

Searching for Cosmological Concordance with New Physics in the Dark Sector: Hints and Challenges

Colin Hill

Columbia University

BCCP/Cosmology Seminar
UC Berkeley
28 February 2023



2109.04451 w/ ACT Collaboration + 2112.10754 w/ La Posta, Louis, Garrido
2210.14339 w/ F. McCarthy
2212.08098 w/ M.-X. Lin, E. McDonough, W. Hu
2303.00746 w/ S. Goldstein, V. Irsic, B. Sherwin
to appear (next week) w/ B. Bolliet, A. Spurio Mancini, ++



Outline

- Early Dark Energy
 - Hints? ACT DR4 (+SPT-3G)
 - Challenges \rightarrow Early Dark Sector
 - Severe Challenge: Lyman- α Forest
- ~~Generalized Dark Matter \rightarrow Dark Radiation Conversion~~ [ask me after if interested]
- Einstein-Boltzmann Emulators [if time]

Early Dark Energy

Motivation: increase CMB-inferred H_0

How does this work?

By decreasing the physical size of the sound horizon imprinted in the CMB

$$r_s^* = \int_0^{t_*} \frac{dt}{a(t)} c_s(t) = \int_{z_*}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{H(z)} c_s(z)$$

scale factor sound speed

Early Dark Energy

Motivation: increase CMB-inferred H_0

How does this work?

By decreasing the physical size of the sound horizon imprinted in the CMB

$$r_s^* = \int_0^{t_*} \frac{dt}{a(t)} c_s(t) = \int_{z_*}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{H(z)} c_s(z)$$

Relevant ingredients in Λ CDM: ω_b , ω_{cdm} , ω_ν , ω_γ

physical densities of
baryons, CDM,
neutrinos, photons

Angular sound horizon is (approx.) related to peak spacing:

$$\text{measured} \rightarrow \theta_s^* = \pi / \Delta \ell \longrightarrow D_A^* = r_s^* / \theta_s^* \longrightarrow H_0$$

$$D_A \sim 1/H_0$$

Early Dark Energy

Motivation: increase CMB-inferred H_0

How does this work?

By decreasing the physical size of the sound horizon imprinted in the CMB

$$r_s^* = \int_0^{t_*} \frac{dt}{a(t)} c_s(t) = \int_{z_*}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{H(z)} c_s(z)$$

Relevant ingredients in **EDE**: ω_b , ω_m , ω_v , ω_γ + **EDE parameters**

Angular sound horizon is (approx.) related to peak spacing:

$$\theta_s^* = \pi / \Delta\ell \longrightarrow D_A^* = r_s^* / \theta_s^* \longrightarrow H_0$$

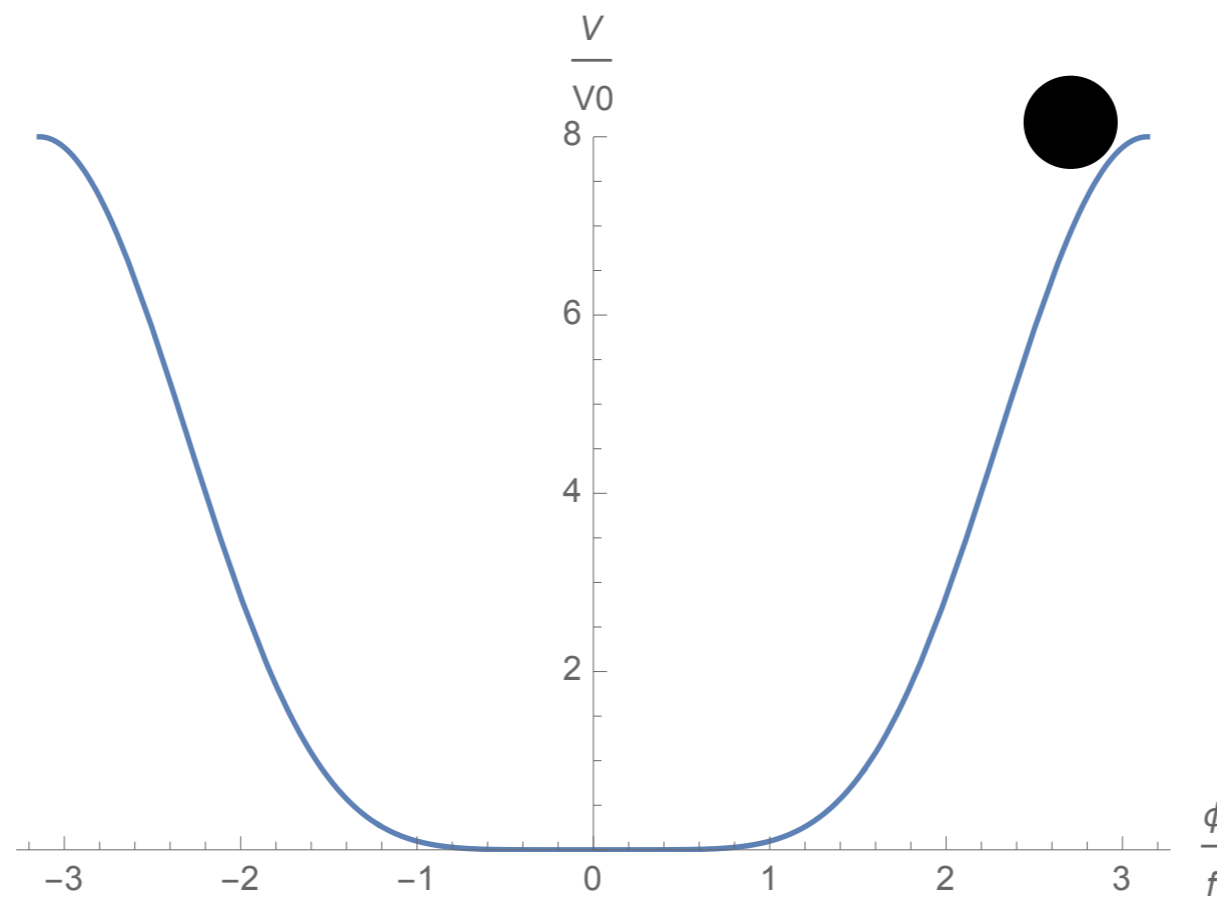
Early Dark Energy

New component: (pseudo)-scalar field ϕ

Early Dark Energy

New component: (pseudo)-scalar field ϕ

Idea: field initially frozen on its potential due to Hubble friction — acts as dark energy (equation of state $w=-1$)



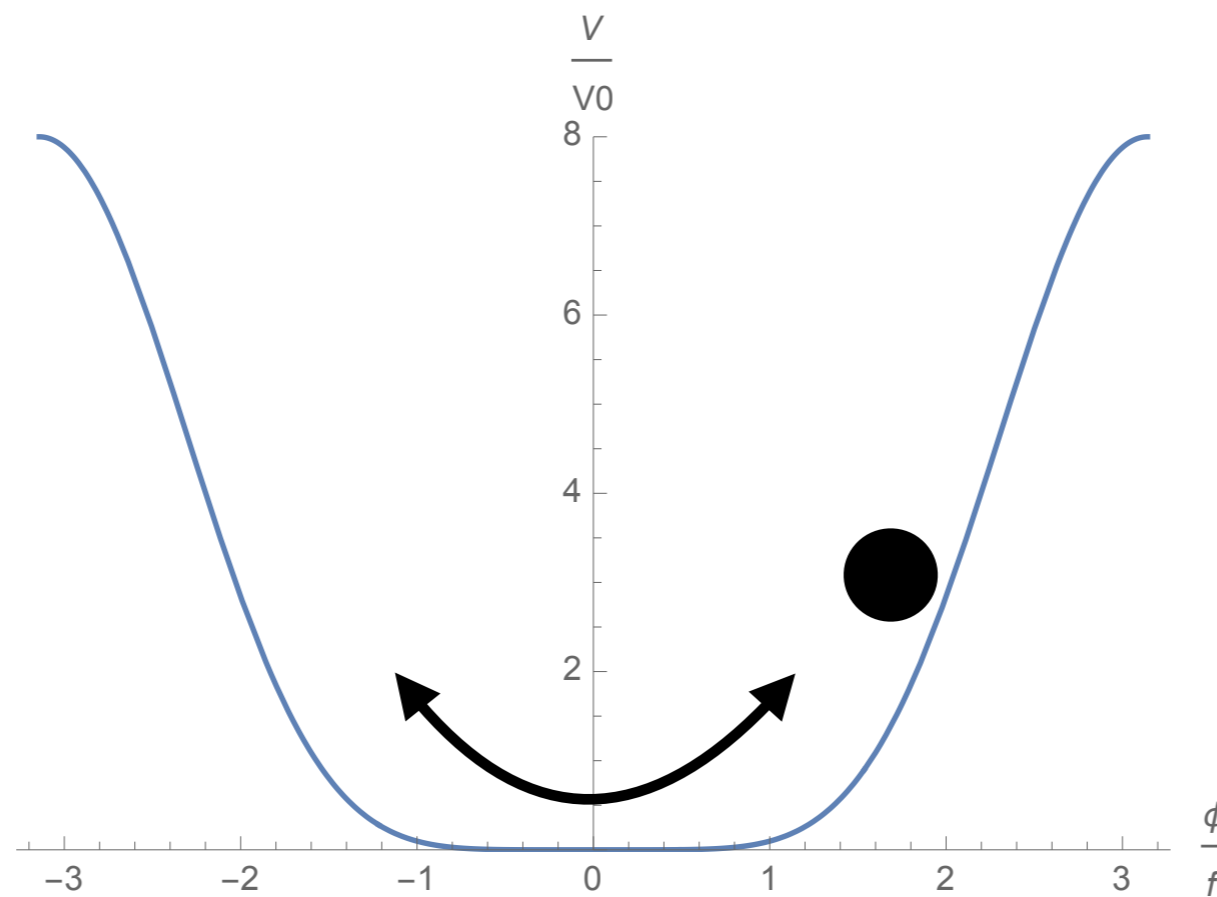
$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$$

$H^2 \gg V'' \sim m^2$
initially

Early Dark Energy

New component: (pseudo)-scalar field ϕ

When $H \sim m$ (field mass), it rolls down its potential and oscillates: effective w will depend on potential



For EDE, this must occur near $\sim Z_{\text{CMB}}$



$$m \sim 10^{-27} \text{ eV}$$

e.g., $\phi(t) = \phi_i a^{-3/2} \cos(mt)$ if $V(\phi) = m^2 \phi^2 / 2$

Early Dark Energy

New component: (pseudo)-scalar field ϕ

Idea: field initially frozen on its potential due to Hubble friction — acts as dark energy ($w=-1$)

When $H \sim m$ (field mass), it rolls down its potential and oscillates: effective w will depend on potential

Important: need late-time $w>0$ so that EDE energy density contribution decays faster than matter

Early Dark Energy

New component: (pseudo)-scalar field ϕ

Idea: field initially frozen on its potential due to Hubble friction — acts as dark energy ($w=-1$)

When $H \sim m$ (field mass), it rolls down its potential and oscillates: effective w will depend on potential

Important: need late-time $w > 0$ so that EDE energy density contribution decays faster than matter

Canonical EDE
Potential:

$$V(\phi) = m^2 f^2 (1 - \cos(\phi/f))^n$$

Near minimum, $V \sim \phi^{2n} \longrightarrow w_\phi = \frac{n-1}{n+1}$

$$m \sim 10^{-27} \text{ eV}$$

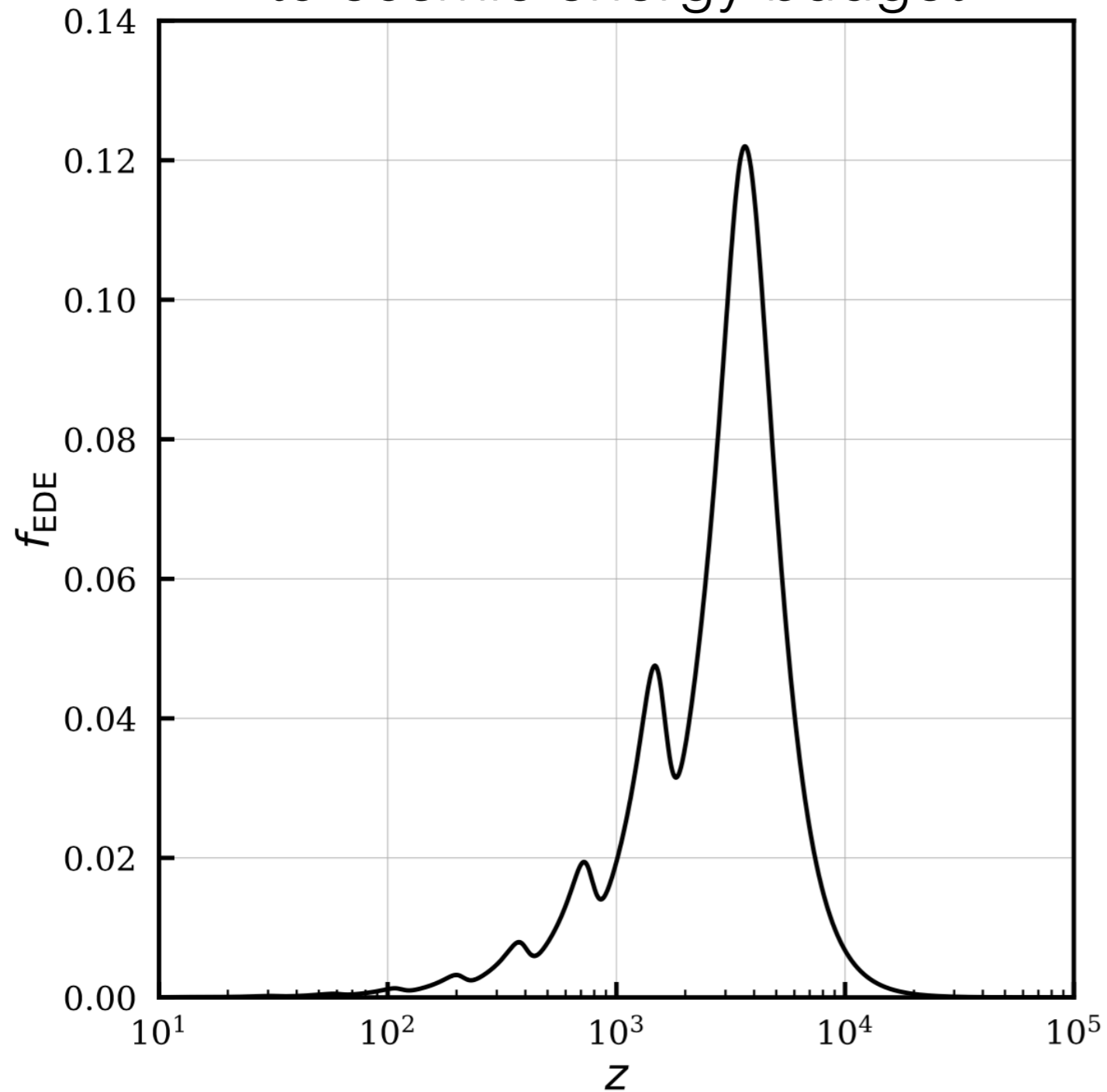
$$f \sim 10^{26-27} \text{ eV}$$

$n \geq 2$ (we fix
to 3 throughout)

Early Dark Energy

Parameterization

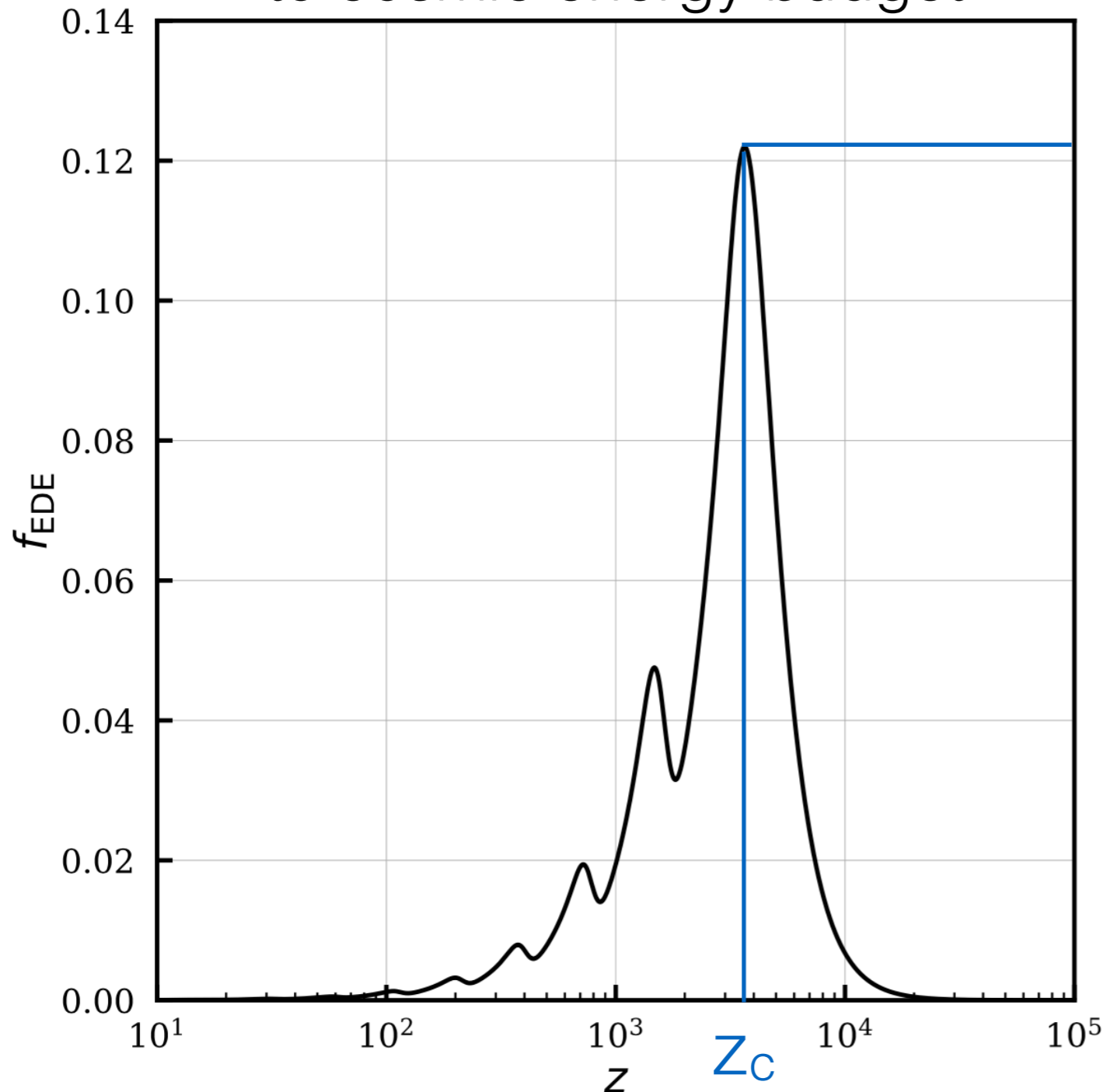
Fractional contribution of EDE
to cosmic energy budget



Early Dark Energy

Parameterization

Fractional contribution of EDE
to cosmic energy budget



Maximal contribution:

$$f_{\text{EDE}}(z_c) \equiv (\rho_{\text{EDE}}/3M_{pl}^2 H^2)|_{z_c}$$

which occurs at redshift z_c

Final parameter: $\theta_i = \phi_i/f$
(initial field displacement)

➔ $\{f_{\text{EDE}}, z_c, \theta_i\}$

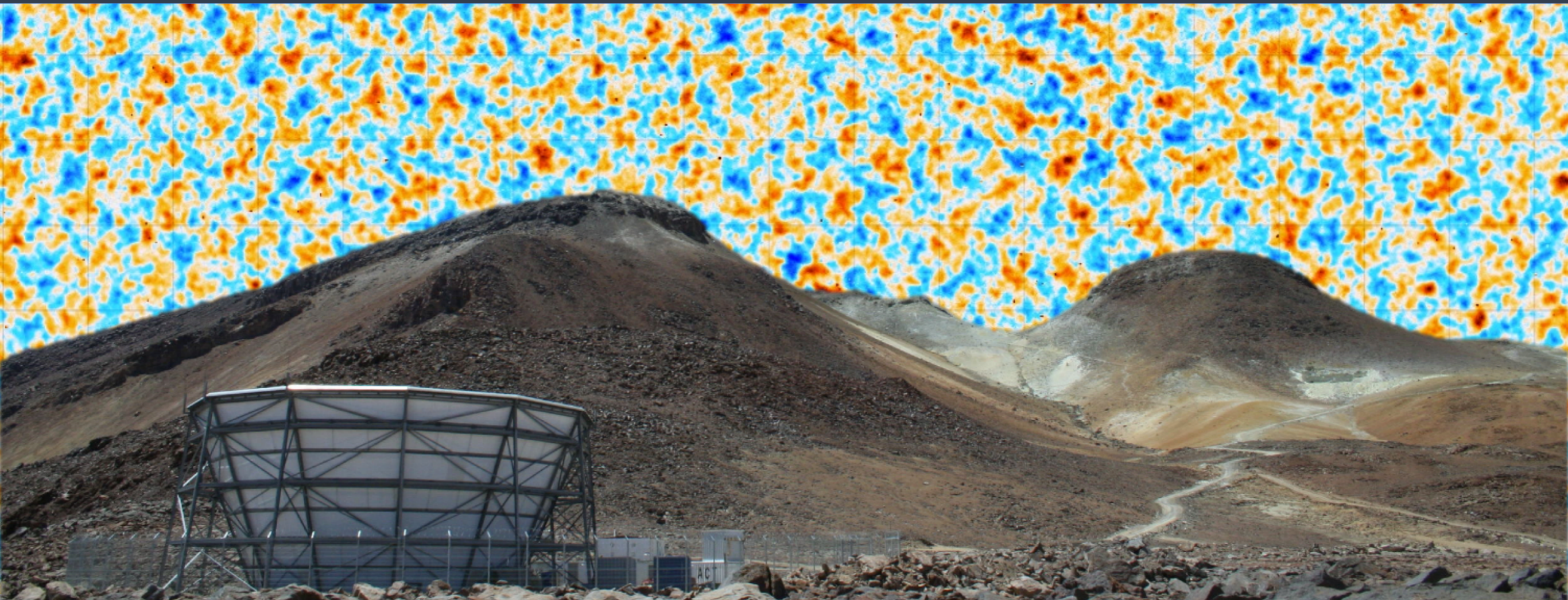
N.B.: highly non-linear
relation to physical scalar
field parameters

H_0 and EDE from the Atacama Cosmology Telescope

Aiola, ..., JCH, et al. (2020)
Choi, ..., JCH, et al. (2020)
JCH et al. (2021)

