

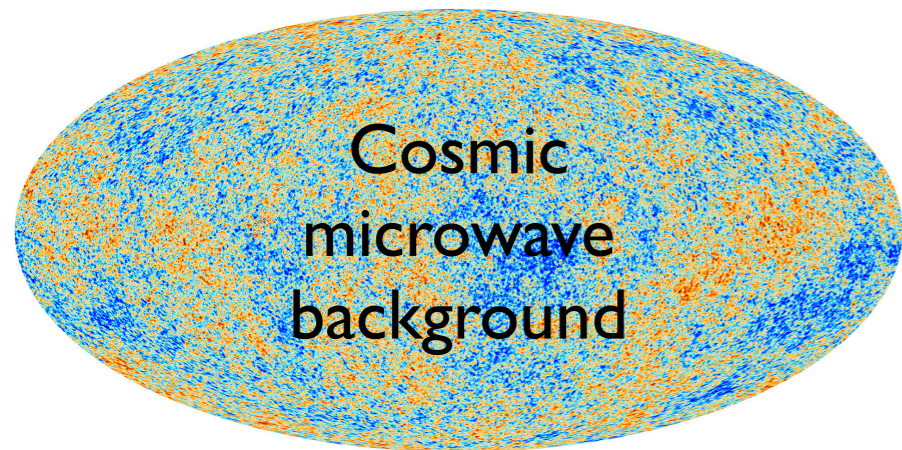
A visualization of the cosmic web, showing a complex network of blue filaments and nodes against a dark blue background. The filaments represent the large-scale structure of the universe, with nodes indicating regions of high density.

**IDENTIFYING  
THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF DARK MATTER  
USING COSMOLOGICAL DATA**

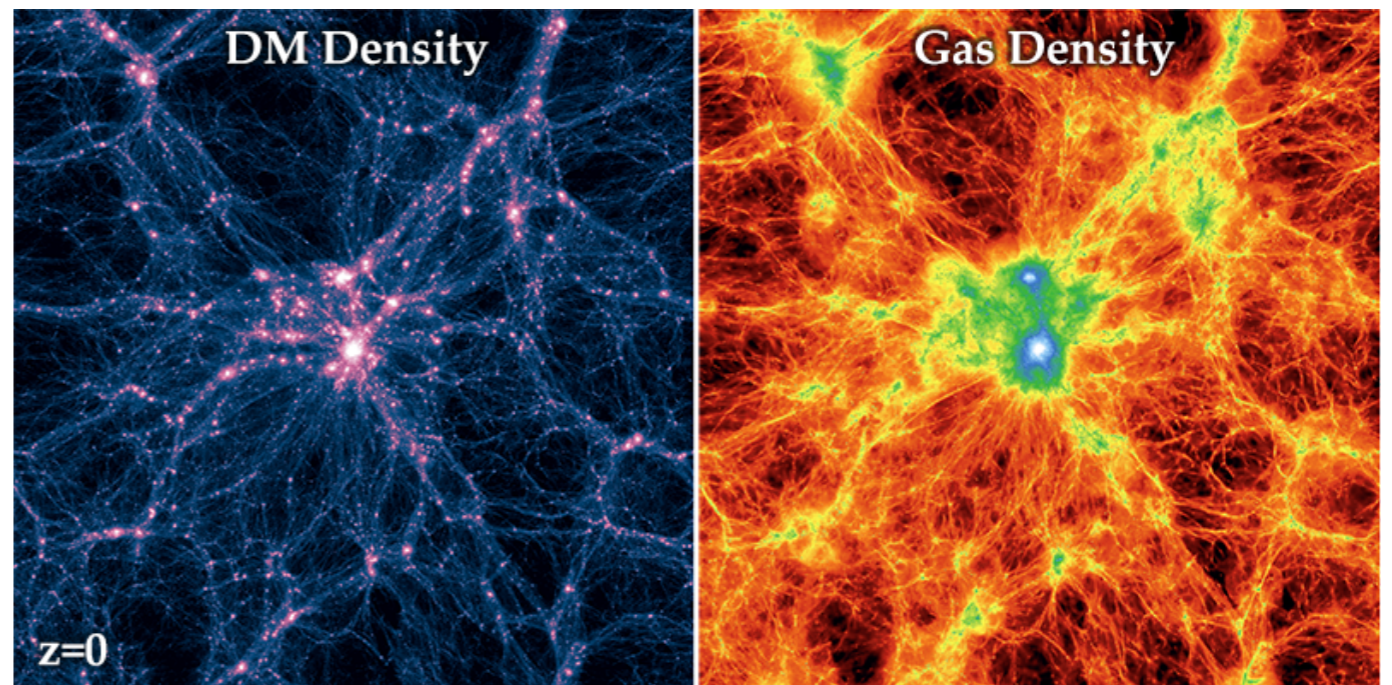
**Keir K. Rogers**

*Dunlap Fellow, Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics,  
University of Toronto*

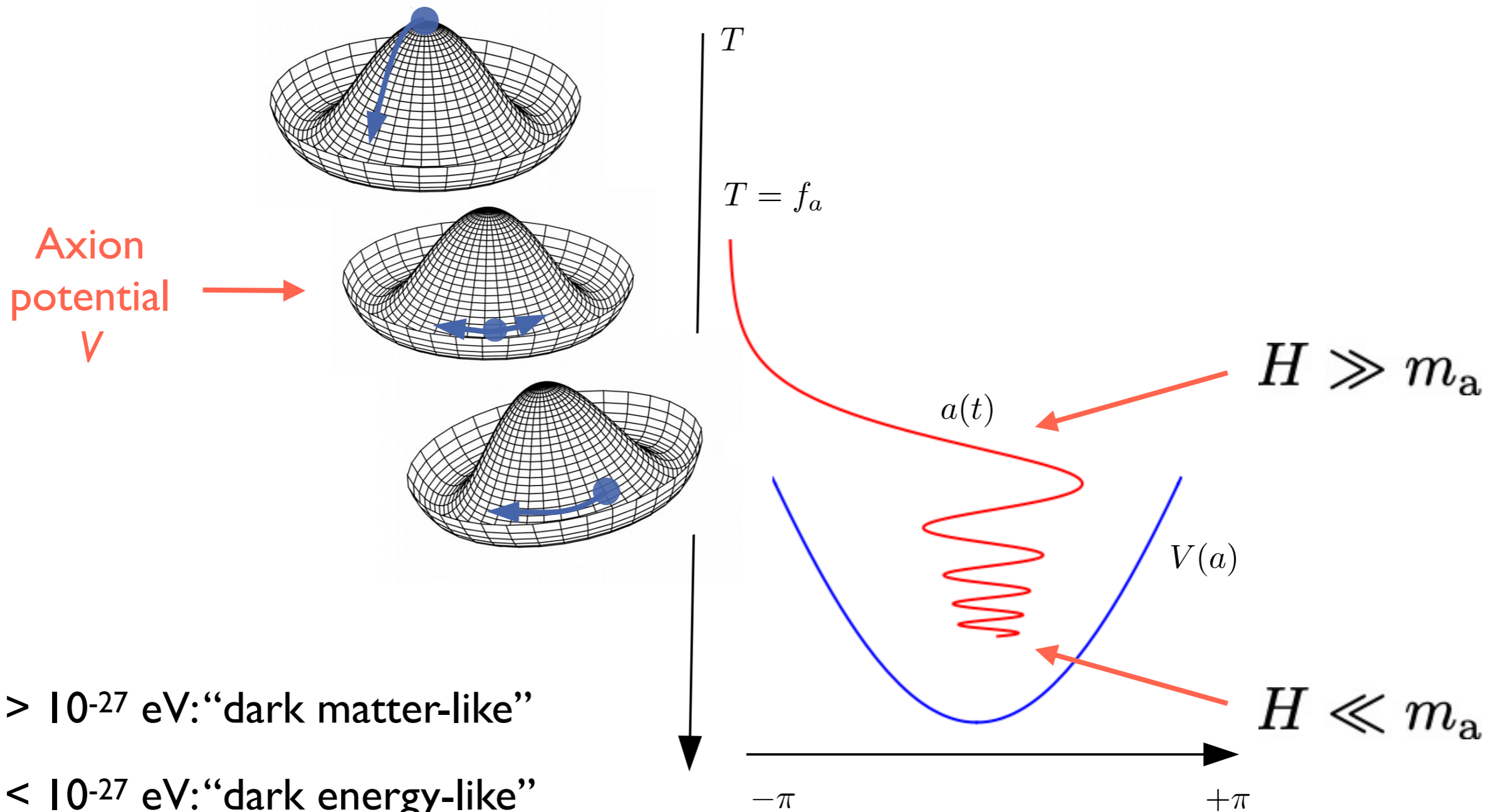
**Find dark matter by only known interaction — gravity  
— trace DM by CMB, galaxies and intergalactic gas**



**How improve consistency between  
CMB and LSS?**



# Axions are dark energy and dark matter candidates



- $m_a > 10^{-27}$  eV: “dark matter-like”
- $m_a < 10^{-27}$  eV: “dark energy-like”
- $m_a = 10^{-33}$  eV: cosmological constant



Dunlap Institute for  
Astronomy & Astrophysics  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

# **JOINT CONSTRAINTS ON ULTRA-LIGHT AXIONS FROM CMB & GALAXY SURVEYS**

JCAP, 06, 023, 2023

JCAP, 01, 049, 2022

MNRAS, 515, 5646, 2022

*with Hložek, Laguë, Ivanov, Philcox, Cabass, Akitsu, Marsh, Bond, Dentler, Grin*

