

52<sup>ND</sup> SLAC SUMMER INSTITUTE  
AUGUST 5 - 16, 2024

**The Art of Precision: Calculations and Measurements**

# CMB Theory @ 52nd SSI

Lloyd Knox

UC Davis

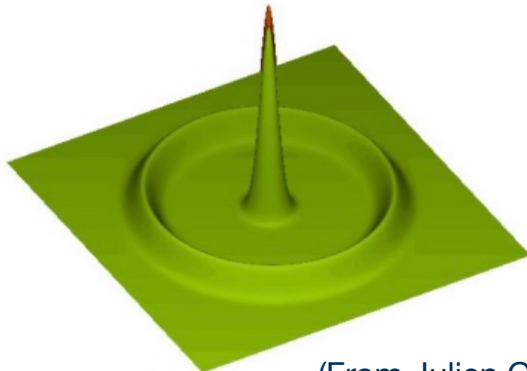
15 August 2024

# Determining $H_0$ from CMB Data in 3 steps

## Step 1: Calibrating a Standard Ruler

$$adr = c_s dt$$

Sound waves in the baryon density



Eisenstein, Seo, White et al. 2007

(From Julien Guy's lecture)

# Determining $H_0$ from CMB Data in 3 steps

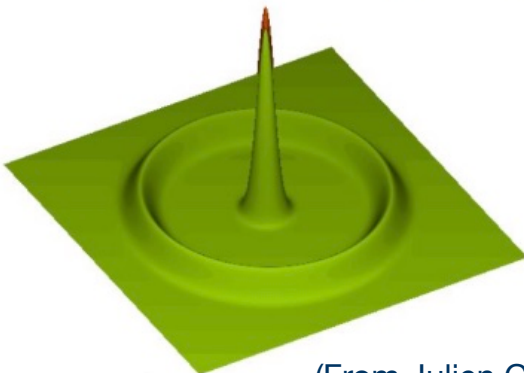
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Decoupling of baryons and photons

$$r_s = \int_0^{t_d} c_s dt / a = \int_0^{a_d} c_s \frac{da}{a^2 H(a)}$$

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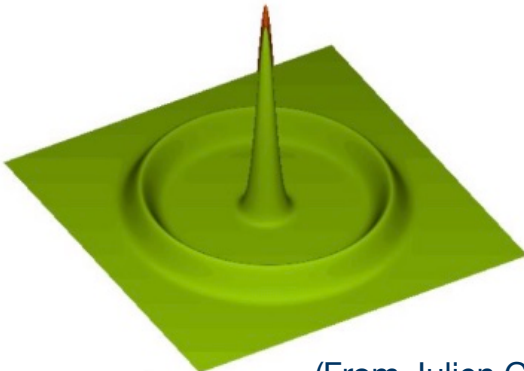
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Sound waves in the baryon density

Need to know  $c_s(a)$  and  $H(a)$  to calibrate the ruler.



(From Julien Guy's lecture)

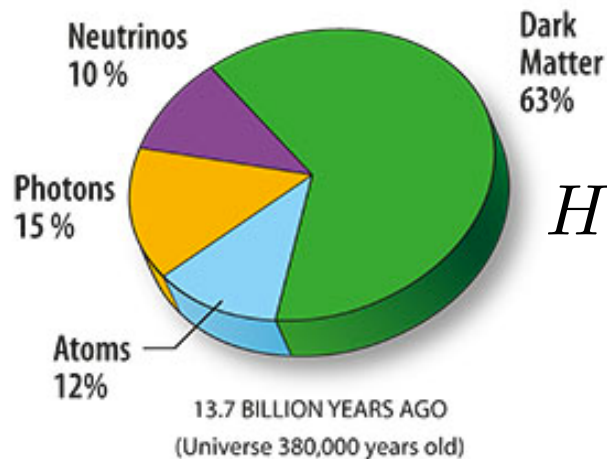
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$$c_s^2 = \partial P / \partial \rho \longleftarrow \rho_b / \rho_\gamma$$



$$H^2(a) = 8\pi G / 3 (\rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu + \rho_m)$$

## Determining $H_0$ from CMB Data

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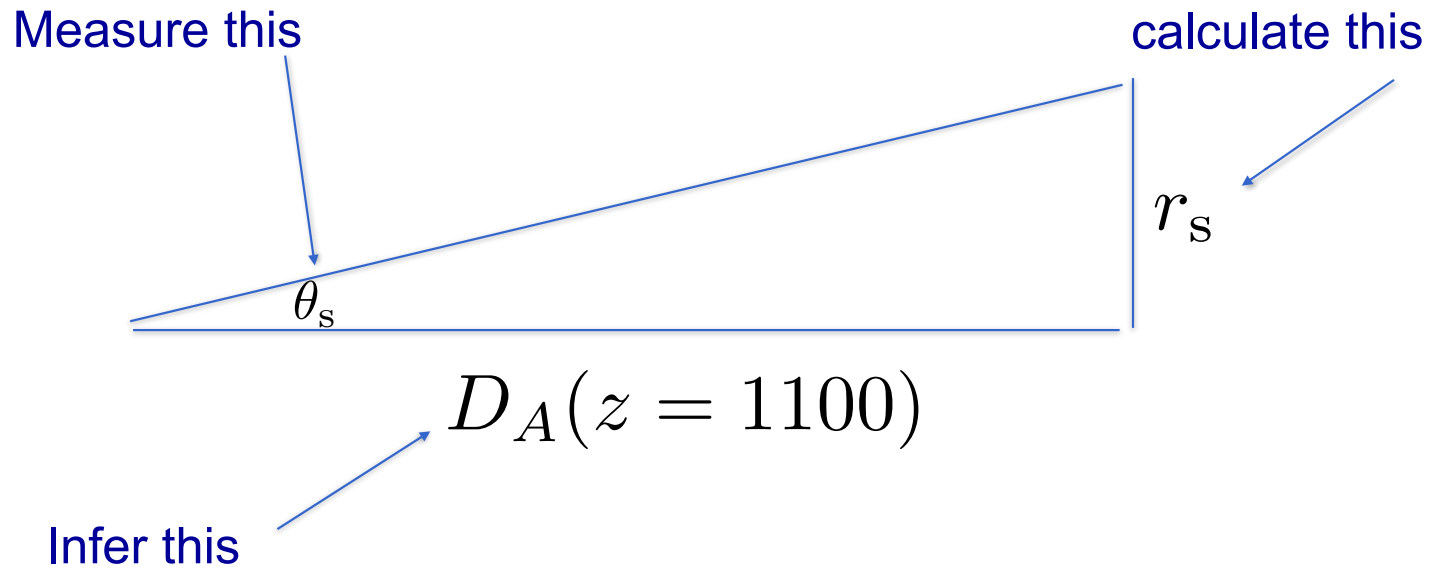
$$c_s^2 = \partial P / \partial \rho \quad \text{Pressure of plasma impacts peak morphology (odd/even height modulation)}$$

$$H^2(a) = 8\pi G/3(\rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu + \rho_m)$$

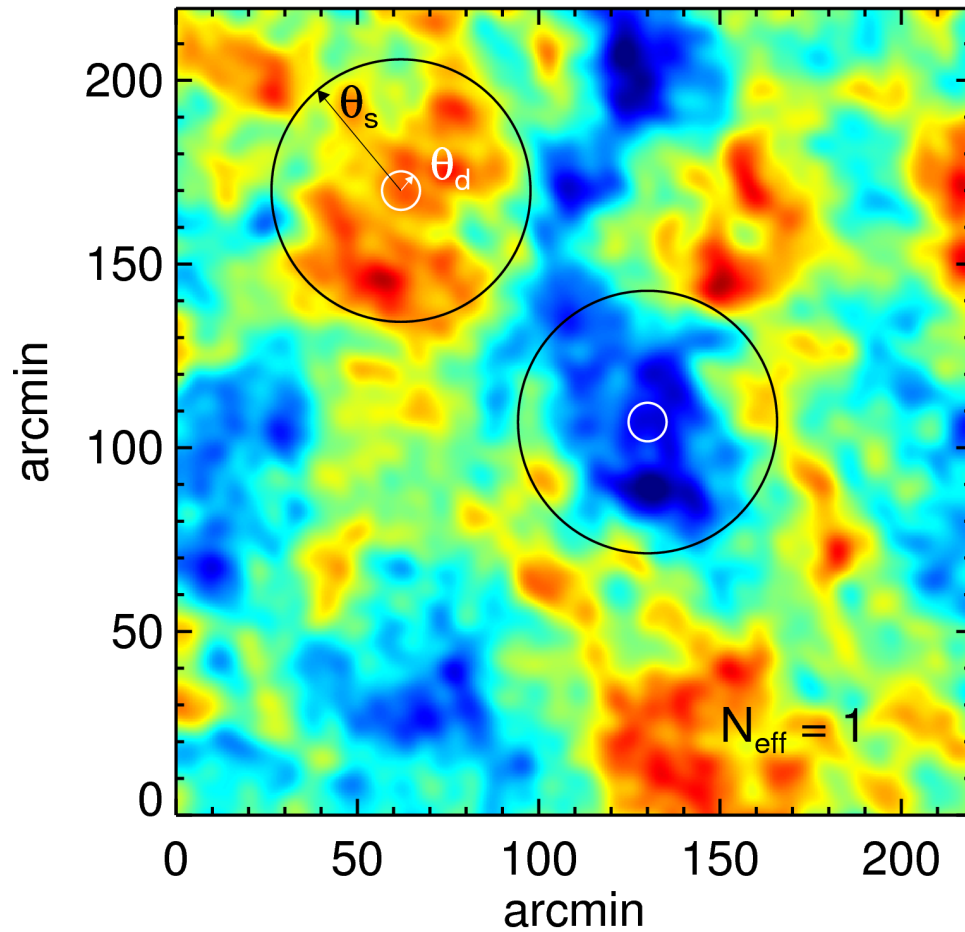
“Radiation Driving” effect (Hu & White 1997)

# Determining $H_0$ from CMB Data

## Step 2: Use the Ruler to Infer Distance



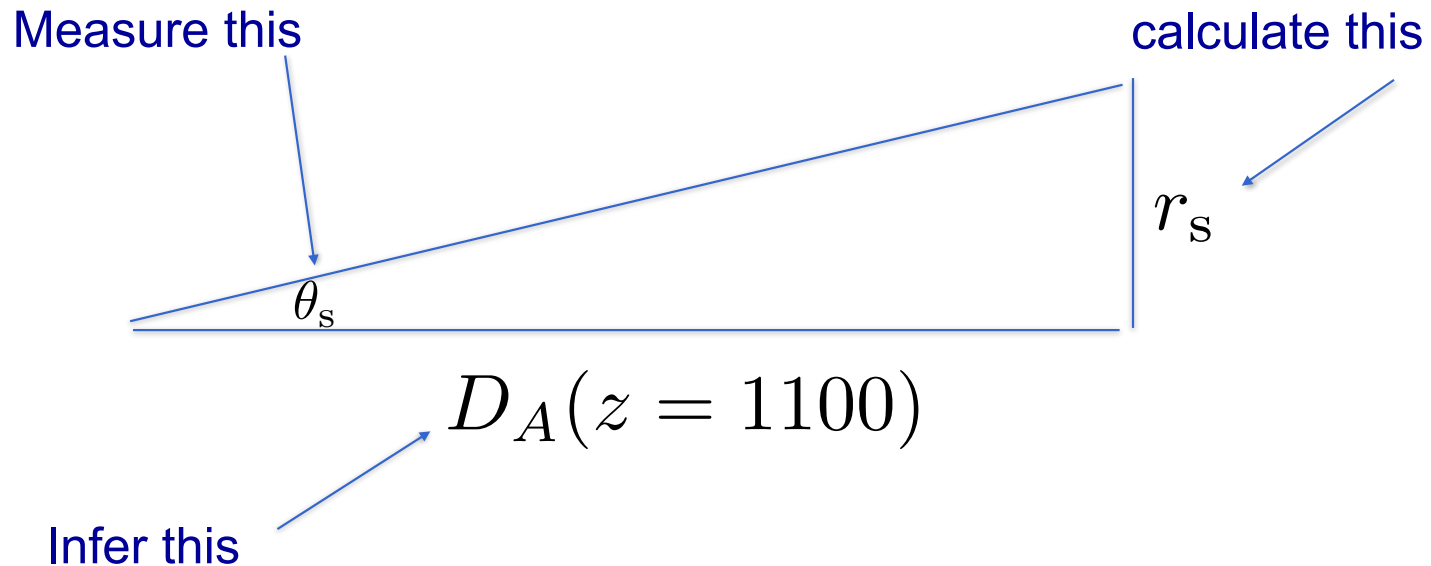
$\theta_s = r_s/D_A$  is typical size of hot or cold spot  
 $\theta_d = r_d/D_A$  map is smoothed below this scale





## Determining $H_0$ from CMB Data

### Step 2: Use the Ruler to Infer Distance



Step 3:

$$D_A(z) = \int_0^z dz' / H(z')$$

To get the right  $D_A$ , only thing left in the model to adjust is the cosmological constant. With that done, we have  $H(z)$ .

Questions?

# Outline

- Hubble constant from the CMB (and LCDM)
- Acoustic dynamics are very sensitive to gravitational potential evolution  $\Rightarrow$  strong constraints to the introduction of new components and new interactions (and very strong evidence for CDM)
- Implications for models with light relics
- FFAT scaling transformation symmetry and a rate ratio perspective
- Recombination?

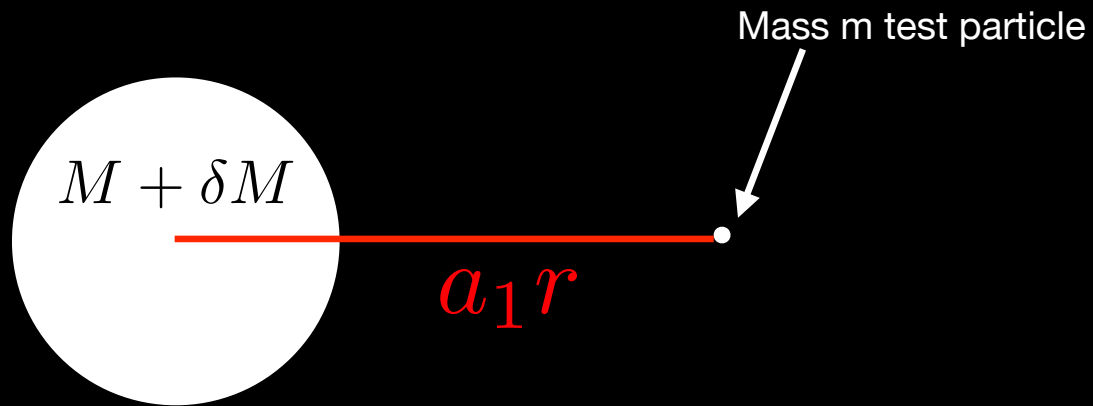
# Five years ago...

*[Submitted on 10 Aug 2019 (v1), last revised 16 Sep 2019 (this version, v2)]*

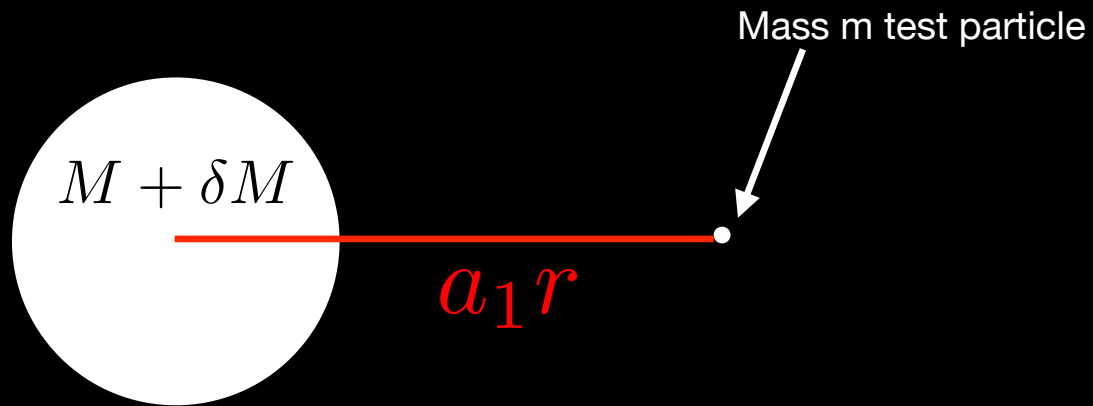
## The Hubble Hunter's Guide

Lloyd Knox, Marius Millea

Measurements of the Hubble constant, and more generally measurements of the expansion rate and distances over the interval  $0 < z < 1$ , appear to be inconsistent with the predictions of the standard cosmological model ( $\Lambda$ CDM) given observations of cosmic microwave background temperature and polarization anisotropies. Here we consider a variety of types of departures from  $\Lambda$ CDM that could, in principle, restore concordance among these datasets, and we explain why we find almost all of them unlikely to be successful. We single out the set of solutions that increase the expansion rate in the decade of scale factor expansion just prior to recombination as the least unlikely. These solutions are themselves tightly constrained by their impact on photon diffusion and on the gravitational driving of acoustic oscillations of the modes that begin oscillating during this epoch -- modes that project on to angular scales that are very well measured. We point out that a general feature of such solutions is a residual to fits to  $\Lambda$ CDM, like the one observed in Planck power spectra. This residual drives the modestly significant inferences of angular-scale dependence to the matter density and anomalously high lensing power, puzzling aspects of a data set that is otherwise extremely well fit by  $\Lambda$ CDM.



