

A grayscale Gaia DR1 sky map showing the Milky Way galaxy as a bright, horizontal band of stars and dust across the center. The background is dark with various star patterns and some faint, bright spots.

# DarkLight: insights *from the* EDGE simulations *on how* baryons respond to halo evolution *and their* implications *for* SIDM

Stacy Kim | Carnegie Observatories

in collaboration with the EDGE Collaboration

Valencia SIDM Workshop | Valencia, Spain | June 20, 2025

*Gaia DR1 sky map*

The background of the slide is a Gaia DR1 sky map, showing a dense field of stars and a prominent band of the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the center. The stars appear as bright points of light against a dark background, with some showing distinct patterns of diffraction spikes.

# DarkLight: insights *from the* EDGE simulations *on how* baryons respond to halo evolution *and their* implications for $\Lambda$ SIDM $\mathcal{B}$

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*Gaia DR1 sky map*

Dark matter only simulations in SIDM  
can be expensive, especially with core collapse.

Baryonic simulations in SIDM  
are even more expensive.

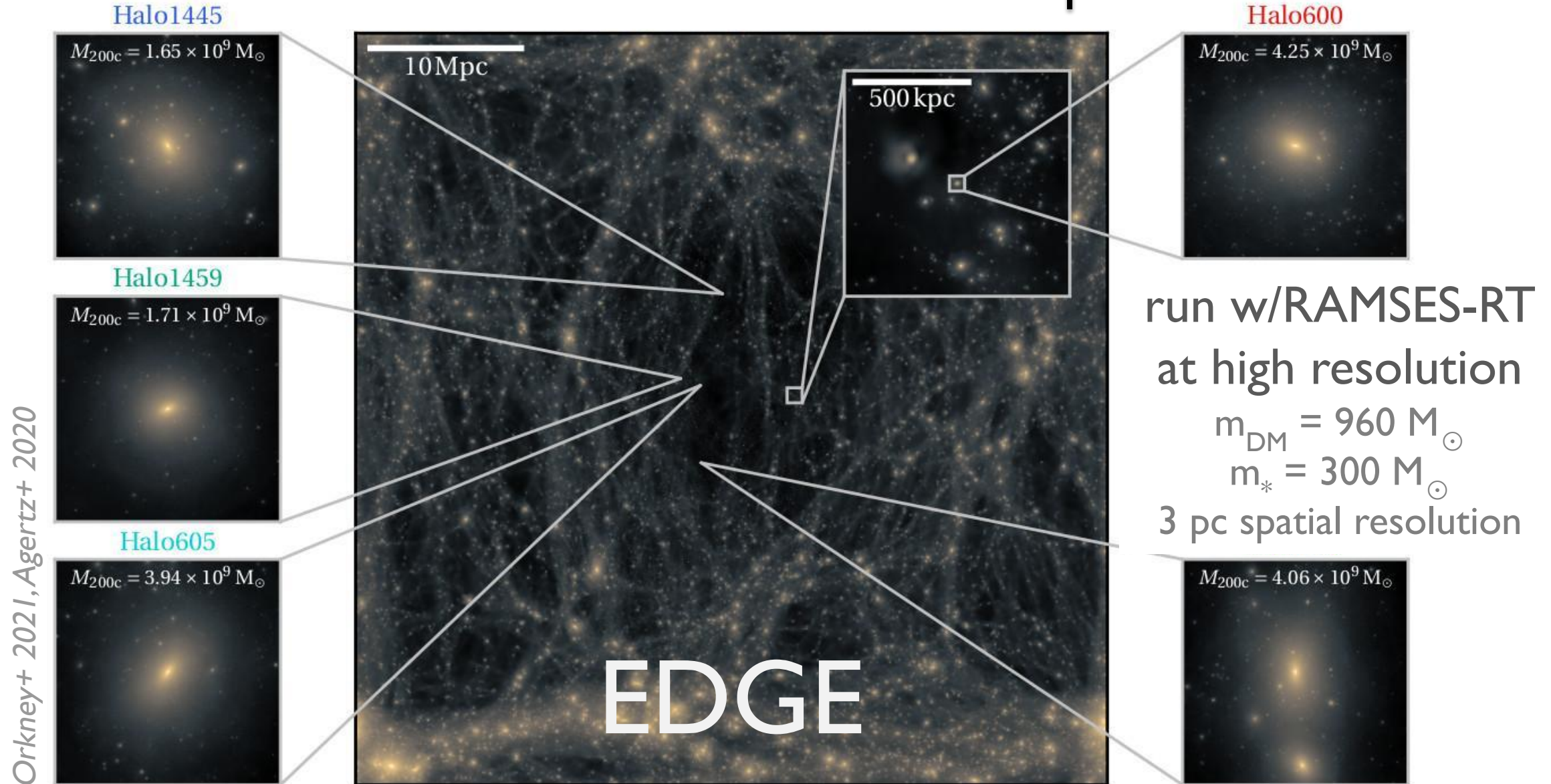
We need a faster way to reliably compute  
observable properties of many galaxies in SIDM!

(see talks by Moritz Fischer, Andrew Wetzel)



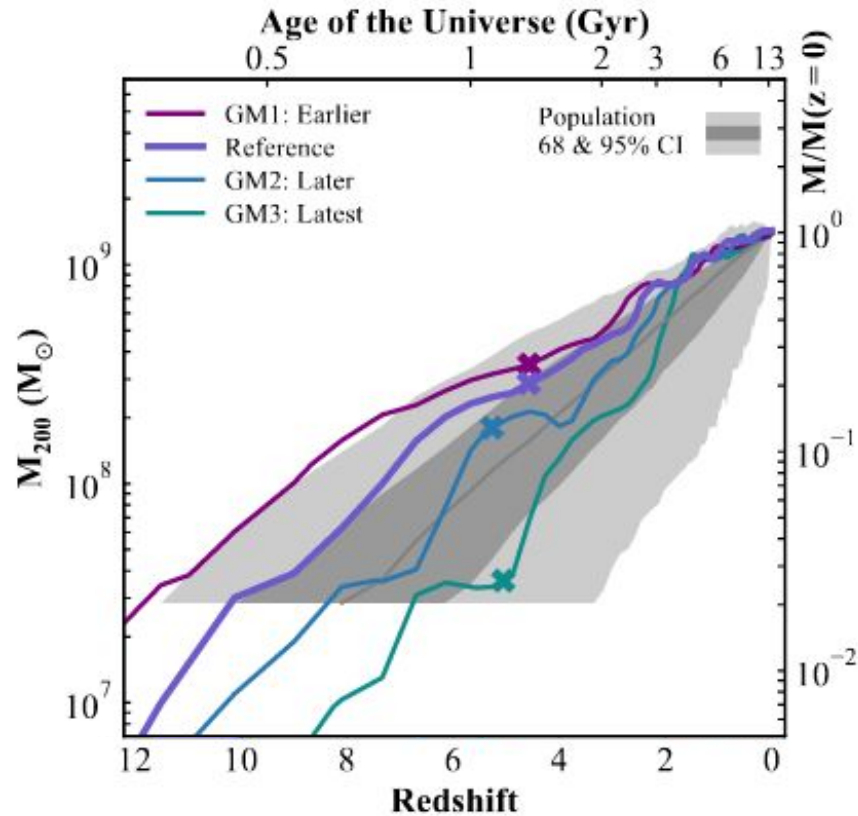
# how halo evolution affects baryons

# EDGE



# how halo evolution affects baryons

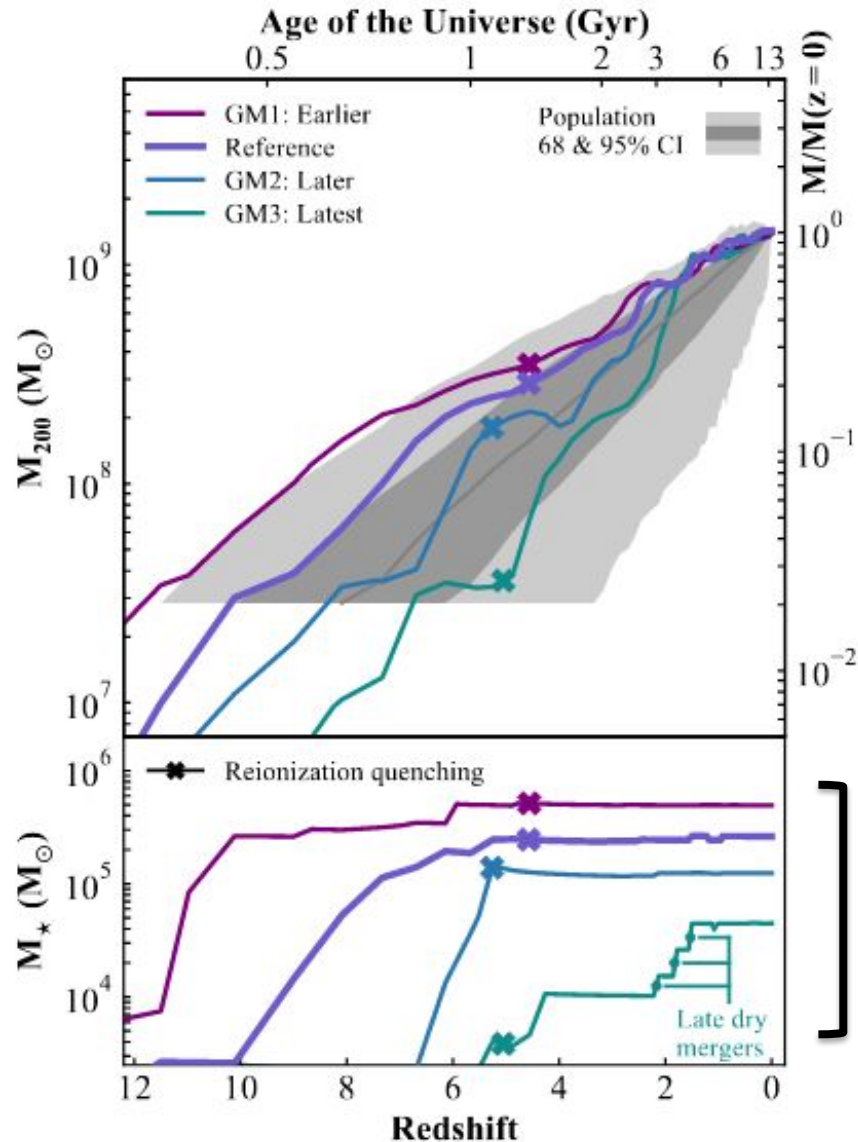
EDGE



“genetically modified”  
one DM halo to grow  
at different rates

# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE



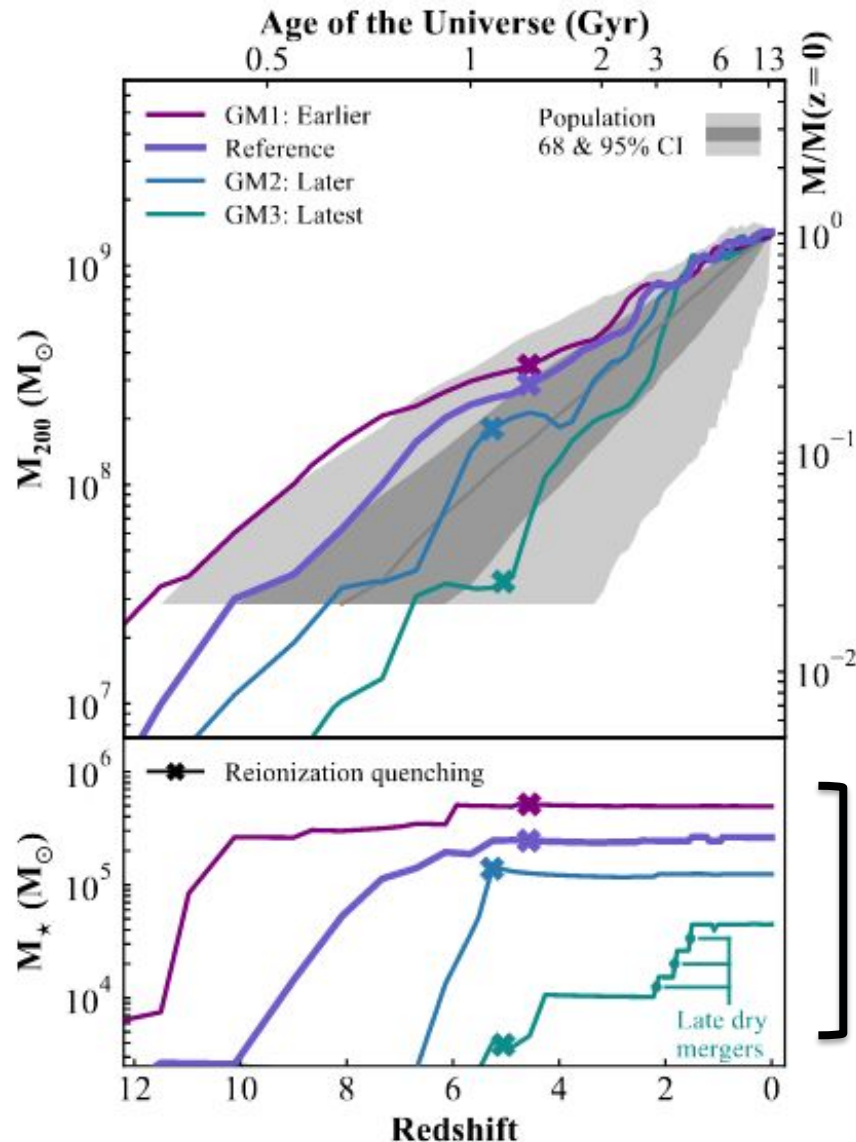
“genetically modified”  
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resultant dwarf *galaxy*  
masses sensitive to *dark*  
*matter* accretion history

differ by  
1 dex!

# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE



“genetically modified”  
one DM halo to grow  
at different rates

Scatter in DM accretion histories  
may account for majority of  
scatter in galaxy mass.

resultant dwarf *galaxy*  
masses sensitive to *dark*  
*matter* accretion history

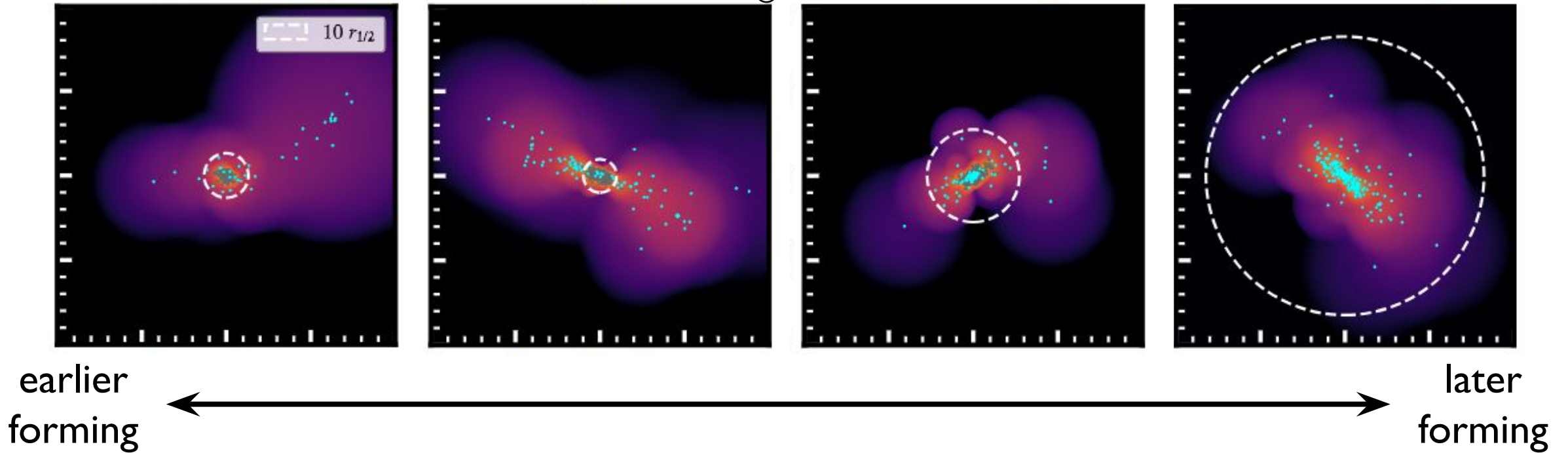
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# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE

“Genetically modified” one  $10^9 M_\odot$  DM halo to grow at different rates:

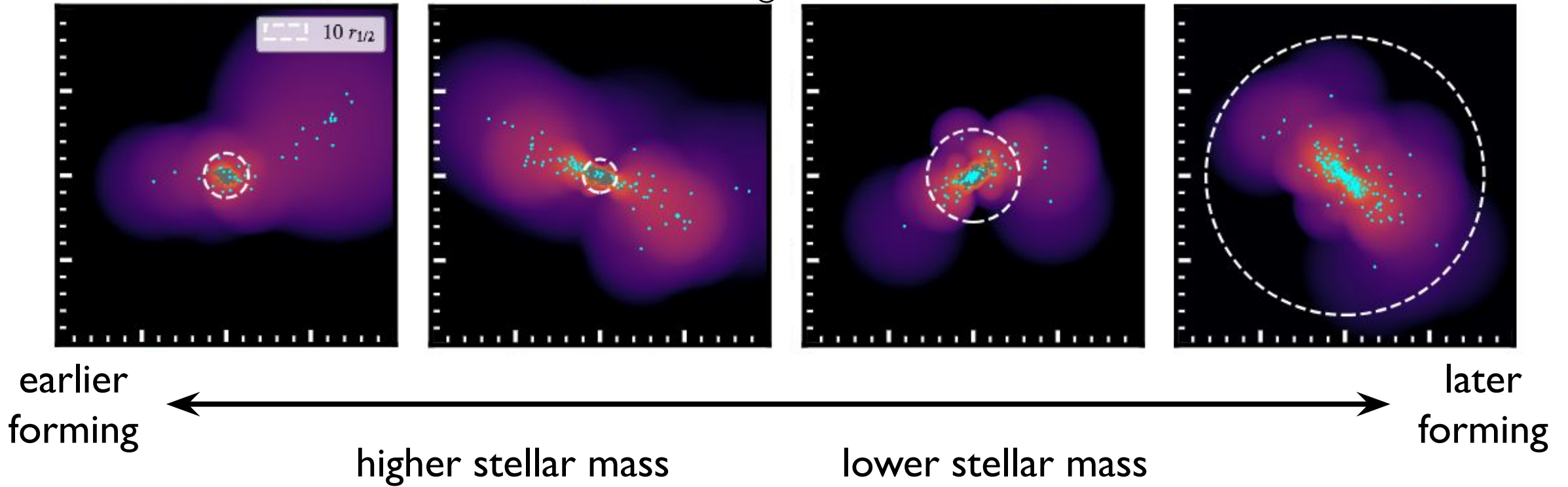




# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE

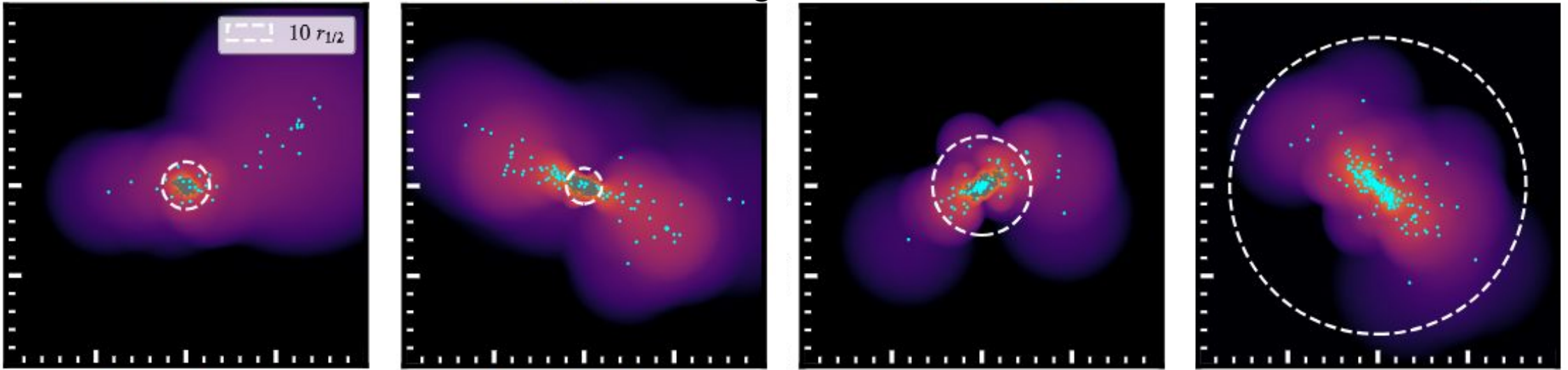
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# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE

“Genetically modified” one  $10^9 M_\odot$  DM halo to grow at different rates:



earlier  
forming

higher stellar mass  
stars mainly formed in-situ

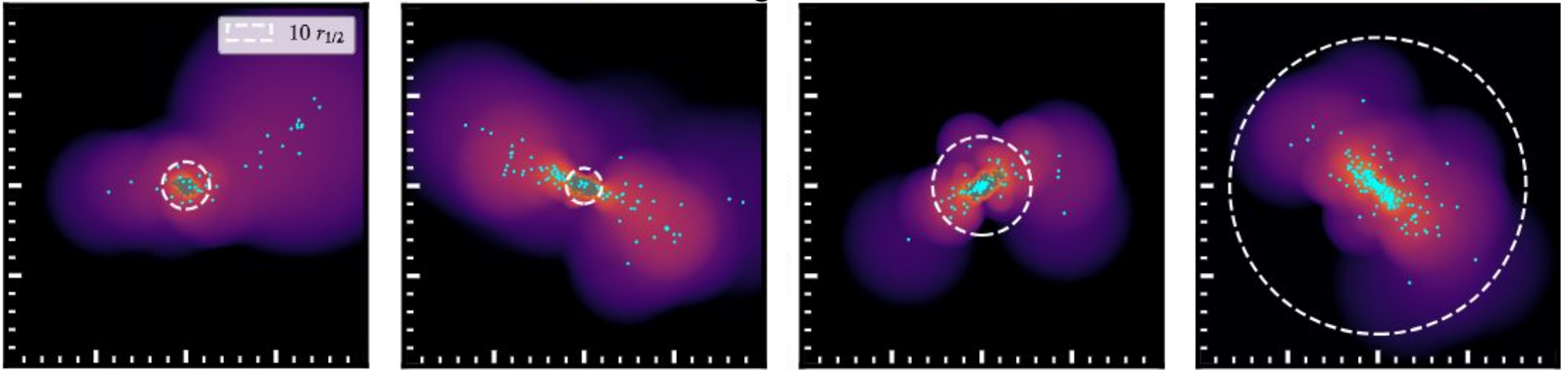
lower stellar mass  
stars mainly accreted

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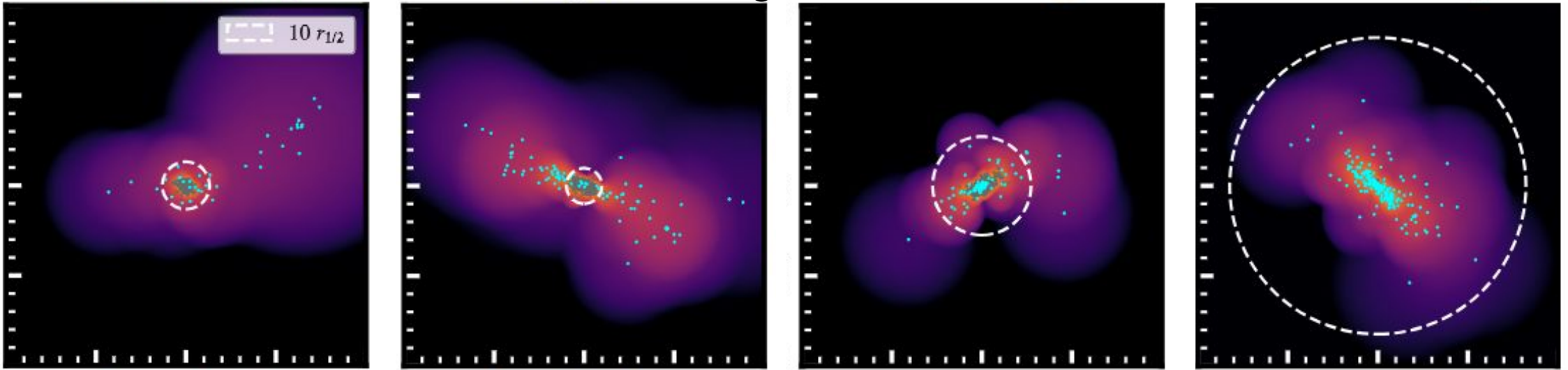
higher stellar mass  
stars mainly formed in-situ  
smaller galaxy size

lower stellar mass  
stars mainly accreted  
larger galaxy size (circles = 10 half-light radii)

# how halo evolution affects baryons

EDGE

“Genetically modified” one  $10^9 M_\odot$  DM halo to grow at different rates:



earlier  
forming

later  
forming

higher stellar mass  
stars mainly formed in-situ  
smaller galaxy size  
more circular

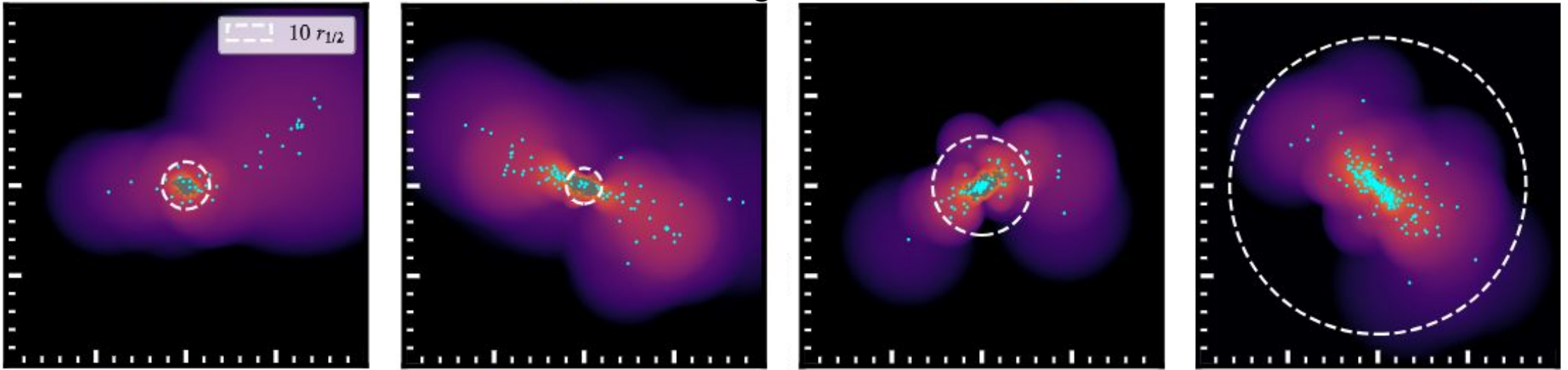
lower stellar mass  
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larger galaxy size (circles = 10 half-light radii)  
more elliptical