Larger scales

Smaller scales

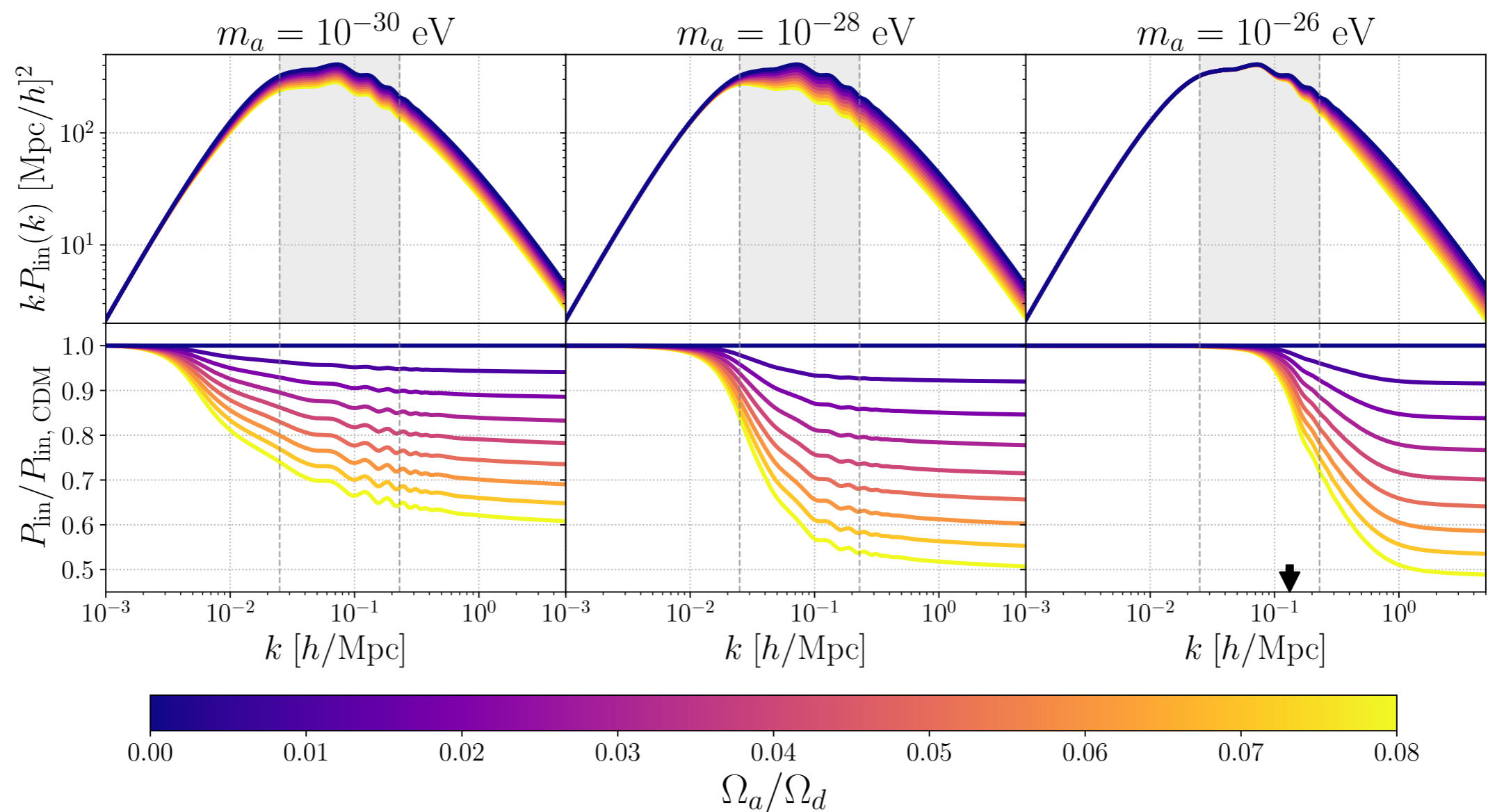


$S_8$  tension

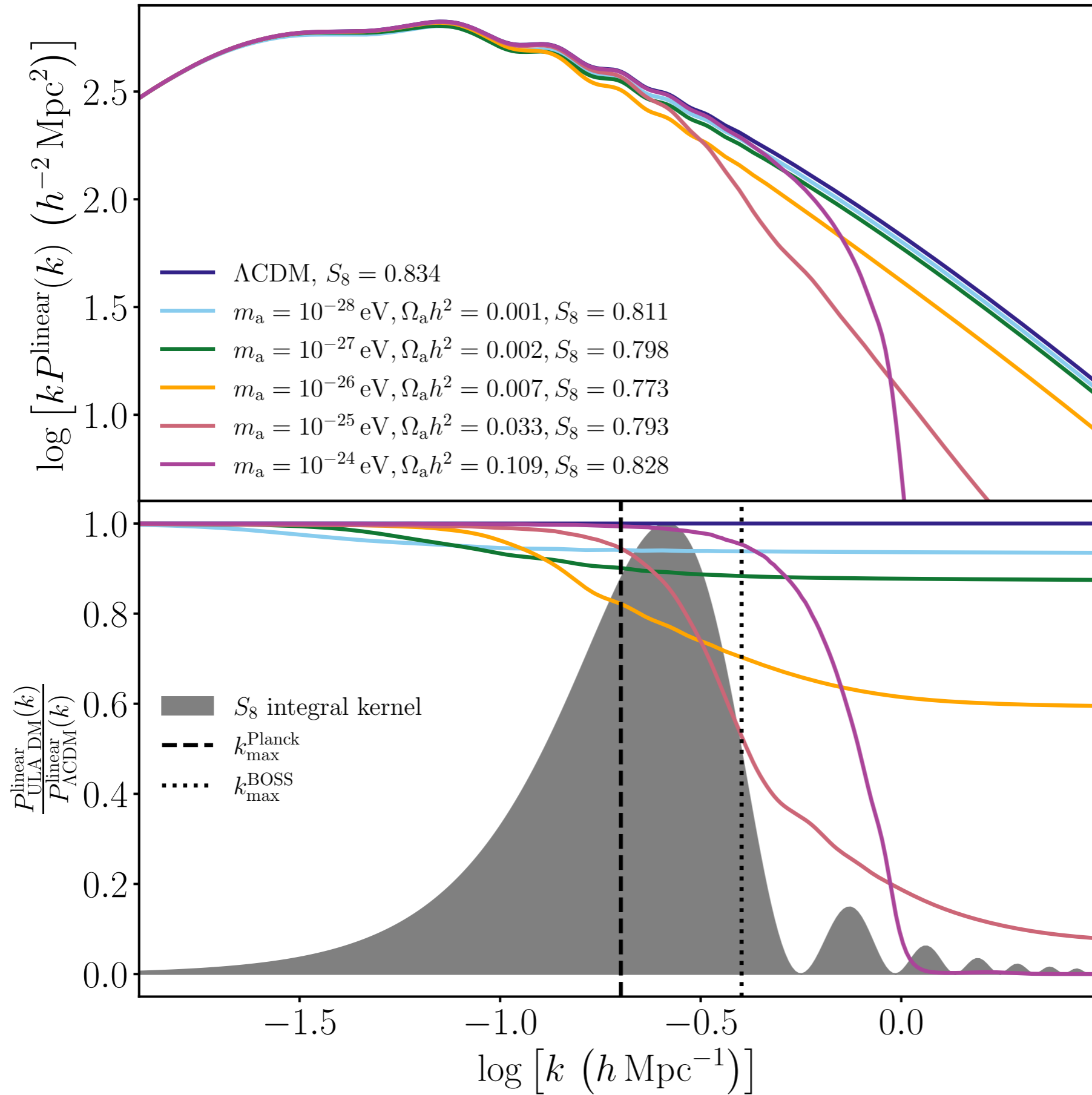
$S_8 \sim$  amplitude of density fluctuations at 8 Mpc/h

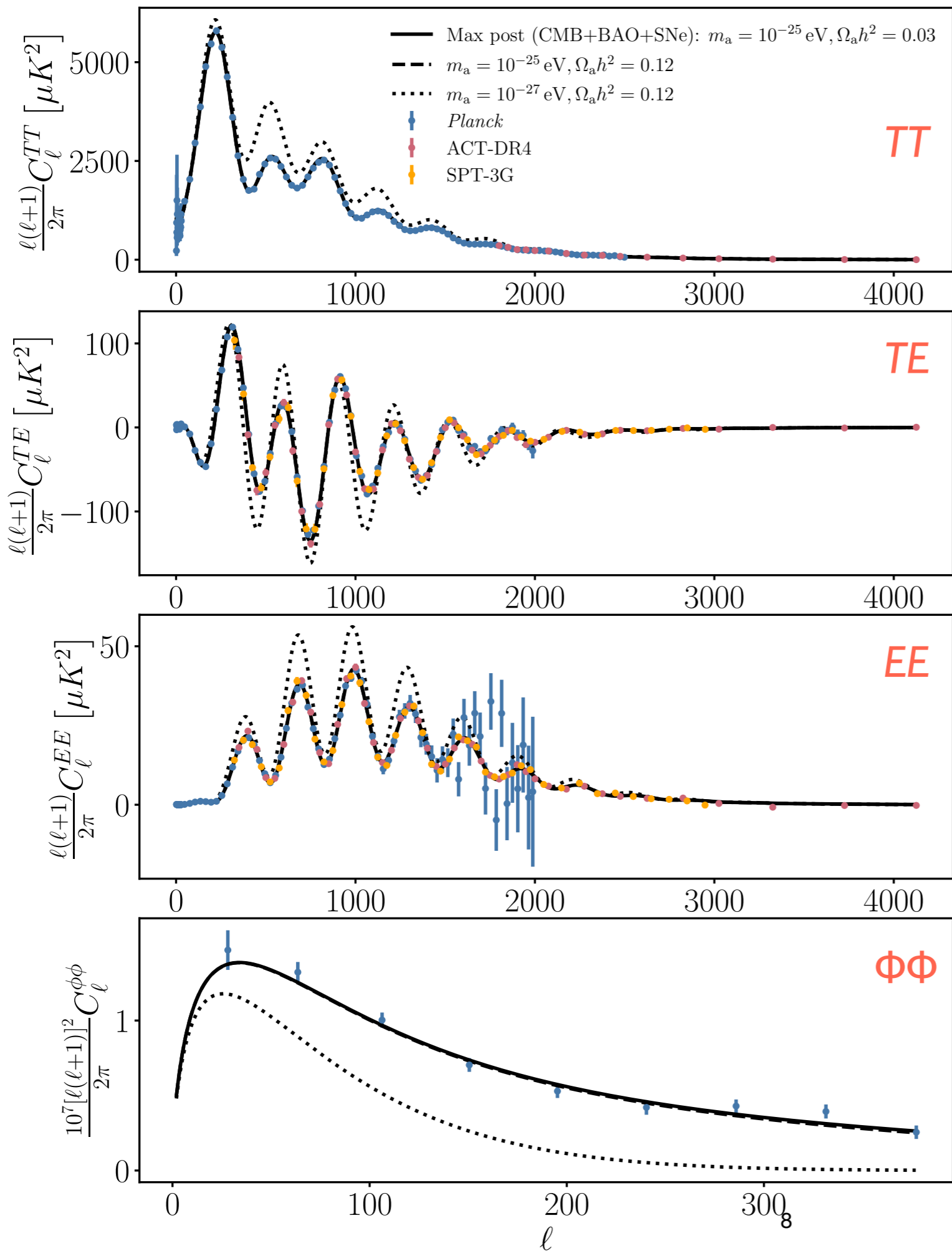
# Ultra-light axion dark matter causes scale-dependent suppression in matter clustering

$$\lambda_{\text{Jeans}} = 9.4 (1+z)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \frac{\Omega_a h^2}{0.12} \right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \left( \frac{m}{10^{-26} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{ Mpc}$$



