

Cosmic Physics and Strong-Field Gravity: Session Summary

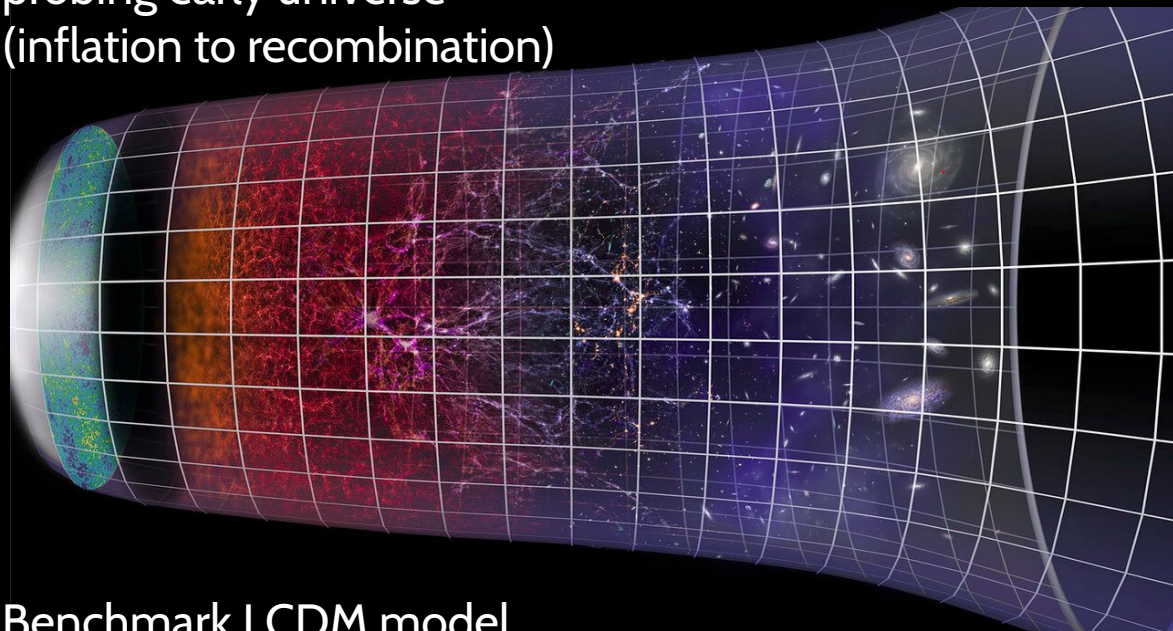
Mathew Madhavacheril (Penn)

Co-conveners:

Lauren Aldoroty (Duke)

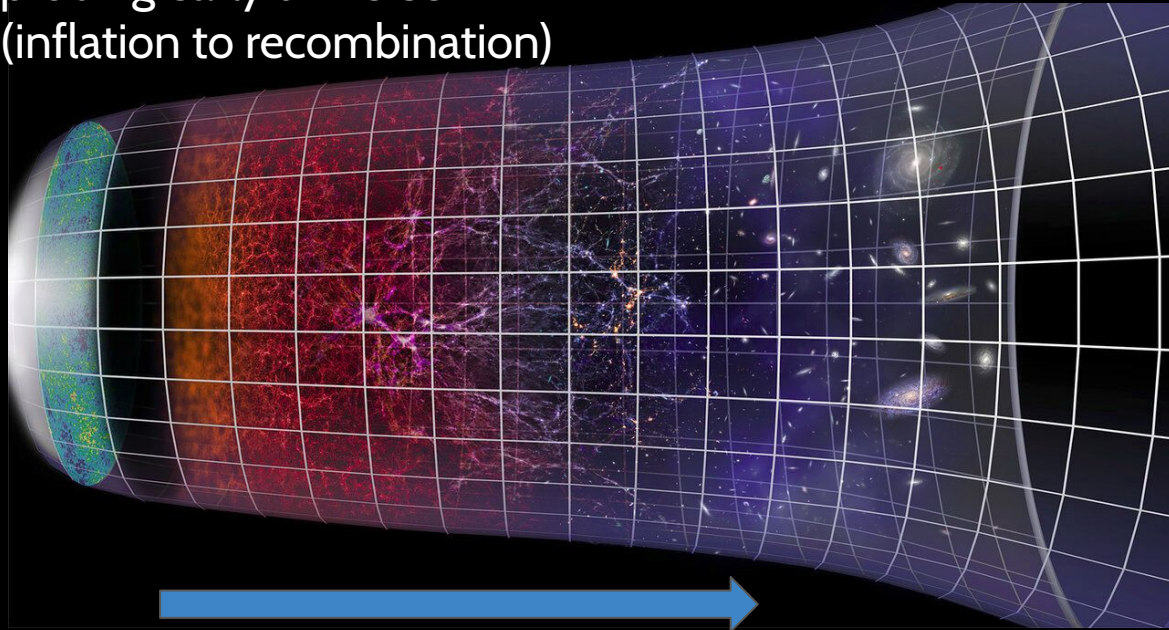
Laura Newburgh (Yale)

Planck satellite *primarily*
probing early universe
(inflation to recombination)



