

Astrophysical searches for dark matter with neural simulation-based inference

Based on 2208.12825; Nguyen, SM, Williams, Necib
arXiv:2110.06931; SM, Cranmer

Siddharth Mishra-Sharma



NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence
and Fundamental Interactions (IAIFI)

Aspen Winter 2023

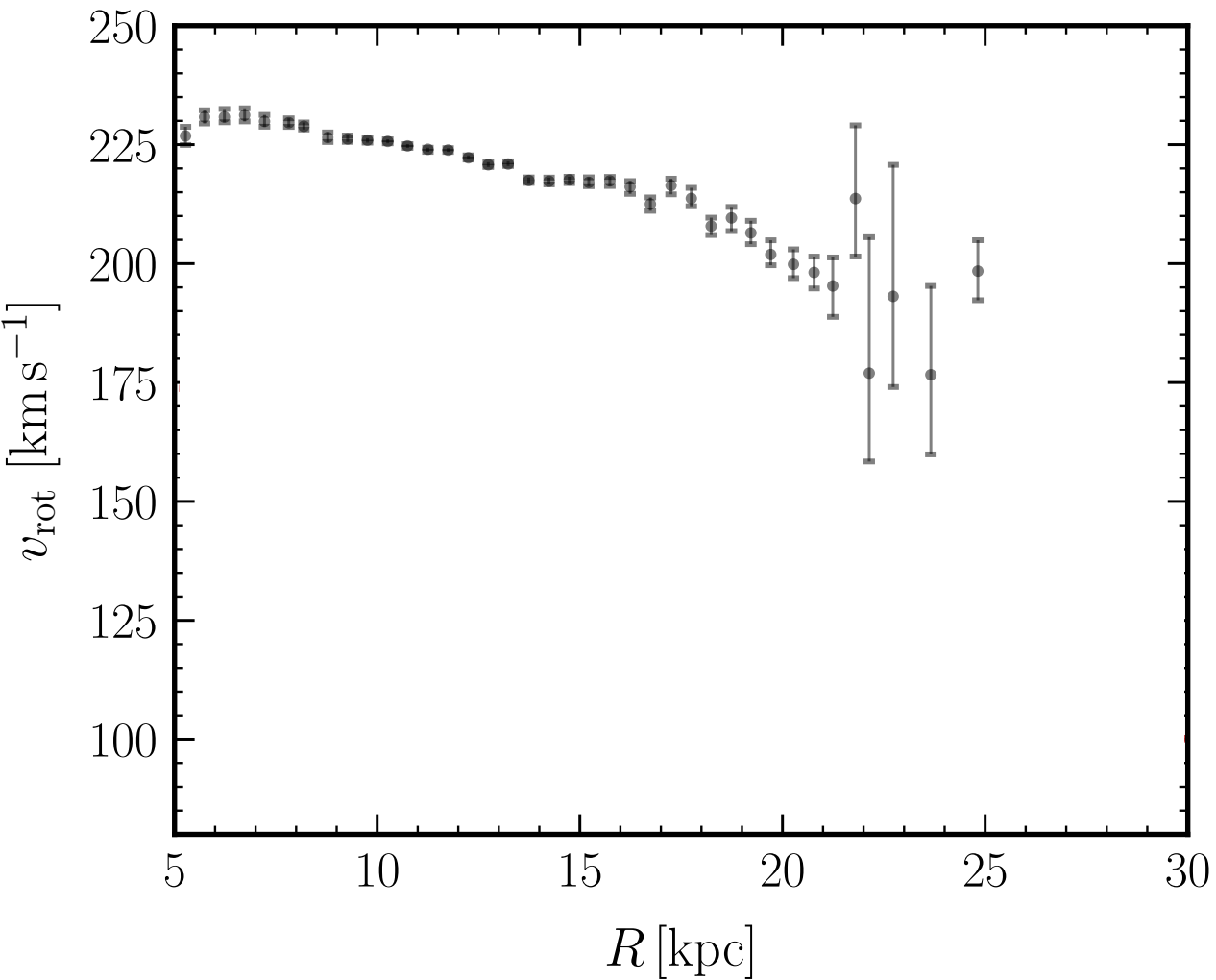
March 29, 2023

Illustrations: *Stable Diffusion*

Inference in astrophysics

Parameters of interests, θ

Data, x
Observations

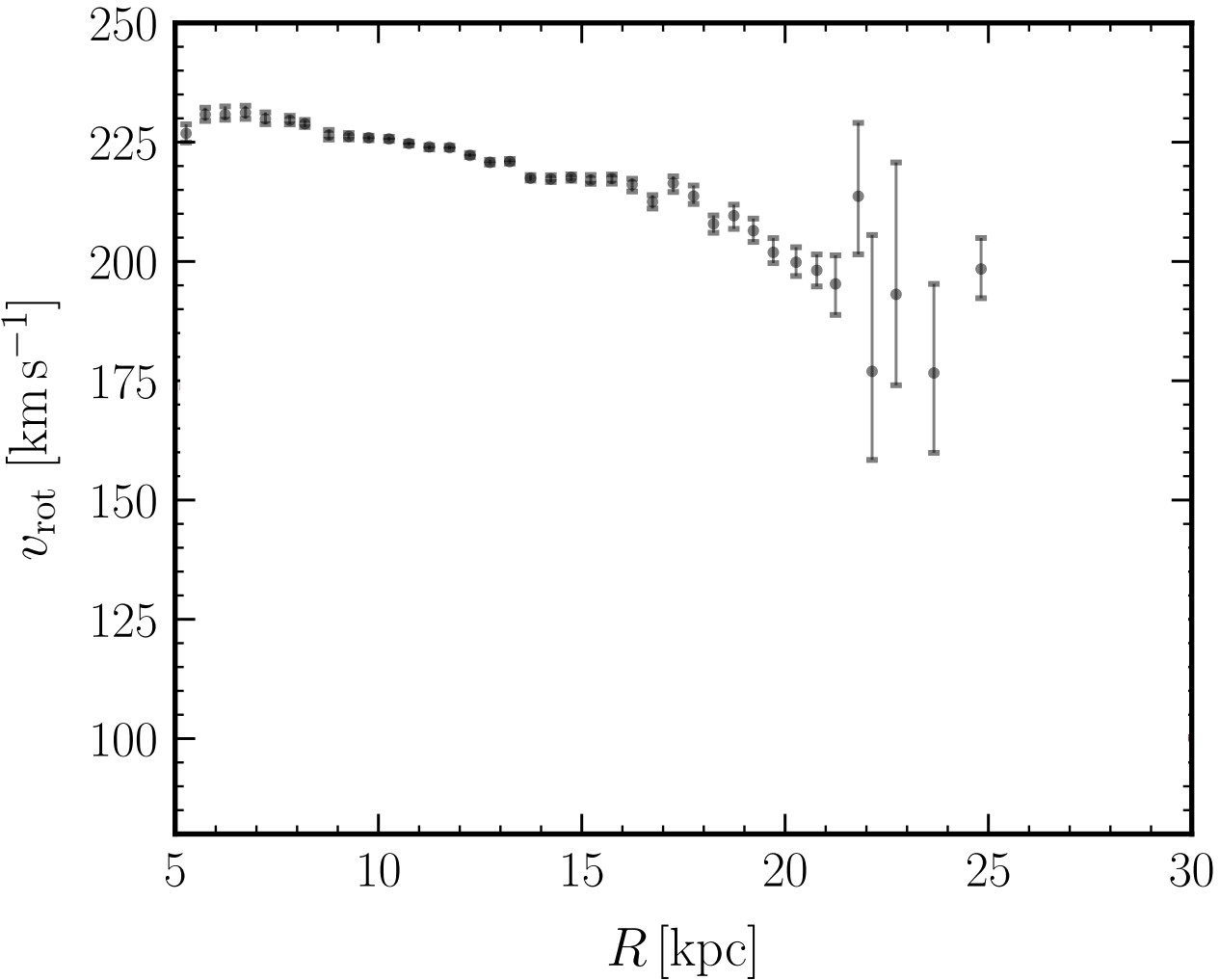


Inference in astrophysics

Parameters of interests, θ

Data, x
Observations

$p(x | \theta)$
Likelihood function



Inference in astrophysics

Parameters of interests, θ

Latent variables, z

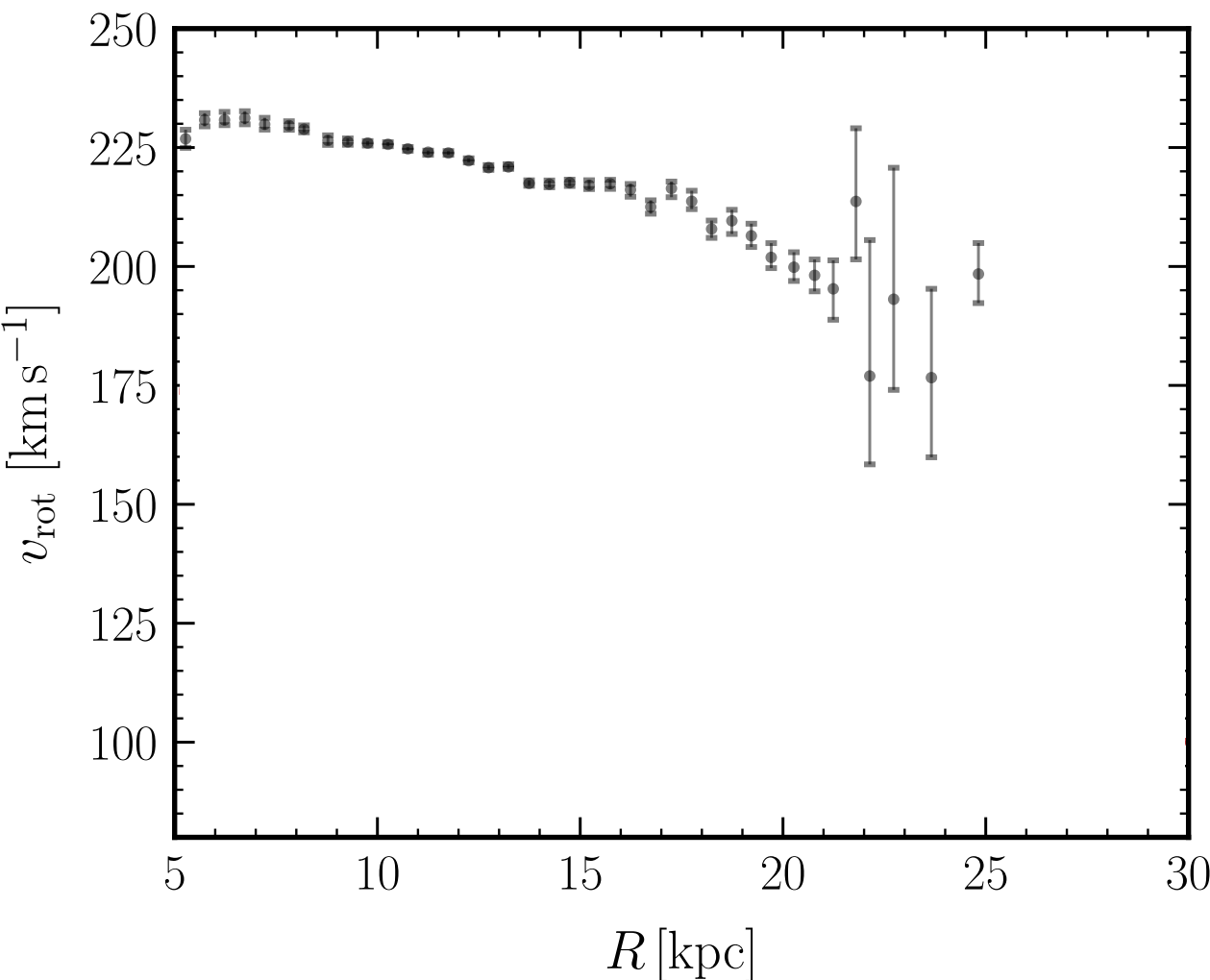
(Modeled) Parameters other than θ which participate in the data-generation process

Data, x

Observations

$$p(x|\theta) = \int dz p(x, z|\theta)$$

Likelihood function



Inference in astrophysics

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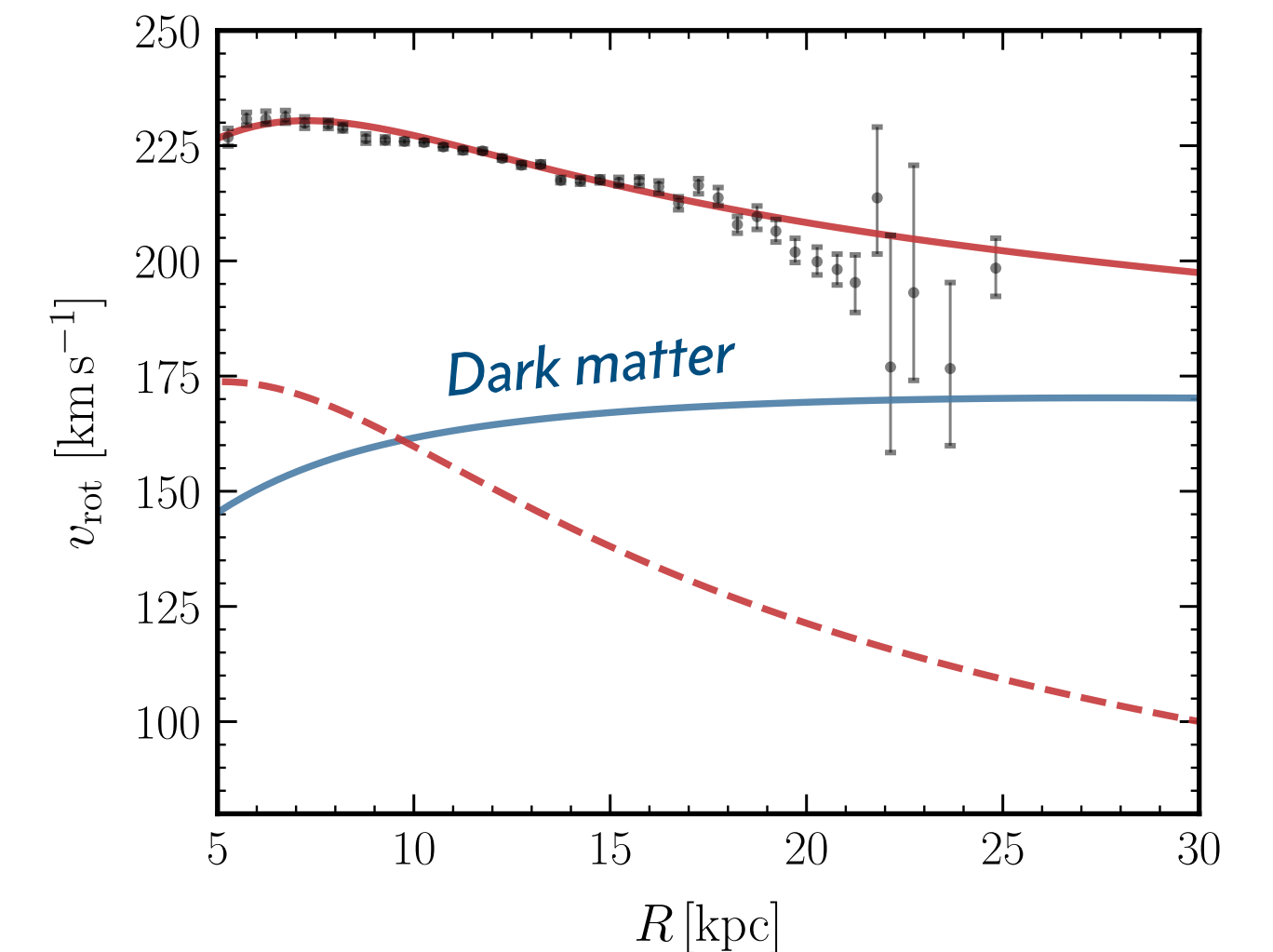
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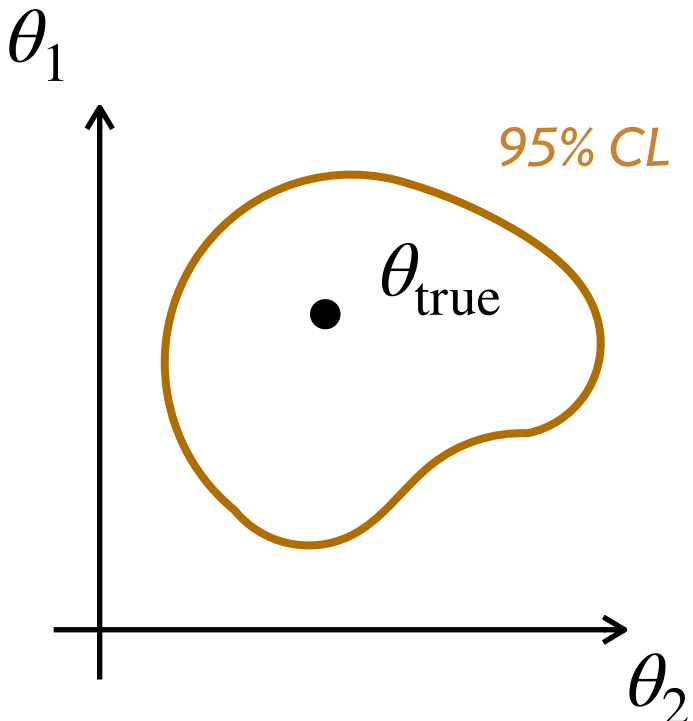
Likelihood function

$$p(x | \theta) \propto e^{\left(-\frac{v_{\text{obs}} - v_{\text{model}}(\theta)}{\sigma_{v_{\text{obs}}}} \right)^2}$$



Inference in astrophysics

Hypothesis testing



Parameters of interests, θ

Latent variables, z

(Modeled) Parameters other than θ which participate in the data-generation process

Data, x

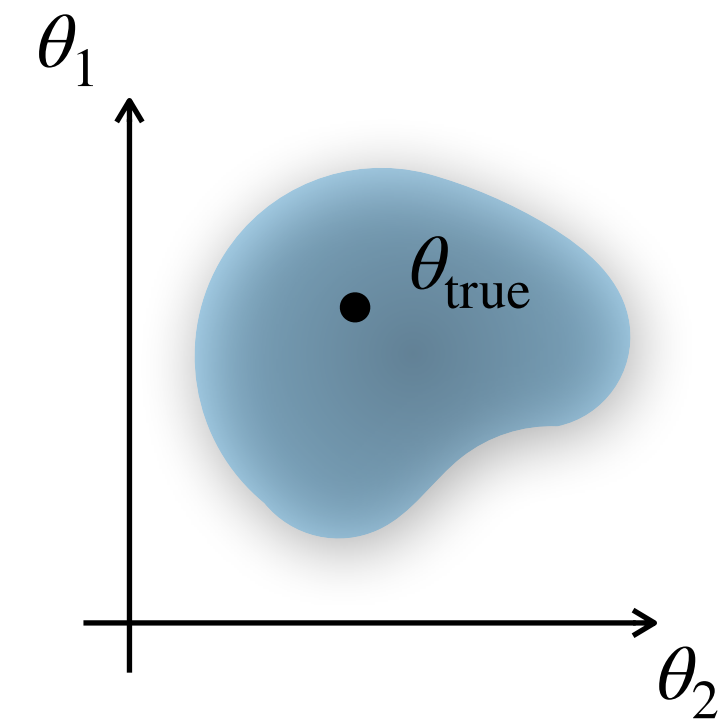
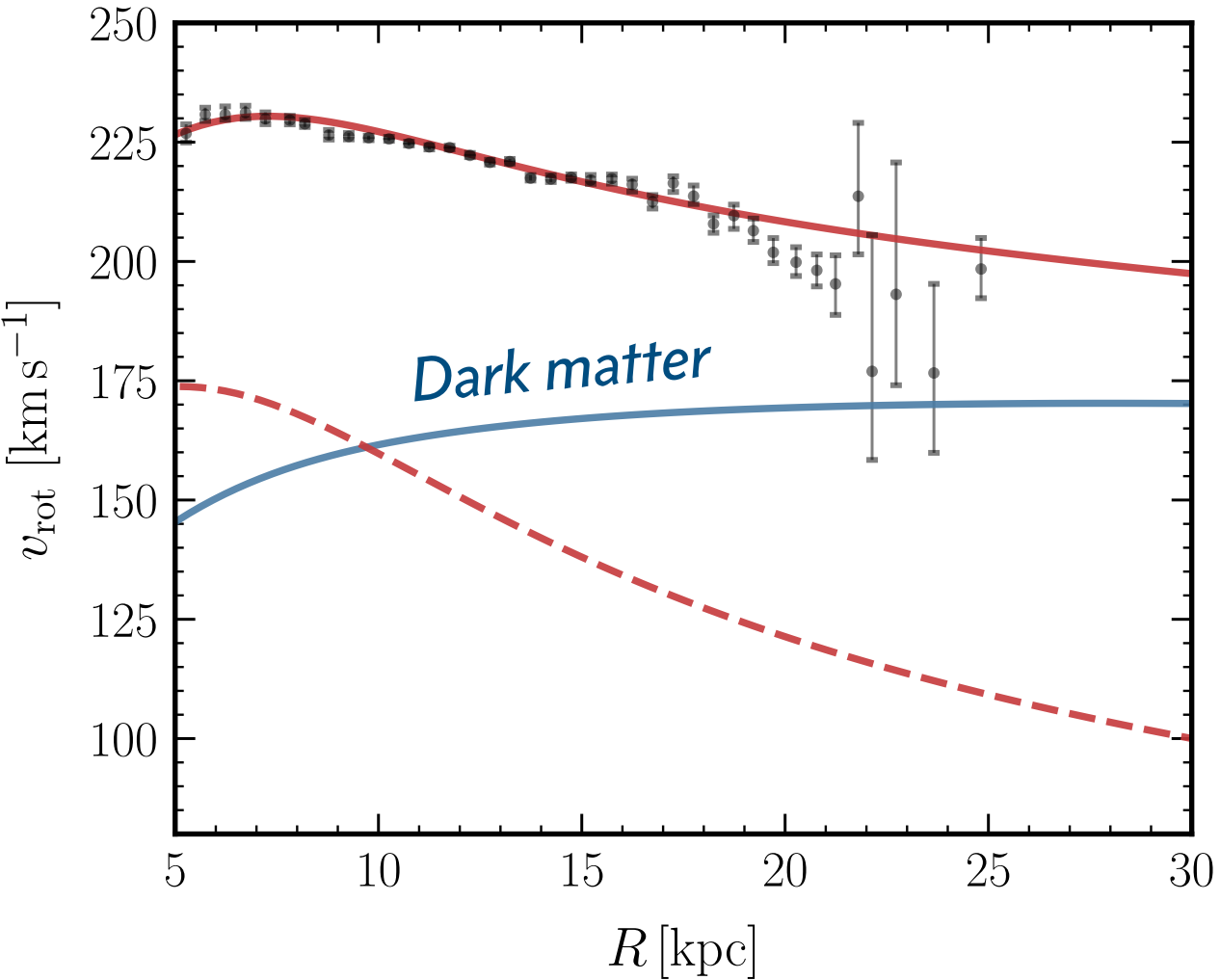
Observations

Confidence sets
 $\int d\theta p(\theta|x) = 0.95$

Posterior distributions
 $p(\theta|x) \sim p(x|\theta) \cdot p(\theta)$

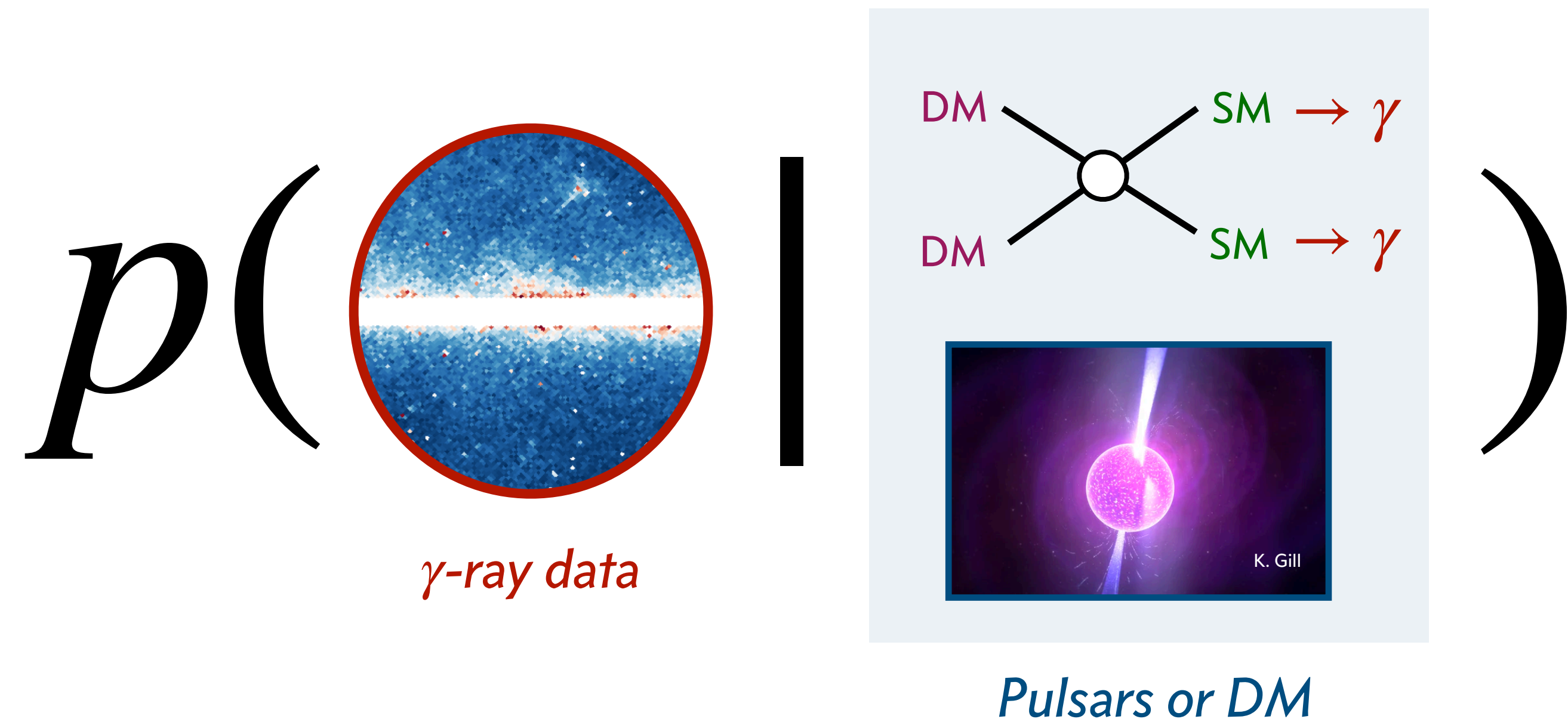
$$p(x|\theta) = \int dz p(x, z|\theta)$$

Likelihood function



$$p(x|\theta) \propto e^{\left(-\frac{v_{\text{obs}} - v_{\text{model}}(\theta)}{\sigma_{v_{\text{obs}}}}\right)^2}$$

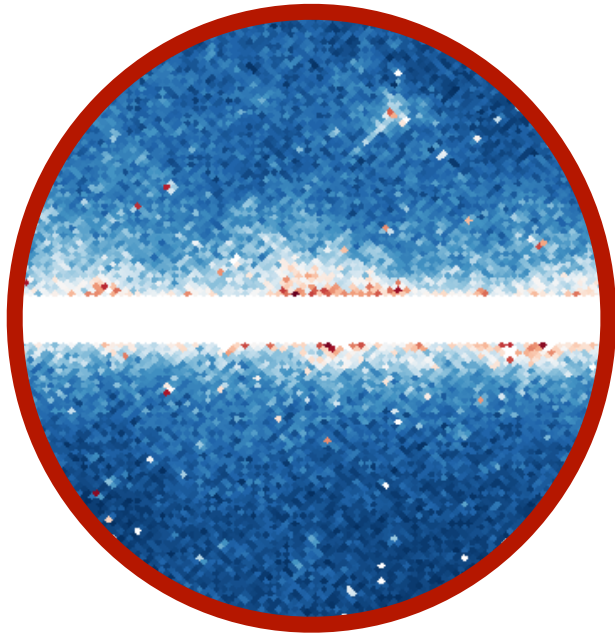
Likelihood is often intractable...



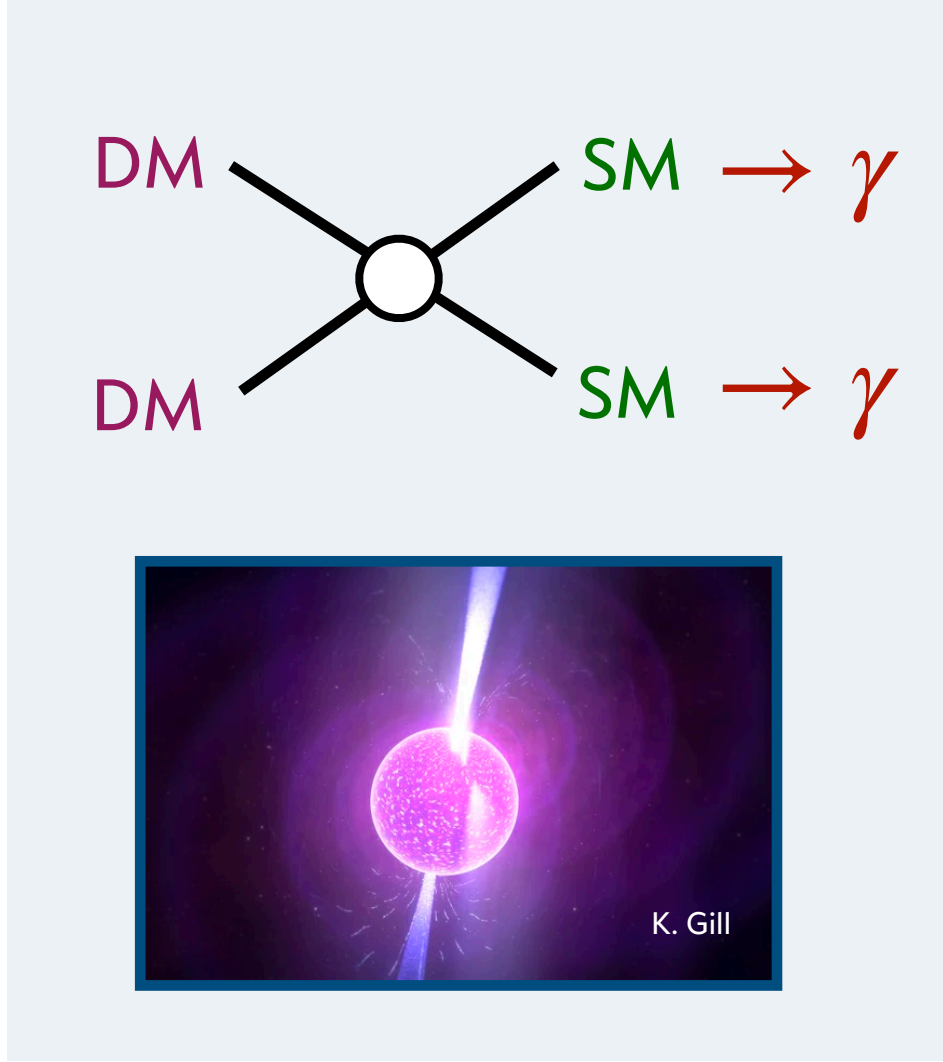
Data analysis typically requires
simplifying assumptions

Likelihood is often intractable...

$p(\text{ } | \text{ })$



γ-ray data



Pulsars or DM

Data analysis typically requires
simplifying assumptions

$p(\text{ } | \text{ })$



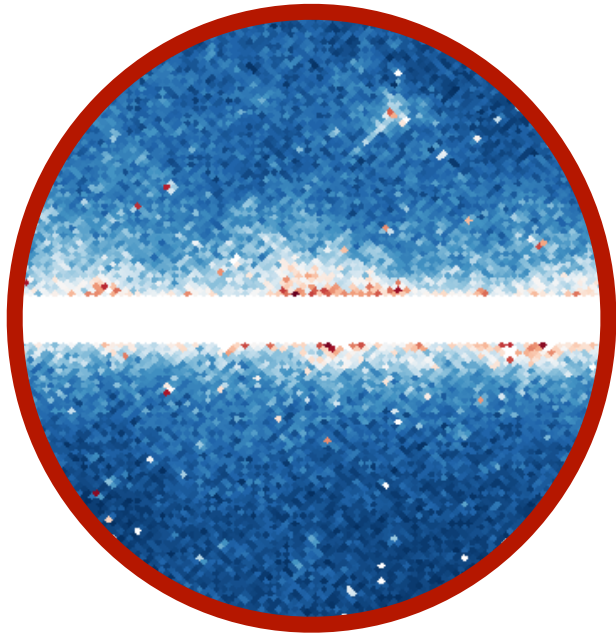
Dwarf galaxies



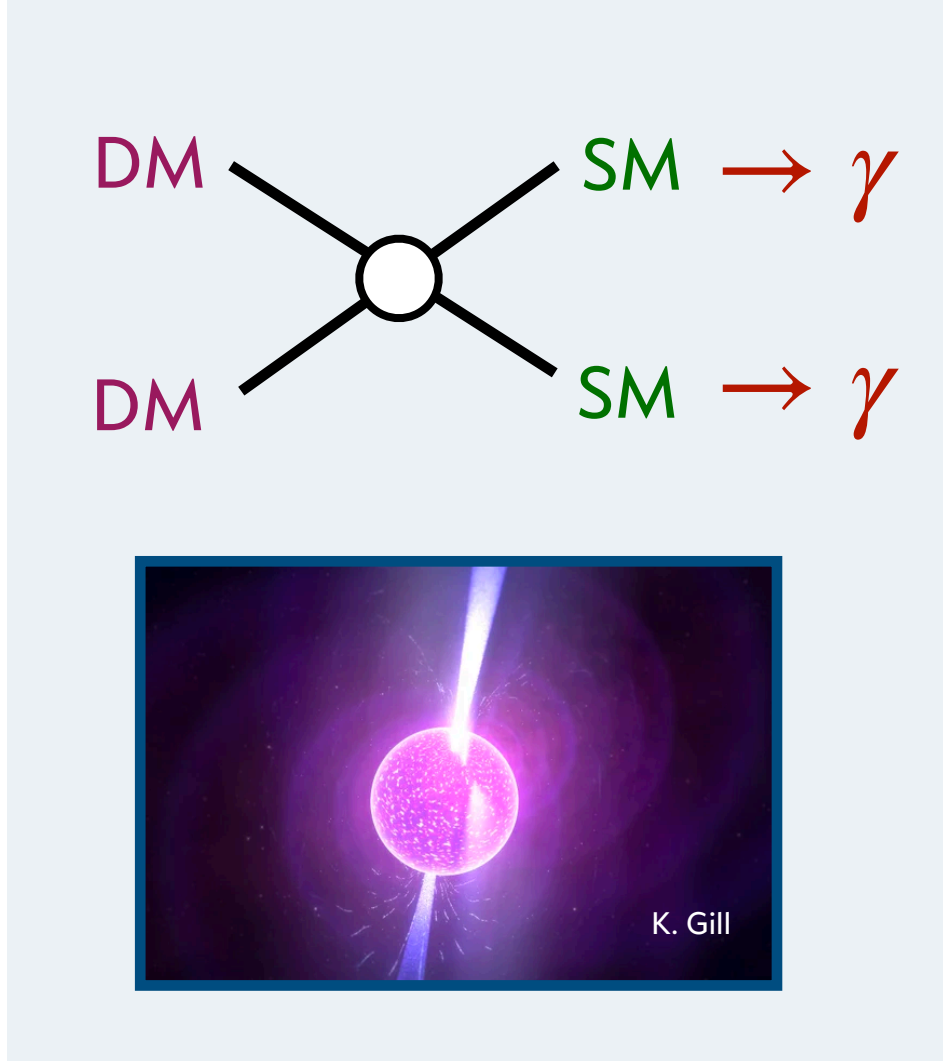
Self-interactions

Likelihood is often intractable...

$$p(\text{ } | \text{ })$$



γ-ray data




Pulsars or DM

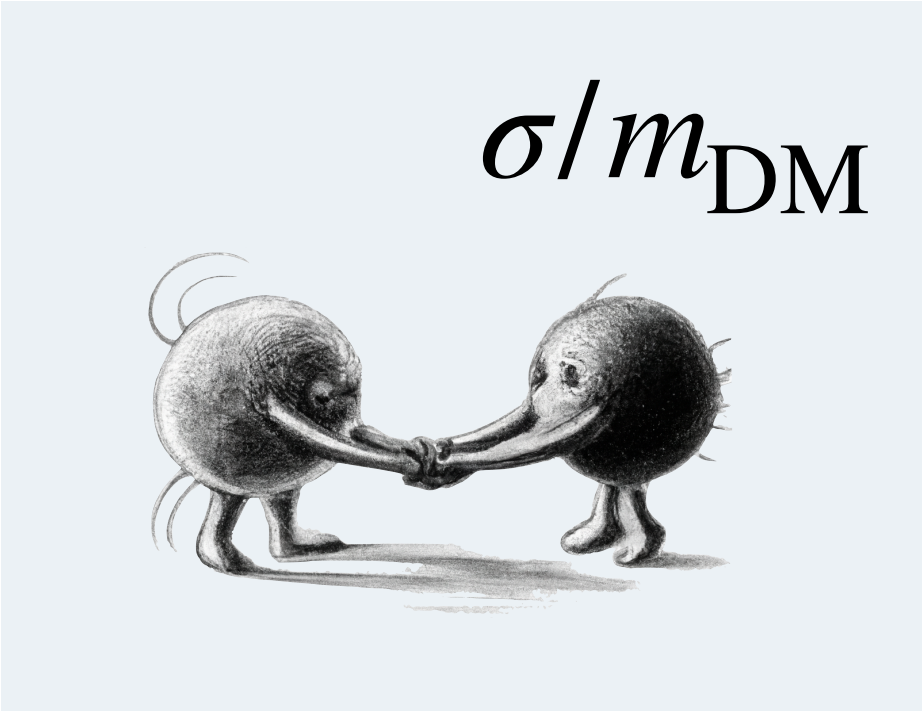
Data analysis typically requires simplifying assumptions

How can we do inference without compromise?

$$p(\text{ } | \text{ })$$

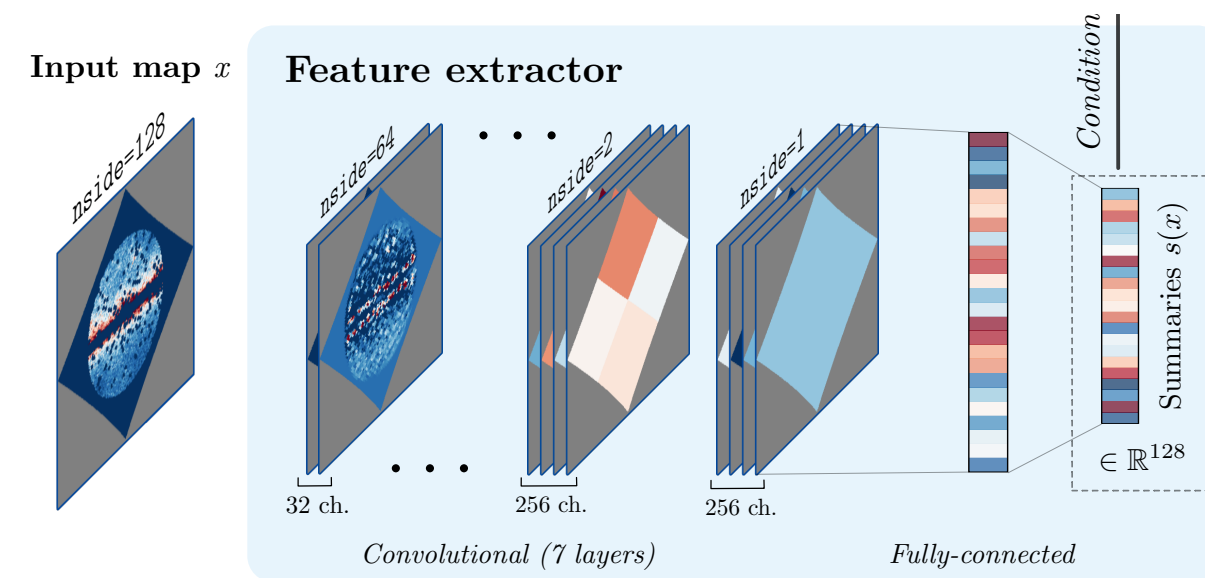


Dwarf galaxies



Self-interactions

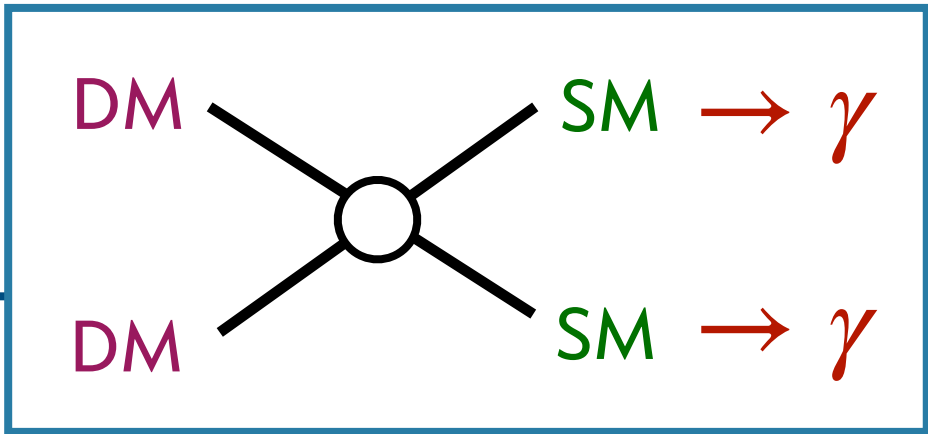
Outline



Characterizing the Galactic Center Excess

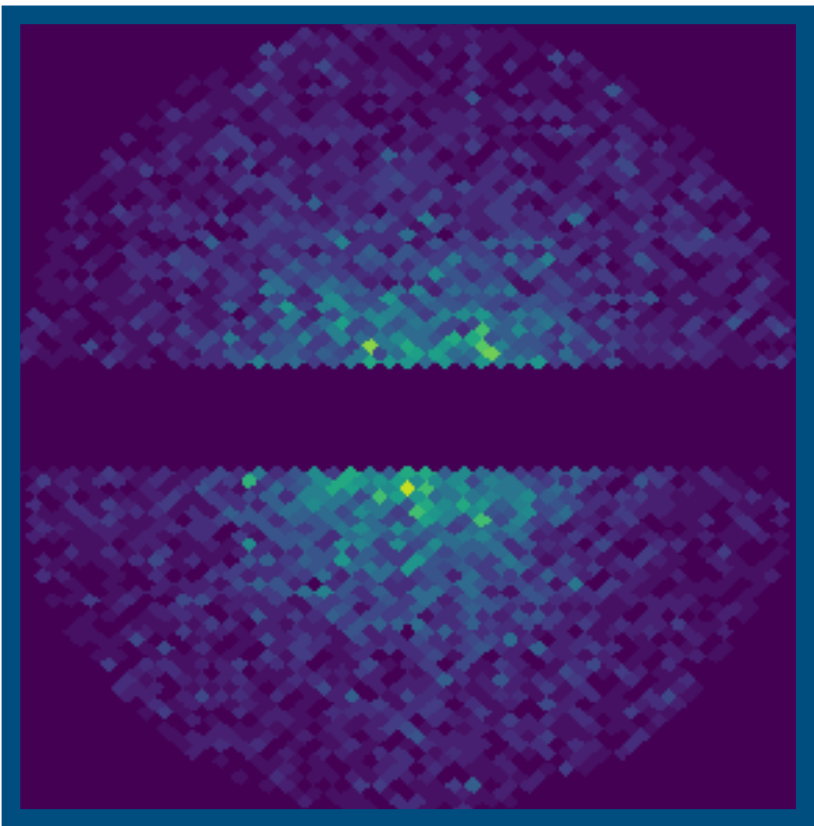
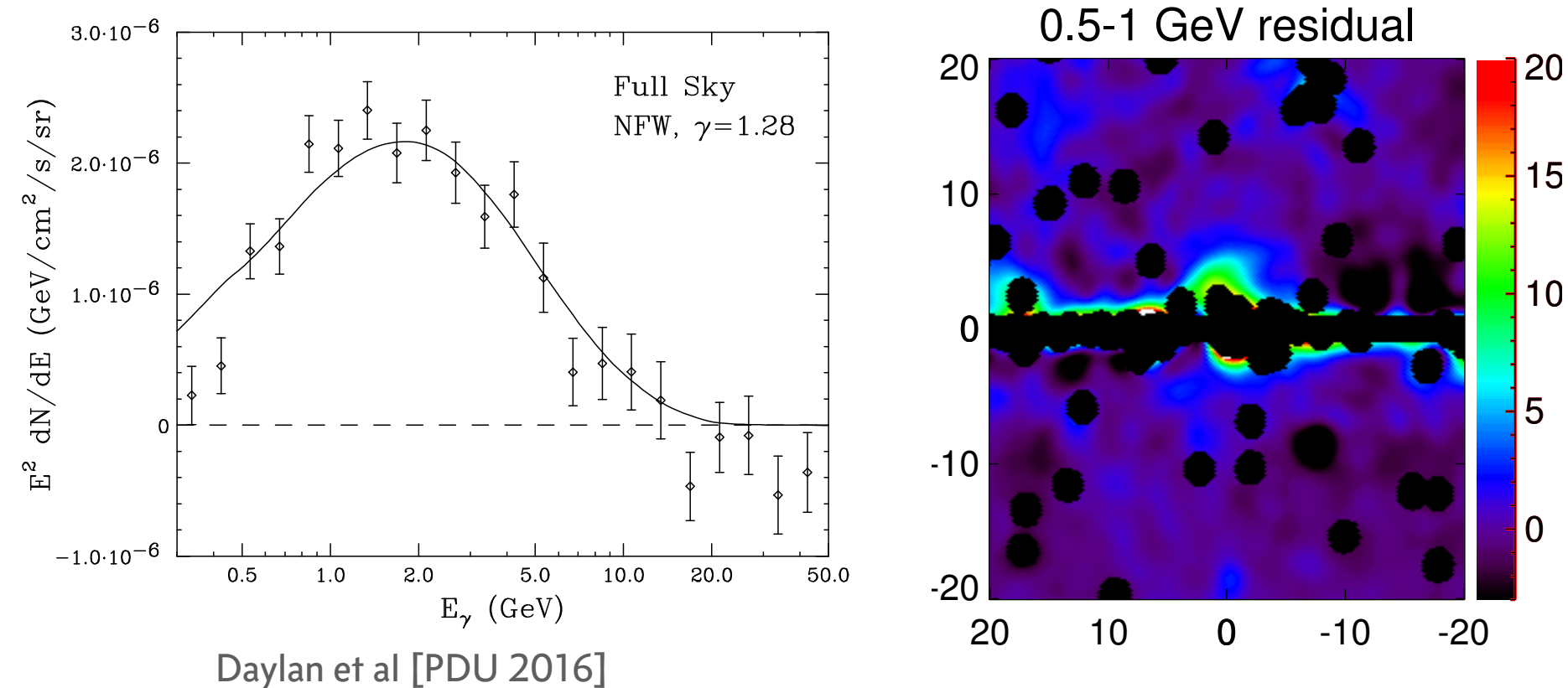
Inferring dark matter halo shapes in dwarf galaxies

Possible explanations



Dark Matter

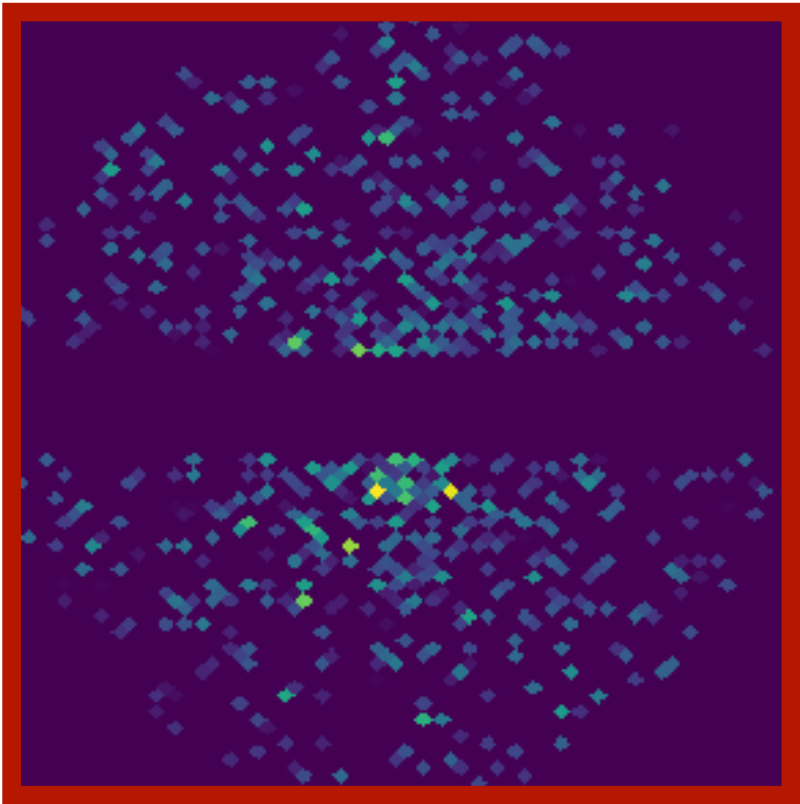
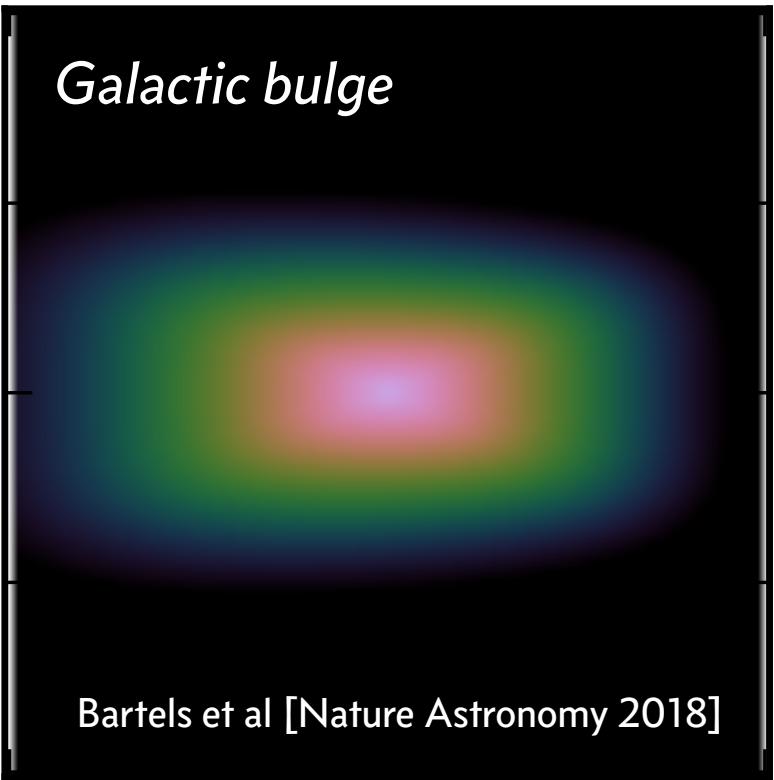
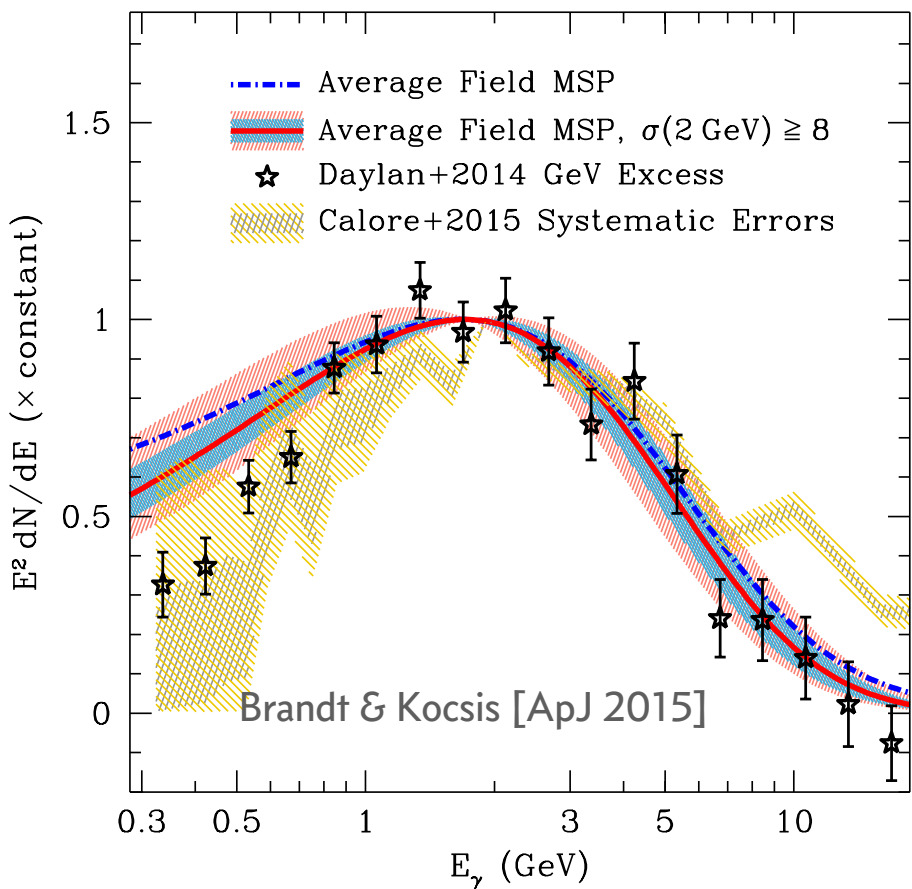
Spectrum and morphology consistent with DM expectation



