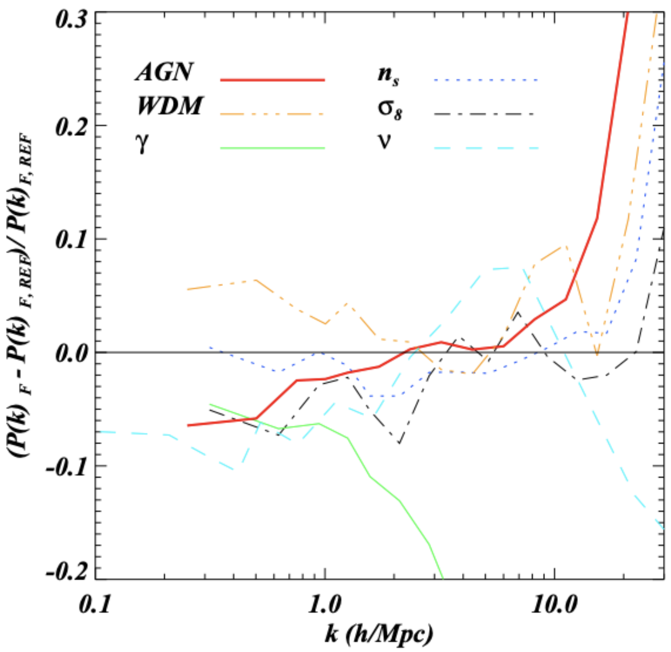
Bolton+17



Pontzen+09

- ✓ Fitting with Voigt profile allows to extract the HI column density
- ✓ Good agreement over about 10 orders of magnitude, spanning very underdense gas up to Damped systems (galaxies)
- ✓ Smaller scales are more complex and rich in physics (feedback, AGN, star formation, molecules, dust, metals)

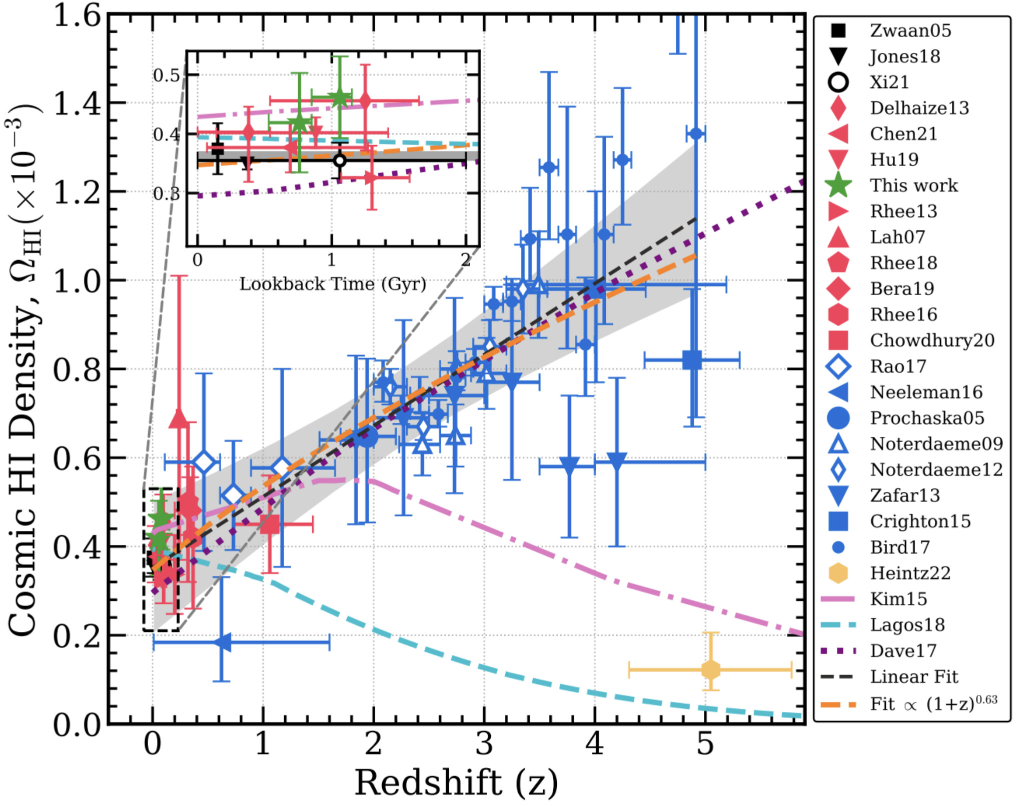
Feedback and Lyman-α forest



- ✓ Impact of AGN feedback at low z (z~2) is of the same order of the cosmo params
- ✓ These effects can only partially be captured by changes in the Temp. density relation of photo-ionized gas
- ✓ Especially for AGN, changes in the density distribution and in the fraction of hot, collisionally ionised gas ($T>10^5$K)

Viel, Schaye & Booth 2012
Chabanier+2025

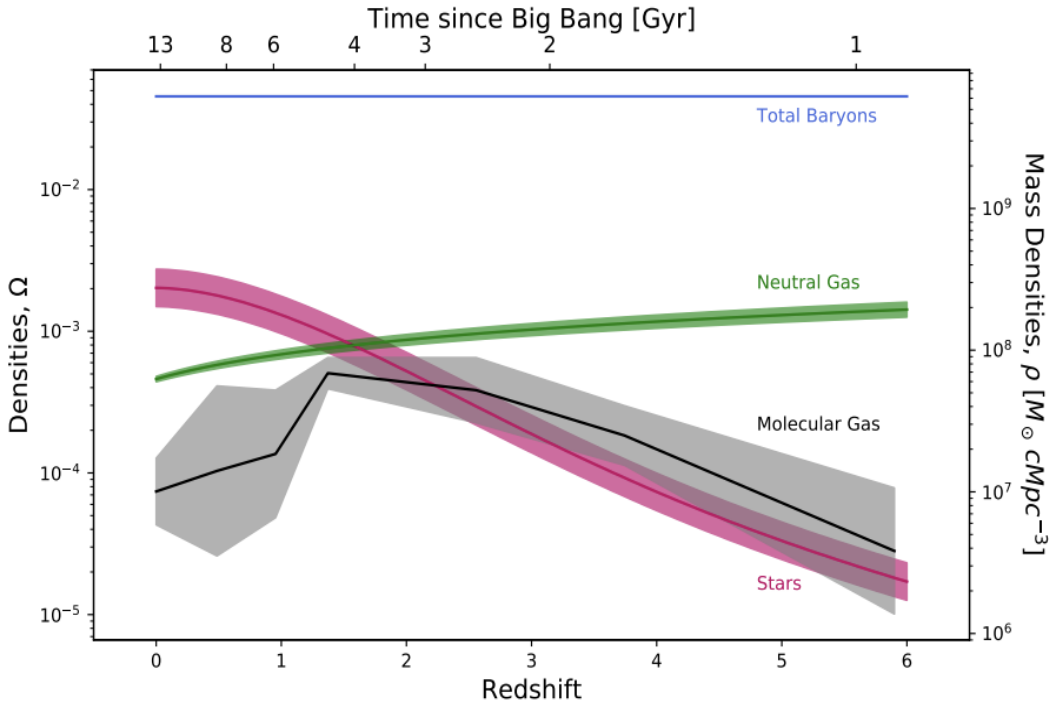
HI evolution with redshift



Peroux & Nelson 2024

- ✓ Evolution of HI mass density is relatively mild compared to other physical quantities like SFR
- ✓ This quantity is dominated by DLAs and is important when 21cm intensity mapping models are built

Evolution of the condensed phases



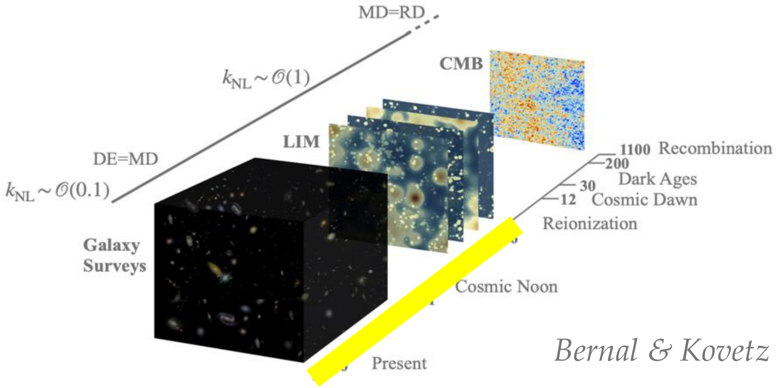
Peroux & Howk 2021

- ✓ Molecular gas traces star formation rate
- ✓ Neutral gas always dominating the budget at z>2 and always above the molecular
- ✓ Total budget is subdominant compared to total baryons

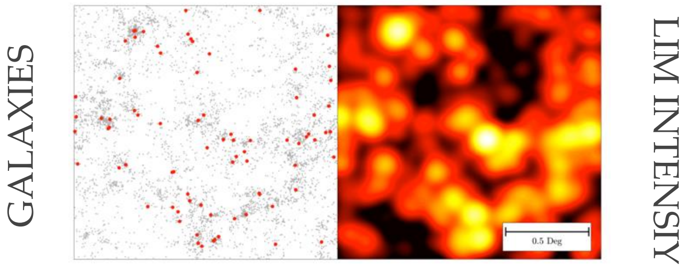
Holistic view on HI distribution

Matteo Viel

EMISSION Knots of the cosmic web

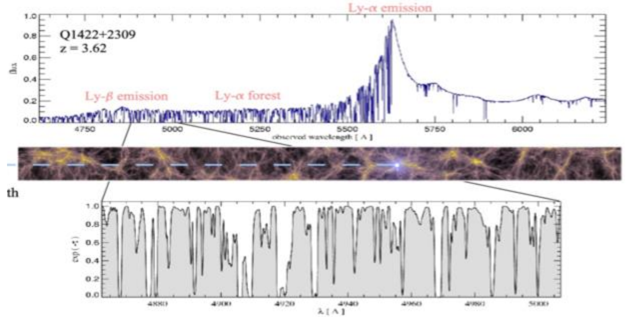


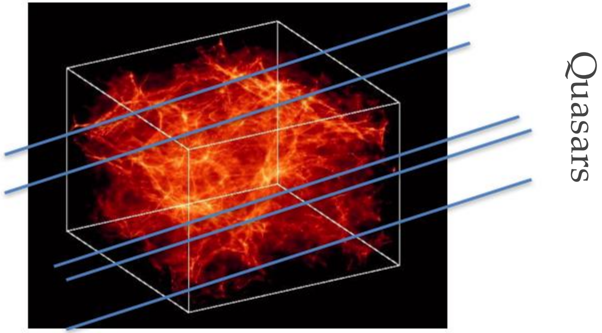
Bernal & Kovetz 2022



Kovetz+18

ABSORPTION Filaments





Bolton+18, Puchwein+23

Promises of the post-reionization Universe

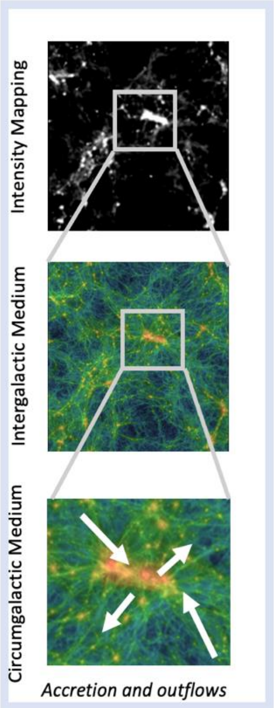
Matteo Viel

Long lever arm in terms of scales/redshifts will in turn allow to break degeneracies between astro and cosmo parameters with:

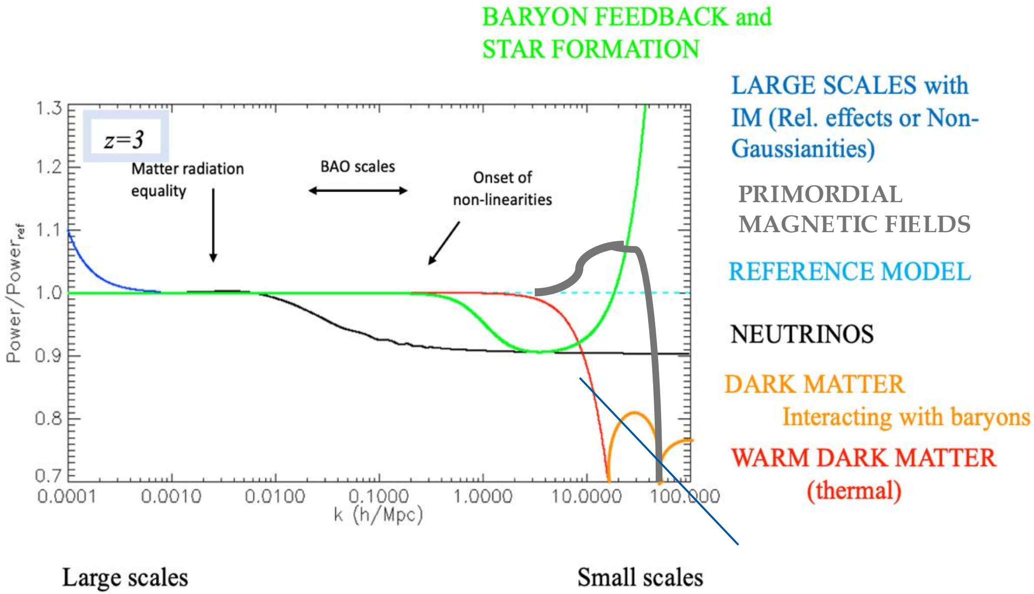
- **Power spectrum**
- **cross-correlations** of different tracers
- **new estimators** (e.g. 1-point function, bispectrum, Machine Learning)

It is an "<u>active phase</u>" of structure formation processes (feedback, star formation, black holes, cosmic bayron cycle etc.)

Environments



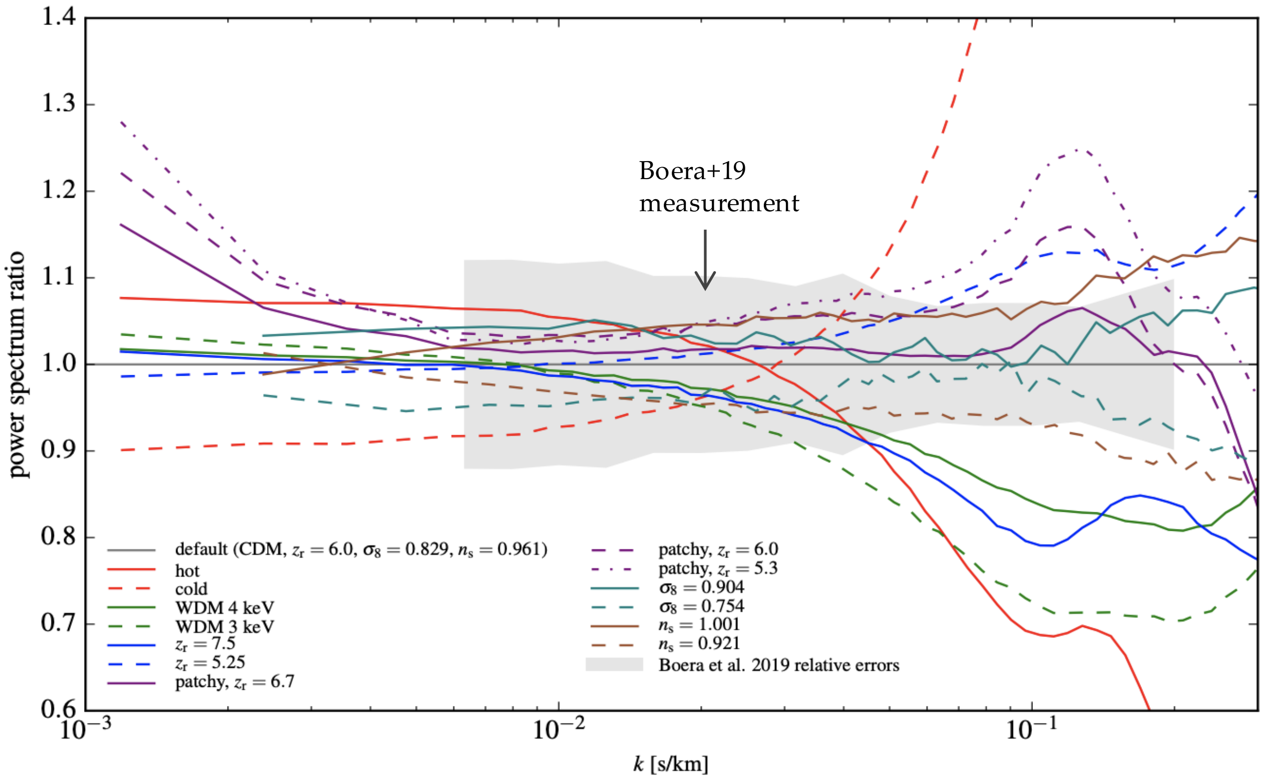
Physical Scales



HI measures density perturbations in a matter dominated regime!

