# Warm DM vs. Cold DM Scenario for the formation of Cosmic Structures

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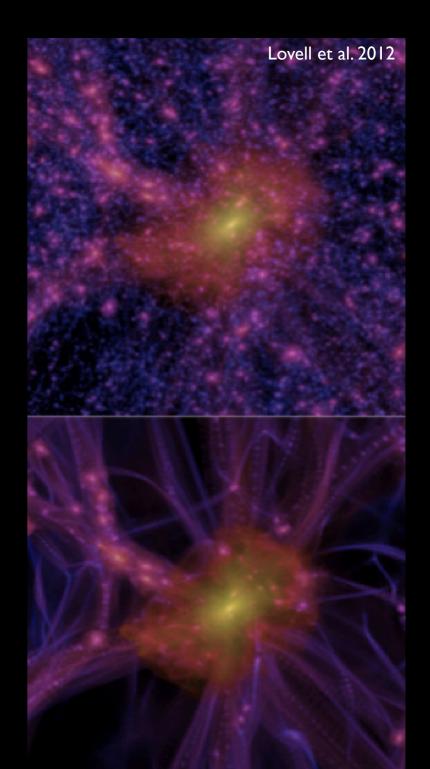
#### Outline

Critical Issues Concerning CDM on Small Scales (Dwarf Galaxies)

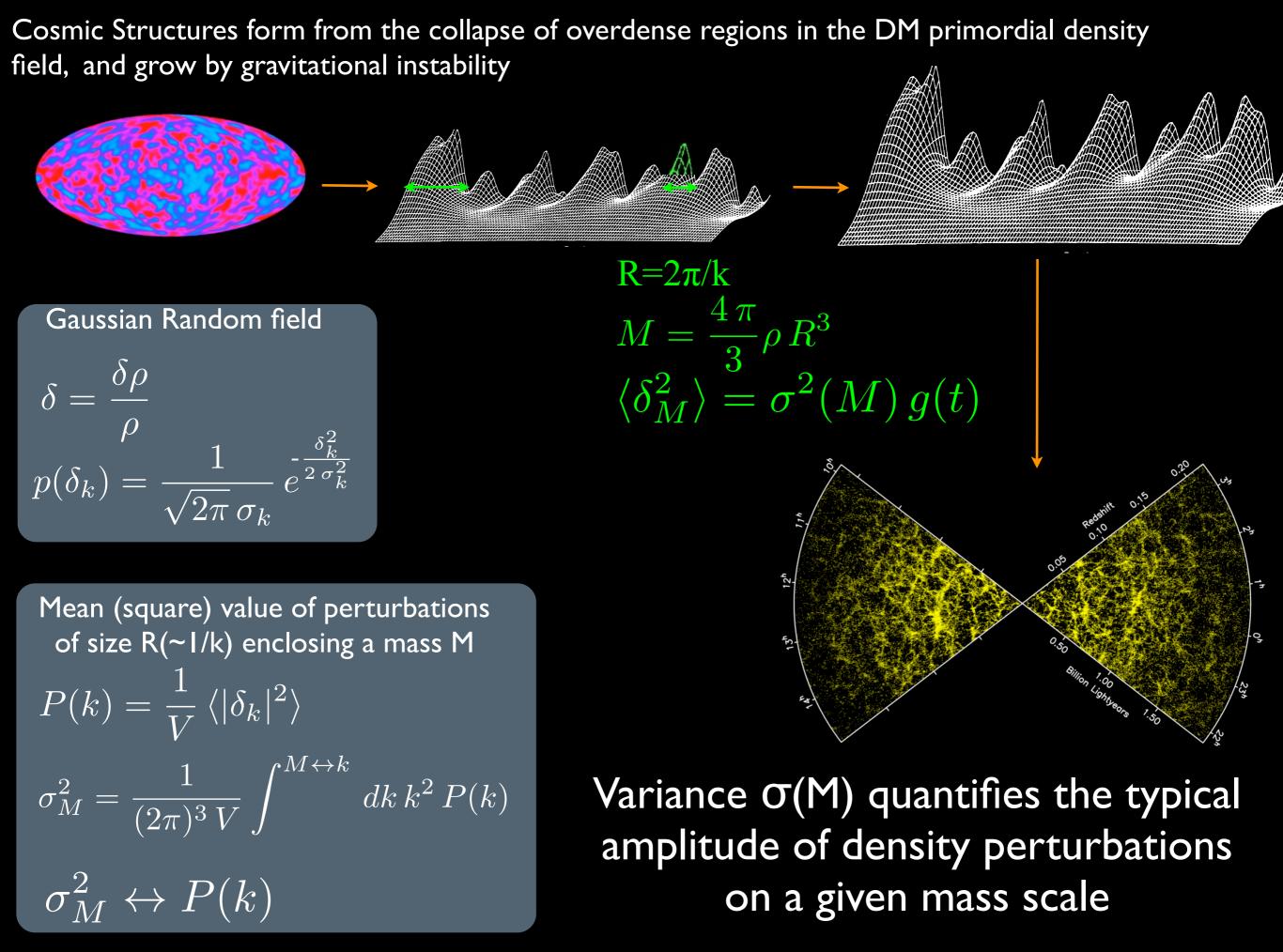
Solutions based on Astrophysical Processes vs Solutions based on Warm Dark Matter (candidates with mass m<sub>X</sub>~keV)

Some properties of WDM galaxy formation

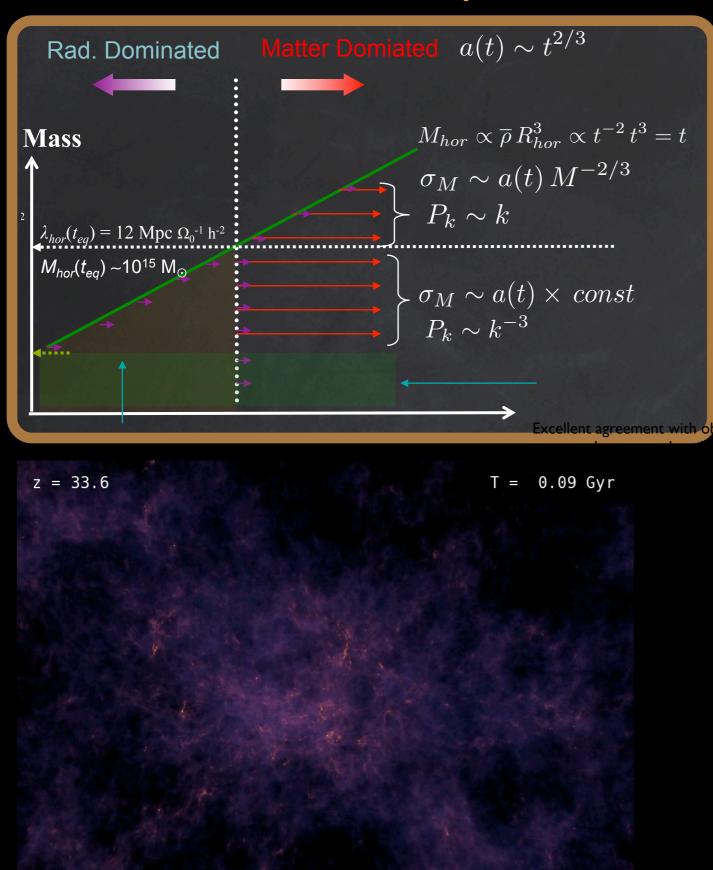
Constraining the Warm Dark Matter particle mass: getting rid of uncertainties due to modelling of astrophysical processes



DARK MATTER and STRUCTURE FORMATION



### The Variance of the perturbation field



500 kpc

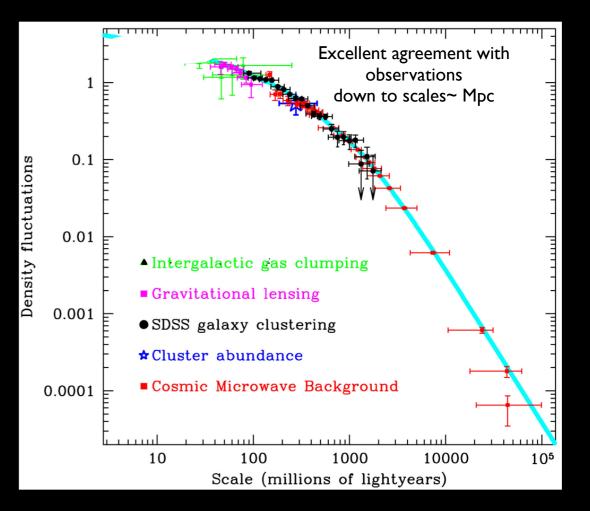
DIVX

# Cold Dark Matter

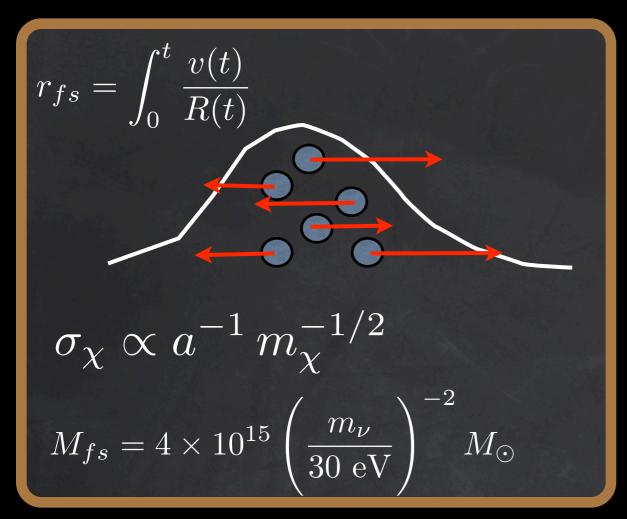
non relativistic at decoupling no dissipation down to small scales  $< 10^6 \ M_{\odot}$ 

Variance is an ever-increasing inverse function of the mass scale.

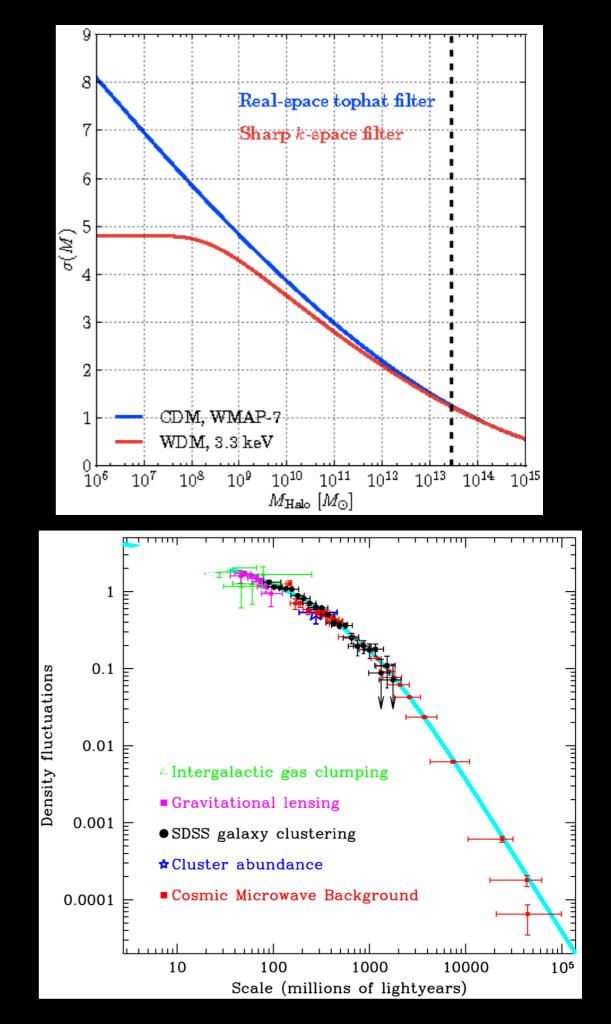
Huge number of small-scale structures



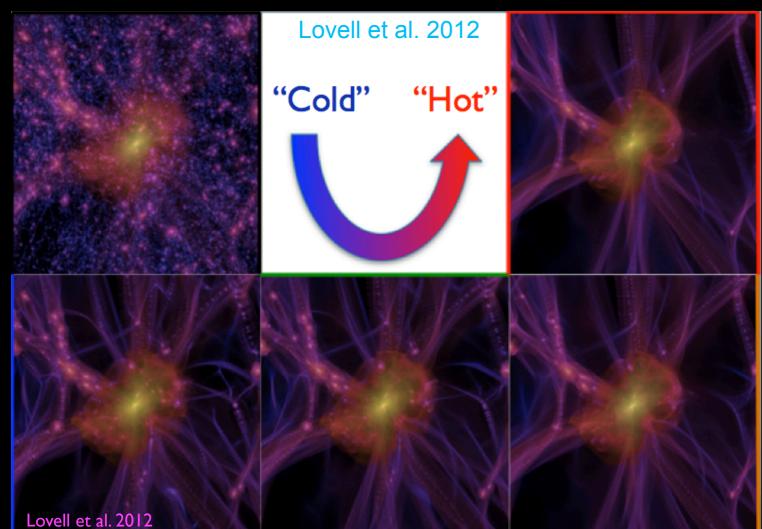
### Dissipation, free-streaming scale

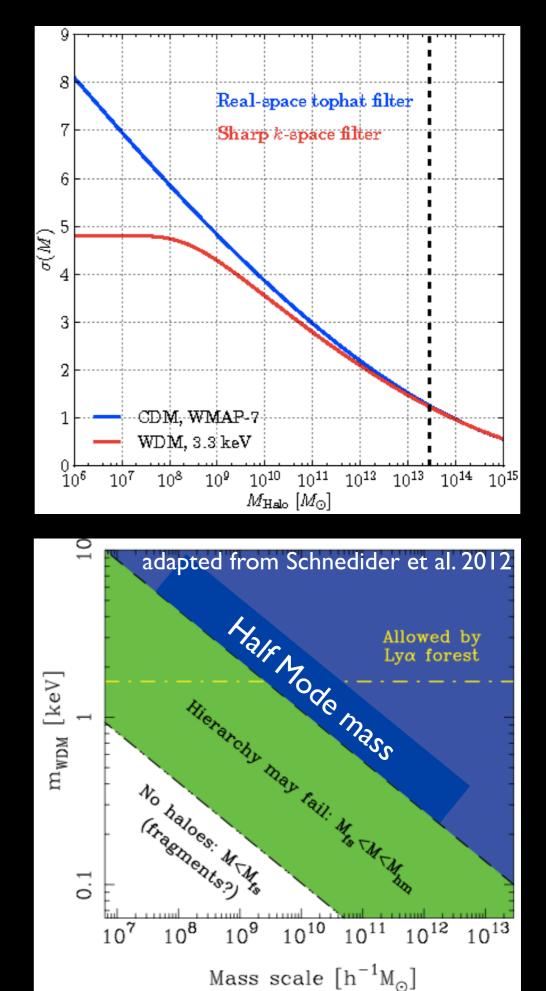


Lighter and faster Dark Matter particles stream out of density perturbations CDM: the free streaming length is much smaller than any scale involved in galaxy formation («Mpc)

