

**Title:** A skeptic's guide to CMB probes of galaxy formation

**Speakers:** Emmanuel Schaan

**Collection/Series:** Cosmic Ecosystems

**Subject:** Cosmology

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**Abstract:**

Galaxies and their surroundings imprint shadows on the cosmic microwave background. These shadows contain tantalizing information about galaxy formation: from the baryon density, temperature, pressure, velocities, to the dark matter potential and its time-evolution due to accretion. In this talk, I will review the unique opportunities and challenges in learning about galaxy formation and cosmology from CMB observables.

# A skeptic's guide to CMB probes of baryons

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ACT



DESI



Kristina Armitage

# Baryons: much information to uncover

**Learn about galaxy formation? cosmology?**

**Feedback on the gas? stars?**

→ Immense challenges & opportunities

**CMB: unique backlight**, reveals galaxy properties like watermark on banknote

**Should you trust CMB probes of baryons?**

My goal: present subtleties/idiosyncrasies of CMB/kSZ as baryon probe

**On this topic:**

See talks of Alex, Hiranya, Leah, Jared, Ian, Erwin, Evan, Jonah, Sanskriti, Simone, Will, Gerrit, Boryana & many others!

& Organizers Selim, Nick, Kendrick, Matt, Niayesh+

# Summary of CMB secondaries

## Key parameters:

$$\theta_{\text{lens}} \sim 1' \sim 10^{-4}, \int dt \dot{\Phi} \sim 10^{-4}, \tau \sim 10^{-3}, \frac{k_B T_e}{m_e c^2} \sim \left(\frac{v_{\text{th}}}{c}\right)^2 \sim 0.01, \frac{v_{\text{bulk,rot,turb}}}{c} \sim 10^{-3}, \frac{\delta T_0}{T_0} \sim a_2 \sim 10^{-5}$$

→ Many imprints with complementary information :

### Potential

Lensing

ISW, Rees-Sciama

Moving lens

$$\theta_{\text{lens}} \frac{\nabla T_0}{T_0}$$

$$\int dt \dot{\Phi}$$

$$\theta_{\text{lens}} (v_{\text{bulk} \perp} / c)$$

Total mass

DE, accretion rate

Transverse velocities

### Single scattering

Screening

kSZ, rot kSZ, turb kSZ

tSZ, relat tSZ

Polarized scattering

$$\tau (\delta T_0 / T_0)$$

$$\tau (v_{\text{bulk} \parallel} / c)$$

$$\tau (v_{\text{th}} / c)^{2,4}$$

$$\tau (v_{\text{bulk} \perp} / c)^2, \tau a_2$$

Gas density

Gas density, LOS velocities

Gas thermal pressure, temperature

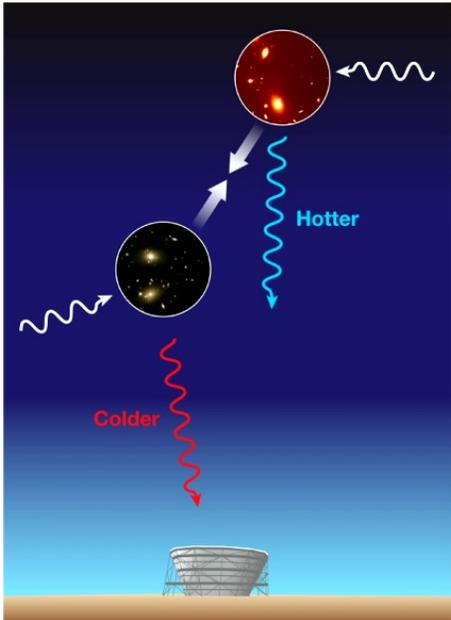
Gas density, Ultra large scales

### Multiple scattering

Smaller by factor  $\tau$

Break degeneracies with tau?

