

Searching for dark energy off the beaten track

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University of Padova, 25 October 2023



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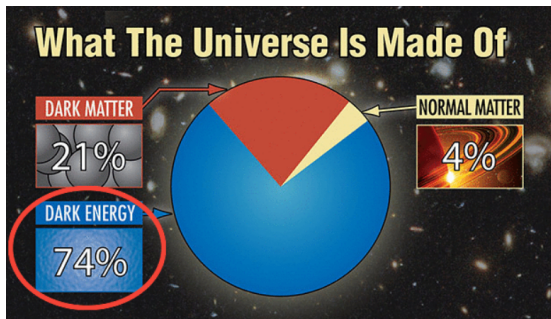
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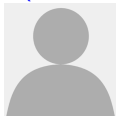


Dark Energy



- Part I: non-standard cosmological searches for dark energy
- Part II: (terrestrial and cosmological) direct detection of dark energy
- **Bonus: using asteroids to search for new light (dark) particles**

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



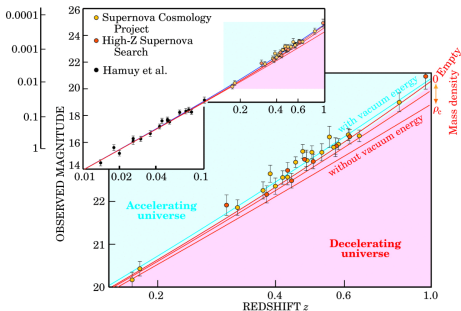
Student's name (student's institution)



Postdoc's name (postdoc's institution)

The beaten track

Gravitational signatures (effect of DE energy density on background expansion or growth of structure) probed by **standard cosmological observations**, with particular focus on the **equation of state w**



Standard cosmological observations:

- CMB
- BAO
- Hubble flow SNeIa

Living Reviews in Relativity (2022) 25:6
<https://doi.org/10.1007/941114-022-00040-z>

REVIEW ARTICLE



Unveiling the Universe with emerging cosmological probes

Michele Moresco^{1,2} · Lorenzo Amati² · Luca Amendola³ · Simon Birrer^{4,5} · John P. Blakeslee⁶ · Michele Cantiello⁷ · Andrea Cimatti⁸ · Jeremy Darling⁹ · Massimo Della Valle^{10,11} · Maya Fishbach¹² · Claudio Grillo^{13,14} · Nico Hamaus¹⁵ · Daniel Holz^{16,17} · Luca Izzo¹⁸ · Raul Jimenez^{19,20} · Elisabeta Lusso^{21,8} · Massimo Meneghetti²² · Ester Piedipalumbo^{23,24} · Alice Pisani^{25,26,27} · Alkistis Pourtsidou^{28,29,30} · Lucia Pozzetti⁷ · Miguel Quartin^{31,32,3} · Guido Risaliti^{31,8} · Piero Rosati^{33,2} · Licia Verde^{19,20}

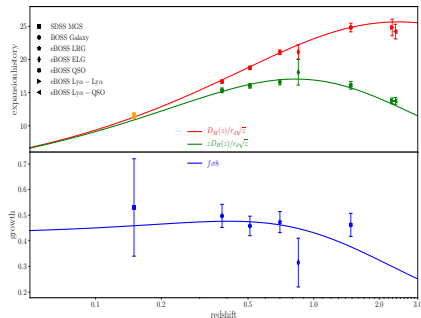
Received: 17 January 2022 / Accepted: 8 October 2022 / Published online: 14 December 2022
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Credits: Perlmutter, Physics Today 56 (2003) 53

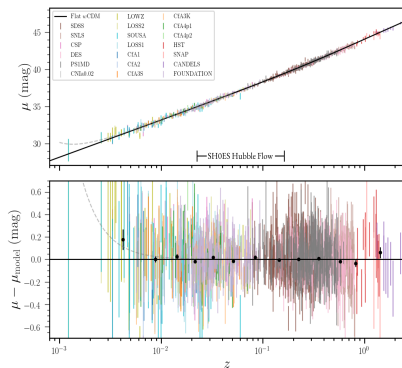
Moresco et al., Living Rev. Relativ. 25 (2022) 6

