

# Cosmic acceleration: now, then, and back then

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UniVersum IV, Trento, 2 February 2023



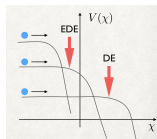
**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TRENTO**

**Dipartimento di  
Fisica**

# Three (or more?) epochs of cosmic acceleration?

In order of increasing “speculativeness”:

- Dark energy (now,  $t \sim 10^{10}$  yrs)
- Inflation (back then,  $t \sim 10^{-36}$  s)
- Early dark energy (then,  $t \sim 10^4$  yrs)



Credits: Vivian Poulin



Credits: (adapted from) The Open University

Note: blue → (Master's/PhD) students, red → postdocs



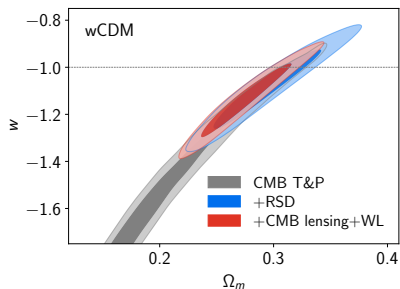
Student's name (student's institution)



Postdoc's name (postdoc's institution)

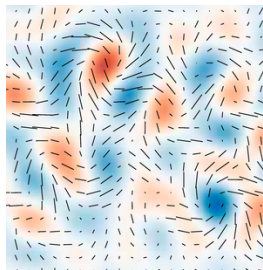
## If this were a standard review talk...(simplifying a bit)

Latest on searches for dark energy *gravitational* effects (constraining  $w$  via background/growth of structure)



eBOSS collaboration, PRD 103 (2021) 083533

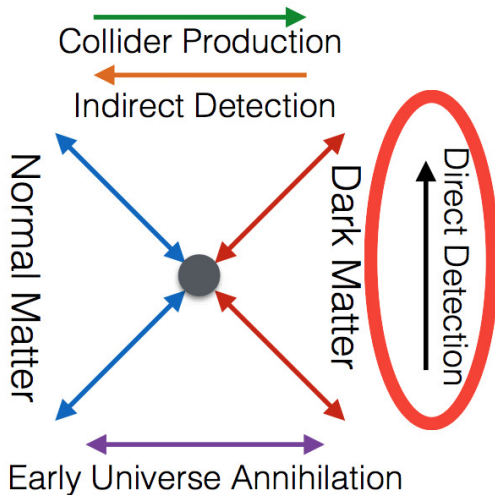
Latest on searches for low-frequency ( $\sim 10^{-18}$  Hz) inflationary GWs via CMB B-modes (upper limits on  $r$ )



Credits: BICEP2 collaboration

# *Dark Energy*

# Are gravitational signatures all there is?



What about dark energy?



# Can dark energy and visible matter talk to each other?

Quintessence and the Rest of the World: Suppressing Long-Range Interactions

Sean M. Carroll  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **81**, 3067 – Published 12 October 1998

If DE due to a new particle, this typically will:

- be very light [ $m \sim H_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-33})$  eV]
- have gravitational-strength coupling to matter

$$F_5 = -\frac{1}{M_5^2} \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} e^{-r/\lambda_5}, \quad M_5 \sim M_{\text{Pl}}, \quad \lambda_5 \sim m^{-1} \sim H_0^{-1}$$

- Tune the coupling to be extremely weak [ $M \gg M_{\text{Pl}}$ ]
- Tune the range to be extremely short [ $\lambda \ll \mathcal{O}(\text{mm})$ ]
- Tune the dynamics so the force weakens based on its environment  
→ **screening!**

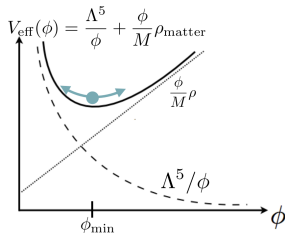
# Chameleon screening

$$F_5 = -\frac{1}{M_5^2(x)} \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^{2-n(x)}} e^{-r/\lambda_5(x)}$$

