

# PULSAR TIMING PROBES OF SMALL SCALE STRUCTURE

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ARXIV:1901.04490

WITH JEFF DROR, TANNER TRICKLE, KATHRYN ZUREK

ARXIV:2005.03030

WITH TANNER TRICKLE, KATHRYN ZUREK

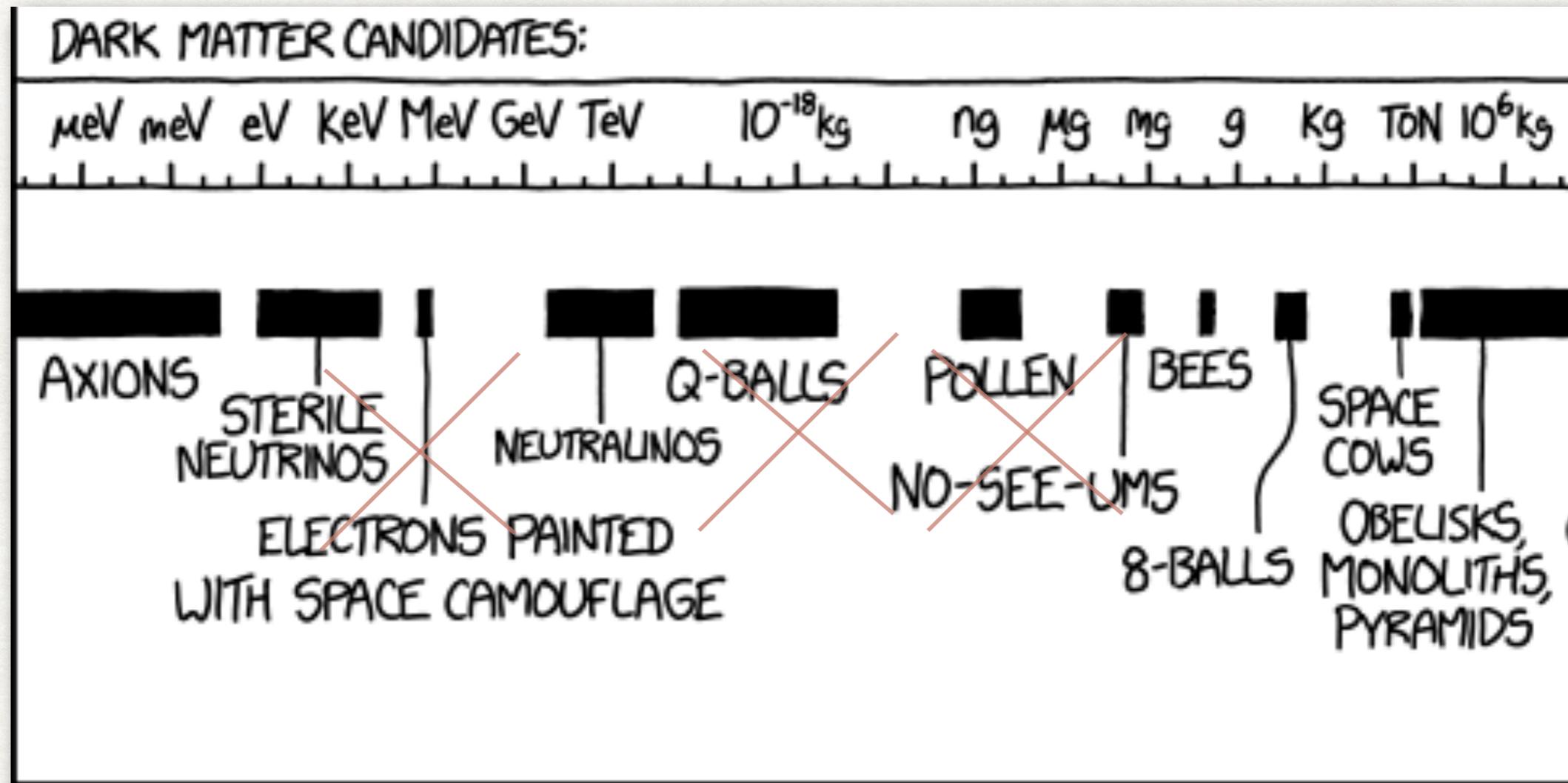
# TO PEOPLE ON THE FRONTLINES



# OUTLINE

- Dark matter substructure and particle physics
- Millisecond pulsars
- Deterministic and Stochastic Probes of PBH
- Probes of Diffuse Halos
- Results for extended Halo Mass functions
- Outlook

