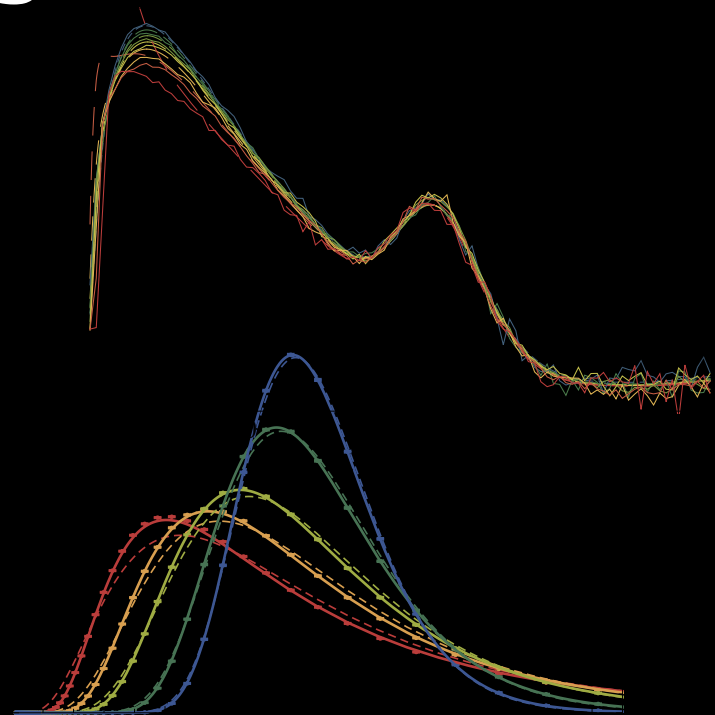
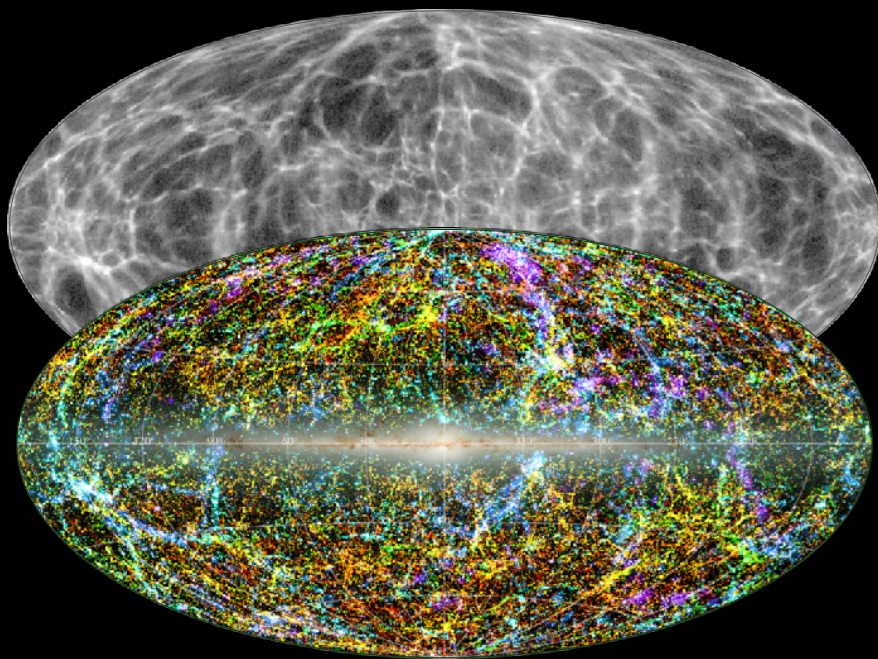


# LARGE SCALE STRUCTURE: PHYSICS, PHENOMENOLOGY, STATISTICS



**Cora Uhlemann**

Les Houches Dark Universe 2025

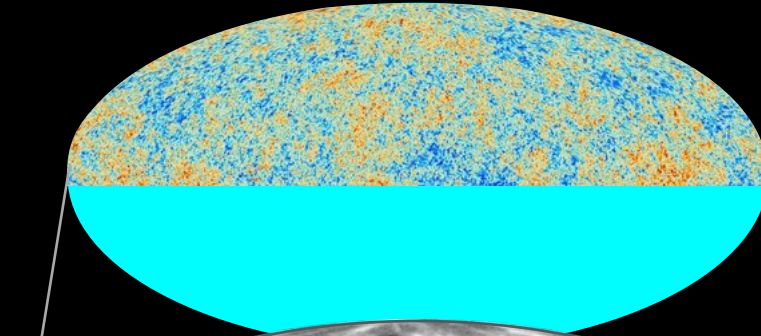


**UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD**

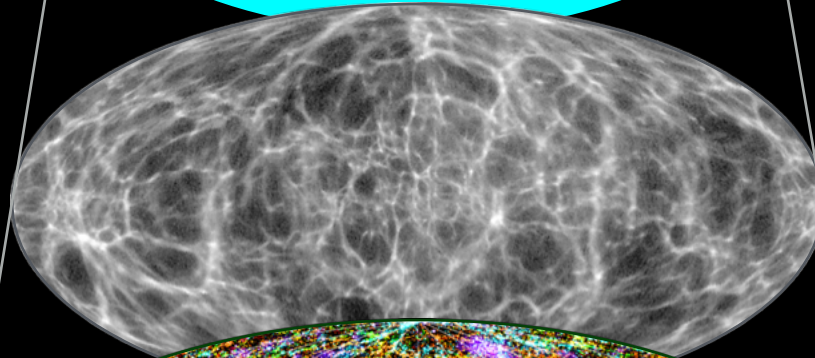
# COSMIC LABORATORY

beginning  
**nearly uniform**

**SEEDS**  
Cosmic Microwave  
Background



**SKELETON**  
Dark Matter  
(simulated)

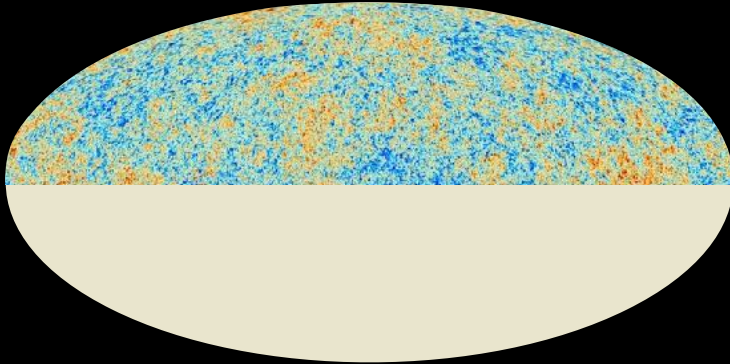


today  
**rich structure**

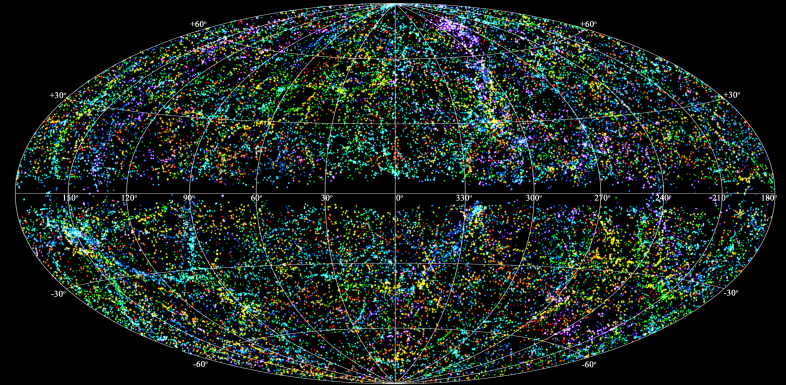
**COSMIC WEB**  
galaxies  
(observed)



# CMB -> LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURE



tiny density differences  
 $\sim 0.00001 \times$  mean density



large density differences  
 $\sim 100 \times$  mean density



density differences grow by a huge factor

# PLAN

## **Modelling dark matter dynamics**

Phase space

Eulerian Perturbation Theory

Lagrangian Perturbation Theory

Spherical Collapse

## **Clustering statistics**

Two-point statistics

Three-point statistics

One-point statistics + ...