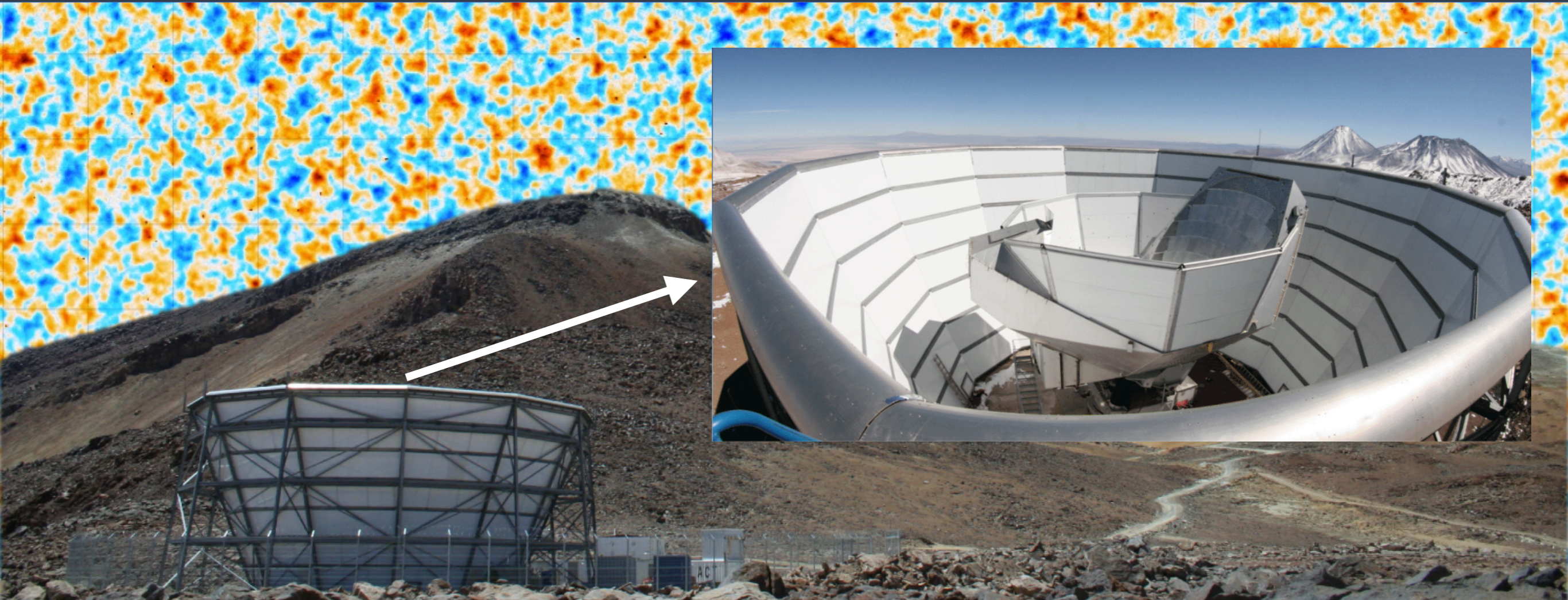


The Atacama Cosmology Telescope



wide-area (~half-sky) multifrequency CMB survey
observations: 2008-2022 (with some gaps for upgrades)

The Atacama Cosmology Telescope



wide-area (~half-sky) multifrequency CMB survey
observations: 2008-2022 (with some gaps for upgrades)

The Atacama Cosmology Telescope



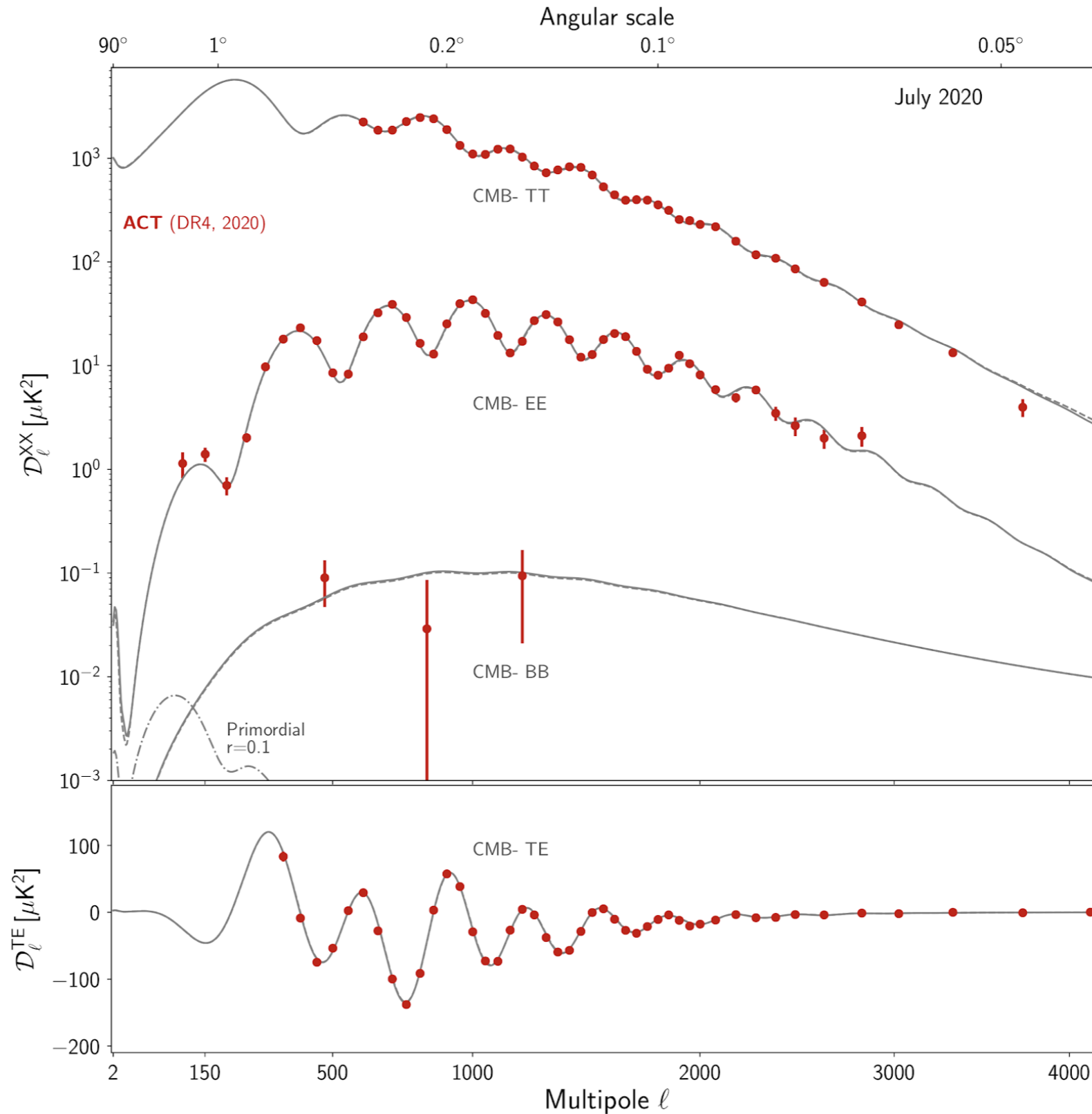
Princeton, October 2022

wide-area (~half-sky) multifrequency CMB survey observations: 2008-2022 (with some gaps for upgrades)



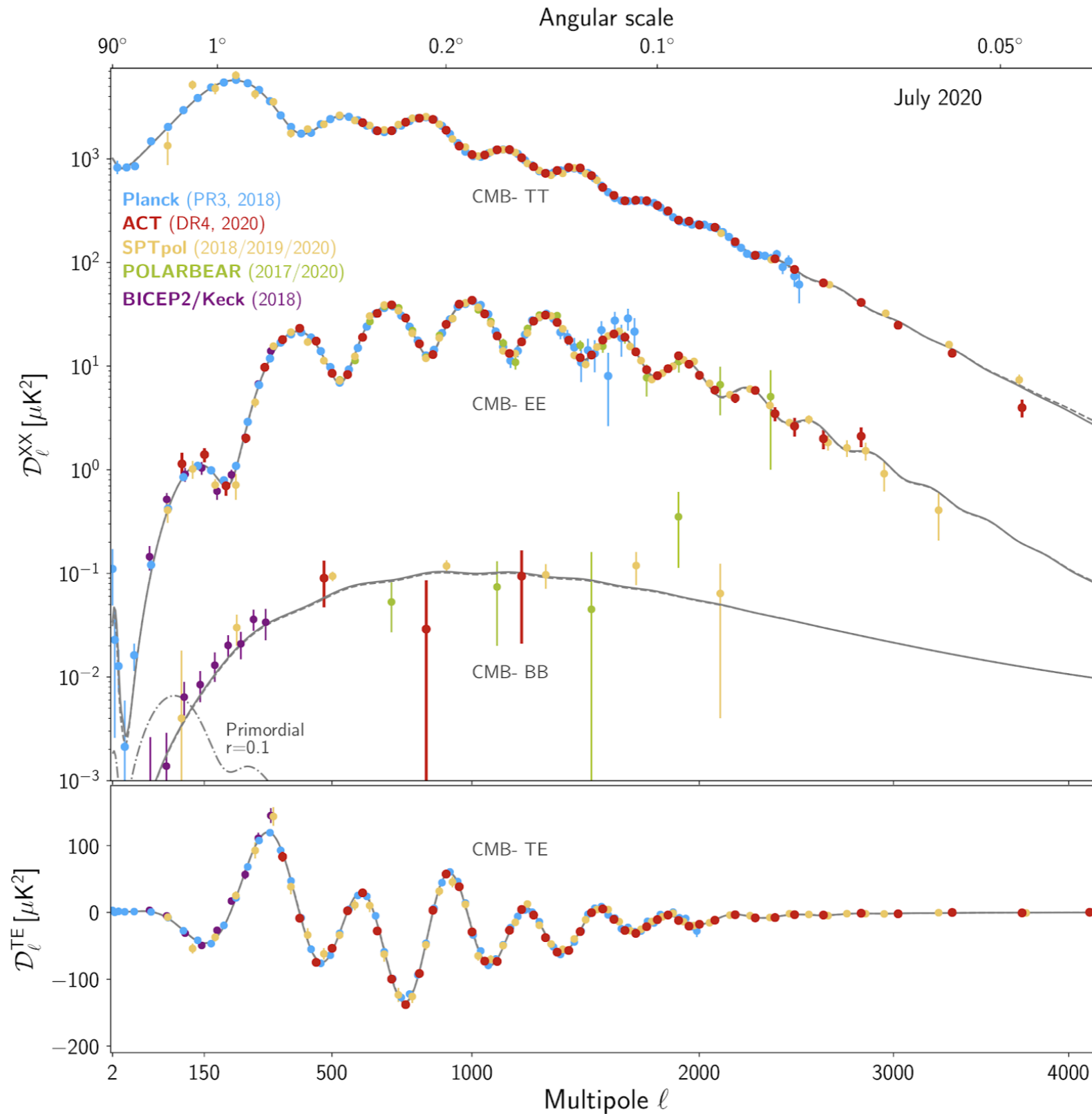
ACT Data Release 4

Foreground-marginalized CMB power spectra



ACT Data Release 4

Foreground-marginalized CMB power spectra



Constraints on Early Dark Energy



JCH, McDonough, Toomey, Alexander (2020, PRD Editors' Suggestion)

Ivanov, McDonough, **JCH**, Simonovic, Toomey, Alexander, Zaldarriaga (2020)

JCH, Calabrese, et al. [ACT Collaboration] (2021)

La Posta, Louis, Garrido, **JCH** (2021)



ACT DR4 EDE Analysis

Colin Hill
Columbia


The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Constraints on Pre-Recombination Early Dark Energy

ACT DR4 EDE Analysis

Colin Hill
Columbia

Motivation

- How robust are CMB-derived EDE constraints to the choice of CMB data set?
- What do we find if we replace Planck with ACT or ACT+WMAP?
- ACT and Planck are consistent at 2.5σ in Λ CDM (with consistent $H_0 \sim 67-68$ km/s/Mpc) — what about in EDE?
- N.B. we do not try to assess global concordance of any model w.r.t. all cosmological data in this analysis
- Data sets: ACT, WMAP, Planck, BAO, Planck CMB lensing

 Planck TT ($l < 650$)

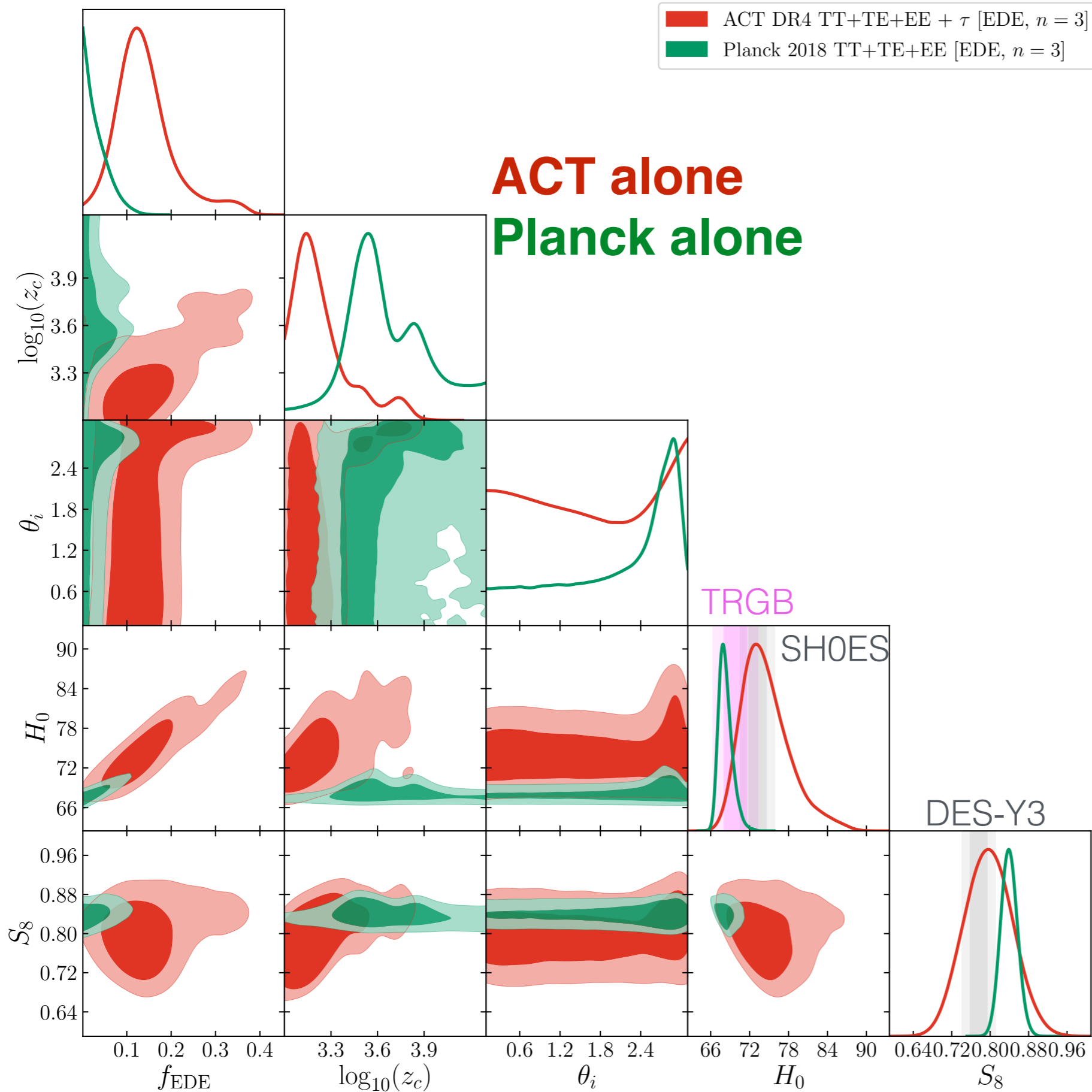
[JCH et al. \(2021\)](#)

See also [Poulin et al. \(2021\)](#)

Pipeline: **CLASS-EDE** (JCH+) + **Cobaya** (Torrado & Lewis)

ACT DR4 EDE Results

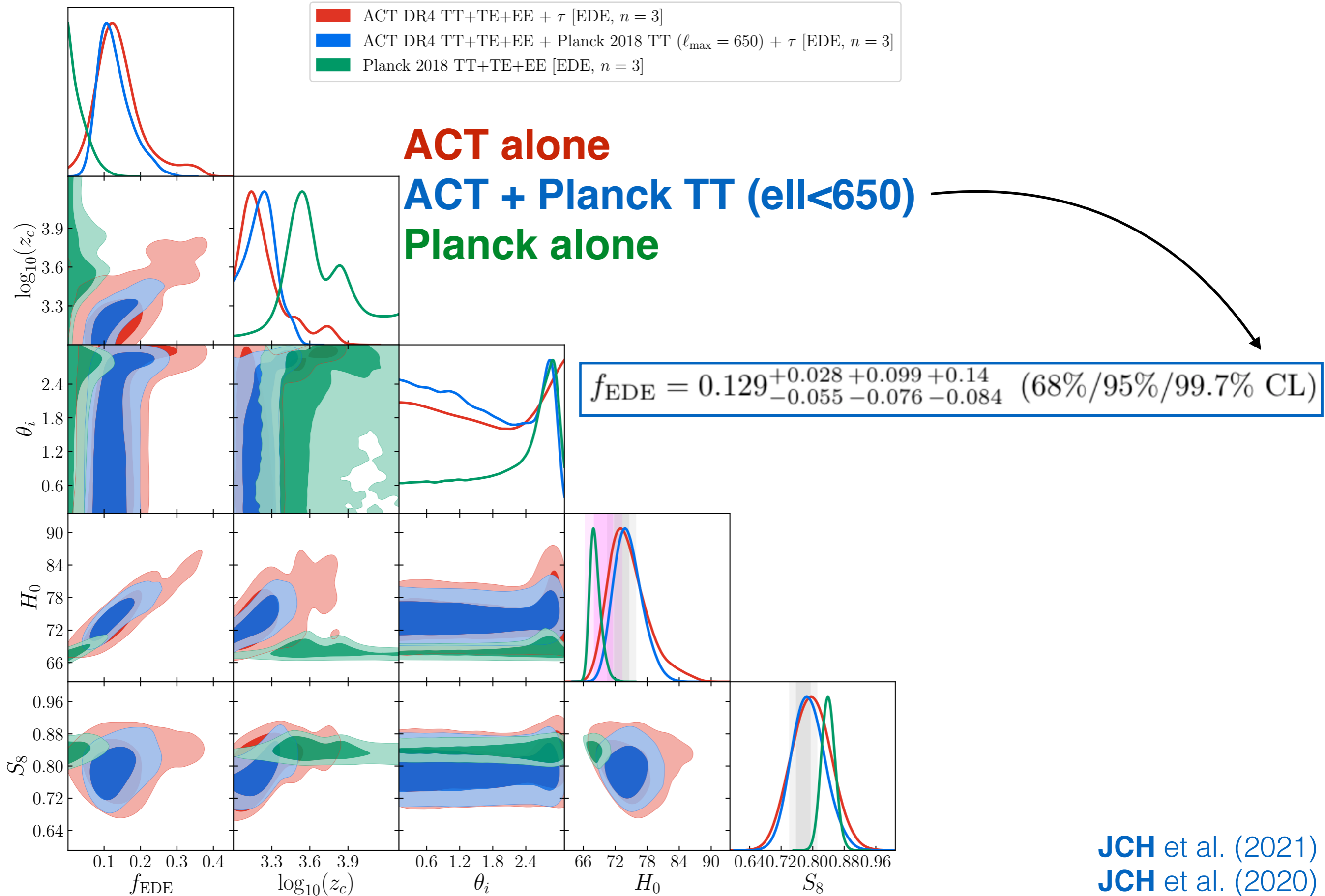
Colin Hill
Columbia



JCH et al. (2021)
JCH et al. (2020)

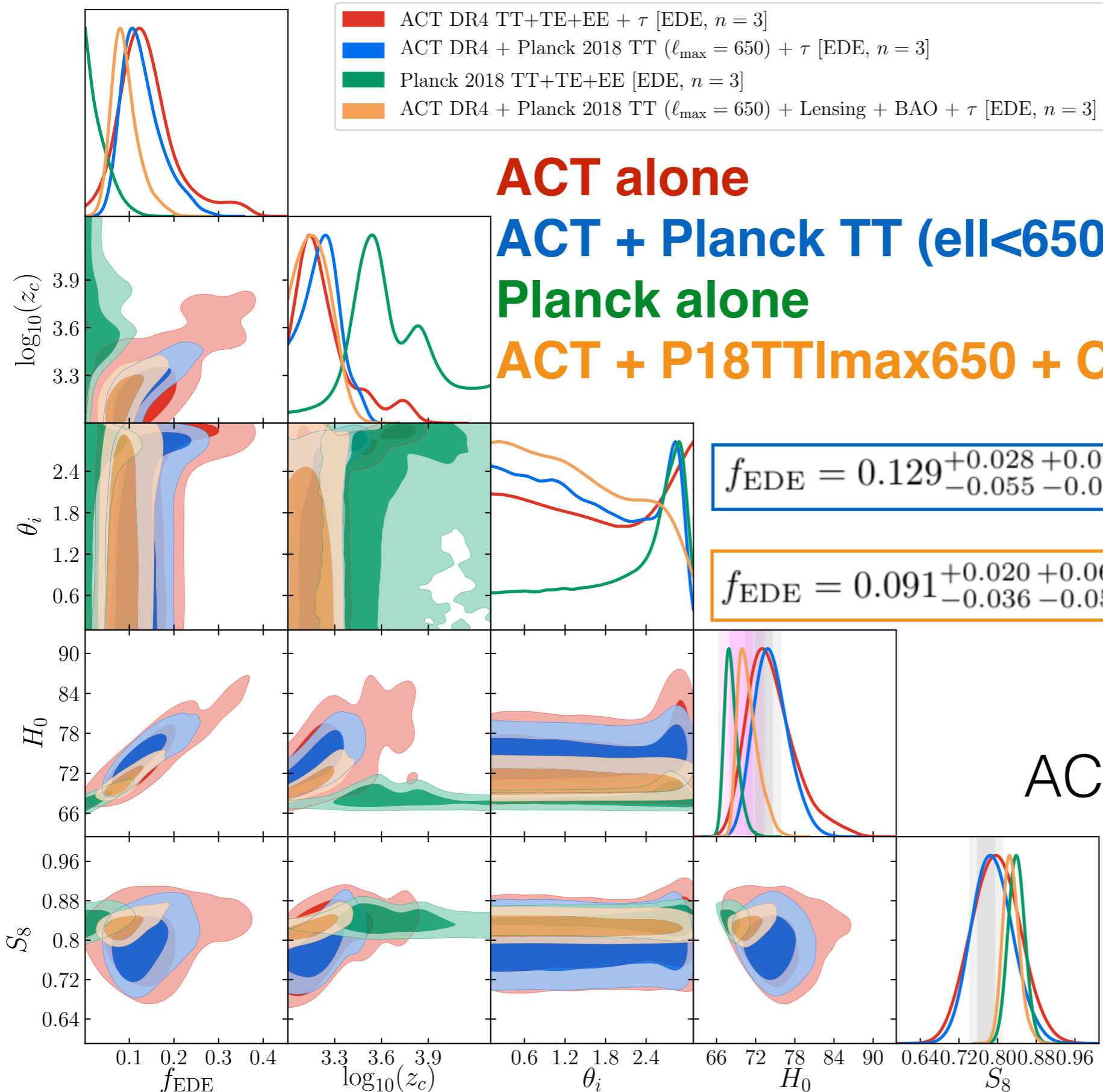
ACT DR4 EDE Results

Colin Hill
Columbia



ACT DR4 EDE Results

Colin Hill
Columbia



- ACT DR4 TT+TE+EE + τ [EDE, $n = 3$]
- ACT DR4 + Planck 2018 TT ($\ell_{\max} = 650$) + τ [EDE, $n = 3$]
- Planck 2018 TT+TE+EE [EDE, $n = 3$]
- ACT DR4 + Planck 2018 TT ($\ell_{\max} = 650$) + Lensing + BAO + τ [EDE, $n = 3$]