# Why is kSZ special?



Hand et al 2012

$$\frac{\delta T_{\text{kSZ}}}{T_{\text{CMB}}} = \tau \frac{v_{\text{bulk}}}{c} \propto n_e$$

→ **Linear in gas density**

Ideal for lensing; higher masses possible

*Lucie-Smith Peiris Pontzen 24*

Low mass halos, high  $z$ , far outside the virial radius

Robust to dust contamination

No assumptions about metallicity, temperature, clumping

Complementary with tSZ, absorption lines, X rays, FRBs

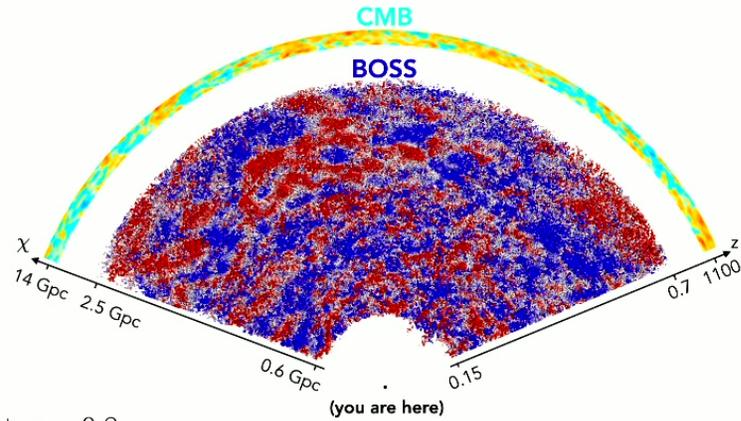
# How is kSZ measured?

$$\frac{\delta T_{\text{kSZ}}}{T_{\text{CMB}}} = \tau \frac{v_{\text{bulk}}}{c}$$

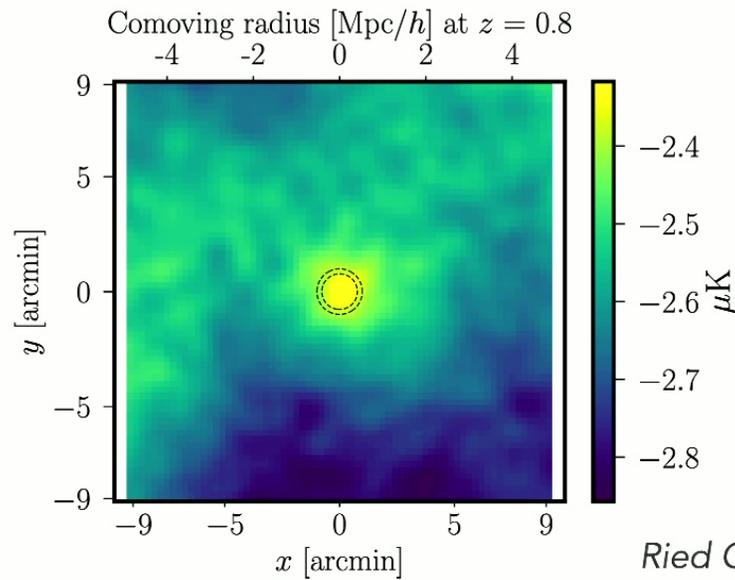
Naïve stacking cancels the signal

→ **weight by "reconstructed velocities"**

(Other, equivalent approaches *Smith+19*)