- $\lambda_5(x)$  → **chameleon** screening
- $M_5(x)$  → symmetron screening
- $n(x)$  → Vainshtein screening

$$V_{\text{eff}} = V(\phi) + \phi \rho_m / M$$

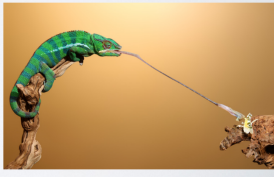
$$m_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{d^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{d\phi^2} \Big|_{\phi=\phi_{\text{min}}} \propto \rho_m^n, n > 0$$



On Earth:



In space:



# Direct detection of dark energy

Can we detect (screened) DE in DM direct detection experiments?

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **104**, 063023 (2021)

## Direct detection of dark energy: The XENONIT excess and future prospects

Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Luca Visinelli<sup>3,4,5,\*</sup>, Philippe Brax<sup>6,†</sup>, Anne-Christine Davis<sup>7,1,§</sup> and Jeremy Sakstein<sup>8,||</sup>

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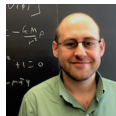
Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)



Phil Brax (IPhT, Saclay)



Anne Davis (Cambridge)



Jeremy Sakstein (Hawaii)

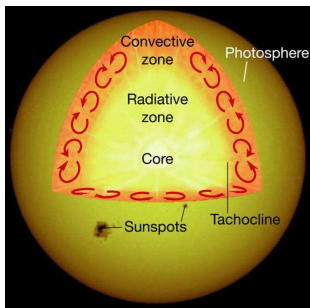


# Direct detection of dark energy

## Production

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi\gamma} \supset -\beta_\gamma \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \underbrace{\frac{T_\gamma^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi}{M_\gamma^4}}_{\text{disformal}}$$

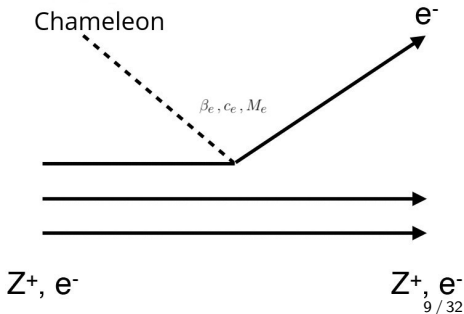
Production in strong magnetic fields of the tachocline



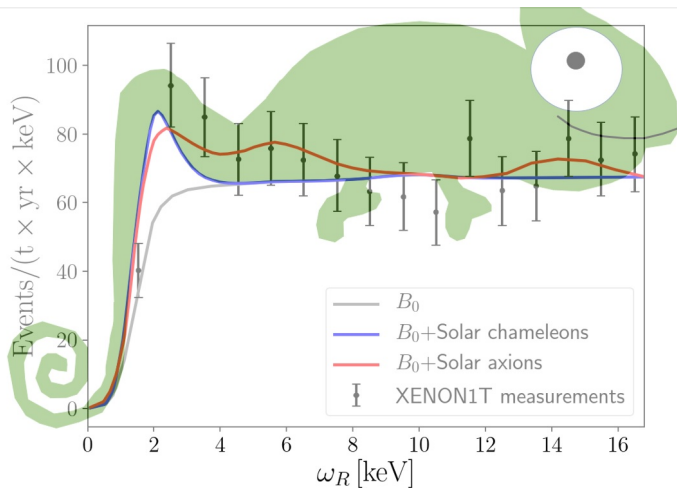
## Detection

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi i} \supset \underbrace{\beta_i \frac{\phi T_i}{M_{\text{Pl}}}}_{\text{conformal}} - \underbrace{c_i \frac{\partial^\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi}{M^4} T_i}_{\text{kinetic-conformal}} + \underbrace{\frac{T_i^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi}{M_i^4}}_{\text{disformal}}$$

Analogous to photoelectric and axioelectric effects



# Direct detection of (chameleon-screened) dark energy



# Cosmological direct detection of dark energy

Wouldn't scattering between DE and baryons mess up cosmology?

