

Title: Determining dark energy: Observing Lambda or inhomogeneity?

Date: May 18, 2010 02:45 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/10050016>

Abstract: I consider some of the issues we face in trying to understand dark energy. Huge fluctuations in the unknown dark energy equation of state can be hidden in distance data, so I argue that model-independent tests which signal if the cosmological constant is wrong are valuable. These can be constructed to remove degeneracies with the cosmological parameters. Gravitational effects can play an important role. Even small inhomogeneity clouds our ability to say something definite about dark energy. I discuss how the averaging problem confuses our potential understanding of dark energy by considering the backreaction from density perturbations to second-order in the concordance model: this effect leads to at least a 10\% increase in the dynamical value of the deceleration parameter, and could be significantly higher owing to a UV divergence. Large Hubble-scale inhomogeneity has not been investigated in detail, and could conceivably be the cause of apparent cosmic acceleration. I discuss void models which defy the Copernican principle in our Hubble patch can explain acceleration through inhomogeneous cosmic curvature. These can fit the small scale CMB, and can explain the observed primordial lithium abundances - a niggling 4 or 5 sigma discrepancy in the concordance model. I describe how we can potentially rule out these models, and so provide an important test for the existence of dark energy.

# determining dark energy

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Astrophysics, Cosmology & Gravitation Centre  
University of Cape Town



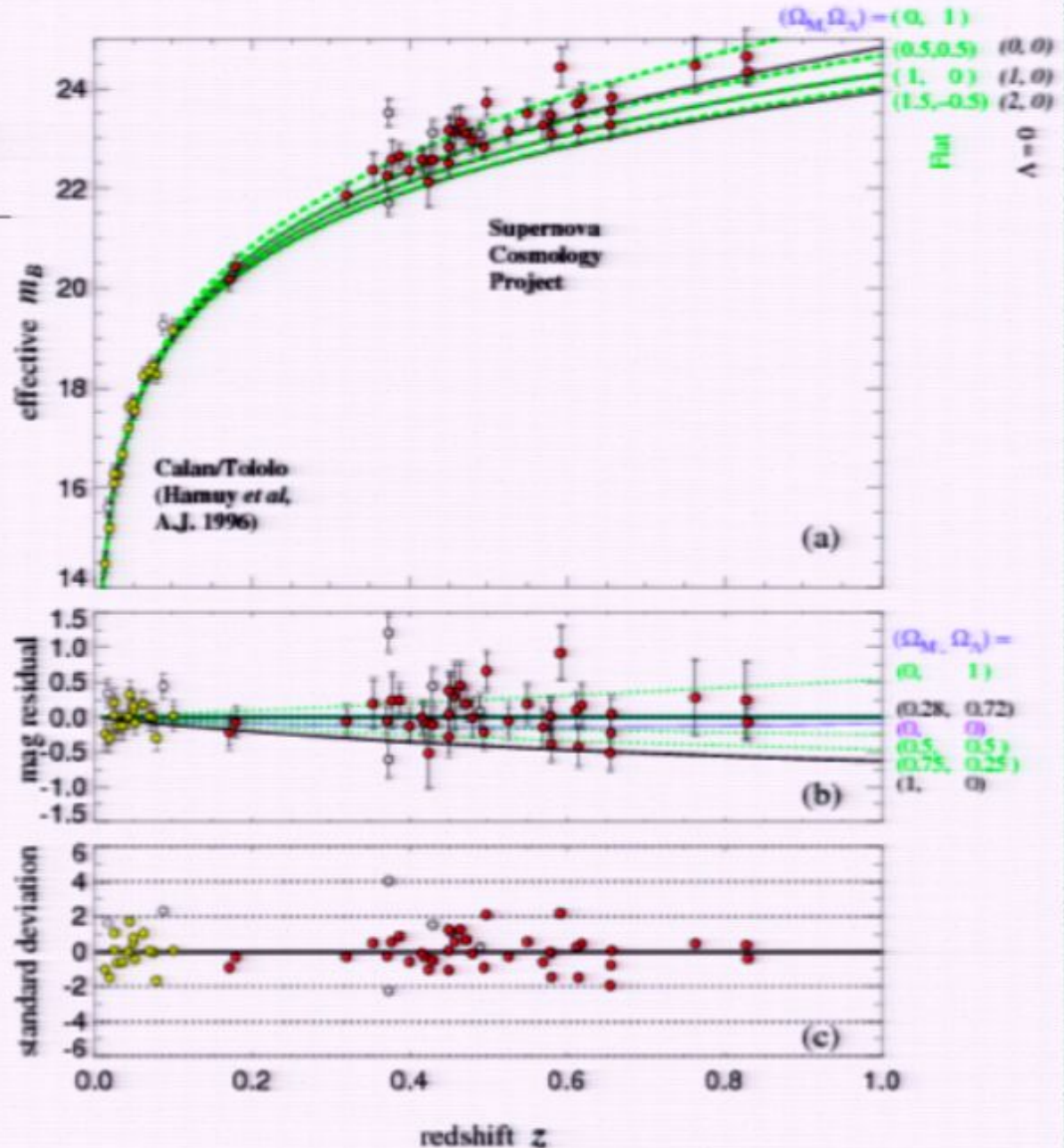
# Dark Energy Evidence

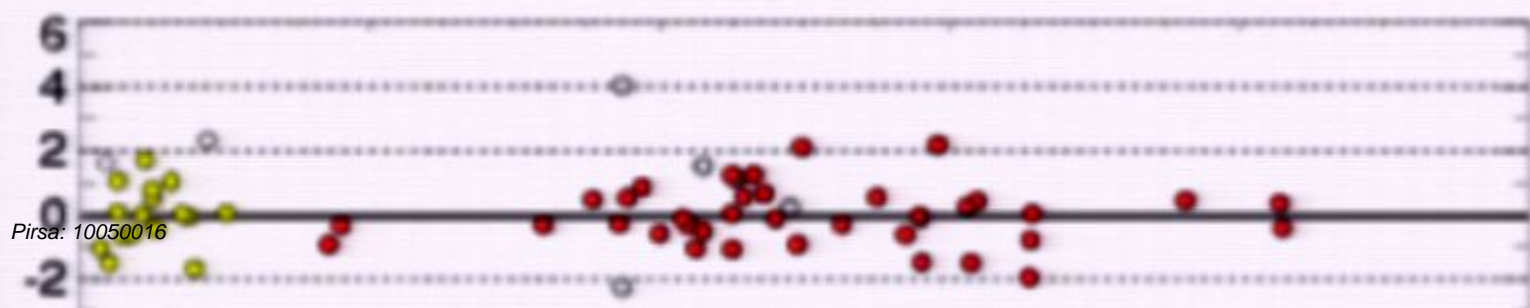
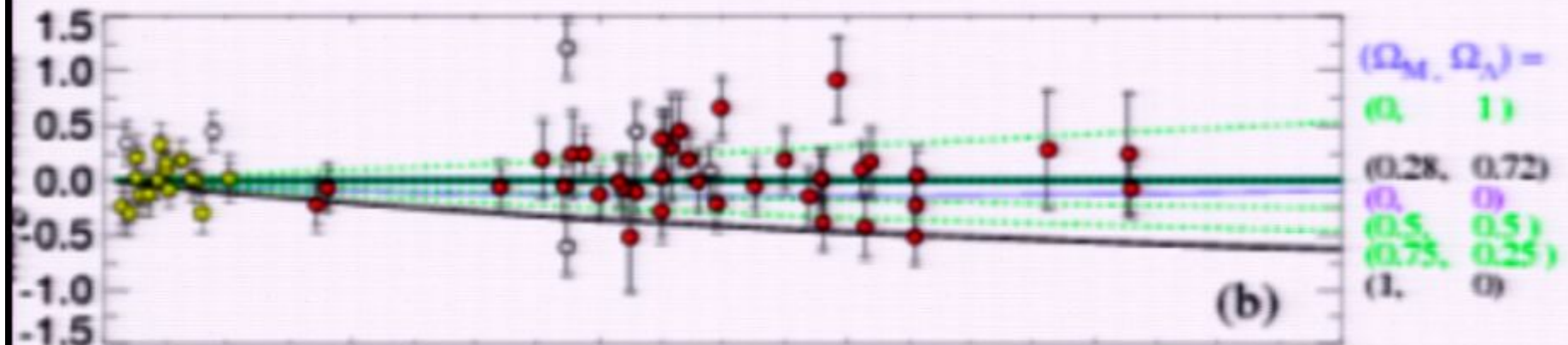
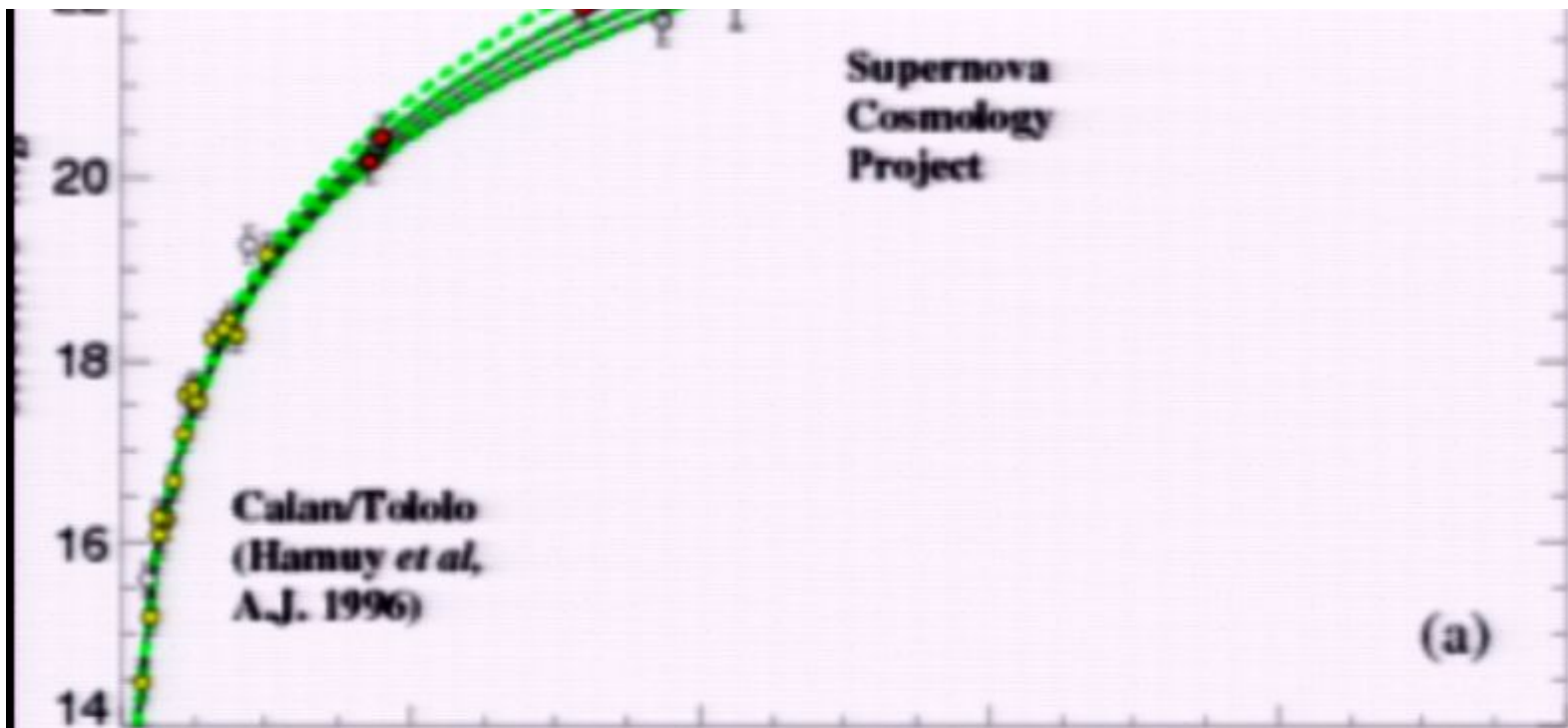
evidence of cosmological constant from COBE + age constraints

independent confirmation from SNIa

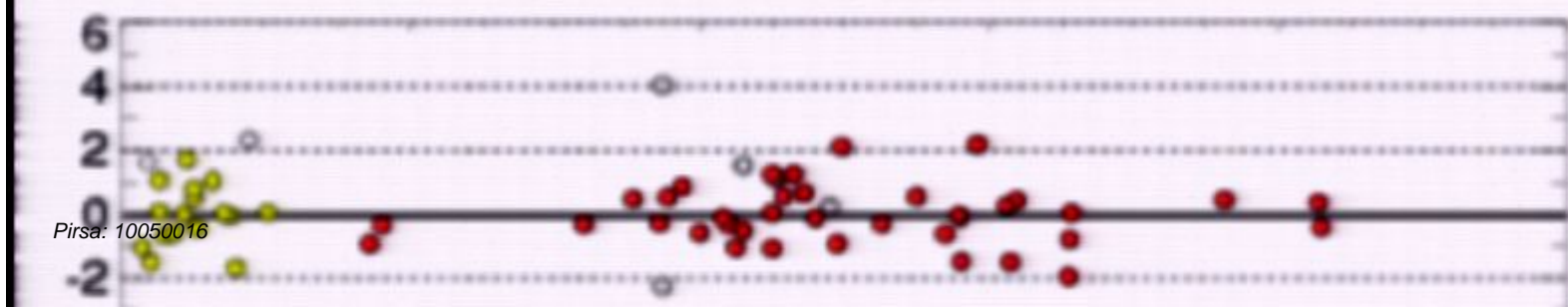
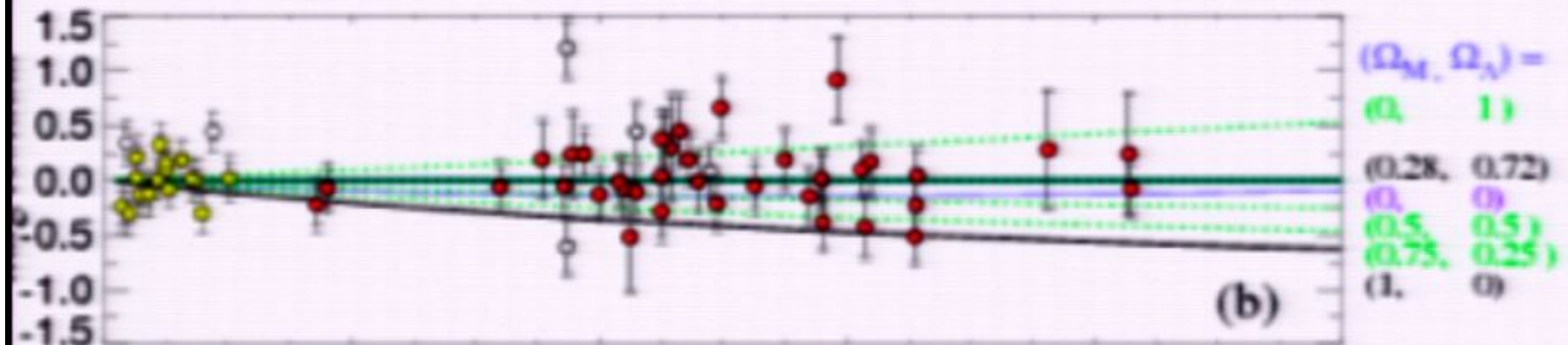
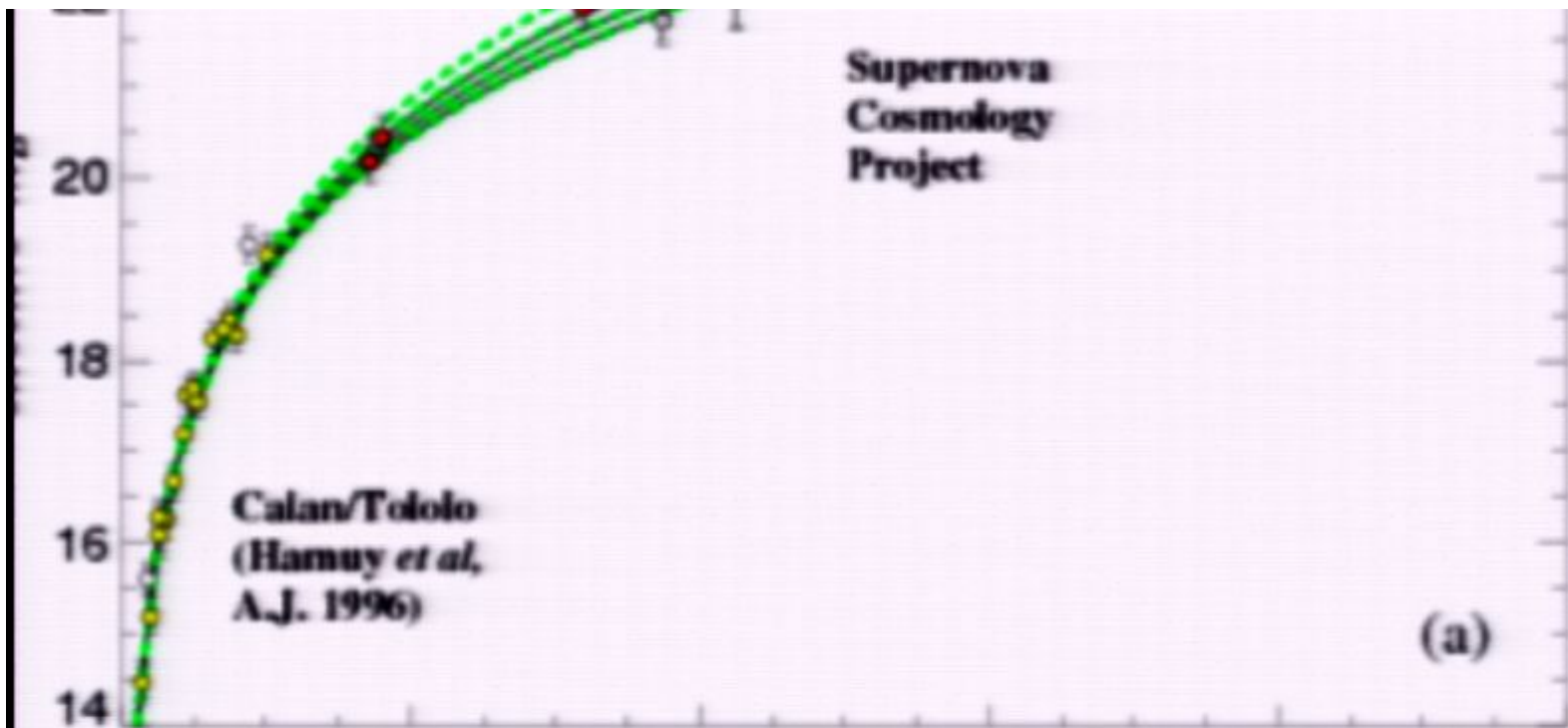
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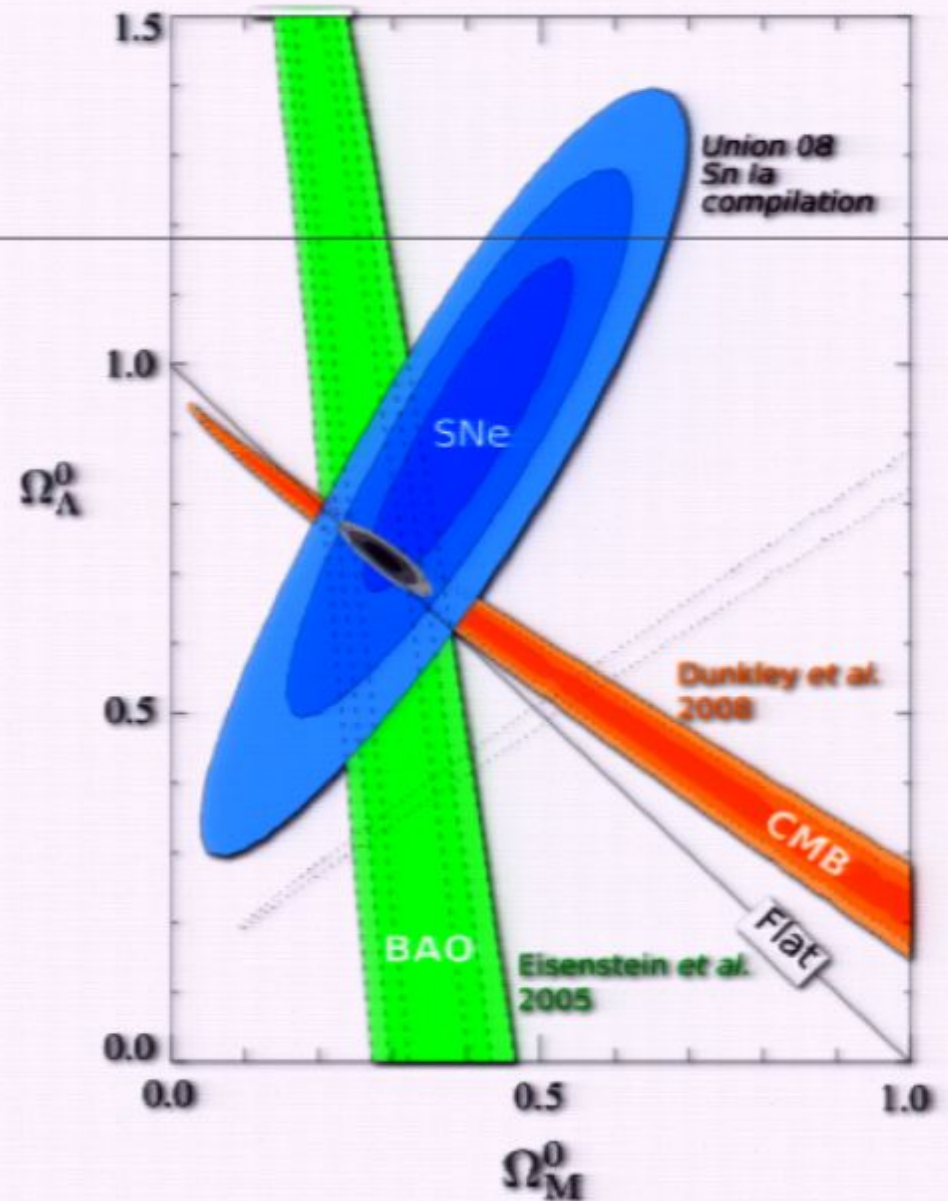
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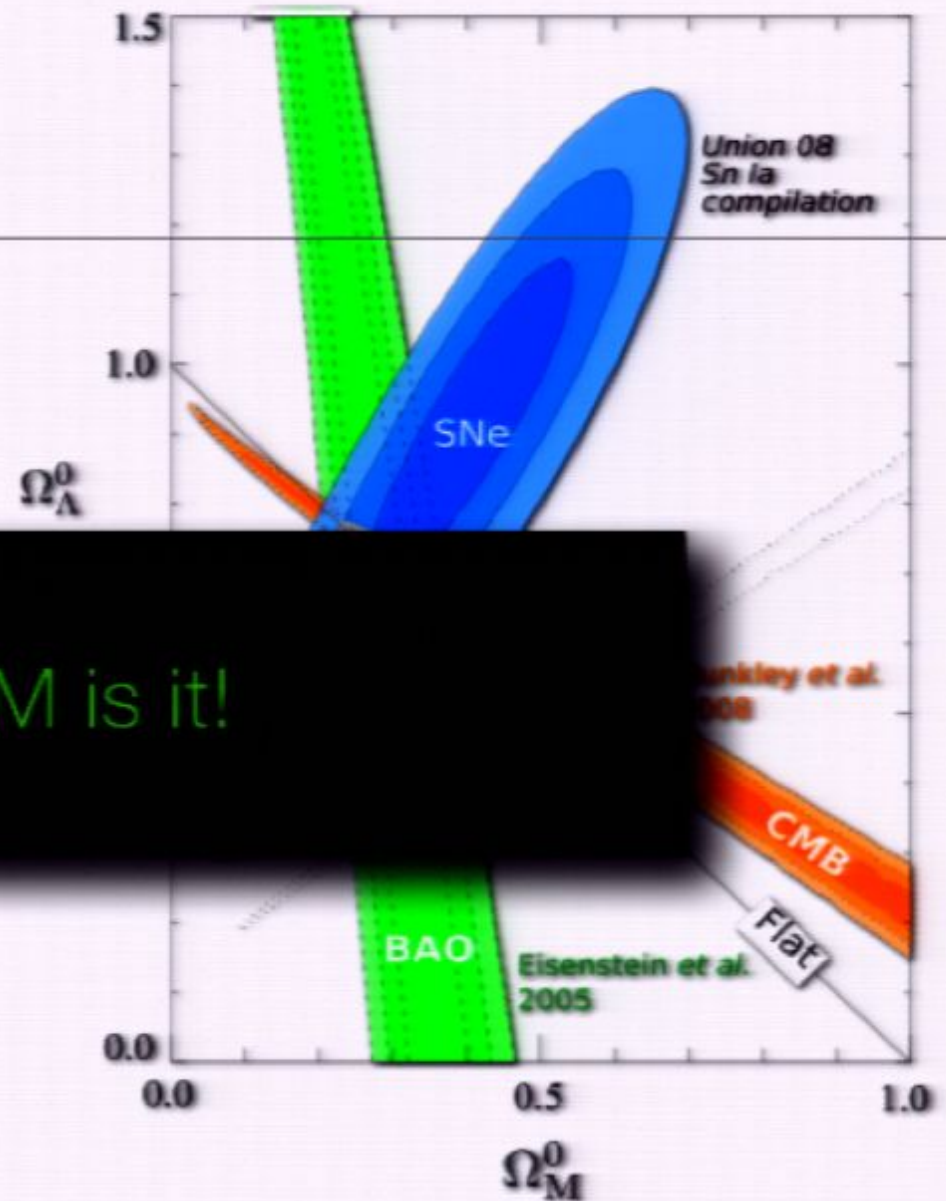
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flat LCDM is it!



# Problems with $\Lambda$

---

Lambda doesn't make sense as vacuum energy:  $\rho_{\text{vac}}^{(\text{obs})} \sim 10^{-120} \rho_{\text{vac}}^{(\text{theory})}$

Why do we live at a special time?

$$\frac{\Omega_{\Lambda}}{\Omega_{\text{M}}} = \frac{\rho_{\Lambda}}{\rho_{\text{M}}} \propto a^3$$

Perhaps Landscape arguments can answer this ... one day ...

in  $10^{500}$  universes ours must be special - breaks with the Copernican principle...



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what's the evidence for these? How can we tell the difference?

## Overview:

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1. Observing Lambda, or not
2. Small inhomogeneity and 'backreaction' of perturbations
3. Large inhomogeneity and the Copernican Principle

## dark energy equation of state

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Hubble rate

$$H(z)^2 = H_0^2 \left\{ \Omega_m (1+z)^3 + \Omega_k (1+z)^2 + \Omega_{DE} \exp \left[ 3 \int_0^z \frac{1+w(z')}{1+z'} dz' \right] \right\},$$

$$(\Omega_{DE} = 1 - \Omega_m - \Omega_k)$$

distances

$$d_L(z) = \frac{c(1+z)}{H_0 \sqrt{-\Omega_k}} \sin \left( \sqrt{-\Omega_k} \int_0^z dz' \frac{H_0}{H(z')} \right)$$

i.e.,

$$= \frac{2}{3} \frac{(1+z)}{[(1+z)D'_L - D_L]} \left\{ [\Omega_k D_L^2 + (1+z)^2] D_L'' - \frac{1}{2} (\Omega_k D_L'^2 + 1) [(1+z)D'_L - D_L] \right\} /$$

$$\{ (1+z)[\Omega_m(1+z) + \Omega_k] D_L'^2 - 2[\Omega_m(1+z) + \Omega_k] D_L D'_L + \Omega_m D_L^2 - (1+z) \}$$

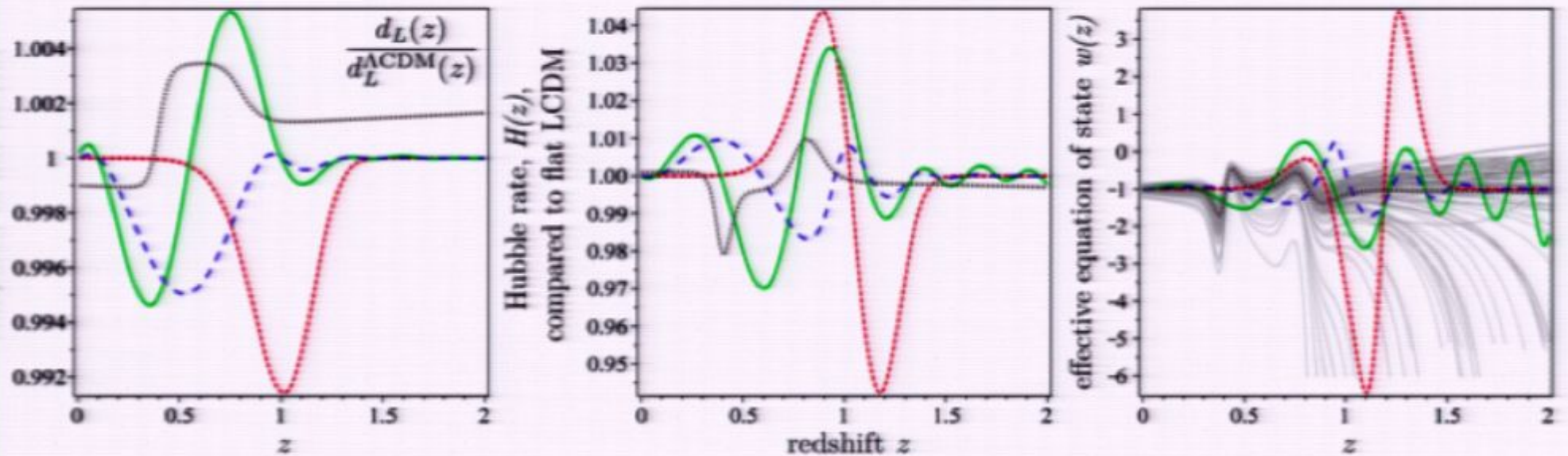
$$D_L = (H_0/c) d_L$$



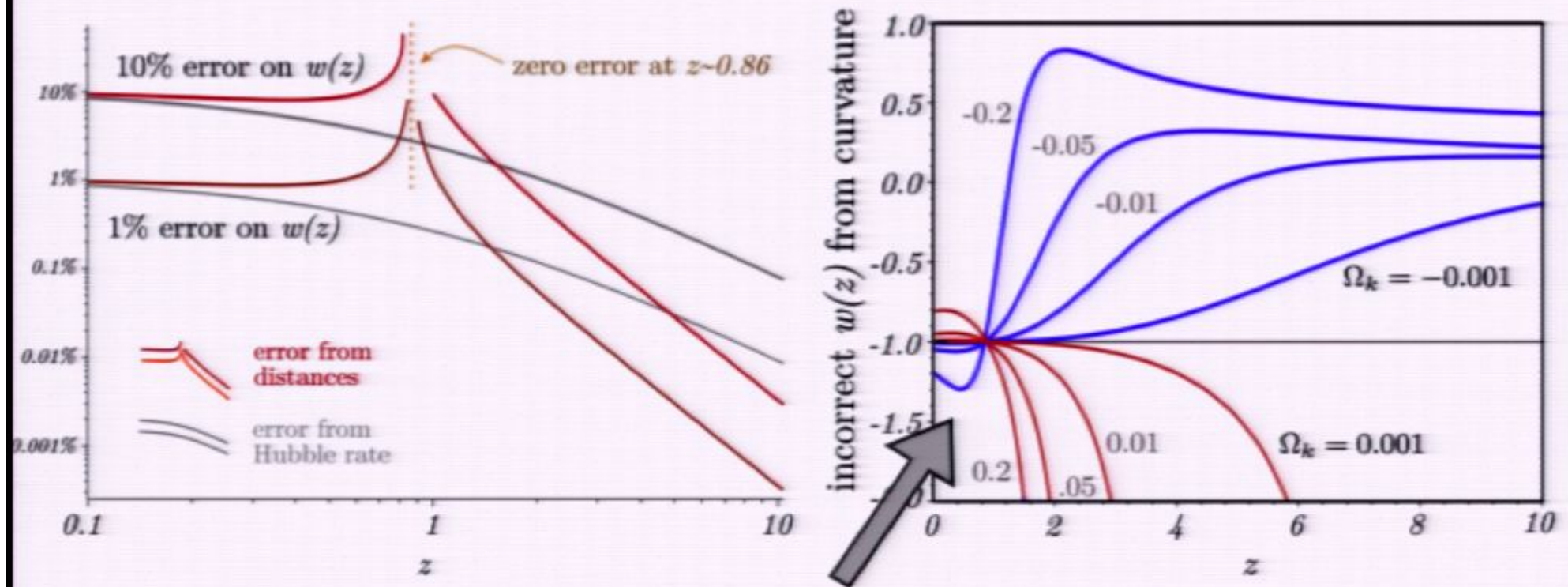
it could be anything ...

trying to observe deviations from  $w = -1$

huge fluctuations in  $w(z)$  give rise to  $<1\%$  change in distances from LCDM and  $\sim 5\%$  change in the Hubble rate

