### Deciphering the Archaeological Record: Cosmological Imprints of Non-Minimal Dark Sectors

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#### Work in collaboration with

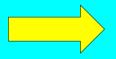
- Fei Huang
- Jeff Kost
- Shufang Su
- Brooks Thomas

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### Dark Matter = ??

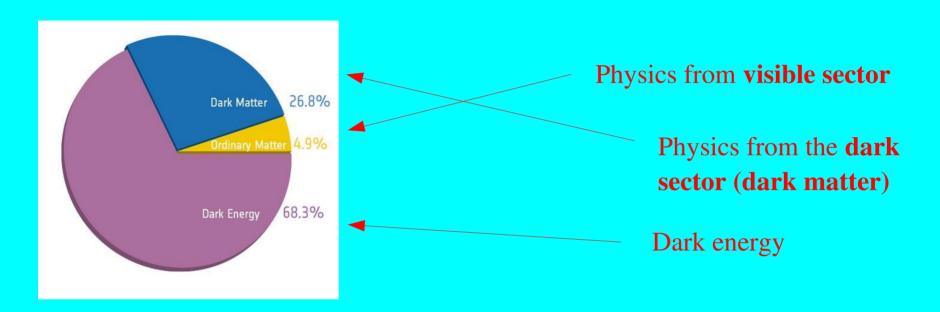
- Situated at the nexus of particle physics, astrophysics, and cosmology
- Dynamic interplay between theory and current experiments
- Of fundamental importance: literally 23% of the universe!
- Necessarily involves physics beyond the Standard Model



One of the most compelling mysteries facing physics today!



This is important, since the total energy density of the universe coming from dark matter is **at least five times** that from visible matter!



- Indeed, it is primarily the "dark" physics which drives the evolution of the universe through much of cosmological history... cannot be ignored!
- Moreover, thanks to advances in observational cosmology over the past two decades (COBE, Planck, etc.), we are rapidly gaining data concerning the nature and properties of the dark sector!



This is thus a ripe area for study!

Unfortunately, very little is known about the dark sector.

- What is the production mechanism? Is it thermal or non-thermal?
- Does the dark sector contain one species, or are there many different components? What are the interactions between these components?
- What kinds of phase transitions or non-trivial dynamics might be involved in establishing the dark matter that we observe today?

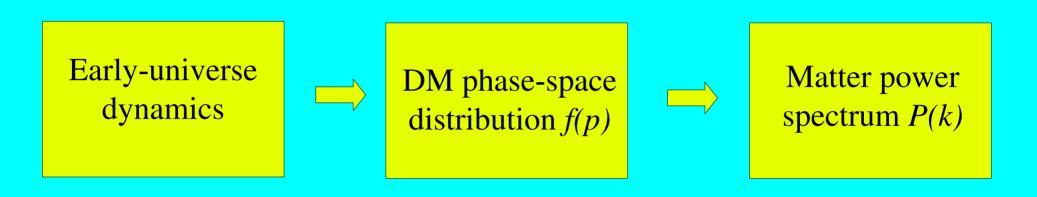
This is important because dark matter is critical for many aspects of cosmological evolution, e.g.,

- The dark sector drives cosmological expansion
- The dark sector allows structure formation.

This then leads to two critical questions ---

- What imprints might non-trivial dark-sector dynamics leave in the present-day universe?
- To what extent can we decipher the archaeological record, exploiting information about the present-day universe in order to learn about / constrain the properties of the dark sector?

In this talk we shall concentrate on one aspect of the present-day universe: the matter power spectrum P(k), which tells us about structure formation. This depends on the dark-matter phase-space distribution f(p), which in turn is highly sensitive to the early-universe dynamics we wish to constrain.



Clearly a given dynamics leads to a unique f(p) and then to a unique P(k). However, this process is not invertible.

Nevertheless, we can ask: To what extent can we find signatures or patterns in f(p) and P(k) which might tell us about early-universe dynamics that produced the dark matter? What can we learn?

In general, once the dark matter is produced in the early universe, its properties can be described through its phase space distribution f(p,t):

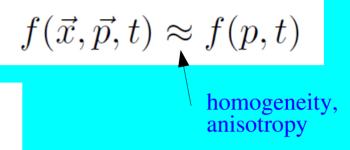
number density

$$n(t) \equiv g \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} f(p,t)$$

energy density

$$\rho(t) \equiv g \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} Ef(p,t)$$

$$P(t) \equiv g \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{p^2}{3E} f(p,t)$$



where  $E = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$ 

 $\frac{\text{equation}}{\text{of state}} w(t) \equiv \frac{P(t)}{\rho(t)}$ 

f(p,t) is therefore the central quantity in understanding the cosmological properties of the dark sector

• e.g., cold or hot, thermal or non-thermal, etc.

#### It is important to understand how f(p) evolves with time.

In an FRW universe,

$$x(t) = x(t') \frac{a(t)}{a(t')}$$
  $\Longrightarrow$   $p(t) = p(t') \frac{a(t')}{a(t)}$   $\Longrightarrow$   $\frac{d \log p}{dt} = -H(t)$ 

Thus time evolution corresponds to additive shifts in log(p).

physical number density

$$n(t) \sim \int d^3p \ f(p,t) \sim \int dp \ p^2 f(p,t)$$
  
  $\sim \int d\log p \ p^3 f(p,t)$ 

comoving density

$$N(t) \sim na^3 \sim \int d\log p \left[ (ap)^3 f(p,t) \right]$$

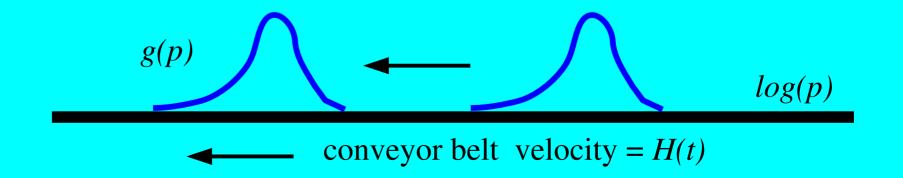
Therefore define 
$$g(p,t) \equiv a(t)^3 p^3 f(p,t)$$

 $H \equiv \dot{a}/a$ 

Thus, once the dark matter is produced, g(p,t) evolves with time according to

$$g(p(t),t) = g(p(t'),t')$$
 Comoving or No overall rescaling.

Thus, if we plot g(p) versus log(p), the total area under the curve is proportional to the (fixed!) comoving particle number density  $N\sim na^3$ . Under subsequent time evolution the curve for g(p) merely slides towards smaller values of log(p) without distortion, as if carried along a <u>cosmological "conveyor belt"</u> moving with velocity H(t).



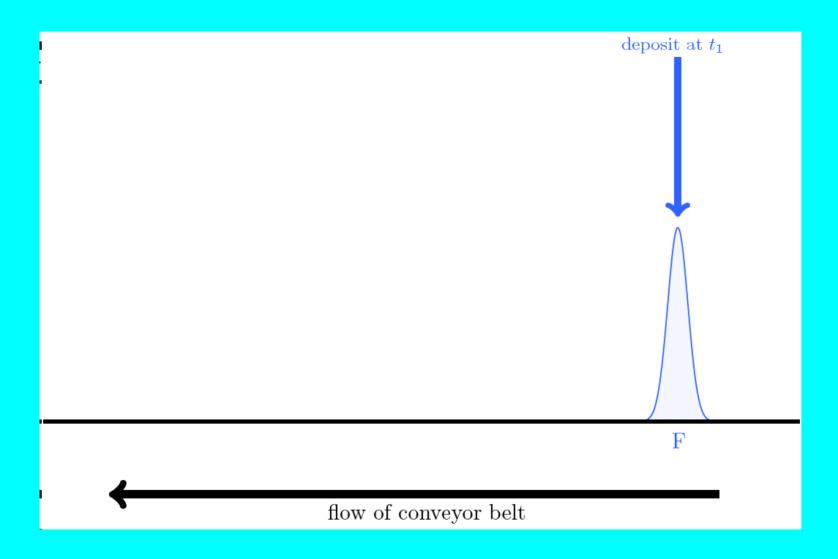
For a minimal dark sector, regardless of the particular production mechanism, we expect that g(p) appears on the cosmological conveyor belt when the dark matter is produced and then simply redshifts towards smaller log(p).

By contrast, for a *non-minimal* dark sector, it is possible that dark-matter production may be more complicated, with <u>different "deposits" onto the cosmological conveyor</u> belt occurring at different moments in cosmological history.

