

Searching for dark energy off the beaten track

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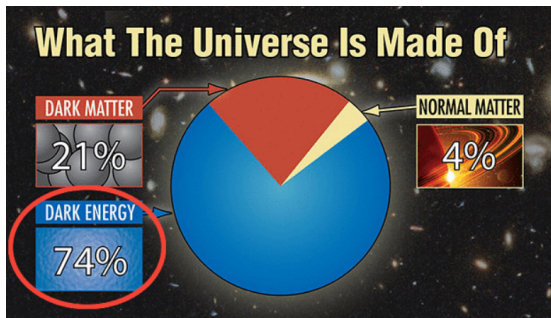
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ARC Seminar, University of KwaZulu-Natal
15 October 2021



Dark Energy



- Part I: direct detection of dark energy
- Part II: (early and late) consistency tests of Λ CDM and what we might learn about (early and late) dark energy

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



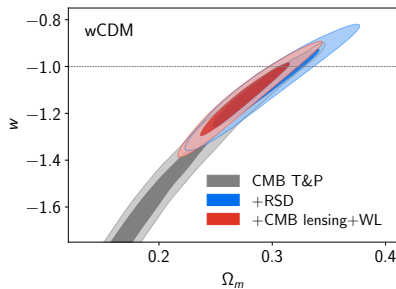
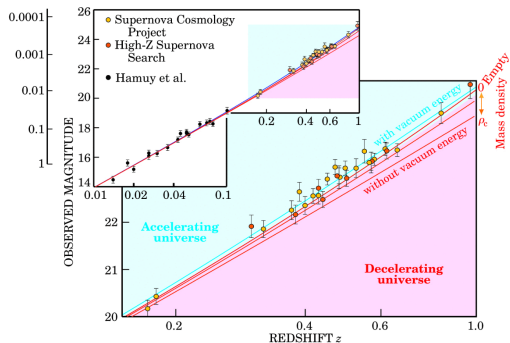
Student's name (student's institution)



Postdoc's name (postdoc's institution)

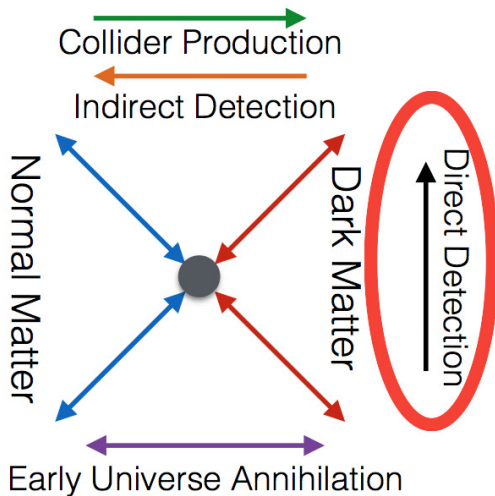
The beaten track

Gravitational signatures of DE: the effect of DE's energy density on the background expansion or the growth of structure, probed by standard cosmological observations, with particular focus on DE's equation of state $w_{\text{DE}} = P_{\text{DE}}/\rho_{\text{DE}}$ (~ -1 ?)



eBOSS collaboration, PRD 103 (2021) 083533

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

Result/immediate obstacle: long-range fifth forces!

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

Screening

How to satisfy fifth-force tests?

- Tune the coupling to be extremely weak [$M \gg M_{\text{Pl}}$]
- Tune the range to be extremely short [$\lambda \ll \mathcal{O}(\text{mm})$]
- Environmentally-dependent dynamics \rightarrow **screening!**

(At least) 3 ways to screen

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

- $\lambda_5(x)$ \rightarrow **chameleon** screening (short range in dense environments)
- $M_5(x)$ \rightarrow symmetron screening (weak coupling in dense environments)
- $n(x)$ \rightarrow Vainshtein (force drops faster than $1/r^2$ around objects)

Chameleon Fields: Awaiting Surprises for Tests of Gravity in Space

Justin Khoury and Amanda Weltman

ISCAP, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027, USA

(Received 10 September 2003; published 22 October 2004)

