

From Cosmic Shear to Subhalo Detection: Leveraging Simulation-Based Inference for Precision Cosmology

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mwiet.github.io

MPA Garching

23rd May 2025

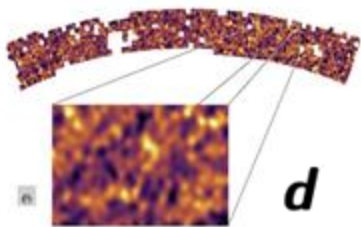


Institute for Computational
Cosmology

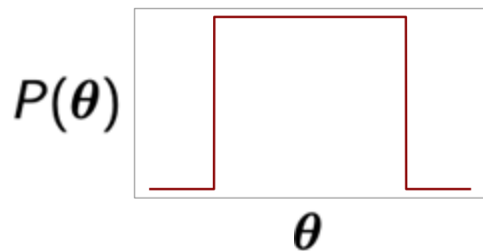


UK Research
and Innovation

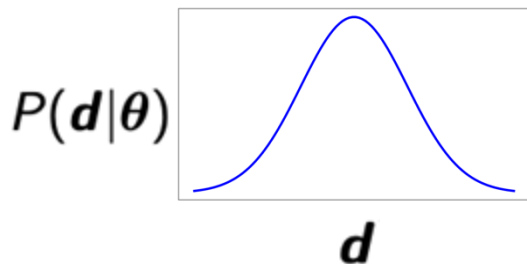
Recipe for Cosmological Inference



Data



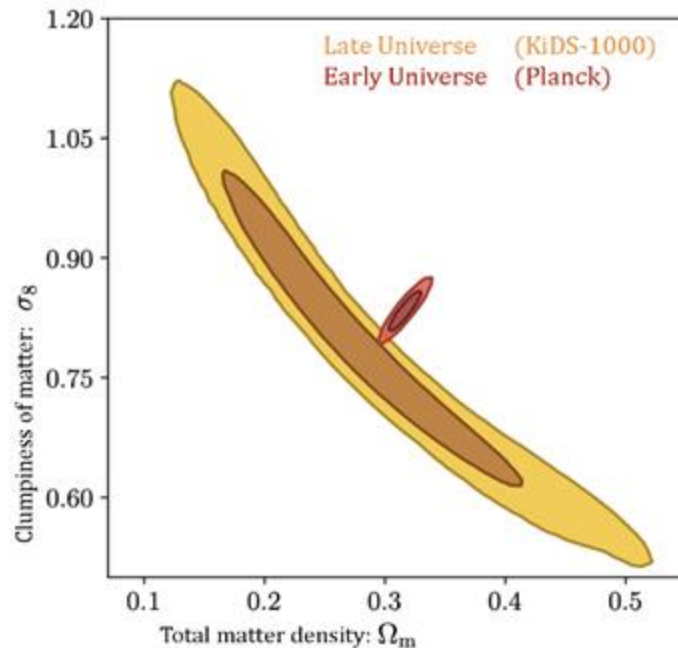
Prior



Likelihood



$P(\theta|d)$: Posterior

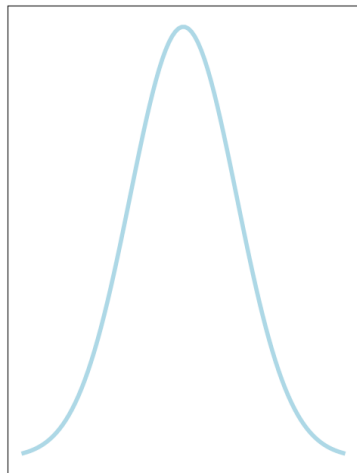


Model: Λ CDM

Modelling Likelihoods

Given a
model!

$P(\mathbf{d}|\theta)$

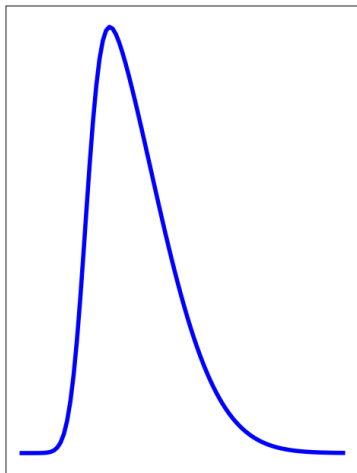


$\mathbf{d}$

Analytic

e.g.

$$P(\mathbf{d}|\theta) \propto e^{-(\mathbf{d}-\mu)^2}$$

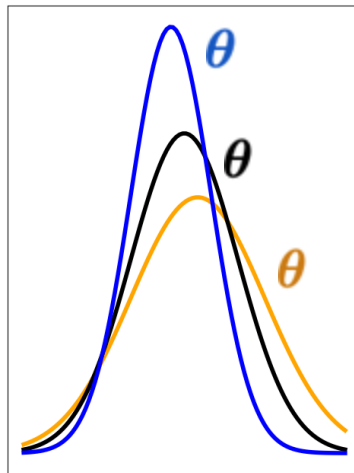


$\mathbf{d}$

Biased

e.g.

Instrumental
systematics

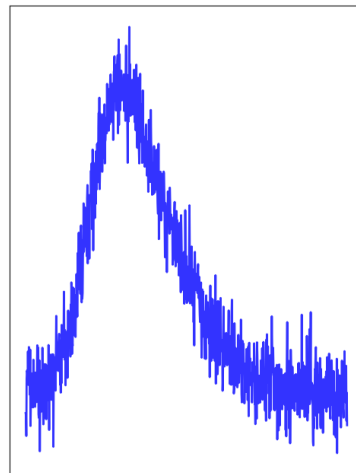


$\mathbf{d}$

**Signal-
dependent
uncertainty**

e.g.

Cosmic variance



$\mathbf{d}$

Intractable

e.g.

Non-trivial
selection functions

Bayes' Theorem

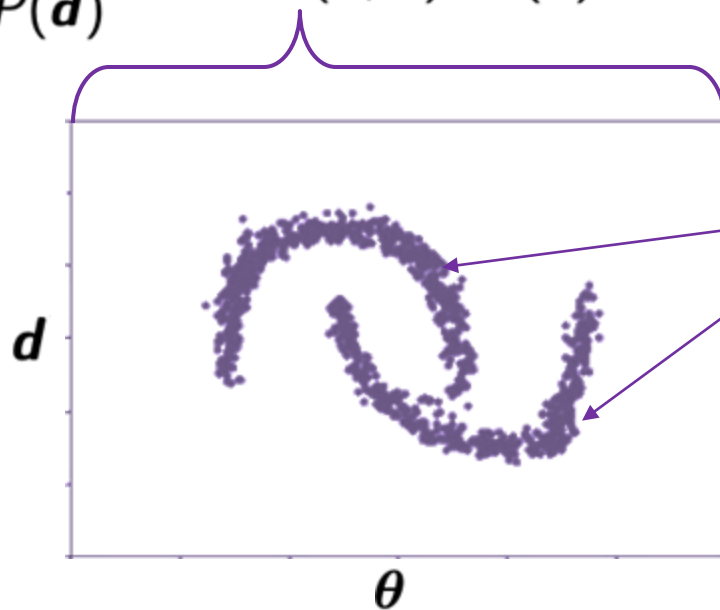
Posterior Likelihood Prior Joint probability

$$P(\theta|\mathbf{d}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{d}|\theta) \cdot P(\theta)}{P(\mathbf{d})} \propto P(\theta, \mathbf{d}) \cdot P(\theta)$$

