

Title: Dark Photon Stars

Speakers: Edward Hardy

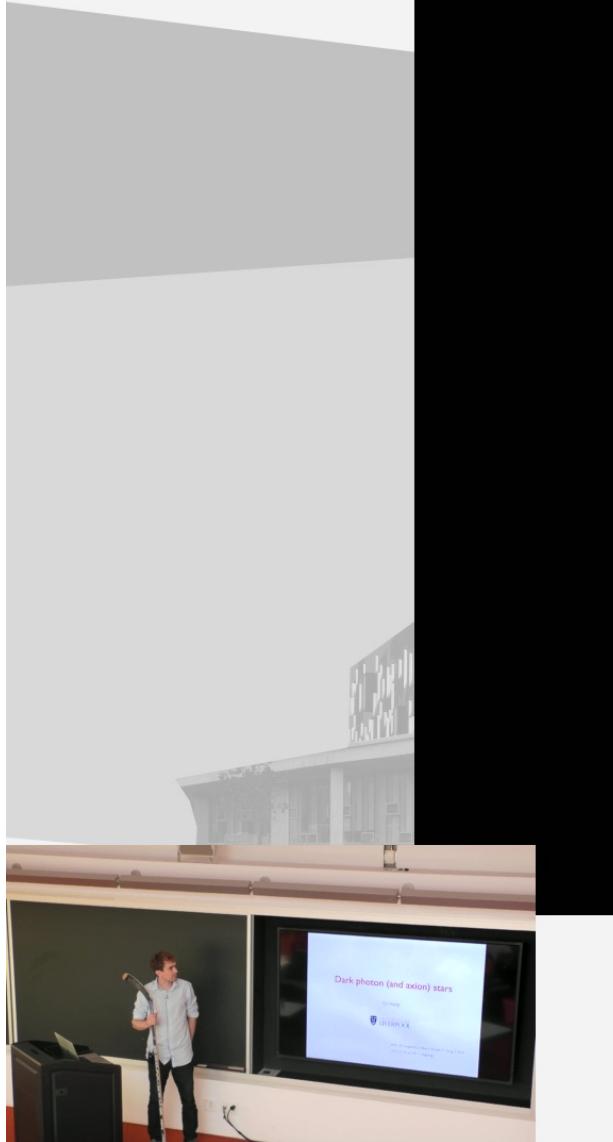
Series: Particle Physics

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URL: <https://pirsa.org/22090083>

Abstract: I will argue that many theories in which dark matter is light (with a mass < eV) lead to theoretically and observationally interesting dark matter substructure. As a particular, calculable, example I will show that this is the case for a new vector boson with non-zero mass (a ‘dark photon’) that is present during inflation, at which time a relic abundance is automatically produced from vacuum fluctuations. Due to a remarkable coincidence between the size of the primordial density perturbations and the scale at which quantum pressure is relevant, a substantial fraction of the dark matter inevitably collapses into gravitationally bound solitons, which are fully quantum coherent objects. The central densities of these ‘dark photon star’, or ‘Proca star’, solitons are typically a factor 10^6 larger than the local background dark matter density today. I will also mention how similar substructure might occur in theories of post-inflationary axion-like-particles.

Zoom Link: <https://pitp.zoom.us/j/94995778057?pwd=T2w4WWU0ZGtwWEIzTHFSZ3J6dGovUT09>



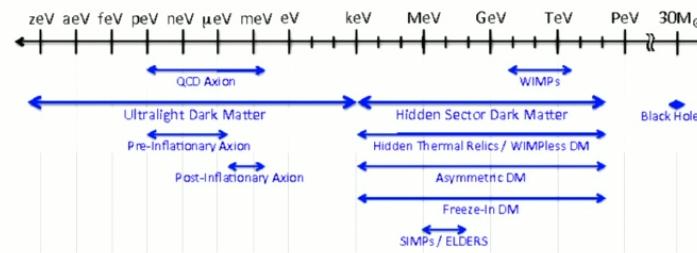
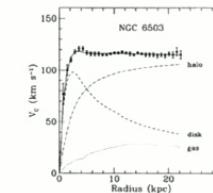
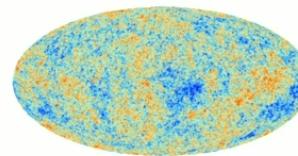
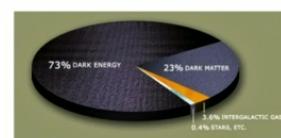
Dark photon (and axion) stars

Ed Hardy



With M. Gorgetto, J. March-Russell, N. Song, S. West
2203.10100 JCAP + ongoing

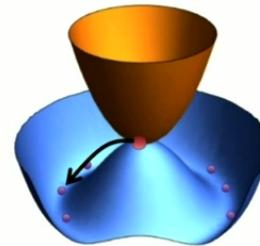
Dark Matter



Sub-eV dark matter candidates

Axion, a

- Spin 0 pseudo-scalar
- Shift symmetry $a \rightarrow a + c$



$$\frac{1}{4}a g_{a\gamma\gamma}^0 F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$
$$c_q^0 \bar{q}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 q \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a}$$

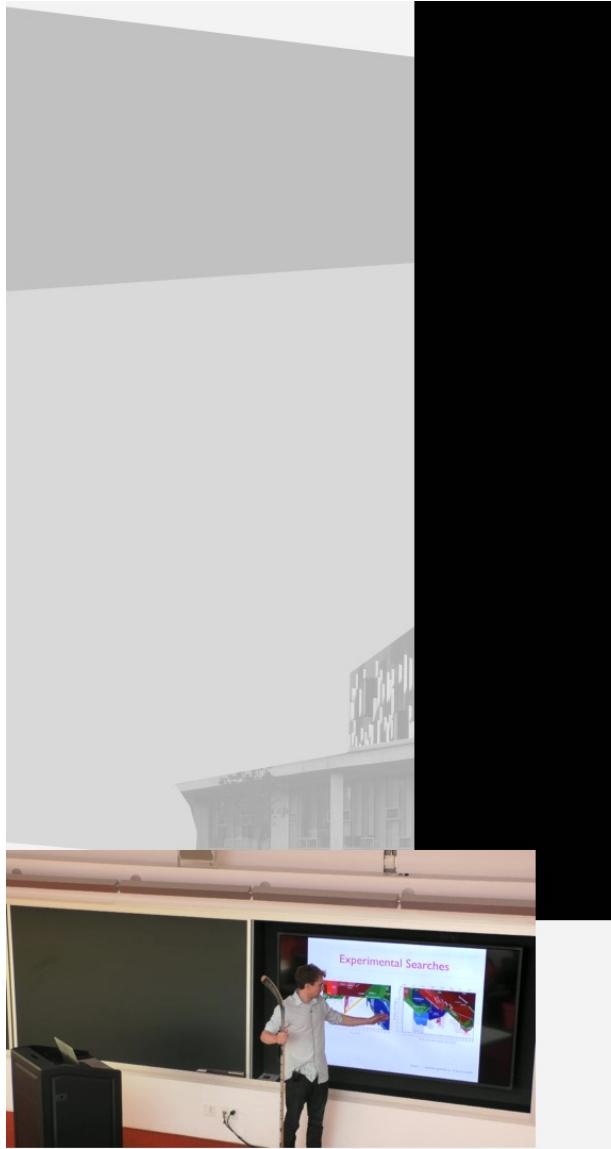
Dark photon, A

- Spin 1 vector
- New $U(1)$ gauge symmetry

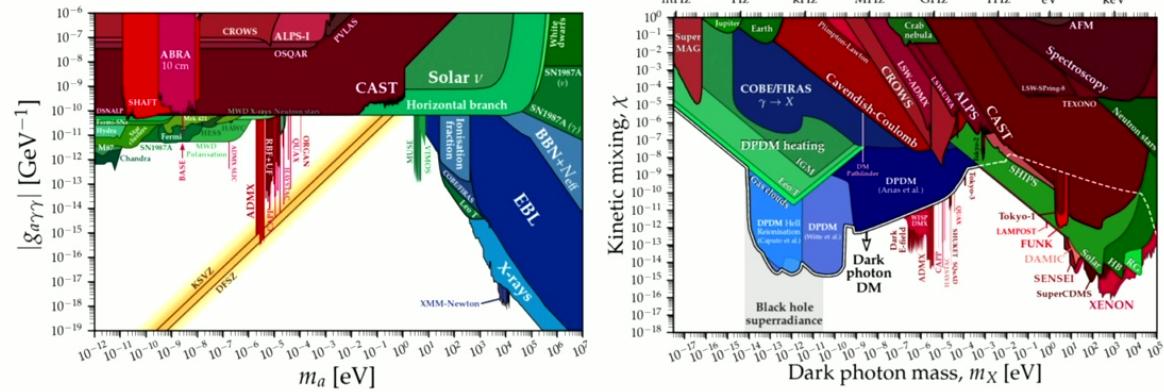
$$S = \int dt d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\rho} g^{\nu\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} m^2 g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\chi}{2} (F_{\mu\nu})^{\text{SM}} (F^{\mu\nu})^{\text{dark photon}} + J_\mu (A^\mu)^{\text{SM}}$$



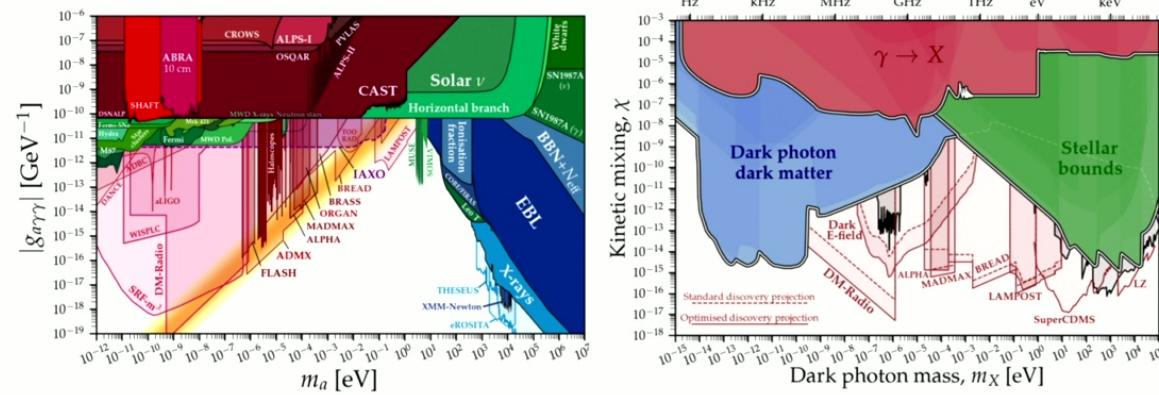


Experimental Searches

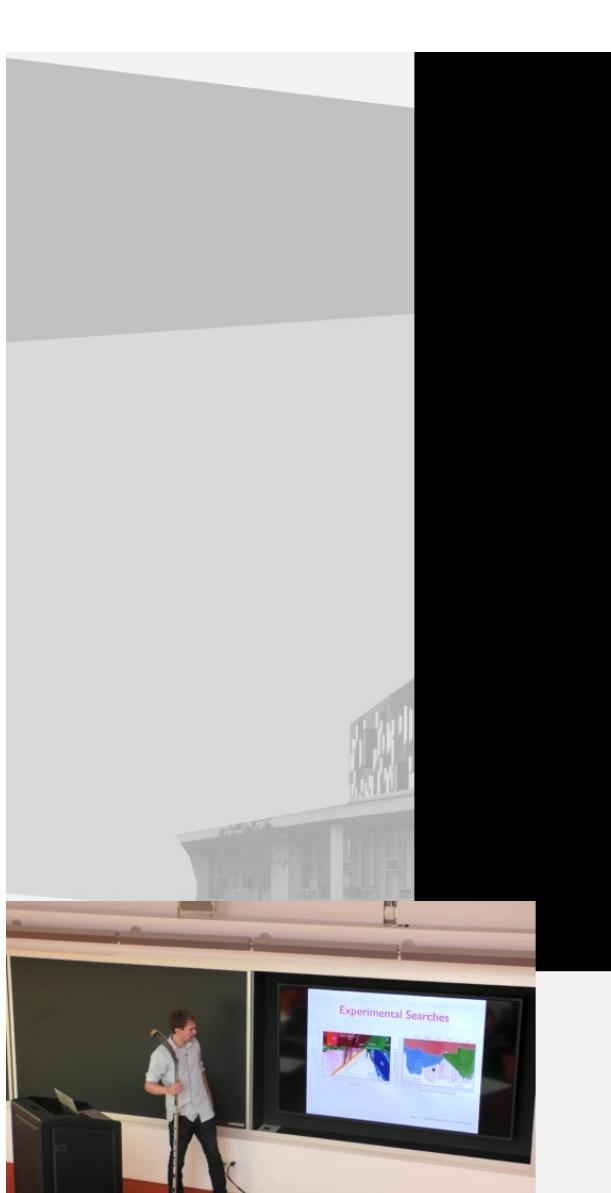


<https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits>

Experimental Searches



<https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits>



Basic definitions

Dark matter over-density field

$$\delta(x) \equiv \frac{\rho(x) - \bar{\rho}}{\bar{\rho}}$$

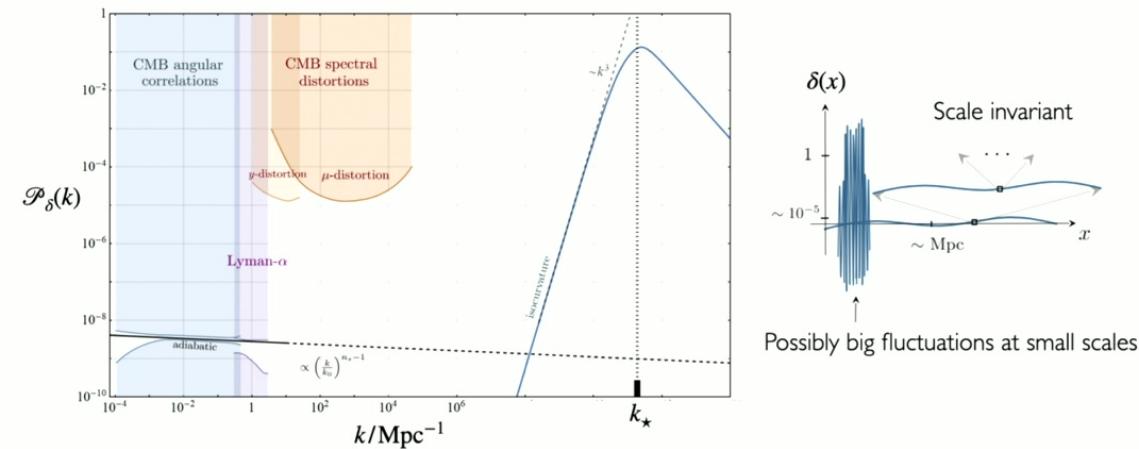
Dark matter density

$$\langle \tilde{\delta}^*(\vec{k}) \tilde{\delta}(\vec{k}') \rangle \equiv \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} \delta^3(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') \mathcal{P}_\delta(|\vec{k}|)$$

Density power spectrum

Statistical homogeneity + isotropy

Initial spatial distribution

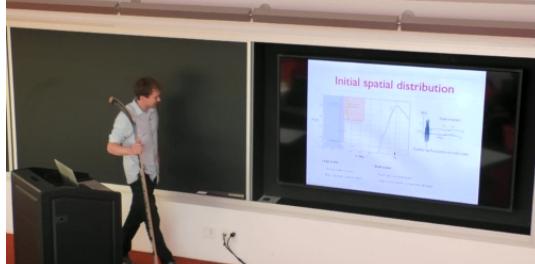


Large scales:

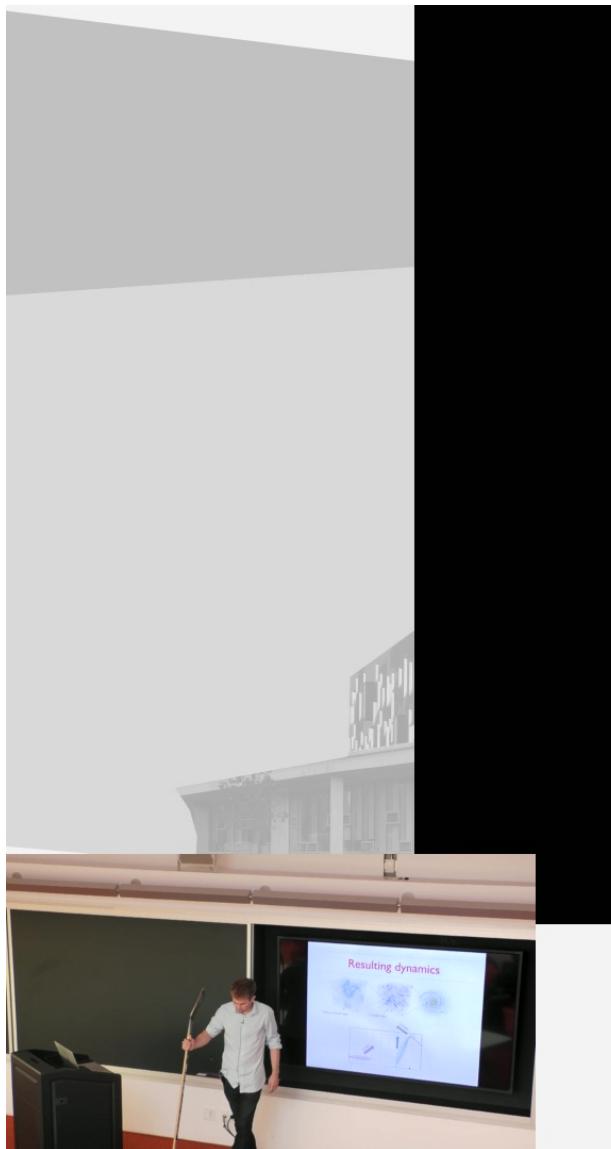
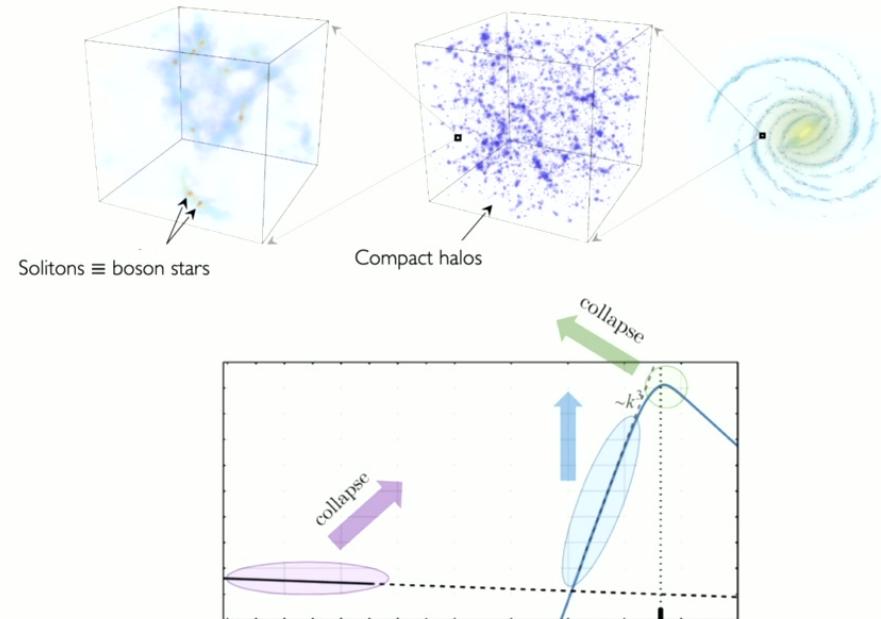
- Almost scale invariant
- $\delta(x)$ Gaussian random field

Small scales:

- Practically unconstrained
- Large isocurvature component allowed



Resulting dynamics



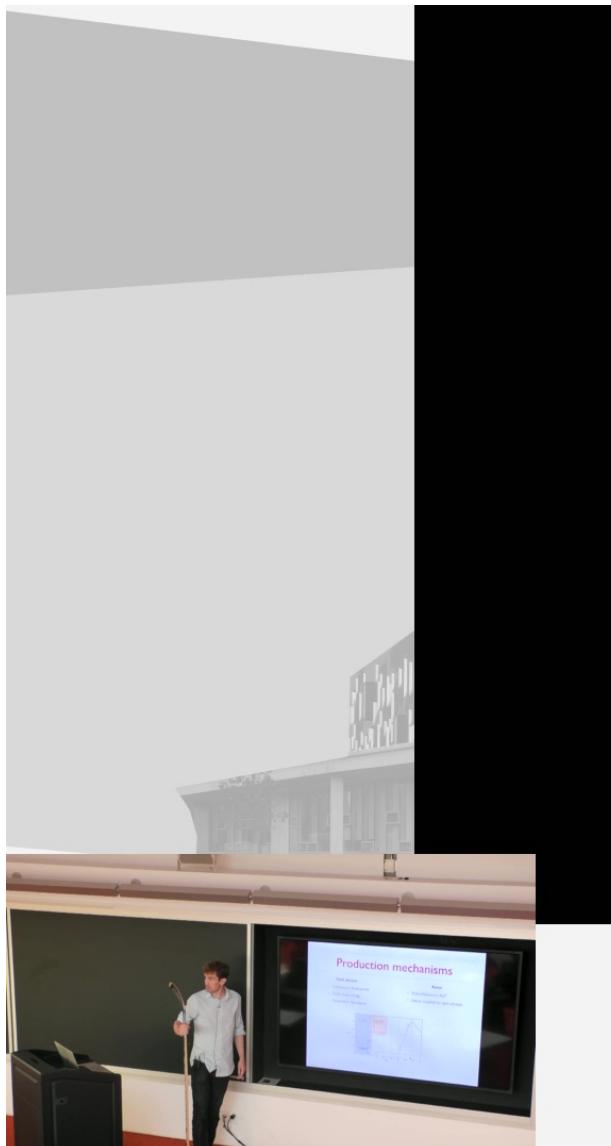
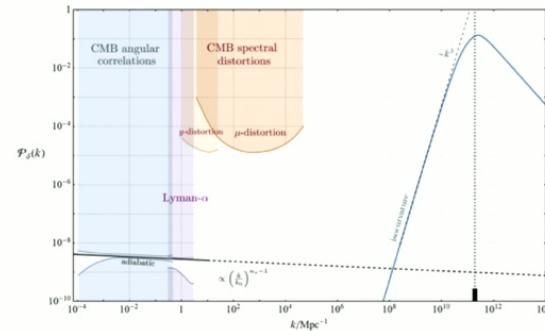
Production mechanisms

Dark photon

- Inflationary fluctuations
- From local strings
- Parametric resonance

Axion

- Post-inflationary ALP
- Axion coupled to dark photon





This talk

Dark photon

- Inflationary fluctuations
- From local strings
- Parametric resonance

Axion

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This talk

Dark photon

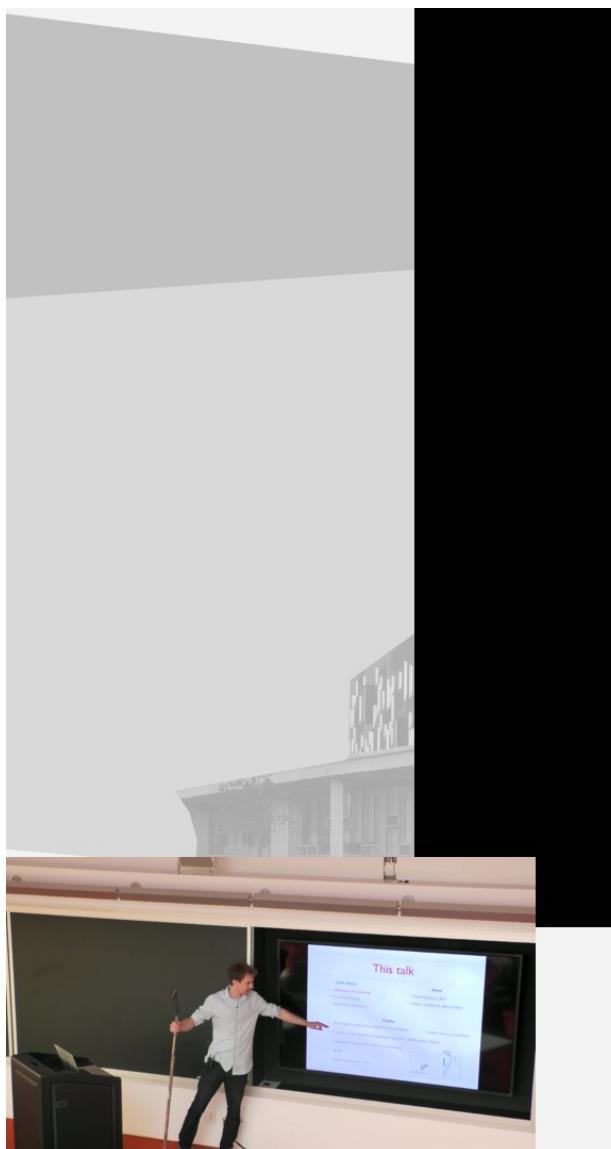
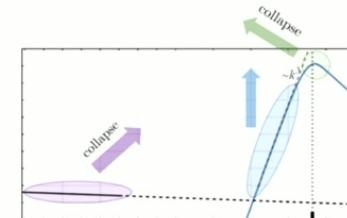
- Inflationary fluctuations
- From local strings
- Parametric resonance

Axion

- Post-inflationary ALP
- Axion coupled to dark photon

Outline

- Vector dark matter from inflationary fluctuations [Graham, Mardon, and Rajendran]
- Collapse of the density fluctuations to solitons ('dark photon' stars)
- Subsequent structure formation and survival
- Signals
- Similar dynamics in ALPs



Vector dark matter from inflation

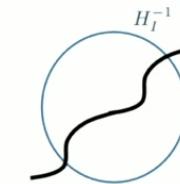
→ Massive vector field during inflation

$$S = \int dt d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\rho} g^{\nu\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} m^2 g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu \right]$$

\downarrow
 $m \ll H_I$

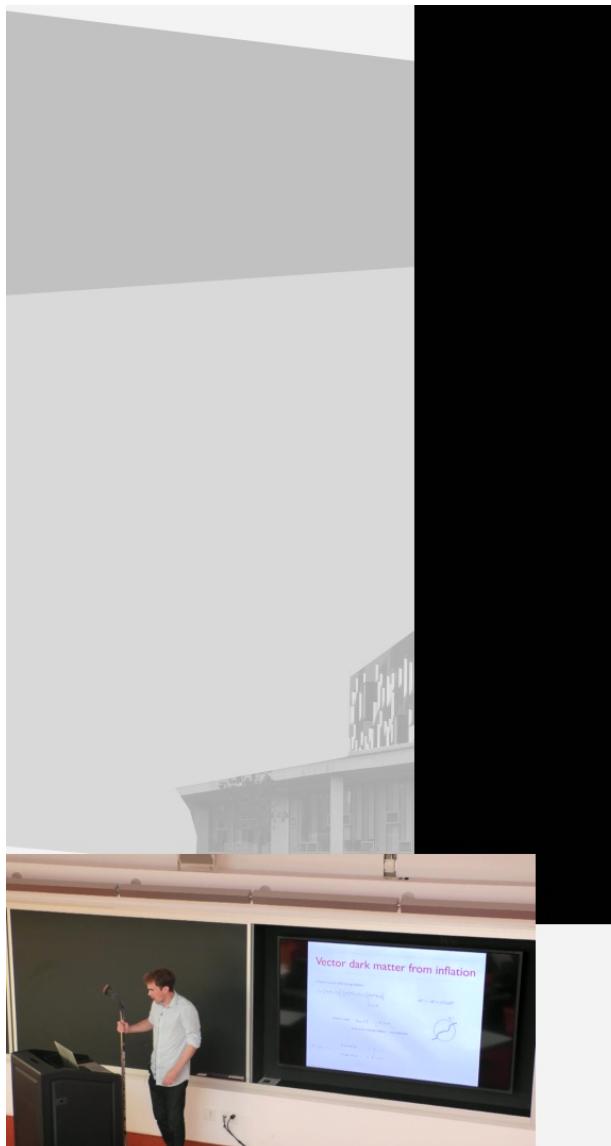
$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)d\vec{x}^2$$

Generic mode: $k_{\text{phys}} \equiv \frac{k}{a} > H_I \gg m$
Subhorizon during inflation \implies relativistic



$$\tilde{A} = \{A_T, A_L\}$$

Transverse $\quad \vec{k} \cdot \vec{A}_T = 0$
Longitudinal $\quad \vec{k} \cdot \vec{A} = k A_L$



Vector dark matter from inflation

$$S = \mathcal{S}_T + \mathcal{S}_L \quad (\text{Transverse and longitudinal decoupled})$$

Transverse

$$S_T = \int \frac{a^3 d^3 k dt}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2a^2} \left[|\partial_t \vec{A}_T|^2 - \left(\frac{k^2}{a^2} + m^2 \right) |\vec{A}_T|^2 \right] \xrightarrow{d\eta = \frac{dt}{a}} (2\pi)^{-3} \int d^3 k d\eta \frac{1}{2} \left(|\partial_\eta \vec{A}_T|^2 - (k^2 + a^2 m^2) |\vec{A}_T|^2 \right)$$

Time translation invariant → modes not produced

Longitudinal

$$S_L = \int \frac{a^3 d^3 k dt}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2a^2} \left[\frac{a^2 m^2}{k^2 + a^2 m^2} |\partial_t A_L|^2 - m^2 |A_L|^2 \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{k}{a} \gg m, \varphi \equiv \frac{A_L}{k}} \int a^3 d^3 x dt \frac{1}{2} [(\partial_t \varphi)^2 - |\nabla \varphi|^2 / a^2]$$

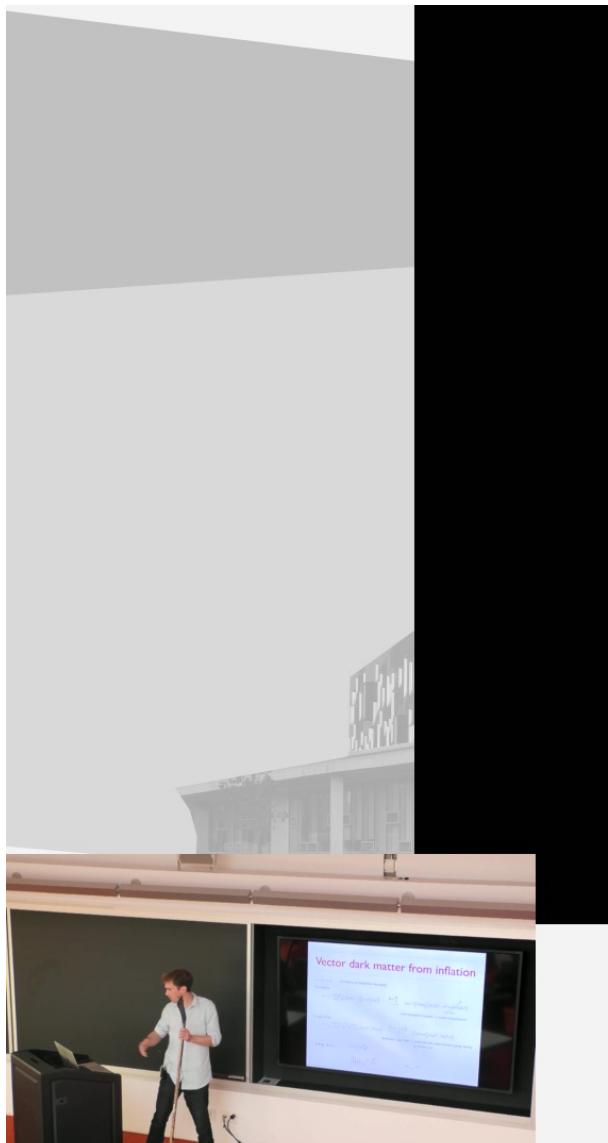
Relativistic scalar field → produced with scale-invariant energy density at horizon exit