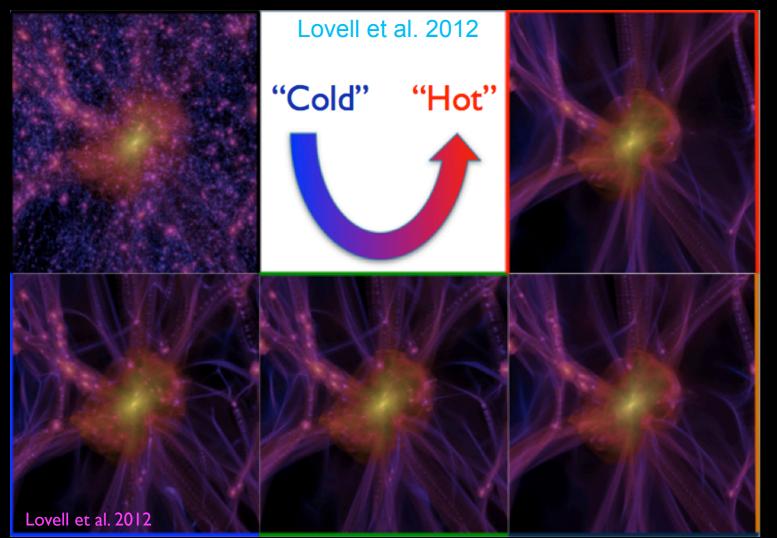


### Dissipation, free-streaming scale

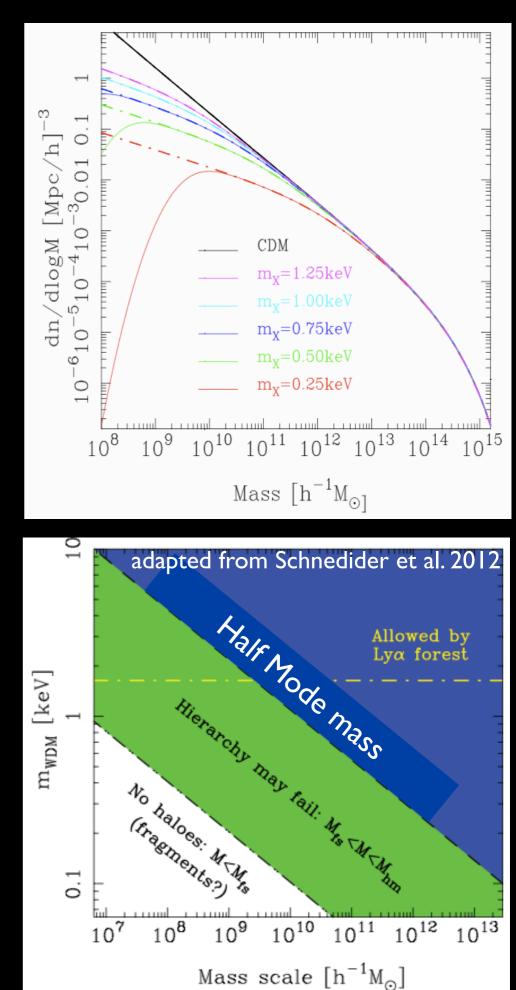




### Dissipation, free-streaming scale



Compared to CDM, in WDM models the abundance of low-mass structures is suppressed below the half mode mass



CRITICAL ISSUES CONCERNING COLD DARK MATTER AT SMALL GALACTIC SCALES

### Critical ssues (concerning structure formation)

Overabundance of low-mass objects

i) abundance of satellite DM haloes
ii) density profiles
iii) abundance of faint galaxies
iv) the M\*-Mhalo relation
v) star formation histories of satellites

Dependence on specific theoretical model
 Dependence on star formation and feedback effects
 Solutions in WDM scenario

# Critical Issues

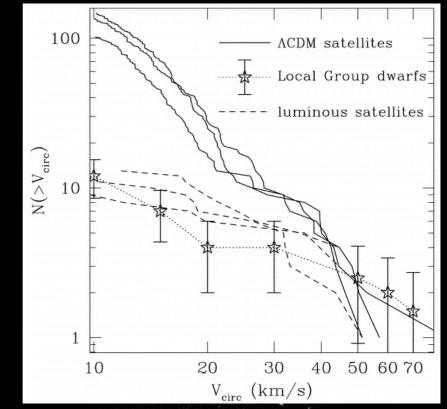
Overabundance of low-mass objects

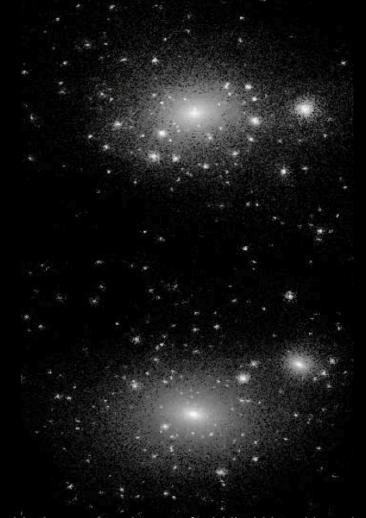
i) abundance of satellite DM haloes
ii) density profiles
iii) abundance of faint galaxies
iv) the M\*-Mhalo relation
v) star formation histories of satellites

CDM Substructure in simulated cluster and galaxy haloes look similar.

Expected number of satellites in Milky Way-like galaxies in CDM largely exceeds the observed abundance.

#### Kravtsov, Klypin, Gnedin 2004





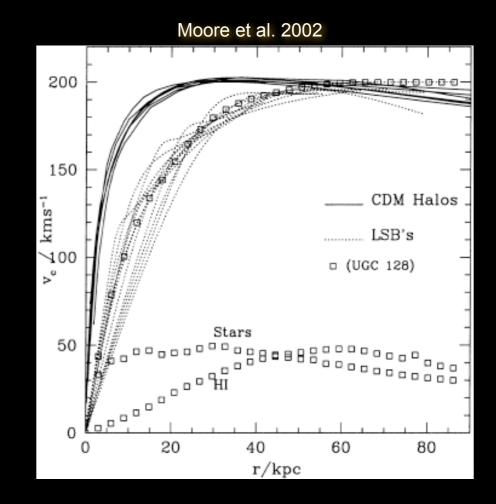
Via Lactea simulation of a Milky Way - like galaxy Diemand et al. 2008

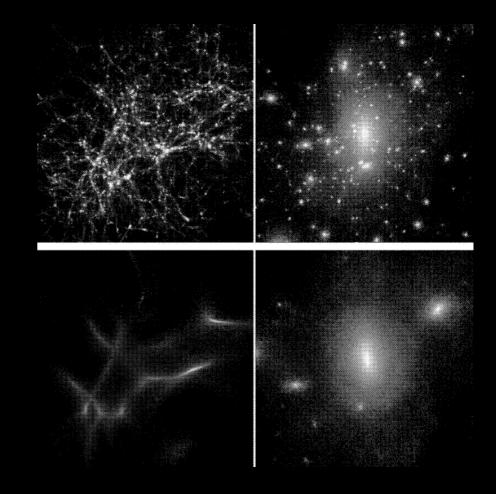
# Critical Issues

Overabundance of low-mass objects

i) abundance of satellite DM haloes
ii) density profiles
iii) abundance of faint galaxies
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v) star formation histories of satellites

Most observed dwarf galaxies consist of a rotating stellar disk embedded in a massive dark-matter halo with a near-constant-density core. Models based on the dominance of CDM, however, invariably form galaxies with dense spheroidal stellar bulges and steep central dark-matter profiles, because low-angular- momentum baryons and dark matter sink to the centres of galaxies through accretion and repeated mergers.

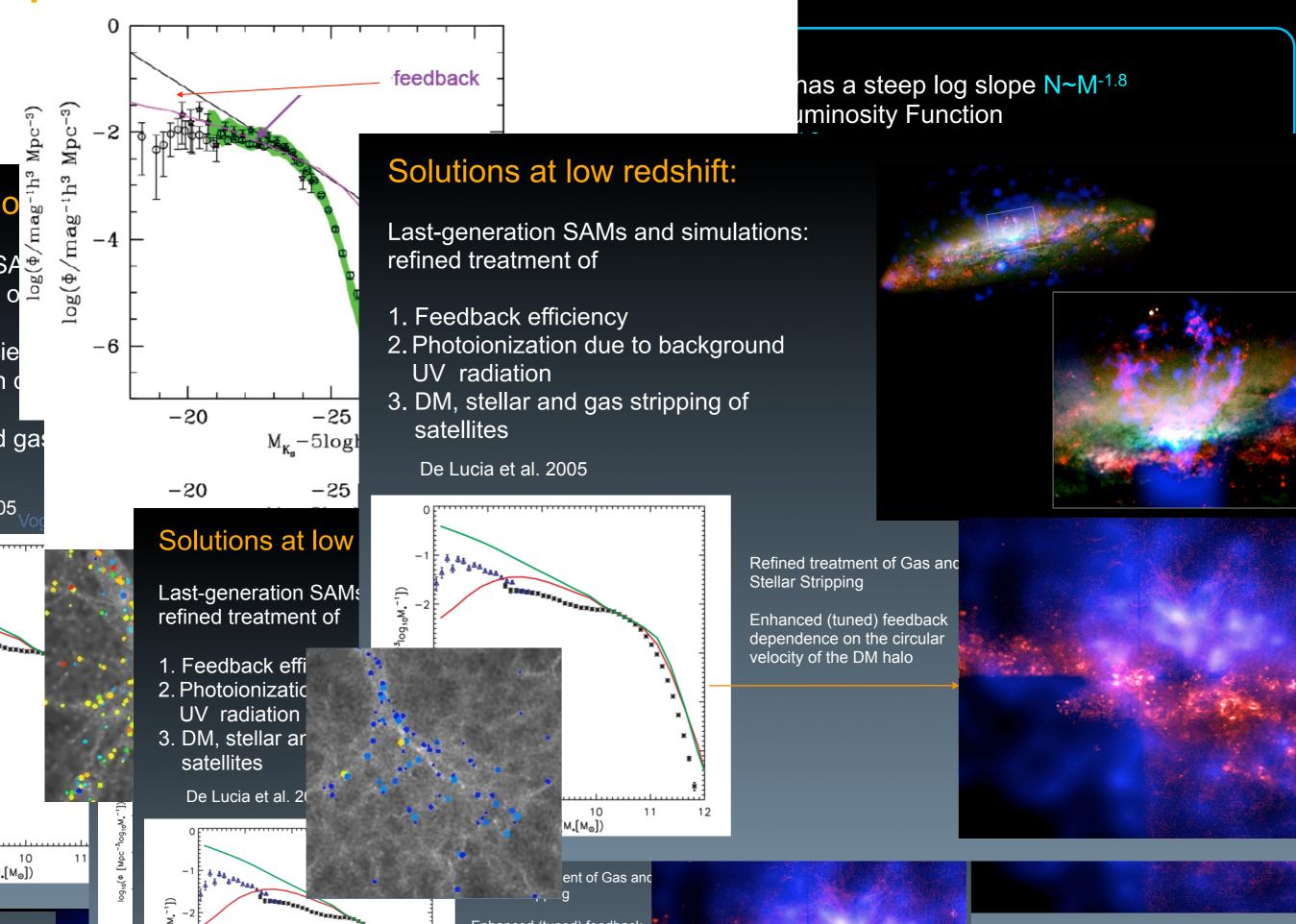




SOLUTIONS BASED ON REFINED MODELING OF ASTROPHYSICAL PROCESSES

e stell

Il feedback e' all'origine della inefficienza della formazione stellare in aloni di piccola massa.



Enhanced (tuned) feedback

# Galaxy Formation in a Cosmological Context relating gas and star formation to the evolution of DM halos

#### Hydrodynamcal N-body simulations

Pros include hydrodynamics of gas contain spatial information <u>Cons</u> numerically expensive (limited exploration of parameter space) requires sub-grid physics

#### Semi-Analytic Models Monte-Carlo realization of collapse and merging histories Pros

Physics of baryons linked to DM halos through scaling laws, allows a fast spanning of parameter space

#### <u>Cons</u>

Simplified description of gas physics Do not contain spatial informations

> Sub-Halo dymanics: dynamical friction, binary aggregation

Halo Properties Density Profiles Virial Temperature

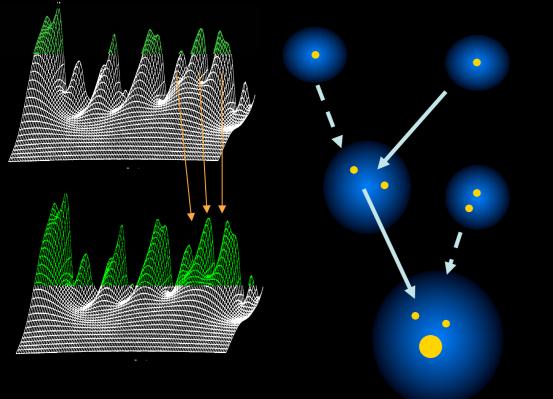
Gas Properties Profiles Cooling - Heating Processes Collapse, disk formation

Star Formation Rate

Gas Heating (feedback) SNae UV background

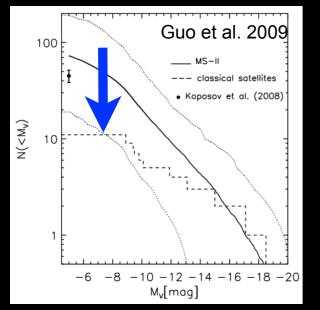
Evolution of stellar populations

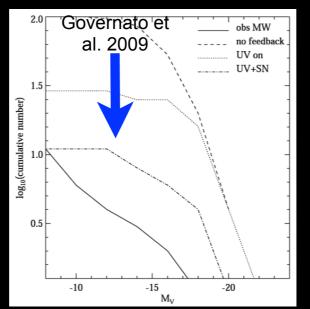
Growth of Supermassive BHs Evolution of AGNs



