

# THE SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER HALO SUBSTRUCTURE WITH GAMMA RAYS

**Miguel A. Sánchez-Conde**

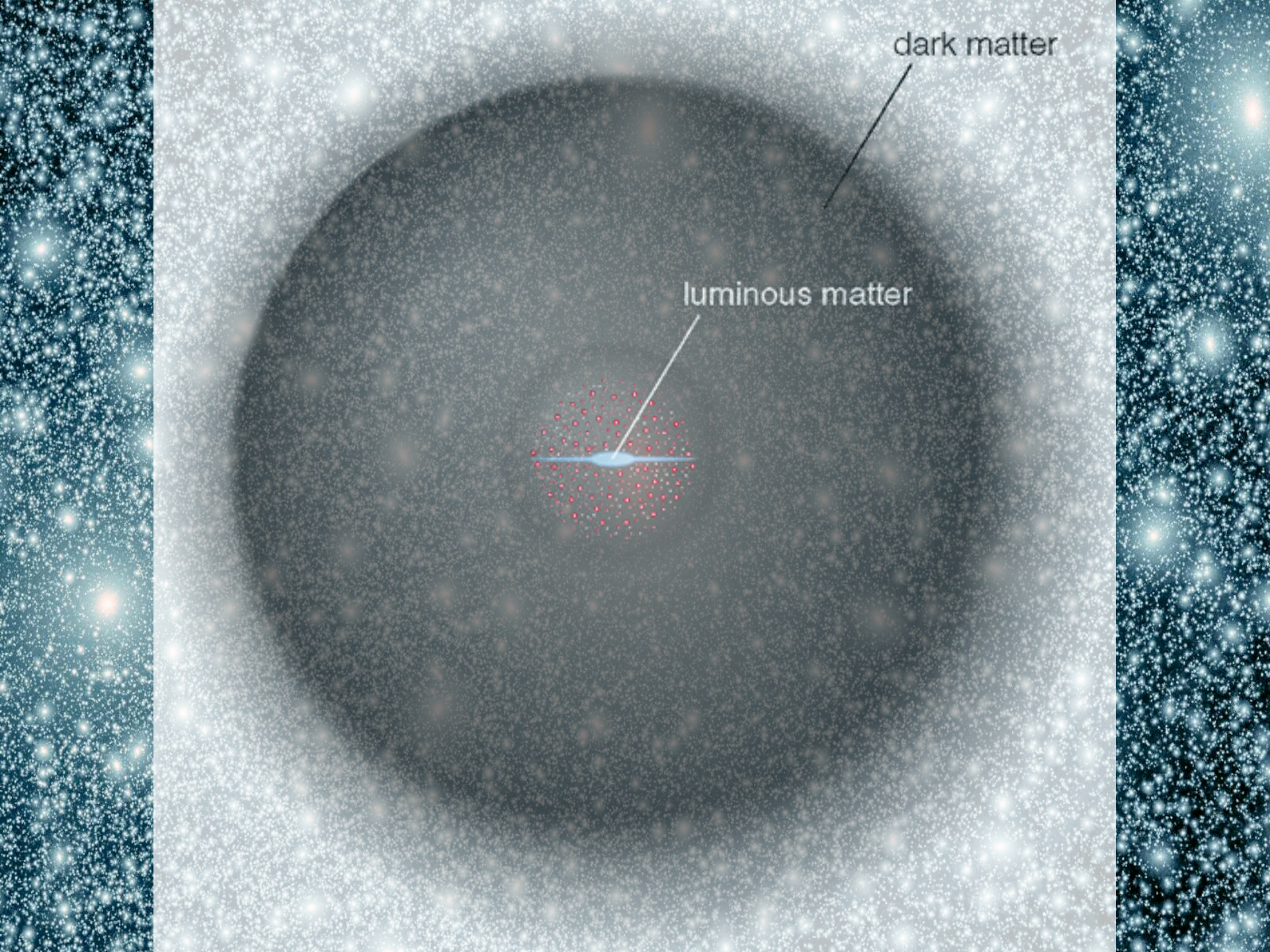
Instituto de Física Teórica IFT UAM/CSIC & Departamento de Física Teórica  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

*'Very High Energy Phenomena in the Universe'*  
14<sup>th</sup> Rencontres du Vietnam, ICISE Vietnam, 13-17 August 2018

# CDM HALO SUBSTRUCTURE

The image shows a vast field of particles, likely representing dark matter, in a simulation. The particles are primarily blue and white, with some larger, brighter yellowish-white spots. The distribution is dense and somewhat irregular, suggesting a complex, non-uniform structure. The overall appearance is that of a large-scale simulation of dark matter halos.

GHALO simulation  
[Stadel+09]