# PLAN

## **From dark matter to observables**

Tracer bias & stochasticity

Redshift space distortions

Projected densities

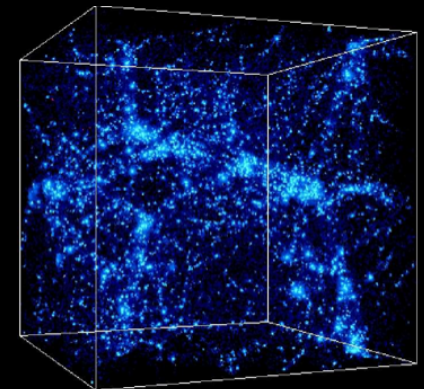
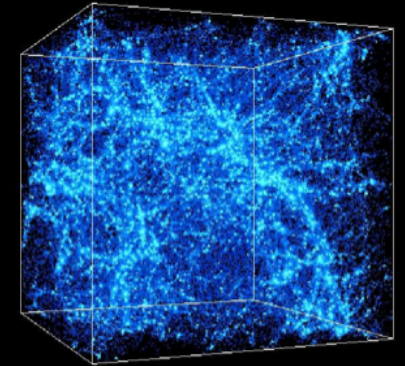
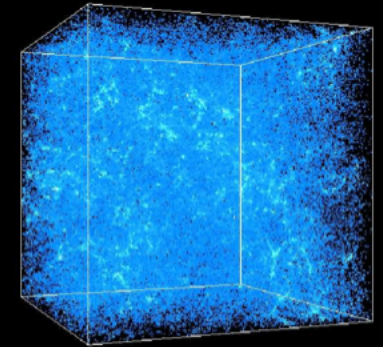
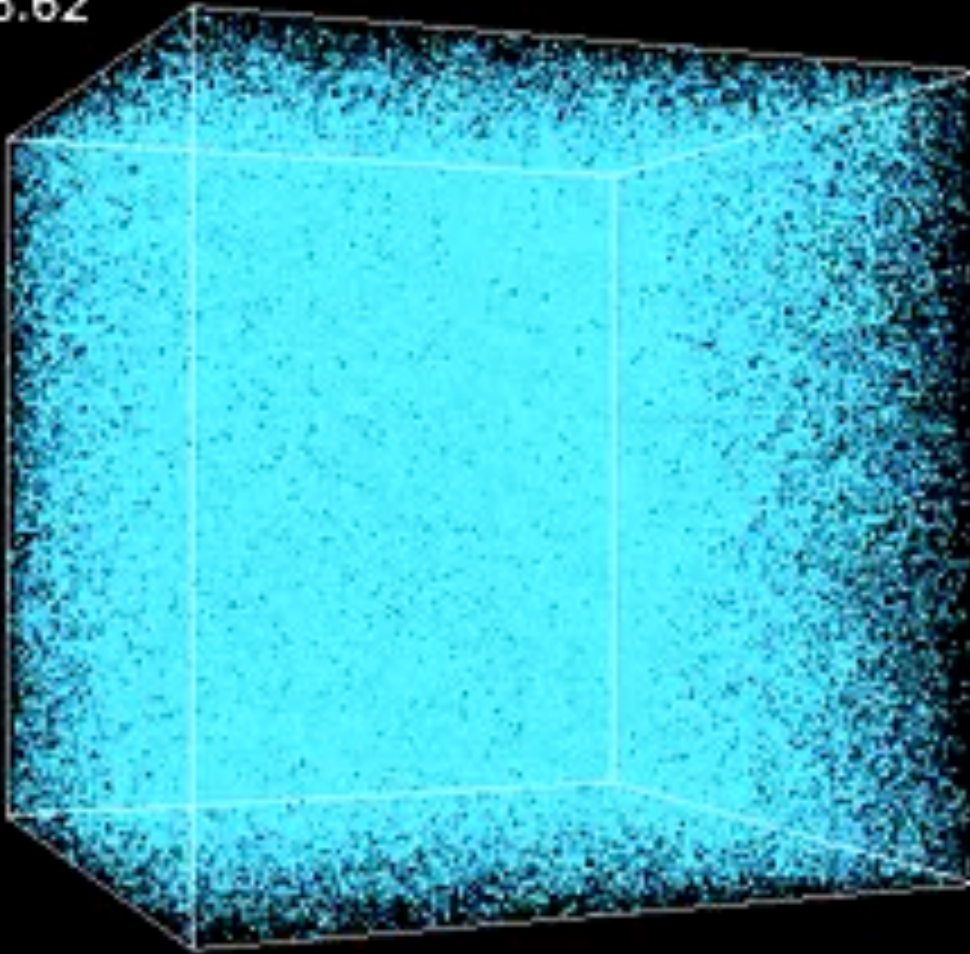
## **Large-scale structure probes**

Spectroscopic clustering

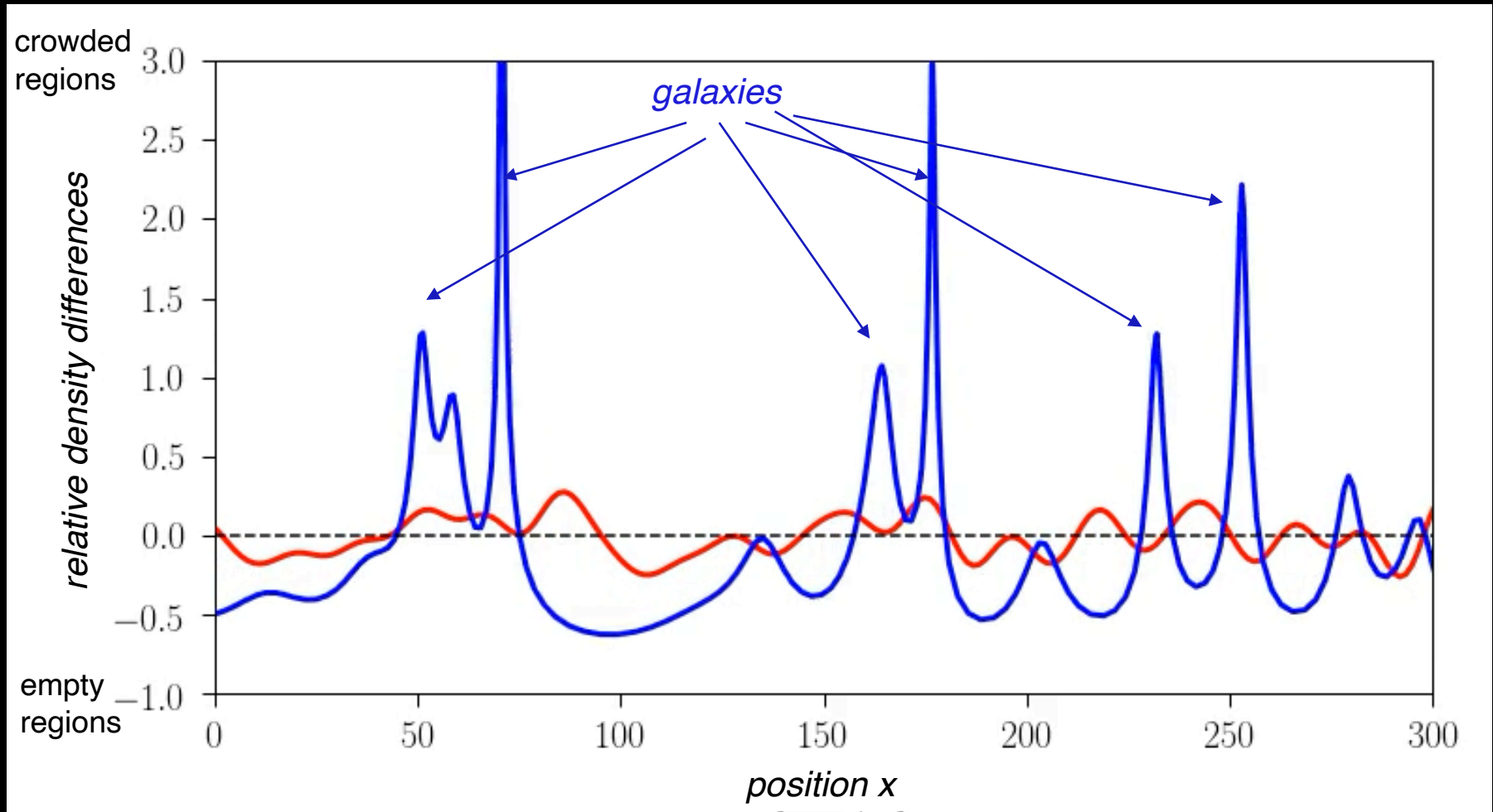
Photometric clustering & weak lensing

# CMB $\rightarrow$ LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURE

$z=28.62$



# CMB -> LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURE



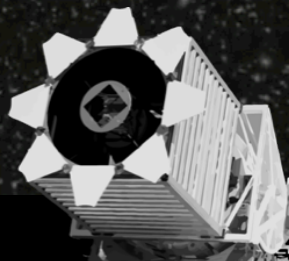
video by Oliver Friedrich



# COSMIC LABORATORY

## Sloan Digital Sky Survey

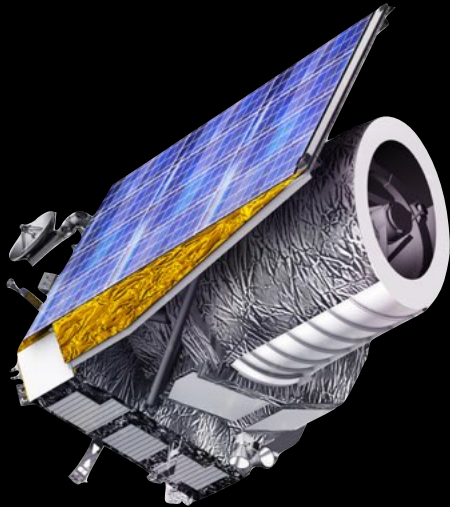
Miguel A Aragon (JHU), Mark Subbarao (Adler P.), Alex Szalay (JHU)