# The DM-Feedback Degeneracy Solutions from Feedback Processes

## i) the abundance of satellite galaxies





outp 0.6 N/4ds N

30

25

20

15

-8

Brooks &

-10

Zolotov 2014

đt

L

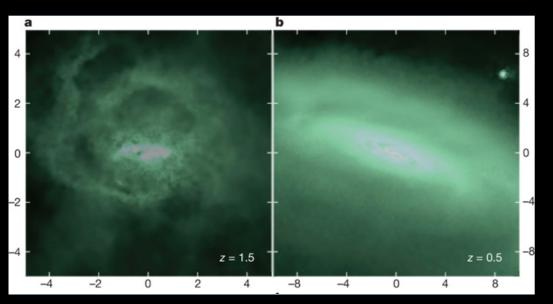
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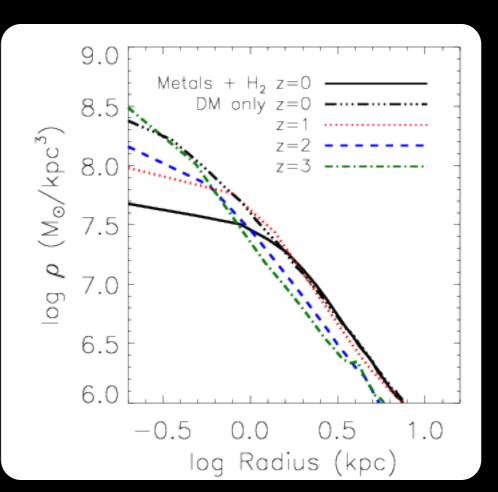
Z 10

### ii) the density profiles

#### A proposed solution at low redshift

"... The rapid fluctuations caused by episodic feedback progressively pump energy into the DM particle orbits, so that they no longer penetrate to the centre of the halo" (Weinberg et al. 2013, Governato et al. 2012)





= DM-only

open = baryons included

-14

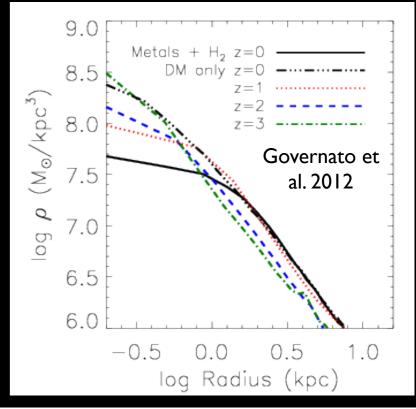
-16

solid

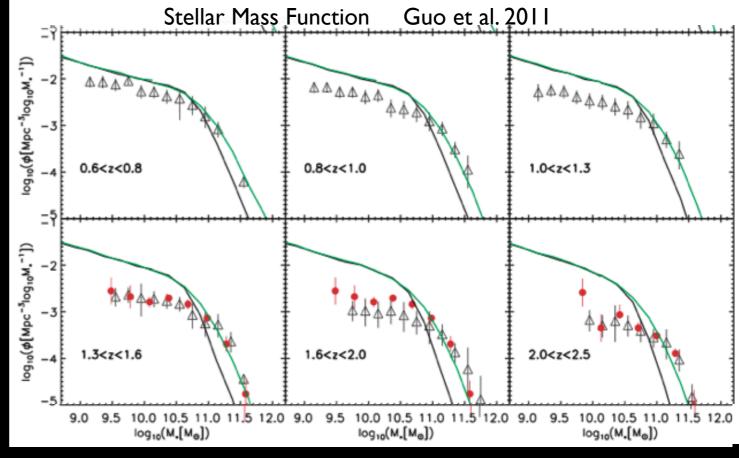
-12

M<sub>v</sub> (satellite)

- I: Profiles and Abundances of low-mass galaxies at high redshifts
- Steeper central profiles are expected at z>l



 Steeper luminosity functions are expected at z>l



#### I: Profiles and Abundances of low-mass galaxies at high redshifts

Velocities corresponding to Supernovae Feedback

$$v_{SN} = \sqrt{E_{SN}/M_{gas}} \approx 100 \ km/s$$

 $M \approx \left( \frac{v_{esc}^2}{G} \right) r$  $r \propto (M/\rho)^{1/3}$  $\rho = 180 \rho_u = 180 \rho_u (1+z)^3$  $A \equiv \sqrt{3/G^3 4 \pi \rho_u}$ 

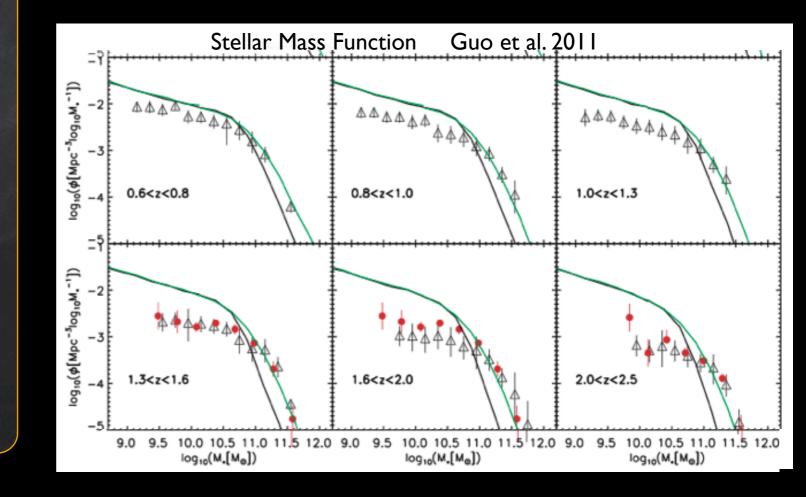
 $M \approx A v_{esc}^3 (1+z)^{-3/2}$ 

 $v_{esc} = v_{SN}$ 

Mass scale at which SN can effectively expel gas from DM halodecreases with redshift

$$M_{SN} \approx 10^{10} M_{\odot} (1+z)^{-3/2}$$

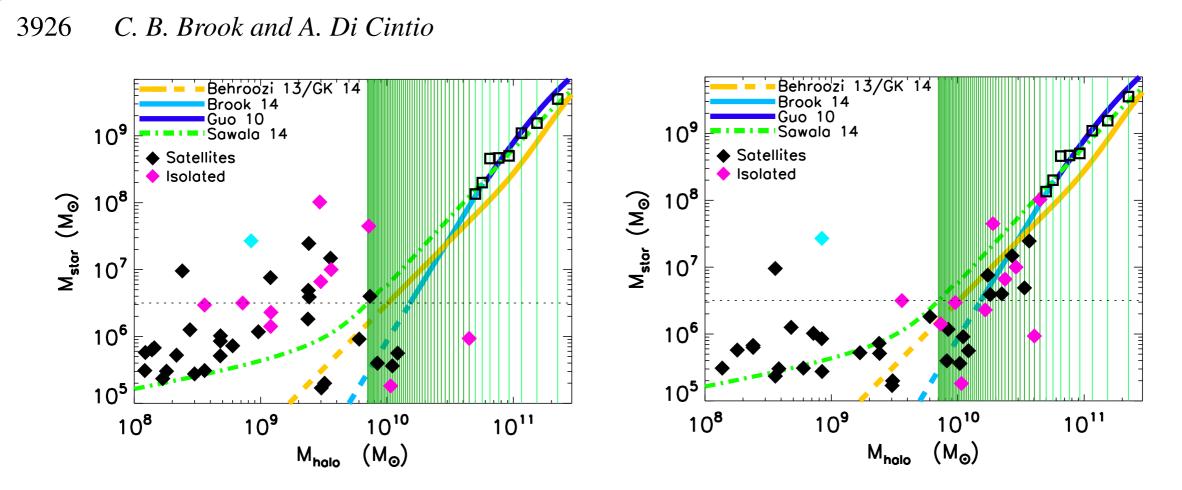
At high-z larger densities imply larger escape velocity even for low-mass galaxies: feedback increasingly ineffective



#### II: The L/M ratio of low-mass galaxies

Enhancing the feedback results into inefficient star formation for given DM halo (suppress L/M).

This seems at variance with observed M<sub>star</sub>-M relation



**Figure 2.** The relation between observed stellar mass and derived halo mass for LG galaxies. The halo mass has been found by fitting kinematical data and assuming two different halo profiles. The results for an NFW profile are shown in the left-hand panel, while the mass-dependent DC14 halo profile has been used in the right-hand panel. Satellites and isolated galaxies are shown in different colours, with Sagittarius dwarf irregular, highly affected by tides, shown in cyan. Several abundance matching predictions are indicated, in particular the Brook et al. (2014) one has been constrained using the LG mass function, and it is shown as dashed line below the observational completeness limit of the LG.

# Problems with Solutions based on Feedback III: The Distribution of Gas Rotation Velocities



21-cm survey done with Arecibo Telescope: 3000 deg<sup>2</sup>; 11000 detections measures: redshift, velocity width, integrated flux No spatial resolution (size, inclination, shape)

1 function of their

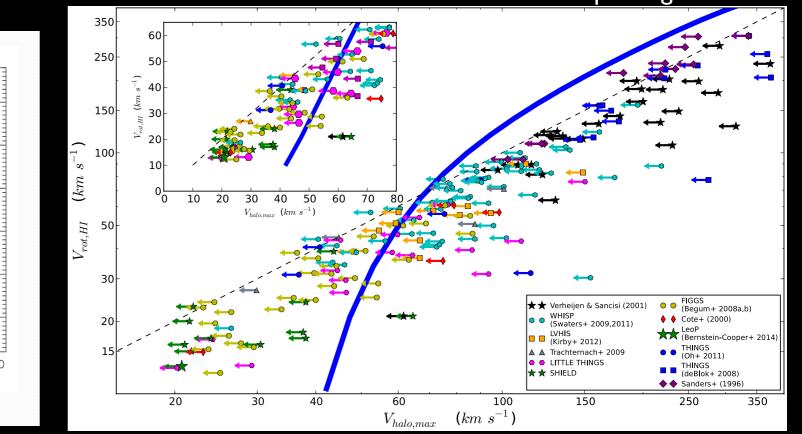
In velocity)

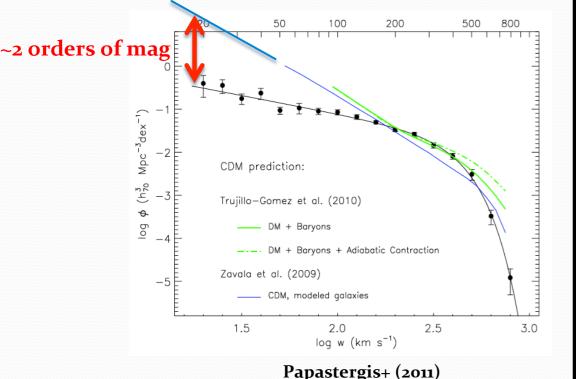
Directly measures the <u>depth of the potential well</u>: less prone to physics of gas (feedback)

To match the observatons, observed rotation velocities should correspond to huge host DM halos with large  $V_{halo}$  so as to suppress the  $V_{rot}/V_{halo}$  ratio at low  $V_{rot}$ 

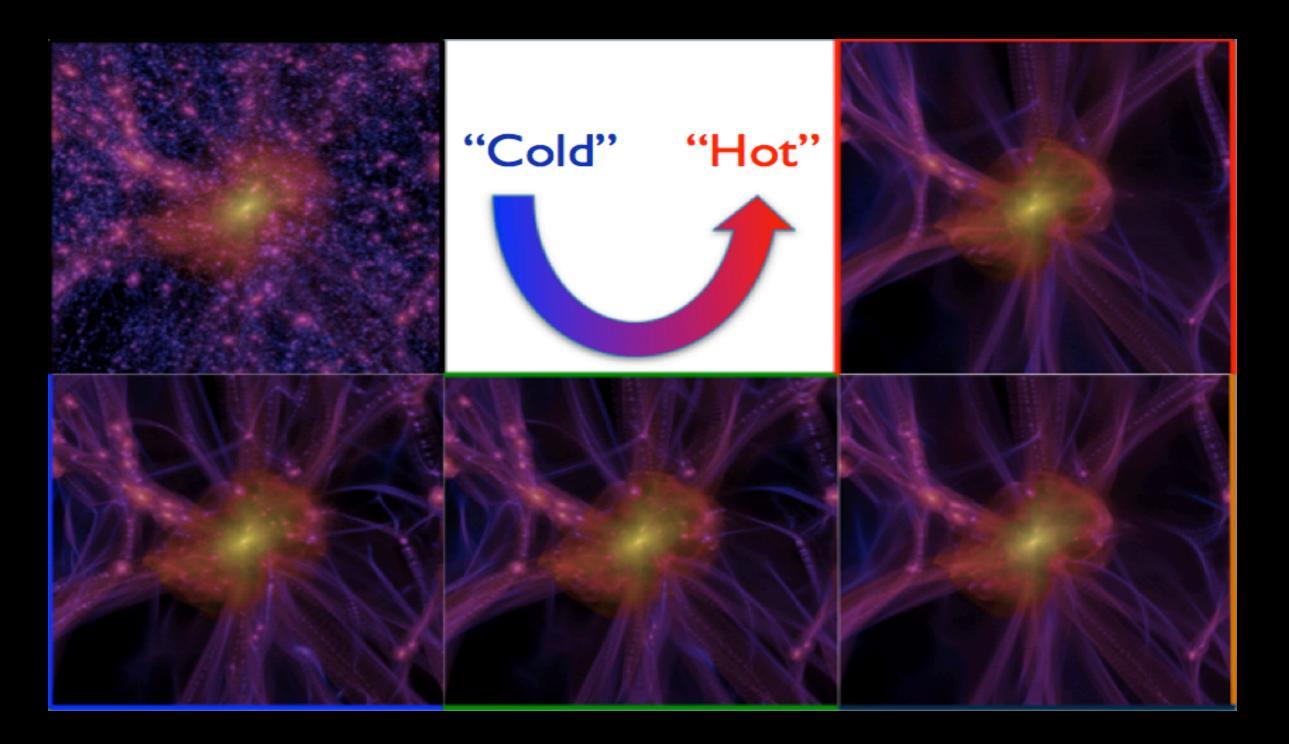
$$\frac{dN}{dV_{rot}} = \frac{dN}{dV_{Halo}} \frac{dV_{Halo}}{dV_{rot}}$$

Papastergis et al. 2015





# SOLUTIONS BASED ON ASSUMED DARK MATTER MODEL



### Implementing WDM power spectrum in the galaxy formation model

Halo Properties Gas Properties Density Profiles Profiles Virial Temperature Cooling - Heating Collapse Disk formation

