



Keemilise ja  
Bioloogilise Füüsika Instituut

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

# Formation of early galaxies and supermassive black holes

ville.vaskonen@kbfi.ee

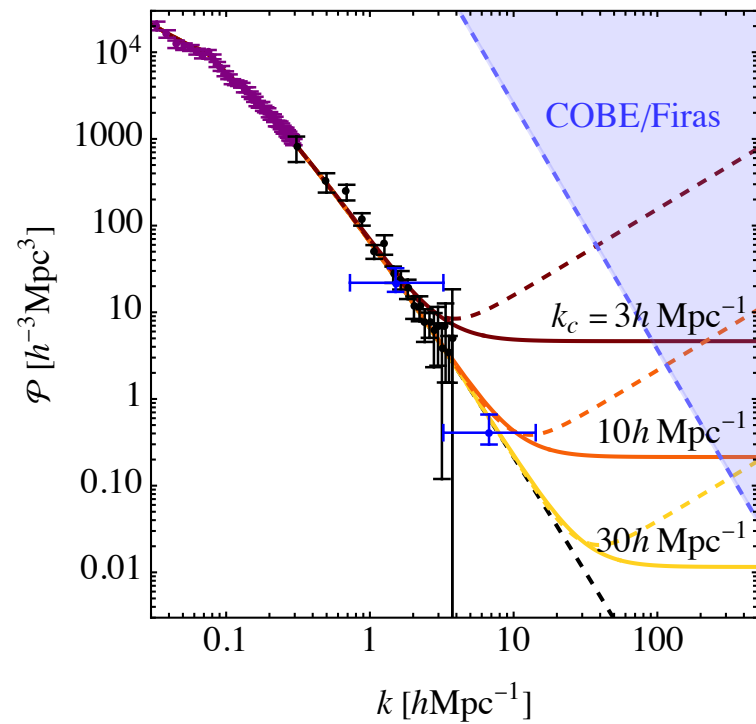
In collaboration with J. Ellis, M. Fairbairn, G. Hütsi, M. Raidal,  
J. Urrutia and H. Veermäe.



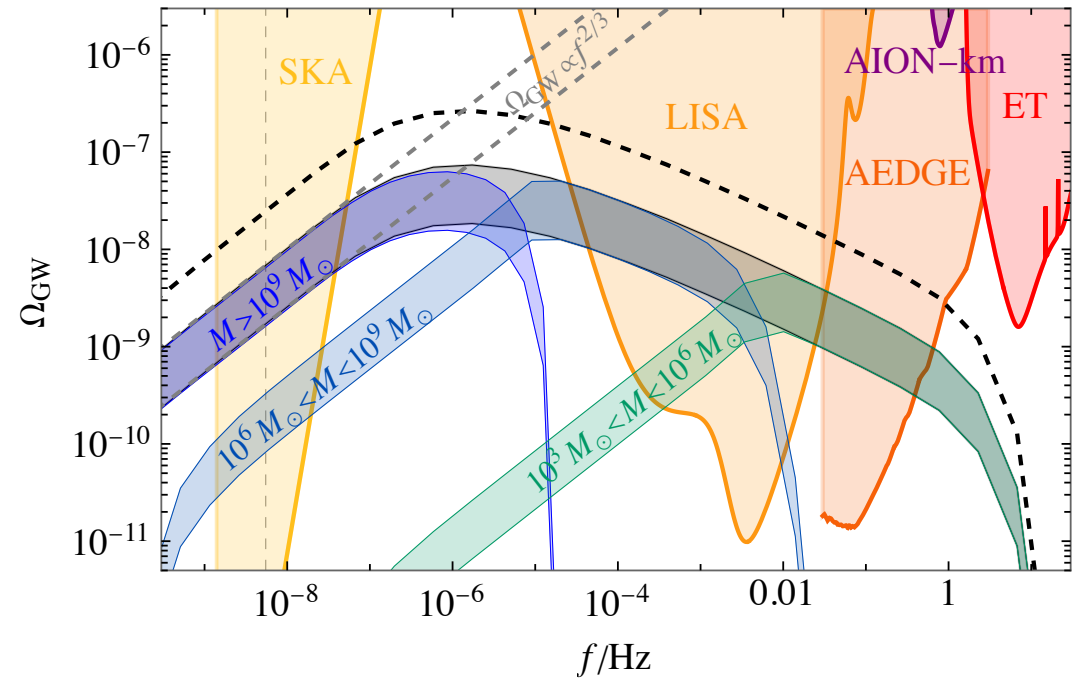
Co-funded by the  
European Union

Warsaw, January 24, 2022.

# 1. James Webb Space Telescope



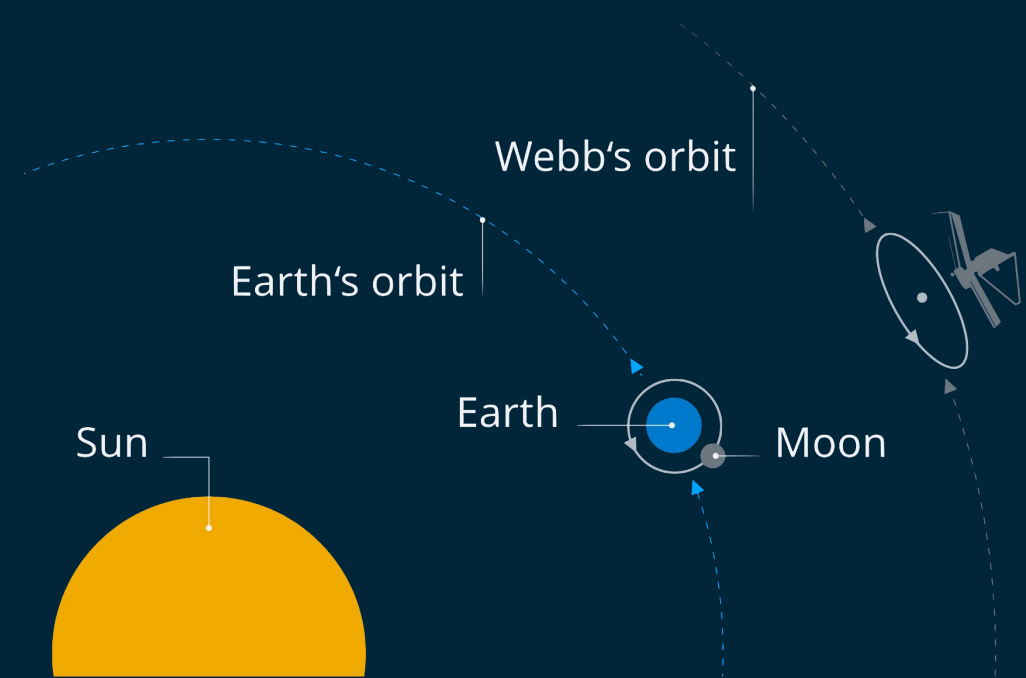
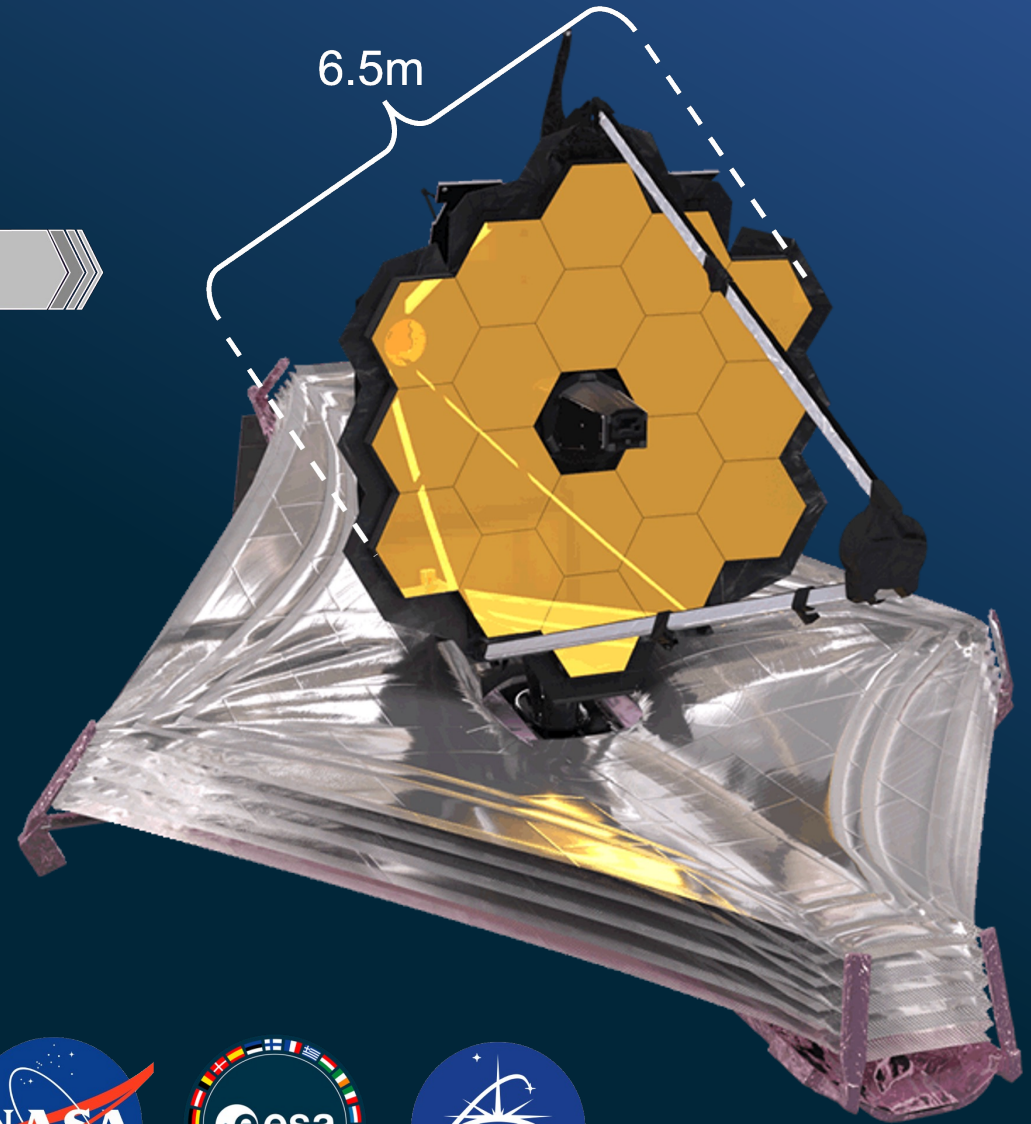
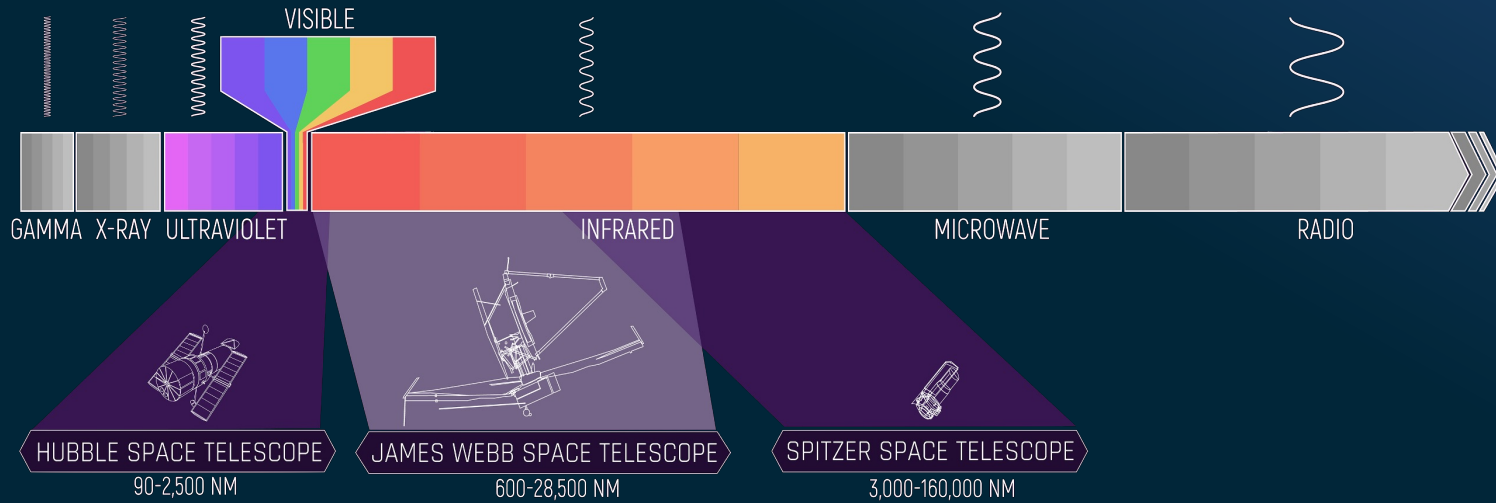
# 2. Pulsar timing arrays



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# James Webb Space Telescope

# James Webb Space Telescope



# HST vs JWST



Hubble WFC



Webb NIRCam

# Spitzer vs JWST



Spitzer IRAC

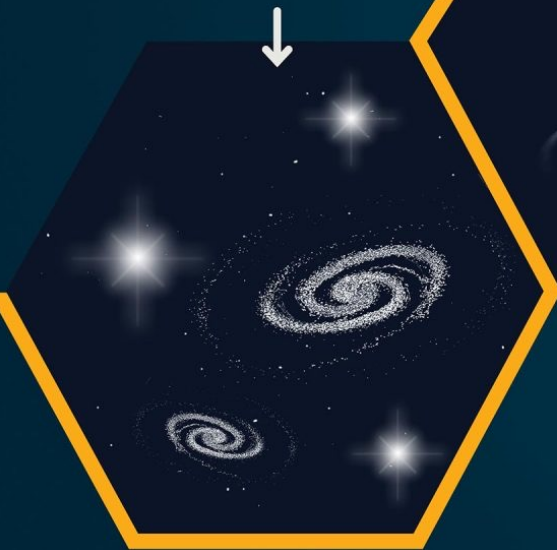


Webb NIRCam

# JWST science

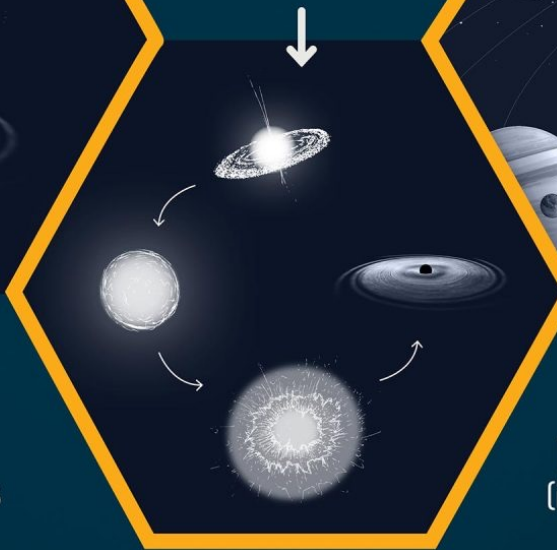
Webb is designed to answer outstanding questions about the Universe and to make breakthrough discoveries in all fields of astronomy.