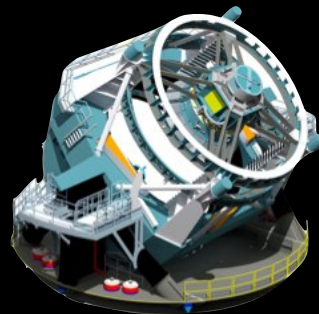
# COSMIC LABORATORY

## Euclid



~1 billion €, 1/3 sky  
10 billion years look-back  
galaxy redshifts & shapes

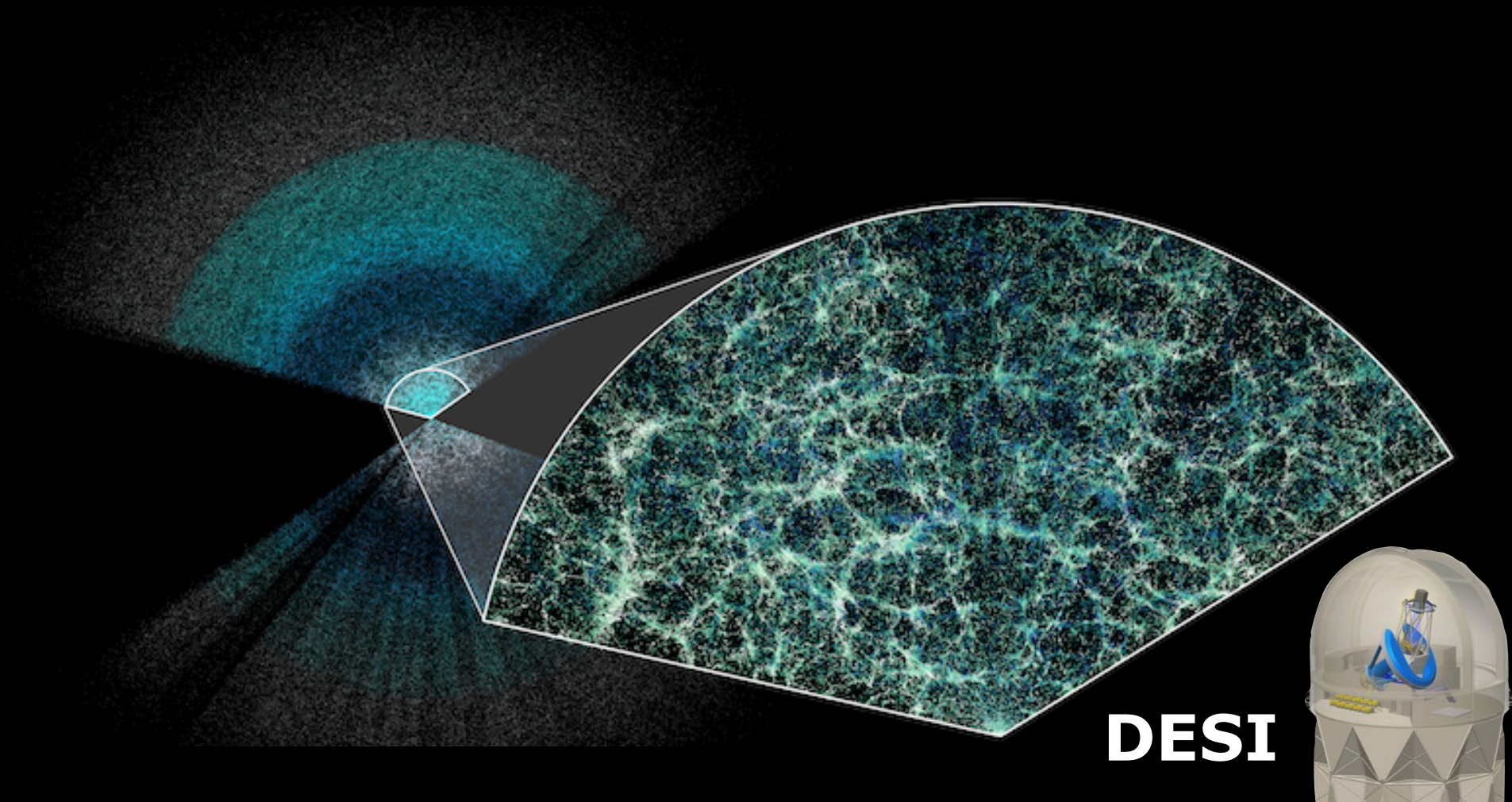
## Rubin LSST



## DESI



# COSMIC LABORATORY

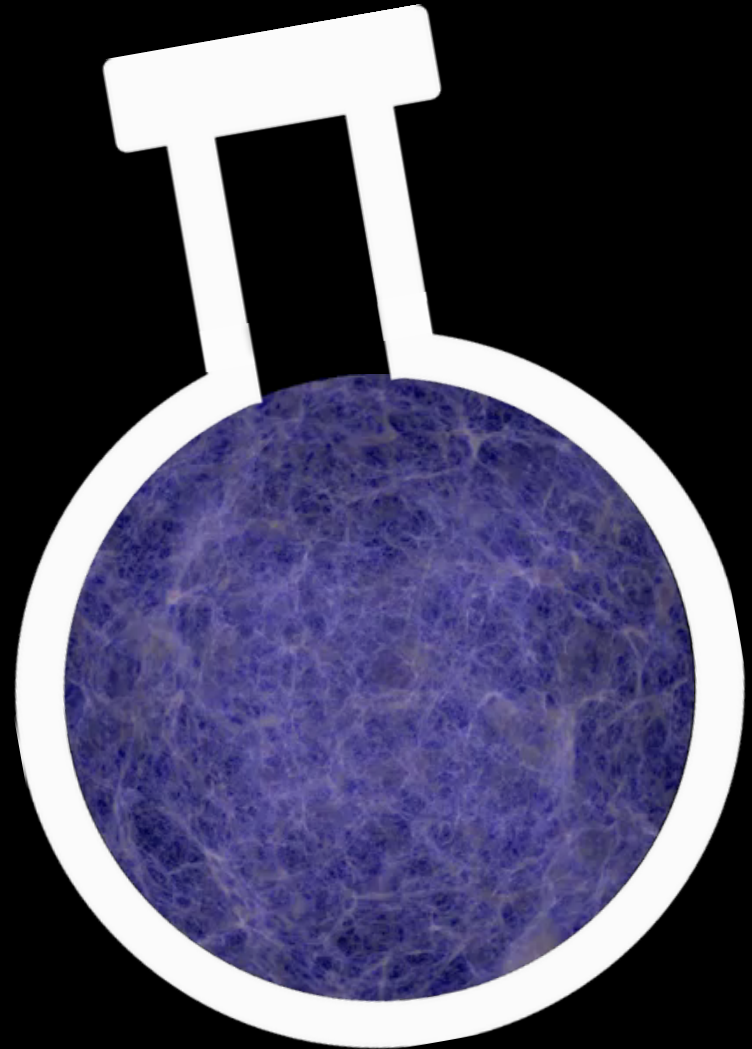


# COSMIC LABORATORY

dark energy & gravity,  
dark matter, neutrinos  
early universe

**Predict Clustering**  
**nonlinear** dynamics

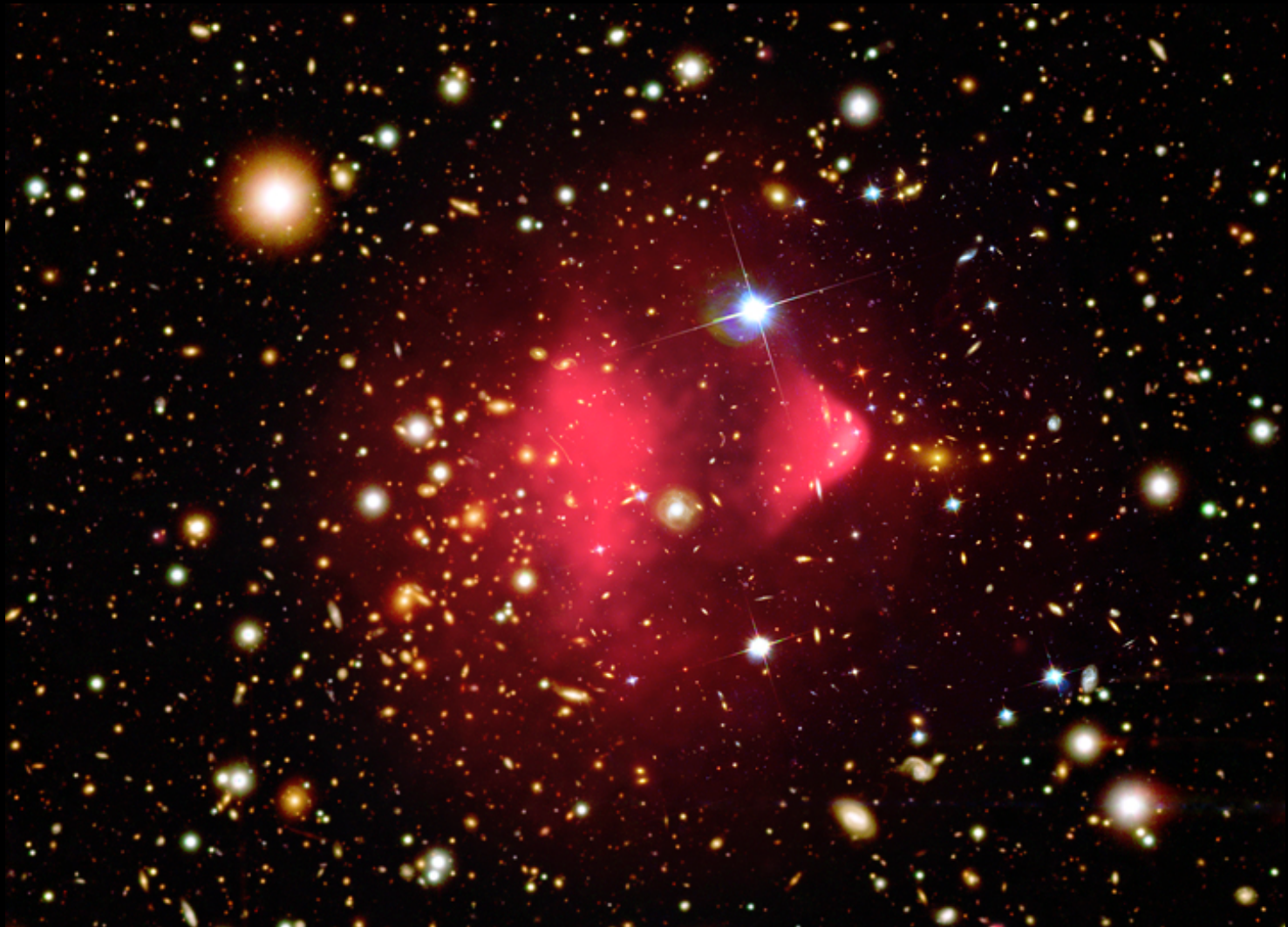
**Extract Information**  
**non-Gaussian** statistics