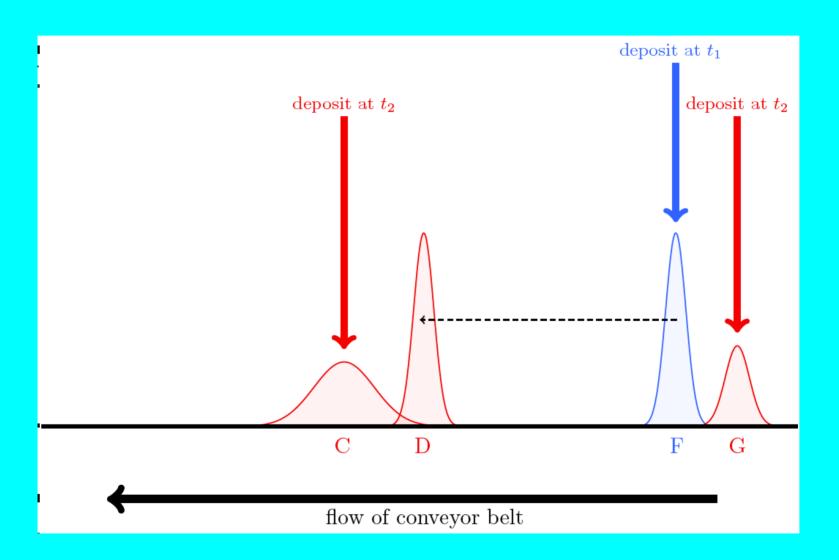
#### **Non-minimal** dark sector:

- Dark sector containing an *ensemble* of particle species instead of a single DM component.
- Phenomenology of dark sector is not determined by the properties of any individual constituent alone, but instead determined *collectively* across all components.

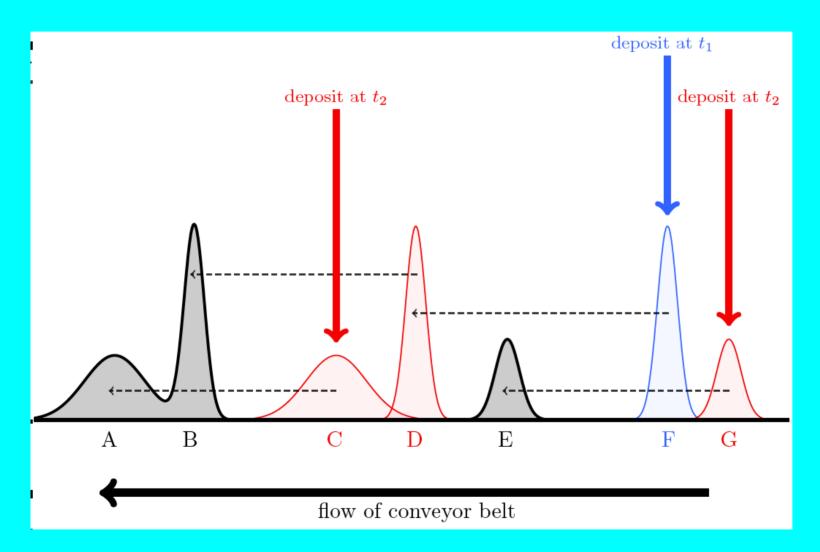
# For example, let us consider packets deposited at different times during cosmological history...



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Final result is highly non-trivial, can even be multi-modal!

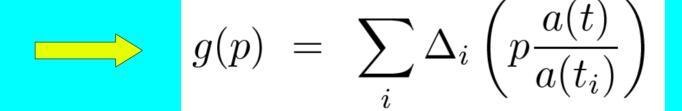
In general, the final g(p) is realized as the accumulation of all previous deposits occurring at all previous times during cosmological history.

Let  $\Delta(p,t)$  = the profile of the dark-matter deposit rate at time t. Then at any time t we have

$$g(p) = \int^t dt' \, \Delta \left( p \frac{a(t)}{a(t')}, t' \right)$$

If the deposits occur at discrete times t<sub>i</sub>, then

$$\Delta(p, t') = \sum_{i} \Delta_i(p) \delta(t' - t_i)$$



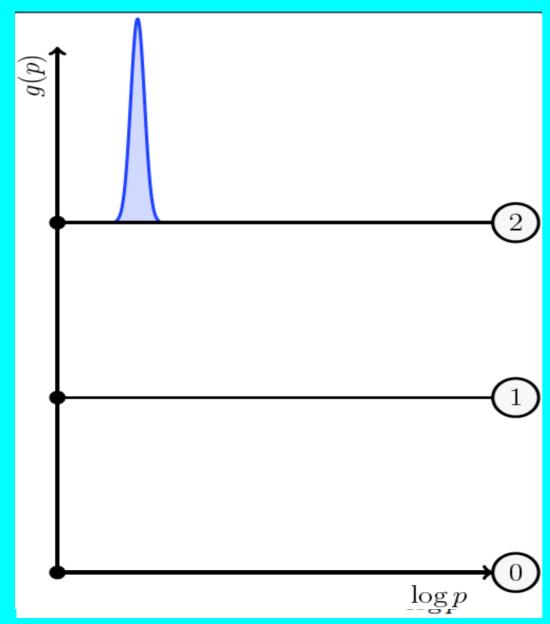
Thus, g(p) reflects a particular cosmological history.

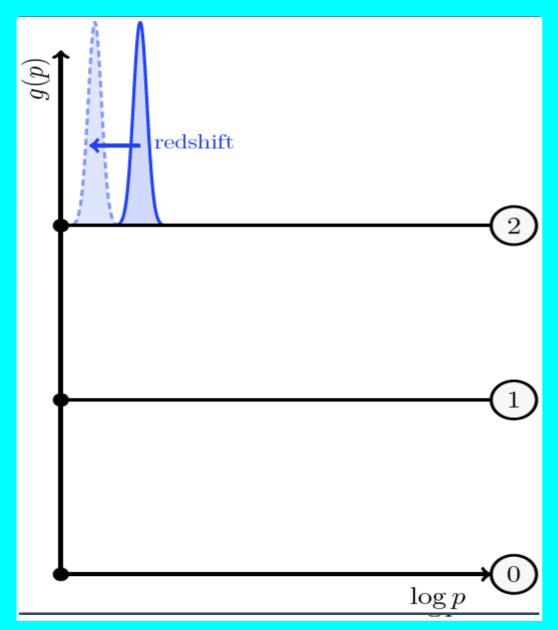
*Archaeological question*: To what extent can we use g(p) to *resurrect* this history? We can only determine sums along backward "FRW lightcones"!

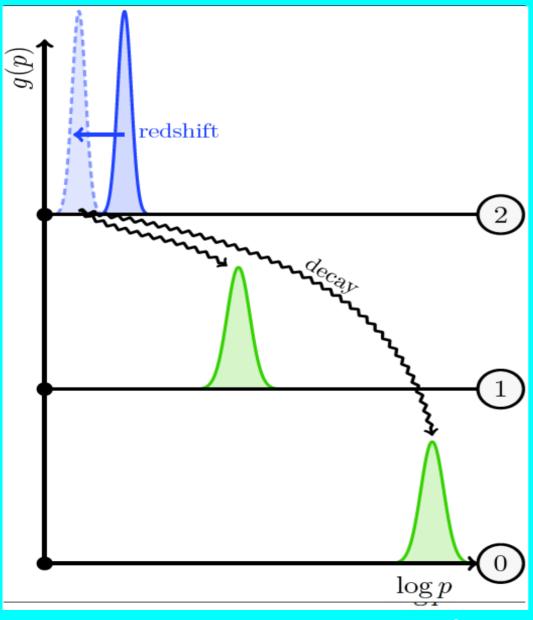
We have already seen that multi-modality suggests that separate deposits occurred at different moments in cosmological history.

- Is such a pattern of deposits natural?
- What kinds of non-minimal dark sectors can give rise to such deposit patterns?