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EDGE

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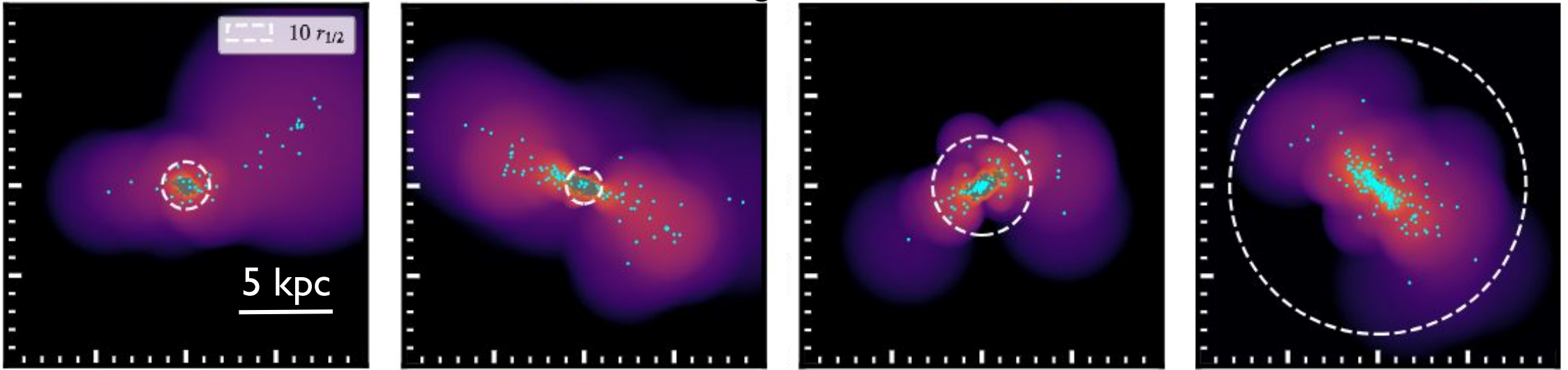
higher stellar mass  
stars mainly formed in-situ  
smaller galaxy size  
more circular  
higher metallicity

lower stellar mass  
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more elliptical  
lower metallicity

# how halo evolution affects baryons

# EDGE

“Genetically modified” one  $10^9 M_\odot$  DM halo to grow at different rates:



earlier  
forming

later  
forming

Could these help constrain  
DM models where halos  
evolve unlike CDM?

later  
formers  
have

lower stellar mass  
stars mainly accreted (vs formed insitu)  
larger galaxy size (circles = 10 half-light radii)  
more elliptical  
lower metallicity

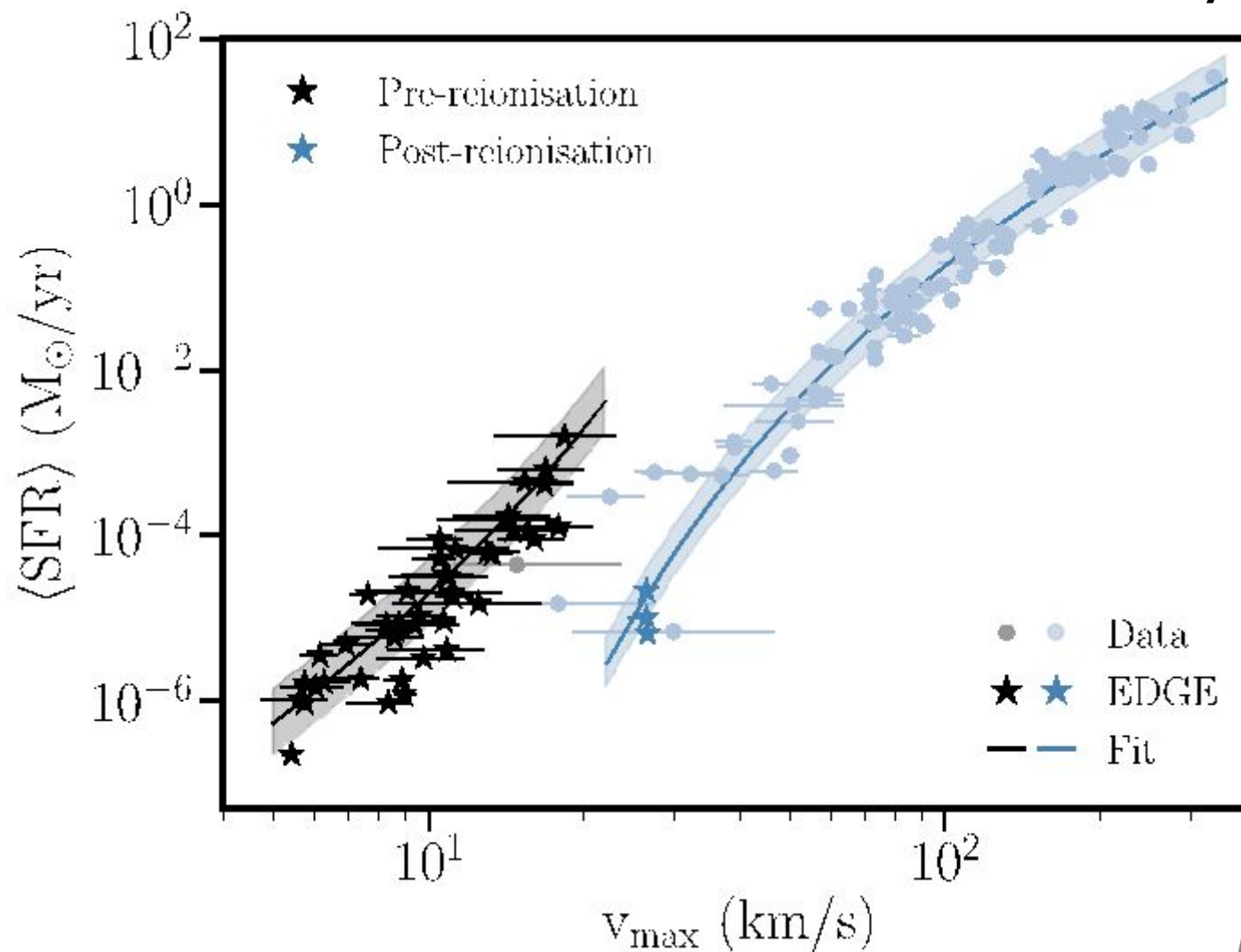
# what underlies these trends?

The star formation rate correlates with the central density.

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# DarkLight

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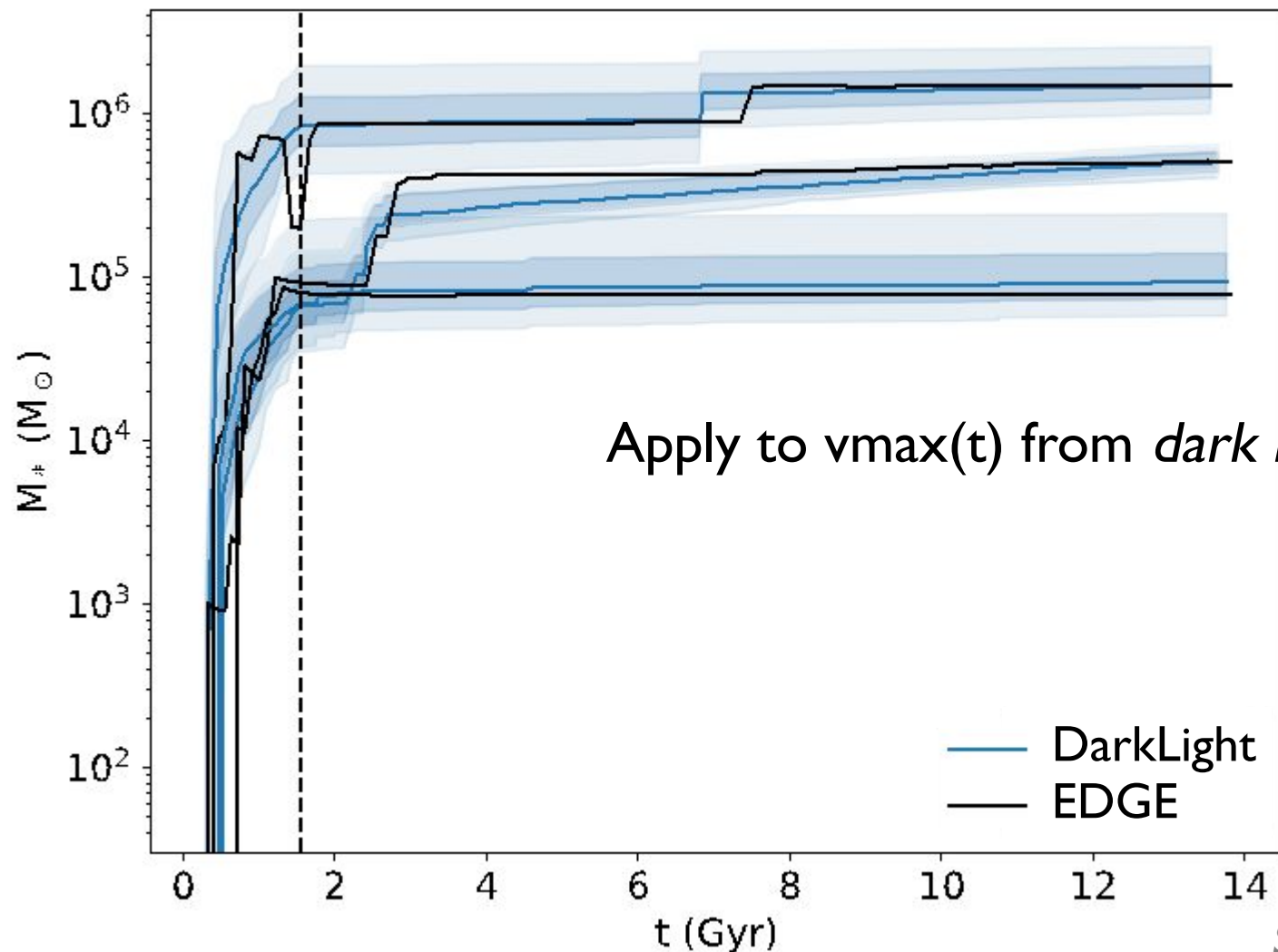
*SYK+ 2024 (arXiv:2408.15214),  
Read+ 2017, Posti+ 2019, & others*



# what underlies these trends?

# DarkLight

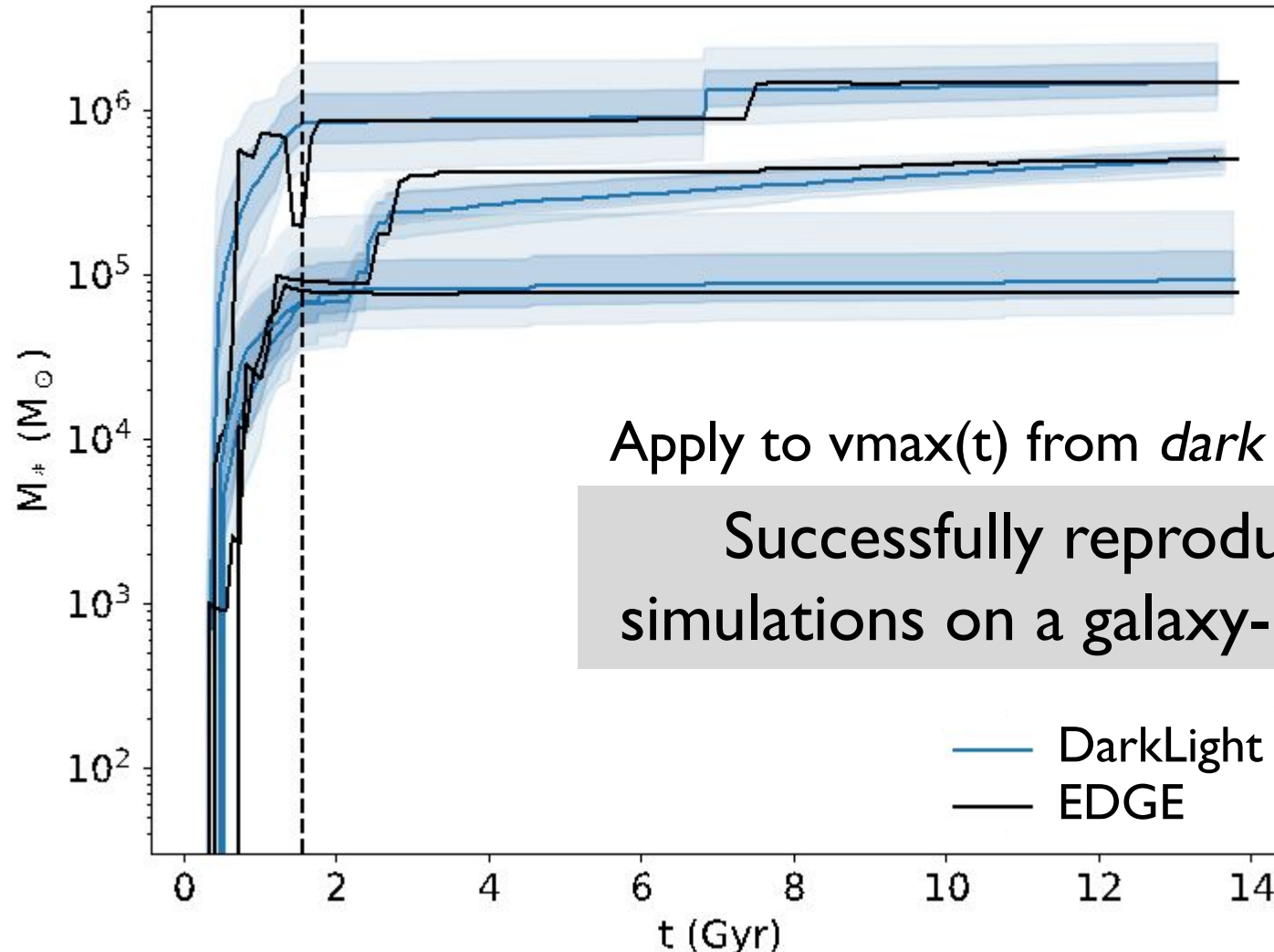
The star formation rate correlates with the central density.



# what underlies these trends?

# DarkLight

The star formation rate correlates with the central density.



Apply to  $v_{\max}(t)$  from *dark matter only* sims.

Successfully reproduces baryon simulations on a galaxy-by-galaxy basis!

# implications for dark matter



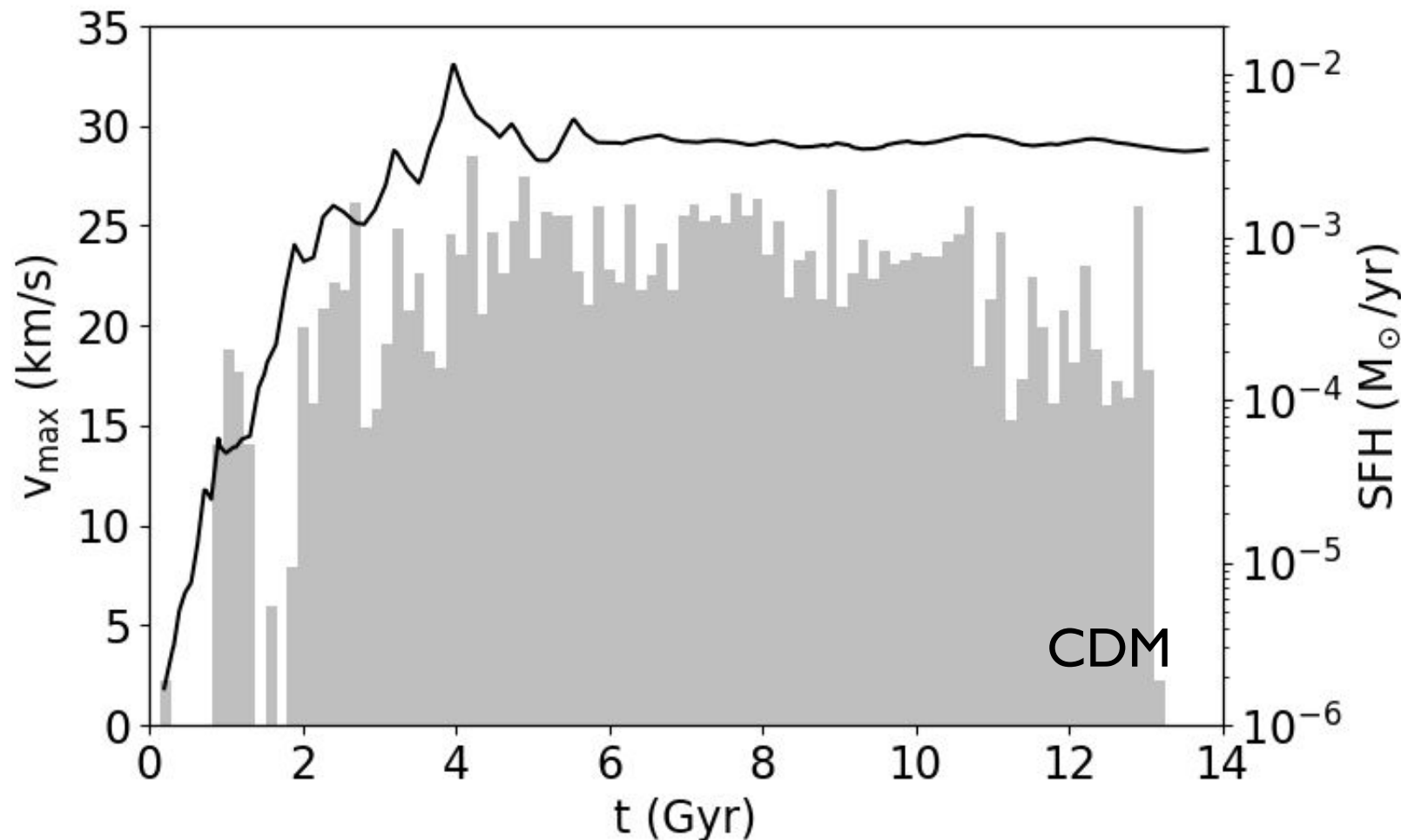
SFHs and  $M_*$  differ in models with different central densities or growth histories.

# implications for dark matter

## WDM



SFHs and  $M_*$  differ in models with different central densities or growth histories. For example, in WDM:



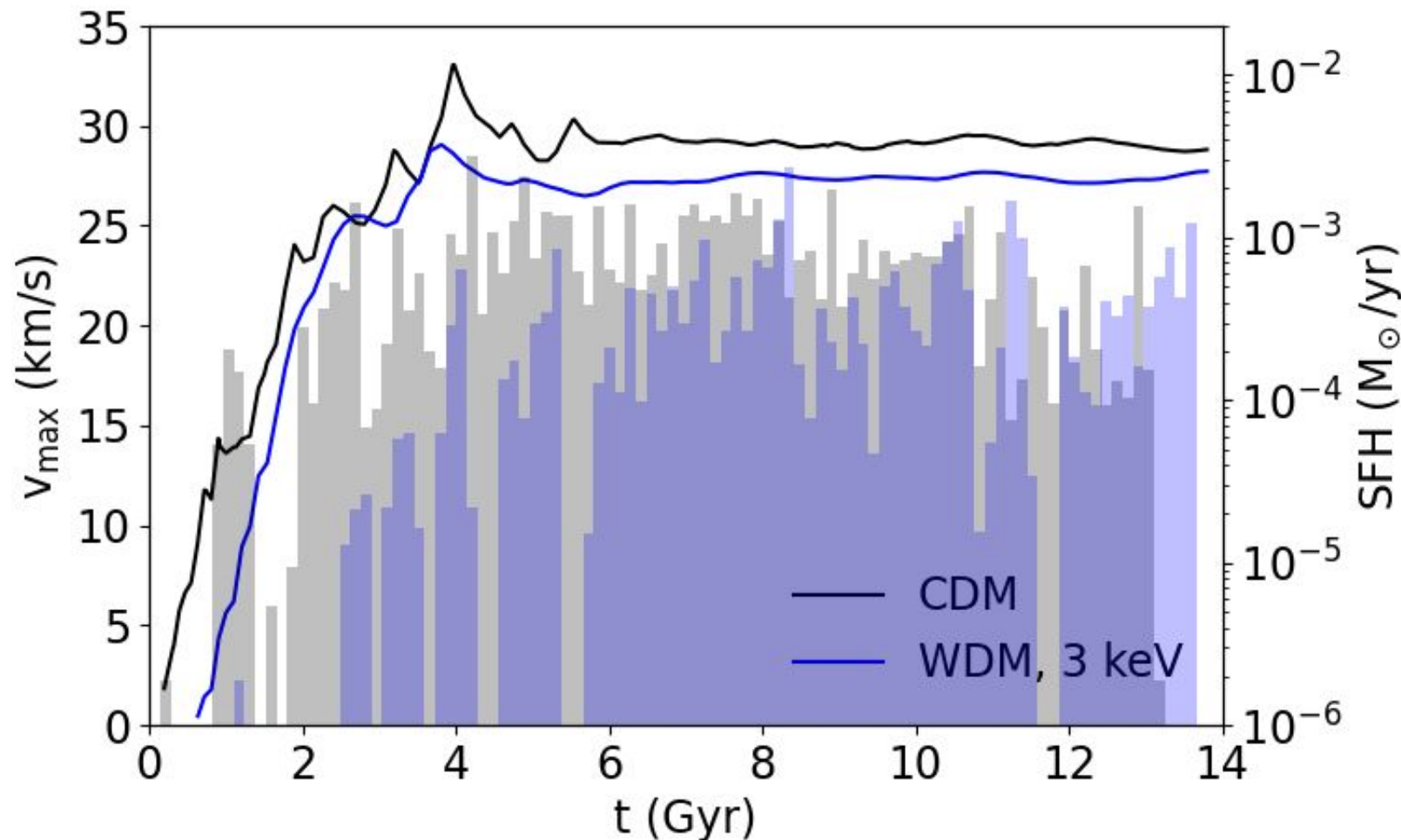


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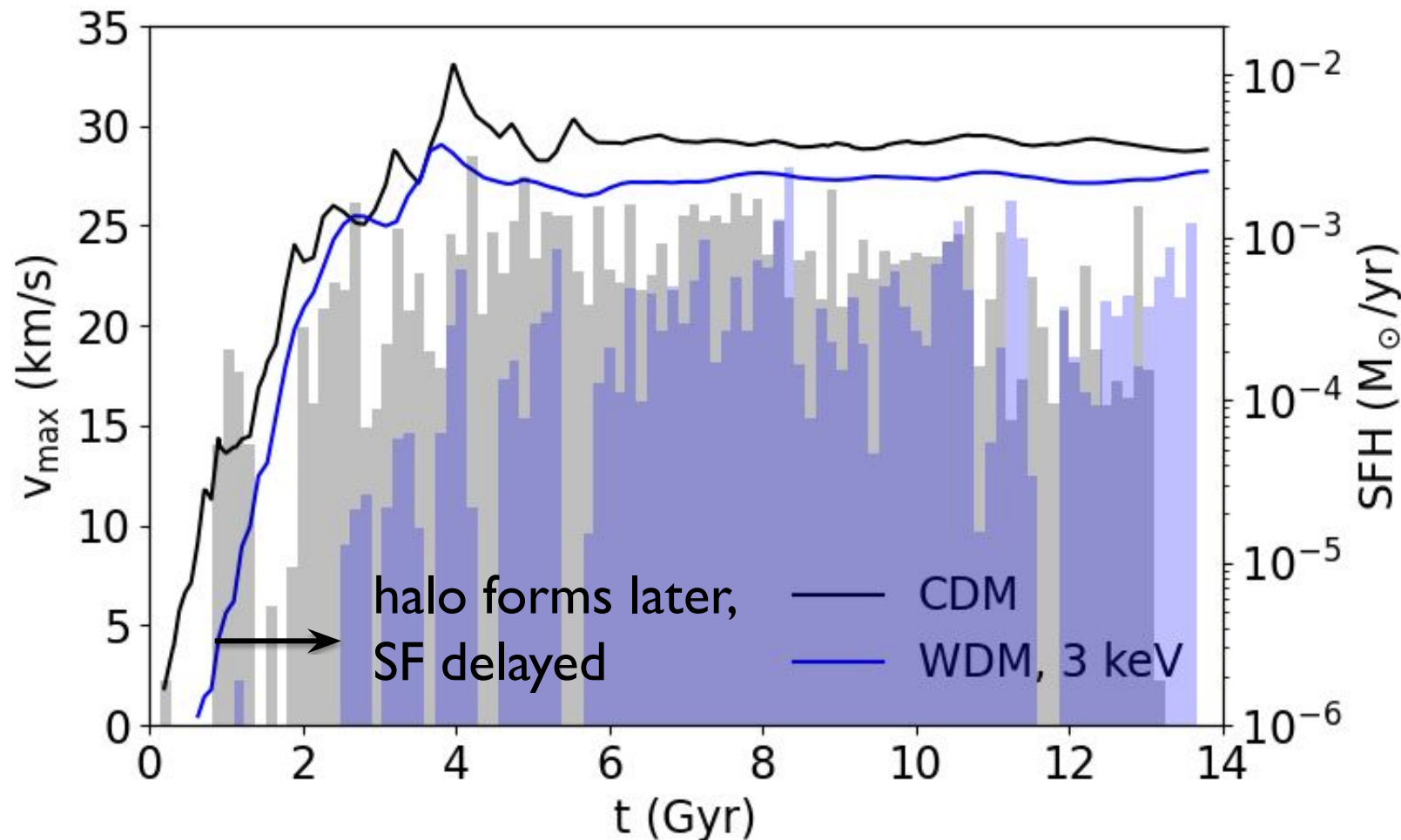