Energy density:

$$\rho_{A_L} \equiv \int dk \frac{\partial \rho_{A_L}}{\partial k}$$

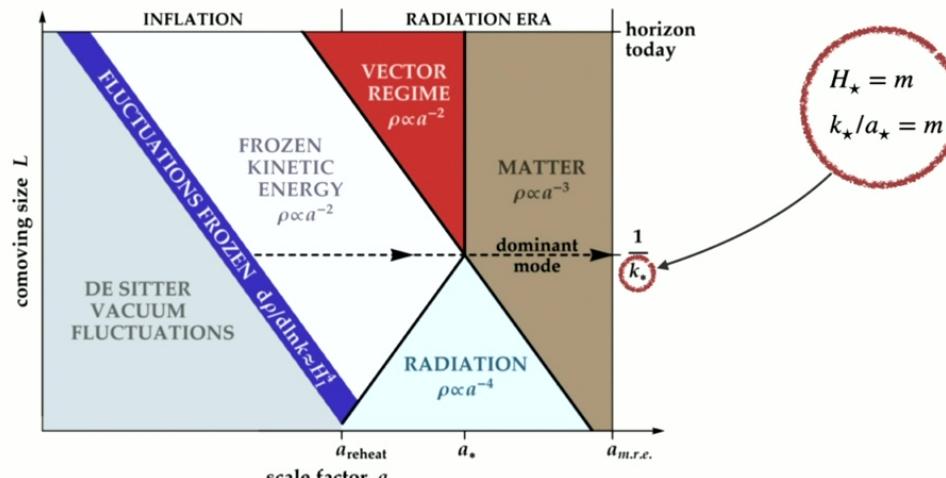
$$\left. \frac{\partial \rho_{A_L}}{\partial \log k} \right|_{a=a_e} \approx \frac{H_l^4}{(2\pi)^2}$$

$$\left. \vec{A}_T \right|_{a=a_e} \approx 0$$



Vector dark matter from inflation

$$\left[\partial_t^2 + \frac{3k^2 + a^2 m^2}{k^2 + a^2 m^2} H \partial_t + \frac{k^2}{a^2} + m^2 \right] A_L = 0 \quad \rho = \frac{1}{2a^2} \left(\partial_t A_L \frac{a^2 m^2}{a^2 m^2 - \nabla^2} \partial_t A_L + m^2 A_L^2 \right)$$

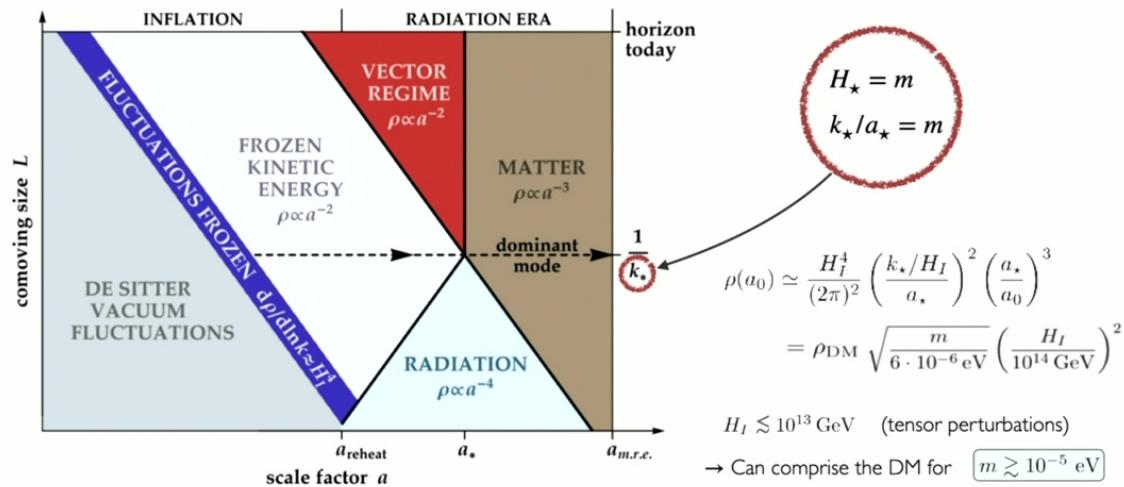


[Graham, Mardon, and Rajendran]

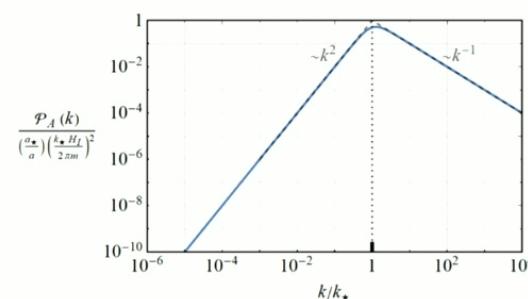


Vector dark matter from inflation

$$\left[\partial_t^2 + \frac{3k^2 + a^2 m^2}{k^2 + a^2 m^2} H \partial_t + \frac{k^2}{a^2} + m^2 \right] A_L = 0 \quad \rho = \frac{1}{2a^2} \left(\partial_t A_L \frac{a^2 m^2}{a^2 m^2 - \nabla^2} \partial_t A_L + m^2 A_L^2 \right)$$

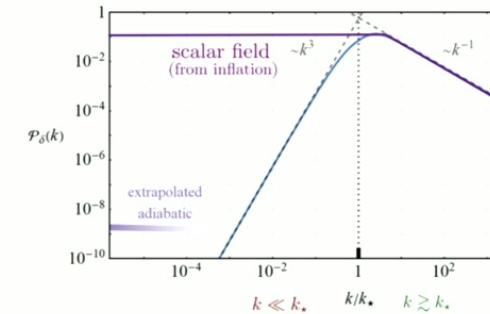


Vector dark matter from inflation

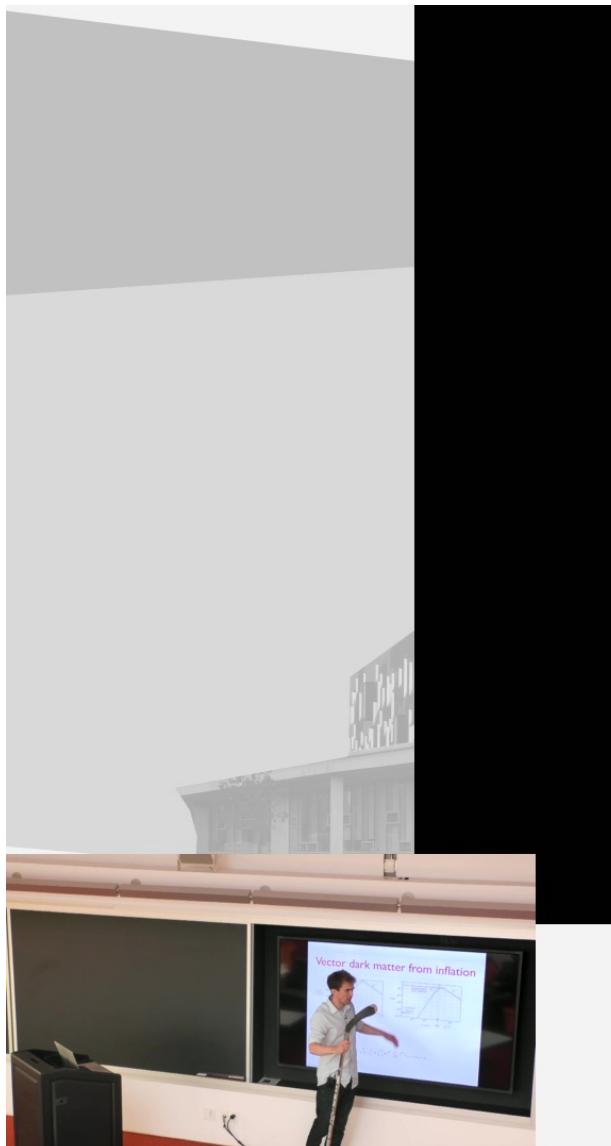


$$\langle X^*(t, \vec{k}) X(t, \vec{k}') \rangle \equiv (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} \mathcal{P}_X(t, k)$$

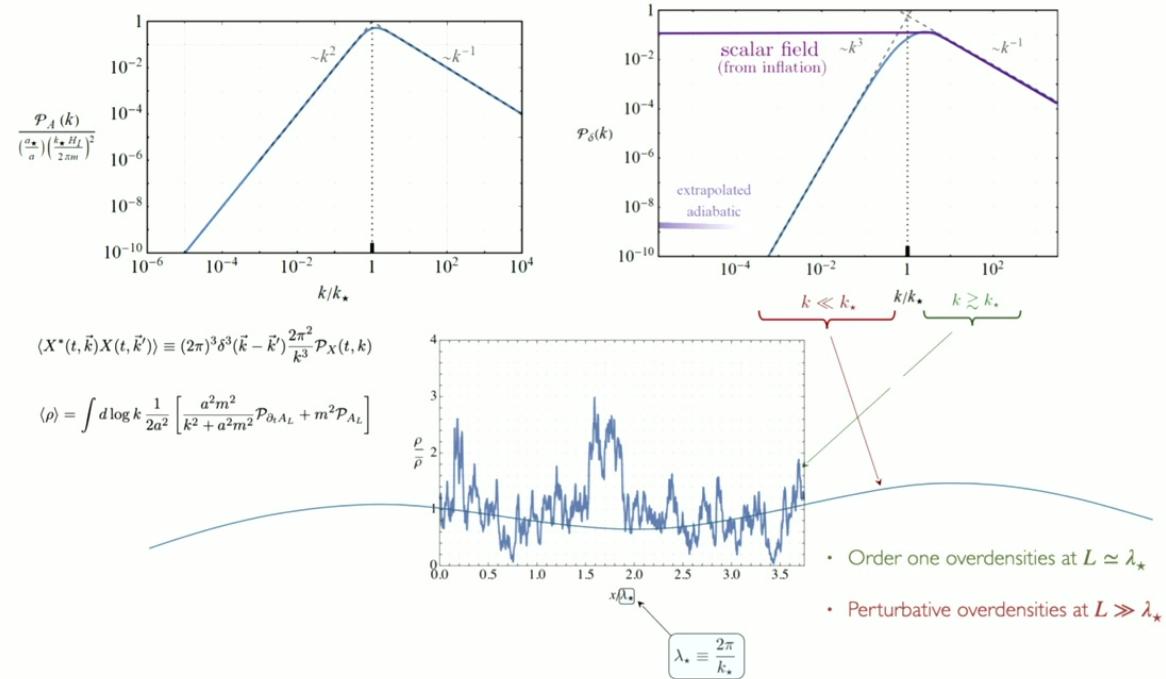
$$\langle \rho \rangle = \int d \log k \frac{1}{2a^2} \left[\frac{a^2 m^2}{k^2 + a^2 m^2} \mathcal{P}_{\partial_t A_L} + m^2 \mathcal{P}_{A_L} \right]$$



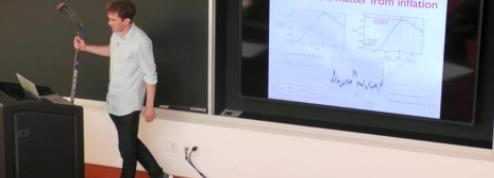
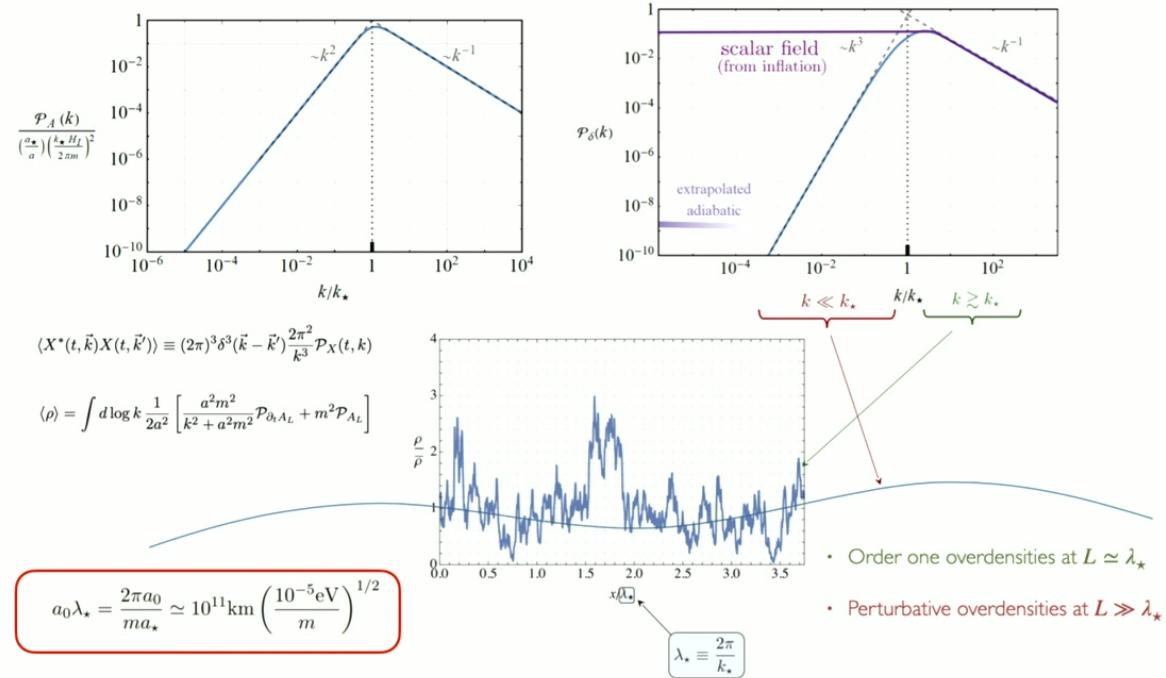
$$\mathcal{P}_\delta(t, k) = \frac{k^2}{8 \langle A_L^2 \rangle^2} \int_0^\infty dq \int_{|q-k|}^{q+k} dp \frac{(k^2 - q^2 - p^2)^2}{q^4 p^4} \mathcal{P}_{A_L}(t, p) \mathcal{P}_{A_L}(t, q)$$



Vector dark matter from inflation



Vector dark matter from inflation

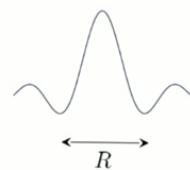


Gravitational collapse and wave effects

An order one over-density $\delta = \delta\rho/\bar{\rho}$ becomes nonlinear around matter radiation equality

at $a_{\text{collapse}} = a_{\text{eq}}/\delta$

Density $\rho \simeq \bar{\rho}(a_{\text{collapse}})$

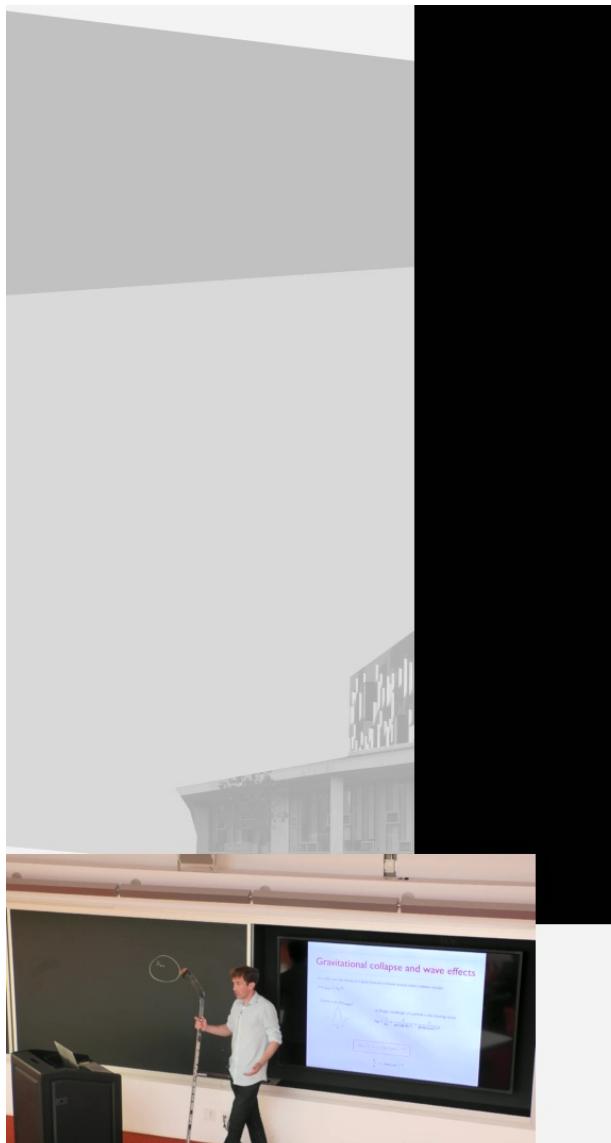


de Broglie wavelength of a particle in the resulting clump

$$\lambda_{\text{dB}} = \frac{1}{mv} = \frac{1}{m(GM/R)^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{R(4\pi G\rho m^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$R_{\text{crit}} \simeq \lambda_J \simeq (16\pi G\rho m^2)^{-1/4}$$

