

# The small-scale “problems” of CDM

Carlos Frenk, ICC Durham

The Ogden Centre  
at Durham



# Take home message: two pleas

1. **To experimentalists.** Please keep looking for CDM – it is very likely that it is out there!
2. **To theorists.** Please do not invent new particles to solve the “small-scale crisis” of CDM - there is no such crisis!



# The four small-scale “problems” of CDM

1. The “missing satellites” problem

2. The “too-big-to-fail” problem

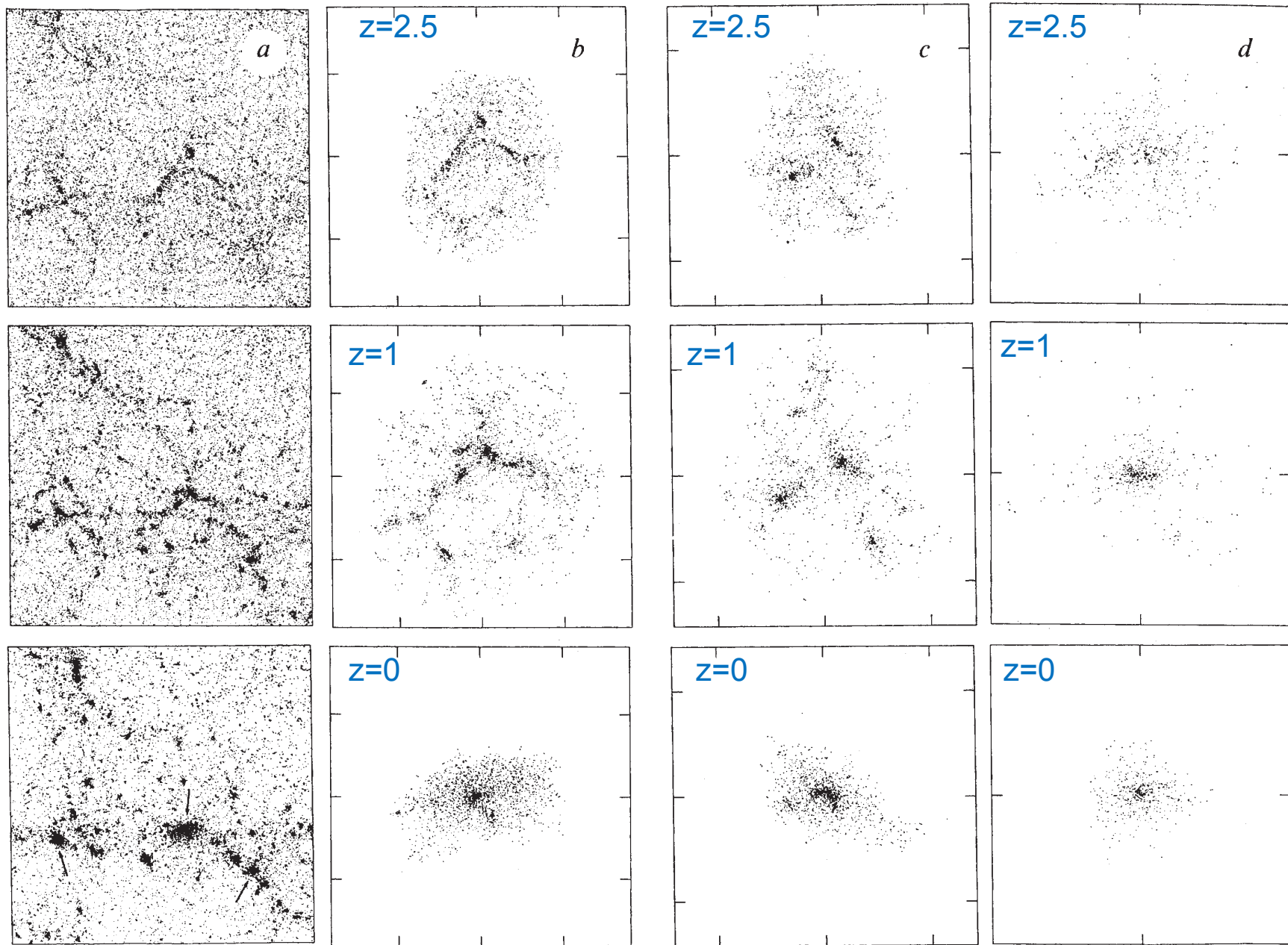
3. The “plane of satellites” problem

4. The “core-cusp” problem

Solved before they became a “problem” for CDM

Fig. 1

# Formation of CDM halos



Frenk et al 1985

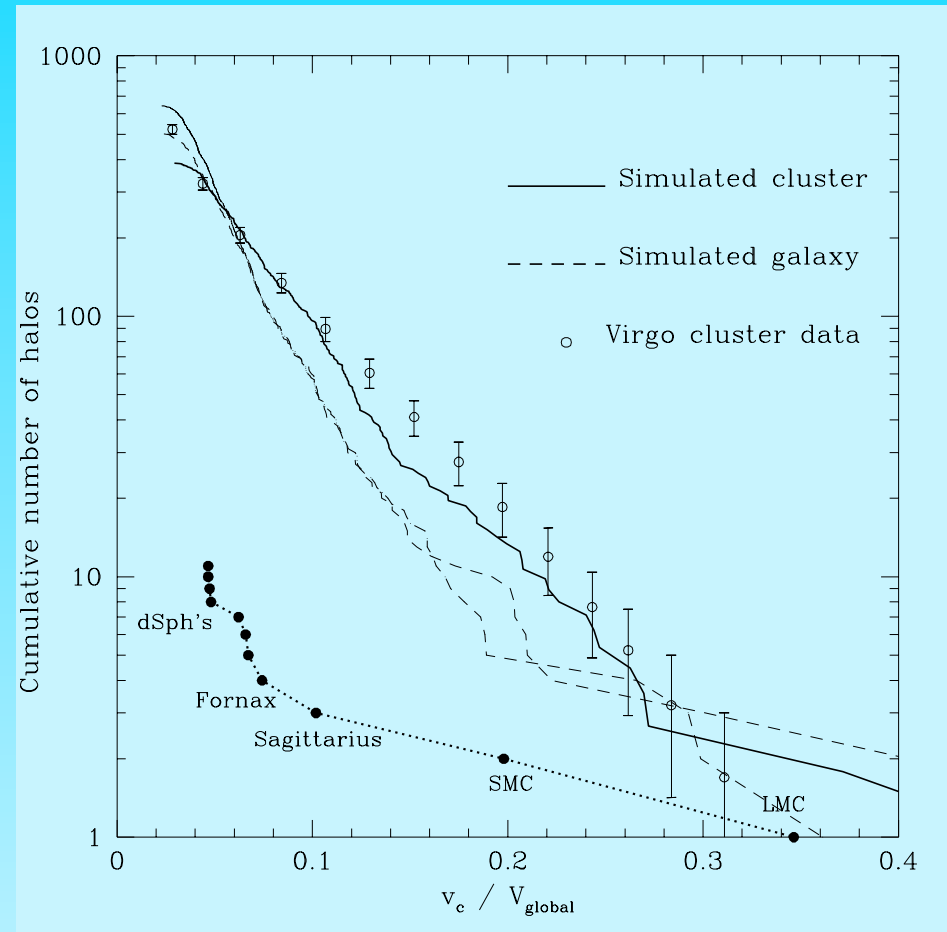


# Aquarius project: galactic halos





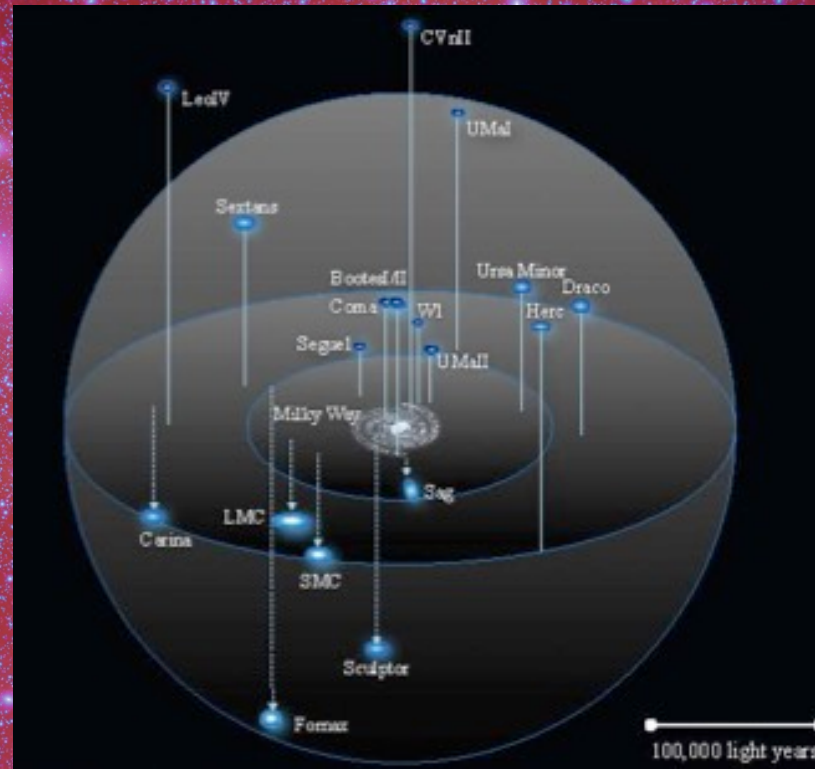
# Moore et al '99 Klypin et al '99



$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$



In the MW: ~55 satellites discovered so far



“Missing satellites” problem:

CDM predicts many more subhalos in the Milky Way than there are observed satellites

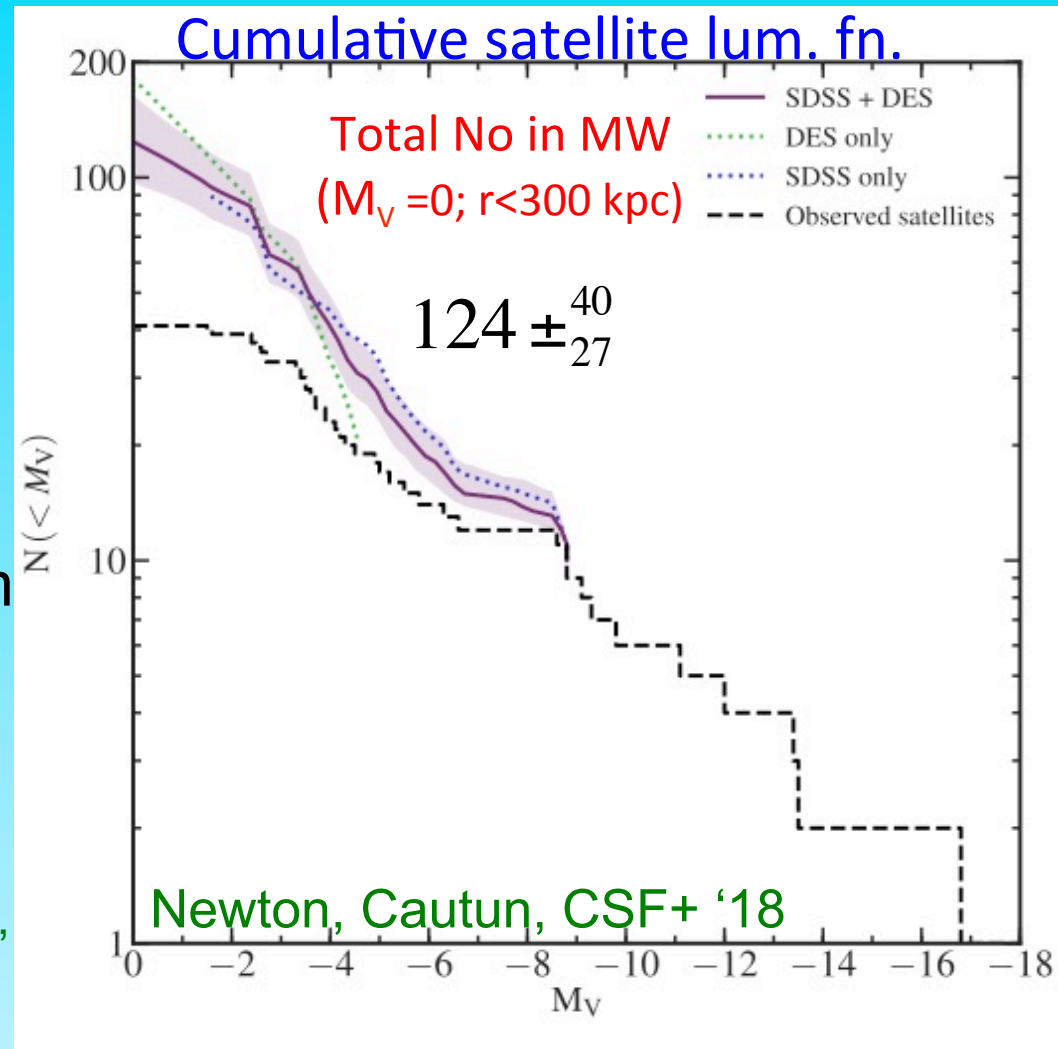


# The MW satellite luminosity function

About **55** satellites known in the MW so far from partial surveys (e.g. SDSS, Pan-STARRS, DES)

Can infer **total** population from survey selection function, assuming a **radial distribution** (from simulations)

(Newton+18, Koposov+08, Tollerud+08, Hargis+14)





The background of the slide is a deep space image showing a vast field of stars. A prominent, bright yellow star is located near the center, surrounded by a dense cloud of smaller, dimmer stars. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and purples, with the yellow star providing a strong focal point.

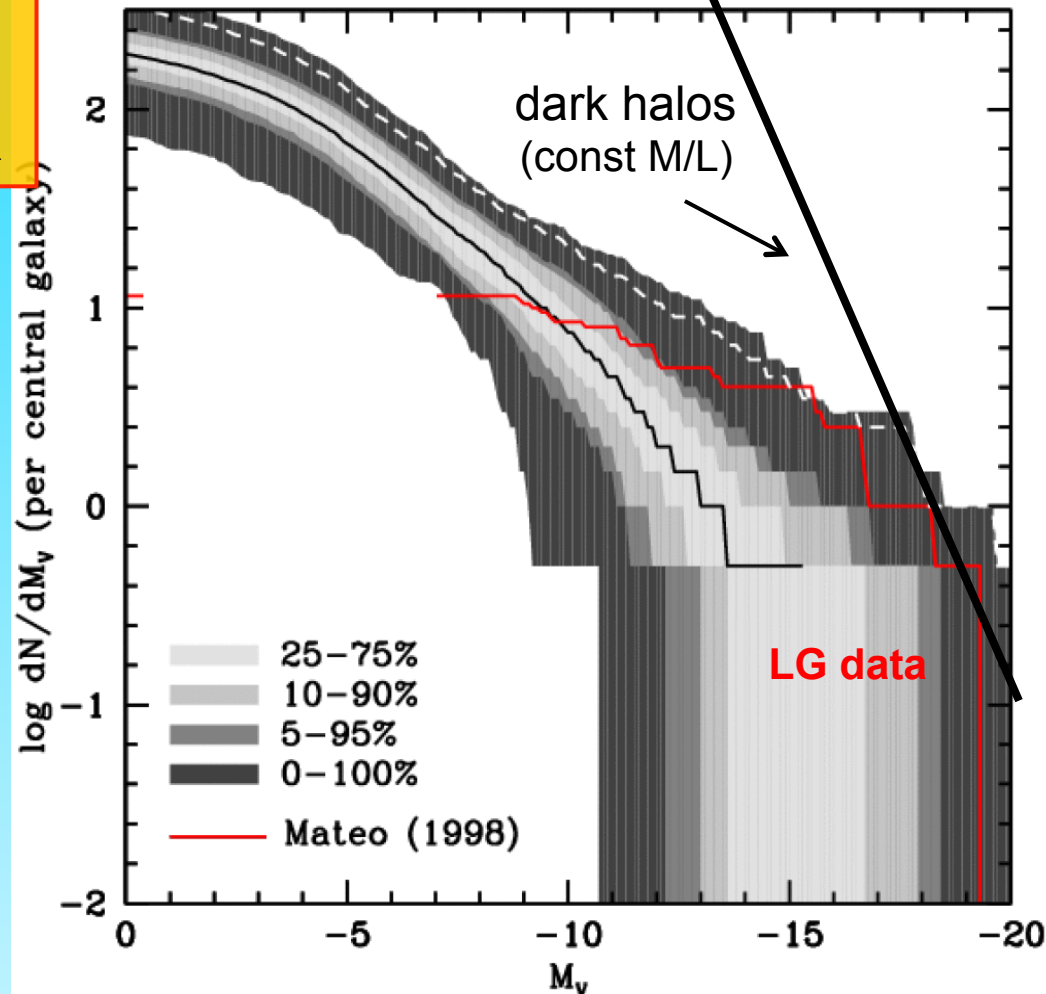
Most subhalos never make a galaxy!



# Luminosity Function of Local Group Satellites

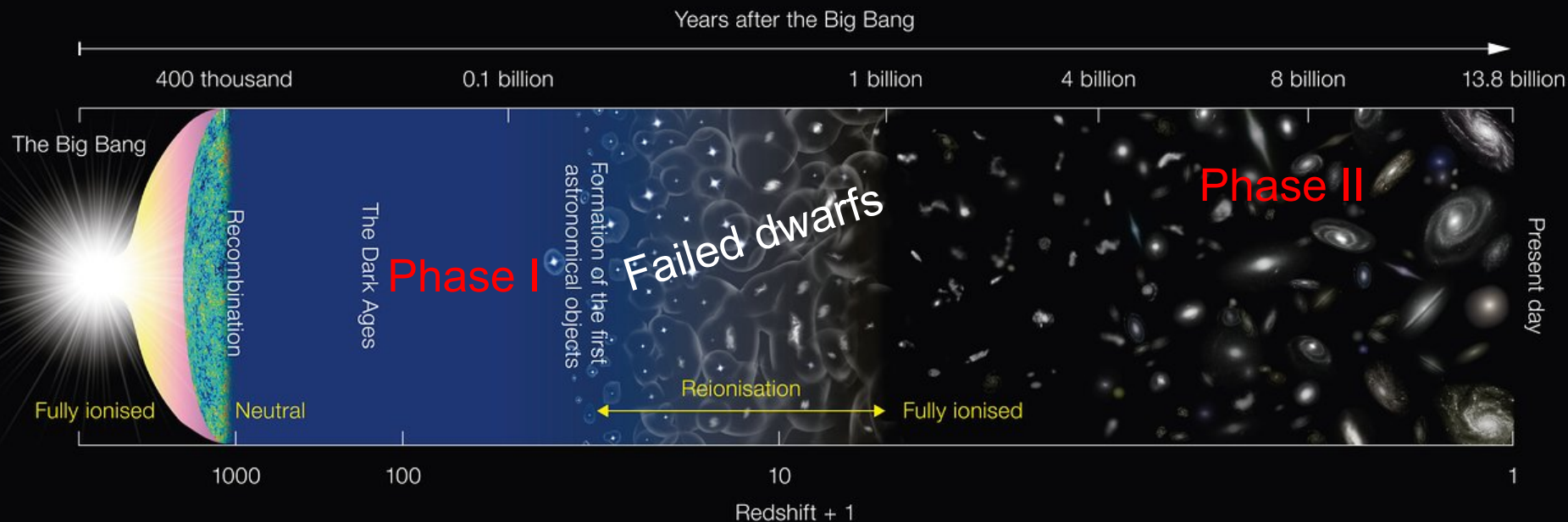
Semi-analytic model of galaxy formation including effects of reionization and SN feedback

- Median model → correct abundance of sats brighter than  $M_V = -9$  ( $V_{\text{cir}} > 12$  km/s)
- Model predicts many, as yet undiscovered, faint satellites