θ : Model parameters

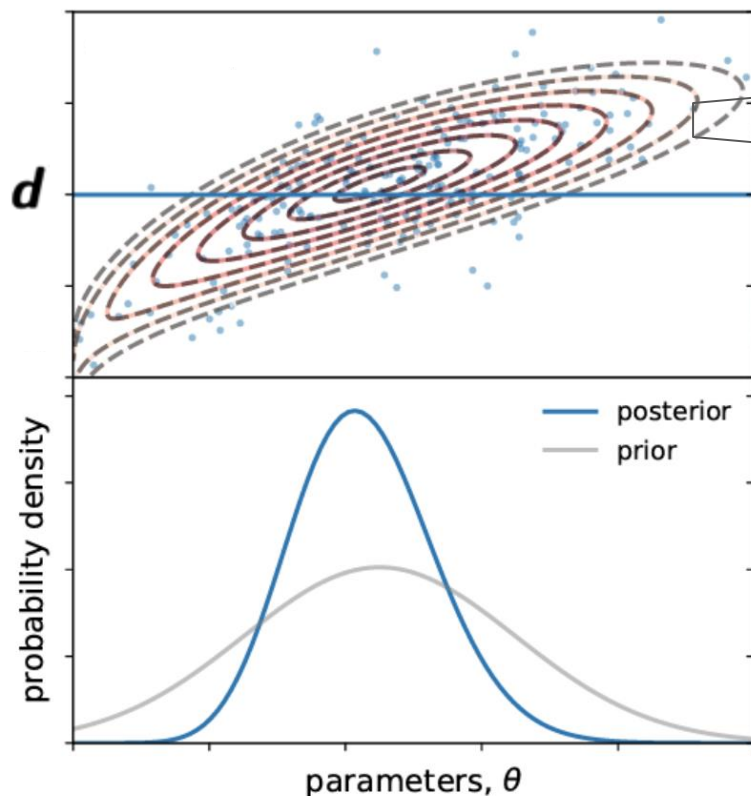
$\mathbf{d}$: Data

Simulation-based
or
likelihood-free or
implicit likelihood
inference



Populate with
simulations
given a model

Neural Density Estimation



Ensemble of NDEs

$N \times$ MAFs

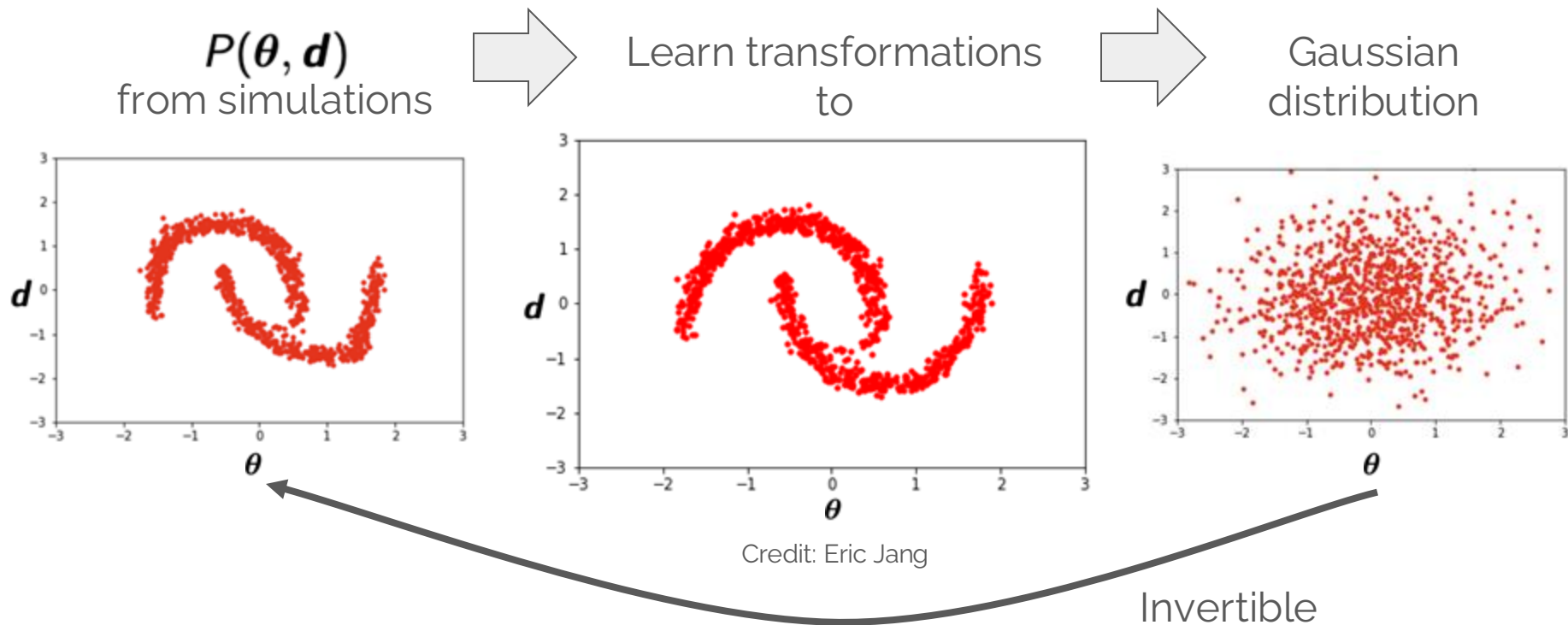
$M \times$ MADEs

2 hidden
layers

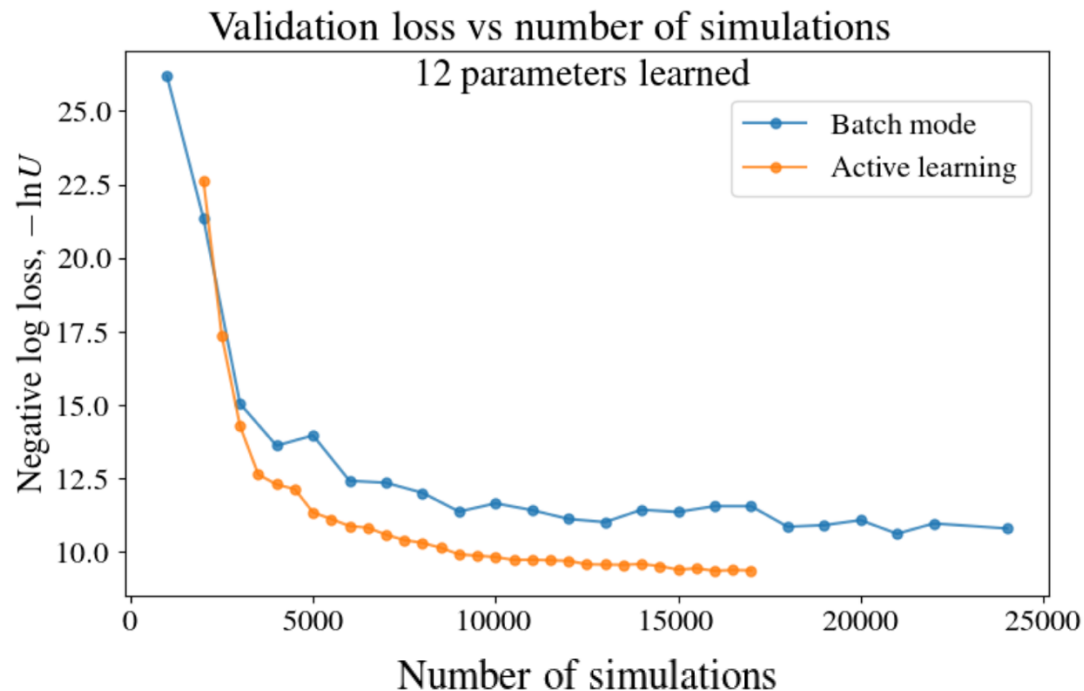
50 neurons
each

$\rightarrow N \times M \times |d|$ multivariate Gaussians, $P(d|\theta, w)$

Masked Autoregressive Flows



Masked Autoregressive Flows



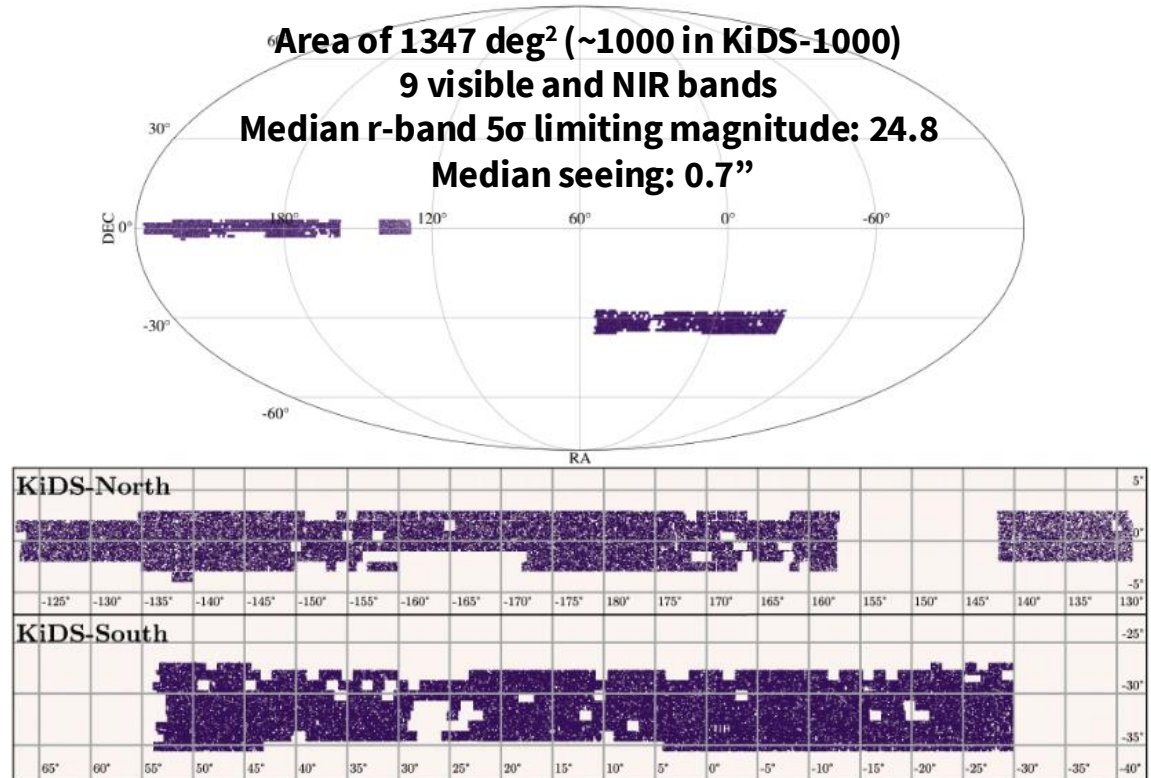
Cosmic Shear & Large-Scale Structure

In collaboration with K. Lin, N. Tessore, B. Joachimi, A. Loureiro, R. Reischke, A.H. Wright

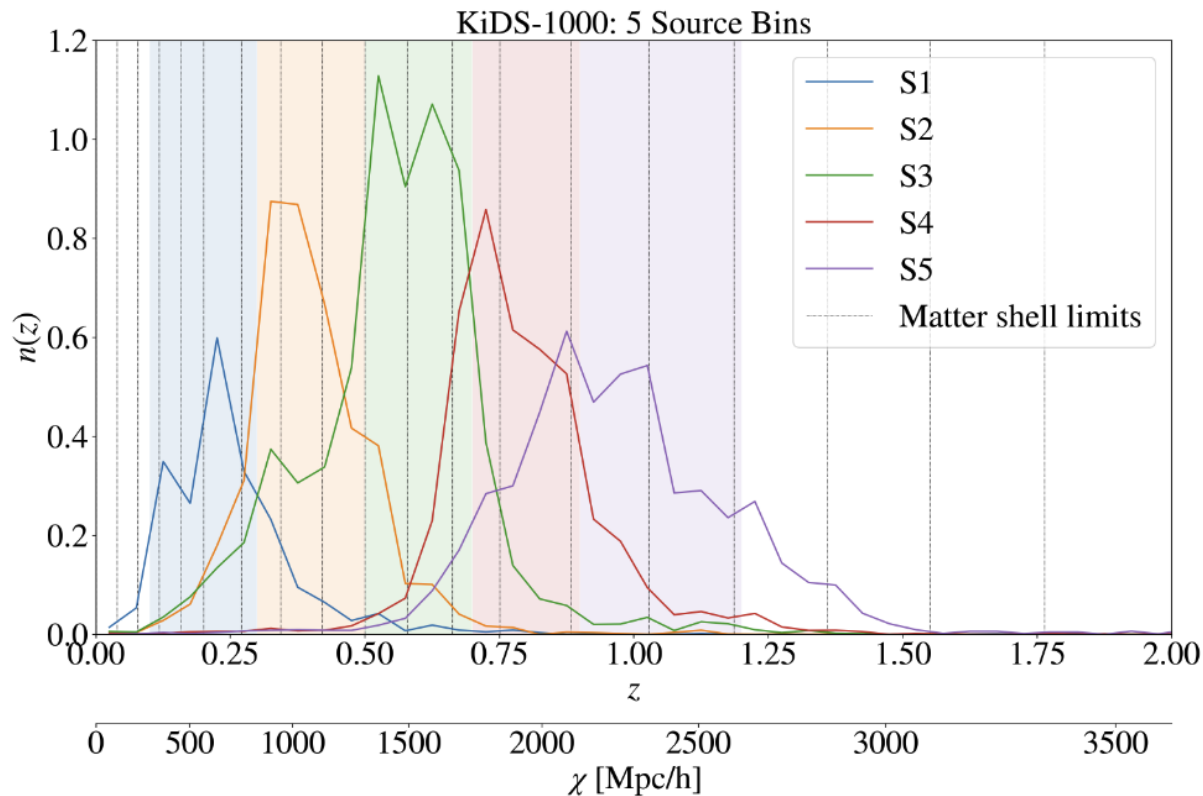
von Wietersheim-Kramsta, Lin et al. (2024), A&A 694, A223.