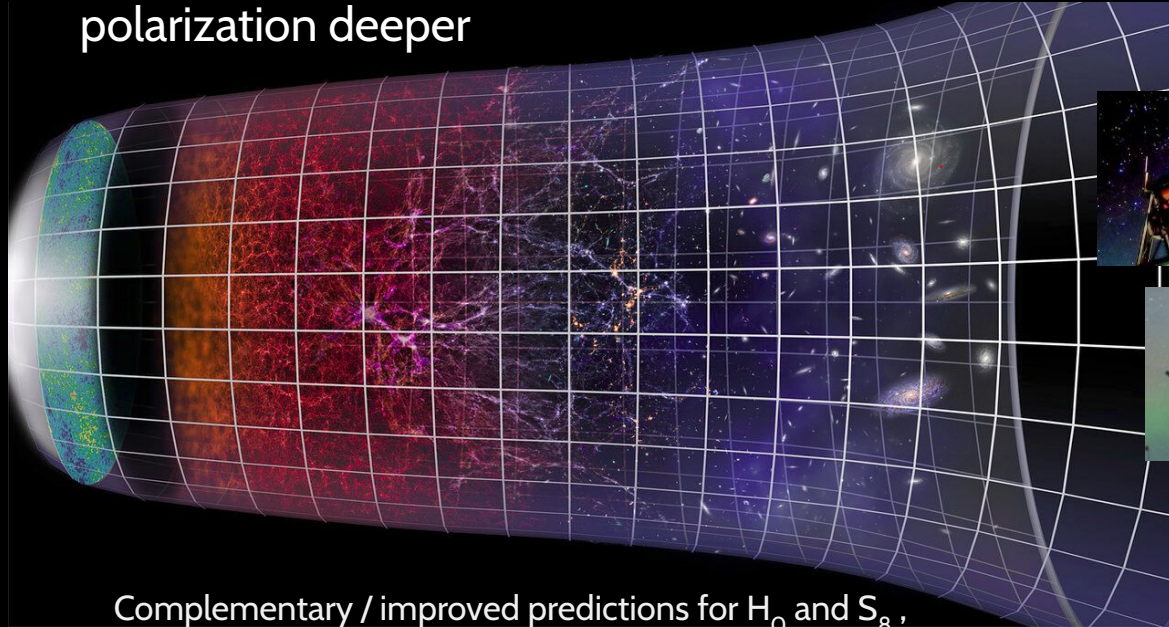
Benchmark LCDM model

Planck satellite *primarily*
probing early universe
(inflation to recombination)



Propagate fit model forward in time
Compare expansion rate H_0
Compare growth S_8

High-resolution
ground-based probing
polarization deeper



Complementary / improved predictions for H_0 and S_8 ,
explore wider range of new physics

Atacama Cosmology
Telescope (ACT)



South Pole Telescope
(SPT)

New CMB continues to prefer Λ CDM : ACT

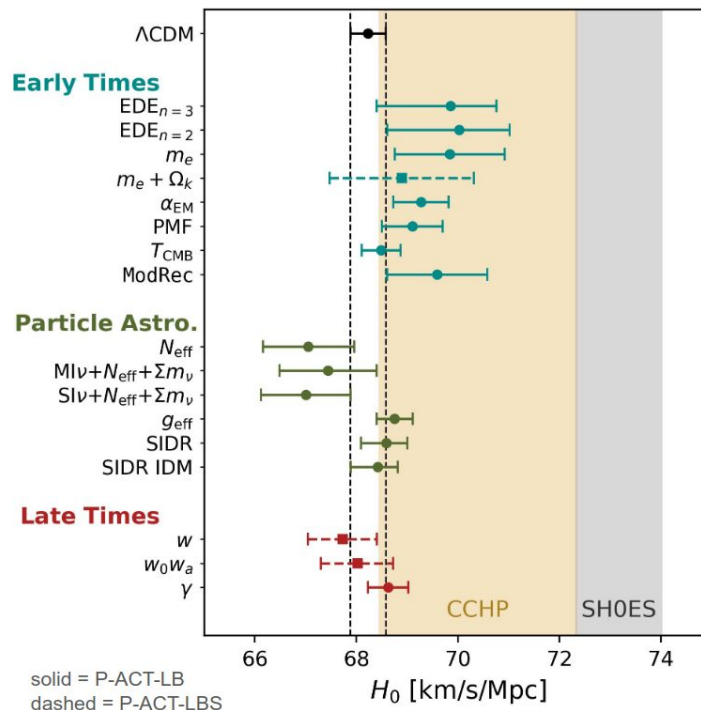


Zach Atkins (Princeton)



Sam Goldstein (Columbia)