# implications for dark matter

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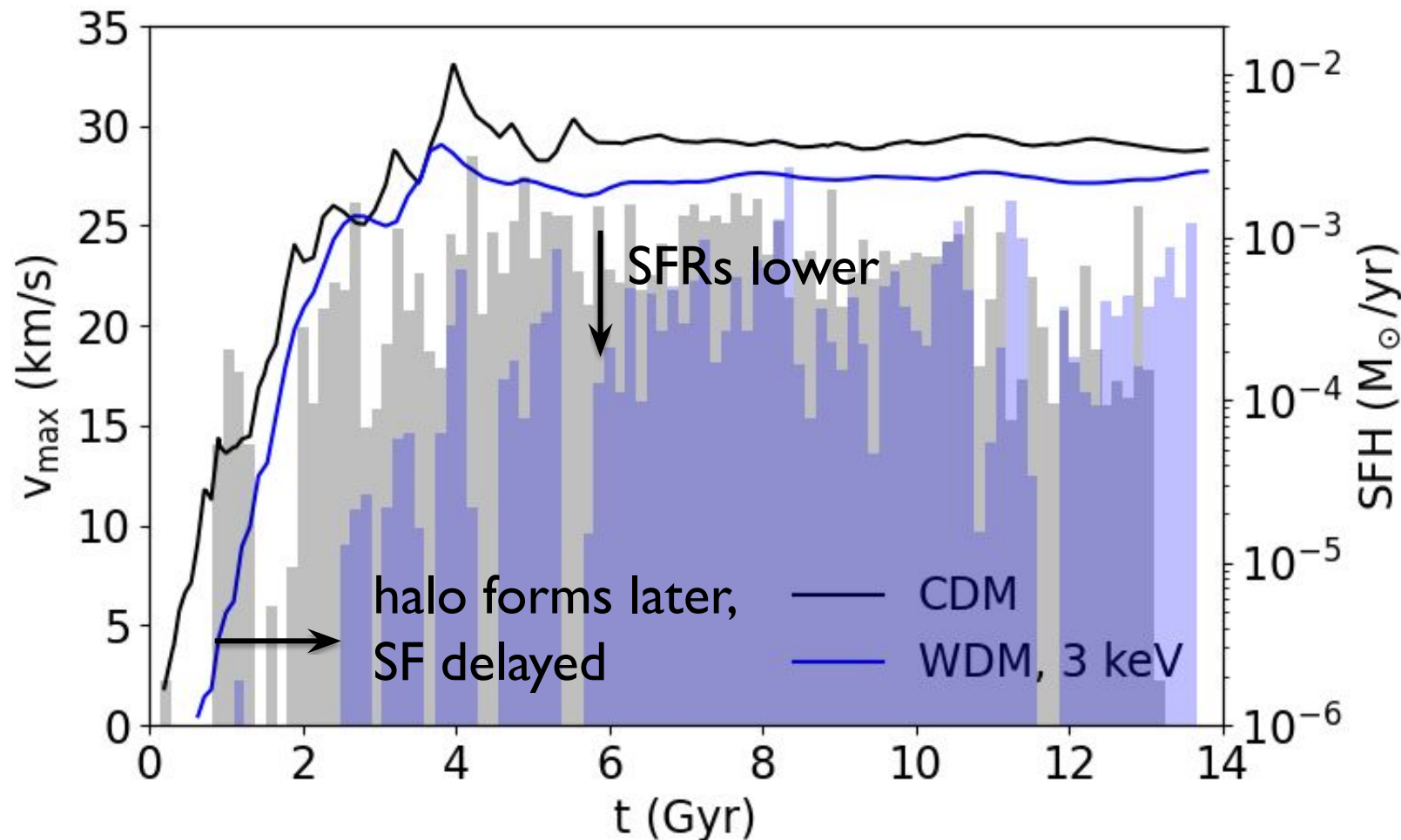


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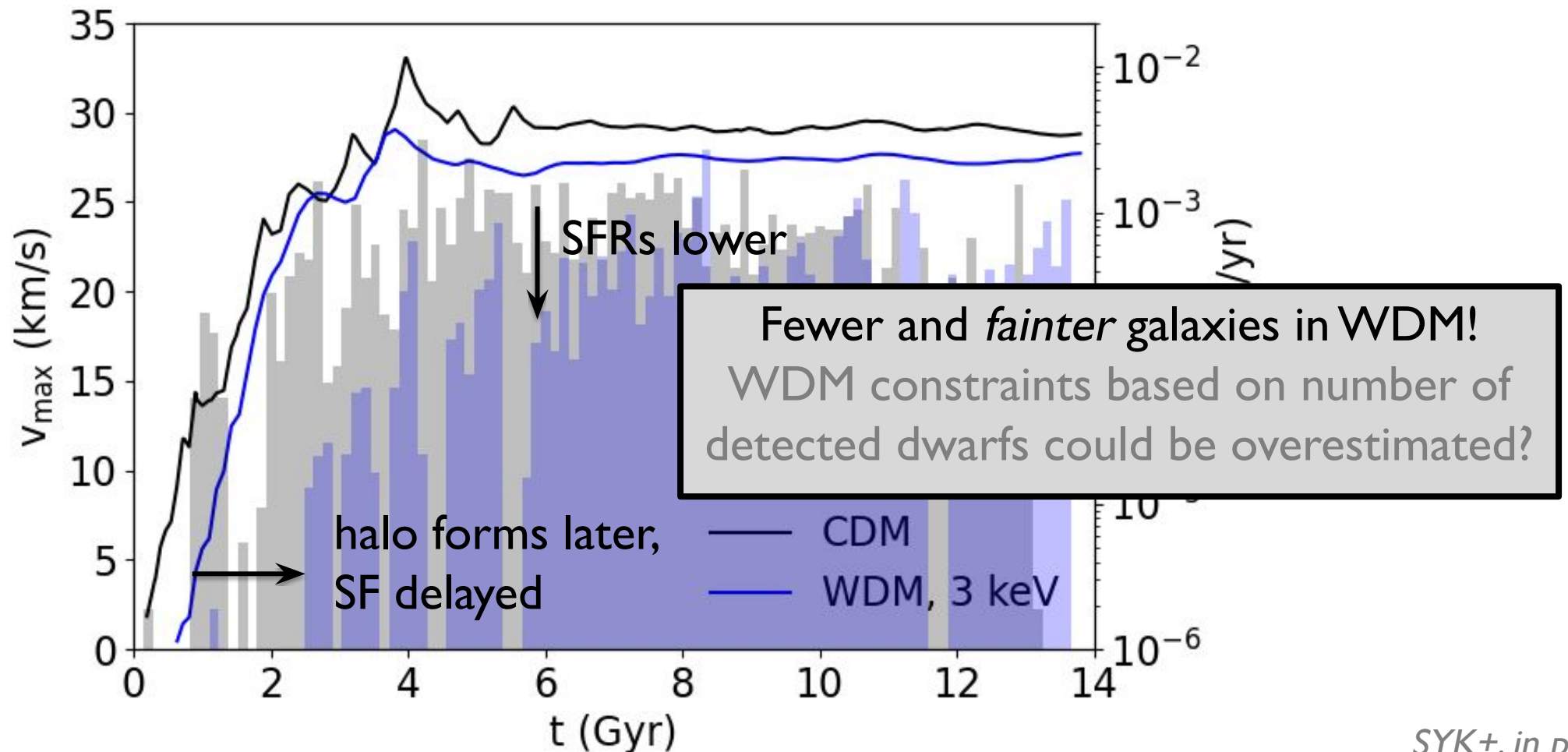


# implications for dark matter

## WDM

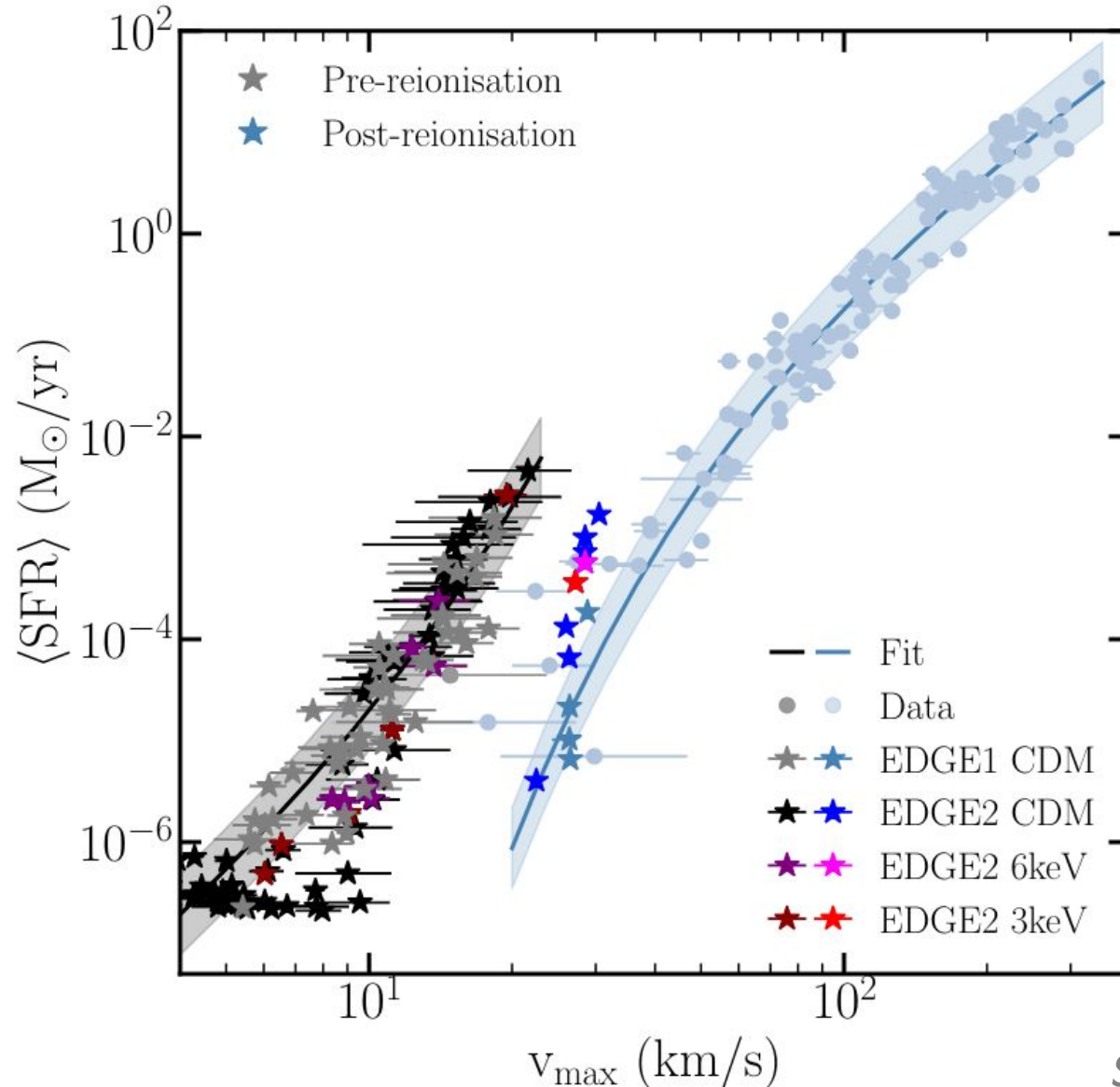


SFHs and  $M_*$  differ in models with different central densities or growth histories. For example, in WDM:





# how universal is galaxy formation?



DarkLight's relation between star formation rates and  $v_{\text{max}}$  potentially universal?

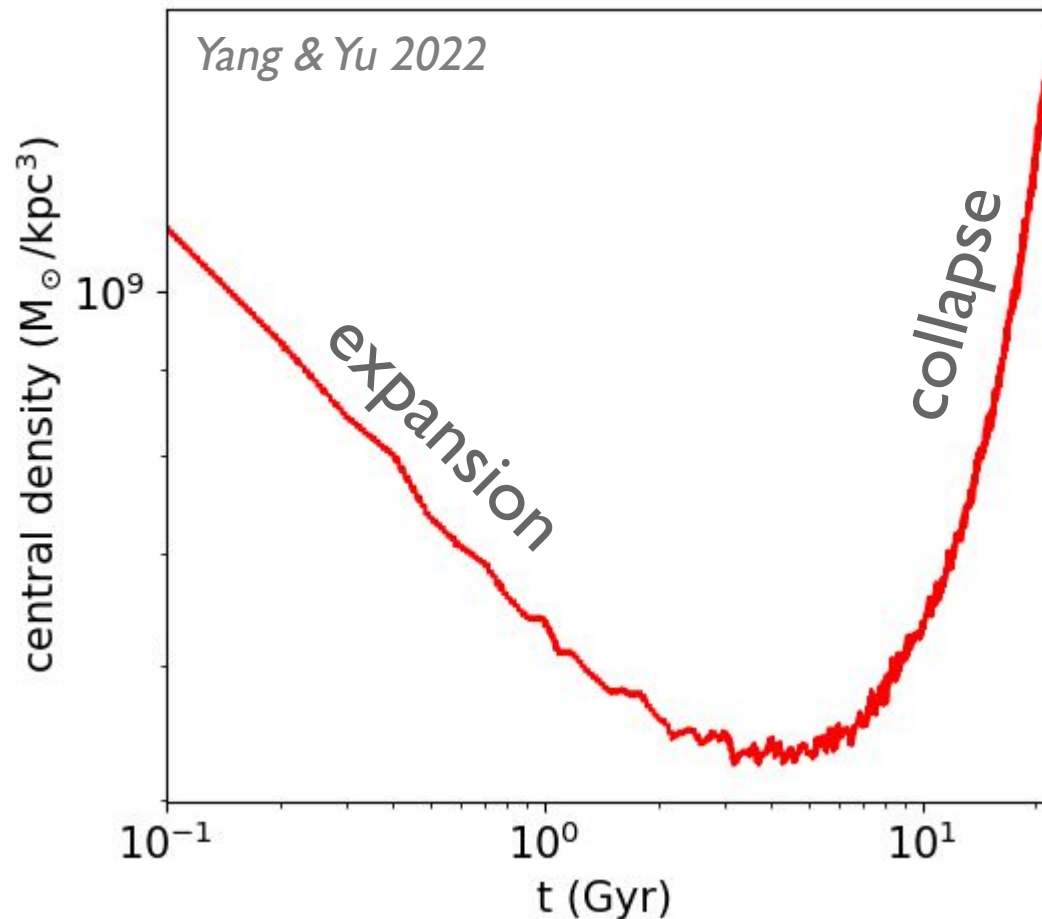
Captures behavior in EDGE simulations with CDM and WDM.

Testing if this works in SIDM!

# implications for SIDM

# star formation histories

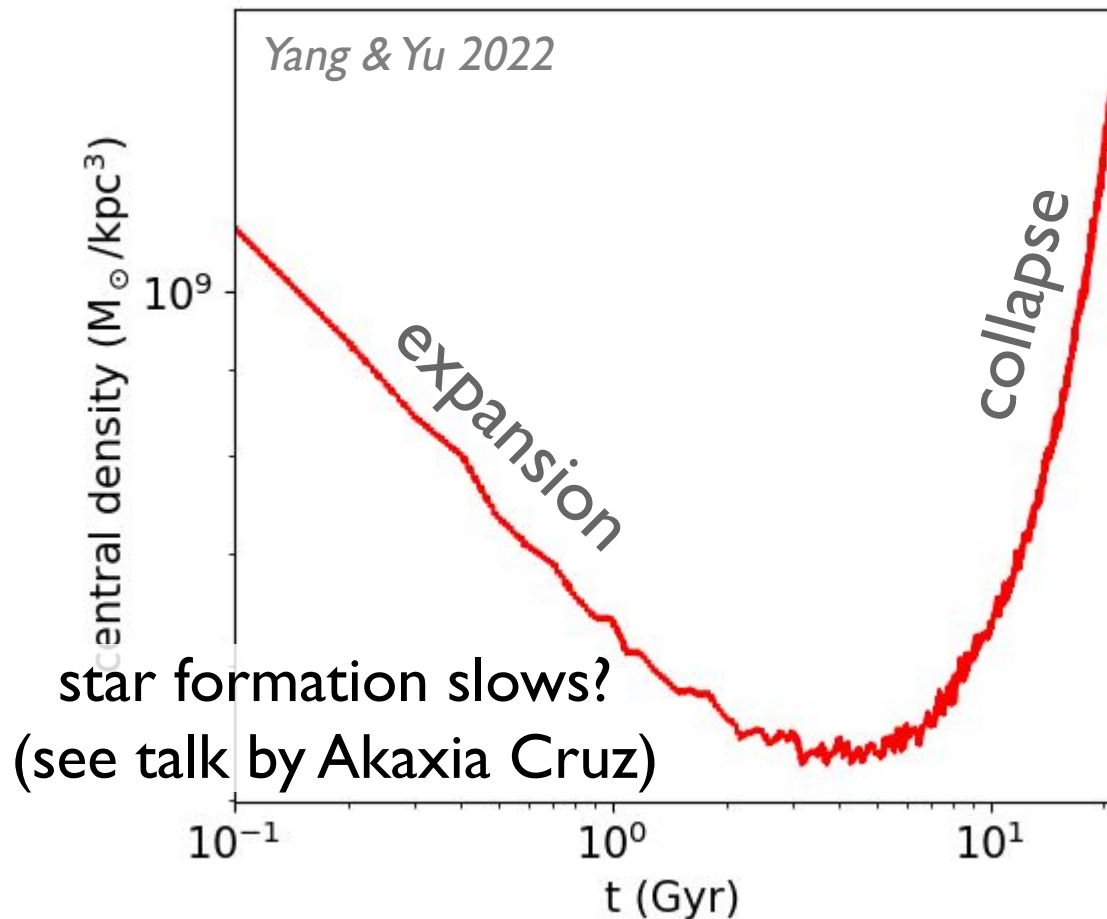
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# implications for SIDM

# star formation histories

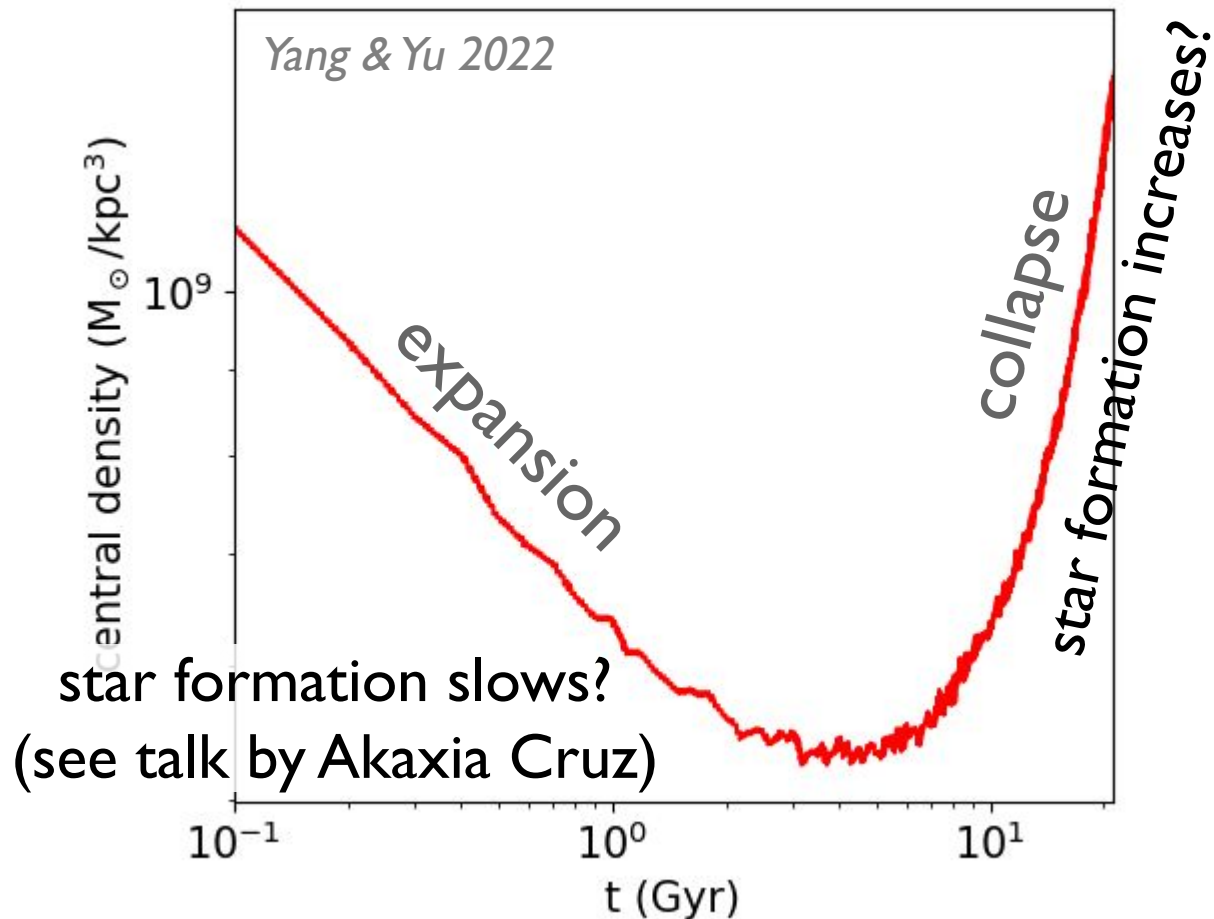
SFHs and  $M_*$  differ in models with different central densities or growth histories. Star formation stochasticity results in scatter, but general trends expected:



# implications for SIDM

# star formation histories

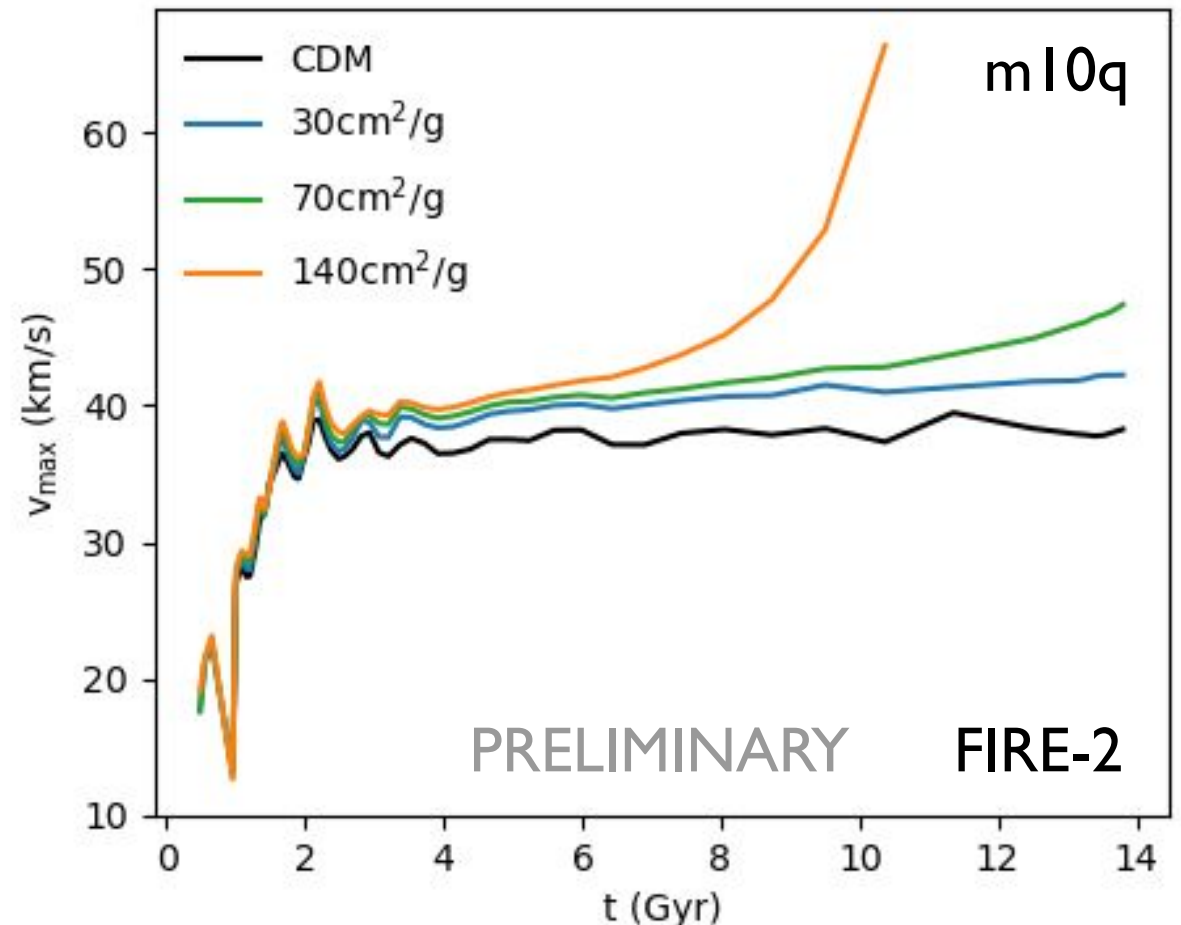
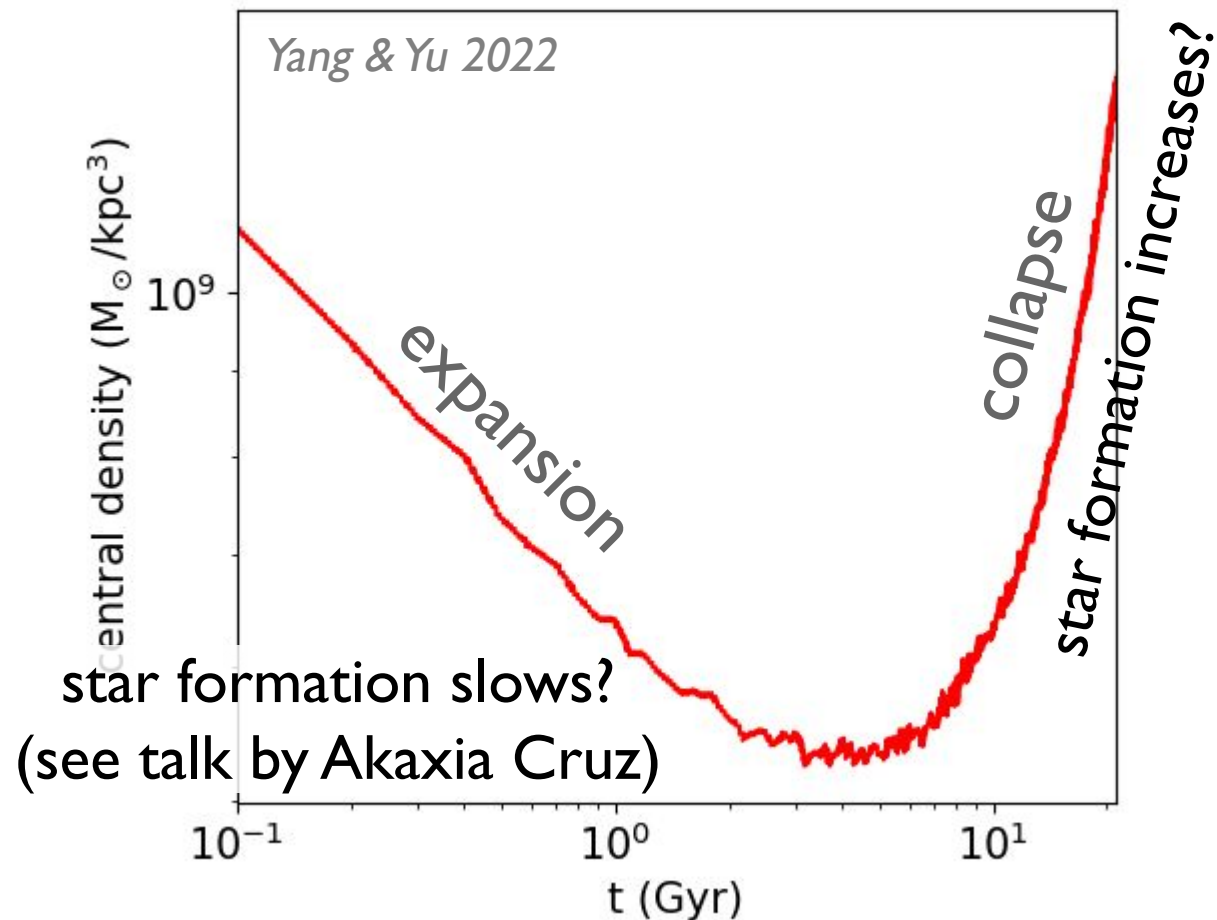
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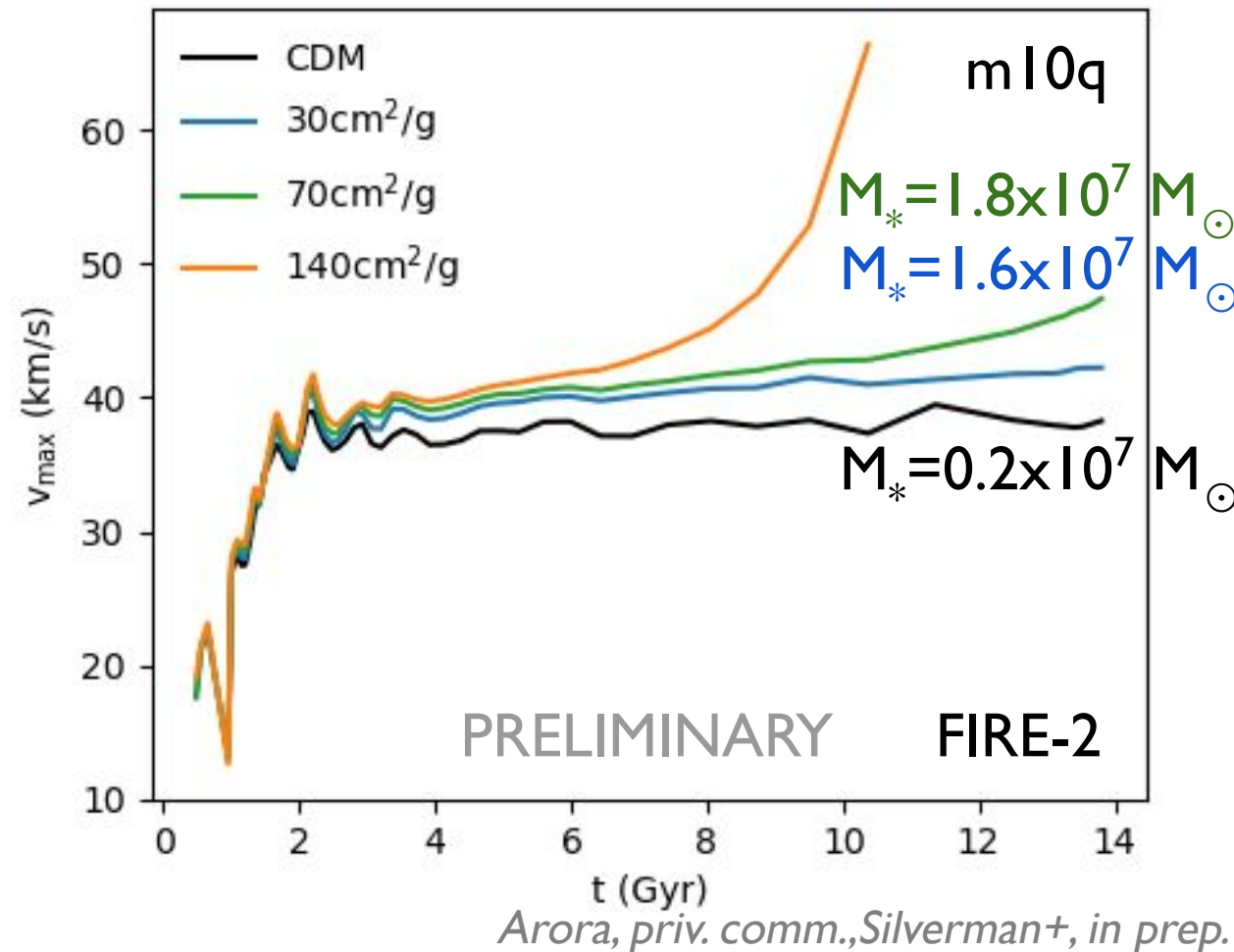
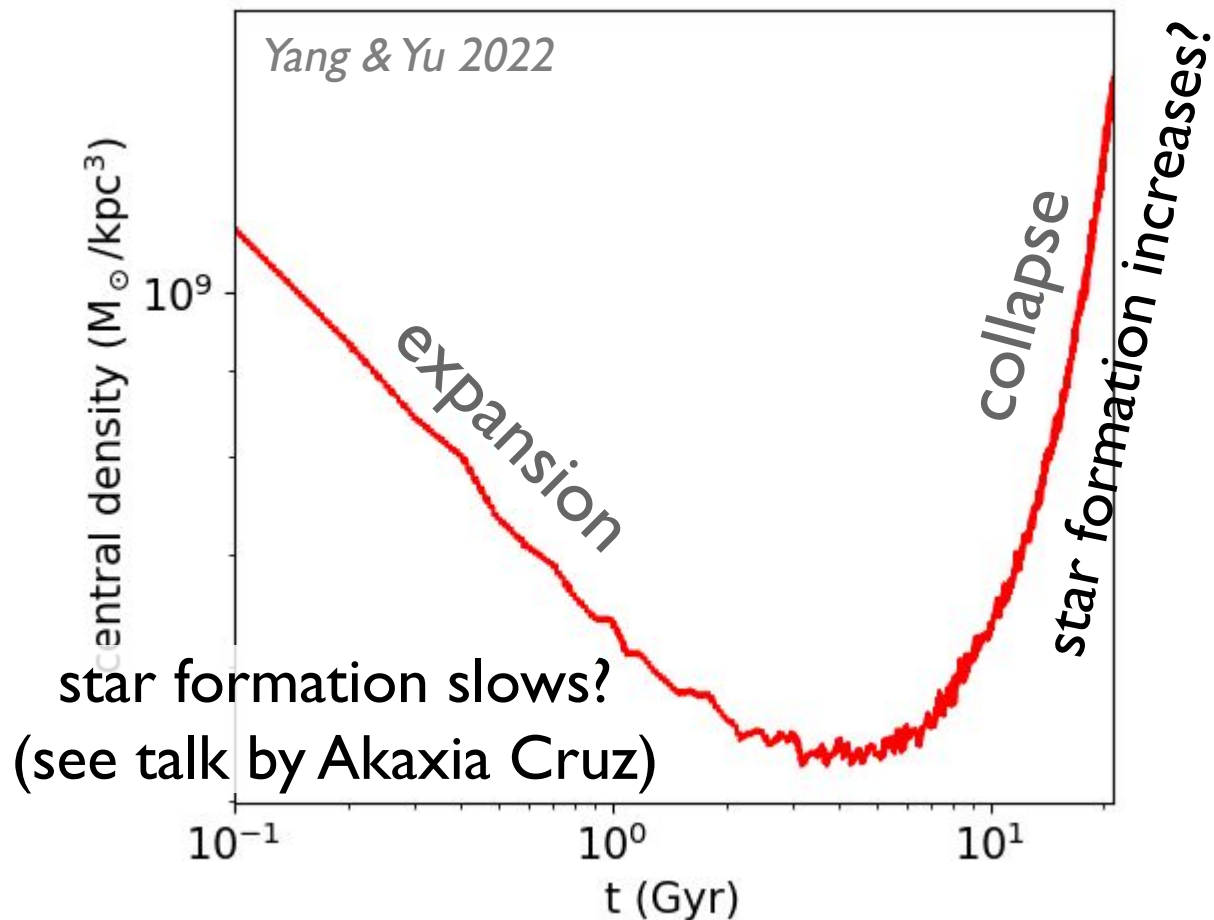
Arora, priv. comm., Silverman+, in prep.



# implications for SIDM

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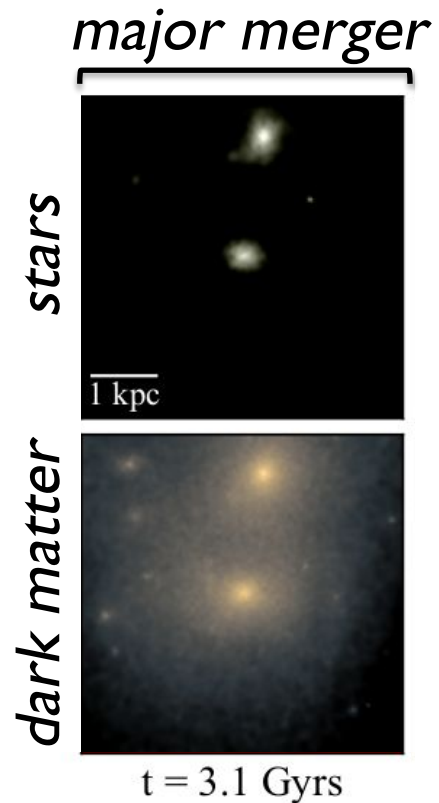
# implications for SIDM | deep core collapse

Star formation quenching deep in core collapse? Gas is finite!

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A potential analog in CDM:



*Izzy Gray*

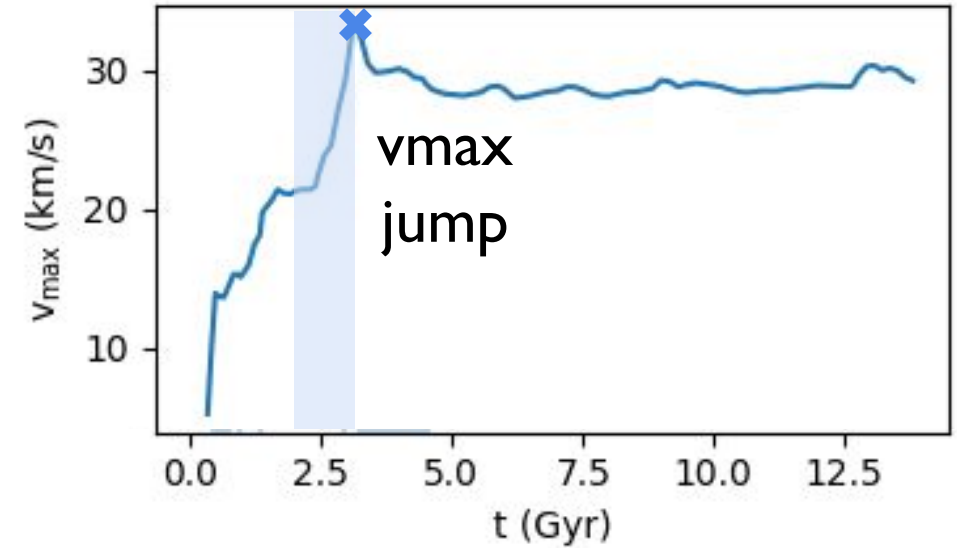
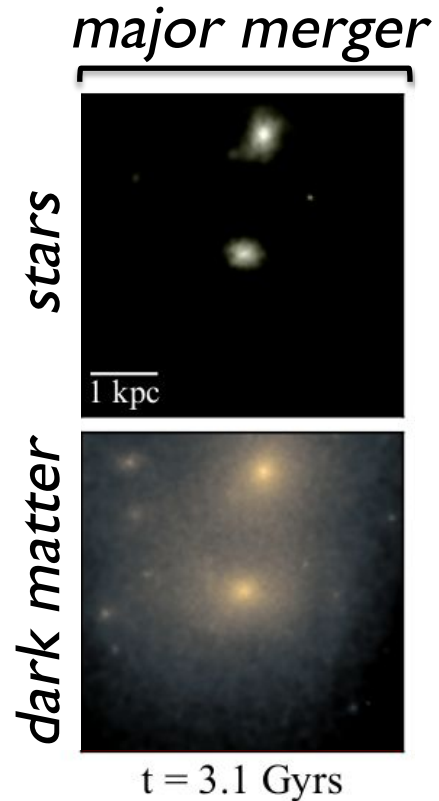
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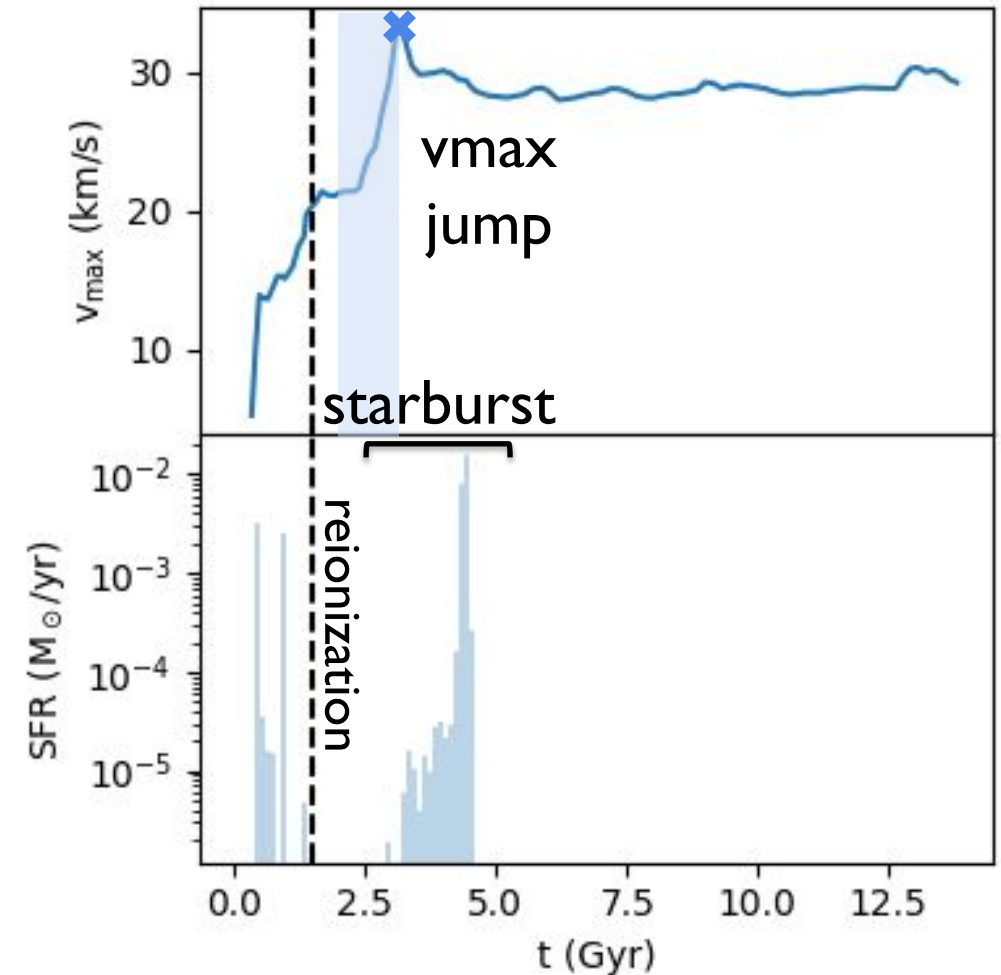
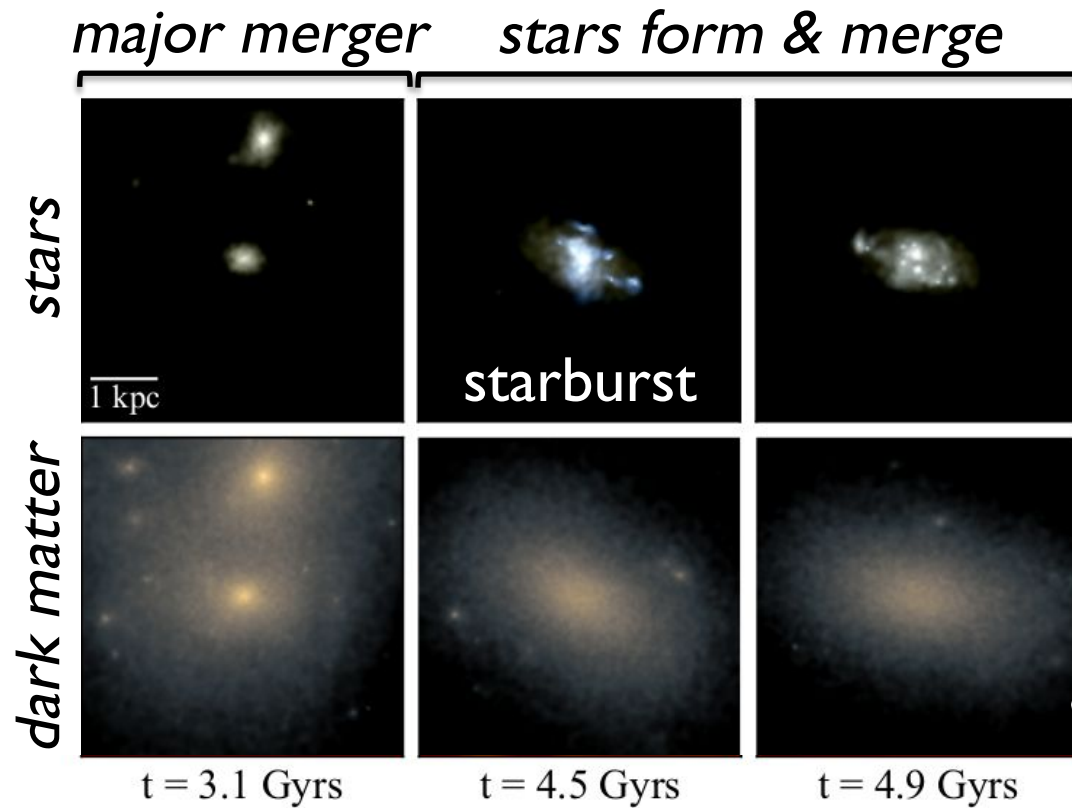
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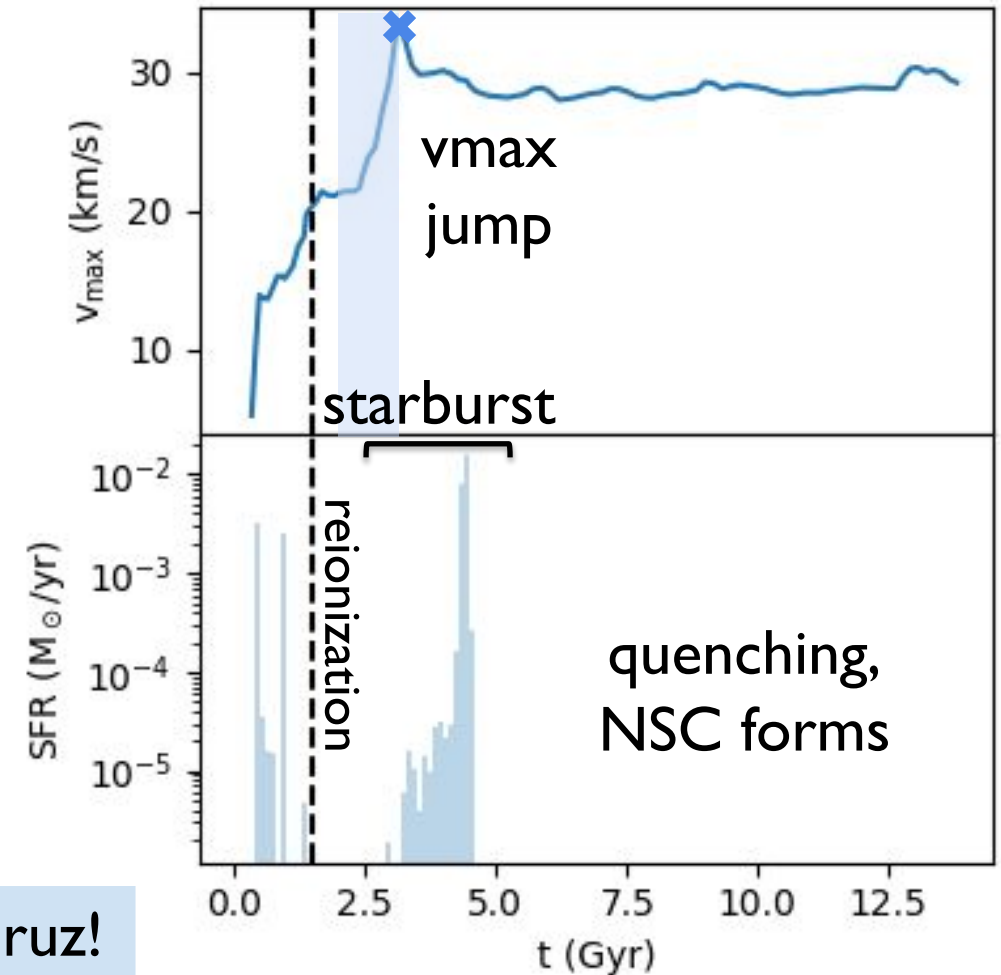
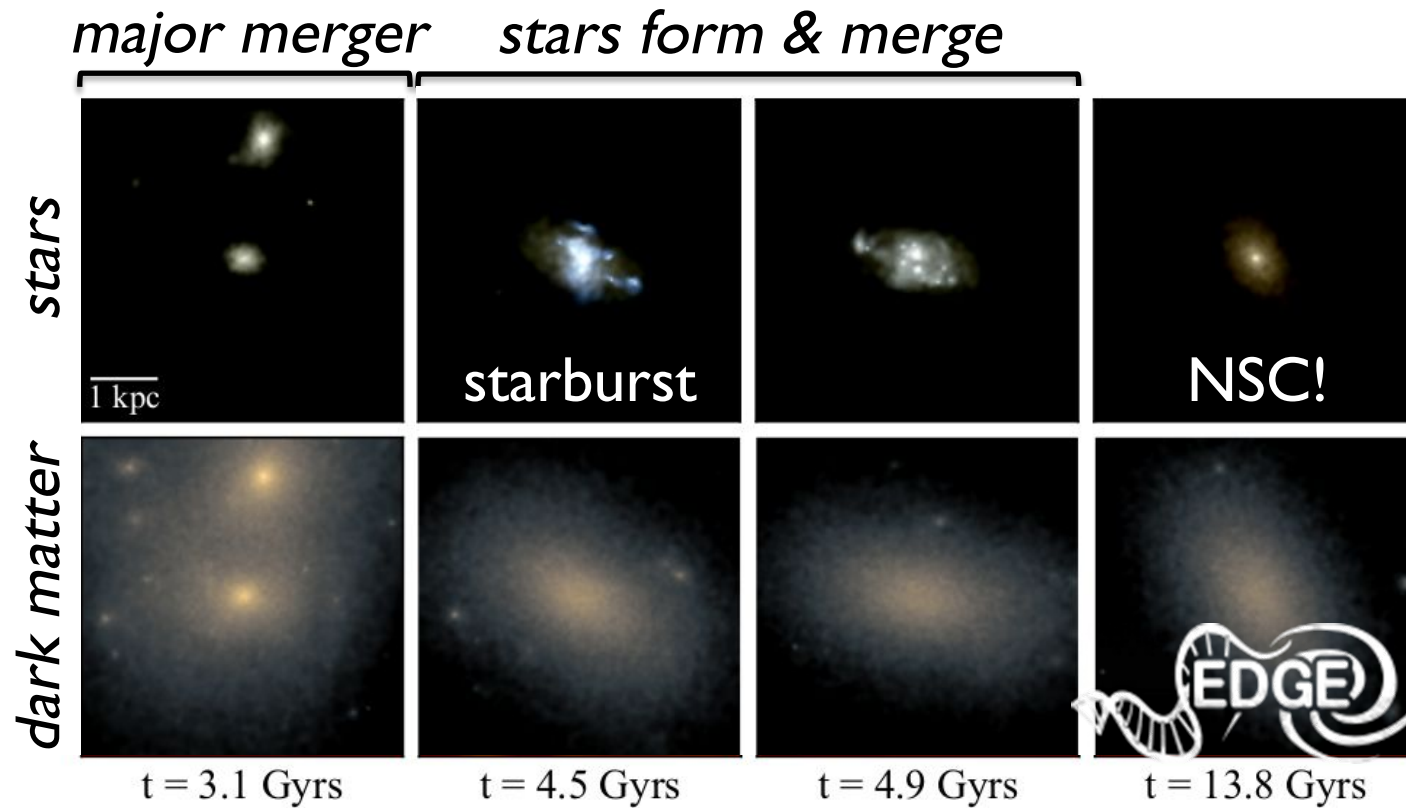
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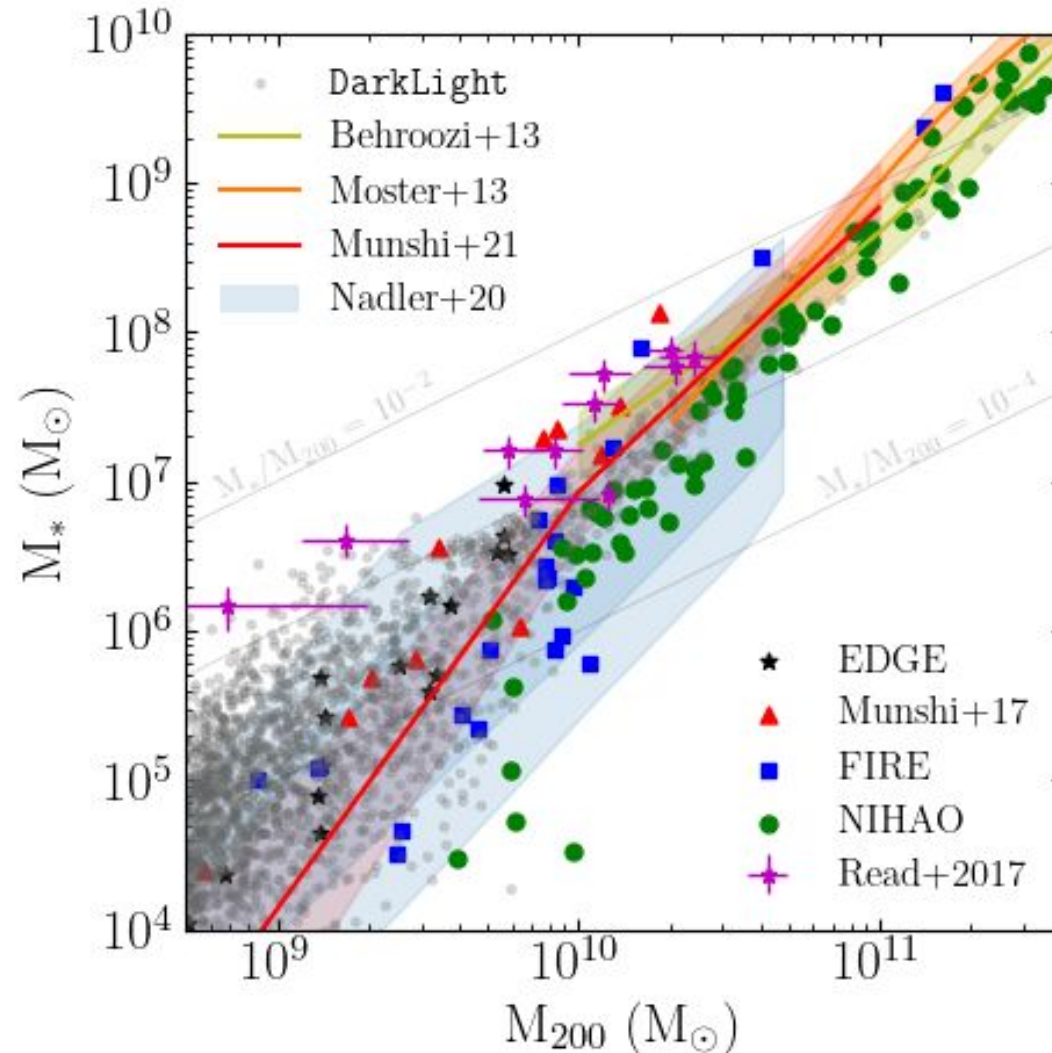
In SIDM: see talk by Akaxia Cruz!

