

Cosmological probes of gravity

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Cosmological probes of gravity

Lecture 3

Observing the sky

The Hubble constant (H_0)

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

Type-Ia supernovae (SNIa)

Baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO)

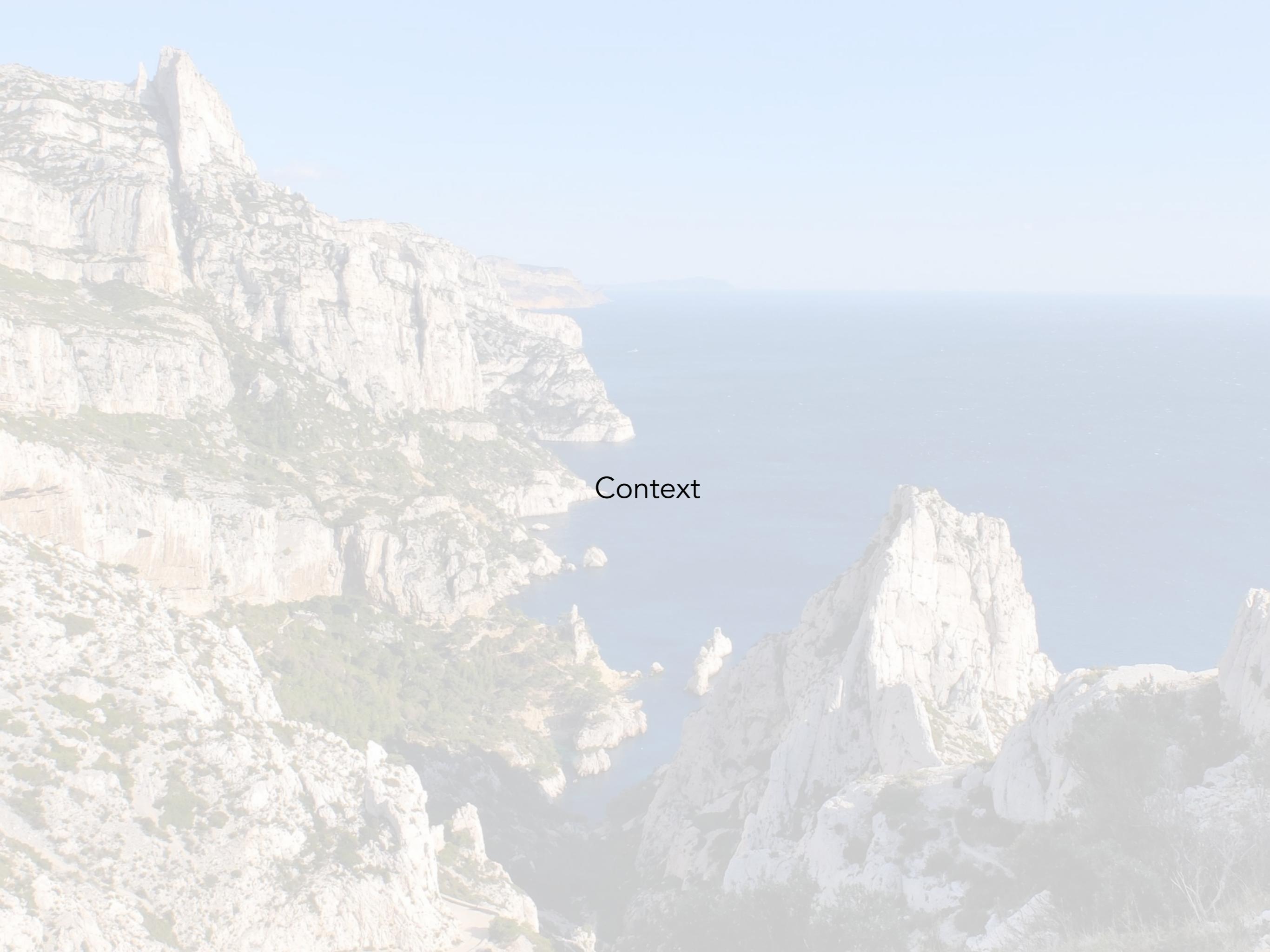
Lecture 4

Cosmic microwave background (CMB)

Redshift-space distortions (RSD)

Weak gravitational lensing (WL)

The future

A wide-angle photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored, layered rock formations with prominent vertical streaks. Some green vegetation is visible on the upper slopes. To the right, a dark blue body of water meets a distant, hazy shoreline under a clear sky.

Context

What is dark energy ?

What is causing the observed acceleration
of the expansion of the Universe

Spoiler: we don't know yet

Model for the expansion
General Relativity

Space-time properties



=

Energy content of the Universe

+ smooth Universe

$$H(t)^2 \sim \Omega_m[a(t)]^{-3}$$

Expansion-rate

p⁺, n, e⁻,
dark matter

30%

$$\Omega_r[a(t)]^{-4}$$

photons,
neutrinos

0.008%

$$+ \Omega_\Lambda[a(t)]^{-3(1+w_0+w_a)} e^{3w_a[1-a(t)]}$$

dark energy
(quintessence, phantom force)

70%

The only one causing acceleration of the expansion!



Model for the expansion
General Relativity

Space-time
properties



Energy content
of the Universe

+ smooth Universe

No fundamental origin for Λ !

$$\Omega_\Lambda[a(t)]^{-3(1+w_0+w_a)} e^{3w_a[1-a(t)]}$$

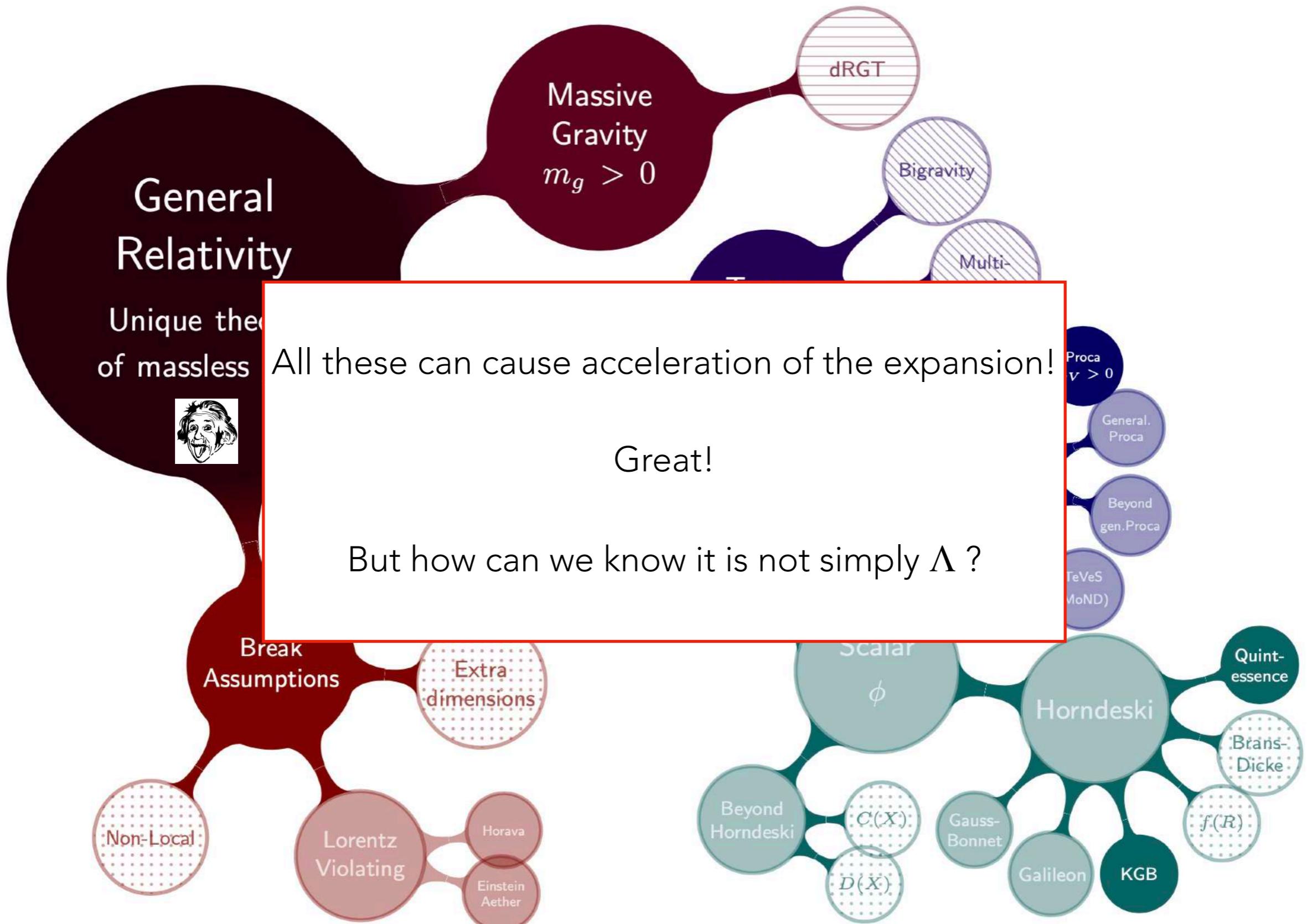
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The only one causing acceleration of the expansion!

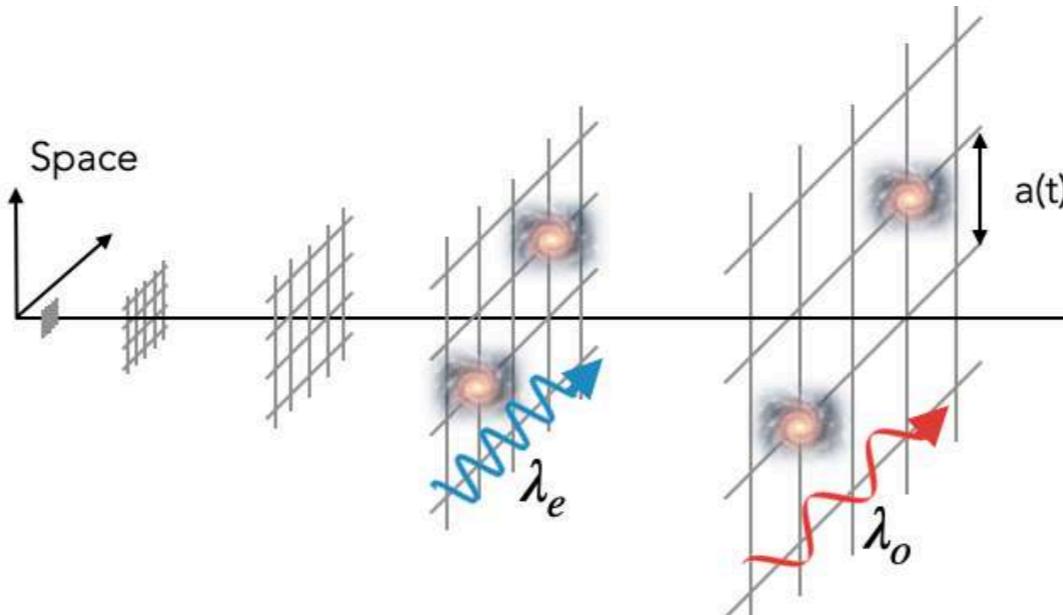


Physically motivated theory ? Alternatives or extensions of General Relativity



What is dark energy ?

The acceleration problem

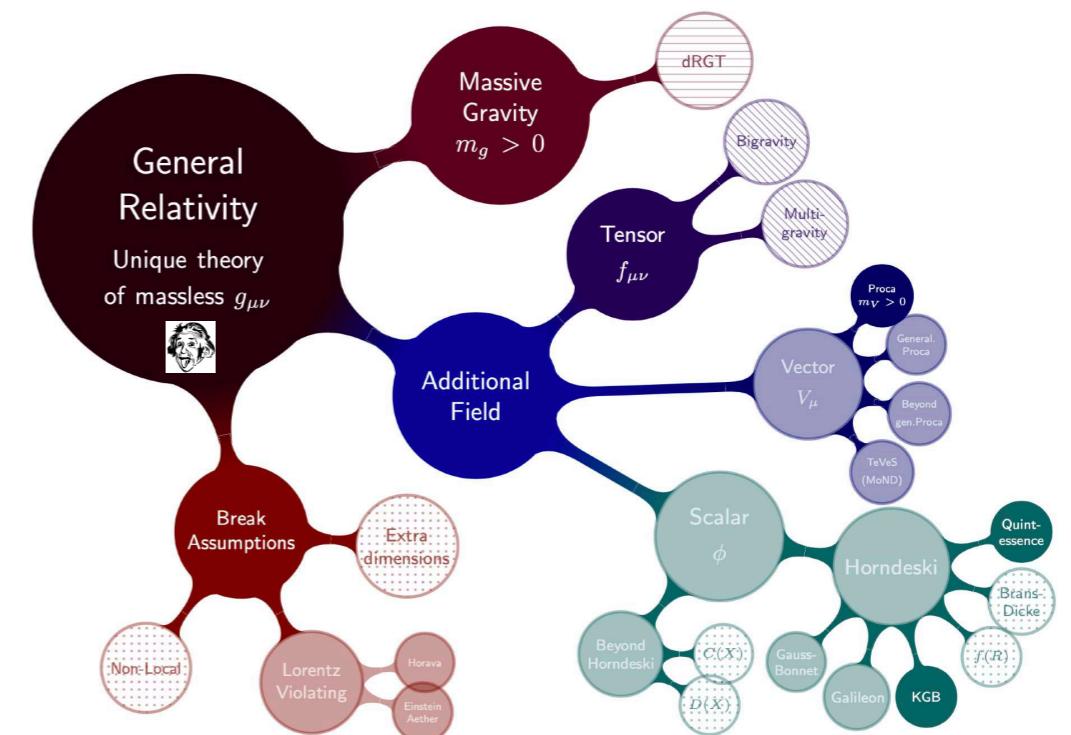


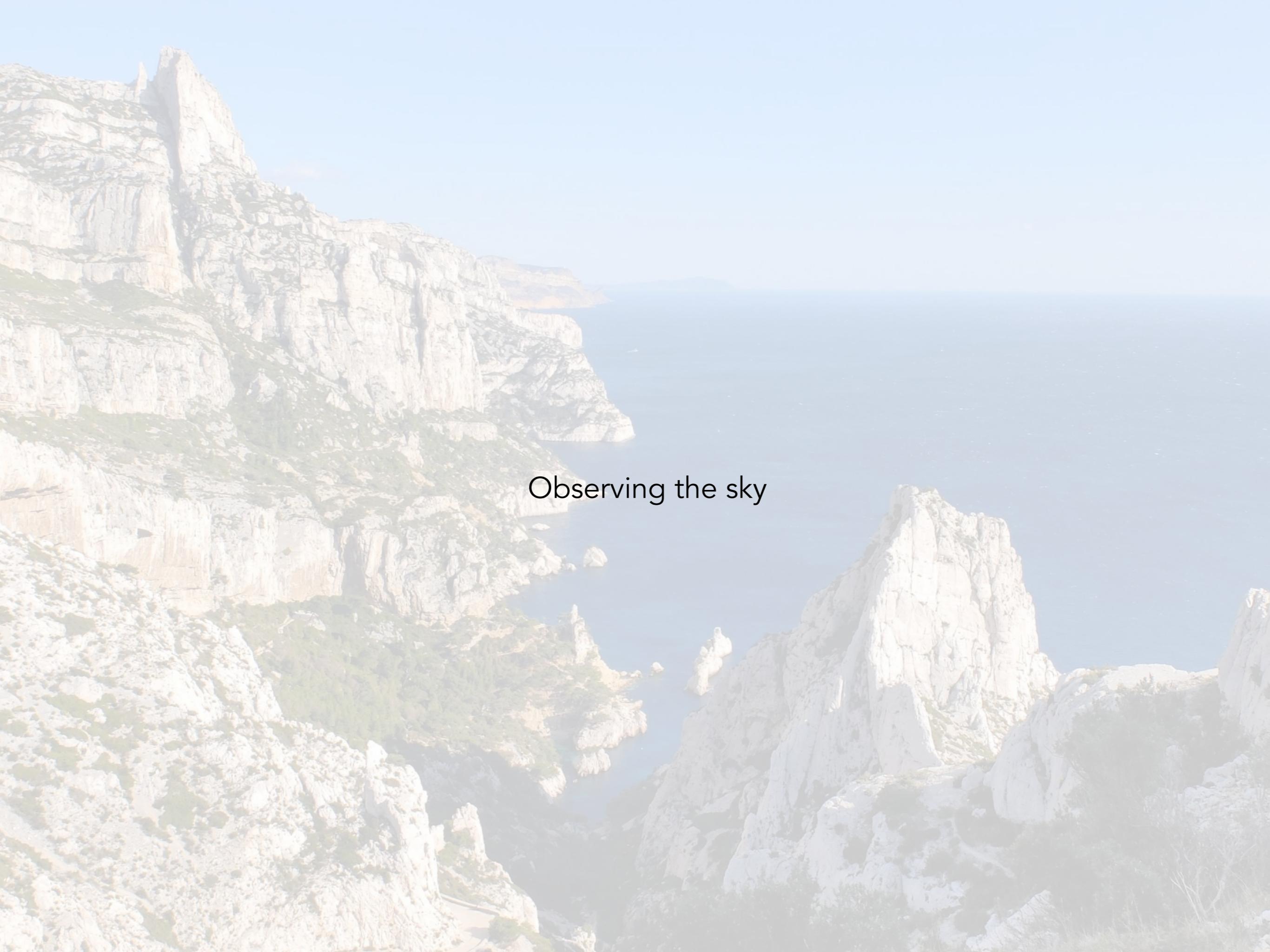
$$\Omega_\Lambda [a(t)]^{-3(1+w_0+w_a)} e^{3w_a[1-a(t)]}$$

dark energy
(quintessence, phantom force)

70%

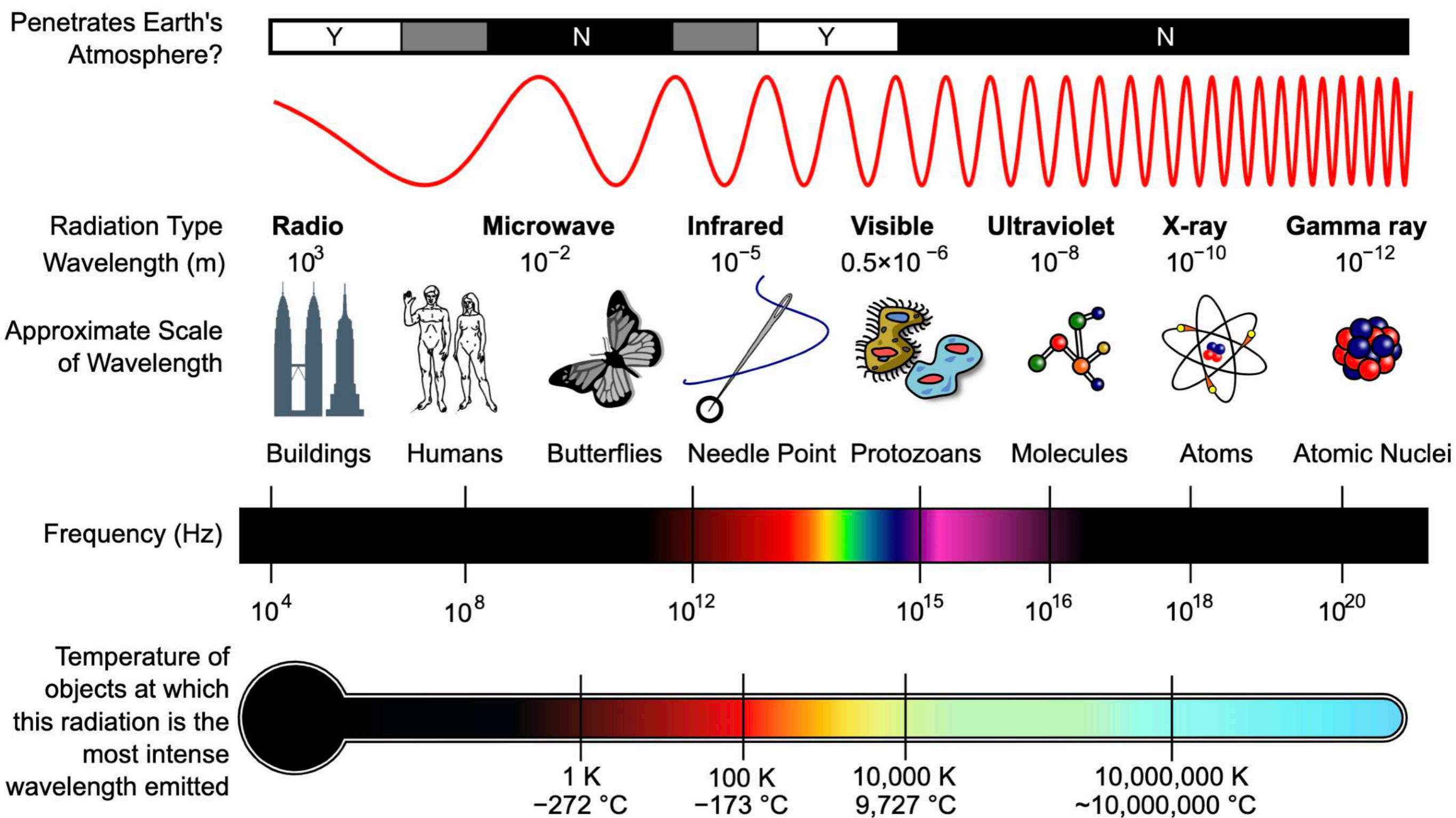
or



A wide-angle photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, there are steep, light-colored cliffs with vertical rock faces and some sparse green vegetation. A winding road or path is visible along the base of one of the cliffs. The middle ground shows a deep blue sea with several small, white, rocky islets or stacks rising from the water. In the background, more cliffs and hills are visible under a clear, light blue sky.

Observing the sky

The electromagnetic spectrum



Source: WikiMedia

Astroparticles

Photons

- gamma rays
- not great for large distances

Protons & co.

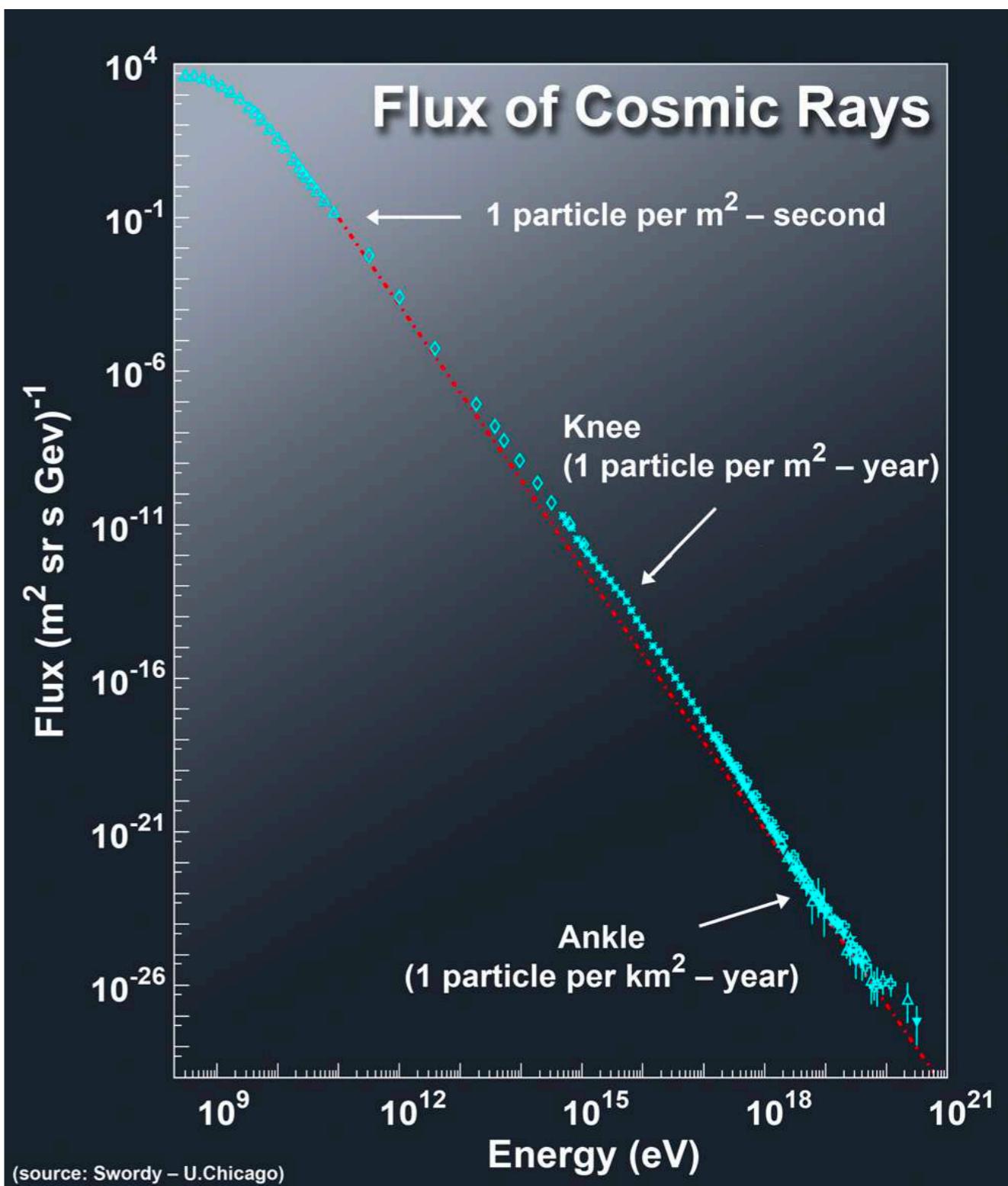
- astrophysics of black holes, supernovae, etc
- affected by magnetic fields

Neutrinos

- oscillations -> mass!
- supernovae
- cosmic background ?

Gravitational waves
New since 2016!

- gravity probe
- distance estimator



Cosmological probes of gravity

The Hubble constant (H_0)

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

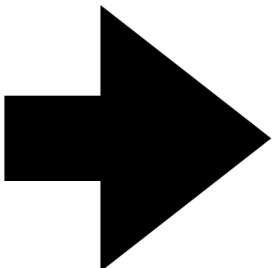
Type-Ia supernovae (SNIa)

Baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO)

Cosmic microwave background (CMB)

Redshift-space distortions (RSD)

Weak gravitational lensing (WL)



Based on observations of visible light
(or almost)

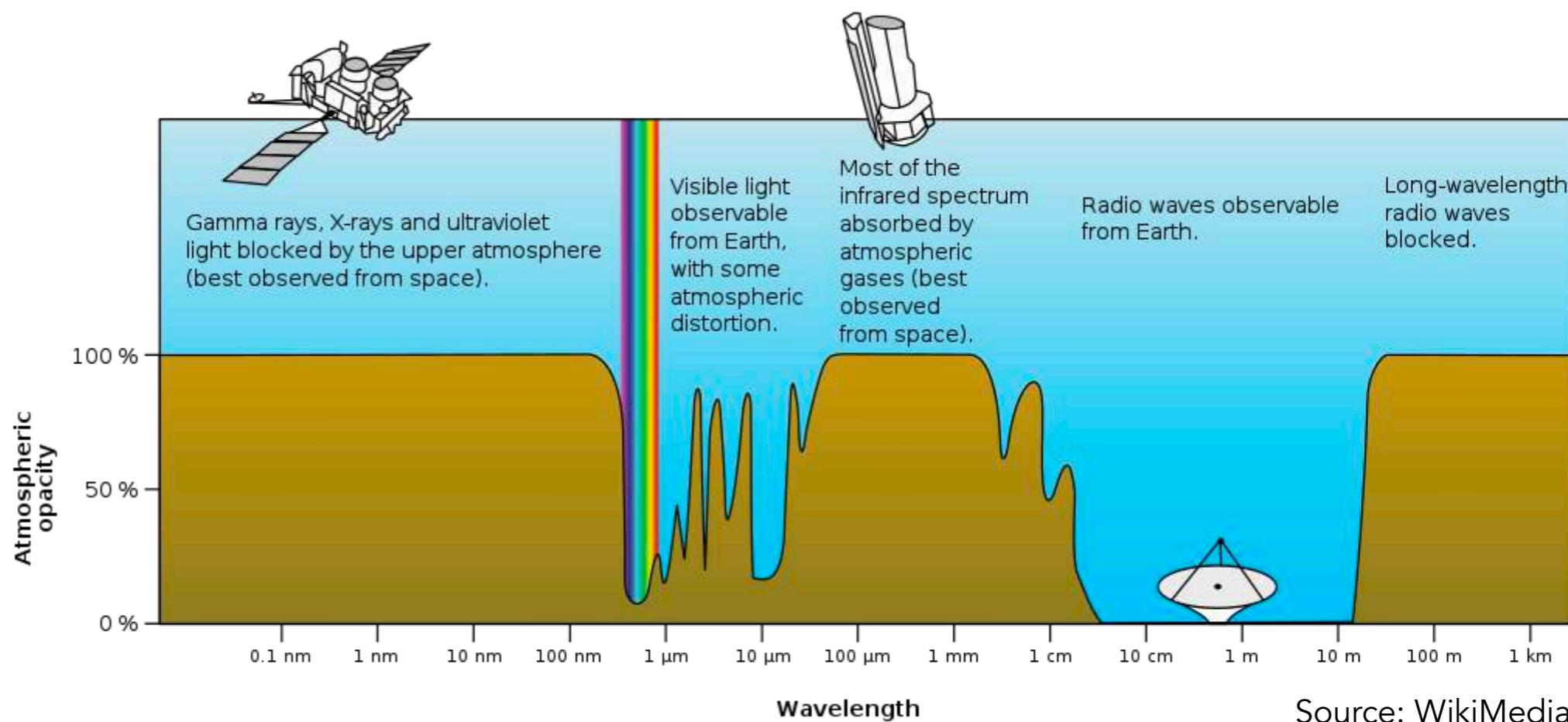
Photometry or Spectroscopy

Observing (nearly-) visible light with photometry or spectroscopy

- Source
- Absorption by surroundings
- Absorption by intergalactic medium
- Absorption by Milky Way dust
- Absorption by atmosphere

