Talk prepared for IDM 2026

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Novel constraints on the primordial power spectrum from compact objects formation

Based on arXiv: 2506.20704

Sergio Sevillano Muñoz

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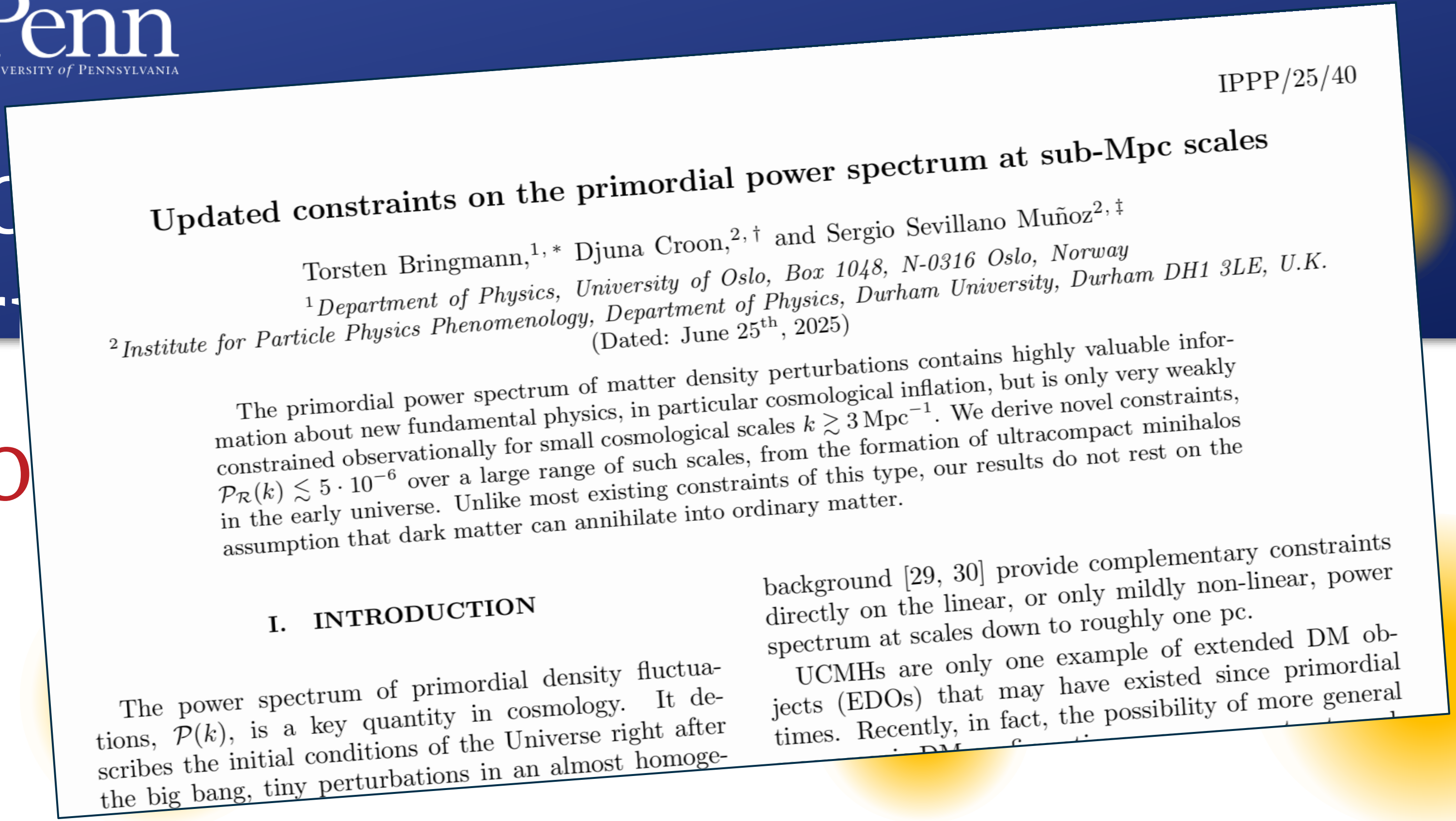

IPPP/25/40

Updated constraints on the primordial power spectrum at sub-Mpc scales

Torsten Bringmann,[1,*] Djuna Croon,[2,†] and Sergio Sevillano Muñoz[2,‡]

[1] *Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Box 1048, N-0316 Oslo, Norway*

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(Dated: June 25th, 2025)

The primordial power spectrum of matter density perturbations contains highly valuable information about new fundamental physics, in particular cosmological inflation, but is only very weakly constrained observationally for small cosmological scales $k \gtrsim 3\,\mathrm{Mpc}^{-1}$. We derive novel constraints, $\mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(k) \lesssim 5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ over a large range of such scales, from the formation of ultracompact minihalos in the early universe. Unlike most existing constraints of this type, our results do not rest on the assumption that dark matter can annihilate into ordinary matter.

I. INTRODUCTION

The power spectrum of primordial density fluctuations, $\mathcal{P}(k)$, is a key quantity in cosmology. It describes the initial conditions of the Universe right after the big bang, tiny perturbations in an almost homoge-

background [29, 30] provide complementary constraints directly on the linear, or only mildly non-linear, power spectrum at scales down to roughly one pc.

UCMHs are only one example of extended DM objects (EDOs) that may have existed since primordial times. Recently, in fact, the possibility of more general

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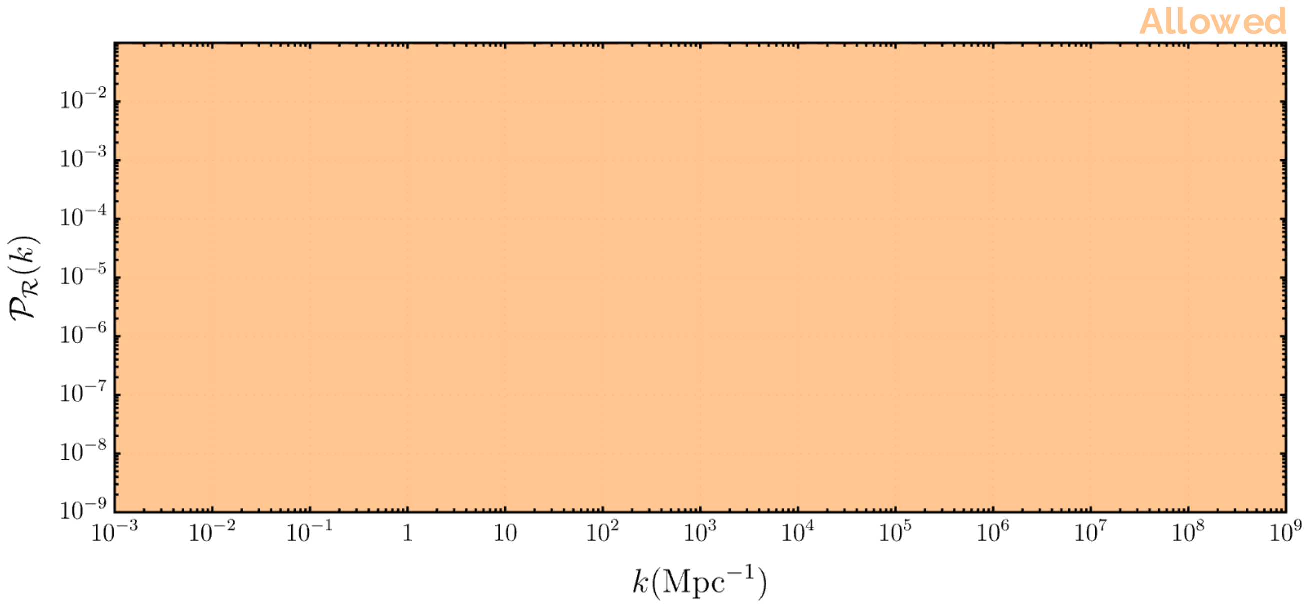
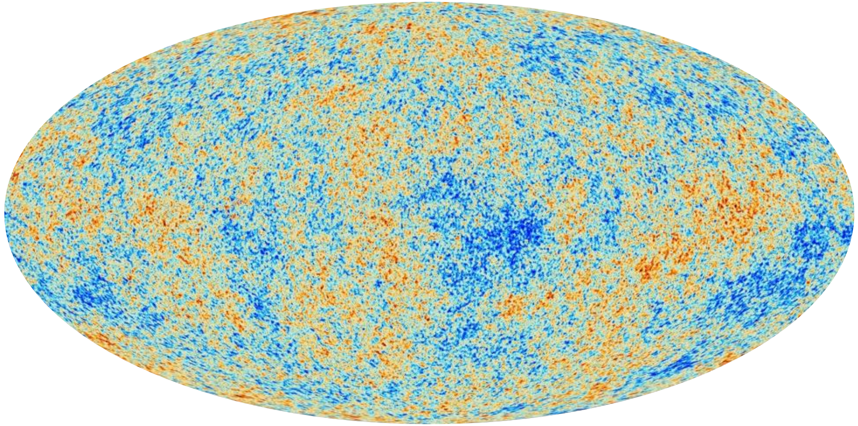
Our plan for today

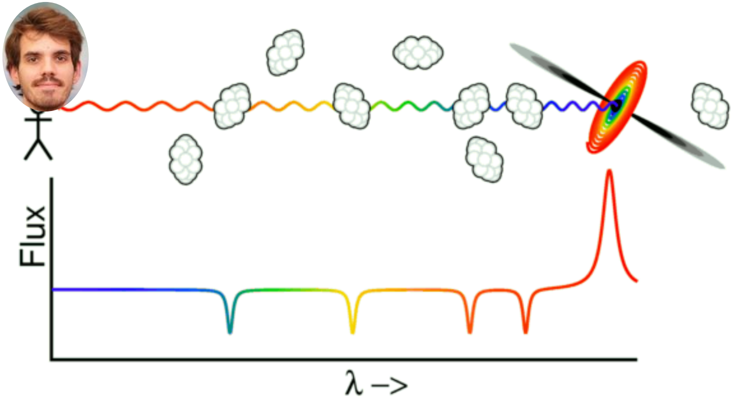
Update constraints from the primordial curvature power spectrum



