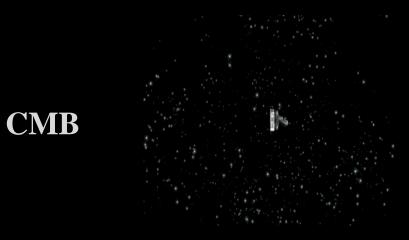


Cosmological implications of massive galaxy surveys

Gong-Bo Zhao

National Astronomical Observatories, CAS

October 21, 2025







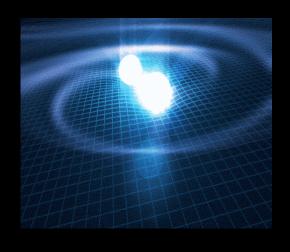






CMB





Gravitational waves



CMB 1978, 2006

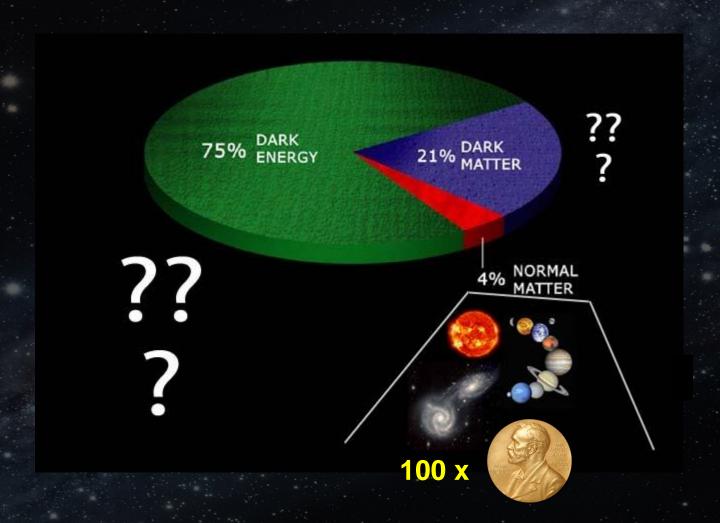


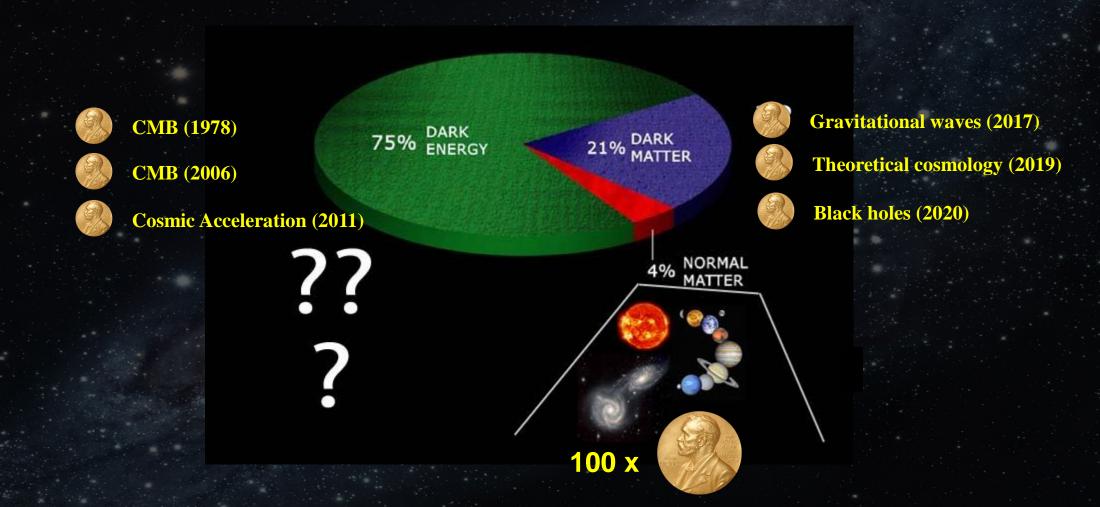
Gravitational waves

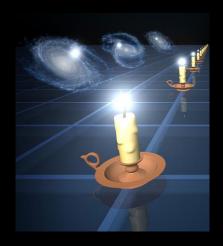


Gravitational **CMB** waves 1978, 2006 2017 **SNe** LSS

Gravitational **CMB** waves 1978, 2006 2017 **SNe** LSS







The accelerating Universe!



2011



Photo: Ariel Zambelich, Copyright © Nobel Media AB

Saul Perlmutter



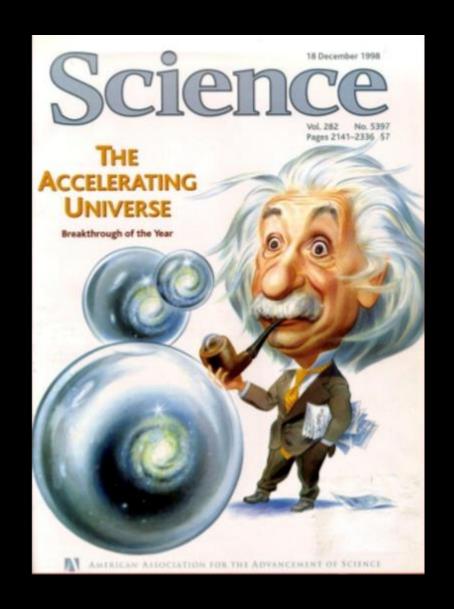
Photo: Belinda Pratien, Australian National University

Brian P. Schmidt



Photo: Homewood Photography

Adam G. Riess



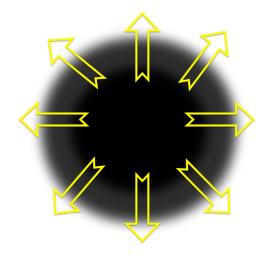
The expansion of the Universe can **accelerate** if



In GR, to add new 'repulsive matter', which contributes 70% total energy



To modify General Relativity



Dark Energy

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \widetilde{T}_{\mu\nu}$$



Modified Gravity

$$\widetilde{G}_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

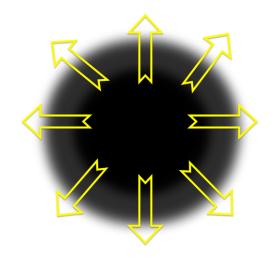
The expansion of the Universe can **accelerate** if



In GR, to add new 'repulsive matter', which contributes 70% total energy



To modify General Relativity





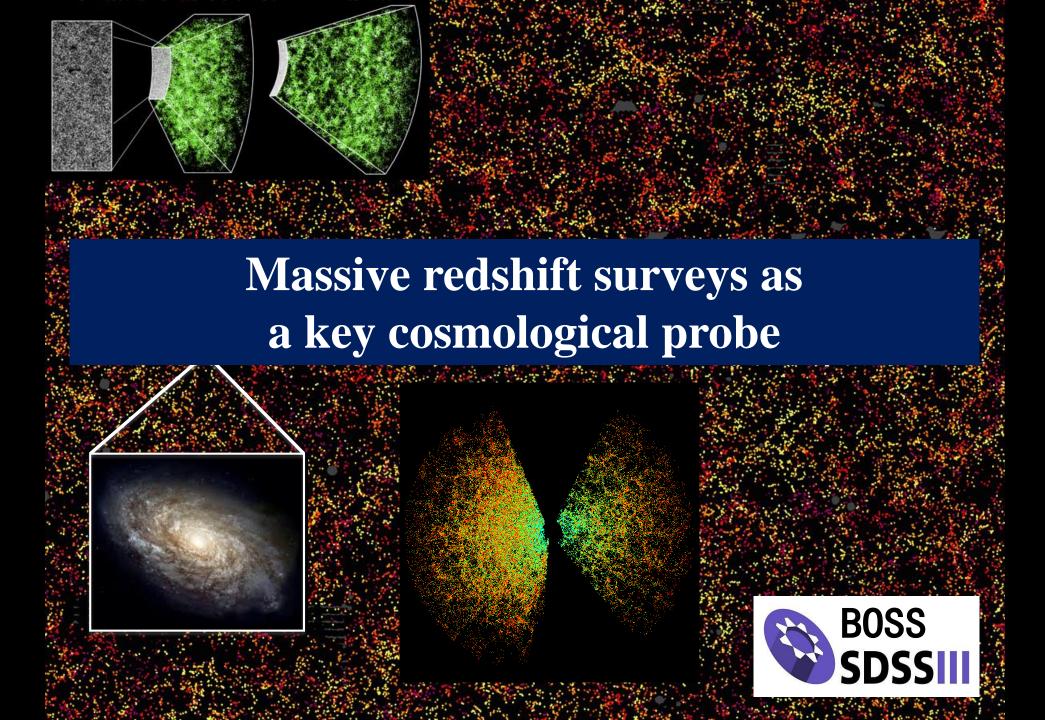
Dark Energy

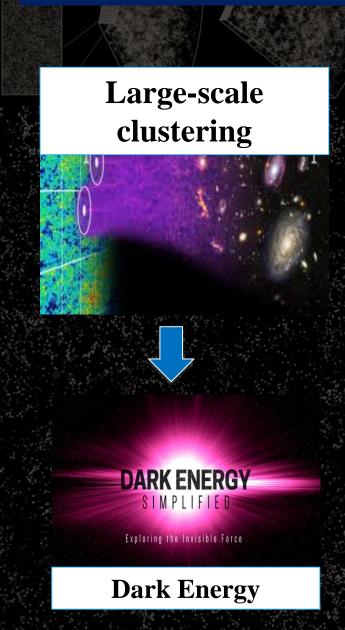
$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \widetilde{T}_{\mu\nu}$$

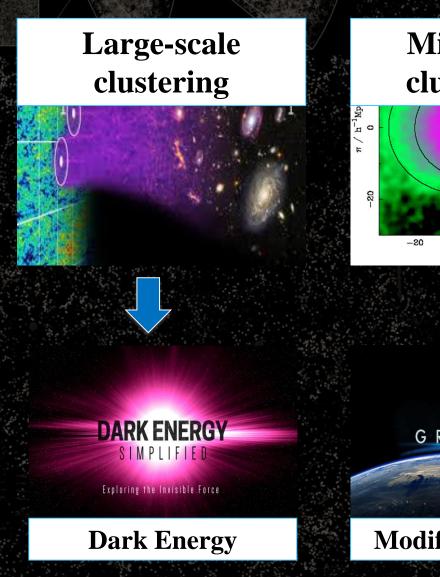
Modified Gravity

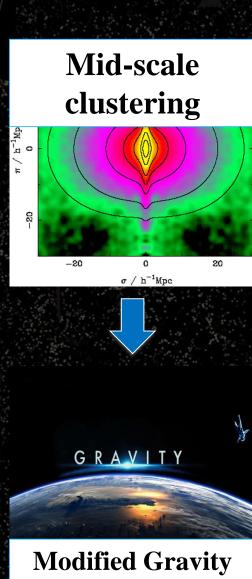
$$\widetilde{G}_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

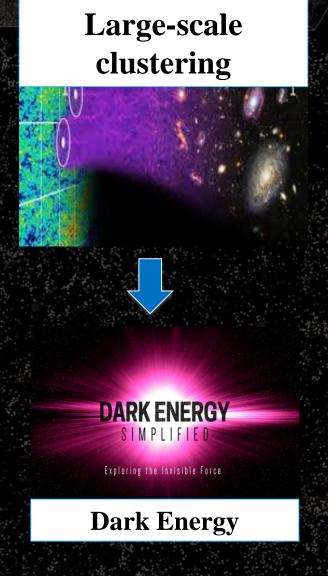
Galaxy surveys can break the dark degeneracy!