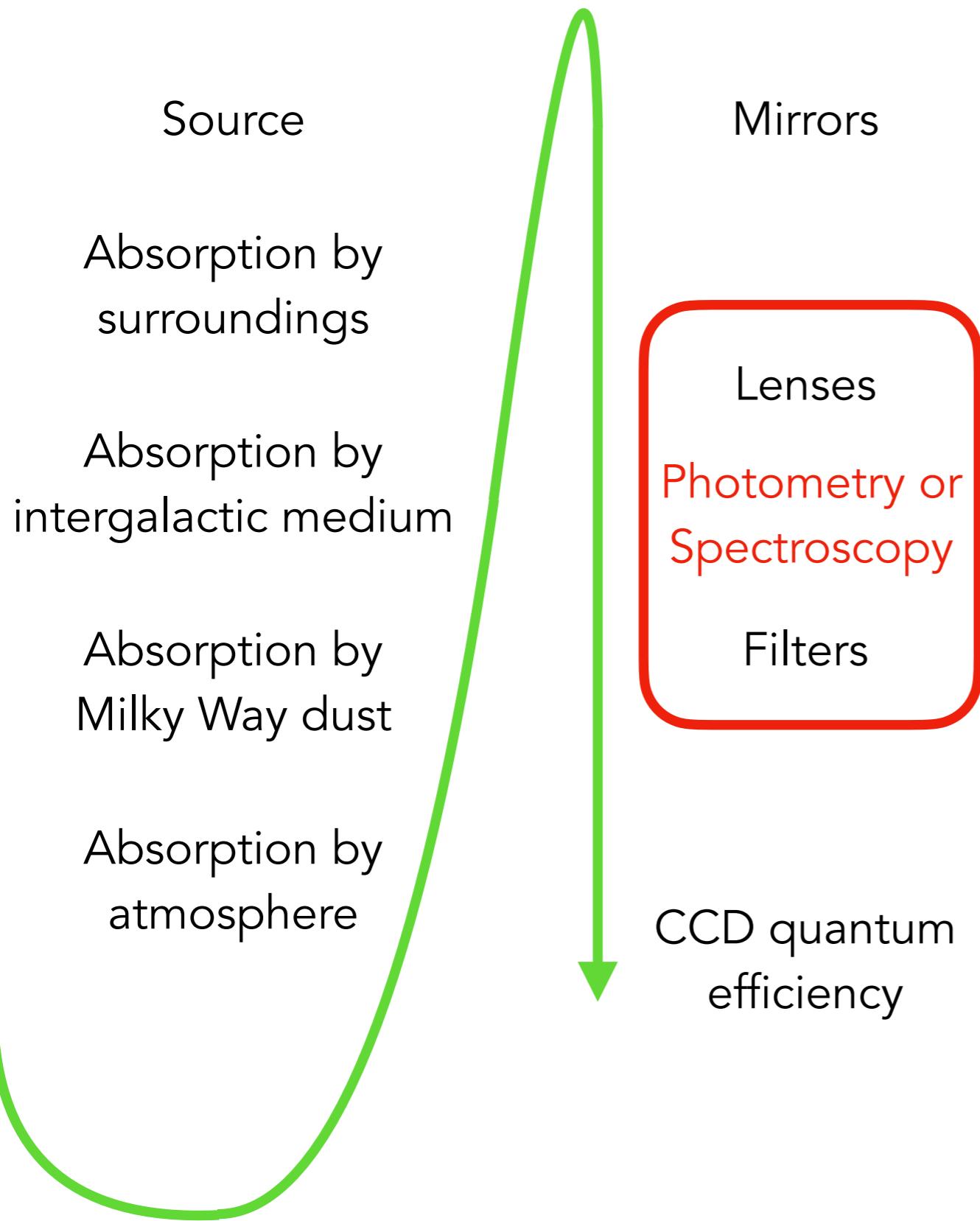


Source: flickr.com/photos/andrew_thomas_73

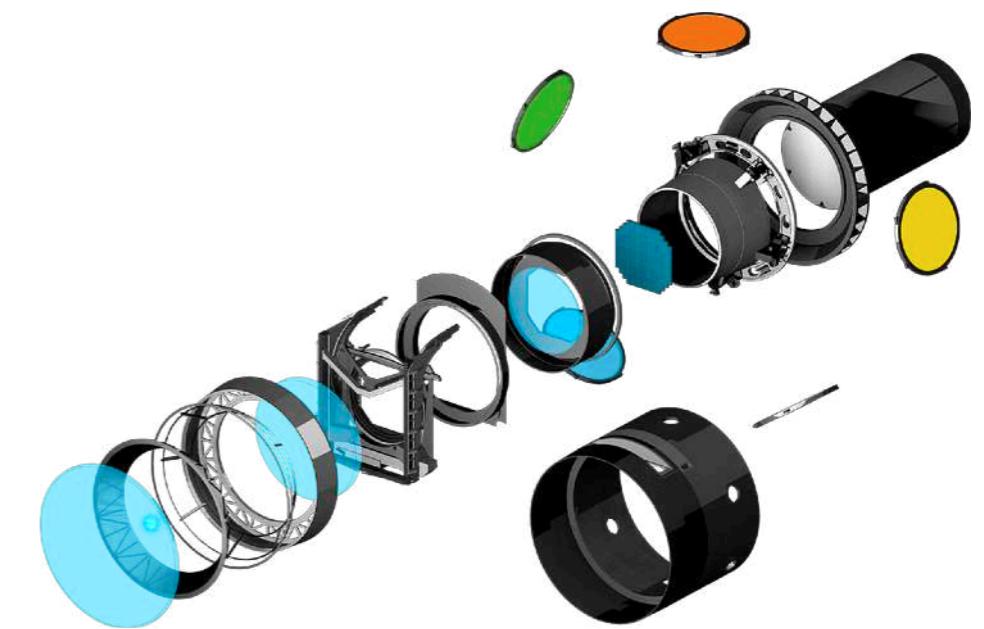


Source: Wikimedia

Observing (nearly-) visible light with photometry or spectroscopy



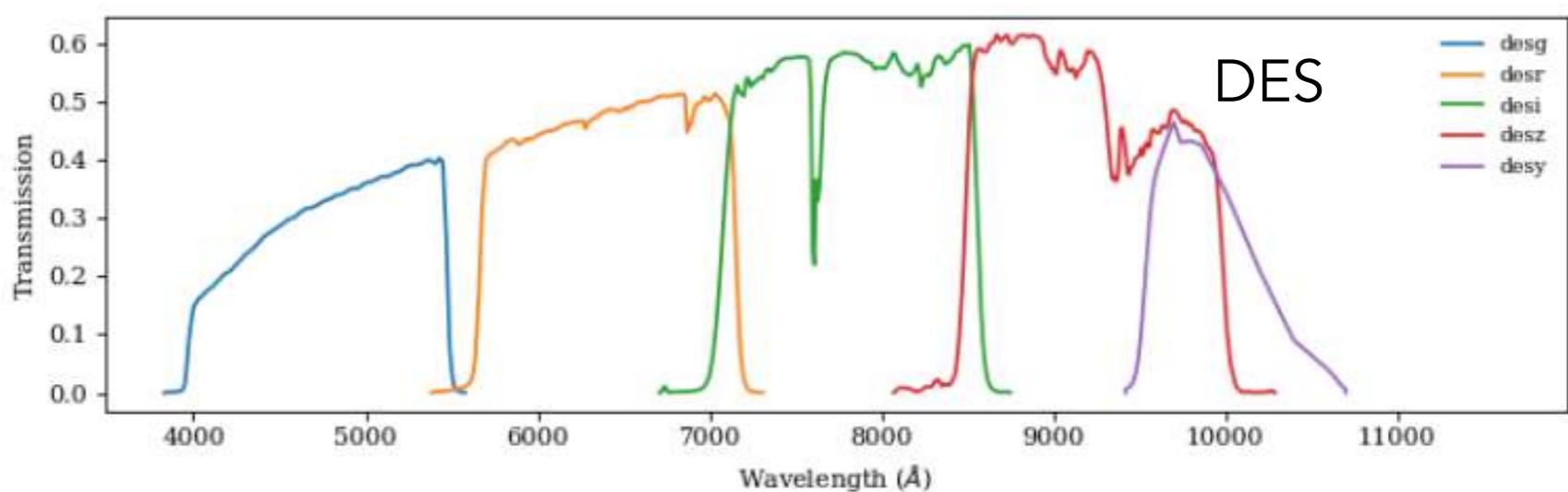
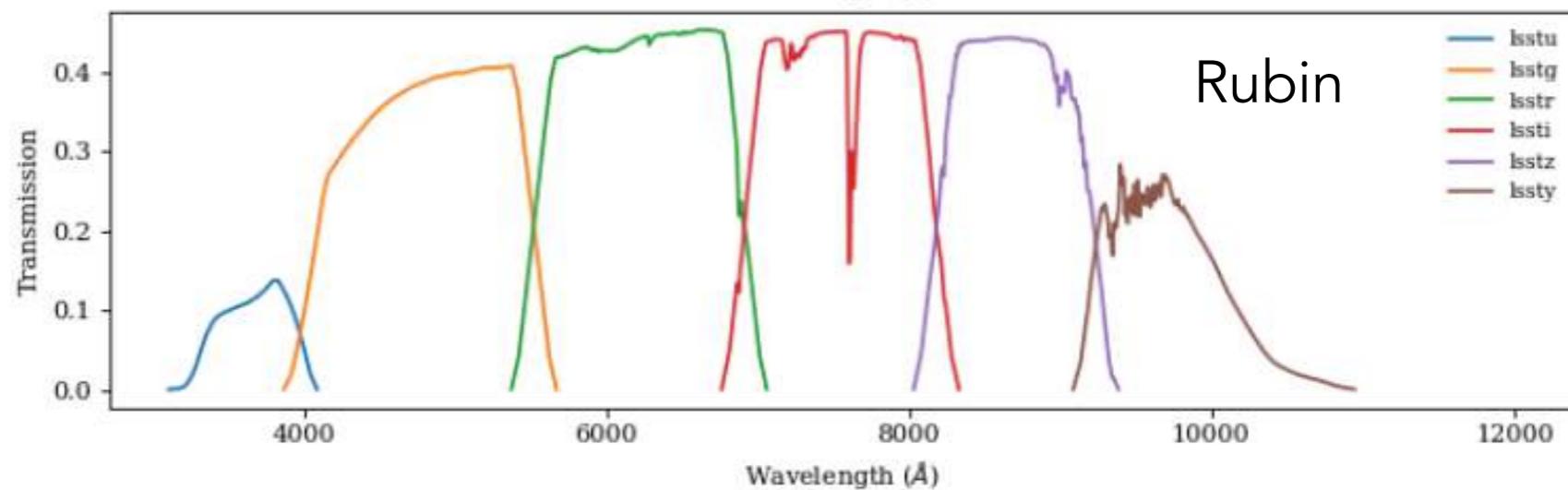
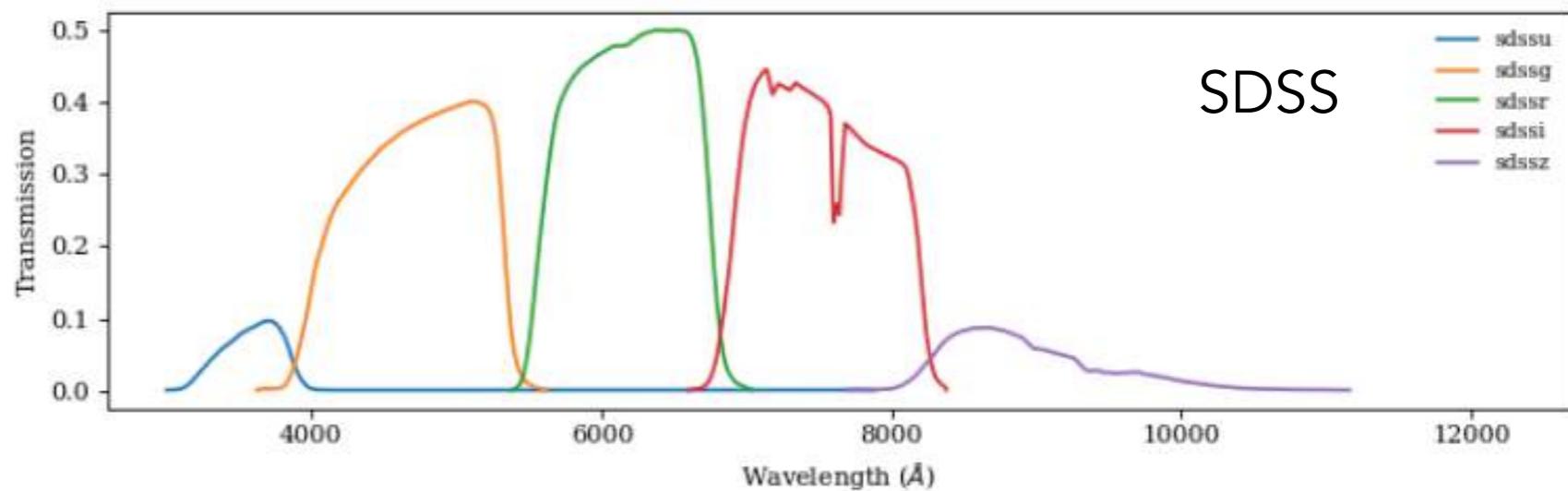
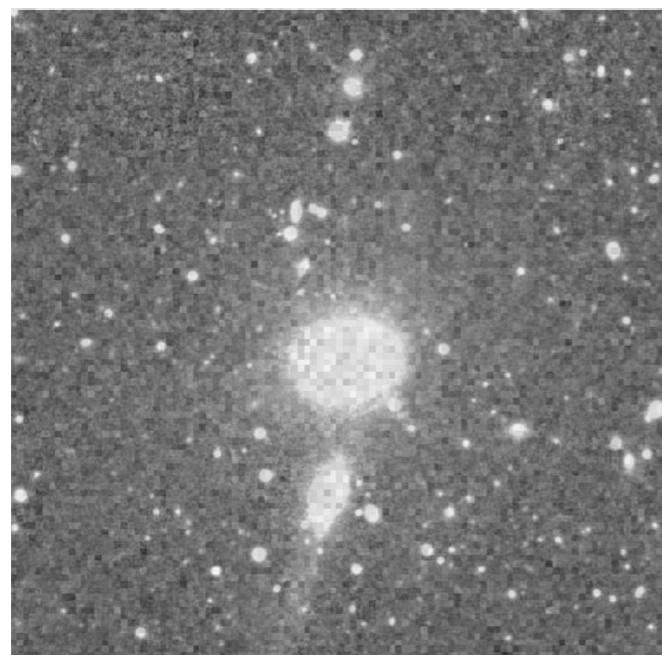
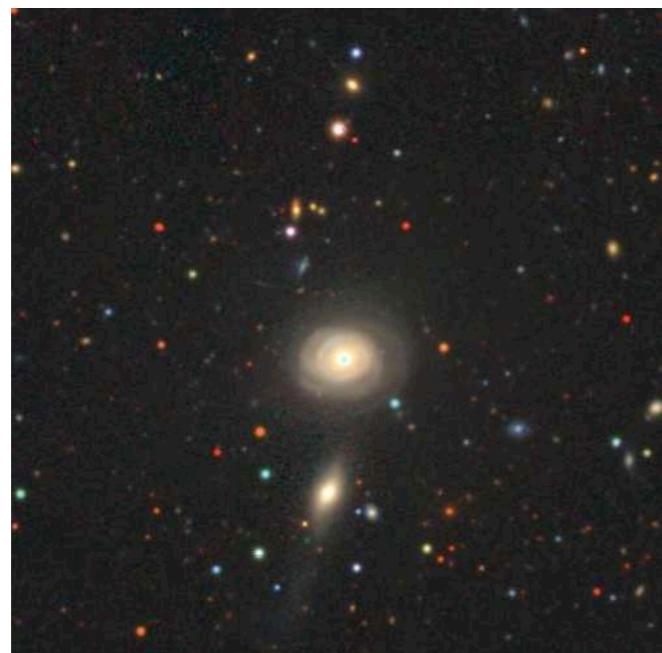
Source: lsst.org



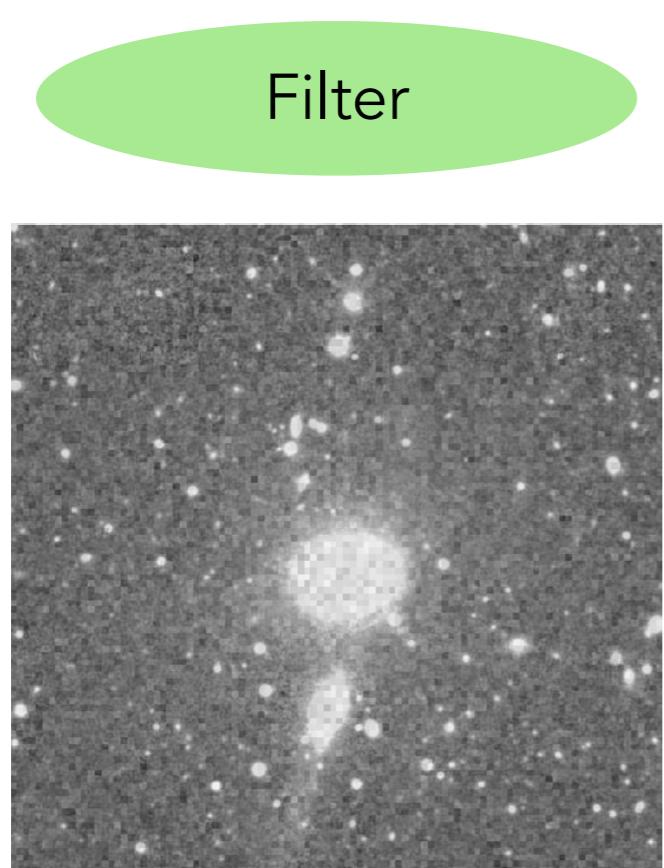
Source: lsst.slac.stanford.edu

Photometry

Examples of filters

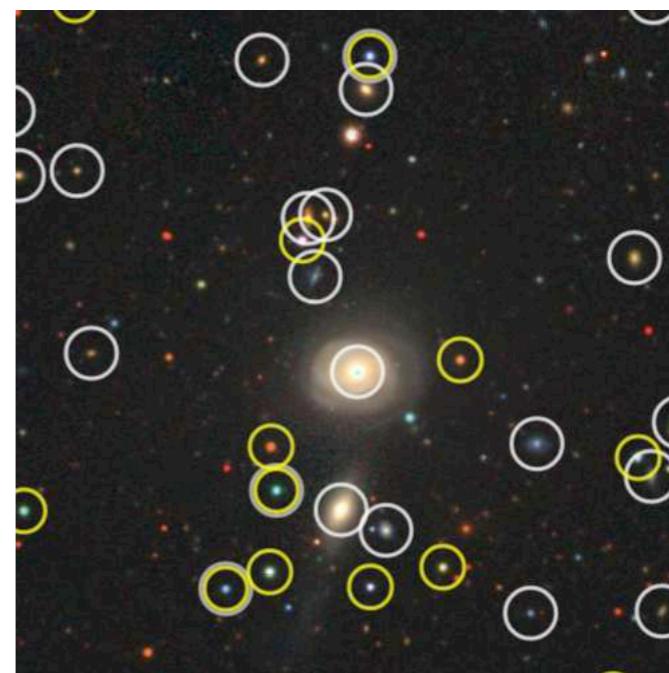


Photometry

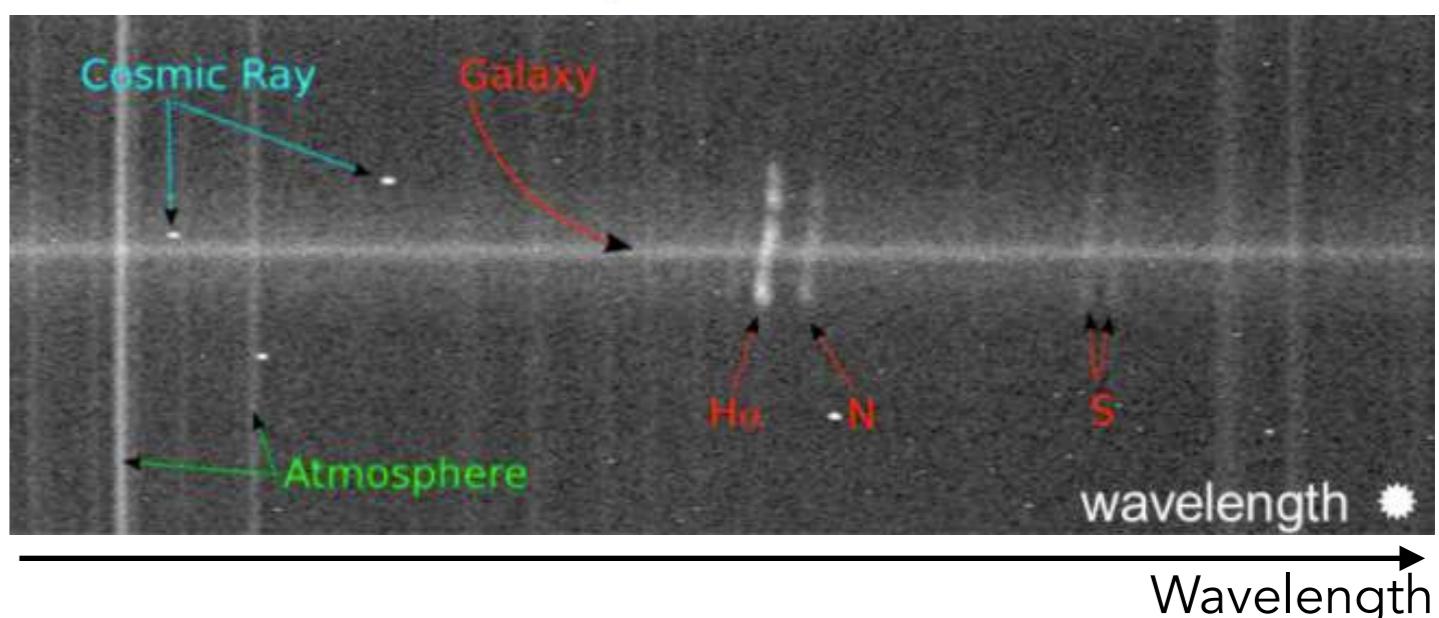
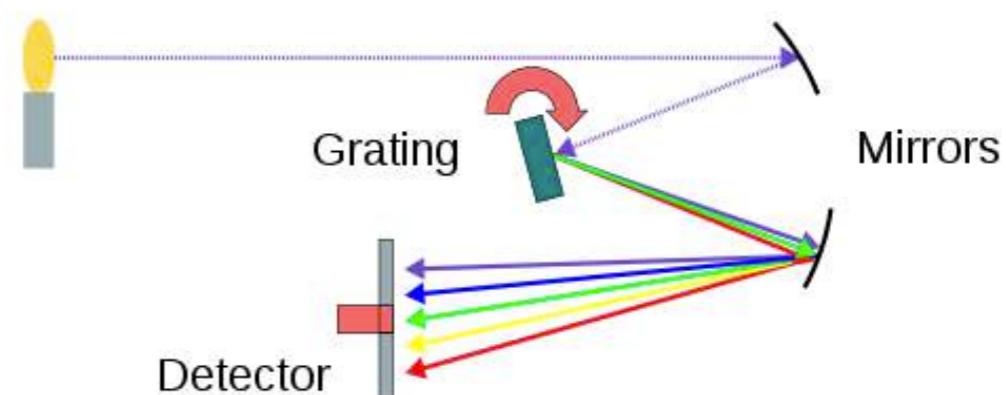


Filter

Spectroscopy



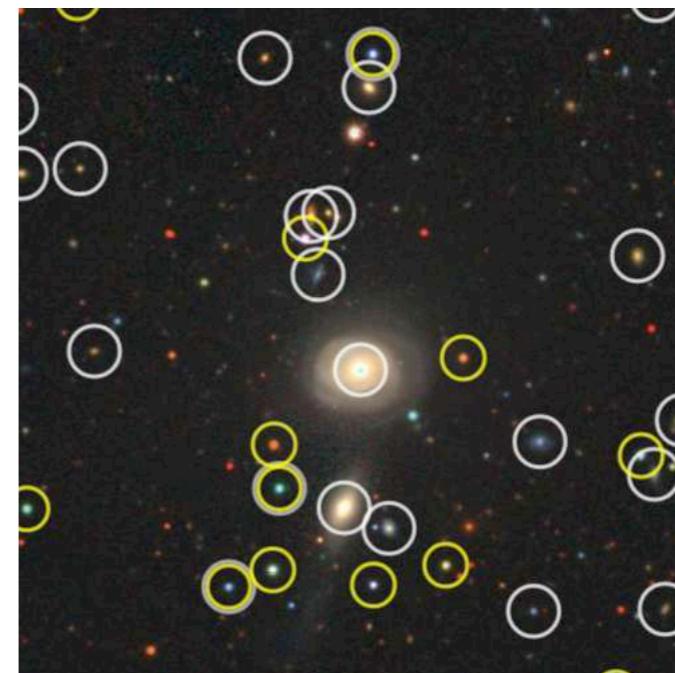
Source



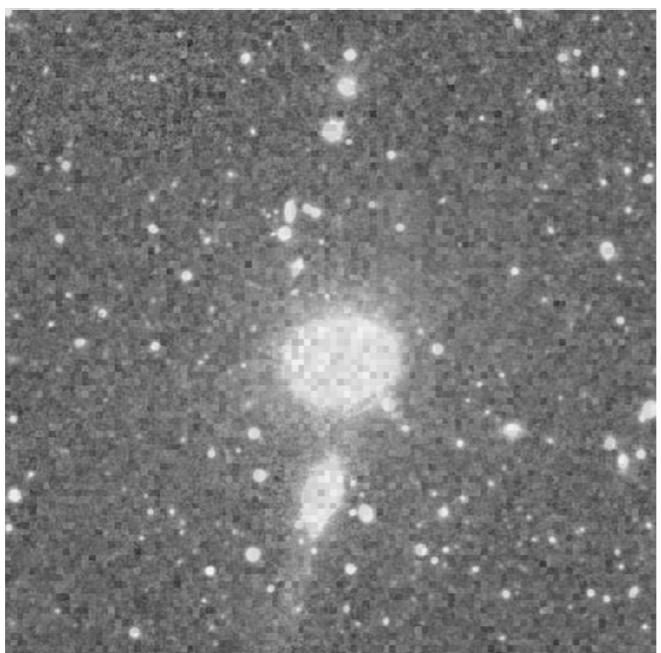
Photometry



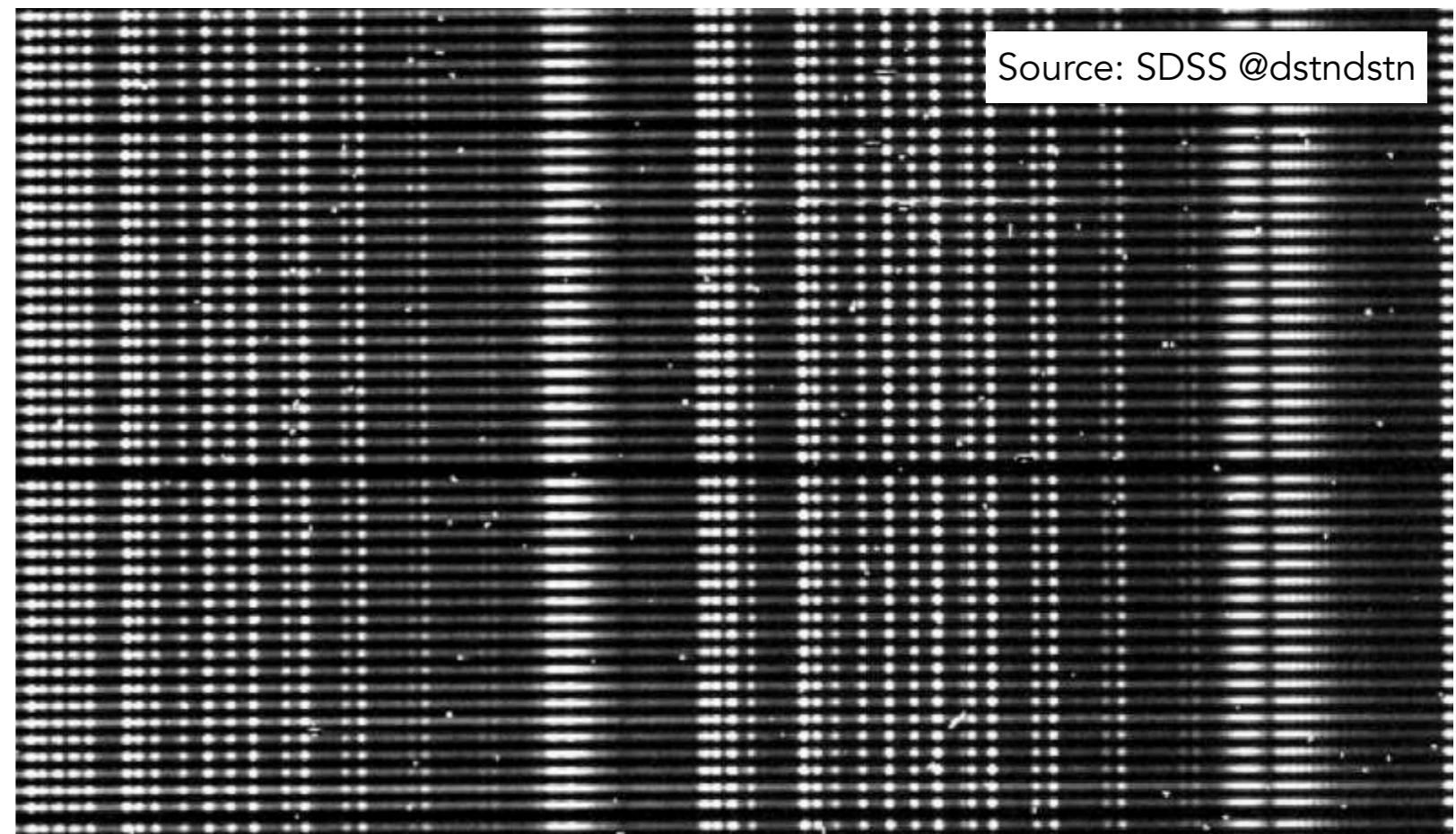
Spectroscopy



Filter



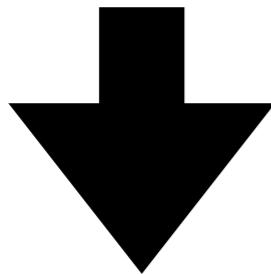
Objects



Wavelength

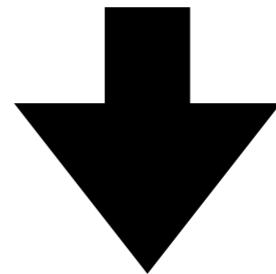
Photometry

- 2D image, spatial information
- higher signal-to-noise
- no selection required
- rough spectral information



