



COSMIC PROBES OF THE DARK SECTOR: A THEORY PERSPECTIVE

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THE POINT:

Cosmic probes still have something to say about dark matter!

Astrophysics is an *essential* probe of particle physics.

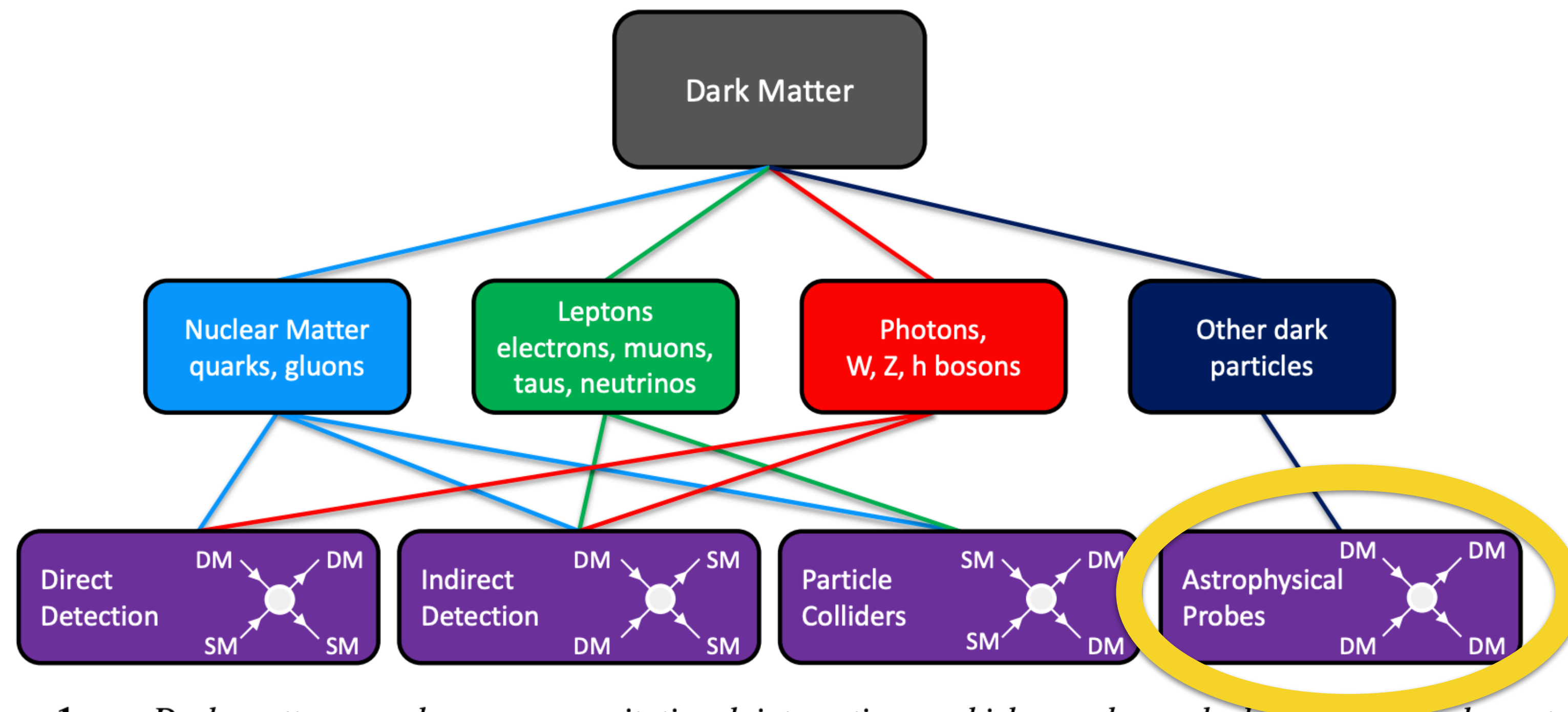
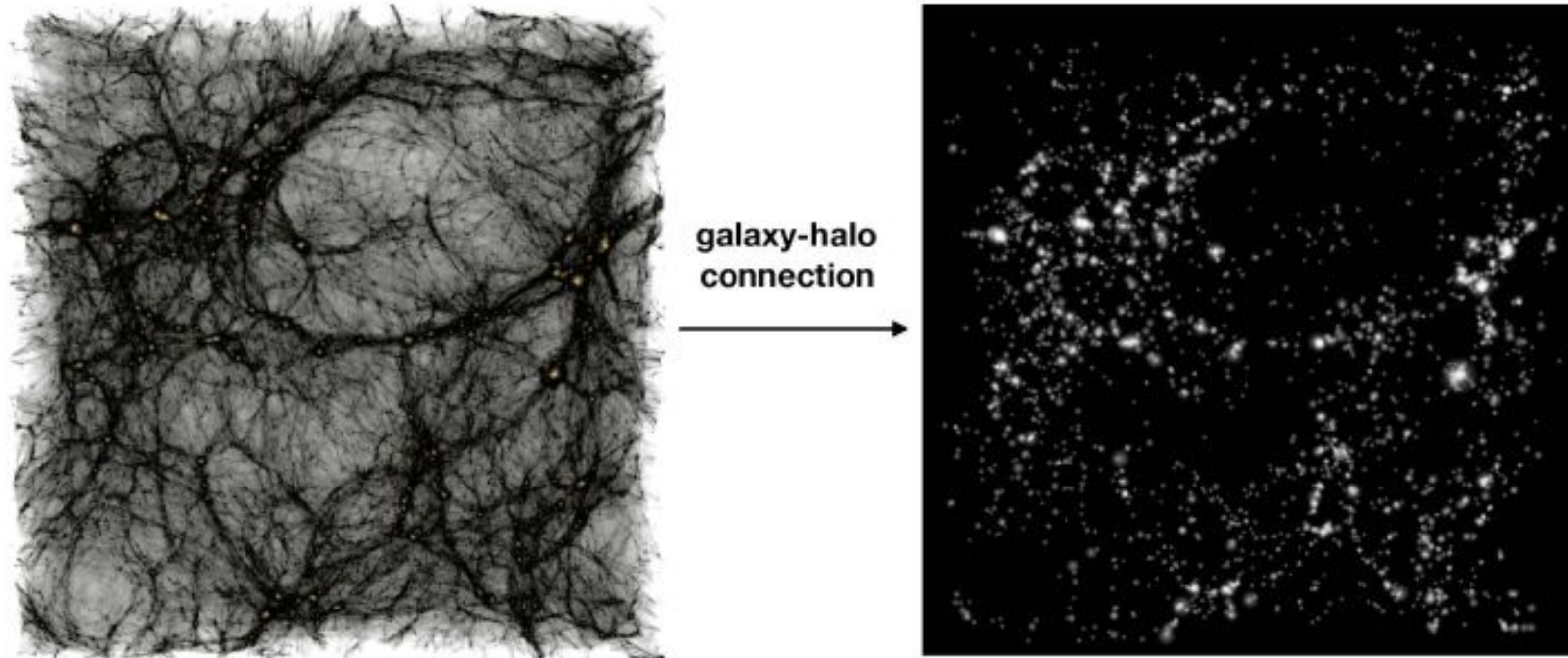


Figure 1. *Dark matter may have non-gravitational interactions, which can be probed by four complementary approaches: direct detection, indirect detection, particle colliders, and astrophysical probes. The lines connect the experimental approaches with the categories of particles that they most stringently probe (additional lines can be drawn in specific model scenarios). Figure taken from the Snowmass CF4 Report (Bauer et al., 2015).*

The galaxy-halo connection



Approaches to modeling the galaxy-halo connection

← physical models		empirical models →		
Hydrodynamical Simulations	Semi-analytic Models	Empirical Forward Modeling	Subhalo Abundance Modeling	Halo Occupation Models
Simulate halos & gas; Star formation & feedback recipes	Evolution of density peaks plus recipes for gas cooling, star formation, feedback	Evolution of density peaks plus parameterized star formation rates	Density peaks (halos & subhalos) plus assumptions about galaxy—(sub)halo connection	Collapsed objects (halos) plus model for distribution of galaxy number given host halo properties

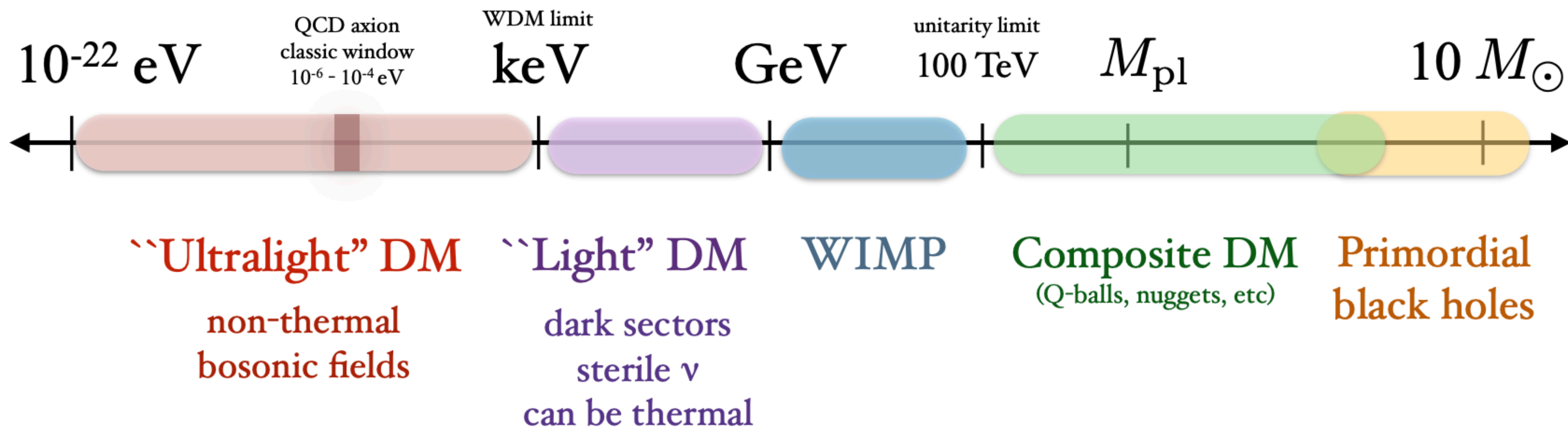
Angular Momentum in the Halo



t = 1.1 Gyr
z = 5.28

Mass scale of dark matter

(not to scale)



Axion, ALP, Fuzzy DM

- **QCD axions**: made in the early ($z \gg 1100$) universe ($\sim 10^{-5}$ eV or 10^{-41} kg)
- **Axion-like particles (ALPs)/Ultralight Axions/Fuzzy Dark Matter**: motivated by string theory, don't solve Strong CP! ($\sim 10^{-33}$ - 10^{-18} eV)
- **all: scalars (bosons) with a sinusoidal potential**