The beaten track: state-of-the-art

Universe up to $z \sim 2$ seems to be well described by Λ CDM (at least at the background level), what lies beyond is much less clear...



eBOSS collaboration, PRD 103 (2021) 083533



PantheonPlus collaboration, ApJ 938 (2022) 110

The state of the dark energy equation of state

The state of the dark energy equation of state circa 2023

Luis A. Escamilla,^{1,2,*} William Giarè,^{2,1} Eleonora Di Valentino,^{2,3} Rafael C. Nunes,^{3,4,5} and Sunny Vagnozzi^{5,6,4}

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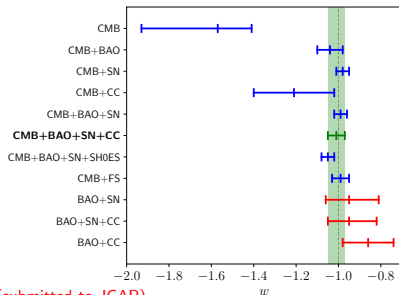
²School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sheffield, Hounsfield Road, Sheffield S1 7RH, United Kingdom

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Escamilla et al., arXiv:2307.14802 (submitted to JCAP)



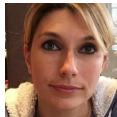
Luis Escamilla

(UNAM, Mexico)



William Giarè

(Sheffield)



Eleonora Di Valentino

(Sheffield)



Rafael Nunes

(UFRGS, Brazil)

*Part I:
non-standard cosmological
searches for dark energy*

Old astrophysical objects at high redshift

Where to break a model? Where it is tested the least! For Λ CDM, this means $2 \lesssim z \lesssim 10$

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](#)

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](#)

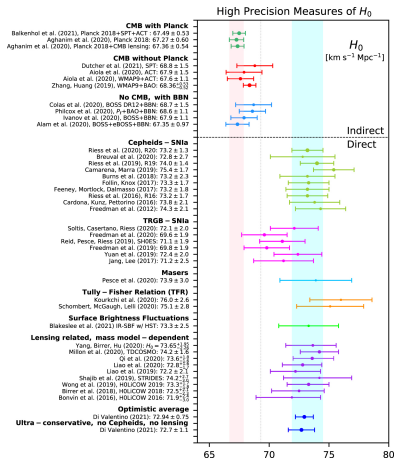
What can old astrophysical objects do for cosmology in the 2020s?

The H_0 tension

Can old astrophysical objects say something about the H_0 tension?

Overall trend:

- “early-time” model-dependent measurements prefer low H_0
- “late-time” direct measurements prefer high H_0



Review by Di Valentino et al., CQG 38 (2021) 153001

Often heard “mantra” (?): H_0 tension calls for early-Universe new physics

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?

Journal of High Energy Astrophysics 36 (2022) 27–35



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Journal of High Energy Astrophysics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jheap



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



Sunny Vagnozzi^{a,*}, Fabio Pacucci^{b,c}, Abraham Loeb^{b,c}

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^c Black Hole Initiative, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA



Fabio Pacucci (Harvard)




Avi Loeb (Harvard)

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:

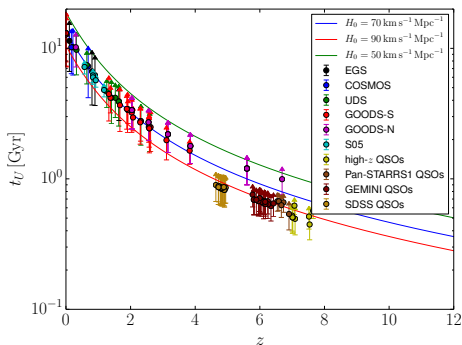
- OAO cannot be older than the Universe \rightarrow **upper limit on H_0**
- $t_U(z)$ integral insensitive to early-time cosmology
- \implies **late-time consistency test for Λ CDM independent of the early-time expansion!**
- **Ages of astrophysical objects at $z > 0$ hard to estimate robustly** 