Impact on 1D flux power

Simulated 1D flux power @ z=4.6



More power

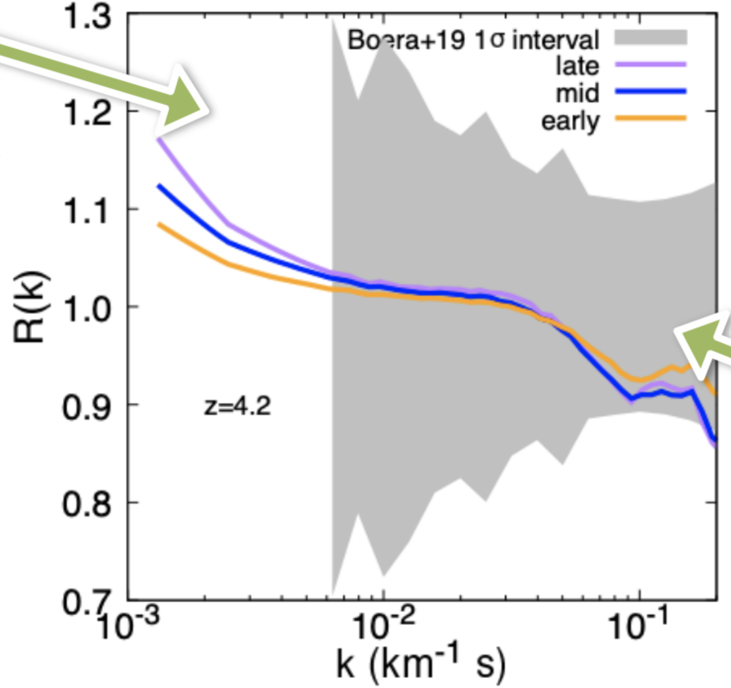
Less power

Large scales

Small scales

Patchy Reionization – Impact on 1D flux power

Boost
due to variation in neutral fraction from large scale temperature fluctuations



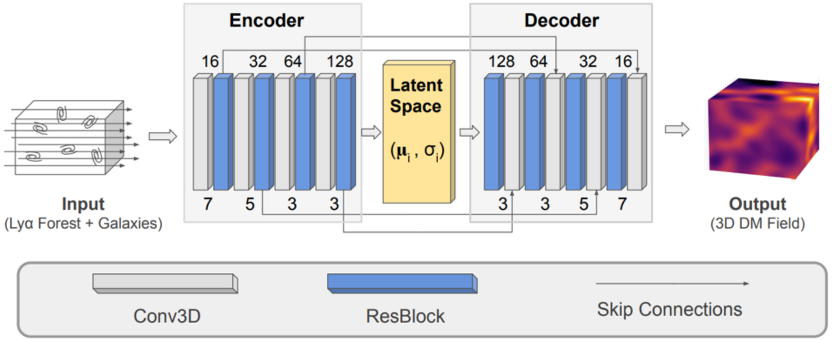
Molaro+23
"Detected" this increase of power at 2.7σ from KODIAQ, SQUAD, XQ100 sample of 538 QSOs

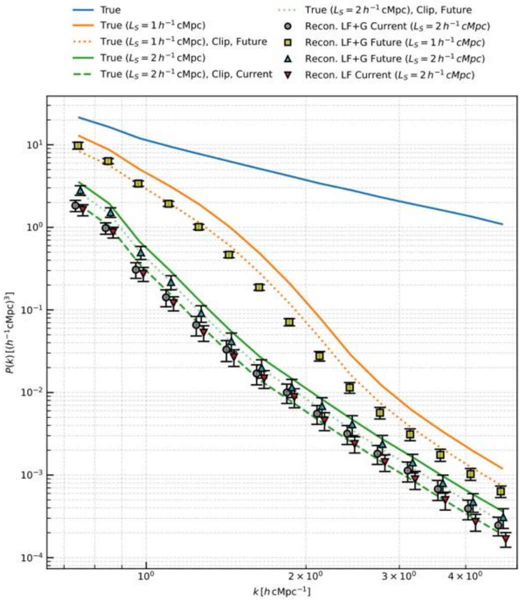
Suppression
due to thermal broadening of recently ionised regions

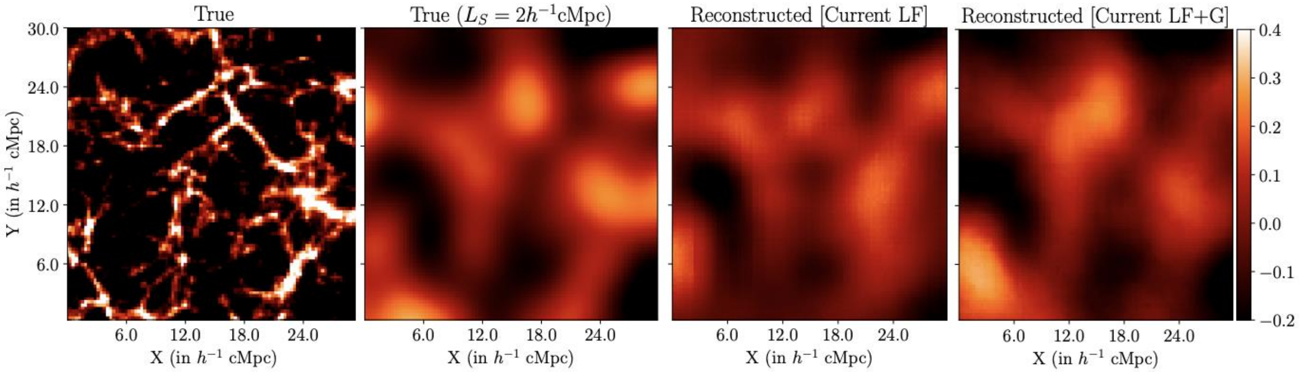
Molaro, Bolton, Irsic,… MV 2021&2023

Reconstructing the 3D DM cosmic web with ML

Matteo Viel



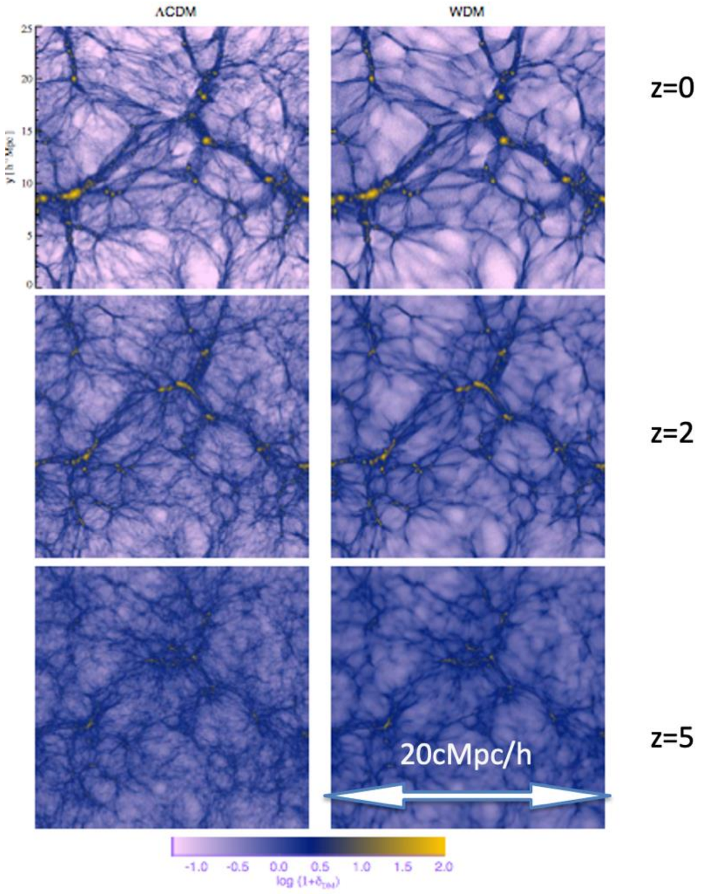




Maitra, Kulkarni, Viel 25

A warm cosmic web?

Matteo Viel



$$k_{\rm FS} \sim 15.6 \frac{h}{\rm Mpc} \left(\frac{m_{\rm WDM}}{\rm 1keV}\right)^{4/3} \left(\frac{0.12}{\Omega_{\rm DM} h^2}\right)^{1/3}$$

Free streaming scale of thermal warm dark matter

Viel et al 2005

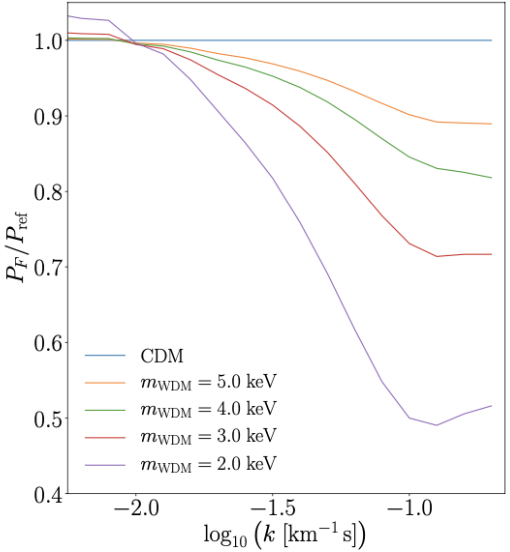
The smoothing scales

Vid Irsic

Unveiling Dark Matter free-streaming at the smallest scales with high redshift Lyman-alpha forest

Vid Iršič[1,2], Matteo Viel[3,4,5,6,7], Martin G. Haehnelt[1,8], James S. Bolton[9], Margherita Molaro[9], Ewald Puchwein[10], Elisa Boera[5,6], George D. Becker[11], Prakash Gaikwad[12], Laura C. Keating[13], Girish Kulkarni[14]
[1] Kavli Institute for Cosmology, University of Cambridge

WDM free streaming



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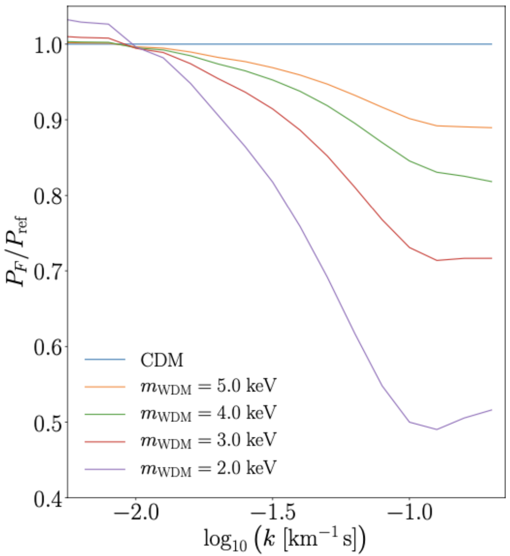
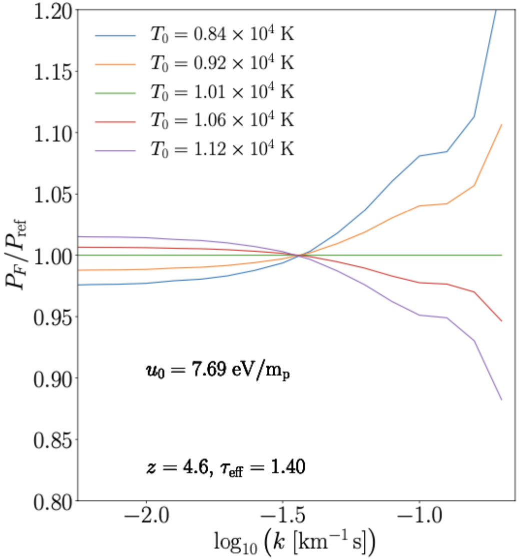


Thermal broadening



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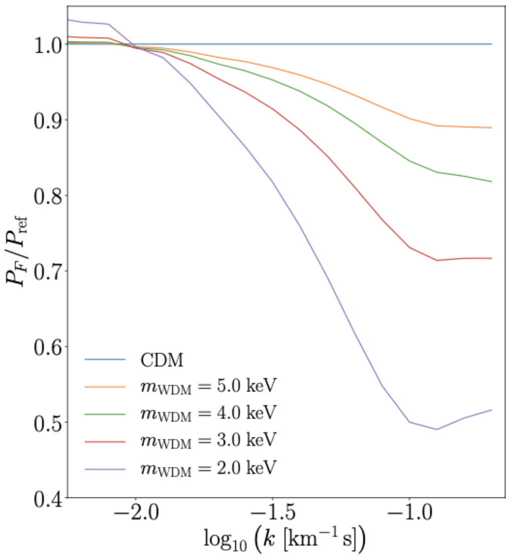

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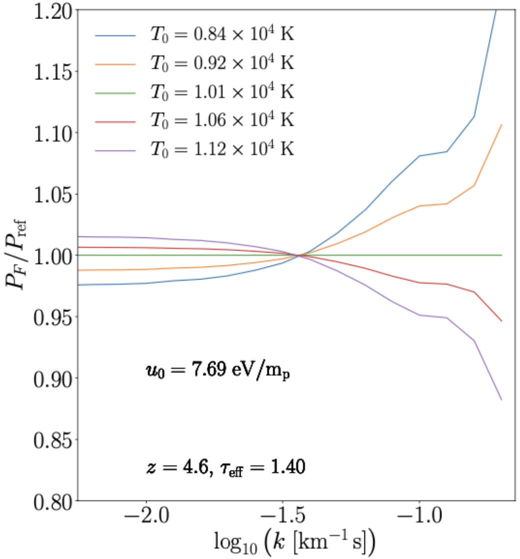
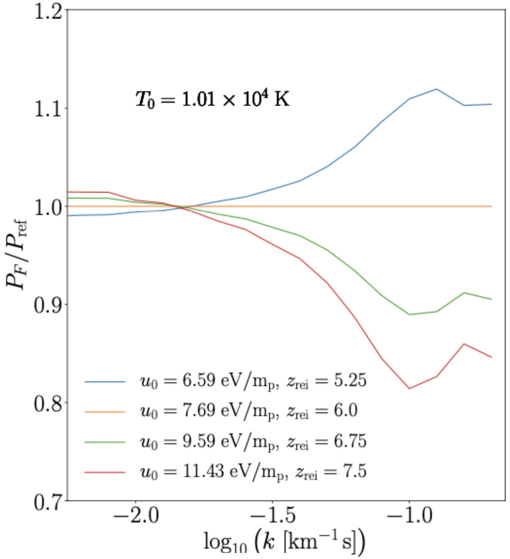


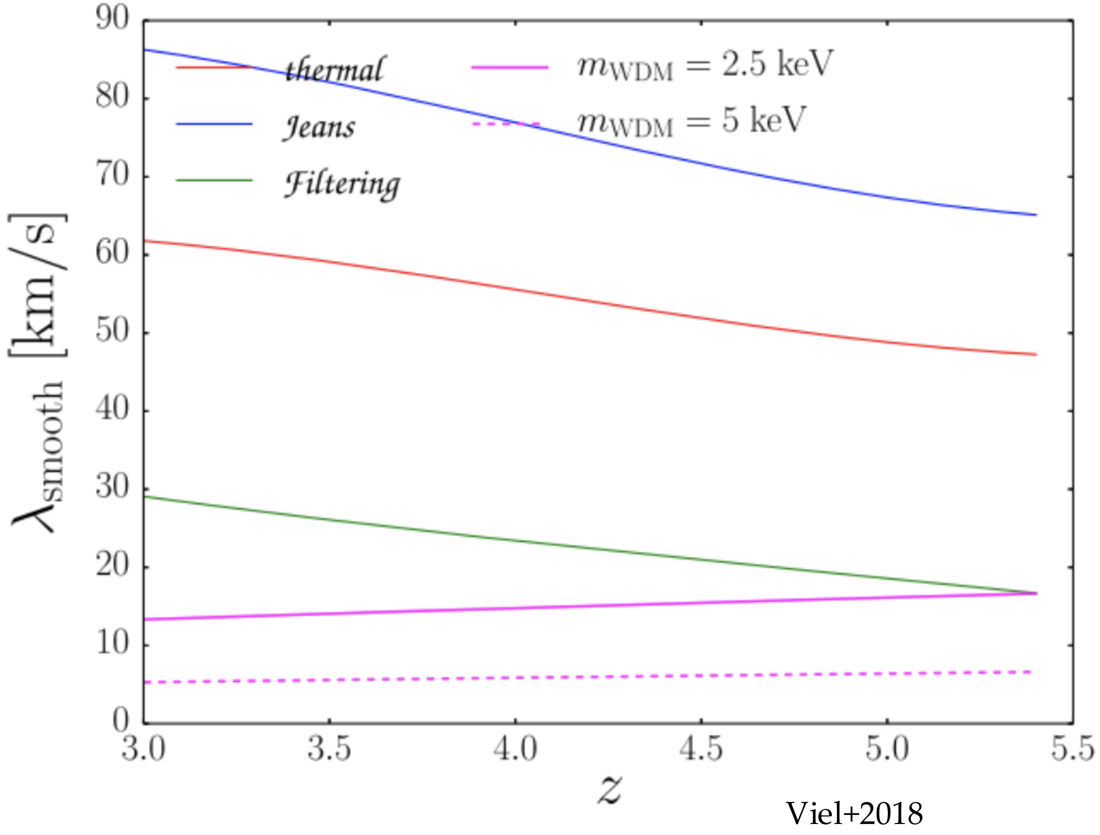
Gas pressure



$$u_0(t) = \int_0^t dt \frac{\mathcal{H}}{\bar{\rho}_m} \frac{3k_B}{2\mu}$$

H is heating rate

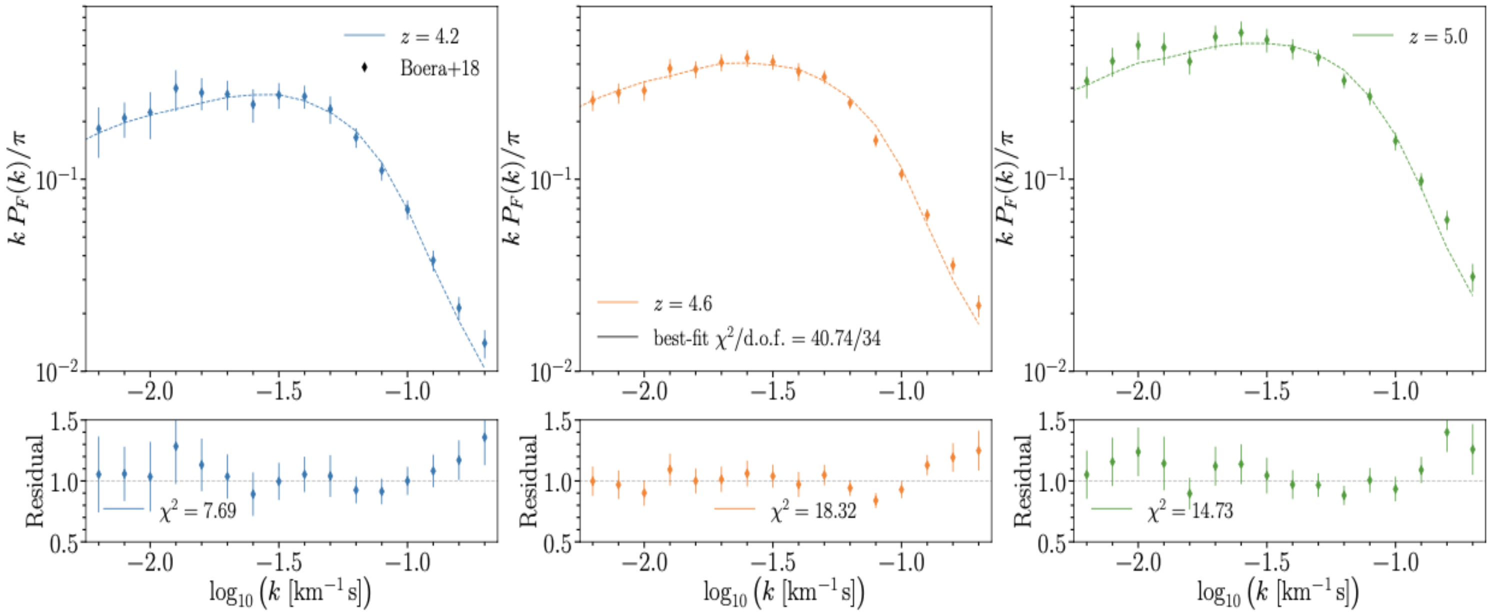
The smoothing scales - II



Different physical scales (on top of instrumental resolution) affect the power spectrum cutoff:

- thermal: instataneous temperature at that redshift;
- filtering scale: depends on all the past thermal history – related to Jeans scale;
- WDM cutoffs are basically redshift independent