# Axions lower $S_8$





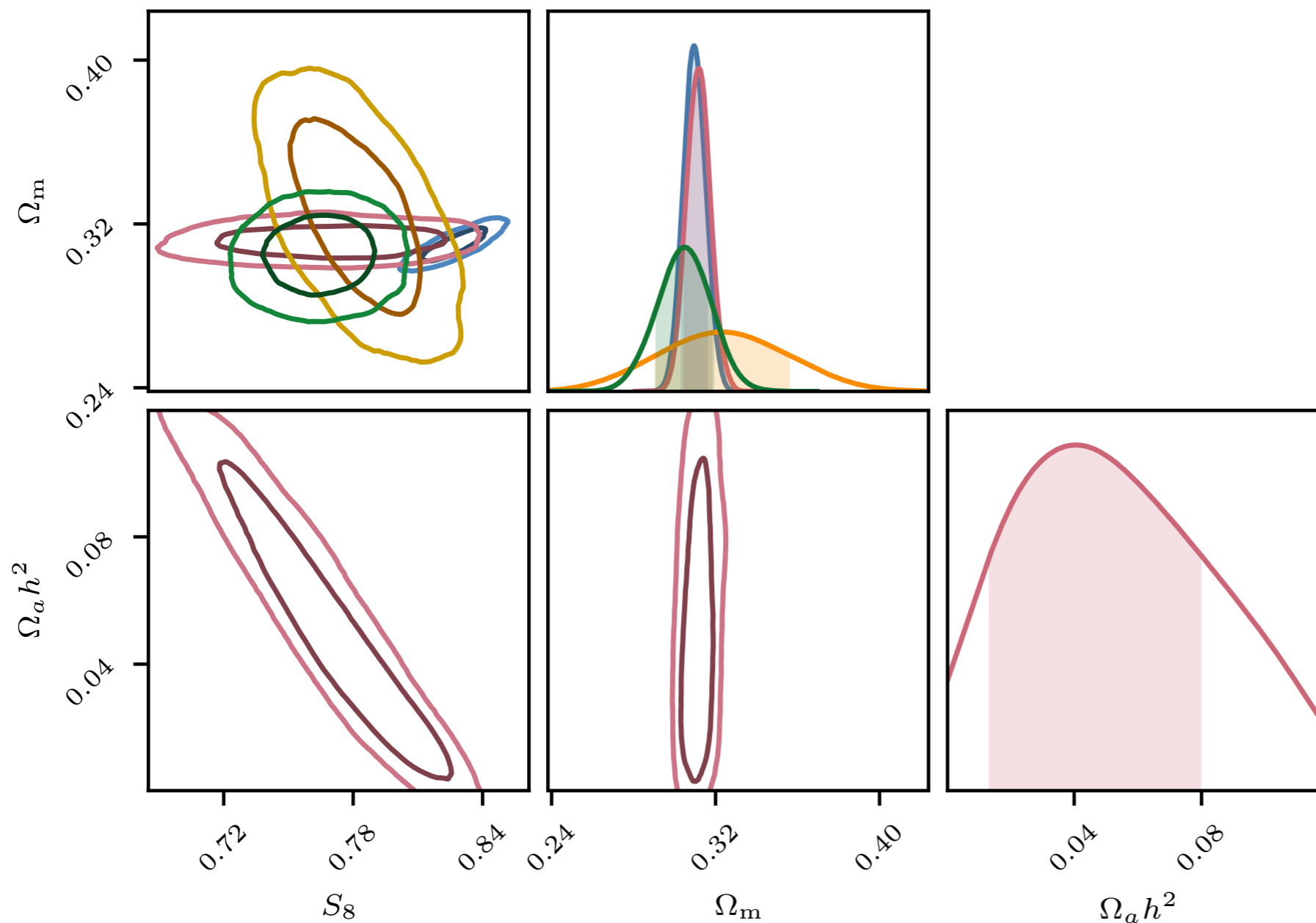
**DE-like axions  
 constrained by CMB  
 acoustic oscillations &  
 lensing potential**

$$m_a \leq 10^{-26} \text{ eV}$$



All CMB + BAO + SNe ( $\Lambda$ CDM)  
 All CMB + BAO + SNe ( $m_a = 10^{-25}$  eV)  
 DES-Y3  $3 \times 2$  ( $\Lambda$ CDM)  
 KiDS  $3 \times 2$  ( $\Lambda$ CDM)

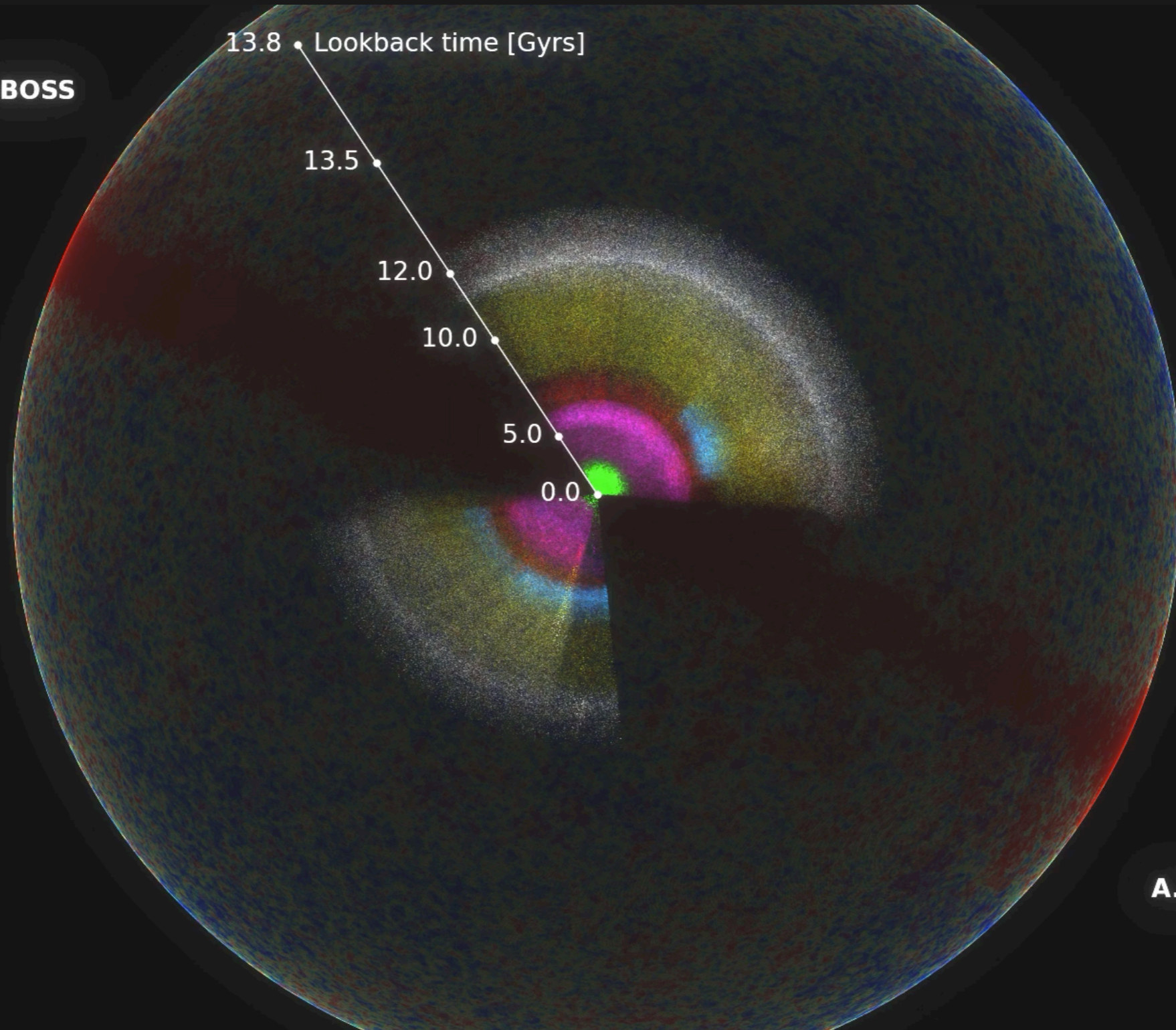
# Axions bring CMB, BAO & SNe data compatible with low $S_8$