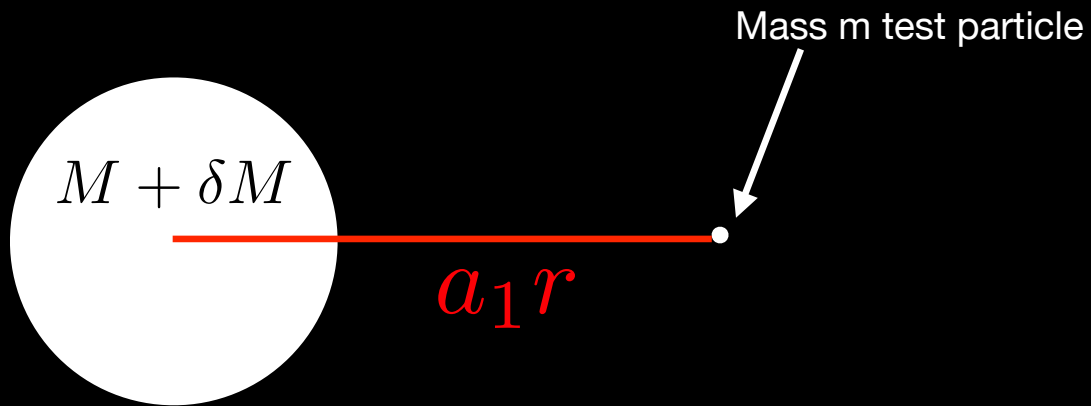
$$\phi/m = -G \frac{\delta M}{a_1 r}$$



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Let's evolve forward, first assuming uniform expansion and no transport of matter

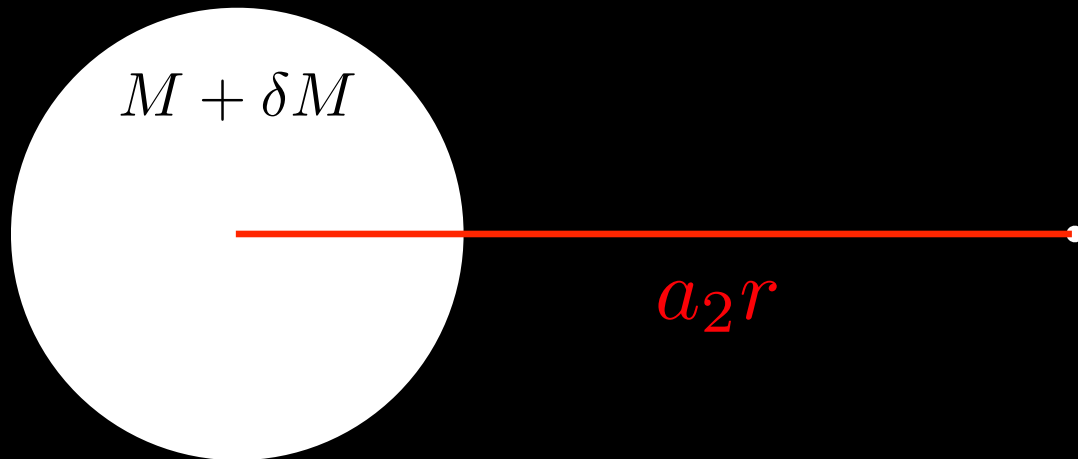
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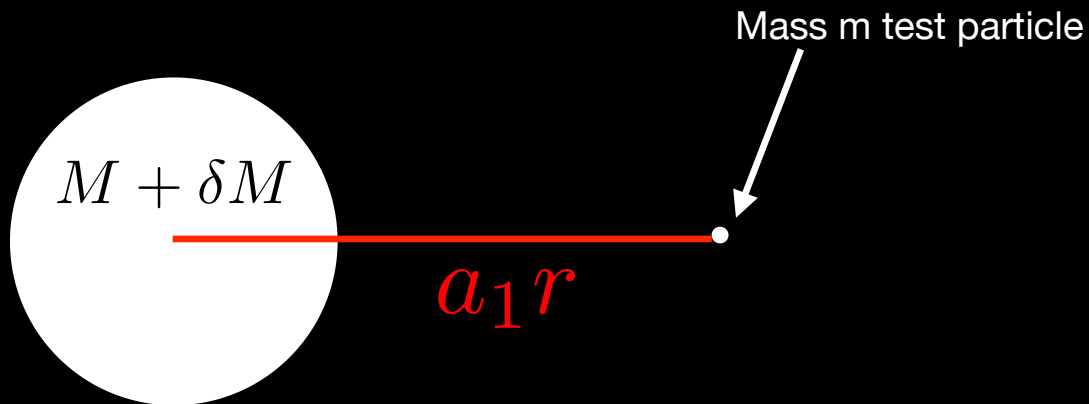
$$\phi_1/m = -G \frac{\delta M}{a_1 r}$$

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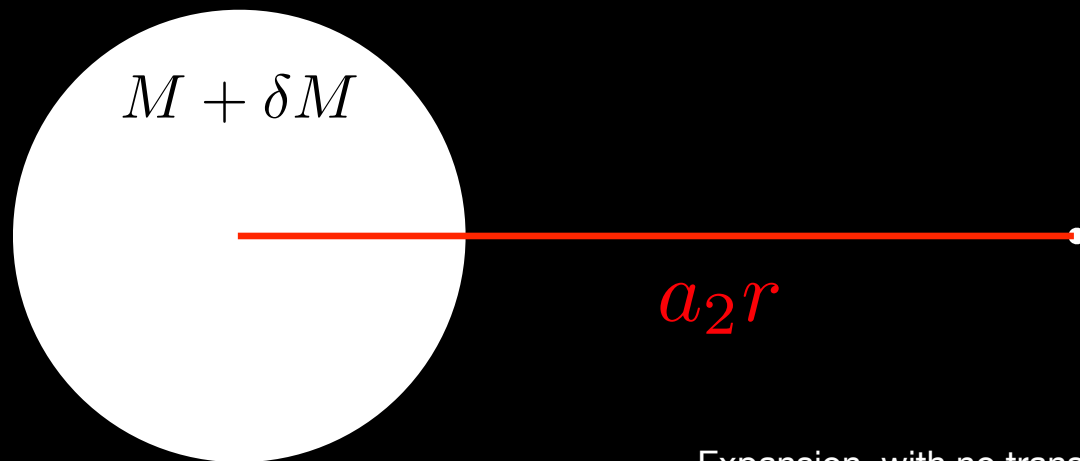
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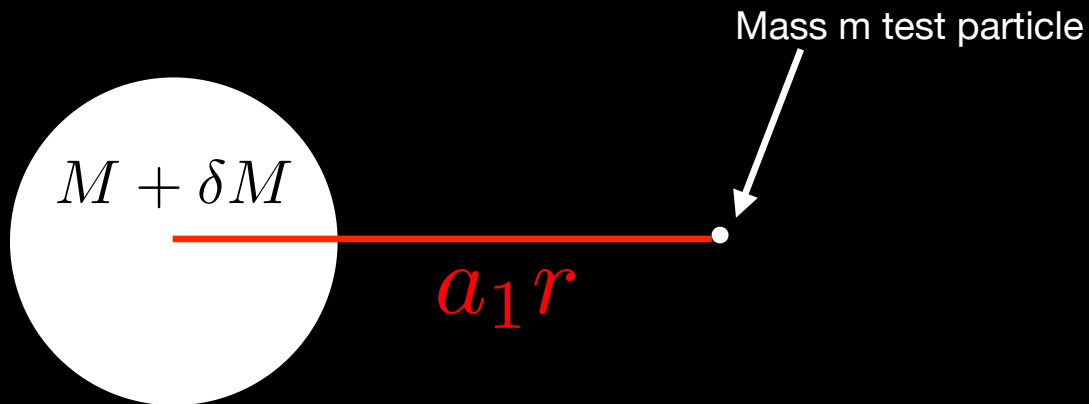
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$$\phi_2/m = -G \frac{\delta M}{a_2 r}$$

Expansion, with no transport, causes the gravitational potential to decay.

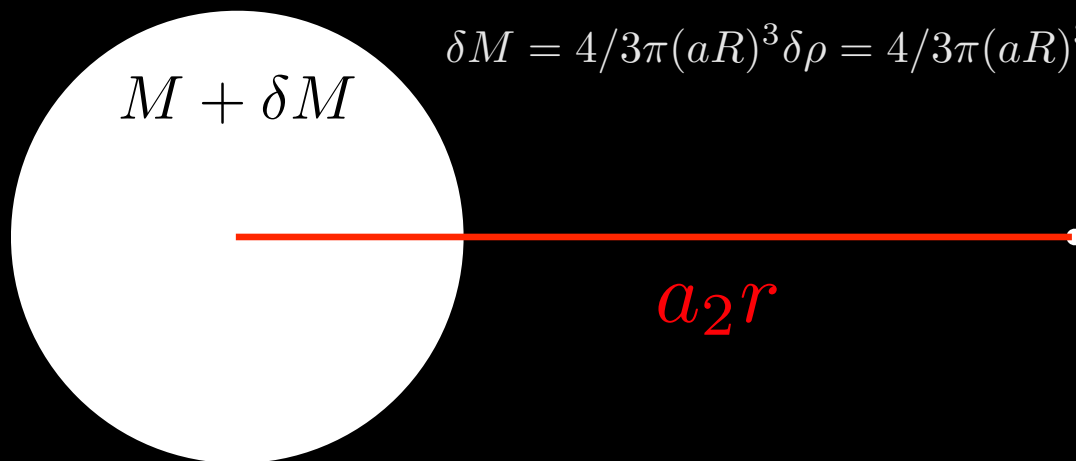




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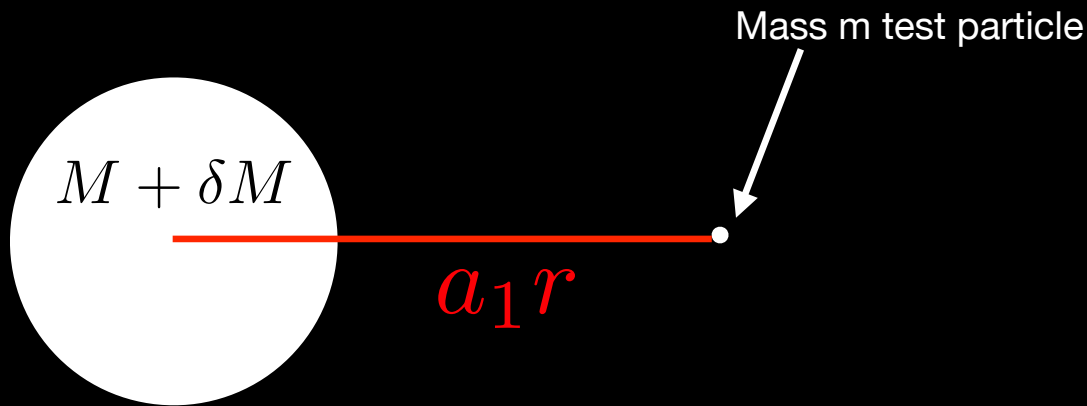
In a MD universe :  $\frac{\delta \rho}{\bar{\rho}} \propto a$

Let's evolve forward, assuming uniform expansion and now allowing for transport of matter



$$\delta M = 4/3\pi(aR)^3 \delta \rho = 4/3\pi(aR)^3 \bar{\rho}_0 a^{-3} \frac{\delta \rho}{\bar{\rho}} \propto a$$

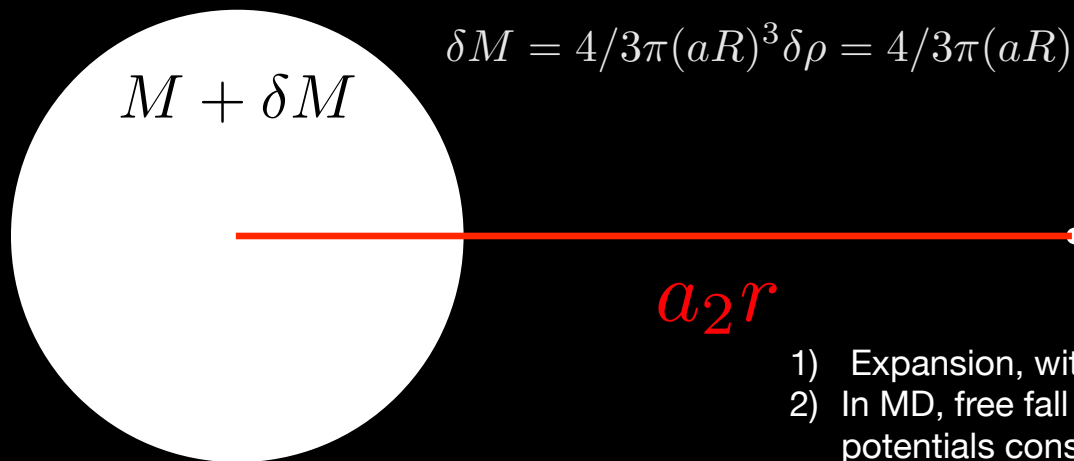
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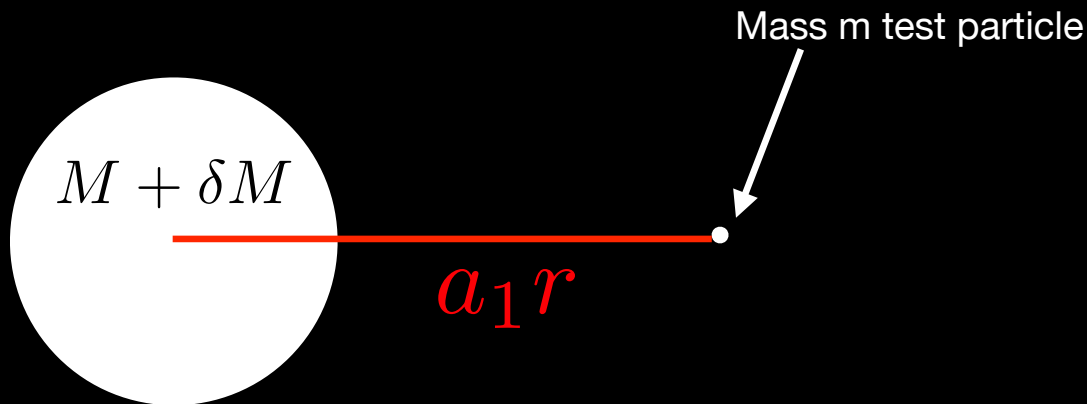
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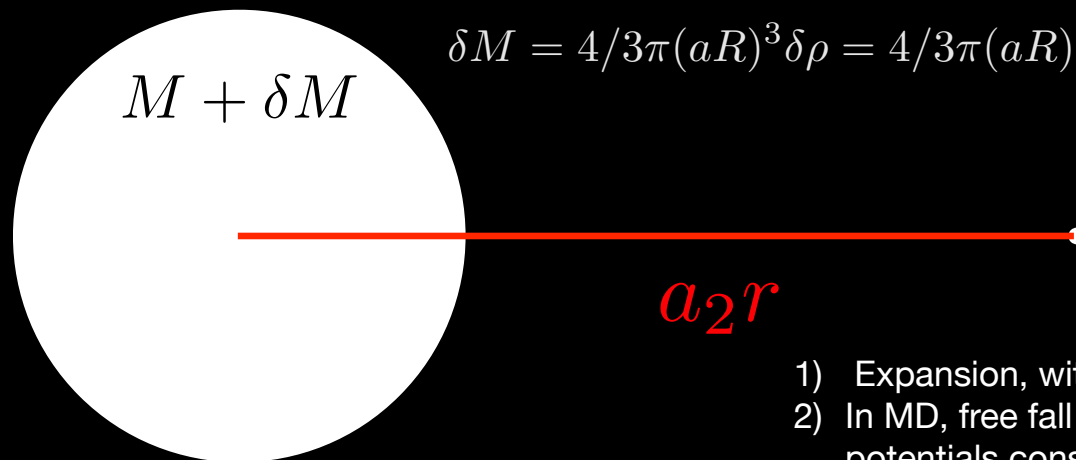
- 1) Expansion, with no transport, causes the gravitational potential to decay.
- 2) In MD, free fall leads to transport that exactly balances expansion to keep potentials constant.



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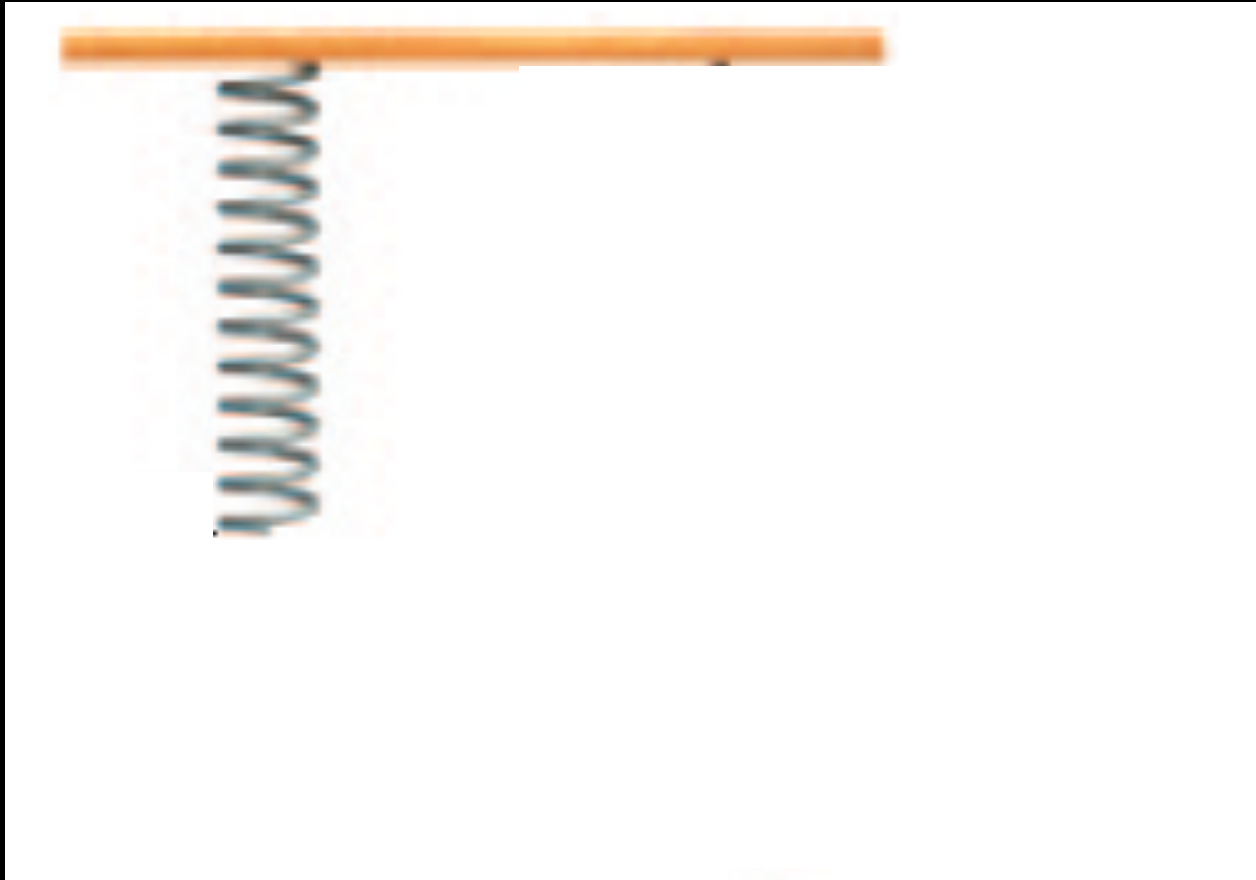