The data

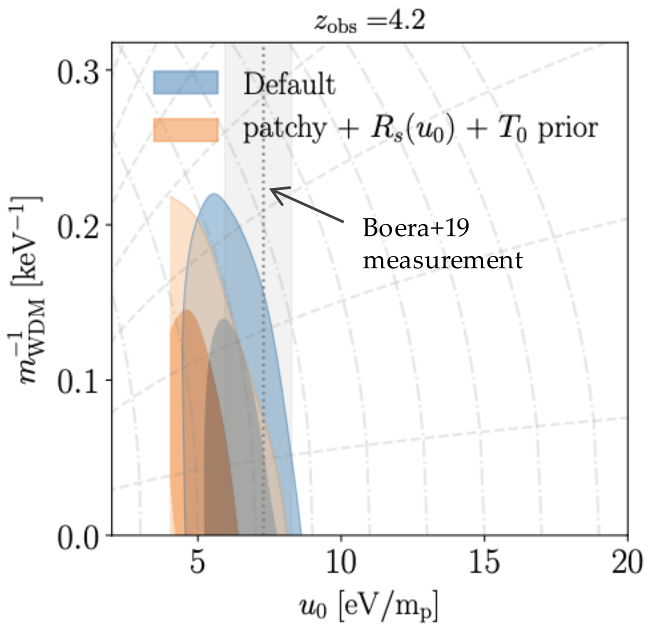


Boera+19, Irsic+23

Thermal WDM

Light WDM

Heavy WDM or LCDM



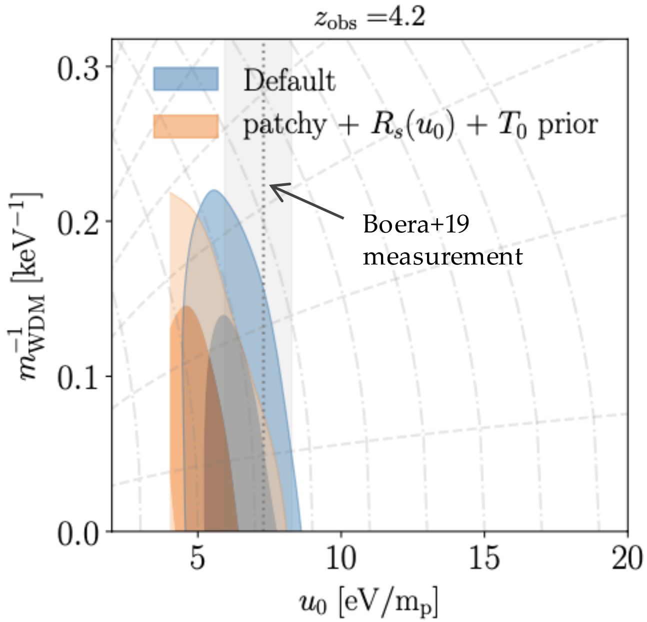
Injected heat

Irsic, MV +23

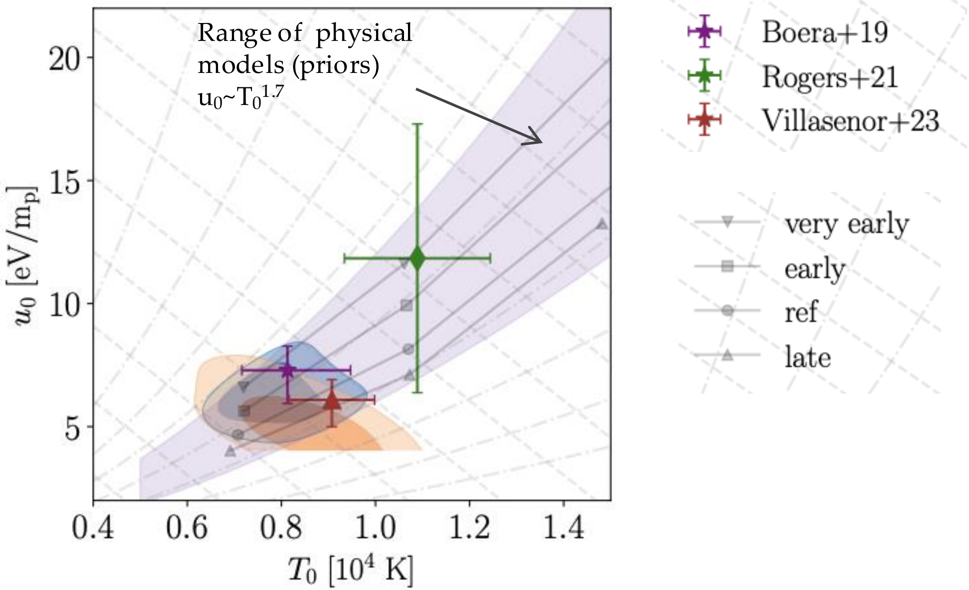
Thermal WDM - II

Light WDM

Heavy WDM or LCDM



Injected heat

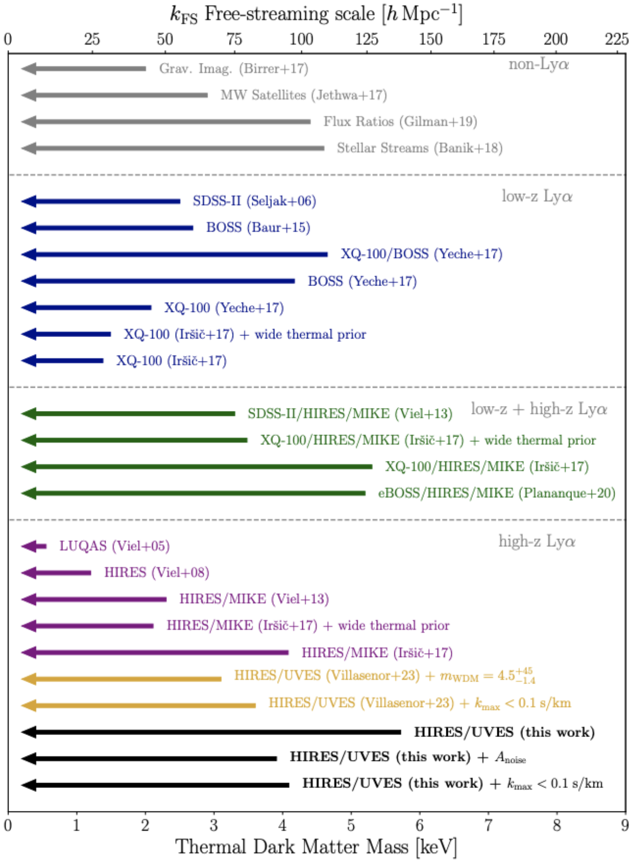


IGM temperature

Irsic, MV +23

Thermal WDM

Matteo Viel



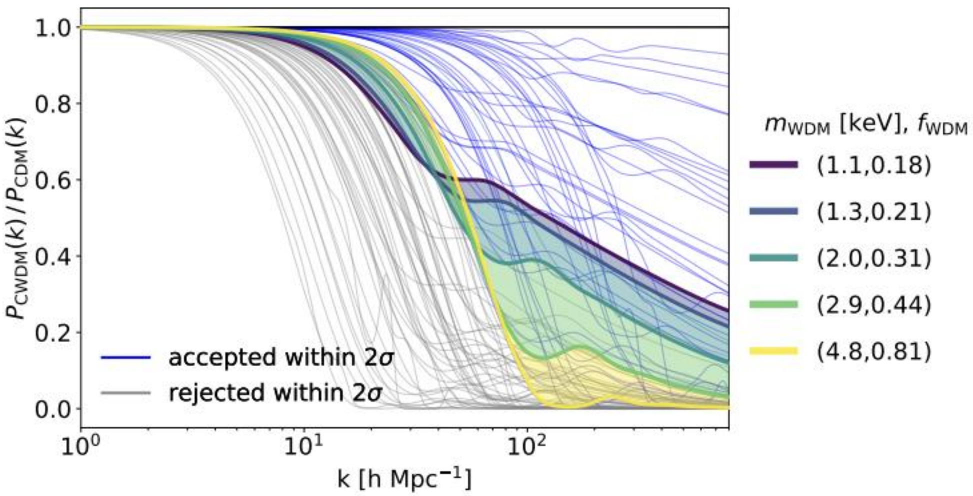
Tests made:
Cut small scales
Marginalize over data noise
Assume/Remove T_0 priors
Correct for a model dependent resolution
Patchy reionization models

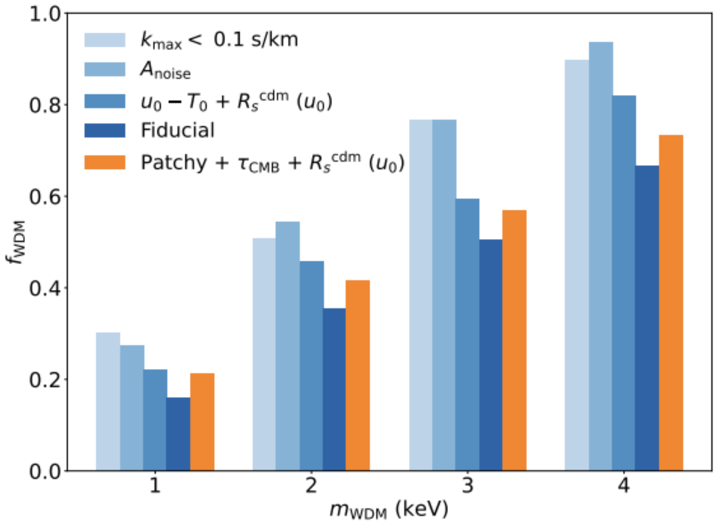
Name	m_{WDM} [keV] (2σ)	$\tau_{eff}(z=4.6)$	$T_0(z=4.6)$ [10^4 K]	$\gamma(z=4.6)$	$u_0(z=4.6)$ [eV/m$_p$]	$A_{noise}(z=4.6)$	χ^2/dof
Default	> 5.72	$1.502^{+0.061}_{-0.061}$	$0.743^{+0.041}_{-0.075}$	$1.35^{+0.24}_{-0.19}$	$6.19^{+0.68}_{-0.68}$	-	40.7/34
$k_{max} < 0.1$ km^{-1} s	> 4.10	$1.501^{+0.060}_{-0.074}$	$0.840^{+0.095}_{-0.340}$	$1.28^{+0.09}_{-0.28}$	$8.91^{+1.57}_{-5.26}$	-	10.2/20
A_{noise}	> 3.91	$1.458^{+0.053}_{-0.074}$	$0.966^{+0.156}_{-0.466}$	$1.23^{+0.06}_{-0.23}$	$5.93^{+0.38}_{-2.28}$	$1.12^{+0.49}_{-0.29}$	18.4/31
T_0 prior	> 5.85	$1.494^{+0.062}_{-0.077}$	$0.770^{+0.110}_{-0.120}$	$1.31^{+0.10}_{-0.31}$	$6.50^{+1.00}_{-1.60}$	-	47.6/34
$R_s(u_0)$ mass resolution	> 4.44	$1.531^{+0.073}_{-0.064}$	$0.617^{+0.007}_{-0.118}$	$1.38^{+0.28}_{-0.13}$	$7.90^{+1.70}_{-2.30}$	-	30.7/34
patchy reion.	> 5.10	$1.486^{+0.058}_{-0.068}$	$0.686^{+0.046}_{-0.080}$	$1.33^{+0.17}_{-0.26}$	$5.32^{+0.58}_{-0.52}$	-	41.0/34
$R_s(u_0) + T_0$ prior	> 4.24	$1.473^{+0.056}_{-0.076}$	$0.83^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	$1.28^{+0.09}_{-0.28}$	$5.53^{+0.73}_{-1.2}$	-	39.4/34
patchy + $R_s(u_0) + T_0$ prior	> 5.90	$1.450^{+0.051}_{-0.070}$	$0.828^{+0.098}_{-0.098}$	$1.26^{+0.08}_{-0.26}$	$4.87^{+0.52}_{-0.71}$	-	40.8/34

Irsic+23

Mixed (Cold + Warm) dark matter models

Matteo Viel





- ✓ 5 CWDM models allowed by the data and their suppression in terms of matter power
- ✓ Constraints

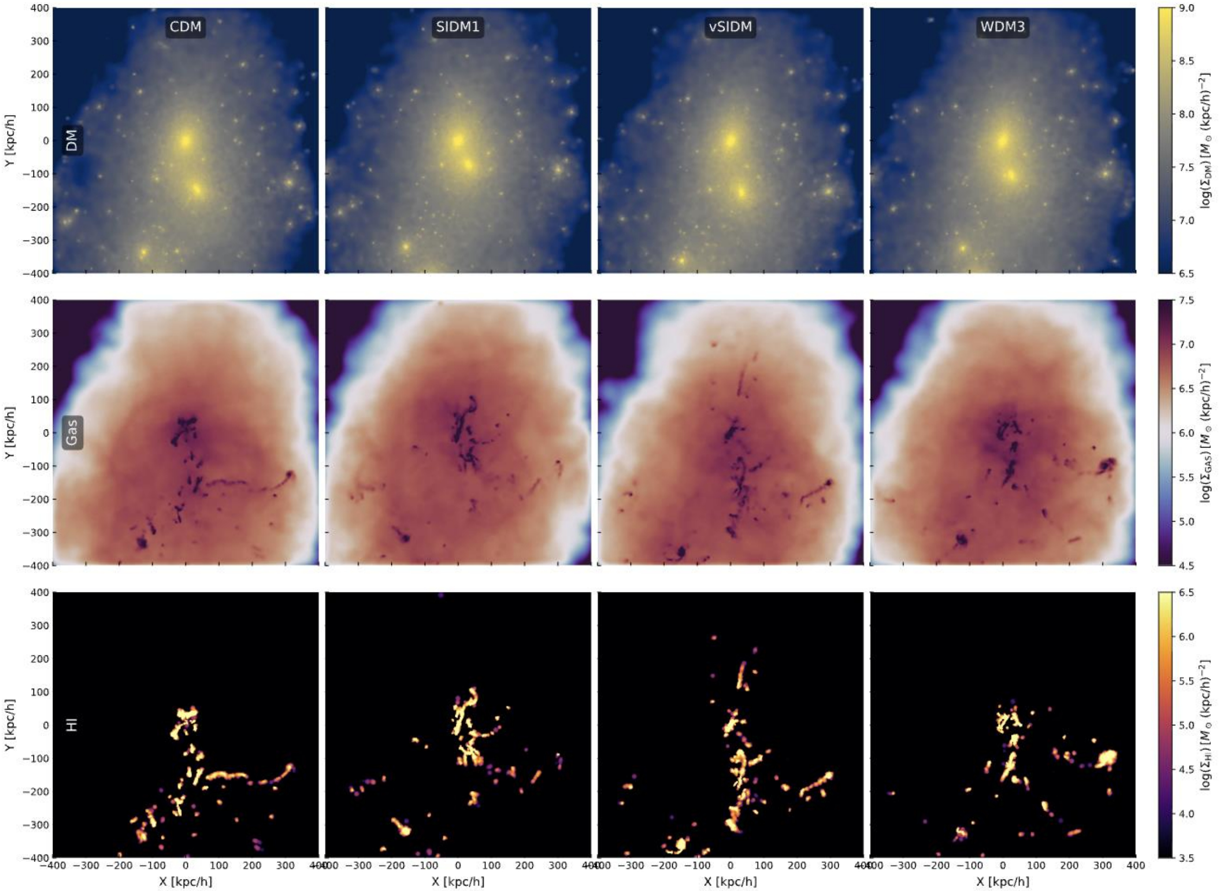
$$f_{WDM} = 0.14\ (1\text{keV}/m_{WDM})^{-1.1}.$$

Garcia-Gallego, Irsic, Haehnelt, Viel, Bolton 2025

DM + galaxy formation halo environments

Matteo Viel

4.3 x 1e13 $M_\odot$ halo
At z=0
50 Mpc/h box
M_{gas}=6.8e5$M_\odot$



How is HI distributed in non-cold DM haloes at z=0?

Matteo Viel

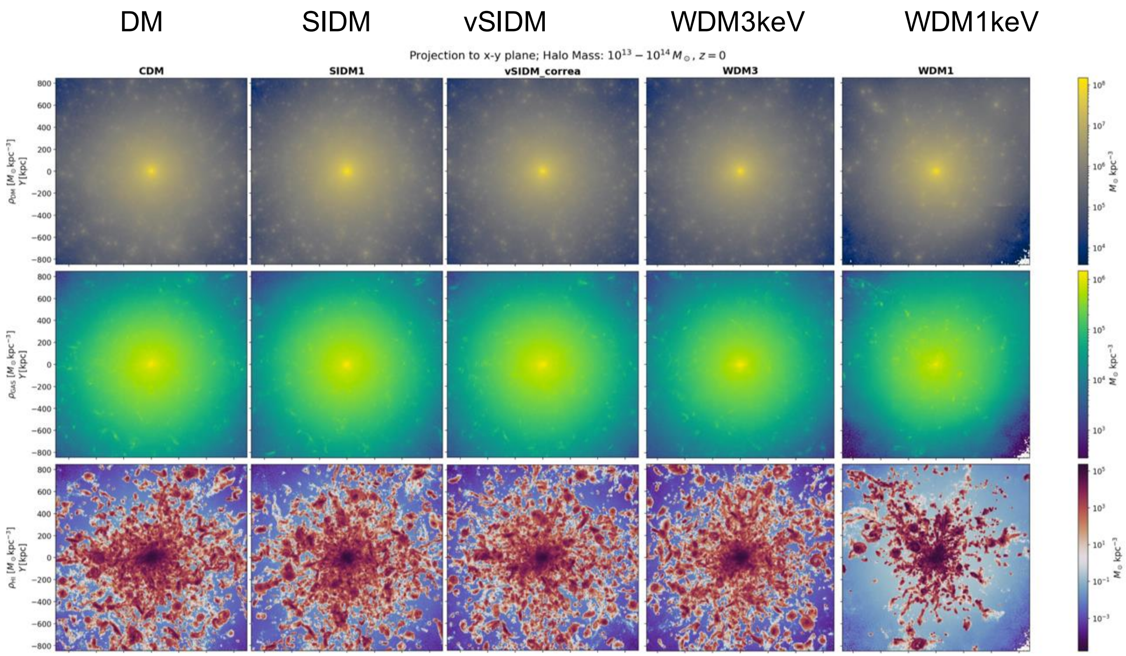
Redshift z=0 stacking of 100 haloes 10^{13}-10^{14} $M_\odot$

DM

GAS

HI

Temperature

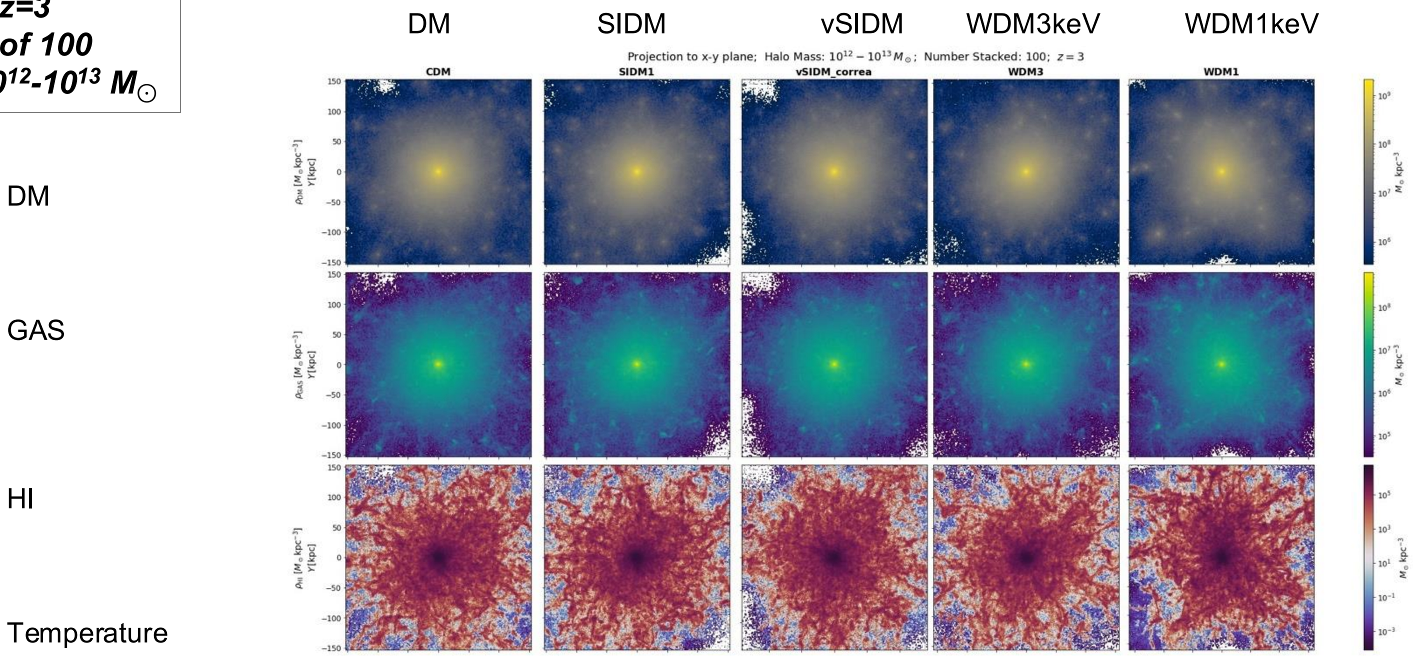


Zhang, Garaldi, Despali, Viel 2025 in prep.