ACT DR6 – Λ CDM Extensions and H_0

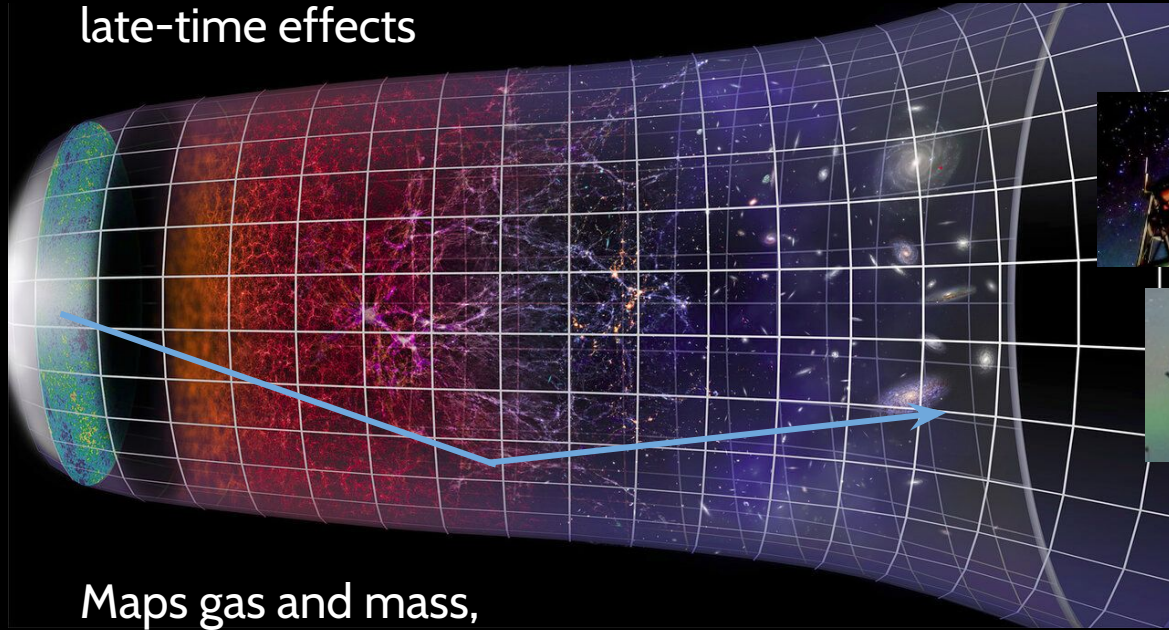


No extensions preferred over Λ CDM

>30 different extensions (not counting different data combos)

Calabrese, Hill, Jense, La Posta et al ACT 2025

High-resolution
ground-based probing
late-time effects



Maps gas and mass,
growth of structure on
linear scales and
intermediate times



e.g. neutrino mass
constraints

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New CMB continues to prefer LCDM : SPT

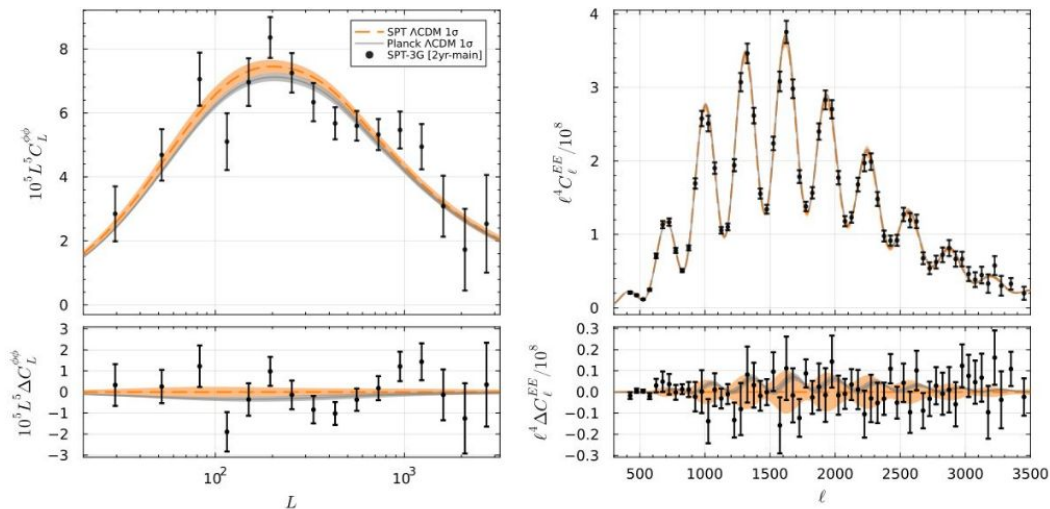


Fei Ge
(KIPAC)