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

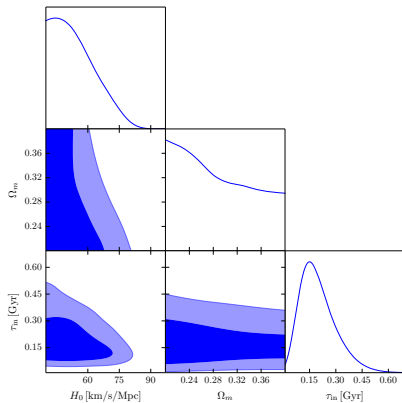
OAO age-redshift diagram

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



SV, Pacucci & Loeb, JHEAp 36 (2022) 27

Constraints on H_0 and Ω_m



SV, Pacucci & Loeb, JHEAp 36 (2022) 27

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

Implications for dark energy and 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 $z \lesssim 10$ (need something in the direction of phantom DE)
- 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? [SV, Universe 9 \(2023\) 393](#)



Opinion

Seven Hints that Early-Time New Physics Alone Is Not Sufficient to Solve the Hubble Tension

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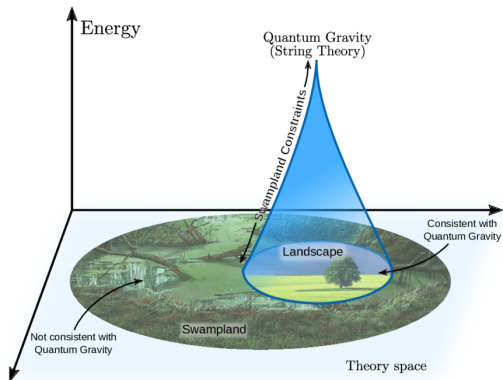
Negative dark energy density?

International Journal of Modern Physics D | Vol. 27, No. 12, 1830007 (2018) | Review Paper

What if string theory has no de Sitter vacua?

Ulf H. Danielsson and Thomas Van Riet

<https://doi.org/10.1142/S0218271818300070> | Cited by: 238



Negative cosmological constant is consistent with data



Article

Revisiting a Negative Cosmological Constant from Low-Redshift Data

Luca Visinelli ^{1,2,*}, Sunny Vagnozzi ^{2,3,4,*} and Ulf Danielsson ^{1,*}

$$H(z) = H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda + \Omega_{\text{DE},0}(1+z)^{3(1+w)} + \Omega_{m,0}(1+z)^3 + \Omega_r(z)}$$
$$\Omega_\Lambda < 0, \quad \Omega_{\text{DE},0} > 0, \quad \Omega_\Lambda + \Omega_{\text{DE},0} \sim 0.7$$

This is in principle **perfectly consistent** with late-time cosmological data:

$$|\Omega_\Lambda| \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10) \quad [\text{BAO}+\text{SN Ia}]$$

$$|\Omega_\Lambda| \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad [(\text{geometrical}) \text{CMB}+\text{BAO}+\text{SN Ia}]$$



Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)



Ulf Danielsson (Uppsala)

Early JWST observations: a challenge to Λ CDM?

Too many galaxies which are too massive at too high redshift!

Stress testing Λ CDM with high-redshift galaxy candidates

[Michael Boylan-Kolchin](#) 

[Nature Astronomy](#) 7, 731–735 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

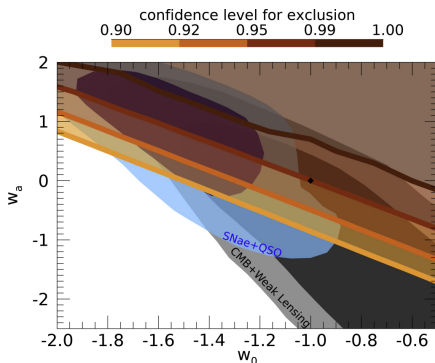
High-redshift Galaxies from Early JWST Observations: Constraints on Dark Energy Models

N. Menci¹ , M. Castellano¹ , P. Santini¹ , E. Merlin¹ , A. Fontana¹ , and F. Shankar² 

Published 2022 October 12 • © 2022. The Author(s). Published by the American Astronomical Society.