Cosmic Microwave Background



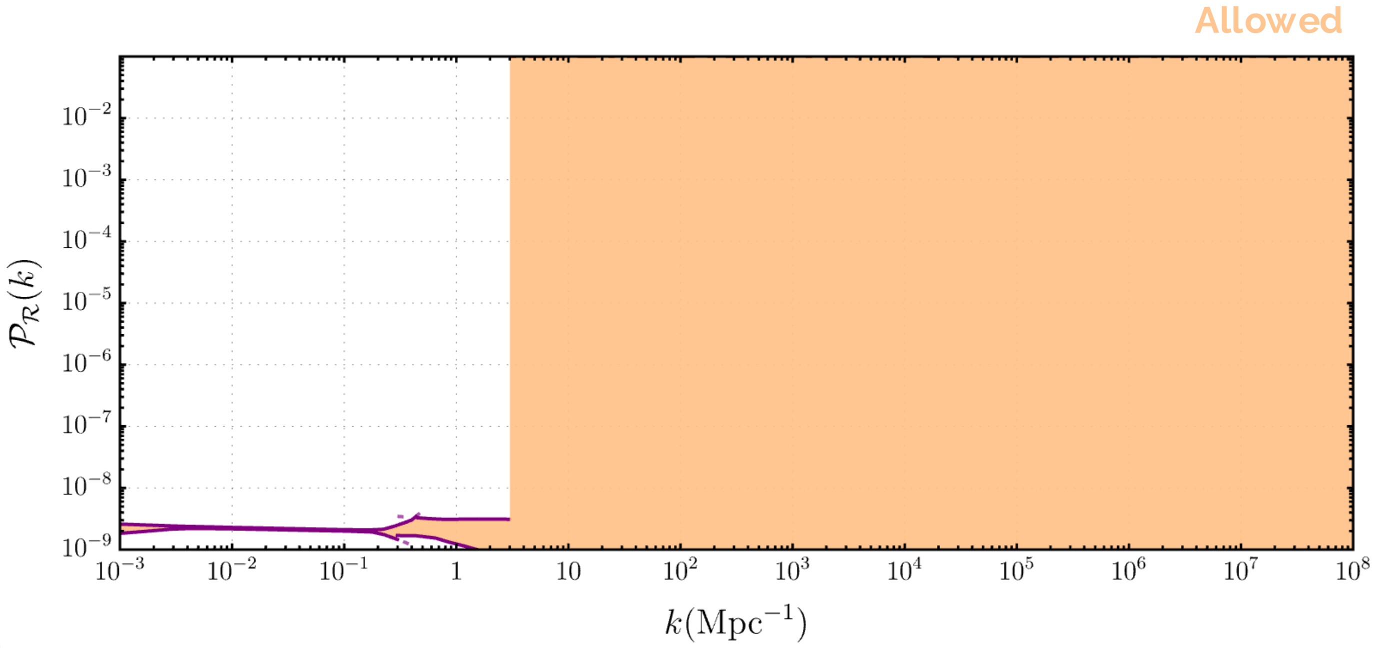
Lyman α Forest



S. Bird, H. V. Peiris, M. Viel, L. Verde (1010.1519v2)

Lyman α and Planck

Inferring smaller scales by looking at matter distribution in the late universe



y and μ distortions

Primordial perturbations create injections of energy into the background that lead to a departure of the perfect CMB black body spectrum:

$$\mu \approx 2.2 \int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) \left[\exp\left(-\frac{\hat{k}}{5400} \right) - \exp\left(-\left[\frac{\hat{k}}{31.6} \right]^2 \right) \right] \mathrm{d} \ln k$$

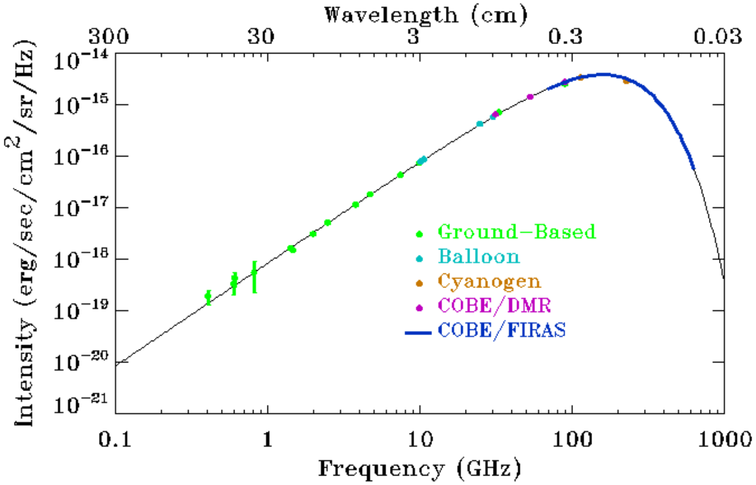
$$y \approx 0.4 \int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) \exp\left(-\left[\frac{\hat{k}}{31.6} \right]^2 \right) \mathrm{d} \ln k,$$

Where we assume
a locally scale-invariant power spectrum

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k_{\mathcal{R}}) & \text{for } 1/3 < k/k_{\mathcal{R}} < 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

COBE (9605054)

$\mu < 9 \times 10^{-5}$ $\qquad$ $y < 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$



J. Chluba, A. L. Erickcek, I. Ben-Dayan (1203.2681)

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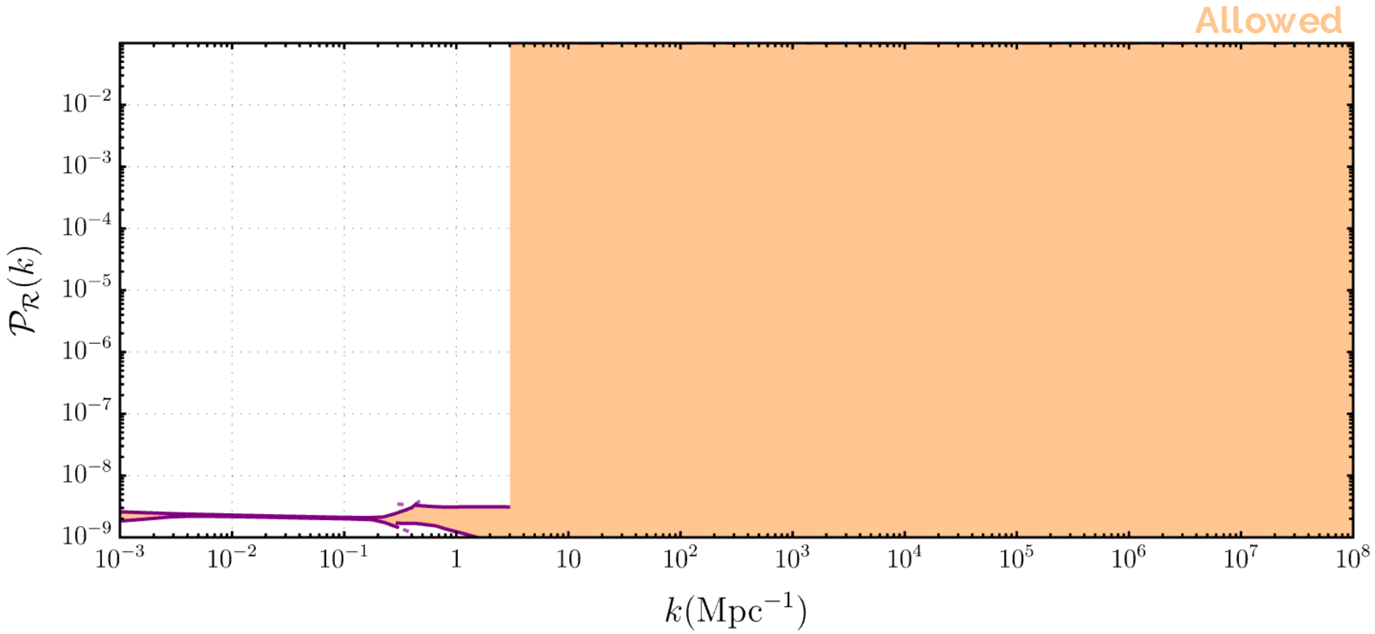

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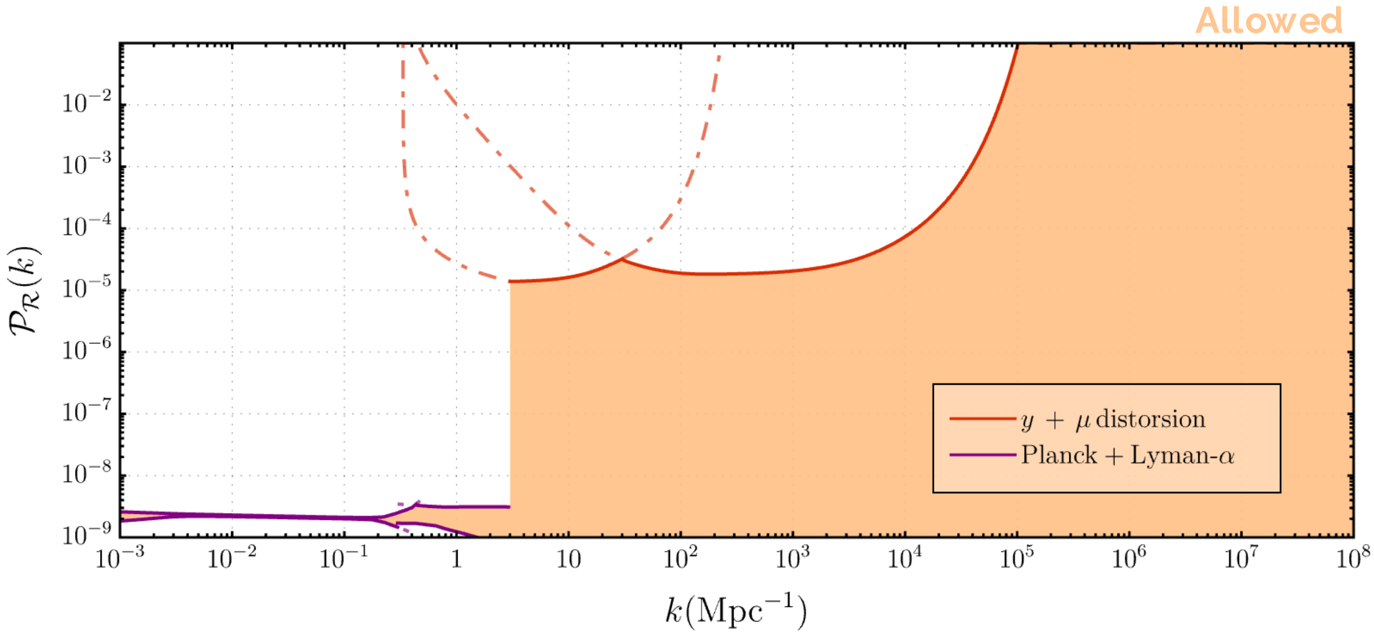