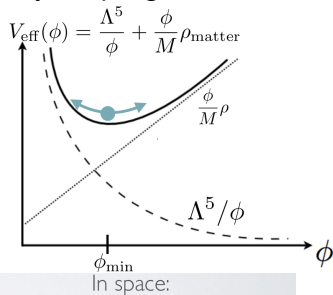
Chameleon screening

Fifth force range $\lambda(x)$ becomes short in dense environments, scalar field minimizes effective potential determined by coupling to matter

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

$$m_{\text{eff}}^2 = \left. \frac{d^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{d\phi^2} \right|_{\phi=\phi_{\text{min}}} \propto \rho^n, n > 0$$

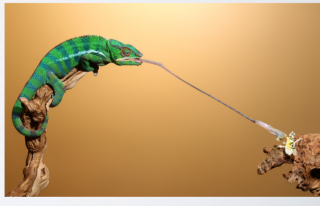
$$\lambda \sim 1/m_{\text{eff}} \propto \rho^{-n/2}$$



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

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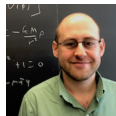
Luca Visinelli (INFN Frascati)



Phil Brax (IPhT, Saclay)



Anne Davis (Cambridge)



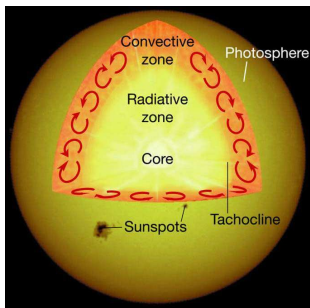
Jeremy Sakstein (Hawaii)

Direct detection of dark energy

Production

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

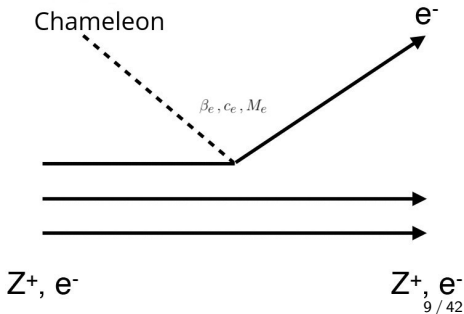
Production in strong magnetic fields of the tachocline



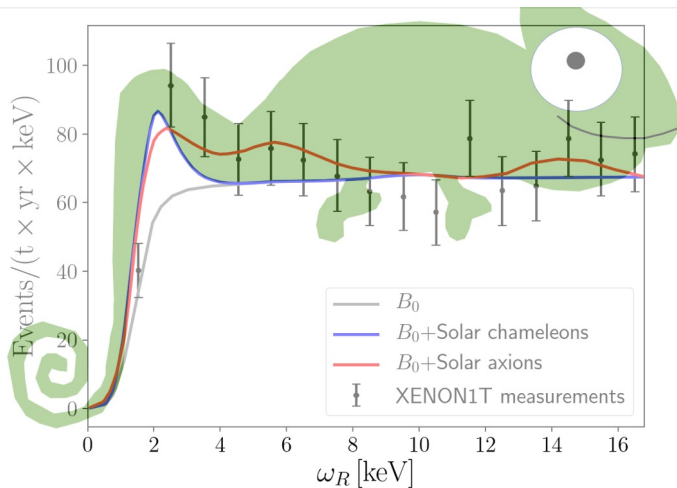
Detection

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

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?

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Surprisingly not!



Luca Visinelli (INFN Frascati)



Olga Mena (Valencia)



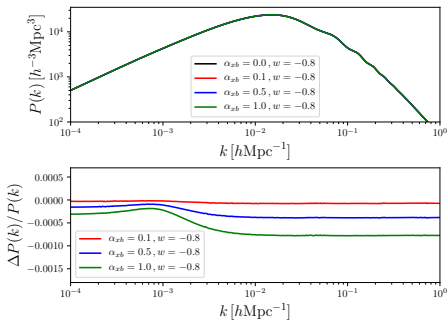
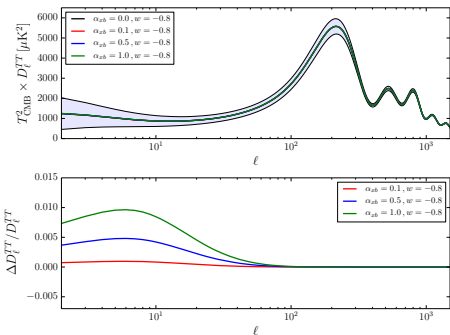
David Mota (Oslo)

Cosmological direct detection of dark energy?