[The Astrophysical Journal Letters](#), Volume 938, Number 1

Citation N. Menci et al 2022 *ApJL* 938 L5



Negative cosmological constant to the rescue

Can a negative CC help with the “JWST tension”?

Dark energy in light of the early JWST observations: case for a negative cosmological constant?

Shahnawaz A. Adil,^a Upala Mukhopadhyay,^b Anjan A. Sen,^b and Sunny Vagnozzi^{c,d}

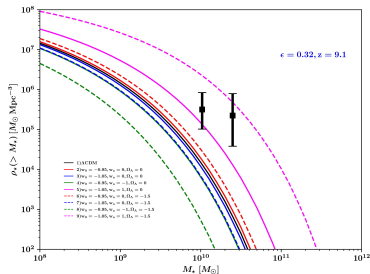
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Adil, Mukhopadhyay, Sen & SV, arXiv:2307.12763 (JCAP in press)



Shahnawaz Adil

(Jamia Millia Islamia)



Upala Mukhopadhyay

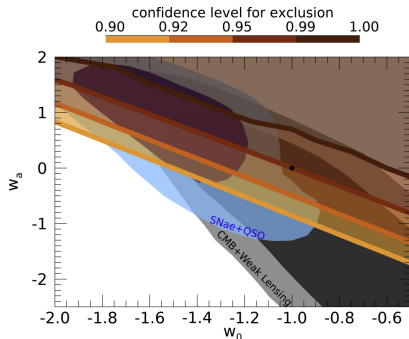
(Jamia Millia Islamia)



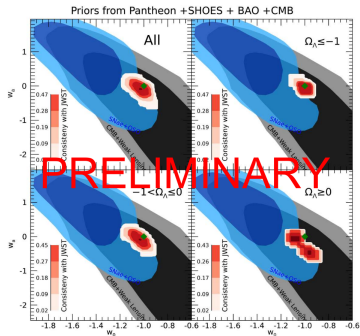
Anjan Sen

(Jamia Millia Islamia)

Negative CC and JWST: more complete analysis



Menci *et al.*, ApJ Lett. 938 (2022) L5



Menci, Adil, Mukhopadhyay, Sen & SV, in preparation



Nicola Menci
(INAF Roma)



Shah Nawaz Adil
(Jamia Millia Islamia)



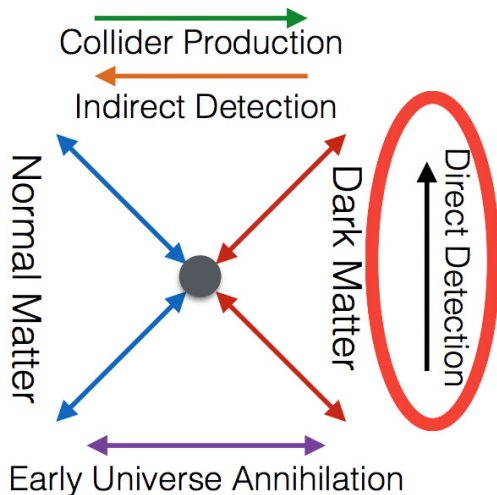
Upala Mukhopadhyay
(Jamia Millia Islamia)



Anjan Sen
(Jamia Millia Islamia)

*Part II:
(terrestrial and cosmological)
direct detection of 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

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 [$\lambda \ll \mathcal{O}(\text{mm})$]
- Tune the dynamics so the force weakens based on its environment
→ **screening!**