How is HI distributed in non-cold DM haloes at z=3?

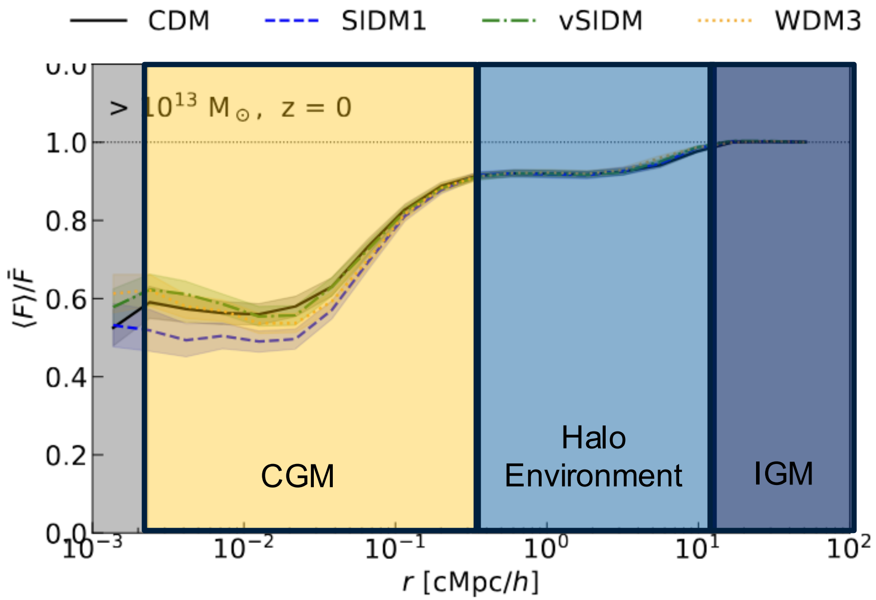
Matteo Viel

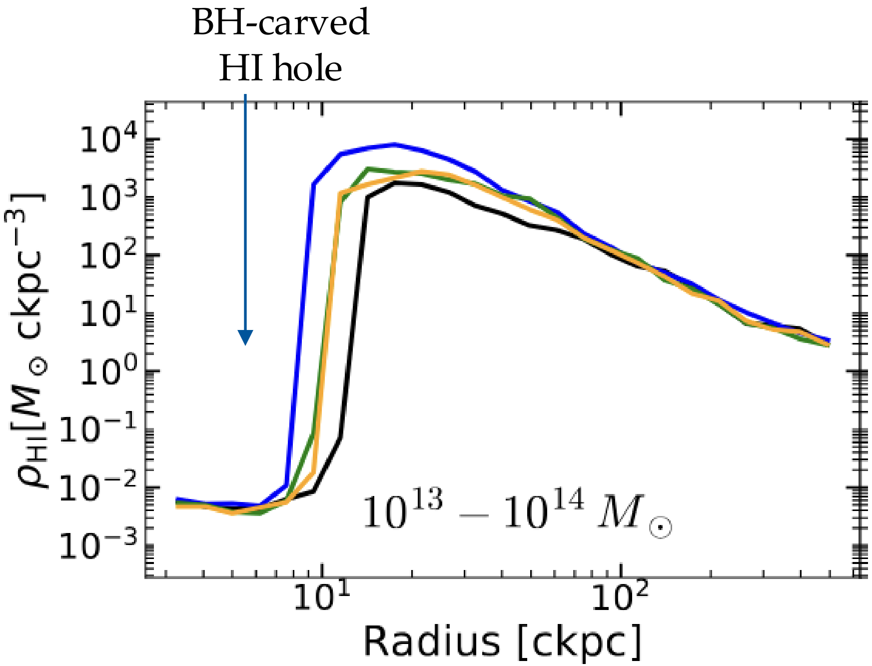
Redshift z=3 stacking of 100 haloes 10^{12}-10^{13} $M_\odot$



Zhang, Garaldi, Despali, Viel 2025 in prep.

HI in non-cold DM models





Zhang, Garaldi, Despali, Viel 2025 in prep.

Summary

- ✓ The low-density cosmic web as seen in the high redshift Lyman-α forest allows to constrain DM properties through 1D flux power
- ✓ WDM mass is constrained (<3-5 keV)
- ✓ WDM fraction is also constrained (f<0.2 – depending on mass)
- ✓ Cosmic web is relatively cold consistent with CDM

Primordial Magnetic Fields (PMFs)

- ✓ Why do we care: observed in the Universe from planet scales up to cosmological scales even in cosmic voids (!)
- ✓ What can they tell us: they could be of astro or primordial origin (produced during inflation or phase transitions in the early Universe)
- ✓ When considered: strong implications for structure formation

Primordial Magnetic Fields (PMFs)

Matteo Viel

Durrer and Neronov 2013

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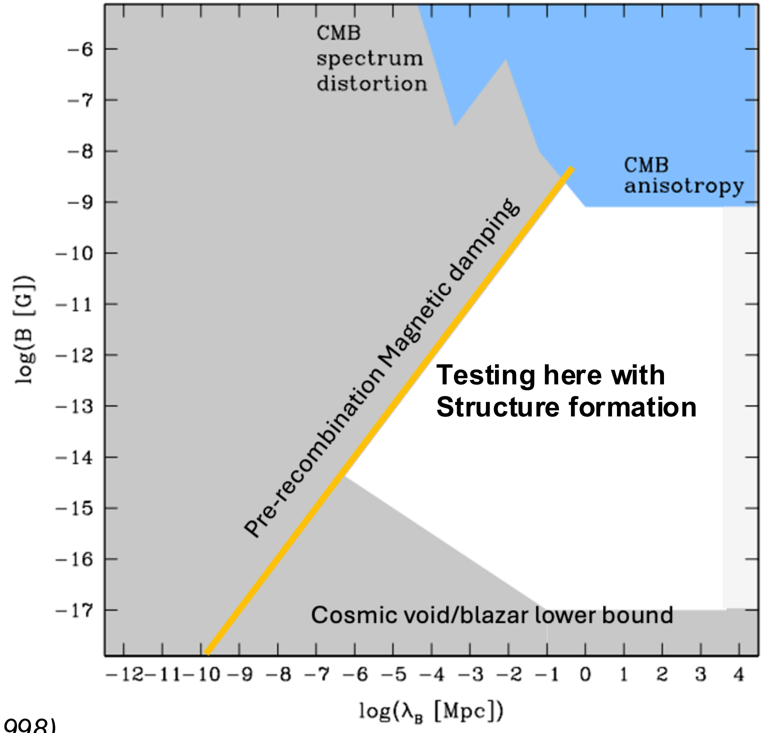
MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH



COHERENCE SCALE

Wasserman (1978); Kim+ (1996); Subramanian & Barrow (1997); Gopal&Sethi (1998)

Kanhashvili+15, Sanati+20, Katz+21, Mtchelidze+22, Paoletti+22, Vazza+24, Dolag+15, Jedamzik+20

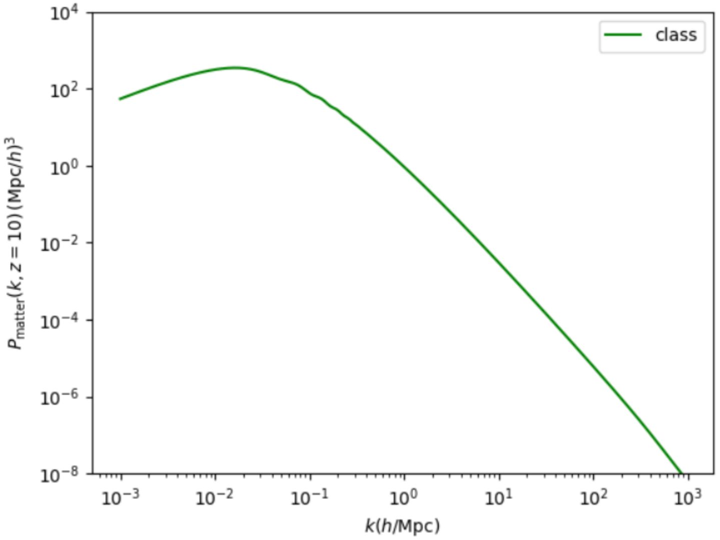
Setting the stage

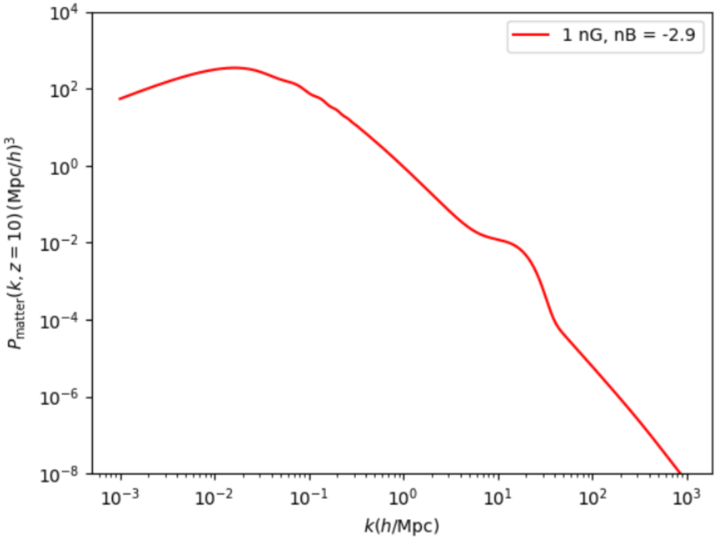
$$\langle B_i(k) B_j^*(k') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(k - k') \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} \right) \frac{P_B(k)}{2}$$

$$P_B(k) \propto B^2_{1\mathrm{Mpc}} k^{n_B}$$

$$P_{\Lambda CDM}$$

$$P_{\Lambda CDM} + P_{PMF}$$





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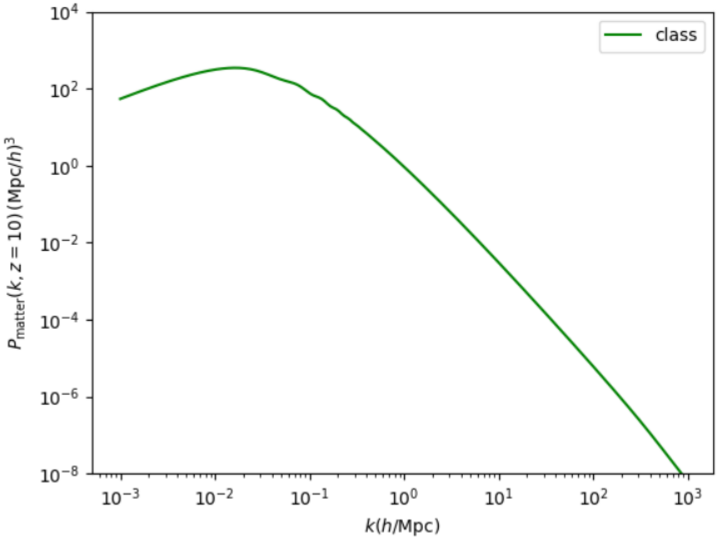
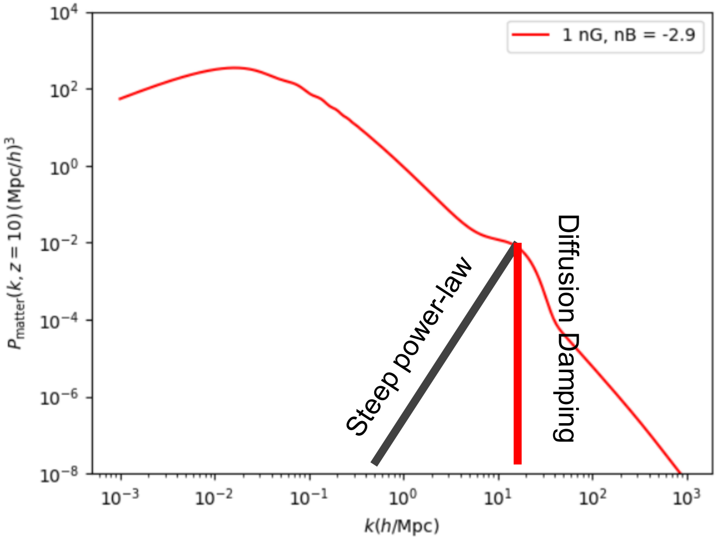


$$P_{\Lambda CDM} + P_{PMF}$$



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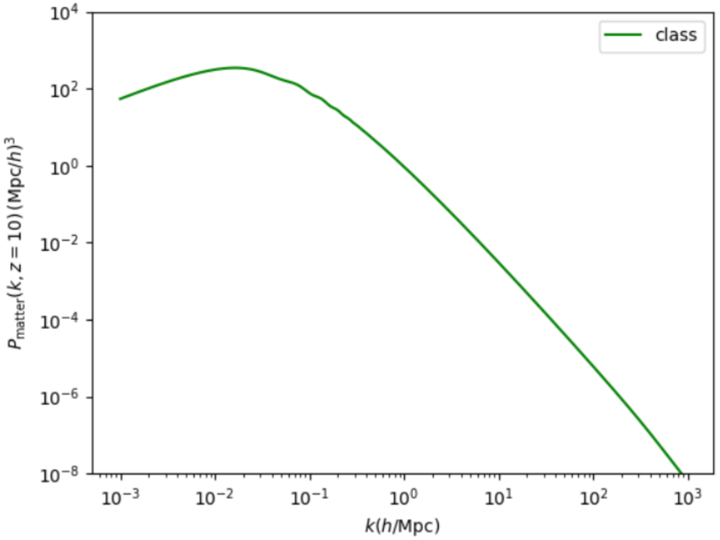

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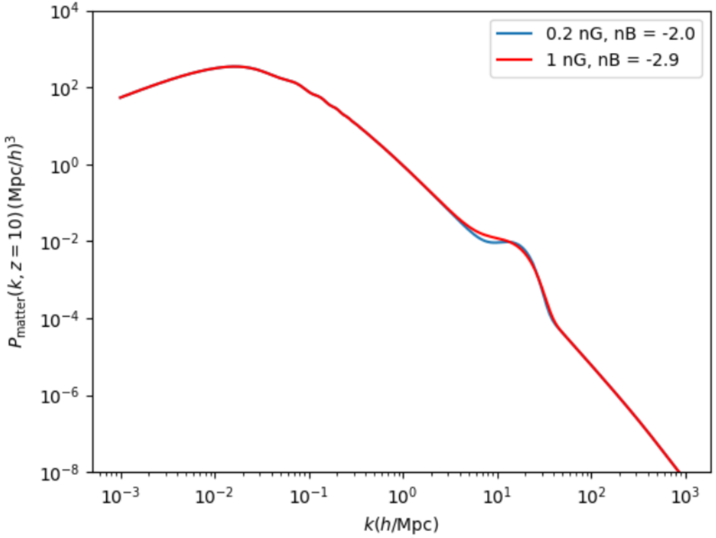

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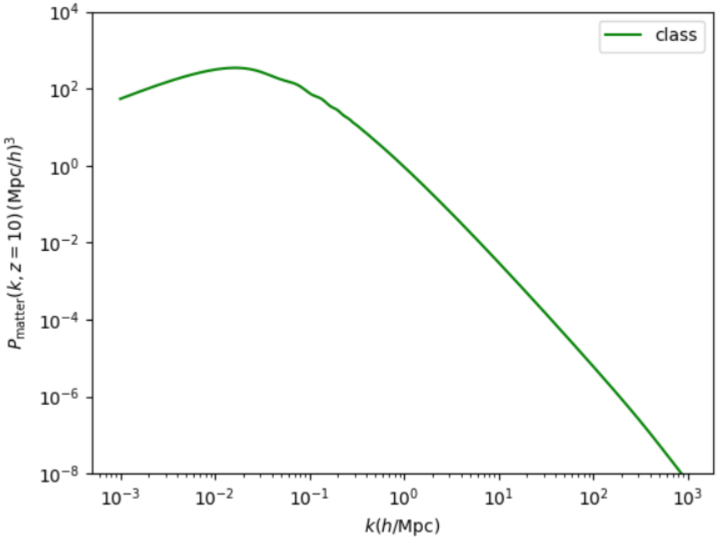

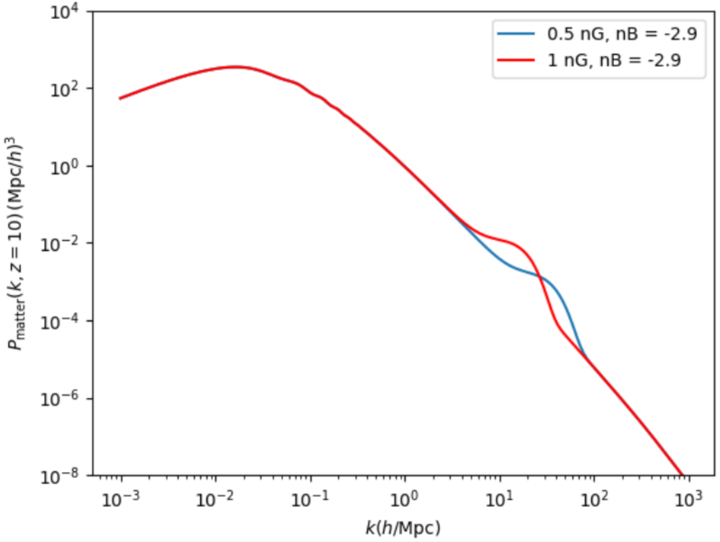

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

$$\frac{\partial\,(\vec{B})}{\partial t} = \frac{\nabla\times(\vec{v}_b\times\vec{B})}{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial\vec{v}_b}{\partial t} + H\vec{v}_b + \frac{(\vec{v}_b.\nabla)\vec{v}_b}{a} = \frac{\left(\nabla\times\vec{B}\right)\times\vec{B}}{4\pi a^5\rho_b} - \frac{c_b^2\nabla\delta_b}{a} - \frac{\nabla\phi}{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial\delta_b}{\partial t} = -\frac{\nabla.\vec{v}_b}{a} - \frac{\nabla.(\delta_b\vec{v}_b)}{a}$$

$$\nabla^2\phi = \frac{a^2}{2M_{Pl}^2}(\rho_b\delta_b + \rho_{DM}\delta_{DM})$$

$$\frac{\partial^2\delta_{DM}}{\partial a^2} + \left[\frac{\partial\ln(a^2H)}{\partial\ln a} + 1\right]\frac{\partial\delta_{DM}}{a\partial a} = \frac{\nabla^2\phi}{(a^2H)^2}$$

Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027 (Kim+96, Adi+24)

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

Matteo Viel

$$\frac{\partial (\vec{B})}{\partial t} = \cancel{\frac{\nabla\times(\vec{v}_b\times\vec{B})}{a}}$$