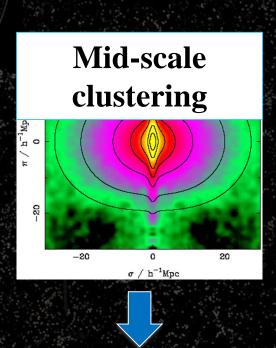


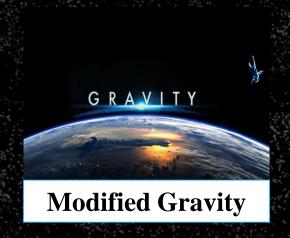




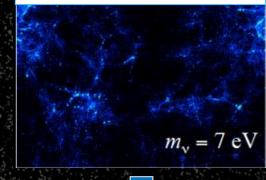


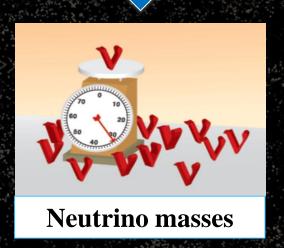


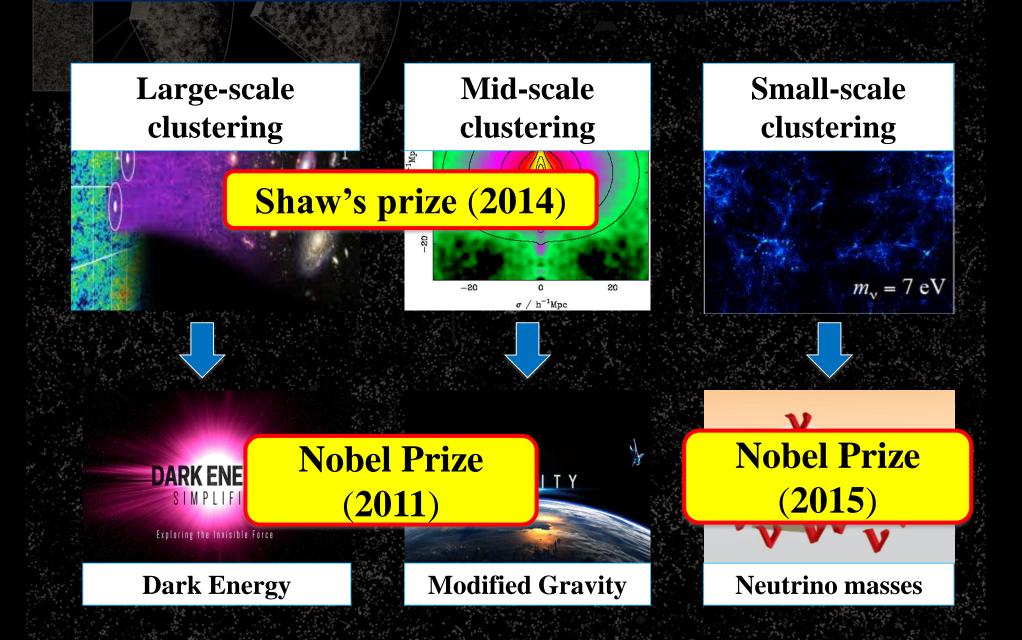








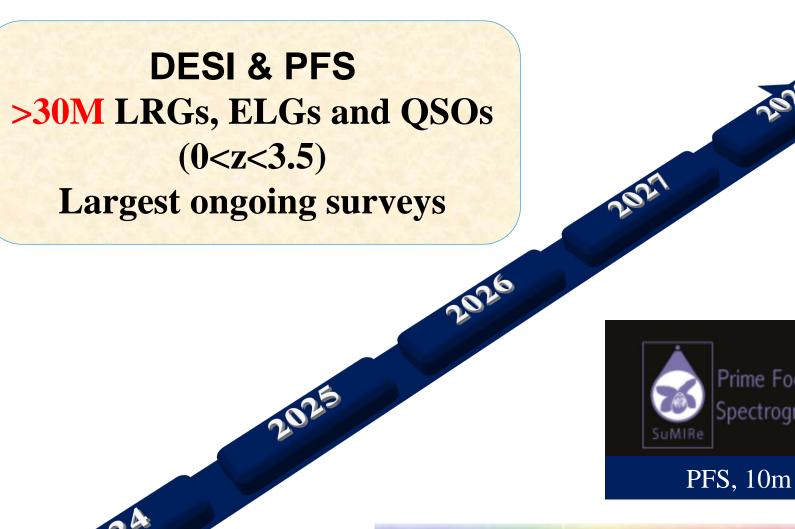






SDSS-III
Baryon Oscillation
Spectroscopic Survey
(BOSS) (z<0.6)
1.6M LRGs
The largest in last decade







Prime Focus

Spectrograph



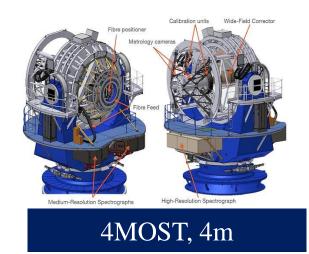


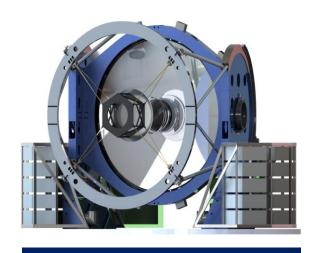




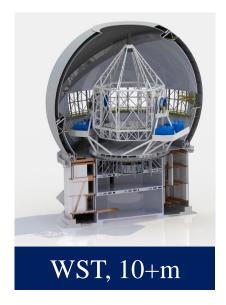


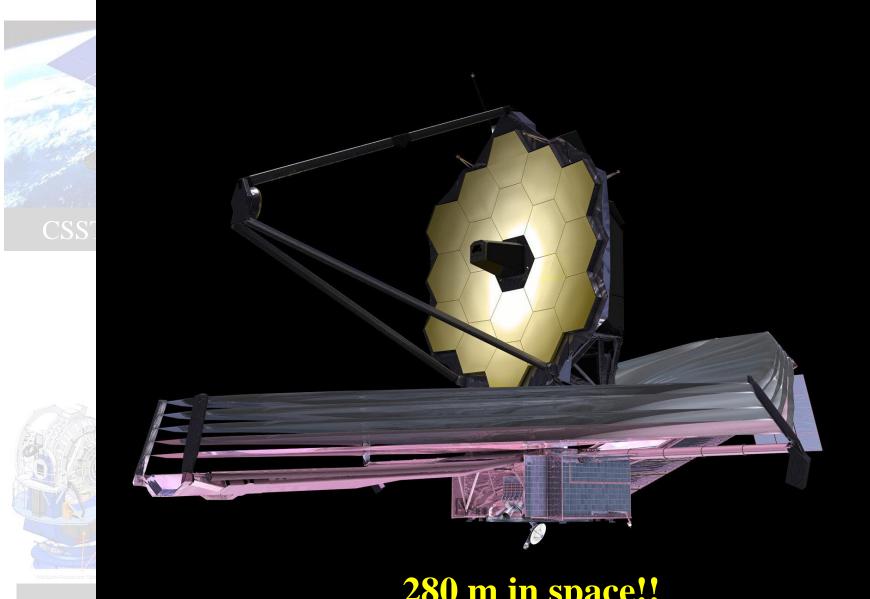






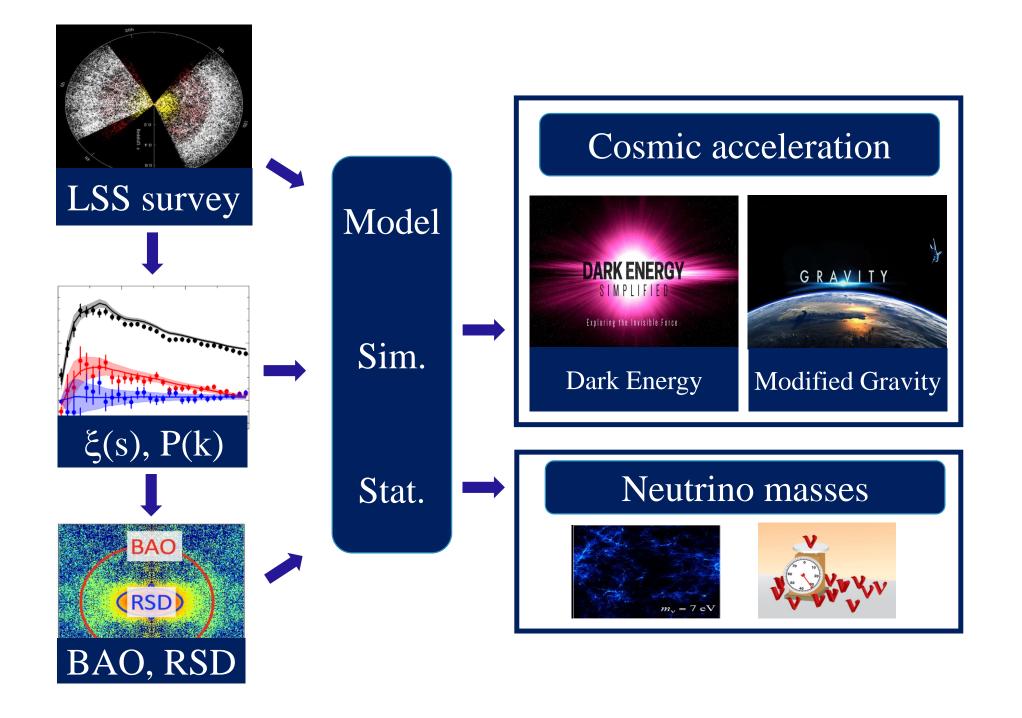
MegaMapper, 6.5m



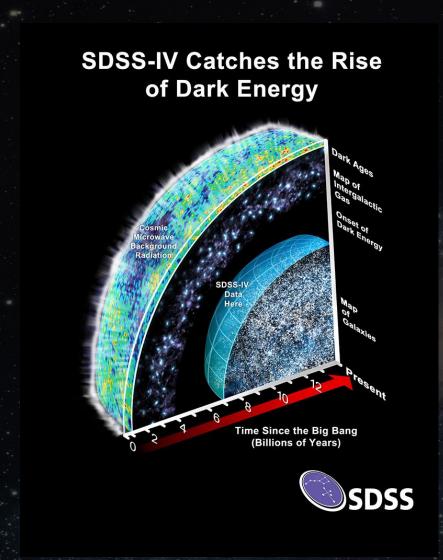


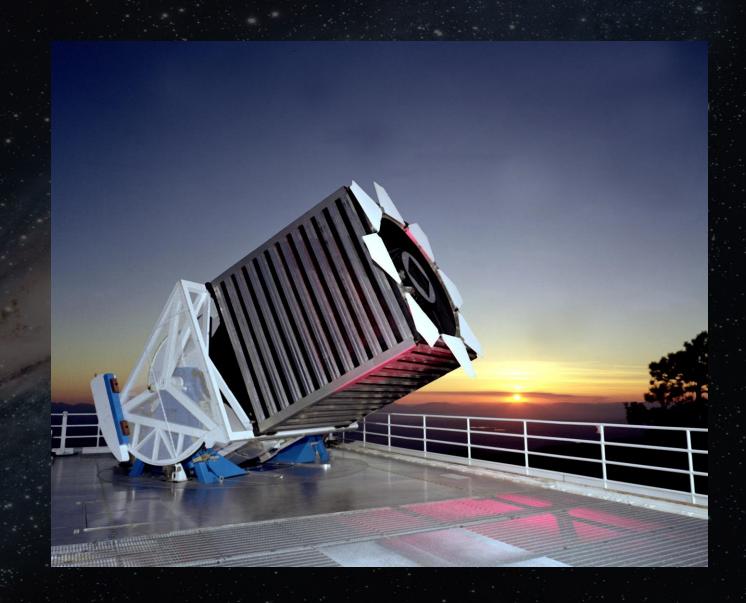
280 m in space!! arXiv: 2010.06064

m









2.5 m SDSS telescope @ New Mexico



eBOSS result released on July 20, 2020 in 20+ papers



Data S

Surveys

Instruments

Collaboration

Science

Search www

No need to Mind the Gap: Astrophysicists fill in 11 billion years of our universe's expansion history

① July 19, 2020

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) released today a comprehensive analysis of the largest three-dimensional map of the Universe ever created, filling in the most significant gaps in our possible exploration of its history.