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

$$\dot{\theta}_x = -\mathcal{H}(1 - 3c_s^2)\theta_x + \frac{c_s^2 k^2}{1 + w_x} \delta_x + an_e \sigma_{xb} (\theta_b - \theta_x)$$

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



N-body simulations of DE-baryon interactions

Structure formation with scattering between dark energy and baryons

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¹Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 1, 85740 Garching bei München, Germany

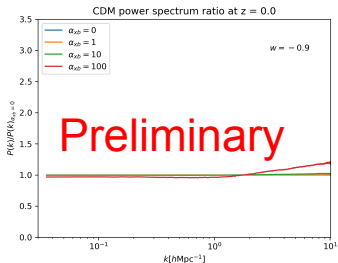
²Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, via Piero Gobetti 93/2, I-40129 Bologna, Italy

³Kavli Institute for Cosmology and Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, United Kingdom

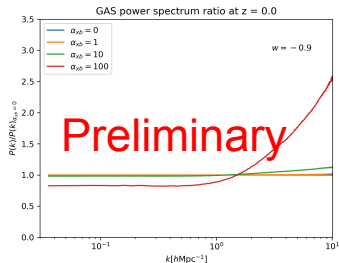
⁴INAF - Osservatorio di Astrofisica e Scienza dello Spazio di Bologna, Via Piero Gobetti 93/3, I-40129 Bologna, Italy

⁵INFN - Sezione di Bologna, viale Berti Pichat 6/2, I-40127 Bologna, Italy

⁶Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 1029 Blindern, N-0315 Oslo, Norway



Ferlito, SV, Baldi, Mota, in preparation



Ferlito, SV, Baldi, Mota, in preparation



Fulvio Ferlito (Bologna → Garching)



Marco Baldi (Bologna)



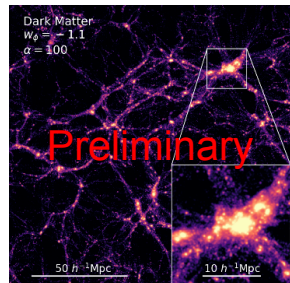
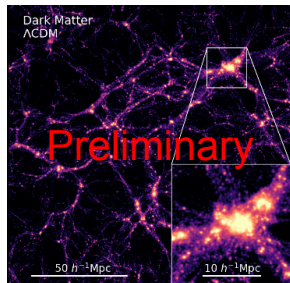
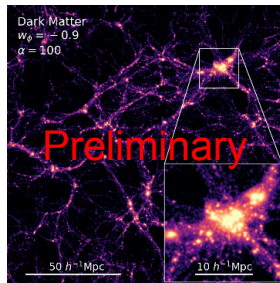
David Mota (Oslo)

N-body simulations of DE-baryon interactions

Simulation snapshots:

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

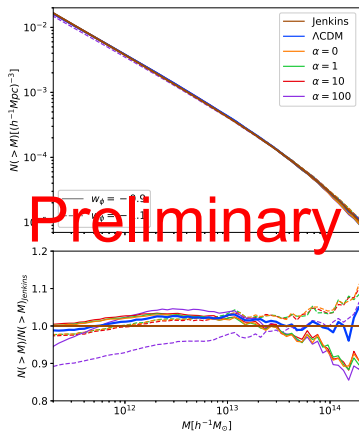
Ferlito, SV, Baldi, Mota, in preparation



N-body simulations of DE-baryon interactions

Other observables:

- (Cumulative) halo mass function
- (Stacked) halo density profiles
- Baryon fraction profiles
- Bullet-like systems
- ...



Ferlito, SV, Baldi, Mota, in preparation

Recap

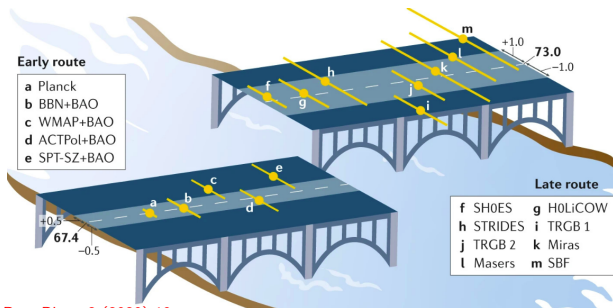
Direct detection of dark energy

- Potentially lots of unharvested potential for direct detection of dark energy in dark matter direct detection experiments
- Room for large dark energy-baryons interactions in cosmology...
- ...possibly tightly constrained by (non-linear) LSS clustering and other astrophysical observations!