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At large scales
δ<<1
v_b << aH

Velocity field is generated

$$\partial_t v_b \propto (\nabla \times B) \times B$$

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

Matteo Viel

$$\frac{\partial\,(\vec{B})}{\partial t} = 0$$

Comoving Magnetic field is conserved

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta_b}{\partial a^2} + \frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial \delta_b}{a\partial a} = -\frac{\nabla\cdot(\nabla\times\vec{B})\times\vec{B}}{(4\pi a^3\rho_b)a^5H^2} + \frac{\nabla^2\phi}{(a^2H)^2}$$

Baryon perturbations driven by magnetic field and gravity

$$\nabla^2\phi = \frac{a^2}{2M_{Pl}^2}(\rho_b\delta_b + \rho_{DM}\delta_{DM})$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta_{DM}}{\partial a^2} + \frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial \delta_{DM}}{a\partial a} = \frac{\nabla^2\phi}{(a^2H)^2}$$

Gravity has the usual form

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

$$\frac{\partial\,(\vec{B})}{\partial t} = 0$$

S_0/a^3H^2

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta_b}{\partial a^2} + \frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial \delta_b}{a \partial a} = -\frac{\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B}}{(4\pi a^3 \rho_b) a^5 H^2} + \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{(a^2 H)^2}$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{a^2}{2M_{Pl}^2}(\rho_b \delta_b + \rho_{DM}\delta_{DM})$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta_{DM}}{\partial a^2} + \frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial \delta_{DM}}{a \partial a} = \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{(a^2 H)^2}$$

$$S_0 = \frac{\nabla \cdot [(\nabla \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B}]}{4\pi a^3 \rho_{\rm b}}$$

Key ingredient is the S_0 source term

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

Matteo Viel

$$a^2\frac{\partial^2\delta_{\rm b}}{\partial a^2}+a\frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial\delta_{\rm b}}{\partial a}-\frac{3}{2}\frac{\Omega_{\rm b}}{\Omega_{\rm m}(1+a_{\rm eq}/a)}\delta_{\rm b}=-\frac{S_0}{a^3H^2}+\frac{3}{2}\frac{\Omega_{\rm DM}}{\Omega_{\rm m}(1+a_{\rm eq}/a)}\delta_{\rm DM}$$

$$a^2\frac{\partial^2\delta_{\rm DM}}{\partial a^2}+a\frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial\delta_{\rm DM}}{\partial a}-\frac{3}{2}\frac{\Omega_{\rm DM}}{\Omega_{\rm m}(1+a_{\rm eq}/a)}\delta_{\rm DM}=\frac{3}{2}\frac{\Omega_{\rm b}}{\Omega_{\rm m}(1+a_{\rm eq}/a)}\delta_{\rm b}.$$

DM

Coupled differential equations

baryons

$$\delta_{\rm b}^{\rm PMF}=-\xi_{\rm b}(a)\frac{S_0}{a^3H^2}$$

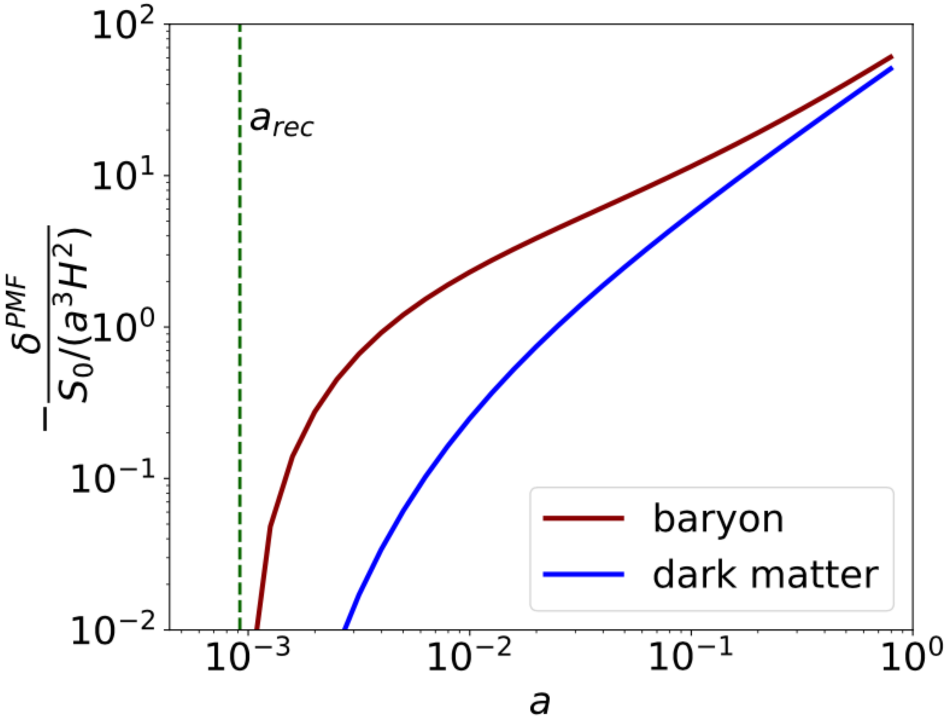
$$\delta_{\rm DM}^{\rm PMF}=-\xi_{\rm DM}(a)\frac{S_0}{a^3H^2}.$$

$$P_b^{PMF}\propto P_{S0}$$

Power spectrum of Lorentz force
For n_B~ -3 (scale invariant) this returns
P_{matter} ~ k

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

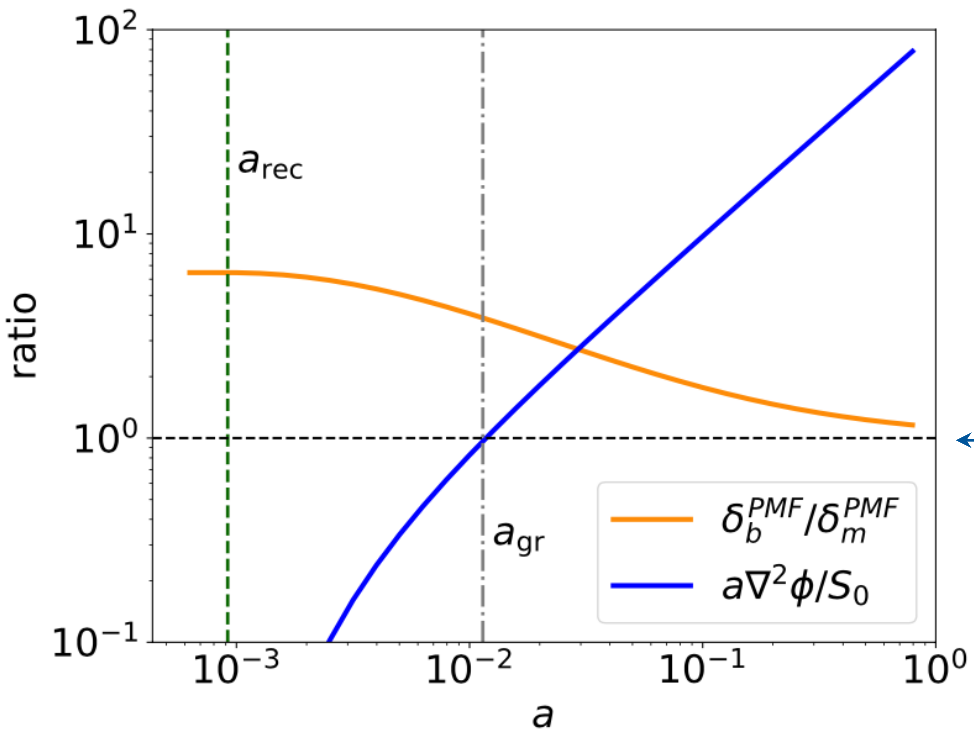
Matteo Viel



- ✓ Time evolution of perturbations (scale dependence is hidden in S0)
- ✓ Baryons are primarily enhanced
- ✓ DM is lagging behind and eventually catches up at z~0

Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe

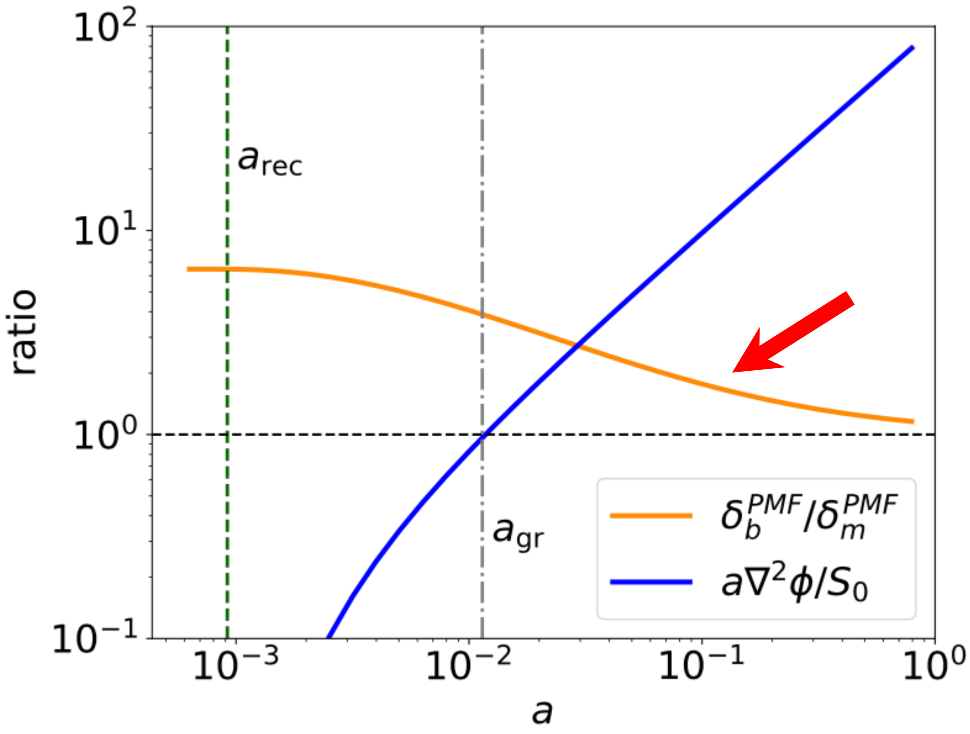


✓ Ratio of perturbations is equivalent to baryon fraction and starts very high and only now reaches the cosmic mean 0.17 value

← Cosmic mean

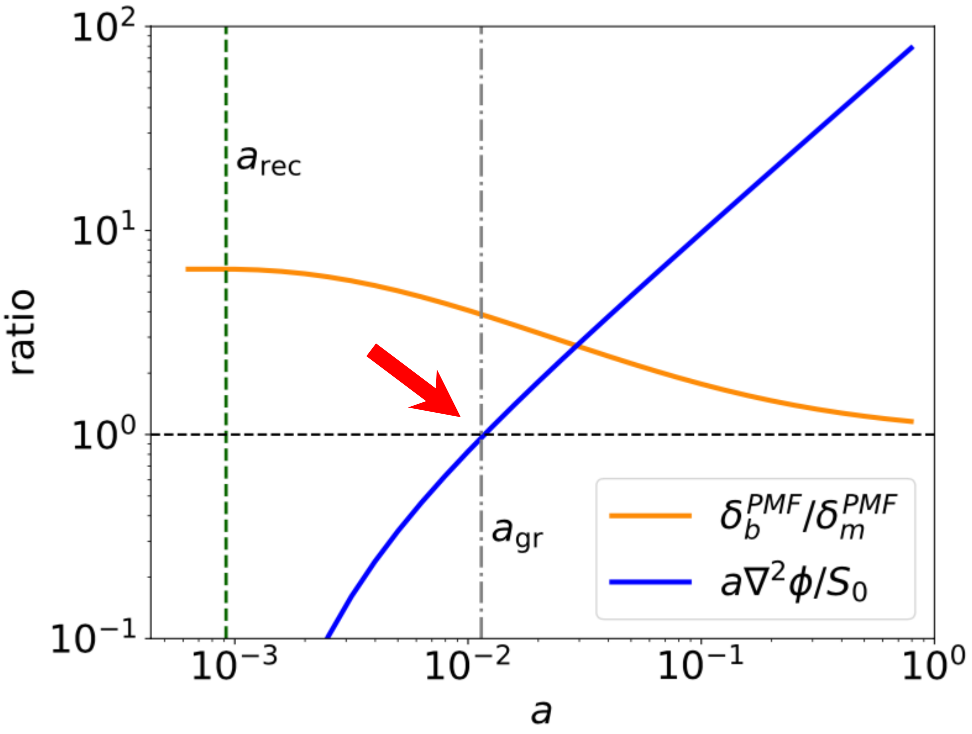
Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe



- ✓ Ratio of perturbations is equivalent to baryon fraction starts very high and only now reaches the cosmic mean 0.17 value
- ✓ At z=10 baryon fraction is 2 times the cosmic mean

Ideal MHD in the postrecombination Universe



- ✓ Ratio of perturbations is equivalent to baryon fraction starts very high and only now reaches the cosmic mean 0.17 value
- ✓ At z=10 baryon fraction is 2 times the cosmic mean
- ✓ At z=100 gravity overcomes Lorentz force (this is independent of B and at all scales)

Magnetic Damping Scale

$$v_{\rm b} \sim \frac{1}{aH\lambda_{\rm D}} \frac{\vec{B}^2_{\rm phys}}{4\pi\rho_{\rm b}}.$$

Baryon flow velocity from Euler Equation (Lorentz force)

$$v_{\rm b}/\lambda_{\rm D} \sim aH$$

Breaking of linearity

$$v_{\rm A}^2 \equiv \frac{\langle \vec{\rm B}^2_{\rm phys} \rangle}{4\pi\rho_{\rm b}}$$

Alfven velocity def.

$$\lambda_{\rm D} \sim \frac{v_{\rm A}}{aH}$$

$$\lambda_{\rm D} \sim 0.1{\rm Mpc} \left(\frac{B}{\rm nG}\right)$$

$$k_D \sim 3(nG/B_0){\rm Mpc}^{-1}$$

- ✓ Linear perturbation theory does not work at small scales
- ✓ Density perturbations backreact on the magnetic field
- ✓ MHD Turbulence suppresses perturbations

The baryon PMF induced power spectrum

Matteo Viel

$$P_{\rm B}(k) = A k^{n_{\rm B}} e^{-k^2\lambda_{\rm D}^2}$$

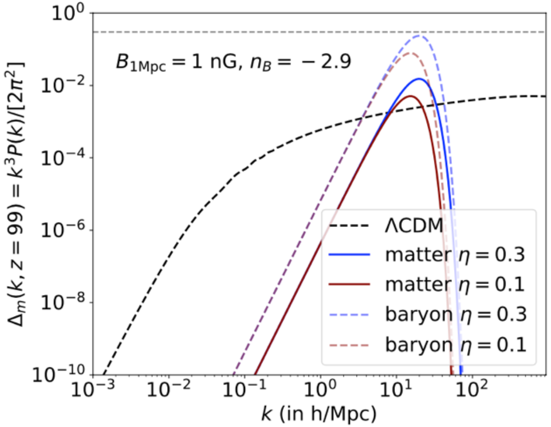
$$B^2_{\rm 1Mpc} \equiv \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} P_{\rm B}(k) e^{-k^2\lambda^2_{\rm Mpc}} = \frac{A\lambda_{\rm Mpc}^{-(3+n_{\rm B})}}{4\pi^2}\Gamma([n_{\rm B}+3]/2)$$

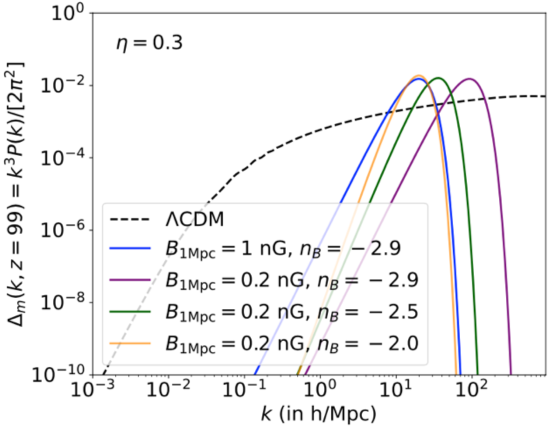
$$P_{\rm b}^{\rm PMF}(k) = \xi_{\rm b}^2(a)\frac{k^4}{8(4\pi a^3\rho_{\rm b}[a^3H^2])^2}\int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3}\frac{P_B(q)P_{\rm B}(k-q)}{(k-q)^2}\left[k^2 + 2q^2 + 4\frac{(q\cdot k)^4}{k^4q^2} - 4\frac{(q\cdot k)^2}{k^2} - 4\frac{(q\cdot k)^3}{k^2q^2} + \frac{(q\cdot k)^2}{q^2}\right]$$

$$\Delta_{\rm b}^{\rm PMF}(k) \equiv \frac{k^3P_{\rm b}^{\rm PMF}(k)}{2\pi^2} = 10^{-4}\xi_{\rm b}^2(a)\left(\frac{k}{\rm Mpc^{-1}}\right)^{2n_{\rm B}+10}\left(\frac{B_{\rm 1Mpc}}{\rm nG}\right)^4 G_{n_{\rm B}}e^{-2k^2\lambda_{\rm D}^2}, \quad (2.2$$

where $G_{n_{\rm B}}$ is a dimensionless number determined by

$$G_{n_{\rm B}} = \int_0^\infty dx \int_{-1}^1 \frac{dy}{2} x^{n_{\rm B}+2}(1+x^2-2xy)^{n_{\rm B}/2-1}\frac{[1+2x^2+4y^4x^2-4y^2x^2-4y^3x+y^2]}{\Gamma^2([n_{\rm B}+3]/2)}$$