Kilo-Degree Survey

ESO VLT Survey Telescope

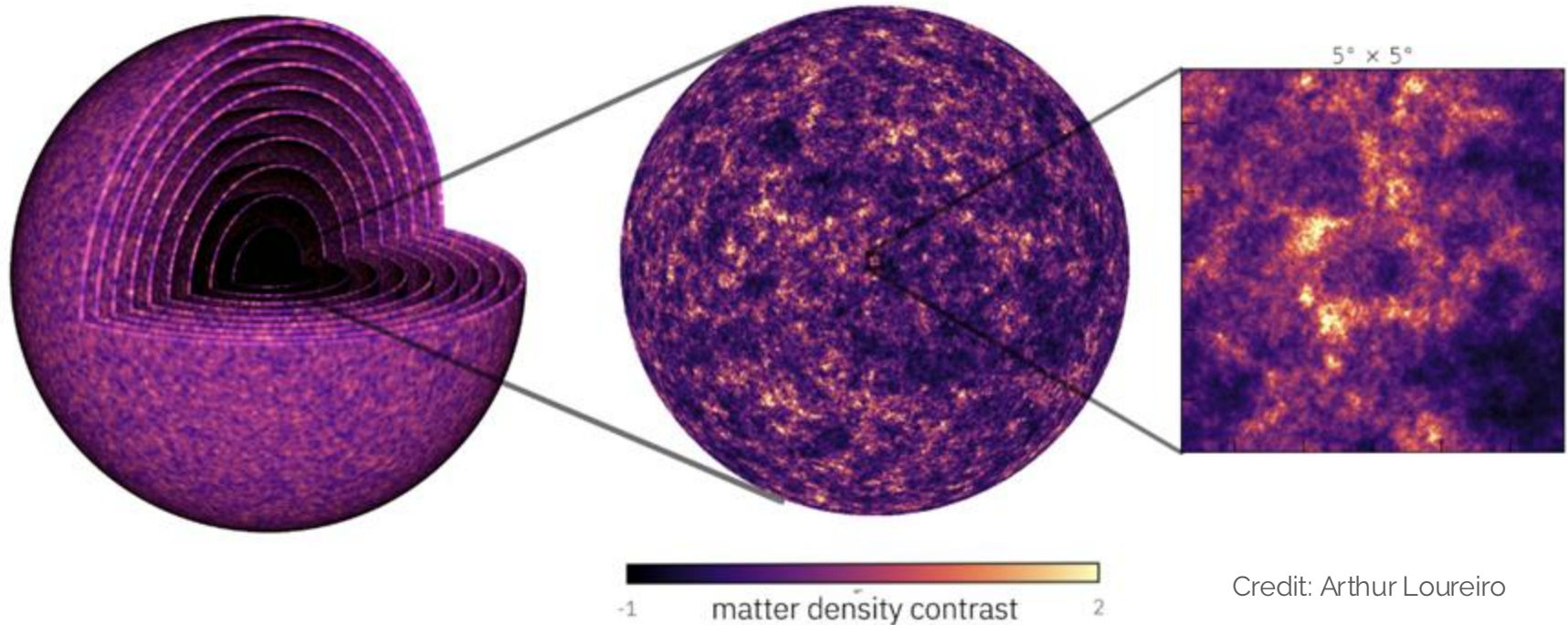


Harnessing the Photometric Uncertainties



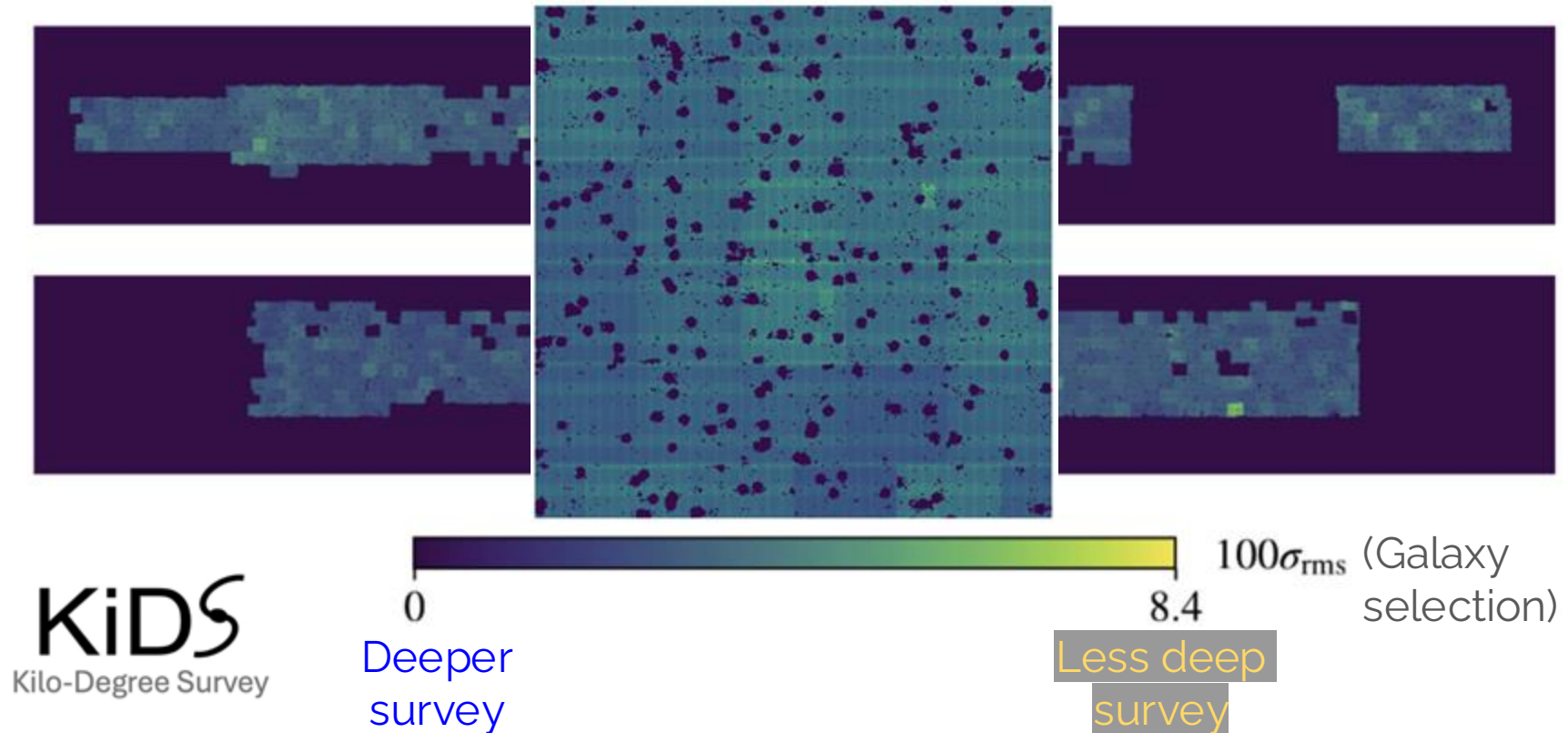
Simulating Large-Scale Structure

GLASS: Generator for Large Scale Structure

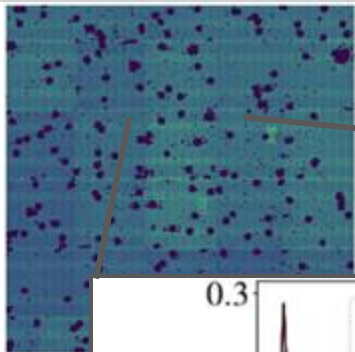


Credit: Arthur Loureiro

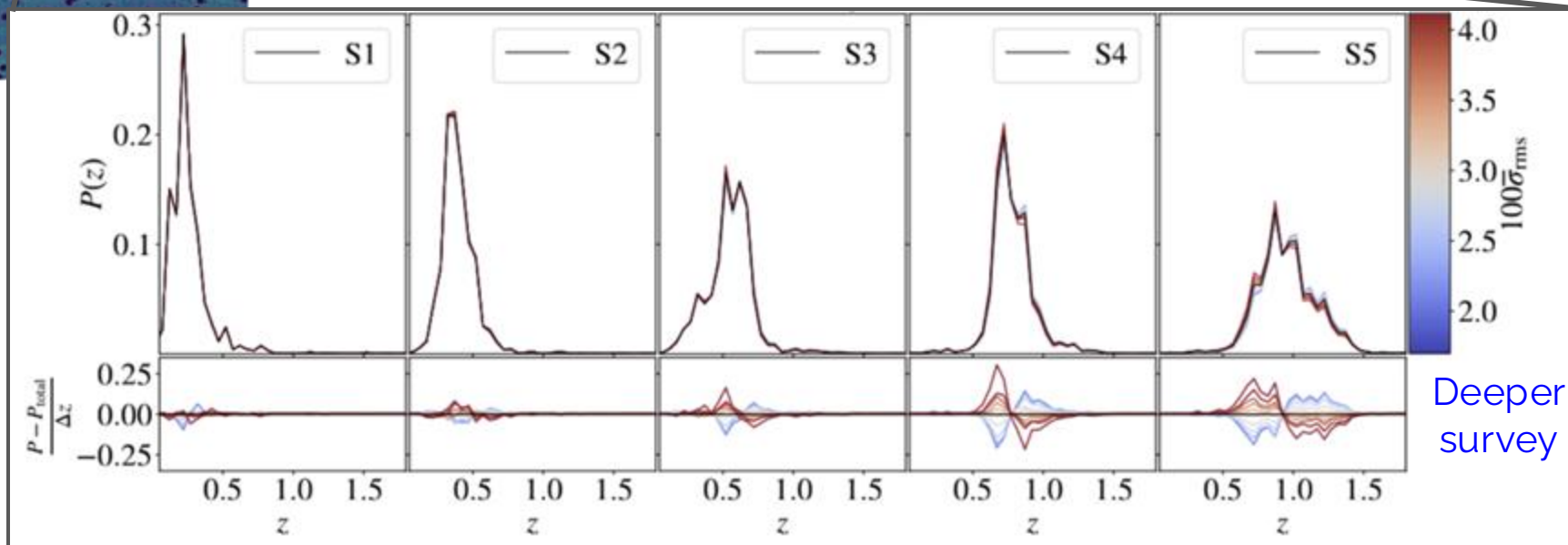
Realistic Selection and Systematics



Depth and Galaxy Redshift



Less deep
survey



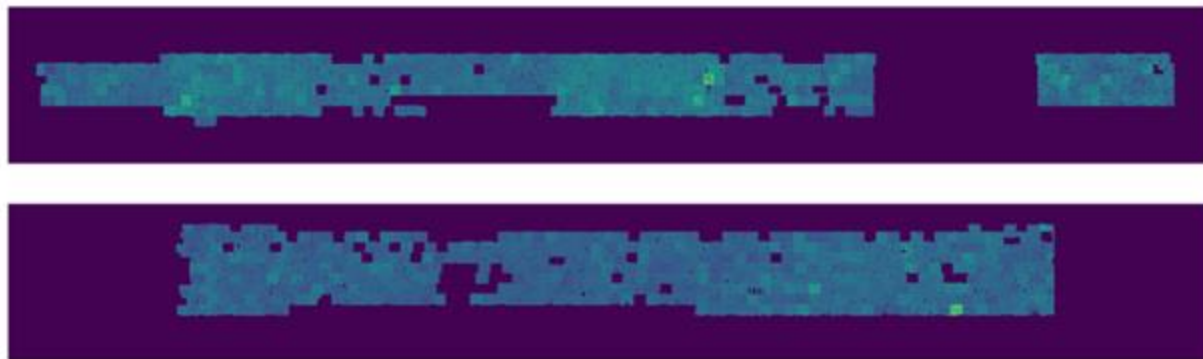
Deeper
survey

Sampling Galaxies

$$\langle N_m^{(i)(p)} \rangle(\Theta) = w_m(\Omega_{\text{survey}}) \left[1 + b^{(i)} \delta^{(i)}(\theta_m; \Theta) \right] P_m(p|i) n_{\text{gal},m}^{(p)} A_{\text{pix},m}$$

Shell → Tomographic bin → Pixel

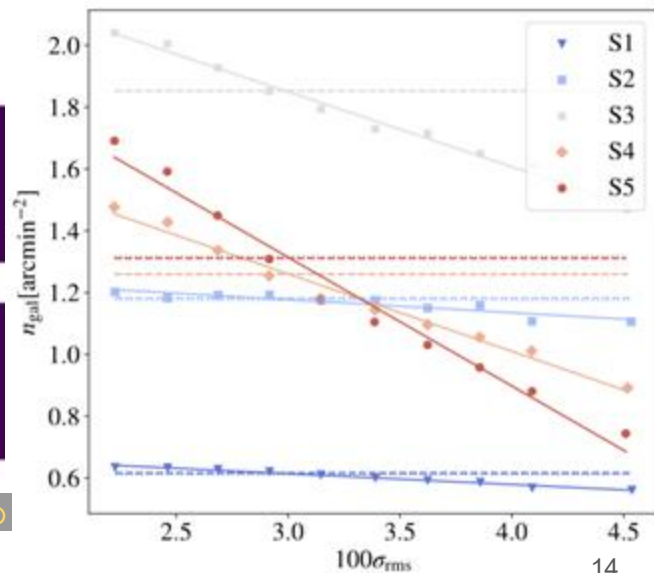
Galaxy density (variable depth)



Deeper
survey

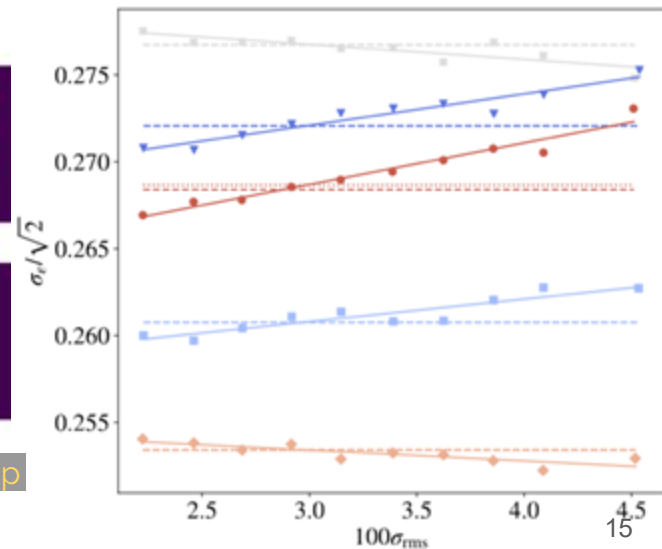
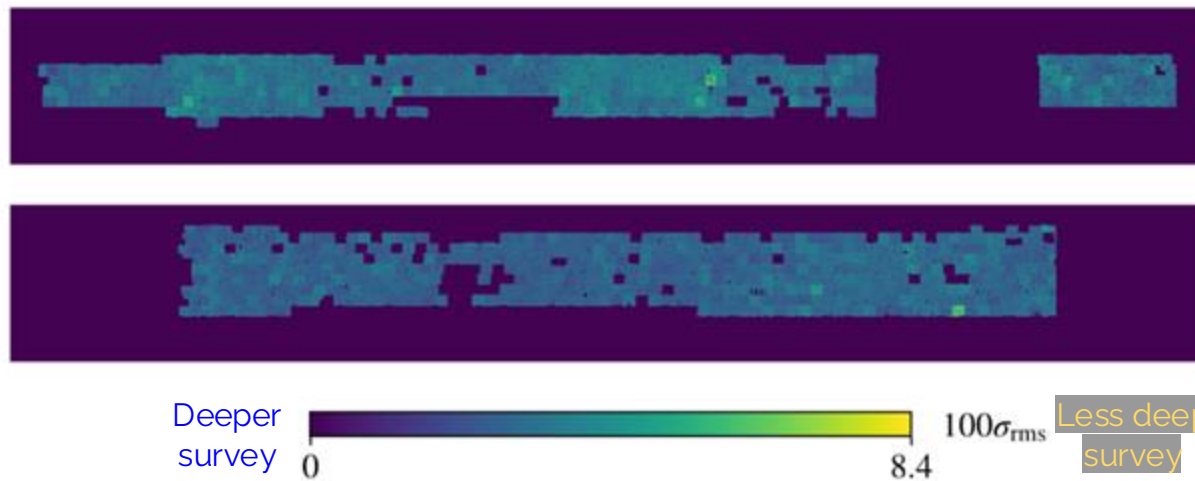