*Schaan Ferraro+21*



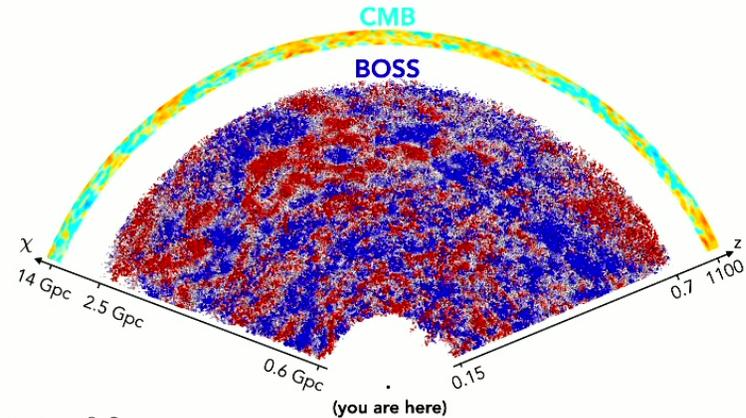
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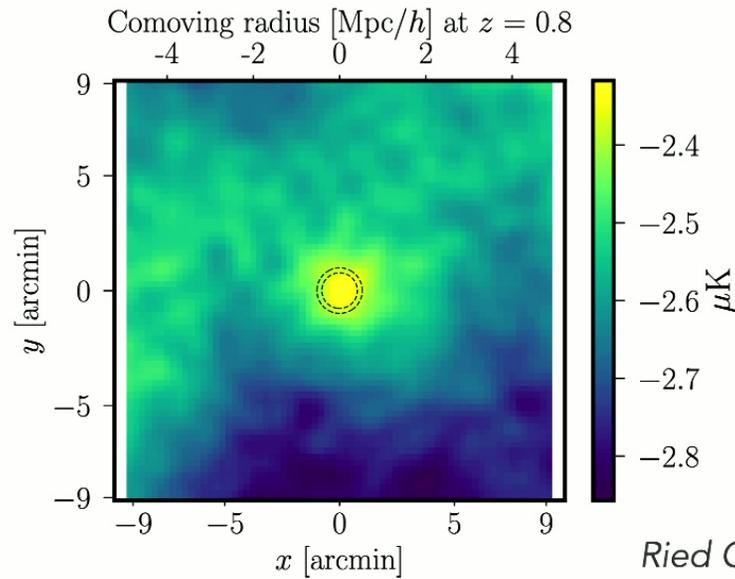
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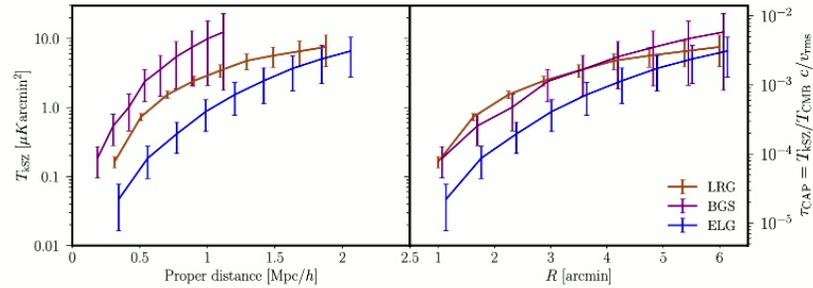
*Schaan Ferraro+21*



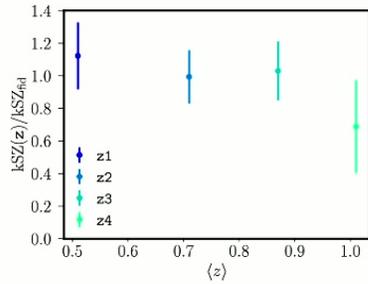
*Ried Guachalla+25*

# Latest stacked kSZ profiles available?

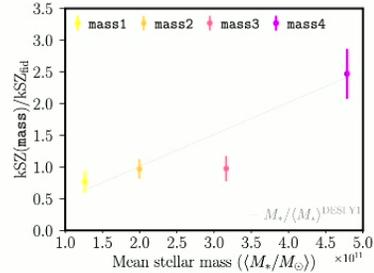
**DESI LRG, BGS, ELG**  
 spectro: *Ried Guachalla+25*  
 photo: *Hadzhiyska+25*