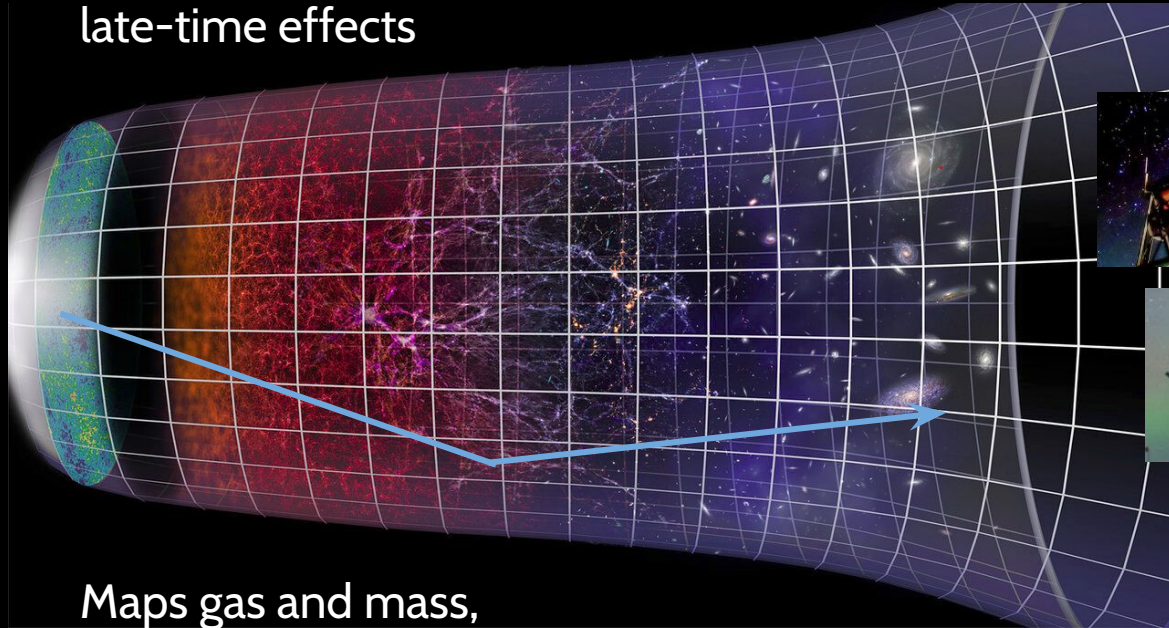
Results – bandpowers

Ge et al SPT 2025

- LCDM model fits SPT data well and in agreement with Planck.



High-resolution
ground-based probing
late-time effects



Maps gas and mass,
growth of structure on
linear scales and
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(SPT)

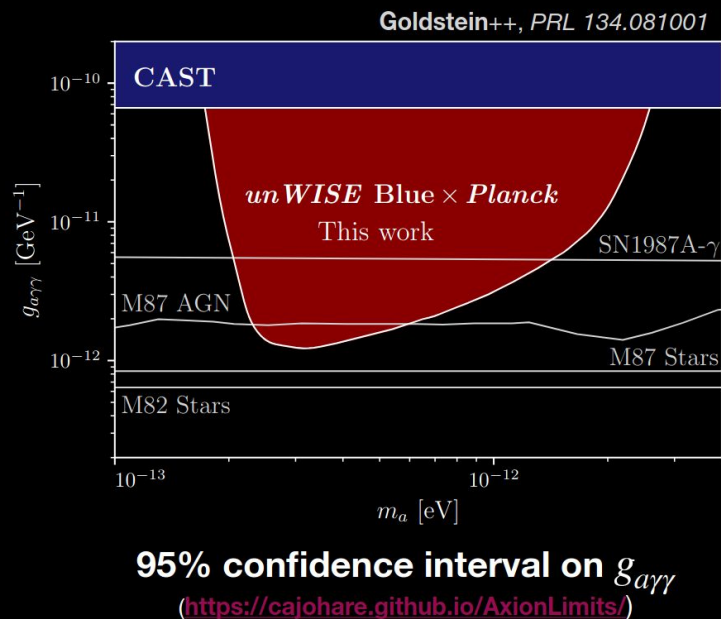
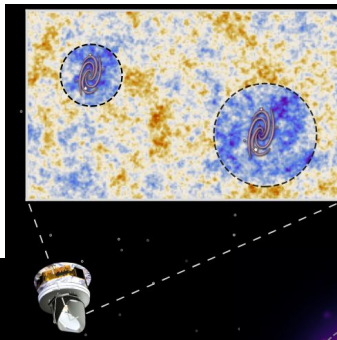
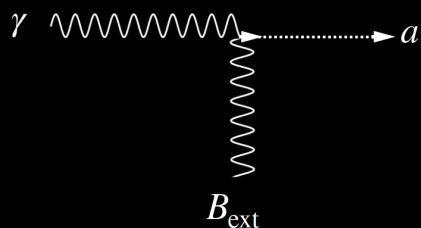
CMB secondary effects as a probe of (new) axion physics



Sam
Goldstein
(Columbia)