$$\frac{k_J}{a} = (16\pi G\rho m^2)^{1/4}$$

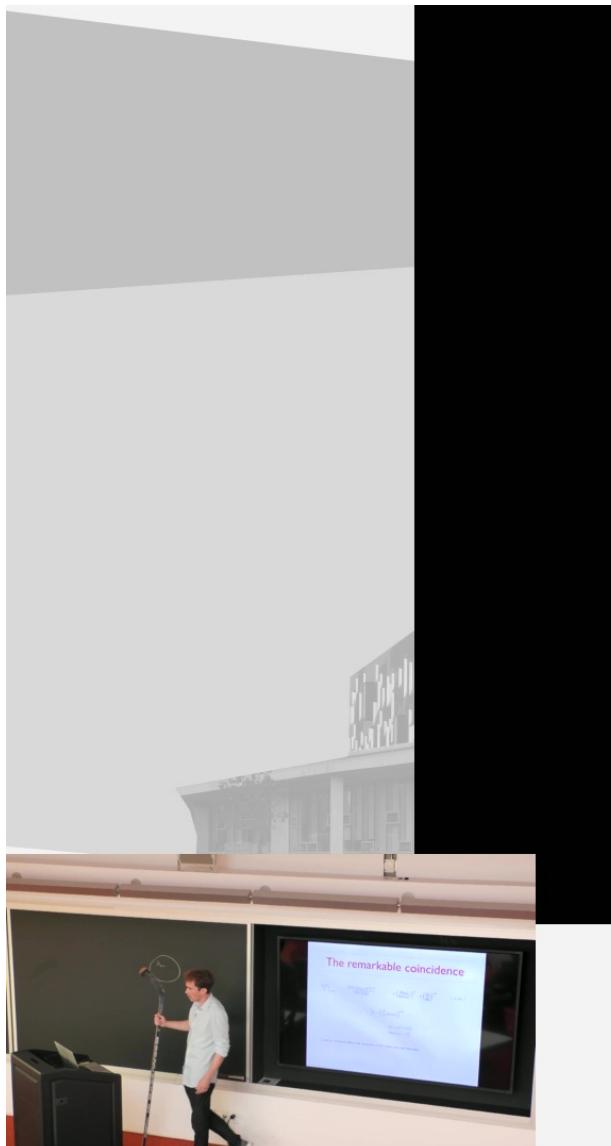


The remarkable coincidence

$$\frac{k_J(\bar{\rho})}{k_*} \Big|_{a=a_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{(16\pi G \bar{\rho}(a_{\text{eq}}) m^2)^{1/4}}{m \left(\frac{a_*}{a_{\text{eq}}} \right)} \simeq \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}(a_{\text{eq}})}{\bar{\rho}_M(a_{\text{eq}})} \right)^{1/4} \simeq \left(\frac{\Omega_A}{\Omega_M} \right)^{1/4} \quad (\approx 1.9)$$
$$= \frac{T_{\text{eq}}}{T_*} \simeq \left(\frac{G}{m^2} \bar{\rho}_M(a_{\text{eq}}) \right)^{1/4}$$

$$H_*^2 = m^2 \simeq G T_*^4$$
$$2\bar{\rho}_M(a_{\text{eq}}) \simeq T_{\text{eq}}^4$$

Quantum pressure affects the evolution of the order one over-densities



More rigorously

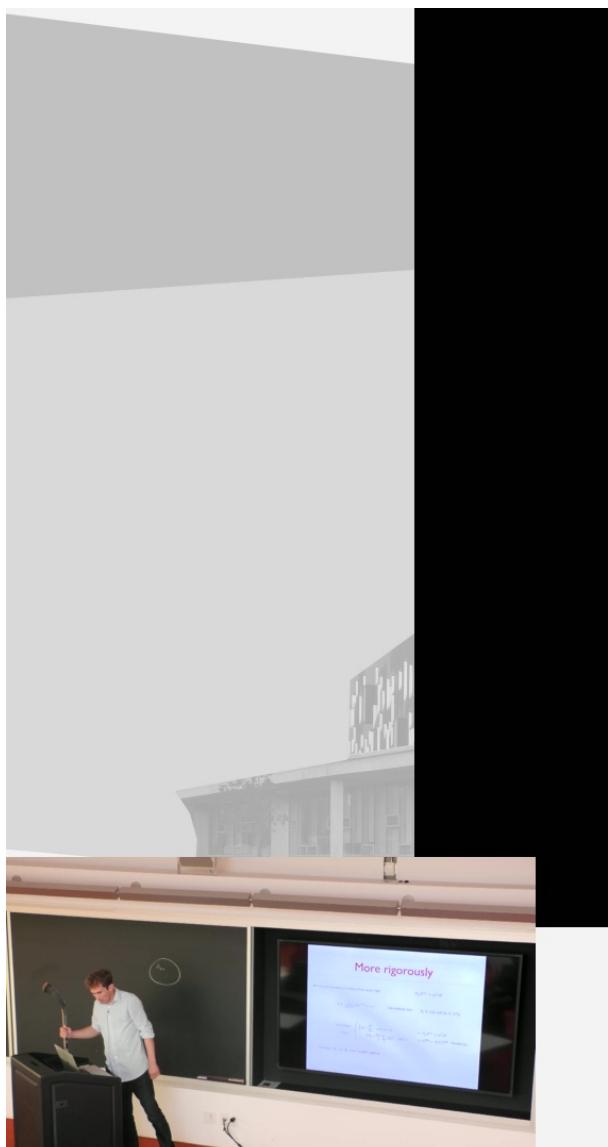
- From the equations of motion of the vector field

$$D_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = m^2 A^\nu$$

$$A_i \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m^2a^3}}(\psi_i e^{-imt} + \text{c.c.}) \quad \text{Non-relativistic limit} \quad \dot{\psi}_i \ll m\psi_i \text{ and } \ddot{\psi}_i \ll m^2\psi_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Schroedinger: } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(i\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - m\Phi \right) \psi_i = 0 , \\ \nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} \sum_i (|\psi_i|^2 - \langle |\psi_i|^2 \rangle) \end{array} \right. & \leftarrow D_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = m^2 A^\nu \\ \text{Poisson: } & \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right. & \leftarrow G^{00} = 8\pi G T^{00} \quad \text{Einstein eq.} \end{aligned}$$

Nonlinear, A_L and A_T now coupled together



More rigorously

$$\left(i\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - m\Phi \right) \psi_i = 0 ,$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} \sum_i (|\psi_i|^2 - \langle |\psi_i|^2 \rangle)$$

Magdeburg transformation

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_i &= \sqrt{\rho_i} e^{i\theta_i} \\ \vec{v}_i &= \frac{1}{m} \nabla \theta_i\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Continuity: } &\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \partial_t \rho_i + 3H\rho_i + a^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\rho_i \vec{v}_i) = 0 \\ \partial_t \vec{v}_i + H\vec{v}_i + a^{-1}(\vec{v}_i \cdot \nabla) \vec{v}_i = -a^{-1}(\nabla \Phi + \nabla \Phi_{Qi}) \end{array} \right. \\ \text{Euler: } &\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G a^2 (\rho - \bar{\rho})\end{aligned}$$

(3-component) perfect fluid
with 'quantum pressure' term:

$$\Phi_{Qi} \equiv -\frac{\hbar^2}{2a^2 m^2} \frac{\nabla^2 \sqrt{\rho_i}}{\sqrt{\rho_i}}$$

- Quantum pressure negligible if

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \Phi) \gg \nabla \Phi_Q$$

$$4\pi G a^2 \rho \gg \frac{1}{2a^2 m^2} \nabla^2 \frac{\nabla^2 \sqrt{\rho}}{\sqrt{\rho}} \simeq \frac{1}{2a^2 m^2} \frac{k^4}{2}$$



$$(k_J^{\text{phys}} =) \quad \frac{k_J}{a} = (16\pi G \rho m^2)^{1/4}$$

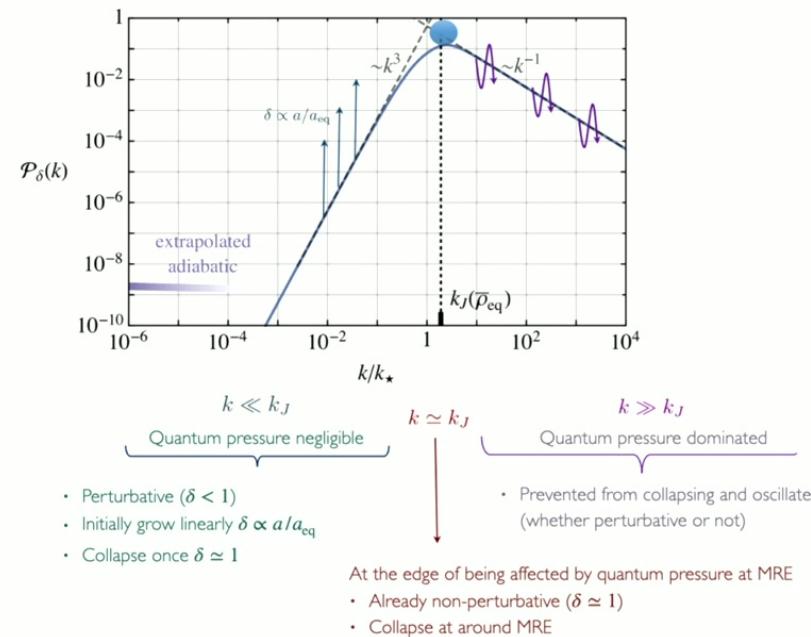
$$\begin{cases} k \ll k_J \\ k \gg k_J \end{cases}$$

Overdensities dominated by Φ → Grow and collapse

Overdensities dominated by Φ_Q → Prevented from collapsing and oscillate

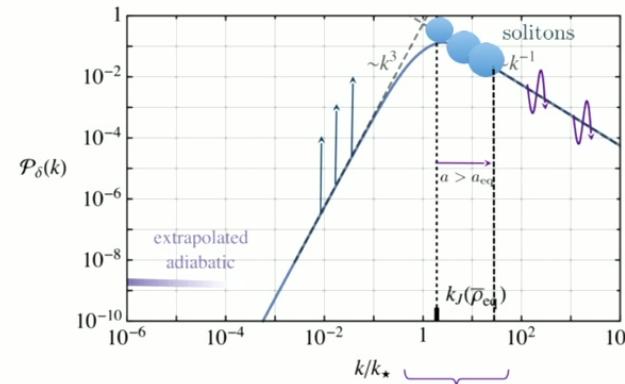


Evolution of different modes



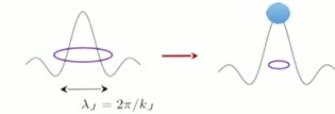


Solitons



Collapse happened at $a \gtrsim a_{\text{eq}}$, quantum pressure is relevant

- Expected to collapse into solitons
- Mass set by the dark matter density inside λ_J^3 at time of collapse



$$M(a) = \boxed{c_M} M_J(a) \quad M_J(a) \equiv \frac{4\pi}{3} \bar{\rho} a^3 \lambda_J^3(a) \propto a^{-3/4} \quad M_J(a_{\text{eq}}) = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-15} M_\odot \left(\frac{10^{-5} \text{ eV}}{m} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

Coefficient expected to be order-one

Halos vs Solitons

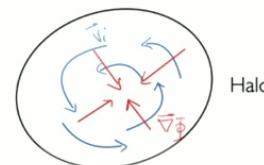
- Collapsed object = stationary solution of Schrodinger-Poisson equation (with $a=1$)

$$\begin{cases} \left(i\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - m\Phi \right) \psi_i = 0 , \\ \nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} \sum_i (|\psi_i|^2 - \langle |\psi_i|^2 \rangle) \end{cases} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \psi_i = \sqrt{\rho_i} e^{i\theta_i} \\ \vec{v}_i = \frac{1}{m} \nabla \theta_i \end{cases}$$

Halos

$$\Phi_Q = 0$$

→ Gravitational potential balanced by velocity



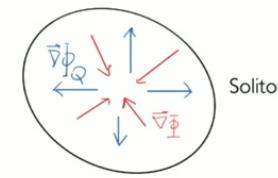
'Supported' by angular momentum

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho_i + 3H\rho_i + a^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\rho_i \vec{v}_i) = 0 \\ \partial_t \vec{v}_i + H\vec{v}_i + a^{-1}(\vec{v}_i \cdot \nabla)\vec{v}_i = -a^{-1}(\nabla \Phi + \nabla \Phi_{Qi}) \\ \nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G a^2 (\rho - \bar{\rho}) , \end{cases}$$

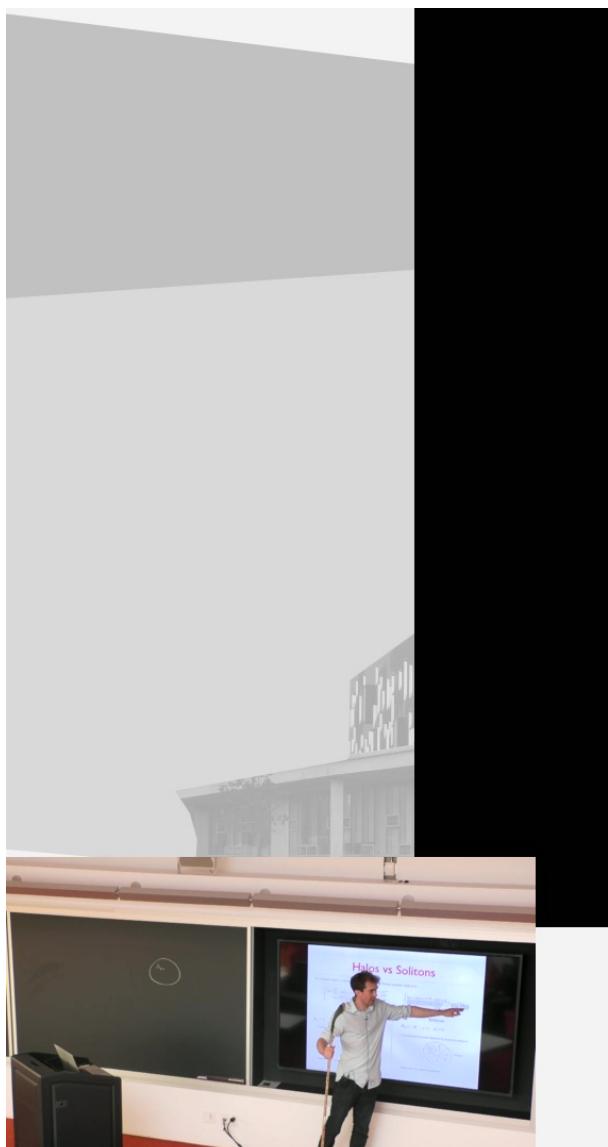
Solitons

$$\Phi_Q = -\Phi \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \vec{v}_i = 0$$