Where else might we learn something about dark energy (at early and late times)?

Perhaps from the Hubble tension!

Viewing the Hubble tension ocean with different eyeglasses



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

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

*Early times:
early ISW
effect*



*Consistency
tests of
 Λ CDM*



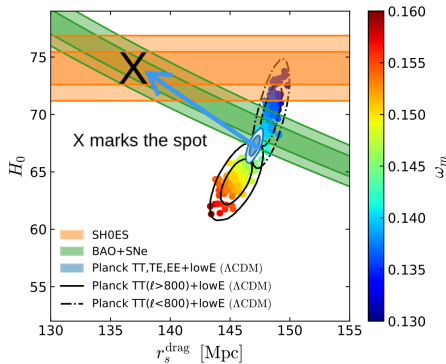
*Late times:
ages of old
objects*

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_{eq} ↓↓

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

Early-time consistency tests of Λ CDM

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

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

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Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, United Kingdom

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

No clear sign of early-time new physics in CMB data alone



Why does Λ CDM fit CMB data so well?



(Early-time) Consistency tests of Λ CDM

The early ISW (eISW) effect

Around recombination: Universe not fully matter dominated \implies residual decay of gravitational potentials \implies eISW effect sources anisotropies

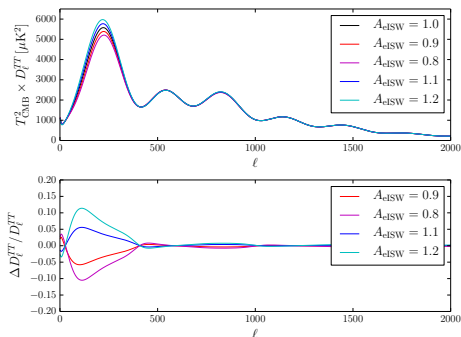
$$\Theta = \int_0^{\eta_0} d\eta \left[\underbrace{\propto g(\Theta_0 + \Psi)}_{\text{Sachs-Wolfe}} + \underbrace{\propto g v_b \frac{d}{d\eta}}_{\text{Doppler}} + \underbrace{\propto e^{-\tau} (\dot{\Psi} - \dot{\Phi})}_{\text{ISW}} + \underbrace{\propto (g\Pi + [g\ddot{\Pi}])}_{\text{Polarization}}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

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

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

eISW consistency test

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



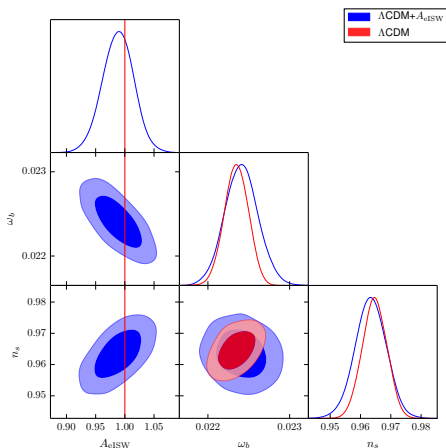
SV, PRD 104 (2021) 063524

Consistency check: within ΛCDM , data consistent with $A_{\text{eISW}} = 1$?

eISW consistency test

Is the data consistent with $A_{eISW} = 1$? (7-parameter Λ CDM+ A_{eISW})

Yes!



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

SV, PRD 104 (2021) 063524

Other parameter constraints very stable, no more than $\approx 0.3\sigma$ shifts

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.*,

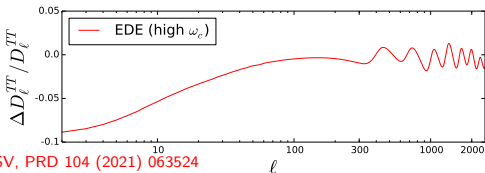
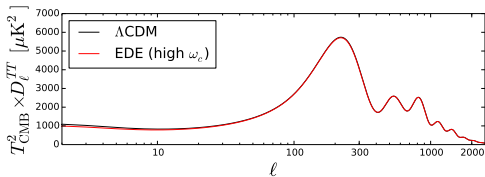
JCAP 2105 (2021) 072; see partial rebuttals in: Murgia *et al.*, PRD 103 (2021) 063502; Smith *et al.*, arXiv:2009.10740

