



# A Spin on Wave Dark Matter

Mustafa A. Amin



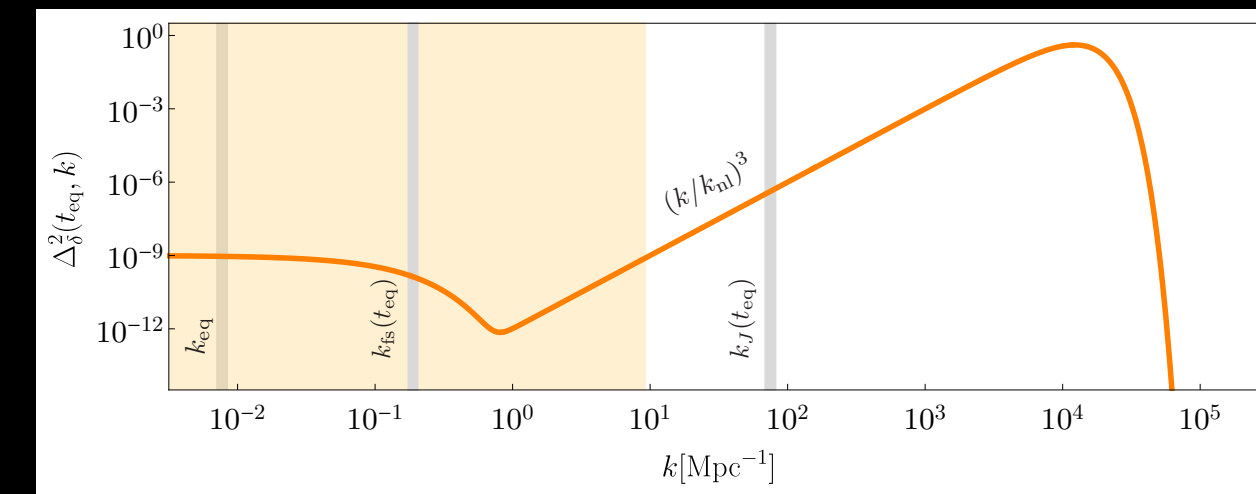
RICE



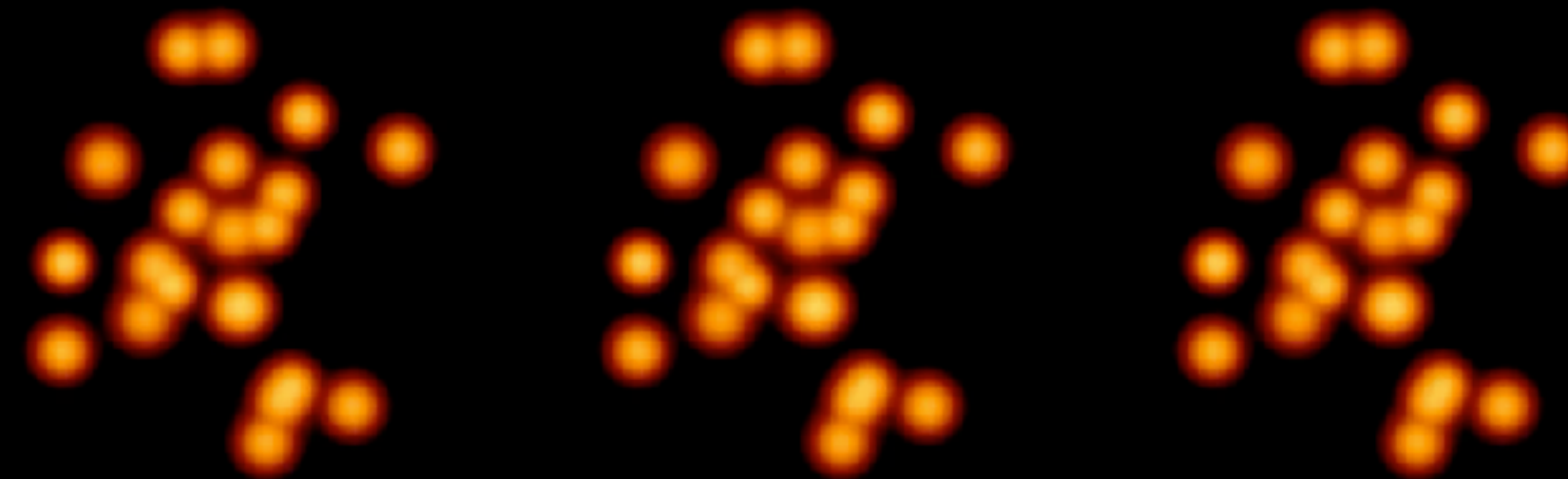
with Jain	2109.04892
Zhang, Jain	2111.08700
Jain, Karur, Mocz	2203.11935
Mirbabayi	2211.09775
Jain	2211.08433
Long, Schiappacasse	2301.11470
Jain, Thomas, Wanischarunarung	2304.01985

# talk in 2 parts

## 1. A lower bound on dark matter mass



## 2. Spin of wave dark matter from astrophysics?

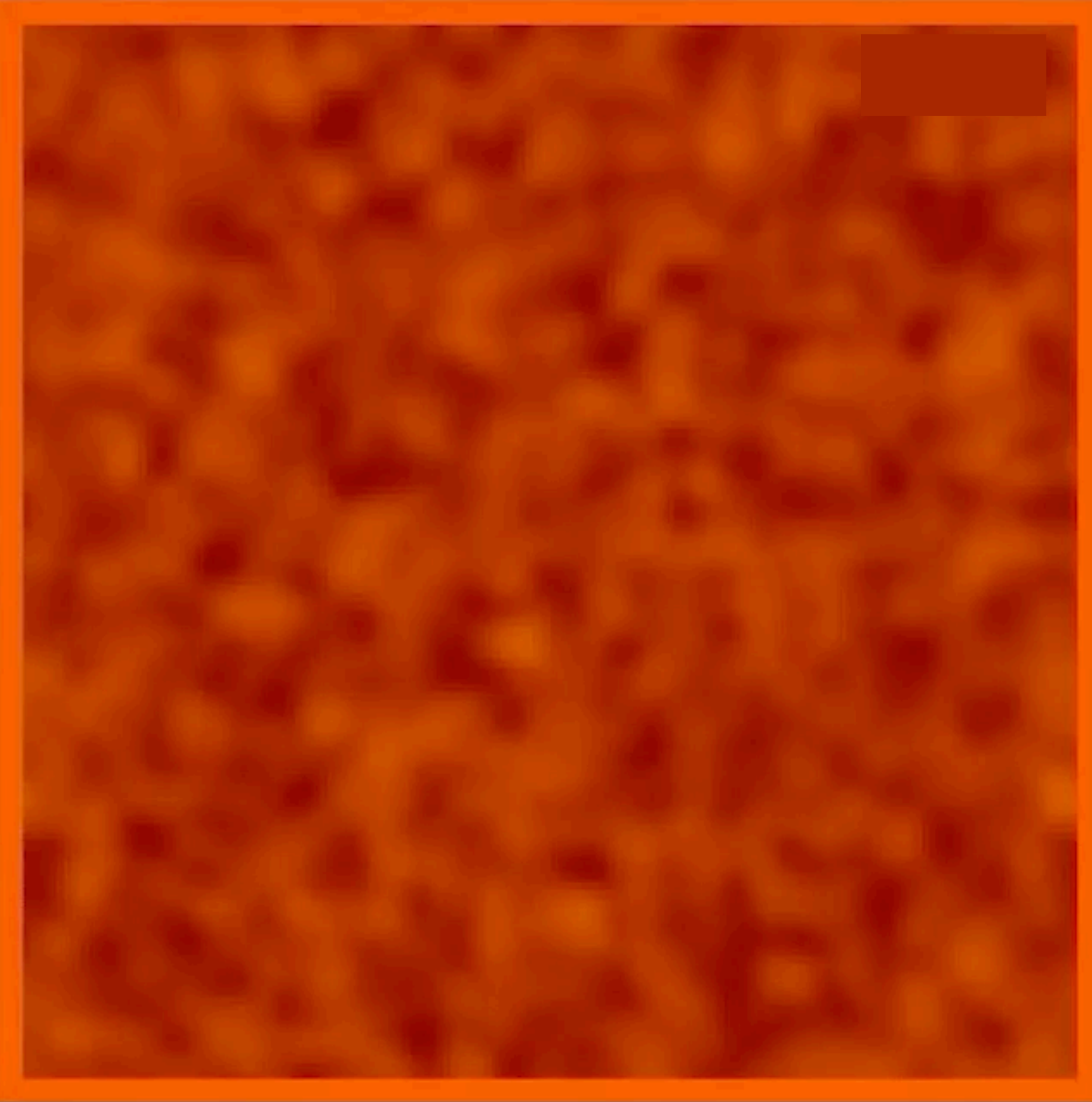
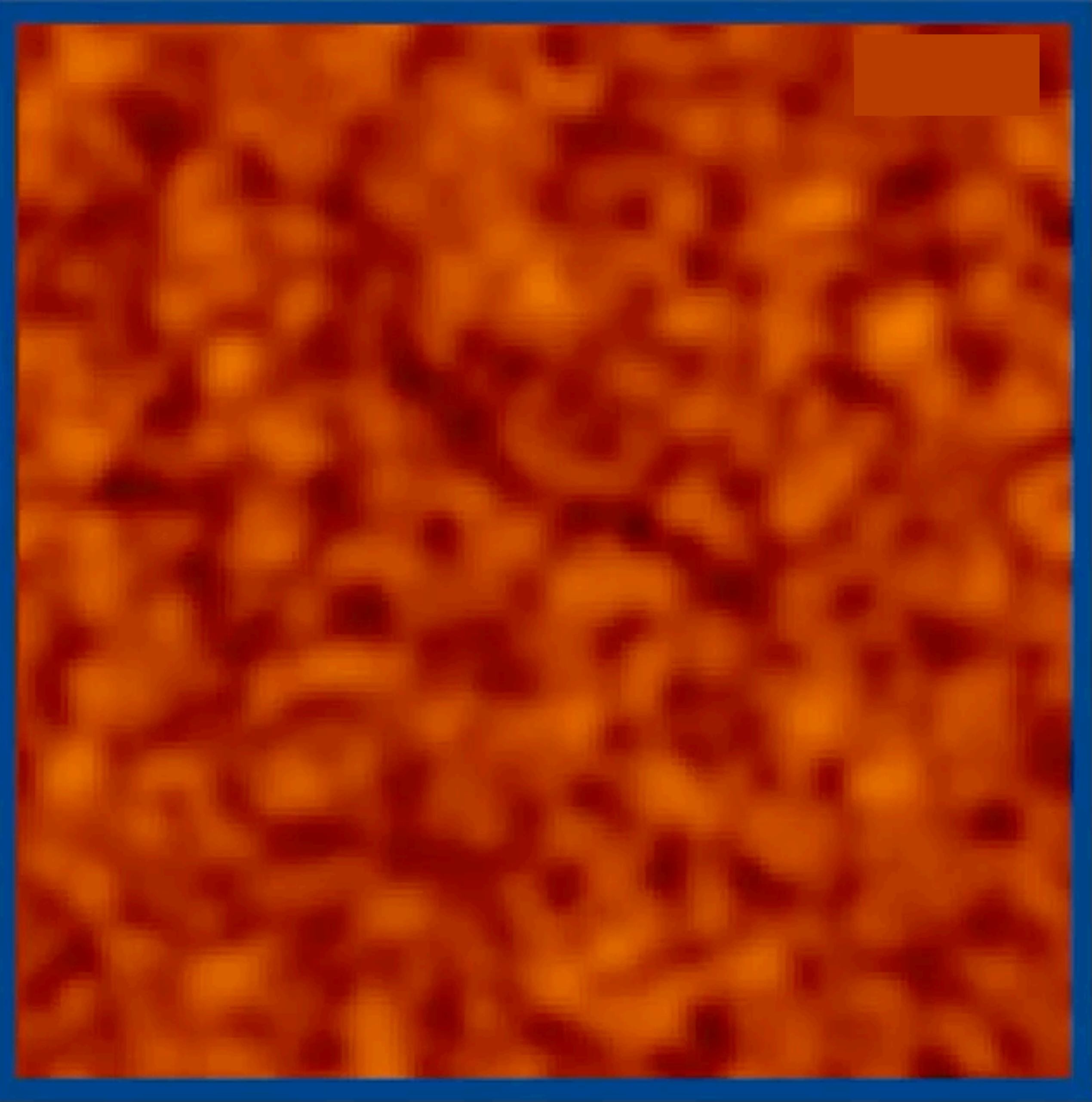




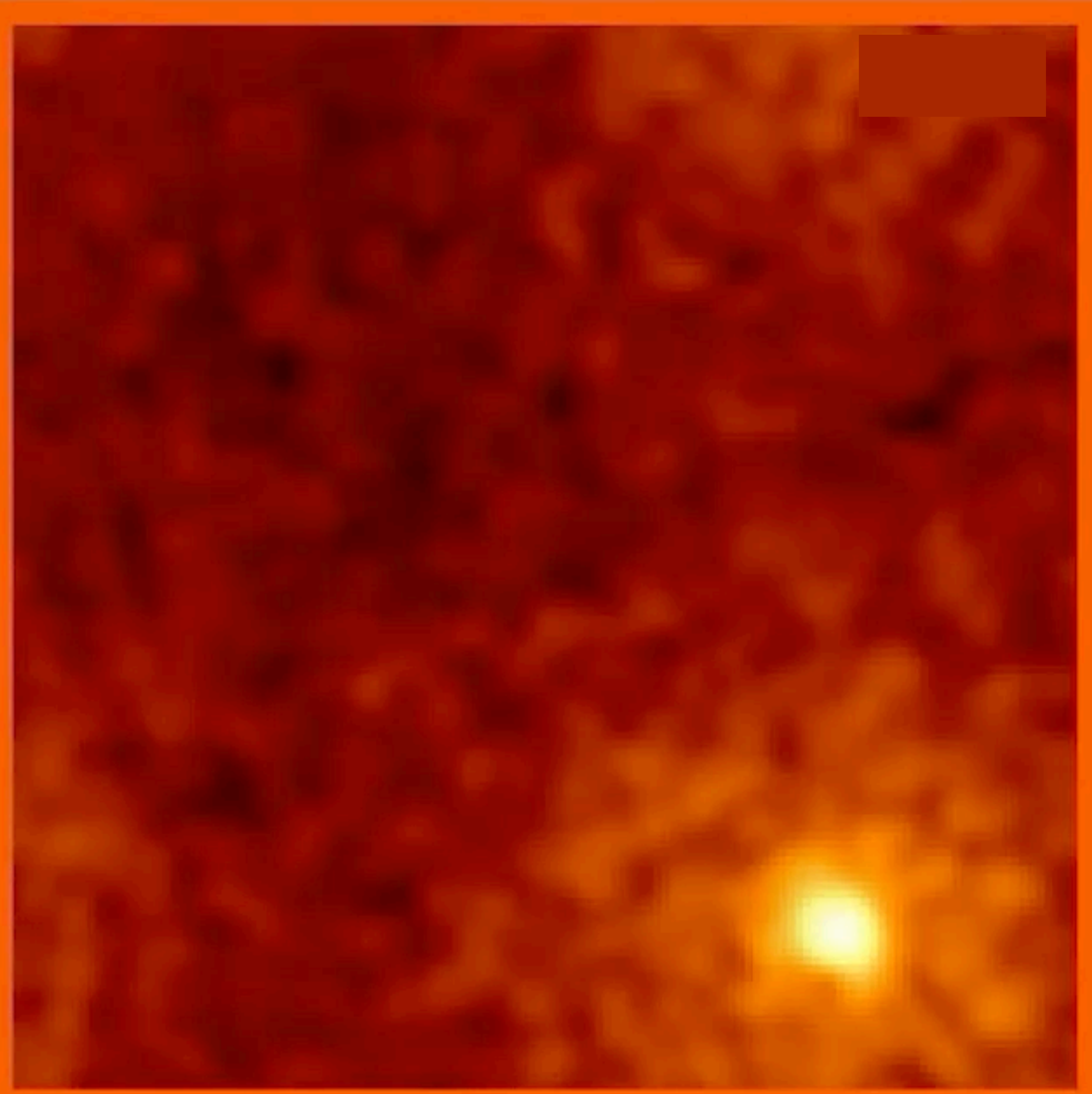
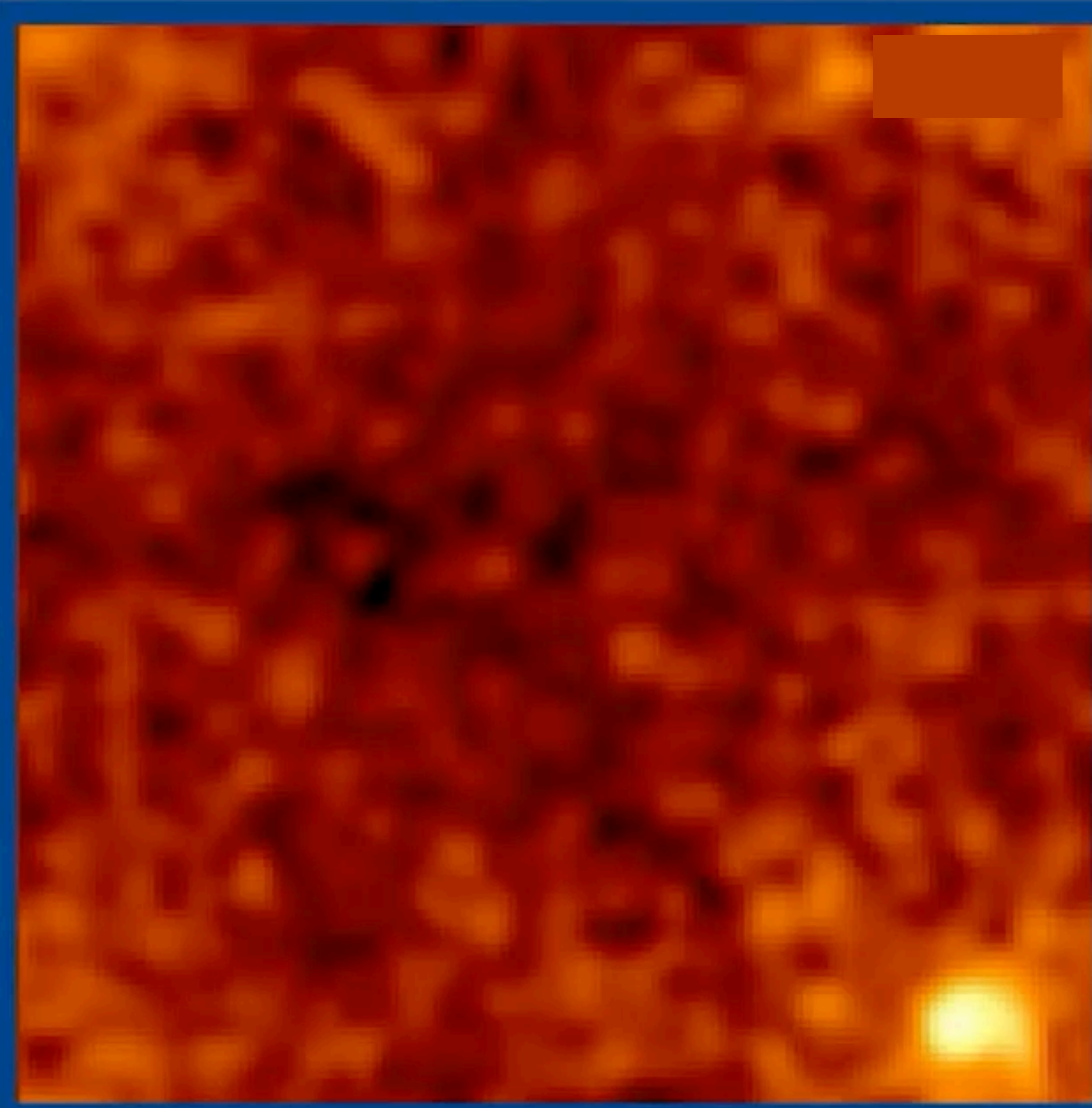
can we probe the intrinsic spin of wave dark matter?

100

100





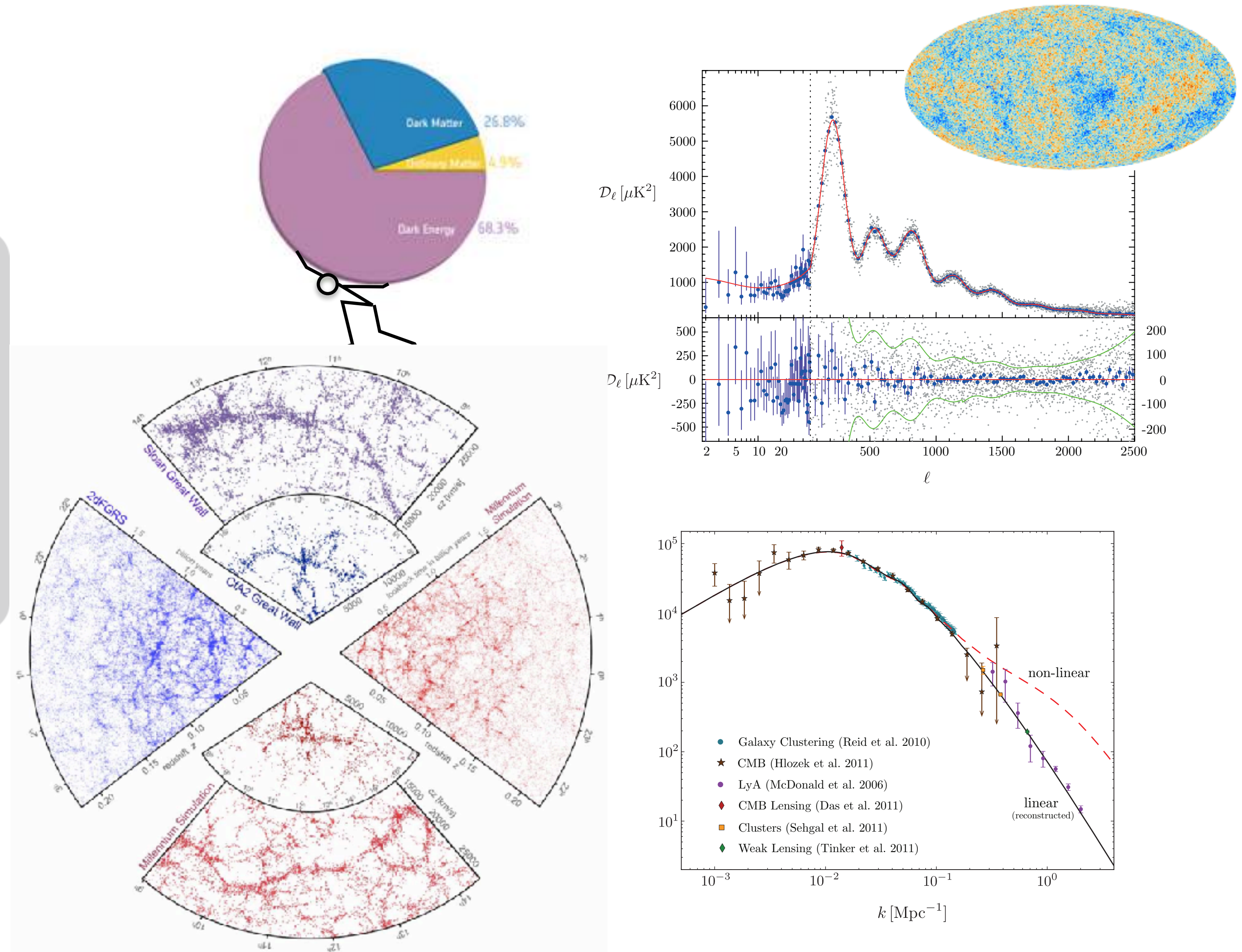


# motivation & introduction



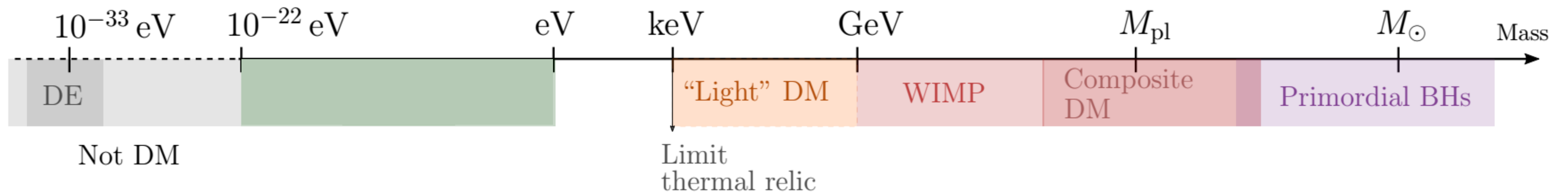
# dark matter

- dark matter exists
- gravitational interactions
- what is it: spin, mass ?

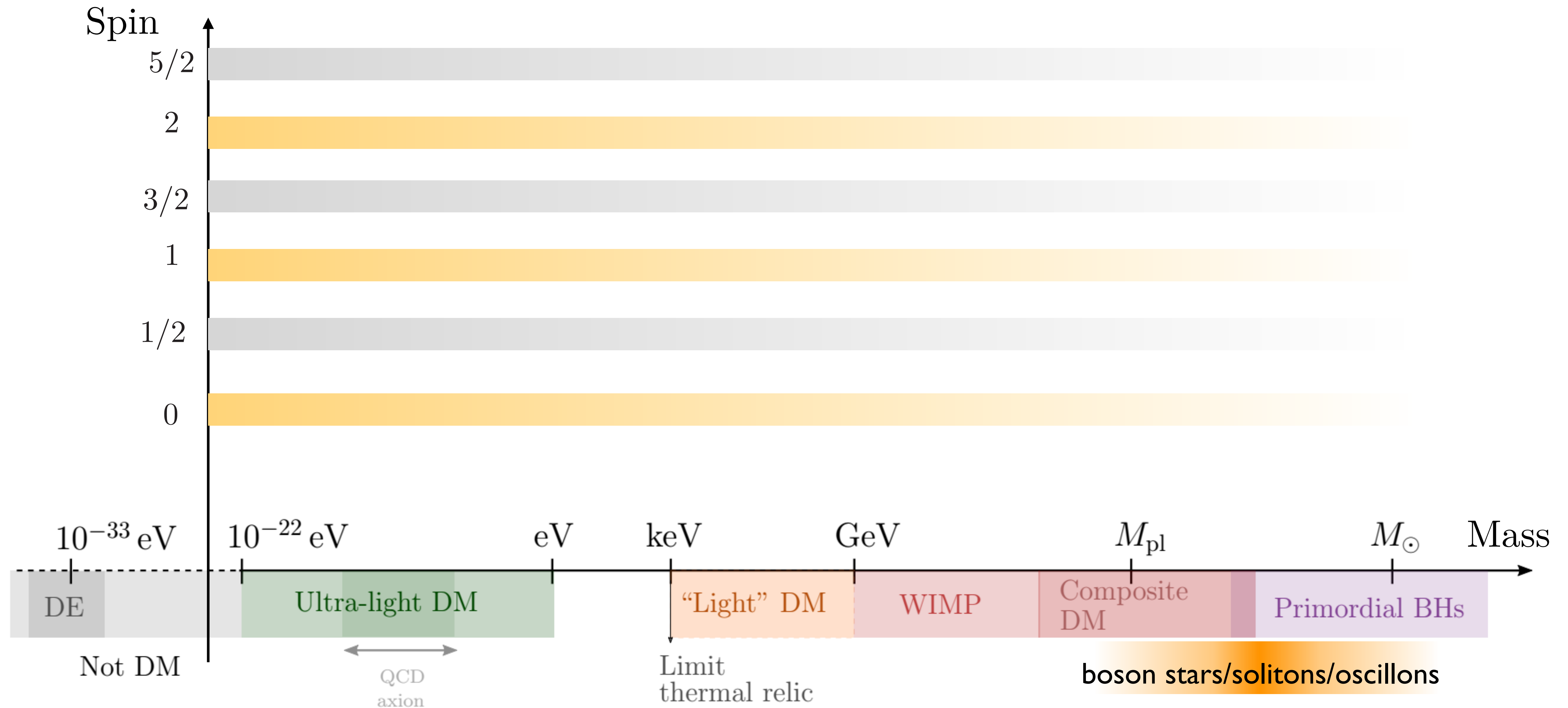




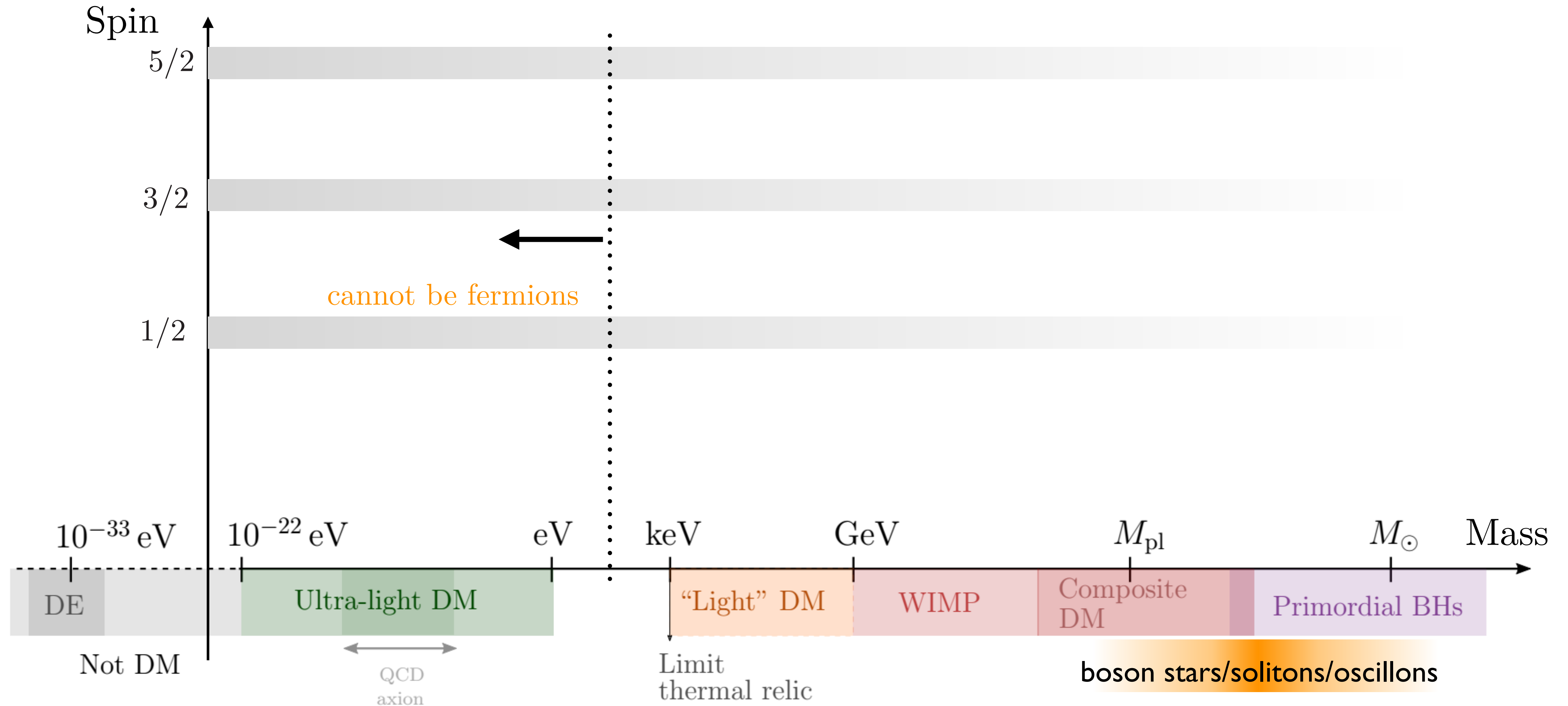
# dark matter mass ?



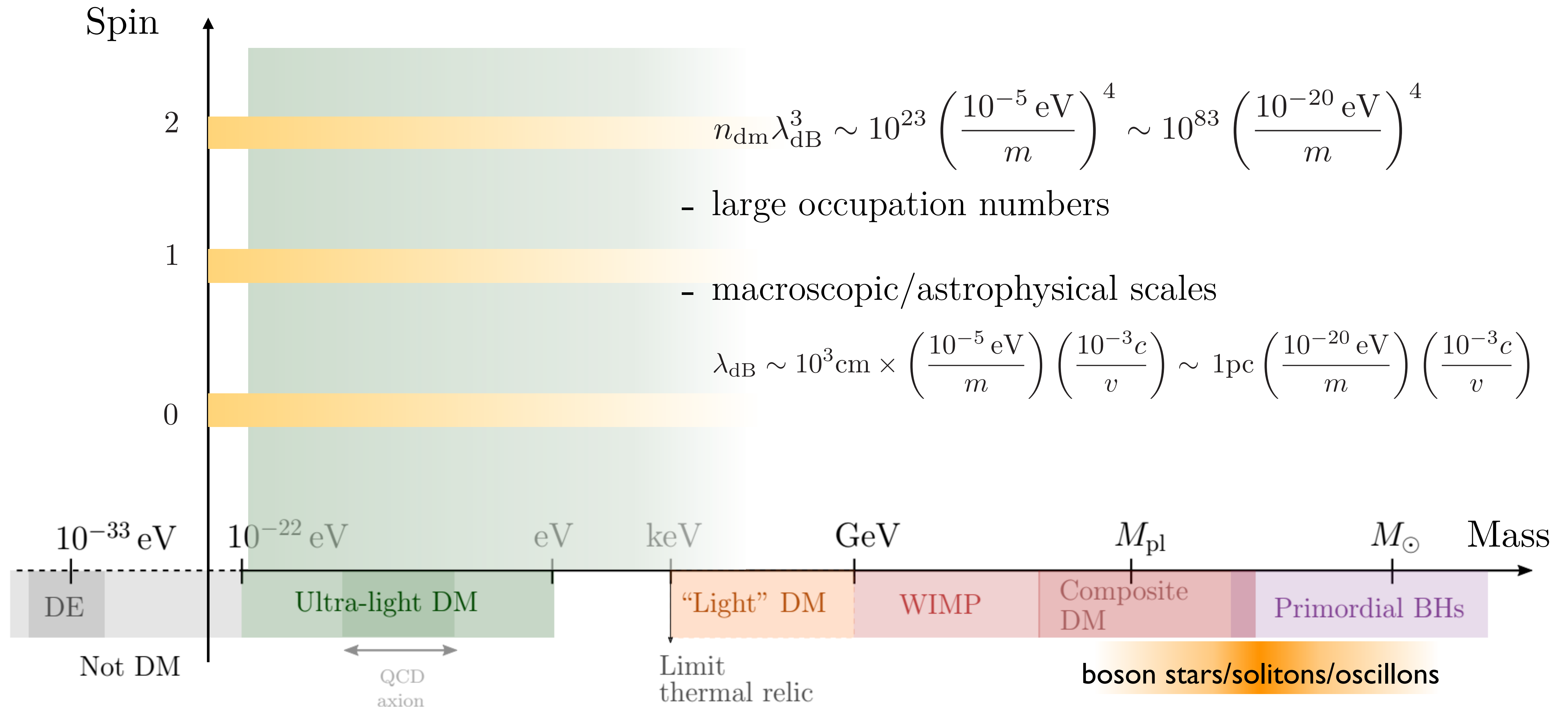
# dark matter spin ?



# dark matter spin ?



# light, bosonic wave dark matter





# light bosonic “wave” dark matter

- classical wave description sensible
- linear and nonlinear wave dynamics
- interference, solitons etc.