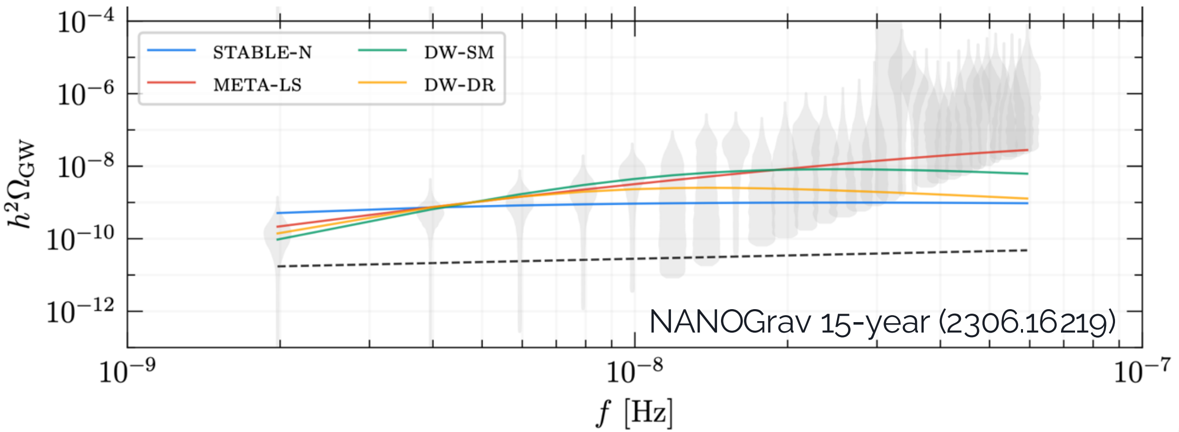
Pulsar Timing Arrays (PTAs)

Any stochastic background of gravitational waves can be constrained via $h^2\Omega_{\rm GW}$

$$\Omega_{\rm GW}(k,\eta) = \frac{1}{24}\left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)^2 \mathcal{P}_h(k,\eta)$$

$$\mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(k) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(k_\mathcal{R}) & \text{for } 1/3 < k/k_\mathcal{R} < 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_h(k,\eta) = 4\int_0^\infty dv \int_{|1-v|}^{1+v} du \left(\frac{4v^2-(1+v^2-u^2)^2}{4vu}\right)^2 \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(ku)\mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(kv) I^2(u,v,k\eta),$$



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NANOGrav 15-year (2306.16219)

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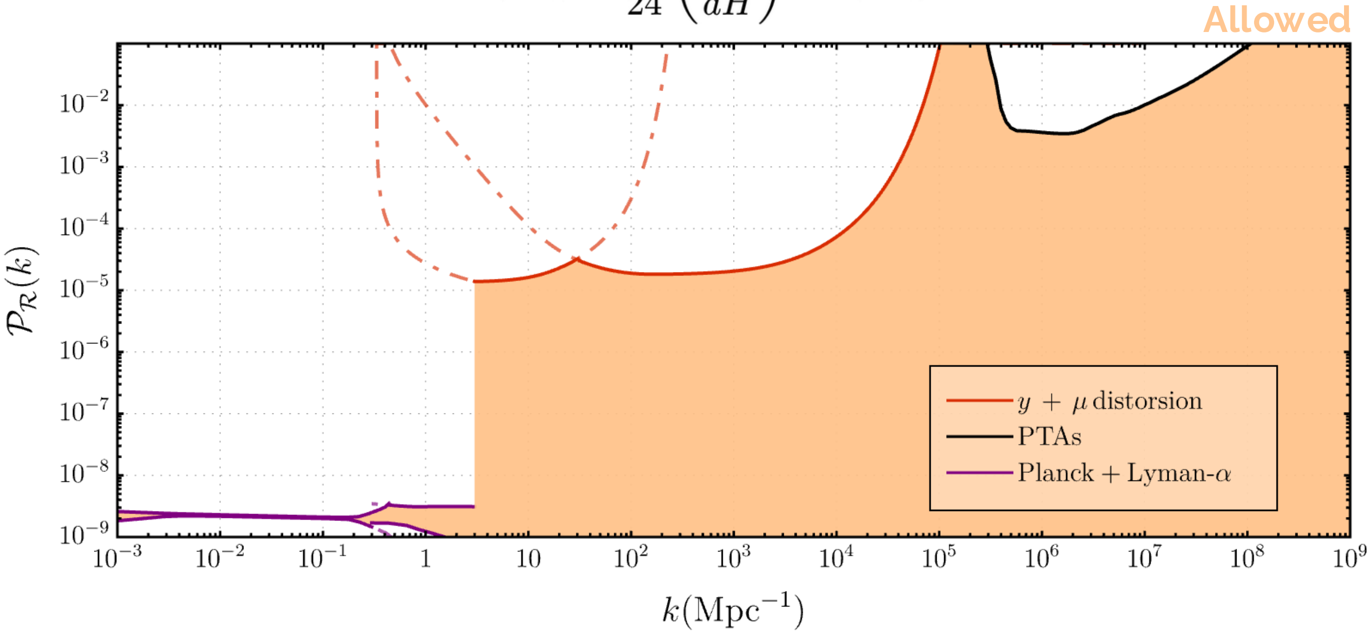


Primordial Black Holes (PBHs)

Large enough overdensities can lead to the collapse of a region into a black hole!

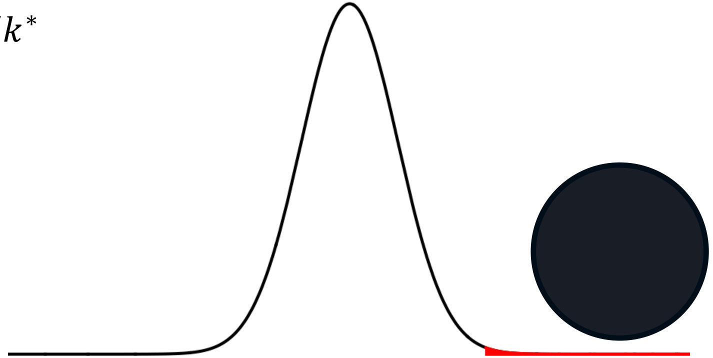
$$\beta(M_{\mathrm{H}}) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\alpha}{\sigma(R)} \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2(R)}{2\sigma^2(R)}\right) \mathrm{d}\delta(R)$$

$$R = 1/k^*$$

$$\delta \equiv (\rho - \bar{\rho})/\bar{\rho}$$

$$\sigma^2(R) = \frac{16}{81} \int_0^{\infty} (kR)^4 W^2(kR) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) T^2(kR/\sqrt{3}) \frac{\mathrm{d}k}{k}$$

Fraction of black holes



We can therefore constrain the power spectrum using limits on PBHs!

Carr, Kohri, Sndouda and Yokoyama (2002.12778)

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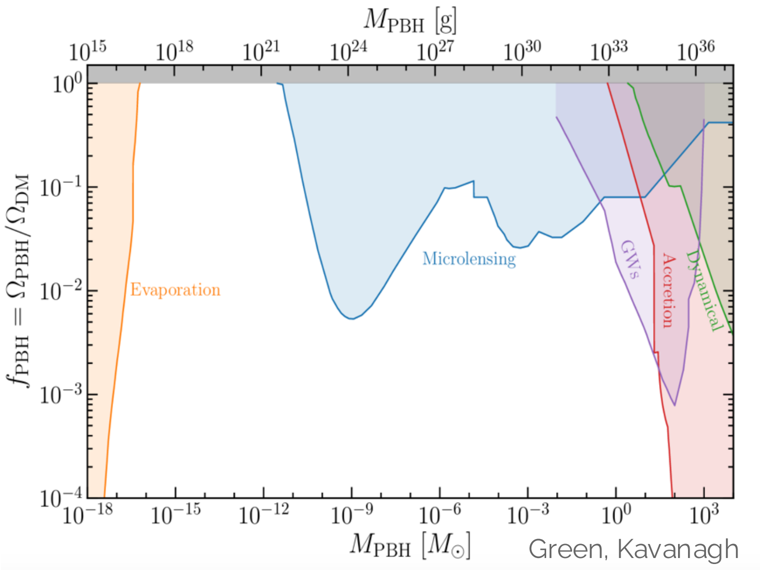
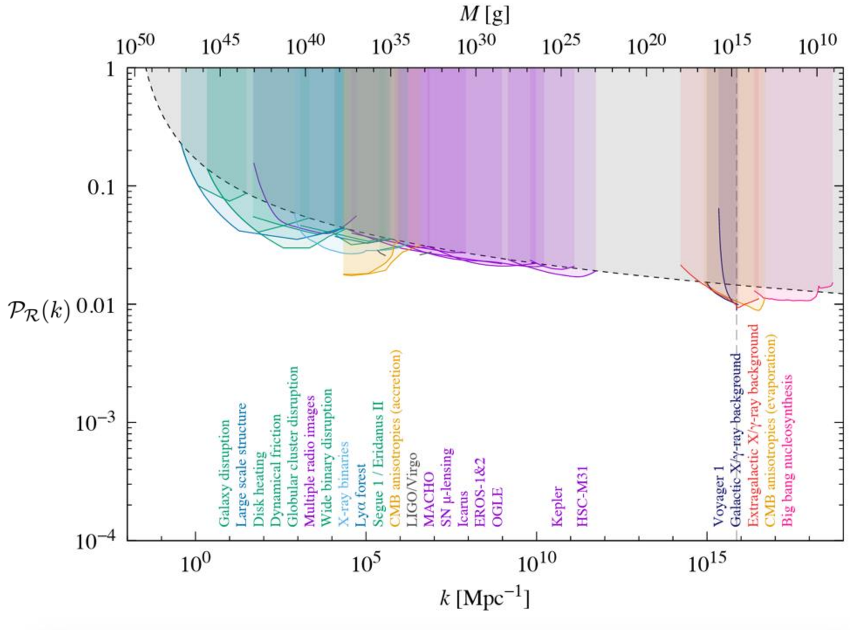