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

Bose-Einstein Condensates in Space?

time evolution

$$i \dot{\psi} = -\frac{1}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{\lambda}{8m^2} |\psi|^2 \psi - Gm^2 \psi \int d^3 x' \frac{|\psi(x')|^2}{|x - x'|}$$

Kinetic term

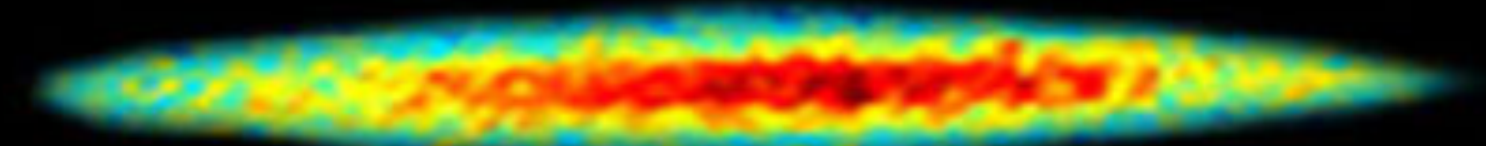
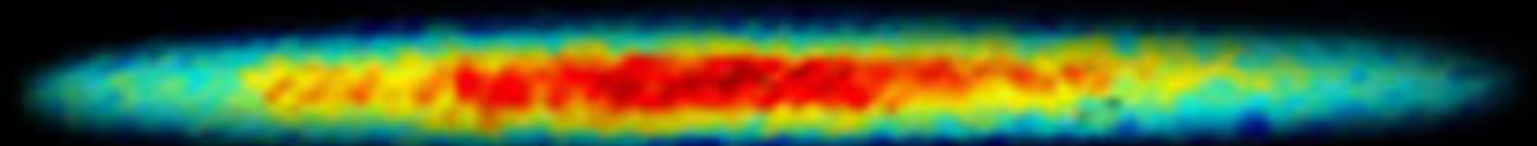
Self-interaction, with coupling constant λ

Gravitational interactions

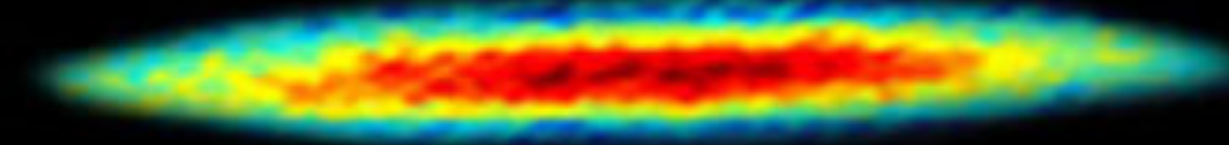
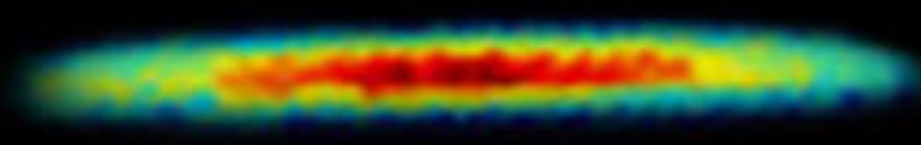
The diagram illustrates the components of the Schrödinger equation for a Bose-Einstein condensate. The equation is written as $i \dot{\psi} = -\frac{1}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{\lambda}{8m^2} |\psi|^2 \psi - Gm^2 \psi \int d^3 x' \frac{|\psi(x')|^2}{|x - x'|}$. Three red arrows point from labels below to the corresponding terms in the equation: 'Kinetic term' points to the Laplacian term, 'Self-interaction, with coupling constant λ ' points to the cubic term, and 'Gravitational interactions' points to the integral term. A red arrow labeled 'time evolution' points to the left side of the equation.

Bosons

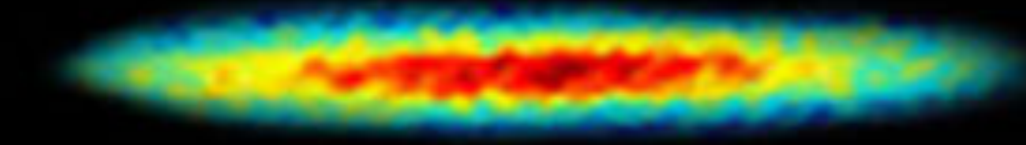
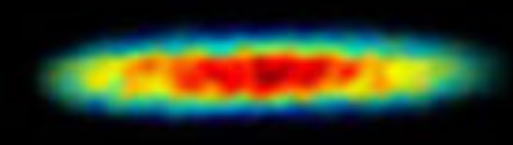
Fermions



810 nK



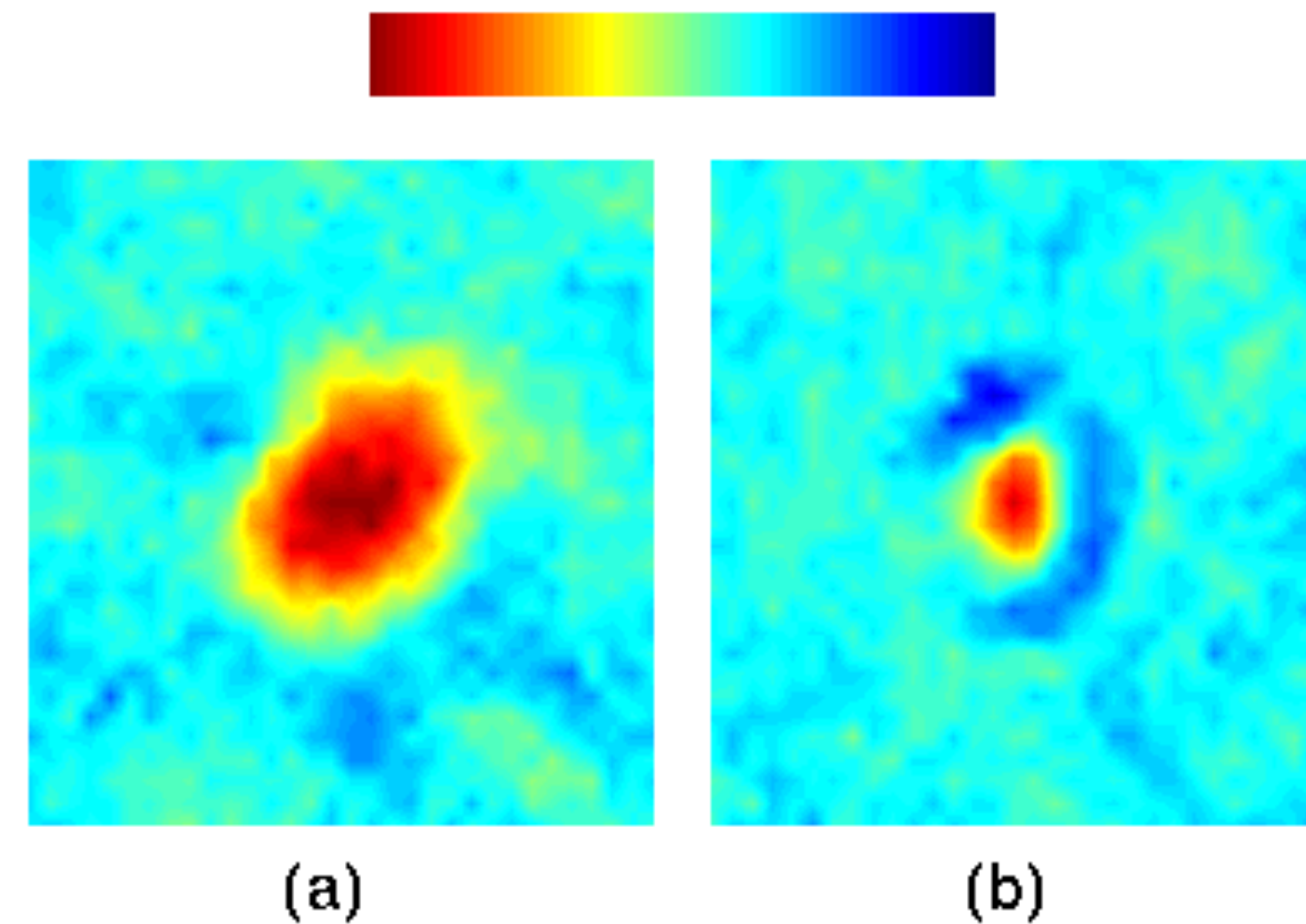
510 nK



240 nK

Lab BEC in Attractive Interactions

- Lithium-7 has 3 protons and 3 electrons \rightarrow boson
- Negative scattering length \rightarrow attractive interaction
- Theory said it should not form a stable BEC
- **But it did! For ~ 1000 atoms or less.**



Hulet Group, Rice University

Does Axion Dark Matter form Bose-Einstein Condensates?