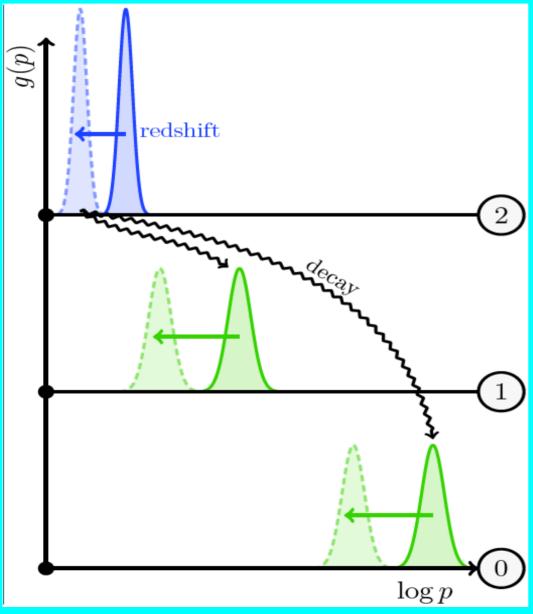
If our non-minimal dark sector contains an ensemble of states with different masses, lifetimes, and cosmological abundances, then <u>intra-ensemble decays</u> (*i.e.*, decays from heavier to lighter dark-sector components) will naturally give rise to such scenarios!



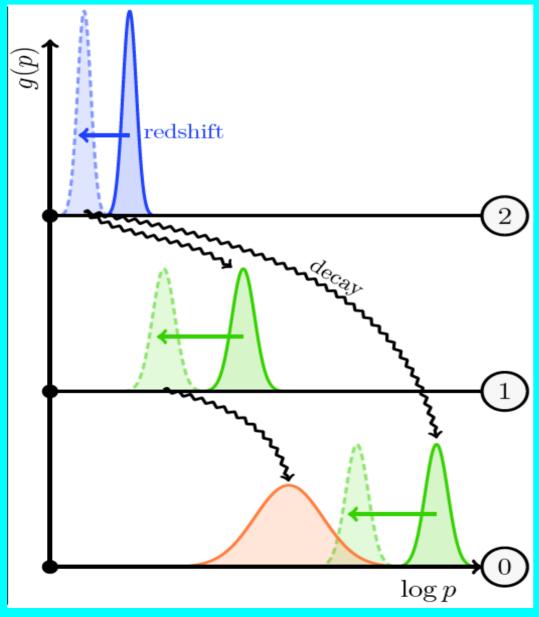




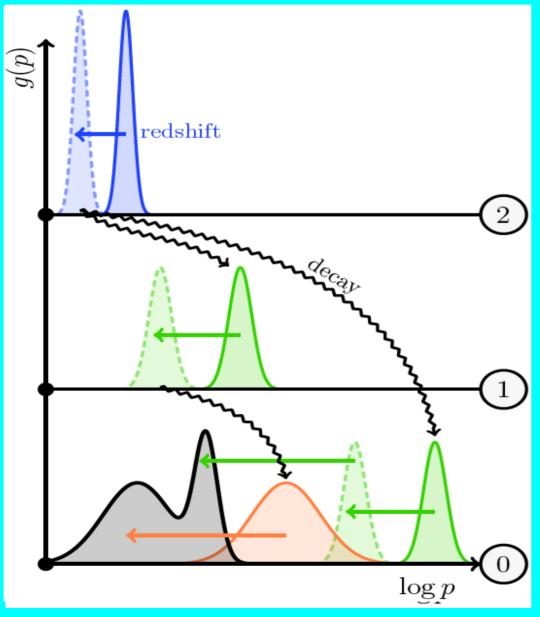
•  $2 \rightarrow 1+0$ : Daughters have extra kinetic energy (higher p) and also are wider (larger  $\Delta p$ ) than the parent.



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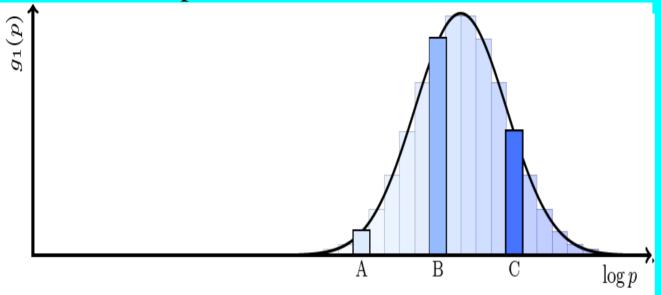
- $2 \rightarrow 1+0$ : Daughters have extra kinetic energy (higher p) and also are wider (larger  $\Delta p$ ) than the parent.
- 1 → 0+0: Decay produces two identical superposed daughter packets (hence twice the area), again wider and at higher *p* than parent.
- Resulting *g(p)* is a non-trivial superposition of packet deposits from 2 independent decay chains, thus carries an imprint of the early complex decay dynamics.

But even the process of decay from a parent packet to a daughter packet is highly non-trivial.

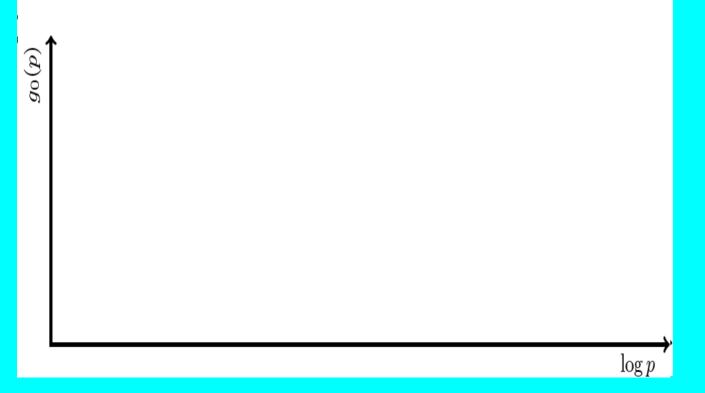
To what extent does the daughter packet contain generic information about the parent?

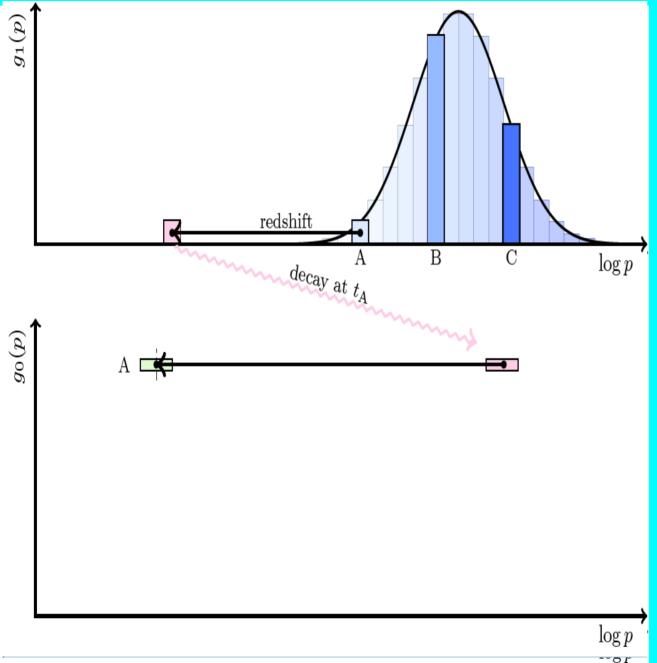
Study the decay process in detail.

Start with the parent....

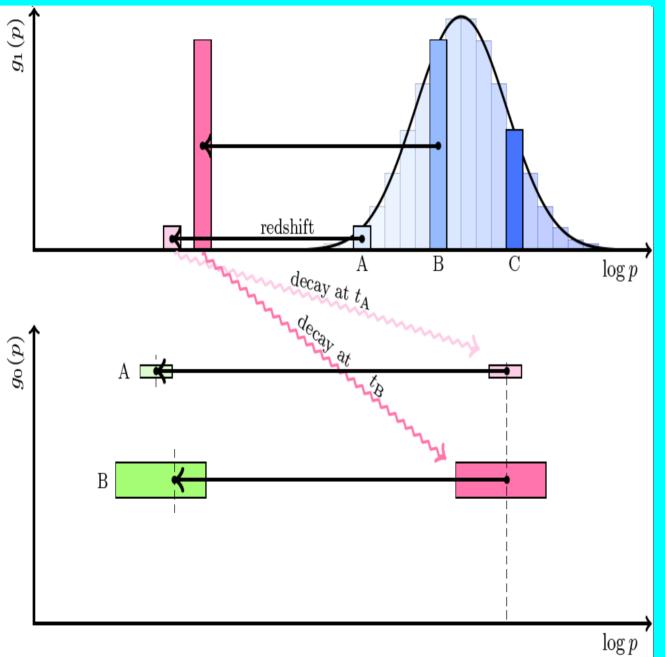


- Decompose parent into separate momentum slices.
- Study the decay of each slice independently.