- condensed matter systems (BECs)
- similar ideas already used in early universe cosmology

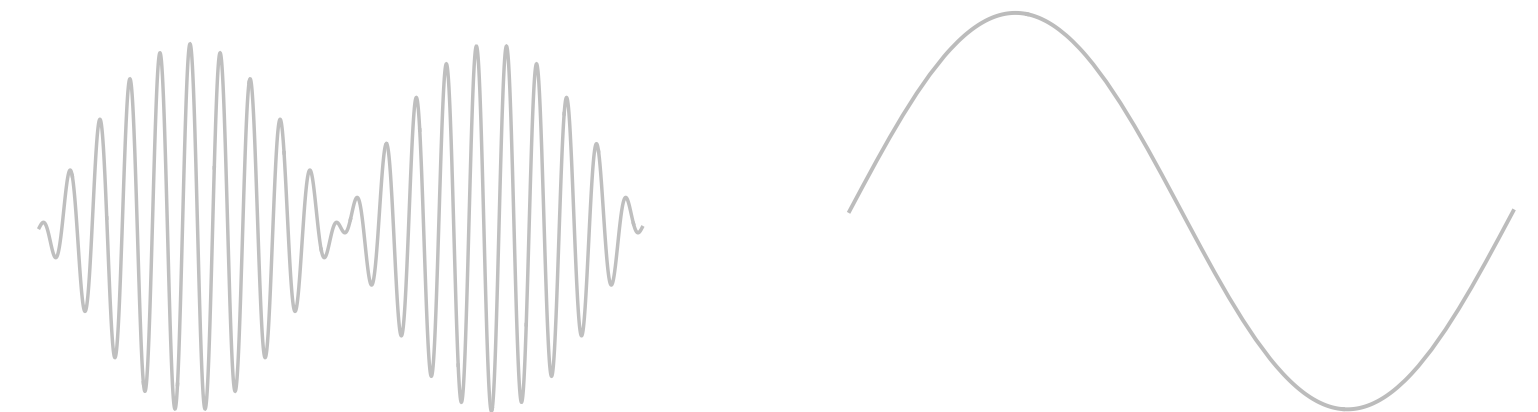


models

# non-relativistic limit = multicomponent Schrödinger-Poisson

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{G}_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} g^{\mu\nu} W_\mu W_\nu + \frac{c^3}{16\pi G} R + \dots \right] + \text{non-grav, interactions}$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu W_\nu - \partial_\nu W_\mu$$

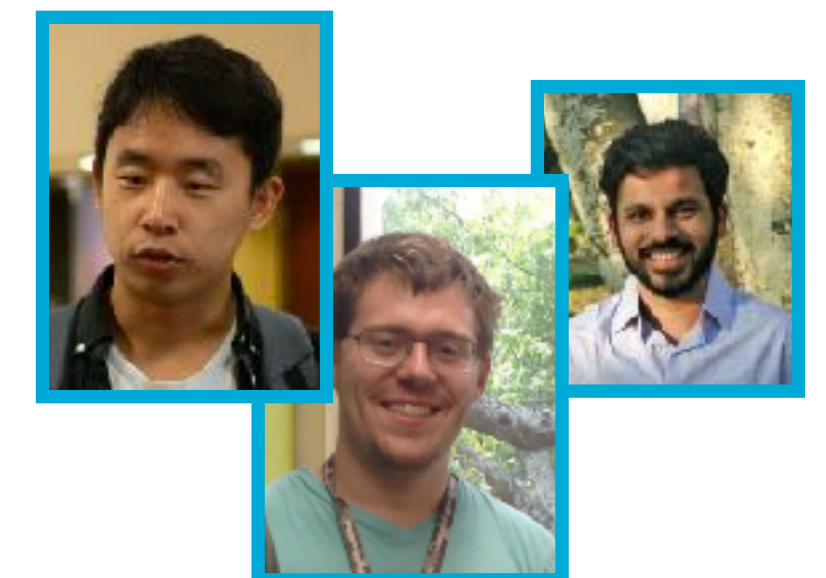


non-relativistic limit

$$\mathbf{W}(t, \mathbf{x}) \equiv \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2mc}} \Re \left[ \boldsymbol{\Psi}(t, \mathbf{x}) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \right]$$

split in “fast” and “slow” parts

$$\mathcal{S}_{nr} = \int dt d^3x \left[ \frac{i\hbar}{2} \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \dot{\boldsymbol{\Psi}} + \text{c.c.} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\Psi} + \frac{1}{8\pi G} \Phi \nabla^2 \Phi - m \Phi \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\Psi} \right]$$



Recent work on non-relativistic case :

for scalar, see for example: Eby, Mukaida et. al (2018), Salehian, [Zhang](#) et. al (2021), for vector case, see Adshead & [Lozanov](#) (2021),

For vectors with non-minimal coupling, see [Zhang](#) and Ling (2023). For potential trouble with self-interactions, see Mou and [Zhang](#) (2022)

[Jain](#) & MA (2021)

for spin - 2s+1

# non-relativistic limit = multicomponent Schrödinger-Poisson

$$[\boldsymbol{\Psi}]_i = \psi_i \text{ with } i = 1, 2, 3 \quad \text{vector case}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \boldsymbol{\Psi} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{\Psi} + m \Phi \boldsymbol{\Psi},$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G m \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\Psi}$$

$$[\boldsymbol{\Psi}]_i = \psi_i \text{ with } i = 1 \quad \text{scalar case}$$

at this level this is just  $2s+1$  equal mass scalar fields

but not when non-gravitational interactions are included!

For including non-grav. Interactions, see: Zhang, Jain and MA(2021), Jain (2022), Jain & MA(2022) and also non-min. coupling Zhang and Ling (2023)

# conserved quantities

$$[\boldsymbol{\Psi}]_i = \psi_i \text{ with } i = 1, 2, 3$$

$$N = \int d^3x \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\Psi}, \quad \text{and} \quad M = mN, \quad (\text{particle number and rest mass})$$

$$E = \int d^3x \left[ \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\Psi} - \frac{Gm^2}{2} \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\Psi} \int \frac{d^3y}{4\pi|\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}|} \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger(\boldsymbol{y}) \boldsymbol{\Psi}(\boldsymbol{y}) \right], \quad (\text{energy})$$

$$\boldsymbol{S} = \hbar \int d^3x i \boldsymbol{\Psi} \times \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger, \quad (\text{spin angular momentum})$$

$$\boldsymbol{L} = \hbar \int d^3x \Re (i \boldsymbol{\Psi}^\dagger \nabla \boldsymbol{\Psi} \times \boldsymbol{x}). \quad (\text{orbital angular momentum})$$

vector vs. scalar DM:  
3 phenomenon

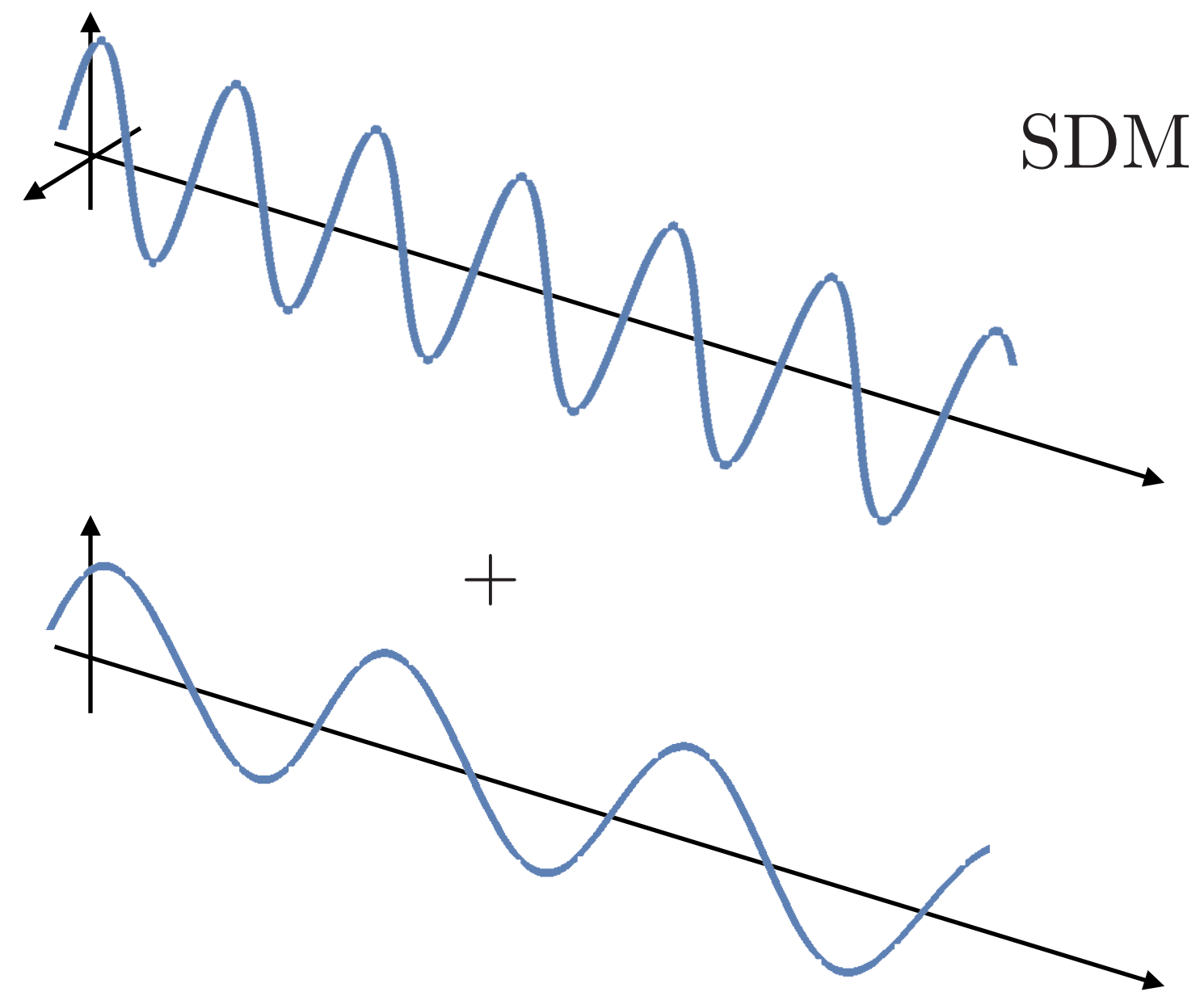
interference

condensation times

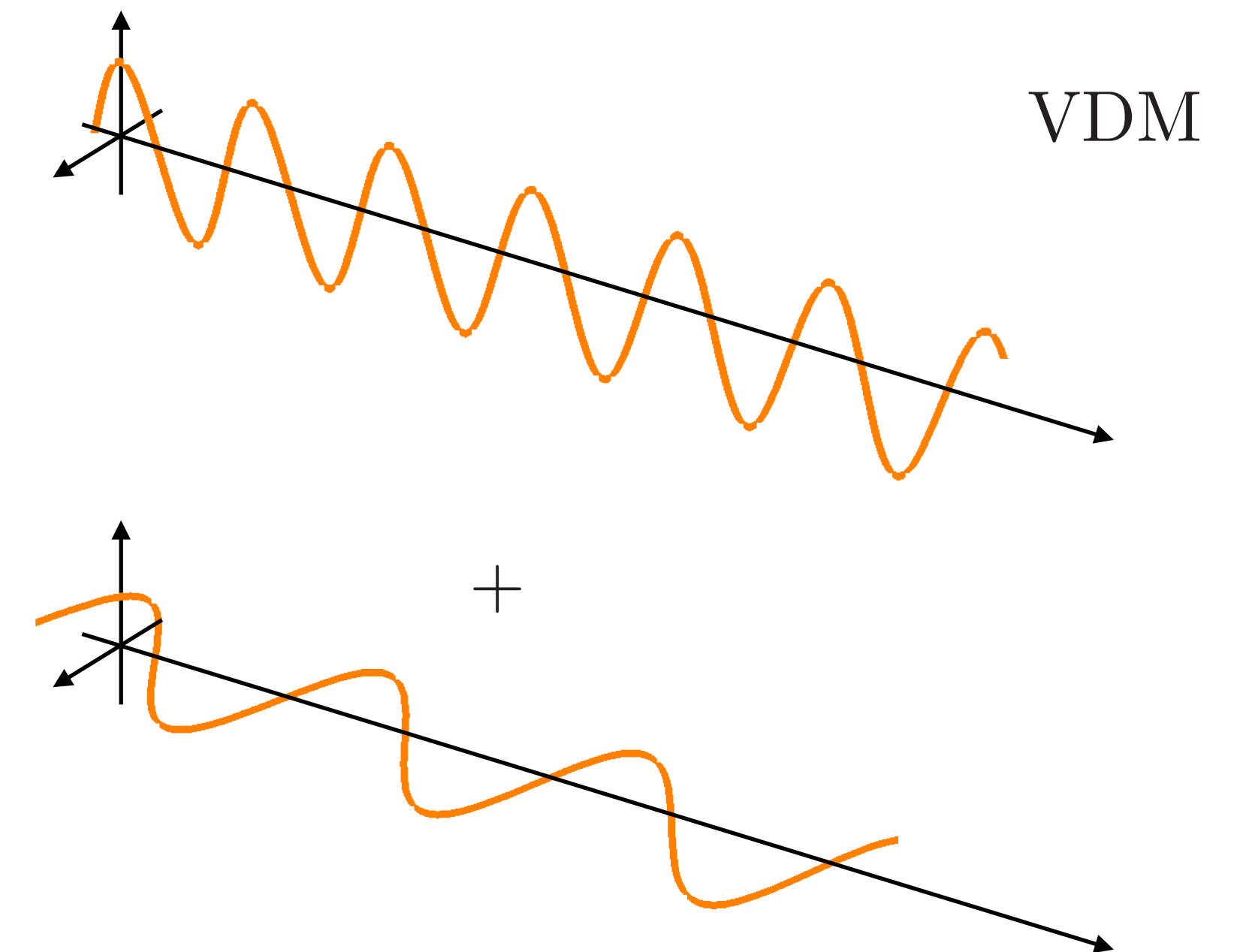
polarized solitons



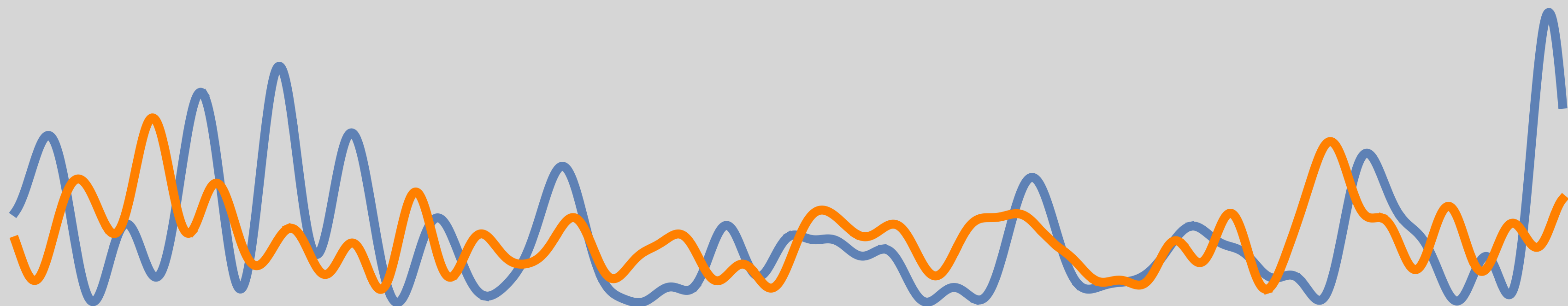
# wave interference



$$|\Psi_a(\mathbf{x}) + \Psi_b(\mathbf{x})|^2 \neq |\Psi_a(\mathbf{x})|^2 + |\Psi_b(\mathbf{x})|^2$$

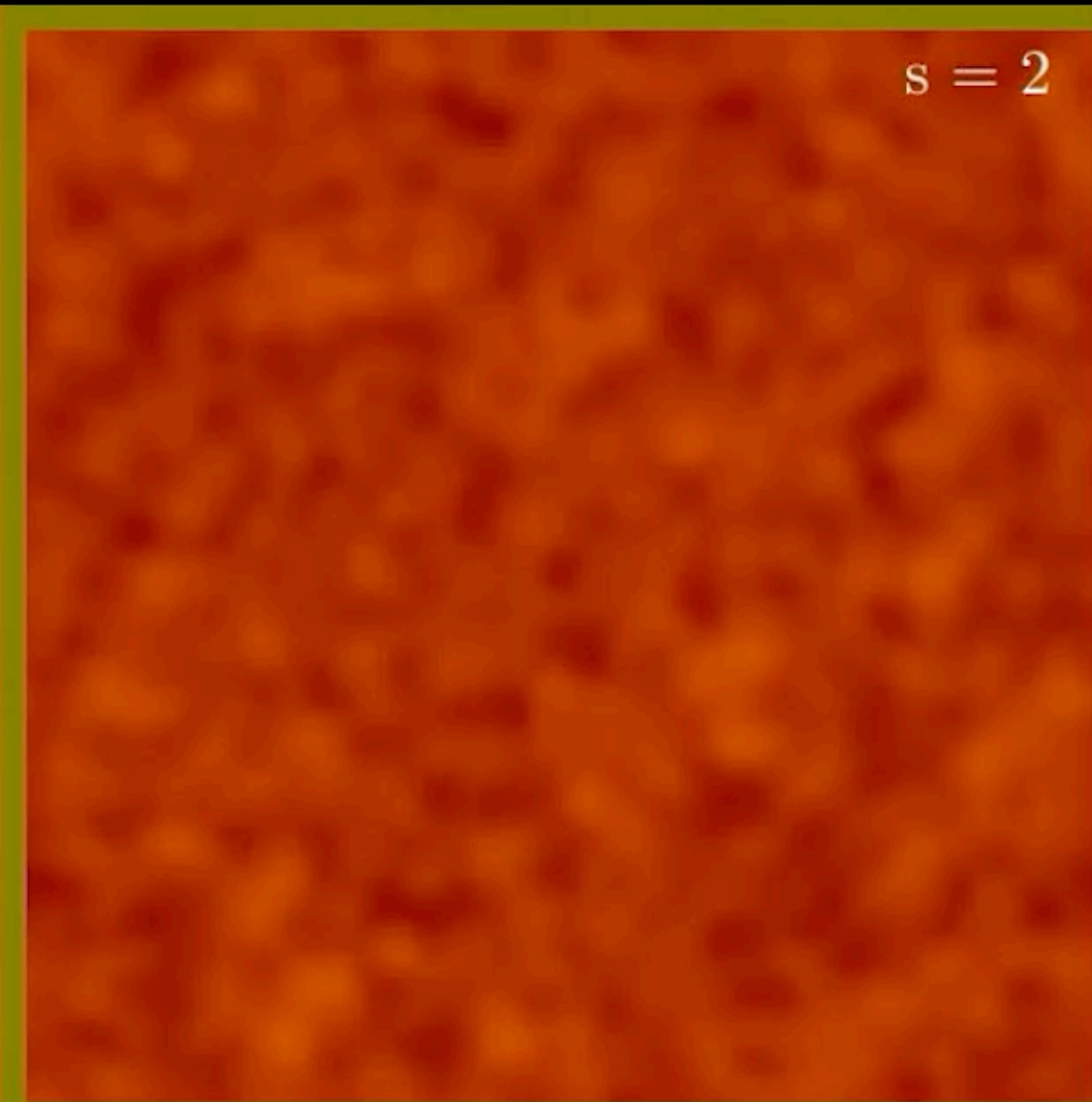
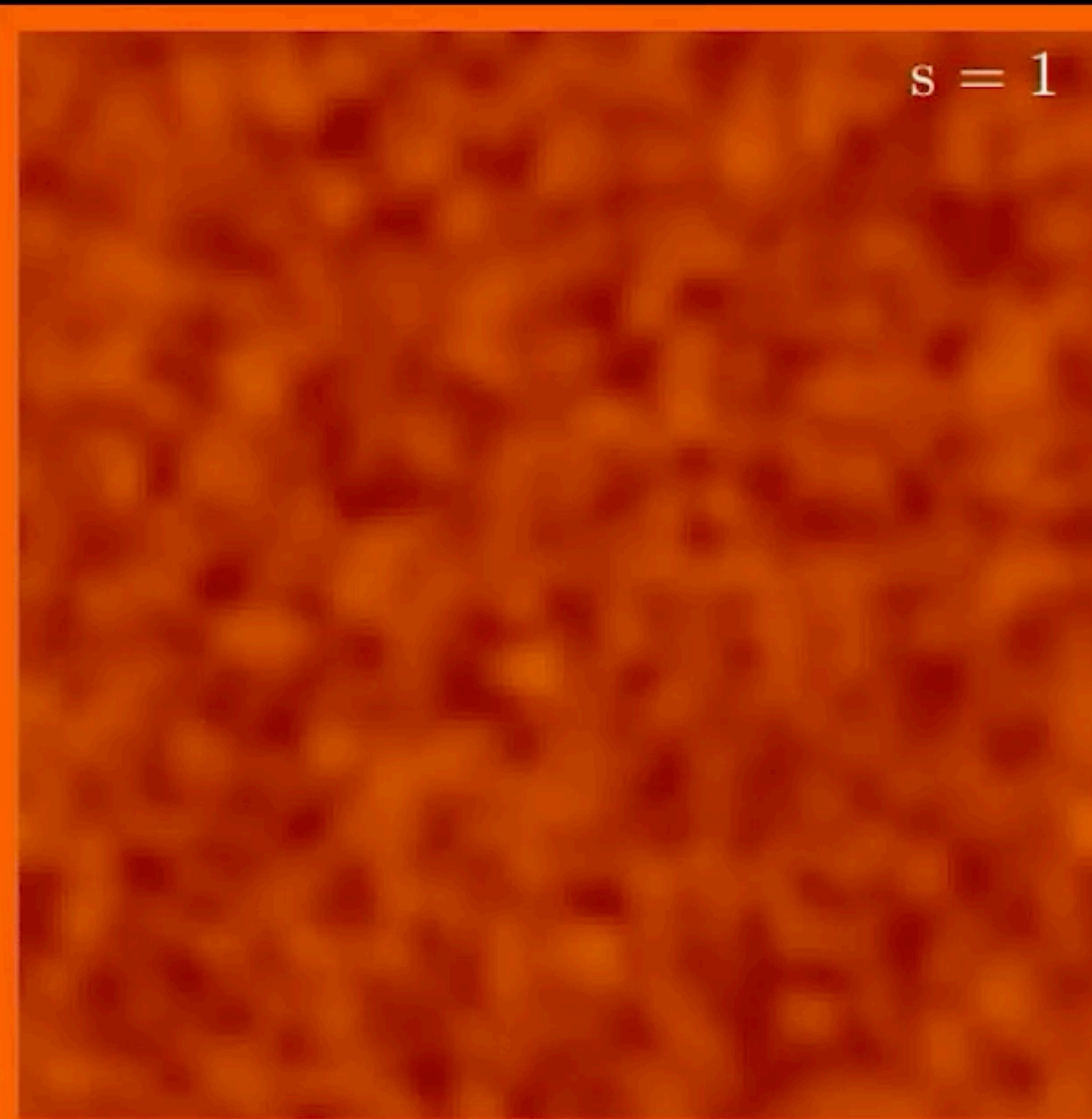
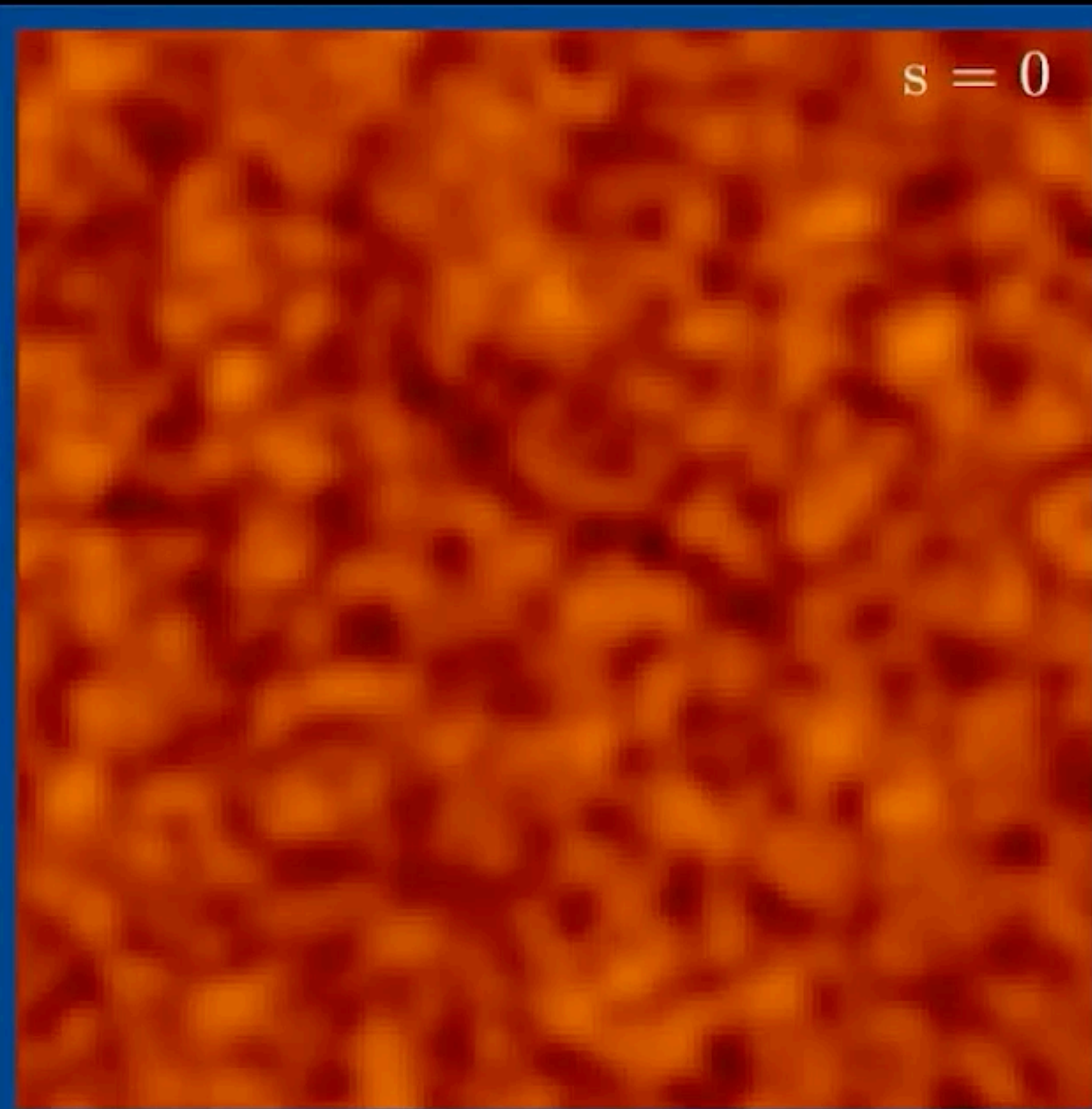


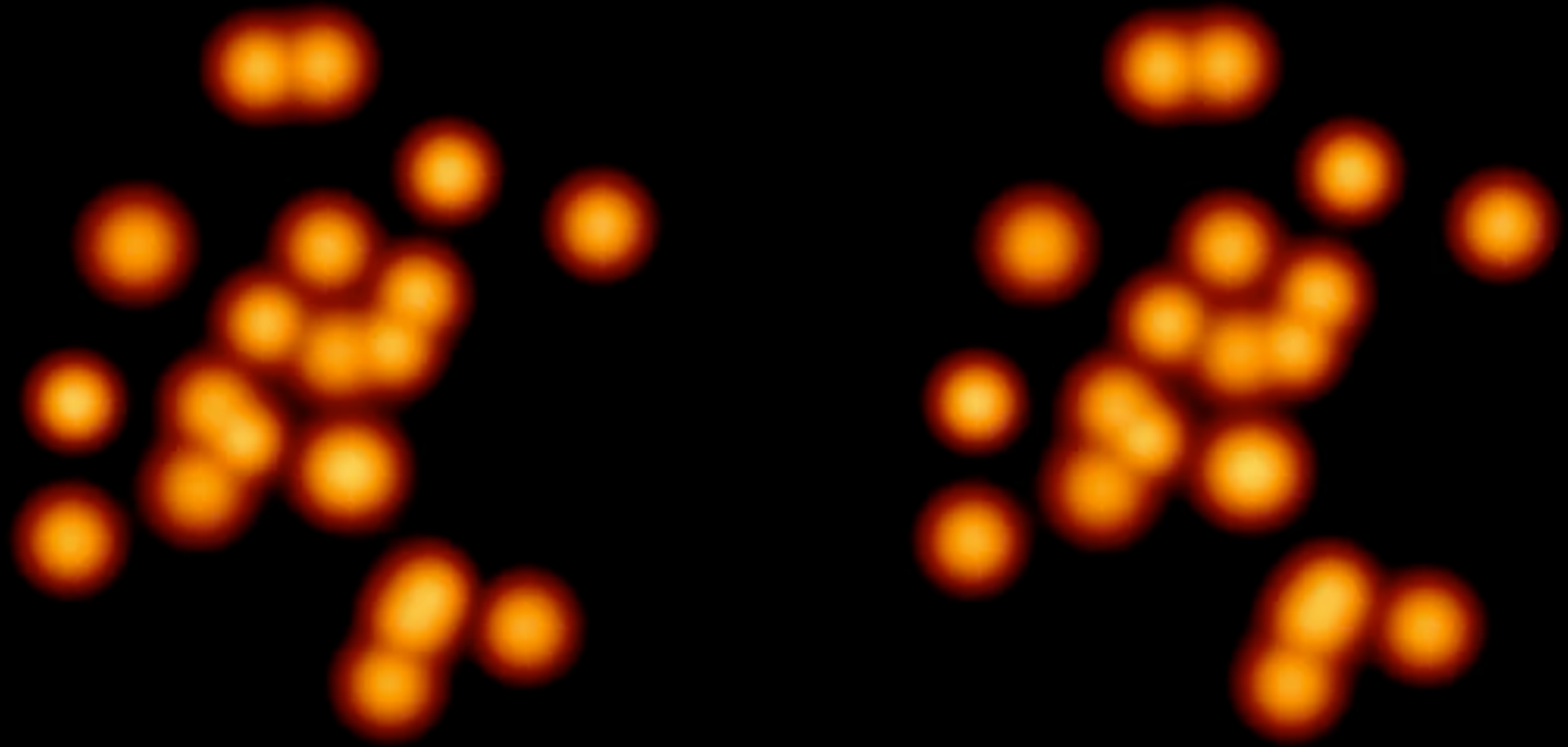
$$|\Psi_a(\mathbf{x}) + \Psi_b(\mathbf{x})|^2 = |\Psi_a(\mathbf{x})|^2 + |\Psi_b(\mathbf{x})|^2$$