“Smoother” signal

Astrophysics

Spectrum and morphology consistent with millisecond pulsar expectation



“Clumpier” signal

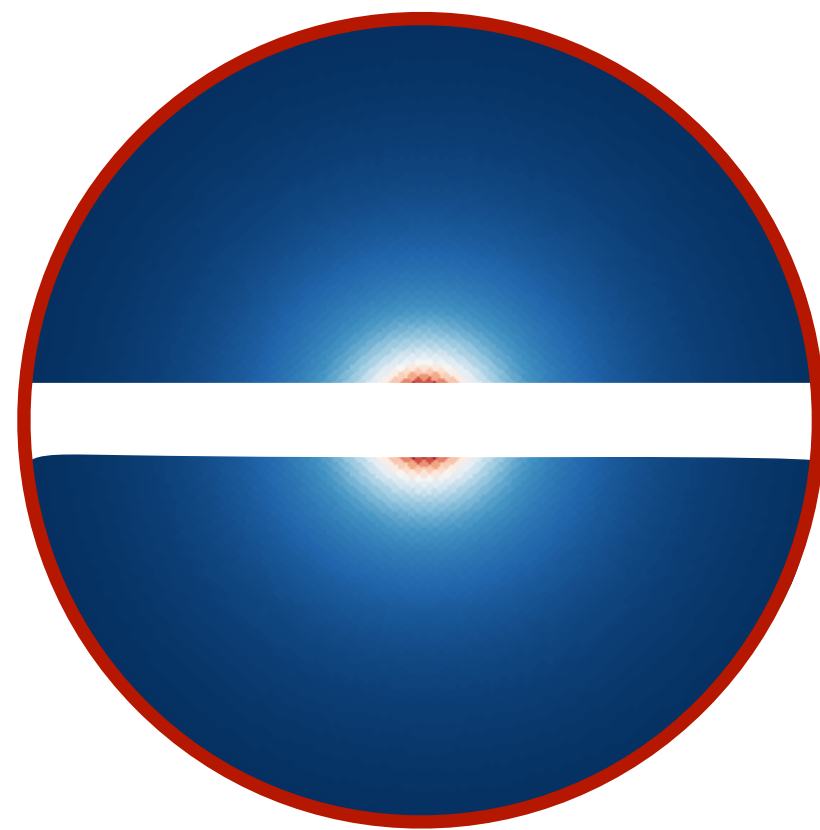


K. Gill

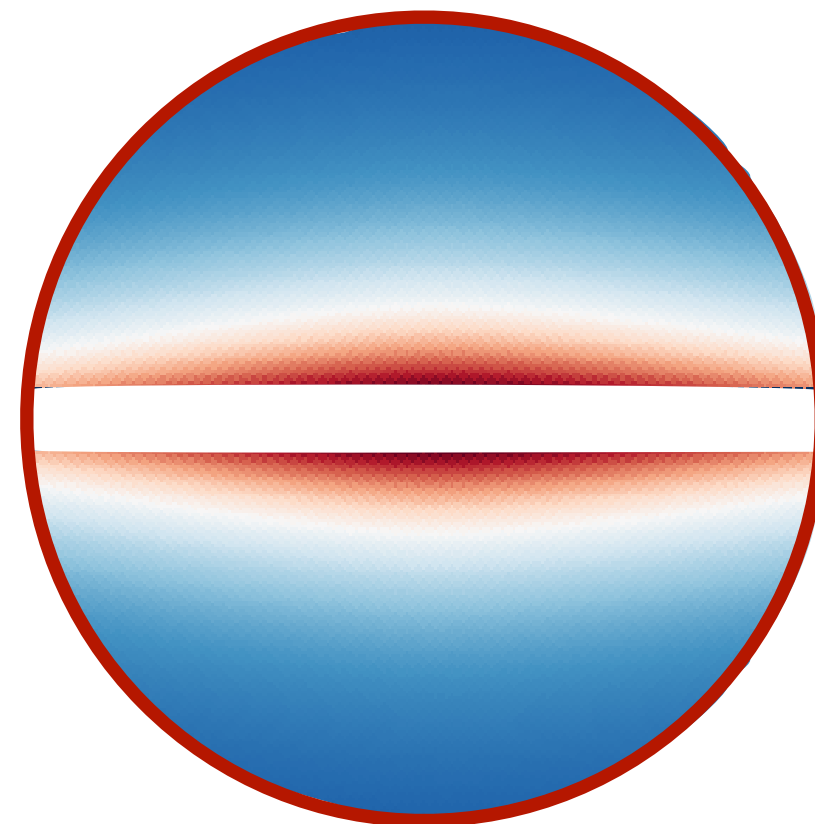
Modeling PS populations: ingredients

Spatial distribution of PSs
Specified by template

Galactic Center Excess



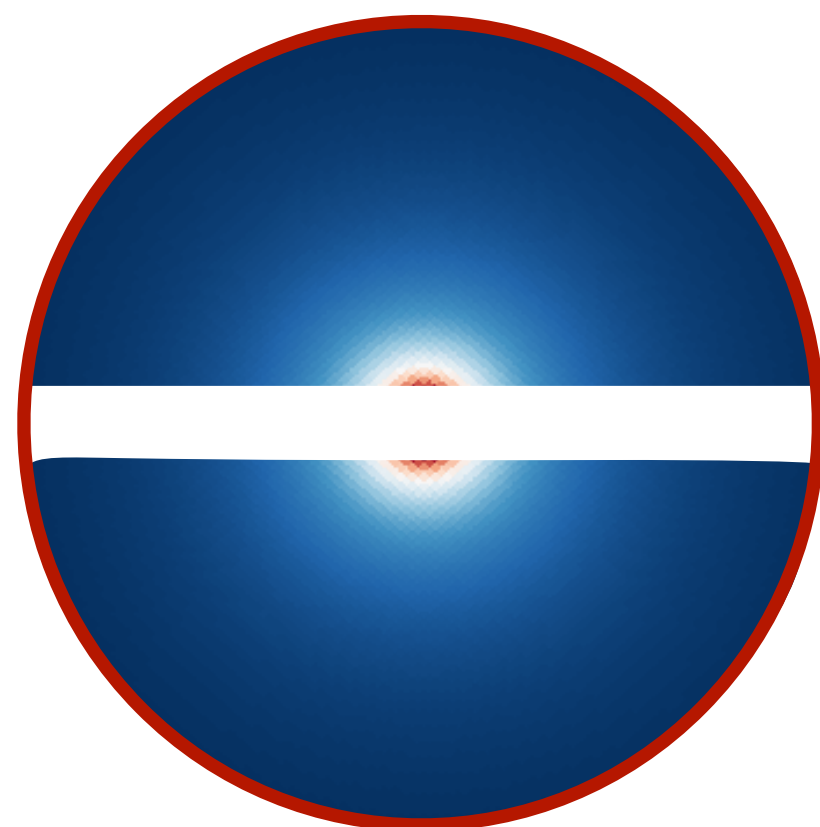
Galactic disk



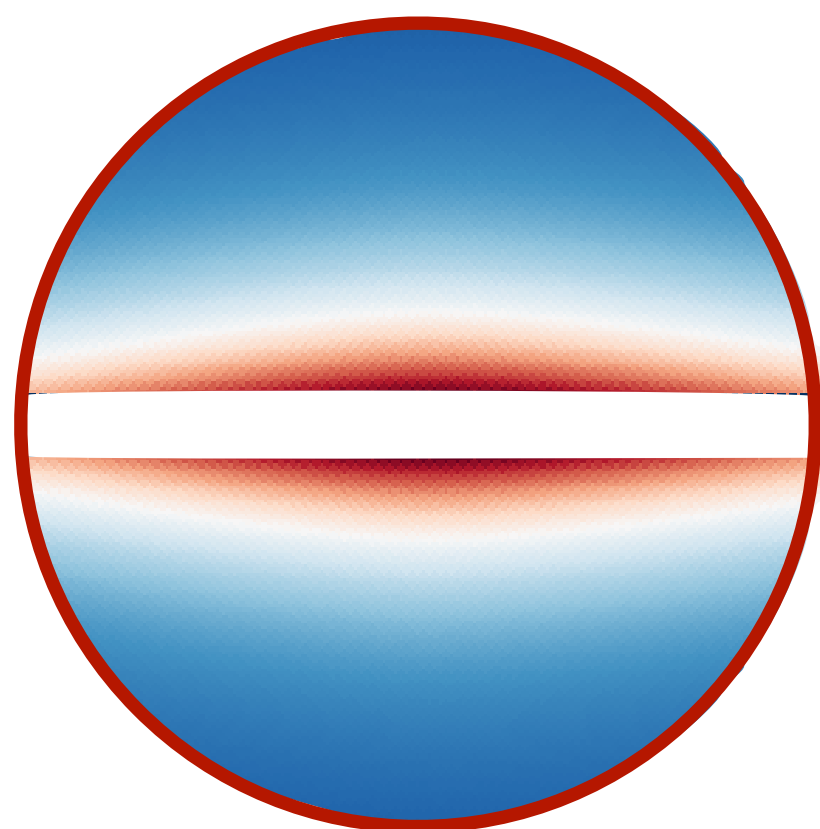
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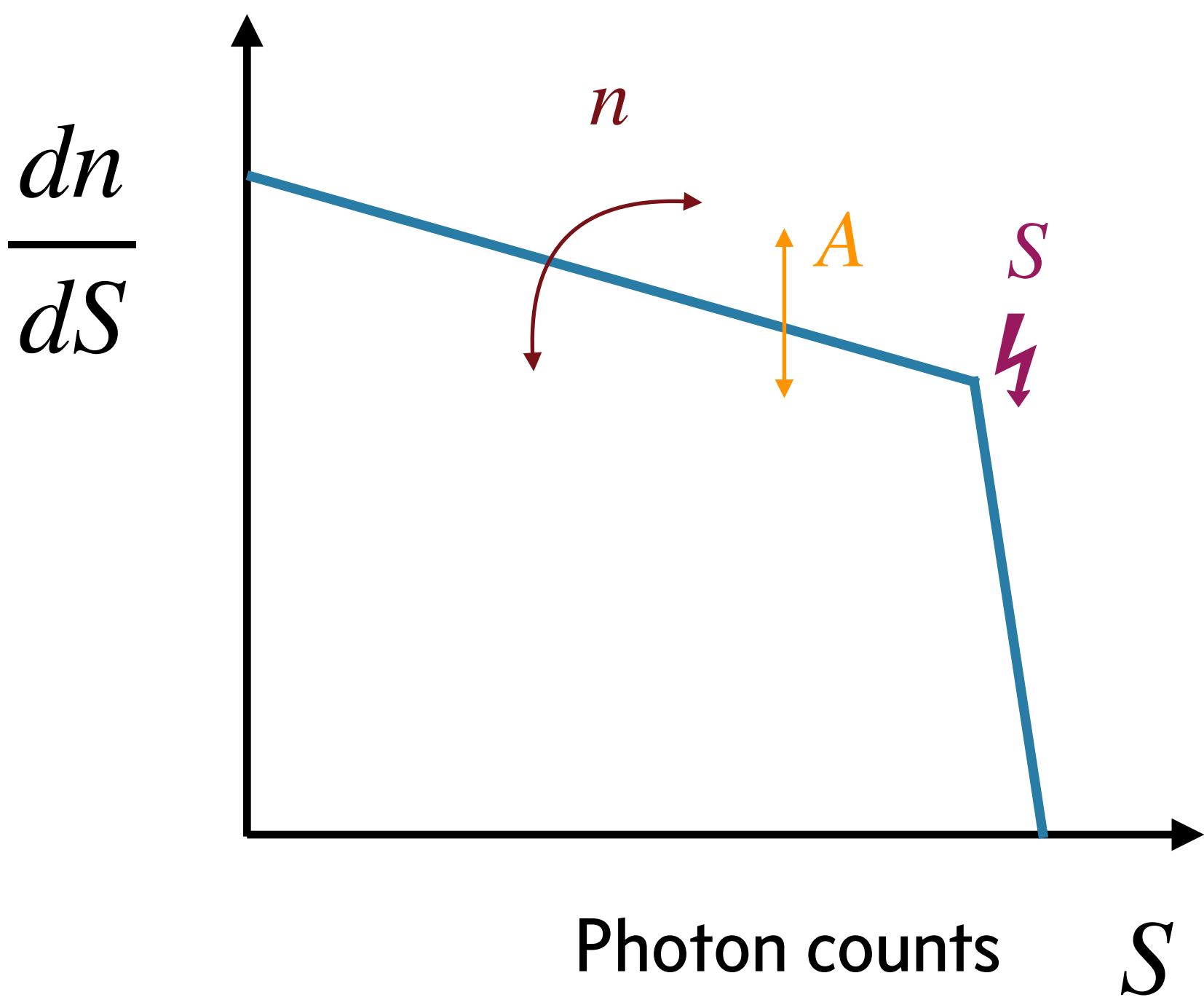
Galactic disk



Counts distribution from PSs

Parameterize as a power law with breaks

$$\theta_{\text{PS}} = \{A_{\text{PS}}, n_1, n_2, n_3, S_1, S_2\}$$

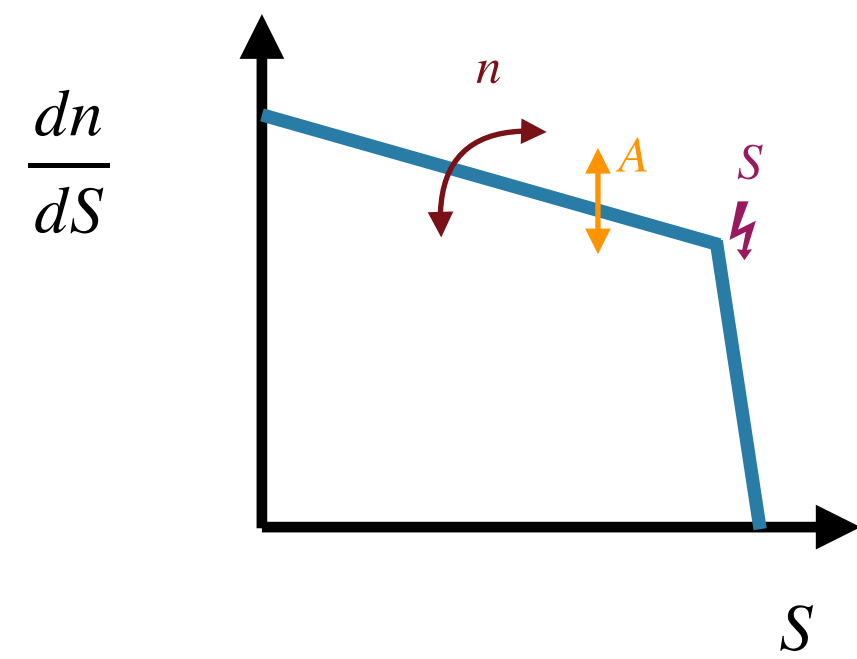


The likelihood function

Parameters of interest

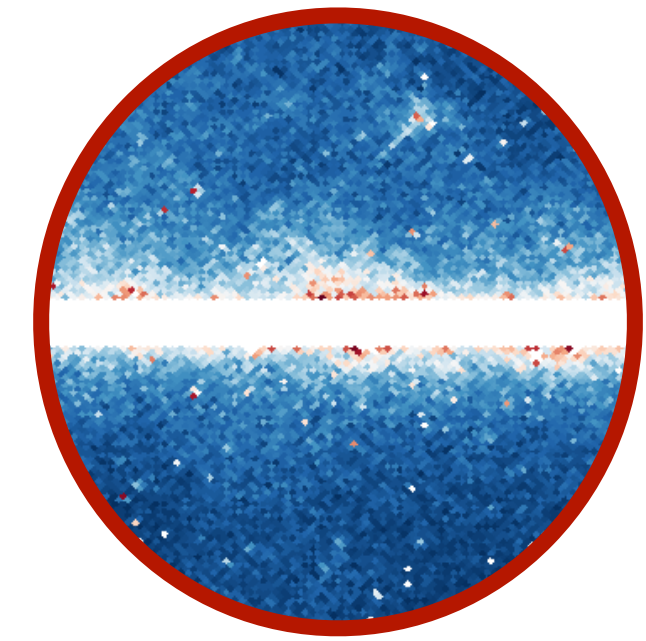
PS population parameters

$$\theta = \{A, n, S\}$$



Observables

γ -ray map x

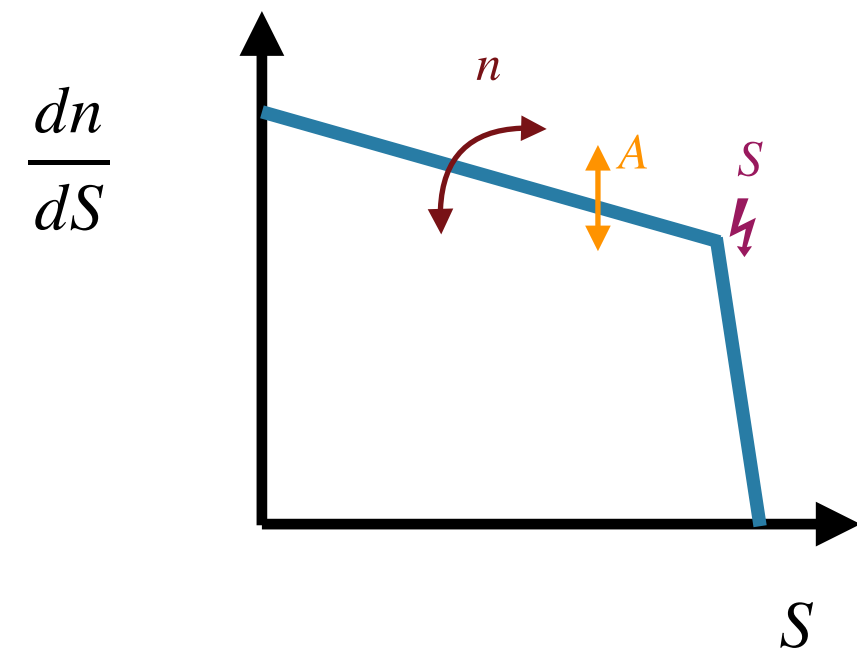


The likelihood function

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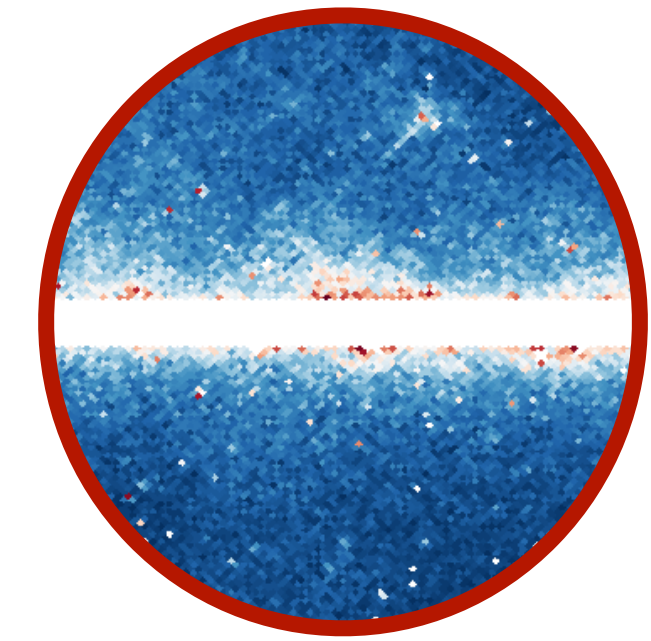
Latent variables

Individual PS properties

$$n_{\text{PS}}, \{z_{\text{PS},i}\}$$

Observables

γ -ray map x



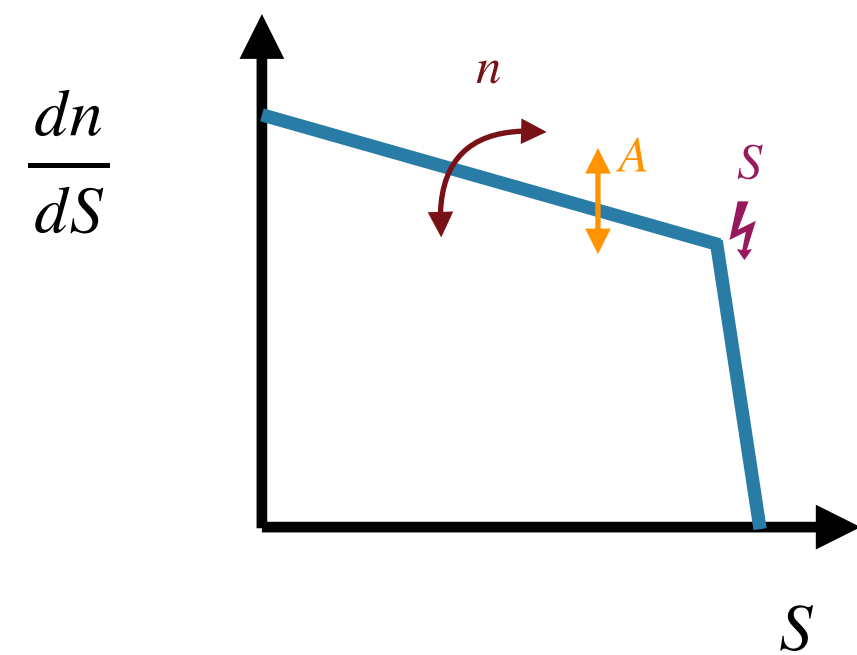
$$p(n_{\text{PS}} | \theta_{\text{PS}}) \prod_i^{n_{\text{PS}}} p(z_{\text{PS},i} | \theta_{\text{PS}}; T_{\text{PS}}) \times p(x | \theta_{\text{smooth}}, \{z_{\text{PS},i}\})$$

The likelihood function

Parameters of interest

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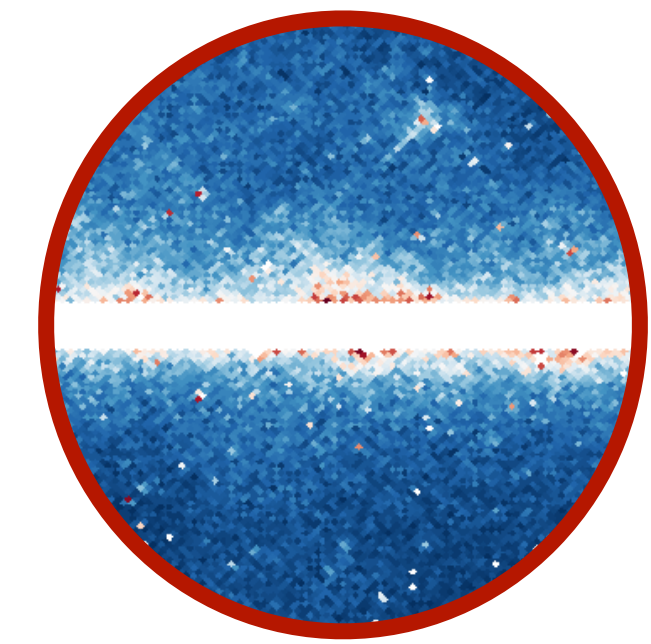
Latent variables

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$$n_{\text{PS}}, \{z_{\text{PS},i}\}$$

Observables

γ -ray map x



We can easily write a simulator to sample from

$$p(x, z \mid \theta) = p(n_{\text{PS}} \mid \theta_{\text{PS}}) \prod_i^{n_{\text{PS}}} p(z_{\text{PS},i} \mid \theta_{\text{PS}}; T_{\text{PS}}) \times p\left(x \mid \theta_{\text{smooth}}, \{z_{\text{PS},i}\}\right)$$

Prediction (Simulation)

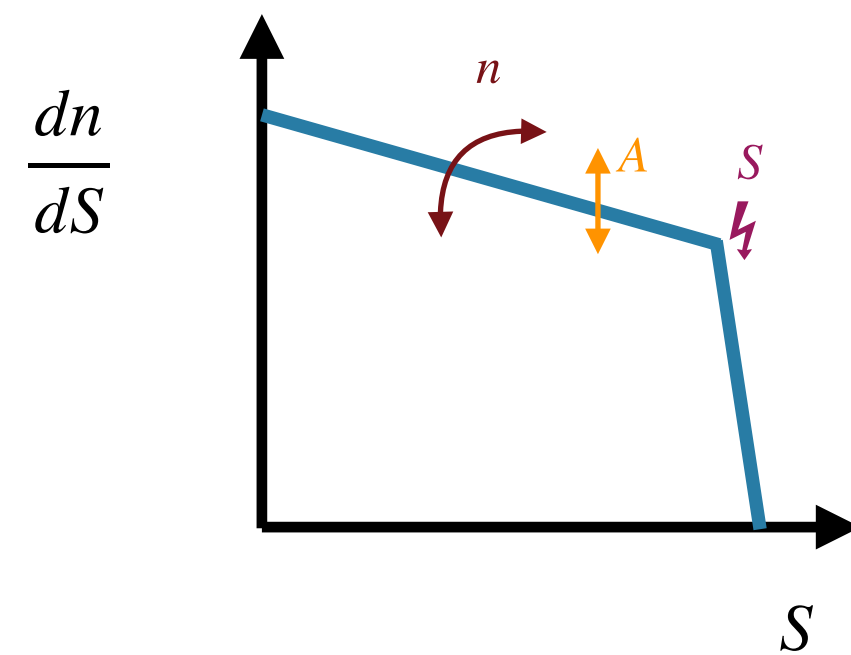


The likelihood function

Parameters of interest

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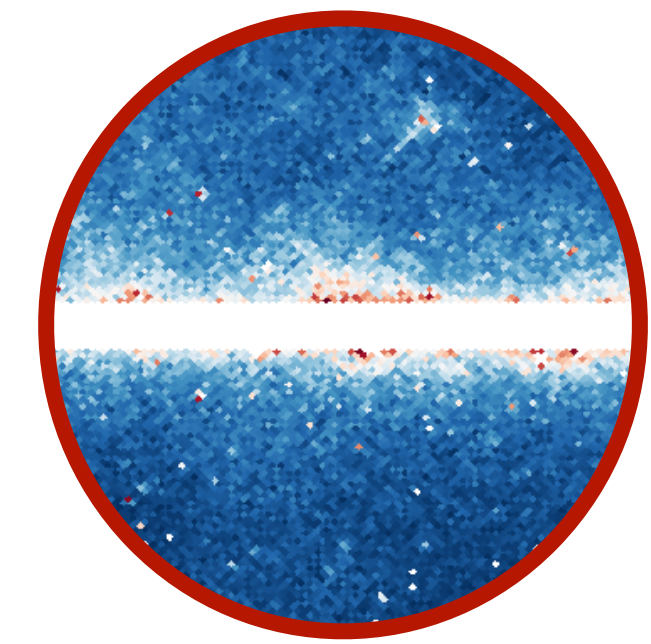
Latent variables

Individual PS properties

$$n_{\text{PS}}, \{z_{\text{PS}, i}\}$$

Observables

γ -ray map x



$$p(x | \theta) = \sum_{n_{\text{PS}}} \int d^{n_{\text{PS}}} z_{\text{sub}} \quad p(n_{\text{PS}} | \theta_{\text{PS}}) \prod_i^{n_{\text{PS}}} p(z_{\text{PS}, i} | \theta_{\text{PS}}; T_{\text{PS}}) \quad \times \quad p(x | \theta_{\text{smooth}}, \{z_{\text{PS}, i}\})$$

The key quantity for inference is the marginal likelihood

Inference

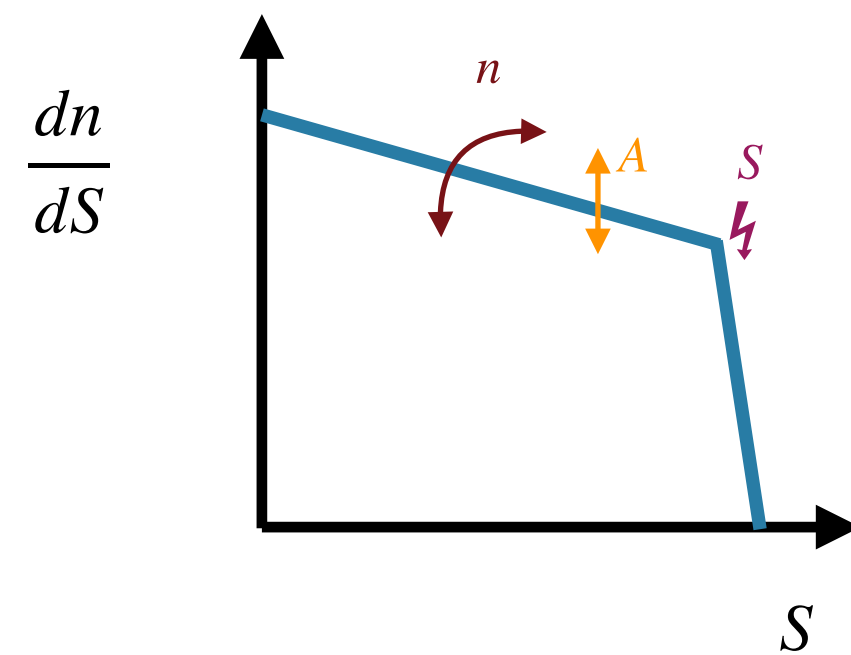


The likelihood function

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PS population parameters

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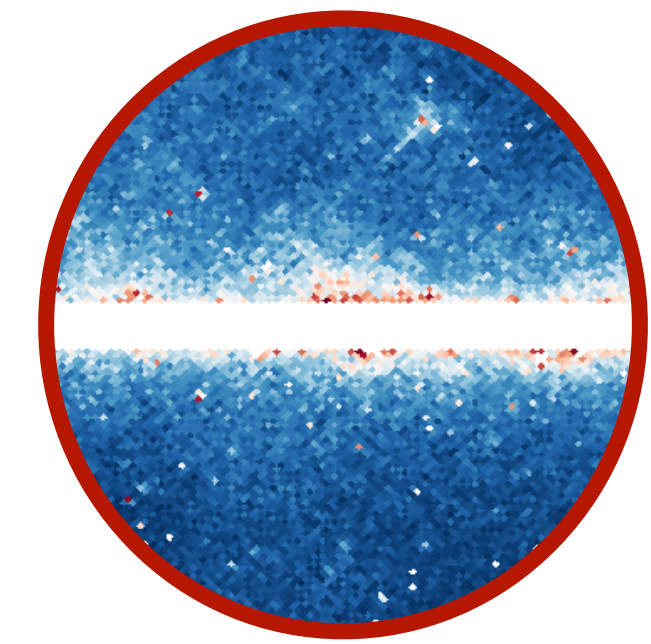
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The key quantity for inference is the marginal likelihood

Inference



Simplifying the problem: pixel-wise conditional independence

Assume pixel-wise conditional independence \implies model photon counts PDF as a doubly-stochastic Poisson process

NPTF = *Non-Poissonian Template Fitting*

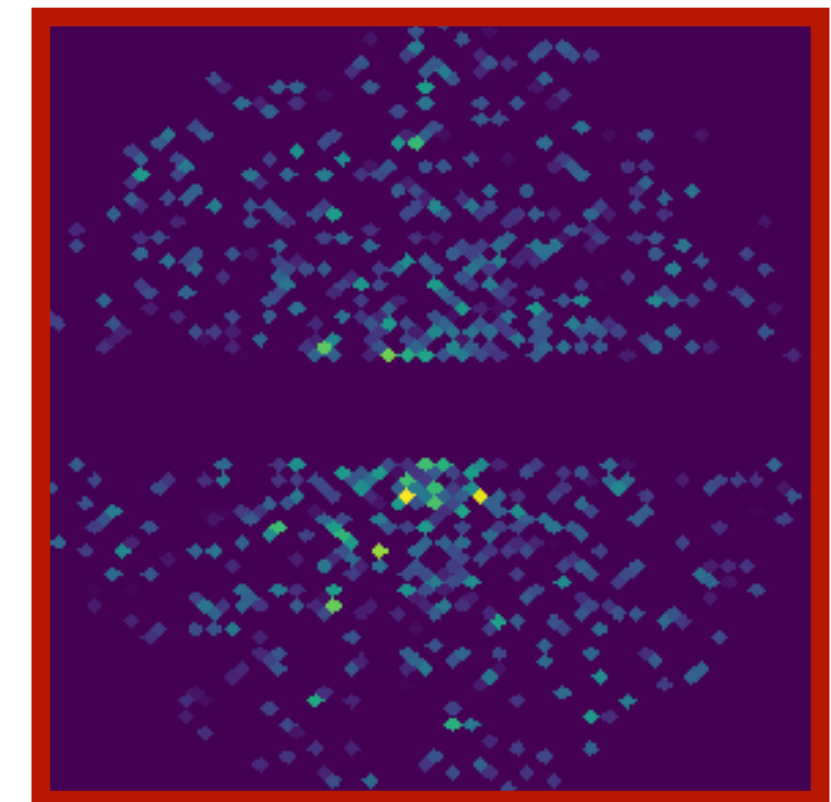
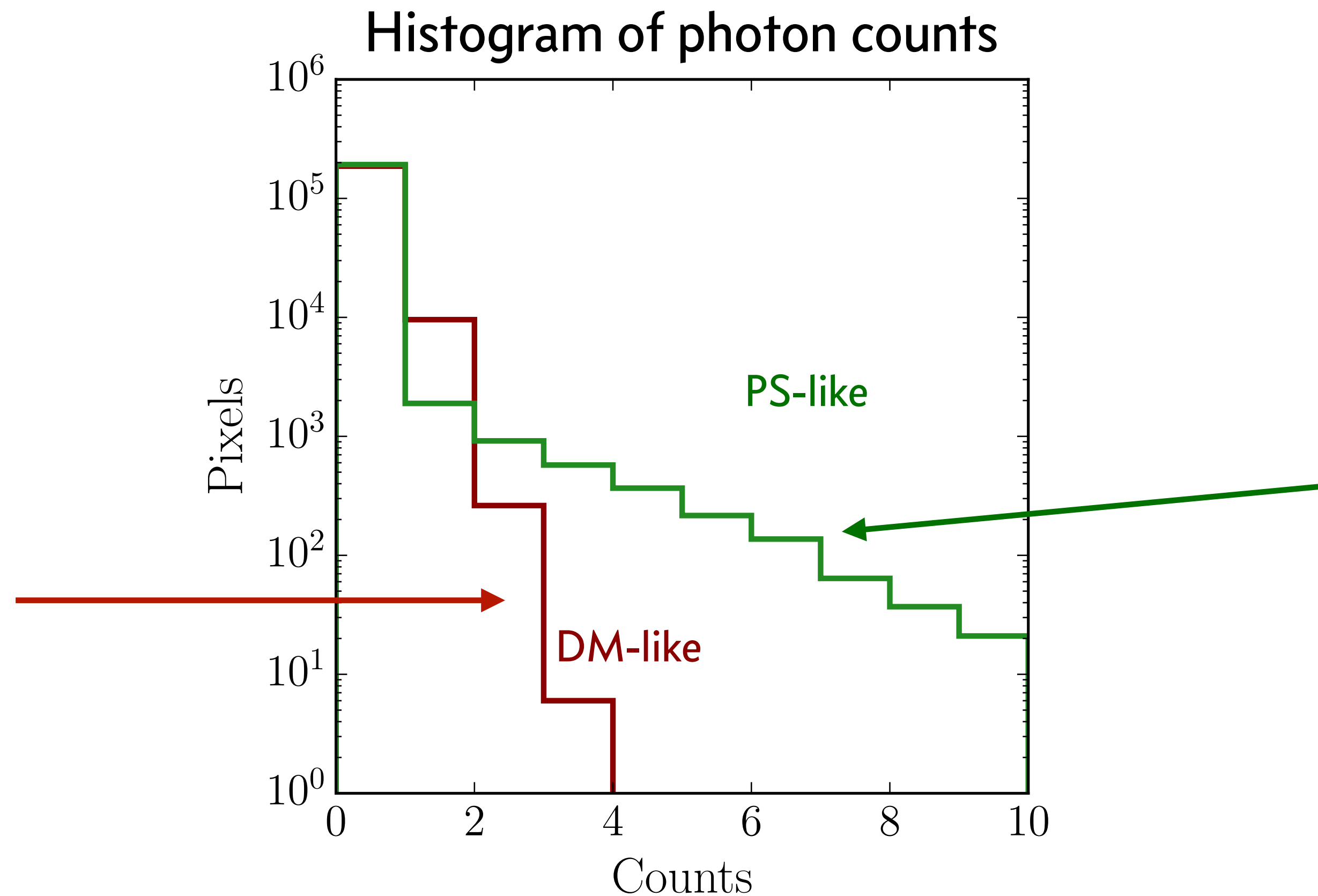
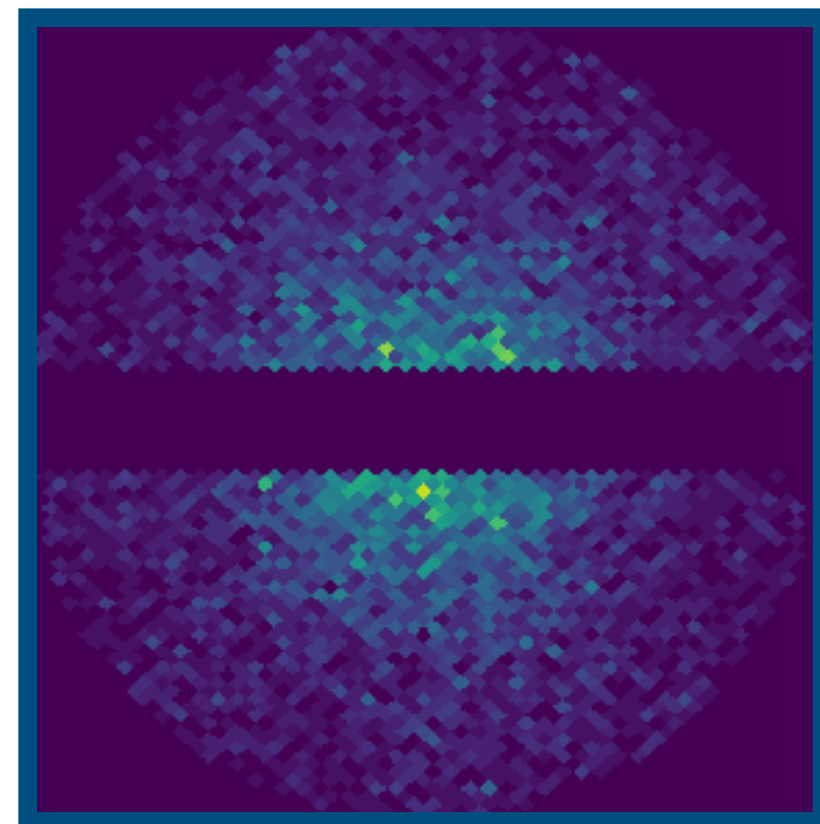
$$p(x \mid \theta) \approx \prod_p p(x^p \mid \theta)$$

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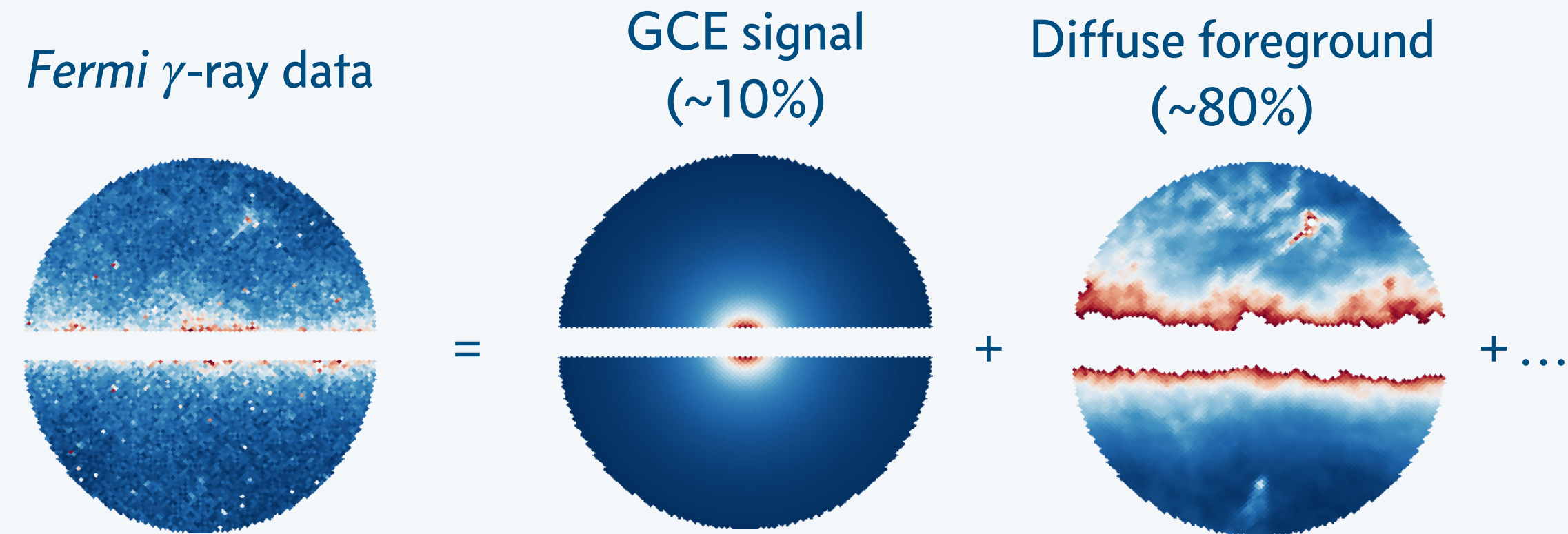
$$p(x | \theta) \approx \prod_p p(x^p | \theta)$$



Malyshev & Hogg [ApJ 2011]
Lee et al [JCAP 2014]

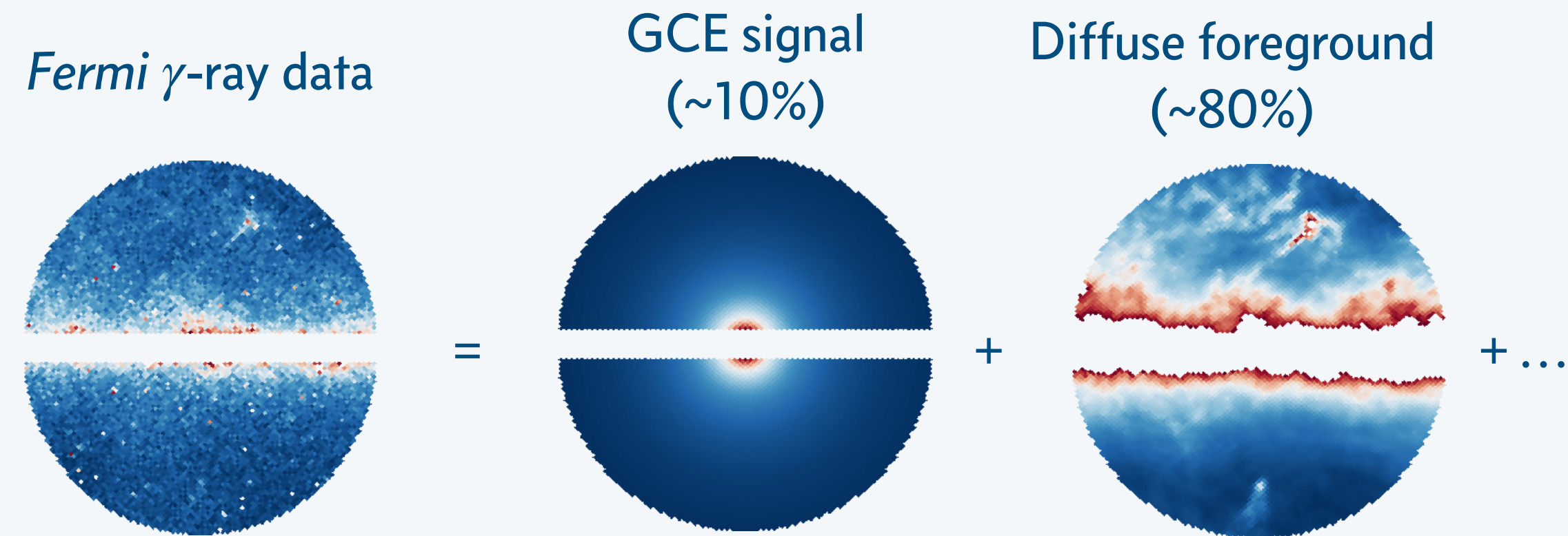
What could go wrong?

Leane & Slatyer [PRL 2019]
+ Leane & Slatyer [PRL 2020, PRD 2020]

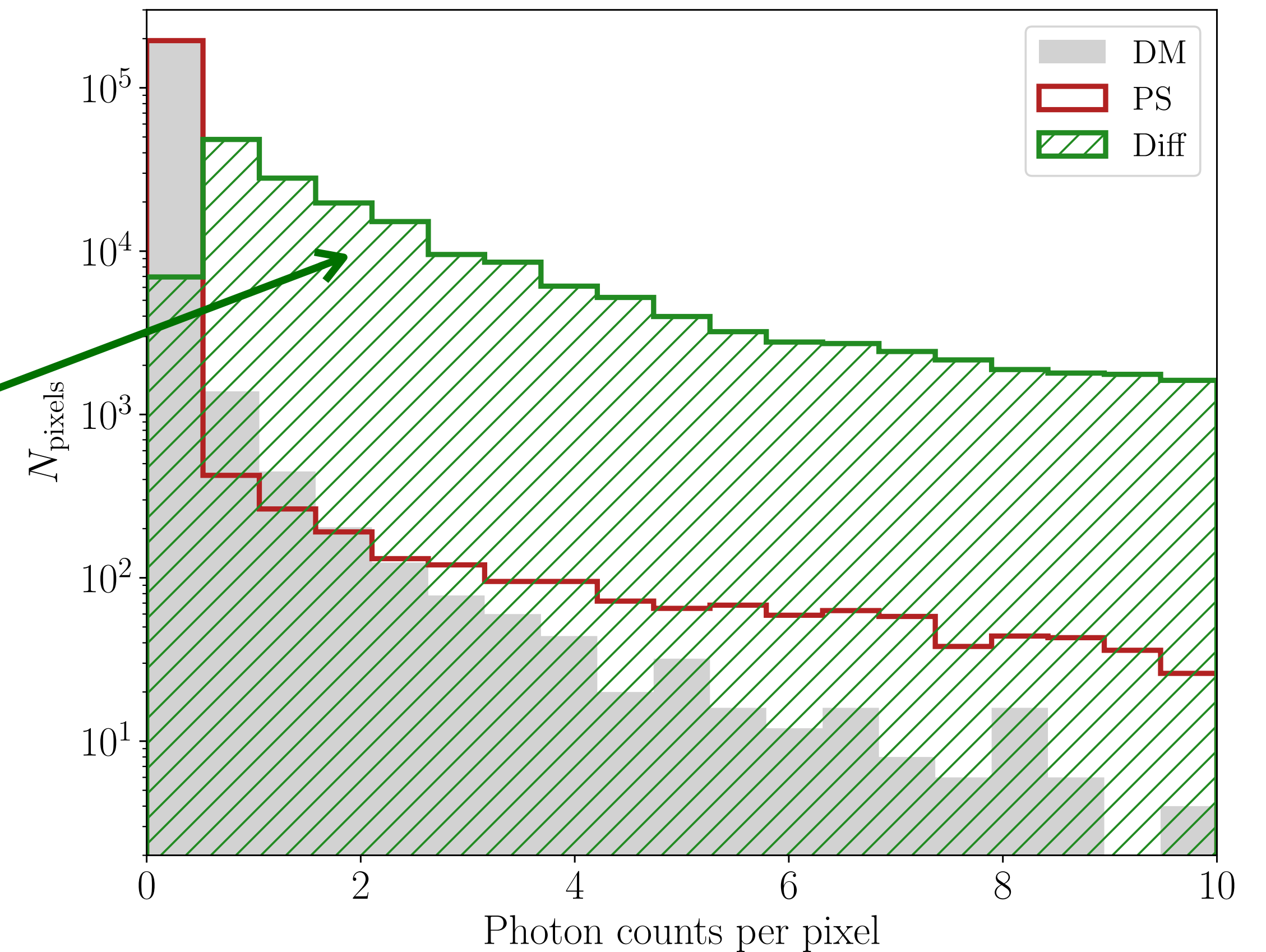


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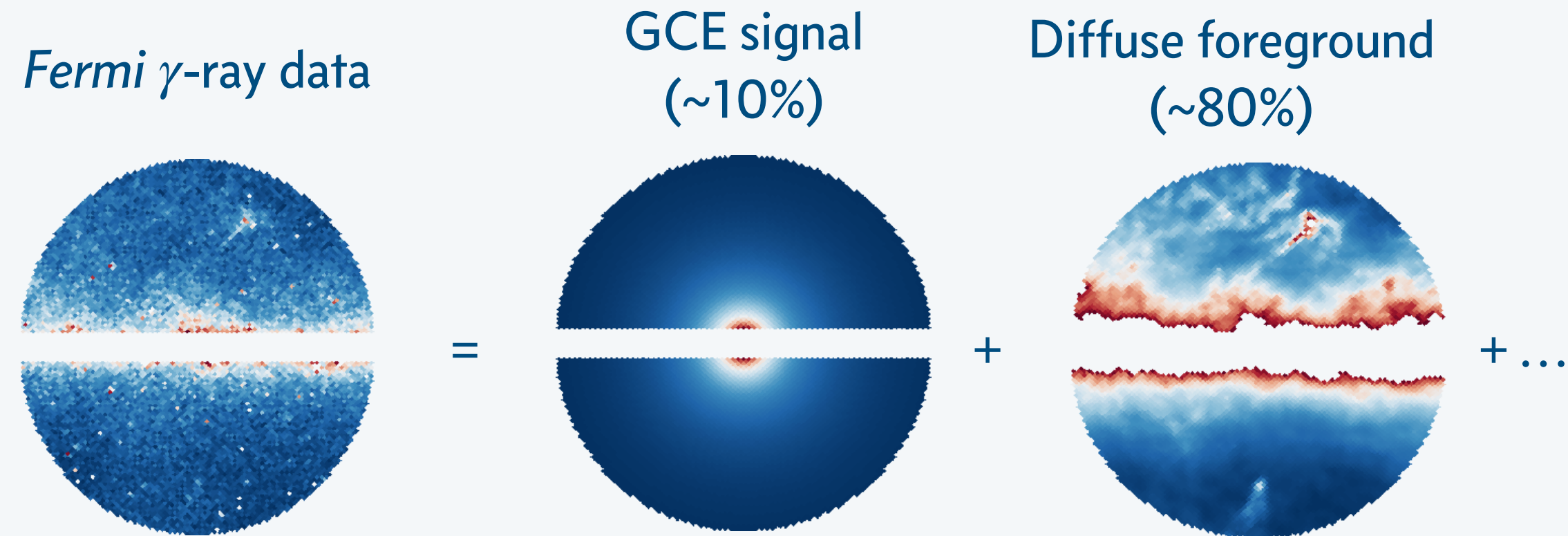


Diffuse foregrounds make up most of the observed emission in the Galactic Center



What could go wrong?

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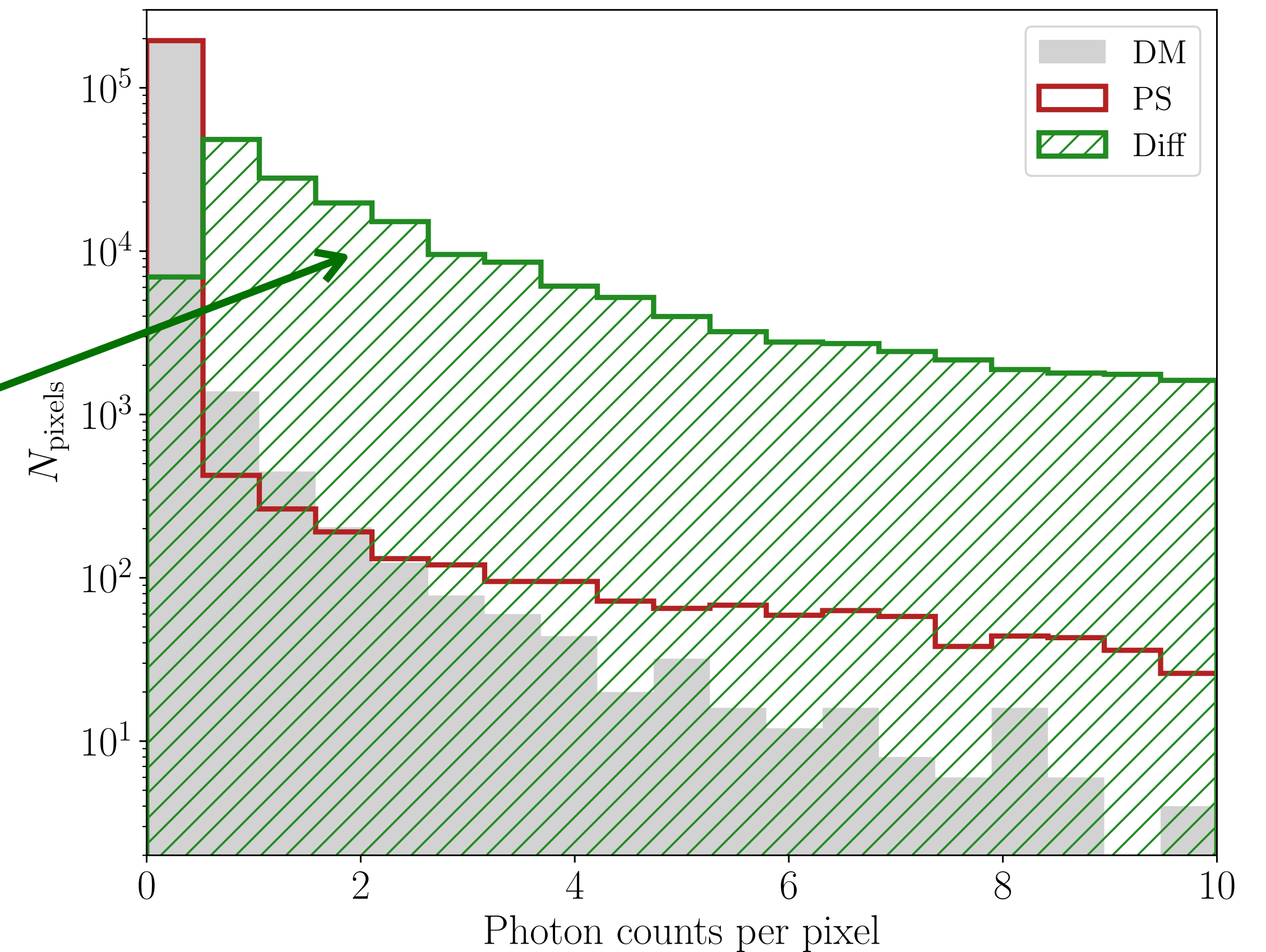


Diffuse foregrounds make up most of the observed emission in the Galactic Center

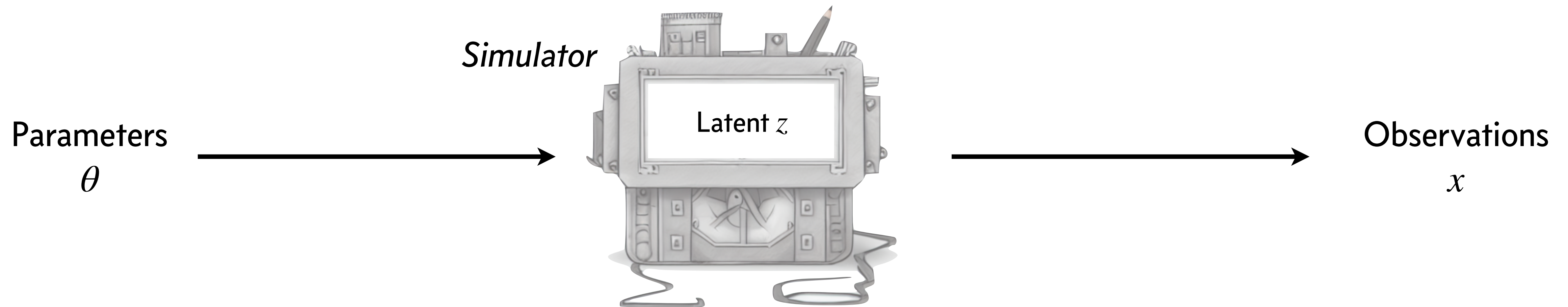
Promising direction: *build/apply better diffuse models*

Buschmann et al [PRD 2020]

Pohl et al [ApJ 2022], Macias et al [JCAP 2019]



Simulation-based inference (SBI)




Prediction:

- Well-motivated mechanistic, causal model
- Simulator can generate samples $x \sim p(x | \theta)$

Inference:

- Likelihood $p(x | \theta) = \int dz p(x, z | \theta)$ is intractable
- *Inference is challenging*

Simulation-based inference (SBI)

github.com/smsharma/awesome-neural-sbi

README.md

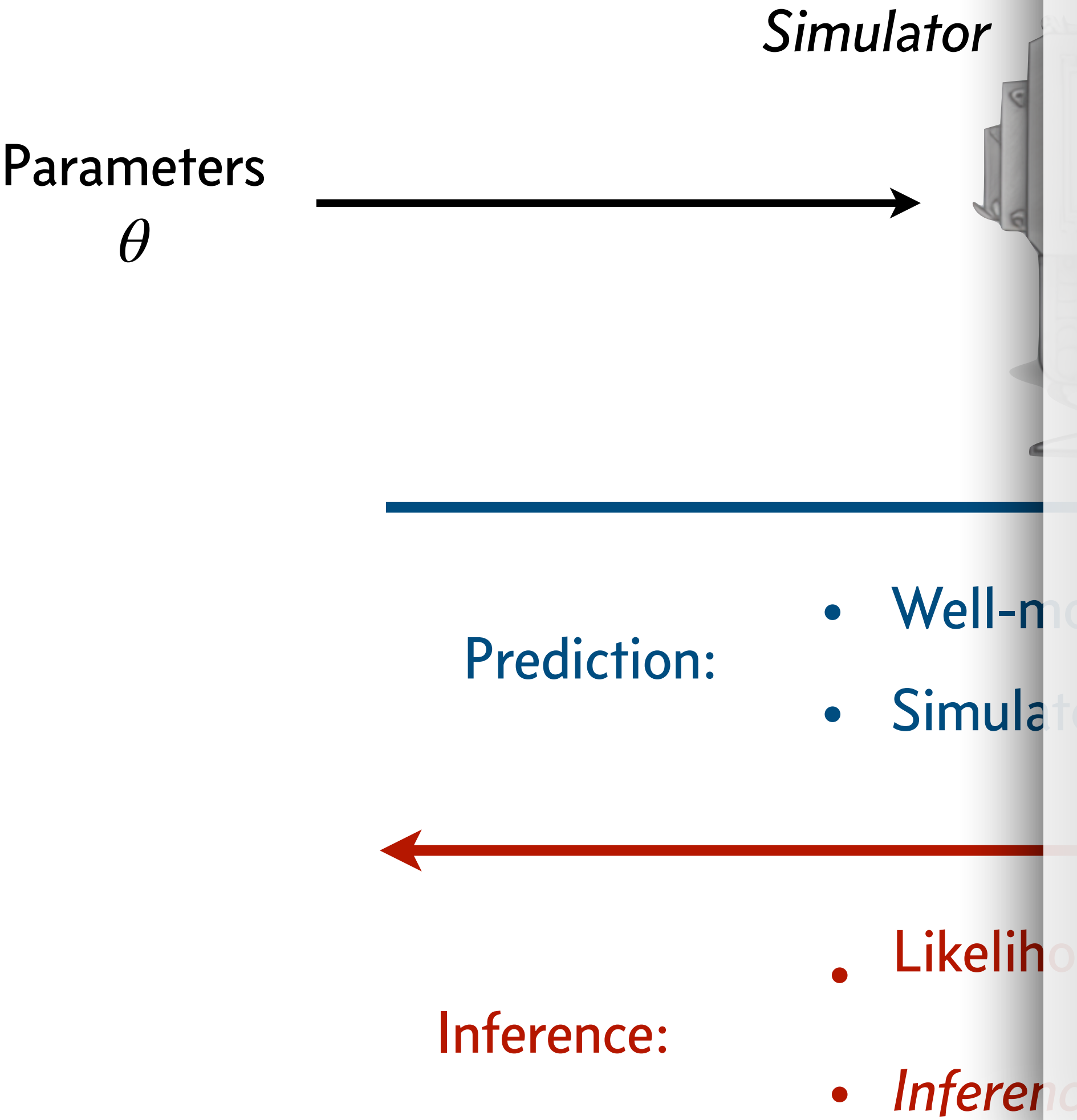
Awesome Neural SBI

License MIT Pull Requests welcome

A community-sourced list of papers and resources on neural simulation-based inference, covering both methodological developments and domain applications. Given the nature of the field, the list is bound to be highly incomplete -- contributions are welcome!