# implications for SIDM | scaling relations

Changes in the stellar-mass–halo-mass (SMHM) relation?

DarkLight run on  $\sim 10^4$   
isolated halos in CDM  
DMO void volume.

For more details, see  
Kim et al. 2024  
(2408.15214).

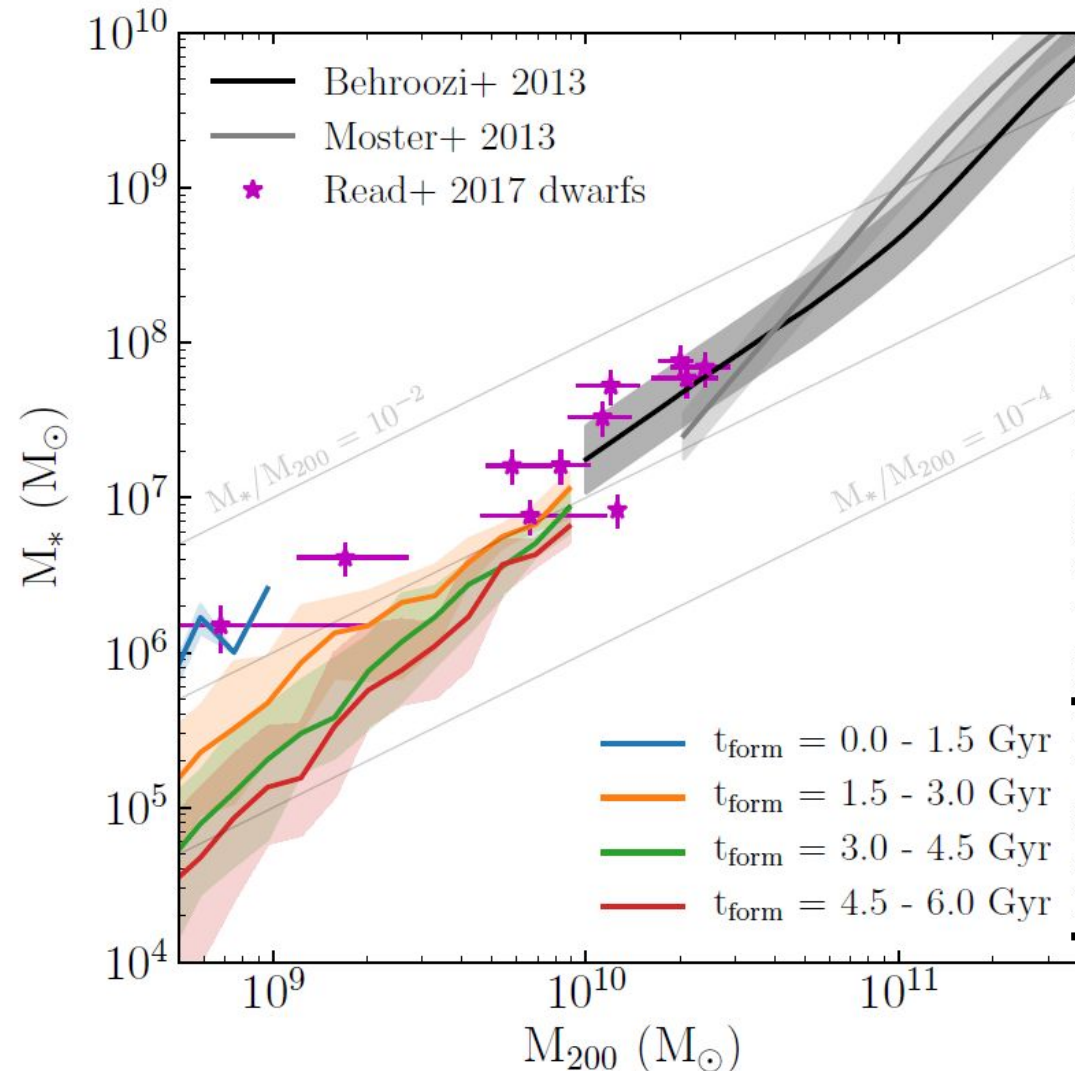


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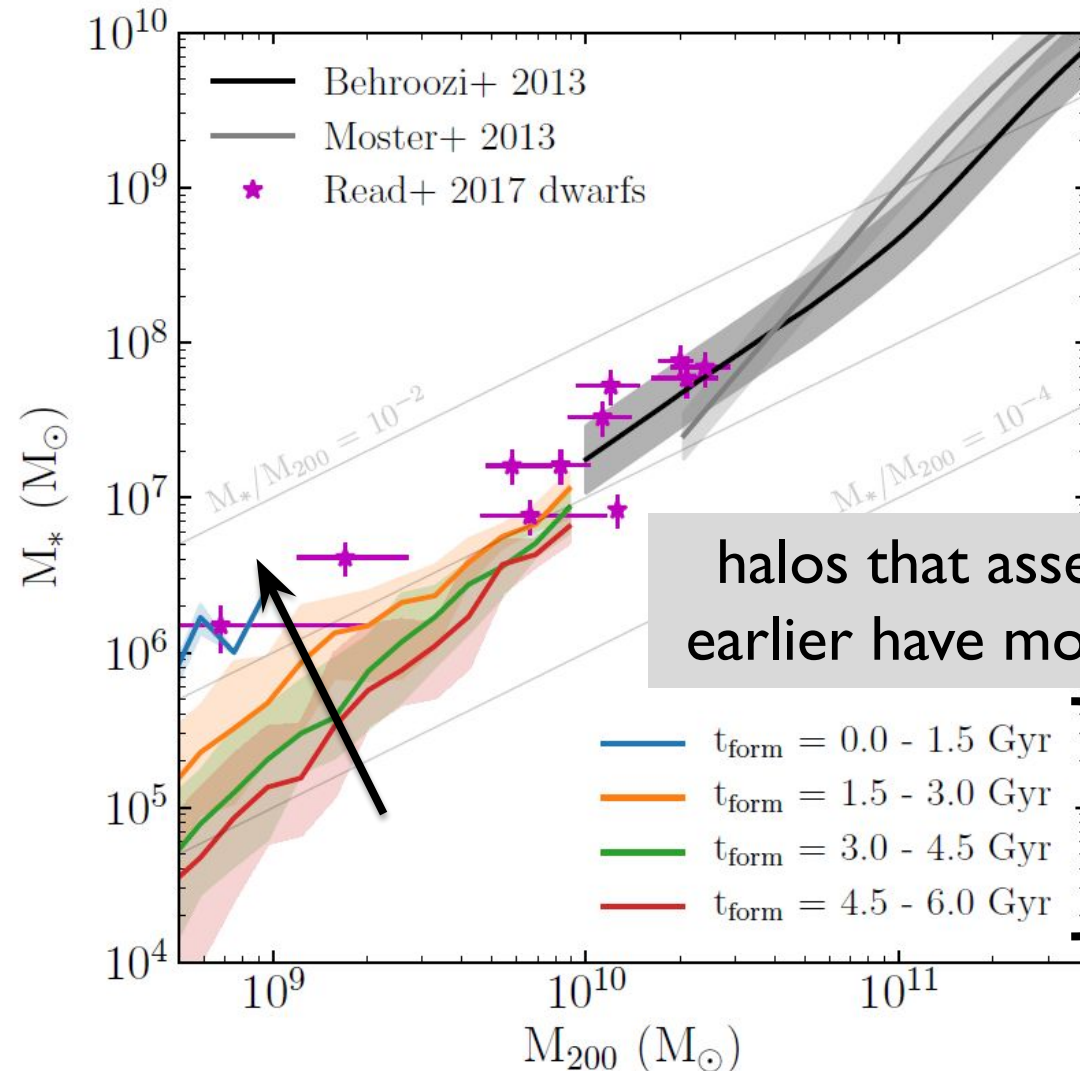
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time it took halo to  
reach 50% of final mass

# implications for SIDM | scaling relations

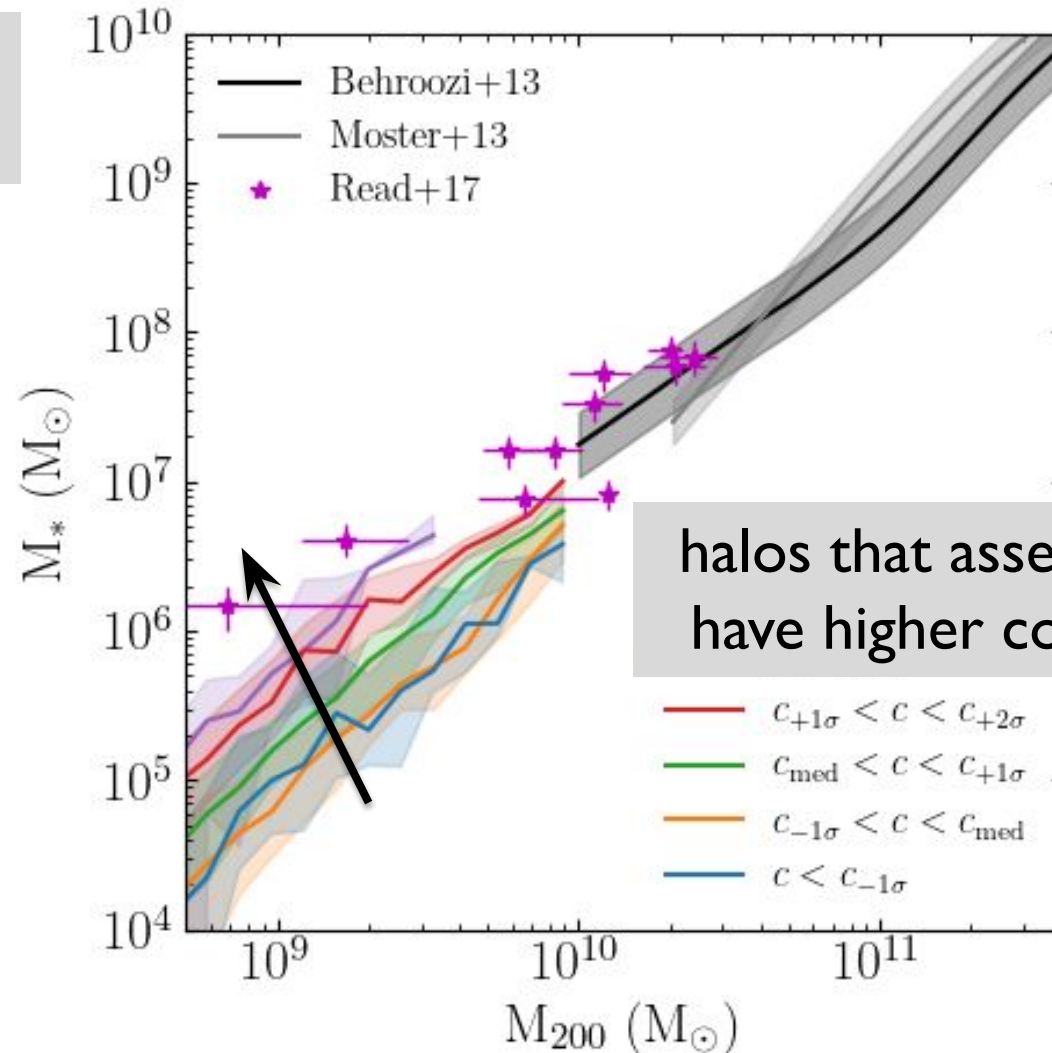
Changes in the stellar-mass–halo-mass (SMHM) relation?



# implications for SIDM | scaling relations

Changes in the stellar-mass–halo-mass (SMHM) relation?

Higher concentration  
halos collapse faster.



halos that assembled earlier  
have higher concentrations

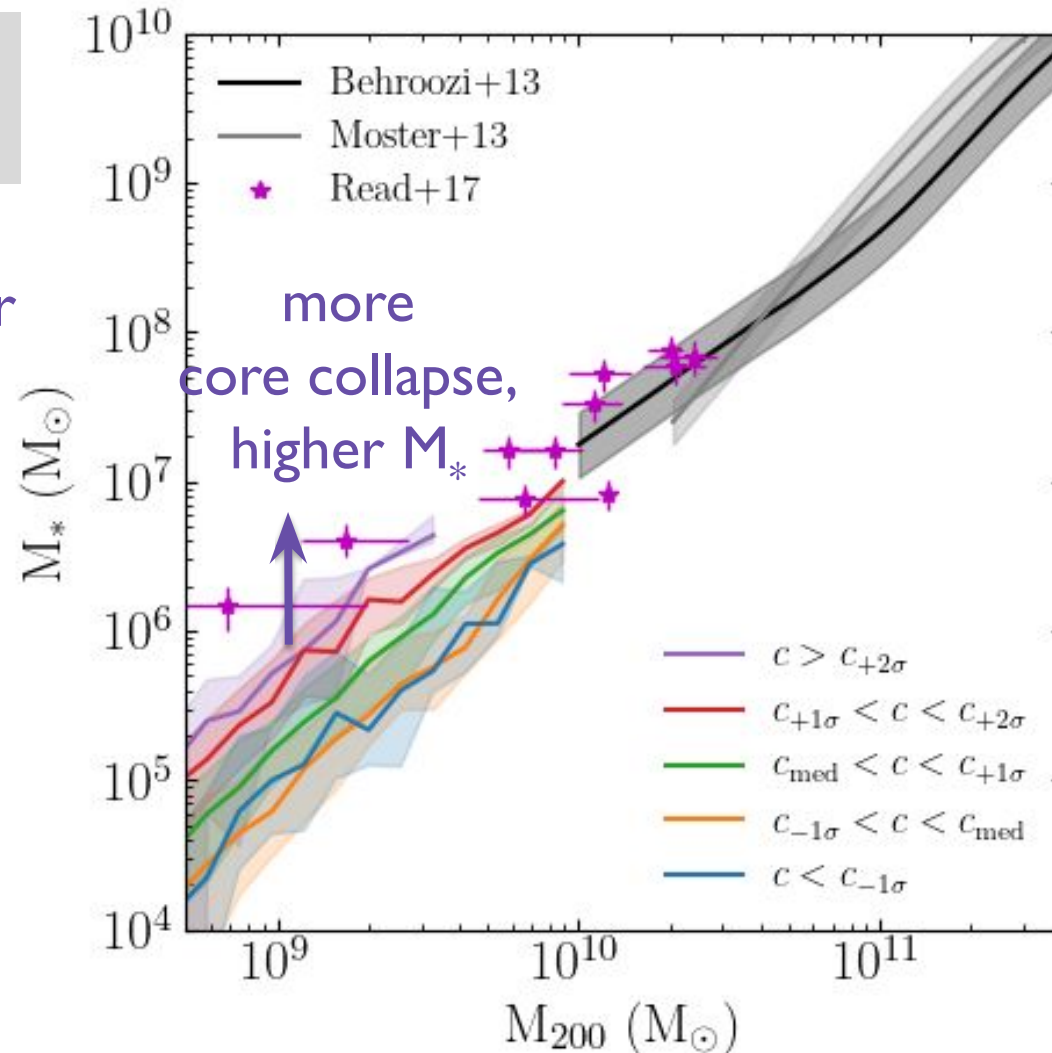


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Changes in the stellar-mass–halo-mass (SMHM) relation?

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Early formers have higher  
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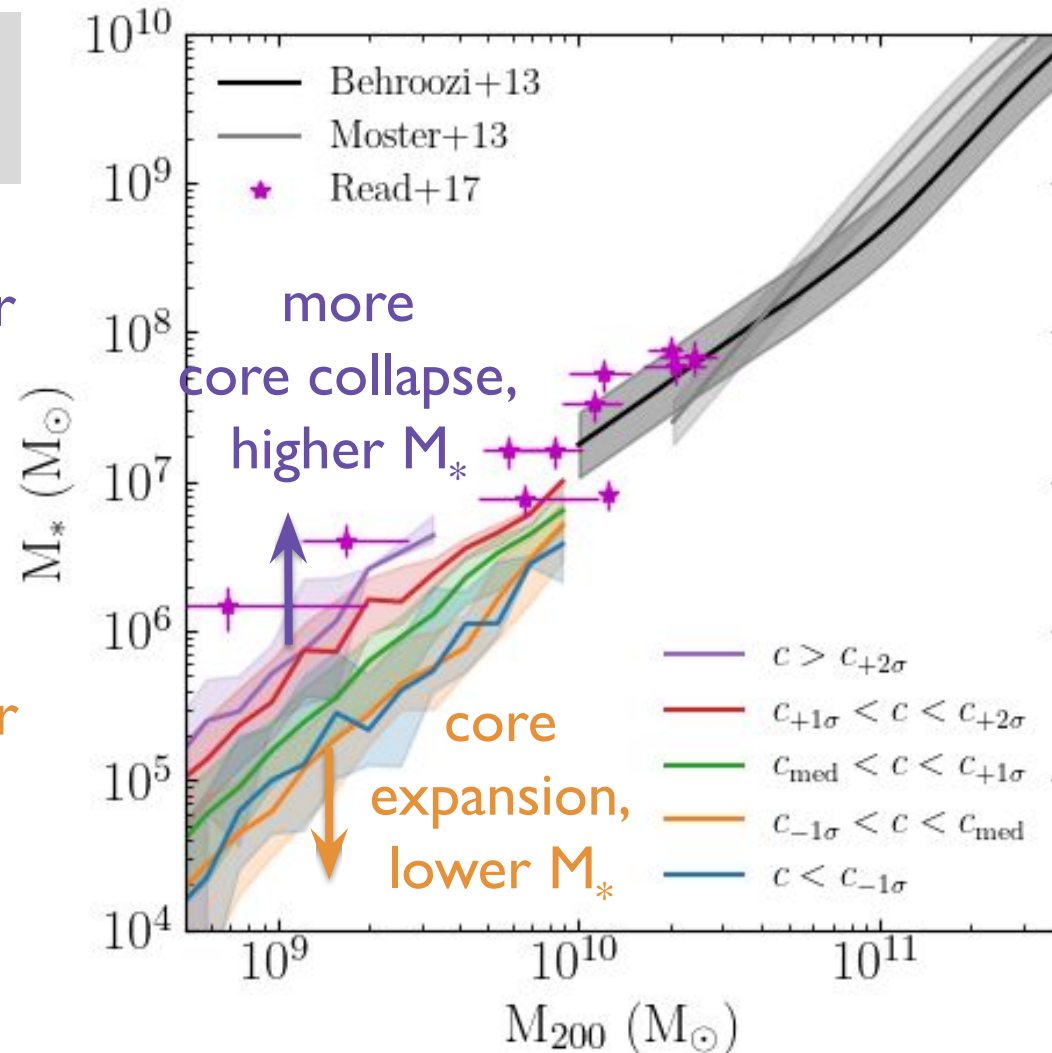
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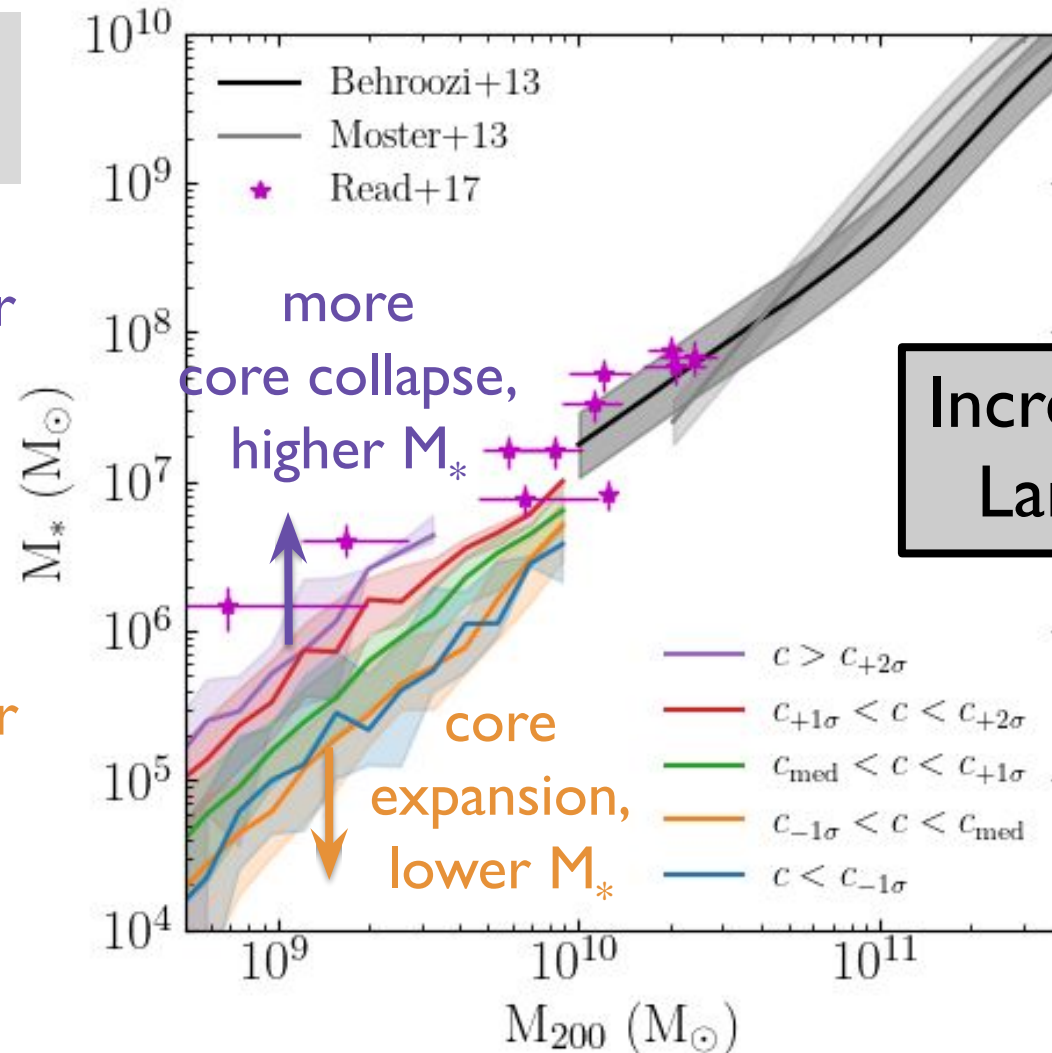
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Increased SMHM scatter?  
Larger diversity in  $M_*$ ?