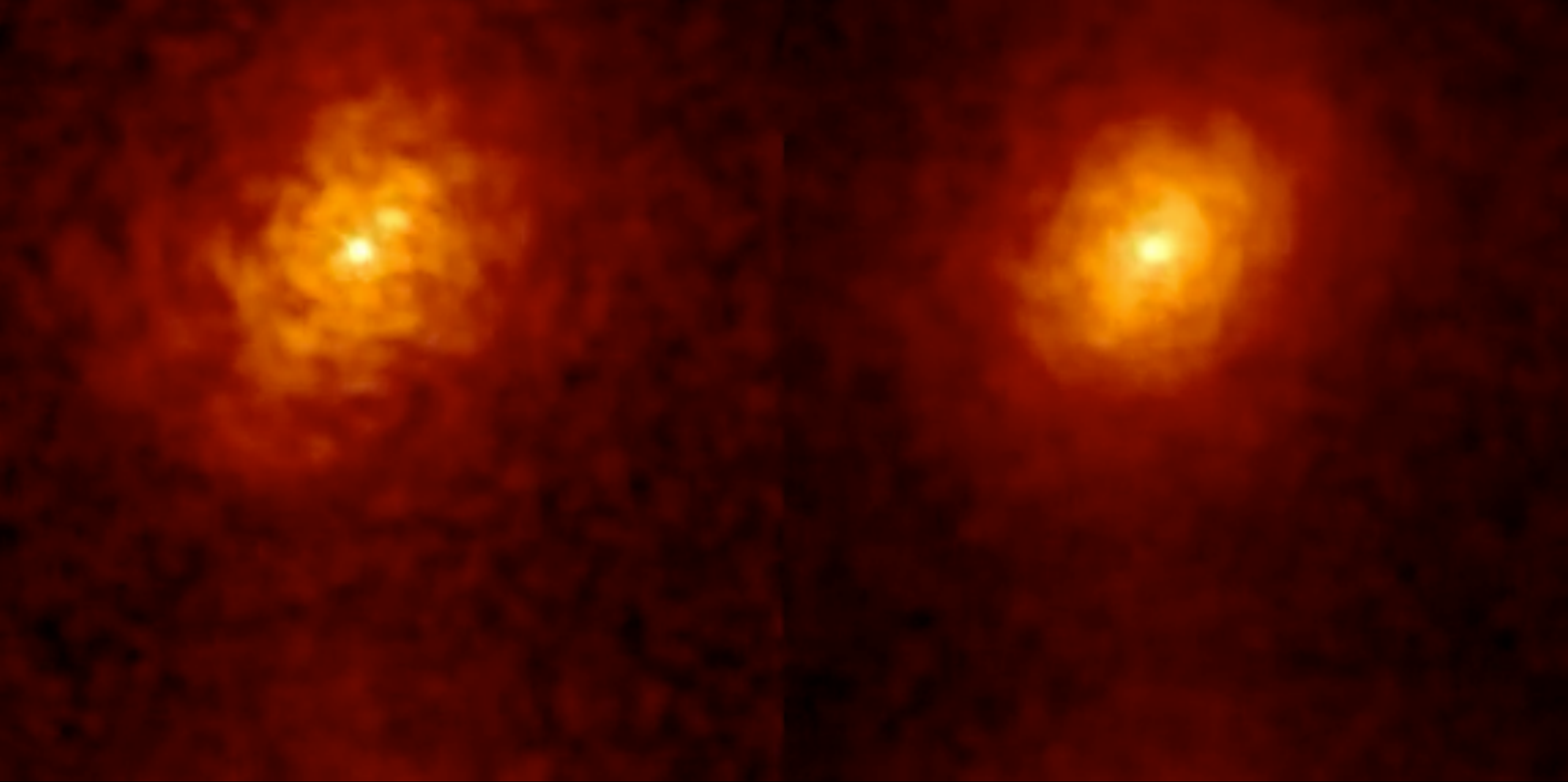
# reduced interference

$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{2s+1}}$$

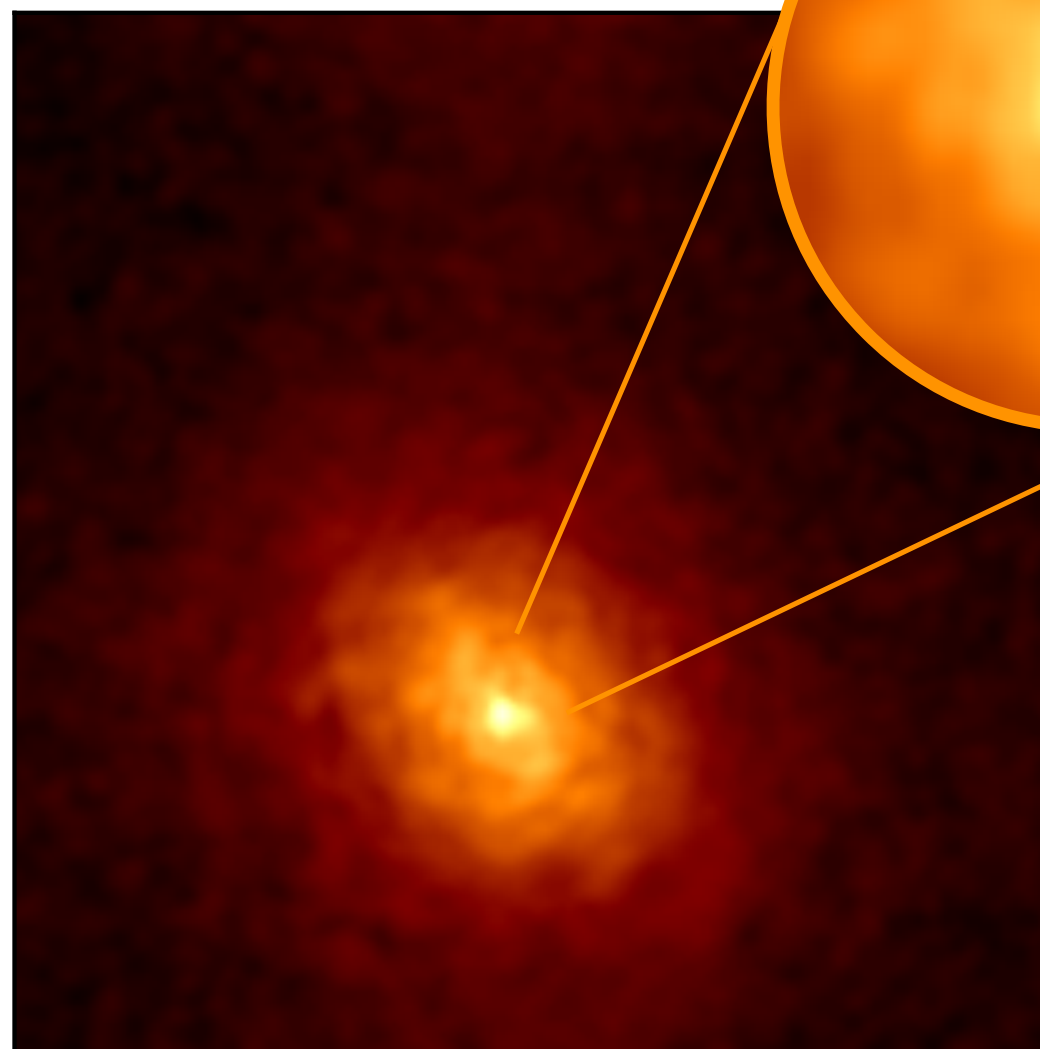
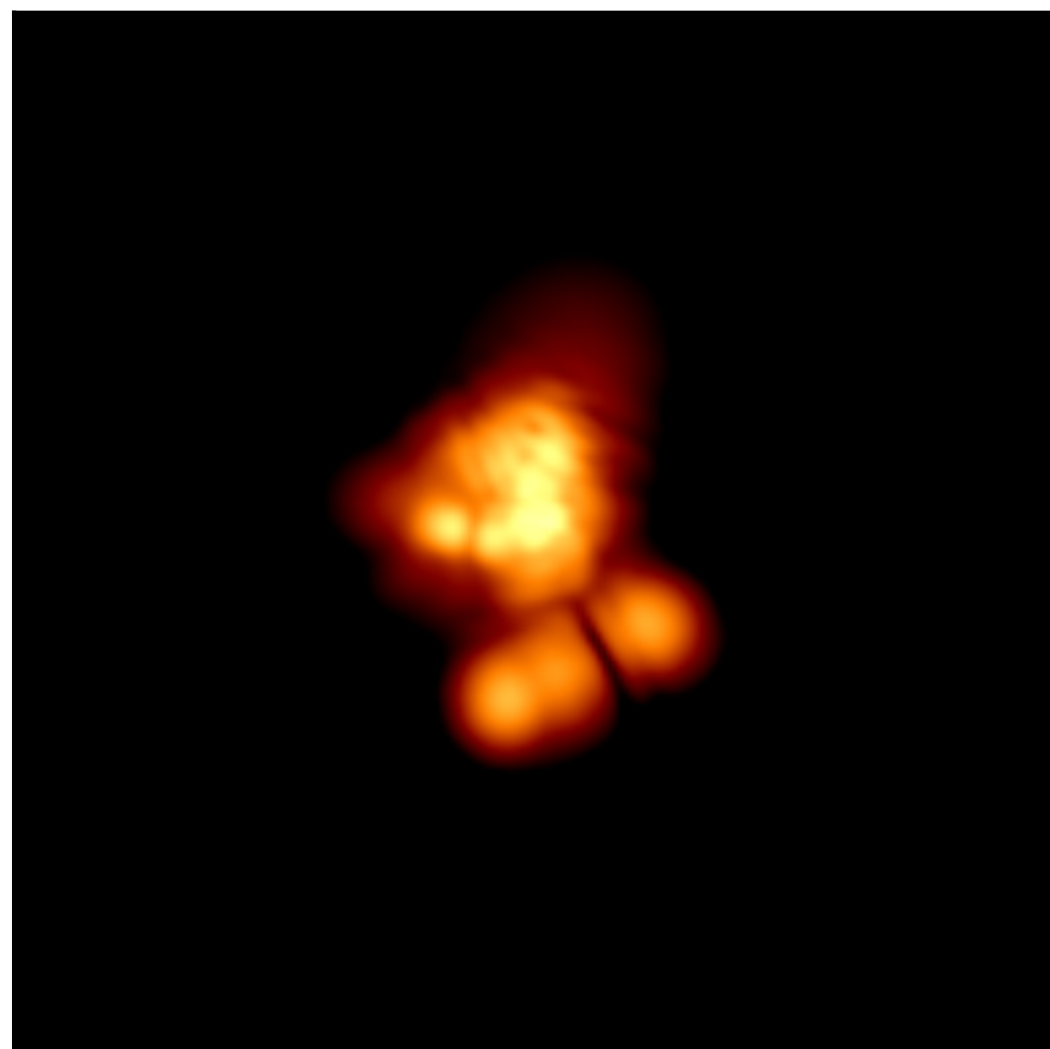
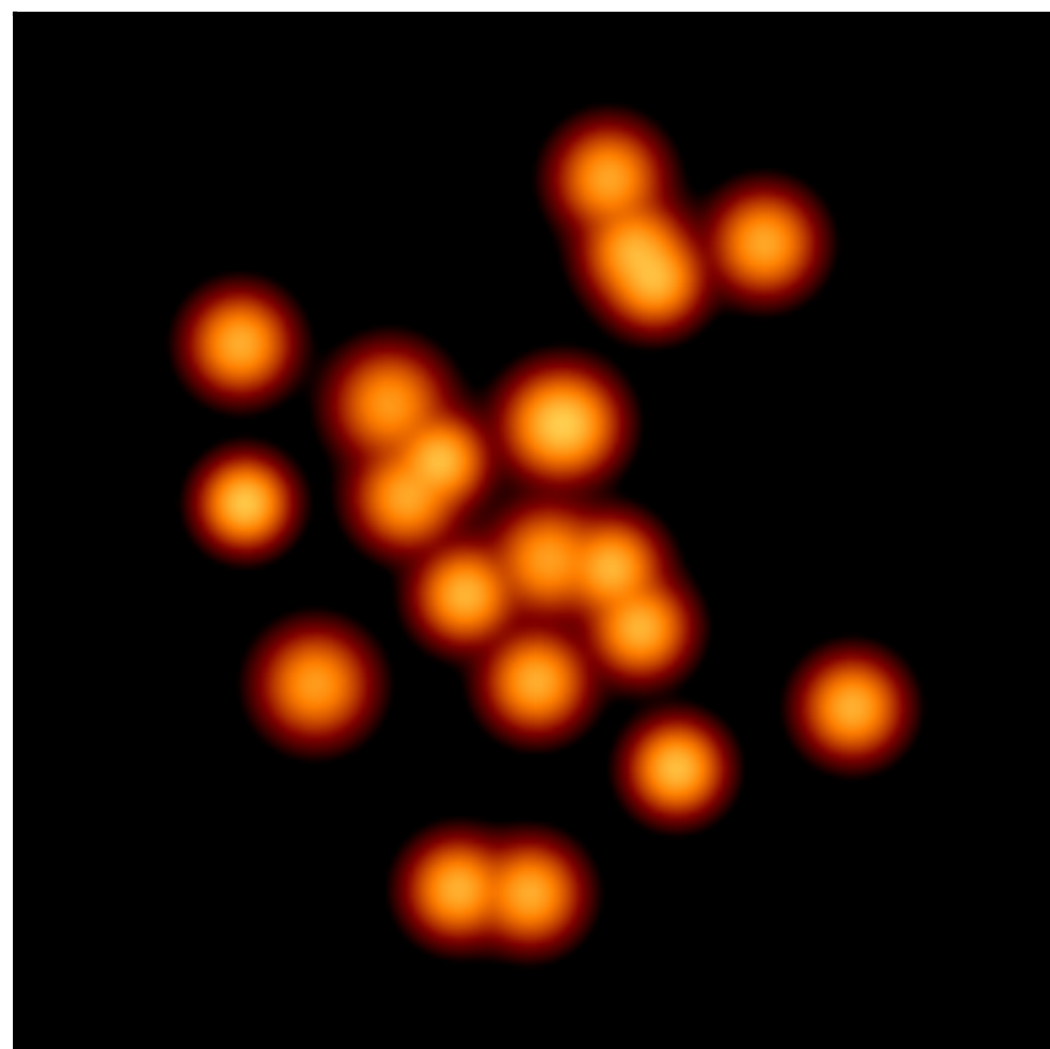




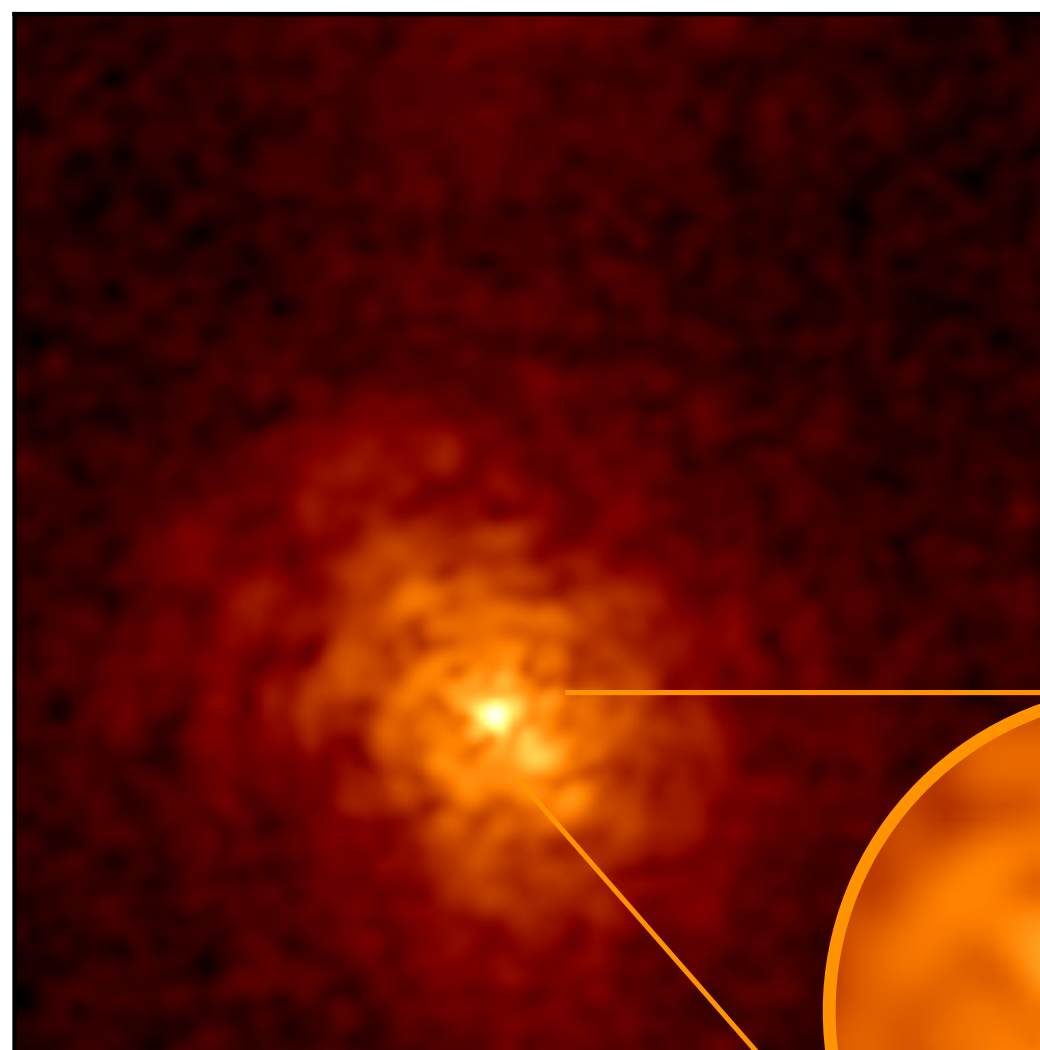
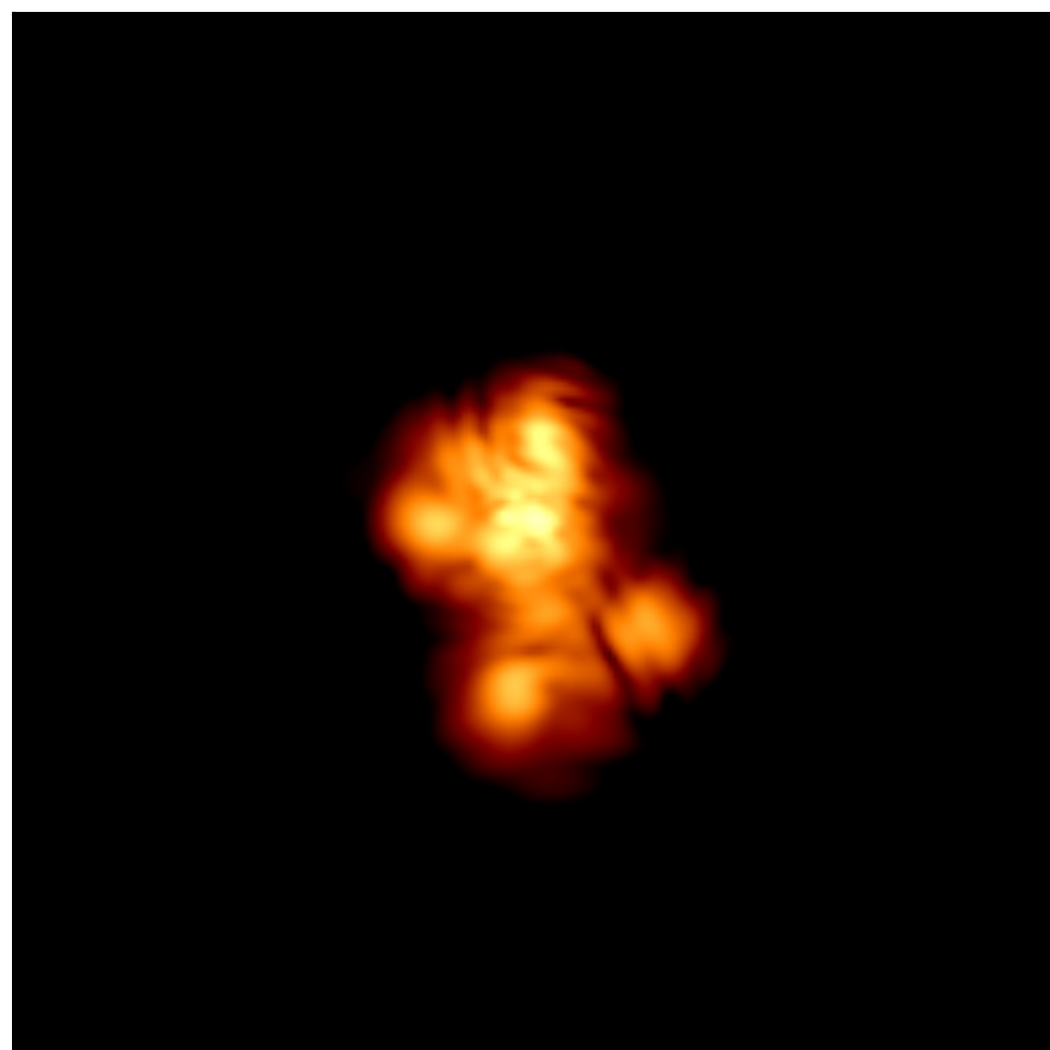
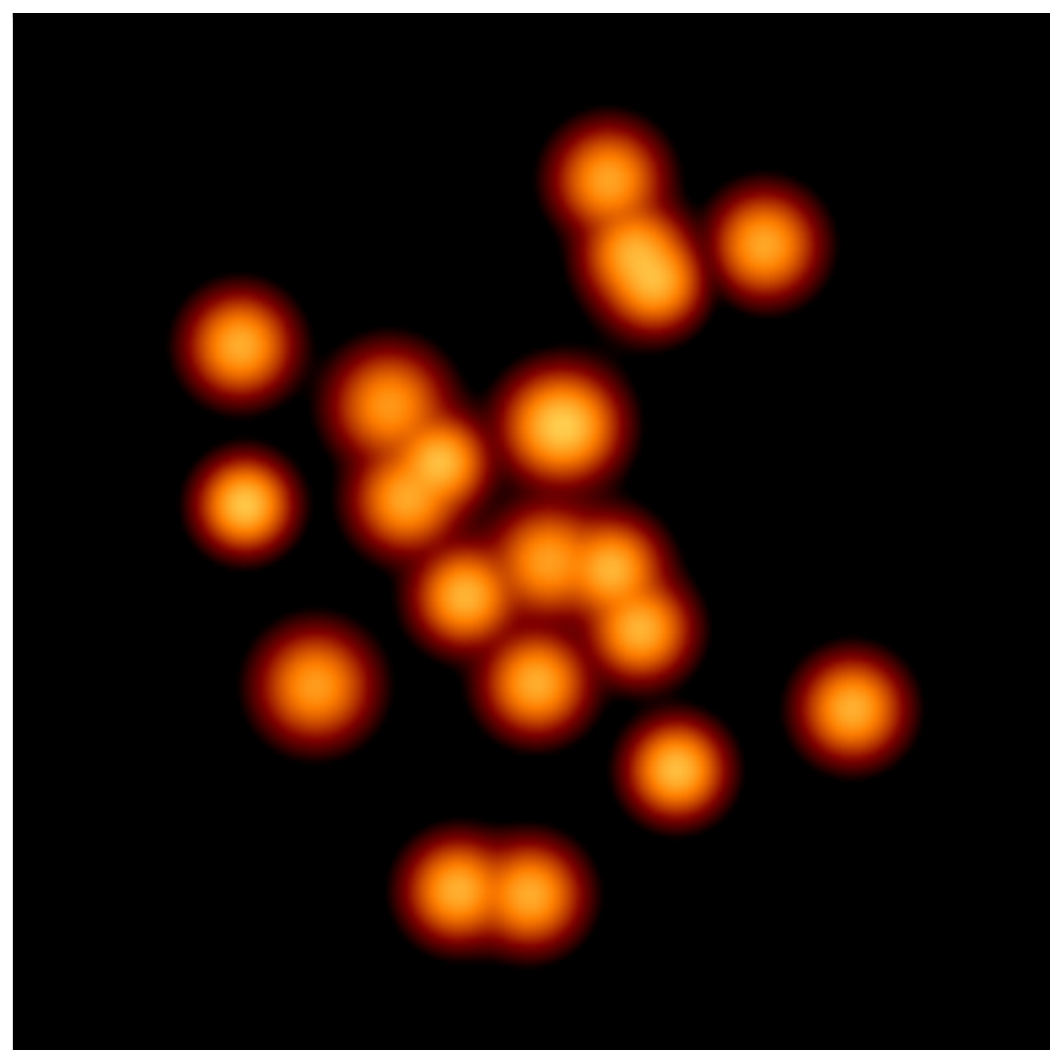




VDM



SDM



Difference between

Vector & Scalar Dark Matter

0

0.34

1.36

$t/t_{\text{dyn}} \longrightarrow$

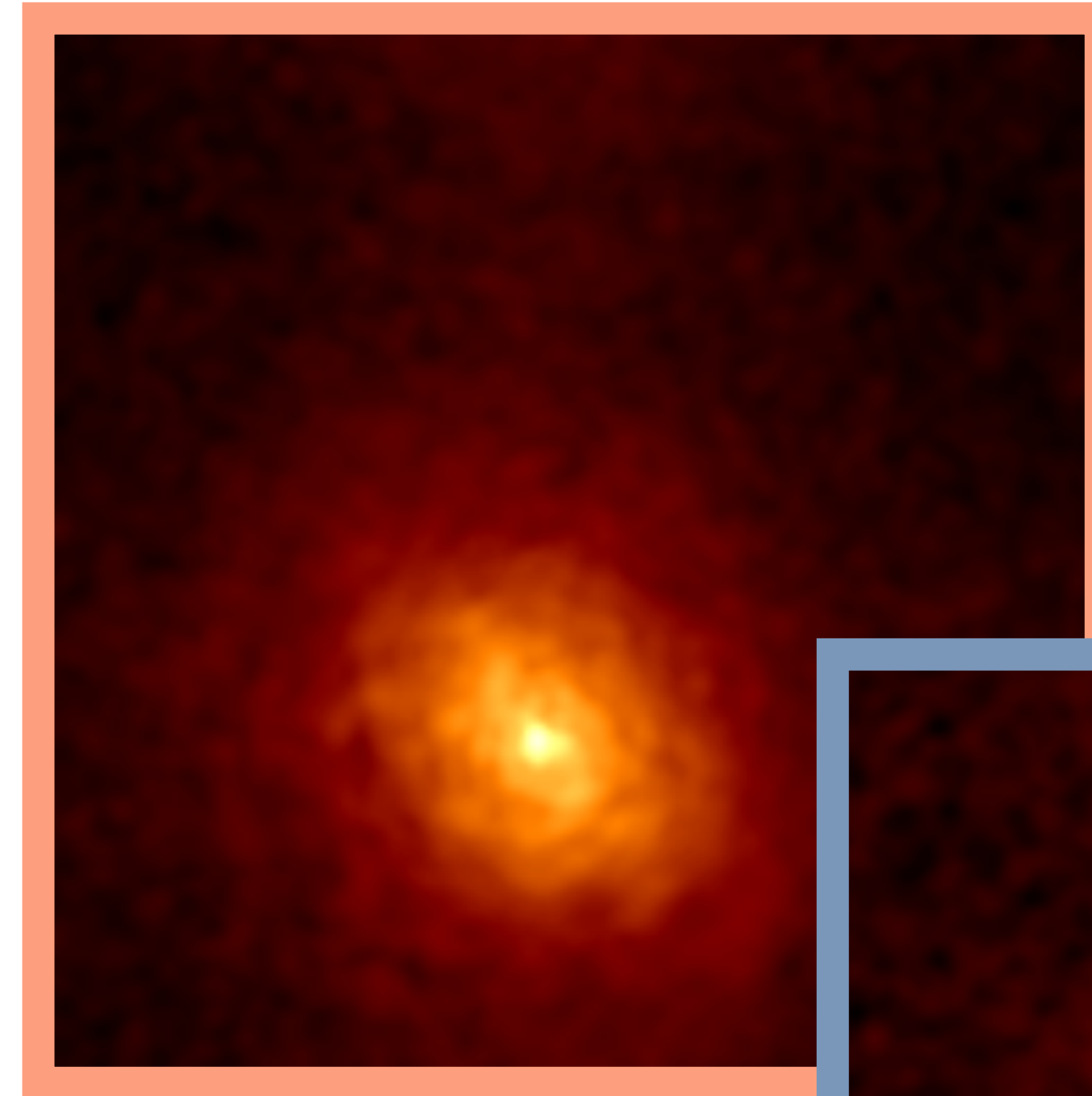


# gravitational implications (examples)

- dynamical heating of stars

$$m \gtrsim \frac{1}{(2s+1)^{1/3}} [3 \times 10^{-19} \text{eV}]$$

Dalal & Kratsov (2022)

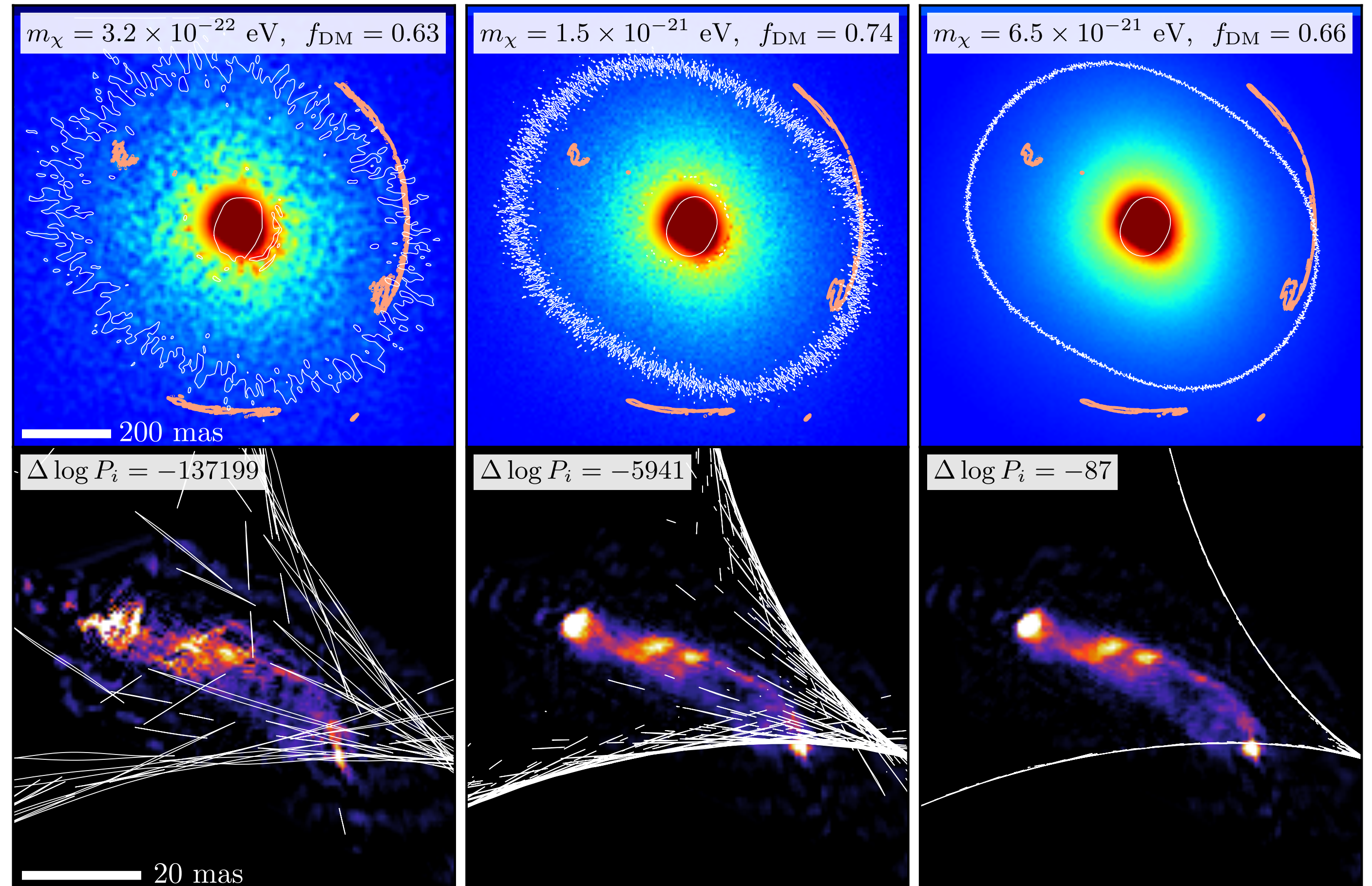


# gravitational implications (examples)

- lensing

$$m \gtrsim \frac{1}{(2s+1)} \left[ 4.4 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV} \right]$$

Powell et. al (2023)

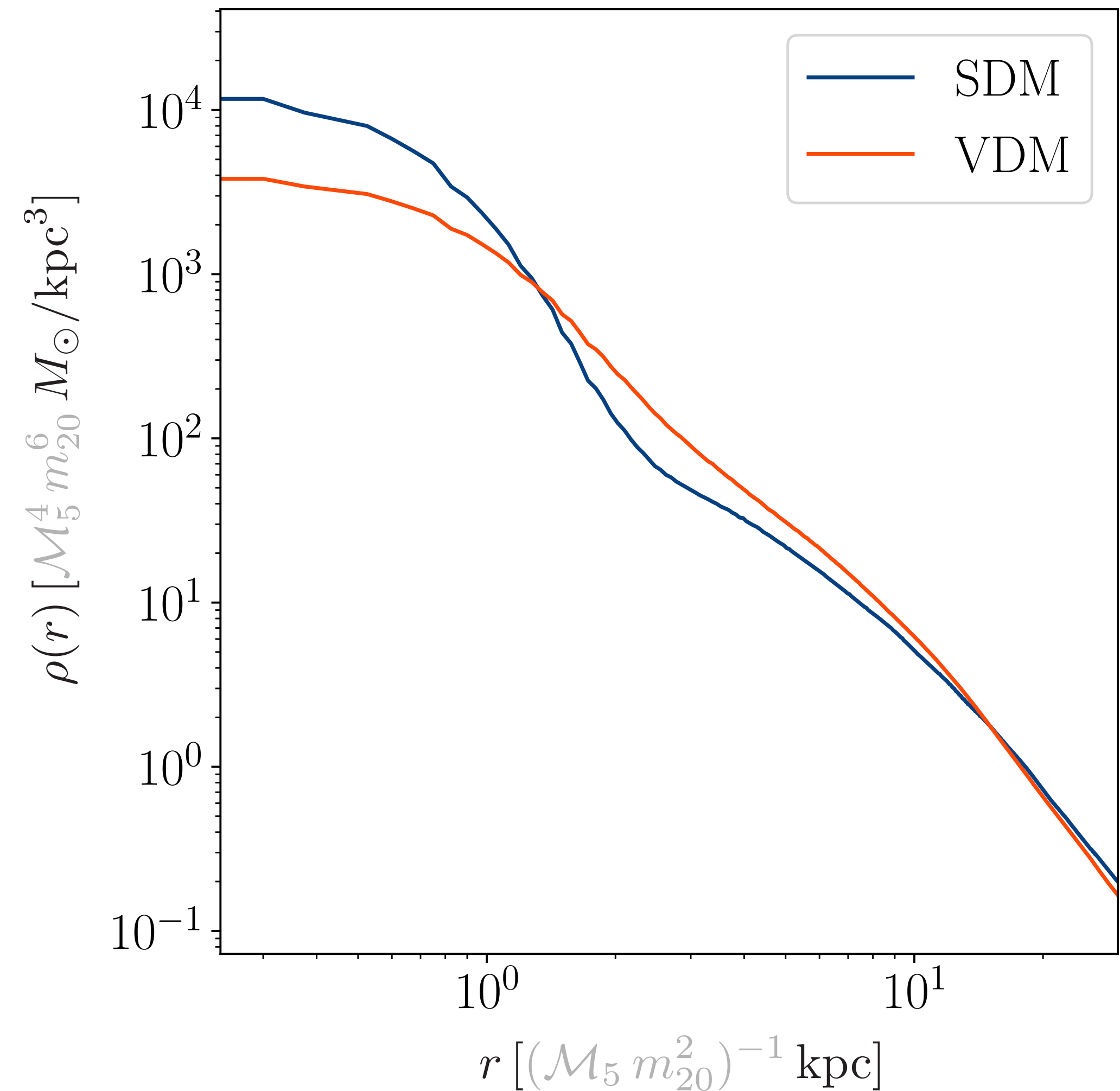
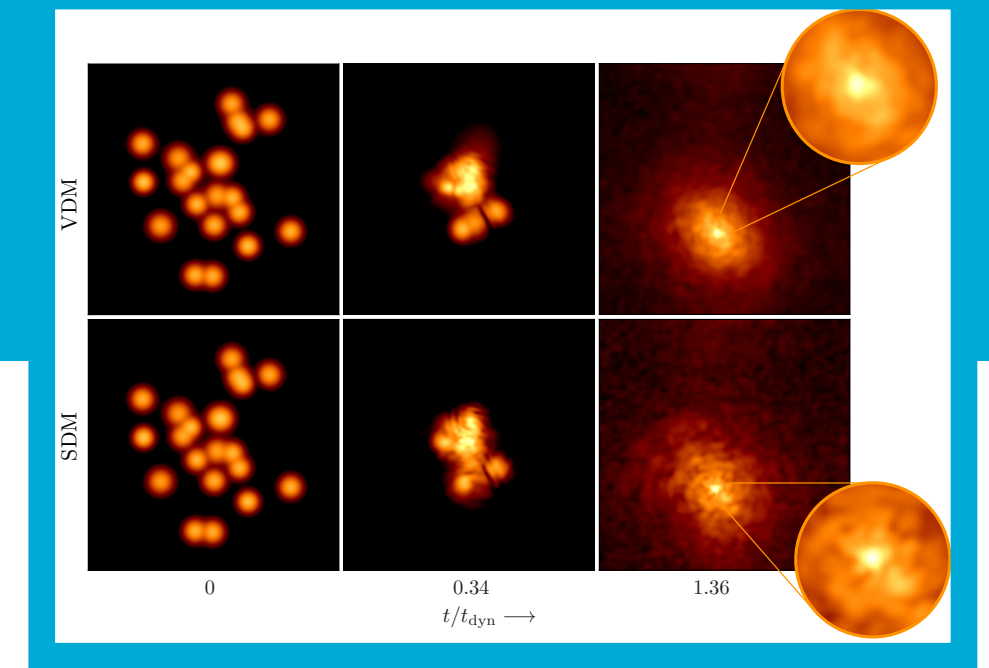
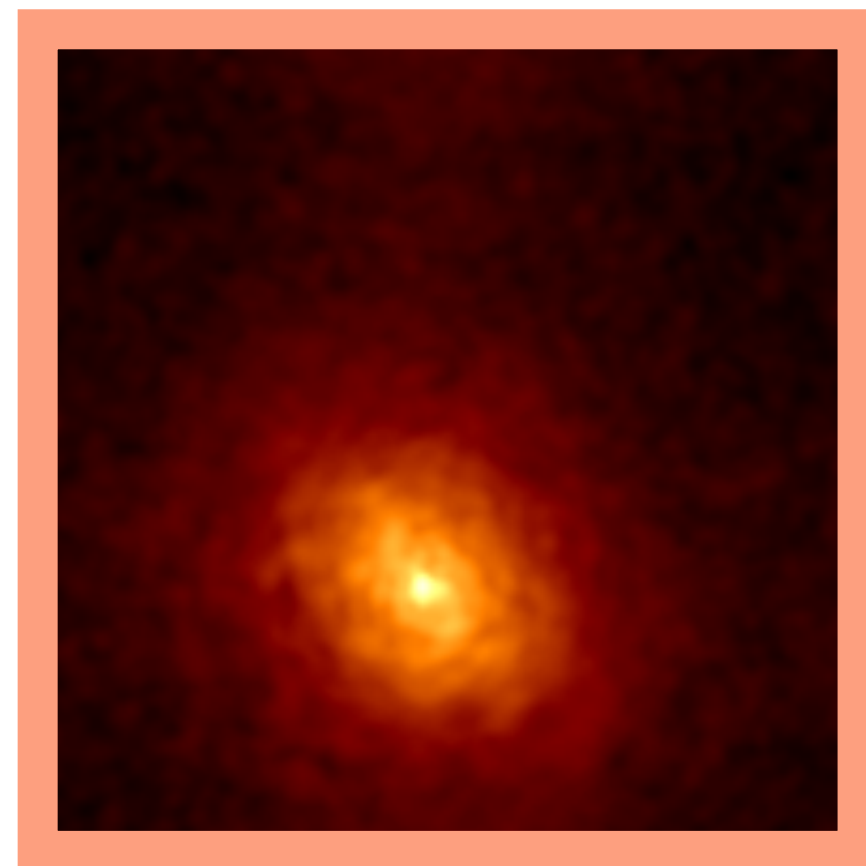
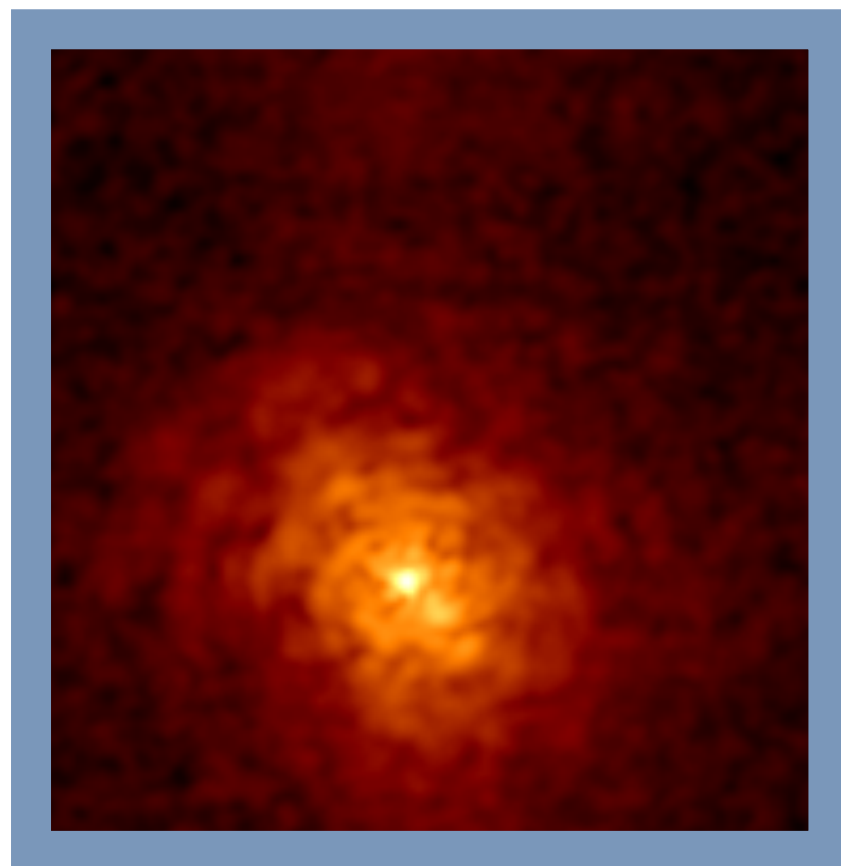




