

Cosmology with the LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey

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for the LOFAR Key Science Project Surveys — Cosmology Team

Copernican Principle, the cosmological principle, and the fair sampling hypothesis

- „The centre of Earth is not the centre of the world, but only of gravity and of the lunar orbit.“ Copernicus
- **Cosmological principle:** Einstein, inspired by Mach
spatially isotropic and homogeneous $\Rightarrow \exists$ cosmic time & rest frame
- **Copernican principle:** We are **typical observers** Bondi
- **LSS as stationary stochastic process – fair sampling** Neyman & Scott
- The **CMB is isotropic** (at 1 per cent level) Penzias & Wilson
Dipole $O(10^{-3})$ from proper motion Stewart & Sciama, Peebles & Wilkinson
- Isotropy and Copernican principle \Rightarrow Cosmological principle
- **LOFAR radio continuum surveys allow us to**
 - 1. test nature of stochastic process underlying LSS and**
 - 2. measure source count dipole to test cosmological principle**

NICOLAI COPERNICI TORINENSIS
DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBI-
um caelestium, Libri VI.

Habes in hoc opere iam recens nato, & ædito,
studiose lector, Motus stellarum, tam fixarum,
quàm erraticarum, cum ex ueteribus, tum etiam
ex recentibus obseruationibus restitutos: & no-
uis insuper ac admirabilibus hypothefibus or-
natos. Habes etiam Tabulas expeditissimas, ex
quibus eisdem ad quoduis tempus quàm facillè
me calculare poteris. Igitur eme, lege, frue.

Αγαπητέ μου Νικόλαε,

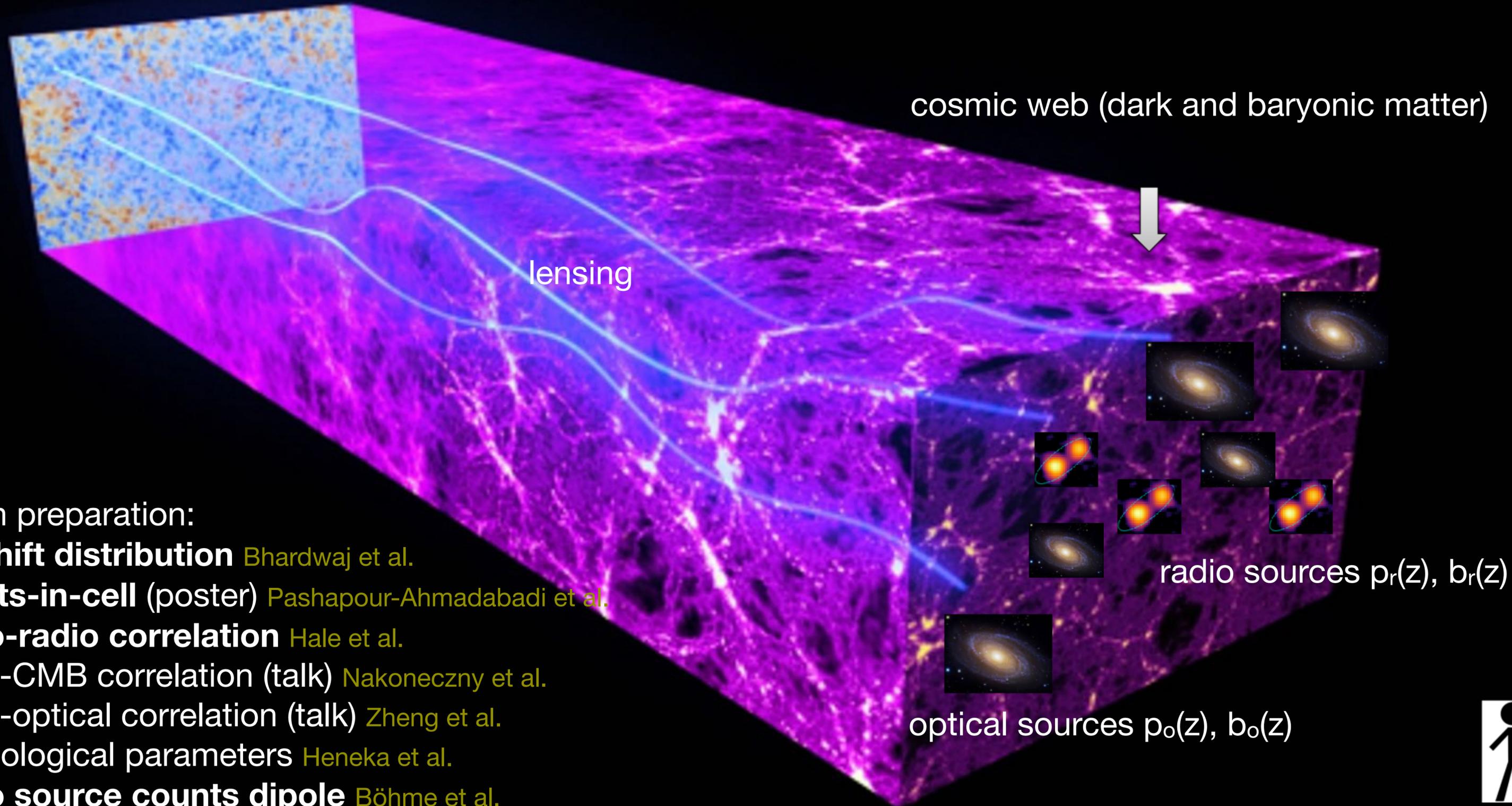
Norimbergæ apud Ioh. Petreium,
Anno M. D. XLII.

Radio Cosmology

Questions

- Characterise stochastic process of **cosmic large scale structure**
Motivation: Is the sample fair (complete, etc.)? Are radio sources drawn from a Poisson process?
Probe: **Counts-in-cells** (LoTSS-DR1: Siewert et al. 2020)
- Constrain **cosmological parameters**
Motivation: Several tensions in cosmology: H_0 , S_8/σ_8 , curvature, ...
No evidence for non-Gaussianity so far: two-point statistics
Probe: **Auto- and cross-correlations at small angles**
(LoTSS-DR1: Siewert et al. 2020, Alonso et al. 2021, Tiwari et al. 2022)
- Does the **rest-frame of matter** agree with the CMB frame?
Motivation: Excess of radio source and quasar count dipoles (Secreste et al. 2022, Wagenveld et al. 2023)
Frequency dependence of radio source count dipole? (Siewert et al. 2021)
Challenge to the Cosmological Principle (for recent summary see e.g. Peebles 2022)
Probe: **Dipole in radio source counts**

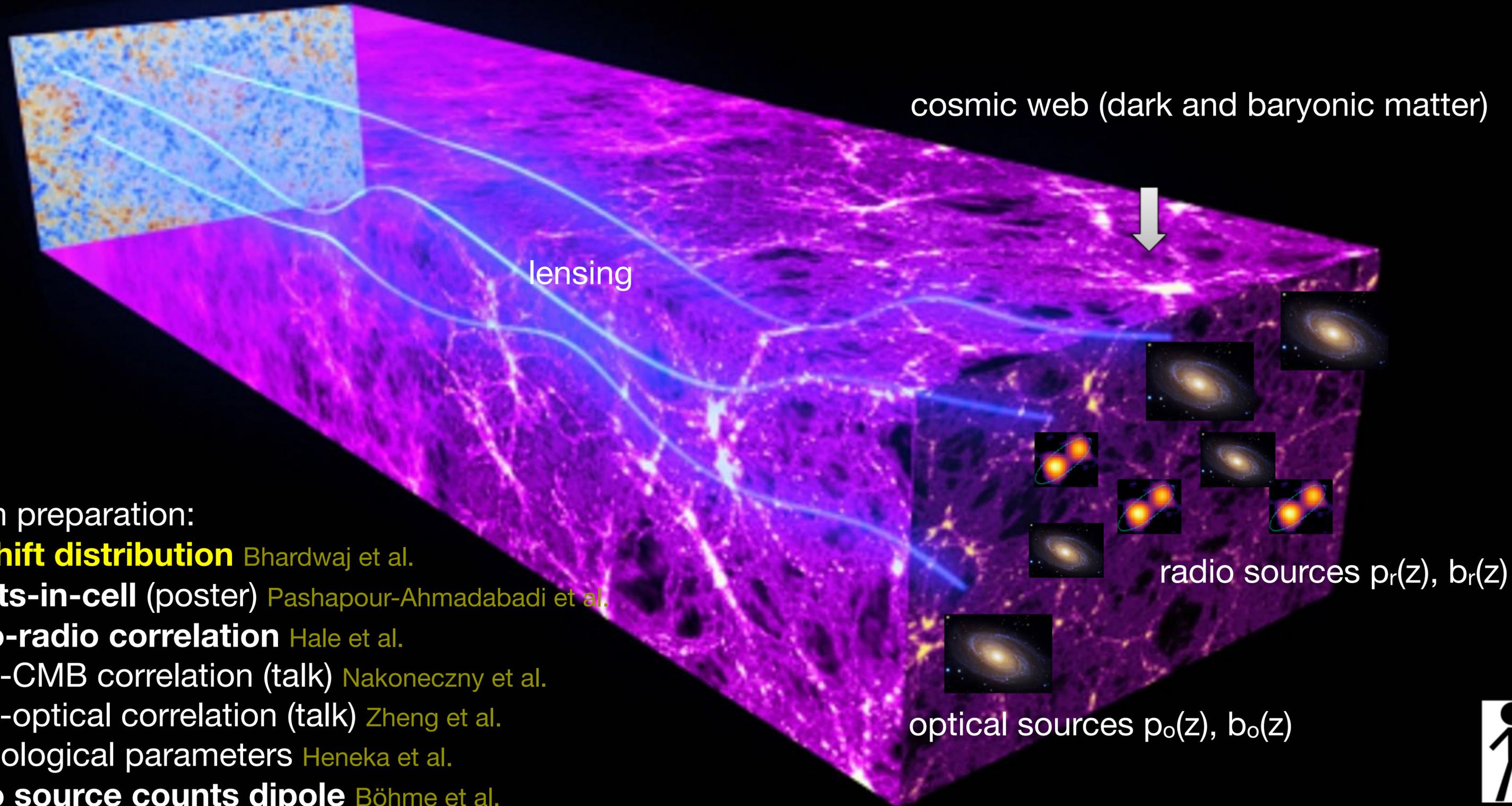
CMB



Works in preparation:

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- **Counts-in-cell** (poster) Pashapour-Ahmadabadi et al.
- **Radio-radio correlation** Hale et al.
- Radio-CMB correlation (talk) Nakoneczny et al.
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- **Radio source counts dipole** Böhme et al.

CMB



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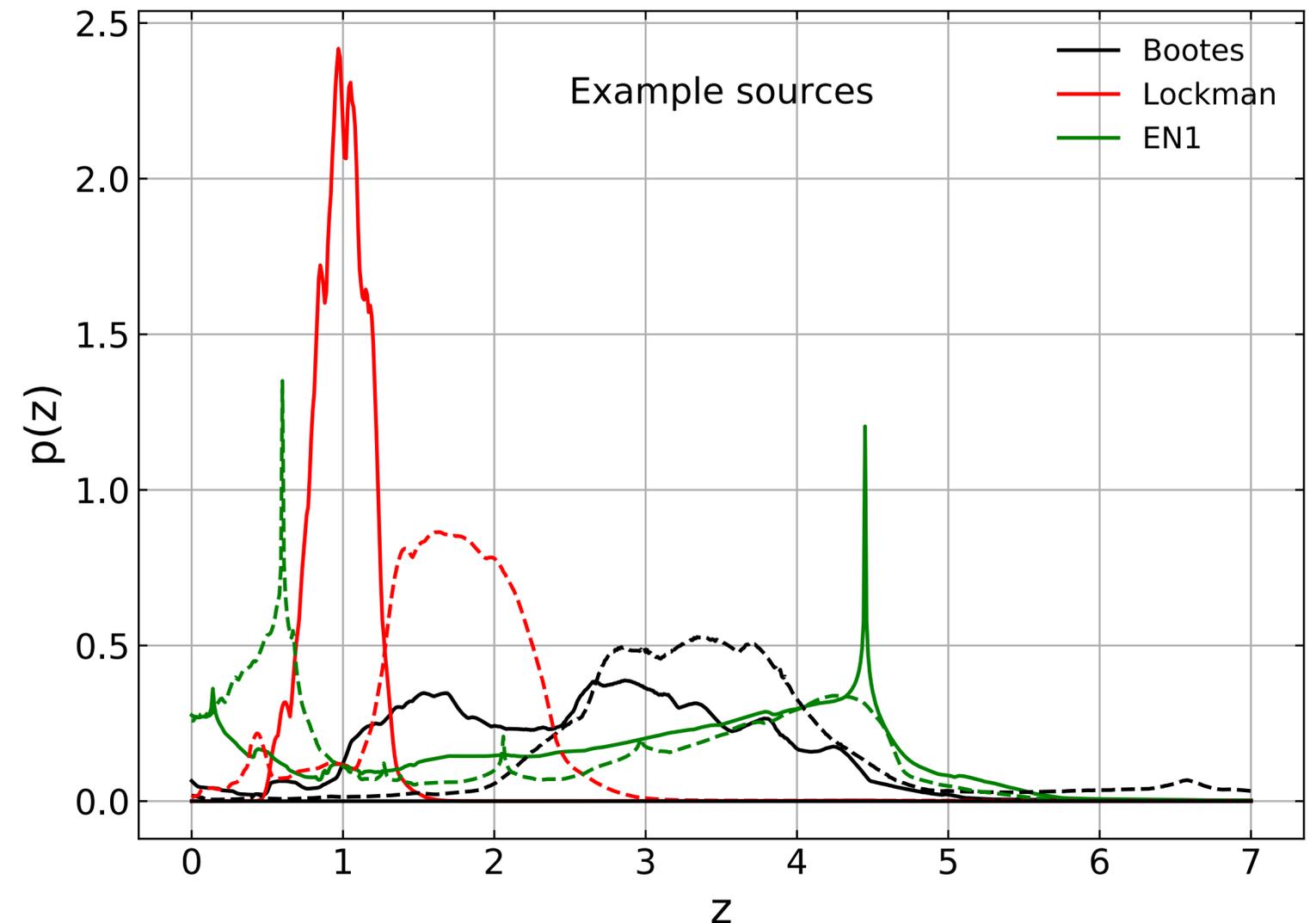
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Photometric redshifts from LoTSS Deep Fields