Monthly Notices

of the  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **493**, 1139–1152 (2020)

Advance Access publication 2020 February 3



doi:10.1093/mnras/staa311

## Do we have any hope of detecting scattering between dark energy and baryons through cosmology?

Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>1</sup>,<sup>1</sup>\*<sup>†</sup> Luca Visinelli,<sup>2</sup> Olga Mena<sup>3</sup> and David F. Mota<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>*Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), University of Valencia-CSIC, E-46980 Valencia, Spain*

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Surprisingly not!



Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)



Olga Mena (Valencia)

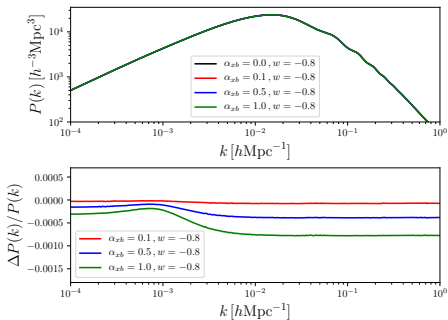
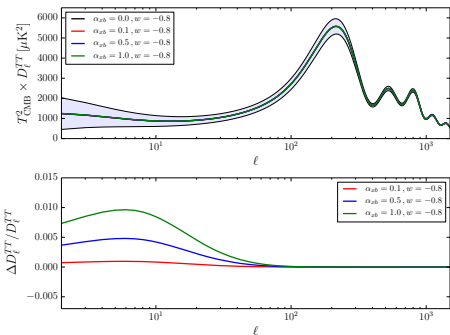


David Mota (Oslo)

# Cosmological direct detection of dark energy?

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\theta}_b &= -\mathcal{H}\theta_b + c_s^2 k^2 \delta_b + \frac{4\rho_\gamma}{3\rho_b} an_e \sigma_T (\theta_\gamma - \theta_b) + (1 + w_x) \frac{\rho_x}{\rho_b} an_e \sigma_{xb} (\theta_x - \theta_b) \\ \dot{\theta}_x &= -\mathcal{H}(1 - 3c_s^2)\theta_x + \frac{c_s^2 k^2}{1 + w_x} \delta_x + an_e \sigma_{xb} (\theta_b - \theta_x)\end{aligned}$$

Impact on CMB and *linear* matter power spectrum ( $\alpha = \sigma_{xb}/\sigma_T$ )



# N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

What about the non-linear regime?

Monthly Notices

of the  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **512**, 1885–1905 (2022)

Advance Access publication 2022 March 10



<https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stac649>

## Cosmological direct detection of dark energy: Non-linear structure formation signatures of dark energy scattering with visible matter

Fulvio Ferlito,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>3,4\*</sup> †, David F. Mota<sup>4</sup> and Marco Baldi<sup>2,5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 1, D-85740 Garching bei München, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Via Piero Gobetti 93/2, I-40129 Bologna, Italy

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Only one way to find out: run N-body simulations!



Fulvio Ferlito (MPA Garching)



David Mota (Oslo)



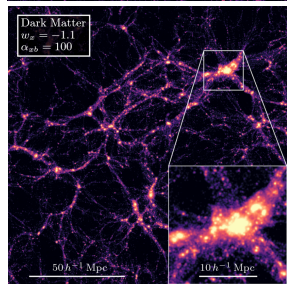
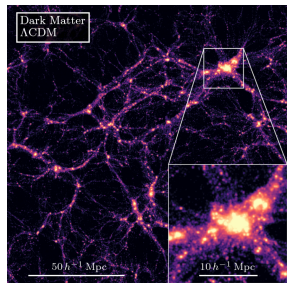
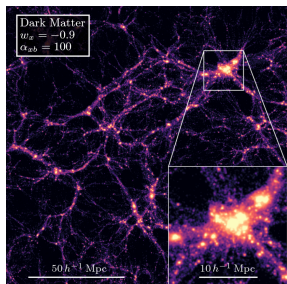
Marco Baldi (Bologna)

# N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

Simulation snapshots:

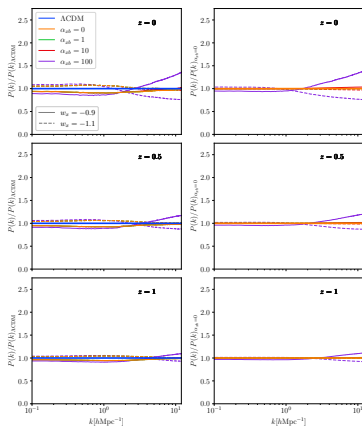
- $\sigma = 100\sigma_T$
- $w = -0.9, -1, -1.1$

Ferlito, SV, Mota, Baldi, MNRAS 512 (2022) 1885

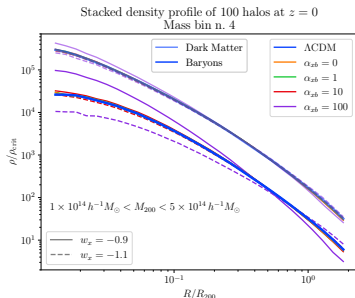


# N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

Matter power spectrum relative to  $\Lambda$ CDM (left) and no-scattering  $w$ CDM (right)



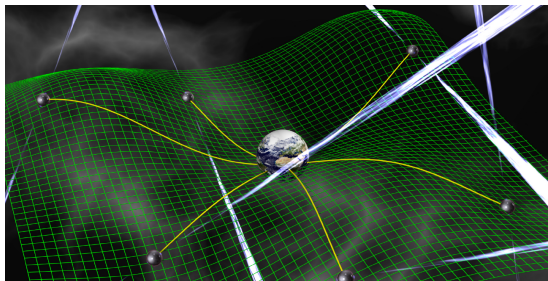
Baryon fraction profiles



# *Inflation*

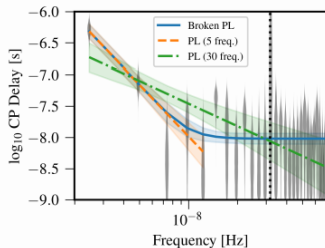


# Pulsar timing arrays



Hints of stochastic GW background detection by NANOGrav (confirmed by PPTA, EPTA, IPTA)?

NANOGrav collaboration, *ApJ Lett.* 905 (2020) L34; PPTA collaboration, *ApJ Lett.* 917 (2021) L19; EPTA collaboration, *MNRAS* 508 (2021) 4970; IPTA collaboration, *MNRAS* 510 (2022) 4873.



NANOGrav collaboration, *ApJ Lett.* 905 (2020) L34

# Did NANOGrav see inflationary GWs?

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ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **502**, L11–L15 (2021)  
Advance Access publication 2020 December 21



doi:10.1093/mnras/slaa203

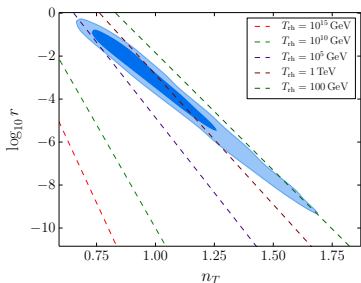
## Implications of the NANOGrav results for inflation

Sunny Vagnozzi

*Kavli Institute for Cosmology, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, UK*

Accepted 2020 December 11. Received 2020 December 8; in original form 2020 October 7

## Did NANOGrav detect an inflationary SGWB? $P_T \propto r A_S k^{n_T}$



- Very blue spectrum,  $n_T \sim 1 \rightarrow$ , violates consistency relation  $r = -8n_T$ , cannot come from single-field slow-roll inflation
- Very low reheating temperature,  $T_{\text{rh}} \lesssim \mathcal{O}(\text{TeV})$

# Did NANOGrav see inflationary GWs?

## Primordial gravitational waves from NANOGrav: A broken power-law approach

Micol Benetti<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Leila L. Graef<sup>3,†</sup> and Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>4,‡</sup>