Less deep
survey



Galaxy Shapes

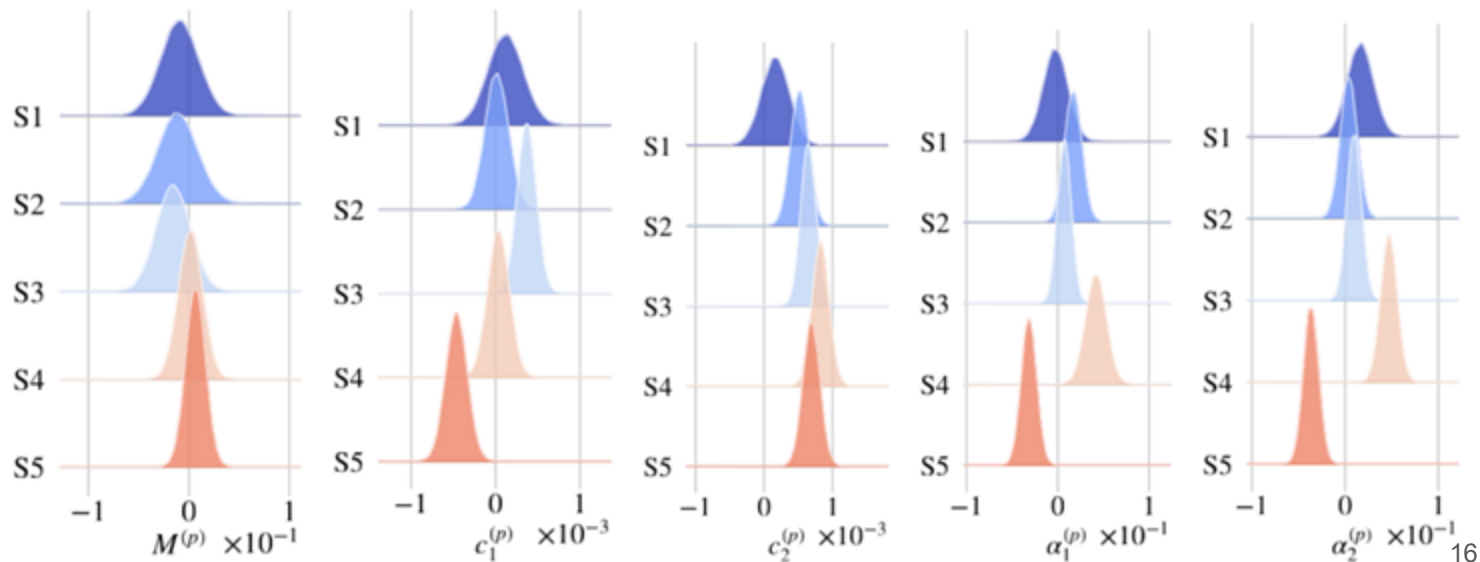
$$\epsilon_{\text{lensed}}(\Theta) = \frac{\epsilon_{\text{int}} + \overset{\text{Reduced shear}}{g(\Theta)}}{1 + \underset{\substack{\text{Intrinsic shapes} \\ \text{(variable depth)}}}{g^*(\Theta)}\epsilon_{\text{int}}}$$



Shear Biases

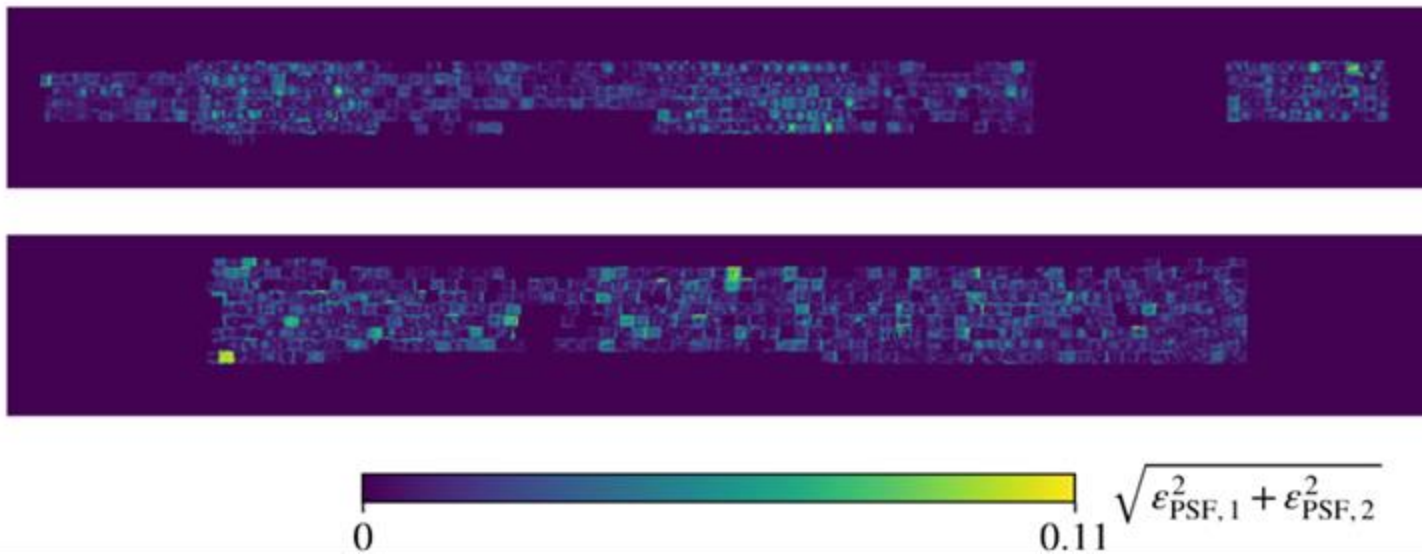
$$\epsilon_{\text{obs}}(p, \overset{\text{Pixel}}{m}; \Theta) = \left(1 + \overset{\text{Multiplicative shear bias}}{M^{(p)}}\right) \epsilon_{\text{lensed}}(\Theta) + \overset{\text{PSF shear bias}}{\alpha^{(p)}} \epsilon_{\text{PSF}}(m) + \underset{0}{\beta^{(p)}} \delta \epsilon_{\text{PSF}} + \overset{\text{Additive shear bias}}{c^{(p)}}$$

Tomographic bin

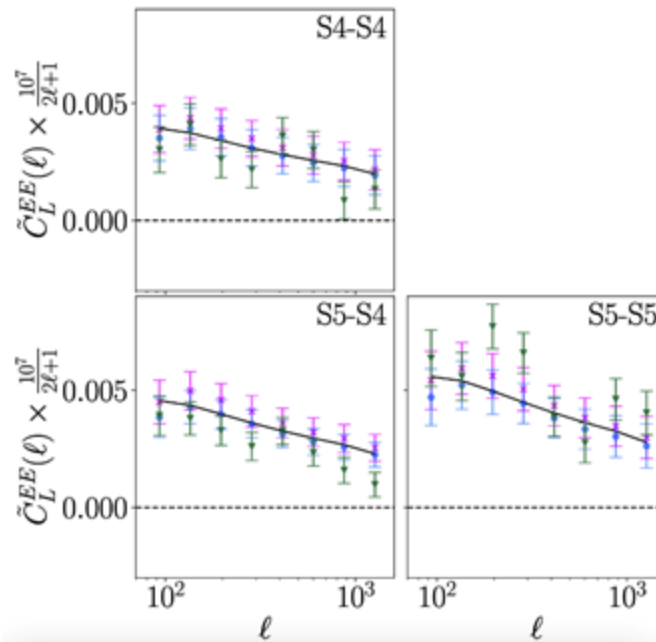
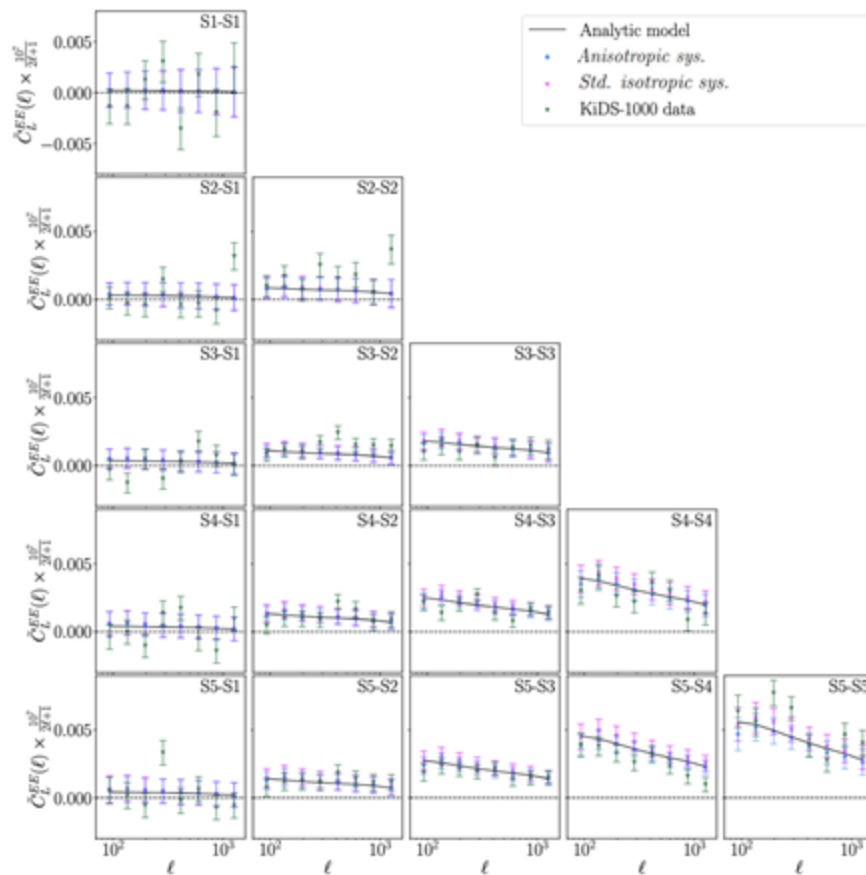


PSF Residuals

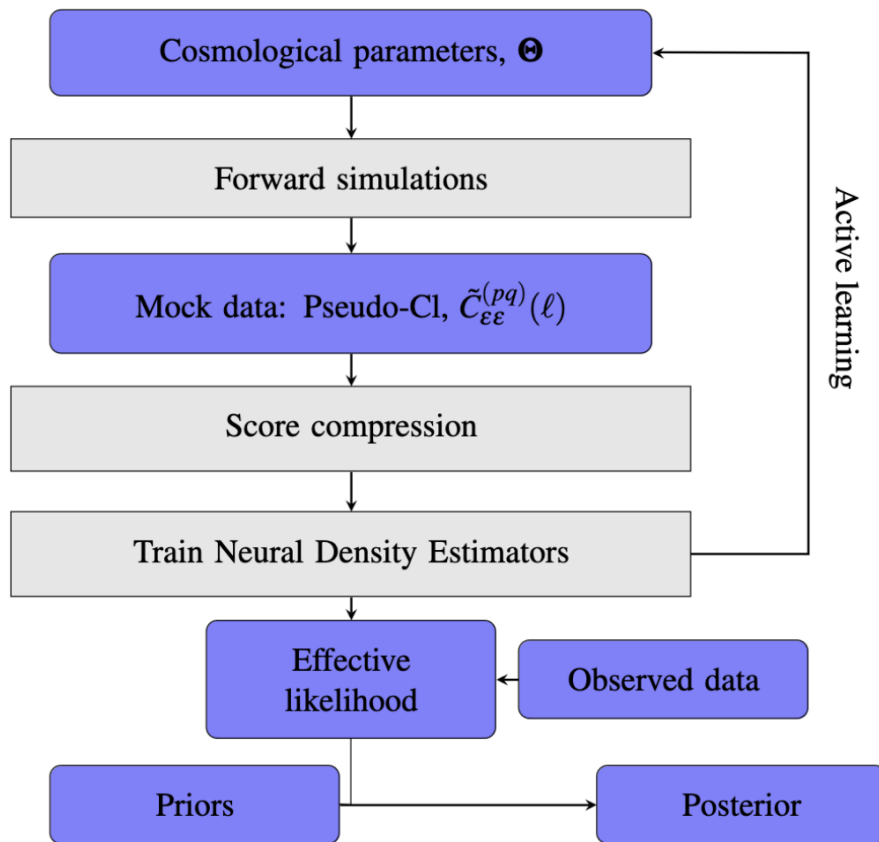
$$\epsilon_{\text{obs}}(\underset{\text{Tomographic bin}}{p}, \underset{\text{Pixel}}{m}; \boldsymbol{\Theta}) = \left(1 + M^{(p)}\right) \epsilon_{\text{lensed}}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \underset{\text{PSF shear bias}}{\alpha^{(p)}} \epsilon_{\text{PSF}}(m) + \underset{0}{\beta^{(p)}} \delta \epsilon_{\text{PSF}} + c^{(p)}$$