# The two phases of galaxy formation



**Phase I:** During the “dark ages” H gas is neutral  
First stars reionize H and heat it up to  $10^4\text{K}$

**Phase II:** H Gas is ionized ( $T_{\text{vir}} > 10^4\text{K}$  form)

# A galaxy formation primer

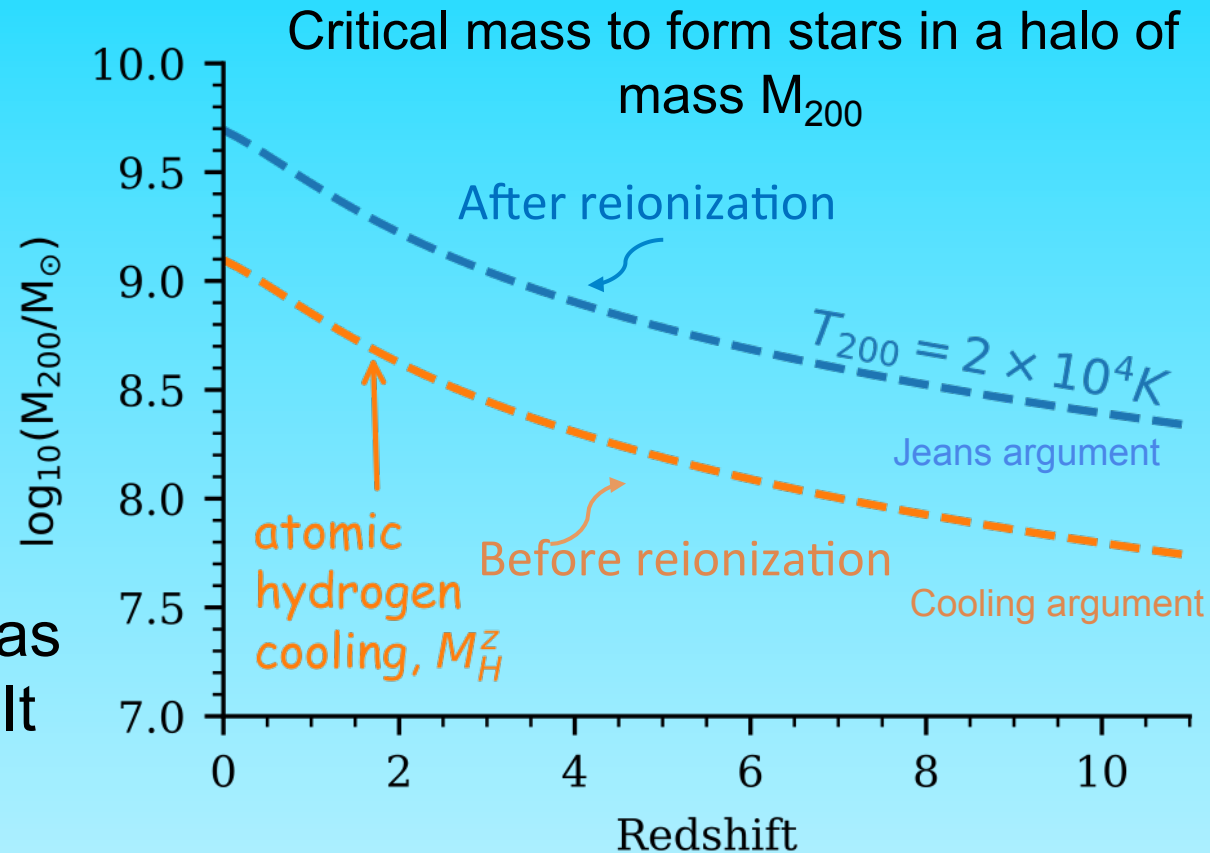
1. Before reionization, stars can only form if gas can cool for which

$$\rightarrow T > 7000 \text{ K}$$

$$M_H^z \sim (4 \times 10^7 M_\odot) \left( \frac{1+z}{11} \right)^{-3/2}$$

2. After H reionization, gas is heated to  $T = 2 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$ . It can only cool and form stars in halos with:

$$T_{\text{vir}} > T_{\text{IGM}} = 2 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$$



Benitez-Llambay & CSF '20



# A galaxy formation primer

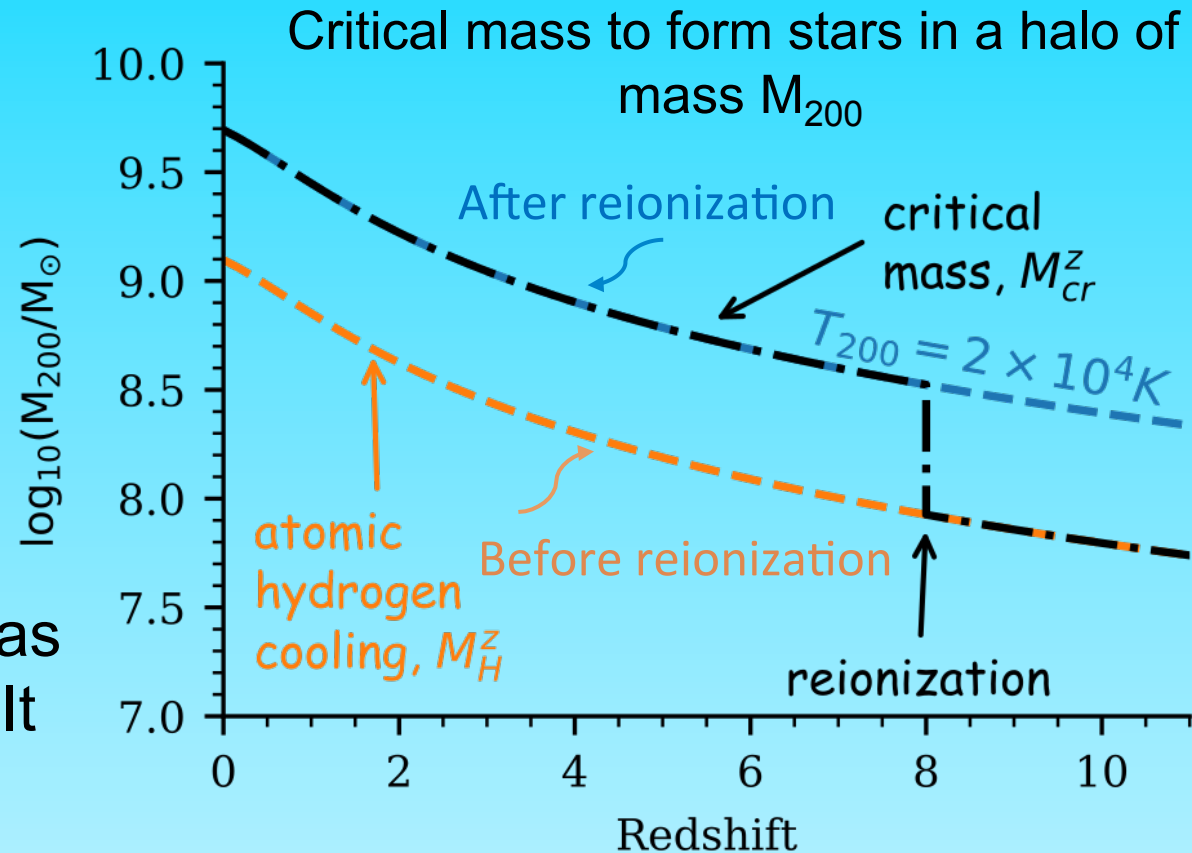
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Benitez-Llambay & CSF '20

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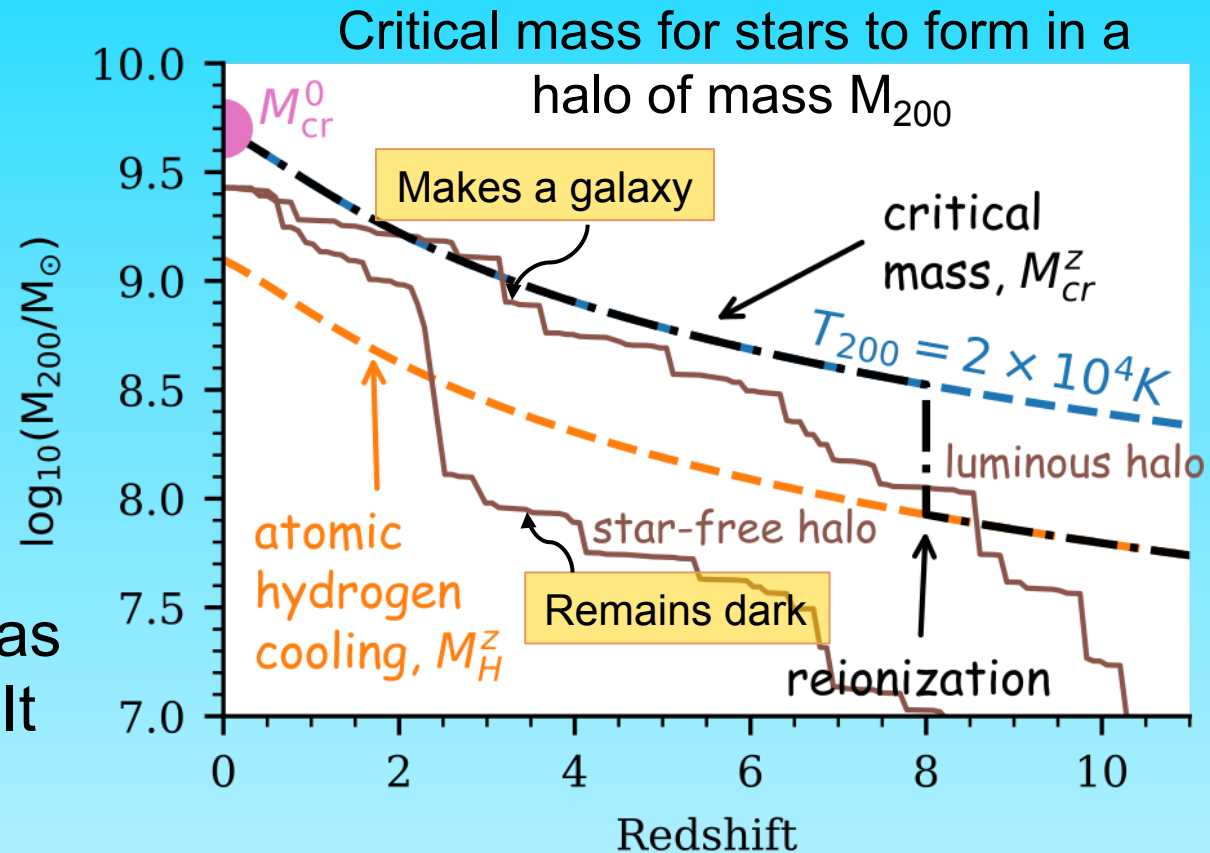
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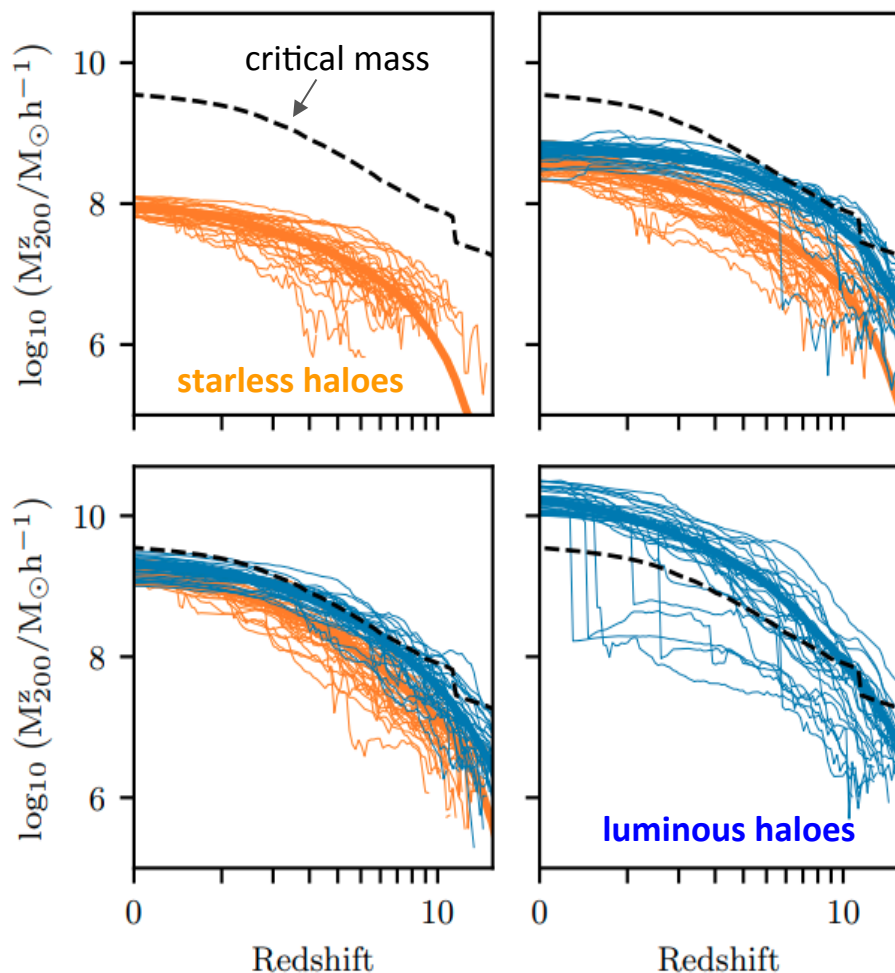


Benitez-Llambay & CSF '20

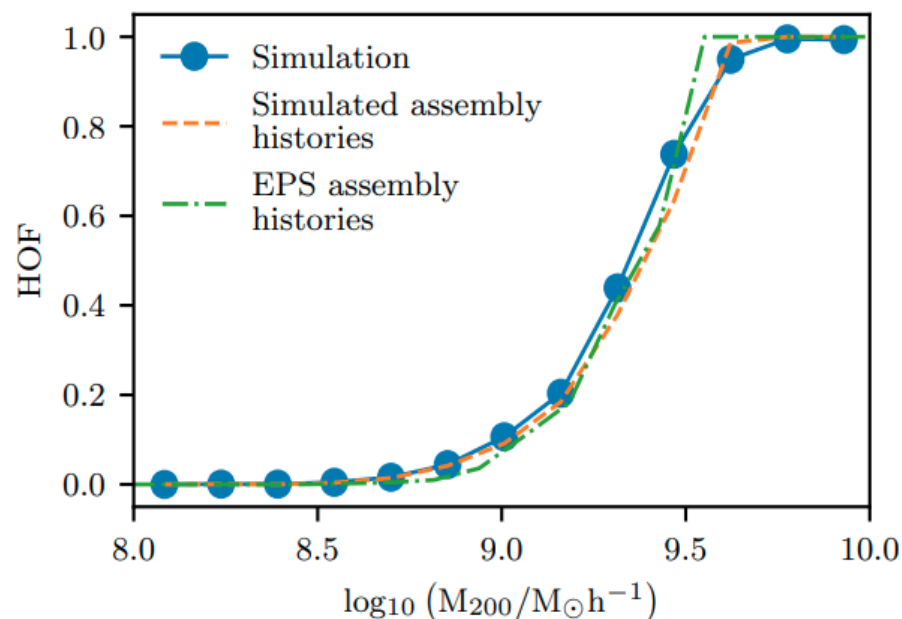


# A galaxy formation primer

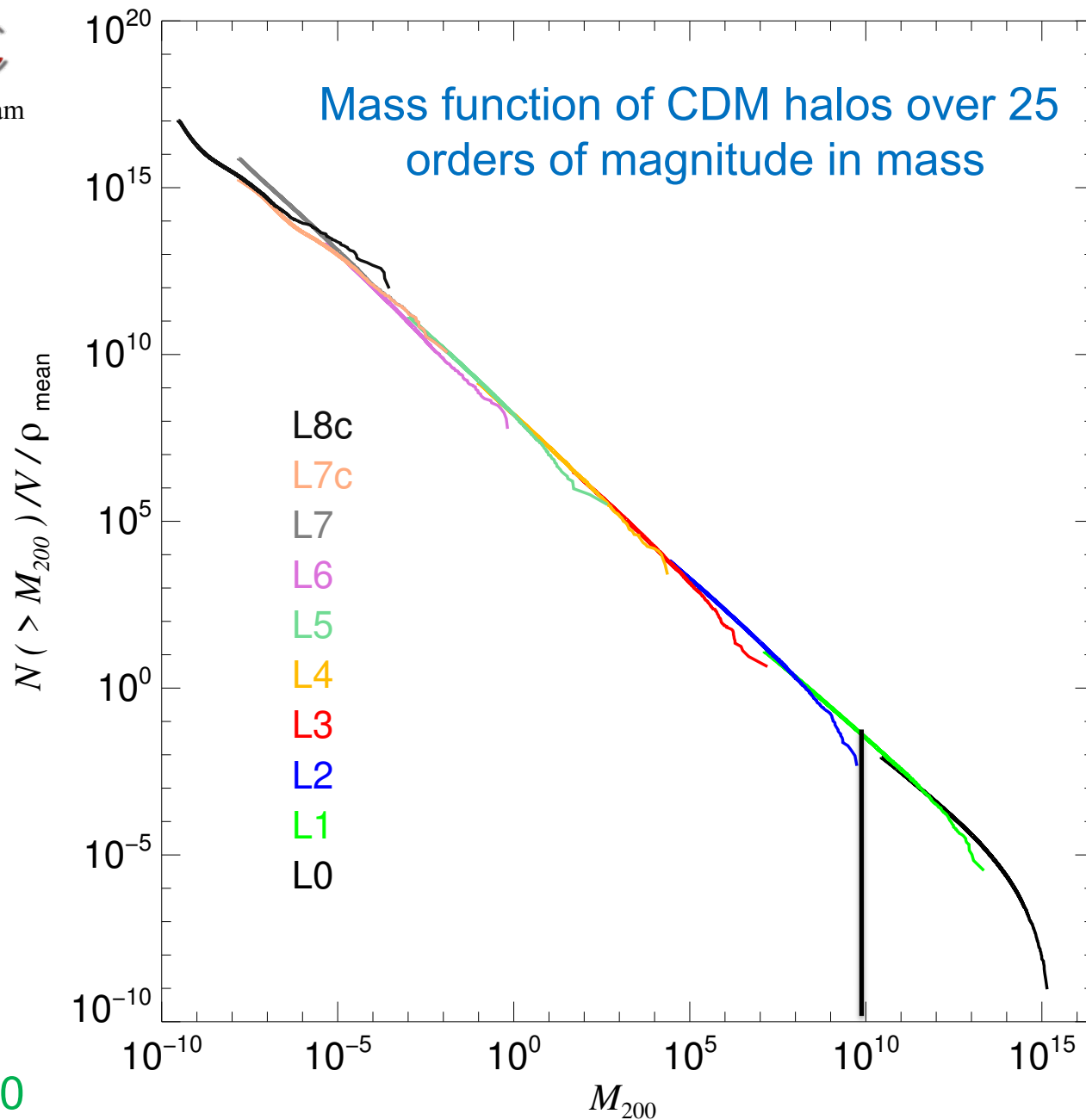
## Mass assembly histories for different final masses



Halo Occupation Fraction (HOF): fraction of halos of a given mass that host a galaxy



Benitez-Llambay & CSF '20



Wang et al '20





VIRGO

[icc.dur.ac.uk/Eagle](http://icc.dur.ac.uk/Eagle)

“Evolution and assembly of galaxies and  
their environment”

# THE EAGLE PROJECT

## Virgo Consortium

**Durham:** Richard Bower, Michelle Furlong, Carlos Frenk, Matthieu Schaller, James Trayford, Yelti Rosas-Guevara, Tom Theuns, Yan Qu, John Helly, Adrian Jenkins.