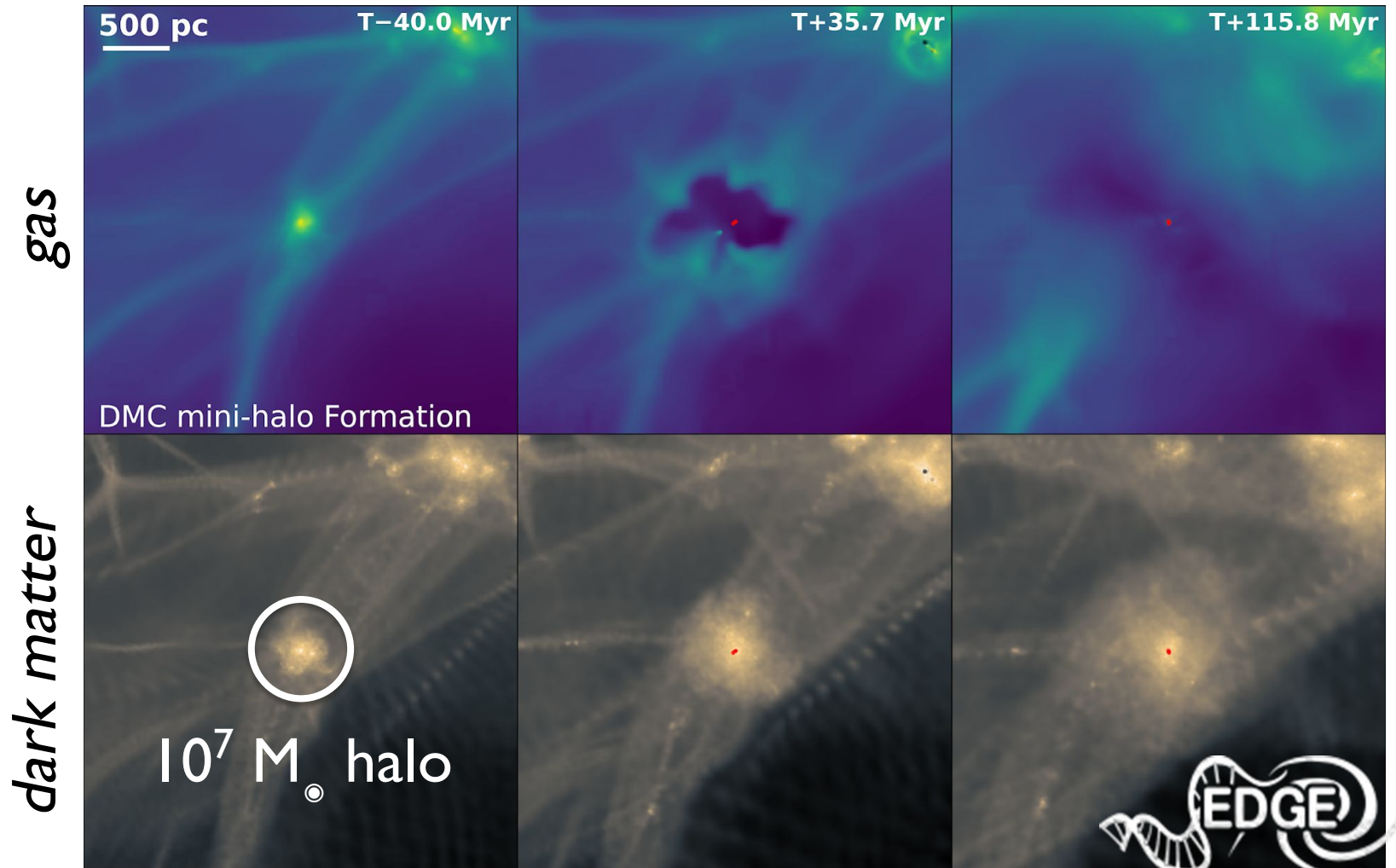
CDM SMHM may not  
be the same in SIDM!

# implications for SIDM

# the faintest dwarfs



Ethan Taylor



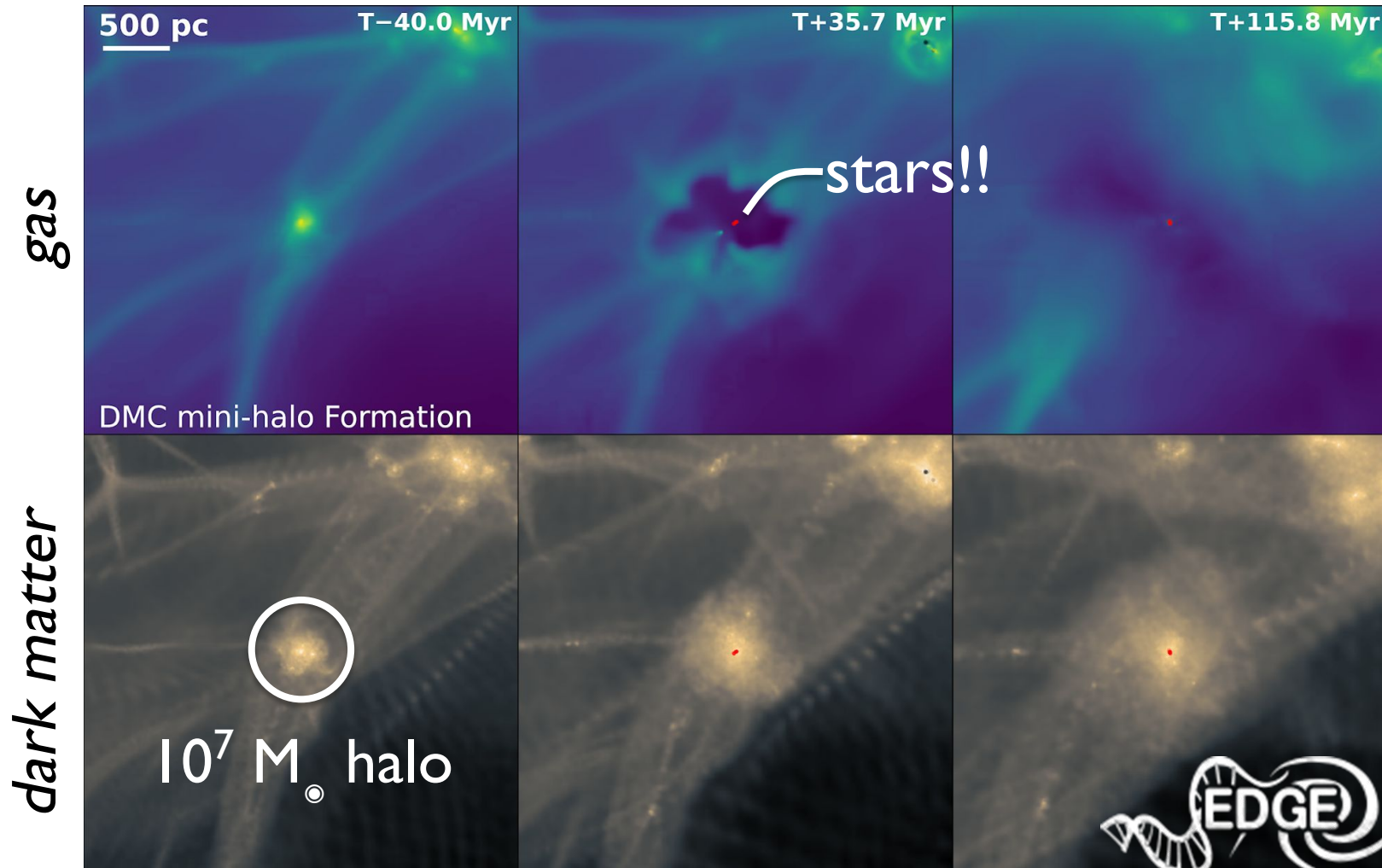
Taylor, Read, Orkney, SYK+, accepted to Nature



# implications for SIDM | the faintest dwarfs



Ethan Taylor



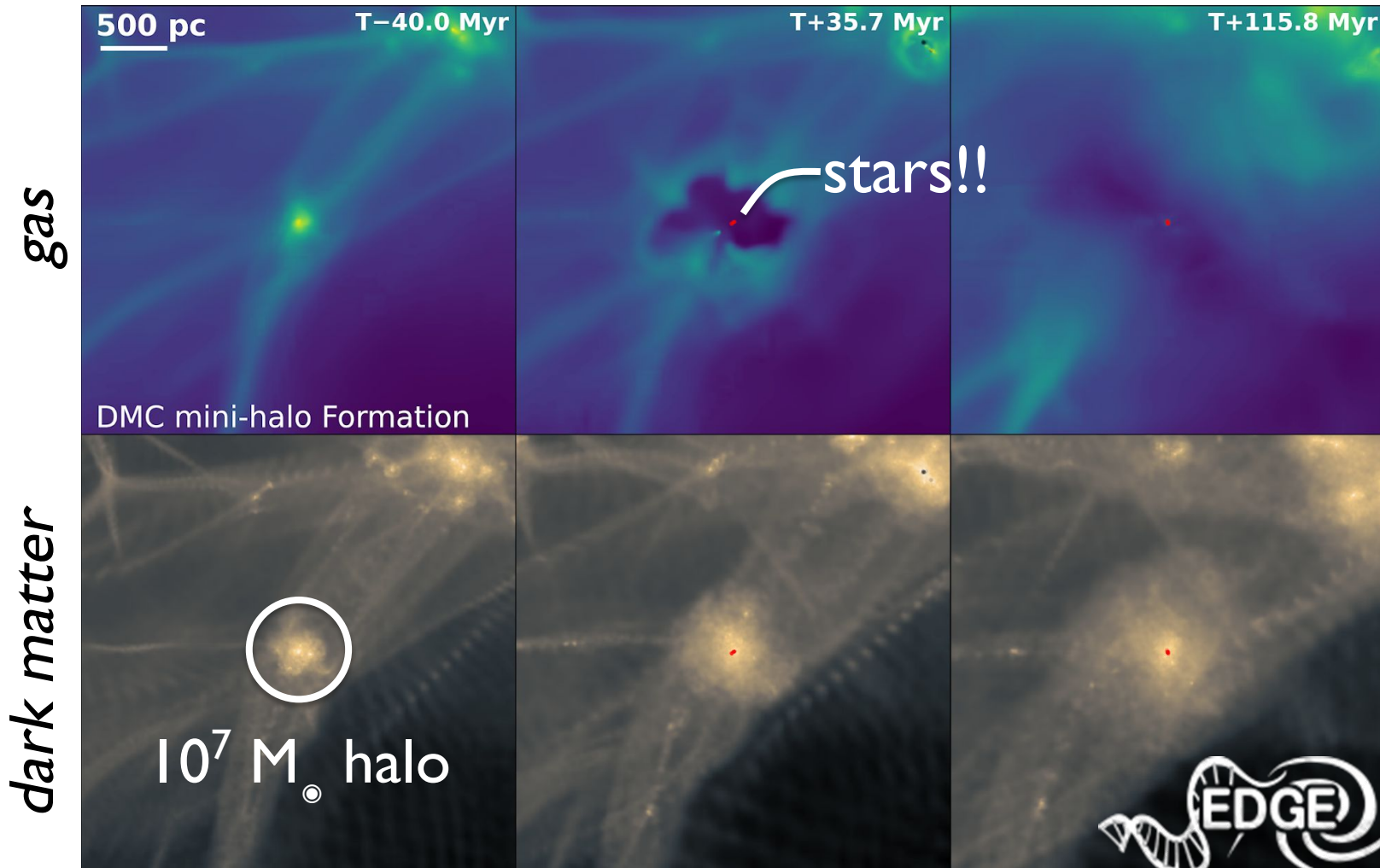
We find galaxies form in  $10^7 M_{\odot}$  dark matter halos!



# implications for SIDM | the faintest dwarfs



Ethan Taylor



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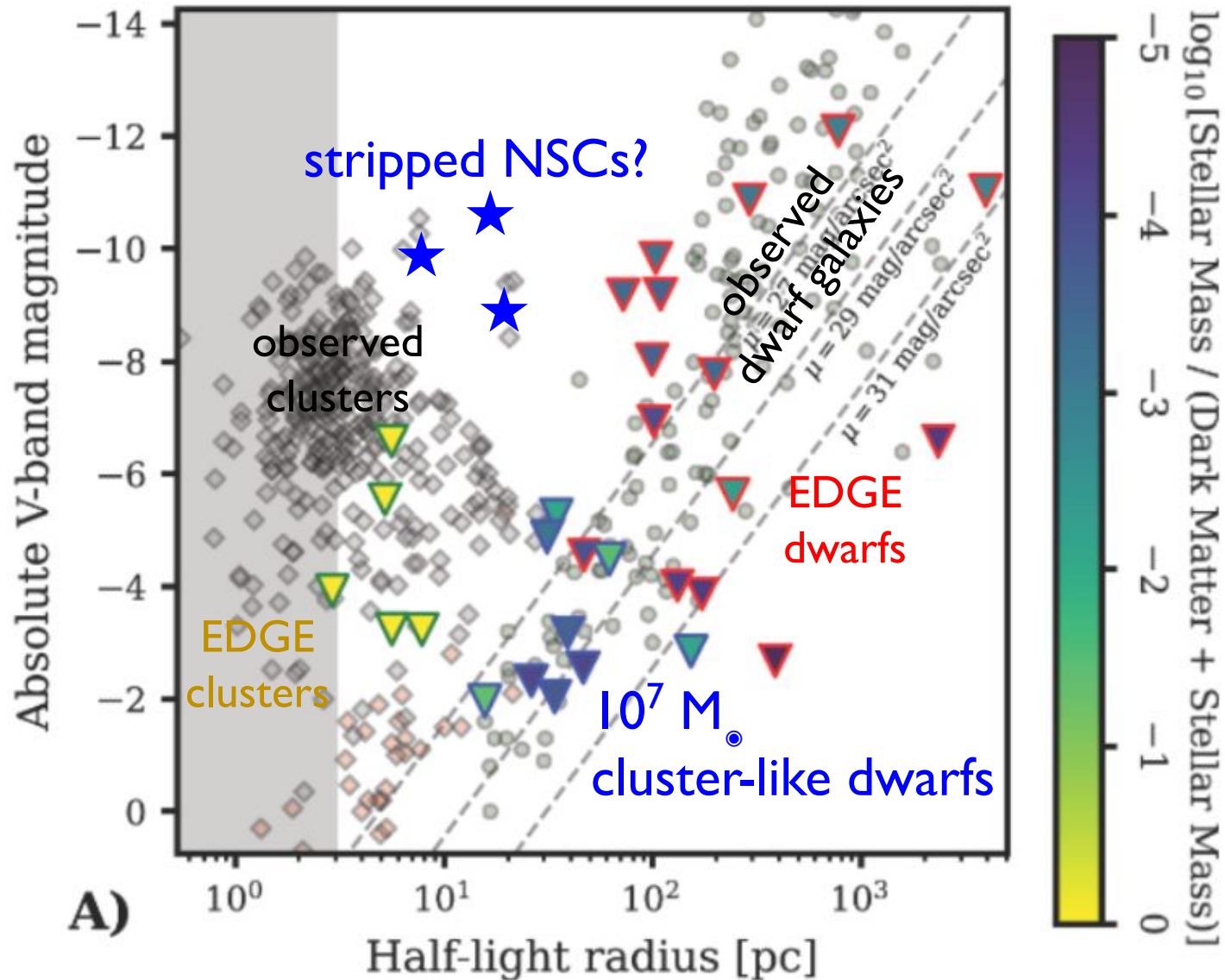
Looks in-between  
**globular clusters**  
and dwarf galaxies!

# implications for SIDM

# the faintest dwarfs



Izzy Gray Ethan Taylor

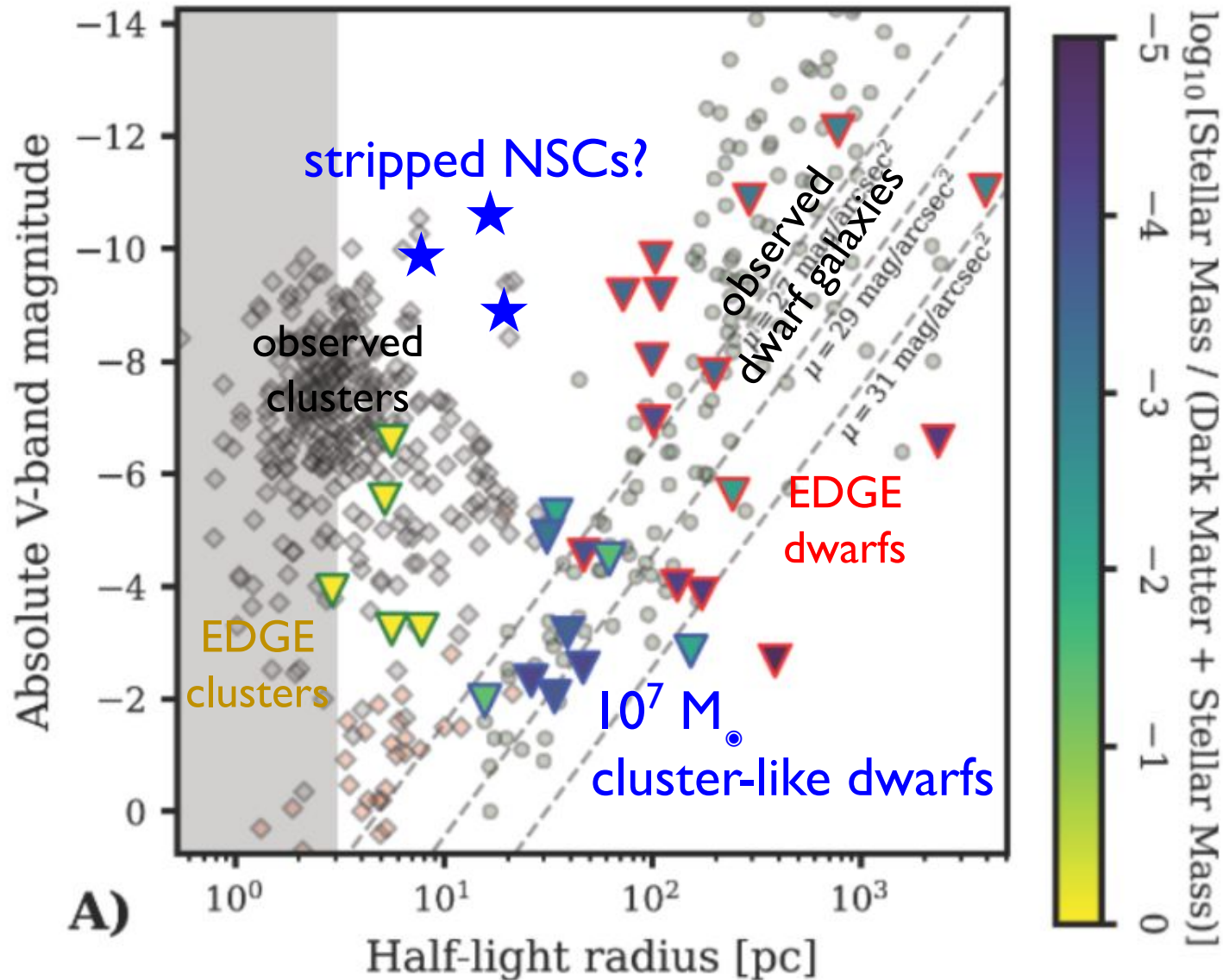


# implications for SIDM

# the faintest dwarfs



Izzy Gray Ethan Taylor



Globular cluster-like dwarfs  
form in halos with  
 $v_{\text{max}} \sim 7\text{-}9 \text{ km/s}$  at  
birth ( $z \sim 6\text{-}10$ ).

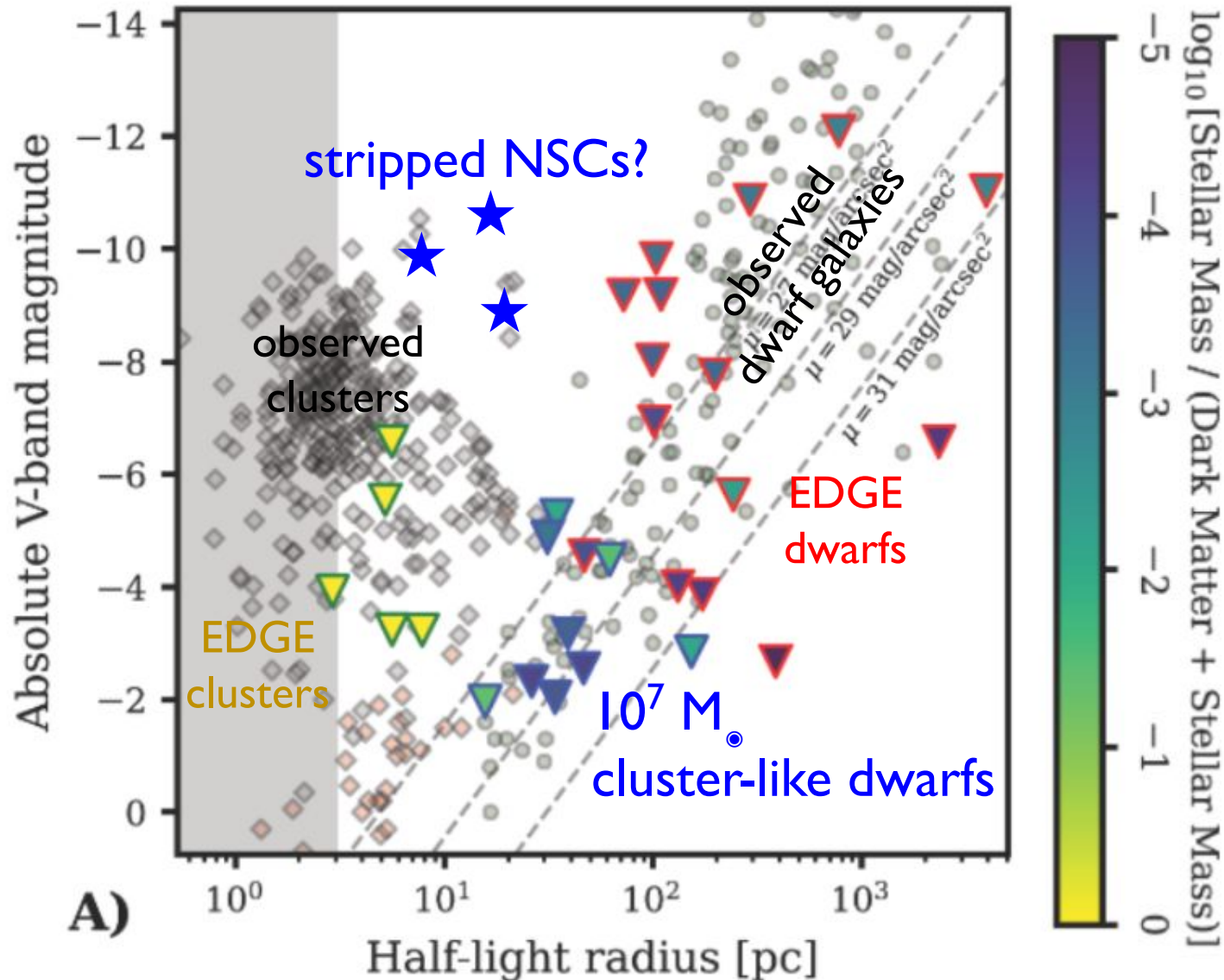


# implications for SIDM

# the faintest dwarfs



Izzy Gray Ethan Taylor



Globular cluster-like dwarfs form in halos with  $v_{\text{max}} \sim 7\text{-}9 \text{ km/s}$  at birth ( $z \sim 6\text{-}10$ ).

Change in  $v_{\text{max}}$  due to SIDM at high redshifts could affect dwarf galaxy abundances?

# insights on SIDM from the EDGE dwarfs

A dwarf galaxy's dark matter density evolution and growth history can significantly affect its observational properties.

Relation between SFR and  $v_{\text{max}}$  indicates that core expansion and core collapse may affect SFHs and thus  $M_*$  in dwarfs.

Increase in  $v_{\text{max}}$  in deep core collapse could cause an increase in star formation then quenching (and potentially a nuclear star cluster).

Globular cluster-like dwarf galaxies can form in  $10^7 M_\odot$  halos.  
Changes in  $v_{\text{max}}$  due to SIDM at high redshifts could affect dwarf abundances.