(At least) 3 ways to screen

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

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

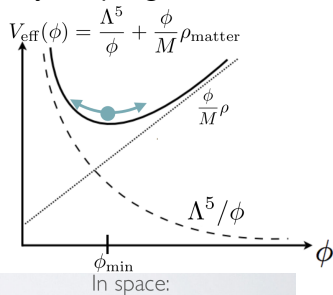
Chameleon screening

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

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

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

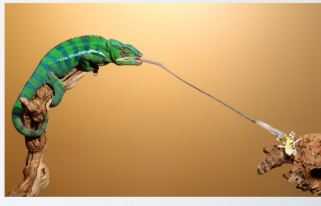
$$\lambda \sim 1/m_{\text{eff}} \propto \rho^{-n/2}$$



On Earth:



In space:



Direct detection of dark energy

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



Potremmo aver rilevato l'energia oscura per caso, cercando altro

Un team di ricercatori dell'università di Cambridge ha ottenuto un risultato inaspettato da esperimenti condotti sotto il Gran Sasso per trovare la materia oscura: la responsabile potrebbe essere l'energia oscura

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

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

Sunny Vagnozzi^{1,2,*}, Luca Visinelli^{3,4,5,†}, Philippe Brax^{6,‡}, Anne-Christine Davis^{7,1,§} and Jeremy Sakstein^{8,||}

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Ⓜ (Received 7 April 2021; accepted 20 August 2021; published 15 September 2021)



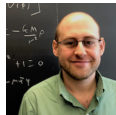
Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)



Phil Brax (IPhT, Saclay)



Anne Davis (Cambridge)



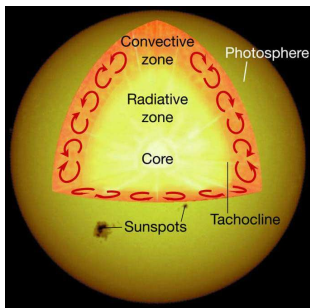
Jeremy Sakstein (Hawaii)

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

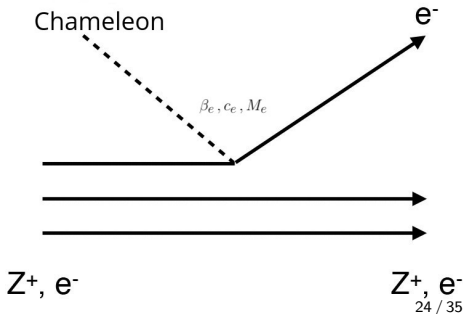


Detection

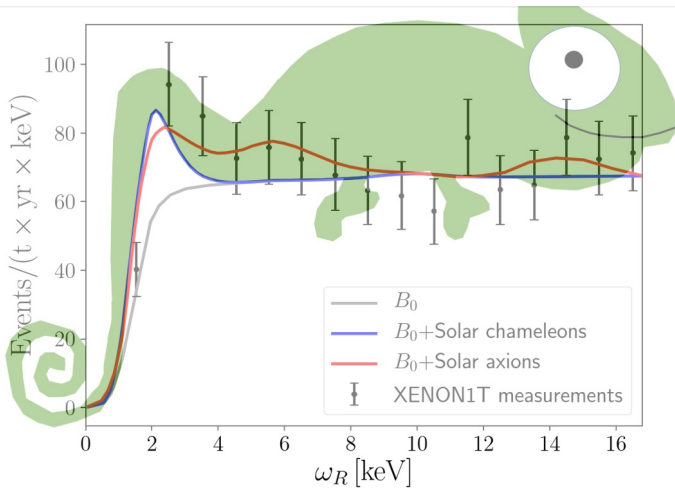
$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi i} \supset \underbrace{\beta_i \frac{\phi T_i}{M_{\text{Pl}}}}_{\text{conformal}} - \underbrace{c_i \frac{\partial^\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi}{M^4} T_i}_{\text{kinetic-conformal}} + \underbrace{\frac{T_i^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi}{M_i^4}}_{\text{disformal}}$$

Analogous to photoelectric and axioelectric effects

Chameleon



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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Accepted 2020 January 27. Received 2020 January 23; in original form 2019 December 3