Editor's 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

Parameter	Λ CDM	EDE (high ω_c)	EDE (low ω_c)
$100\omega_b$	2.253	2.253	2.253
ω_c	0.1177	0.1322	0.1177
H_0 [km/s/Mpc]	68.21	72.19	72.19
τ	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_{EDE}	–	0.122	0.122
$\log_{10} z_c$	–	3.562	3.562
θ_i	–	2.83	2.83
n	–	3	3

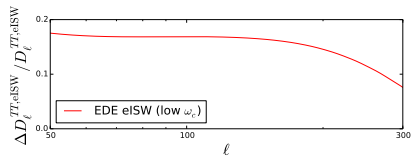
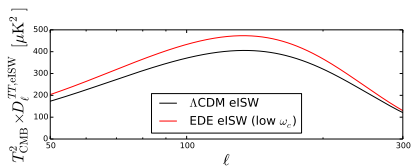


SV, PRD 104 (2021) 063524

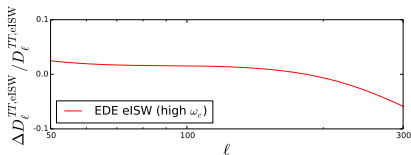
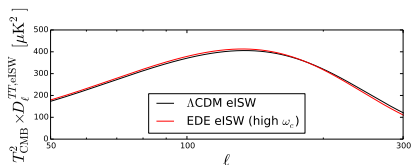
Implications for early-time new physics: EDE case study

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

Low ω_c



High ω_c



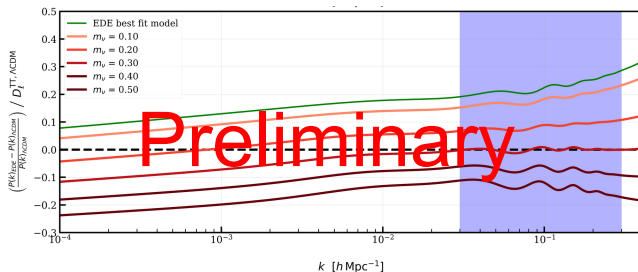
Almost 20% eISW excess!

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

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

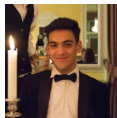
Early dark energy problems

Example: neutrino mass (nominally need $M_\nu \sim 0.3 \text{ eV}$ to rescue EDE!)



Reeves, SV, Efstathiou, Sherwin, in preparation. Plot credits: Alex Reeves

Other possible ingredients: decaying DM, DM-dark radiation interactions



Alex Reeves (Cambridge → ETH)



George Efstathiou (Cambridge)

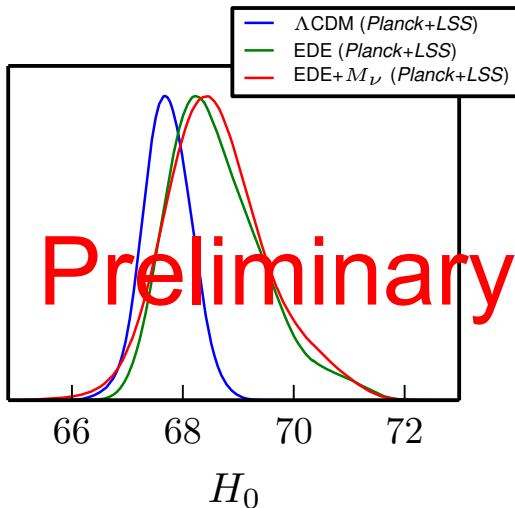


Blake Sherwin (Cambridge)

Early dark energy problems

Massive neutrinos actually turn out not to work:

- Increase in S_8 (actually worsens S_8 discrepancy)
- M_ν negatively correlated with H_0 for CMB
- Need $M_\nu \sim 0.3$ eV, very hard to accommodate in LSS data



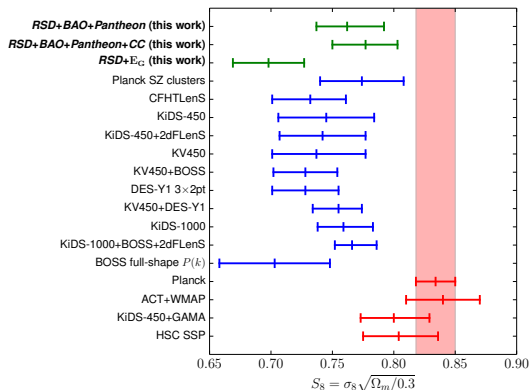
Reeves, SV, Efstathiou, Sherwin, in preparation. Plot credits: Alex Reeves

S_8 discrepancy – something to get excited about?

