

Galaxy Surveys: A Precision Probe of Inflation

Oliver H. E. Philcox

Columbia University

Simons Foundation

Our View of the Universe

Gravitational evolution (and astrophysics)

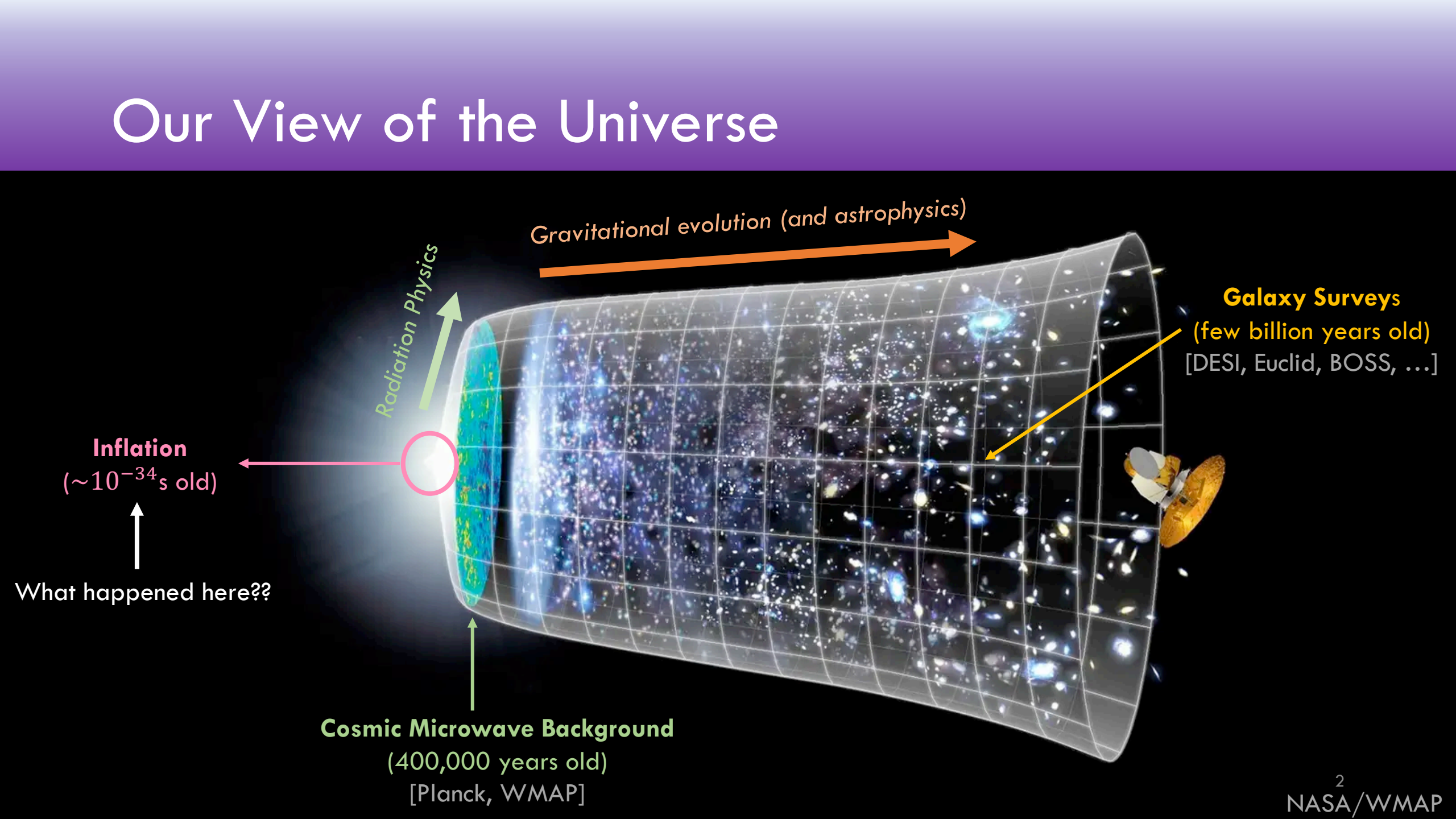
Radiation Physics

Inflation
($\sim 10^{-34}$ s old)

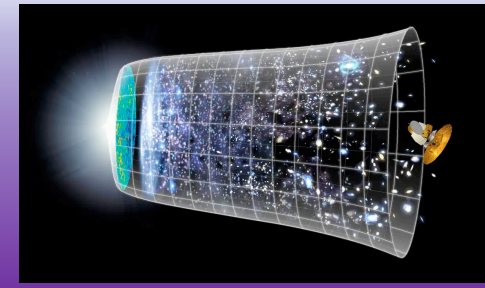
Galaxy Surveys
(few billion years old)
[DESI, Euclid, BOSS, ...]

Cosmic Microwave Background
(400,000 years old)
[Planck, WMAP]

What happened here??



What Do We Know About Inflation?



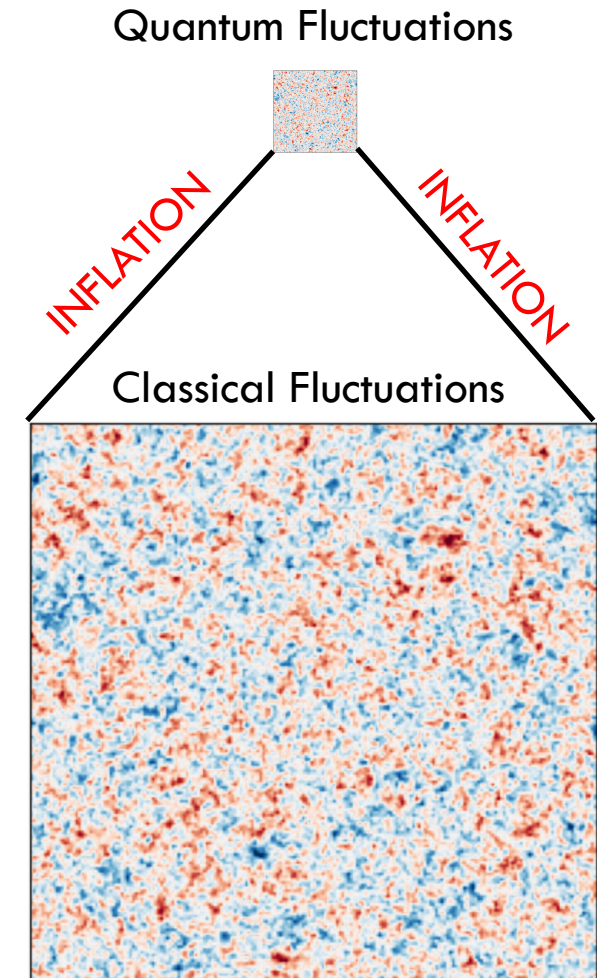
Background

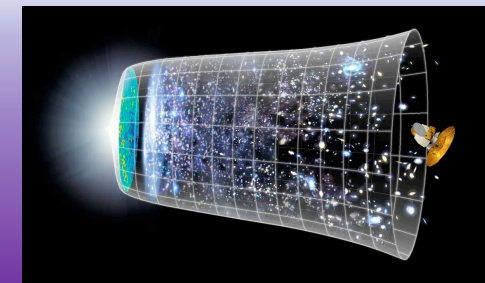
- (Almost) **exponential** expansion of spacetime
→ **Scale-free**

Perturbations

- **Quantum** vacuum fluctuations sourced **classical** curvature perturbations
→ (Almost) **Gaussian** distribution of fluctuations

$$\zeta \sim \text{Gaussian}[P(k)], \quad P(k) = \langle \zeta(\mathbf{k}) \zeta^*(\mathbf{k}) \rangle$$





What Do We Know About Inflation?

Simplest model

- Caused by a **single field** evolving along an (almost) **flat potential** [Single Field Slow Roll]

But:

- What is the **energy scale** of inflation?
- What was the **potential**?

- Were there **other fields** during inflation?
- Did the fields **interact**?

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{inf}} \sim \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi)$$

$$E \sim 10^{14} \text{ GeV} ?$$

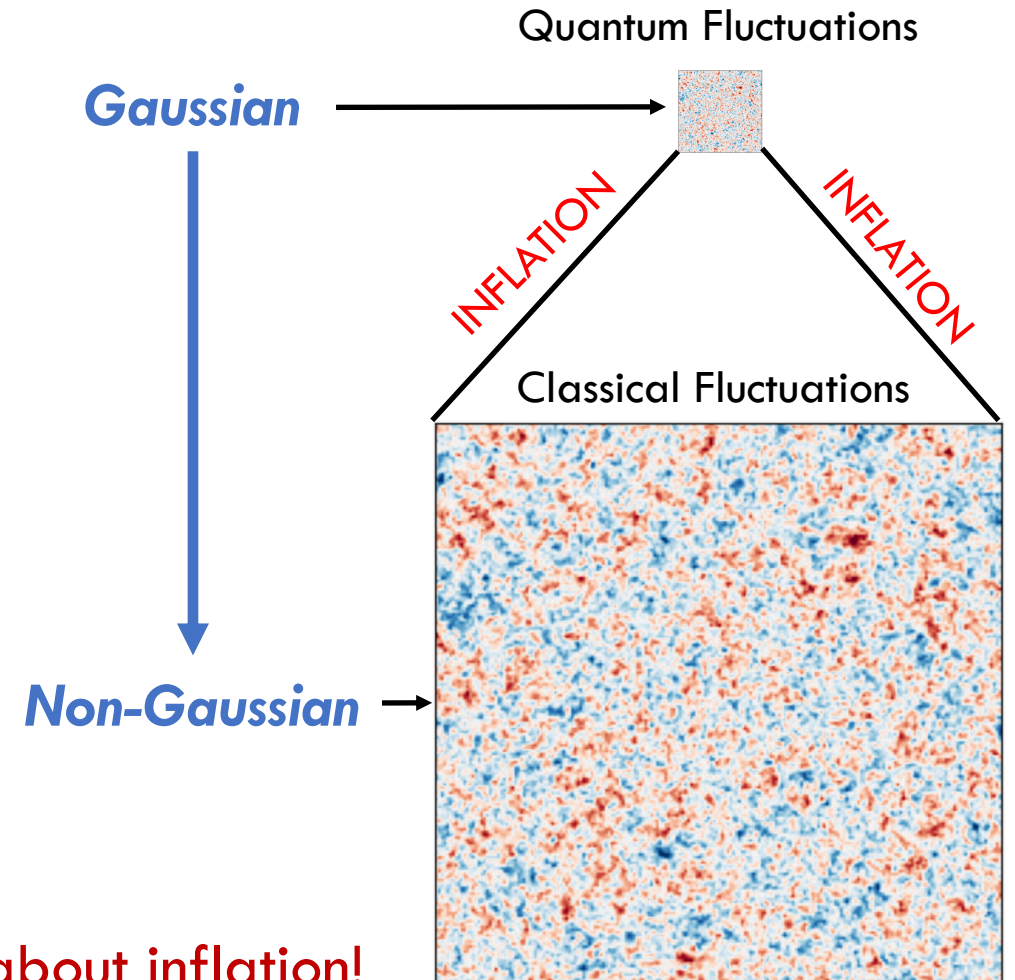
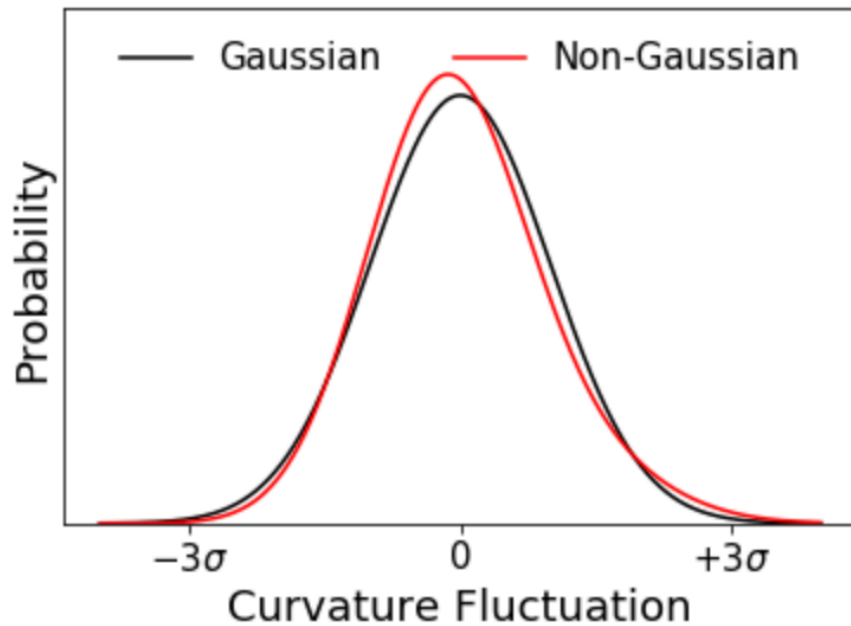
$$V(\phi) = ???$$

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi, \chi, \psi_\mu, \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{inf}} \supset \dot{\phi}^3 + \dots$$

How to Probe Inflation

New physics in inflation
→ **non-Gaussian** fluctuations



By measuring the non-Gaussianity, we can learn about inflation!

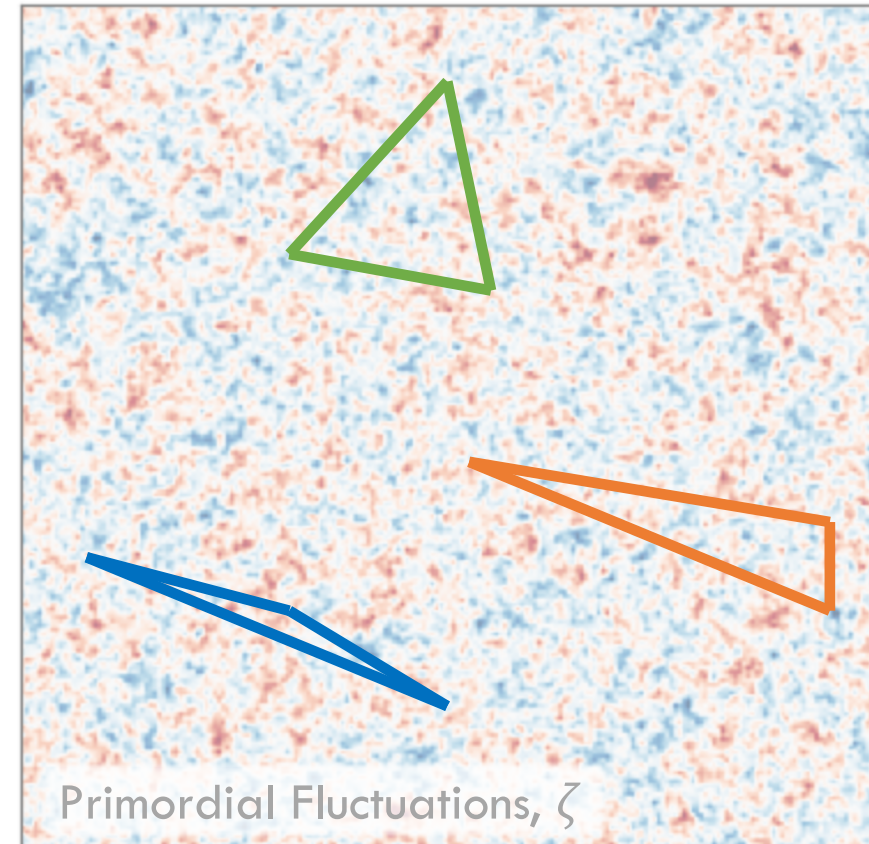
What Does non-Gaussianity Look Like?