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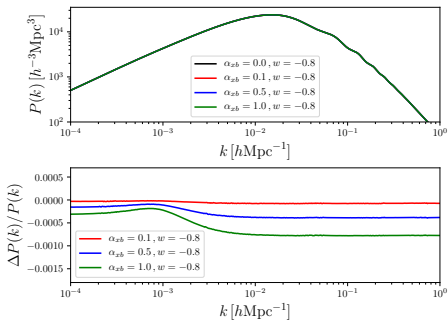
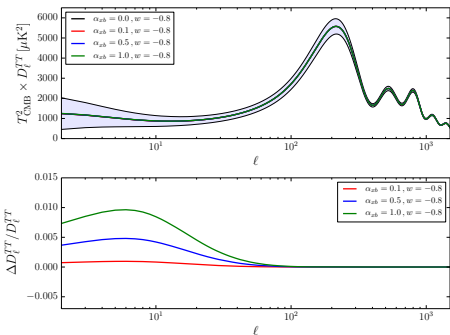


David Mota (Oslo)

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

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Accepted 2022 March 5. Received 2022 March 3; in original form 2022 January 17



Fulvio Ferlito (MPA Garching)



David Mota (Oslo)

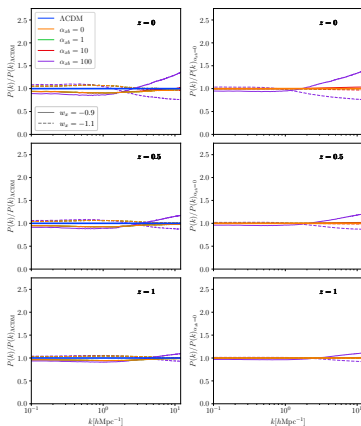
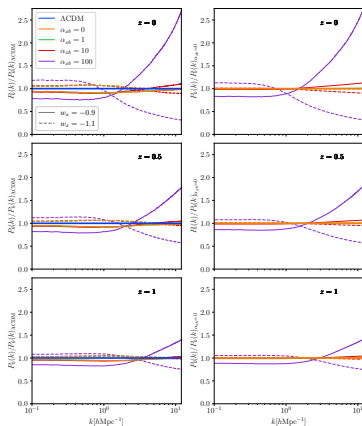


Marco Baldi (Bologna)

N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

Baryon power spectrum relative to Λ CDM (left) and no-scattering w CDM (right)

Matter power spectrum relative to Λ CDM (left) and no-scattering w CDM (right)

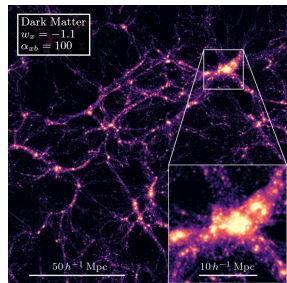
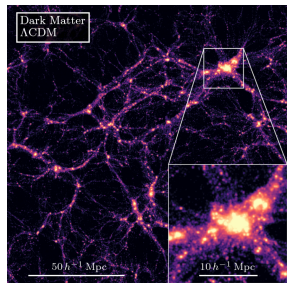
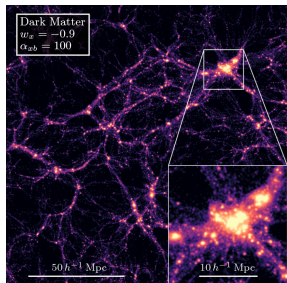


N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

Simulation snapshots:

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

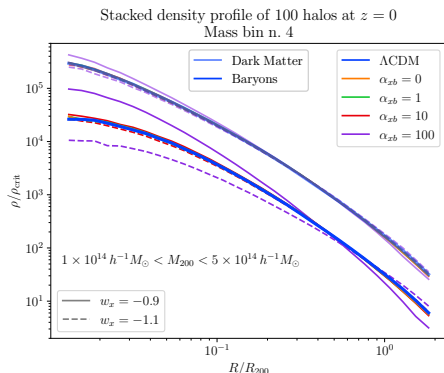
Ferlito, SV, Mota, Baldi, MNRAS 512 (2022) 1885



N-body simulations of DE-baryon scattering

Other observables:

- (Cumulative) halo mass function
- (Stacked) halo density profiles
- Baryon fraction profiles
- Future work: Bullet-like systems, higher-order correlators, galaxy bias



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

Baryon profiles most promising observable to probe DE-baryon scattering

*Bonus:
using asteroids to search for
new light (dark) particles*

24 September 2023: return of sample from asteroid Benu

MENU | CERCA | NOTIFICHE

la Repubblica

ABBONATI | GEDI SMILE | ACCEDI

Un pacco speciale in arrivo dal cielo. La Nasa porta oggi sulla Terra un frammento di asteroide

di Elena Dusi



L'atterraggio sull'asteroide Bennu in un'immagine della Nasa

La navicella Osiris-Rex ha prelevato della polvere dal piccolo asteroide Bennu. Con una missione di rientro delicatissima arriva nello Utah. Poi lo studierà alla ricerca di indizi sulla vita

24 SETTEMBRE 2023 AGGIORNATO ALLE 16:52

2 MINUTI DI LETTURA

Can we use OSIRIS-REx tracking data to probe fundamental physics?

Constraints on fifth forces and ultralight dark matter from OSIRIS-REx target asteroid Benu

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⁴Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California Institute of Technology, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA

⁵European Space Agency (ESA) NEO Coordination Centre, Largo Galileo Galilei 1, 00044 Frascati (RM), Italy

⁶Department of Physics, University of Trento, Via Sommarive 14, 38123 Povo (TN), Italy

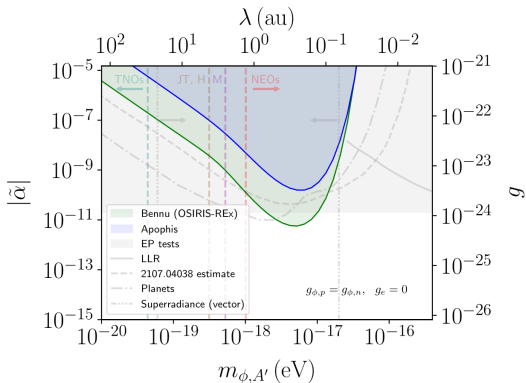
⁷Trento Institute for Fundamental Physics and Applications (TIFPA)-INFN, Via Sommarive 14, 38123 Povo (TN), Italy

⁸Tsung-Dao Lee Institute (TDLI), 520 Shengrong Road, 201210 Shanghai, P. R. China

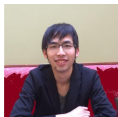
⁹School of Physics and Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 800 Dongchuan Road, 200240 Shanghai, P. R. China

(Dated: September 26, 2023)

Constraints on fifth forces from OSIRIS-REx data



Tsai, Farnocchia, Micheli, SV & Visinelli, arXiv:2309.13106 (submitted to Nature Astronomy)



Yu-Dai Tsai (UC Irvine)



Davide Farnocchia (NASA JPL)



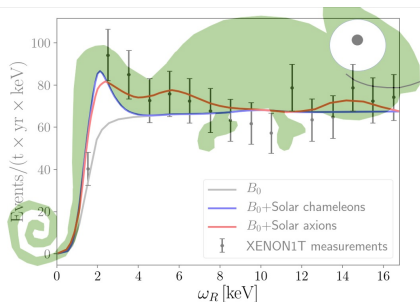
Marco Micheli (ESA)



Luca Visinelli (Shanghai)

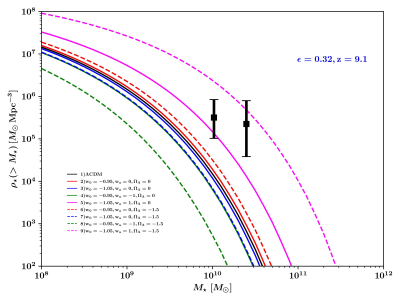
Conclusions

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



SV *et al.*, PRD 104 (2021) 063023

My cosmological take: Λ will eventually be broken by high- $(z \gtrsim 2)$ and not low- z data



Adil *et al.* (incl. SV), arXiv:2307.12763 (JCAP in press)

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