→ Gravitational potential balanced by quantum pressure



'Supported' by quantum pressure



Vector solitons

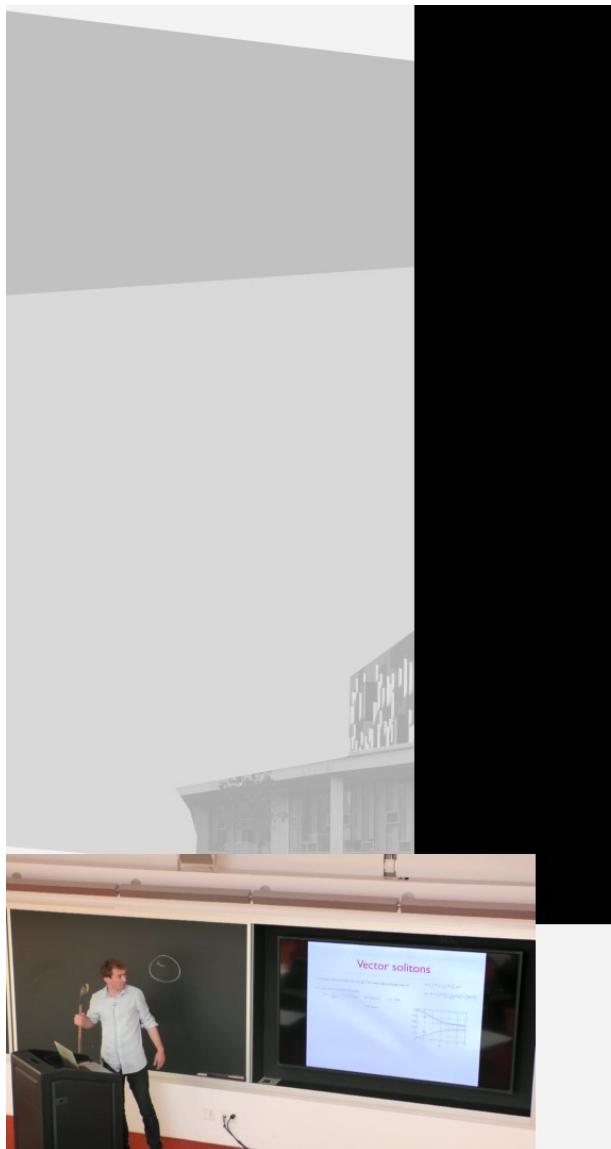
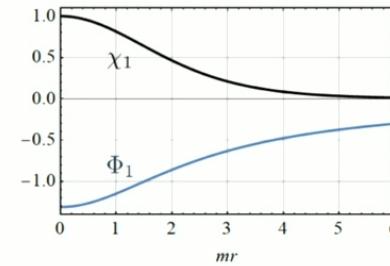
≡ solution that minimises the energy E for fixed value of total mass M

- Constructed by rescaling the ansatz:

$$\psi_i = \frac{m}{\sqrt{4\pi G}} e^{-i\gamma mt} \chi_1(mr) \underline{\Phi_i}, \quad \Phi = \Phi_1(mr) \quad \gamma \simeq -0.65$$

Unit vector

$$M \equiv \int d^3x \rho = \int d^3x \sum_i |\psi_i|^2$$
$$E = M + \int d^3x \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{2m^2} |\nabla \psi_i|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \Phi |\psi_i|^2 \right)$$



Vector solitons

\equiv solution that minimises the energy E for fixed value of total mass M

- Constructed by rescaling the ansatz:

$$\psi_i = \frac{m}{\sqrt{4\pi G}} e^{-i\gamma mt} \chi_1(mr) \underline{\mathbf{u}_i}, \quad \Phi = \Phi_1(mr) \quad \gamma \simeq -0.65$$

Unit vector

- $\rho(x) = \sum_i |\psi_i|^2 = \frac{m^2}{4\pi G} \chi_1^2(x)$: Energy density localised at centre

- Other solutions

$$\chi_1(x) \rightarrow \alpha^2 \chi_1(\alpha x), \Phi_1(x) \rightarrow \alpha^2 \Phi_1(\alpha x) \text{ and } \gamma \rightarrow \alpha^2 \gamma, \text{ for any } \alpha > 0$$

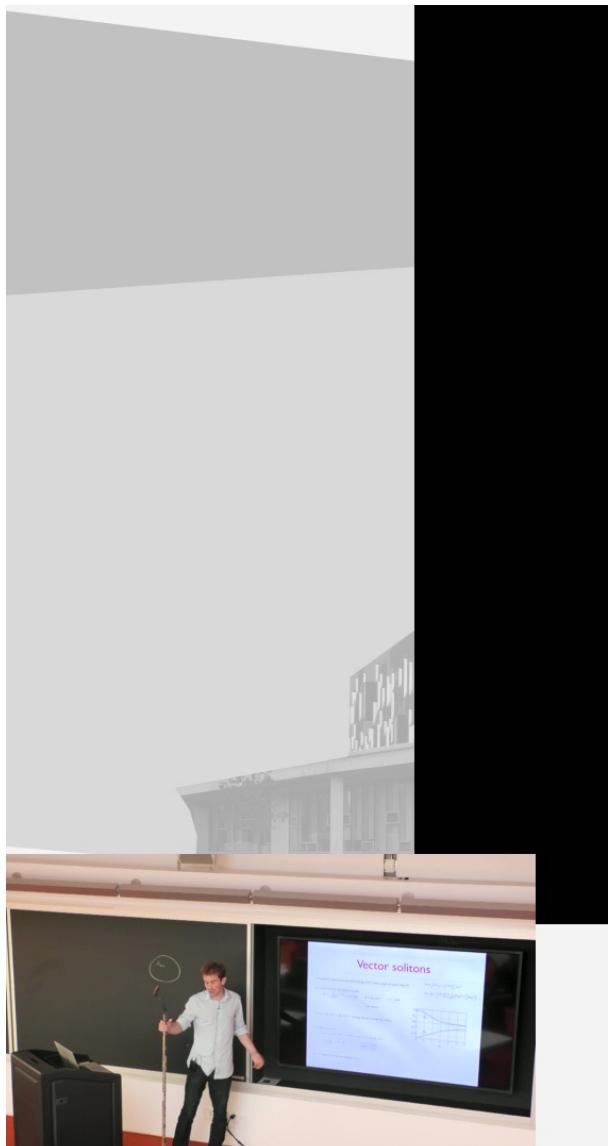
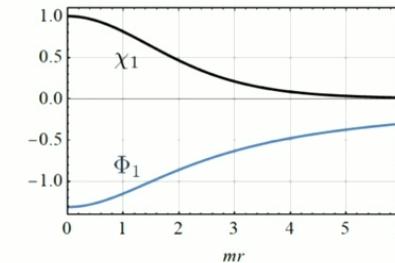
$$M \simeq \frac{2\alpha}{Gm}, \quad R \simeq \frac{1.9}{\alpha m}$$

$$MR \simeq \frac{3.9}{Gm^2}$$

- For fixed M, infinite set labelled by \mathbf{u}_i

$$M \equiv \int d^3x \rho = \int d^3x \sum_i |\psi_i|^2$$

$$E = M + \int d^3x \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{2m^2} |\nabla \psi_i|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \Phi |\psi_i|^2 \right)$$



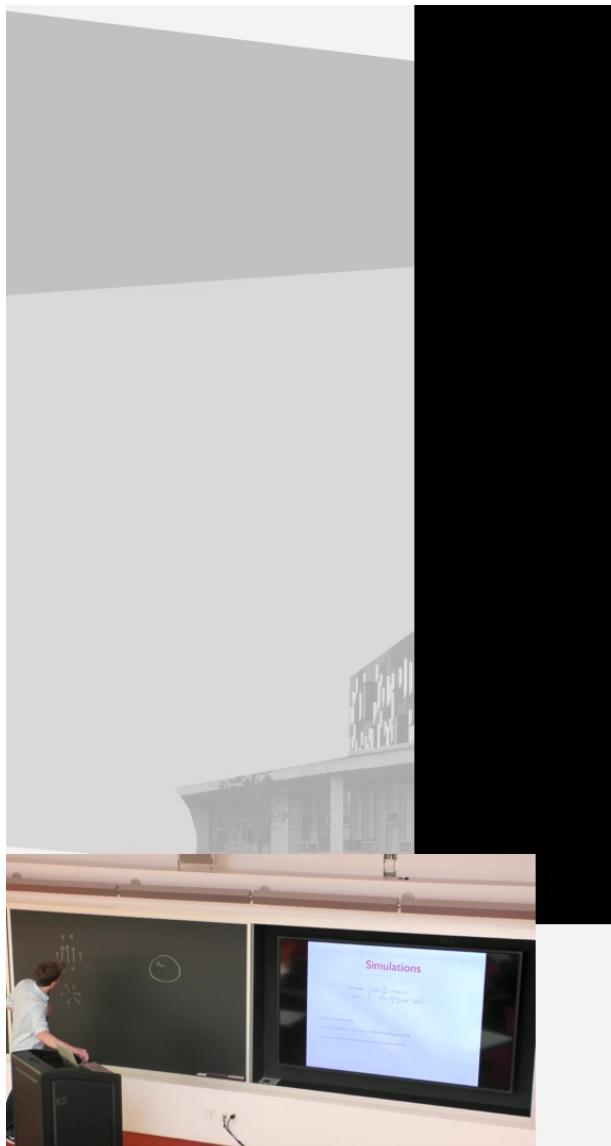
Simulations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Schrodinger: } & \left(i\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - m\Phi \right) \psi_i = 0 , \\ \text{Poisson: } & \nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} \sum_i (|\psi_i|^2 - \langle |\psi_i|^2 \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

Solve on a discrete lattice

Start with a realisation of the initial conditions at $a \ll a_{\text{eq}}$ and evolve

End the simulation once the soliton cores are no longer resolved



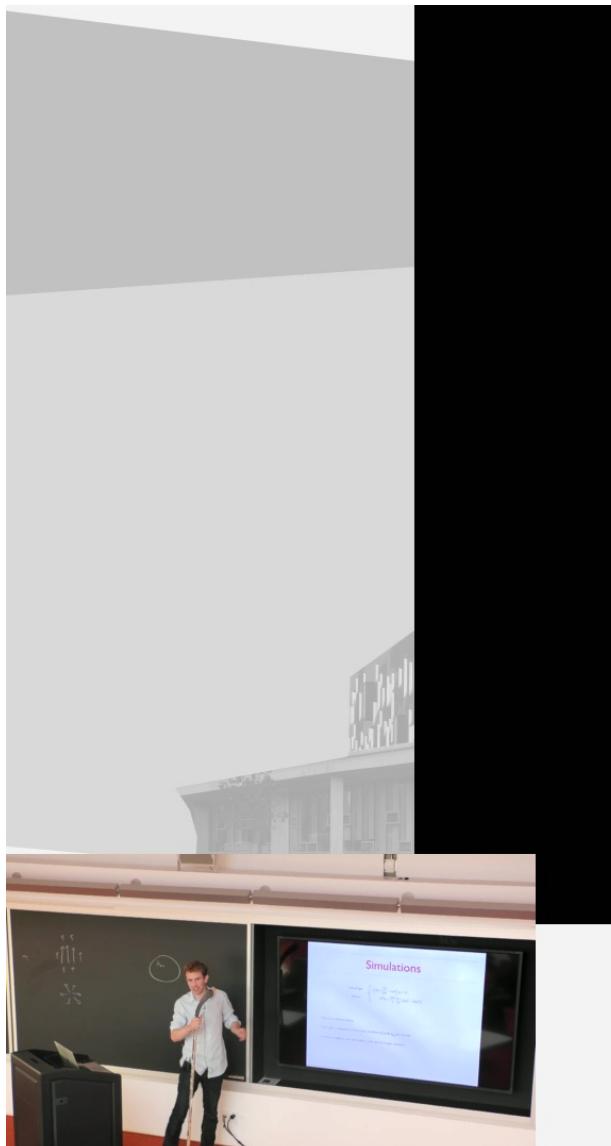
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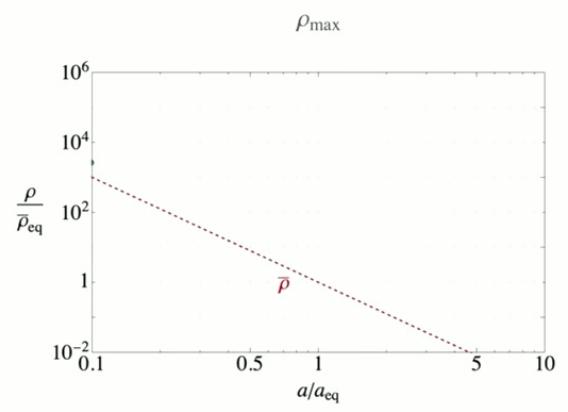
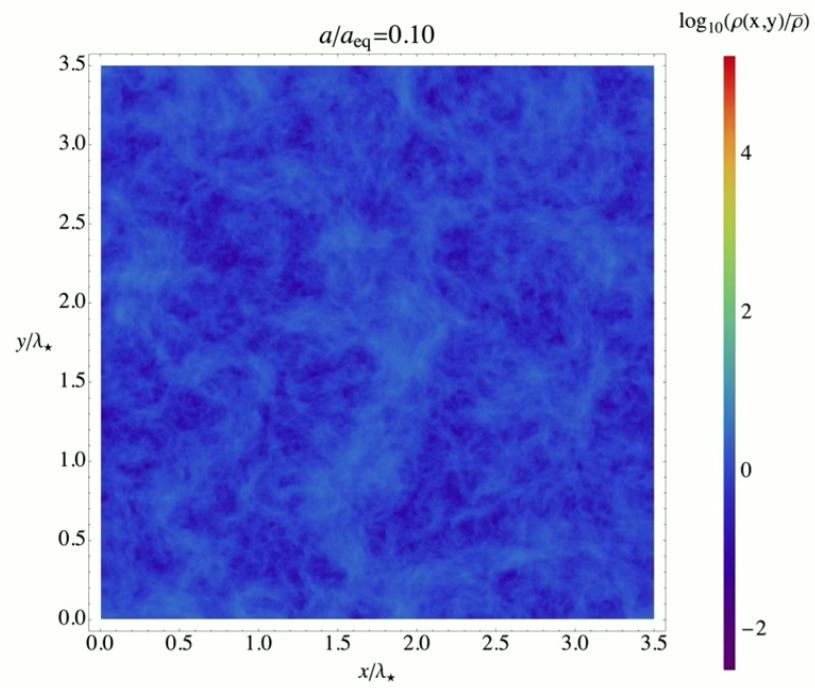
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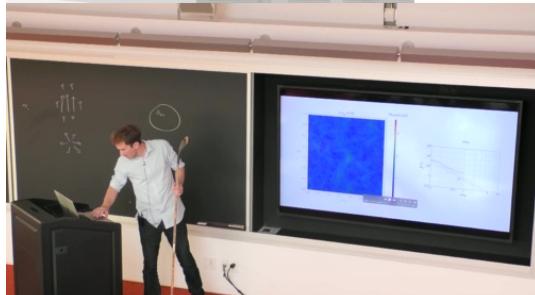
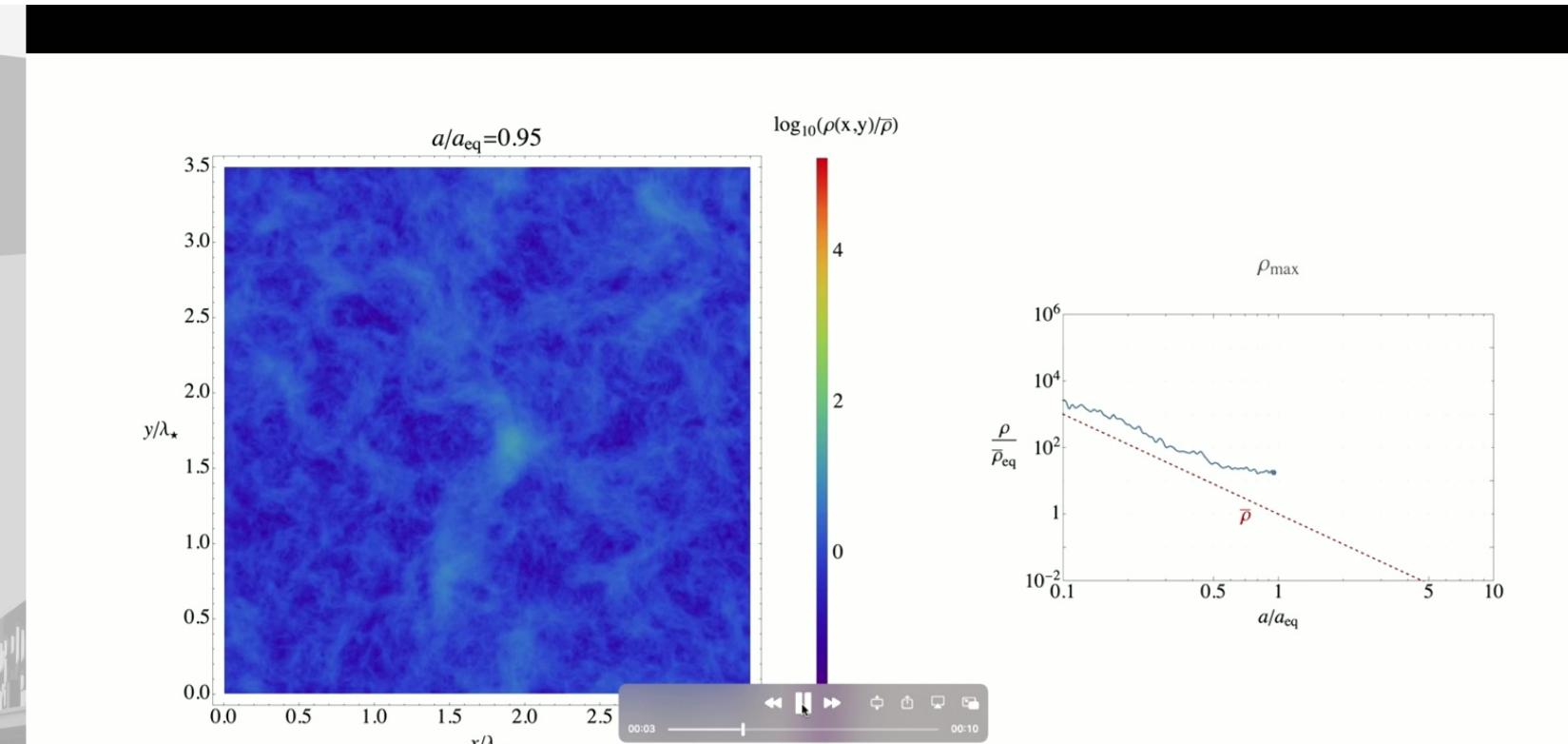
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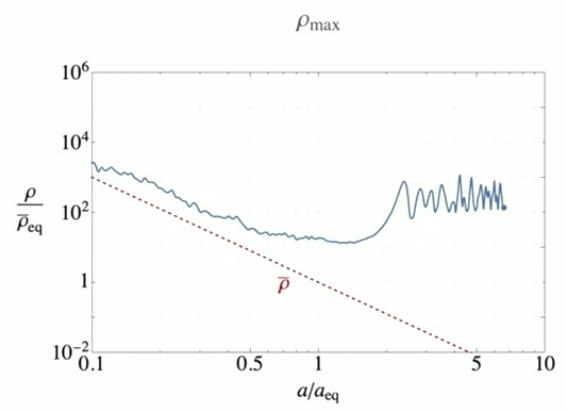
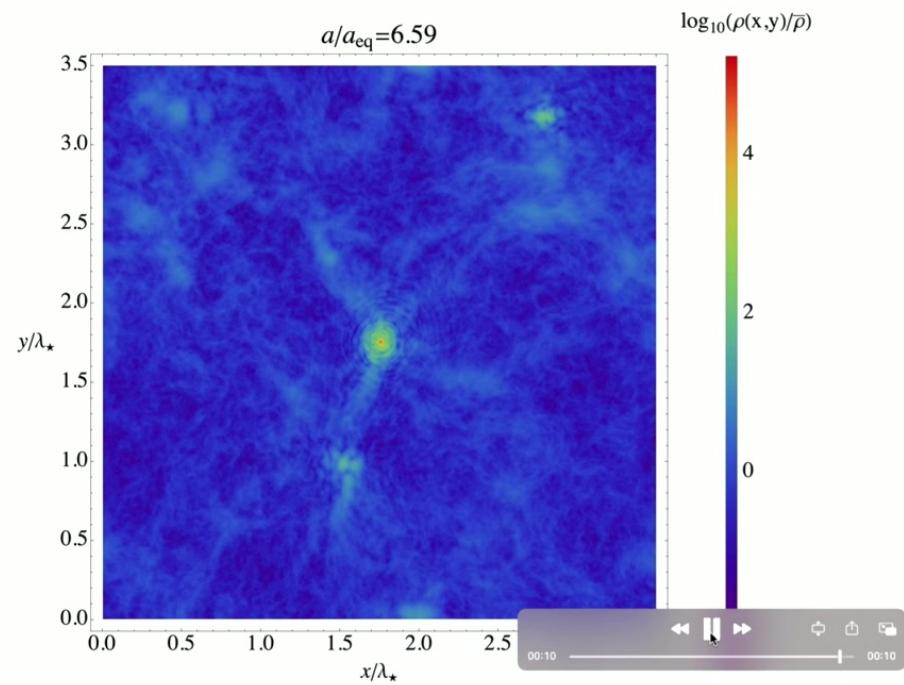
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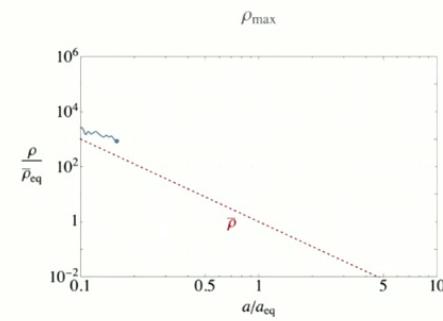
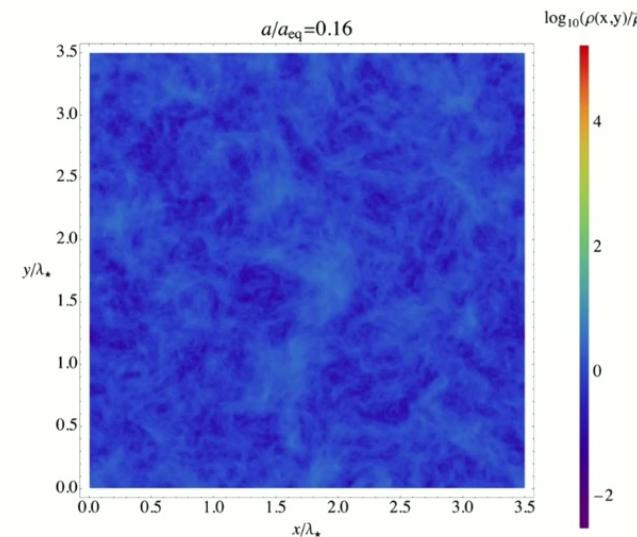