Arbitrating the S_8 discrepancy with growth rate measurements from redshift-space distortions

Rafael C. Nunes^{1*} and Sunny Vagnozzi^{2†}

¹*Divisão de Astrofísica, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, Avenida dos Astronautas 1738, 12227-010 São José dos Campos, Brazil*
²*Kavli Institute for Cosmology (KICC), University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, UK*



From the growth rate ($f\sigma_8$) point of view, S_8 discrepancy perfectly compatible with a statistical fluctuation!



Rafael Nunes (INPE, Brazil)

Late-time consistency tests of Λ CDM

Is Λ CDM really all there is at late times?



(Try to) Test Λ CDM making no assumptions about early-time physics



Learn something about H_0 in the process?

Old astrophysical objects at high redshift

Historically (1960s-1998) high- z OAO provided the first hints for the existence of dark energy ($\Omega \neq 1$, $\Omega_\Lambda > 0$)

A 3.5-Gyr-old galaxy at redshift 1.55

James Dunlop, John Peacock, Hyron Spinrad, Arjun Dey, Raul Jimenez, Daniel Stern & Rogier Windhorst

Nature **381**, 581–584 (1996) | [Cite this article](#)

Conflict over the age of the Universe

M. Bolte & C. J. Hogan

Nature **376**, 399–402 (1995) | [Cite this article](#)

The observational case for a low-density Universe with a non-zero cosmological constant

J. P. Ostriker & Paul J. Steinhardt

Nature **377**, 600–602 (1995) | [Cite this article](#)

What can OAO do for cosmology in the 2020s?

Cosmology with old astrophysical objects

Can the ages of the oldest inhabitants of the Universe teach us something about the Universe's contents (including DE) and the Hubble tension?

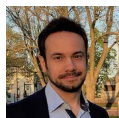
Implications for the Hubble tension from the ages of the oldest astrophysical objects

Sunny Vagnozzi,^{1,*} Fabio Pacucci,^{2,3,†} and Abraham Loeb^{2,3,‡}

¹*Kavli Institute for Cosmology (KICC) and Institute of Astronomy,
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Potentially yes!

Cosmology with old astrophysical objects

$$t_U(z) = \int_z^\infty \frac{dz'}{(1+z')H(z')} \propto \frac{1}{H_0}$$

Pros and cons:

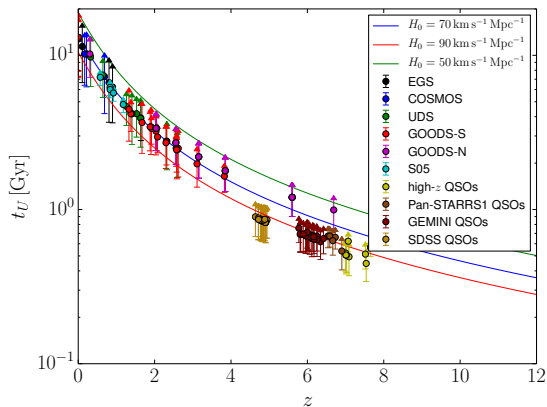
- OAO cannot be older than the Universe \rightarrow **upper limit on H_0**
- $t_U(z)$ integral insensitive to early-time cosmology
- \implies **late-time consistency test for Λ CDM independent of the early-time expansion!**
- **Ages of astrophysical objects at $z > 0$ hard to estimate robustly** 

Usefulness in relation to the Hubble tension:

- Contradiction between OAO upper limit on H_0 and local H_0 measurements could indicate the need for non-standard late-time ($z \lesssim 10$) physics, or non-standard local physics
- Conclusions completely independent of pre-recombination physics