$$m = 10^{-25} \text{ eV}$$

# Sloan Digital Sky Survey maps galaxies and intergalactic gas towards edge of observable Universe

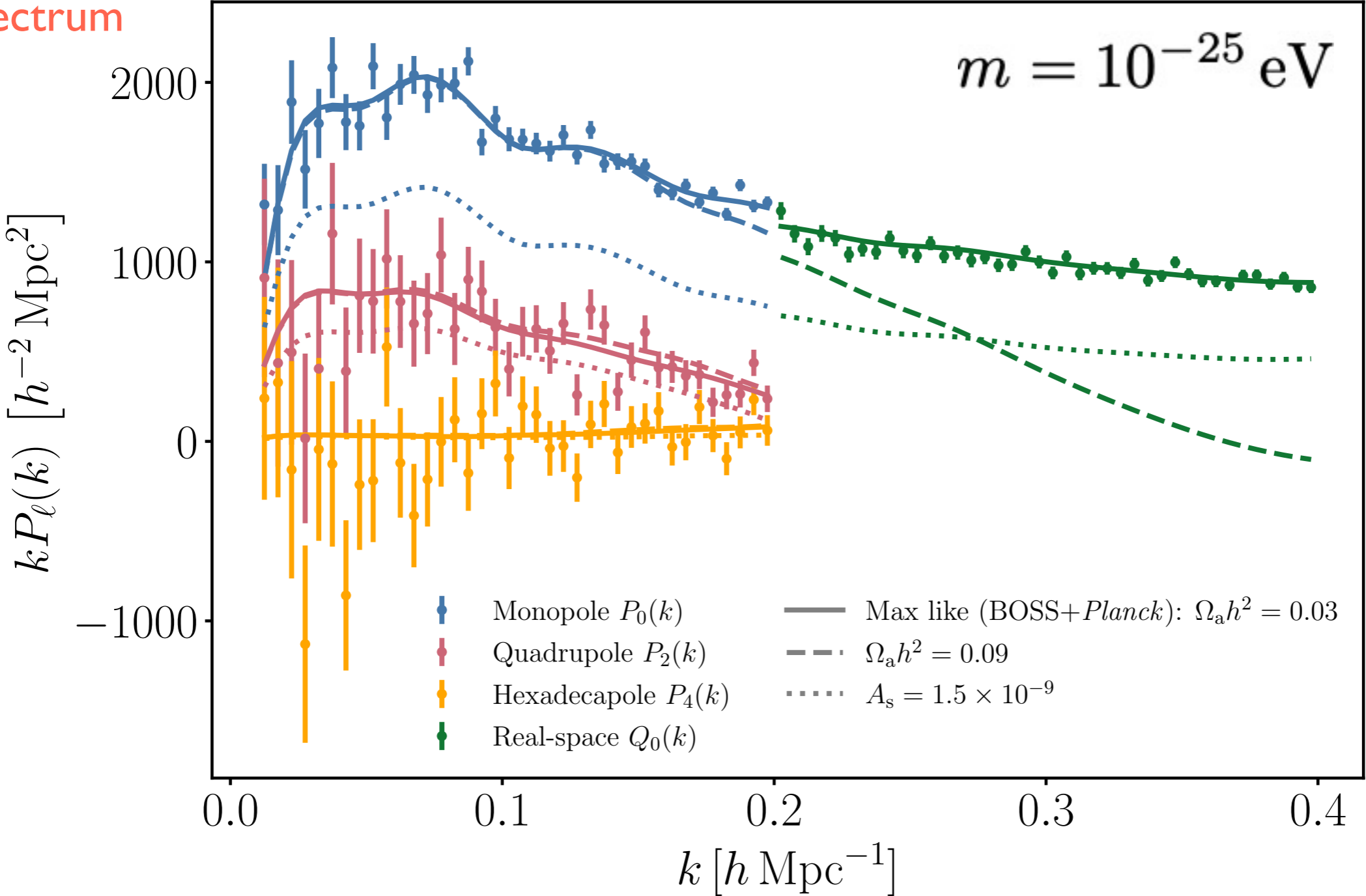
SDSS I-II + BOSS + eBOSS  
(1998-2019)



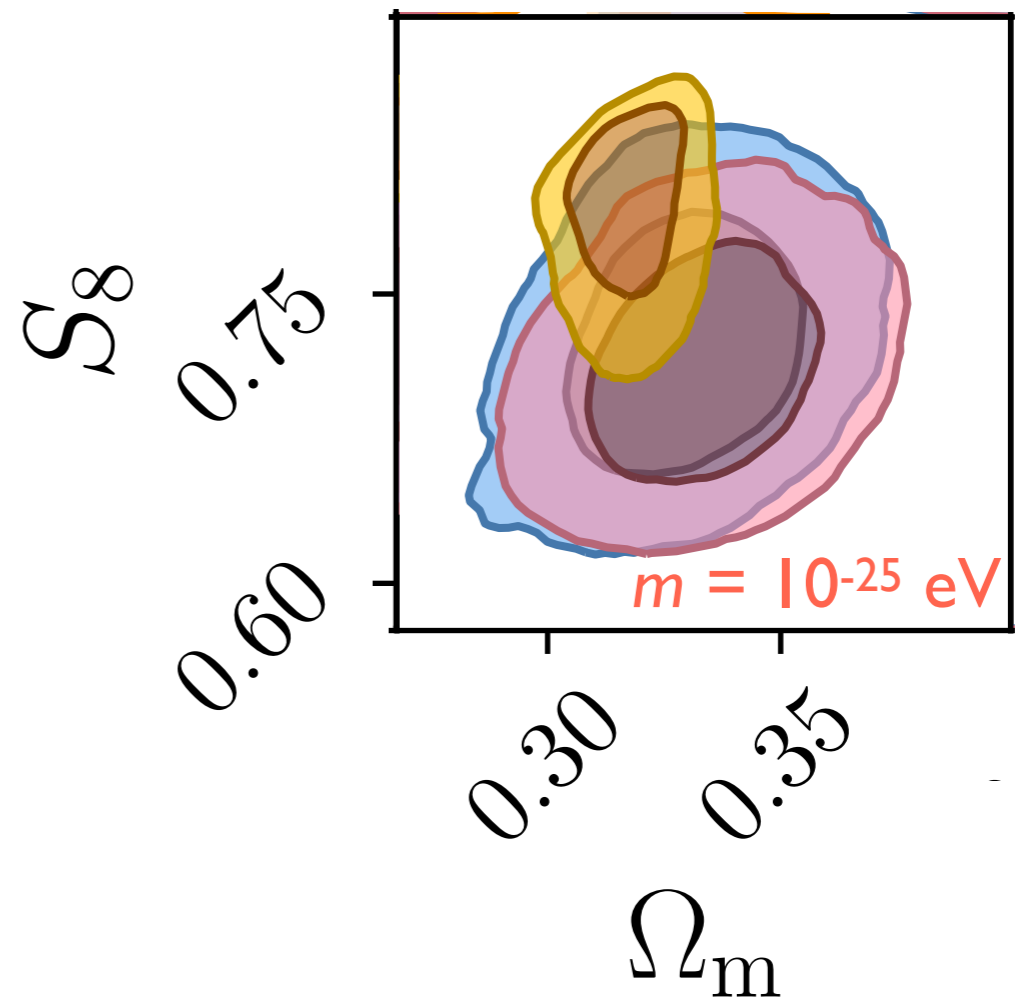
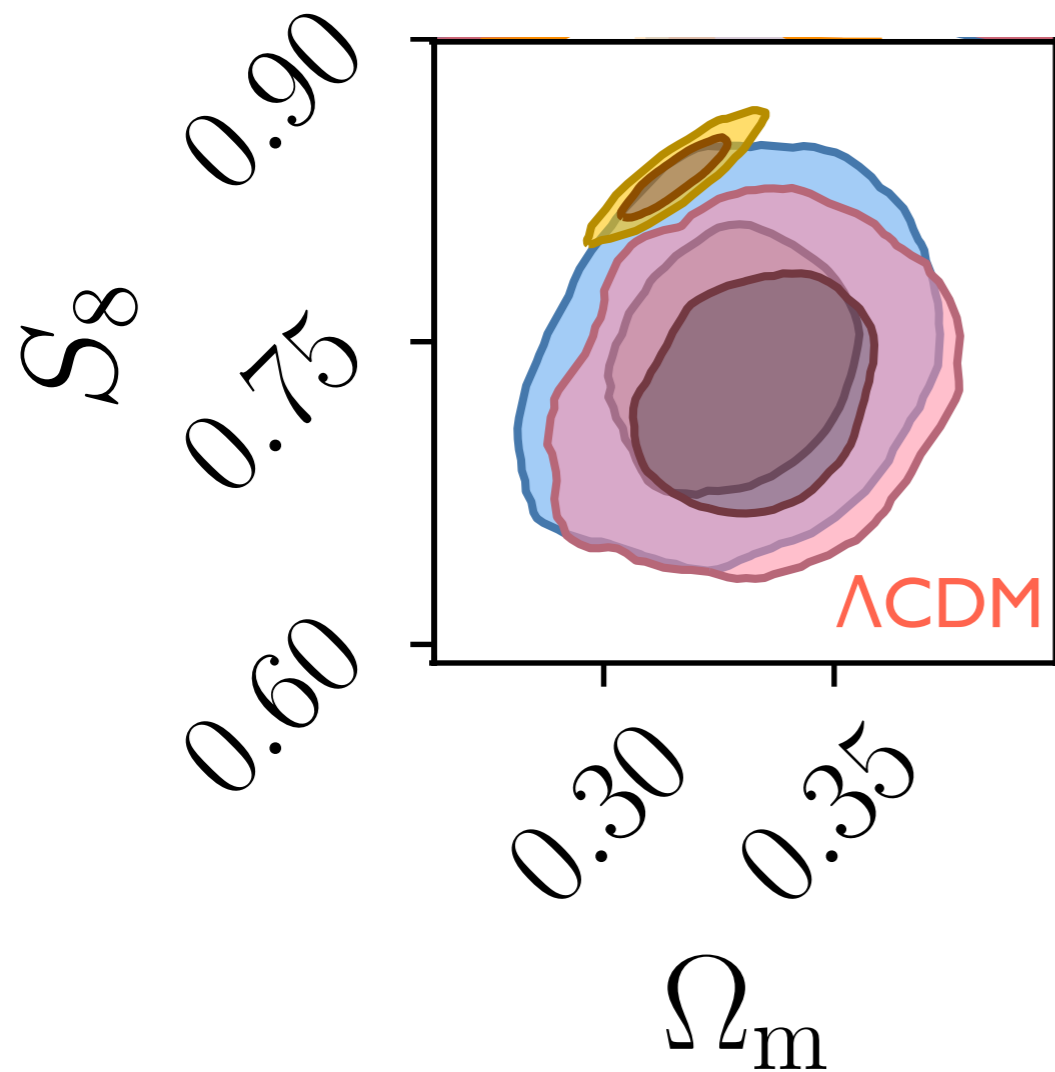
A. Raichoor (EPFL)