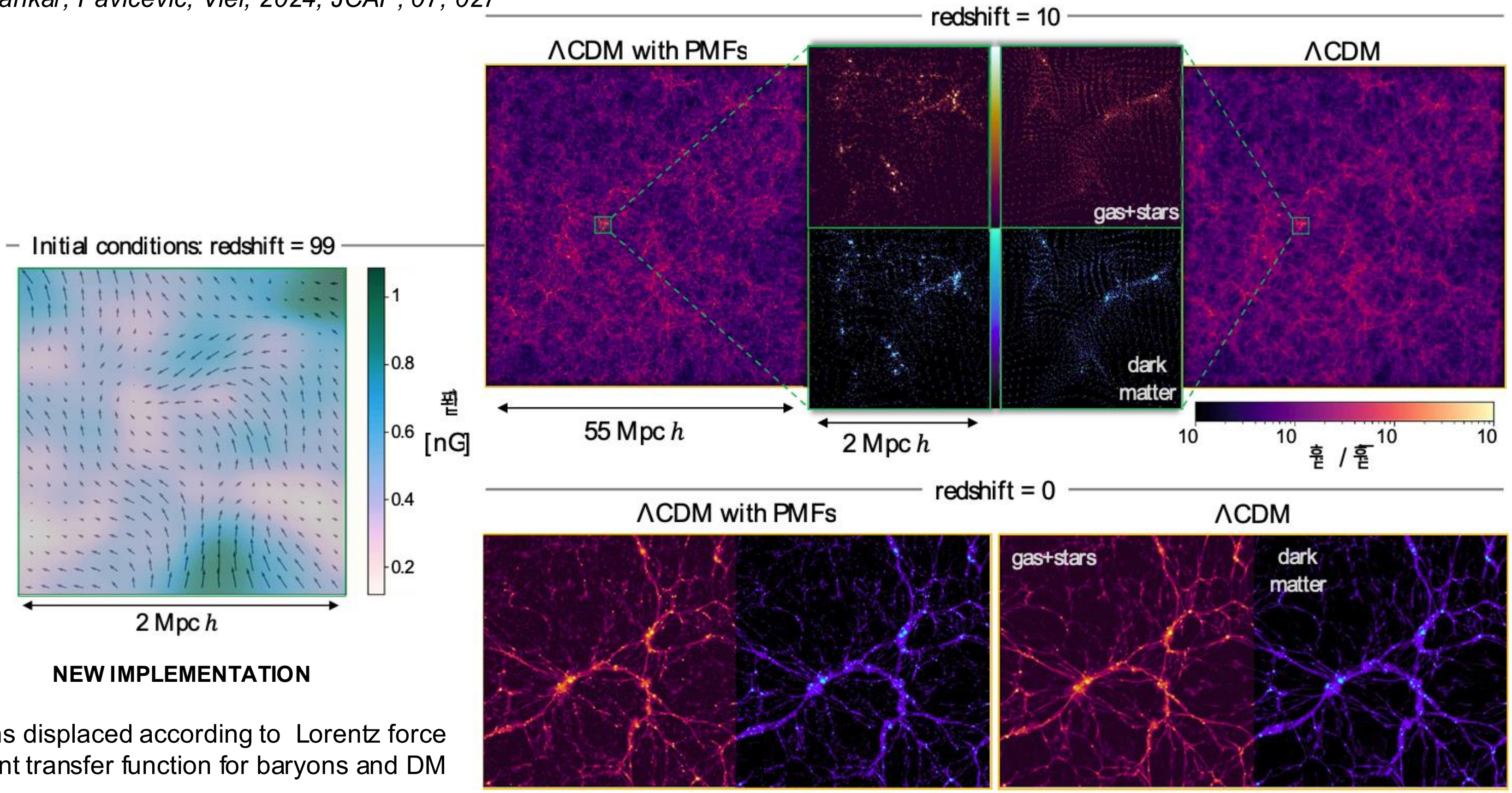




Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel 2024
Adi, Cruz, Kamionkowski 2024

Hydro sims

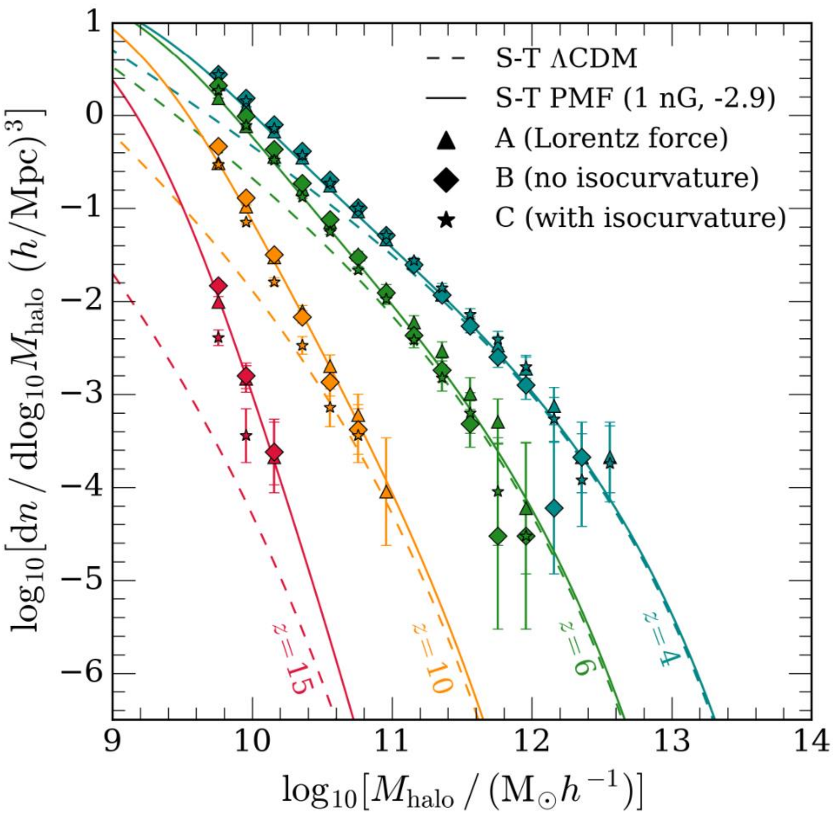
Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027



NEW IMPLEMENTATION

1) Baryons displaced according to Lorentz force
2) Different transfer function for baryons and DM

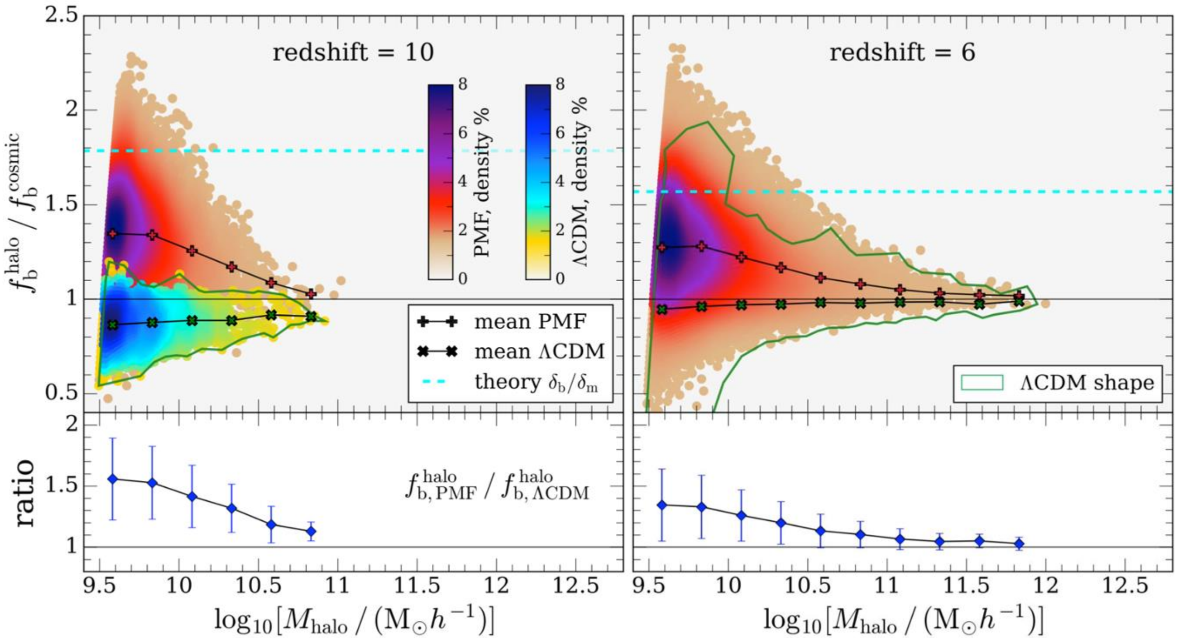
Halo Mass Function



- ✓ Extra PMFs power produces more haloes, at "low" mass
- ✓ With lower B values (< 1 nG) the enhancement will move to lower masess
- ✓ Below 0.05 nG effect is probably too small at any scale

Raleganker, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027

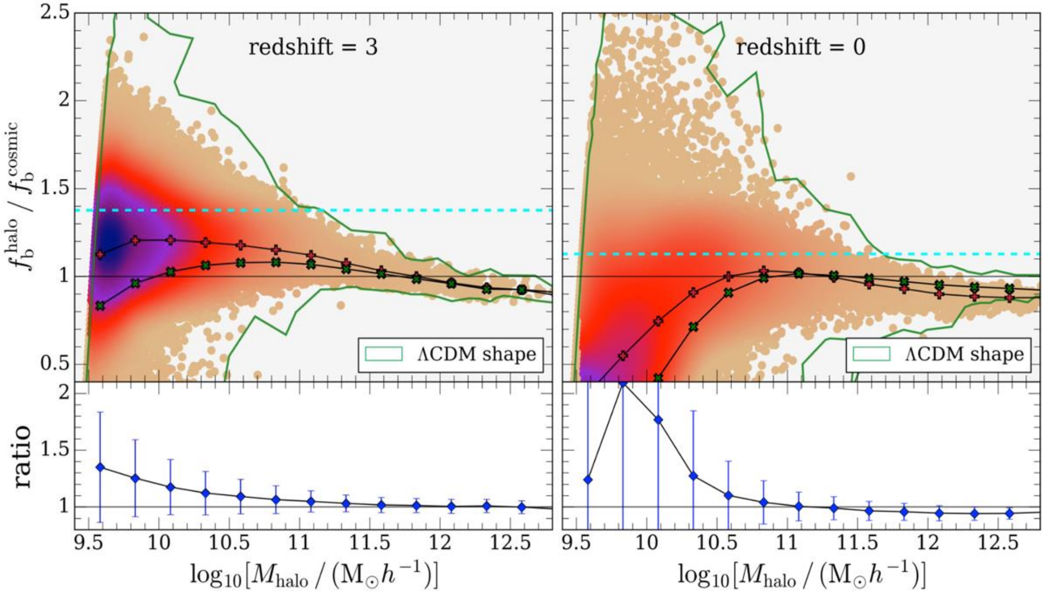
Halo Baryon Fractions at high redshift



- ✓ Larger baryon fraction in haloes also shown in hydro sims
- ✓ At large masses (scales) cosmic values is recovered
- ✓ More scatter in PMF models

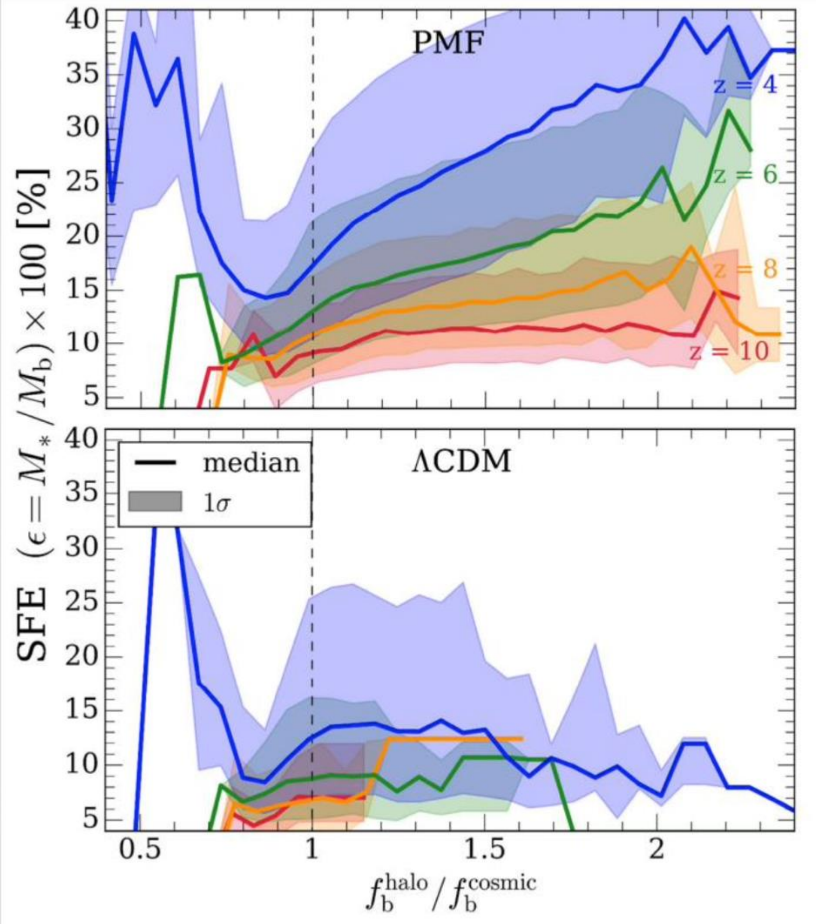
Ralegankar, Pavicevic, Viel, 2024, JCAP, 07, 027

Halo Baryon fraction at lower redshift



- ✓ At low (z<3) redshift the effect vanishes

Star formation



- ✓ Star formation efficiency vs baryon fraction is very redshift dependent in PMF models
- ✓ IMPORTANT: no feedback for these simulations.
- ✓ IMPORTANT: no MHD for these simulations! Purely gravitational interactions

Back on the constraint plot

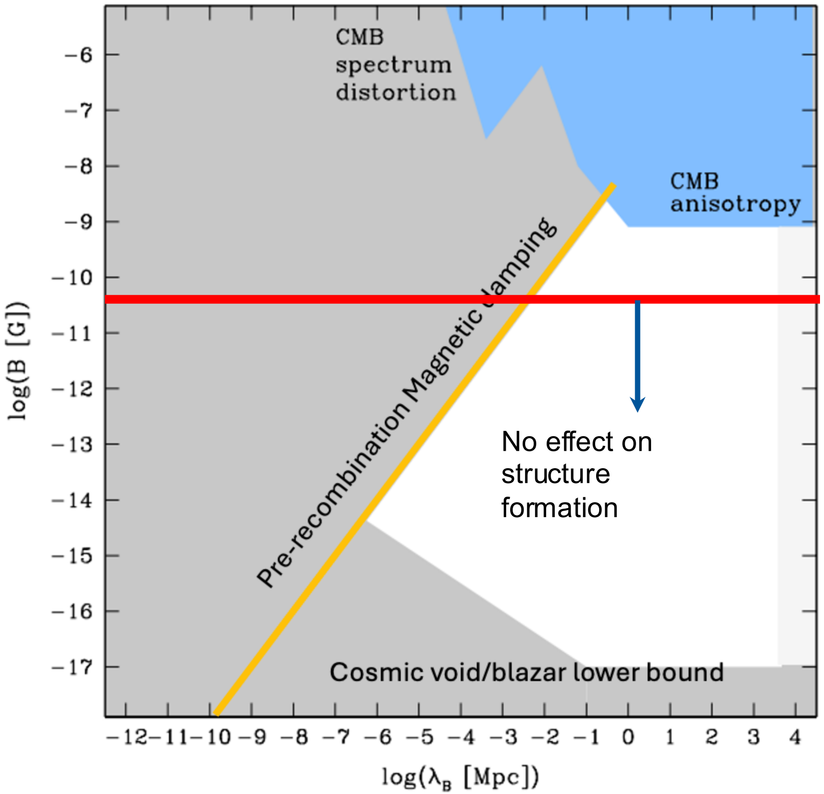
Matteo Viel

- ✓ Linear theory simple analytical predictions:
- ✓ More small mass haloes
- ✓ With large baryon fractions

- ✓ Hydro sims with no feeback confirm this and
- ✓ quantify the amount of star formation efficiency
- ✓ and its scatter

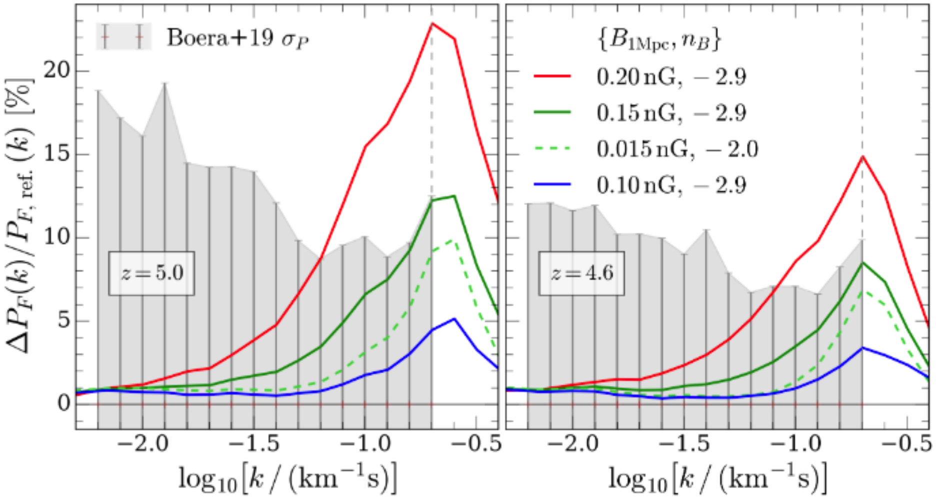
- ✓ Below 0.05nG the effect is likely to vanish

- ✓ Can we do something more?



Impact on flux power

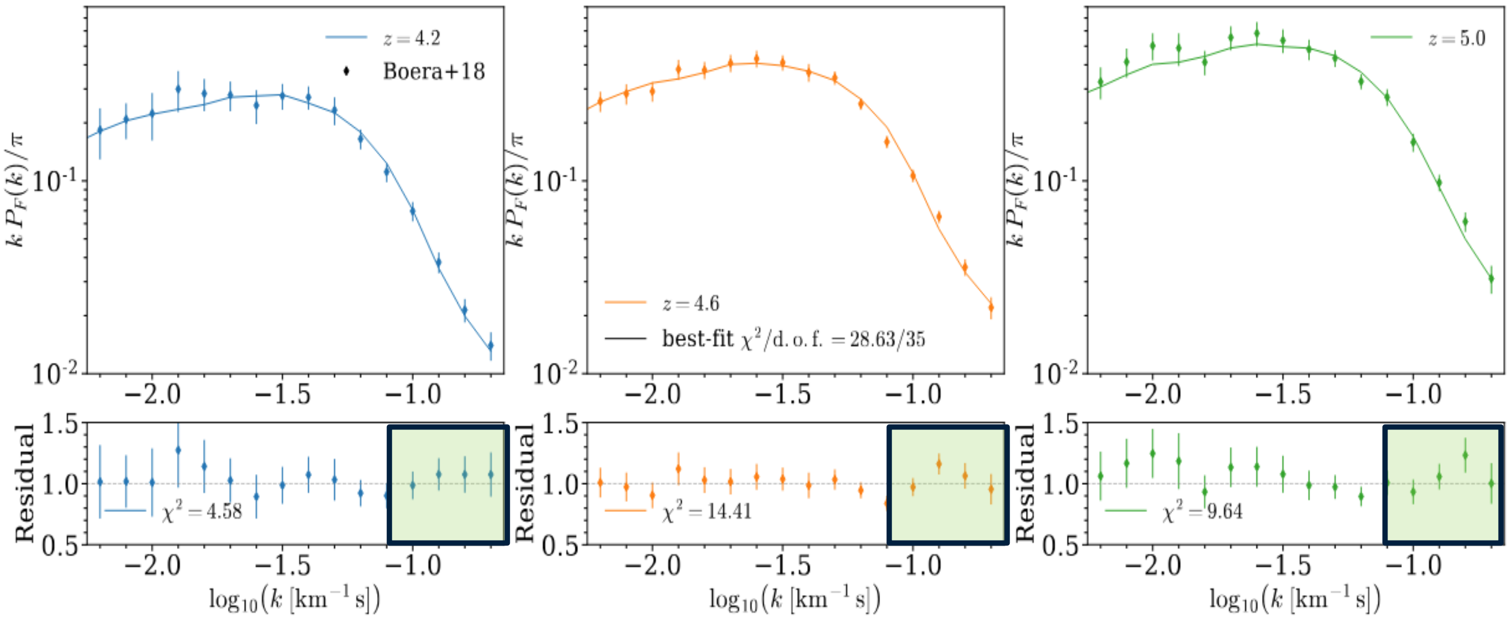
Pavicevic, Irsic, MV et al. 2025



- ✓ Strong scale/z dependent increase of power

Best fit PMF models

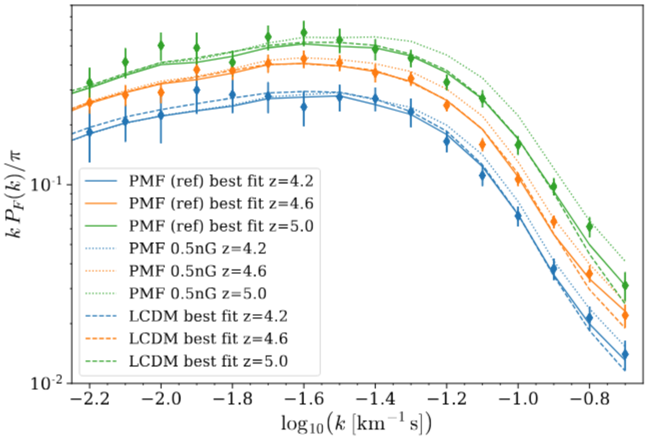
Pavicevic, Irsic, MV et al. 2025



$$\chi^2_{\Lambda\mathrm{CDM}} = 40.8 \ \text{ for } \ 36 \ \text{ d.o.f.}$$

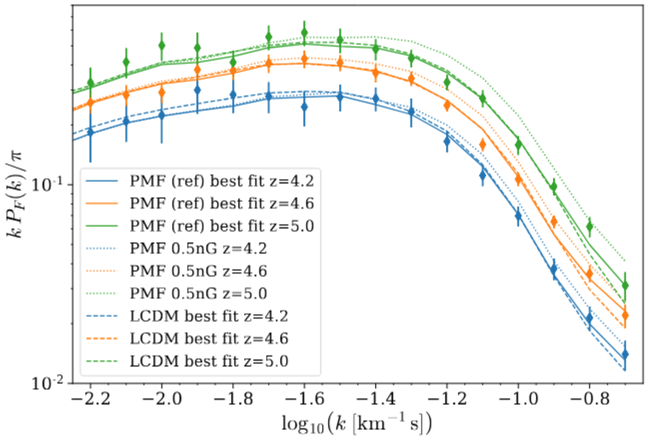
$$\chi^2_{\mathrm{PMF}} = 28.63 \ \text{ for } \ 35 \ \text{ d.o.f.}$$