Green, Kavanagh



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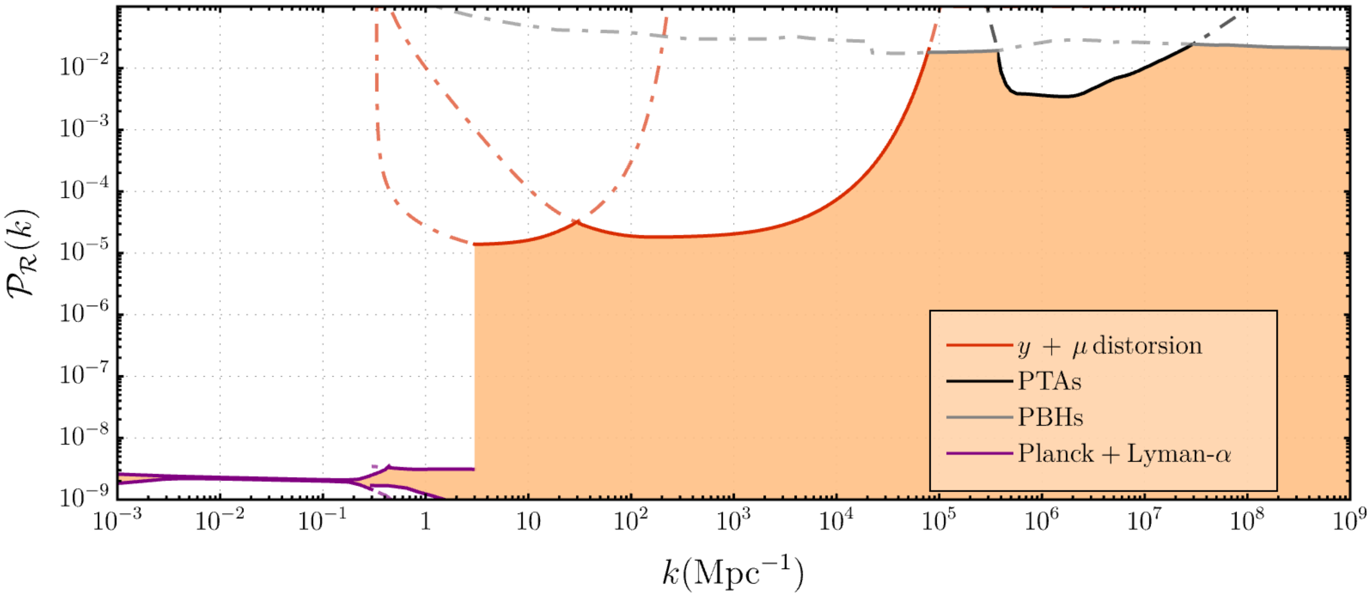

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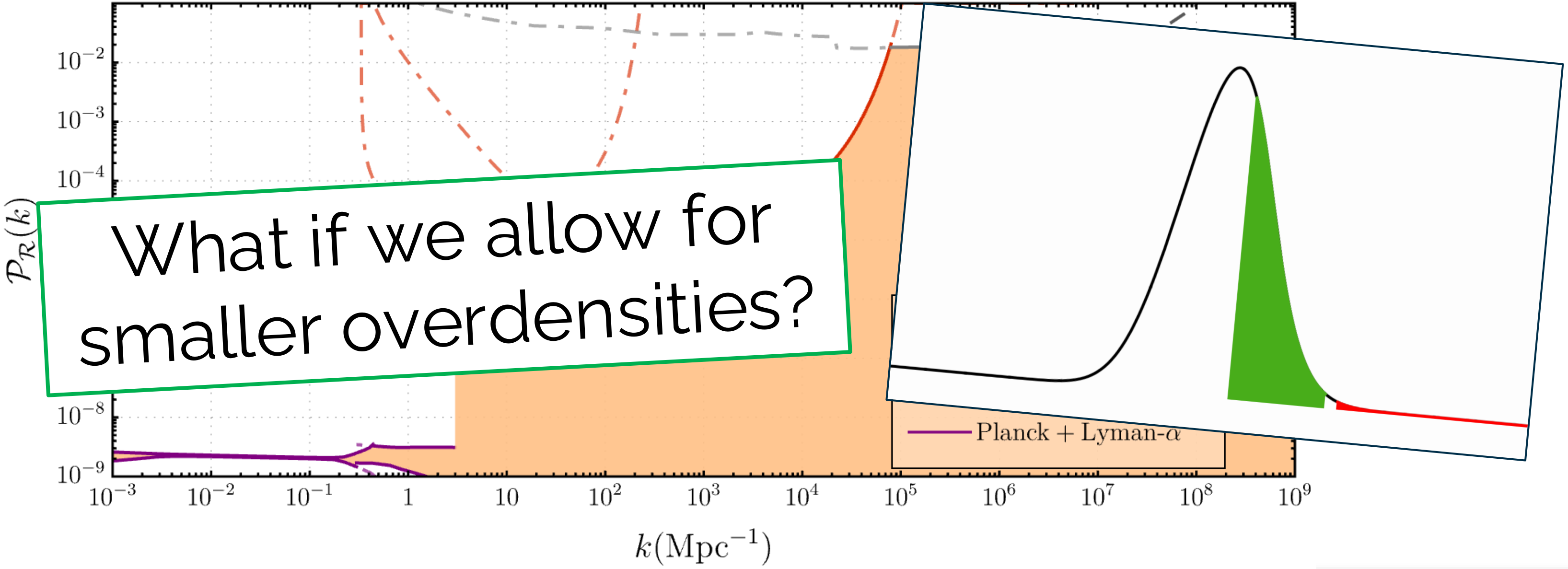

What if we allow for smaller overdensities?

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

That was the idea from this paper, assuming SM-DM interactions

Improved constraints on the primordial power spectrum at small scales from ultracompact minihalos

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Department of Physics, McGill University, 3600 rue University, Montréal, QC, H3A 2T8, Canada

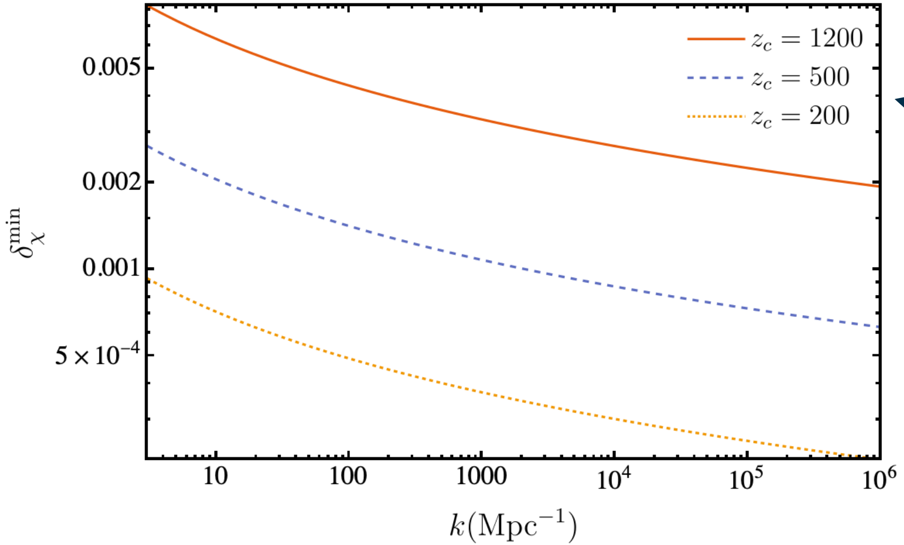
Yashar Akrami‡
The Oskar Klein Centre for Cosmoparticle Physics, Department of Physics, Stockholm University, AlbaNova, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

Can we do this only using gravitational interactions?

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

To know how many of these are created we need two things:

1) How large does an overdensity need to be to collapse into an object?



Depends on *when* it collapses

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

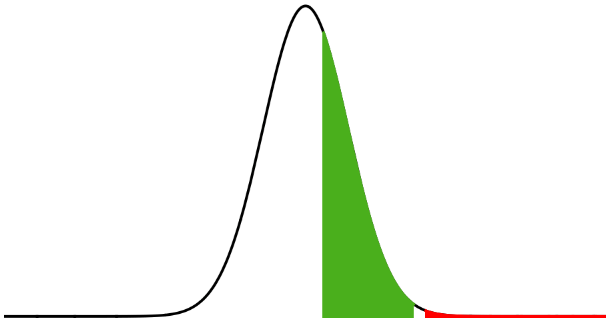
To know how many of these are created we need two things:

2) What is the distribution of overdensity amplitudes given a scale?