**Leiden:** Rob Crain, Joop Schaye.

**Other:** Claudio Dalla Vecchia, Ian McCarthy, Craig Booth...



VIRG

Dark matter

APOSTLE  
EAGLE full  
hydro  
simulations

Local Group

CDM

Sawala, CSF  
et al '16





Stars

VIRG

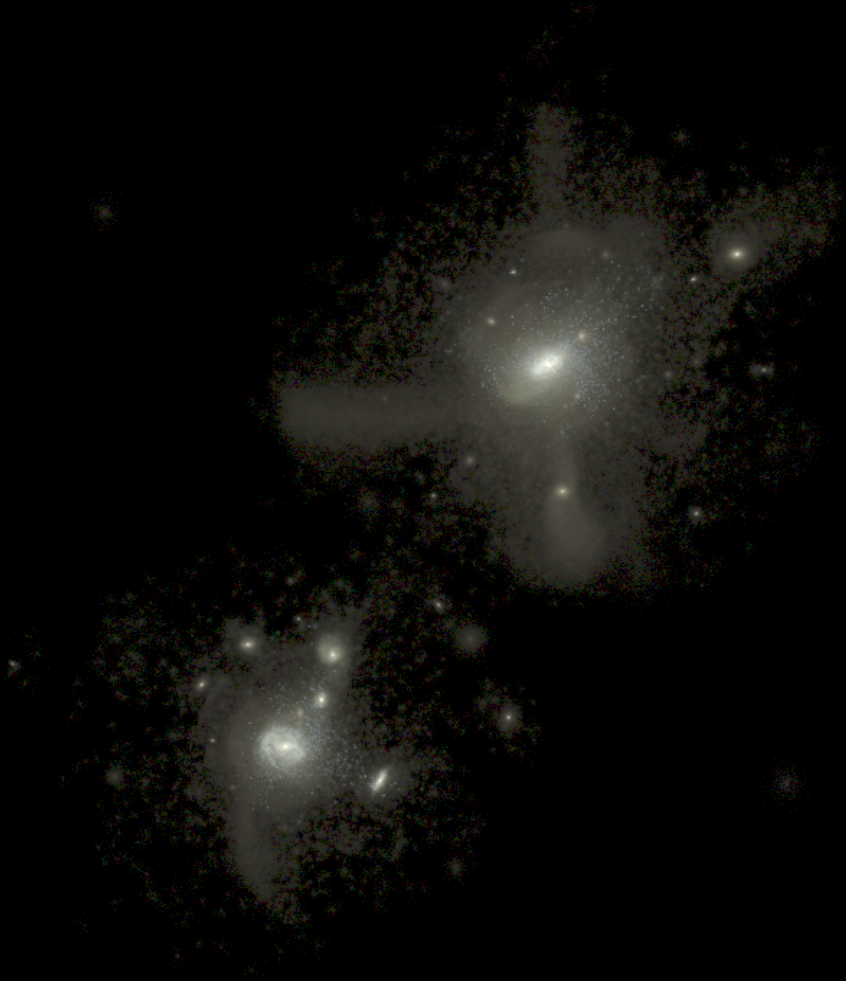
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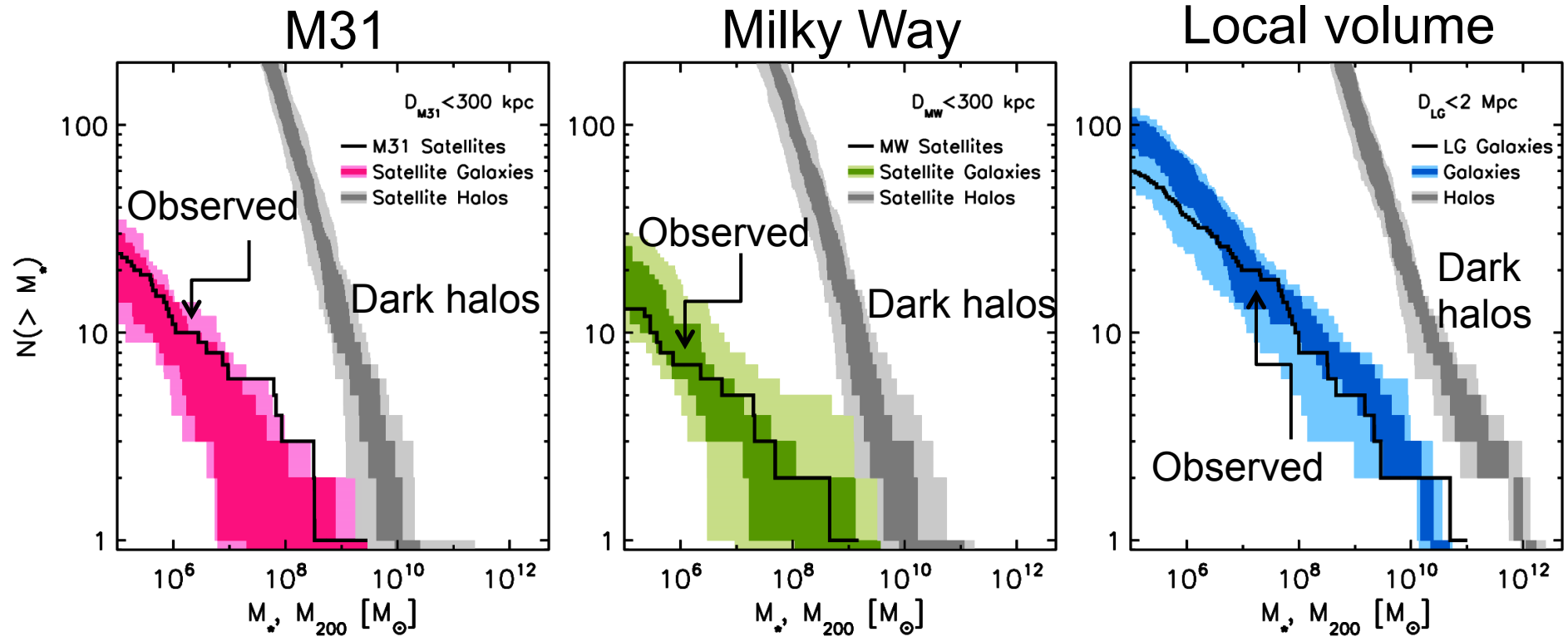
Stars

Far fewer satellite galaxies than CDM halos

Sawala, CSF  
et al '16



# EAGLE Local Group simulation

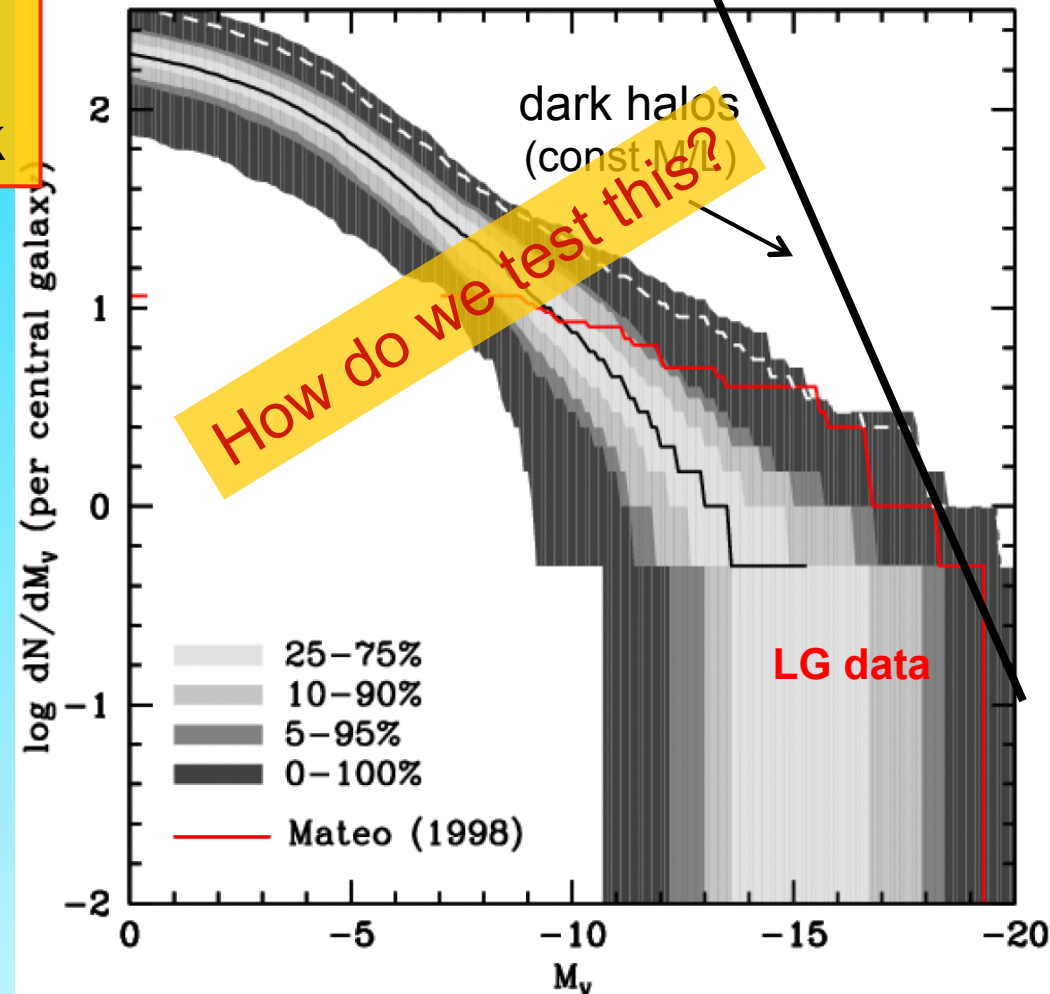




# Luminosity Function of Local Group Satellites

Semi-analytic model of galaxy formation including effects of reionization and SN feedback

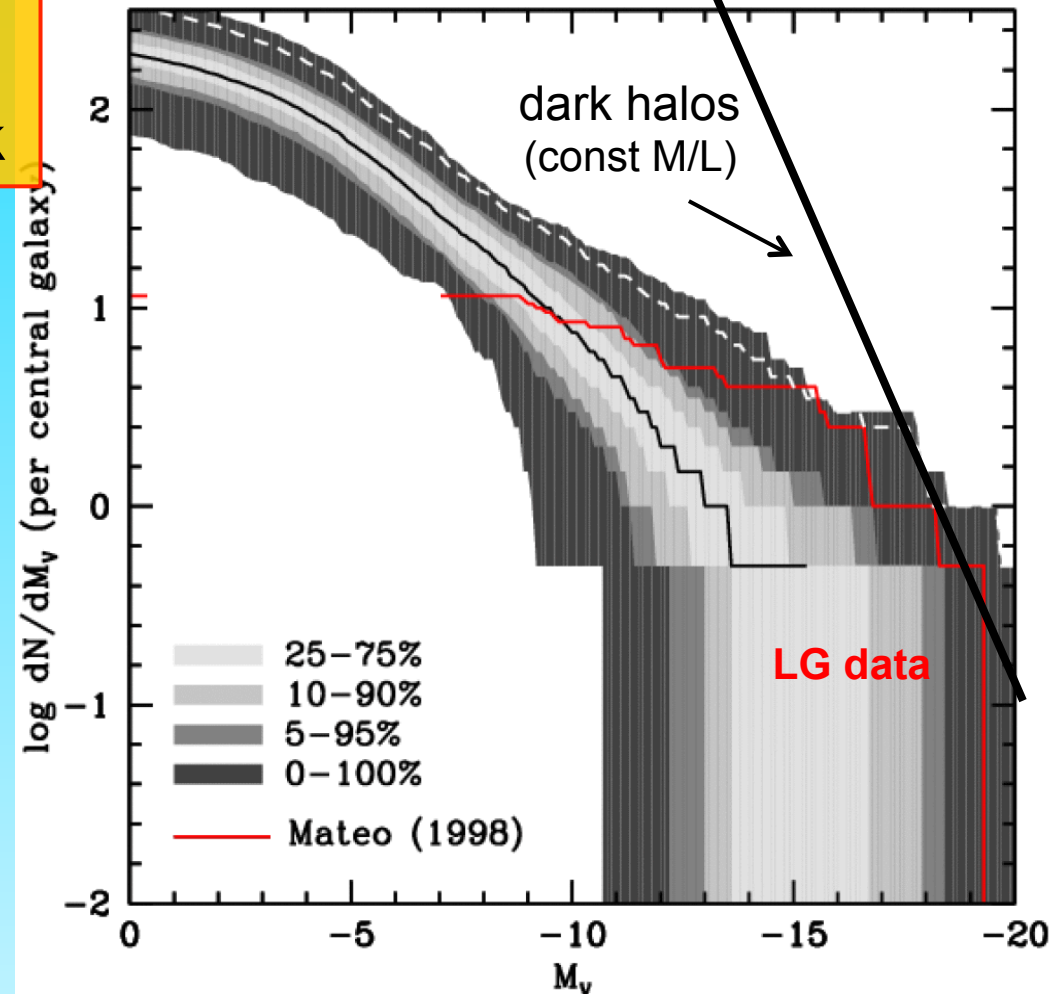
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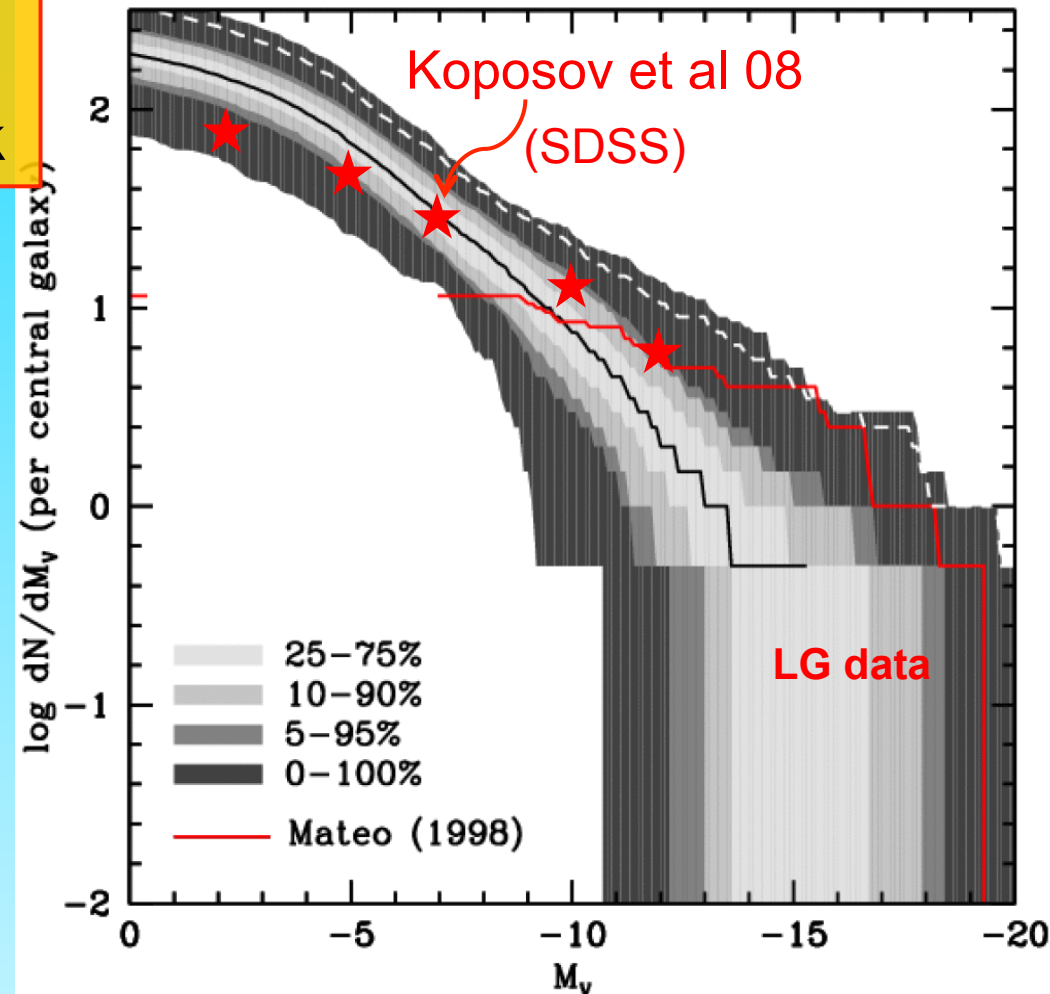




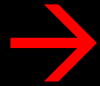
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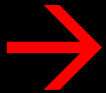
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When galaxy formation is taken  
into account



CDM predicts the observed  
abundance of satellites



There is **no** such thing as a “**missing  
satellite problem**” in CDM!



# The “small-scale crisis” of CDM

## The four “problems” of CDM

1. The “missing satellites” problem
2. The “too-big-to-fail” problem
3. The “plane of satellites” problem
4. The “core-cusp” problem

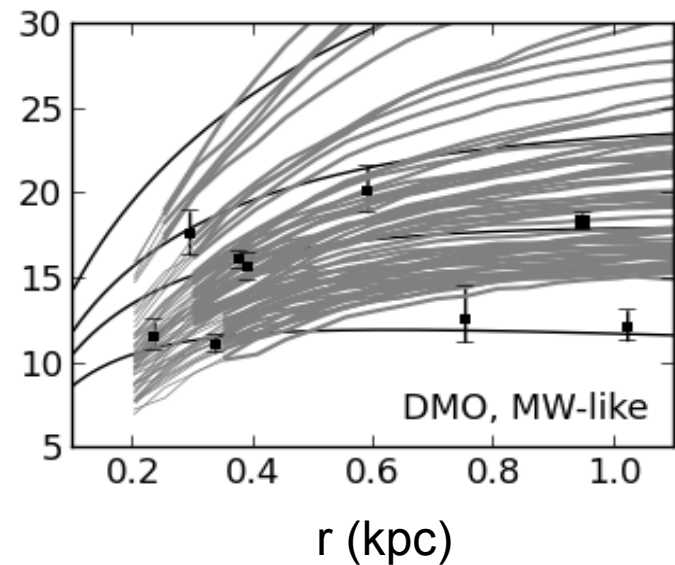
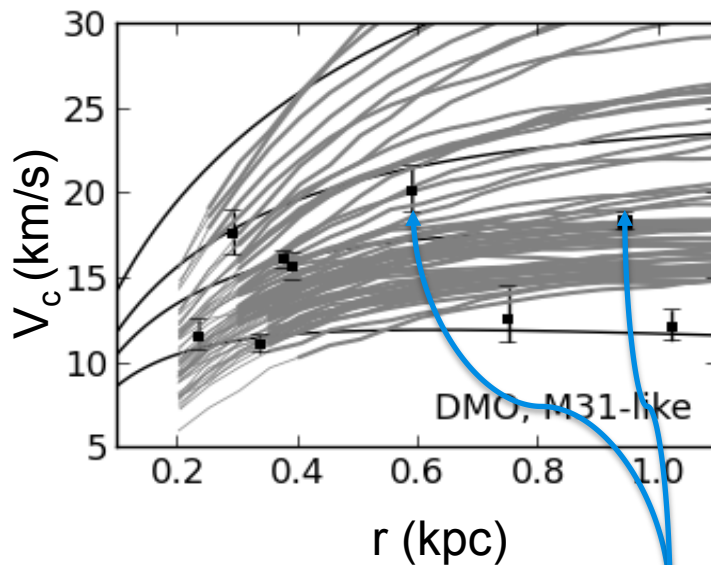
# Rotation curves of dark matter subhalos

Boylan-Kolchin et al. '11

$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} \quad V_{\max} = \max V_c$$