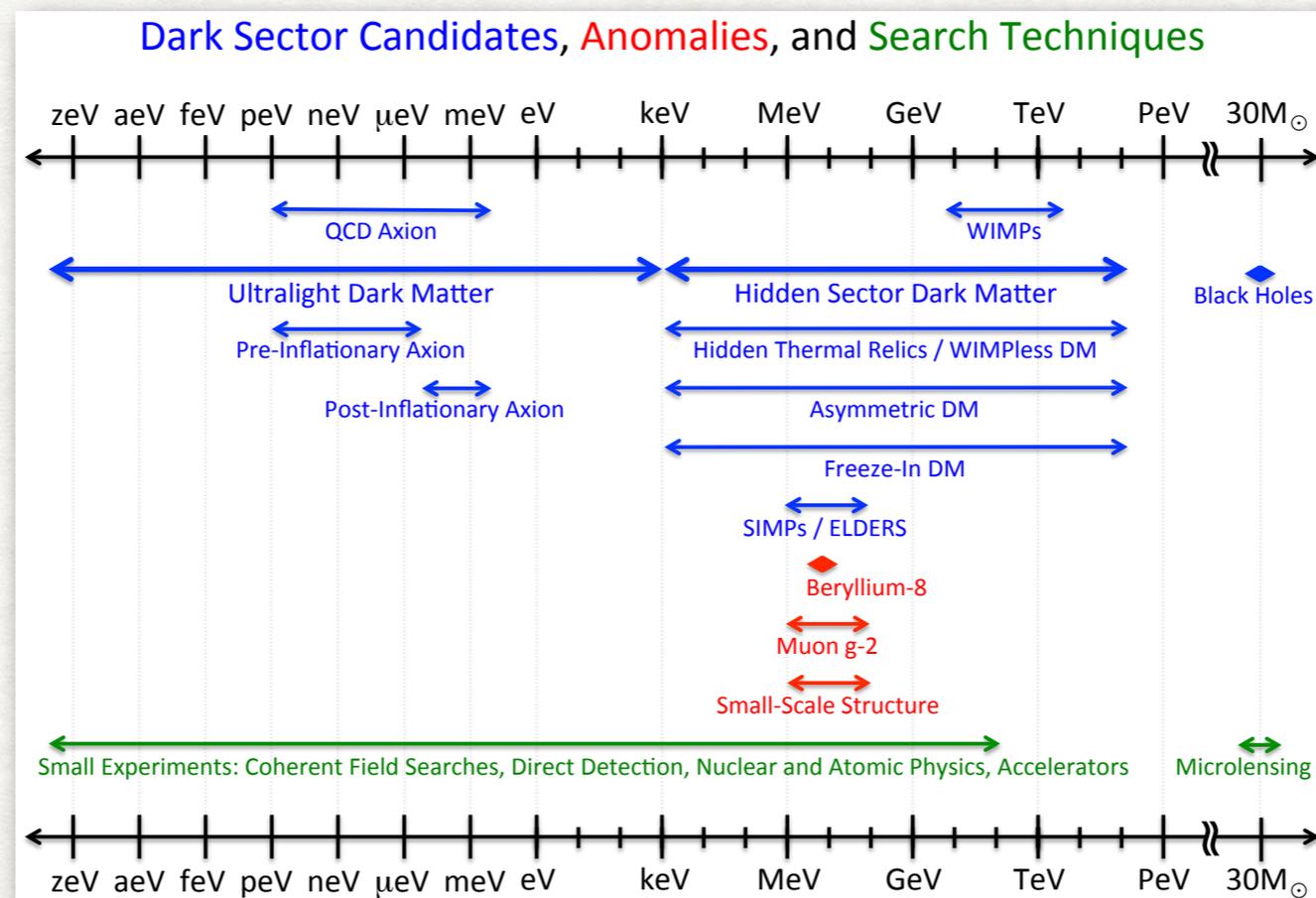
# NIGHTMARE SCENARIOS FOR 2050



source: XKCD

# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DARK MATTER?

- Ample Gravitational Evidence
- No confirmed positive signal in the lamp-post paradigm
- A bevy of promising experiments to probe interactions with SM and several more on the anvil



Cosmic visions

- What about gravitational probes?



COME BACK TO ME ONLY IF YOU LEARN  
ABOUT THE UNDERLYING PARTICLE PHYSICS