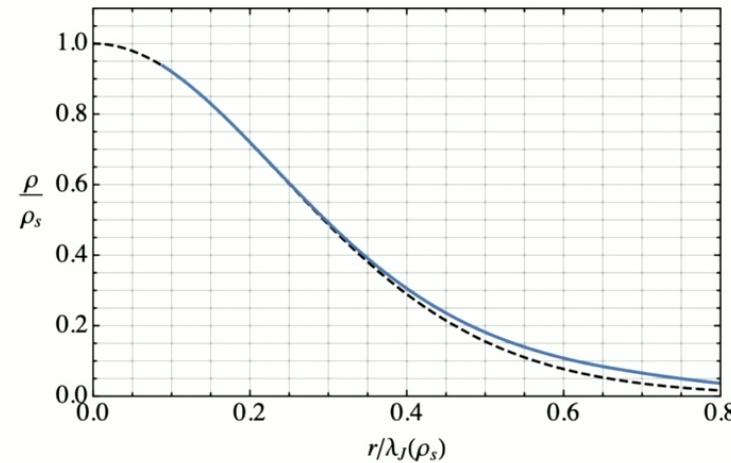




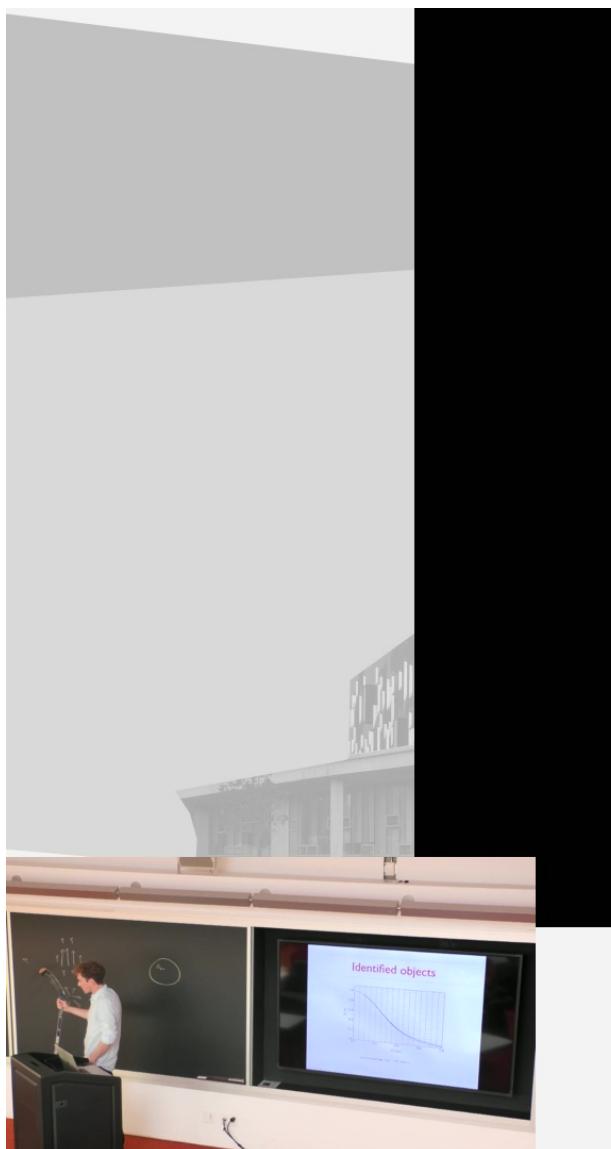
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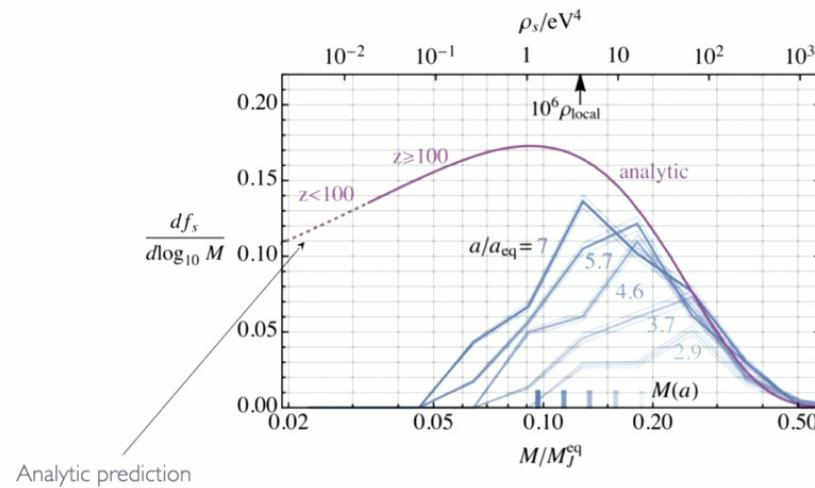
Identified objects



Spherical average over ~ 100 objects

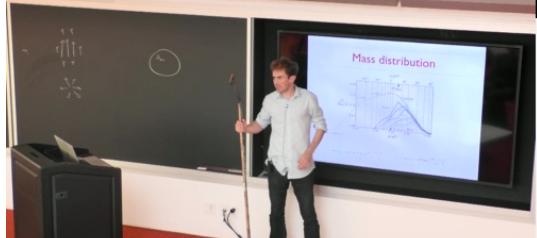


Mass distribution

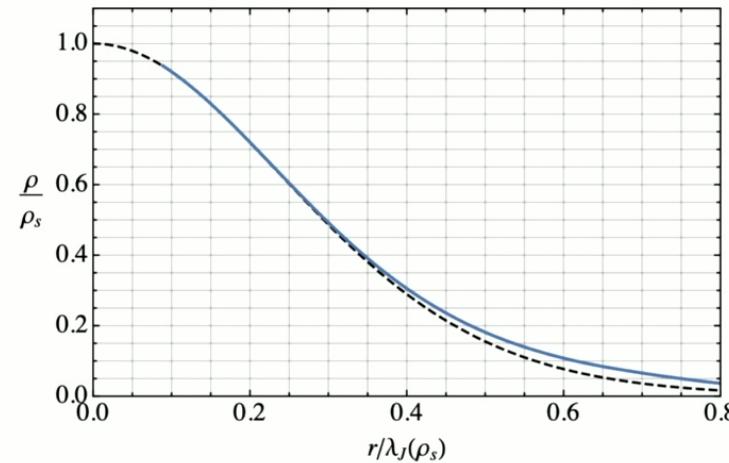


$$M_J(a_{\text{eq}}) \simeq 1.6 \cdot 10^{-15} M_{\odot} \left(\frac{10^{-5} \text{ eV}}{m} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

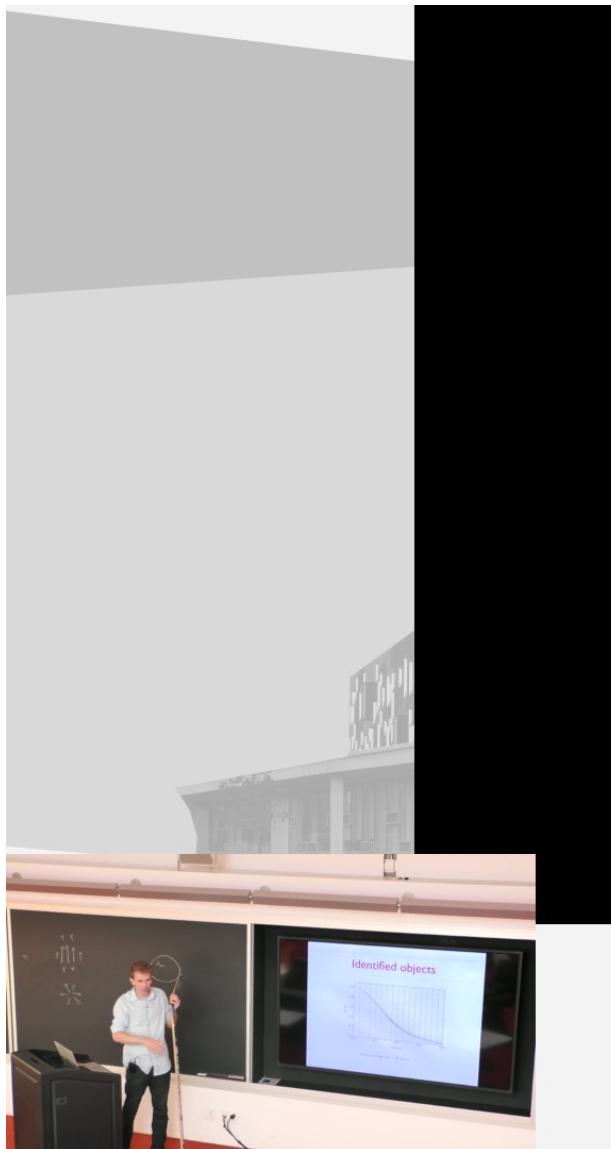
$$\lambda_J(\bar{\rho}(a_{\text{eq}})) \simeq 10^6 \text{ km} \left(\frac{10^{-5} \text{ eV}}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