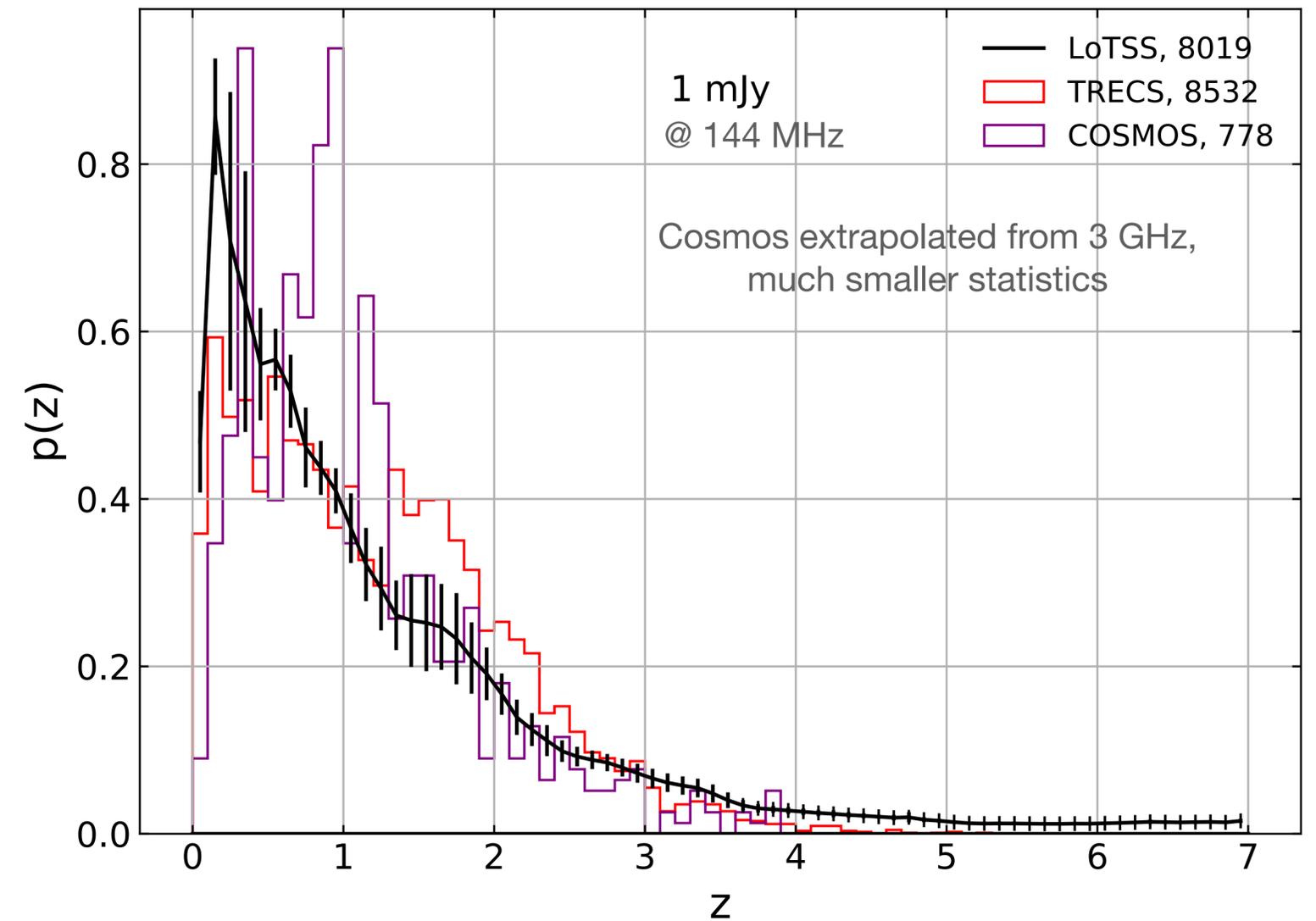
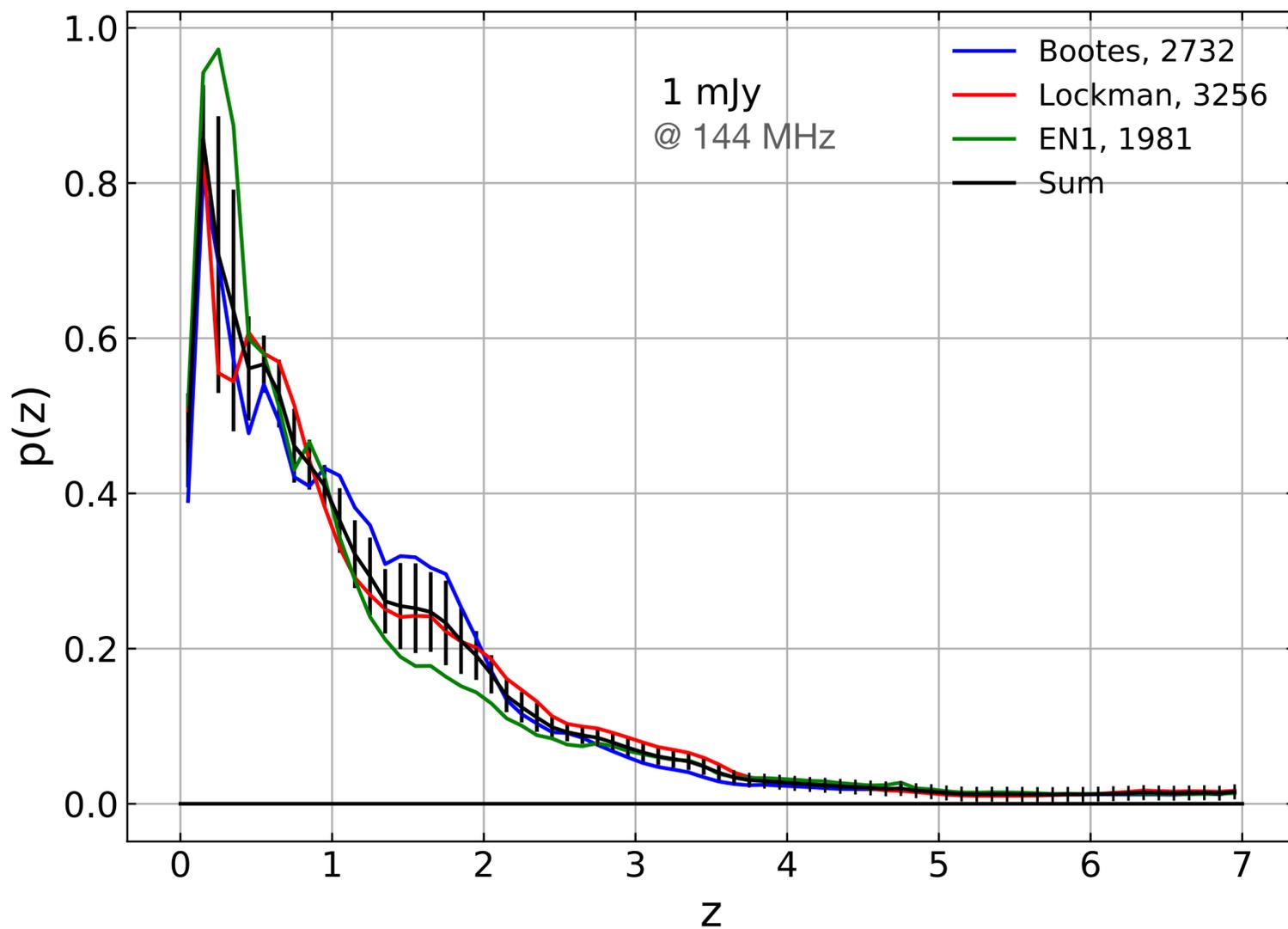
Some examples for posteriors of photometric redshifts

- Value added catalogue provides z_{best} , estimates for the 80% credibility intervals of the first and second mode of the posterior photo-z estimate
[Duncan et al 2021](#)
- z_{best} histogram does not properly reflect information contained in posterior
- Our approach: stack all *posterior* $p(z)$ for LoTSS Deep Field DR1 sources per field and combine them as a weighted sum. Use properly weighted bootstrap resampling to obtain error estimates



Photometric redshifts from LoTSS Deep Fields

Crucial to estimate the distributions of redshifts

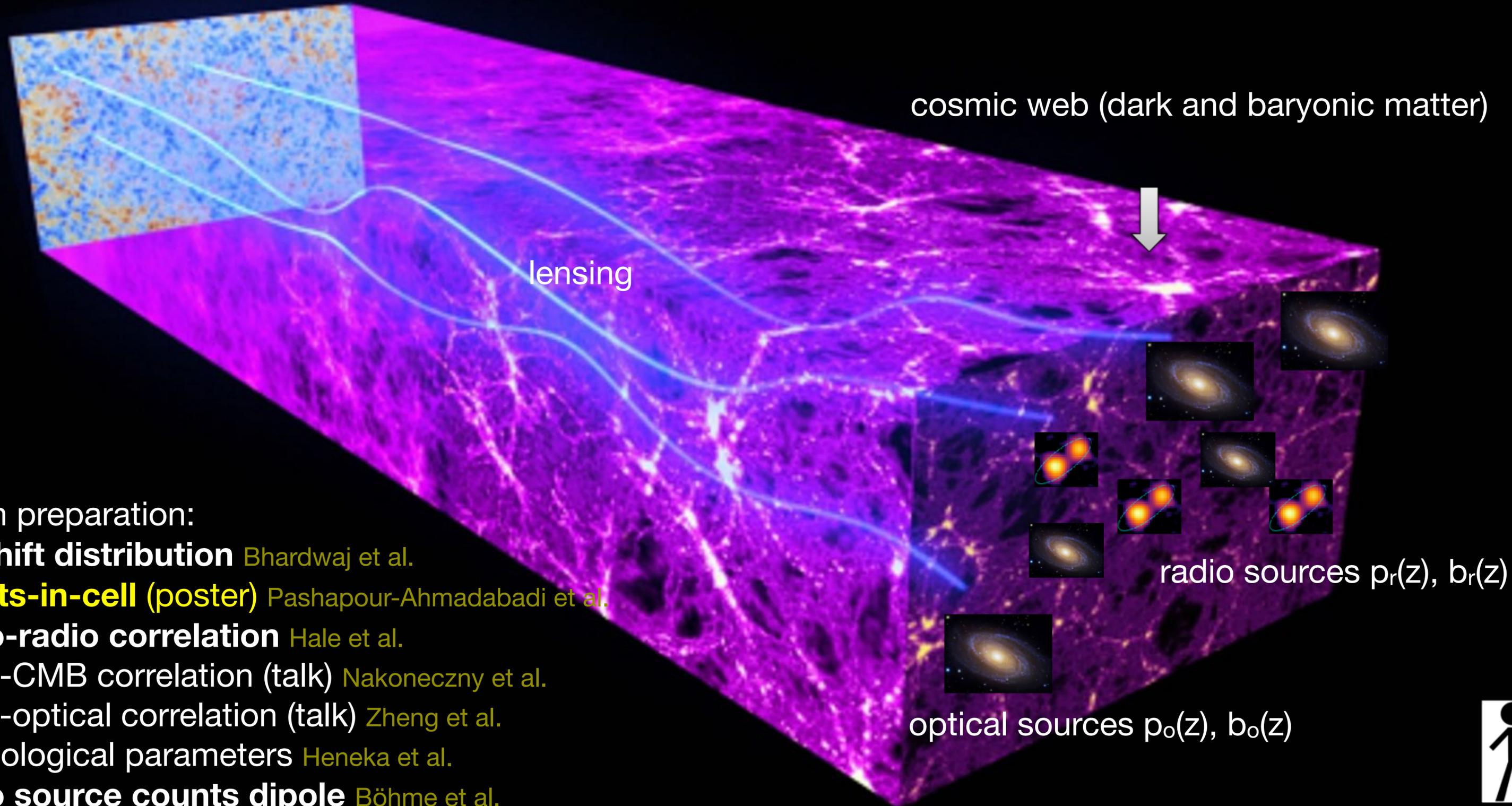


Bootstrap from posterior $p(z)$ from [Duncan et al. 2021](#)
for all LoTSS Deep DR1 radio sources (misses 5% of redshifts)

[Bhardwaj et al. in preparation](#)

Variation between fields due to **systematics in photometric redshifts** and **cosmic variance**

CMB

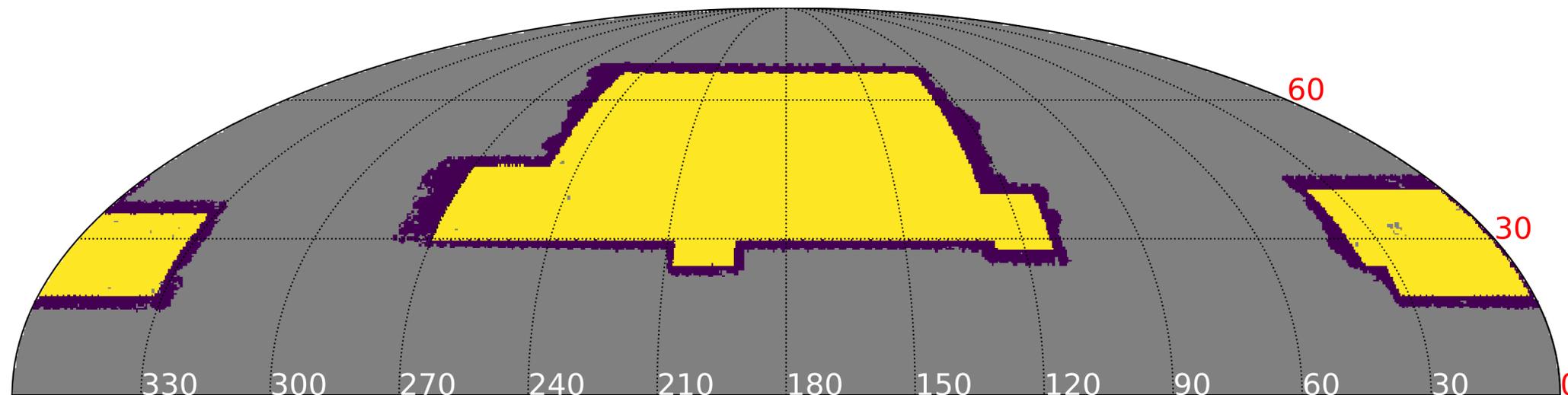
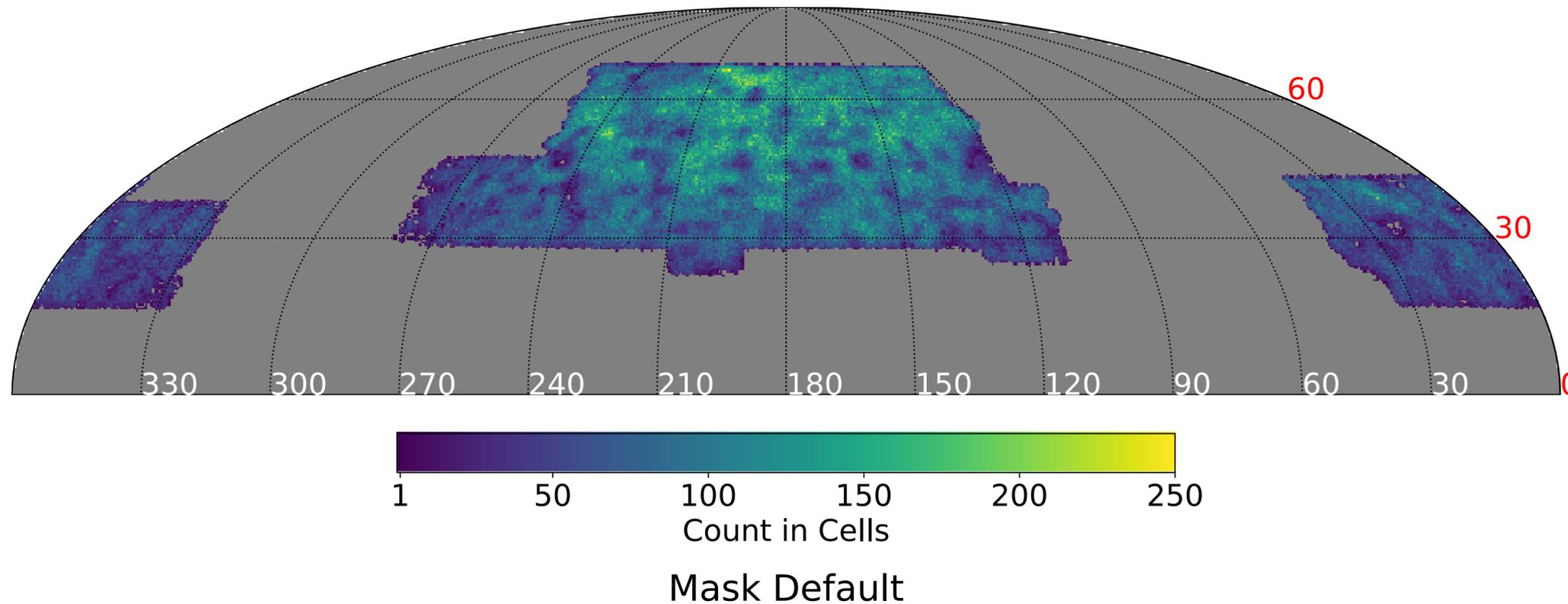