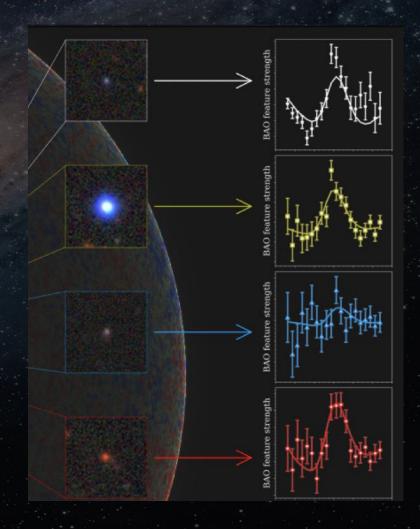
eBOSS tracers

Lyman-a forest

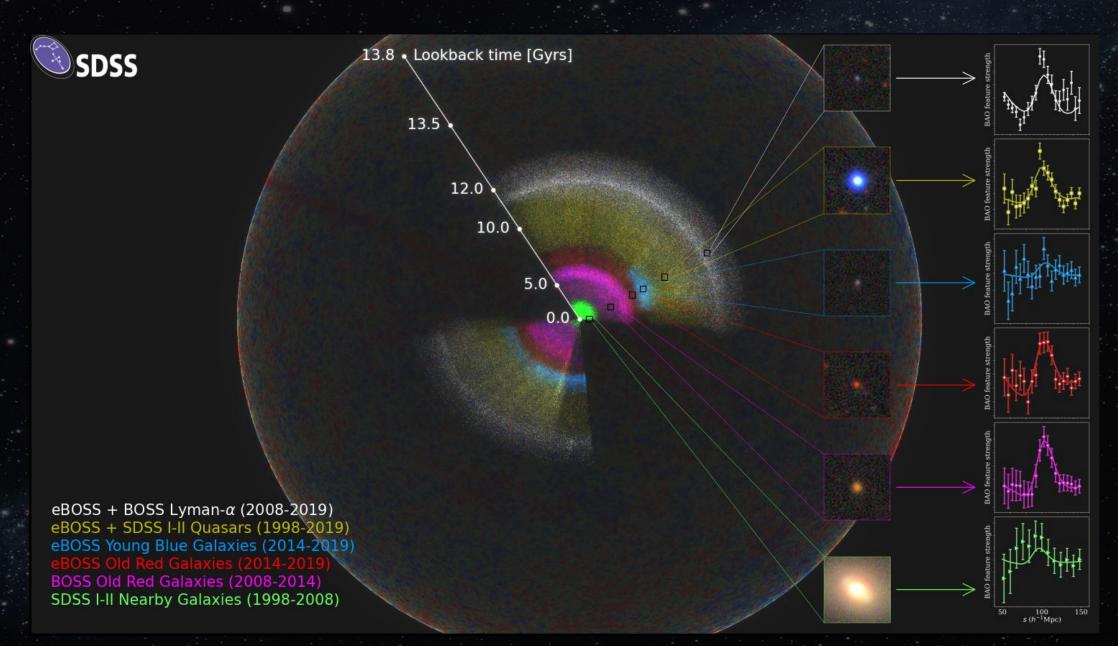
Clustering quasars

Emission Line Galaxies (ELGs)

Luminous Red Galaxies (LRGs)

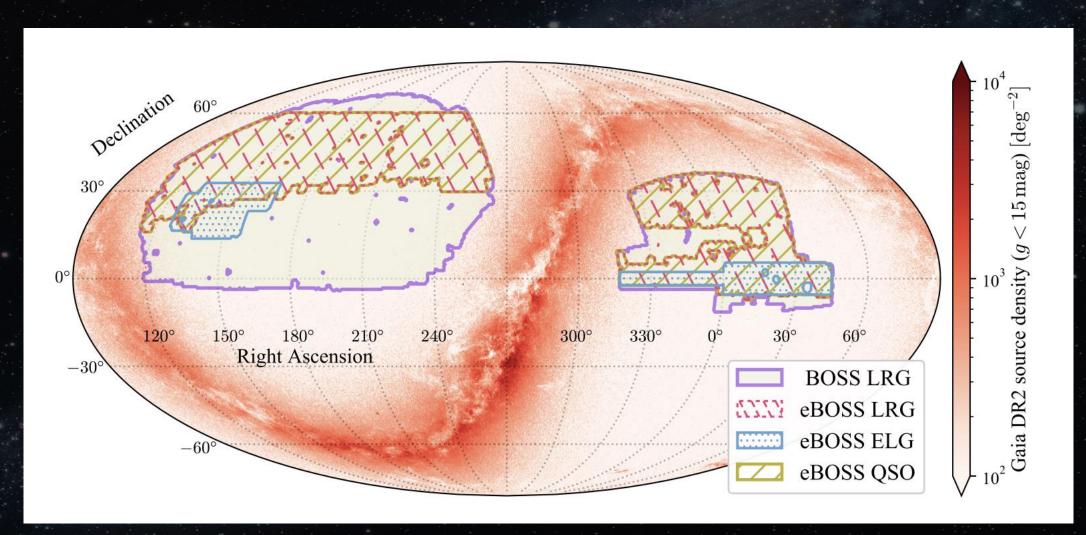


- ELG (k-space): De Mattia et al, 2007.09008
- ELG (s-space): Tamone et al, 2007.09009
- LRG (k-space): Gil-Marin et al, 2007.08994
- LRG (s-space): Bautista et al, 2007.08993
- ELG x LRG (k-space): G-B. Zhao et al, 2007.09011
- ELG x LRG (s-space): Y. Wang et al, 2007.09010





eBOSS footprint

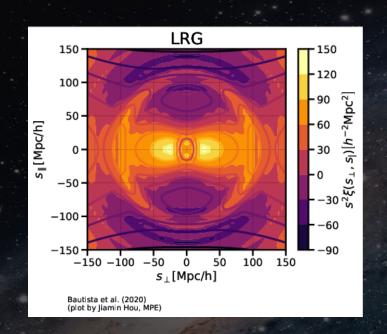


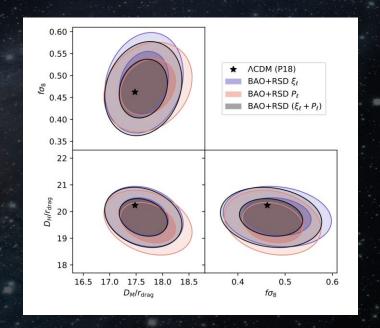


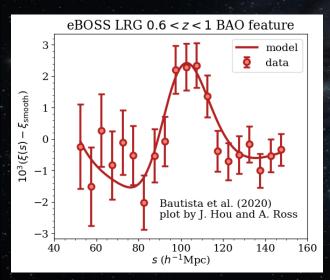
Luminous Red Galaxies (LRGs)

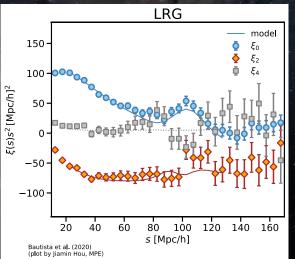
 $0.6 < z < 1.0, z_{eff} = 0.77$ ~9500 deg² ~400 K spectra

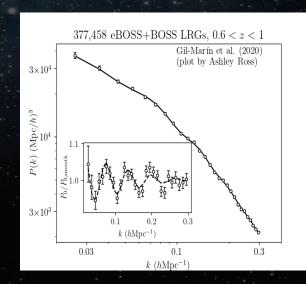
Bautista+, 2020; Gil-Marin+, 2020

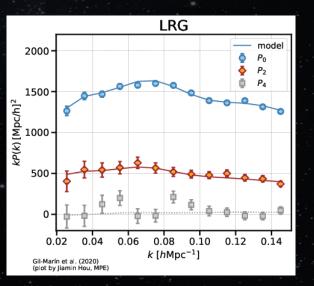










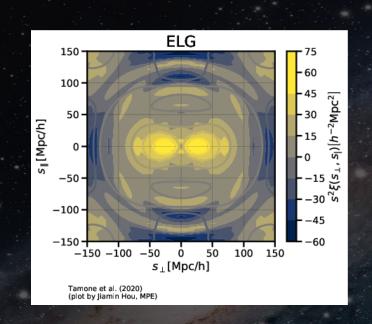


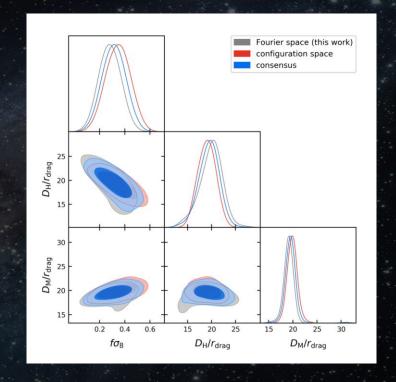


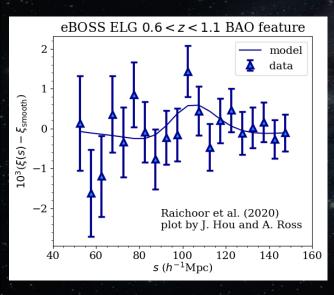
Emission line Galaxies (ELGs)

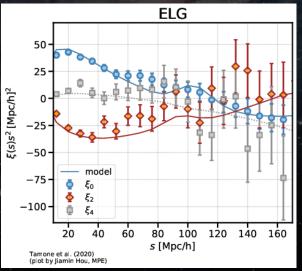
 $0.6 < z < 1.1, z_{eff} = 0.845$ ~730 deg² ~170 K spectra

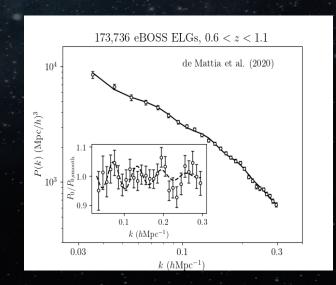
de Mattia+, 2020; Tamone+, 2020

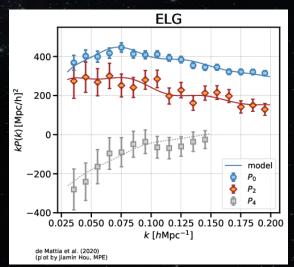










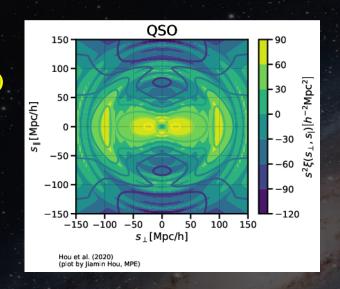


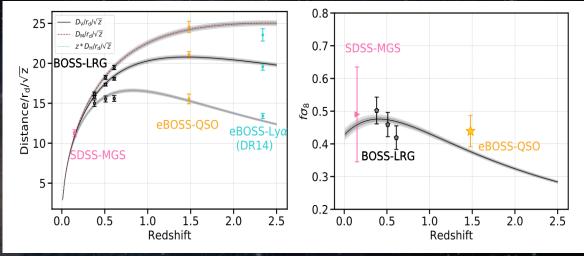


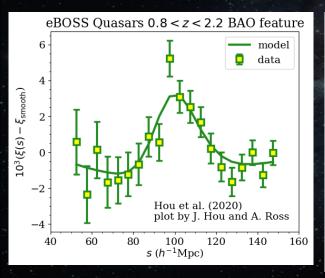
Clustering quasars (QSOs)

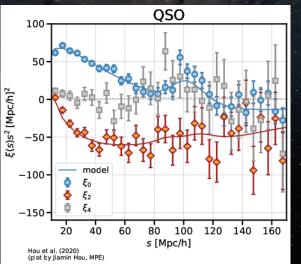
 $0.8 < z < 2.2, z_{eff} = 1.48$ ~4700 deg² ~340 K spectra