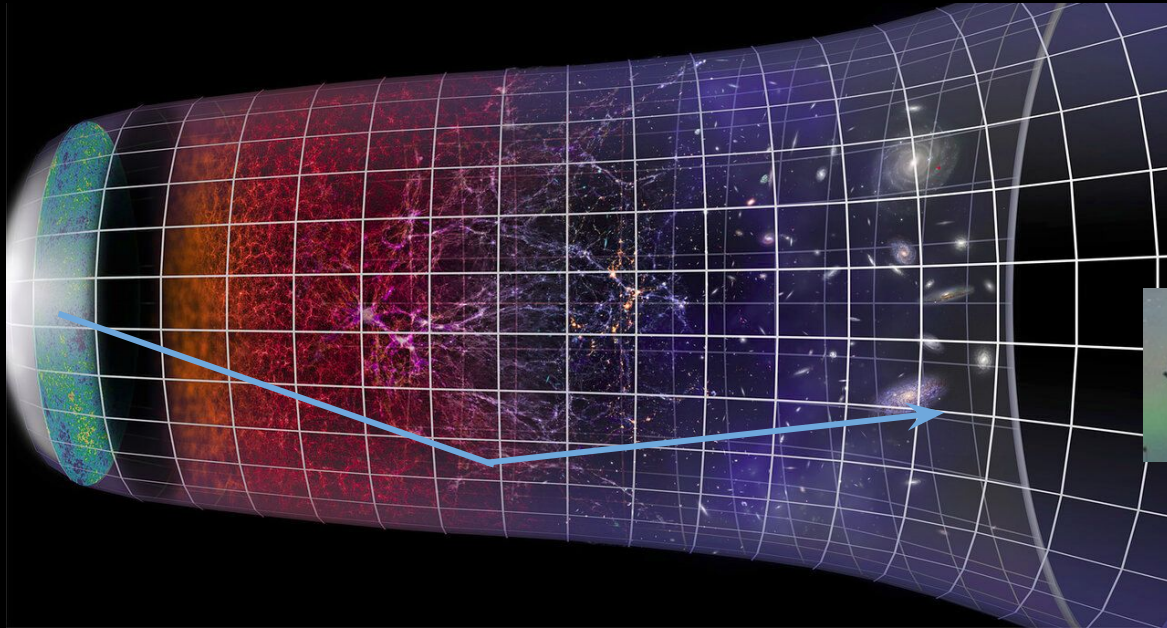
Constraints on axion-photon coupling

- We obtain some of the tightest constraints on $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ for $m_a \approx 5 \times 10^{-13}$ eV axions
- Highly complementary to existing bounds
- Existing bounds: **single astrophysical object**
- Our bounds: ensemble average over **30 million objects**

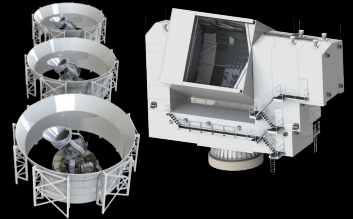


quoted from talk

Next generation results
rolling in!

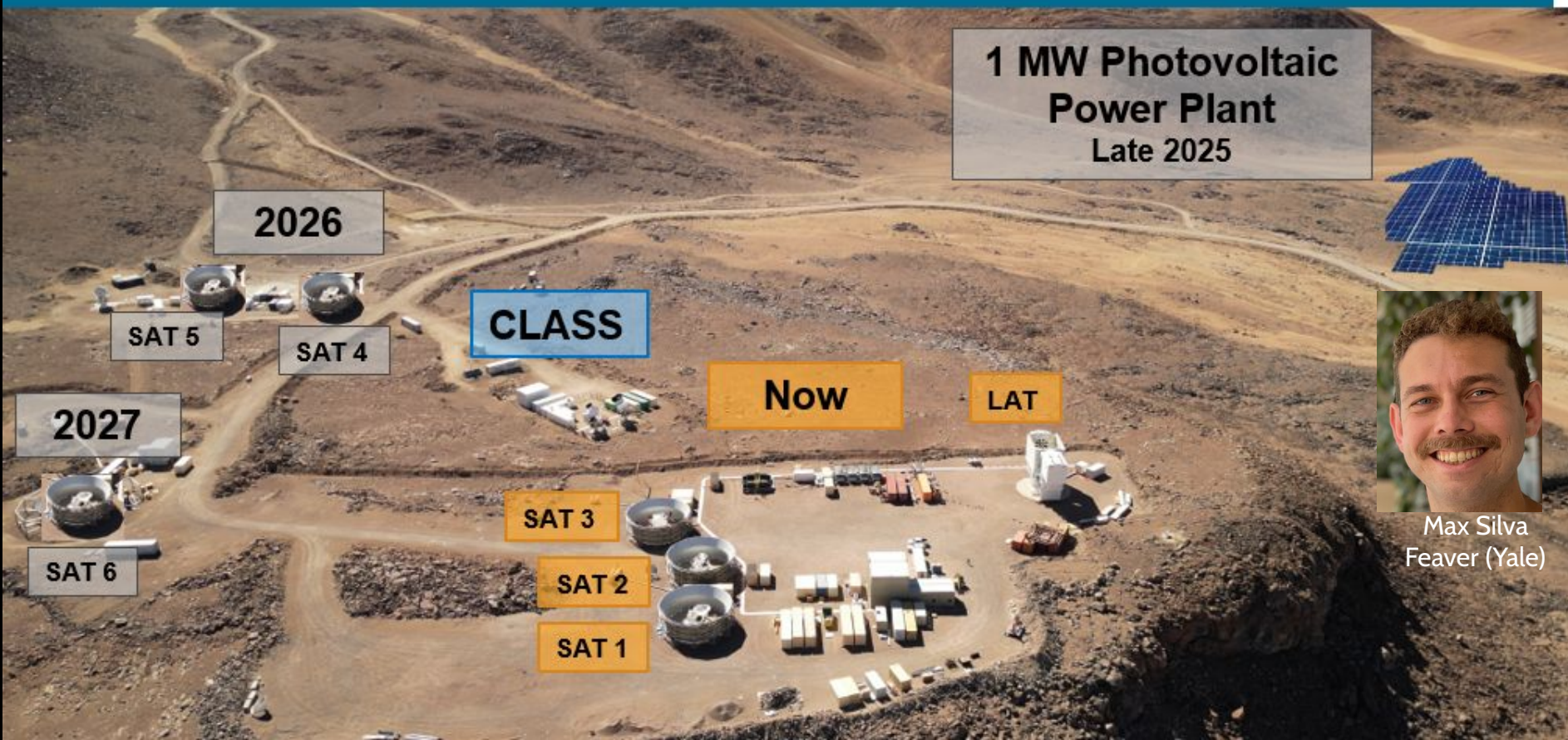


Simons Observatory



SPT3G

Timeline for SO expansions



Timeline for SO expansions

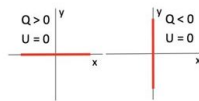
Preliminary

First Light
Mars Map
(LAT)