# **COLLISIONLESS DARK MATTER**

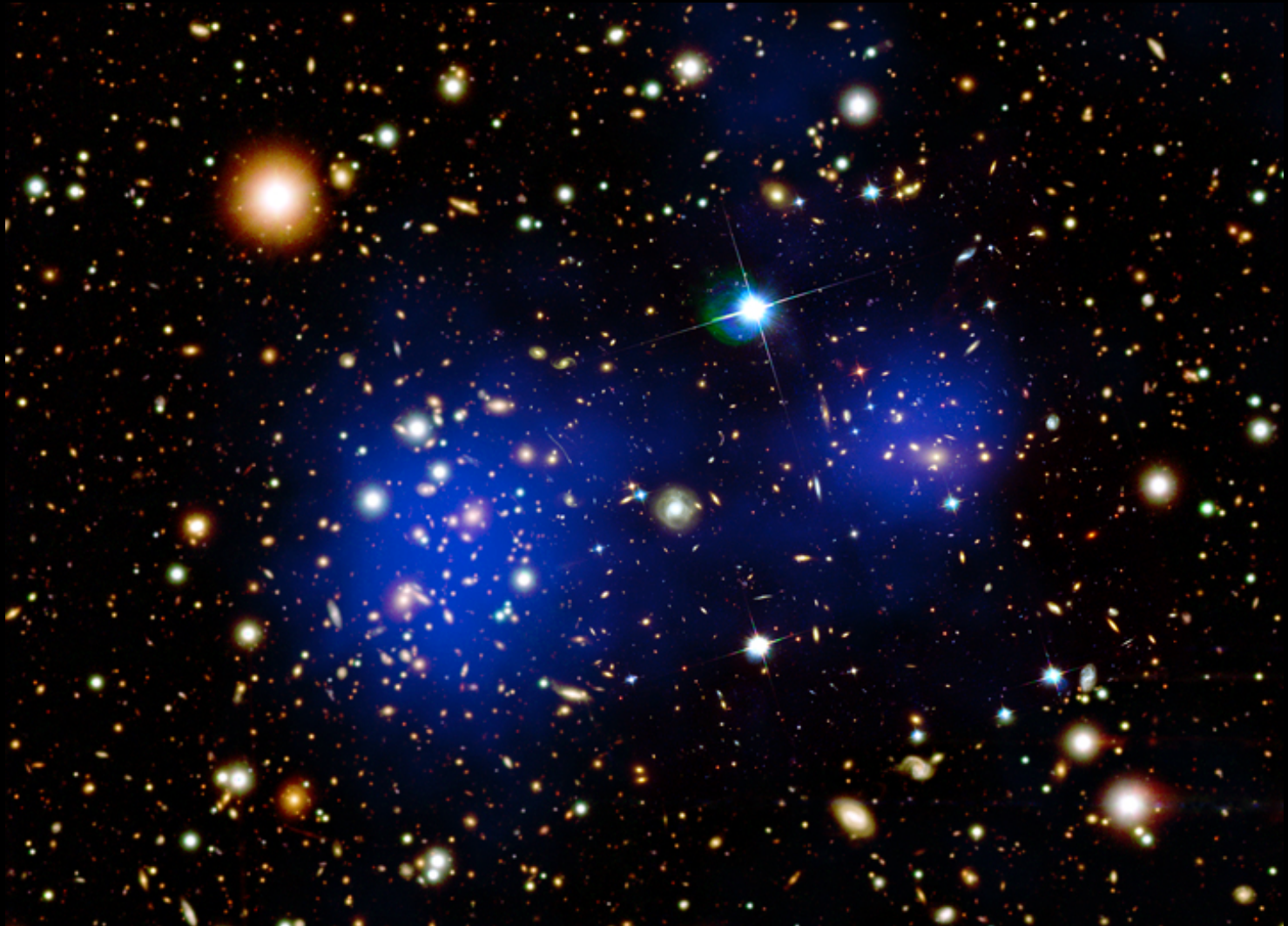
**Bullet Cluster: X-Ray (gas)**





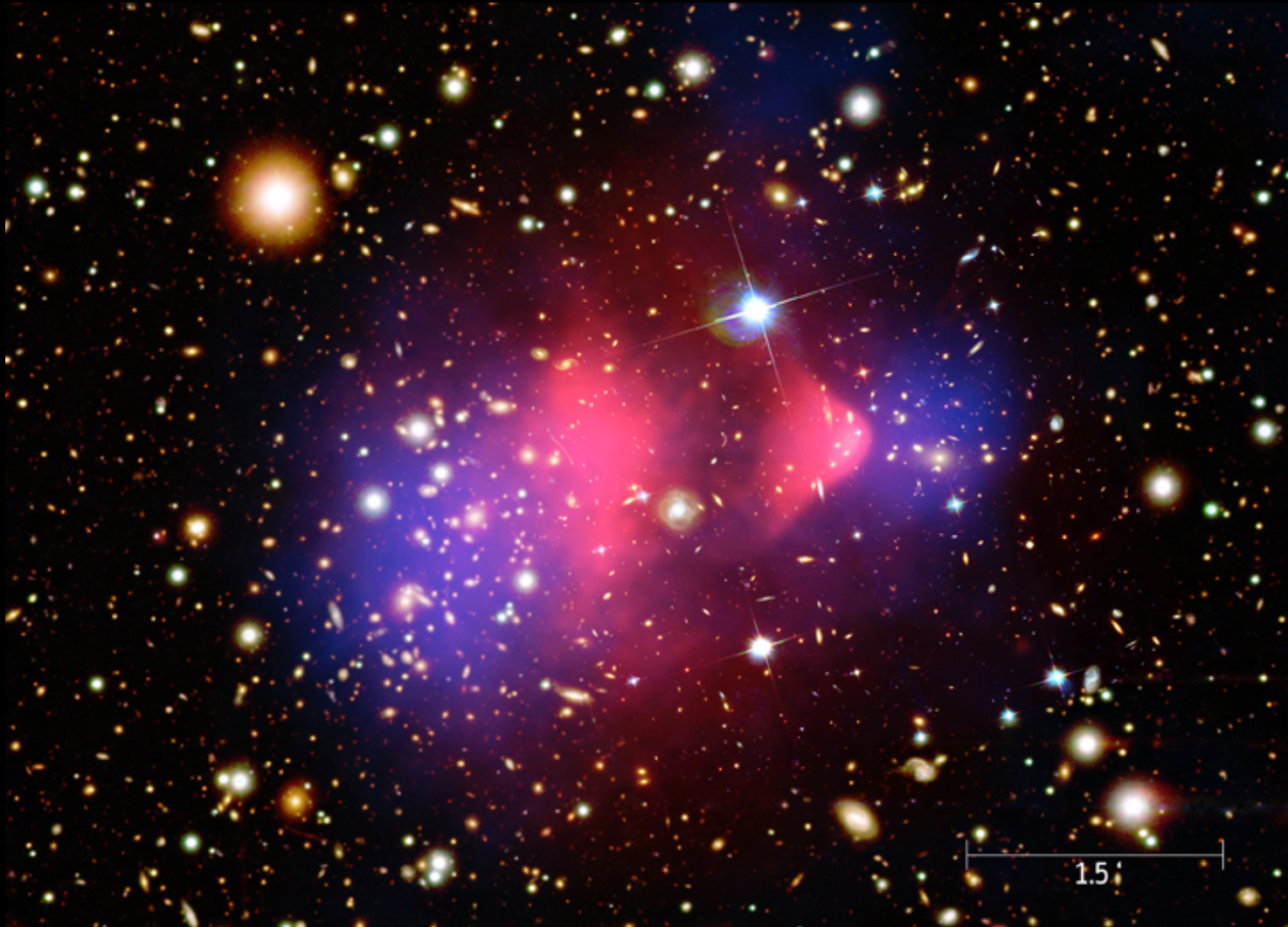
# **COLLISIONLESS DARK MATTER**

**Bullet Cluster: weak lensing (mass)**



# **COLLISIONLESS DARK MATTER**

**Bullet Cluster: X-Ray (gas) & weak lensing (mass)**





# COLD VS. WARM DARK MATTER

higher streaming velocities wash out substructure

cold dark matter



warm dark matter ( $\sim \text{keV}$ )



simulation:

Lovell, Eke, Frenk, Gao, Jenkins, Wang, White, Theuns,  
Boyarski & Ruchayskiy '12