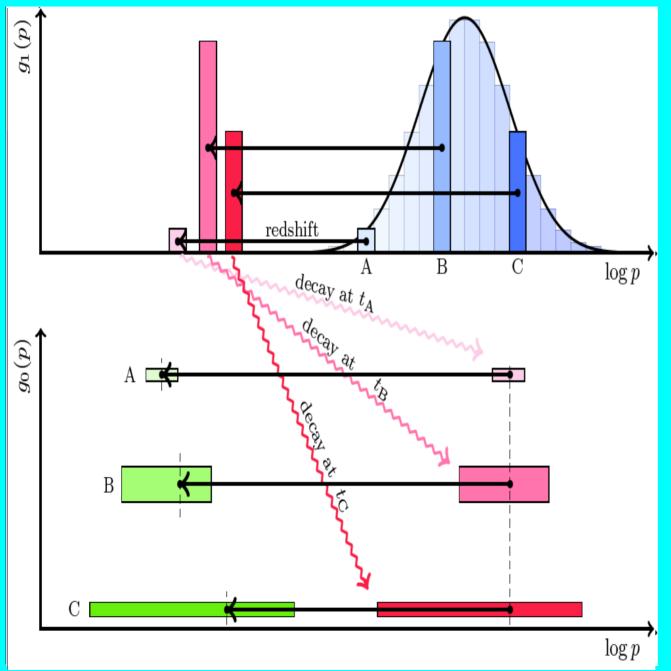




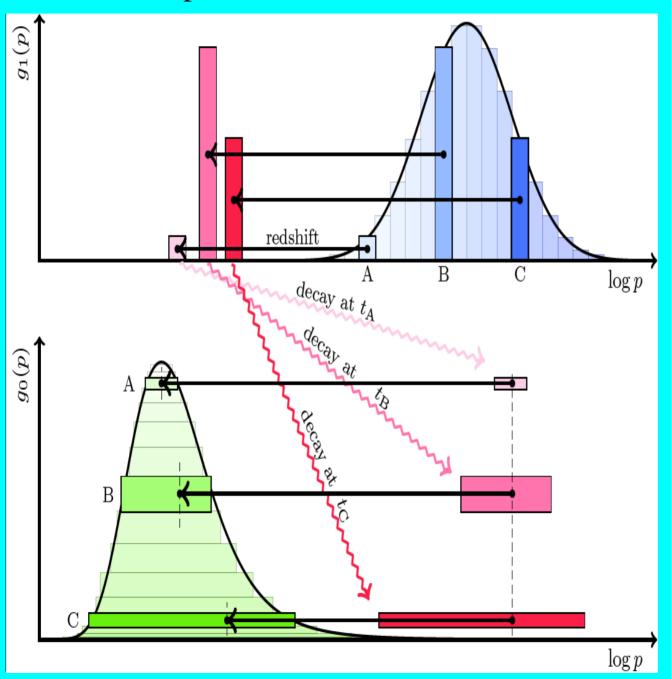
- Each slice redshifts prior to decaying, with a redshifted momentum p<sub>decay</sub> at the time of decay.
- Decay of each parent slice produces a daughter contribution with same area as that of parent slice, width determined by p<sub>decay</sub>.
- Once daughter contribution is produced it begins to redshift until contributions from other parent slices arrive.



- Slices with *higher*parent momenta have
  longer lifetimes due to
  time dilation, but this
  also gives extra time for
  redshifting to *smaller*momenta.
- This effect compresses relative  $p_{\text{decay}}$  values.
- Larger  $p_{\text{decay}}$  produces daughter contribution with larger width.
- This new daughter contribution arrives later, so redshifts less.



- This process continues for parent slices with even higher momenta.
- Eventually areas of daughter contributions start dropping even though widths continue to increase.



- Redshifted daughter contributions combine to produce daughter packet.
- Leftward tilt of daughter packet is relativistic effect stemming from parent momenta.
- Vertical momentum slices of parent packet become horizontal building blocks of daughter packet.
- Maximum/minimum
   widths of daughter packet
   indicate
   maximum/minimum
   momenta of parent
   packet.
- Rising/falling slopes of daughter packet carry information about decay kinematics.

Through these sorts of analyses, we can learn many things about the parent packet simply by studying the properties of the daughter packet.

For example,

at the time of production

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{leftward tilt} & \Longrightarrow & \text{relativistic parent} \\ \text{rightward tilt} & \Longrightarrow & \text{non-relativistic parent.} \end{array}$ 

#### **Very useful result!** For example...

In principle, a relativistic daughter packet which is narrow, with  $\Delta p << m$  as well as  $\Delta p << < p>$ , could be the result of either

- a relativistic parent experiencing a close-to-marginal decay, or
- a non-relativistic parent experiencing a far-from-marginal decay.

It is only the tilt of the daughter packet which allows us to distinguish between these two possibilities!

In fact, one can push this sort of analysis much further, and find...

Daughter packet				Parent packet		Decay near
rel?		width	relative width	rel at	rel at	"effective
$(\max p)$	tilt	$\Delta p/m$	$\Delta p/\langle p \rangle$	production?	decay?	marginality"?
rel	leftward	wide	wide	rel	rel	$\mathcal{O}(1)$
			narrow	rel	rel	near or far
			narrow	rel	rel	near
					non-rel	far
	rightward	narrow		non-rel	non-rel	far
non-rel	leftward		wide	rel	non-rel	$\mathcal{O}(1)$
			narrow	rel	non-rel	near or far
	rightward		wide	non-rel	non-rel	$\mathcal{O}(1)$
			narrow	non-rel	non-rel	near or far

This "archaeology" even applies to the packets which are part of the multi-modal f(p) distributions! One can thus reconstruct many features of the deposit history and the non-minimal dark-sector decay dynamics that produced it.

But even these analyses miss certain features...

- We assumed decays happen promptly at  $t = 1/\Gamma$ , never earlier or later --- ignored that decay is a continuous process.
- We assumed each momentum slice of parent is created at the same time, hence each feels the same "clock".

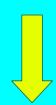
Does fixing these effects "wash out" the features (such as multi-modality) we have been discussing, restoring a traditional packet shape, or do these features survive?

To verify, can perform a full numerical Boltzmann analysis...

Consider a three-state system with masses in ratio (1:3:7) with

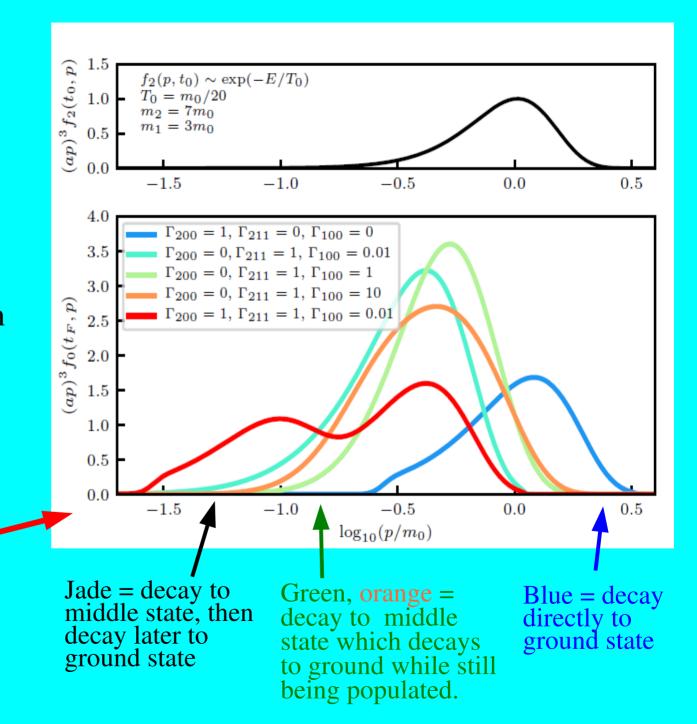
two-body decays...

Assume thermal parent at top with  $T = m_0/20$ .



Eventual ground-state phase-space distribution depends on specific choice of decay widths (branching fractions).

Red = case with two competing decay chains. Bi-modality is robust = Sum of jade and (redshifted) blue packets.



Such non-trivial DM phase-space distributions f(p) have non-trivial effects on <u>structure formation</u> in the early universe (clusters, galaxies, etc.)



Specifically, they produce non-trivial deviations in the present-day matter power spectrum P(k) relative to what would have been expected for straightforward CDM.

#### Note ---

- Studying the connection between f(p) and P(k) provides a way of learning about dark matter from its *gravitational interactions* only!
- This therefore provides a way of learning about the dark sector *even if the dark sector has no direct connection to the SM*.