ACT alone

ACT + Planck TT ($\ell < 650$)

Planck alone

ACT + P18TTImax650 + CMB Lensing + BAO

$$f_{\text{EDE}} = 0.129^{+0.028}_{-0.055} \quad +0.099 \quad +0.14 \quad (68\%/95\%/99.7\% \text{ CL})$$

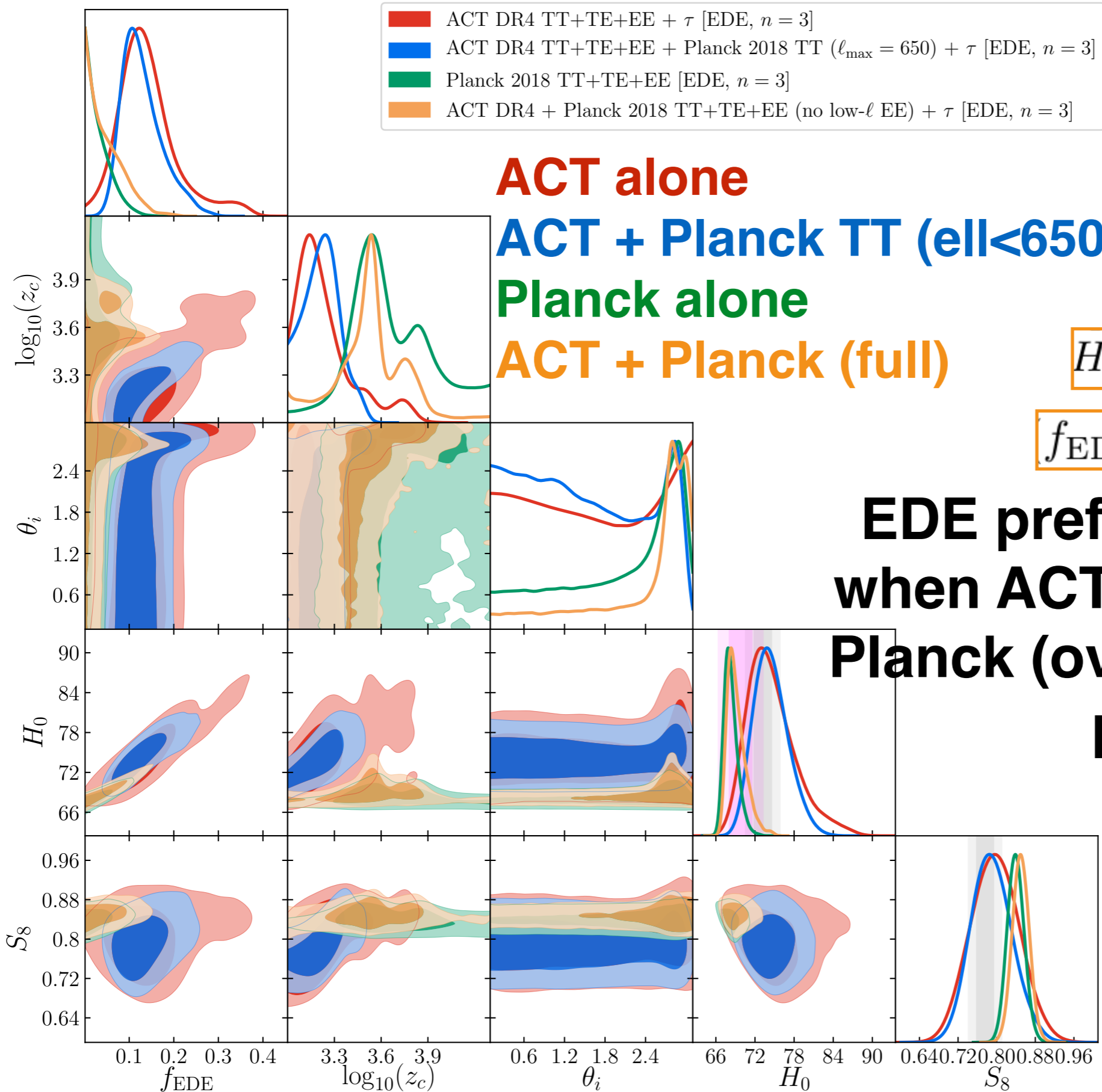
$$f_{\text{EDE}} = 0.091^{+0.020}_{-0.036} \quad +0.069 \quad +0.11 \quad (68\%/95\%/99.7\% \text{ CL})$$

$$H_0 = 70.9^{+1.0}_{-2.0} \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$

ACT drives preference for non-zero f_{EDE} ($>99.7\%$ CL in joint fits)

ACT DR4 EDE Results

Colin Hill
Columbia



ACT alone

ACT + Planck TT ($\ell < 650$)

Planck alone

ACT + Planck (full)

$$H_0 = 69.17^{+0.83}_{-1.70} \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$

$$f_{\text{EDE}} < 0.124 \text{ at } 95\% \text{ CL}$$

**EDE preference goes away
when ACT is combined with
Planck (overall constraining
power still Planck-
dominated)**

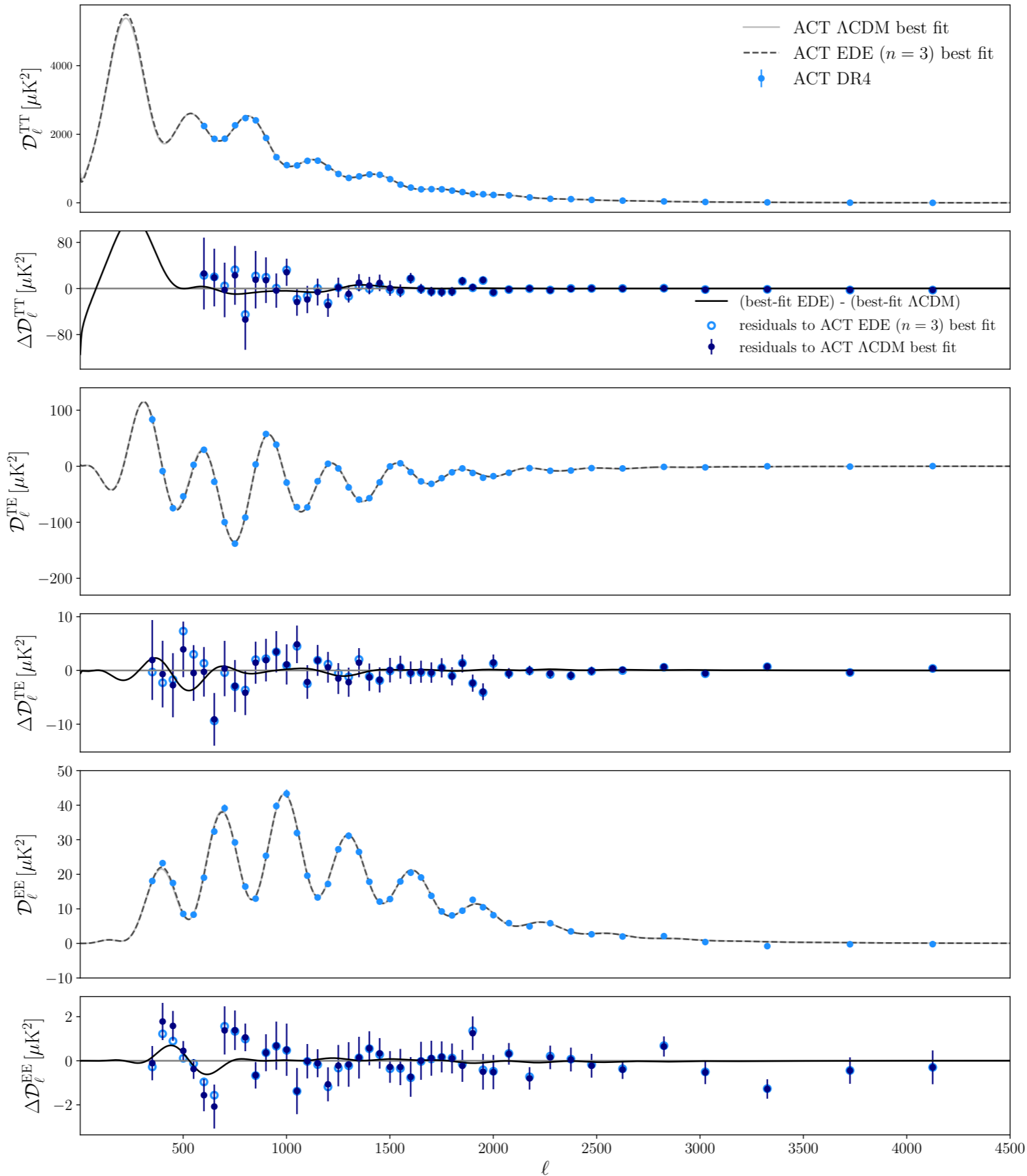
Origin of ACT EDE Hint

Colin Hill
Columbia

Origin of ACT EDE Hint

LCDM
residuals

EDE
residuals



TT

TE

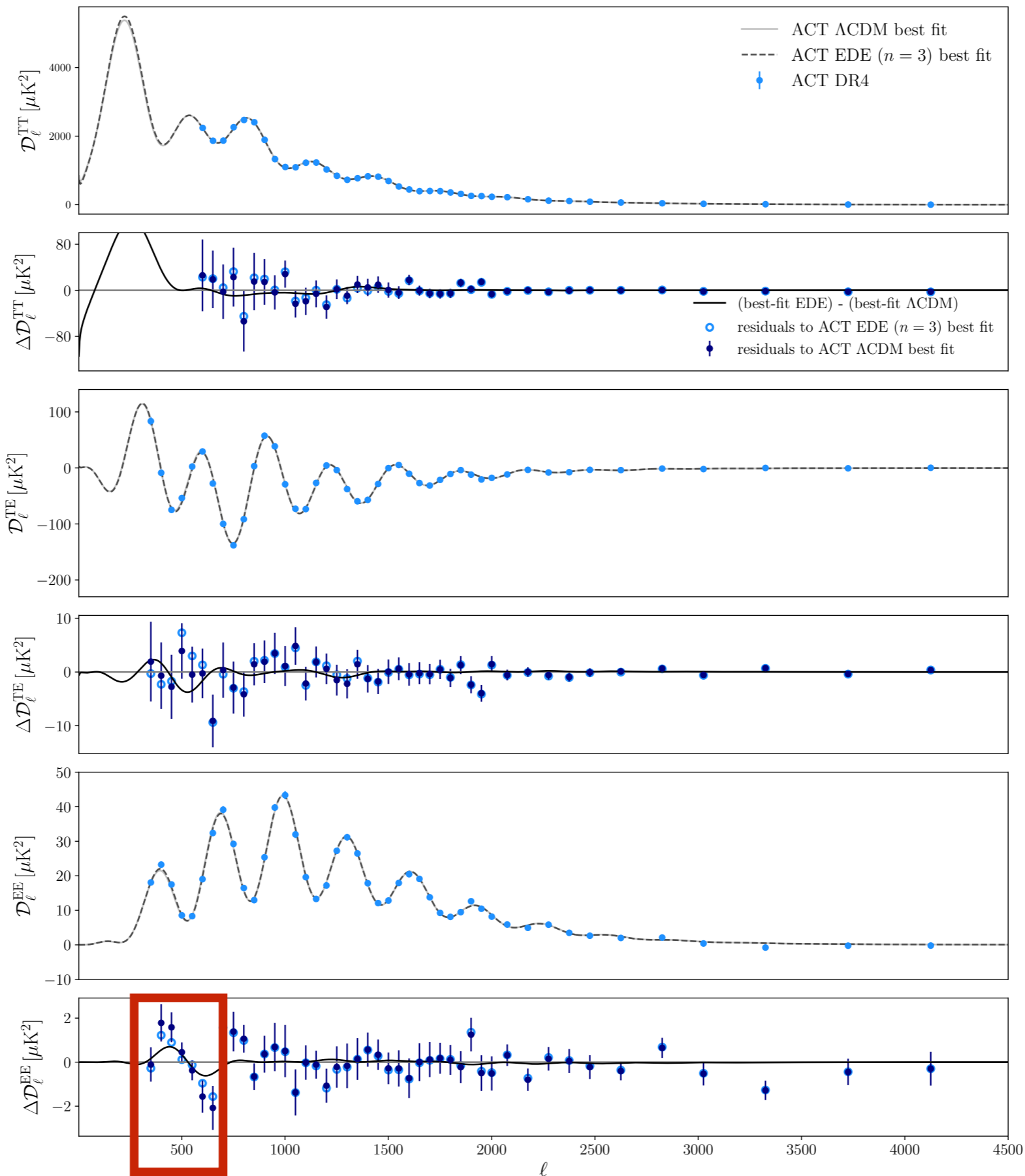
EE

Origin of ACT EDE Hint

LCDM
residuals

EDE
residuals

lowest ℓ
bins in EE
drive the
preference



TT

TE

EE

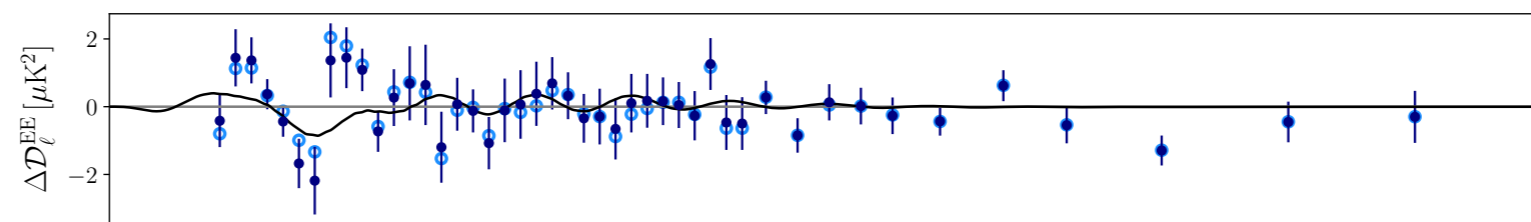
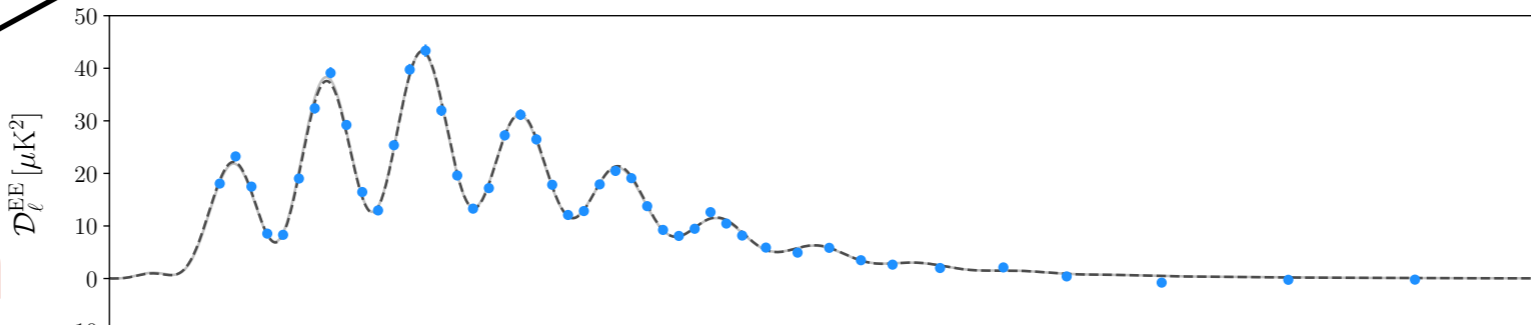
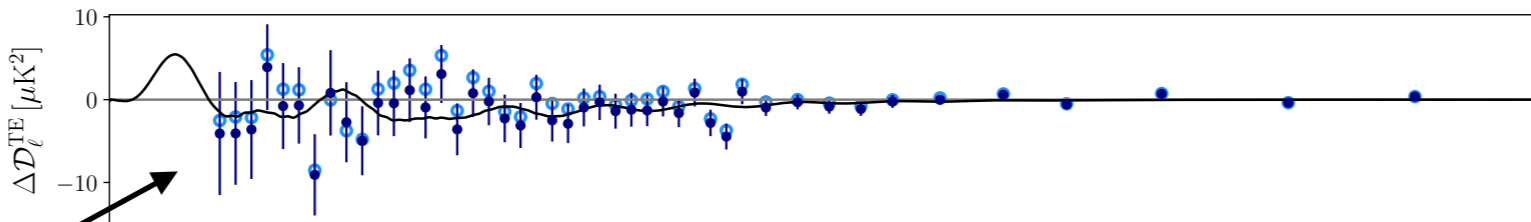
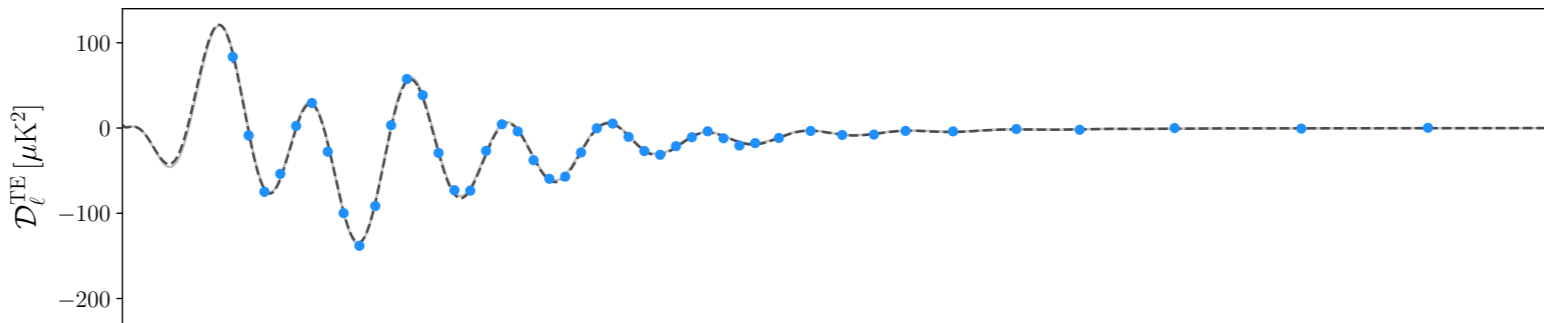
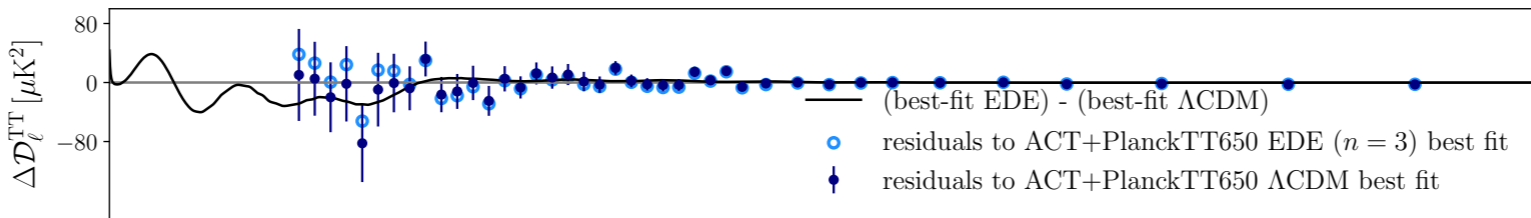
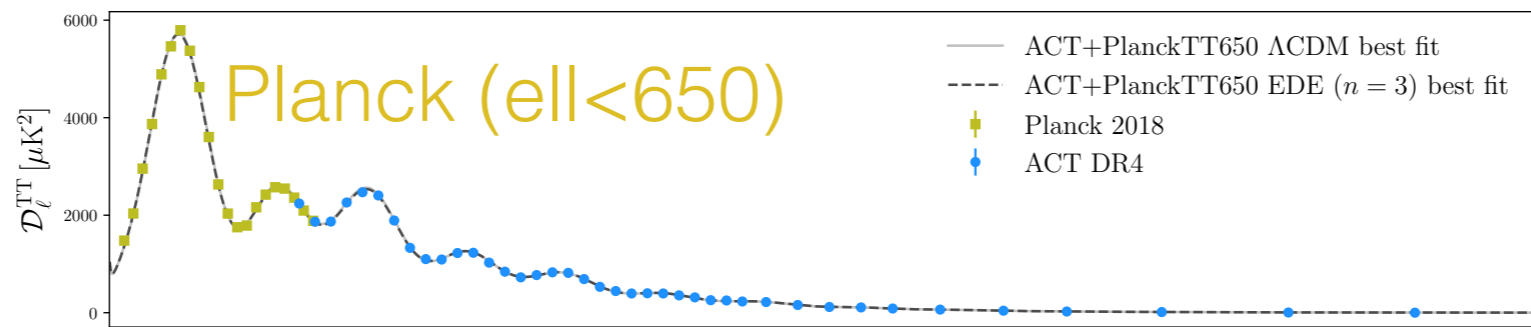
overall
preference
 $\sim 2.1\sigma$
($\Delta\chi^2 = -8.7$)

Origin of ACT EDE Hint

LCDM
residuals

EDE
residuals

TE plays an
important
role in
driving EDE
preference in
joint fits



TT

TE

EE

overall
preference
 $\sim 3.2\sigma$
($\Delta\chi^2 = -15.4$)

Next: ACT DR6

(target: later this year)

ACT DR6 Forecasts

ACT TT + TE + EE : precision cosmology beyond Planck

	ACT DR4	ACT DR4 + WMAP	Planck	Planck + ACT DR6
$\sigma(H_0)$	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.4
$\sigma(n_s)$	0.015	0.006	0.004	0.003
$\sigma(N_{\text{eff}})$	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1

**Large improvements in beyond- Λ CDM parameters:
~2x increase in sensitivity to new light relic particles**



PRELIMINARY FORECAST

Upcoming ACT DR6 precision cosmology constraints will surpass those from Planck (H_0 , N_{eff} , Σm_ν , σ_8 , + beyond- Λ CDM models) — stay tuned!

Discovering EDE in the CMB?