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Counts-in-Cell

Sampling of radio sources is not homogeneous



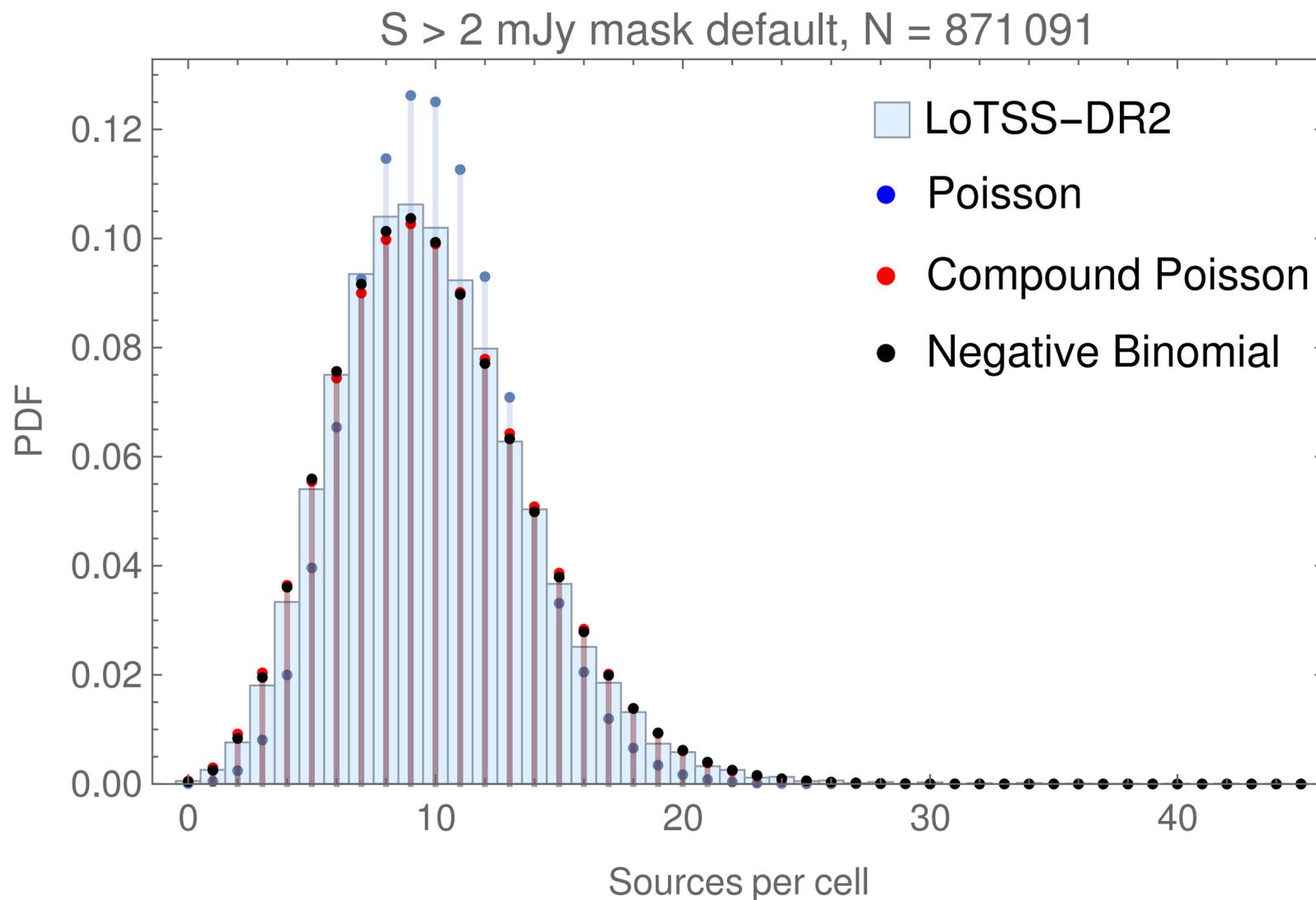
Sampling depends on

1. local rms noise,
2. distance from pointing centre,
3. number of pointings used in mosaic,
4. elevation of pointing

use spatial masks and flux density thresholds to ensure sample homogeneity

Counts-in-Cell

Radio sources follow a Cox process rather than a Poisson process



Deviation from Poissonian distribution due to:

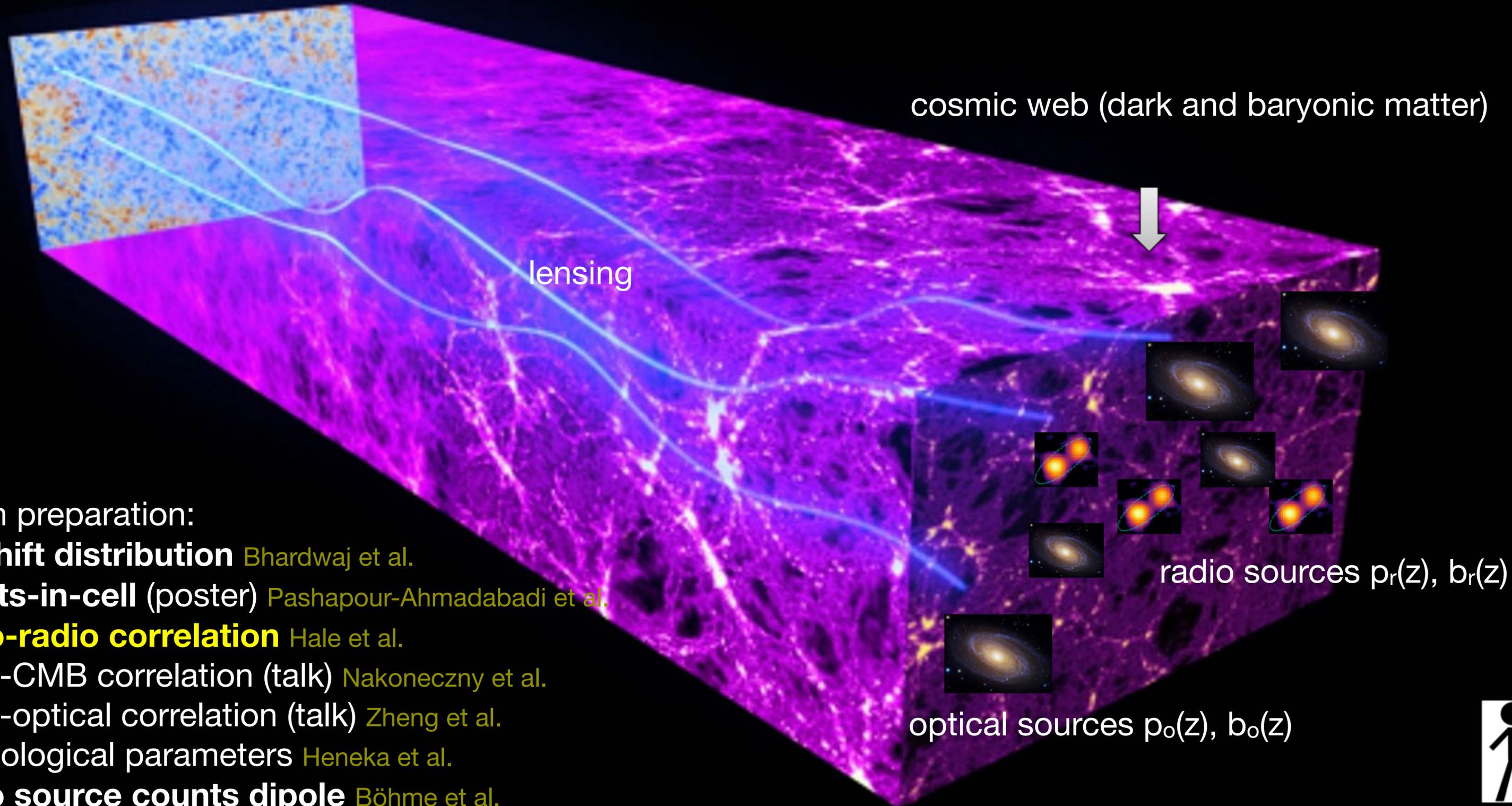
- Multicomponent sources** (e.g. FR II) and **artefacts** (violate statistical independence)
- Resolved sources** (violate point-like assumption of Poisson process)
- Cosmic large scale structure

Negative binomial distribution describes counts of individuals across various species of plants and animals (Fisher, Corbet & Wilson 1943; Bliss & Fisher 1954).

Radio components = individuals
Radio sources (FRI, FR II, SFG, ...) = species

Pashapour-Ahmadabadi et al. in preparation;
See poster for more

CMB



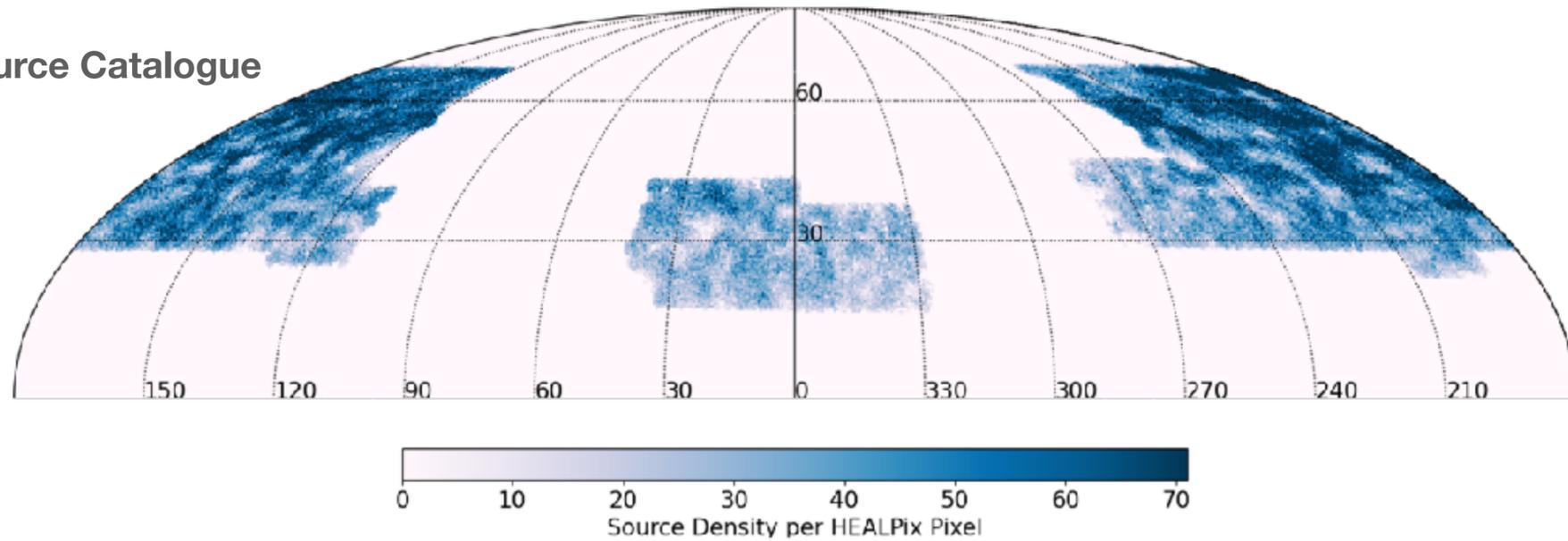
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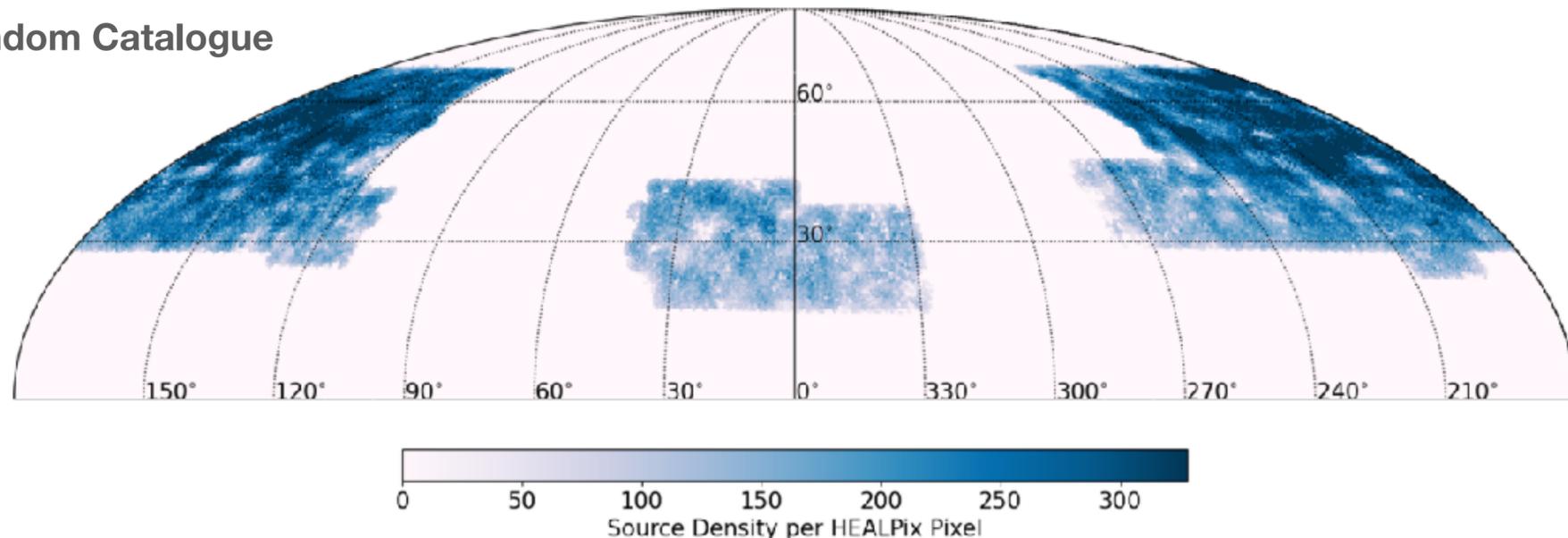
Angular two-point correlation

Random Catalogue and estimator

Source Catalogue



Random Catalogue



Account for local rms noise, smearing dependent on distance from pointing centre, and elevation dependence of observations:

Apply spatial mask and use data and randoms at $S > 1.5$ mJy and $\text{SNR} > 7.5$