Constraints on peak position

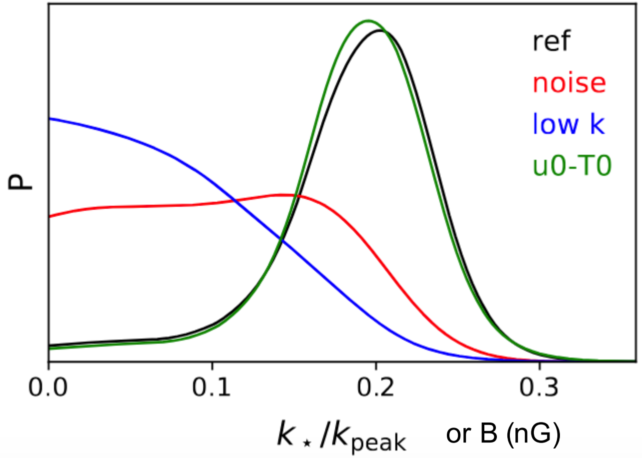


Constraints on peak position

Matteo Viel



$$k_{\rm peak} = \lambda_{\rm D}^{-1}\sqrt{\frac{n_{\rm B}+5}{2}}\ {\rm Mpc}^{-1} \qquad k_\star = 10\,{\rm Mpc}^{-1}$$



Pavicevic, Irsic, MV et al. 2025

Detection → B=0.2 ± 0.05 nG (1s)
Upper limit → B=0.3 nG (3s)

The IGM as a thermometer

- ✓ Dark Photon Dark Matter: simple extension of the SM of particle physics

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma A'} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{1}{4}(F'_{\mu\nu})^2 - \frac{\epsilon}{2}F^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{A'}^2 A'_\mu A'^\mu$$

- ✓ Dark photon converts into standard photon when a resonance condition is met

$$E_{A'\to\gamma} \sim 2.5\,\mathrm{eV}\left(\frac{\epsilon_{-14}}{0.5}\right)^2 \left(\frac{3}{1+z_{\rm res}}\right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{m_{-13}}{0.8}\right)$$

Bolton, Caputo, Liu, MV, PRL, 2022

The IGM as a thermometer

Matteo Viel

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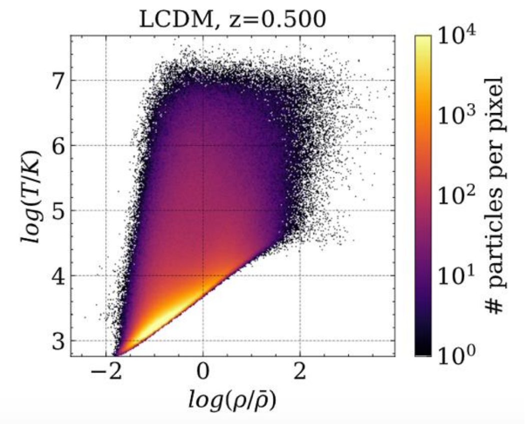
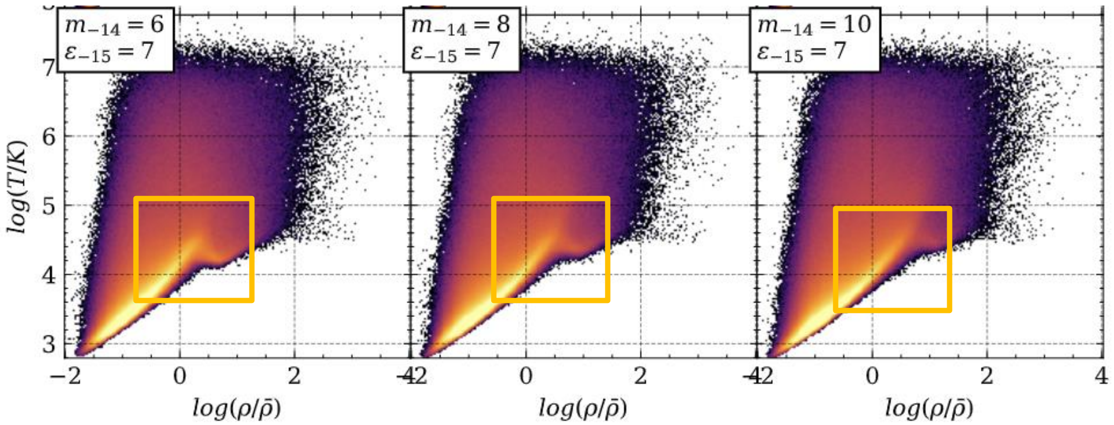
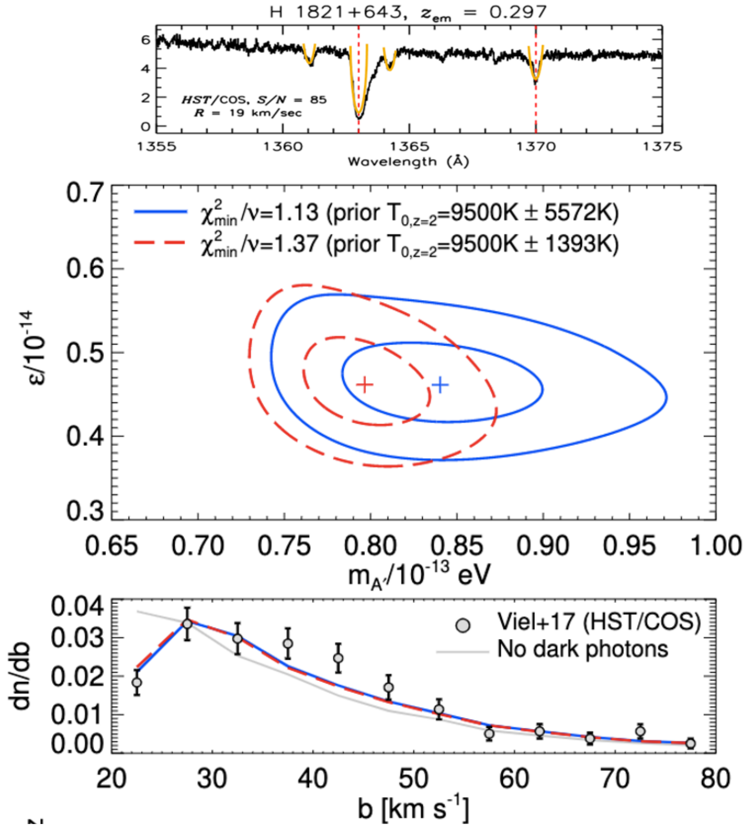




Bolton, Caputo, Liu, MV, PRL, 2022 - see also Trost+arXiv: 2410.02858

The IGM as a thermometer - II

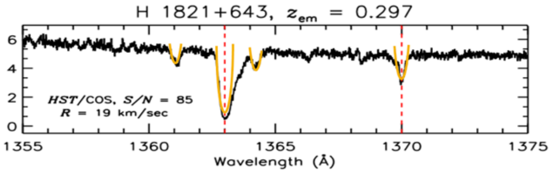
Matteo Viel

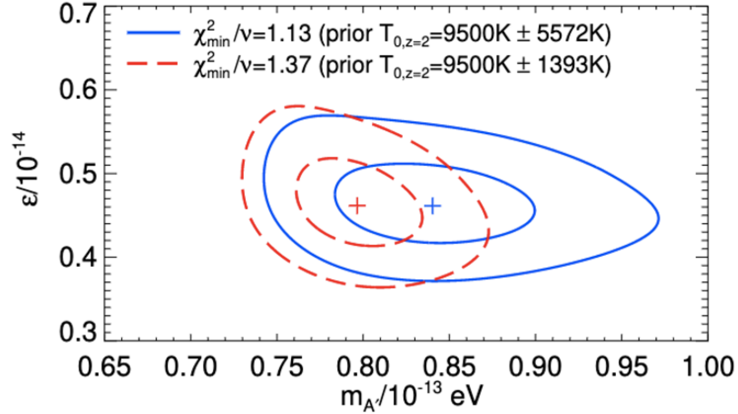


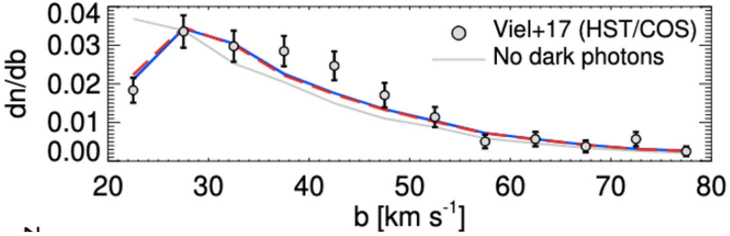
- ✓ Effect is small but can be used to place constraints on extra-heating
- ✓ At z=0.1 COS/HST lines are broader than
- ✓ expected (feedback, turbulence?)

The IGM as a thermometer - II

Matteo Viel







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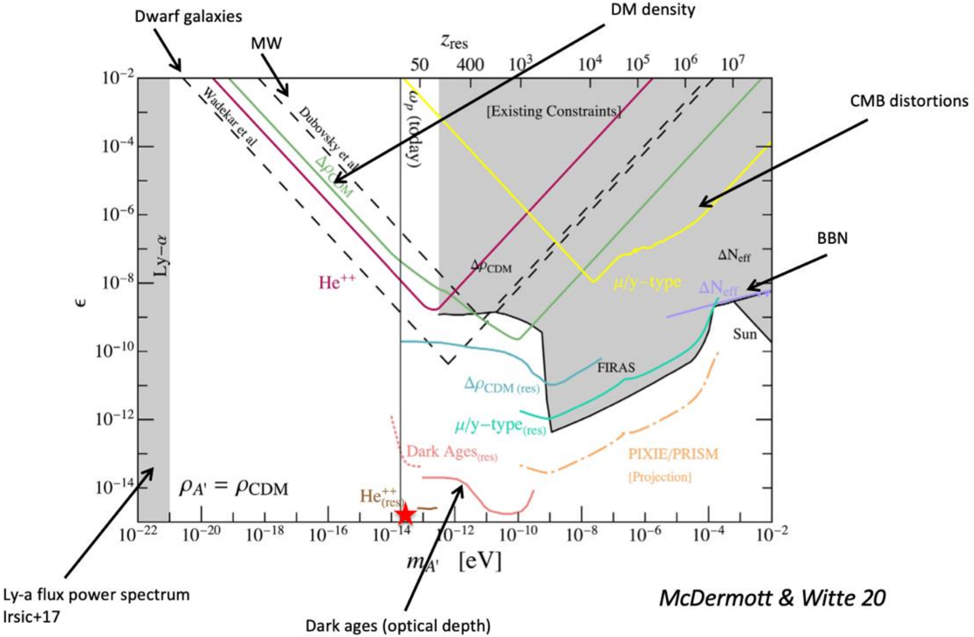
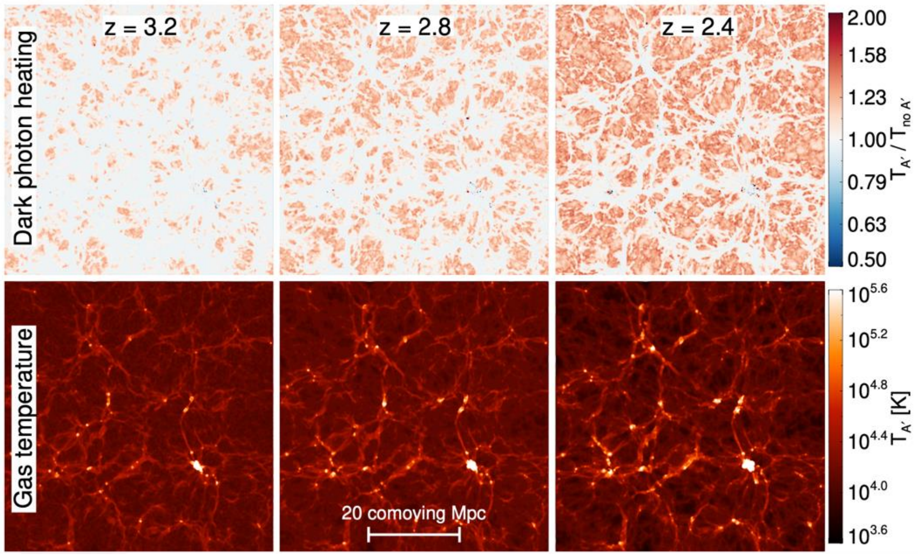
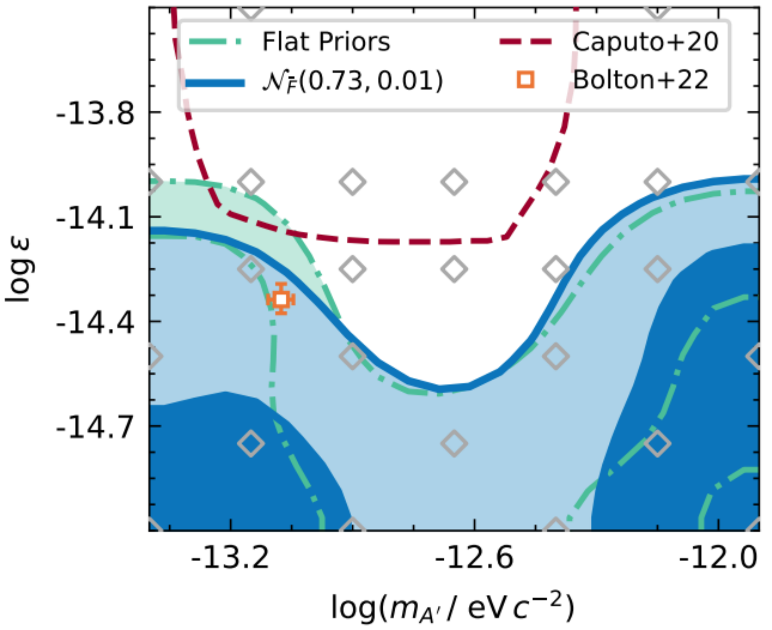


McDermott & Witte 20

The IGM as a thermometer - II

Distinctive heating mechanism happening far away from complex astrophysics



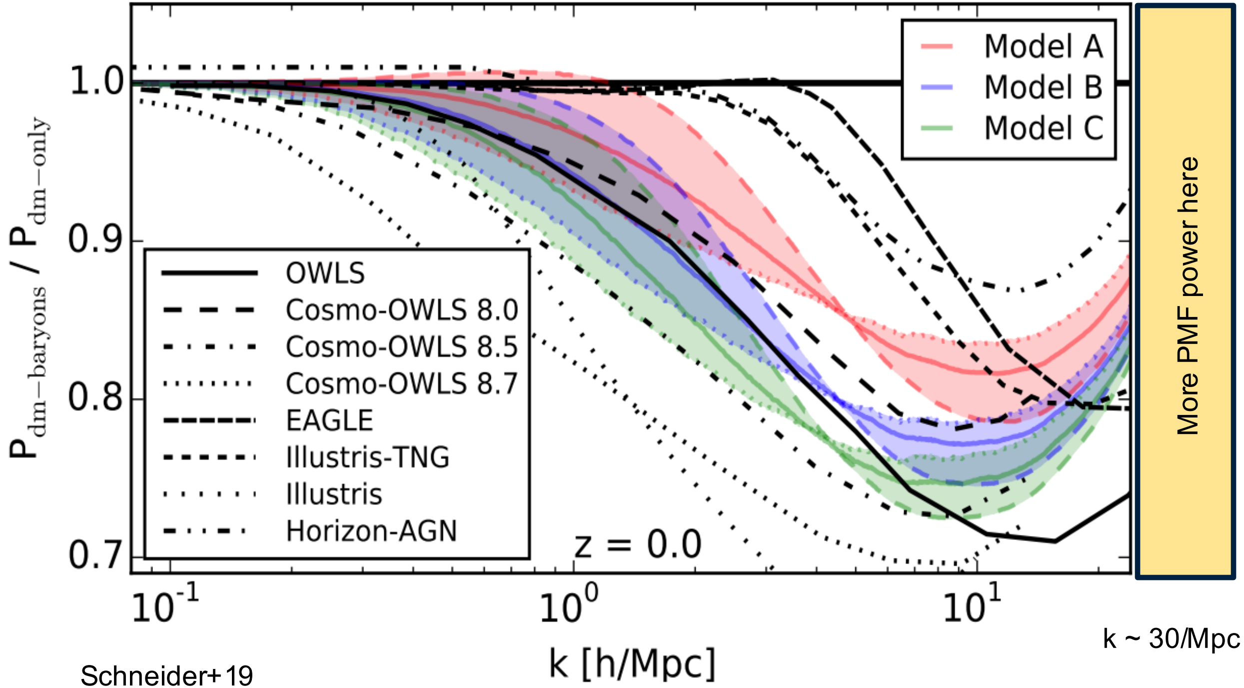


Trost+arXiv: 2410.02858

Summary

- ✓ PMFs can enhance baryon fraction apart from enhancing matter power spectrum
- ✓ Can affect **star formation/important for JWST**
- ✓ Observing **high baryon fraction** at high redshift will be smoking gun signal for PMFs
- ✓ **Lyα forest ideal probe** of PMFs, since it samples low density environments far from galaxies
- ✓ Constraints from Lya forest point to **a detection at 0.2 nG** or more conservatively a tight 3σ **upper limit of 0.3 nG**