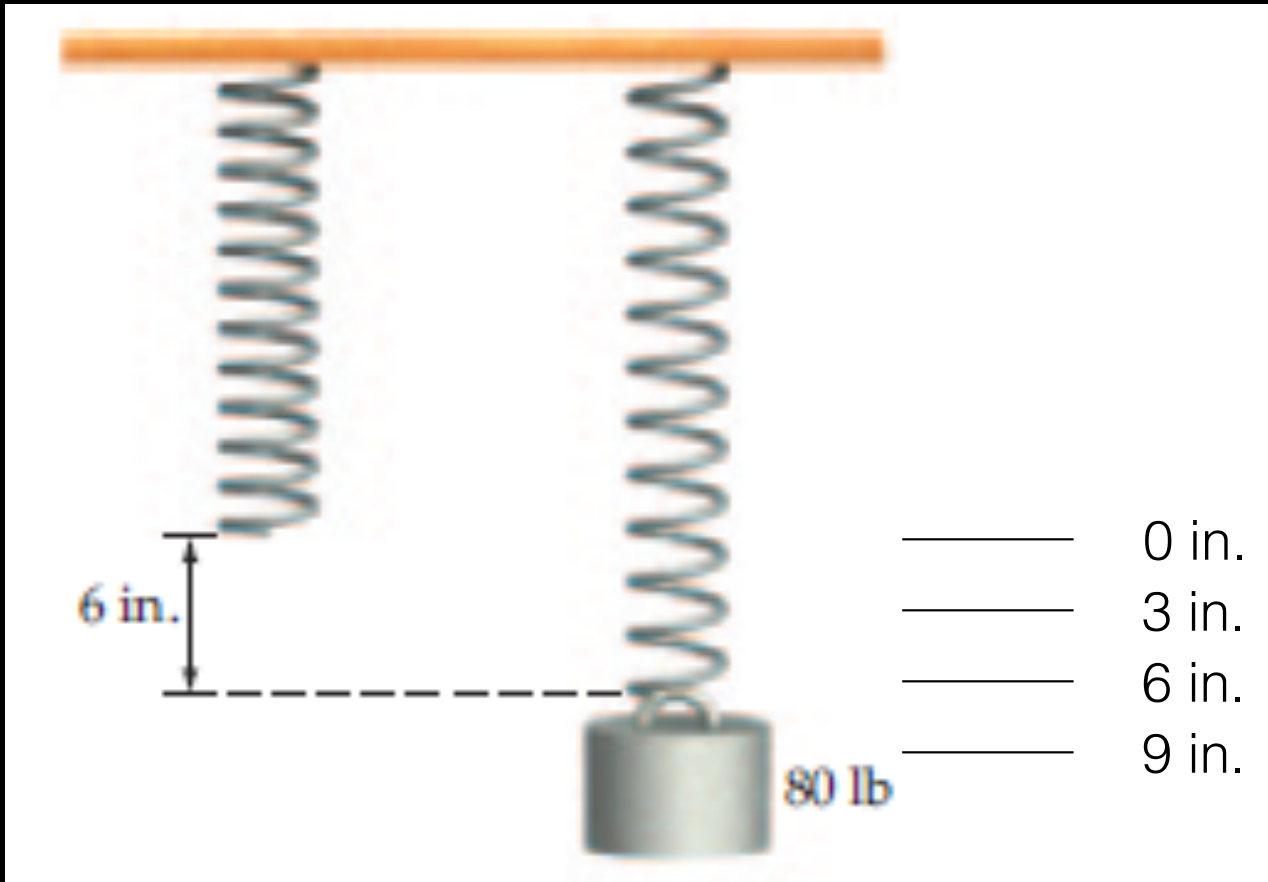
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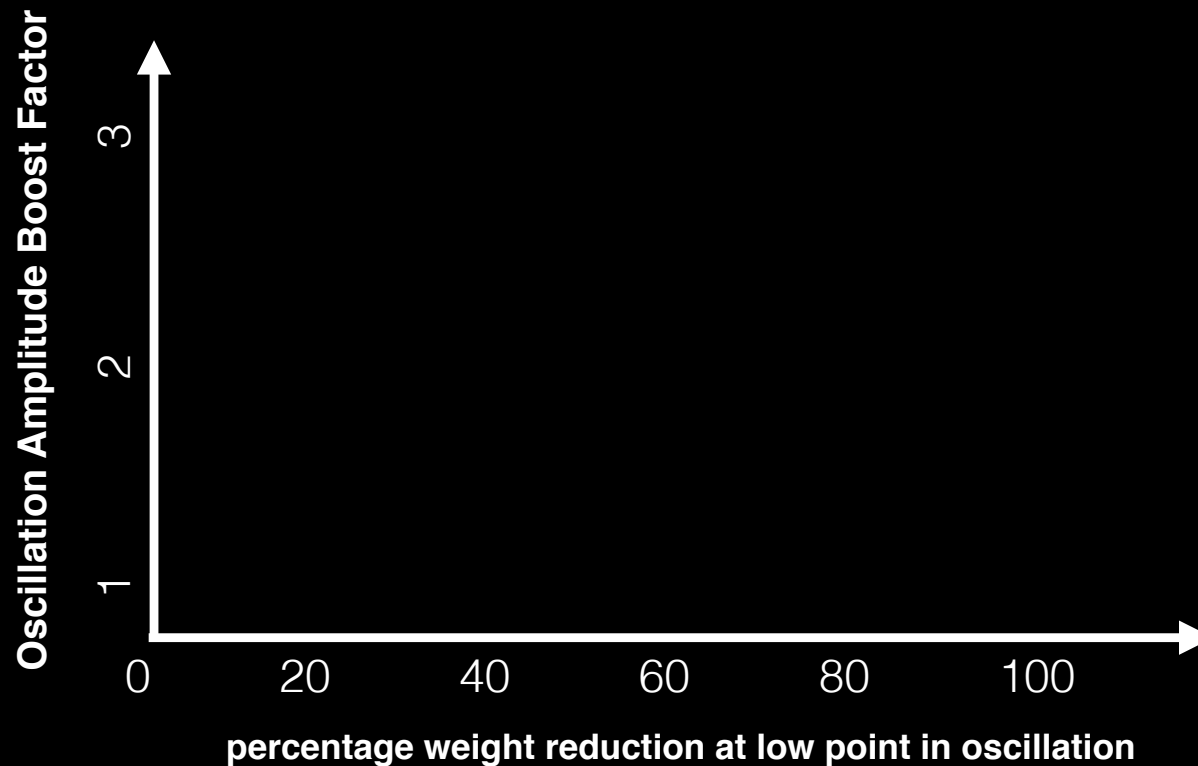
- 1) Expansion, with no transport, causes the gravitational potential to decay.
- 2) In MD, free fall leads to transport that exactly balances expansion to keep potentials constant.
- 3) In RD, pressure support slows transport so gravitational potentials decay

HO

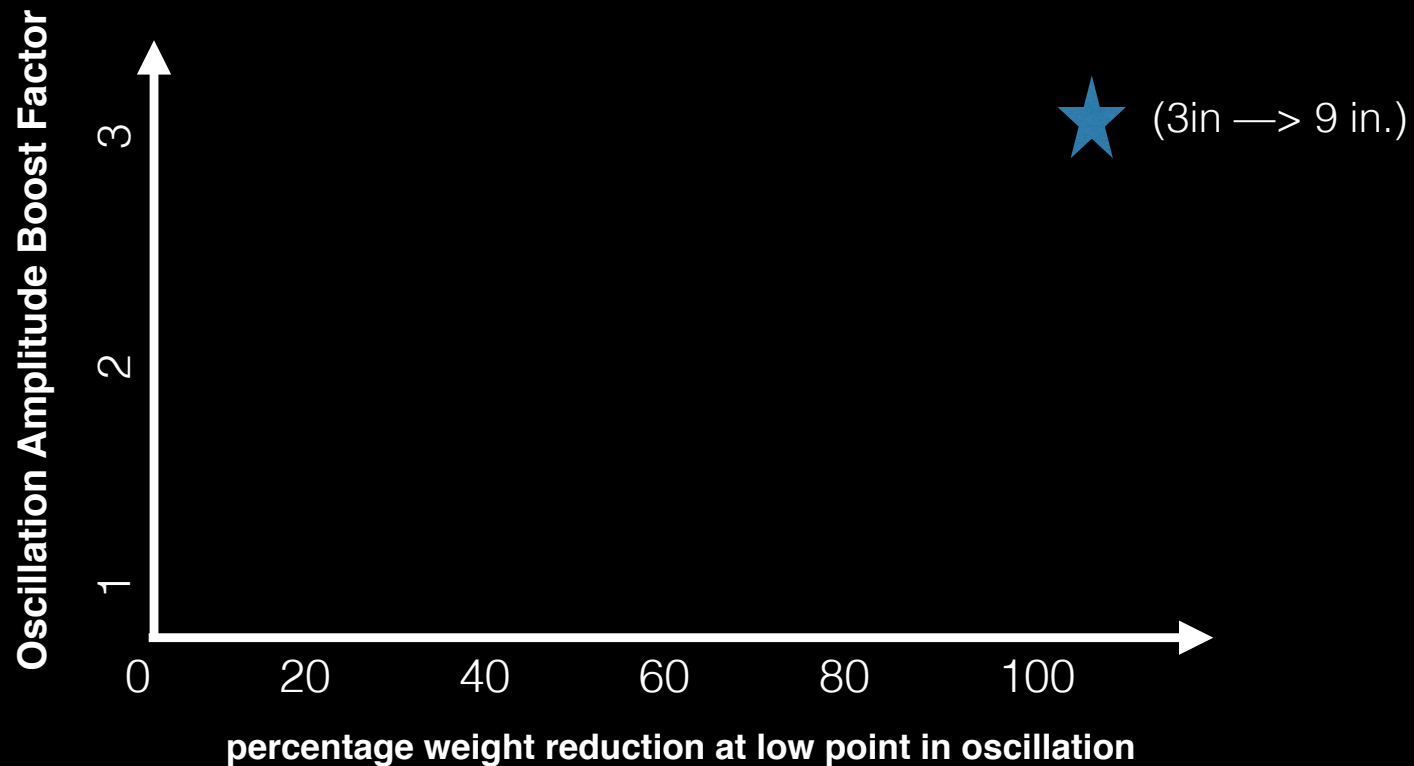




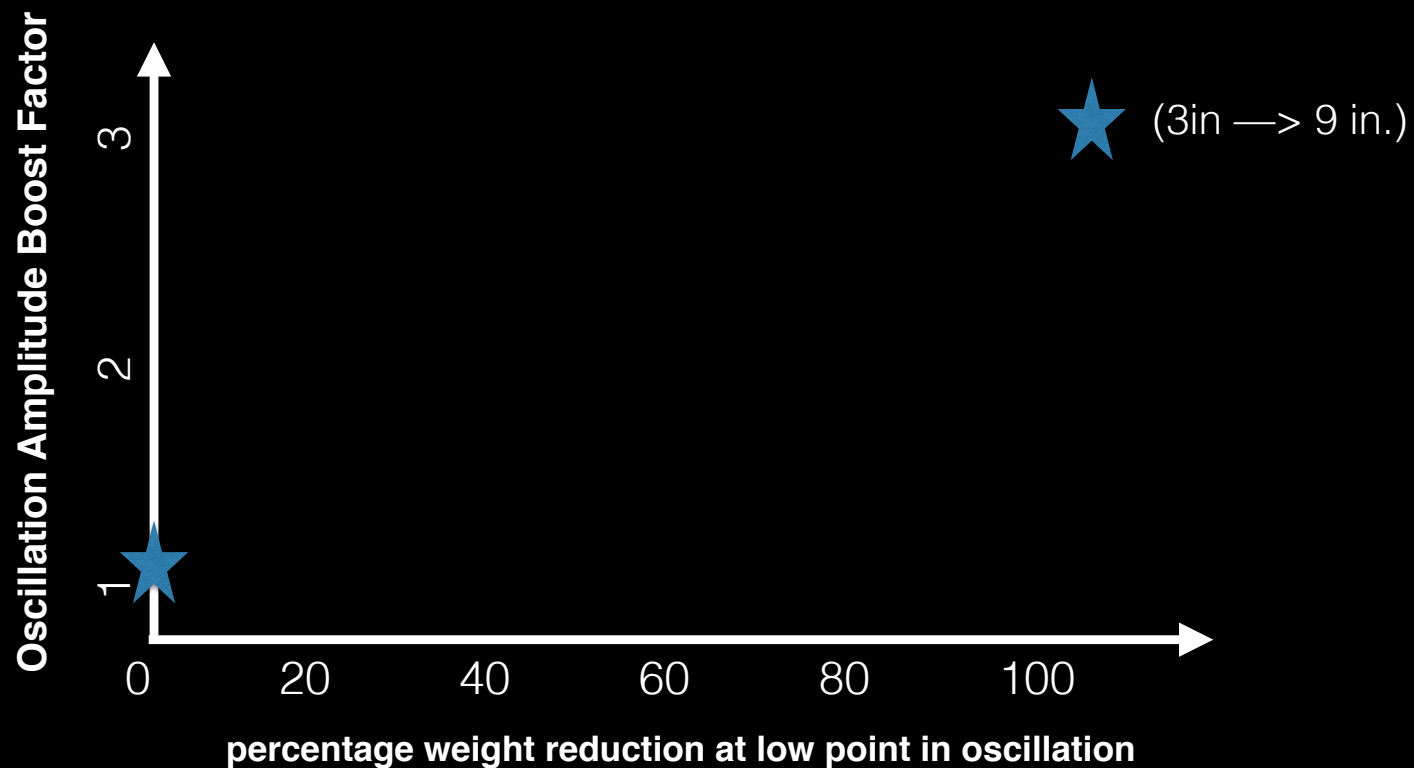
# Amplitude Boost vs. Weight Reduction



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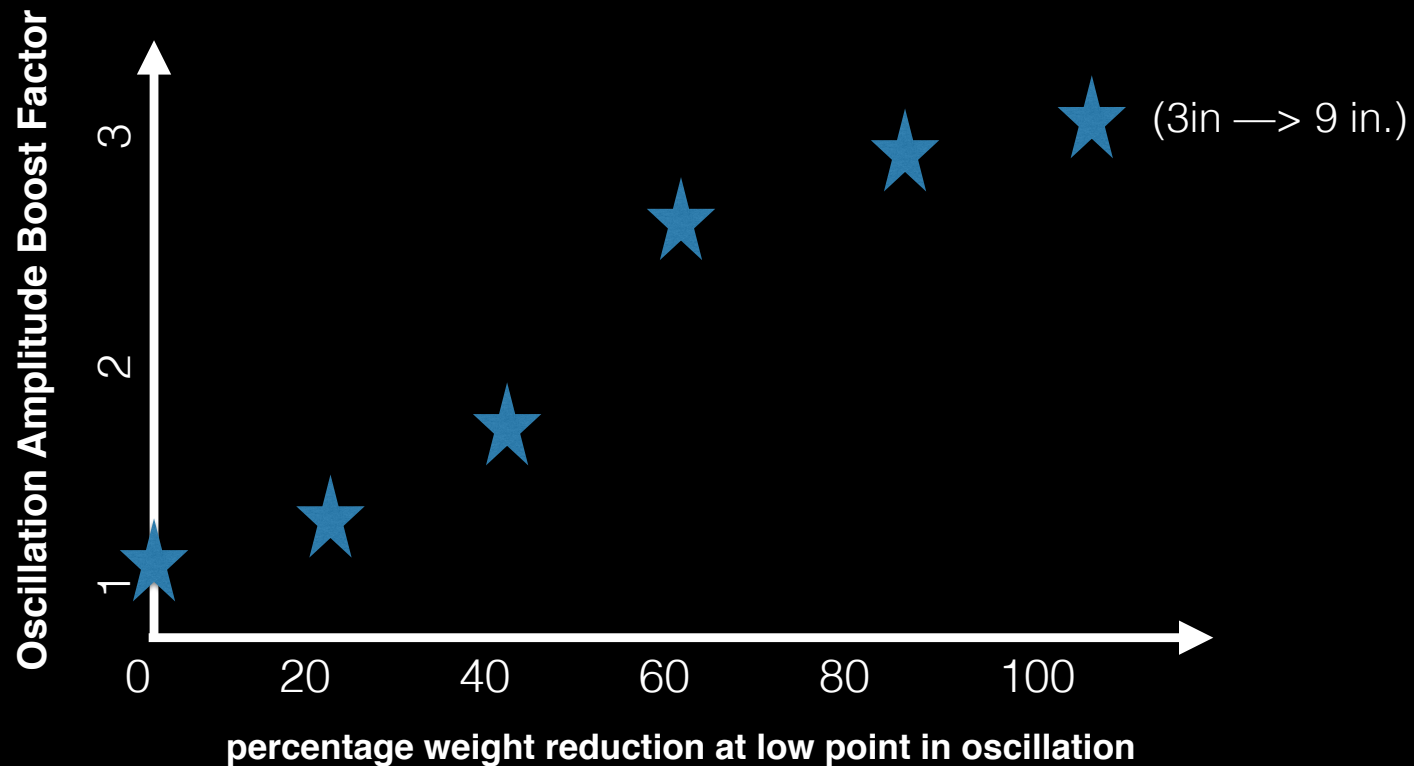


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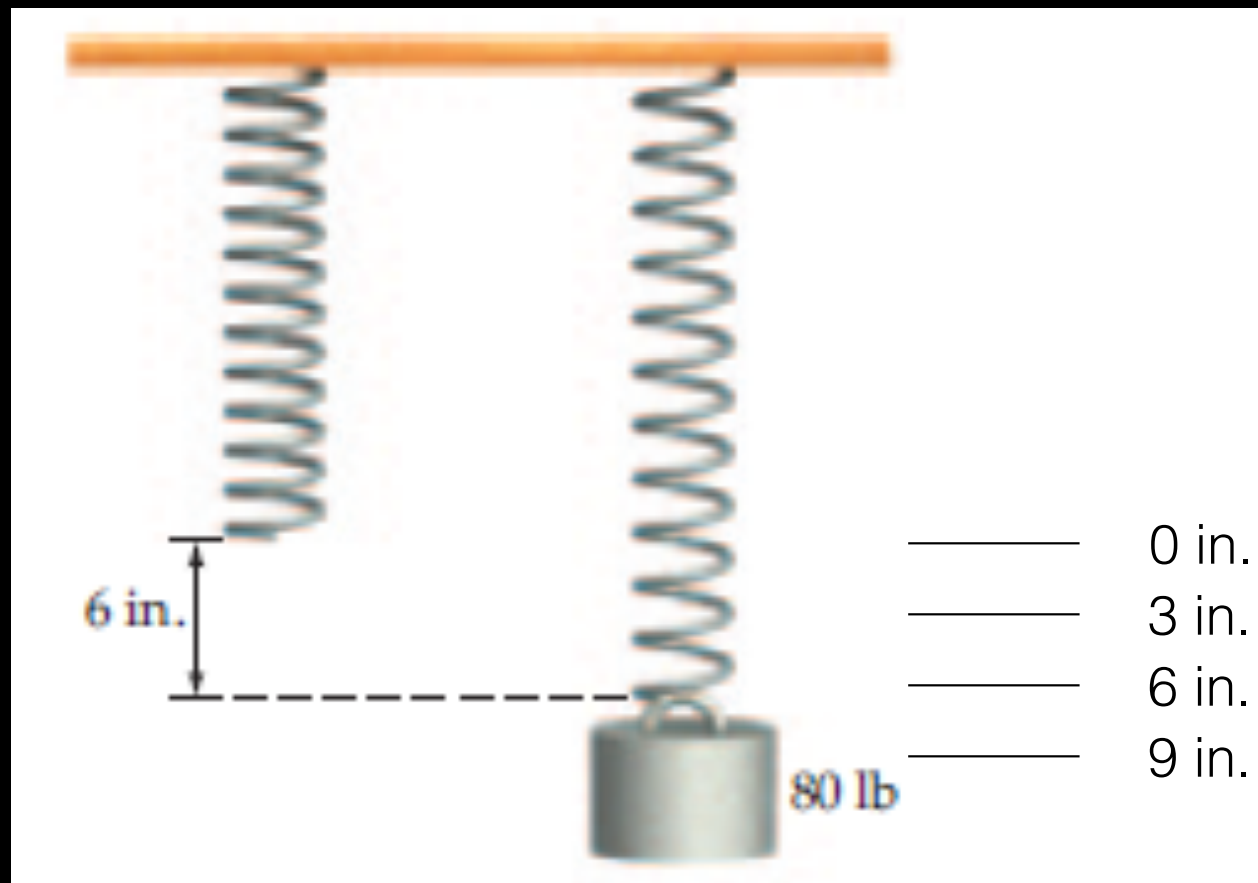