What did the **early Universe** look like and when did the first stars and galaxies form?

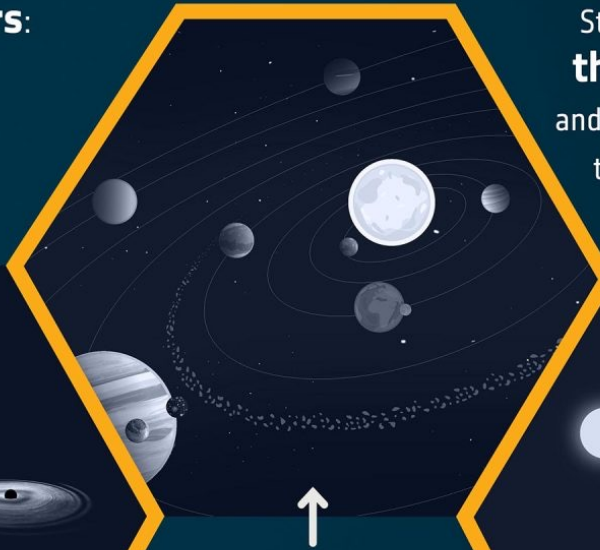


Understanding how **galaxies and black holes** form and evolve

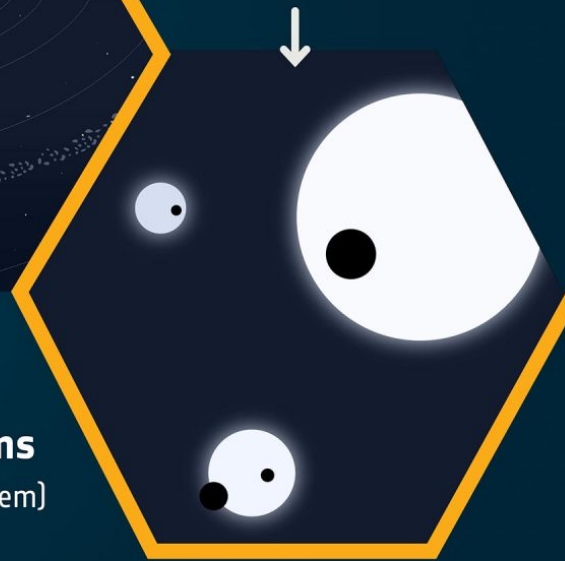
The lifecycle of **stars**: from their birth to their death



Investigating how **planetary systems** (including our Solar System) form and evolve



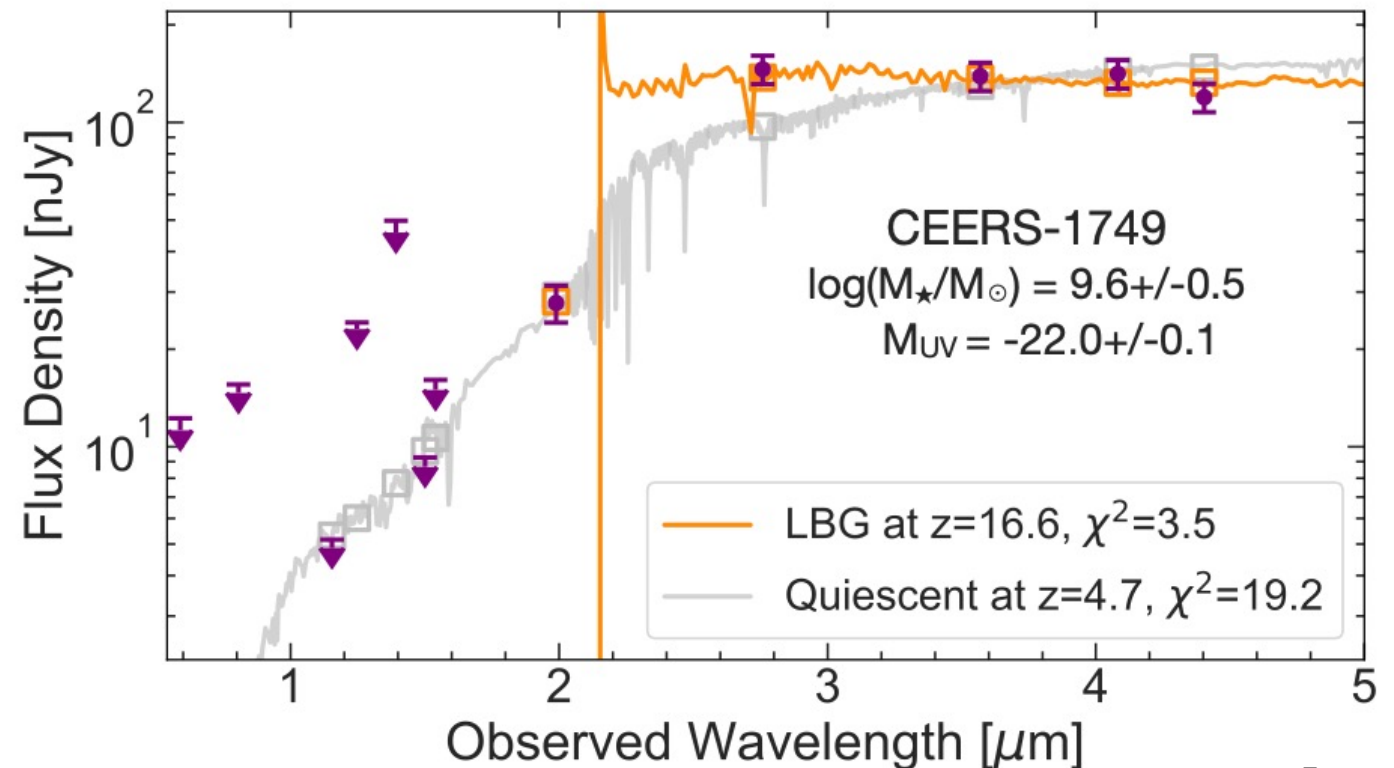
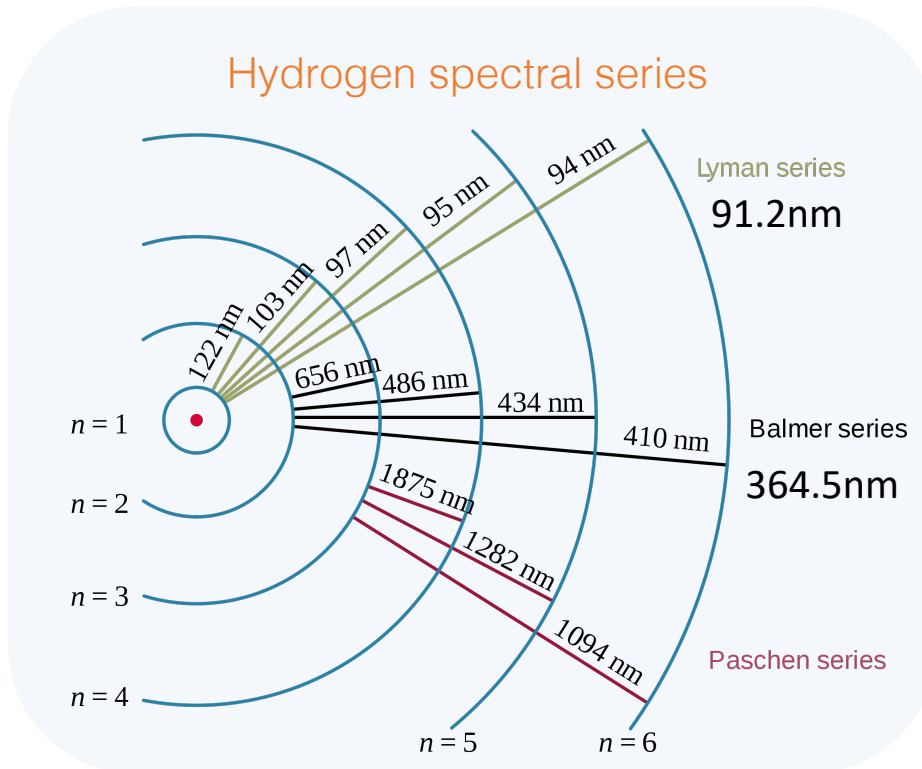
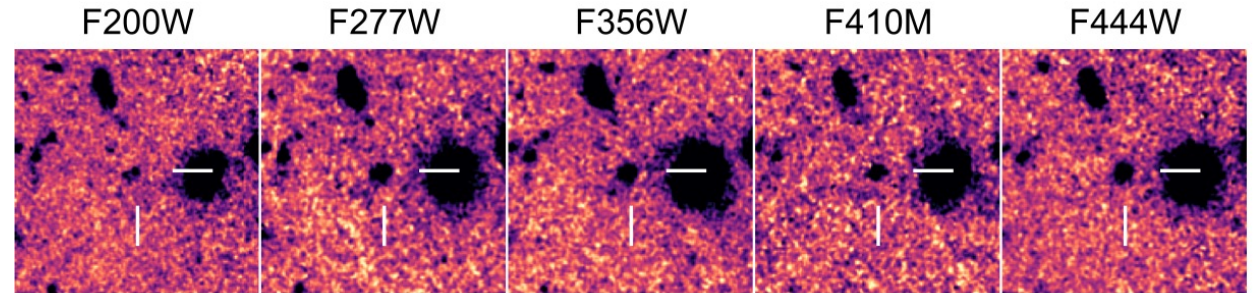
Studying **exoplanets, their atmospheres,** and the building blocks of life that they might contain



# Searches for luminous early galaxies

Naidu et. al., arXiv:2208.02794

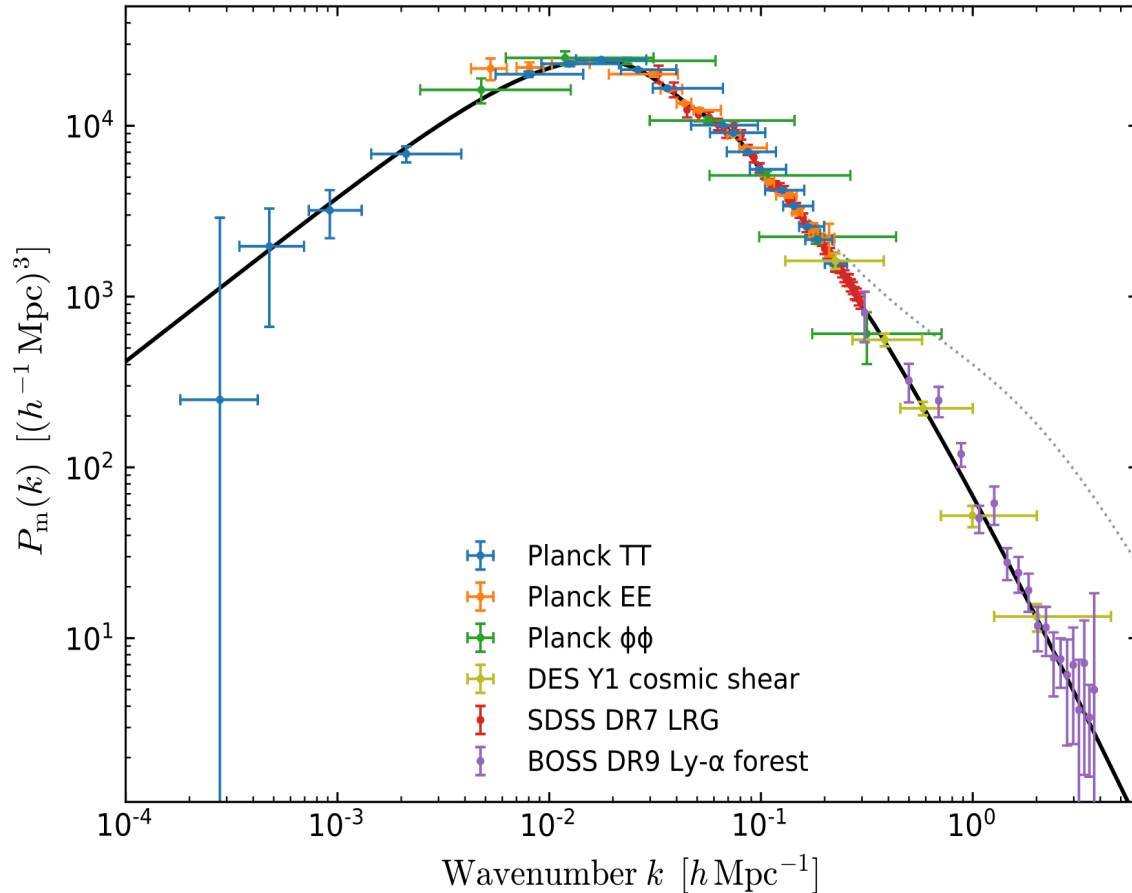
1. Observed wavelength of the Lyman or Balmer break determines the redshift.
2. Observed amplitude after the break determines the stellar mass.