Star Formation

Gas Heating (feedback) SNae UV background

ack) Evolution of stellar populations

Galaxy formation in WDM implies computing how modifications of the power spectrum propagate to the above processes

$$r_{fs} \approx 0.2 \left[ \frac{\Omega_X h^2}{0.15} \right]^{1/3} \left[ \frac{m_X}{rmkeV} \right]^{-4/3} \text{Mpc} \qquad \frac{P_{WDM}(k)}{P_{CDM}(k)} = \left[ 1 + (\alpha k)^{2\mu} \right]^{-5\mu}$$
$$\alpha = 0.049 \left[ \frac{\Omega_X}{0.25} \right]^{0.11} \left[ \frac{m_X}{\text{keV}} \right]^{-1.11} \left[ \frac{h}{0.7} \right]^{1.22} h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$$

WDM

### From Thermal Relics to Sterile Neutrinos

The cutoff in the power spectrum is conventionally "labelled" according to the mass of "thermal relic" WDM particles

The same cutoff can be achieved through WDM sterile neutrinos assuming different production mechanisms

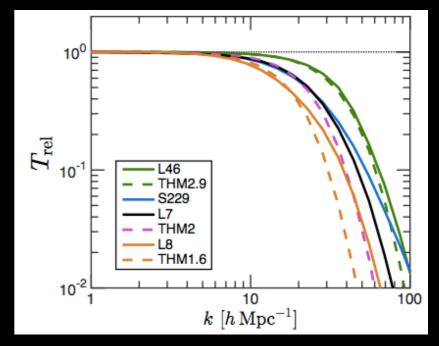
correspondence between thermal relic mass  $m_X$  and sterile neutrino mass  $m_v$  (yielding the same power spectrum) depends on the assumed production mechanism E.g. for the Shi-Fuller mechanism  $m_v \approx 2.5 m_X$ 

In the following we shall show the results in terms of the equivalent thermal relic mass

#### Sterile Neutrinos

are produced in primordial plasma through

- Off-resonance oscillations. Dodelson, Widrow; Abazajian, Fuller; Dolgov, Hansen; Asaka, Laine, Shaposhnikov et al.
- oscillations on resonance in presence of lepton asymmetry. Shi Fuller
- production mechanisms which do not involve oscillations
  - inflaton decays directly into sterile neutrinos Shaposhnikov, Tkachev
  - Higgs physics: both mass and production Petraki
  - decays of scalars in the early Universe Merle & Totzauer



#### Bozek et al. 2015

#### Suppression with respect to CDM

### From Thermal Relics to Sterile Neutrinos

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Stacked XMM spectra (MOS and PN) of 73 bright galaxy clusters, blue-shifted to the same cluster rest frame

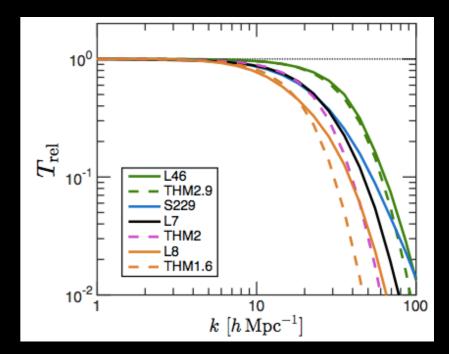
Searched for any unidentified emission lines in 2–10 keV band

Detected a very weak line at E = 3.55-3.57 keV rest-frame energy: IF due to WDM corresponds to the decay of

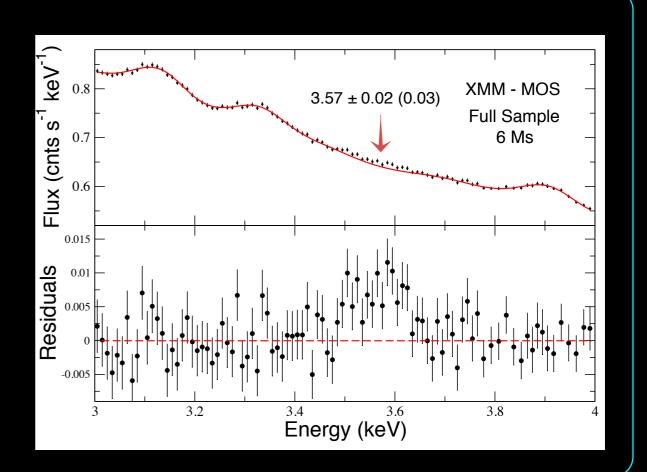
 $m_v \approx 7 \text{ keV} \rightarrow m_X \approx 2.5 \text{ keV}$ 

X-ray line reported in stacked observations of X-ray clusters with the XMM-Newton X-ray Space telescope with both CCD instruments aboard the telescope, and the Perseus cluster with the Chandra X-ray Space Telescope (Bulbul et al. 2014; independent indications of a consistent line in XMM-Newton observations of M31 and the Perseus Cluster is reported in Boyarsky et al. 2014)

#### Suppression with respect to CDM



Bozek et al. 2015

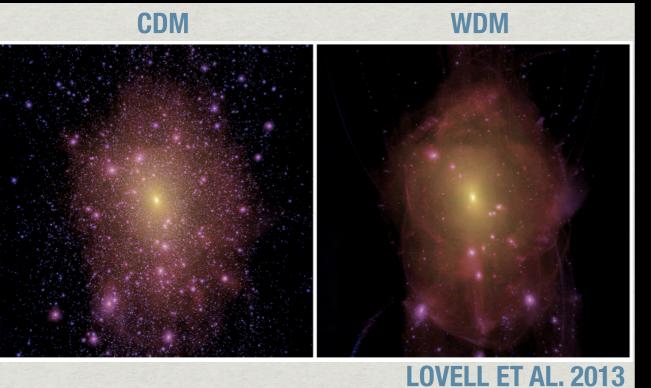


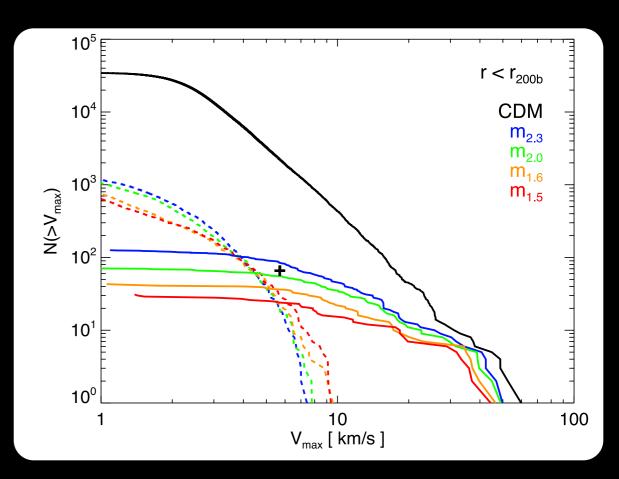
### WDM models with m<sub>x</sub>=1-4 can provide a solution to

**Density profiles & Rotation**  $M_h = 5.1 \, 10^9 \, M_{\odot}$ : Theory Observational curves in WDM 250 -1.5  $M_h = 1.1 \ 10^{11} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory  $\log_{10}[\rho(r)/(M_{\odot}/\mathrm{pc}^3)]$ Observational  $v_c(r)$  in km/s 200 150 100  $M_h = 6.4 \ 10^{10} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory Observational -3.5  $M_h = 1.1 \ 10^{11} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory -----Observational  $M_h = 1.8 \ 10^{11} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory Observational 50  $M_h = 3.0 \ 10^{11} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory Observational  $M_h = 5.2 \ 10^{11} \ M_{\odot}$ : Theory Observational -4.5 100 200 300 400 500 600 0 10 20 r in kpc r in kpc

De Vega, Salucci, Sanchez 2014

#### Abundance of low-mass satellites

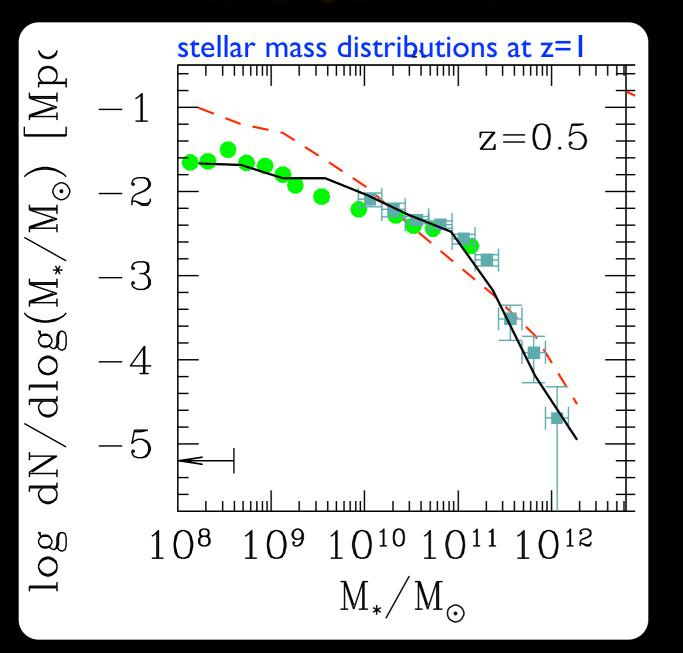




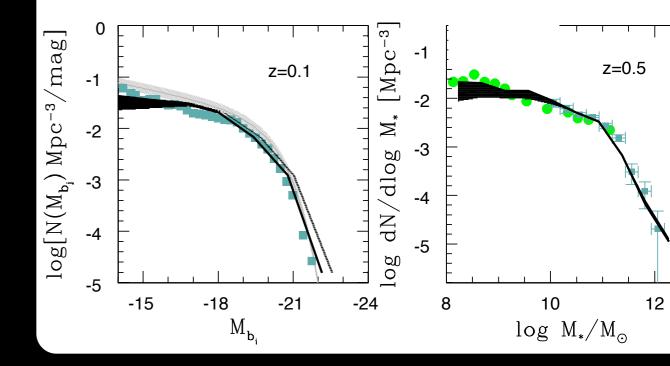
# WDM models with $m_X$ =1-4 constitutes a viable framework for galaxy formation

#### NM+2012 Are being investigated by several groups

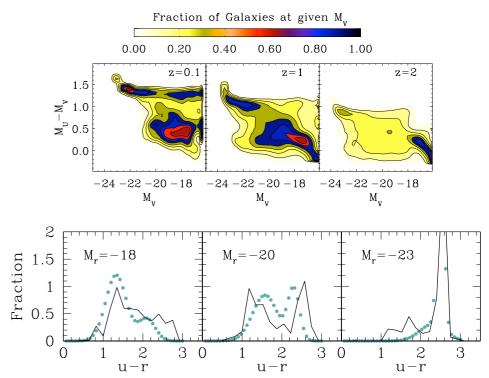
Maccio et al. 2012, Benson et al. 2013, Dayal, Mesinger, Pacucci 2014, Herpich et al.2014, Governato et al. 2014, Kennedy et al. 2015 Bose et al. 2016, Chau, Mayer, Governato 2016



#### luminosity distributions at z=0

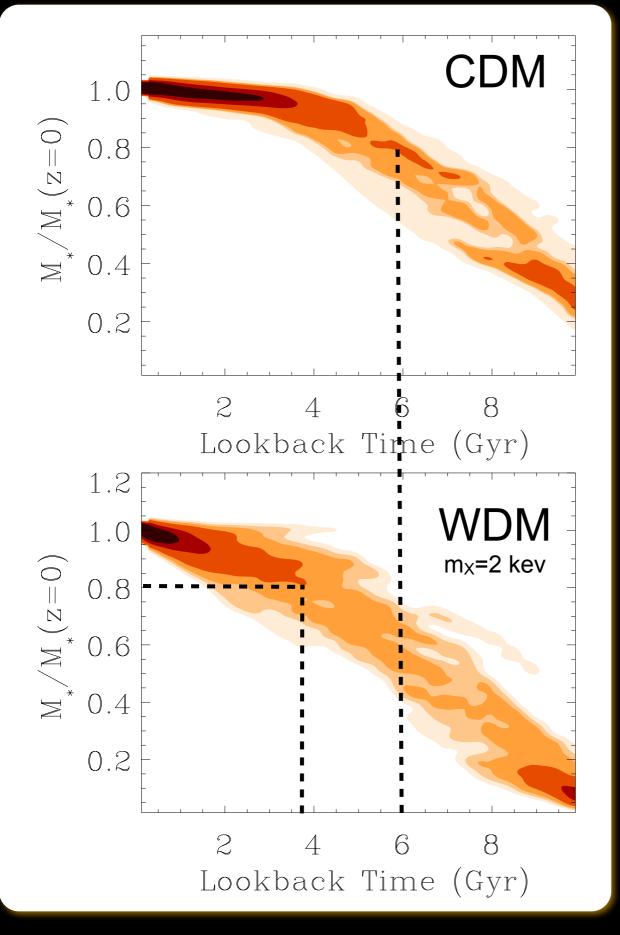


#### color distributions at z=0



# SOME PROPERTIES OF WDM GALAXY FORMATION

# A Delayed Growth of Stellar Mass in WDM galaxy formation

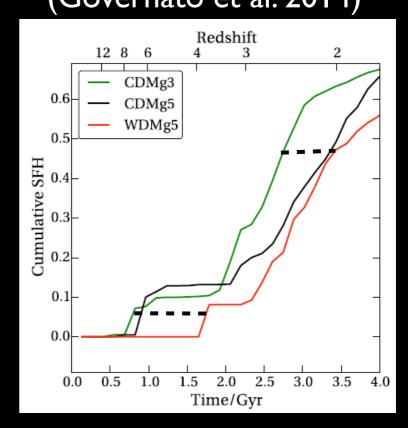


The suppression of progenitors of satellite galaxies with high SFR yields Slower growth of stellar mass in WDM

CDM: 80 % of mass formed 6 Gyr ago WDM: 80 % of mass formed 4 Gyr ago

Approx. delay ~ 2 Gyr

Independent works based on hydro-Nbody simulations confirm such a result (Governato et al. 2014)