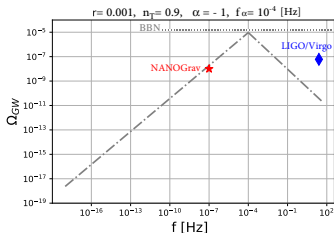
<sup>1</sup>*Scuola Superiore Meridionale (SSM), Università di Napoli "Federico II,"  
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<sup>3</sup>*Instituto de Física, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Avenida General Milton Tavares de Souza s/n,  
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Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, United Kingdom*

Ⓞ (Received 12 November 2021; accepted 5 January 2022; published 11 February 2022)



Benetti, Graef, SV, PRD 105 (2022) 043520



Micol Benetti (SSM, Naples)



Leila Graef (Fluminense)

## Broken power-law spectrum can mimic:

- Non-standard pre-BBN era ( $w \neq 1/3$ : early matter domination, kination,...)
- Late-time entropy production
- Change in  $n_T$  associated to blue GW generation mechanism
- ...

# The swampland

Are inflation, string theory, and cosmological data mutually incompatible?

**The zoo plot meets the swampland: mutual (in)consistency of single-field inflation, string conjectures, and cosmological data**

William H Kinney<sup>1,2</sup>, Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>1,3,5</sup>   
and Luca Visinelli<sup>1,3,4</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> The Oskar Klein Centre for Cosmoparticle Physics, Department of Physics, Stockholm University, Roslagstullsbacken 21A, 10691 Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Department of Physics, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260, United States of America

<sup>3</sup> The Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics (NORDITA), Roslagstullsbacken 23, 10691 Stockholm, Sweden

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Published 13 May 2019



Quite possibly, at least for the simplest inflationary models!



Will Kinney (SUNY Buffalo)

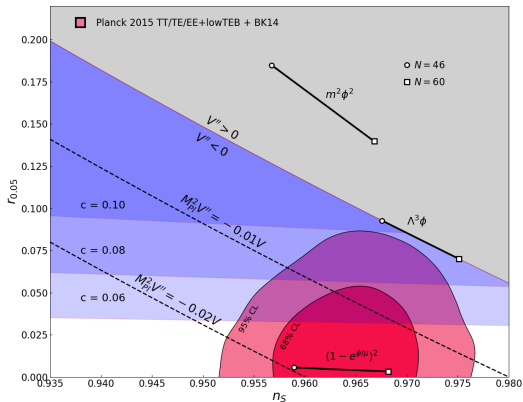


Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)

# Are inflation and string theory incompatible?

Swampland conjectures: [Obied et al., arXiv:1806.08362](#)

$$\frac{|\Delta\phi|}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \lesssim \Delta \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad M_{\text{Pl}} \frac{|V_\phi|}{V} \gtrsim c \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$



# Ruling out inflation via the cosmic graviton background?

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 939:L22 (5pp), 2022 November 10

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OPEN ACCESS

<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/ac9b0e>



## The Challenge of Ruling Out Inflation via the Primordial Graviton Background

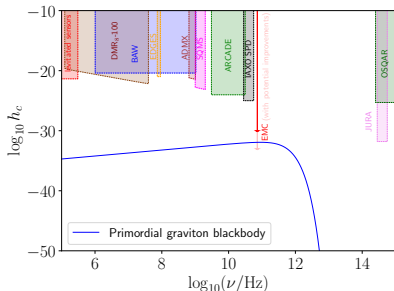
Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>1,2</sup> and Abraham Loeb<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of Trento, Via Sommarive 14, I-38123 Povo (TN), Italy; [sunny.vagnozzi@unitn.it](mailto:sunny.vagnozzi@unitn.it)

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- Produced at  $t \sim t_{P1}$
- Gives correction  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \simeq 0.054$  (detectable in near future)
- Stochastic GW background at  $\sim 100$  GHz also potentially detectable

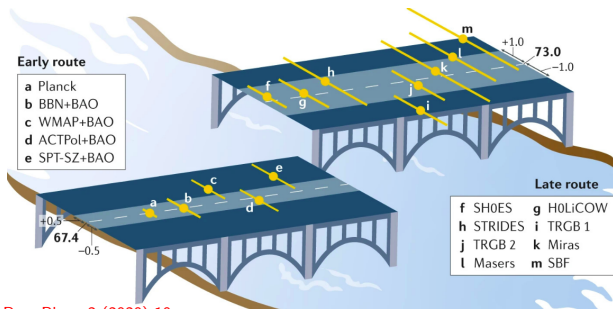
Vagnozzi & Loeb, ApJ Lett. 939 (2022) L22