OA0 age-redshift diagram

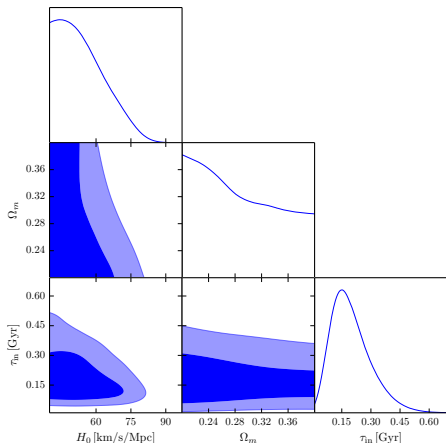
Age-redshift diagram up to $z \sim 8$



Results

Assume Λ CDM at late times, constrain H_0 , Ω_m , and incubation time τ_{in}

Prior for τ_{in} following Jiménez *et al.*, JCAP 1903 (2019) 043; Valcin *et al.*, JCAP 1212 (2020) 022



SV *et al.*, arXiv:2105.10421

$H_0 < 73.2$ (95% C.L.)

Implications for the Hubble tension

CAVEAT – if the OAO ages are reliable, possible explanations include:

- #1: Λ CDM may not be the end of the story at $z \lesssim 10$
- #2: Nothing wrong with Λ CDM at $z \lesssim 10$, need local new physics...
Examples: screened 5th forces (Desmond *et al.*, PRD 100 (2019) 043537; Desmond & Sakstein, PRD 102 (2020) 023007), breakdown of FLRW (Krishnan *et al.*, CQG 38 (2021) 184001; arXiv:2106.02532), ++
- #3: Just a boring 2σ fluke or systematics?

Is this a hint that pre-recombination new physics alone is not enough to solve the Hubble tension? Krishnan *et al.*, PRD 102 (2020) 103525; Jedamzik *et al.*, Commun. Phys. 4 (2021) 123; Lin *et al.*, arXiv:2102.05701; Dainotti *et al.*, ApJ 912 (2021) 150

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Why reducing the cosmic sound horizon alone can not fully resolve the Hubble tension

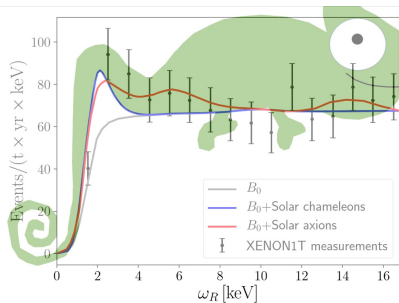
Karsten Jedamzik, [Levon Pogosian](#) & [Gong-Bo Zhao](#) 

[Communications Physics](#) 4, Article number: 123 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

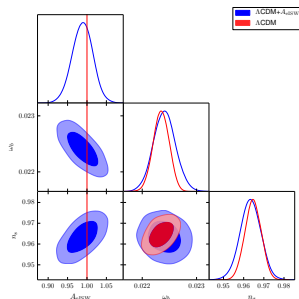
1461 Accesses | 1 Citations | 10 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Conclusions

Direct detection of dark energy: lots of unharvested potential in dark matter direct detection experiments



Consistency tests of Λ CDM: do we need new dark energy physics both before and after recombination?



Much to be learned about dark energy beyond “standard” cosmological searches for its gravitational interactions

*Bonus slides: other ways to search
for DE off the beaten track*

CDark energy and the neutrino mass ordering

Can we learn something about dark energy from neutrino laboratory experiments meant to measure the neutrino mass ordering?

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **98**, 083501 (2018)

Constraints on the sum of the neutrino masses in dynamical dark energy models with $w(z) \geq -1$ are tighter than those obtained in Λ CDM

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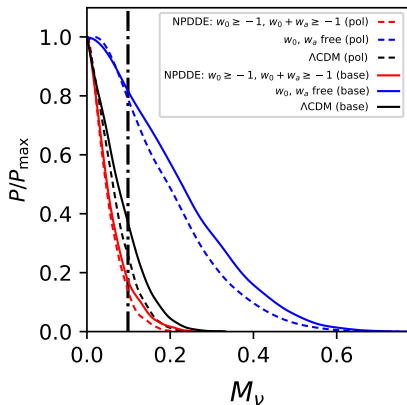
Can M_ν limits get tighter in extended parameter spaces?