202

SAT 6

First maps made within ~1 month of data taken



Early
polarization
maps (SAT)

90 GHz Q-Map

Preliminary

90 GHz U-Map

Now

LAT

SAT 3

SAT 2

SAT 1



Max Silva
Feaver (Yale)

- 3d mapping of galaxies with spectroscopic surveys (e.g. DESI) measure imprint of acoustic oscillations in galaxy distribution (BAO)
- Supernovae distance-redshift relations (e.g. DES, Pantheon, Union)
- Calibrated distance ladder (e.g. SHOES, CCHP)
- Shapes of photometric galaxies (e.g. DES, LSST)

Dark energy
equation of state
 $w(a)$

Local
expansion H_0

S_8 with weak
lensing

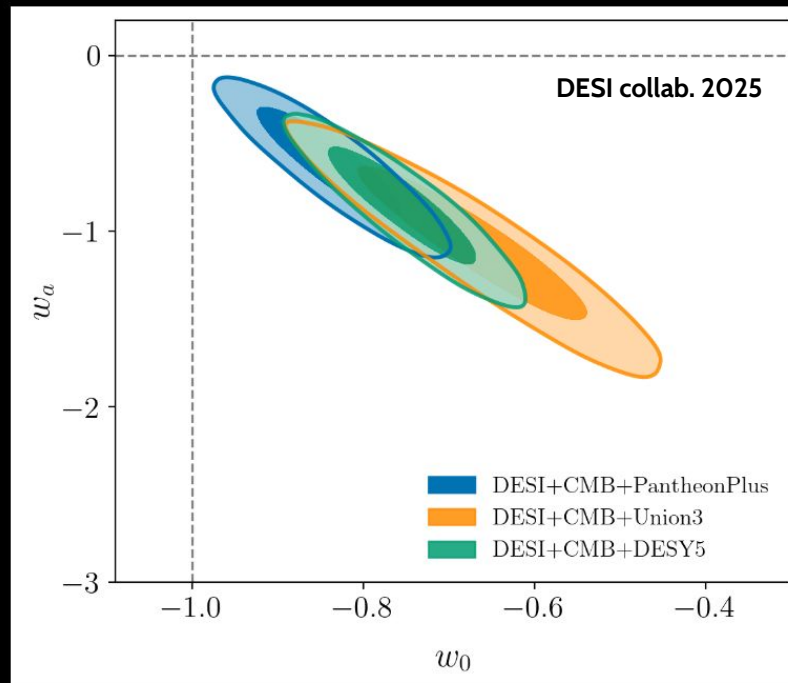


Evolving dark energy?

- 4.2σ
- Unless there is an **unknown systematic** error associated with one or more datasets, it is clear that Λ CDM is being challenged by the combination of DESI BAO with other measurements and that dynamical dark energy offers a possible solution



Uendert
Andrade
(Michigan)



Probing axion dark matter with CMB and LSS



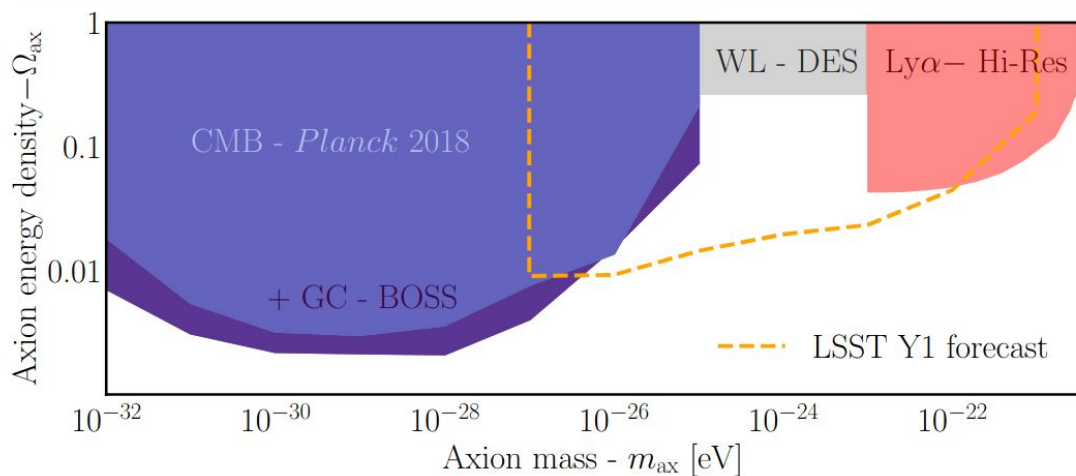
Some probes (e.g. some galaxy weak lensing) find low S_8

Could this be axion dark matter? Or complex gas physics on small scales?

Rubin LSST weak lensing + CMB gas observables will tell us!