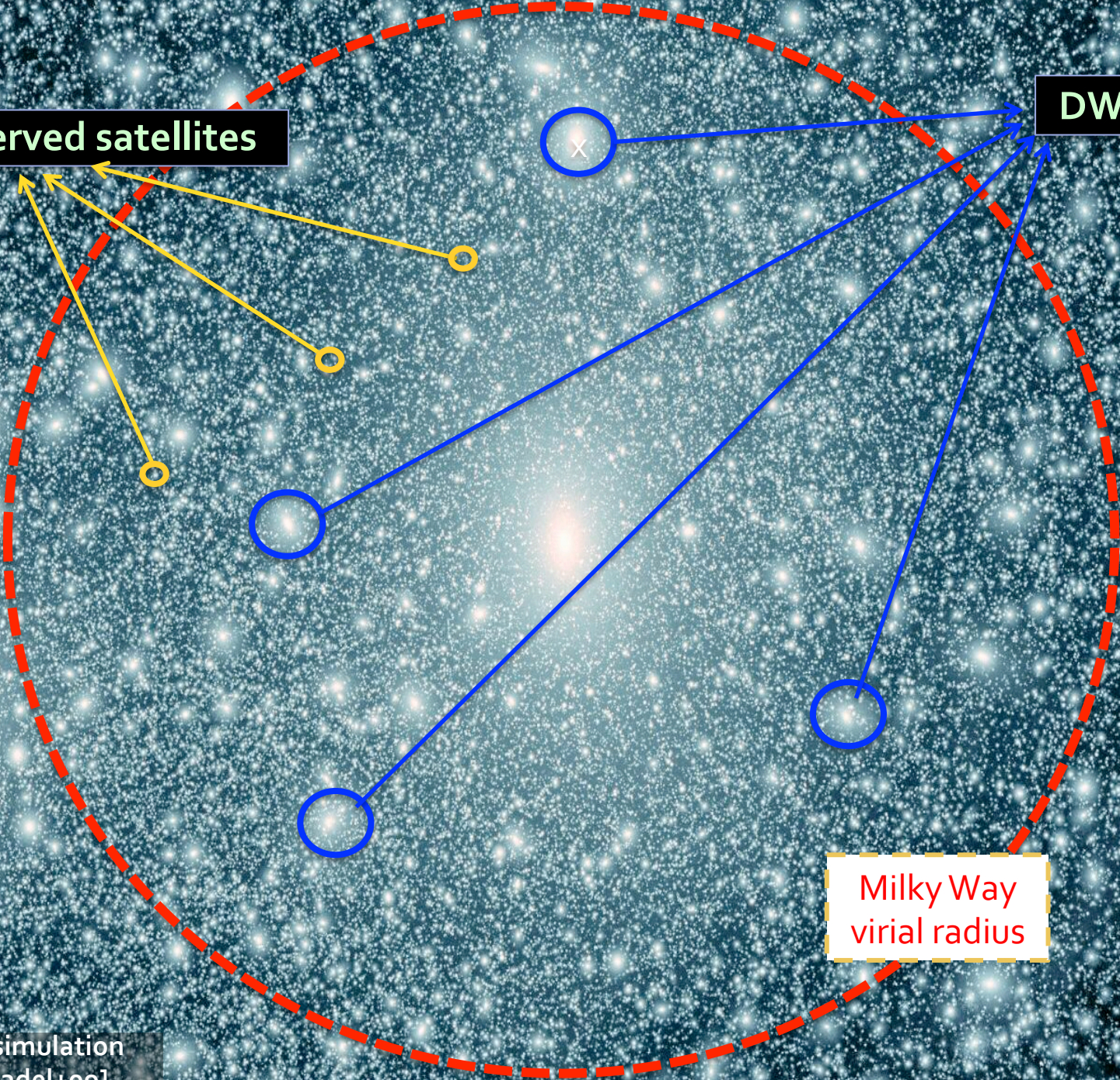


dark matter

luminous matter

Unobserved satellites

DWARFS



Milky Way  
virial radius

GHALO simulation  
[Stadel+og]

# The role of DM halo substructure in (indirect) DM searches

Both *dwarfs* and *dark satellites* are highly DM-dominated systems

→ GOOD TARGETS

The *clumpy distribution* of subhalos inside larger halos may boost the annihilation signal importantly.

→ "SUBSTRUCTURE BOOSTS"

# The role of DM substructure in (indirect) DM searches

Both *dwarfs* and *dark satellites* are highly DM-dominated systems



THIS TALK



→ GOOD TARGETS

The *clumpy distribution* of subhalos inside larger halos may boost the annihilation signal importantly.

→ "SUBSTRUCTURE BOOSTS"

# Dwarf spheroidal satellite galaxies

- The most **DM dominated** systems known in the Universe.
- **Nearly 30** confirmed dwarfs in the Milky Way. More on the way!
- **Close** to us. Several within 50 kpc.
- **Free** from bright astrophysical gamma-ray sources.

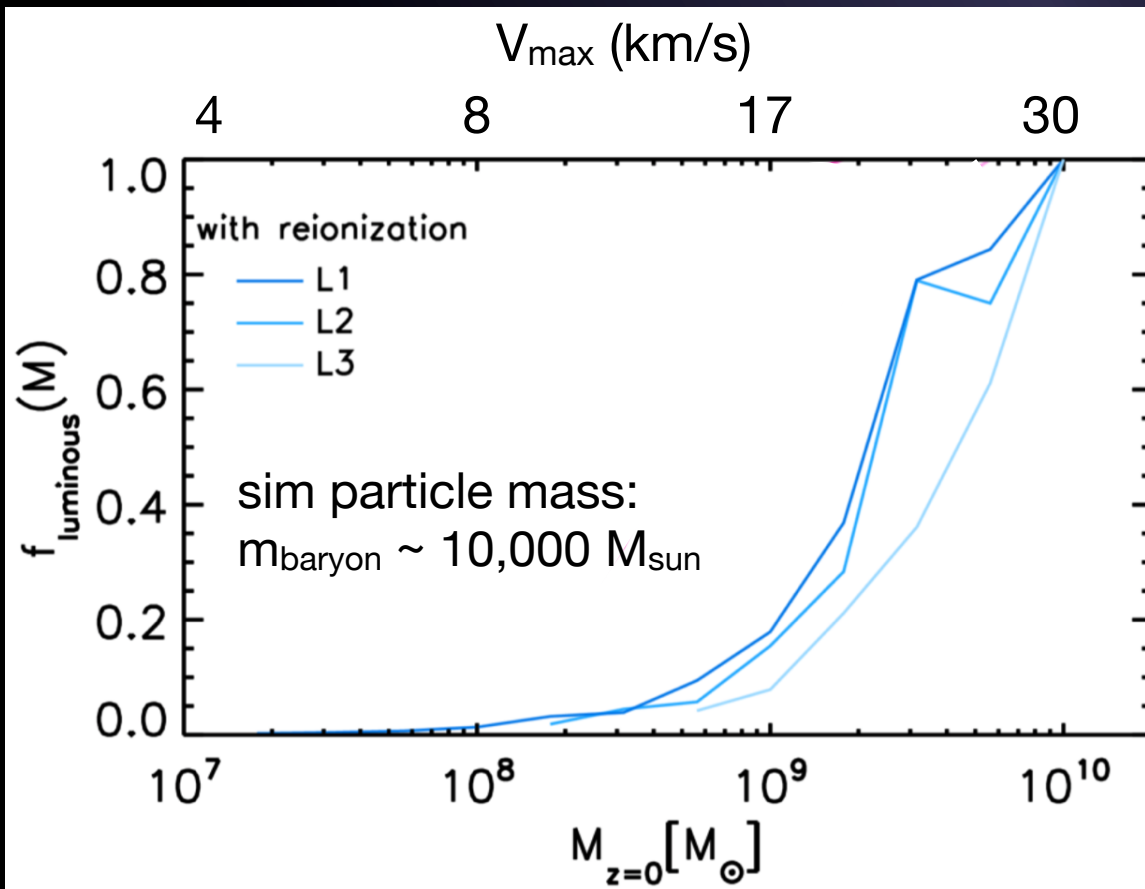
(Fornax dwarf galaxy)

**EXCELLENT TARGETS FOR GAMMA-RAY DM SEARCHES**

A. ALBERT  
Tue @ 4pm

# DM subhalos (a.k.a. 'dark satellites')

The most massive subhalos will host visible satellite galaxies  
Light subhalos expected to remain completely dark.