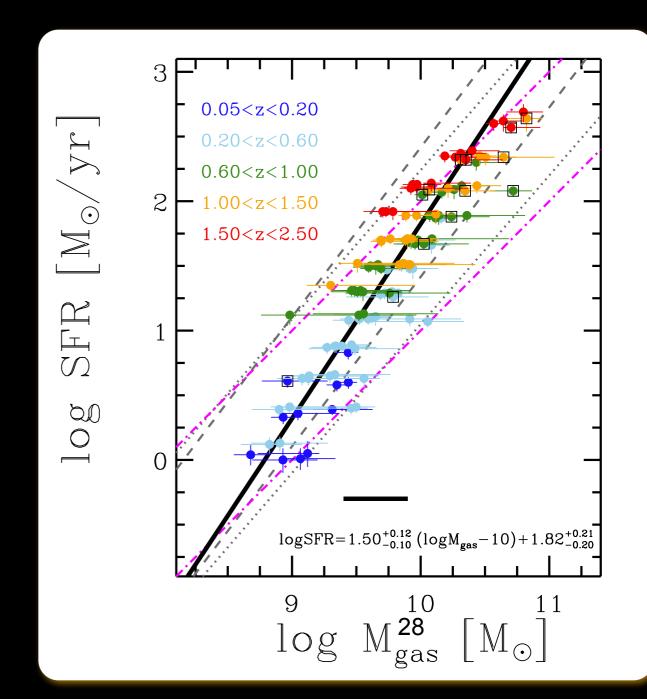


N-body simulations Star formation from cooled gas in simulations if

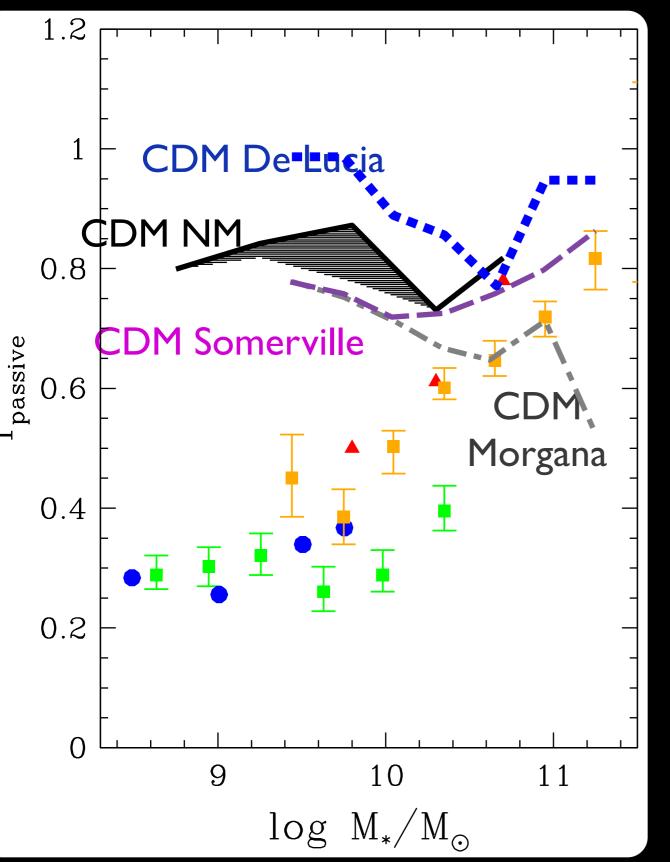
- it is bound, and has a central gravitational potential minimum
- is Jeans unstable
- is converging

Semi-analytic Models Star formation from cooled gas

$$m_* = \frac{m_{gas}}{\tau_*} \qquad \tau_* \propto \tau_{dyn}$$



### THE FRACTION OF QUIESCENT SATELLITE GALAXIES



Specific Star Formation Rate SSFR measures the current star formation activity with respect to the past

 $\overline{SSFR} = M_*/M*$ 

Quiescent Fraction SSFR<10<sup>-11</sup> yrs corresponds to minimum in the SSFR distribution (to form M\* it would need 3t<sub>H</sub> at current SF rate)

Result robust with respect to different CDM models with different feedback modelling

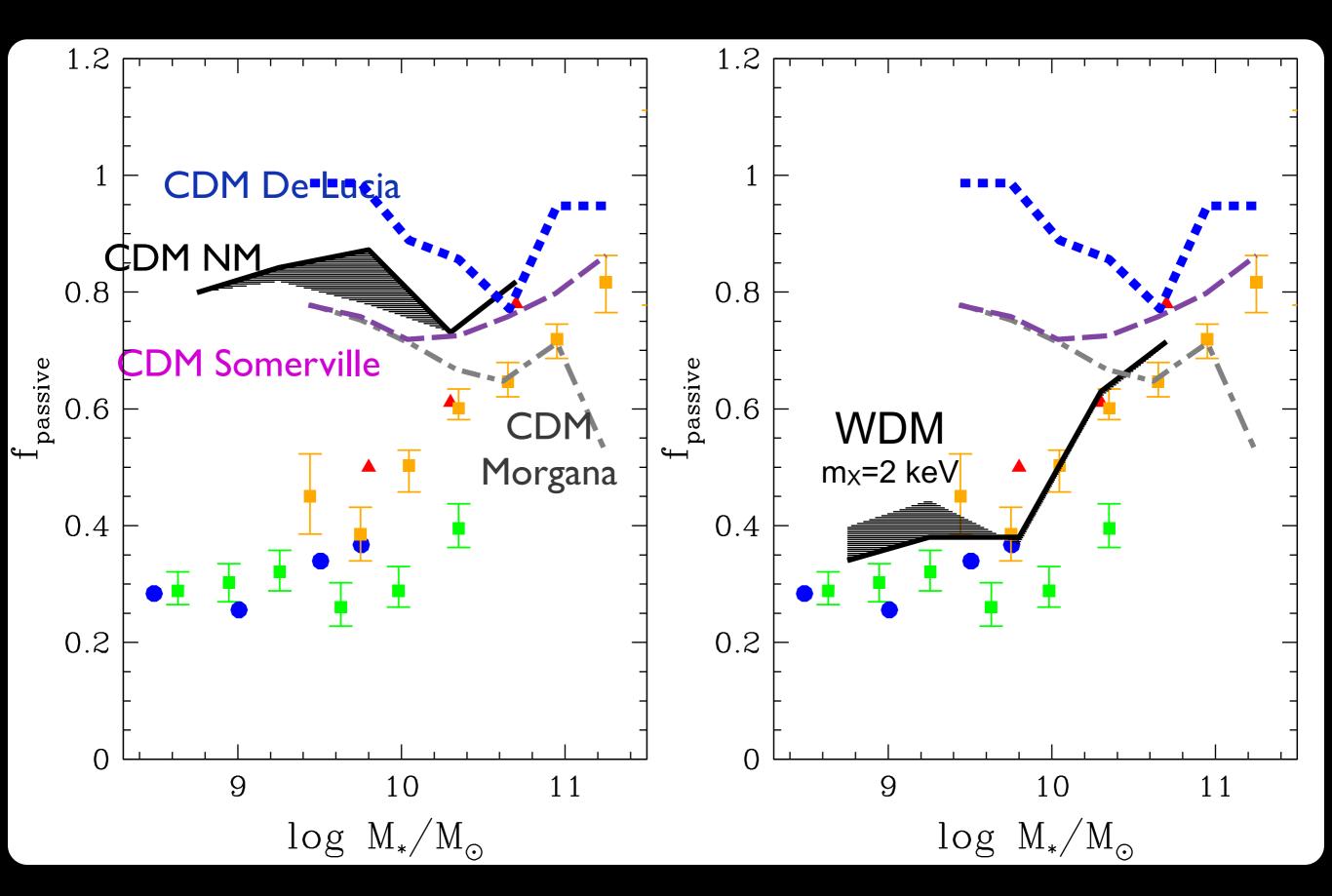
Due to the large number of dense DM clumps collapsed at high redshifts gas rapidly converted into stars at high-redshifts

Cold gas converted into stars at high z
Hot gas stripped when they were incorporated into larger DM haloes

No further star formation at low redhsift

NM 2014; Data from Wetzel et al. 2013, Kimm et al. 2014, Phillips 2014, Geha 2012

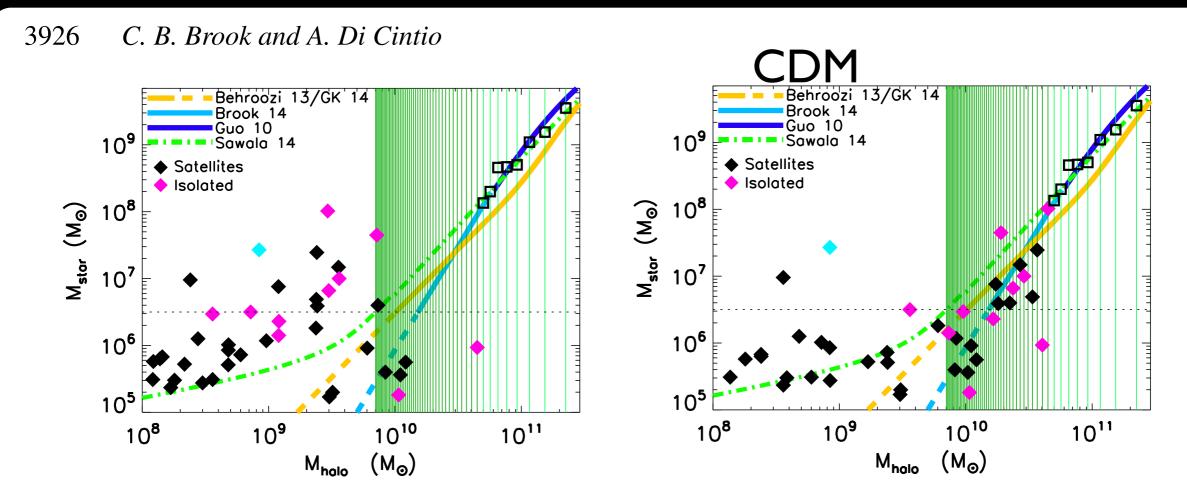
#### THE FRACTION OF QUIESCENT SATELLITE GALAXIES



### II: The L/M ratio of low-mass galaxies

Enhancing the feedback results into inefficient star formation for given DM halo (suppress L/M).

This seems at variance with observed M<sub>star</sub>-M relation

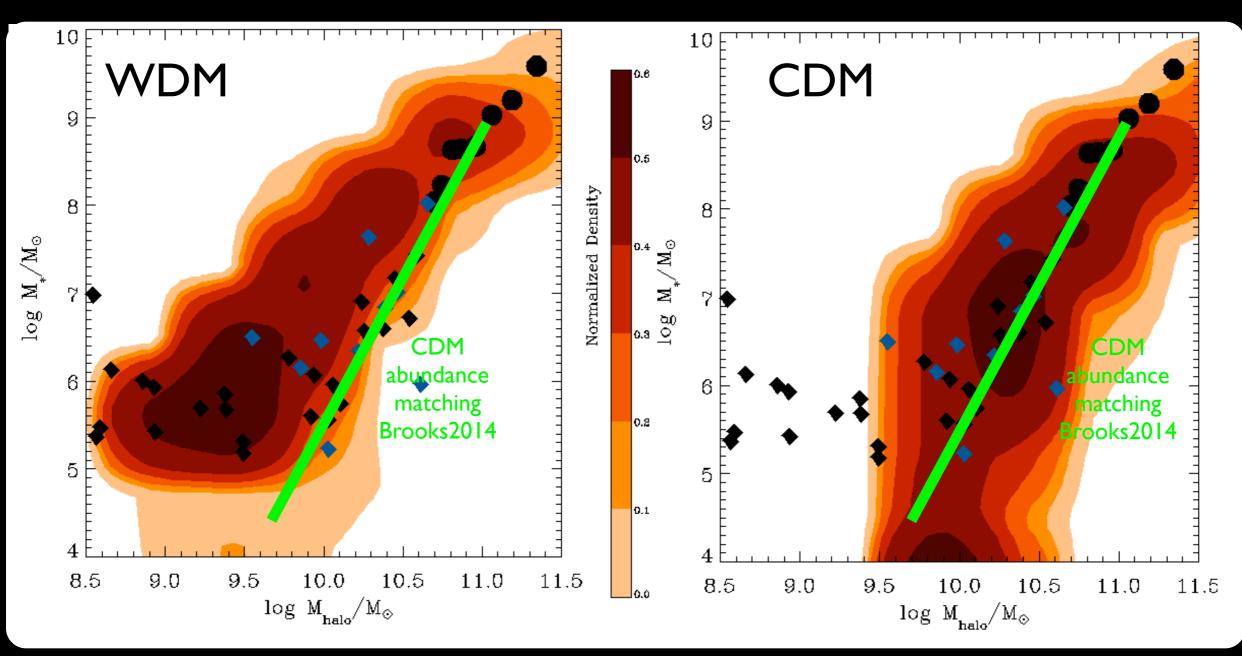


**Figure 2.** The relation between observed stellar mass and derived halo mass for LG galaxies. The halo mass has been found by fitting kinematical data and assuming two different halo profiles. The results for an NFW profile are shown in the left-hand panel, while the mass-dependent DC14 halo profile has been used in the right-hand panel. Satellites and isolated galaxies are shown in different colours, with Sagittarius dwarf irregular, highly affected by tides, shown in cyan. Several abundance matching predictions are indicated, in particular the Brook et al. (2014) one has been constrained using the LG mass function, and it is shown as dashed line below the observational completeness limit of the LG.

# Problems with Solutions based on Feedback II: The L/M ratio of low-mass galaxies

Enhancing the feedback results into inefficient star formation for given DM halo (suppress L/M).

In WDM the flatter shape of the LF allows for larger L/M ratios

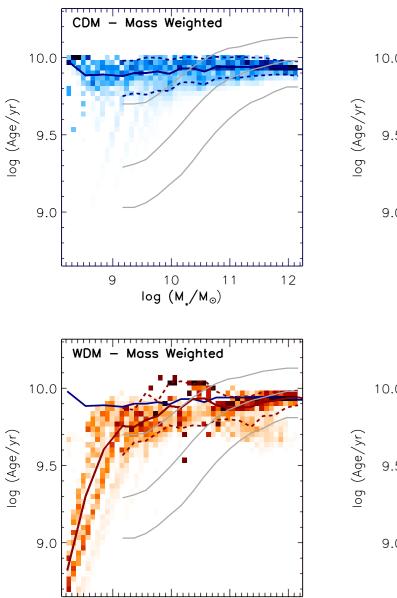


### The Age of stellar populations in low-mass galaxies

CDM predicts early collapse of a huge number of low-mass halos, which remain isolated at later times retaining the early-formed stellar populations; as a result, CDM-based SAMs generally provide flat age-mass relations (Fontanot et al. 2009; Pasquali et al. 2010; De Lucia & Borgani 2012).