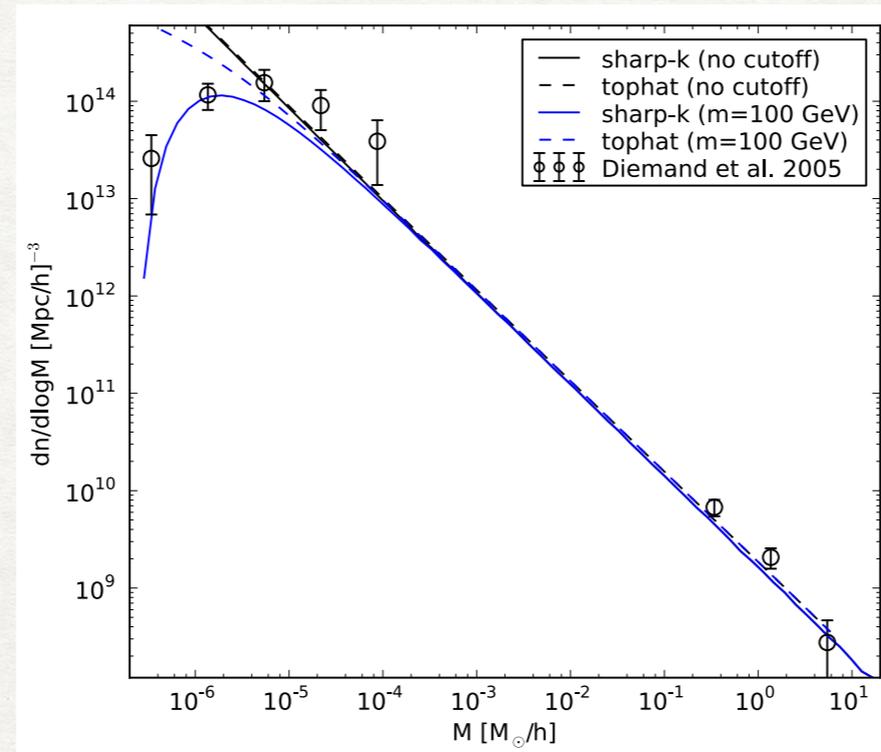
# GRAVITATIONAL PROBES

Provide a wealth of information about particle nature

- Bullet Cluster - self interactions
- Dwarf Galaxies - lower limit on mass
- Super-radiance, other gravity probes of fuzzy DM
- Clues from "small scale" challenges viz. core vs cusp, missing satellites etc.
- Recent hints of subhalos from gaps in stellar streams
- How about substructure at even small scales (intra-galactic)?