Spectroscopy

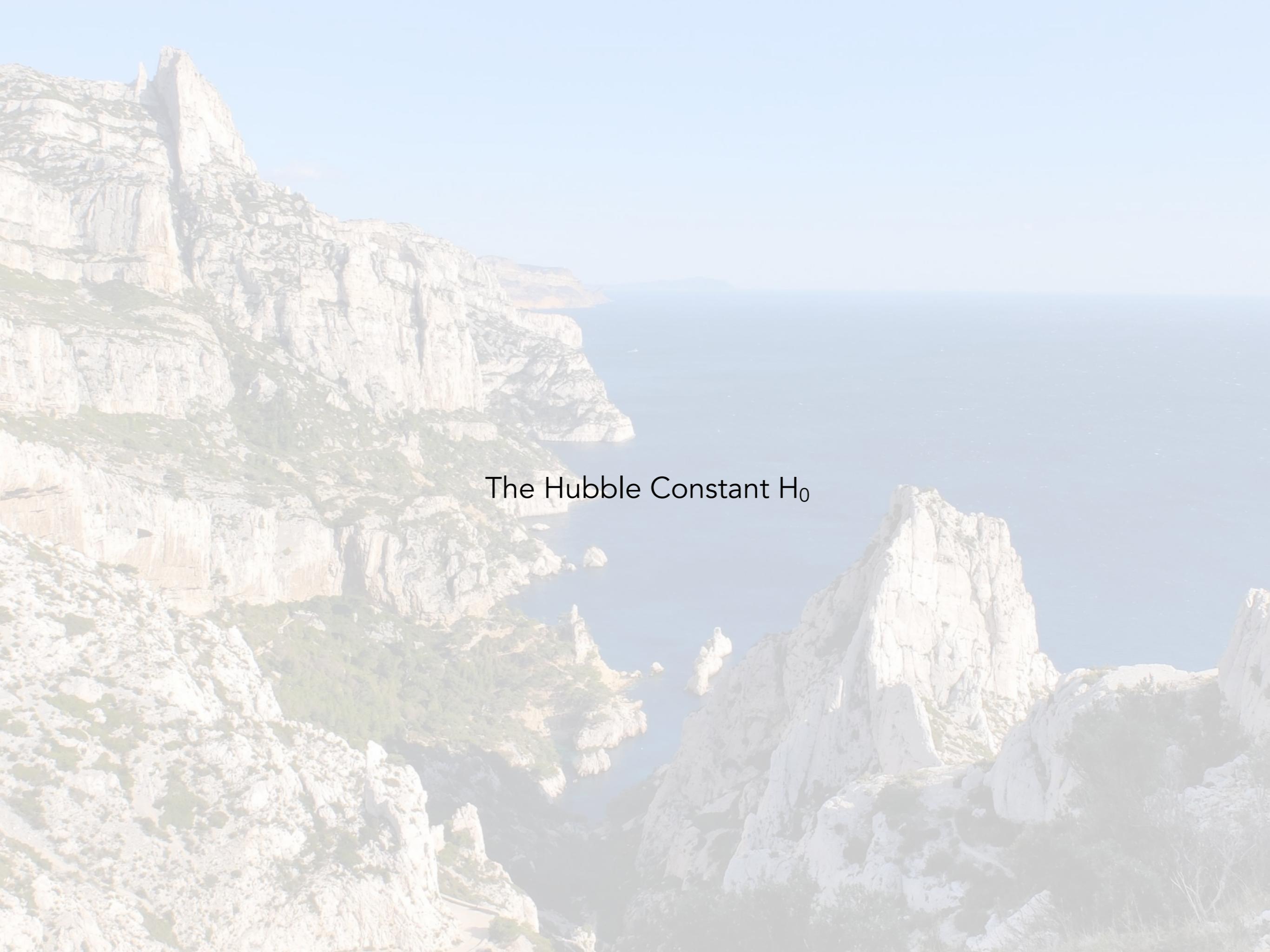
- 1D information
- requires large exposure times
- selection of targets required
- fine spectral information



Less selection effects (SNIa)
Great for galaxy shapes (WL)

Better redshifts for clustering (BAO, RSD)
Better physical characterisation of galaxies/stars

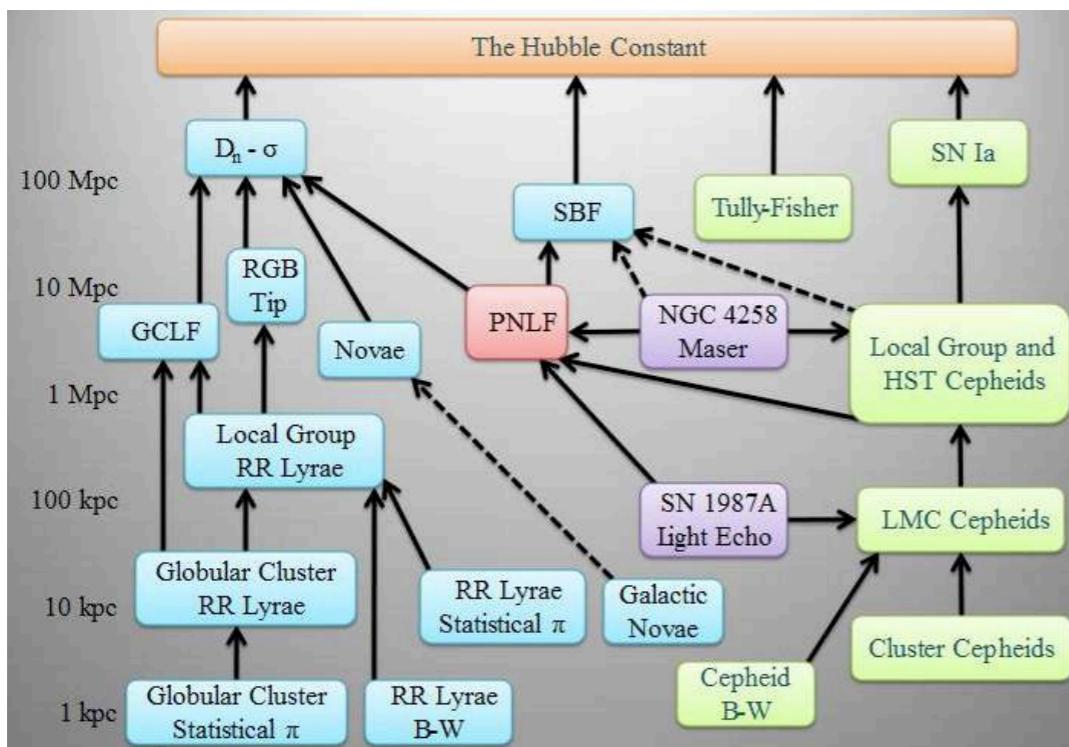
Both are essential for cosmology

The background image shows a dramatic coastal scene with light-colored, layered rock cliffs rising from a dark blue sea. The sky is clear and pale. In the foreground, the rocky textures of the cliffs are prominent.

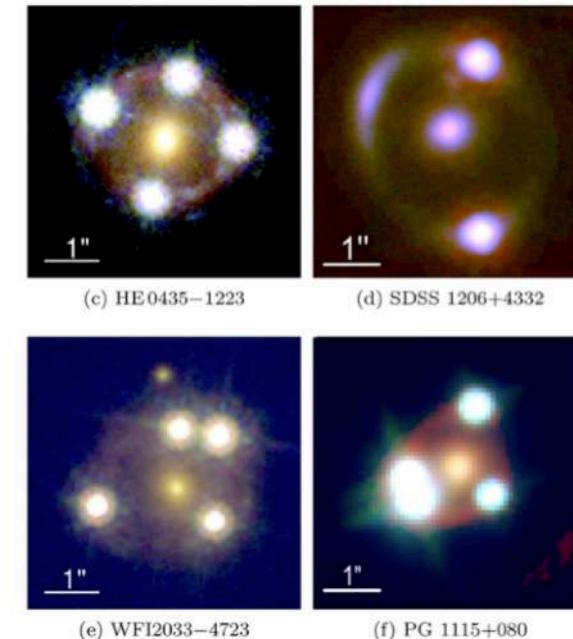
The Hubble Constant H_0

The Hubble Constant H_0

Distance ladder

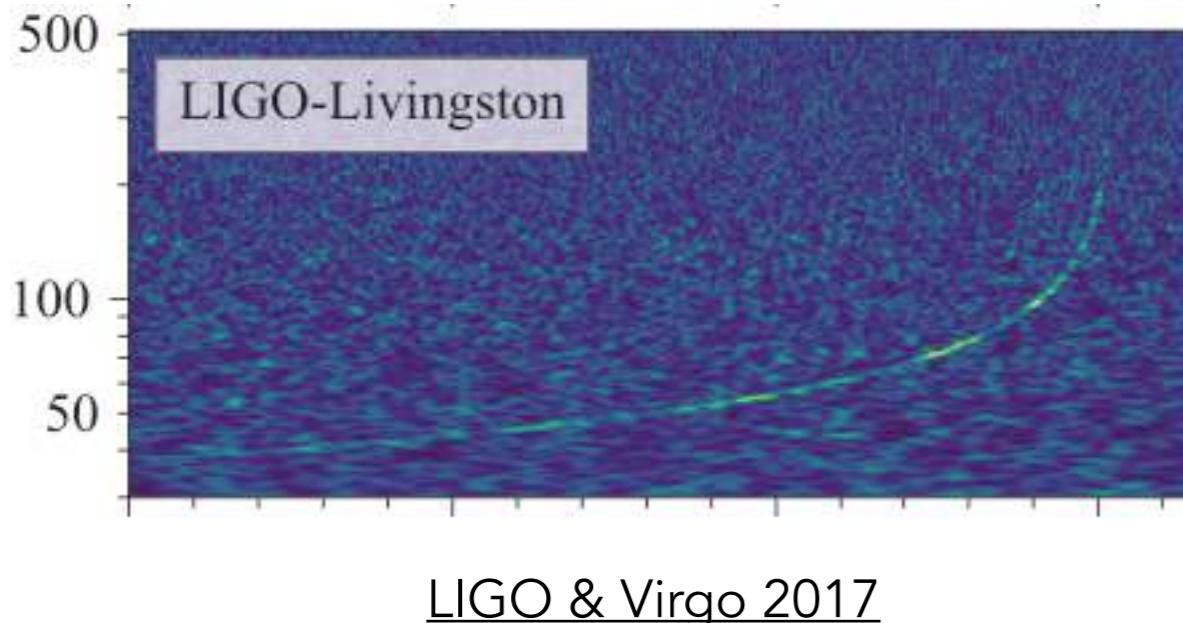


Strong lensing of variable quasars



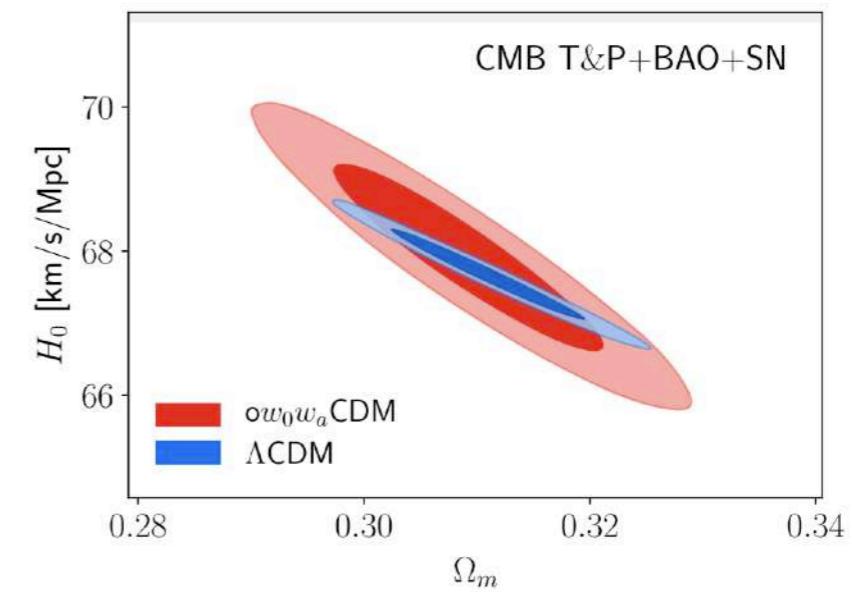
H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

Standard sirens



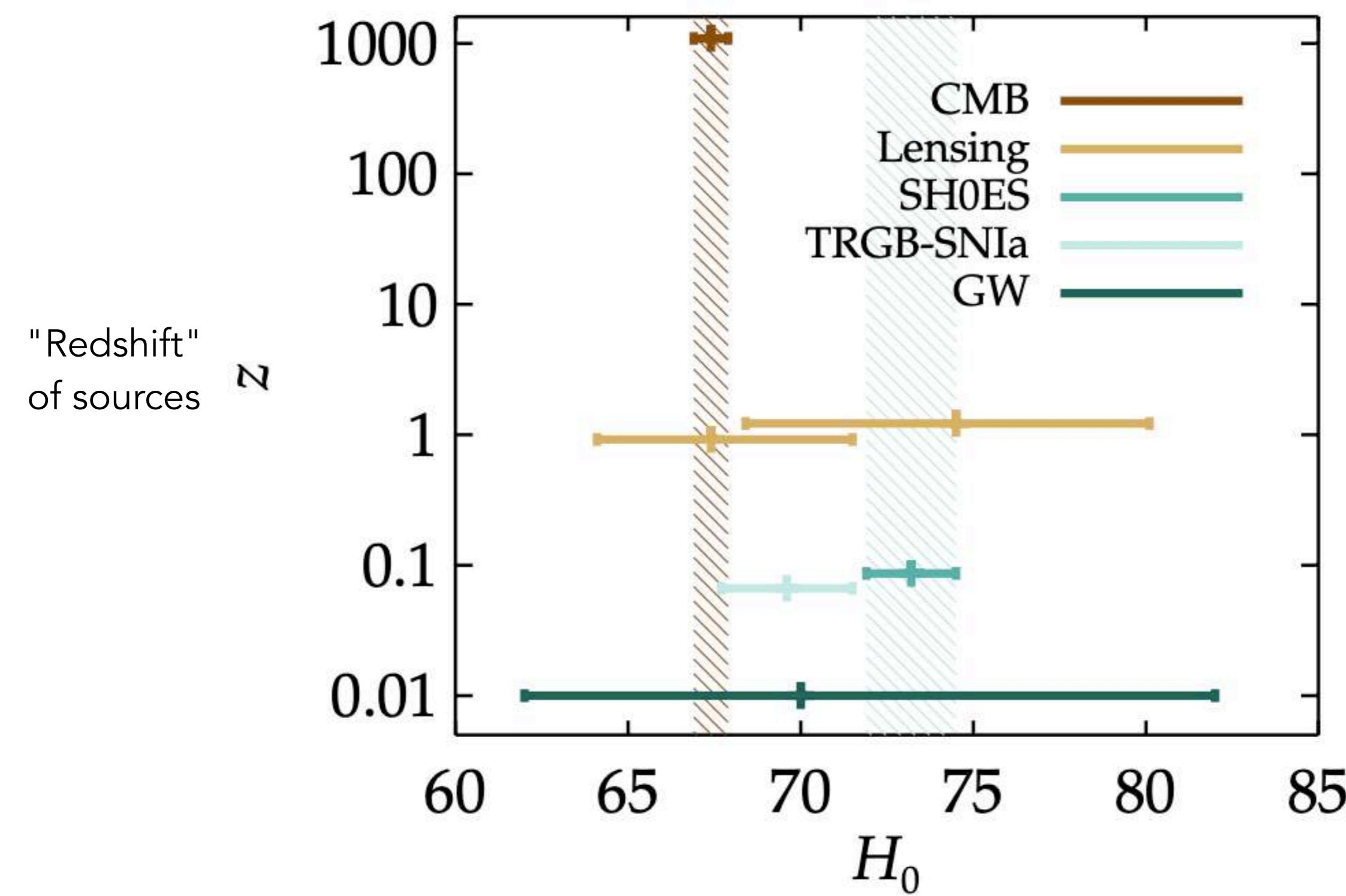
LIGO & Virgo 2017

Inverse distance ladder



eBOSS Collab 2021

The Hubble Constant H_0



Mörtsell et al. 2021a

Distance Ladder

Parallax of Cepheids in the Milky Way

NEW PARALLAX LIMIT

OLD
PARALLAX
LIMIT

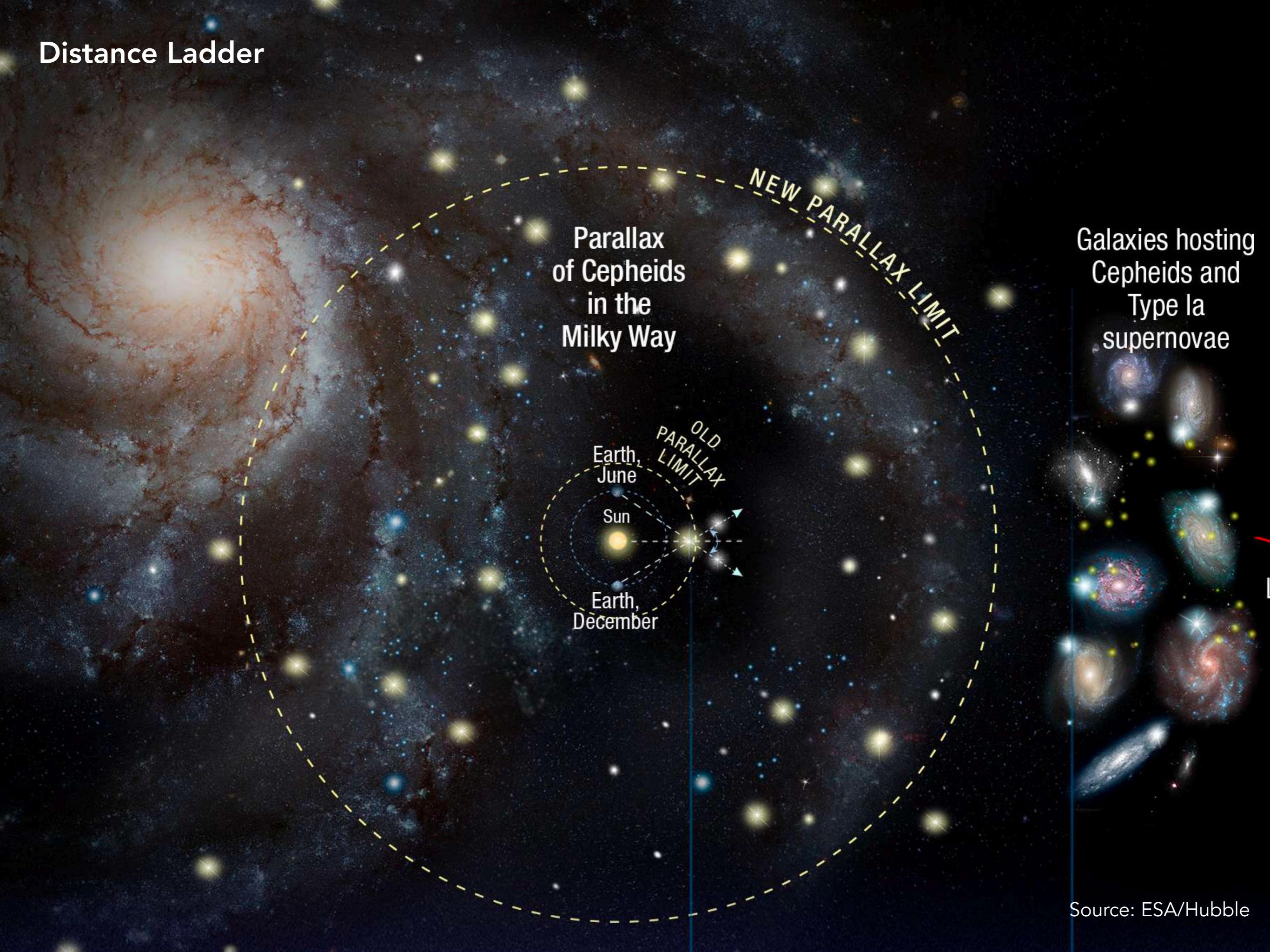
Earth,
June

Sun

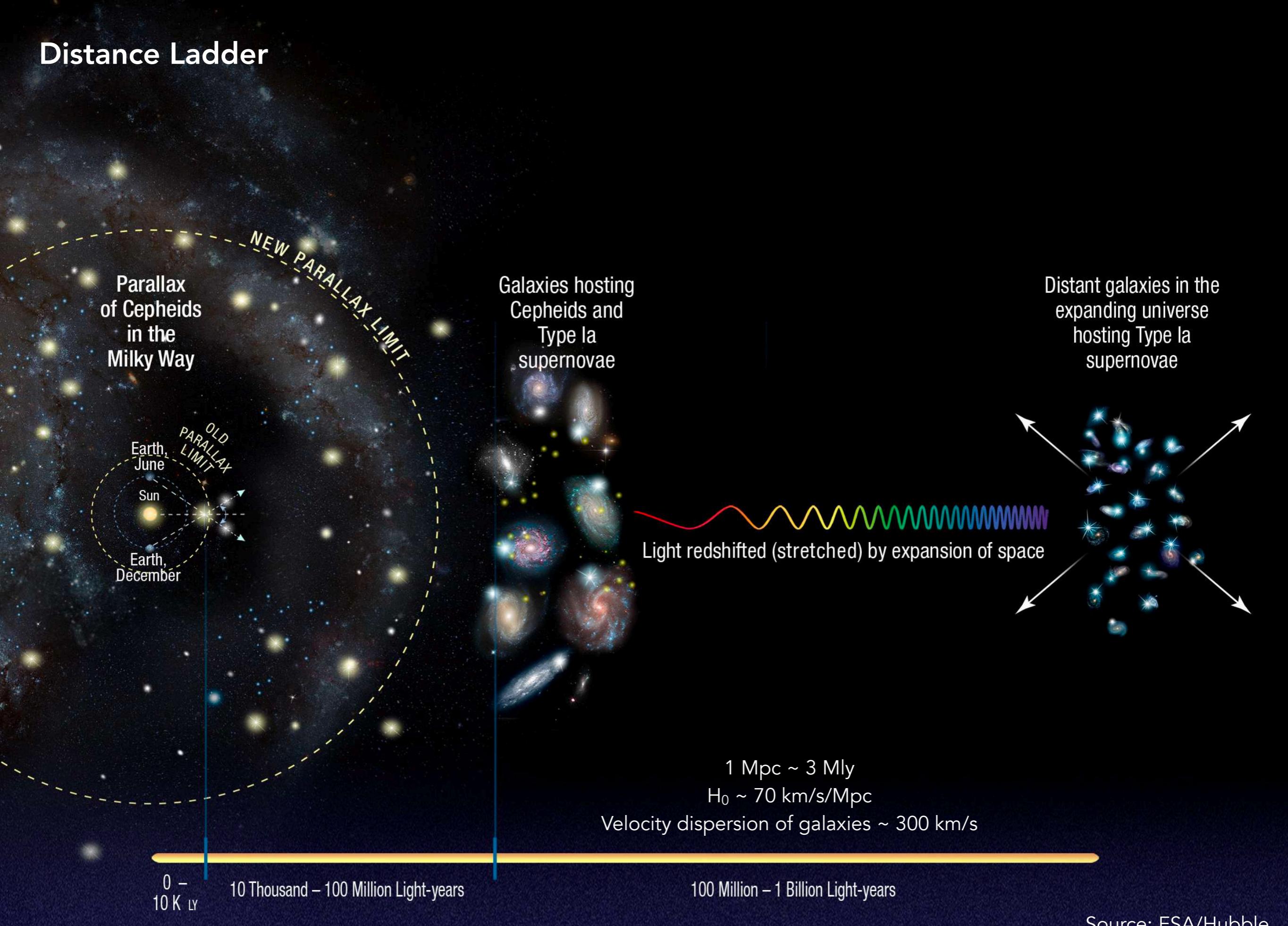
Earth,
December

Source: ESA/Hubble

Distance Ladder



Distance Ladder



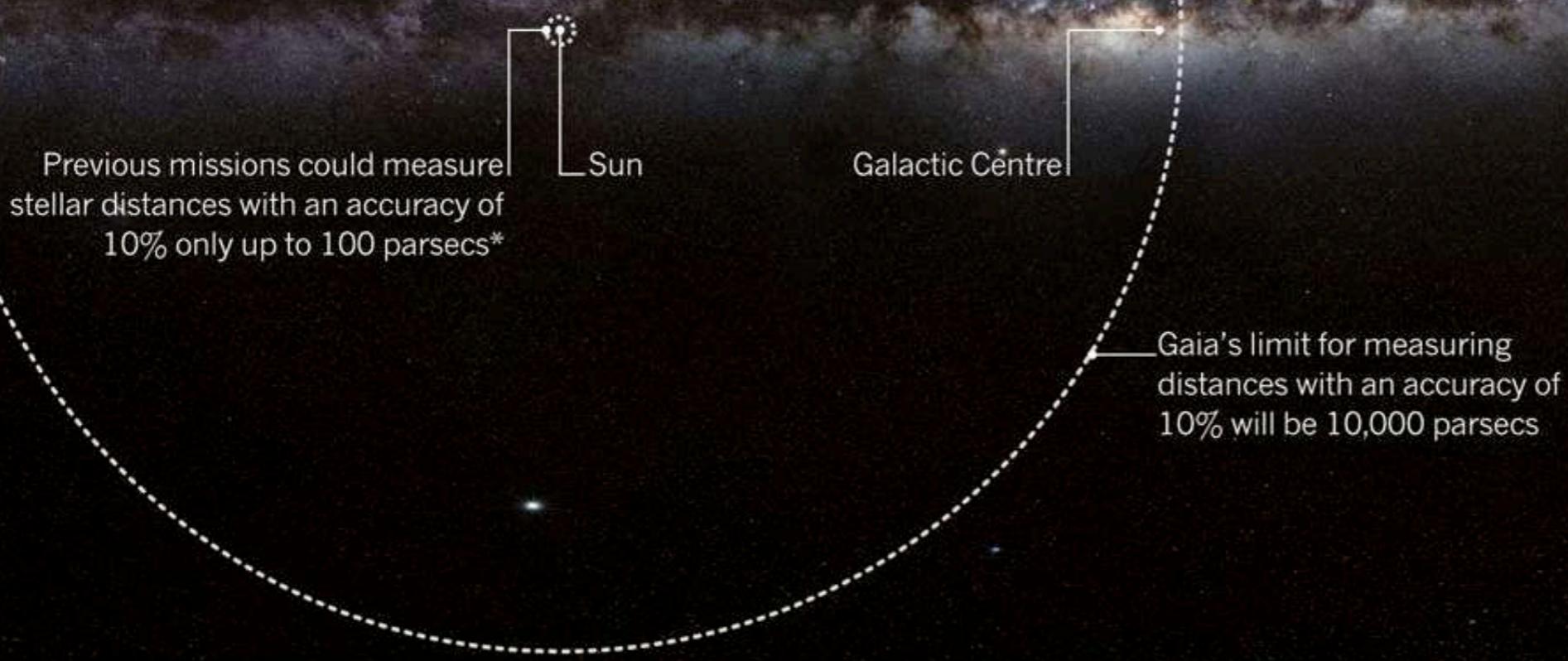
Parallax

A direct or absolute distance measurement

GAIA'S REACH

The Gaia spacecraft will use parallax and ultra-precise position measurements to obtain the distances and 'proper' (sideways) motions of stars throughout much of the Milky Way, seen here edge-on. Data from Gaia will shed light on the Galaxy's history, structure and dynamics.