**TBTF:** DM simulations make  $\sim 10$  subhalos  
with  $V_{\max} > 30$  km/s but MW has only 3

DM-only  
simulation



9 dwarf satellites of Milky Way:  
mass within half-light radius

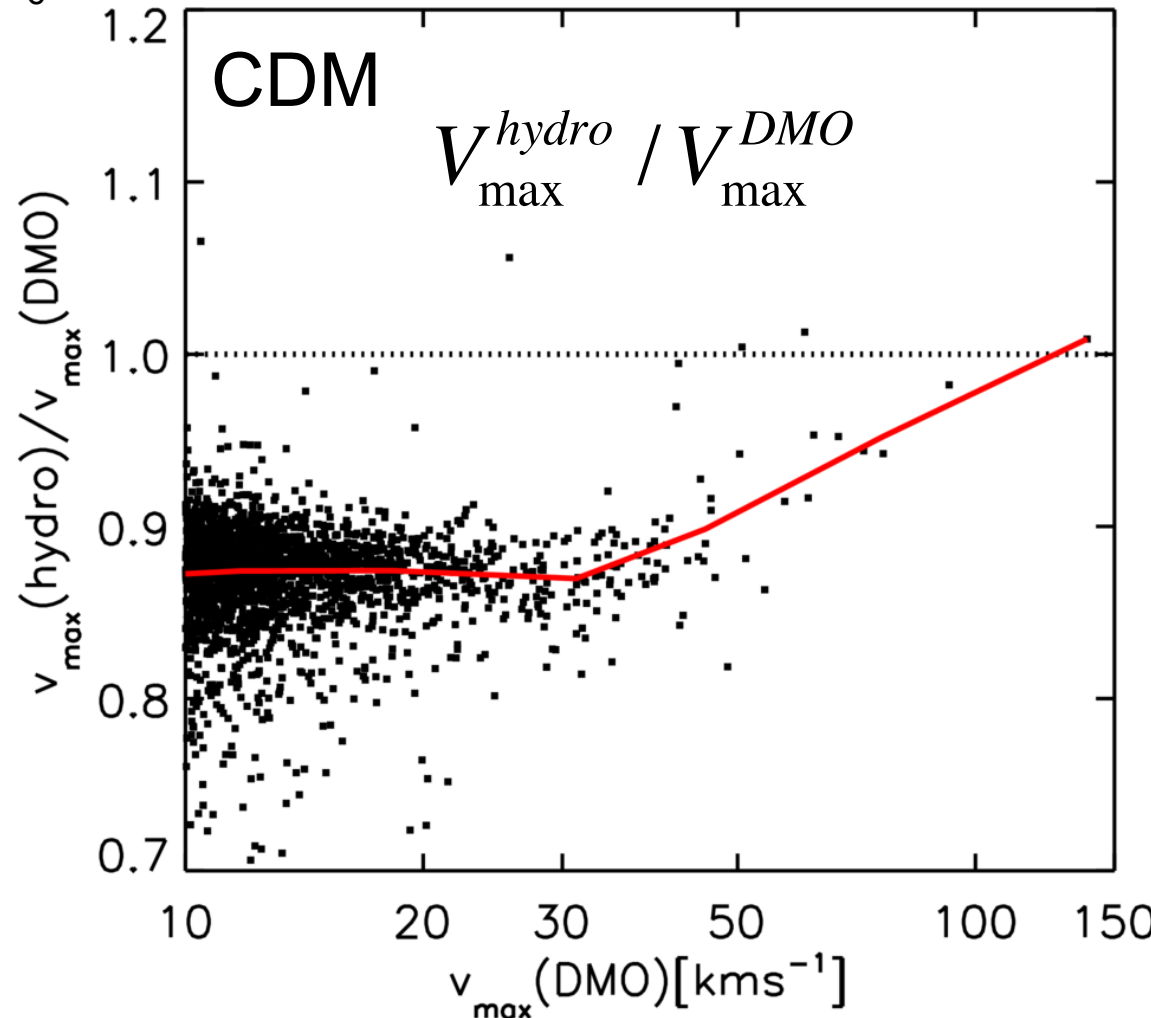
(excluding LMC, SMC, Sag)

# To-big-to-fail in CDM: baryon effects

$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} \quad V_{\max} = \max V_c$$

Reduction in  $V_{\max}$  due to gas loss (reionization + SN feedback) at early times

→ Lowers halo mass & thus halo growth rate

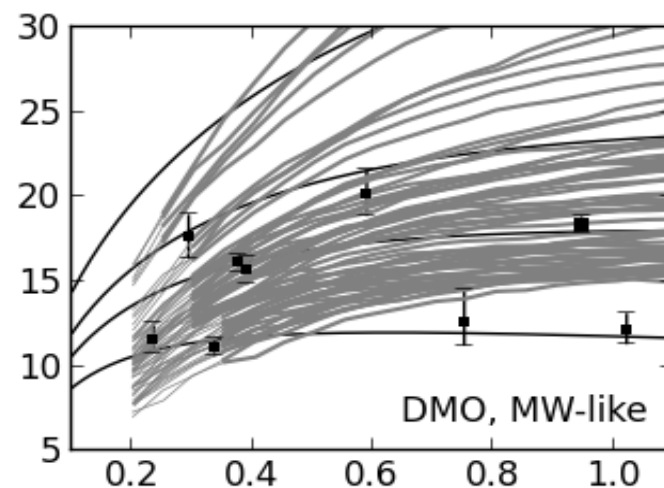
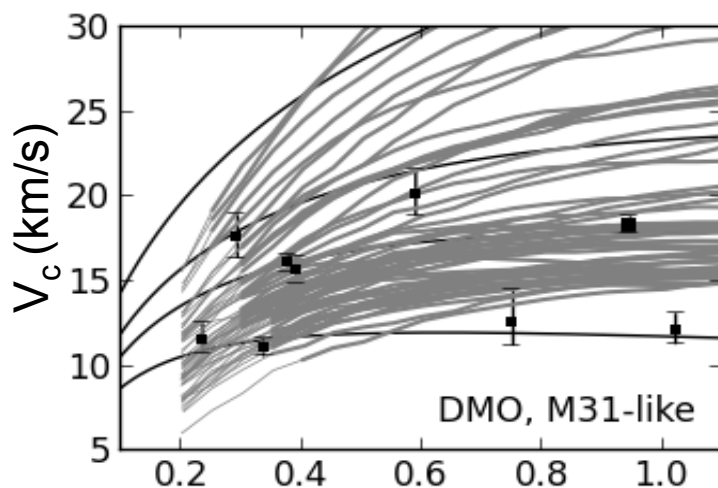


Sawala, CSF et al. '13, '14

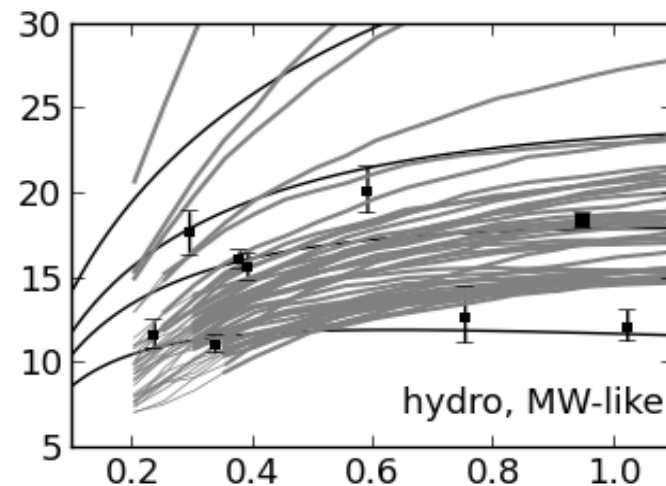
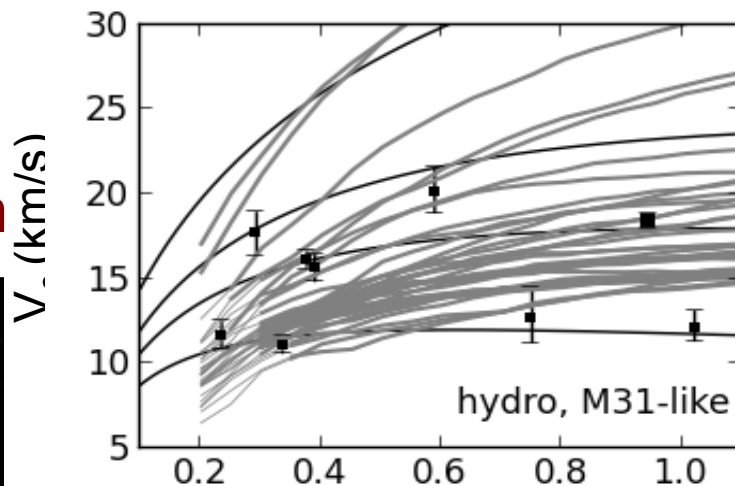
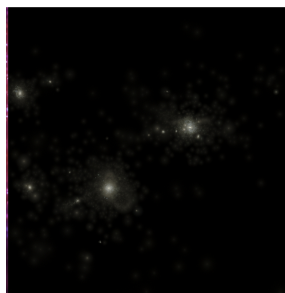


# Too-big-to-fail: the baryon bailout

DM-only  
simulation



Gas  
simulation



Number of subhalos of given  $V_{\max}$  is greatly reduced in gas simulations

Sawala, CSF et al. '14, '16

When galaxy formation is taken  
into account



Rotation curve amplitude  
slightly reduced



There is **NO too-big-to-fail** problem

# The “small-scale crisis” of CDM

## The four “problems” of CDM

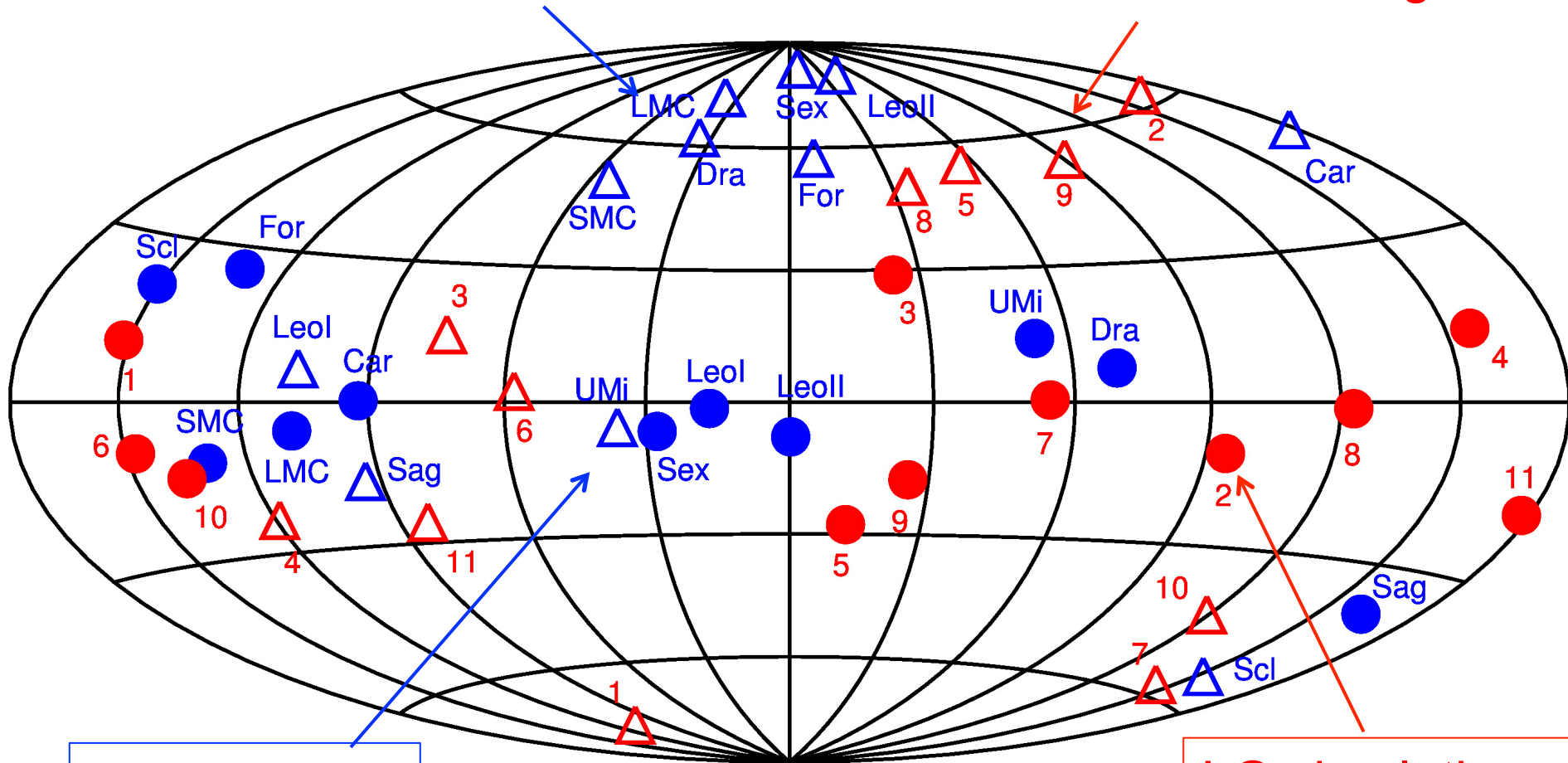
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# The “satellite disk” problem

Direction of ang. mom.

Direction of ang. mom.



MW satellites

LG simulations

Lynden-Bell '76  
Shao '19 '20

# A satellite plane in Andromeda

(From Millennium simulation) “0.04% of host galaxies display satellite alignments that are at **least as extreme as the observations**, when we consider their extent, thickness and number of members rotating in the same sense.

Ibata et al ‘14

[MENU](#) 

**nature**  
International journal of science

Letter | Published: 02 January 2013

**A vast, thin plane of corotating dwarf galaxies orbiting the Andromeda galaxy**

Rodrigo A. Ibata , Geraint F. Lewis, Anthony R. Conn, Michael J. Irwin, Alan W. McConnachie, Scott C. Chapman, Michelle L. Collins, Mark Fardal, Annette M. N. Ferguson, Neil G. Ibata, A. Dougal Mackey, Nicolas F. Martin, Julio Navarro, R. Michael Rich, David Valls-Gabaud & Lawrence M. Widrow

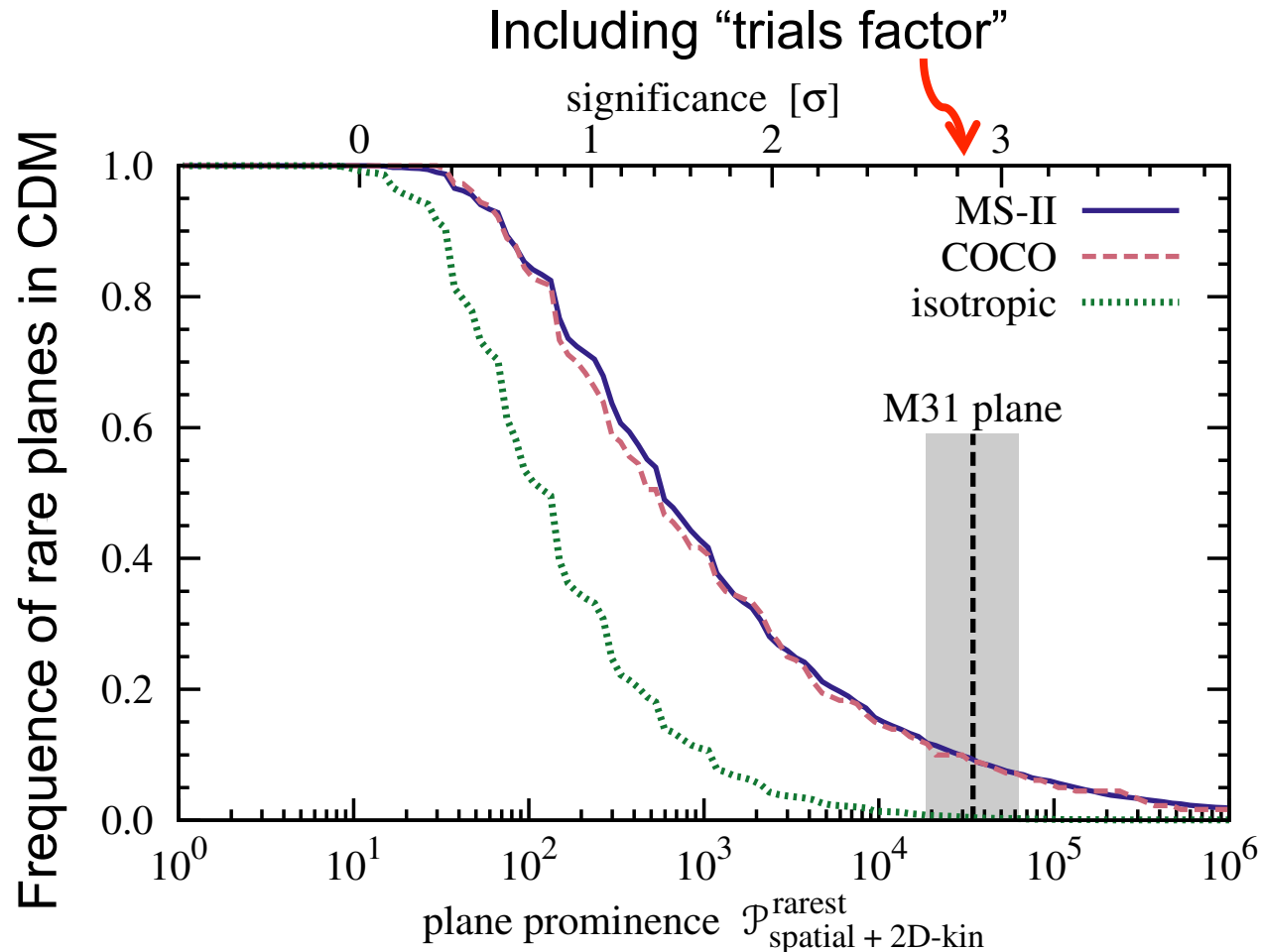
*Nature* **493**, 62–65 (03 January 2013) | [Download Citation](#) 

**Abstract**

Dwarf satellite galaxies are thought to be the remnants of the population of primordial structures that coalesced to form giant galaxies like the Milky Way<sup>1</sup>. It has previously been suspected<sup>2</sup> that dwarf galaxies may not be isotropically distributed around our Galaxy, because several are correlated with streams of H I emission, and may

# The significance of Ibata's plane

- Significance of Ibata's plane is reduced by x100 when trials factor is included
- 8.8% of halos in  $\Lambda$ CDM simulation have even more prominent disks than Ibata's



In random distribution, 1 in 30,000 chance of finding a plane of 15 sats (out of 27) as thin found by Ibata et al., with at least 13 having same sense of rotation

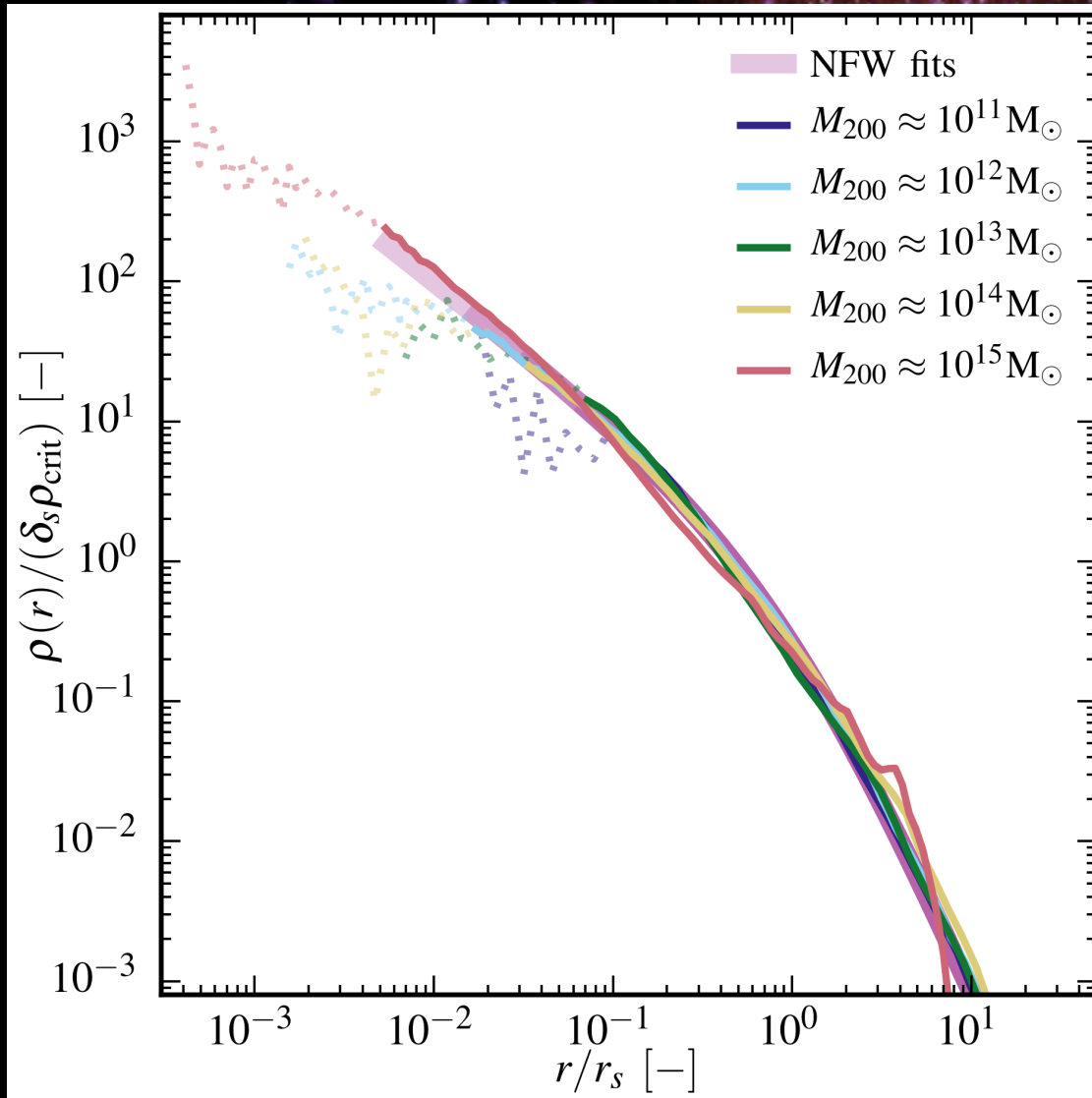


# The “small-scale crisis” of CDM

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# The Density Profile of Cold Dark Matter Halos