- Non-Gaussianity is parameterized by **correlation functions** e.g. **bispectra**

$$B(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) = \langle \zeta(\mathbf{k}_1) \zeta(\mathbf{k}_2) \zeta(\mathbf{k}_3) \rangle \neq 0$$

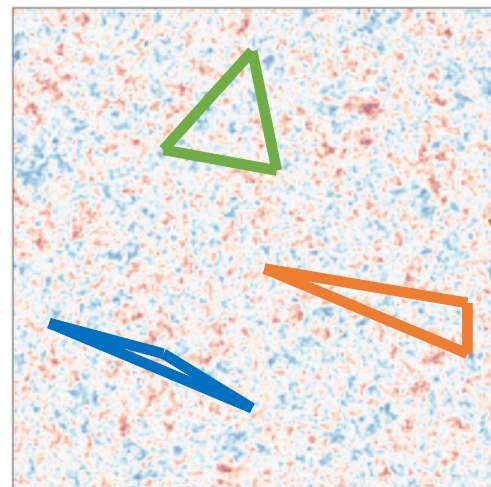
- Different **shapes** constrain different physics:
 - **Equilateral** triangles: **self-interactions**
 - **Squeezed** triangles: **new light fields**
 - **Folded** triangles: **new vacuum states**

$$\zeta \sim \text{Edgeworth}[P(k), B(k_i), T(k_i), \dots]$$



Measuring non-Gaussianity

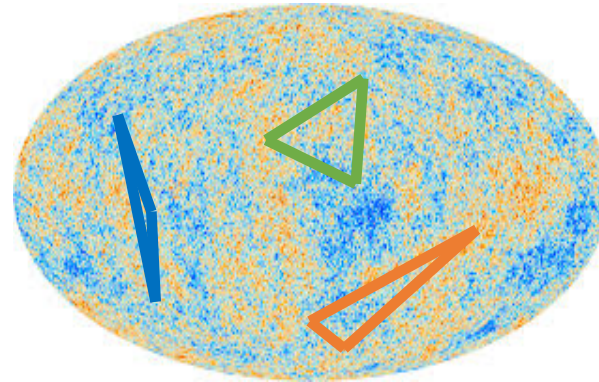
- **Late-time** non-Gaussianity traces **primordial** non-Gaussianity



Primordial Bispectrum

$$\langle \zeta^3 \rangle \neq 0$$

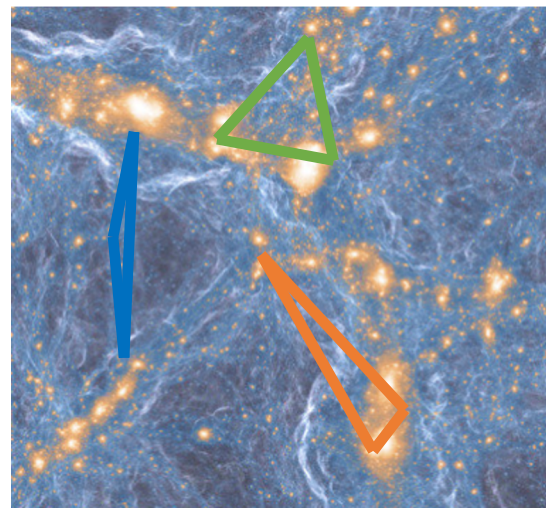
Linear Physics



Cosmic Microwave Background
Bispectrum

$$\langle \delta T^3 \rangle \neq 0$$

Non-Linear Physics



Galaxy Distribution
Bispectrum

$$\langle \delta n_{\text{gal}}^3 \rangle \neq 0$$

CMB Non-Gaussianity

- **CMB** surveys have constrained **many shapes** of non-Gaussianity

$$\langle \delta T^3 \rangle \sim \langle \zeta^3 \rangle \sim f_{\text{NL}} \times \text{Shape}$$

Planck
2018

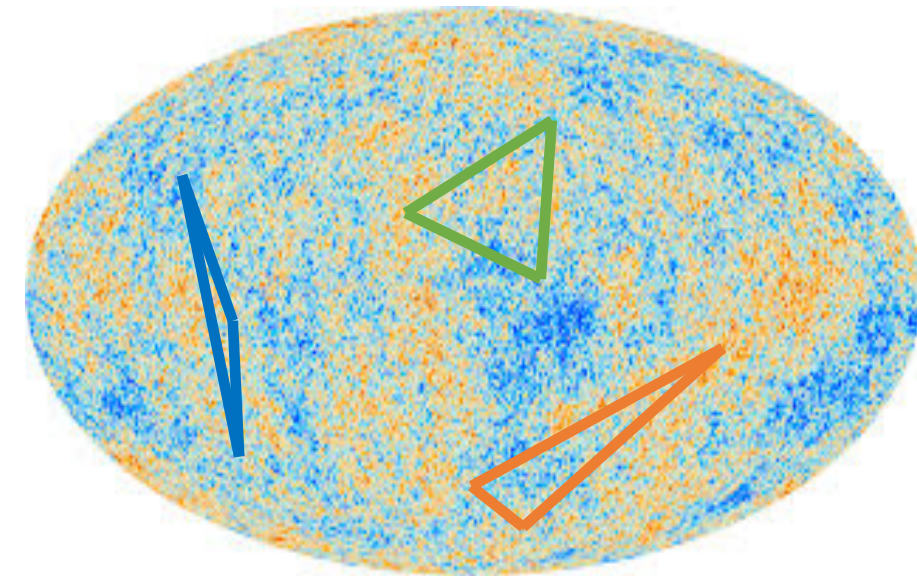
f_{NL}	Local	6.7 ± 5.6
	Equilateral	6 ± 66
	Orthogonal	-38 ± 36

- Primordial non-Gaussianity is **small**:

$$10^{-5} |f_{\text{NL}}| \ll 1$$

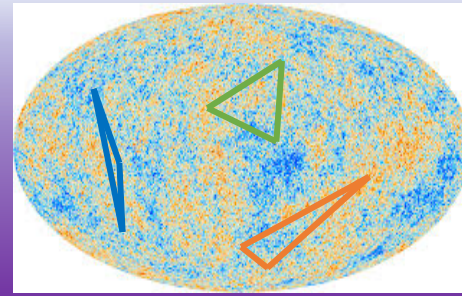
- But theory target is $f_{\text{NL}} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$...

Can we do better in the future?

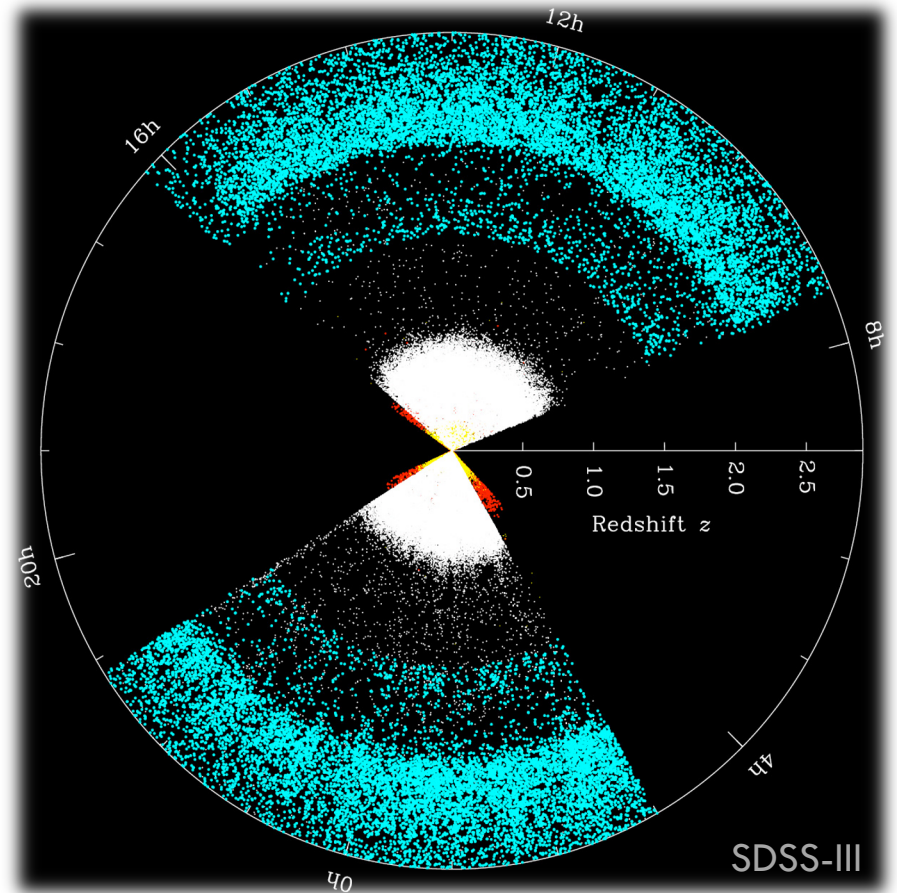


Cosmic Microwave Background

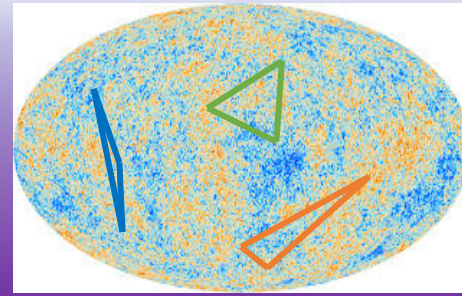
The Future of Non-Gaussianity



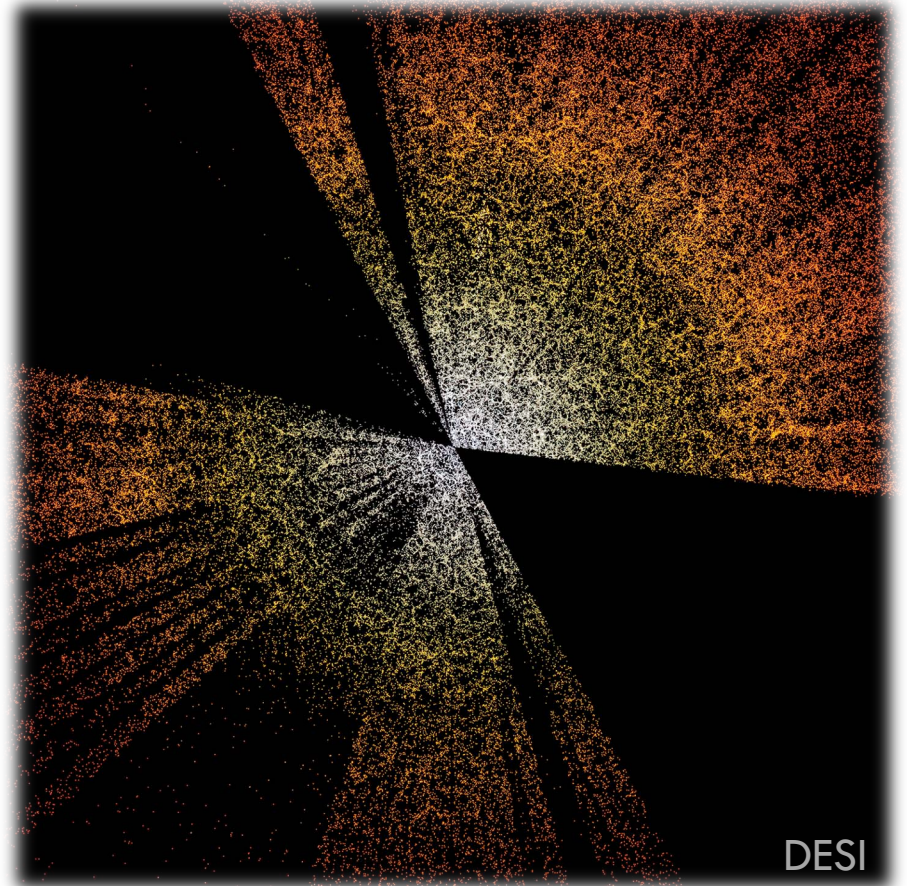
- Future **CMB** experiments will improve bounds by $\mathcal{O}(2\times)$
 - We're running out of modes to look at!
 - Small-scales are **hard**
- What about **galaxy surveys**?
 - Legacy surveys map **a million** galaxies
[BOSS: 2010s]



The Future of Non-Gaussianity

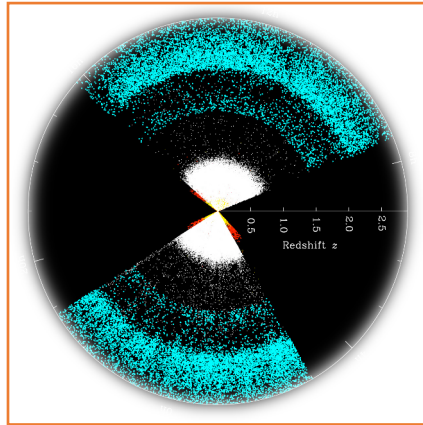


- Future **CMB** experiments will improve bounds by $\mathcal{O}(2\times)$
 - We're running out of modes to look at!
 - Small-scales are **hard**
- What about **galaxy surveys**?
 - Legacy surveys map **a million** galaxies
[2010s: BOSS]
 - New surveys map \approx **100** \times more!
[2020s: Euclid, DESI, SPHEREx, Rubin, ...]



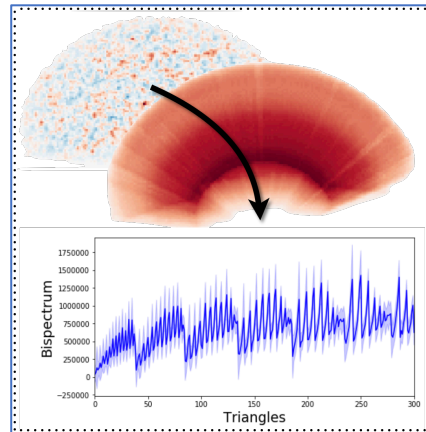
Let's make **galaxy surveys** a tool for **inflationary cosmology**!