# How heavy galaxies do we expect at high-z ?

LCDM matter power spectrum:



matter power spectrum

$$\sigma_M^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int dk k^2 \mathcal{P}(k) W^2(kR) \Big|_{R=R(M)}$$

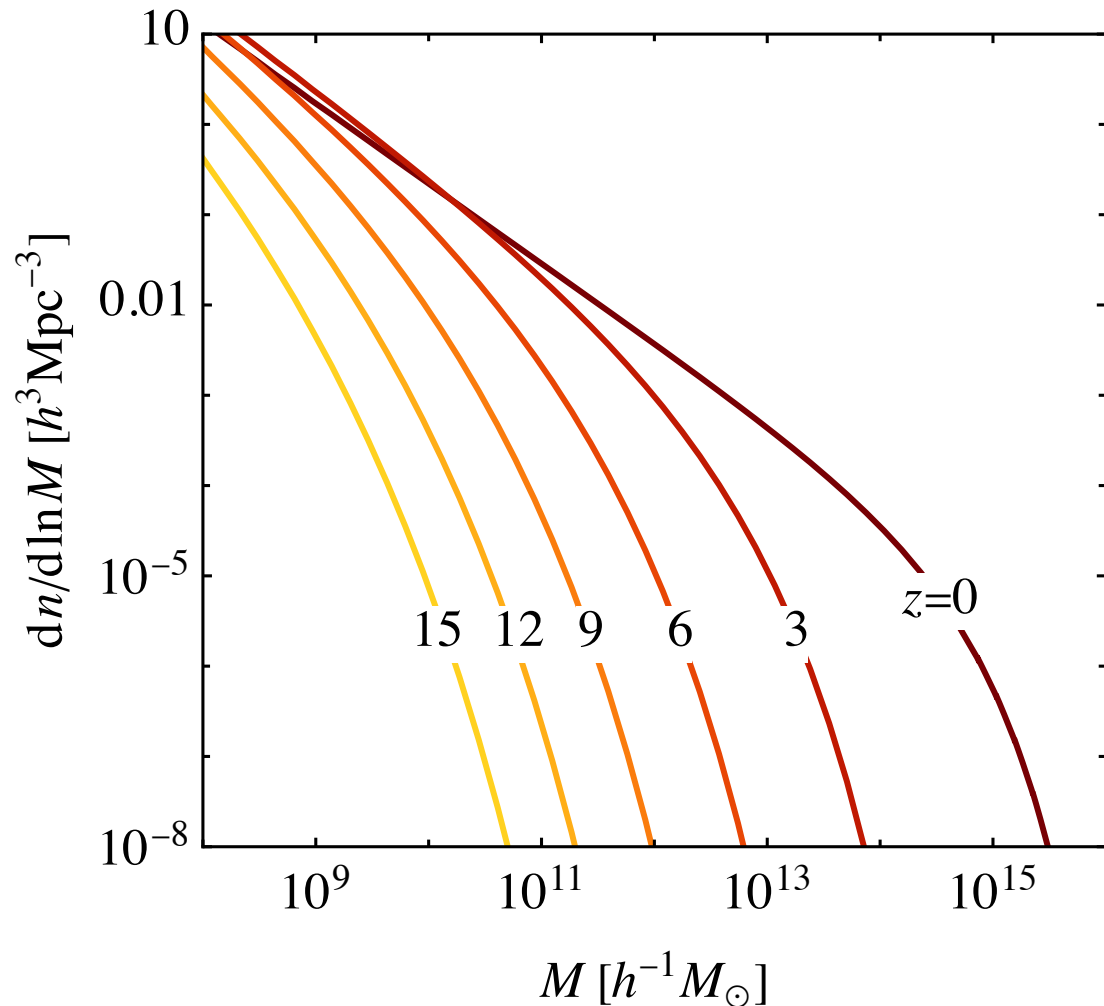


halo mass function

$$\frac{dn}{d \ln M} = \frac{\rho_m}{M} \nu f(\nu) \frac{d\nu}{d \ln M}, \quad \nu \equiv \frac{\delta_c^2}{\sigma_M^2}$$

# How heavy galaxies do we expect at high-z ?

LCDM halo mass function:



expected number of galaxies

$$N = f_{\text{sky}} \int_{z_{\text{min}}}^{z_{\text{max}}} dz \frac{dV_c}{dz} \int_{M_{\text{min}}}^{M_{\text{max}}} dM \frac{dn}{dM}$$

stellar mass

$$M_* \simeq f_* \frac{\Omega_b}{\Omega_m} M, \quad f_* \leq 1$$

## CEERS-1749

$$f_{\text{sky}} = 2.7 \times 10^{-7} \text{ (40 arcmin}^2\text{)}$$

$$z_{\text{min}} = 15$$

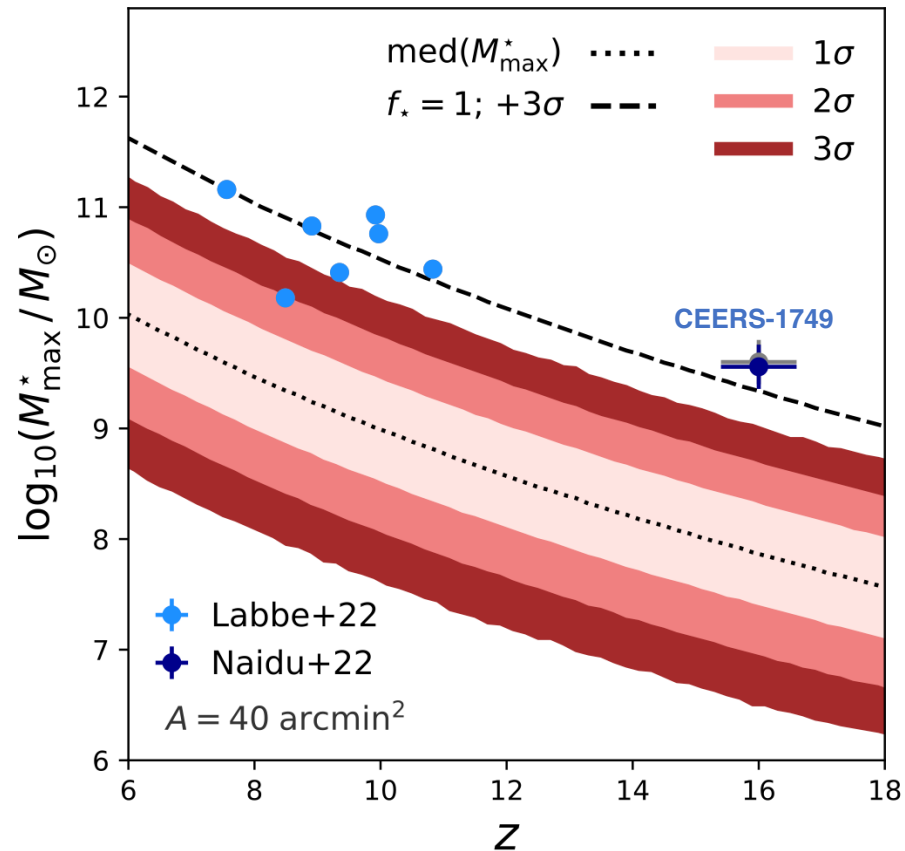
$$M_{\text{min}} = 2.4 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$$

$$\Rightarrow N \sim 10^{-7} \ll 1.$$

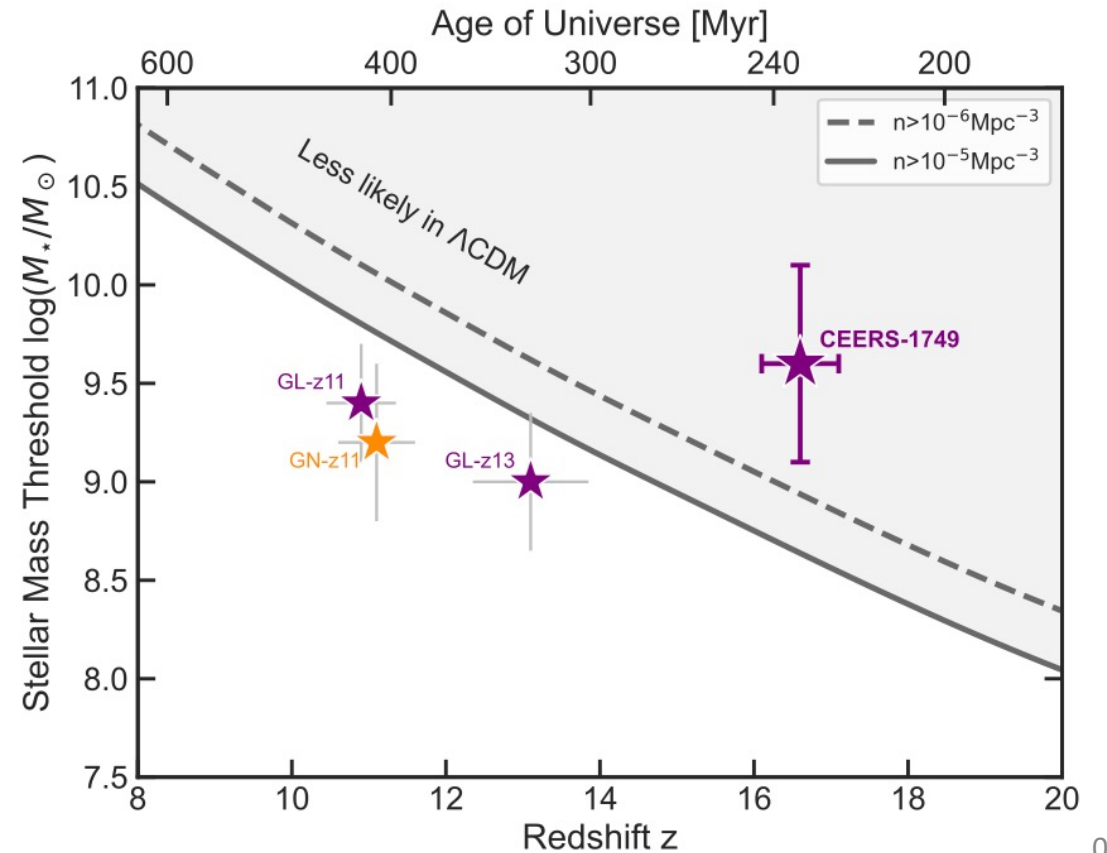
# Tension with LCDM

Even for  $f_* = 1$  the observations indicate  $> 3\sigma$  tension when compared to LCDM:

Lovell et. al., arXiv:2208.10479



Naidu et. al., arXiv:2208.02794



# New physics explanations

Hütsi, et. al. arXiv: 2211.02651 (to appear in PRD)

enhanced matter power spectrum at  $k = \mathcal{O}(10)h\text{kpc}^{-1}$

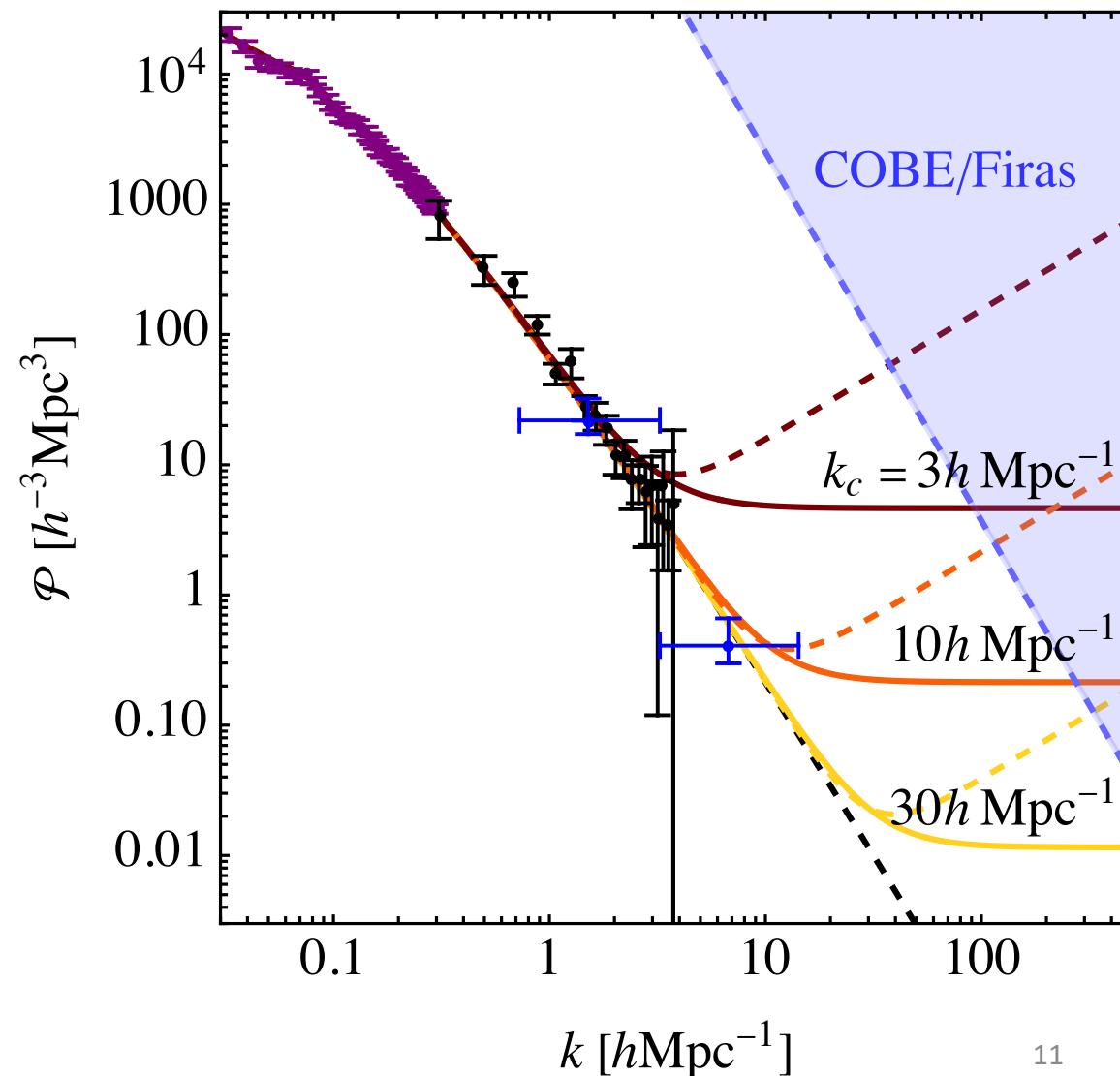
$$\mathcal{P}(k) = \mathcal{P}_{\text{CDM}}(k) + \mathcal{P}_{\text{CDM}}(k_c) \left( \frac{k}{k_c} \right)^n$$



enhanced halo mass function at  $M < 10^{11}M_{\odot}$



more heavy high- $z$  galaxies

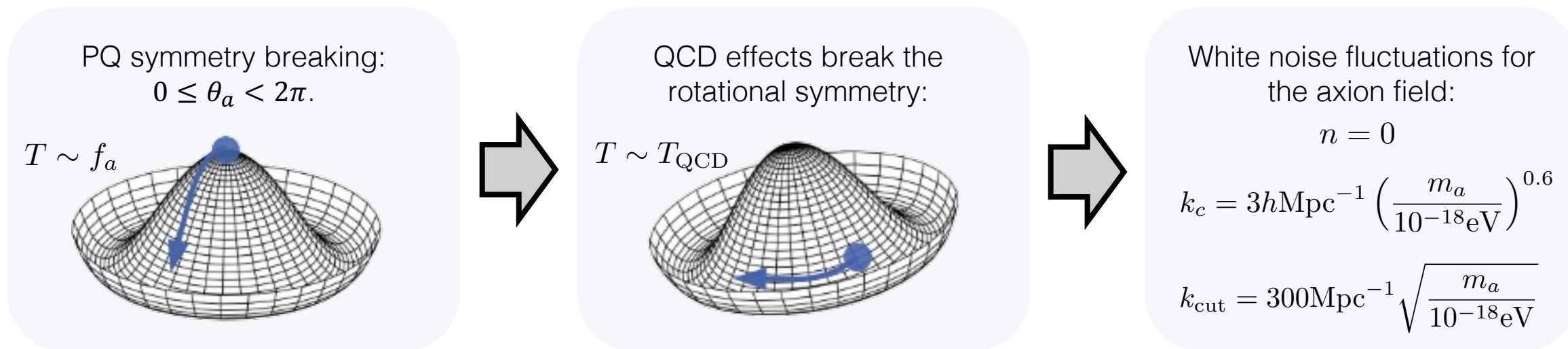


# 1. Axion miniclusters

Axion = pNG boson of Peccei-Quinn symmetry:

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{4!} \left( |\phi|^2 - \frac{f_a^2}{2} \right)^2 \quad \Rightarrow \text{after SSB:} \quad \phi = \frac{f_a}{\sqrt{2}} e^{ia/f_a}$$

If the PQ symmetry breaks after inflation the axion field acquires large fluctuations that lead to the formation of axion miniclusters [E. W. Kolb and I. I. Tkachev, Phys. Rev. Lett. 71 (1993)]:



## 2. Primordial black holes

On small scales the random locations of PBH introduces a shot noise,  $n = 0$ , in their density:

$$k_c = 6h\text{Mpc}^{-1} \left( \frac{f_{\text{PBH}} m_{\text{PBH}}}{10^4 M_\odot} \right)^{-0.4}$$

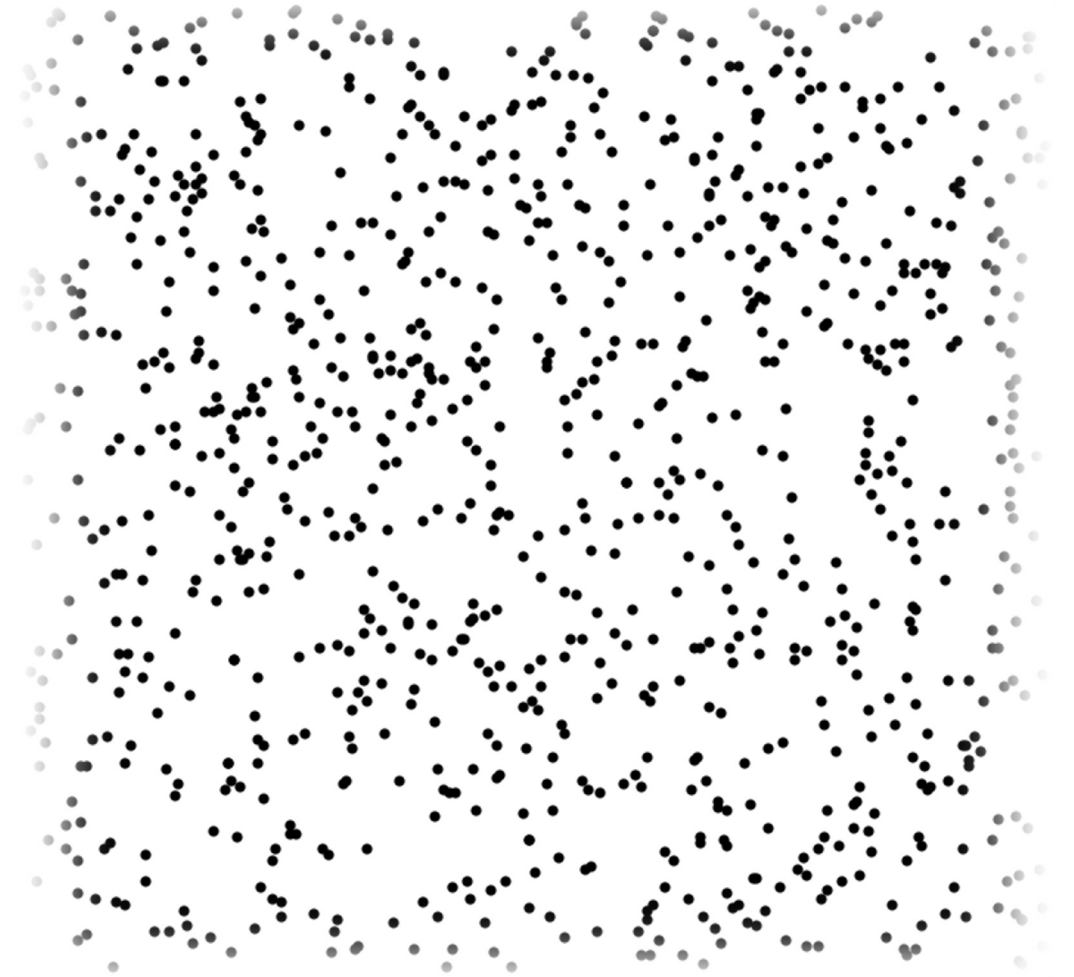
with a cut given by the average PBH separation:

$$k_{\text{cut}} = 900h\text{Mpc}^{-1} \left( \frac{f_{\text{PBH}} 10^4 M_\odot}{m_{\text{PBH}}} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$k_c < k_{\text{cut}} \quad \text{if} \quad f_{\text{PBH}} > 10^{-4} (m_{\text{PBH}} / 10^4 M_\odot)^{-0.09}$$

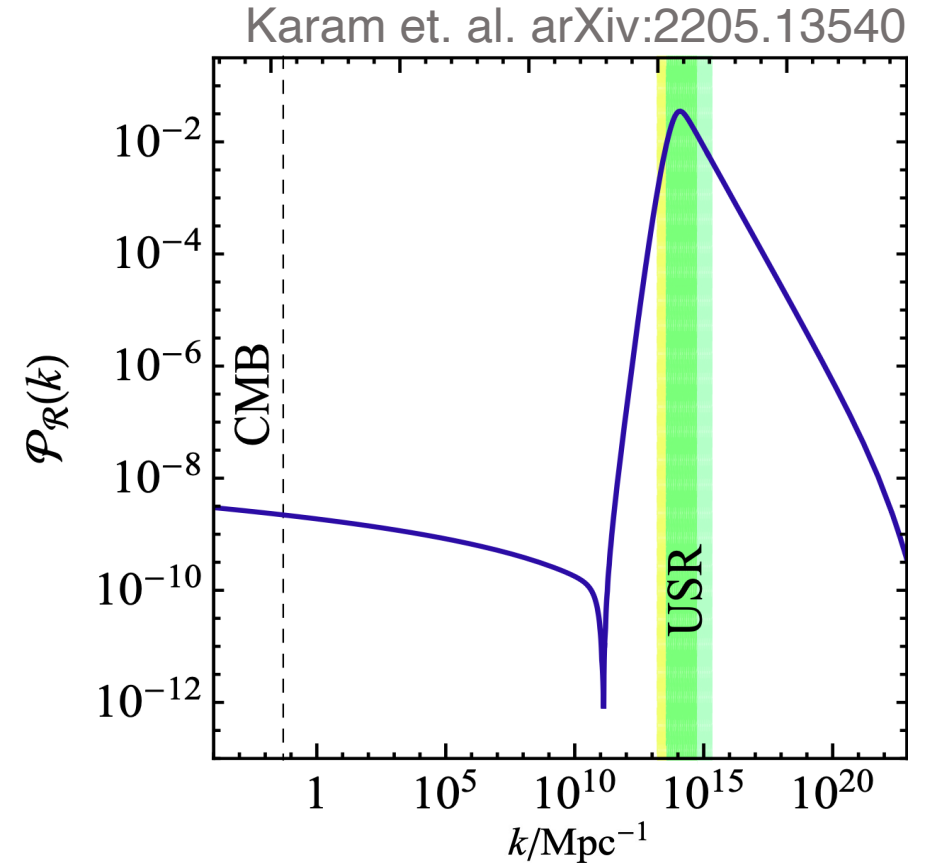
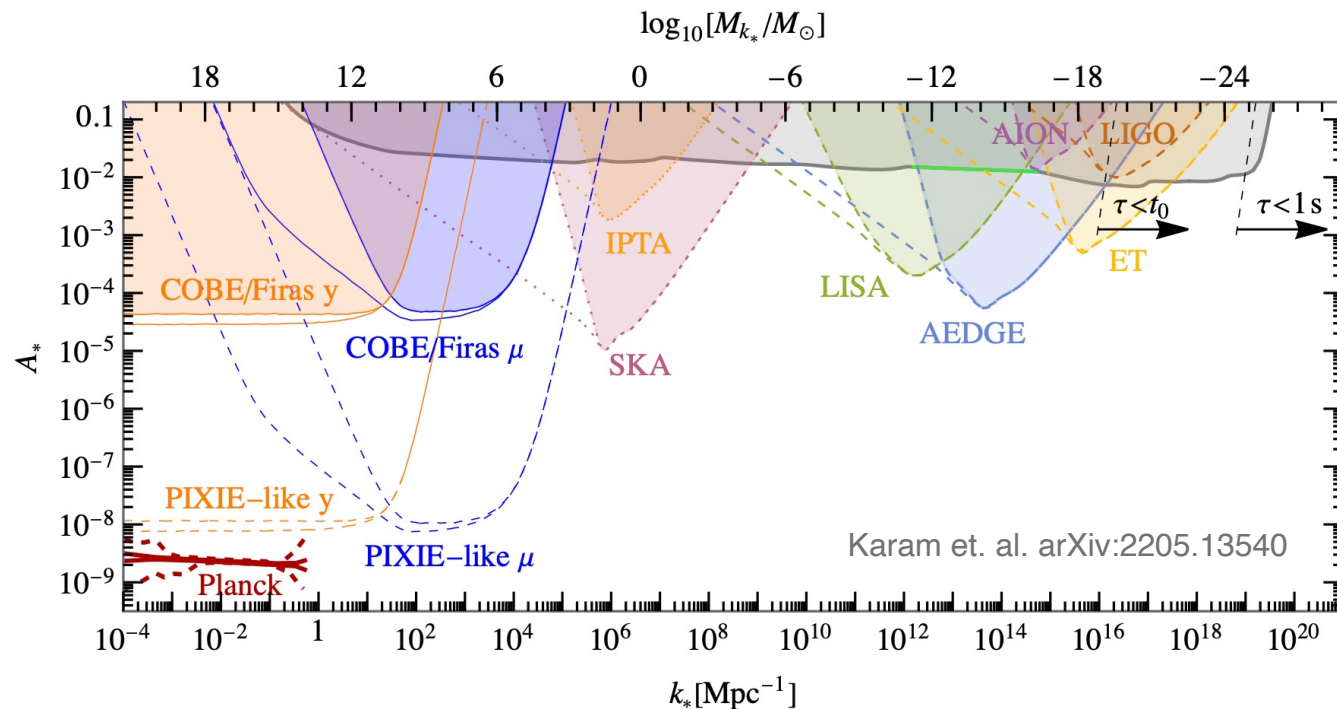
$\Rightarrow$  excluded by accretion constraints on PBHs.

However, this can be achieved also from PBHs formed in dense clusters.