**Recall basic point:** Cold DM helps to seed and promote structure formation. However, if DM has a non-negligible velocity, then this over-abundance diffuses outward, leaving to a *suppression* of structure relative to what occurs for CDM.

Thus, over a fixed time interval (to present), greater DM velocity (momentum)  $\implies$  greater length scale (smaller k) over which diffusion can occur.

• <u>A conservative estimate</u> for *k* simply calculates the (free-streaming) "horizon" size associated with such diffusion...

$$k \sim \frac{1}{d_{\text{hor}}} \sim \frac{1}{vt} \sim \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}}{p} \frac{1}{t}$$

• More properly, we define  $k_{\mathrm{FSH}}(p) \equiv \xi \left[ \int_{t_{\mathrm{prod}}}^{t_{\mathrm{now}}} \frac{p/a(t)}{\sqrt{p^2/a(t)^2 + m^2}} \frac{dt}{a(t)} \right]^{-1}$  the minimum k that could be affected.  $= \xi \left[ \int_{a_{\mathrm{prod}}}^{1} \frac{da}{Ha^2} \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2a^2}} \right]^{-1}$  coefficient

Given g(p), we then proceed to calculate the corresponding suppression fraction ("transfer function")  $T^2(k) = P(k) / P_{\text{CDM}}(k)$  for the matter power spectrum as a function of k ...

Initial conditions:
Primordial perturbations
(inflaton, etc.)

perturbation
evolution equations
(e.g., CLASS code)  $= T^2 \text{ "transfer function"}$ 

g(p)

In general, the connection between g(p) and P(k) is highly non-trivial. However, we would like to understand this relationship with an eye towards developing some rough procedures towards inverting it...

#### Our approach

- We begin by considering *momentum slices* through our dark-matter packet, relating each slice of momentum p to a corresponding value  $k_{\rm FSH}$ .
- Normally,  $k_{\text{FSH}}$  would be interpreted as defining the <u>minimum</u> value of k which can be affected by dark matter in that slice.
- However, we shall instead take the defining relation for  $k_{\text{FSH}}(p)$  as defining a mapping between the p-variable of g(p) and the k-variable of P(k). In other words, we shall identify  $k_{\text{FSH}}(p)$  with k and thereby consider g(p) as having a corresponding profile in k-space:

$$\widetilde{g}(k) \equiv g(k_{\mathrm{FSH}}^{-1}(k)) \; |\mathcal{J}(k)|$$
 inverse of corresponding  $k_{\mathrm{FSH}}(p)$  relation Jacobian

Indeed, it then follows that

$$N(t) \sim \int d\log p \ g(p) \ = \ \int d\log k \ \widetilde{g}(k)$$

Thus the *k*-profile describes the dark-matter distribution in *k*-space!

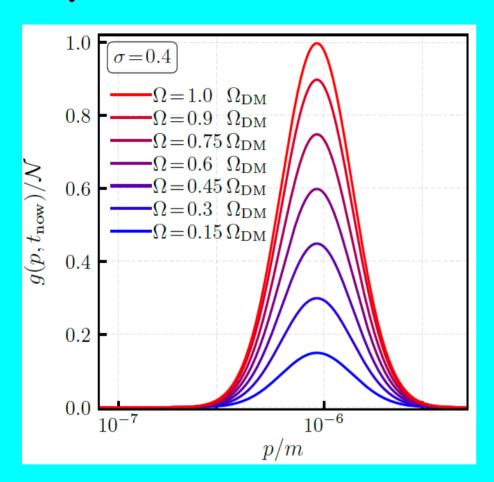
Moreover, because this k-profile lives in the same space as P(k), these two functions can even be plotted together along the same axis!



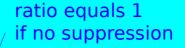
Now it makes sense to ask:

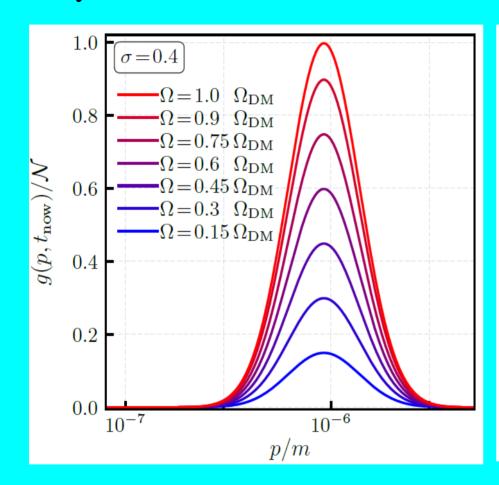
Can we discover/conjecture any relation between *these* two functions?

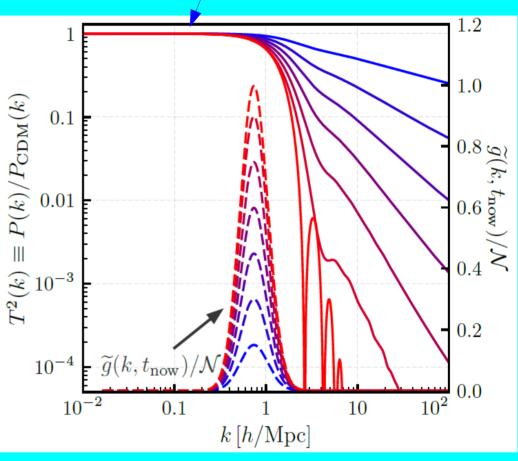
Examine one peak, hold width fixed but vary area/abundance relative to CDM...



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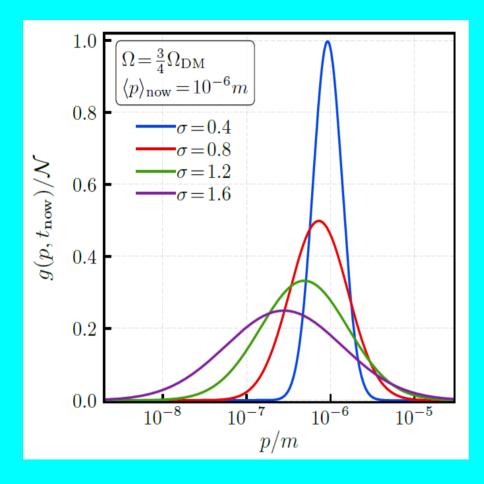


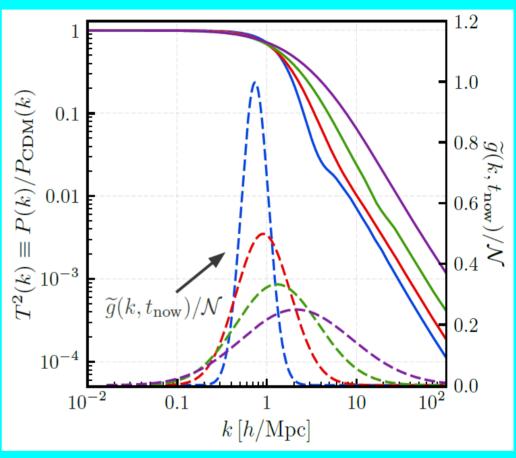




- Wiggles from DM acoustic oscillations emerge more dramatically as suppression is enhanced irrelevant for us.
- More abundance  $\implies$  stronger <u>suppression</u> at larger k  $\implies$  steeper <u>slope</u> at larger k.

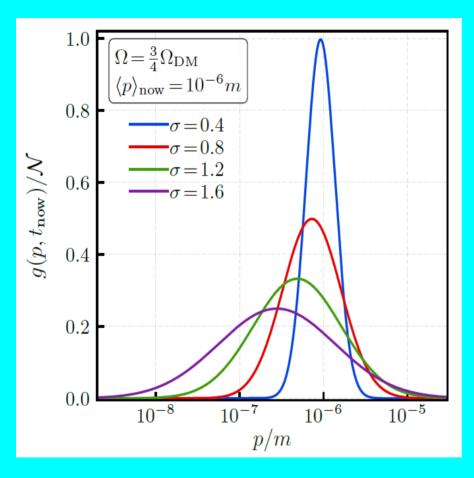
## Examine one peak, now hold abundance and fixed relative to CDM but vary width...