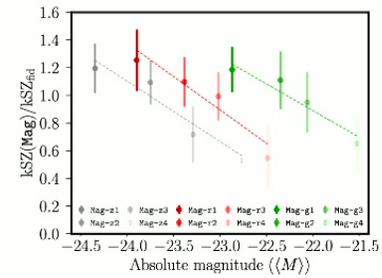
**Also splits by redshift,**



**stellar mass,**

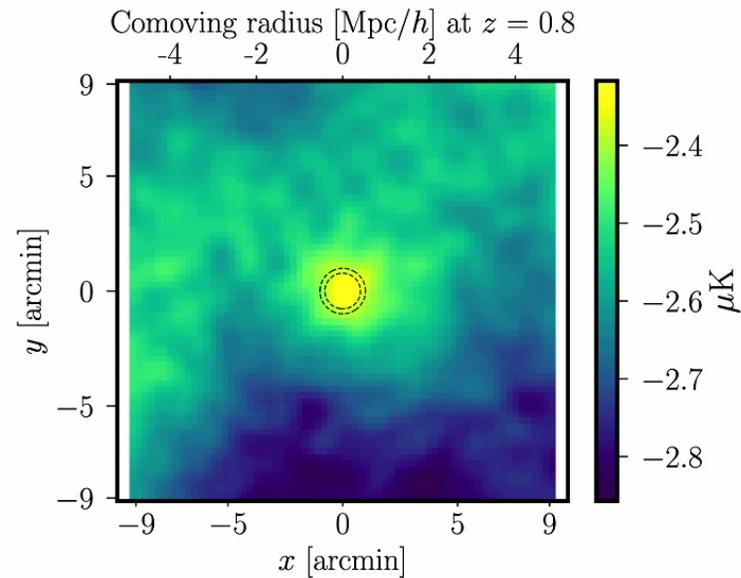


**absolute magnitude**



→ All publicly available. Don't hesitate to use them & ask questions!

## Aren't CMB experiments too low resolution?

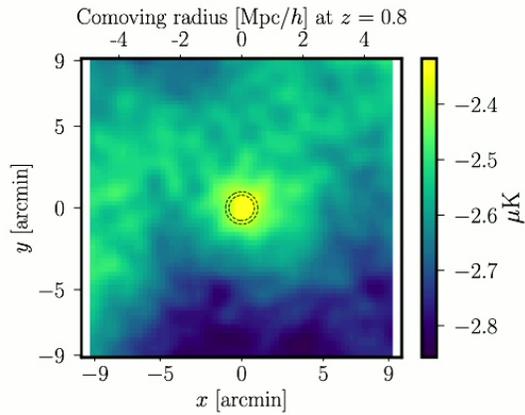


*Ried Guachalla+25*

Virial radius of galaxy groups  $\sim 1'$ , and gas extends several  $R_{\text{vir}}$   
→ Well matched to CMB data!

kSZ unique probe of outskirts of galaxy groups and clusters  
→ Complementary with X-ray & tSZ, which probe cluster centers best

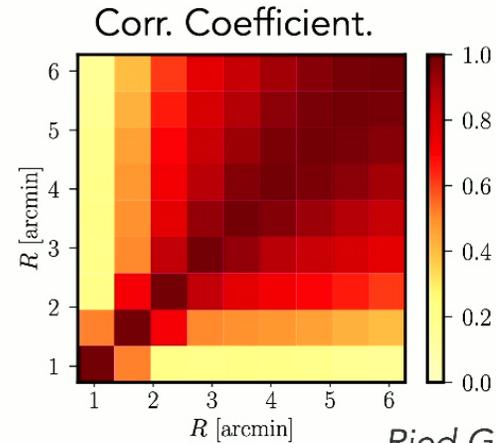
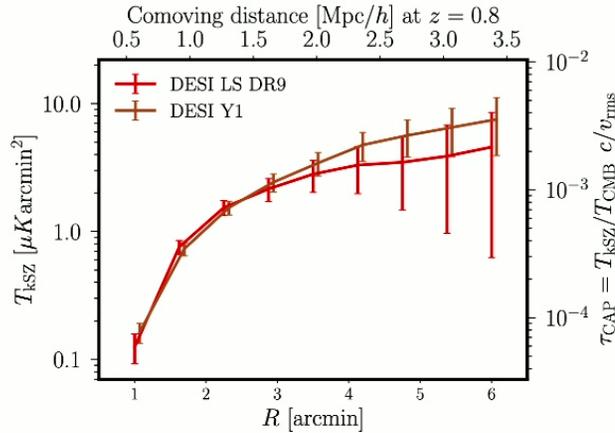
# Large-scale noise: profile slope VS $M_{\text{gas}}$