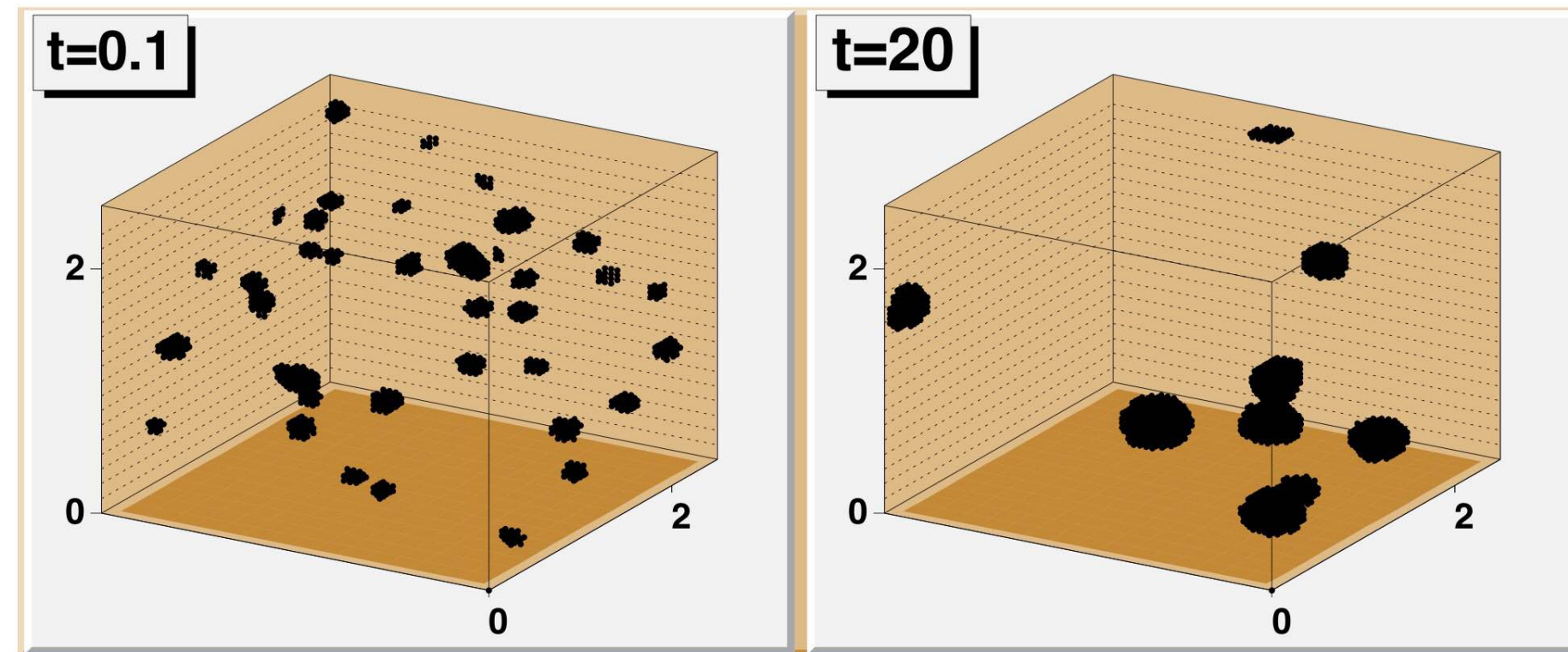
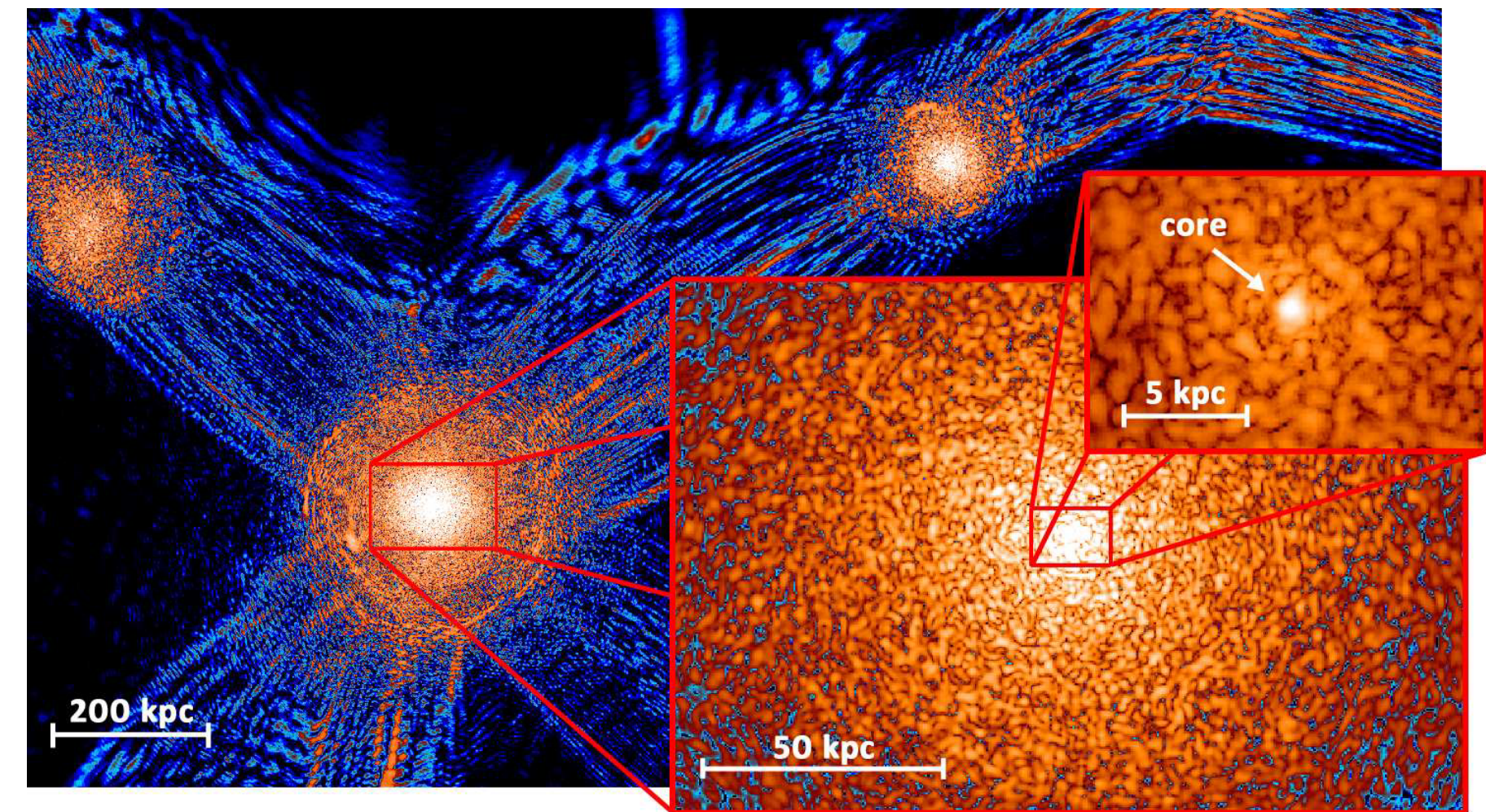


FIG. 1. Drops of dew at different moments of time.

- Yes! (Guth, Hertzberg, & CPW, [arXiv:1412.5930](#))
- QCD: in small, locally-correlated solitons — bose stars/standing waves.



- **Sign of the interaction** and **mass** determines coherence length.
- Ultralight axions: halos with solitons at their core

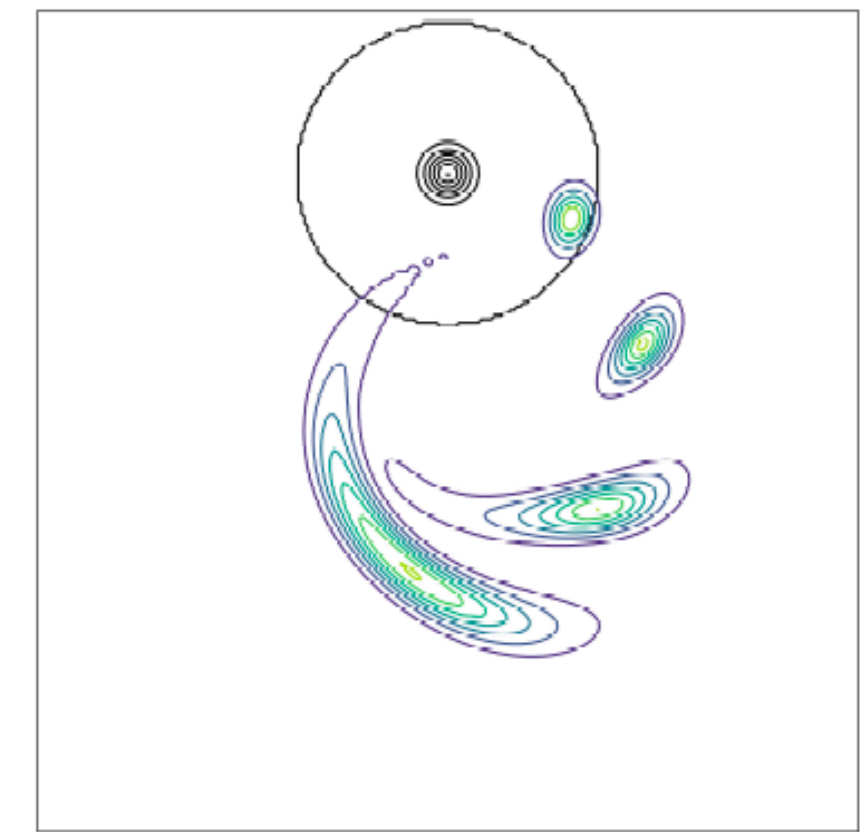
Correctly Modeling Cosmic Axions

- For cosmological purposes is it a classical or quantum field?
- *When* do self-interactions matter?
- Axion evolution is not a standard Boltzmann collision process — **this is a different kind of CDM.**
- We show you need the Wigner formalism: Boltzmann, but for waves

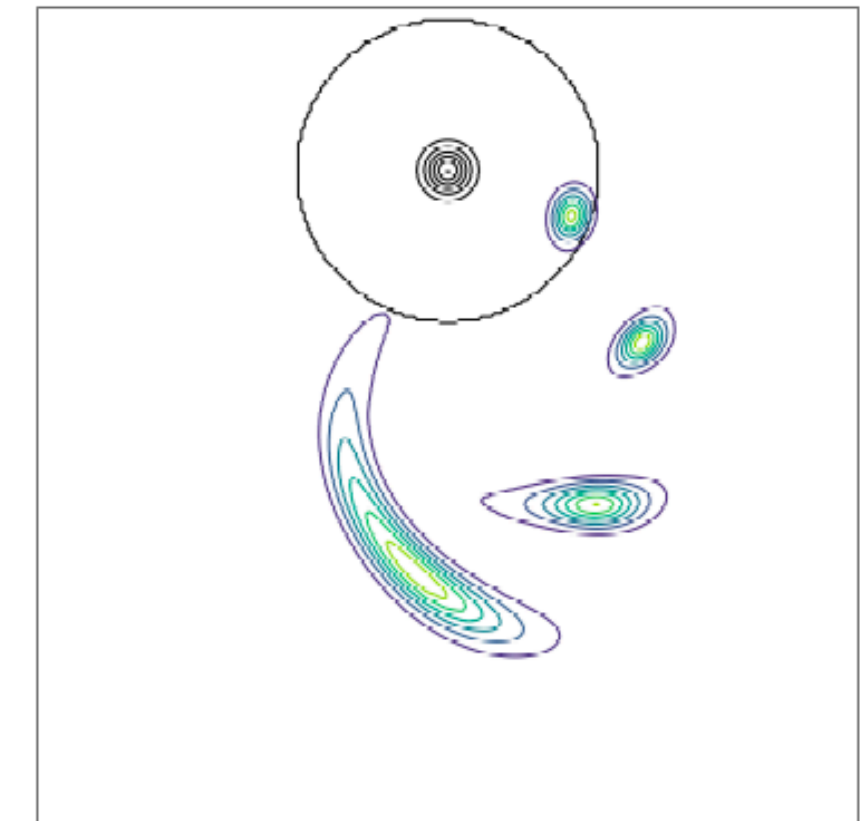
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \left(\frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4\right)$$