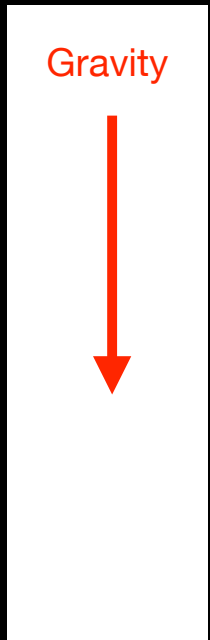
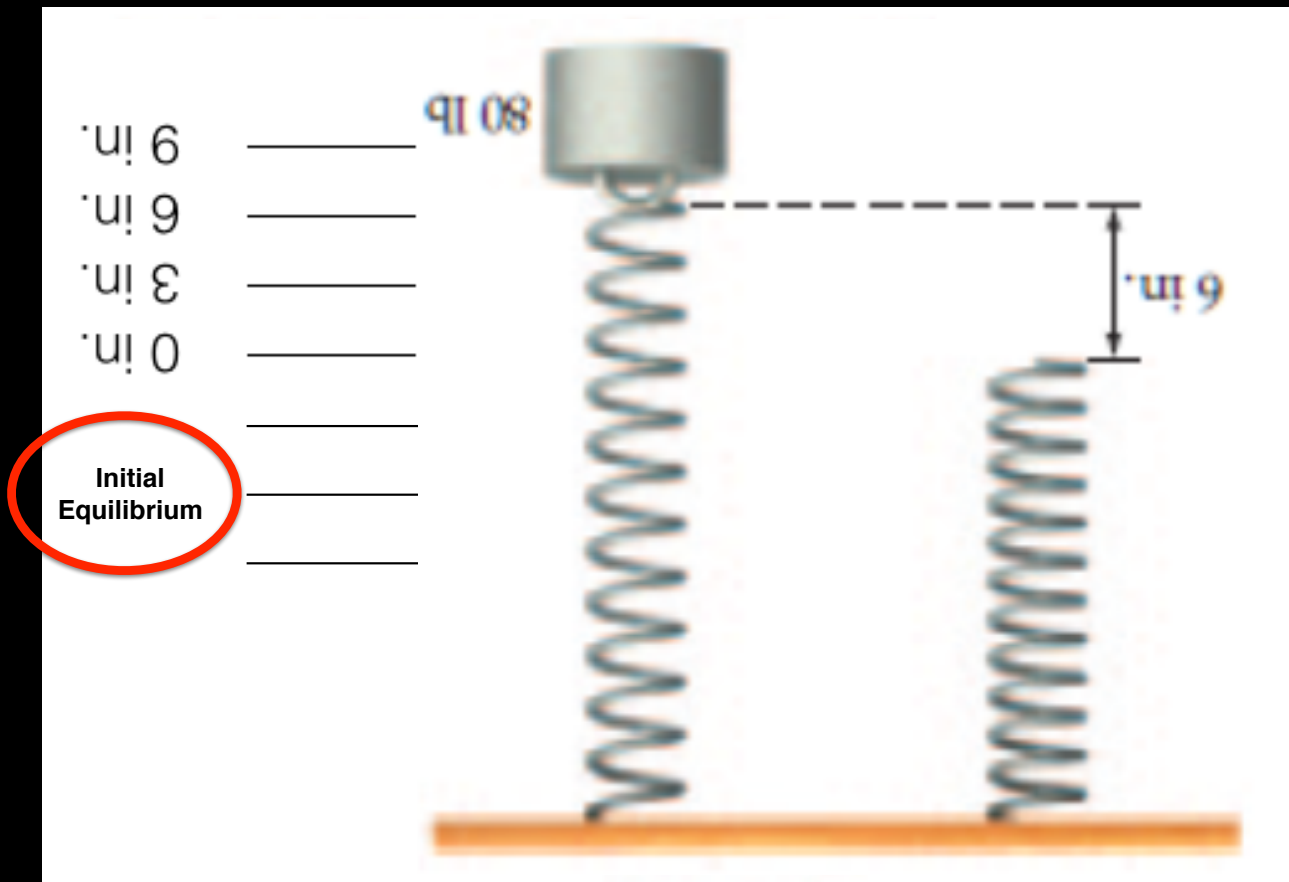
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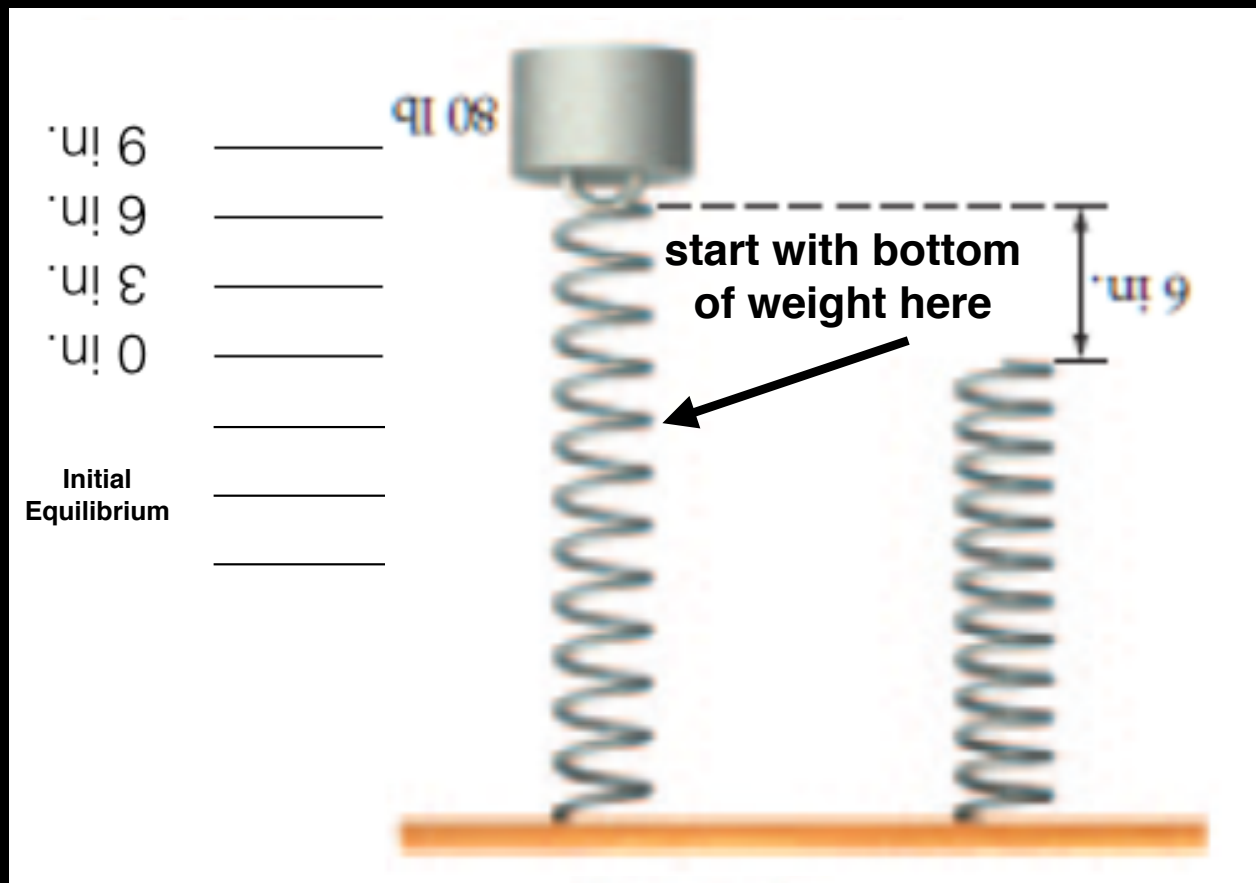
# HO under tension



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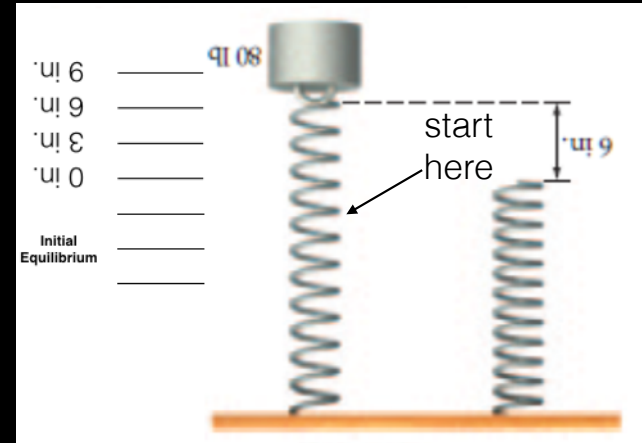
# HO under tension



## matter domination

range of oscillation —>

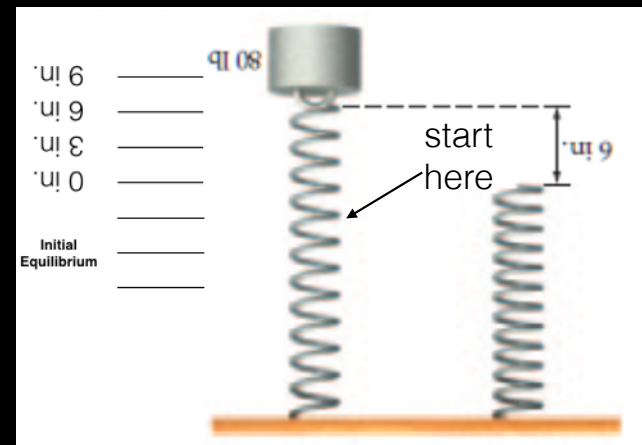
(because grav potential is constant during matter domination)

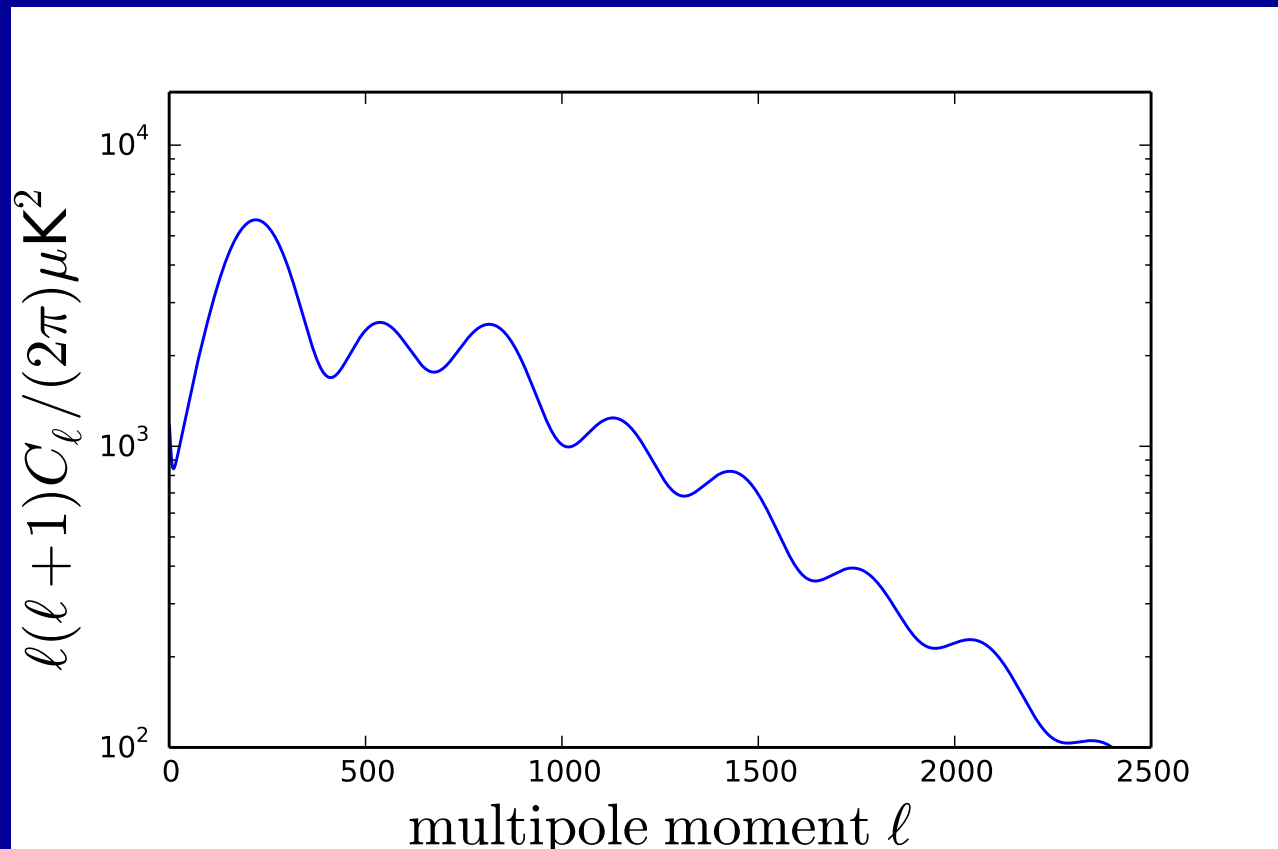


## radiation domination

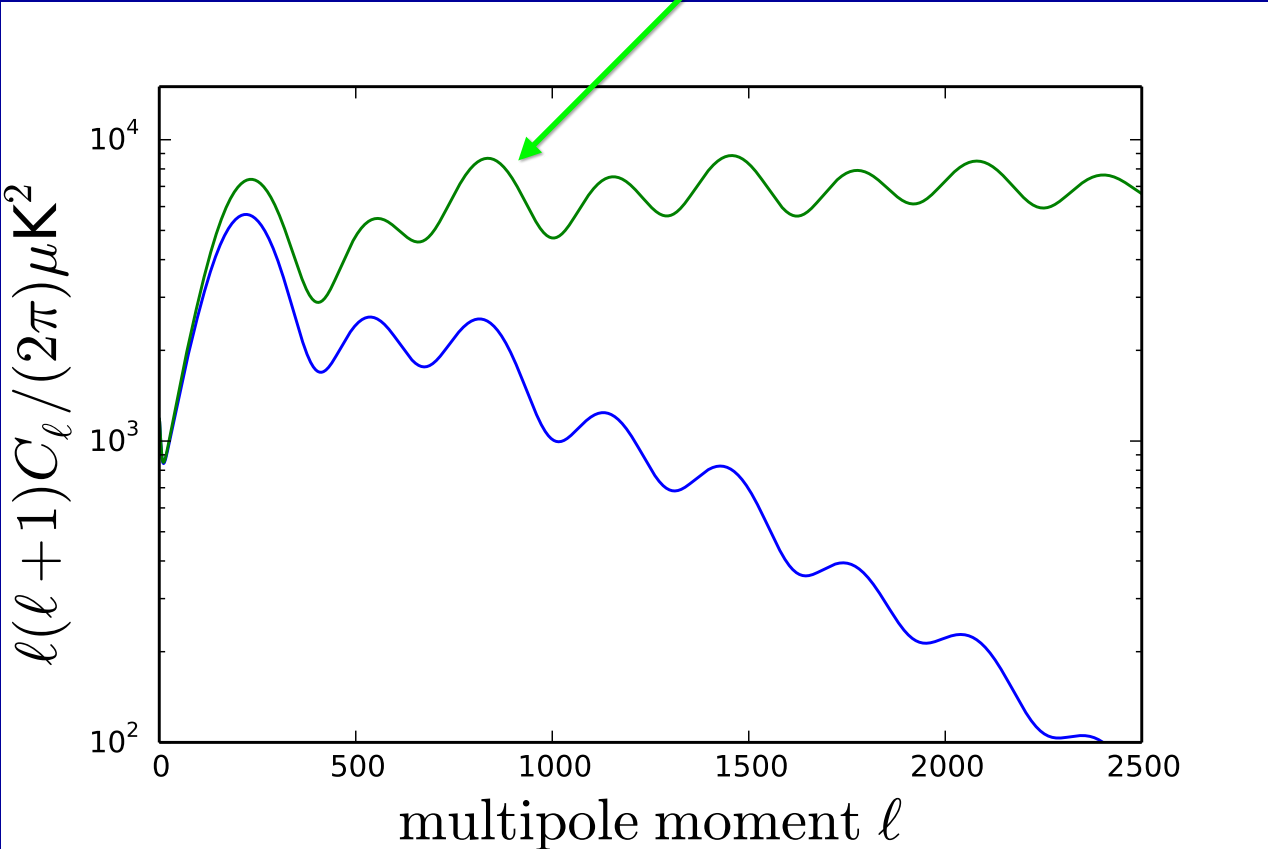
range of oscillation —>

(because grav potential nearly all gone after 1st compression)





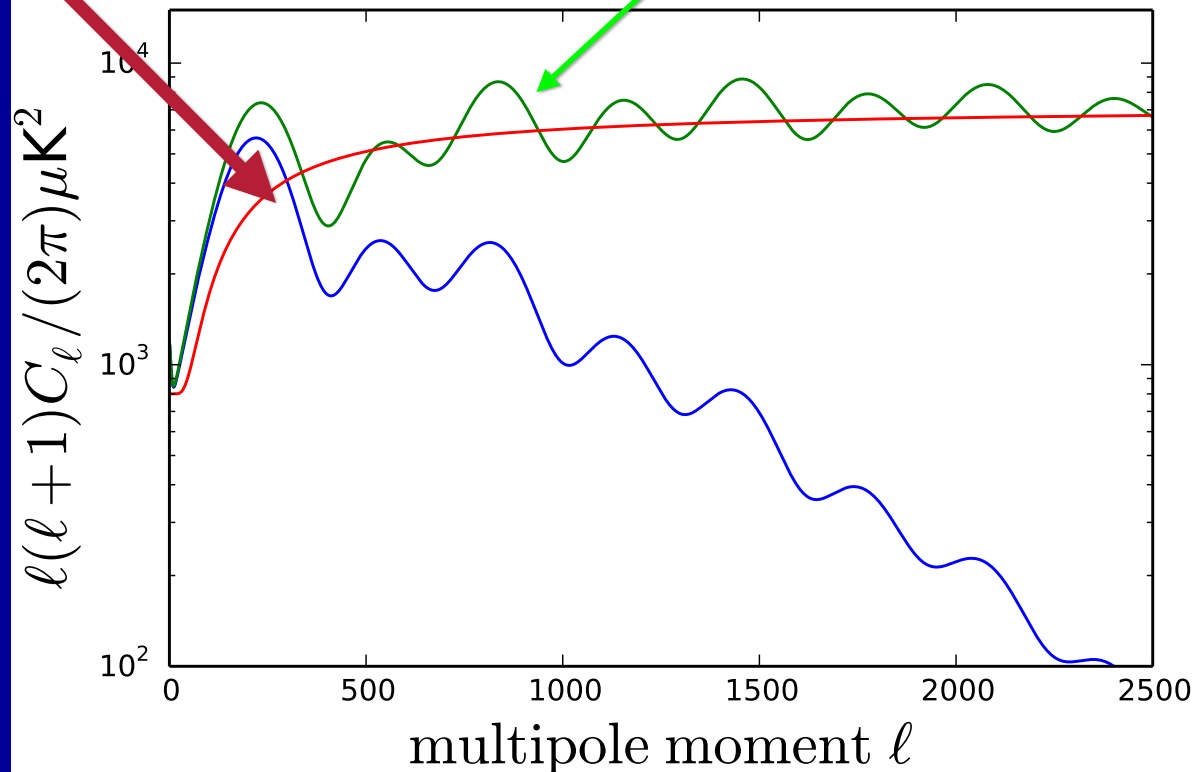
if no photon diffusion



Modes that project into  $l$  enter the horizon (begin oscillating) during:

$\lll$	$\ggg$
Matter Domination	Radiation Domination

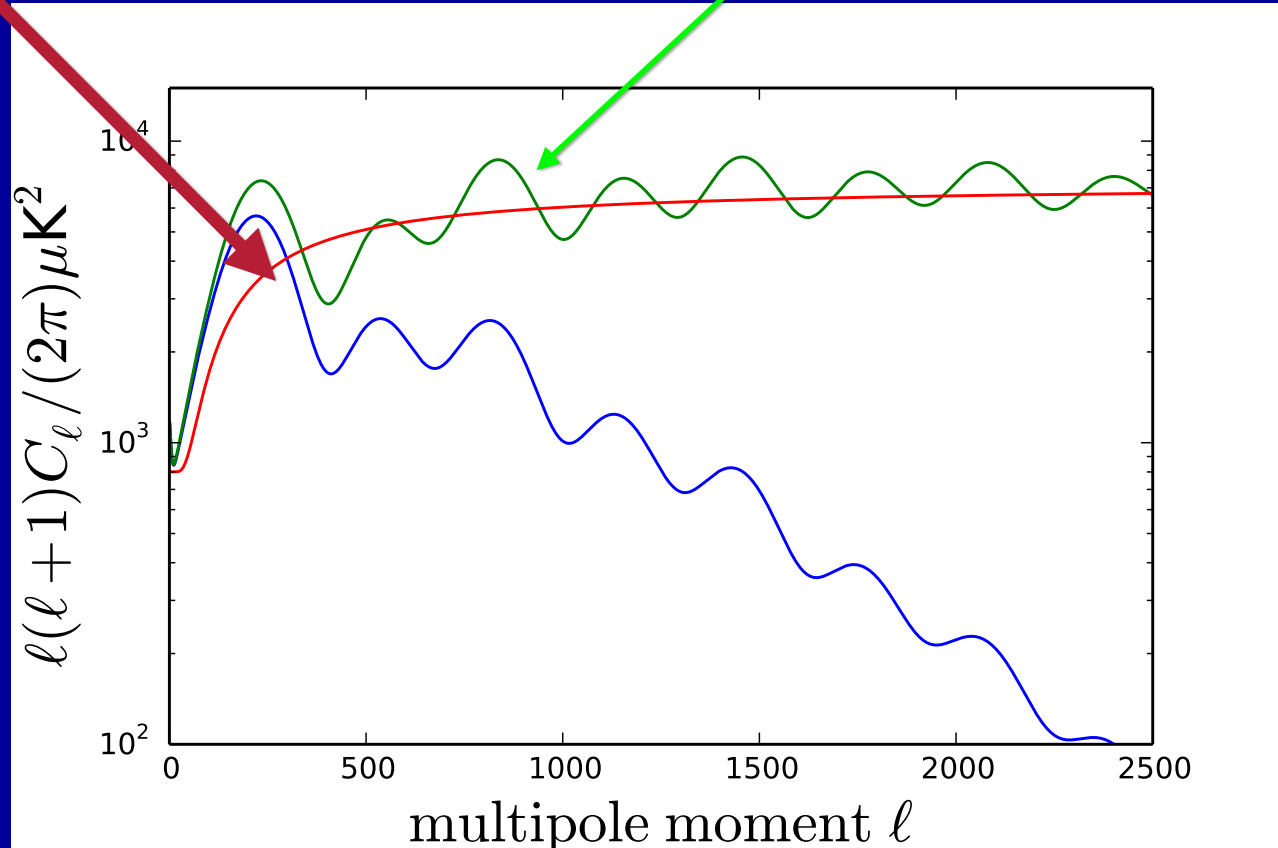
The “potential envelope” of Hu & White (1997) if no photon diffusion



0 78 87 91 93 95  
percentage of energy density in relativistic matter  
when oscillations begin (horizon crossing)



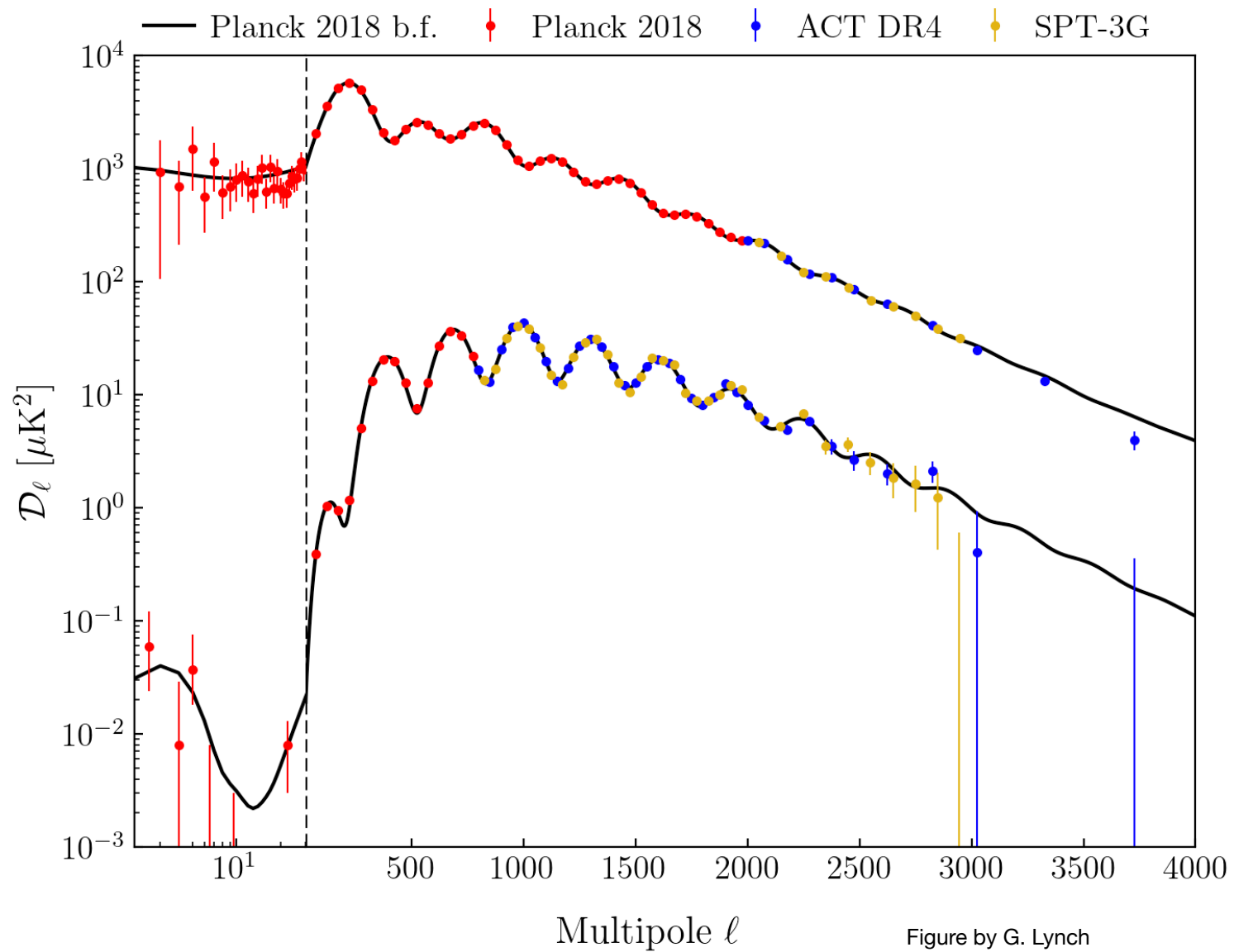
The "potential envelope" of Hu & White (1997) if no photon diffusion



"Radiation driving"

0 10 21 31 42 51

scale factor at recombination divided  
by scale factor at horizon crossing



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- Implications for models with light relics
- FFAT scaling transformation symmetry and a rate ratio perspective
- Recombination?

# Implications for light relics

If you want to increase light relic density, keep matter to radiation ratio fixed

$$\rho_{\text{rad}} \rightarrow \lambda \rho_{\text{rad}}$$

Increasing light relic energy density increases radiation density by definition

$$\rho_{\text{m}} \rightarrow \lambda \rho_{\text{m}}$$

Can increase density of non-relativistic matter (by adding more CDM)

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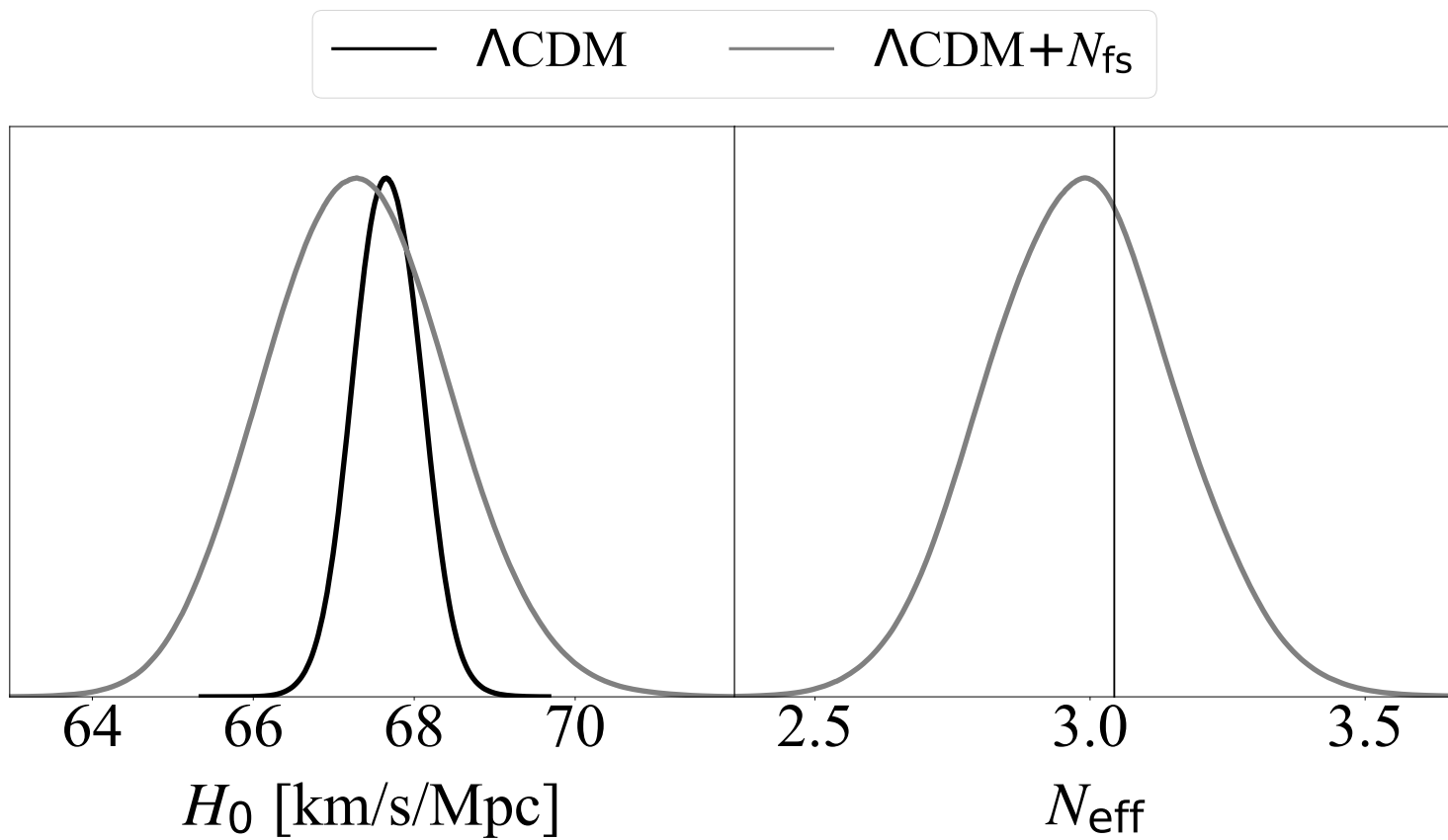
What is this going to do to  $\theta_s = r_s/D_A$  ?

Adding this scaling:  $\rho_{\Lambda} \rightarrow \lambda \rho_{\Lambda}$  will keep  $\theta_s$  fixed

$$H \rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda} H \quad r_s \rightarrow r_s / \sqrt{\lambda} \quad D_A \rightarrow D_A / \sqrt{\lambda}$$

1D marginal posterior probability densities given Planck + BAO

The “fs” is for “free-streaming” (light relics)



# Sensitivity to increased $N_{\text{eff}}$ via increased $H(z)$

The sound horizon  $r_s \sim 1/H$

$$\theta_s = r_s / D_A$$

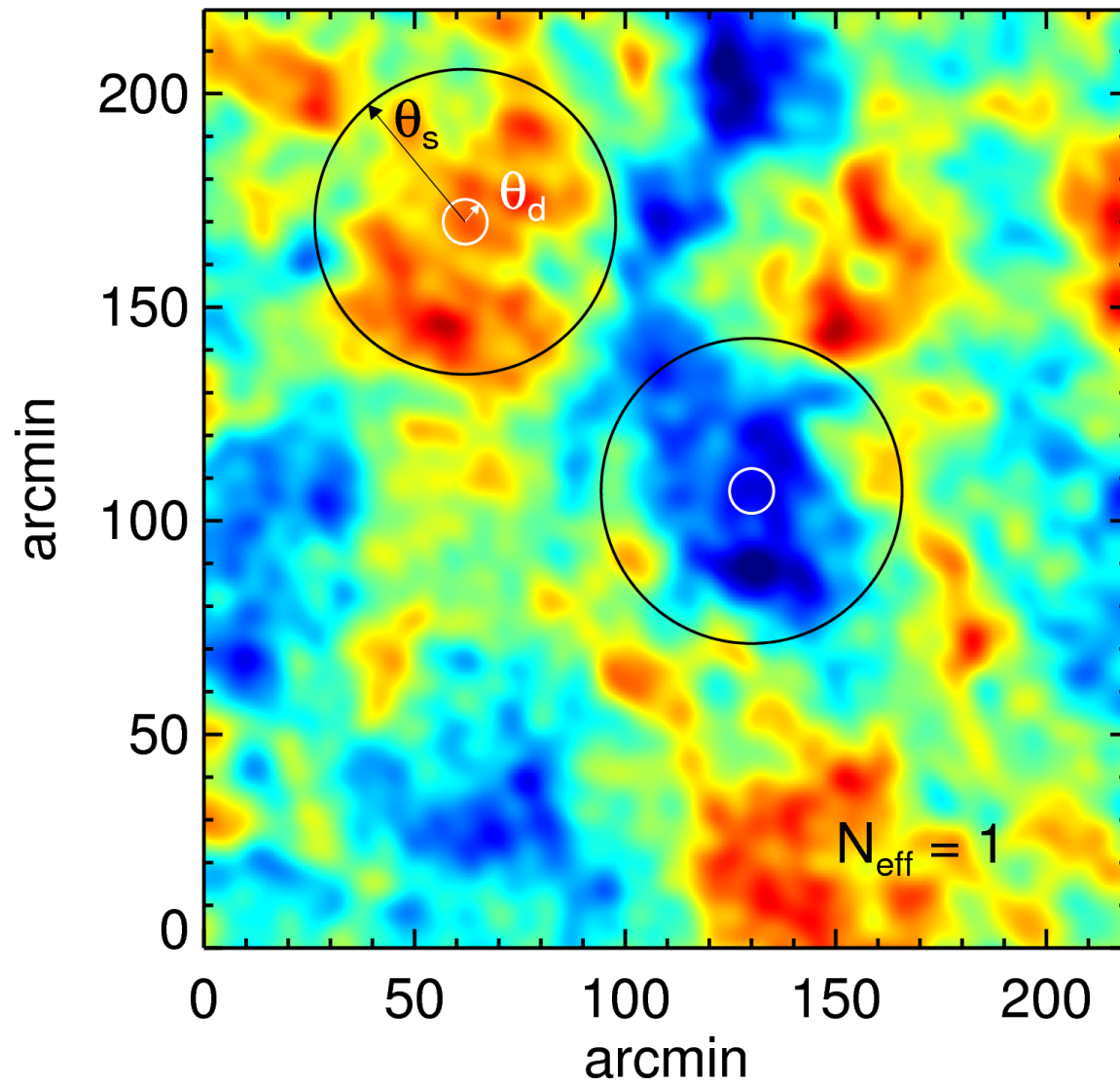
Photon diffusion is a random walk so  $r_d \sim 1/H^{0.5}$

$$\theta_d = r_d / D_A$$

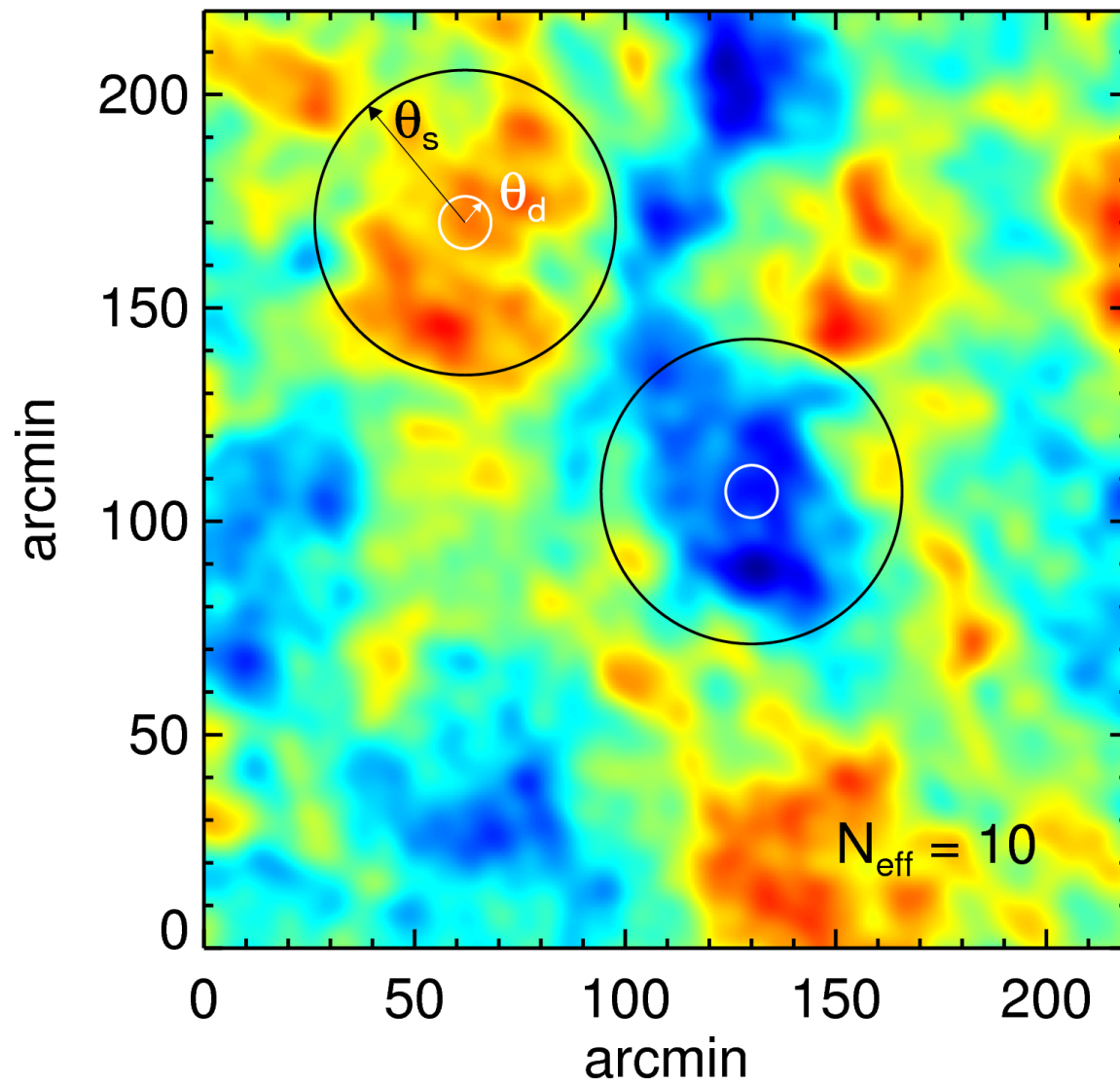
$$\theta_d / \theta_s = r_d / r_s \propto H^{1/2}$$