Similar to primordial black holes

$$\beta(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\chi,H}(k)} \int_{\delta_\chi^{\min}(k)}^{\delta_\chi^{\max}} \exp\left[-\frac{\delta_\chi^2}{2\sigma_{\chi,H}^2(k)}\right] \mathrm{d}\delta_\chi$$

$$\sigma_{\chi,H}^2(k) = \frac{1}{9}\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x x^3 W_{\mathrm{TH}}^2(x)\mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R}(xk)T_\chi^2(\theta = x/\sqrt{3})$$



$$\delta \equiv (\rho - \bar{\rho})/\bar{\rho}$$

Integrating for smaller overdensities gives density fraction!

$$\Omega_{\mathrm{UCMH}}(k) = \Omega_{\mathrm{DM}}\beta(k)$$

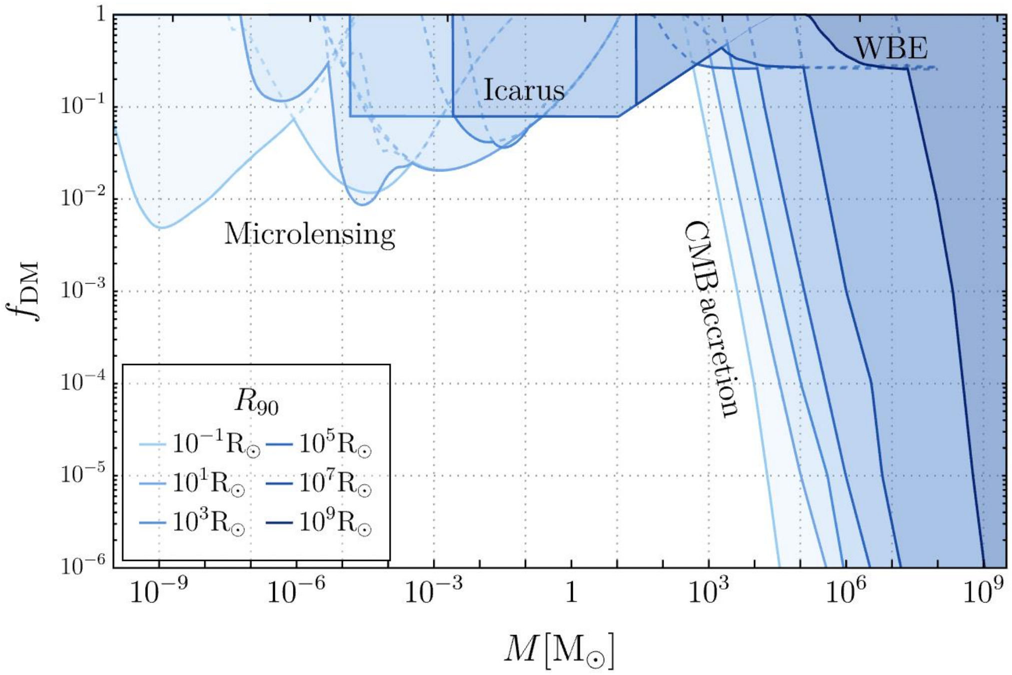
Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

EDObounds:

Choose:
- Shape of the object
- Radius
- Bounds to plot
- Mass distributions!!

arXiv:2407.02573

There has been recent interest on constraining these type of objects:



Based on arXiv: 2506.20704

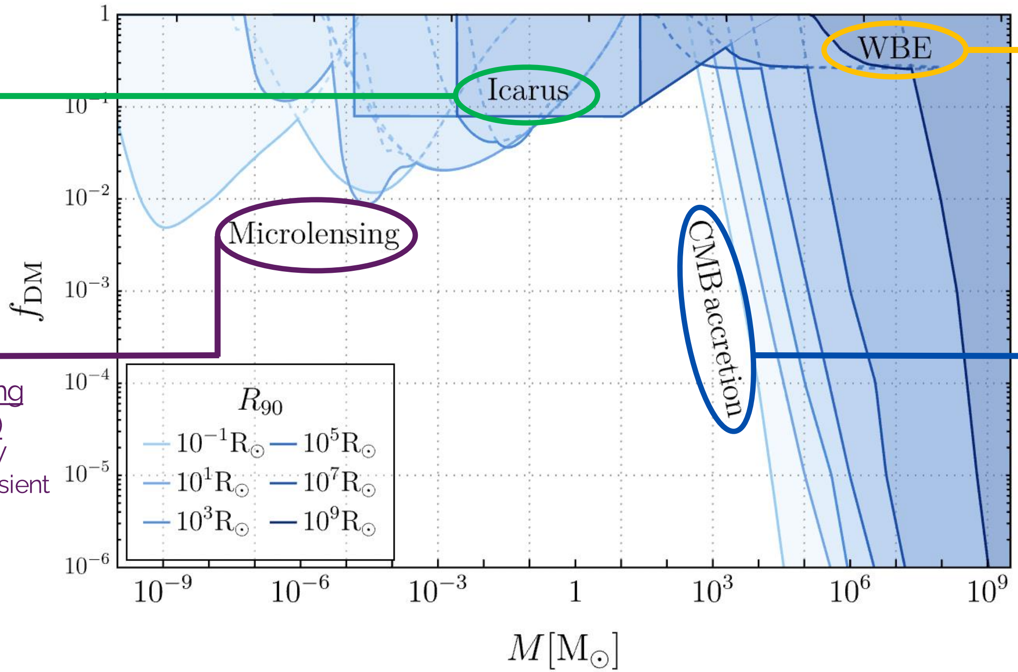
Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

EDObounds: arXiv:2407.02573

There has been recent interest on constraining these type of objects:

(2511.20761)
Perturbation of lensed light curves depending on smoothness of dark matter in clusters

Croon, McKeen, Raj, Wang (2007.12697, 2002.08962)
Subaru, EROS-2 and OGLE-IV Microlensing bounds on transient dark matter objects



Ramirez and Buckley (2209.08100)
Evaporation of wide binaries from GAIA

Croon and SSM (2403.13072)
Impact that accretion onto these object would have on recombination

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

The formed objects have a given mass, radius and density for a given scale k~1/R:

$$M \approx \left[\frac{4\pi}{3}\rho_\chi H^{-3}\right]_{aH=1/R} = \frac{H_0^2}{2G}\Omega_\chi R^3$$

$$\rho_\chi(r, z_c) = \frac{3 f_\chi M(z_c)}{16\pi R(z_c)^{3/2} r^{3/2}}$$

$$\frac{R(z_c)}{\mathrm{pc}} = 0.019\left(\frac{1000}{z_c+1}\right)\left(\frac{M(z_c)}{M_\odot}\right)^{1/3}$$

where z_c is the collapse redshift

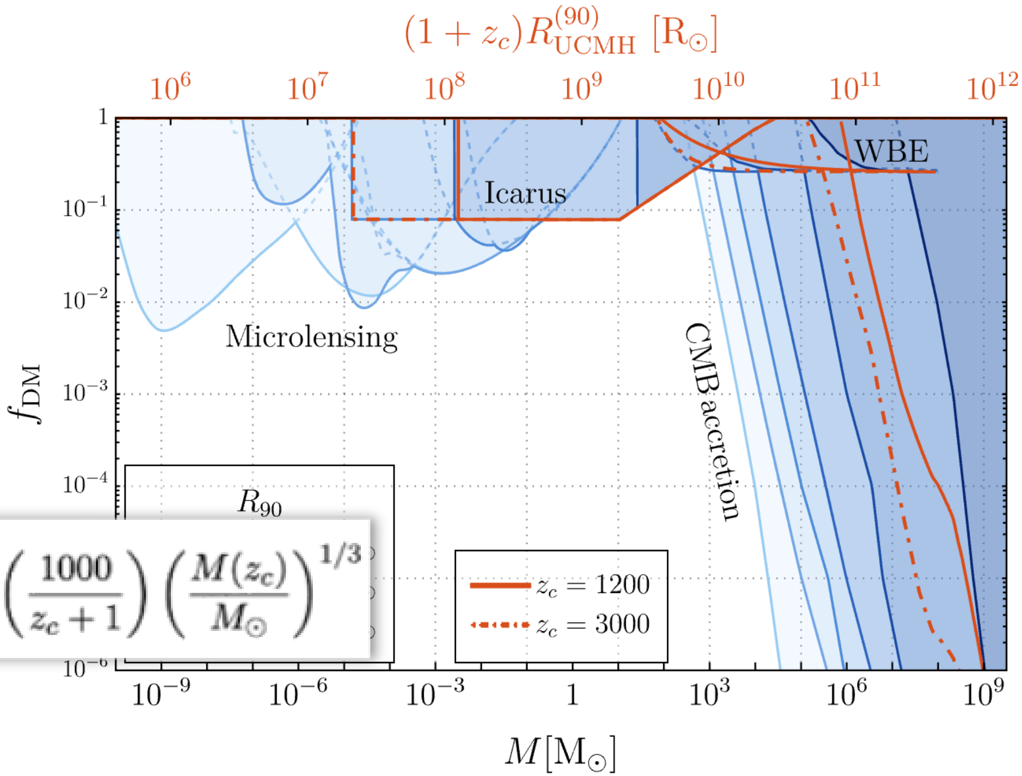
Different density functions have been used, but this is the most conservative

Based on arXiv: 2506.20704

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

EDObounds: arXiv:2407.02573

Only specific objects that have the mass-radius relation can be used to constrain the power spectrum