Roadmap: From Public Data to New Physics



Data

- Galaxy Surveys [BOSS]
- CMB fluctuations [Planck]



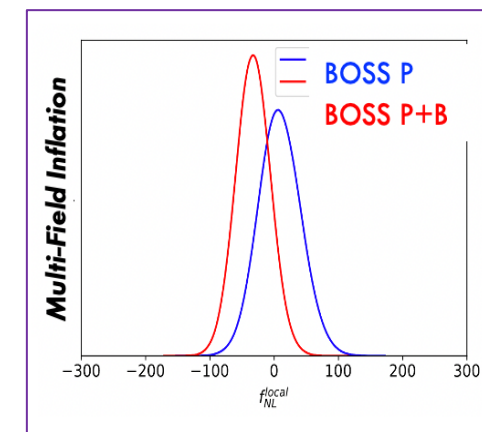
Estimation

- Power spectrum
- Bispectrum
- Trispectrum

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_1(q_1) &= K_1 + f\mu_1^2, & (A.3) \\
 Z_2(q_1, q_2) &= K_2(q_1, q_2) + f\mu_2^2 G_2(q_1, q_2) + \frac{f\mu_{12}q_{12}}{2} K_1 \left[\frac{\mu_1}{q_1} + \frac{\mu_2}{q_2} \right] + \frac{(f\mu_{12}q_{12})^2}{2} \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{q_1 q_2}, \\
 Z_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) &= K_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) + f\mu_{23}^2 G_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) \\
 &\quad + (f\mu_{123}q_{123}) \left[\frac{\mu_{12}}{q_{12}} K_1 G_2(q_1, q_2) + \frac{\mu_3}{q_3} K_2(q_1, q_2) \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{(f\mu_{123}q_{123})^2}{2} \left[2 \frac{\mu_{12} \mu_3}{q_{12} q_3} G_2(q_1, q_2) + \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{q_1 q_2} K_1 \right] + \frac{(f\mu_{123}q_{123})^3}{6} \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3}{q_1 q_2 q_3}, \\
 Z_4(q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4) &= K_4(q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4) + f\mu_{234}^2 G_4(q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4) \\
 &\quad + (f\mu_{1234}q_{1234}) \left[\frac{\mu_{123}}{q_{123}} K_1 G_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) + \frac{\mu_4}{q_4} K_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{\mu_{12}}{q_{12}} G_2(q_1, q_2) K_2(q_3, q_4) \\
 &\quad + \frac{(f\mu_{1234}q_{1234})^2}{2} \left[2 \frac{\mu_{123} \mu_4}{q_{123} q_4} G_3(q_1, q_2, q_3) + \frac{\mu_{12} \mu_{34}}{q_{12} q_{34}} G_2(q_1, q_2) G_2(q_3, q_4) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 2 \frac{\mu_{12} \mu_3}{q_{12} q_3} K_1 G_2(q_1, q_2) + \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2}{q_1 q_2} K_2(q_3, q_4) \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{(f\mu_{1234}q_{1234})^3}{6} \left[3 \frac{\mu_{12} \mu_3 \mu_4}{q_{12} q_3 q_4} G_2(q_1, q_2) + \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3}{q_1 q_2 q_3} K_1 \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{(f\mu_{1234}q_{1234})^4}{24} \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4}{q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4},
 \end{aligned}$$

Theory

- Perturbation theory
- Inflationary theory
- Symmetries



Constraints

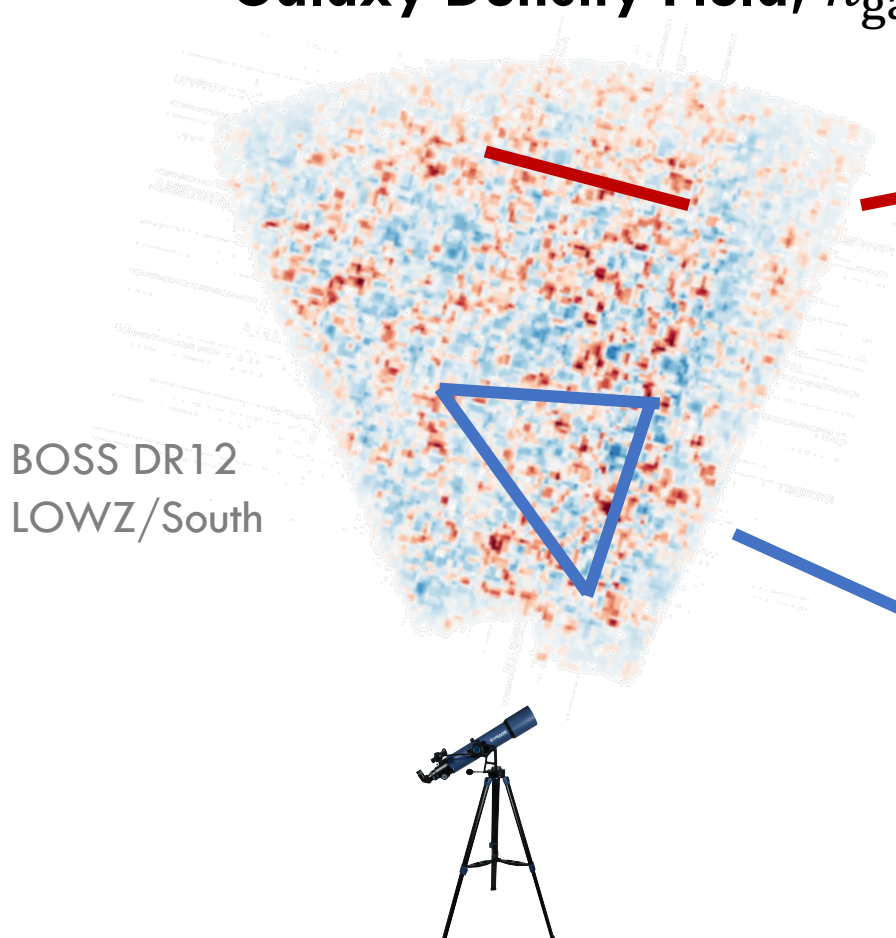
- Λ CDM bounds
- H_0 & S_8 tensions
- Inflationary interactions
- Parity-violation

All with **public code!**

GitHub: [CLASS-PT](#), [full-shape-likelihoods](#), [PolyBin](#)

How to Analyze a Galaxy Survey

Galaxy Density Field, n_{gal}



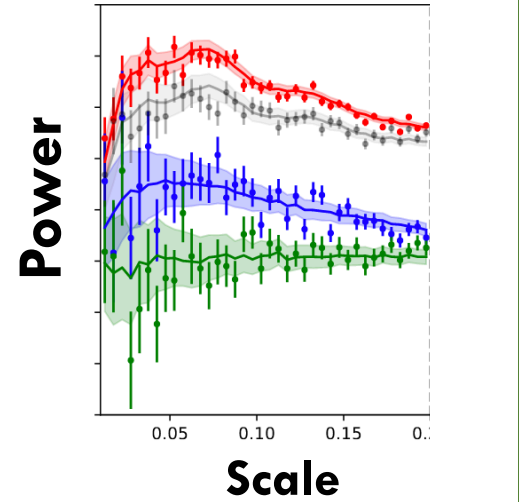
BOSS DR12
LOWZ/South

The Standard Approach

Power Spectrum

$$P(k) \sim \int n_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{k})n_{\text{gal}}^*(\mathbf{k})$$

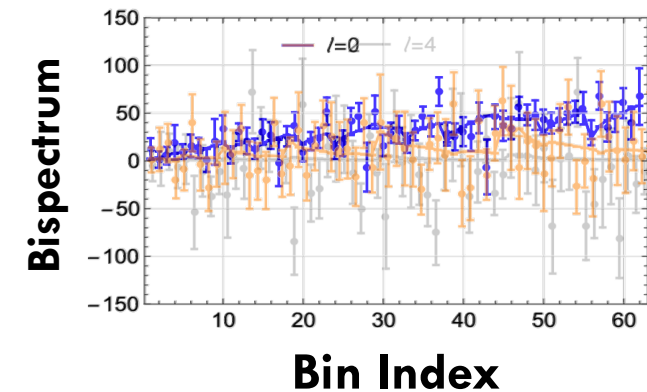
Use this to learn about dark energy



(Lots of fun estimation problems here!)

Bispectrum

$$B(k_1, k_2, k_3) \sim \int n_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{k}_1)n_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{k}_2)n_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{k}_3)$$



Predicting Galaxy Statistics

- We need a **model** for the observational data

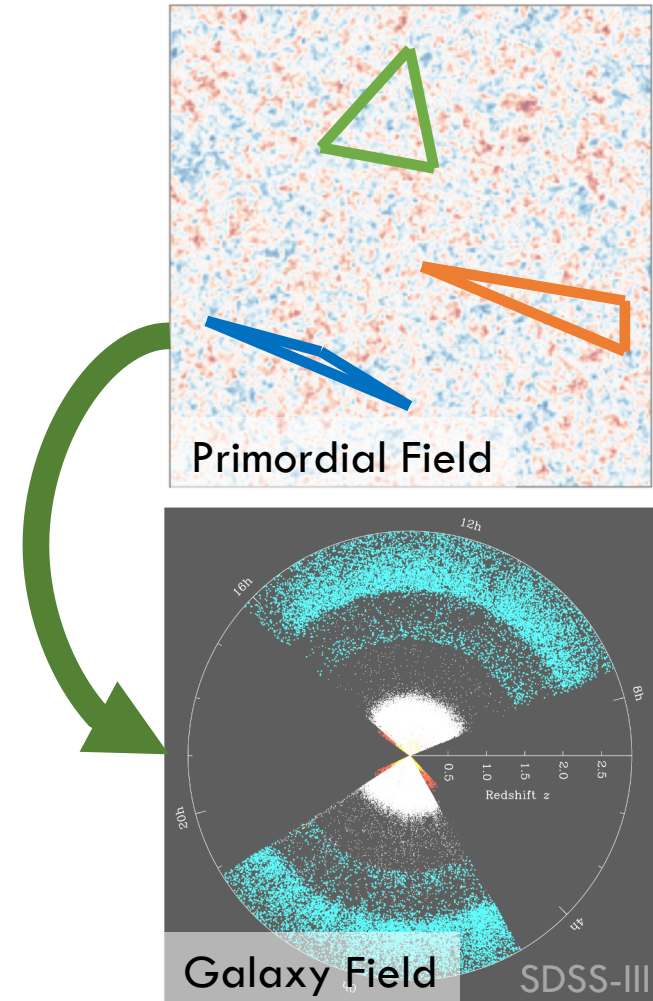
- For the **CMB**, the physics is **linear**:

$$\langle \delta T^3 \rangle \sim \text{Primordial Bispectrum} \sim f_{\text{NL}}$$

- For the **galaxy distribution**, the physics is **non-linear**:

$$\langle \delta n_{\text{gal}}^3 \rangle \sim \text{Primordial Bispectrum} + \text{Gravity}$$

To learn about inflation, we have to **jointly** model **primordial physics** and **gravity/hydrodynamics**



Matter x Effective Field Theory

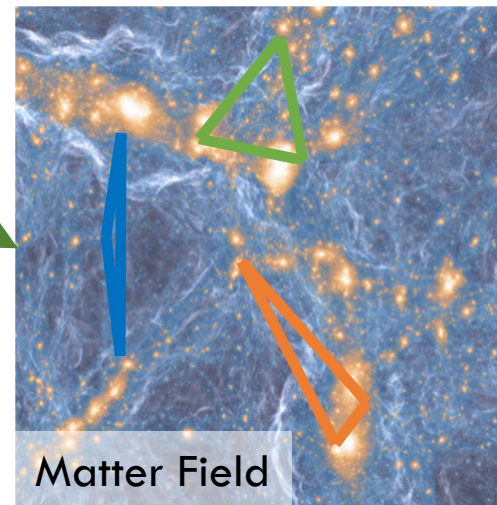
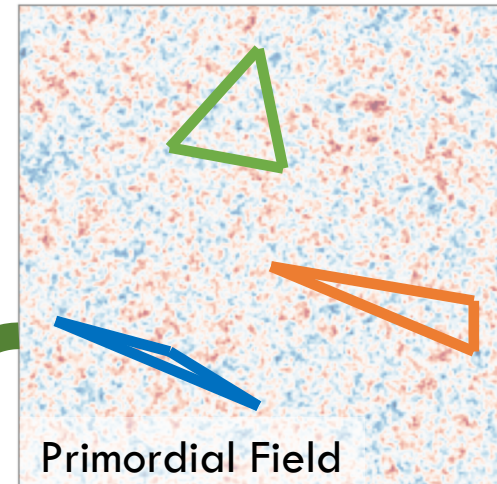
State-of-the-art method:

Effective Field Theory of Large Scale Structure (EFTofLSS)

- **Analytic** model for the **distribution of matter**, solving the **non-ideal** fluid equations given **initial conditions**

$$\delta\rho(\mathbf{x}) \sim \int d\mathbf{k} \zeta(\mathbf{k}) + \int d\mathbf{k}_{1,2} \zeta(\mathbf{k}_1)\zeta(\mathbf{k}_2) + \dots$$

- A *low-energy* theory, valid on **large-scales** ($k < k_{\text{NL}}$)
- A *renormalized* field theory, fully accounting for **back-reaction** of small onto large scales

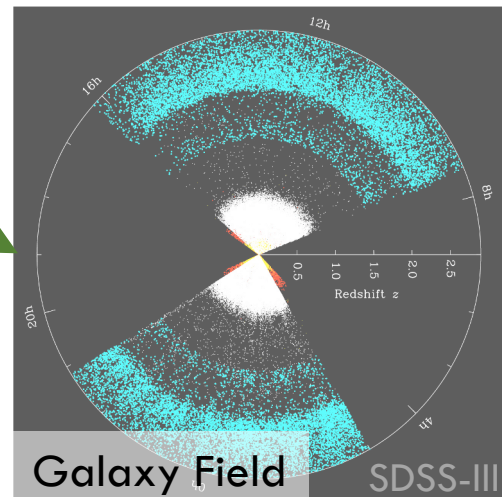
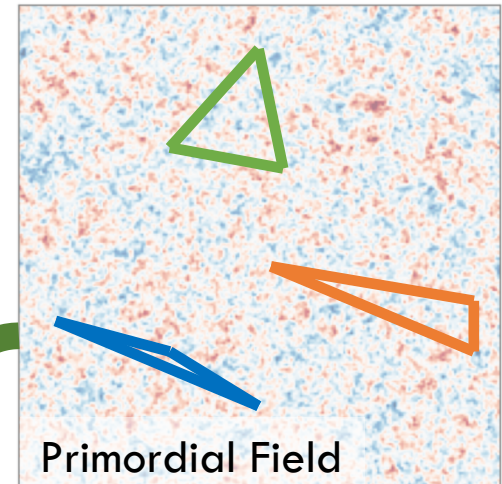


Galaxies x Effective Field Theory

Incorporate galaxies via **symmetries**:

$$\delta n_{\text{gal}} \sim b_1 \delta\rho + b_2 \delta\rho^2 + b_s \left[\left(\frac{\partial^i \partial^j}{\partial^2} - \delta_K^{ij} \right) \delta\rho \right]^2 + \dots$$

- A **perturbative expansion** in all operators allowed by:
 - *Translation invariance*
 - *Rotation invariance*
 - *Galilean invariance*
- Free amplitudes are **Wilson coefficients** encoding **hydrodynamics, baryons, and galaxy formation**
- Highly accurate on scales $k < k_{\text{NL}}$