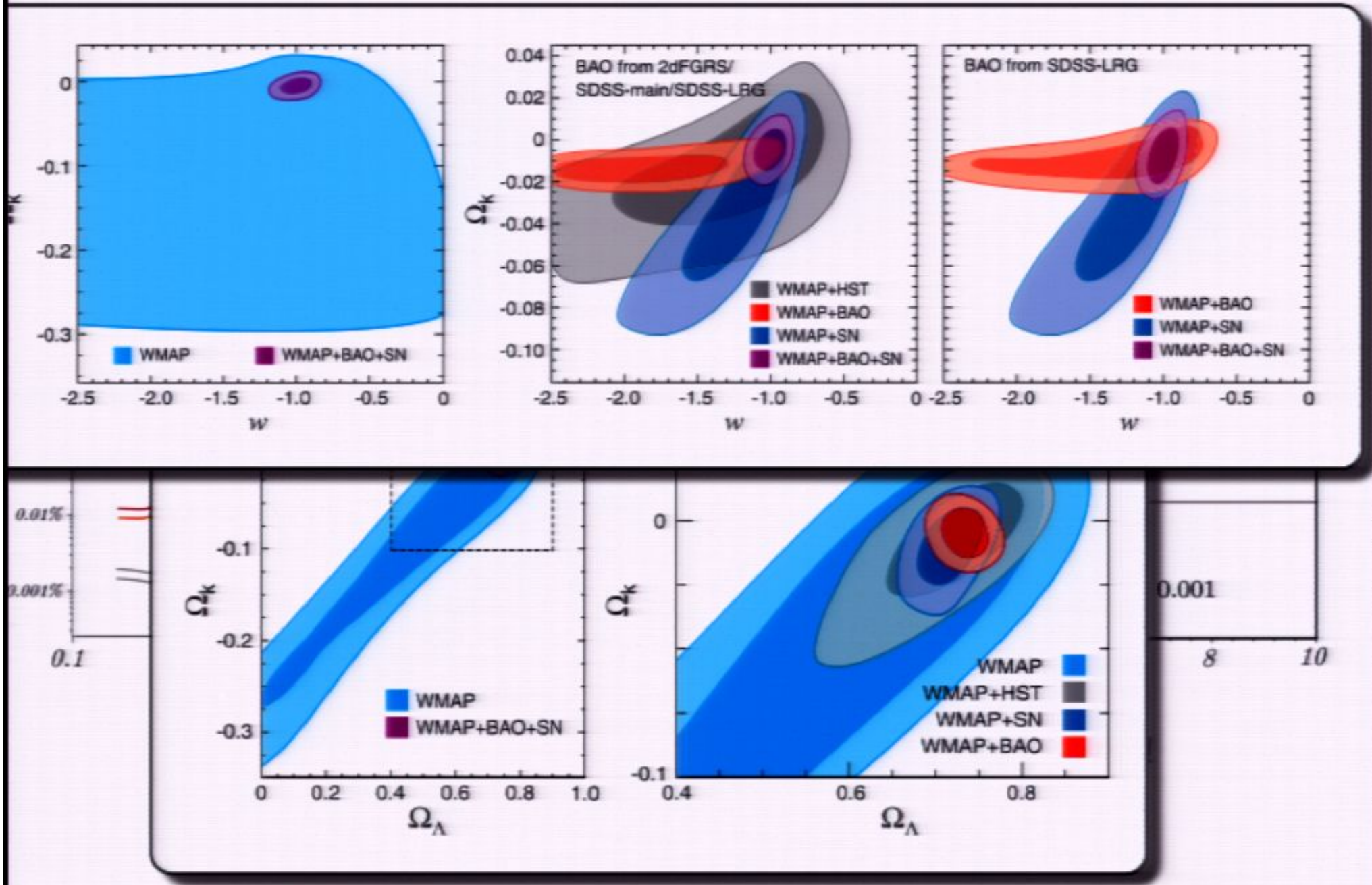


curvature: harder to spot than we thought

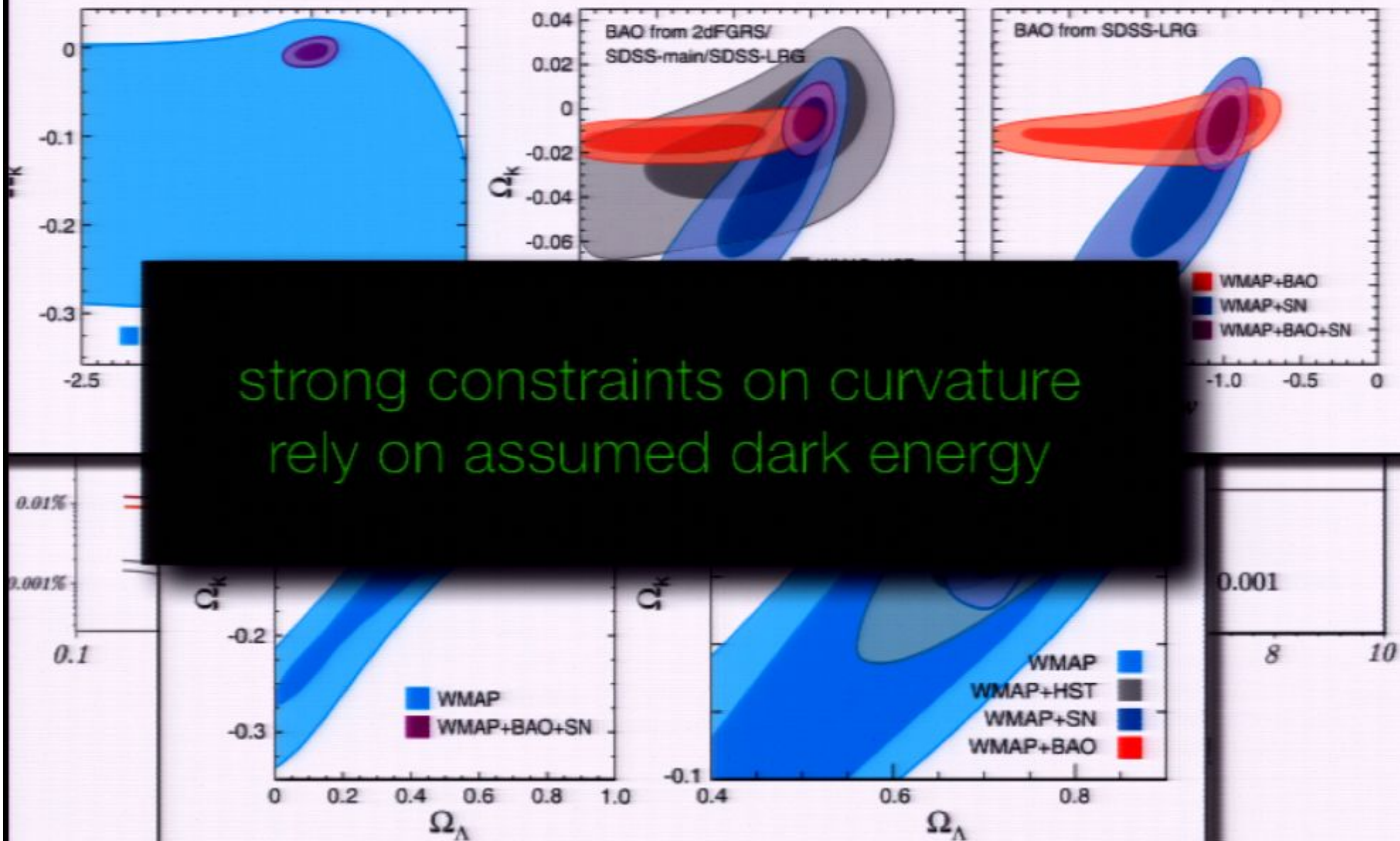


these  $w(z)$  give same distances as flat LCDM!





strong constraints on curvature  
rely on assumed dark energy





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can we look for *any* deviations from flat LCDM?

... model independent consistency tests ...

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## A litmus test for flat $\Lambda$ CDM

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$$\Omega_m = \frac{1 - D'(z)^2}{[(1+z)^3 - 1]D'(z)^2}.$$

$$D(z) = (H_0/c)(1+z)^{-1}d_L(z),$$



this is *constant* for flat LCDM

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(z) &= \zeta D''(z) + 3(1+z)^2 D'(z)[1 - D'(z)^2] \\ &= 0 \text{ for all flat } \Lambda\text{CDM models.}\end{aligned}$$

Zunckel & Clarkson, PRL, arXiv:0807.4304;  
see also Sahni et al 0807.3548



A litmus test for

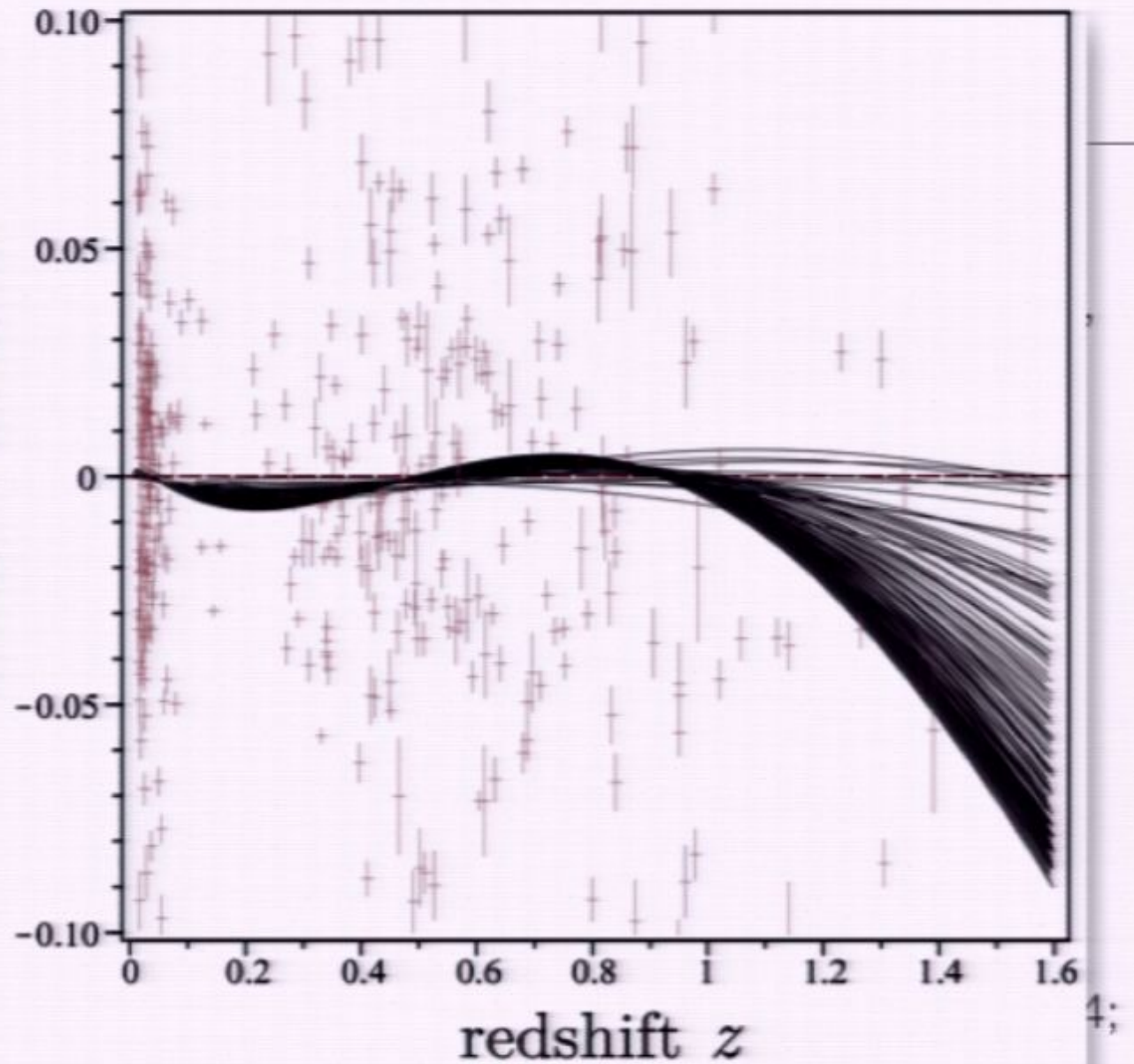
$$\Omega_m = \frac{1}{[(1+z)^3]}$$



$$\mathcal{L}(z) = \zeta H$$

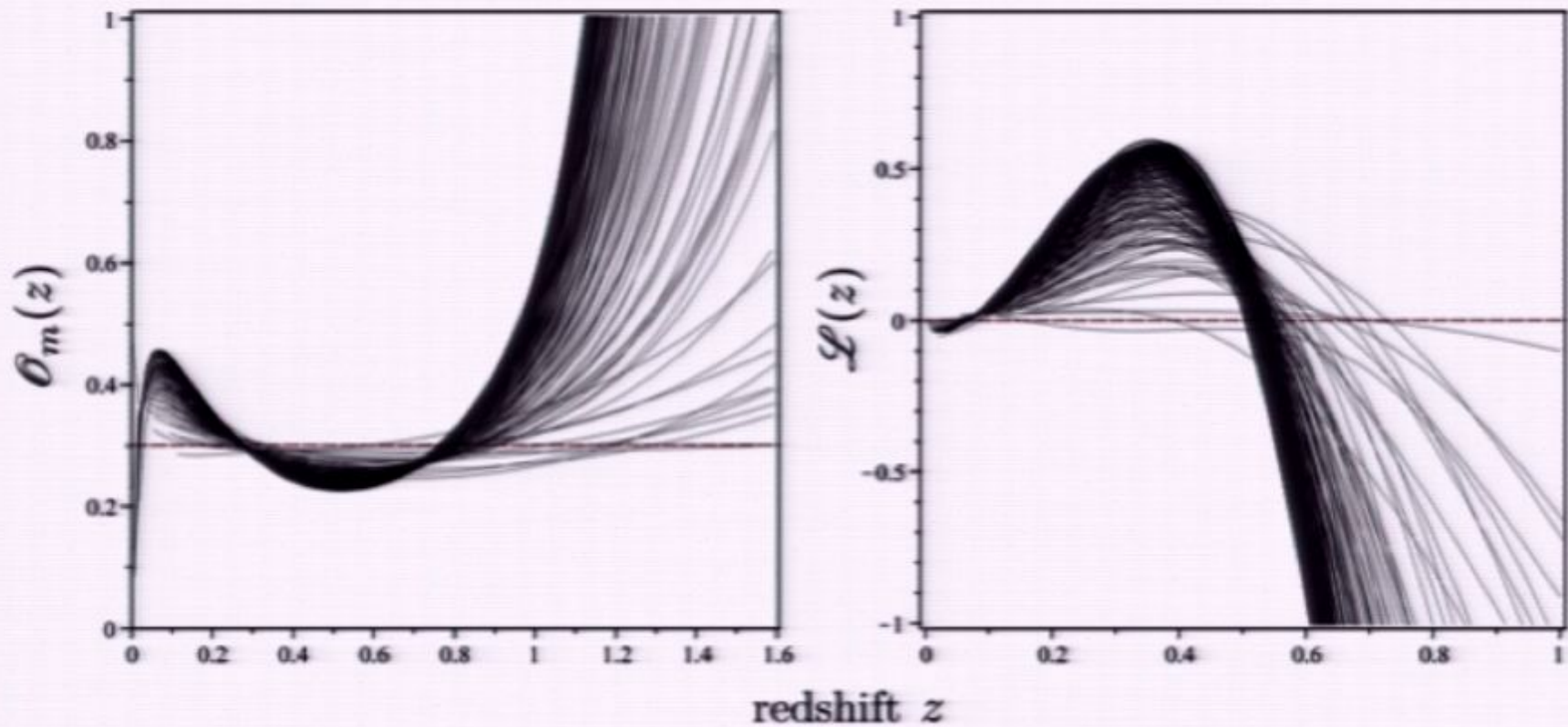
$$= 0$$

distance modulus



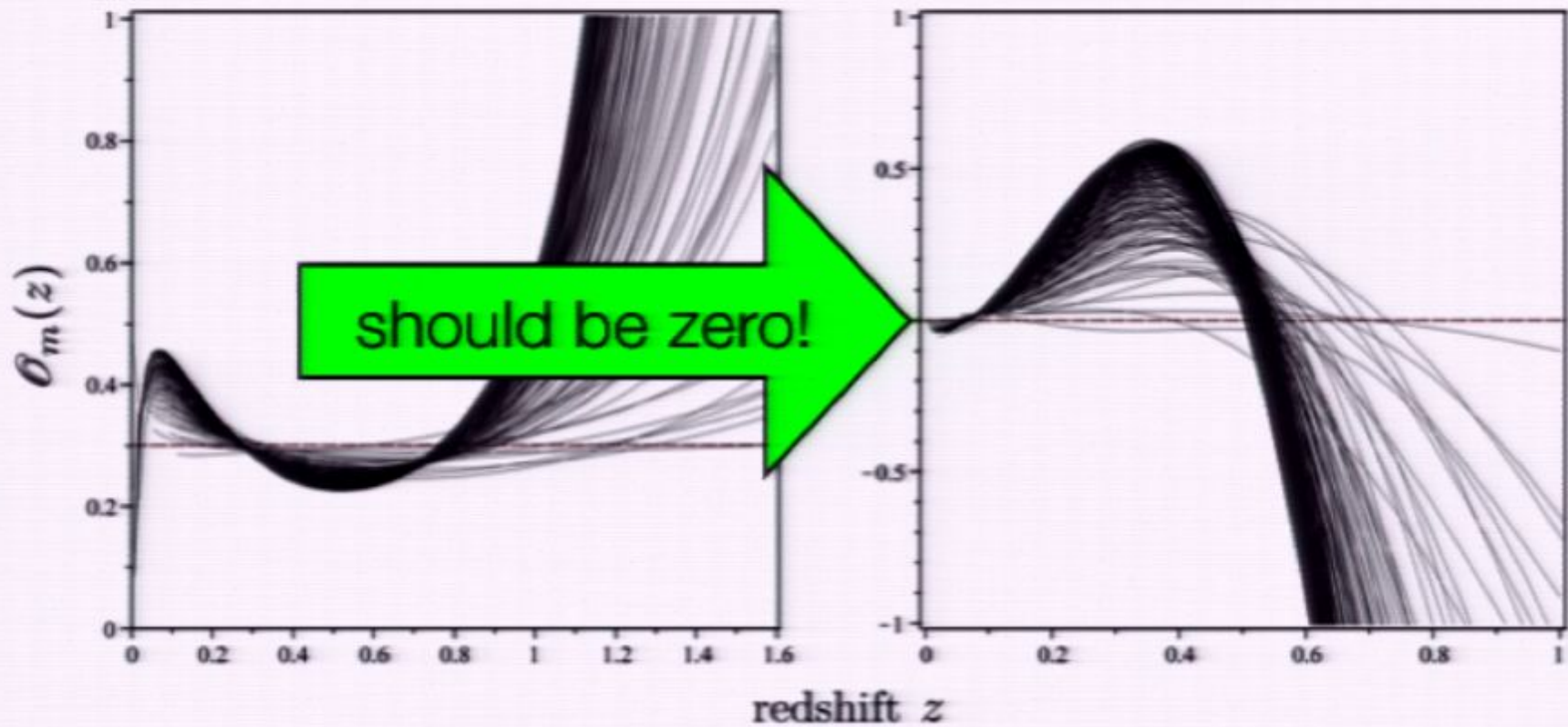
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these are better fits to constitution data than LCDM



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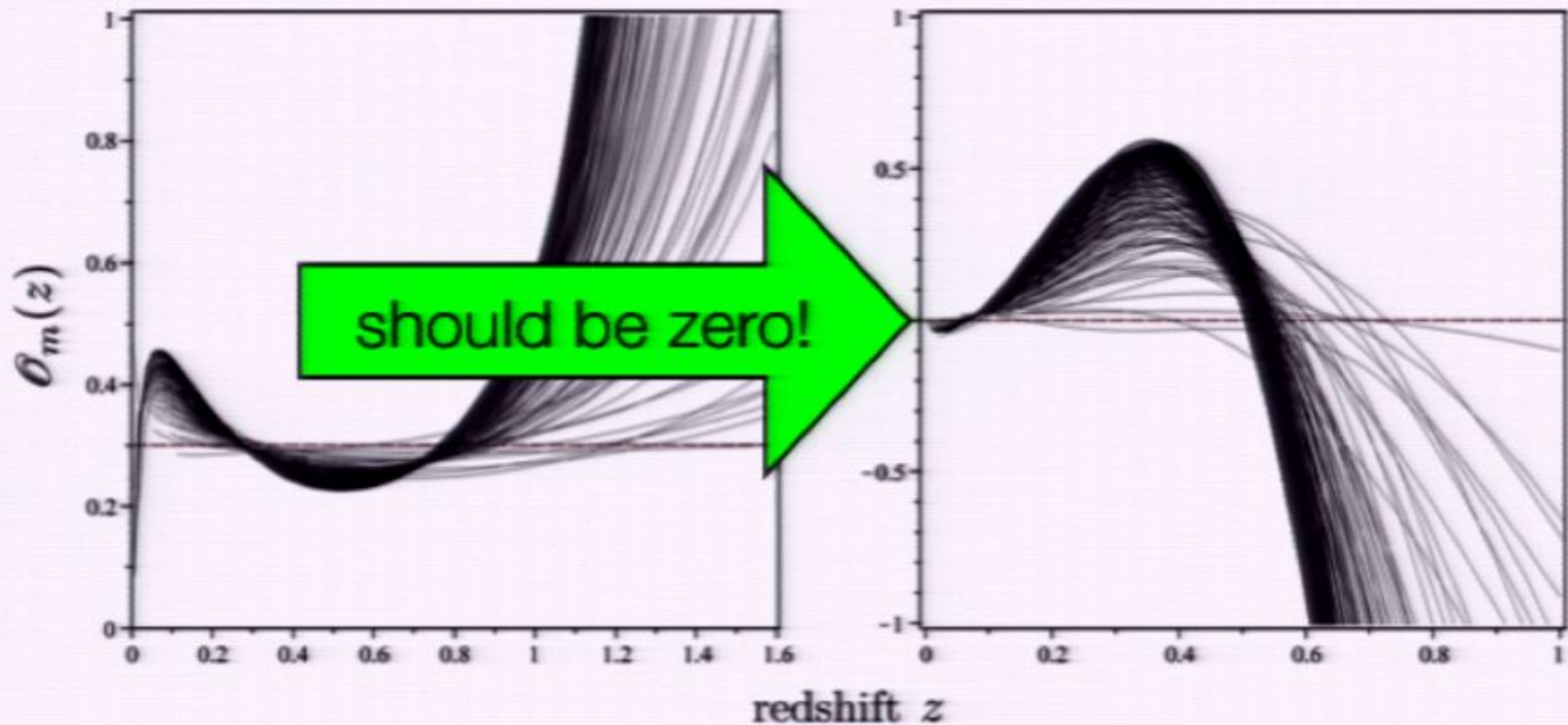




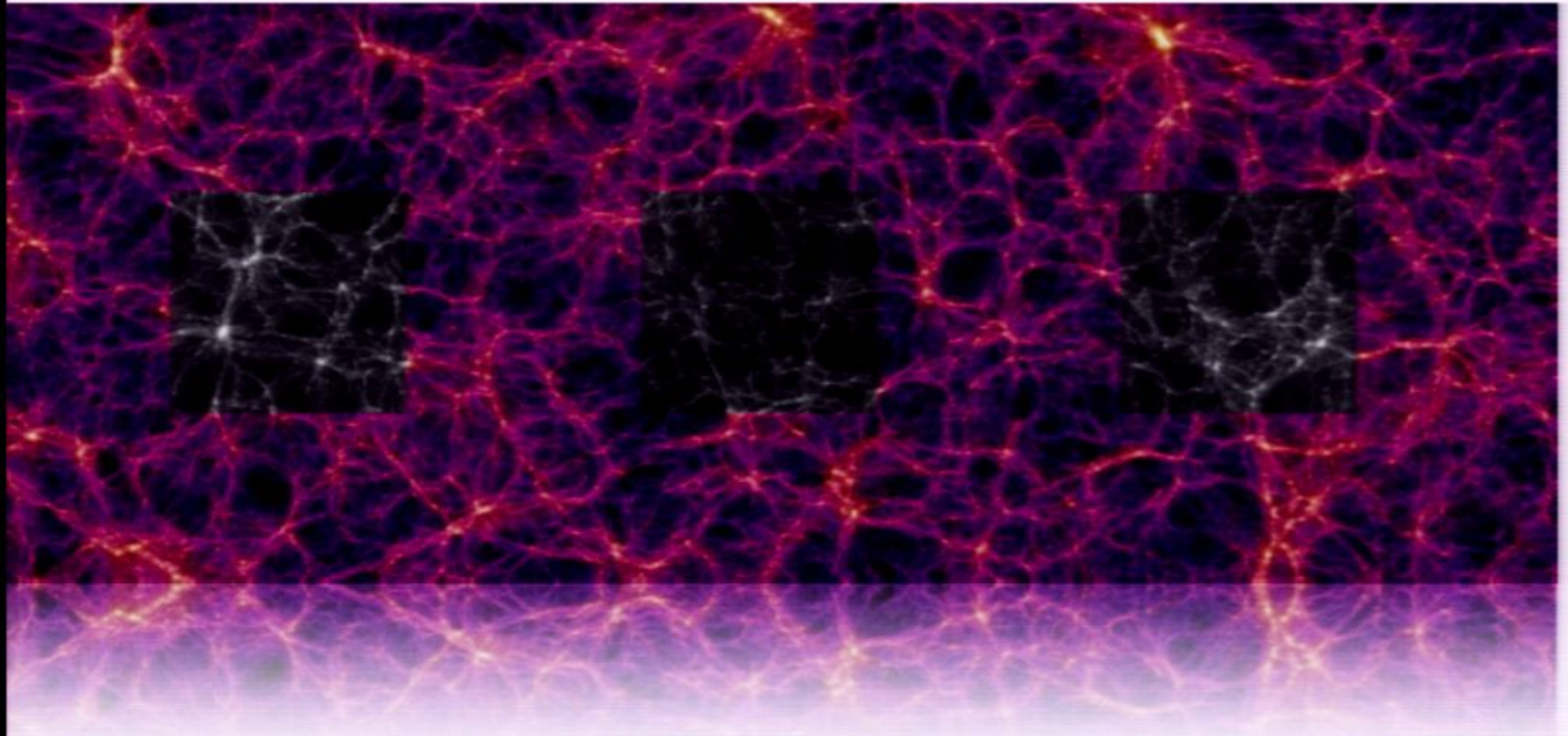
A litmus test

no dependence on  $\Omega_m$

these are better fits to constitution data than LCDM



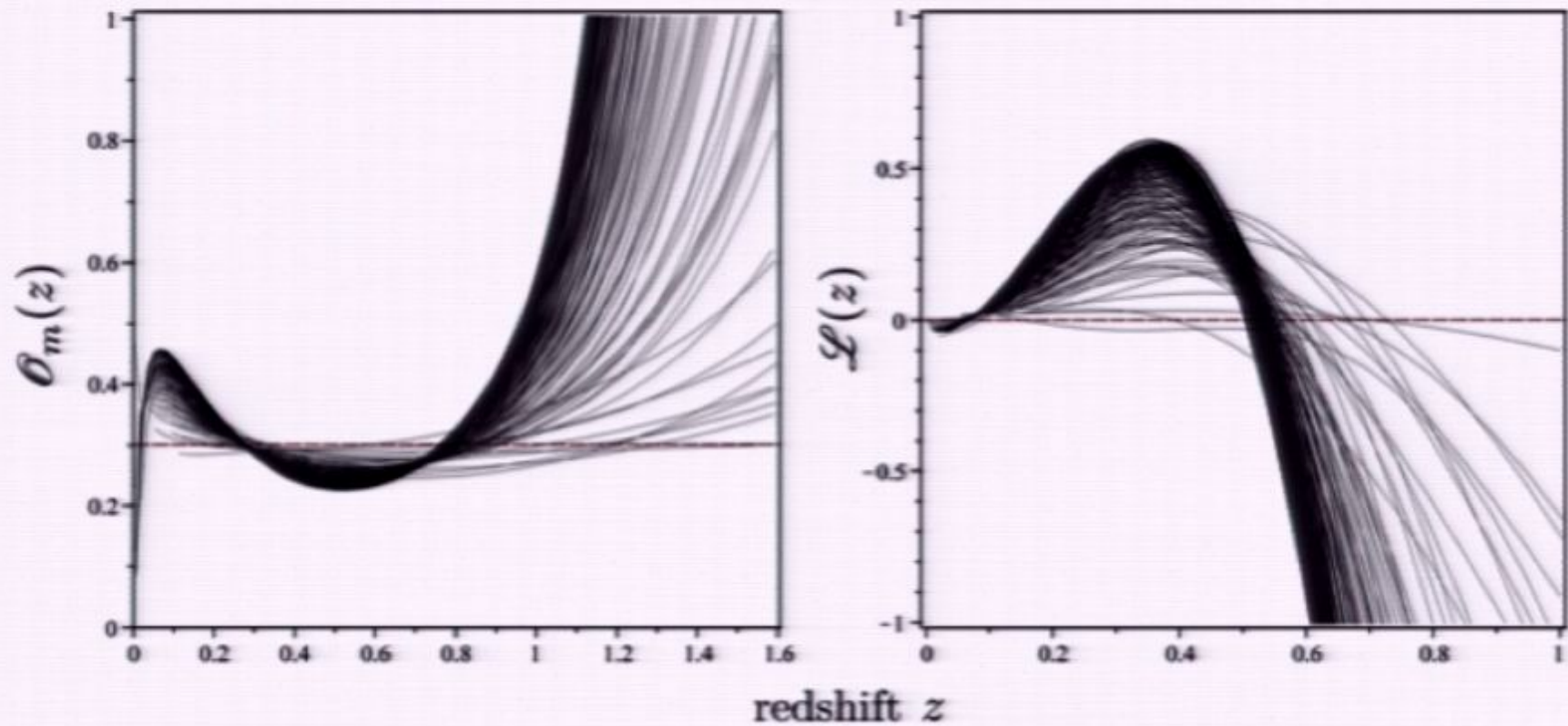
## Part 2: how does structure affect the background?





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A litmus test for

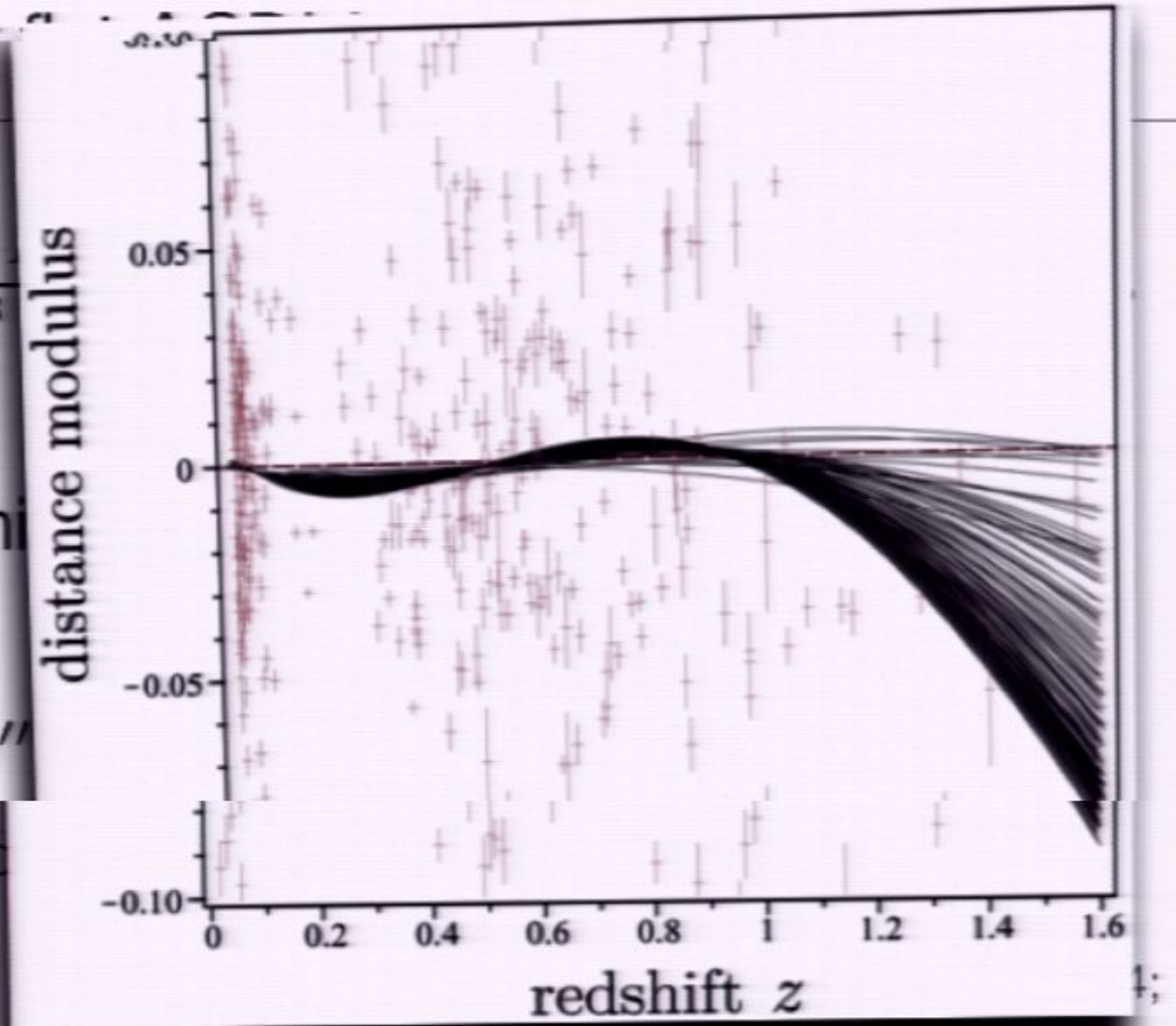
$$\Omega_m = \frac{1 - \Omega_\Lambda}{(1+z)^3}$$