Impact of Self-Interactions: A Matter of When

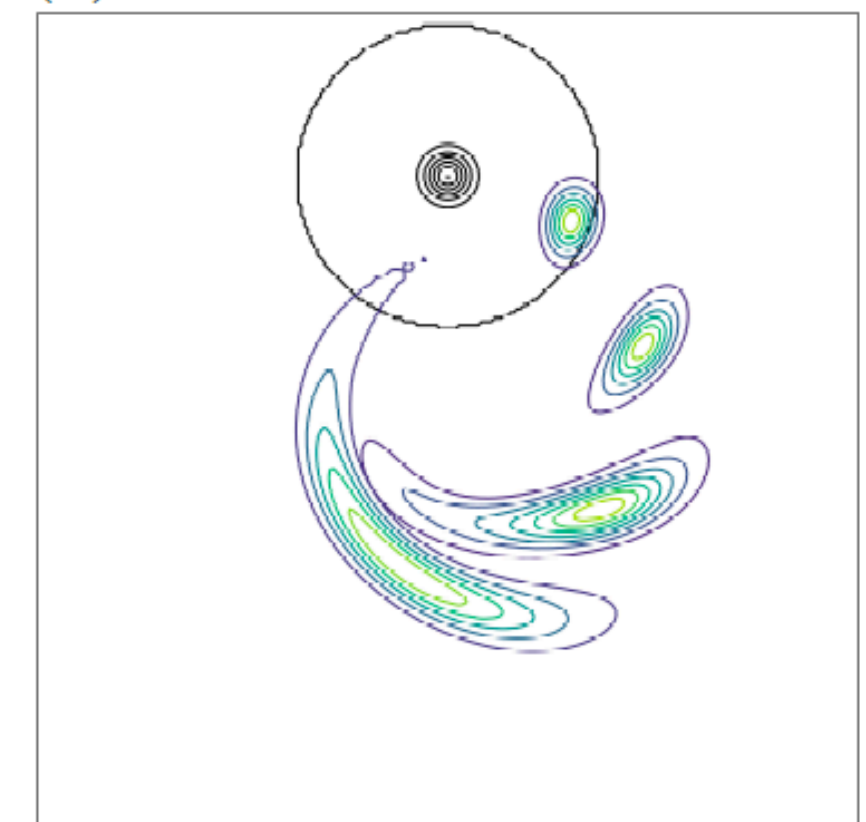
- Self-interactions are subdominant in setting time scale for initial condensation
- Self-interactions are significant for the dynamical evolution of the system:



(a) No self-interactions



(b) Attractive self-interactions



(c) Repulsive self-interactions



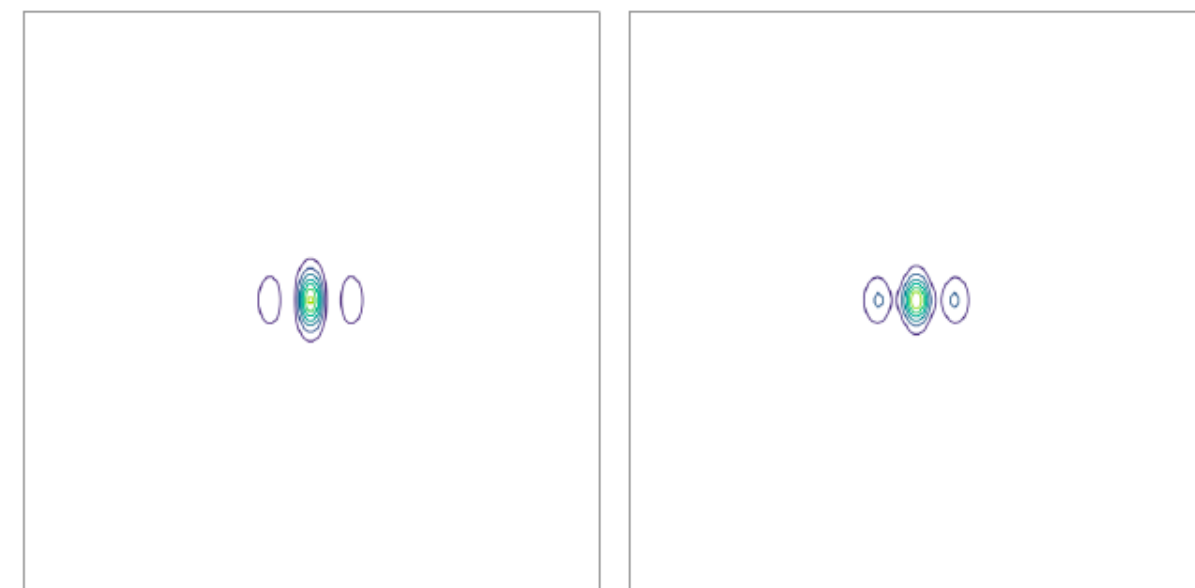
(c) $t = 0.03$

(d) $t = 0.04$



(c) $t = 0.03$

(d) $t = 0.04$



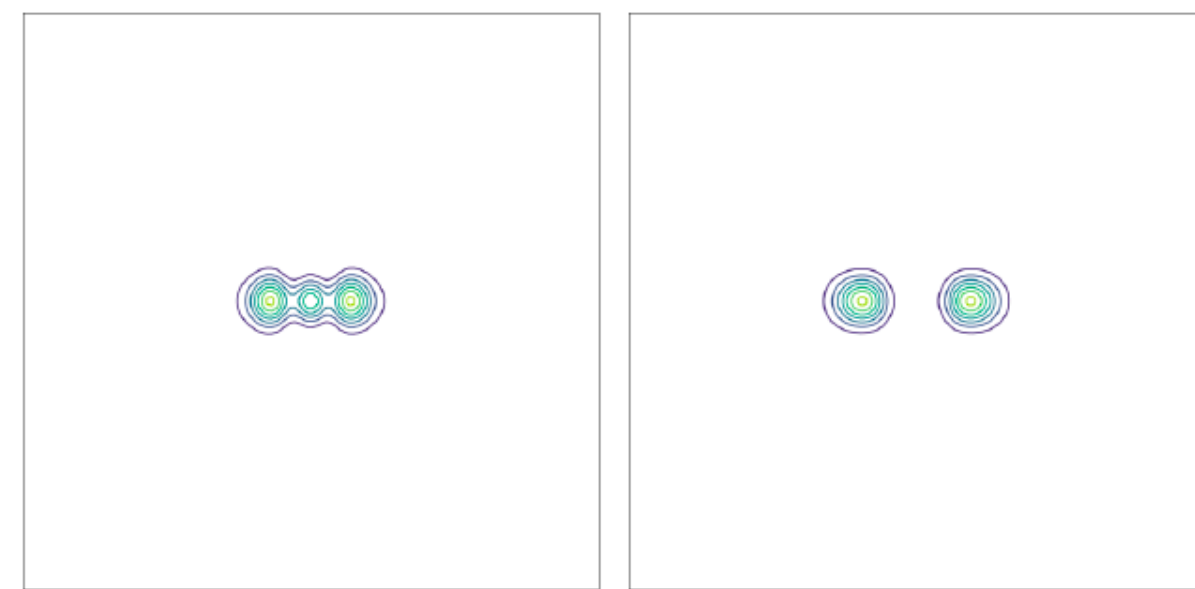
(e) $t = 0.05$

(f) $t = 0.06$



(e) $t = 0.05$

(f) $t = 0.06$



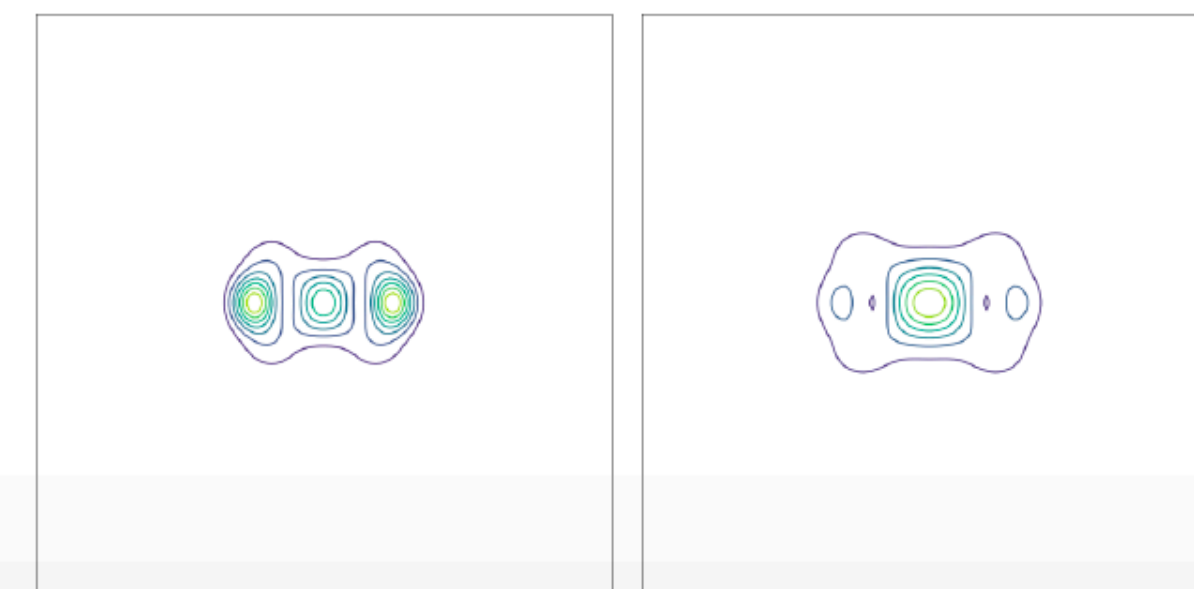
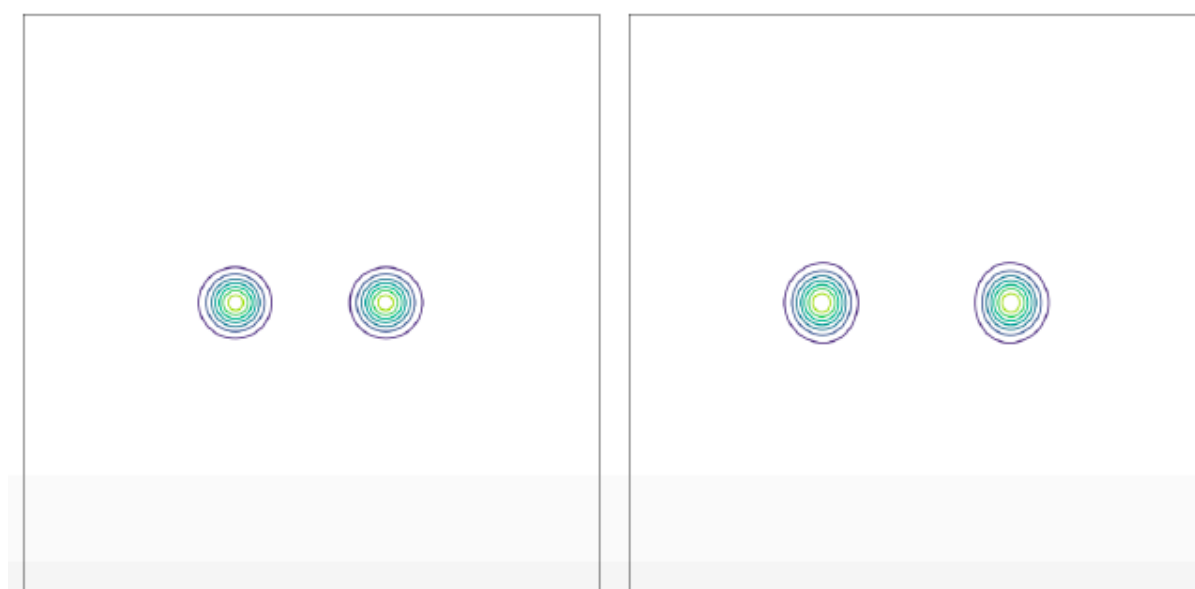
(g) $t = 0.07$