Shape of halo profiles  
~independent of halo mass &  
cosmological parameters

Density profiles are “cuspy” -  
no ‘core’ near the centre

Fitted by simple formula:

$$\frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_{\text{crit}}} = \frac{\delta_c}{(r/r_s)(1+r/r_s)^2}$$

(Navarro, Frenk & White '97)

More massive halos and  
halos that form earlier have  
higher densities (bigger  $\delta$ )



ICC

# Cores or cusps?

Myth 1: dwarf galaxies have cores



Myth 2: all hydro simulations makes cores in dwarfs

Cores

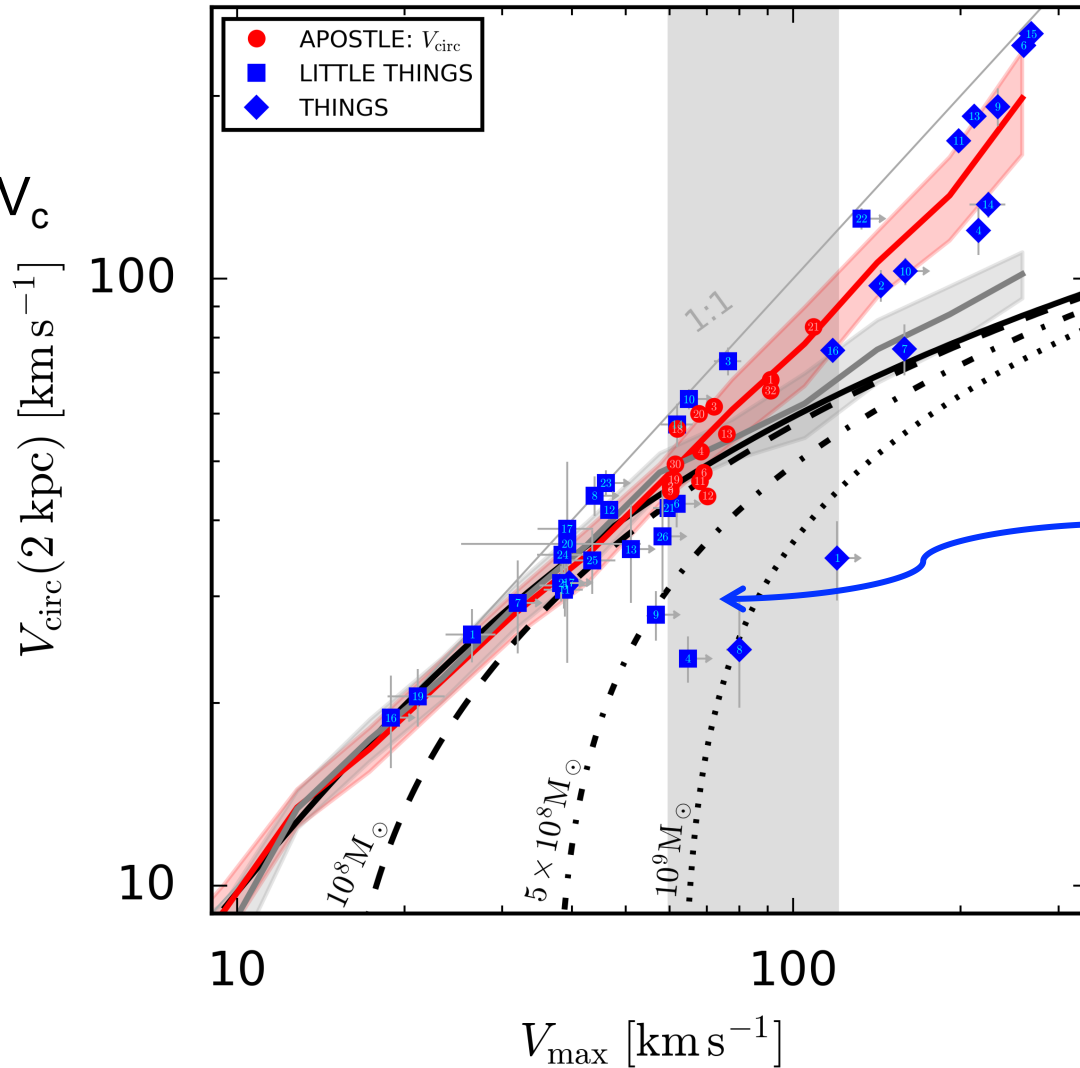
Cusps



# The diversity of rotation curves

$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

$$V_{\max} = \max V_c$$

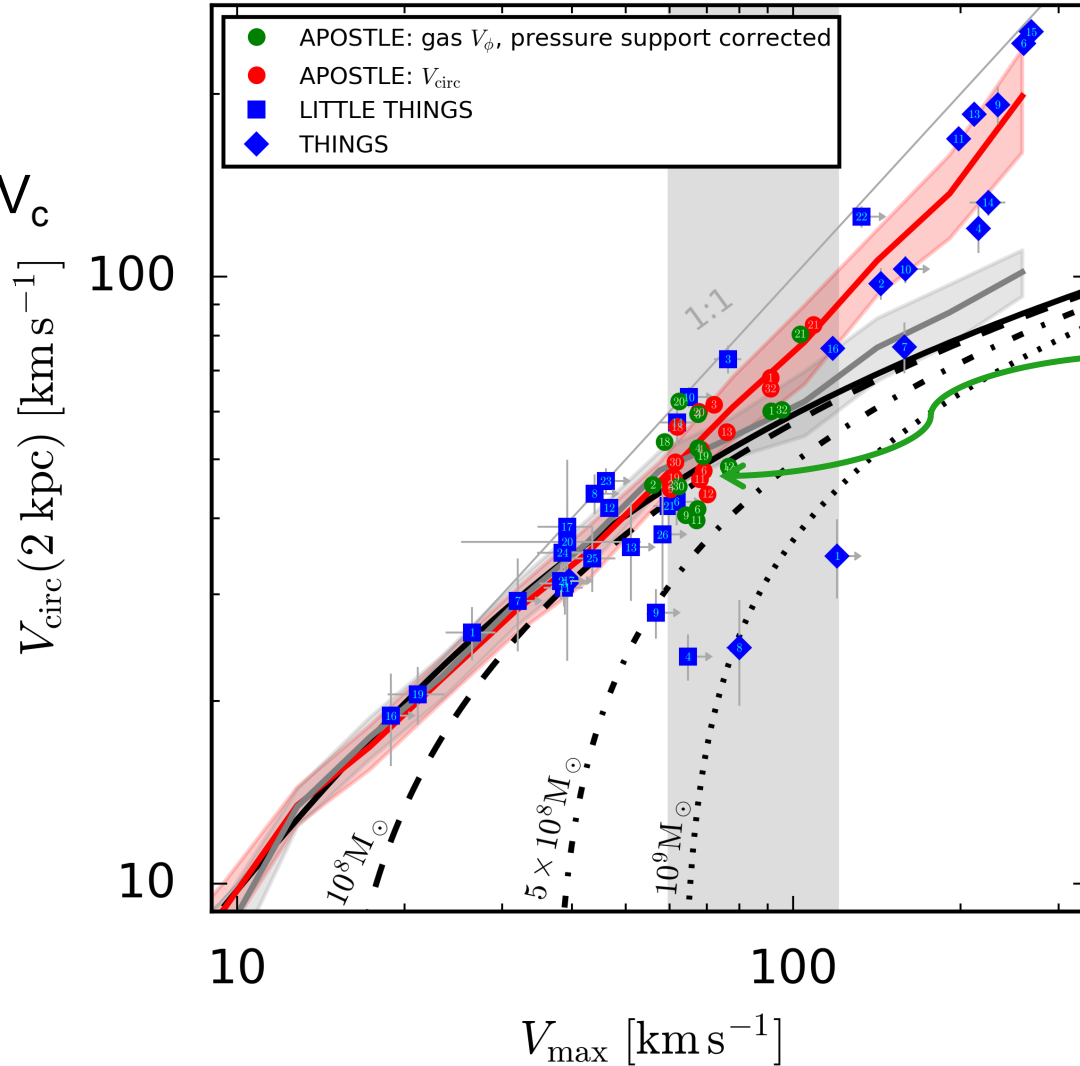


THINGS &  
LITTLE THINGS  
(cores)

# The diversity of rotation curves

$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

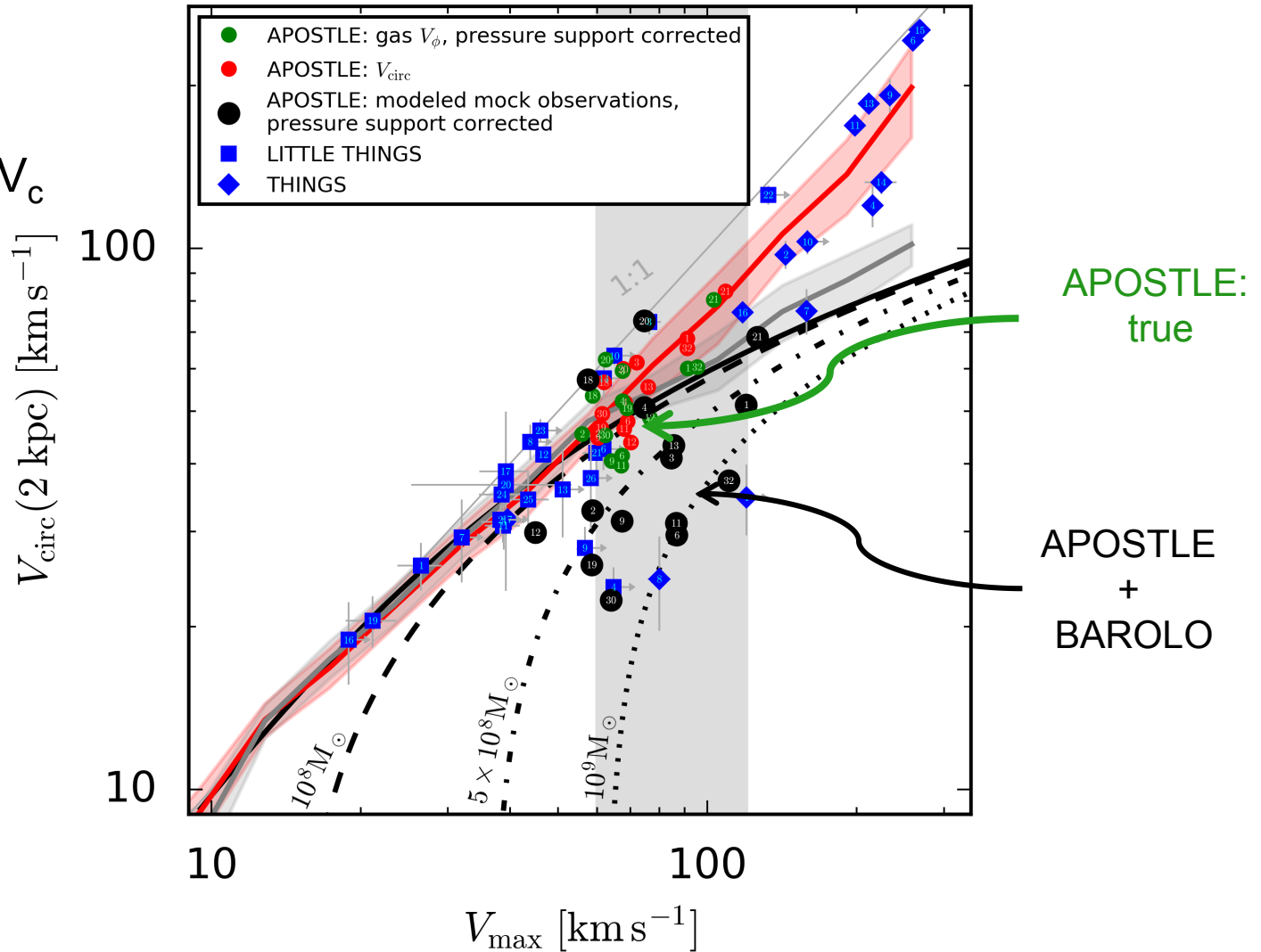
$$V_{\max} = \max V_c$$



# The diversity of rotation curves

$$V_c = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

$$V_{\max} = \max V_c$$







But if cores were found in halos, would  
this rule out CDM?

# The physics of core formation

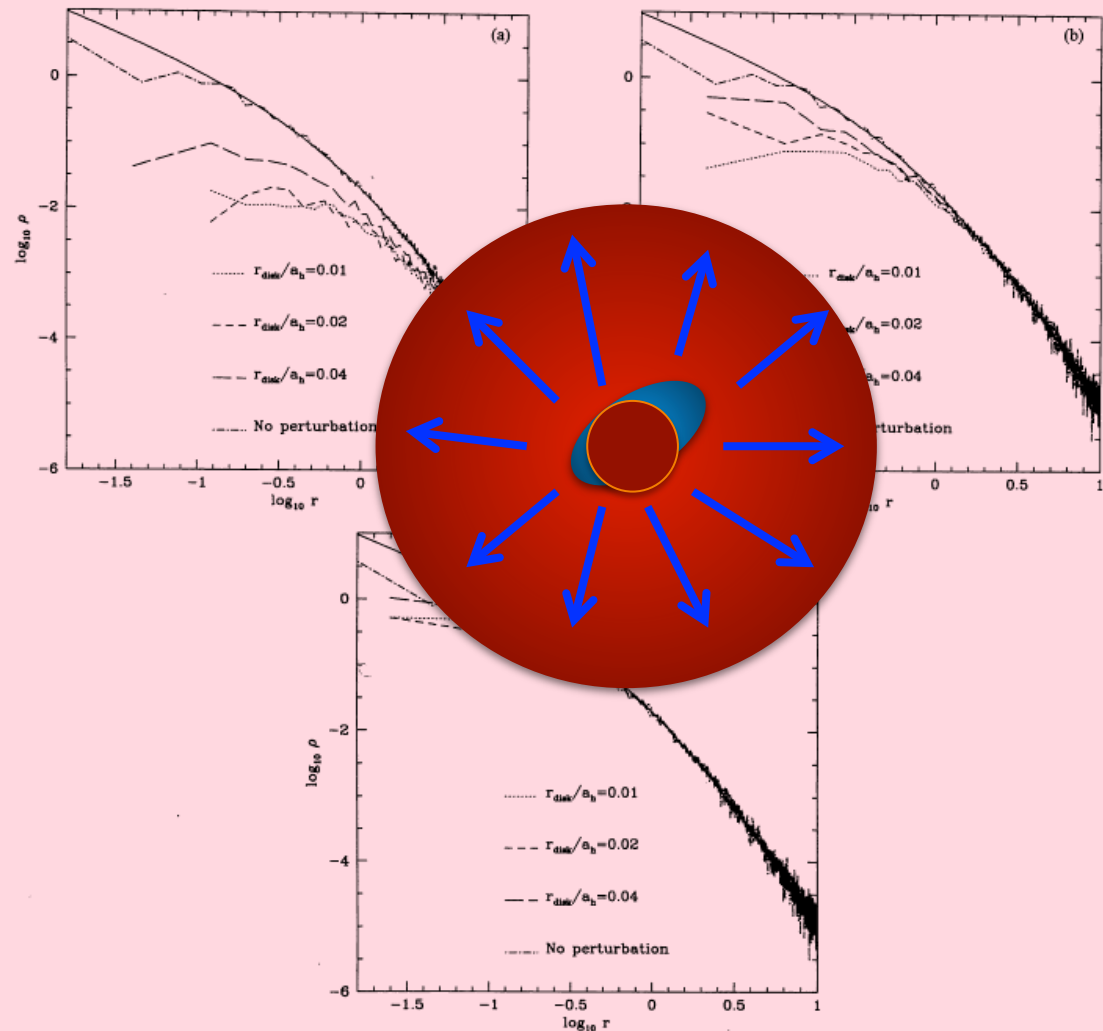
Cusps → cores

Perturb central halo region  
by growing a galaxy  
adiabatically and removing  
it suddenly (Navarro, Eke  
& Frenk '96)

Cores may also form by  
repeated fluctuations in  
central potential (e.g. by  
SN explosions) (Read &  
Gilmore '05; Pontzen &  
Governato '12,'14; Bullock &  
Boylan-Kolchin '17)

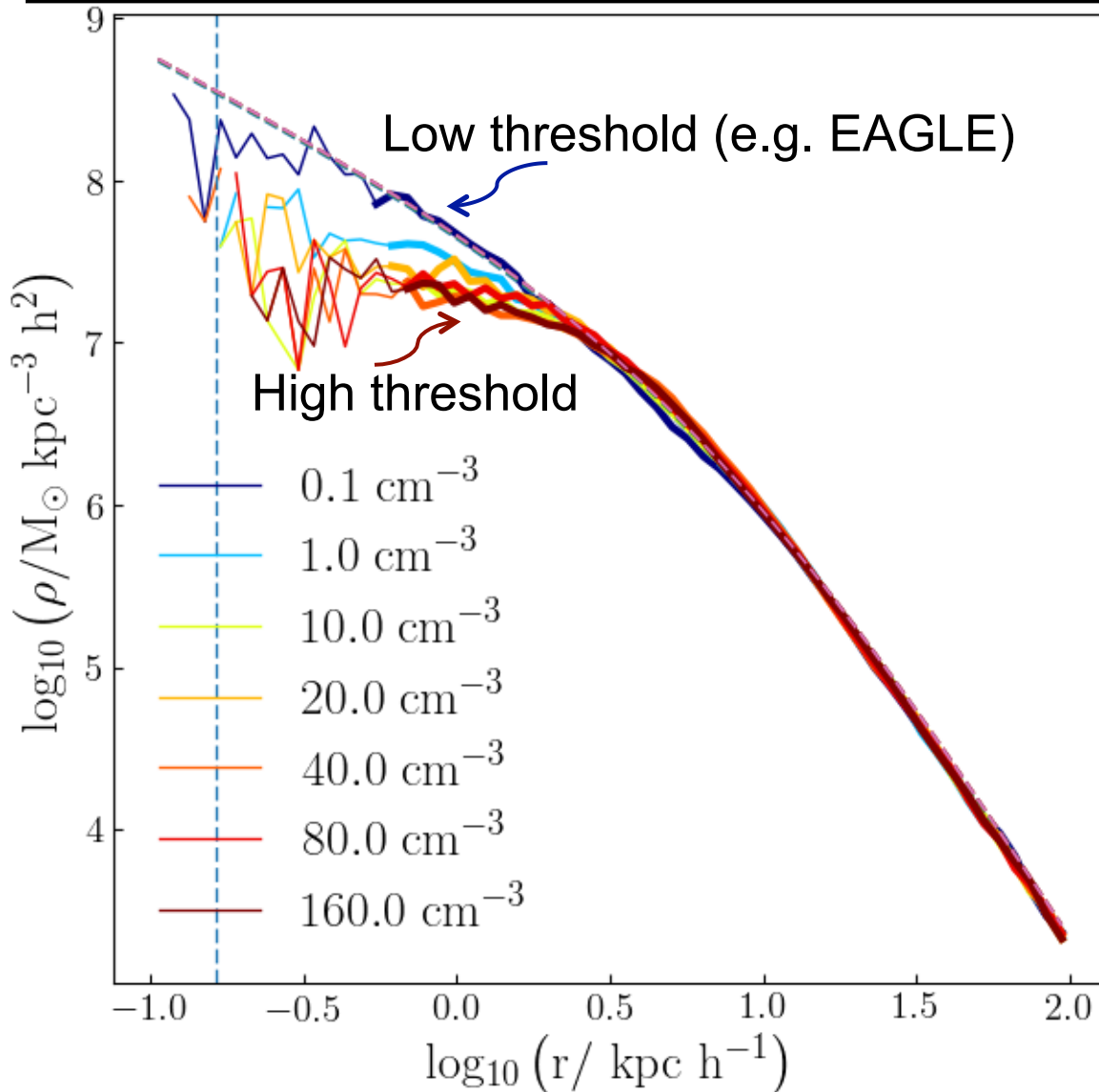
Navarro, Eke & Frenk (1996)

The cores of dwarf galaxy haloes L75



**Figure 3.** Equilibrium density profiles of haloes after removal of the disc. The solid line is the original Hernquist profile, common to all cases. The dot-dashed line is the equilibrium profile of the 10 000-particle realization of the Hernquist model run in isolation at  $t=200$ . (a)  $M_{\text{disc}}=0.2$ . (b)  $M_{\text{disc}}=0.1$ . (c)  $M_{\text{disc}}=0.05$ .