Avi Loeb (Harvard)

# *Early dark energy*

# Viewing the Hubble tension ocean with different eyeglasses



Credits: Riess, Nat. Rev. Phys. 2 (2020) 10

Why does  $\Lambda$ CDM fit data so well? Do we really need new physics? If so, at what time(s), and with what ingredients?

*Consistency tests of  $\Lambda$ CDM*

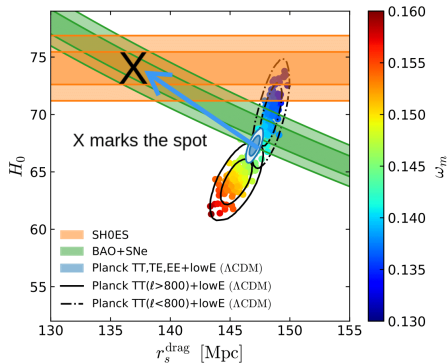


# The Hubble tension and new physics

Hubble tension *appears* to call for (substantial) early-time new physics...

Increasing  $H(z)$  just prior to  $z_*$ :  
“least unlikely” proposal?

Example: early dark energy (some debate as to how much it works)



Featured in Physics

Editors' Suggestion

## Early Dark Energy can Resolve the Hubble Tension

Vivian Poulin, Tristan L. Smith, Tanvi Karwal, and Marc Kamionkowski  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 221301 – Published 4 June 2019

Editors' Suggestion

## Early dark energy does not restore cosmological concordance

J. Colin Hill, Evan McDonough, Michael W. Toomey, and Stephon Alexander  
Phys. Rev. D **102**, 043507 – Published 5 August 2020

Need  $\approx 12\%$  (!!!) EDE around  $z_{\text{eq}}$  ↓↓

*Why is there no clear sign of new physics in CMB data alone?*

# The early ISW (eISW) effect

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **104**, 063524 (2021)

Consistency tests of  $\Lambda$ CDM from the early integrated Sachs-Wolfe effect:  
Implications for early-time new physics and the Hubble tension

Sunny Vagnozzi<sup>\*</sup>

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Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, United Kingdom*

✉ (Received 15 June 2021; accepted 22 July 2021; published 15 September 2021)

$$\Theta = \int_0^{\eta_0} d\eta \left[ \underbrace{\propto g(\Theta_0 + \Psi)}_{\text{Sachs-Wolfe}} + \underbrace{\propto g v_b \frac{d}{d\eta}}_{\text{Doppler}} + \underbrace{\propto e^{-\tau} (\dot{\Psi} - \dot{\Phi})}_{\text{ISW}} + \underbrace{\propto (g\Pi + [g\ddot{\Pi}])}_{\text{Polarization}} \right] j_\ell(k\Delta\eta)$$

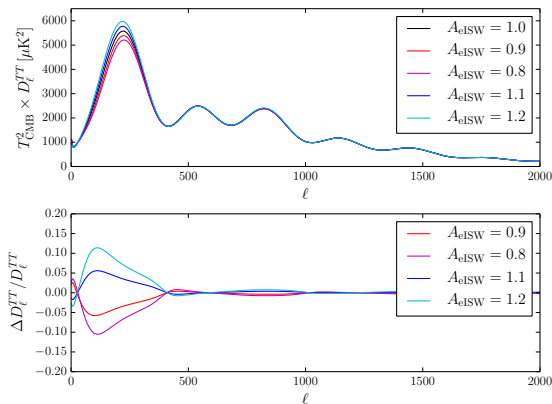
$$\Theta_\ell^{\text{ISW}}(k) = \underbrace{\int_0^{\eta_m} d\eta e^{-\tau} (\dot{\Psi} - \dot{\Phi}) j_\ell(k\Delta\eta)}_{\text{early ISW}} + \underbrace{\int_{\eta_m}^{\eta_0} d\eta e^{-\tau} (\dot{\Psi} - \dot{\Phi}) j_\ell(k\Delta\eta)}_{\text{late ISW}}$$

(A substantial amount of) New physics increasing  $H(z)$  around  $z_{\text{eq}}/z_\star$  *should* leave an imprint on the eISW effect!