this

$$\mathcal{L}(z) = \zeta D''$$

$$= 0 \text{ for}$$



see also Saini et al 0607.3548

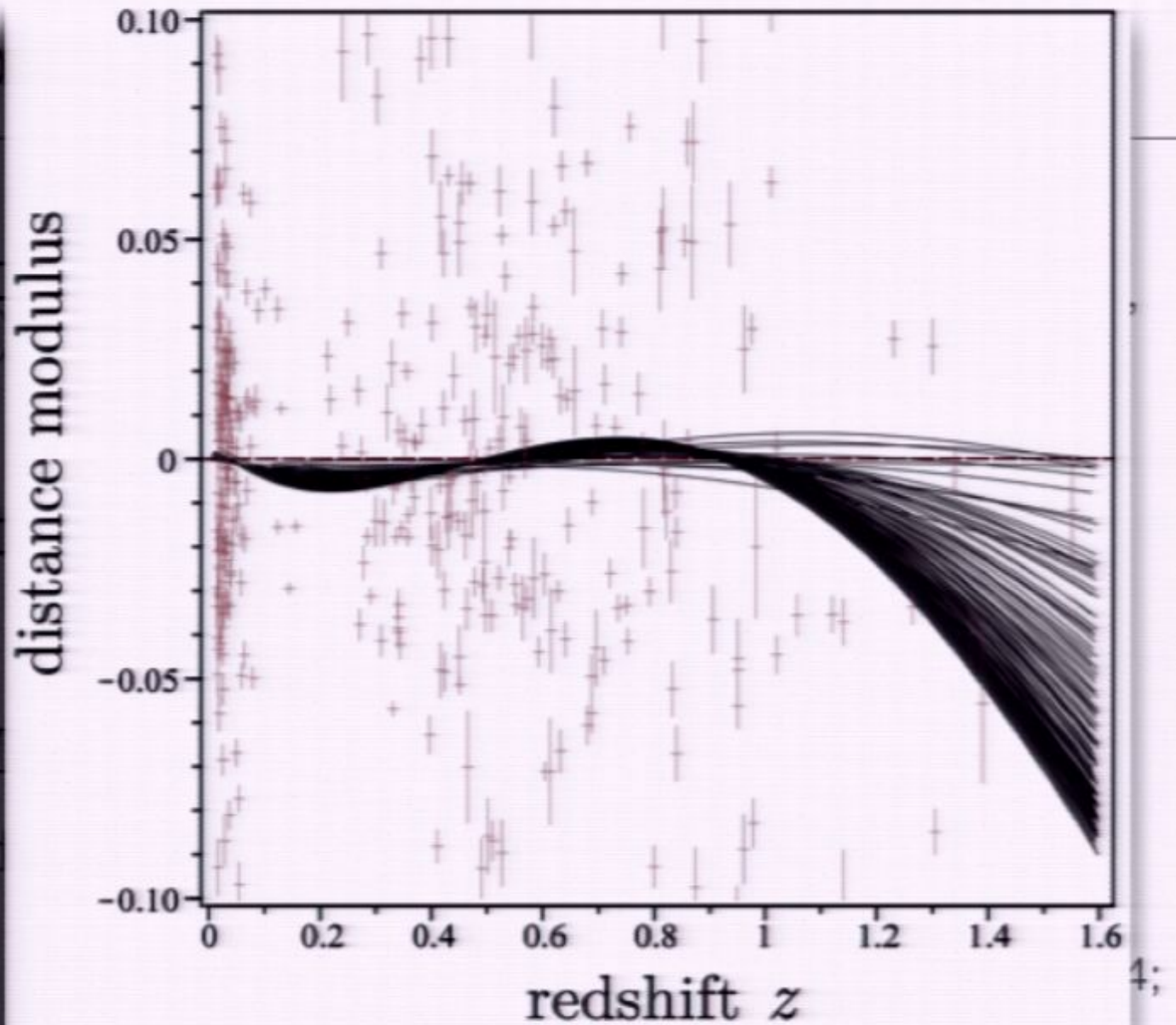
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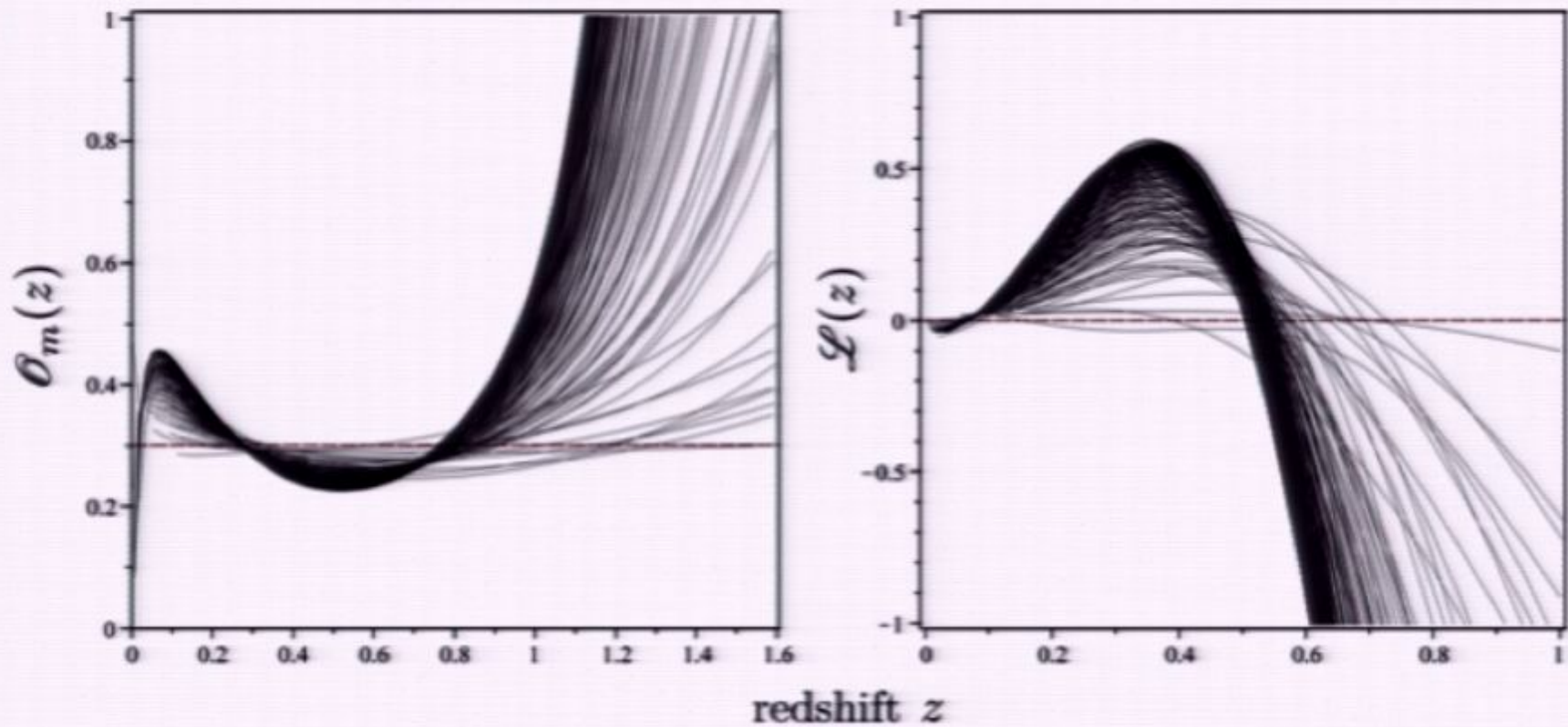
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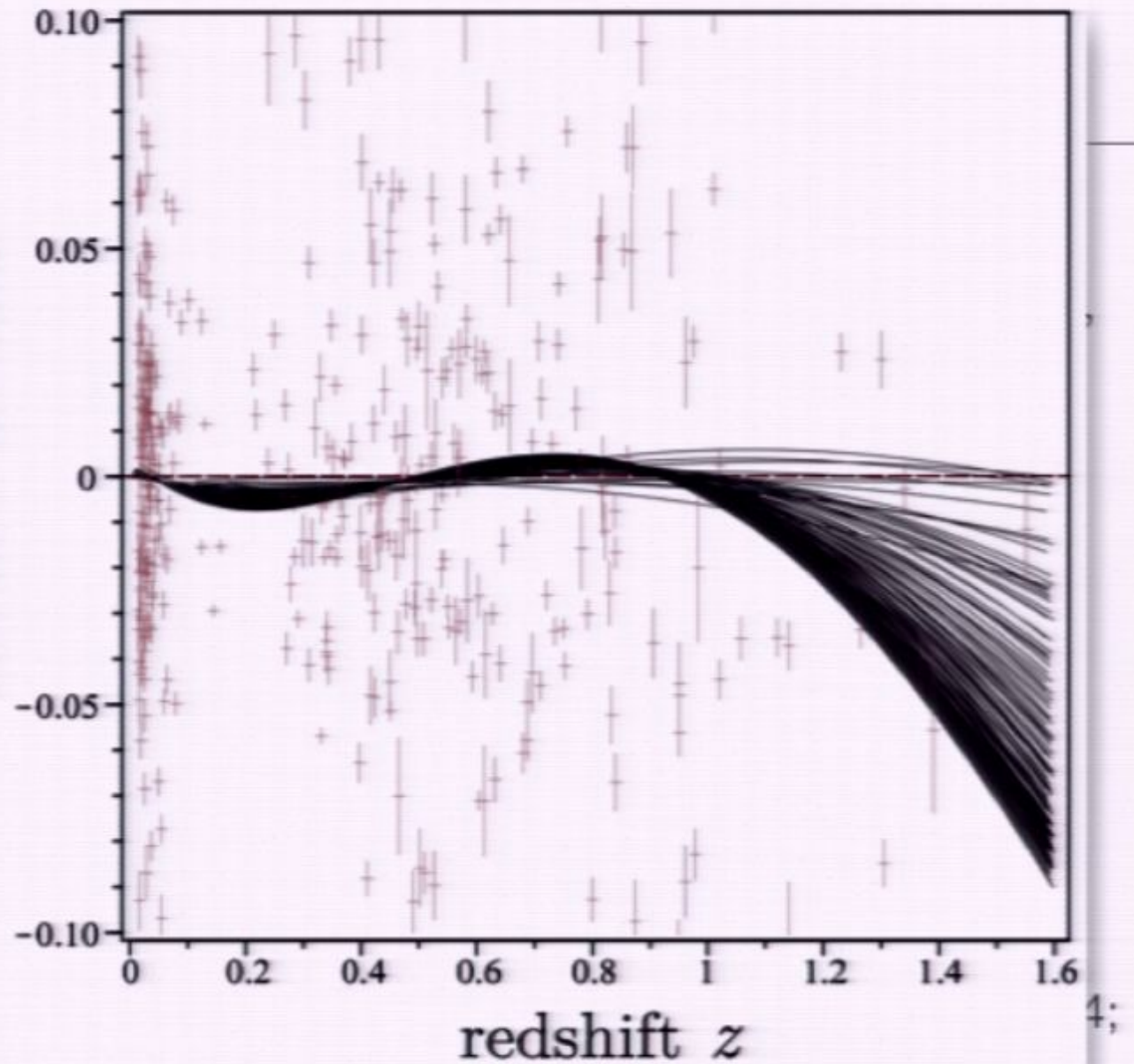
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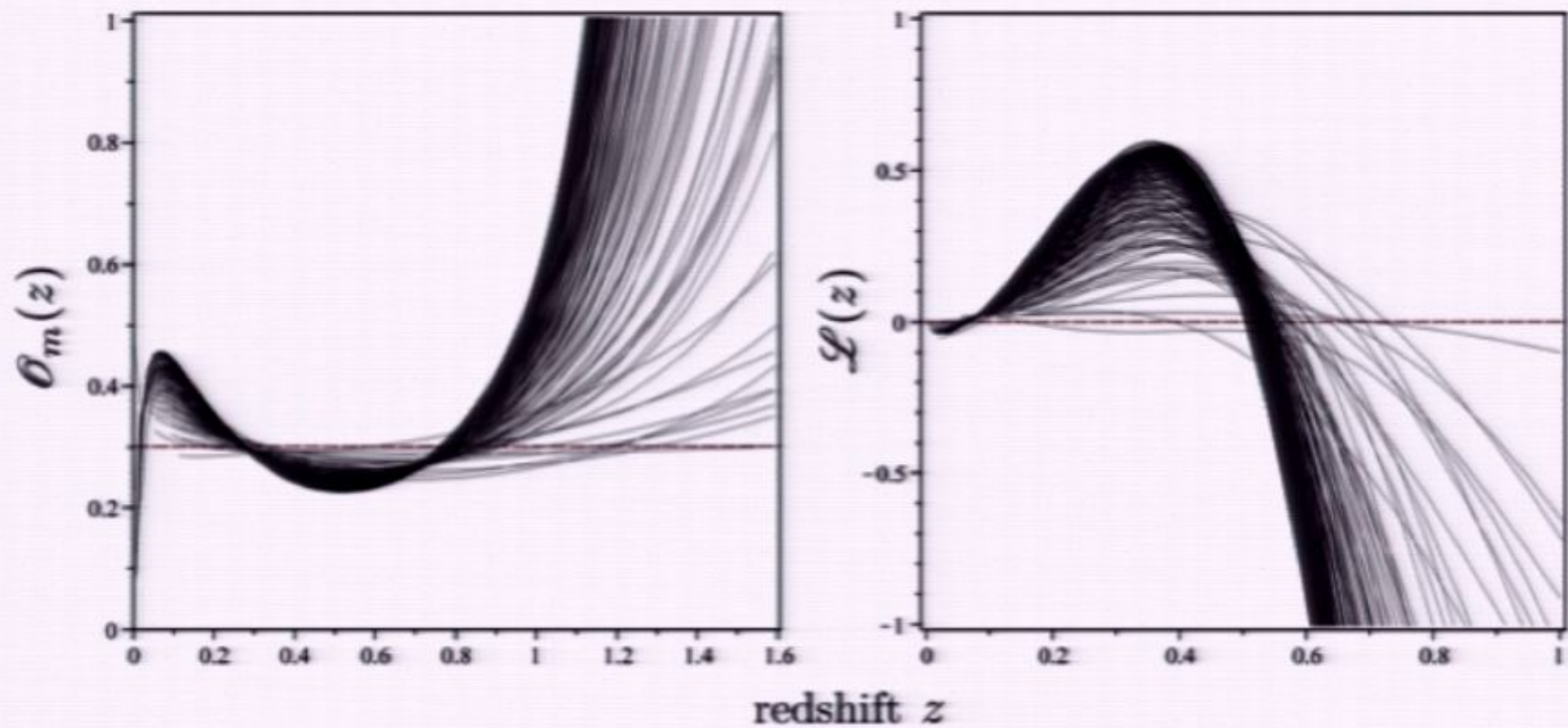
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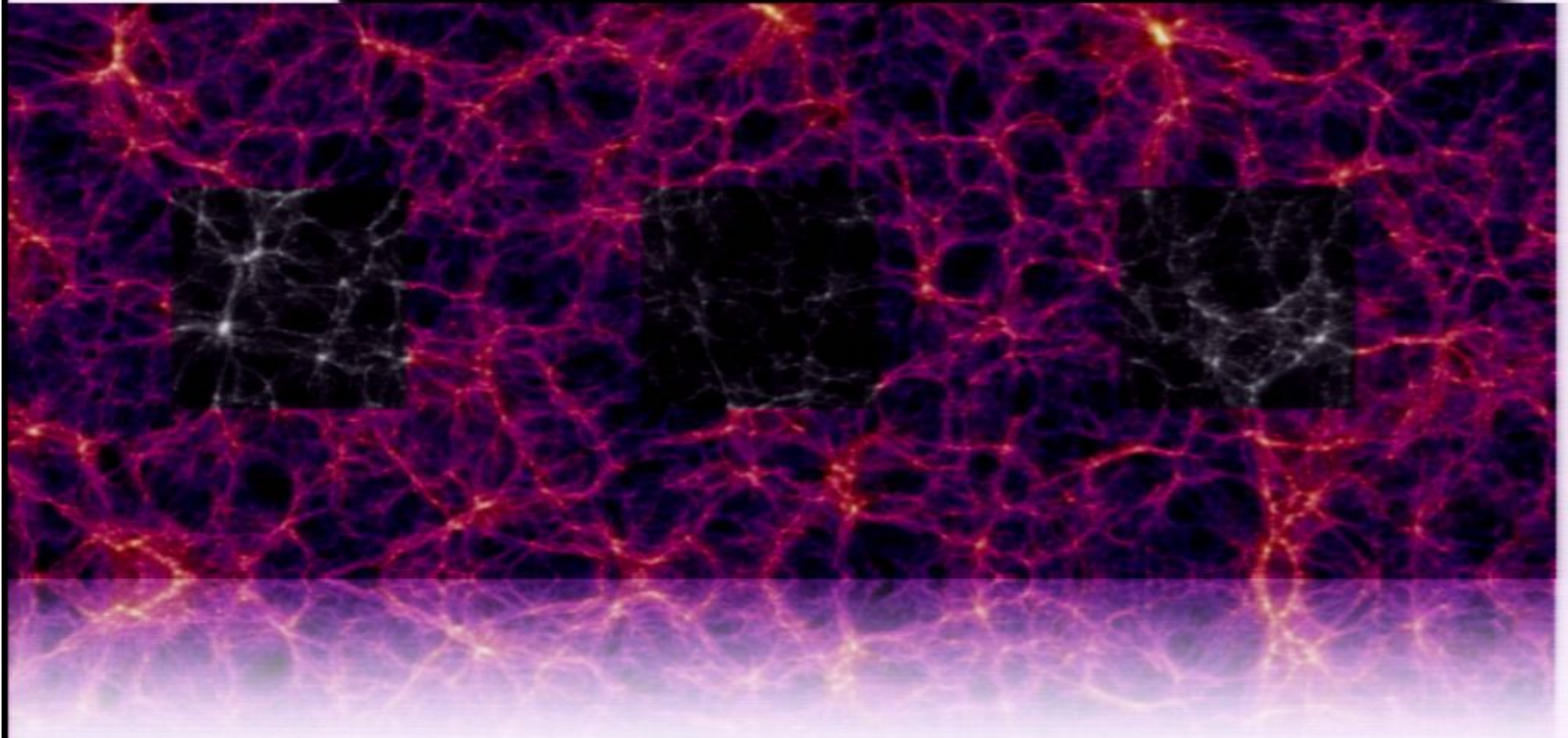
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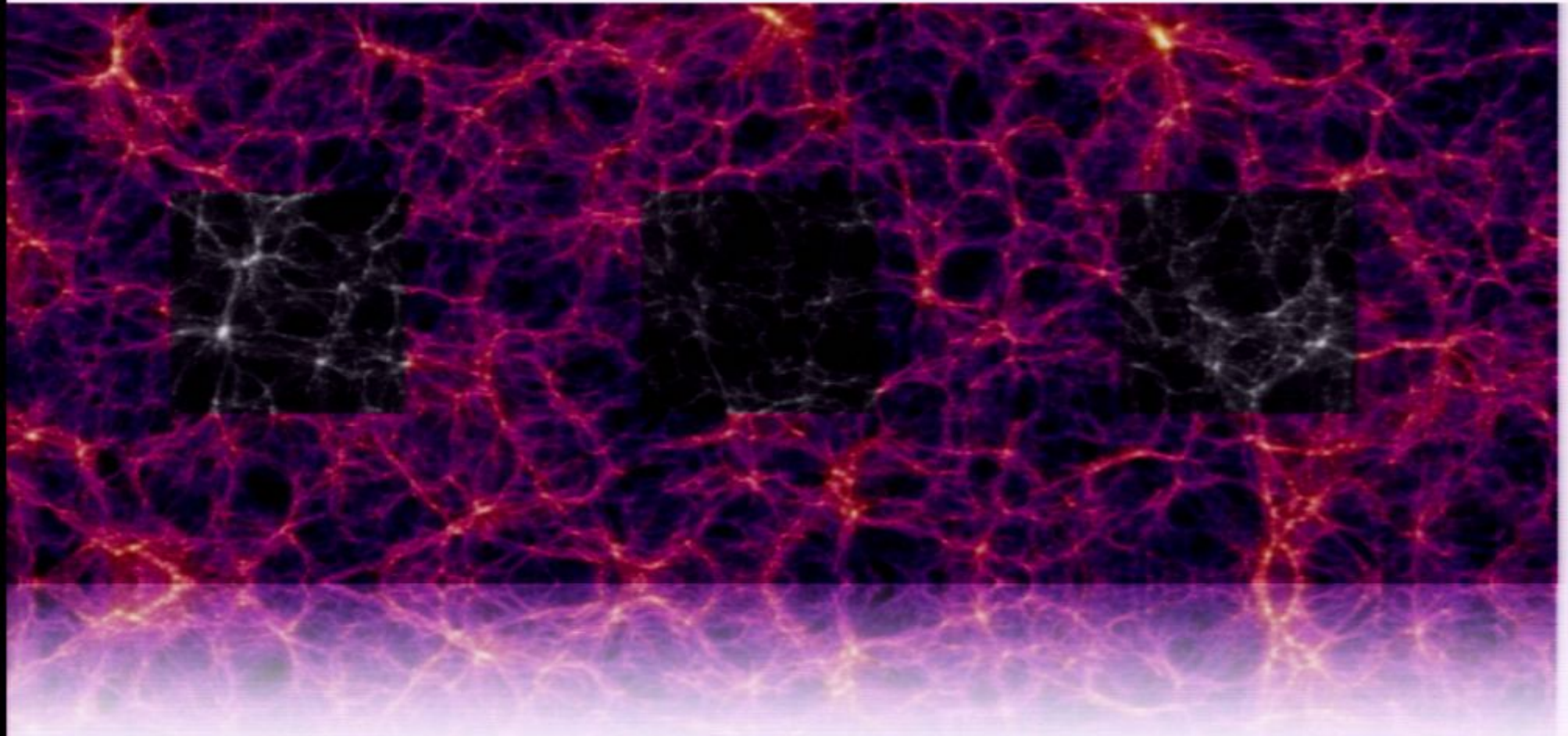
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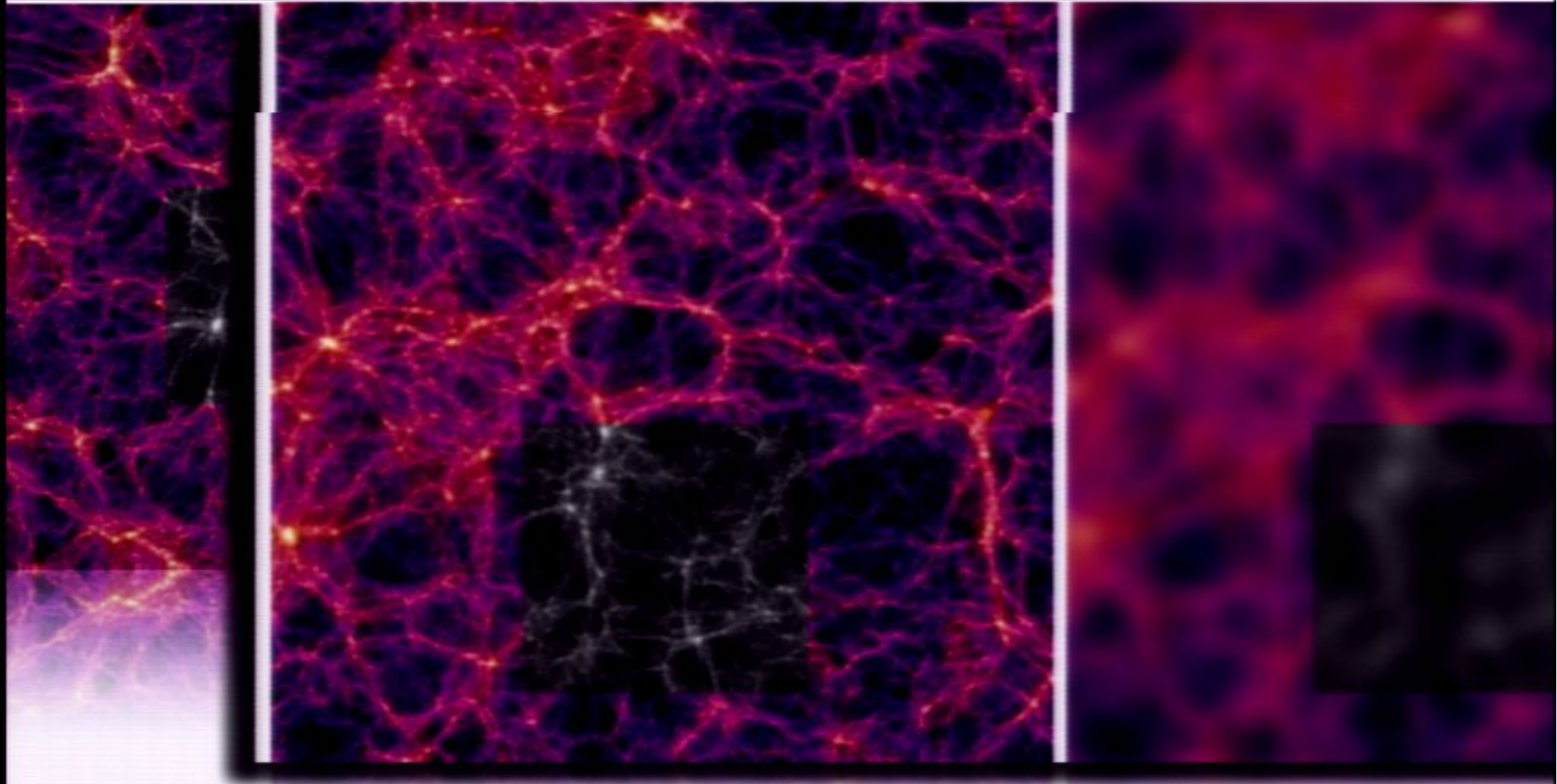




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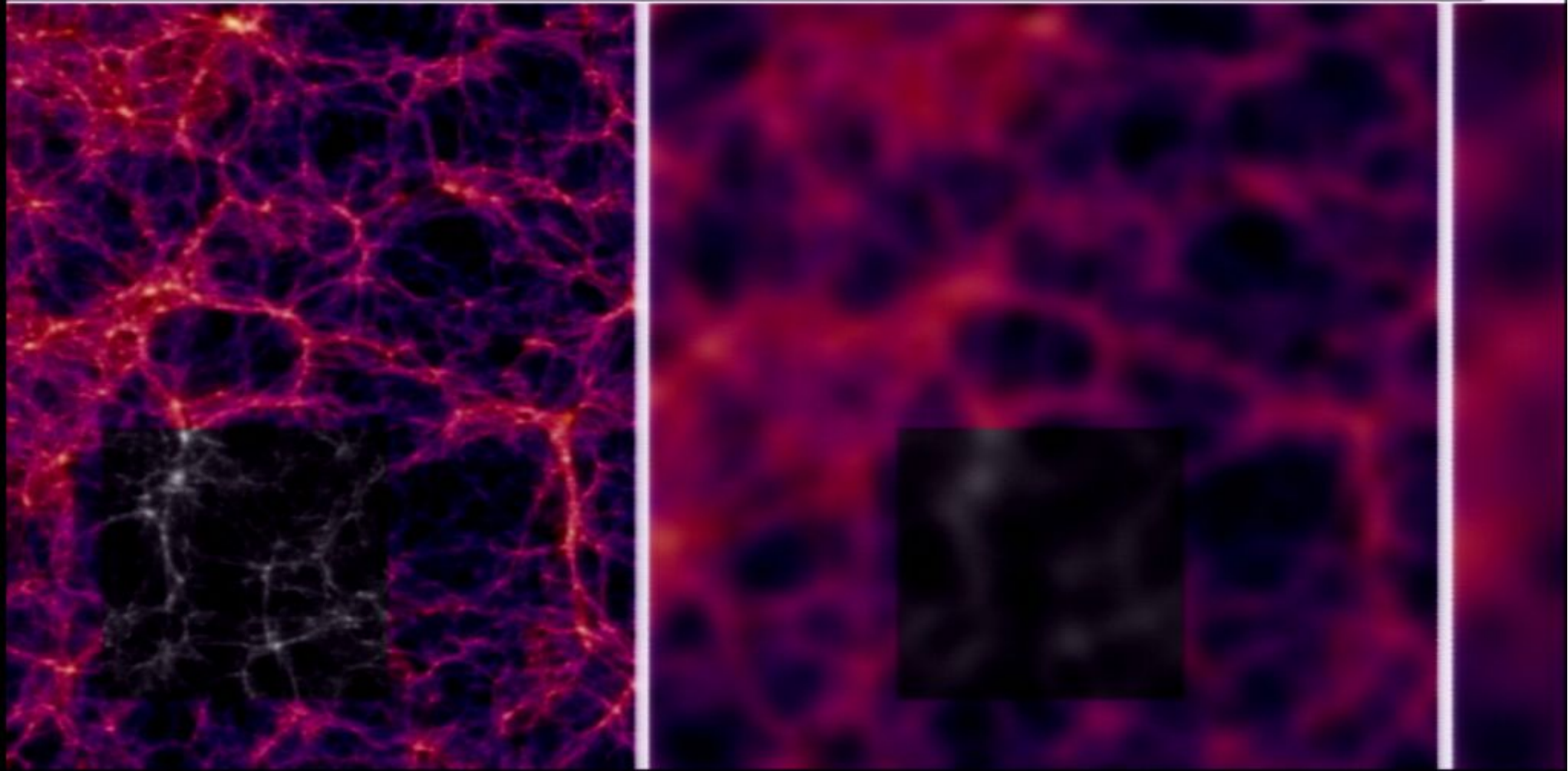


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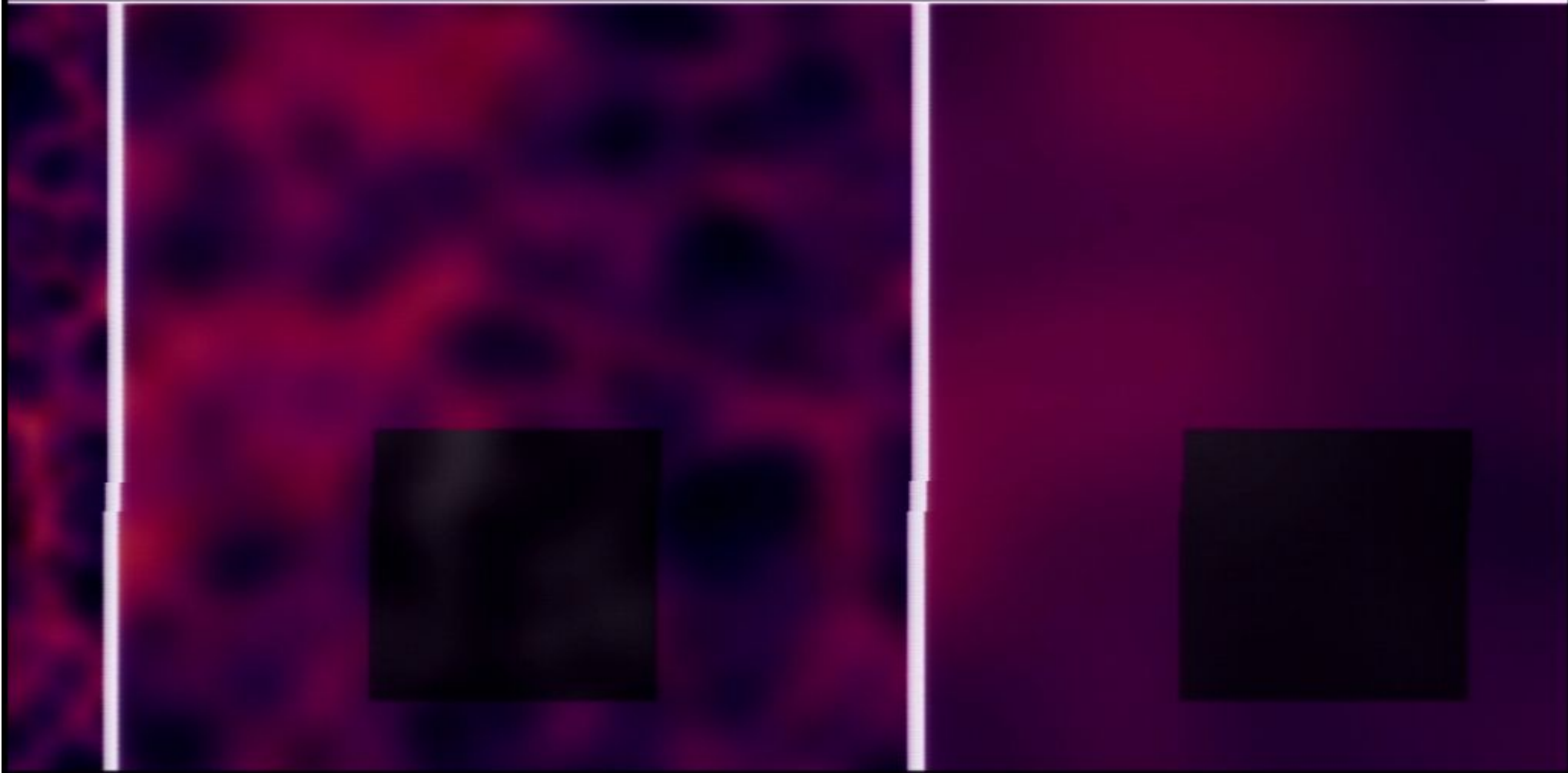


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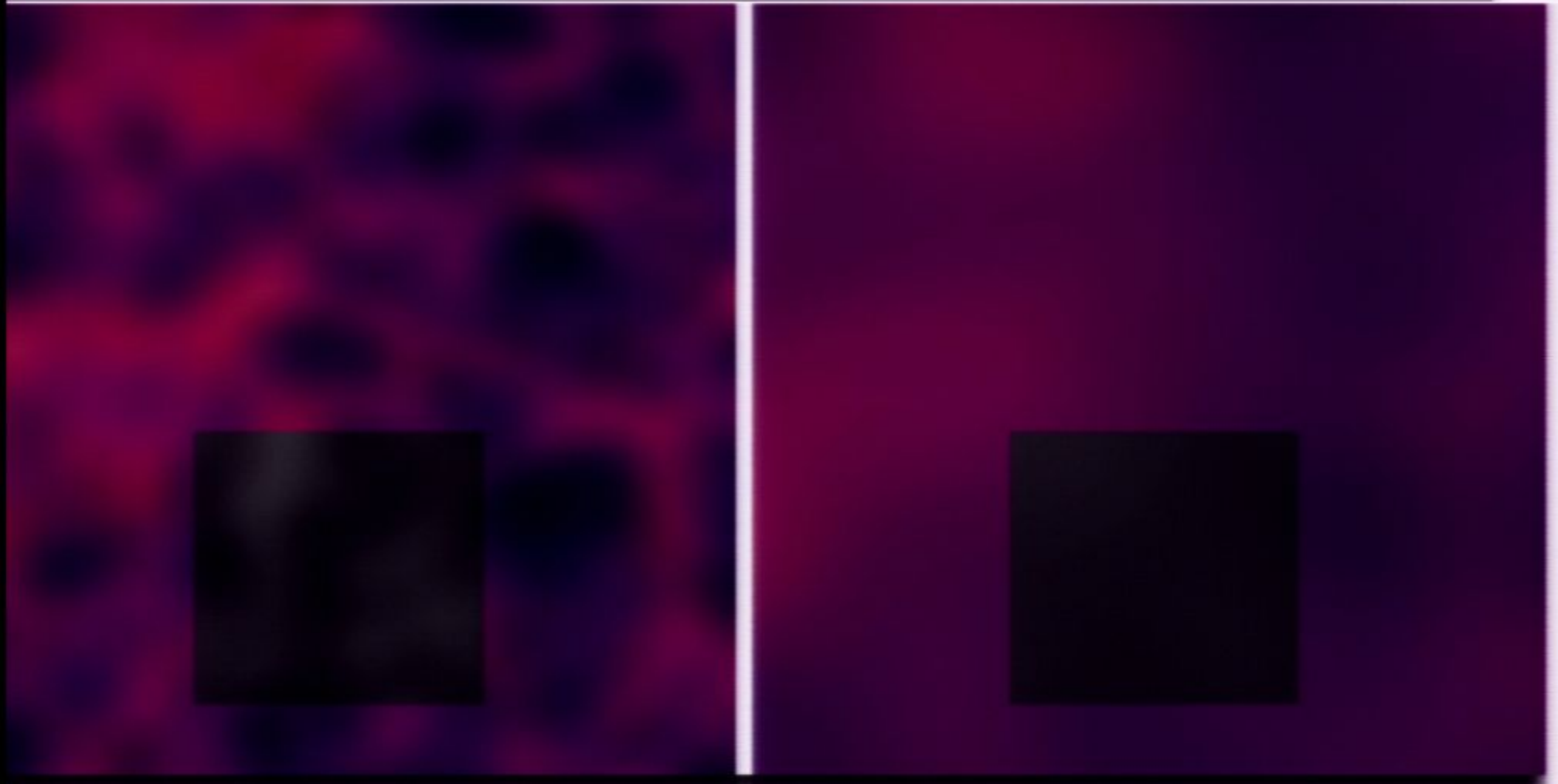




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# Canonical Cosmology

compute everything as power series in small parameter  $\epsilon$

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + \epsilon \delta^{(1)} g_{\mu\nu} + \epsilon^2 \delta^{(2)} g_{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

'real' spacetime

'background' spacetime  
FLRW

first-order  
perturbation

second-order  
correction

to 'background' observables - SNIa etc



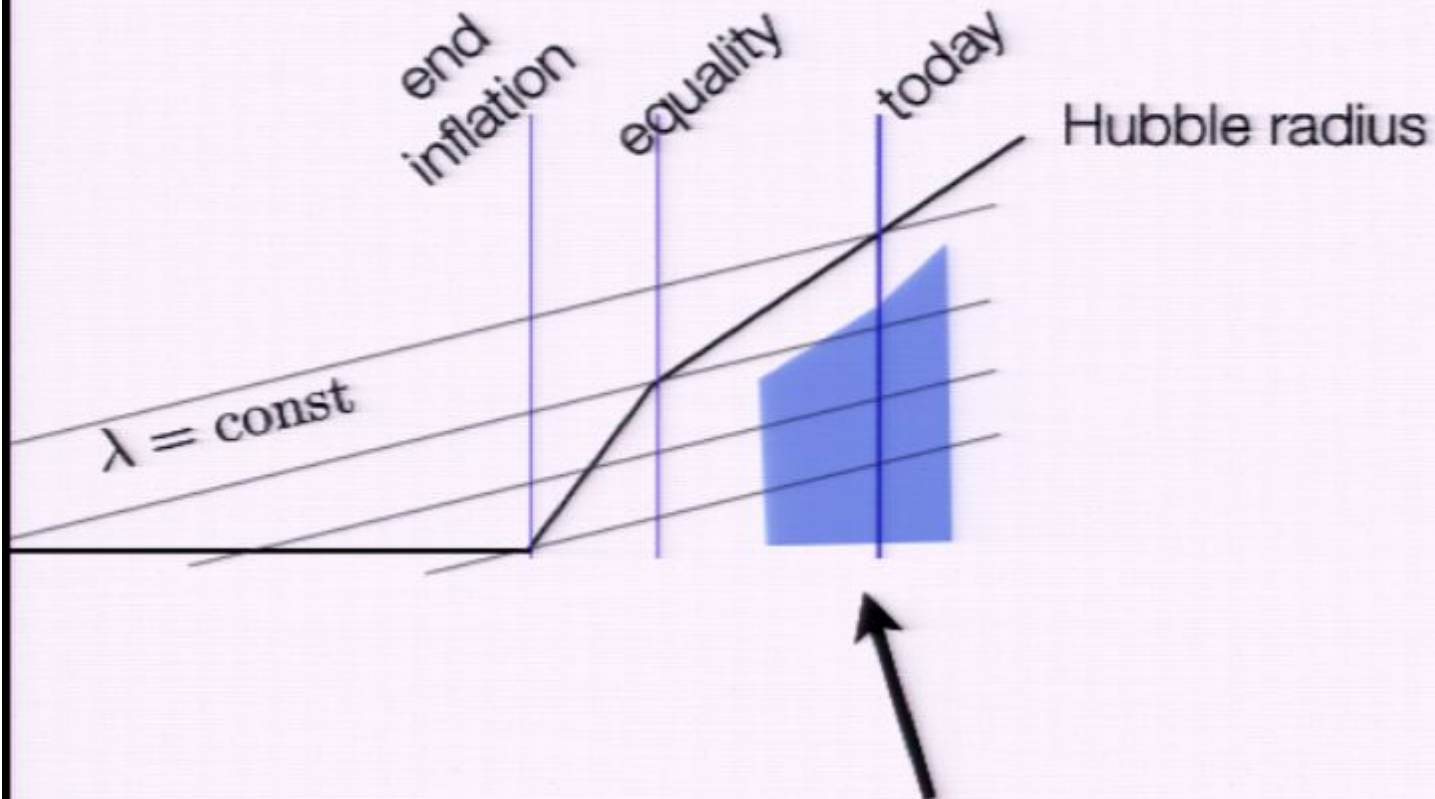
# The Averaging Problem

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We don't know how to do it!