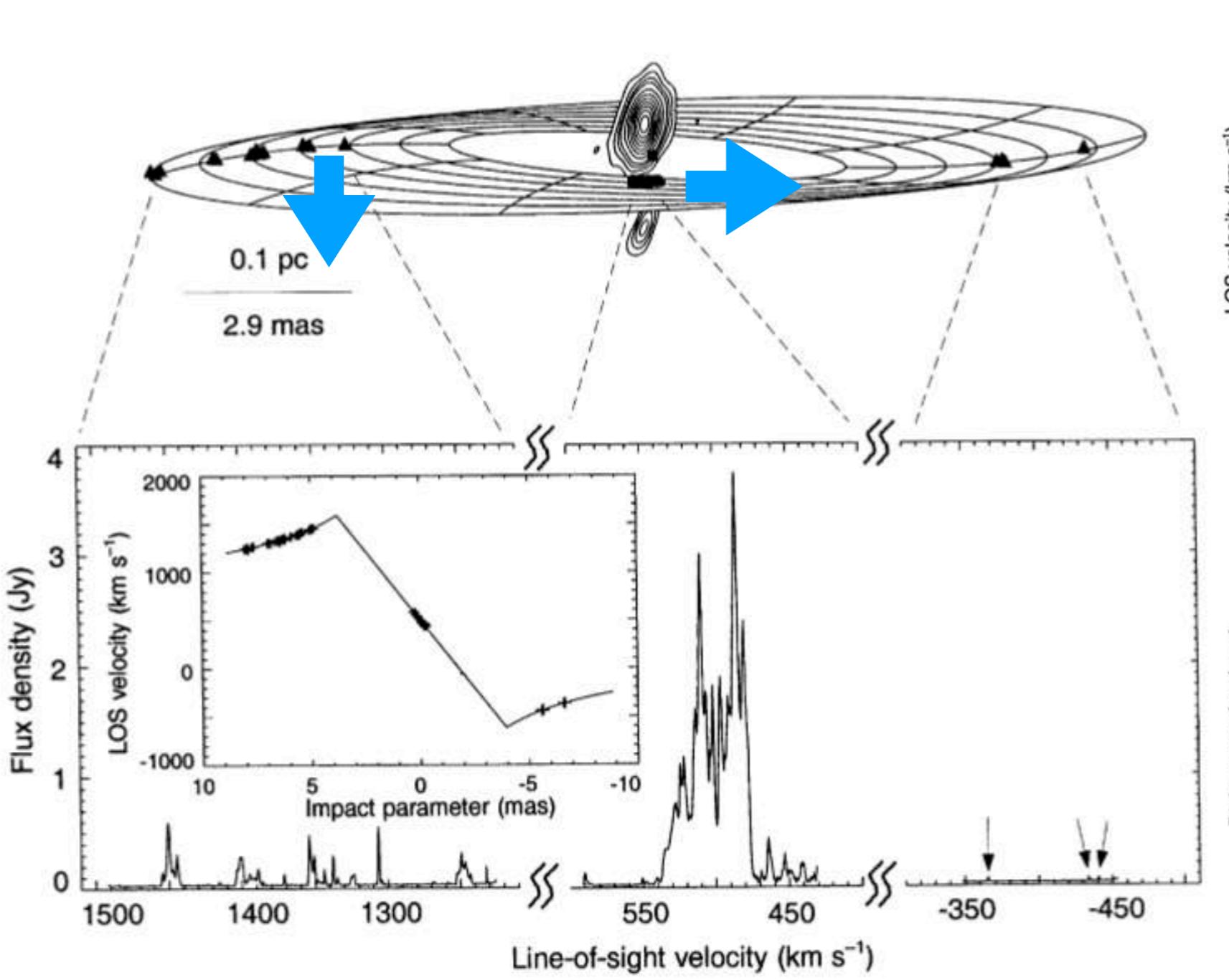
Gaia will measure proper motions accurate to 1 kilometre per second for stars up to 20,000 parsecs away



*1 parsec = 3.26 light years

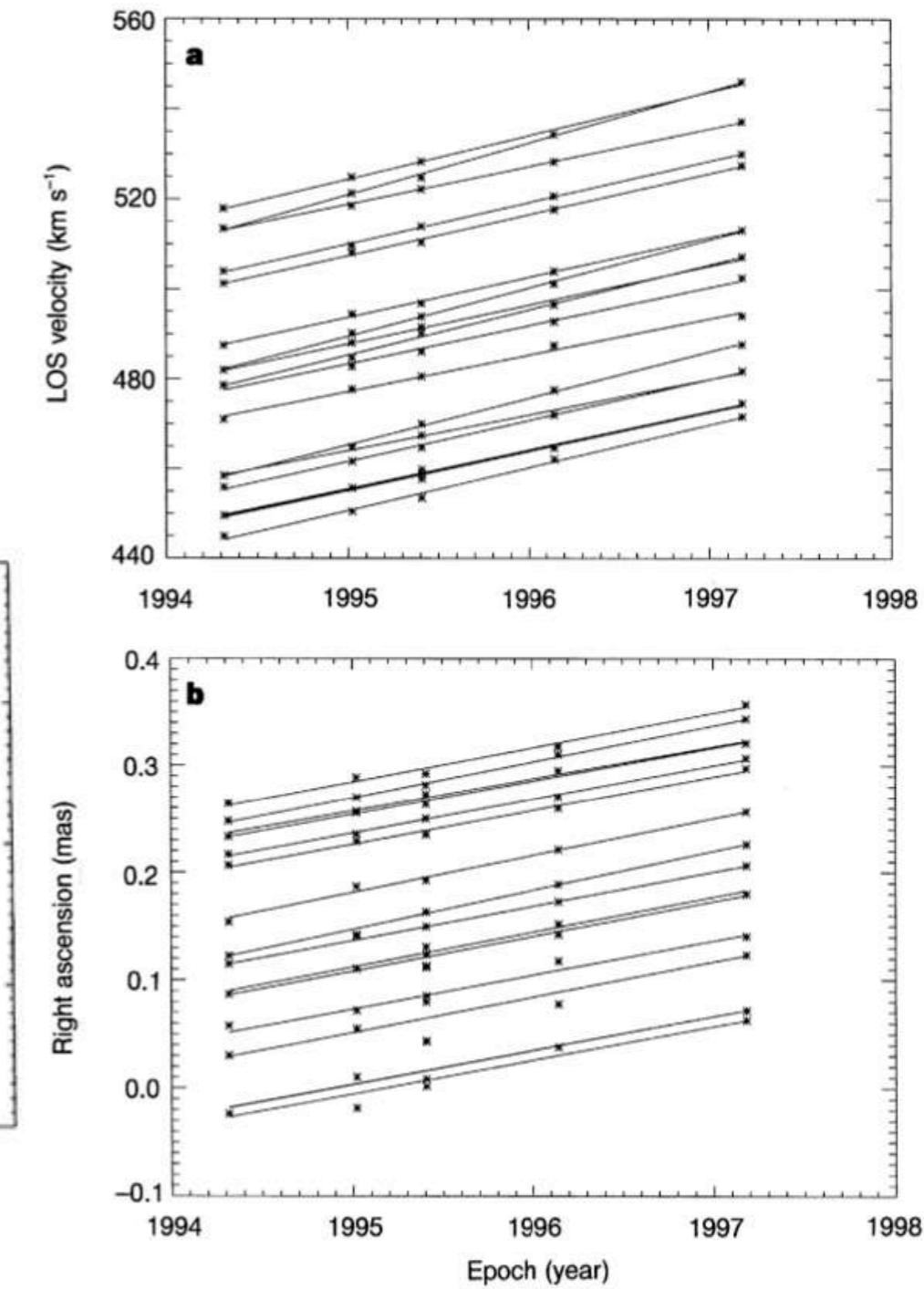
Direct distance to NGC 4258

Radial and angular proper motions of water masers orbiting central black hole



$$D = 7.576 \pm 0.082 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.076 \text{ (sys.) Mpc}$$

1.5% direct distance measurement !

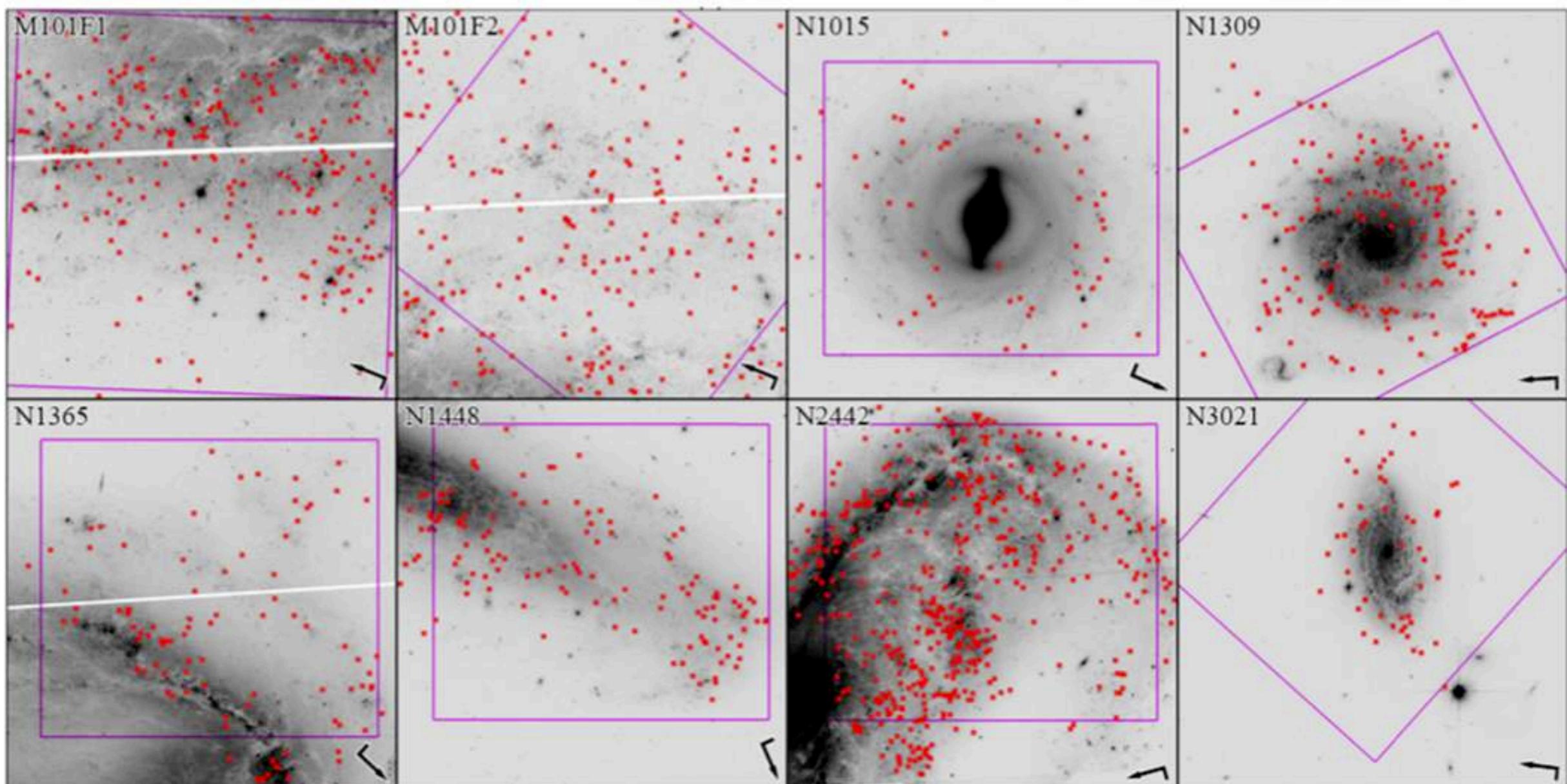


Herrnstein et al. 1999

Reid et al. 2019

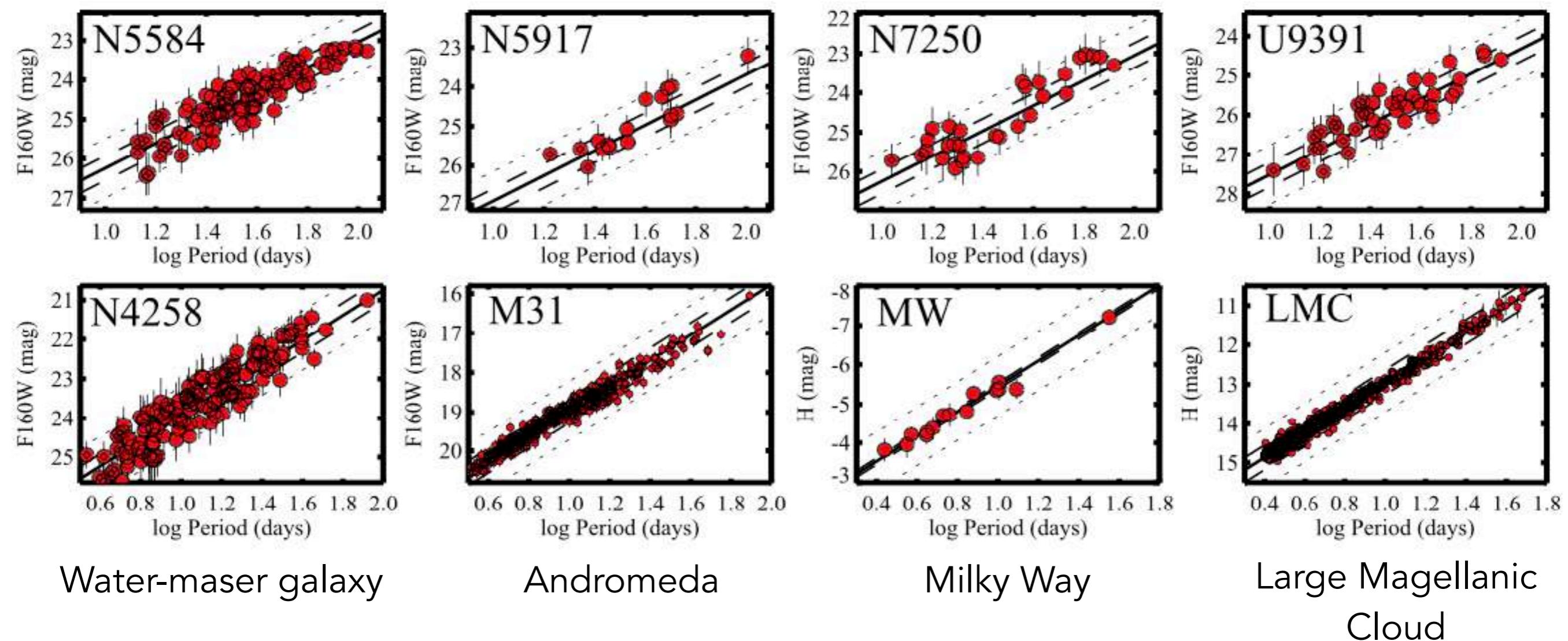
The distance ladder

Cepheids in other galaxies

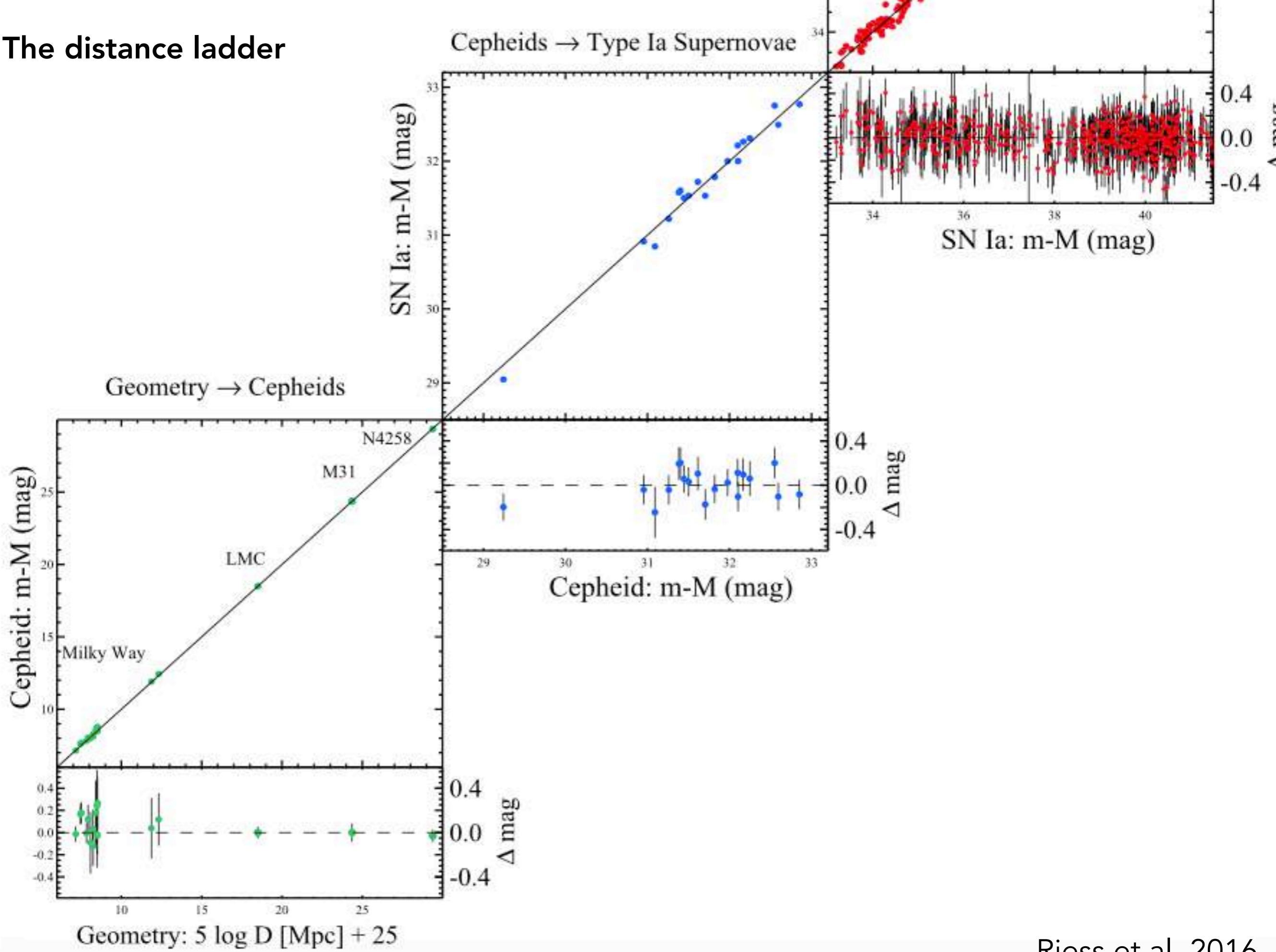


The distance ladder

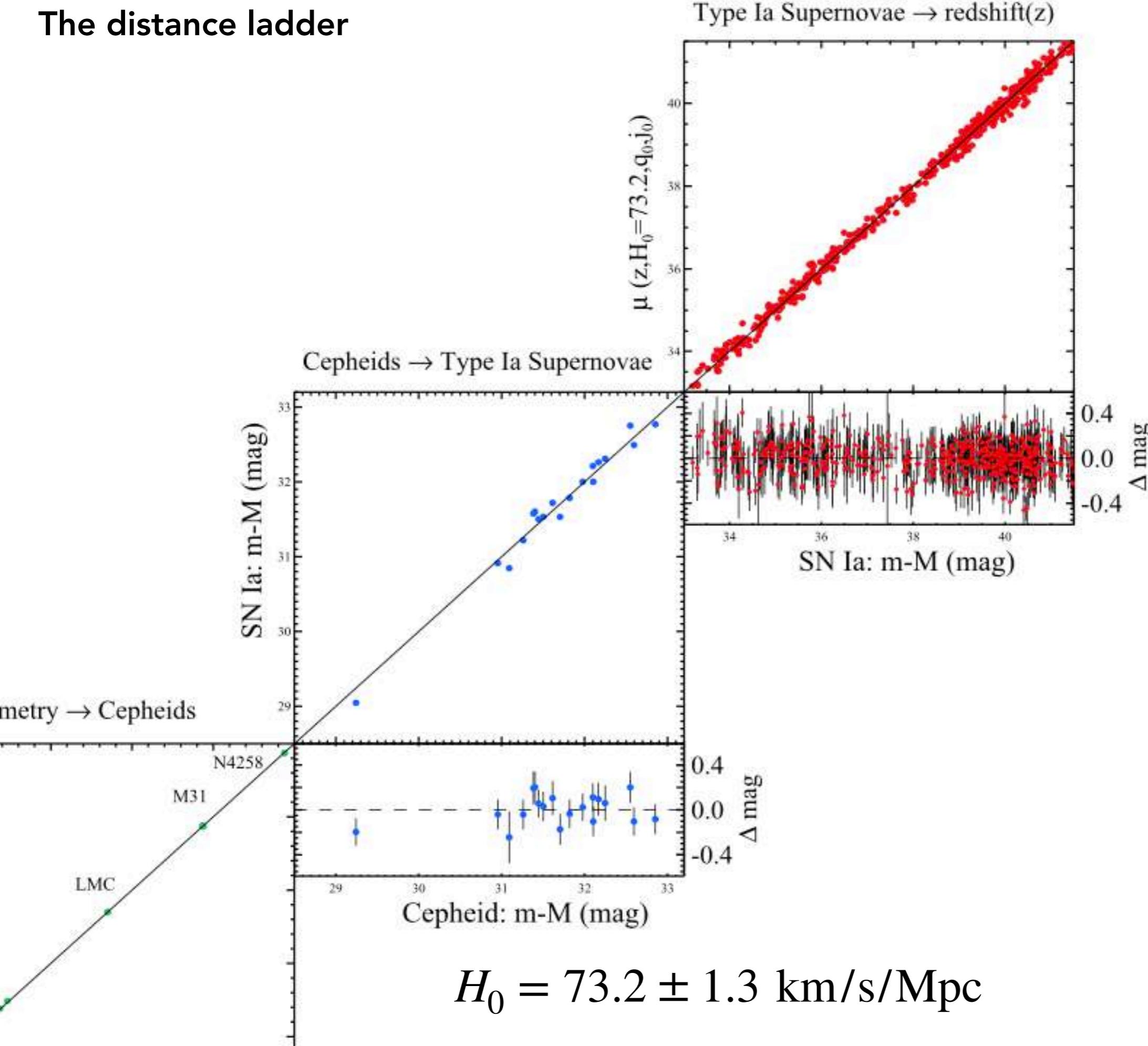
Period-luminosity relations of Cepheids



The distance ladder



The distance ladder



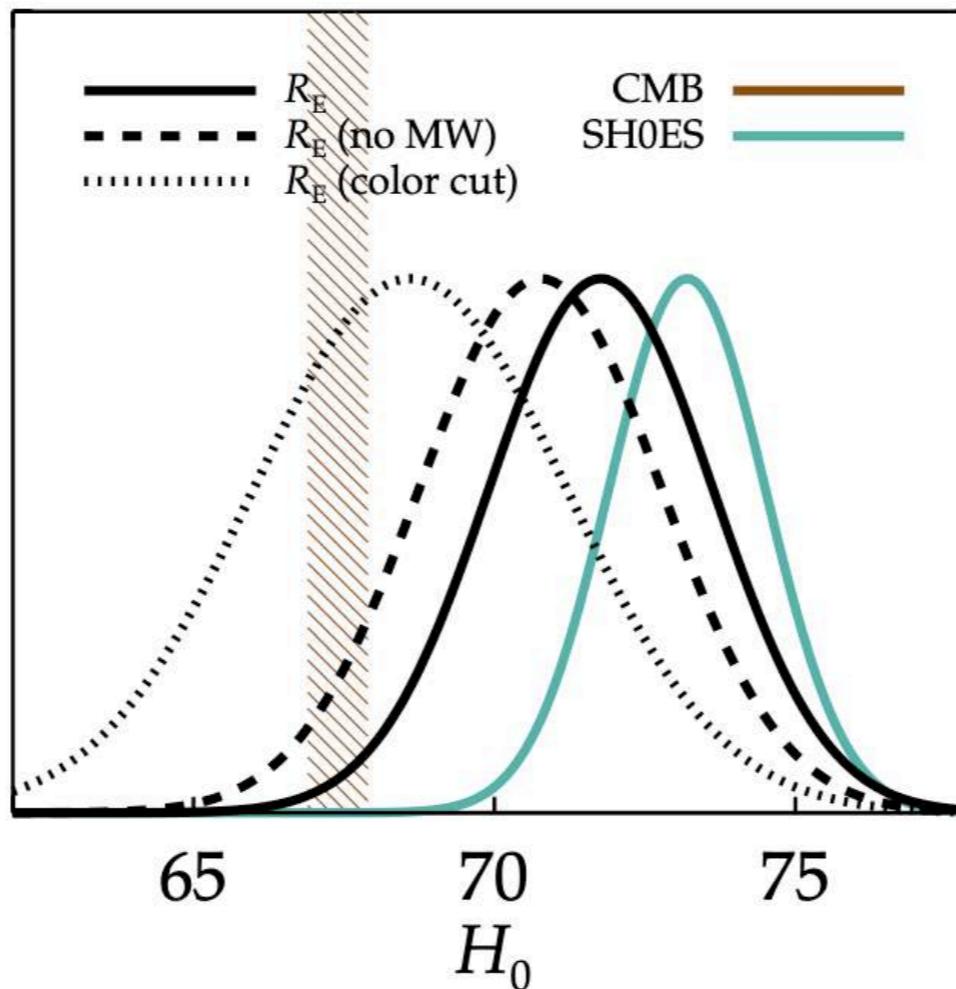
Riess et al. 2016

Riess et al. 2021

The distance ladder

Alternative analysis, same data

"Unlike the SH0ES [Riess et al.] team, we do not enforce a universal color-luminosity relation to correct the near-IR Cepheid magnitudes."



$$H_0 = 73.2 \pm 1.3 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$

[Riess et al. 2021](#)

$$H_0 = 71.8 \pm 1.6 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$

[Mörtsell et al. 2021a](#)

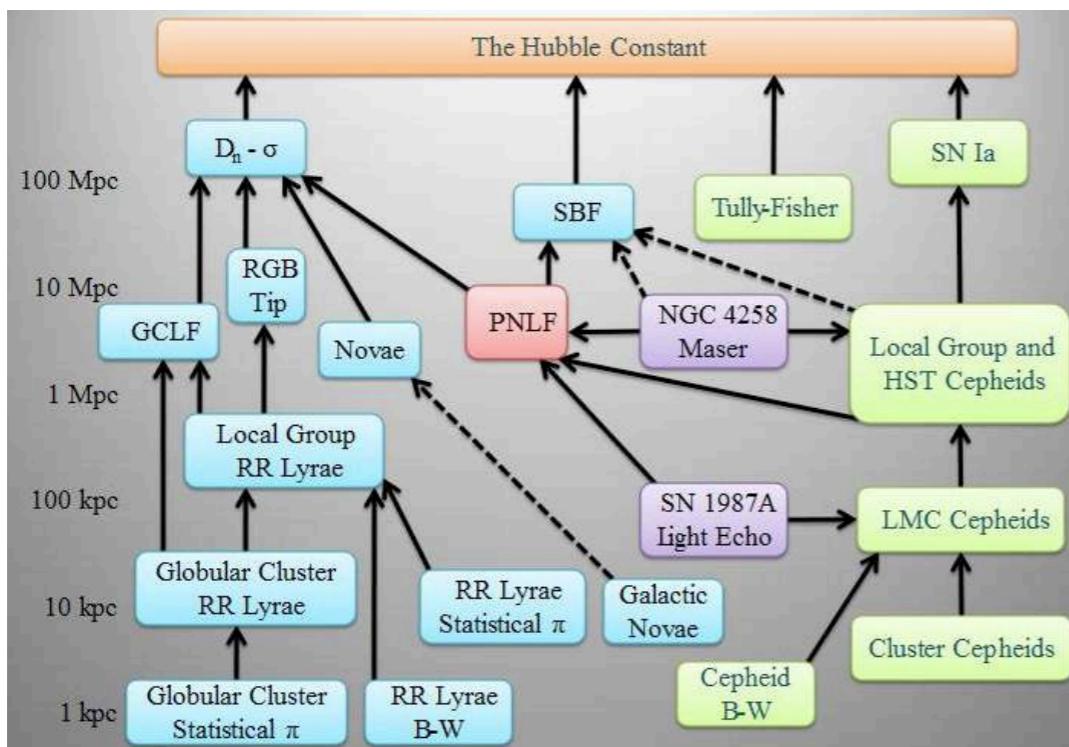
$$H_0 = 70.8 \pm 2.1 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$

[Mörtsell et al. 2021b](#)

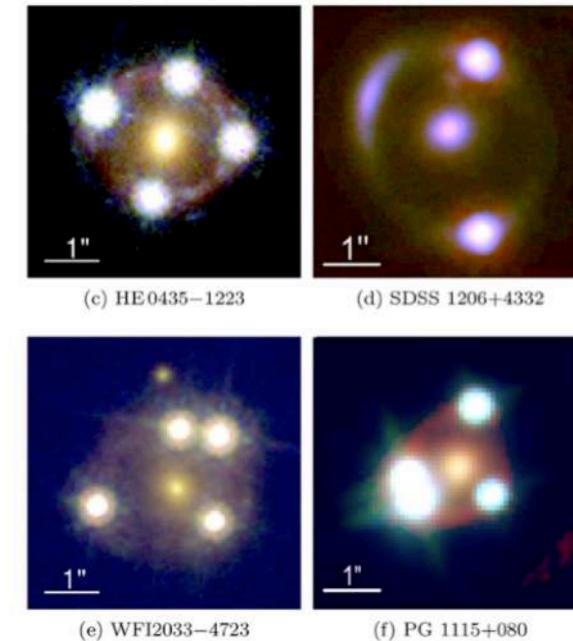
Is the tension with CMB really there ?