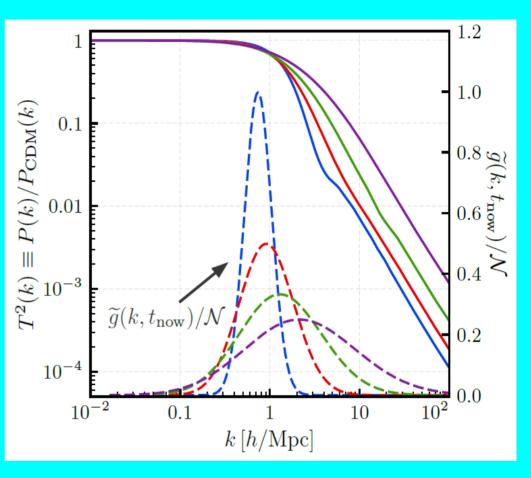




- *Note*: Holding  $\langle p \rangle$  fixed, vary width  $\implies \langle \log p \rangle$  shifts (as above)
- Increasing width slower change in slope
  - $\implies$  **less suppression** at large k
  - **⇒** BUT <u>slope at large *k* is the same!!</u>

## Examine one peak, now hold abundance and fixed relative to CDM but vary width...



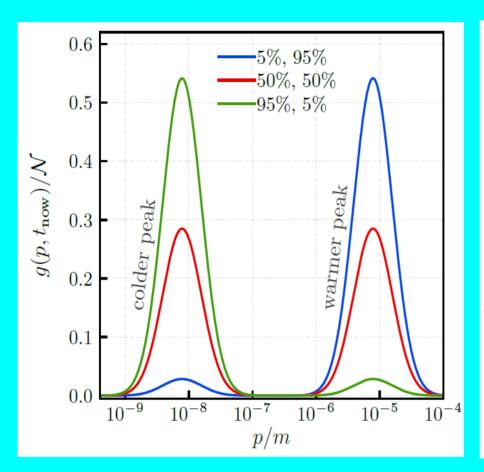


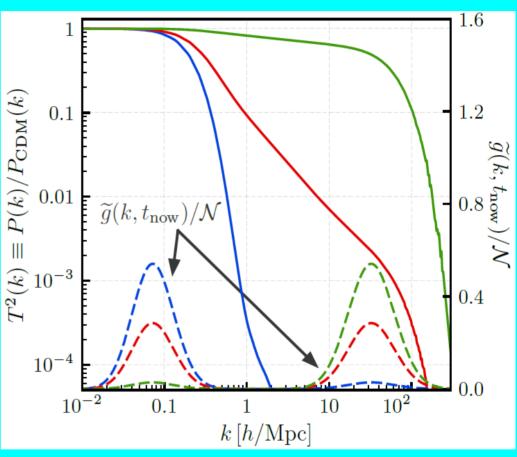
- Suggests that accumulated abundance  $\iff$  <u>slope</u> of transfer function!
- Indeed, as we sweep left to right in k-space, more accumulated abundance  $\implies$  slope increasingly steep.
- *Note*: at large k, same accumulated abundance but different suppression!

  Abundance correlates not with net suppression, but with its slope!!

### Does this behavior survive for more complex g(p)?

Examine two peaks, vary relative abundances between them...





- As we sweep left to right in *k*-space,
  - within peaks: accumulated abundance increases \imp slope increases!
  - <u>between</u> peaks: no accumulation of abundance
    - ⇒ slope approximately constant!
- Thus, still find accumulated abundance > slope!

### Let's try to formalize this quantitatively.

At any value of k, the total accumulated abundance is

$$F(k) \equiv \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\log k} \widetilde{g}(k') d \log k'}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \widetilde{g}(k') d \log k'}$$

Indeed, for any value of k, this is that **fraction of the dark-matter number density which is effectively "hot"** (*i.e.*, free-streaming) relative to the corresponding value of  $p = k_{\text{FSH}}^{-1}(k)!$ 

inverse of the free-streaming relation

We shall therefore refer to F(k) as the <u>hot fraction function</u>.

# Our claim, then, is that the <u>slope</u> of the transfer function at any value of k is directly related to F(k)!

$$F(k) \; \approx \; \eta \left( \left| \frac{d \log T^2}{d \log k} \right| \right)$$
 some as-yet unknown function  $\eta$ 

Equivalently, taking derivative of both sides,

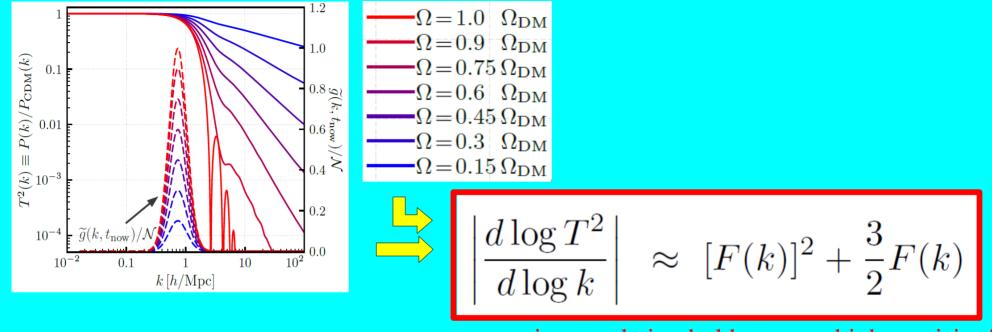
$$\frac{\widetilde{g}(k)}{\mathcal{N}} \approx \eta' \left( \left| \frac{d \log T^2}{d \log k} \right| \right) \left| \frac{d^2 \log T^2}{(d \log k)^2} \right|$$

T
DM phase-space
distribution!

first derivative of  $T^2$ 

second derivative of  $T^2$ 

# Pushing this further, we can even conjecture a specific function $\eta$ !



approximate relation holds to very high precision!

#### Our conjecture then takes the non-trivial form

$$\frac{\widetilde{g}(k)}{\mathcal{N}} \approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{9}{16} + \left| \frac{d \log T^2}{d \log k} \right| \right)^{-1/2} \left| \frac{d^2 \log T^2}{(d \log k)^2} \right|$$

This would allow us to "resurrect" g(k) from the transfer function  $T^2(k)$ !

### Technical point...

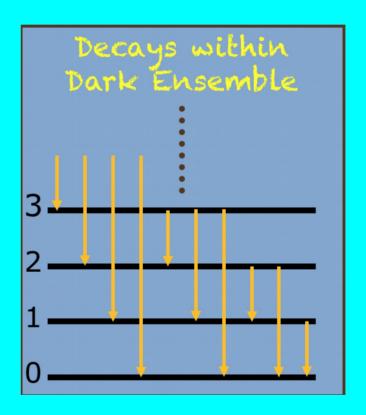
- This conjecture assumes/requires that the transfer function has a *negative-semidefinite second derivative* (i.e., constant slope or concave-down).
- Generally, this tends to occur in situations in which our dark-matter distributions no matter how complex in shape
  are relatively "clustered" in k-space.
- If there are widely separated clusters in the DM distribution, then our conjecture is expected to hold within each cluster individually.
- As we shall see, this restriction to clusters is not severe, and still allows us to resurrect g(p) for a wide variety of models of non-trivial early-universe dynamics.

### *Rest of talk*:

### Let's now see how these ideas play out in practice!

In general, the dark sector can contain *many* components with many different masses and many possible decay chains.

How robust are our observations?



### Let's consider a toy model...

Dark ensemble consists of N+1 real scalars  $\phi_j$  with j=0,1,...N, and a mass

spectrum:

 $m_j = m_0 + j^{\delta} \Delta m$ 

In our

analysis we will consider

10 distinct levels...