Every **halo** is dark  
below  $\sim 8 \text{ km/s} \sim 10^8 M_{\text{sun}}$

**Subhalos** can lose  $>90\%$  of its  
mass due to tidal forces  
 $\rightarrow$  dark subhalos  $< 10^7 M_{\text{sun}}$

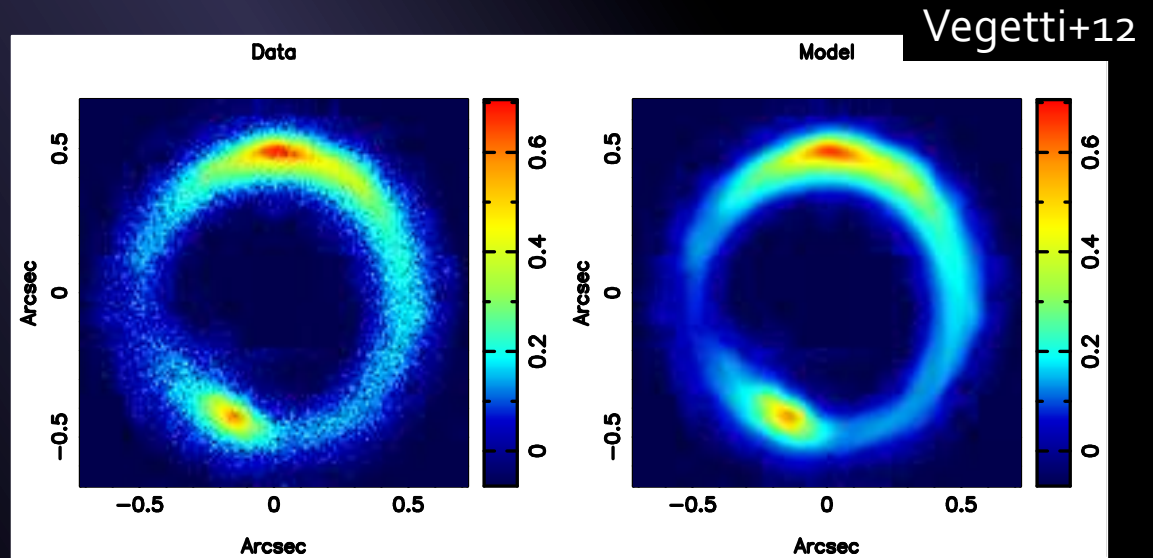
Similar results by Gnedin'00; Hoefl+06;  
Okamoto+08; Ocvirk+16; Fitts+17; etc



# DM subhalo searches

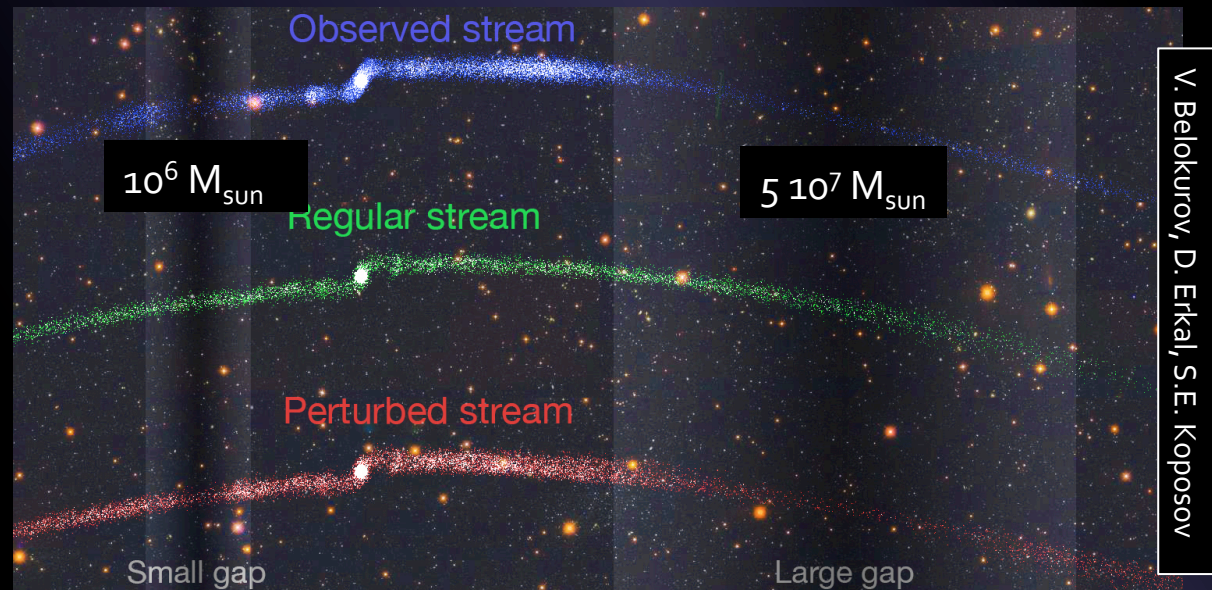
## I. (Strong) LENSING

[Vegetti+10,12,18;  
Hezaveh+16;  
Nierenberg+14,17;  
Birrer+17]



## II. STELLAR GAPS

[Carlberg 12,15;  
Erkal+15, 16, 17]