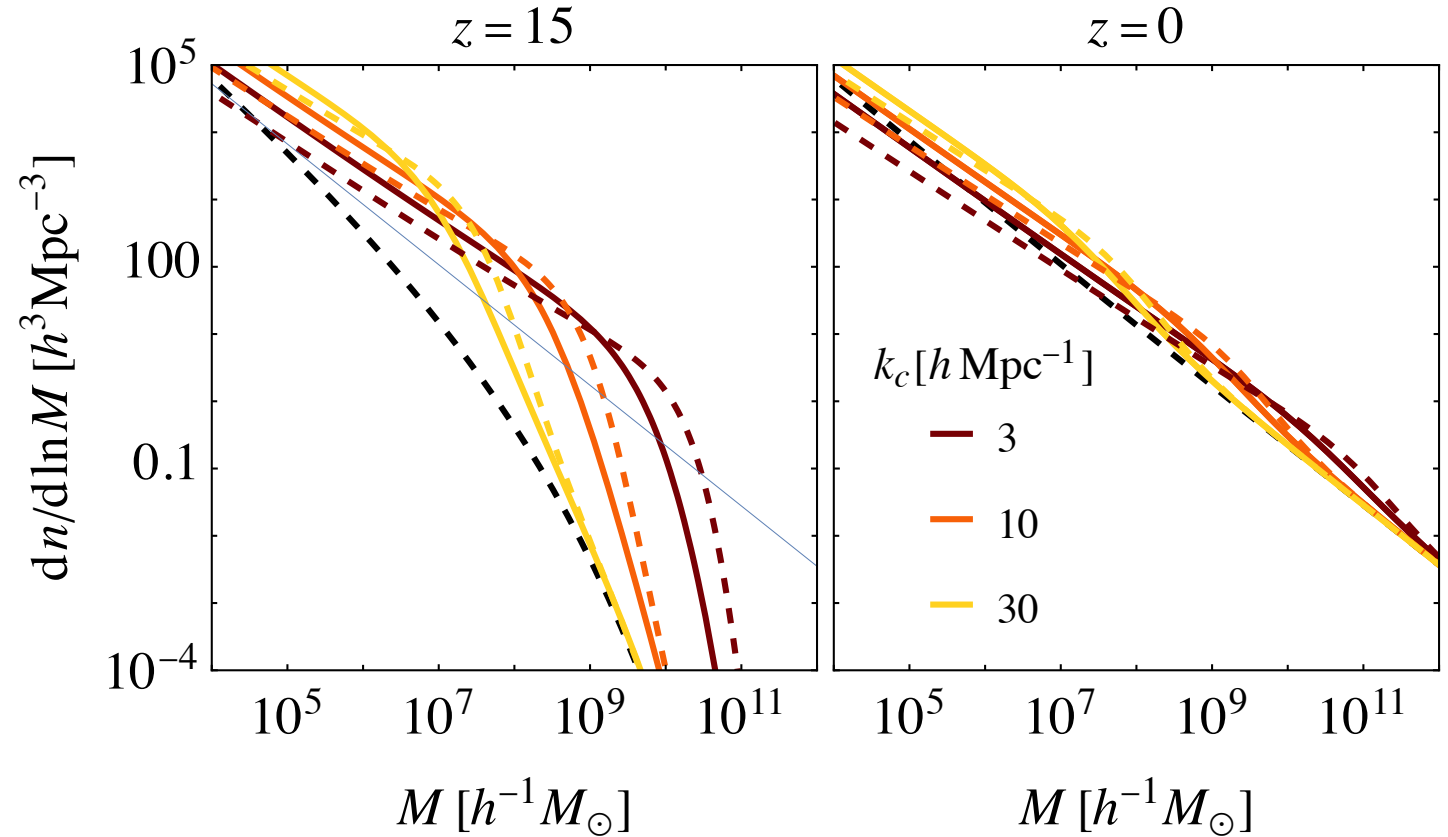
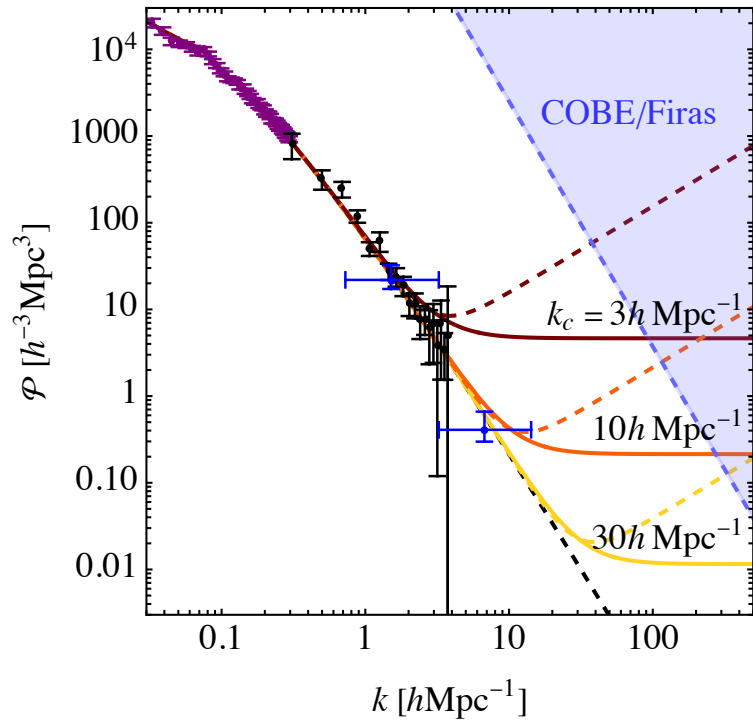
# 3. Primordial curvature fluctuations

- Features in the inflaton potential can lead to enhanced curvature fluctuations at small scales.
- $n > 0$
- Adiabatic fluctuations  $\Rightarrow$  strong constraints from CMB distortions



# Halo mass function

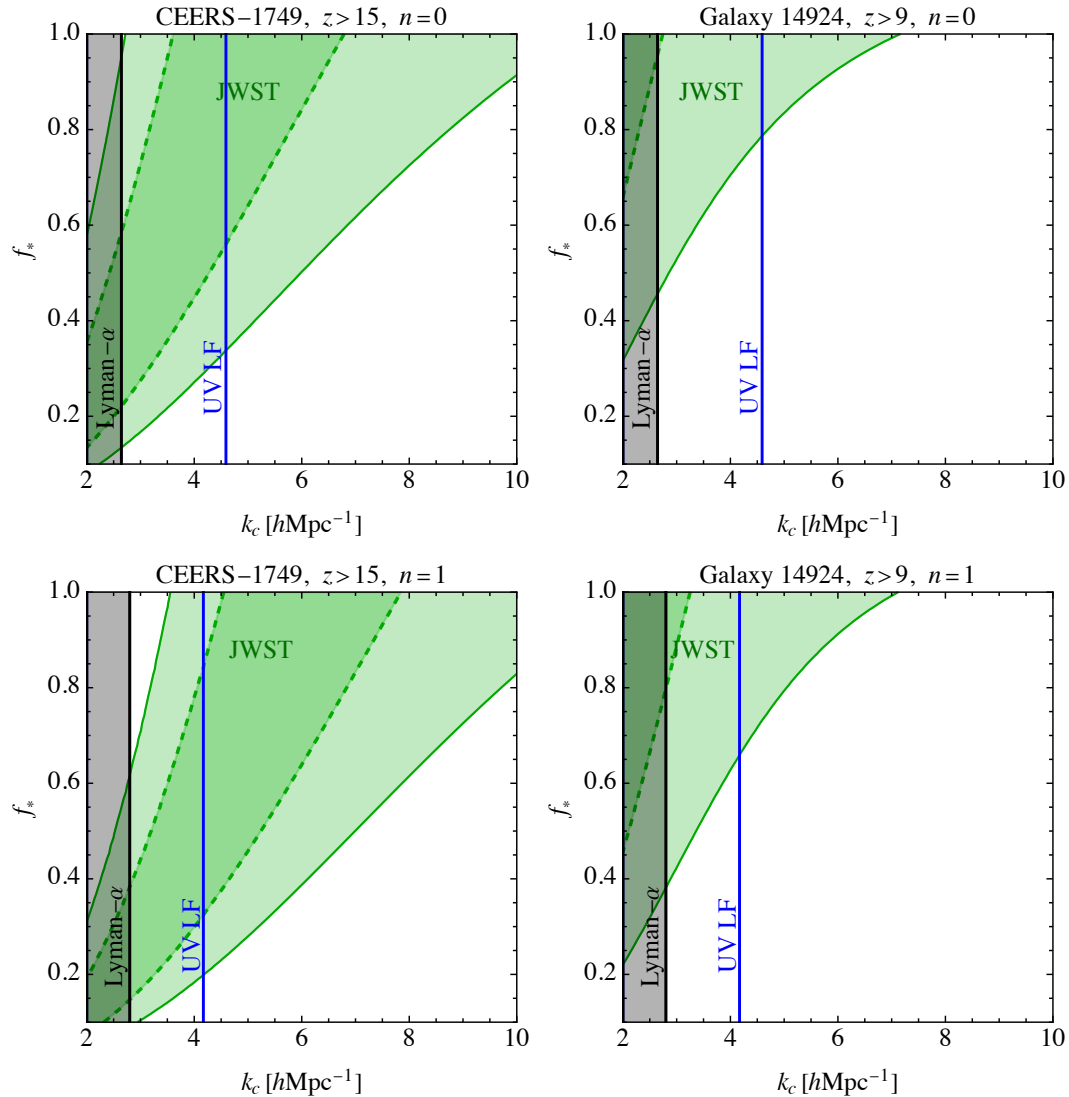
Hütsi, et. al. arXiv: 2211.02651





# Results

Hütsi, et. al. arXiv: 2211.02651

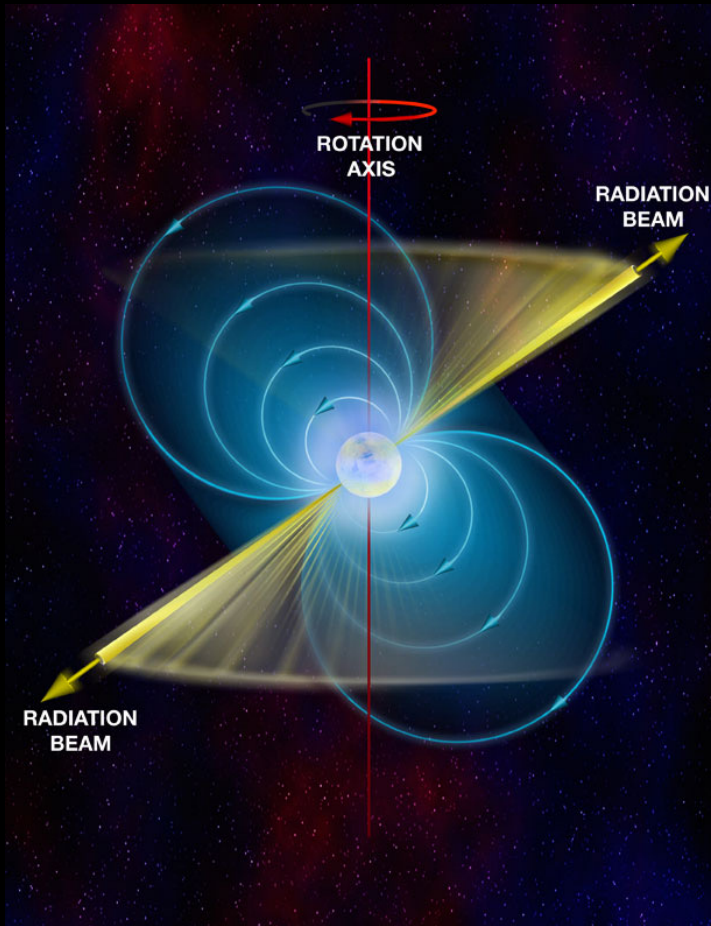


1. **axion miniclusters:**  $m_a \sim 10^{-18}$  eV, excluded by BH superradiance constraints,
2. **PBHs:** works if 0.5% of all DM is in PBH clusters of mass  $\sim 10^6 M_\odot$ ,
3. **primordial curvature fluctuations:** steeply growing curvature power spectrum that terminates below the CMB distortion constraints.

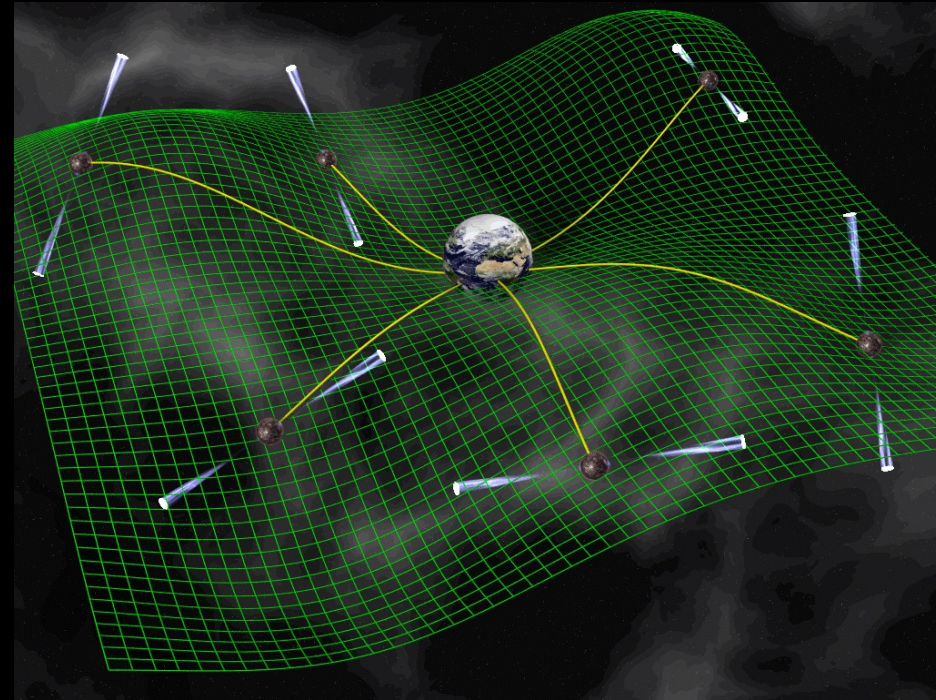
# Pulsar timing arrays

# Pulsar timing arrays

Millisecond pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars:

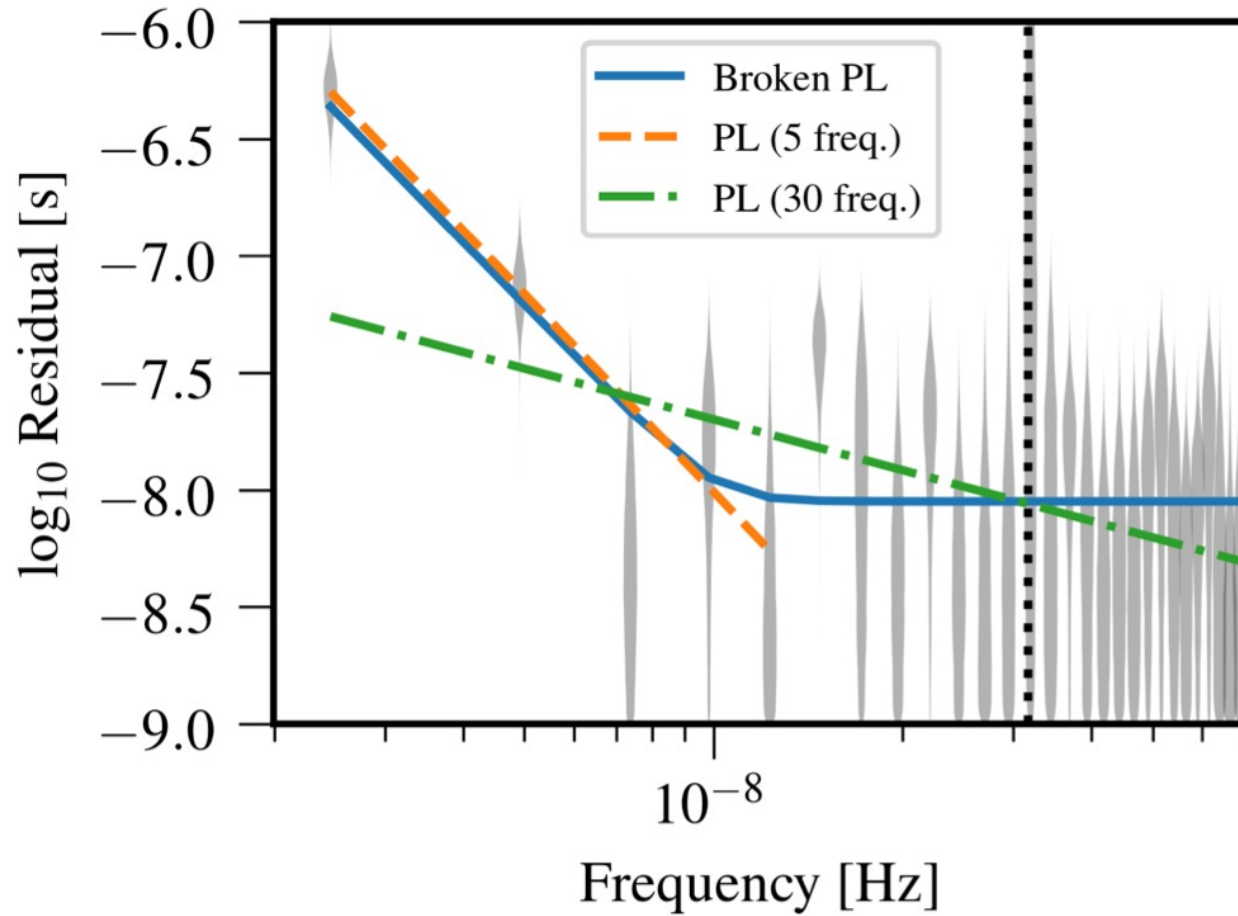


- NANOGrav, EPTA, IPTA...
- Analyze the pulsar timing sequences from a set of millisecond pulsars.
- Gravitational waves induce variations in the timing.