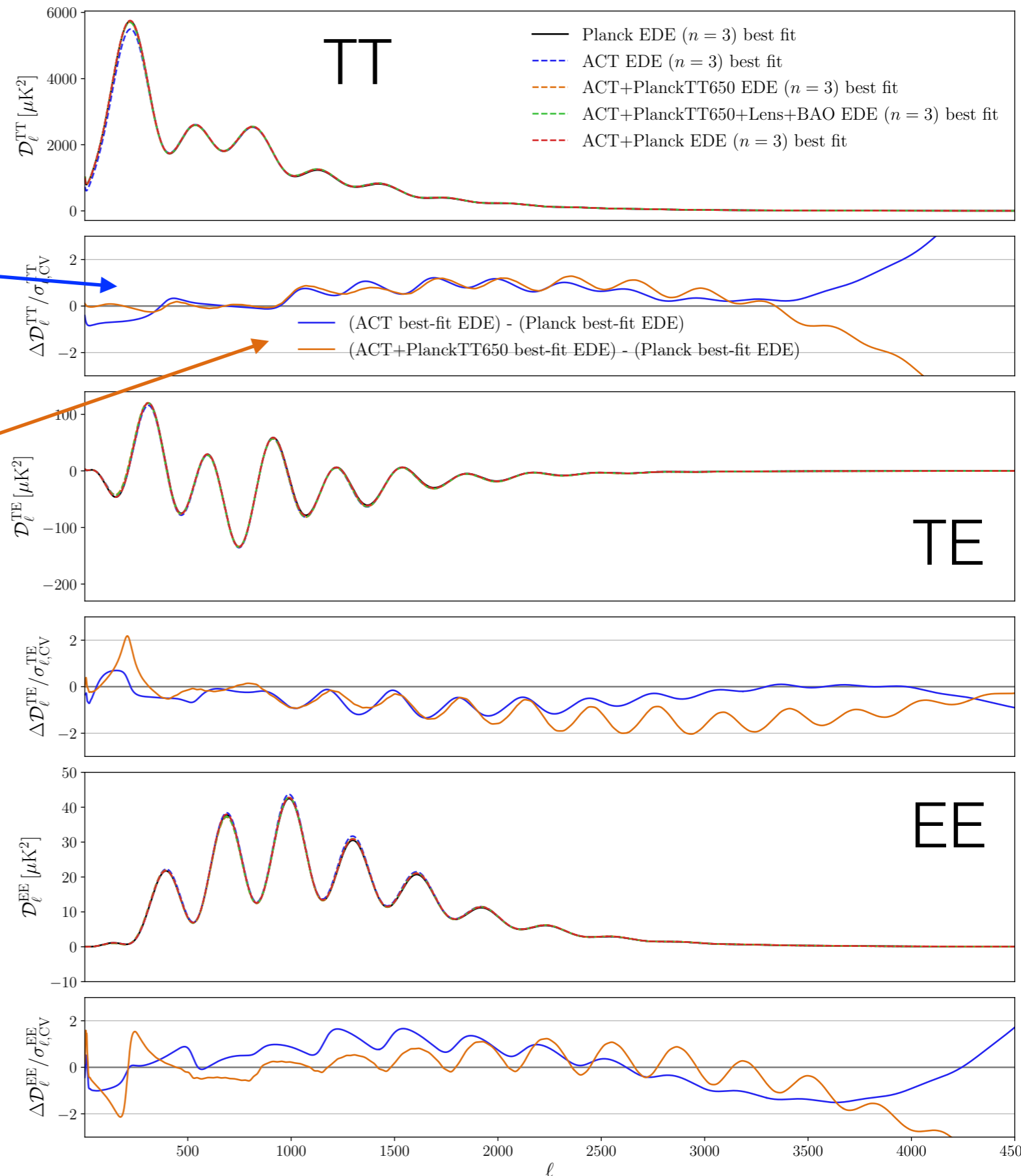
Colin Hill
Columbia

Discovering EDE in the CMB?

ACT best-fit EDE -
Planck EDE

ACT+P18TT650 EDE -
Planck EDE

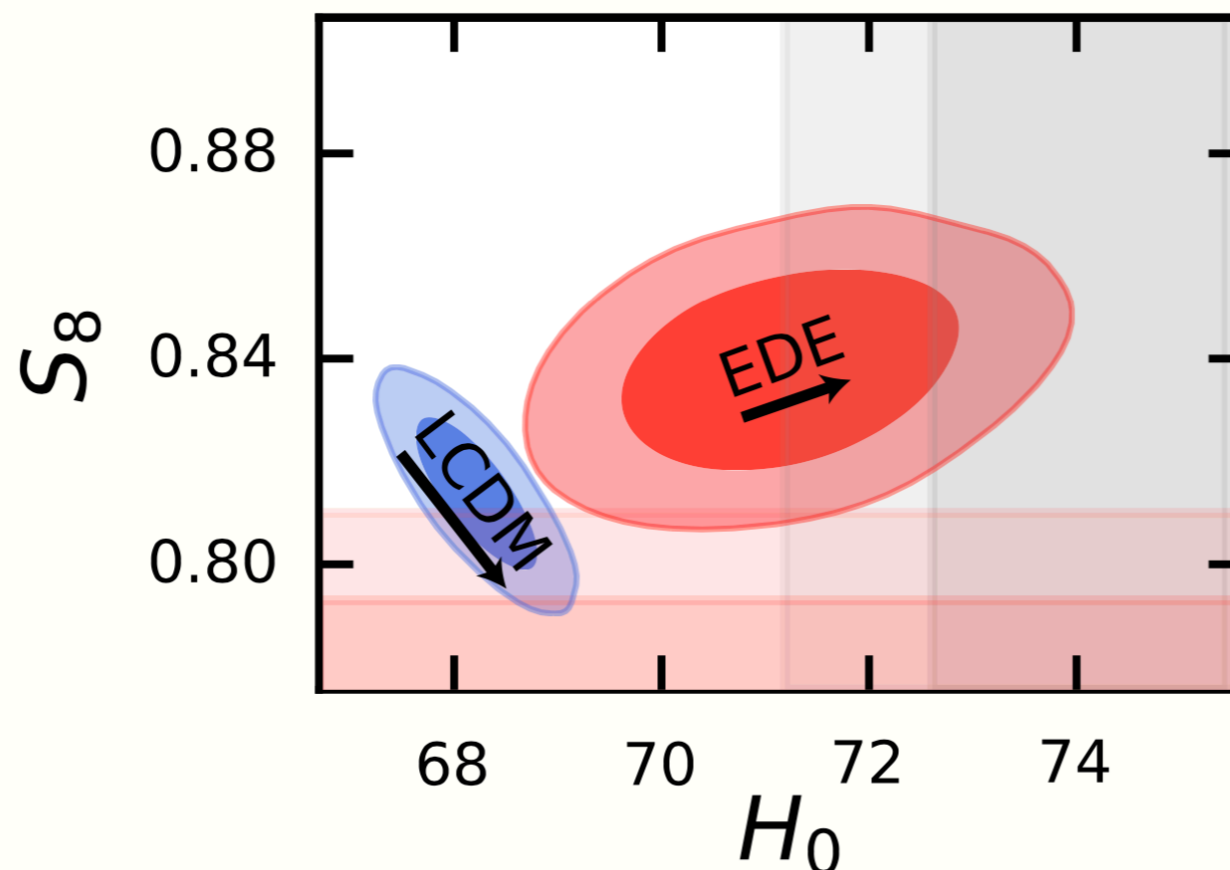
Imminent potential
discovery with upcoming
ACT DR6 (~2023): the
models shown
here can be
distinguished at $\sim 20\sigma$



EDE Puzzles & Problems

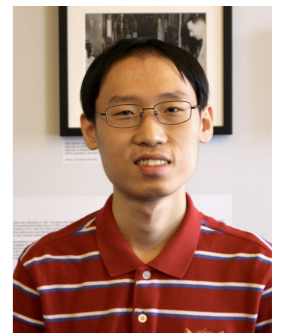
EDE Puzzles & Problems

- Coincidence problem: why should these new dynamics appear near z_{eq} ? [$\rightarrow V(\phi), V'(\phi)$]
- Initial conditions: axion-like field must start near top of cosine to fit Planck (e.g., Lin, Benevento, Hu, Raveri (2019)) [$\rightarrow V''(\phi)$]
- “Tension-trading”: H_0 is increased at the cost of adding significantly more dark matter and increasing n_s , hence raising S_8



Early Dark Sector

A Dark Matter Trigger for Early Dark Energy Coincidence



2112.09128 w/ Evan McDonough, Meng-Xiang Lin, Wayne Hu, Shengjia Zhou
2212.08098 w/ Lin, McDonough, Hu

Early Dark Sector

Goal: explain why EDE dynamics at z_c are coincident with z_{eq} by coupling the EDE scalar ϕ to the dark matter, such that DM triggers EDE evolution rather than the bare potential $V(\phi)$

- Field dependent dark matter mass: $m_{\text{dm}}(\phi)$
- Effective potential: $V_{\text{eff}} = V_0 + m_{\text{dm}}(\phi)n_{\text{dm}}$

Early Dark Sector

Goal: explain why EDE dynamics at z_c are coincident with z_{eq} by coupling the EDE scalar ϕ to the dark matter, such that DM triggers EDE evolution rather than the bare potential $V(\phi)$

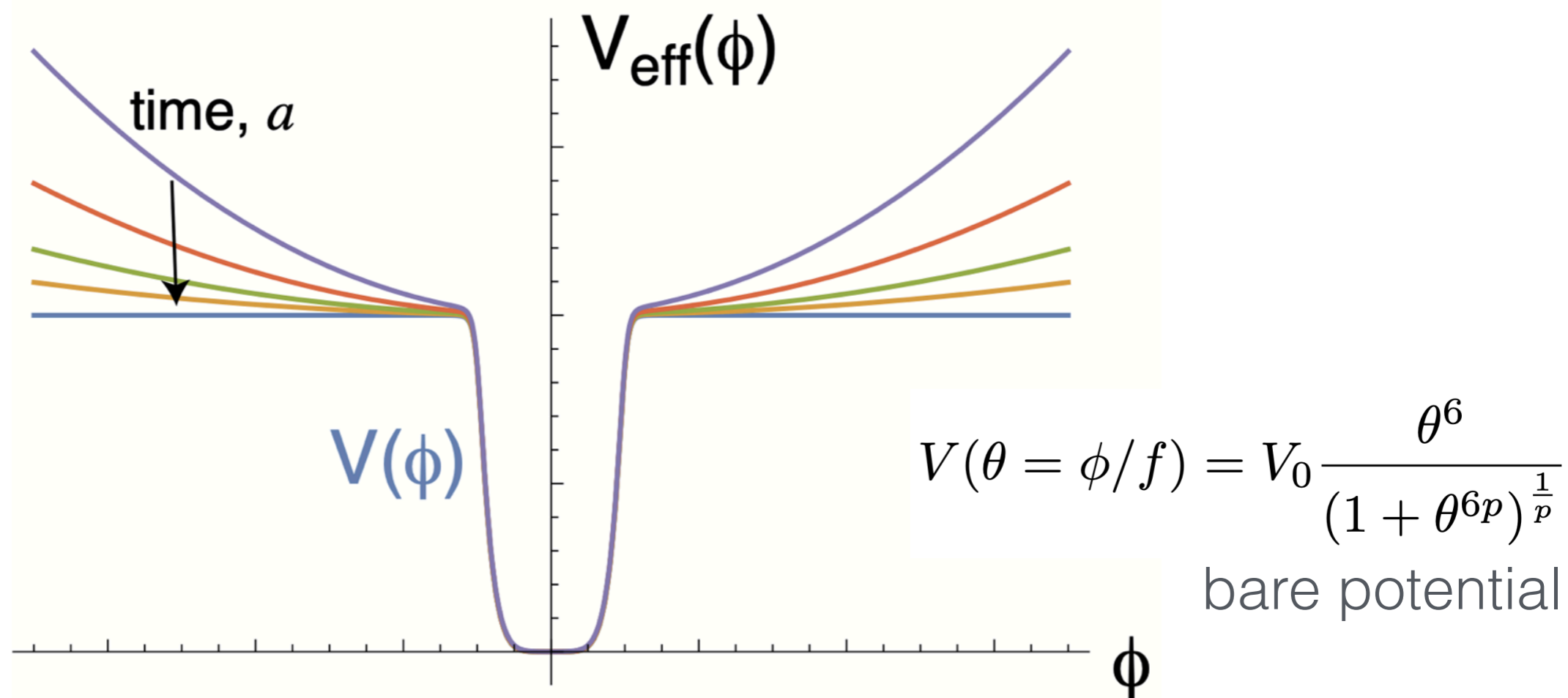
- Field dependent dark matter mass: $m_{dm}(\phi)$
- Effective potential: $V_{eff} = V_0 + m_{dm}(\phi)n_{dm}$

- Generically this produces evolution in the DM mass
- Problem for acceptable $\Delta m_{DM}/m_{DM}$ and generic initial conditions: slope of bare potential in axion-like EDE is too high to “trigger” off the EDE-DM coupling
- Solution: flatten $V(\phi)$ into a plateau and choose clever EDE-DM coupling $m(\phi)$, such that $V_{eff}(\phi) \sim \rho_{DM}$ and ϕ is released from Hubble friction near z_{eq}

Early Dark Sector

Goal: explain why EDE dynamics at z_c are coincident with z_{eq} by coupling the EDE scalar ϕ to the dark matter, such that DM triggers EDE evolution rather than the bare potential $V(\phi)$

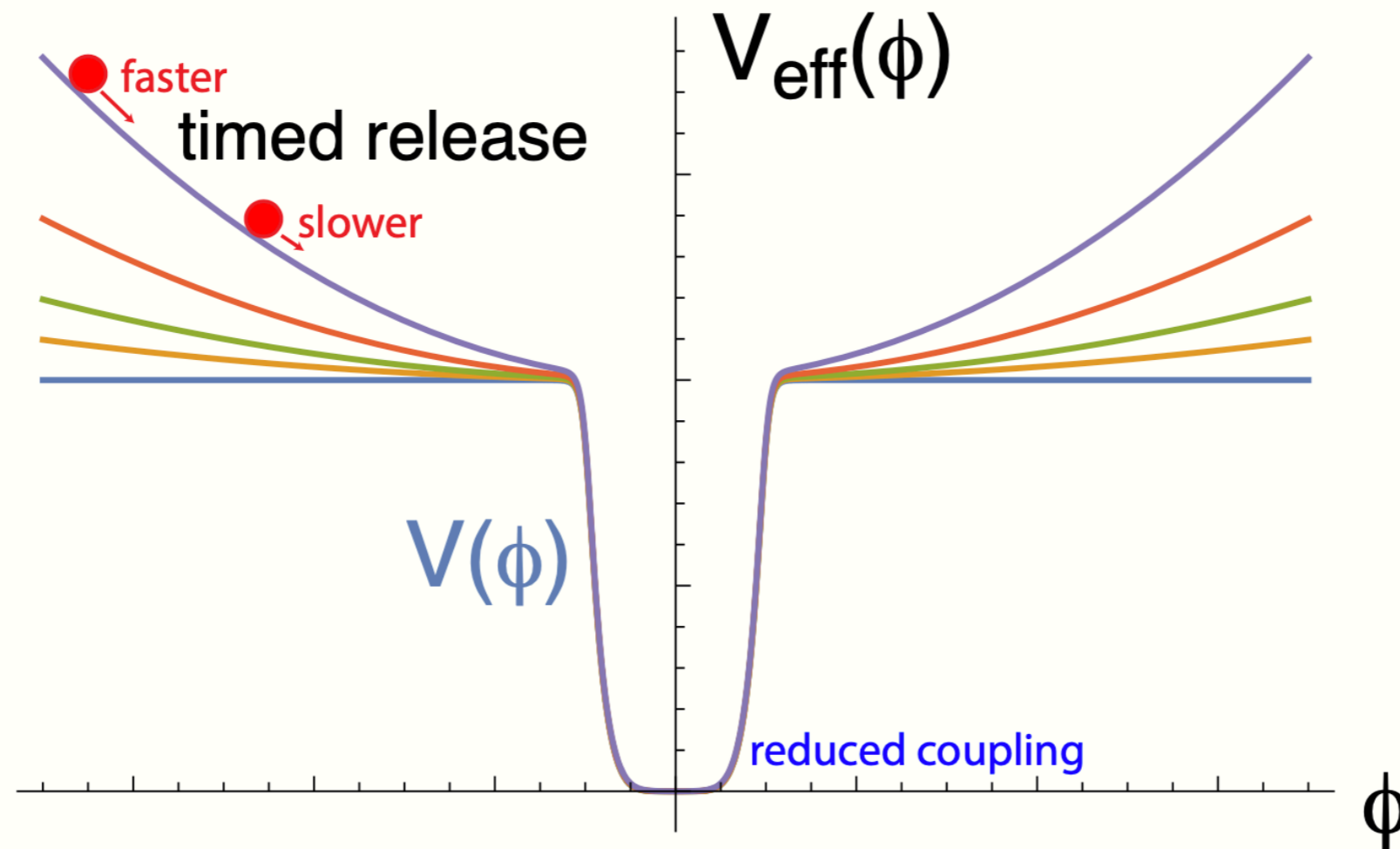
- Solution: flatten $V(\phi)$ into a plateau and choose clever EDE-DM coupling $m(\phi)$, such that $V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) \sim \rho_{\text{DM}}$ and ϕ is released from Hubble friction near z_{eq}



Early Dark Sector

Solution

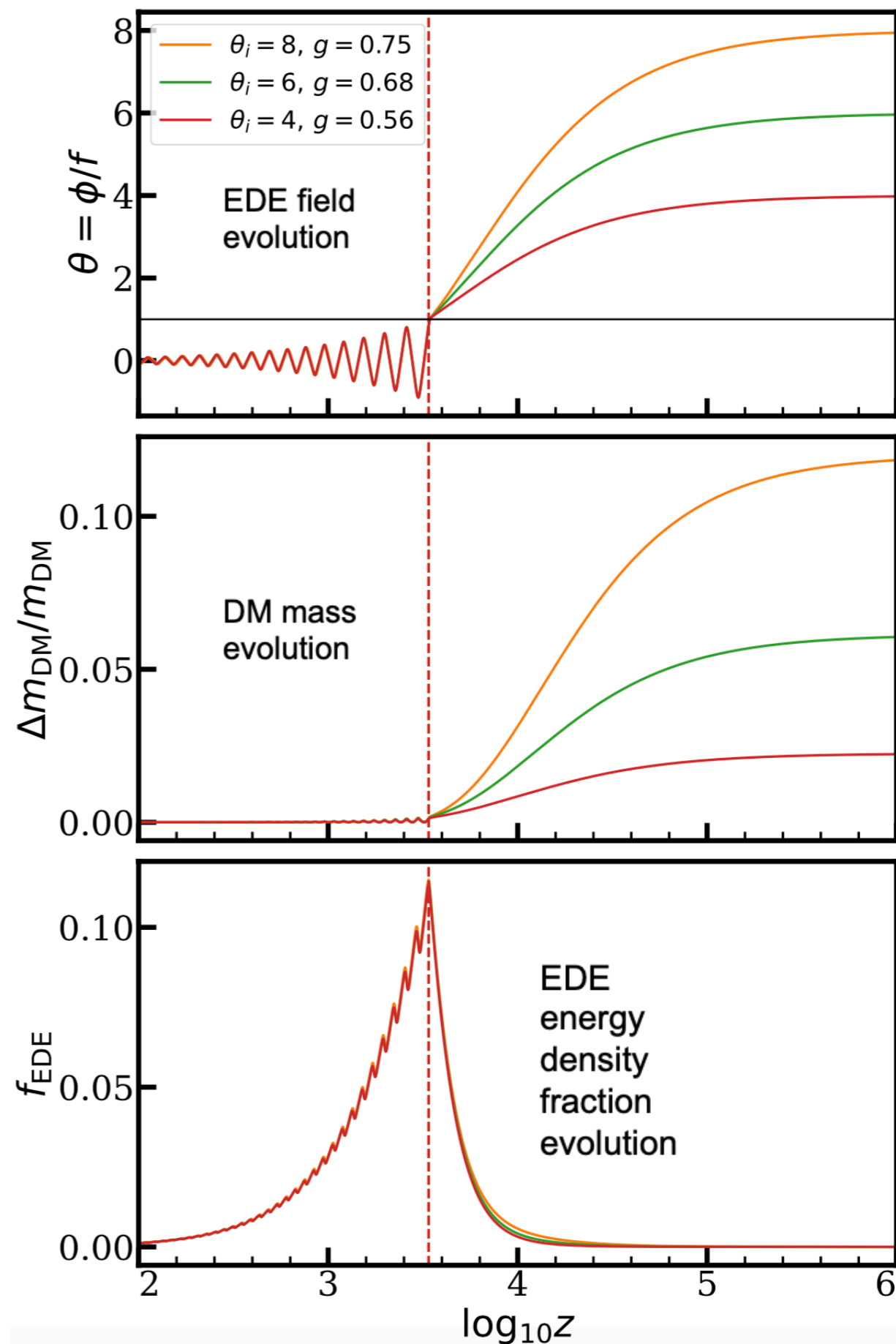
- Coincidence solved: field starts to roll because of equality
- Initial tuning solved: field will roll to edge of plateau from wide range of initial field positions
- Late growth solved: $m(\phi) \propto 1 + g\phi^2$ suppresses 5th force $\phi \rightarrow 0$



Early Dark Sector

Colin Hill
Columbia

Basic validation: can successfully
lower r_s , raise $H_0 \sim 71.2$ km/s/Mpc



Early Dark Sector

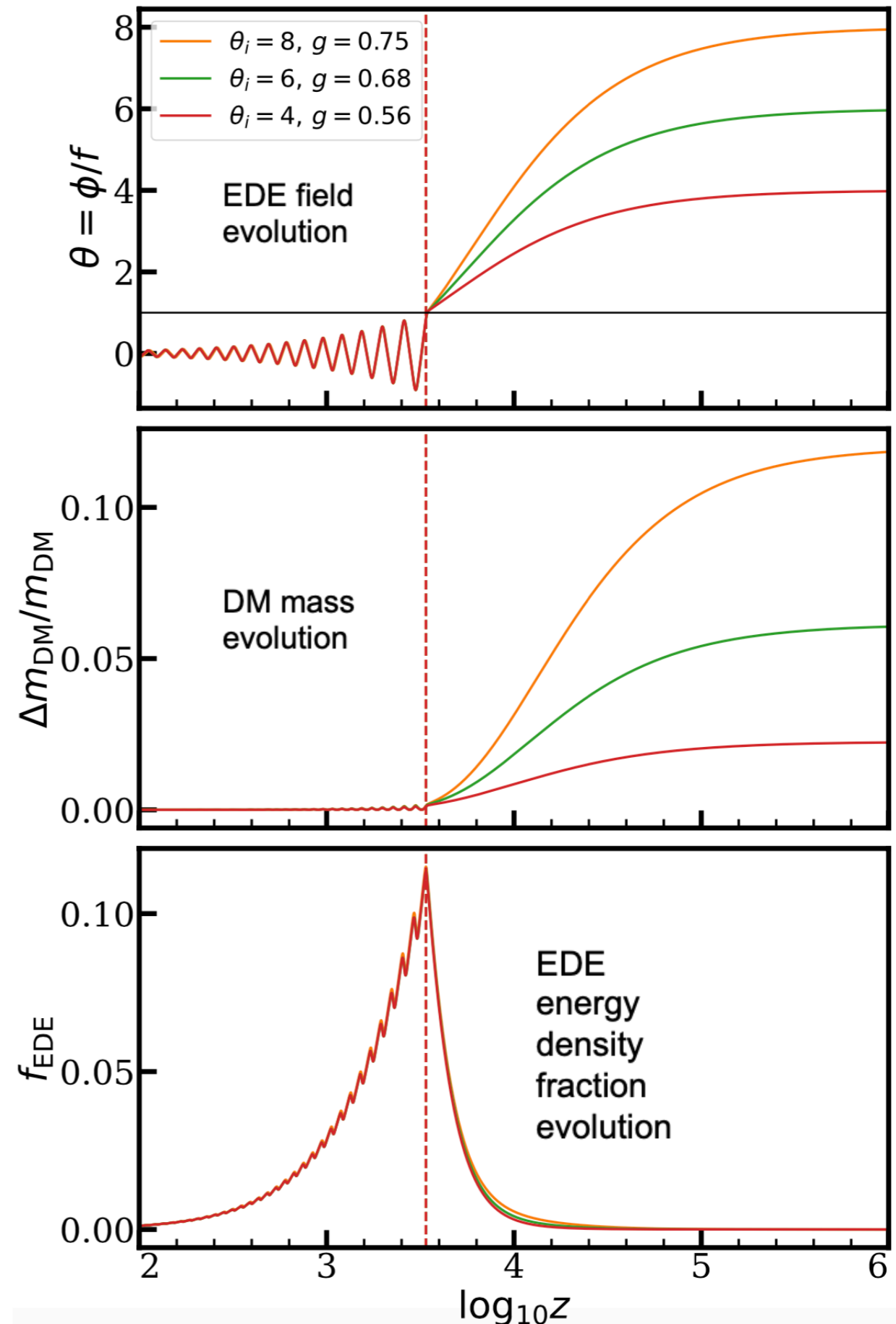
Colin Hill
Columbia

Basic validation: can successfully
lower r_s , raise $H_0 \sim 71.2$ km/s/Mpc

Best-fit parameters to
Planck+BAO+SNIa+SH0ES
+DES-Y3:

Model	EDE	tEDS($p=8$)
f_{EDE}	0.108	0.112
$\log_{10} z_c$	3.56	3.83
H_0	71.96	71.21
S_8	0.8236	0.8200

- Goodness-of-fit nearly identical to EDE
- Coincidence problem resolved
- Fine-tuning of initial conditions resolved
- S_8 problem partially ameliorated

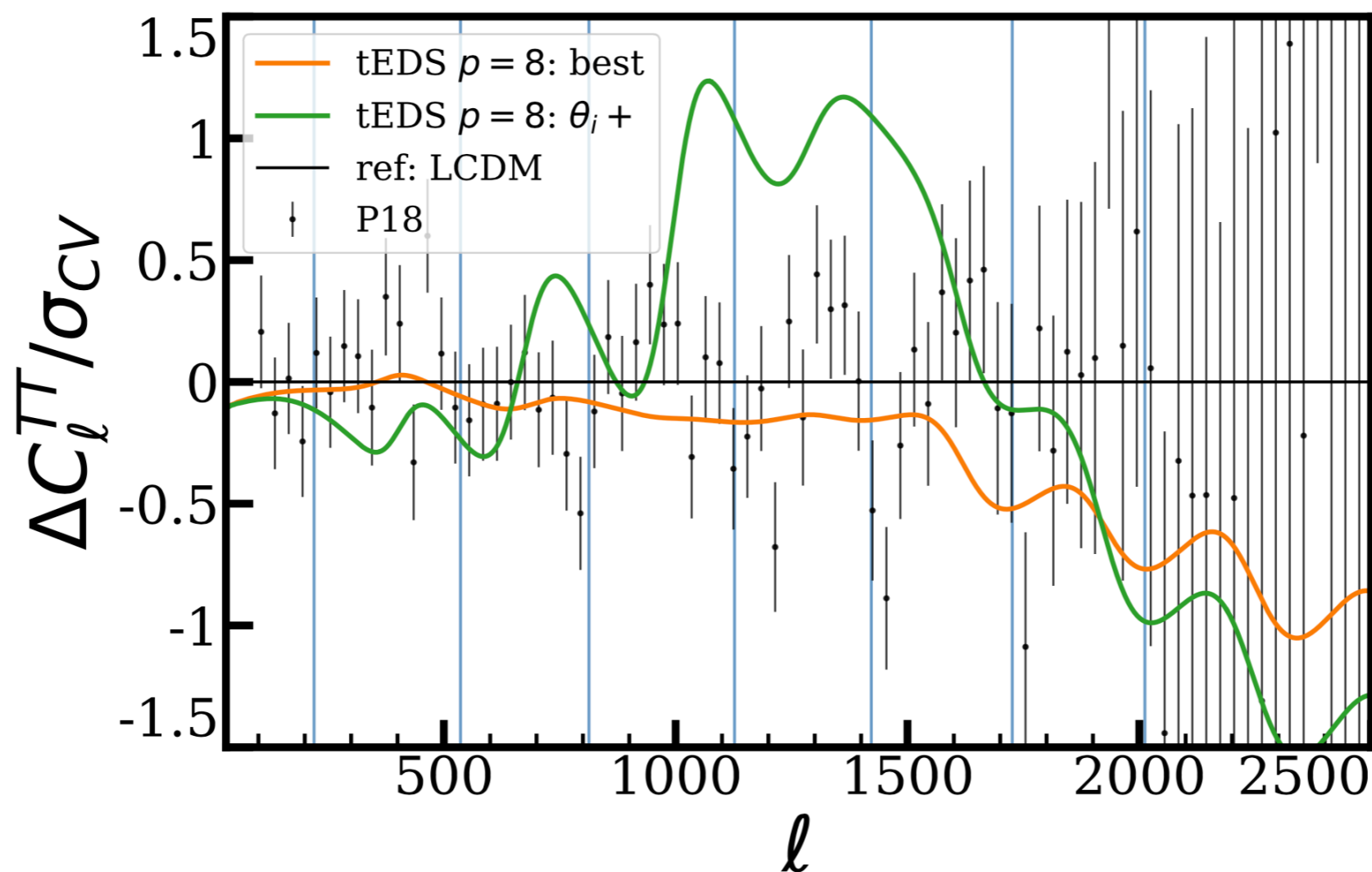


Early Dark Sector

Colin Hill
Columbia

However: excess field fluctuations induced by rolling in $V_{\text{eff}}(\phi)$

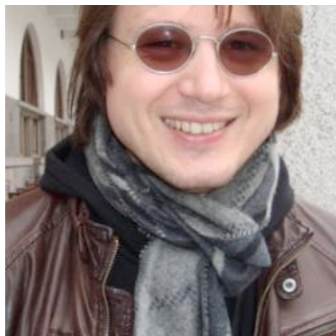
Consider increase in initial field position (θ_i), hold z_c and $V(\phi)$ fixed



Result: data pick out specific θ_i to achieve dynamical balance

Next: MCMC/further model improvements

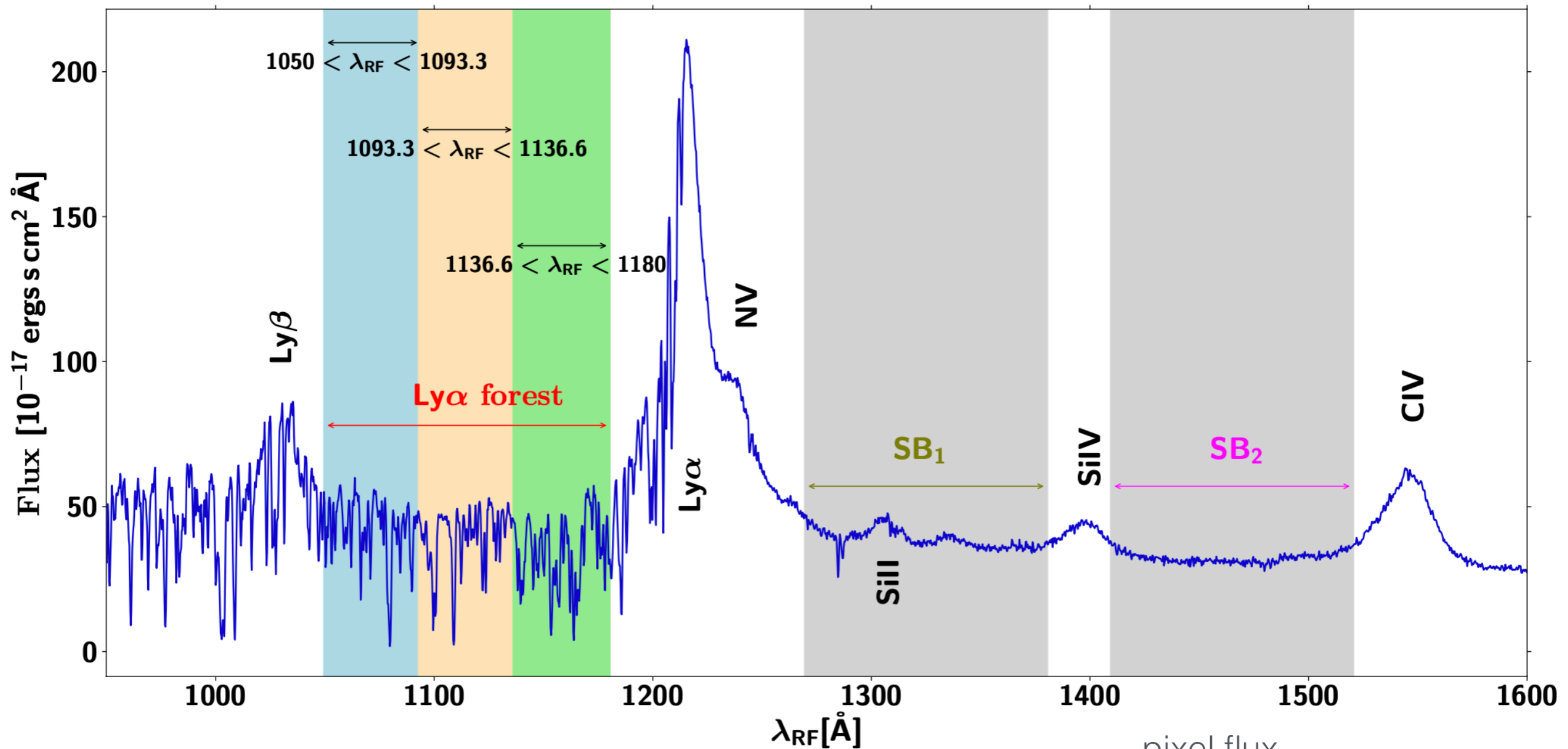
Challenge: Lyman- α Forest



Goldstein, JCH, Irsic, Sherwin (to appear)

Ly α Forest

Absorption lines due to HI clouds along the LOS to a distant quasar



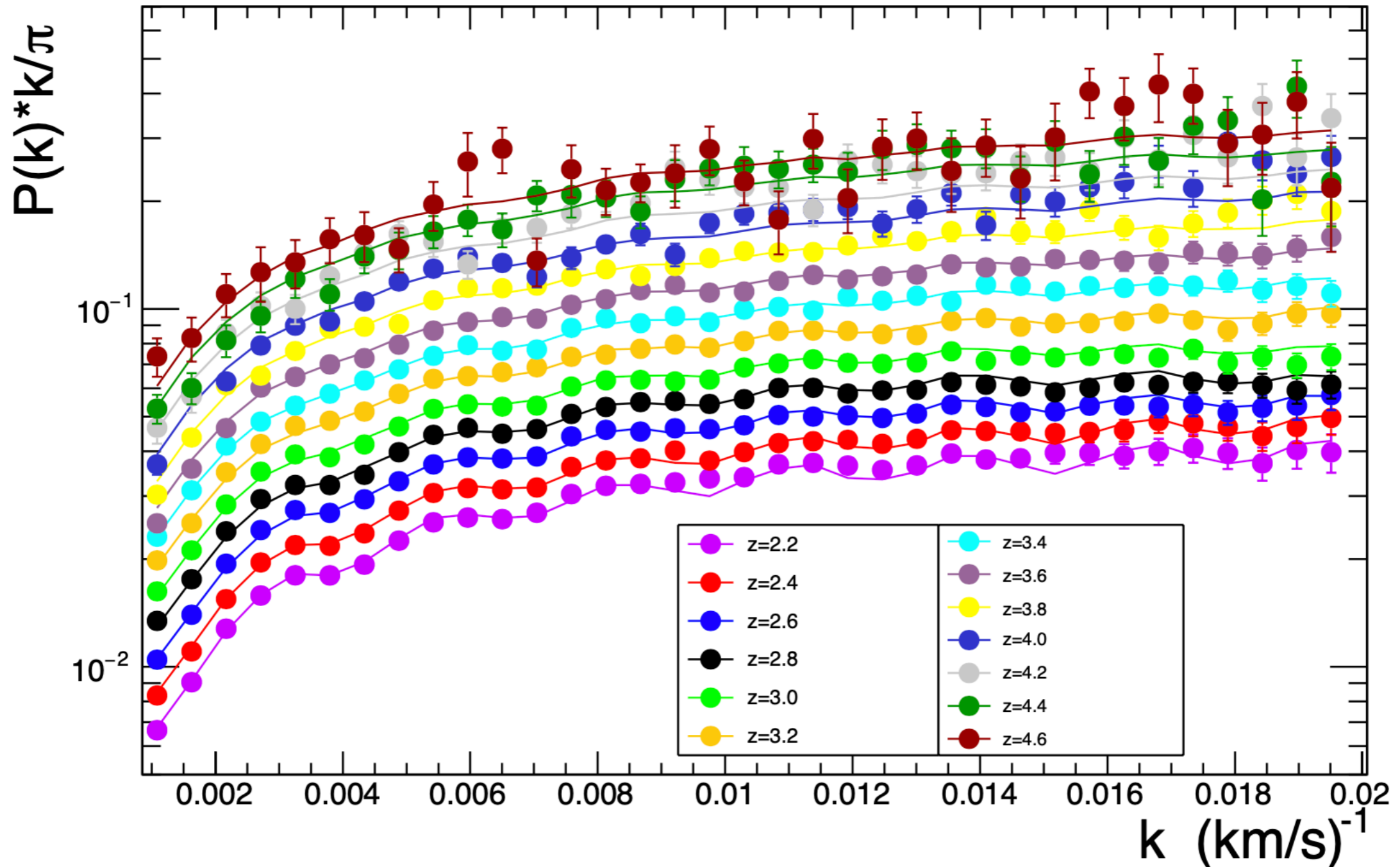
$$\delta(\lambda) = \frac{\text{pixel flux } f(\lambda)}{C_q(\lambda) \bar{F}(z_{\text{Ly}\alpha})} - 1$$

quasar continuum mean trans. flux fraction

Lya Forest

Observable: 1D flux power spectrum

BOSS/eBOSS: ~44,000 quasar spectra (moderate S/N)

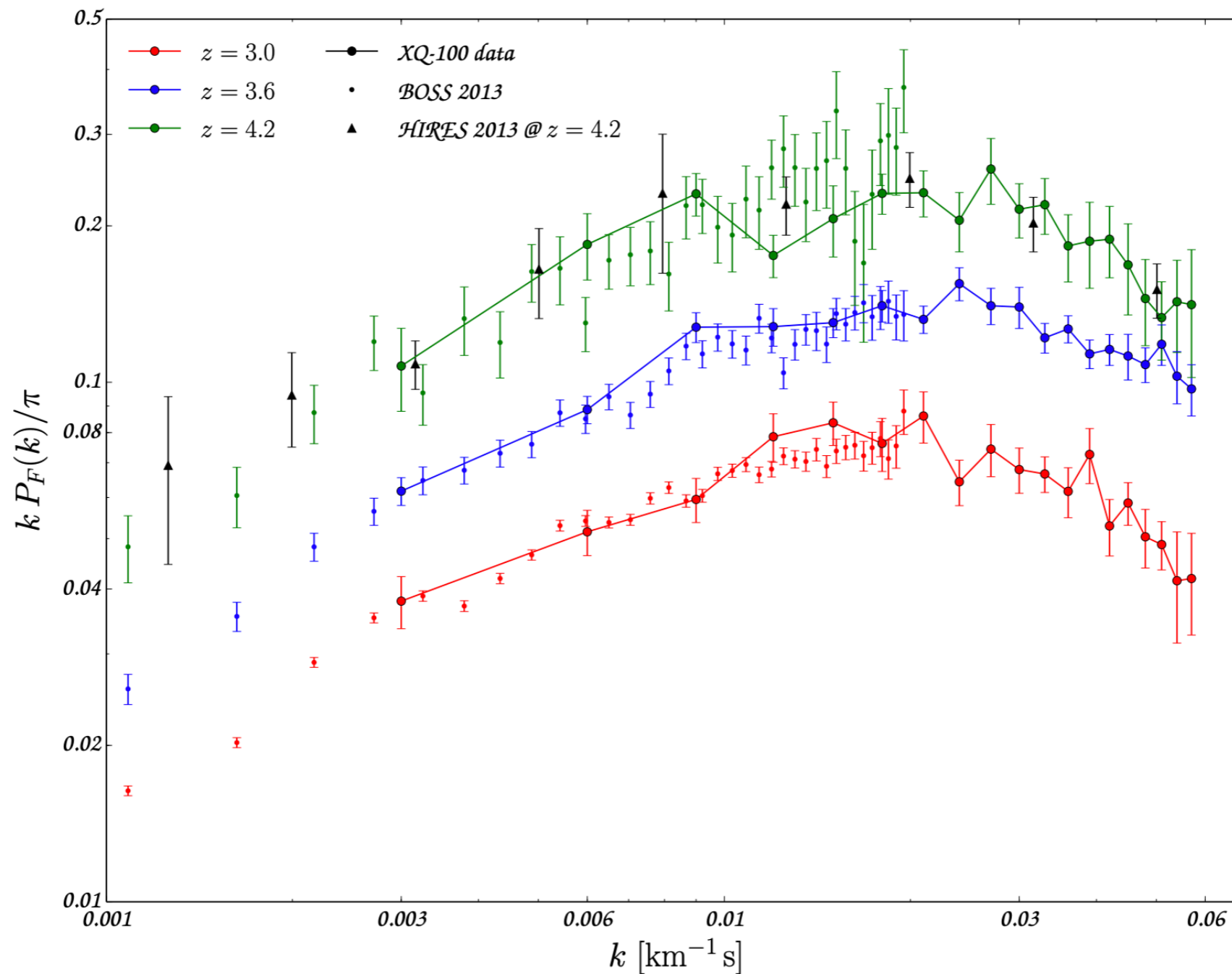


$k \sim 0.01 \text{ s/km} \longleftrightarrow k \sim 1 \text{ h/Mpc at } z=3$

Lya Forest

Observable: 1D flux power spectrum

XQ100: 100 quasar spectra (high-S/N)



+ MIKE/
HIRES
spectra at
 $z=4.2 - 5.4$

Lya Forest

Information content fully contained in compressed 2D likelihood

amplitude

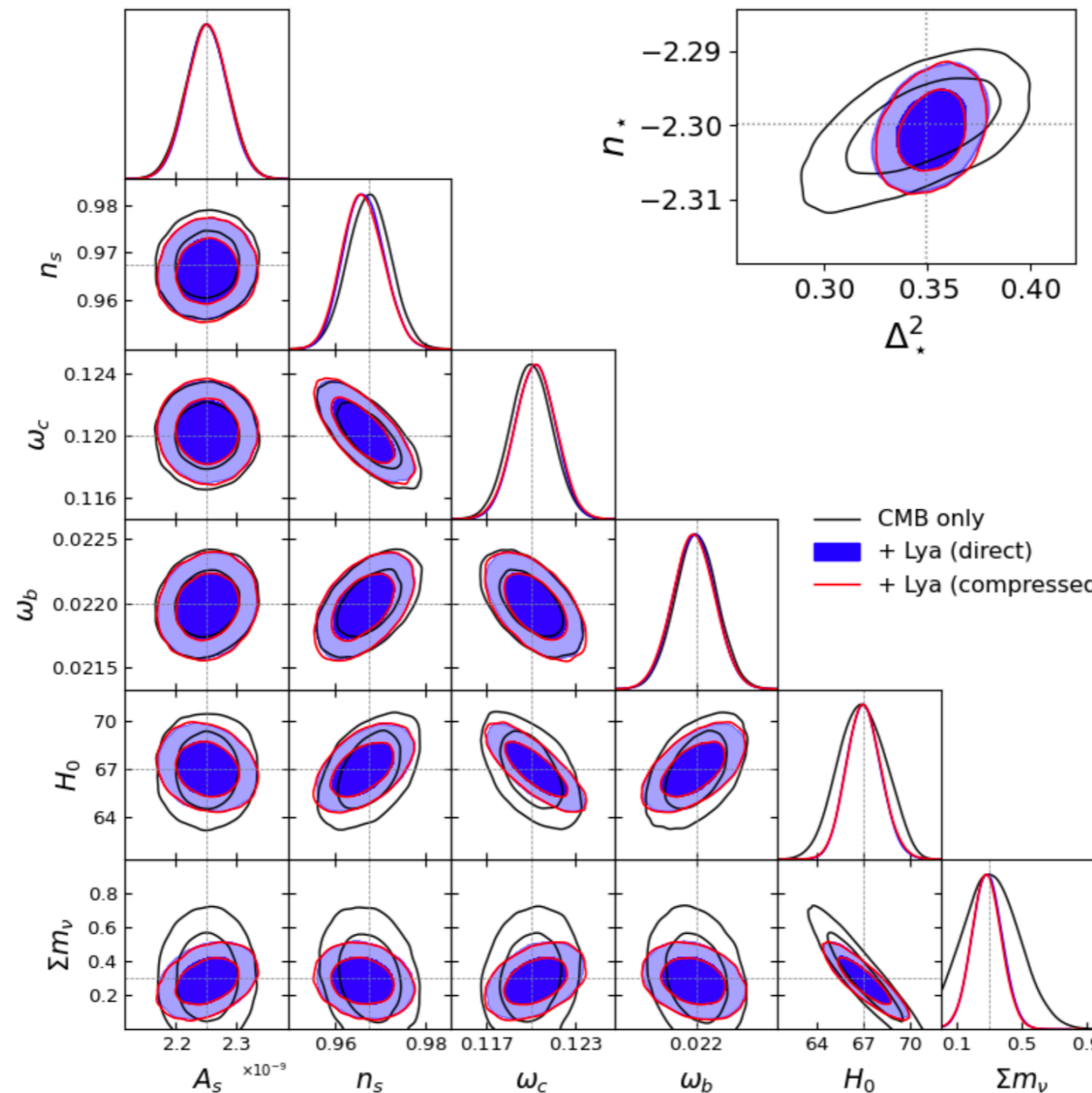
$$\Delta_L^2 \equiv k^3 P_{\text{lin}}(k_p, z_p) / (2\pi^2)$$

at $k_p = 0.009$ s/km

slope

$$n_L \equiv d \ln P_{\text{lin}}(k_p, z_p) / d \ln k$$

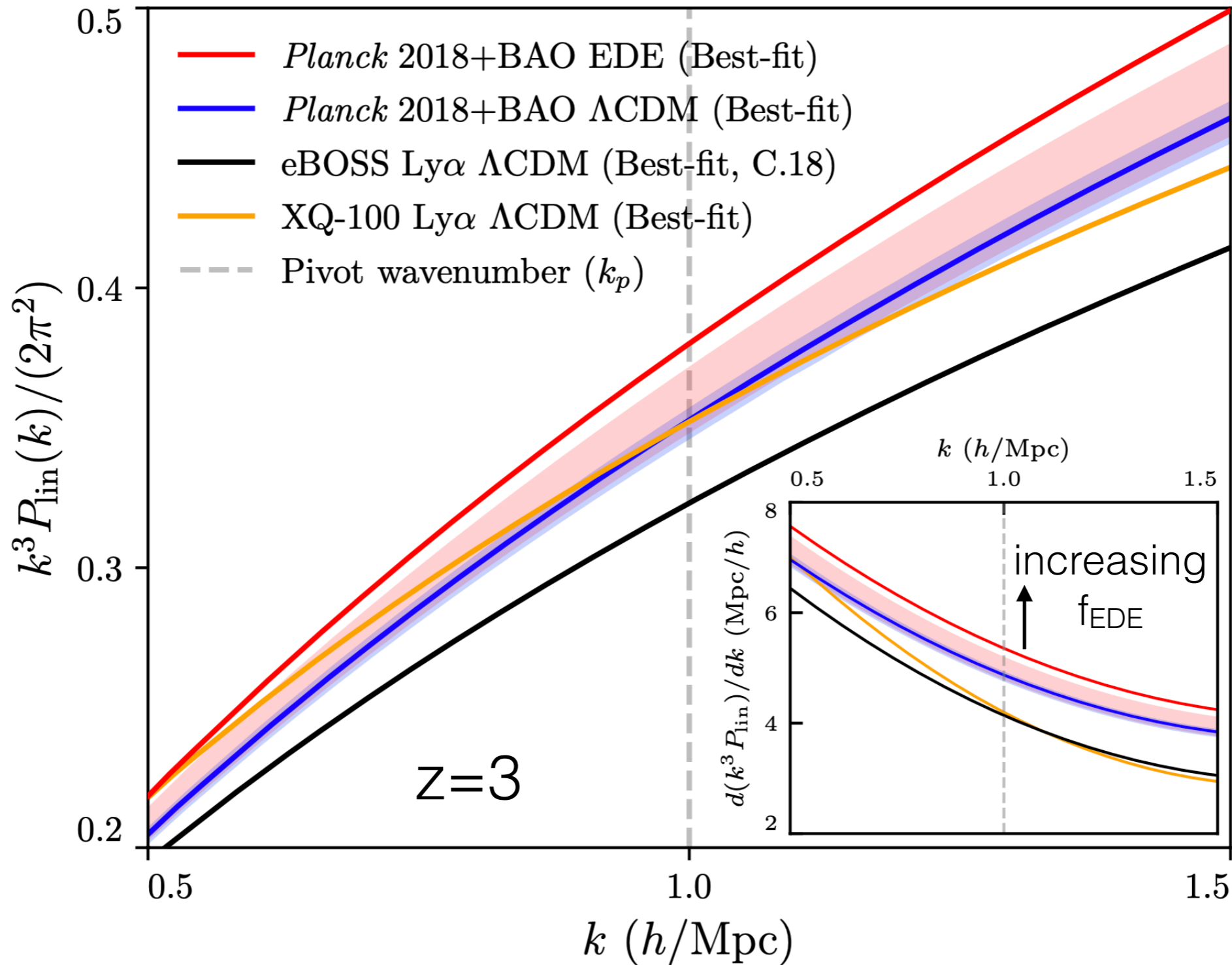
and $z_p = 3$



(validation
using sims
here)