# Cores or cusps in simulations?

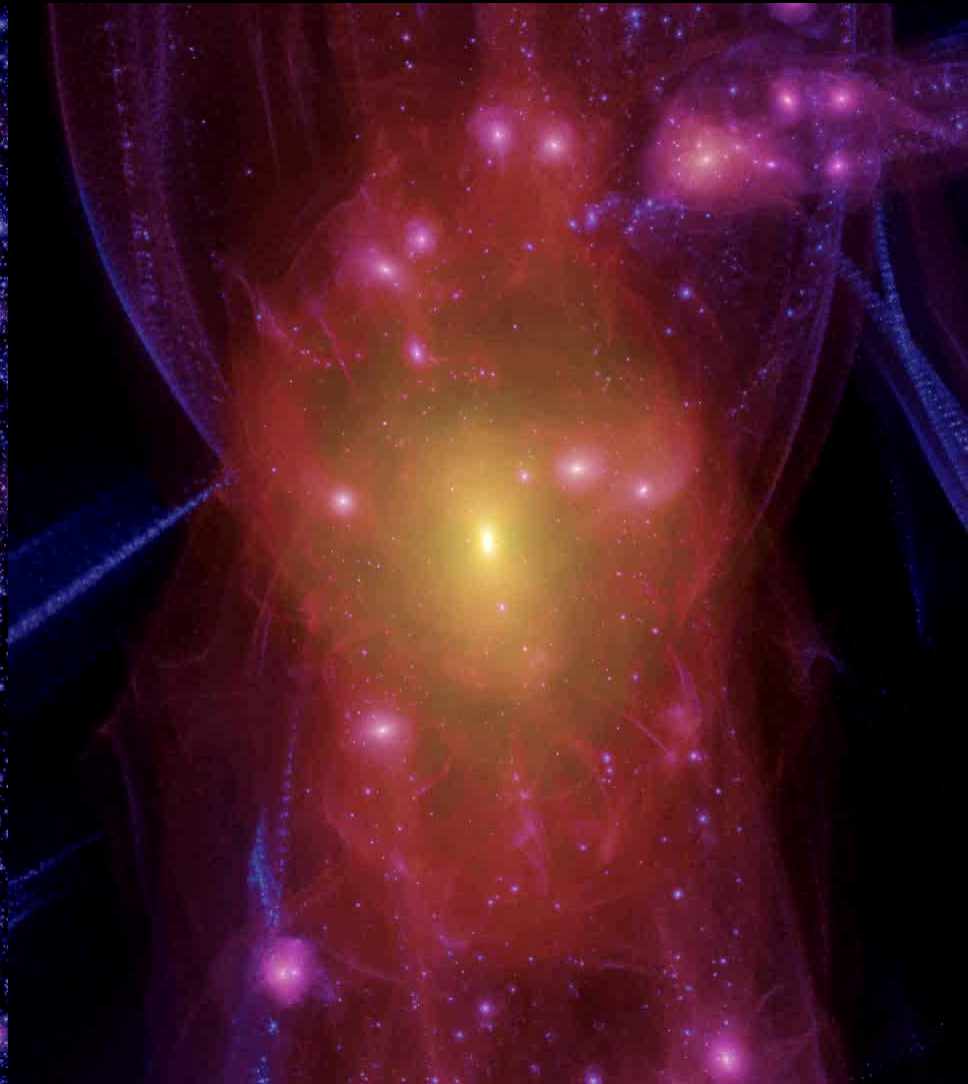




cold dark matter



warm dark matter



Lovell, Eke, Frenk, Gao, Jenkins, Wang, White, Theuns,  
Boyarski & Ruchayskiy '12





# Can we count dark haloes?

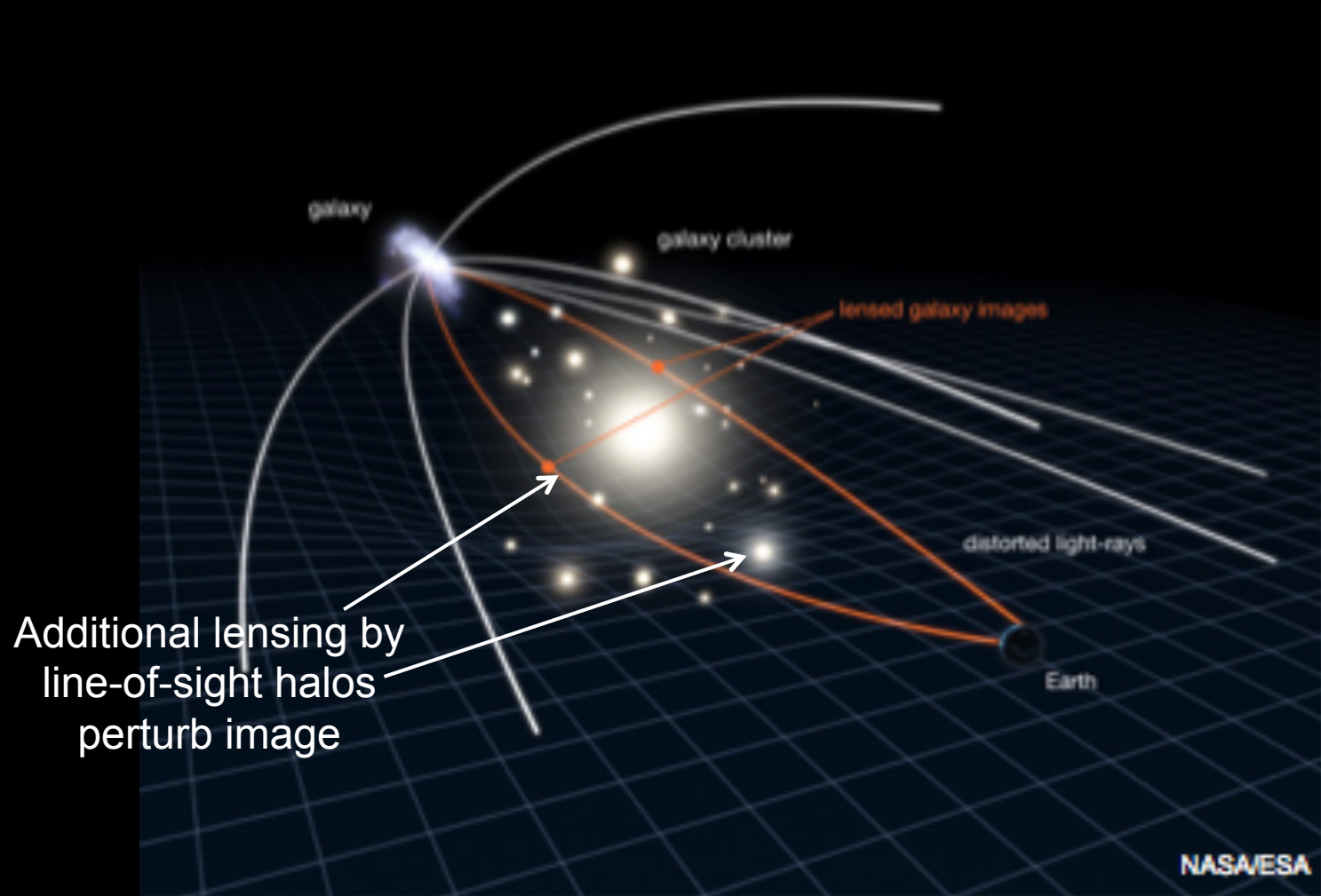
cold dark matter

warm dark matter

## Three ways to detect small CDM halos

1. Gaps in streams
2. Gravitational lensing
3. Annihilation radiation

# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings

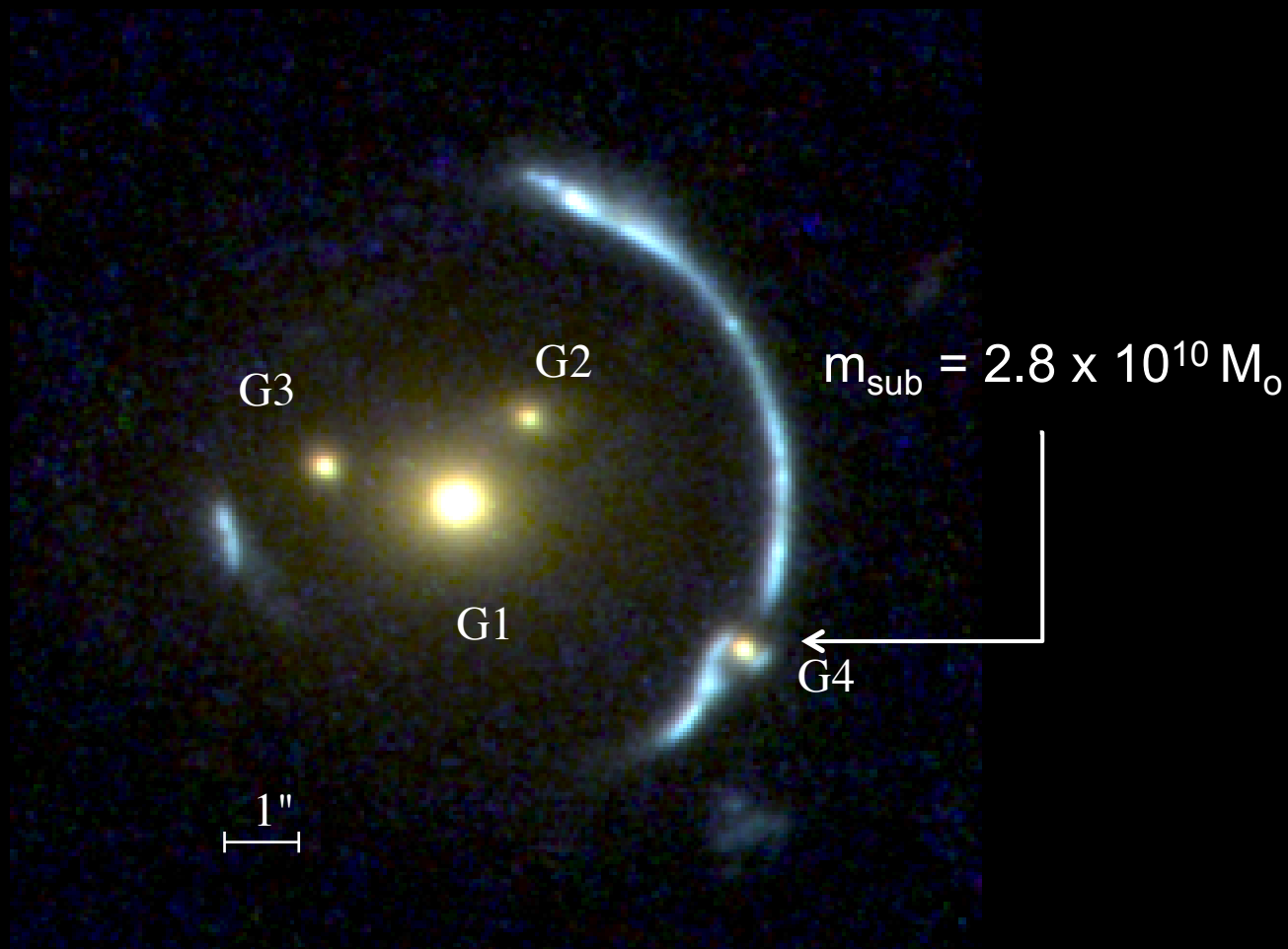


When the source and the lens are well aligned → strong arc or an Einstein ring



# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings

Halos projected onto an Einstein ring distort the image

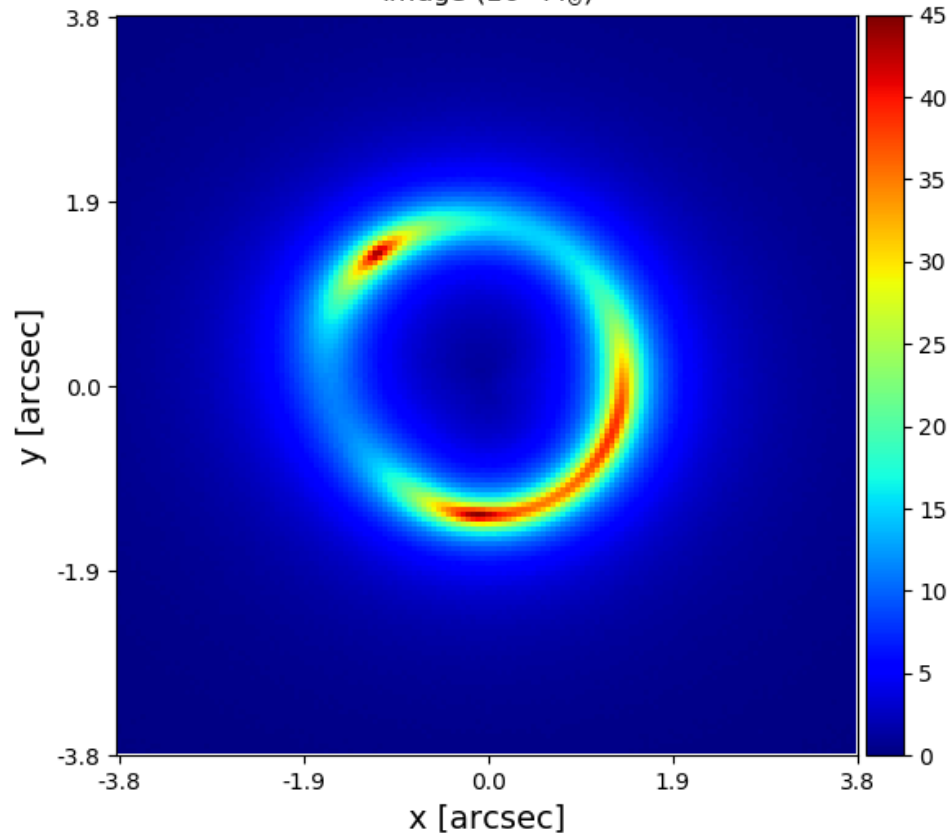


# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings

HST “data”:  $z_{\text{source}}=1$ ;  $z_{\text{lens}}=0.2$   $10^7 M_{\odot}$  halo – NOT so easy to spot

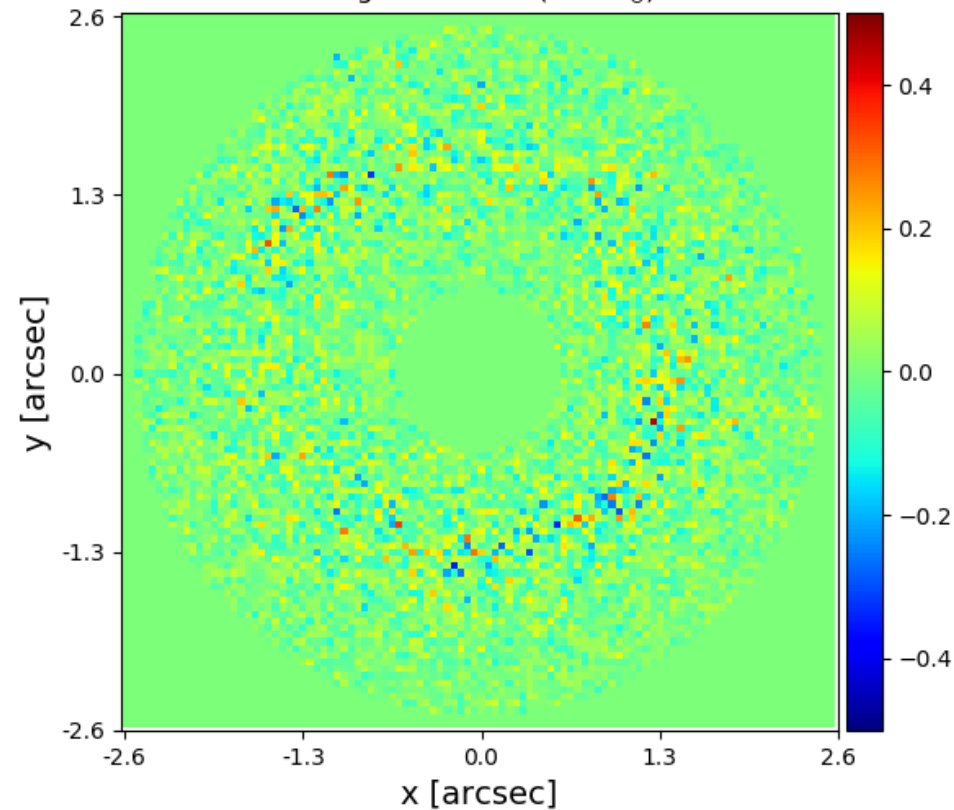
Image

Image ( $10^7 M_{\odot}$ )



Residuals

Image Residuals ( $10^7 M_{\odot}$ )