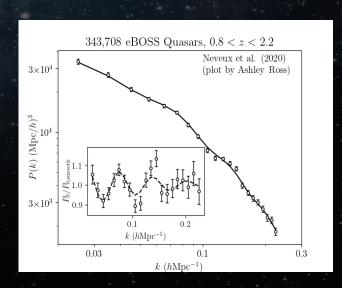
Hou+, 2020; Neveux+, 2020

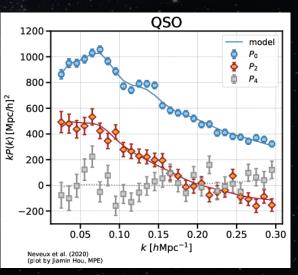






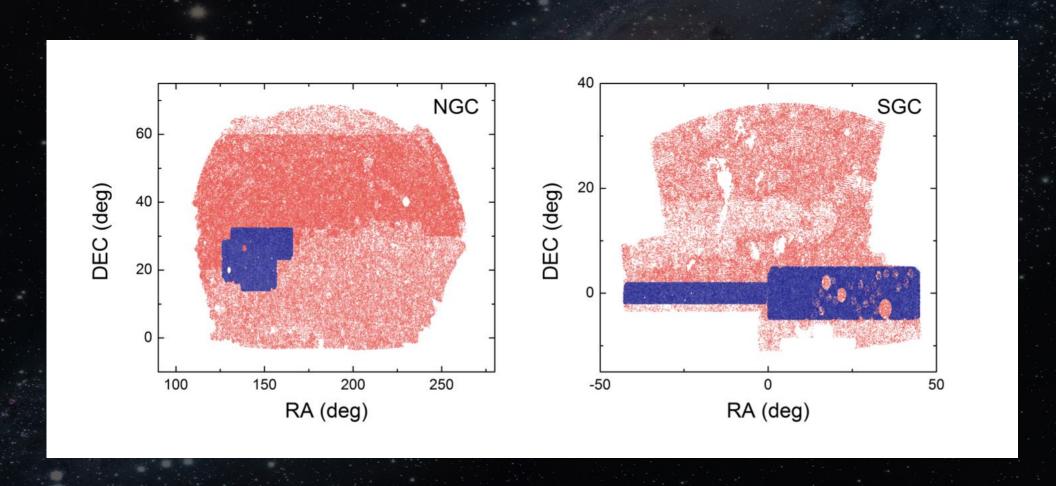






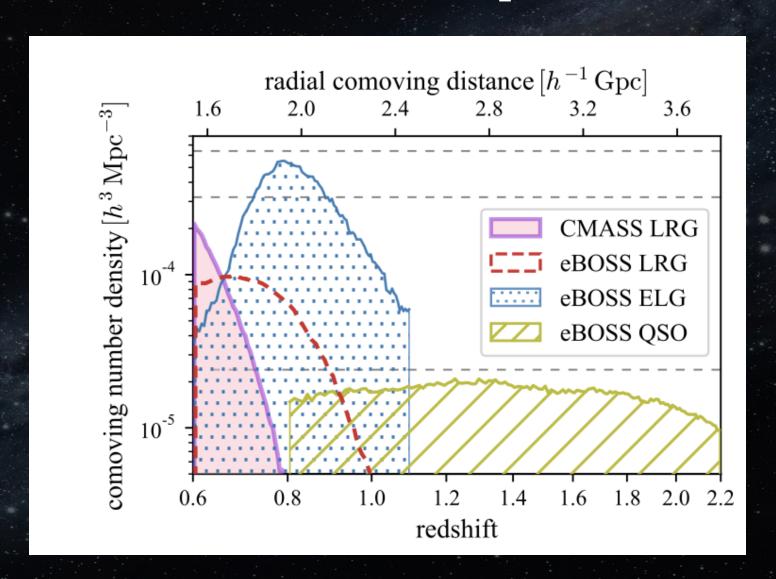


Angular overlap





Radial overlap



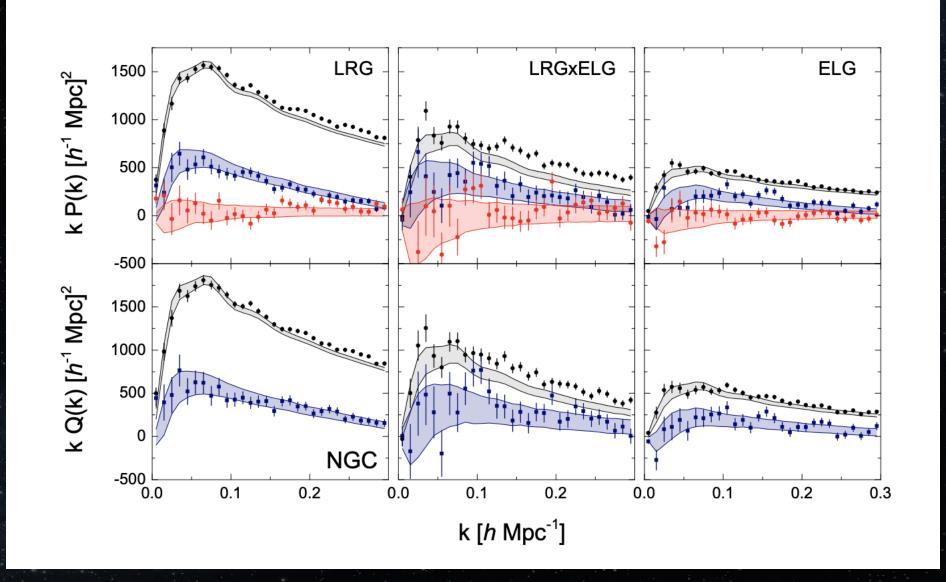
Why cross-correlation is cool?

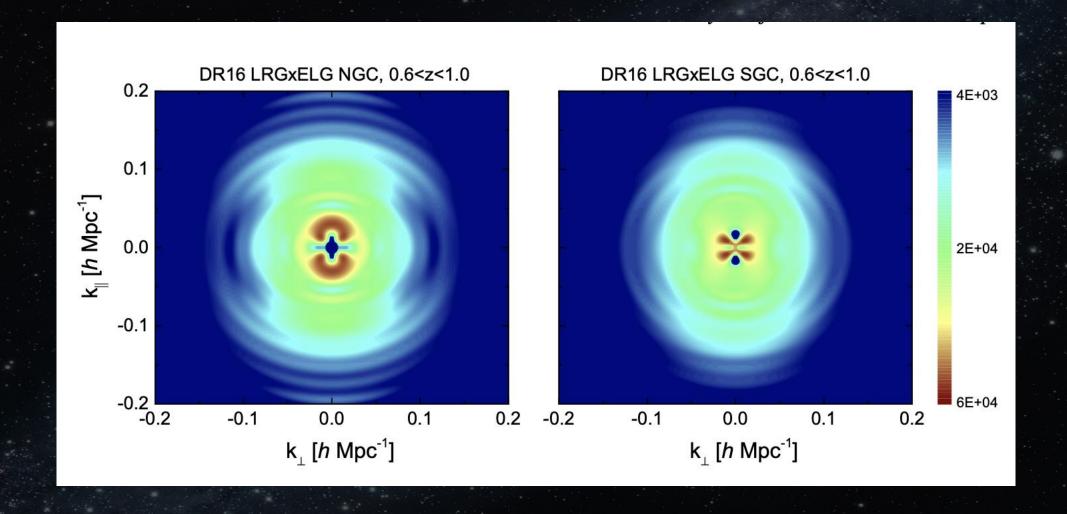
• It can remove the cosmic variance, thus reduce the statistical uncertainty!

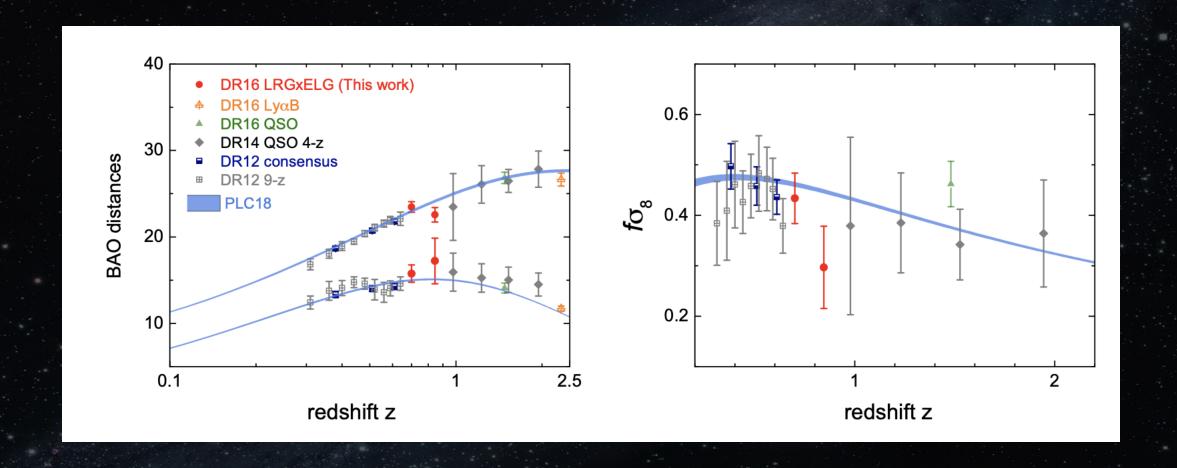
1-tracer:
$$\delta_{g1} = (b_1 + f\mu^2)\delta + \epsilon_1 = f\left(\beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right)\delta + \epsilon_1$$
$$C = 2\langle \delta_{g1}^2 \rangle \quad \frac{\sigma_{\beta}^2}{\beta^2} = \frac{(1+\beta)^2}{\beta^2}$$

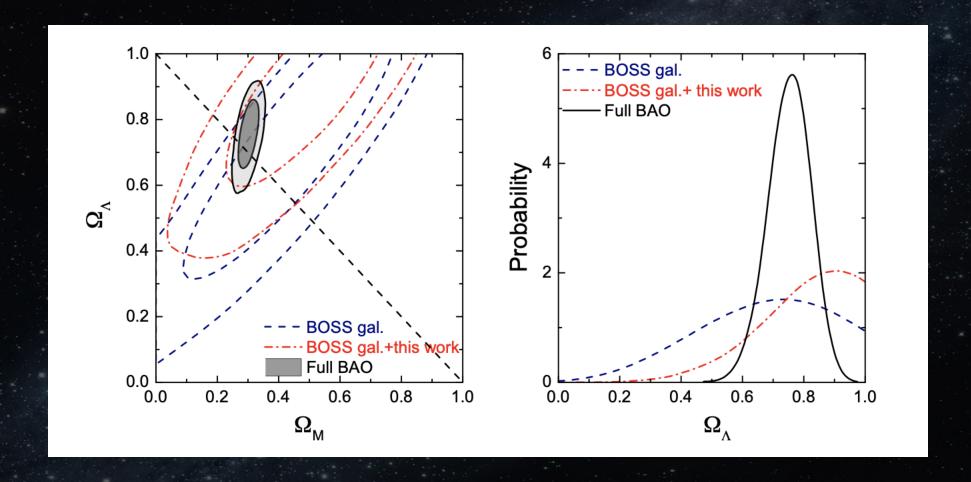
$$\begin{aligned} \textbf{2-tracers:} \quad & \delta_{g1} = f \left(\beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right) \delta + \epsilon_1 \ \delta_{g2} = f \left(\alpha \beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right) \delta + \epsilon_2 \\ & C \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \left\langle \delta_{g1}^2 \right\rangle & \left\langle \delta_{g1} \delta_{g2} \right\rangle \\ \left\langle \delta_{g2} \delta_{g1} \right\rangle & \left\langle \delta_{g2}^2 \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} = \frac{P_{\theta\theta}}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \left(\beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right)^2 & \left(\beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right) \left(\alpha \beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right) \\ \left(\beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right) \left(\alpha \beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right)^2 & \left(\alpha \beta^{-1} + \mu^2\right)^2 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{N}{2} \\ & \frac{\delta_{g2}}{\delta_{g1}} = \frac{\alpha \beta^{-1} + \mu^2}{\beta^{-1} + \mu^2}. \end{aligned} \qquad \qquad \text{McDonald \& Seljak 2008; Seljak 2009}$$

• It can reduce the systematics, as the photometry used for observing different tracers are usually uncorrelated!