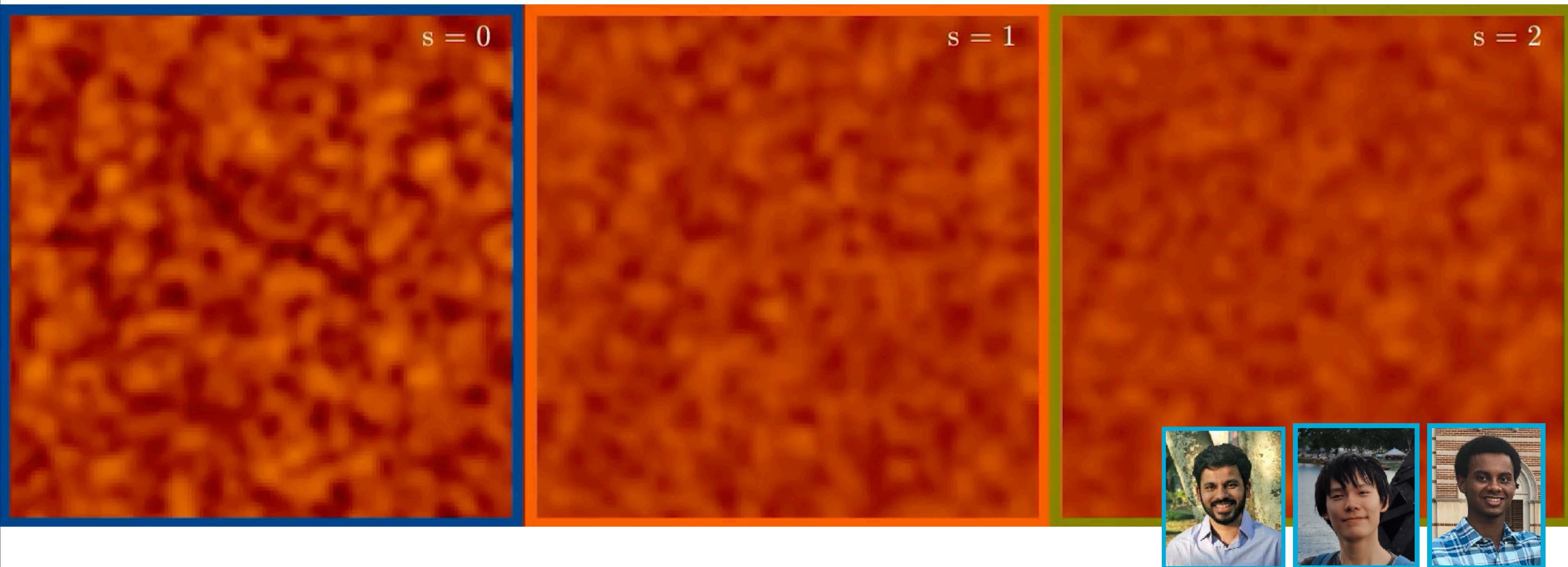
# radial density profiles

scalar vs. **vector** dark matter

- less dense & broader core
- smoother transition to  $r^{-(2-3)}$  tail



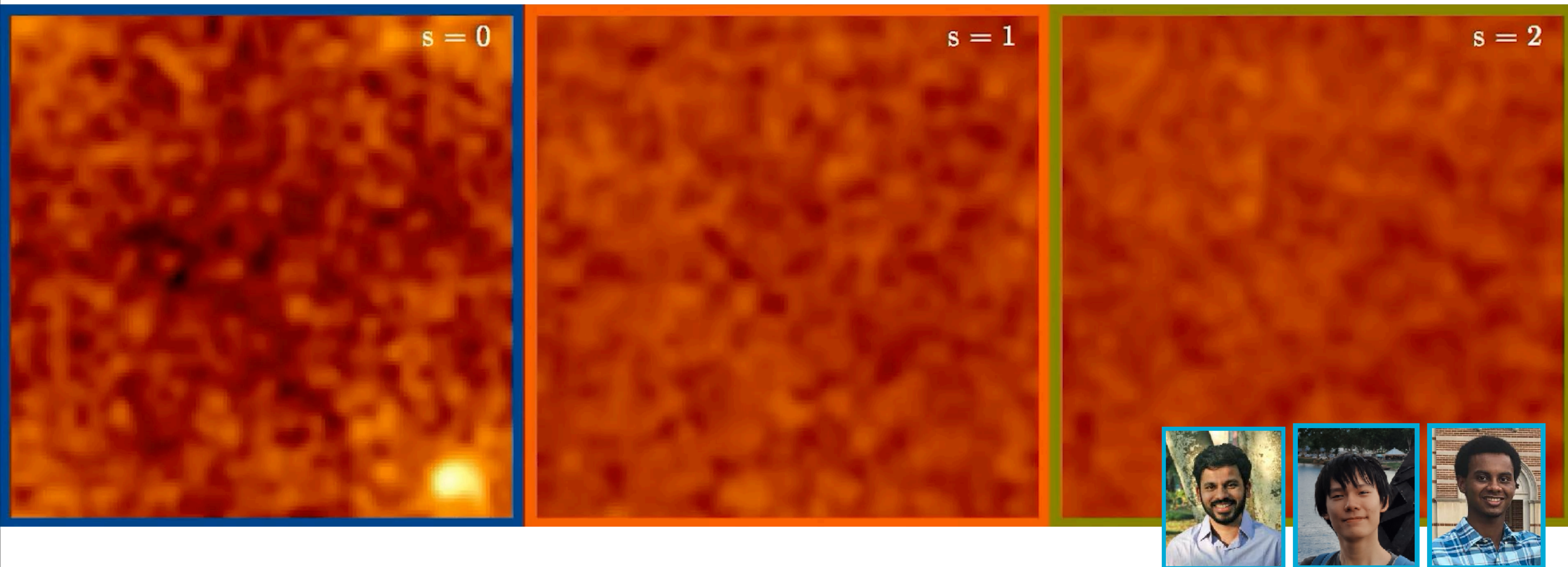
# condensation in the kinetic regime



with M. Jain, J. Thomas, Wanichwecharungruang (2023)



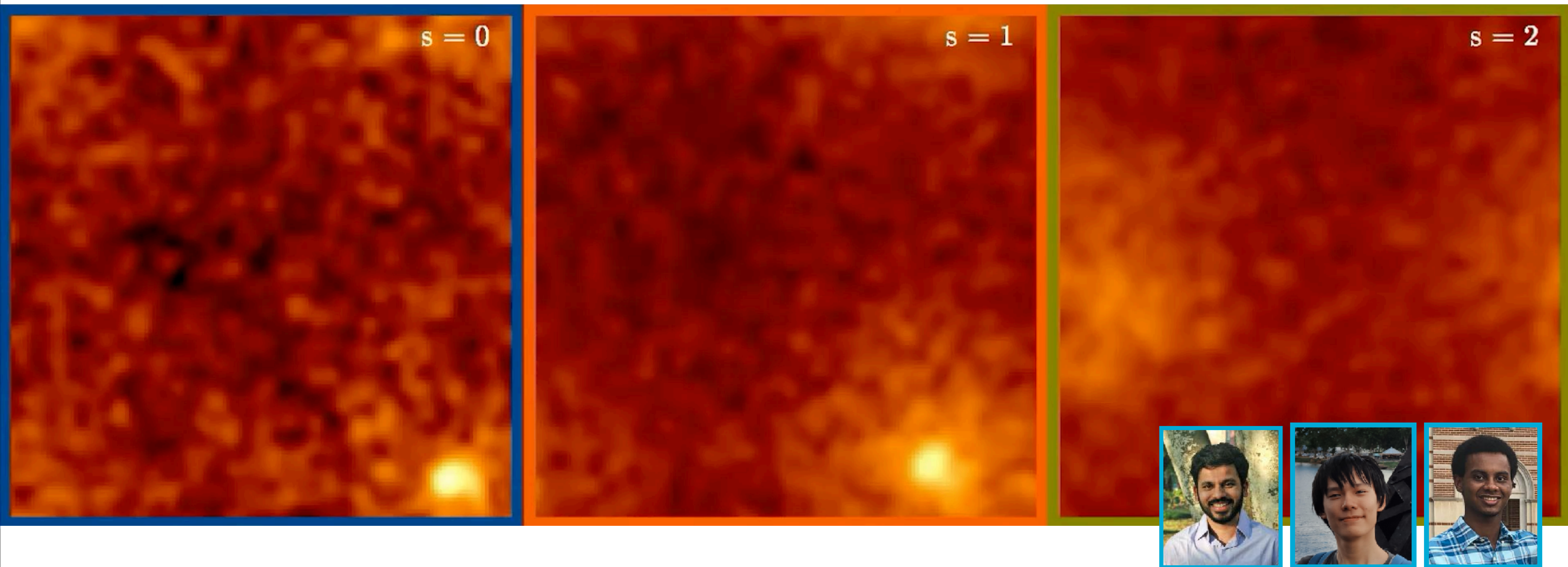
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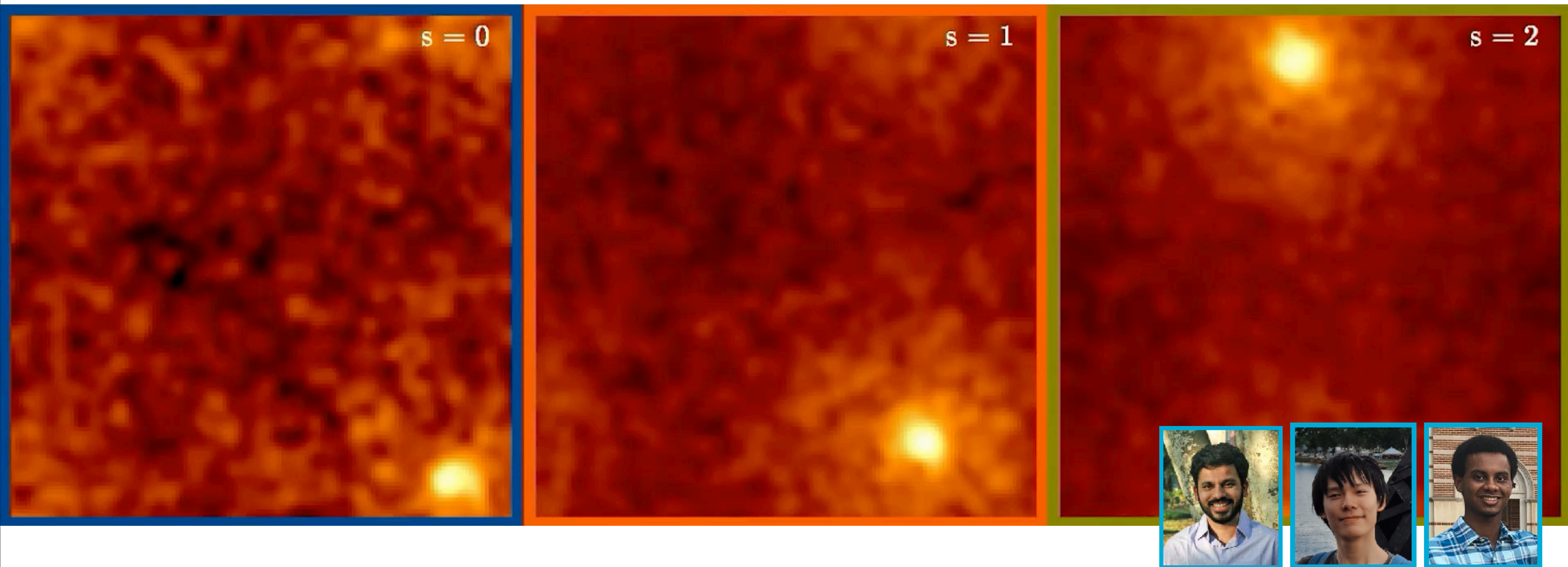
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# condensation in the kinetic regime



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# condensation in the kinetic regime

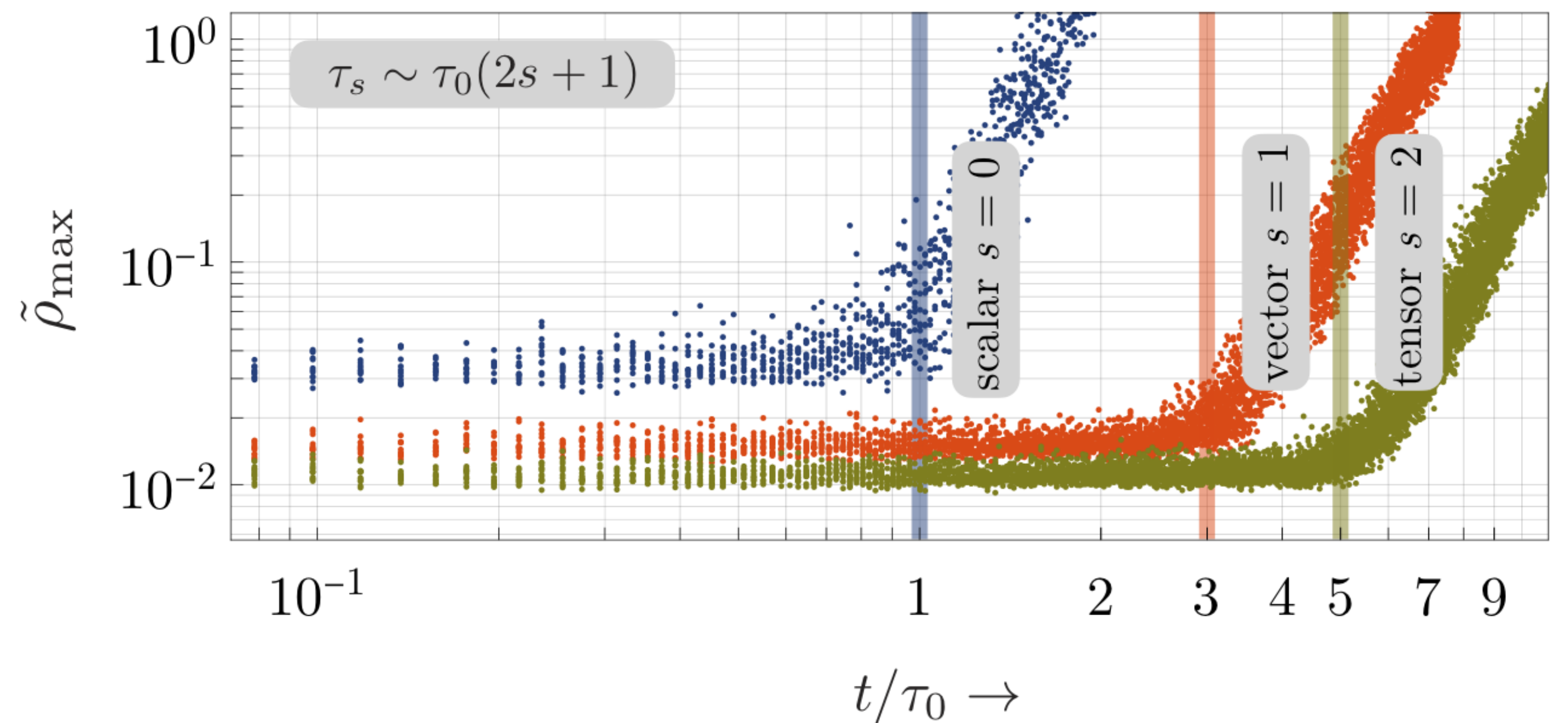
- nucleation time scale

$$\tau_s \sim (2s + 1) \tau_{s=0}$$

$$\tau_{s=0} = [n \sigma_{\text{gr}} v \mathcal{N}]^{-1}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{gr}} \sim (Gm/v^2)^2, \quad \mathcal{N} \sim n \lambda_{\text{dB}}^3$$

with M. Jain, J. Thomas, Wanichwecharunguang (2023)

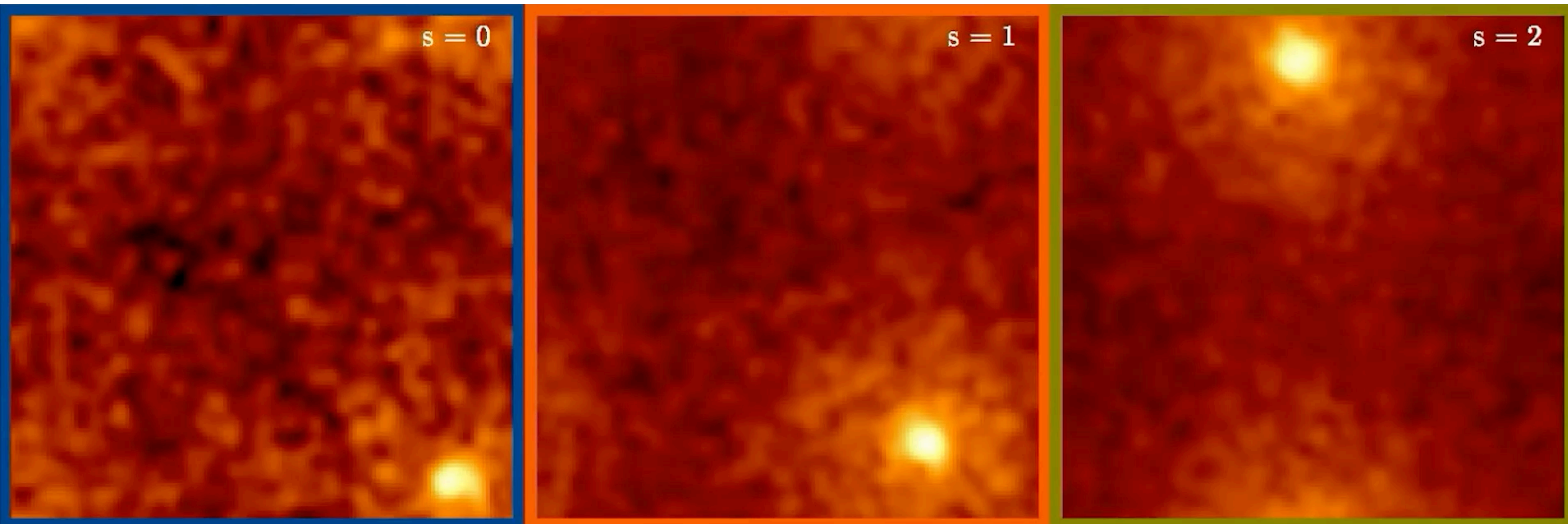


$$\tau_0 \sim \left( \frac{m}{10^{-22} \text{ eV}} \right)^3 \left( \frac{\sigma}{100 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^6 \left( \frac{10^8 M_{\odot} \text{ kpc}^{-3}}{\bar{\rho}^3} \right)^2 \times 10 \text{ Gyrs}$$

see Levkov et. al (2018) for scalar case



# what are these blobs?



with M. Jain, J. Thomas, Wanichwecharungruang (2023)

# soliton ?

very-long lived, dynamical excitation in a field, with nonlinearities balancing dispersion



Image Credit: Heriot-Watt University

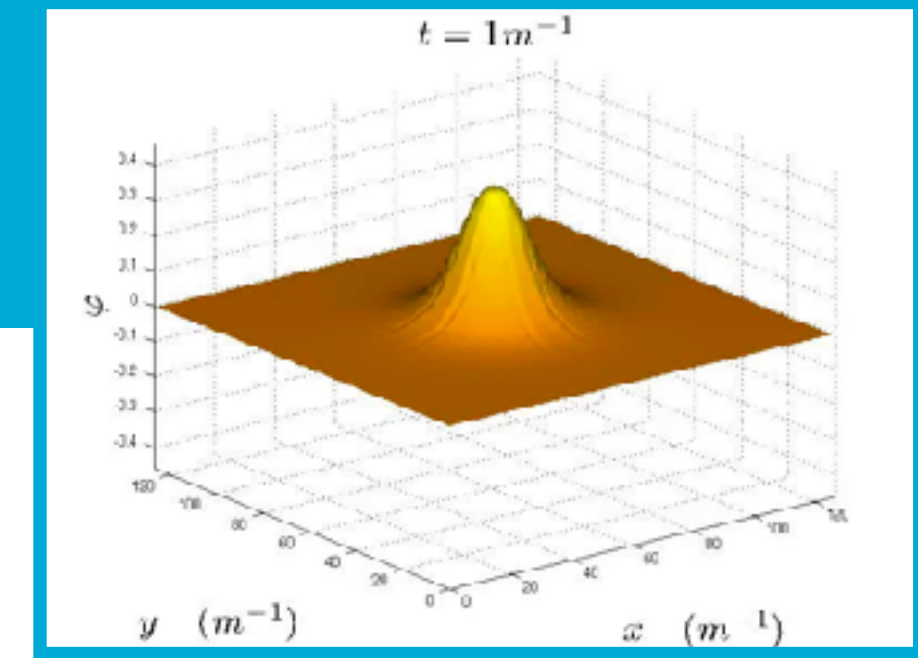
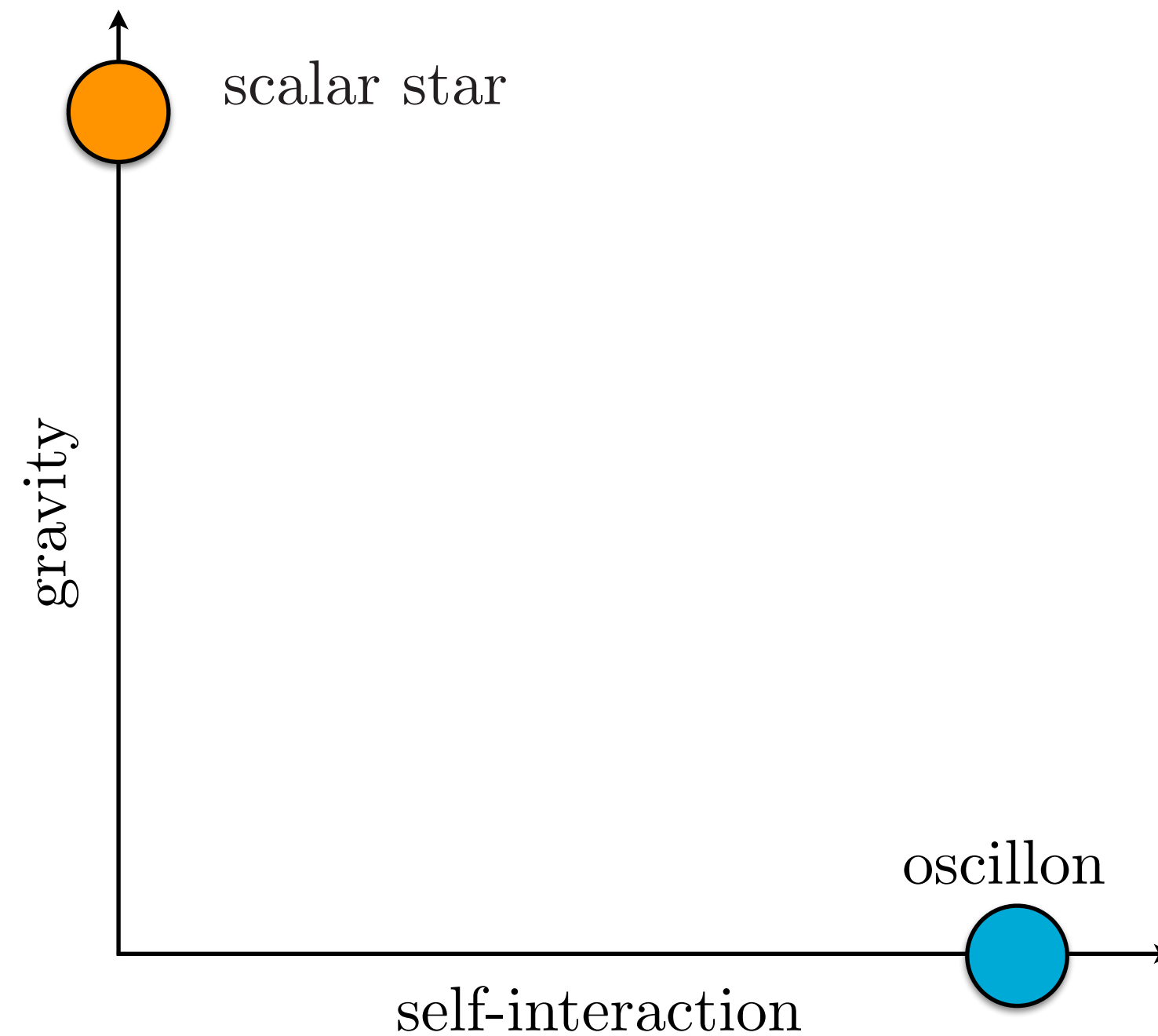


- discovered in nonlinear waves in water in canals (John Scott Russell, 1834)
- optics, hydrodynamics, BECs, high energy physics, and cosmology



# non-topological “solitons” (real-valued)

spatially localized, coherently oscillating, long-lived



spatially localized

coherently oscillating (components)

exceptionally long-lived

Makhanakov, Bolglubovsky, Kruskal & Seagur  
Seidel & Sun ...

Gleiser, Copeland, Muller, Graham ...

Hindmarsh, Salmi...

Kasuya, Kawasaki, Takahashi, ...

MA & Shirokoff

Mukaida, Takimoto, Yamada

[Zhang](#), MA, Copeland, Lozanov & Saffin

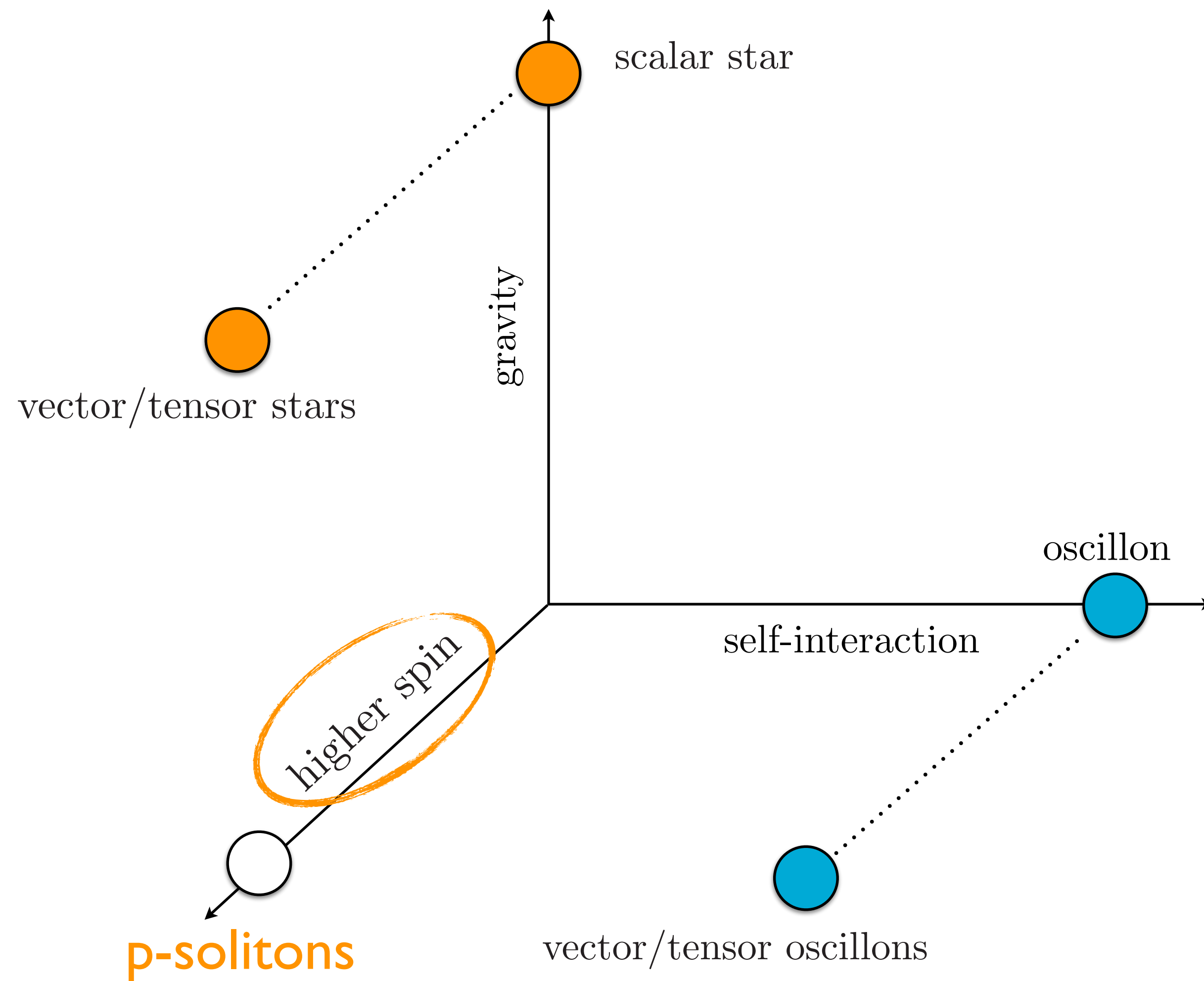


For complex-valued fields, see Q-ball lit (ask V.Takhistov about it)



# non-topological solitons

spatially localized, coherently oscillating, long-lived



spatially localized

coherently oscillating (components)

exceptionally long-lived



Jain & MA (2021)

Zhang, Jain & MA (2021)

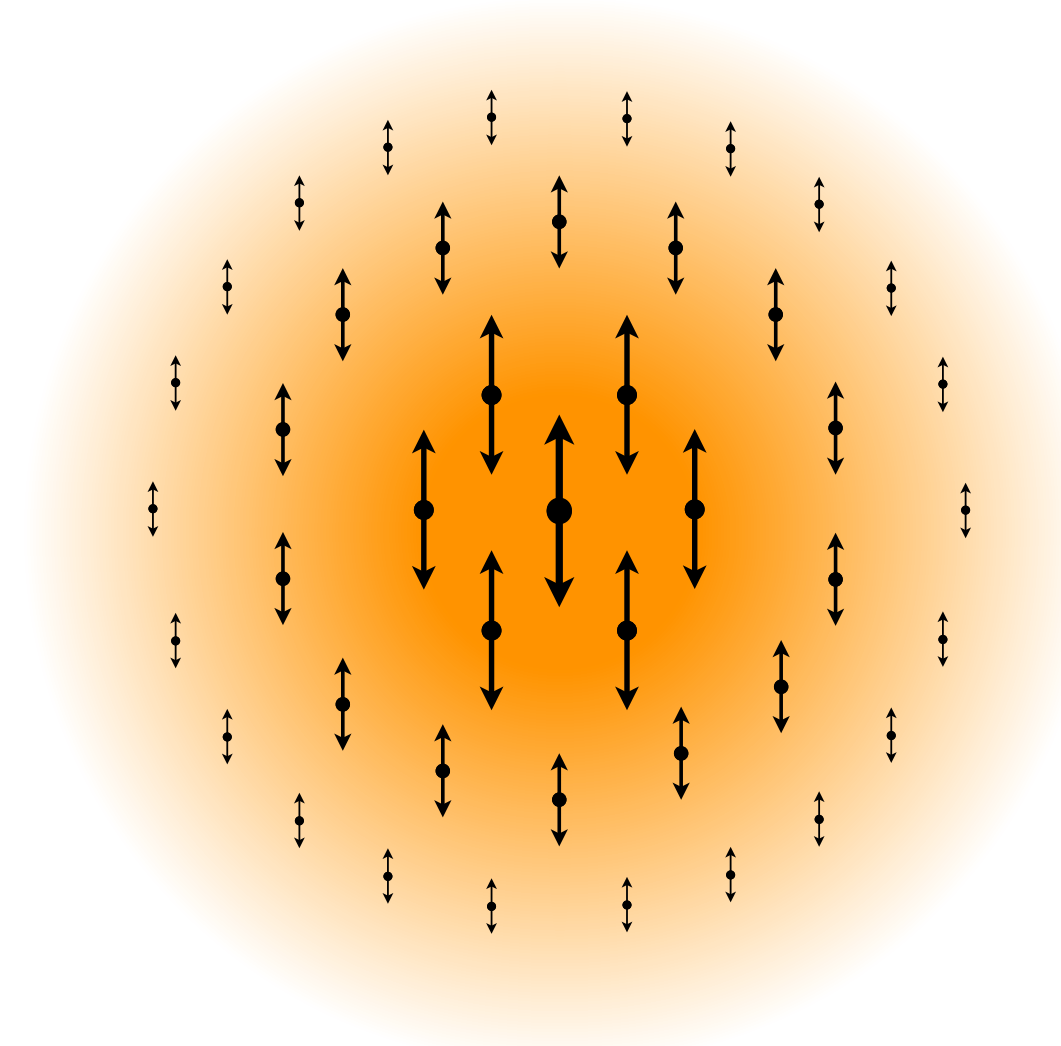
# “polarized” vector solitons (with macroscopic spin)

$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{sol}} = i(\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^\dagger) \frac{M_{\text{sol}}}{m} \hbar$$

macroscopic spin

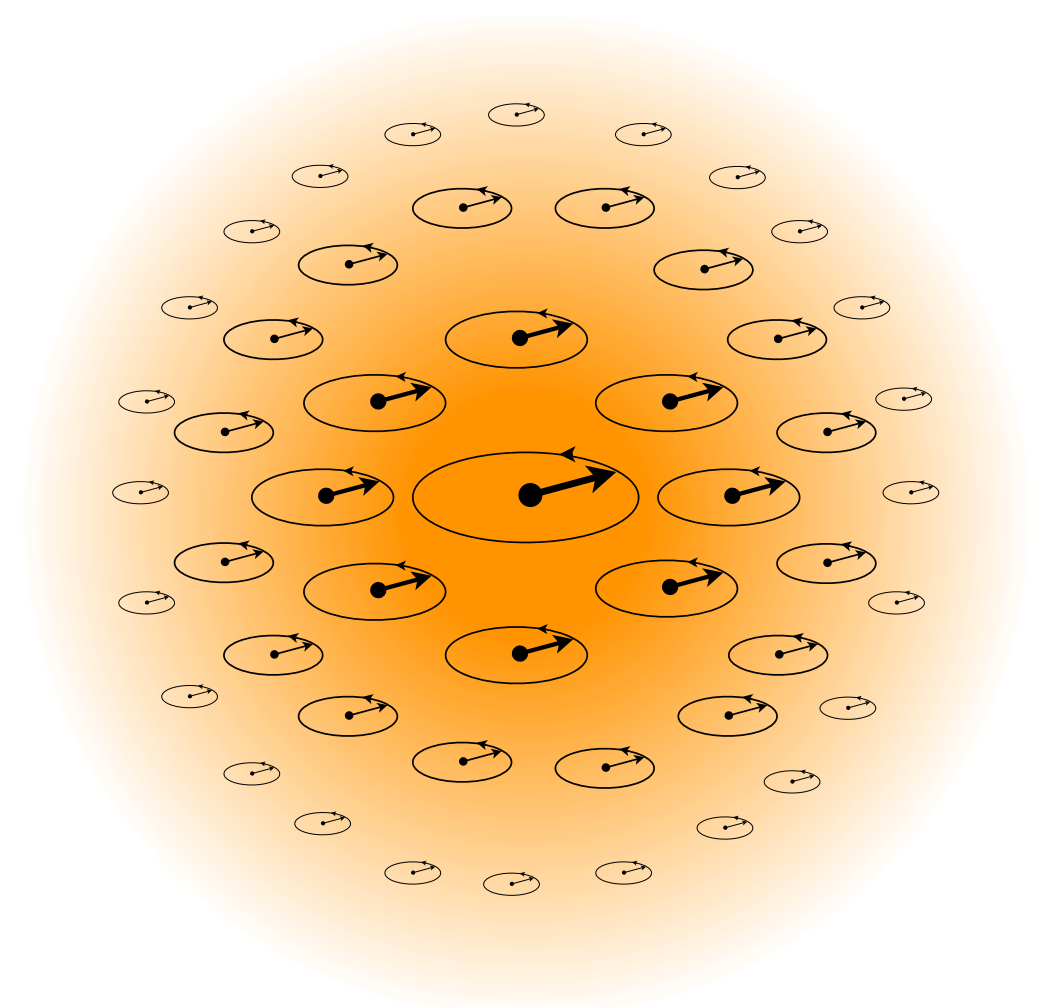
$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}}/\hbar = \lambda N \hat{z}$$

$N =$  # of particles in soliton



$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{1,\hat{z}}^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}} = 0\hat{z}$$



$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{1,\hat{z}}^{(\pm 1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \pm i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}} = \hbar \frac{M_{\text{sol}}}{m} \hat{z}$$