- We can't average tensors covariantly
- EFE non-linear :
  - an averaged geometry doesn't give 'averaged EFE'
    - averaged EFE don't give averaged geometry
- smoothed geometry doesn't stay close to 'real', modelled, spacetime
  - averaging and evolution don't commute

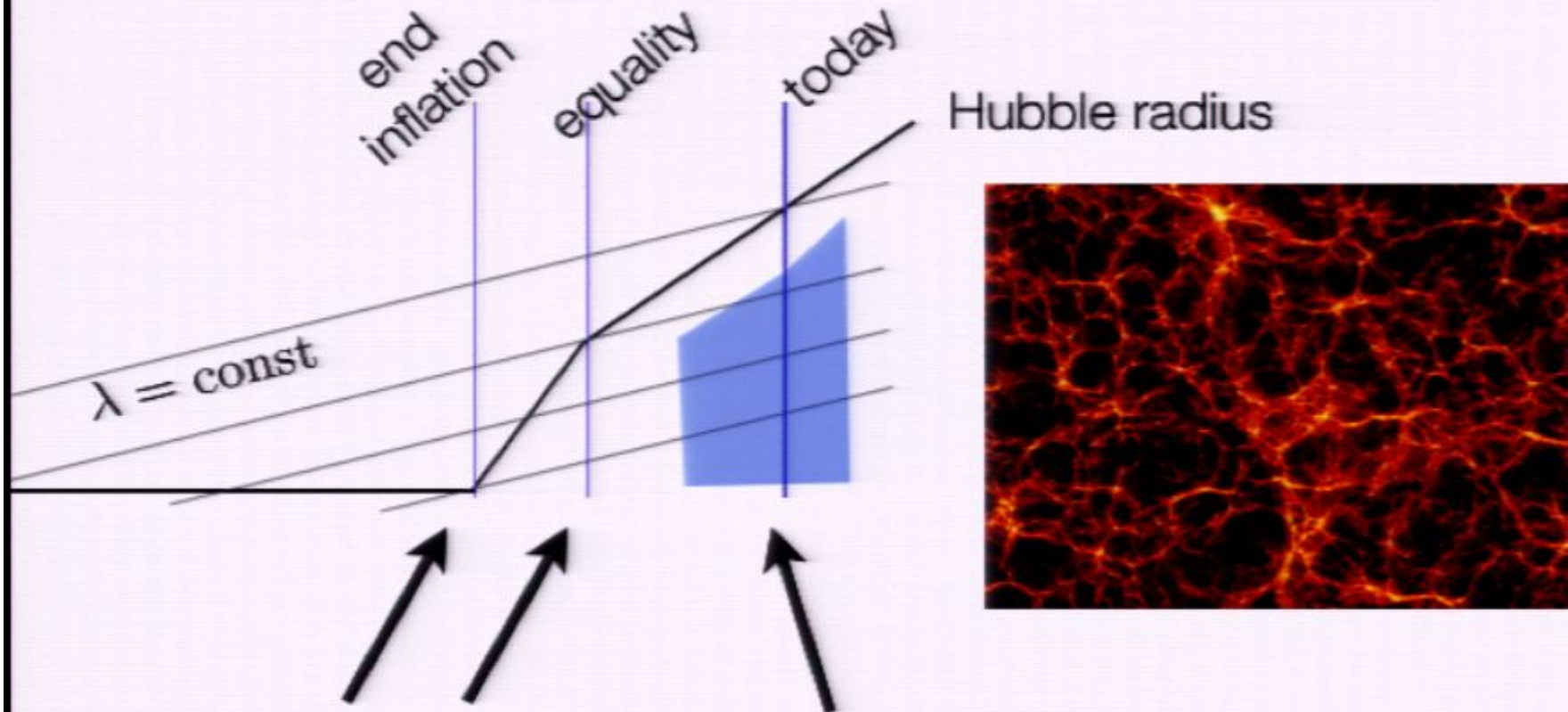
## Another view of the averaging problem



averaging gives corrections here

different *effective*  $\frac{\rho_{\text{tot}}}{\rho_{\text{critical}}}$  and  $\Lambda$

# Another view of the averaging problem



model = flat FLRW +  
perturbations

curvature and  $\Lambda$  fixed

averaging gives corrections here

different *effective*  $\frac{\rho_{\text{tot}}}{\rho_{\text{critical}}}$  and  $\Lambda$



## Another view of the averaging problem

how do we remove backreaction bits  
to get to 'real' background?  
smoothed background today is not  
same background as at end of inflation



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# Do we care? Isn't cosmology just flat LCDM?

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Corrections from averaging enter Friedmann and Raychaudhuri equations

- is this degenerate with 'dark energy'?
- can we separate the effects [if there are any?]

# Averaging

---

Define Riemannian averaging operator on arbitrary domain  $\mathcal{D}$

$$\psi_{\mathcal{D}} = \langle \psi \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} \equiv \frac{1}{V_{\mathcal{D}}} \int_{\mathcal{D}} \psi(t, x^i) J d^3x$$



Riemannian volume element

$$J \equiv \sqrt{\det(h_{ij})}$$

spatial average implies wrt  
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Define Riemannian averaging operator on arbitrary domain  $D$

$$\psi_D = \langle \psi \rangle_D \equiv \frac{1}{V_D} \int_D \psi(t, x^i) J d^3x$$

if we try to solve  
averaged field  
equations how can  
we also find  $J$ ?

Riemannian volume element

$$J \equiv \sqrt{\det(h_{ij})}$$

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# Perturbations to second-order

---

In Poisson gauge, second-order in scalars

$$ds^2 = - \left( 1 + 2\Phi + \Phi^{(2)} \right) dt^2 + a^2 \left( 1 - 2\Psi - \Psi^{(2)} \right) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

first-order solution

$$\Psi = \Phi$$

$$\Phi'' + 3\mathcal{H}\Phi' + a^2\Lambda\Phi = 0$$

Bardeen eqn at first-order

power spectrum

$$\mathcal{P}_\Phi(z, k) = \left( \frac{3\Delta_{\mathcal{R}}}{5g_\infty} \right)^2 g(z)^2 T(k)^2$$

$T(k)$  is the transfer function

$$g(z) = \frac{5}{2}g_\infty\Omega_m(z) \left\{ \Omega_m(z)^{4/7} - \Omega_\Lambda(z) + \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2}\Omega_m(z) \right] \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{70}\Omega_\Lambda(z) \right] \right\}^{-1}$$

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## Averaging perturbed equations

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for the averaged Hubble rate get crazy stuff like

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_D = & H - \langle \dot{\Phi} \rangle - \frac{2(1+z)^2}{9H^2\Omega_m} \left( H\langle \partial^2 \Phi \rangle + \langle \partial^2 \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right) + \langle \Phi \dot{\Phi} \rangle \\
 & + \frac{2(1+z)^2}{9H^3\Omega_m^2} \left\{ 2H\Omega_m \left[ H\langle \Phi \partial^2 \Phi \rangle + \langle \Phi \partial^2 \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] + H(1+3\Omega_m) \left[ H\langle \partial^k \Phi \partial_k \Phi \rangle + \langle \partial^k \Phi \partial_k \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] + \langle \partial^k \right. \\
 & - 3\langle \Phi \rangle \langle \dot{\Phi} \rangle - \frac{2(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m} \left[ H\langle \Phi \rangle \langle \partial^2 \Phi \rangle + \langle \Phi \rangle \langle \partial^2 \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] \\
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first-order contribution



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 & + \frac{2(1+z)^2}{9H^3\Omega_m^2} \left\{ 2H\Omega_m \left[ H \langle \Phi \partial^2 \Phi \rangle + \langle \Phi \partial^2 \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] + H(1+3\Omega_m) \left[ H \langle \partial^k \Phi \partial_k \Phi \rangle + \langle \partial^k \Phi \partial_k \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] + \langle \partial^k \right. \\
 & \left. - 3 \langle \Phi \rangle \langle \dot{\Phi} \rangle - \frac{2(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m} \left[ H \langle \Phi \rangle \langle \partial^2 \Phi \rangle + \langle \Phi \rangle \langle \partial^2 \dot{\Phi} \rangle \right] \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{\Psi}^{(2)} \rangle + \frac{1}{6} \langle \partial^2 v^{(2)} \rangle \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

second-order contribution - express ito first-order

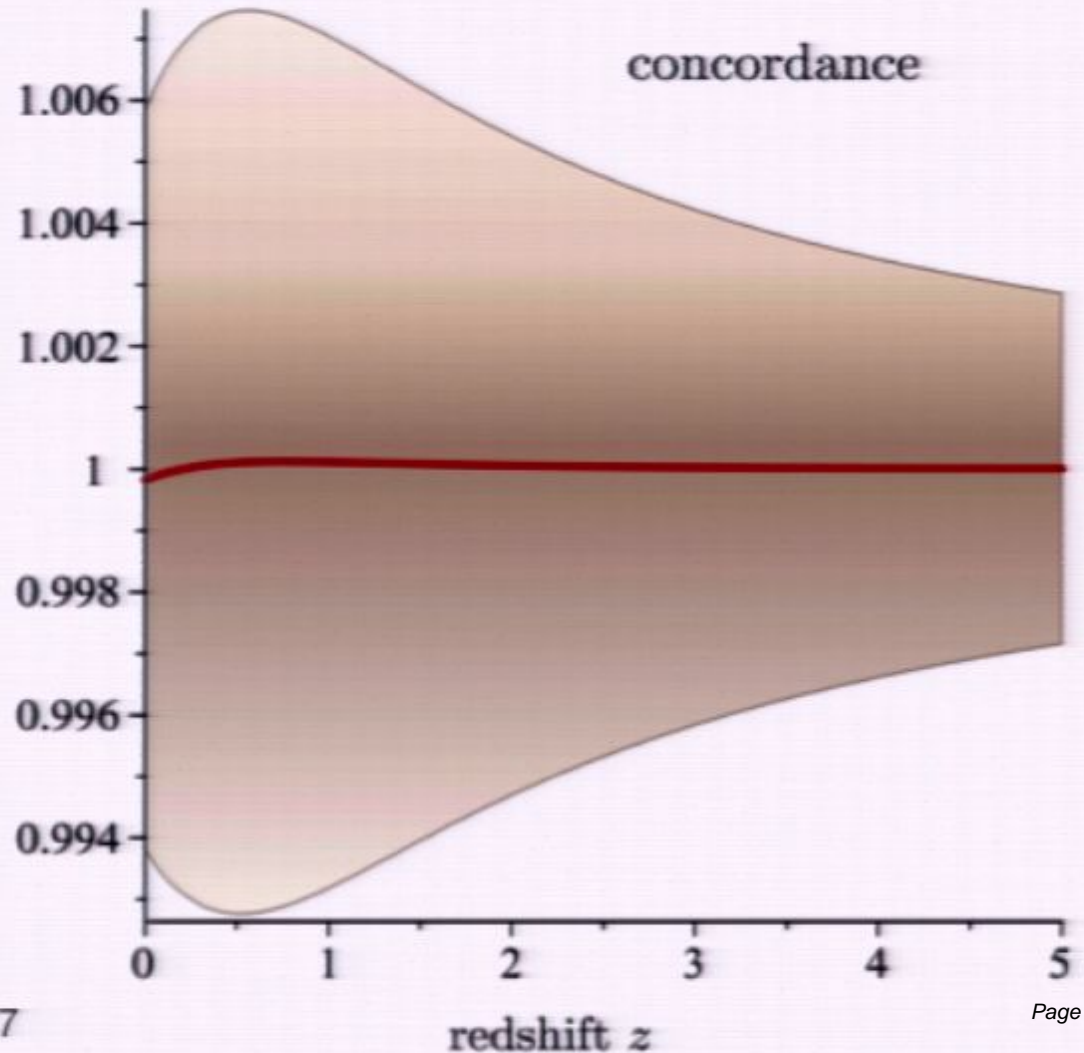
# Change to the Hubble rate

Normalised Hubble rate  
as function of redshift

from averaging Friedmann  
equation

$$\sqrt{H_D^2}$$

quality scale domain



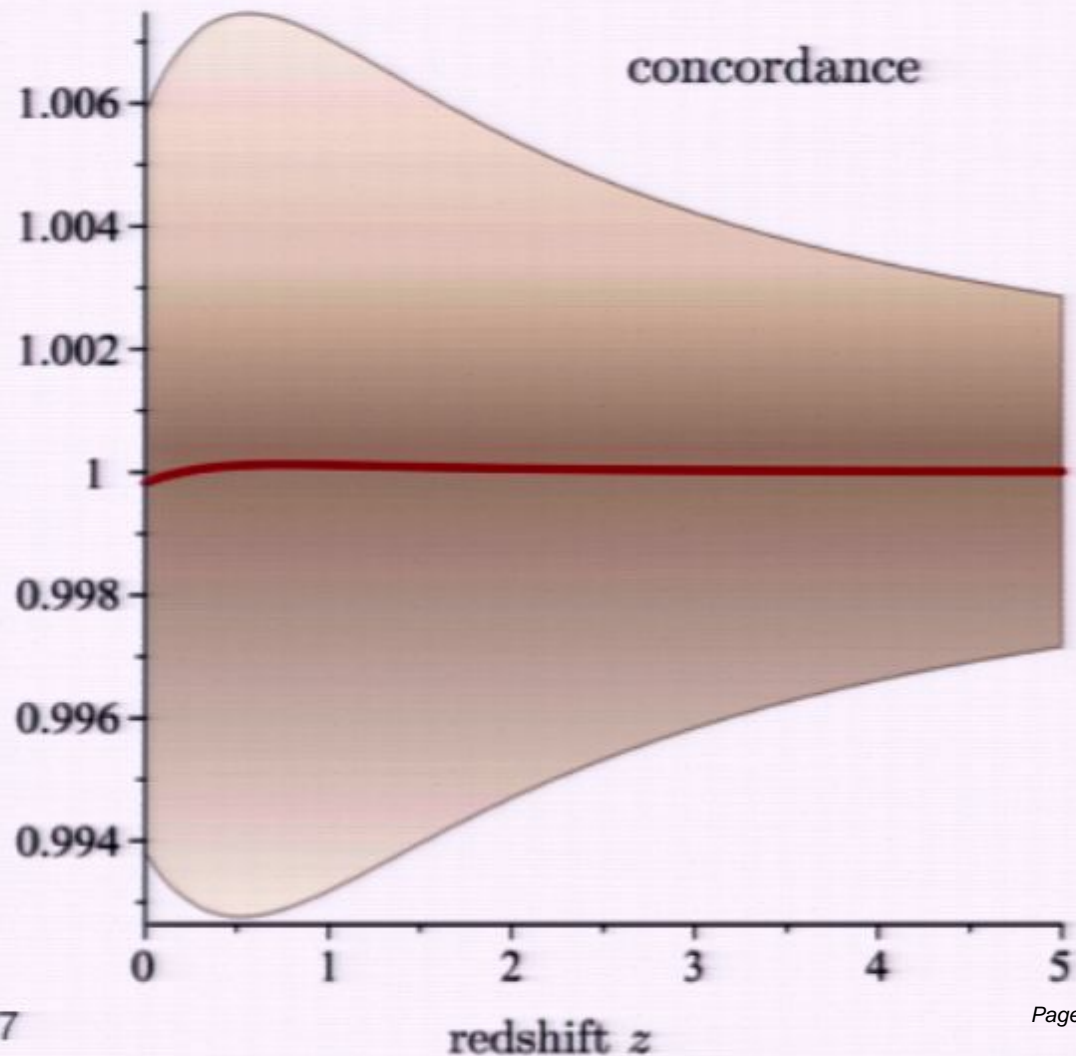
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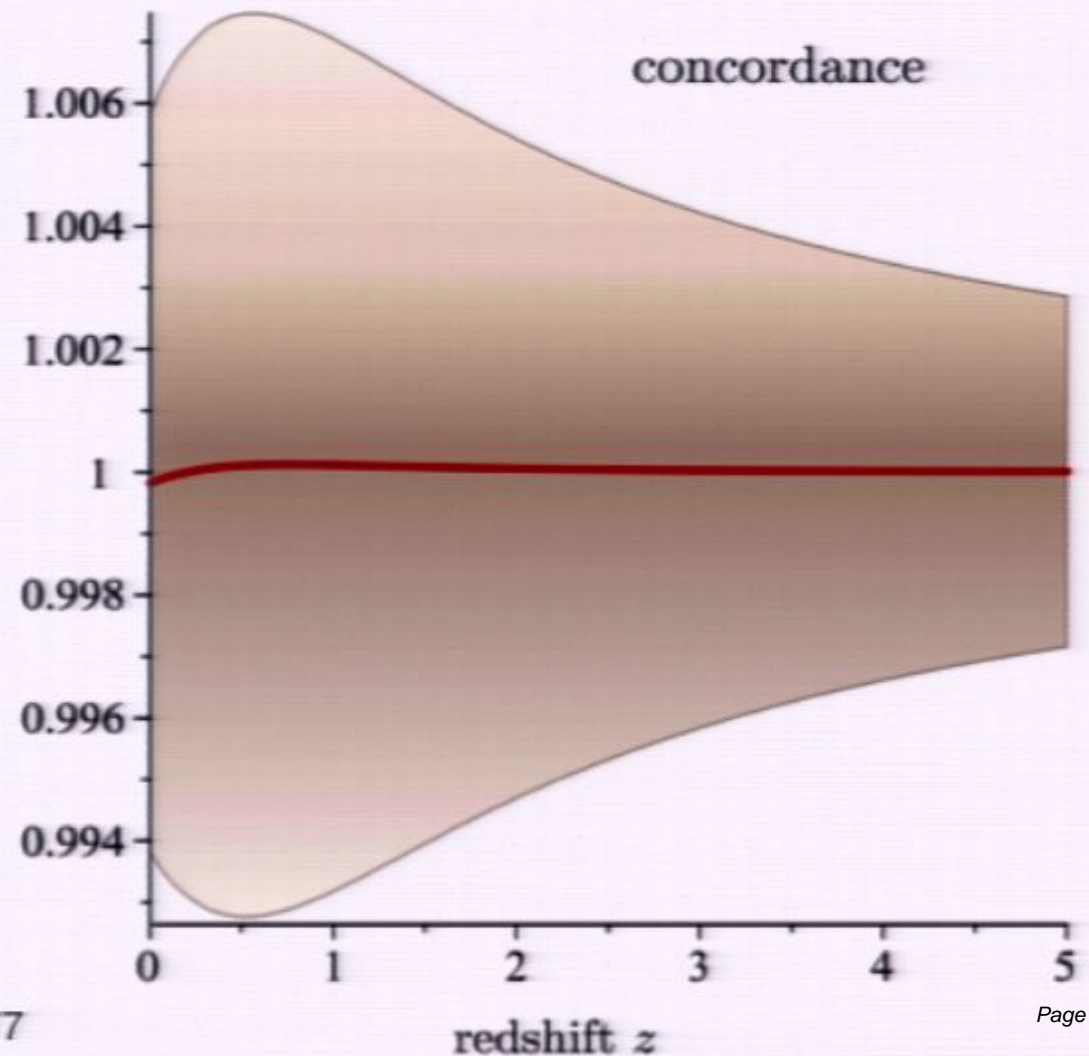
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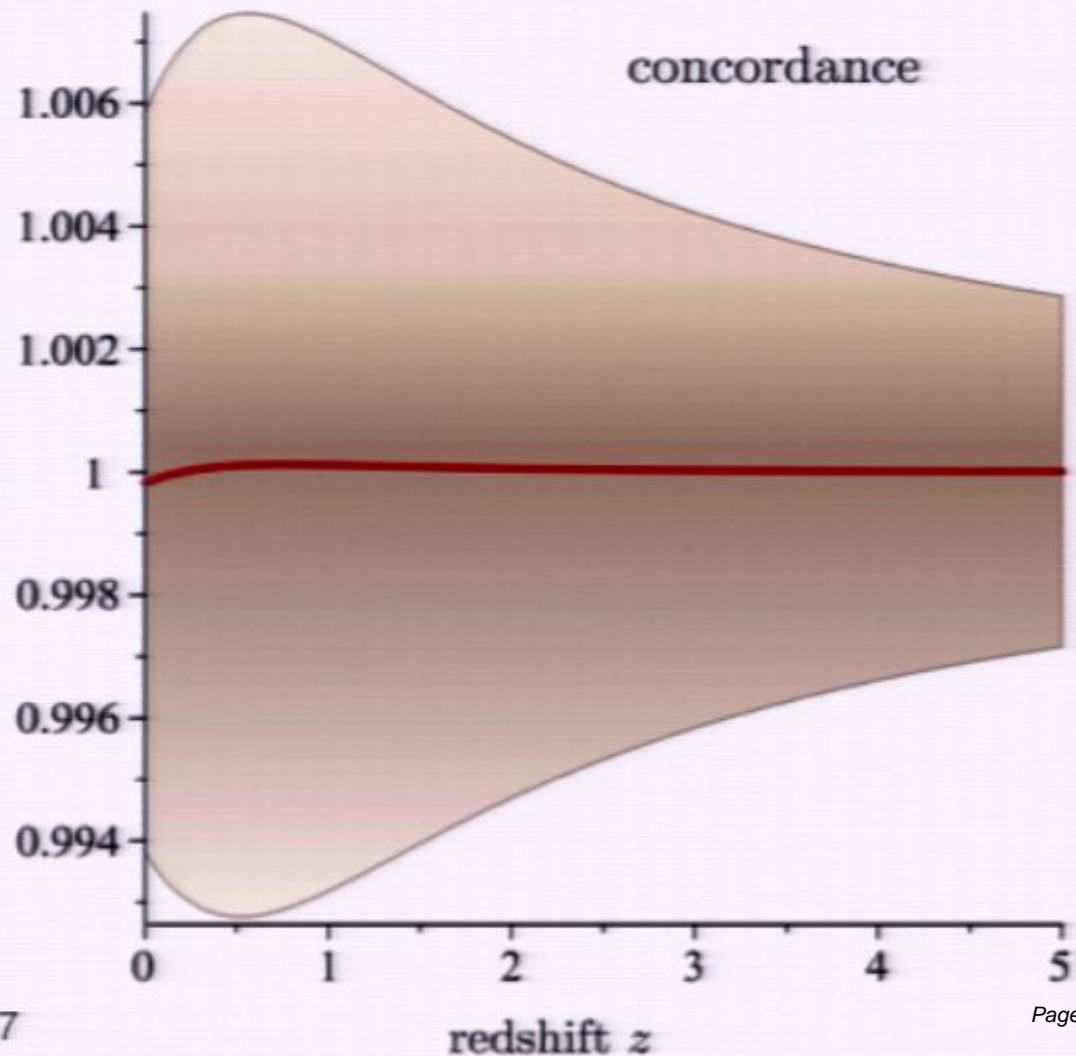
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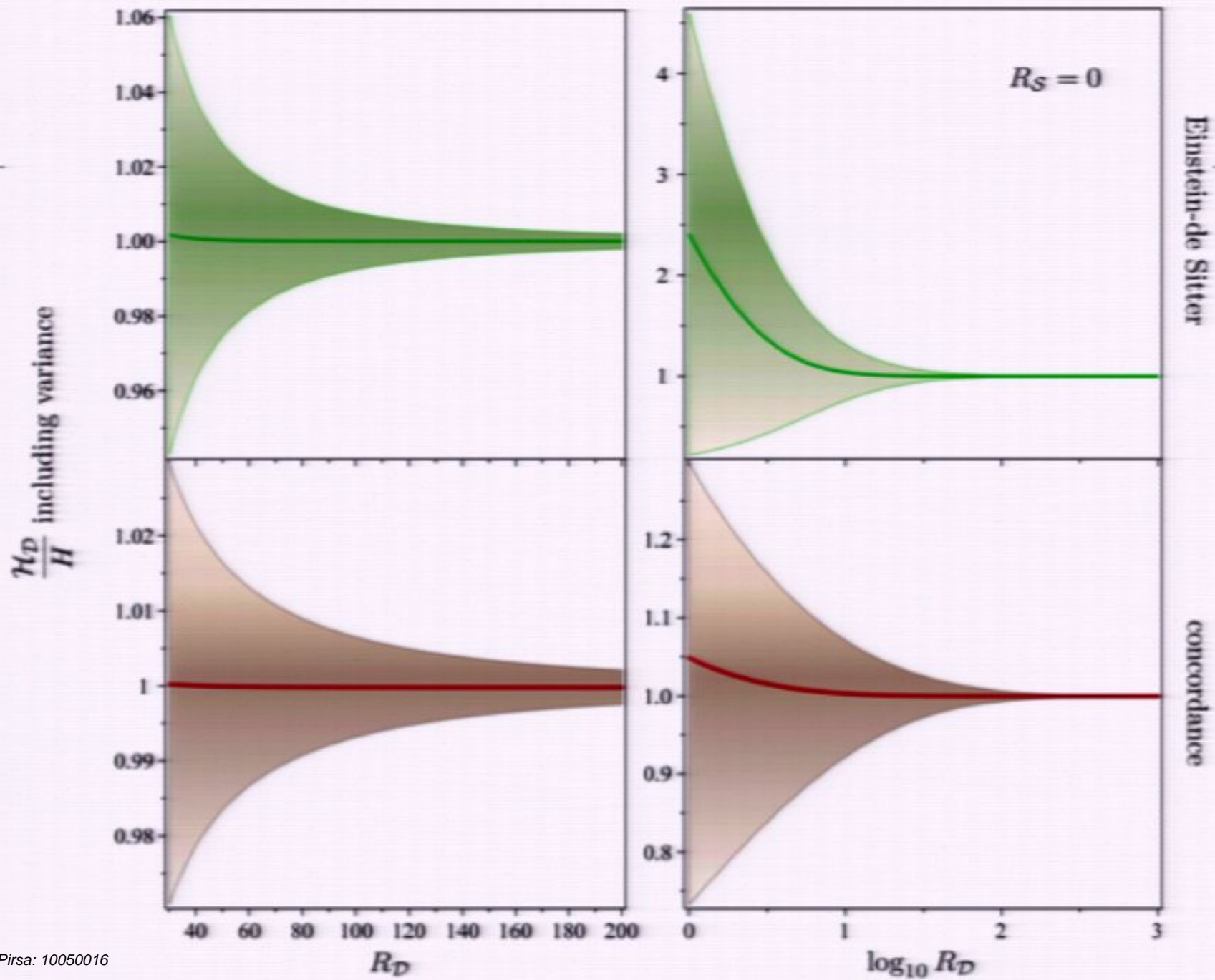
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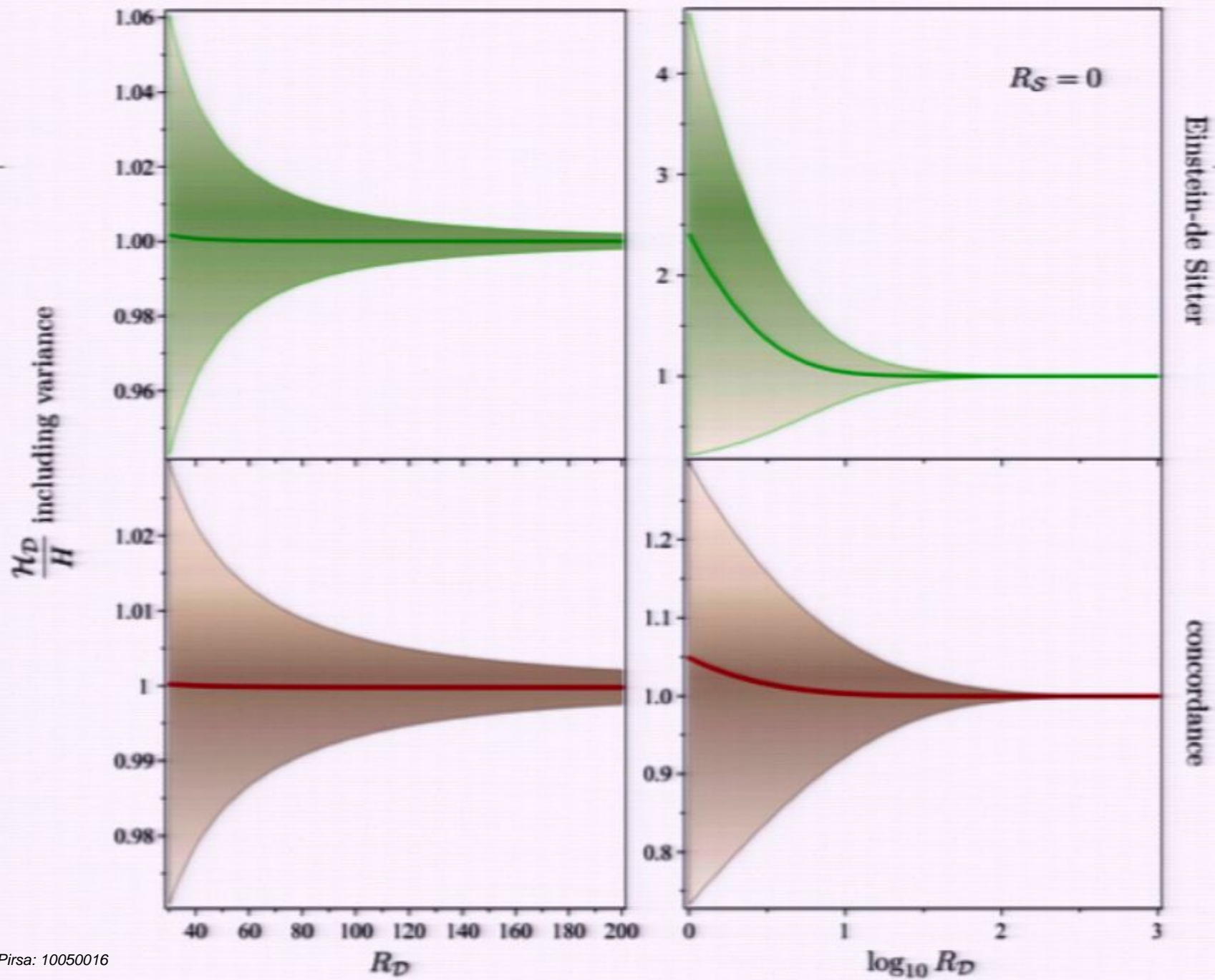
$$\sqrt{H_D^2}$$