Primary CMB ( $\sim$ degree) dominates noise on larger scales

$\rightarrow$  kSZ measures profile shape/slope better than its integral ( $M_{\text{gas}}$ )

CAP filter avoids displaying constant CMB mode, but is not required. Fourier measurements simplify this



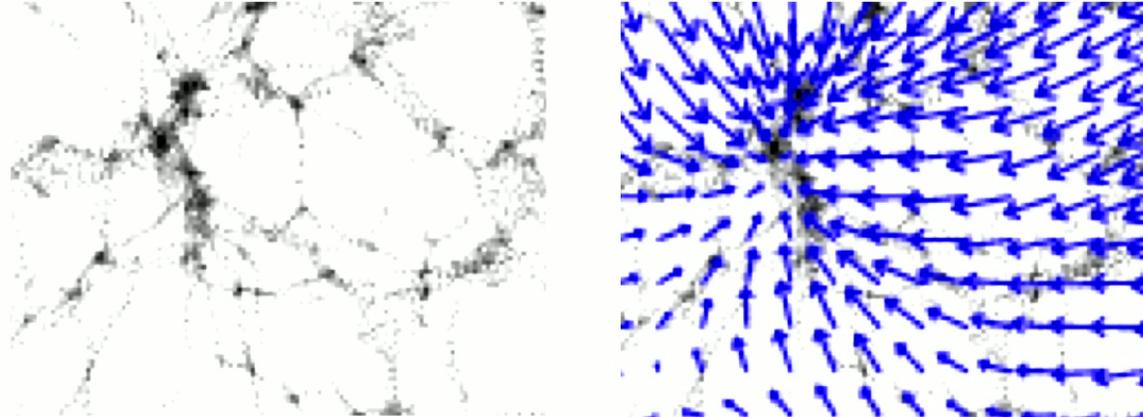
Ried Guachalla+25

# Are velocities a problem?

Mass conservation + linear approx.

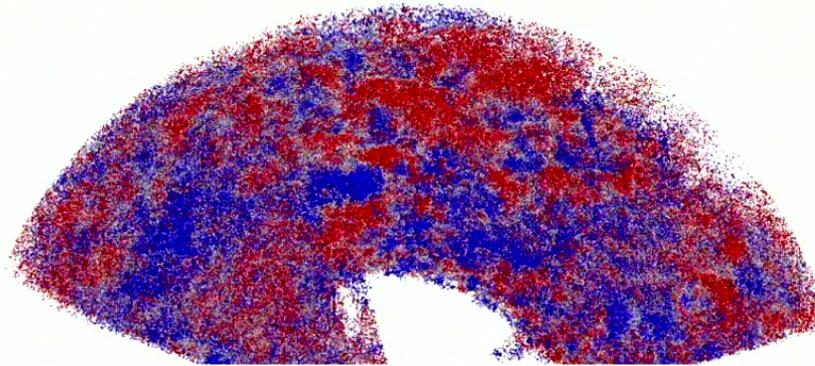
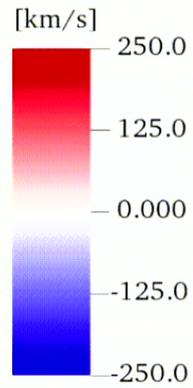
$$\dot{\delta} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{v} = -aHf \vec{\nabla} \Delta^{-1} \delta$$