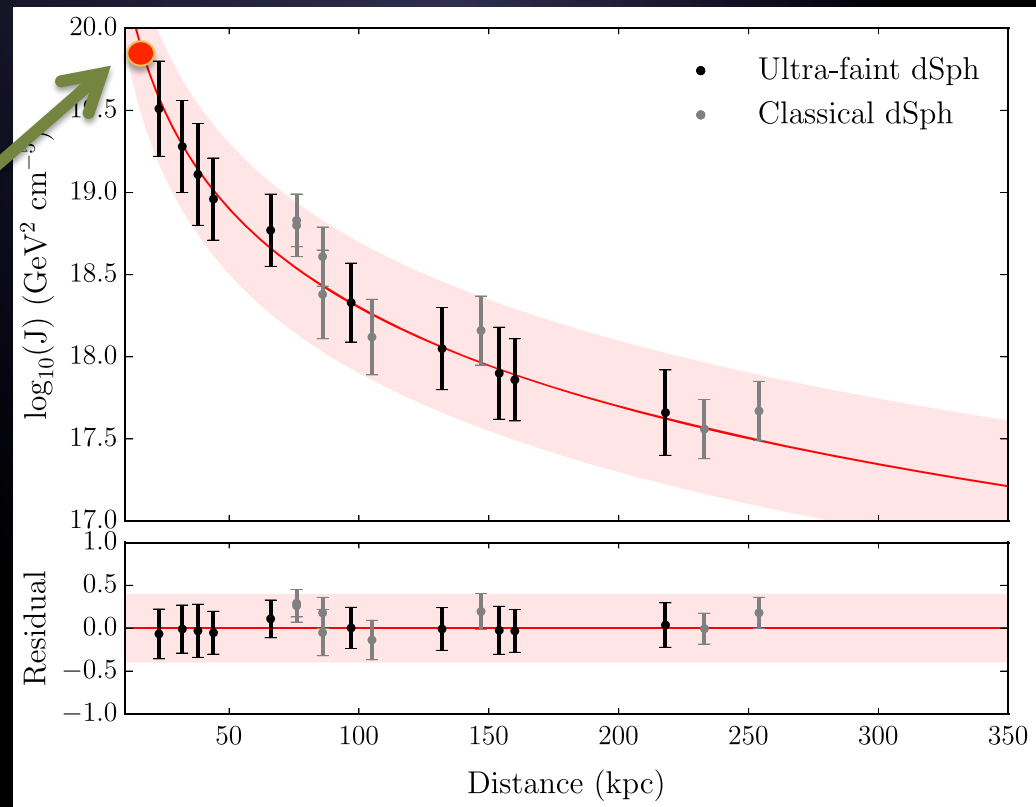


V. Belokurov, D. Erkal, S.E. Koposov

# DM SUBHALO SEARCHES: III. GAMMA RAYS

- If DM is made of WIMPs and annihilates  $\rightarrow$  gamma rays
- Maybe the only way to probe subhalo masses below  $\sim 10^7$  solar masses
- The only subhalo search that provides info on the nature of the DM particle.

Should we expect any dark satellite e.g. here?

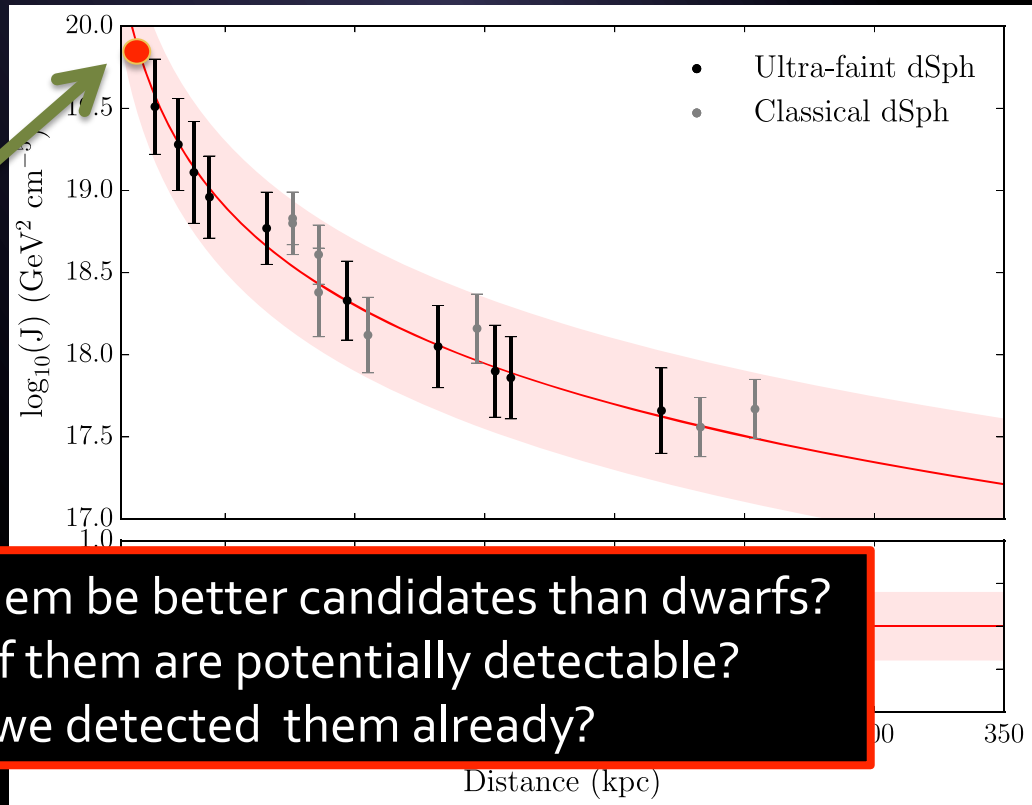


Adapted from Albert+15

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Adapted from Albert+15

# Dark satellites' search in Fermi-LAT catalogs

Around 1/3 of sources in LAT catalogs are unidentified (~1000 unIDs in the 3FGL)

**Exciting possibility: some of them may be subhalos annihilating to gammas!**

Objective: to build a list of potential DM subhalo candidates by identifying those unIDs compatible with DM subhalo annihilation.

Method:

Apply a series of '*filters*' based on expected DM signal properties.

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Most common filters used:

1. Associations
2. Variability
3. Latitude
4. Multiwavelength emission
5. Spectrum
6. Extension

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**Method:**

Apply a series of '*filters*' based on expected DM signal properties.

**Results:**

1. A few VIP candidates → dedicated LAT analyses, IACT follow-ups...
2. A few more subhalo candidates (yet uncertain) → set DM constraints
3. No unIDs compatible with DM? → best achievable constraints

# DM constraints from LAT unIDs?

$$F(E > E_{th}) = J_{factor} * f_{pp}(E > E_{th})$$

**Astrophysics** (Density profile, distance...)

**Particle Physics** (channel, annihilation spectra...)

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \propto \frac{m_\chi^2 \cdot F_{min}}{J_{factor} \cdot \int_{E_{th}}^E \left( \frac{dN}{dE} \right) dE} = \frac{m_\chi^2 \cdot F_{min}}{J_{factor} \cdot N_\gamma}$$

Instrument (points to  $F_{min}$ )  
Theory (points to  $N_\gamma$ )  
Simulations (points to  $J_{factor}$ )

N-body simulations → dark satellites' J-factors and spatial properties.