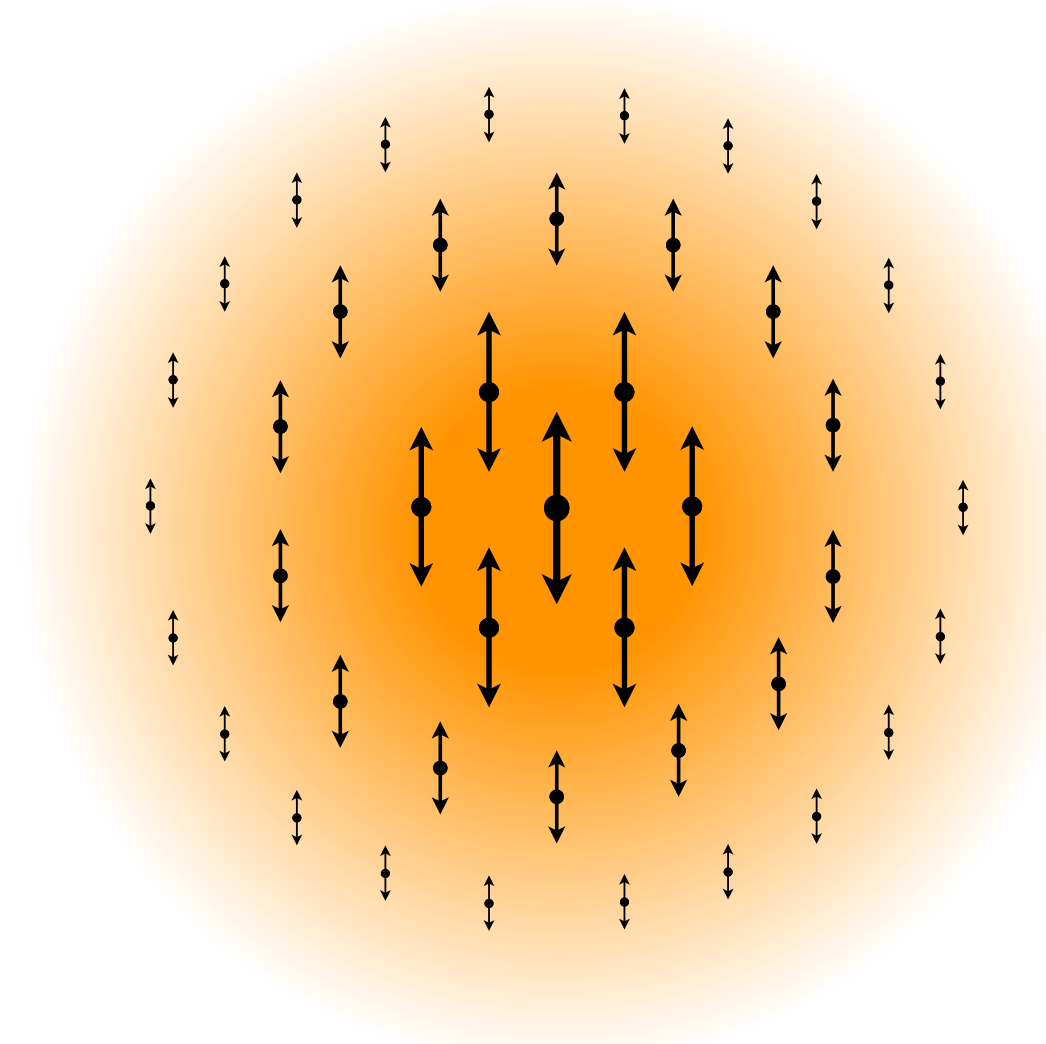
# “polarized” vector solitons

$$\mathbf{W}(t, \mathbf{x}) \equiv \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2mc}} \Re \left[ \boldsymbol{\Psi}(t, \mathbf{x}) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \right]$$

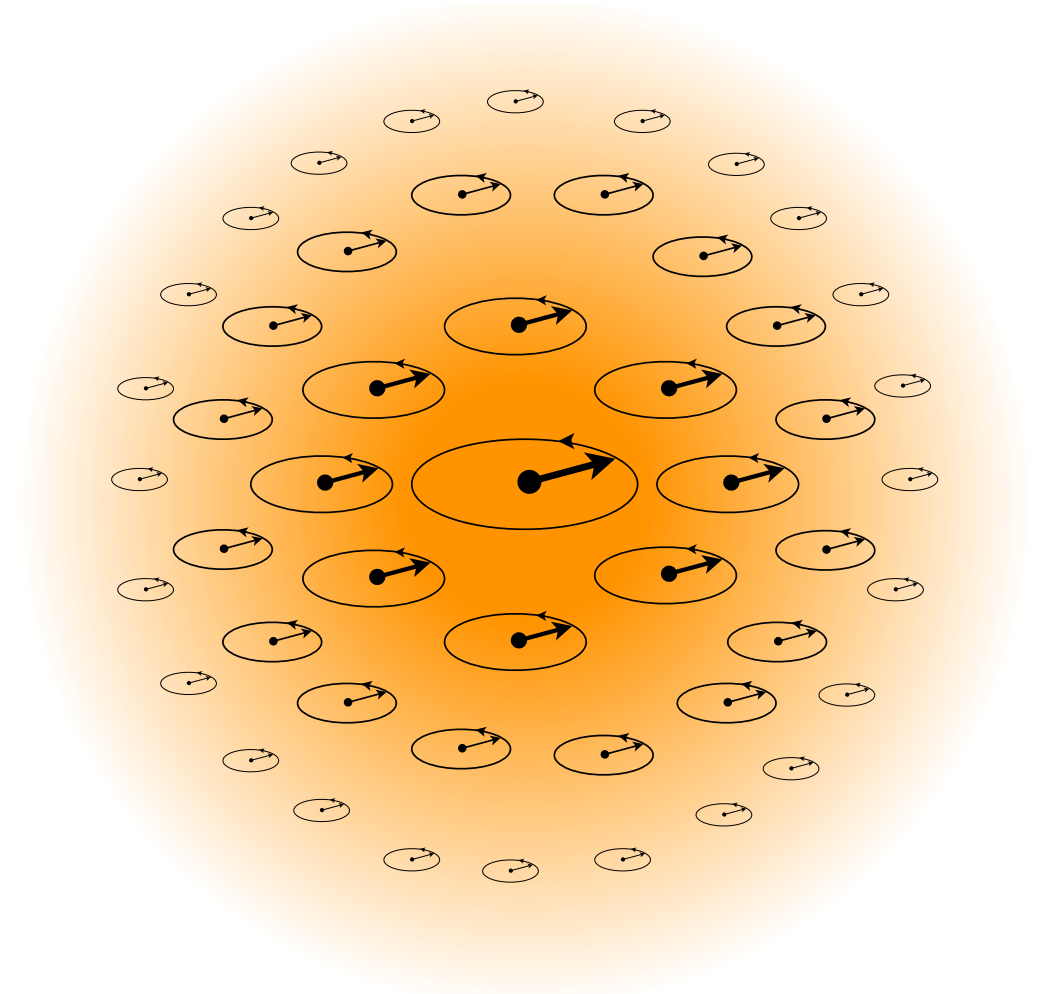
macroscopic spin

$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}} = \hbar \frac{M_{\text{sol}}}{m} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

- all lowest energy for fixed  $M$
- bases for partially-polarized solitons

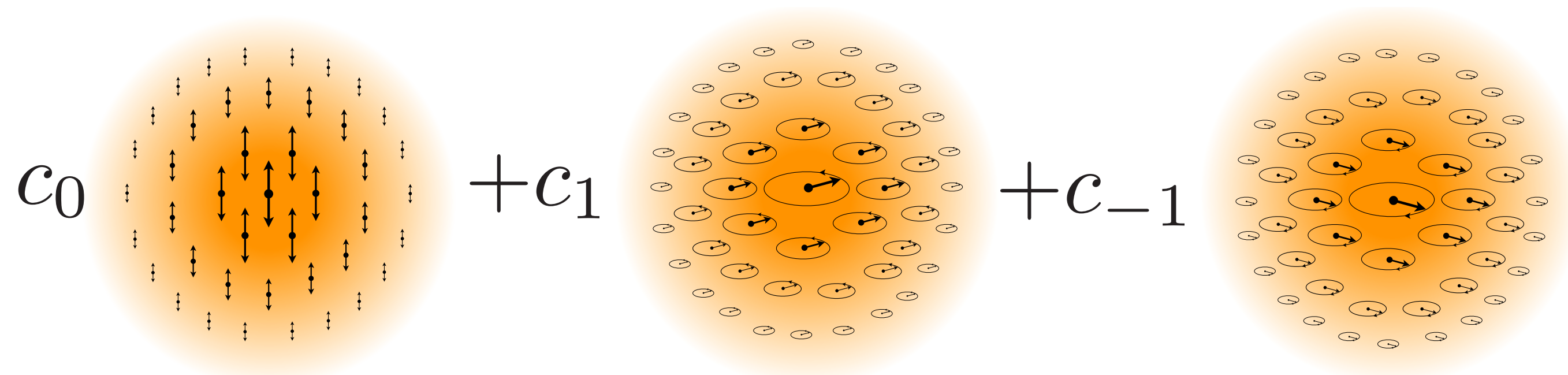


$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}} = 0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$



$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}} = \hbar \frac{M_{\text{sol}}}{m} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

$$0 \leq |\mathbf{S}_{\text{tot}}| \leq \frac{M_{\text{sol}}}{m} \hbar$$

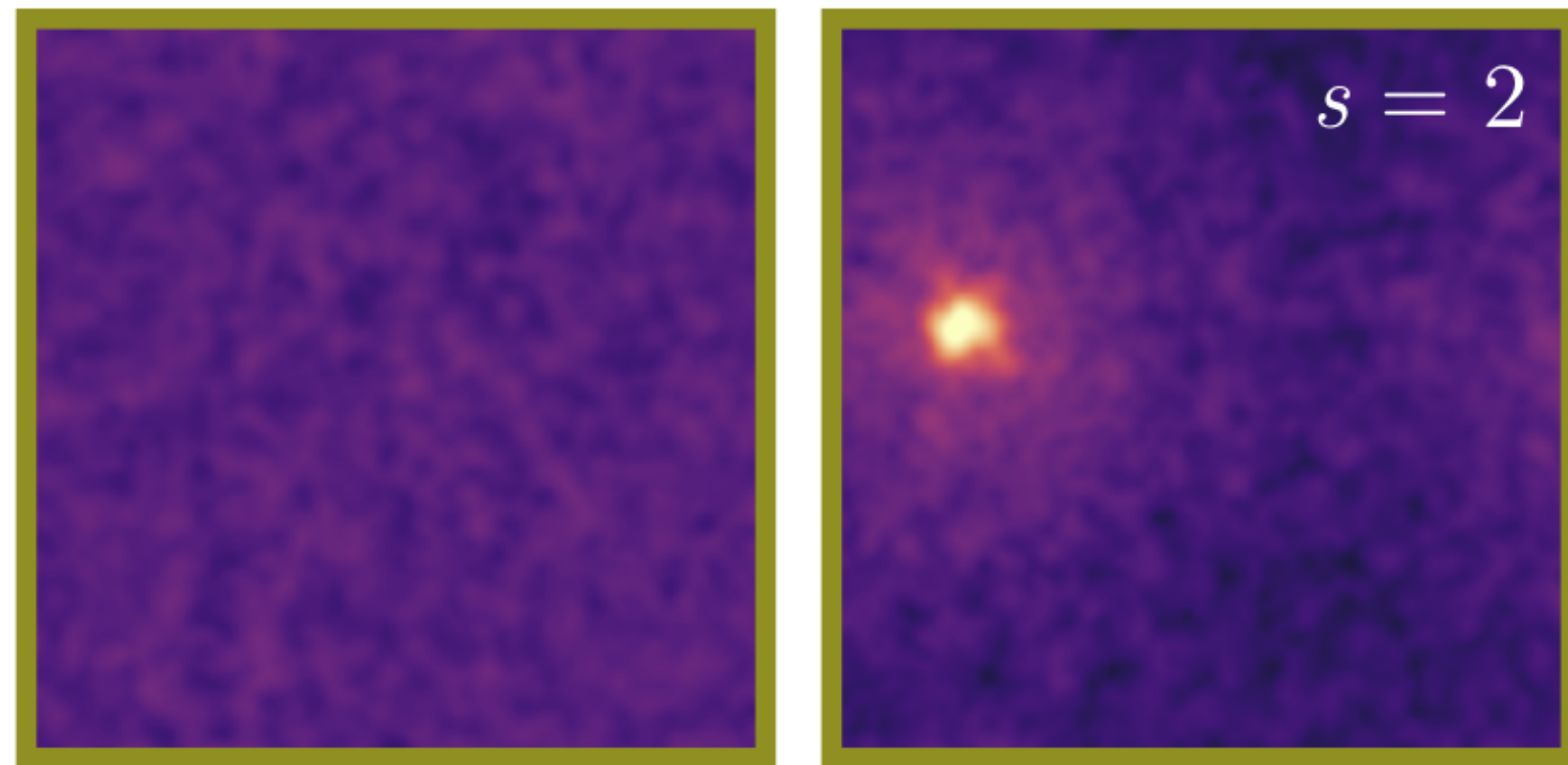
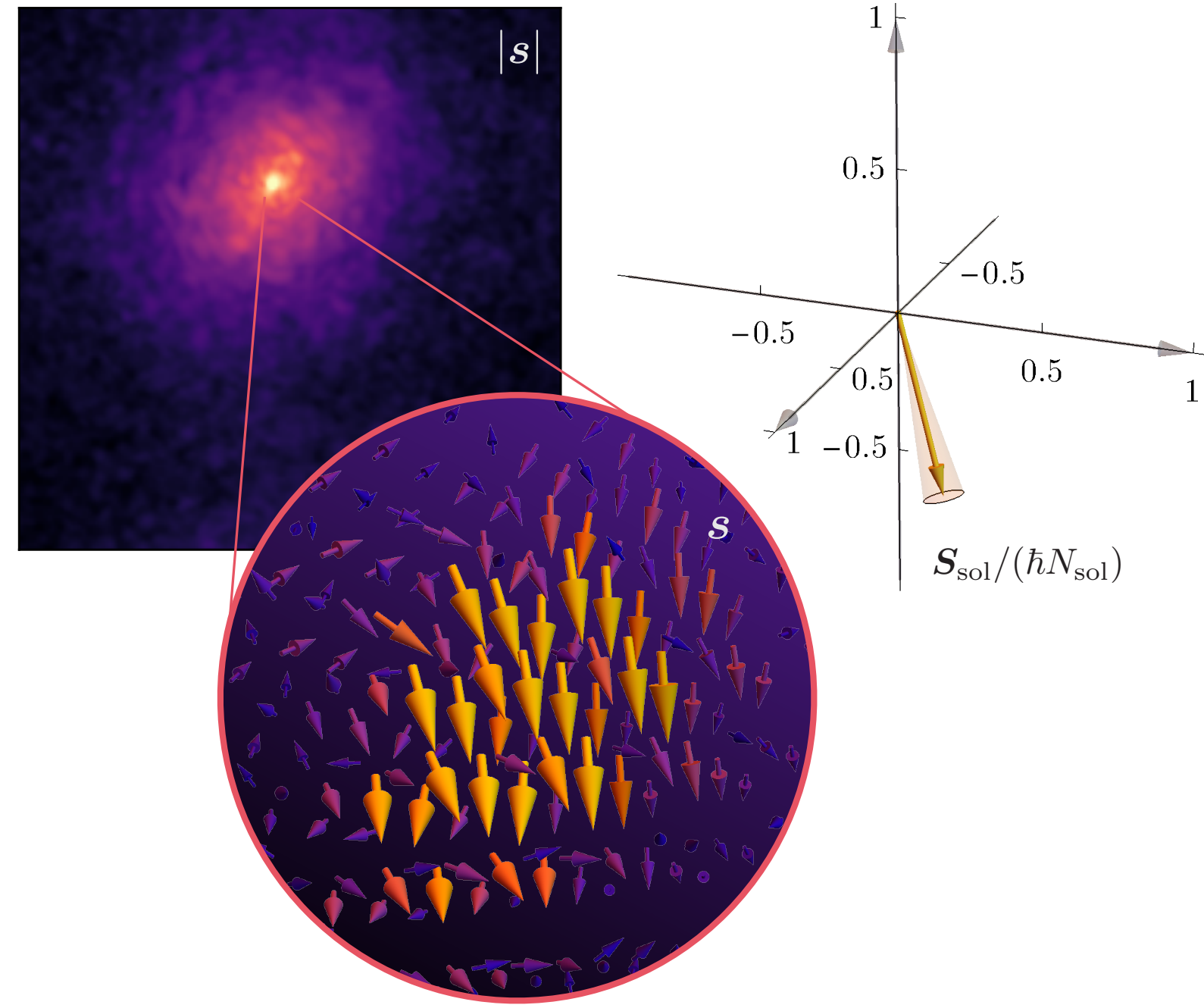
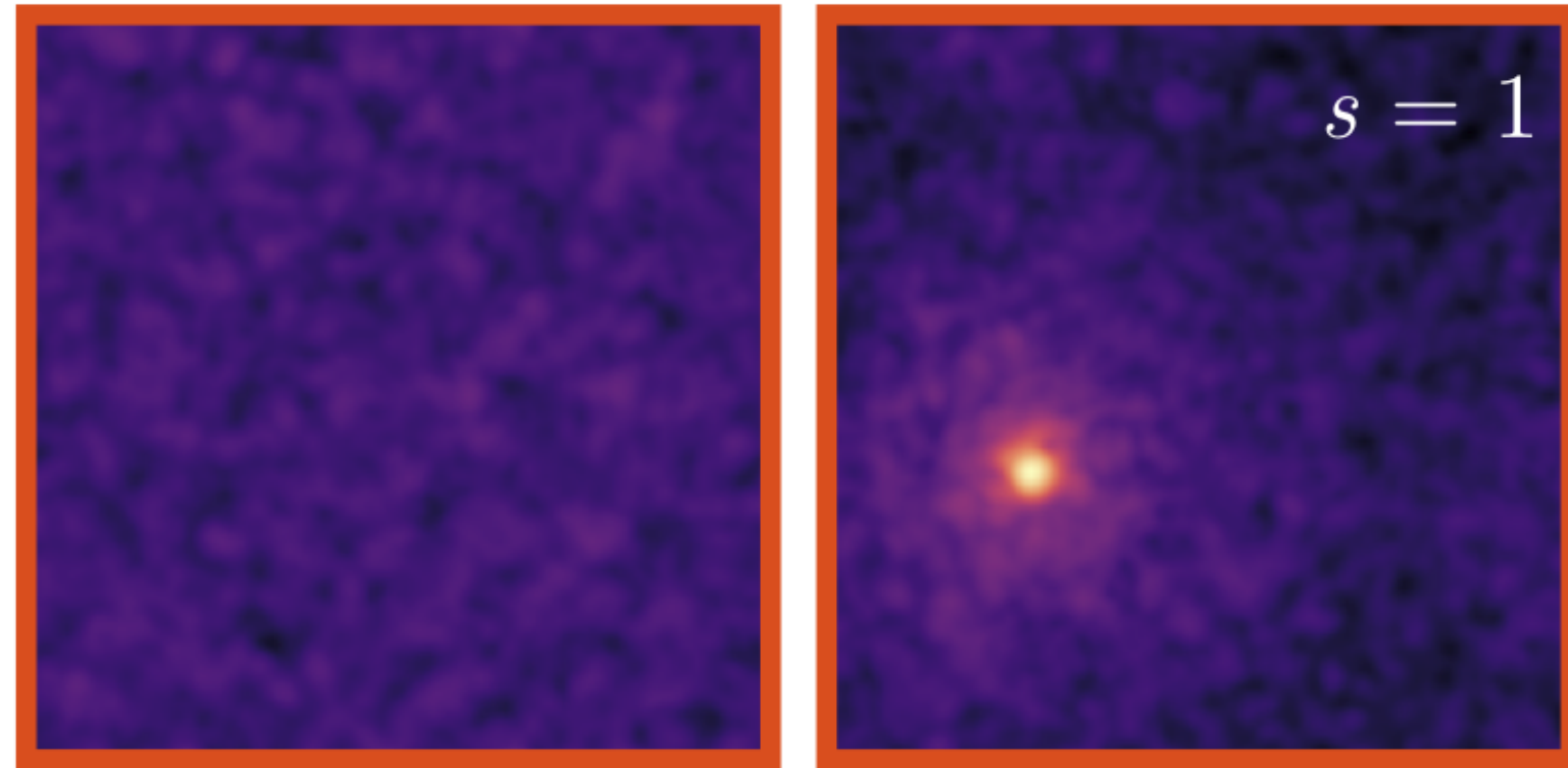


Also see: Aoki et. al (2017 for massive tensors geons), Adshead & Lozanov (2021), Jain & MA (2021)



# born to spin

spin density



$t_i$

$t_f | \tilde{\rho}_{1,\text{max}}=1$

$$S_{\text{core}} \sim \hbar \frac{M_{\text{core}}}{m}$$

Even when initial total spin is negligible

MA, Jain, Karur & Mocz(2022)

Jain, MA, Thomas, Wanichwecharungruang (2023)

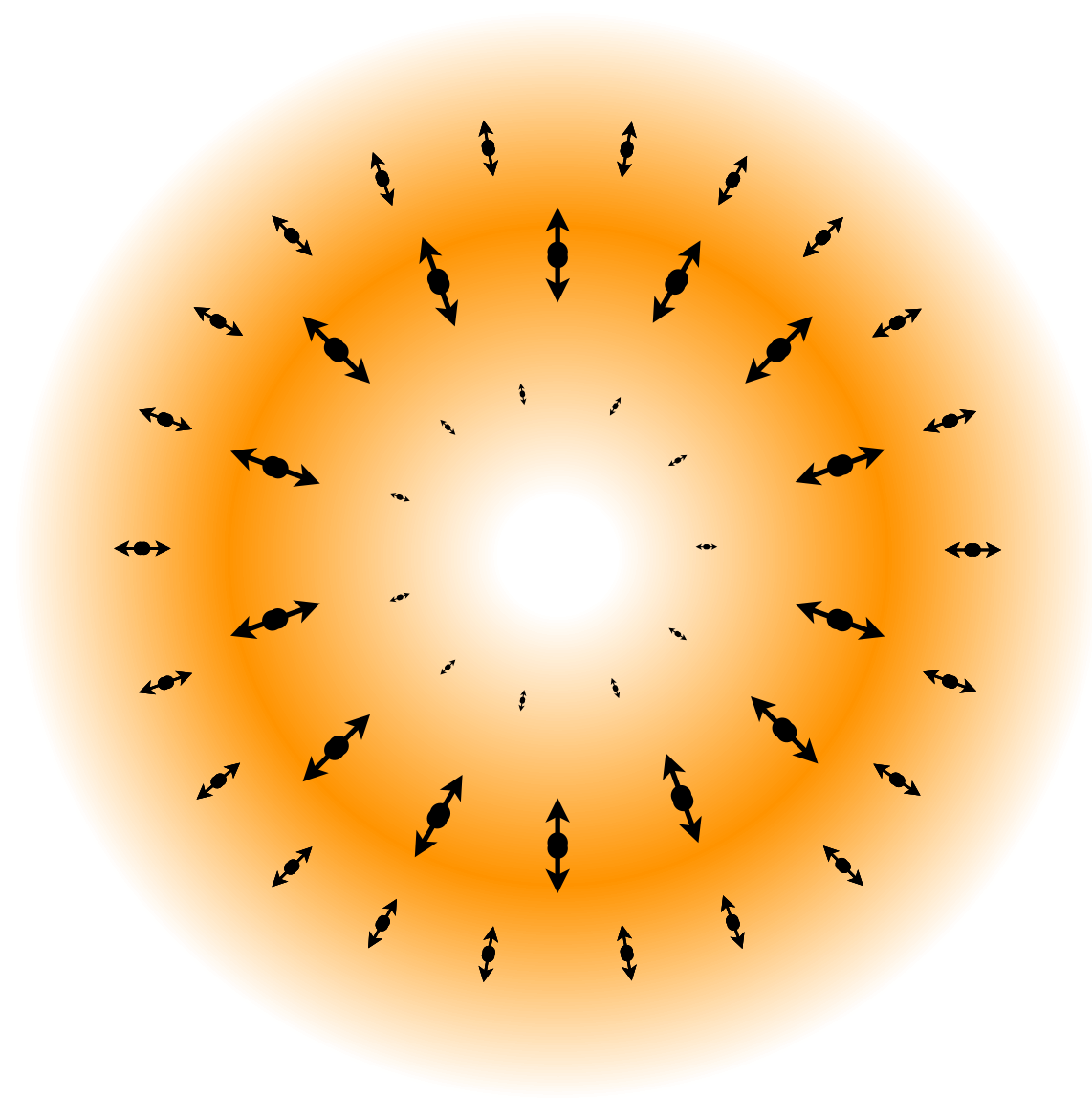
# a different higher energy soliton: the “hedgehogs”

earlier literature

$$W_j(\mathbf{x}, t) = f(r) \frac{x^j}{r} \cos \omega t ,$$

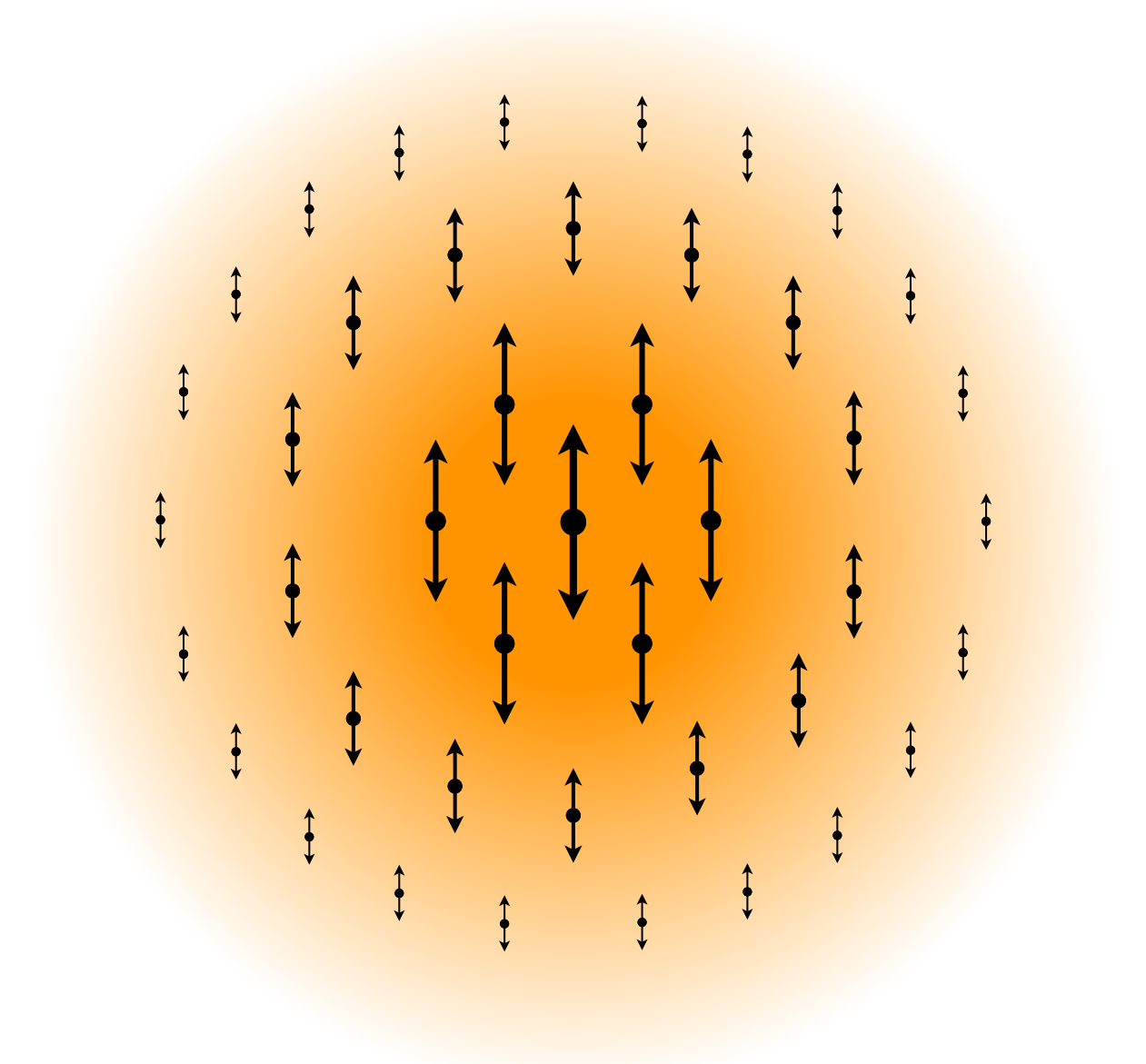
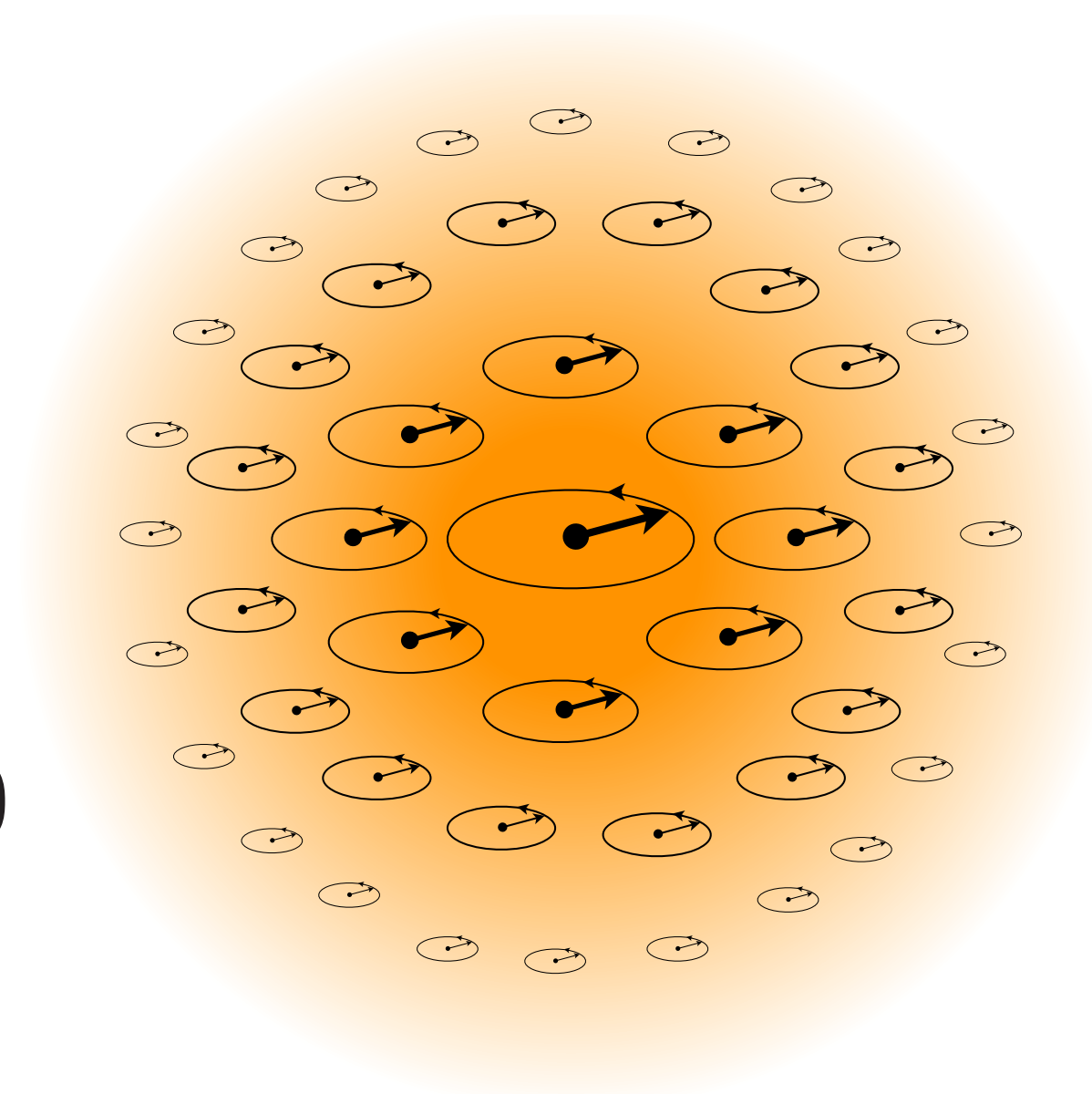
hedgehogs  
not ground states

at least when non-relativistic  
Lozanov & Adshead (2021)



$$E_{\text{hh}}^s > E$$

$$E_{\text{hh}}^{s=1} \approx 0.33E < 0$$



$$c_0 \text{ (vertical arrows)} + c_1 \text{ (hedgehog)} + c_{-1} \text{ (anti-hedgehog)}$$



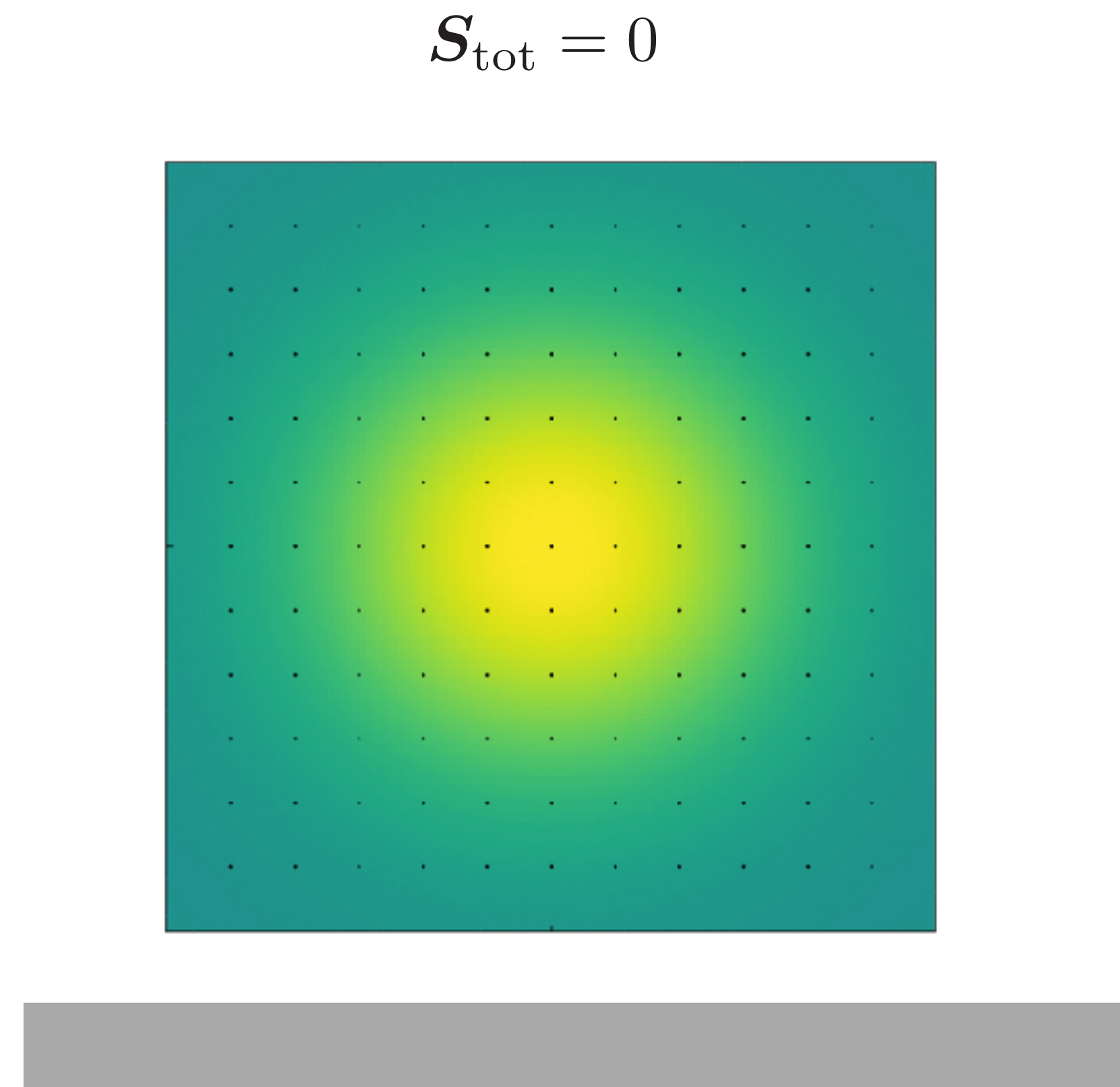
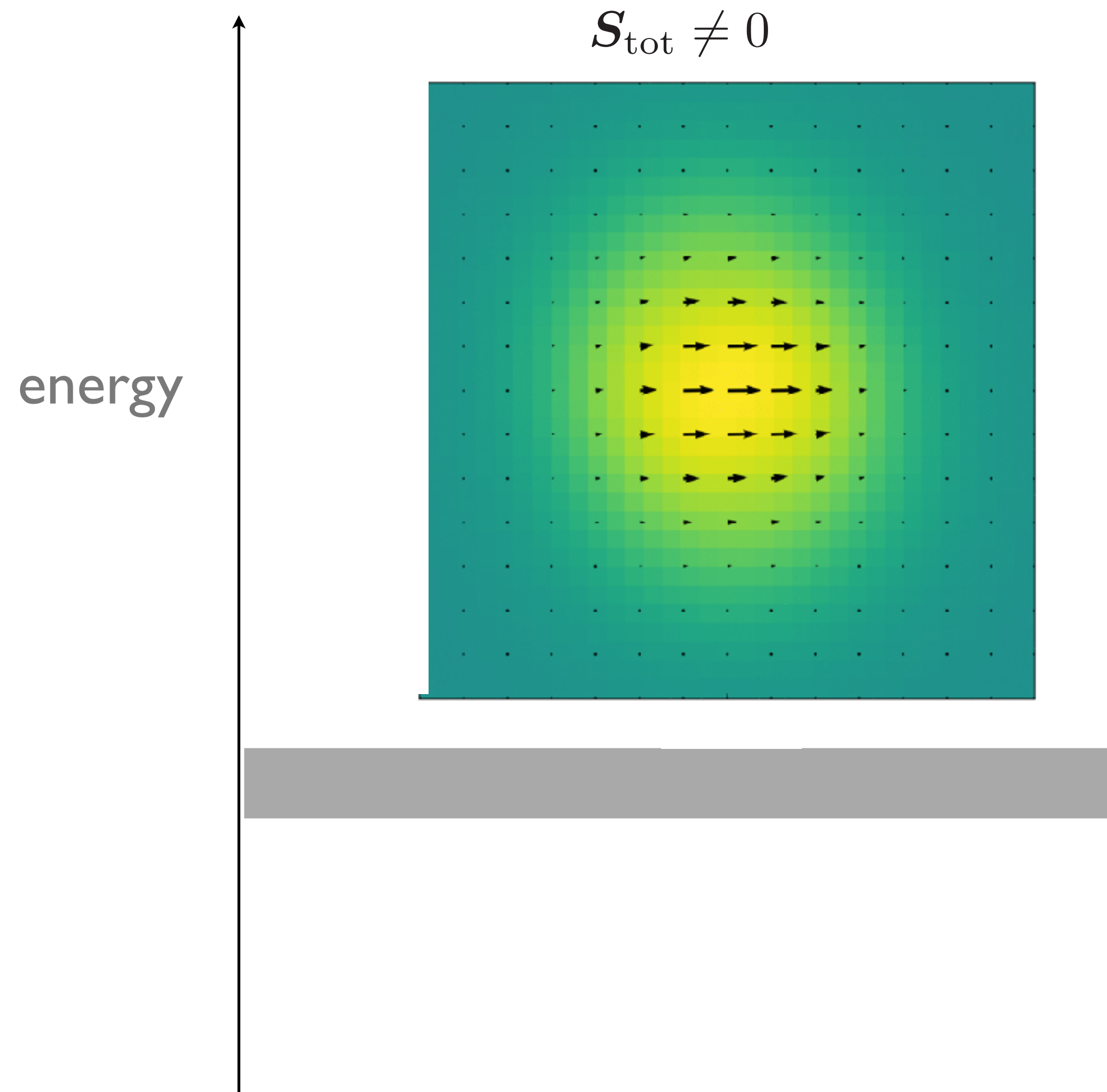
# attractive non gravitational self-interactions