# Cosmic Large Scale Structure

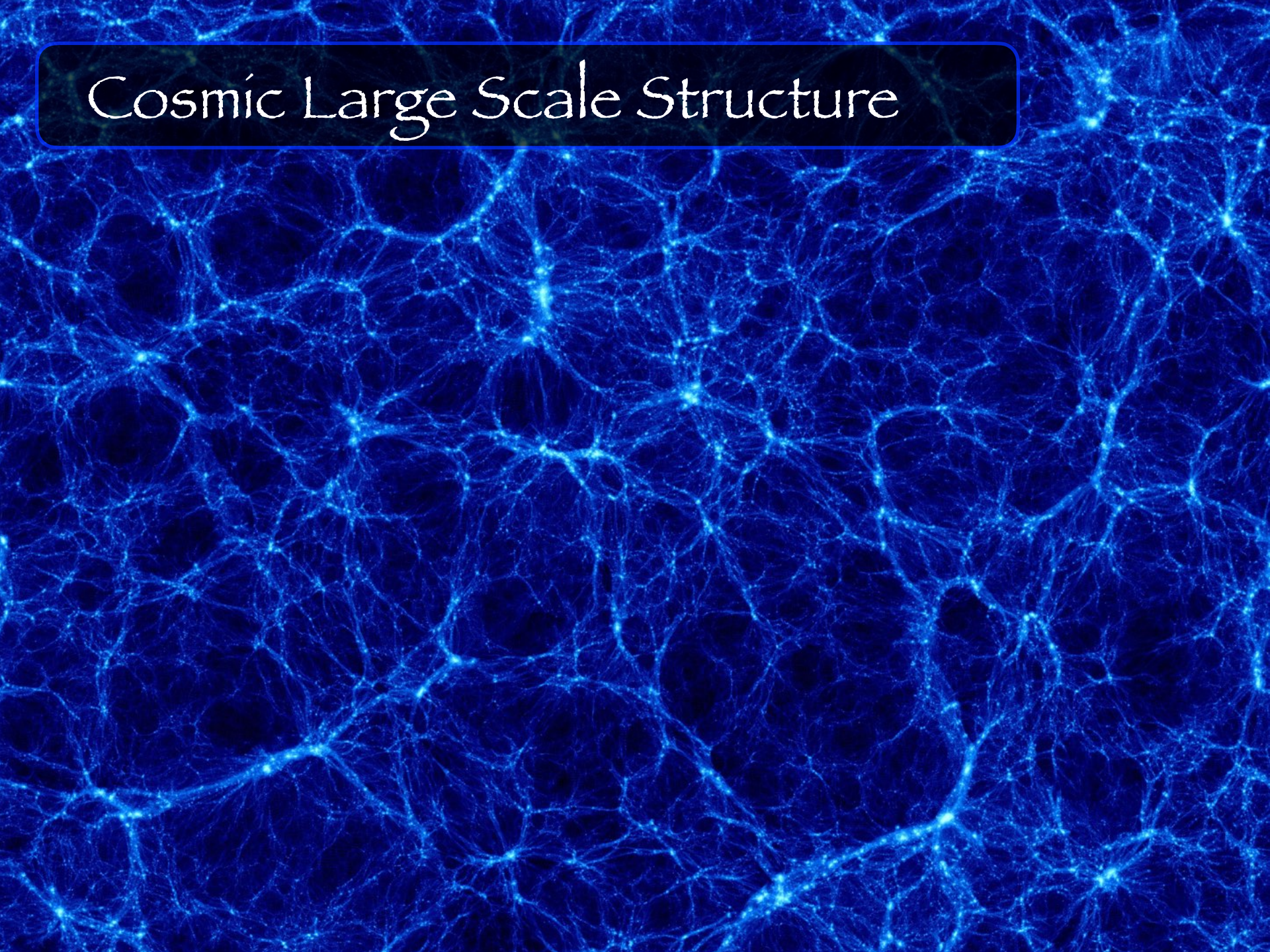
Gravitational  
Dynamics



Clustering  
Statistics

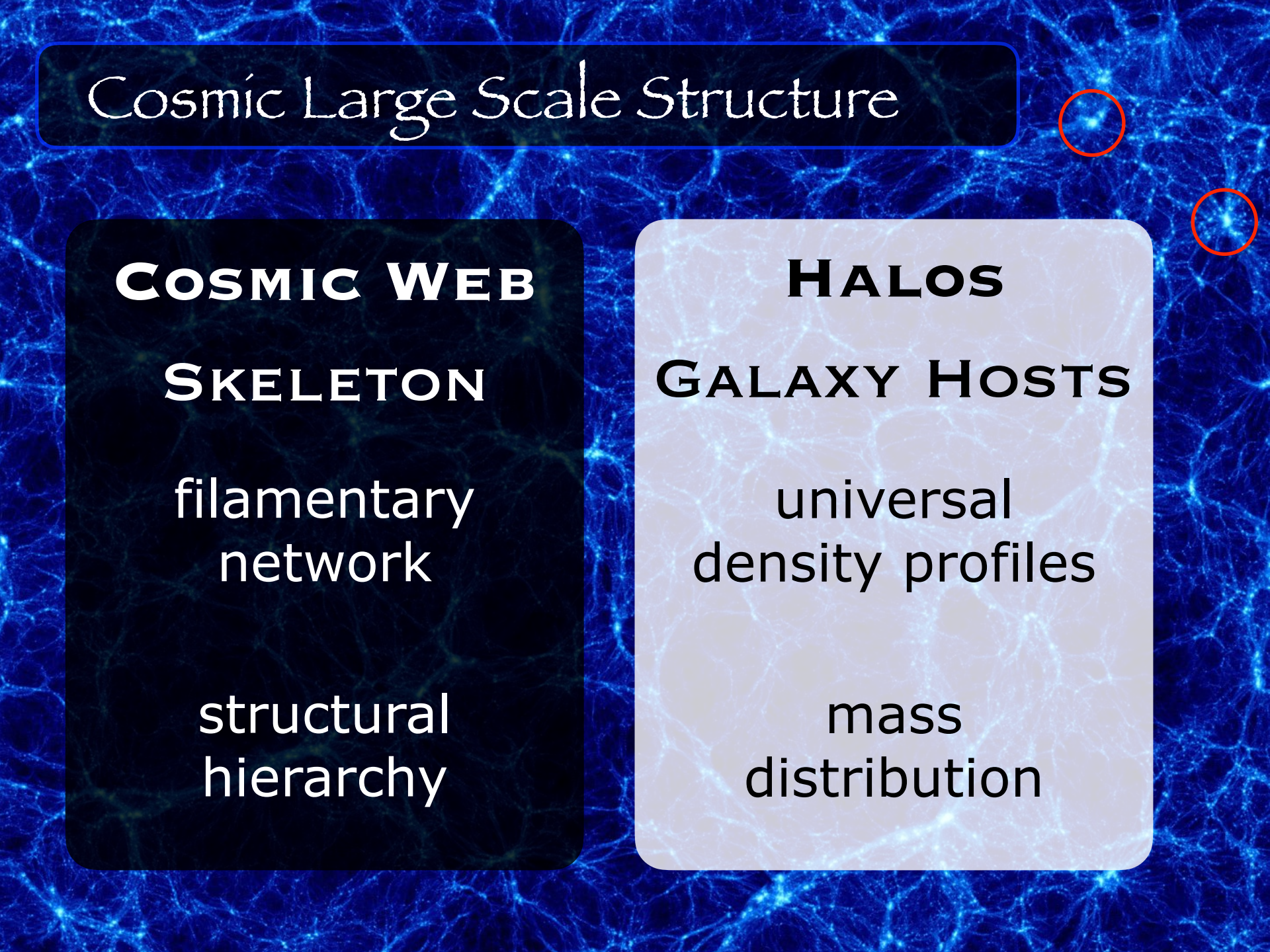


# Cosmic Large Scale Structure





# Cosmic Large Scale Structure

The background of the slide is a complex, blue-toned visualization of the cosmic web, showing a dense network of filaments and nodes. Two specific nodes are highlighted with red circles in the upper right quadrant.

## **COSMIC WEB**

### **SKELETON**

filamentary  
network

structural  
hierarchy

## **HALOS**

### **GALAXY HOSTS**

universal  
density profiles

mass  
distribution

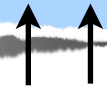


# KEY PROBLEM

## DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

Vlasov-Poisson equation

$$\partial_t f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) = \{H, f\}$$



3+3 dim

$$\Delta V(\mathbf{x}, t) \propto \int f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) d^3p - 1$$

**nonlinear**

$$\partial_t f = -\frac{\mathbf{p}}{a^2 m} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f + m \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} V \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} f = \{H, f\}$$

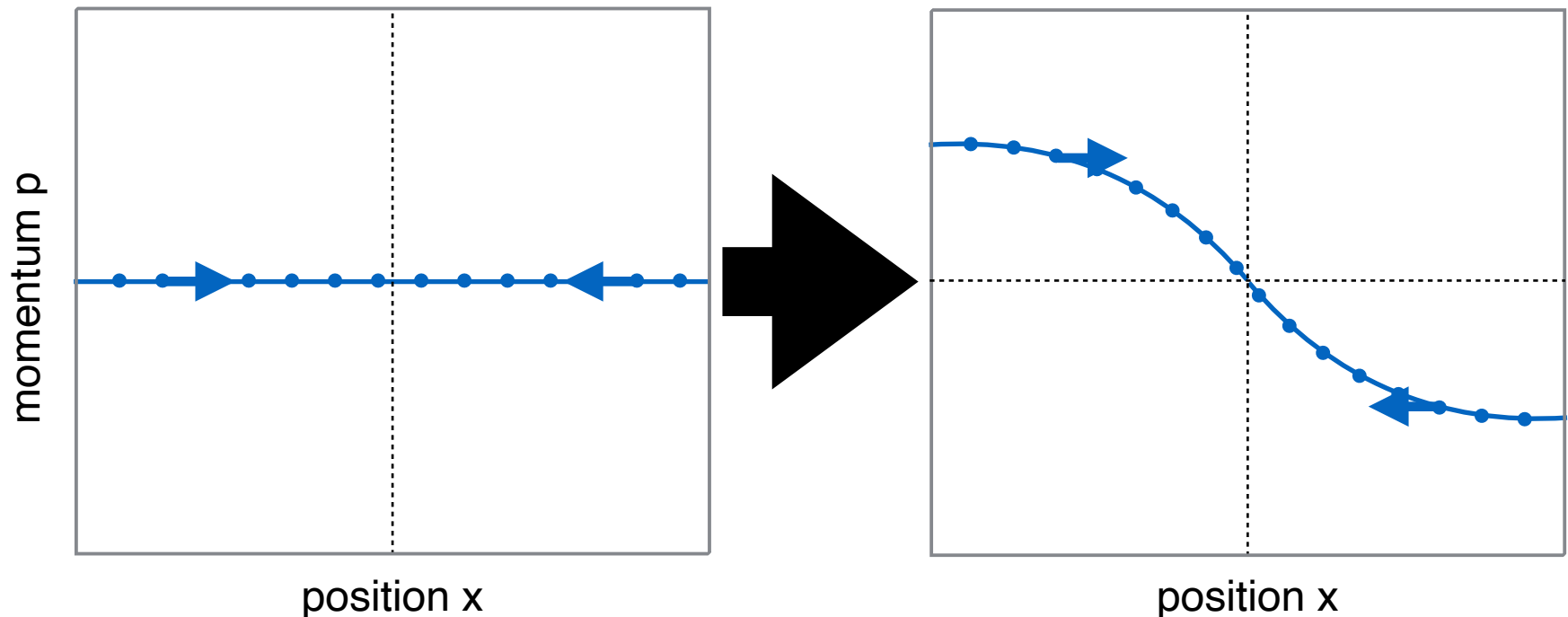
cold initial conditions: flat sheet

# PHENOMENOLOGY

## DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

perfect fluid: single stream

$$f_{\text{fl}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) = \rho(\mathbf{x}) \delta_D(\mathbf{p} - m \nabla \phi(\mathbf{x}))$$