LAT sensitivity to DM annihilation → number of detectable subhalos.

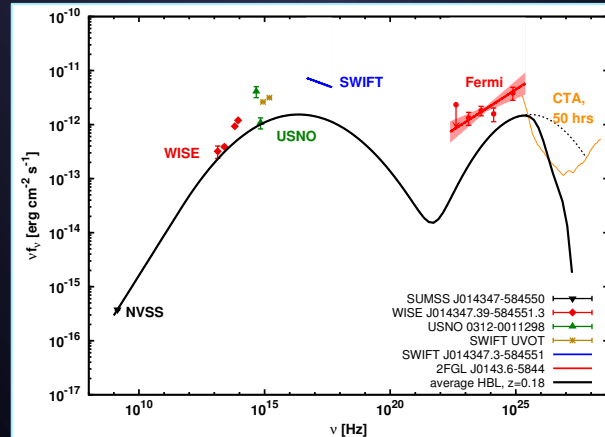
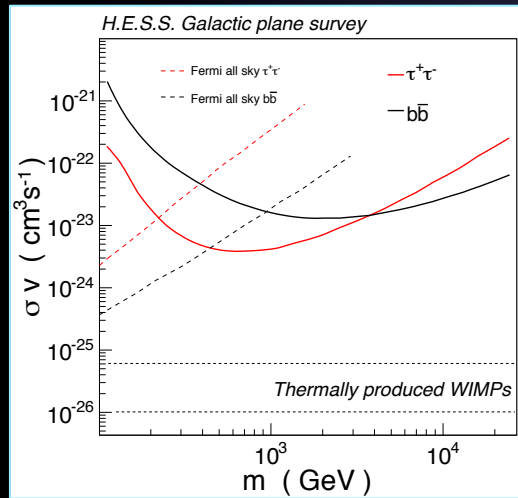
Number of predicted detectable subhalos VS. number of remaining unIDs in catalogs.

**DM CONSTRAINTS**

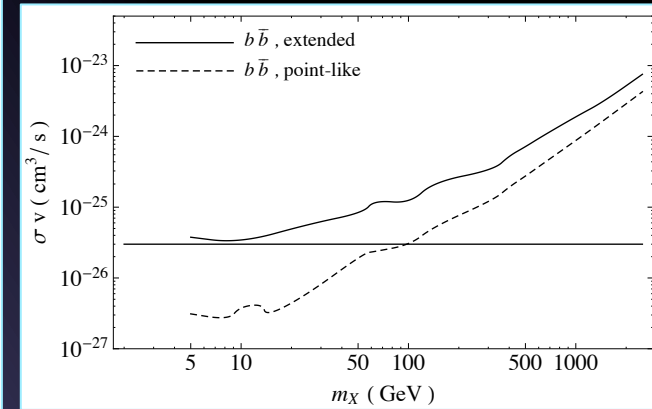
**The less DM candidates left in catalogs the better the DM constraints.**