Increasing the stellar feedback worsen the problem

Early SF: WDM induces delay in star formation, affects small-mass objects( see, e.g., Angulo et al. 2013)



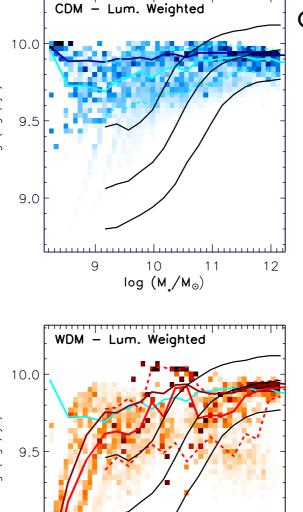
10

 $\log (M_M_{\odot})$ 

11

9

12



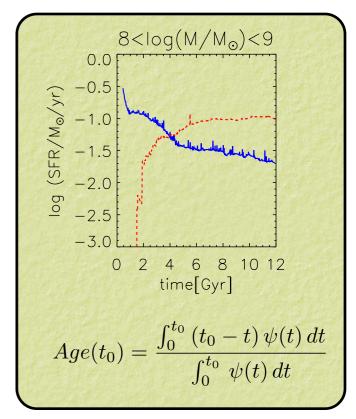
11

10

 $\log (M_M_{\odot})$ 

12

#### Calura, NM, Gallazzi 2014



The upper, the middle and the lower grey (black) curves represent the 16th, the 50th (median) and the 84th percentiles of the observed distribution in mass-(light-)weighted stellar age (Gallazzi et al. 2008)

# CONSTRAINING THE WDM PARTICLE MASS

In terms of thermal relic mass m<sub>X</sub> (conversion to sterile neutrino masses depends on production mechanism) E.g. Dodelson-Widrow mechanism m<sub>v</sub>≈ 2.9 m<sub>X</sub>

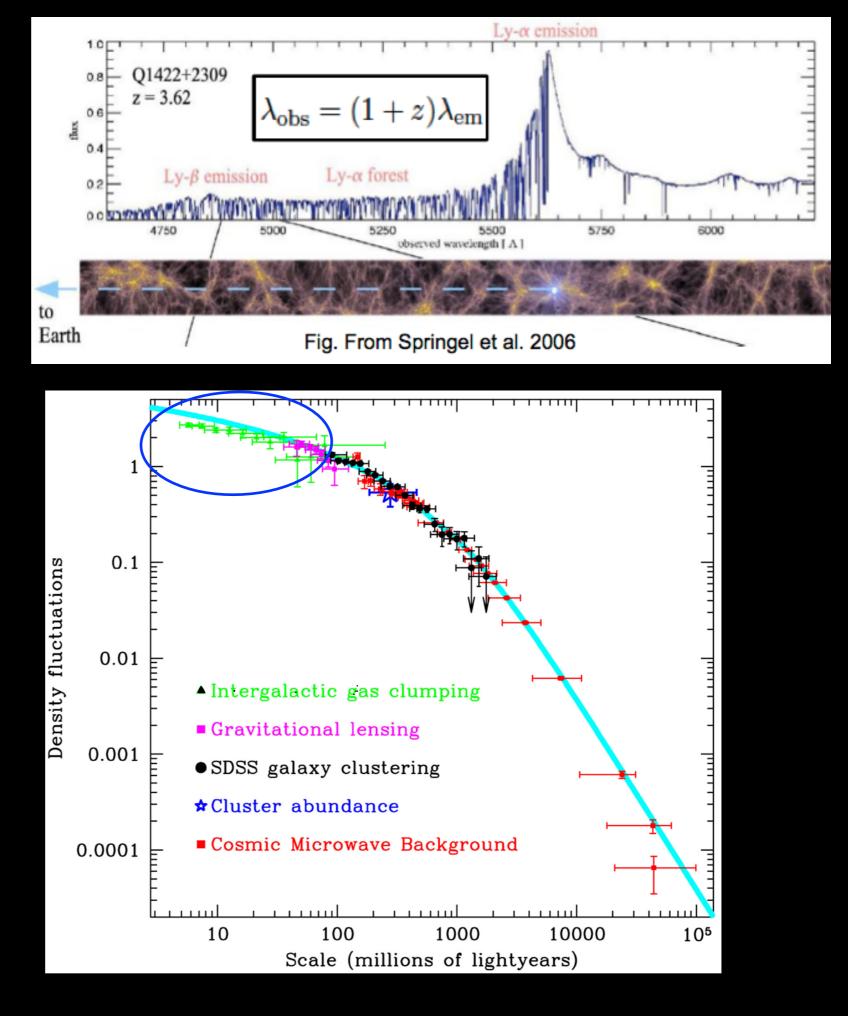
Shi-Fuller mechanism  $m_v \approx 2.5 m_X$ 

 $m_X>4$  keV is indistinguishable from CDM from the point of view of galaxy formation

WDM particle mass: limits from the Ly-α forest vs. Hydro-Simulations

Viel et al. 2005-2013





Results subject to further investigations

Still affected by the difficult-tocharacterize physics of intergalactic gas. Degeneracy between WDM effects and Jeans and Doppler broadening of the absorption lines. These are affected by the IGM temperature

WDM particles are  $10^{68}$  times heavier  $(10^5 \text{ M}_{\odot})$  than the real WDM particles. This makes difficult to infer the initial velocity distribution of the effective particles from the known initial velocity distribution of the real WDM particles (Lovell et al. 2012, 2014; Maccio` et al. 2012; Viel et al. 2013). Constraining the WDM candidate mass through the abundance of low-mass galaxies

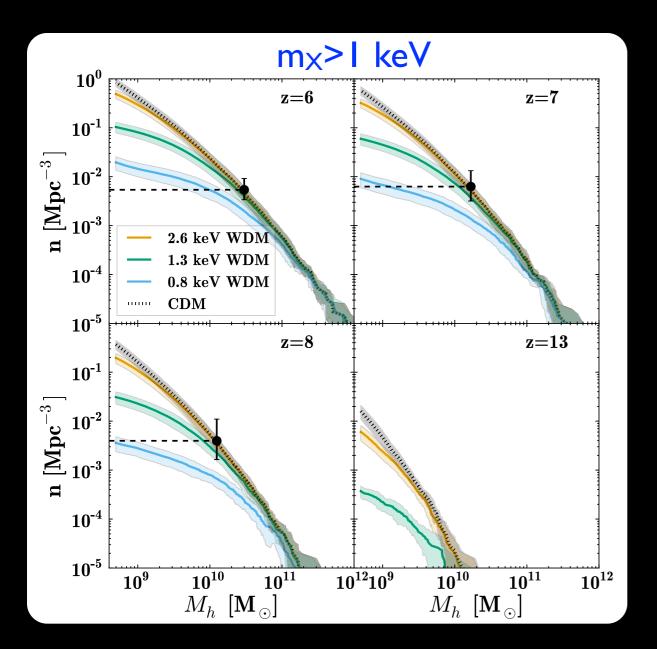
Structure formation in WDM models suppressed on small mass scales.

Small mass galaxies are the first to form.

The most powerful for probe for these scenarios is the abundance of high-redshift galaxies

# Constraining the WDM candidate mass through the abundance of low-mass galaxies

Schultz et al. 2014 Compare predicted abundance of low-mass DM halos at z>6 with observed abundance of faint galaxies in the HUDF Delicate issue: relate UV luminsity of observed galaxies to the mass of the host DM halo

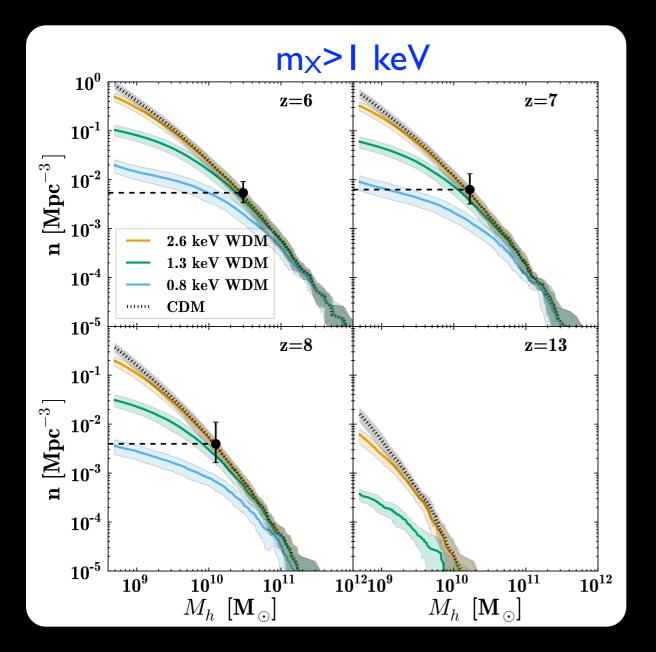


Magnitude limit mag=30 at z=6 this corresponds to  $M_{UV}=-18$ 

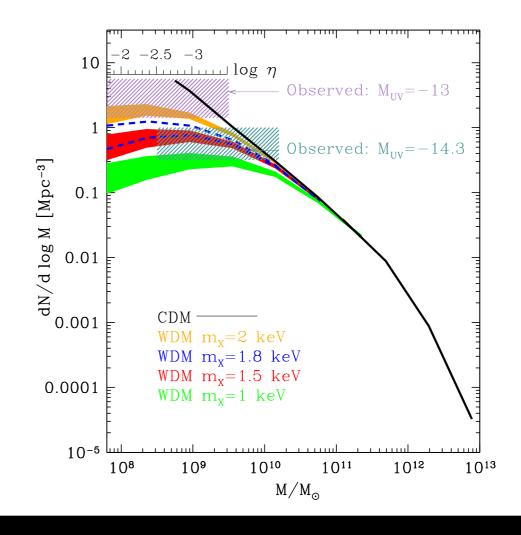
# Constraints on $m_X$ from the abundance of low-mass galaxies: getting rid of degeneracy with astrophysics of gas and stars

At masses close to the Half-Mode mass WDM mass functions exhibit a down turn.

Observed galaxy densities larger than the maximum predicted abundance of a given WDM model would rule out the corresponding WDM particle mass independently of L/M relation



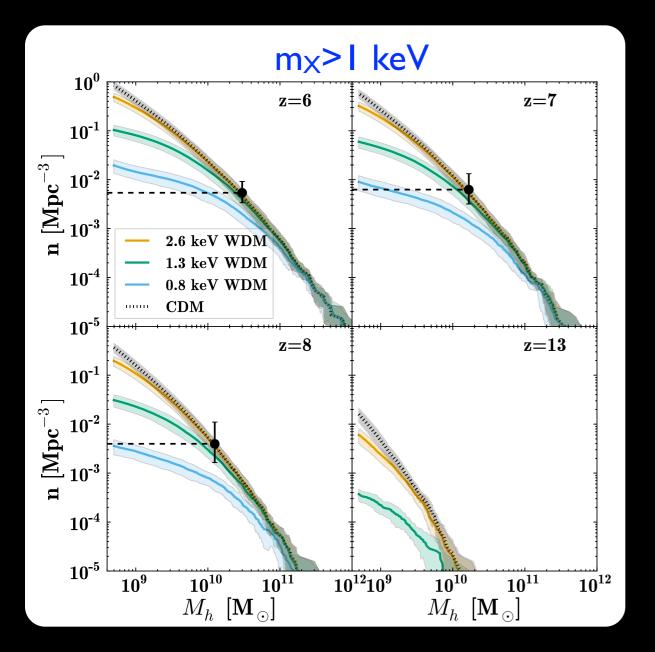
Probing the Half-mode mass of ~ 2 keV WDM models requires reaching  $M_{UV} \approx -13$ 



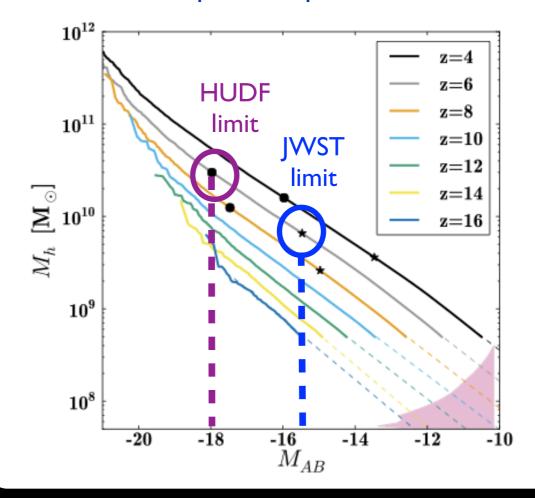
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## Hubble Frontier Field

#### **The Frontier Fields Goals**

Using Director's Discretionary (DD) observing time, HST is undertaking a revolutionary deep field observing program to peer deeper into the Universe than ever before and provide a first glimpse of JWST's universe.

These Frontier Fields will combine the power of HST with the natural gravitational telescopes of high-magnification clusters of galaxies. Using both the Wide Field Camera 3 and Advanced Camera for Surveys in parallel, HST will produce the deepest observations of clusters and their lensed galaxies ever obtained, and the second-deepest observations of blank fields (located near the clusters). These images will reveal distant galaxy populations ~10-100 times fainter than any previously observed, improve our statistical understanding of galaxies during the epoch of reionization, and provide unprecedented measurements of the dark matter within massive clusters.