150Mpc



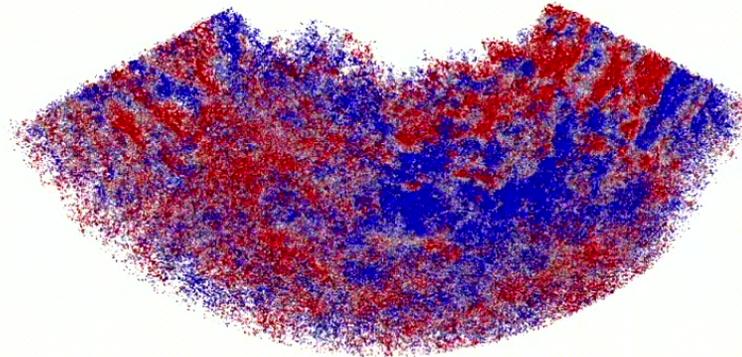
*Eisenstein+07, Padmanabhan+12,14*

# Are velocities a problem?



**Velocities correlated on very large scales  $\sim 100$  cMpc**

- Challenge for small-box sims
- But makes velocity reconstruction simpler (linear theory)

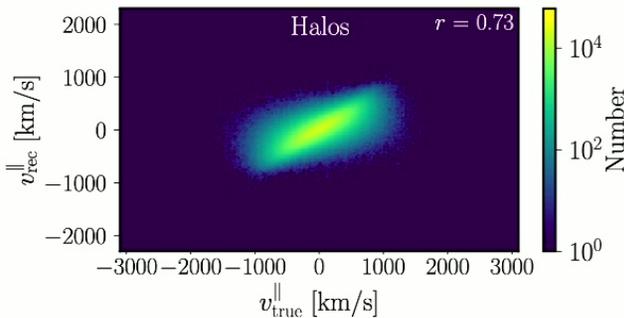
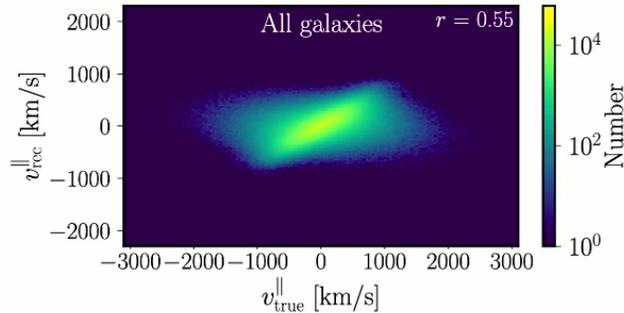


DESI Y1

Ried Guachalla

# Are velocities a problem?

Assessed performance of velocity reconstruction *Ried Guachalla+23, Hadzhiyska+23*



## Key results

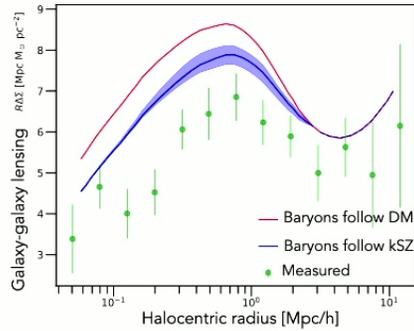
- Reconstruct halo (not galaxy) velocities  
→ good for kSZ!
- Photo samples extremely powerful (DESI LS, DES, HSC, LSST)
- Naïve hybrid photo-spectro reconstruction worse than photo-only

## Assess impact of

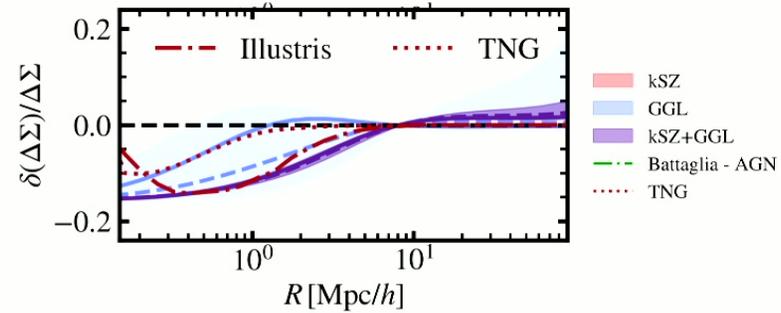
- satellite fraction
- number density
- smoothing
- cosmology