# Full-shape BOSS galaxy power spectrum increases sensitivity to ultra-light axions

Power spectrum

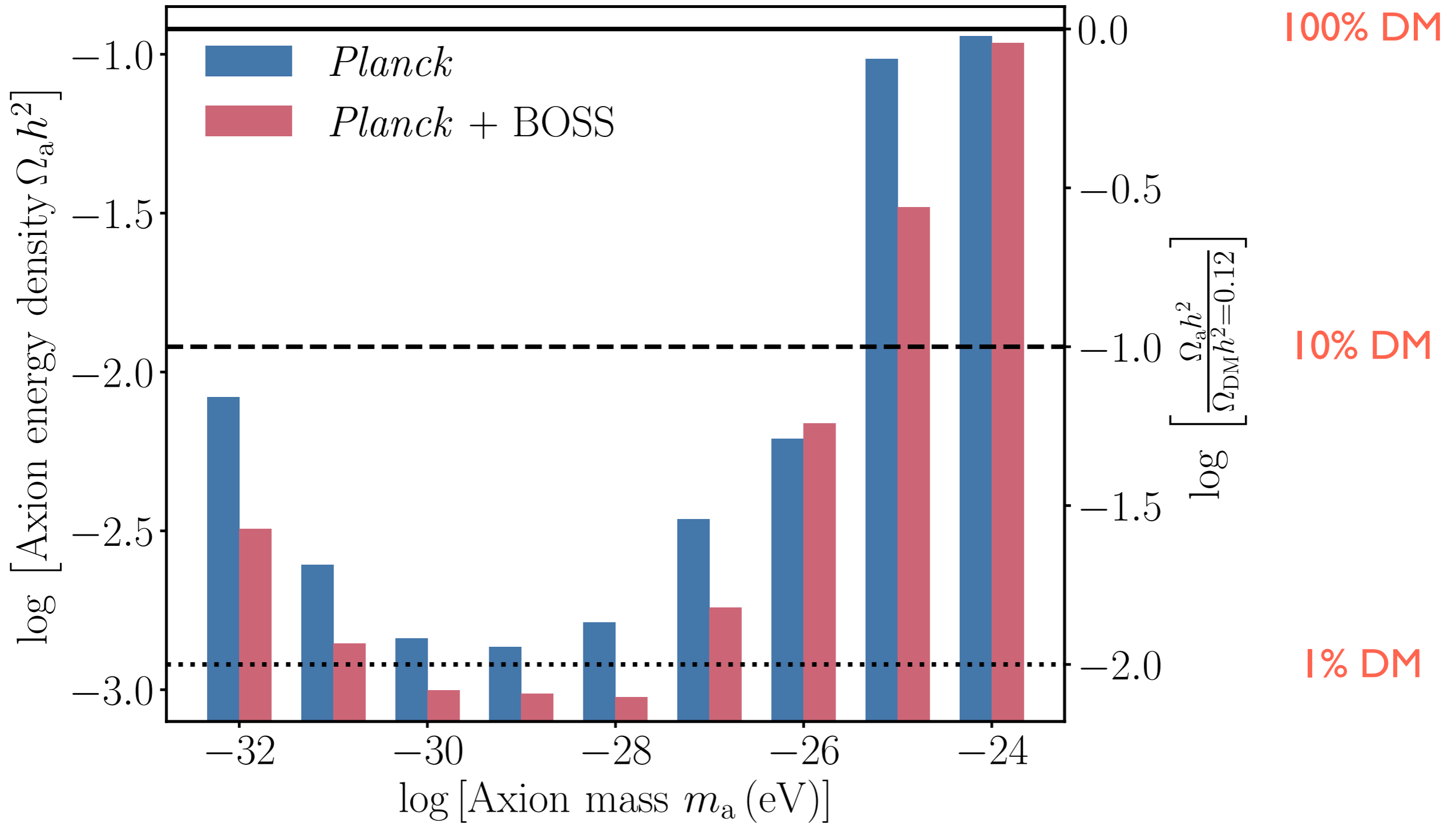


# Axions improve consistency between *Planck* and BOSS-EFT



- *Planck* cosmic microwave background
- BOSS-EFT galaxy power spectrum
- BOSS-EFT galaxy power spectrum + bispectrum

# Strongest axion limits come from combining cosmic microwave background & galaxy clustering



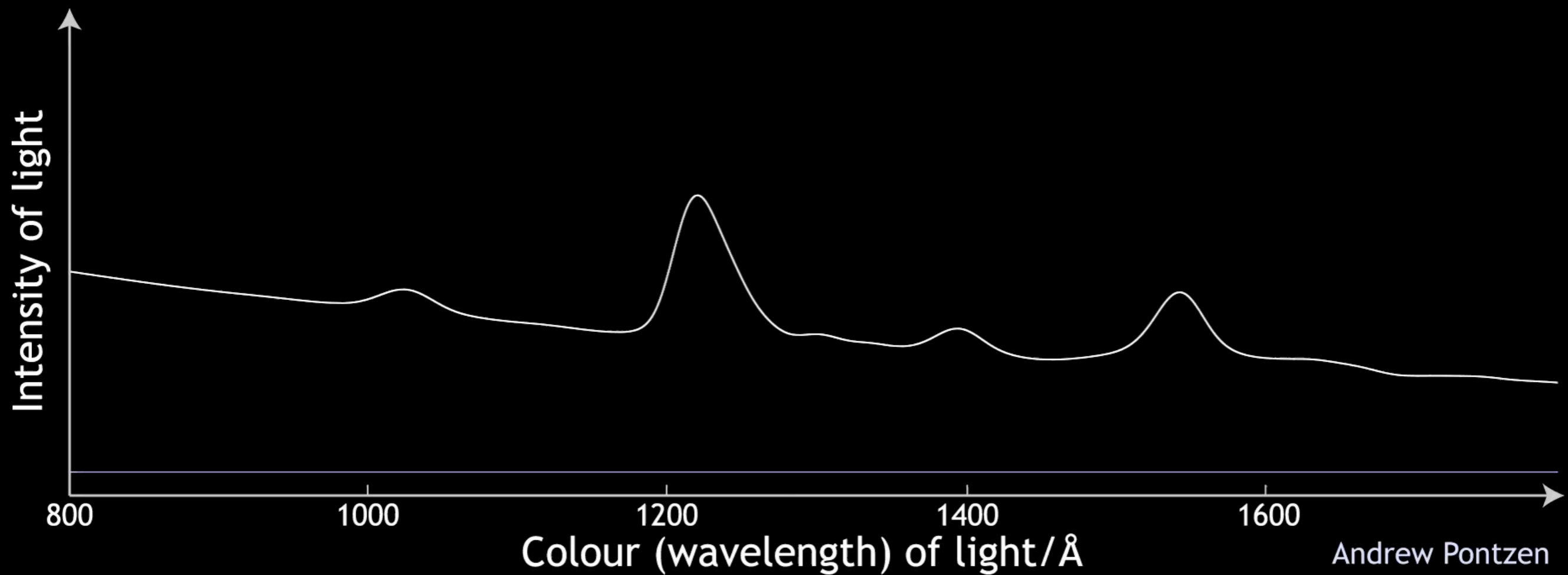
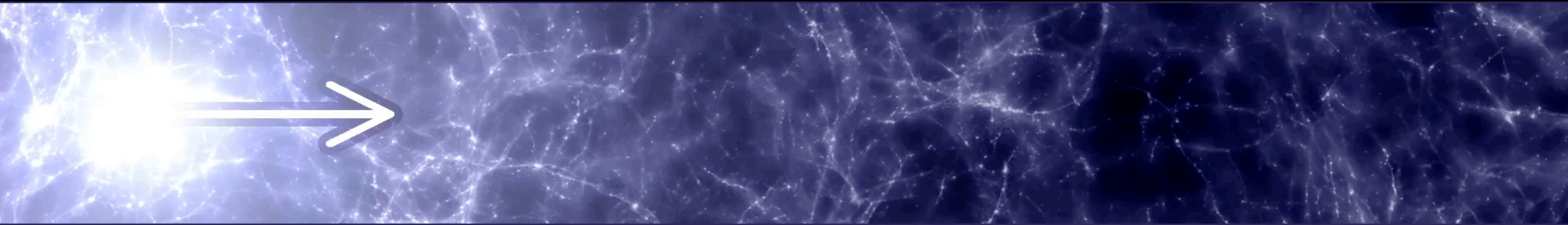


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**5 $\sigma$  TENSION BETWEEN *PLANCK* CMB  
AND eBOSS LYMAN- $\alpha$  FOREST AND  
CONSTRAINTS ON PHYSICS BEYOND  $\Lambda$ CDM**