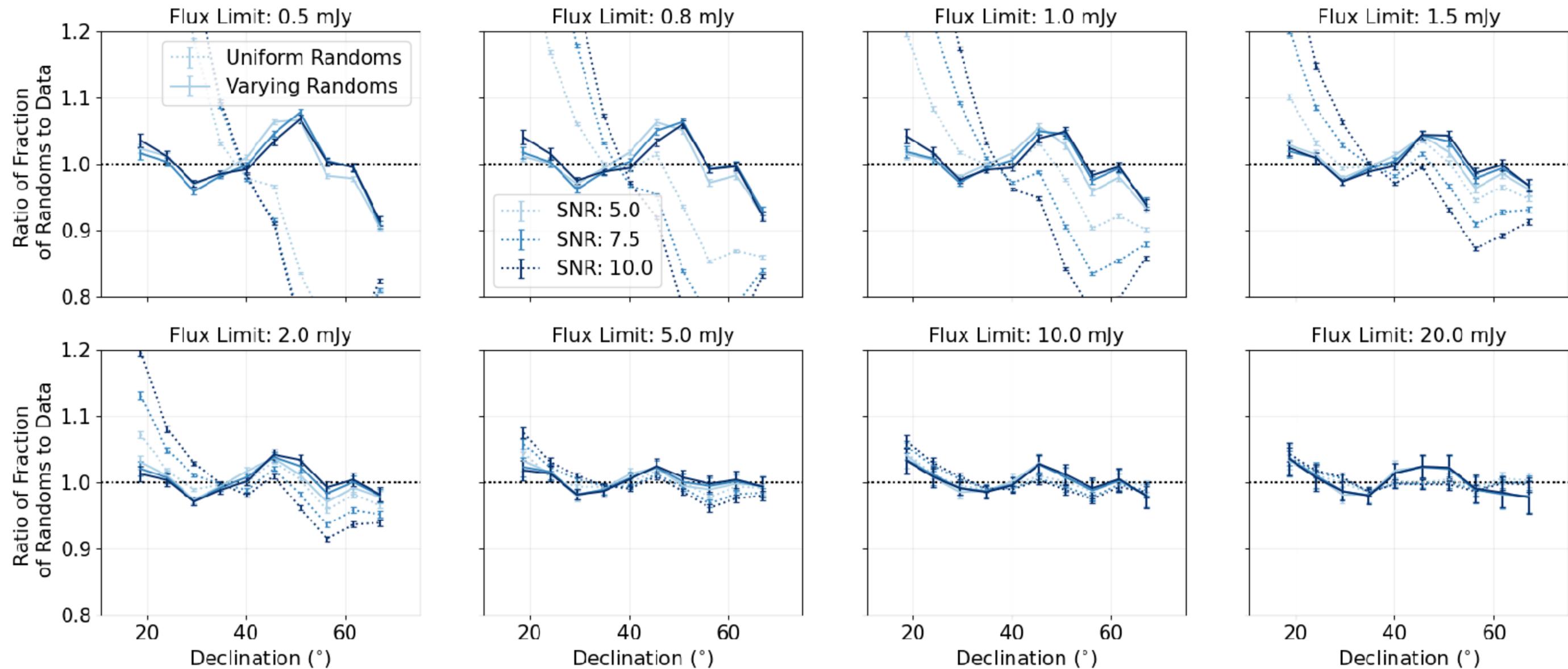
Use Landy-Szalay (optimal) estimator

$$\hat{\omega}(\theta) = \frac{DD - 2DR + RR}{RR}$$

Hale et al. in preparation

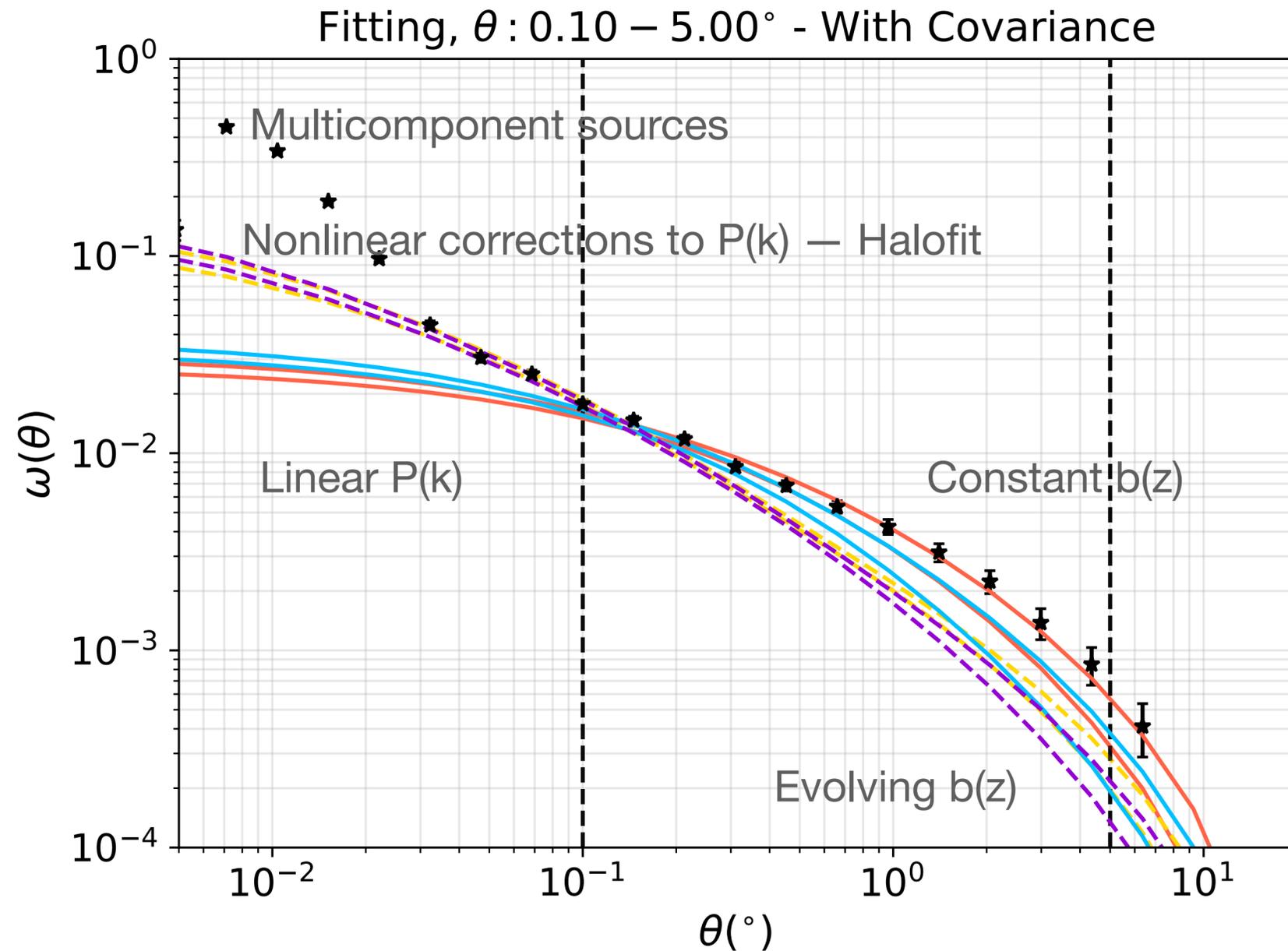
Preparation of Randoms Catalogue

Account for instrumental and pipeline imperfections



Angular two-point correlation

Evolving bias $b(z) = b_0/D(z)$ on top of linear/non-linear matter fluctuations



- Fit Planck best-fit LCDM model (fixed cosmology)

- Use LoTSS deep fields photo-z's

- **High-fidelity measurement of $\omega(\theta)$**

- Evolving bias (linear)

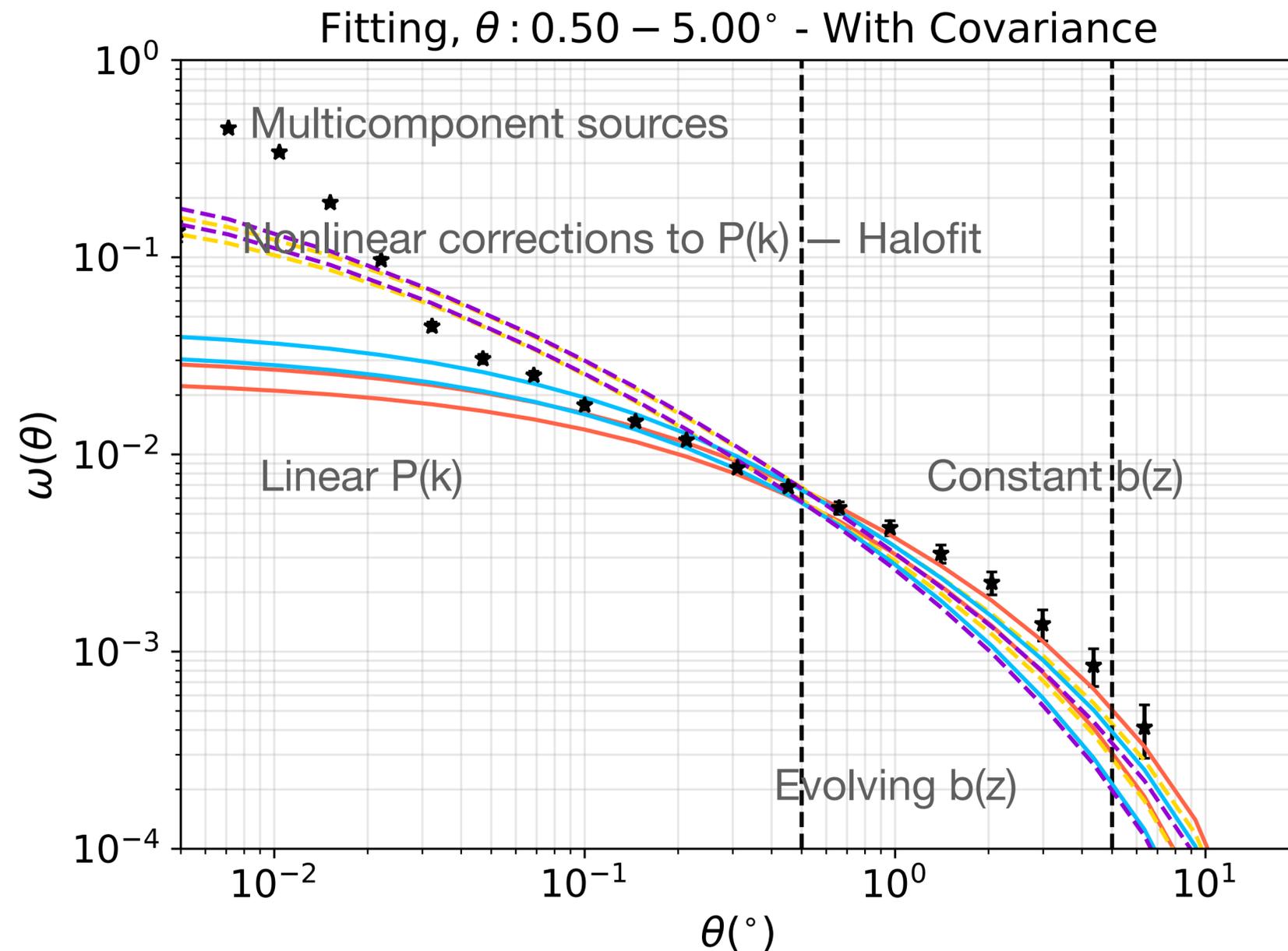
$$b(z = 0) = 1.81^{+0.16}_{-0.13}$$

$$b(z = 0.9) = 2.86^{+0.25}_{-0.21}$$

- **Sensitive to non-linear large-scale structure and multi-component sources at $\theta < 0.1$ deg**