This program is based upon the 2012 recommendations from the Hubble Deep Fields Initiative Science Working group: SWG Report 2012

Cluster Name	z	Cluster		Parallel Field	
		RA	Dec	RA	Dec
Year 1:					
Abell 2744	0.308	00:14:21.2	-30:23:50.1	00:13:53.6	-30:22:54.3
MACSJ0416.1-2403	0.396	04:16:08.9	-24:04:28.7	04:16:33.1	-24:06:48.7
Year 2:					
MACSJ0717.5+3745	0.545	07:17:34.0	+37:44:49.0	07:17:17.0	+37:49:47.3
MACSJ1149.5+2223	0.543	11:49:36.3	+22:23:58.1	11:49:40.5	+22:18:02.3
Year 3:					
Abell S1063 (RXCJ2248.7-4431)	0.348	22:48:44.4	-44:31:48.5	22:49:17.7	-44:32:43.8
Abell 370	0.375	02:39:52.9	-01:34:36.5	02:40:13.4	-01:37:32.8

#### **Six Frontier Fields**

#### Abell 2744 Cluster

Clusters as lensing telescopes



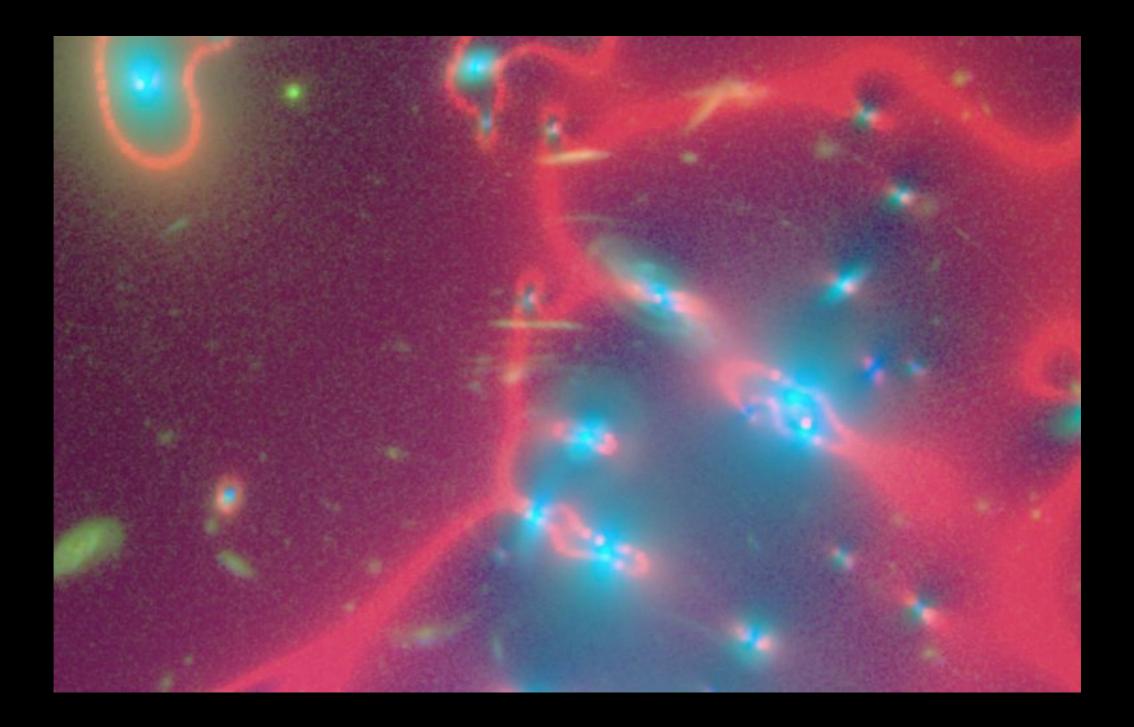
slide by Jennifer Lotz

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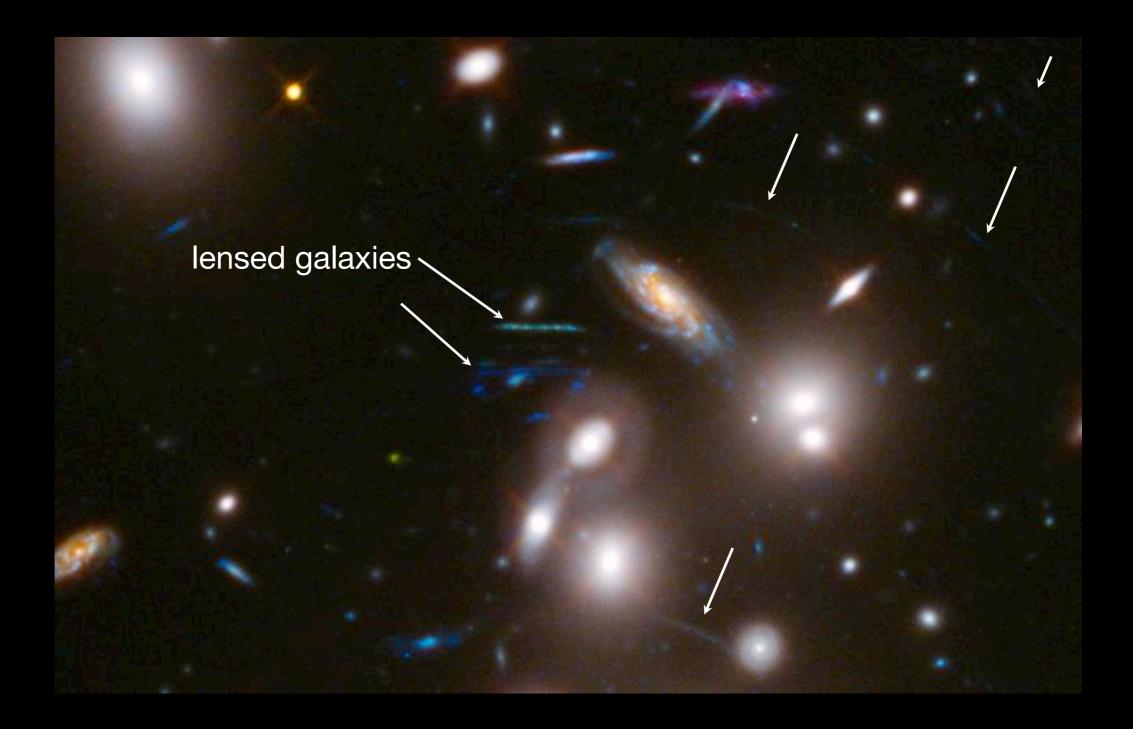
Abell 2744 Cluster

#### Abell 2744 Cluster

a model of the cluster's 'optics' gives us the magnification power model credit: J. Richard, CATS team



background galaxies are magnified by factors up to ~10-20, providing the deepest yet view of the universe

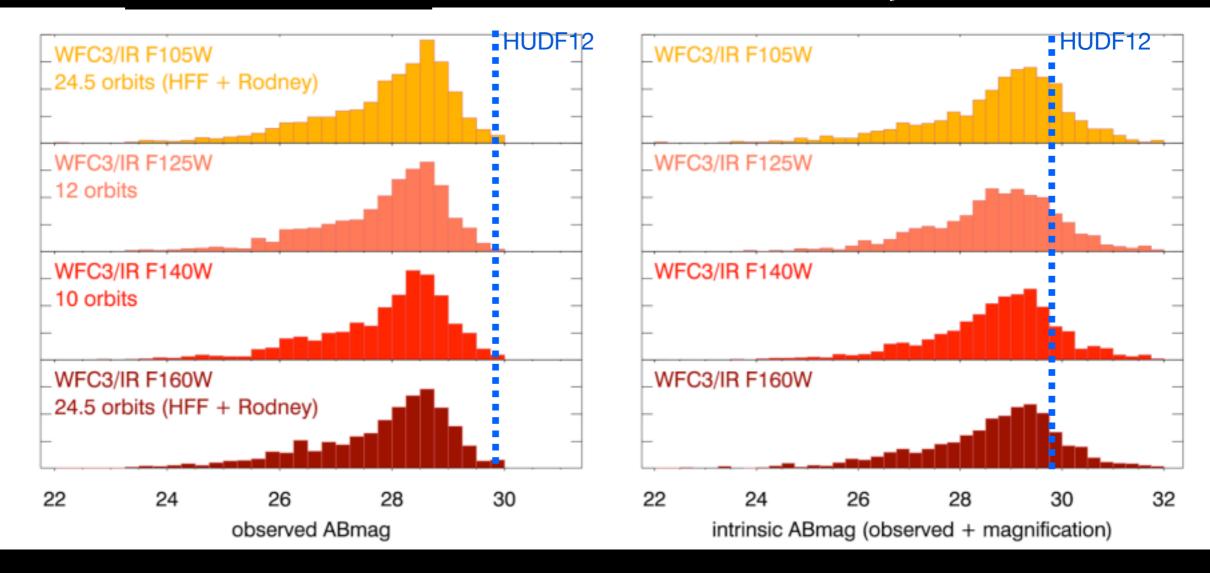


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## Deepest view yet into the distant universe:

#### Observed Fainter $\rightarrow$

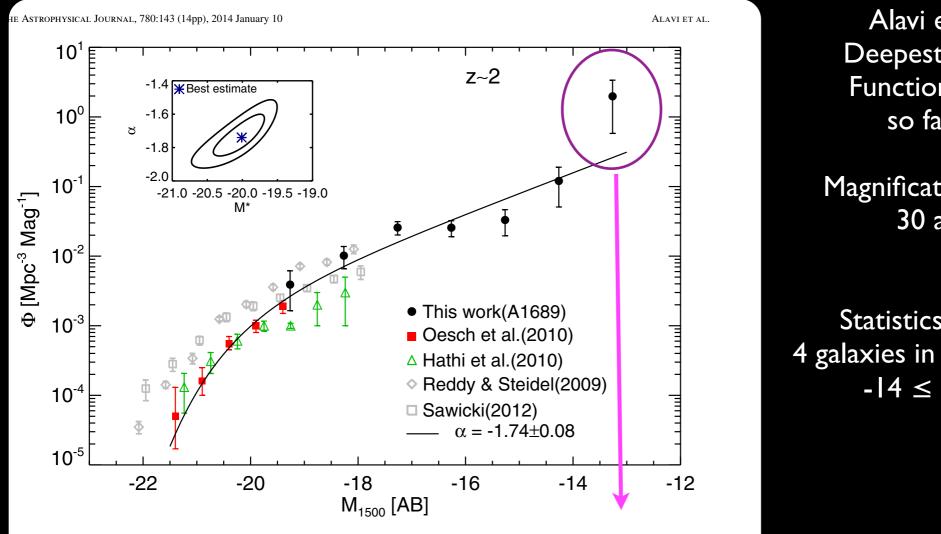
#### Intrinsically Fainter $\rightarrow$



Take observed fluxes x lensing magnifications (average ~1.8x, max ~80x)

⇒ intrinsically faintest Frontier Fields galaxies ~2.5 magnitudes (10x) fainter than Ultra Deep Field (blue dashed line)

## A single cluster lens provided a significant step forward



Deep ultraviolet imaging of the lensing cluster A1689 with the WFC3/ UVIS camera on *Hubble Space Telescope* in the F275W (30 orbits) and F336W (4 orbits) filters.

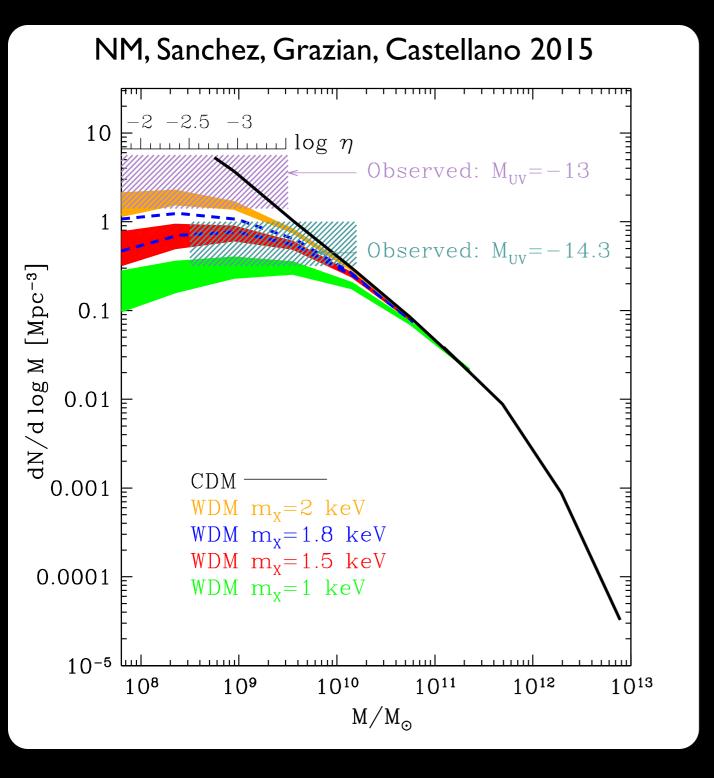
Identify  $z \sim 2$  star-forming galaxies via their Lyman break. Because of the unprecedented depth of the images and the large magnification provided by the lensing cluster, we detect galaxies 100× fainter than previous surveys at this redshift.

Alavi et al. 2015 Deepest Luminosity Function measured so far at z=2

Magnifications between 30 and 300

Statistics is still poor 4 galaxies in the faintest bins  $-14 \le M_{UV} \le -13$ 

## A single cluster lens provided m<sub>X</sub>>1.8 keV (thermal relic mass)



lower  $m_X$  do not provide the observed abundance. Note: baryonic processes can make the LF flatter but not steeper !

# The result is robust with respect to The effect of baryonic processes included in $\eta$ . Observations probe the mass function in the mass range around the half-mode mass where the DM mass functions are characterized by a maximum value.

#### The modeling of residual DM

dispersion velocities. Their would yield a sharper decrease of the mass function at small masses (see, e.g., Benson et al. 2013), thus yielding tighter constraints.

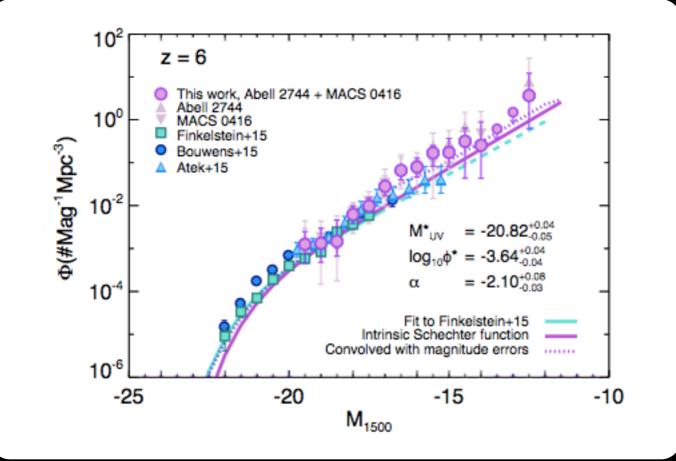
# The kind of DM clumps hosting the UV emitting galaxies. In fact, the upper boundaries of the solid filled regions correspond to predictions including also proto-halos.