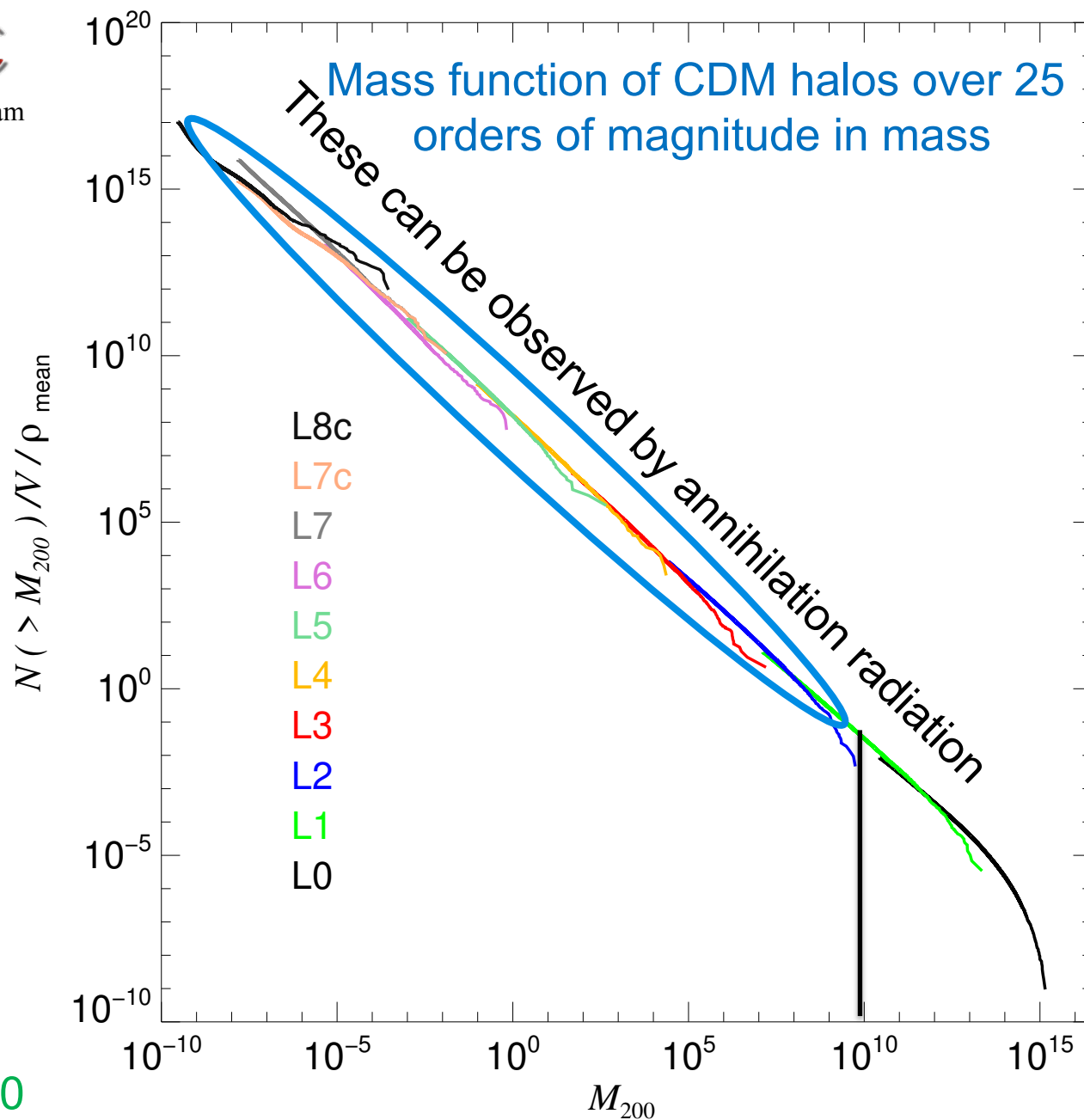


# Detecting substructures with strong lensing

Detection limit =  $10^7 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  may be achievable with current data and techniques

~100 Einstein ring systems with detection limit of  $10^7 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  is enough to either rule out a 7 keV sterile  $\nu$  or CDM itself

Li, CSF et al '16



Wang et al '20



Wang, Bose, Frenk, Gao, Jenkins, Springel & White 2020

# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^{14} M_{\odot}$$

**Base Level**

**L0**

**150 Mpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020



# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

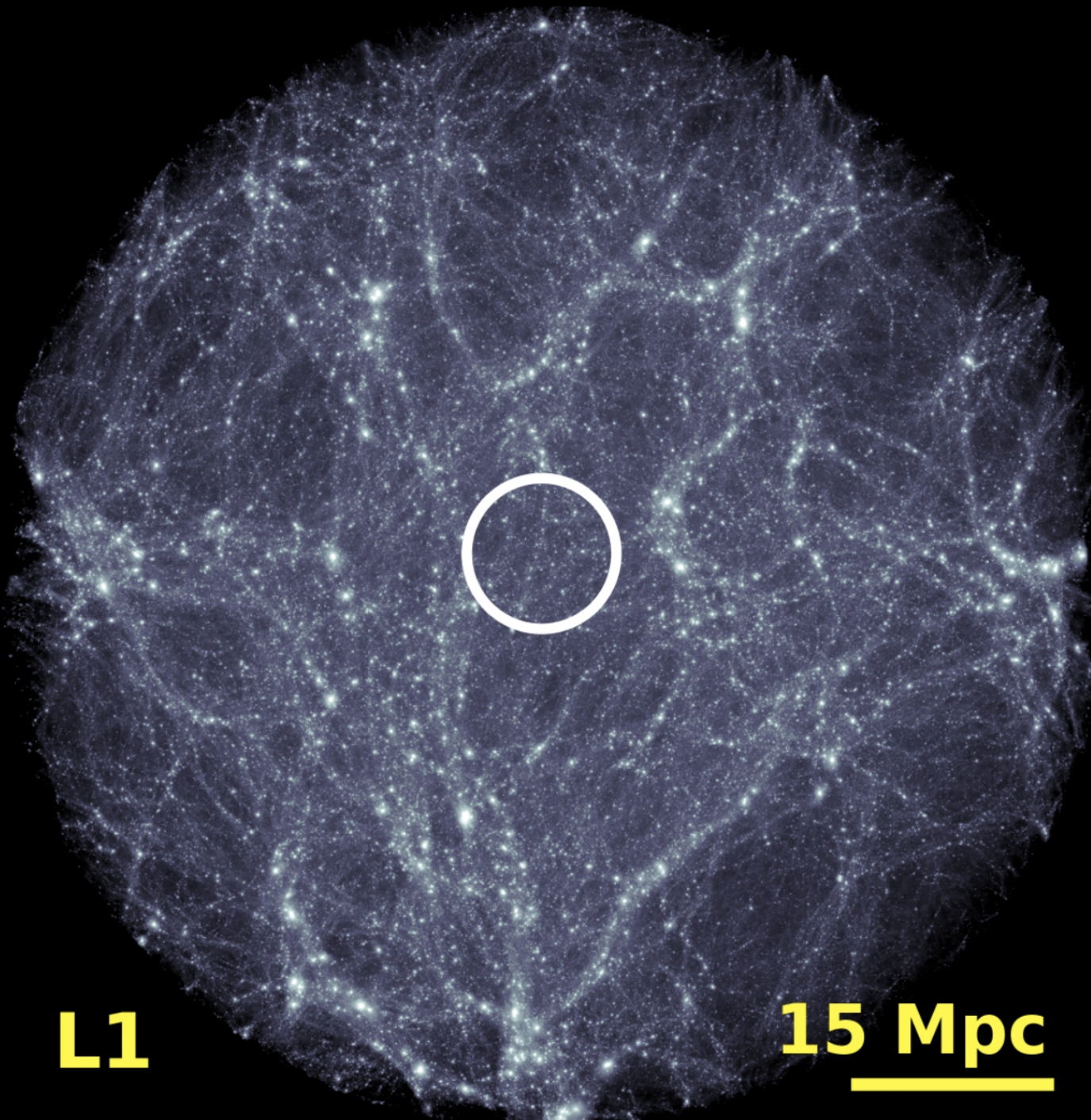
$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^{12} M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 1**

**L1**

**15 Mpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020





# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^9 M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 2**

**L2**

**1 Mpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020



# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^6 M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 3**

**L3**

**150 kpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020



# The VVV simulation

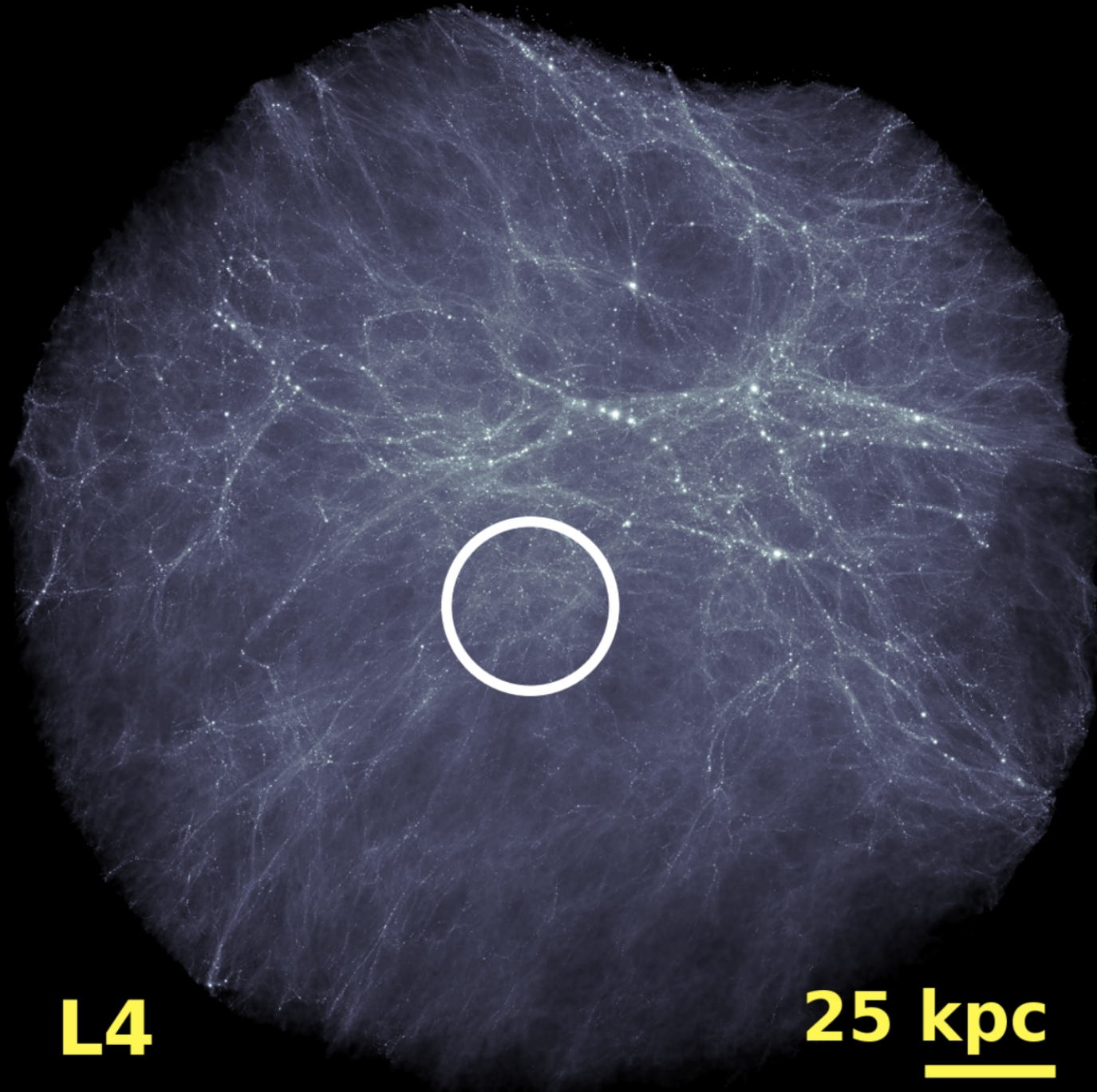
Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^3 M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 4**



**L4**

**25 kpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020

# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

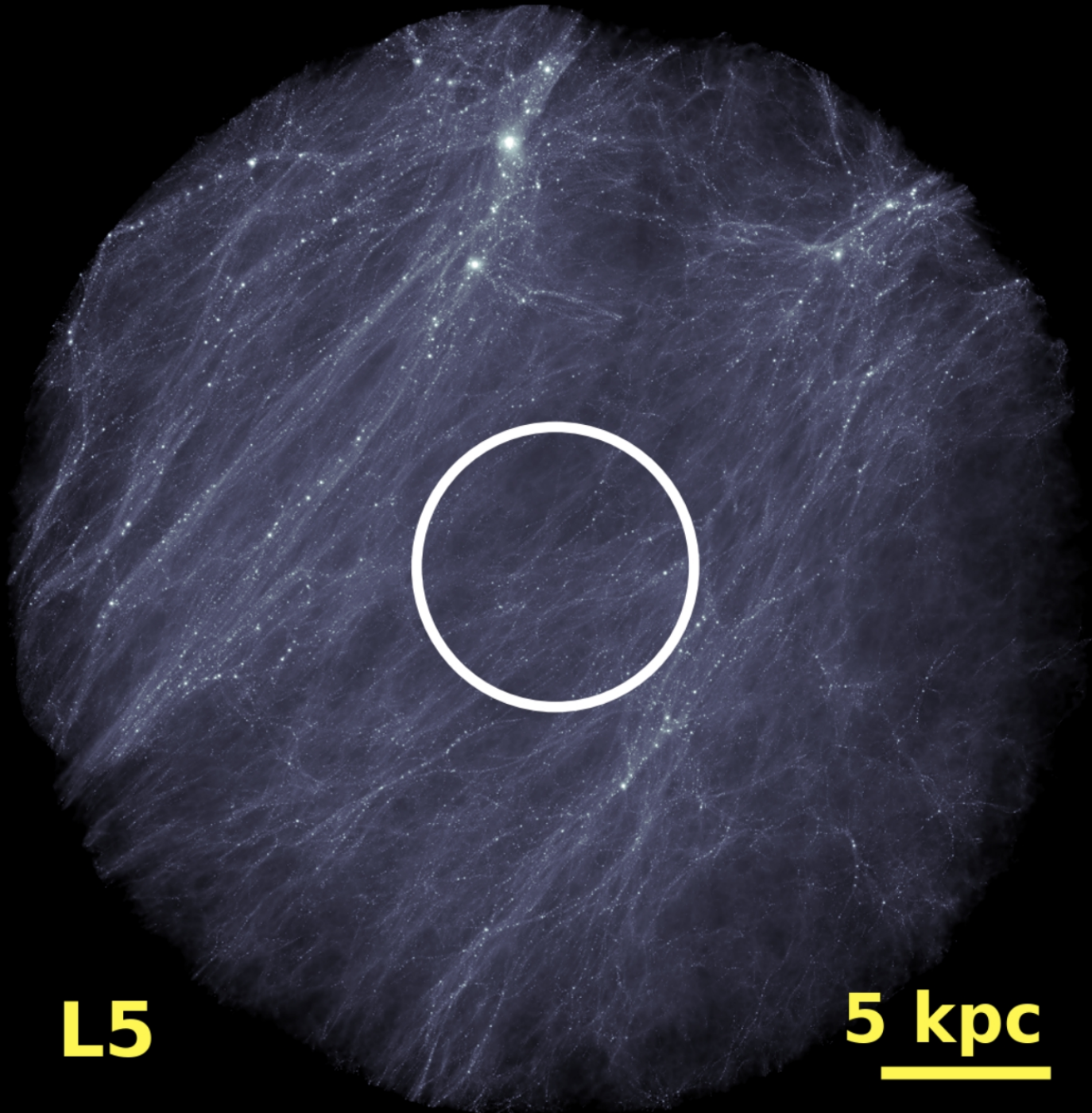
$$M_{\text{char}} = 10 M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 5**

**L5**

**5 kpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020





# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^{-1} M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 6**

**L6**

**1 kpc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020



# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

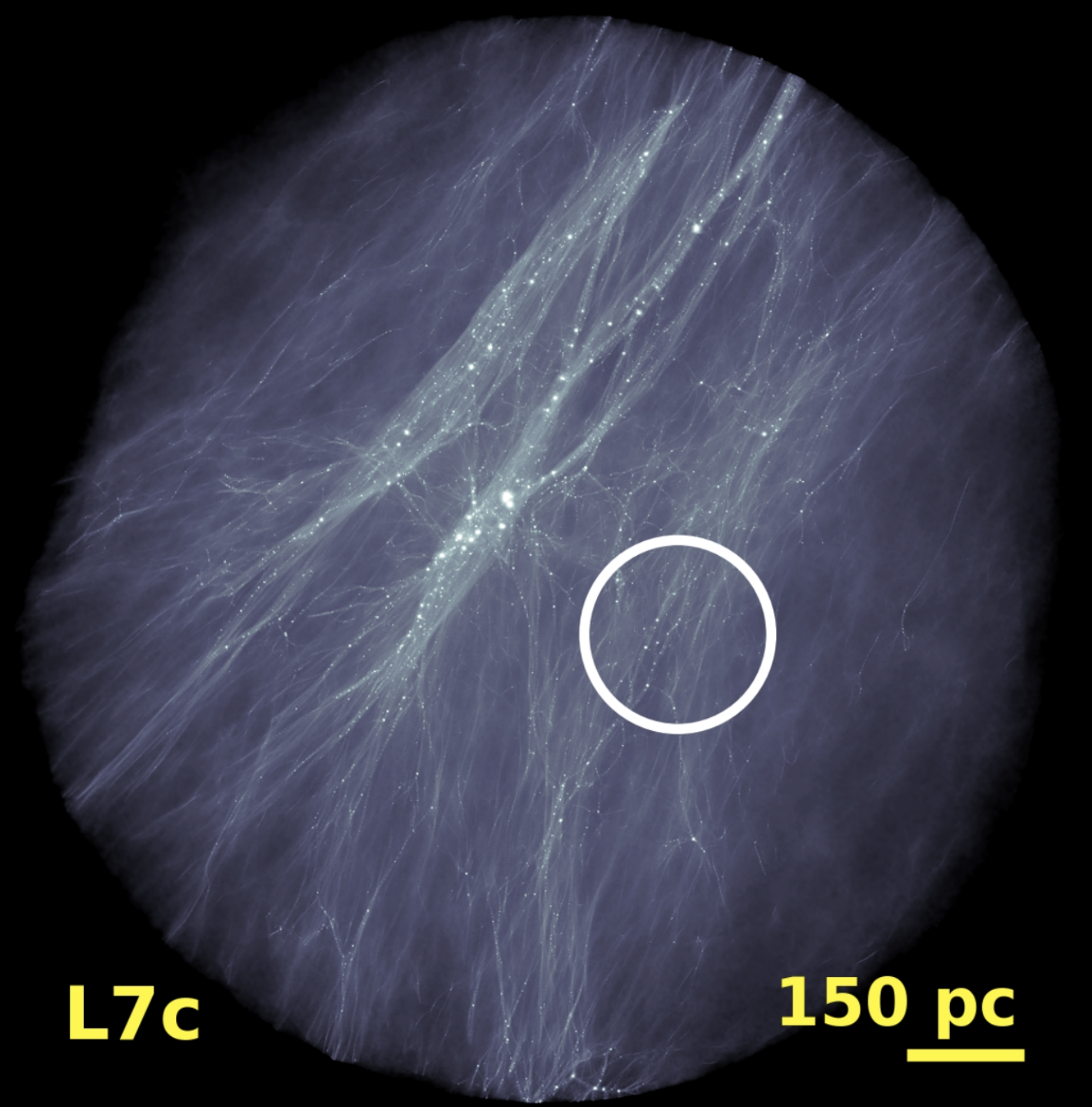
$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$$