The Hubble Constant H_0

Distance ladder

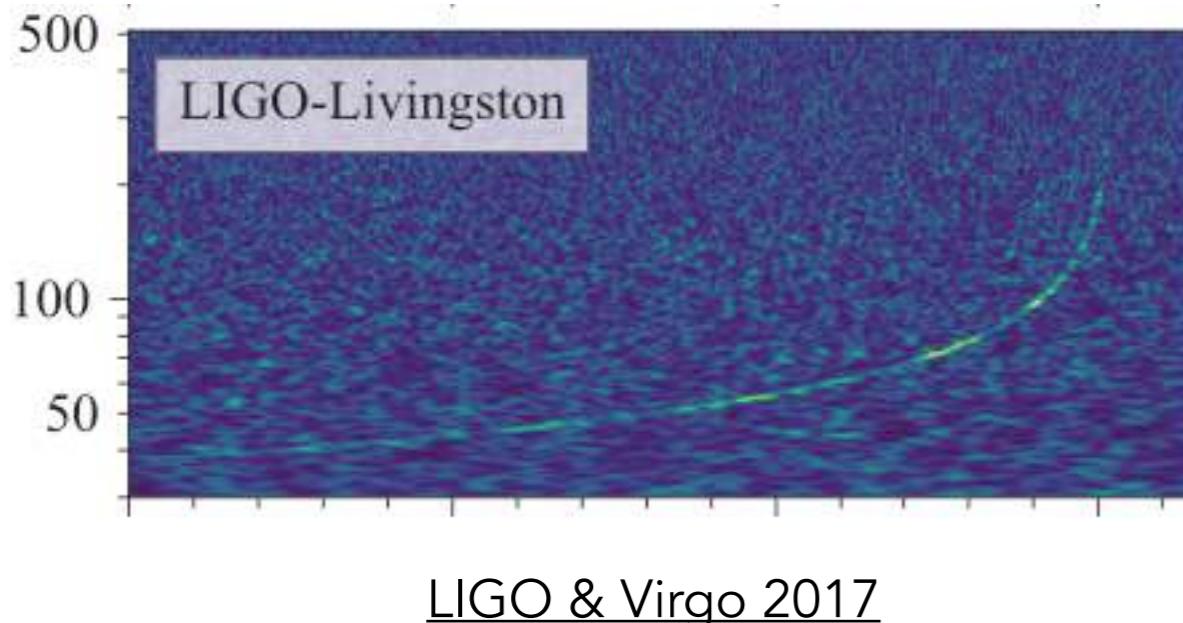


Strong lensing of variable quasars



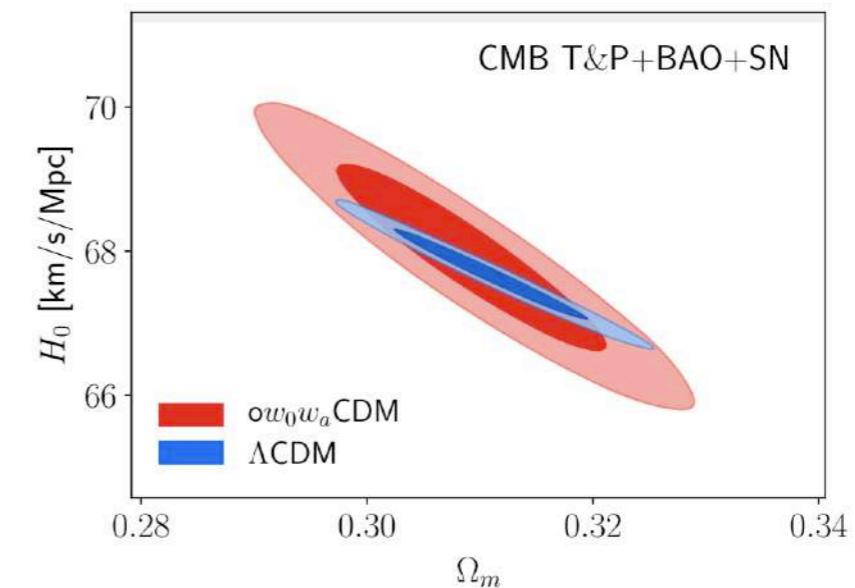
H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

Standard sirens



LIGO & Virgo 2017

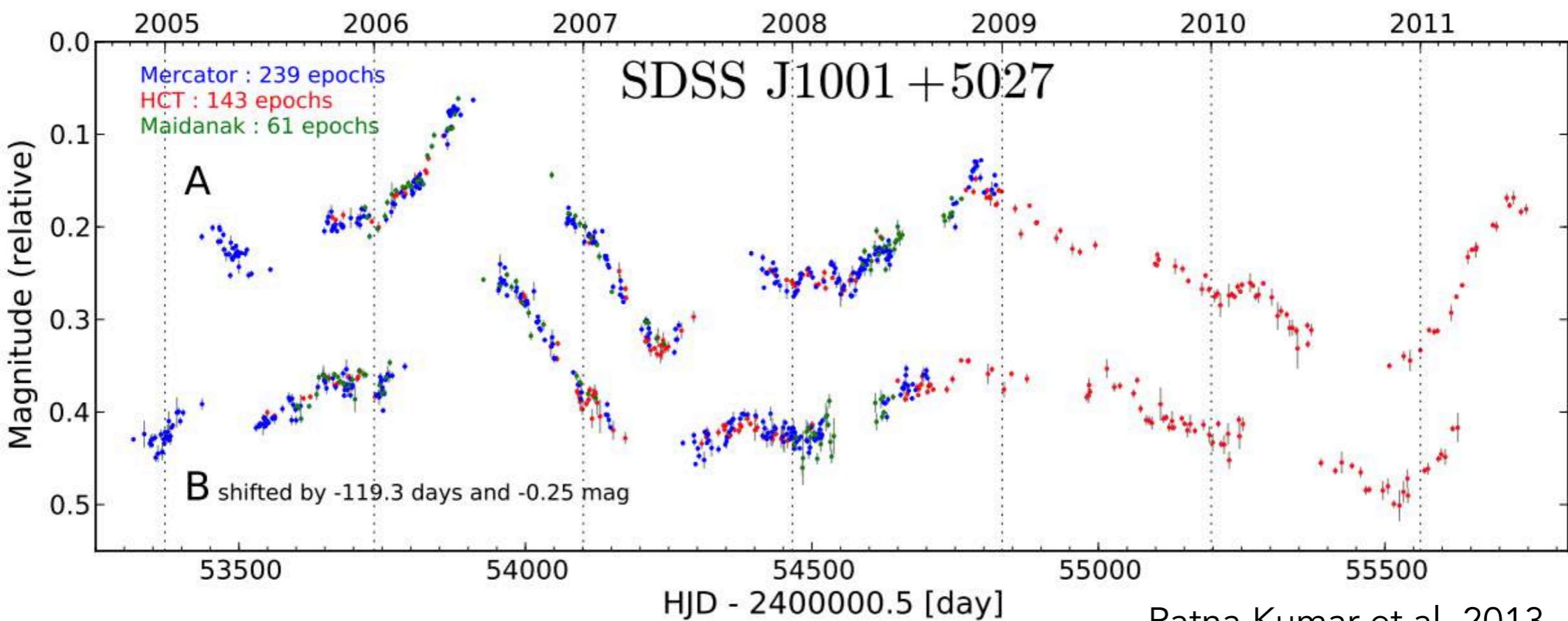
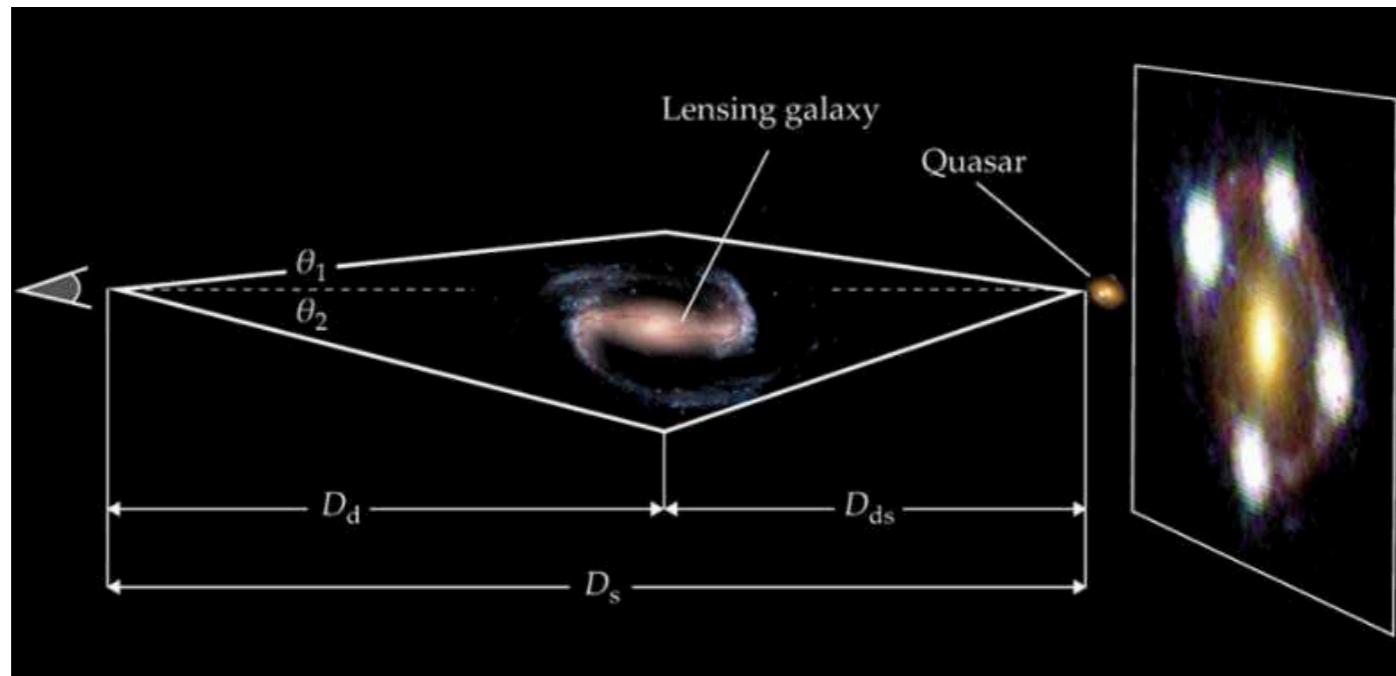
Inverse distance ladder



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The Hubble Constant H_0

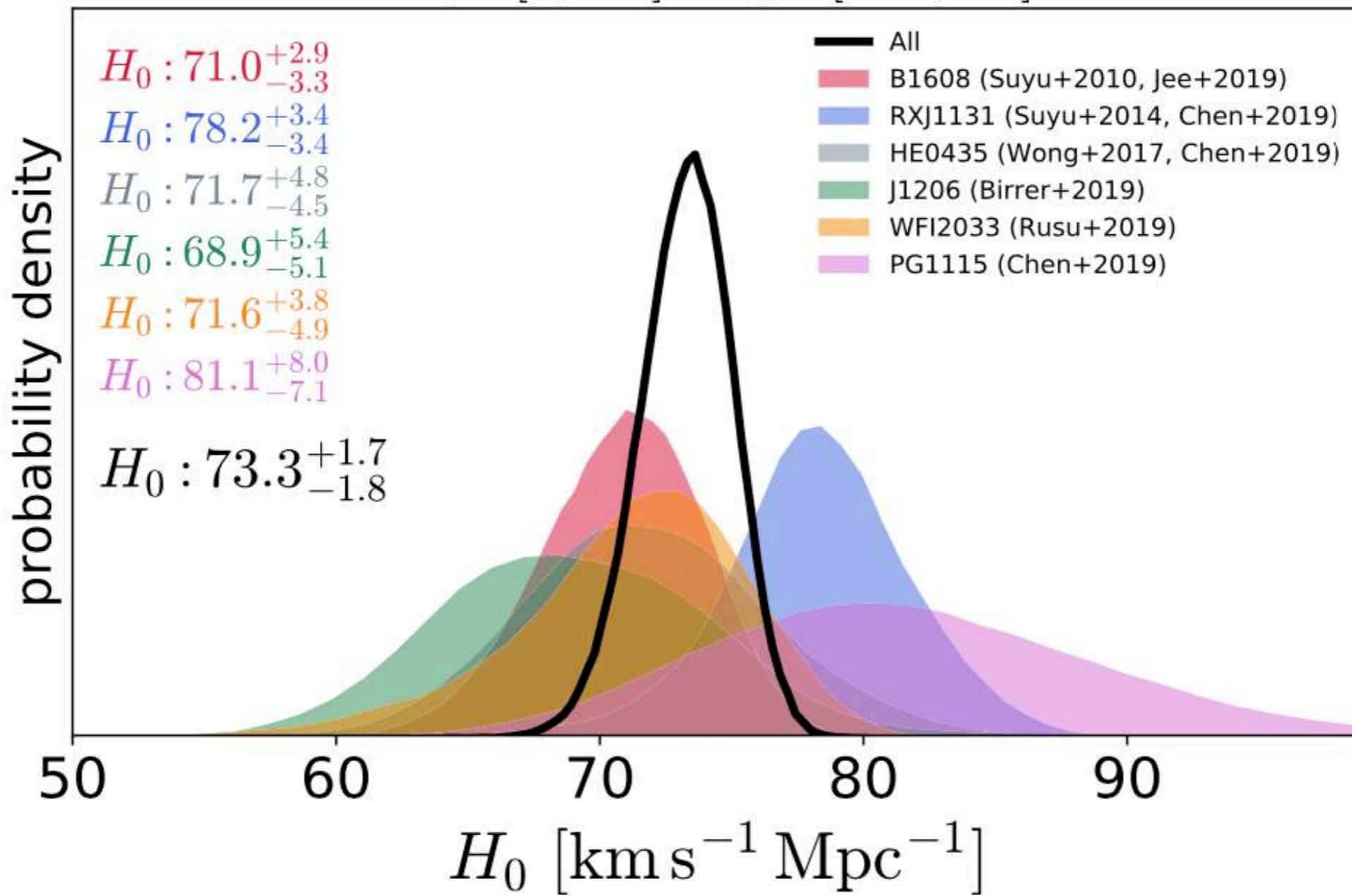
Strong lensing of variable quasars



The Hubble Constant H_0

Strong lensing of variable quasars

$$H_0 \in [0, 150] \quad \Omega_m \in [0.05, 0.5]$$



Assuming a flat Λ CDM model

$$H_0 : 73.3^{+1.7}_{-1.8}$$

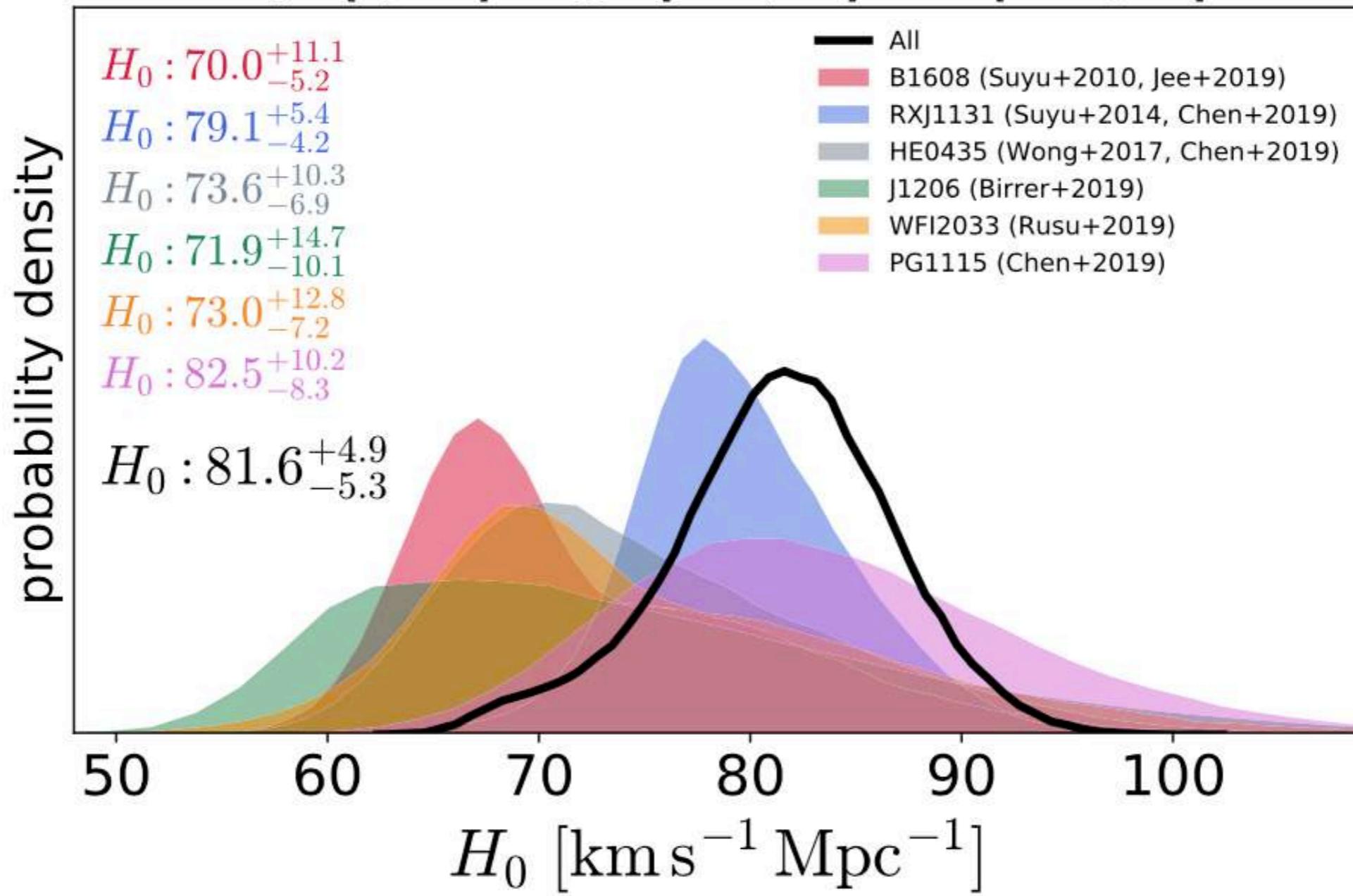
H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

Redshifts of lens and source	
z_d	z_s
0.6304 ^a	1.394 ^b
0.295 ^c	0.654 ^d
0.4546 ^{f,g}	1.693 ^h
0.745 ^j	1.789 ⁱ
0.6575 ^l	1.662 ^h
0.311 ⁿ	1.722 ^m

The Hubble Constant H_0

Strong lensing of variable quasars

$$H_0 \in [0, 150] \quad \Omega_m \in [0.05, 0.5] \quad w \in [-2.5, 0.5]$$



Redshifts of lens and source	
z_d	z_s
0.6304 ^a	1.394 ^b
0.295 ^c	0.654 ^d
0.4546 ^{f,g}	1.693 ^h
0.745 ^j	1.789 ⁱ
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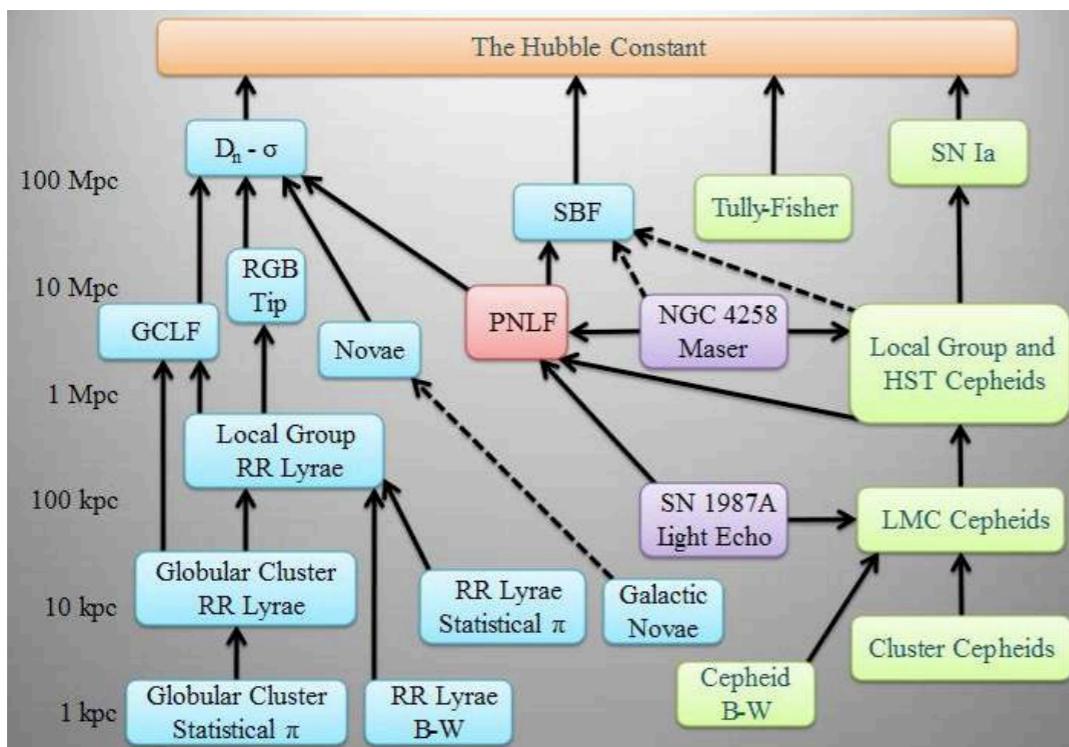
Assuming a flat w CDM model

$$H_0 : 81.6^{+4.9}_{-5.3}$$

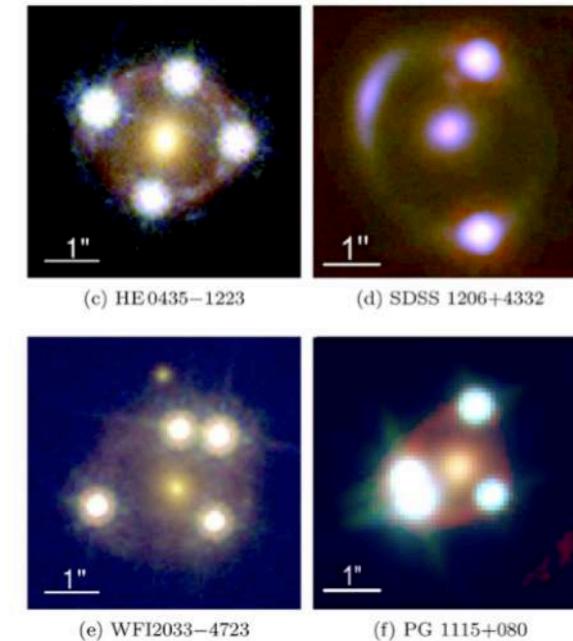
H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

The Hubble Constant H_0

Distance ladder

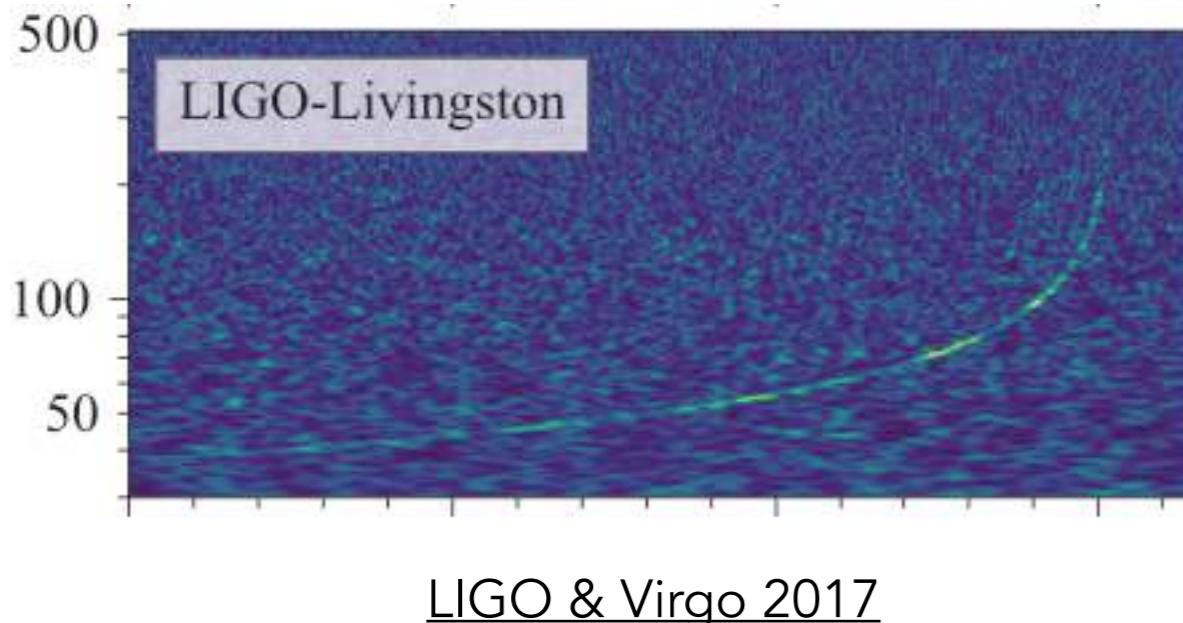


Strong lensing of variable quasars



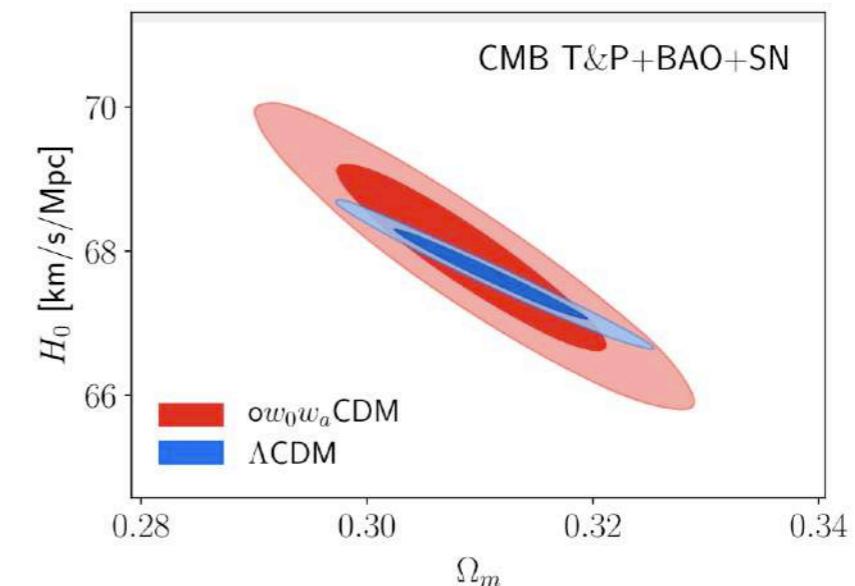
H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

Standard sirens



LIGO & Virgo 2017

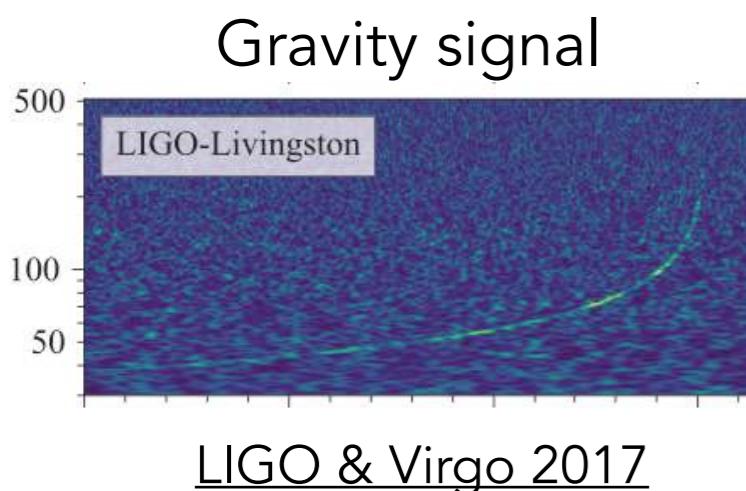
Inverse distance ladder



eBOSS Collab 2021

The Hubble Constant H_0

Standard sirens
Binary neutron star merger



Source: ESO/N.R. Tanvir, A.J. Levan and the VIN-ROUGE collaboration

From full GR simulations + GW signal:

- chirp mass $\mathcal{M} = \sqrt[5]{(m_1 m_2)^3 / (m_1 + m_2)} = 1.188^{+0.004}_{-0.002} M_\odot$
- mass ratio $q = m_2/m_1 = 0.7 - 1.0$
- spin
- **luminosity distance** $D_L = 40^{+8}_{-14}$ Mpc

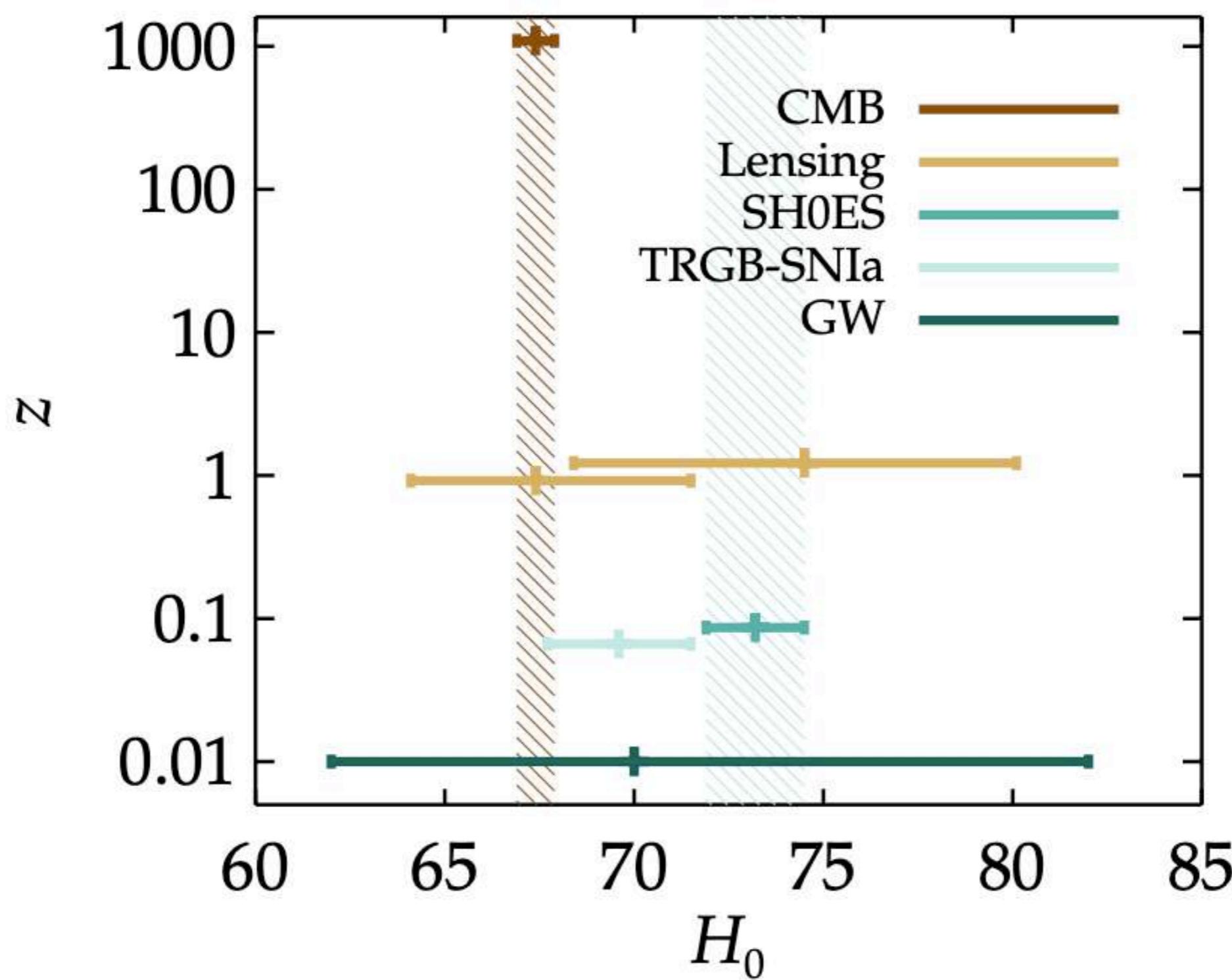
From EM counterpart:
Redshift $v_H = 3017 \pm 166$ km/s
(removing peculiar velocities)

$$H_0 = 70.0^{+12.0}_{-8.0} \text{ km/s (68 \% C.L.)}$$

THE LIGO SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AND THE VIRGO COLLABORATION, THE 1M2H COLLABORATION,
THE DARK ENERGY CAMERA GW-EM COLLABORATION AND THE DES COLLABORATION,
THE DLT40 COLLABORATION, THE LAS CUMBRES OBSERVATORY COLLABORATION,
THE VINROUGE COLLABORATION, THE MASTER COLLABORATION, et al.

Nature 2017

The Hubble Constant H_0



Mörtsell et al. 2021a

The background image shows a coastal landscape with large, light-colored rock formations and a calm sea.