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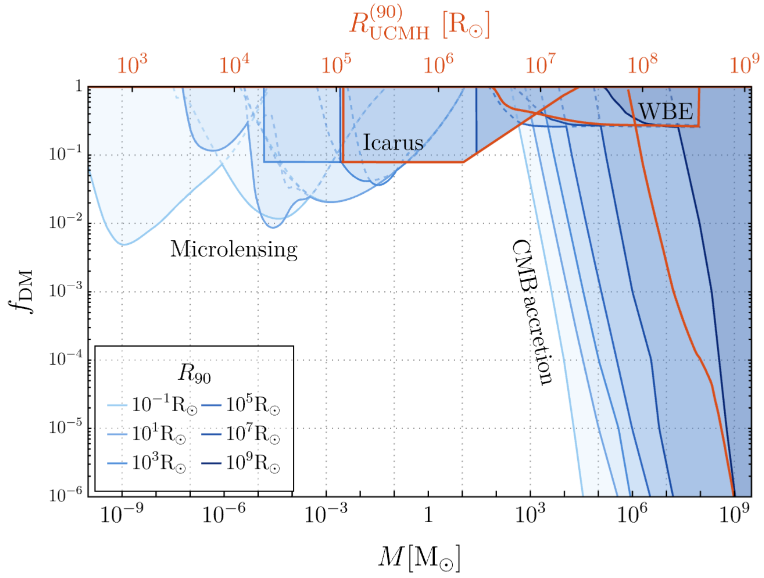
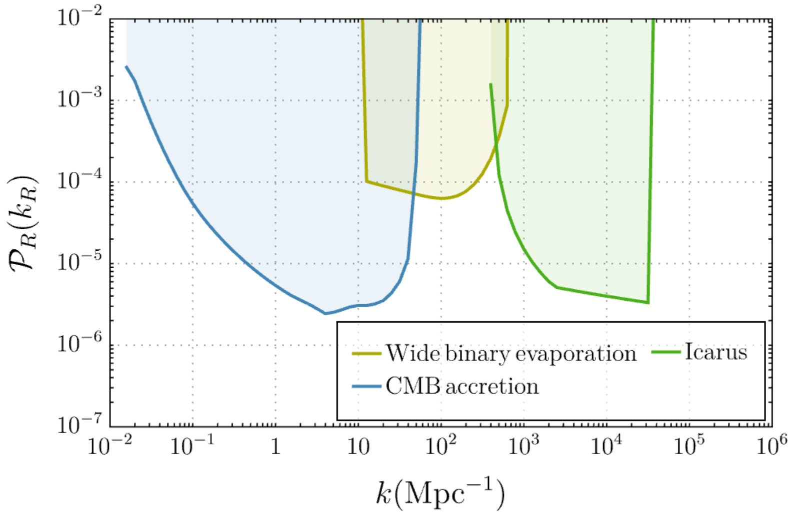
Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

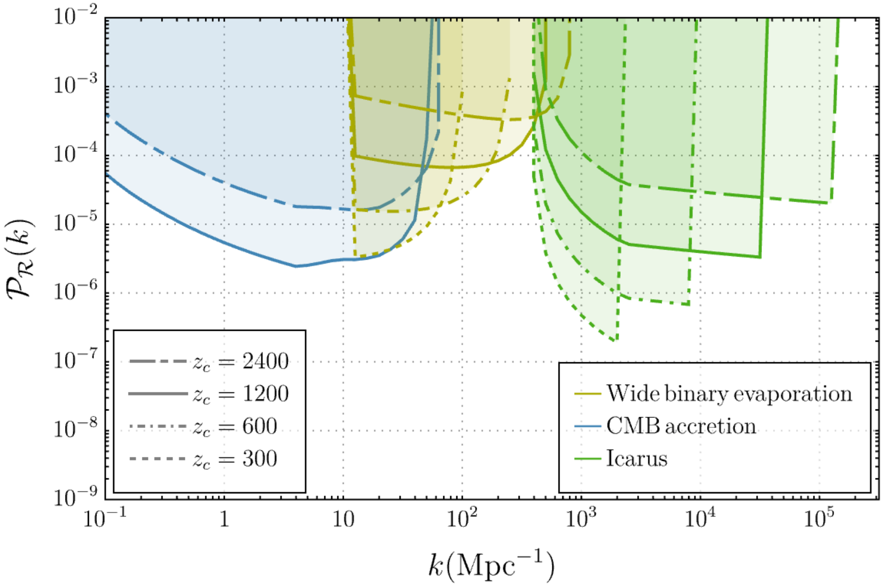
We can now translate these bounds (in red) to power spectrum using $\Omega_{\mathrm{UCMH}}(k) = \Omega_{\mathrm{DM}}\beta(k)$





Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

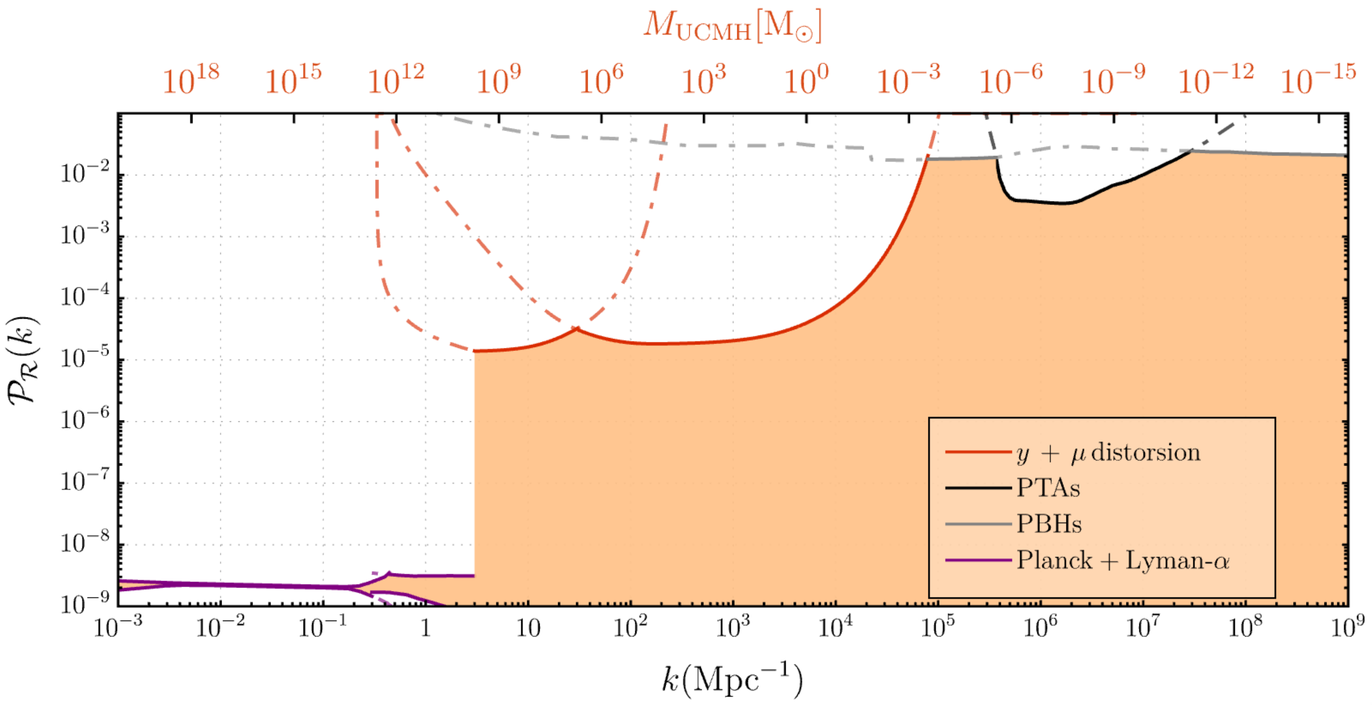
Different collapse times lead to different constraints



We will take the conservative choice $z_c > 1200$

Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

We can now translate these bounds to power spectrum using $\Omega_{\mathrm{UCMH}}(k) = \Omega_{\mathrm{DM}}\beta(k)$



Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

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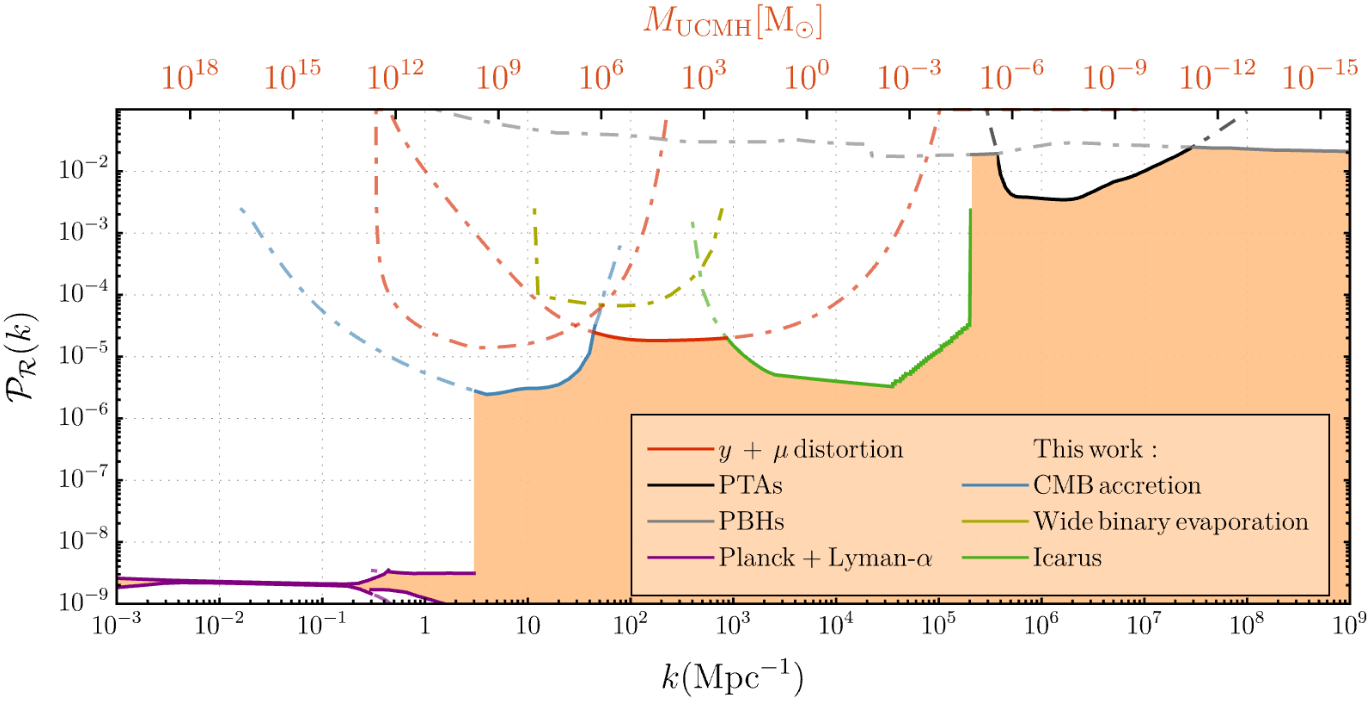