Galaxies x Effective Field Theory

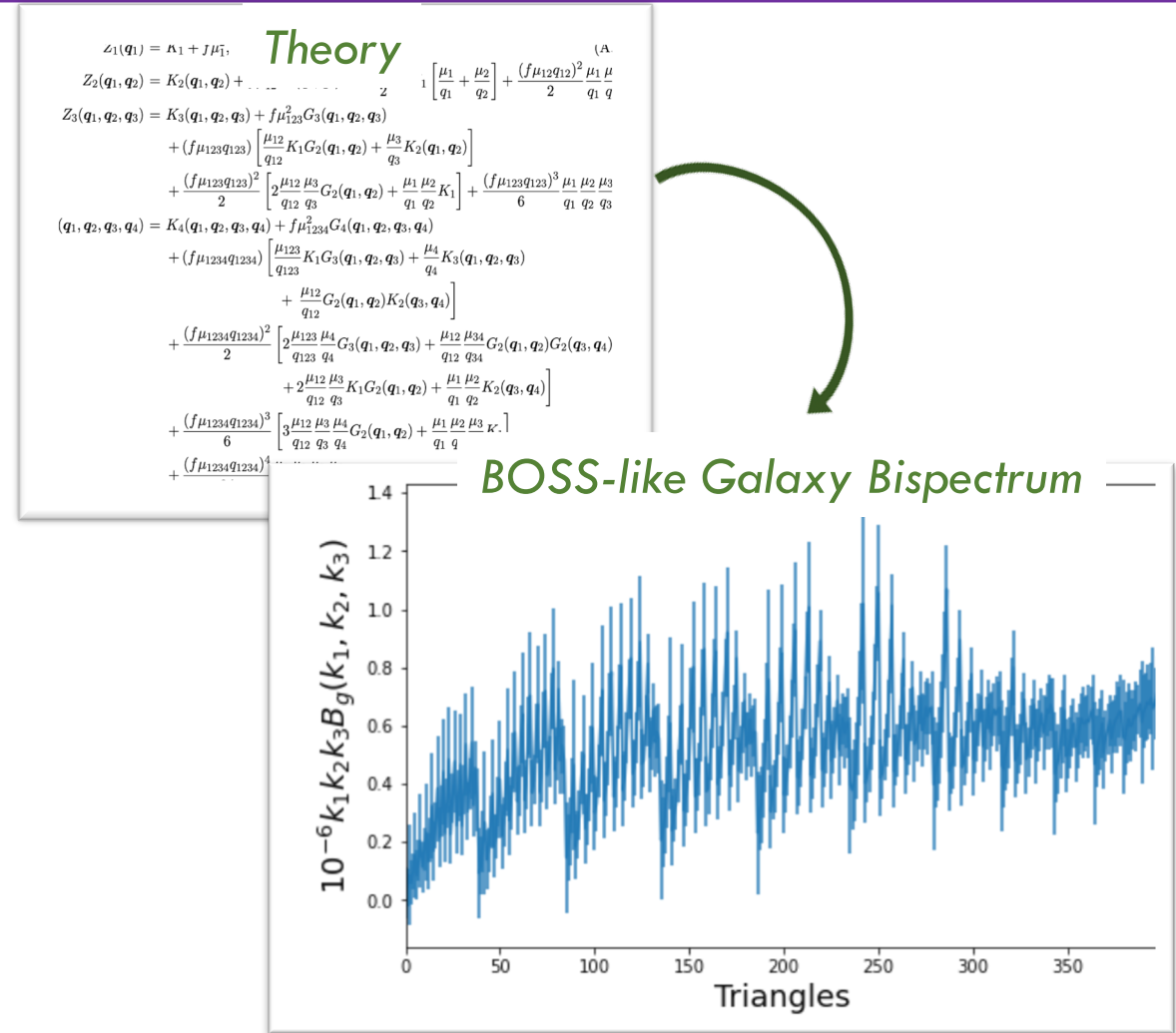
I use EFTofLSS to predict galaxy **power spectra** and **bispectra**:

$$P_{\text{gal}} = P_{\text{gal}}(k, \text{cosmology, bias, ...})$$

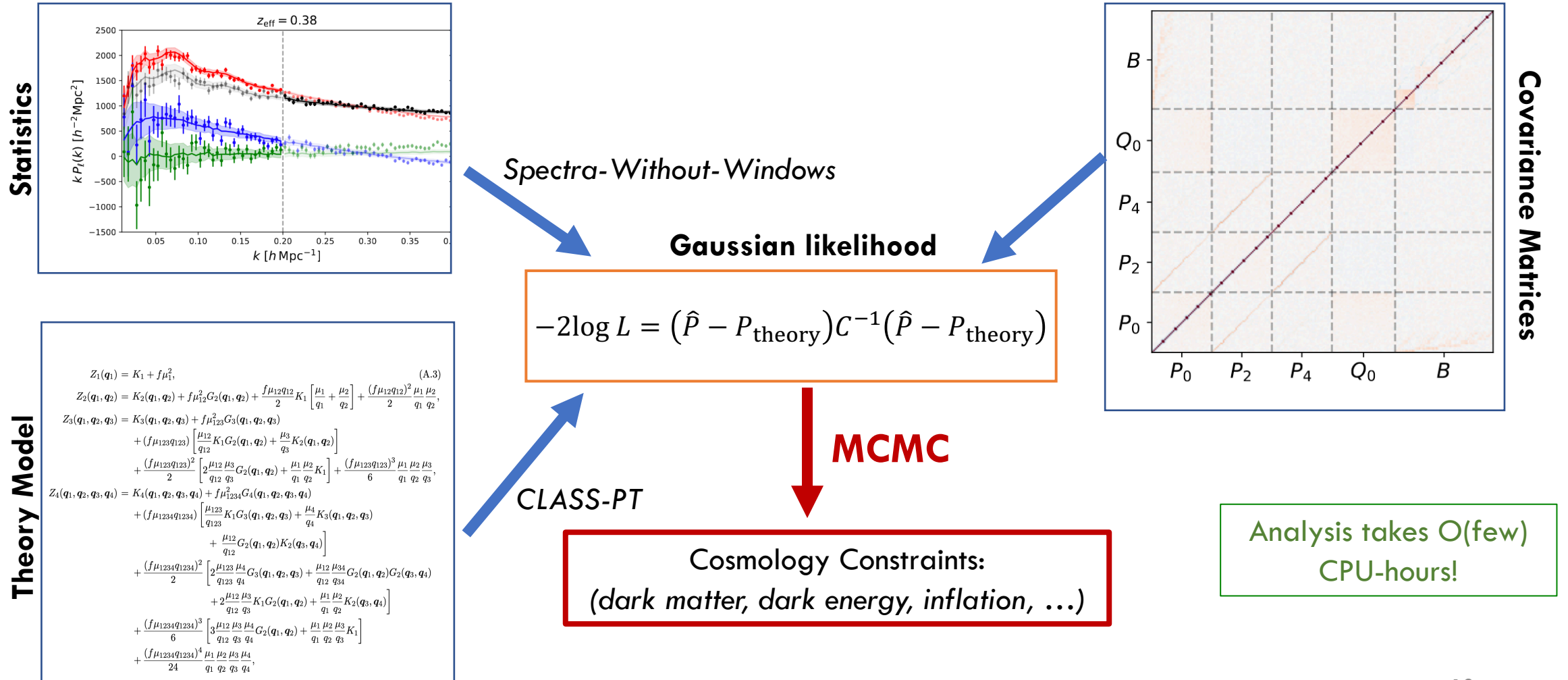
$$B_{\text{gal}} = B_{\text{gal}}(k_1, k_2, k_3, \text{cosmology, bias, ...})$$

This works:

- Efficient C++ implementation [CLASS-PT]
- Full computation in ~ 1 second
- Unbiased parameter recovery for **huge** simulations



Constraining Inflation from BOSS Galaxies

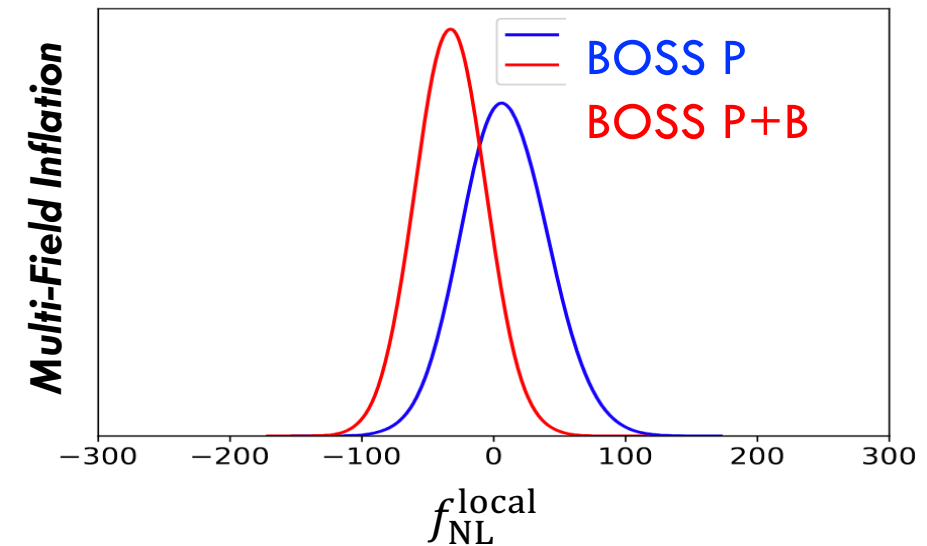


Constraining Inflation from BOSS Galaxies

Two main analyses:

1. Local non-Gaussianity

- Probes **light fields** ($m \ll H$) in inflation or non-linear physics **after** inflation
- **First** analysis to feature the bispectrum
- No evidence for multi-field inflation!
- 30% improvement from the **bispectrum**



$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}} = -33 \pm 28$$

(CMB: ± 6 , Target: ± 1)

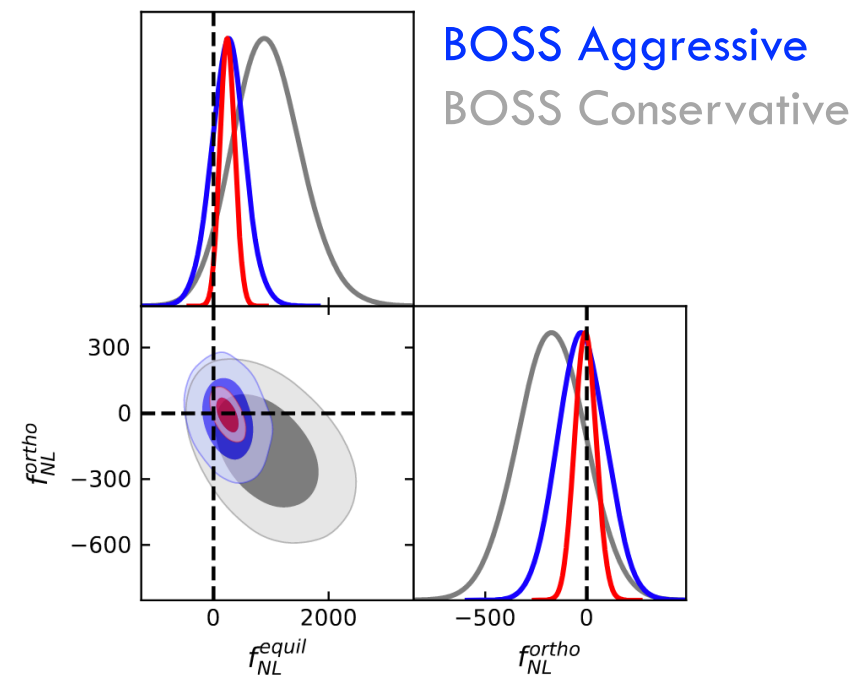
Constraining Inflation from BOSS Galaxies

Two main analyses:

1. **Local** non-Gaussianity

2. **Non-local** non-Gaussianity

- Probes **dynamics** of inflation: $10^5 f_{\text{NL}} \sim (H/\Lambda)^2$
- **First** non-CMB analysis
- No evidence for self-interactions in inflation!
- Only possible with the bispectrum!



$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{equil}} = 260 \pm 300$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{ortho}} = -23 \pm 120$$

(CMB: $\pm 50, \pm 25$, Target: ± 1)

Constraining Inflation from BOSS Galaxies

Two main analyses:

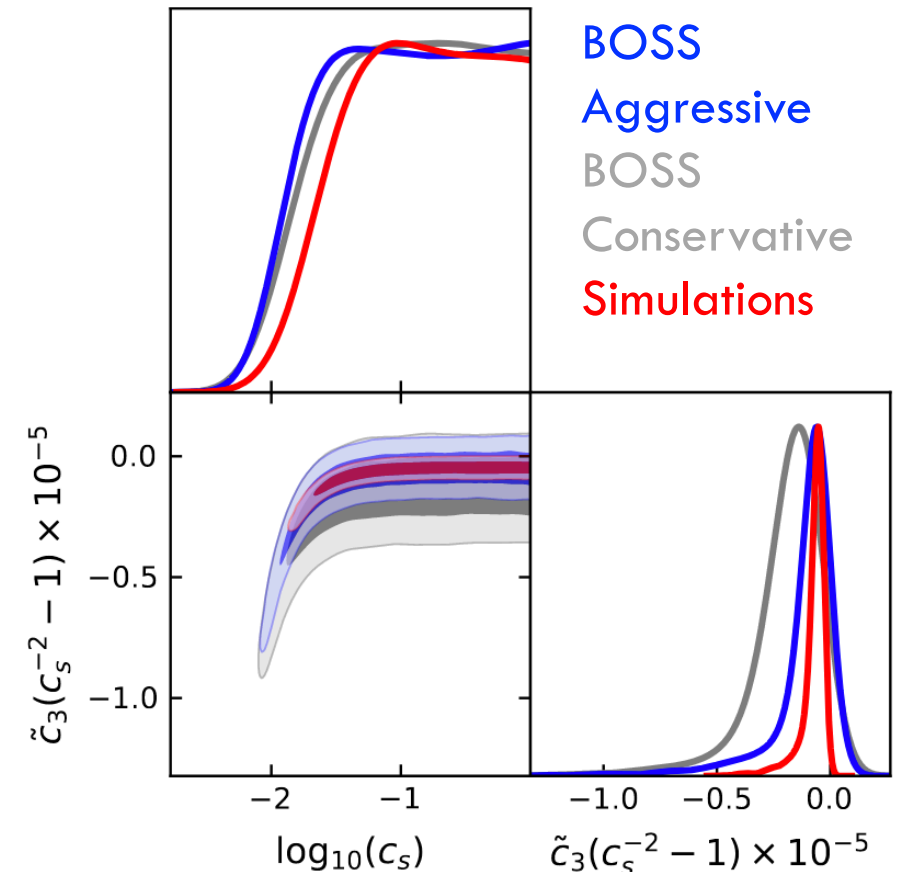
1. **Local** non-Gaussianity
2. **Non-local** non-Gaussianity