Ly α Forest

Inconsistent with prediction of EDE model fit to Planck CMB + BAO



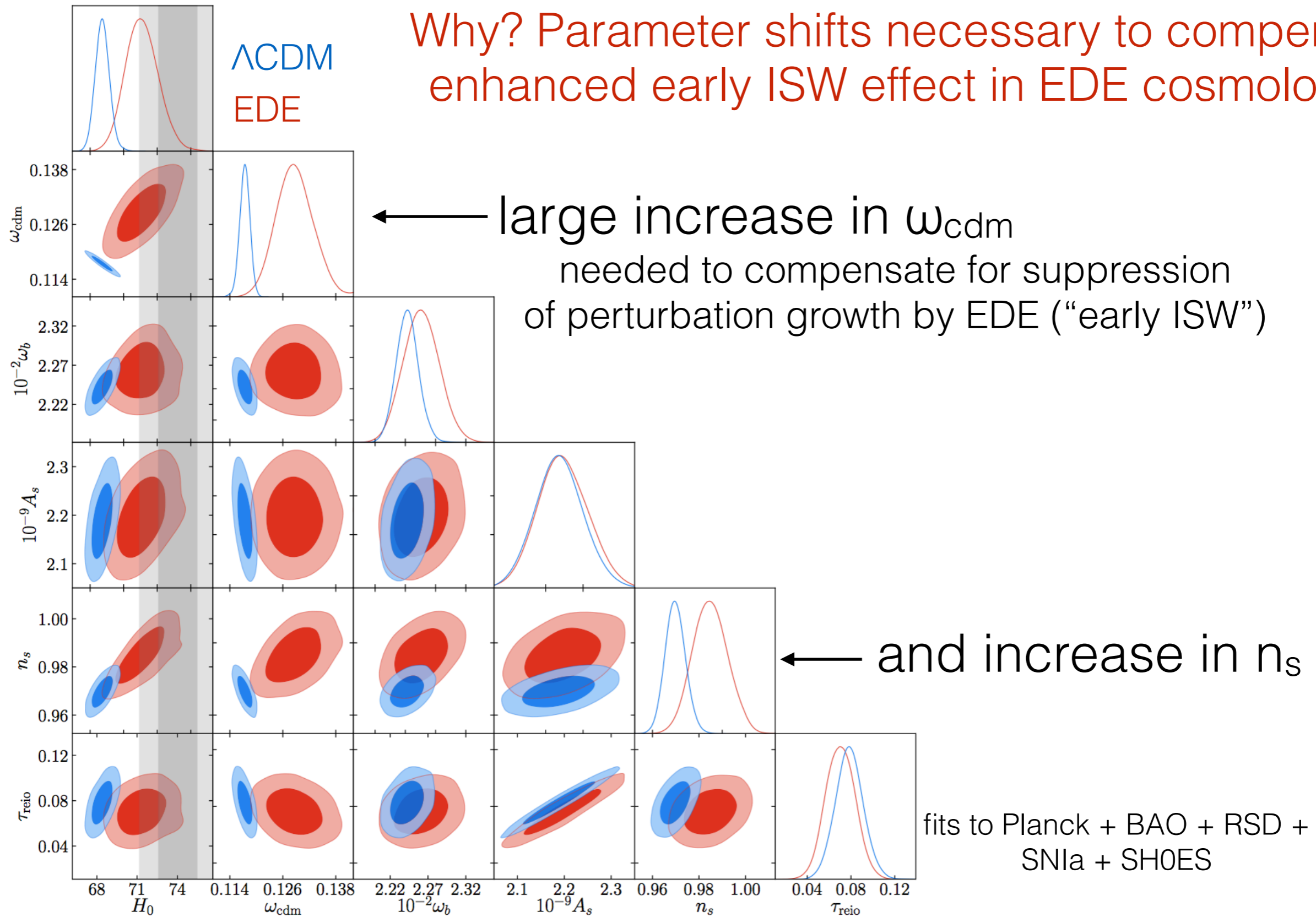
Origin of EDE Changes to $P(k)$

Colin Hill
Columbia

Why? Parameter shifts necessary to compensate enhanced early ISW effect in EDE cosmologies

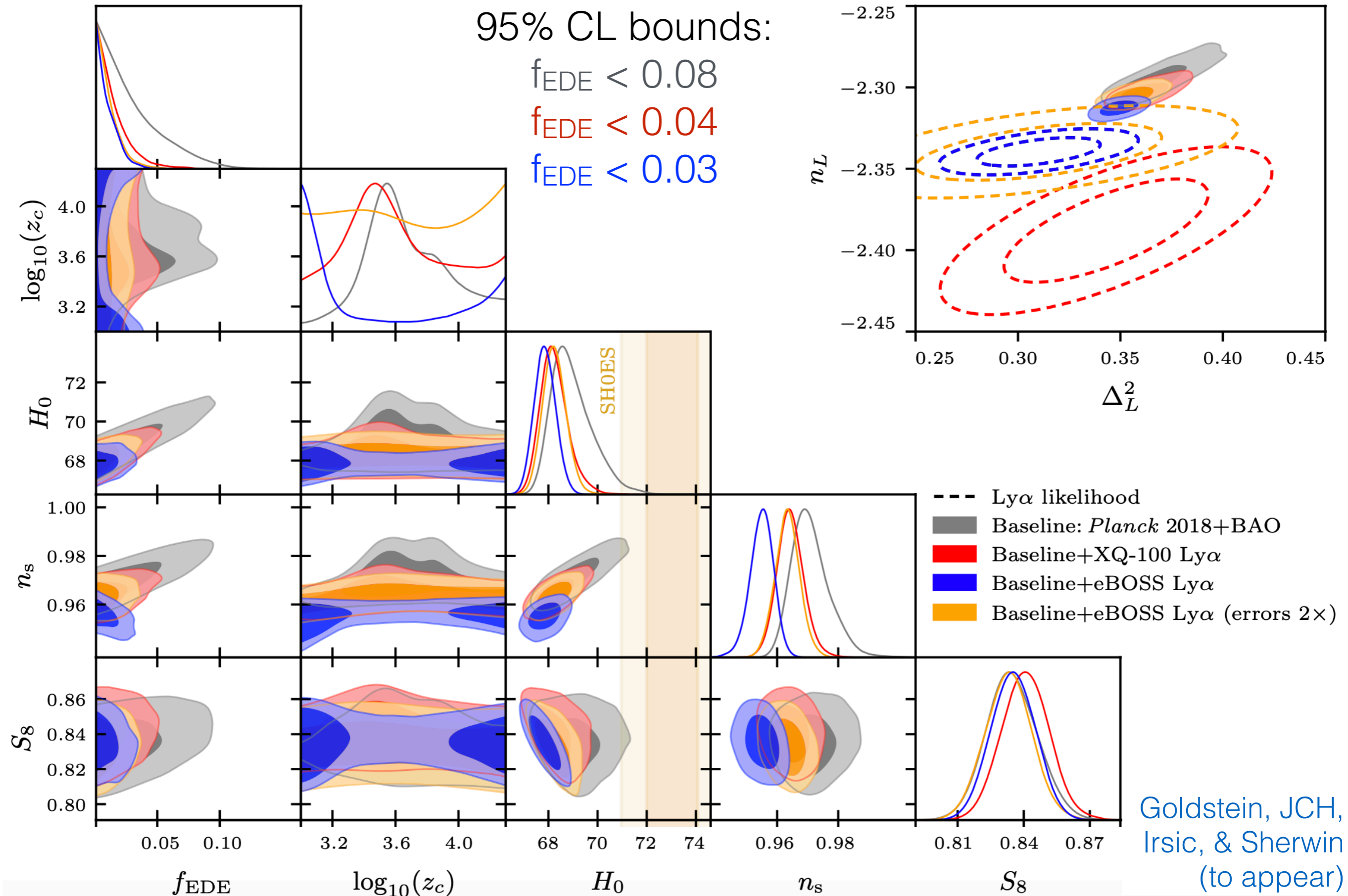
Origin of EDE Changes to $P(k)$ Colin Hill Columbia

Why? Parameter shifts necessary to compensate enhanced early ISW effect in EDE cosmologies



Ly α Forest: EDE Constraints

Colin Hill
Columbia



Ly α Forest: EDE Constraints

Taken at face value, Ly α forest excludes EDE resolution of H_0 tension

- Baseline (CMB+BAO): $H_0 = 69.0^{+0.6}_{-1.0}$ (best-fit = 70.1) km/s/Mpc
- Baseline + eBOSS: $H_0 = 67.9 \pm 0.4$ (best-fit = 67.9) km/s/Mpc
- Baseline + XQ-100: $H_0 = 68.2^{+0.5}_{-0.6}$ (best-fit = 68.2) km/s/Mpc

Ly α Forest: EDE Constraints

Taken at face value, Ly α forest excludes EDE resolution of H_0 tension

- Baseline (CMB+BAO): $H_0 = 69.0^{+0.6}_{-1.0}$ (best-fit = 70.1) km/s/Mpc
- Baseline + eBOSS: $H_0 = 67.9 \pm 0.4$ (best-fit = 67.9) km/s/Mpc
- Baseline + XQ-100: $H_0 = 68.2^{+0.5}_{-0.6}$ (best-fit = 68.2) km/s/Mpc

Even direct inclusion of SH0ES ($H_0 = 73.04 \pm 1.04$ km/s/Mpc) hardly moves the Ly α EDE posteriors

Note that the hydro simulations used to construct Ly α likelihoods *do* include $P(k)$ that well-represent EDE models

Are the BOSS/eBOSS/XQ100/MIKE/HIRES Ly α data fully secure? There is already some tension w.r.t. Planck even in Λ CDM. Our results motivate close scrutiny!

Generalized Dark Matter \longrightarrow Dark Radiation Conversion

See

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.14339>



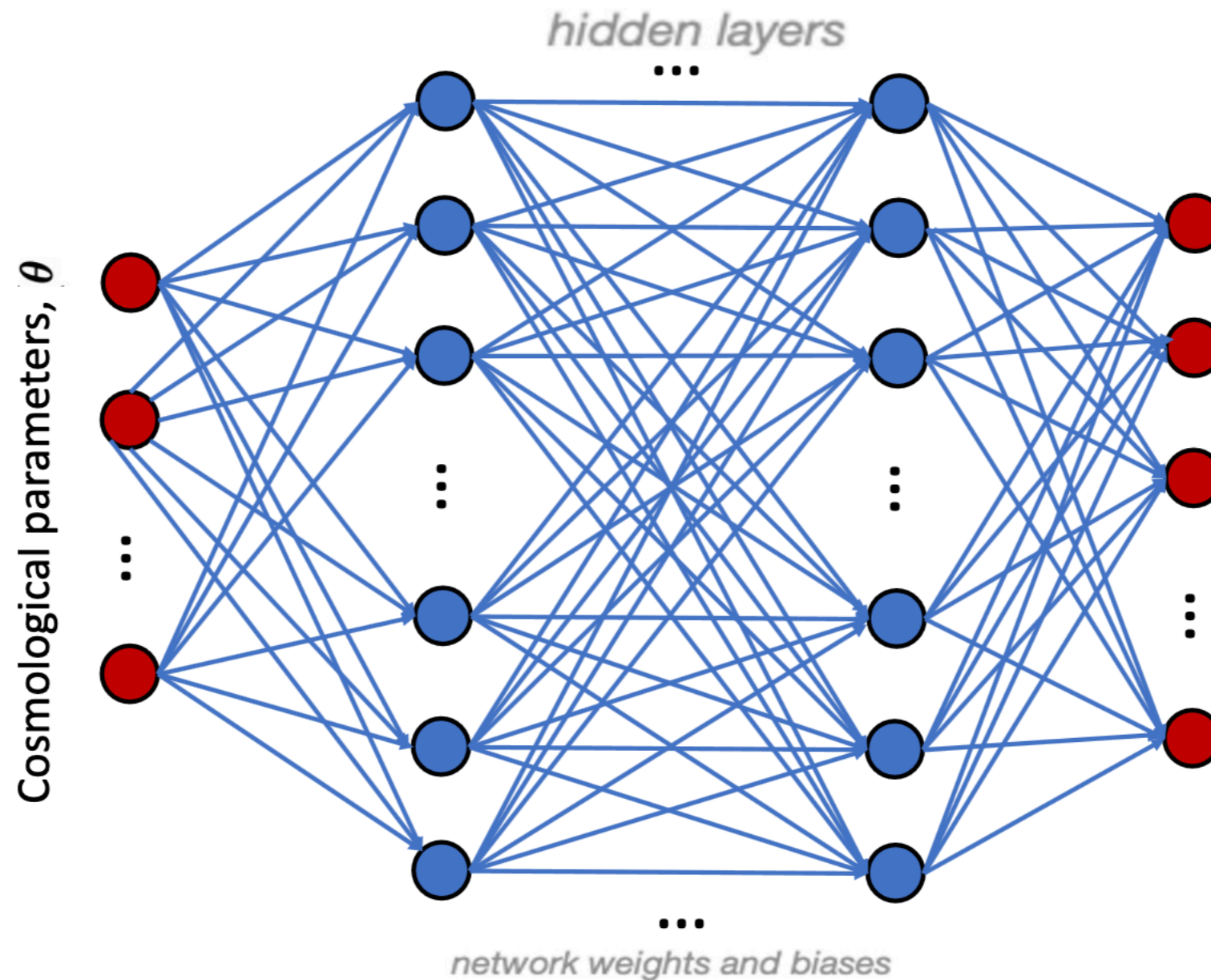
Einstein-Boltzmann Emulators



Bolliet, Spurio Mancini, JCH, Madhavacheril, et al. (to appear)

CosmoPower

Cosmological observables are smooth functions of the input parameters:
easy to emulate at high accuracy with modern neural networks



$$\mathbf{w} = \{\mathbf{W}_1, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{W}_2, \mathbf{b}_2, \dots, \mathbf{W}_n, \mathbf{b}_n\}$$

Theoretical Accuracy

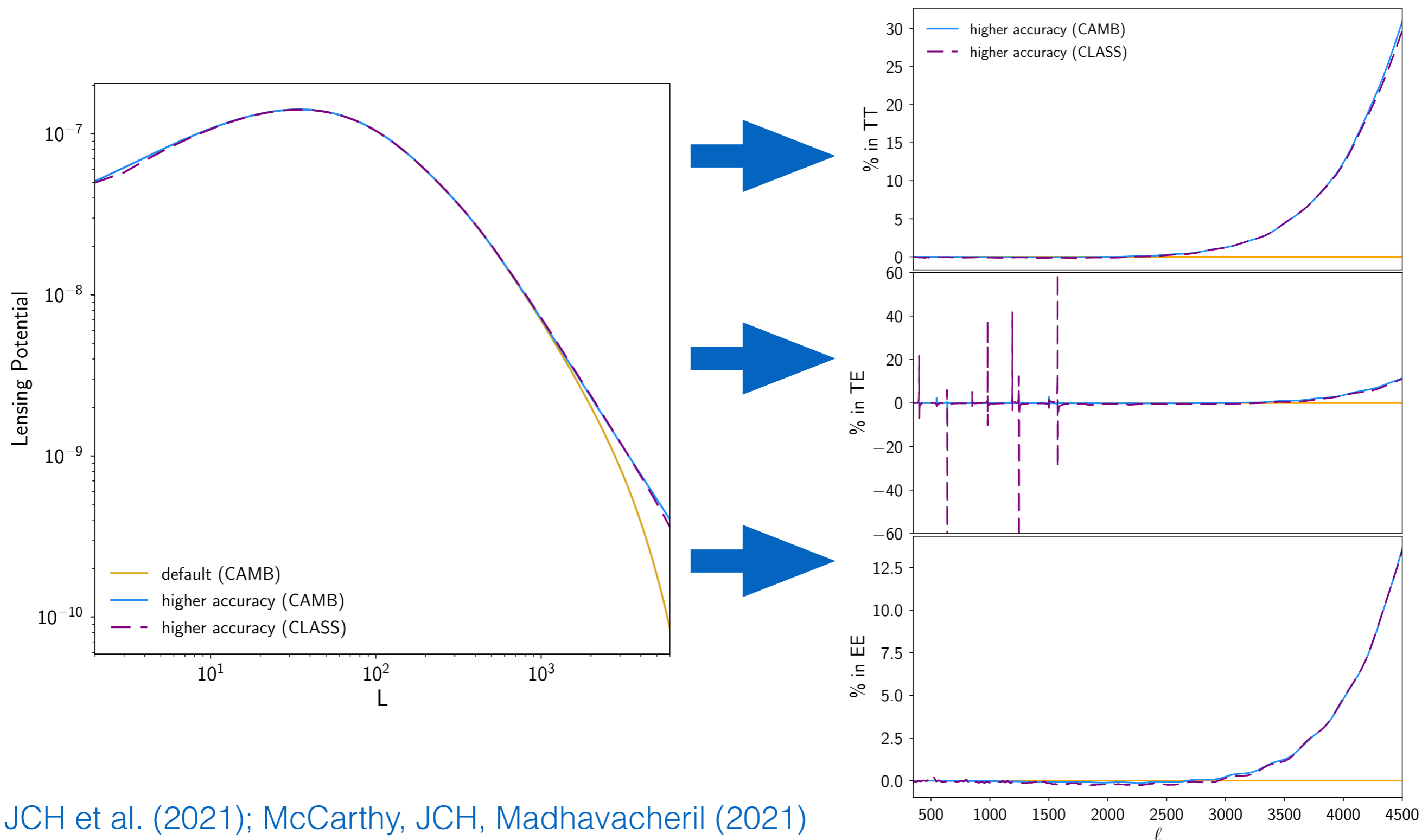
Are the default accuracy settings in CAMB/CLASS OK for ACT/SO?

Almost, but not quite! Higher accuracy needed in lensing calc.

Theoretical Accuracy

Are the default accuracy settings in CAMB/CLASS OK for ACT/SO?

Almost, but not quite! Higher accuracy needed in lensing calc.



Theoretical Accuracy

For ACT DR4, this correction shifts some parameters by $\sim 0.2-0.3\sigma$

primary parameters affected are

$\Omega_c h^2$ and n_s

but this propagates to H_0 and σ_8

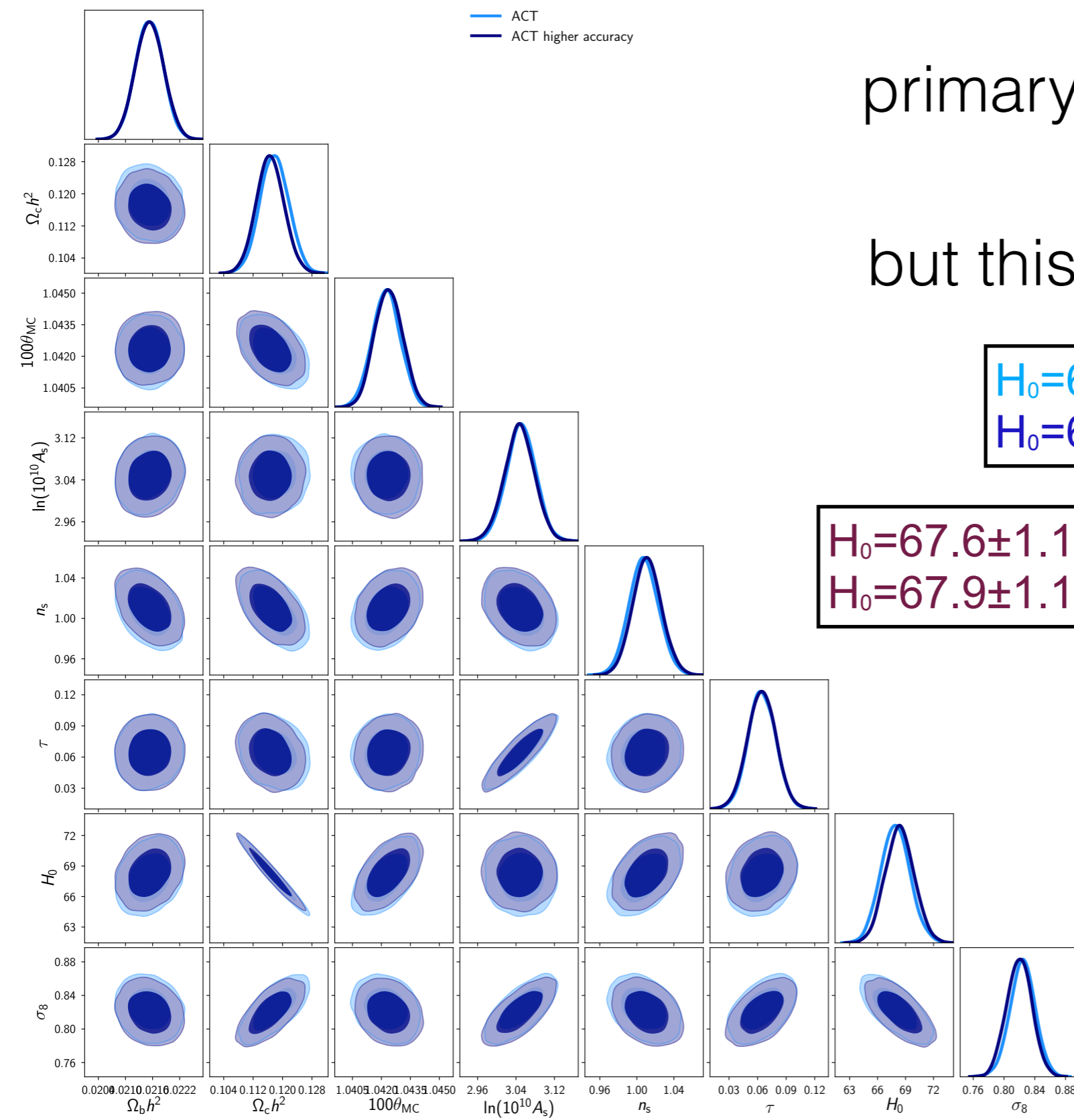
$H_0 = 67.9 \pm 1.5$ km/s/Mpc ACT (original)
 $H_0 = 68.4 \pm 1.5$ km/s/Mpc ACT (high-acc.)