# (Some) past work

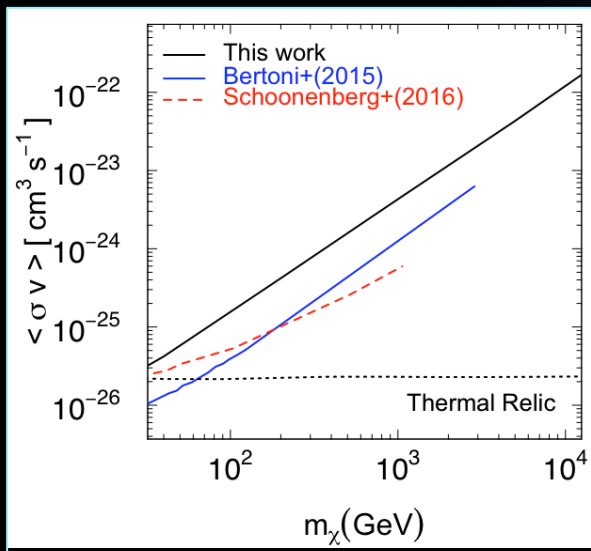
Brun+11



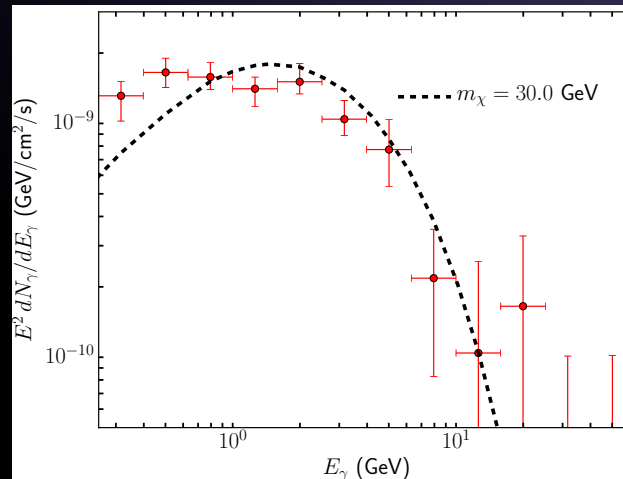
Zechlin+12;+13



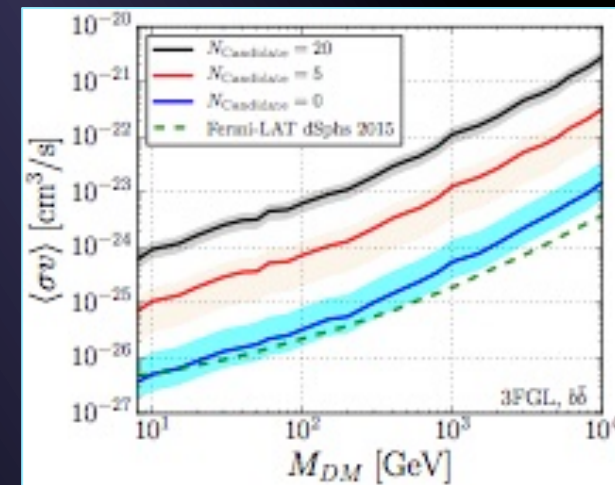
Berlin&Hooper 13



Mirabal+16



Bertoni+16



Calore+17

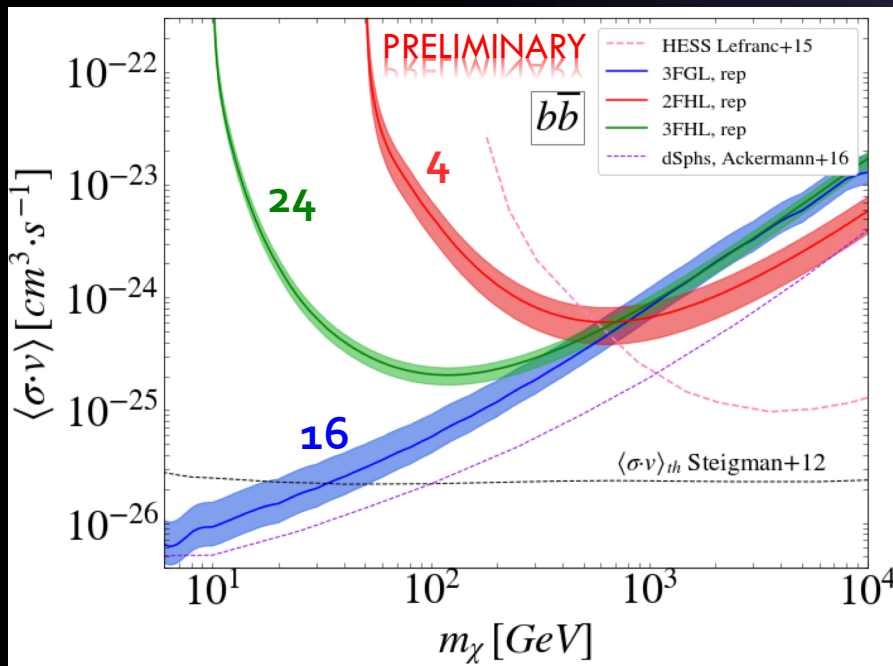
Also: Tasitsiomi&Olinto 02; Pieri+05; Kuhlen+07; Springel+08; Anderson+10; Belikov+12; Ackermann+12; Berlin&Hooper+13; Hooper+16; Schoonenberg+16



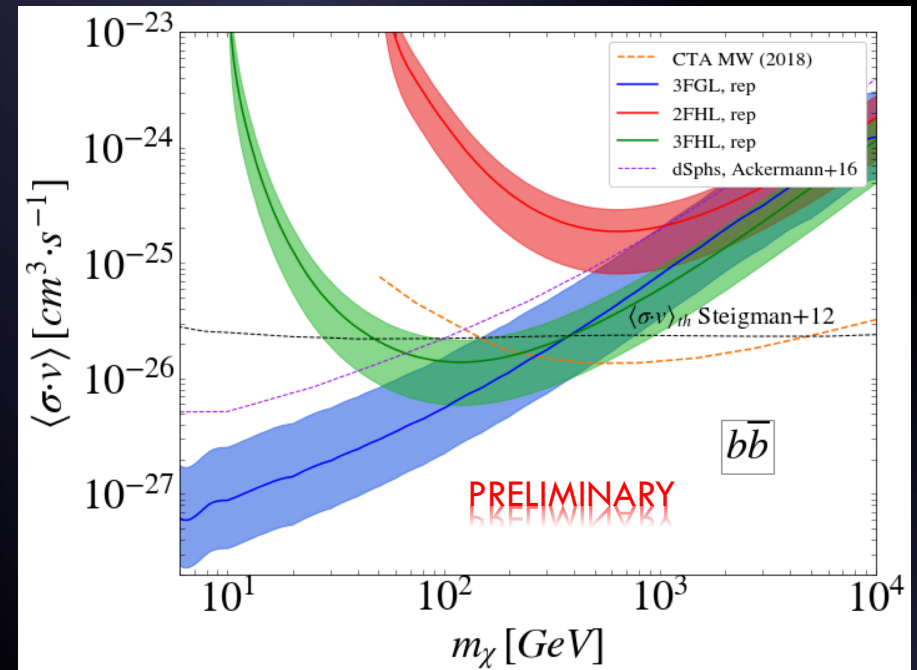
# New LAT work ongoing

[J. Coronado-Blázquez, MASC et al., in prep.]

- Search in the most recent LAT catalogs (3FGL, 2FHL, 3FHL)
- Careful unIDs 'filtering' work.
- Precise characterization of LAT sensitivity to DM annihilation.
- Best knowledge of subhalos' structural properties (MASC&Prada14, Moliné+17)
- Repopulation of VL-II N-body simulation below its resolution limit.



Most realistic constraints



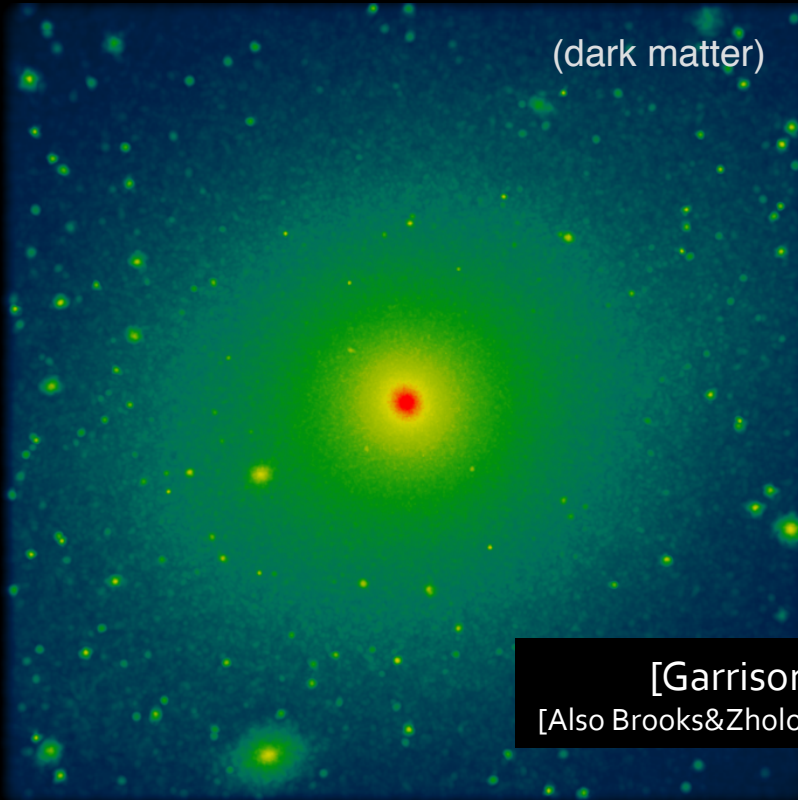
Maximum potential (1 subhalo)