mass difference

between daughters

Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{N} \left( \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} \phi_{\ell} \partial^{\mu} \phi_{\ell} - \frac{1}{2} m_{\ell}^{2} \phi_{\ell}^{2} - \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} \sum_{j=0}^{i} c_{\ell i j} \phi_{\ell} \phi_{i} \phi_{j} \right) + \cdots$$

mass difference between

parent and daughters

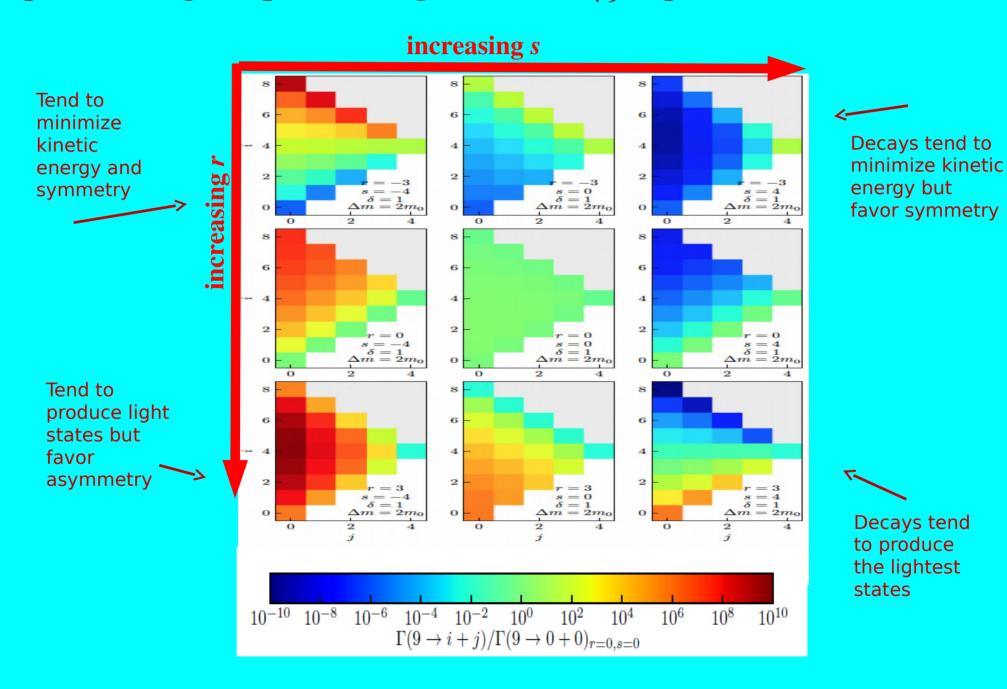
The trilinear coupling:

$$c_{\ell ij} = c_0 \mu R_{\ell ij} \left( \frac{m_{\ell} - m_i - m_j}{\Delta m} \right)^r \left( 1 + \frac{m_i - m_j}{\Delta m} \right)^{-s}$$

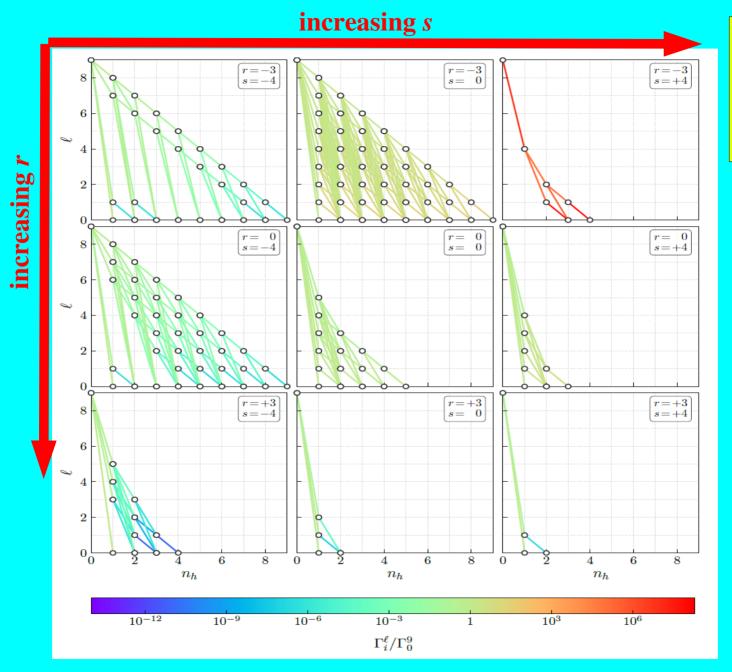
• Larger r: prefers decays yielding more "radiation" (big mass jumps)

• Larger s: prefers decays with more symmetry between daughters

## Given the explicit Lagrangian, we calculate decay rates from a given parent to a given pair of daughters. For $\phi_9$ (top), we have ...

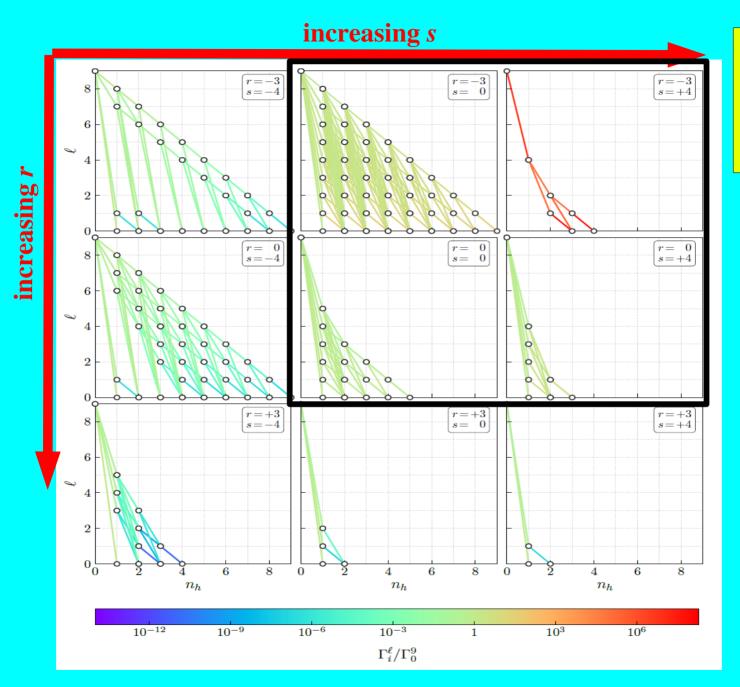


### Many possible patterns of decay chains, depending on (r,s)...



Color indicates normalized decay rate

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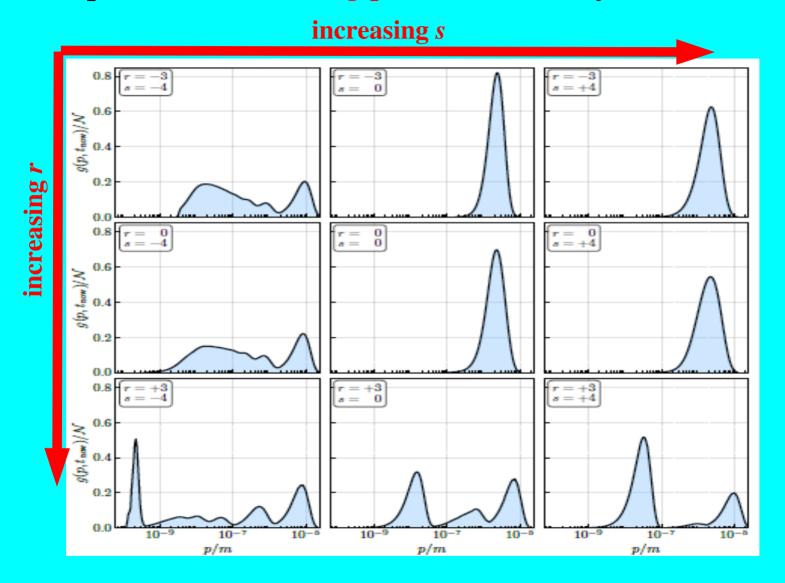
Deposits to the ground state tend to happen around the same time



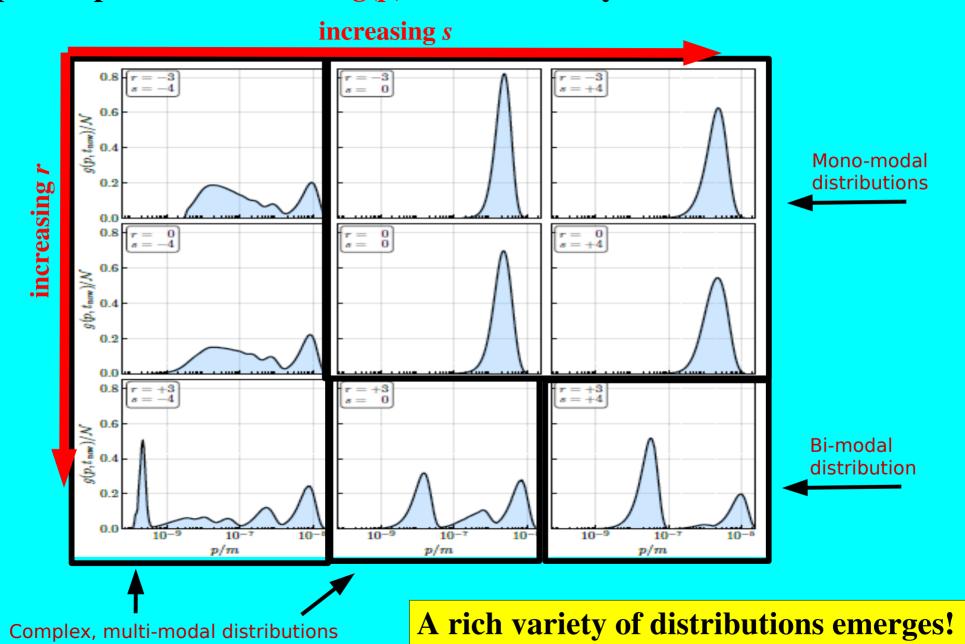
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Solve coupled system of exact Boltzmann equations, obtain final phase space distributions g(p) after all decays have concluded.