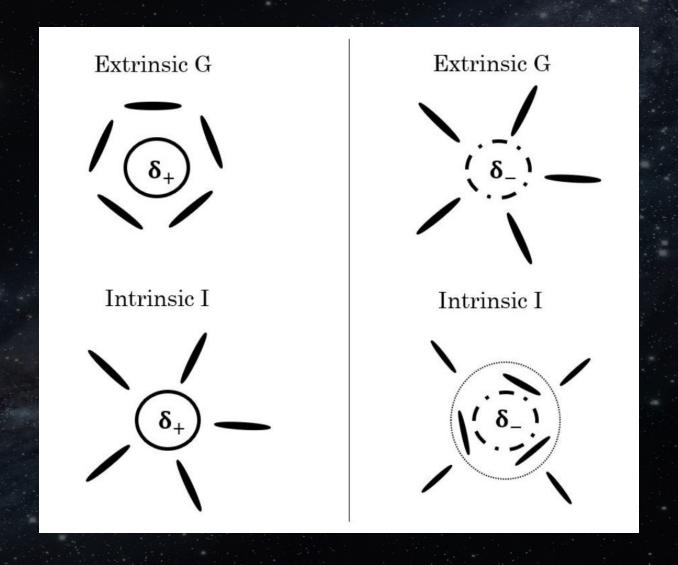




A 11σ detection of $\Omega_{\Lambda} > 0$

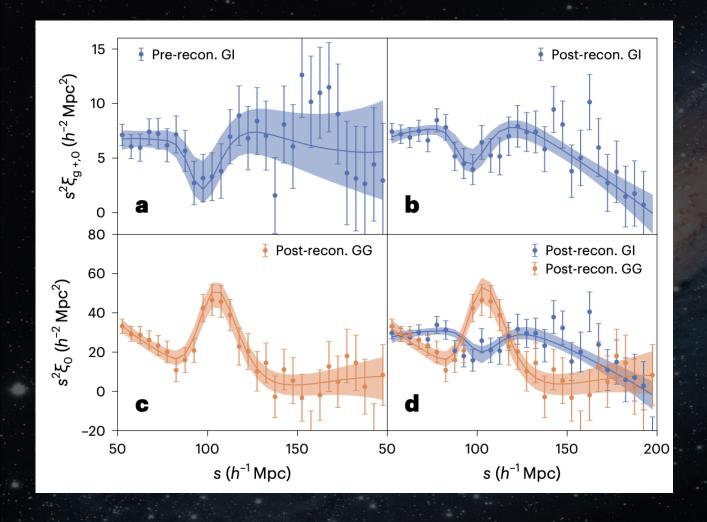
Zhao, Wang et al, (eBOSS), 2007.09011

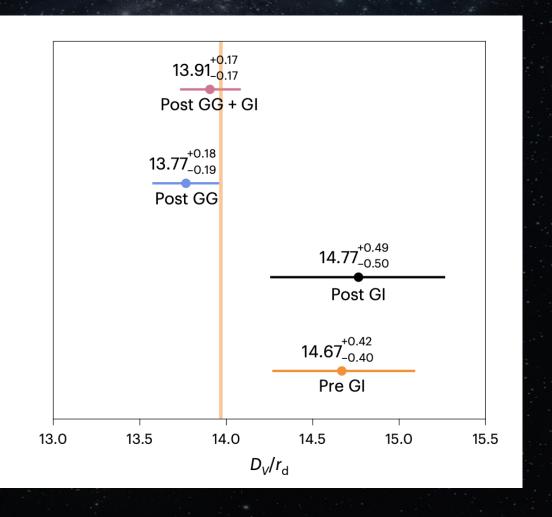
A first detection of BAO from galaxy-ellipticity correlations



d'Assignies D. et al. 2021

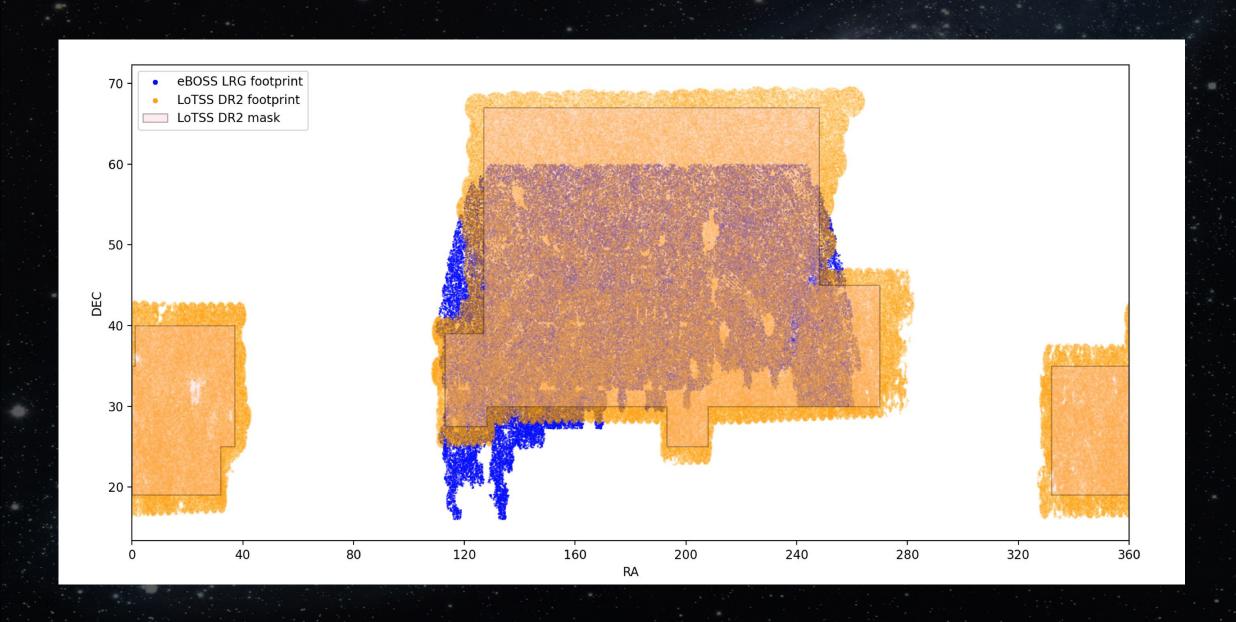




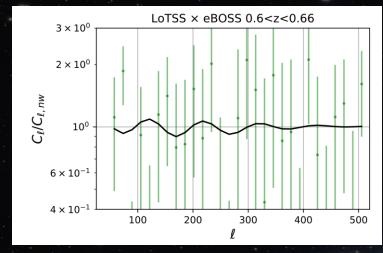


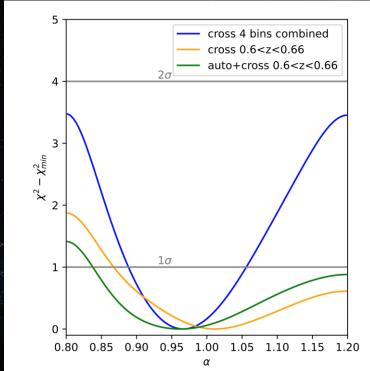
Xu, Jing, GBZ et al, Nature Astronomy (2023)

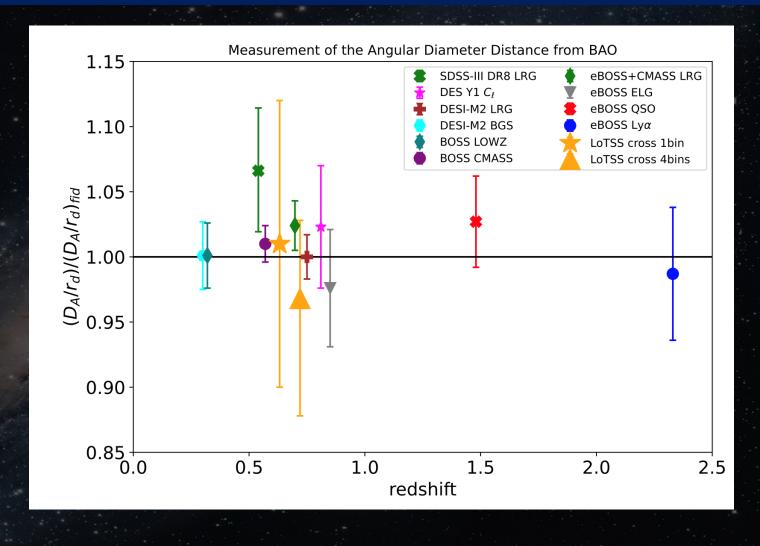
A detection of BAO from radio-optical galaxy cross-power



A detection of BAO from radio-optical galaxy cross-power

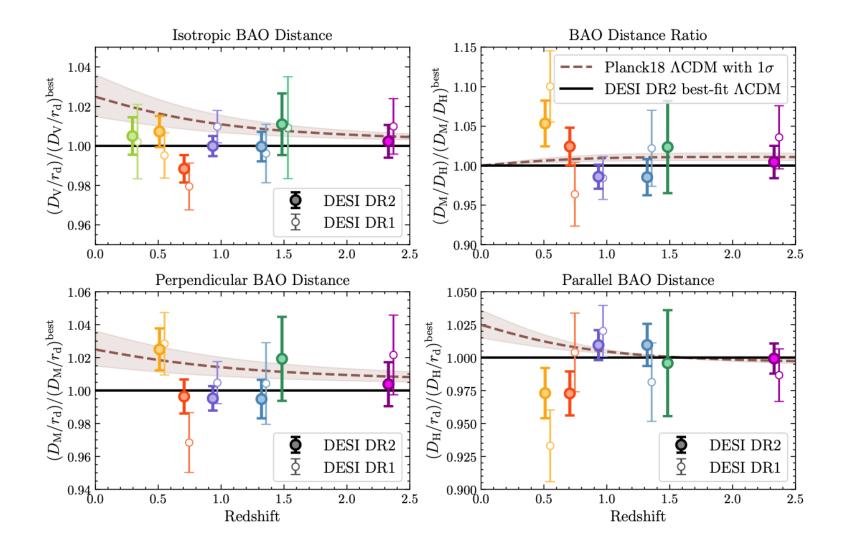






J. Zheng, P. Tiwari, GBZ, et al (LoTSS collaboration), 2504.20722, A&A (2025)

A study of dynamical dark gravity using DESI



DESI paper: 2503.14738

Two ways to study dynamics of dark energy

• Indirect: get features of w(z) directly from distance measurements

✓: cheap; no data combination needed

X : no w(z) derived

Two ways to study dynamics of dark energy

• Indirect: get features of w(z) directly from distance measurements

✓: cheap; no data combination needed

X : no w(z) derived

• Direct: reconstruct w(z) from observations

 \checkmark : show w(z) with details

X: expensive; usually requires datasets to be combined

Probing dynamical DE from distance measurements

(Gu et al, 2404.06303; Wang et al, 2404.06310)

$$\frac{D_{\rm A}(z)}{D_{\rm A,fid}(z)} = \alpha_0 \left(1 + \alpha_1 x + \frac{1}{2} \alpha_2 x^2 + \frac{1}{6} \alpha_3 x^3 + \frac{1}{24} \alpha_4 x^4 \right) \tag{Zhu et al, 2015}$$

$$\frac{H_{\text{fid}}(z)}{H(z)} = \alpha_0 \left[1 + \alpha_1 + (2\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)x + \left(\frac{3}{2}\alpha_2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_3\right)x^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\alpha_3 + \frac{1}{6}\alpha_4\right)x^3 + \frac{5}{24}\alpha_4x^4 \right]$$

$$1 + x \equiv D_{\mathrm{A,fid}}(z)/D_{\mathrm{A,fid}}(z_{\star})$$

$$S(a) \equiv A H^{2}(a)a^{3} = B X(a)a^{3} + C$$

$$A = r_{
m d}^2, \ B = A H_0^2 (1 - \Omega_{
m M}), \ C = A H_0^2 \Omega_{
m M} \quad X(a) \ \equiv \
ho_{
m DE}(a) /
ho_{
m DE}(1)$$