# Some OPEN ISSUES

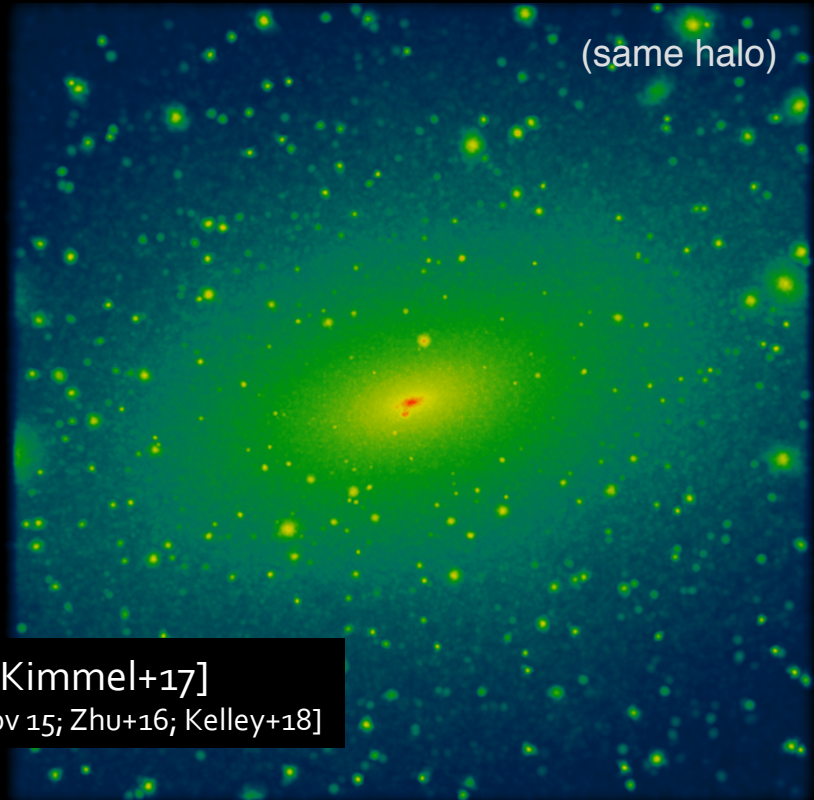
- Subhalo **mass function**.
- Subhalo **structural** properties.
- Subhalo **survival** (to tidal stripping; baryons; dynamical friction).
- Role of **baryons** on:
  - Subhalo abundance.
  - Subhalo structure.
- Dependence of all the above on **distance to host halo center and mass**.

# OPEN ISSUES (I): Role of baryons

FIRE Hydrodynamics

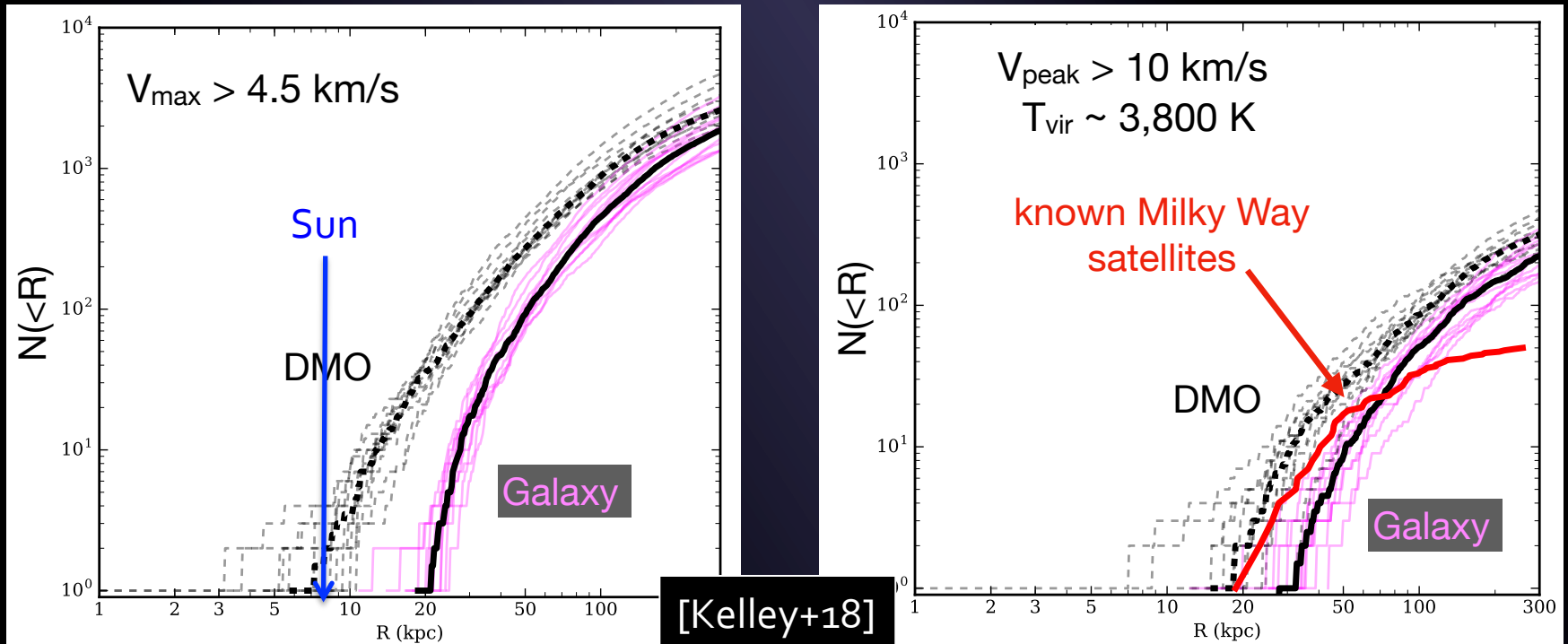


Pure N-Body



Up to factor ~10 reduction in substructure within ~25 kpc  
No substructure within ~20 kpc with  $V_{\max} > 5$  km/s

# OPEN ISSUES (II): Subhalo survival



Credit: J. Bullock

Radial distribution of massive subhalos in hydro simulations do not match observations!