Angular two-point correlation

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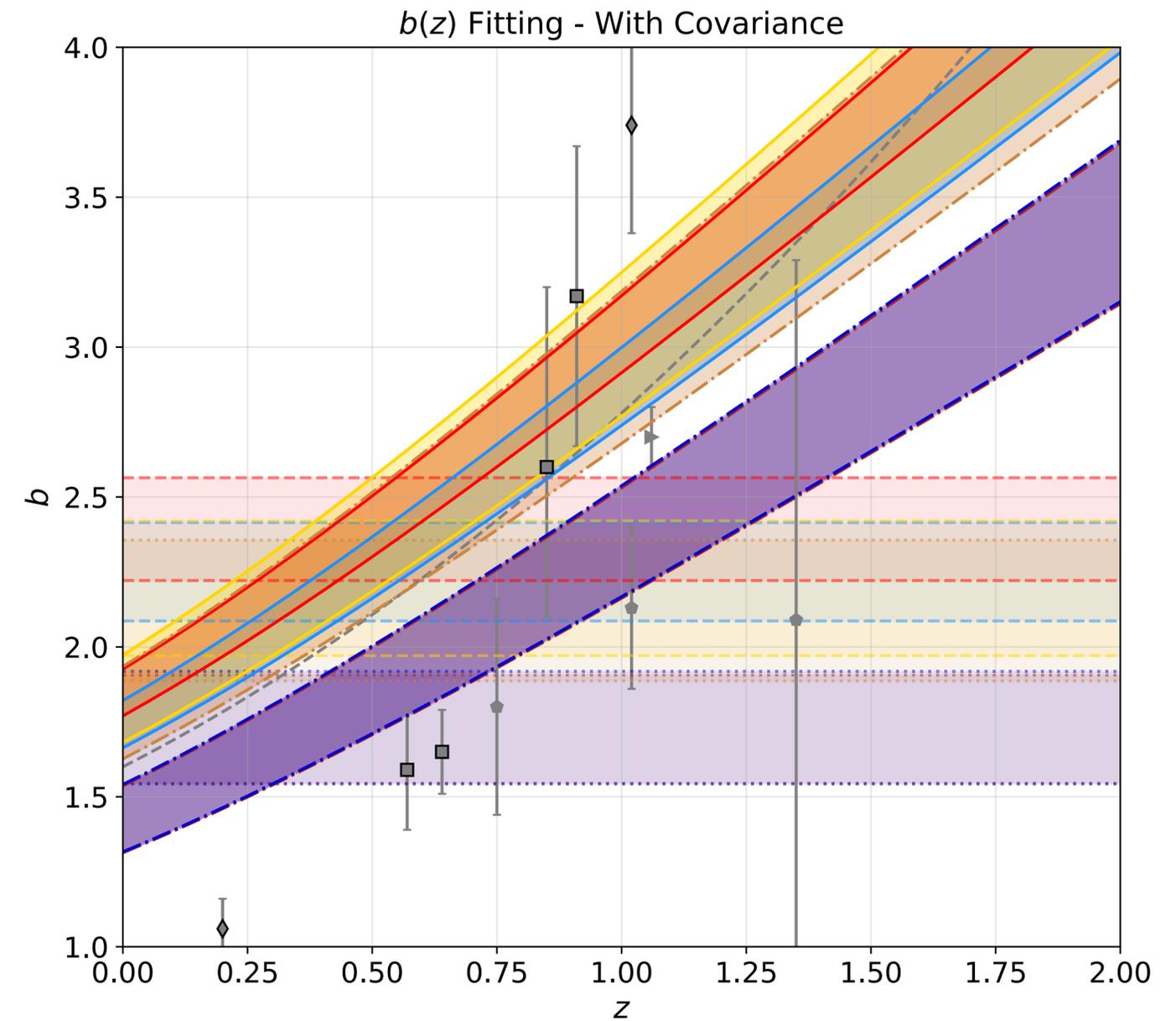
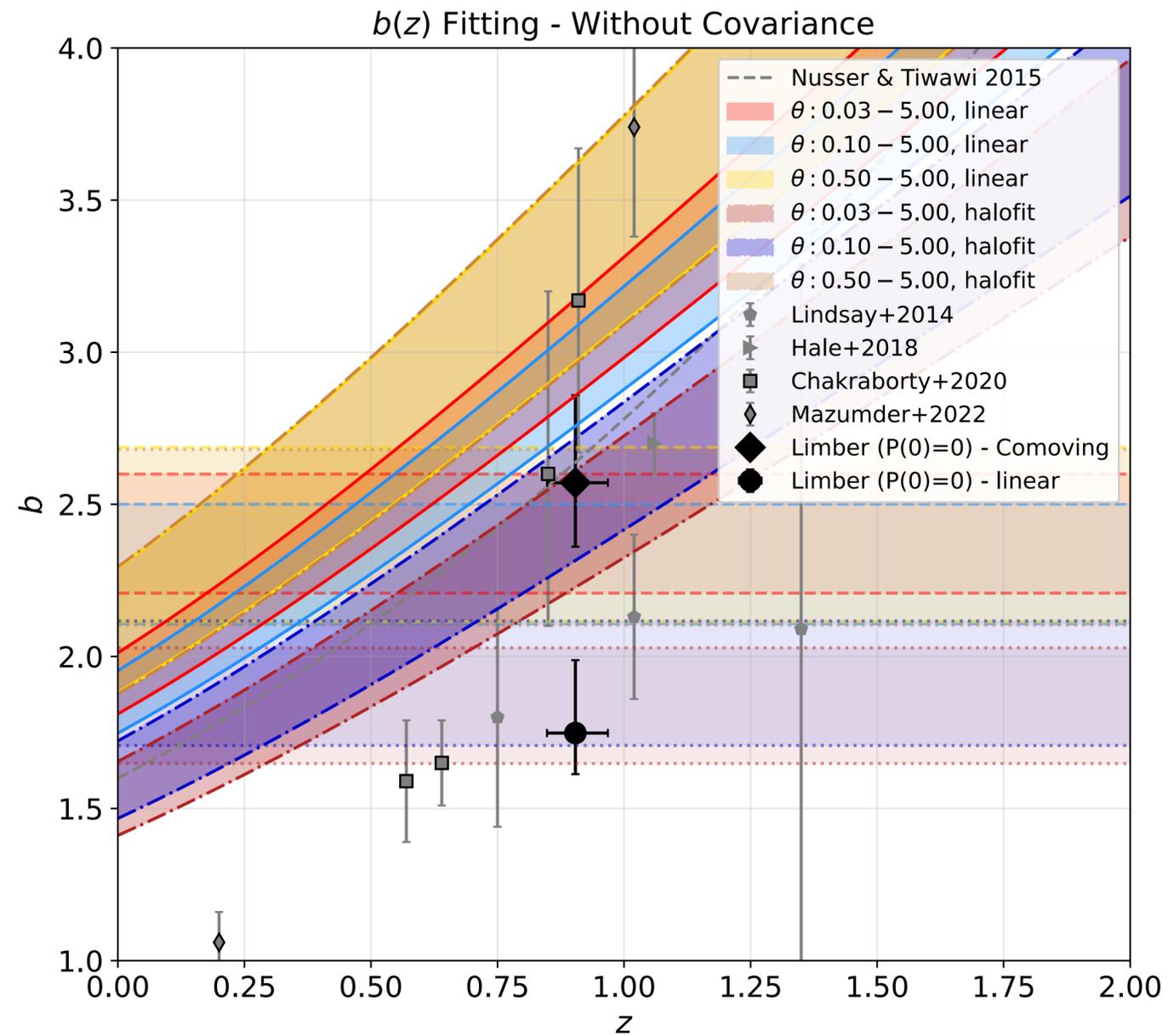
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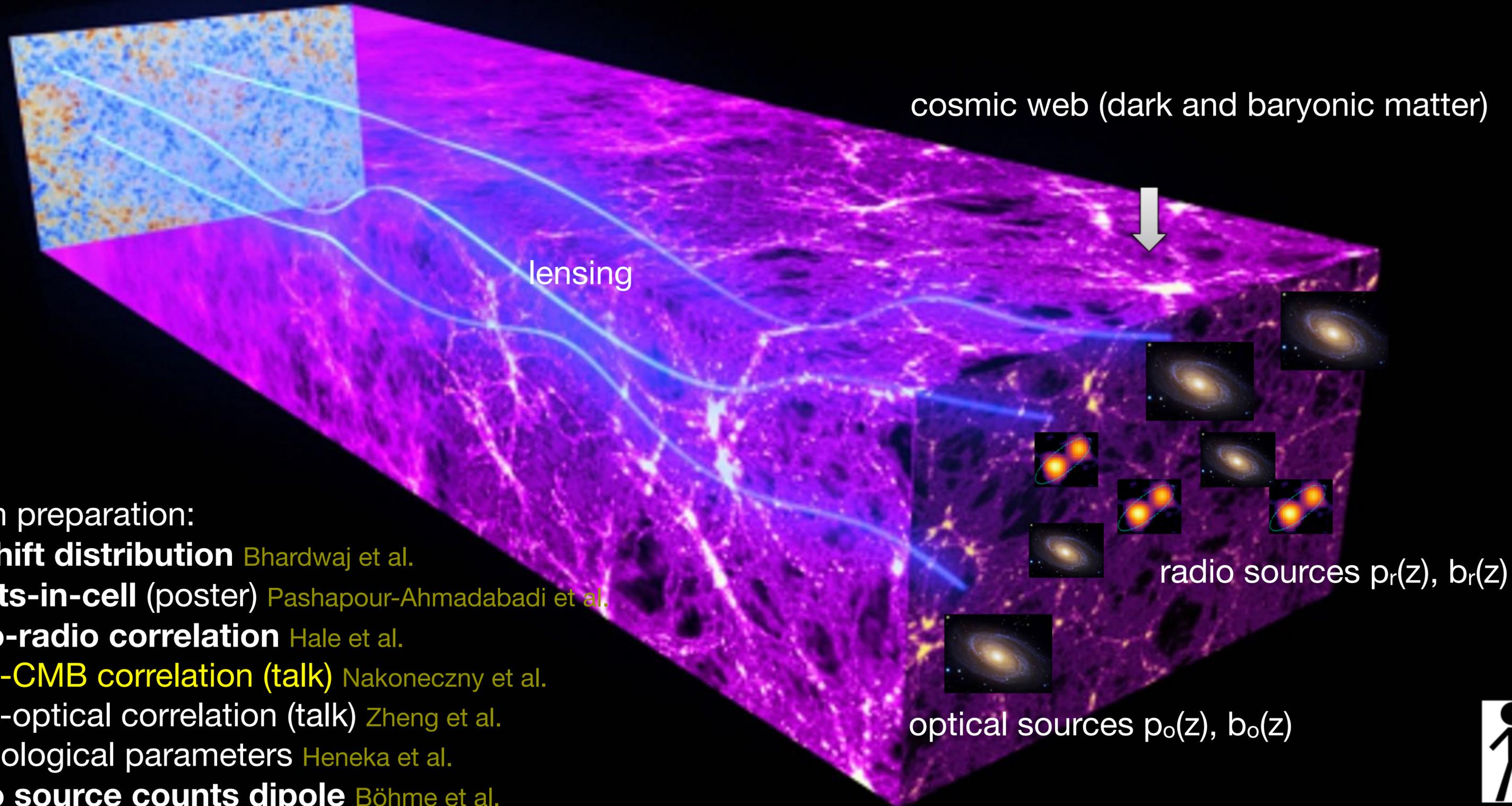
- **Sensitive to non-linear large-scale structure and multi-component sources at $\theta < 0.1$ deg**

Linear bias

Comparison of different measurements



CMB

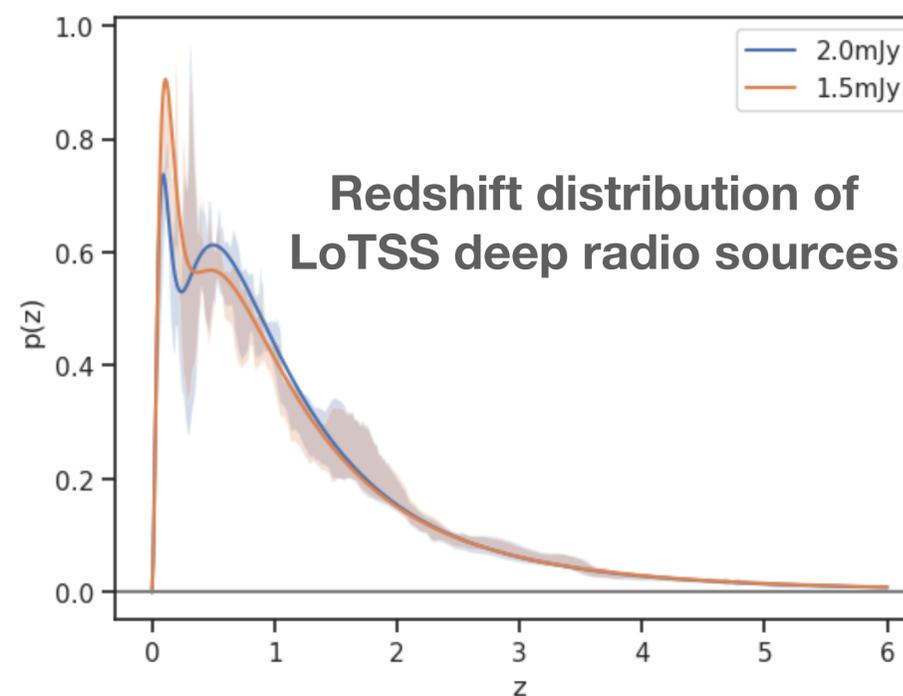
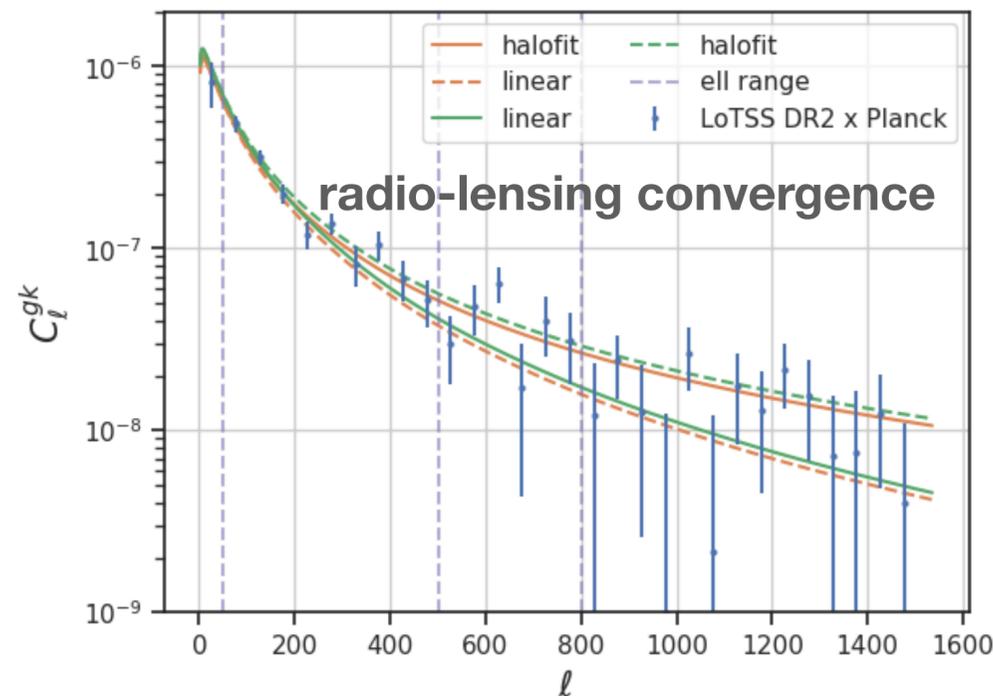
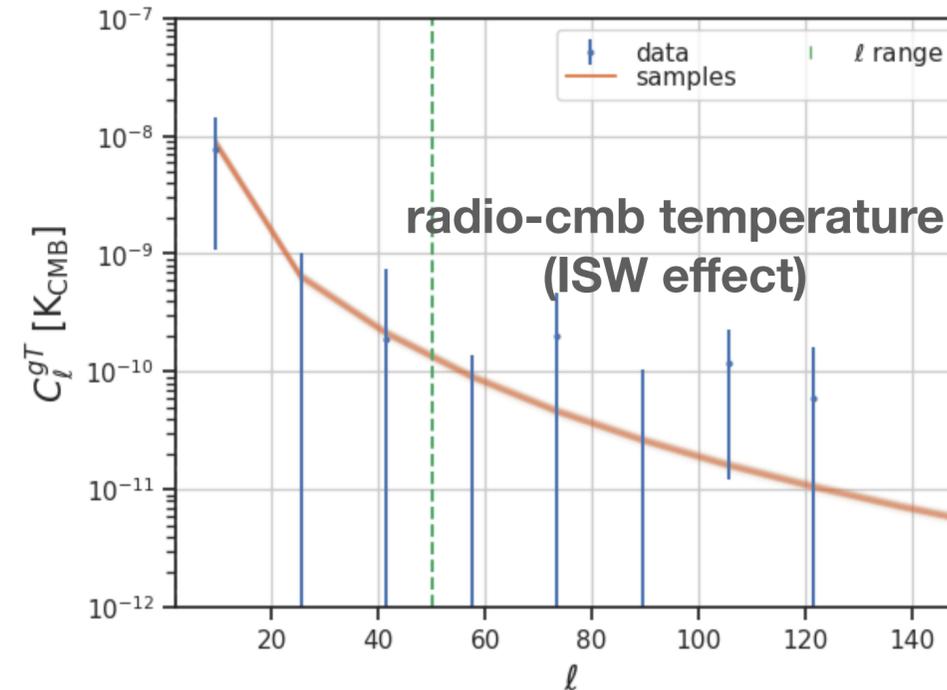
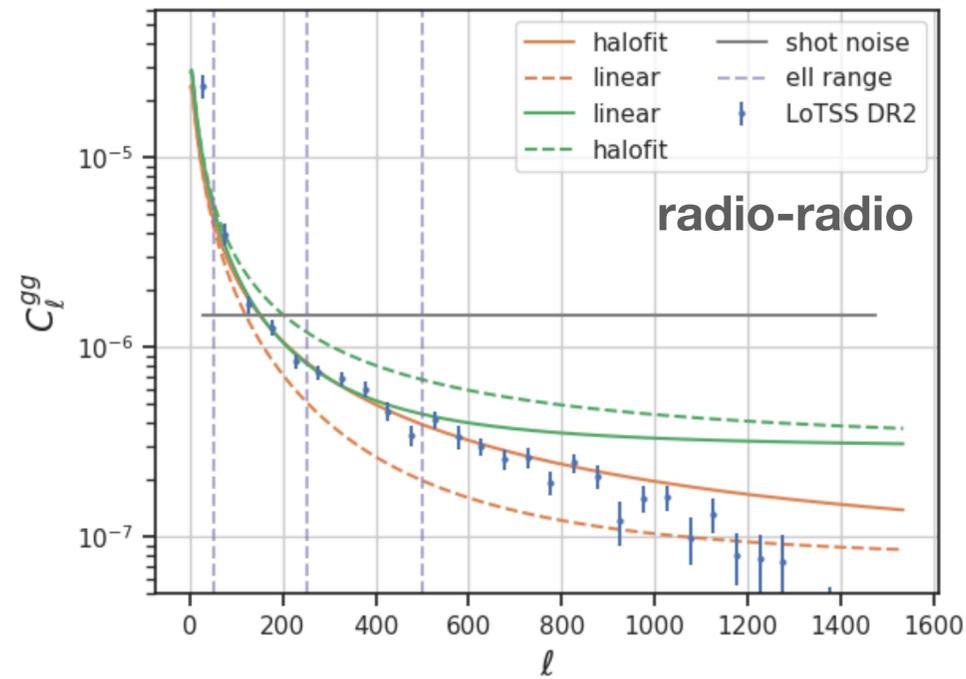


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Angular Power Spectra

Auto- and cross-correlation with CMB temperature and lensing (Planck 2018)