(h) $t = 0.08$



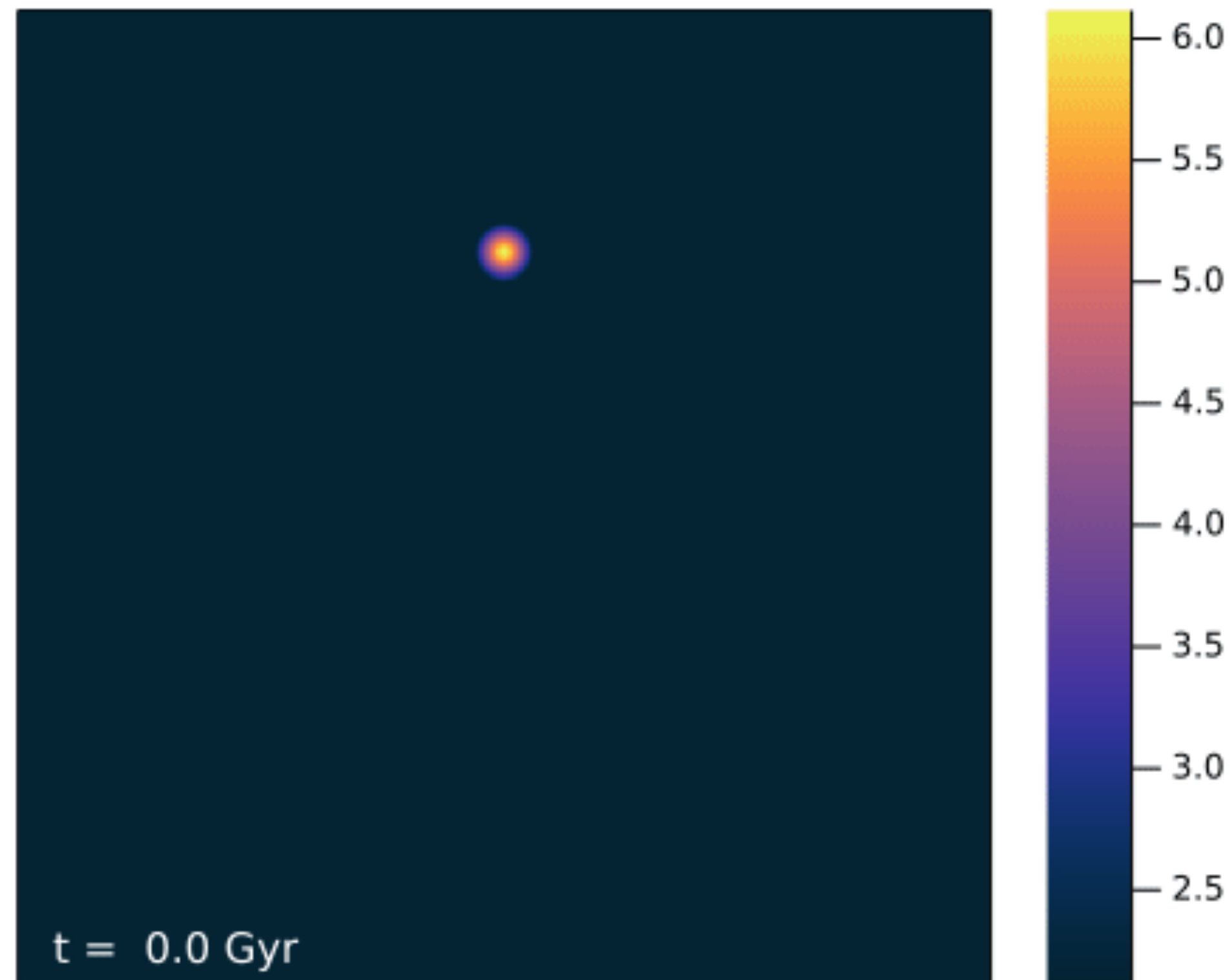
(g) $t = 0.07$

(h) $t = 0.08$

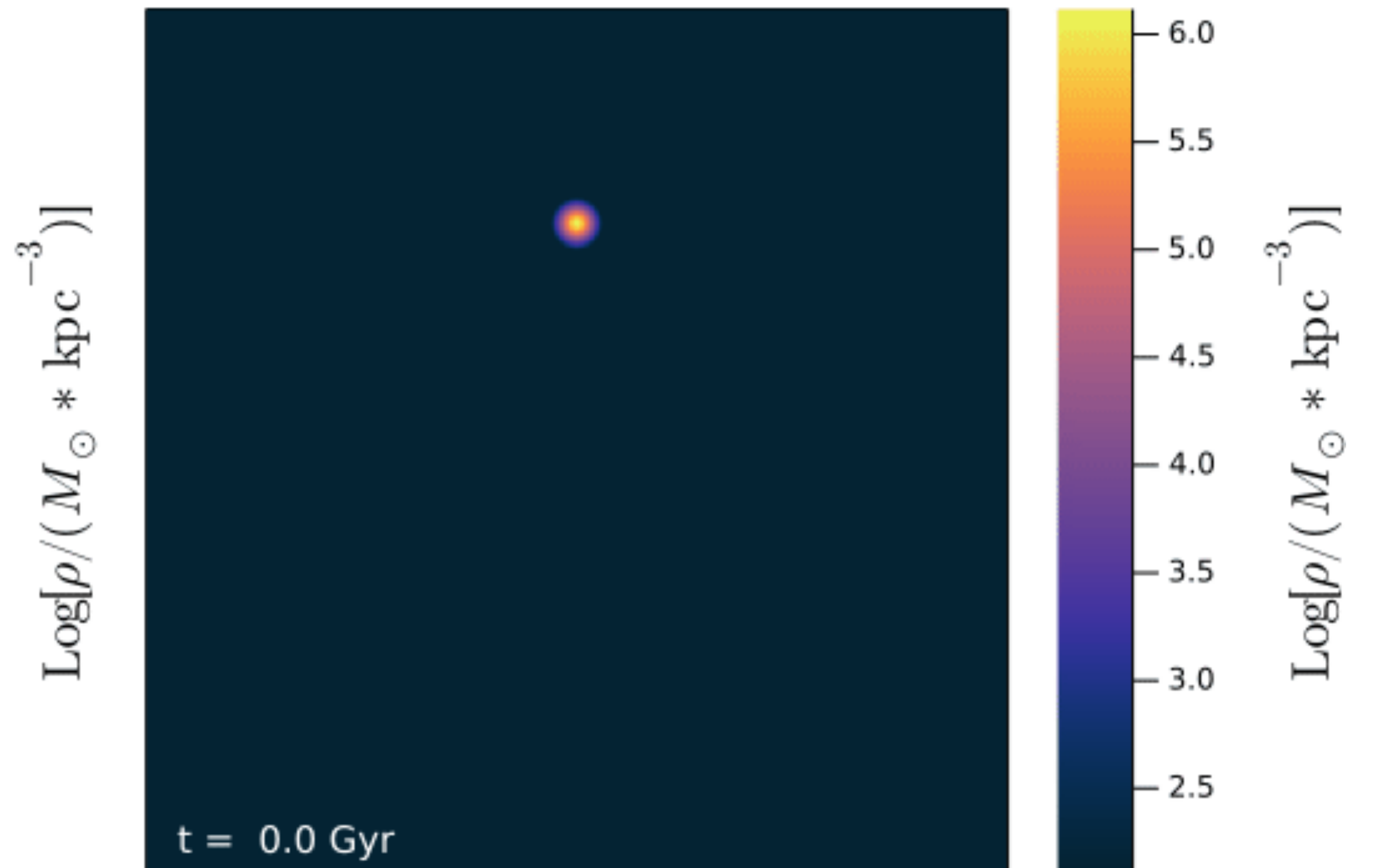


Tidal Stripping Time Depends on Self-Interactions:

Attractive



Repulsive

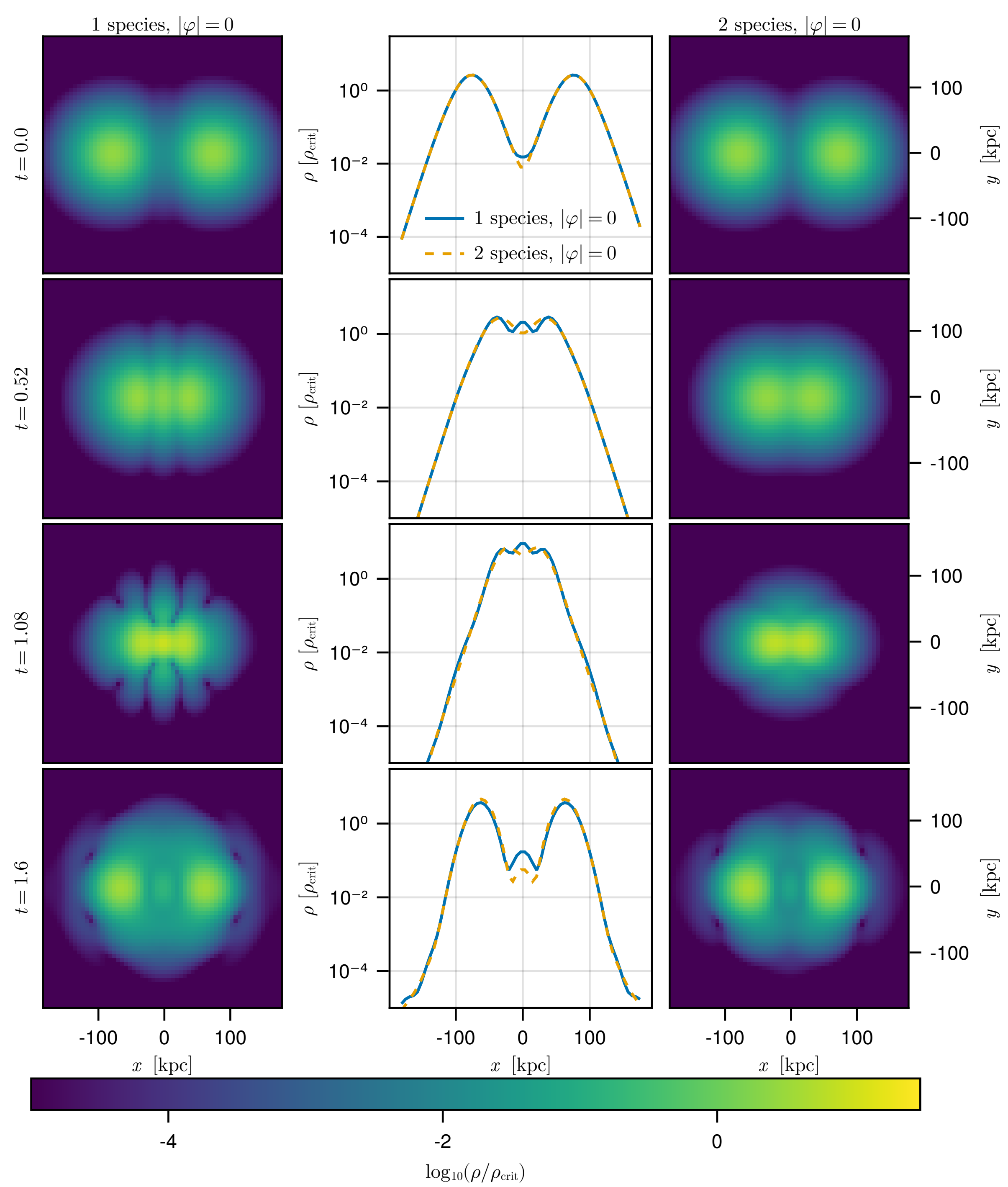


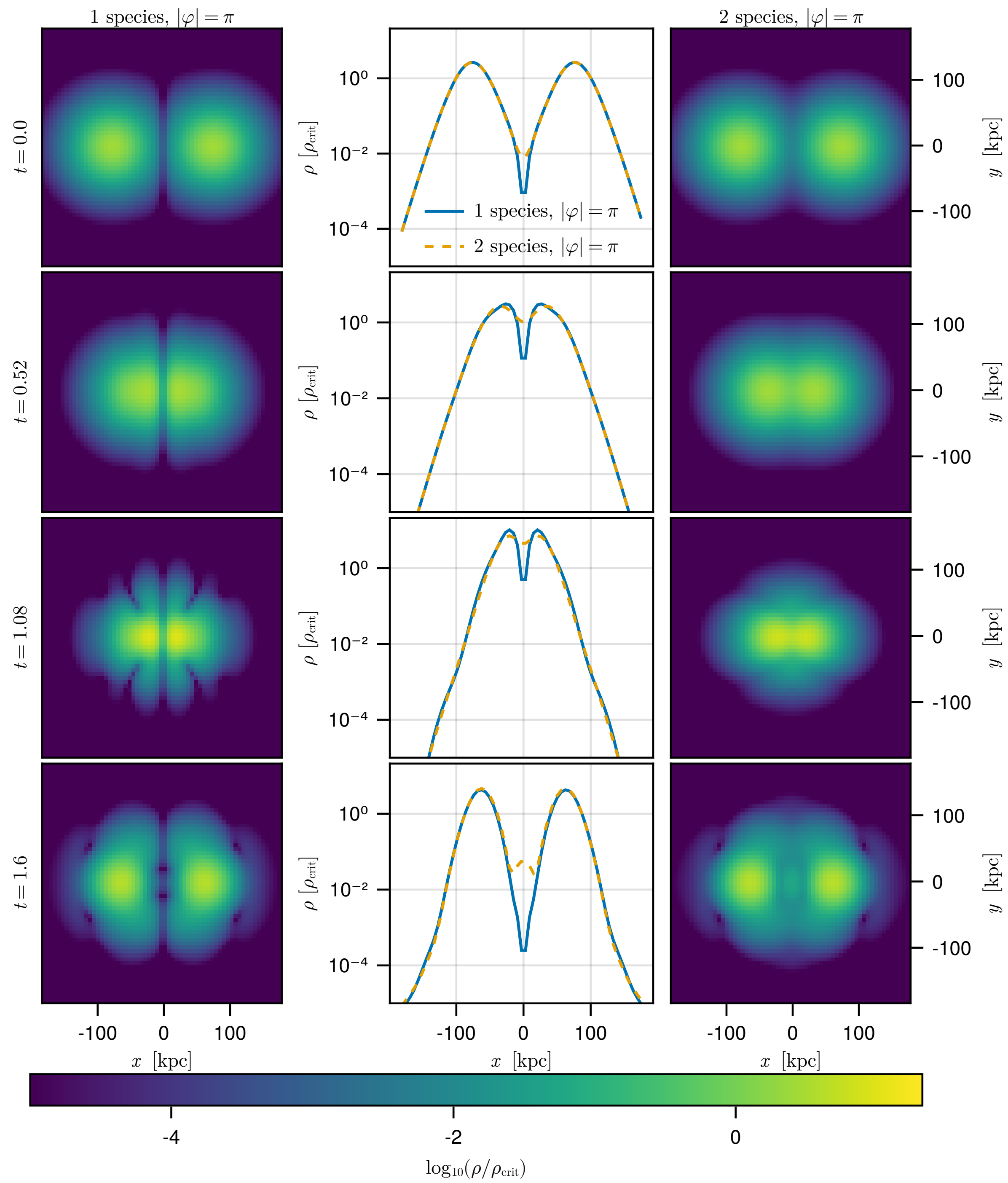
Standard Model of Axions?

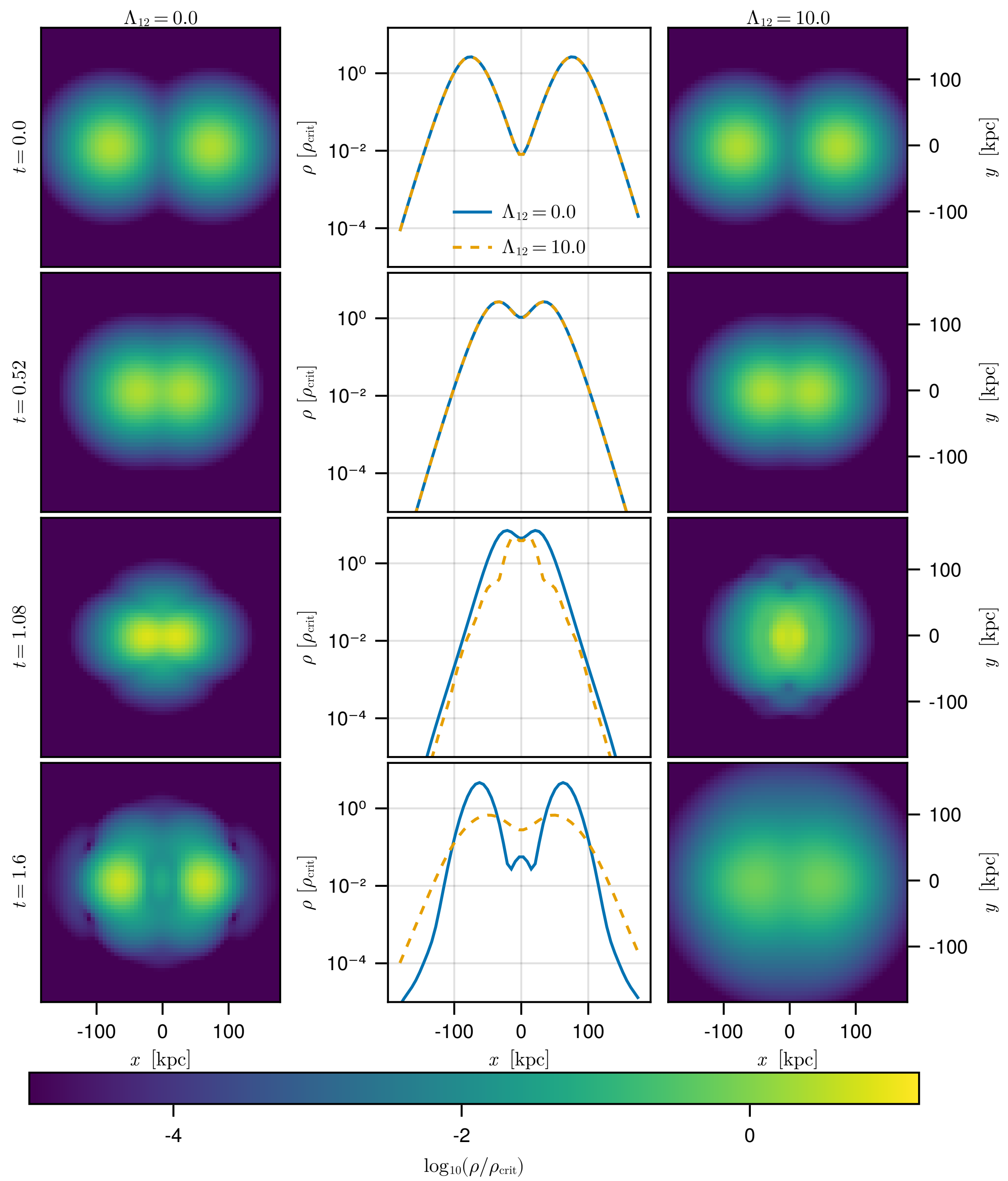
- No reason to believe dark sector is one particle
- Quantum gravity (string theory) motivates us to think past a single solution!
(Arvanitaki et al 2010)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ALP}} = \sum_j \left(-\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi_j \partial_\nu \phi_j - \frac{1}{2} m_j^2 \phi_j^2 \right) - \sum_j \sum_{k \geq j} \lambda_{jk} \phi_j^2 \phi_k^2$$