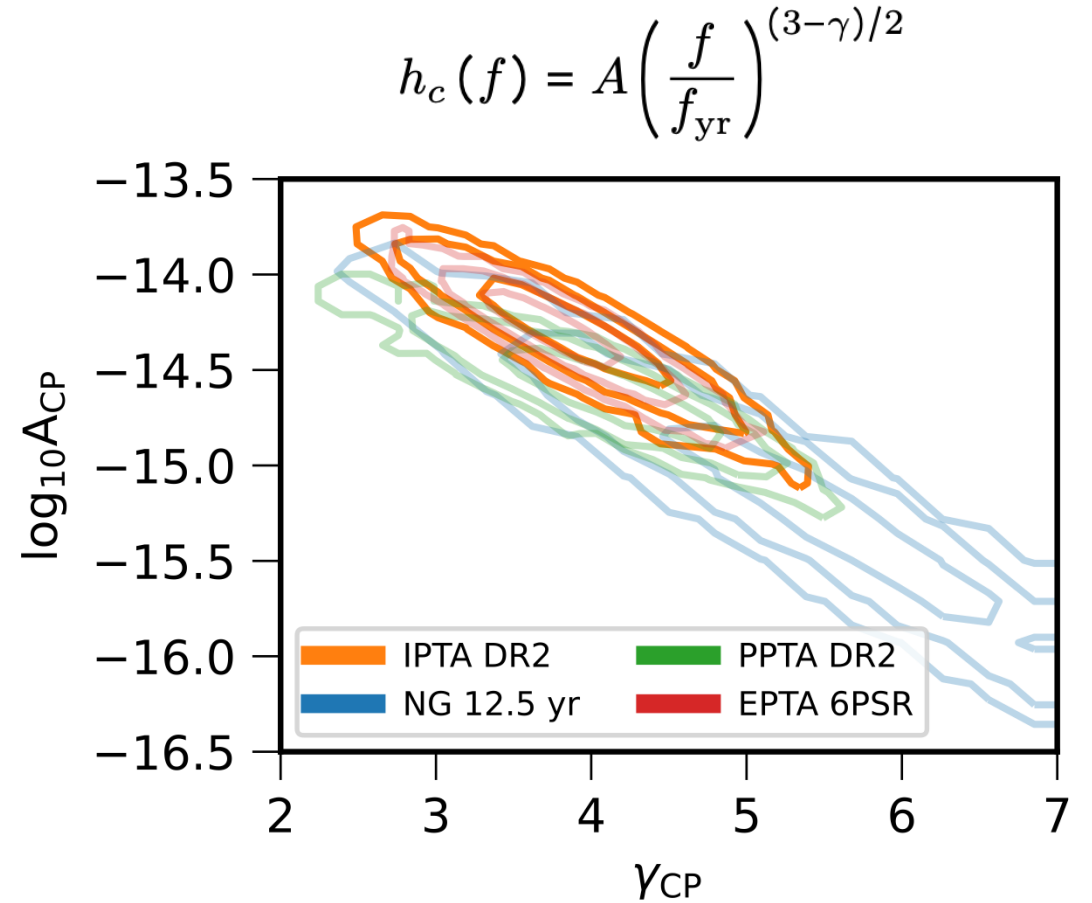
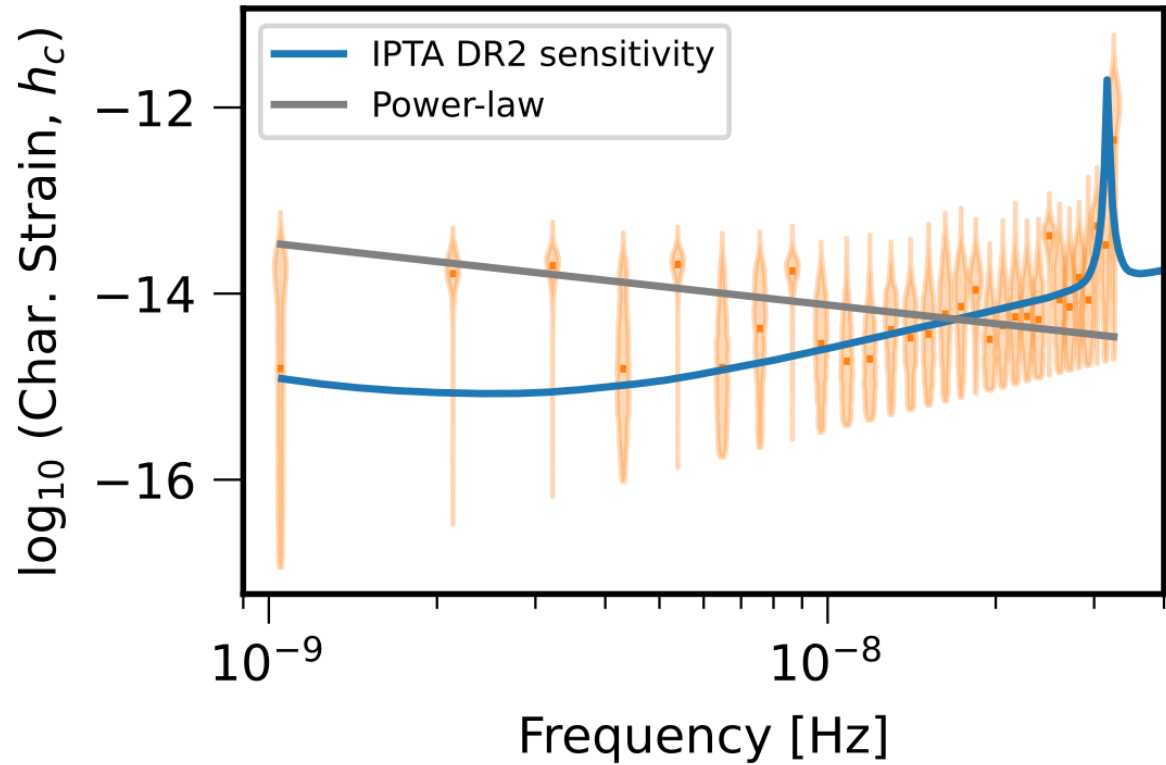


# NANOGrav 2020 discovery

- Analysis of 43 pulsars
- Strong evidence of a common red spectrum.



# Confirmed by other PTAs



# Interpretations

- **Supermassive BH inspirals**

- e.g. H. Middleton et. al., Massive black hole binary systems and the NANOGrav 12.5 year results, 2011.01246.

- **Cosmic strings**

- e.g. J. Ellis and M. Lewicki, Cosmic String Interpretation of NANOGrav Pulsar Timing Data, 2009.06555.

- **Primordial black hole formation**

- e.g. V. Vaskonen and H. Veermäe, Did NANOGrav see a signal from primordial black hole formation?, 2009.07832.

- **Cosmological phase transitions**

- e.g. Y. Nakai, M. Suzuki, F. Takahashi and M. Yamada, Gravitational Waves and Dark Radiation from Dark Phase Transition: Connecting NANOGrav Pulsar Timing Data and Hubble Tension, 2009.09754.

- **Axions**

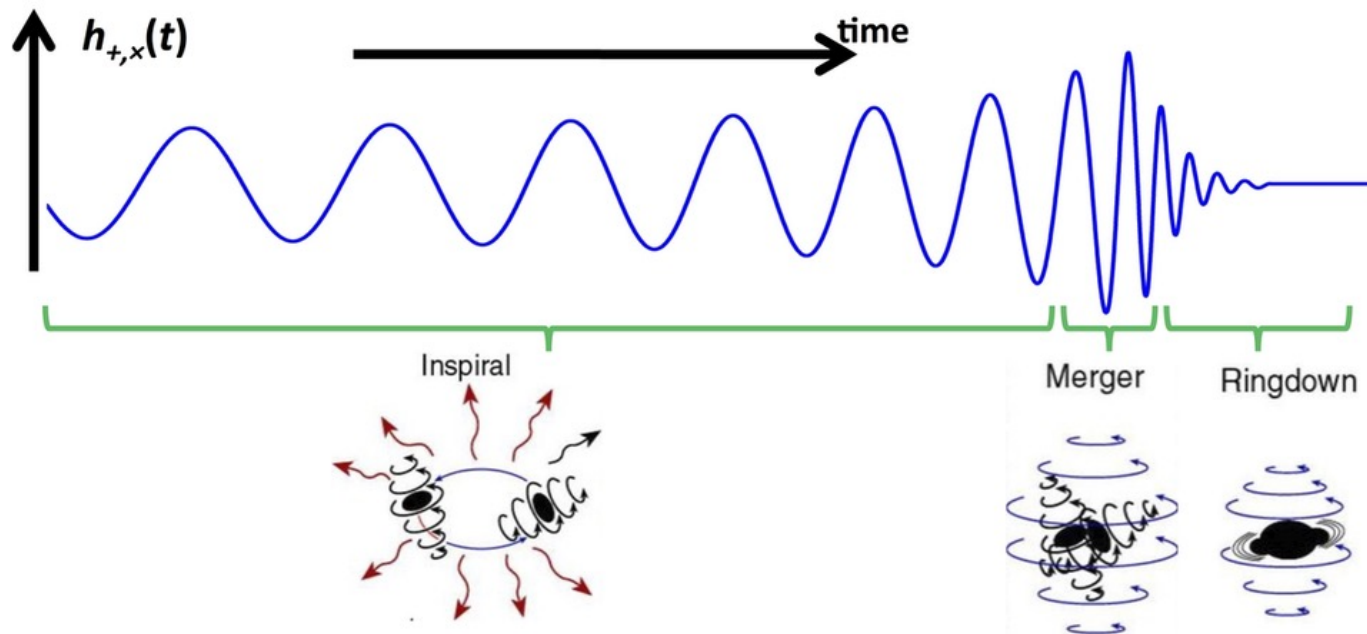
- e.g. W. Ratzinger and P. Schwaller, Whispers from the dark side: Confronting light new physics with NANOGrav data, 2009.11875.

- **Inflation**

- e.g. S. Vagnozzi, Implications of the NANOGrav pulsar timing results for inflation, 2009.13432.

# SMBH inspirals

- A population of supermassive BH binaries generates a stochastic GW background.
- PTAs are sensitive to the power-law tail of the background arising from inspirals.