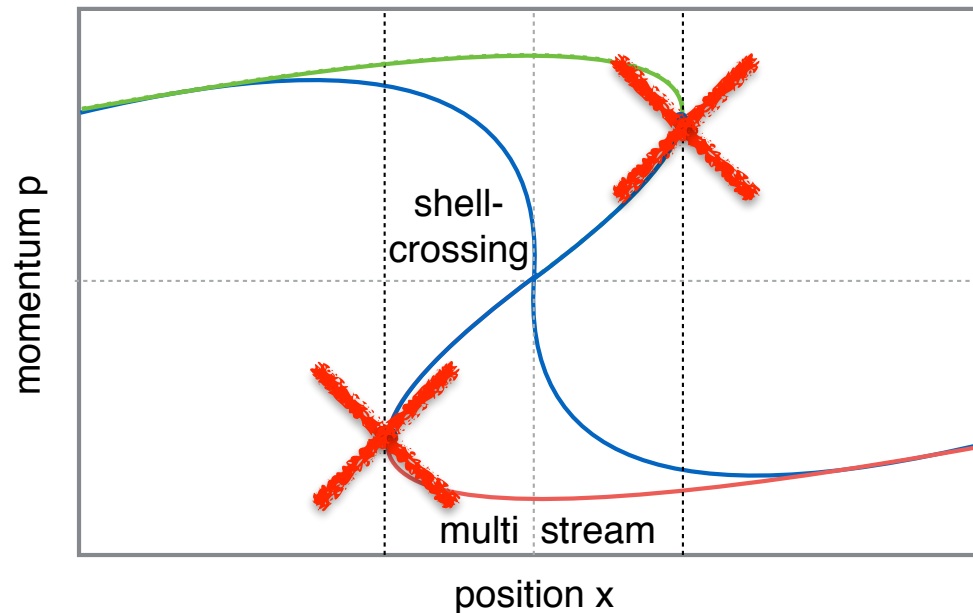
# PHENOMENOLOGY

## DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

perfect fluid: single stream

$$f_{\text{fl}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) = \rho(\mathbf{x}) \delta_D(\mathbf{p} - m \nabla \phi(\mathbf{x}))$$

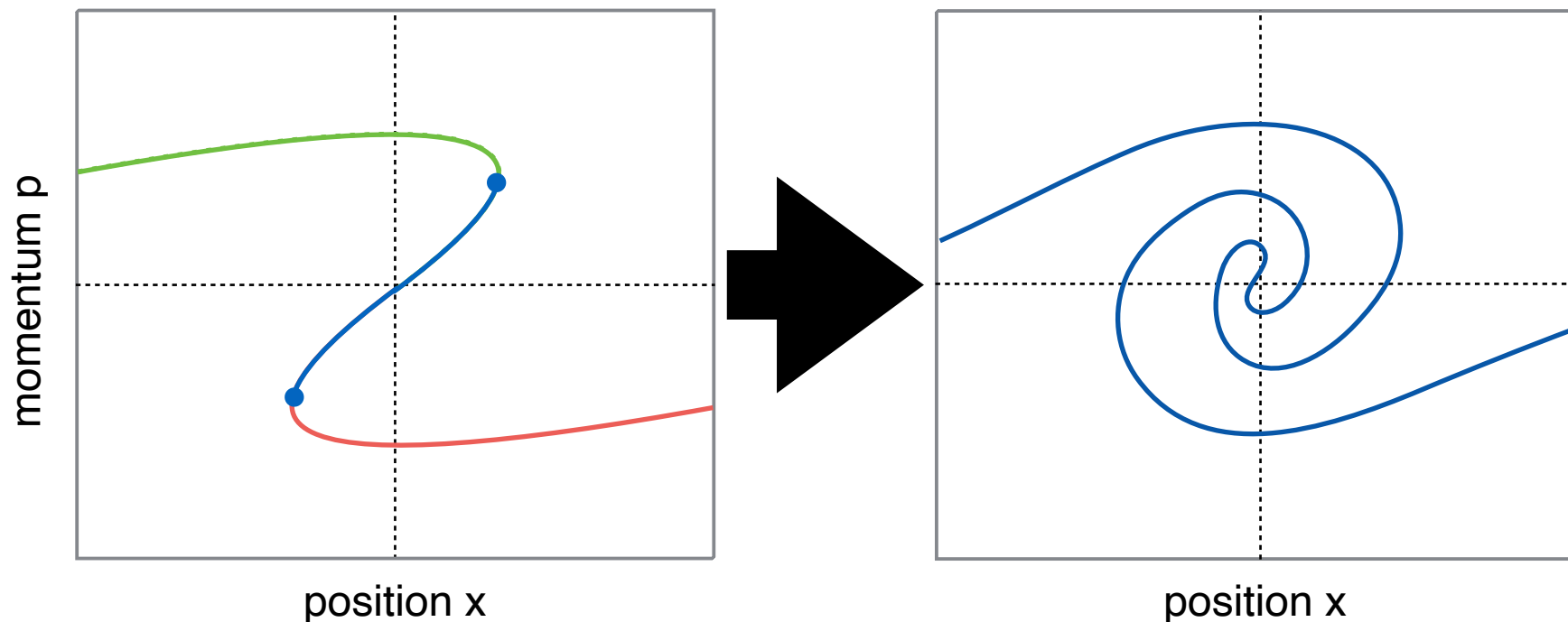
fails at shell-crossing



# PHENOMENOLOGY

## DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

beyond perfect fluid: multi-stream

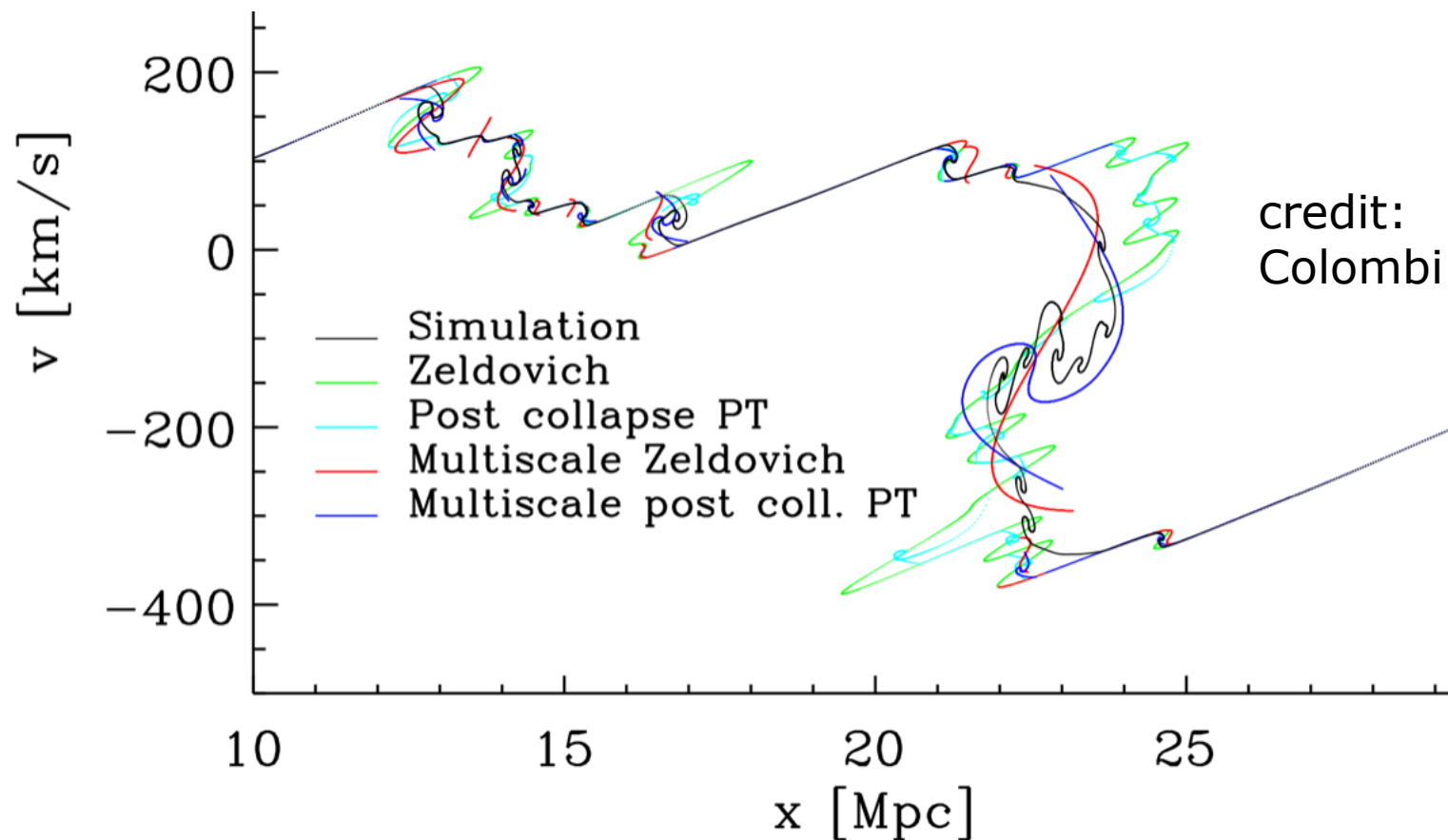




# PHENOMENOLOGY

## DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

large-scale view



credit:  
Colombi & Taruya

# CHALLENGES

**NUMERICAL**  
**N PARTICLES**

large-scales

computational power

limited sampling

**ANALYTICAL**  
**2 FIELDS**

small-scales

perturbative accuracy

limited features



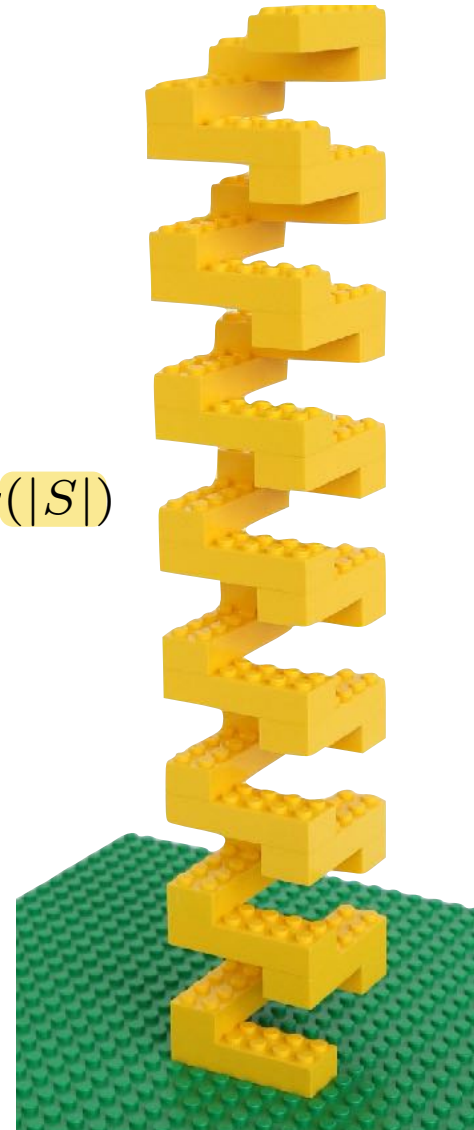
# KEY PROBLEM

## CUMULANT HIERARCHY

$$C_{i_1 \dots i_n}^{(n)}(\mathbf{x}) \ni \left\{ \int d^3 p p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_n} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \right\}_{m \leq n}$$

density, velocity, ...