$N_{\text{eff}}$  affects the ratio of sound horizon to diffusion scale

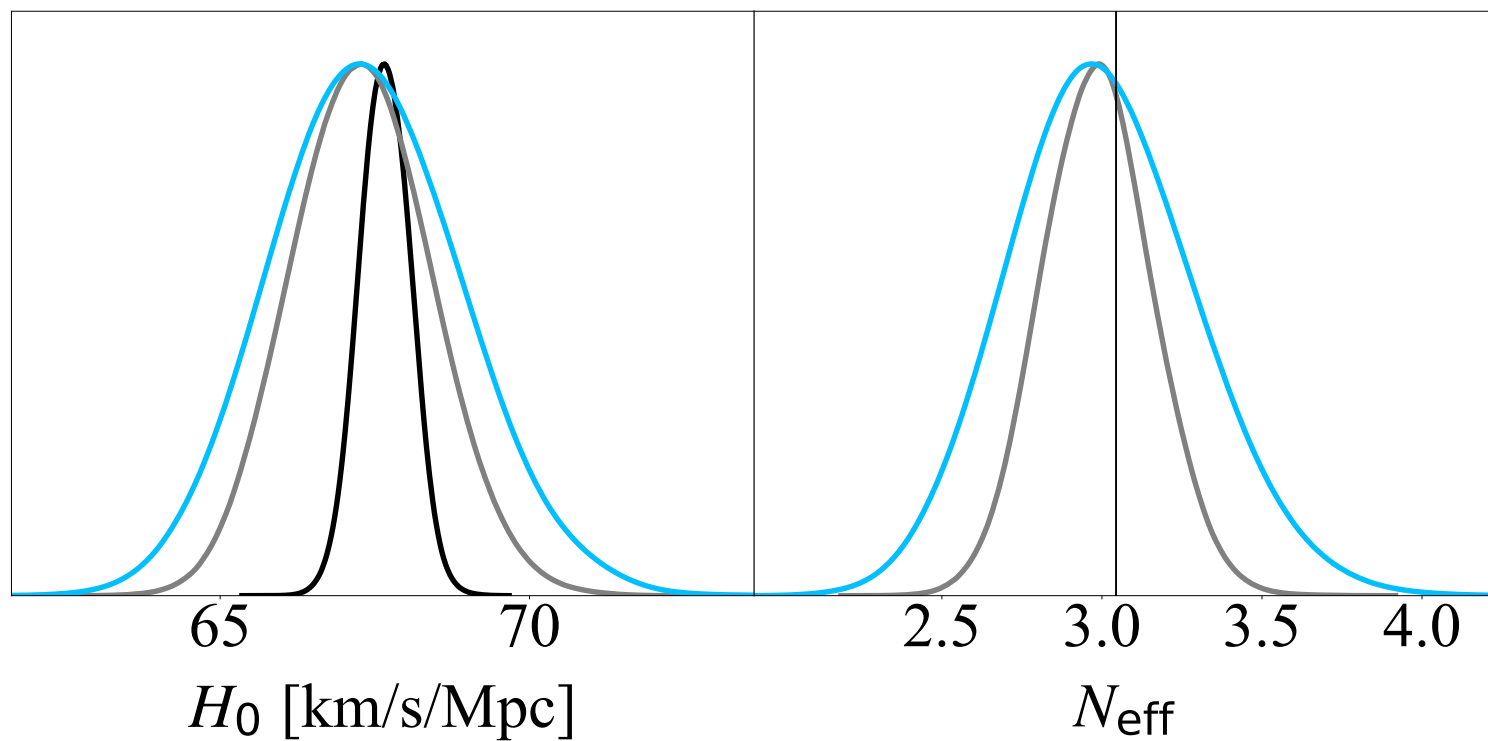
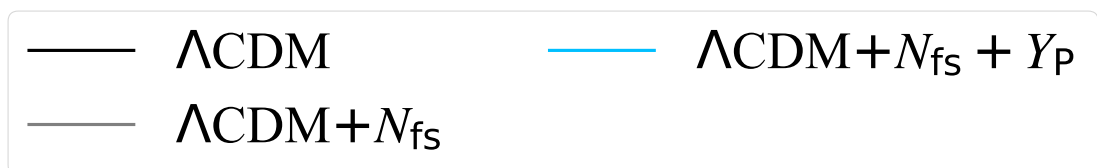


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Why still constrained after taking care of diffusion problem?

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This scaling transformation still leads to some changes to gravitational potential evolution.

Q: What about this might lead to gravitational potential evolution?

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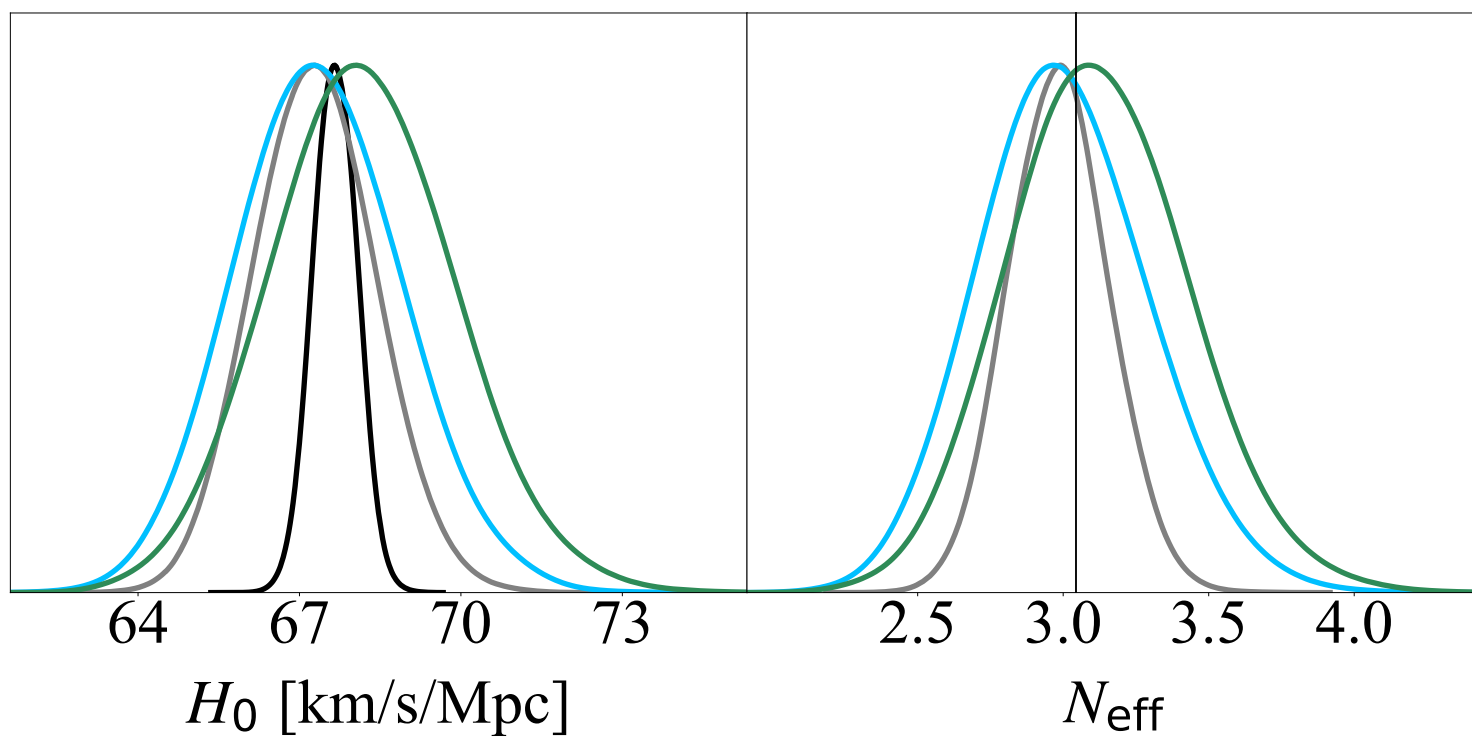
$$\rho_{\Lambda} \rightarrow \lambda \rho_{\Lambda}$$

This scaling transformation still leads to some changes to gravitational potential evolution.

Q: What about this might lead to gravitational potential evolution?

- 1) free-streaming light relics stream out of over densities at the speed of light as opposed to photons that do so at the plasma sound speed ==> grav potential decay is even faster (Bashinsky & Seljak 2004)
- 2) Baryons are pressure supported (prior to recombination) so are not falling freely like the CDM. Increasing the CDM to baryon ratio helps to preserve potential wells (Ge, Cyr-Racine & Knox 2023)

1D marginal posterior probability densities given Planck + BAO



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$$\Delta T/T(\theta, \phi), Q_{\text{CMB}}(\theta, \phi), U_{\text{CMB}}(\theta, \phi), \frac{\delta \rho_{\text{m}}}{\rho_{\text{m}}}(\theta, \phi, z)$$

are all invariant under

$$\sqrt{G\rho_i} \rightarrow \lambda \sqrt{G\rho_i}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{T}} n_e \rightarrow \lambda \sigma_{\text{T}} n_e$$

$$A_{\text{S}} \rightarrow \lambda^{1-n_{\text{S}}} A_{\text{S}}$$

CGK [Cyr-Racine, Ge, and LK (2022)]

See also Zahn & Zaldarriaga (2003) who got partway there

The Free Fall, Amplitude, and Thomson (FFAT) scaling transformation



All the dimensional coefficients in the relevant Einstein and Boltzmann equations can be derived from:

$$\sqrt{G\rho_i}$$

(for each  $i = \gamma, \nu, \text{CDM, baryons, } \Lambda$ )

Free Fall Rate

$$\sigma_T n_e$$

Thomson Scattering Rate

$$k$$

Fourier wave number

Cyr-Racine, Ge, and LK (2022)

Zahn and Zaldarriaga (2003)

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Free Fall Rate

$$\sigma_T n_e$$

Thomson Scattering Rate

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Fourier wave number

Note that this includes  $H = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi}{3} \sum_i G\rho_i}$

Cyr-Racine, Ge, and LK (2022)

Zahn and Zaldarriaga (2003)

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Compensates for the k scaling



CGK [Cyr-Racine, Ge, and LK (2022)]

See also Zahn & Zaldarriaga (2003) who got partway there

The Free Fall, Amplitude, and Thomson (FFAT) scaling transformation

Ge, Cyr-Racine, and Knox  
Phys. Rev. D (2023)

Cyr-Racine, Ge, and Knox  
Phys. Rev. Lett. (2022)



Fei Ge (UC Davis)



Francis-Yan Cyr-Racine  
(U. of New Mexico)

# Barriers to implementing FFAT Scaling

$$\sqrt{G\rho_i} \rightarrow \lambda\sqrt{G\rho_i} \quad \sigma_T n_e \rightarrow \lambda\sigma_T n_e \quad A_S \rightarrow \lambda^{1-n_S} A_S$$

# Barriers to implementing FFAT Scaling

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We've measured G and  
FIRAS has determined  $\rho_{\gamma,0}$

# Barriers to implementing FFAT Scaling

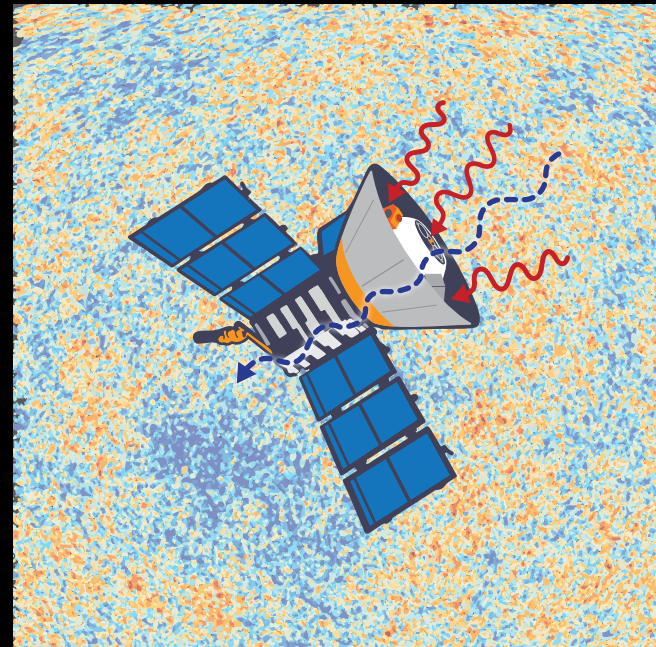
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We've measured  $G$  and  
FIRAS has determined  $\rho_{\gamma,0}$

Solution: Introduce a dark photon that allows for

$$\sqrt{G(\rho_\gamma + \rho_{D\gamma})} = \lambda\sqrt{G\rho_\gamma}$$

w/o violating FIRAS constraints



- To satisfy FIRAS we need dark photons
- They have to source metric perturbations like light photons do ==> transition from fluid to free streaming ==> we need dark baryons to enable dark recombination
- To preserve all the important rate ratios we also need a free-streaming additional light relic that we might call 'dark neutrinos.'



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Maybe not: we get all this from one copy of the standard model of particle physics.  
a 'mirror world' dark sector (MWDS)

e.g. Chacko et al. (2006)

# Barriers to implementing FFAT Scaling

$$\sqrt{G\rho_i} \rightarrow \lambda\sqrt{G\rho_i}$$

$$\sigma_T n_e \rightarrow \lambda\sigma_T n_e$$

$$A_S \rightarrow \lambda^{1-n_S} A_S$$

No barrier to this

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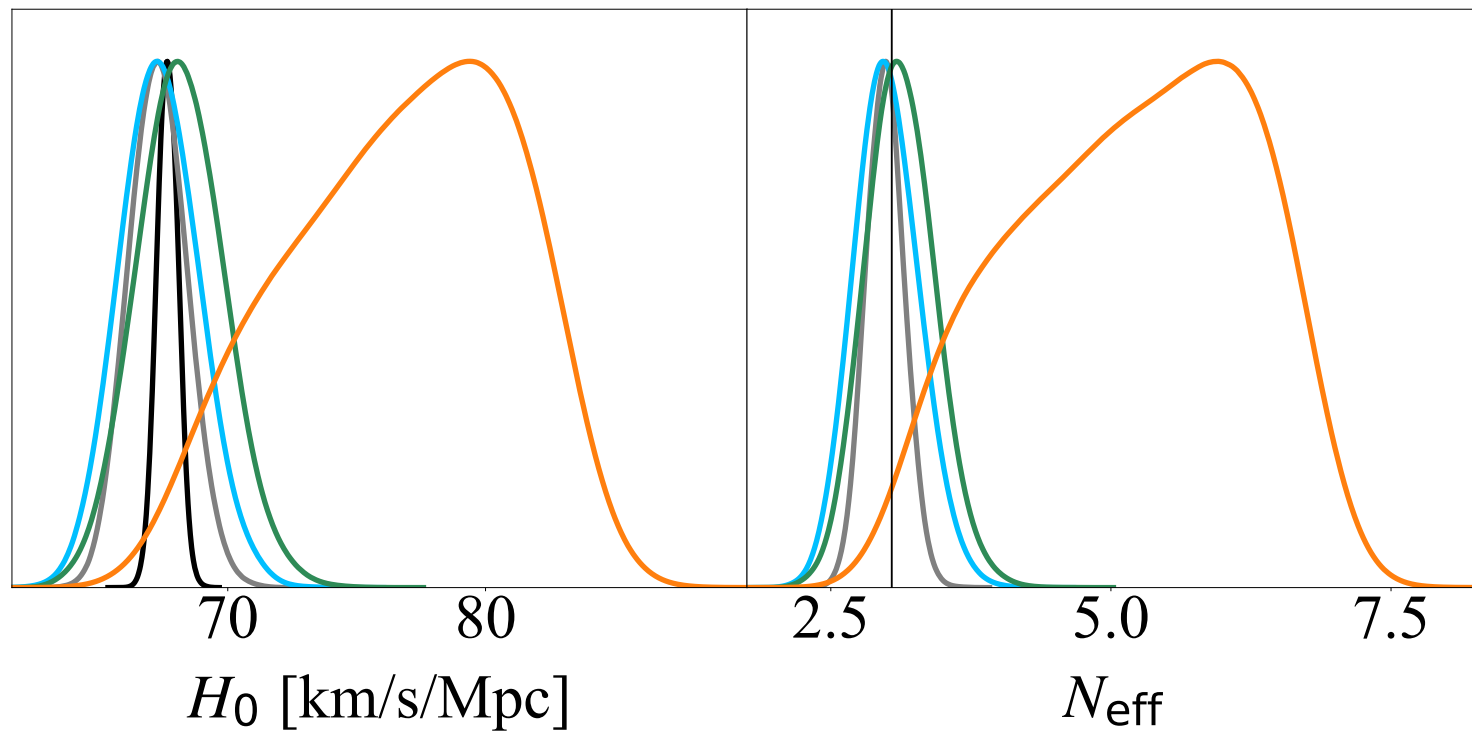
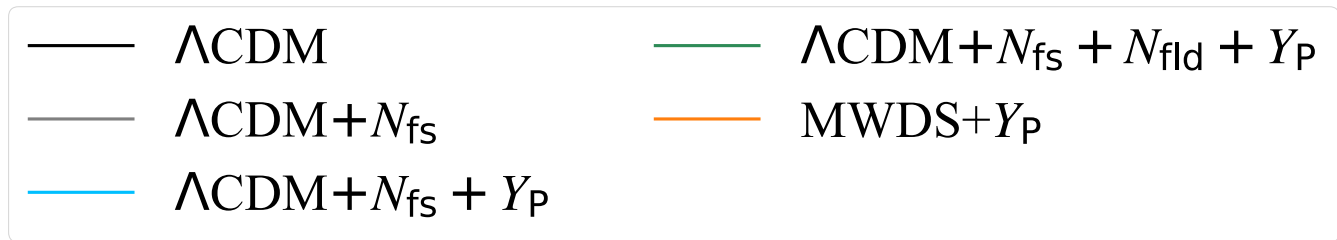
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$$n_e(z) = X_e(z)n_B(1 - Y_P)$$