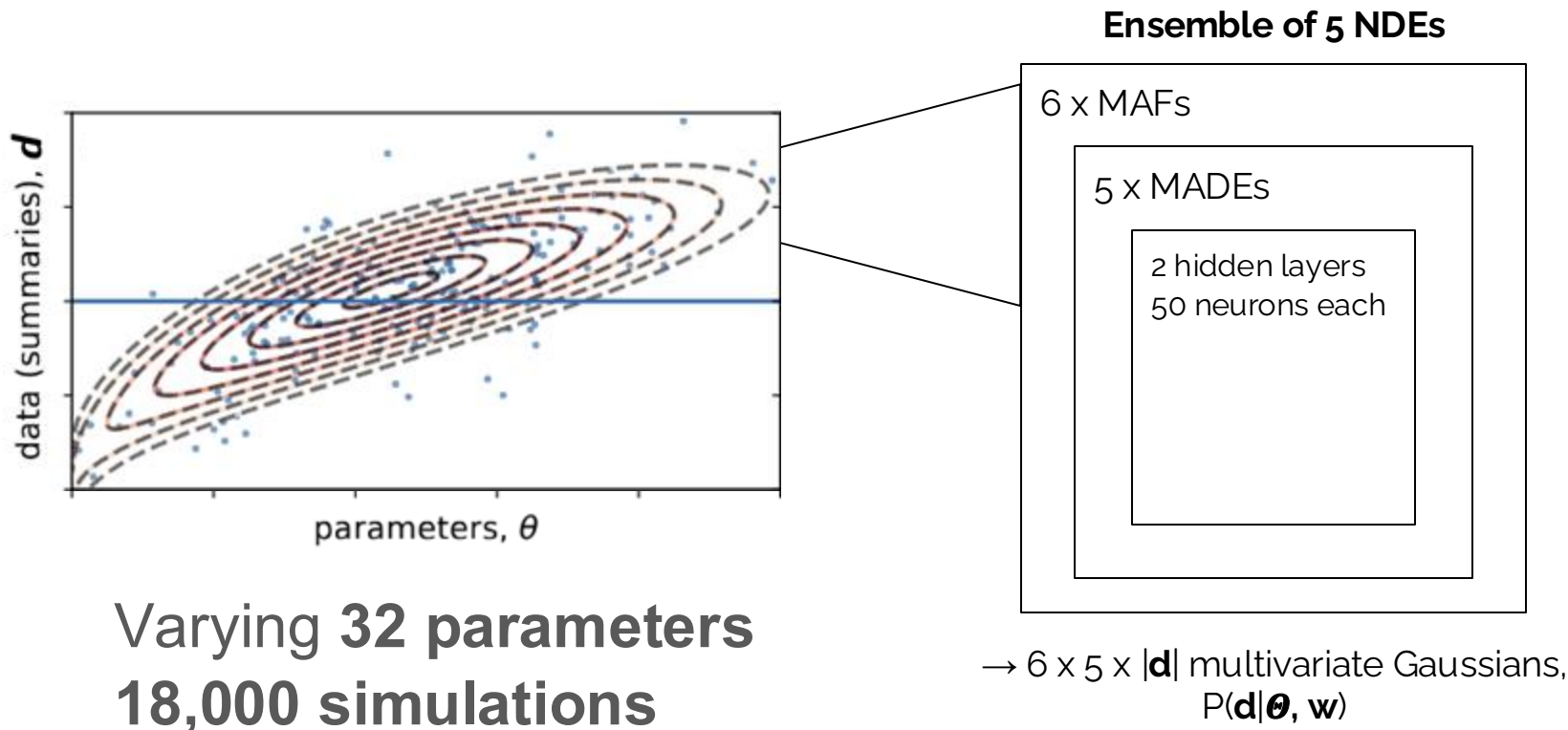
Summary: Angular Power Spectra/Pseudo-Cl's



SBI: Sequential NDE



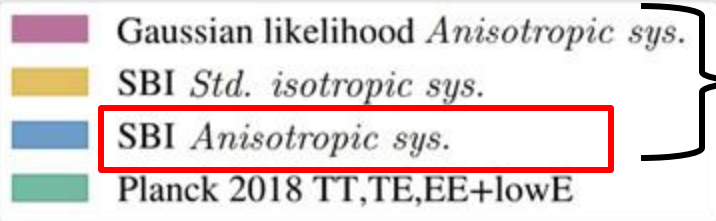
SBI: Neural Likelihood Estimation



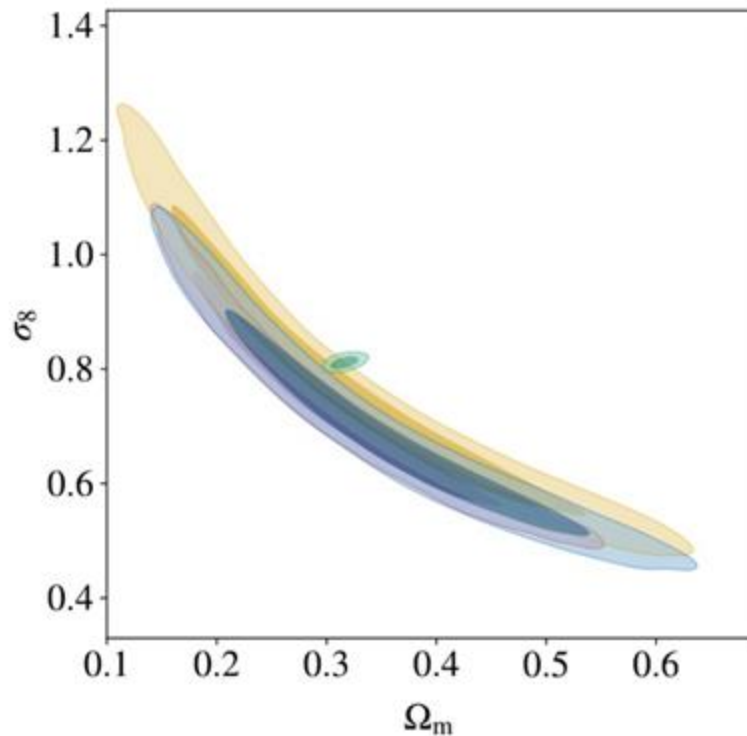
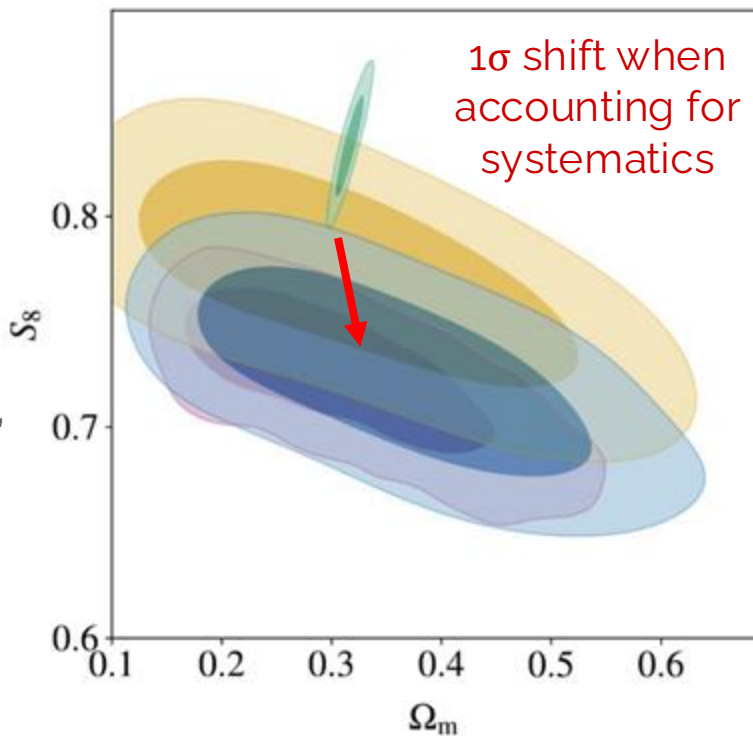
5 cosmological + 7 nuisance + 25 pre-marginalised parameters

Parameter	Symbol	Prior type	Prior range	Fiducial
Density fluctuation amp.	S_8	Flat	[0.1, 1.3]	0.76
Hubble constant	h_0	Flat	[0.64, 0.82]	0.767
Cold dark matter density	ω_c	Flat	[0.051, 0.255]	0.118
Baryonic matter density	ω_b	Flat	[0.019, 0.026]	0.026
Scalar spectral index	n_s	Flat	[0.84, 1.1]	0.901
Intrinsic alignment amp.	A_{IA}	Flat	[-6, 6]	0.264
Baryon feedback amp.	A_{bary}	Flat	[2, 3.13]	3.1
Redshift displacement	δ_z	Gaussian	$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_z)$	$\mathbf{0}$
Multiplicative shear bias	$M^{(p)}$	Gaussian	$\mathcal{N}(\overline{M}^{(p)}, \sigma_M^{(p)})$	$\overline{M}^{(p)}$
Additive shear bias	$c_{1,2}^{(p)}$	Gaussian	$\mathcal{N}(\overline{c}_{1,2}^{(p)}, \sigma_{c_{1,2}}^{(p)})$	$\overline{c}_{1,2}^{(p)}$
PSF variation shear bias	$\alpha_{1,2}^{(p)}$	Gaussian	$\mathcal{N}(\overline{\alpha}_{1,2}^{(p)}, \sigma_{\alpha_{1,2}}^{(p)})$	$\overline{\alpha}_{1,2}^{(p)}$

SBI in Cosmic Shear

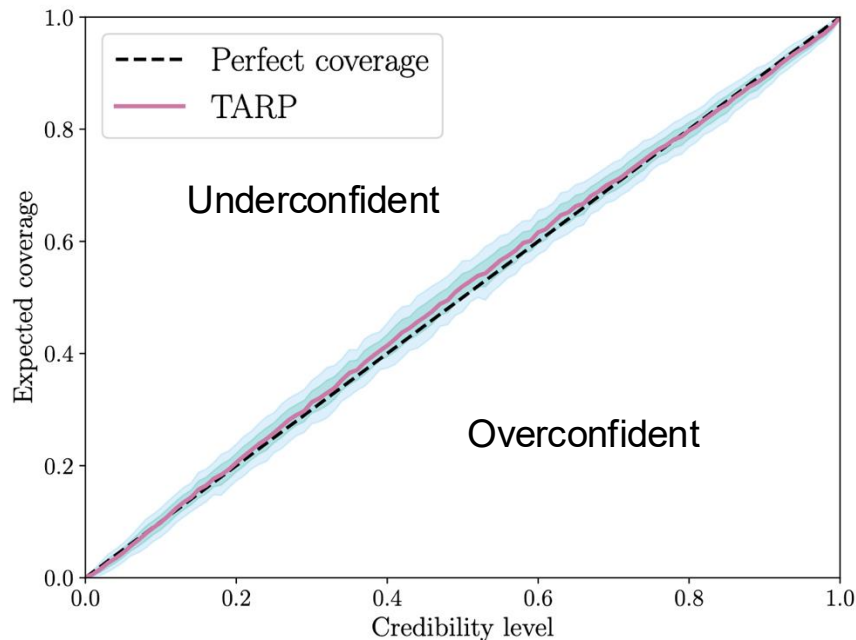


Weak
lensing
parameter
for
“clumpiness”

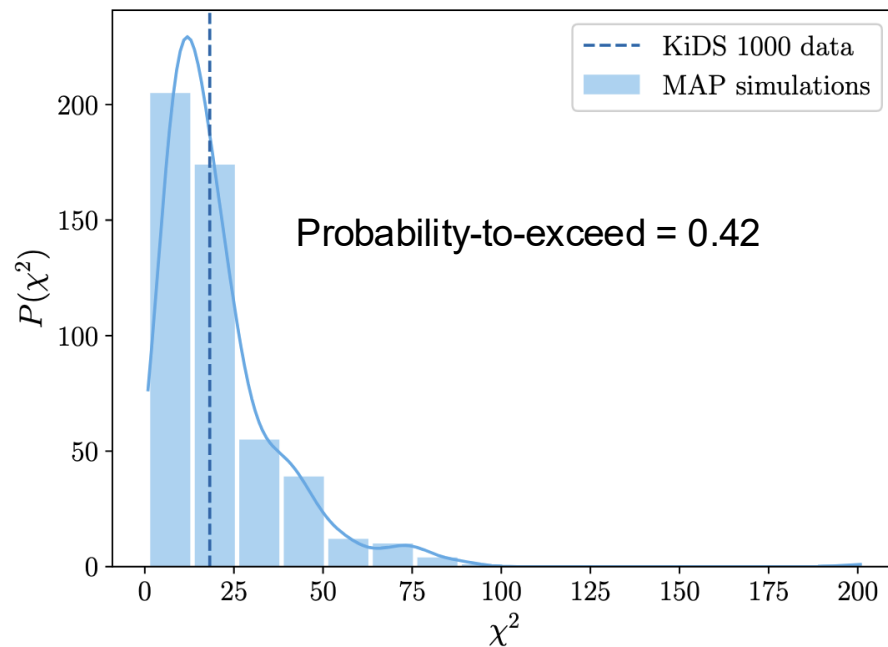


SBI: Accuracy Testing

Agreement between learnt posterior & forward model

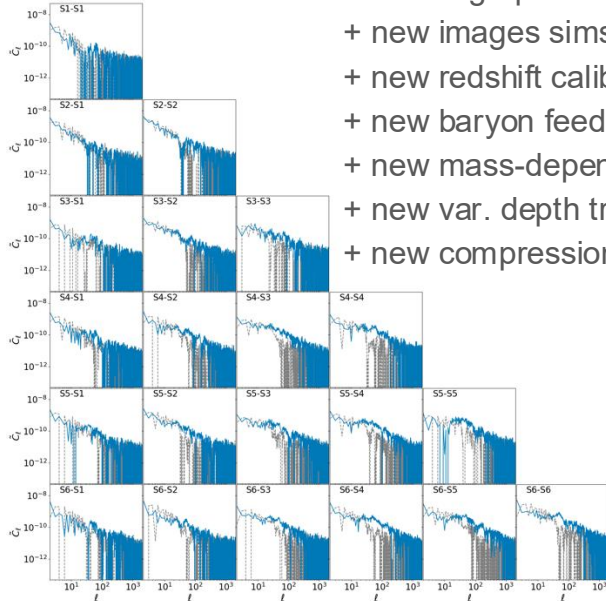


How likely is the real data given the model?