Van den Bosch+18; van den Bosch&Ogiya 18 [Also: Kazantzidis+04; Diemand+07; Peñarrubia+10]:

- Subhalo disruption is numerical in origin
- Bound remnant survives provided it is well resolved in the simulation.

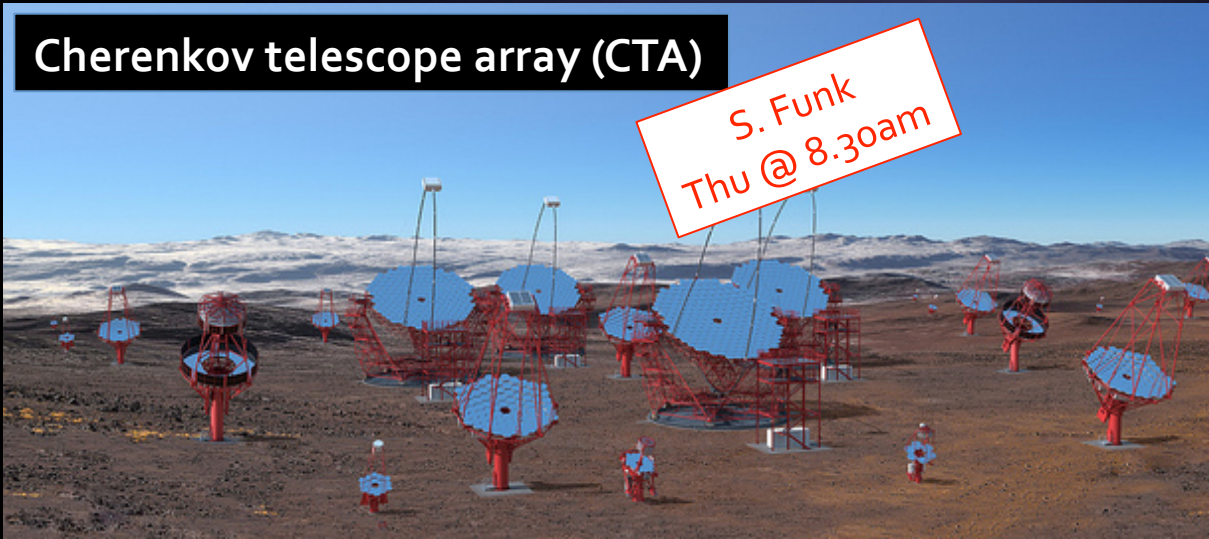
→ What is the actual subhalo radial distribution?

# Remarks

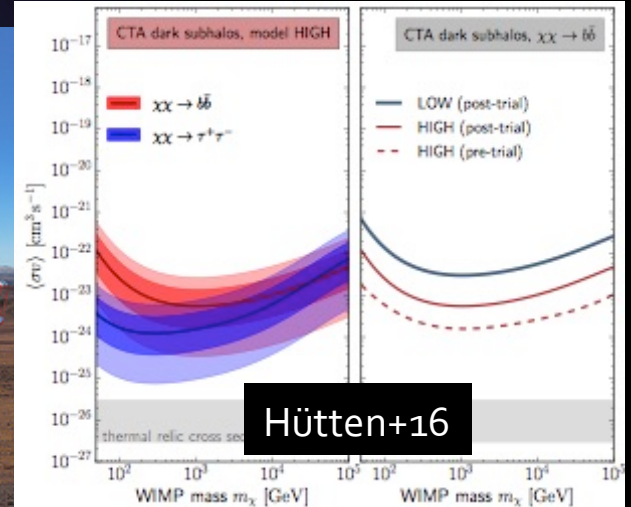
- Halo substructure is an unavoidable prediction of  $\Lambda$ CDM.
  - Most massive subhalos (dwarf galaxies) the best targets for indirect DM detection.
  - Less massive subhalos, with no optical counterparts, can be used to set very competitive constraints.
  - Subhalos can significantly *boost* the annihilation signal from halos and alter the signal spatial properties.
- ‘Dark satellites’ searches:
  - Current constraints close to the ones from dwarfs.
  - Sensitivity reach can rule out thermal cross section up to few hundred GeV WIMP masses.
  - Up to  $O(10)$  intrinsic ( $\Lambda$ CDM) uncertainty difficult to mitigate.

# Future of dark satellites' searches with gamma rays

Cherenkov telescope array (CTA)



S. Funk  
Thu @ 8.30am

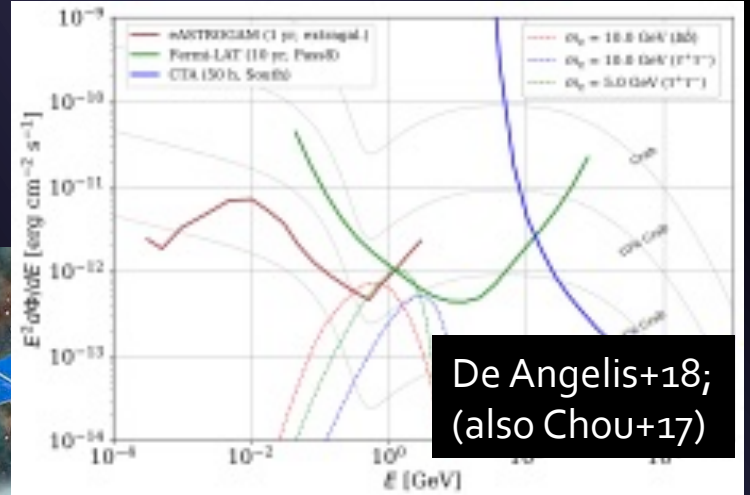


J. McEnery  
Thu @ 9am

Future MeV/sub-GeV missions



E-ASTROGAM



# Future of dark satellites' searches with gamma rays

- Higher resolution DM-only and hydro simulations to shed light on subhalo survival, structural properties, etc.
- New gamma-ray catalogs (e.g., upcoming 4FGL)
- More refined spectral and spatial unID 'filters'
- Possible follow up of VIP candidates with IACTs

DM halo substructure **CRITICAL**  
for current and future gamma-ray DM search strategies.



# Thanks!

Miguel A. Sánchez-Conde  
[miguel.sanchezconde@uam.es](mailto:miguel.sanchezconde@uam.es)  
[www.miguelsanchezconde.com](http://www.miguelsanchezconde.com)