Sensitive to atomic reaction rates

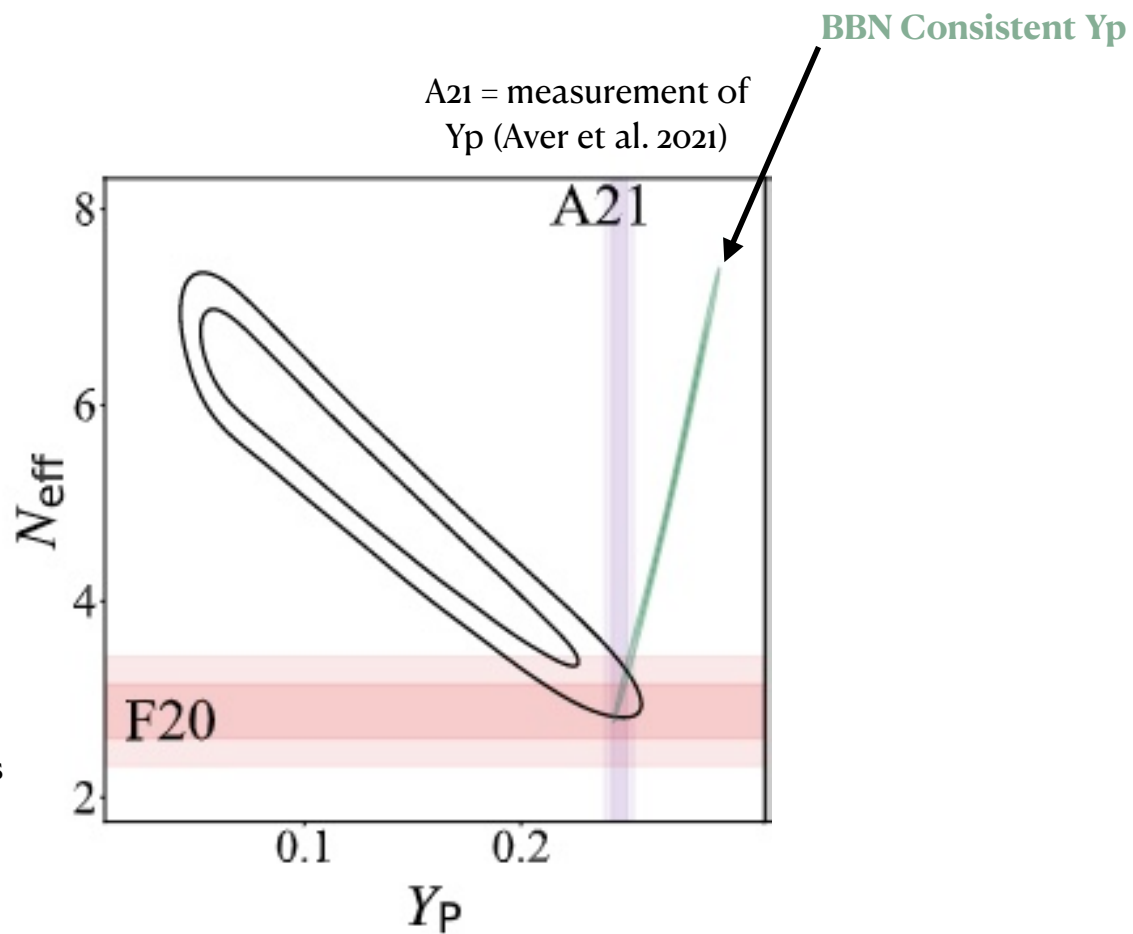
Approximately achieve scaling by  $1 - Y_P \rightarrow \lambda(1 - Y_P)$

1D marginal posterior probability densities given Planck + BAO



Contours assume  
MWDS + free  $Y_p$

F20 = constraints on  
 $N_{\text{eff}}$  from BBN + D/H  
and  $Y_p$  measurements  
(Fields et al. 2020)





# Rate Ratio Changes and Related Observational Impact

Rate ratio change	Observational Impact	Quantitative Impact on CMB Power Spectra from 10% change	Prior literature
1. $\sigma_T n_e(z)/H(z)$	Silk damping Polarization generation	10 to 15%	Hu & White (1996), Zahn & Zaldarriaga (2004), Martins et al. (2010), Hou et al. (2013)
2. $\frac{\sqrt{\rho_{\text{rad,fs}}}}{\sqrt{\rho_{\text{rad,fluid}}}}$	Early boost to $\delta\rho/\rho$ Temporal phase shift in acoustic oscillations	5 to 6%	Bashinsky & Seljak (2004), Follin et al. (2015), Baumann et al. (2016)
3. $\frac{\sqrt{\rho_{\text{m,pressure}}}}{\sqrt{\rho_{\text{m,pressureless}}}}$	Baryon-like effect on acoustic peak heights Changes to matter power spectrum	2 to 3%	Ge, Cyr-Racine & Knox (2023)
4. recombination rates/ $H(z)$	All changes flow through 1.	1 to 2%	Zahn & Zaldarriaga (2003) Ge, Cyr-Racine & LK (2023)

# Outline

- Hubble constant from the CMB (and LCDM)
- Acoustic dynamics are very sensitive to gravitational potential evolution  $\Rightarrow$  strong constraints to the introduction of new components and new interactions
- Implications for models with light relics
- FFAT scaling transformation symmetry and a rate ratio perspective
- Recombination?

# From the Hubble Hunter's Guide:

The failure of  $\alpha$  variation as a way to get to small  $r_s^*$  is a specific example of what we expect to be true in general: changes to the physics of recombination sufficient to change the sound horizon by 7% will wreak havoc on the shape of the damping tail. Admittedly, we have no proof that such a solution is not possible. But it seems highly unlikely that new physics alters  $r_s^*$  by changing recombination, while having an acceptably small impact on the shape of the CMB damping tail.

The unlikeliness is underscored by the fact that recombination occurs out of chemical equilibrium – the relevant atomic per-particle reaction rates are not much faster than the Hubble rate. The particular details of the ionization history resulting from this out-of-equilibrium recombination are marvelously consistent with the shape of the damping tail. Thus the task is more challenging than simply reproducing a generic equilibrium ionization history at a higher temperature.

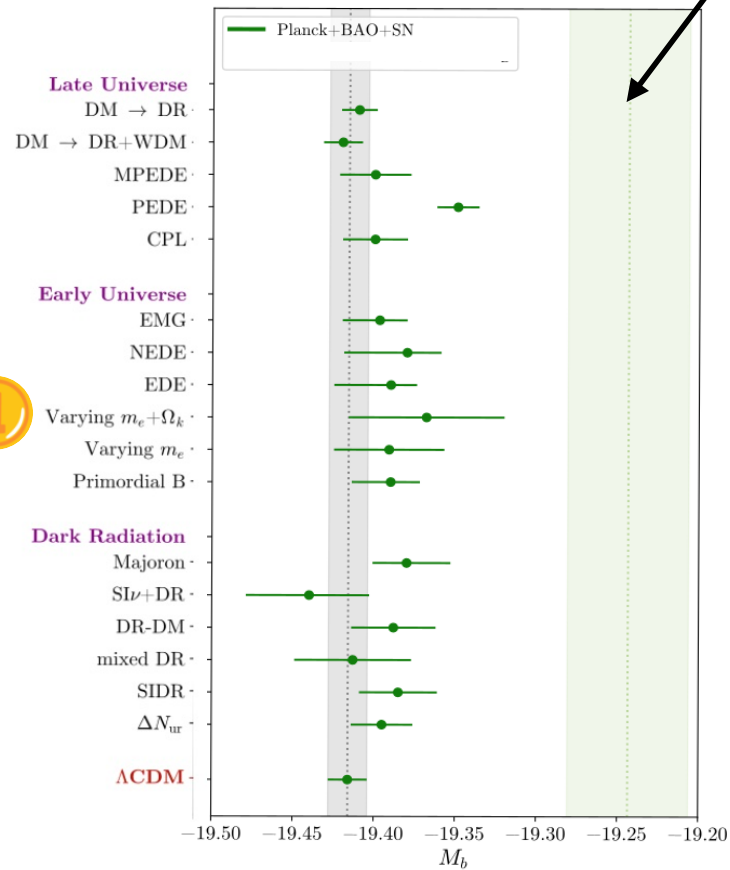
# State of Theory

## Hubble Constant Problem

Cepheid-calibrated supernovae

SHoES (Riess et al. 2021)

Figure adapted from  
“The H<sub>0</sub> Olympics: a Fair  
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# State of Theory

## Hubble Constant Problem

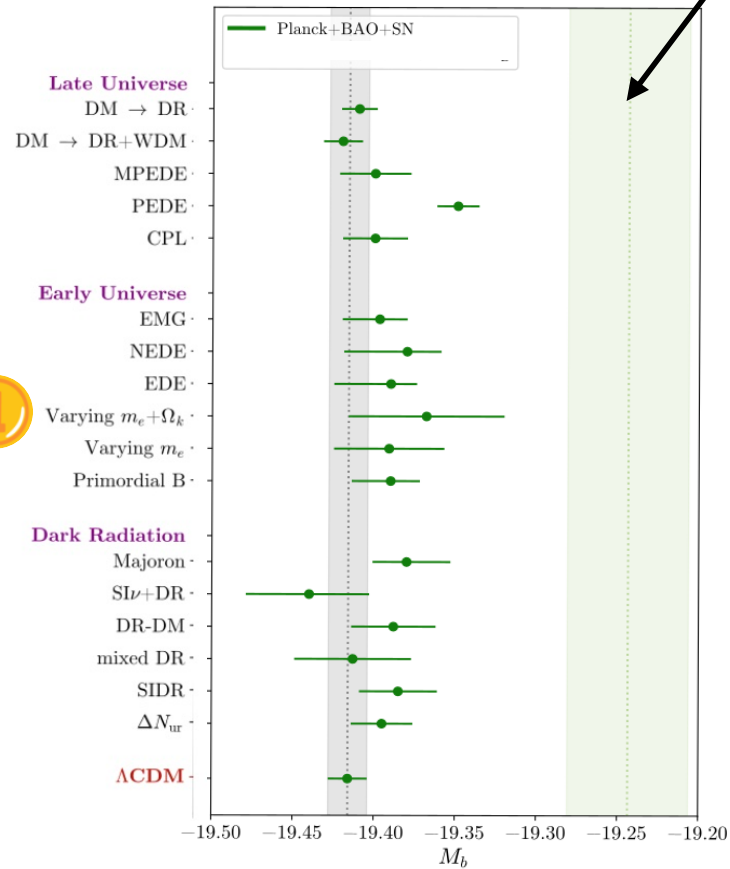
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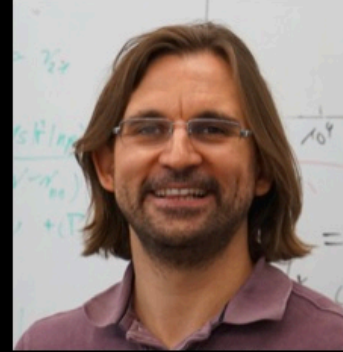
Changing recombination!



**Reconstructing the  
recombination  
history by combining  
early and late  
cosmological probes,  
arXiv:2404.05715**

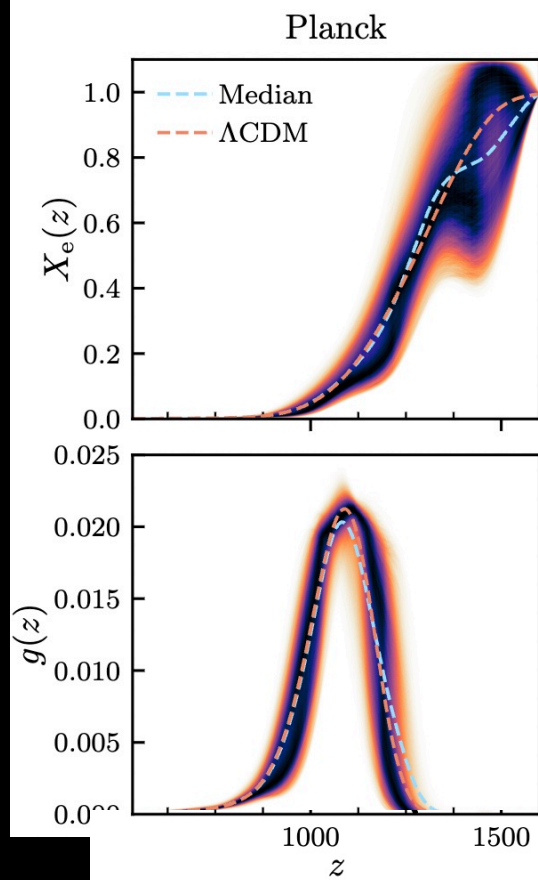


**Gabe Lynch  
(UC Davis)**



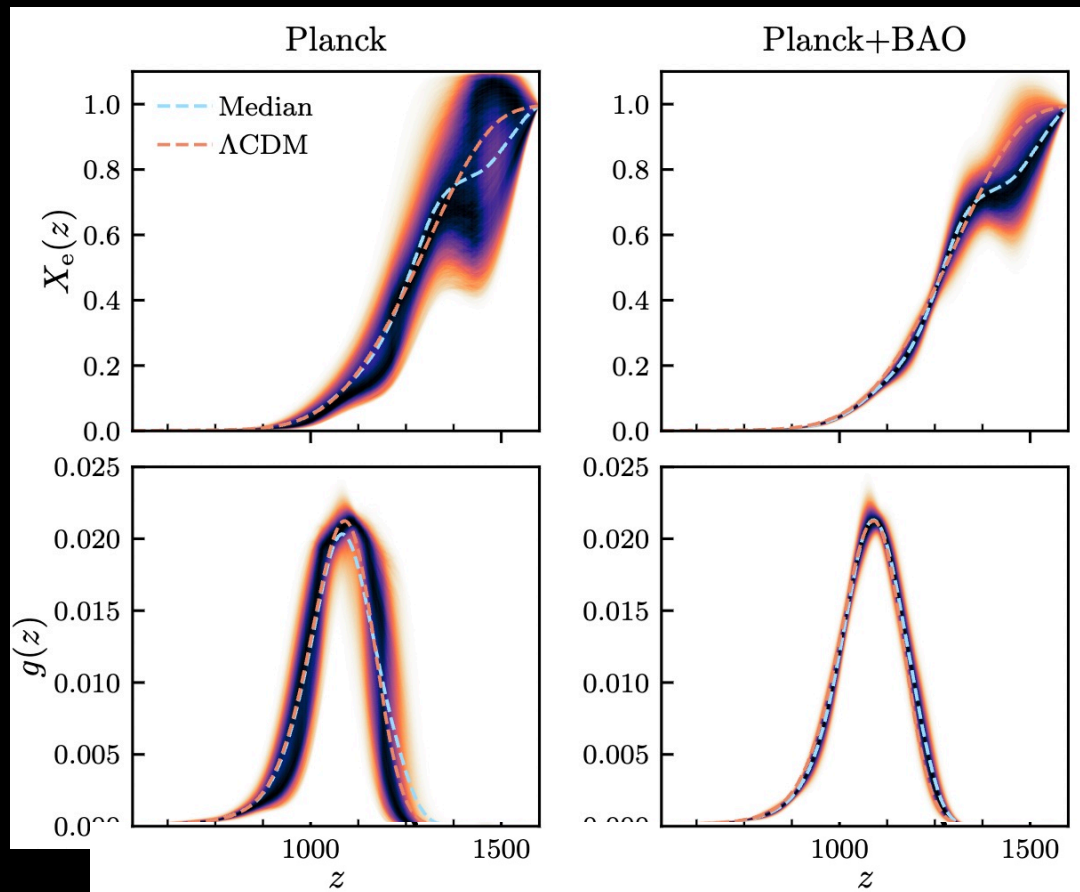
**Jens Chluba  
(Manchester)**

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- Huge departures are allowed!

- “ModRec” = Let  $X_e(z)$  be determined by 7 control points and interpolation between them, and otherwise assume LCDM



- Huge departures are allowed!
- BAO makes big difference via constraints on  $\Omega_m$  and  $r_d H_0$



[Submitted on 14 Jun 2024]

# DESI and the Hubble tension in light of modified recombination

Gabriel P. Lynch, Lloyd Knox, Jens Chluba

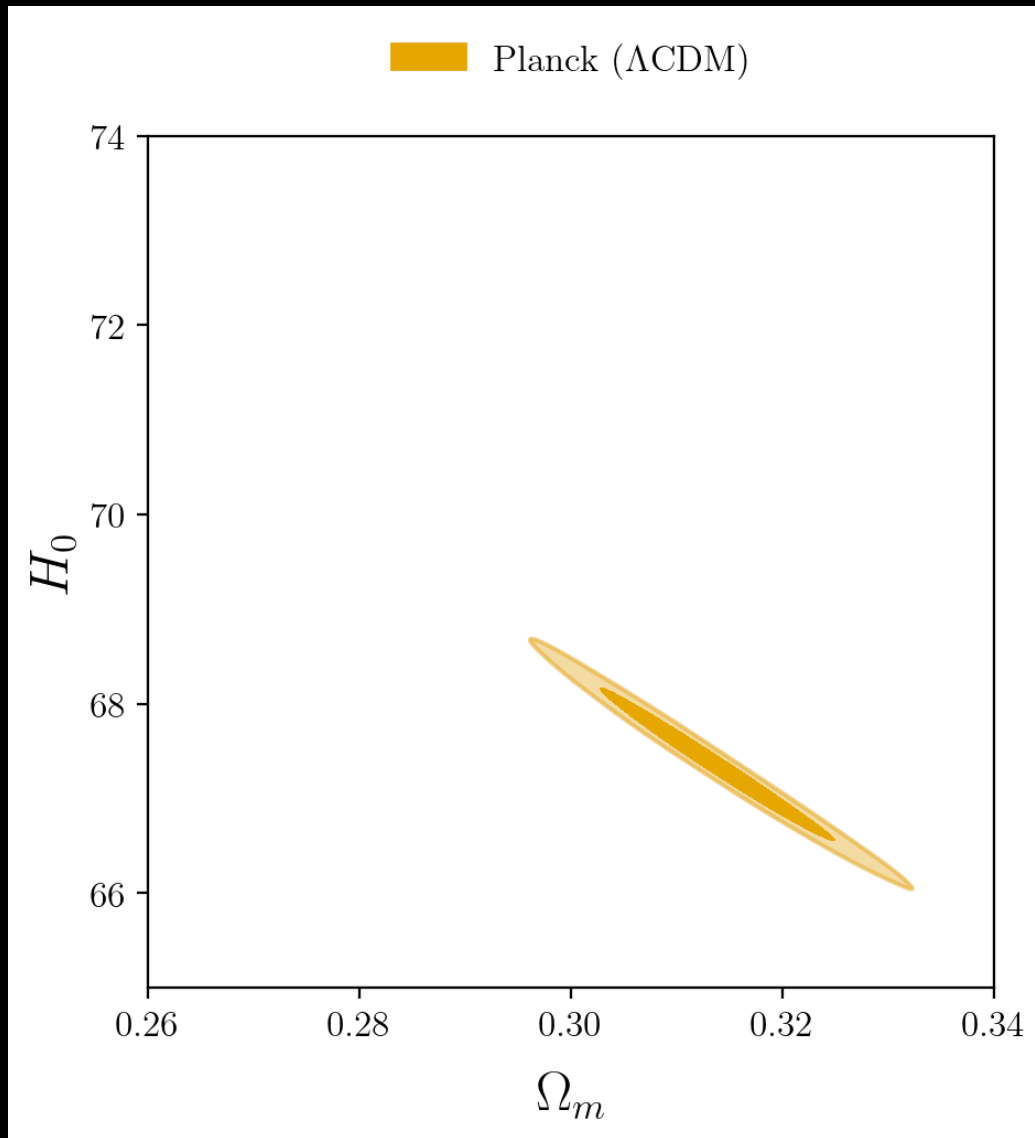
Recent measurements and analyses from the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) Collaboration and supernova surveys combined with cosmic microwave background (CMB) observations, indicate that the dark energy density changes over time. Here we explore the possibility that the dark energy density is constant, but that the cosmological recombination history differs substantially from that in  $\Lambda$ CDM. When we free up the ionization history, but otherwise assume the standard cosmological model, we find the combination of CMB and DESI data prefer i) early recombination qualitatively similar to models with small-scale clumping, ii) a value of  $H_0$  consistent with the estimate from the SH0ES Collaboration at the  $2\sigma$  level, and iii) a higher CMB lensing power, which takes pressure off of otherwise tight constraints on the sum of neutrino masses. Our work provides additional motivation for finding physical models that lead to the small-scale clumping that can theoretically explain the ionization history preferred by DESI and CMB data.