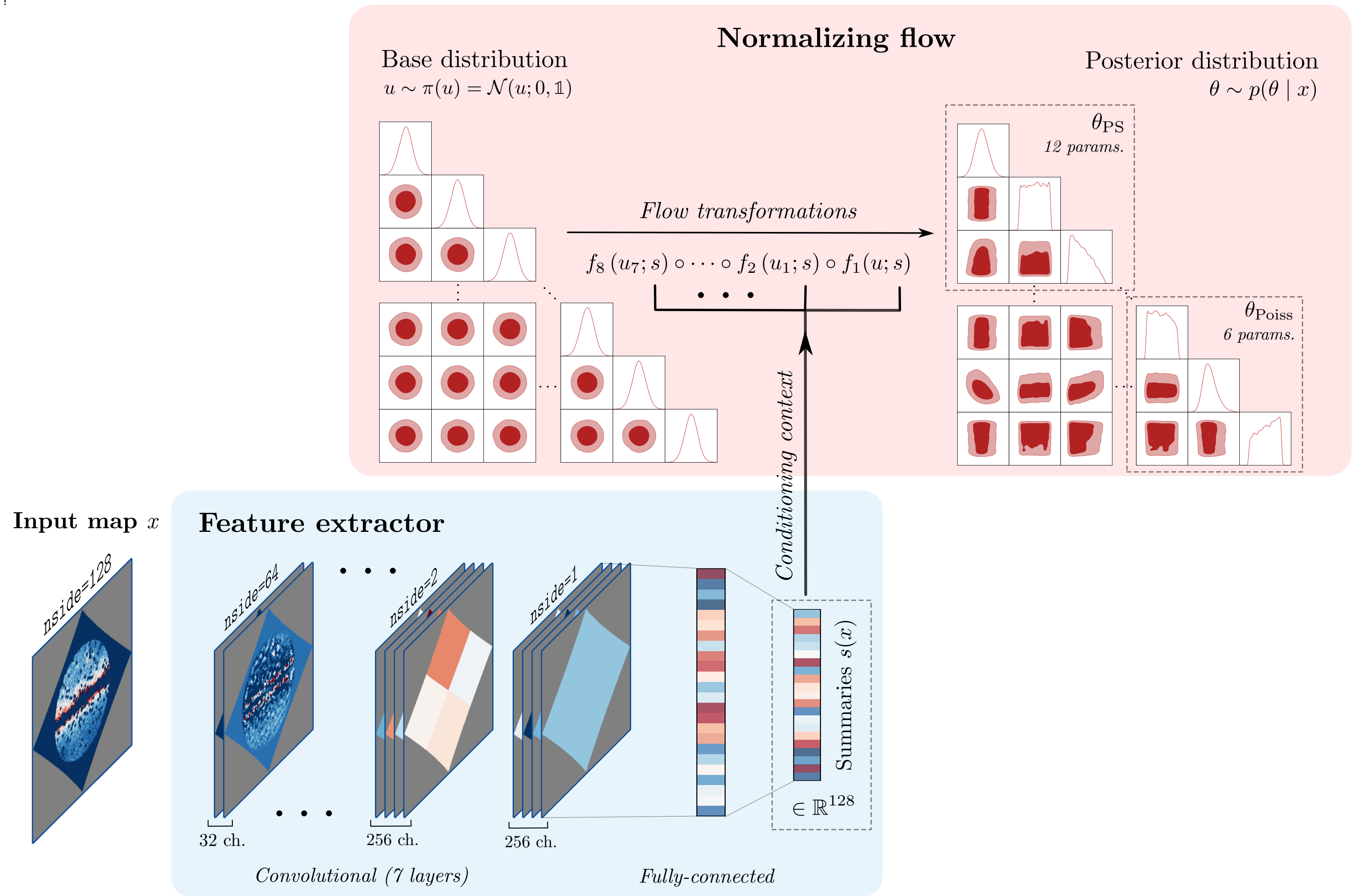
Contents

- Software and Resources
 - Code Packages and Benchmarks
 - Review Papers
 - Discovery and Links
- Papers: Methods
- Papers: Application
 - Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Astronomy
 - Particle Physics
 - Neuroscience
 - Health and Medicine
 - Other Domains
 - Application to Real Data



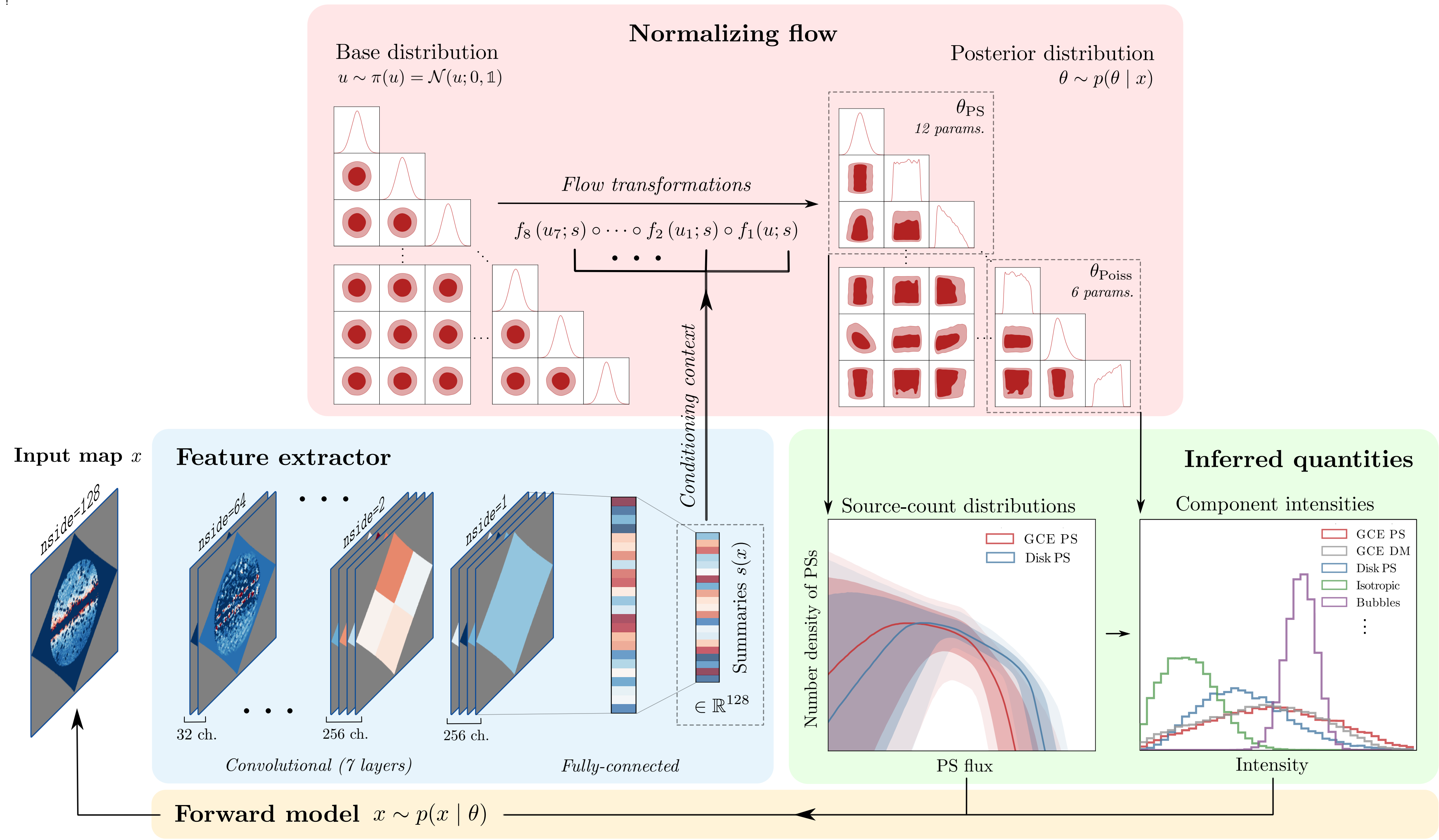
Going beyond the counts PDF: *neural posterior estimation*

SM, Cranmer [PRD 2022]



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Going beyond the counts PDF: *neural posterior estimation*

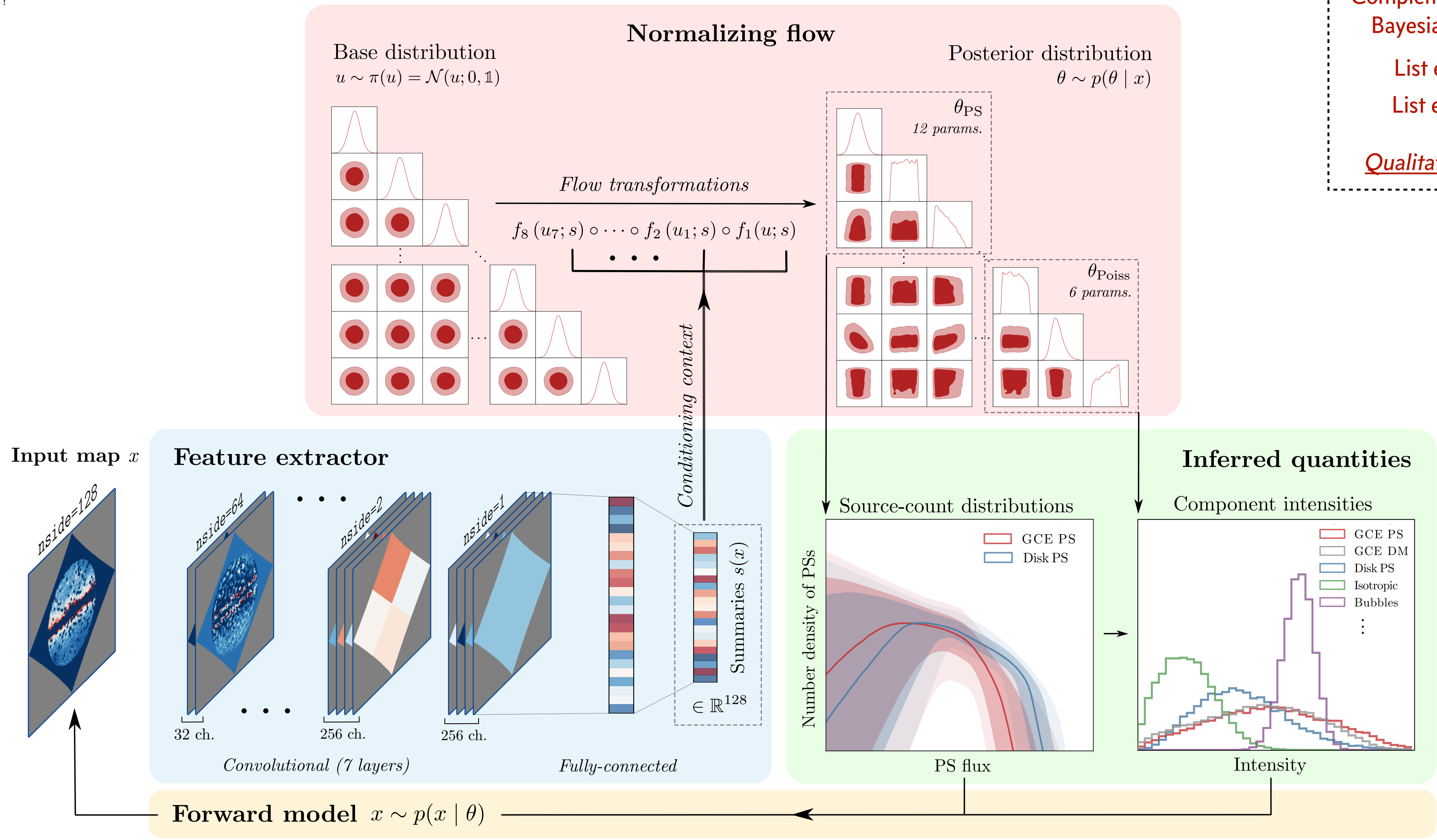
SM, Cranmer [PRD 2022]

Complementary method using
Bayesian neural networks:

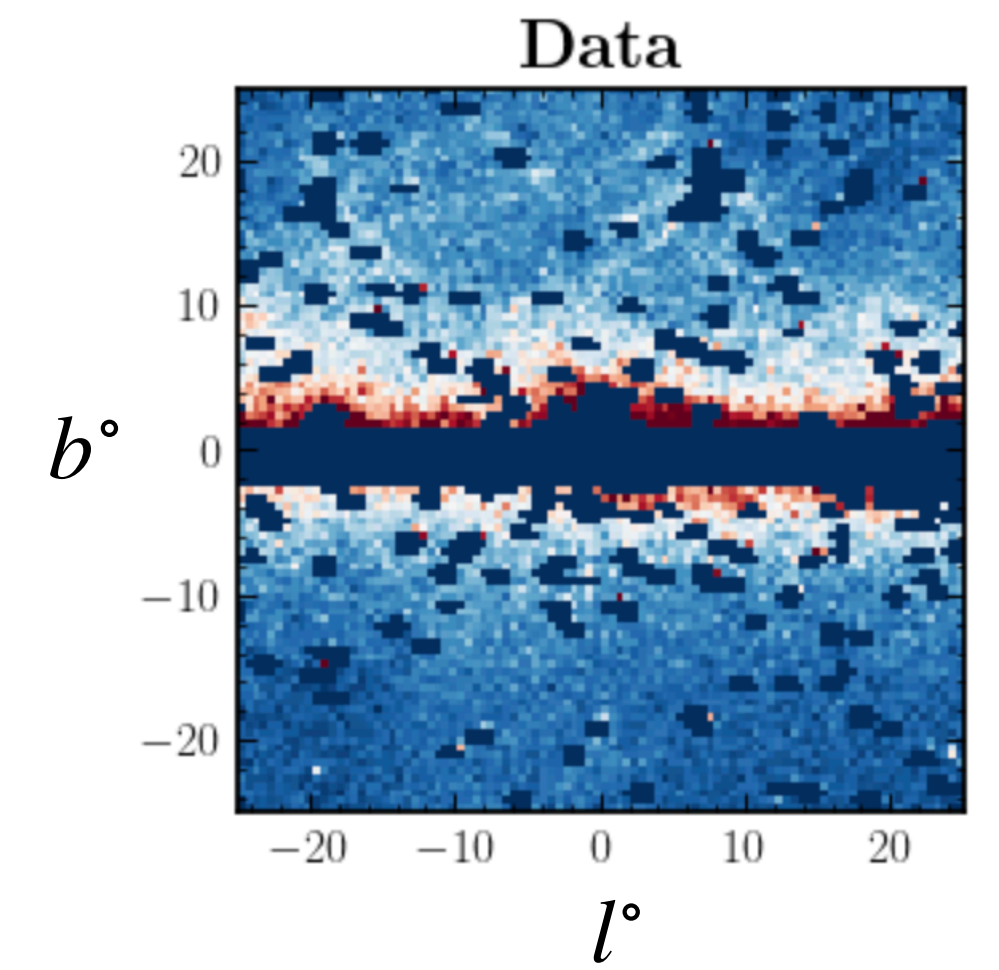
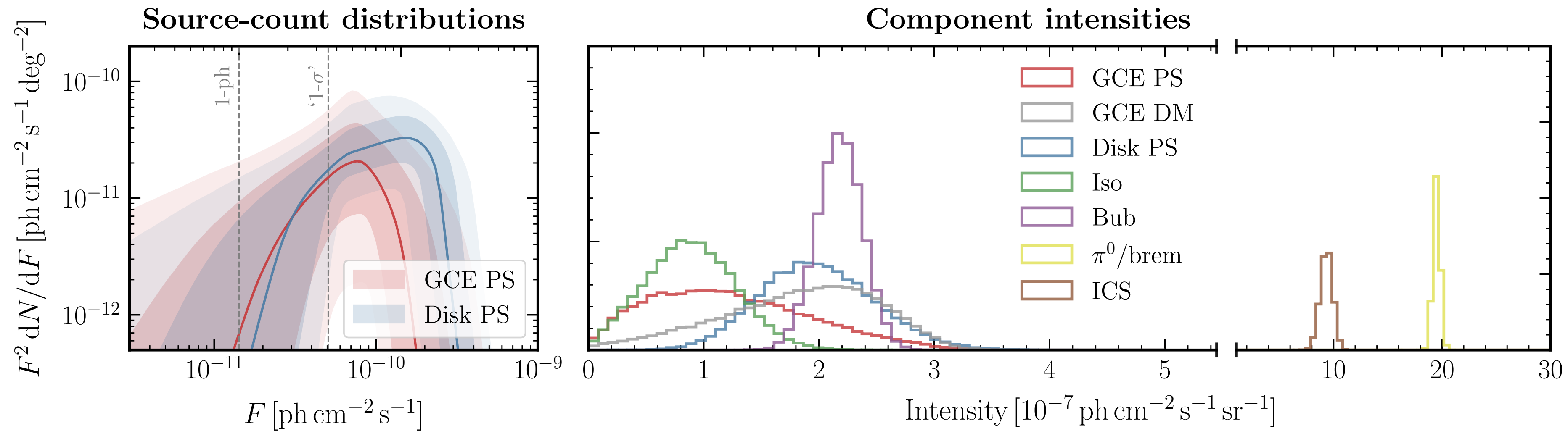
List et al [PRL 2021]

List et al [PRD 2021]

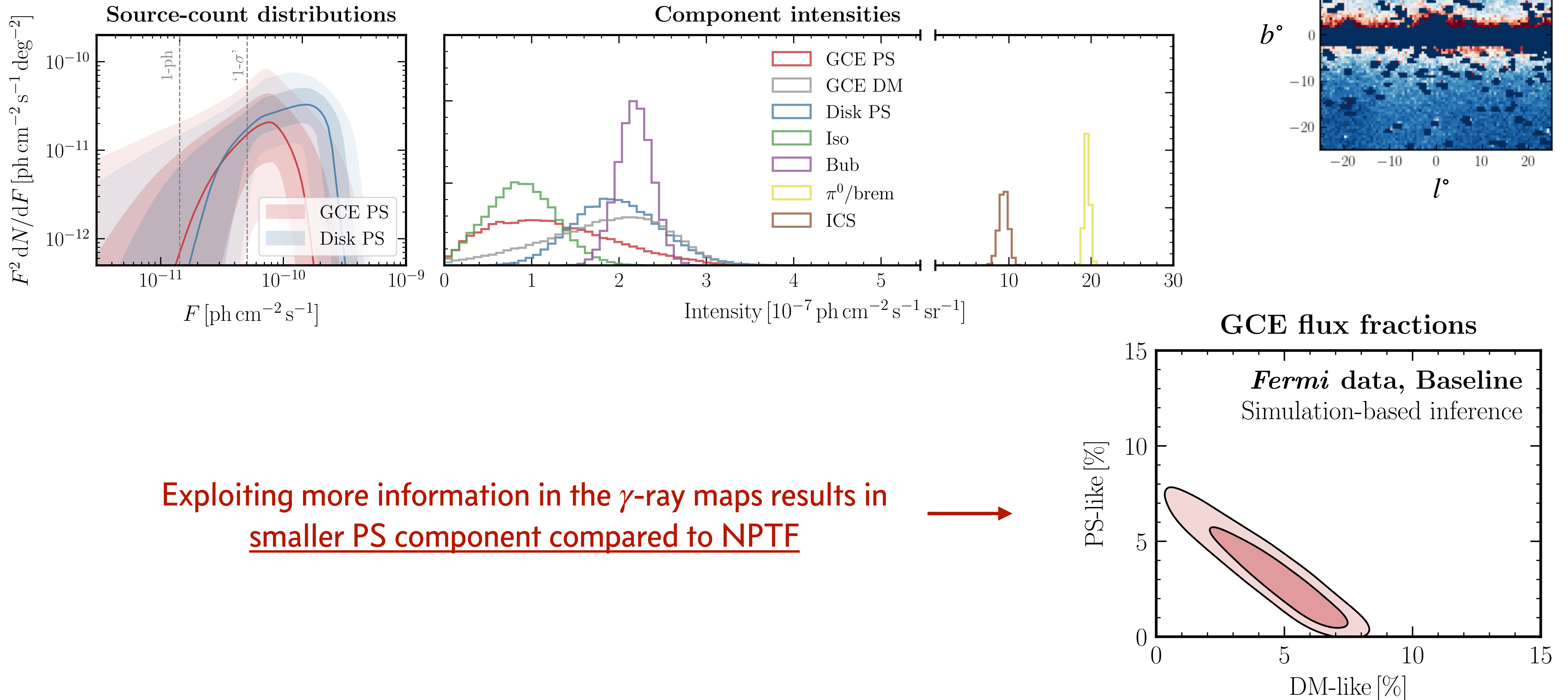
Qualitatively similar results



Application to *Fermi* γ -ray data



Application to *Fermi* γ -ray data

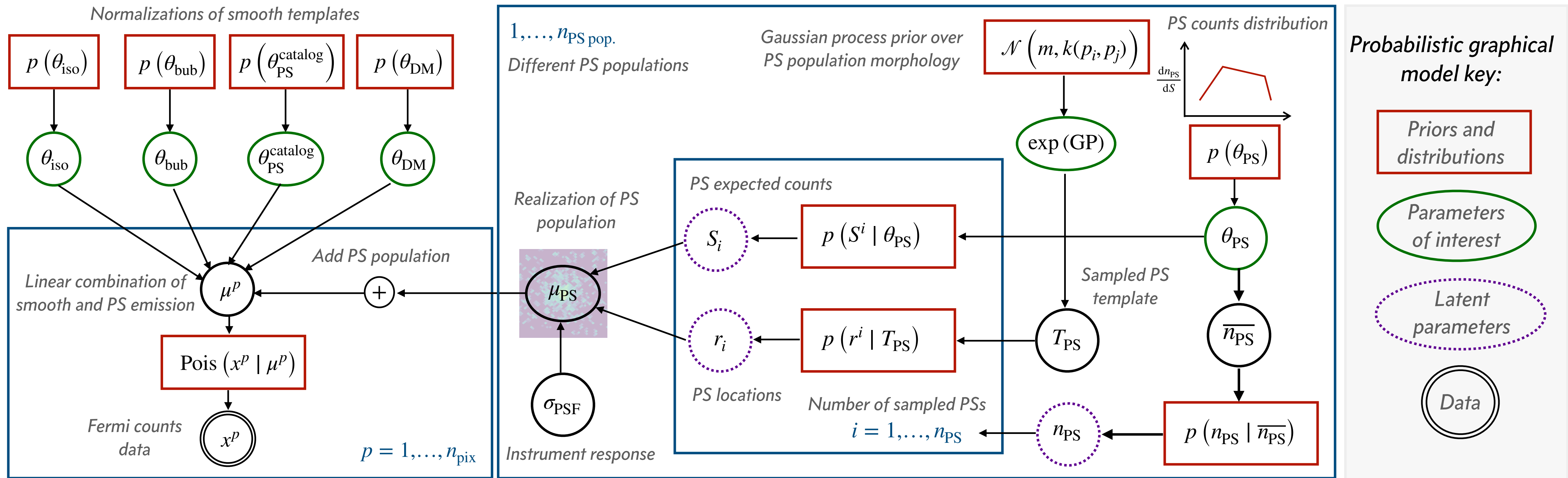


Differentiable probabilistic programming: *the future?*

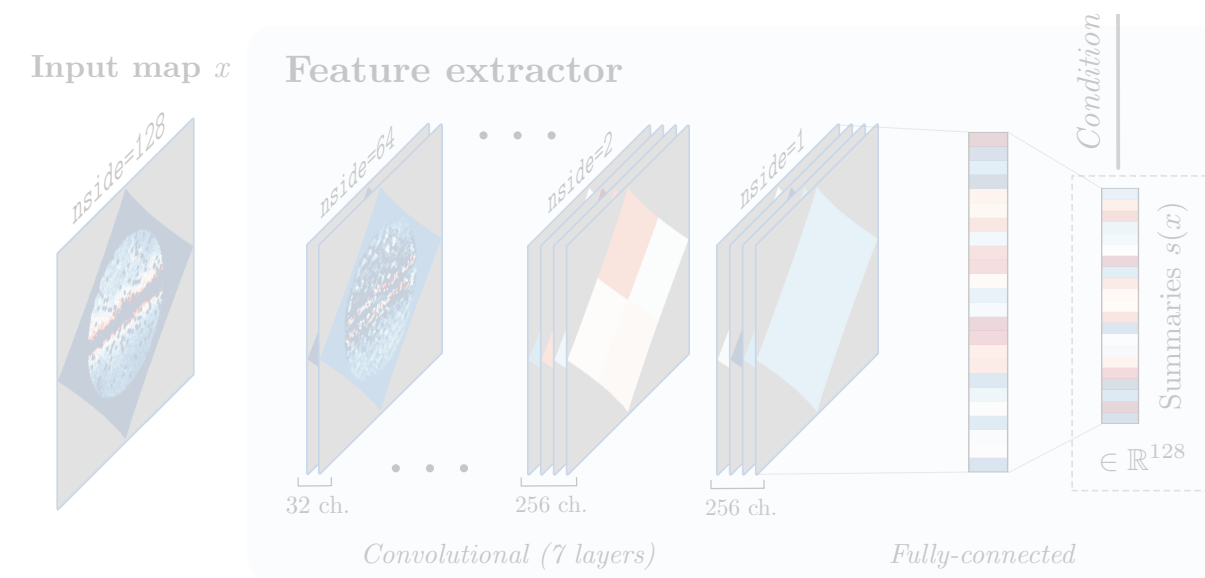
**Society if we gave Bayesians
billions of dollars for their MCMC**



Differentiable probabilistic programming: *the future?*



Outline



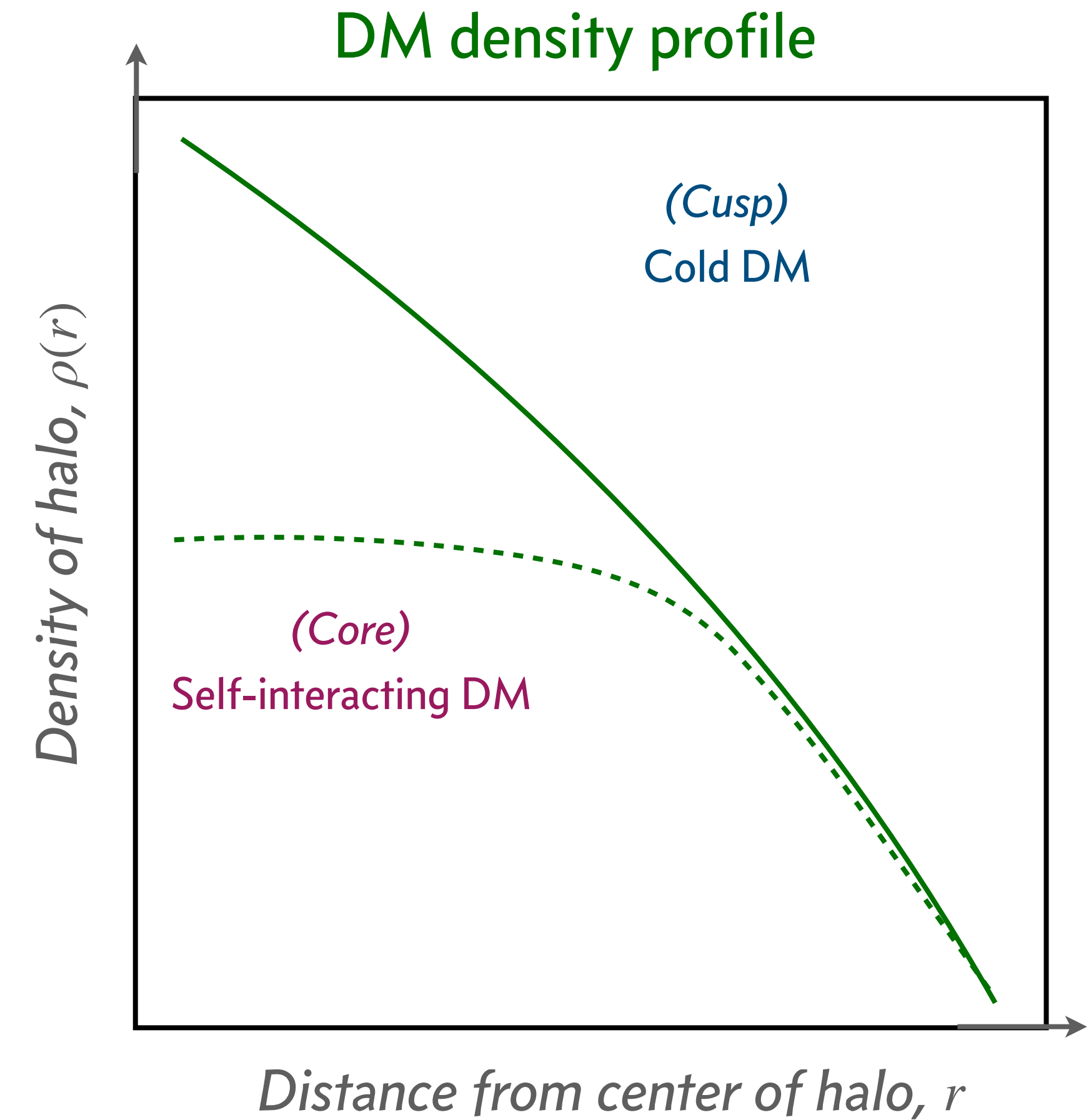
Characterizing the Galactic Center Excess

Inferring dark matter halo shapes in dwarf galaxies

Dwarf galaxies and halo shapes

Dwarf galaxies are ideal targets for probing the shapes of DM halos

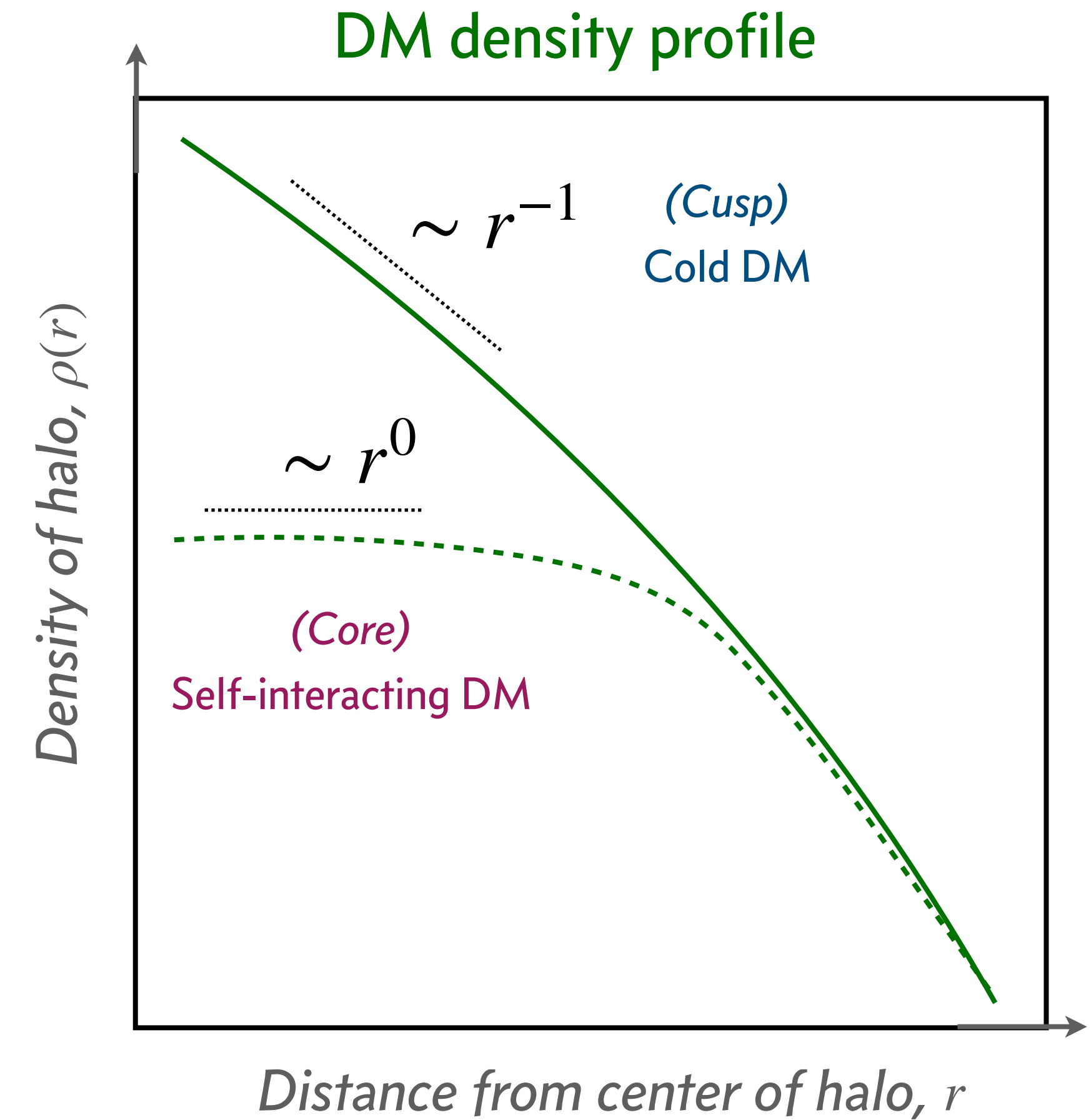
Fornax dwarf galaxy



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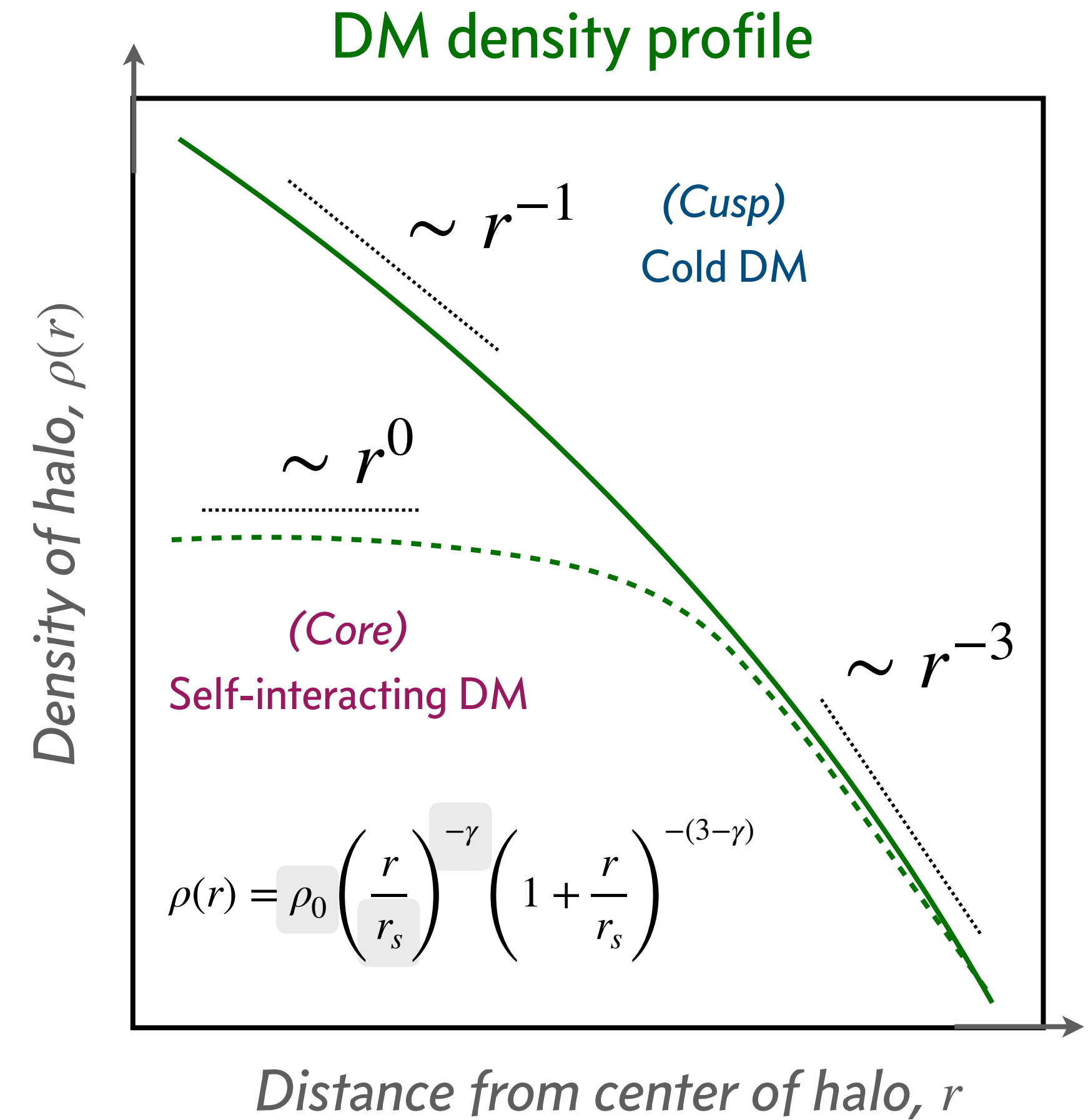
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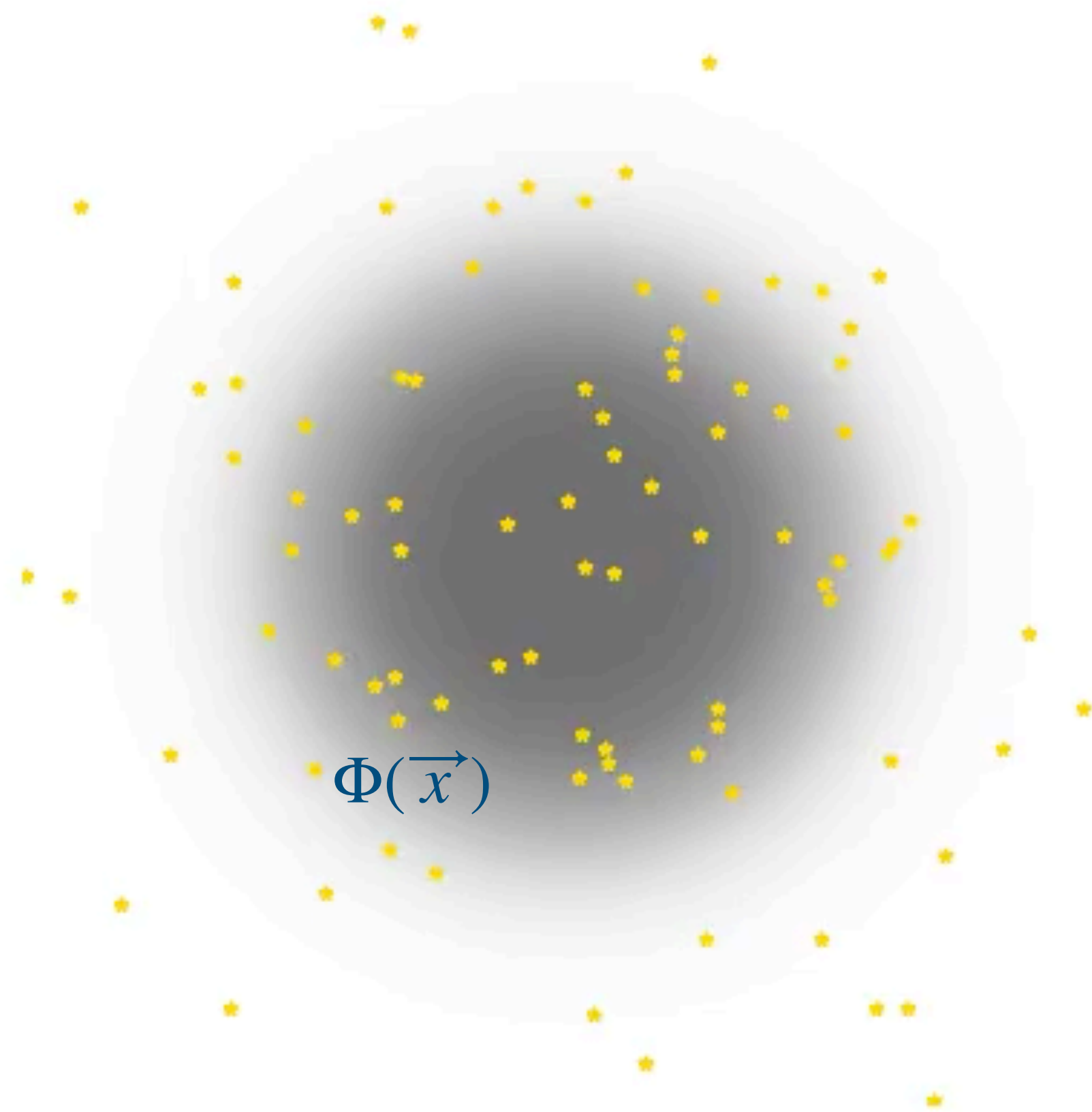
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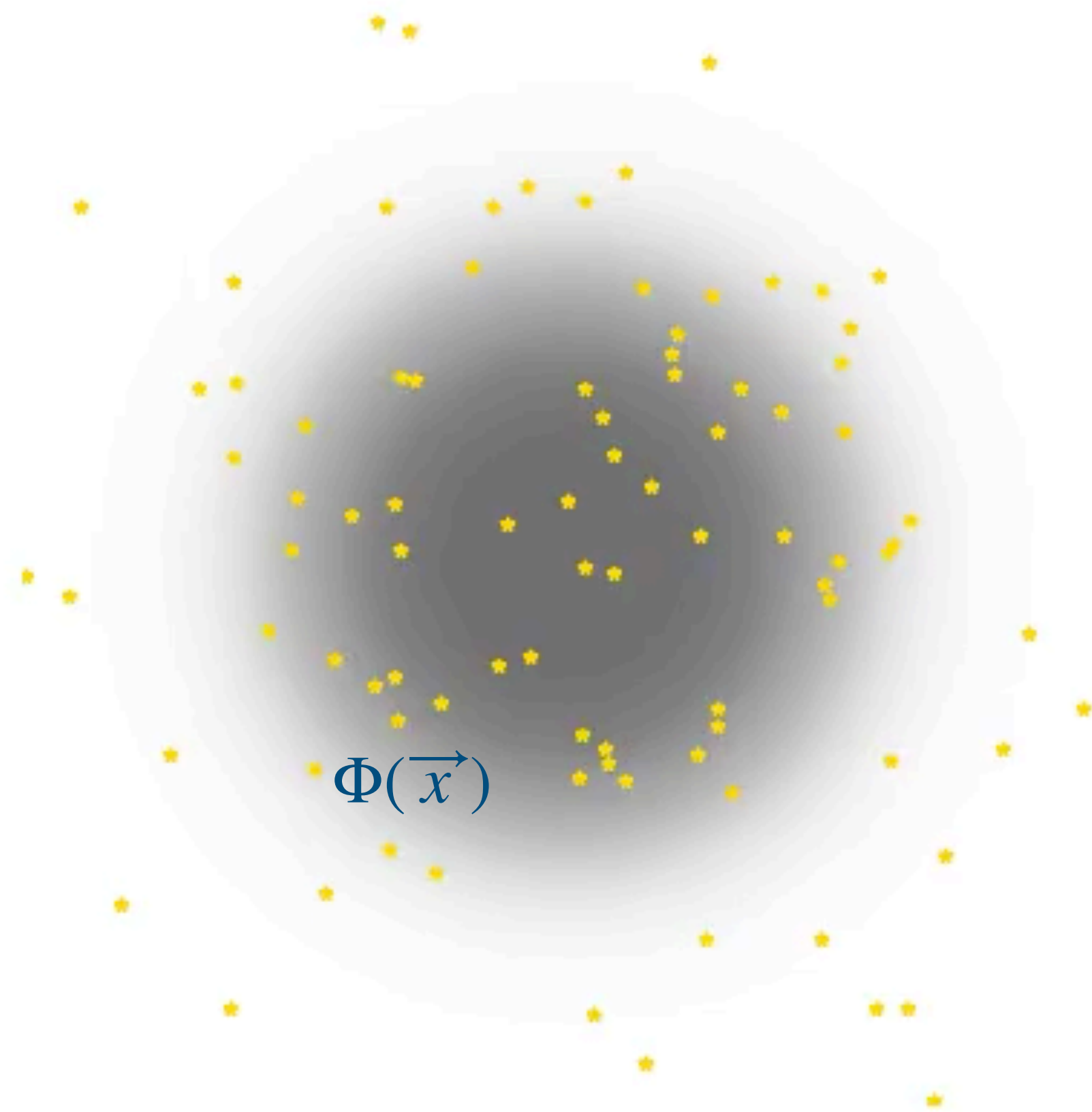
Fornax dwarf galaxy



From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*



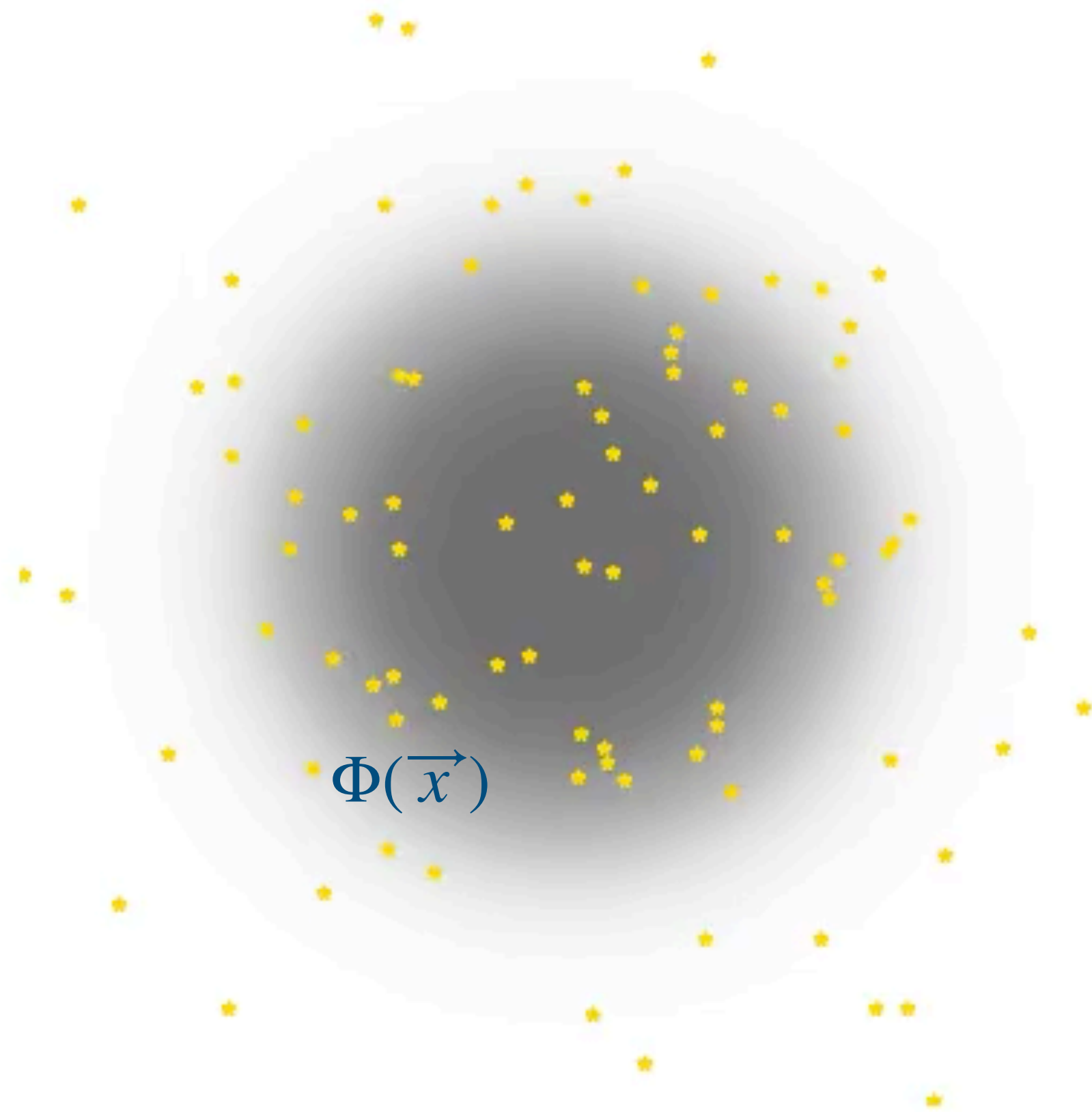
From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*



From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*

Phase-space density

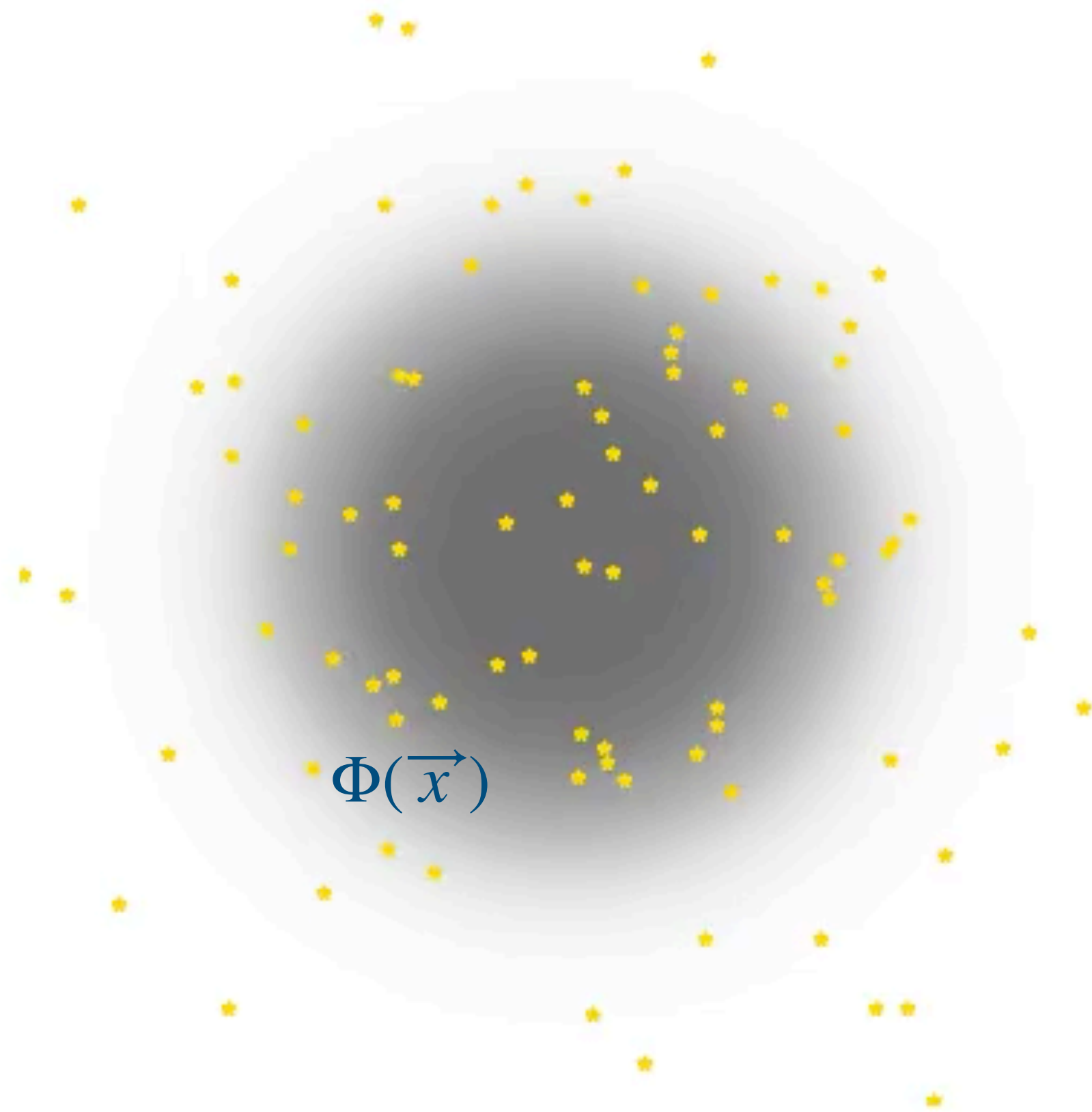
$$dn(\vec{x}, \vec{v}) \propto f(\vec{x}, \vec{v}) d^3x d^3v$$



From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*

Phase-space density

$$dn(\vec{x}, \vec{v}) \propto f(\vec{x}, \vec{v}) d^3x d^3v$$



Phase space density and its *moments*

$$n(\vec{x}) = \int d^3v f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$$

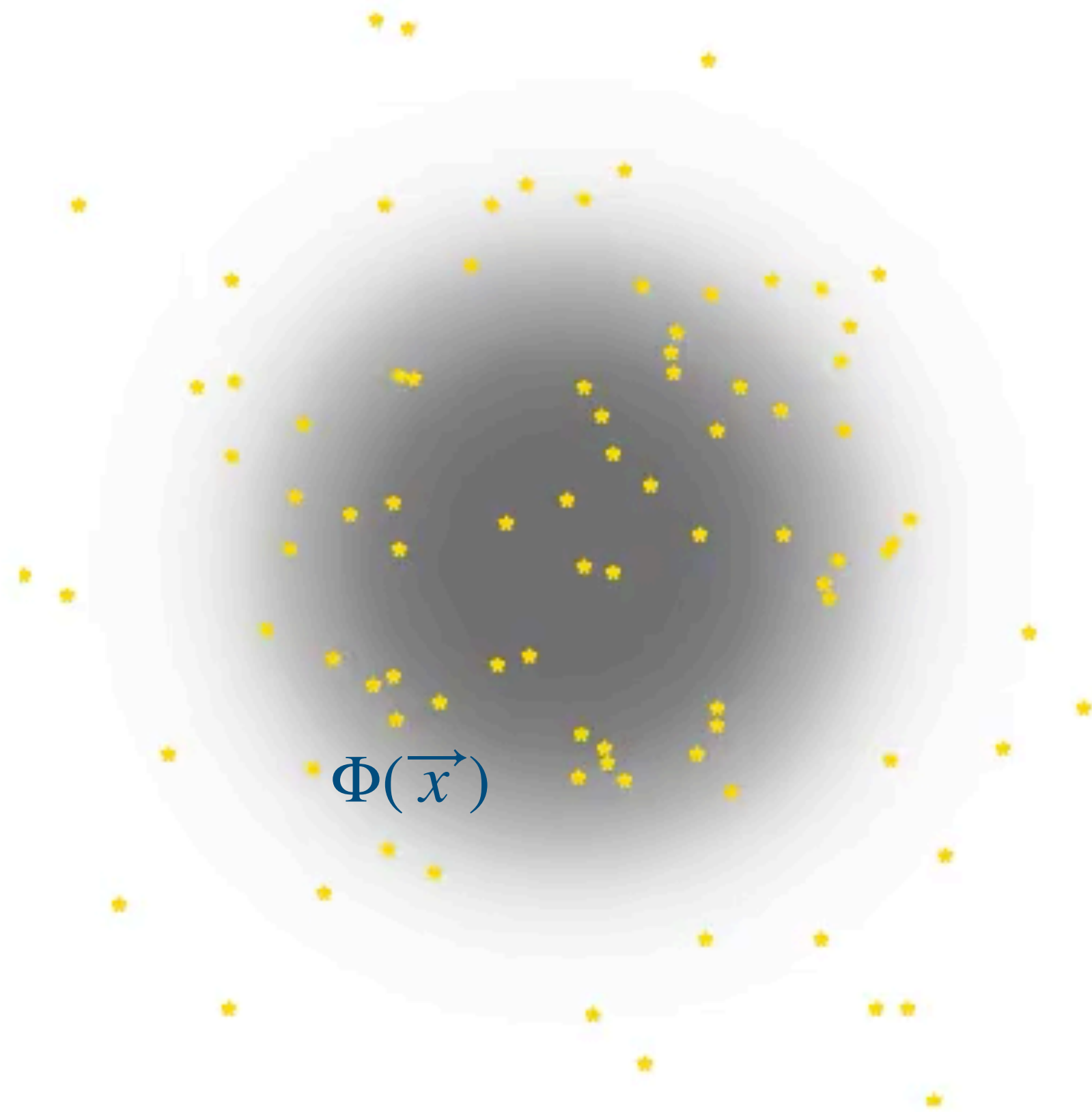
$$\langle v_i(\vec{x}) \rangle = \int d^3v v_i f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$$

$$\sigma_{ij}(\vec{x}) = \int d^3v (v_i - \bar{v}_i)(v_j - \bar{v}_j) f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$$

From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*

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Phase space density and its *moments*

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$$\sigma_{ij}(\vec{x}) = \int d^3v (v_i - \bar{v}_i)(v_j - \bar{v}_j) f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$$

Jeans equations connect *moments* of $f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$ to $\Phi(\vec{x})$

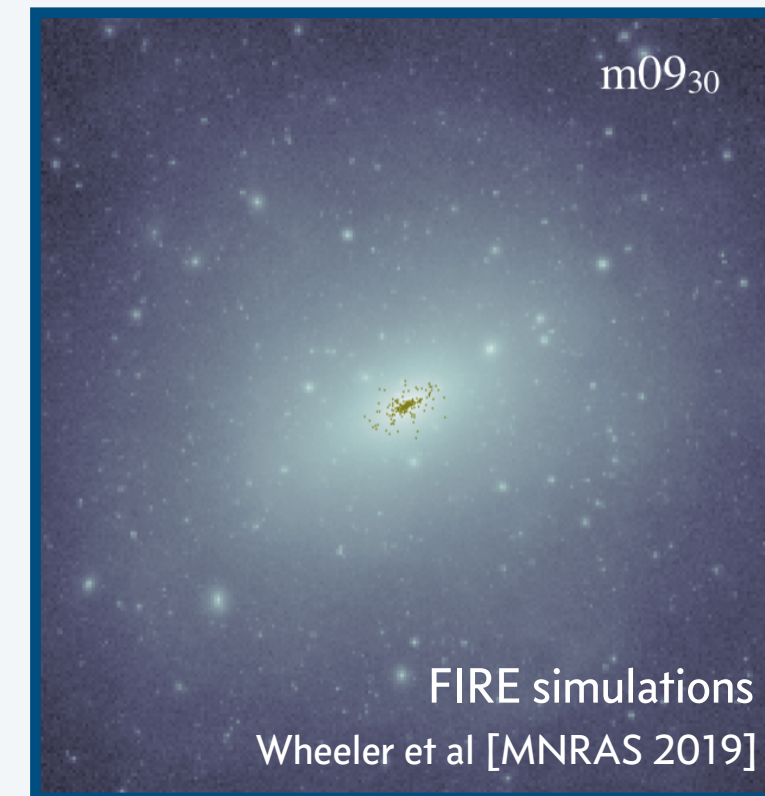
$$n \langle v_i \rangle \frac{\partial \langle v_j \rangle}{\partial x_i} + n \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial [n \sigma_{ij}^2]}{\partial x_i} = 0$$

Limitations of Jeans modeling

Assumptions about the data-generating process

Challenging to include:

- Non-equilibrium effects
- Asphericity
- Baryonic feedback
- Host potential



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Reliance on moments of $f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$