**Subtleties about overall amplitude remain:** see Alex, Leah, Jared's talks  
Doppler term subtraction

# kSZ is faint. Is precision enough for lensing?



Amodeo+21



Sunseri+25

Precision already informative in 2021, now much better & improving

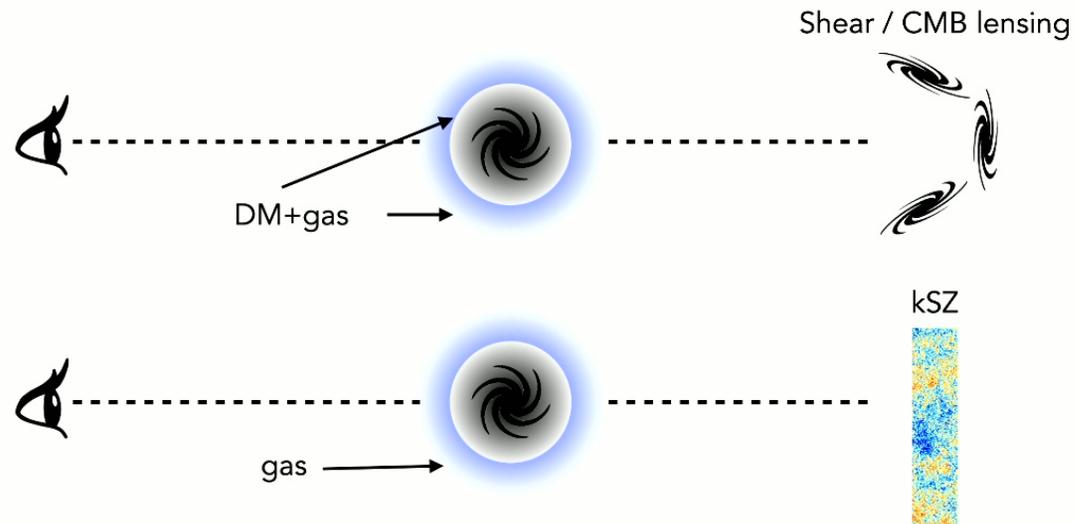
Baryons are 15% of the matter.

For 1%-precision lensing, only 7%-precision kSZ needed

→ **statistics will not be limiting**

→ **Modeling is the challenge**

# Subtracting baryons from galaxy-galaxy lensing is a well-posed problem



→ **Directly subtract the baryonic contribution!**

Same halos, HOD, weighting (linear in mass, VS tSZ or Xray), angular scales

*Hadzhiyska+25, Sunseri+25, McCarthy+25*

# Galaxy formation & Cosmic shear: trickier!

kSZ only measured around some halos at some  $z$

Cosmic shear = sum over halo masses &  $z$

→ **Extrapolation needed** (*Lucie-Smith+25*)

**Universality of matter power suppression?** (*Van Daalen+20, Joop's talk*)

→ would help!

**Comparison with simulation requires matching the galaxy sample**

mass (stellar or halo? mean or distribution?)

satellite fraction & miscentering

HOD?

→ **All "large feedback" claims hinge on this**

Great progress being made

*Bigwood+24, Sunseri+25, McCarthy+25*

# Conclusions

CMB probes many baryons & dark matter properties

New measurements available & upcoming,  
function of mass, redshift, etc

Unique opportunity to learn about galaxy formation & lensing  
once interpretation challenges are met!

More CMB imprints will soon be usable: screening, rotational kSZ