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## Deceleration Parameter & Raychaudhuri Equation

---

$$q_{\mathcal{D}}(z) = -\frac{1}{H_{\mathcal{D}}^2} \frac{\ddot{a}_{\mathcal{D}}}{a_{\mathcal{D}}}, \quad \text{where} \quad H_{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{\partial_t a_{\mathcal{D}}}{a_{\mathcal{D}}}$$

same sort of thing - but much more complicated!

now includes things like

$$\langle \partial^2 \Phi \partial^2 \Phi \rangle$$

these have UV divergence - smoothing scale critical

Decelerati

$q_D(z)$

ame sort of th

ow includes t

hese have UV

$$\begin{aligned} 3\frac{\partial^2 u_D}{\partial \tau^2} = & 3H^2 \left(1 - \frac{3}{2}\Omega_m\right) + Q_D - \mathcal{L}_D + \mathcal{P}_D + \mathcal{F}_D + \mathcal{K}_D \\ & + 9H^2(1 - \Omega_m)\langle\Phi\rangle + 3H\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle - (1+z)^2\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \\ & + 3H^2(9\Omega_m - 7)\langle\Phi^2\rangle - 3H\langle\Phi\dot{\Phi}\rangle + (1+z)^2\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle \\ & + \frac{(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m^2}(4 - 9\Omega_m)\left[H^2\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle + 2H\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\dot{\Phi}\rangle + \langle\partial^k\dot{\Phi}\partial_k\Phi\rangle\right] \\ & + 9H\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle + 27H^2(1 - \Omega_m)\langle\Phi\rangle^2 - 3(1+z)^2\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \\ & + 3H^2\left(1 - \frac{3}{2}\Omega_m\right)\langle\Phi^{(2)}\rangle - \frac{\kappa^2}{4}\langle\delta^2\rho\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The averaged curvature term is:

$$\mathcal{R}_D = 2(1+z)^2 \left[ 2\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 6\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 3\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle + 6\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi^{(2)}\rangle \right],$$

and the additional backreaction terms are:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_D = & \frac{4(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m^2} \left[ H^2\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle + 2H\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\dot{\Phi}\rangle + \langle\partial^k\dot{\Phi}\partial_k\Phi\rangle \right], \\ \mathcal{P}_D = & 3H\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle + (1+z)^2\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle - 15H\langle\Phi\dot{\Phi}\rangle - 3\langle\dot{\Phi}^2\rangle - (1+z)^2 \left[ \langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 2\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & - \frac{2(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m} \left[ H\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] + 9H\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle + 3(1+z)^2\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \\ & + \frac{1}{2}(1+z)^2\langle\partial^2\Phi^{(2)}\rangle + \frac{3}{2}H\langle\dot{\Phi}^{(2)}\rangle, \\ Q_D - \mathcal{L}_D = & \frac{8(1+z)^2}{3H\Omega_m} \left[ H\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] + 6\langle\dot{\Phi}^2\rangle - 6\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle^2 \\ & - \frac{8(1+z)^2}{3H\Omega_m} \left[ 2H\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 2\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 3H\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle + 3\langle\partial^k\dot{\Phi}\partial_k\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & - \frac{8(1+z)^2}{27H^4\Omega_m^2} \left[ H^2\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle^2 + 2H\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle^2 \right] \\ & - \frac{8(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m^2} \left[ -3H^2\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle - 3H\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + H\langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\dot{\Phi}\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & - 2H(1+z)\langle\partial^2\Phi^{(2)}\rangle, \\ \mathcal{K}_D = & \frac{(1+z)^2}{H^2\Omega_m} \left\{ \frac{4H}{3} \left[ H \left(1 - \frac{3}{2}\Omega_m\right) \langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] \right. \\ & - \frac{2}{3} \left[ H^2(4 - 3\Omega_m)\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 4H\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 3H\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 3\langle\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{3\Omega_m} \left[ 3H^2(3\Omega_m^2 - 2\Omega_m - 4)\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\Phi\rangle - 8H\langle\partial^k\Phi\partial_k\dot{\Phi}\rangle - 2(2 - 3\Omega_m)\langle\partial^k\dot{\Phi}\partial_k\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & - \frac{4(1+z)^2}{3H^2\Omega_m} \left[ H^2\langle\partial^2\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 2H\langle\partial^2\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & + \left[ H^2(4 - 3\Omega_m)\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 2\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 2H\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + 4H\langle\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle \right] \\ & \left. + \frac{4(1+z)^2}{9H^2\Omega_m} \left[ H^2\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle^2 + 2H\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle\langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle + \langle\partial^2\Phi\rangle^2 \right] \right\} \\ & + \frac{1}{2}(1+z)\langle\partial^2\Phi^{(2)}\rangle - \frac{1}{2}H(1+z)\langle\partial^2\Phi^{(2)}\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

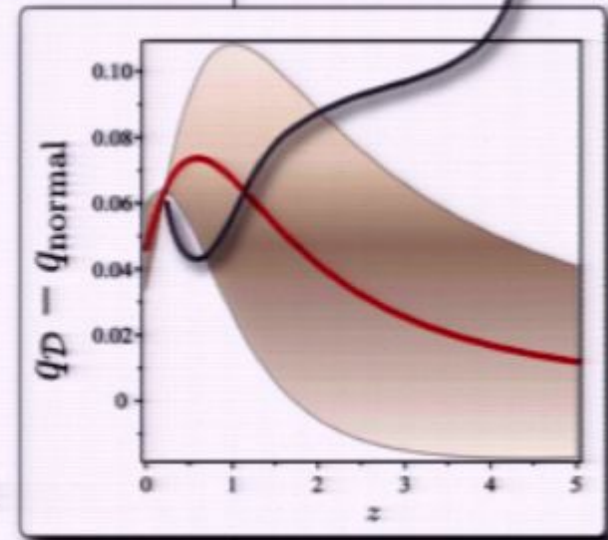
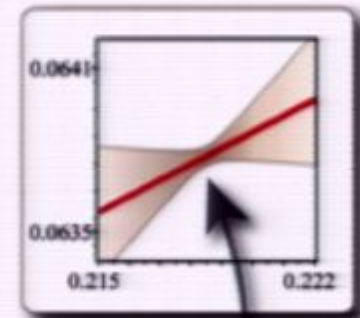
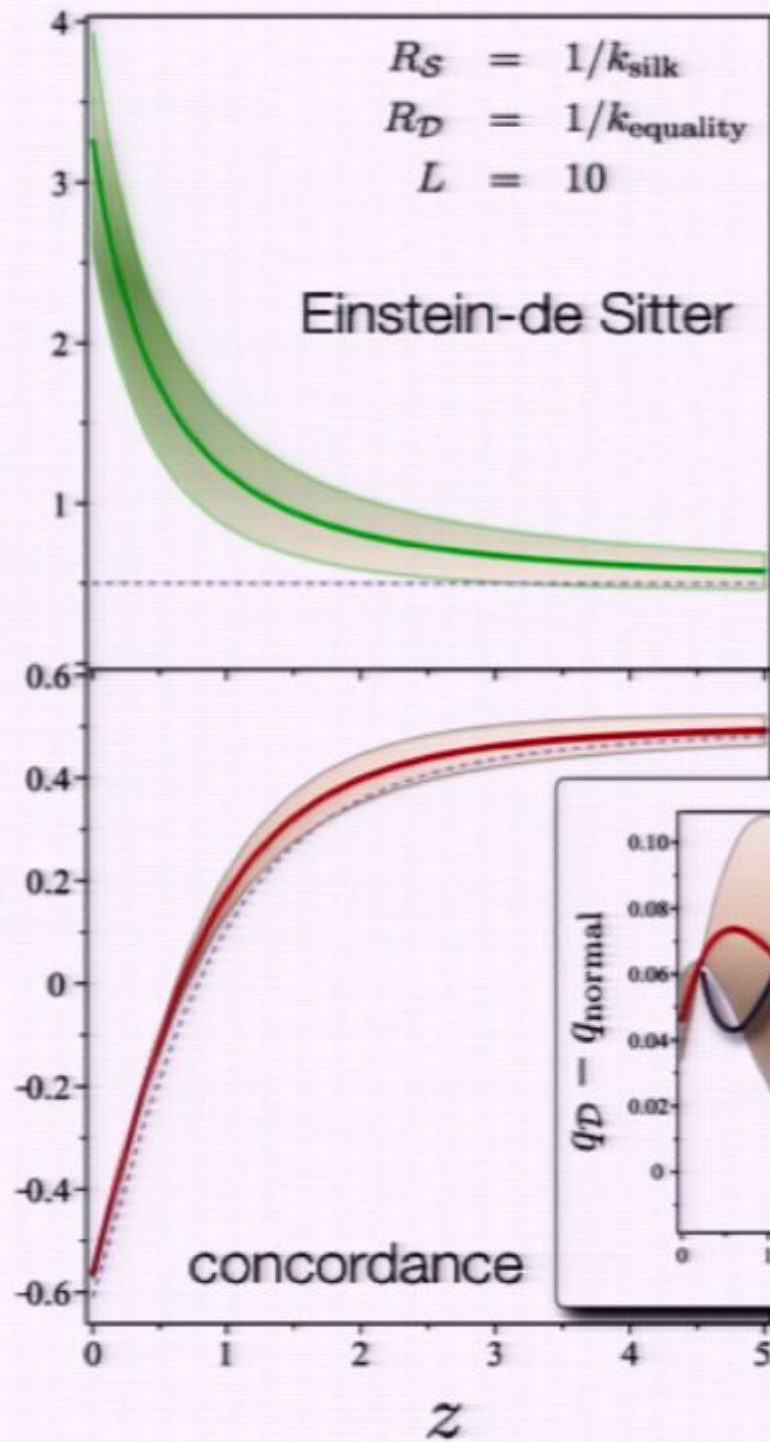
Equation



~10%  
change!

UV  
convergence

$\bar{q}_{\mathcal{D}}$  including variance



## Deceleration Parameter & Raychaudhuri Equation

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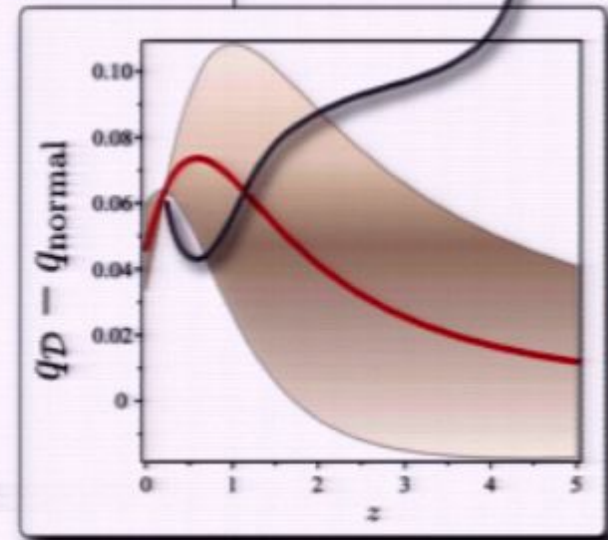
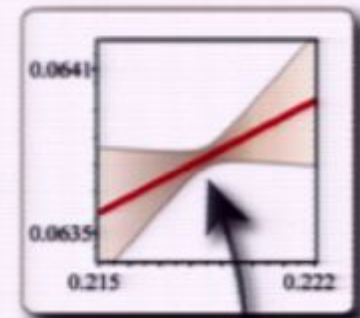
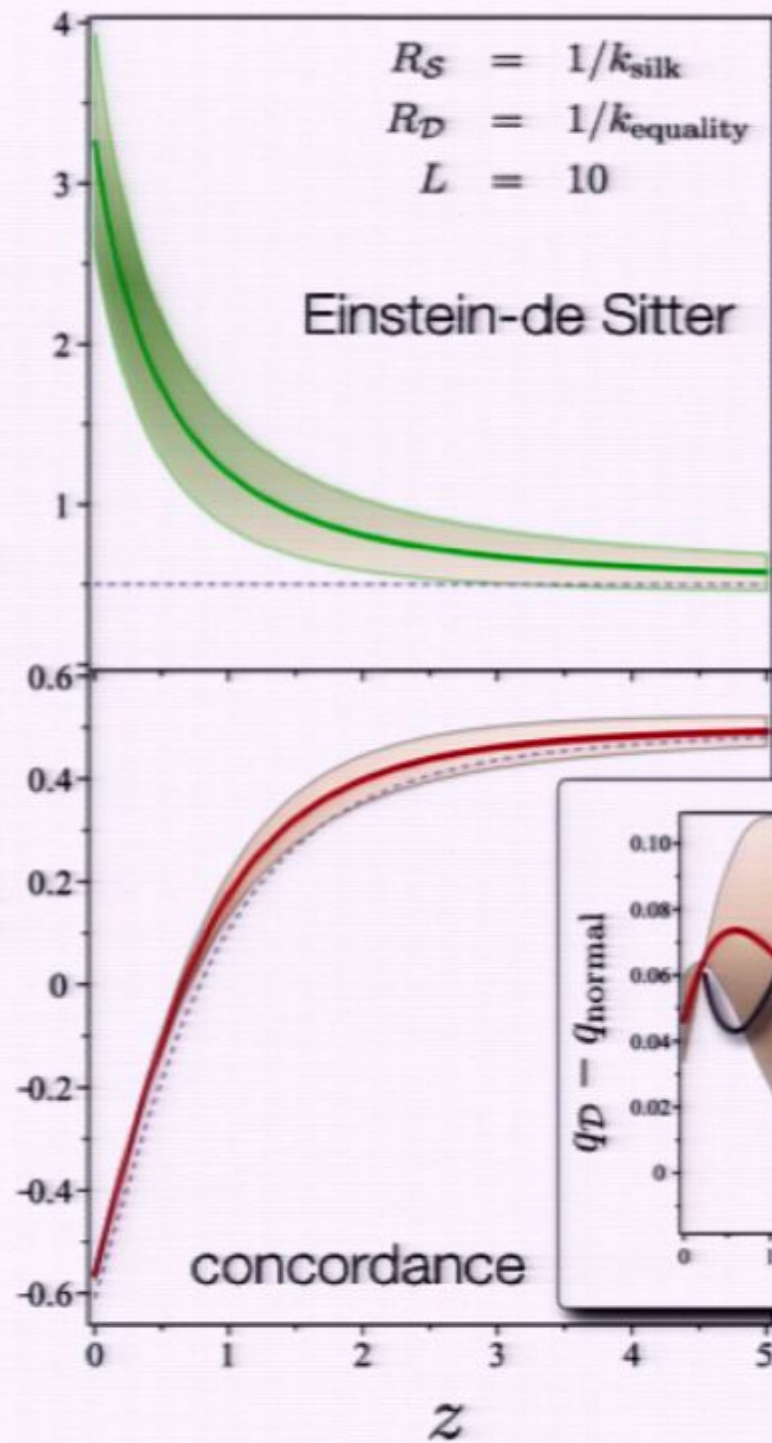
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these have UV divergence - smoothing scale critical

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## backreaction from structure

---

- small residual backreaction on large scales
  - background model *is* renormalised
  - this gives *homogeneity scale* in perturbation theory
- large variance could be important for finding 'correct' background
- could be 10% or more difference to  $q(z)$  and  $w(z)$ 
  - UV divergence means it's unquantifiable at second-order?

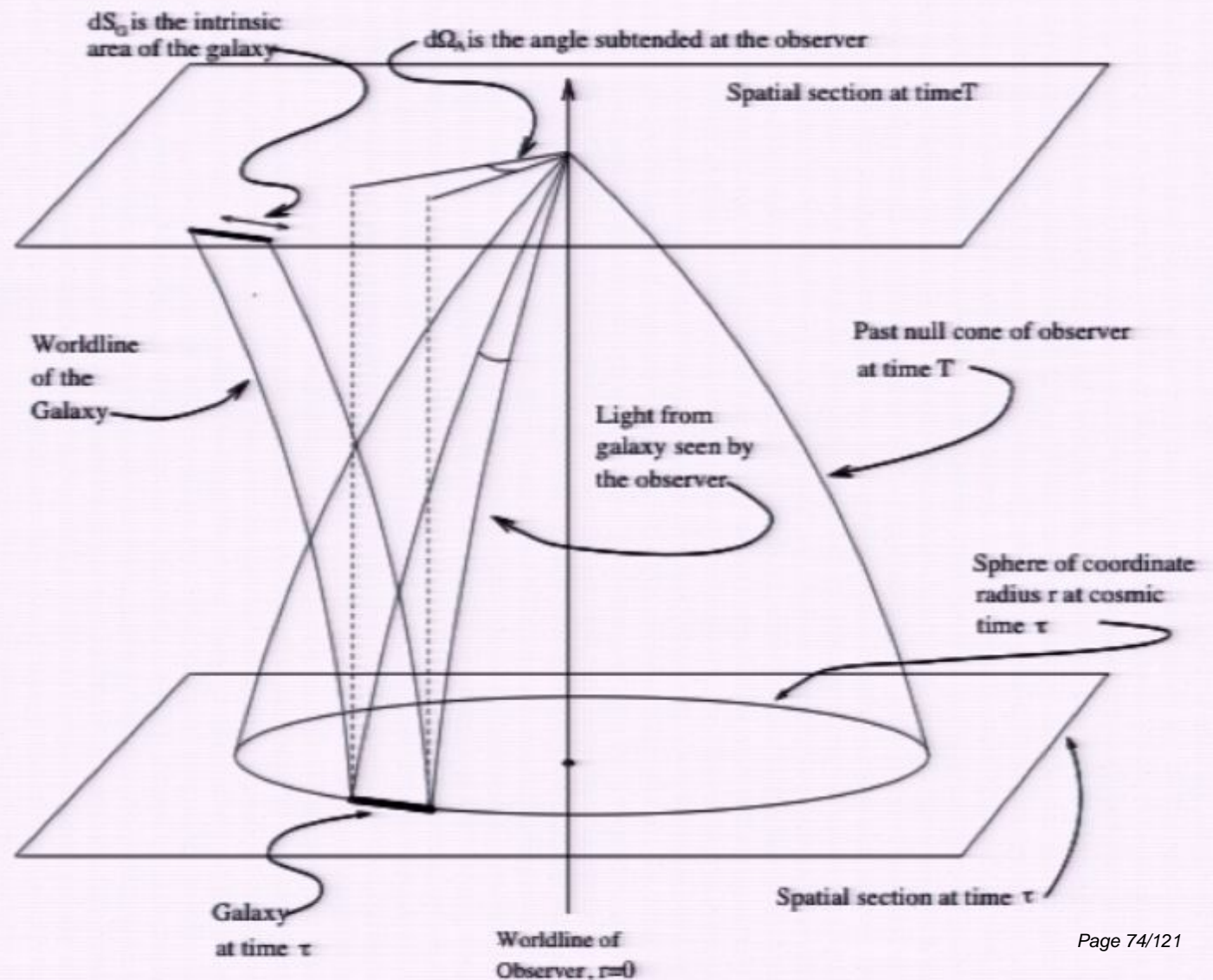
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# Why would large-scale inhomogeneity work?

radial  
inhomogeneity  
hard to  
distinguish  
from time  
evolution





# Spherical Symmetry

---

within dust Lemaitre-Tolman-Bondi models - 2 free radial dof

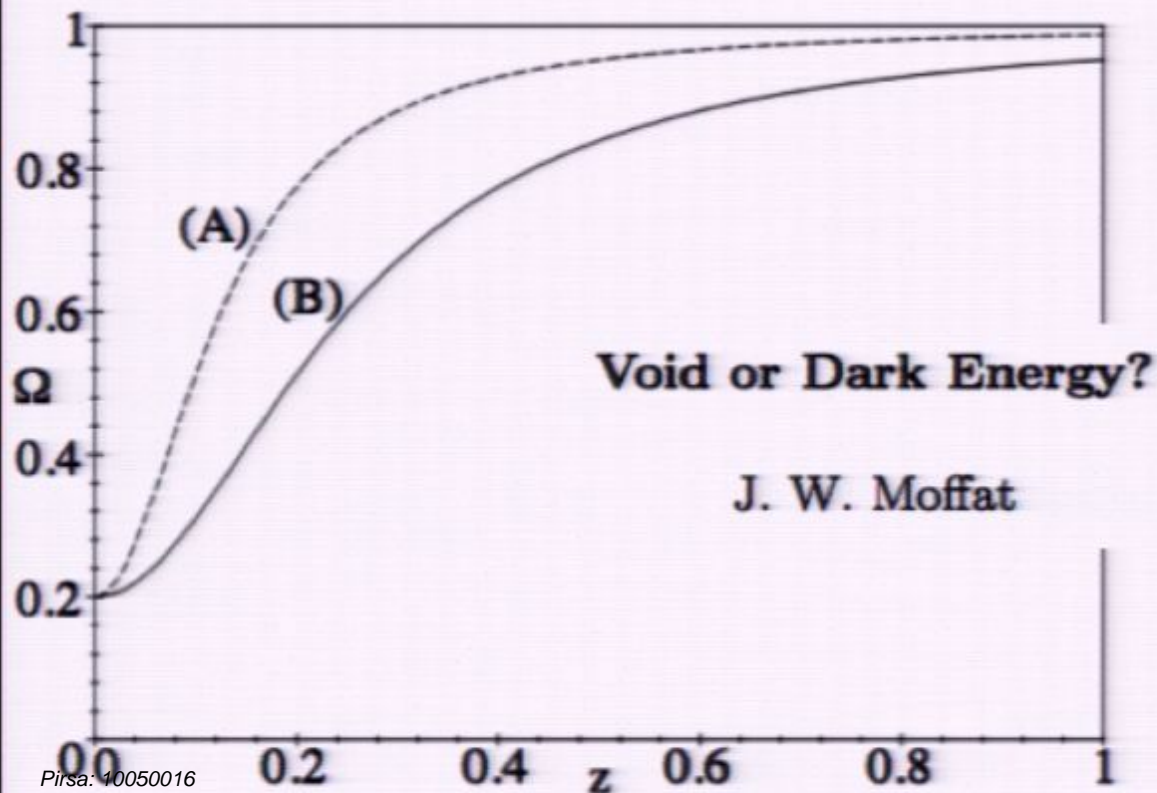
- can fit distance-redshift data to *any* FLRW DE model

Mustapha, Hellaby, & Ellis

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Mustapha, Hellaby, & Ellis

J. W. Moffat

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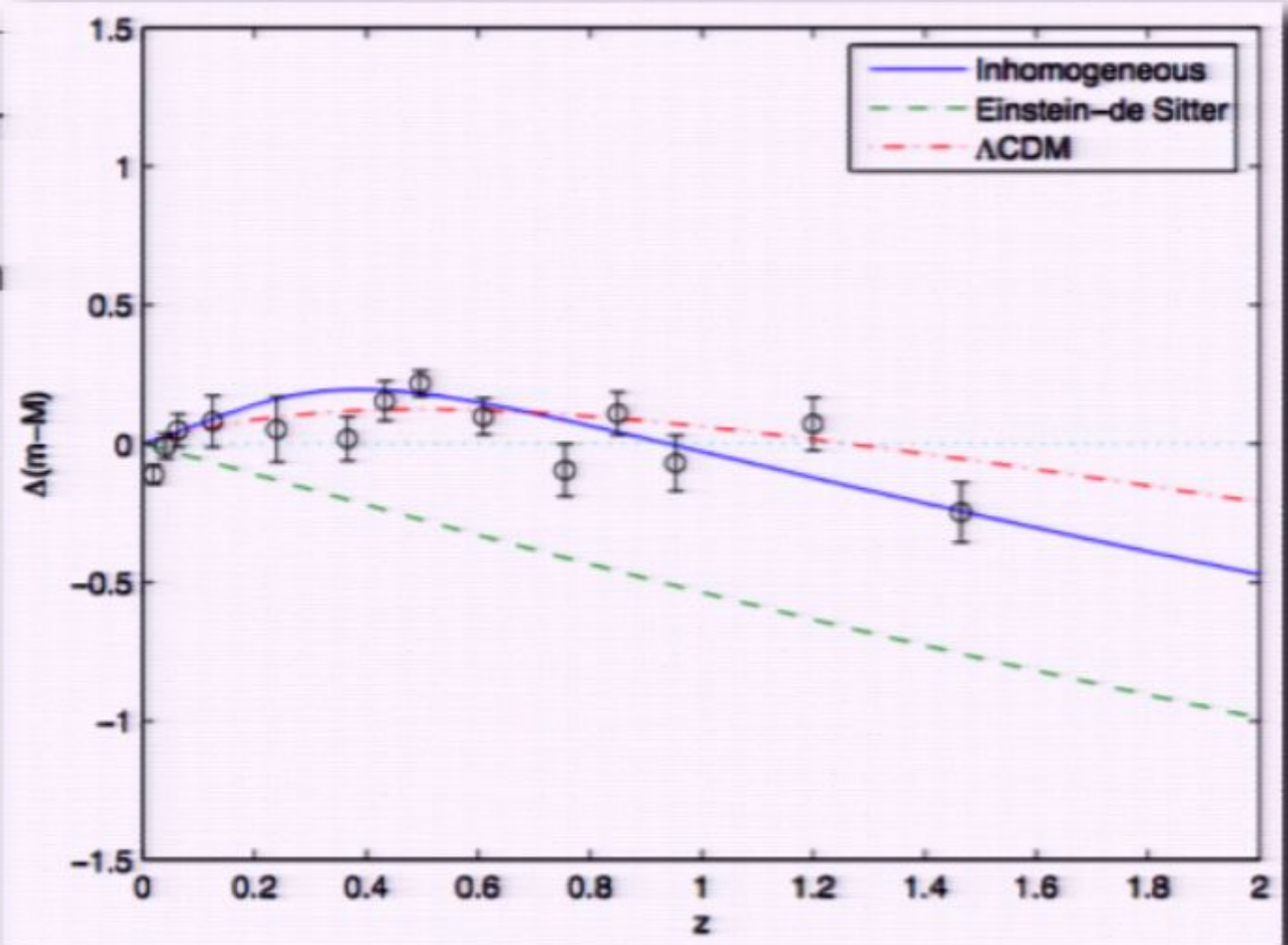
Mustapha, Hellaby, & Ellis



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within dust Lemaitre-Tolman

- can fit distance-redsh

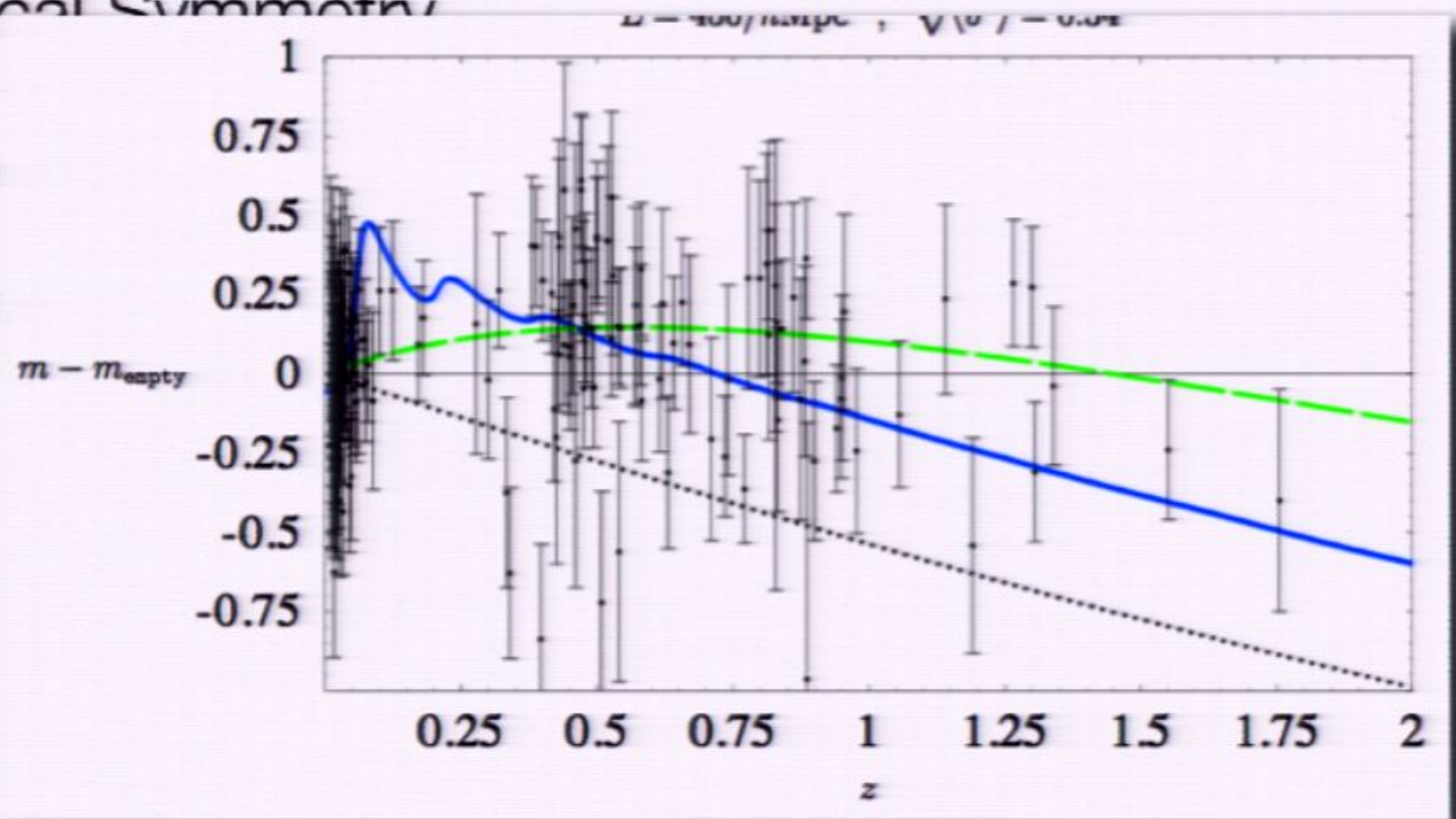


Alnes, Amarzguioui, and Gron astro-ph/0512006

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within d

- can f



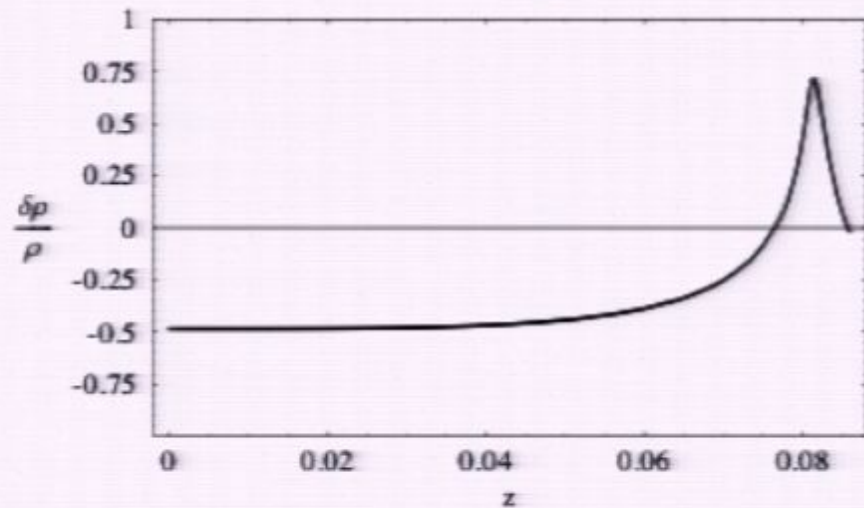
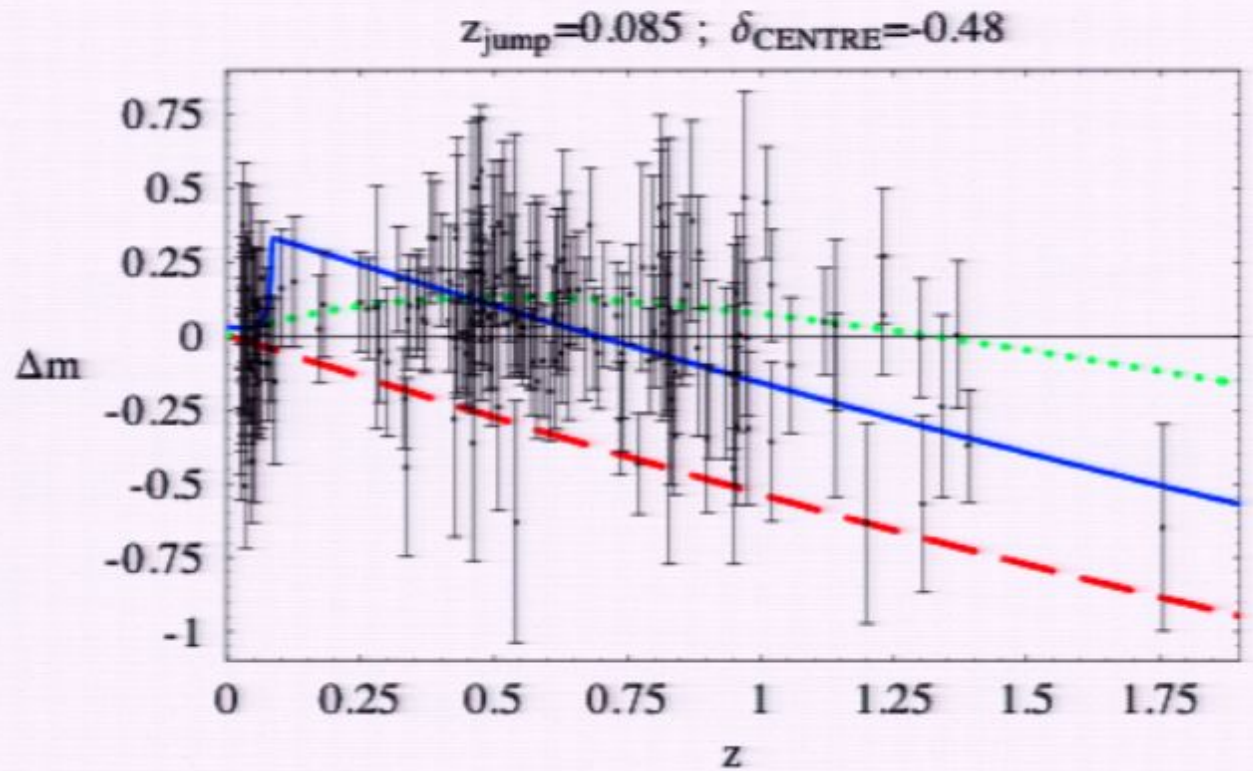
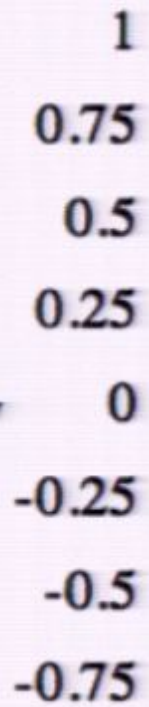
Biswas, Monsouri and Notari, astro-ph/0606703