**Zoom Level 7**

**L7c**

**150 pc**

Wang, Bose et al 2020



# The VVV simulation

Planck cosmology

Dark matter only

Dynamic range of  
30 orders of  
magnitude in mass

$$M_{\text{char}} = 10^{-6} M_{\odot}$$

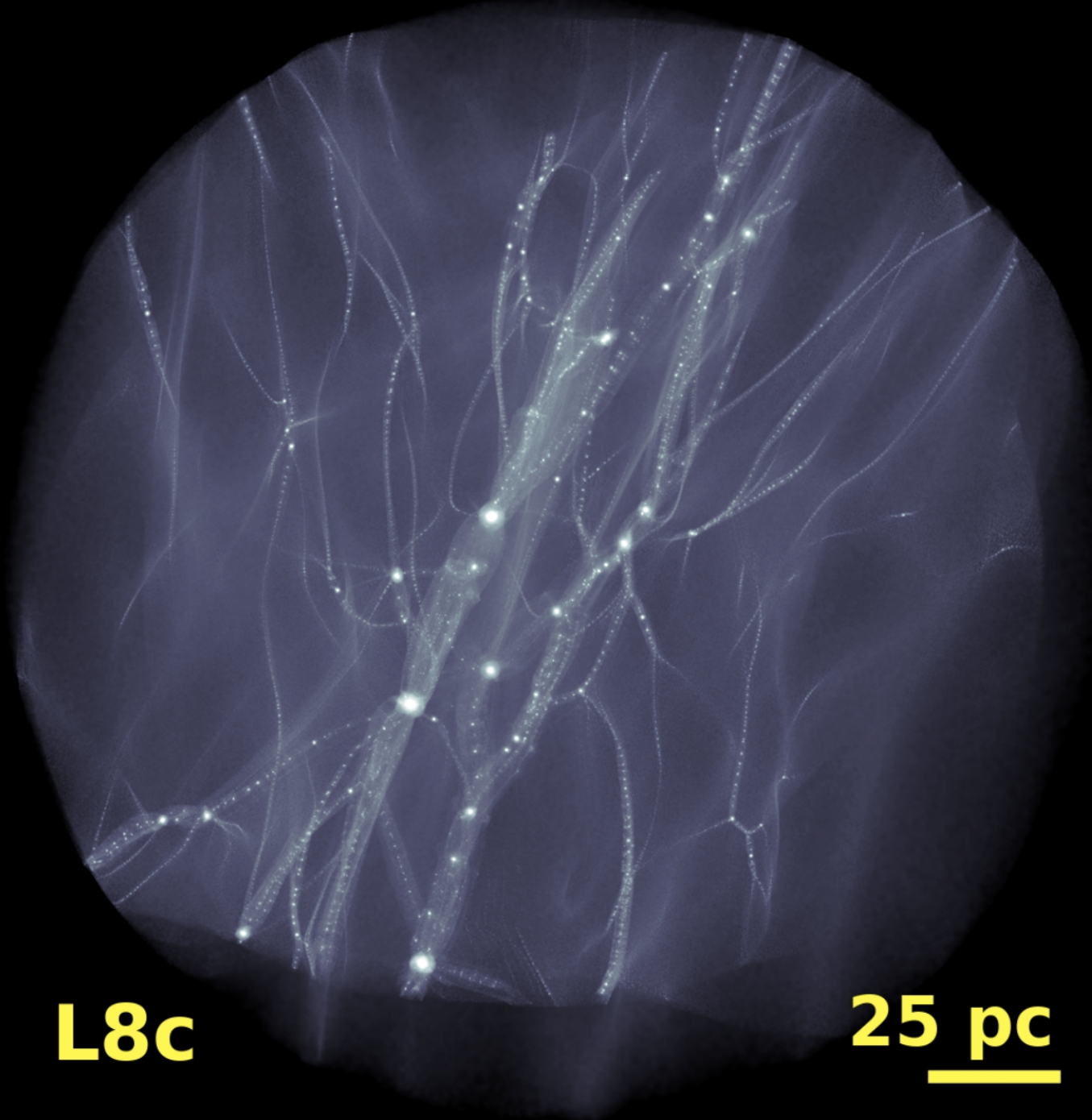
**Zoom Level 8**

The density of  
this region is  
only  $\sim 3\%$  of the  
cosmic mean

Wang, Bose et al 2020

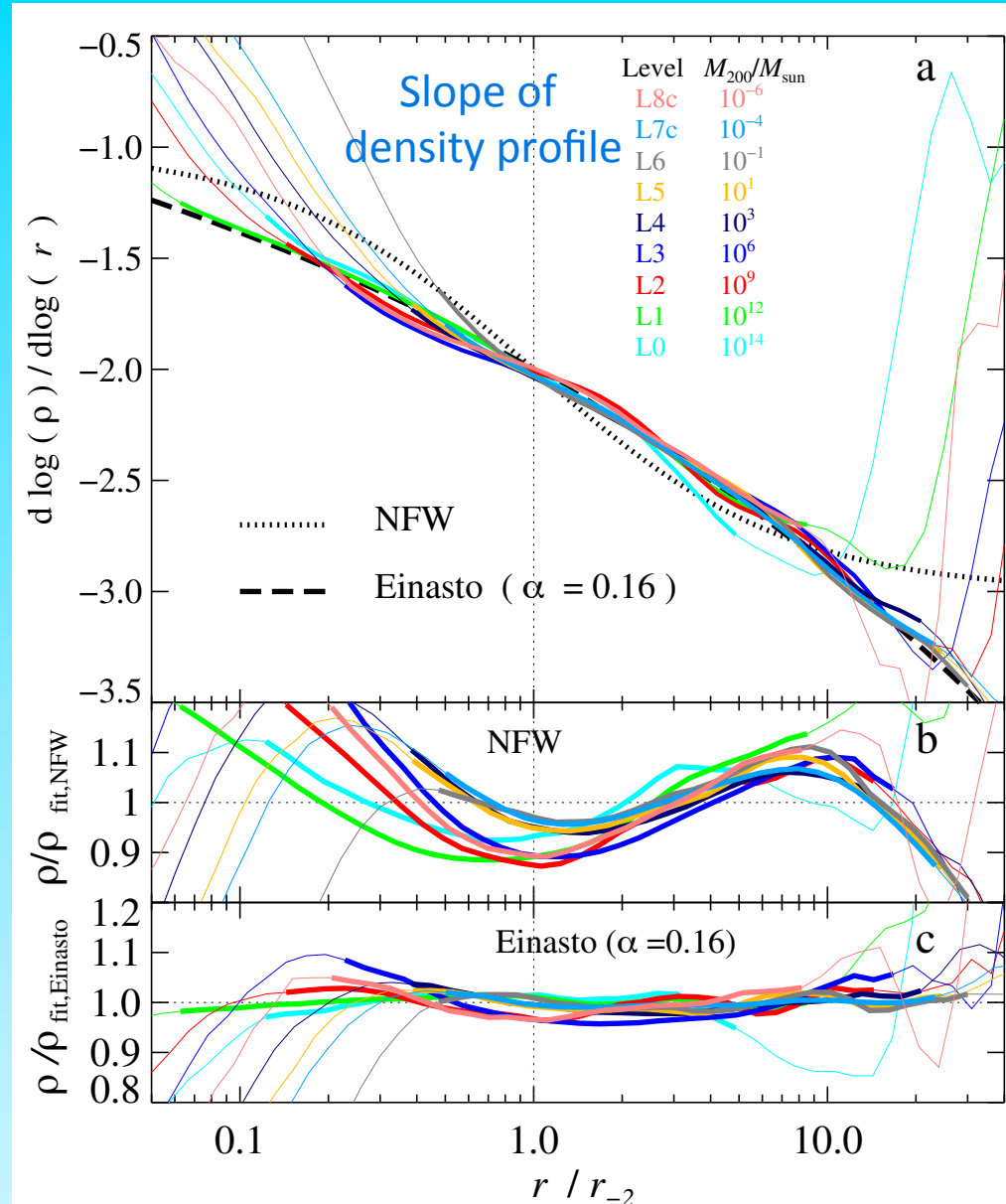
**L8c**

**25 pc**



# Density profile shapes

Over **19 orders** of magnitude in halo **mass** and 4 orders of magnitude in density, the mean density **profiles** of halos are **universal** and fit by **NFW** to within **20%** and by **Einasto** ( $\alpha = 0.16$ ) to within **7%**





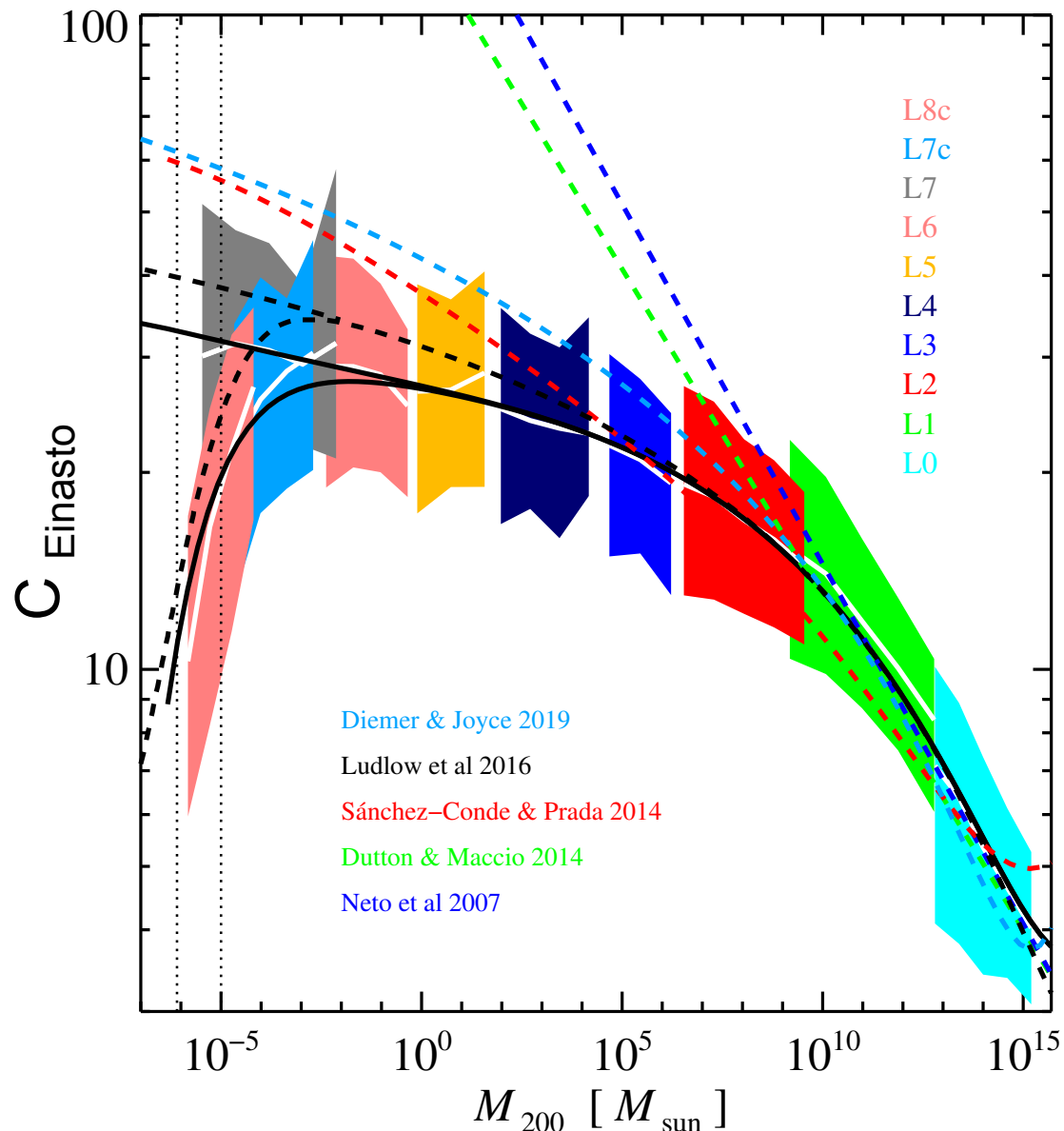
# Concentration-mass relation

Concentrations at small mass are **lower** than all previous extrapolations by up to factors of tens.

A **turndown** at  $10^3$  Earth masses is due to the **free-streaming limit**.

The **scatter** depends only weakly on halo mass

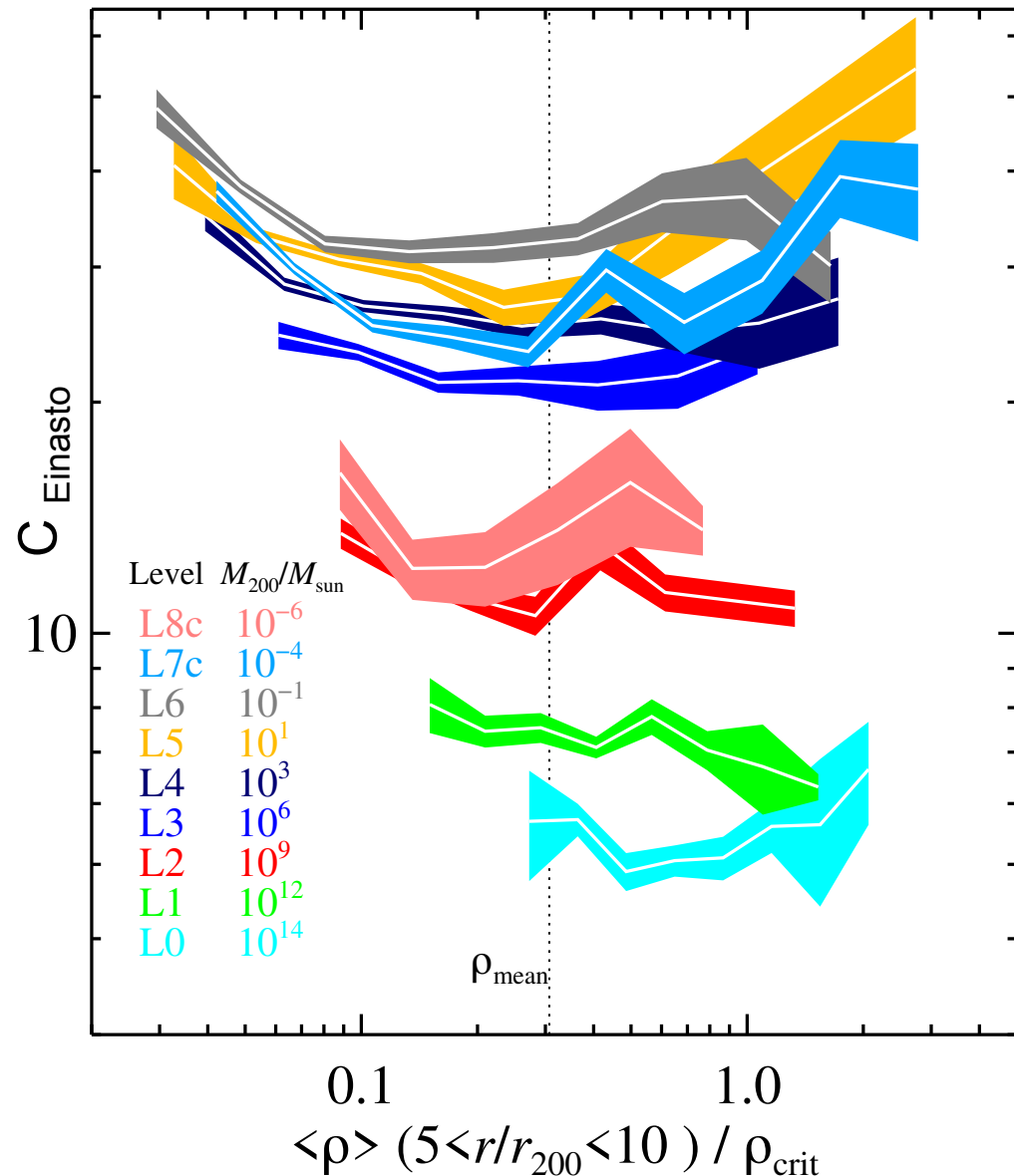
Wang, Bose, CSF + '20



# Concentration-density relation

At given halo mass,  
concentration does not  
depend on local  
environment density

The range of local  
environment density does  
not depend strongly on halo  
mass



# Annihilation luminosity

The contribution of halos to the mean  $z = 0$  **luminosity density** of the Universe is almost **independent** of their **mass** over the mass range

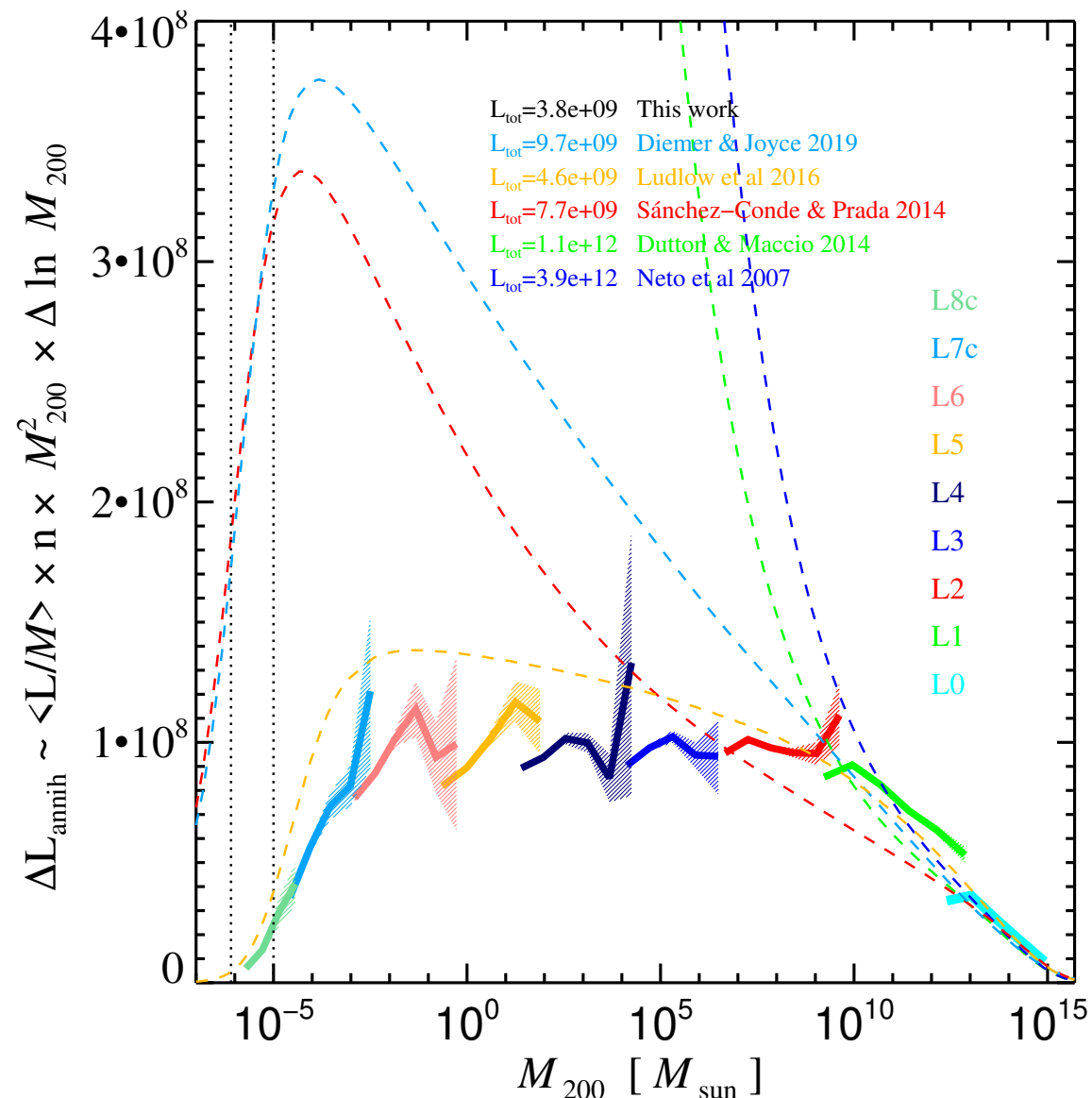
$$10^{-4} M_{\odot} < M_{\text{halo}} < 10^{12} M_{\odot}$$

It is **lower** than **previously** estimated by factors between 3 and **1000**

This still neglects the substructure contribution to halo luminosity

Wang, Bose, CSF + '20

Annihilation luminosity per unit cosmological volume





# Conclusions I

## The small-scale “crisis” of CDM

“Solved” by:

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. “Missing satellites”  | 1. Galaxy formation |
| 2. “Too-big-to-fail”     | 2. Galaxy formation |
| 3. “Plane of satellites” | 3. Statistics       |
| 4. “Core-cusp”           | 4. Baryon effects   |

## Conclusions II

- The abundance and structure of **small halos** is sensitive to the **nature of dark matter**
- **Smallest** halos: in **CDM**  $\rightarrow$  Earth mass. In **WDM**  $\rightarrow$  dwarf gal.
- Halos of collisionless dark matter have **universal NFW density profiles** at low redshift on **all mass scales**
- Near the **cutoff**, free-streaming reduces halo concentration
- **Mass-concentration** relation **independent** of local **environment**
- Very **small (sub)halos** can **dominate** the **annihilation** luminosity

# Conclusions

- The abundance and structure of small halos is sensitive to the nature of dark matter
- Free streaming of collisionless dark matter induces a small scale cut-off in the halo mass function. This can be on dwarf galaxy scales for WDM but is much smaller for CDM
- Halos of collisionless dark matter have universal density profiles at low redshift on all mass scales.
- Near the cutoff, free-streaming reduces halo concentration
- Low-mass halos identified at  $z=0$  do not form from typical regions of the early Universe, but rather from the rare regions that are not incorporated into a higher mass halo
- Very small (sub)halos can dominate the annihilation luminosity