# CDM

- Vanilla CDM predicts diffuse structure, concentrated at larger masses
- WIMP paradigm predicts  $M > 10^{-6} M_{\text{sun}}$  corresponding to kinetic decoupling

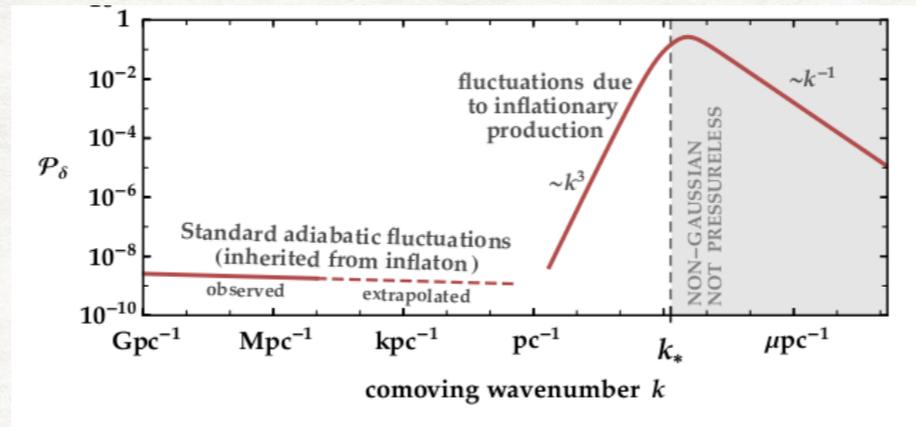


Source:1303.0839: Schneider et. al.

- Non-trivial models can predict drastically different halo mass functions and densities.