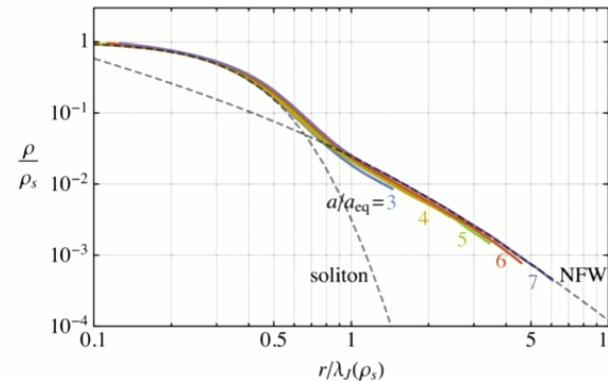
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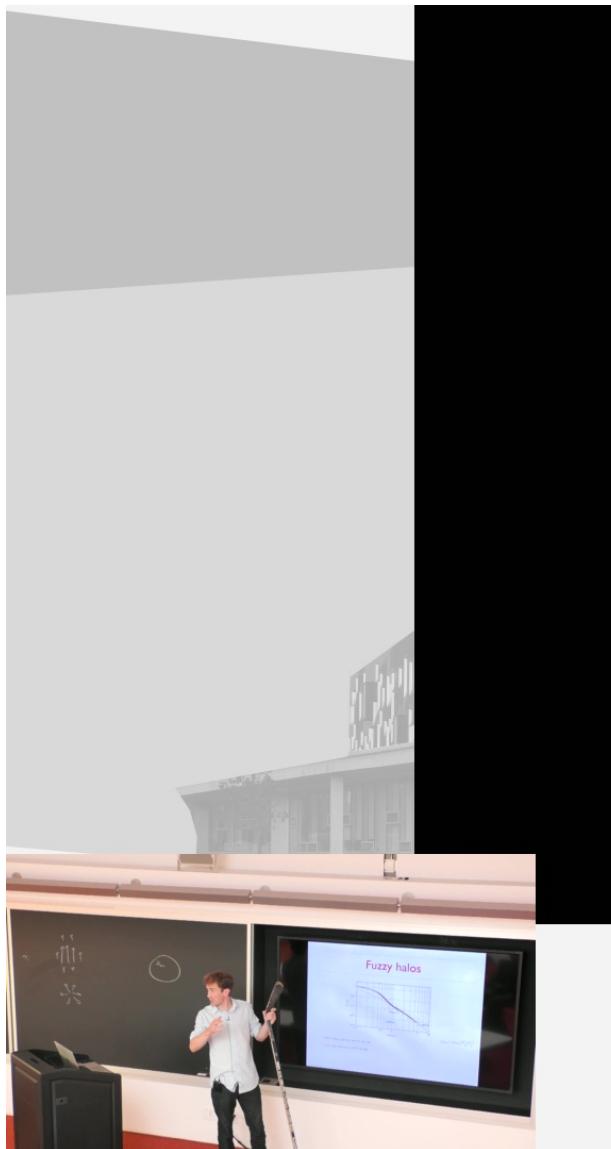


Fuzzy halos

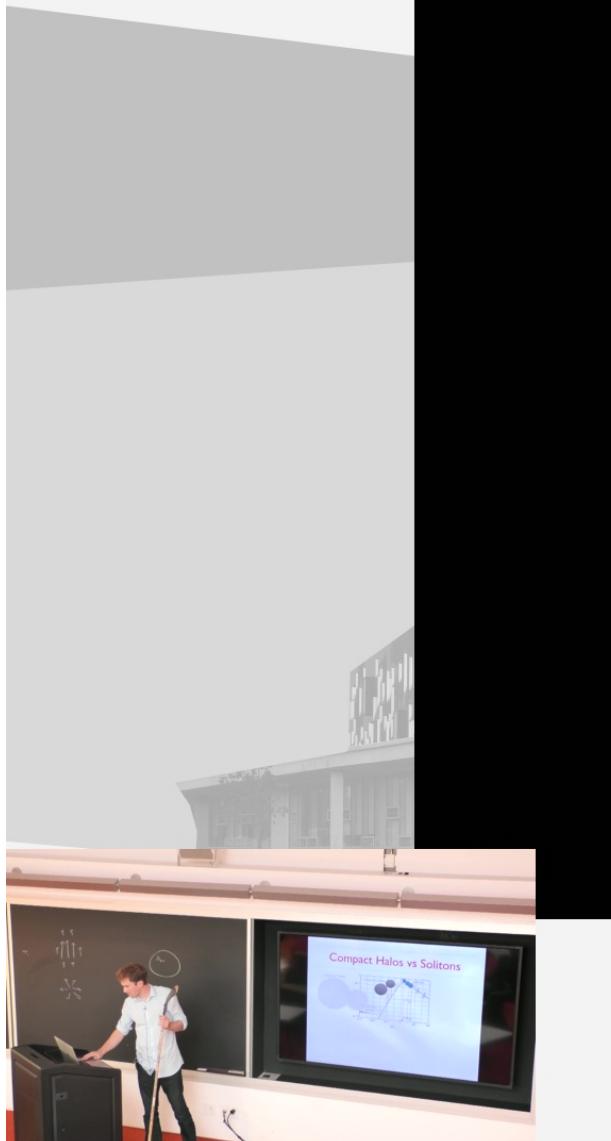
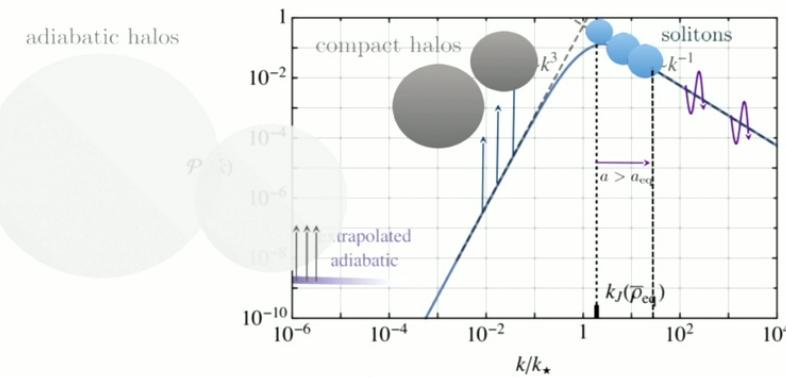


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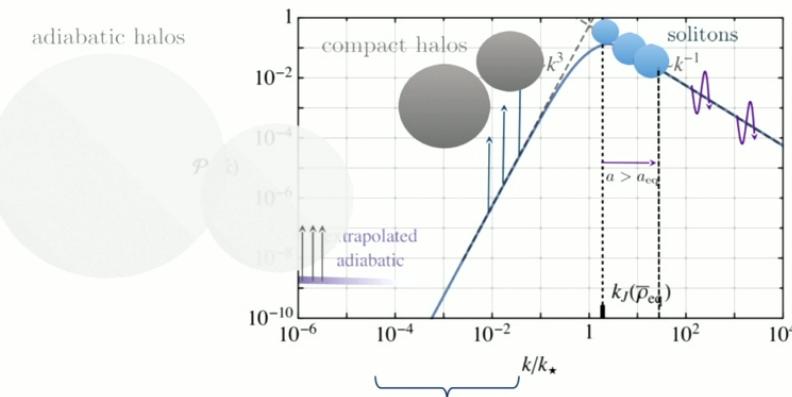
- Soliton exact solution only in vacuum
- 'Fuzzy' halo follows an NFW profile



Compact Halos vs Solitons

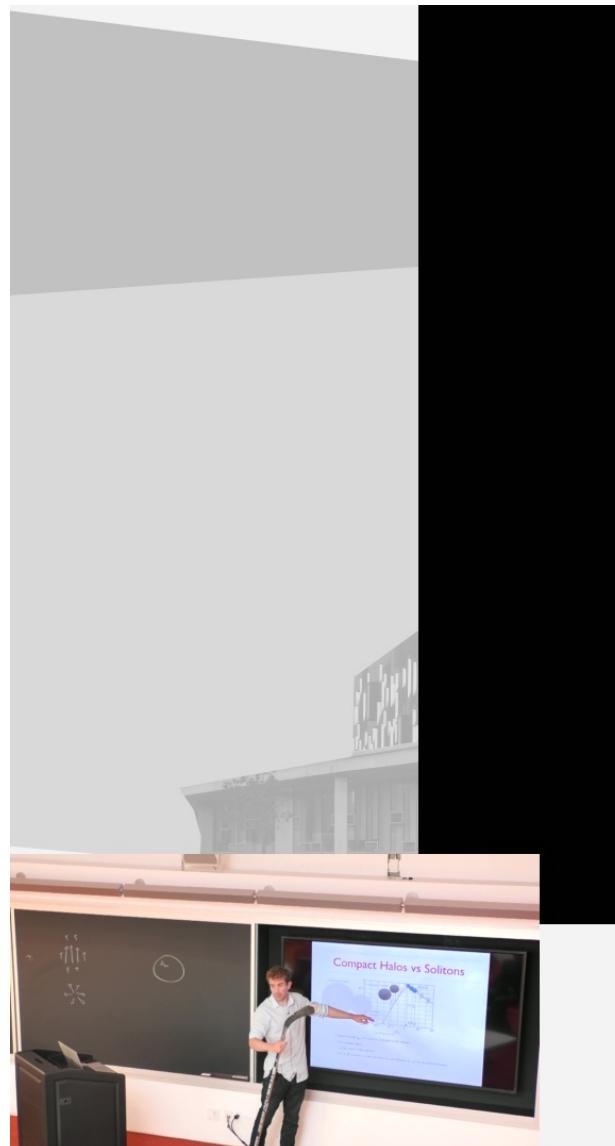


Compact Halos vs Solitons

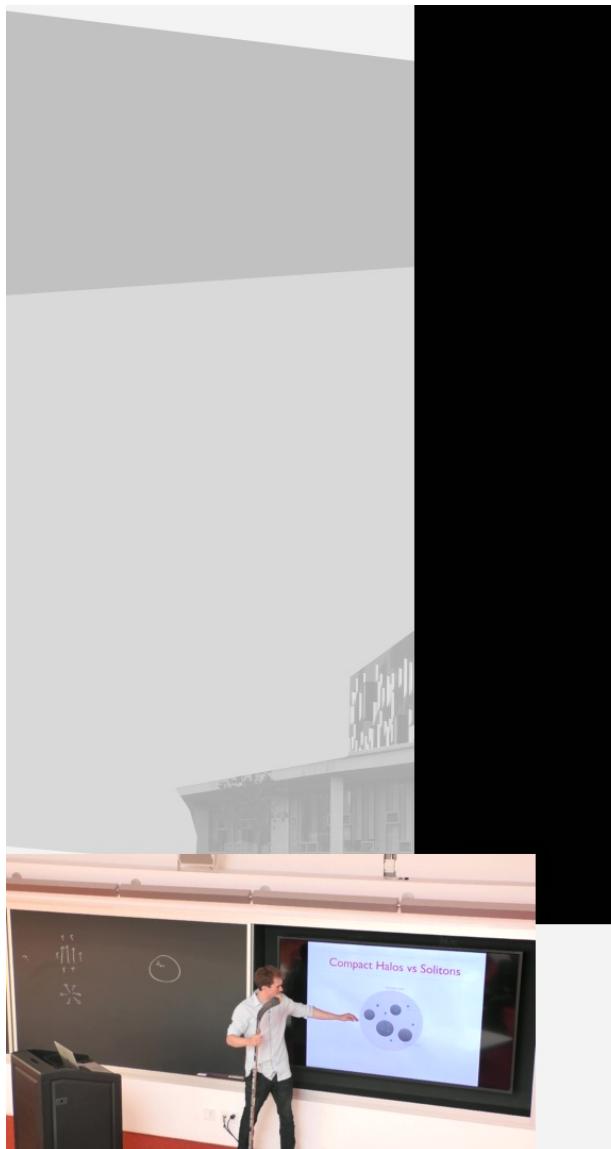
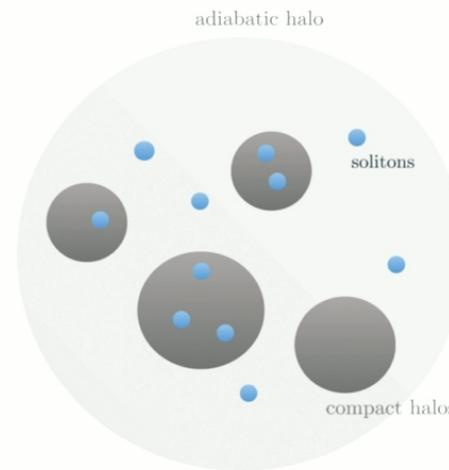


Collapse at $a \gg a_{\text{eq}}$ and quantum pressure is not relevant

- Into compact halos
- Contain some of the solitons
- At $z \simeq 20$ adiabatic modes become non-perturbative \equiv normal structure formation

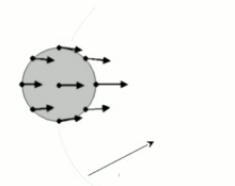


Compact Halos vs Solitons

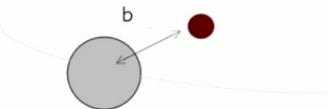


Survival of the substructure

- Tidal forces by a central potential
- Dynamical friction \Rightarrow orbit decay



- Collisions with stars



- Tidal shocks by galactic disk
- Tidal shocks during formation of halos/ merging



Encounter rate with the Earth

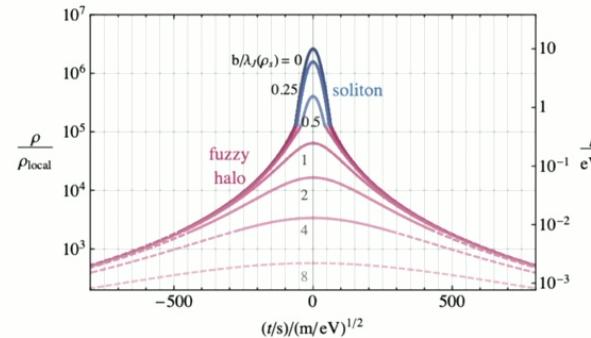
Dark photon star number density

$$n = f_s \bar{\rho}(t_0)/M \simeq 10^{20} \text{ pc}^{-3} \left(\frac{f_s}{0.05} \right) \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{local}}}{0.5 \text{ GeV/cm}^3} \right) \left(\frac{0.1 M_J^{\text{eq}}}{M} \right) \left(\frac{m}{\text{eV}} \right)^{3/2}$$

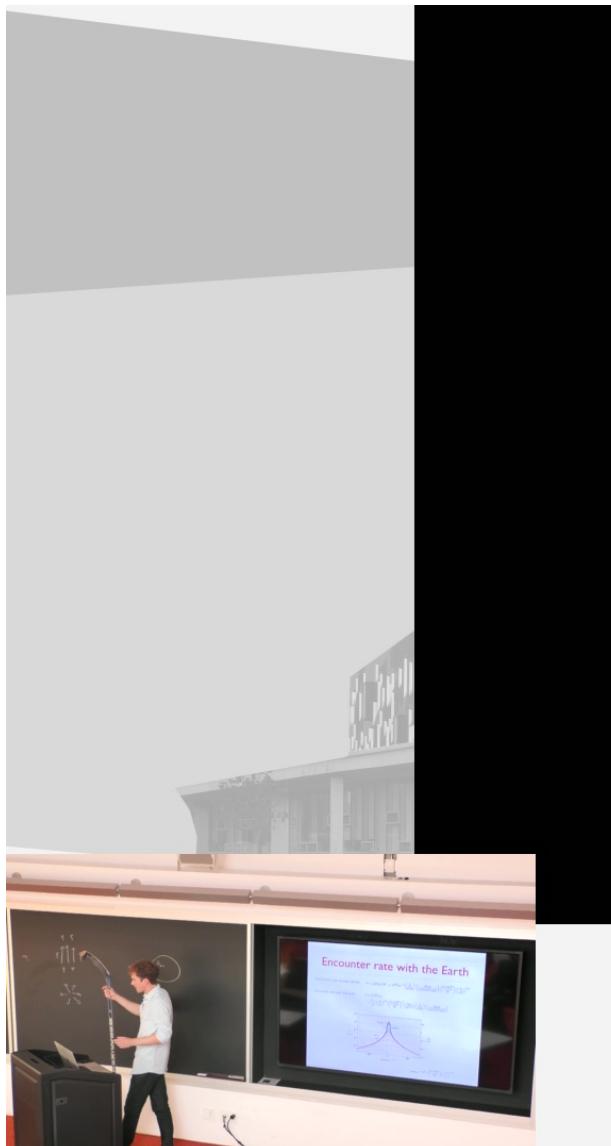
Encounter rate with the Earth

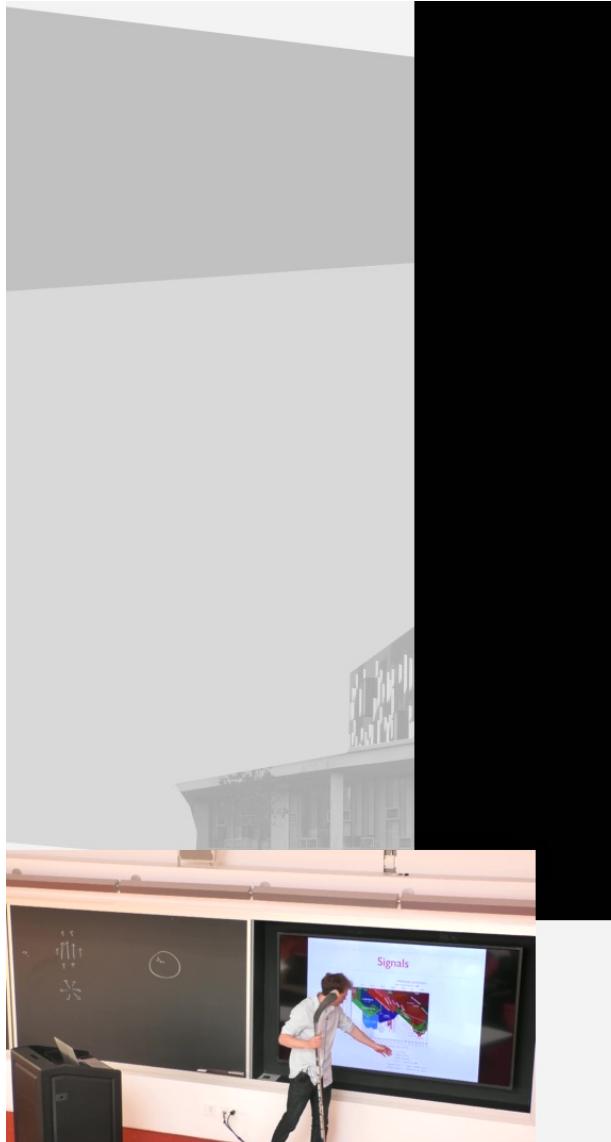
$$\Gamma \simeq n \pi R^2 v_{\text{rel}}$$

$$\simeq 0.1 \left(\frac{m}{\text{eV}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{0.1 M_J^{\text{eq}}}{M} \right)^3 \left(\frac{v_{\text{rel}}}{10^{-3}} \right) \left(\frac{f_s}{0.05} \right) \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{local}}}{0.5 \text{ GeV/cm}^3} \right)$$