Consider CPL ($w_0 w_a$ CDM) but impose $w_0 \geq -1$, $w_0 + w_a \geq -1$ (NPDDE)

NOTE: Λ CDM is still a particular case of NPDDE when $w_0 = -1$, $w_a = 0$

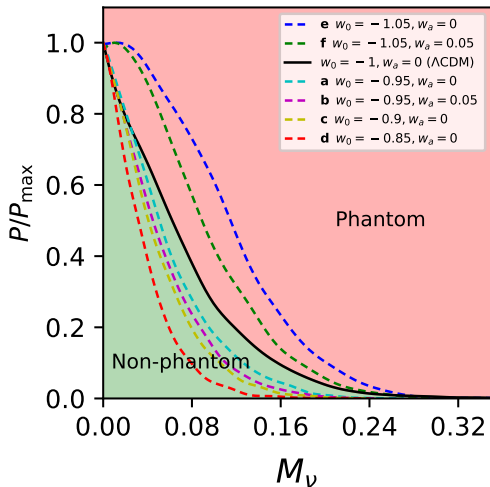
95% C.L. upper limits

- Λ CDM: 0.17 eV
- $w_0 w_a$ CDM: 0.41 eV
- NPDDE: 0.12 eV!!!
≈ 40% tighter



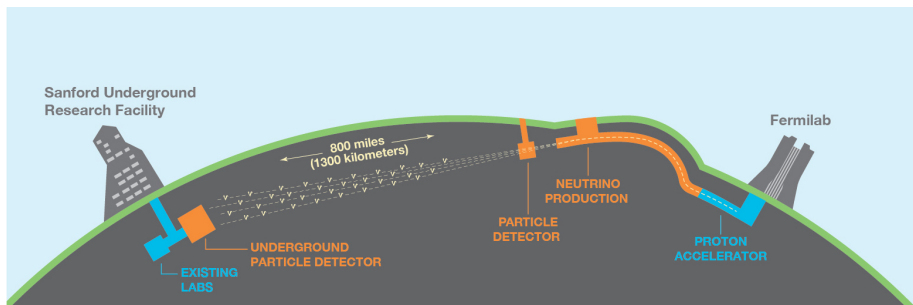
Can M_ν limits get tighter in extended parameter spaces?

Why does this happen even though Λ CDM is a limiting case of NPDDE?



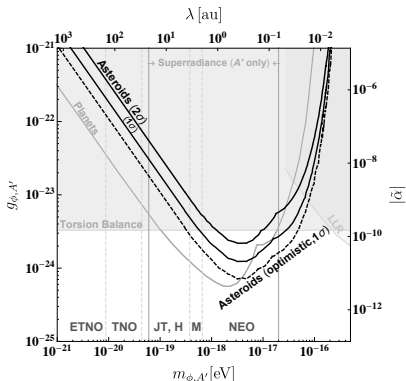
Dark energy and neutrino laboratory experiments

- In non-phantom dark energy models the preference for the normal neutrino ordering is stronger ($\approx 3 - 4 : 1$) than in Λ CDM ($\approx 2 : 1$)
- Long-baseline experiments (e.g. DUNE) targeting mass ordering...
- ...if ordering inverted, DE unlikely to be quintessence-like (**proof by contradiction**: quintessence wants too light neutrinos)



Precession of planetary objects and new light particles

Precession from new light (gauged) mediators-induced fifth force



Asteroid astrometry as a fifth-force and ultralight dark sector probe

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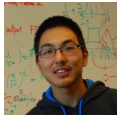
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- Planetary objects: asteroids, (exo)planets, TNOs
- Competitive with torsion balance tests

Tsai, Wu, SV, Visinelli, arXiv:2107.04038



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Superradiance-induced black hole shadow evolution

Superradiance evolution of black hole shadows revisited

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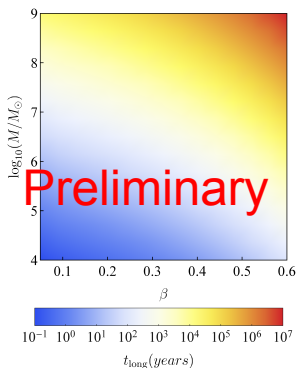
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Evolution in shadow size $\Delta\theta \sim \mathcal{O}(1)\mu\text{as}$ due to superradiance potentially observable on human timescales [$\mathcal{O}(10)\text{yr}$]



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