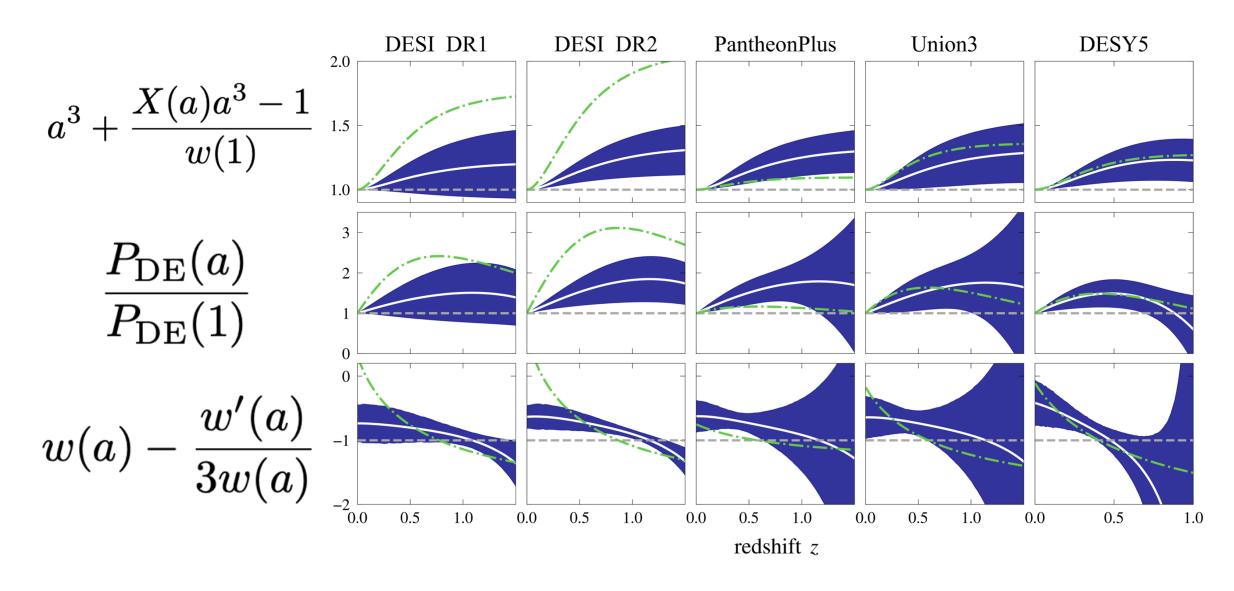
$$S(a) \equiv A H^{2}(a)a^{3} = B X(a)a^{3} + C$$

$$A = r_{\rm d}^2$$
, $B = AH_0^2(1 - \Omega_{\rm M})$, $C = AH_0^2\Omega_{\rm M}$ $X(a) \equiv \rho_{\rm DE}(a)/\rho_{\rm DE}(1)$

$$S_{0}(a) \equiv a^{3} - \frac{3[S(a) - S(1)]}{S'(1)} = a^{3} + \frac{X(a)a^{3} - 1}{w(1)} \xrightarrow{\Lambda} 1$$

$$S_{1}(a) \equiv \frac{1}{a^{3}} \frac{S'(a)}{S'(1)} = \frac{P_{\text{DE}}(a)}{P_{\text{DE}}(1)} \xrightarrow{\Lambda} 1,$$

$$S_{2}(a) \equiv -\frac{S''(a)}{3S'(a)} = w(a) - \frac{w'(a)}{3w(a)} \xrightarrow{\Lambda} -1,$$



Gu, Wang, Wang, GBZ, et al [DESI collaboration], 2504.06118, Nature Astronomy (2025)

Reconstructing the evolution history of dark energy

Crittenden, Pogosian, GBZ (CPZ, JCAP 2009) Crittenden, GBZ, Pogosian, Samushia, Zhang (JCAP 2012)

$$\xi_w(|a - a'|) \equiv \langle [w(a) - w^{\text{fid}}(a)][w(a') - w^{\text{fid}}(a')] \rangle$$

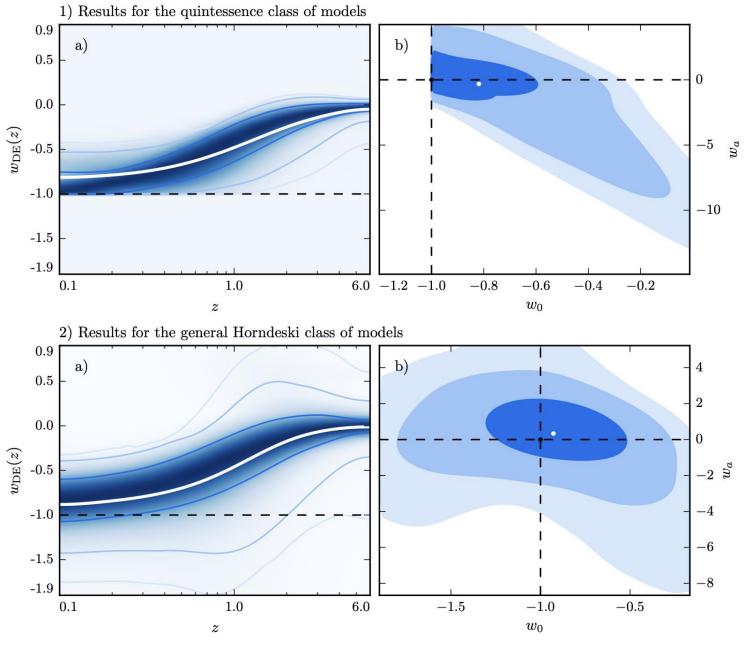
$$w_i = \frac{1}{\Delta} \int_{a_i}^{a_i + \Delta} da \, w(a).$$

$$C_{ij} \equiv \langle \delta w_i \delta w_j \rangle = \frac{1}{\Delta^2} \int_{a_i}^{a_i + \Delta} da \int_{a_j}^{a_j + \Delta} da' \xi_w(|a - a'|)$$

$$\chi_{\text{prior}}^2 = -2 \ln \mathcal{P}_{\text{prior}} = (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^{\text{fid}})^T \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^{\text{fid}})$$

Theory-motivated correlated prior on w(z) (Raveri et al, 1703.05297)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ \frac{m_0^2}{2} \left[1 + \Omega(\tau) \right] R + \Lambda(\tau) - c(\tau) a^2 \delta g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4(\tau)}{2} \left(a^2 \delta g^{00} \right)^2 - \frac{\bar{M}_1^3(\tau)}{2} a^2 \delta g^{00} \delta K_{\mu}^{\mu} + \frac{\bar{M}_3^2(\tau)}{2} \left[\left(\delta K_{\mu}^{\mu} \right)^2 - \delta K_{\nu}^{\mu} \delta K_{\mu}^{\nu} - \frac{a^2}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta \mathcal{R} \right] + \dots \right\} + S_m[g_{\mu\nu}, \chi_m], \tag{1}$$

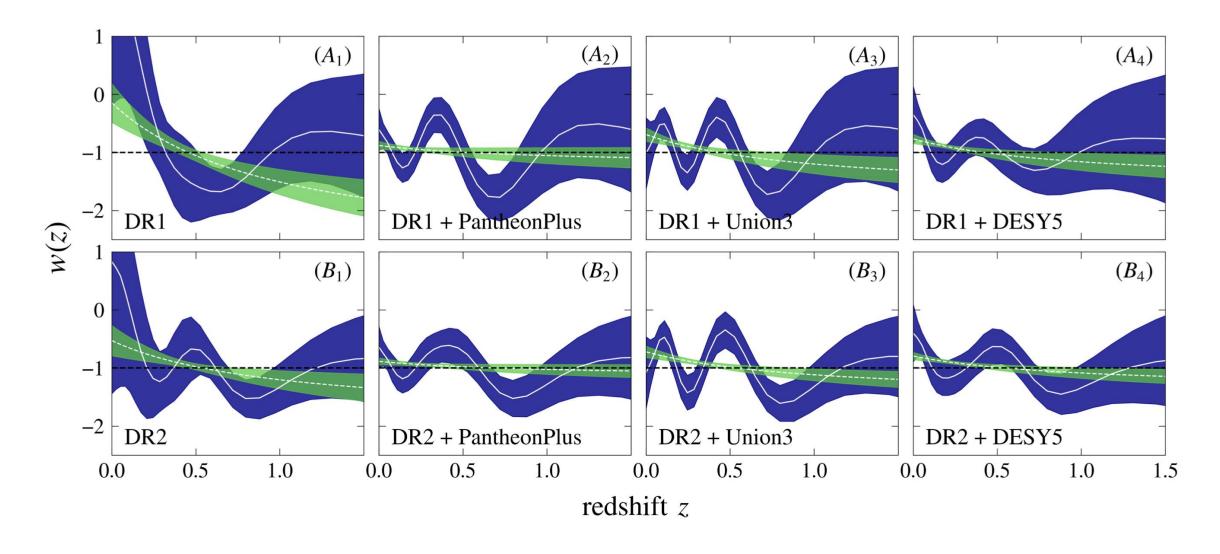


Raveri et al, 1703.05297

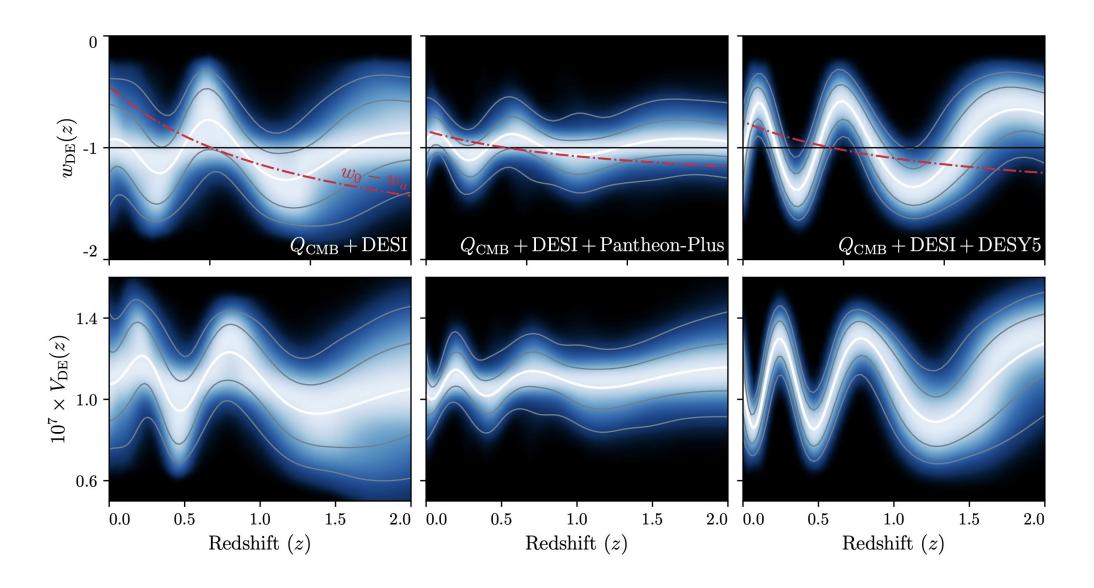
$$C(a, a') \equiv \langle [w(a) - w_{\text{fid}}(a)][w(a) - w_{\text{fid}}(a')] \rangle$$
$$= \sqrt{C(a)C(a')}R(a, a'),$$

$$C(a) = 0.05 + 0.8a^{2},$$

 $R(a, a') = \exp \left[-\left(\left| \ln a - \ln a' \right| / 0.3 \right)^{1.2} \right]$

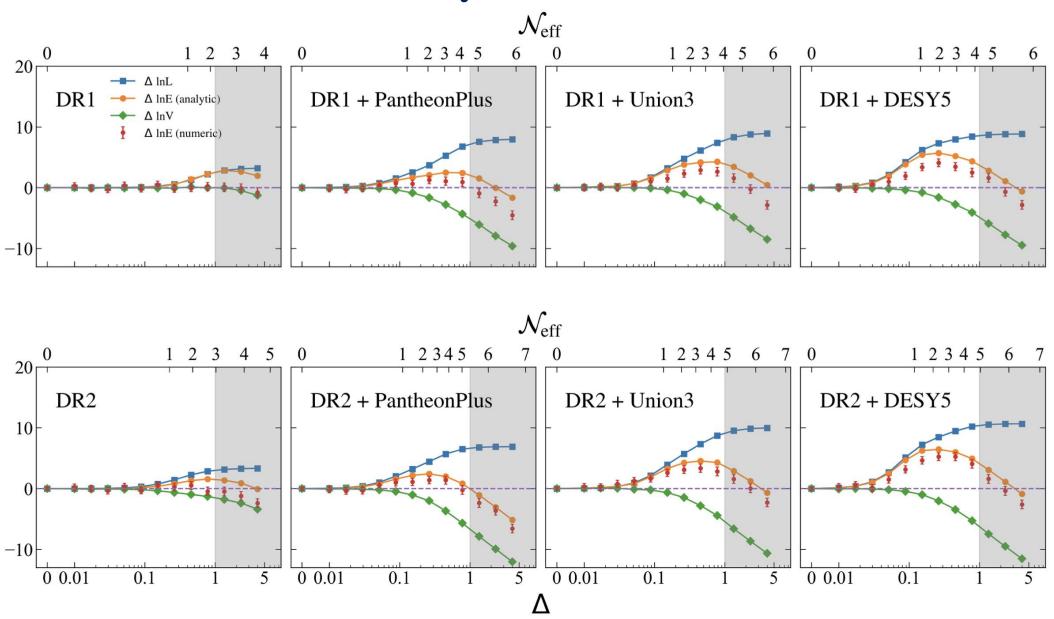


Gu, Wang, Wang, GBZ, et al [DESI collaboration], 2504.06118, Nature Astronomy (2025)