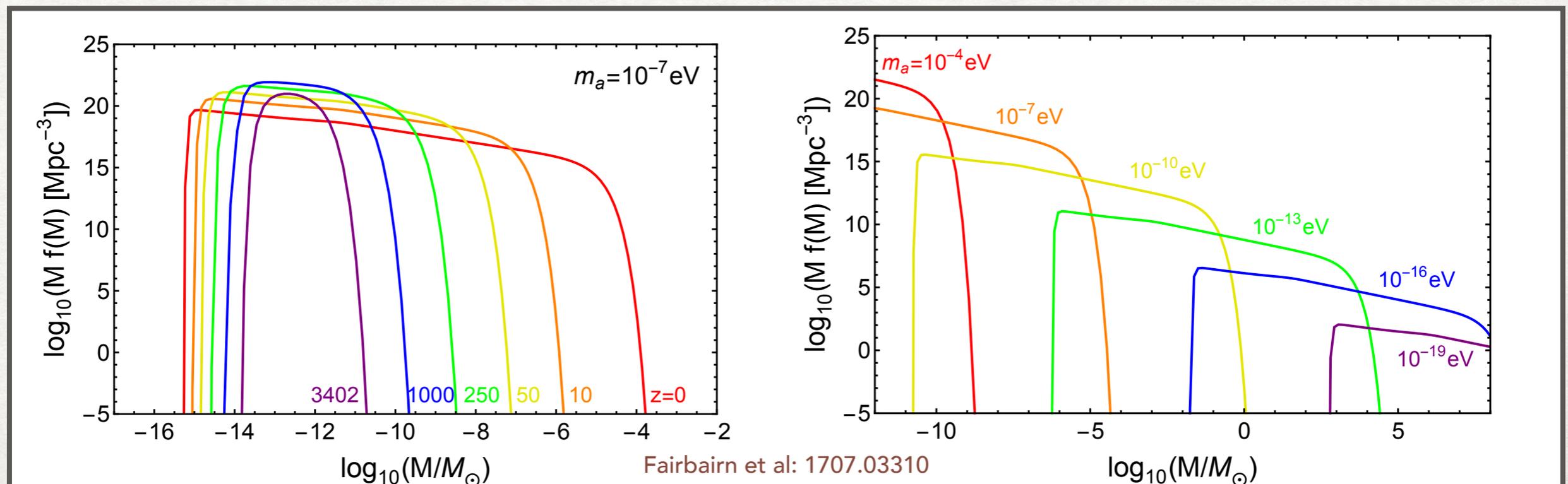
# EXAMPLE MODELS

- Inflationary vector model



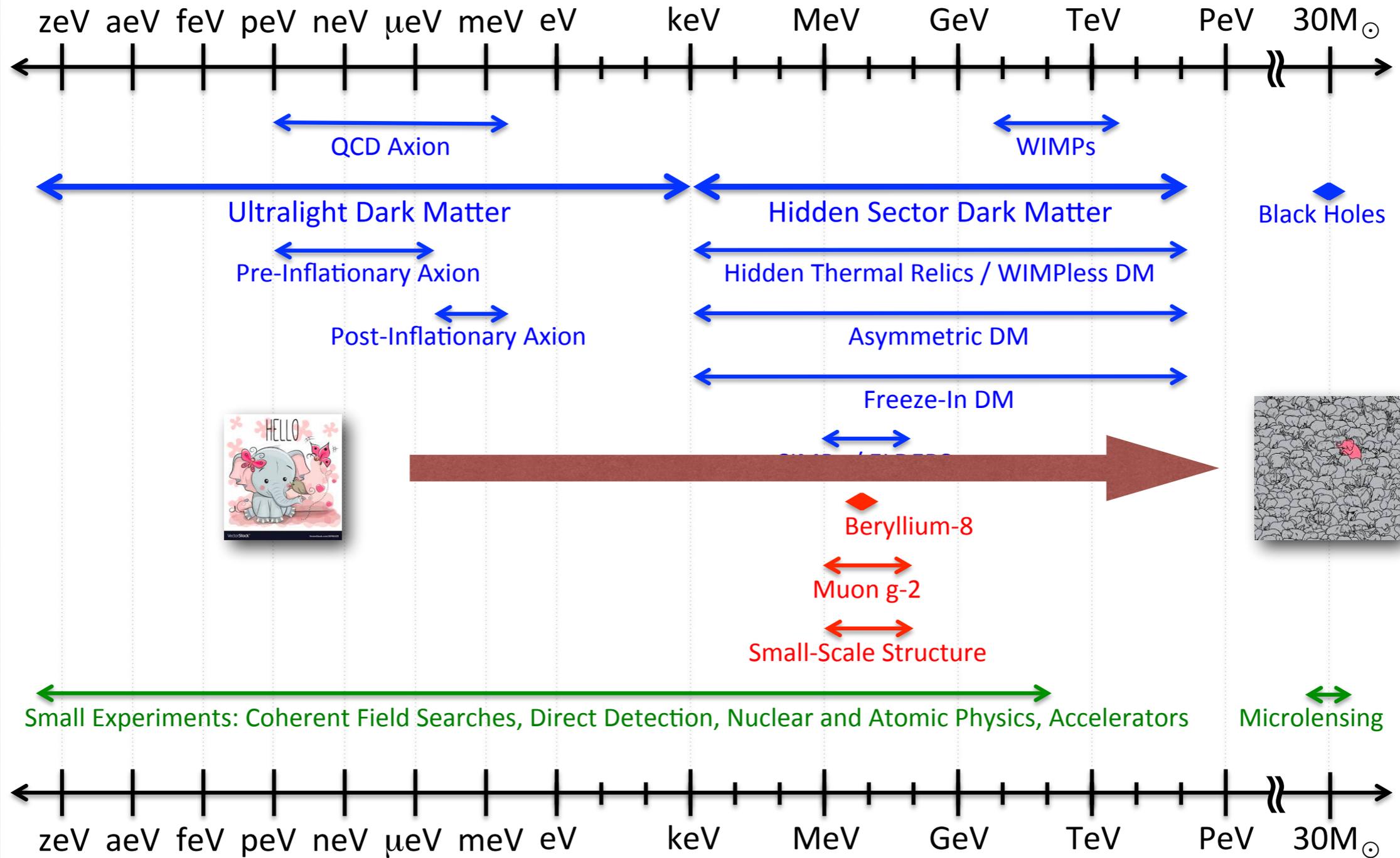
[Graham, Mardon, Rajendran - 1504.02102]