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- Simplified description of the data = *loss of information*
- Typically only 3 phase-space coordinates available:

$$\{\vec{r}, \vec{v}\} \longrightarrow \{\vec{r}_\perp, \vec{v}_{\text{los}}\}$$

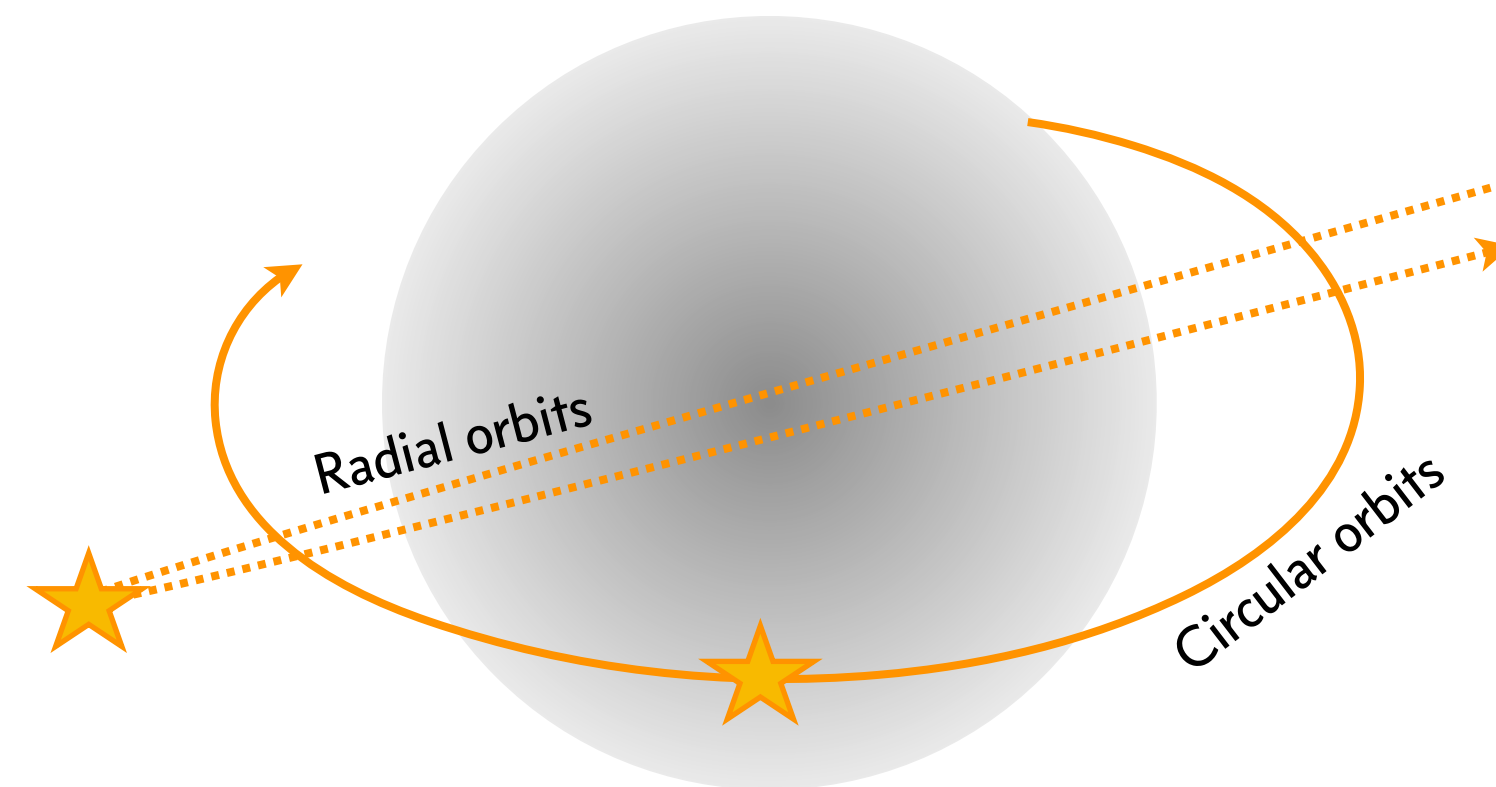
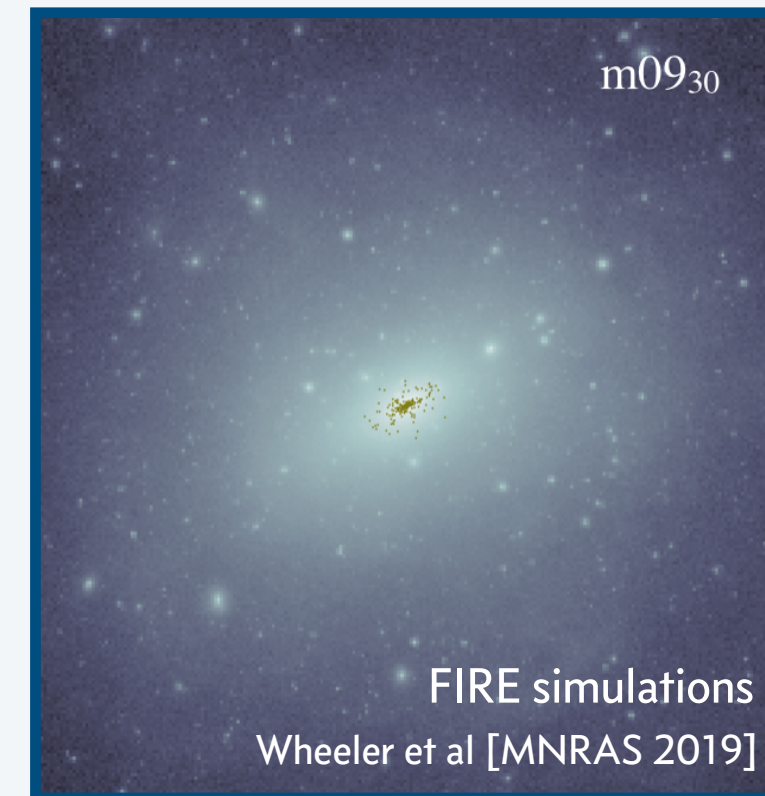
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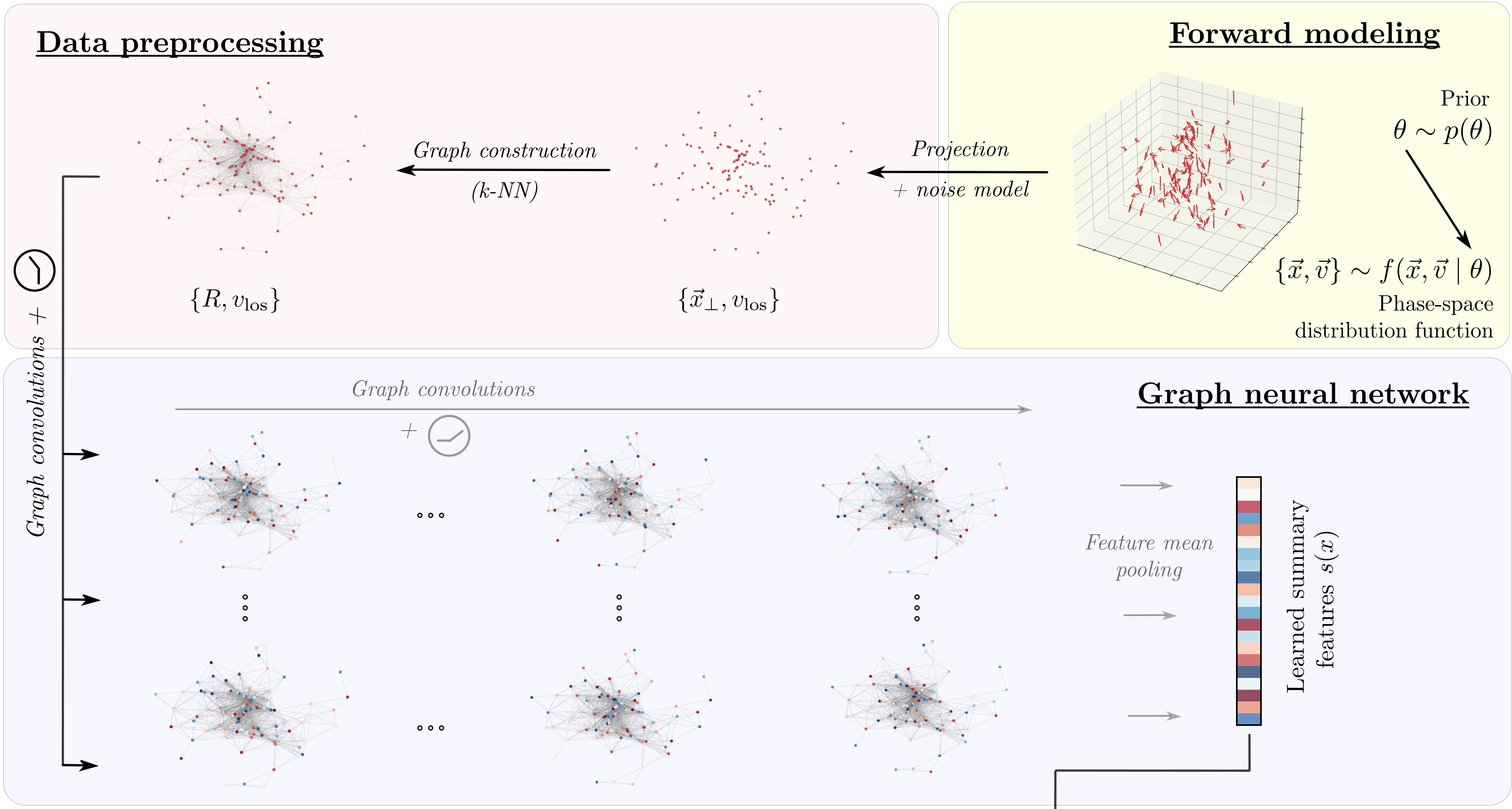
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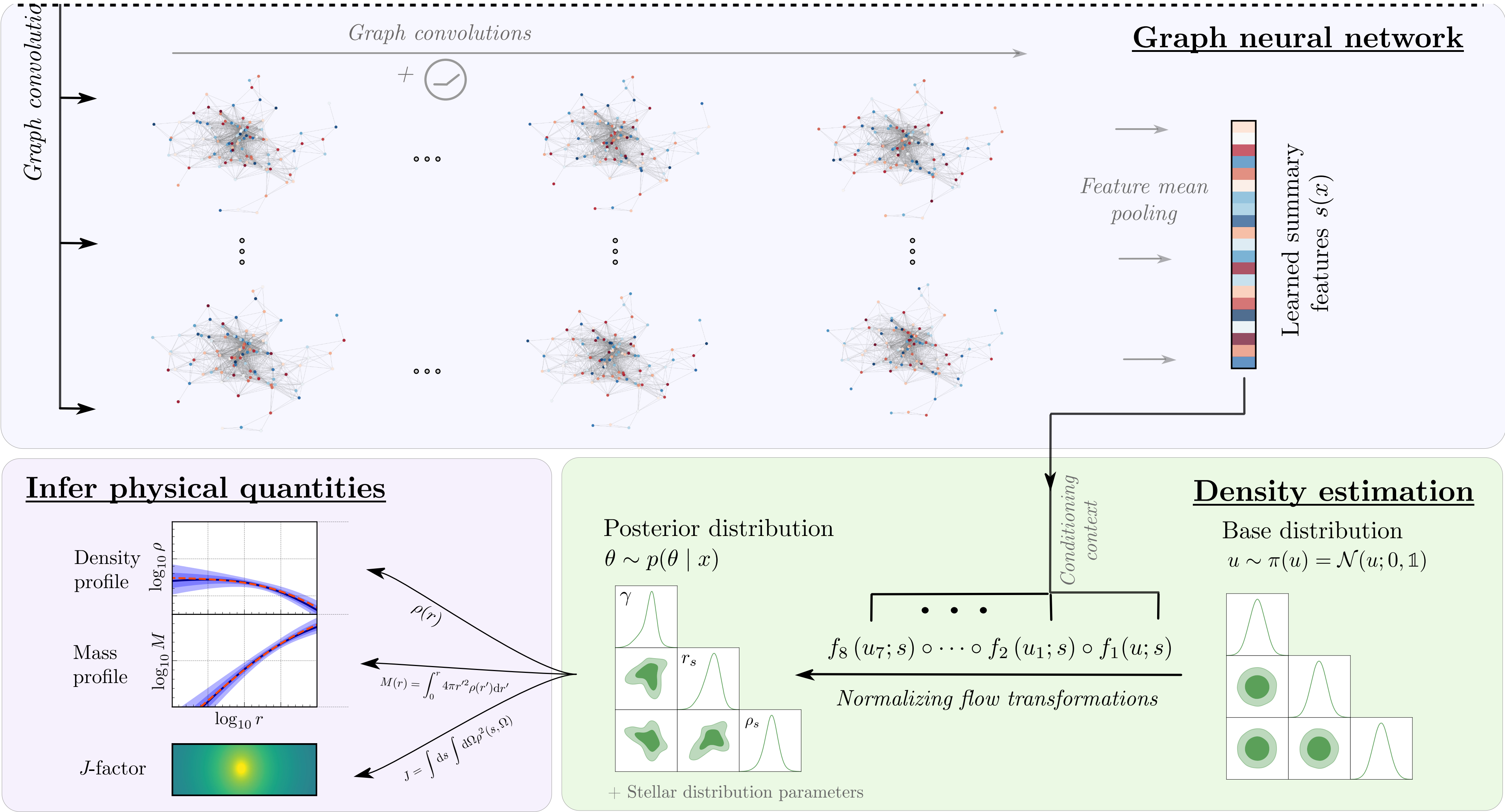
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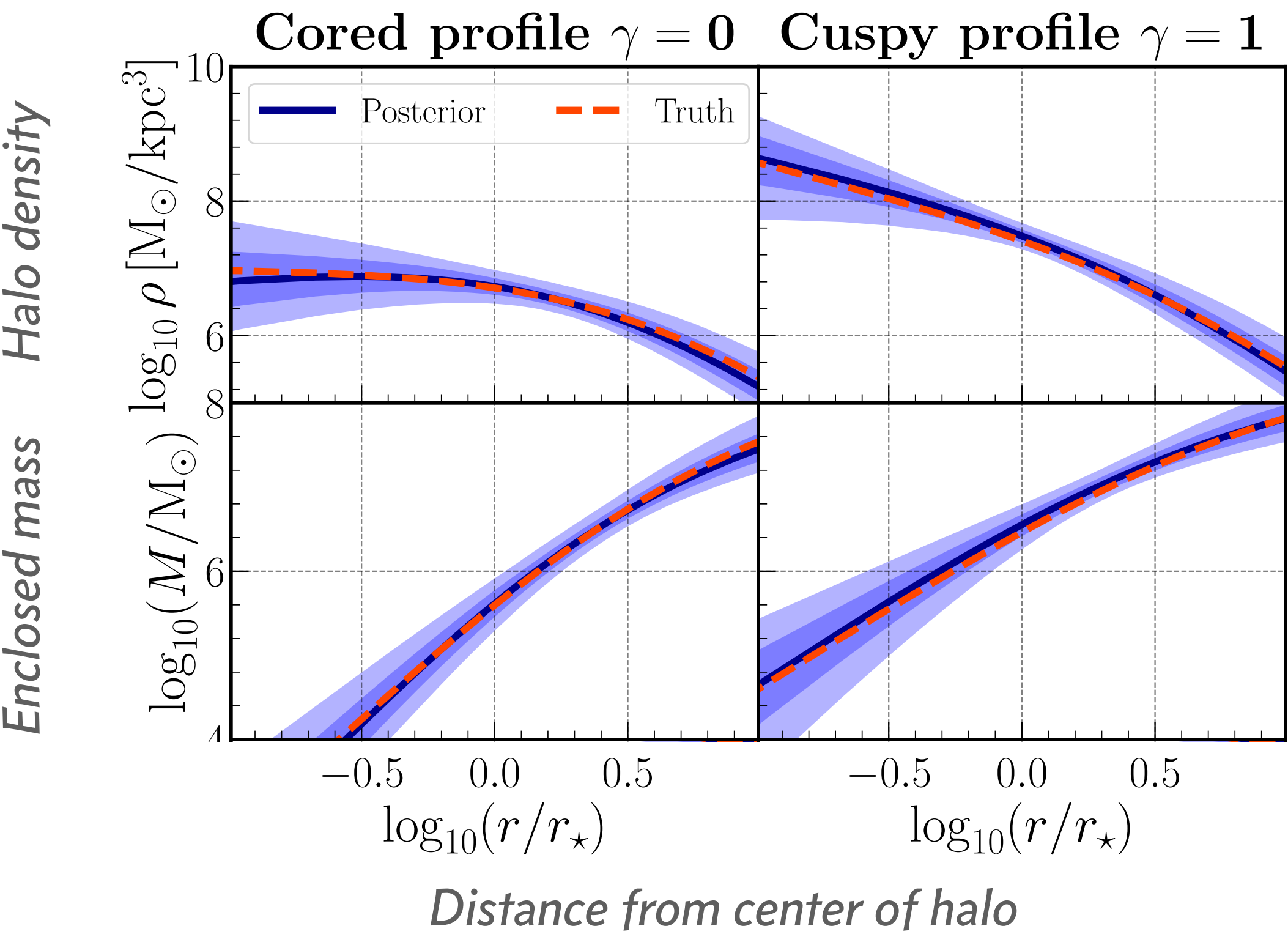
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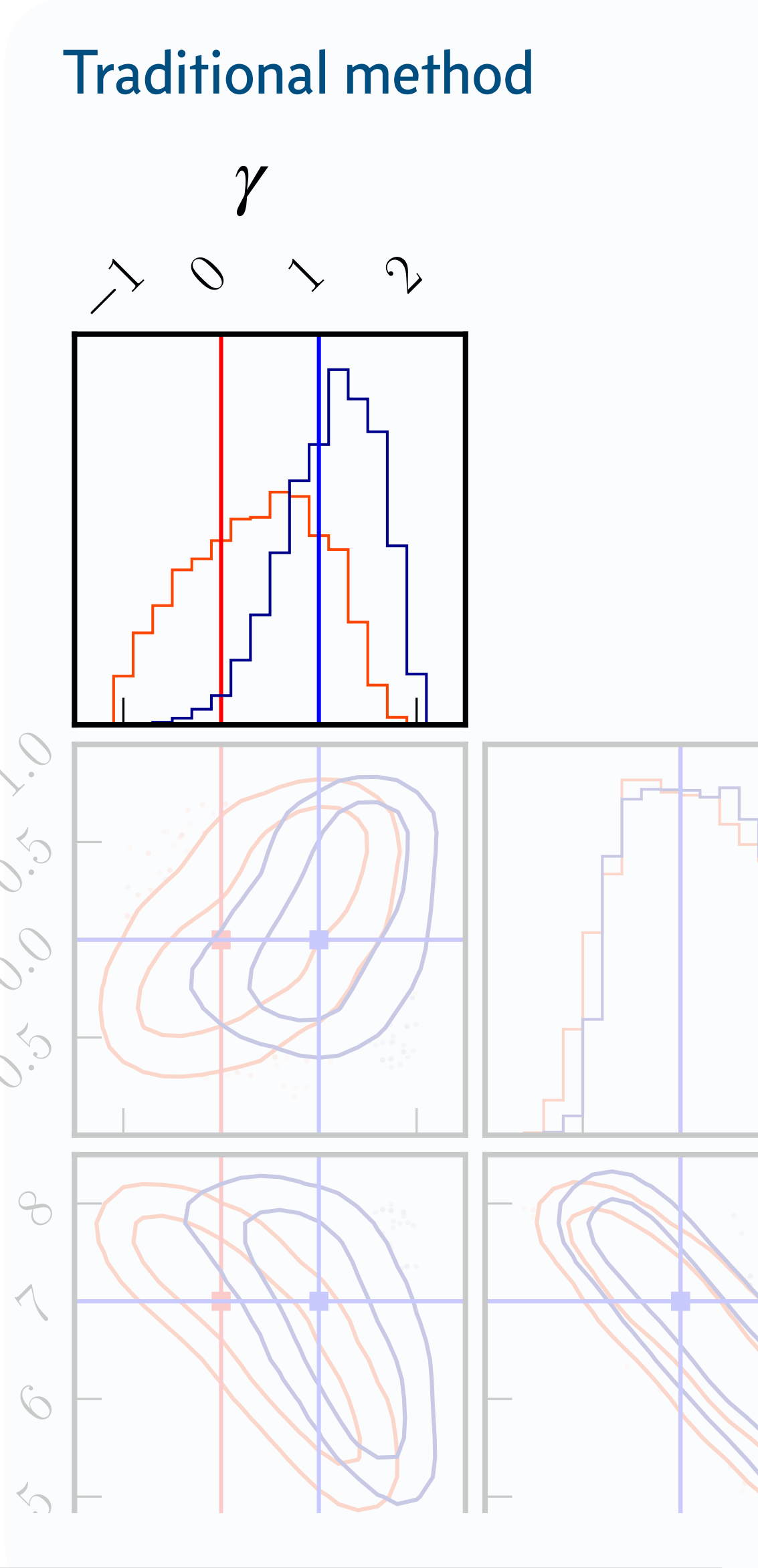
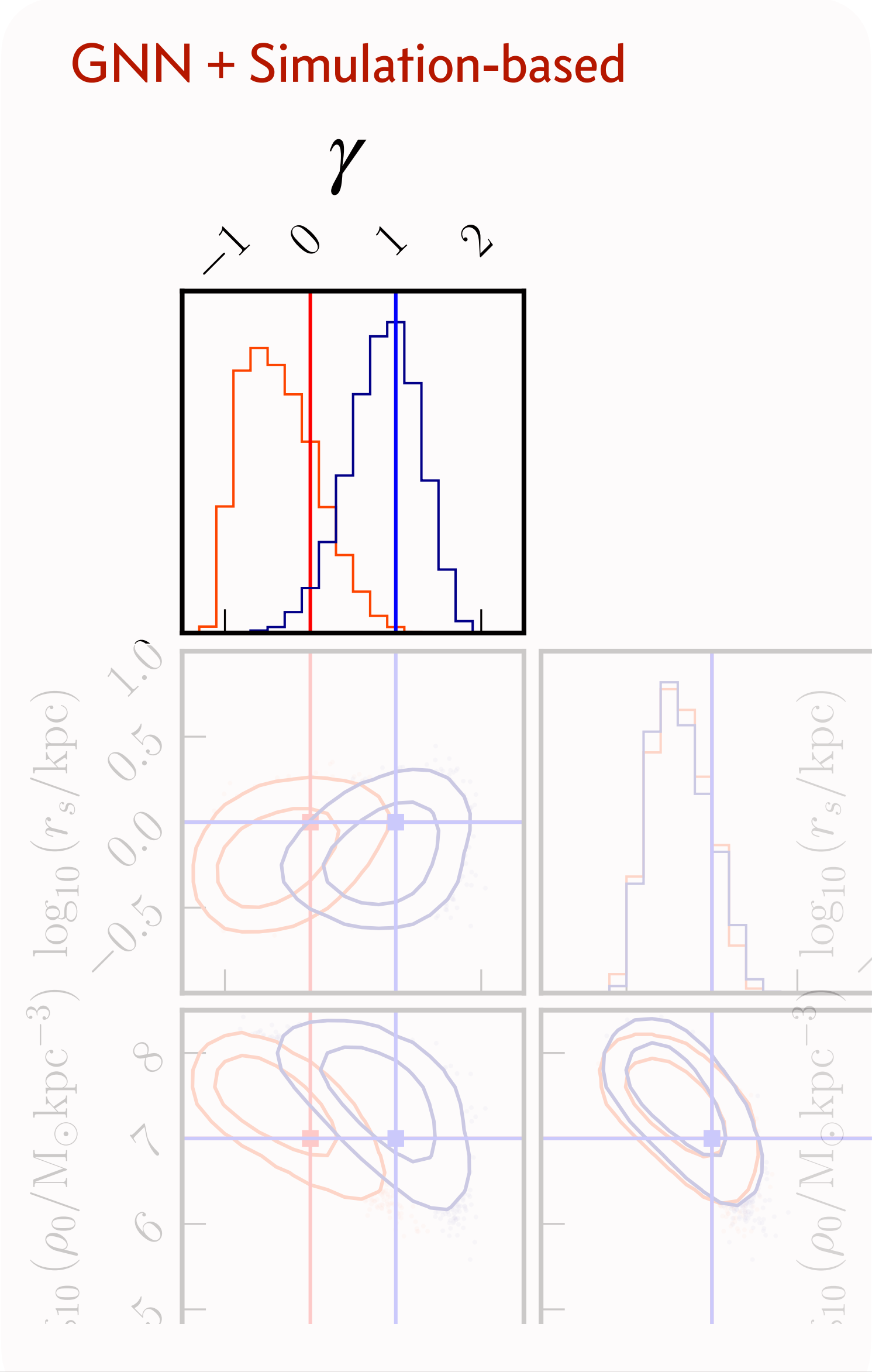
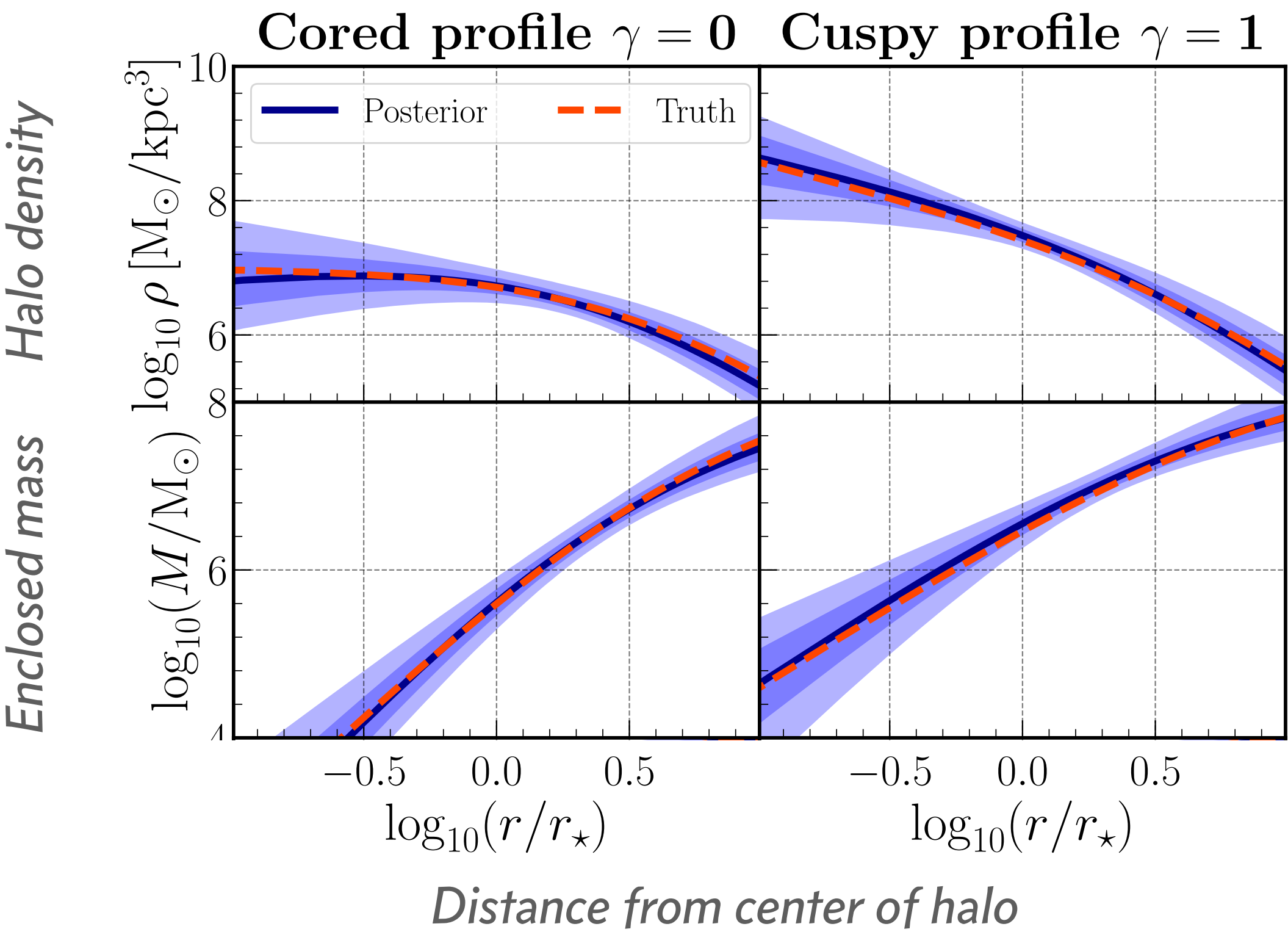
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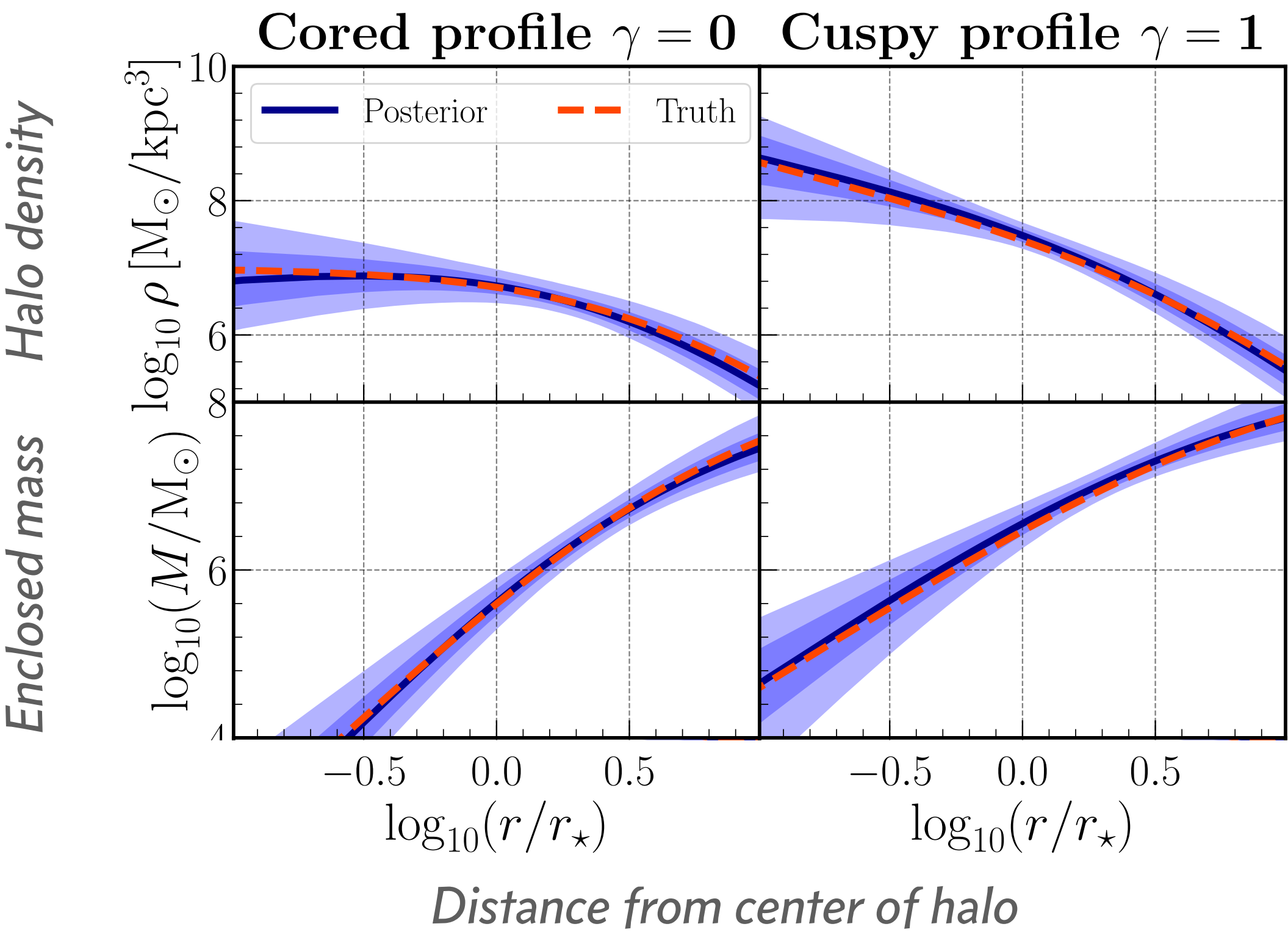




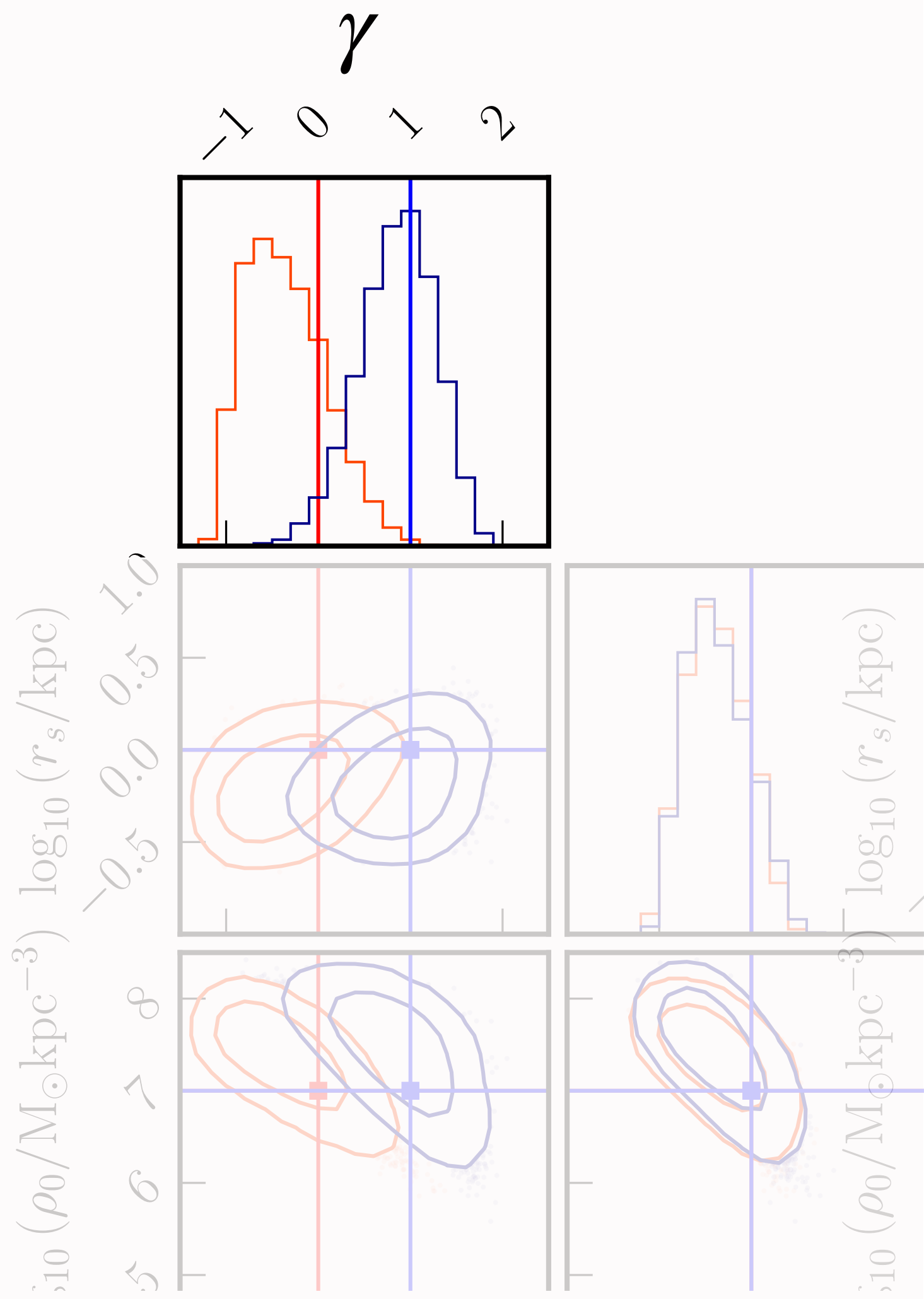


Inferring the dark matter profile

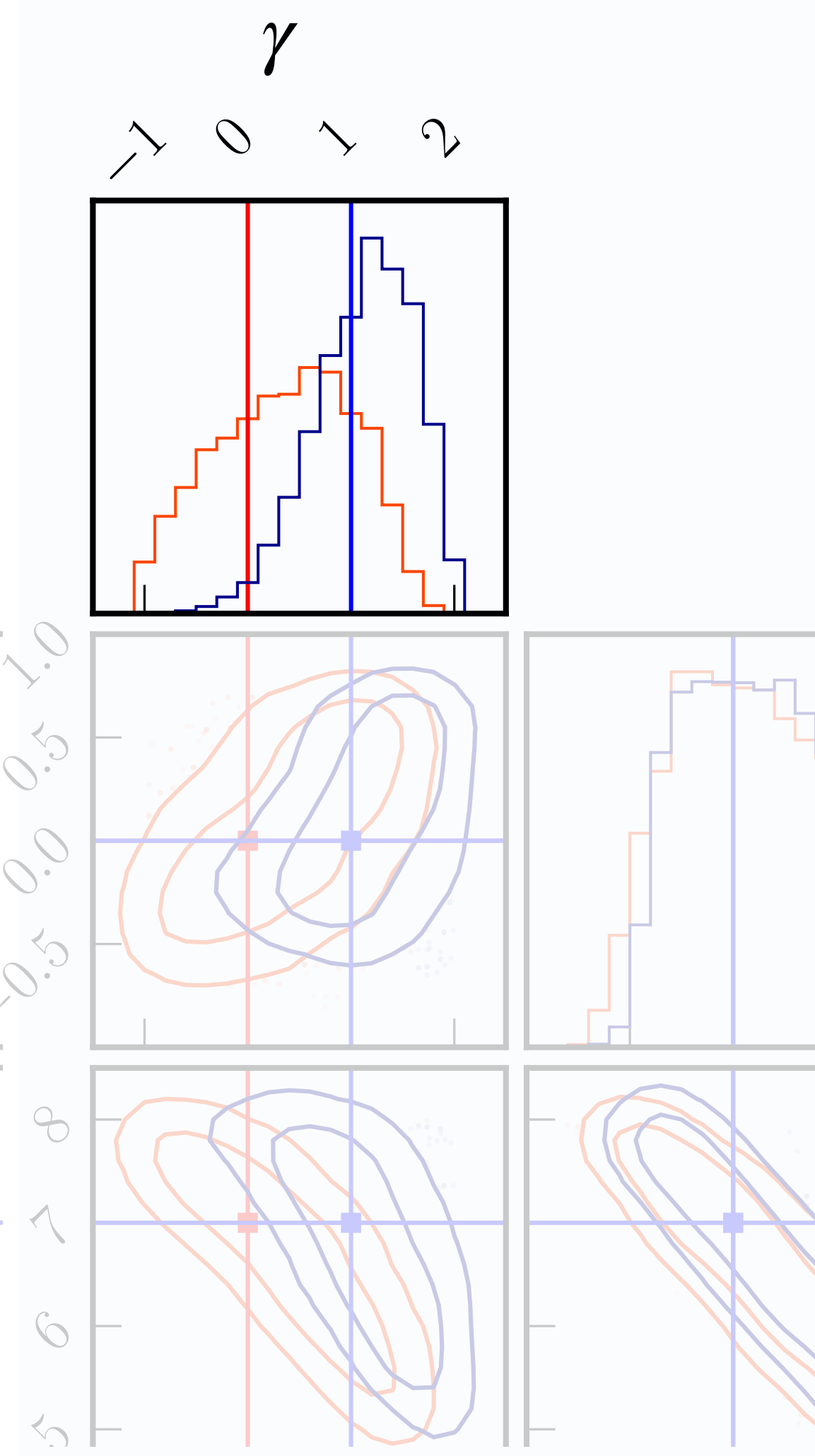




GNN + Simulation-based

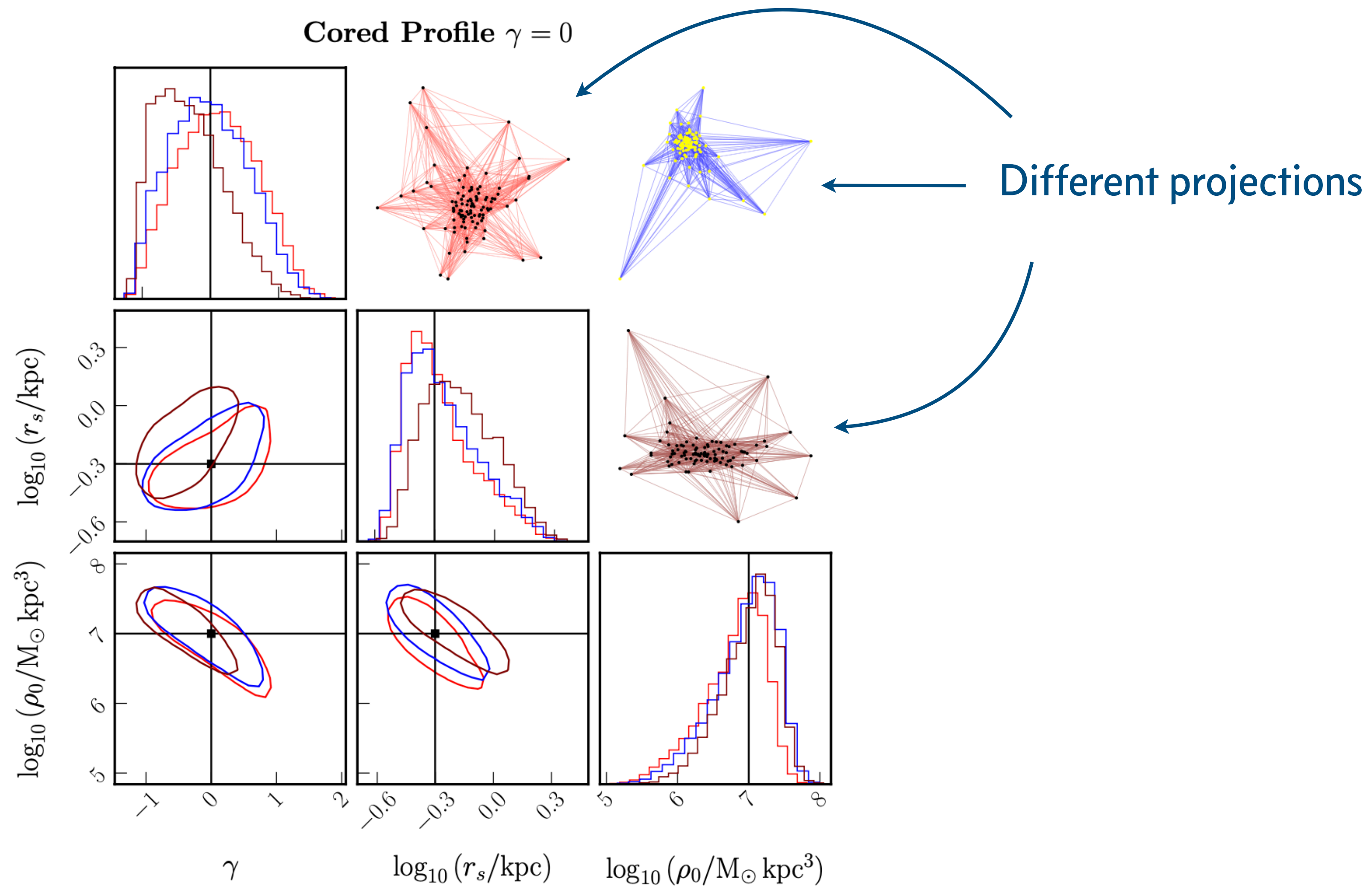


Traditional method



- *Leverage more information → greater sensitivity*
- *Fewer assumptions → more flexible*
- *Significantly faster analysis*

Sensitivity to projection



Applications to hydrodynamic simulations

Nguyen, SM et al [In prep]

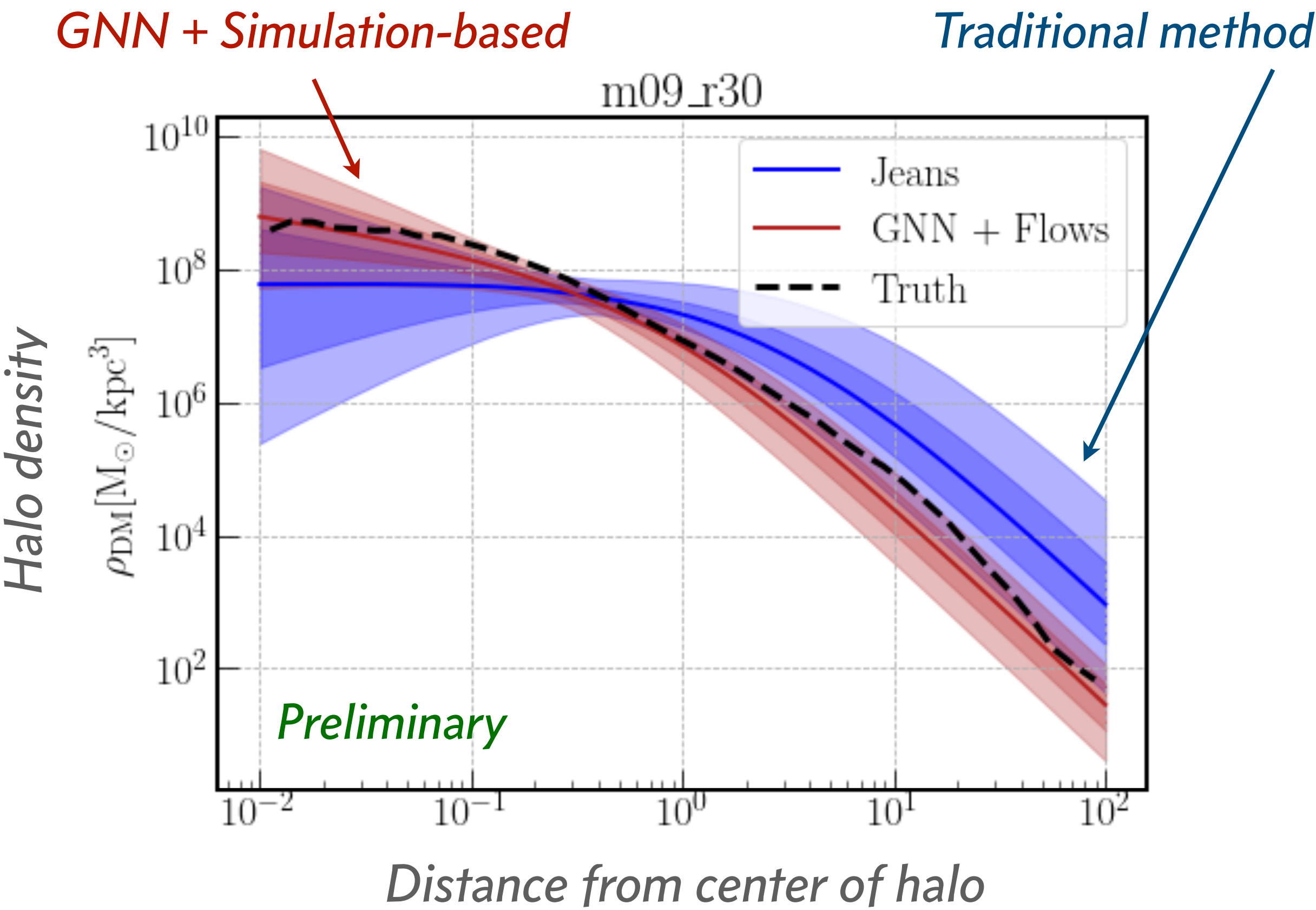
Wheeler et al [MNRAS 2019]



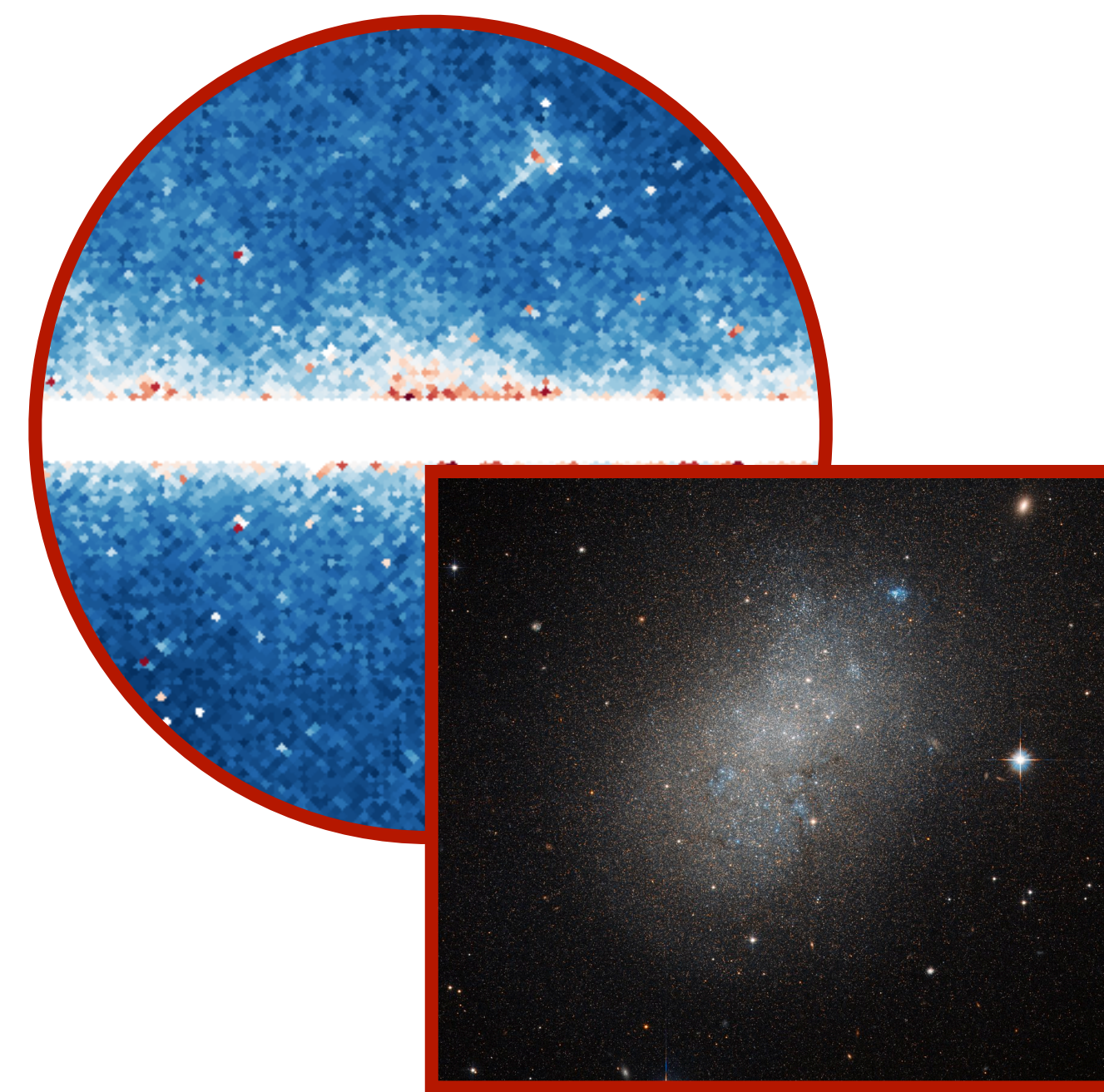
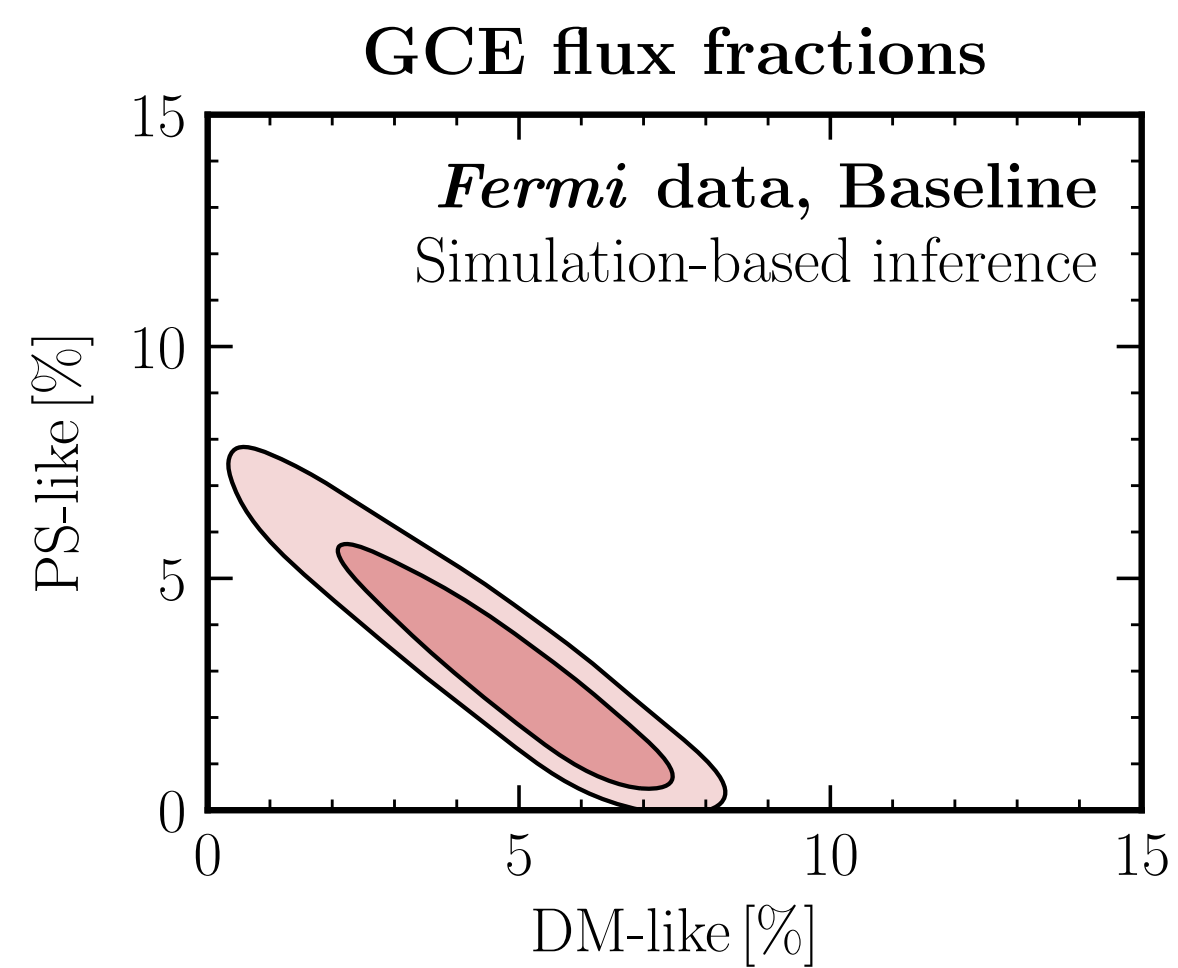
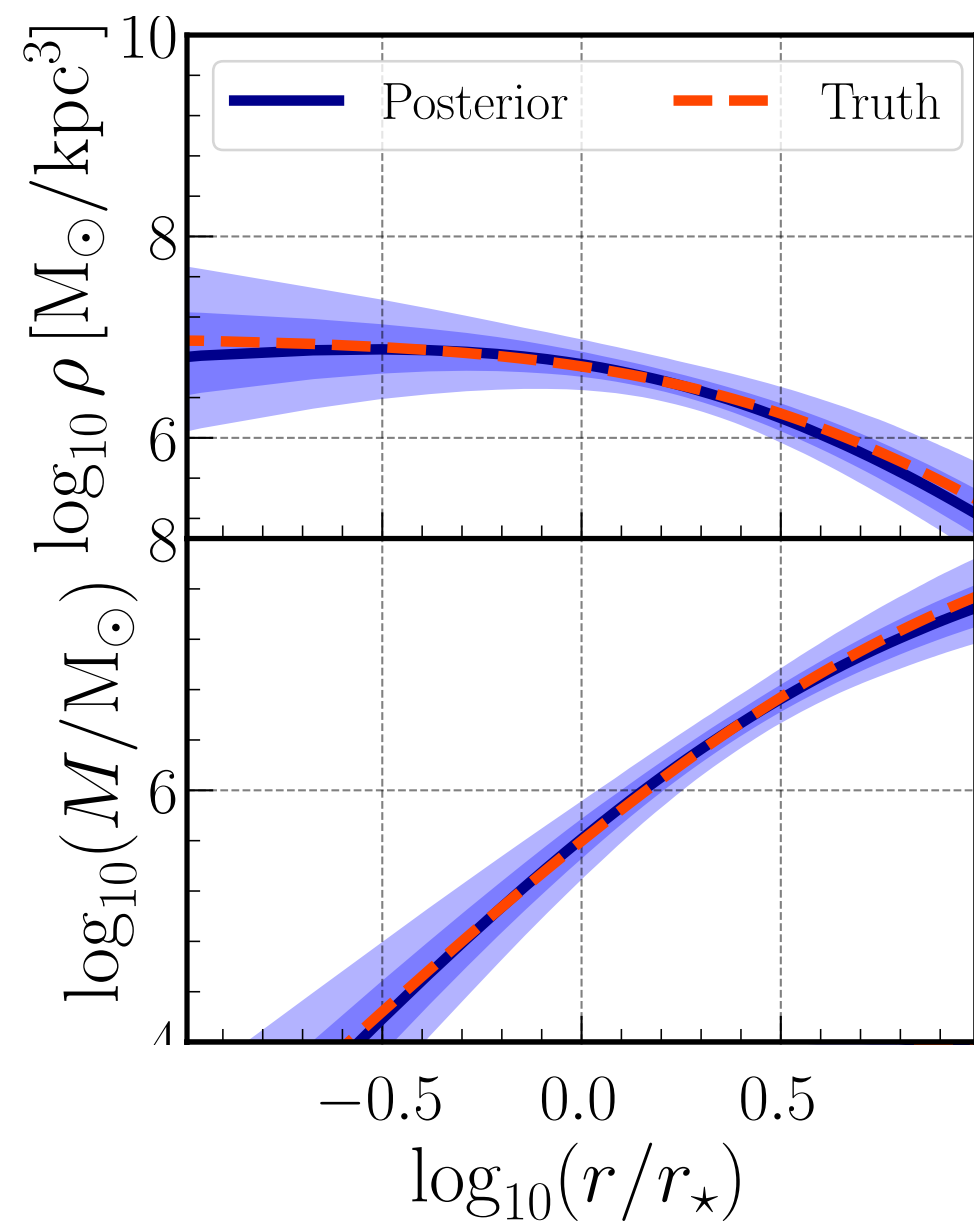
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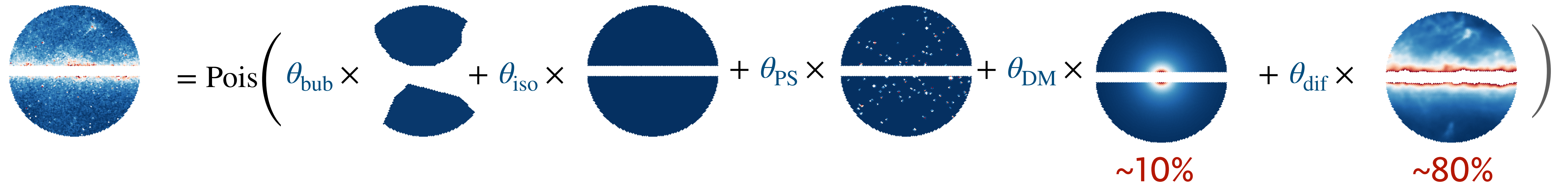
Conclusions



Additional slides

Modeled components

Data modeled as a Poisson realization of a linear combination of spatial templates



The diagram illustrates the modeling of astronomical data as a Poisson realization of a linear combination of spatial templates. On the left, a circular image of a galaxy field is shown. This is followed by an equals sign and the word "Pois" in a large font, indicating a Poisson process. To the right of "Pois" is a large opening parenthesis. Inside the parenthesis, five terms are listed, separated by plus signs. Each term consists of a coefficient (in blue) multiplied by a spatial template (in a circular image). The templates are: 1) θ_{bub} multiplied by a template showing two dark, irregular shapes. 2) θ_{iso} multiplied by a template showing a horizontal white line across a dark circle. 3) θ_{PS} multiplied by a template showing a sparse distribution of small white dots. 4) θ_{DM} multiplied by a template showing a bright, diffuse, horizontal band. Below this template is the text "~10%". 5) θ_{dif} multiplied by a template showing a bright, diffuse, horizontal band with a more complex, irregular shape. Below this template is the text "~80%". The entire expression is enclosed in a large closing parenthesis on the right.

$$= \text{Pois} \left(\theta_{\text{bub}} \times \text{[template]} + \theta_{\text{iso}} \times \text{[template]} + \theta_{\text{PS}} \times \text{[template]} + \theta_{\text{DM}} \times \text{[template]} + \theta_{\text{dif}} \times \text{[template]} \right)$$

$\sim 10\%$ $\sim 80\%$

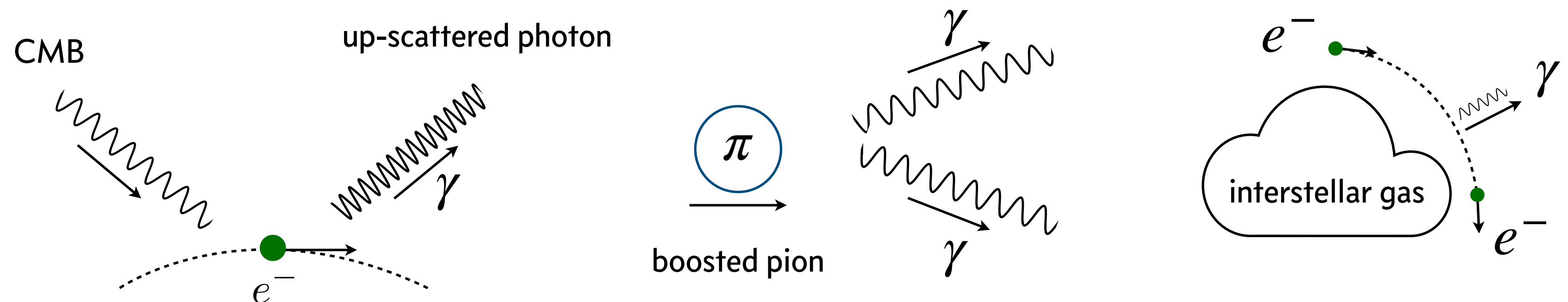
Modeled components

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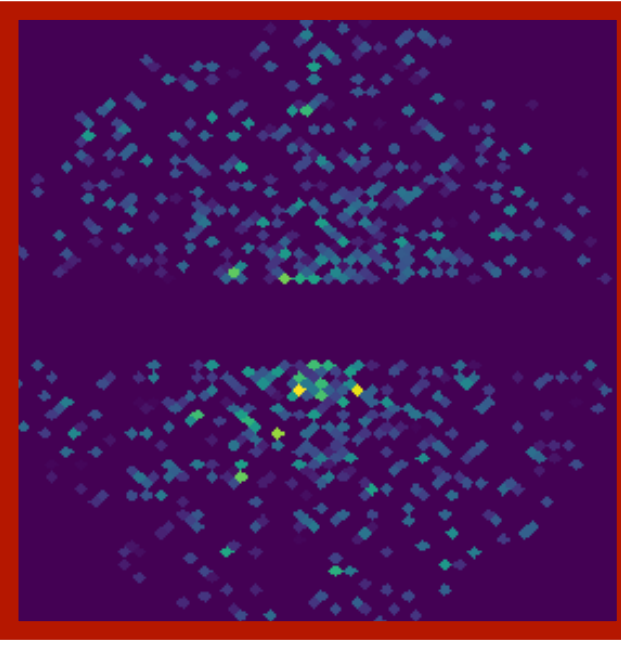
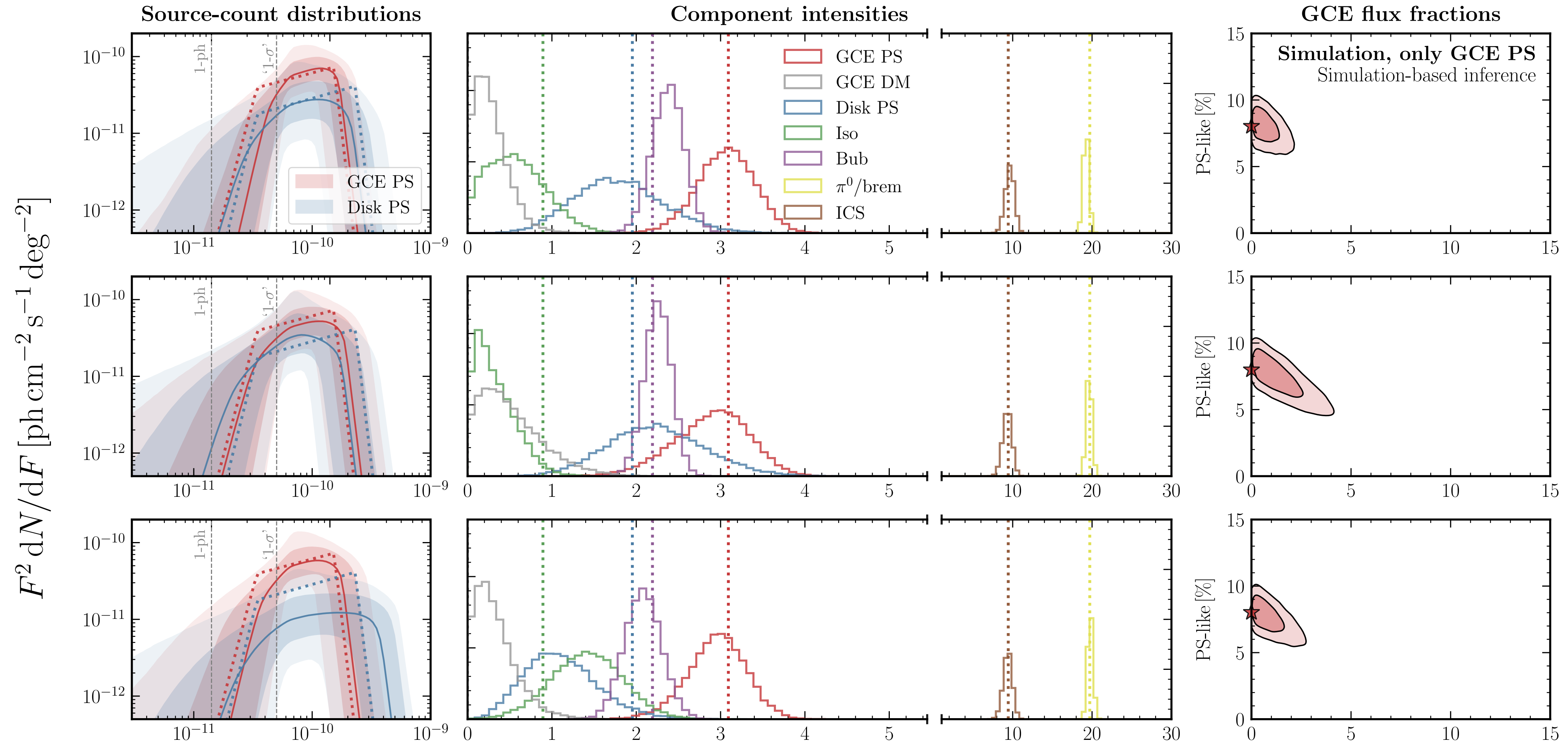
$$\text{Data} = \text{Pois} \left(\theta_{\text{bub}} \times [\text{bubbles}] + \theta_{\text{iso}} \times [\text{isotropic}] + \theta_{\text{PS}} \times [\text{point sources}] + \theta_{\text{DM}} \times [\text{DM halo}] + \theta_{\text{dif}} \times [\text{diffuse background}] \right)$$