The possible effects of UV background and reionization. Such effects would further suppress the abundance of galaxies in low-mass halos (Sawala et al. 2015).4

# Recently Livermore, Finkelstein, Lotz 2016 obtained LFs of z=6 galaxies down to $M_{UV}$ =-12.5

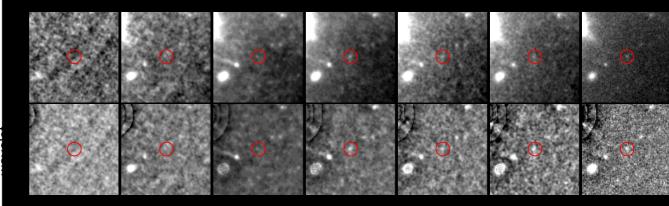
Based on 2 HFF lensing clusters Abell 2744 and MACS 0416

164 galaxies at z>6

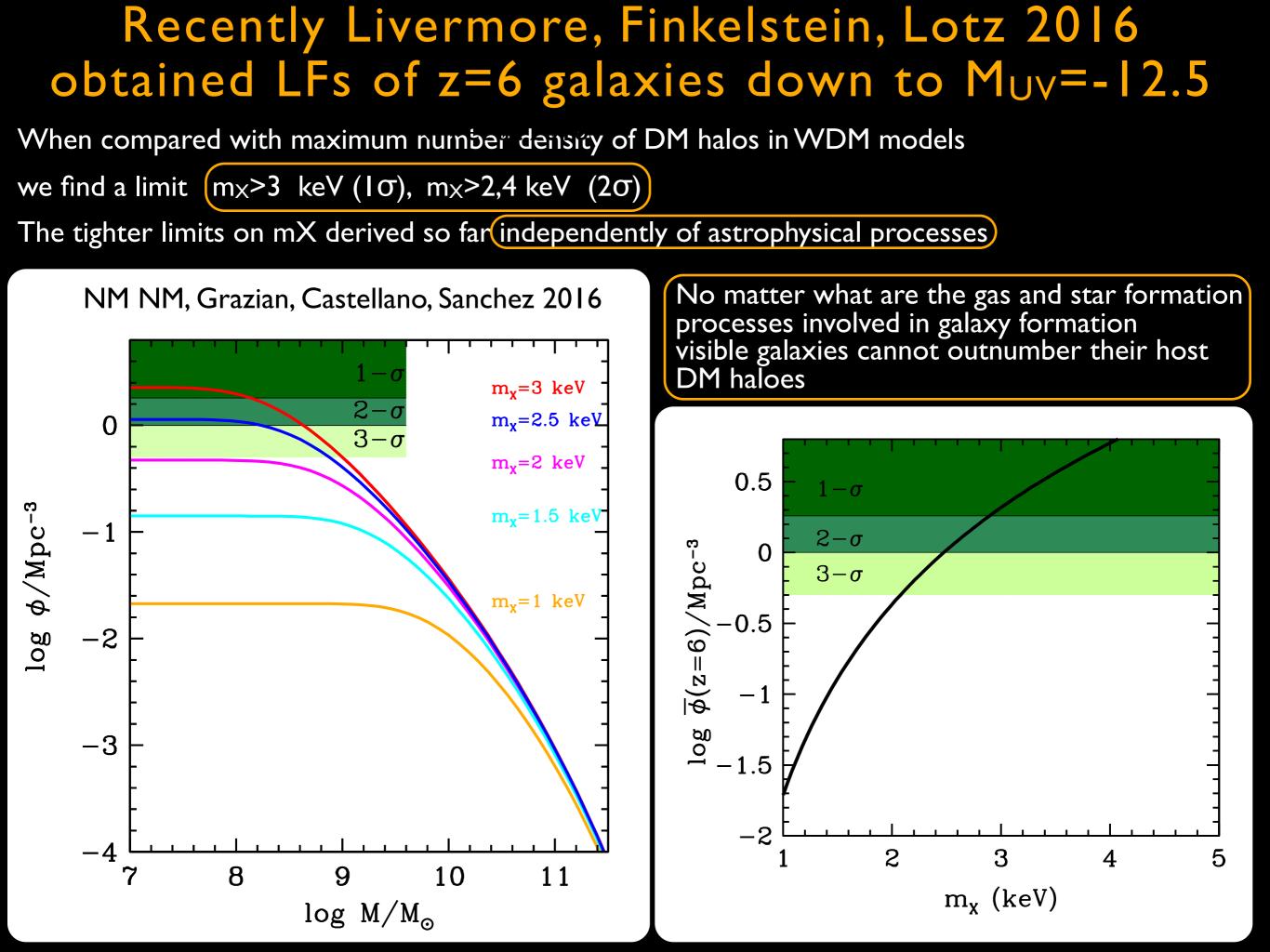


Such measurements have been shown to provide important constraints on the contribution to reionization, and on the star formation and feedback processes of primeval galaxies. Lensing magnifications >50X

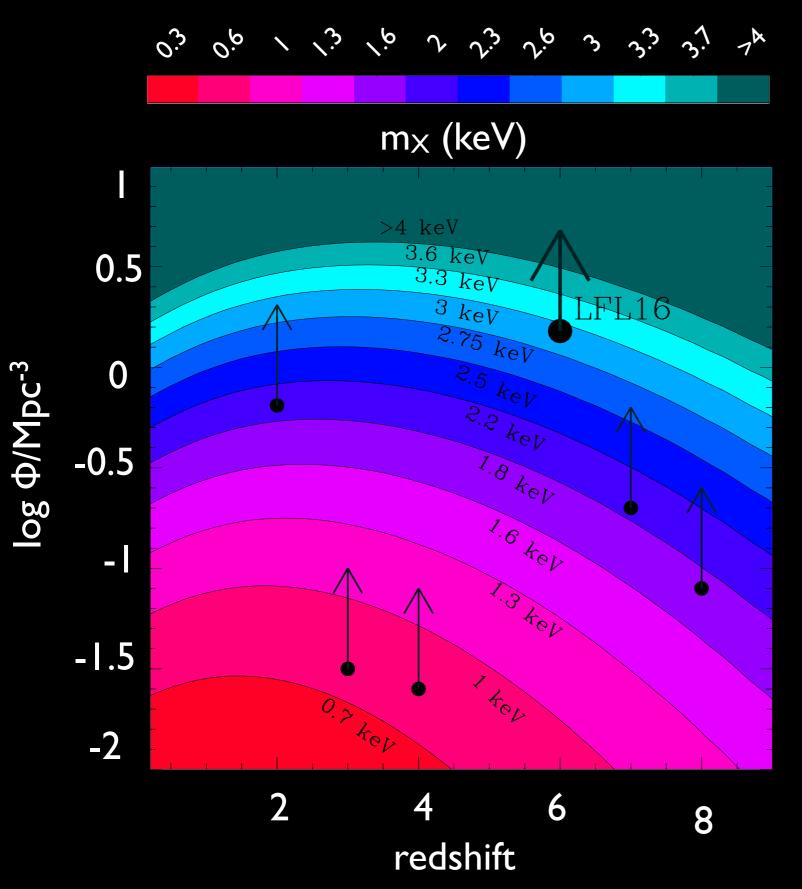
Magnifications have been derived by adopting the full range of possible lens models produced for the HFF by seven independent groups who used different assumptions and methodologies.



Postage stamp image of a2744 z6 3341, from the  $z \sim 6$  sample detected in the Abell 2744 cluster field. The circle shows a 0.4" aperture. This galaxy is magnified by a factor ~ 20×, giving it an intrinsic UV magnitude of MUV = -14.54, but was not detected in previous studies due to the bright foreground object close to the line of sight (top row). It is easily detected in the wavelet-subtracted images (lower row

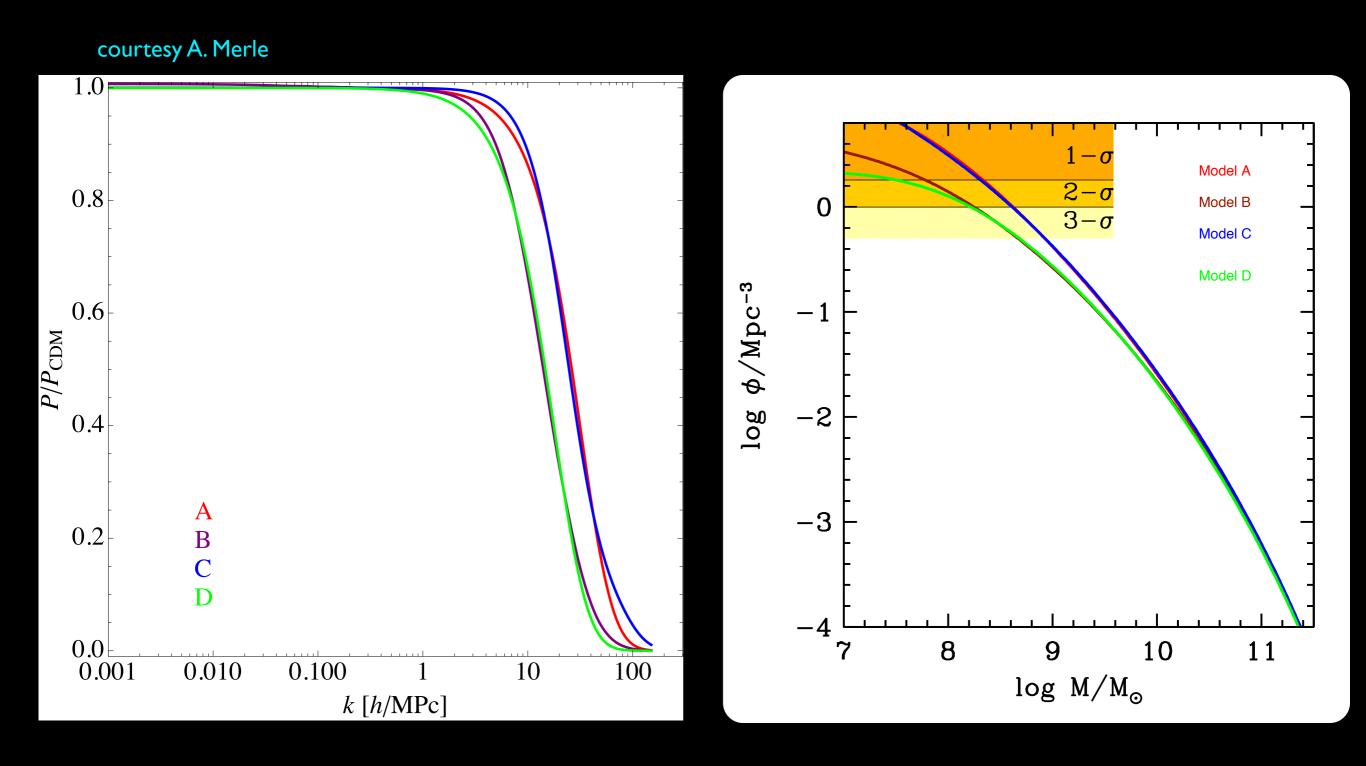


### Comparison with previous limits based on galaxy abundances NM+2016b

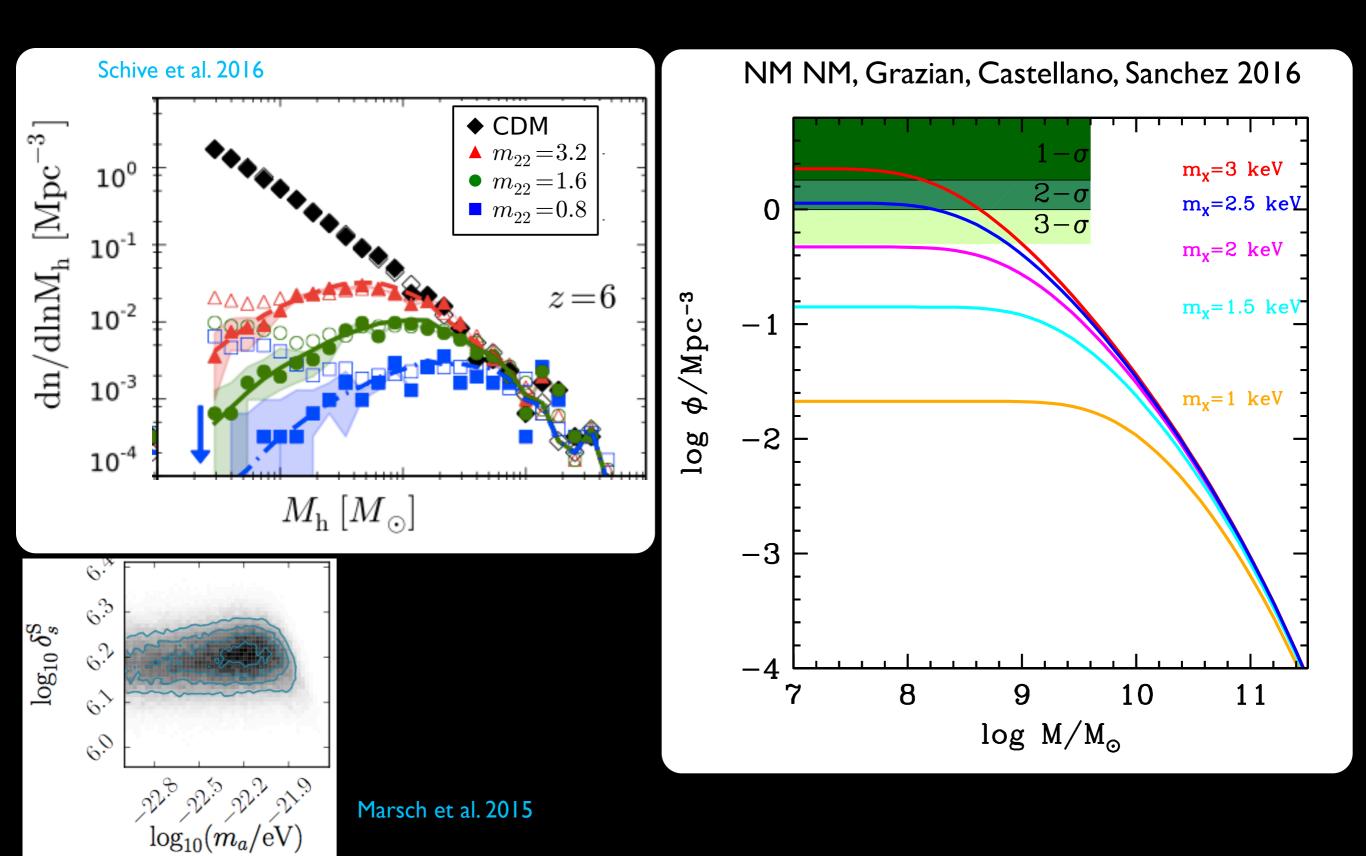


Data fromAlavi et al. 2015z=2Parsa et al. 2015z=3-4Livermore et al. 2016z>6

The ultra-deep LF at z=6 constitute an extremely powerful probe Ex. sterile neutrinos from scalar decay (Merle 2016)



Wave DM (ultra-light axion like DM  $m_X \sim 10^{-22}$  ev) is ruled out Matching the dwarf profiles requires  $m_{22} < 1.2$ , but abundances rule out  $m_{22} < 5$ 



## Conclusions

Unsolved issues exist in current CDM galaxy formation model at small mass scales  $M \lesssim 10^9 \ M_{\odot}$ 

WDM models with spectra corresponding to thermal relic mass  $m_X \sim \text{keV}$  constitute viable solutions provided  $m_X < 4 \text{ keV}$  (models with larger  $m_X$  are undistinguishable from CDM as far as galaxy formation is concerned)

The tremendous improvement in the observations of faint galaxies at high redshift through WFC3+lensing (HFF) allows to measure the abundance of z=6 galaxies down to  $M_{UV}$ =-12.5. This allows to set strong limits on  $m_{X.}$  m<sub>X</sub> > 2.4 keV at 2- $\sigma$  level

independent on the modeling of astrophysical processes involving of gas and star formation

This corresponds to  $m_{sterile} > 7$  keV for neutrinos produced via the Dodelson-Widrow mechanism

IF sterile neutrinos are the origin of the 3.5 keV line observed in spectra of X-ray clusters (i.e.,  $m_{sterile}$ =7 keV) the above limit on  $m_X$  rules out the Dodelson-Widrow model for the production of sterile neutrino from oscillations with