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

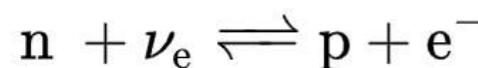
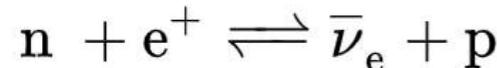
Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

Relic amounts of elements depends on battle between

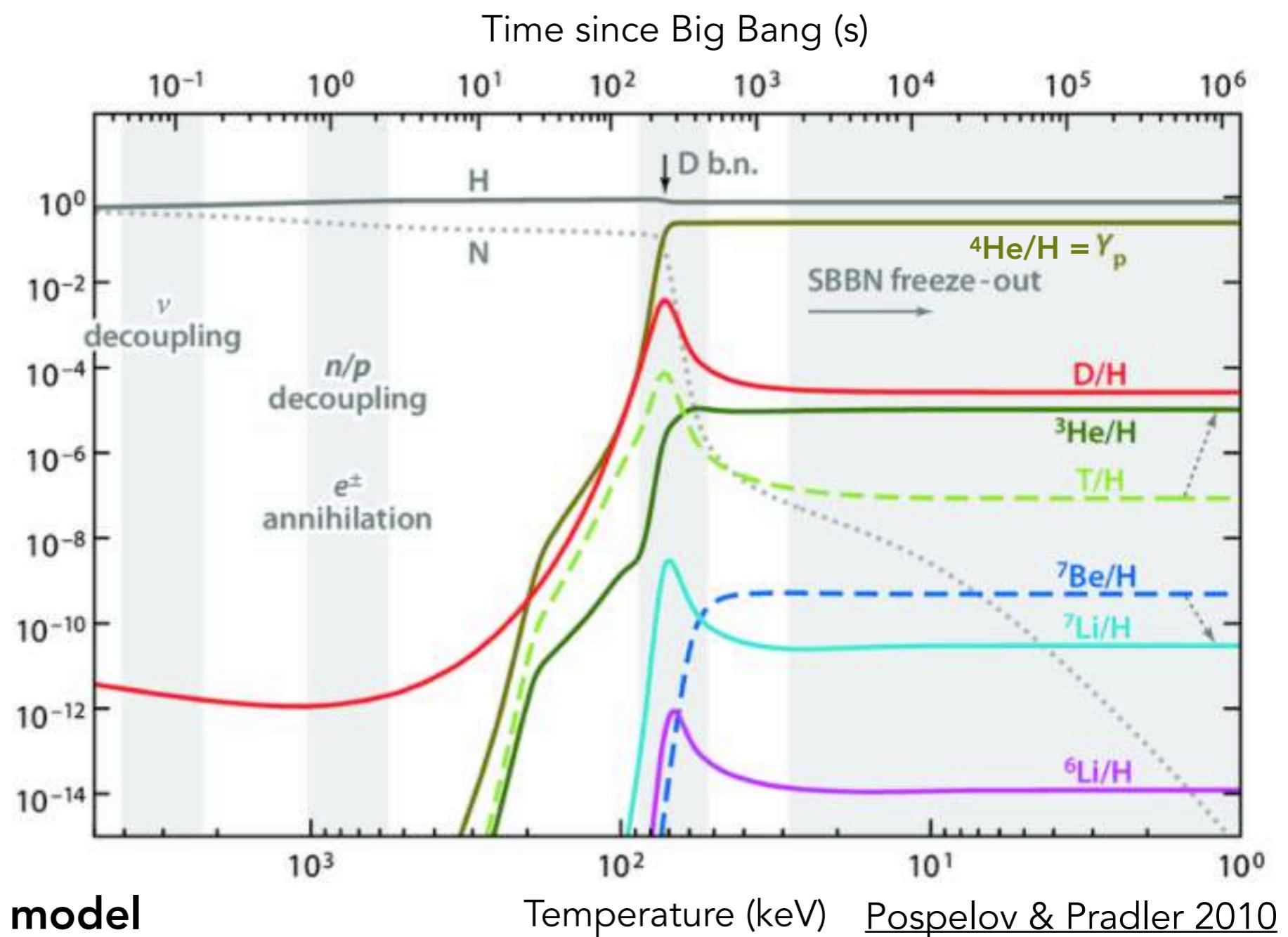
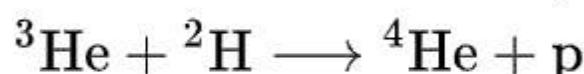
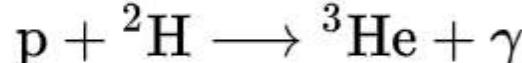
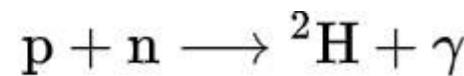
Expansion rate : $H^2(z) \sim \rho_r(z) = \rho_\gamma(z) + \rho_\nu(z)$ (radiation-dominated era)

Reaction rates : nuclear cross-sections + baryon density $\rho_b(z)$

First:



Then:



Theoretical model

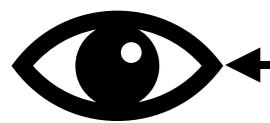
Temperature (keV) Pospelov & Pradler 2010

Us

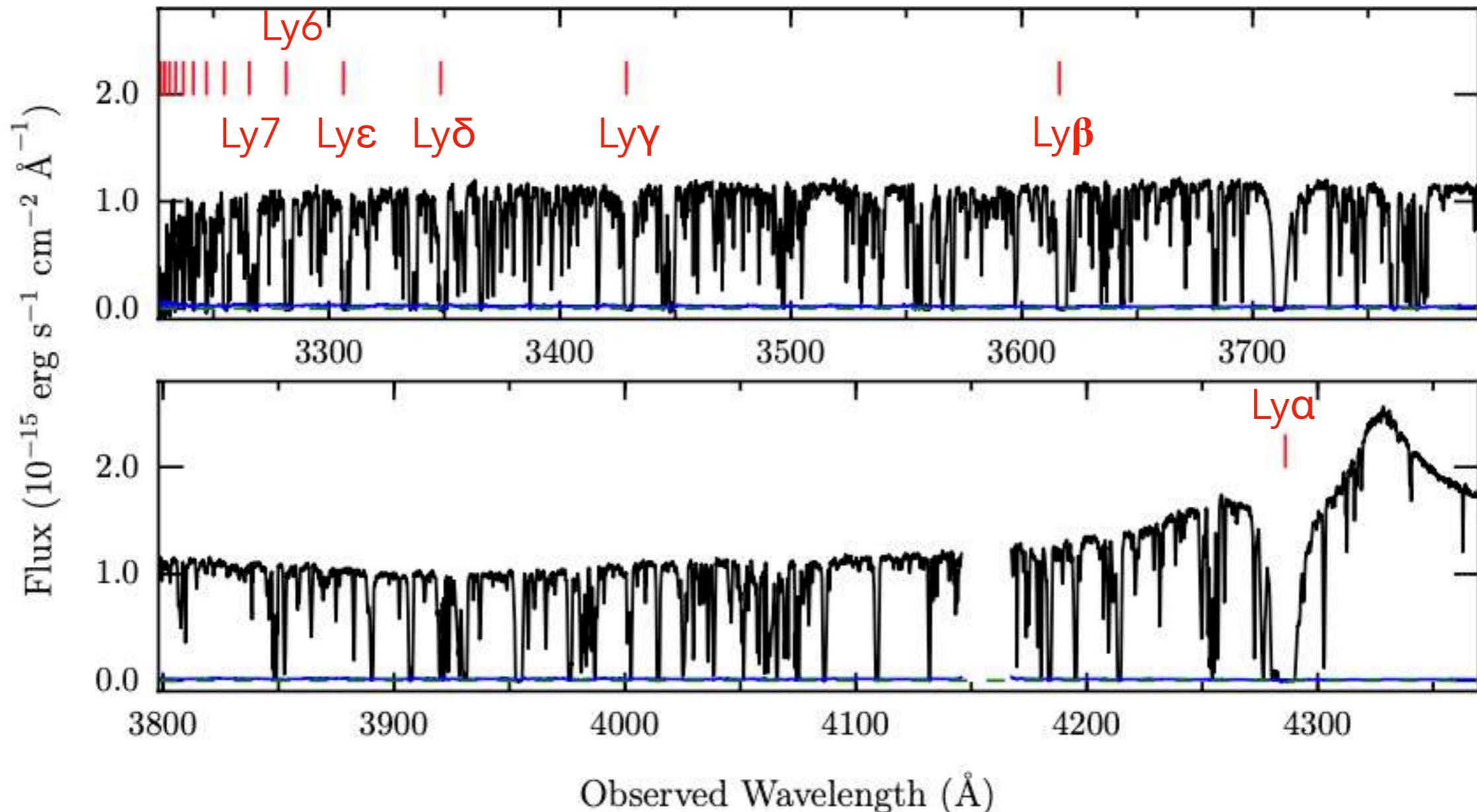
Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

HI cloud

Quasar



Absorption by a neutral hydrogen cloud at $z=2.526$
on a $z=2.558$ quasar spectrum

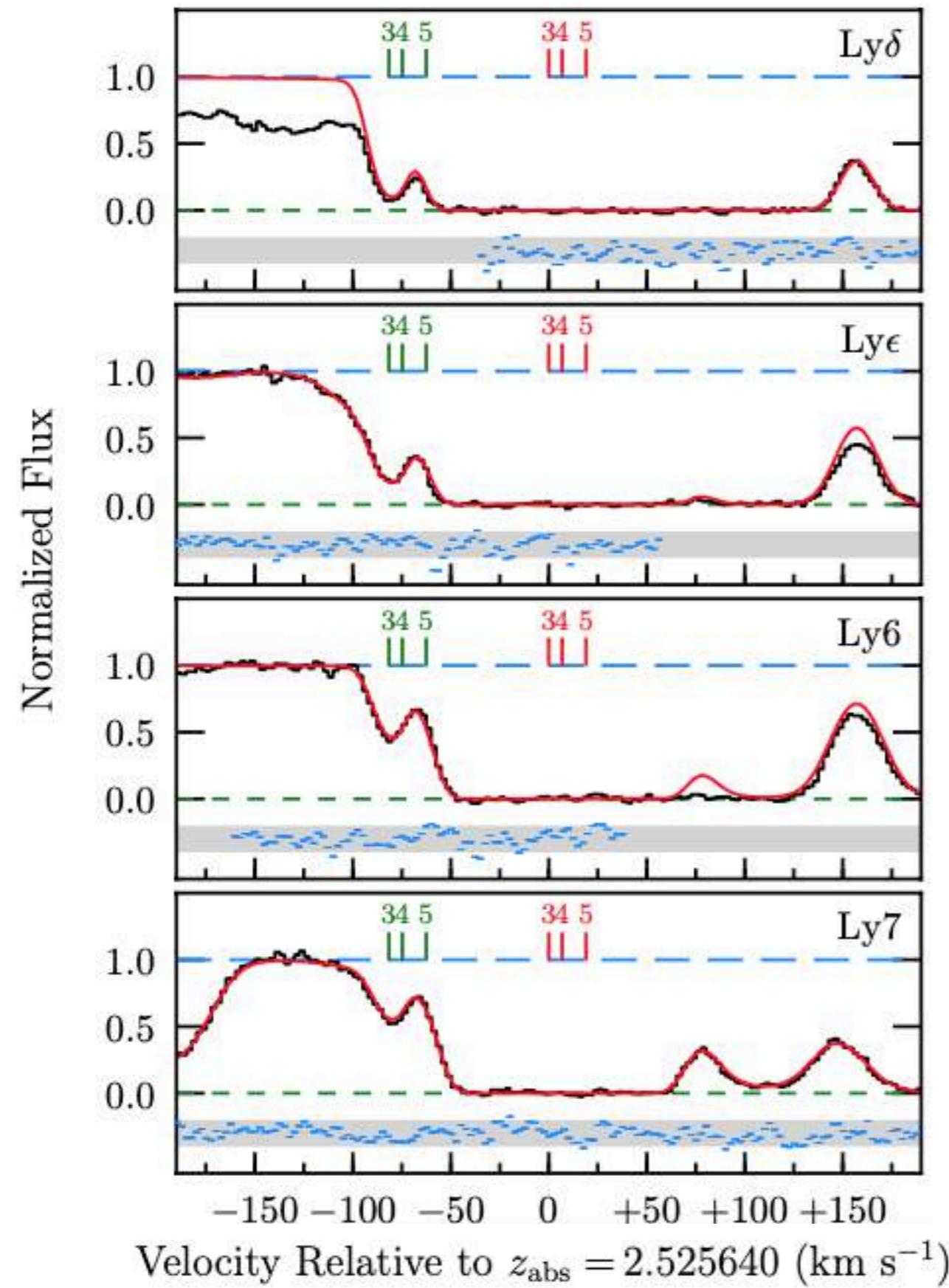


More than 20 hours of integration @ Keck Obs, Hawaii (10m) !

Cooke et al. 2018

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

Deuterium Hydrogen



Fit of hydrogen, deuterium and other metal lines yields:

$$\log_{10} N(\text{D I})/N(\text{H I}) = -4.622 \pm 0.015$$

$$\text{Baryon density } \omega_b = \Omega_b h^2$$

$$100 \Omega_{\text{B},0} h^2(\text{BBN}) = 2.166 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.011$$

Cooke et al. 2018

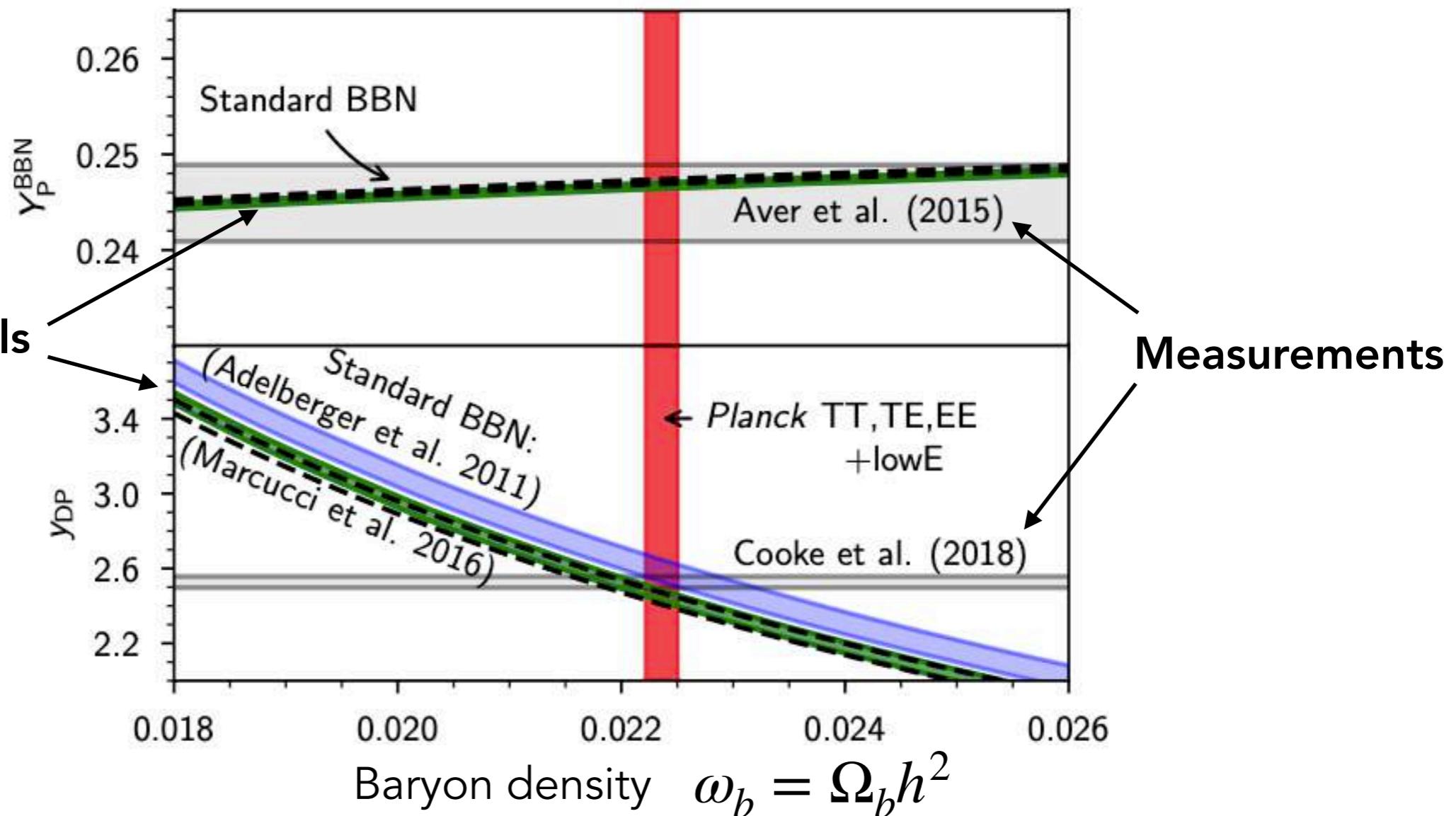
Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

Planck Collab VI 2020

Helium
abundance

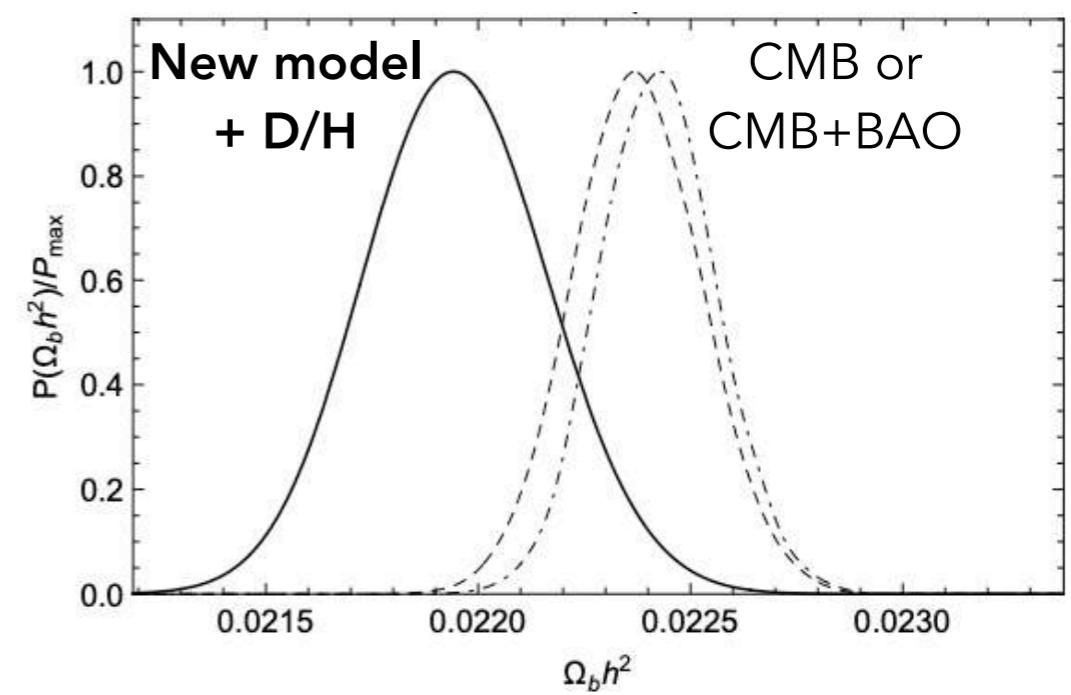
Theoretical models

Deuterium
abundance



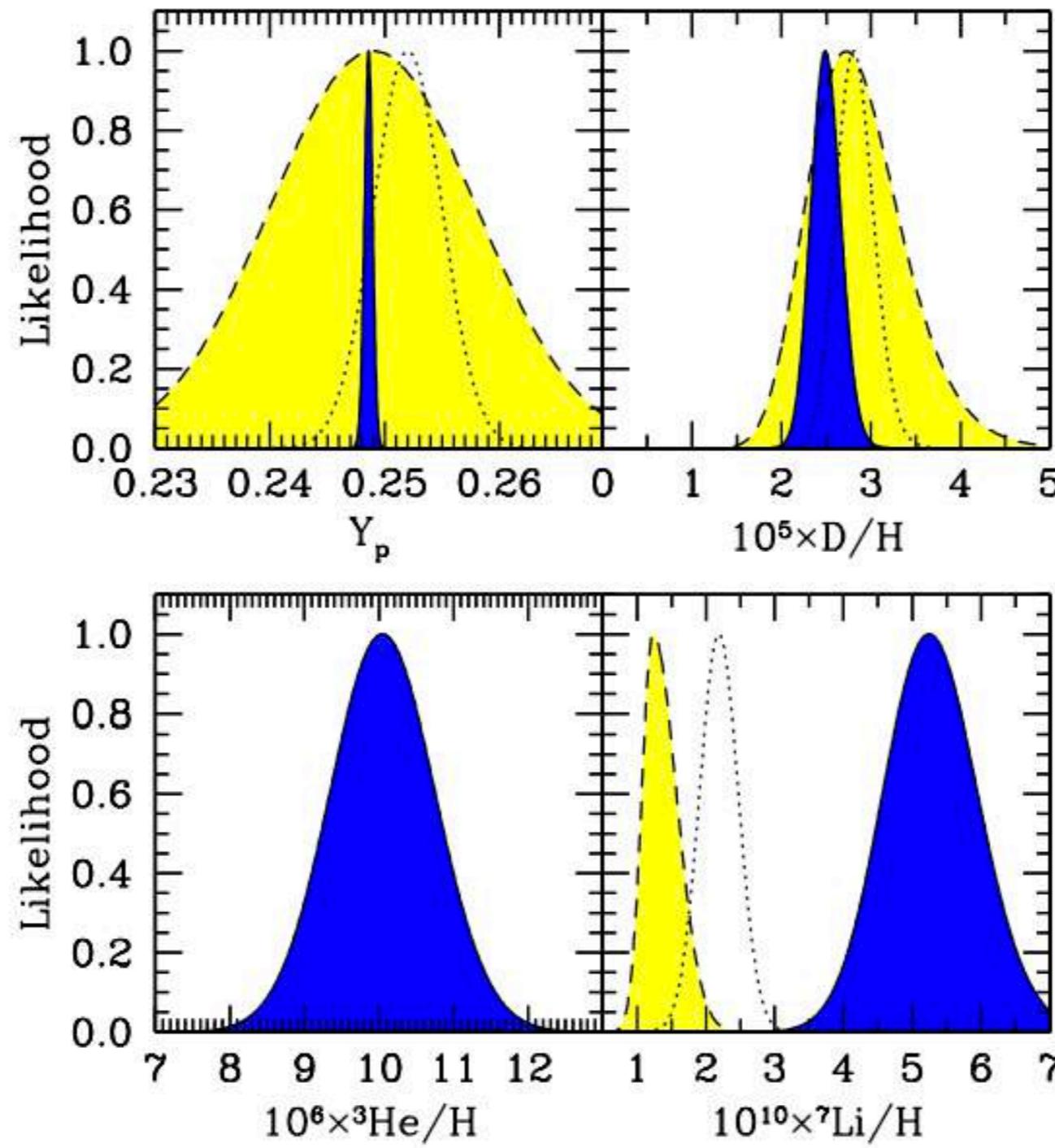
Latest calculations indicate **new tension** ?

See Pitrou et al. 2021



Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

The Lithium problem : **observations** and **theory** do not match !



A factor of 3 or 4 that is a mystery !

A scenic coastal landscape featuring rugged, light-colored cliffs with vertical rock faces and horizontal sedimentary layers. The cliffs rise from a rocky shoreline. In the background, a calm body of water extends to a distant, hazy horizon under a clear sky.

Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

Cosmology with Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

Constraints on dark-energy from the distance-redshift relation

$$H^2(z) \approx H_0^2 \left[\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z) + \Omega_k(1+z)^2 \right] \quad (\text{at } z < 100)$$

Transition from matter to dark-energy dominated eras : $z \sim 0.4$
 SNIa can cover redshifts before and after : powerful probe

Comoving distance

$$D_C(z) = \int_0^z dz' \frac{c}{H(z')}$$

Luminosity distance

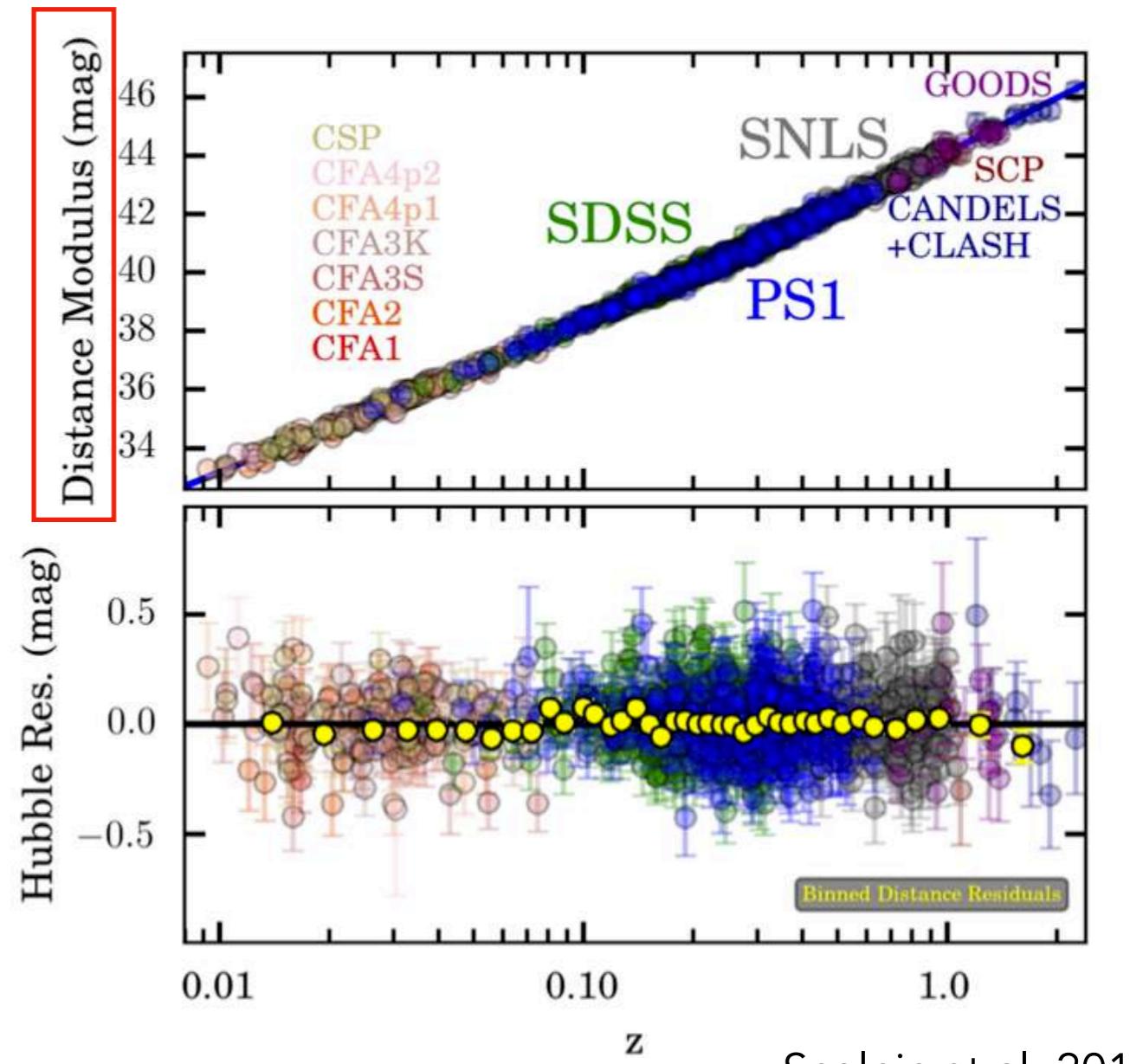
$$D_L(z) = (1+z)D_C(z)\text{sinc}\left(\sqrt{-\Omega_k} \frac{D_C(z)}{D_H(z=0)}\right)$$

Distance modulus

$$\mu(z) = 5 \log_{10} \frac{D_L(z)}{10 \text{ pc}} = -2.5 \log_{10}(f_B(z)/L_B)$$

Theory

Observed



Cosmology with Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

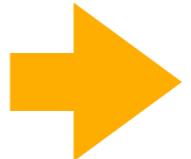
Constraints on dark-energy from the distance-redshift relation

$$H^2(z) \approx H_0^2 [\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z) + \Omega_k(1+z)^2] \quad (\text{at } z < 100)$$

Transition from matter to dark-energy dominated eras : $z \sim 0.4$
 SNIa can cover redshifts before and after : powerful probe

Comoving distance

$$D_C(z) = \int_0^z dz' \frac{c}{H(z')}$$



Note that M_B and H_0 are **degenerate**

$$D_C(z) = \frac{c}{H_0} \int_0^z dz' \frac{1}{E(z')} \equiv \frac{c}{H_0} I(\Omega_x, z)$$

Luminosity distance

$$D_L(z) = (1+z) D_C(z) \text{sinc} \left(\sqrt{-\Omega_k} \frac{D_C(z)}{D_H(z=0)} \right) \rightarrow D_L(z) = \frac{c}{H_0} (1+z) I(\Omega_x, z) \text{sinc} \left(\sqrt{-\Omega_k} I(\Omega_x, z) \right)$$