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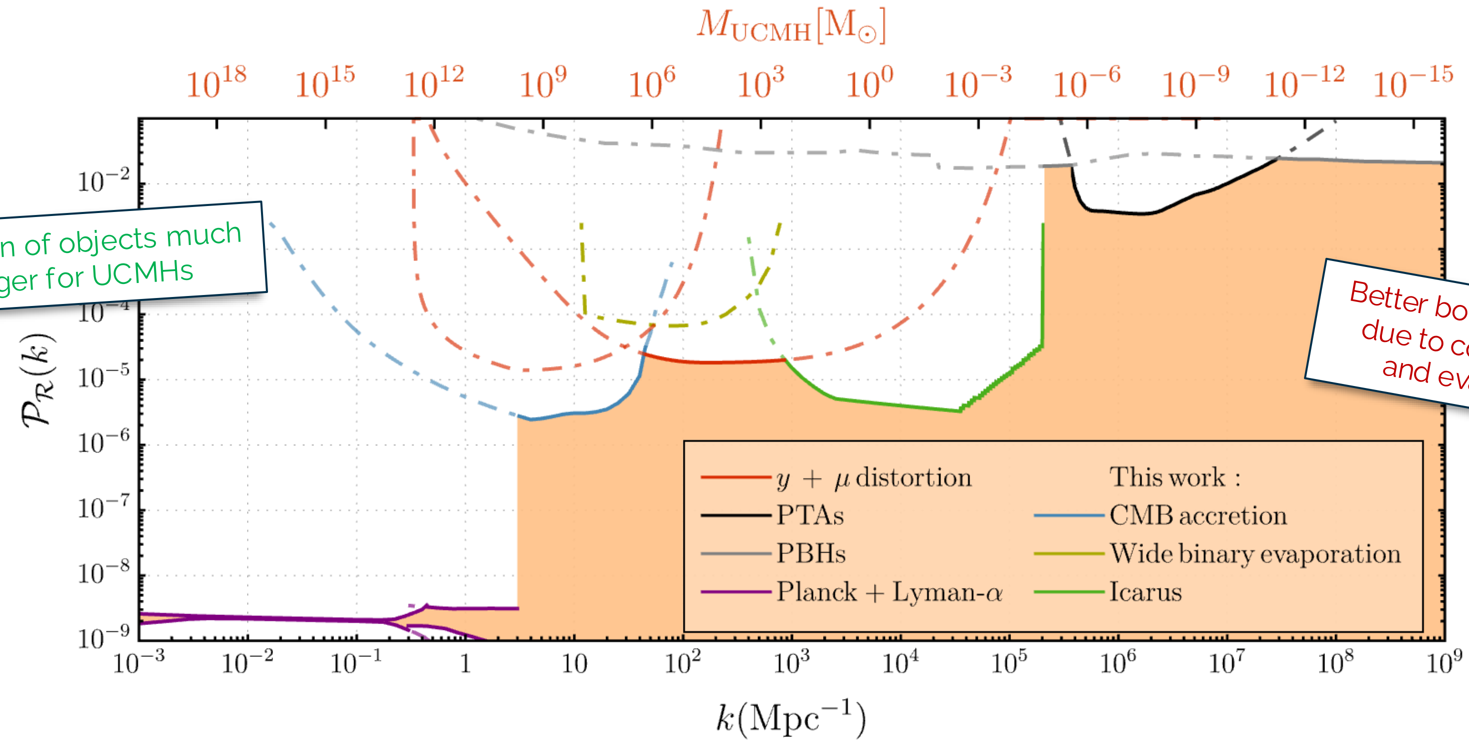
PBHs vs UCMH



Fraction of objects much larger for UCMHs

Better bounds on PBHs due to compactness and evaporation

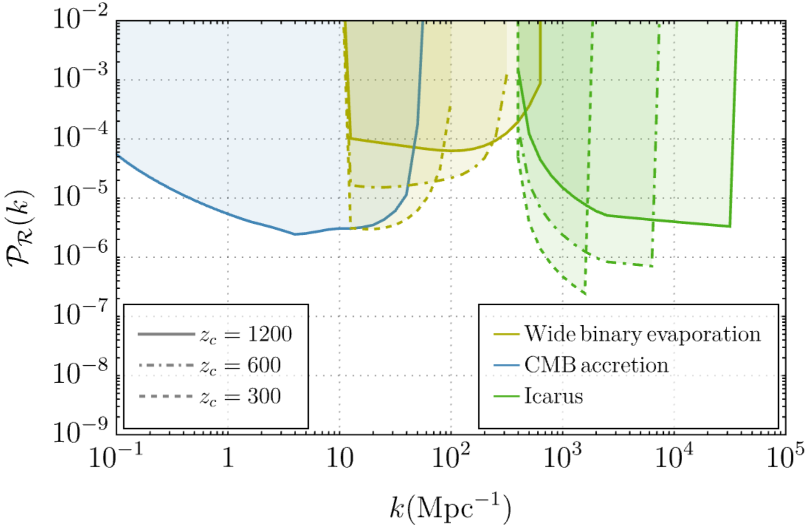
No <100% of PBHs with mass > $100\ M_\odot$

Soon no masses > $10^{-1}\ M_\odot$

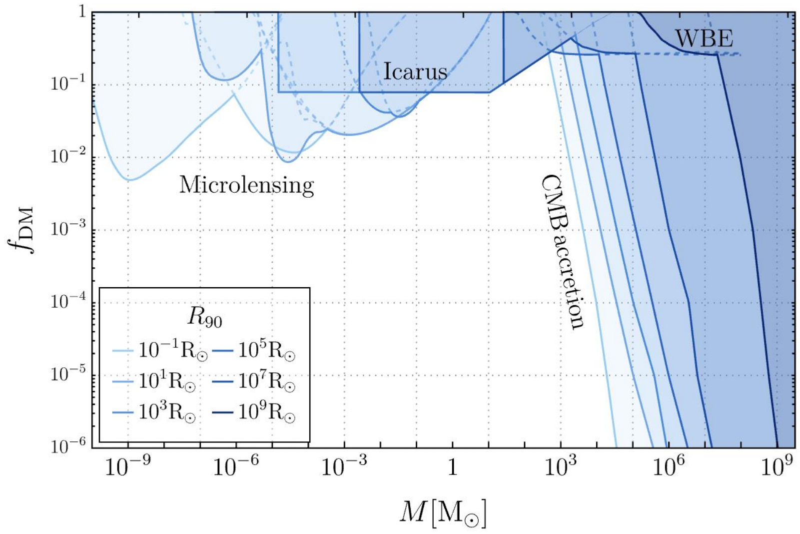
Conclusion

We can obtain improved constraints on the Power Spectrum using UCMHs!

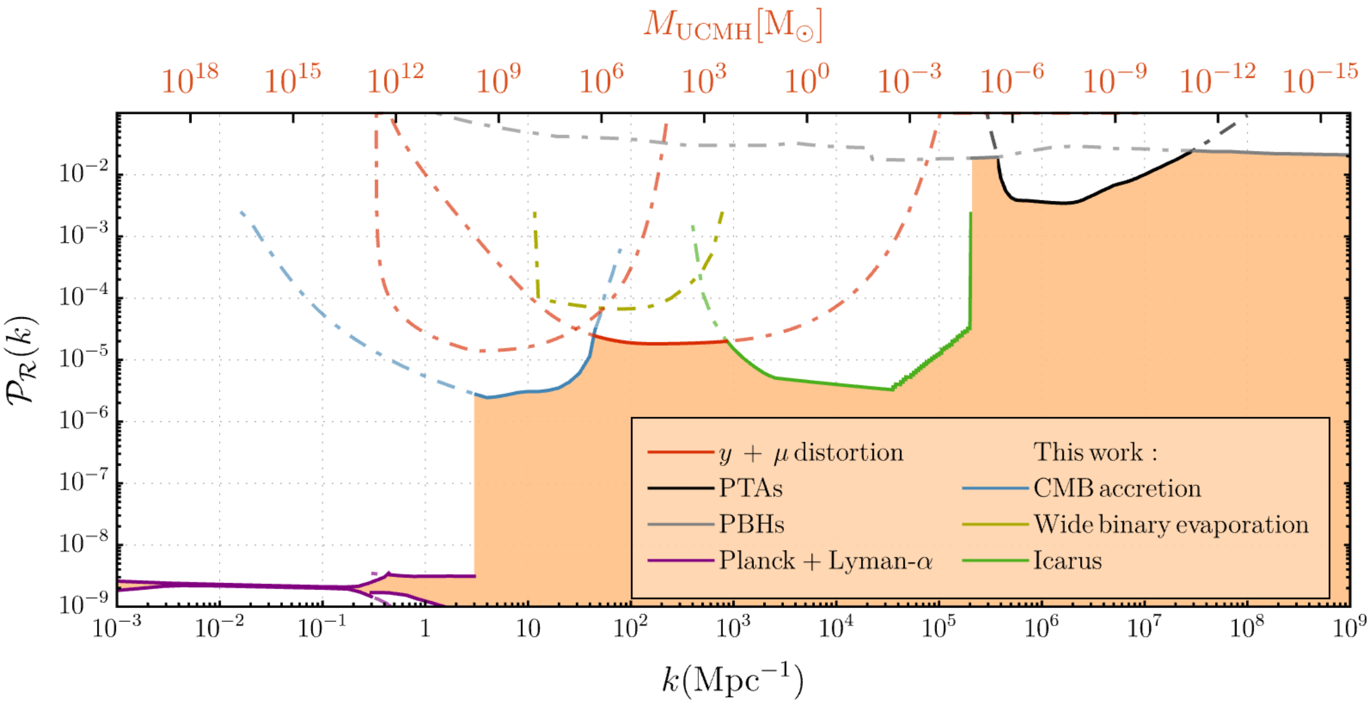
There is room for improvement :)



EDObounds: arXiv:2407.02573



Thank you for your attention!