- This is related to **microphysics** in the Effective Field Theory of inflation

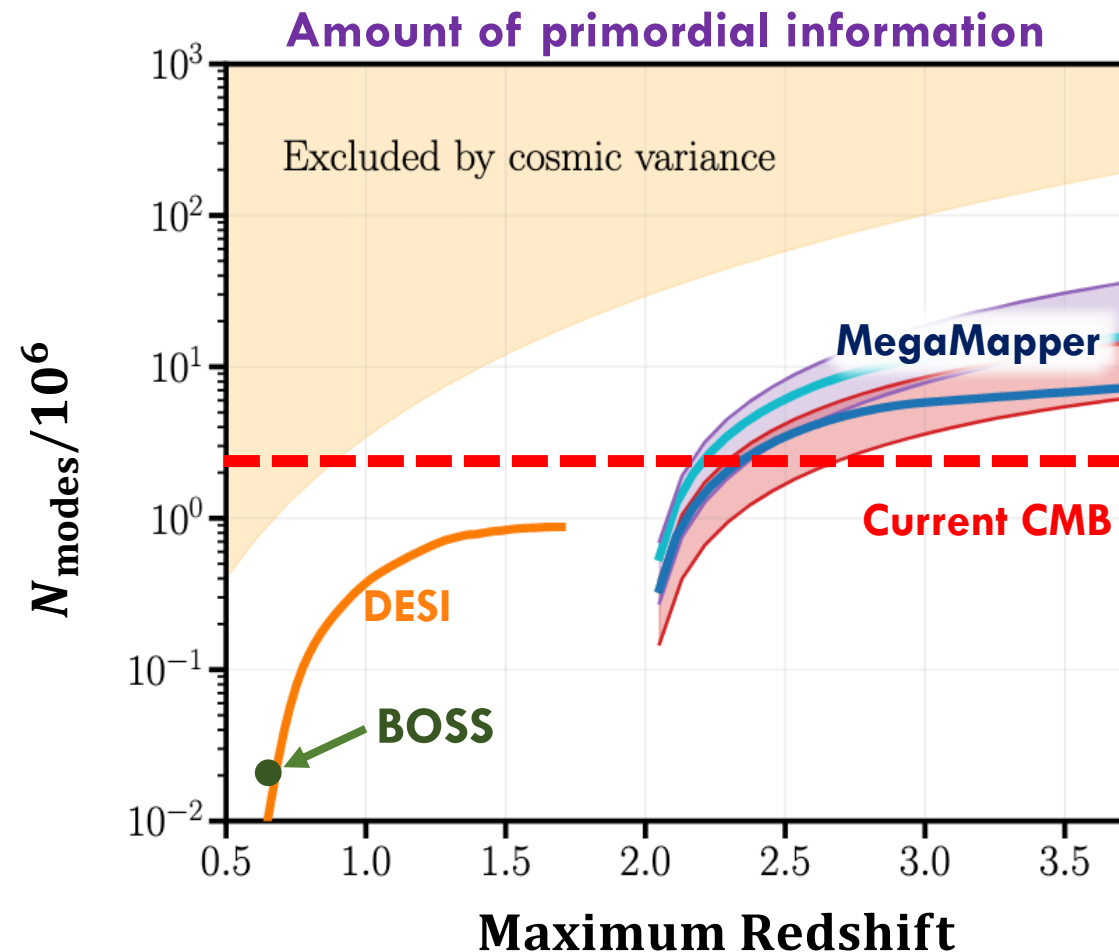
$$S_{\text{EFT}} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{M_{\text{P}}^2 \dot{H}}{c_s^2} \left(\dot{\pi}^2 - c_s^2 \frac{(\nabla \pi)^2}{a^2} \right) + \frac{M_{\text{P}}^2 \dot{H}}{c_s^2} (1 - c_s^2) \left(\frac{\dot{\pi} (\nabla \pi)^2}{a^2} - \left(1 + \frac{2 \tilde{c}_3}{3 c_s^2} \right) \dot{\pi}^3 \right) \right]$$

New physics is here!

- We constrain the sound-speed $c_s^2 \geq 0.013$ (95% CL)

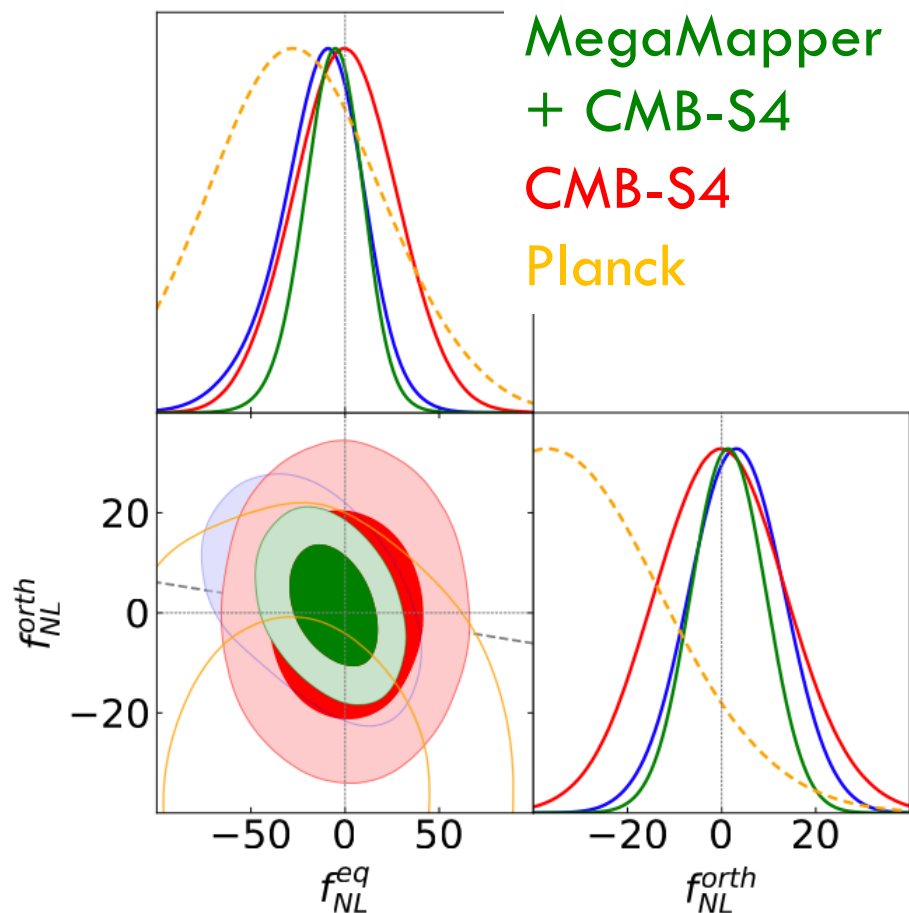


The future of f_{NL}



- For now, the **CMB** gives **stronger constraints** than **galaxy surveys**
- This makes sense: the CMB measures **much more** of the Universe
- By Stage-V surveys like **MegaMapper**, **galaxies** will place the **strongest** constraints on inflationary physics

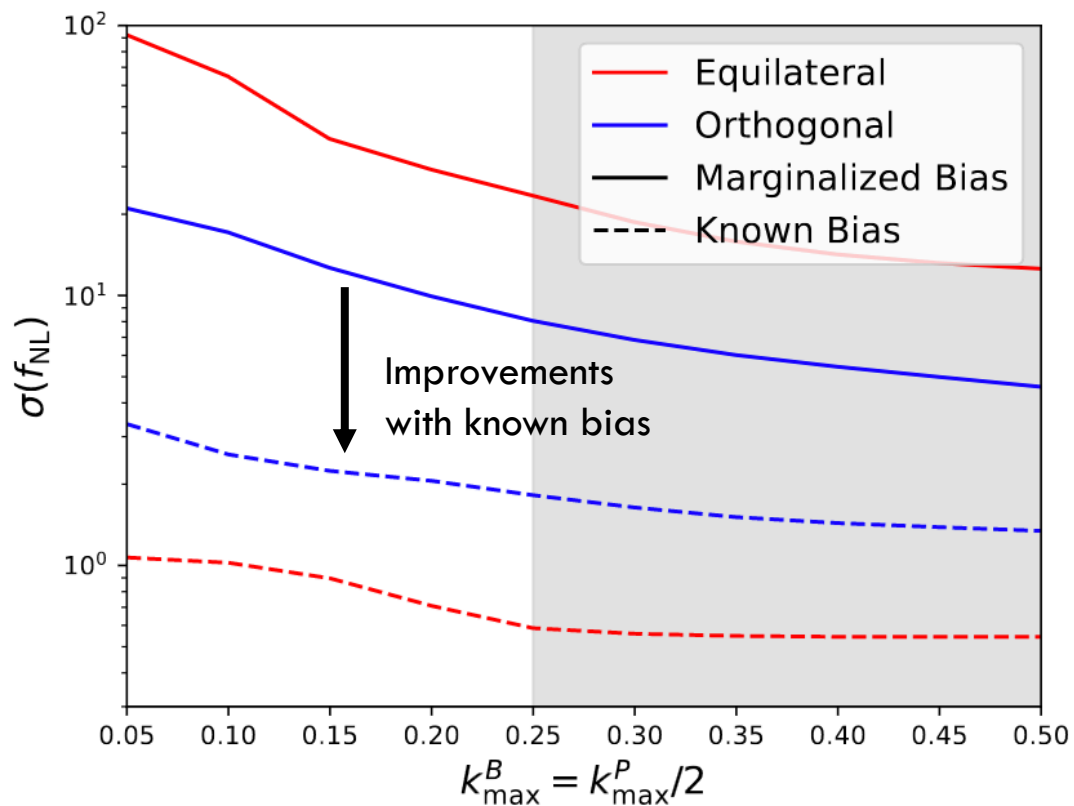
The future of f_{NL}



MegaMapper > CMB-S4!

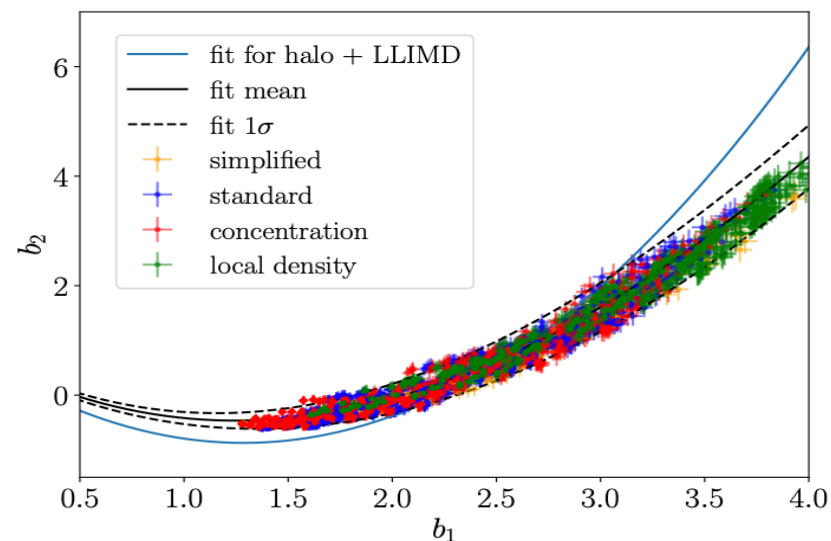
- For now, the **CMB** gives **stronger constraints** than **galaxy surveys**
- This makes sense: the CMB measures **much more** of the Universe
- By Stage-V surveys like **MegaMapper**, **galaxies** will place the **strongest** constraints on inflationary physics
- **Can we do better still?**

The future of f_{NL}



MegaMapper forecast

- Limiting factor in primordial analyses is knowledge of **galaxy formation**
- Can we calibrate with simulations or semi-analytic models?



Beyond f_{NL}

There's lots more to explore:

- **Heavy** particles in inflation
[$m \sim H, m > H$]
- **Spinning** particles in inflation
[$B_\zeta \sim \text{Legendre}_{\text{spin}}(\theta)$]
- **Resonant non-Gaussianity**
[$B_\zeta \sim \text{oscillations}$]
- **Different** vacuum states
- **Tensor** correlations

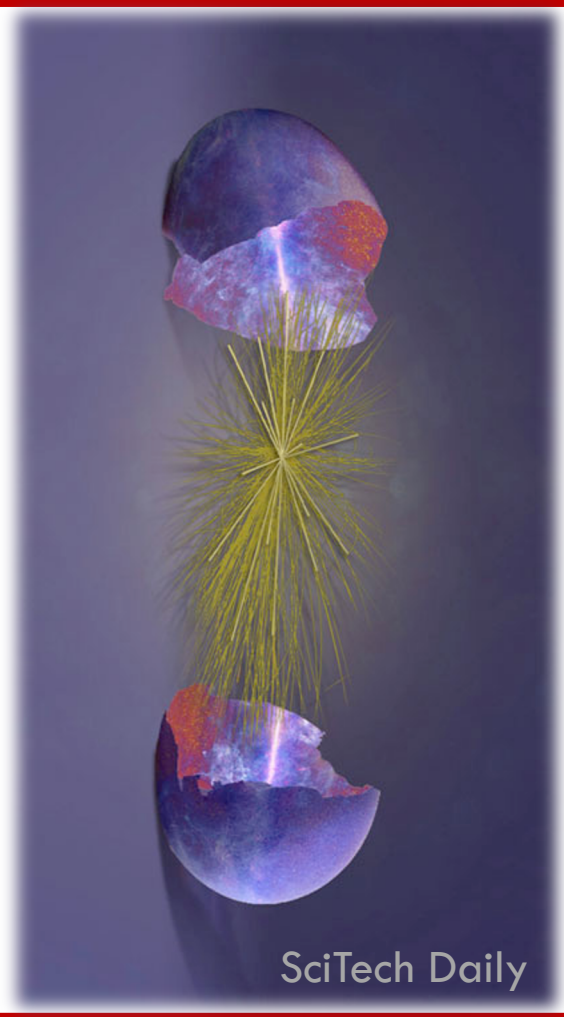
Hard in the CMB!

Cosmological Collider

Low-energy remnants
[curvature fluctuations]

High-energy physics
[particle scattering]

Low-energy remnants
[curvature fluctuations]



SciTech Daily

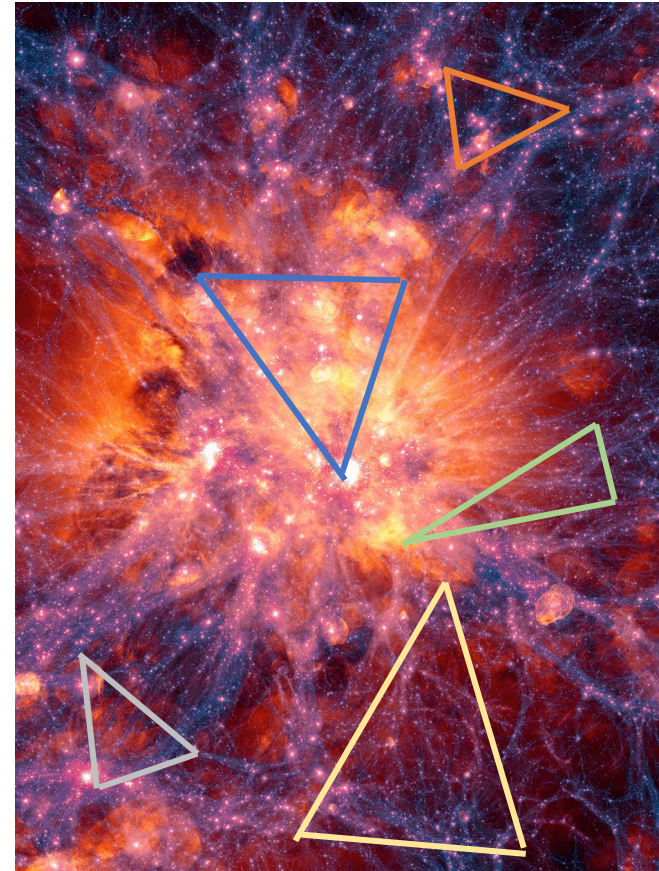
Much of this will need the galaxy trispectrum!

Beyond Perturbation Theory

- All the above analyses assume **perturbativity**:

EFTofLSS: A *low-energy* theory, valid on **large-scales** ($k < k_{\text{NL}}$)

- Volume of information scales as $k_{\text{max}}^3 \rightarrow$ we are **missing** significant information
- This is difficult to **model** explicitly: galaxy formation is hard and already limiting!
- **Solution**: use *conserved quantities* and *symmetries*



Beyond Perturbation Theory

What symmetries can we use?