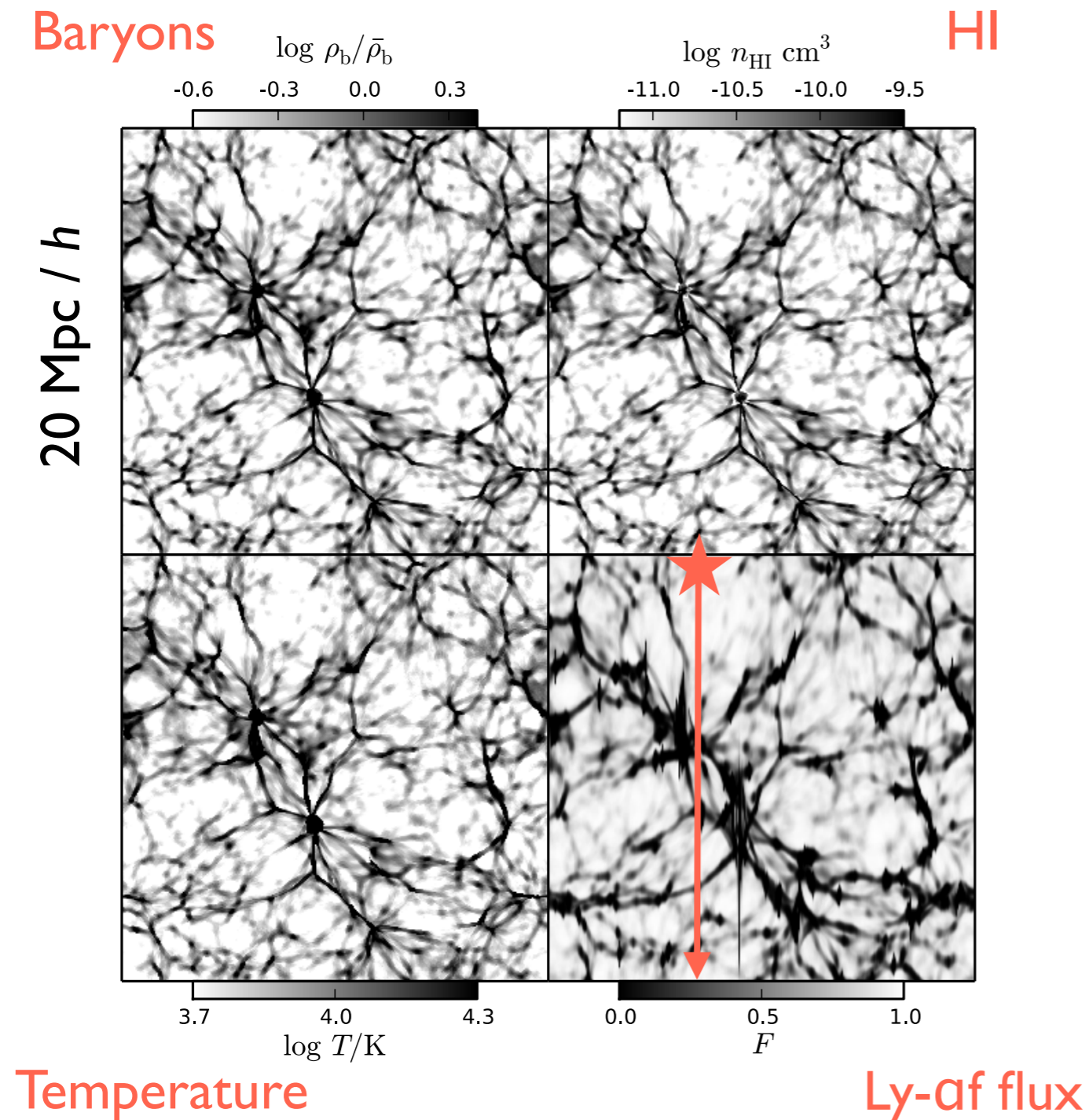
arXiv: 2311.16377  
*with Vivian Poulin*