# eISW consistency test

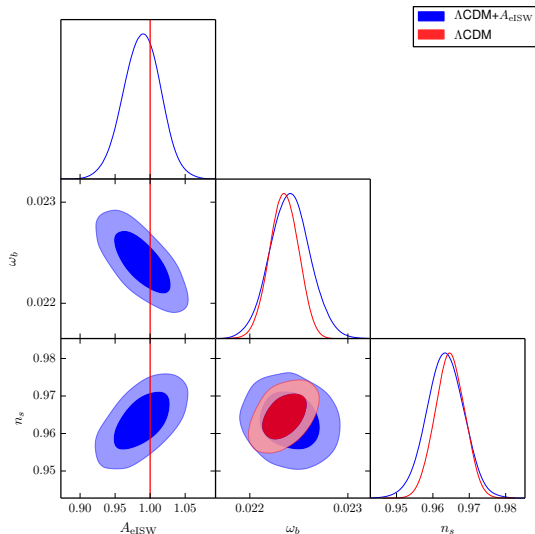
Introduce scaling amplitude/fudge factor  $A_{\text{eISW}}$ :

$$\Theta_{\ell}^{\text{eISW}}(k) = A_{\text{eISW}} \int_0^{\eta_m} d\eta e^{-\tau} (\dot{\Psi} - \dot{\Phi}) j_{\ell}(k\Delta\eta)$$



# eISW consistency test

Is *Planck* data consistent with the expectation  $A_{eISW} = 1$ ?



Yes!

Parameter	<i>Planck</i>	
	$\Lambda$ CDM	$\Lambda$ CDM+ $A_{eISW}$
$100\omega_b$	$2.235 \pm 0.015$	$2.241 \pm 0.020$
$\omega_c$	$0.1202 \pm 0.0013$	$0.1203 \pm 0.0014$
$\theta_s$	$1.0409 \pm 0.0003$	$1.0409 \pm 0.0003$
$\tau$	$0.0544 \pm 0.0078$	$0.0541 \pm 0.0078$
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	$3.045 \pm 0.016$	$3.046 \pm 0.016$
$n_s$	$0.965 \pm 0.004$	$0.963 \pm 0.005$
$A_{eISW}$	1.0	$0.988 \pm 0.027$
$H_0$ [km/s/Mpc]	$67.26 \pm 0.57$	$67.28 \pm 0.62$
$\Omega_m$	$0.317 \pm 0.008$	$0.317 \pm 0.009$

SV, PRD 104 (2021) 063524

# Implications for early-time new physics: EDE case study

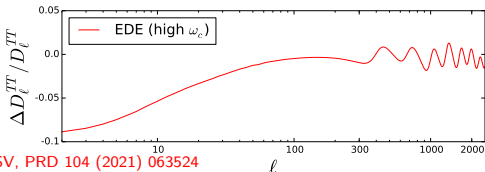
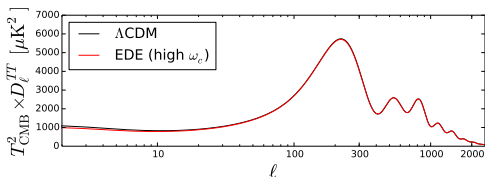
High  $H_0$  EDE fit to CMB at the cost of increase in  $\omega_c \rightarrow$  worsens tension with WL/LSS data? Hill *et al.*, PRD 102 (2020) 043507; Ivanov *et al.*, PRD 102 (2020) 103502; D'Amico *et al.*, JCAP 2105 (2021) 072; see also Gómez-Valent *et al.*, PRD 104 (2021) 083536; see partial rebuttals in: Murgia *et al.*, PRD 103 (2021) 063502; Smith *et al.*, PRD 103 (2021) 123542; Herold *et al.*, ApJ Lett. 929 (2022) L16; Gómez-Valent, PRD 106 (2022) 063506; Herold & Ferreira, arXiv:2210.16296