**LSST Y1 weak lensing as a dark matter probe:
strongest limits & discovery potential**

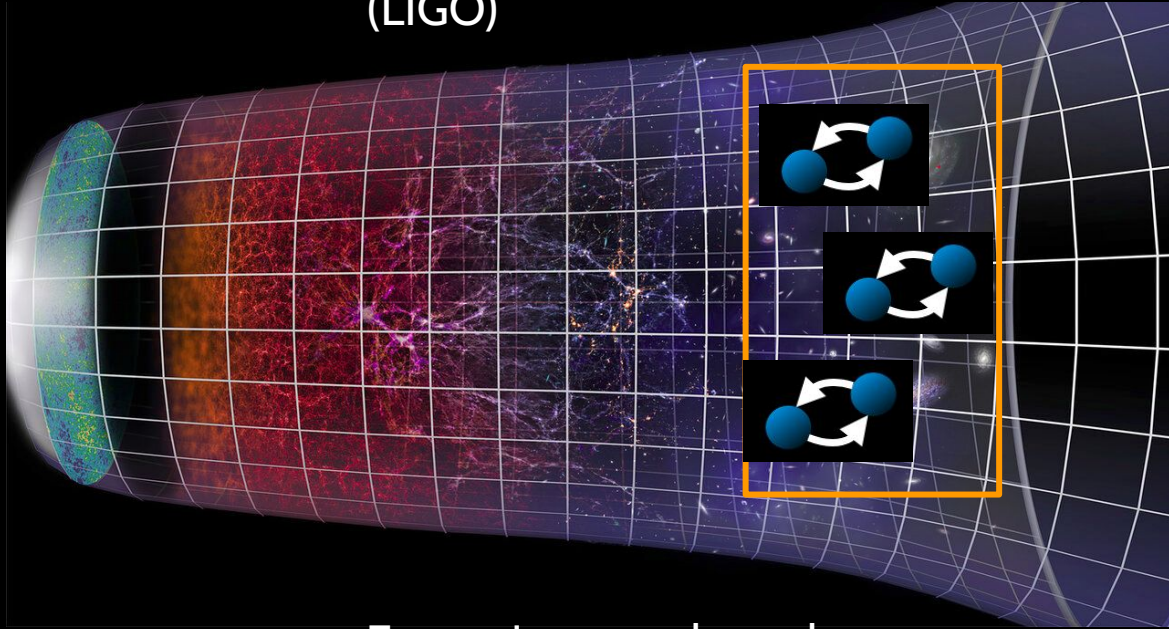
Keir Rogers
(Imperial)



Kobayashi+ (2017); Rogers+ (2021); Dentler+ (inc. Rogers, 2022); Preston, Rogers+ (2025)

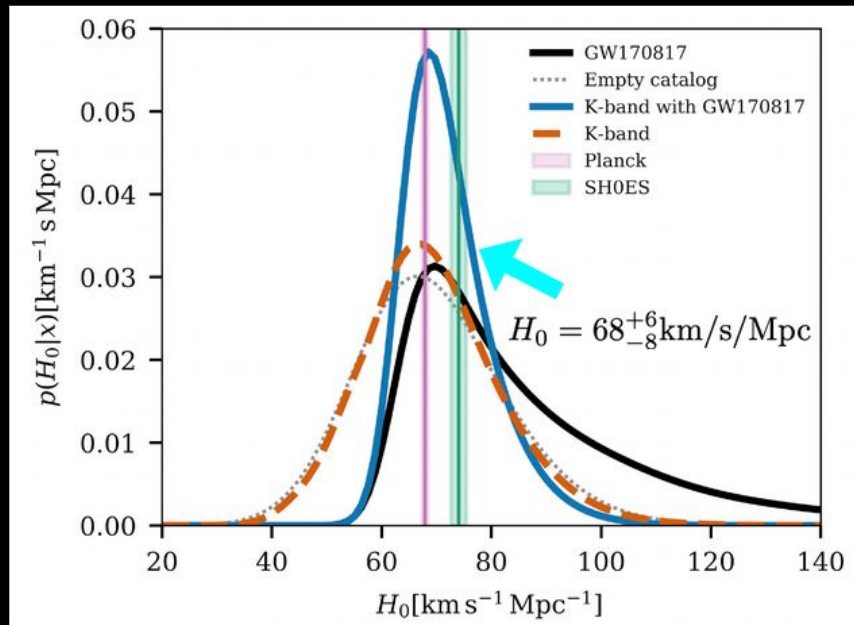
--- quoted from talk

Gravitational waves from
compact object mergers
(LIGO)



Expansion rate through
standard siren

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA standard siren measurement from GWTC-3



LVK, 2111.03604

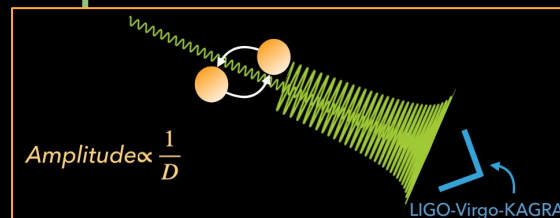
42 binary black hole mergers + 2 binary neutron star mergers
+ 2 neutron star-black hole mergers + GW190814

Results for O4a will be available in late August.