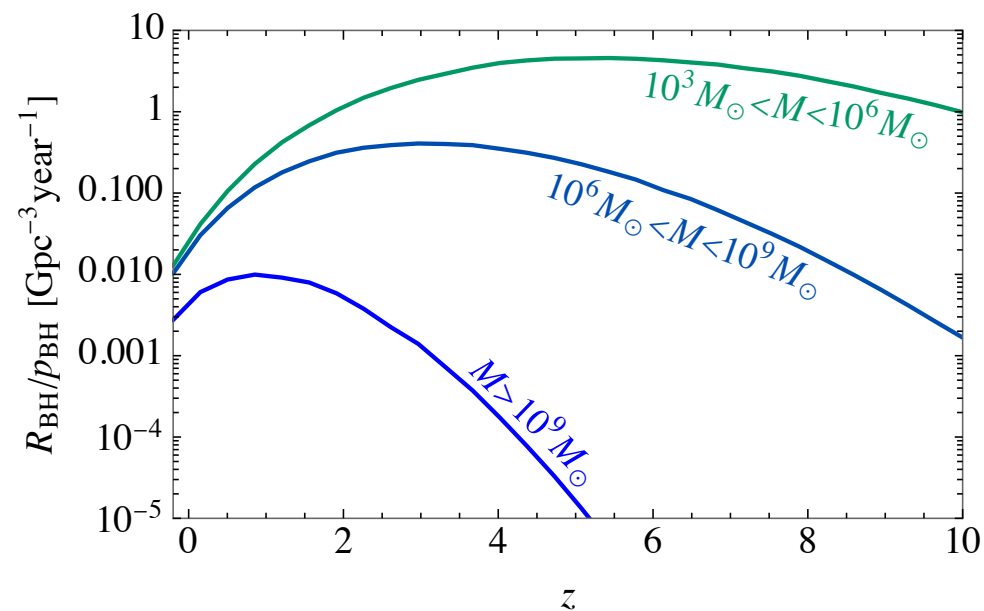
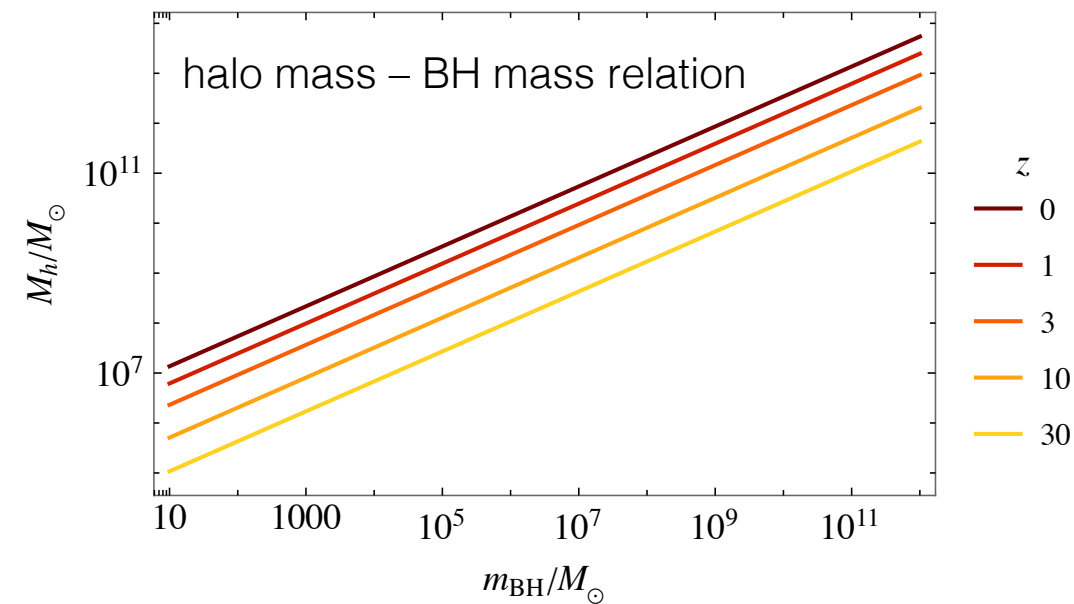
# Model of SMBH merger rate

halo merger



BH merger

$$\frac{dR_{\text{BH}}}{dm_1 dm_2} \approx p_{\text{BH}} \frac{dM_1}{dm_1} \frac{dM_2}{dm_2} \frac{dR_h}{dM_1 dM_2}$$





# GW background

mean GW energy density spectrum:

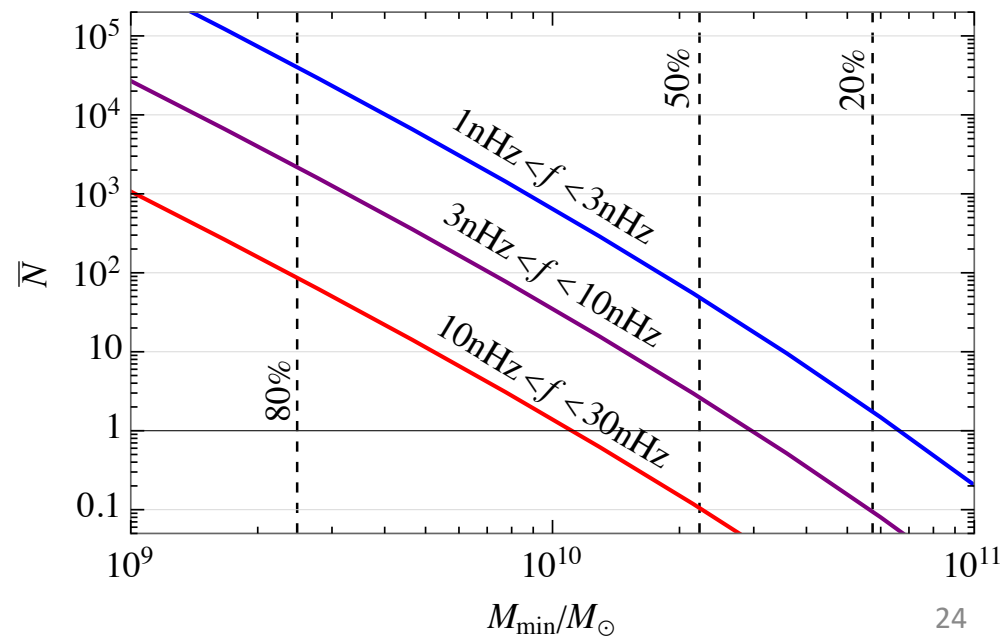
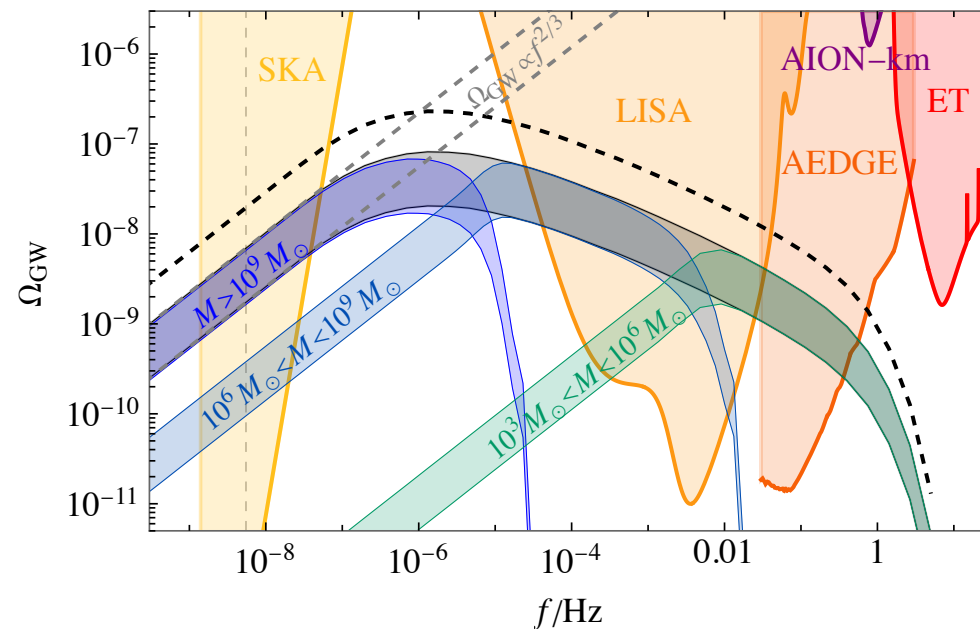
$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \ln f} = \int d\lambda \frac{2\pi}{5} \frac{f^3 |\tilde{h}(f)|^2}{\rho_c}$$

$$d\lambda = dm_1 dm_2 dz \frac{V'_c(z)}{1+z} \frac{dR_{\text{BH}}(t)}{dm_1 dm_2}$$

$$|\tilde{h}(f)| = \sqrt{\frac{5}{24}} \frac{[(1+z)\mathcal{M}]^{\frac{5}{6}}}{\pi^{\frac{2}{3}} D_L} \times \begin{cases} f^{-\frac{7}{6}} & f < f_{\text{merg}} \\ f_{\text{merg}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} f^{-\frac{2}{3}} & f_{\text{merg}} \leq f < f_{\text{ring}} \\ f_{\text{merg}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} f_{\text{ring}}^{-\frac{2}{3}} \frac{\sigma^2}{4(f-f_{\text{ring}})^2 + \sigma^2} & f_{\text{ring}} \leq f < f_{\text{cut}}, \end{cases}$$

NANOGrav:

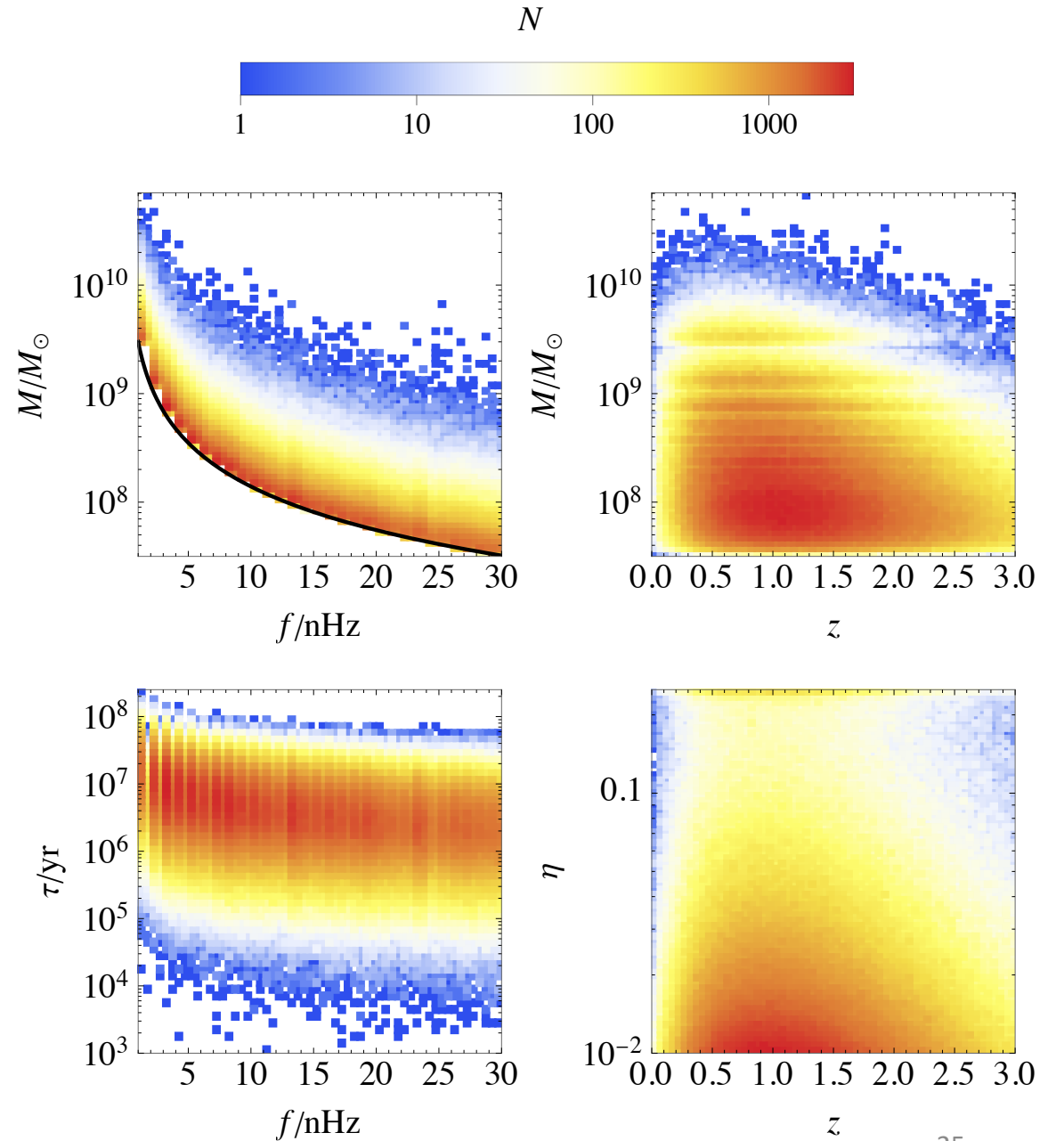
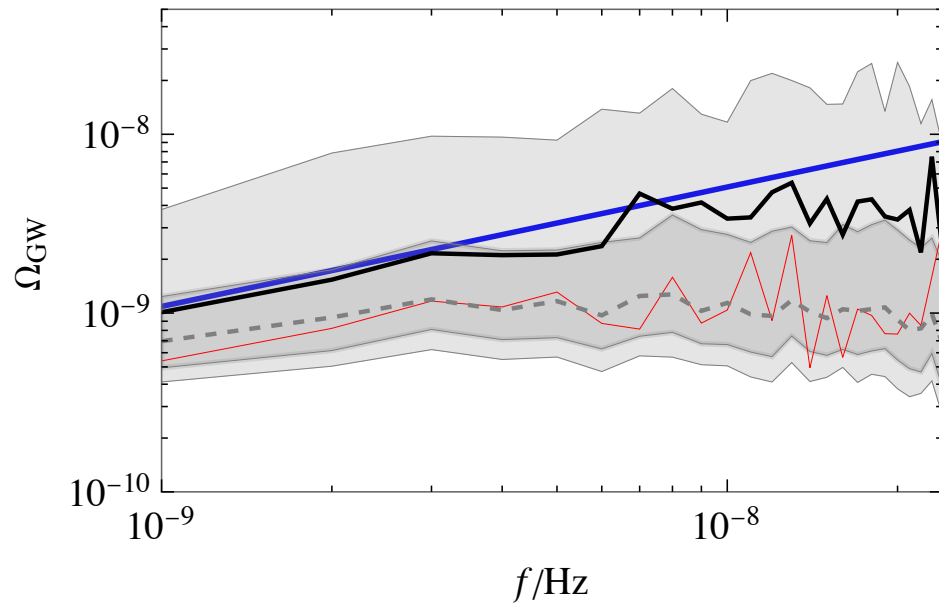
$$p_{\text{BH}} = \mathcal{O}(0.1)$$



# GW background

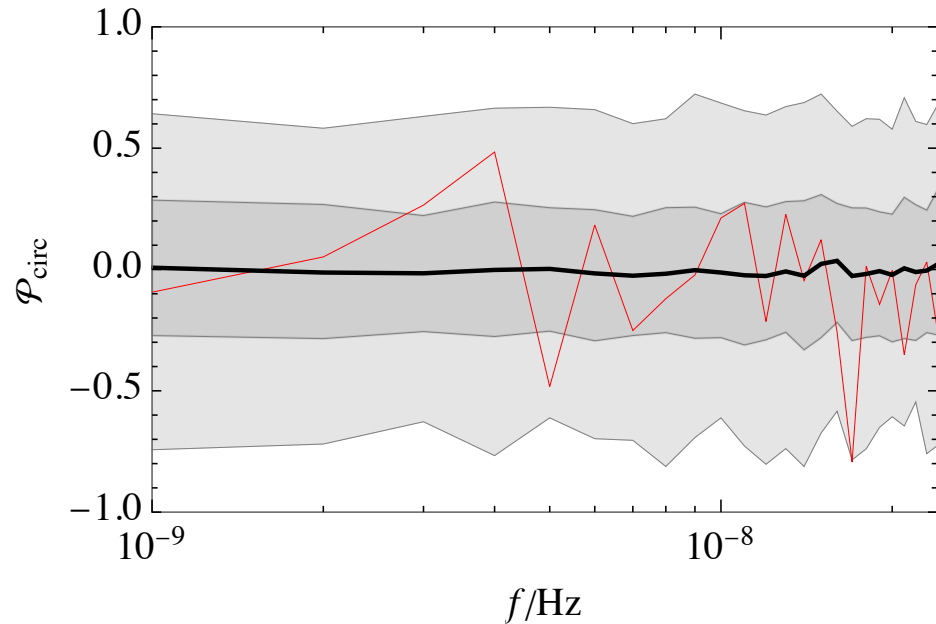
Random realizations of the SMBH population in the PTA sensitivity band:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(f_j) = \frac{1}{\ln(f_{j+1}/f_j)} \sum_{k=1}^{N(f_j)} \Omega_{\text{GW}}^{(1)}(\vec{\theta}_k)$$