$$\partial_t C^{(n)} \simeq \nabla \cdot C^{(n+1)} + \sum_{|S|=0}^n C^{(n+1-|S|)} \cdot \nabla C^{(|S|)}$$

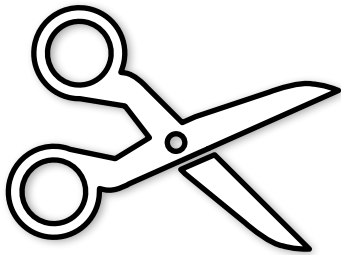


# KEY PROBLEM

## CUMULANT HIERARCHY

infinite & coupled

$$\partial_t C^{(n)} \simeq \nabla \cdot C^{(n+1)} + \sum_{|S|=0}^n C^{(n+1-|S|)} \cdot \nabla C^{(|S|)}$$



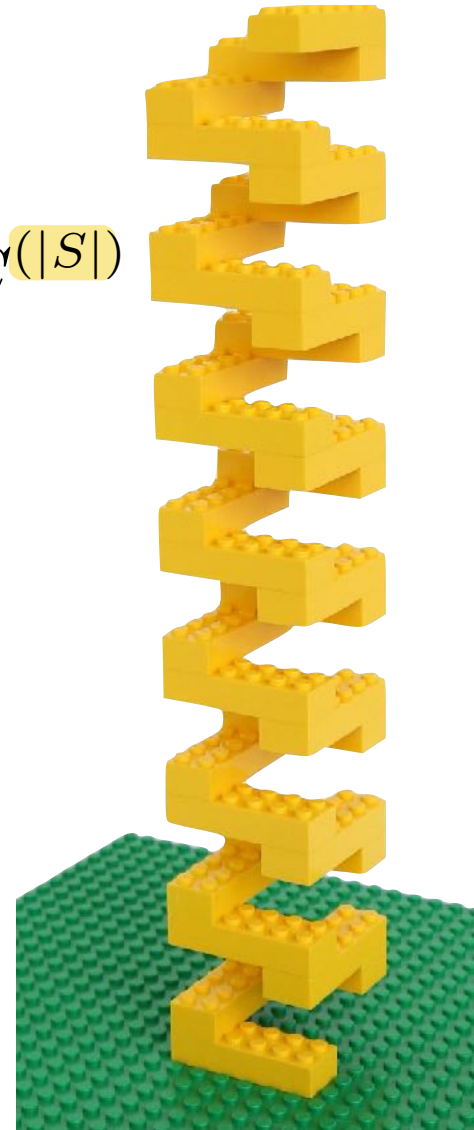
perfect fluid

$$C^{(n \geq 2)} \neq 0$$



shell-crossing

Pueblas & Scoccimarro `08



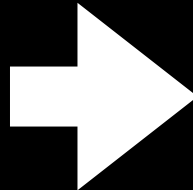
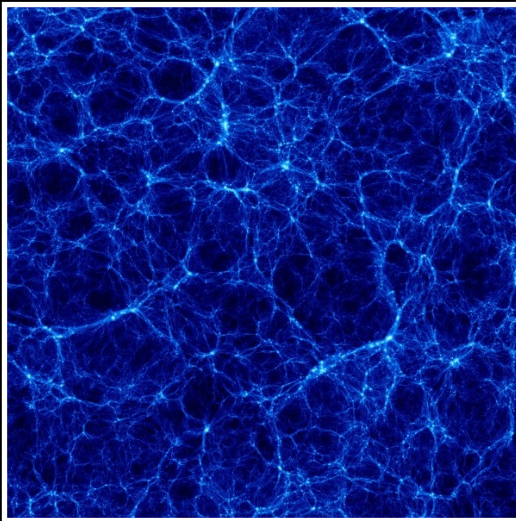
# DARK MATTER DYNAMICS

predictions require density contrast

**dark matter as chocolate (effective fluid)**

**Eulerian:** expand density & velocity

**Lagrangian:** displace particles (or fluid elements)





# EULERIAN DYNAMICS

**density**  $\rho(\tau, x) = \bar{\rho}(\tau)(1 + \delta(\tau, x))$

**velocity**  $v(\tau, x)$  **nonlinear** **initially small**

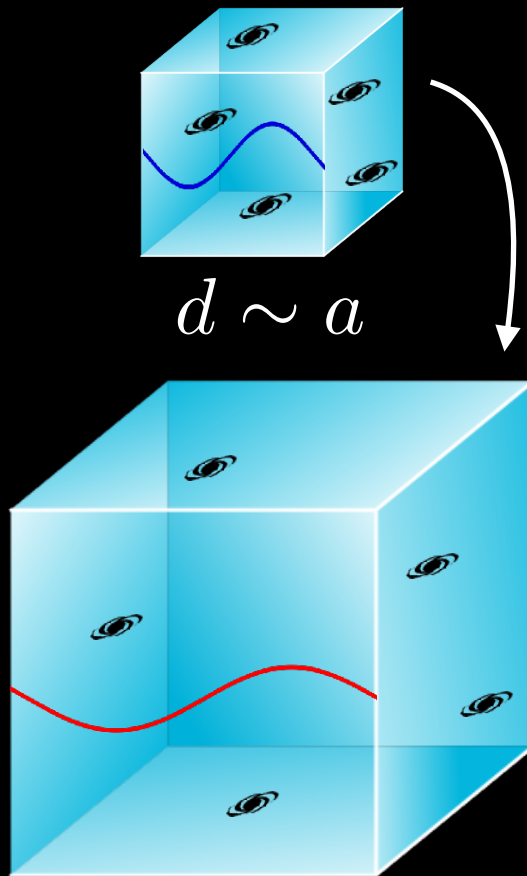
density  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \delta = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [(1 + \cancel{\delta})v]$

velocity  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} v = \cancel{-v \frac{\partial}{\partial x} v} - \mathcal{H}(\tau)v - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} V$

gravity  
force  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} V = \frac{3}{2} \Omega_m \mathcal{H}^2(\tau) \delta$

# EXPANSION DILUTES

distances grow, energy density = energy/volume



**Radiation**  $\rho_\gamma \sim a^{-4}$   
volume & wavelength grows

**Matter**  $\rho_m \sim a^{-3}$   
volume grows

**Cosmological Constant**  
 $\rho_\Lambda \sim \text{const.}$

3  
E  
p  
o  
c  
h  
s

# DARK ENERGY AT LAST

**$\Lambda$**

**Cosmological Constant**

$$\rho_{\Lambda} \sim \text{const.} \quad w_0 = -1$$

**Dark Energy**  $\rho_{\text{DE}} \sim a^{1+w(a)}$

equation of state (many models)

**$w_0 w_a$**

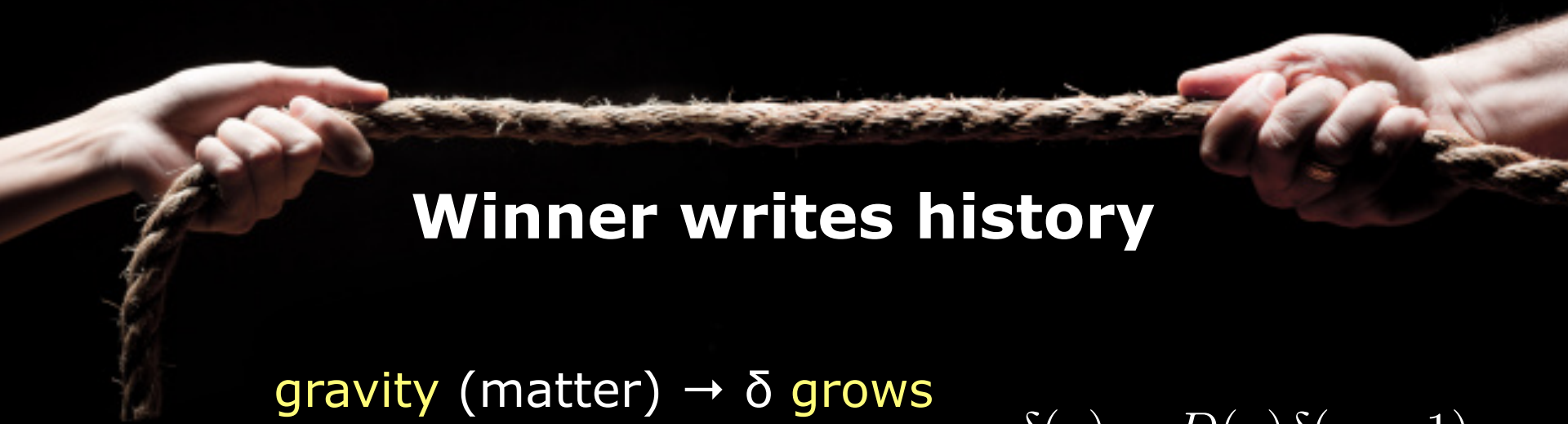
parametrise  $w(a) = w_0 + w_a(1 - a)$



# COSMIC TUG OF WAR

density contrast  $1 + \delta(x, t) = \frac{\rho(x, t)}{\bar{\rho}(t)}$

$$\ddot{\delta} + [\text{expansion}] \dot{\delta} + [\text{pressure} - \text{gravity}] \delta = 0$$

A close-up photograph of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, firmly gripping a thick, brown, braided rope. The hands are positioned as if they are about to start a tug-of-war. The background is dark, making the rope and hands stand out.