~10% ~80%

Modeling the diffuse Galactic background

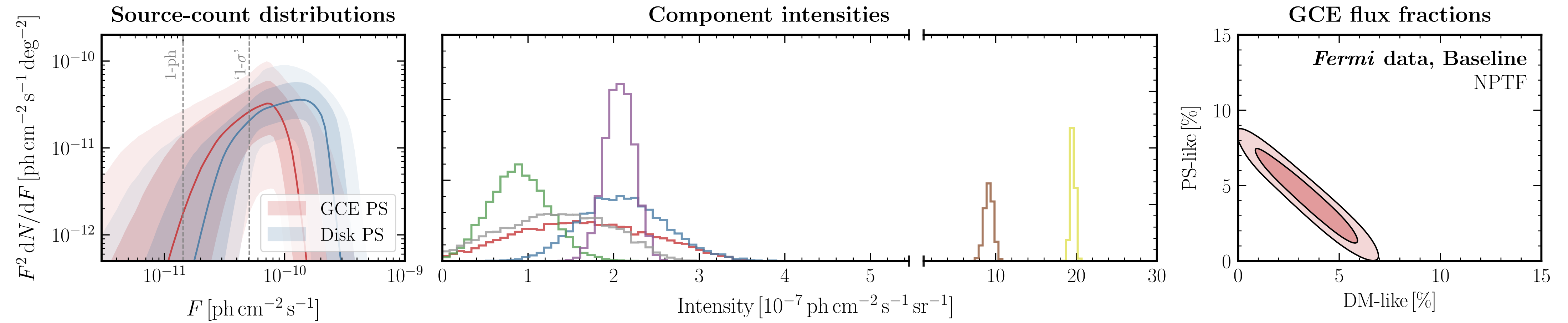


Tests on simulations: point source signal



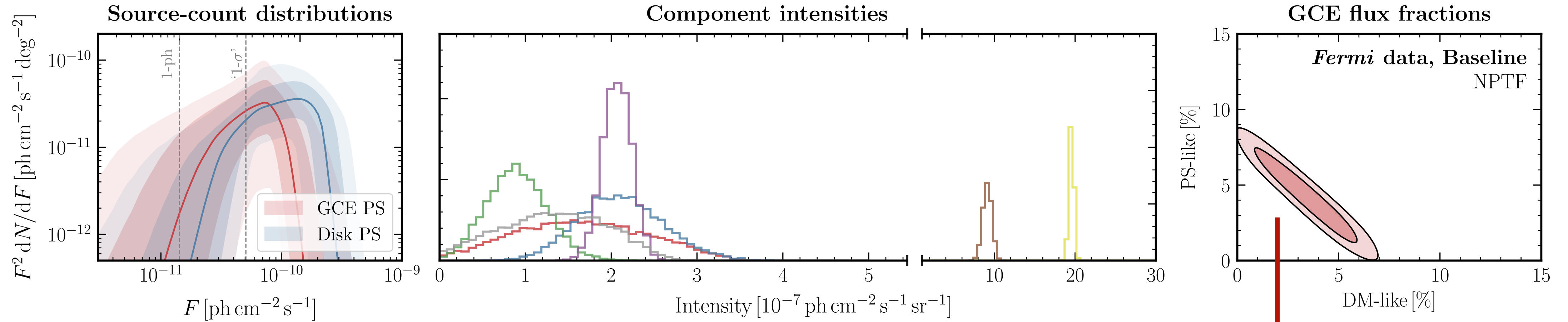
NPTF vs

Counts PDF

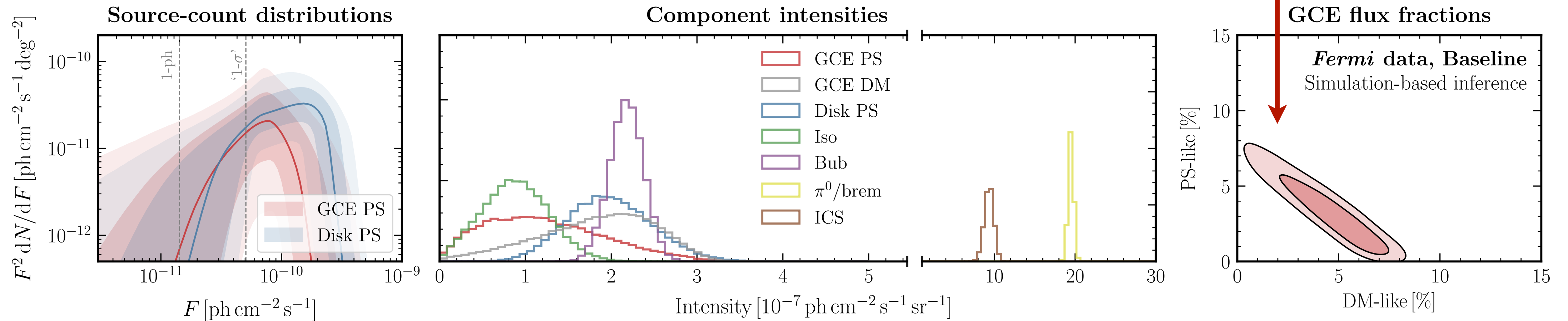


NPTF vs

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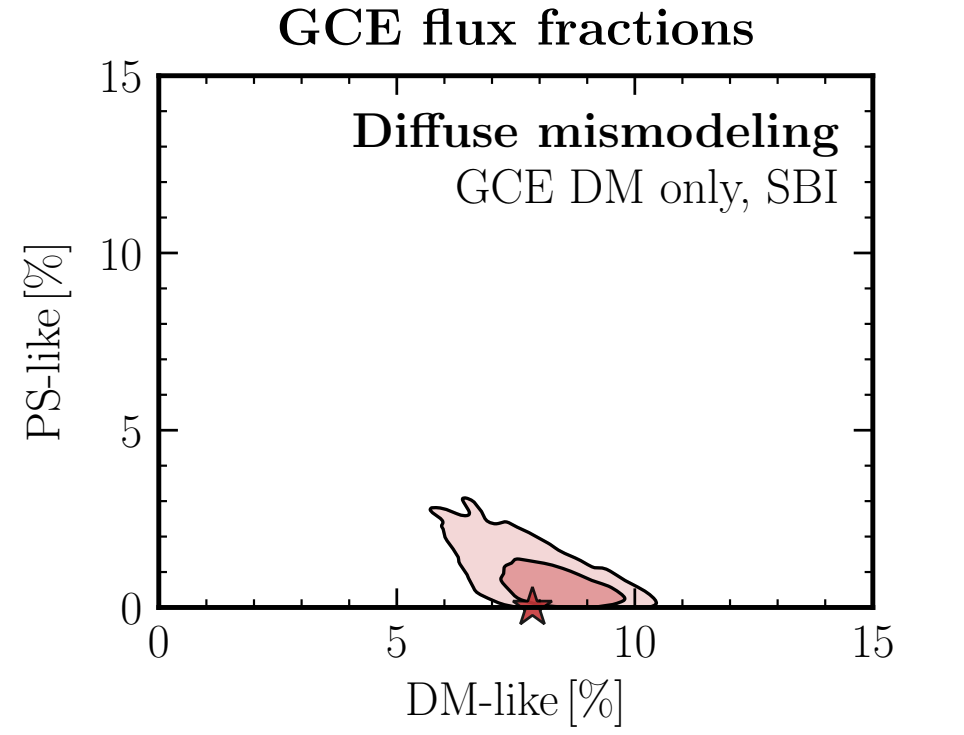
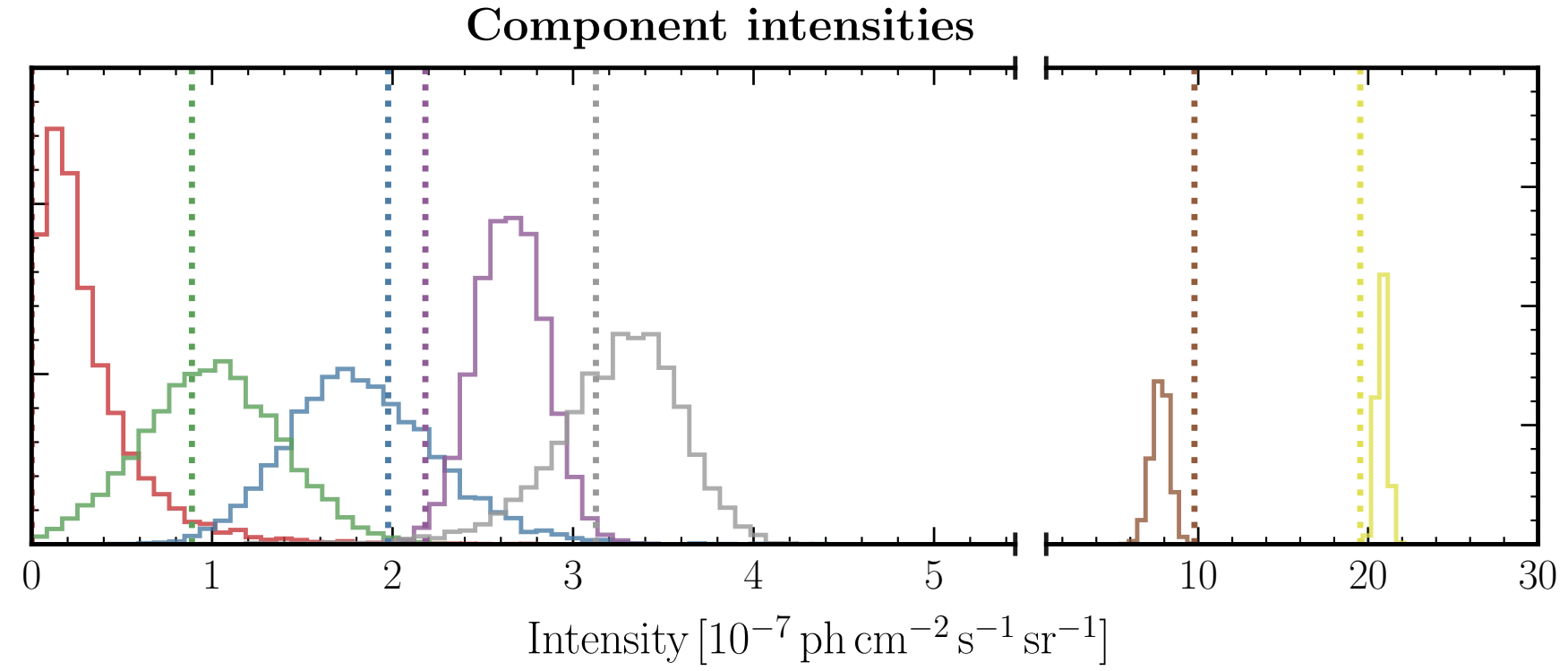
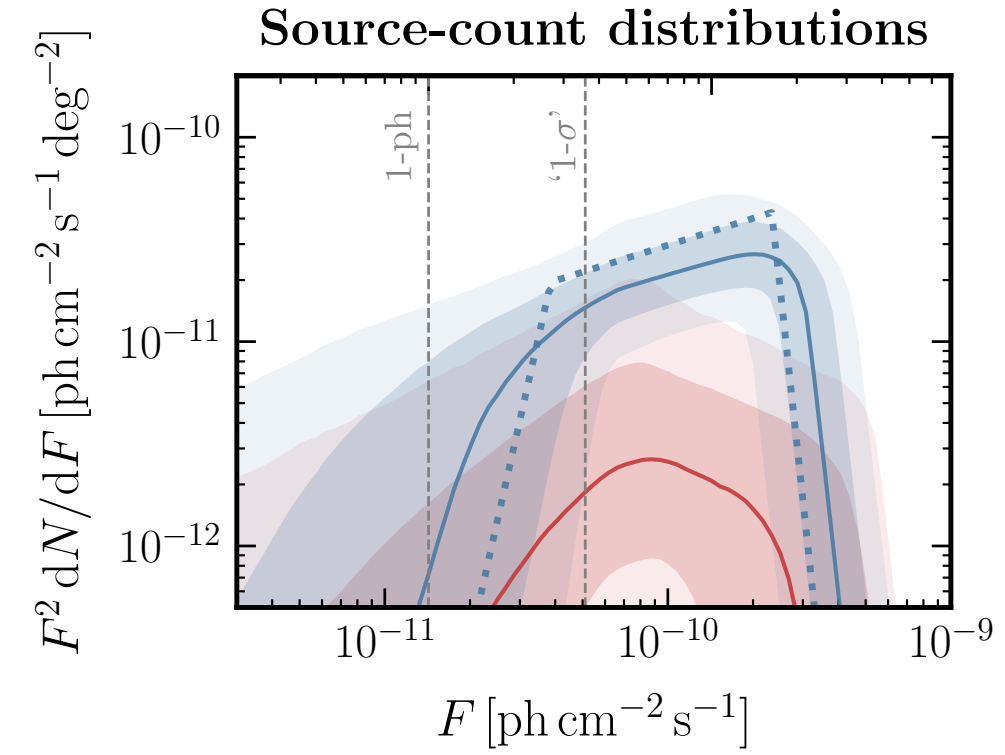
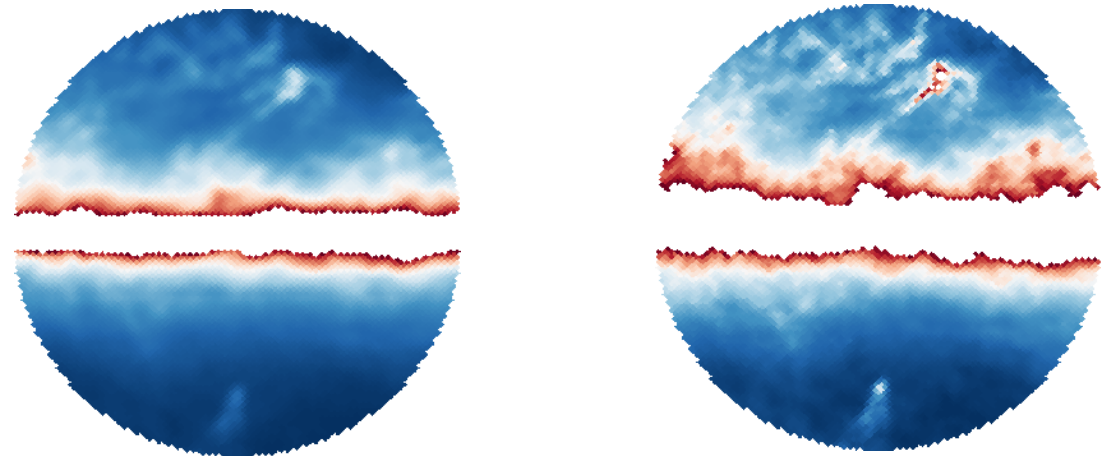
SBI



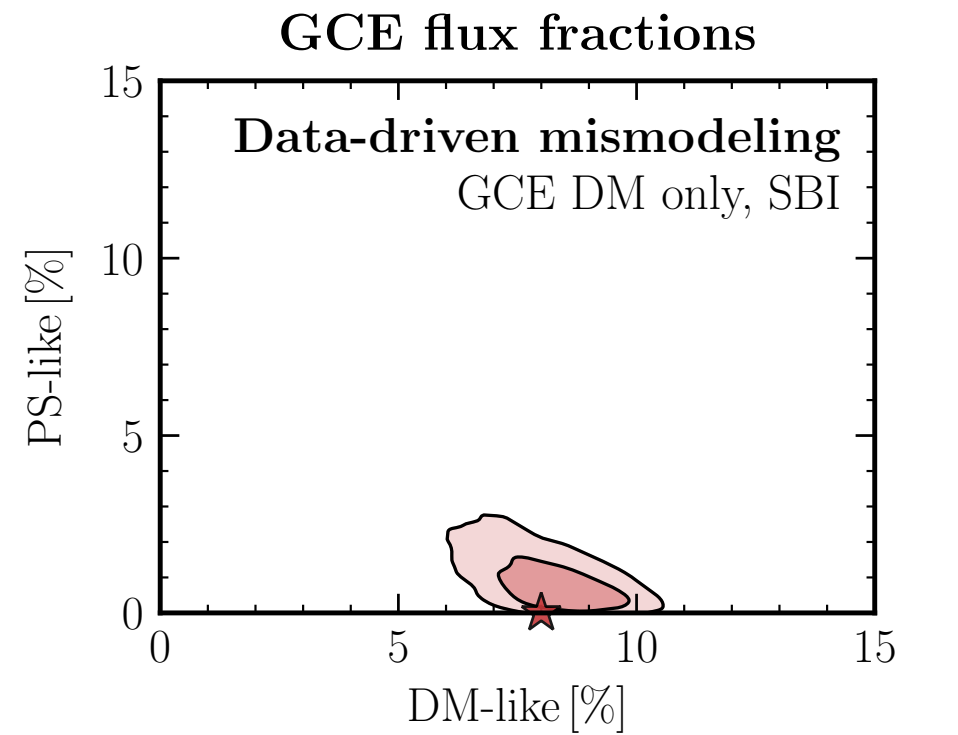
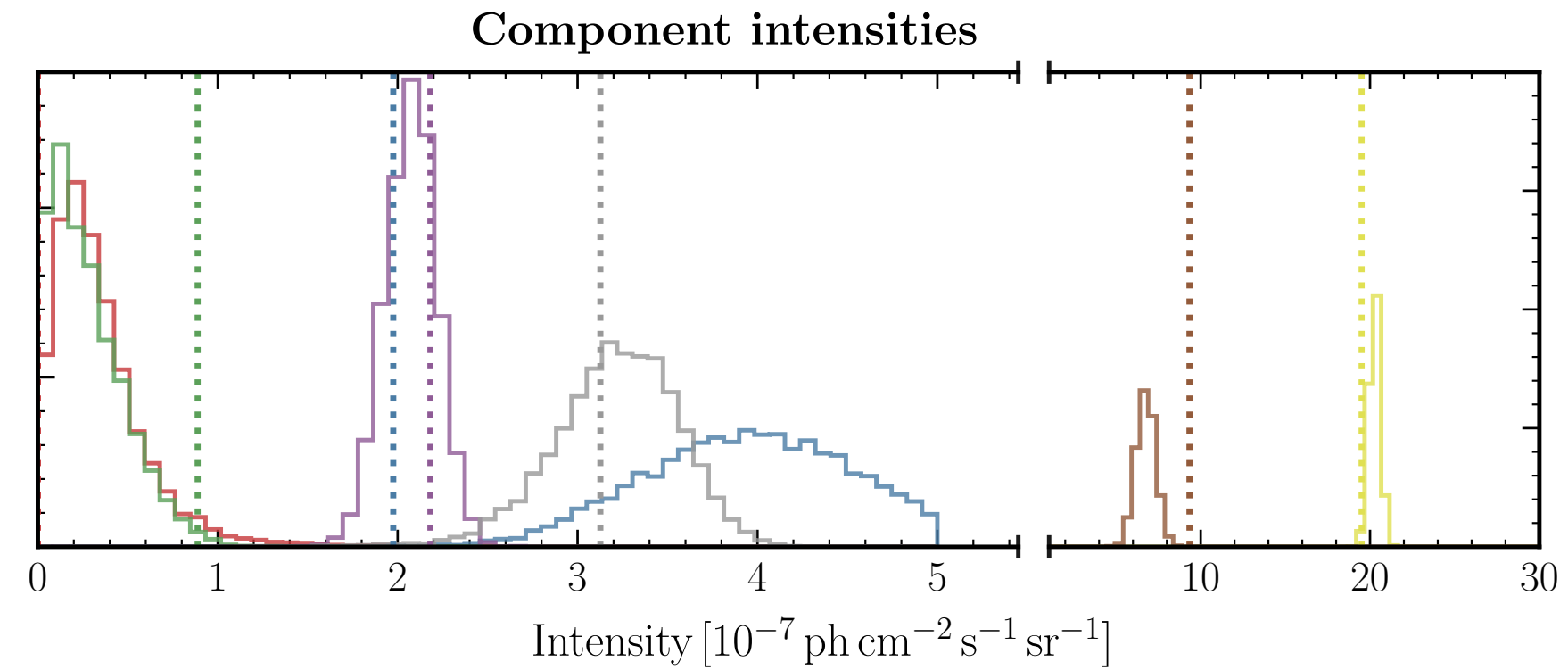
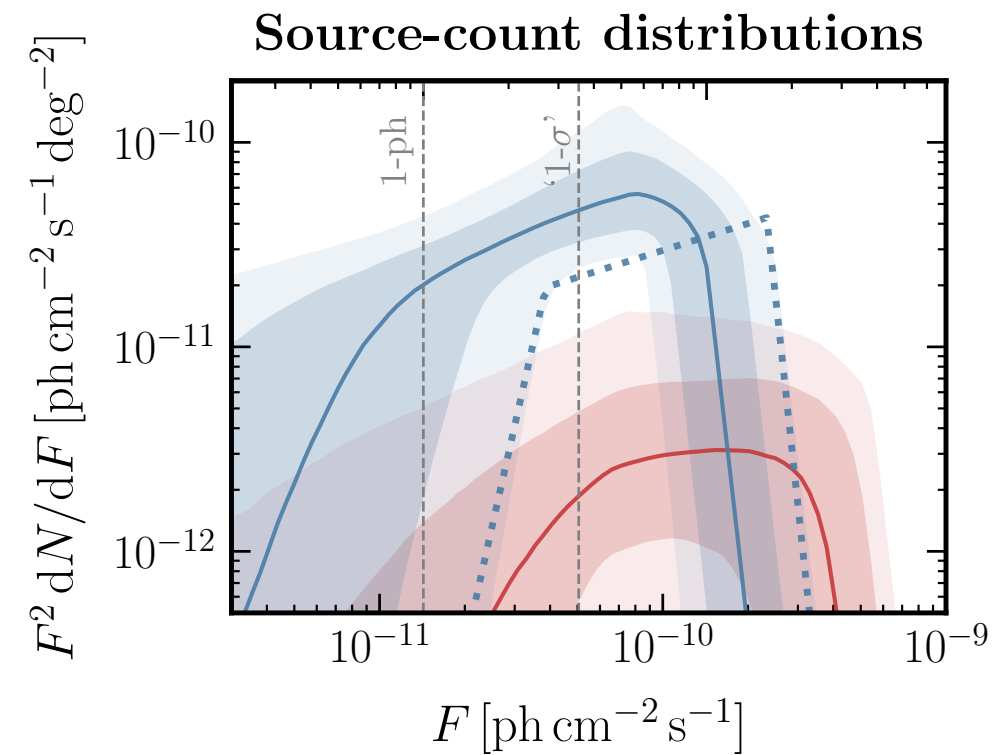
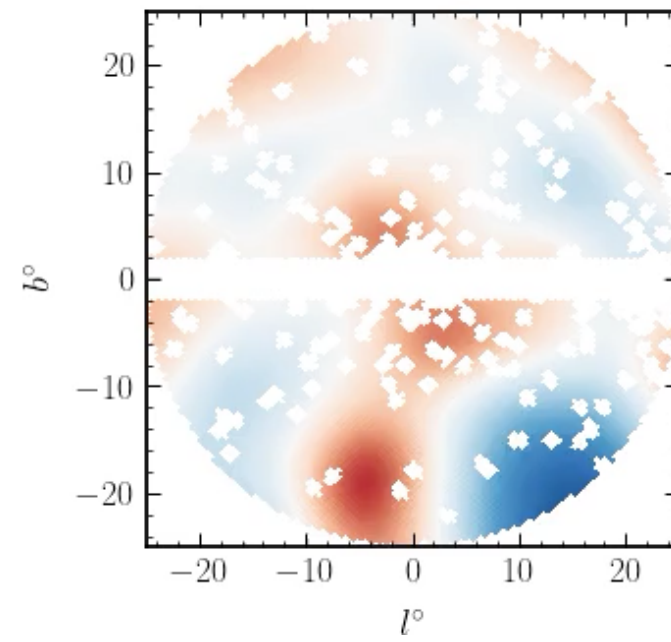
Exploiting more information in the γ -ray maps results in smaller, but still significant PS-like component

Robustness tests

Train with one diffuse model /
test with another



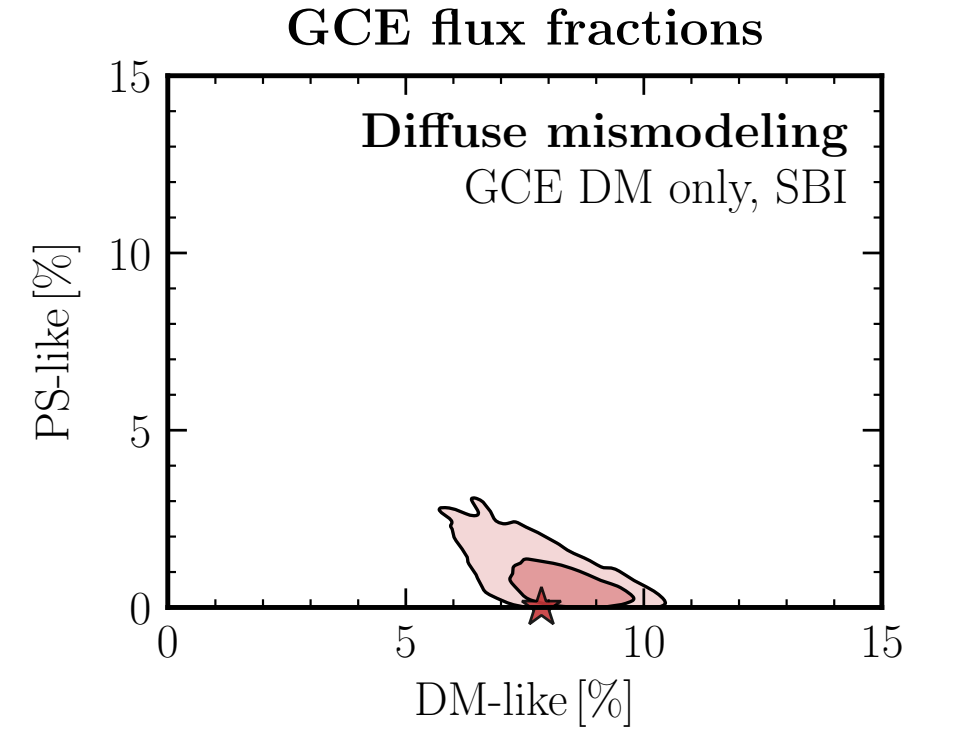
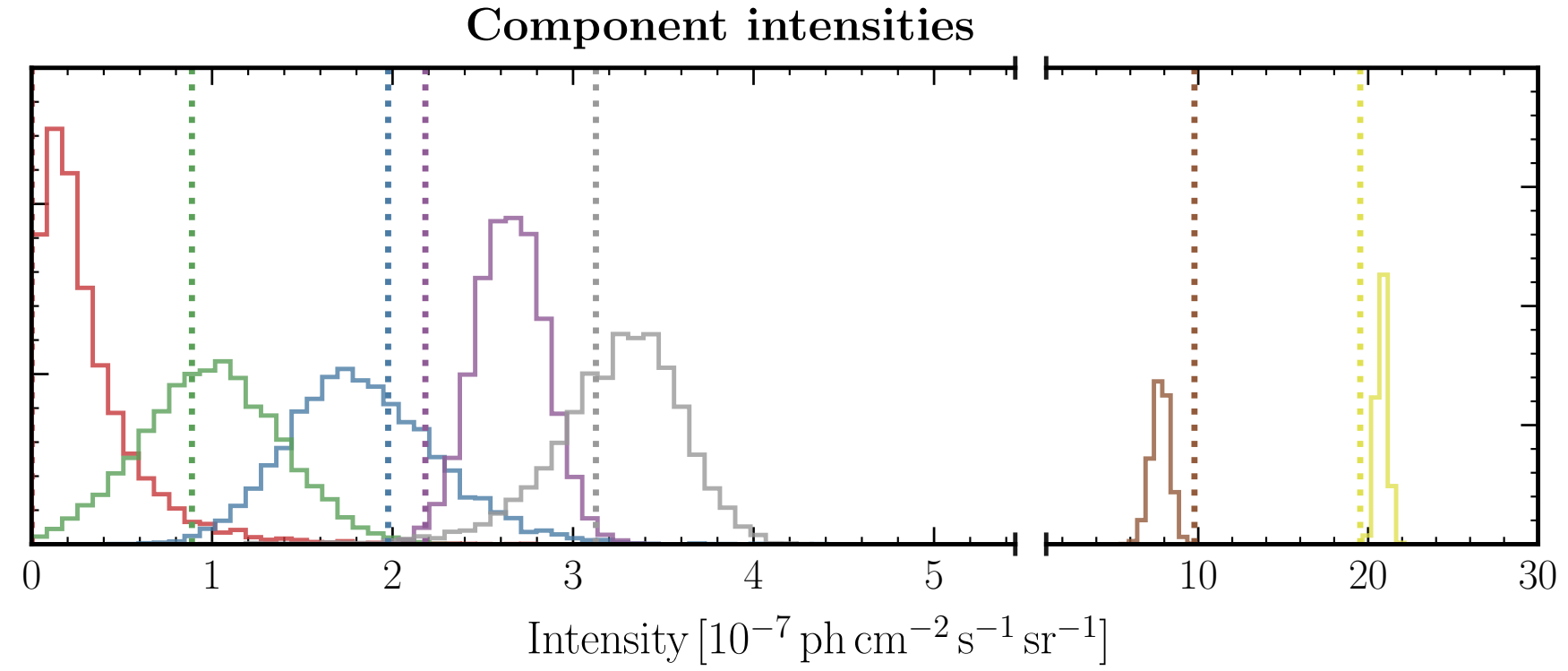
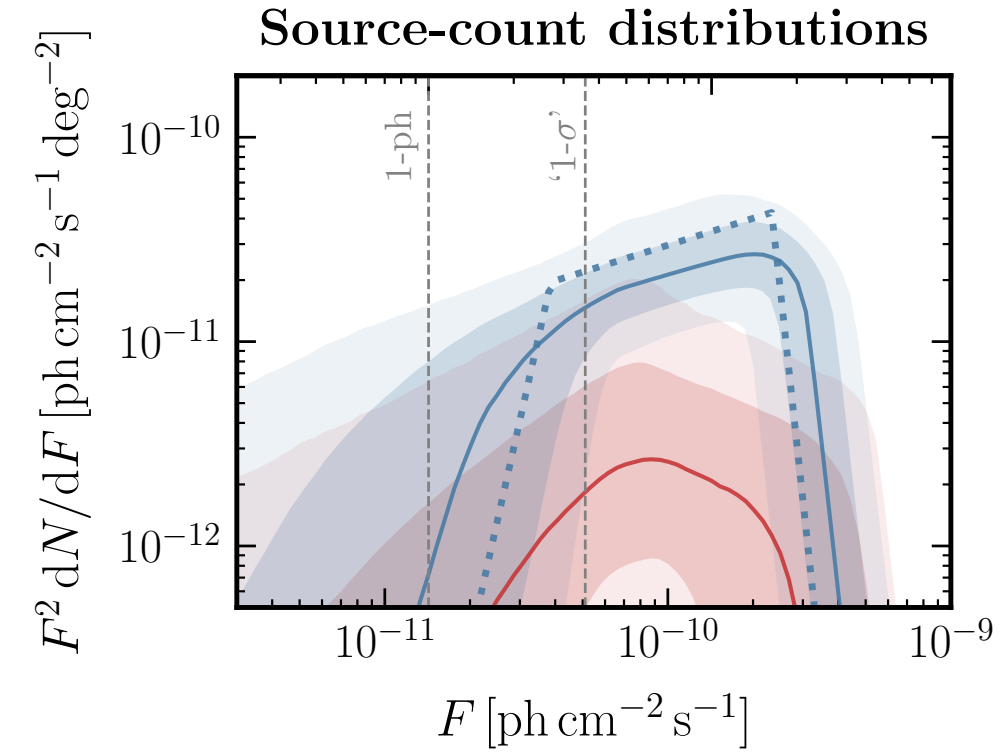
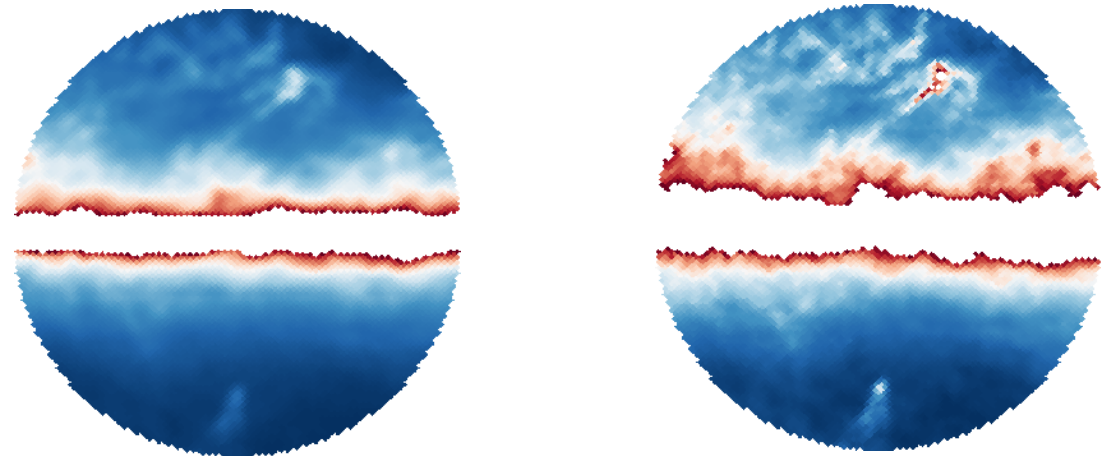
Test on
GP-modulated
background



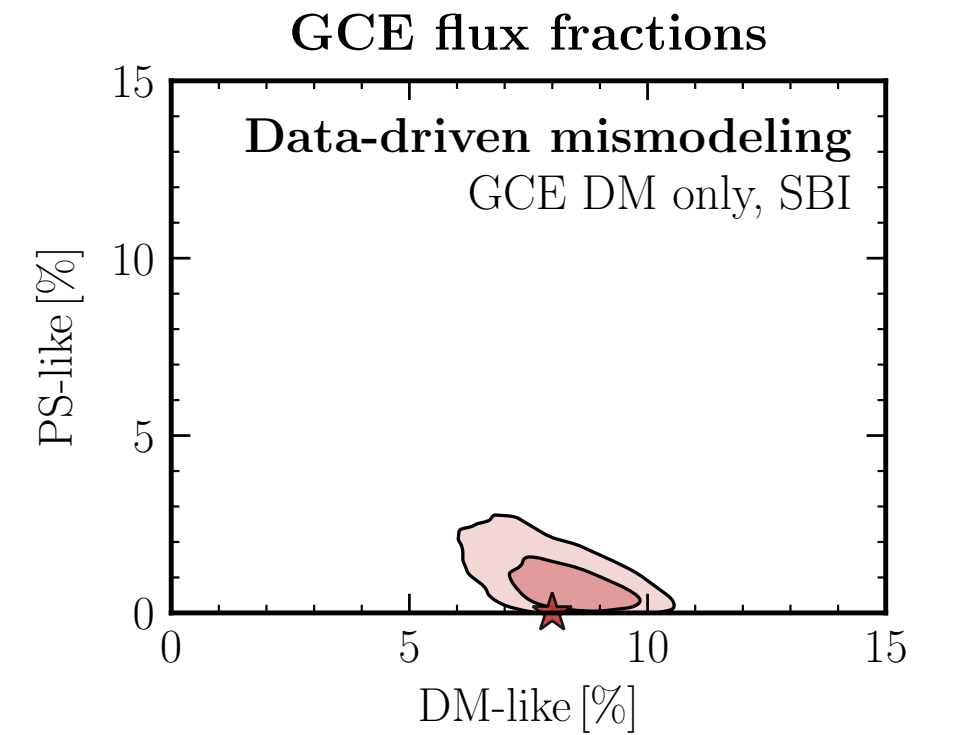
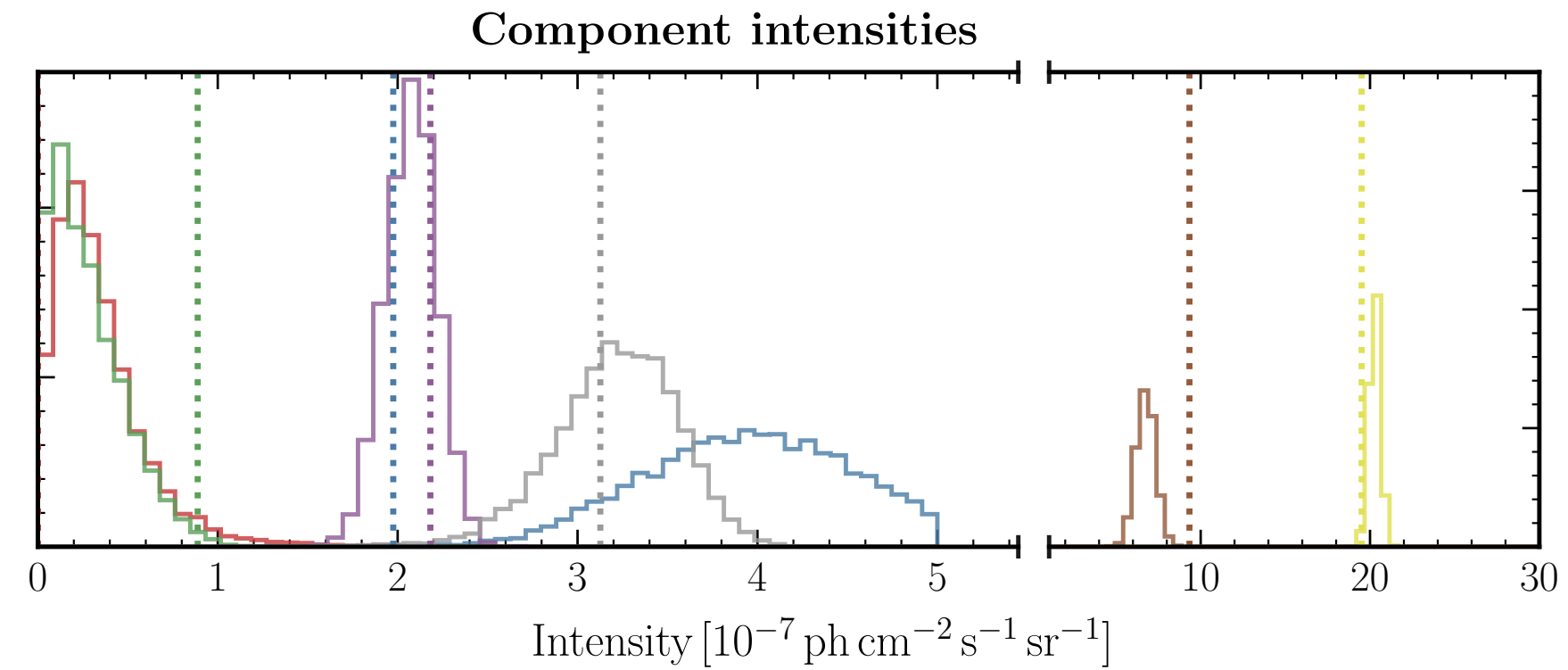
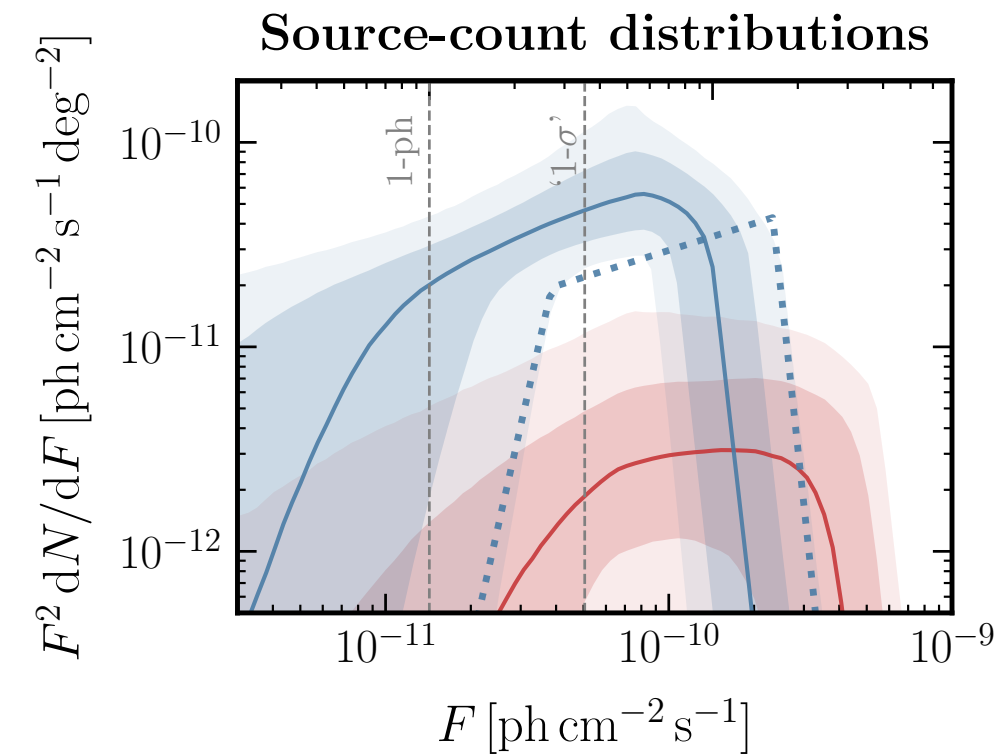
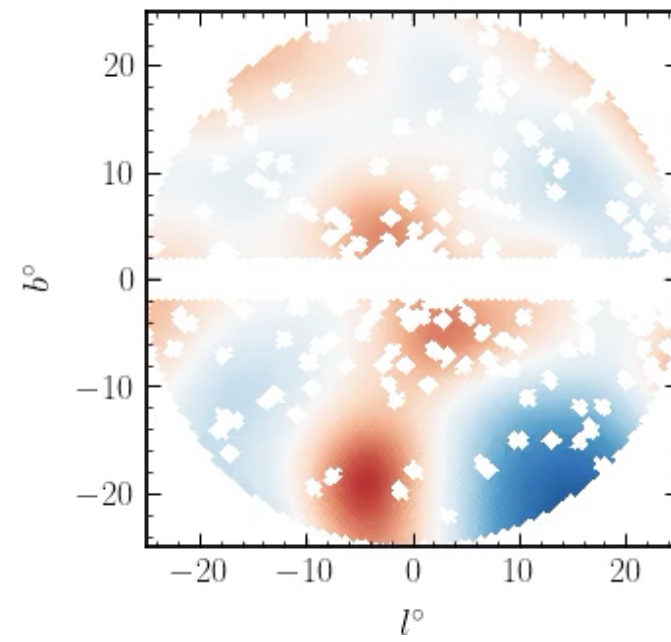
Generally well-behaved under known forms of systematic mismodeling

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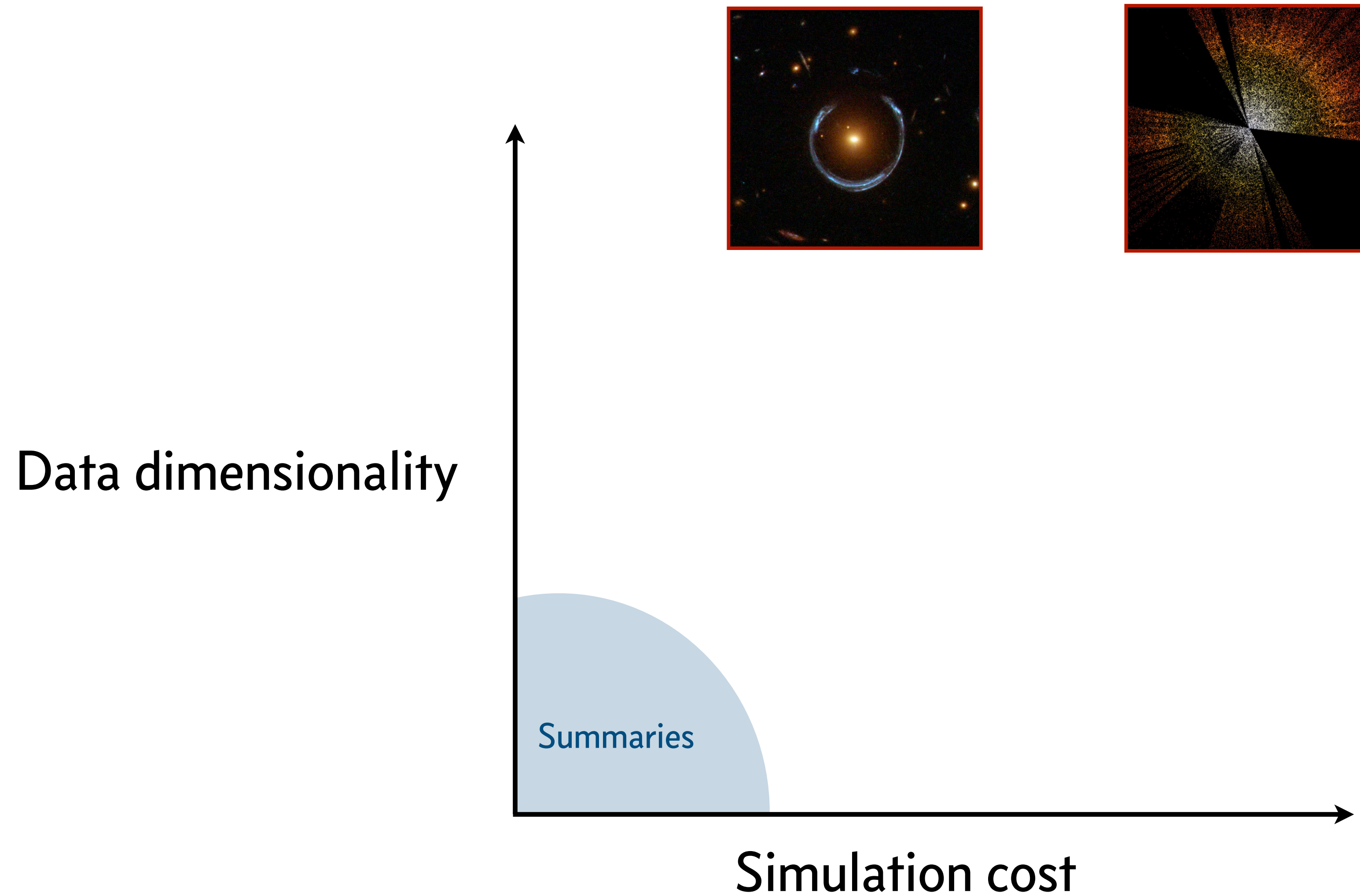


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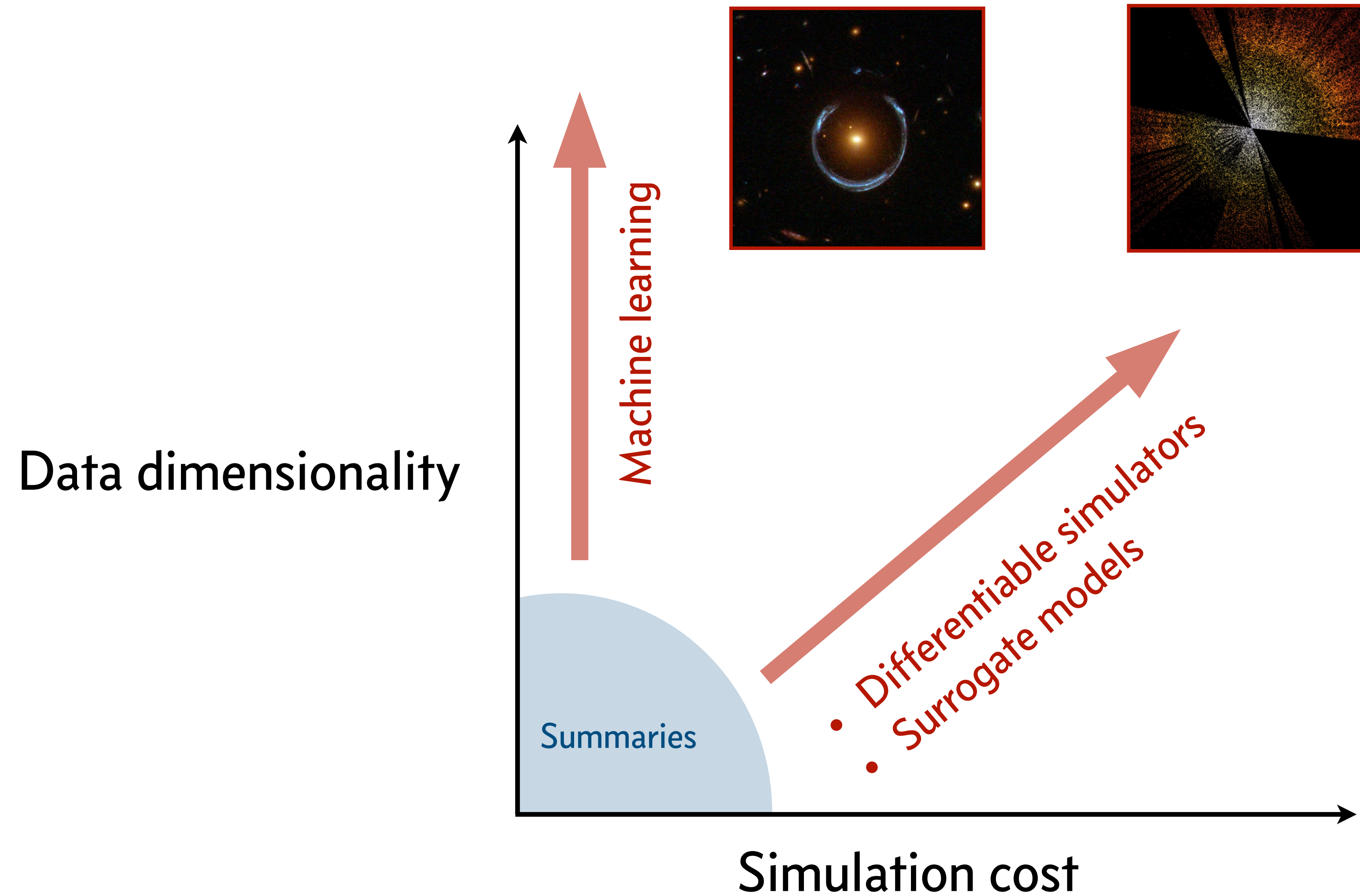


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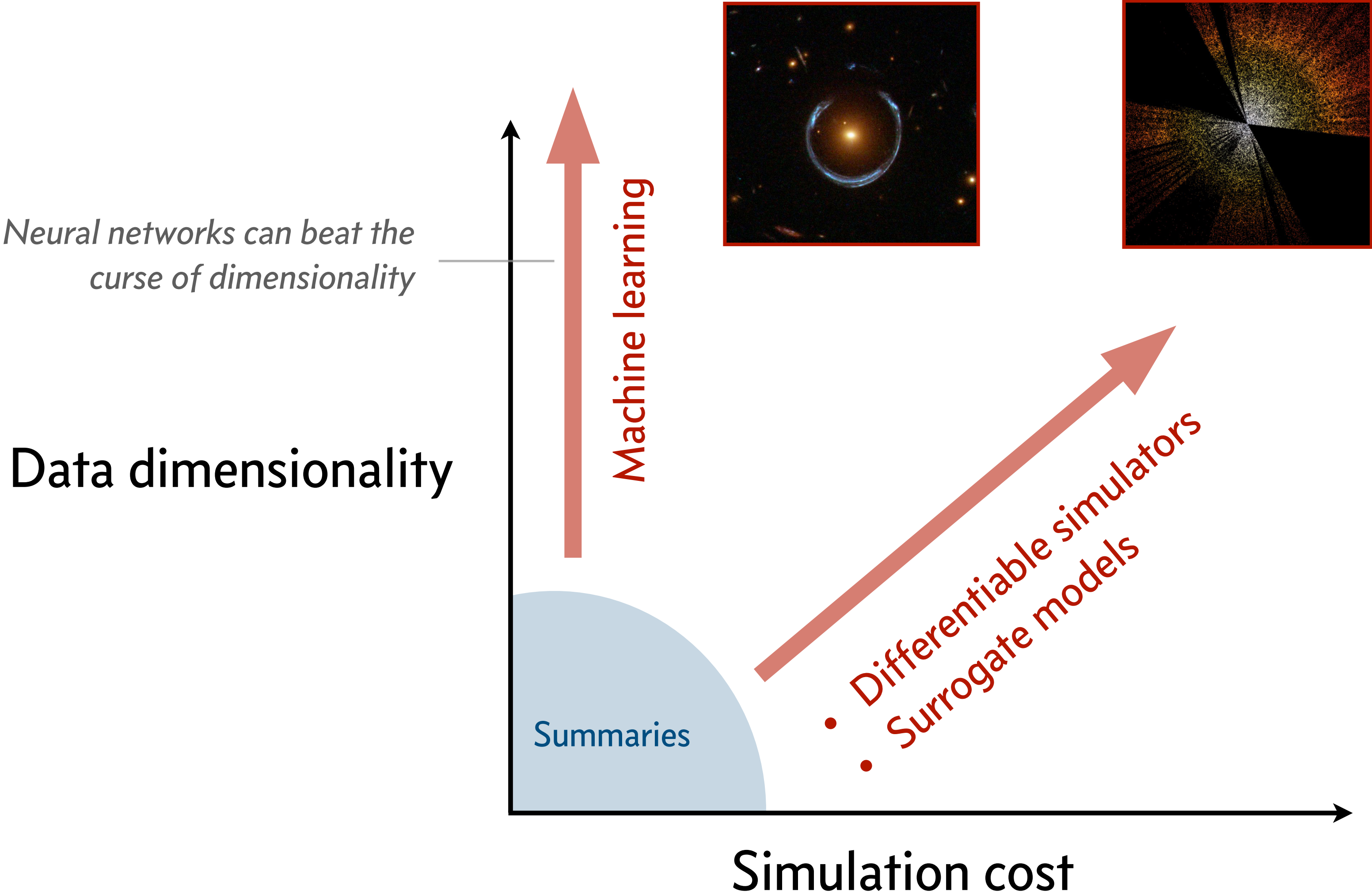
Neural simulation-based inference



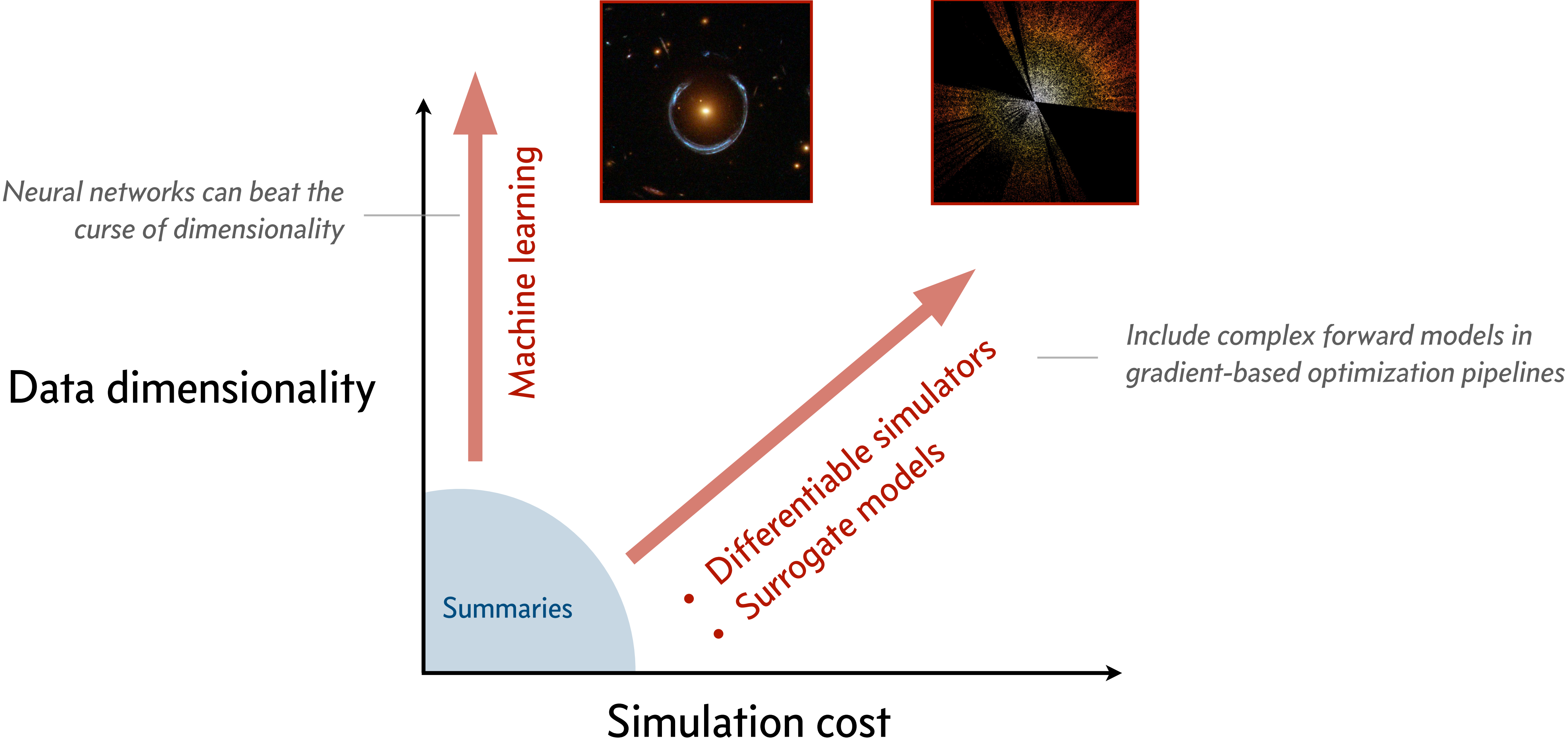
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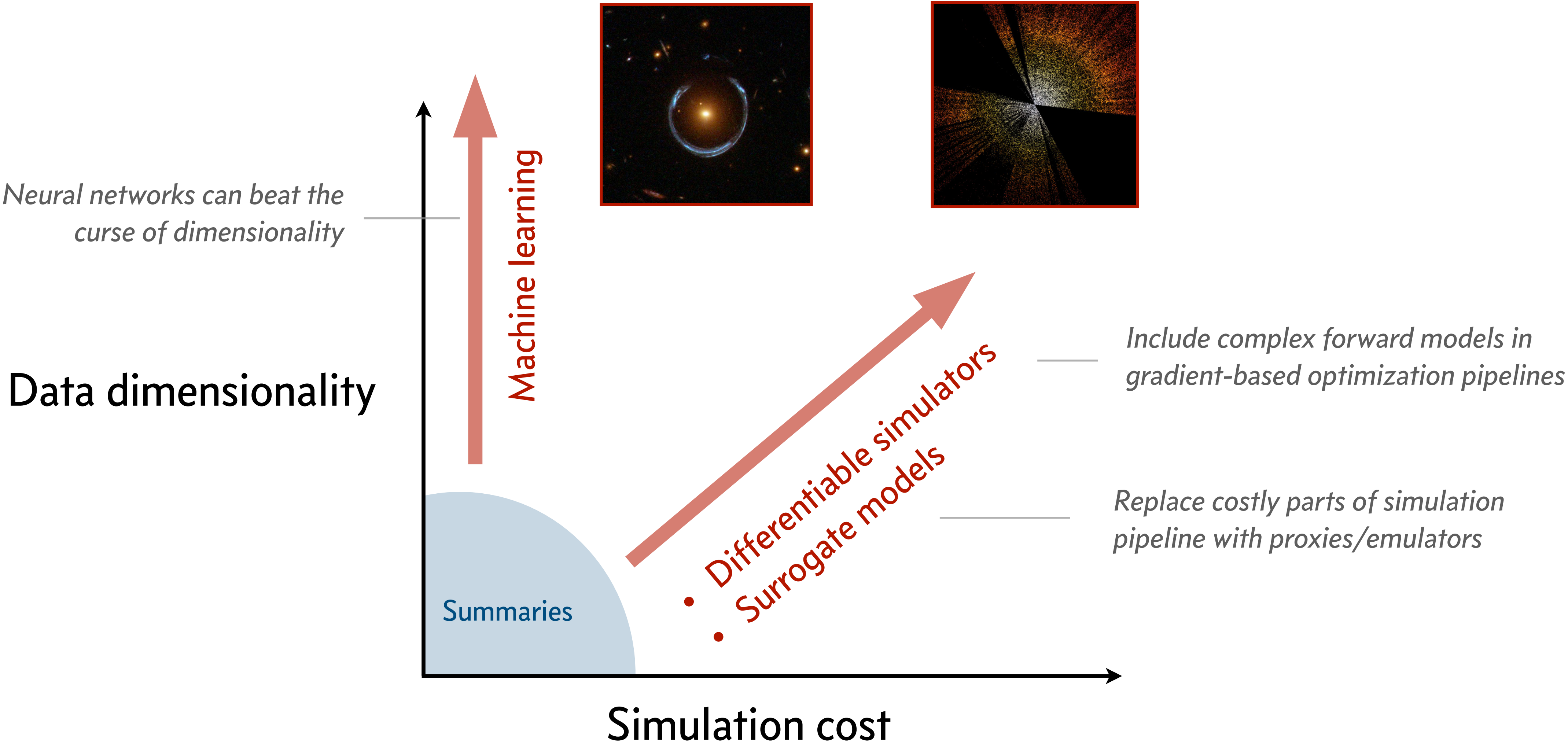
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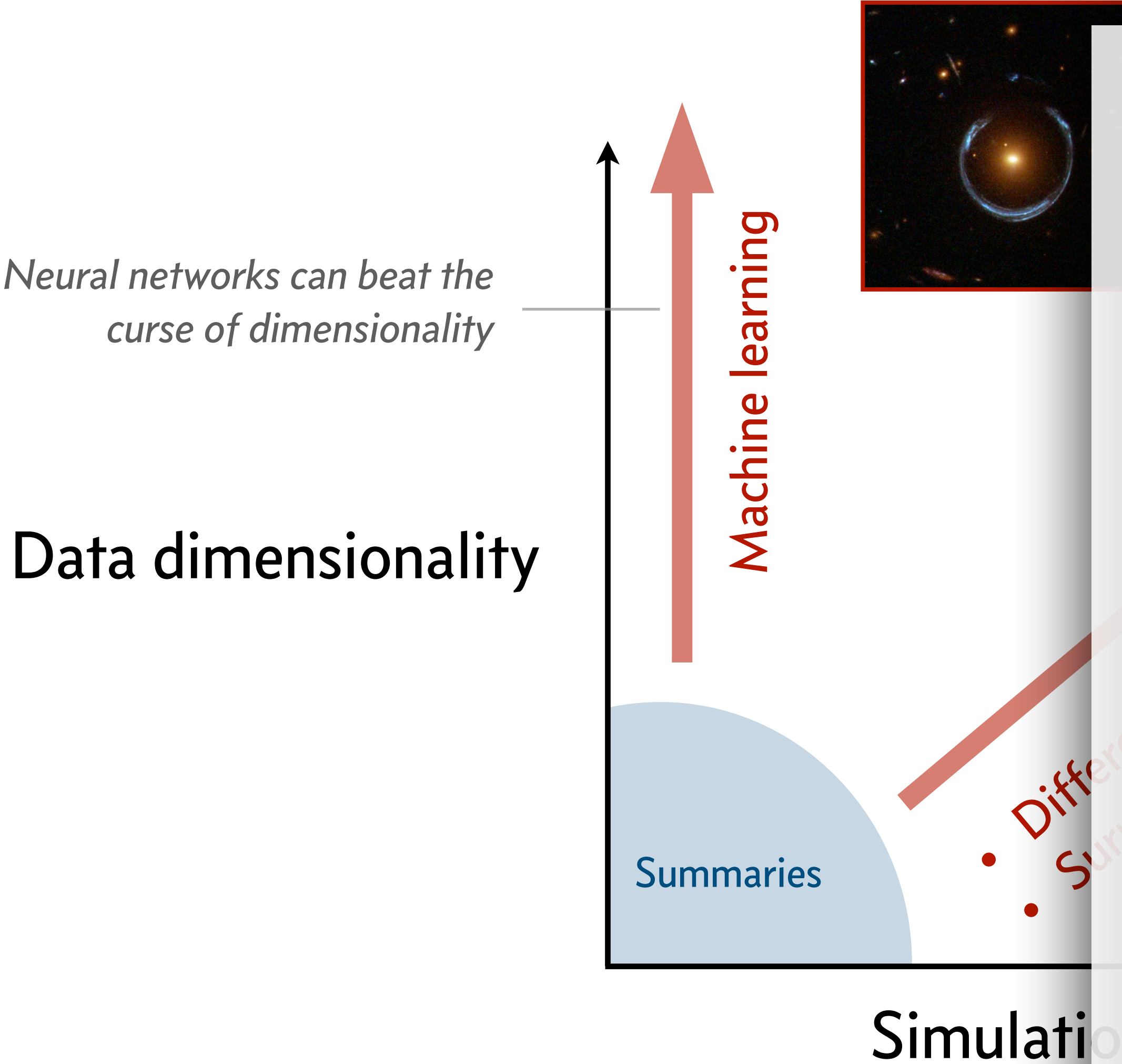
Neural simulation-based inference