**EXTRAS**

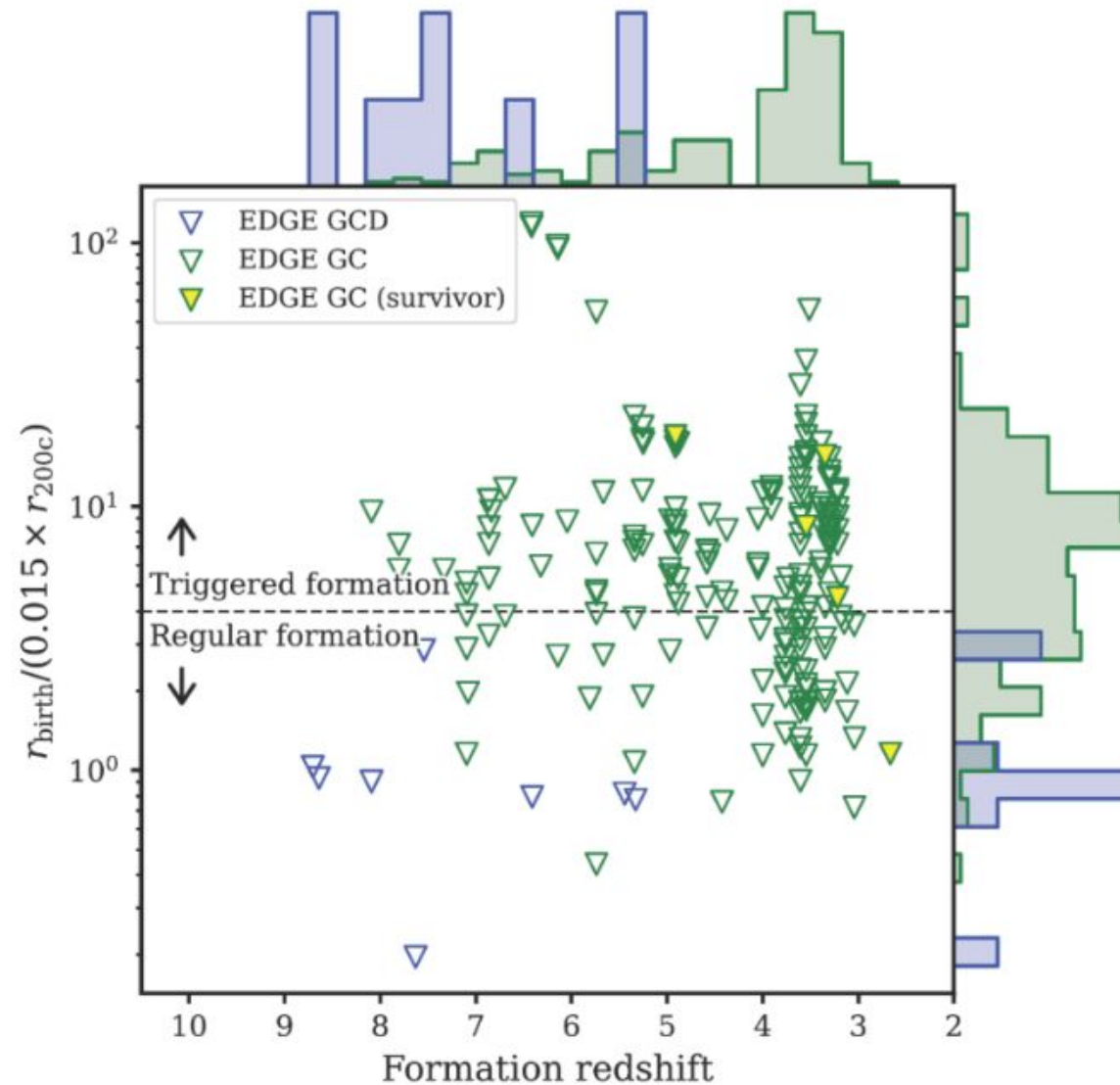


# resolving the faintest galaxies

*with super high  
resolution sims*



Ethan Taylor

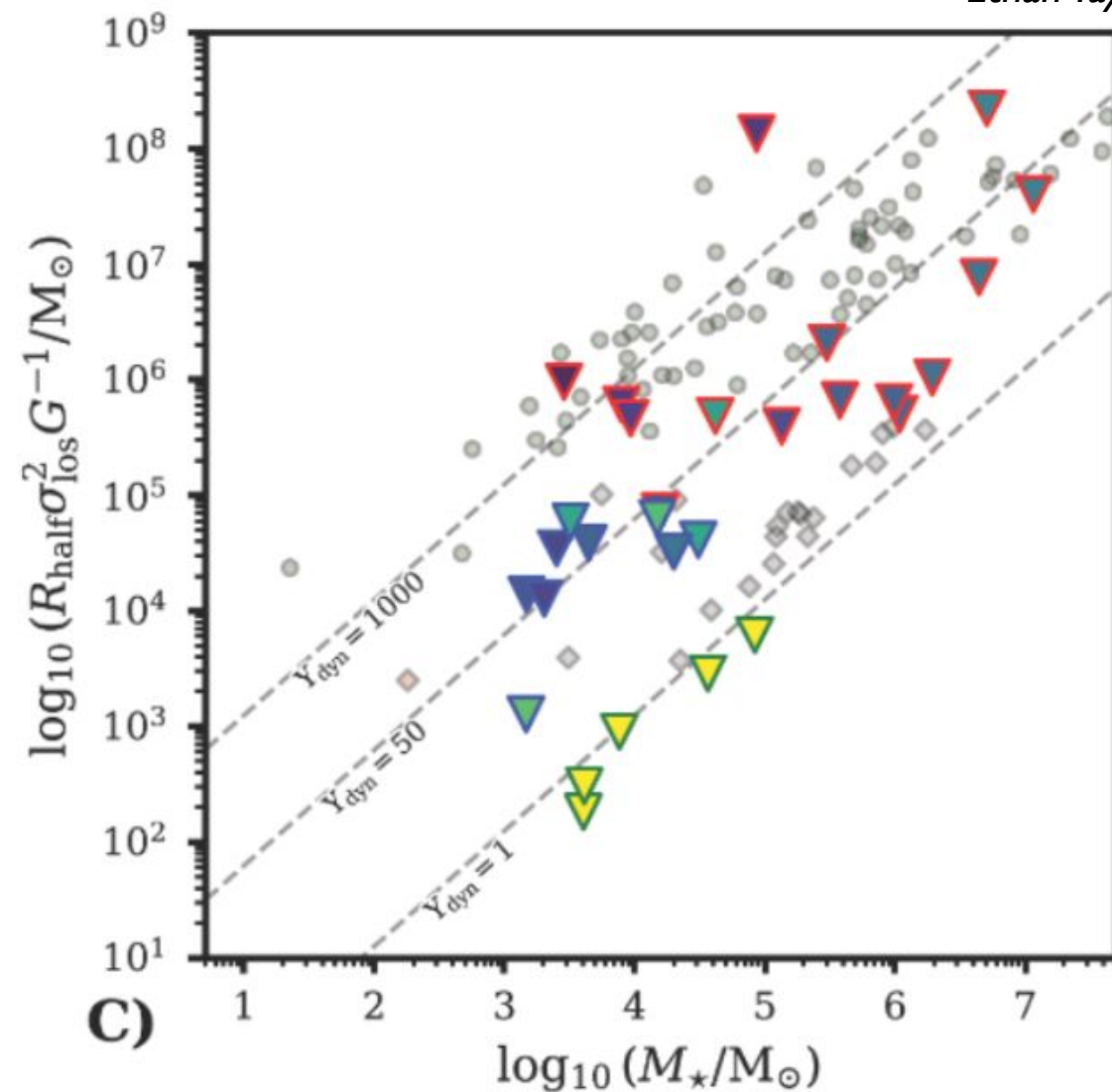
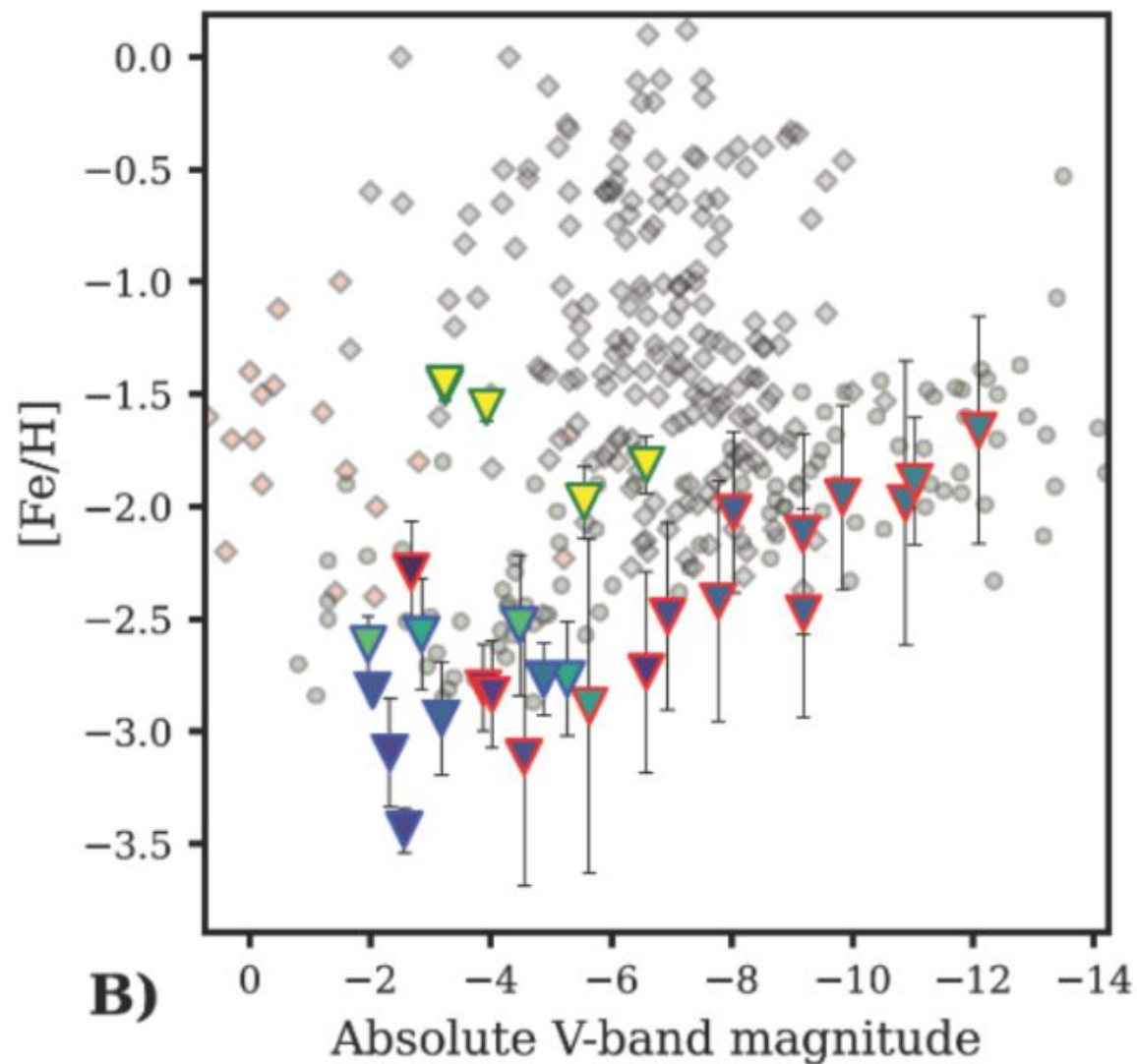


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Ethan Taylor

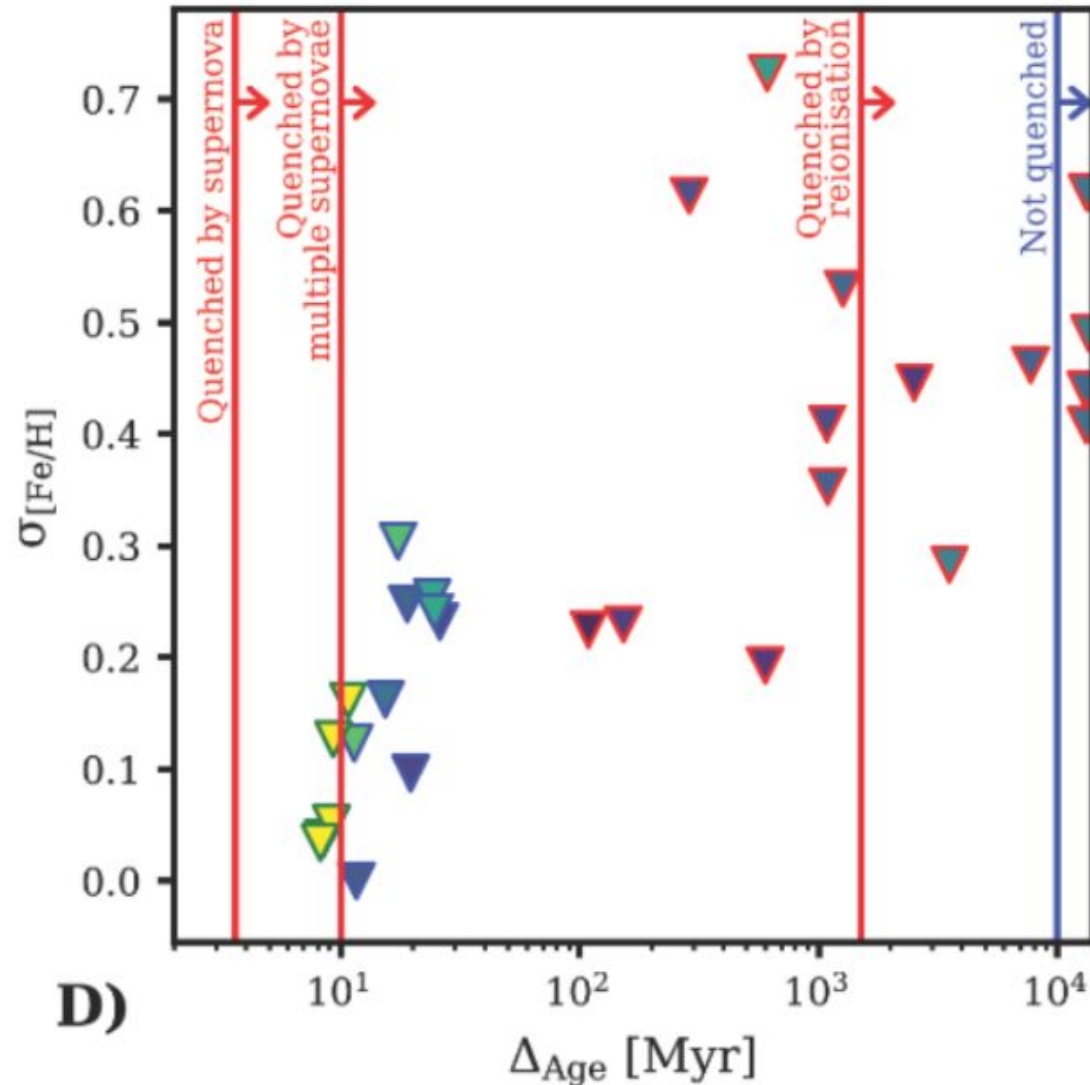


# resolving the faintest galaxies

*with super high  
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Ethan Taylor



# towards dark matter constraints

# WDM

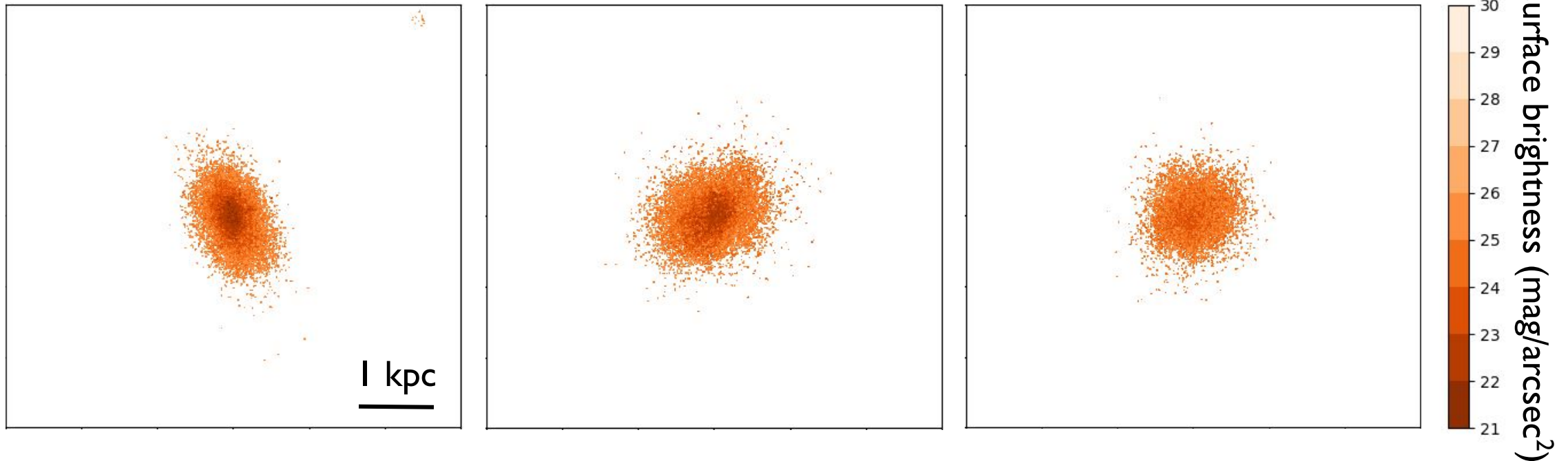


Dwarf galaxies fewer, fainter... *and puffier?*

CDM

6 keV

3 keV

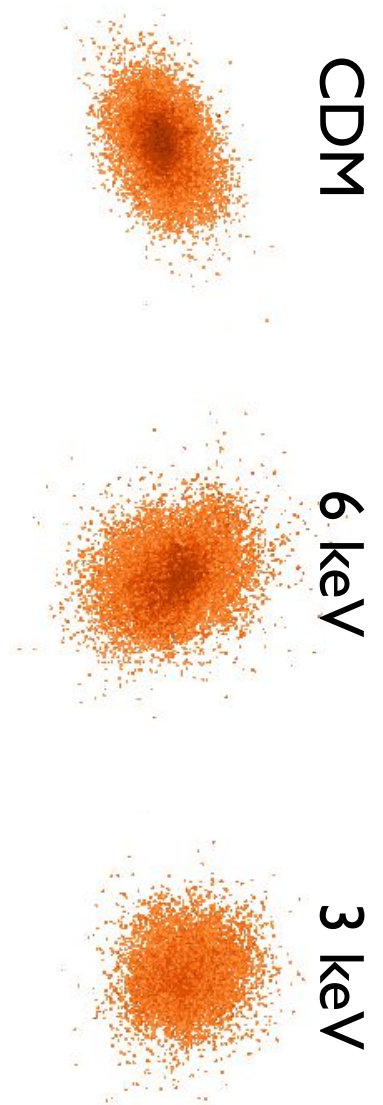
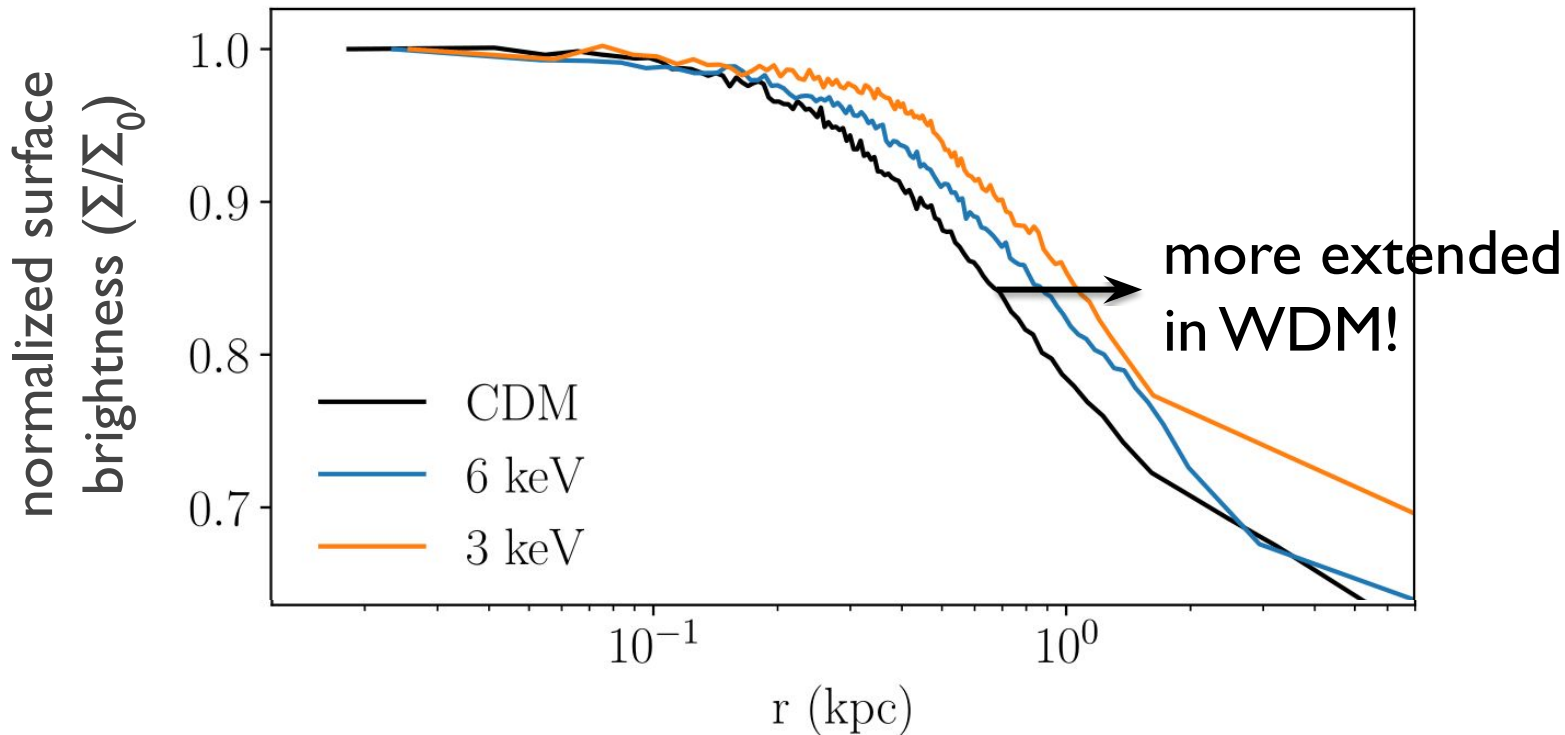


Accreted subhalos disrupt when their densities  $\sim$  host halo's densities.

WDM halos have lower densities  $\rightarrow$  disrupts at larger radii  $\rightarrow$  puffier?

# towards dark matter constraints | WDM

Dwarf galaxies fewer, fainter... *and puffier?*



Triple whammy! WDM constraints based on number of dwarfs detected could be overestimated?



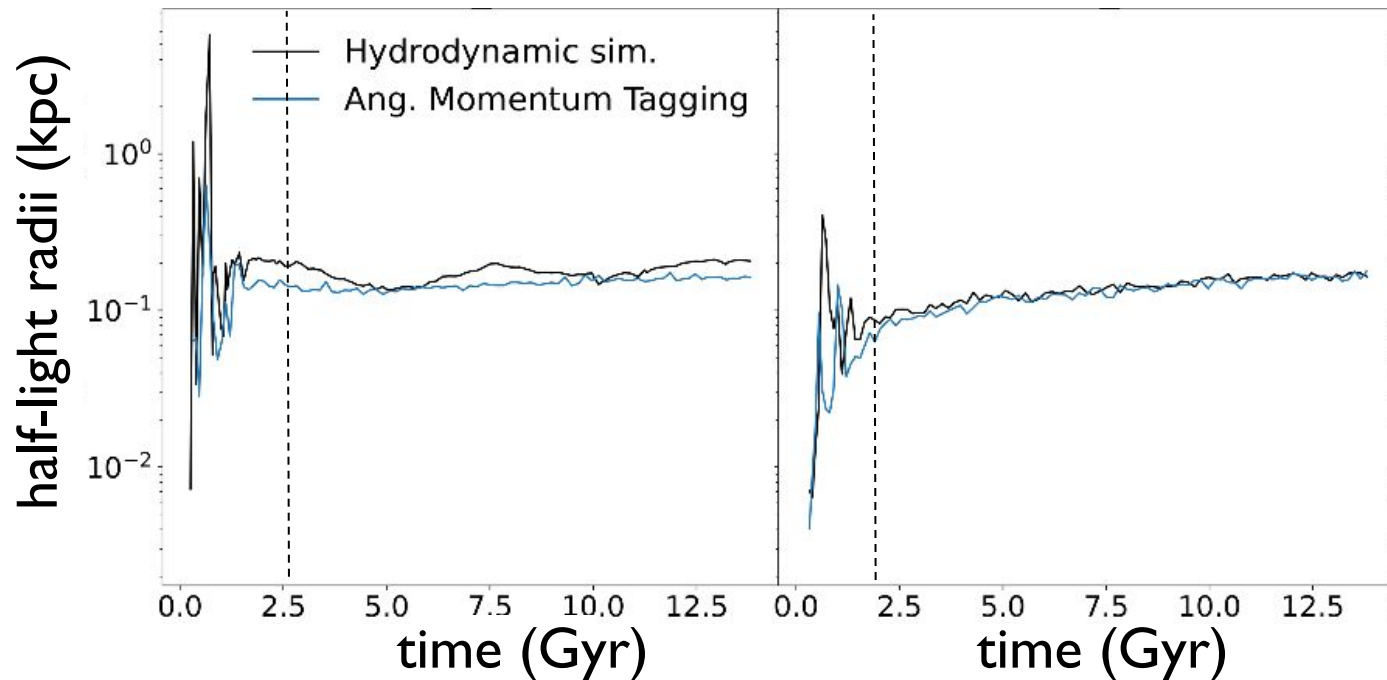
# modeling other dwarf populations

# DarkLight

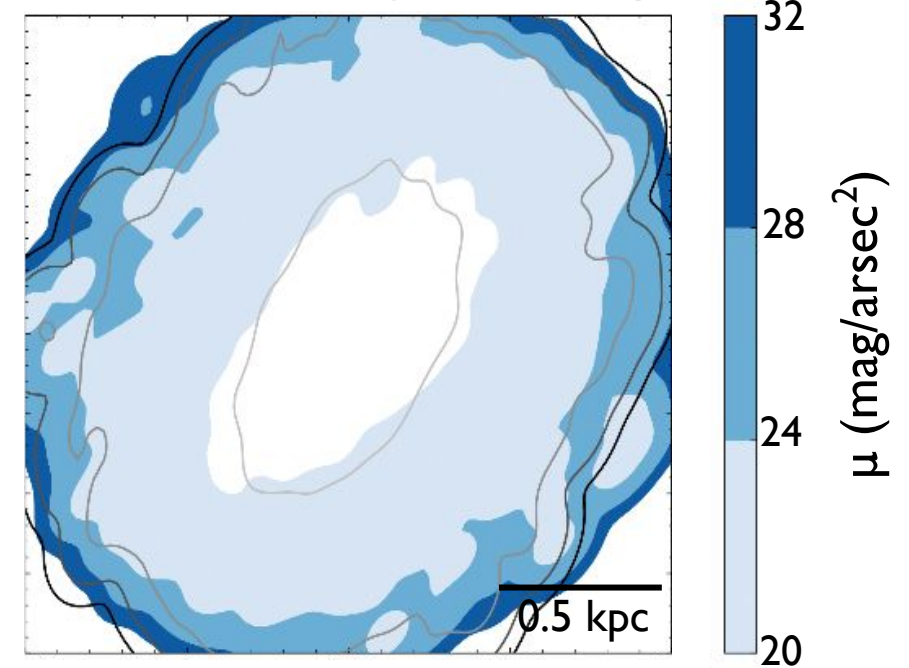


Sushanta Nigudkar

New model for sizes of dwarf galaxies—truncated by reionization!



2D surface brightness map



New particle tagging tool based on angular momentum can generate mock dwarf galaxies in dark matter only simulations.