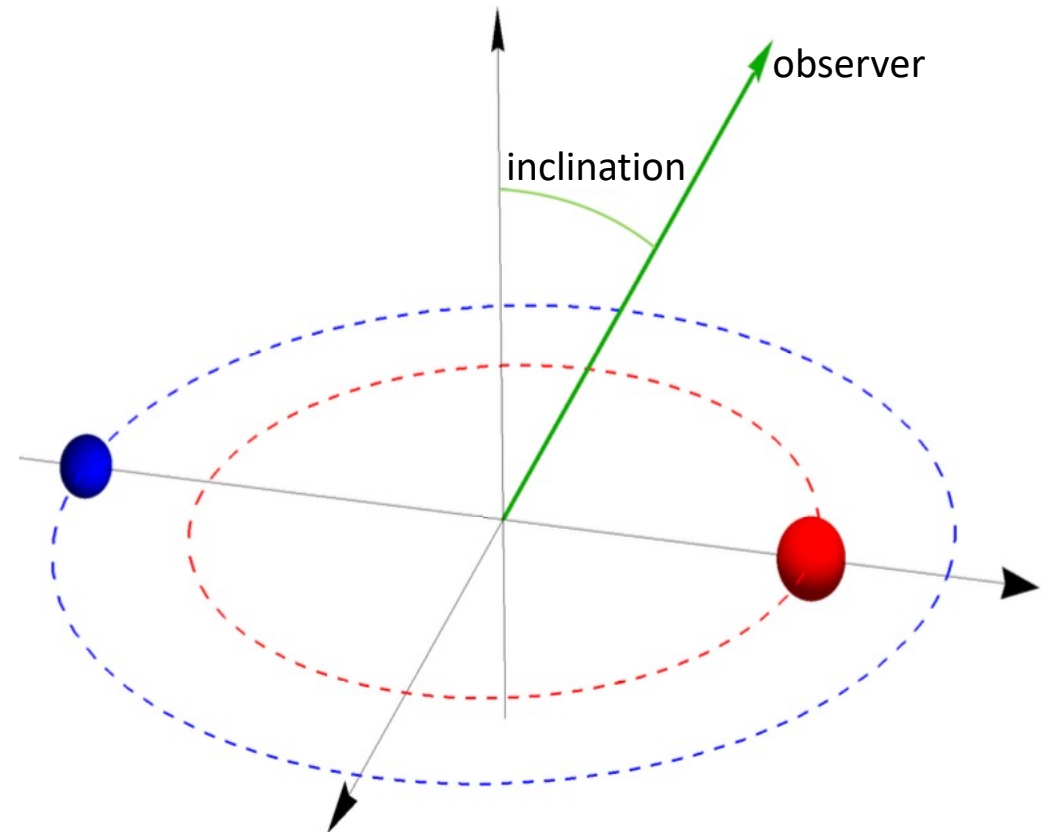


# GW circular polarization

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{circ}}(f) = \frac{|\tilde{h}_L(f)|^2 - |\tilde{h}_R(f)|^2}{|\tilde{h}_L(f)|^2 + |\tilde{h}_R(f)|^2}$$

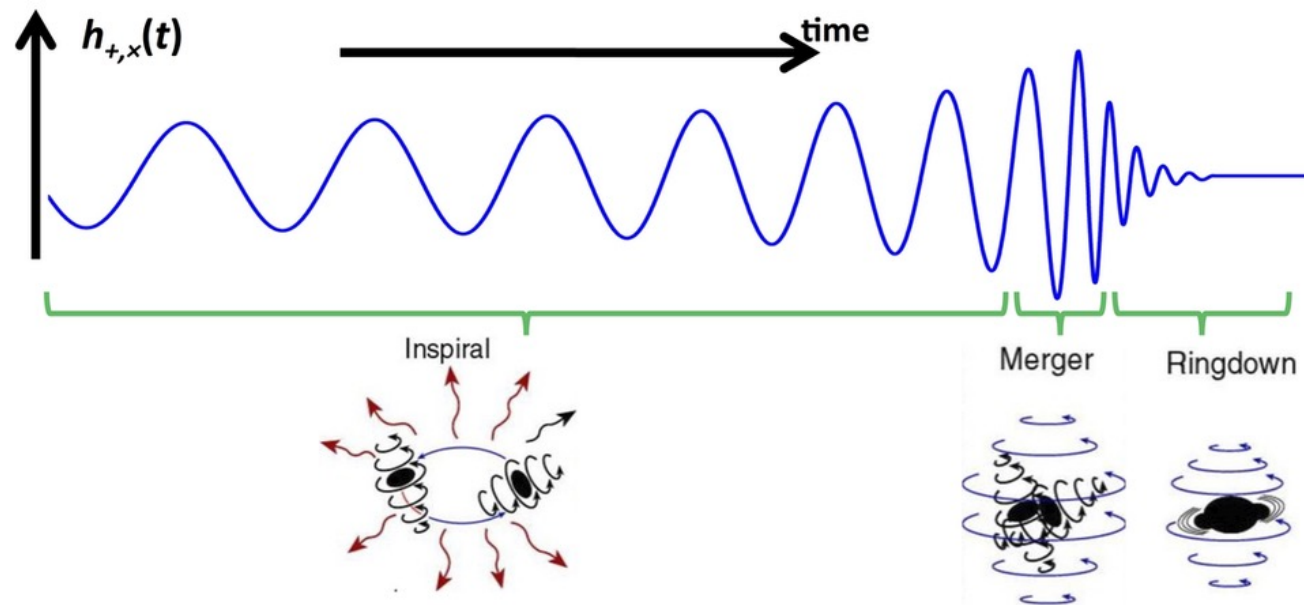


- $0^\circ$  inclination: circularly polarized signal.
- $90^\circ$  inclination: linearly polarized signal.

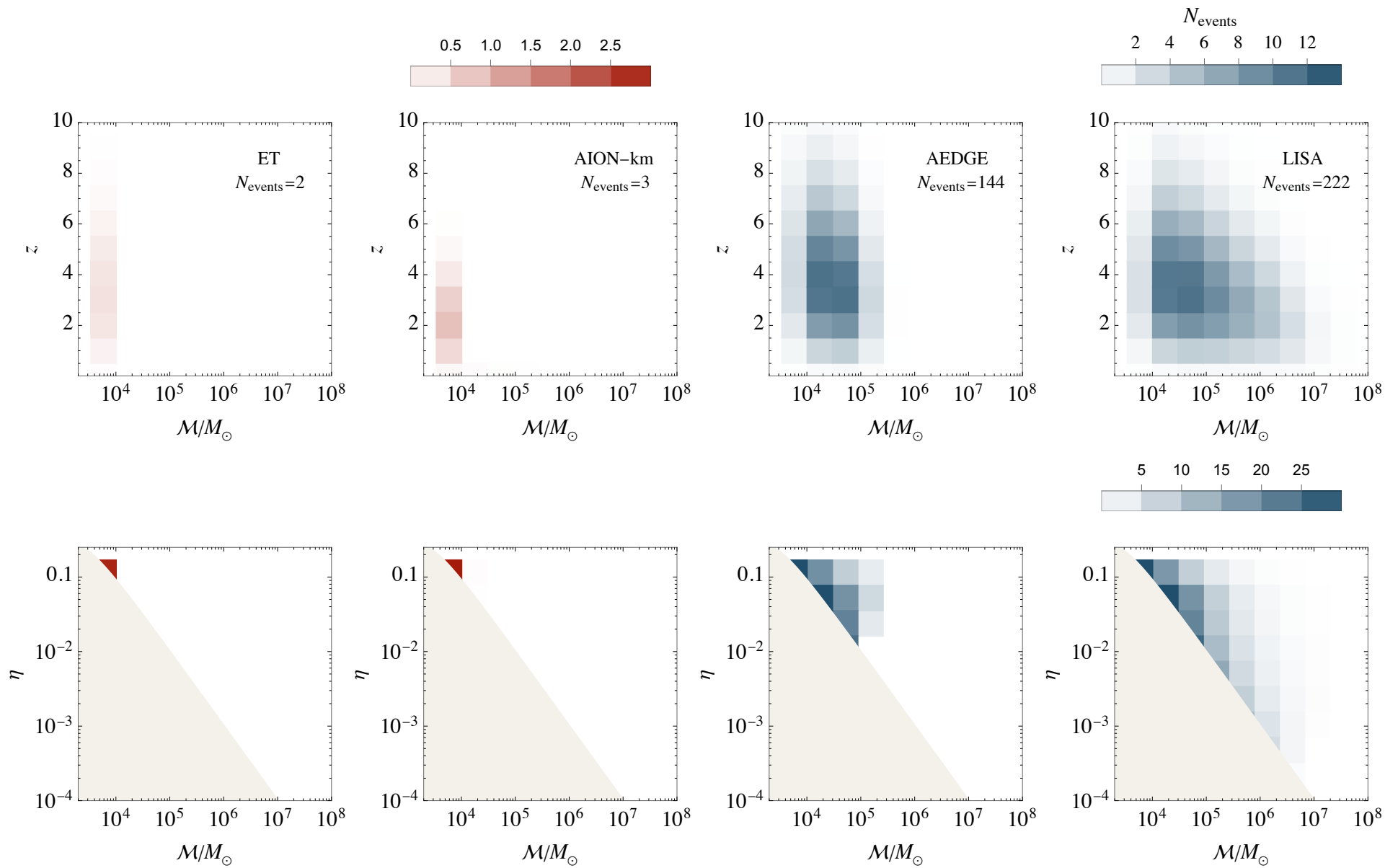


# Prospects for future GW observatories

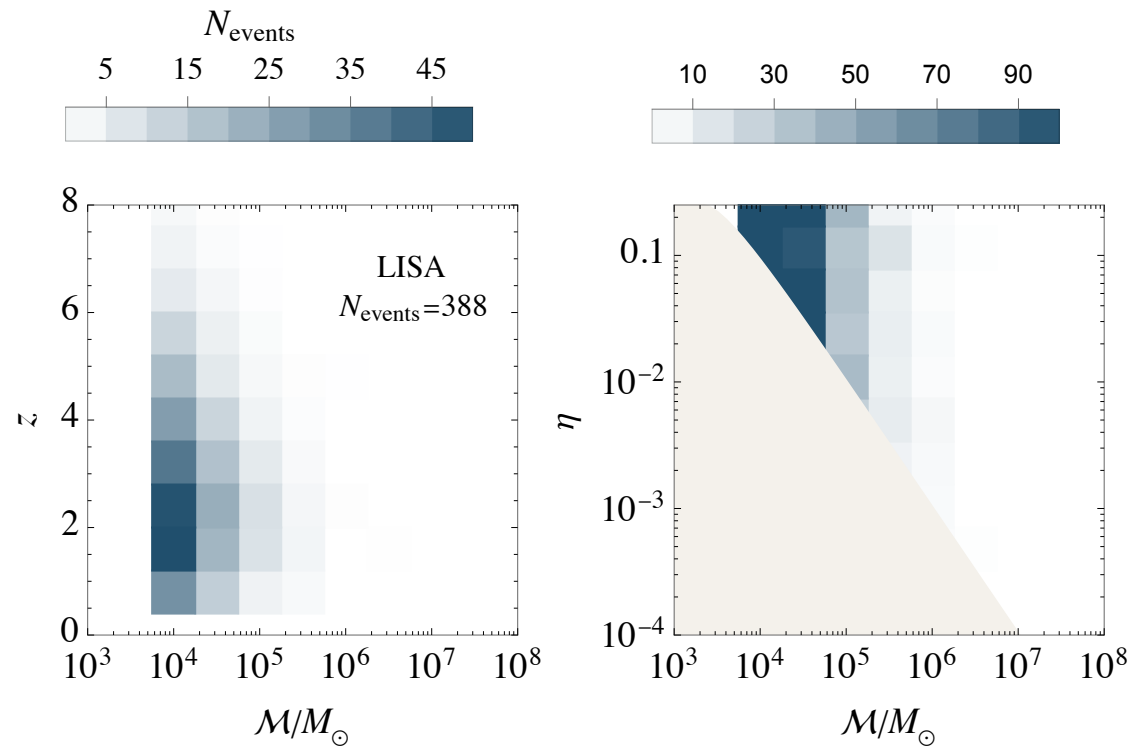
1. Short GW signals from BH binary mergers
2. Continuous GW signals from inspiralling BH binaries
3. GW background from BH binaries



# BH binary mergers



# Inspiralling BH binaries



# Conclusions

- JWST has observed luminous early galaxies indicate a  $> 3\sigma$  tension with LCDM.
- Beyond LCDM physics  $\Rightarrow$  enhanced matter power spectrum at  $k_c \approx 5h\text{Mpc}^{-1}$ , however, almost extremal star formation efficiency is needed.
- PTAs have reported evidence for a common-spectrum stochastic process, that possibly originates from GWs.
- GWs from SMBHs: significant deviations from a simple power-law spectrum are expected and potentially large circular polarization.
- The observed amplitude indicates, extrapolating the merger rate to lower masses, that e.g. LISA will see about 200 BH binary mergers per year.
- Combining JWST and PTA results? More early galaxies  $\Rightarrow$  more BHs  $\Rightarrow$  more GWs.