Goldstein, Celoria & Schmidt, arXiv: 2507.16970

Bayesian Evidence

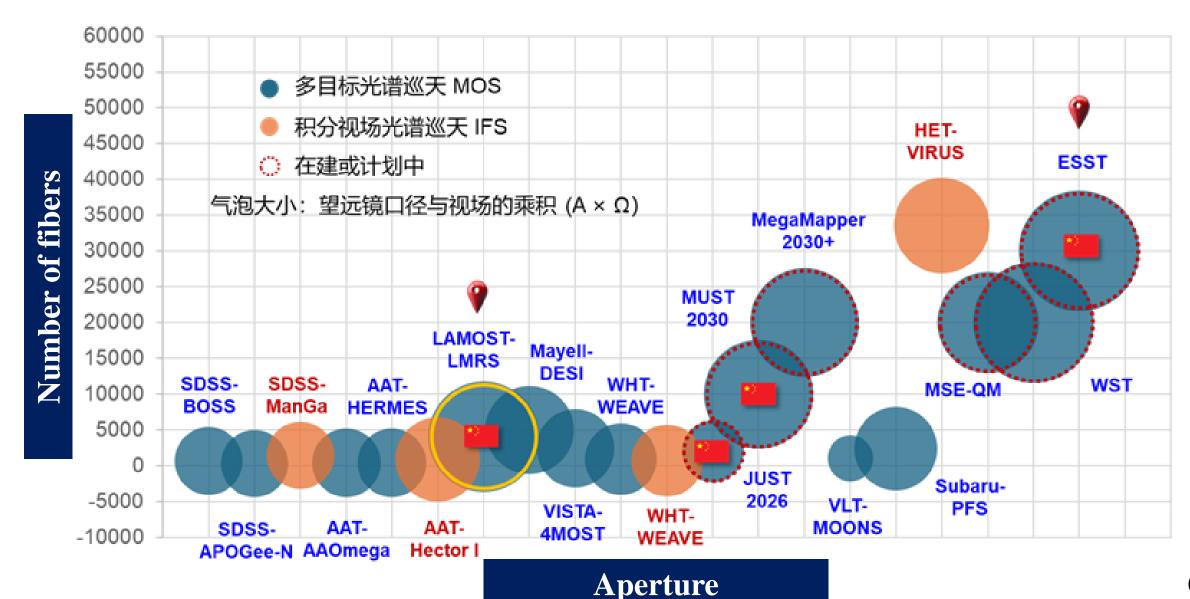


Development of spectroscopic survey

- Large-scale spectroscopic surveys are critical on studying dark matter, dark energy, large scale structure of the Universe, galaxy formation and evolution etc.
- A new round of technical revolution has been initiated by proposing WST and ESST.



- ☐ Ground-based survey telescopes will go into the era of 10m class
- ☐ The number of fibers increases up to tens of thousands



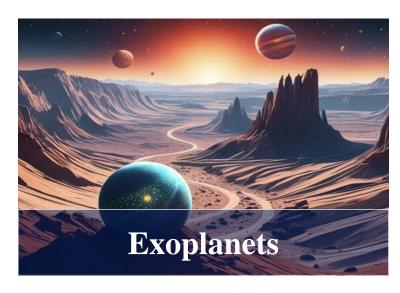
Hundreds of fibers		Tho	ousands of fibers	Tens of thousands	
1997	2000	2012	2021	2025	2030+
2dfGRS	SDSS	LAMOST	DESI	PFS	ESST, WST
3.9m	2.5m	4 m	4m	8m	12m

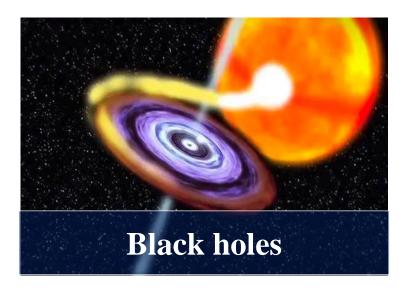
ESST science cases

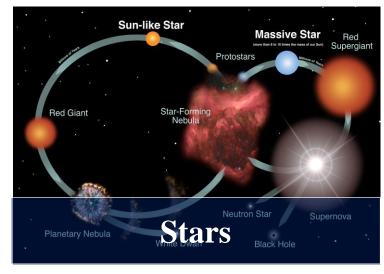




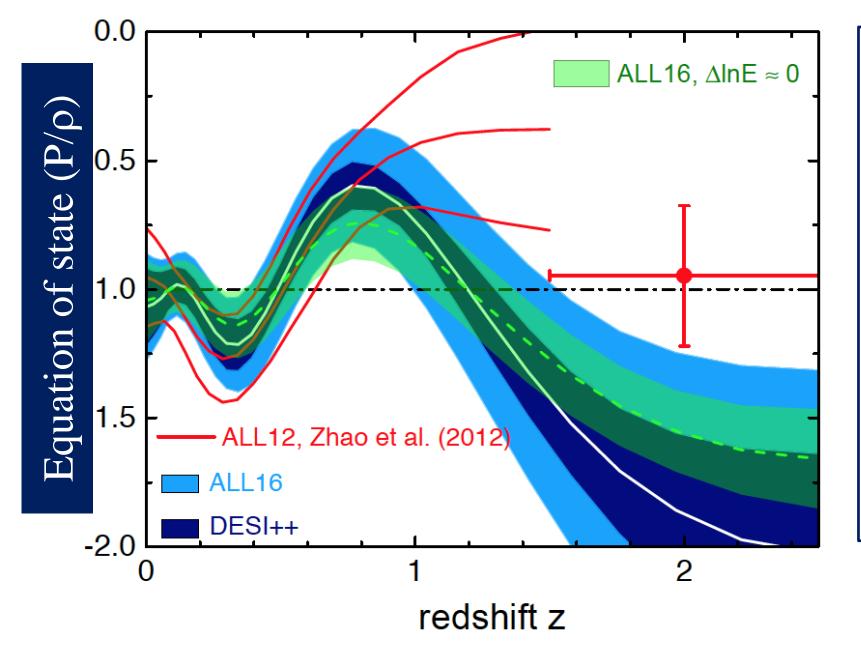








Revealing the nature of dark energy



- 2012: 2.5 σ (Zhao *et al*, PRL)
- 2017: 3.5 σ (Zhao *et al*, Nature Astronomy; SDSS-BOSS survey)
- 2025: 4.3 σ (Zhao's group *et al*, Nature Astronomy; DESI survey)
- $>5 \sigma$ (ESST forecast)

Extremely-large Spectroscopic Survey Telescope (ESST)

> Aperture: 12 meters

➤ Magnitude limit: V=23 (LR)

> FOV: 2°

> Fiber: 30000~50000

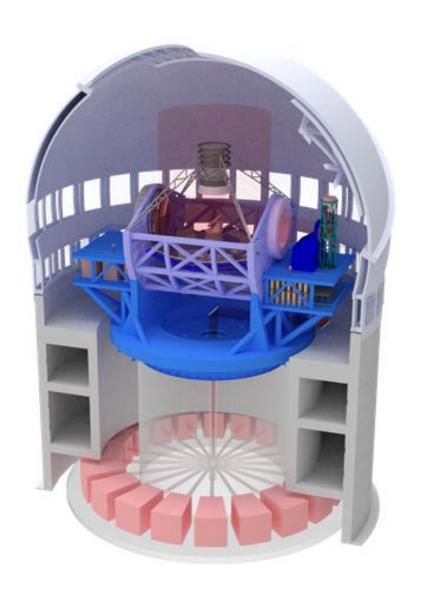
> Instruments: MOS-LMR

MOS-HR

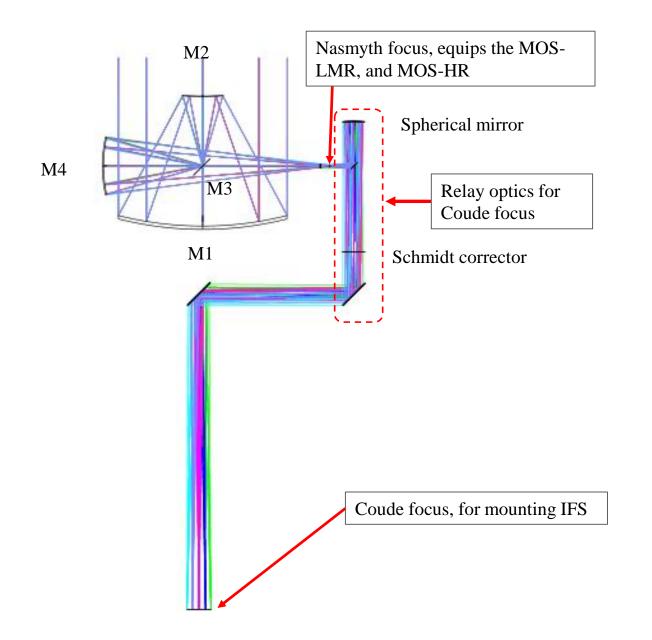
PIFS

New concept instruments

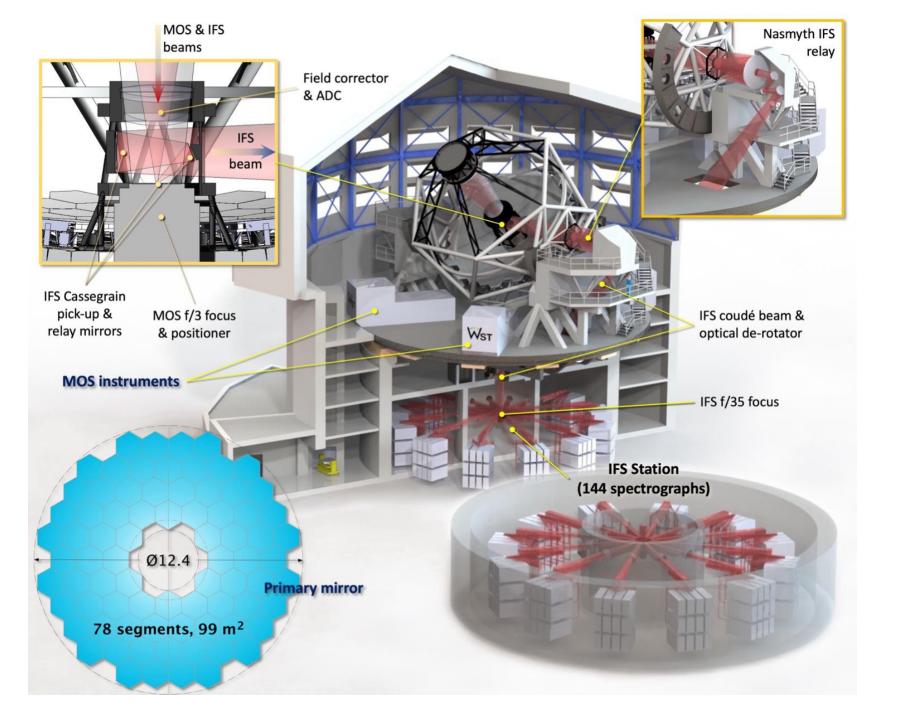
> Site: Chile (Paranal or Pachon)



ESST Optical design



- > A second mirror for multi-focus
- Compact optics with high throughput
- Simultaneously observation with wide field MOS and central field IFS
- ➤ Innovative S-ADC made by lensprism segments can be used on large optical telescope



WST

- ☐ Aperture: 12
- meters
- **□** FOV: 2.5~5
- square degrees
- (MOS)
- ☐ Fiber capacity:
- 20000 (MOS)