# Spherical Summation

within d

- can f

$$m - m_{\text{empty}}$$





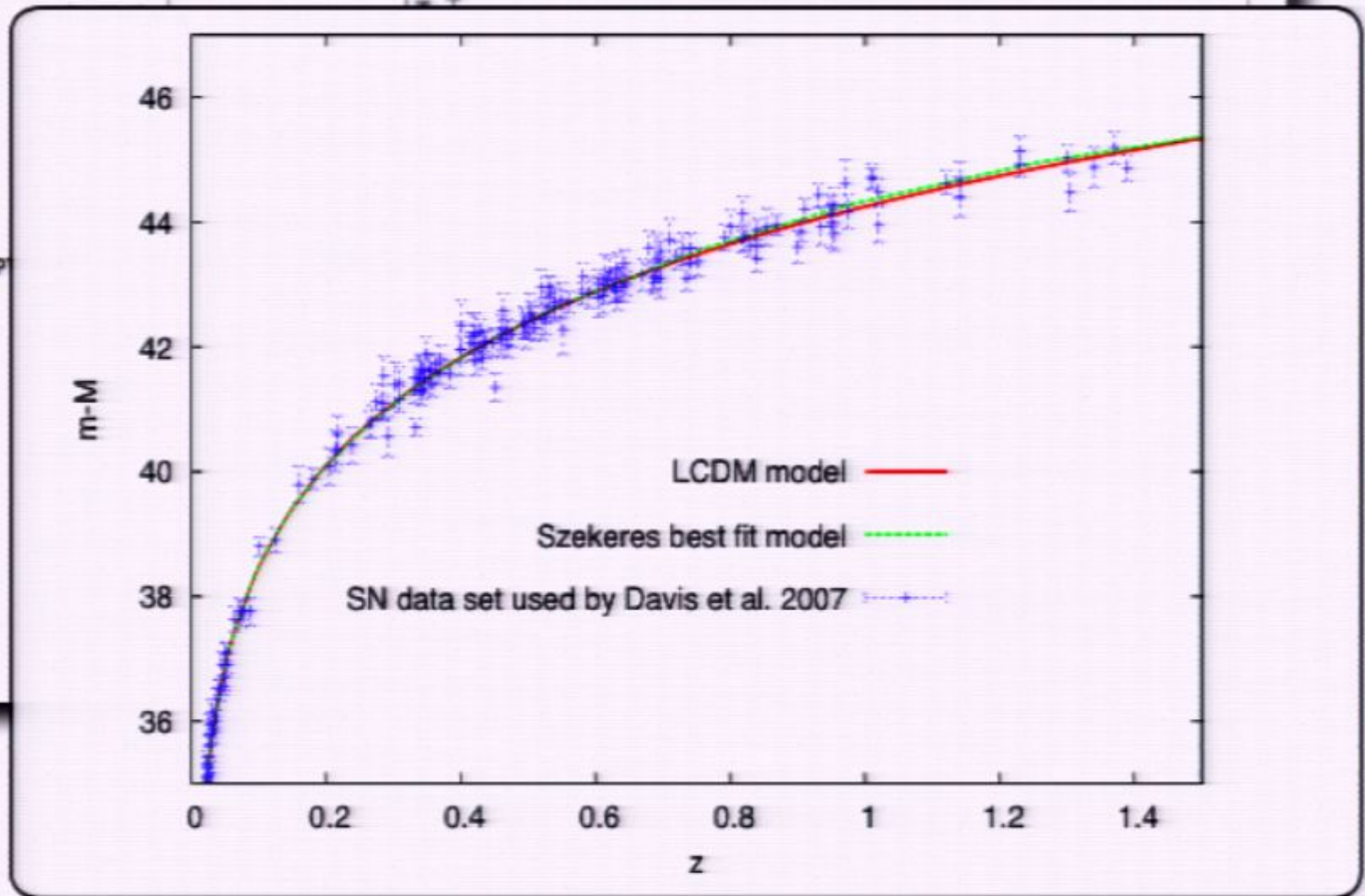
# Spherical Symmetry

1

within d

- can f

$$m - m_{\text{exp}}$$



# Spherical Symmetry

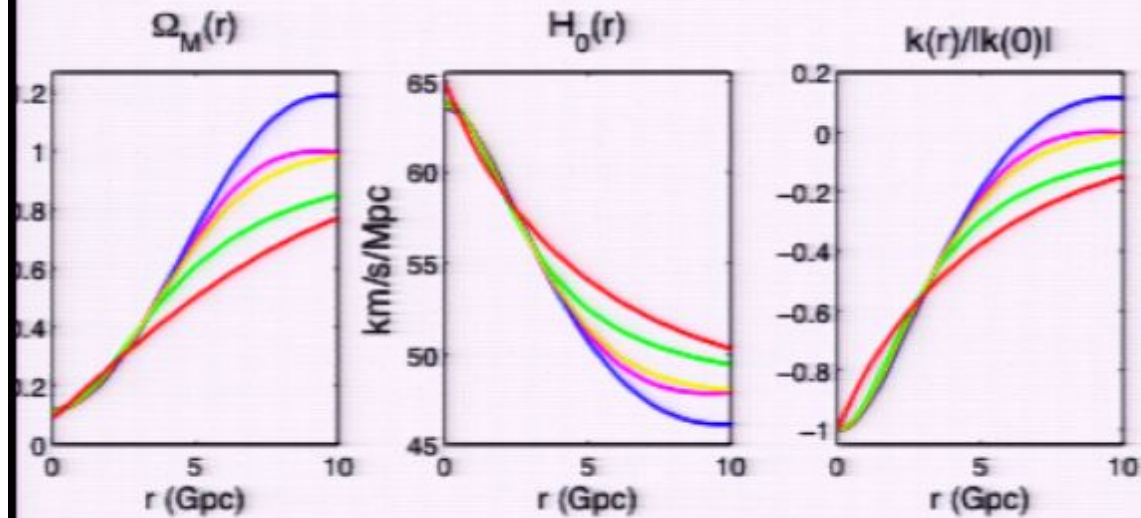
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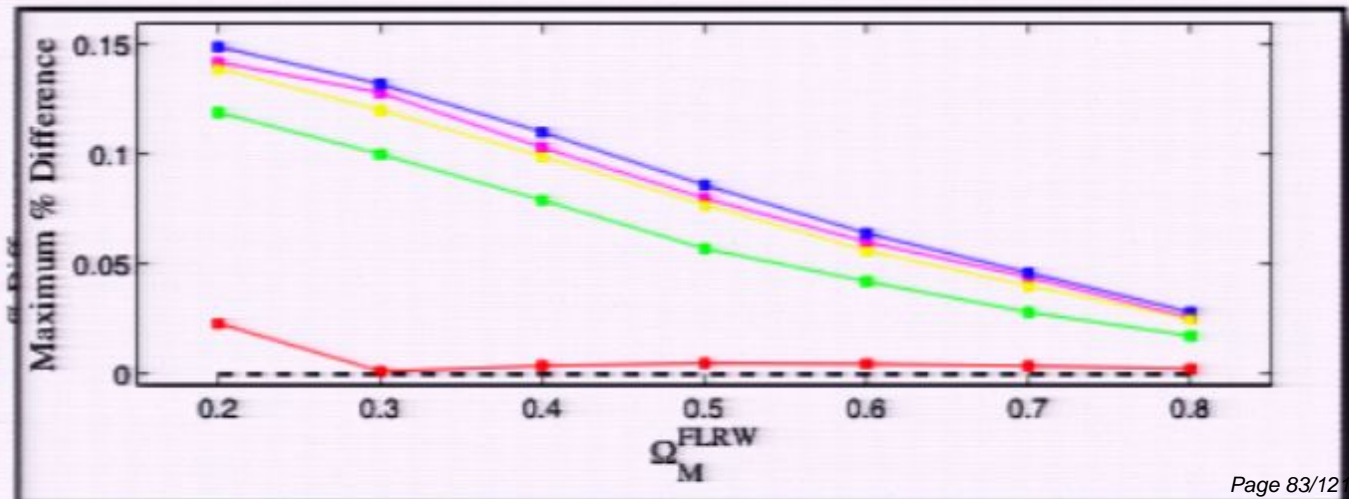
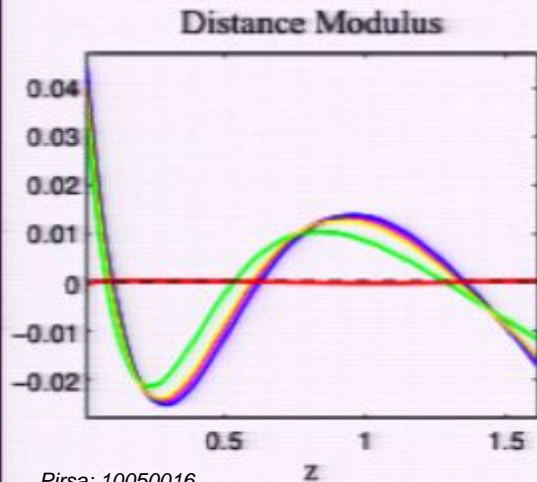
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Mustapha, Hellaby, & Ellis

# Fitting Voids: to LCDM



indistinguishable  
from LCDM  
using SNIa

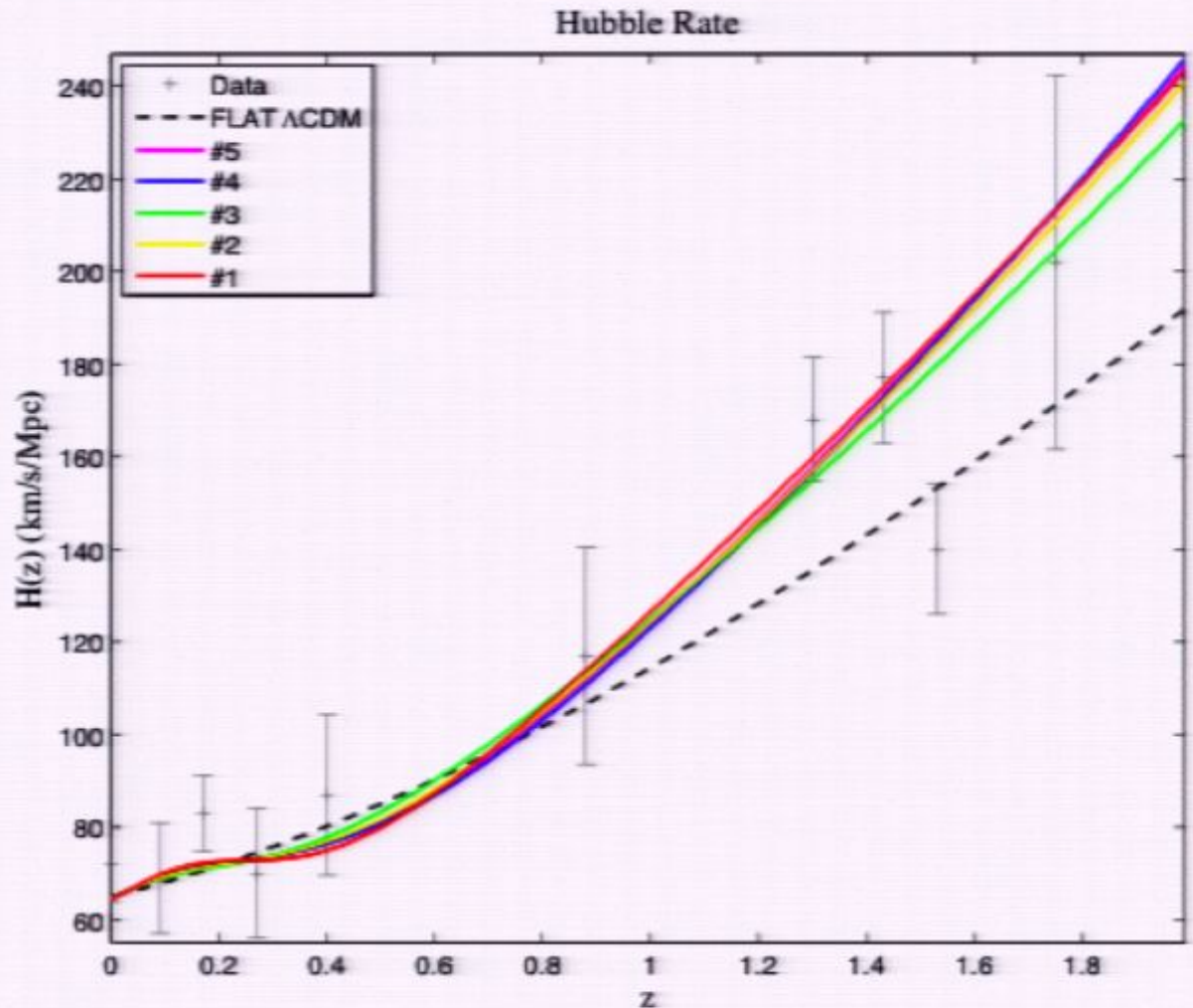




# Fitting Voids: to SNIa (constitution)

best fit to SNIa  
fits age data  
very nicely

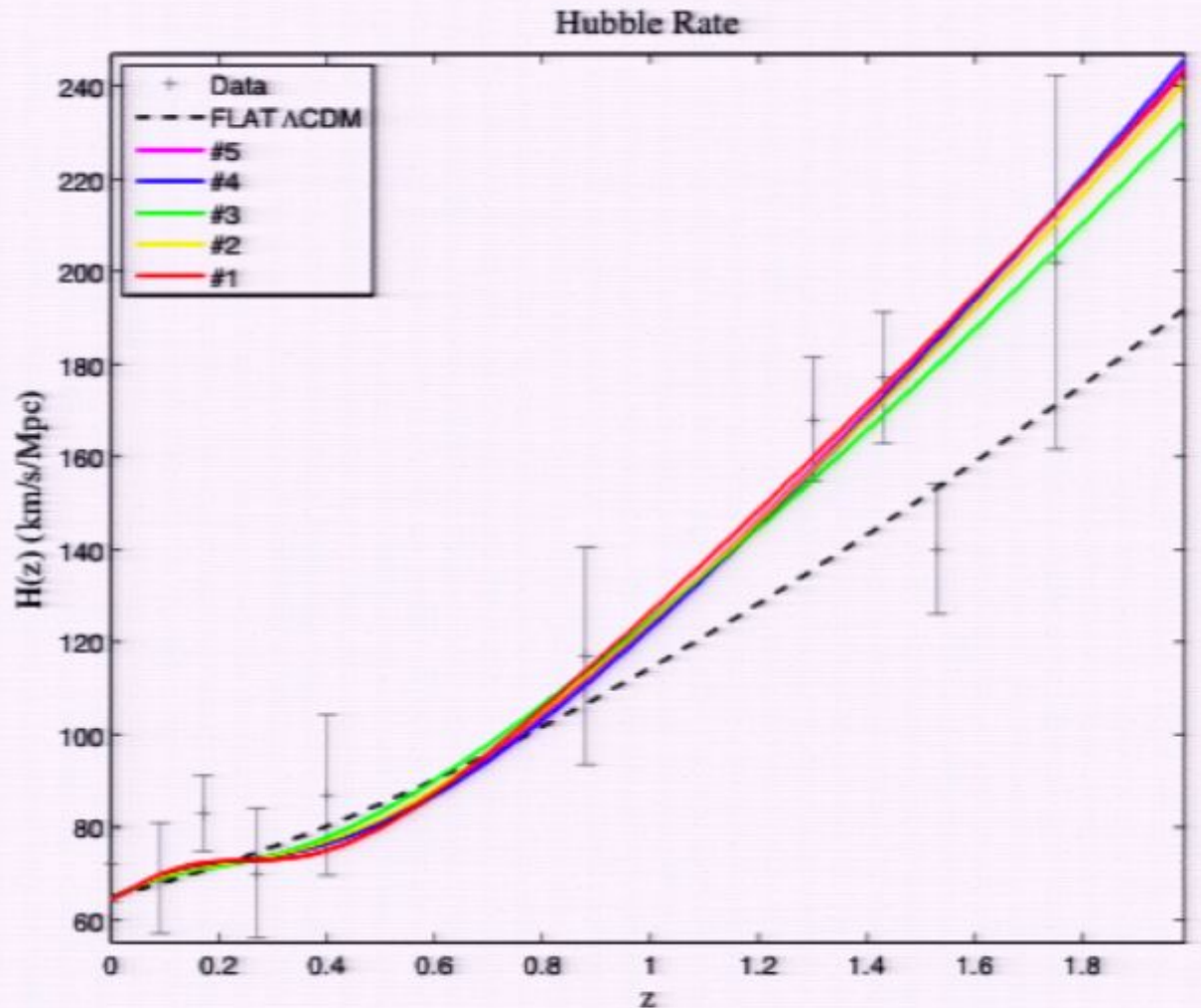
$$\frac{dt}{dz} = -\frac{1}{(1+z)H_{\parallel}}$$



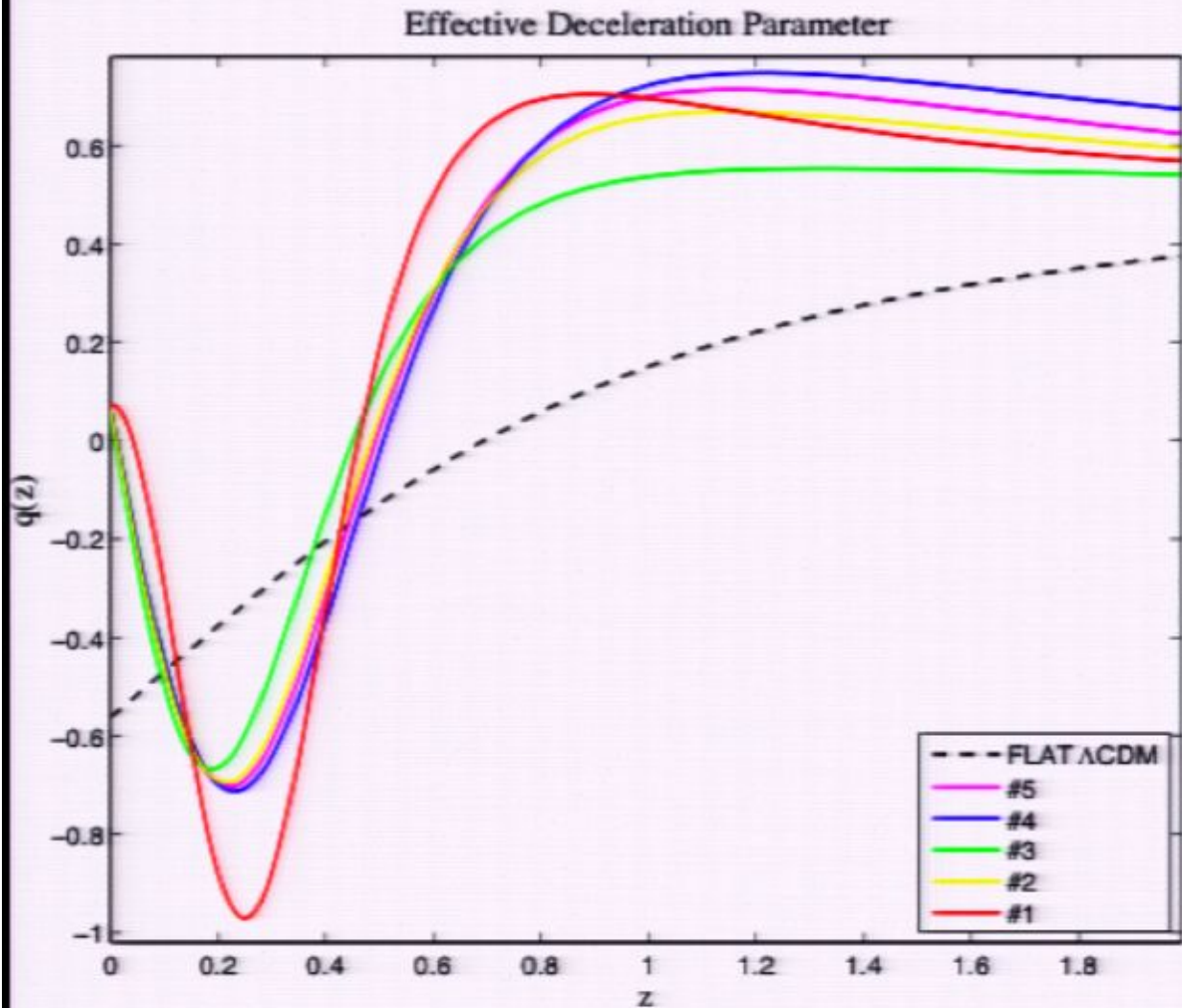
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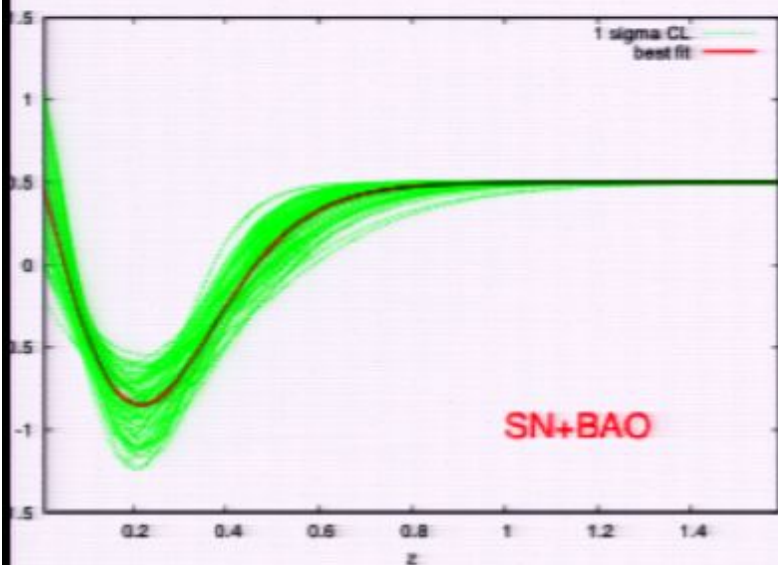


$$q(z) = -1 + (1+z) \frac{H'_{\parallel}}{H_{\parallel}}$$

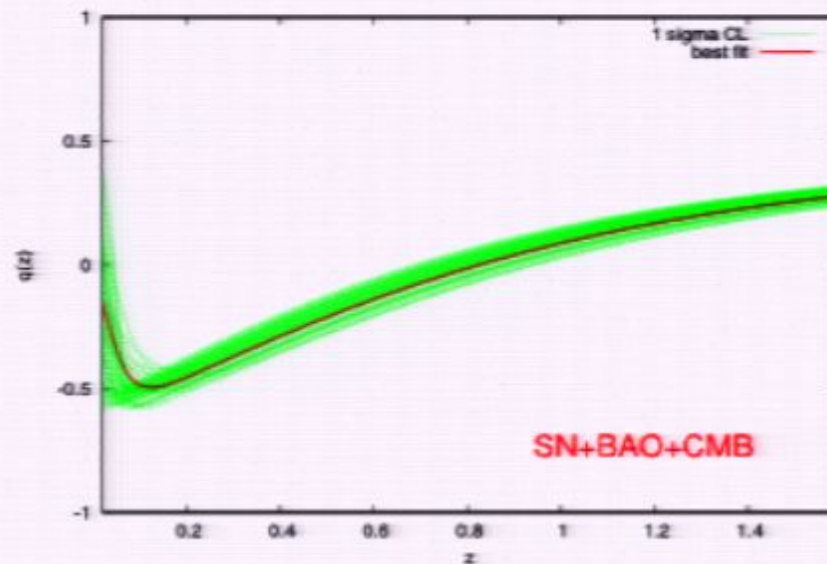


.. compared to dark energy

$$w(z) = w_0 + w_1 \frac{z}{1+z}$$



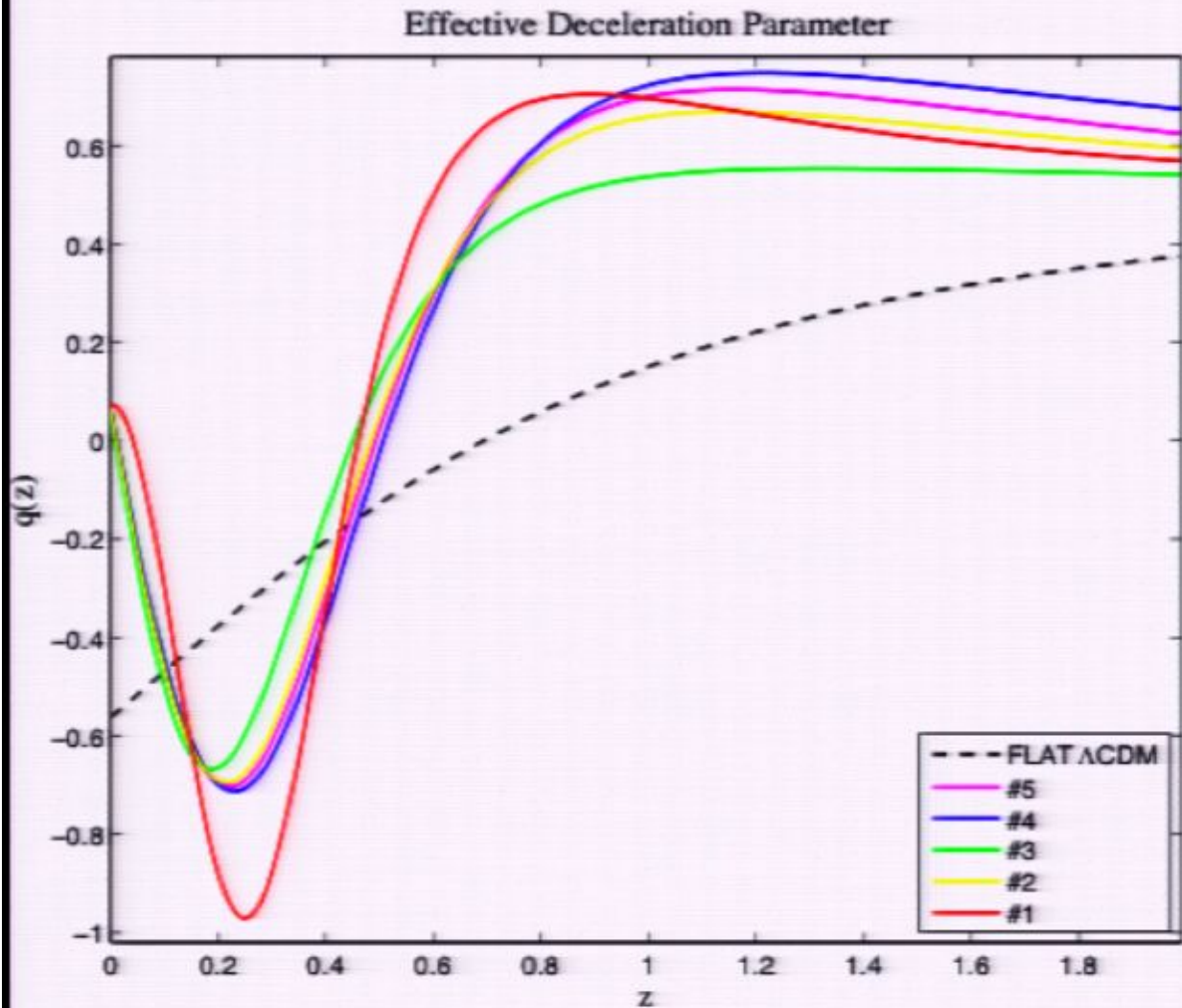
$$w(z) = -\frac{1 + \tanh[(z - z_t)\Delta]}{2}$$



Is cosmic acceleration slowing down?

Arman Shafieloo<sup>a</sup>, Varun Sahni<sup>b</sup> and Alexei A. Starobinsky<sup>c</sup>

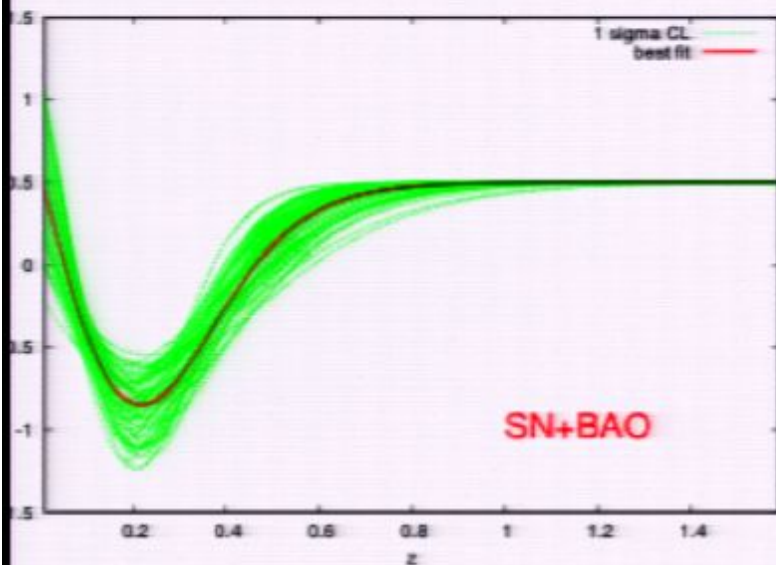
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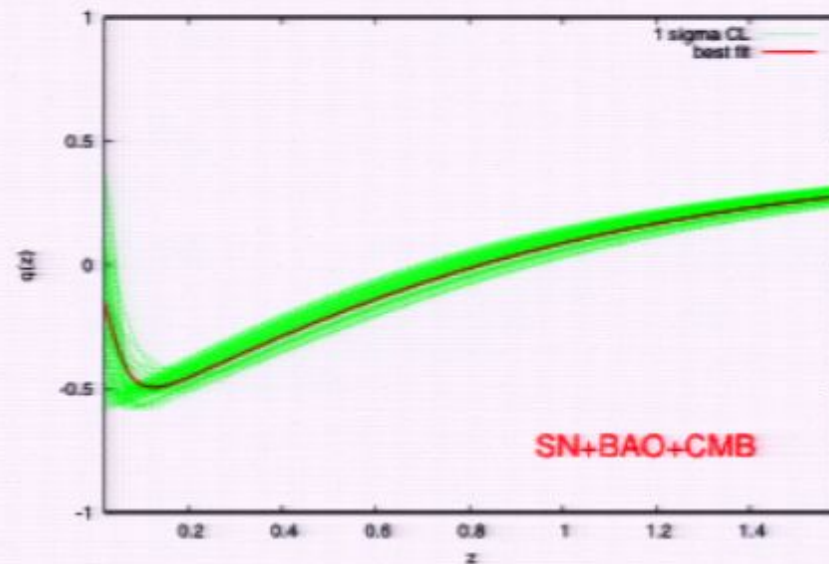
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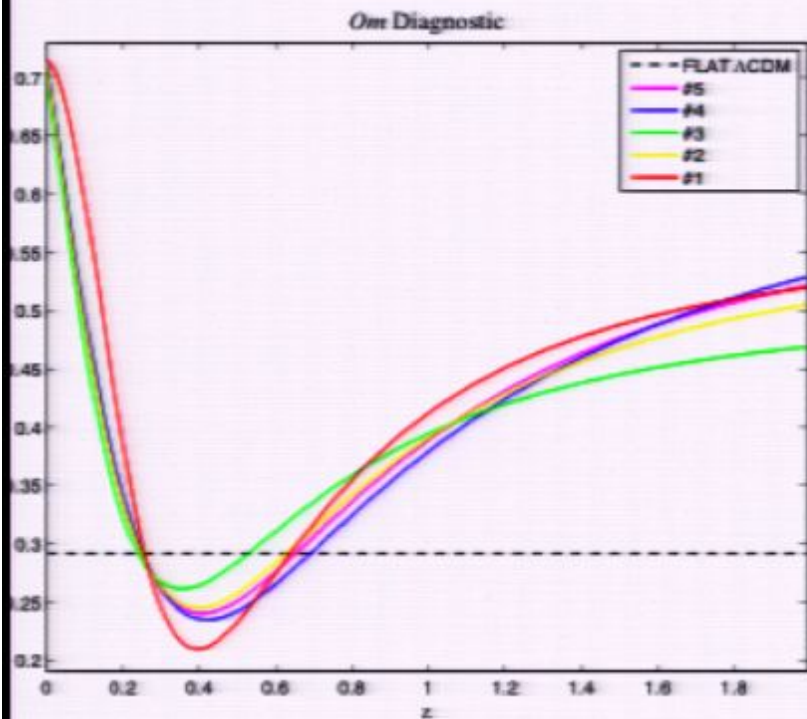
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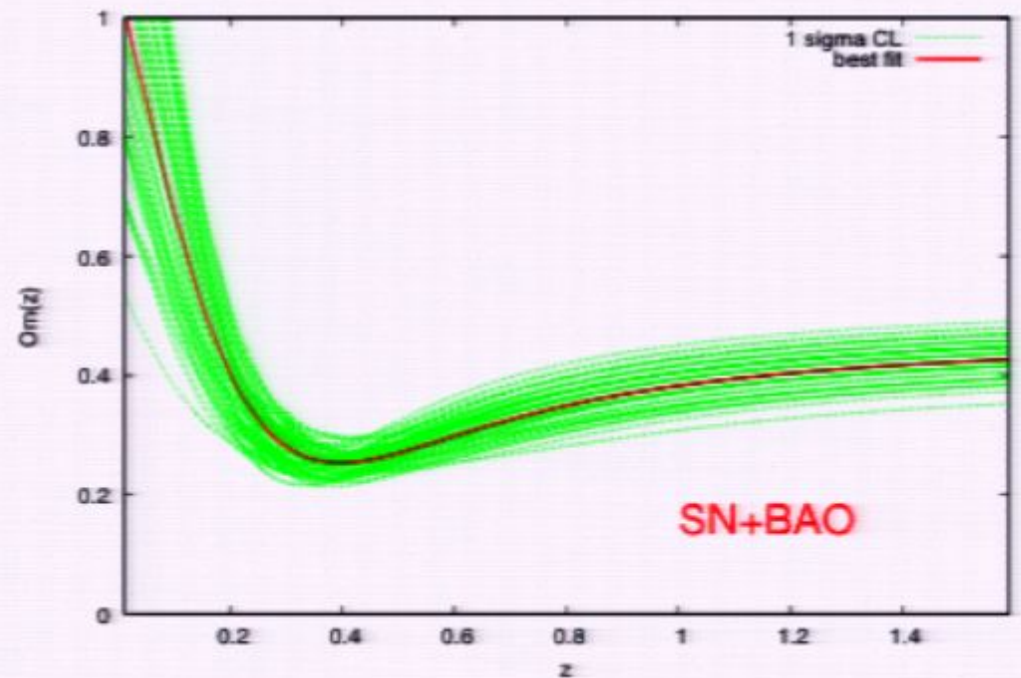
Litmus test for Lambda?