Extensions to KiDS-SBI

KiDS-SBI with KiDS-Legacy

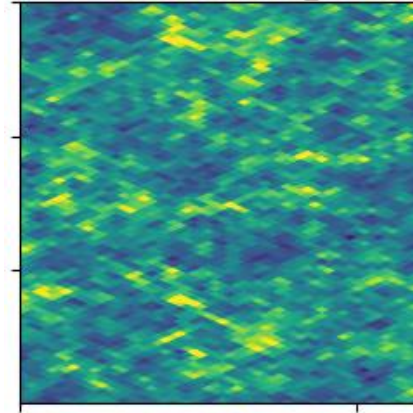


- + extra 350 deg²
- + 1 extra i-band pass
- + 1 tomographic bin
- + new images sims for calib.
- + new redshift calibration
- + new baryon feedback model
- + new mass-dependent IAs model
- + new var. depth tracer
- + new compression

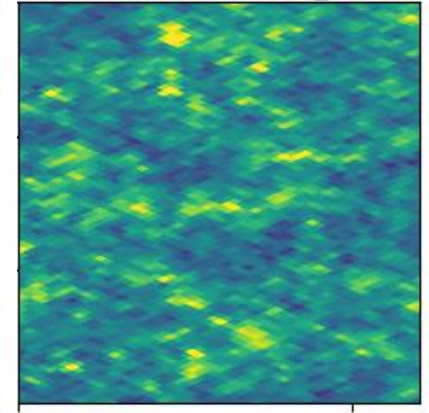
3x2pt analysis (shear x clustering)

Forward simulating galaxy bias

True map



Mock map



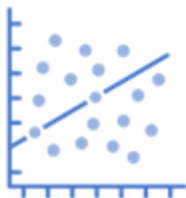
Takeaways from Cosmic Shear



SBI allows for uncertainty propagation of **arbitrary complexity**



Including a **realistic systematics and selections** is important (it can shift S_8 1σ lower!)

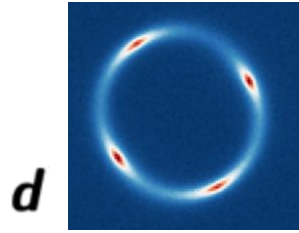


Modelling the noise correctly is just as important as the signal (if not more!)

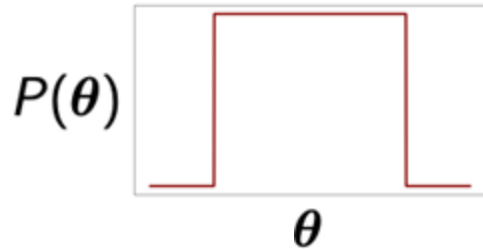
Galaxy-Scale Strong Lenses for Subhalo Detection

In collaboration with R. Massey, Q. He, J. Nightingale, A. Robertson, A. Amvrosiadis, L. Fung,
S. Lange, C. Frenk, S. Cole, R. Li, et al.

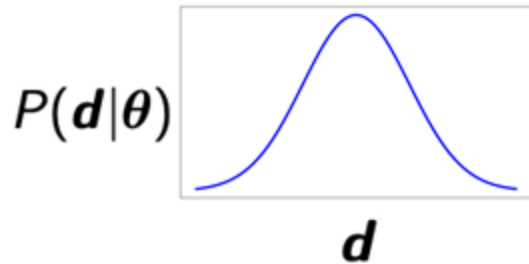
Recipe for Inference



Data



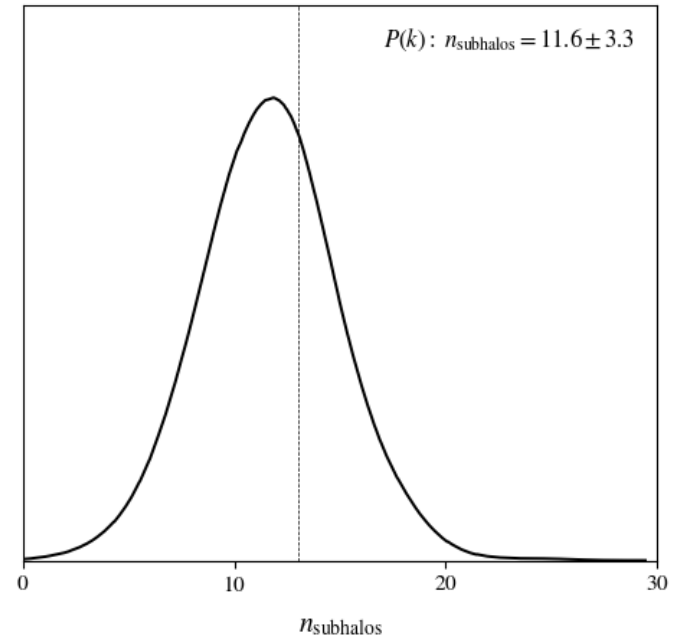
Prior



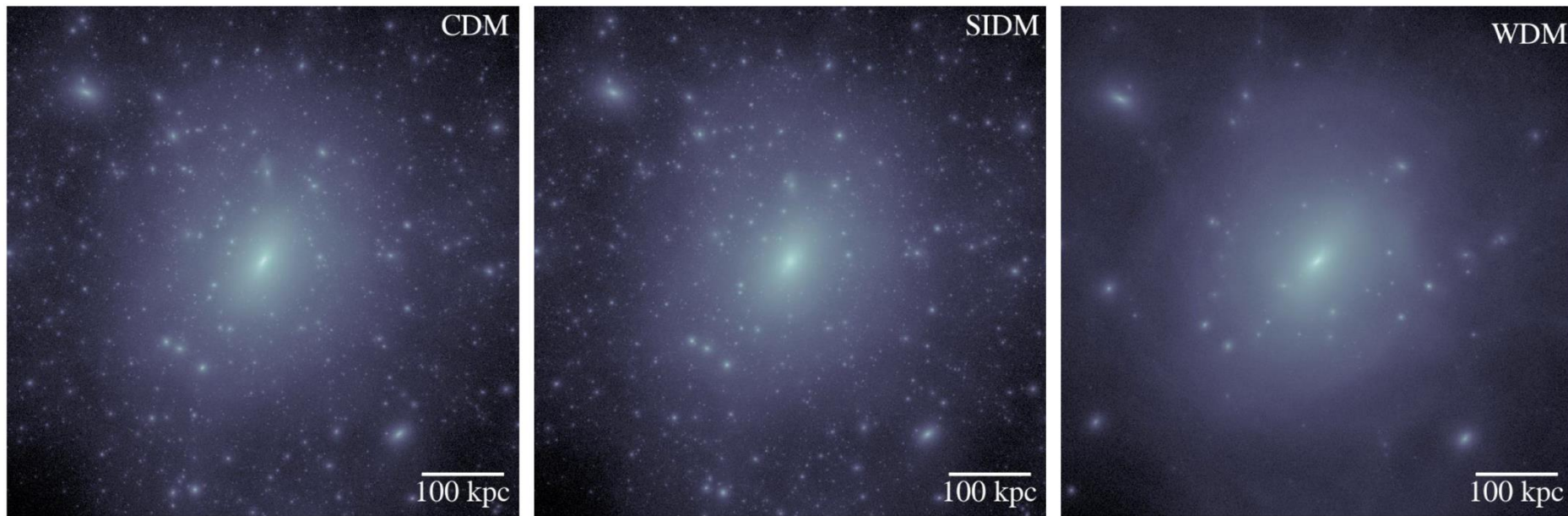
Likelihood



$P(\theta|d)$: Posterior



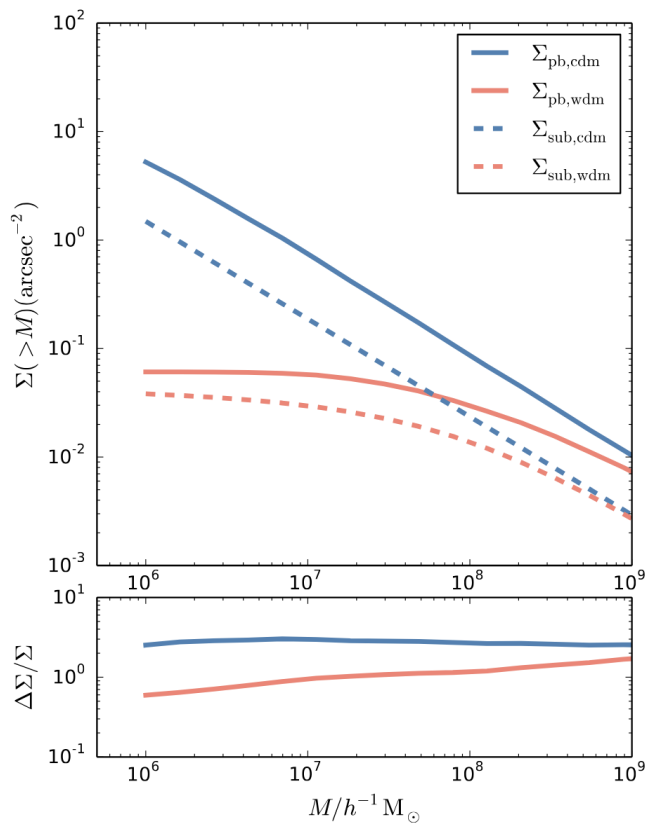
Substructure & the Nature of Dark Matter



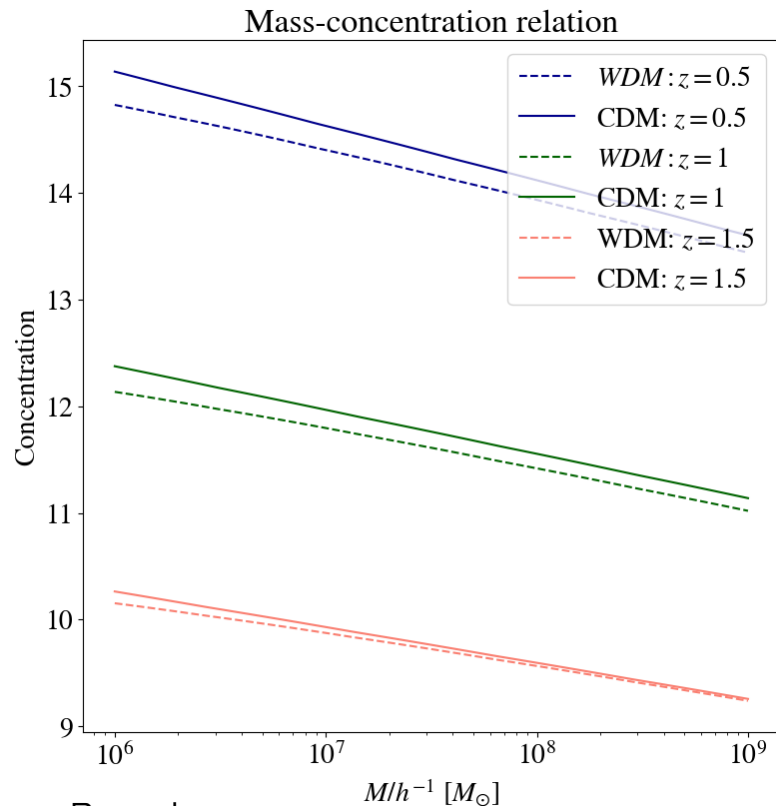
Bullock & Boylan-Kolchin (2017), *ARA&A*, 55:343-387.

Forward Modelling: Substructure

Number densities of
**perturbing
interlopers
and
subhaloes**



Li et al. (2016), MNRAS, 468(2), 1426-1432.



Based on:

Ludlow et al. (2016), MNRAS, 460(2), 1214-1232.