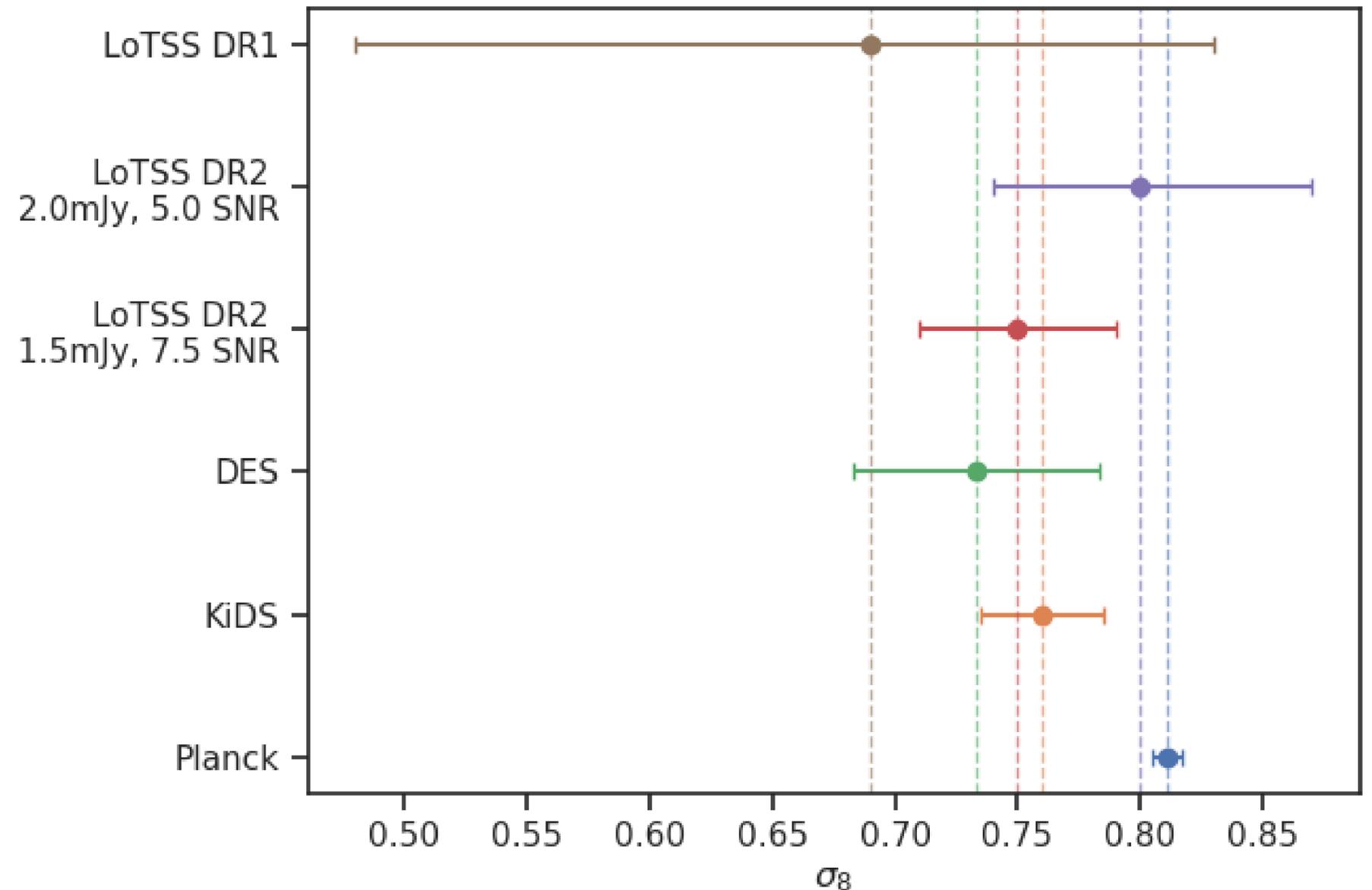
- **Radio-CMB lensing detection at 22 sigma**
- **Consistent with expected ISW effect**
- **Allows to fit $p(z)$, $b(z)$ and σ_8 in linear regime**
- **Here: LCDM background parameters fixed to Planck 2018 best-fit values**

Nakoneczny et al. in preparation
See talk by Maciej Bilicki

Clustering strength

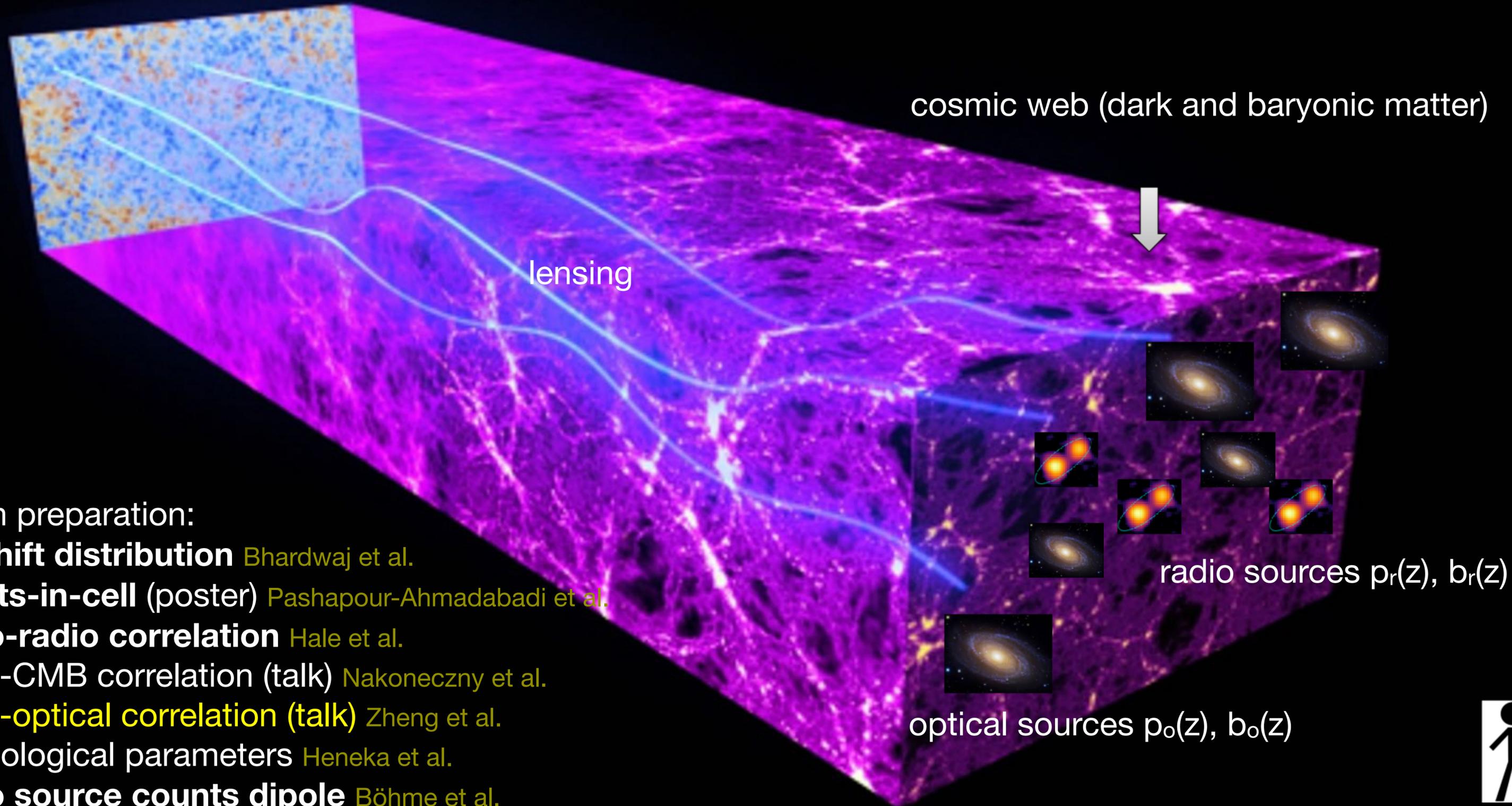
Can LOFAR help to resolve the σ_8 tension ?

- σ_8 measures rms matter density fluctuation in a ball of radius $8 h^{-1}$ Mpc
- **Major improvement** from DR1 [Alonso et al. 2021](#) to DR2 [Nakoneczny et al. in prep.](#)
- Results depend on signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and flux density cut and change within 1σ
- **LOFAR starts to be competitive with dedicated surveys like DES and KiDS**



[Nakoneczny et al. in preparation](#)

CMB

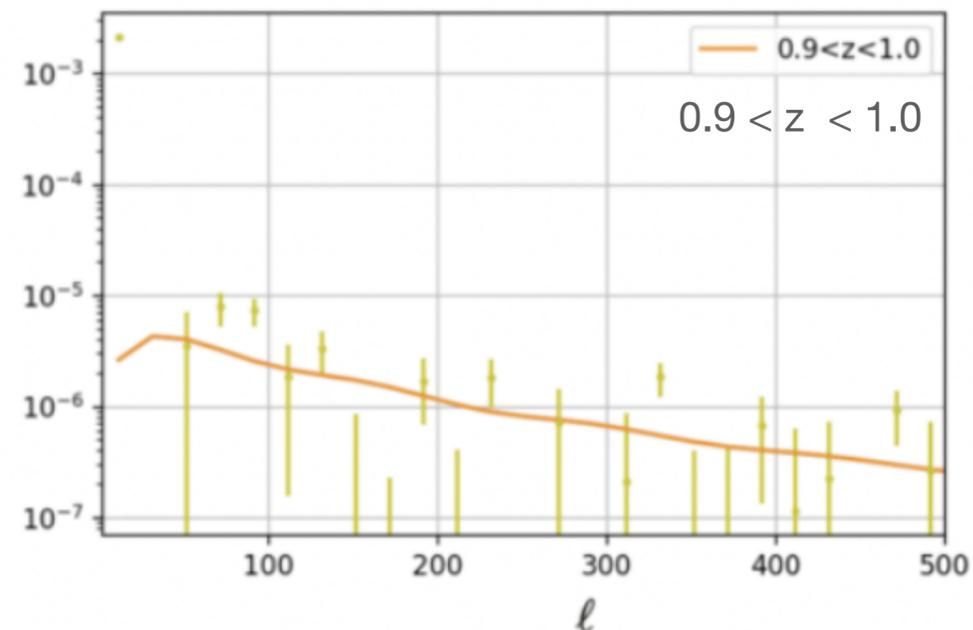
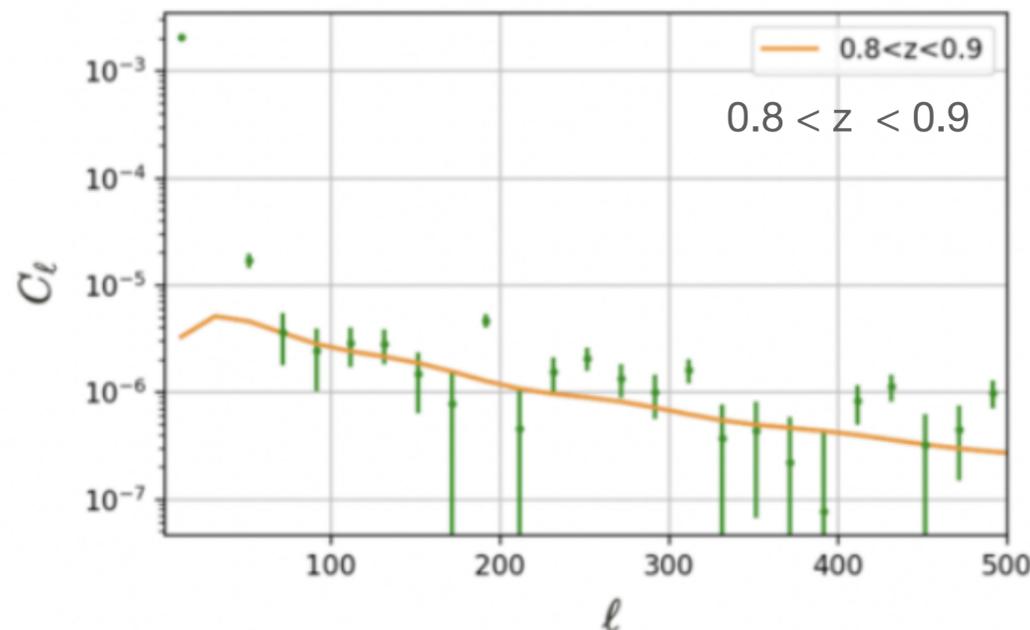
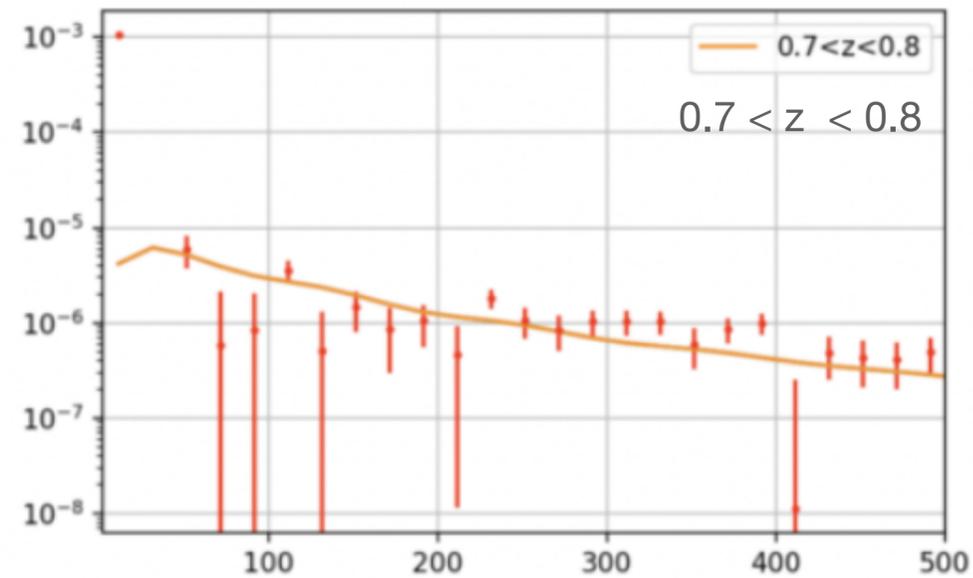
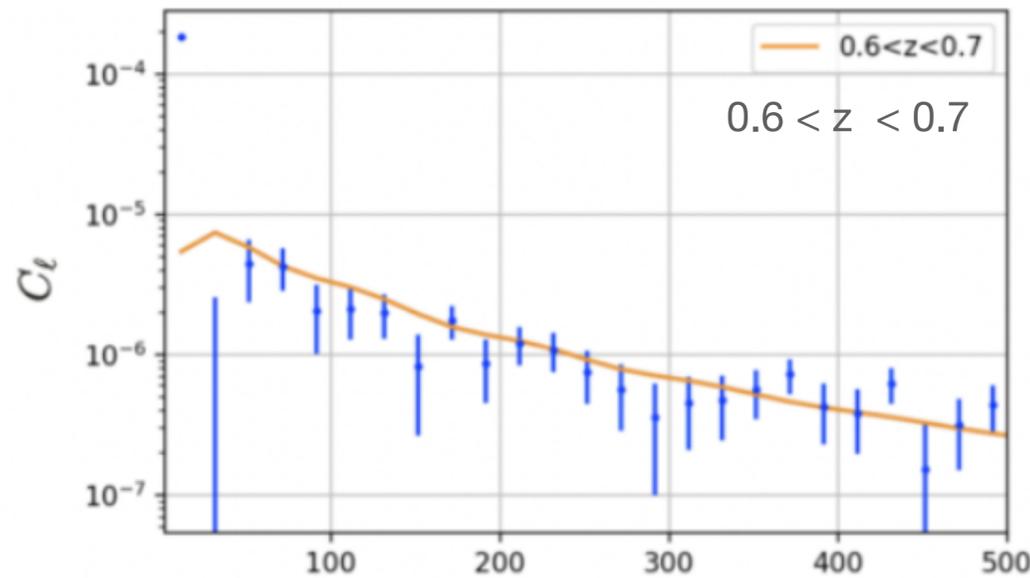


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Angular Power Spectra

Cross-correlation with eBOSS LRG sample (Dawson et al. 2016)



$b_o(z)$ eBOSS: EZmock
 $p_o(z)$ eBOSS: catalogue

$b_r(z)$ LoTSS-DR1: Tiwari et al. 2022
 $p_r(z)$ LoTSS: T-RECS Bonaldi et al. 2019