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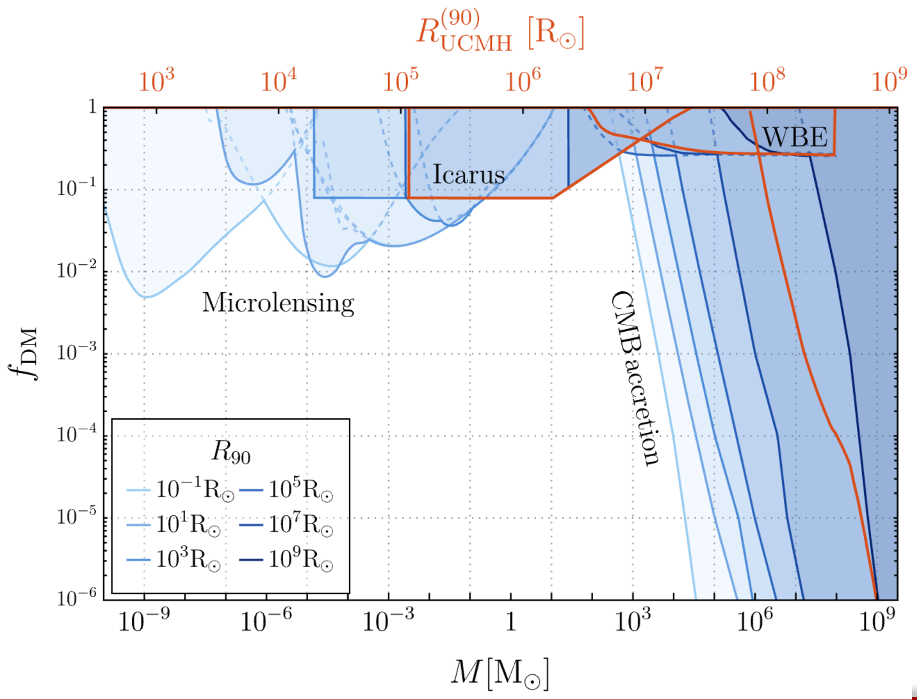
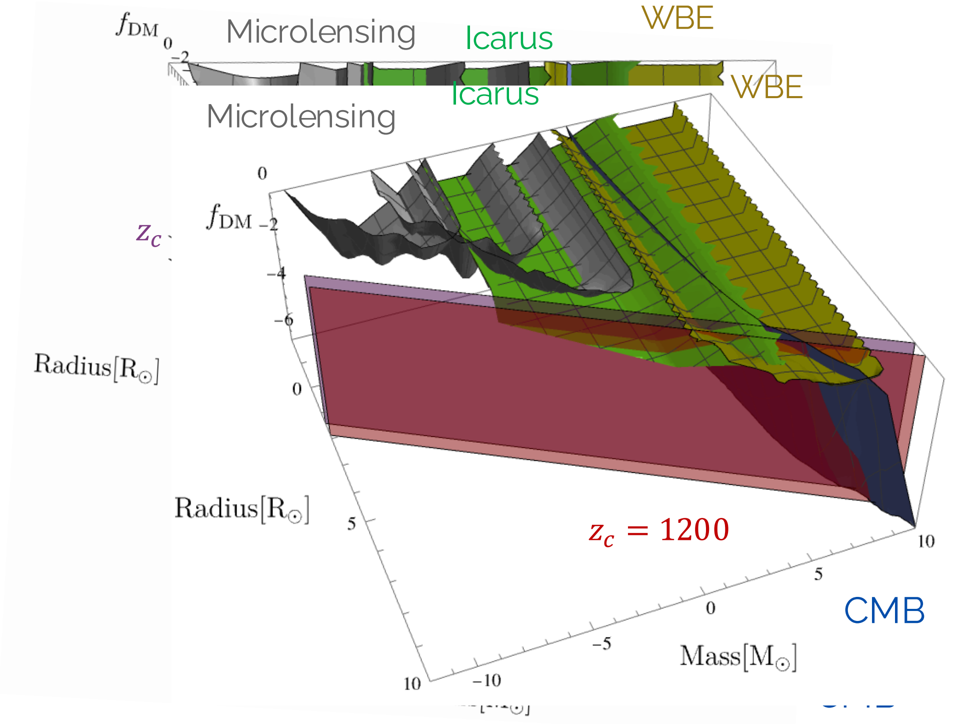
Ultra-compact minihaloes (UCMHs)

$$\frac{R(z_c)}{\mathrm{pc}} = 0.019\left(\frac{1000}{z_c+1}\right)\left(\frac{M(z_c)}{M_\odot}\right)^{1/3}$$

Only specific objects that have the mass-radius relation can be used to constrain the power spectrum





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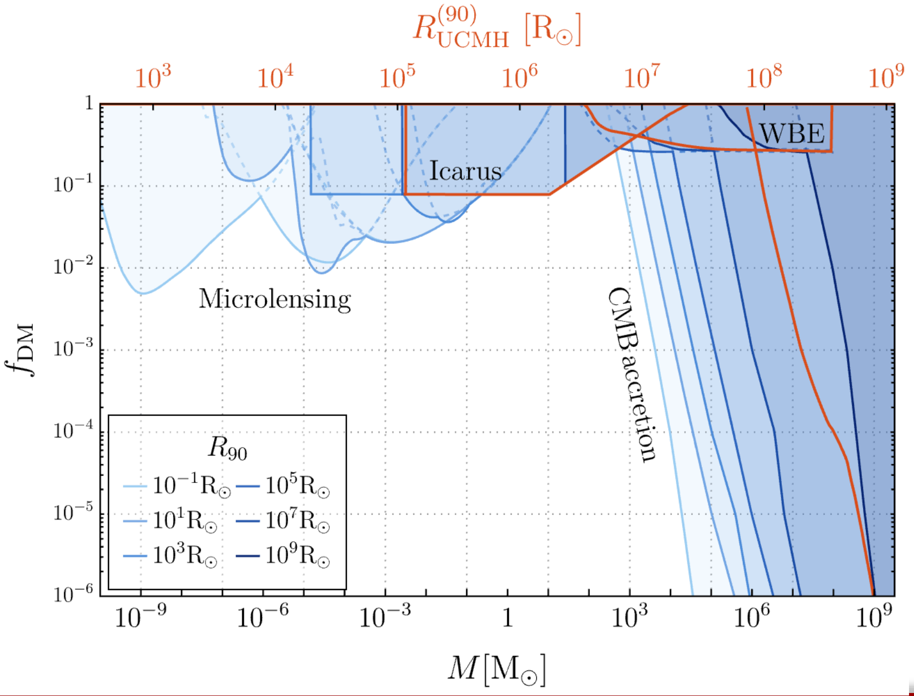

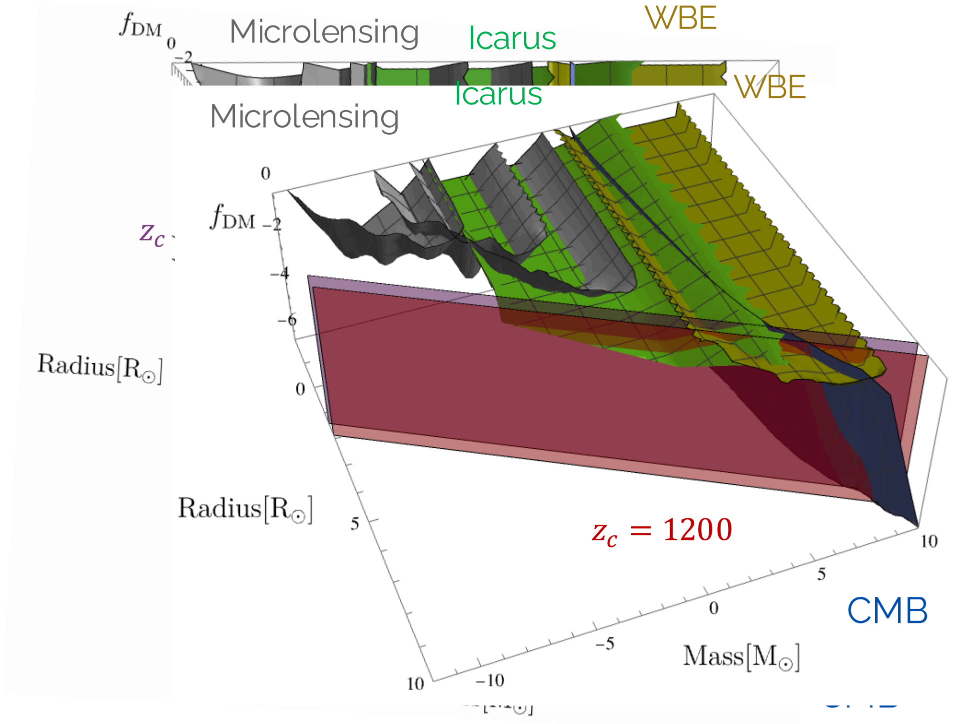

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