Forward Modelling: Galaxy-Scale Lens

Source:

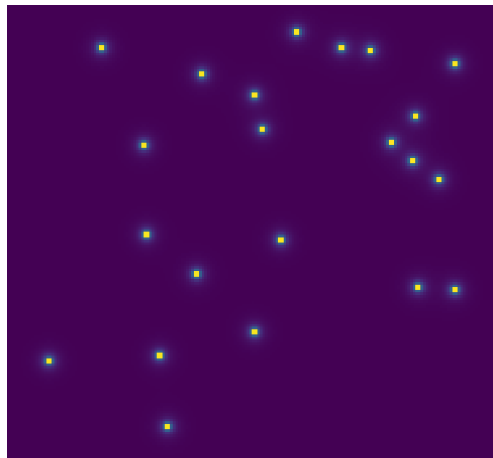
- Elliptical Core-Sersic
- $z = 1$

Lens:

- Power law mass
- $z = 0.5$
- No external shear

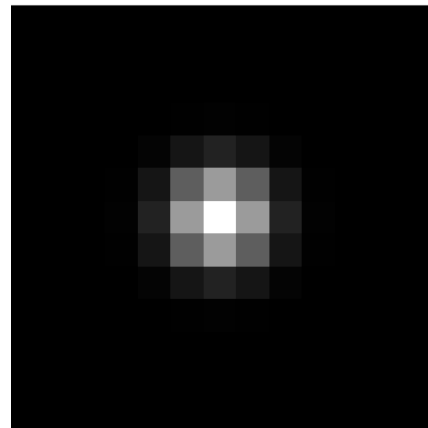
Perturbers:

- Warm Dark Matter
- Truncated NFW mass
- $M_{\text{hf}} = 10^7$
- $n_{\text{subhalos}} \in [0, 30]$



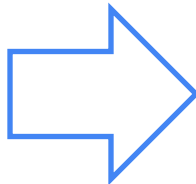
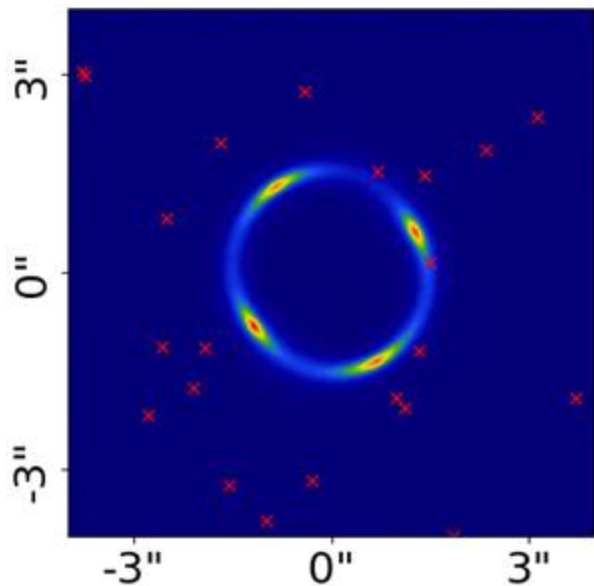
Observational Effects (HST-like)

- Exposure = 8000s
- Sky background = 0.1
- Pixel scale = $0.05''$
- $\sigma_{\text{PSF}} = 0.05''$
- + Poisson noise

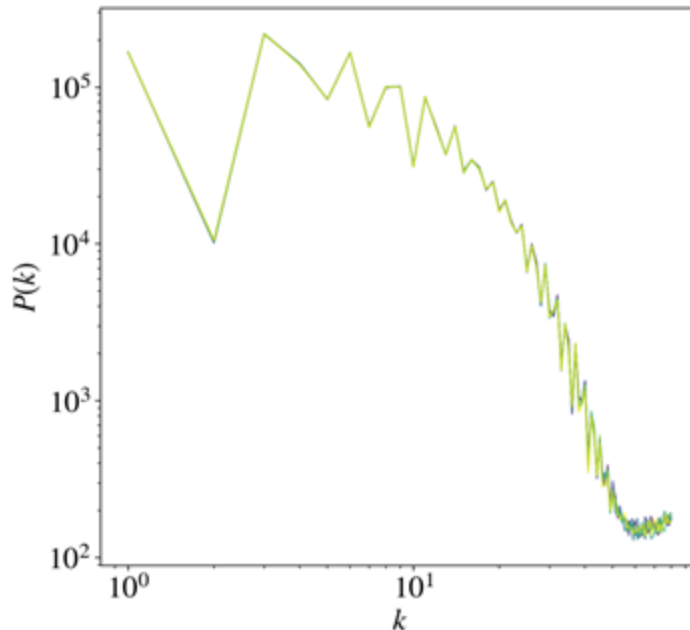


Forward Modelling: Compression

AutoLens: Mock Observation



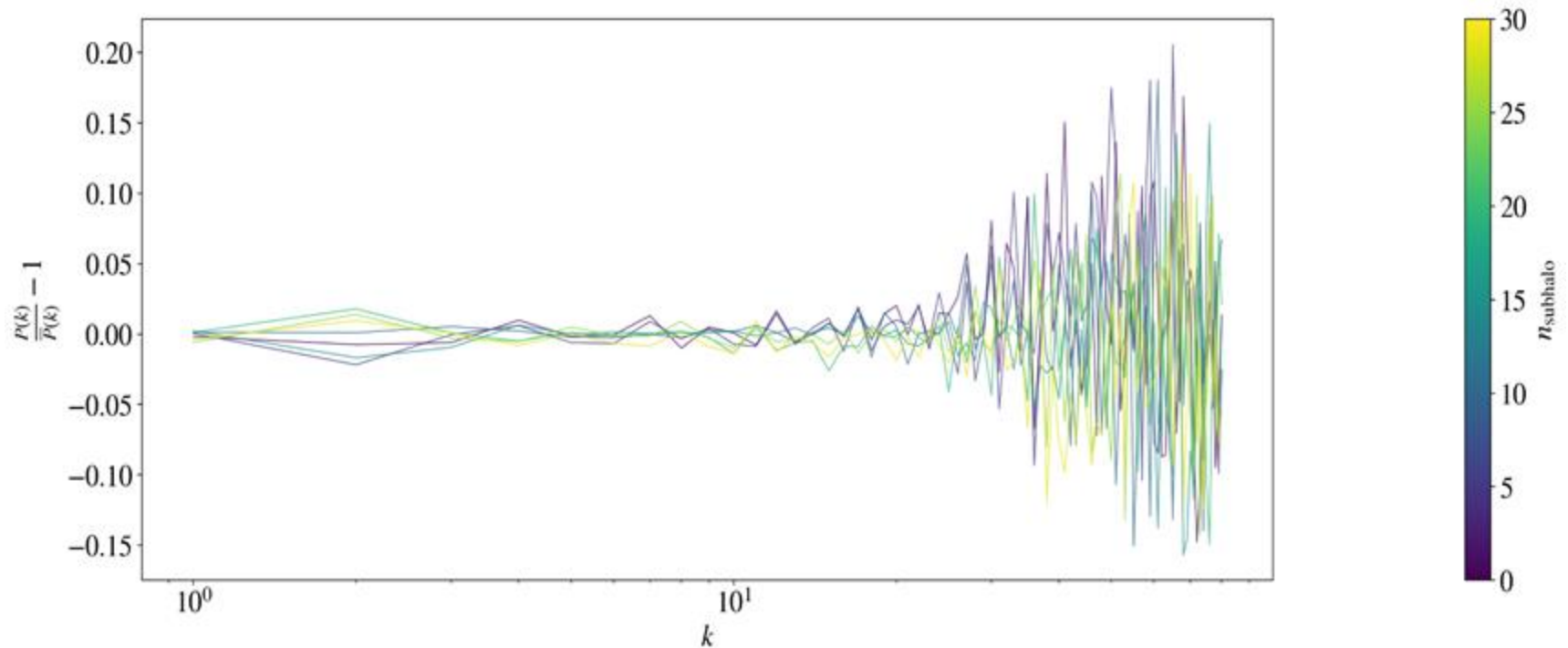
Compression/summary statistic: $P(k)$



Nightingale et al., (2021), JOSS, 6(58), 2825

RINSE & REPEAT 1000 TIMES!