1. Galilean invariance

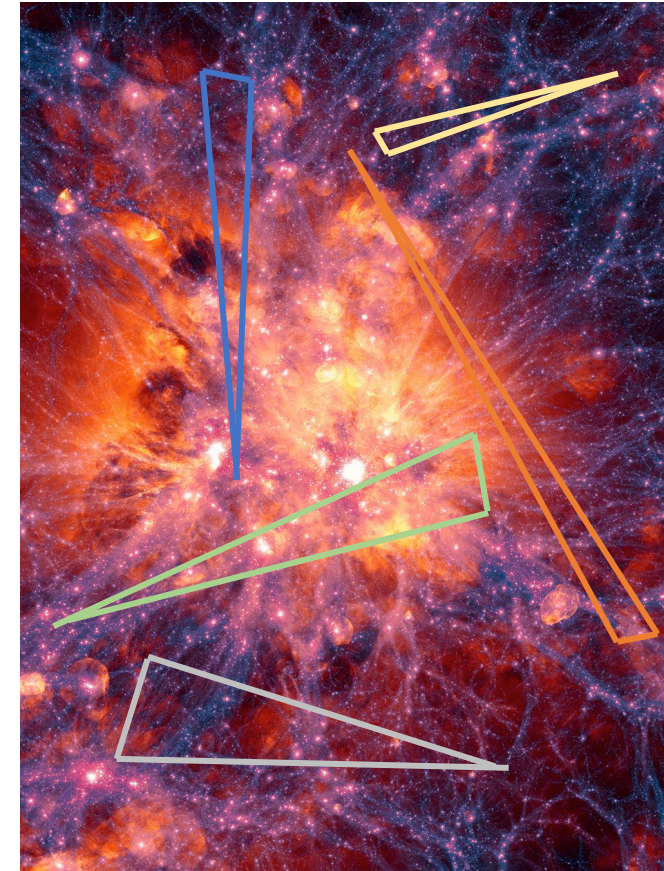
$$\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{s}(t), \quad \mathbf{v} \rightarrow \mathbf{v} - \dot{\mathbf{s}}(t), \quad \phi \rightarrow \phi + \Delta\phi$$

- This is a **non-perturbative** symmetry of the **equations of motion**
- It relates to **Ward Identities** and **Soft Theorems**:

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{q^2 B(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')}{P(q)} = 0$$

- This **consistency relation** is **violated** by local f_{NL}

We can measure local f_{NL} from highly non-linear scales



Beyond Perturbation Theory

What symmetries can we use?

1. Galilean invariance

$$\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{s}(t), \quad \mathbf{v} \rightarrow \mathbf{v} - \dot{\mathbf{s}}(t), \quad \phi \rightarrow \phi + \Delta\phi$$

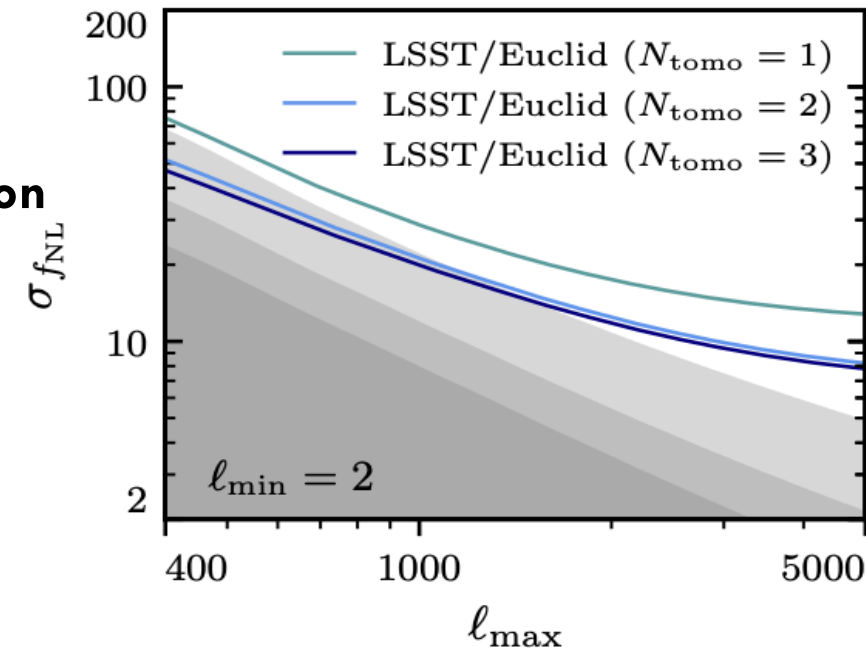
- This is a **non-perturbative** symmetry of the **equations of motion**
- It relates to **Ward Identities** and **Soft Theorems**:

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{q^2 B(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')}{P(q)} = 0$$

- This **consistency relation** is **violated** by local f_{NL}

We can measure local f_{NL} from highly non-linear scales

Non-linear weak lensing constraints



Beyond Perturbation Theory

What symmetries can we use?

1. Galilean invariance

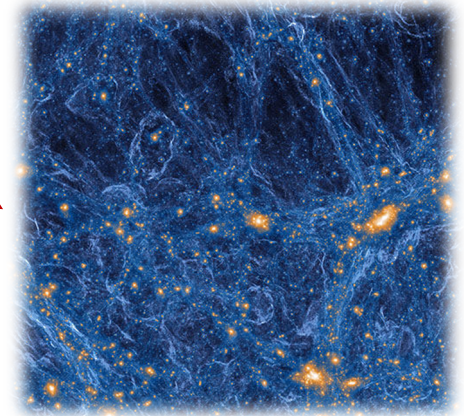
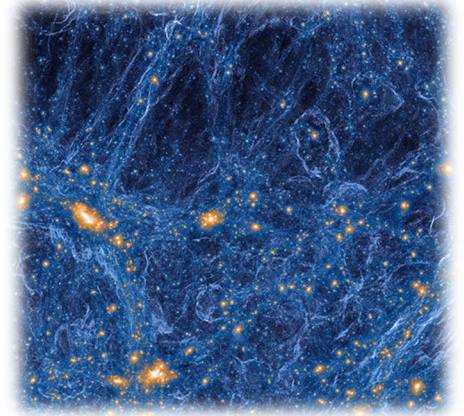
2. Parity symmetry

- Is the Universe invariant under a **point reflection**?

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, t) \rightarrow f(-\mathbf{x}, -\mathbf{y}, t) = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, t) ??$$

- **General Relativity** and **hydrodynamics** preserve this symmetry
- Is **inflation** parity-symmetric?

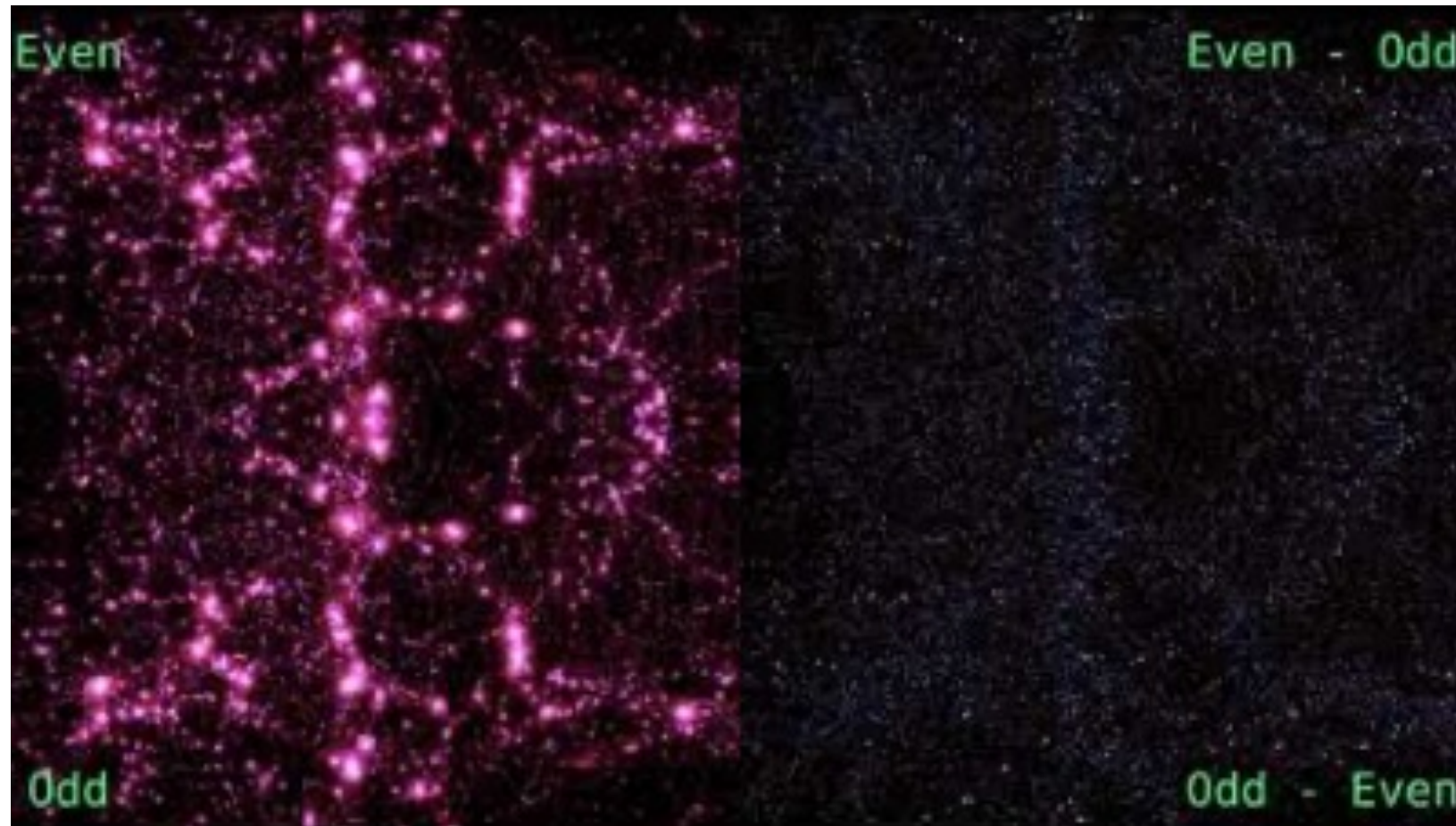
*Which is the
true Universe?*



A Parity-Violating Universe



QUIJOTE-Odd: 1000 simulated universes with parity-violating **initial conditions**



How To Search for Parity-Violation

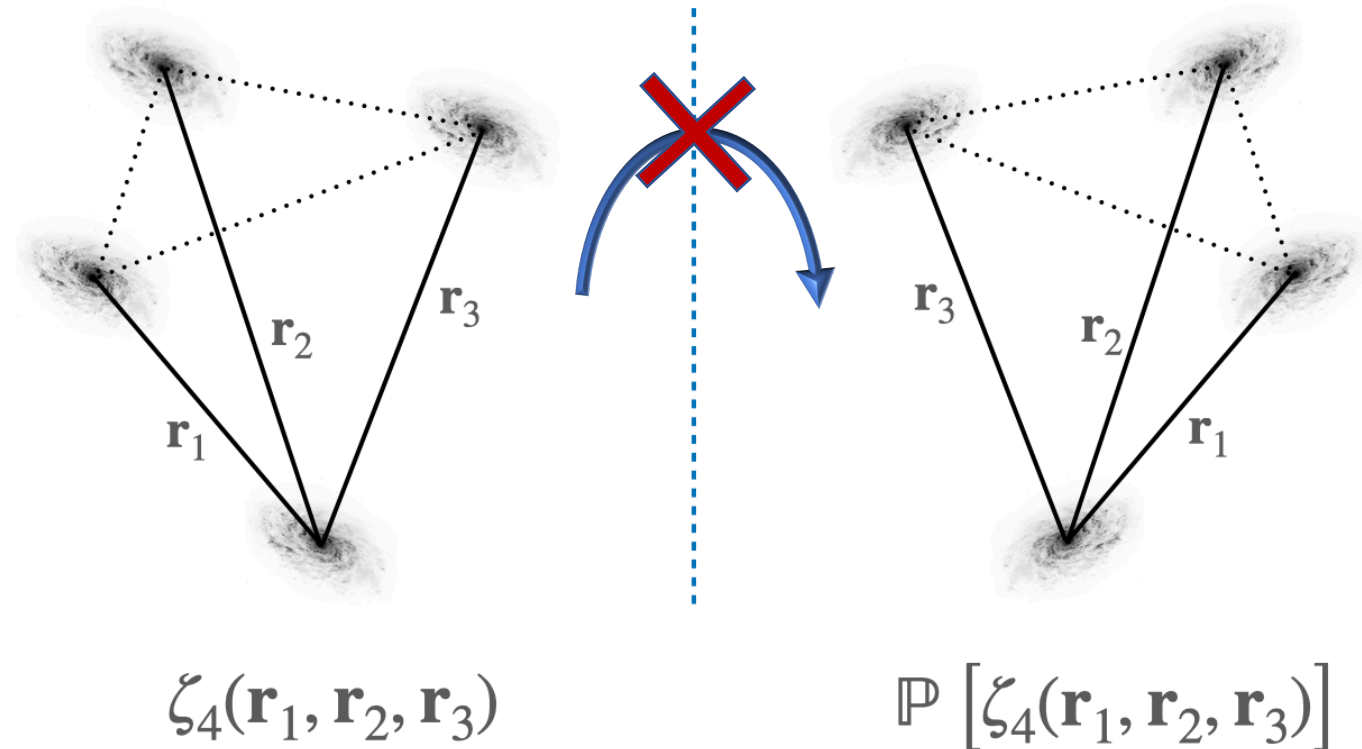
Scalar observables:

- Galaxy density
- CMB fluctuations

We need a **triple product**: $\mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2 \times \mathbf{r}_3$

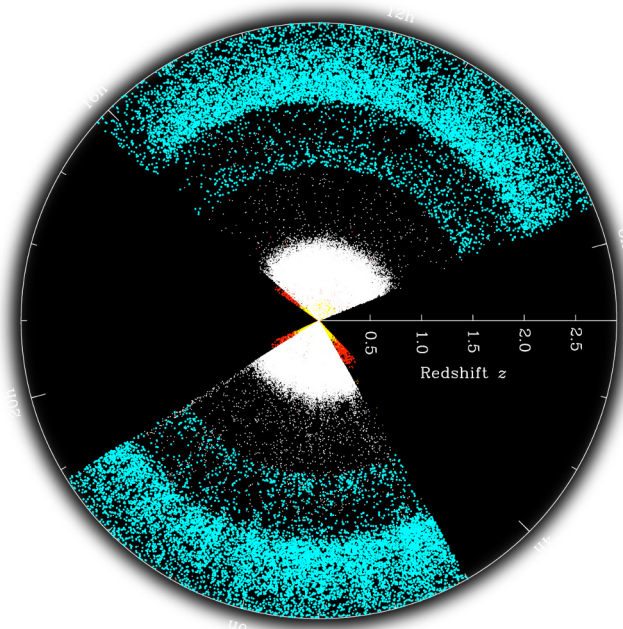
Statistics:

- **Four-point** correlation function
- **Trispectrum**



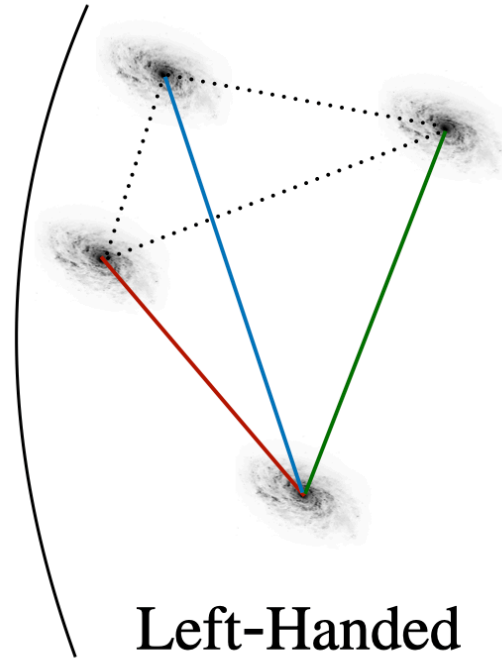
How To Search for Parity-Violation

Measure the four-point function from 10^6 BOSS galaxies



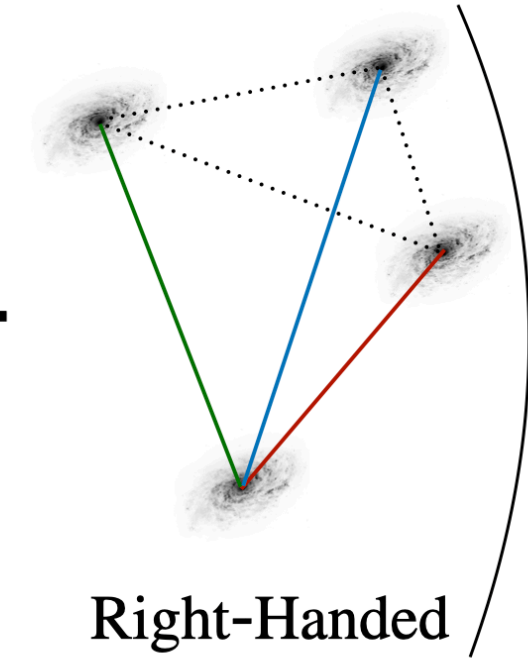
BOSS Galaxy Sample

ENCORE Code



Left-Handed

$$\mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2 \times \mathbf{r}_3 > 0$$



Right-Handed

$$\mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2 \times \mathbf{r}_3 < 0$$

Zero without
parity-violation!

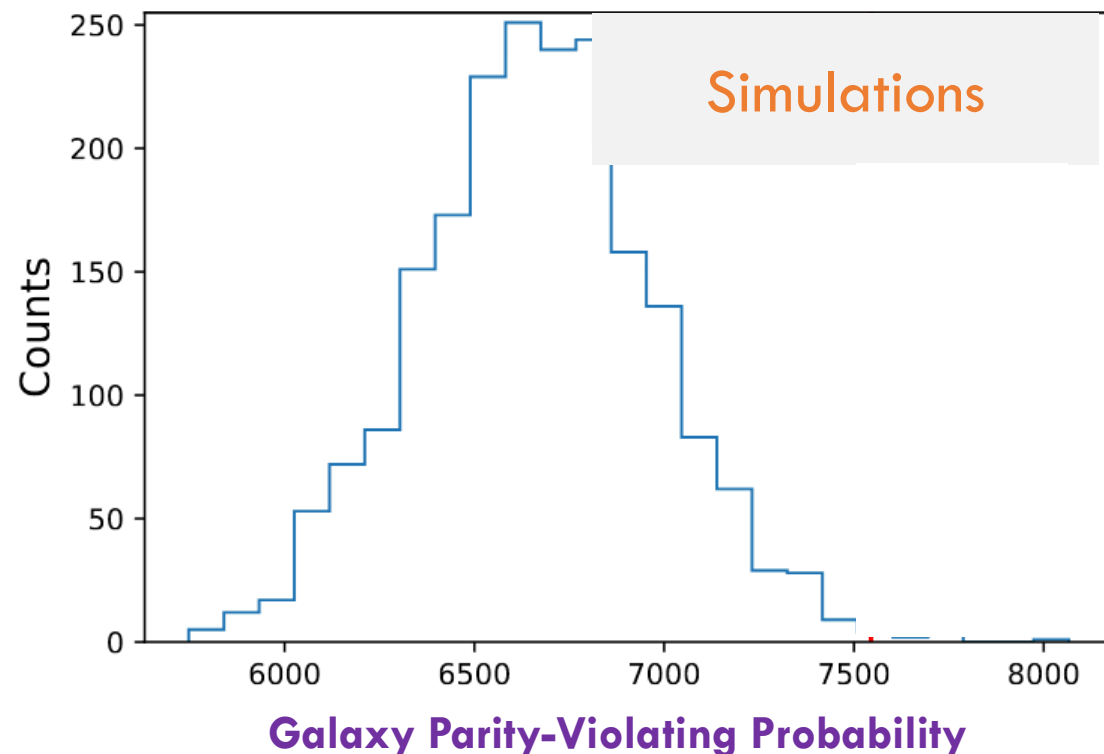
How To Search for Parity-Violation

This is **hard** to analyze in practice:

- We need the **covariance** of a 4-point function
- Need to model an **8**-point function down to (mildly) **non-linear** scales

Perform a **simulation-based** χ^2 analysis of the observed data

$$\chi^2 \equiv \zeta^{\text{odd}} \text{Cov}_{\zeta}^{-1} \zeta^{\text{odd}}$$



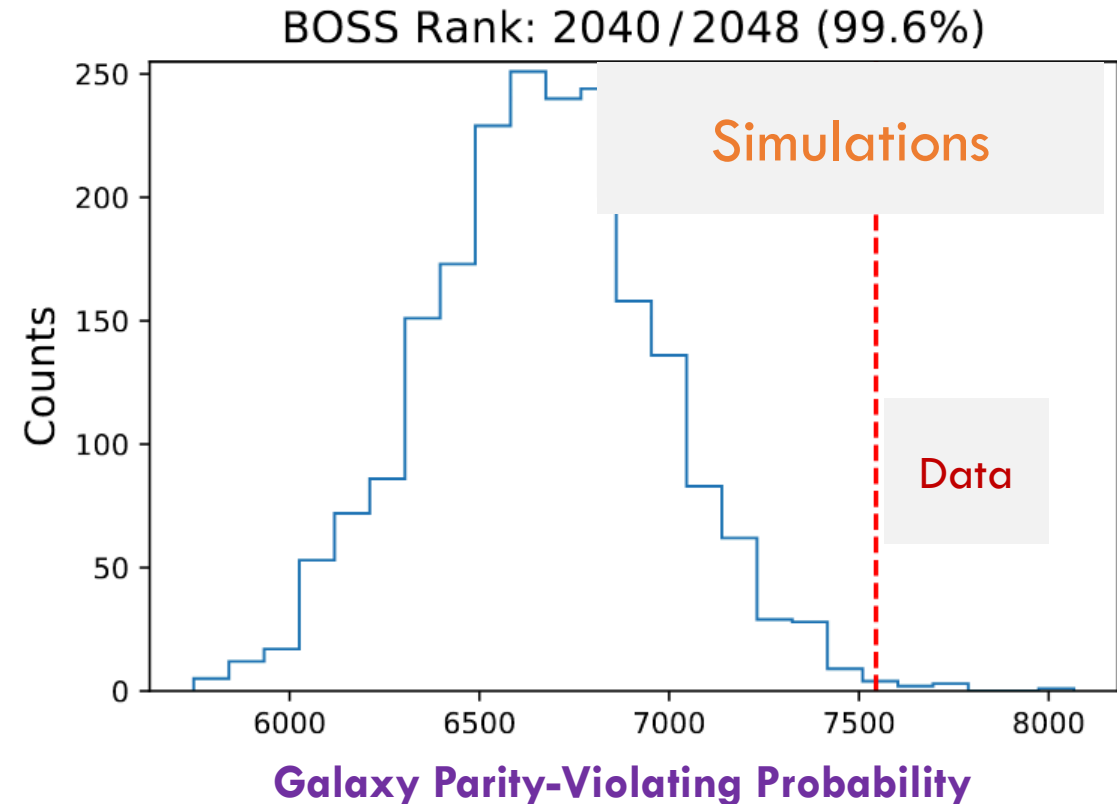
Detecting Parity-Violation?

This is **hard** to analyze in practice:

- We need the **covariance** of a 4-point function
- Need to model an **8-point** function down to (mildly) **non-linear** scales

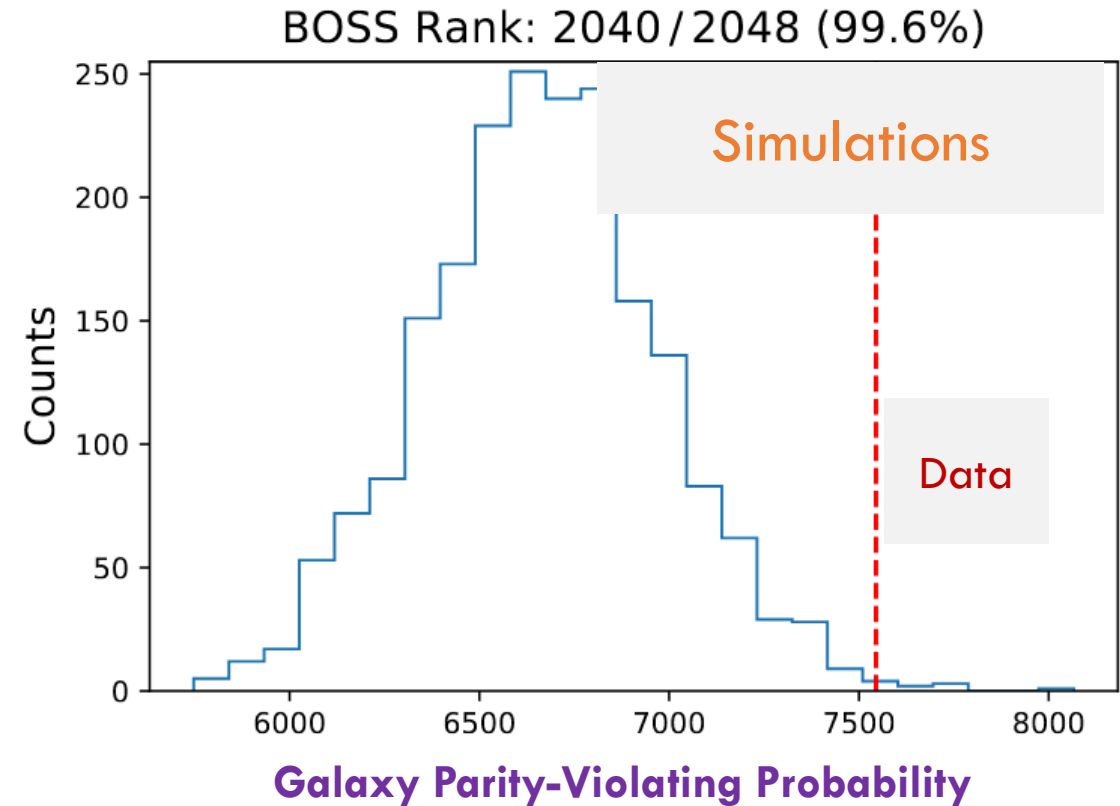
Perform a **simulation-based** χ^2 analysis of the observed data

$$\chi^2 \equiv \zeta^{\text{odd}} \text{Cov}_{\zeta}^{-1} \zeta^{\text{odd}}$$



3σ detection of parity-violation??

Detecting Parity-Violation?



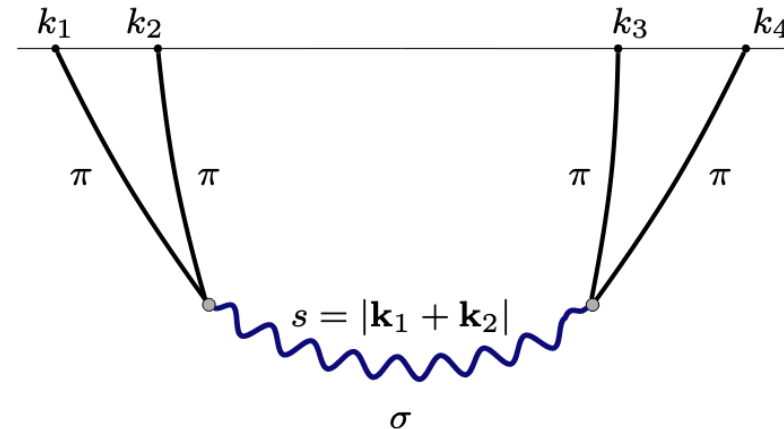
3σ detection of parity-violation??

Detecting Parity-Violation?

Many ways to violate parity in inflation:

1. Spinning particle exchange?
2. Ghost inflation?
3. Chern-Simons gravitational waves?
4. Gauge fields with loops?

But: *No evidence for an inflationary source from the 18 models we tried!*



Spinning particles in inflation



Ghost inflation

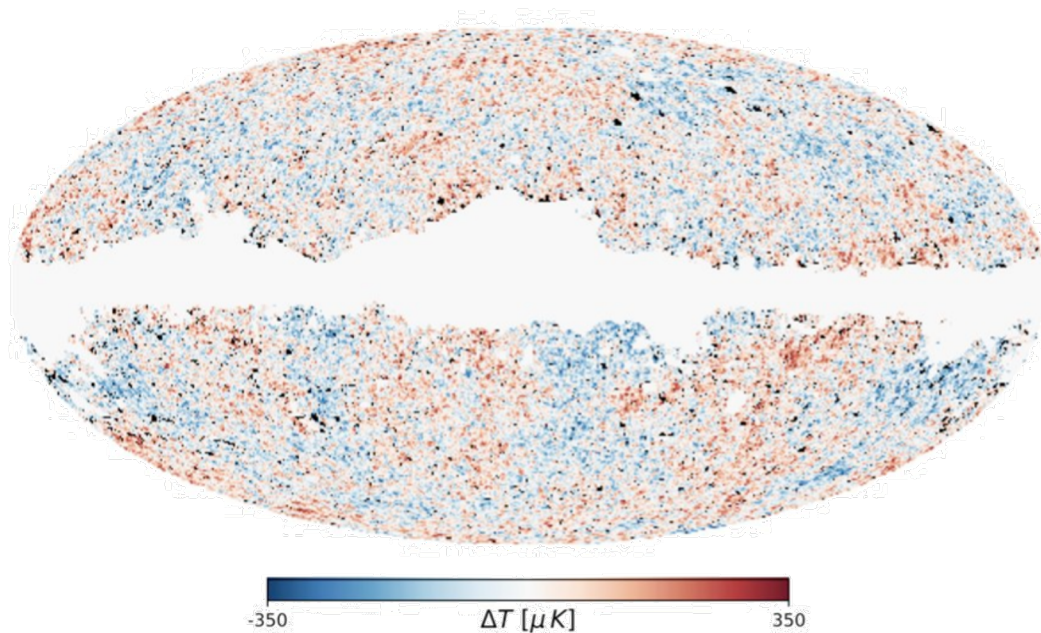


Chern-Simons inflation

Undetecting Parity-Violation



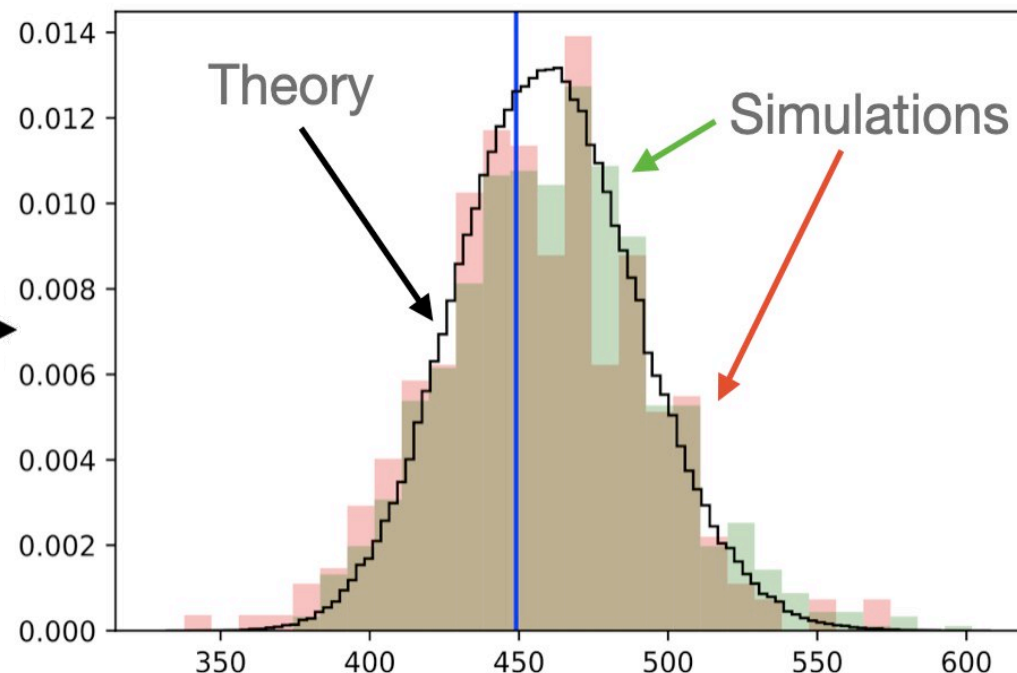
Planck Temperature and Polarization



PolyBin

A large black arrow pointing from the CMB map to the histogram, indicating the application of the PolyBin method.

Planck data



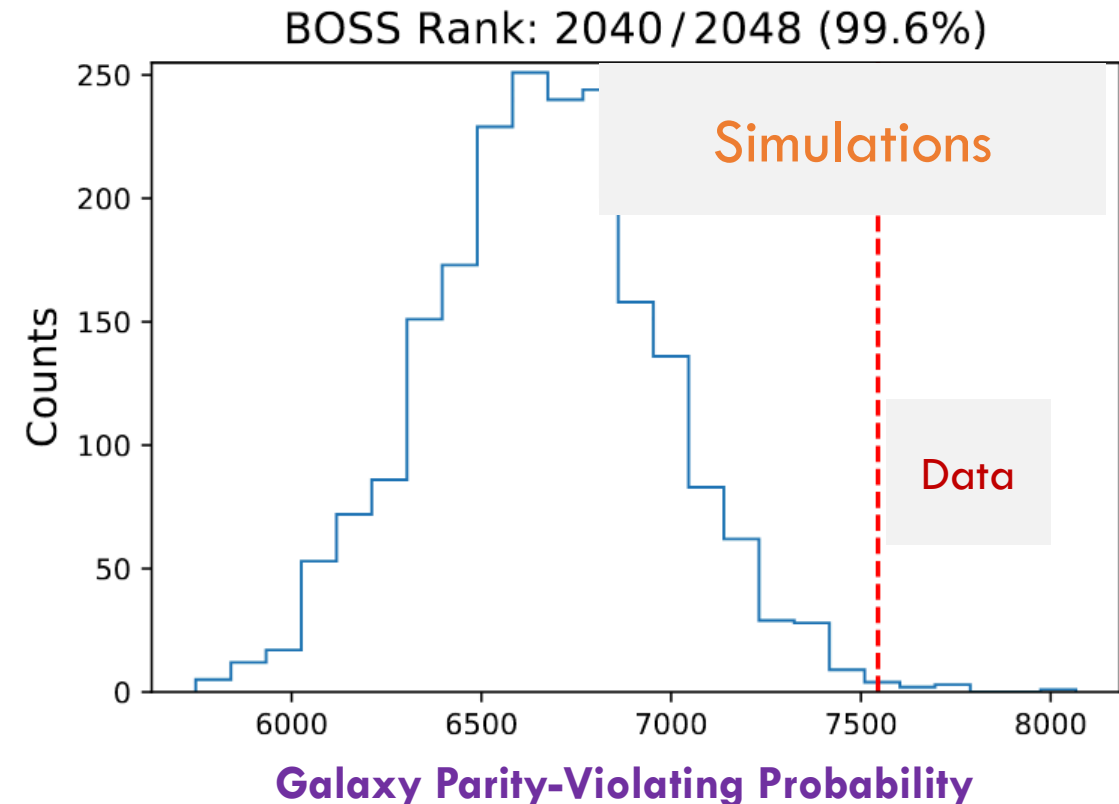
**< 0.5 σ detection with
250x more modes**

CMB Parity-Violating Probability

What Was Responsible for the Galaxy Signal?

Cosmological options

- A **primordial** model that **averages out** in the CMB
- Late-time physics on **large** scales



3σ detection of parity-violation??

What Was Responsible for the Galaxy Signal?

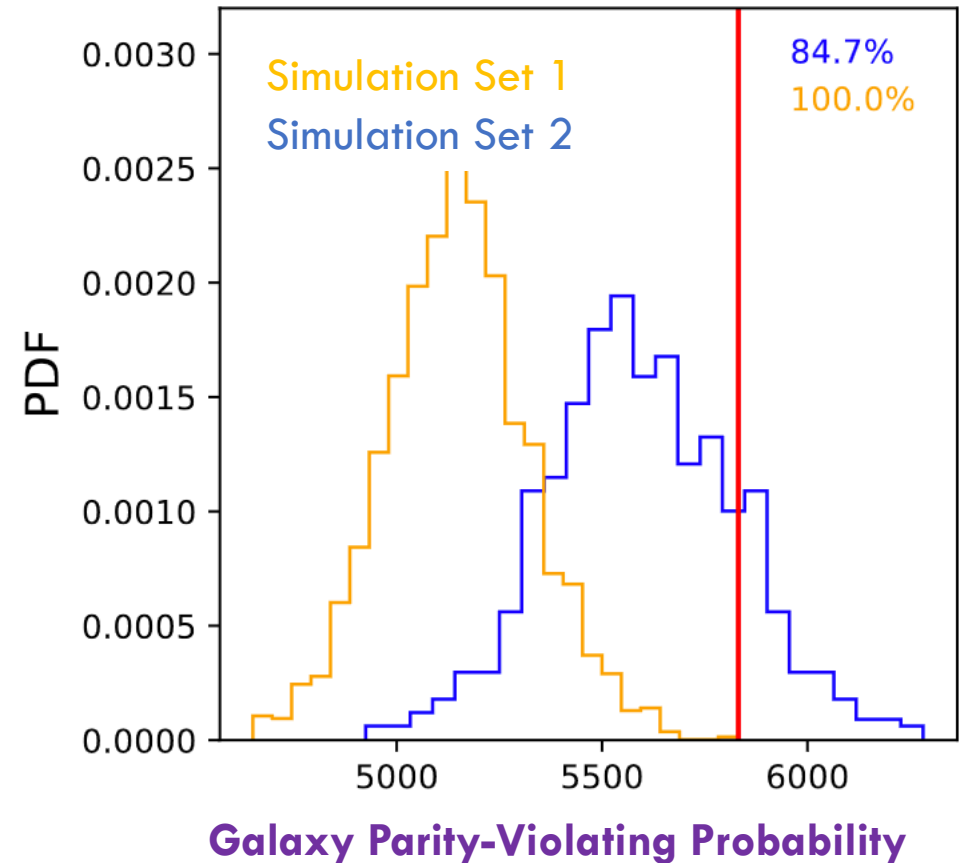
Cosmological options

- A **primordial** model that **averages out** in the CMB
- Late-time physics on **large** scales

Non-cosmological options

- Systematics in **data**
- Systematics in **analysis**

Are the simulations reliable?



Does the Universe Violate Parity?

BOSS galaxy survey:

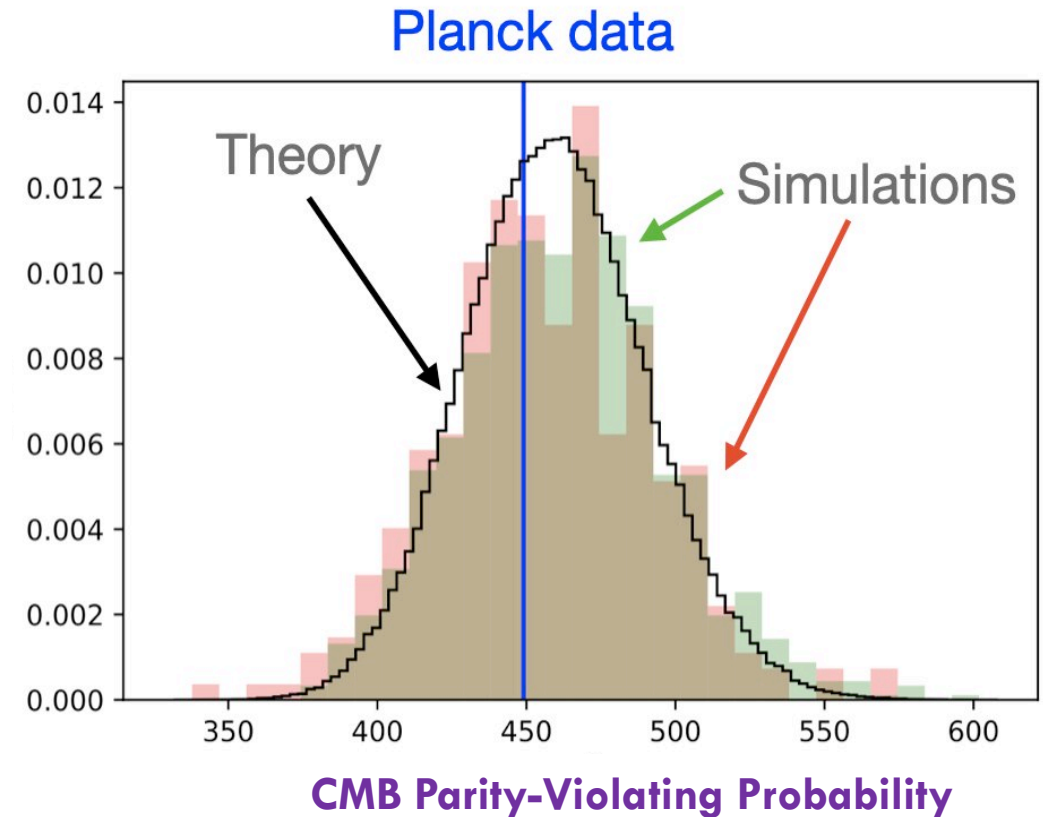
Yes! 3σ detection of parity-violation

Planck Cosmic Microwave Background:

No! $< 0.5\sigma$ detection of parity-violation

- Possible explanation: inaccurate **simulations**

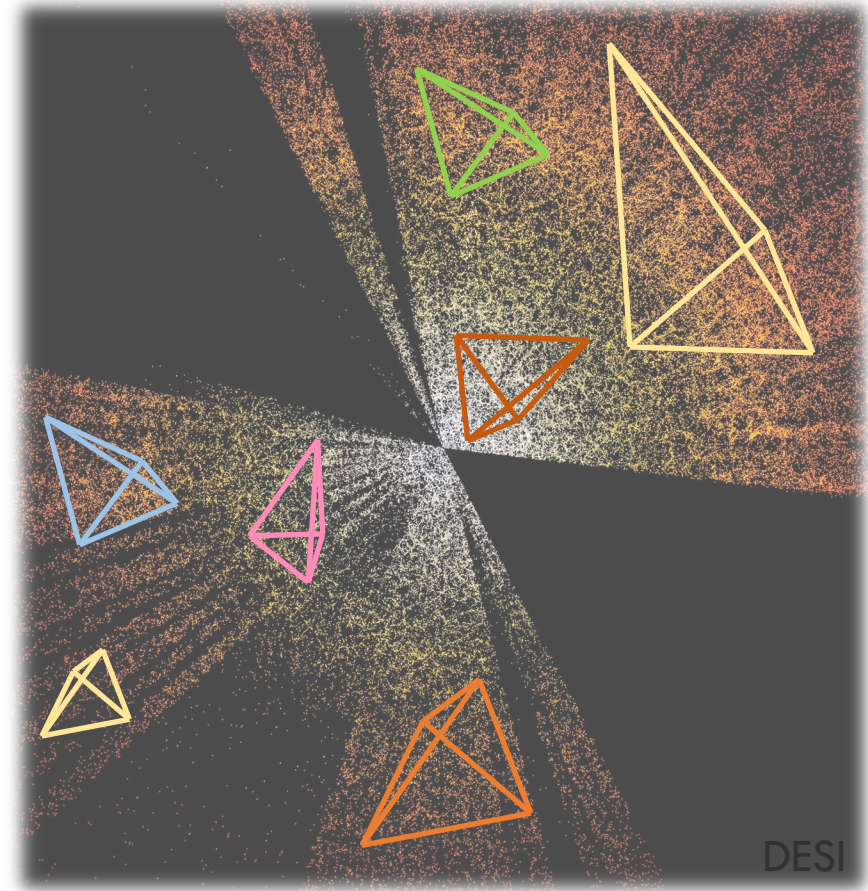
Despite the non-detection, this opens up an entirely new sector for constraining inflation!



The Future

- The volume of the Universe mapped by galaxy surveys will **increase by $\approx 100\times$** in the next decade
- We have a unique opportunity to pin down **inflationary particle physics**
- This will require:
 - High-resolution **data** [DESI, Euclid, ...]
 - Robust **statistics** [Bispectra, Trispectra, ...]
 - Accurate **theoretical** models [perturbative, symmetries, ...]

We have already developed a lot of the technology to do this!



Summary

- Non-Gaussianity in **galaxy surveys** can probe **new physics in inflation**
- We can **directly** constrain this via **perturbative** and **non-perturbative** methods
- **There's a lot to discover:** cosmological colliders, parity-violation, new particles, and beyond!

Contact

ohp2@cantab.ac.uk
[oliverphilcox.github.io](https://github.com/oliverphilcox)

arXiv

[2401.09523](https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.09523)
[2312.12498](https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.12498)
[2310.12959](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.12959)
[2308.03831](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.03831)
[2306.11782](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.11782)
[2303.12106](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.12106)
[2303.04815](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.04815)
[2302.04414](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.04414)
[2211.14899](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.14899)
[2210.16320](https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.16320)
[2209.04228](https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.04228)
[2206.04227](https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.04227)
[2206.02800](https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.02800)
[2204.01781](https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.01781)
[2201.07238](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.07238)
[2112.04515](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.04515)
[2110.10161](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.10161)