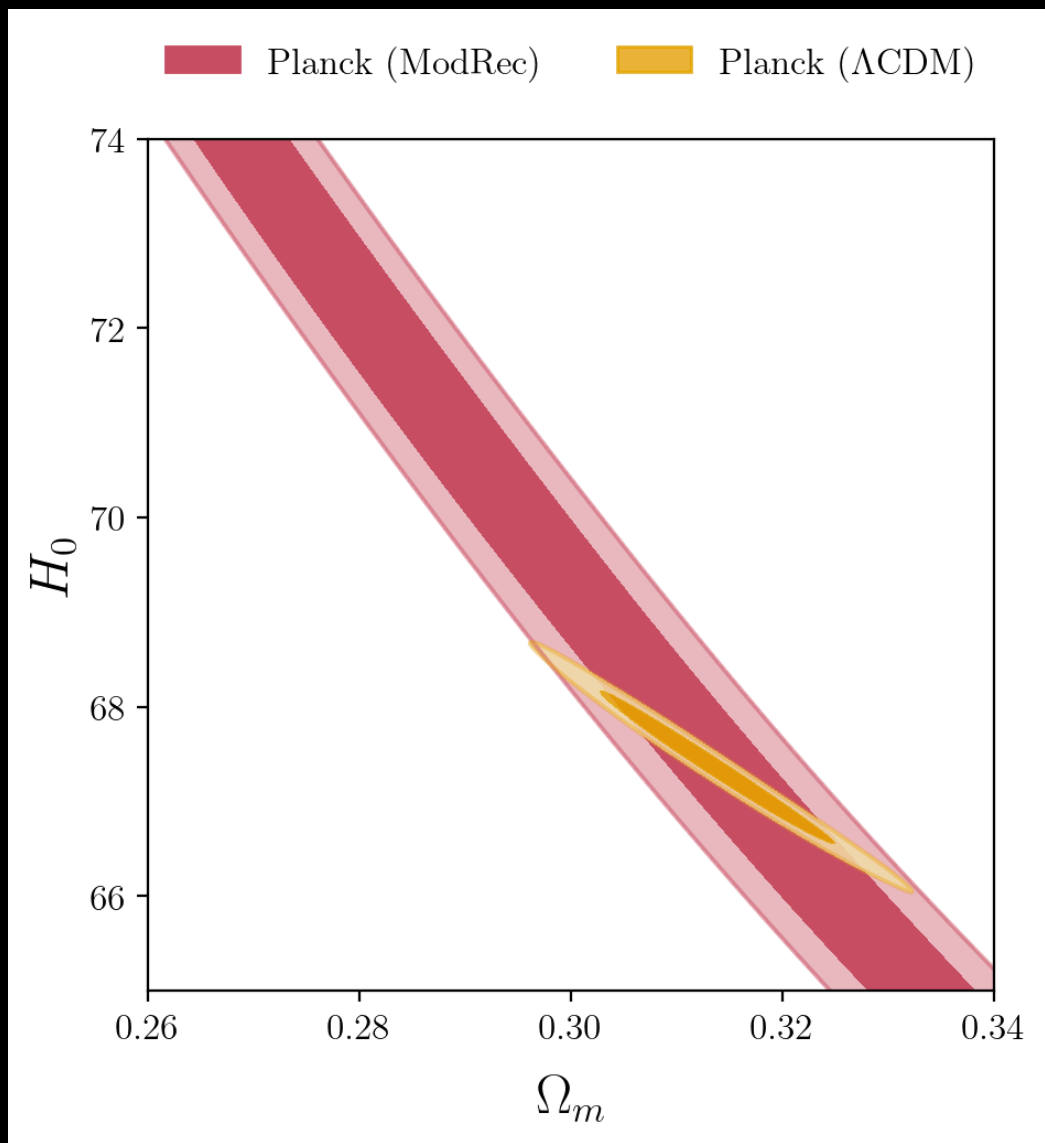
From intersection of

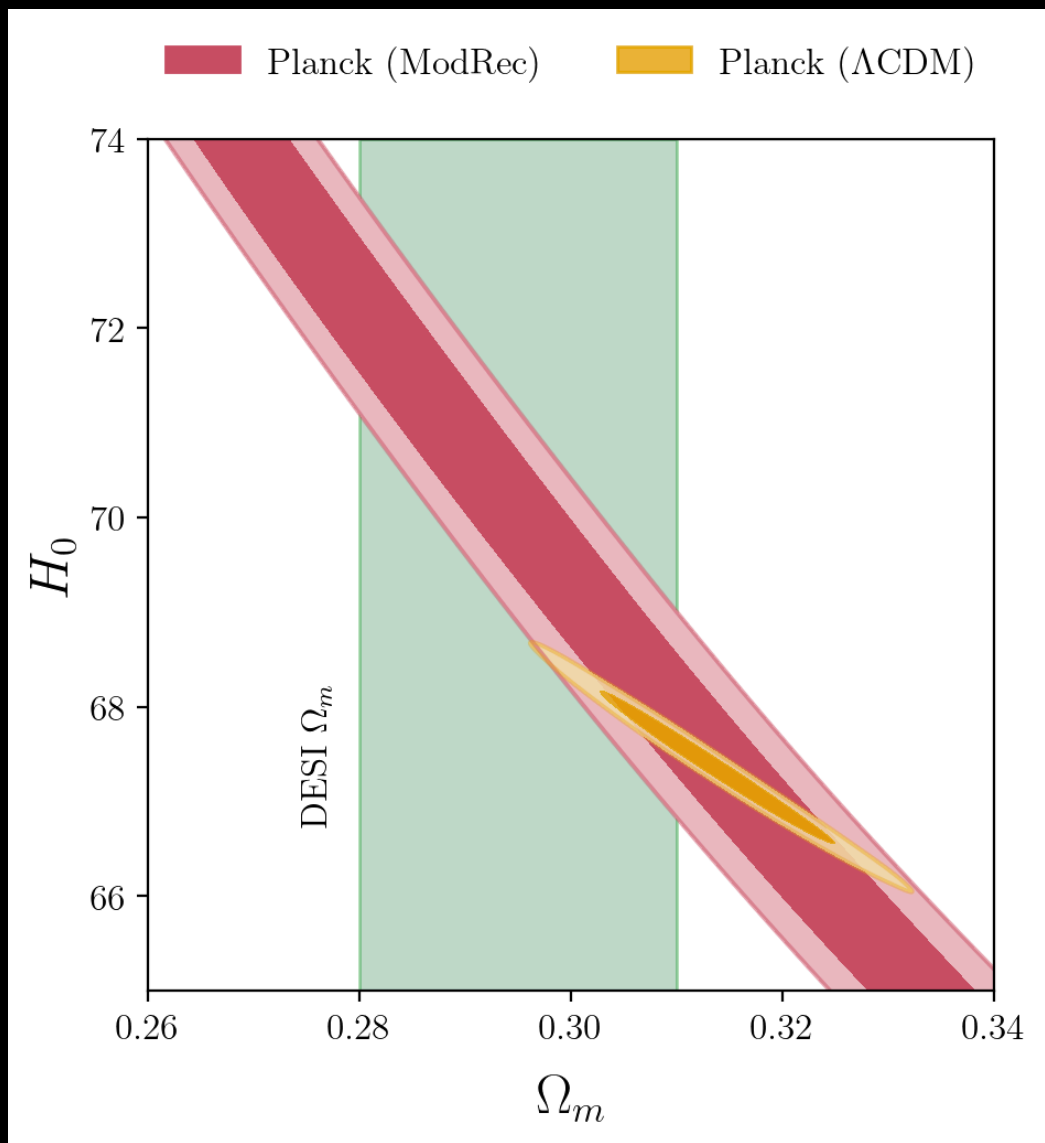
constraint on  $\Omega_m h^2$   
from radiation-driving effect

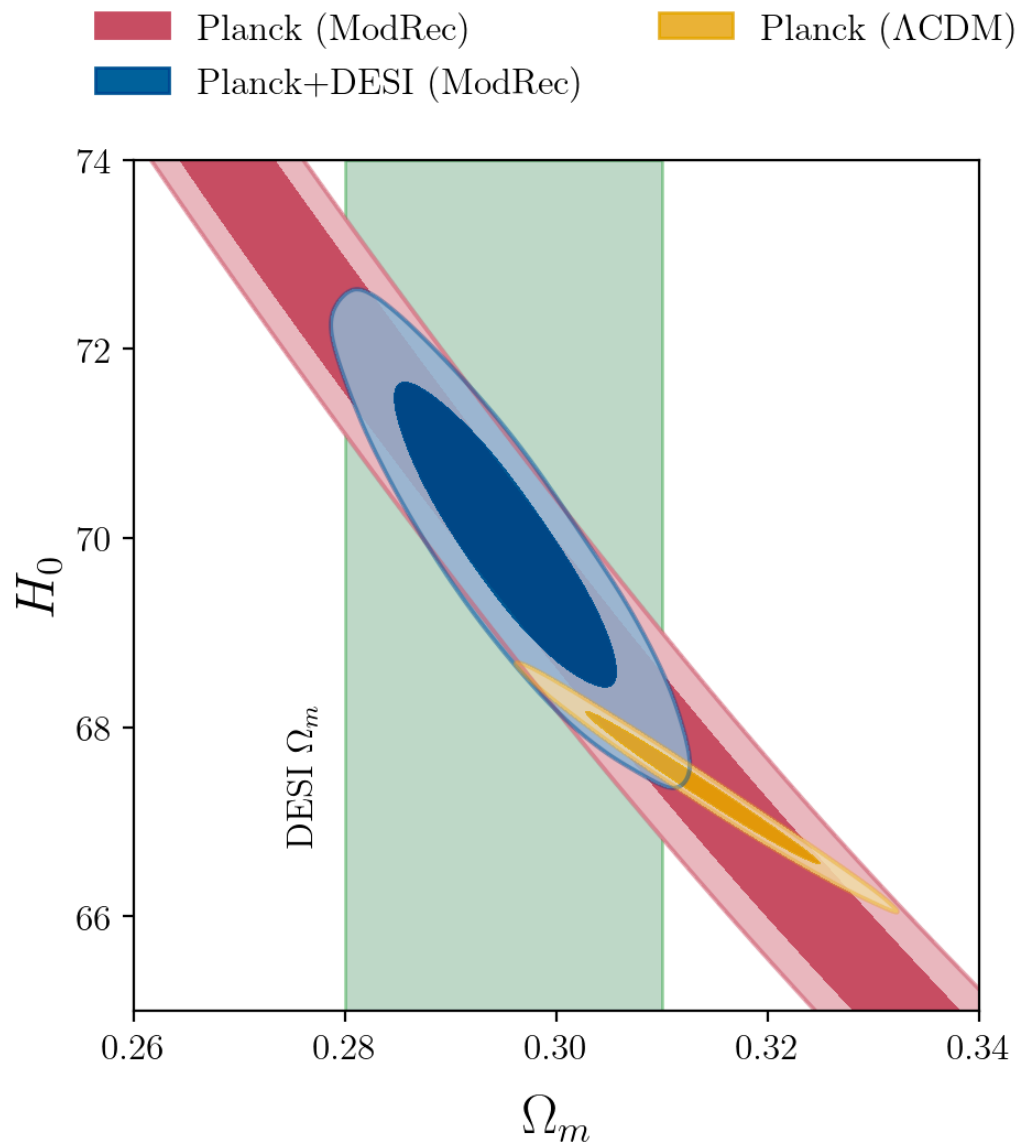
and

constraint on  $\Omega_m h^3$   
which correlates strongly in  
LCDM with the angular size  
of the sound horizon

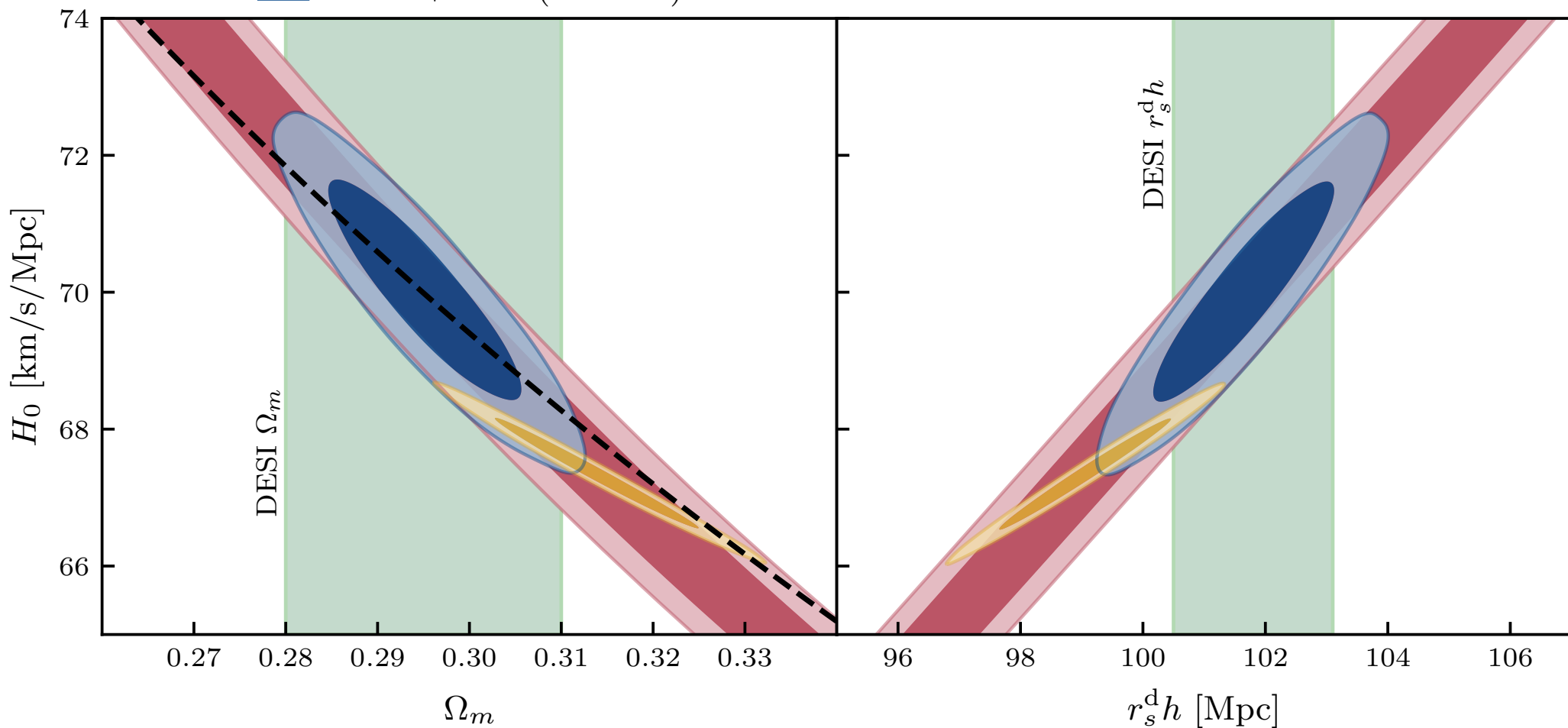




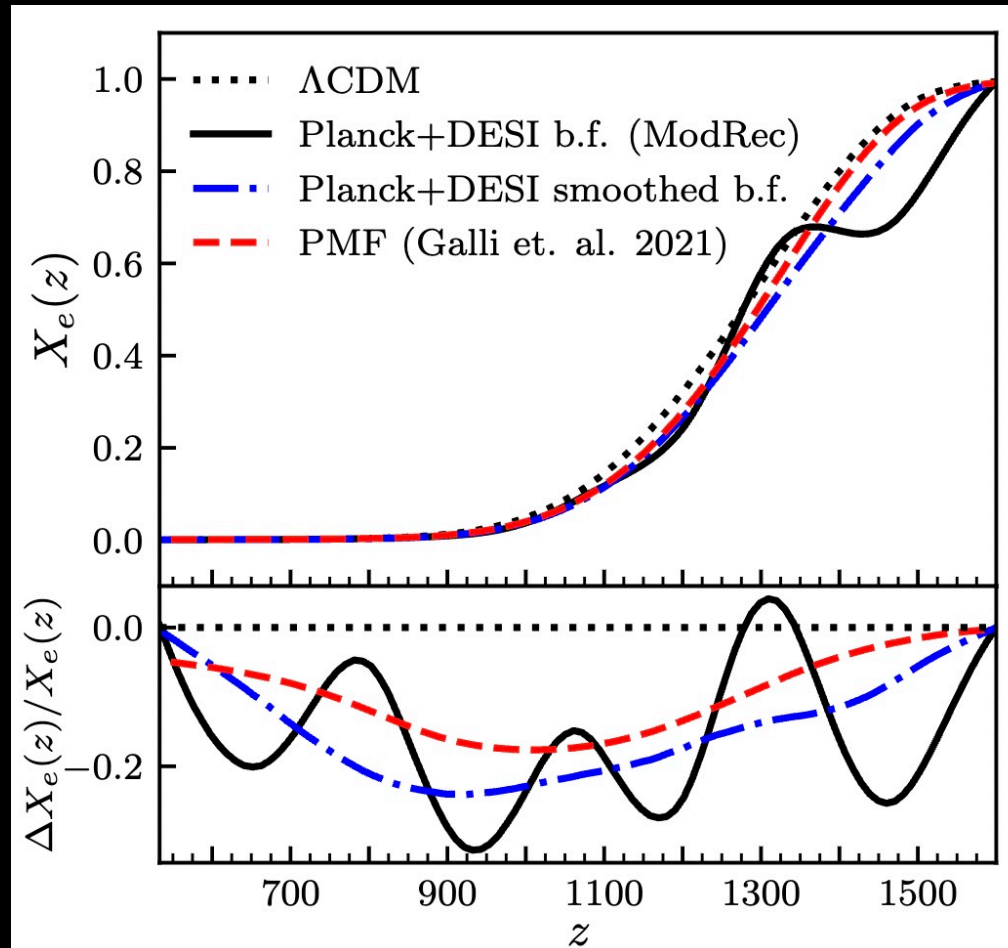




Planck (ModRec)      Planck ( $\Lambda$ CDM)     $-\ - \ \Omega_m h^2 = 0.1445$   
Planck+DESI (ModRec)



# What physics could cause this?



# CMB Theory

See talks tomorrow by Staggs and Schaan who will talk about experiments and the future

## Summary

- Angular scales of CMB power spectra that are very precisely measured are sensitive to gravitational potential evolution in the decade of scale factor evolution prior to matter-radiation equality.
- We explored this in some detail, together with constraints from photon diffusion, in the case of light relics. But the physics applies much more broadly to provide sensitivity to additional components and their interactions during that epoch.
- A “mirror world dark sector” together with something to scale up the Thomson scattering rate can allow for very high values of  $H_0$ , but it then raises questions about light element abundances.
- FFAT scaling is a useful tool for analytic understanding of parameter constraints.
- If we really have to accommodate a high  $H_0$ , it might have to do with the physics of recombination. I still see this as unlikely since the standard model works so well, an impressive success. The kind of recombination modifications that boost  $H_0$  are testable in the near future with forthcoming SPT-3G and ACT data!

This work is  
supported by grants  
from



and a gift from

Michael and Ester  
Vaida