## Editors' Suggestion

Early dark energy does not restore cosmological concordance

J. Collin Hill, Evan McDonough, Michael W. Toomey, and Stephon Alexander  
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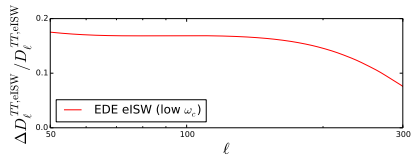
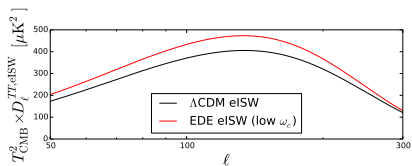
Parameter	$\Lambda$ CDM	EDE (high $\omega_c$ )	EDE (low $\omega_c$ )
$100\omega_b$	2.253	2.253	2.253
$\omega_c$	0.1177	0.1322	0.1177
$H_0$ [km/s/Mpc]	68.21	72.19	72.19
$\tau$	0.085	0.072	0.072
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	3.0983	3.0978	3.0978
$n_s$	0.9686	0.9889	0.9889
$f_{\text{EDE}}$	–	0.122	0.122
$\log_{10} z_c$	–	3.562	3.562
$\theta_i$	–	2.83	2.83
$n$	–	3	3



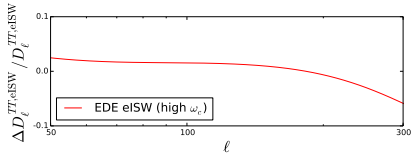
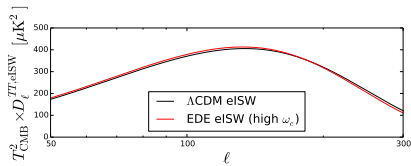
# Implications for early-time new physics: EDE case study

Let's extract only the eISW contribution to temperature anisotropies...

Low  $\omega_c$



High  $\omega_c$



Almost 20% eISW excess!

No more than  $\lesssim$  3-5% eISW excess

Generic to models increasing pre-recombination  $H(z)$ , not just EDE

# Rescuing early dark energy with massive neutrinos?

Restoring cosmological concordance with early dark energy and massive neutrinos?

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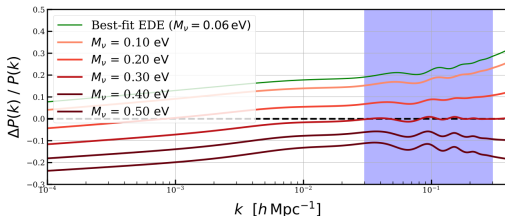
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Reeves, Herold, SV, Sherwin, Ferreira, arXiv:2207.01501 (to appear in MNRAS). Plot credits: Alex Reeves



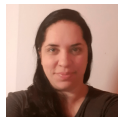
Alex Reeves (ETH Zürich)



Laura Herold (MPA Garching)



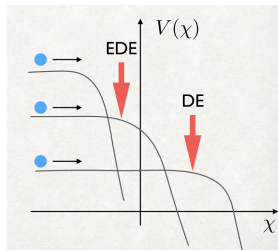
Blake Sherwin (Cambridge)



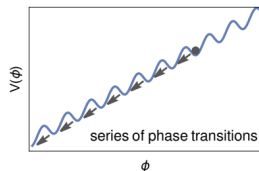
Elisa Ferreira (Tokyo)

# Conclusions

- Many new ways to probe “cosmic acceleration” beyond the standard ones...
- ...which will soon be put to use on new data!
- Are inflation, dark energy, early dark energy (and beyond) just different faces of the same medal? (string axiverse?)



Credits: Vivian Poulin



Credits: Freese & Winkler, PRD 104 (2021) 083533

*Thank you for your attention!*