$$\Omega_m = \frac{1 - D'(z)^2}{[(1+z)^3 - 1]D'(z)^2}.$$

best fit voids



fitting evolving DE

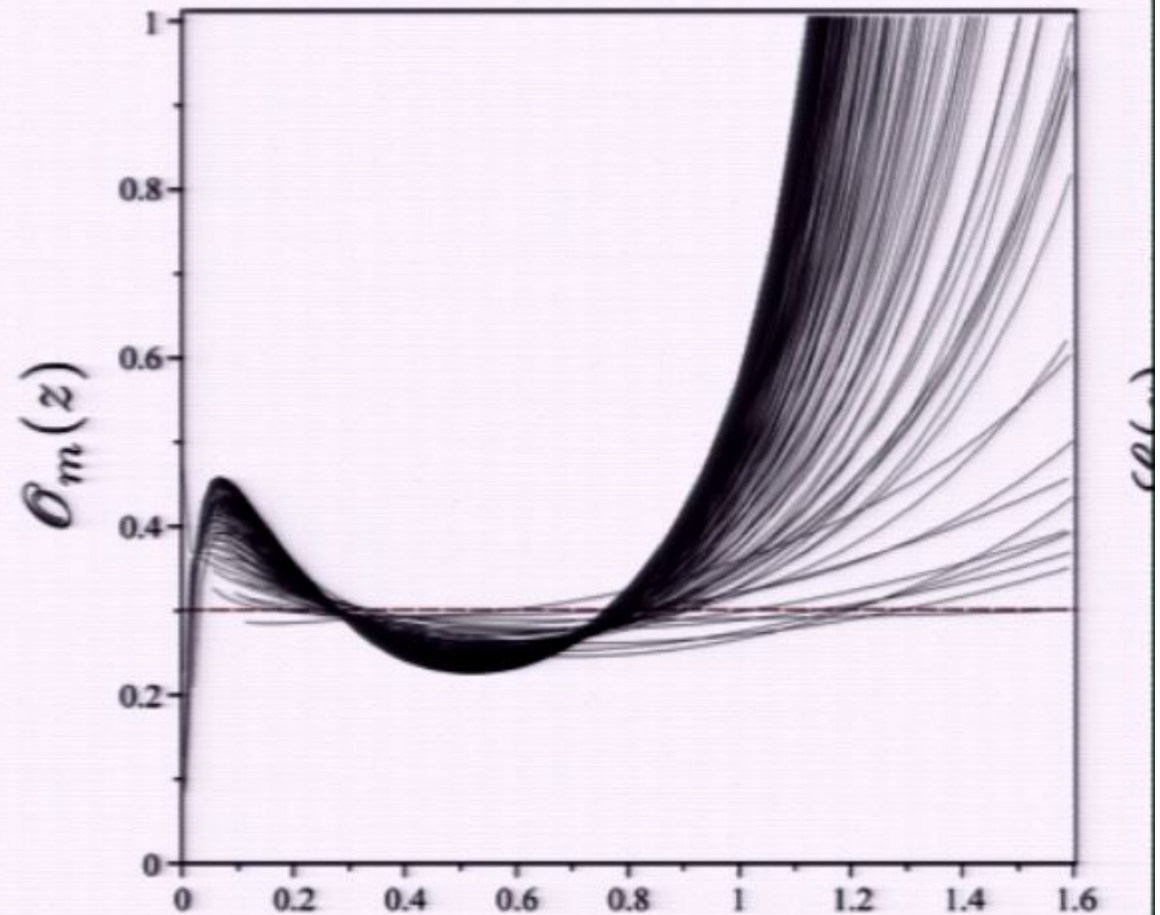
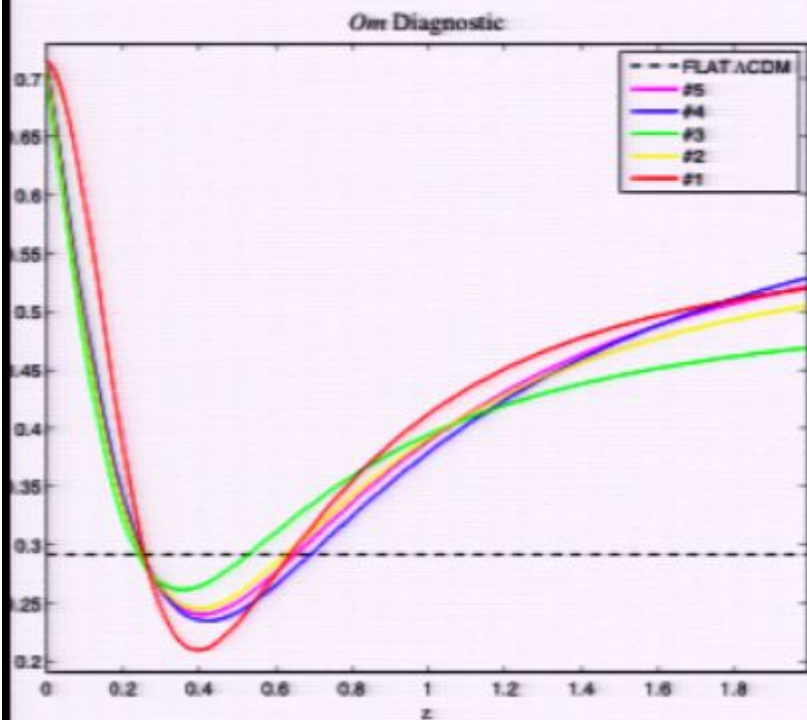


Shafieloo, etal arXiv:0903.5141

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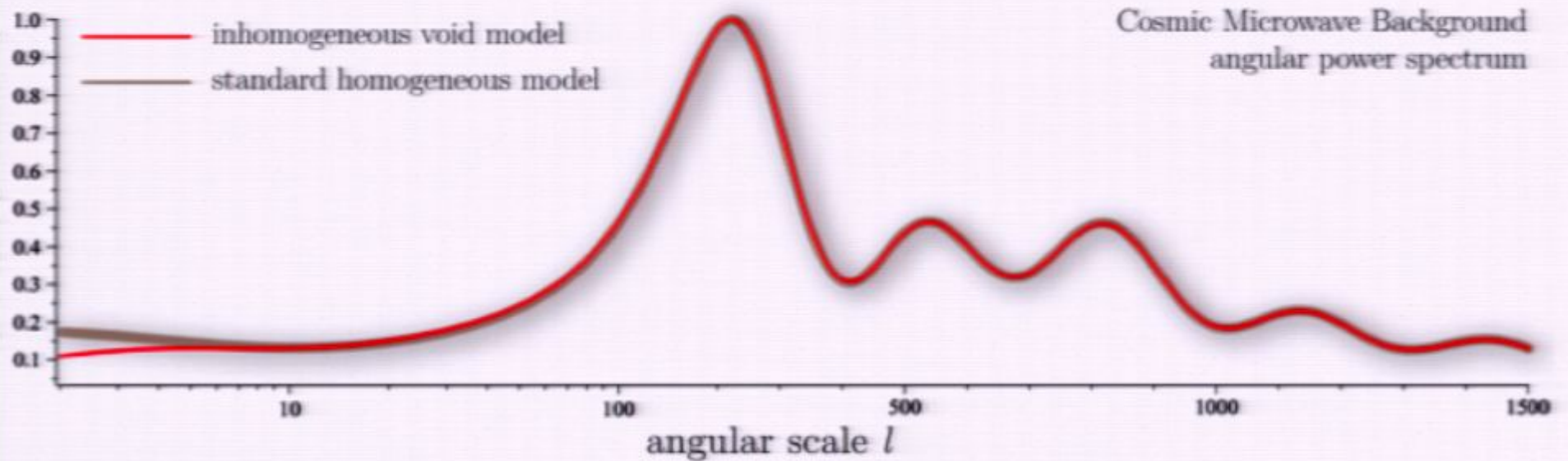
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model independent reconstruction

## Small scale CMB



**Do primordial Lithium abundances imply there's no Dark Energy?**



# Lithium problem -> inhomogeneity at early times?

## Bitter Pill: The Primordial Lithium Problem Worsens

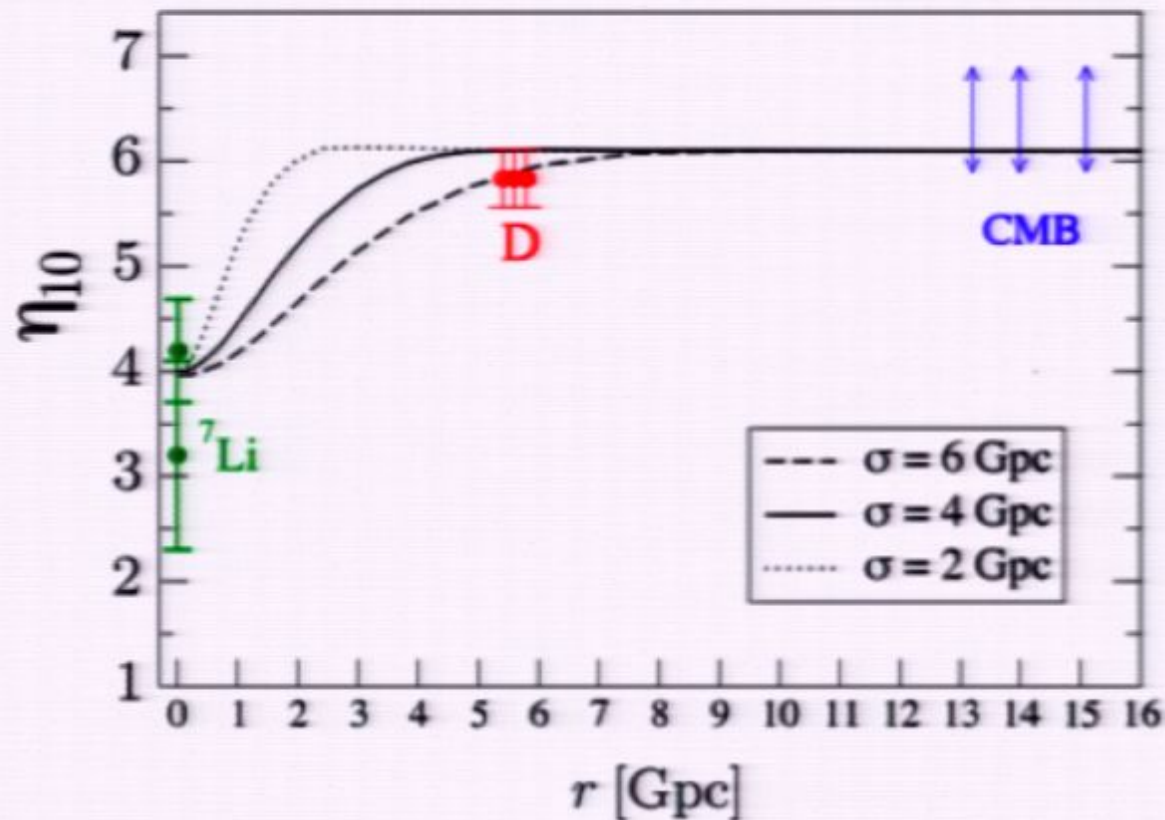
Richard H. Cyburt, Brian D. Fields, Keith A. Olive

(submitted on 21 Aug 2008)

The lithium problem arises from the significant discrepancy between the primordial  ${}^7\text{Li}$  abundance as predicted by BBN theory and the WMAP baryon density, and the pre-Galactic lithium abundance inferred from observations of metal-poor (Population II) stars. This problem has loomed for the past decade, with a persistent discrepancy of a factor of 2--3 in  ${}^7\text{Li}/\text{H}$ . Recent developments have sharpened all aspects of the Li problem. Namely: (1) BBN theory predictions have sharpened due to new nuclear data, particularly the uncertainty on  ${}^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$ , has reduced to 7.4%, and with a central value shift of  $\sim +0.04$  keV barn. (2) The WMAP 5-year data now yields a cosmic baryon density with an uncertainty reduced to 2.7%. (3) Observations of metal-poor stars have tested for systematic effects, and have revealed new lithium isotopic data. With these, we now find that the  $\text{BBN} + \text{WMAP}$  predicts  ${}^7\text{Li}/\text{H} = (5.24 \pm 0.71 - 0.67) \times 10^{-10}$ . The Li problem remains and indeed is exacerbated; the discrepancy is now a factor 2.4--4.3 or 4.2sigma (from globular cluster stars) to 5.3sigma (from halo field stars). Possible resolutions to the lithium problem are briefly reviewed, and key nuclear, particle, and

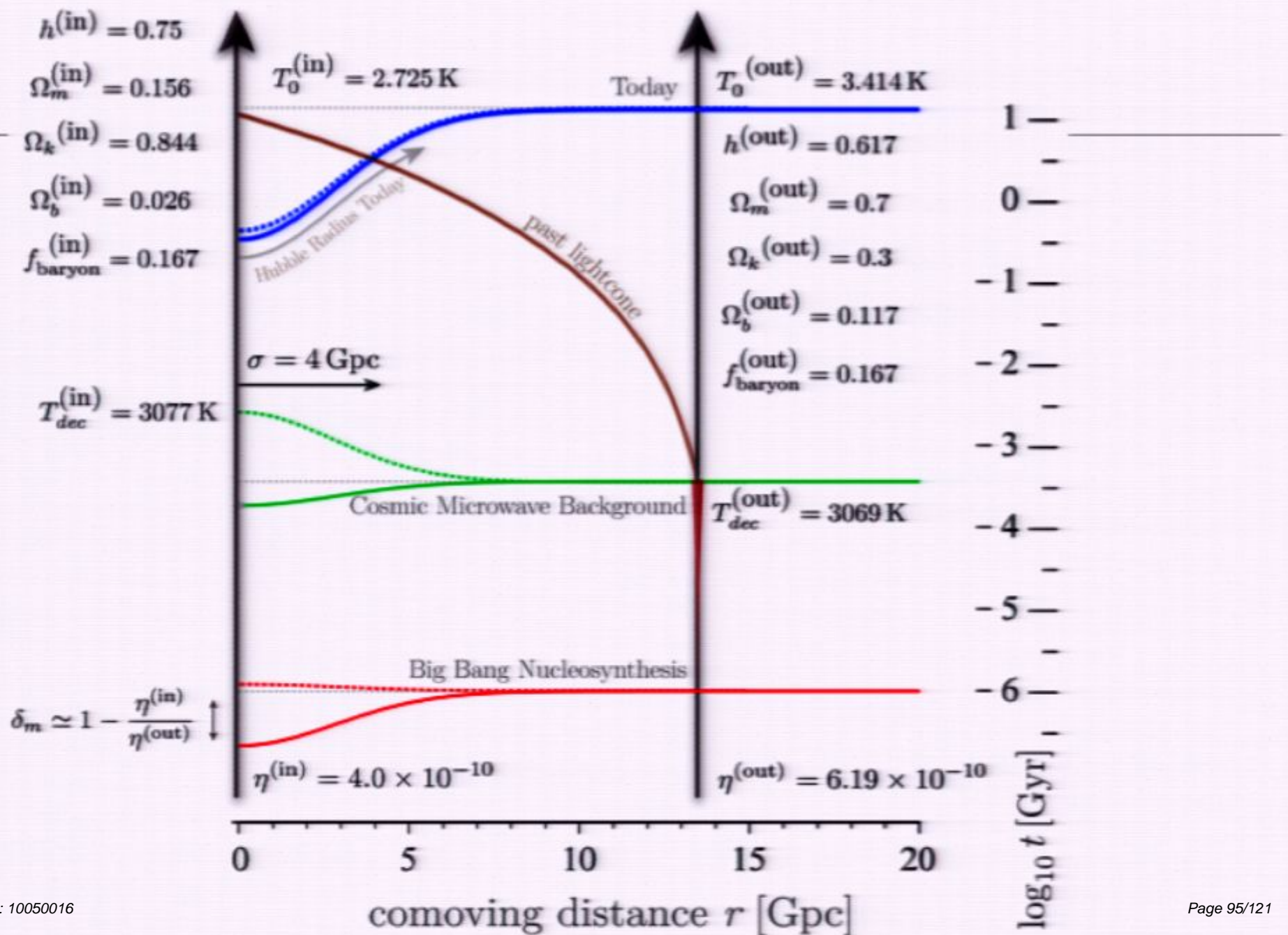
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a Gpc fluctuation in baryon-photon ratio solves Li problem



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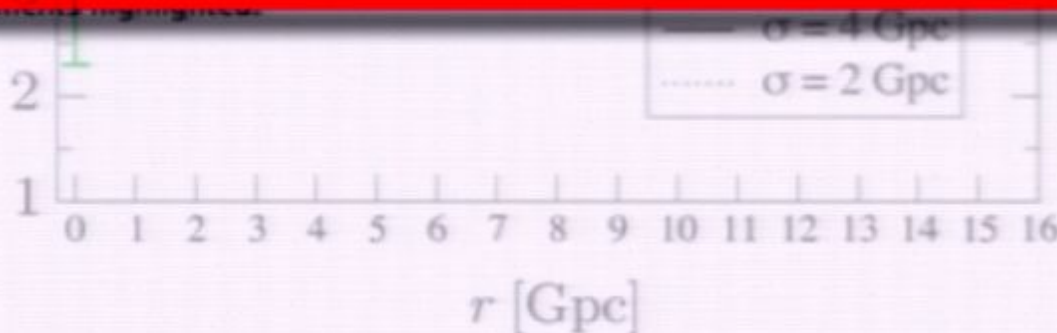
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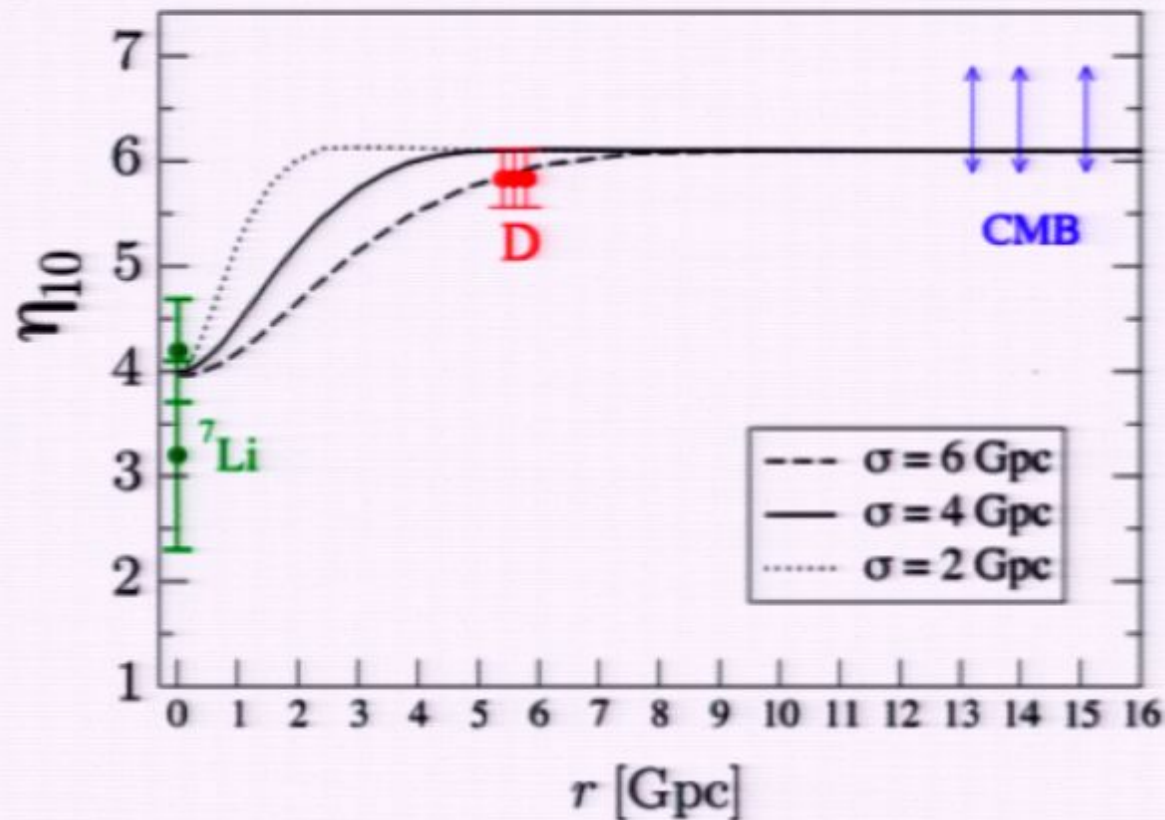
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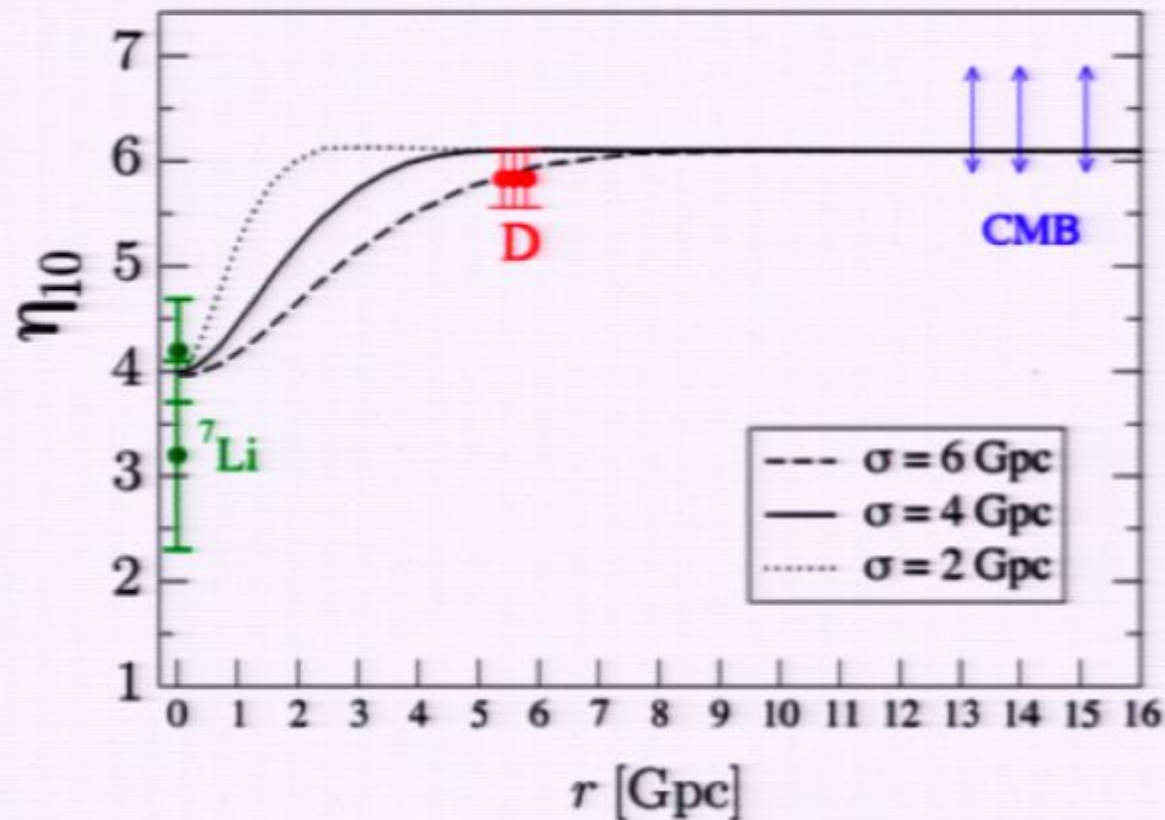


Do primordial Lithium abundances imply there's no Dark Energy?



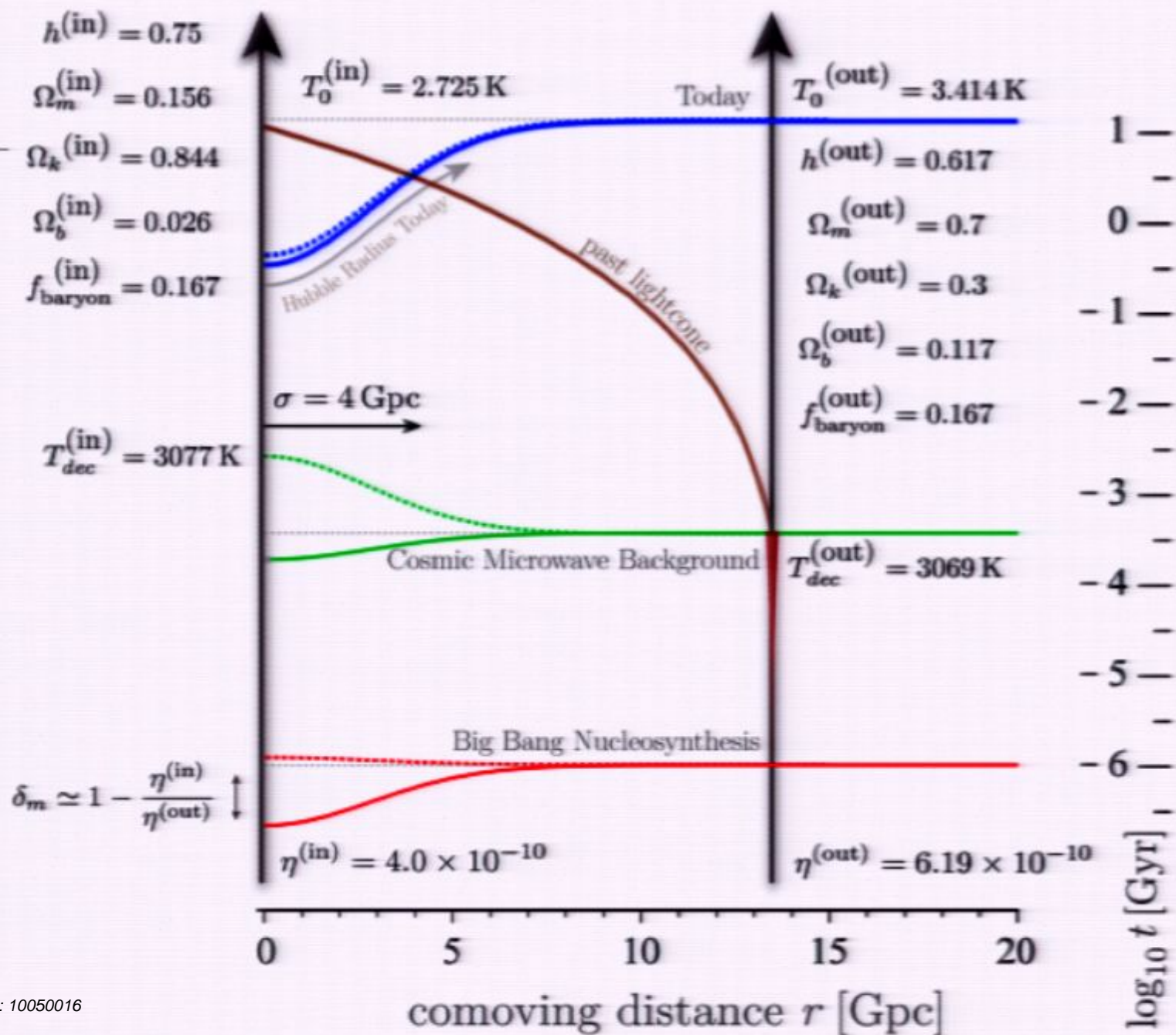
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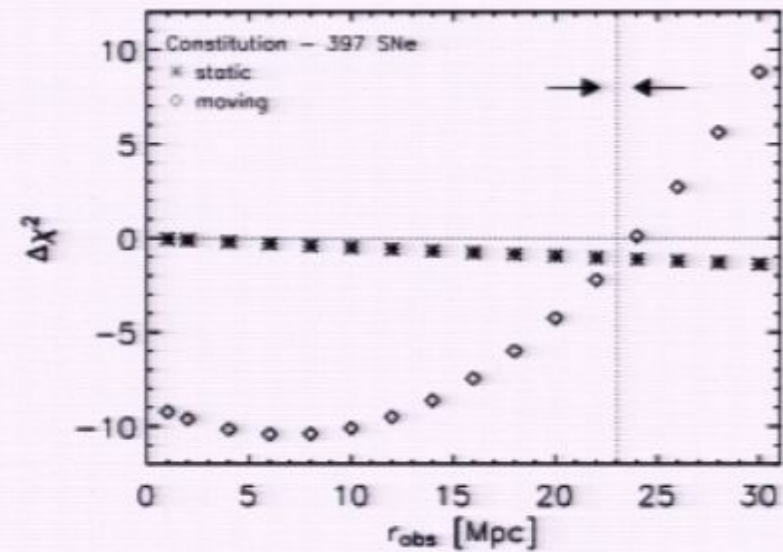
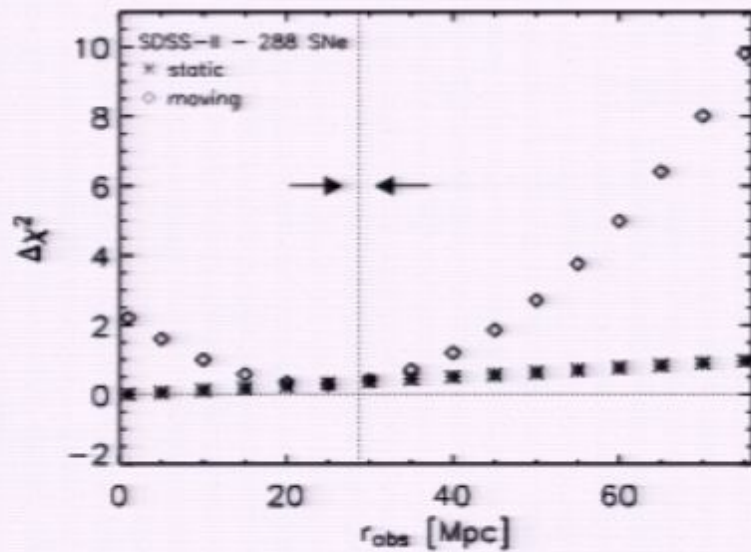
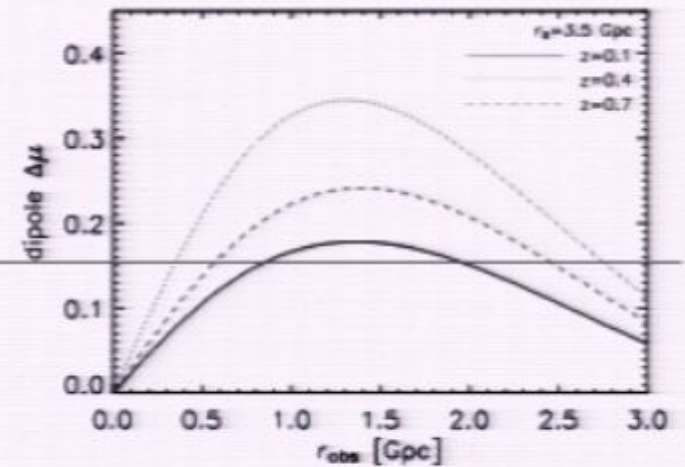


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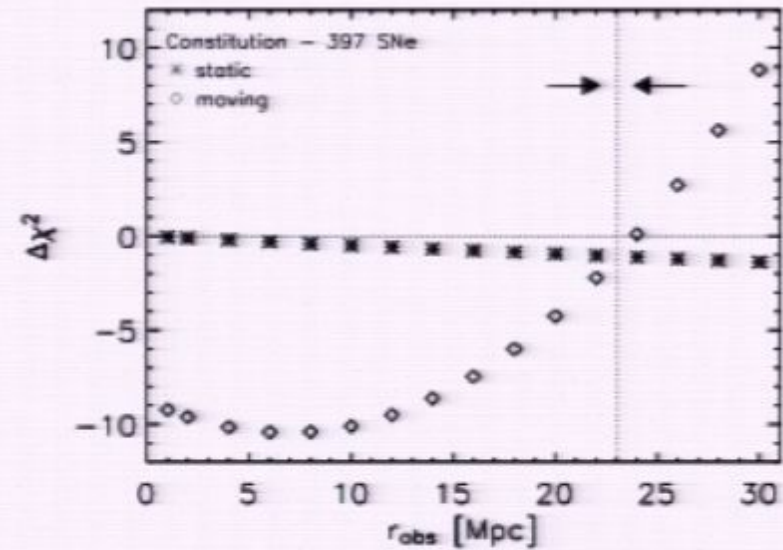
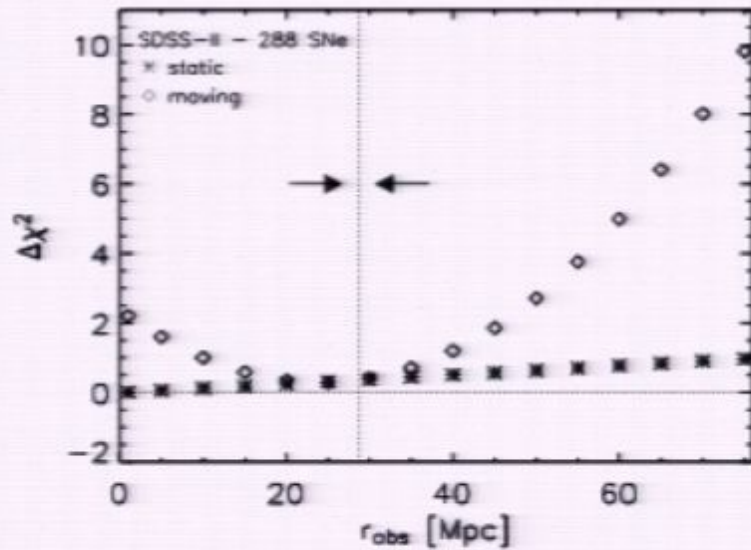
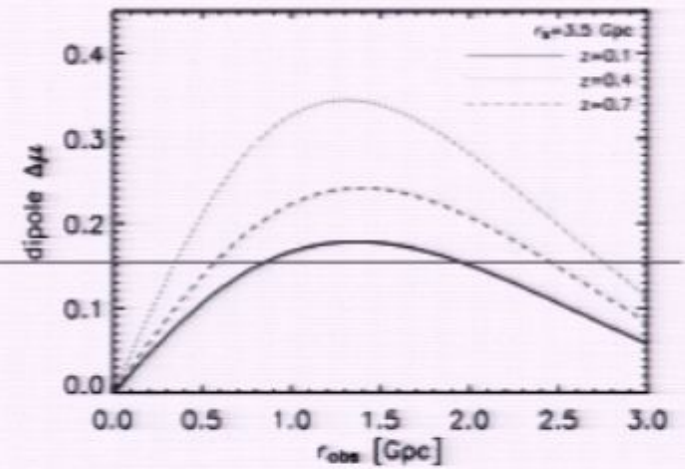


Fine tuned?