Zhang, Jain & MA (2022)

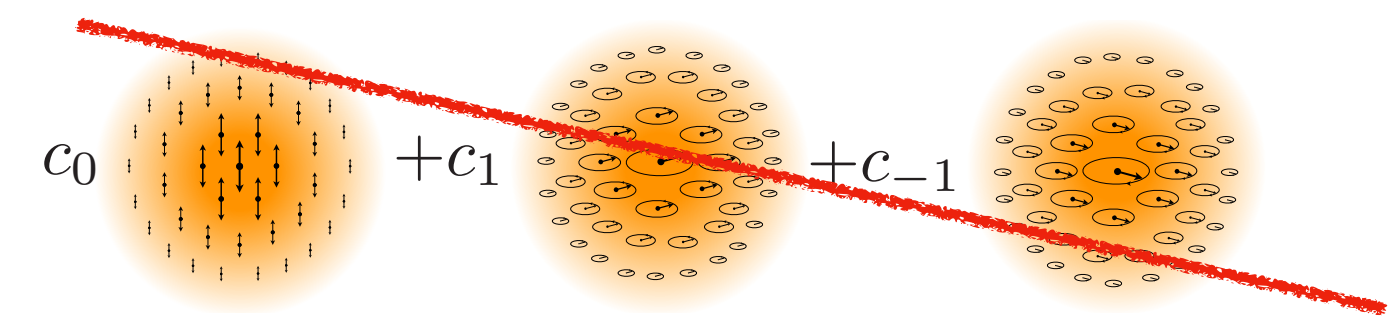


lead by [HongYi Zhang](#)

Also see [Zhang & Ling \(2023\)](#)



Also Jain (2021)





# i-SPin: An integrator for multicomponent Schrodinger-Poisson systems with self-interactions

arXiv: 2211.08433

Mudit Jain & Mustafa Amin

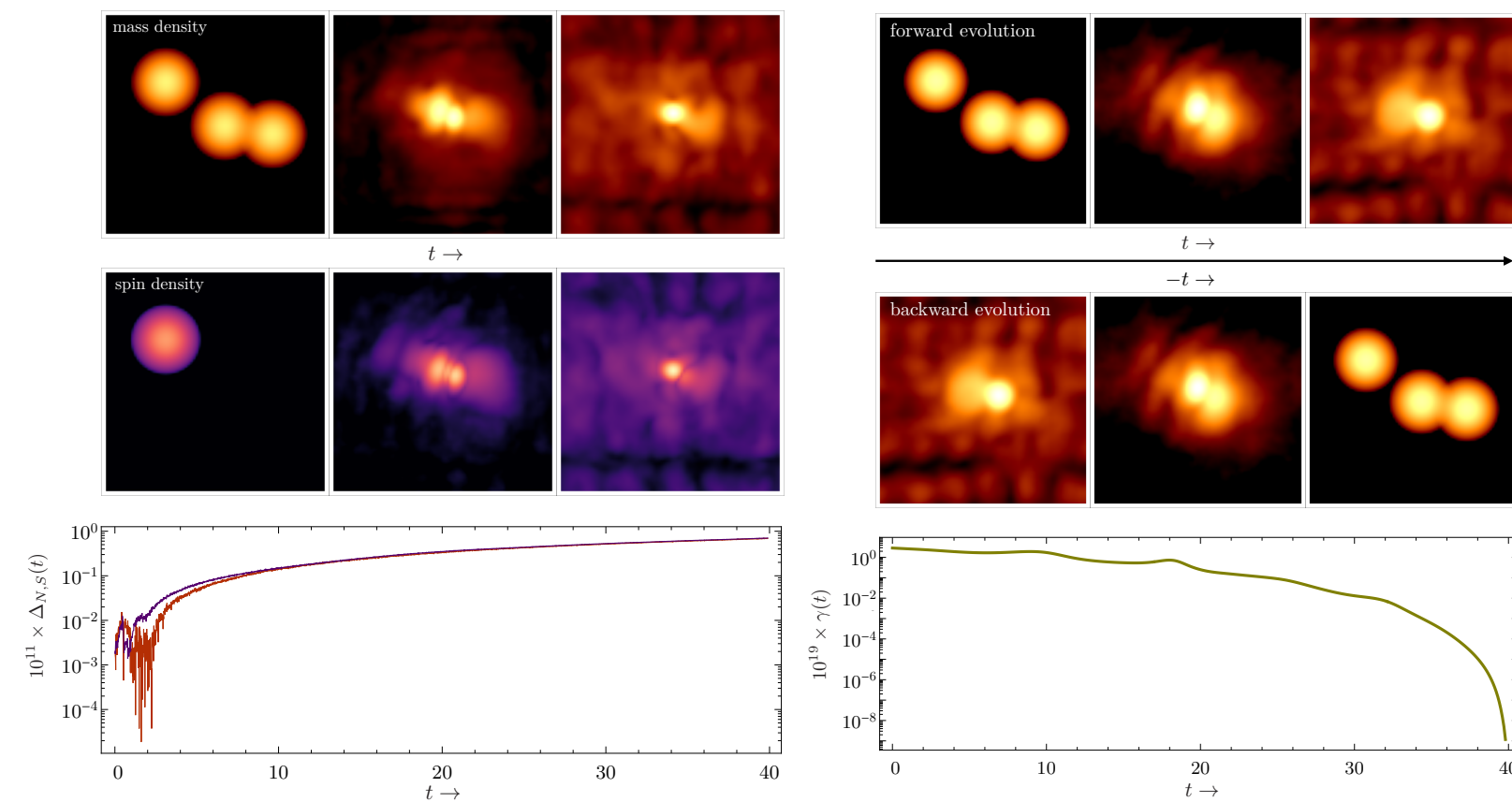
**i-SPin:** An algorithm (and publicly available code) to numerically evolve multicomponent Schrodinger-Poisson (SP) systems, including attractive/repulsive self-interactions + gravity

**problem:** If SP system represents the non-relativistic limit of a massive vector field, non-gravitational self-interactions (in particular, *spin-spin* type interactions) introduce new challenges related to mass and spin conservation which are not present in purely gravitational systems.

**solution:** Above challenges addressed with a novel analytical solution for the non-trivial ‘kick’ step in the algorithm (sec 4.3.2)

**features:** (i) second order accurate evolution (ii) spin and mass conserved to machine precision (iii) reversible

**generalizations:**  $n$ -component fields with  $SO(n)$  symmetry, an expanding universe relevant for cosmology, and the inclusion of external potentials relevant for laboratory settings



$$i\hbar \partial_t \Psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi + m \Phi \Psi - \frac{\lambda(\hbar c)^3}{4(mc^2)^2} [(\Psi \cdot \Psi) \Psi^\dagger + 2(\Psi^\dagger \cdot \Psi) \Psi]$$

$$V_{\text{rel}}(\rho, \mathcal{S}) = -\frac{\lambda(\hbar c)^3}{8(mc^2)^2} \left[ 3\rho^2 - \frac{(\mathcal{S} \cdot \mathcal{S})}{\hbar^2} \right]$$

$$\text{number density } \rho = \Psi^\dagger \Psi$$

$$\text{spin density } \mathcal{S} = i\hbar \Psi \times \Psi^\dagger$$



# i-SPin 2: An integrator for general spin-s Gross-Pitaevskii systems

arXiv: 2305.01675

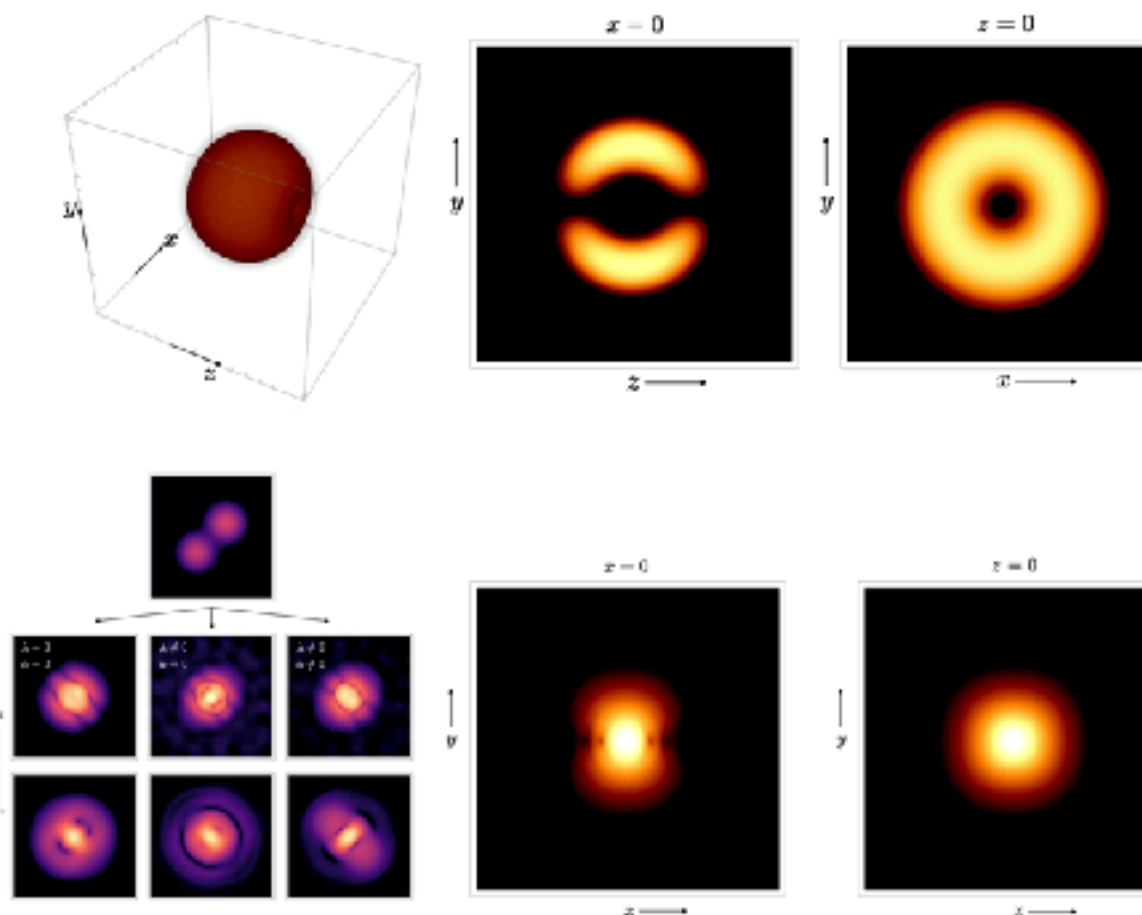
Mudit Jain, Mustafa Amin & H. Pu

**i-SPin 2:** An algorithm for evolving general spin-s Gross-Pitaevskii / non-linear Schrodinger systems carrying a variety of interactions, where the  $2s+1$  components of the ‘spinor’ field represent the different spin-multiplicity states.

**Allowed interactions:** Nonrelativistic interactions up to quartic order in the Schrodinger field (both short and long-range, and spin-dependent and spin-independent interactions), including explicit spin-orbit couplings. The algorithm allows for spatially varying external and/or self-generated vector potentials that couple to the spin density of the field.

**Applications:** (a) Laboratory systems such as spinor Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs). (b) Cosmological/astrophysical systems such as self-interacting bosonic dark matter.

**Numerical features:** Our symplectic algorithm is second-order accurate in time, and is extensible to the known higher-order accurate methods.



$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{nr}} = \int dt d^3x \left[ \frac{i}{2} \psi_n^\dagger \dot{\psi}_n + \text{c.c.} - \frac{1}{2\mu} \nabla \psi_n^\dagger \cdot \nabla \psi_n - \mu \rho V(\mathbf{x}) - \gamma \mathcal{S} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{x}, t) - V_{\text{nrrel}}(\rho, \mathcal{S}) - \frac{\xi}{2} \frac{1}{(2s+1)} |\psi_n \hat{A}_{nn'} \psi_{n'}|^2 + i g_{ij} \psi_n^\dagger [\hat{S}_i]_{nn'} \nabla_j \psi_n \right],$$

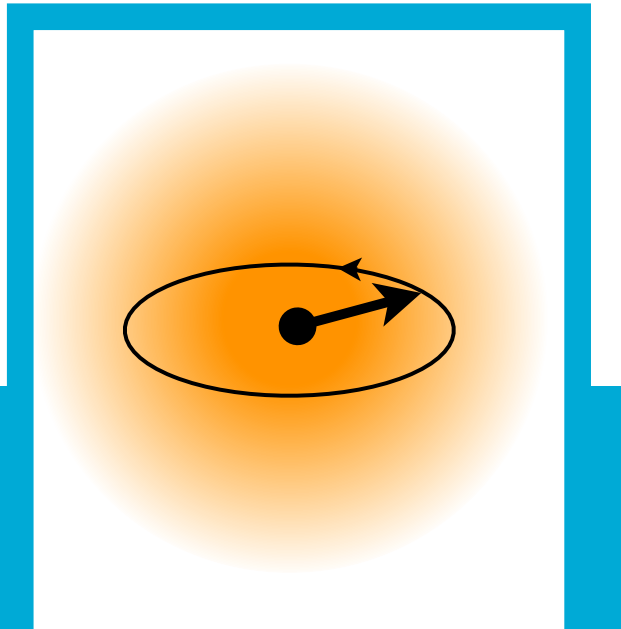
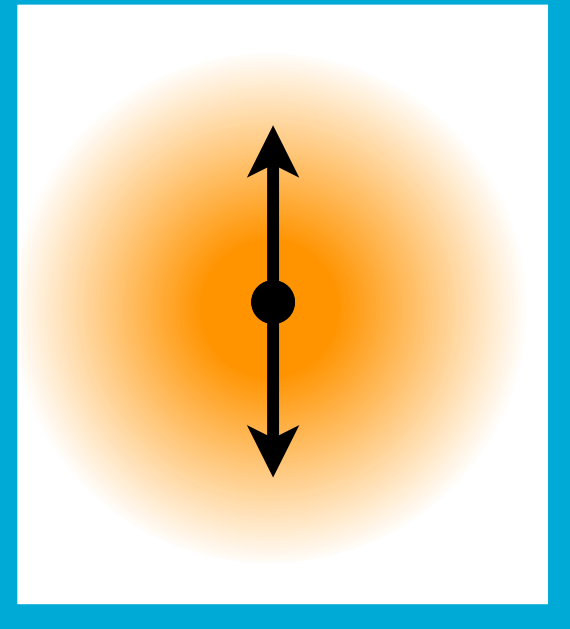
with  $\bar{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{x}, t) = f(t) \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})$ , and

$$V_{\text{nrrel}}(\rho, \mathcal{S}) = -\frac{1}{2\mu^2} [\lambda \rho^2 + \alpha (\mathcal{S} \cdot \mathcal{S})].$$

$$\text{number density } \rho = \psi_n^\dagger \psi_n$$

$$\text{spin density } \mathcal{S} = \psi_n^* \hat{S}_{nn'} \psi_{n'}$$

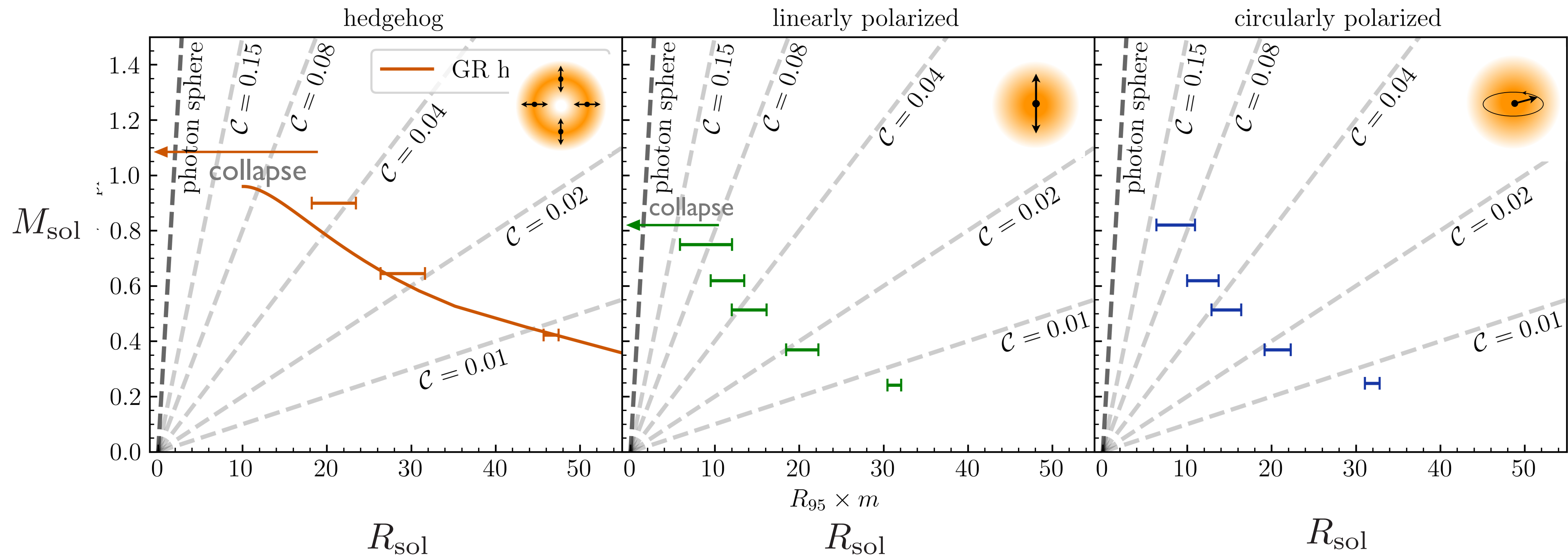
intrinsic spin



# compactness of polarized solitons

more resistance to collapse to BH for circularly polarized stars

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{hedgehog}} < \mathcal{C}_{\text{linearly polarized}} < \mathcal{C}_{\text{circularly polarized}}$$



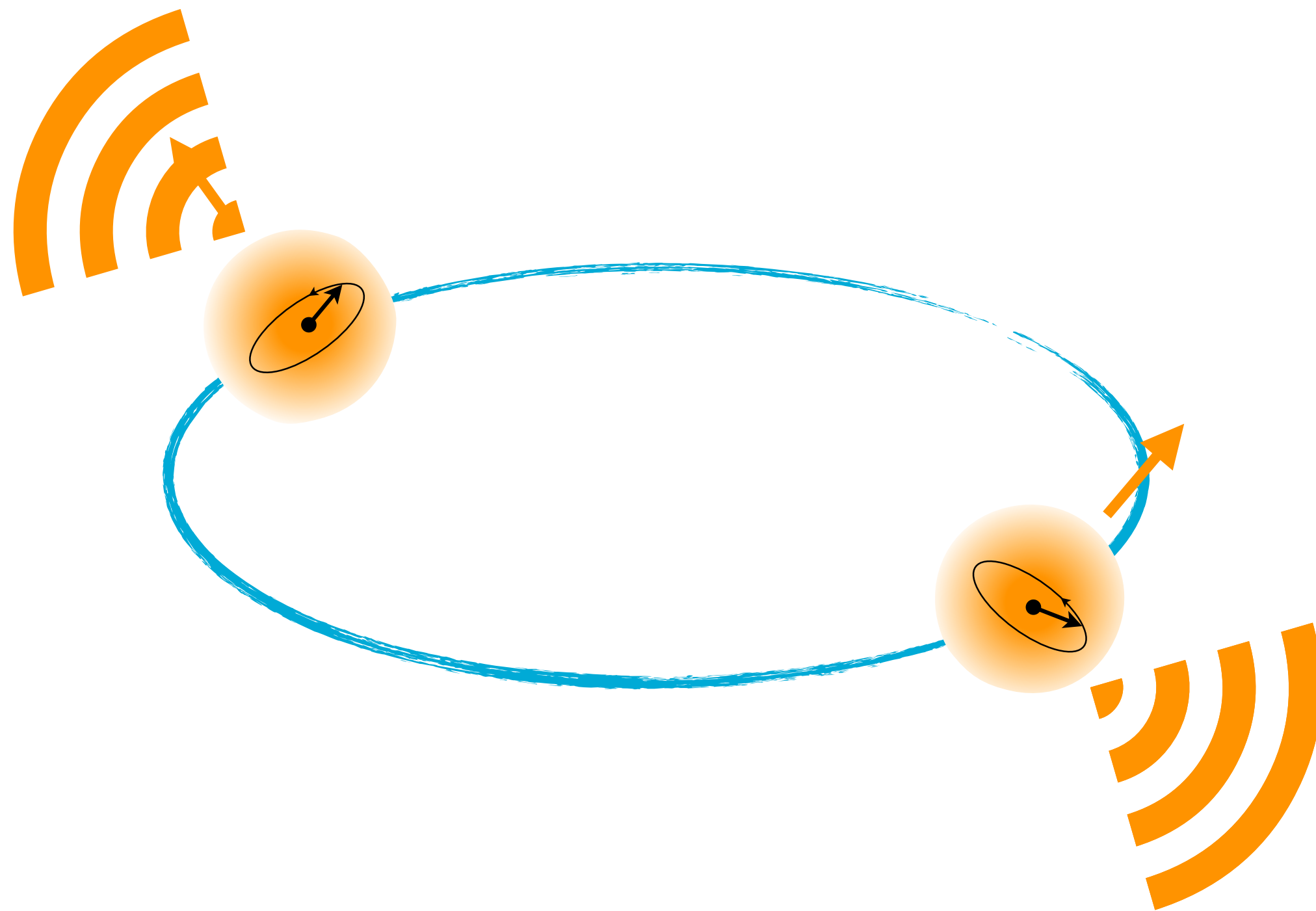
$$\mathcal{C} = GM/Rc^2$$

with Thomas Helfer & Zipeng Wang (soon, 2023)

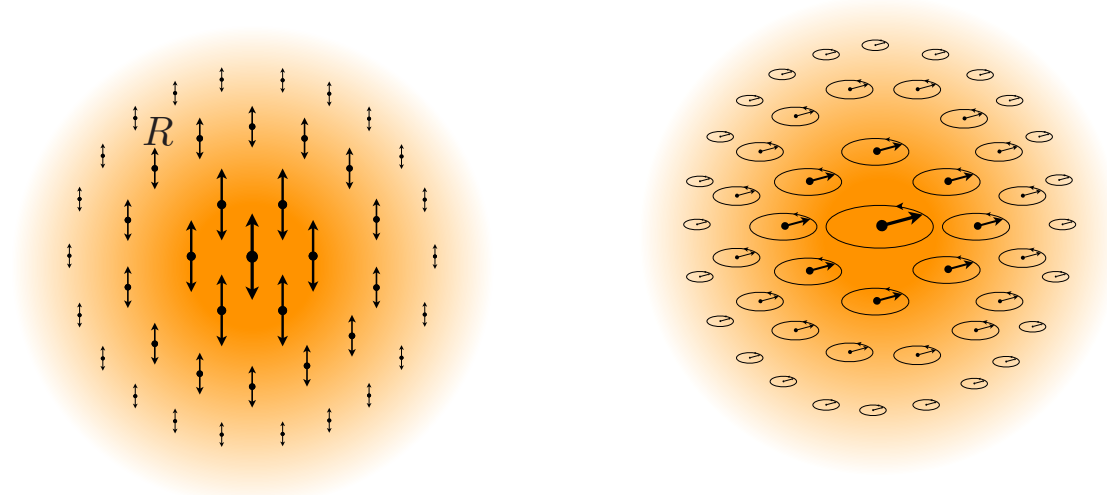


# gravitational waves and spin

$$V = -\frac{GM_1M_2}{r} \left[ 1 + \mathcal{O}(v^2/c^2) - \frac{2}{rc} [\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)] \cdot \sum_{a=1}^2 \frac{\mathbf{S}_a}{M_a} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{r^2 c^2} \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{M_1} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{M_2} - 3 \left( \frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{M_1} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} \right) \left( \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{M_2} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} \right) + \sum_{a=1}^2 \frac{C_{ES^2}^{(a)}}{2M_1M_2} [S_a^2 - 3(\mathbf{S}_a \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})^2] \right\} + \dots \right]$$



# spin of soliton & polarization of photons



$$\mathcal{O}_1 = -\frac{1}{2}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}(X \cdot X)$$

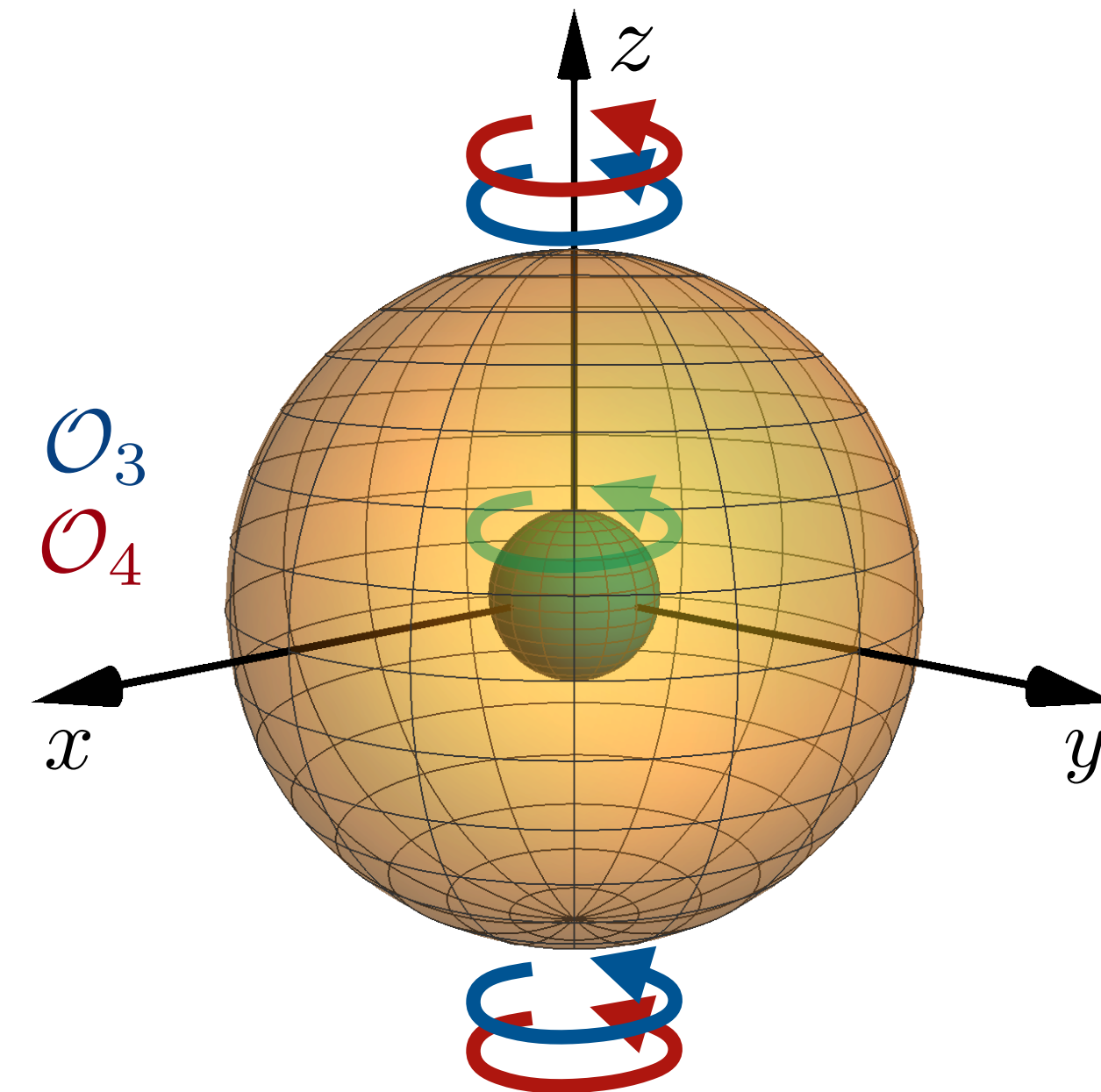
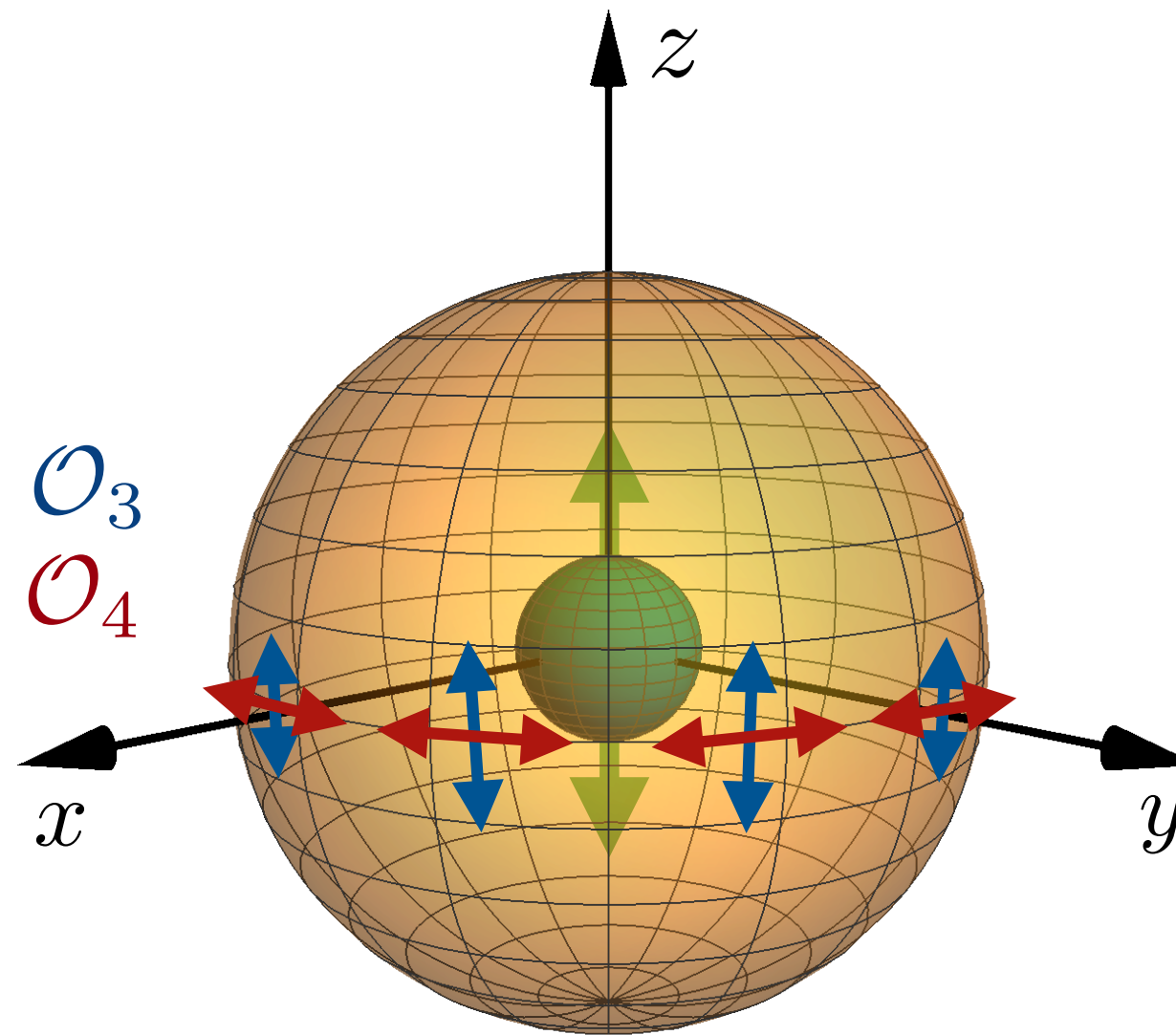
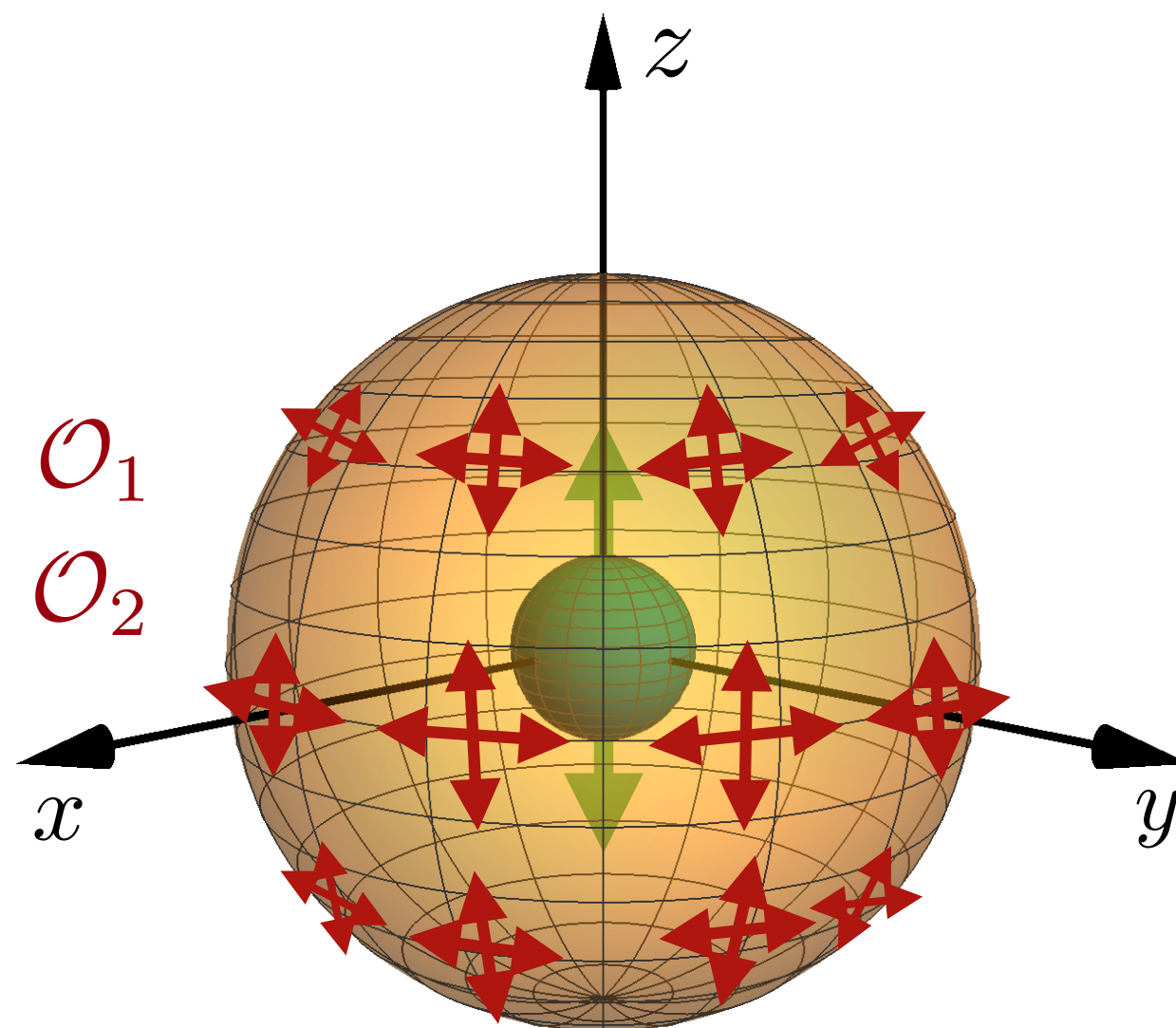
$$\mathcal{O}_2 = -\frac{1}{2}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}(X \cdot X)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_3 = F_{\mu\rho}F^{\nu\rho}X^\mu X_\nu$$

$$\mathcal{O}_4 = \tilde{F}_{\mu\rho}\tilde{F}^{\nu\rho}X^\mu X_\nu$$

explosive photon production (under certain conditions)

$$\mu R \gtrsim 1, \quad \mu \sim g^2 X^2 m$$



with Schiappacasse & Long (2022)

early universe formation mechanism:

initial power spectrum — nonlinear structure



# gravitational particle production to nonlinear structures

cannot easily do ultralight dark photons

$$\Omega_{\text{vdm}} \sim 0.3 \left( \frac{m}{10^{-5} \text{ eV}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{10^{14} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