Hsin Yu-Chen
(UT Austin)

$$cz = H_0 D$$



Future cosmology

Principled ML techniques to unlock more information

Moritz
Munchmeyer
(UW-Madison)

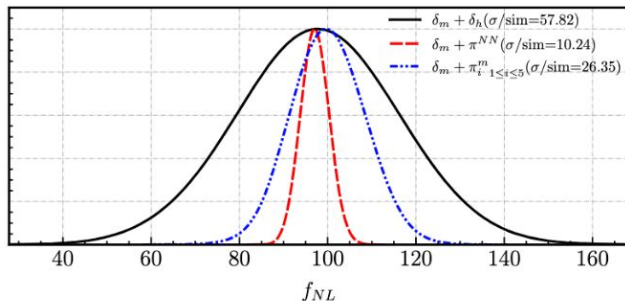


Testing primordial non-Gaussianity (e.g. f_{NL}) better than Planck is a goal for many galaxy surveys

Neural network method that could allow marginalization over training simulation assumptions gives large improvement

Result: Strong improvement in sensitivity to f_{NL}

Under simulation conditions, the new method is several times more sensitive than the “old” analytic method.



Black: analytic method without NN
Red: new NN method

Using Quijote-PNG simulations with $f_{NL} = 100$.

Caveat: In this analysis, the neural network gets to see the matter field, which is not directly observable.

Future science with CMB-S4



Jeff McMahon
(Chicago)

The new plan achieves the CMB-S4 goals with:

- Continued operations with the completed **Simons Observatory**
- Continued operations with **SPO** with the proposed SPT-3G+ camera and upgrades to BICEP/Keck
- **CMB-S4** hardware in Chile (one large and six small aperture telescopes) more than doubling the mapping speed of SO.

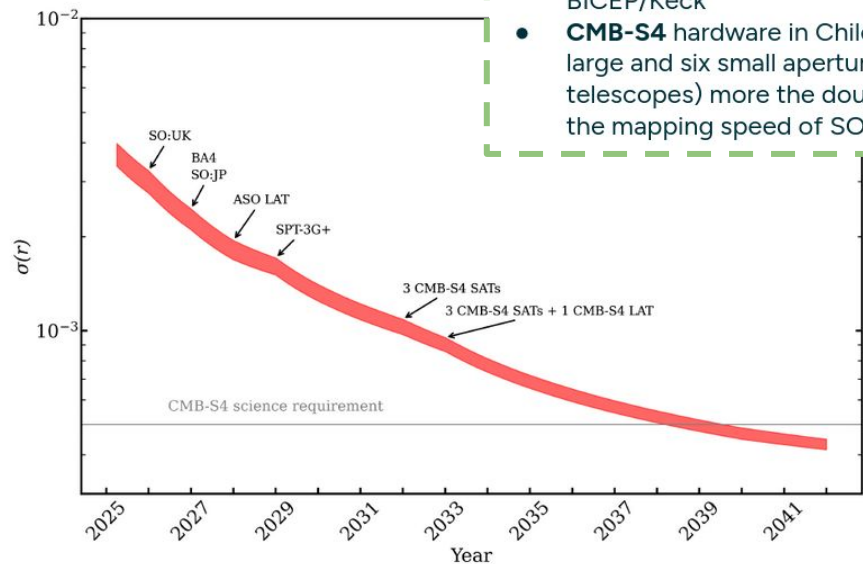
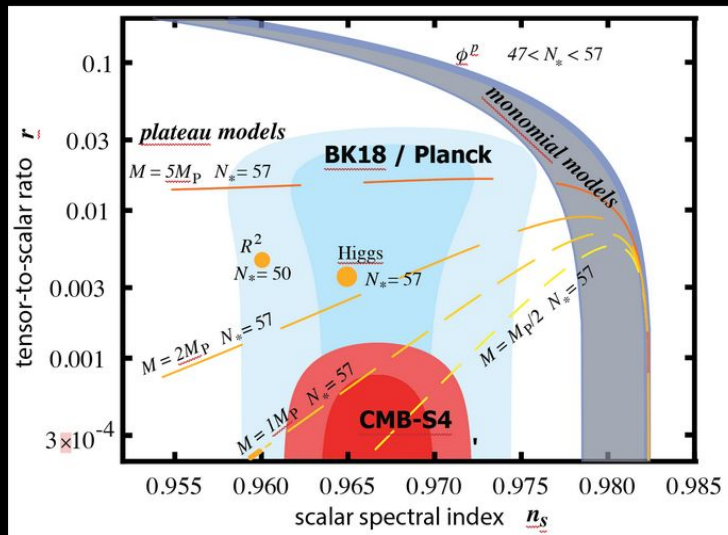


Figure 4.1: Forecast for $\sigma(r) = f(t)$ for combined observations by SPO, SO, and CMB-S4 with six SATs and one LAT. The years when additional instrumentation are assumed to be brought online are indicated.

Summary

- Precision measurements are already uncovering disagreements (esp. late times)
 - Local expansion rate (H_0)
 - Dynamical dark energy (w_0, w_a)
 - Matter clustering amplitude (S_8)
- Unclear if these are due to new physics, systematics or fluctuations
- Neutrino mass and axion dark matter, for example, need more clarity on these systematics and/or Λ CDM extensions
- New generation of CMB and galaxy surveys are now pushing fast to clarify this through joint probes
- New ways of analyzing LIGO events may help with the Hubble tension