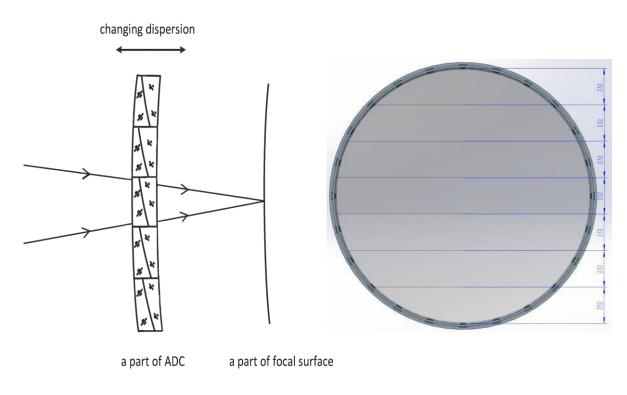
Comparison between ESST and WST

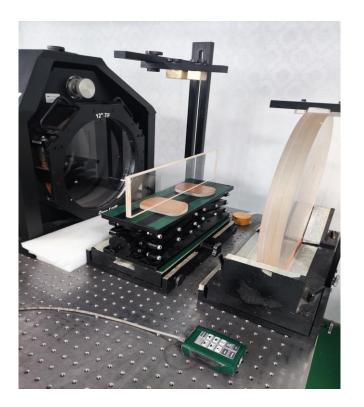
Telescope	ESST	WST	
Aperture	12 m	12 m	
FOV	2° (Nasmyth) 13' (Coude)	2° (Nasmyth) 13' (Coude)	
Focal ratio	F/4 (Nasmyth) F/37.2 (Coude)	F/3 (Nasmyth) F/35 (Coude)	
Band	0.36-1.8 μm (Nasmyth, Coude)	0.37-1.0 μm (Nasmyth, Coude)	
Number of fibers	30000~50000	~20000	
Focal plane	1.69 m	1.27 m	
Simultaneously observation with IFS	Yes	Yes	
Image quality (EE80)	Nasmyth ≤0.40 arcsec	Nasmyth ≤0.8 arcsec	

ESST: Compact optics, Wide band, Large focal plane, More fibers, better image quality

Strip Atmospheric Dispersion Corrector (S-ADC)

The innovative S-ADC break through the glass material size limit of the lens ADC Removing the S-ADC during infrared observations does not affect imaging quality of the system





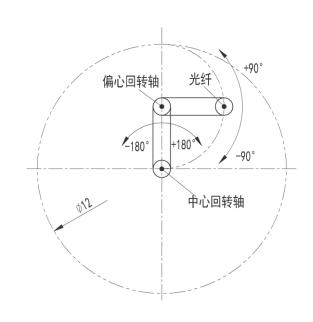
■ It consists of many lens—prism strips. All surfaces are spherical.

S-ADC prototype: φ360mm

By moving such a corrector along optical axis, the different dispersion can be produced and the atmospheric dispersion at different zenith distance can be compensated.

Next generation fiber positioning system

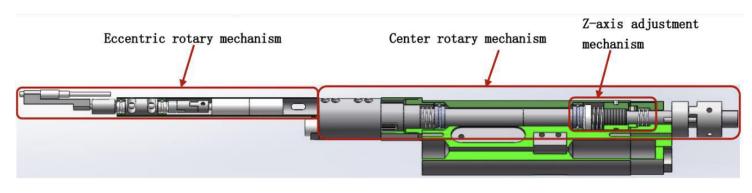
Dual rotation fiber optic positioning system will be thinner for larger fiber scale, higher-positioning accuracy, and lower thermal effect.



Theory of dual rotation



Comparison with two generations of fiber positioners



➤ Central rotation: 0°~360°

➤ Off-axial rotation: 0°~180°

On-axial translation: focusing

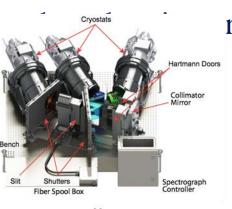
Concept of instruments for ESST

Large scale spectroscopic survey

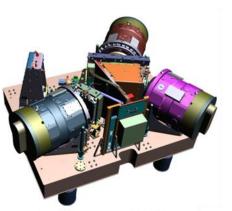
- ➤ Multi-object Low-Medium Resolution
- ➤ Multi-object High Resolution
- ➤ Panoramic Integral Field Spectrograph

New conc

LAMOST - LMRS



Mayall - DESI



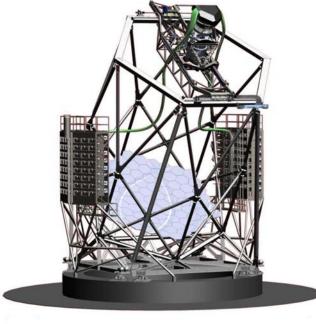
Subaru - PFS

Key technologies

- Clustering technology based on 100+ spectrographs
- ➤ IFS Implement in spectroscopic survey



VLT - MOONS



HETDEX - VIRUS

ESST — Multi-object Low-Medium Resolution spectrographs

Takes great challenges of MOS with 30000 fibers:

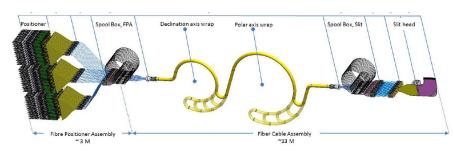
- > Gets larger aperture, wider aperture, faster focal ratio, and broadband
- > Spectrograph scale production and maintenance

ESST MOS-LMR:

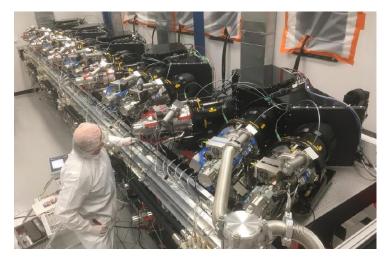
- ➤ Adds a fiber relay station
- ➤ Build an instrument matrix to manage 60+ spectrographs
- > Fiber capacity: 500 fibers/spec.
- \triangleright Resolution: R = 3000~4000 @ φ 1"fiber
- ➤ Wavelength coverage: 370-900nm at one shot

1st phase: a group of 40 spec. to build the basic

Capability of multi-object observation



Ref. DESI fiber transmission unit



Ref: DESI spectrograph array

ESST — Multi-object High Resolution spectrographs

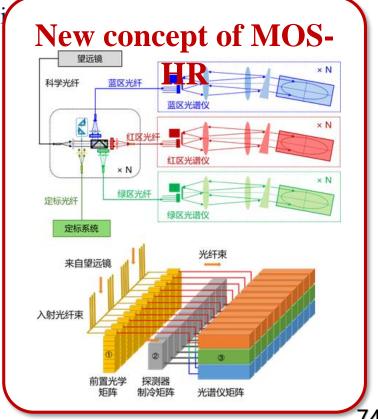
Most of MOS-HR (R~20000) is mounted on 4-8m telescopes

- Has taken full use of the existing capabilities in manufacture
- Higher resolution, narrower band (MSE requirement: R~40000, bandwi

ESST MOS-HR:

Fiber capacity: ~3000 fibers (~100 fibers / spec.)

Instruments	HERMES	4MOST	WEAVE	MOONS	MSE
Telescopes	AAT(3.9m)	VISTA(4m)	WHT(4.2m)	VLT(8.2m)	MSE(11.25m)
Resolution R	R=20K	R=18K	R=20K	R=18K	R=40K
Number of fibers	784	2436	1000	1000	1083
Collimated pupil Dc	Ф190mm	Ф250mm	Ф190mm	Ф265mm	Ф300mm
Blaze angles θ_b	68° grating	45° grating	51.6° grating	53° grating	50° grating
Detectors	4K@15um	6K@15um	8K@15um	4K@15um	6K@15um



ESST — Integral Field Spectrographs

□ Two instrument designs:

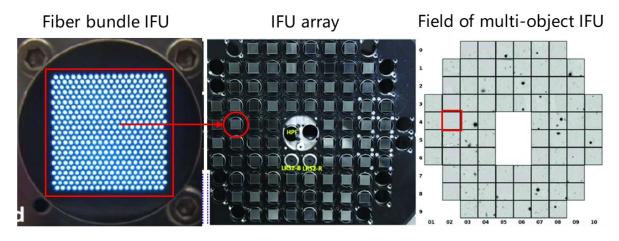
- Multi-object IFS (Tens of IFUs, large field of view, Reference: HETDEX-VIRUS)
- Panoramic IFS (a few amins, high duty rate, Reference: VLT-MUSE)

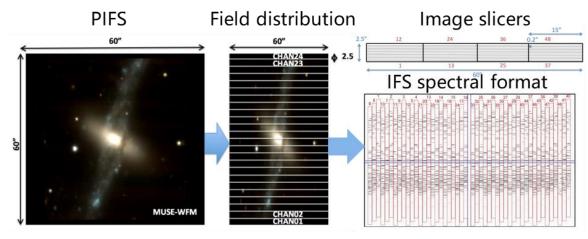
■ ESST IFS concepts:

- Location: Coudé focus
- ➤ FOV: 2'×2', Seeing limit, sky aperture of FU: 1"x1";

GLAO condition, sky aperture of IFU: ≤0.5"x0.5"

Resolution: *R*=1000~3000 @ 500-900nm (370-900nm)





ESST — New instrument concept based on Integrated optics

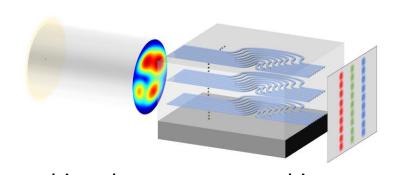
Concept:

➤ To minimize the instrument, higher integration, shorten fiber length Elementary parameters:

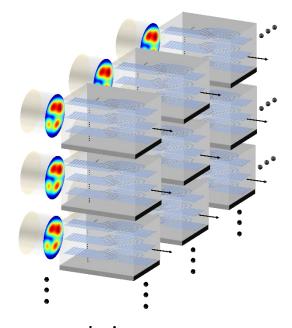
- ➤ Number of spec.: ≥100 spec.
- > Fiber capacity: 500 fibers per spec.
- Fiber: 100~300 μm
- > Resolution: R=3000~5000
- ➤ Wavelength coverage: 450~900 nm
- > Size: < $0.1 m^3$
- ➤ Weight: <10 kg

Characterization & innovation:

- > Minimization, Weight-lighten
- ➤ 60% less
- High instrument stability



multimode spectroscopy chip
Based on Stacked waveguide array



Large scale instrument group

Support from the Chinese astronomical community



ESST项目专题研讨会

ESST consortium

Strategic Guidance Committee (8 Academicians)

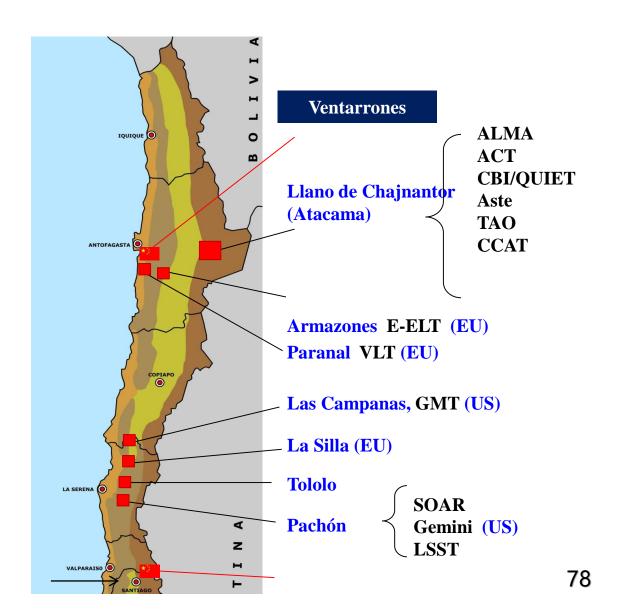
Scientific committee (30 representative astronomers)

12 Science Working Groups (40 young scientists)





CAS South America Center for Astronomy (CASSACA)



Summary and next steps

- DESI BAO data show interesting signs of new physics, awaiting confirmation of Y5 and later observations (MUST, ESST, etc);
- As statistical errors get reduced, more work is needed to mitigate the systematics;
- New statistics (MFs, wavelets, etc) and new ideas (tests of parity, etc) are needed to probe new physics from future galaxy surveys.