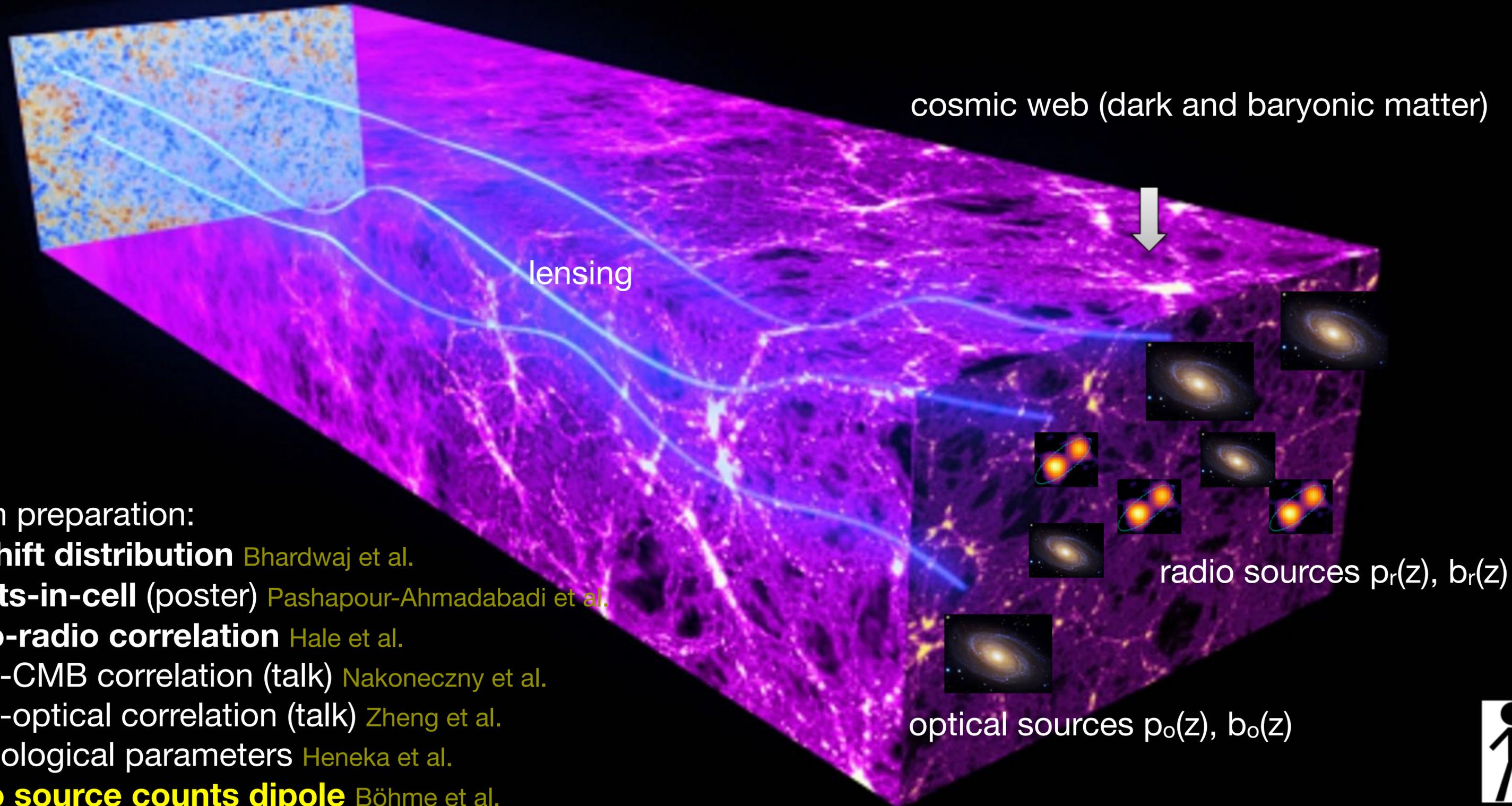
— Theory

Detection of radio-LRG cross-correlation in each redshift bin

Towards detection of baryon acoustic oscillations in radio surveys

Zheng et al. in preparation
See talk by Jinglang Zheng

CMB



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Cosmic structure dipole

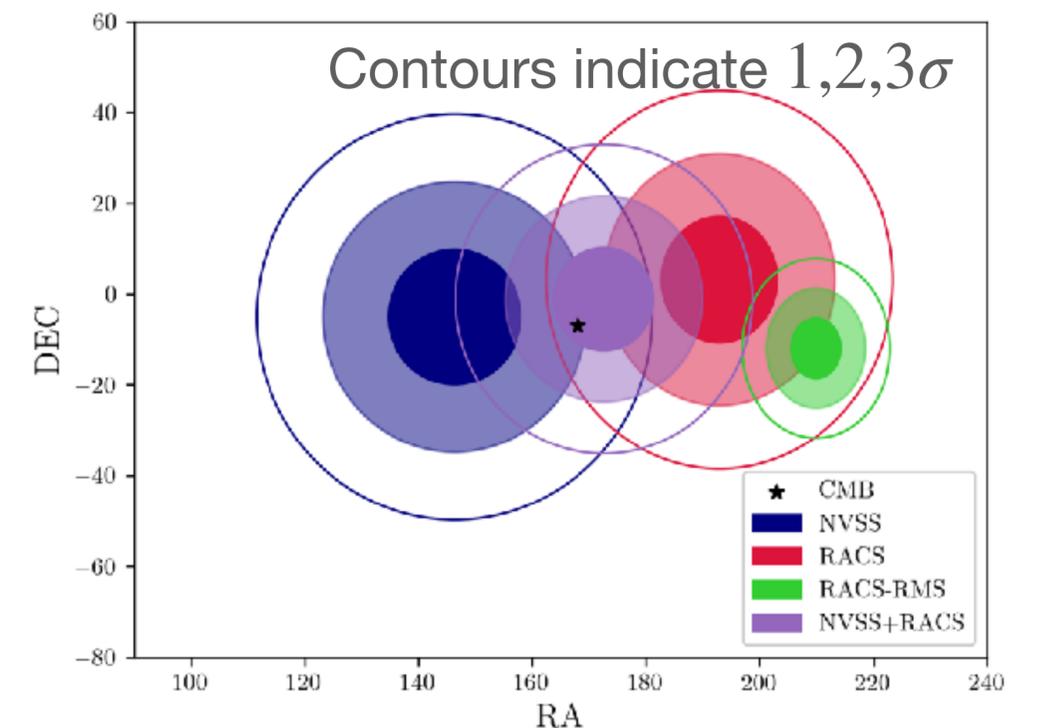
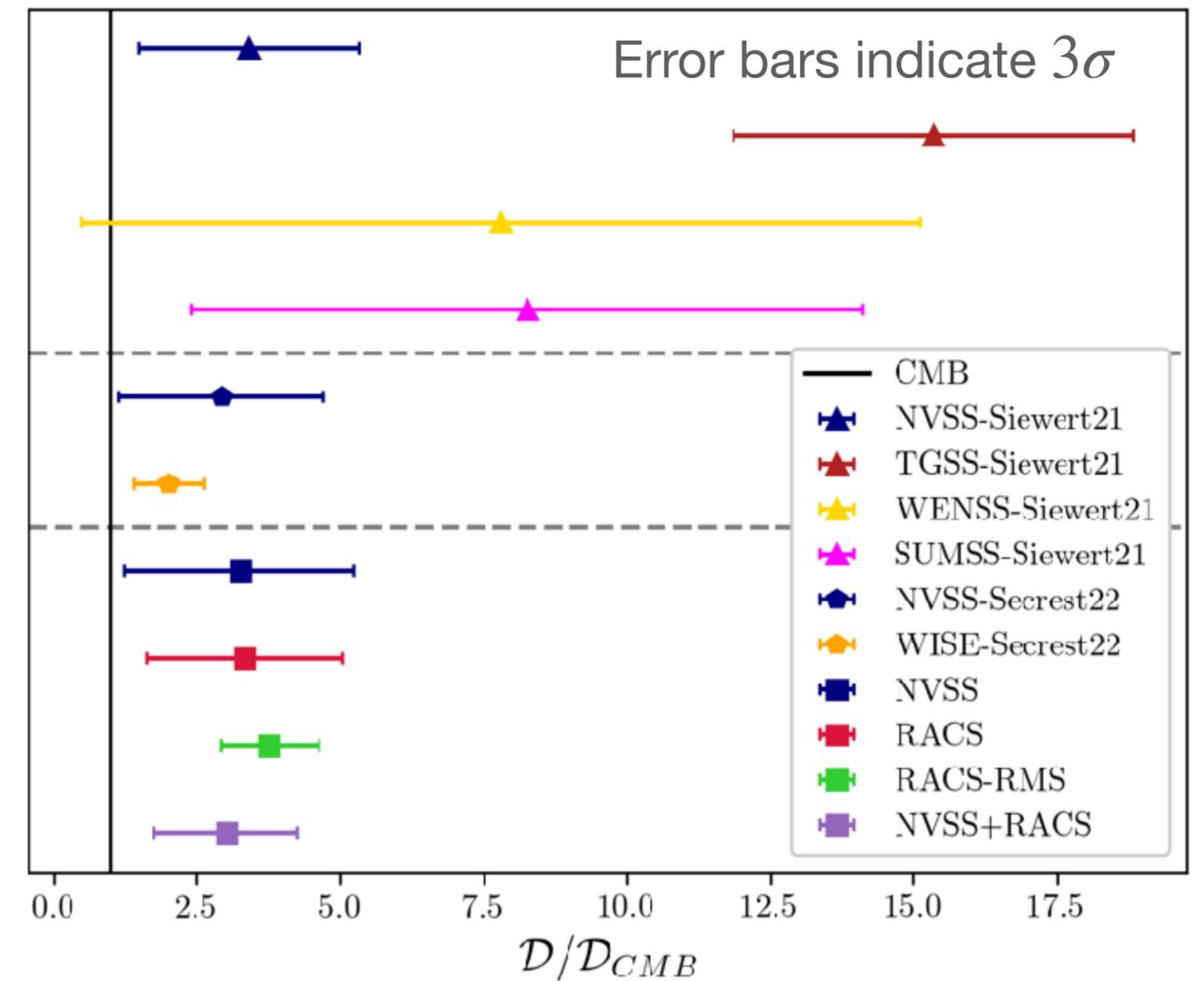
A new cosmological puzzle ?

- Hubble and S_8 tensions are well established
- Disagreement between **CMB dipole** and **cosmic structure dipole** reached significance of $\sim 5\sigma$

WISE quasars: Secrest et al. 2022

NVSS & RACS:

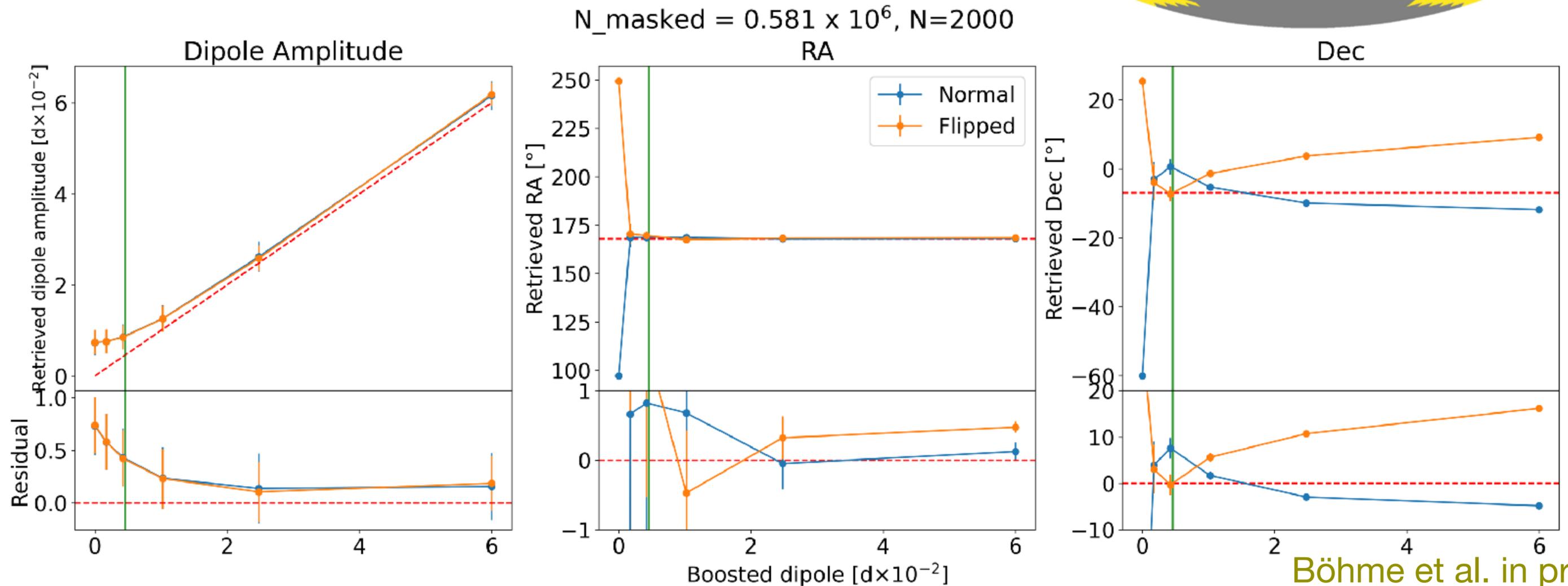
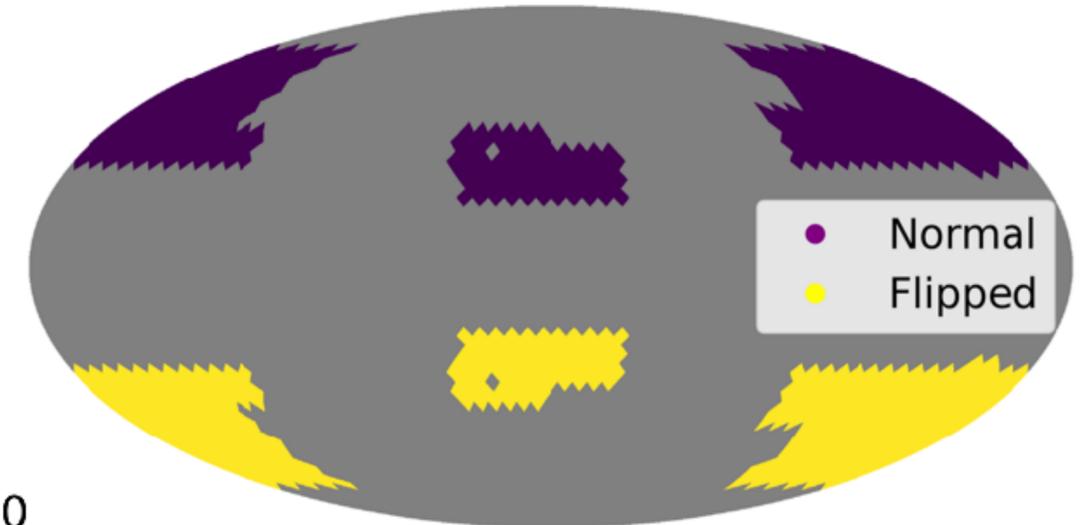
Wagenveld, Klöckner, Schwarz 2023