# modeling other dwarf populations

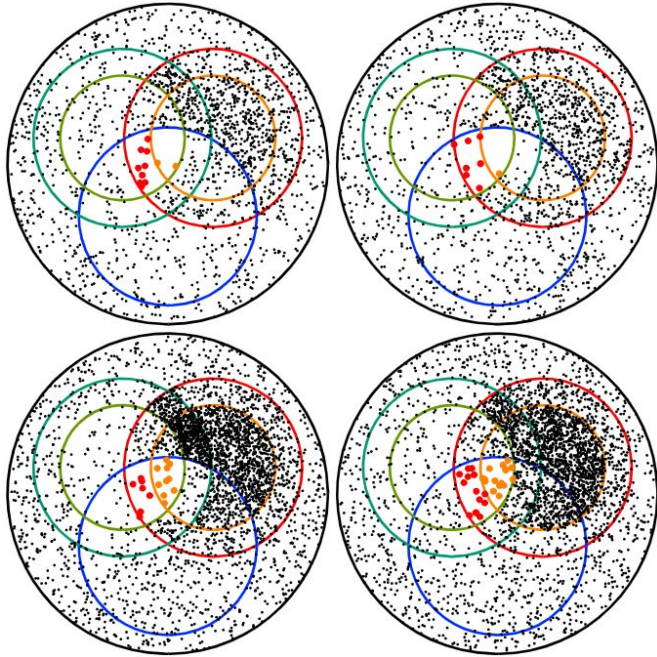
# DarkLight



Susan Hutton

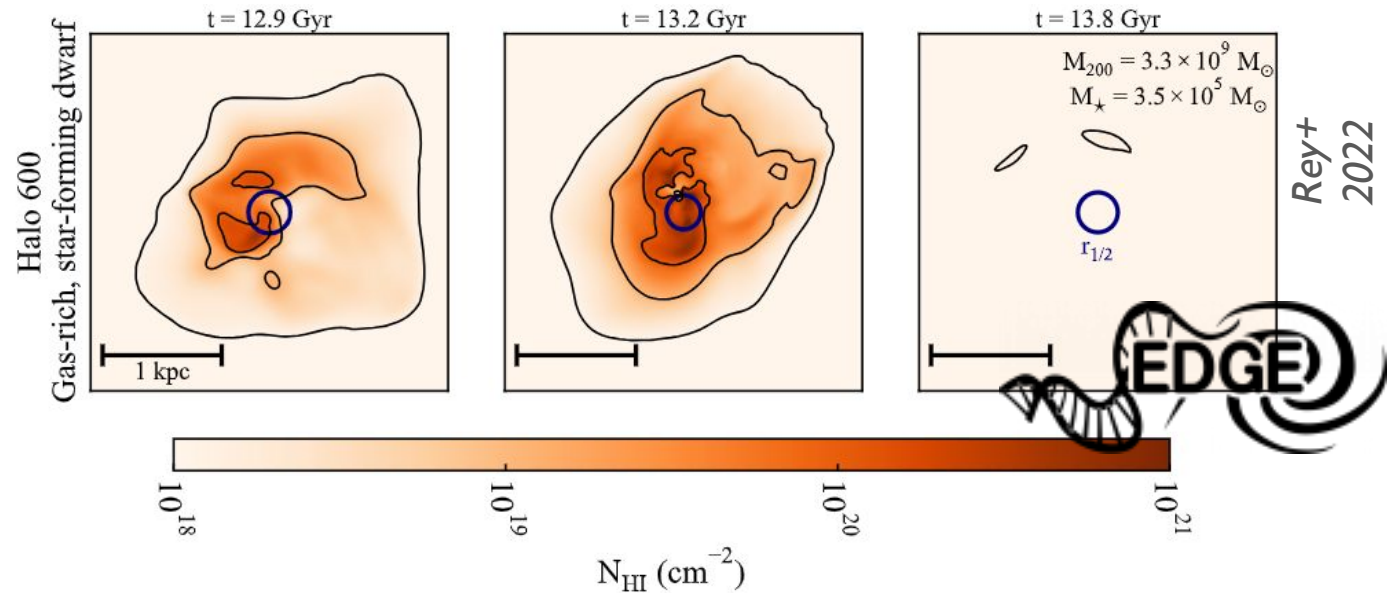
Where are all the gas-rich dwarfs?

Tollerud & Peek 2018



~10 should be **detectable** in the Local Group, but we see none!

EDGE finds significant variability in star-forming dwarfs!



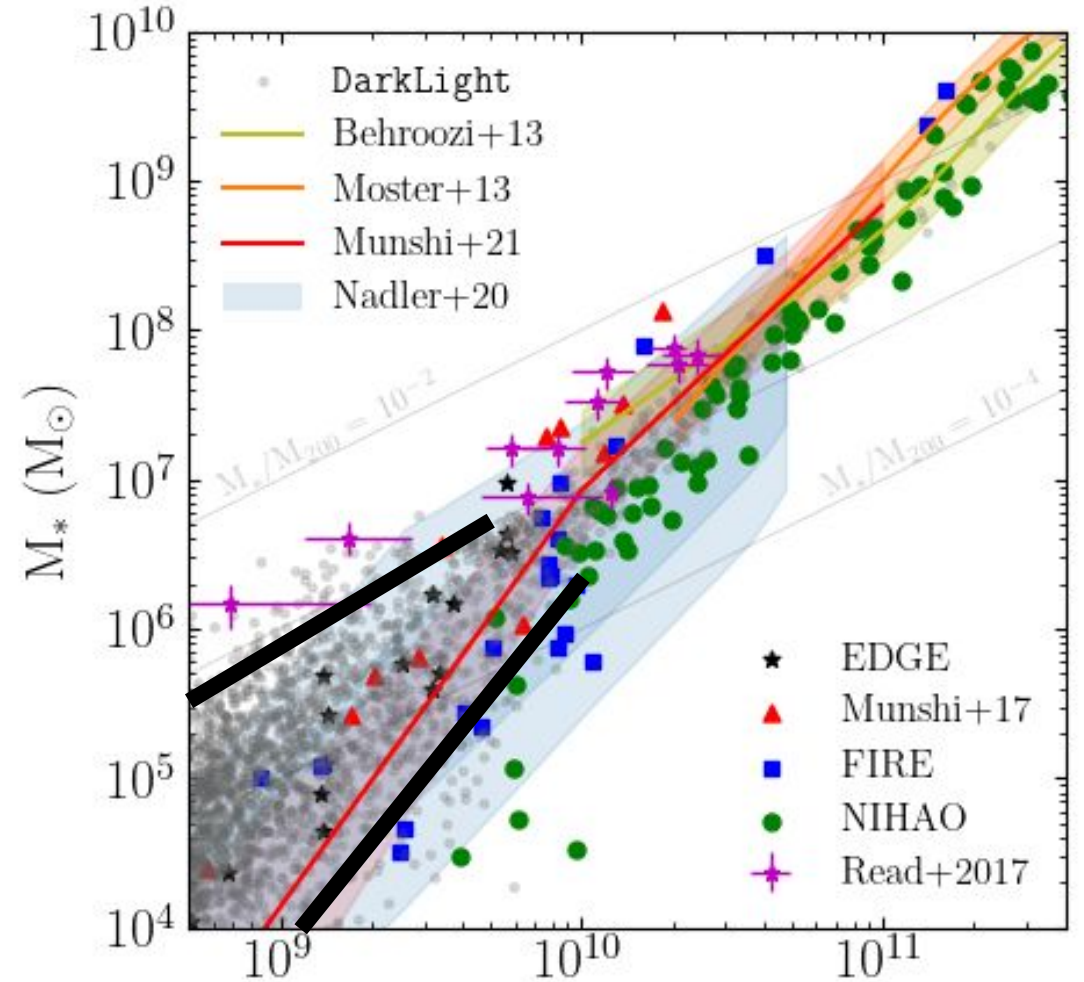
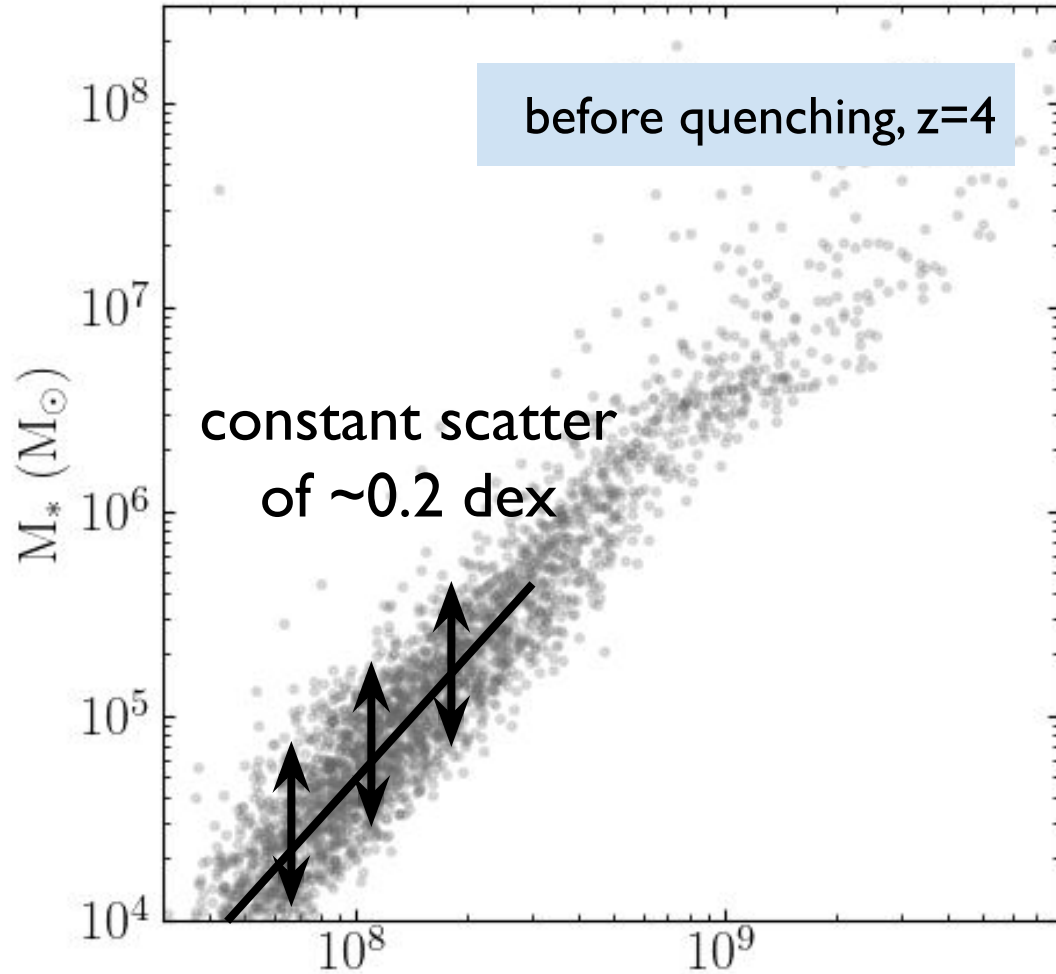
Rey+  
2022

Building gas variability model into DarkLight.

Sue is a Daphne Jackson Postdoctoral Fellow (given to those with career breaks)!

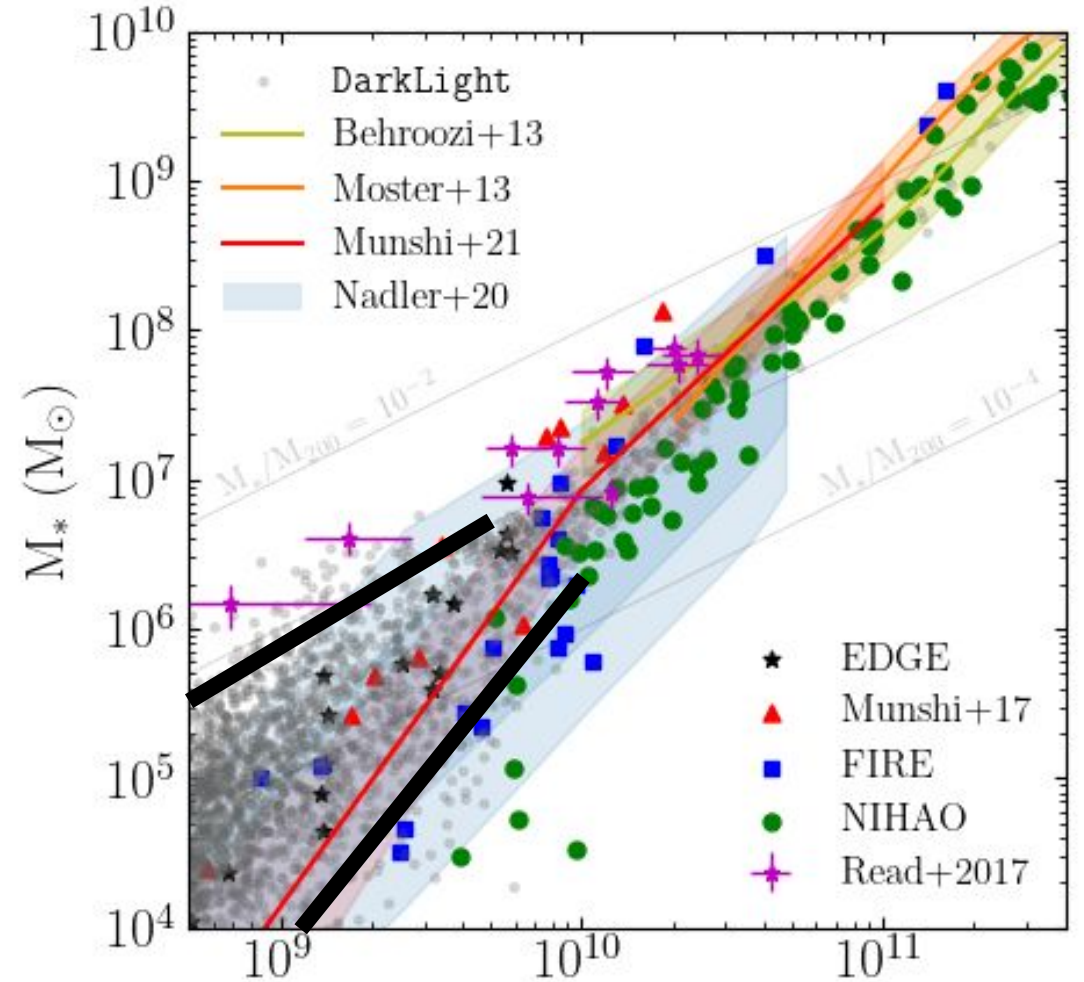
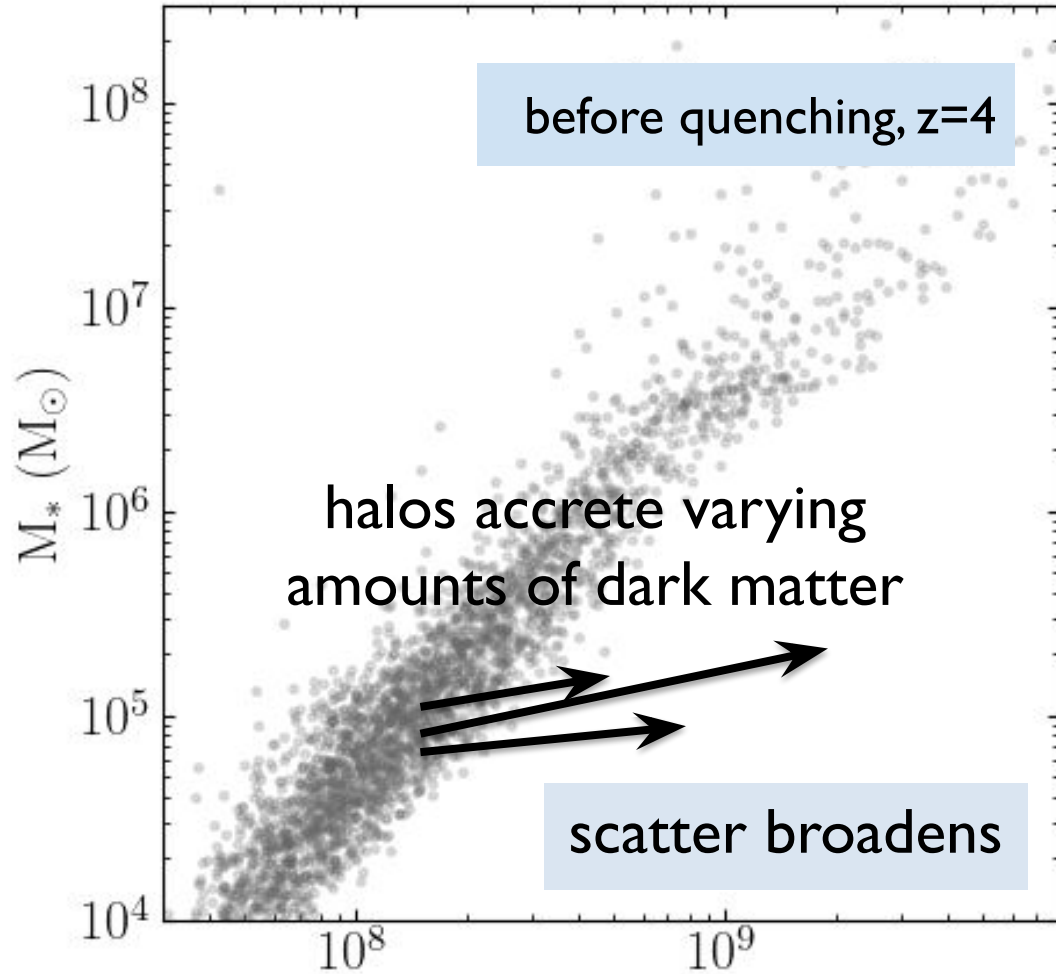
Hutton, SYK+, in prep

# the impact of reionization quenching



Initially had constant scatter, only grows following reionization!

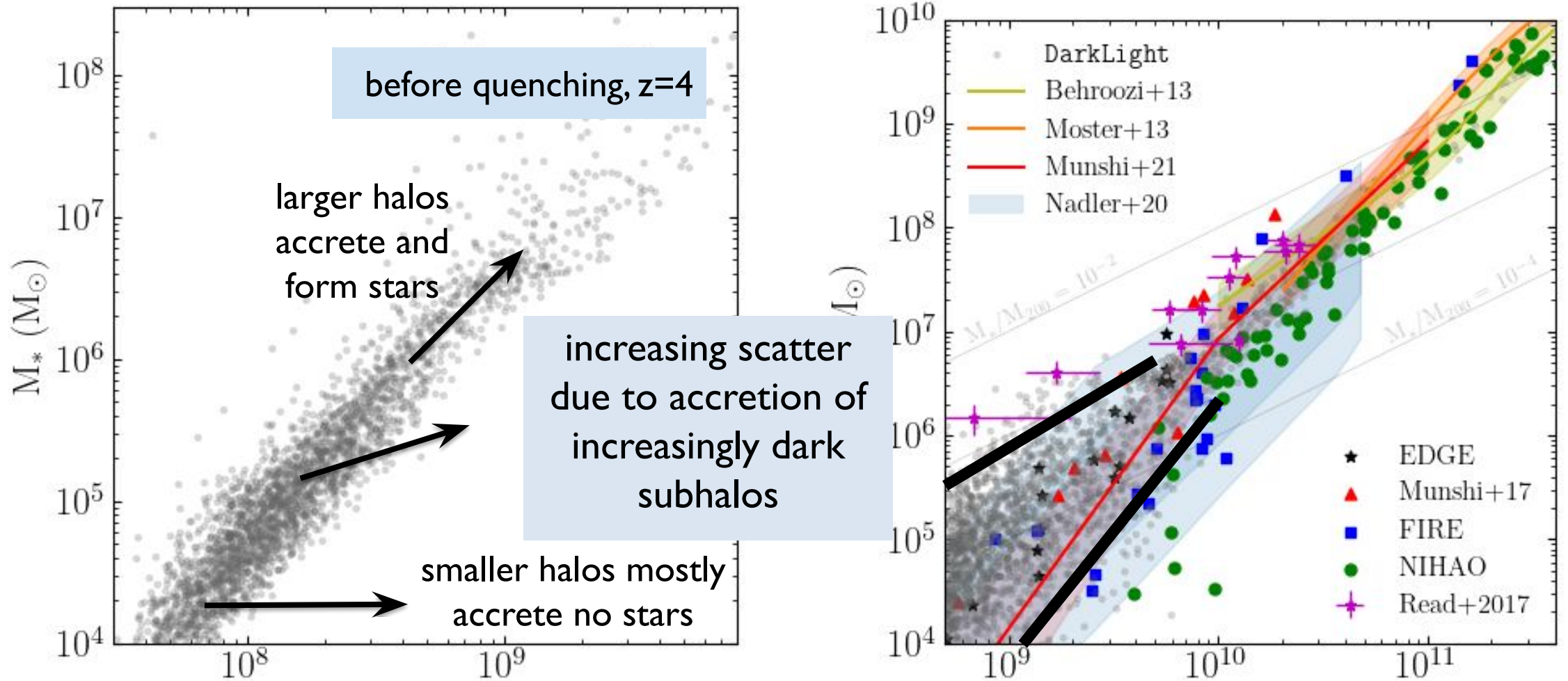
# the impact of reionization quenching



Initially had constant scatter, only grows following reionization!

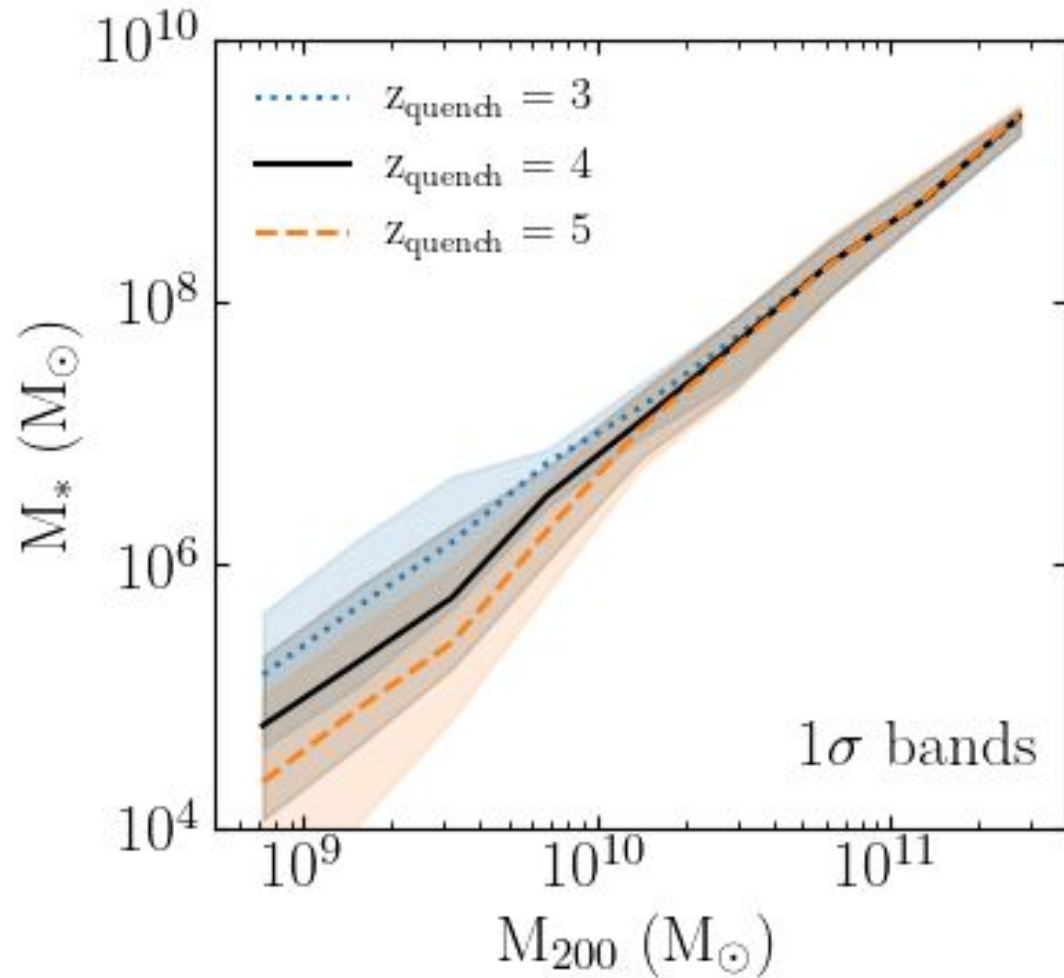


# the impact of reionization quenching



Initially had constant scatter, only grows following reionization!

# the impact of reionization quenching



early  
 $z_q = 5$

stronger knee

slope decreases  
below knee

+0.06 dex

fiducial  
 $z_q = 4$

slight knee

0.55 dex  
 $1\sigma$  scatter for  
 $10^9 M_\odot$  halos

late  
 $z_q = 3$

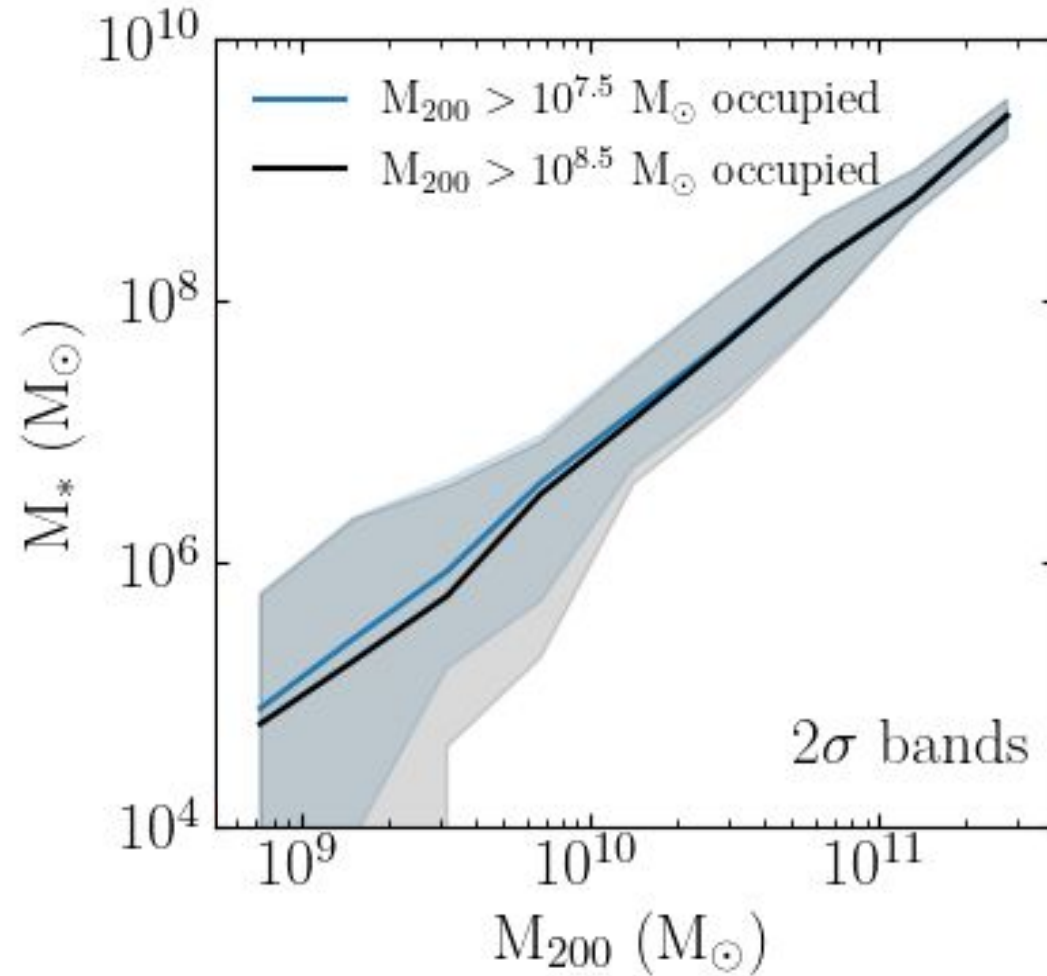
no knee

slope increases  
below knee

-0.05 dex

Changing redshift of reionization quenching affects SMHM scatter, slope, and knee!

# the impact of reionization quenching



If  $10^{7.5} M_\odot$  halos occupied:

$1\sigma$  scatter decreases by 0.07 dex  
for  $10^9 M_\odot$  halos

If more low-mass halos are occupied, SMHM will have smaller scatter.