$H_0 = 67.6 \pm 1.1$ km/s/Mpc ACT+WMAP (original)
 $H_0 = 67.9 \pm 1.1$ km/s/Mpc ACT+WMAP (high-acc.)

JCH et al. (2021)

Can be multi- σ bias for
 upcoming experiments

McCarthy, JCH,
 Madhavacheril (2021)



CosmoPower++

Goal: build emulators using very high-precision CLASS calculations
— these require 1 minute per evaluation (much slower than default!)

- CMB TT/TE/EE power spectra accurate to $< 0.5\%$ at all multipoles $< 10^4$
- Linear $P(k)$ accurate to $< 0.5\%$ at all $k < 50$ h/Mpc
- Distance-redshift relation; $H(z)$
- BAO observables
- Derived parameters (σ_8 , θ_s , etc.)

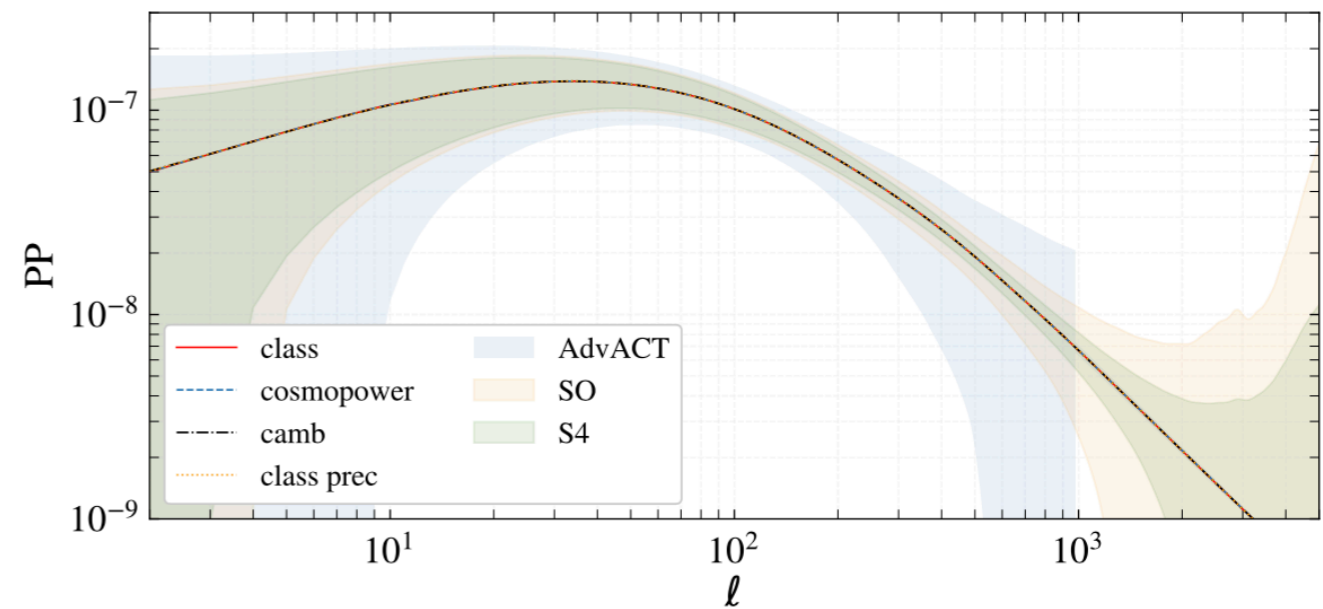
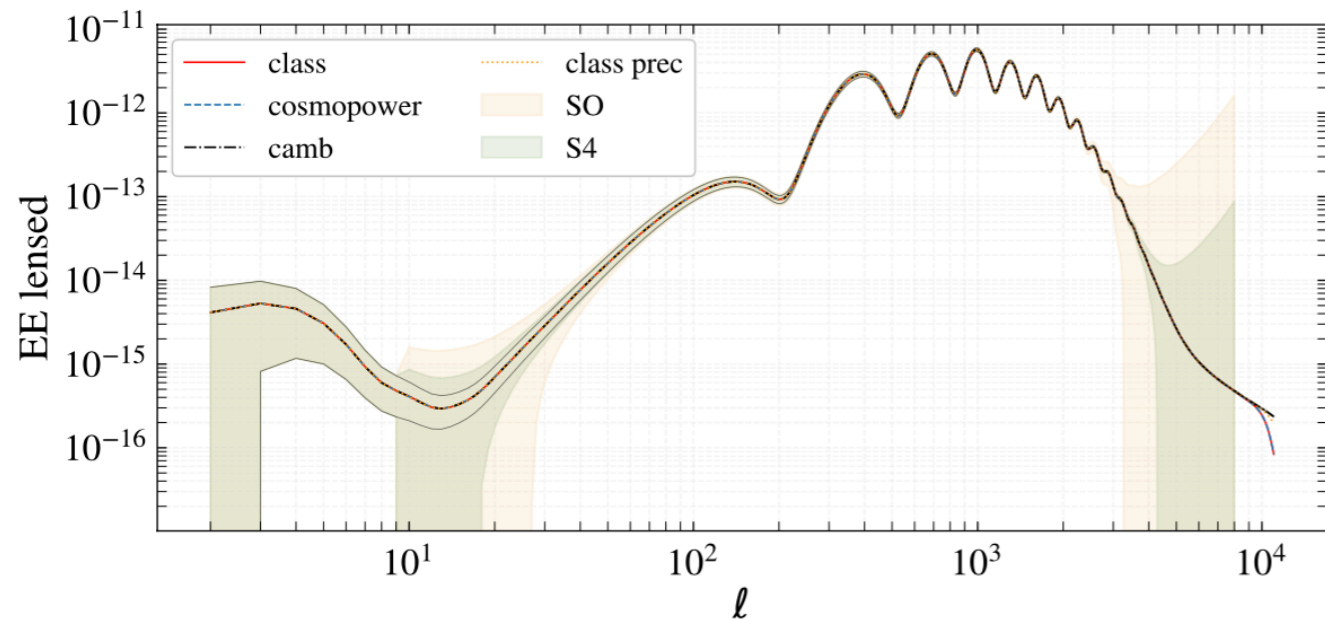
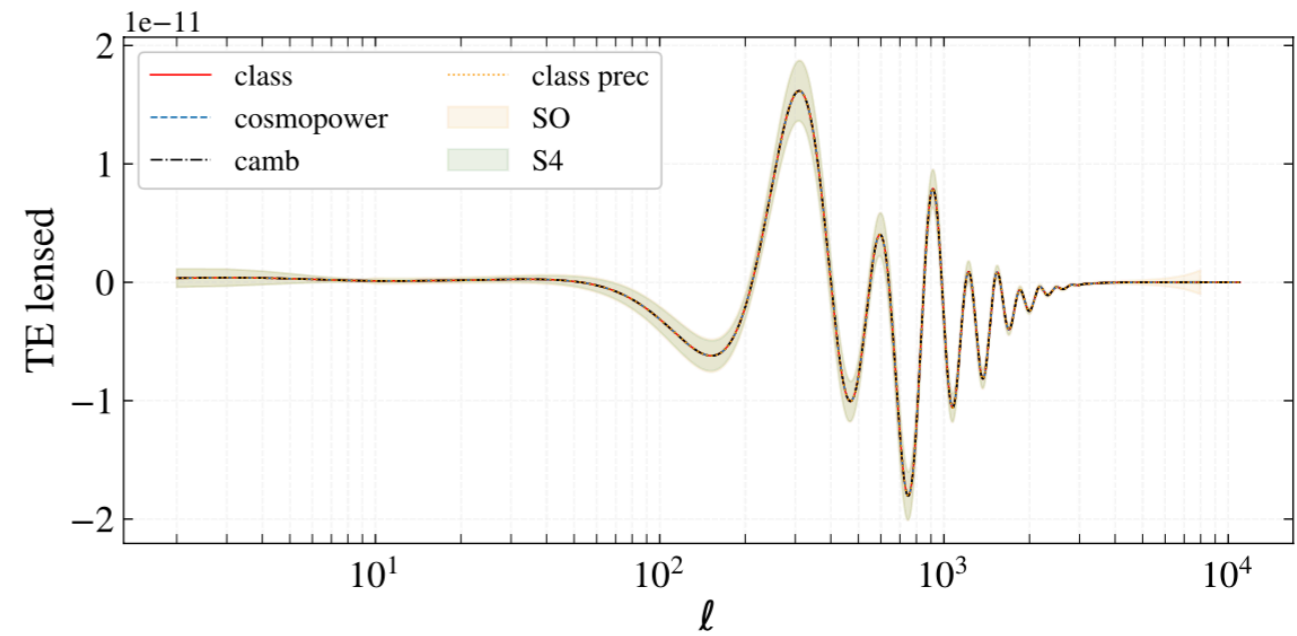
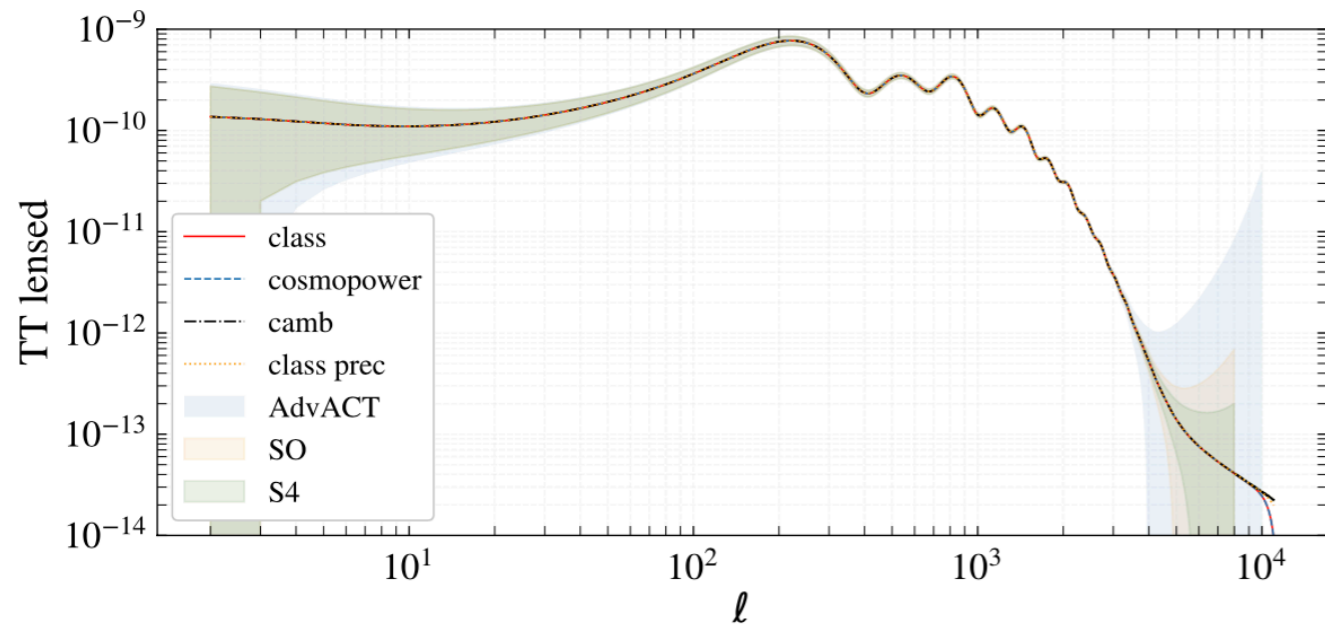
- Factor of 100-1000x speedup per Boltzmann call in MCMC
- NNs are fully differentiable (can be used in gradient-based inference)
- Can be run on GPUs for further acceleration

Models run thus far (128,000 parameter sets each):

Λ CDM, $+N_{\text{eff}}$, $+M_{\nu}$, $+w$

CosmoPower++

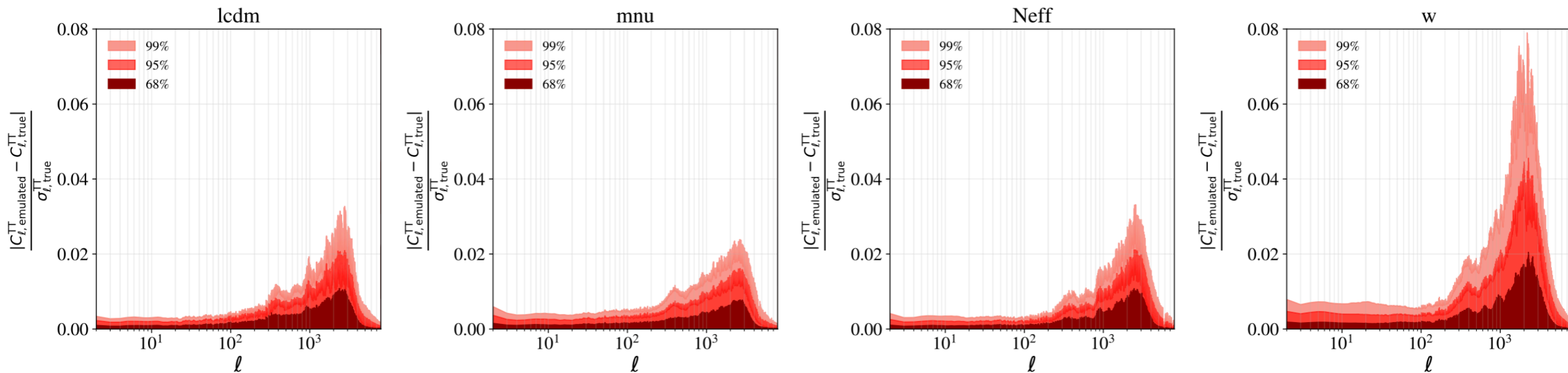
It works :-)



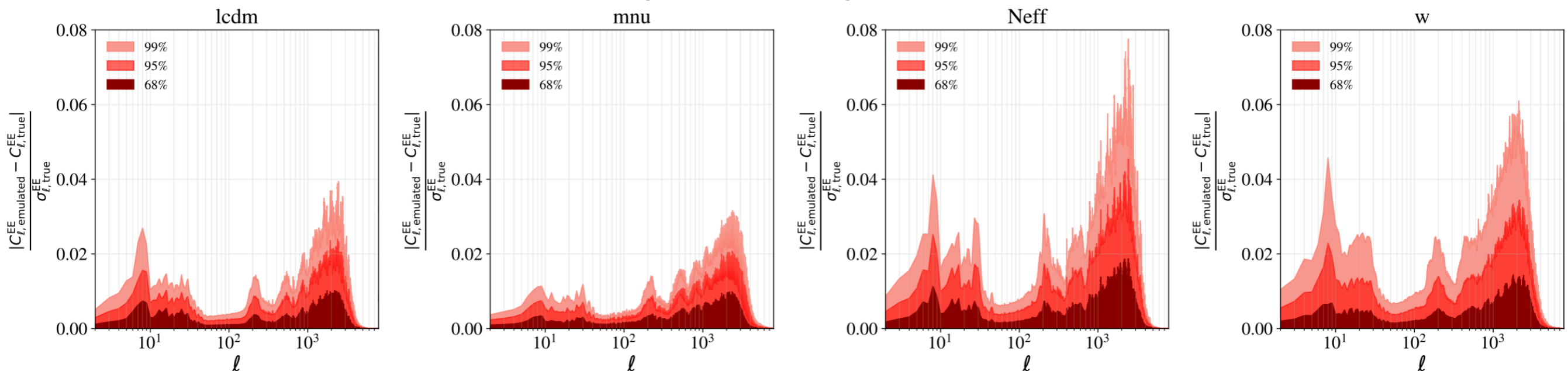
Validation on Test Set

Assess accuracy in terms of forecast CMB-S4 error bars: $< 0.07\sigma$!

TT power spectrum



EE power spectrum

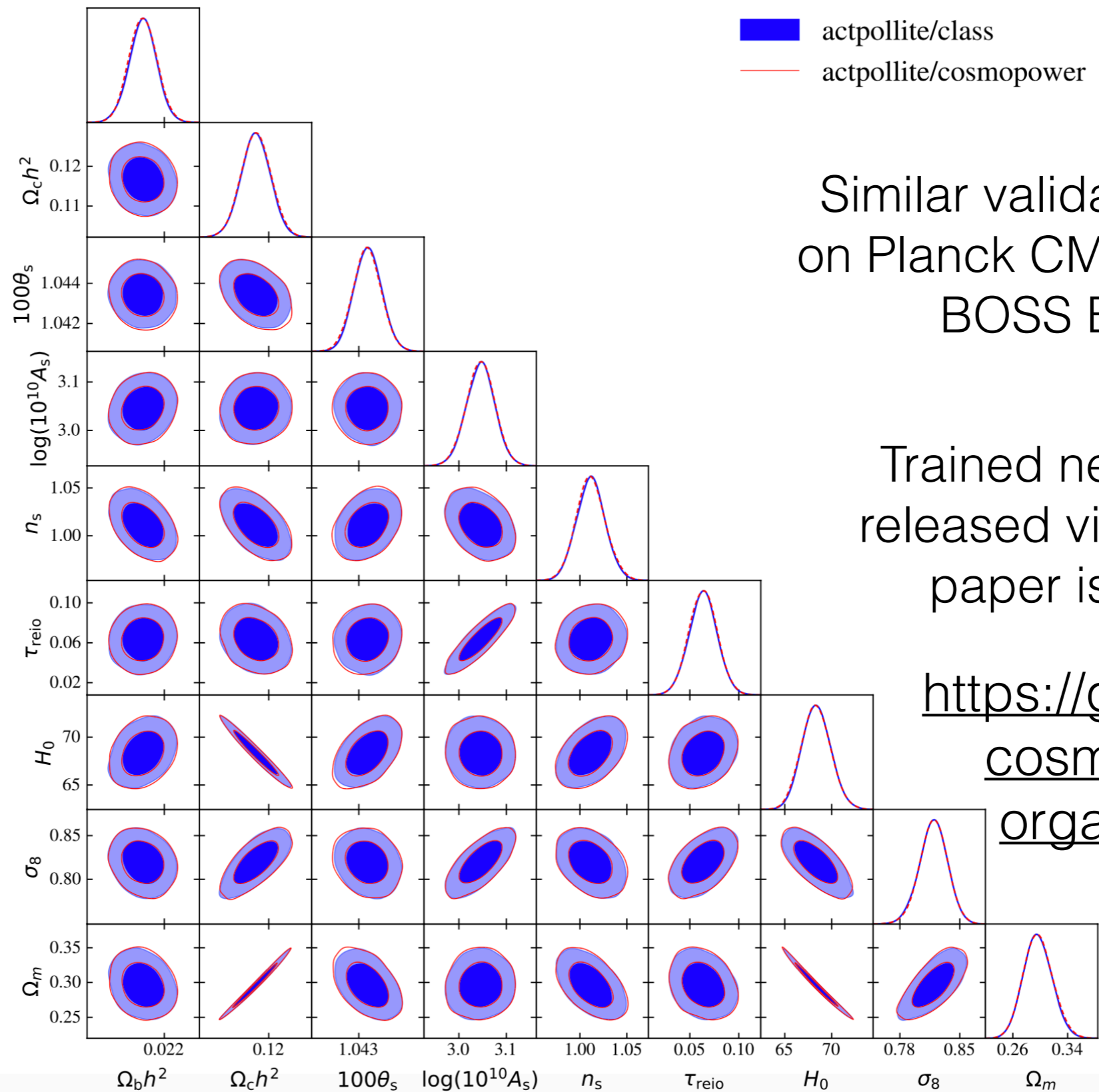


ACT DR4 Reproduction

~few minutes on laptop vs. ~few days on CCA cluster (!)

ACT DR4 Reproduction

~few minutes on laptop vs. ~few days on CCA cluster (!)



Similar validation performed
on Planck CMB, CMB lensing,
BOSS BAO+RSD

Trained networks will be
released via GitHub when
paper is submitted!