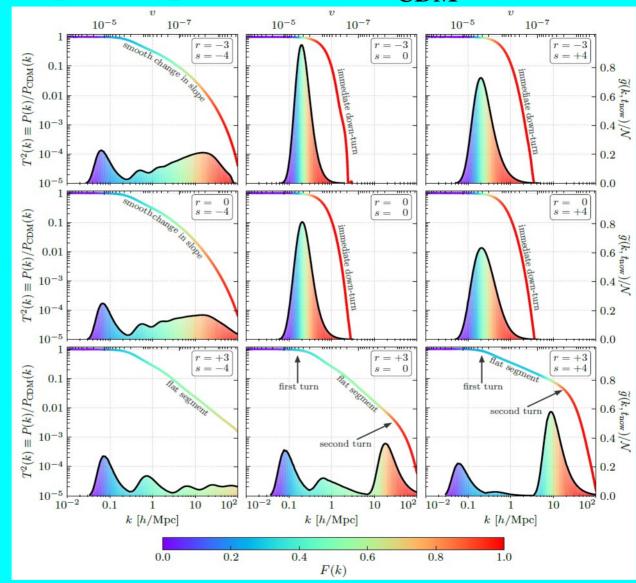


Solve coupled system of exact Boltzmann equations, obtain final phase space distributions g(p) after all decays have concluded.



# Calculate corresponding k-space distributions as well as matter power spectrum $P(k)/P_{\rm CDM}(k)$ .

As we sweep through k-space distributions, rainbow colors indicate growth of hot fraction function  $0 \le F(k) \le 1$ .



Slope of power spectrum indeed appears to correlate with F(k)!

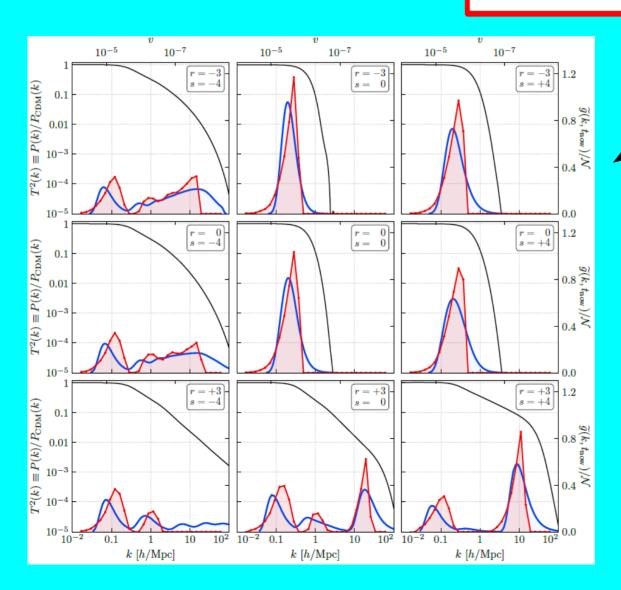
Finally, to what extent can we "resurrect" the dark-matter phase-space distribution from the transfer function?

Recall our conjecture.... 
$$\frac{\widetilde{g}(k)}{\mathcal{N}} \approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{9}{16} + \left| \frac{d \log T^2}{d \log k} \right| \right)^{-1/2} \left| \frac{d^2 \log T^2}{(d \log k)^2} \right|$$

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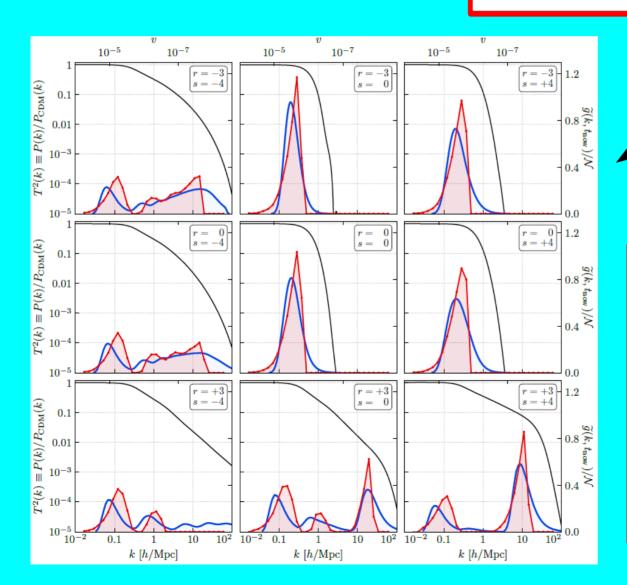
Blue outline = original
k-space DM distribution

<u>Pink shaded</u> = reconstruction directly from transfer function

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Archaeological reconstruction is surprisingly accurate for a <u>variety</u> of possible DM distribution shapes (thermal, uni-modal, multi-modal, etc.)!

### **Conclusions**

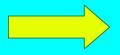
- Early-universe processes such as decays in non-minimal dark sectors can leave identifiable imprints in f(p) and P(k), certain features of which may allow us to go backwards and archaeologically reconstruct the early-universe dynamics.
  - Useful tools are possible multi-modality of f(p) and hot fraction function F(k).
  - We even conjectured a relation which enables us to "resurrect" f(p), given P(k).
- Such approaches may ultimately be the *only* way of learning about dark-sector dynamics if the dark sector has no direct couplings to the SM.
- The dark sectors of string theory generically include unstable KK towers of the form we have discussed here. Thus string theory generically leads to multi-modal f(p) distributions and non-trivial P(k) spectra. This provides motivation to measure P(k) with increased precision, even beyond current experimental limits.

## Yet to explore...

- How to incorporate effects that might come from couplings to SM? Could potentially affect evolution of phase space distributions in additional subtle ways.
- Incorporation of observational bounds and constraints (Lyman α, etc.)
- Do these kinds of transfer functions fall within the general forms expected from effective theories of structure formation?
- We have thus far studied only the *linear* power spectrum. Can this analysis be extended to the *non-linear* regime (even higher *k*)?

### Final Comment

In this talk we have concentrated on situations in which the decays of the ensemble constituents have occurred long before the present time.



Thus, the higher components have long since been completely depopulated, and the dark matter today consists of only the lightest constituent.

However, what if our timescales are different, and these sorts of decays are continuing to occur, with many ensemble constituents still carrying sizable cosmological abundances and decaying even today?

Is this a logical possibility?
Is this a viable framework for dark-matter physics?

## Dynamical Dark Matter (DDM)

an alternative framework for dark-matter physics

#### DDM originally proposed in 2011 with **Brooks Thomas...**

- 1106.4546
- 1107.0721
- 1203.1923

and then further developed in many different directions with many additional collaborators...

- 1204.4183 (also w/ S. Su)
- 1208.0336 (also w/ J. Kumar)
- 1306.2959 (also w/ J. Kumar)
- 1406.4868 (also w/ J. Kumar, D. Yaylali)
- 1407.2606 (also w/ S. Su)
- 1509.00470 (also w/ J. Kost)
- 1601.05094 (also w/ J. Kumar, J. Fennick)
- 1606.07440 (also w/ K. Boddy, D. Kim, J. Kumar, J.-C. Park)
- 1609.09104 (°)
- 1610.04112 (also w/ F. Huang and S. Su)
- 1612.08950 (also w/ J. Kost)
- 1708.09698 (also w/ J. Kumar, D. Yaylali)
- 1712.09919 (also w/ J. Kumar, J. Fennick)
- 1809.11021 (also w/ D. Curtin)
- 1810.xxxxx (also w/ J. Kumar & P. Stengel)
- 1811.xxxxx (also w/ F. Huang and S. Su)
- 1812.xxxxx (also w/ Y. Buyukdag & T. Gherghetta)
- 1812.xxxxx (also w/ A. Desai)
- ... plus ongoing collaborations with many others...!