PMFs: interplay with baryonic corrections



k ~ 30/Mpc

Schneider+19

Constraints on peak position

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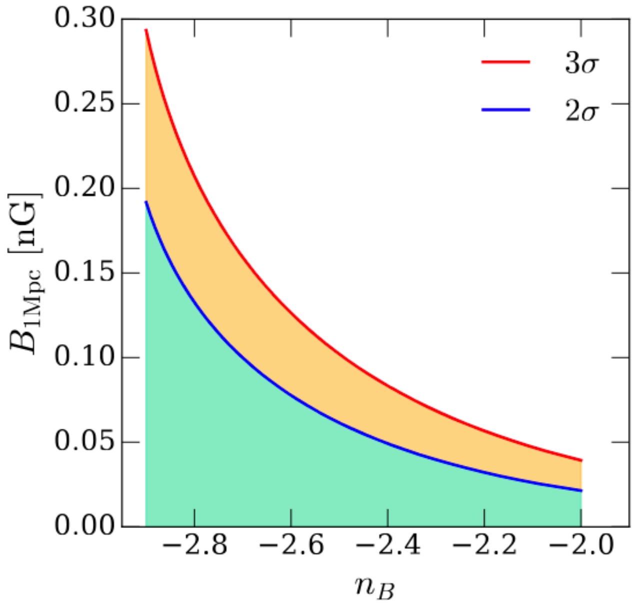
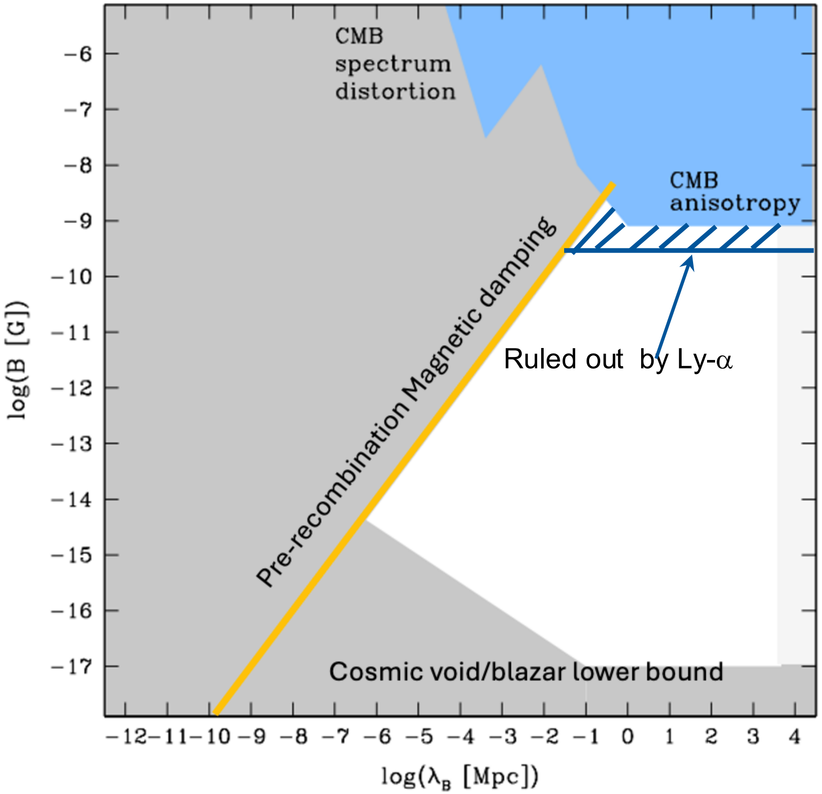
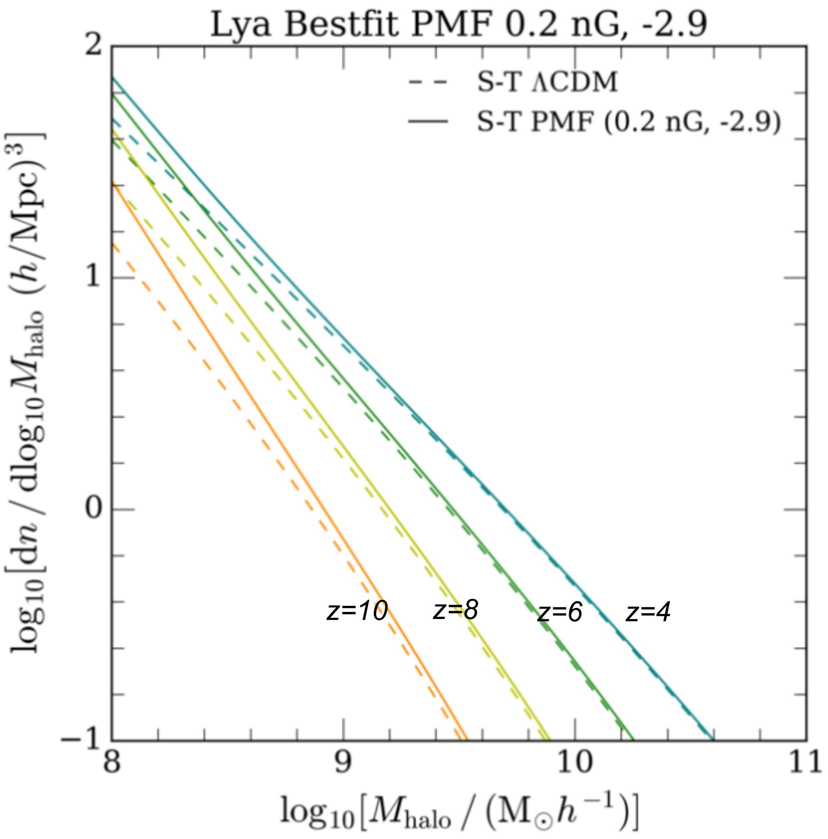


Extending to other n_B values

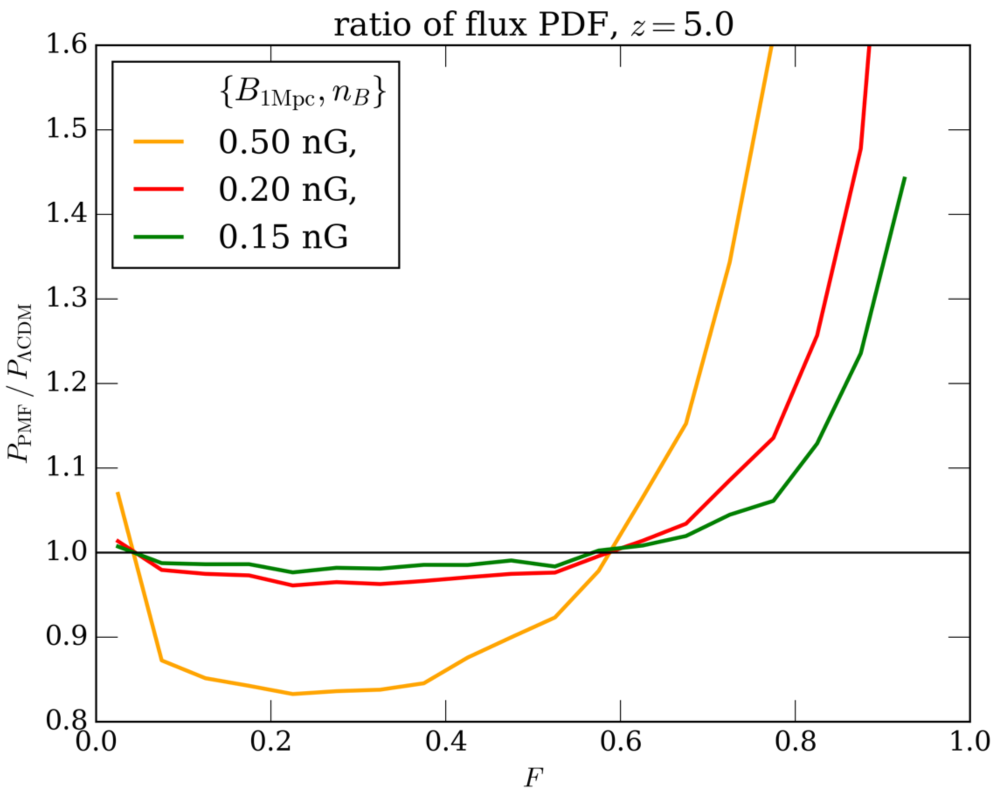


Implications for the detection

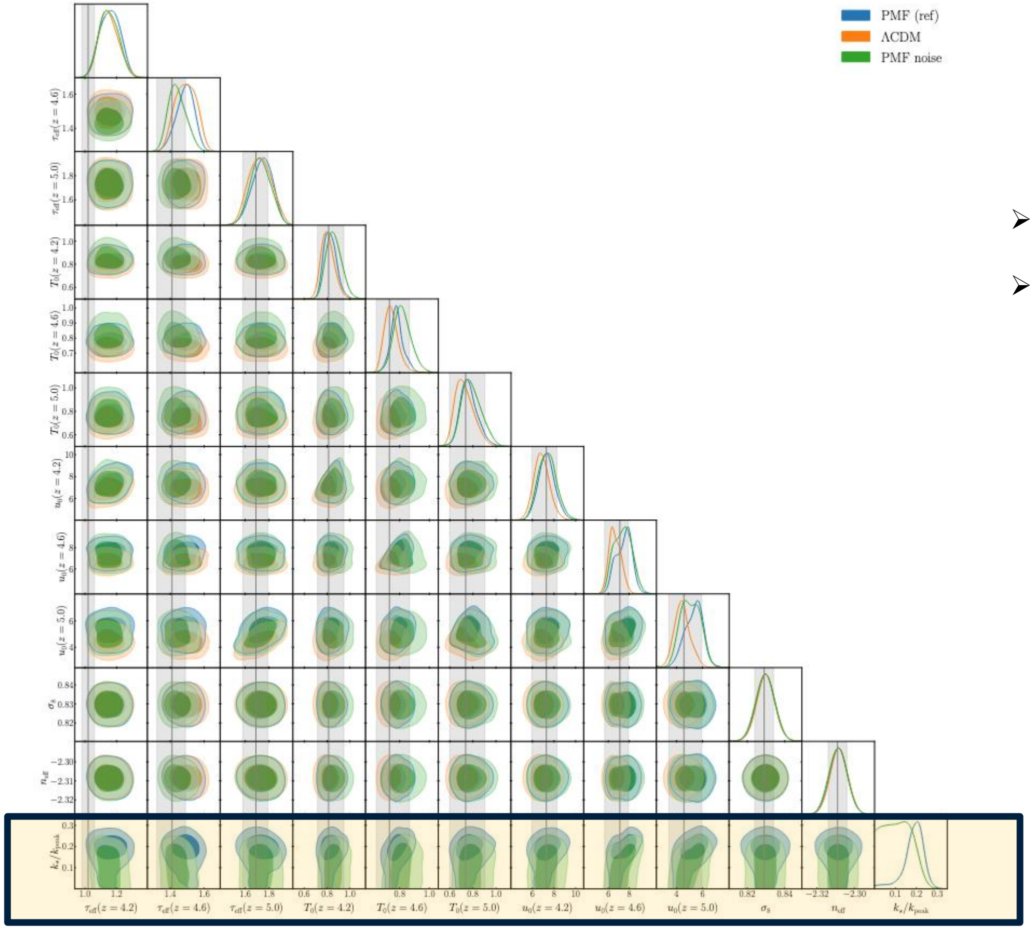


- MF is boosted at $M_{halo}<10^9\ M_\odot/h$
- ~2 more $10^8\ M_\odot/h$ haloes at z=10 expected compared to ΛCDM

PMFs: flux pdf

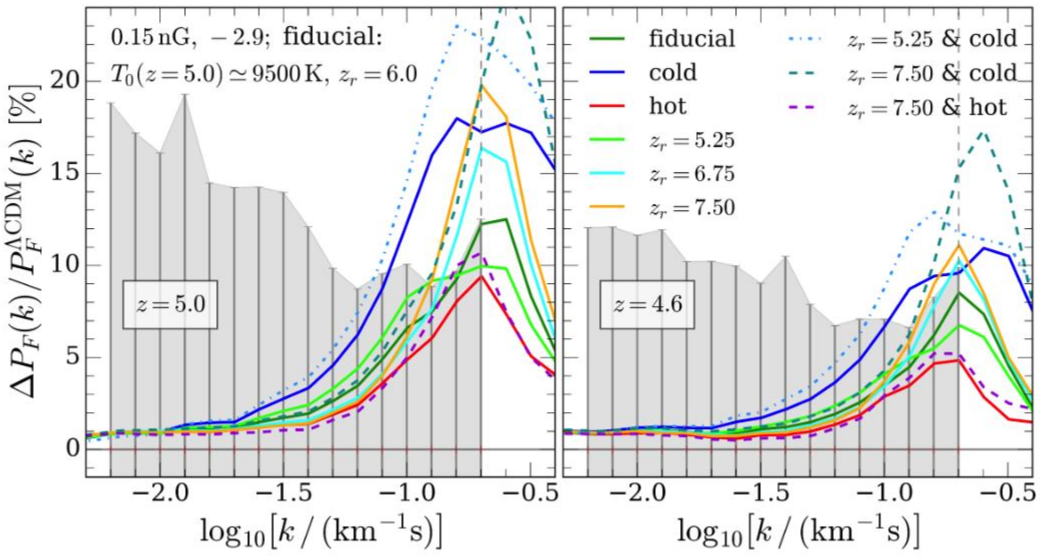


Extra slides: triangle plot



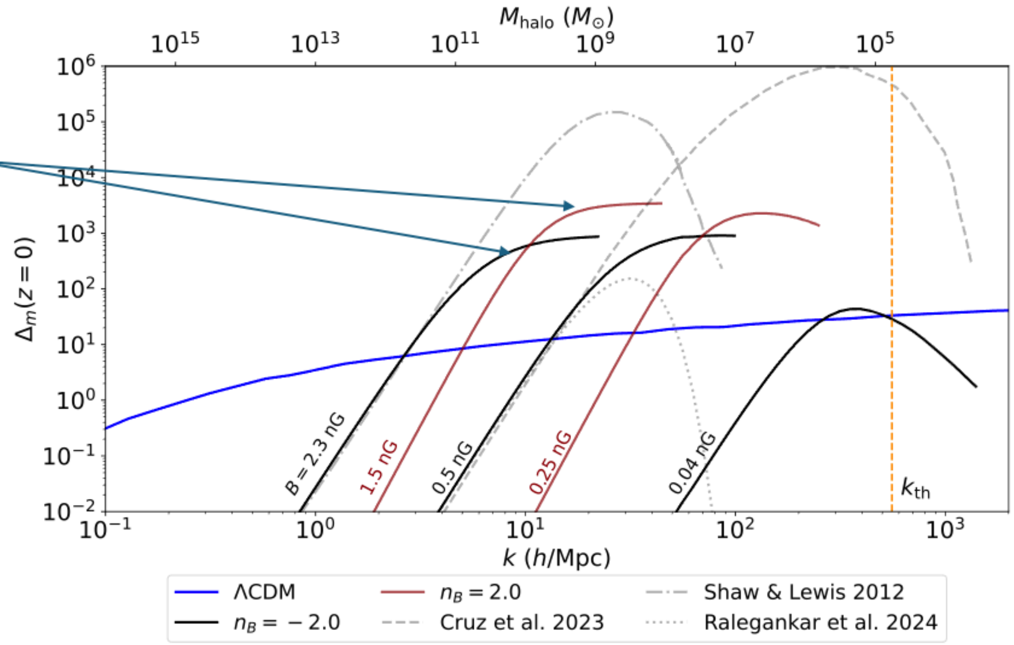
- Not strong degeneracies present
- Weak degeneracies with injected heat and noise modelling

Extra slides: PMFs vs thermal parameters



Non-linear scales with MHD

Magnetic Jeans scale/ non-linear regime

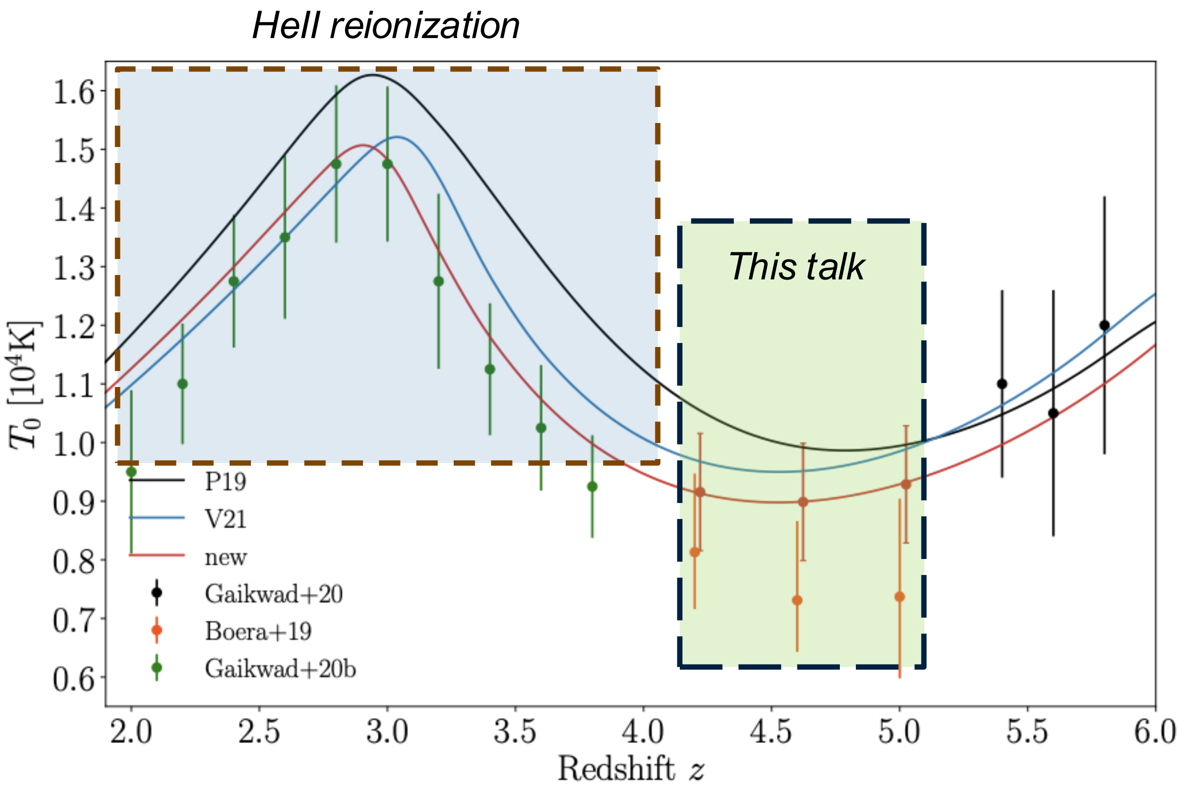


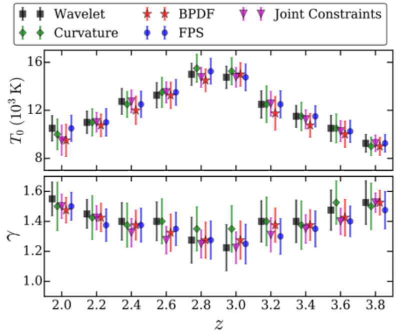
Ralegankar, Garaldi, Viel, 2024, arXiv:2410.02676

Thermal WDM

The IGM thermal state

Matteo Viel





- Constraints obtained with a variety of data and methods
- Sensitive to lines rather than the lines' clustering
- HeII bump quite well detected