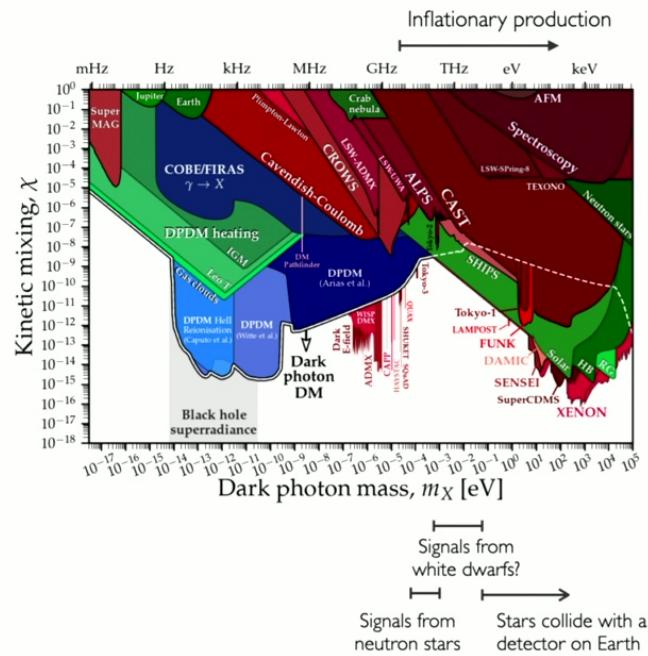


$$t_{\text{collision}} \simeq 10^2 \text{ s} \left(\frac{0.1 M_J^{\text{eq}}}{M} \right) \left(\frac{\text{eV}}{m} \right)^{1/2}$$





Signals





Other production mechanisms

Dark photon

- Inflationary fluctuations
- From local strings
- Parametric resonance

Axion

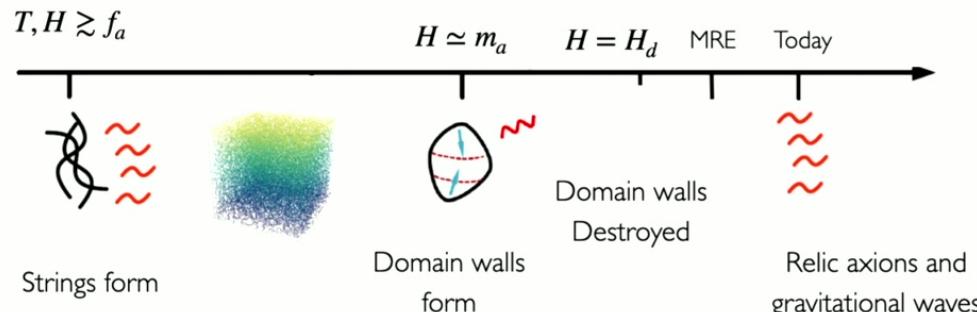
- Post-inflationary ALP
- Axion coupled to dark photon

The time when $H = m$ plays a key role in all of these

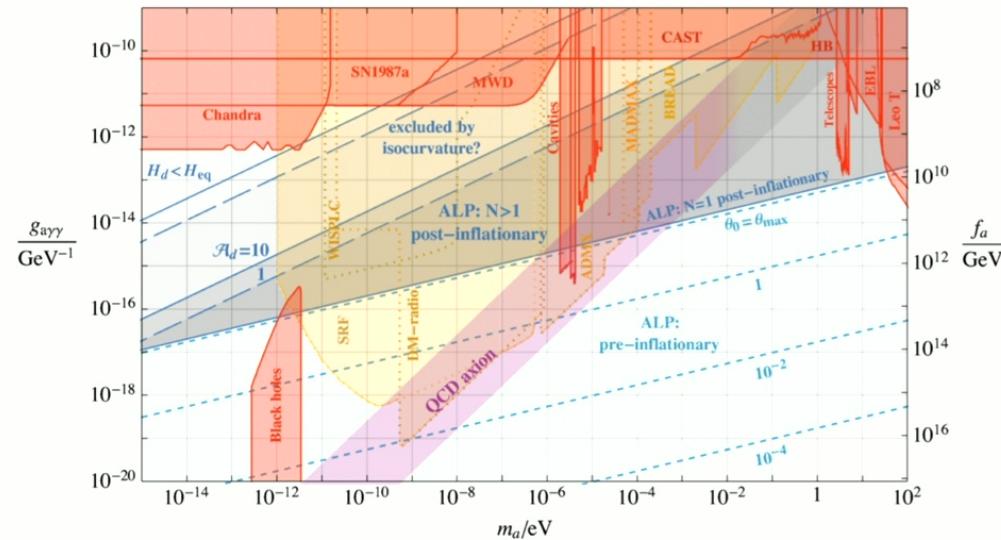
Post-inflationary ALPs

$$V_\phi(\phi) = \frac{m_r^2}{2v^2} (|\phi|^2 - v^2)^2 + \dots$$

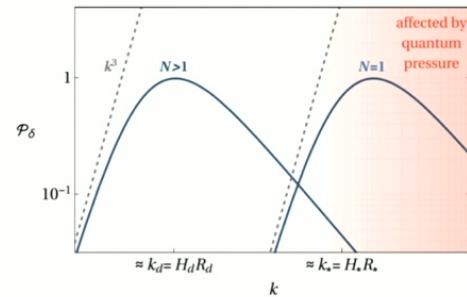
$$V(a) = m_a^2 f_a^2 (1 - \cos(a/f_a)) + \delta V_{PQ}(a)$$



Relic abundance

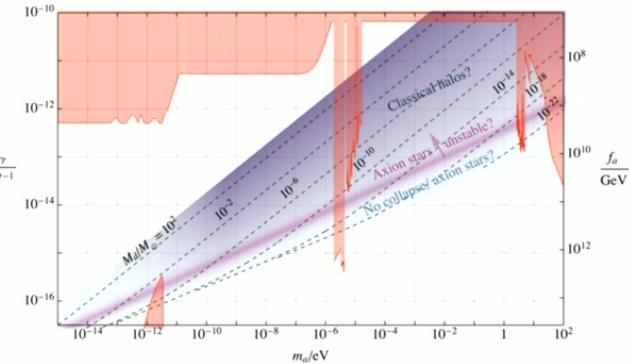


Density power spectrum



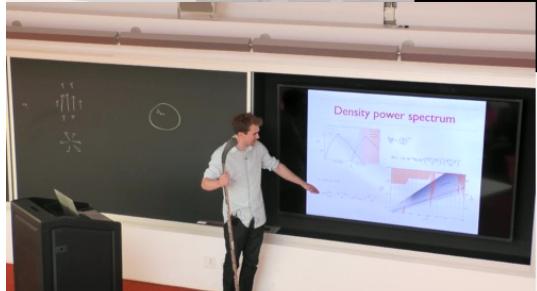
$$\frac{k_{\text{peak}}}{k_J^{\text{eq}}} \simeq \left(\frac{H_d}{m_a} \right)^{1/2}$$

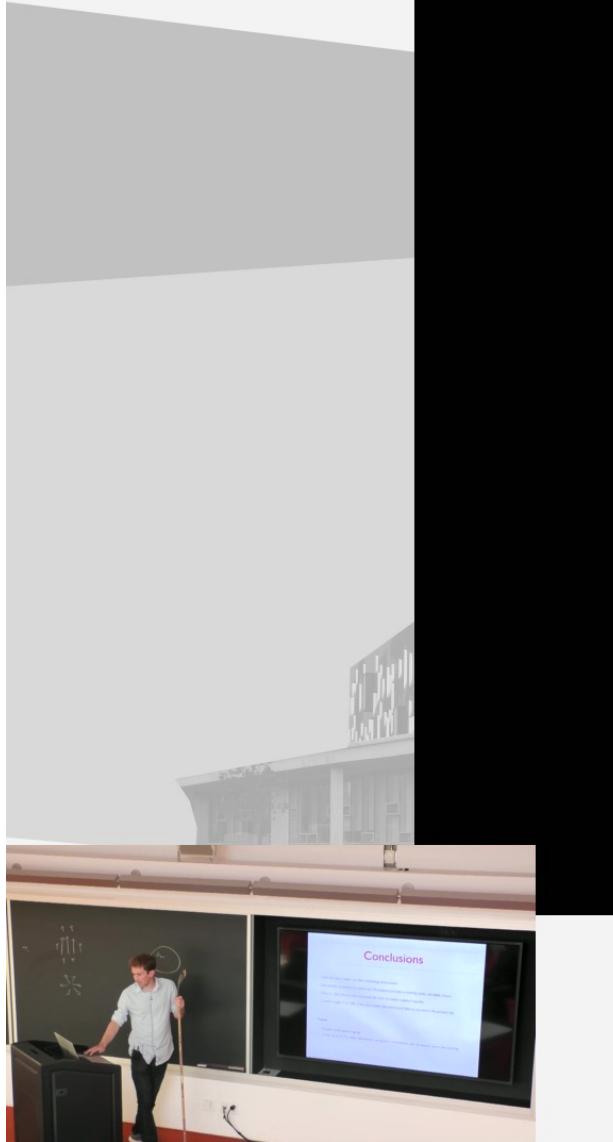
$$M_d \simeq 3.5 \cdot 10^{-10} M_{\odot} A_d^{-3} \left(\frac{10^{12} \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)^6 \left(\frac{10^{-6} \text{ eV}}{m_a} \right)^3$$



$$V \supset g_4^2 m_a^2 a^4 / (4! f_a^2)$$

$$M_{\text{crit}} \simeq 50 \frac{f_a M_P}{m_a g_4} \simeq \frac{10^{-10} M_{\odot}}{g_4} \left(\frac{f_a}{10^{12} \text{ GeV}} \right) \left(\frac{10^{-6} \text{ eV}}{m_a} \right)$$



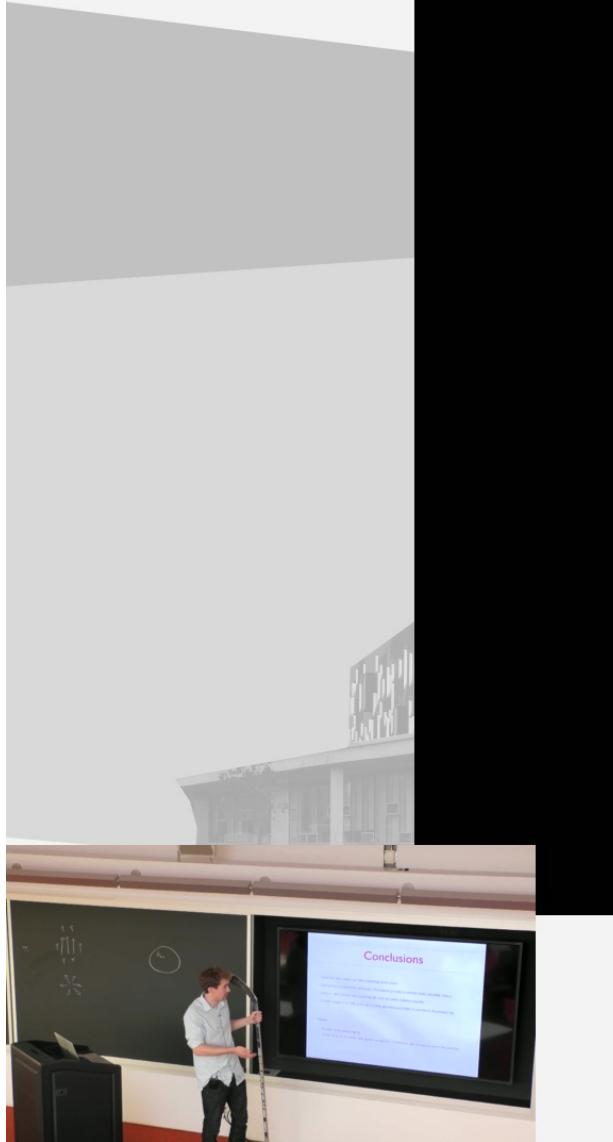


Conclusions

- Wave-like dark matter can have interesting substructure
- Dark photon produced by inflationary fluctuations provides a minimal, easily calculable, theory
- Solitonic 'dark photon stars' automatically form at matter radiation equality
- Contain roughly 5 to 10% of the dark matter abundance and likely to survive to the present day

Future:

- Possible observational signals
- Similar dynamics for other dark photon production mechanisms, also for axions/ axion-like-particles

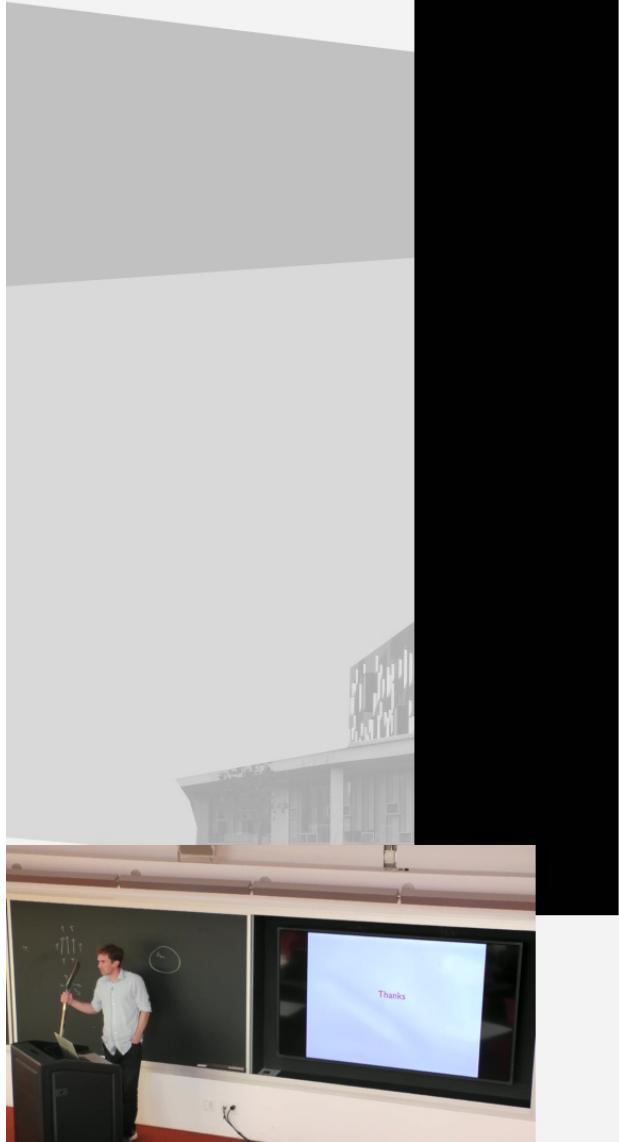


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Thanks