**Winner writes history**

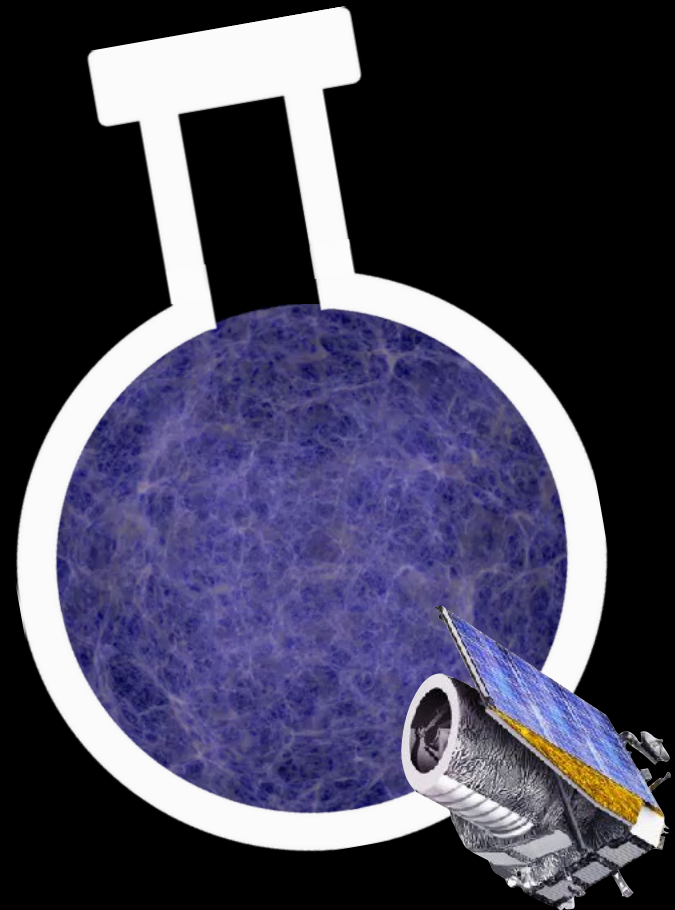
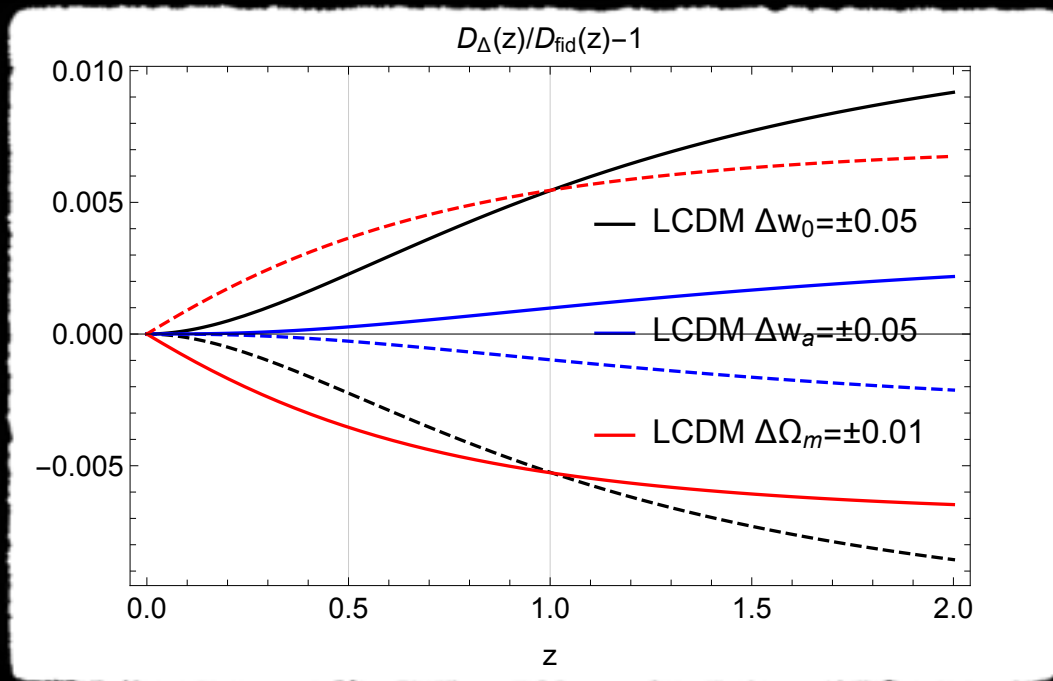
gravity (matter)  $\rightarrow \delta$  grows  $\delta(a) \sim D(a)\delta(a=1)$

expansion (dark energy)  $\rightarrow \delta$  freezes

# LINEAR GROWTH

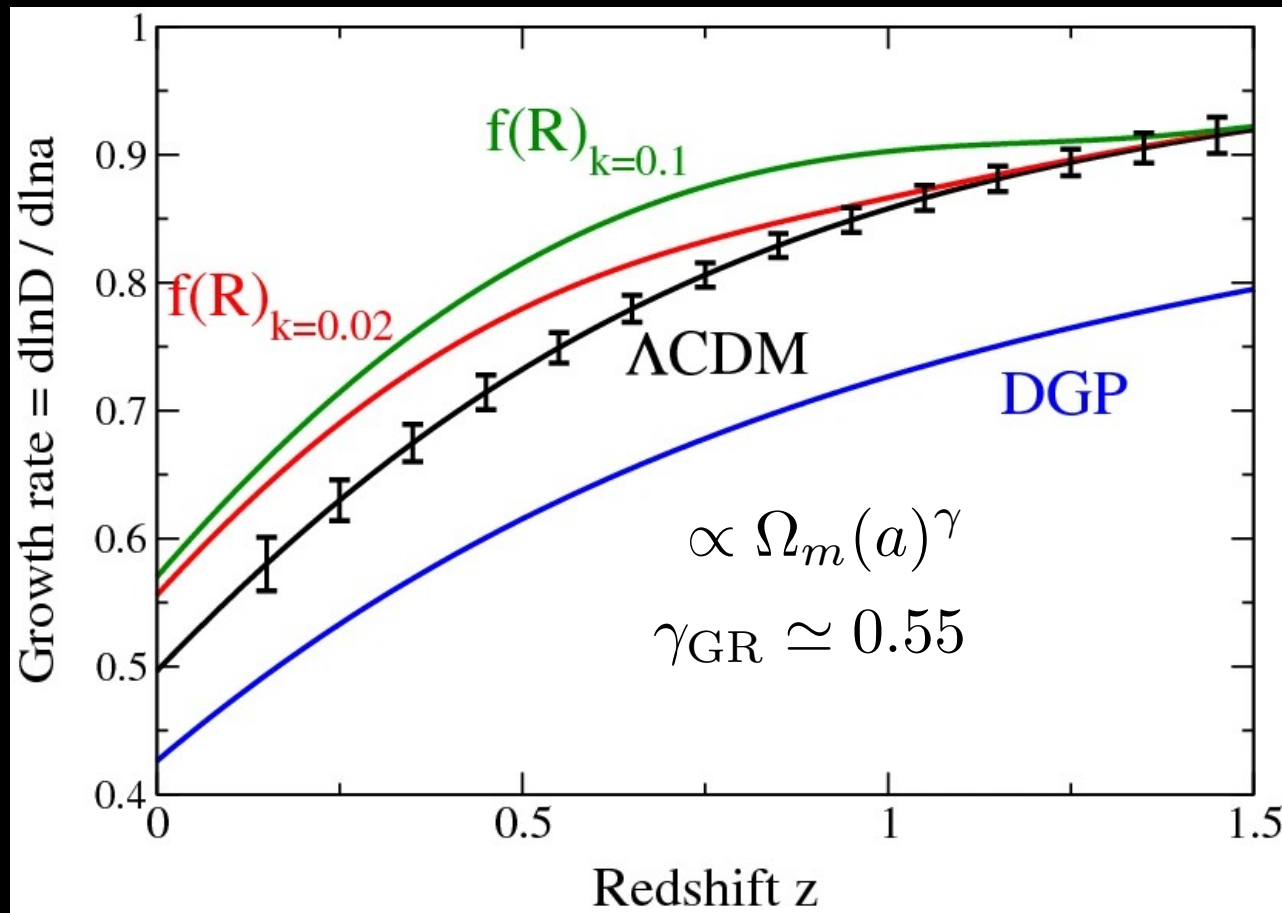
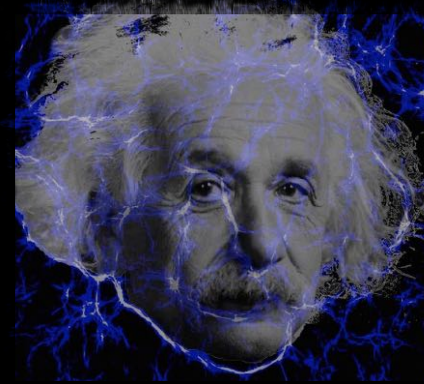
records physics on large scales

measurable **galaxy clustering** & **weak lensing**



# MODIFIED GRAVITY SCALARS

fifth force affects **linear** structure growth  
depends on time and scale



credit: review  
Ishak `19