[https://github.com/
cosmopower-
organization](https://github.com/cosmopower-organization)

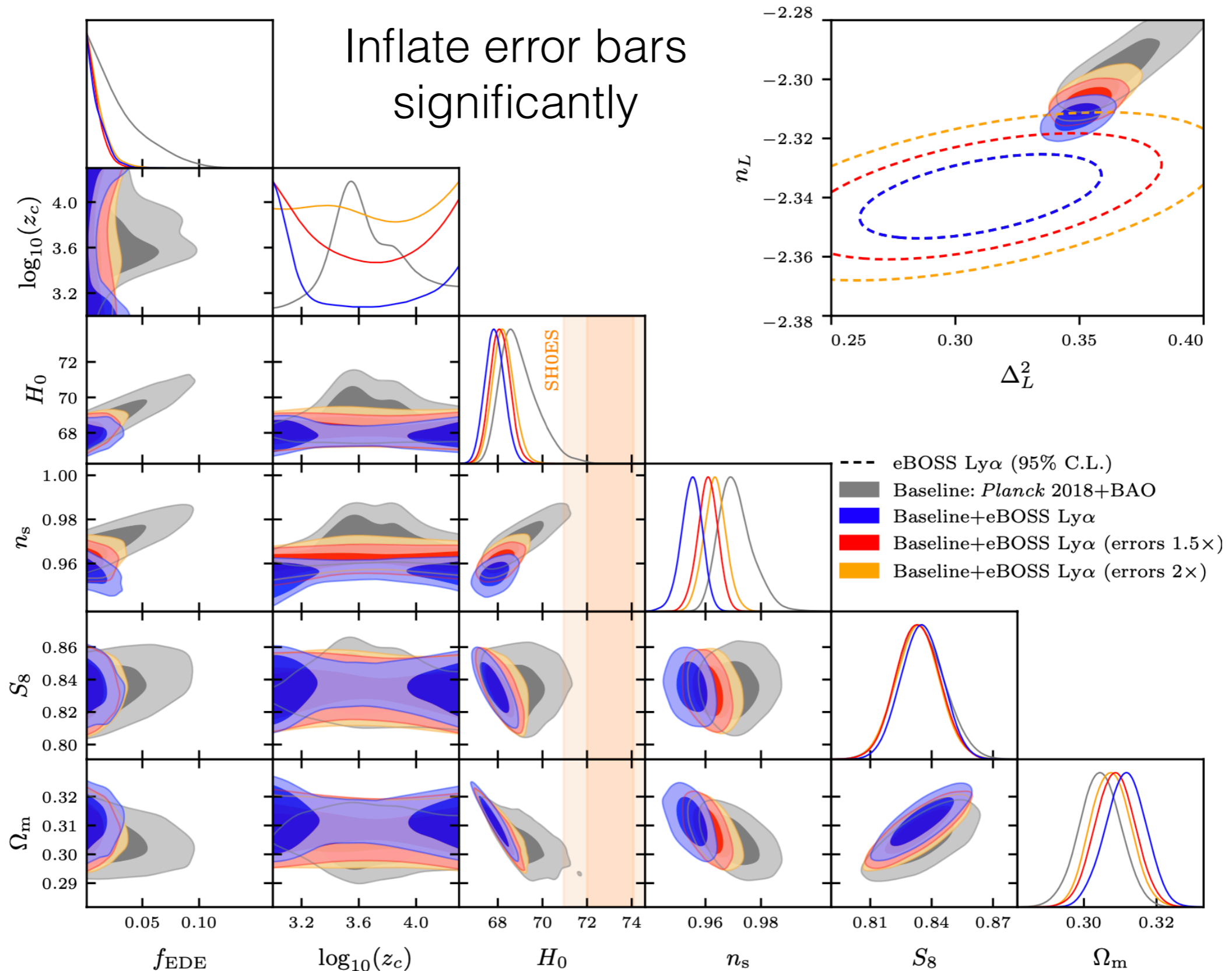
Bolliet, Spurio
Mancini, JCH,
Madhavacheril, et
al. (to appear)

Take-Home Messages

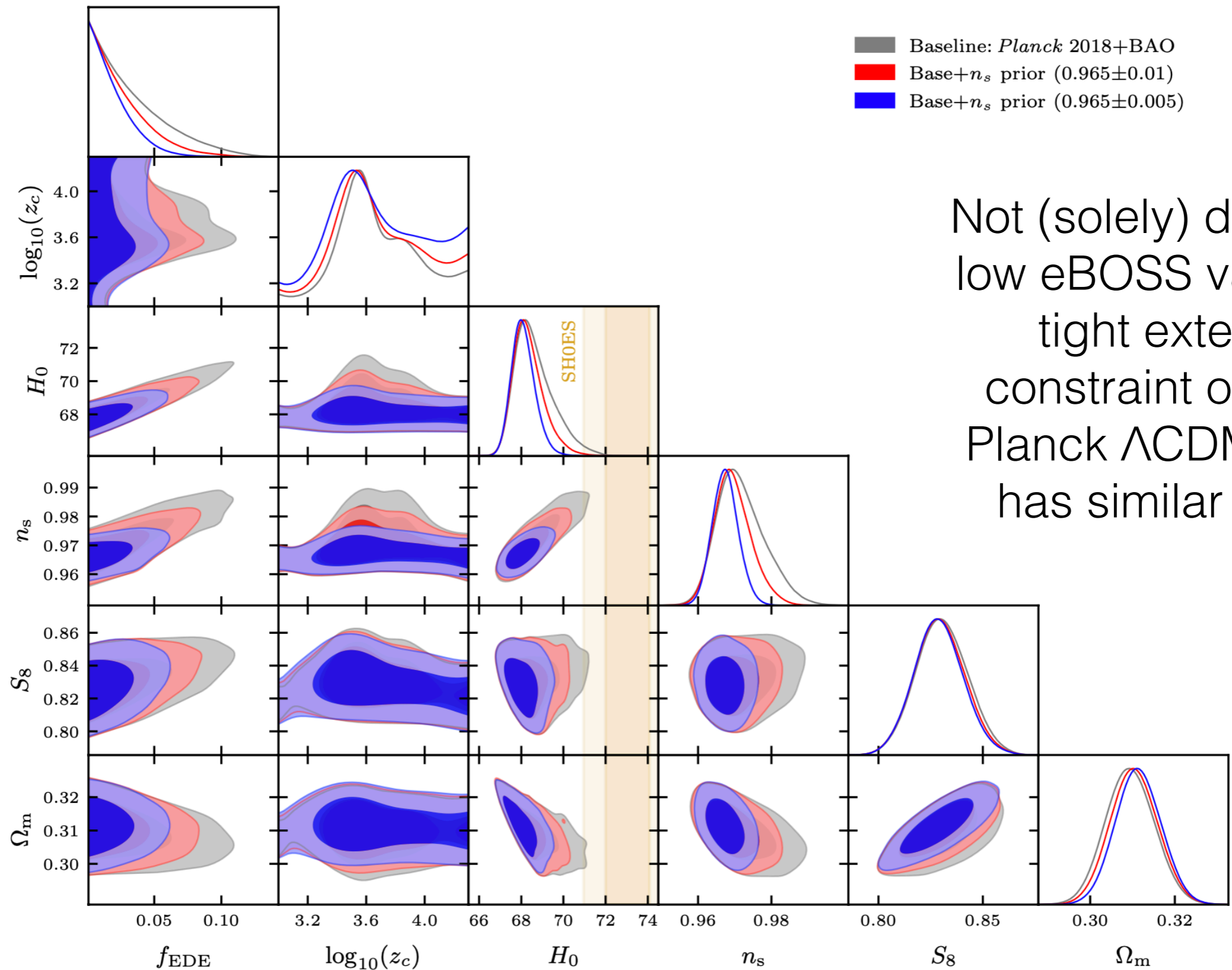
- 1) ACT and Planck prefer somewhat different EDE model parameters, with ACT yielding higher f_{EDE} and H_0
- 2) Early dark sector may help w/ coincidence, ICs, S_8 of EDE
- 3) Challenge: Ly α forest severely constrains canonical EDE
- 4) CosmoPower: never wait for MCMCs ever again
- 5) Early-universe H_0 / S_8 resolutions generically predict clear deviations from Λ CDM in the CMB — imminently testable with ACT DR6, SPT-3G, Simons Observatory

Bonus

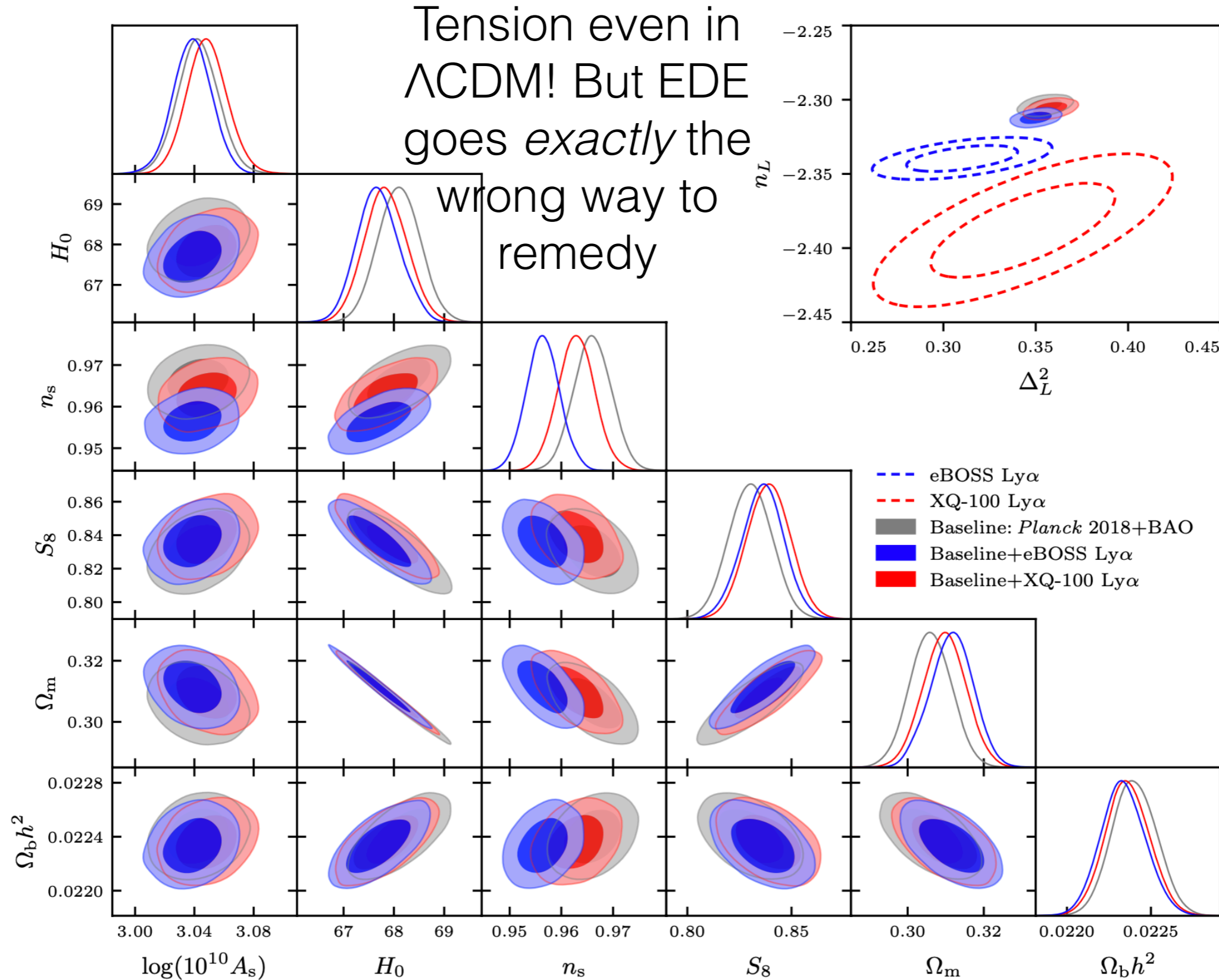
Ly α EDE Validation



Ly α EDE Validation



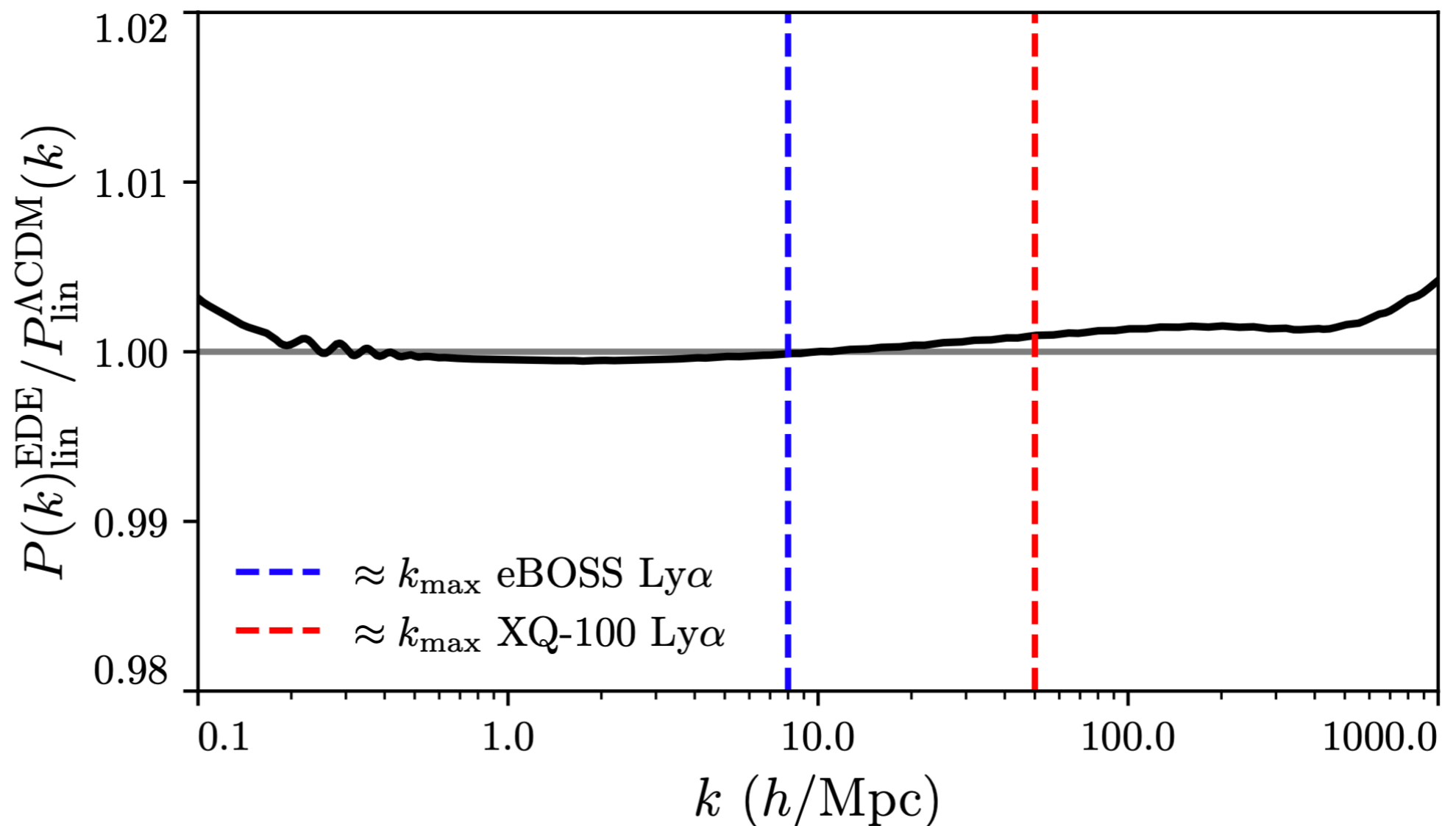
Ly α EDE Validation



Ly α EDE Validation

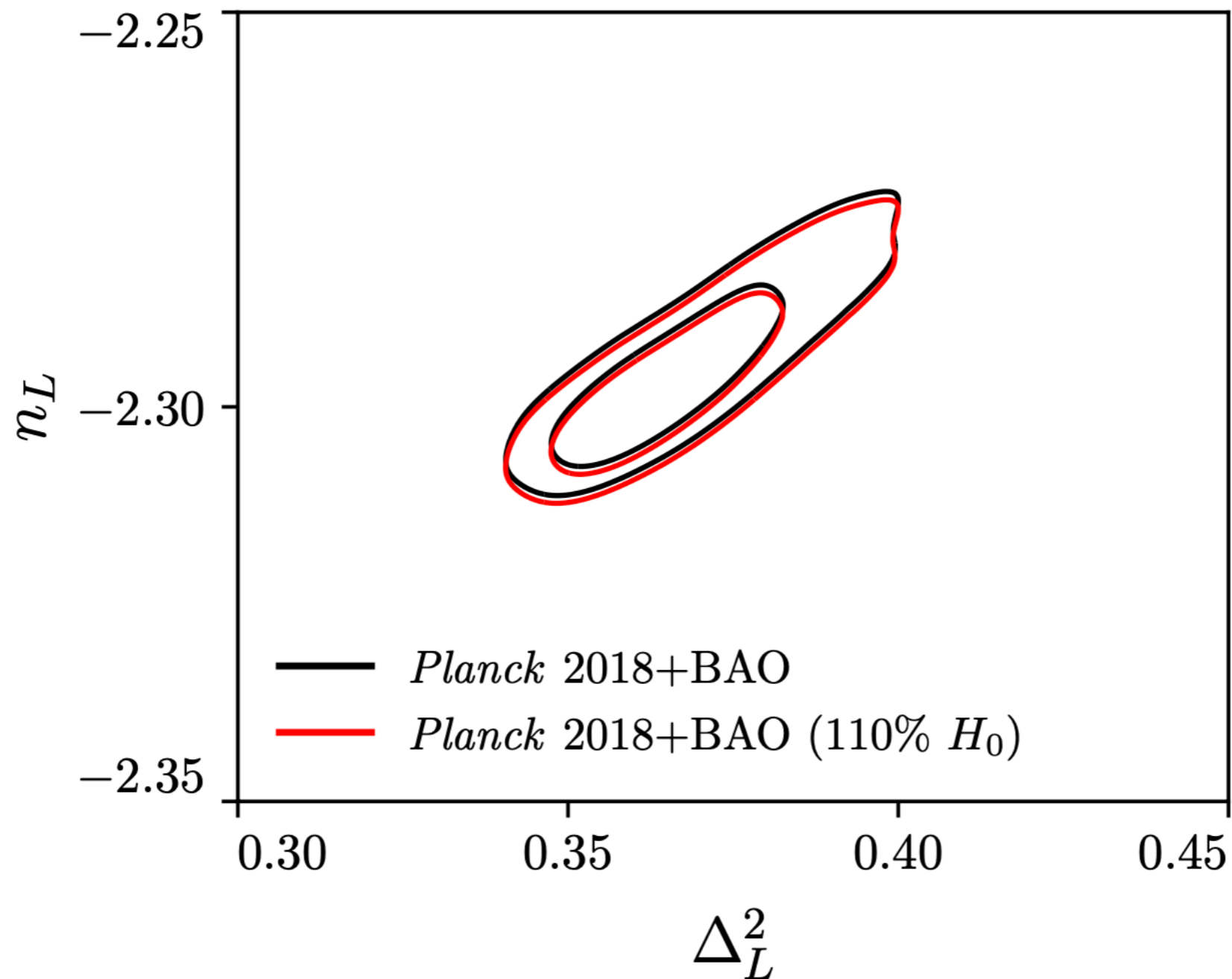
Do the hydro sim grids used in the Ly α likelihood construction cover relevant $P_{\text{lin}}(k)$ for EDE analysis? Yes

Best-fit baseline EDE $P(k)$ at $z=3$ can be very accurately mimicked by Λ CDM $P(k)$ with slightly tweaked parameters



Ly α EDE Validation

Do the priors used in the Ly α likelihood construction have any impact on the compressed parameter likelihoods used in EDE analysis? No



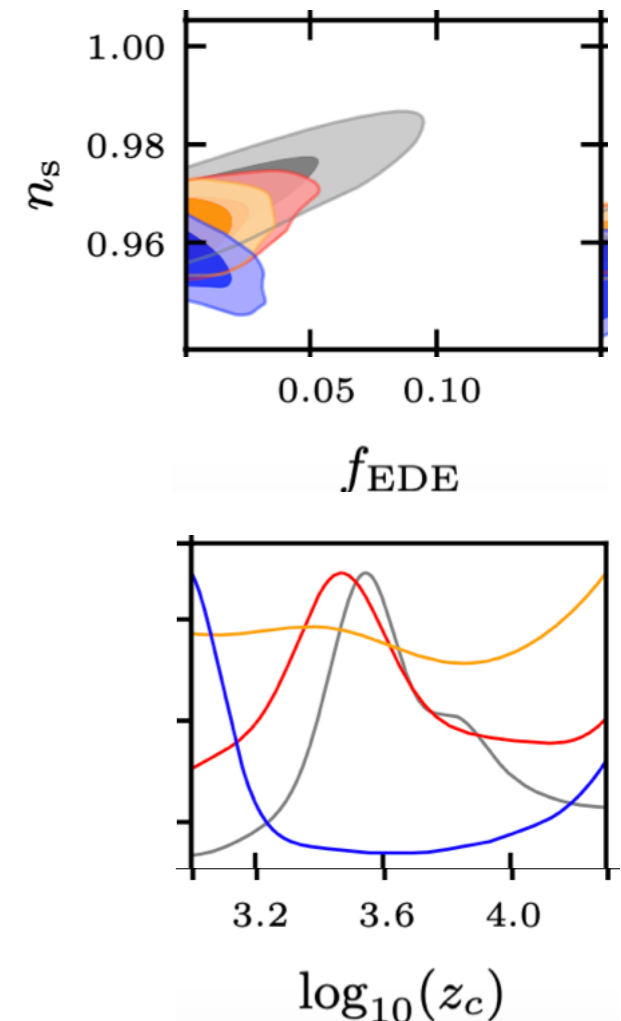
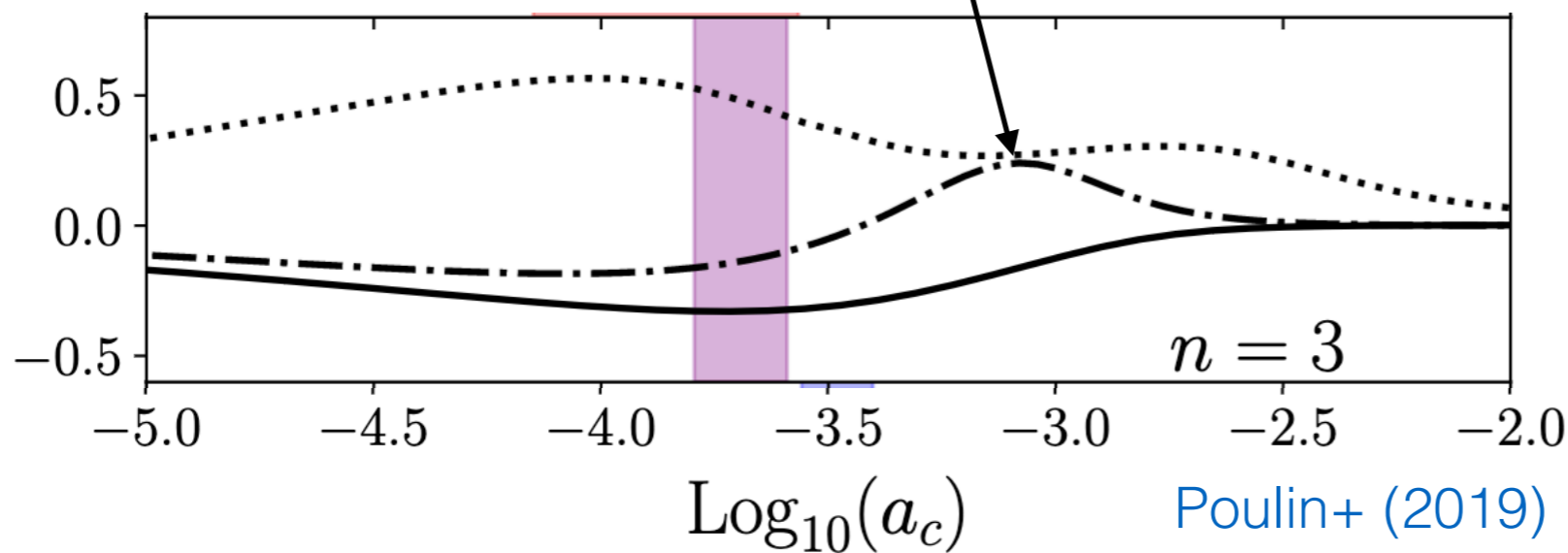
Recomputation of baseline EDE constraints with H_0 increased by 10% for each sample in the chain

Ly α EDE Validation

Origin of the $n_s - f_{\text{EDE}}$ anti correlation for the [baseline+eBOSS analysis](#)

Ratio of sound horizon to damping scale *increases* for $1000 < z_c < 10^{3.3}$

— r_s^-
- - - r_s/r_D
⋯ PH



Thus θ_s/θ_d increases; but θ_s is fixed by observations, so θ_d *decreases*, i.e., ℓ_d increases. Hence less damping at a given ℓ , so n_s decreases to compensate.