Graham, Mardon, Rajendran (2016)

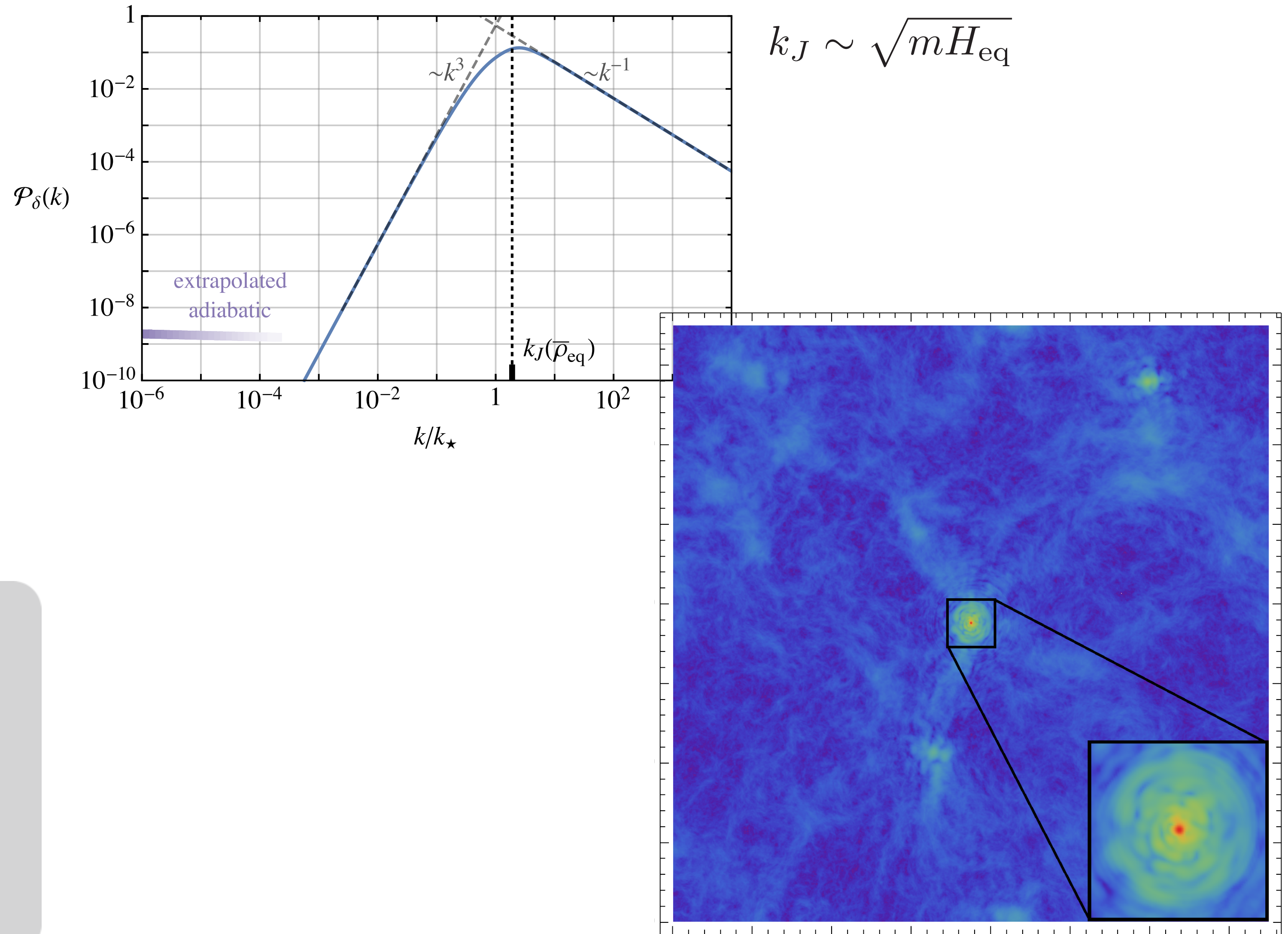
Ahmed, Grzadkowski, Socha (2020)

Kolb & Long (2020)

early derivation of action for longitudinal mode: Himmetoglu, Contaldi & Peloso (2008)

$$M_{\text{sol}}(a) \sim 10^{-23} M_{\odot} \left( \frac{a_{\text{eq}}}{a} \right)^{3/4} \left( \frac{\text{eV}}{m} \right)^{3/2}$$

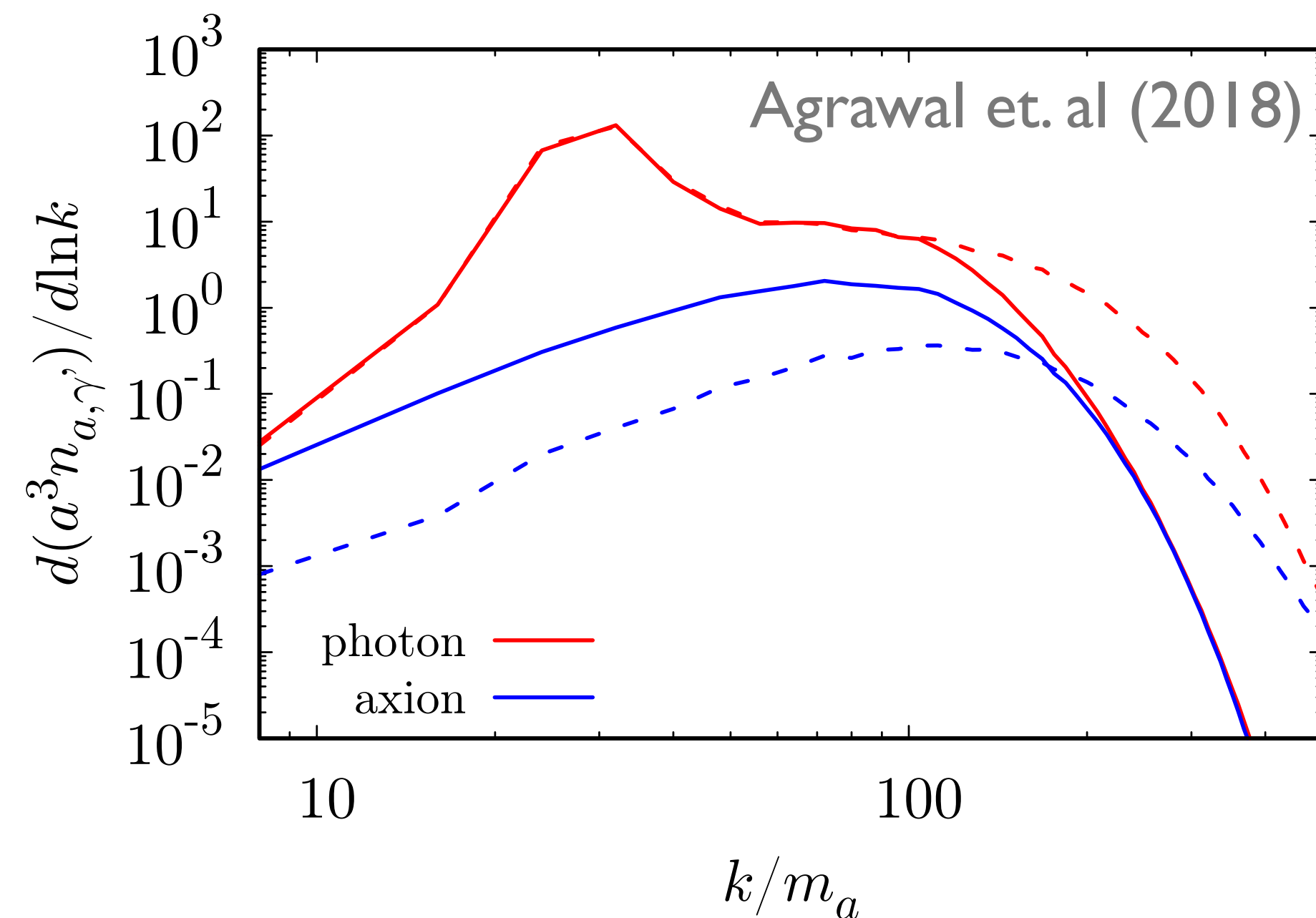
$$R_{\text{sol}}(a) \sim 10^4 \text{ km} \left( \frac{a}{a_{\text{eq}}} \right)^{3/4} \left( \frac{\text{eV}}{m} \right)^{1/2}$$



Gorghetto et. al (2022)

# non-gravitational post-inflationary dark production?

$$\ddot{\mathbf{A}}_{\mathbf{k},\pm} + H\dot{\mathbf{A}}_{\mathbf{k},\pm} + \left( m_{\gamma'}^2 + \frac{k^2}{a^2} \mp \frac{k}{a} \frac{\beta\dot{\phi}}{f_a} \right) \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{k},\pm} = 0$$



lower bound on mass ?

can do ultralight dark photons

Also see: Adshead, Lozanov and Weiner (2023)

Nakai, Namba and Obata (2023)

Co, Pierce, Zhang, and Zhao (2018)

Dror, Harigaya, and Narayan (2018)

Bastero-Gil, Santiago, Ubaldi, Vega-Morales (2018)

Also see: Long & Wang for production from strings and Co et. al for production from axion rotations



# A lower bound on dark matter mass

Mustafa A. Amin



RICE

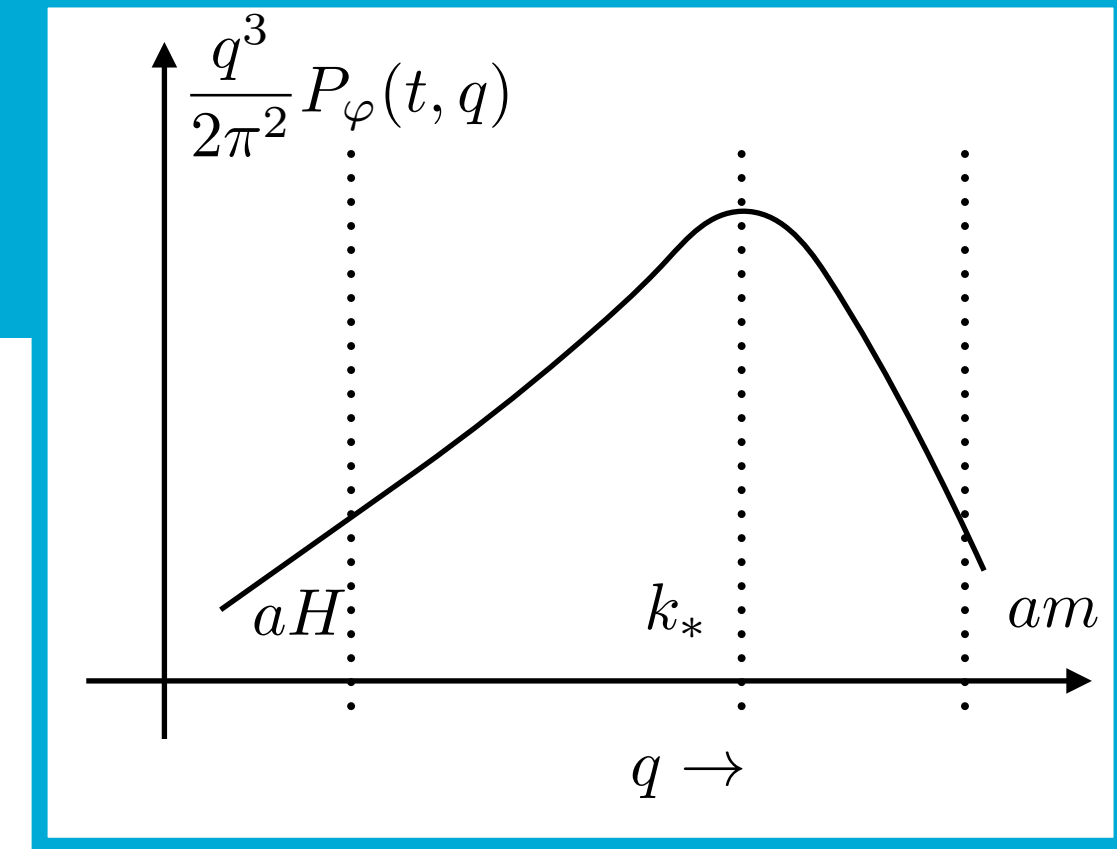


with Mehrdad Mirbabayi (ICTP Trieste)

arXiv:2211.09775



# a lower bound on dark matter mass



Dark matter density dominated by **sub-Hubble** field modes

$$\Rightarrow m \gtrsim 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$$

# our argument

Dark matter density dominated by **sub-Hubble** field modes



1. **white-noise** isocurvature excess in isocurvature density pert.
2. **free-streaming** suppression in adiabatic density pert.

1. and 2. not seen for  $k < k_{\text{obs}} \sim 10 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$



$$m \gtrsim 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$$

# strengths

“model independent” -- applies to all gravitationally interacting,  
non-relativistic fields (scalar, vector, tensor ...)

“**loophole**” — inflationary production with infrared spectra (not sub-Hubble)  
for vectors (and tensors?), even inflationary production leads to sub-Hubble spectra

$k_{\text{fs}} \ll k_J \sim a\sqrt{mH} \implies$  stronger bound

$m_{\text{bound}} \propto k_{\text{obs}}^2 \implies$  look at MW satellites

with Nadler and Wechsler



# comparison with literature

$$m \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$$

Irsic et. al (2017) — Ly $\alpha$

$$m \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$$

Nadler et. al (2021) — MW satellites

$$m \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV}$$

Dalal & Kravtsov (2022) — dynamical heating of stars

$$m \gtrsim 4 \times 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$$

Powell et. al (2023) — lensing

$$m \gtrsim 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$$

MA & Mirbabayi (2022)

\*Above are model independent constraints, stronger constraints exist for particular models (Irsic, Xiao & McQuinn, 2020)

## some details

\*to us, results were “intuitively convincing” but quantitative calculation is non-trivial

\*analytic calculation of density spectra, see appendix of MA & Mirbabayi (2022)

# average density from field

$$\varphi(t, \boldsymbol{x})$$

light, but non-relativistic scalar field during rad. dom.



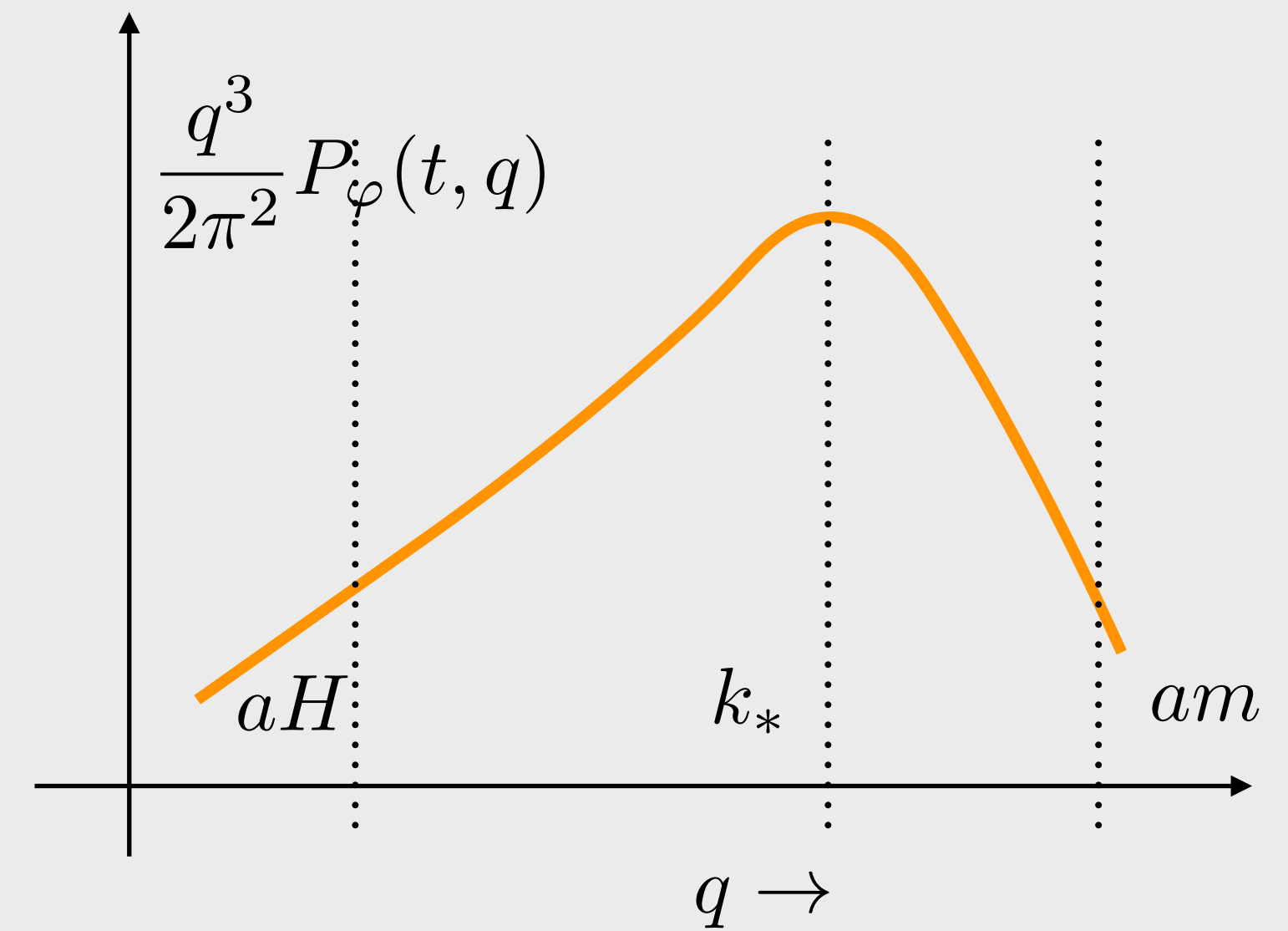
# average density from field

$$\varphi(t, \boldsymbol{x})$$

light, but non-relativistic scalar field during rad. dom.

$$\bar{\rho}(t) \approx m^2 \int d \ln q \frac{q^3}{2\pi^2} P_\varphi(t, q)$$

dark matter density close to matter radiation eq.



# average density from field

$$\varphi(t, \mathbf{x})$$

light, but non-relativistic scalar field during rad. dom.

$$\bar{\rho}(t) \approx m^2 \int d \ln q \frac{q^3}{2\pi^2} P_\varphi(t, q)$$

dark matter density close to matter radiation eq.

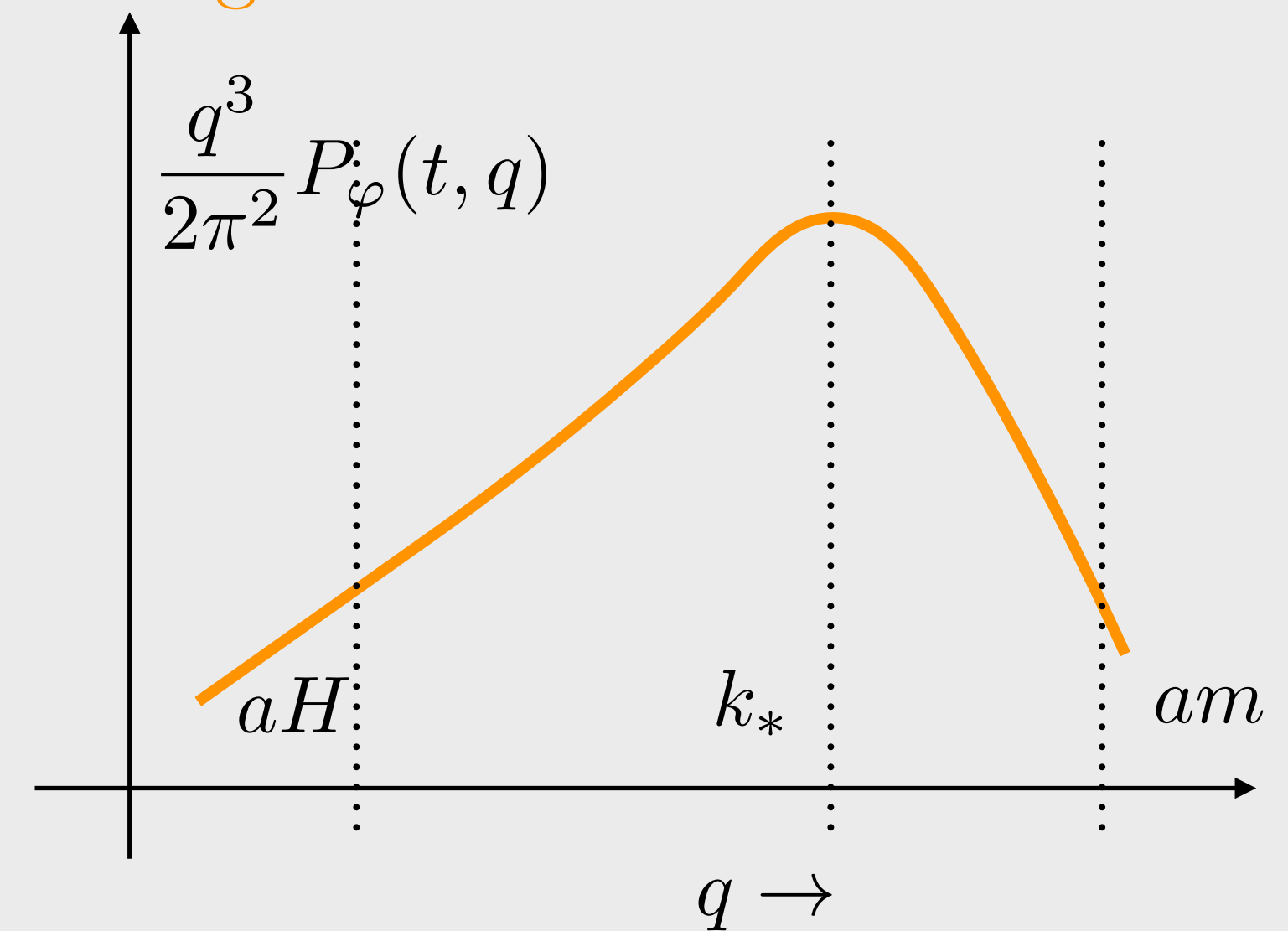
$$\frac{q^3}{2\pi^2} P_\varphi(t, q)$$

power spectrum of field, peaked at  $k_*$

$a(t)H(t) \ll k_*$  holds for field produced after inflation

$k_* \ll a(t)m$  eventually non-relativistic to be DM

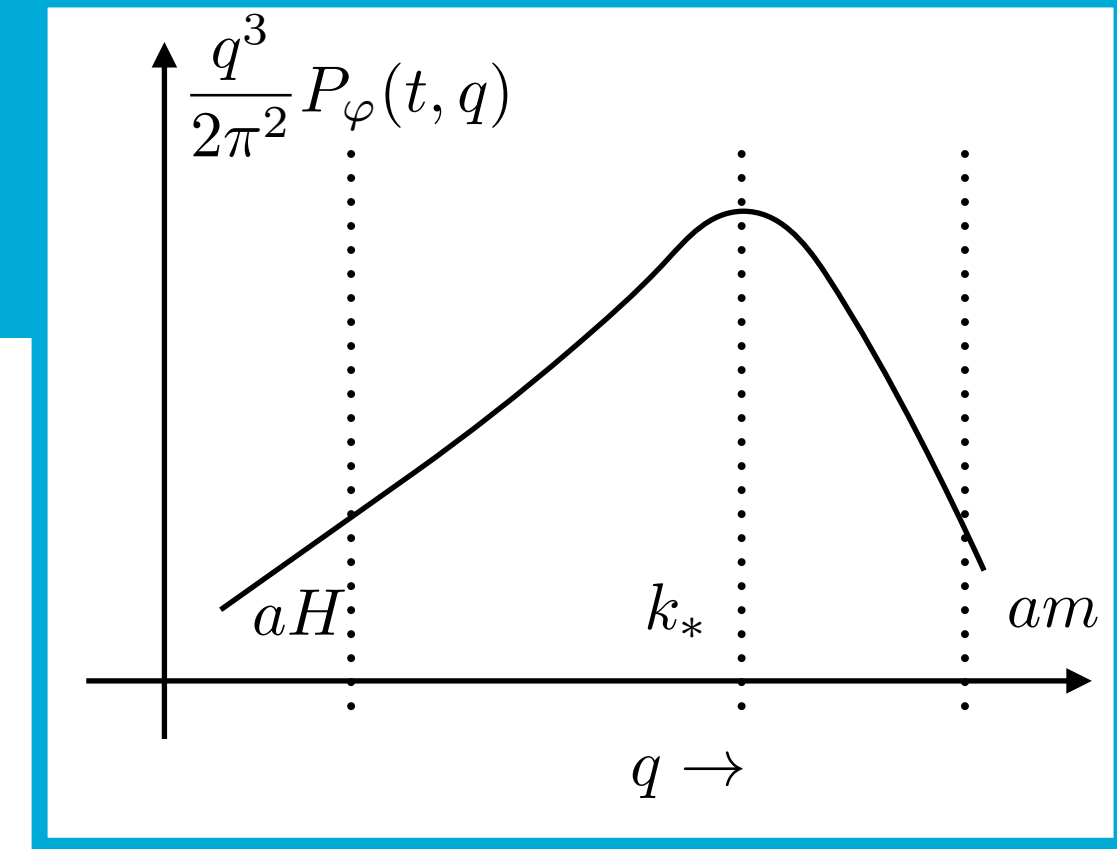
no significant zero mode of the field



Such spectra are seen in Graham, Mardon & Rajendran (2015); Agrawal et.al (2018); Adshead, **Lozanov** & Weiner (2023); Nakai, Namba & **Obata** (2023) and others ... generally true for “causal” production mechanisms [early examples include axions with PQ breaking after inflation]

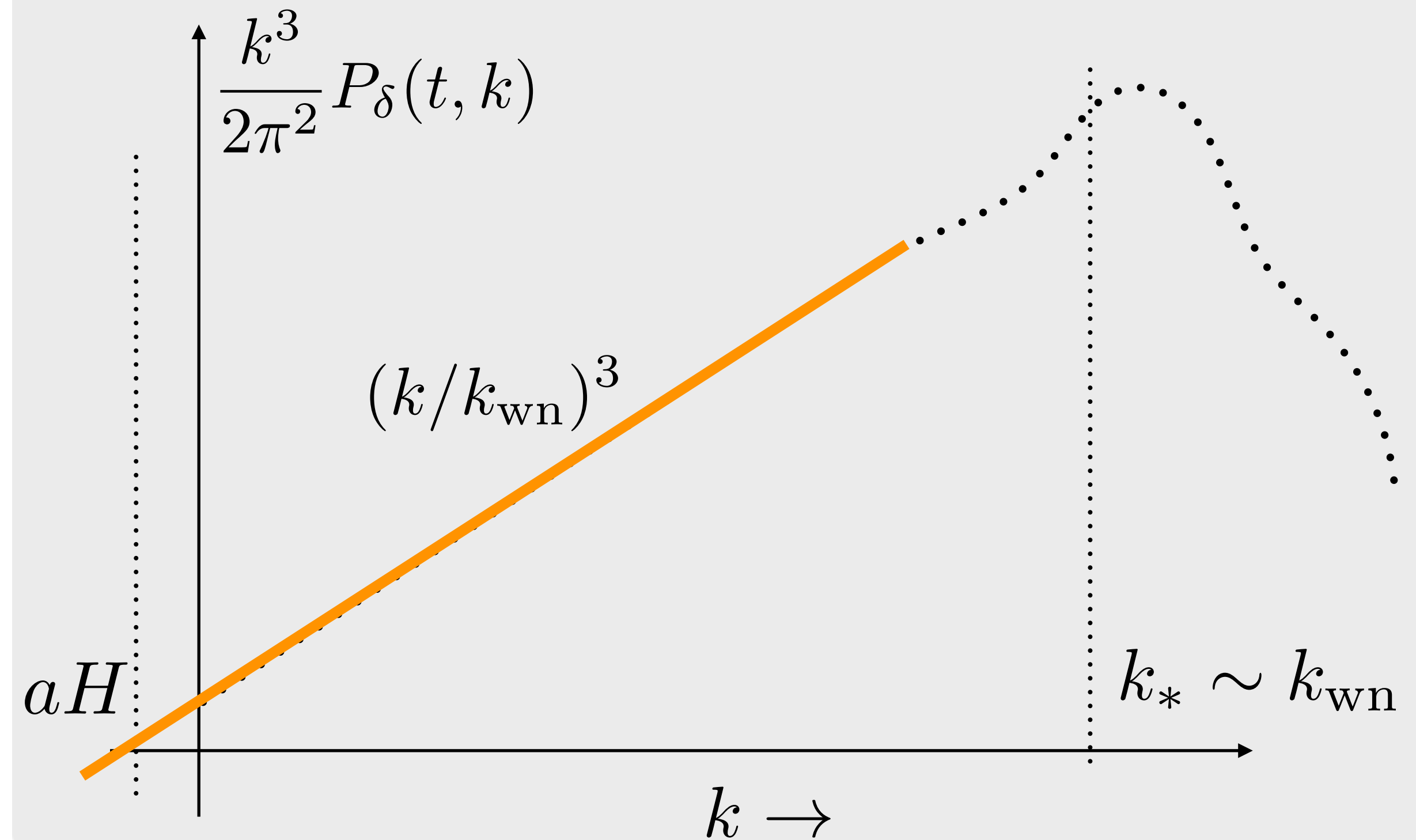
# density power spectrum (isocurvature)

$$P_{\delta}^{(\text{iso})}(t, k) \approx \frac{m^4}{\bar{\rho}^2(t)} \int d \ln q \frac{q^3}{2\pi^2} [P_{\varphi}(q, t)]^2 \equiv \frac{2\pi^2}{k_{\text{wn}}^3}$$



independent of  $k$  for  $k \ll k_*$

$k_{\text{wn}}$  is defined by the above relation

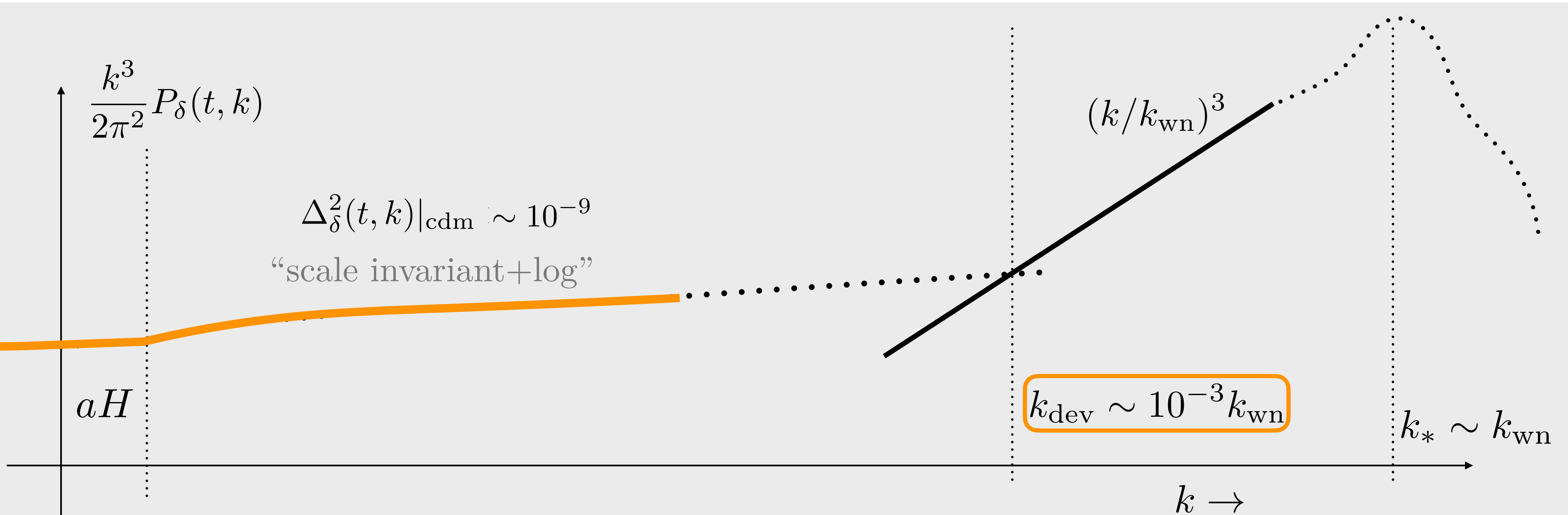


\*ignore gravitational potentials on these scales during radiation domination

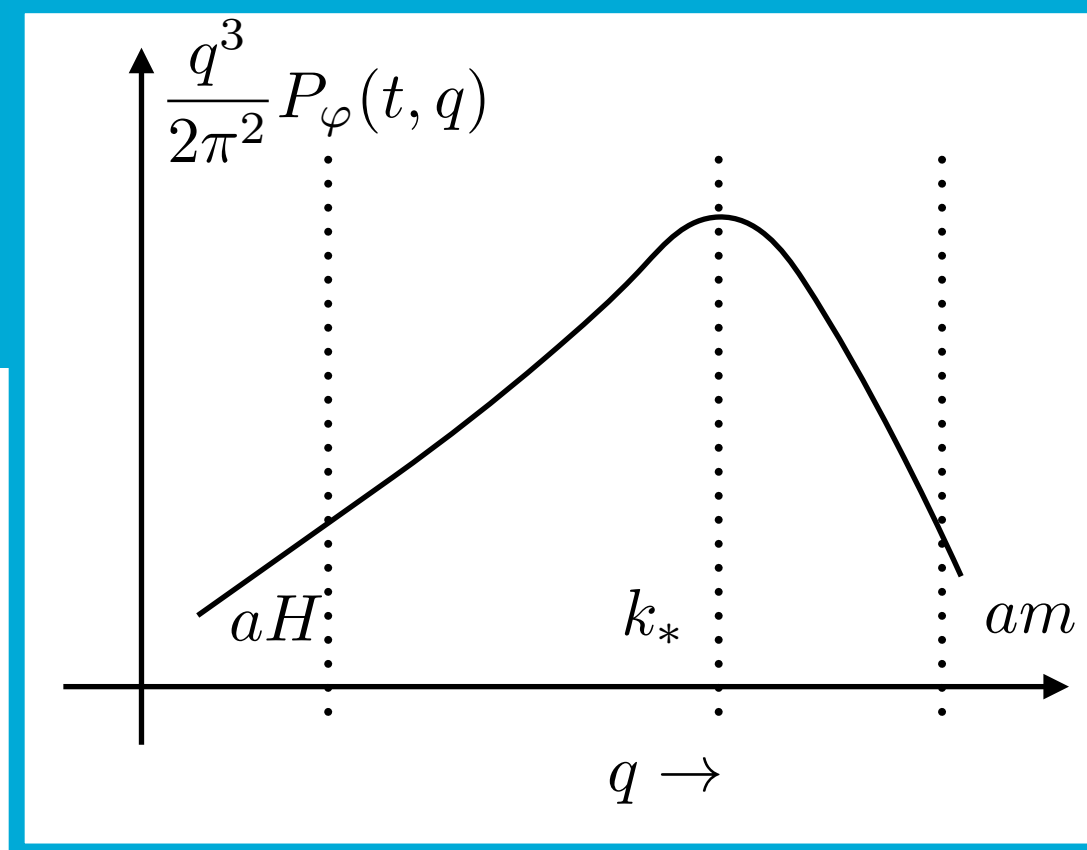


# density power spectrum (adiabatic)

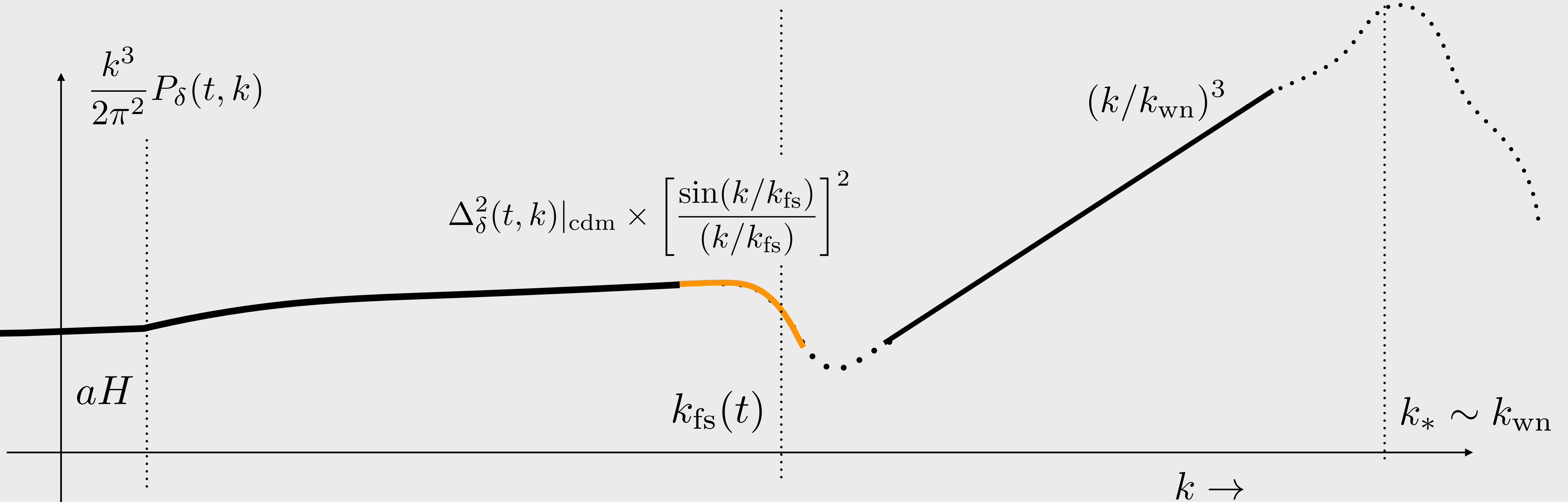
density perturbations in DM sourced by gravitational potentials in rad.