Forward Modelling: Compression



SBI: Neural Posterior Estimation

Ensemble of 2 NDEs

2 x MAFs

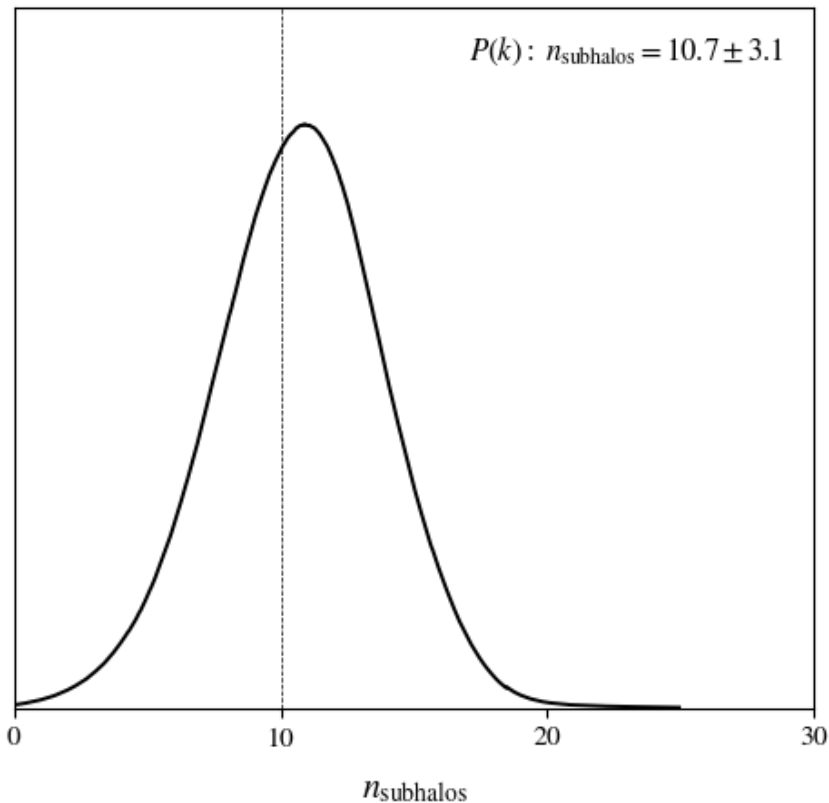
5 x MADEs

2 hidden
layers

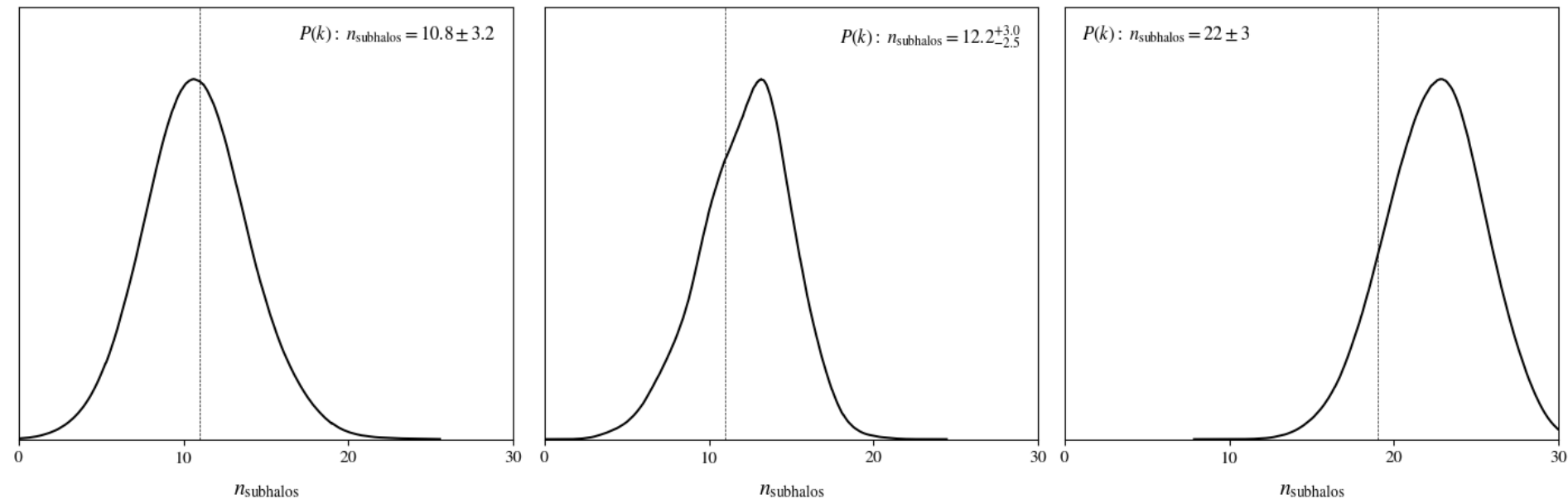
50 neurons
each



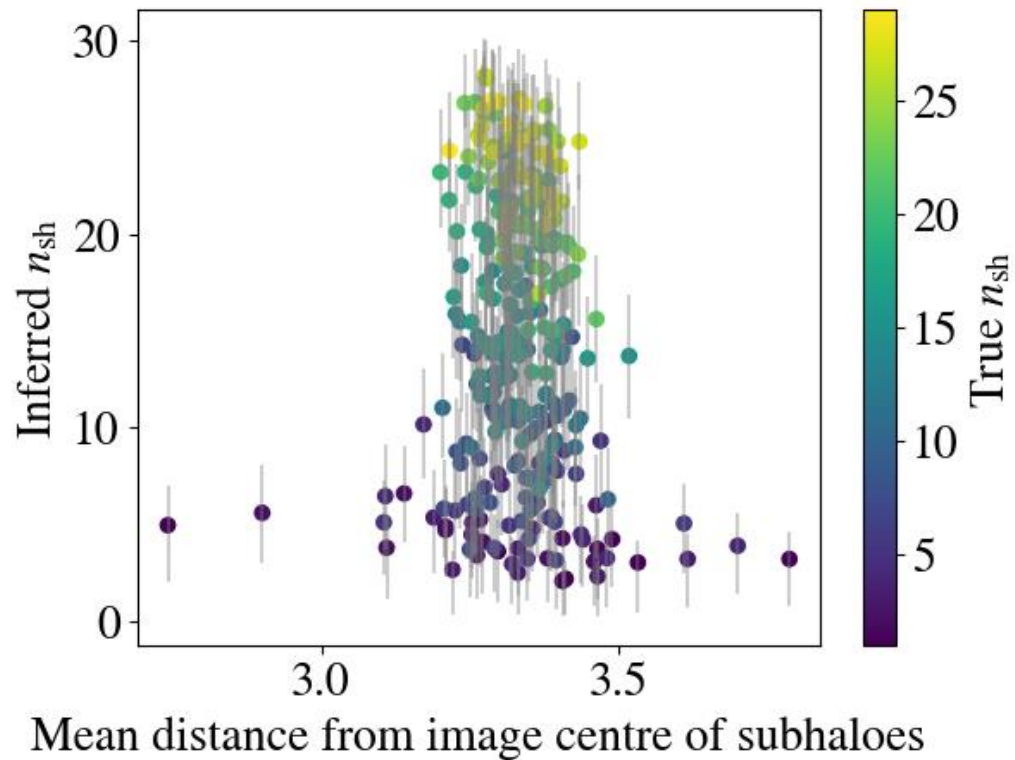
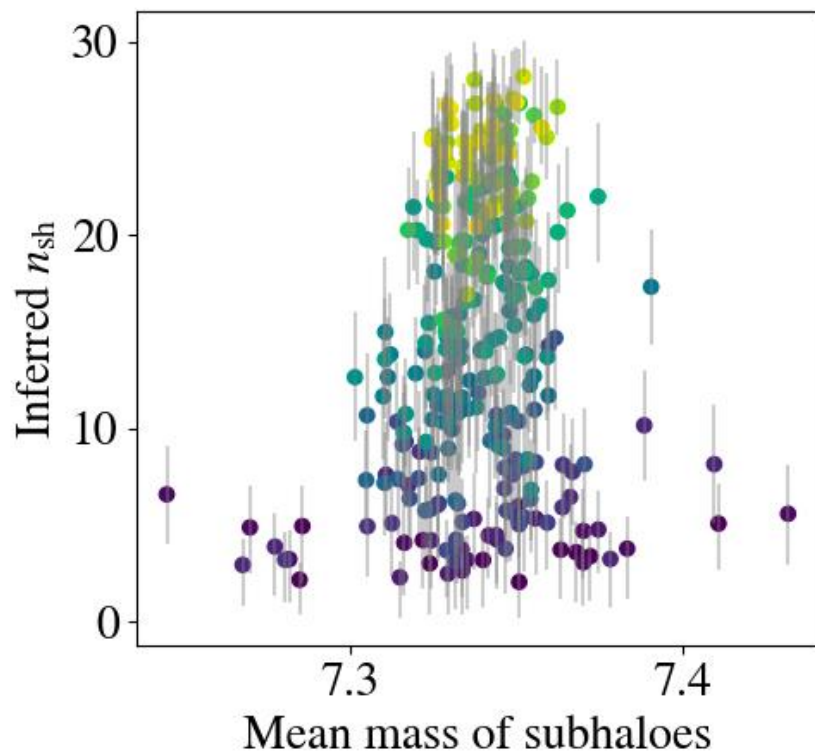
Varying **1** parameter
1,000 simulations



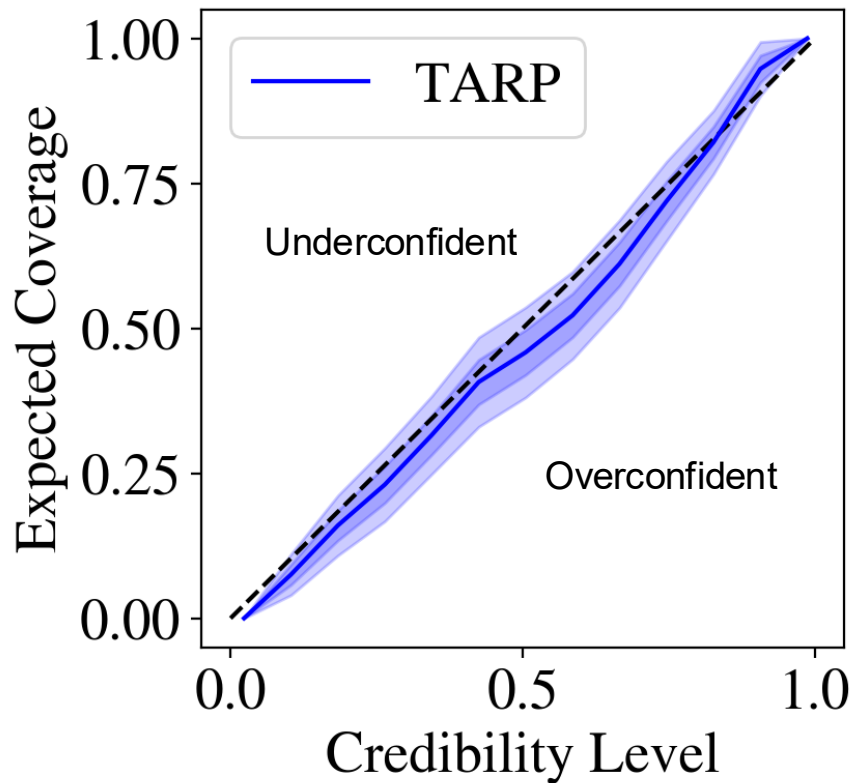
SBI: Neural Posterior Estimation



SBI: Robustness



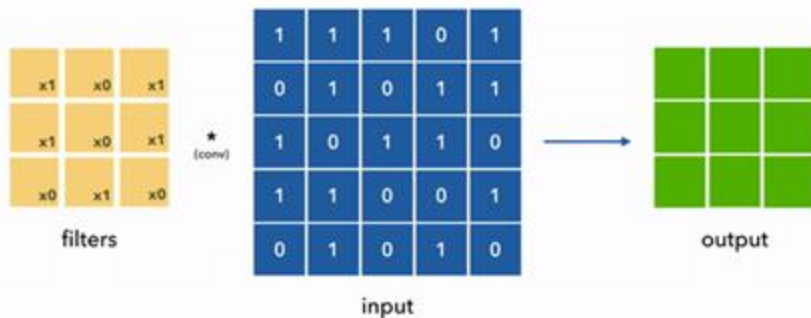
SBI: Coverage



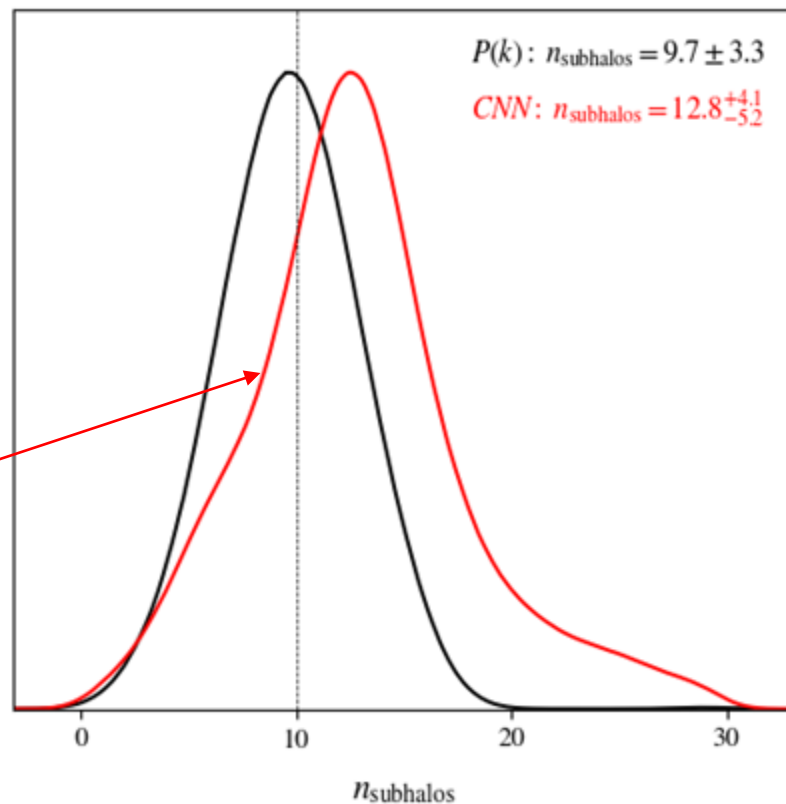
SBI: Other Compressions

Other compression
schemes/summary statistics:

Convolutional Neural Networks



Learn weights
based on all
simulated
images



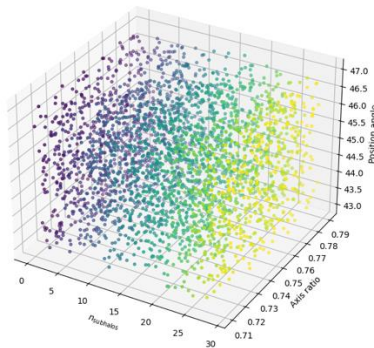
Conclusions & Outlooks



SBI can incorporate complexities into lens model inference

$$t \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

We accurately and robustly recover subhalo counts $\rightarrow M_{\text{hf}}$

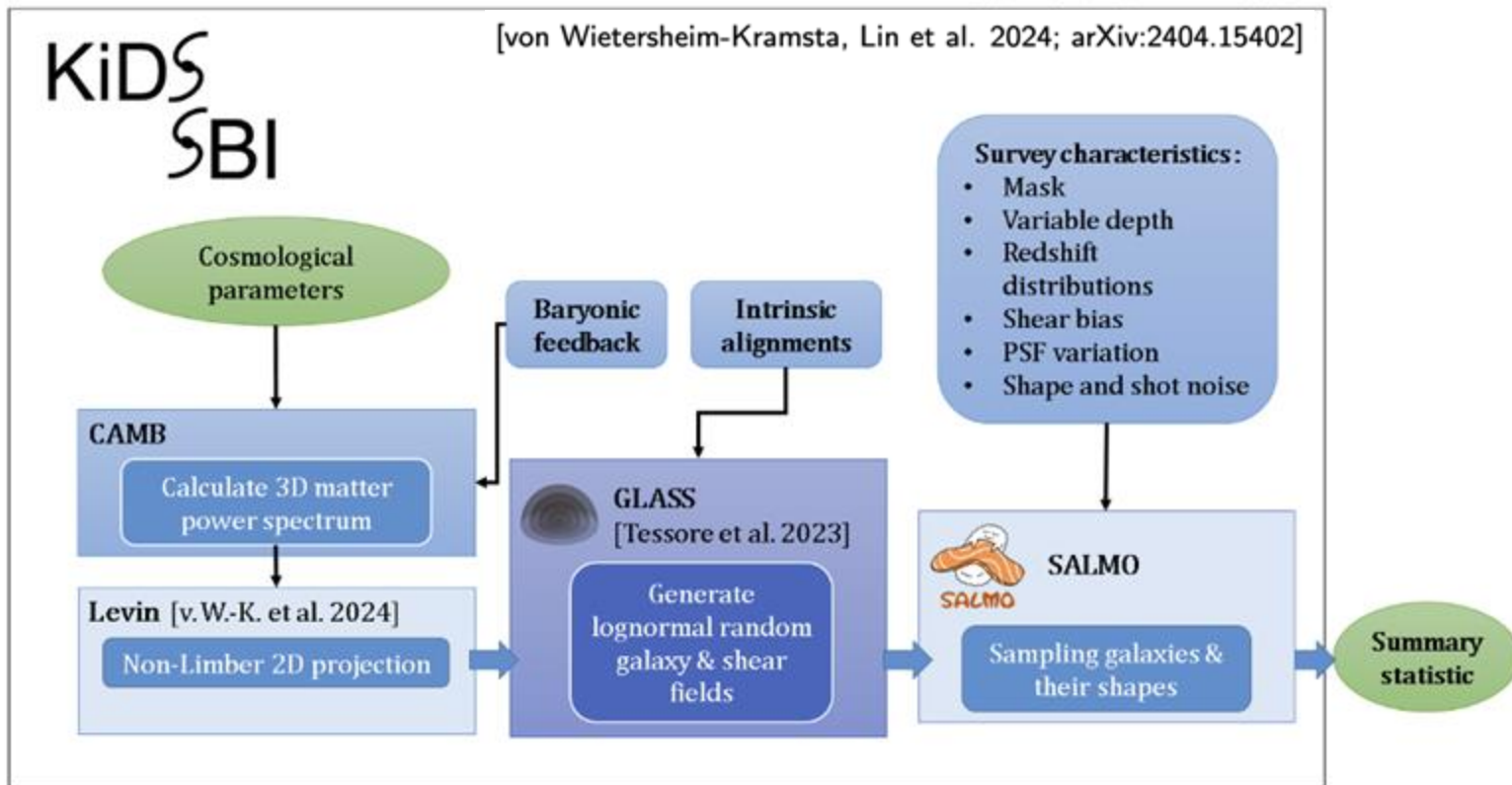


Plans:

- Scale up to higher-dimensional parameter space
- Add realism and additional dark matter models (SIDM)

Appendix

Forward Simulations



NDE Committee