Cosmic Radio Dipole from LOFAR surveys

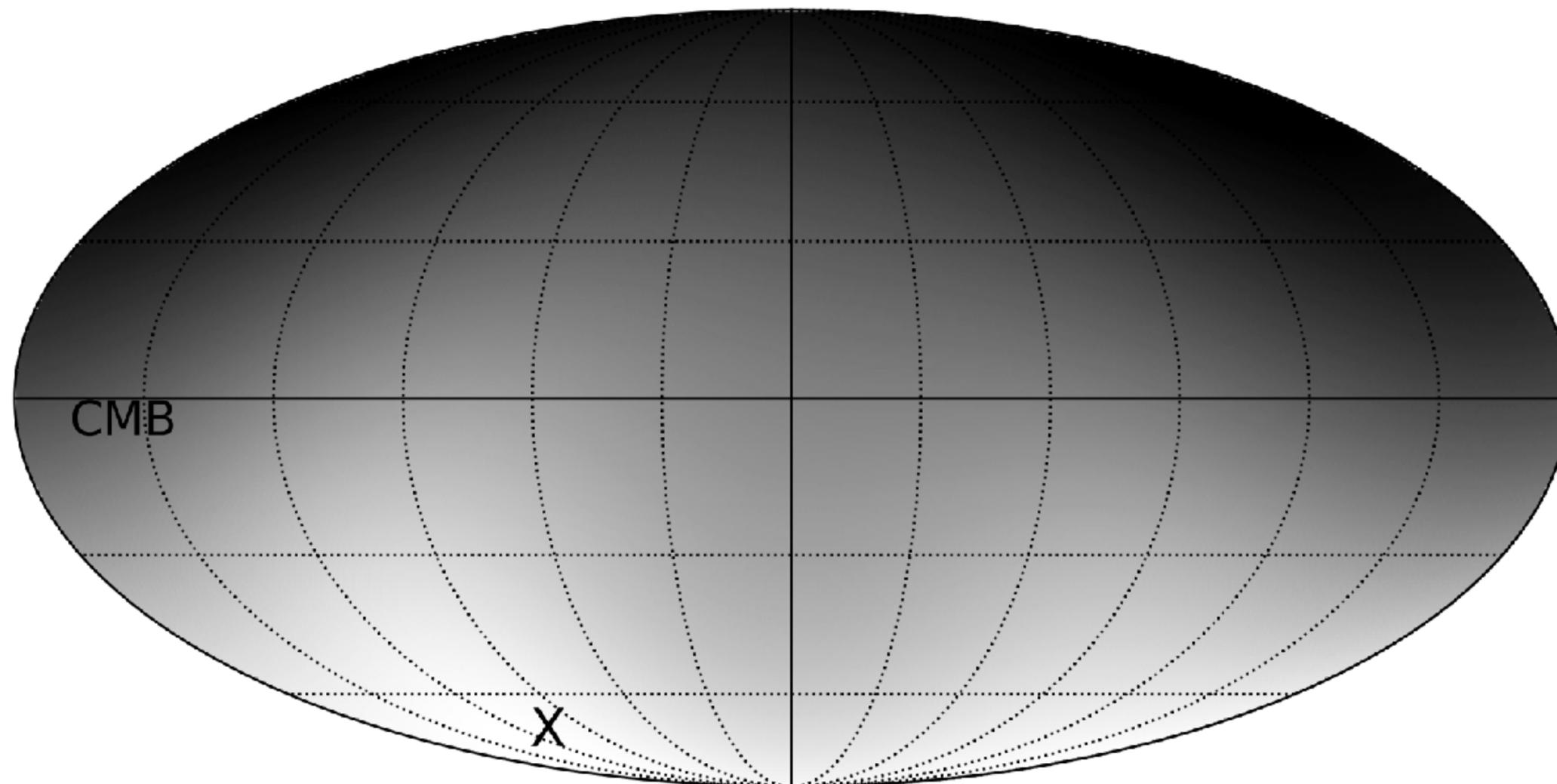
Can we expect to be able to measure it?

- Simulations for LoTSS-DR2 sky coverage
→ **insufficient sky coverage to fix declination**



Source Count Dipole Estimate from LoTSS-DR2

Dipole almost aligned with equatorial coordinates: **Systematics !**



- Source count dipole to low resolution maps is highly significant and **dominated by systematics**
- $S > 4$ mJy, $N_{\text{side}} = 32$
- (RA,dec) = (137,-73)
- $D = 0.1$!!
- Estimator picks up declination/elevation dependence of source counts

2.75402

χ^2/dof

9.39018

Constraint estimates

Preliminary results from LoTSS-DR2

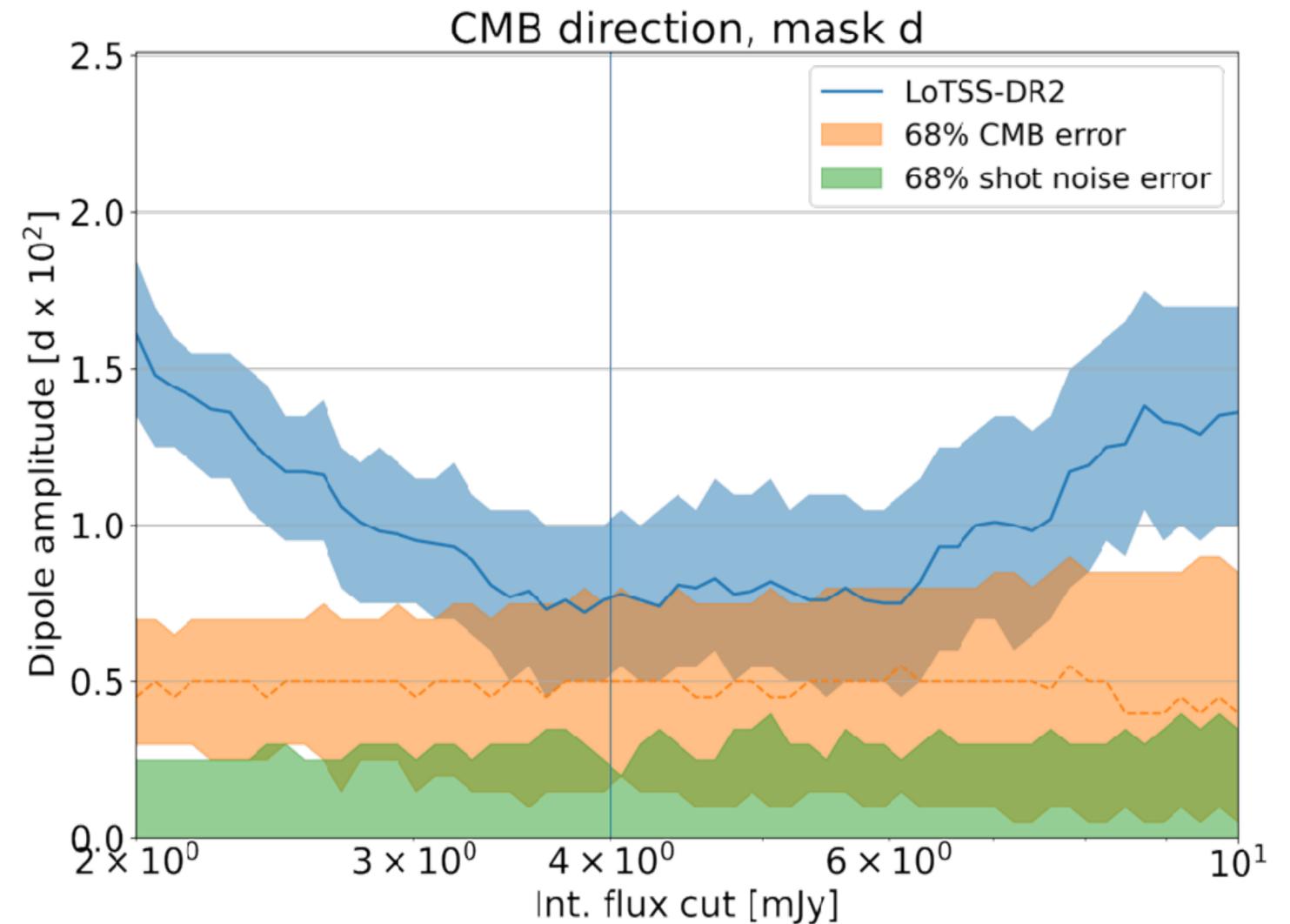
- **Fix dipole direction,** fit monopole and dipole amplitude, use quadratic estimator

- For $S > 4$ mJy:

$$D = 0.0078^{+0.0027}_{-0.0023}$$

- **Consistent with dipole excess and with CMB dipole**

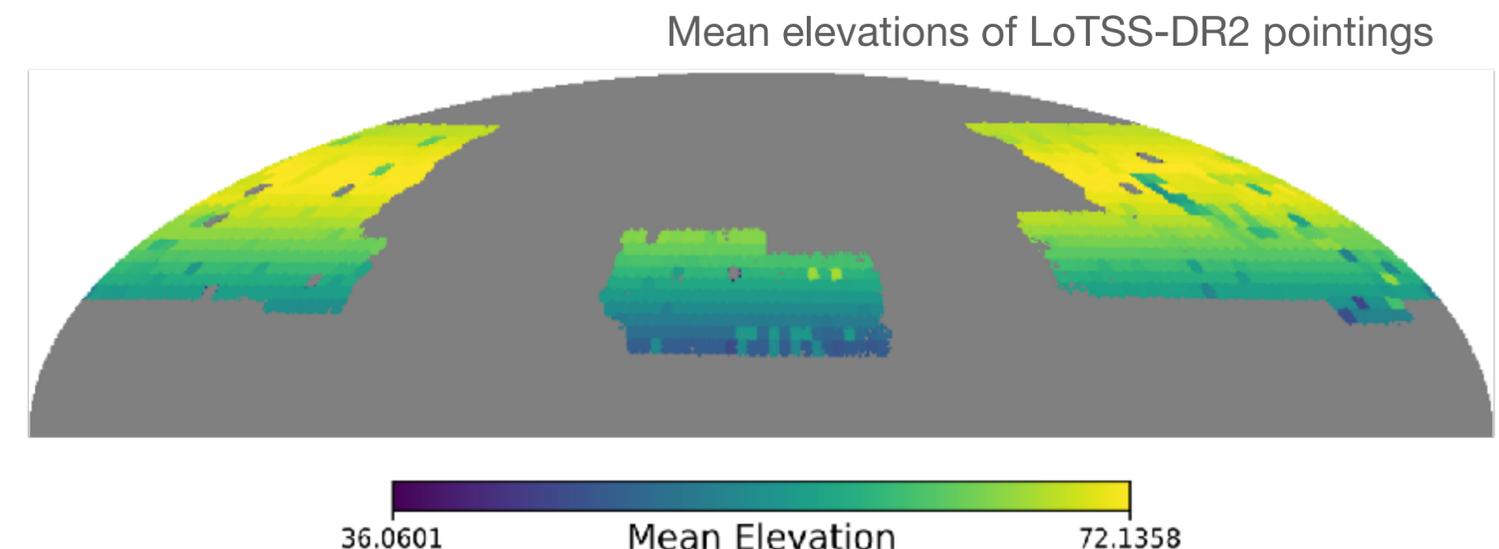
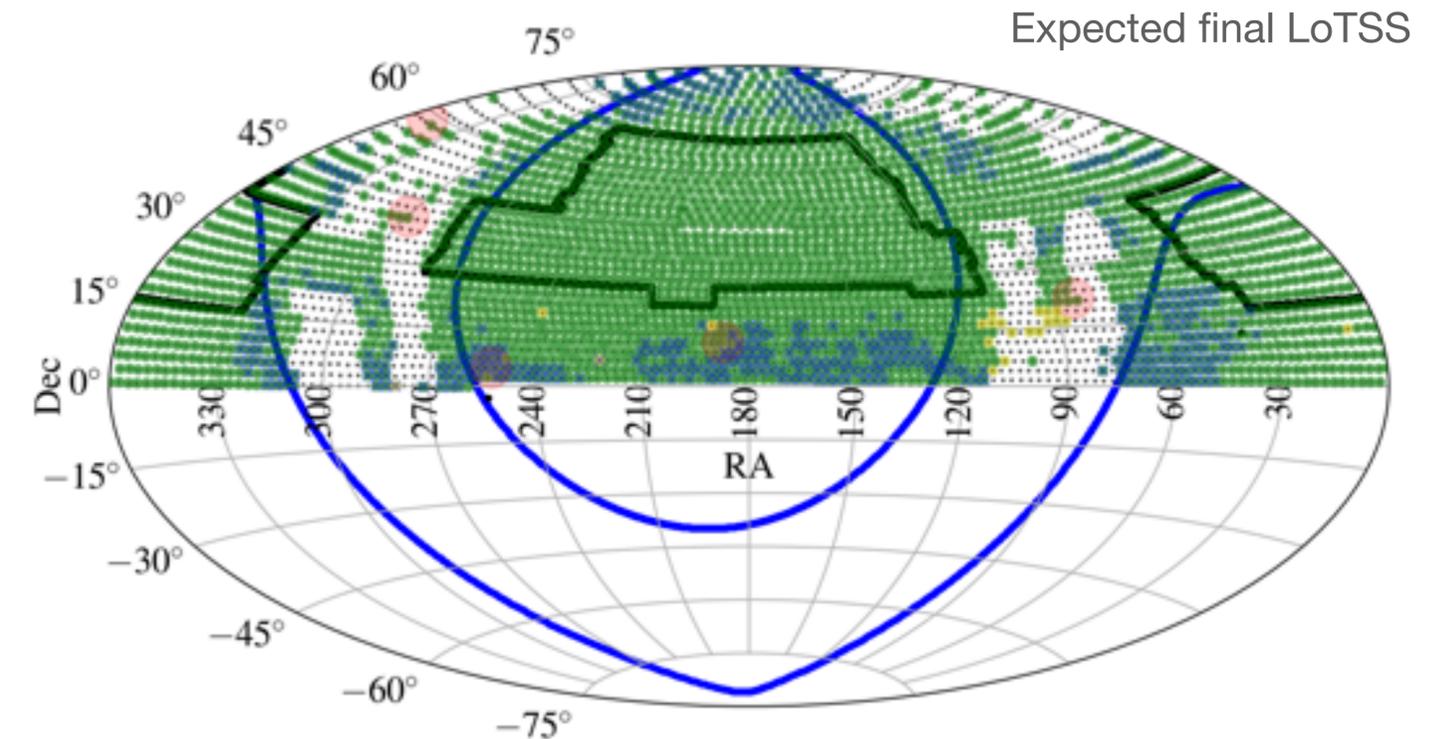
- Need more data!



How to obtain best possible results

Importance of availability of data at various processing levels and metadata

- Complete LoTSS wide and deep fields, complete LoLSS, cross match both, identify artefacts, identify multicomponent sources
- Obtain spectroscopic z from WEAVE-LOFAR (restricted to $S > 8$ mJy on wide area), plan for synergies with Euclid and UNIFORM for smaller flux densities
- Try to break degeneracy between declination and mean elevation
- Improve access to instrumental, environmental and pipeline data and metadata to simplify identification and mitigation of systematics



Cosmological Conclusions

LoTSS-DR2 preliminary results

- Radio sources with **multiple components** impact the analysis — **Cox process**
- Precise and **consistent estimates on linear bias $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{z})$** from three different methods: auto-correlation and $p(z)$, cross-correlation with CMB lensing, cross-correlation with optical galaxies
- Constant bias is disfavoured, $b(z) = b_0/D(z)$ is consistent with model independent approach
- **Measure σ_8** with precision comparable to that of current weak lensing studies
- First study of **BAOs** with a radio continuum survey
- Joint analysis of all probes will allow us to constrain more cosmological parameters, e.g. w_{de}
- **For fixed dipole direction, consistent with CMB prediction**, but also with excess at higher frequencies, but in disagreement with the extremely large value of the source count dipole form TGSS

Conclusion and Outlook

Competitive constraints and independent checks of cosmology from radio surveys

- LoTSS-DR1 (424 sq deg): radio sources can probe cosmology (Siewert et al. 2021)
- **LoTSS-DR2** (5600 sq deg): high significance of **radio-lensing correlation** and **radio-optical BAO** and **competitive constraints** — **cross identification and photo-zs are essential**
- **Better than forecasted** (Raccanelli et al. 2012), missed out cross identifications and photo-zs
- **Ongoing: LoTSS-DR2 Value Added Source catalogue** Hartcastle et al. in preparation
- Complete LoTSS in 2024 (before LOFAR2.0 upgrade): **all extragalactic northern sky** — **~ 2 x LoTSS-DR2**, essential for **cosmic radio dipole, ISW** and **primordial non-Gaussianity**
- **WEAVE-LOFAR** (starts later this year): **spectroscopic redshifts for 1 million radio sources**