# Lyman-alpha forest traces intergalactic medium around mean cosmic density



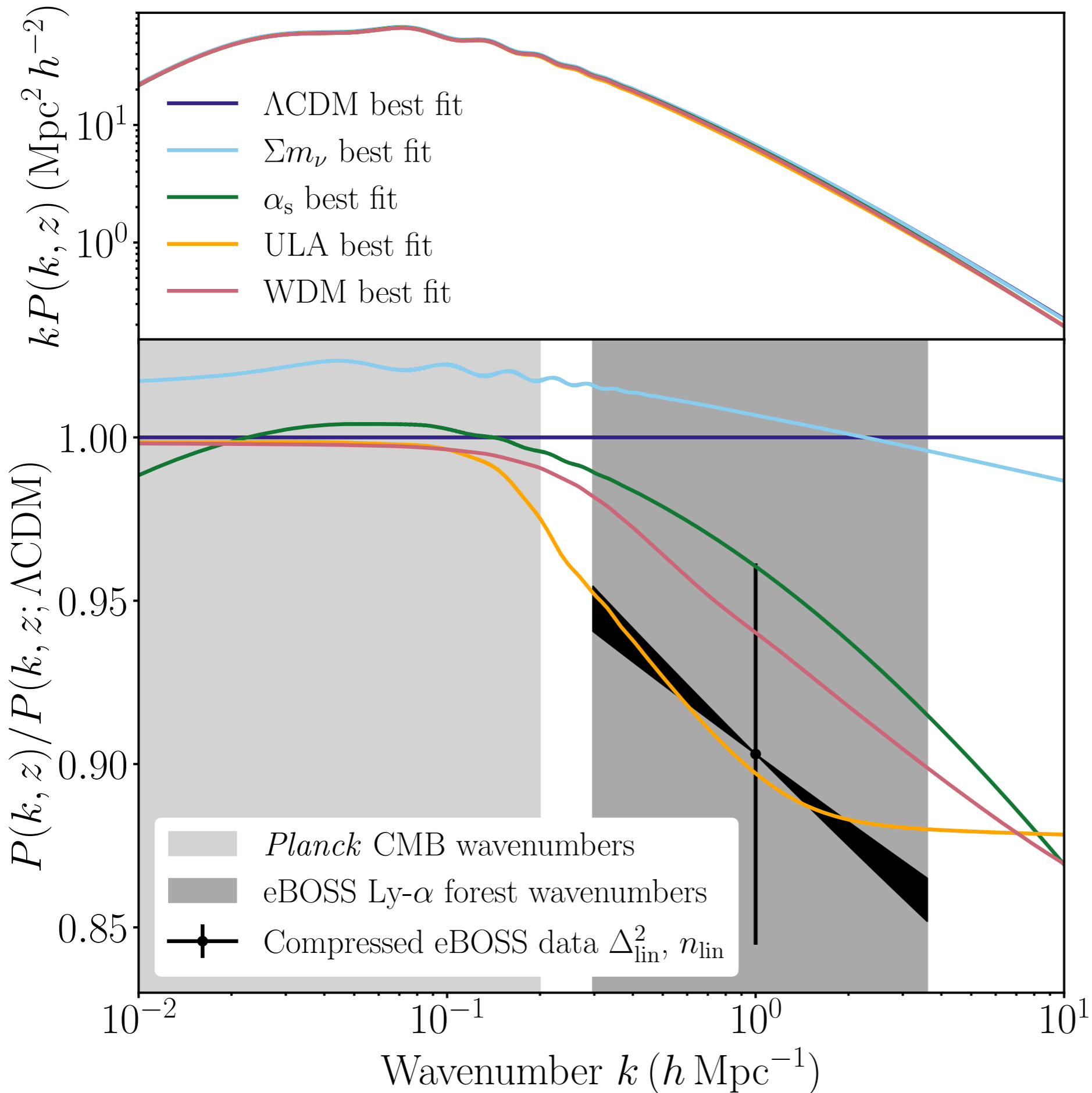
Andrew Pontzen

# Lyman-alpha forest probes smallest cosmic scales — robustly account for range of astrophysical states

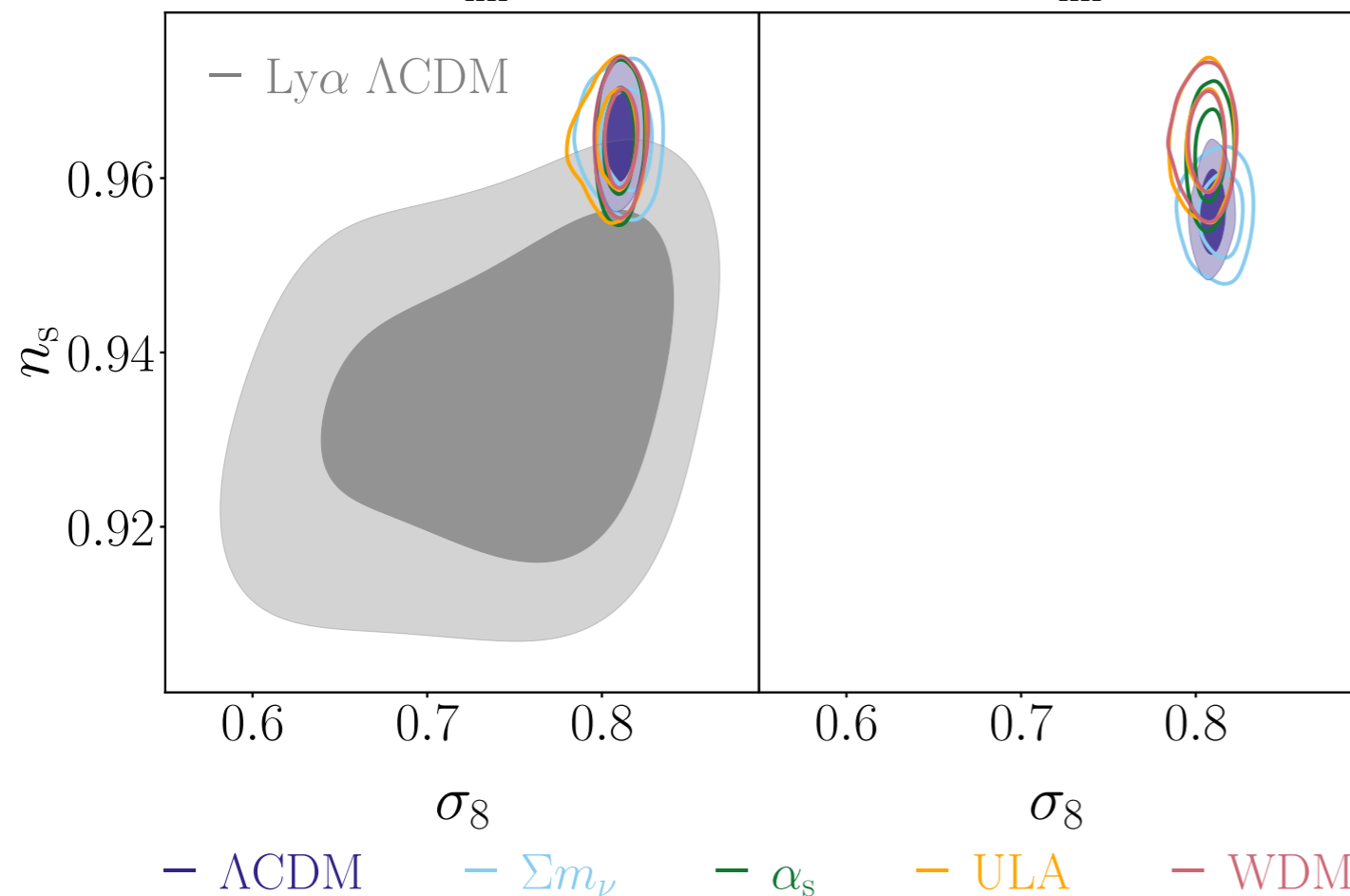
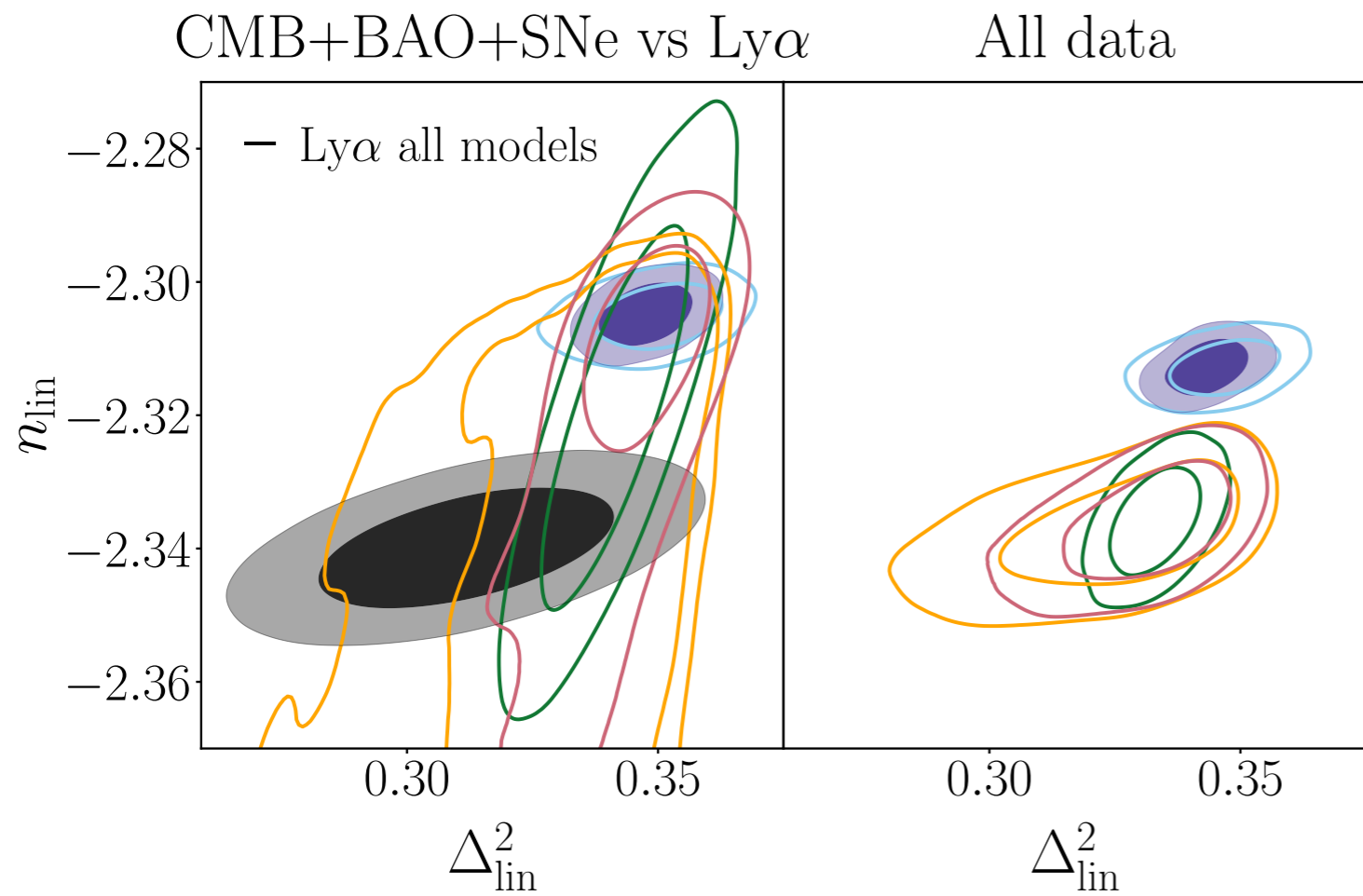


- Ly-alpha forest traces DM & intergalactic medium astrophysics
- ~ 3000 CPU-hours per simulation in 12-D parameter space
- $\Rightarrow$  need ML-accelerated **emulator**



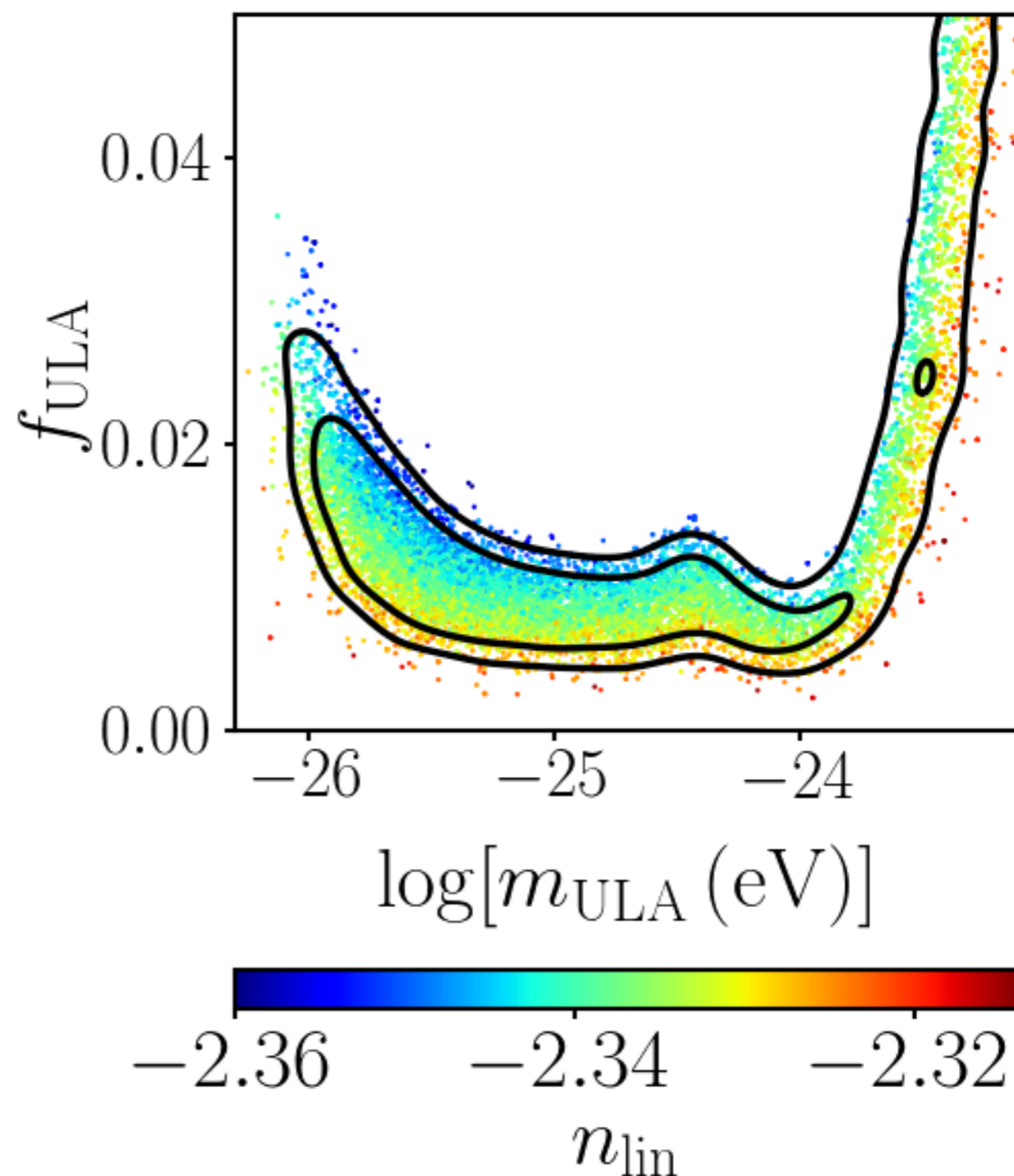
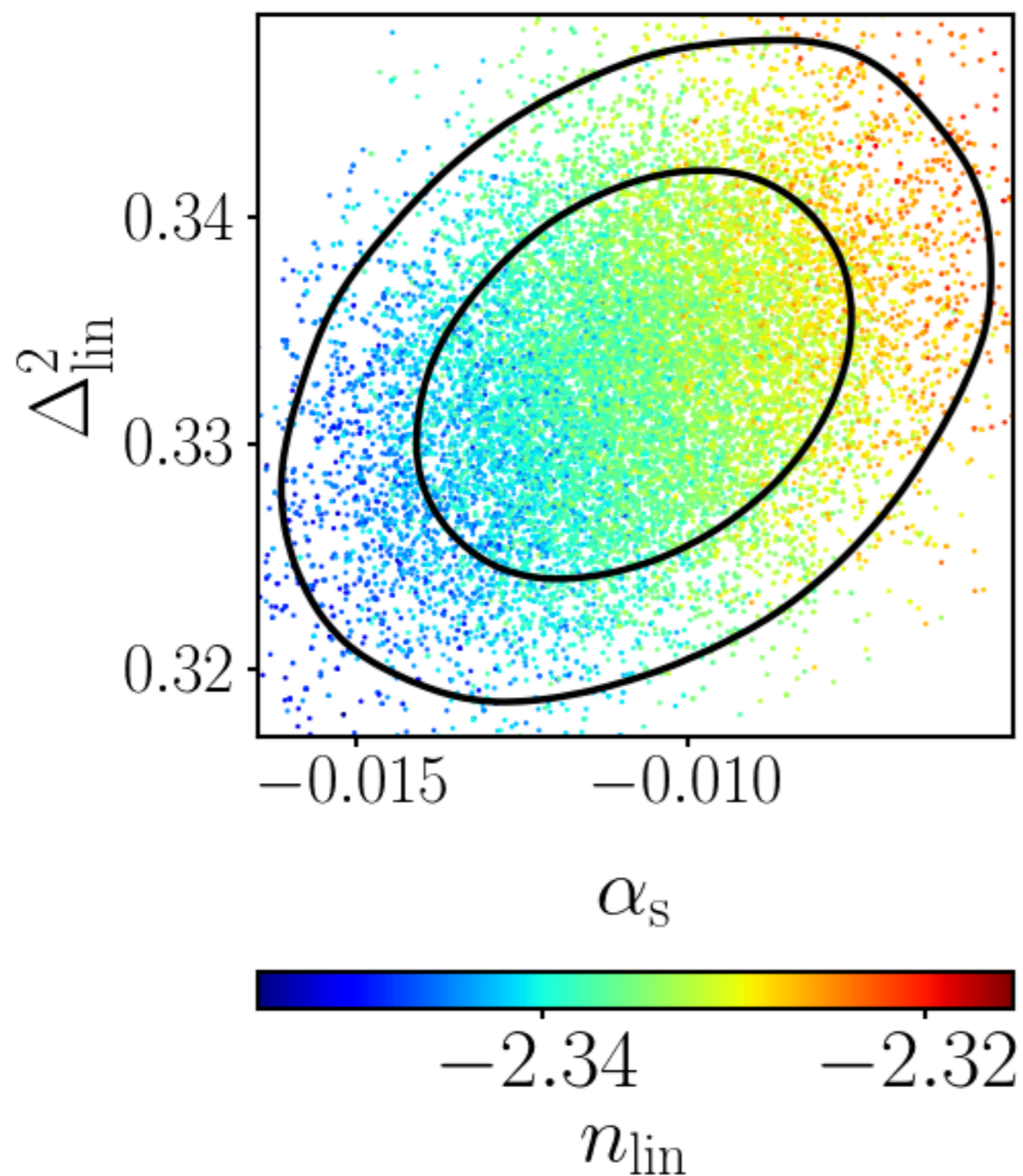