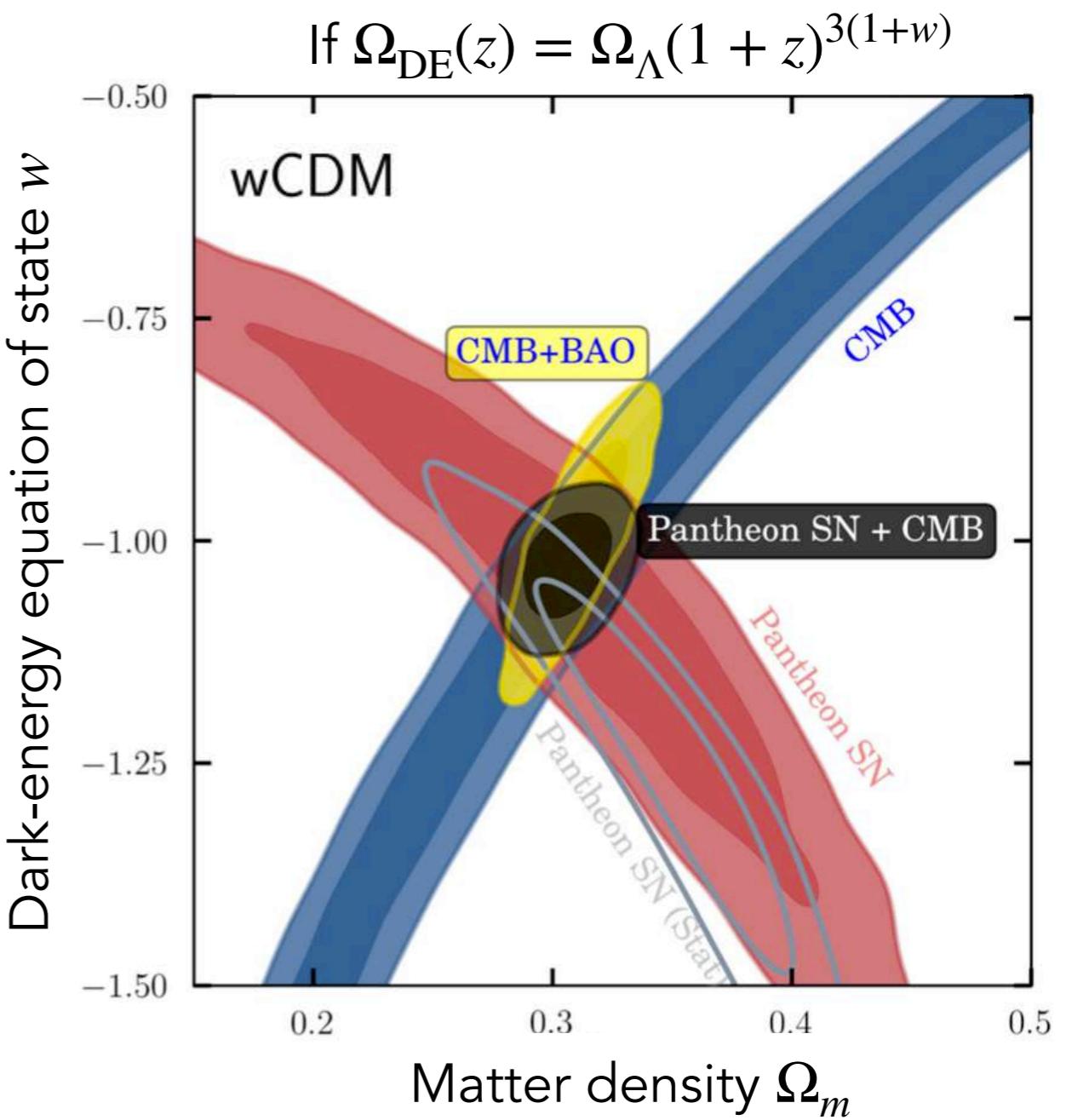
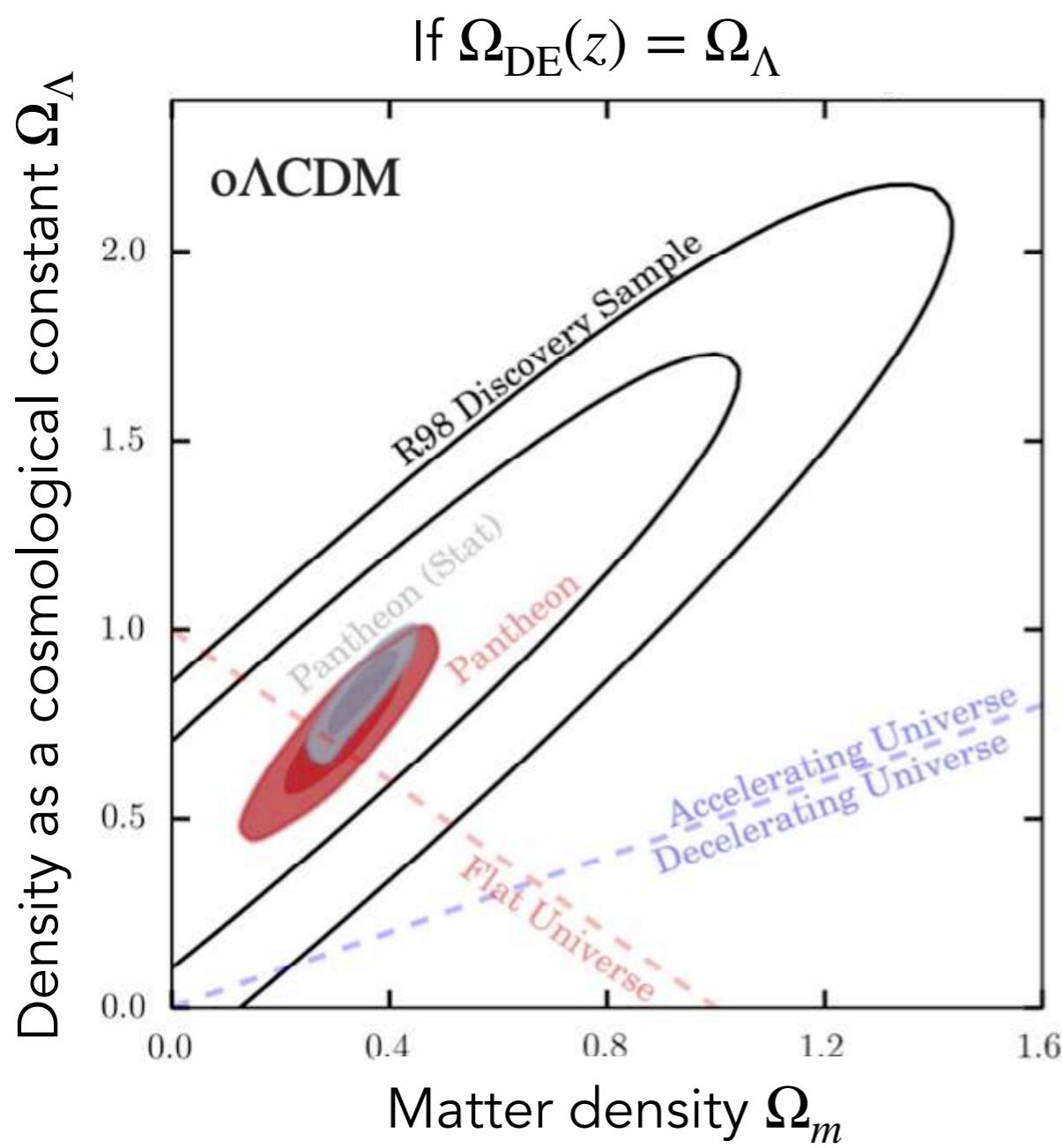
Distance modulus

$$\mu(z) = 5 \log_{10} \frac{D_L(z)}{10 \text{ pc}} = -2.5 \log_{10}(f_B(z)/L_B) \rightarrow \mu(z) = 5 \log_{10} \frac{I(\Omega_x, z)}{10 \text{ pc}} + \boxed{5 \log_{10} H_0} = m_B(z) - M_B$$

Cosmology with Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

Constraints on dark-energy from the distance-redshift relation

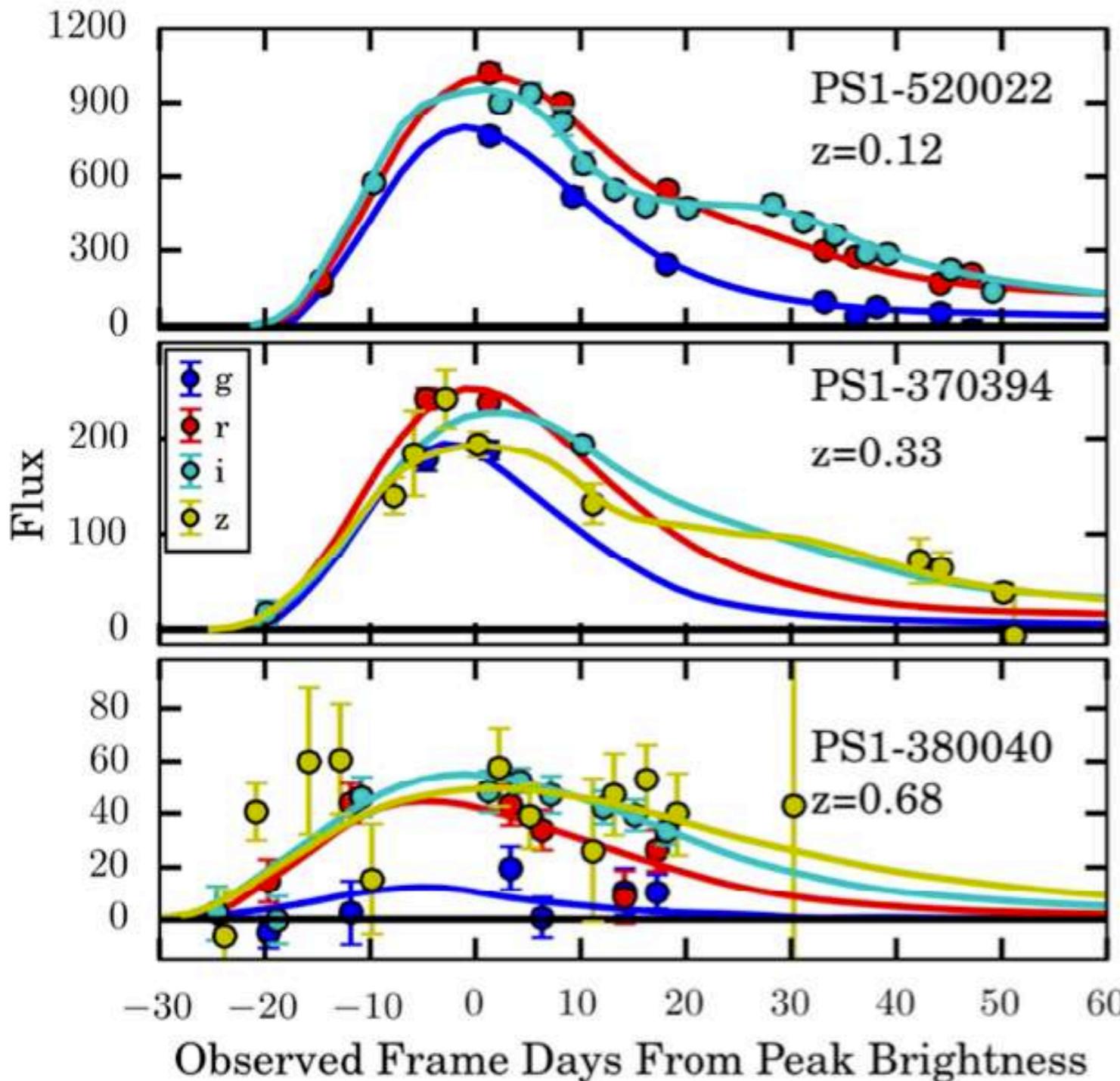
$$H^2(z) \approx H_0^2 [\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z) + \Omega_k(1+z)^2] \quad (\text{at } z < 100)$$



Cosmology with Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

How we derive distances ?

From the flux at the peak of the **light-curves** in the B band or m_B



Are light-curves sufficient to
know it is a type Ia?
No !

Need **spectroscopic** follow-up

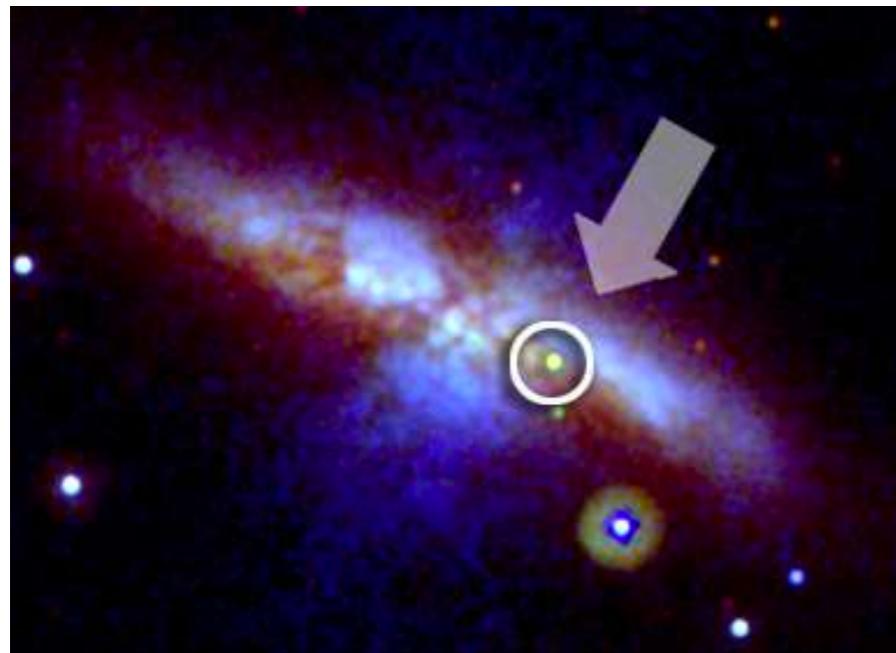
Need spectroscopic
redshift of the host-galaxy

Fit light-curves with a model
(SALT2/3, SUGAR, etc..)
to **standardise** them

Hubble residuals reduce
from 40% to 15%
intrinsic scatter

Cosmology with Type Ia Supernovae (SNIa)

Why is it complicated ?



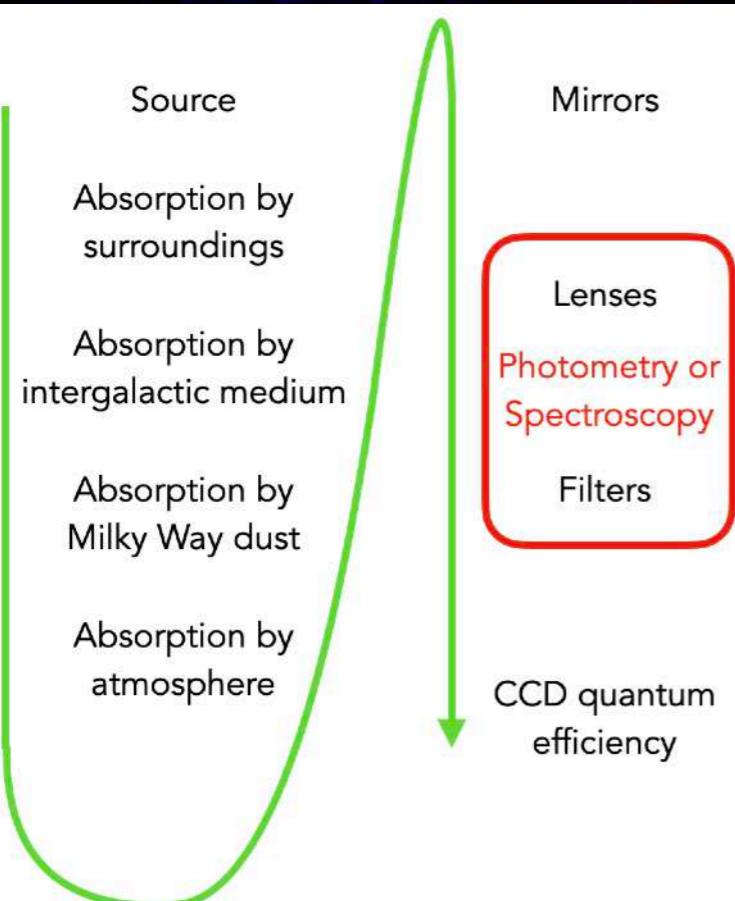
Physics of explosion ? Orientation effects ?

Local environment of explosion ?

Dust in our Galaxy ?

Smearing by our atmosphere ?

Optical distortions or light contaminations ?



Can CCDs count precisely the number of photons ?

Calibration: convert CCD counts into physical fluxes ?

Can we compare fluxes between several (very) different telescopes/observations ?

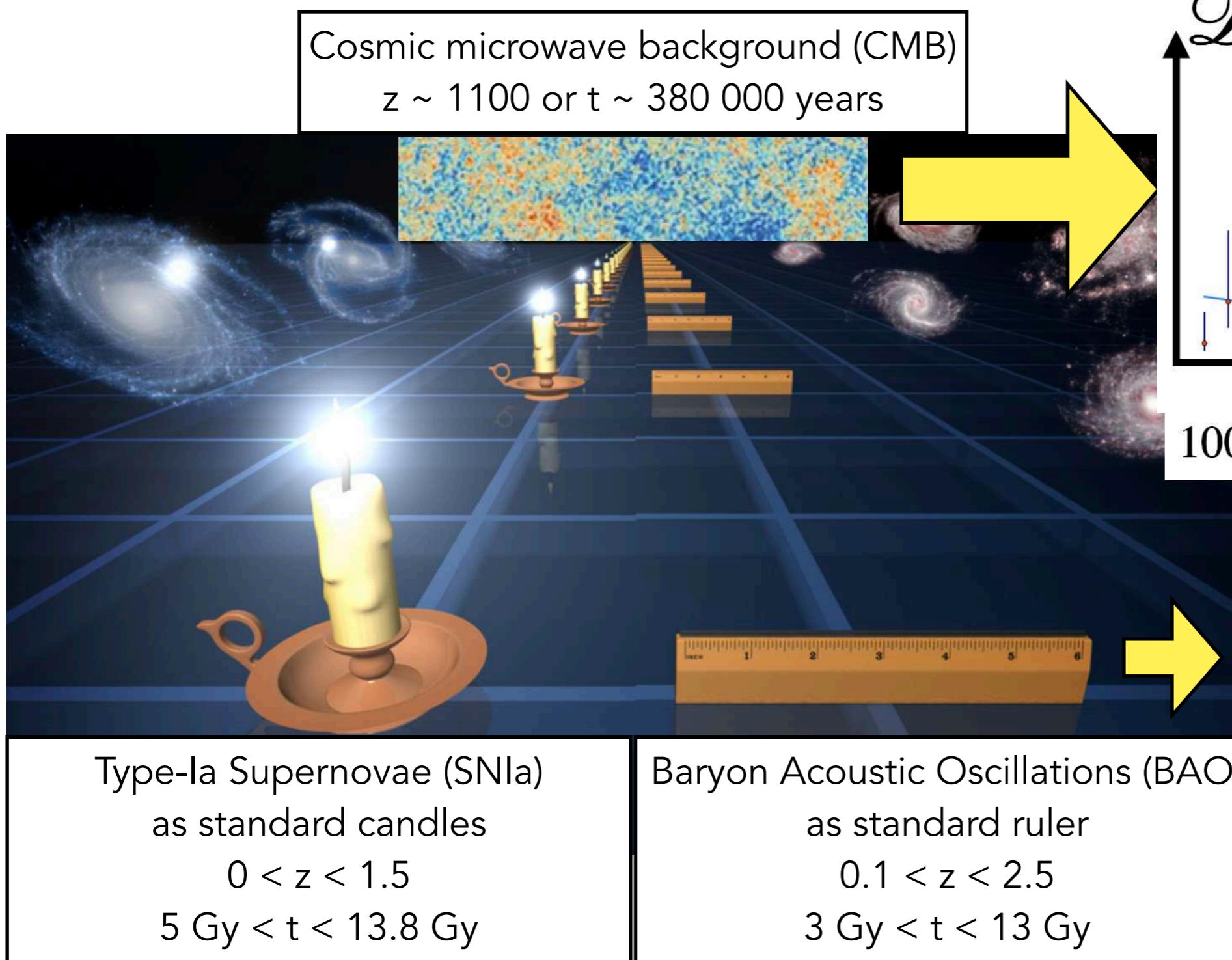
Selection effects ?

Systematic uncertainties are comparable to **statistical** uncertainties !

The background image shows a coastal landscape with light-colored, layered rock cliffs rising from a dark blue sea. The sky is clear and light blue.

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)



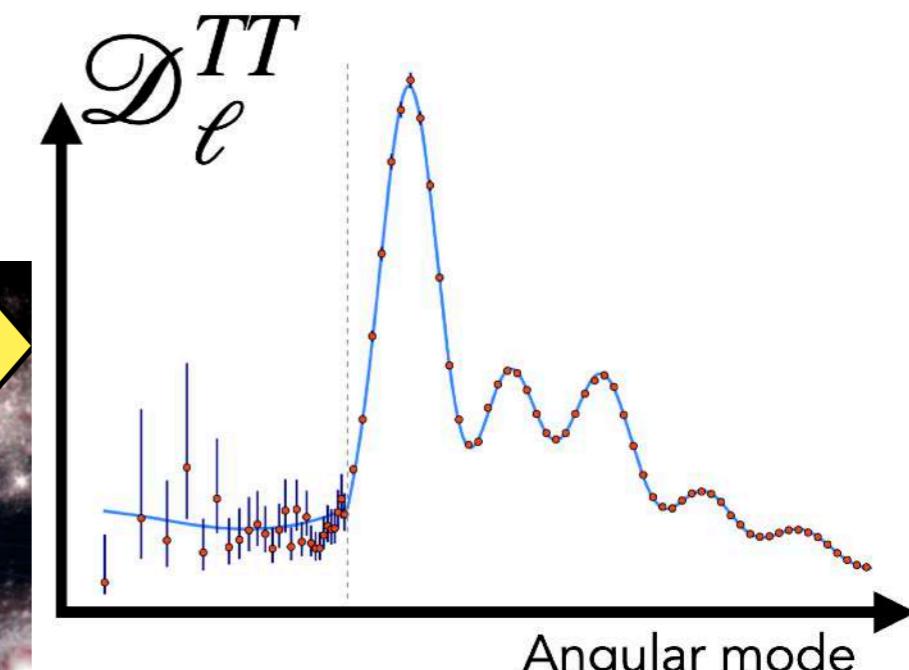
$$F = \frac{L_{\text{candle}}}{4\pi D_L^2(z)}$$

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_M(z)}$$

$$\Delta z = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_H(z)}$$

$$r_{\text{ruler}} \sim 101 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$$

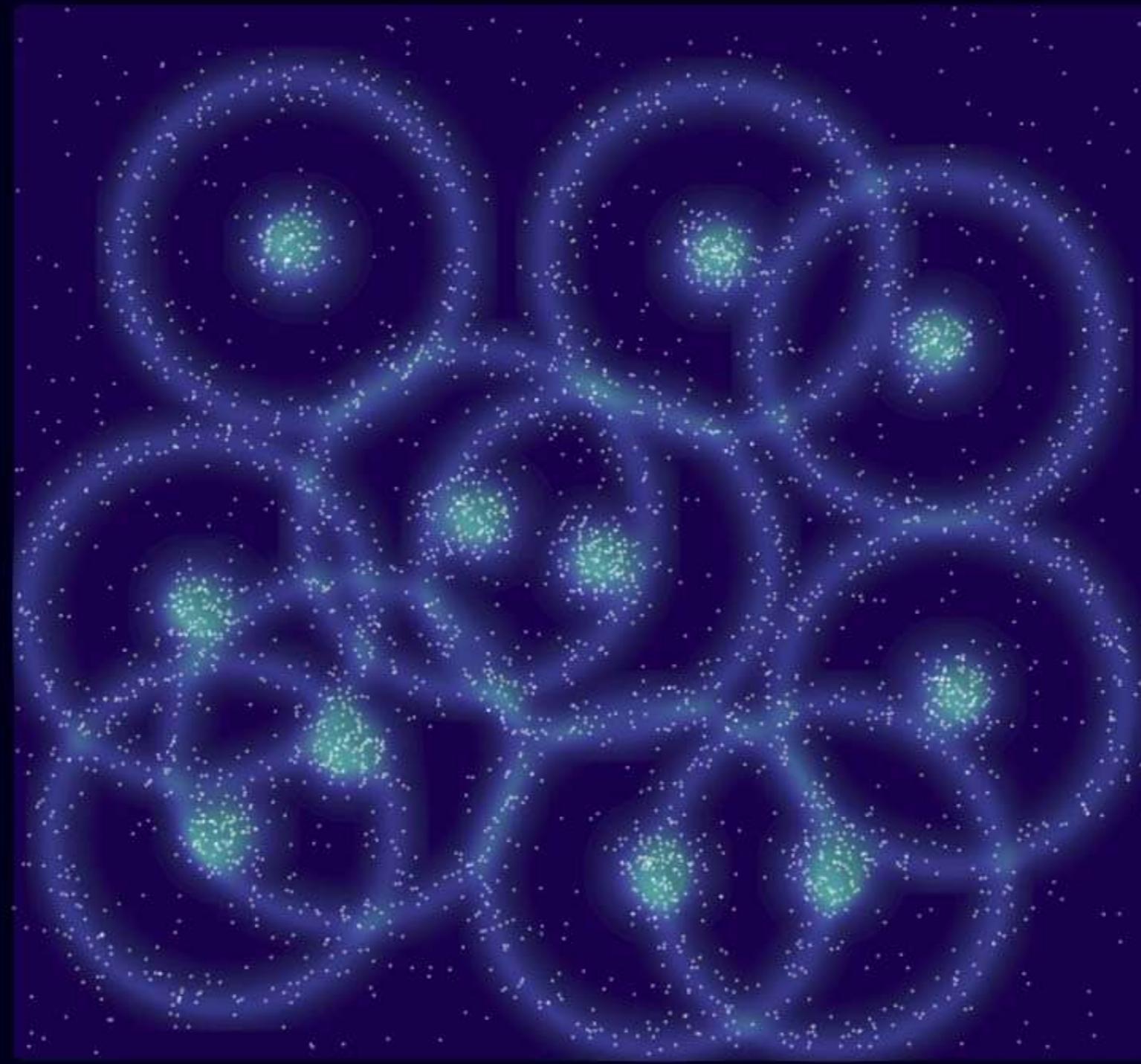
(comoving)



$$100\theta_* = 1.04109 \pm 0.00030$$

$$\theta_* \equiv r_*/D_M$$

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

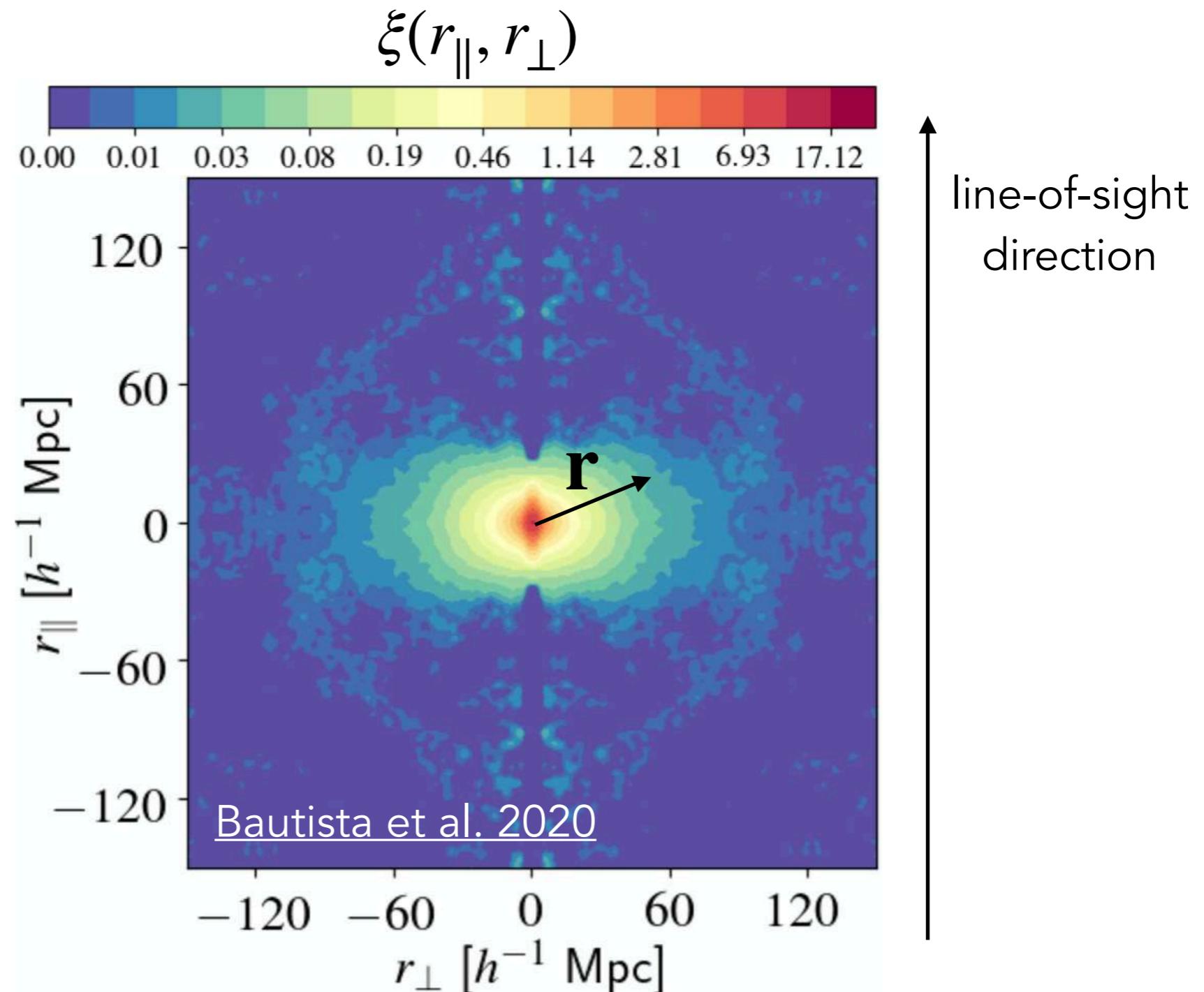


[Link to video](#)

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

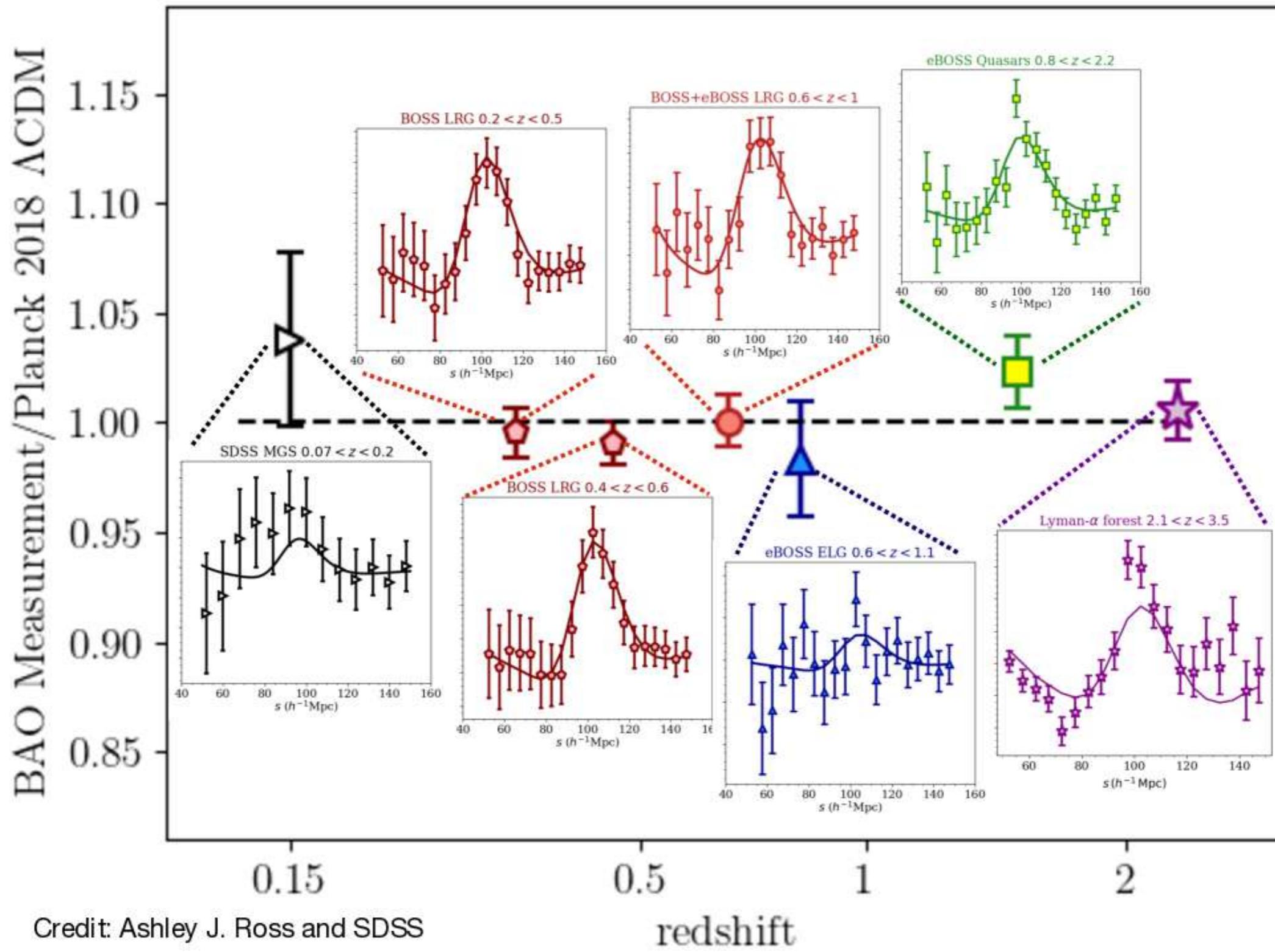
in the transverse and radial directions

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_M(z)} \quad \Delta z = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_H(z)}$$



Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

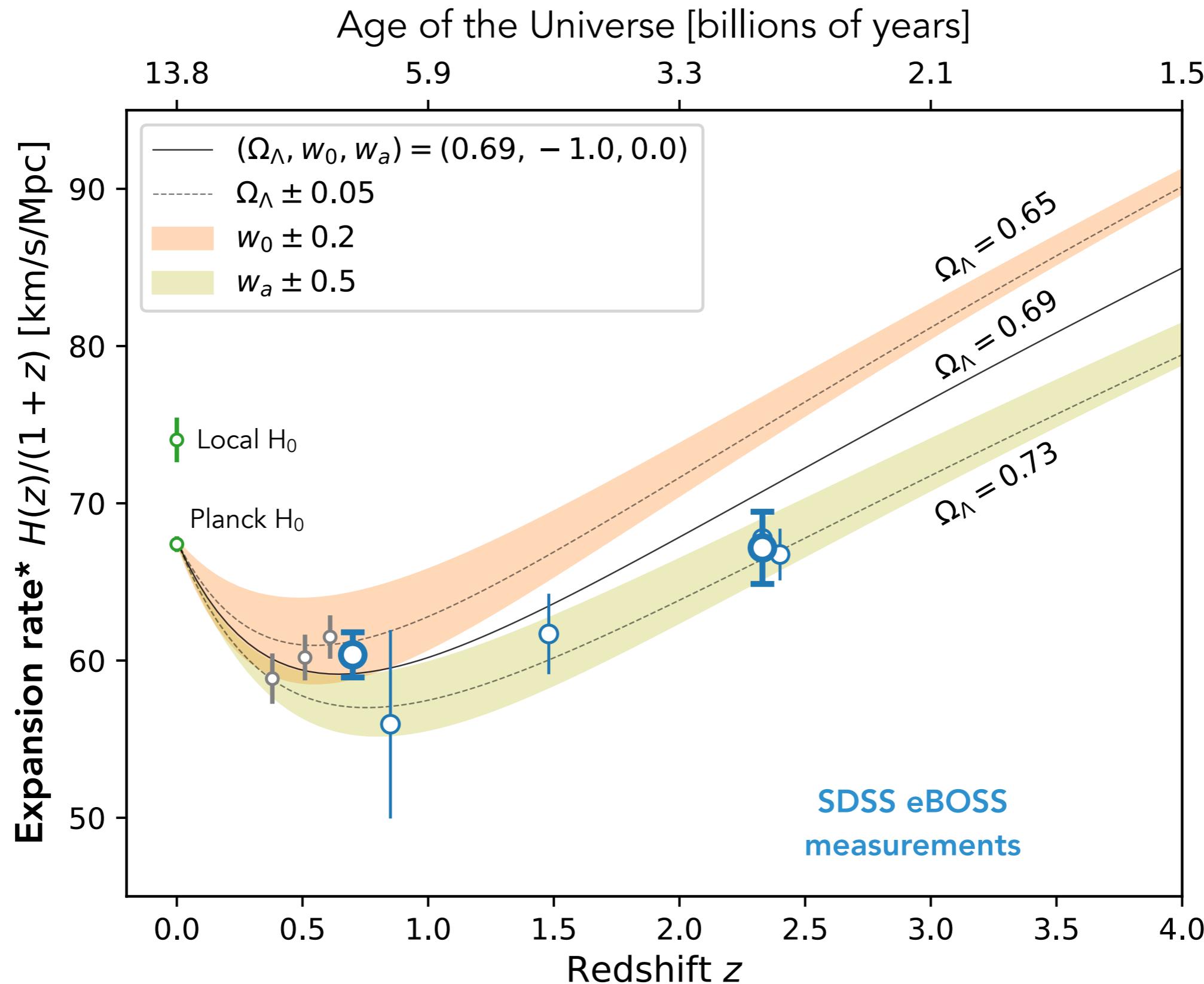
SDSS BAO Distance Ladder



Credit: Ashley J. Ross and SDSS

redshift

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)



*assuming a value for r_d

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

What does it measure ?

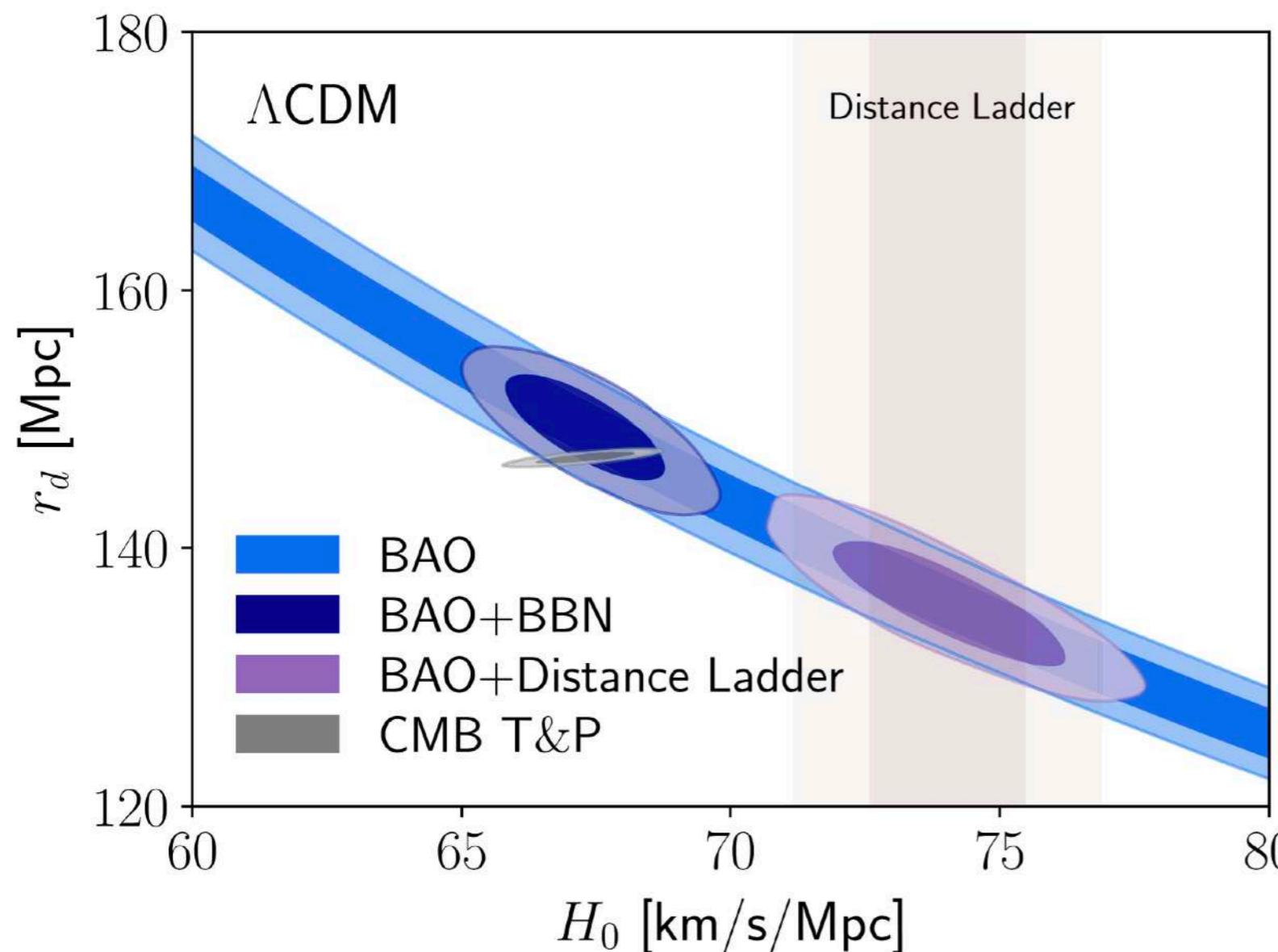
$$\Delta\theta(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_M(z)}$$

$$\Delta z(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}}{D_H(z)}$$

$$\Delta\theta(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}H_0}{c \int_0^z dz' [\Omega_m(1+z')^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z')]^{-1/2}}$$

degenerate

$$\Delta z(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}}H_0}{c[\Omega_m(1+z')^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z')]^{-1/2}}$$



BBN measures $\Omega_b h^2$, constraining r_{ruler}

Distance Ladder measures H_0

CMB measures both
(in a flat Λ CDM model!)

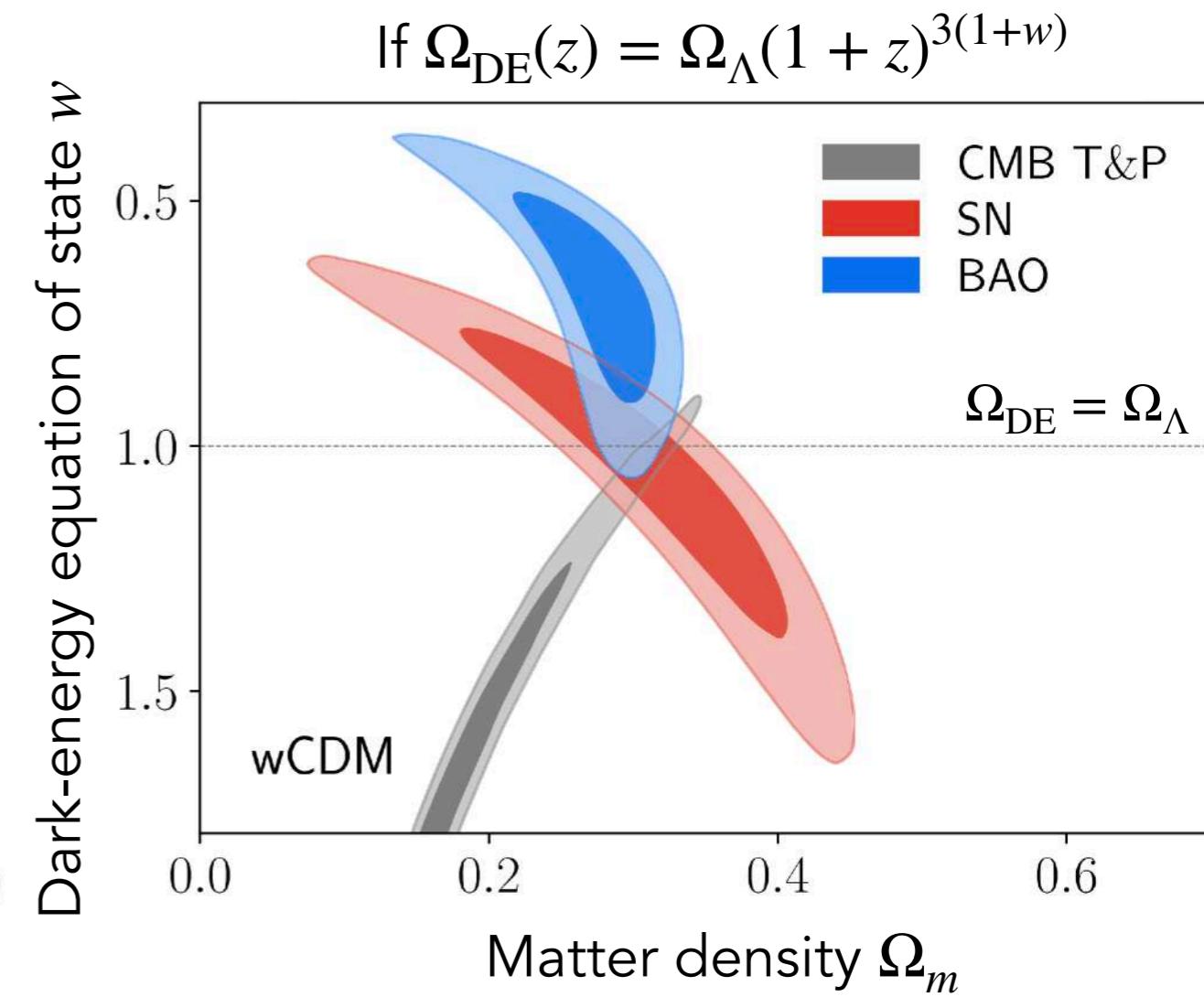
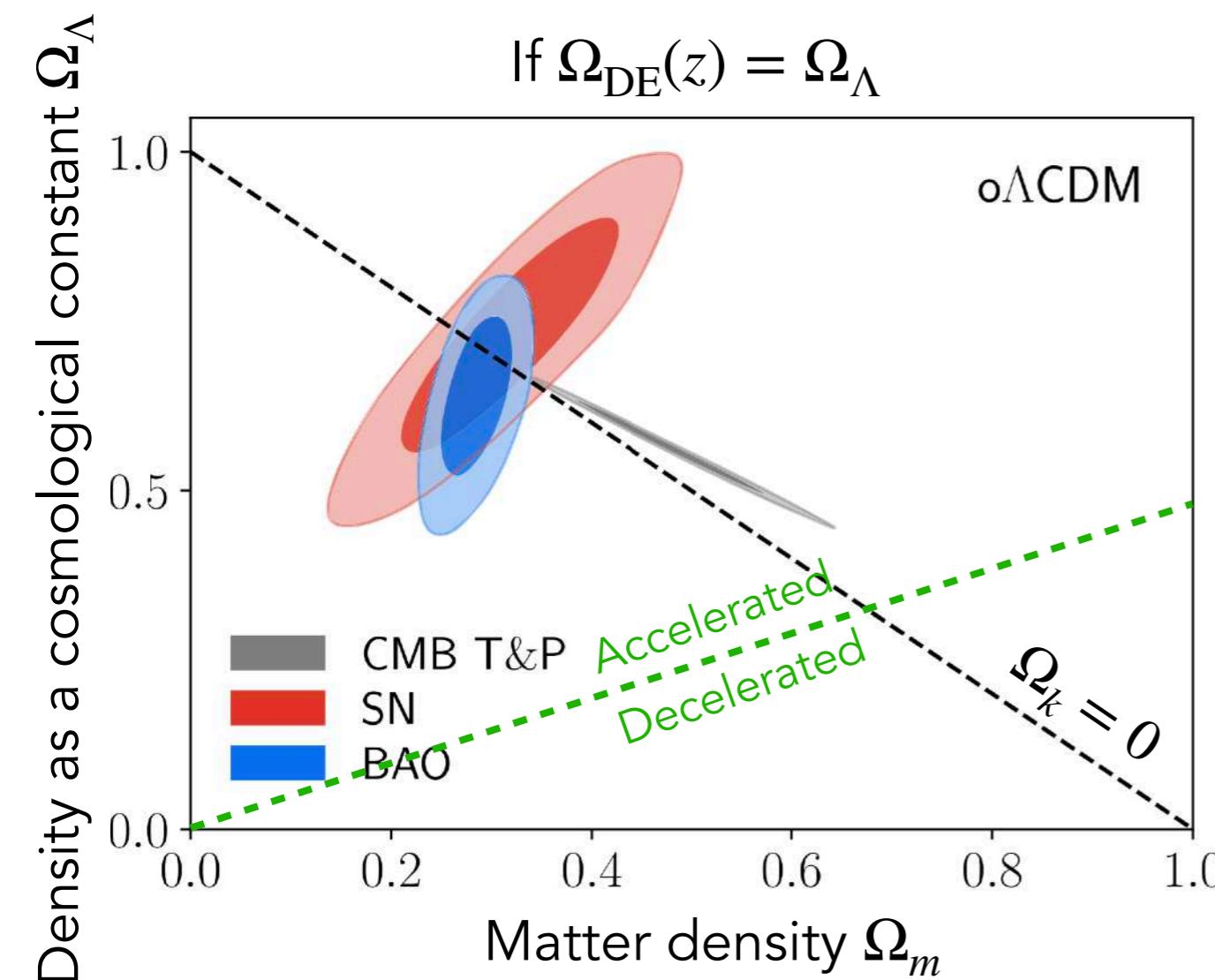
**Still, we can constrain dark-energy
without knowledge of r_{ruler}**

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

What does it measure ?

$$\Delta\theta(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}} H_0}{c \int_0^z dz' [\Omega_m(1+z')^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z')]^{-1/2}}$$

$$\Delta z(z) = \frac{r_{\text{ruler}} H_0}{c [\Omega_m(1+z')^3 + \Omega_{\text{DE}}(z')]^{-1/2}}$$



BAO as powerful as SNIa, and independently showing acceleration !

Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

Why is it hard ?

Correlation function: $\langle \delta(\mathbf{x})\delta(\mathbf{y}) \rangle$

Fourier Transform

Power-spectrum: $\langle \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k})\tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \rangle$

Galaxy overdensity:

$$\delta_g(\vec{x}) = \frac{n_g(\vec{x})}{\bar{n}_g} - 1$$

Random catalog

Survey footprint

Observational completeness

Fake overdensities caused by photometry

"Collisions" of fibers

Reconstruction of linear density field for BAO

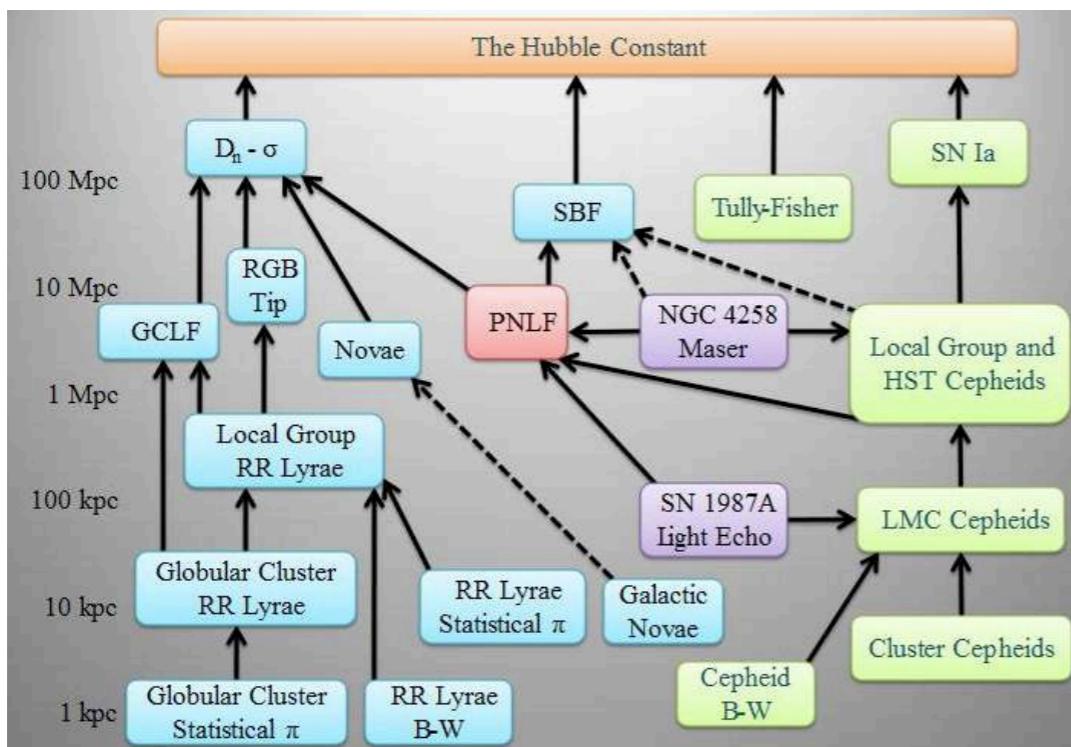
Spectra without confident redshift measurement

1000 simulated surveys used to test methods, covariance, systematic errors

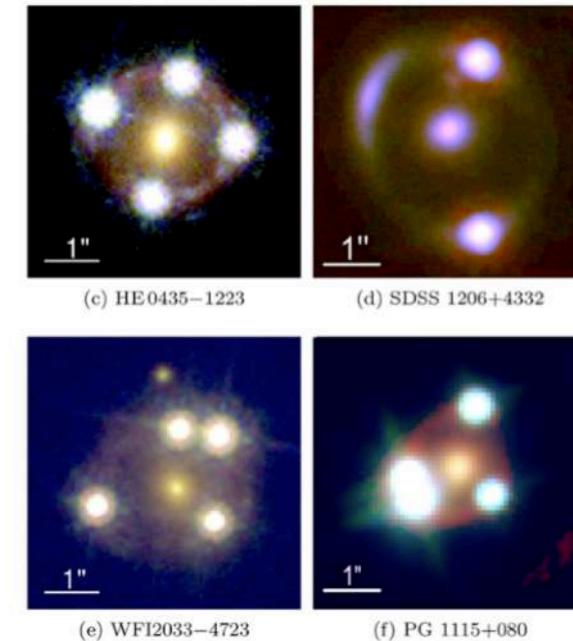
Systematic errors are **well below** current **statistical** errors

The Hubble Constant H_0

Distance ladder

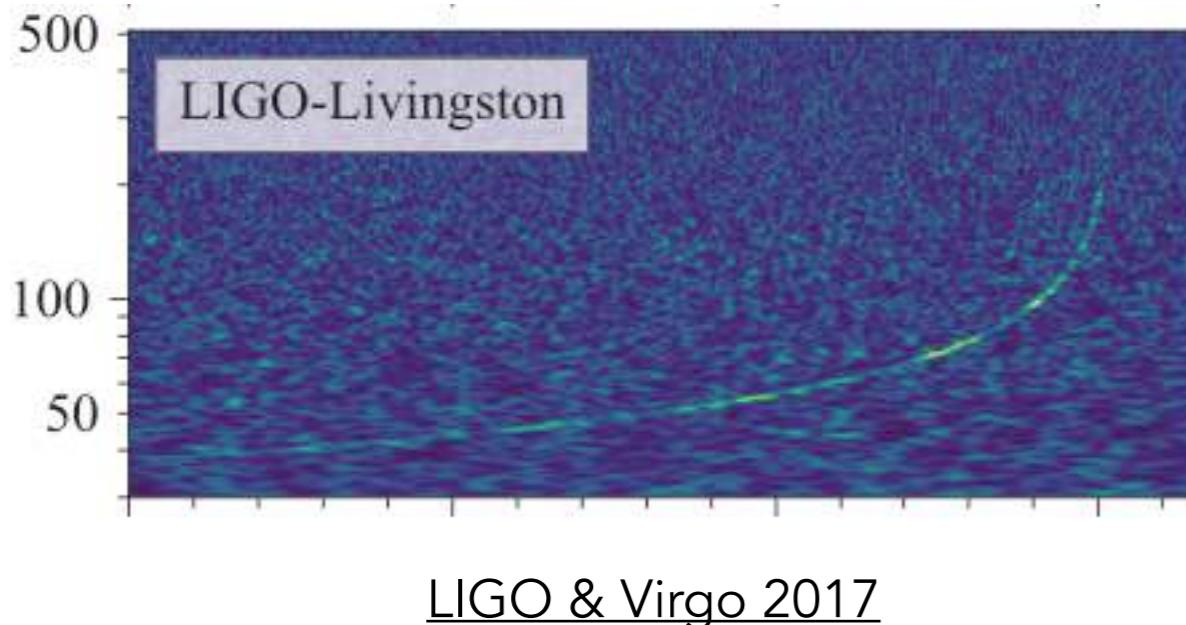


Strong lensing of variable quasars

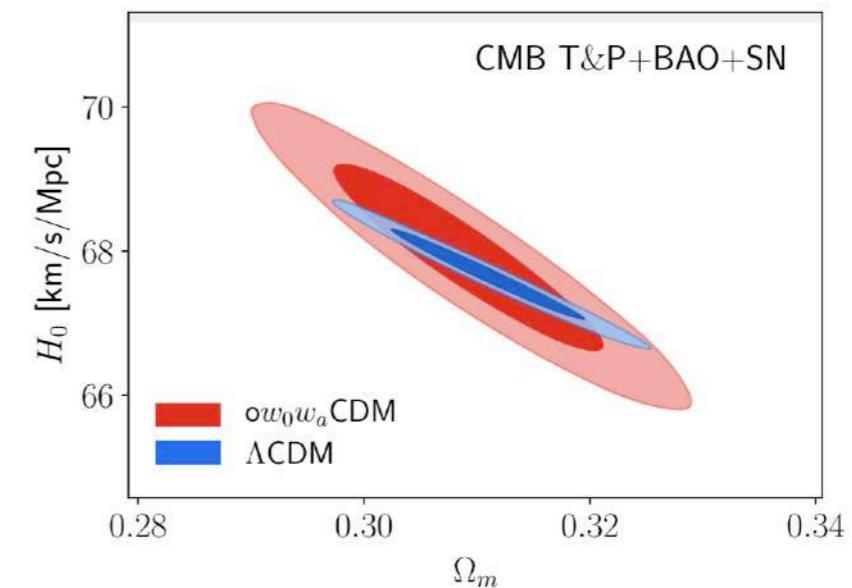


H0LiCOW (Wong et al. 2020)

Standard sirens



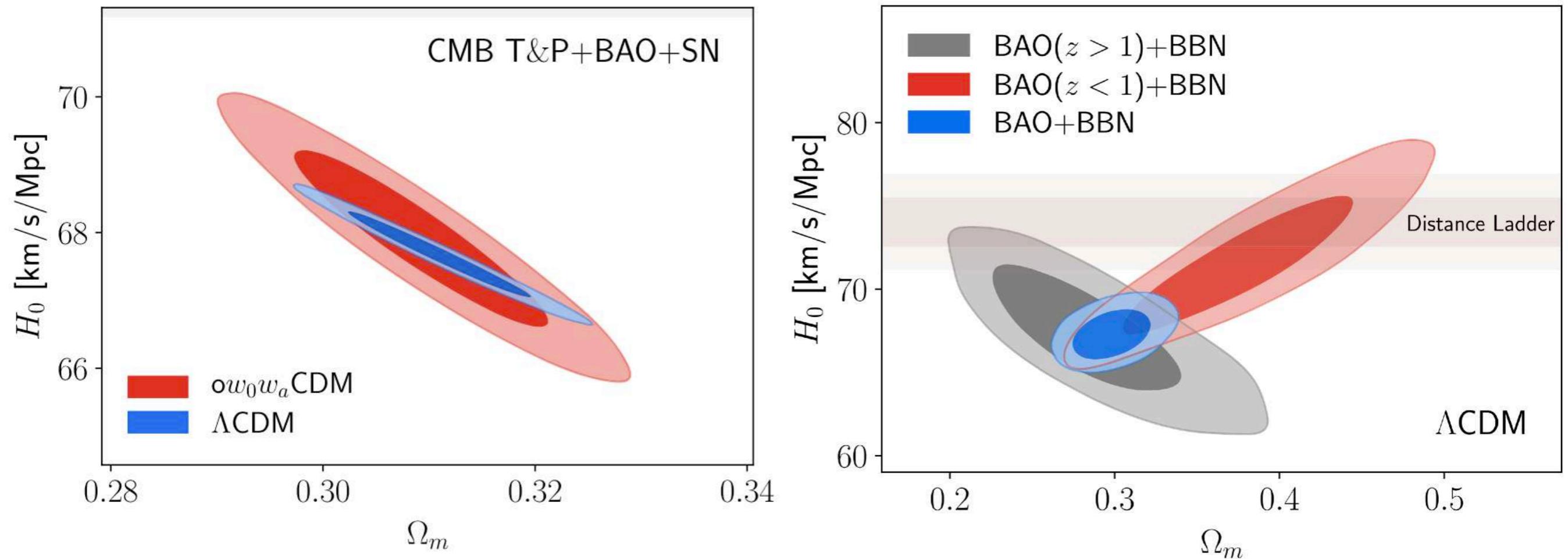
Inverse distance ladder



eBOSS Collab 2021

The Hubble Constant H_0

Inverse distance ladder



The Hubble Constant H_0

Inverse distance ladder

Dataset	Cosmological model	H_0 ($\text{km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$)
CMB T & P + BAO + SN	ow_0w_a CDM	67.91 ± 0.87
BBN + BAO	Λ CDM	67.33 ± 0.98
CMB T&P	Λ CDM	67.28 ± 0.61
CMB T&P	$o\Lambda$ CDM	$54.5^{+3.3}_{-3.9}$
Lensing time delays	Λ CDM	73.3 ± 1.8
Distance ladder	...	74.0 ± 1.4
GW sirens	...	70 ± 10
TRGB	...	69.6 ± 1.9
TFR	...	76.2 ± 4.3
Maser galaxies	...	73.9 ± 3.0

A scenic coastal view featuring towering, light-colored rock formations with distinct horizontal sedimentary layers. The sea is visible in the background, meeting a clear sky.

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

A scenic coastal landscape featuring rugged, light-colored cliffs with distinct horizontal sedimentary layers. The cliffs rise steeply from a rocky shoreline. In the background, a calm body of water extends to a distant, hazy horizon under a clear sky.

Redshift-Space Distortions (RSD)

A scenic coastal landscape featuring rugged, light-colored cliffs with distinct horizontal sedimentary layers. The cliffs rise steeply from a rocky shoreline. In the background, a calm body of water extends to a distant, hazy horizon under a clear sky.

Weak Gravitational Lensing (WL)