# free streaming !



field power at  $k_*$   $\implies k_{\text{fs}}(t) \approx \frac{a^2 H m}{k_* \ln(2am/k_*)}$



# our argument — quantitative

Dark matter density dominated by **sub-Hubble** field modes



1. **white-noise** isocurvature excess in isocurvature density pert.  $k_{\text{dev}} \approx 10^{-3} k_*$
2. **free-streaming** suppression in adiabatic density pert.  $k_{\text{fs}}(t) \approx \frac{a^2 H m}{k_* \ln(2am/k_*)}$

1. and 2. not seen for  $k < k_{\text{obs}} \sim 10 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  e.g.  $[\text{Ly}\alpha]$

$$k_{\text{dev}}, k_{\text{fs}} \gtrsim k_{\text{obs}}$$



$$m \gtrsim 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$$

Note that we did not need to know  $k_*$ !



# strengths

“model independent” -- applies to all gravitationally interacting,  
non-relativistic fields (scalar, vector, tensor ...)

“**loophole**” — inflationary production with infrared spectra (not sub-Hubble)  
for vectors (and tensors?), even inflationary production leads to sub-Hubble spectra

$$k_{\text{fs}} \ll k_J \sim a\sqrt{mH} \implies \text{stronger bound}$$

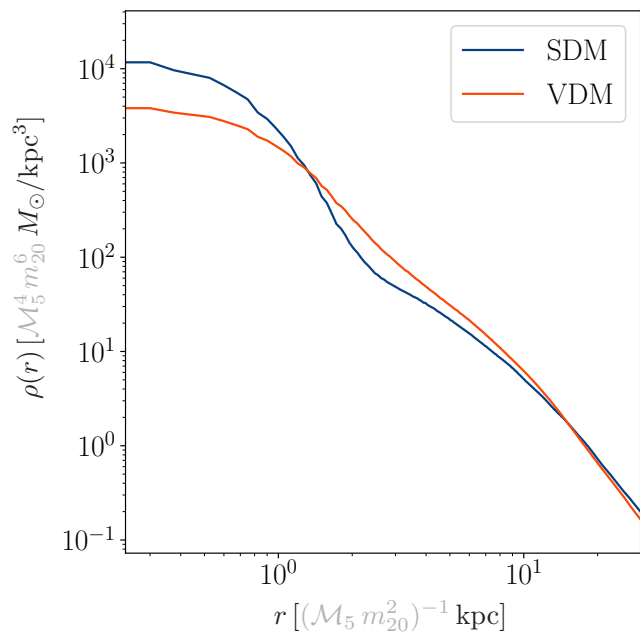
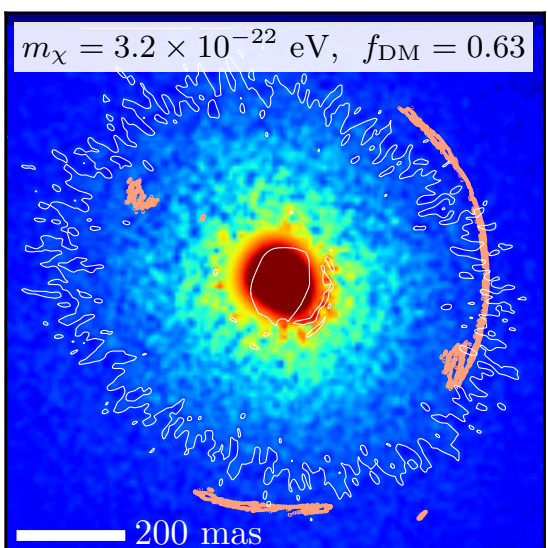
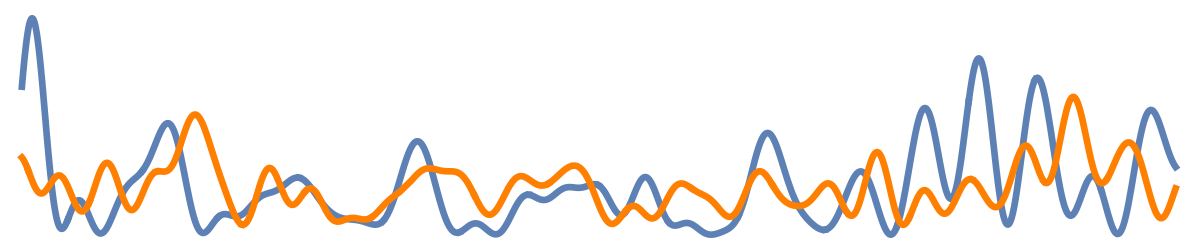
$$m_{\text{bound}} \propto k_{\text{obs}}^2 \implies \text{look at MW satellites}$$

with Nadler and Wechsler

# summary

## Phenomenology

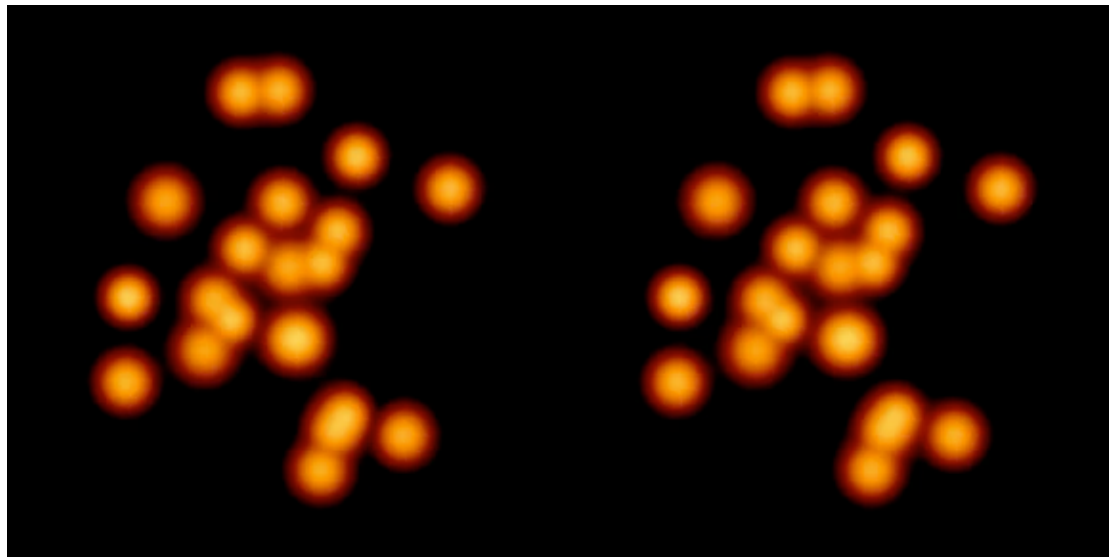
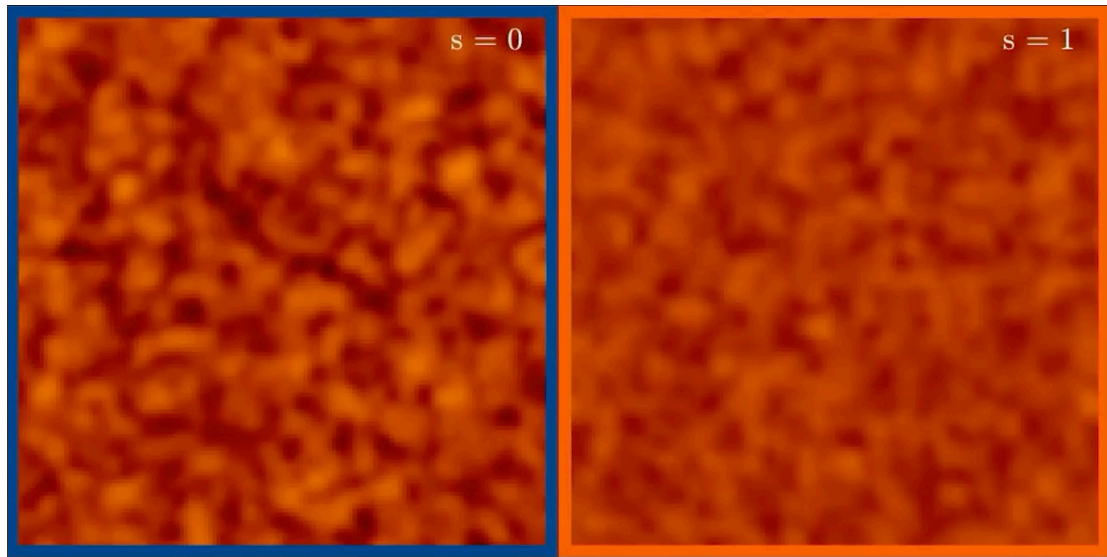
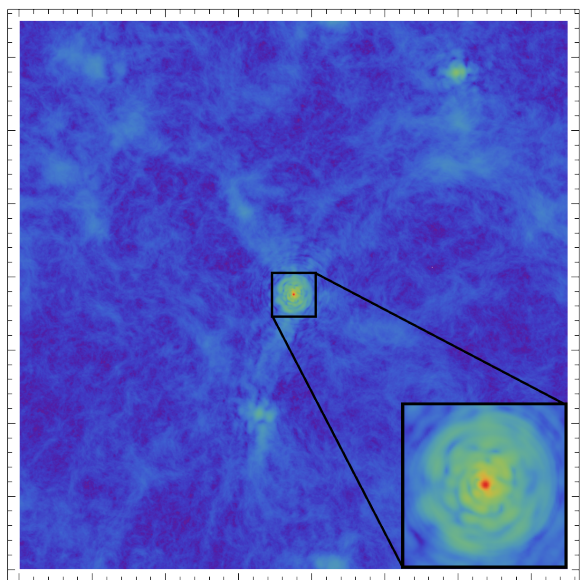
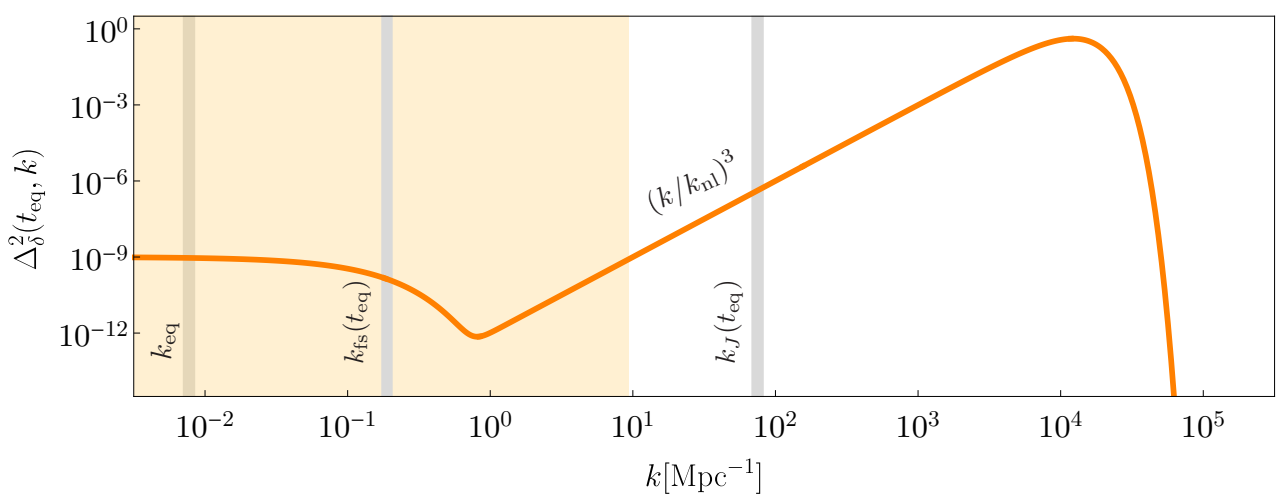
- reduced interference



- polarized solitons, with macroscopic spin



- Mass bound, growth of structure, nucleation time-scales

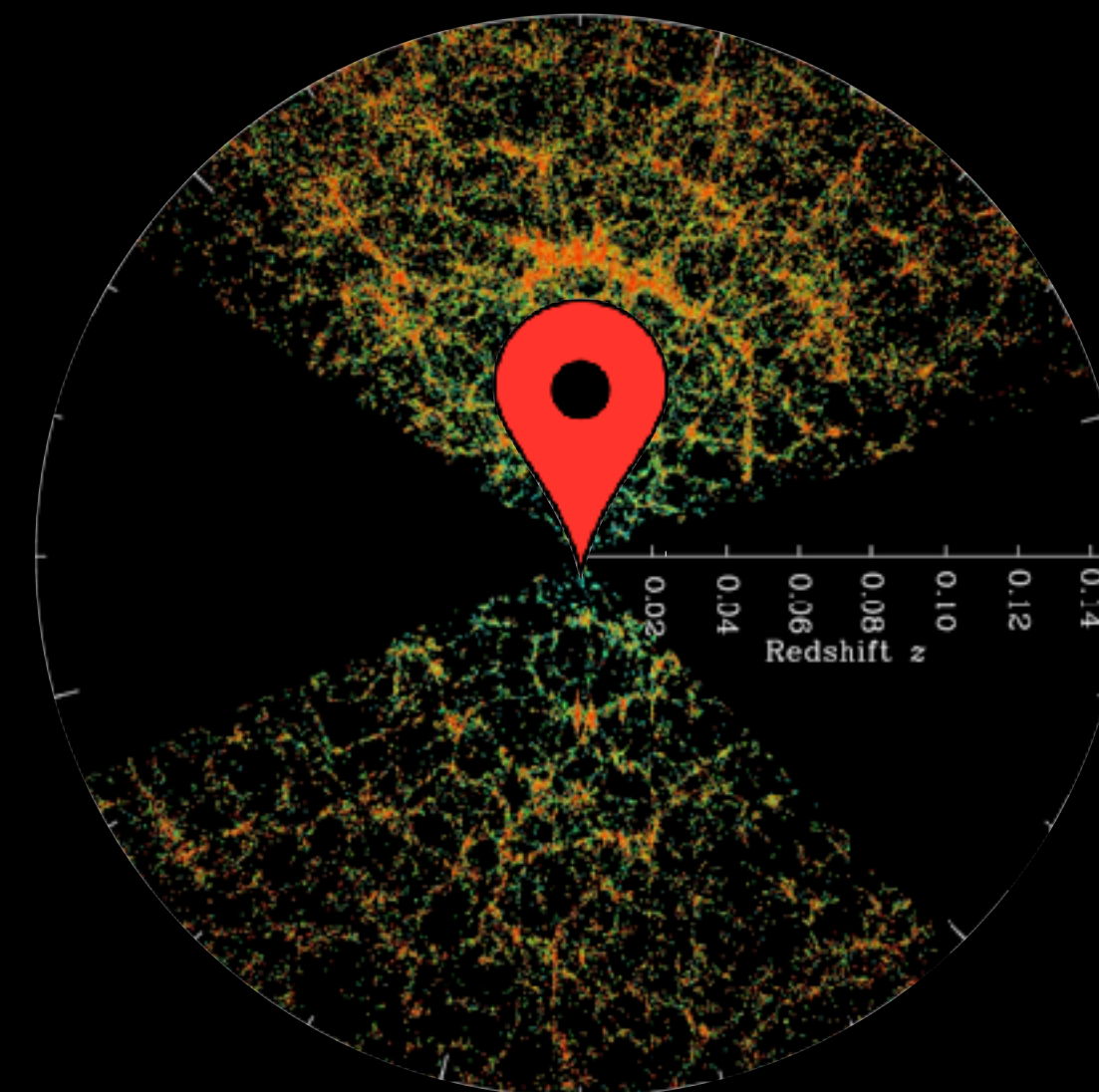
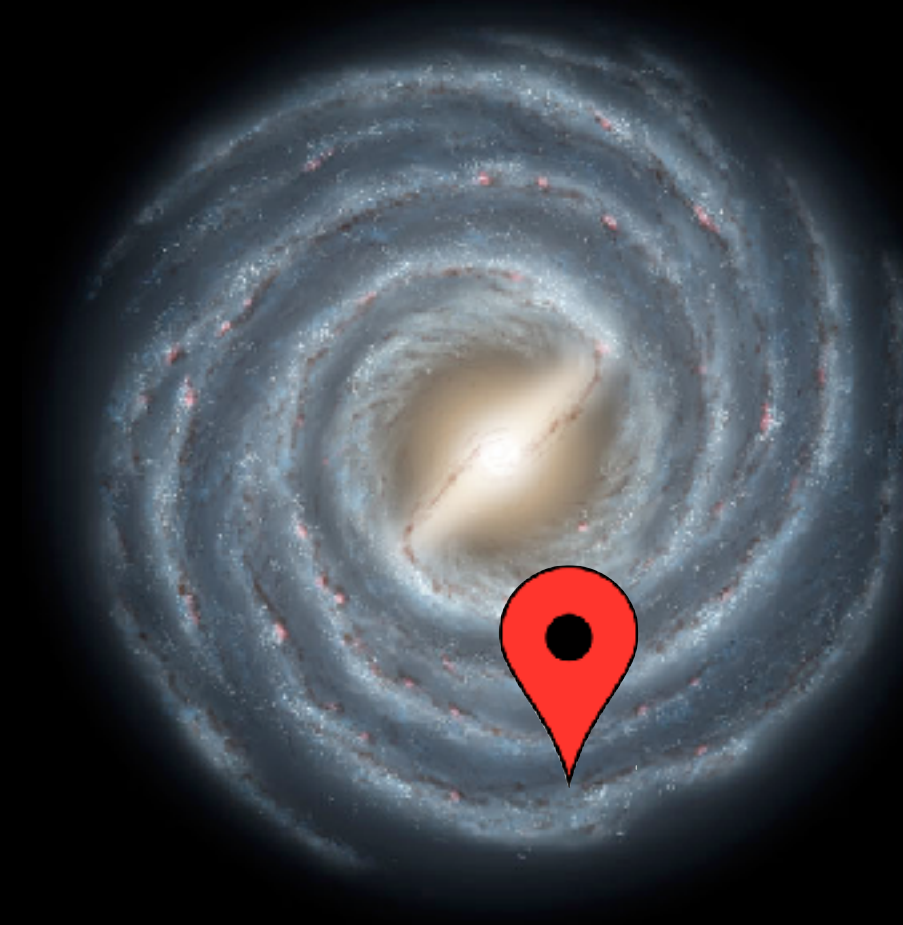
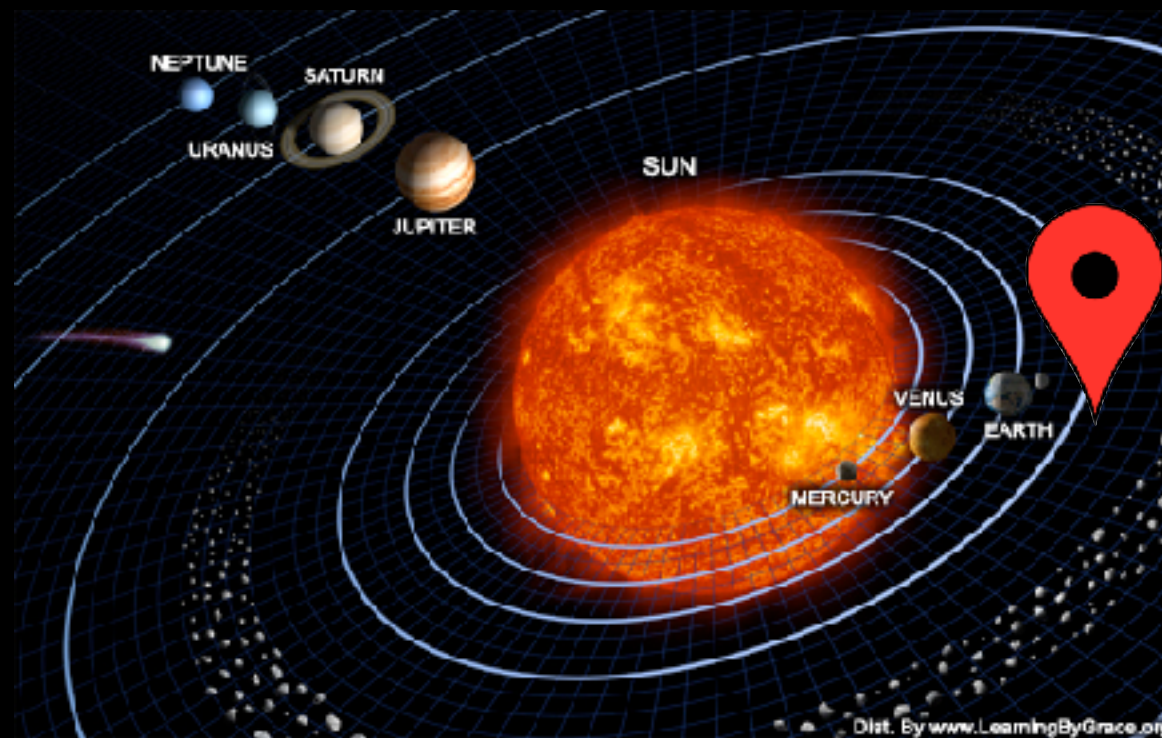
















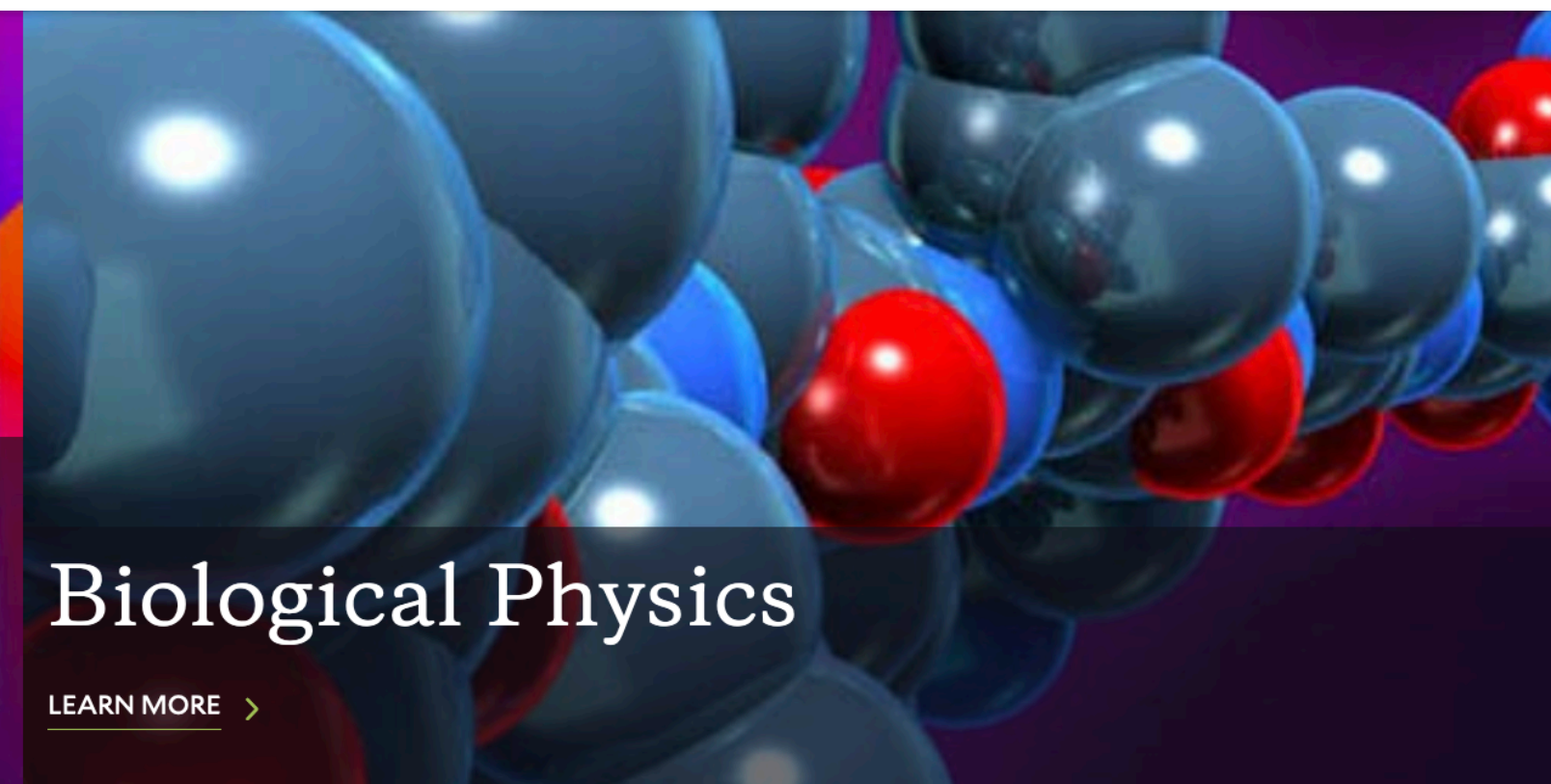
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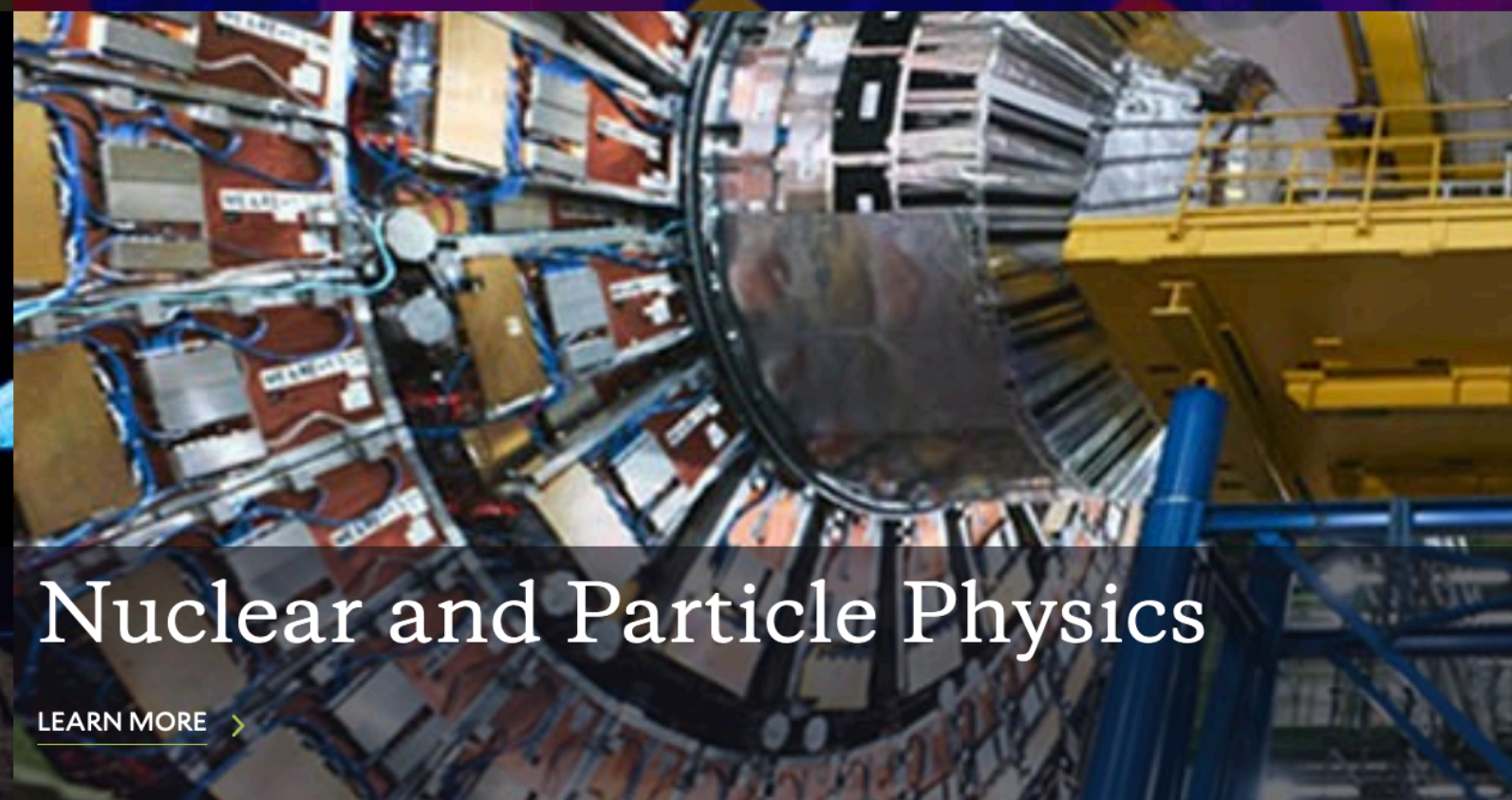
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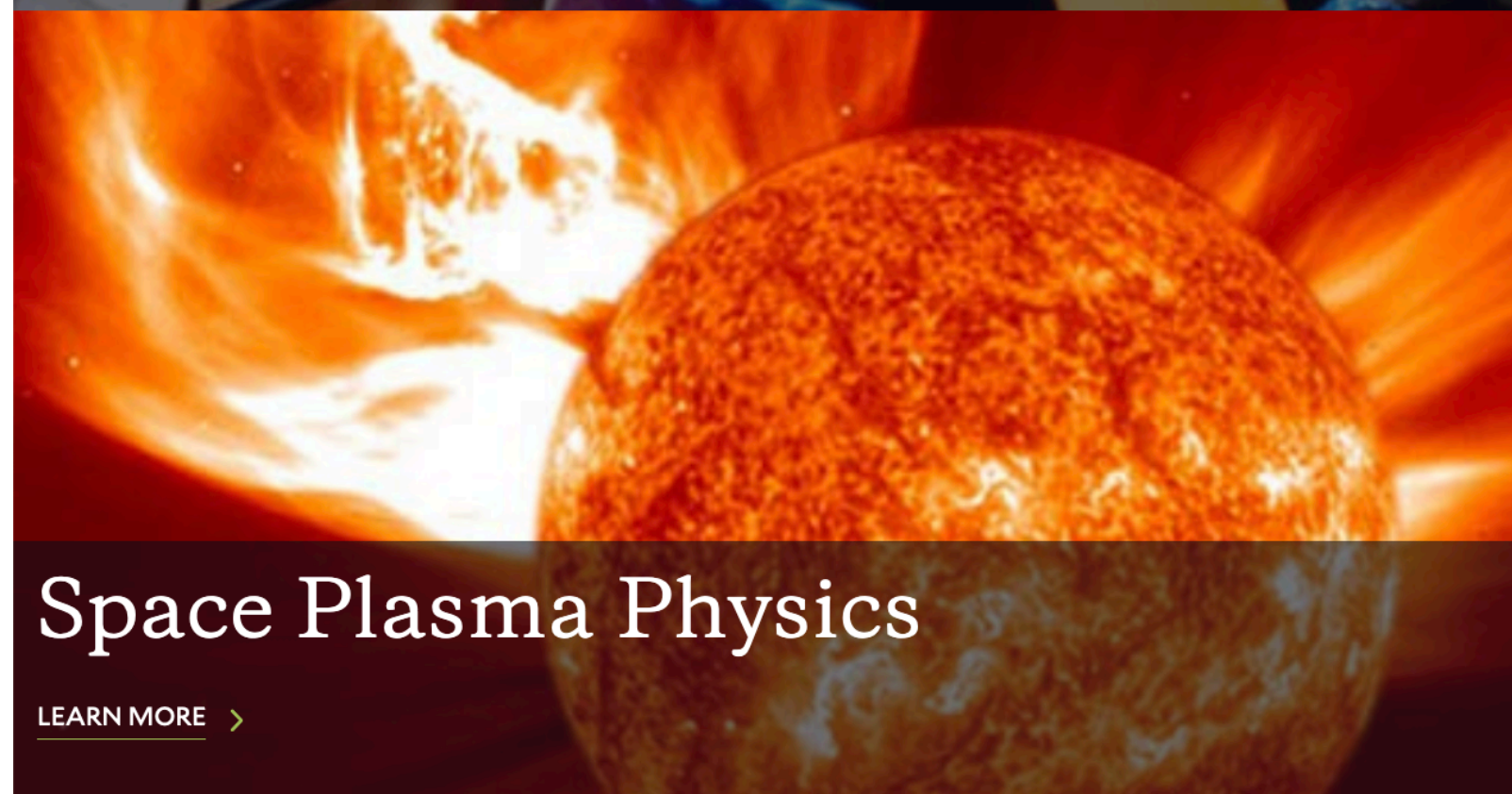
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