**4.9 $\sigma$  tension**  
**between**  
**eBOSS Ly- $\alpha$ f &**  
***Planck* CMB**

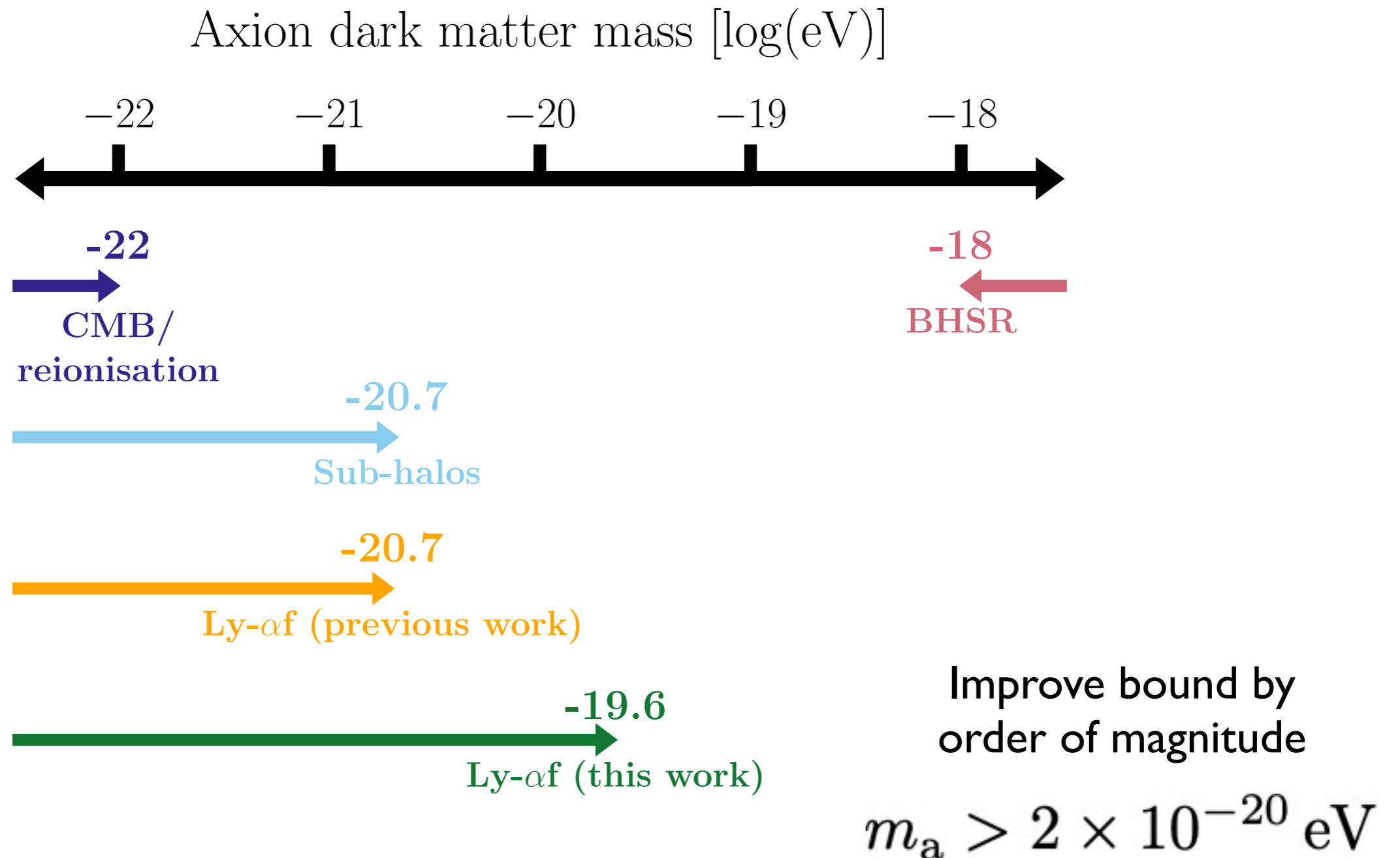


**Power spectrum  
running:  $0.92\sigma$ ;  
ultra-light axions:  $0.56\sigma$**

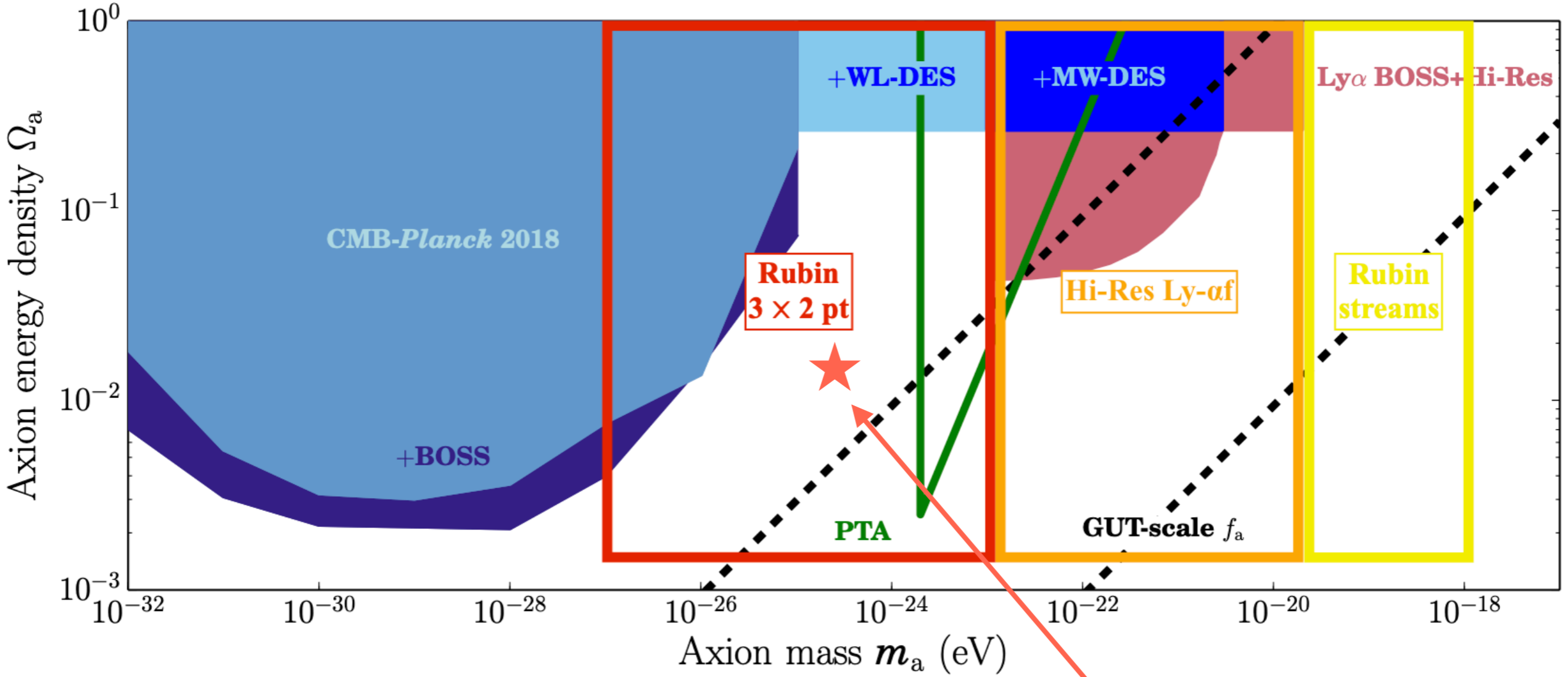
# Planck CMB + BAO + SNe + eBOSS Lyman- $\alpha$ forest constraints on running and ultra-light axion DM



# Traditional “small-scale crisis” axion ruled out — but axiverse compatible with data



# Multi-probe approach to detect ultra-light axions



Improve consistency between CMB & LSS

# Summary

- **Joint analysis of CMB & large-scale structure** strengthens axion sensitivity
- **$5\sigma$  tension between CMB & Ly- $\alpha$ f** alleviated by small-scale suppression
- *Rubin* and DESI data poised to **disentangle DM effects and astrophysics**