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Neural simulation-based inference



 github.com/smsharma/awesome-neural-sbi

README.md

Awesome Neural SBI

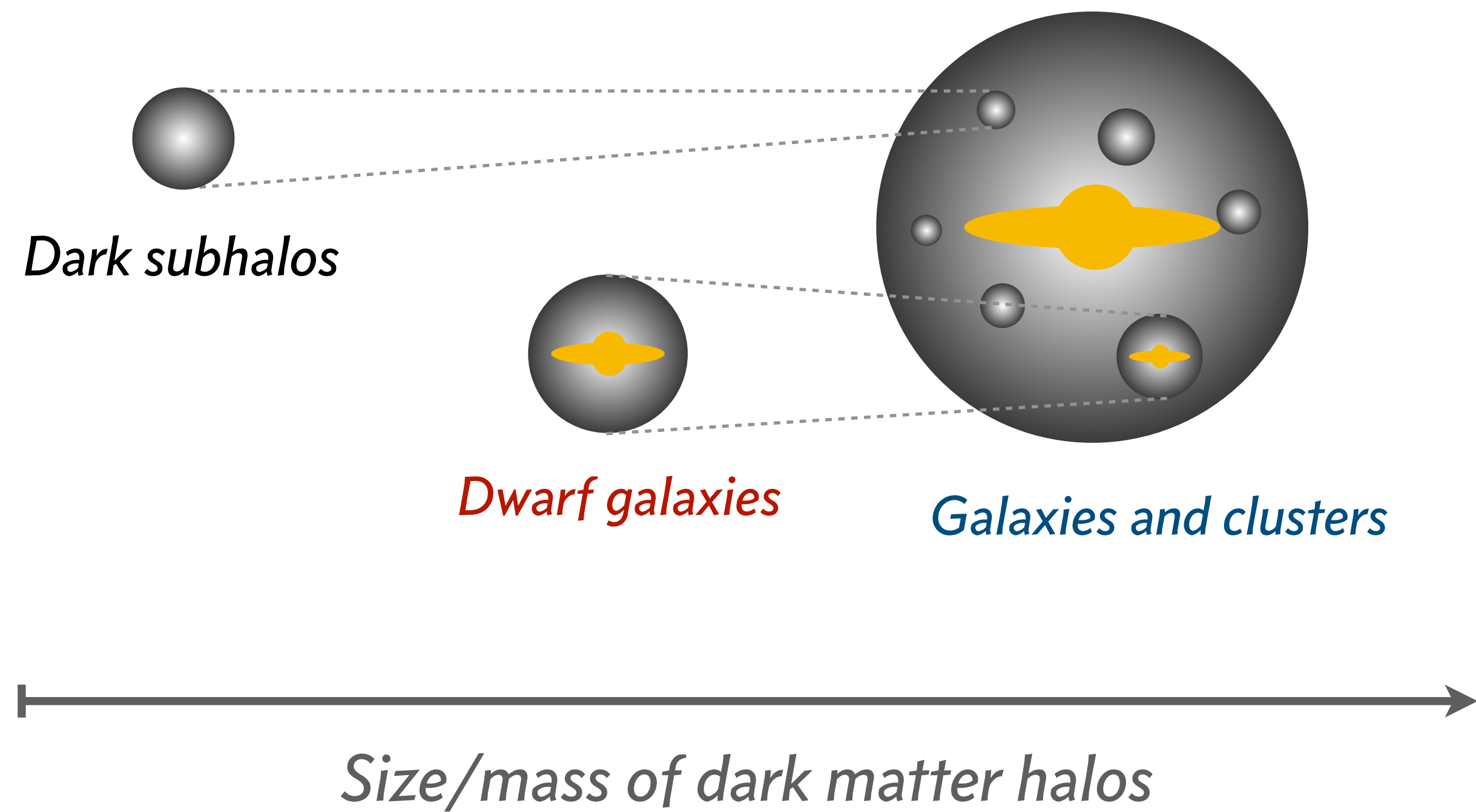
License MIT Pull Requests welcome

A community-sourced list of papers and resources on neural simulation-based inference, covering both methodological developments and domain applications. Given the nature of the field, the list is bound to be highly incomplete -- contributions are welcome!

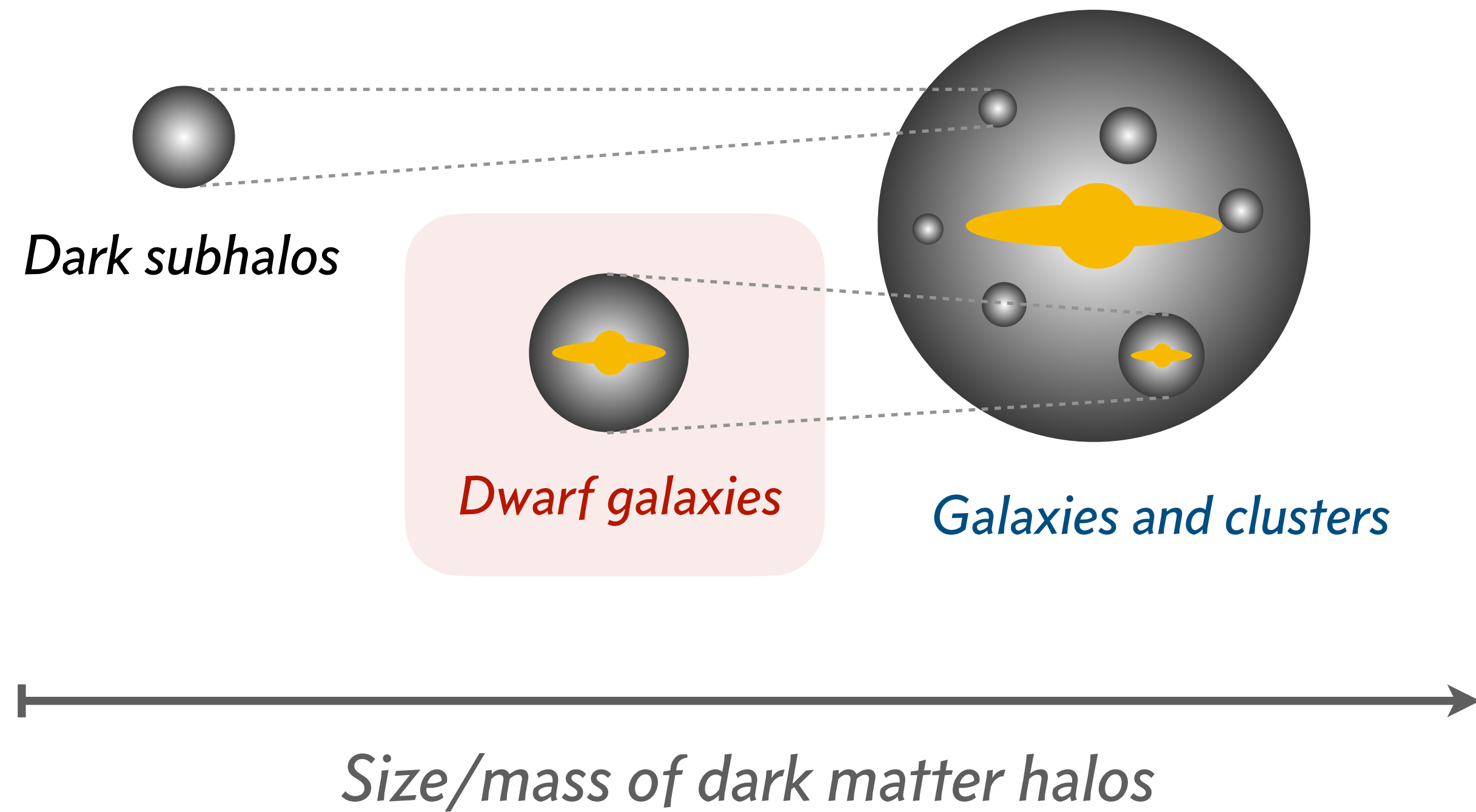
Contents

- Software and Resources
 - Code Packages and Benchmarks
 - Review Papers
 - Discovery and Links
- Papers: Methods
- Papers: Application
 - Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Astronomy
 - Particle Physics
 - Neuroscience
 - Health and Medicine
 - Other Domains
 - Application to Real Data

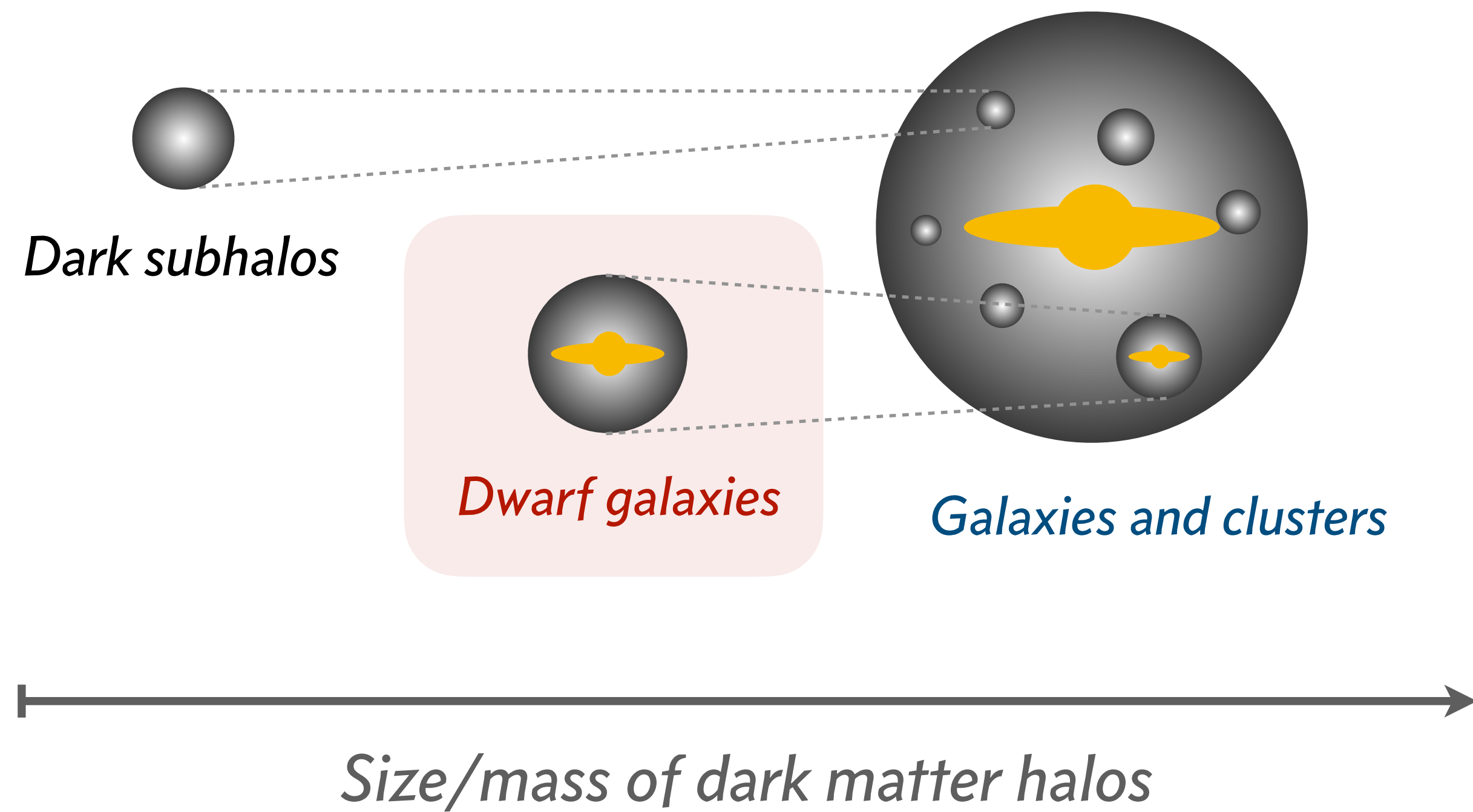
Dwarf spheroidal galaxies



Dwarf spheroidal galaxies



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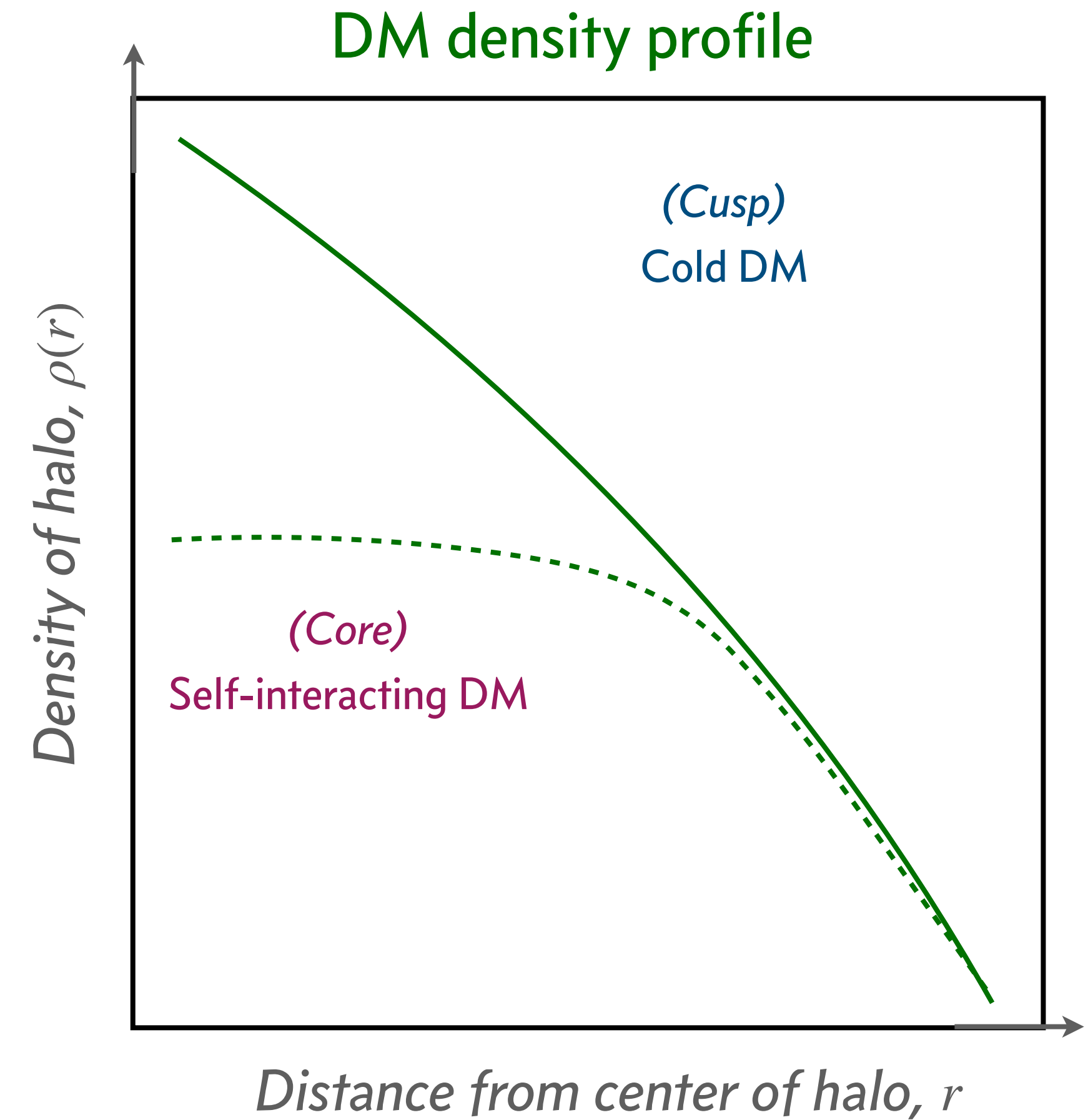
Fornax dwarf galaxy



Dwarf galaxies and halo shapes

Dwarf galaxies are ideal targets for probing the shapes of DM halos

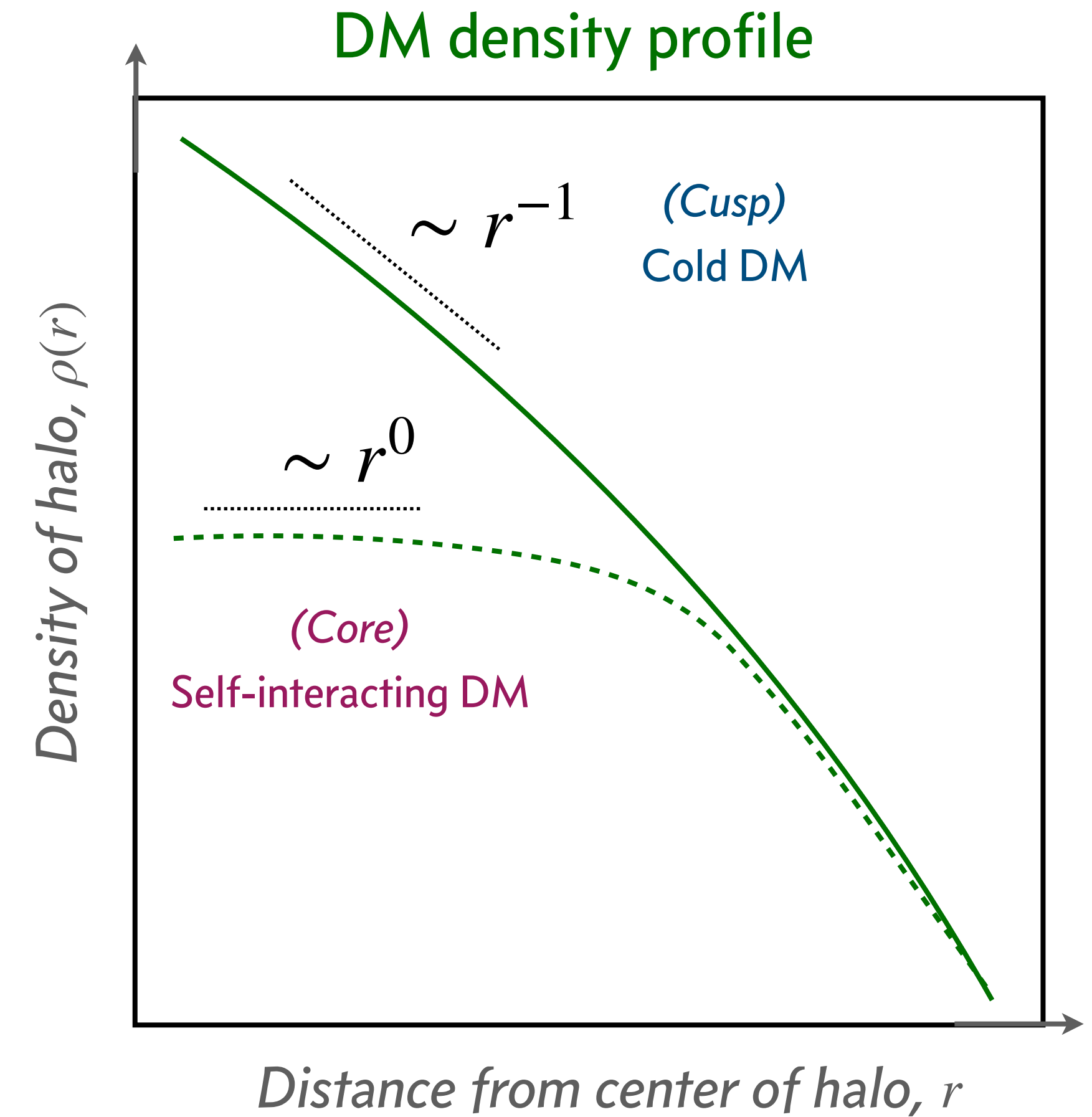
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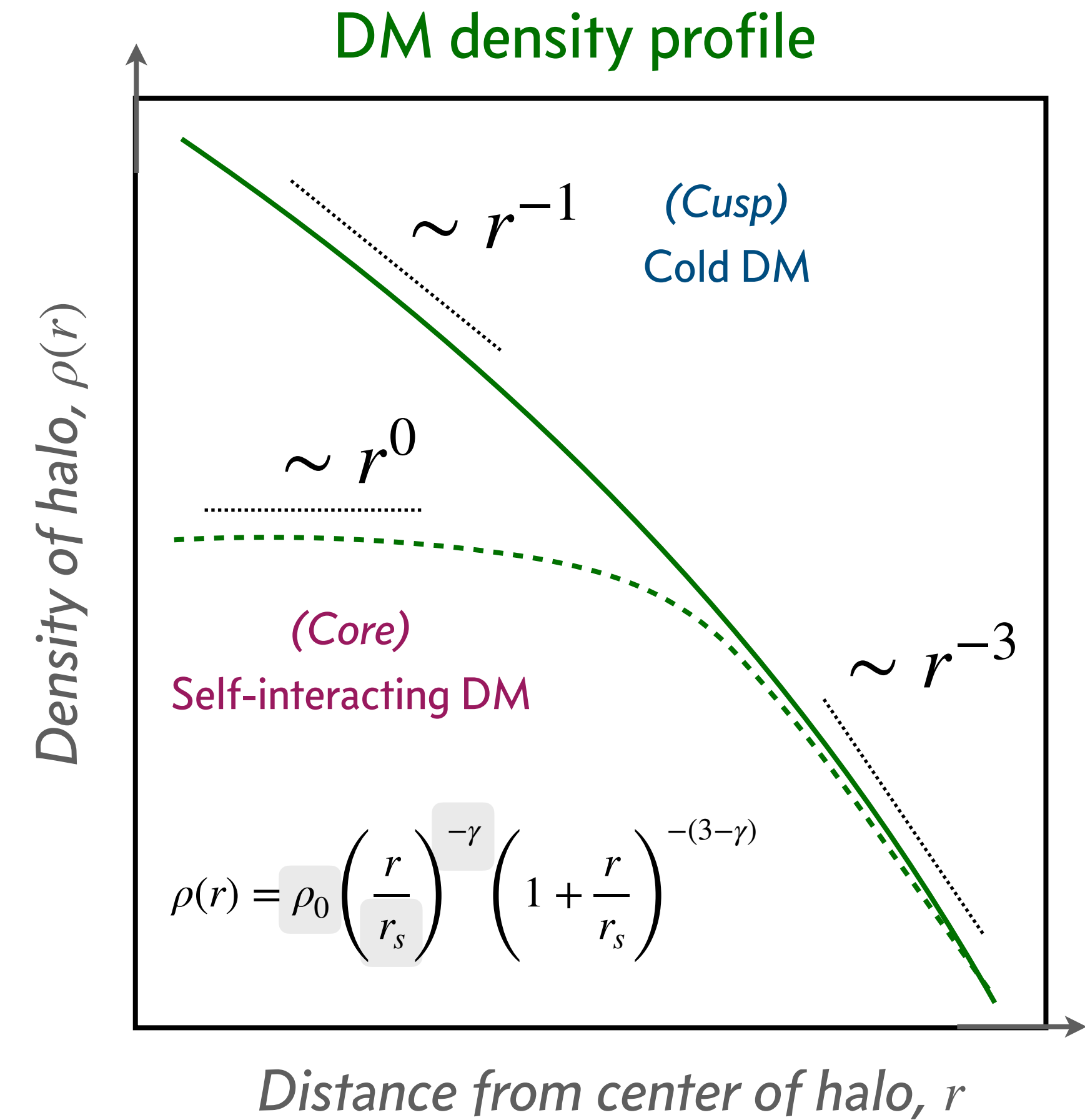
Fornax dwarf galaxy



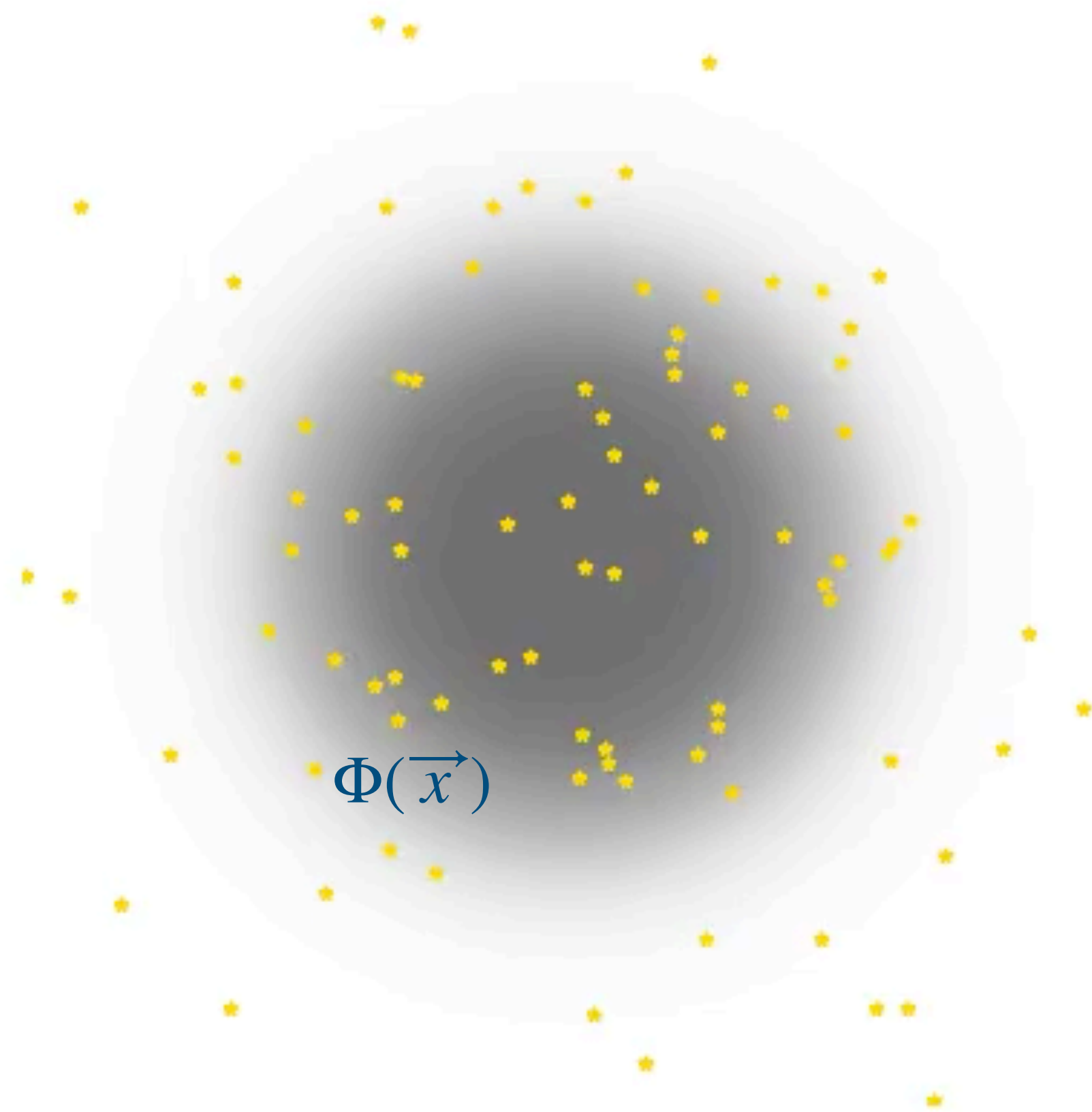
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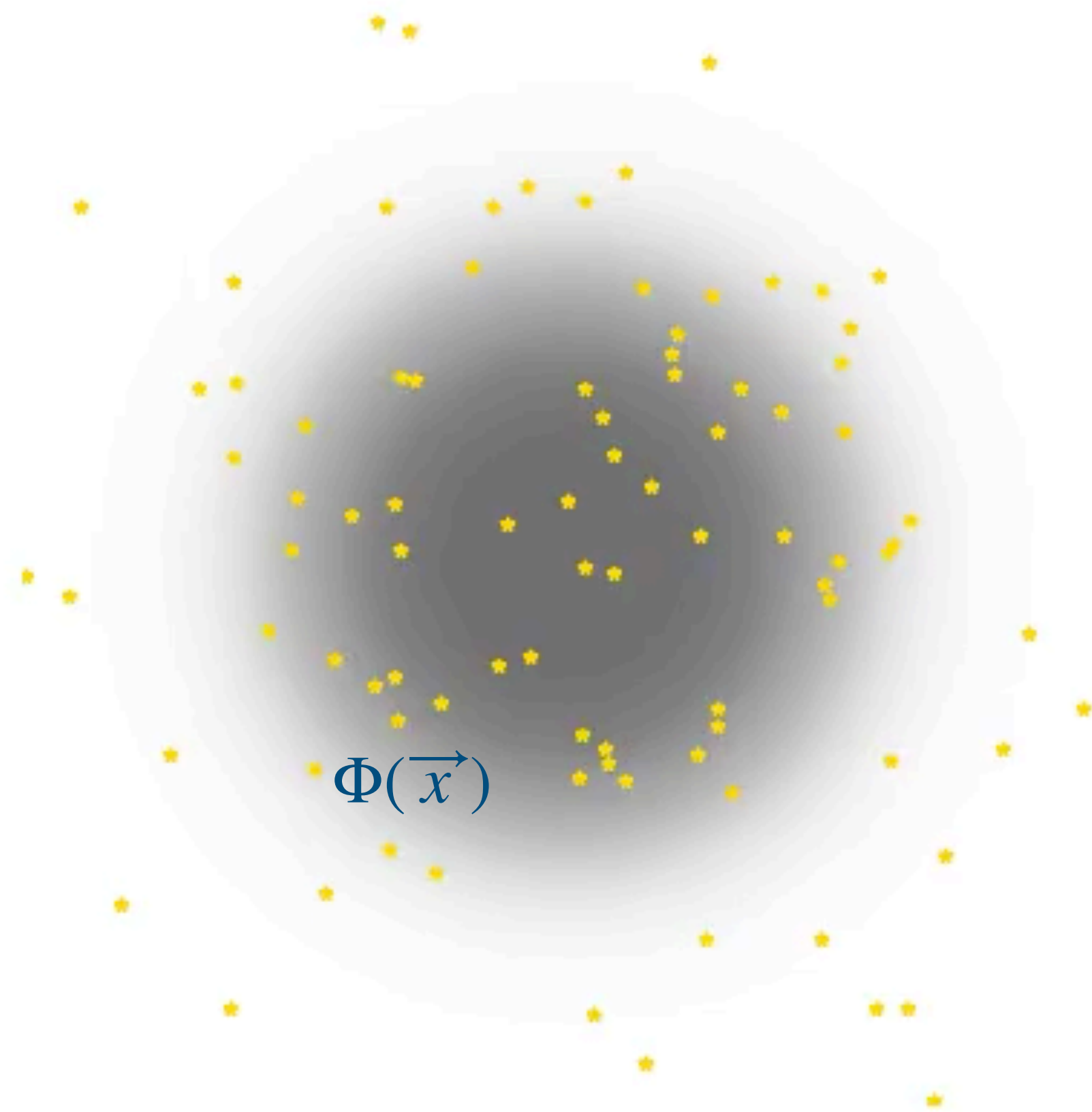
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From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*



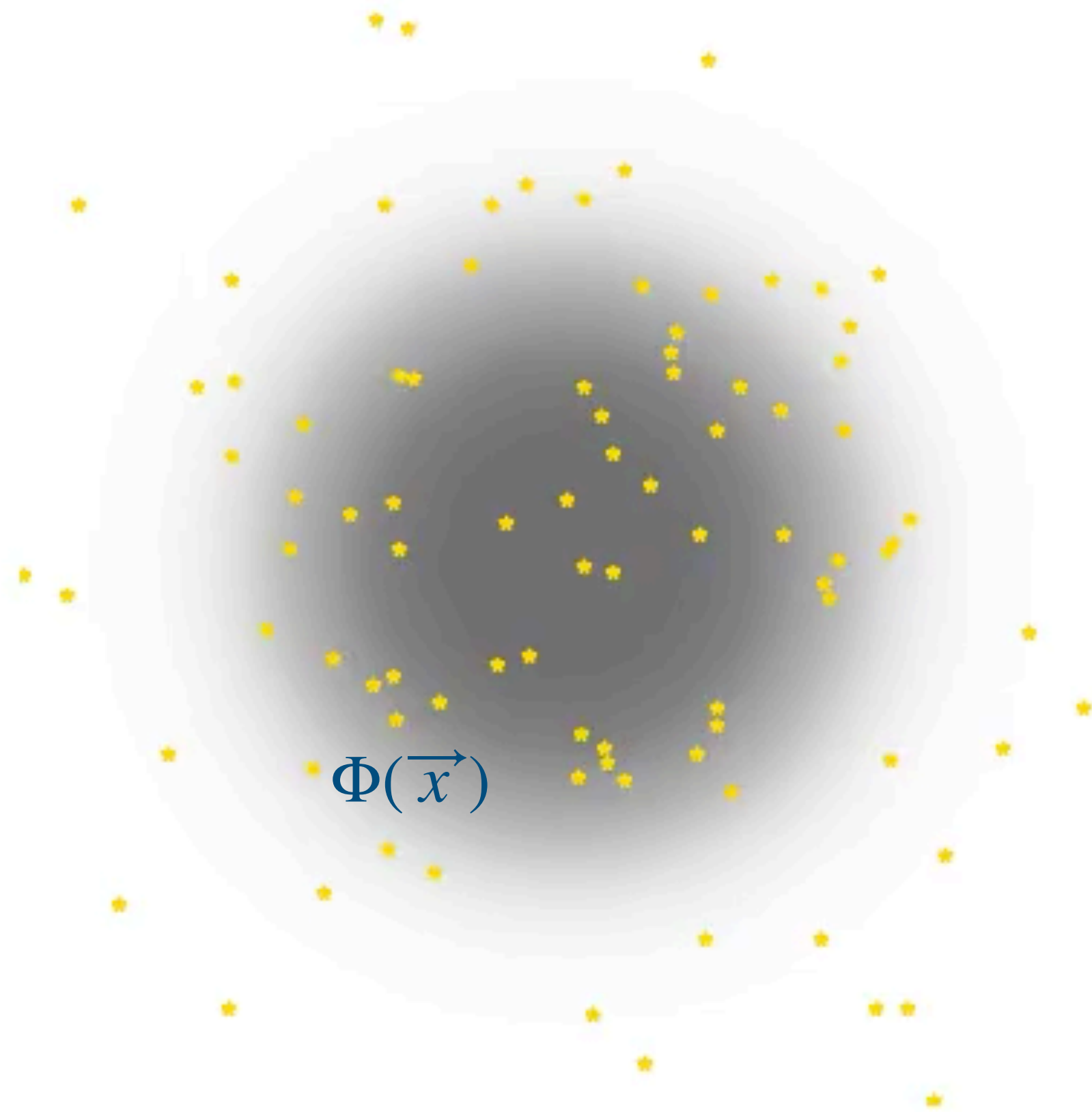
From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*



From stellar kinematics to halo shapes: *Jeans modeling*

Phase-space density

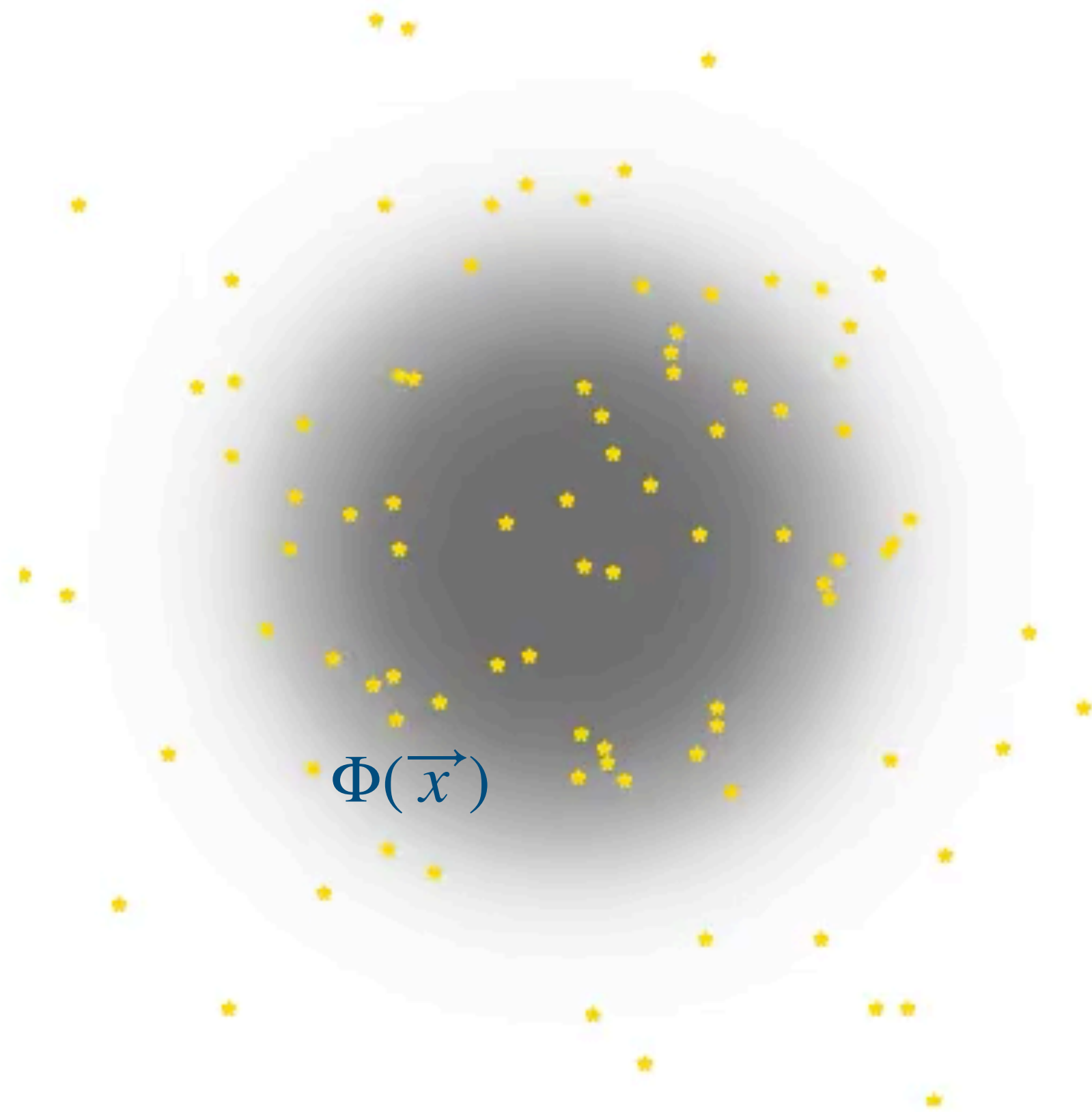
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Phase-space density

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Phase space density and its *moments*

$$n(\vec{x}) = \int d^3v f(\vec{x}, \vec{v})$$

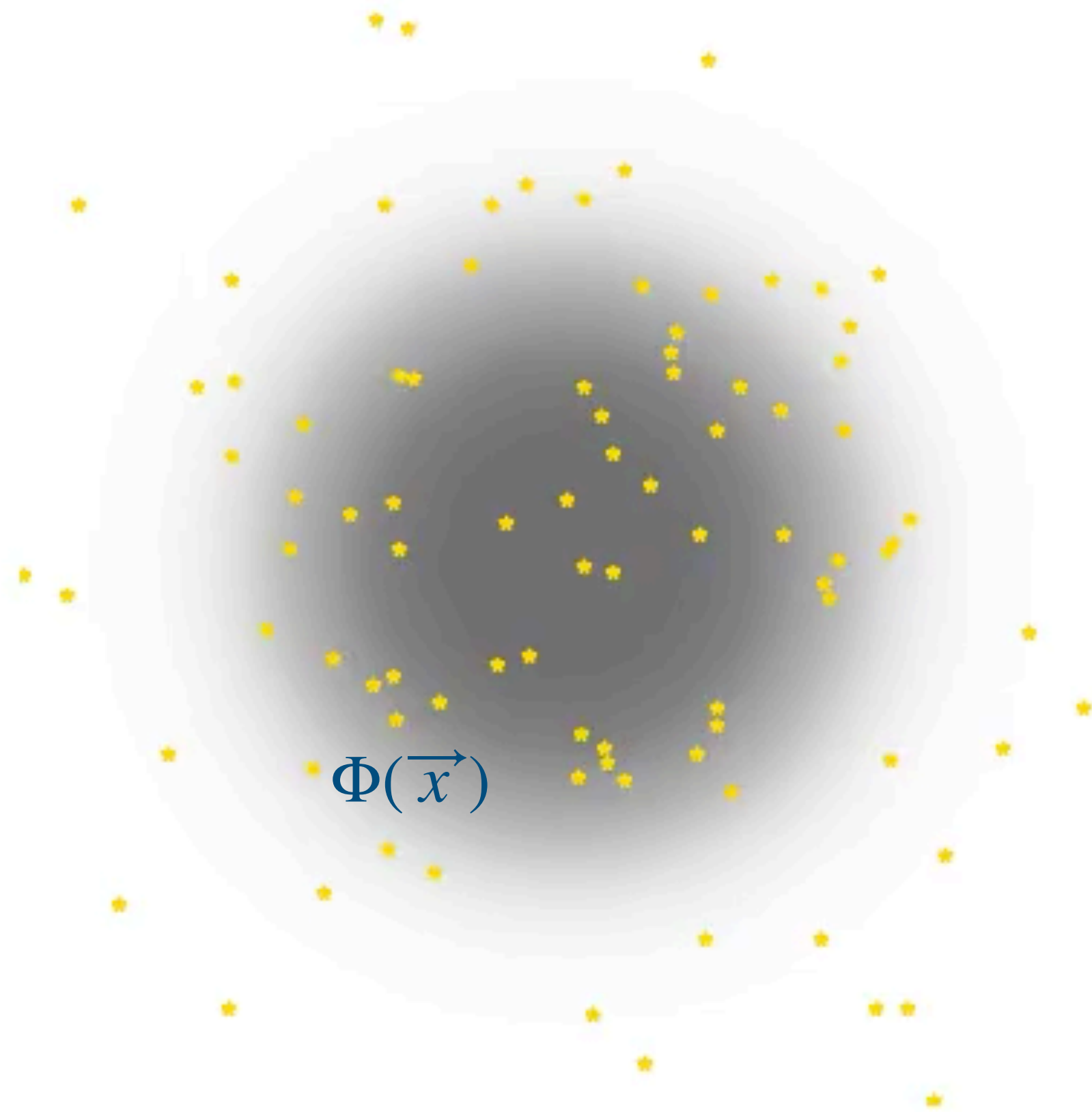
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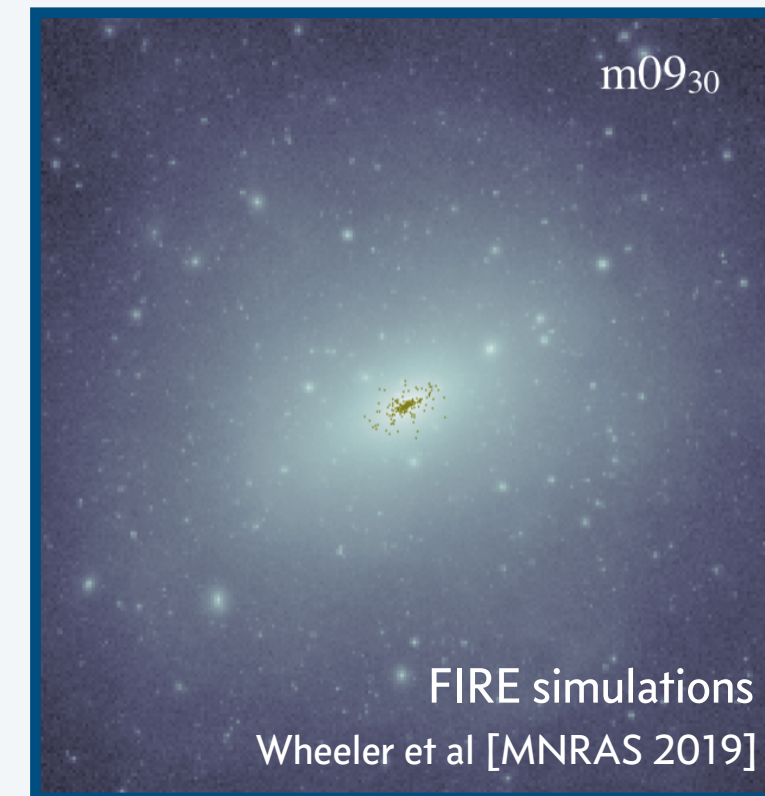


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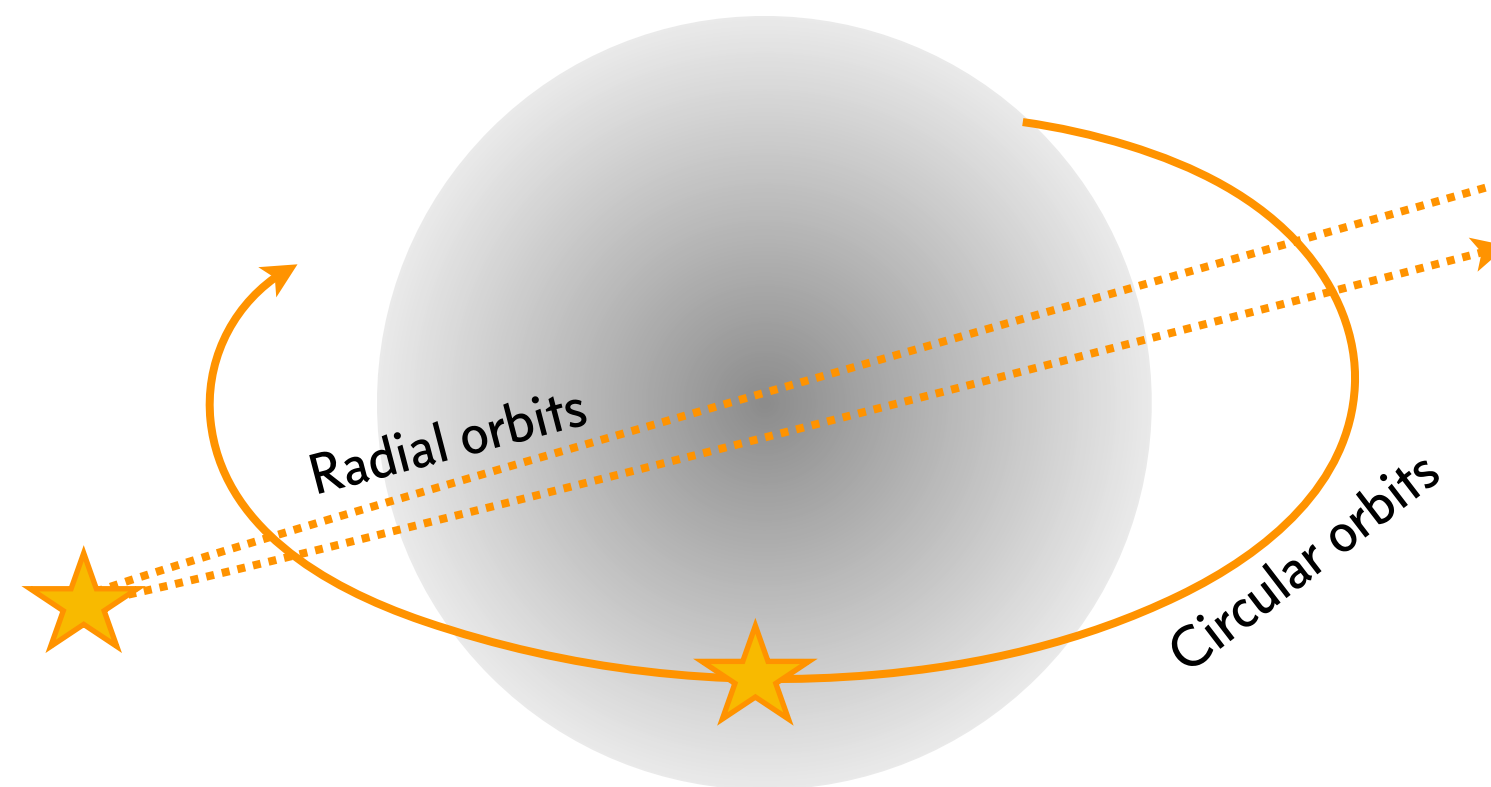
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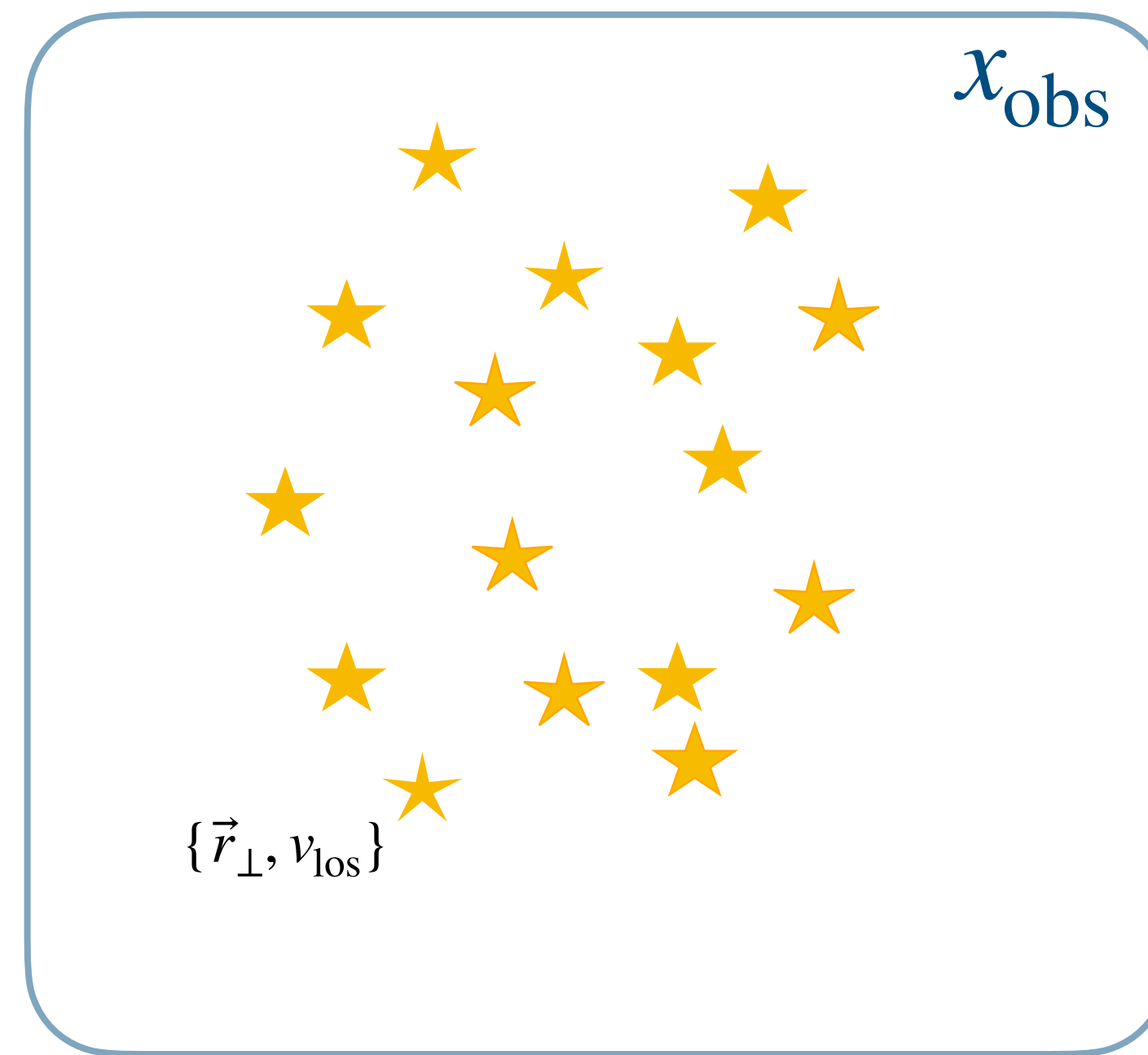
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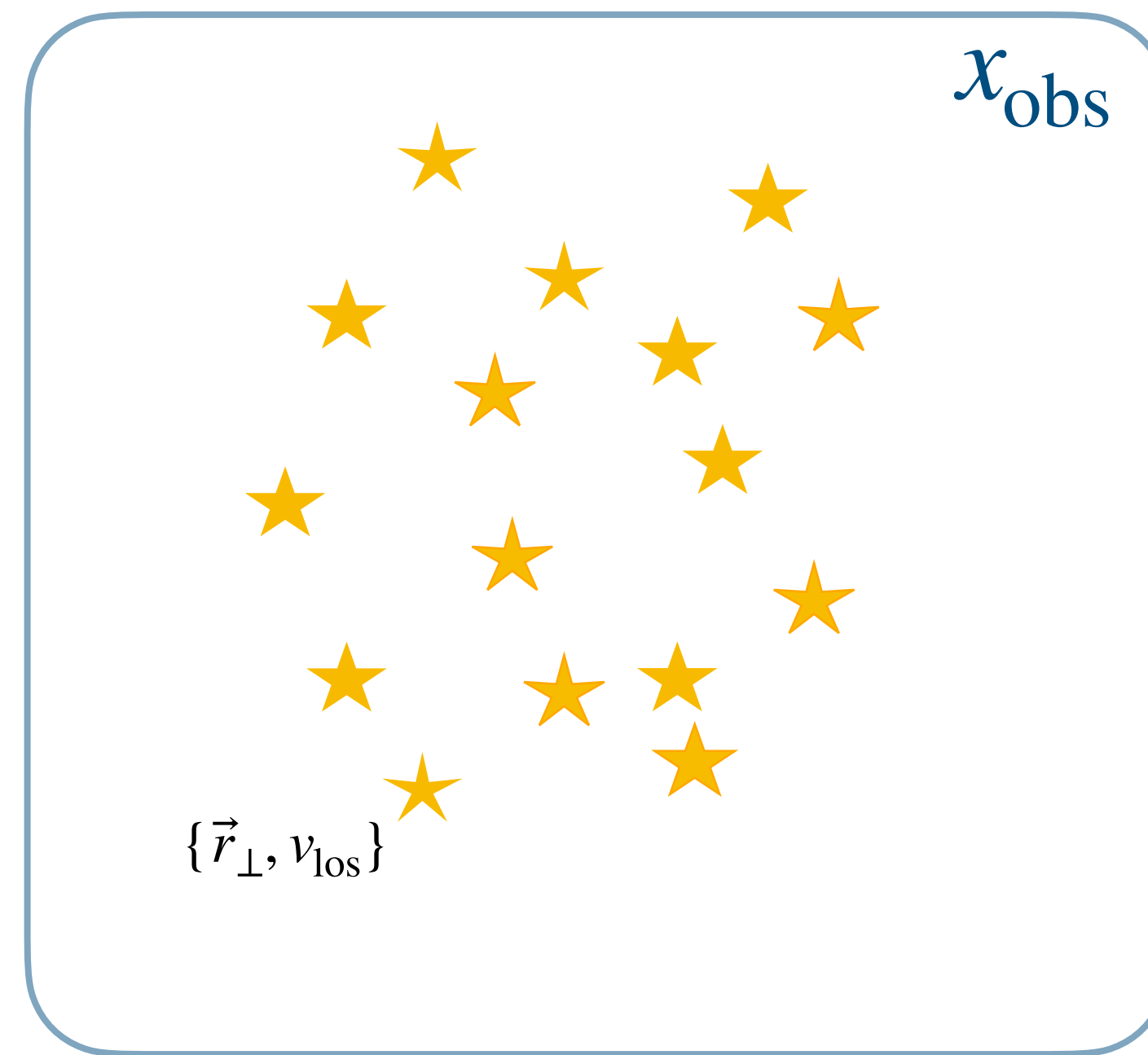
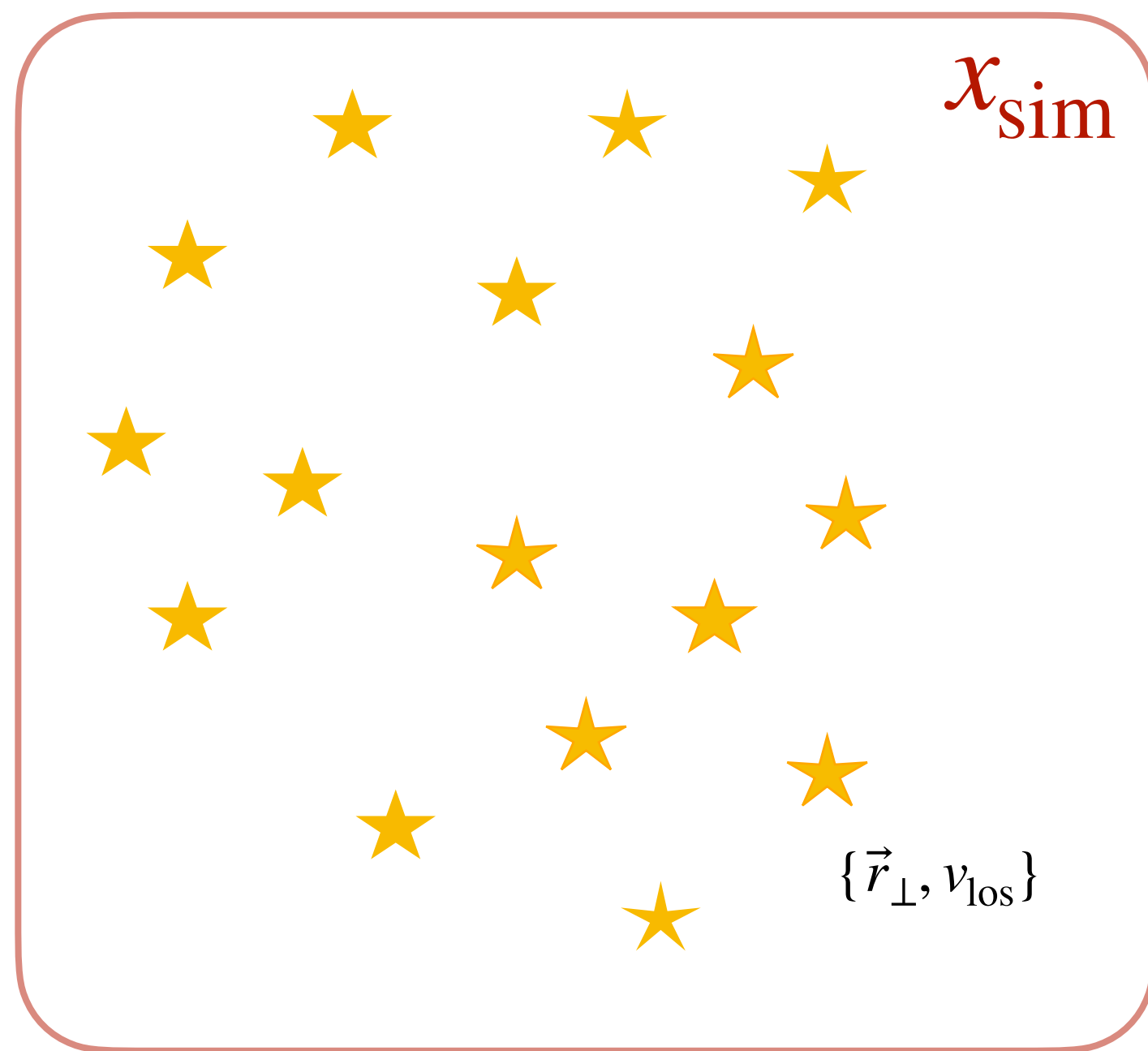
Simulation-based inference for dwarf galaxies

Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]

DM + stellar parameters θ



Simulator



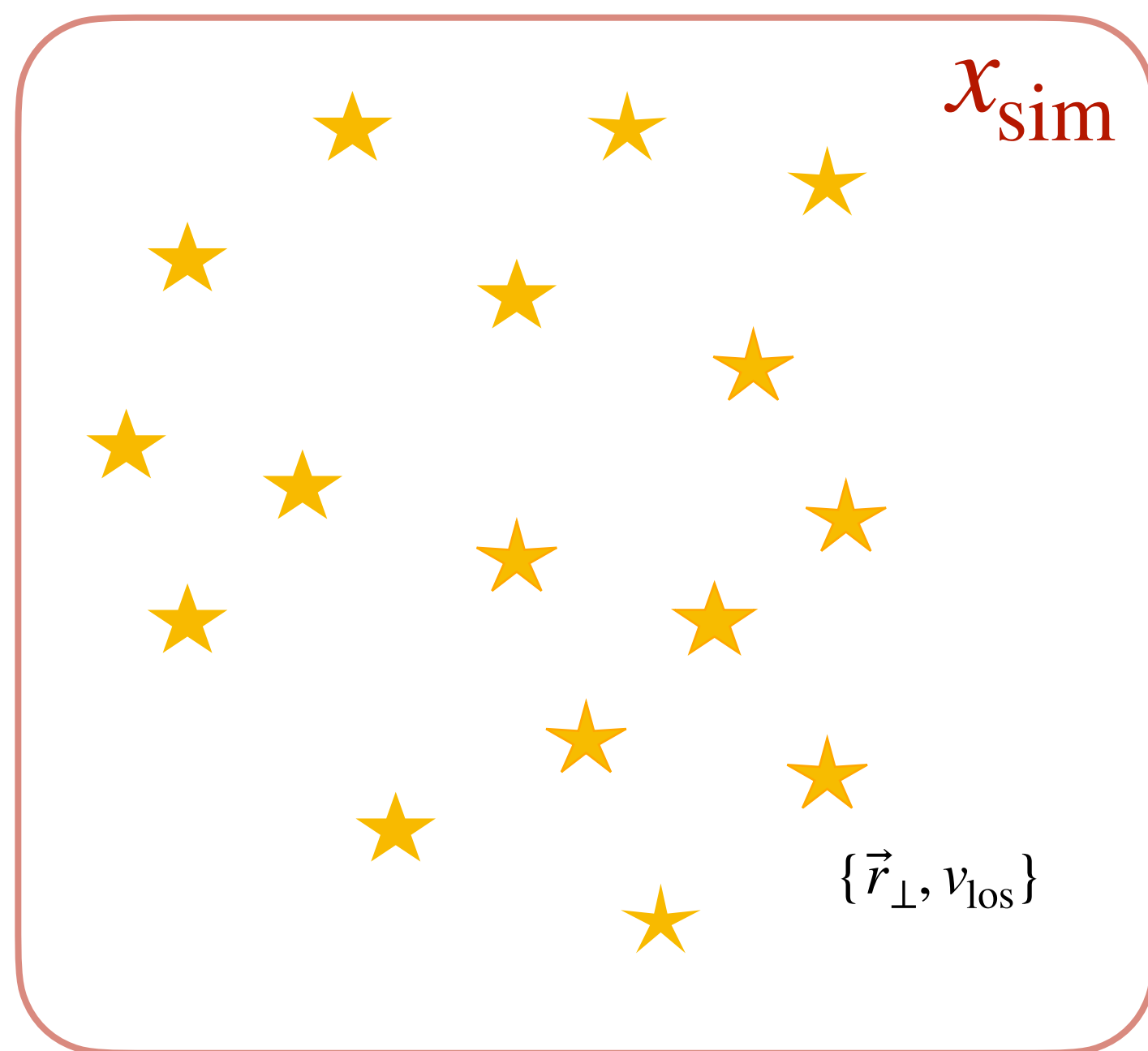
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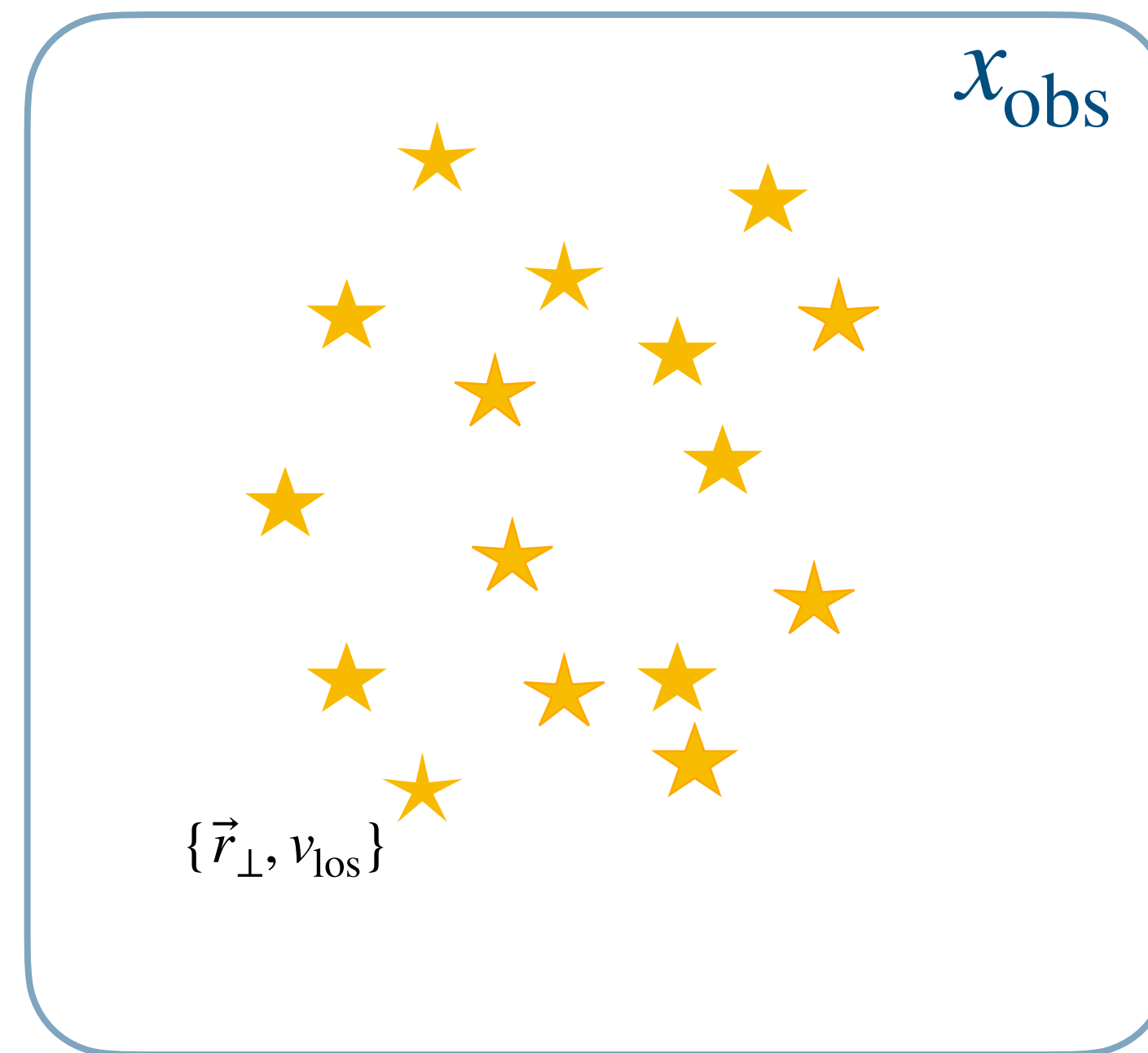
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Simulator

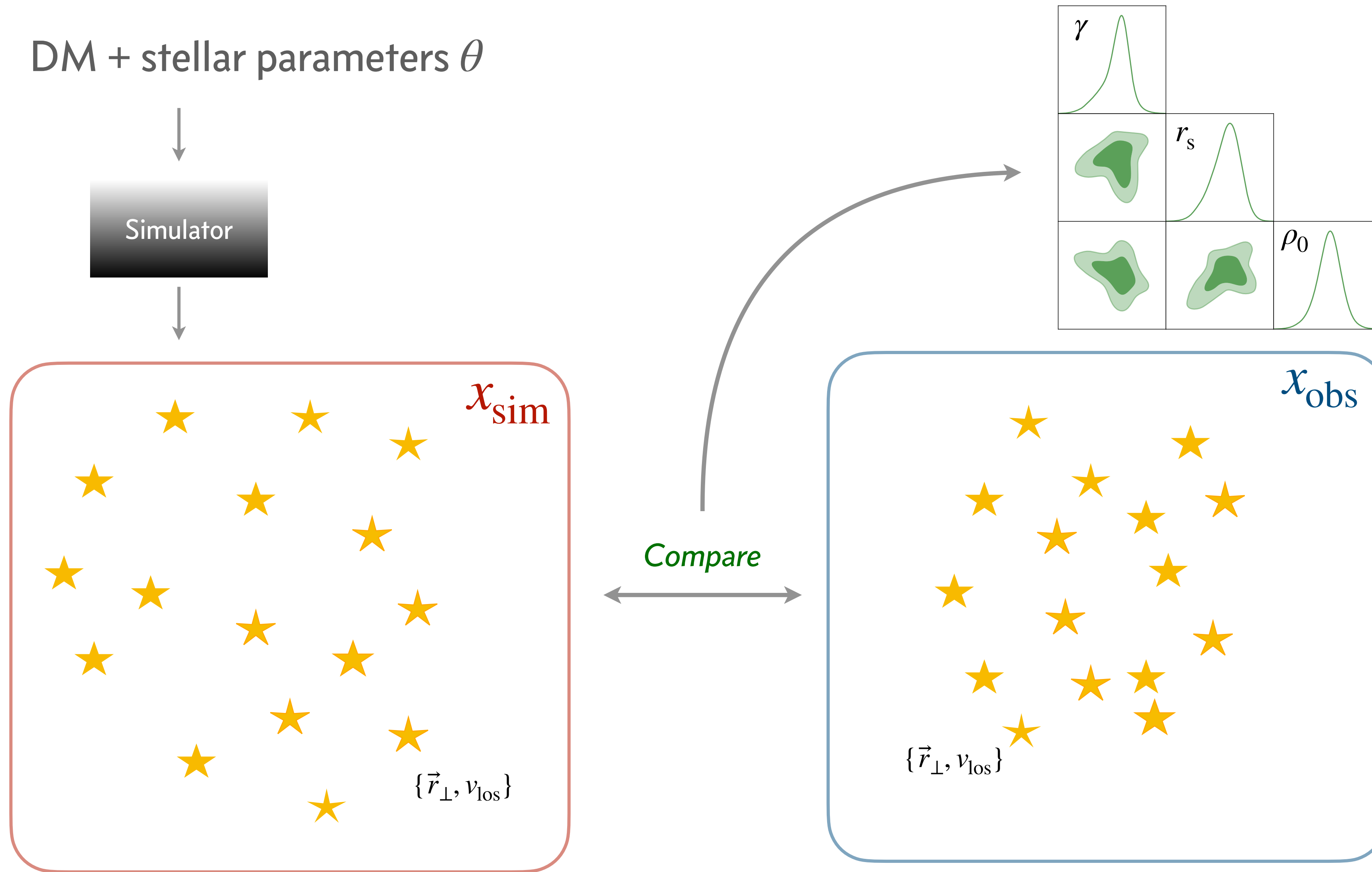


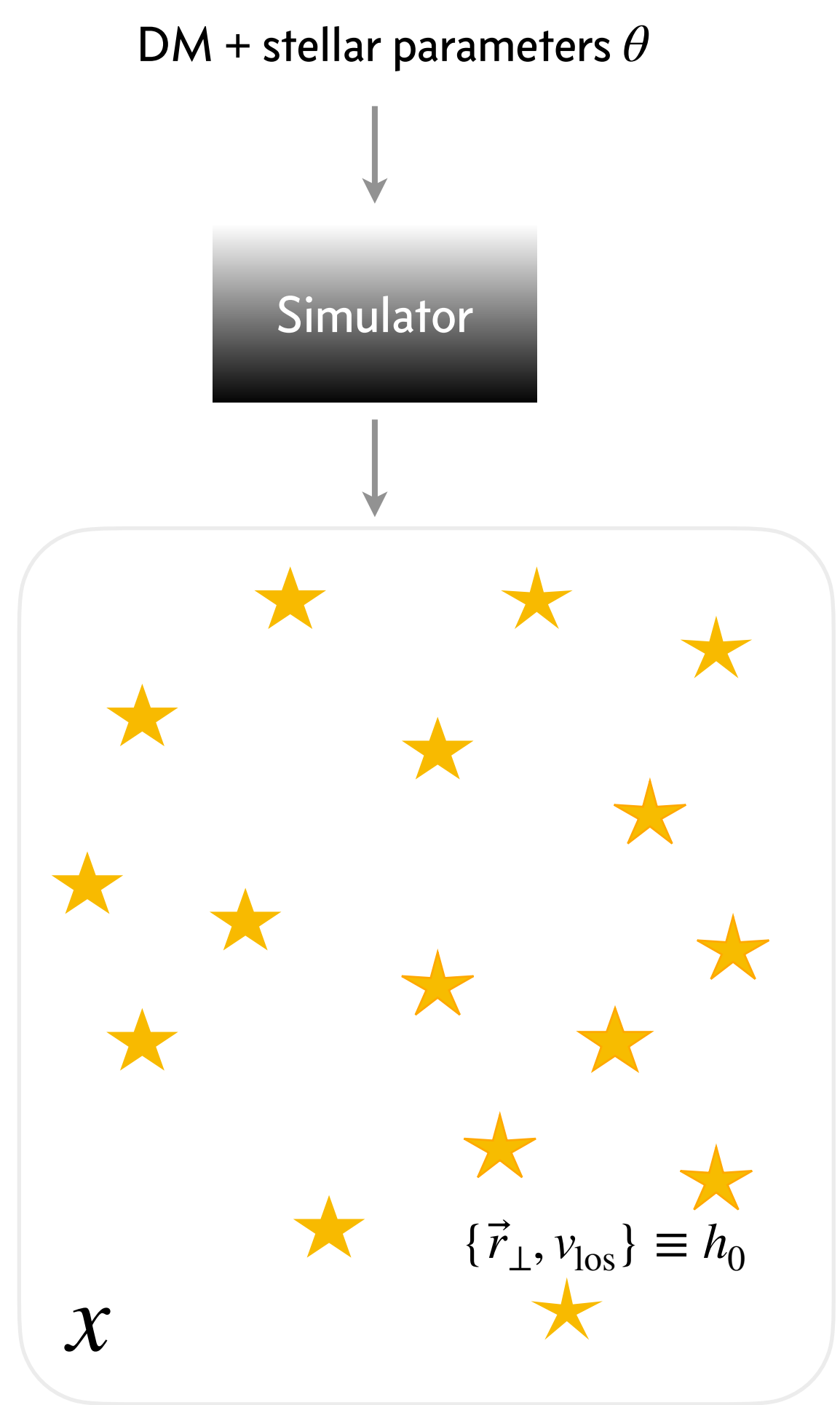
Compare

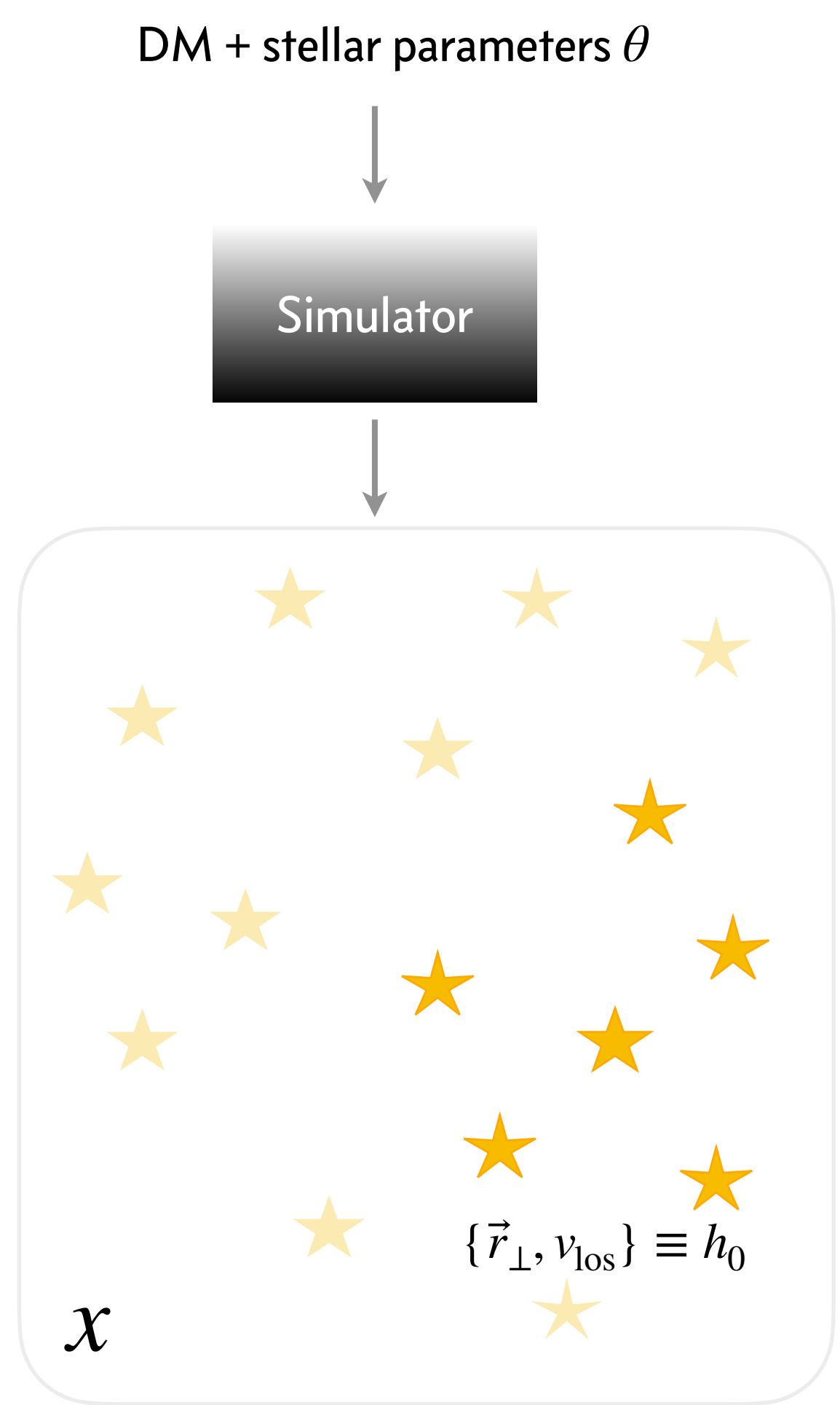


Simulation-based inference for dwarf galaxies

Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]

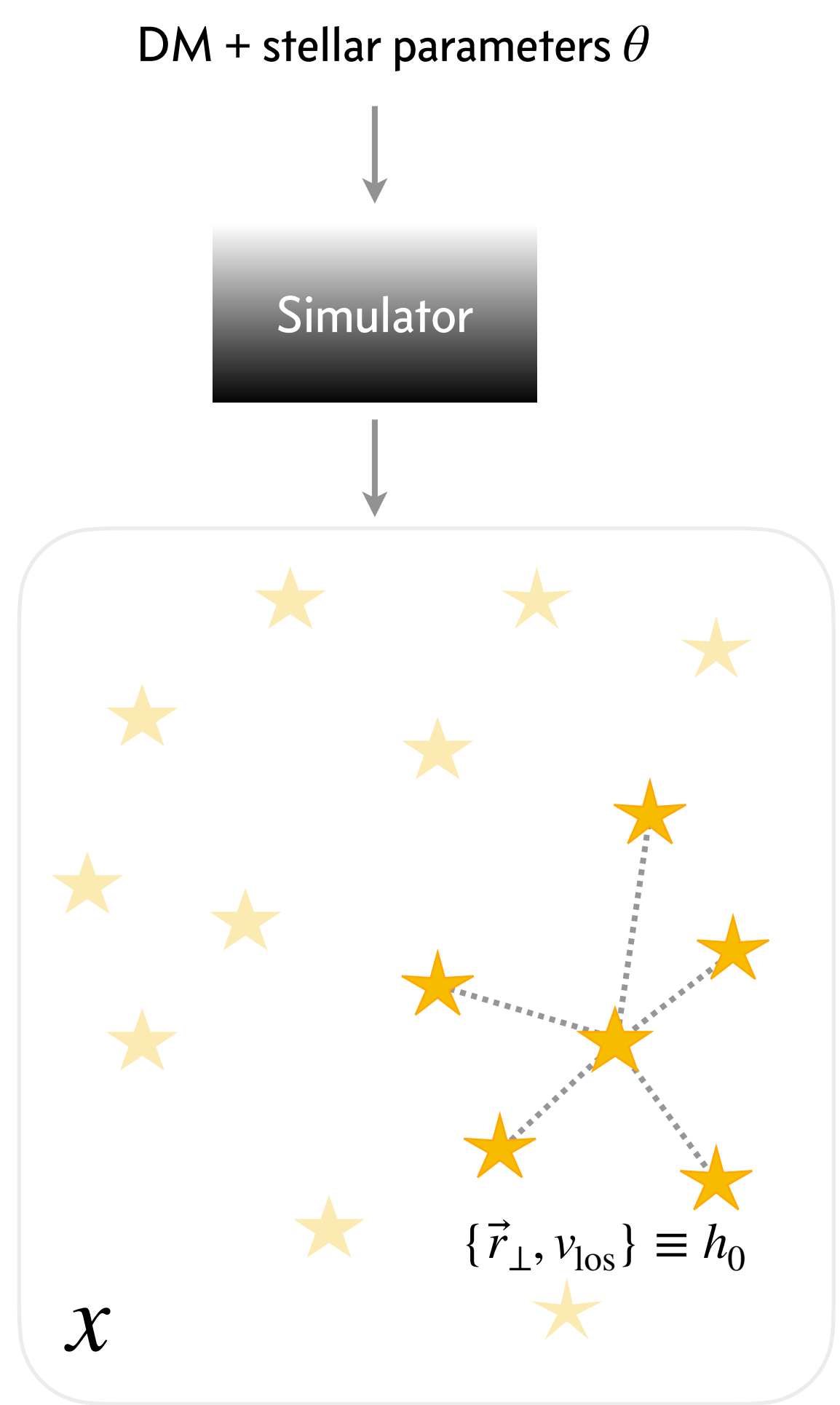


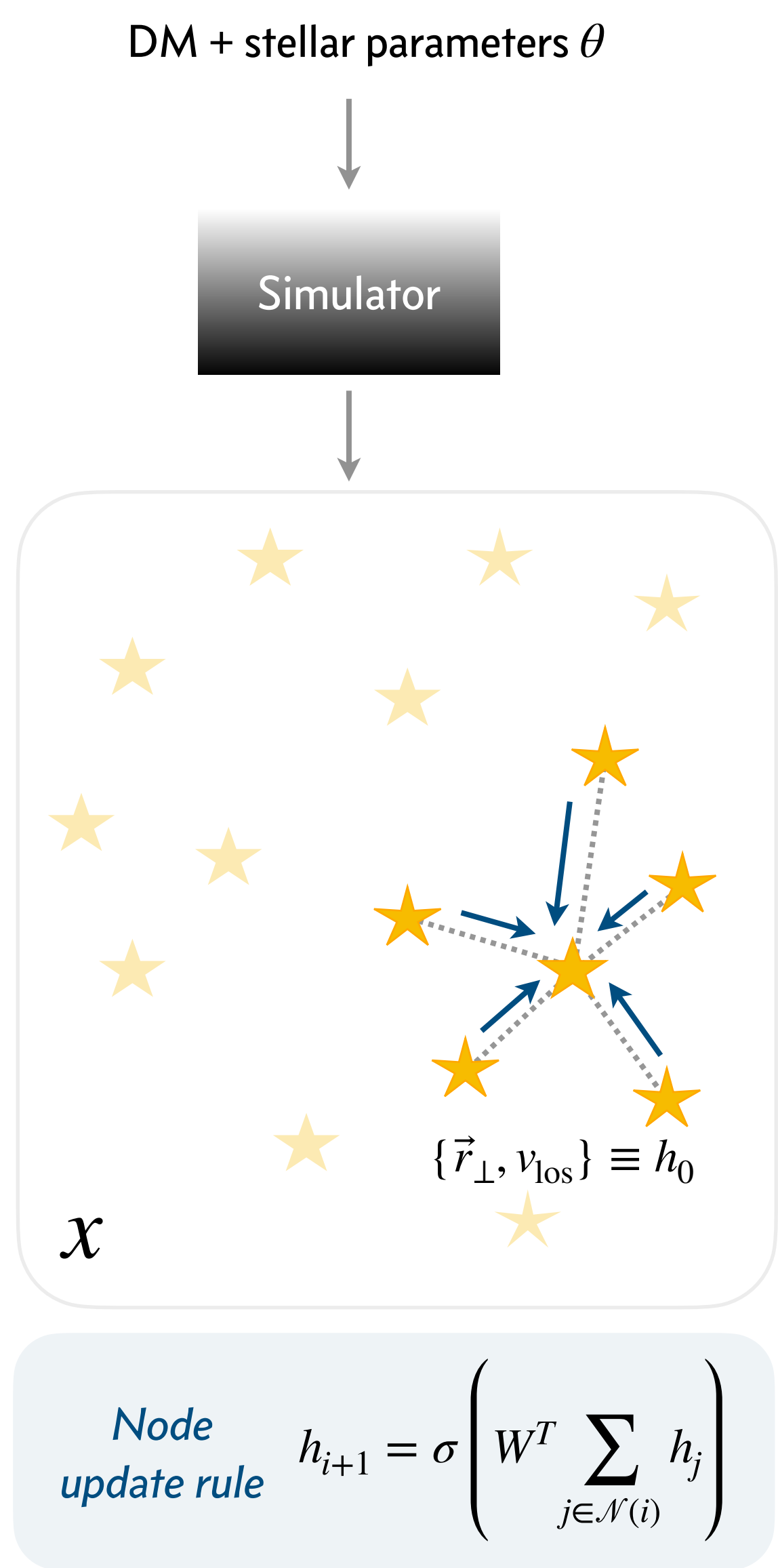


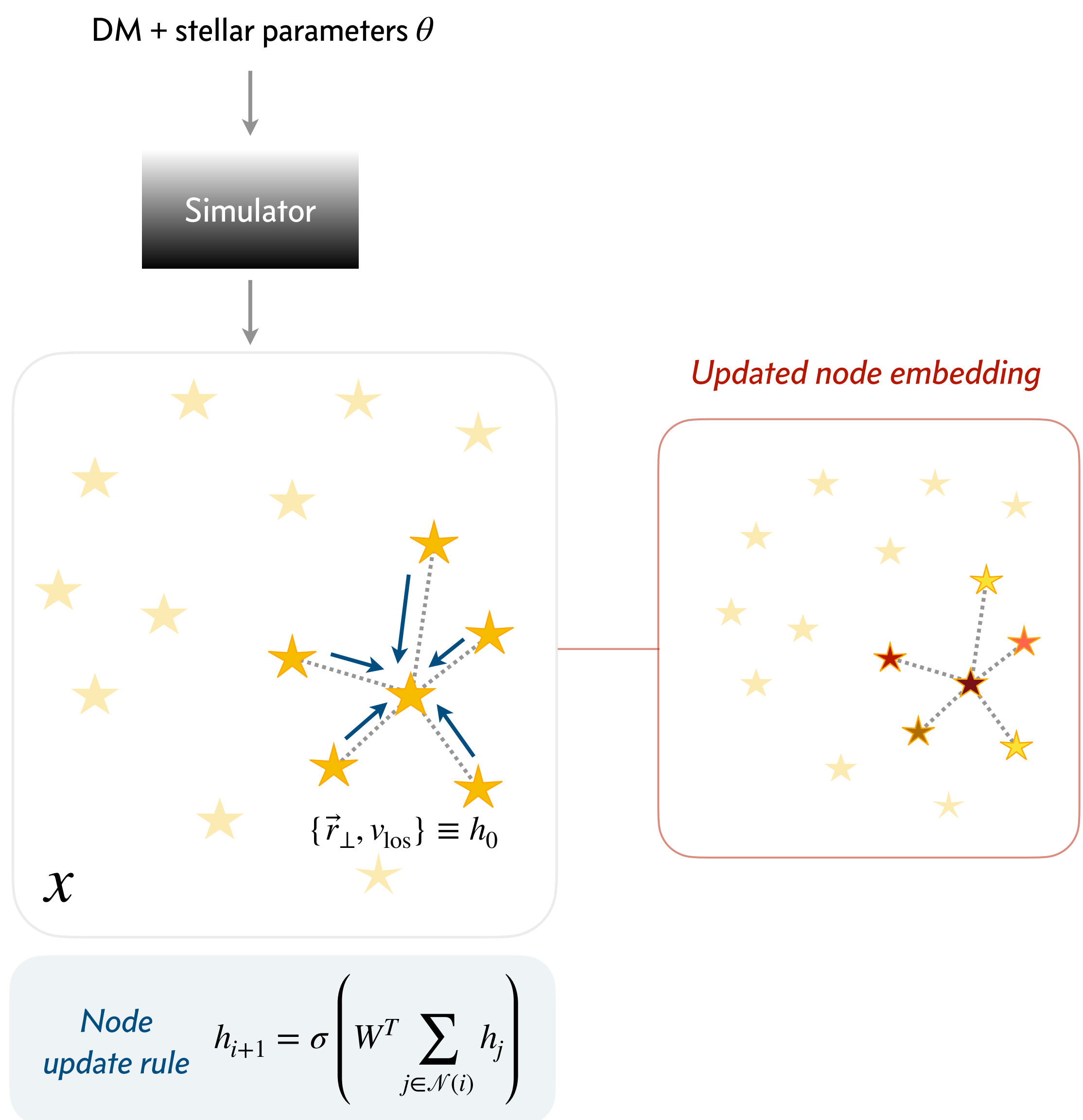


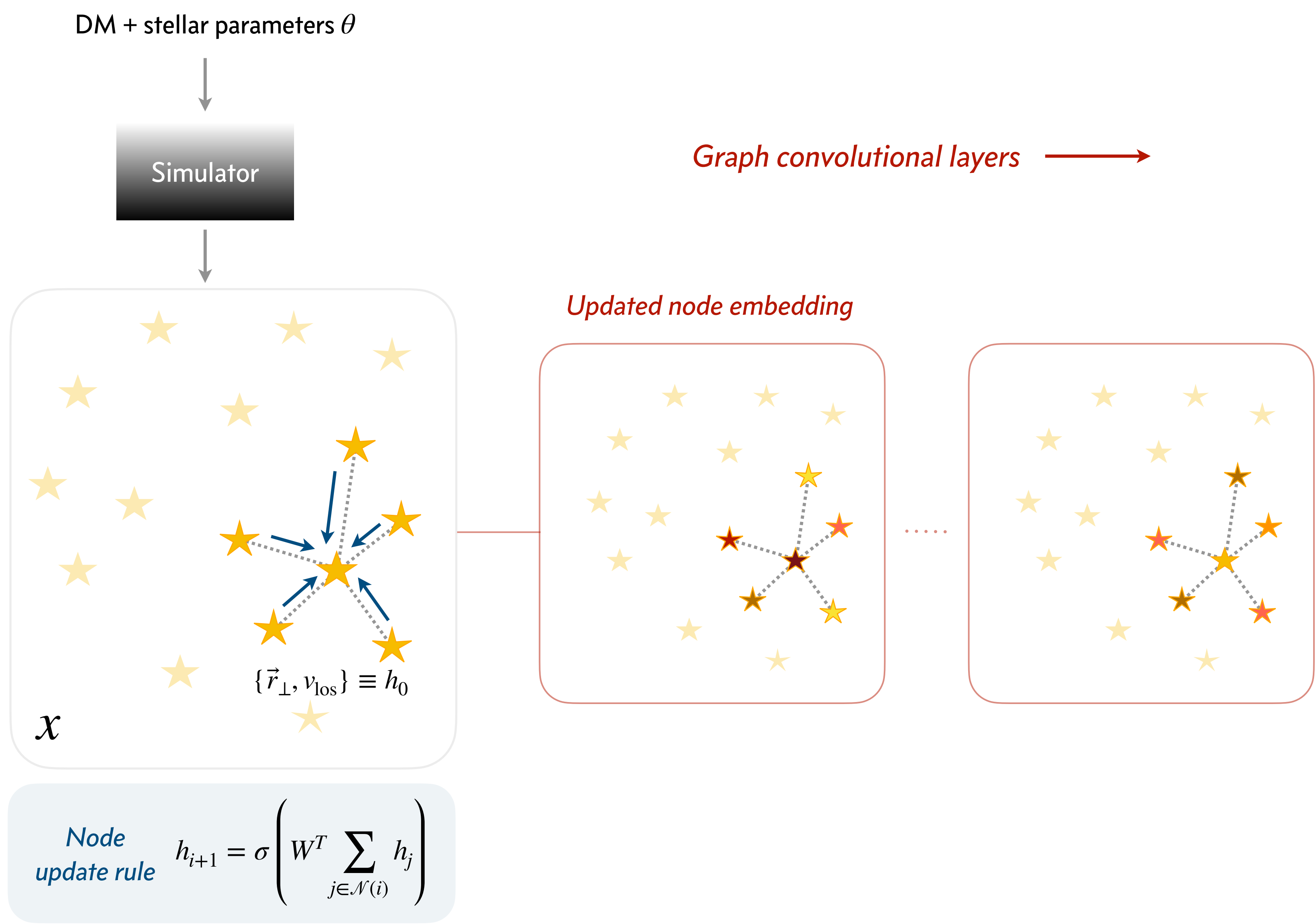
Graph neural networks for stellar kinematics

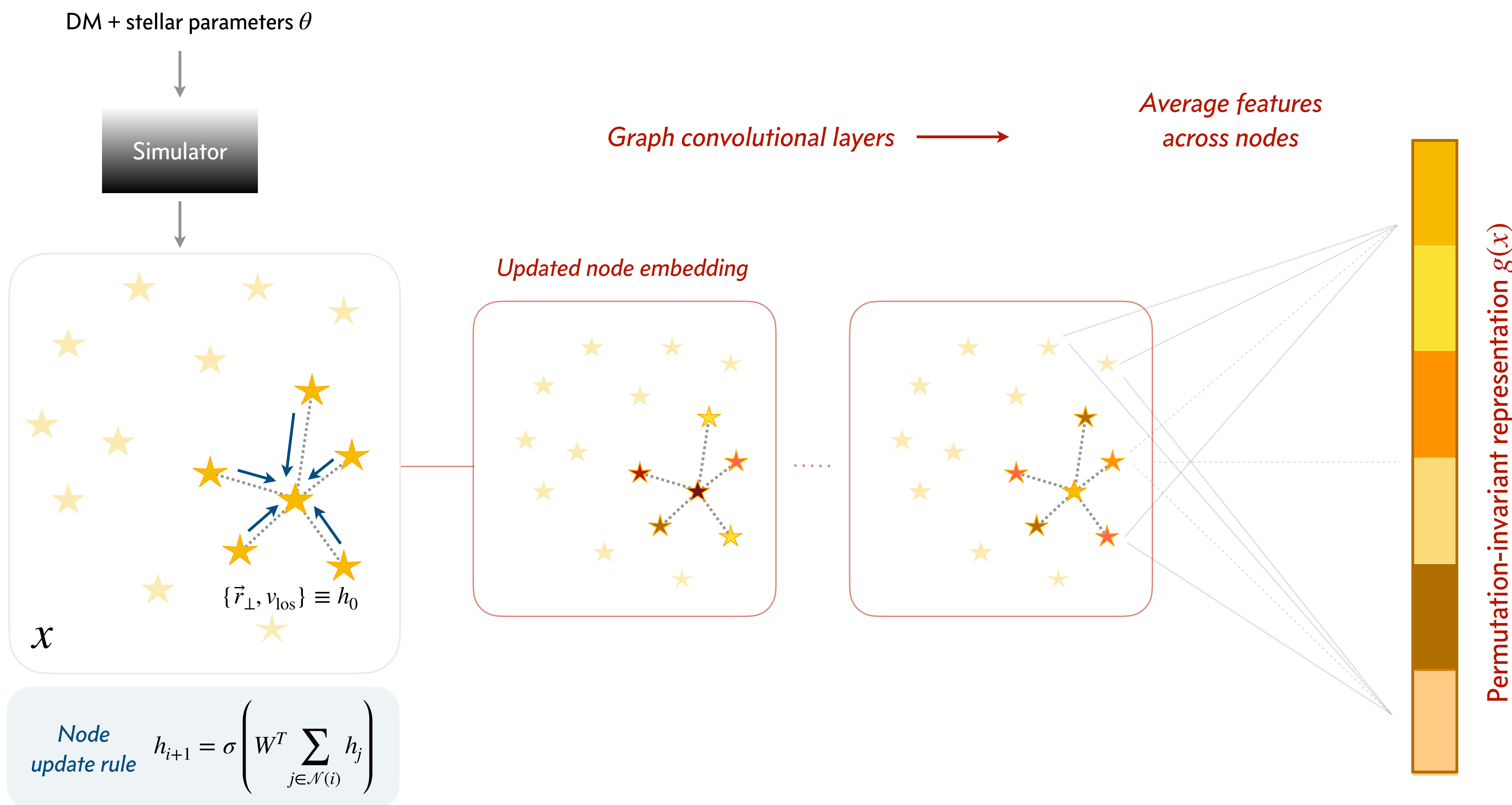
Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]







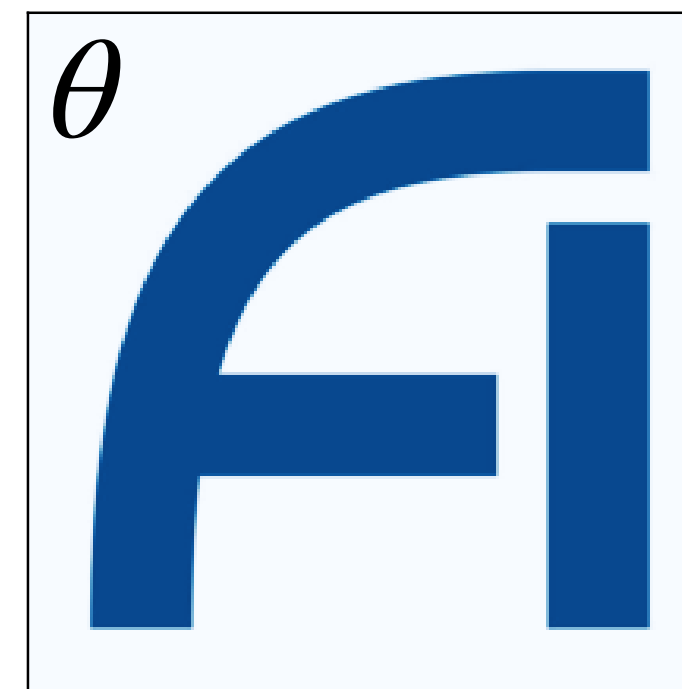




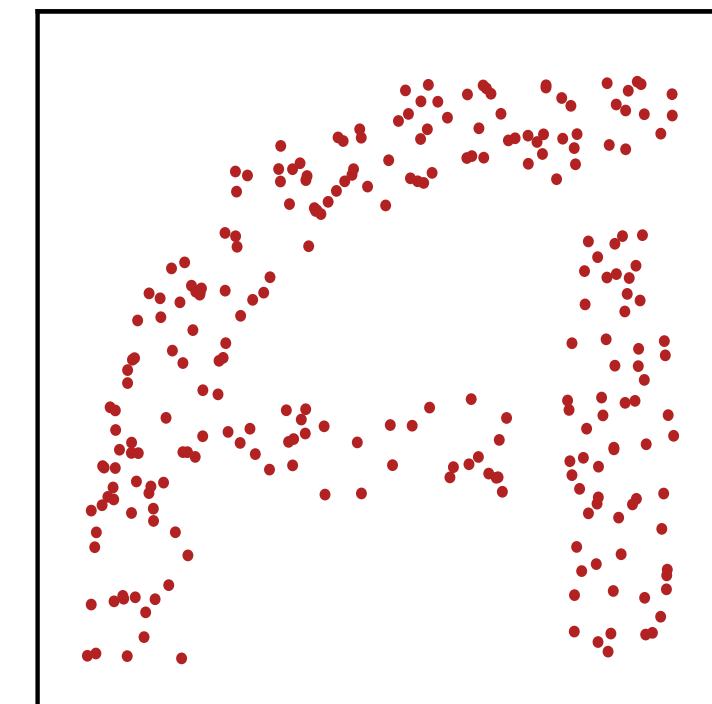
Normalizing flows for density estimation and sampling

Goal: *model* $p(\theta)$

Target density



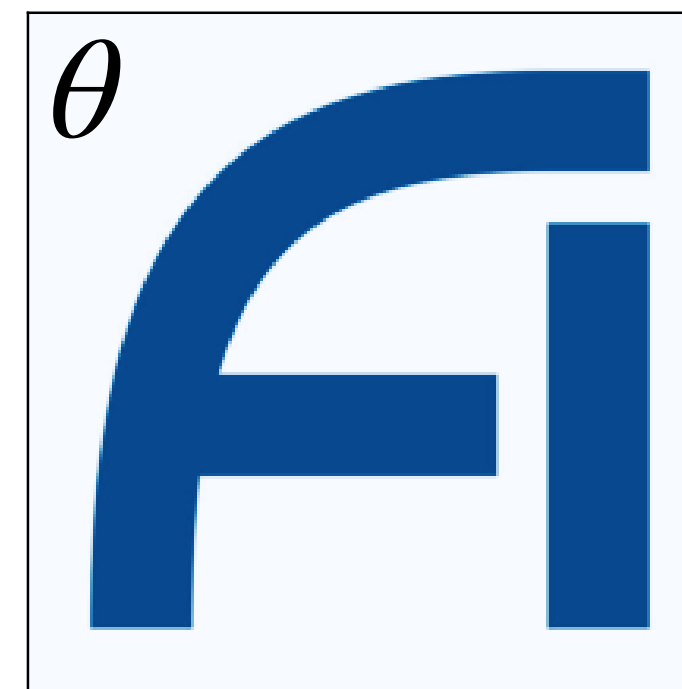
Samples



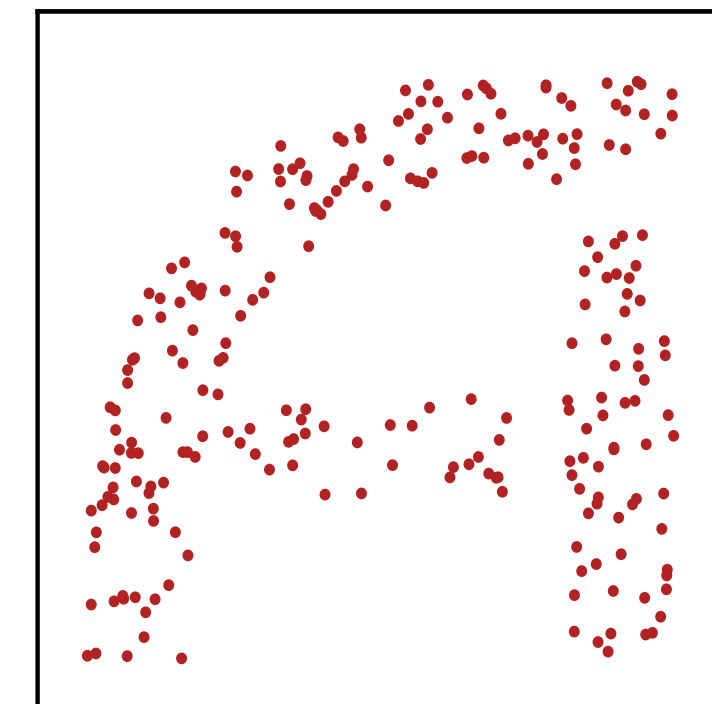
Normalizing flows for density estimation and sampling

Goal: *model* $p(\theta)$

Target density

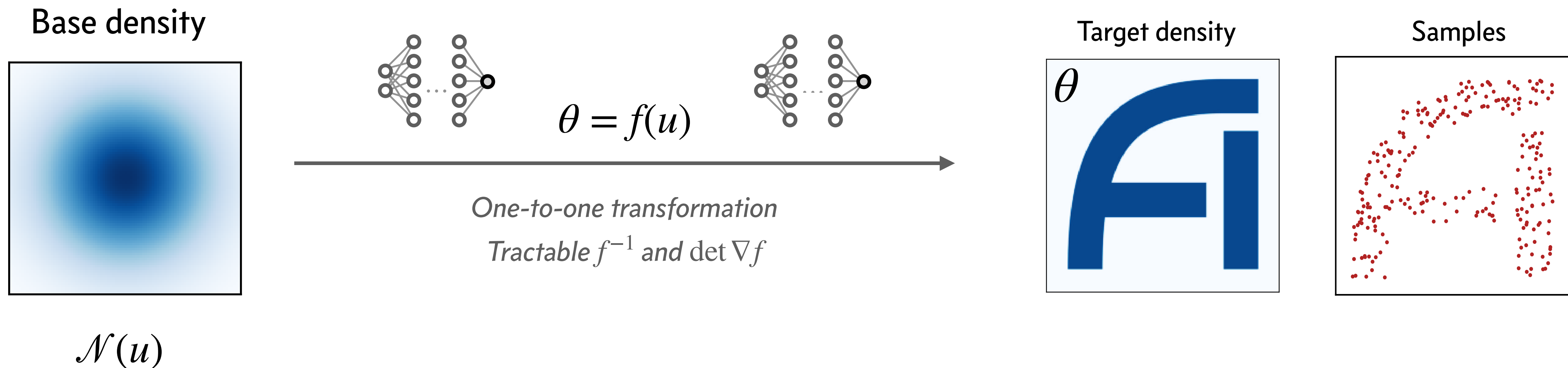


Samples



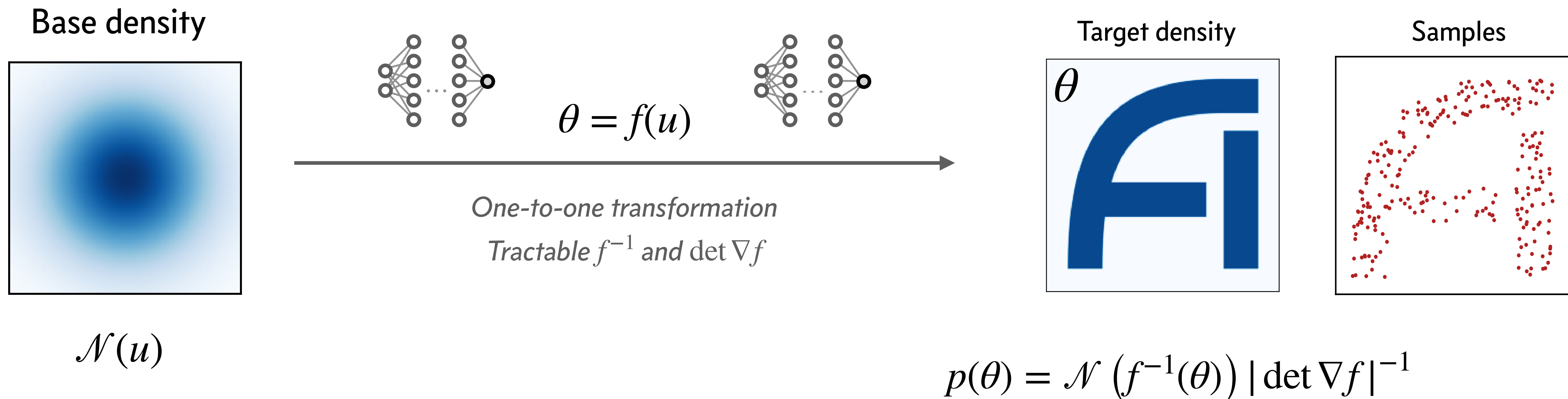
Normalizing flows for density estimation and sampling

Goal: *model* $p(\theta)$



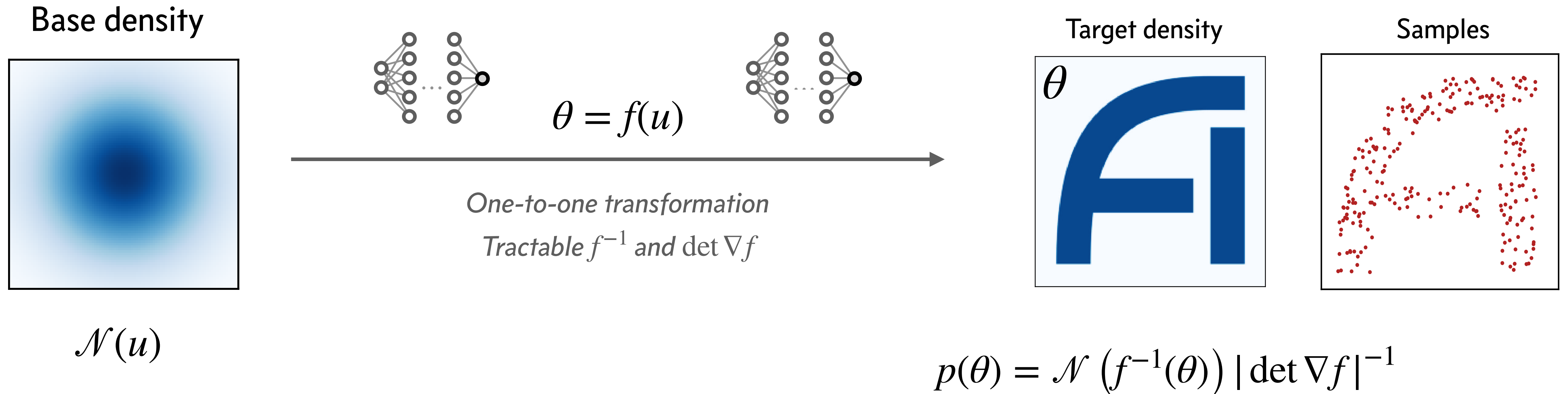
Normalizing flows for density estimation and sampling

Goal: *model* $p(\theta)$

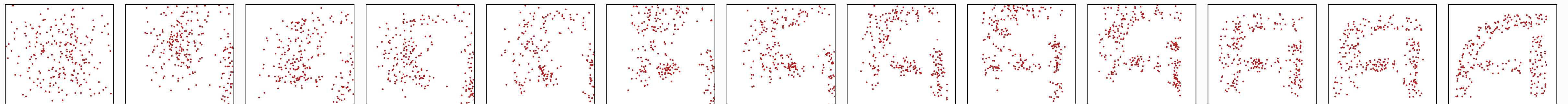


Normalizing flows for density estimation and sampling

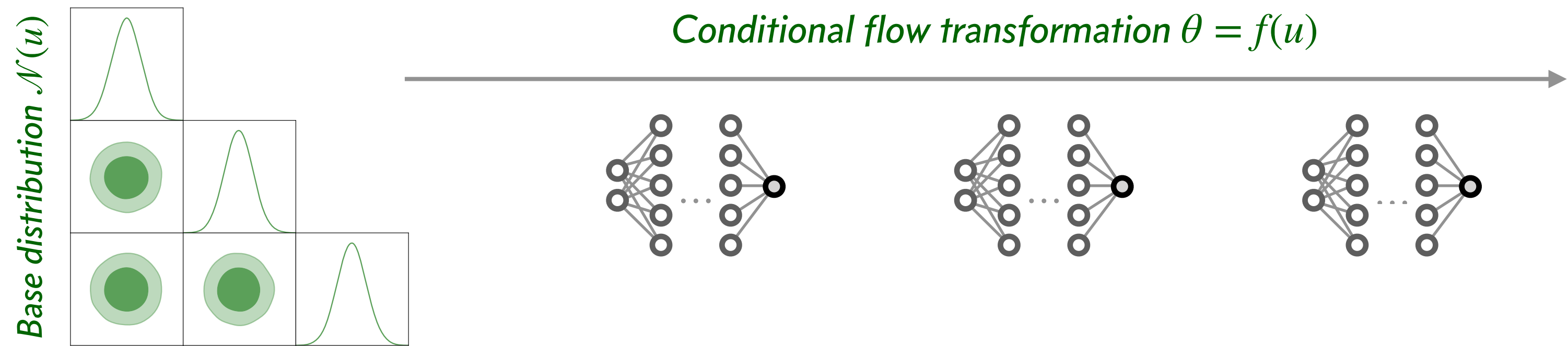
Goal: *model* $p(\theta)$



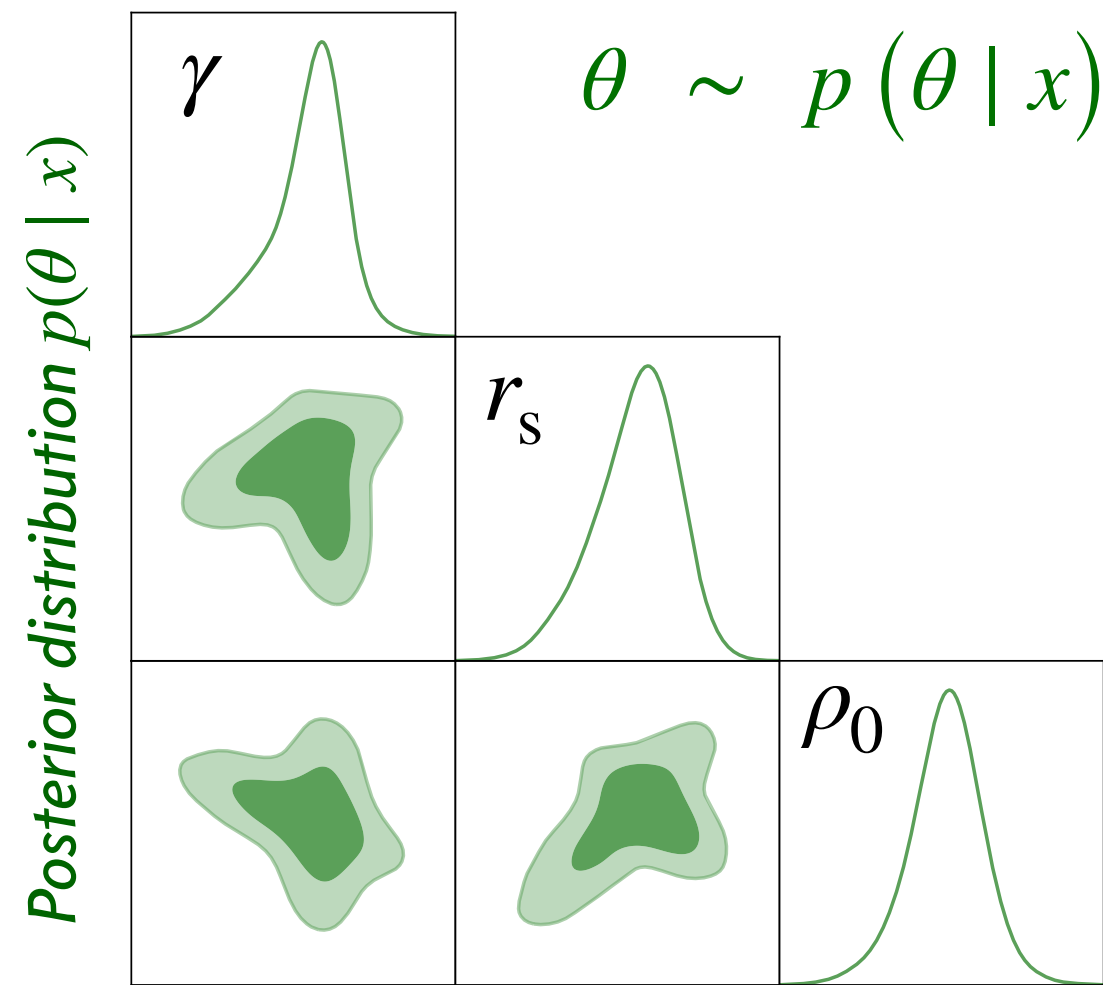
Efficient sampling and density estimation