Supernovae as seen by off-center observers in a local void

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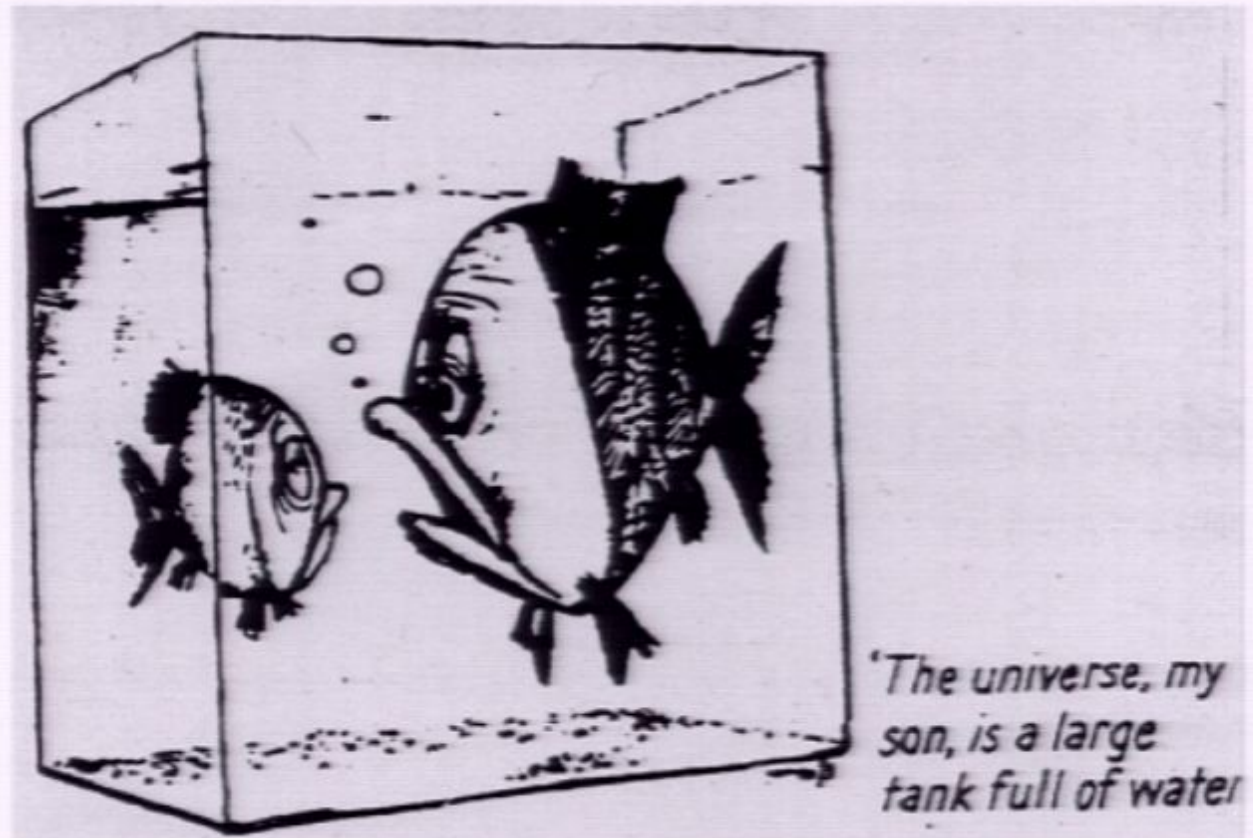


# Could the Copernican Principle be wrong?

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## The Cosmological Principle

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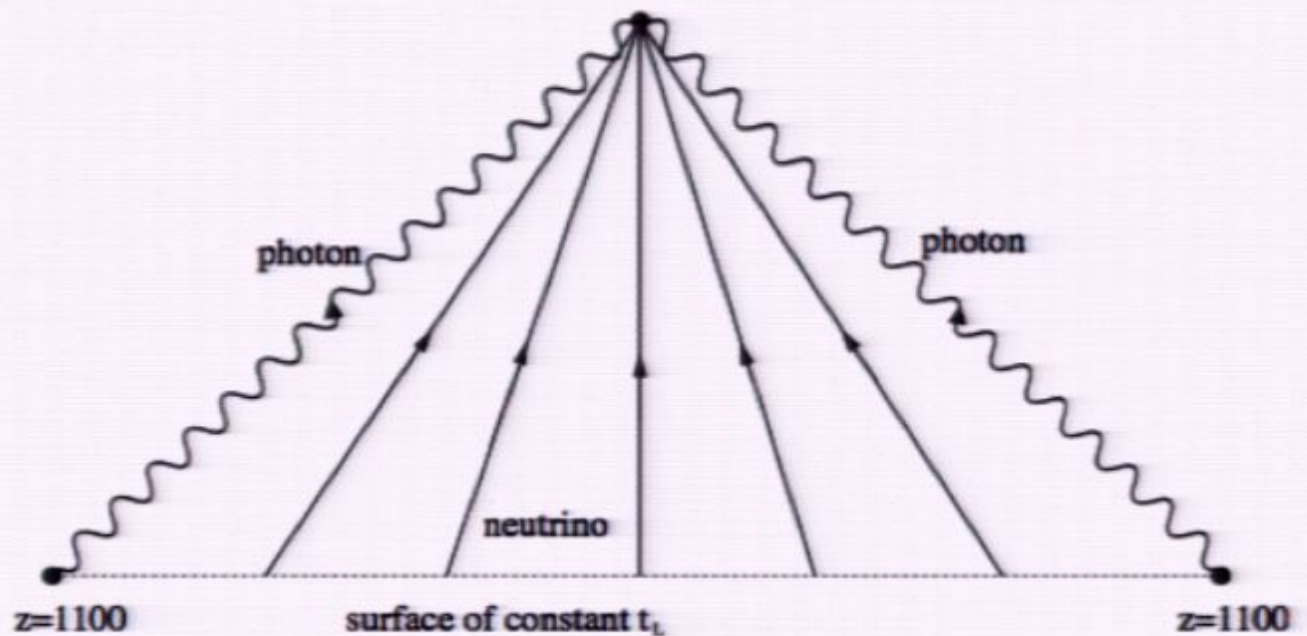
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Copernican P says we are not at special place in universe

$\Lambda$  introduced for misguided temporal CP ...



## Testing the Copernican Principle directly



**Figure 1:** Different from the cosmic photons, the cosmic neutrinos of different energies come from the different places on the surface of constant  $t_L$  and travel to us along the different worldlines.

**Can the Copernican principle be tested by cosmic neutrino background?**

nji Jia, Hongbao Zhang

# Testing the Copernican Principle directly

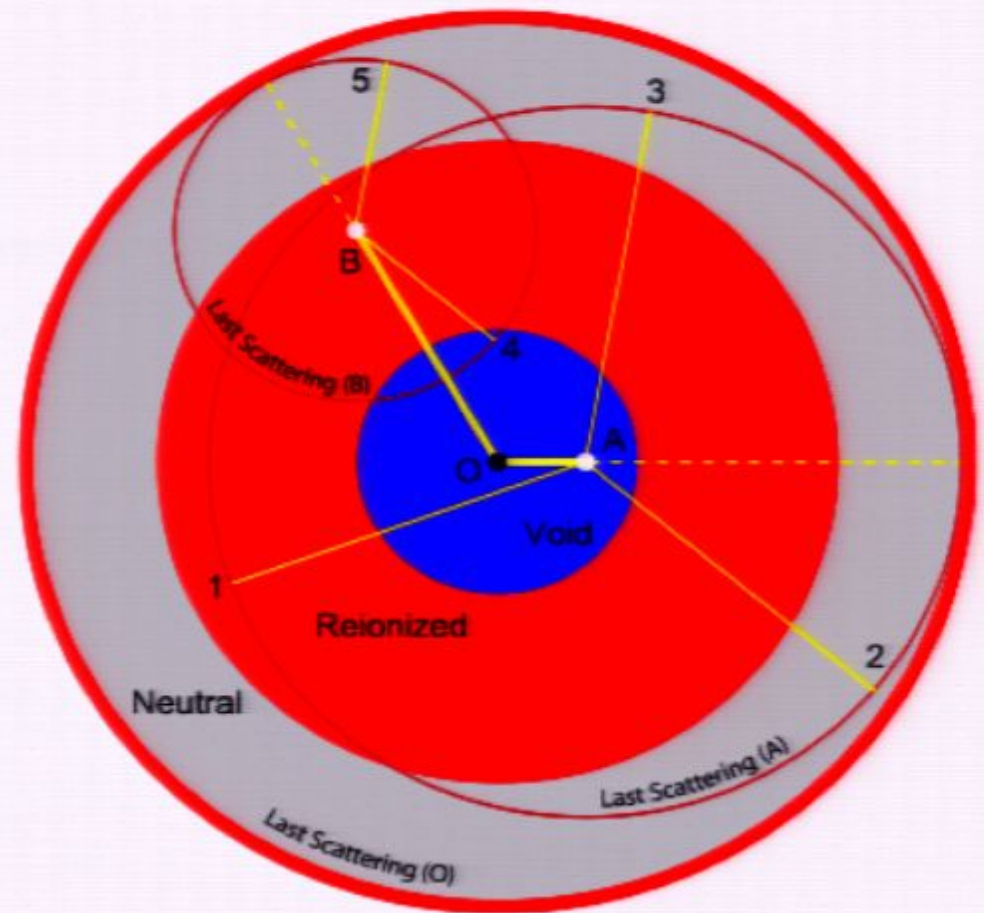
Fitting voids can rule out void models only

- doesn't 'test' the Copernican assumption generically

if we can look inside our past lightcone we get more information

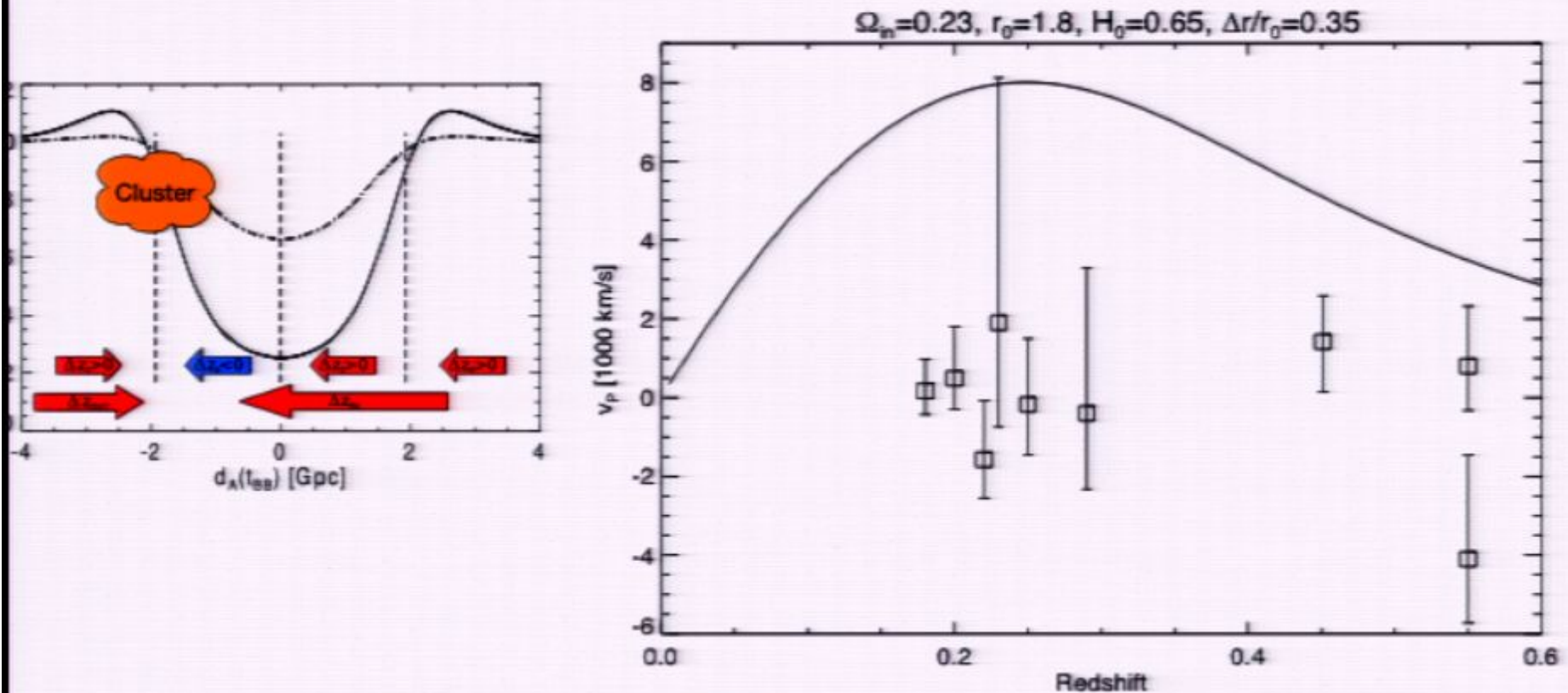
Goodman-Caldwell-Stebbins test

relies on void-type models ...



# Can they be ruled out?

kSZ (and SZ) effect can look inside our past lightcone

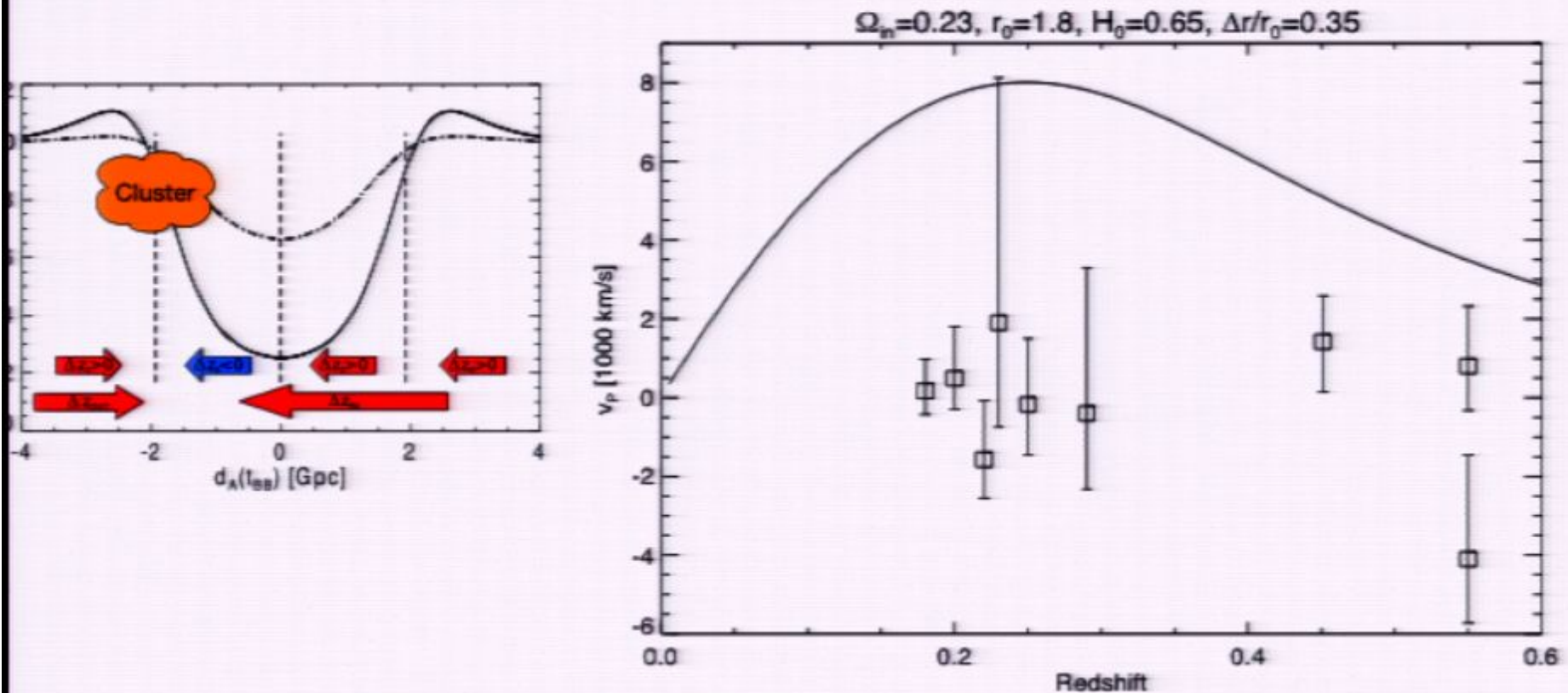


Looking the void in the eyes - the kSZ effect in LTB models



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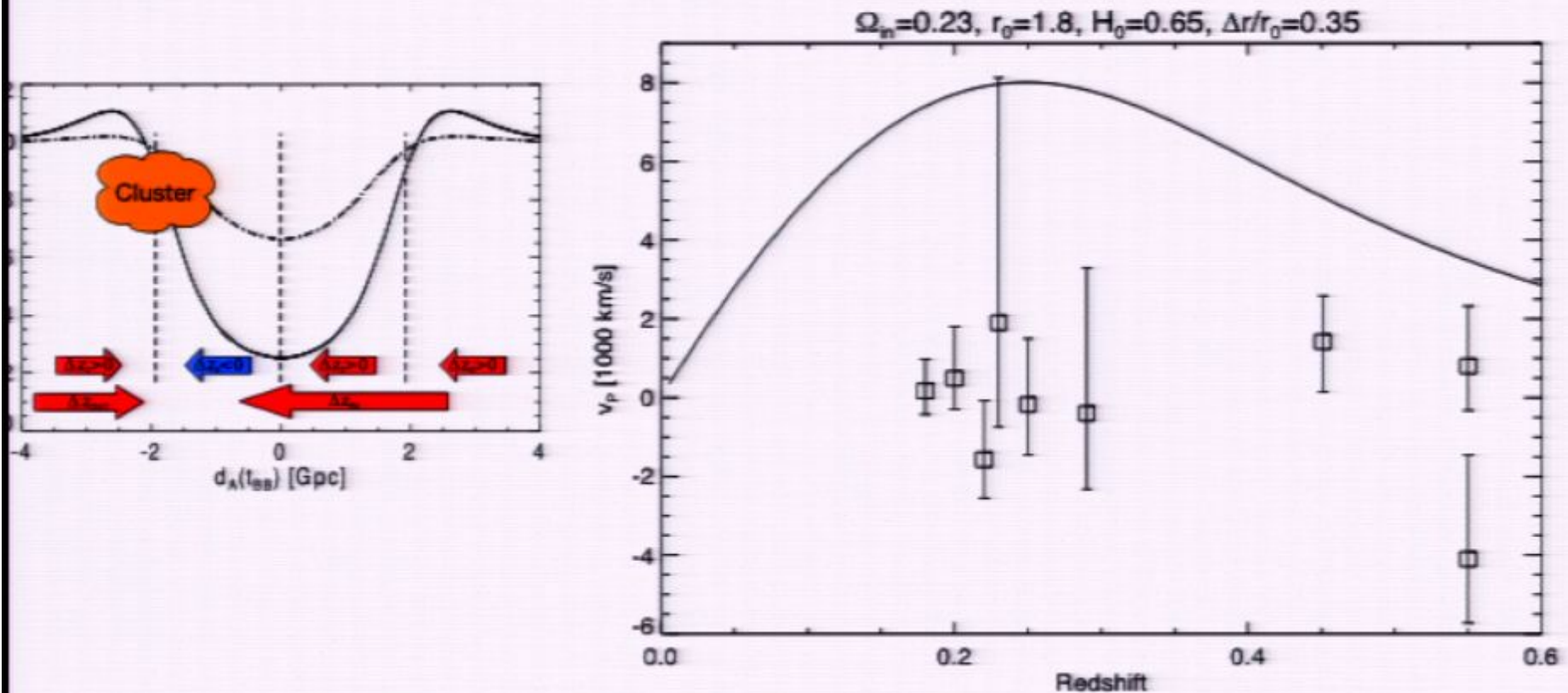
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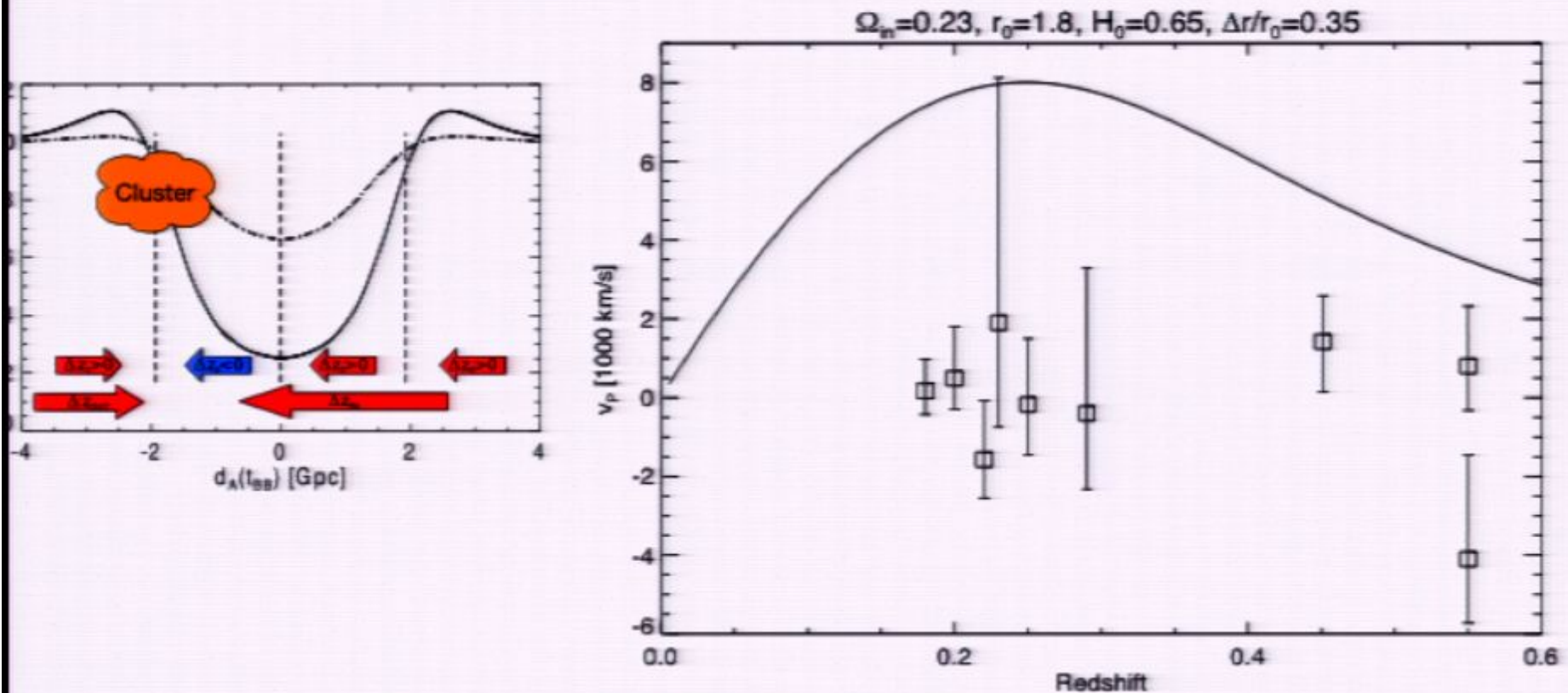
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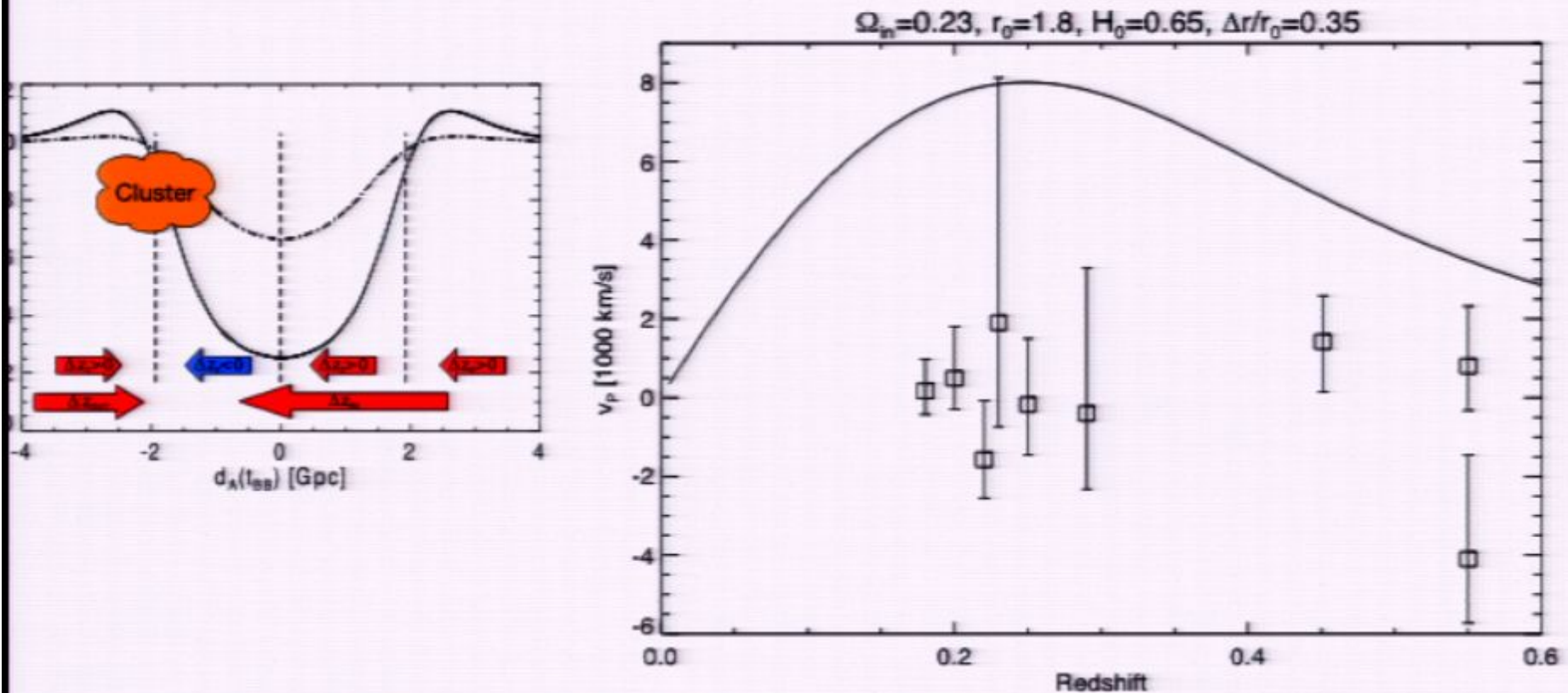


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# Curvature test for the Copernican Principle

---

in FLRW we can combine Hubble rate and distance data to find curvature

$$\Omega_k = \frac{[H(z)D'(z)]^2 - 1}{[H_0 D(z)]^2}$$

$$[d_L = (1+z)D = (1+z)^2 d_A]$$

independent of *all* other cosmological parameters, including dark energy model, and theory of gravity

tests the Copernican principle and the basis of FLRW ('on-lightcone' test)

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = 1 + H^2 (DD'' - D'^2) + HH' DD' = 0$$

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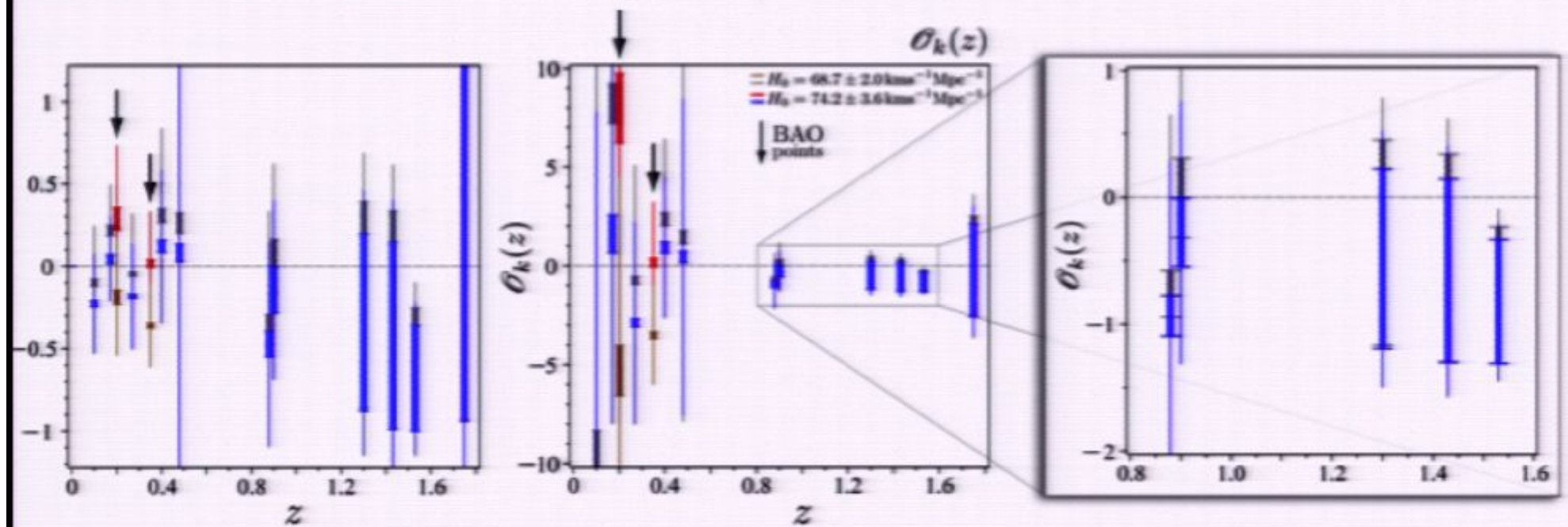
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# Using age data to reconstruct $H(z)$



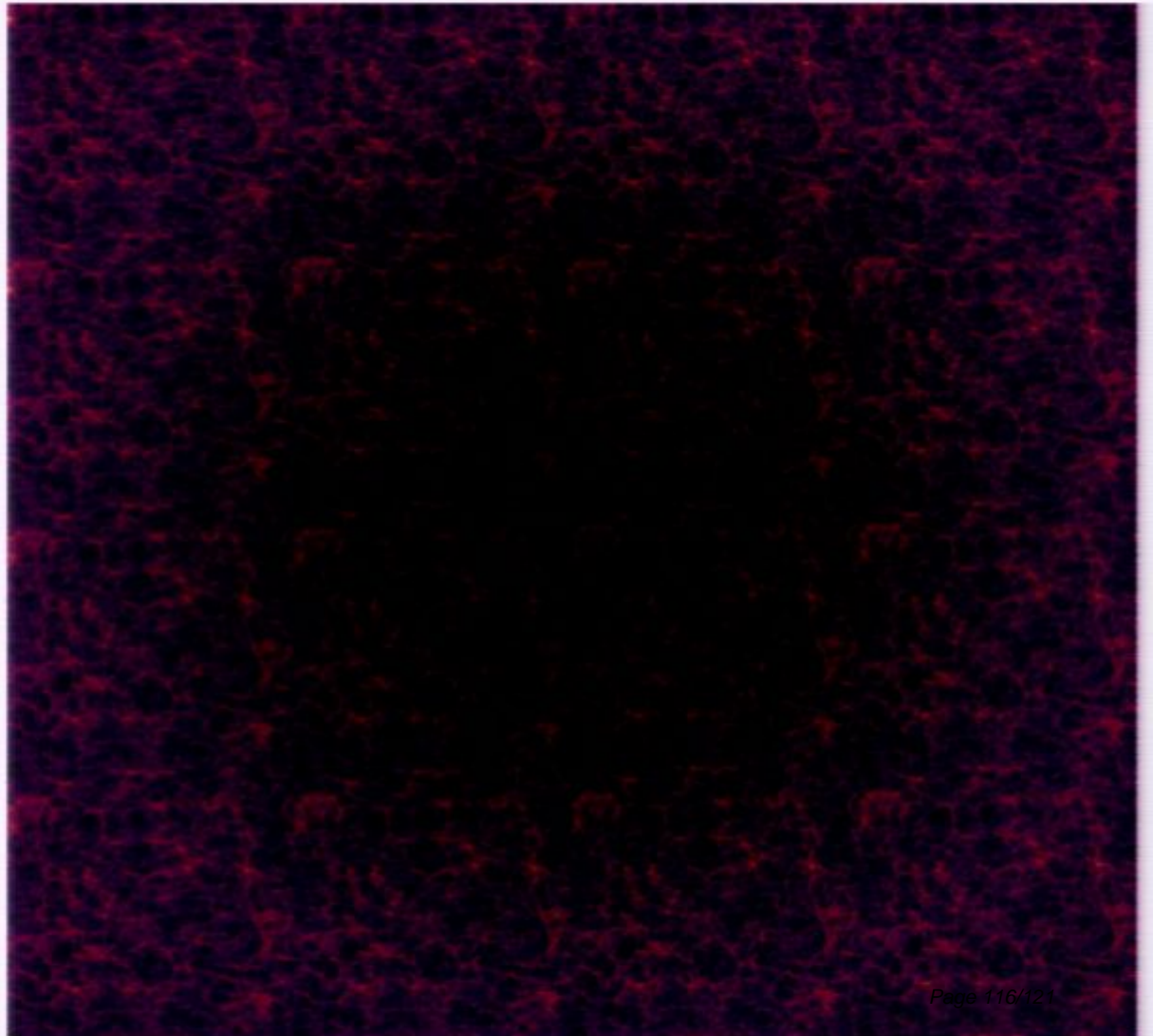
# Are they ridiculous?

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being 'at the centre of the universe' is crazy, but only a coincidence of 1 in  $10^9$  in our Hubble volume

possible selection effects?

- could dark matter inhibit solar system formation?
- maybe not anti-Copernican





# Open issues for voids

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void models have many problems:

- perturbations/BAO/large scale CMB not calculated
  - looks like they will be able to fit all observations
- initial conditions: could inflation/something really produce a simple void?
- they're weird: can the Copernican problem be averted?

# Conclusions

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Backreaction: how do we formulate the FLRW models in the first place?

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model independent test of the Copernican principle now possible