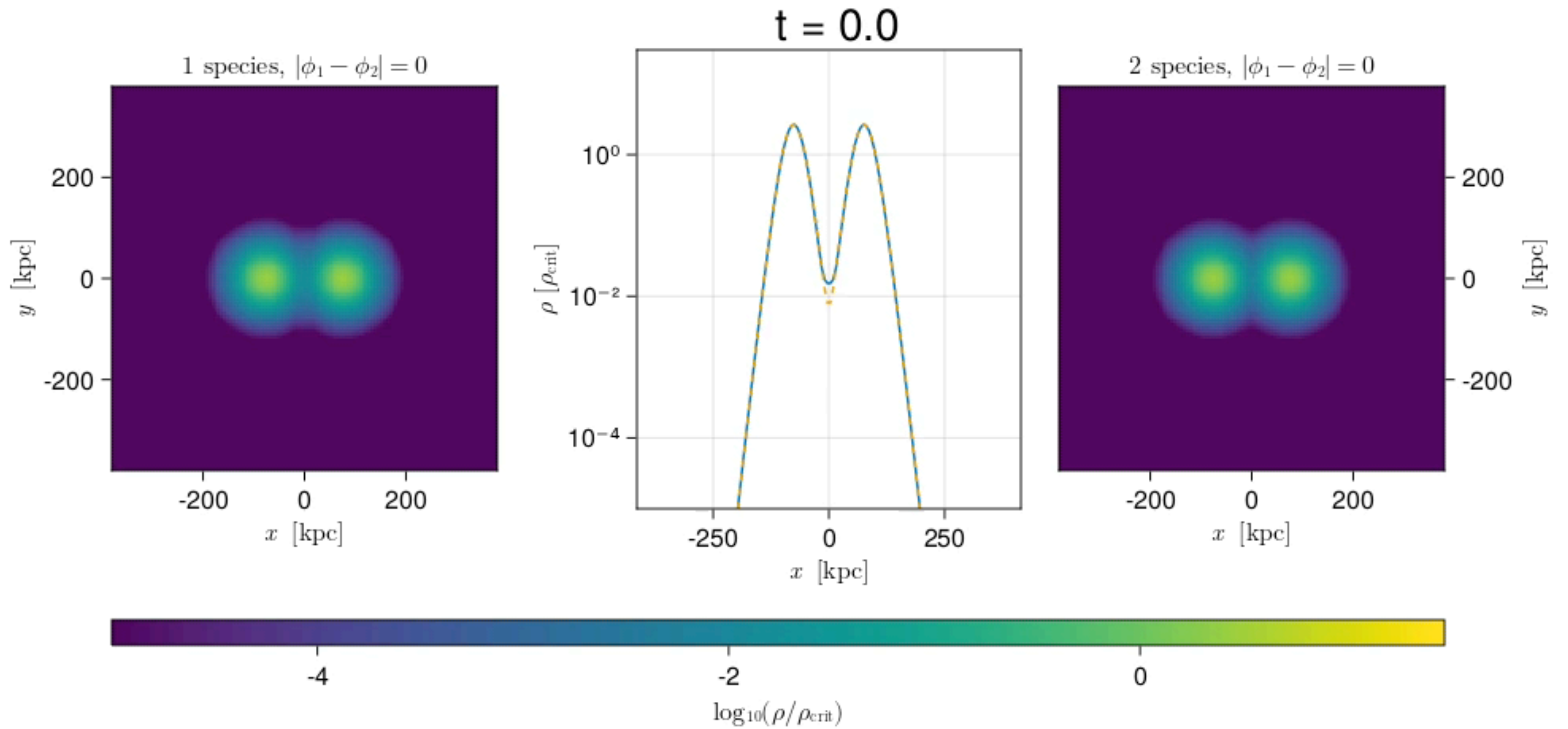
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi_j}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_j a^2} \nabla^2 \psi_j + m_j \Phi \psi_j + \frac{\hbar^3}{2m_j^2 c} \lambda_{jj} |\psi_j|^2 \psi_j + \frac{\hbar^3}{4m_j^2 c} \sum_k \lambda_{jk} |\psi_k|^2 \psi_j$$



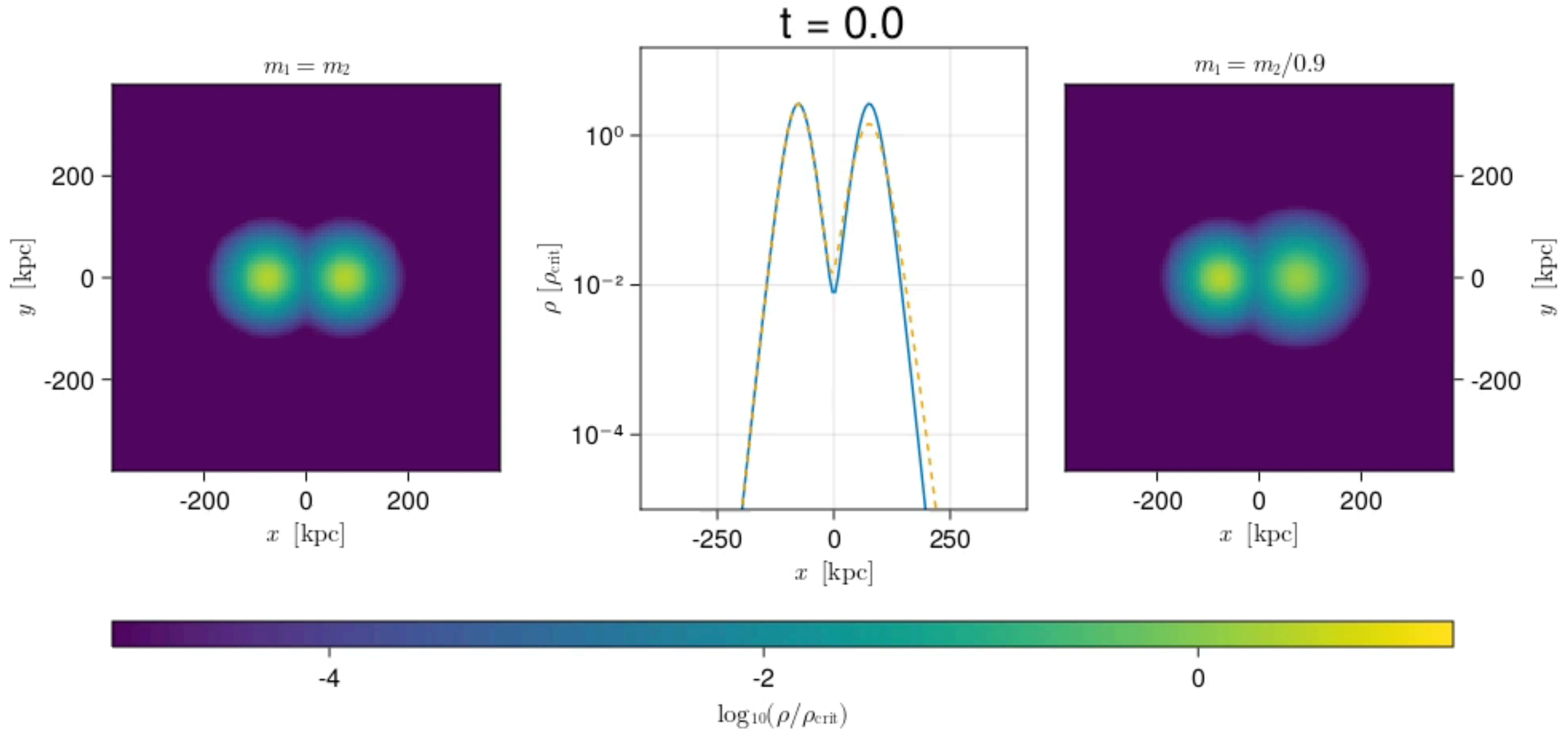




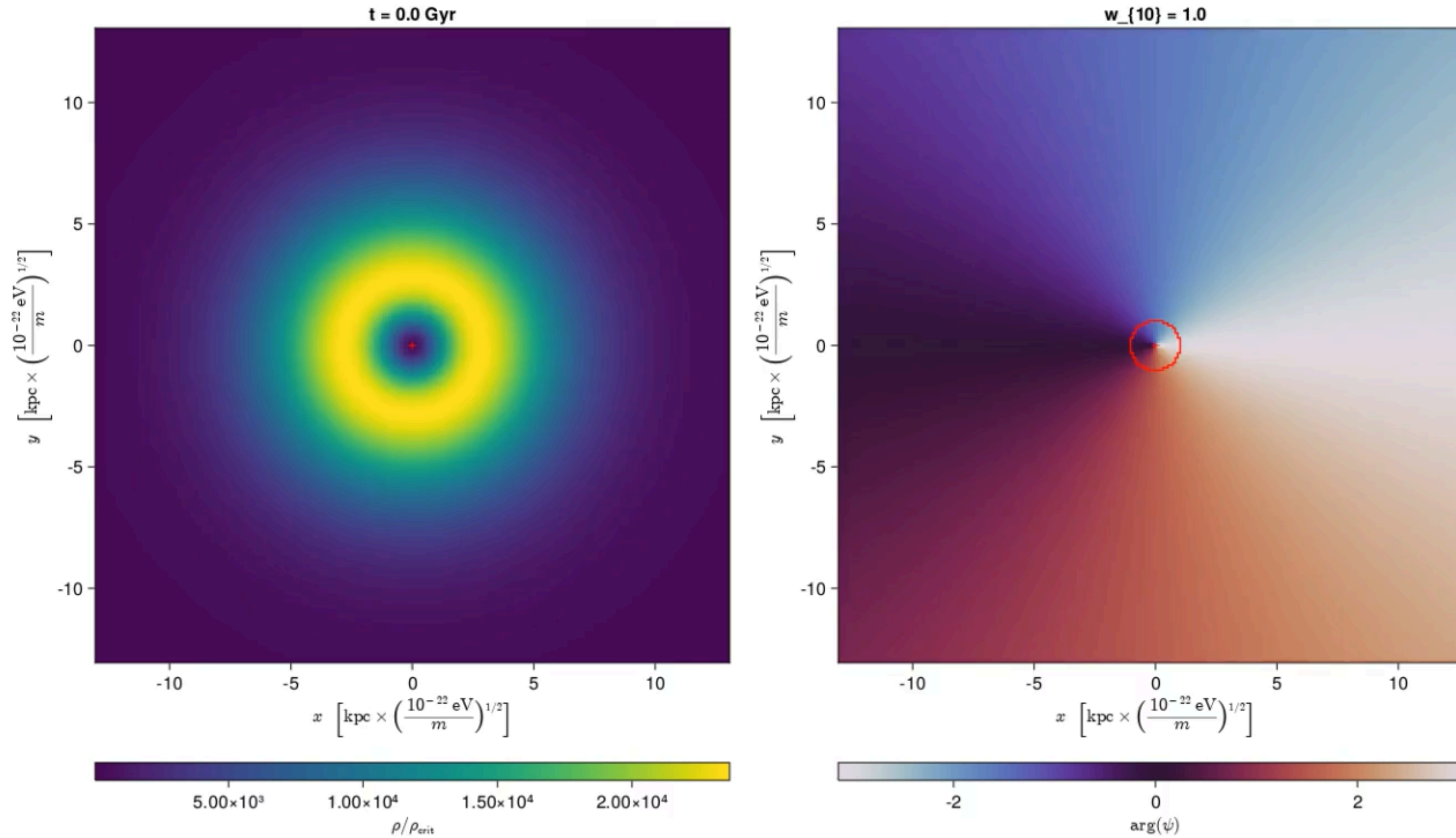
Standard Model of Axions?



Standard Model of Axions?