Inferring the dark matter posterior

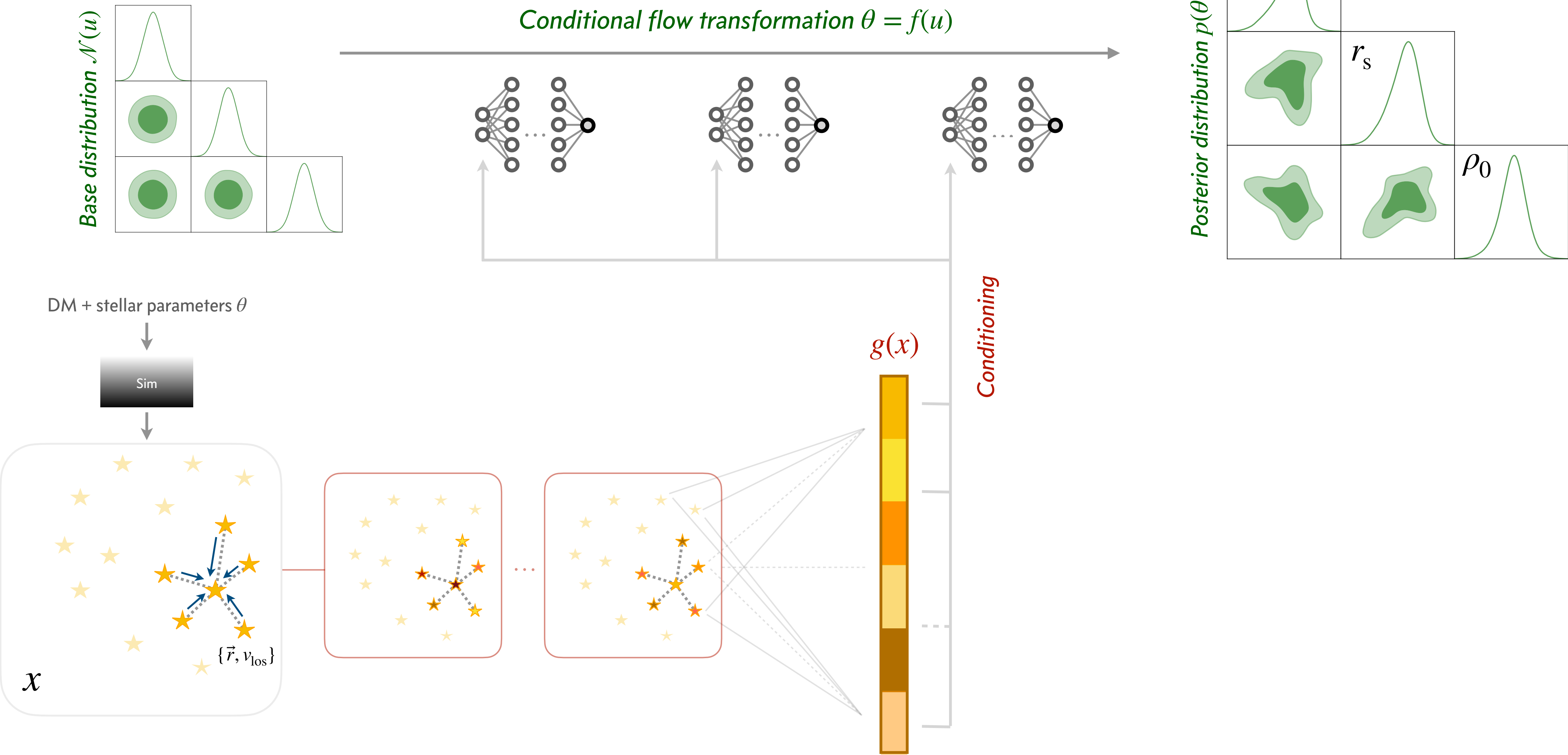


Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]



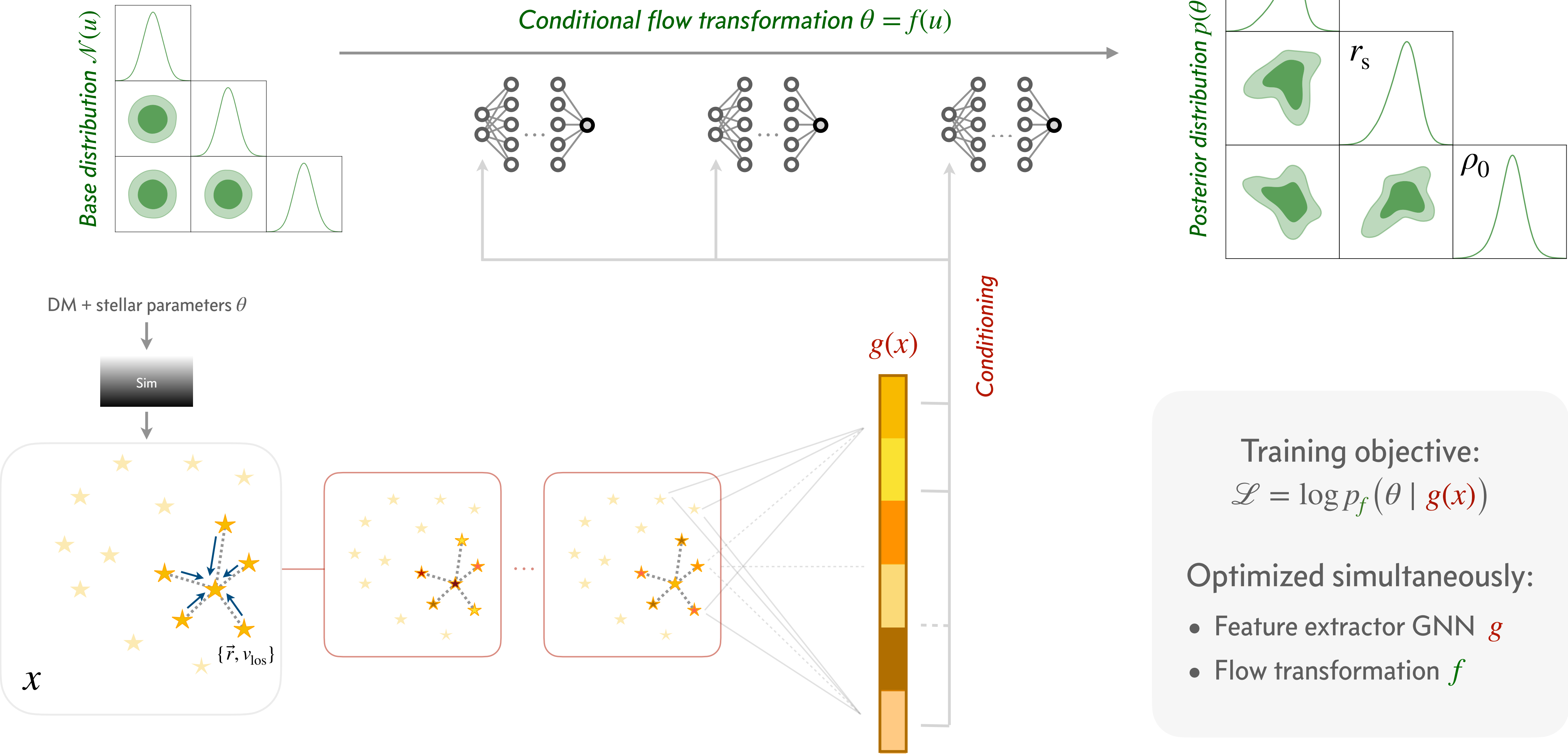
Inferring the dark matter posterior

Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]



Inferring the dark matter posterior

Nguyen, SM et al [PRD 2023]



Applications to hydrodynamic simulations

Nguyen, SM et al [In prep]

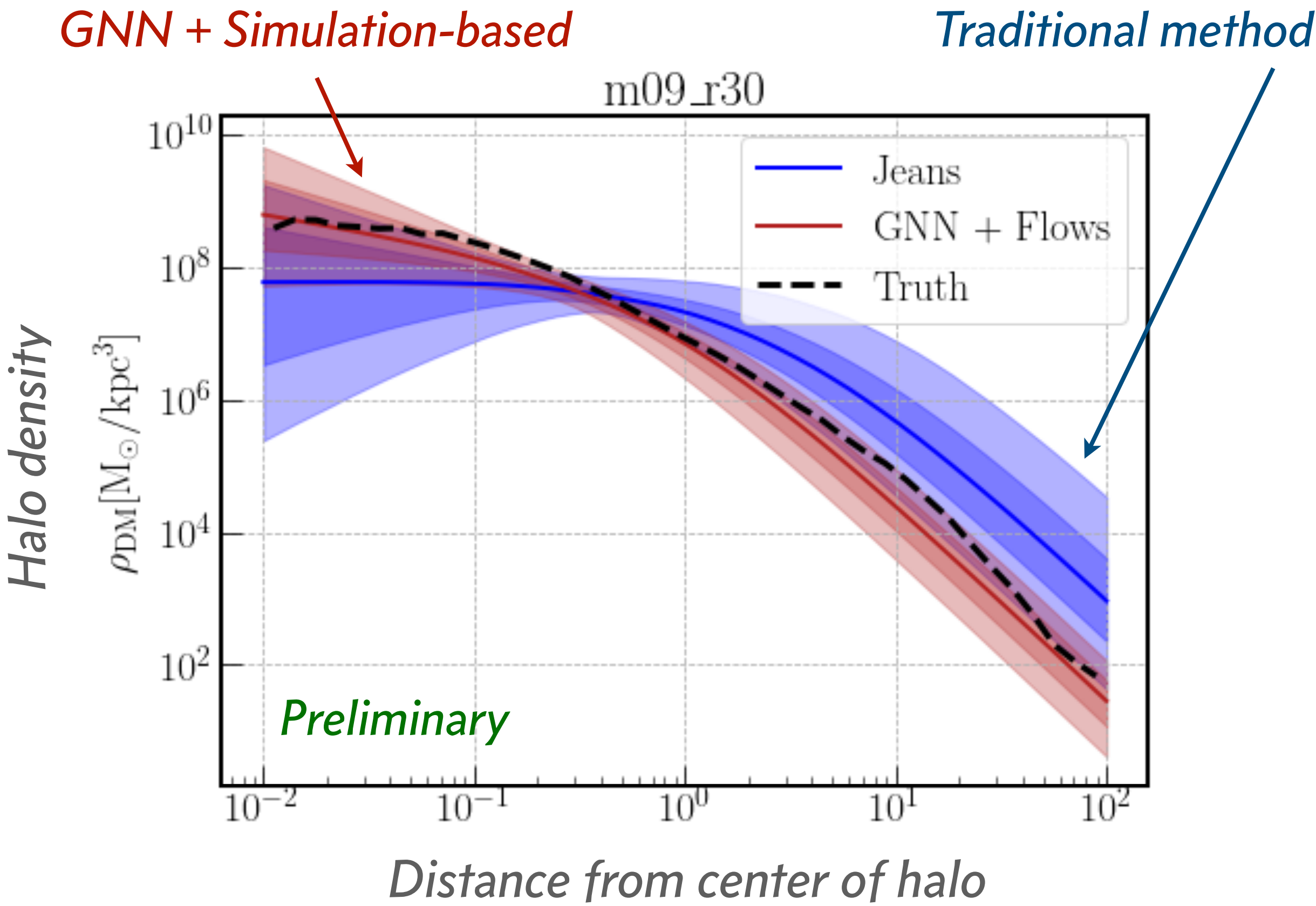
Wheeler et al [MNRAS 2019]



Applications to hydrodynamic simulations

Nguyen, SM et al [In prep]

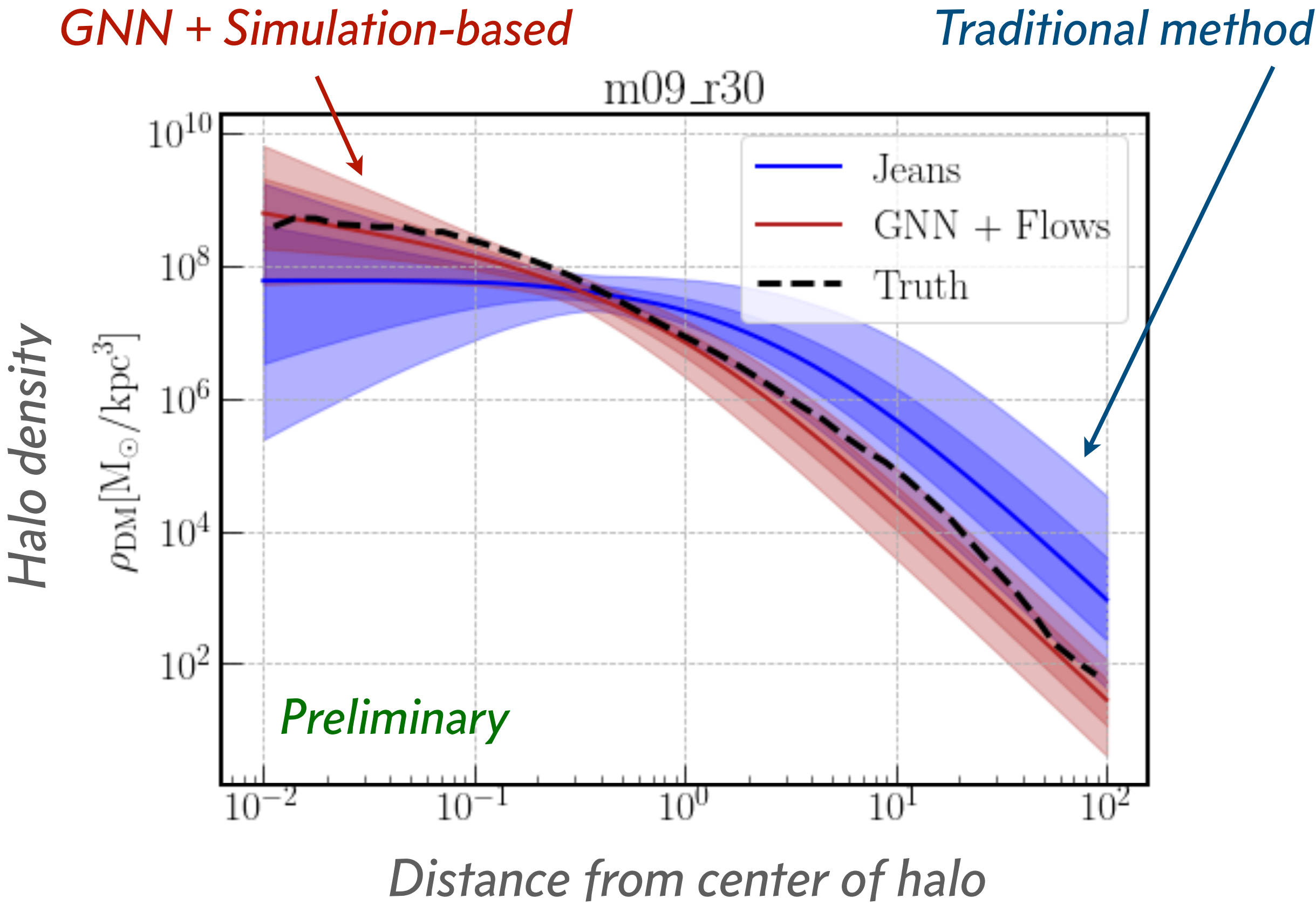
Wheeler et al [MNRAS 2019]



Applications to hydrodynamic simulations

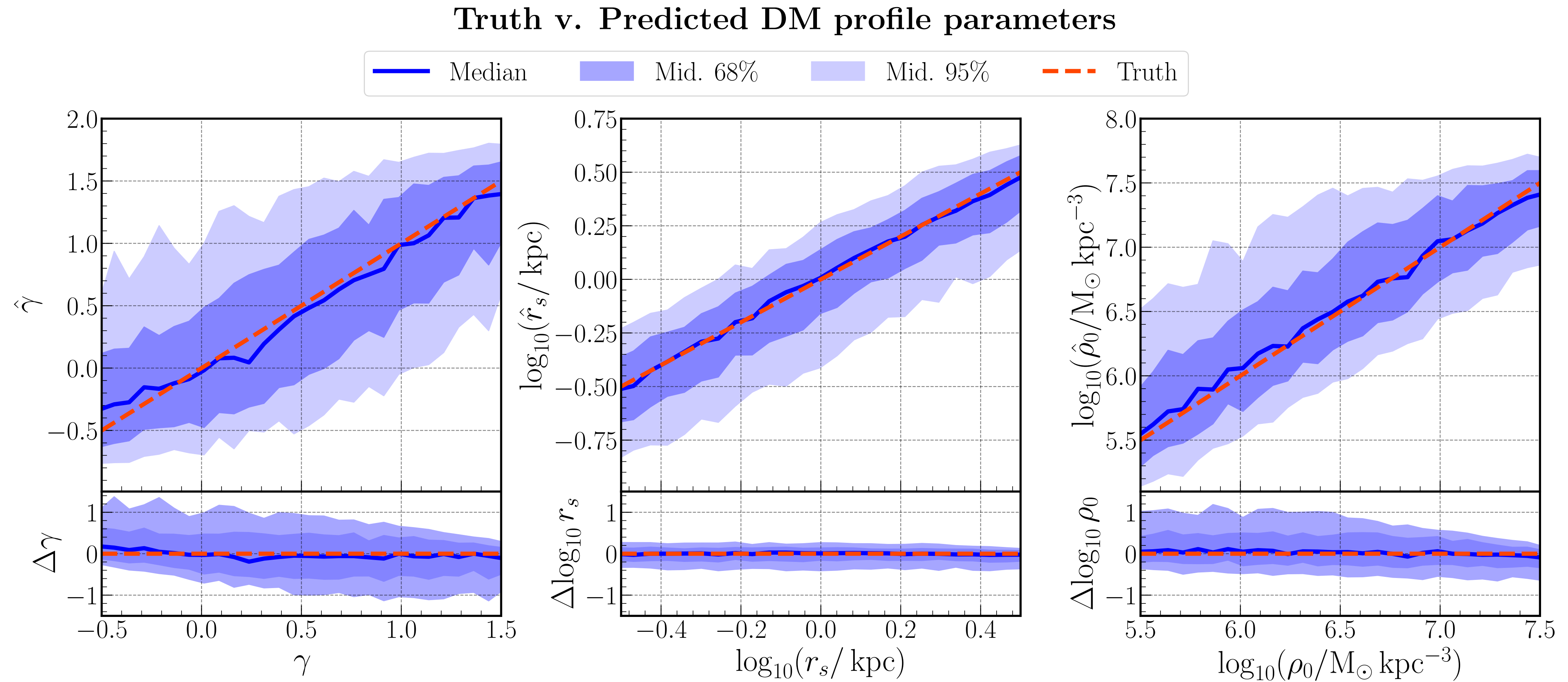
Nguyen, SM et al [In prep]

Wheeler et al [MNRAS 2019]

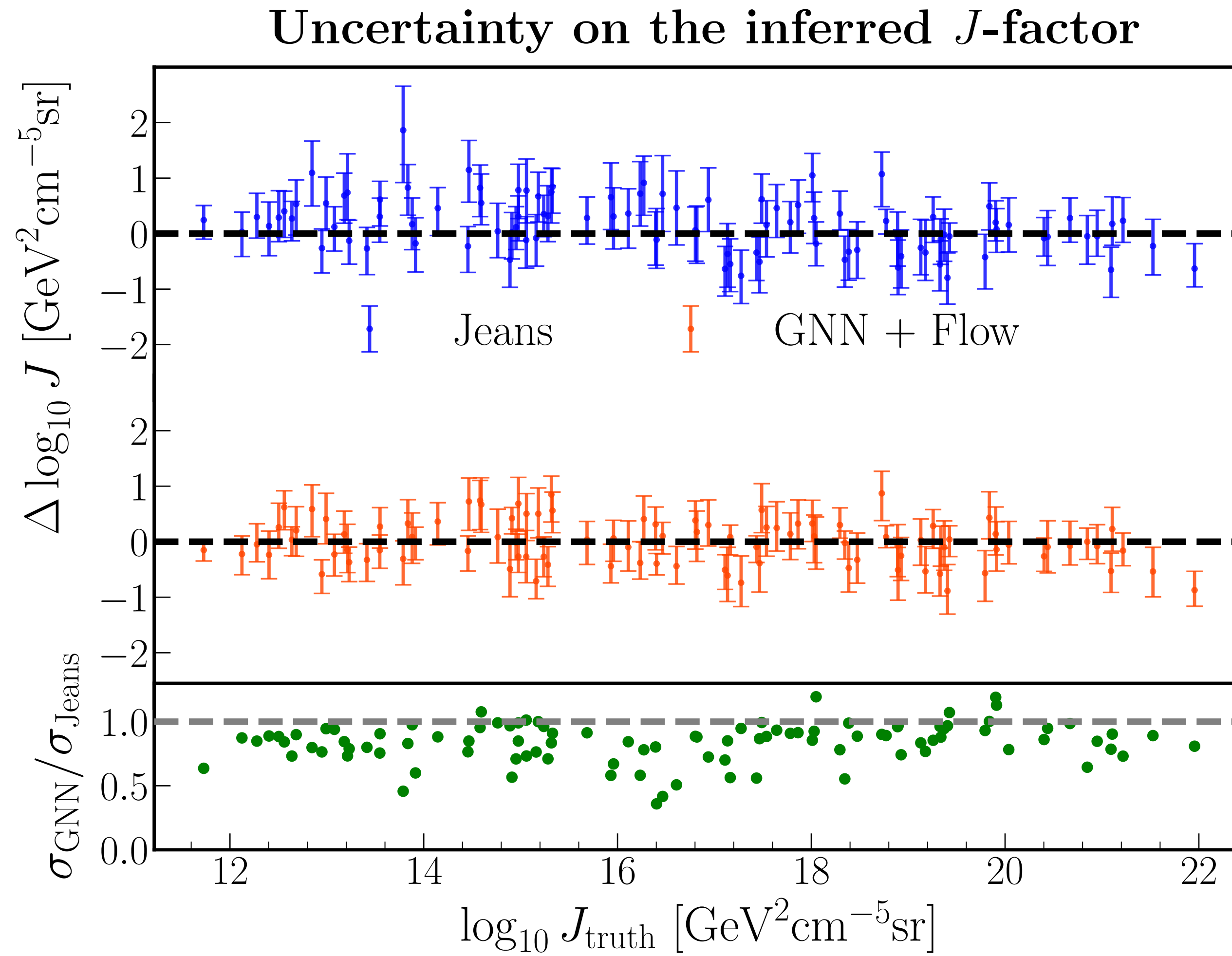


Significantly better performance!

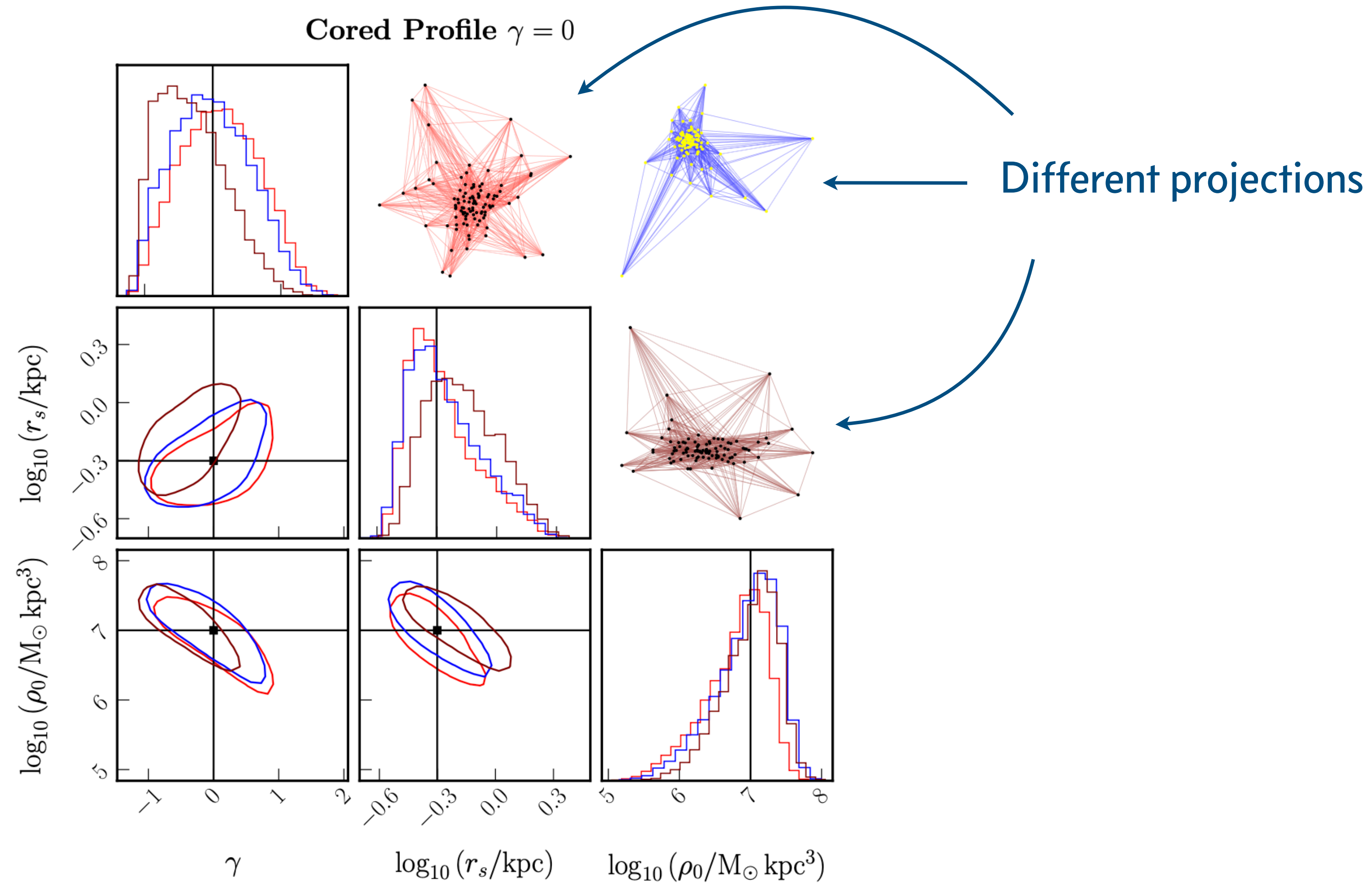
True vs predicted DM parameters



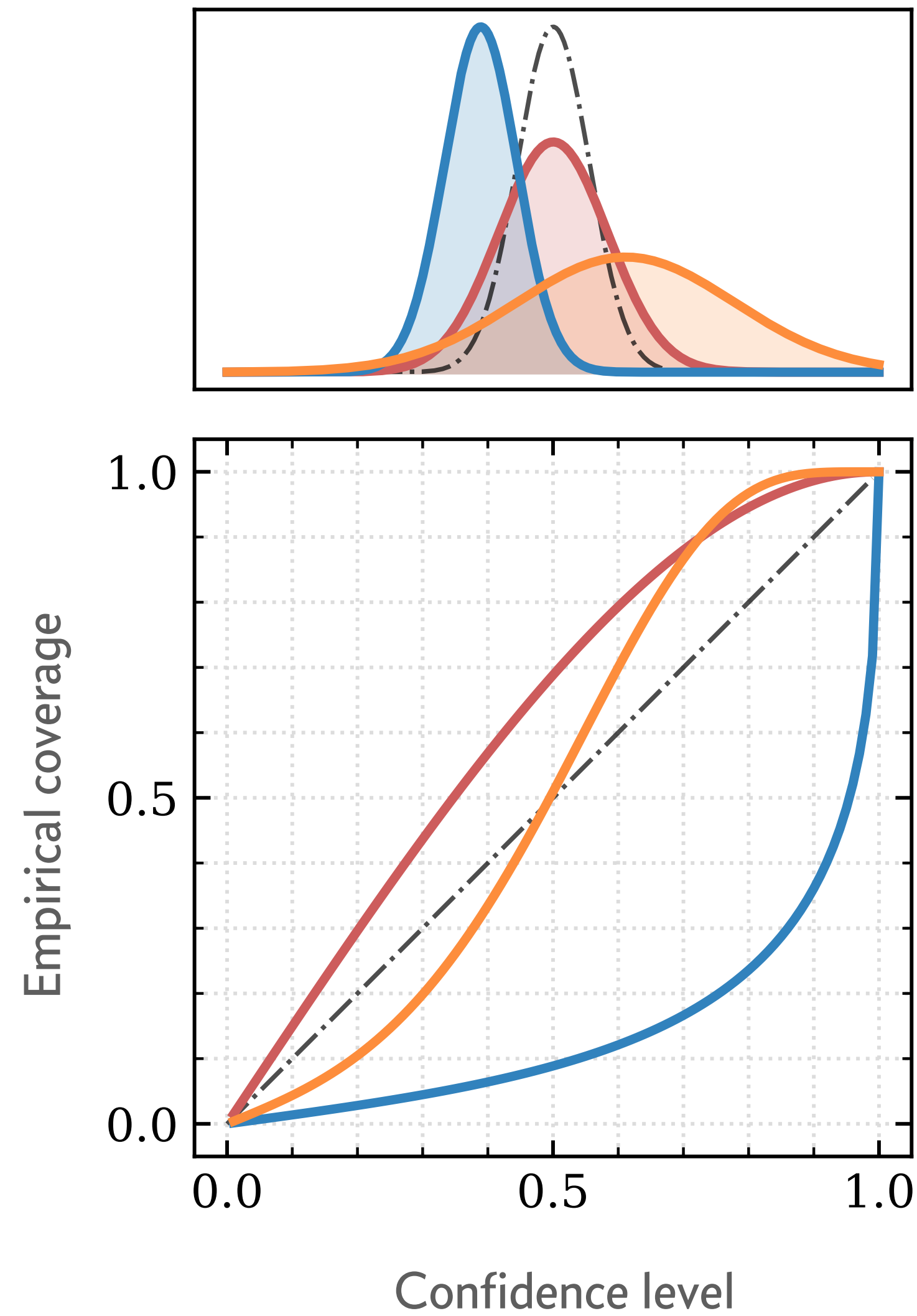
J-factors



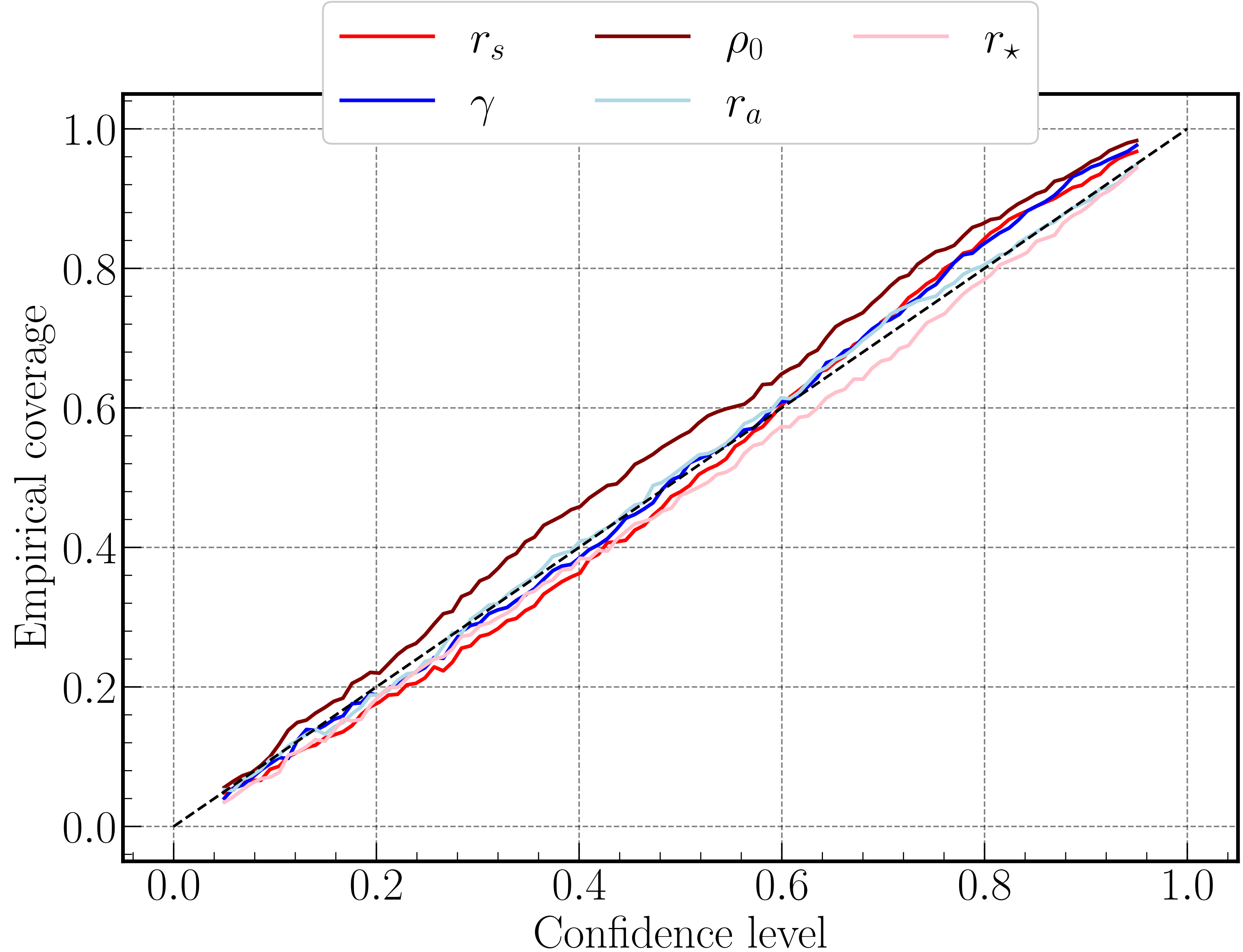
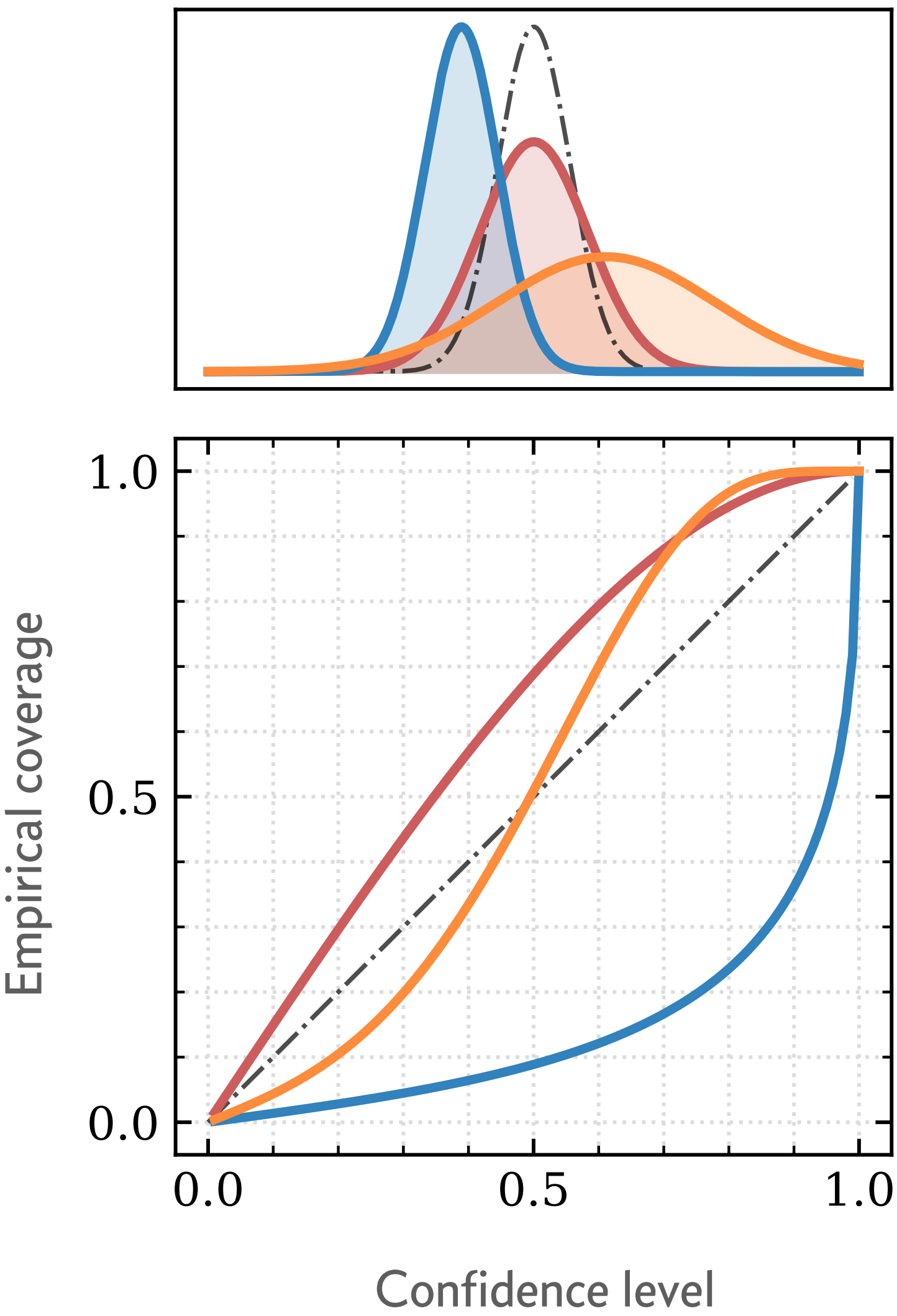
Sensitivity to projection



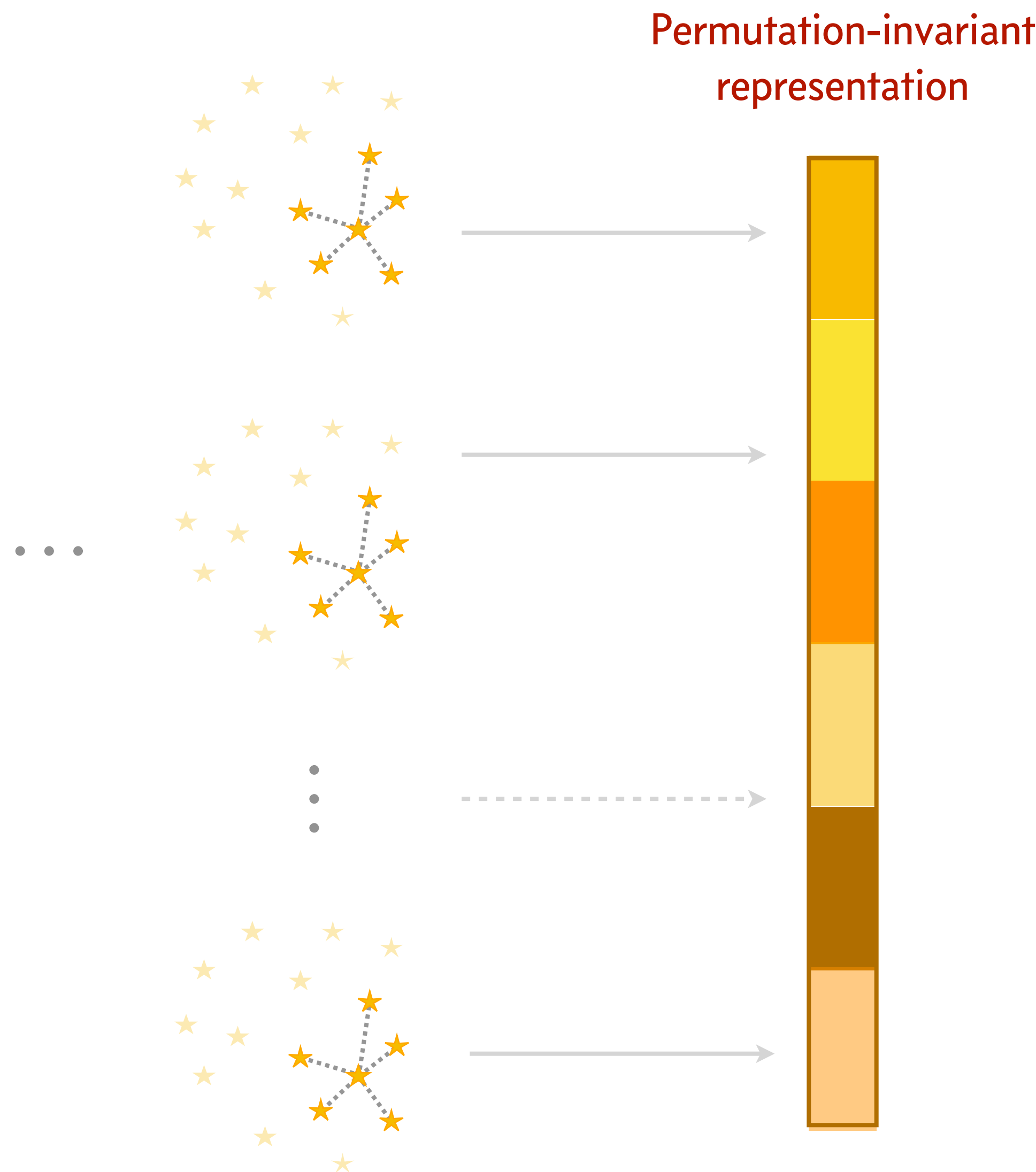
Statistical coverage



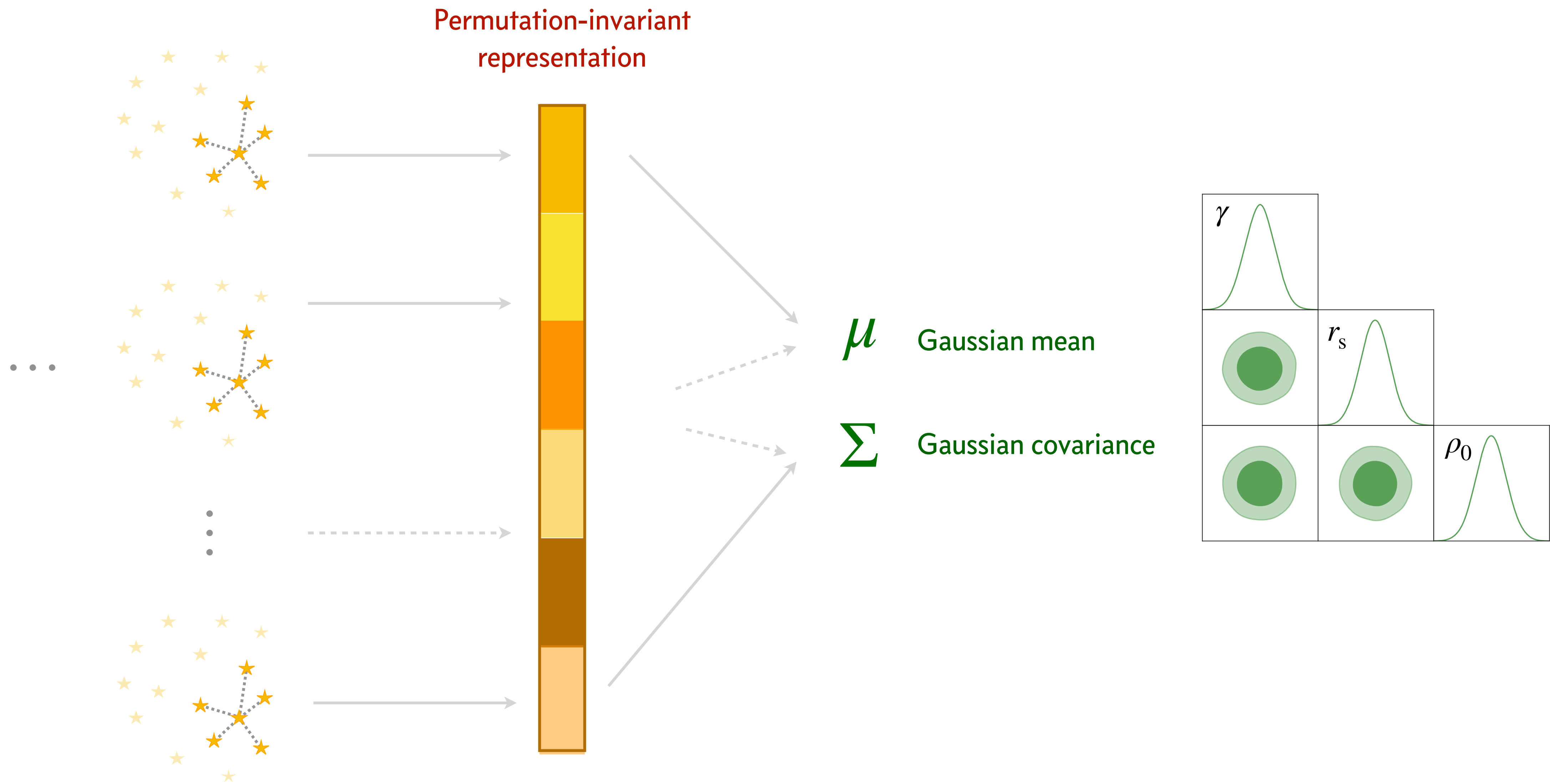
Statistical coverage



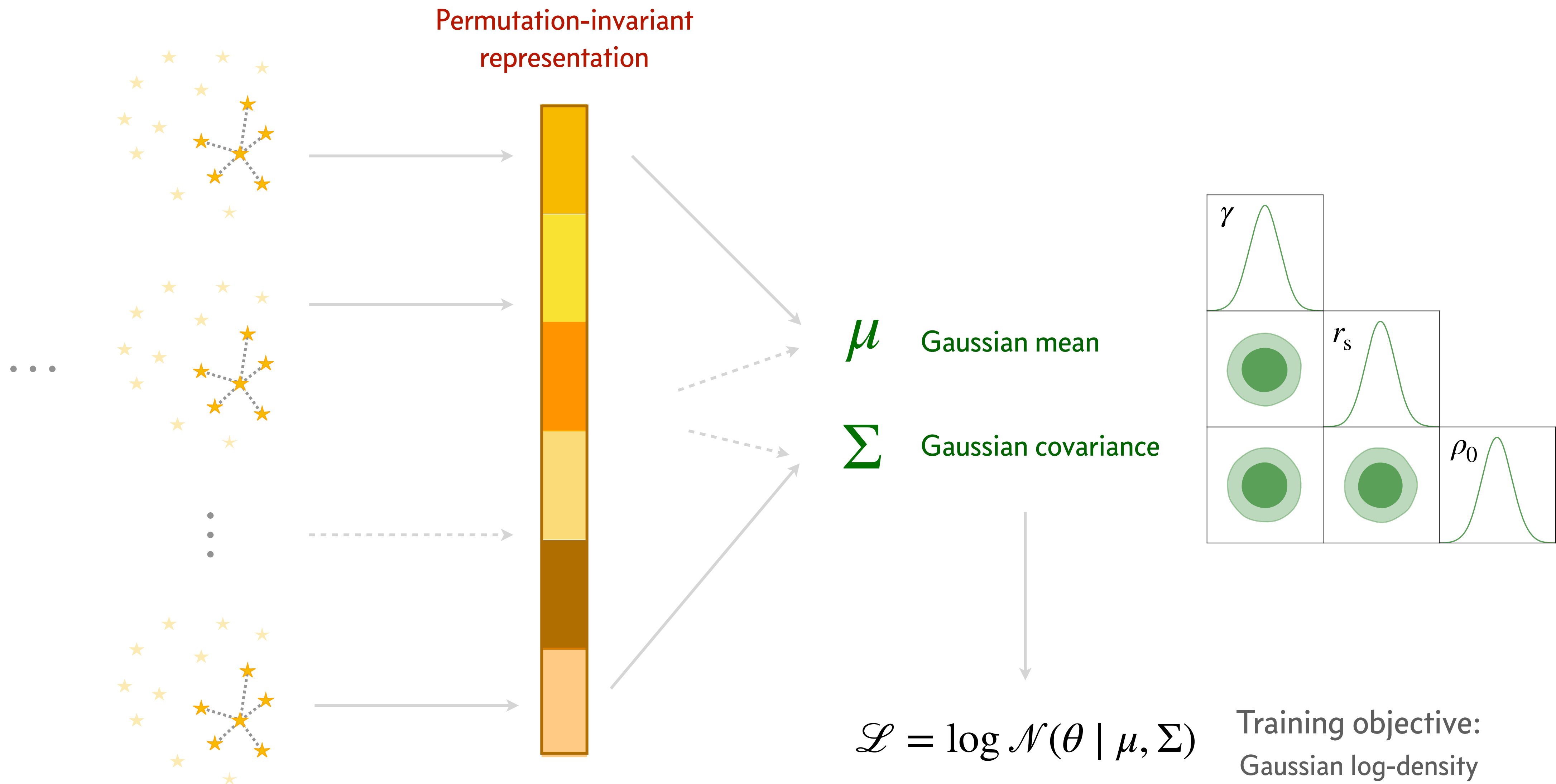
Posterior density estimation



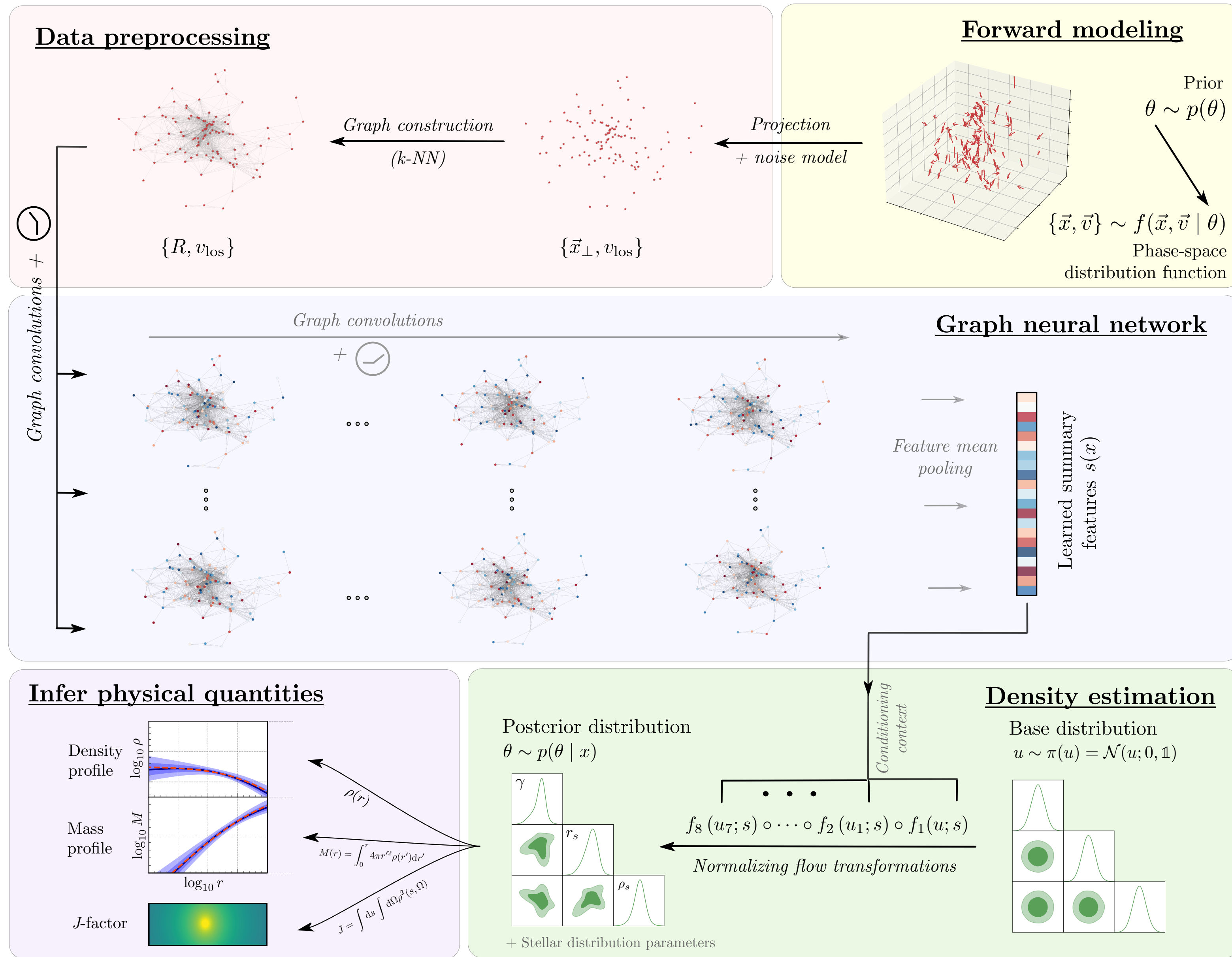
Posterior density estimation



Posterior density estimation



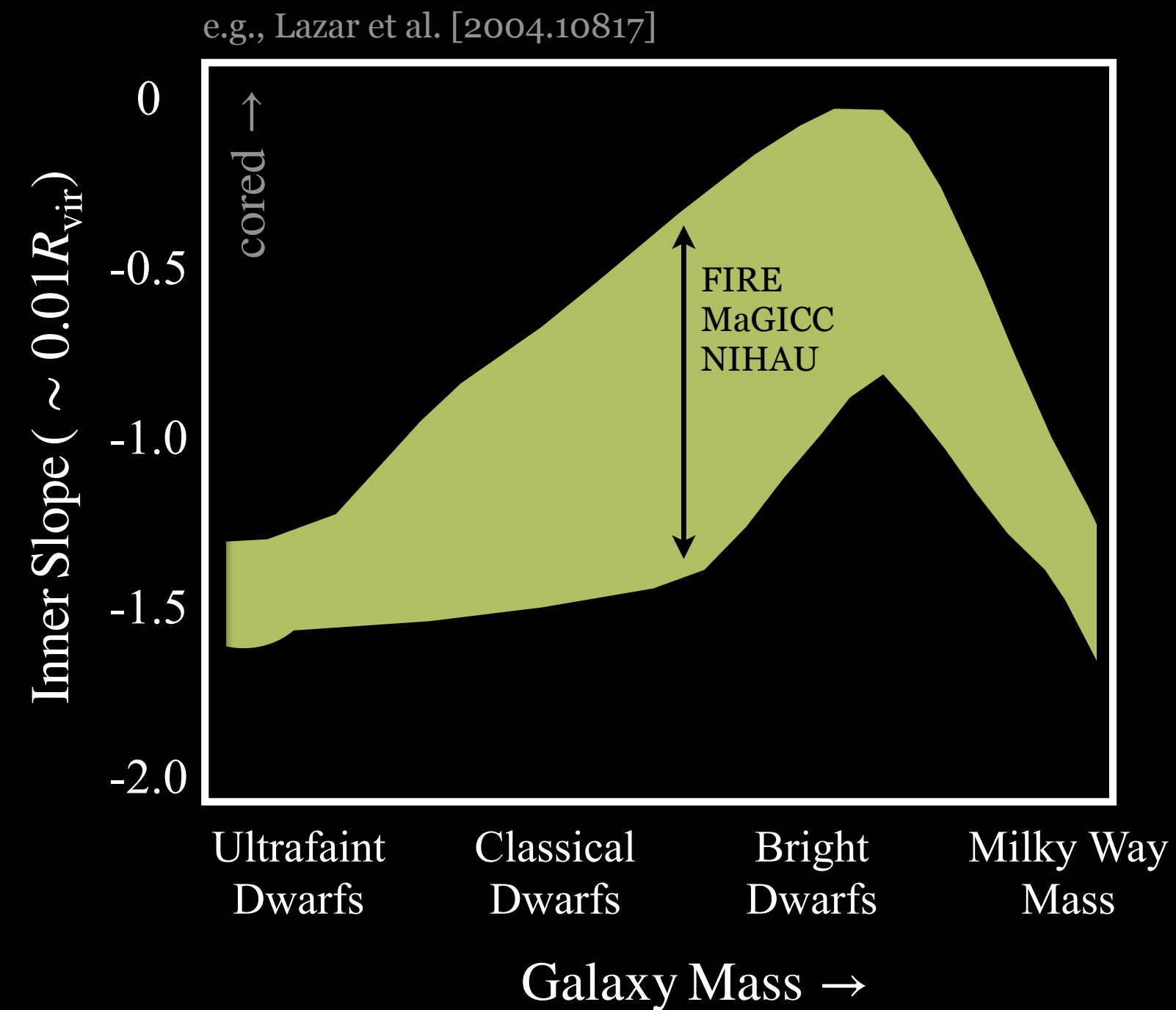
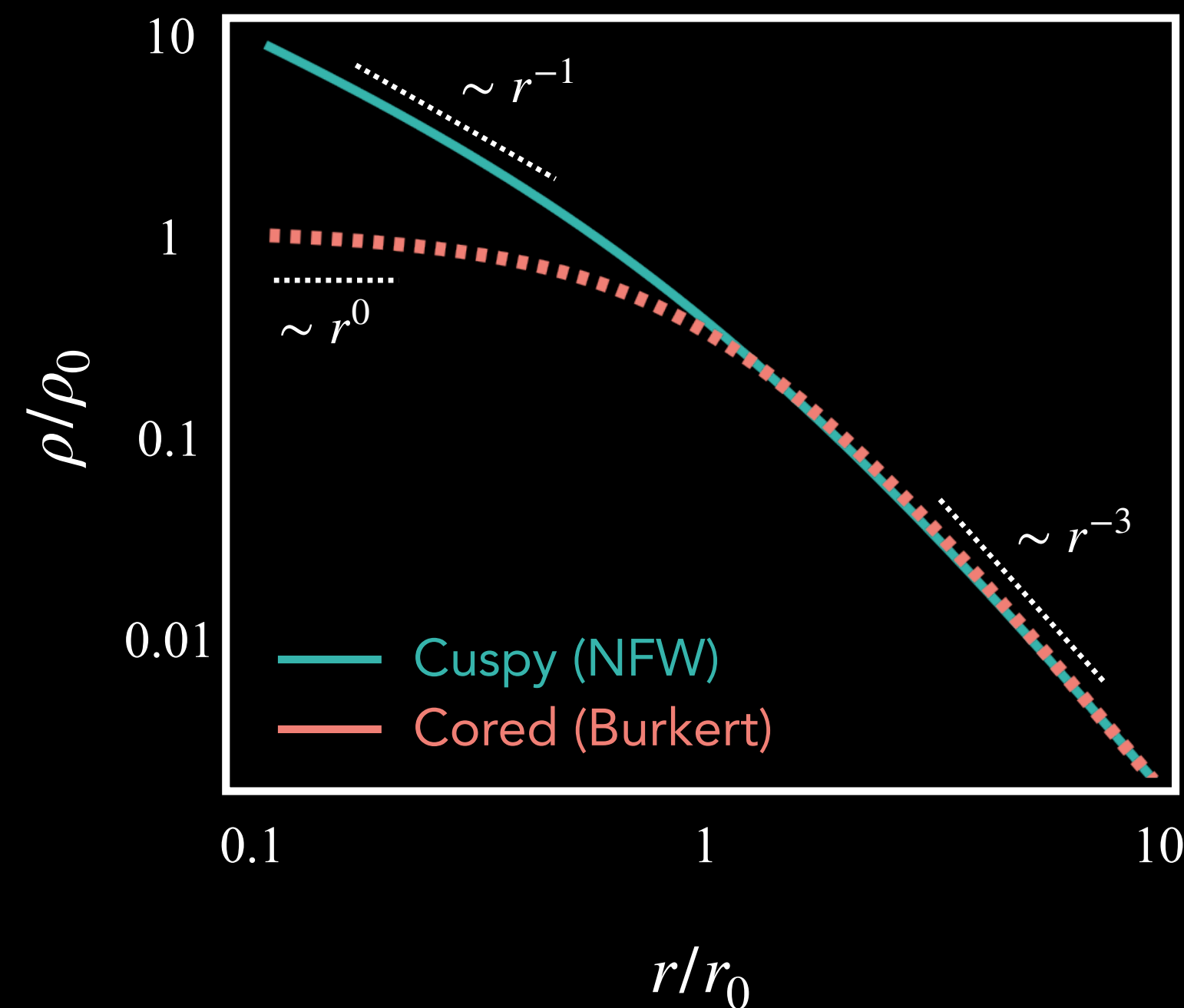
Pipeline



Baryonic Physics

CDM halos of all masses typically have “cuspy” density profiles

However, baryonic feedback can “core” the inner region of a CDM halo



Internal Halo Properties

Dark matter self interactions can transfer heat throughout halo, redistributing matter distribution