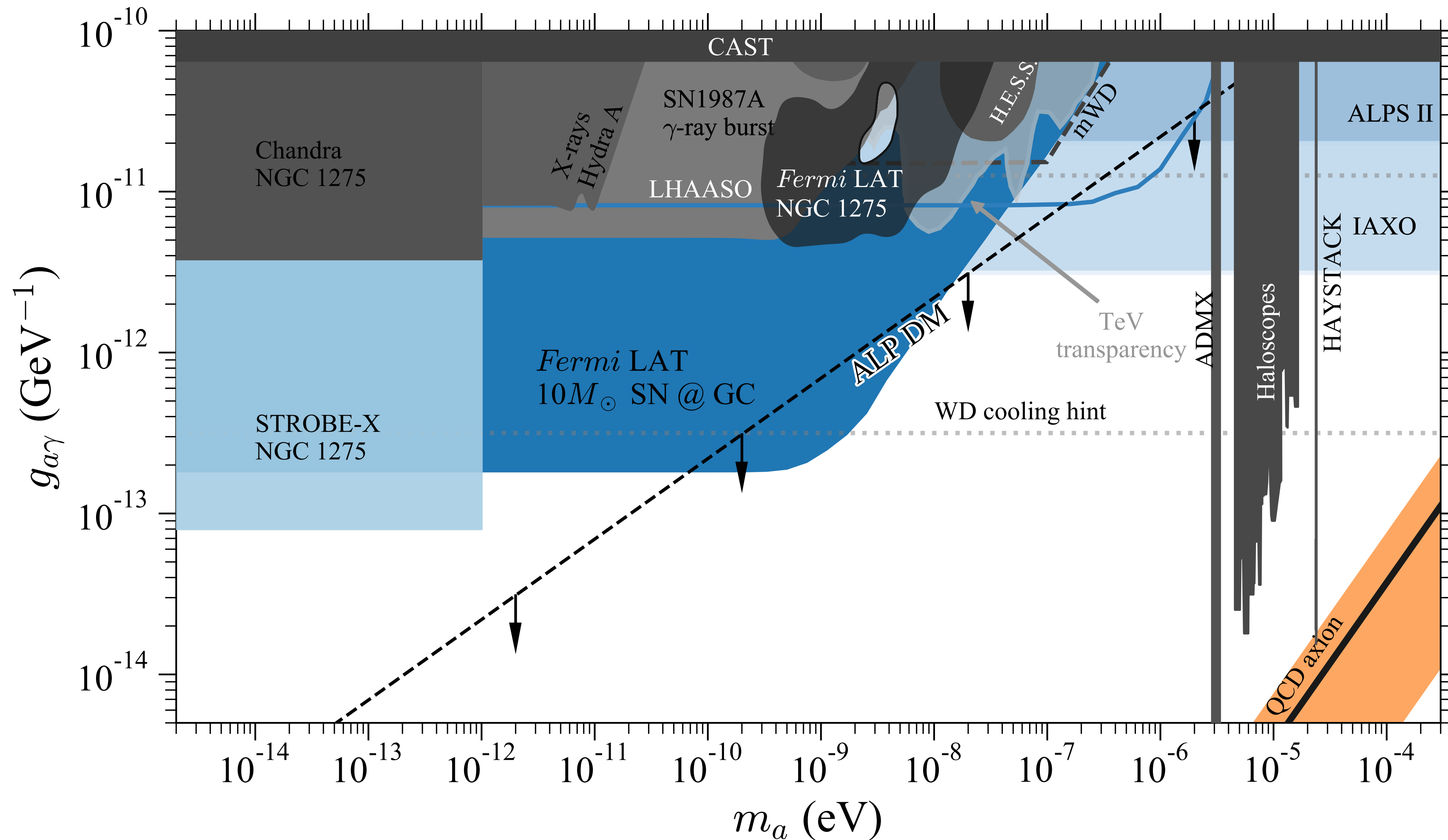
Solving Galactic Rotation?



Creating Stable Vortices in
Axion/Scalar Dark Matter

Glennon, Mirasola, Musoke,
Neyrinck, & CPW [arXiv:2301.13220](https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.13220)

Is HEA the future of HEP?



Team STROBE-Ax, led by CPW, produced for NASA white paper

arxiv:1903.03035

We're just beginning!



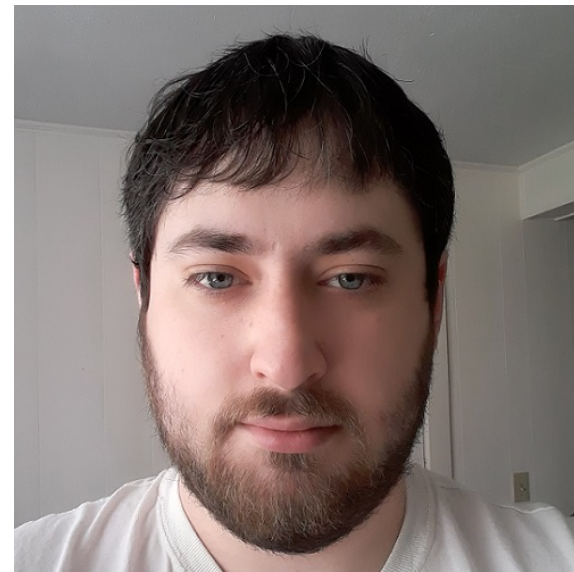
Axions

Vorticity Formation

Analytic formalism

Subhalo dynamics

Lensing observations

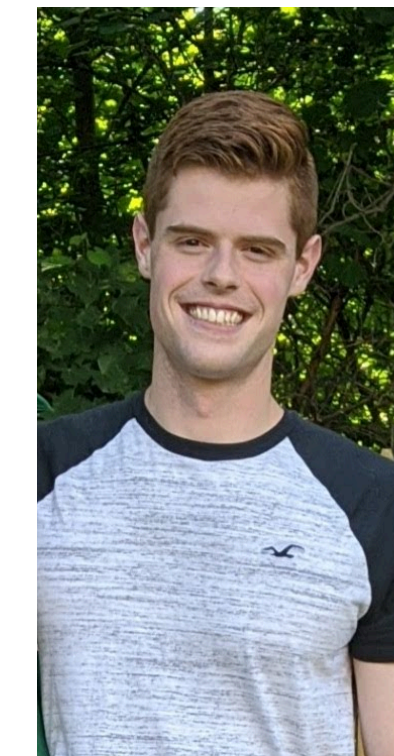


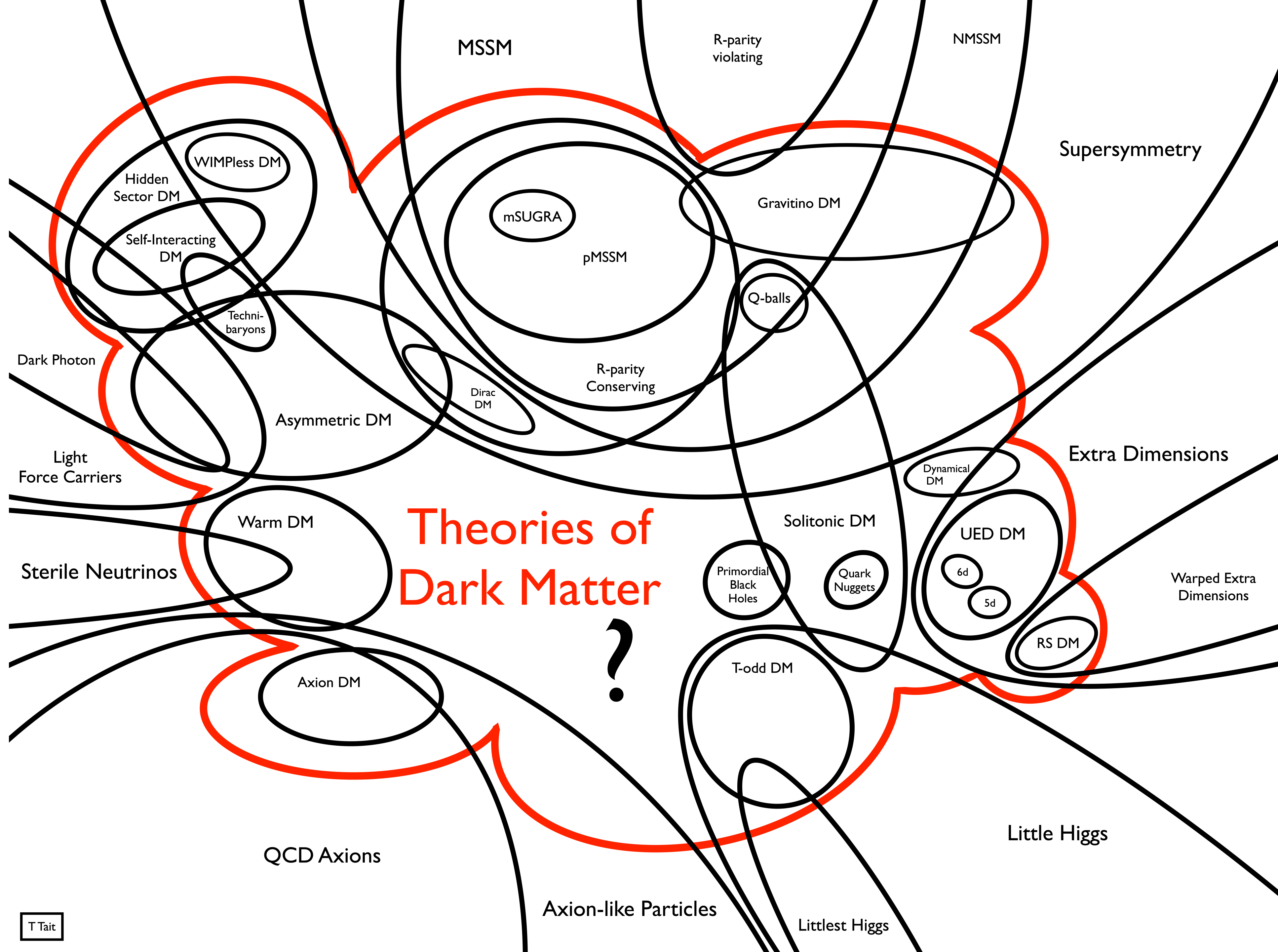
Asymmetric Dark Matter

Neutron star equation of state

With NS mergers?

High-energy Astro observations





Instanton Approximation

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda^4 (1 - \cos(\phi/f_a))$$

Axion potential

The QCD scale ~ 0.1 GeV

**The symmetry
breaking scale/
axion decay
constant**

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4$$

Axion Dark Matter

- Problems in the Standard Model! A neutron electric dipole moment??

$$\theta \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$$

- Solvable by introducing Peccei-Quinn mechanism

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a + \frac{a(x)}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G \tilde{G}$$

-> spin-0 boson, **the axion**

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda^4 (1 - \cos(\phi/f_a))$$

Bose-Einstein Condensates in Space?

time evolution

$$i \dot{\psi} = -\frac{1}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{\lambda}{8m^2} |\psi|^2 \psi - Gm^2 \psi \int d^3 x' \frac{|\psi(x')|^2}{|x - x'|}$$

Kinetic term

Self-interaction, with coupling constant λ

Gravitational interactions