- Blackholes from a plethora of models.
- Early Matter Domination - Dror et al. 1711.04773, Blinov et al. 1911.07853
- Axion/ Scalar miniclusters after a phase-transition - See Buschman et. al.1906.00967



Fairbairn et al: 1707.03310

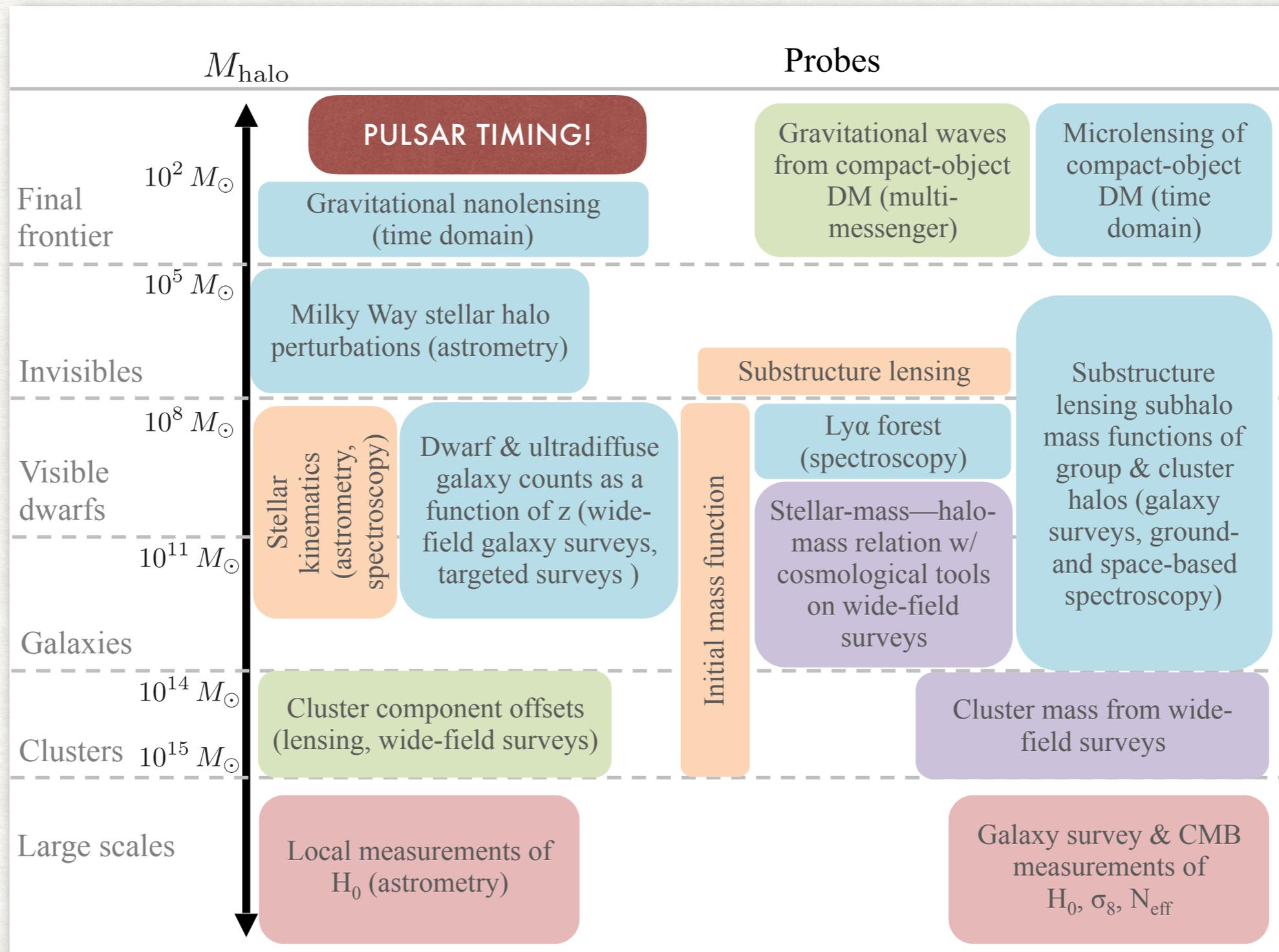
# Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques



# SEVERAL UNKNOWNNS

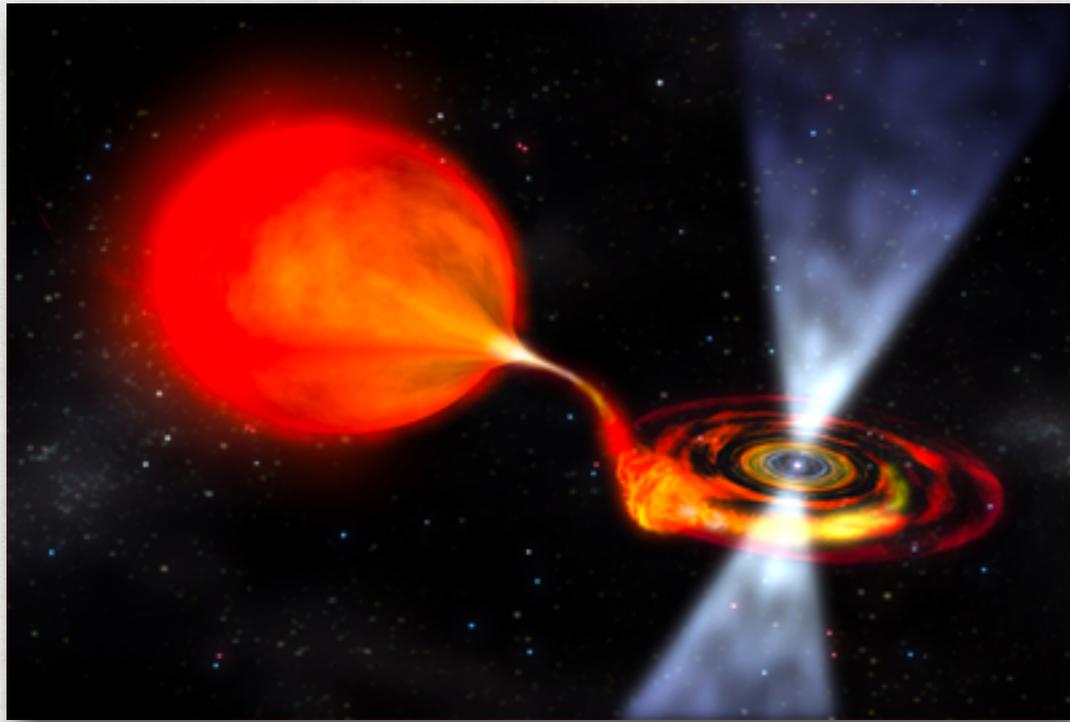
- Given an initial power spectrum, what is the substructure today?
- Well posed, hard to solve accurately
- Tidal stripping? Mergers?
- How much of the DM is still in these subhalos?
- Will take an agnostic view towards this issue and project constraints agnostically.
- Answers important for direct detection too.

# PROBES OF DIFFERENT MASSES



Source: [Buckley, Peter:1712.06615]

# MILLI-SECOND PULSARS



- Neutron stars sped up through accretion.
- Fastest rotating pulsars have frequencies of a few kHz.
- Stable over remarkable time-scales ( $T > 20$  years)
- Accurate timing models exist

# PULSAR TIMING

- Phase:  $\phi(t) = \phi_0 + \nu t + \frac{1}{2}\dot{\nu}t^2 + \frac{1}{6}\ddot{\nu}t^3 + \dots$
- $\nu \sim \text{kHz}$
- $\dot{\nu}/\nu \sim 10^{-23}$  to  $10^{-20}$  Hz
- $\ddot{\nu}/\nu < 10^{-31} \text{ Hz}^2$ , not included in fits
- After fitting away the period and derivative, residuals are remarkably small\* (and stable).

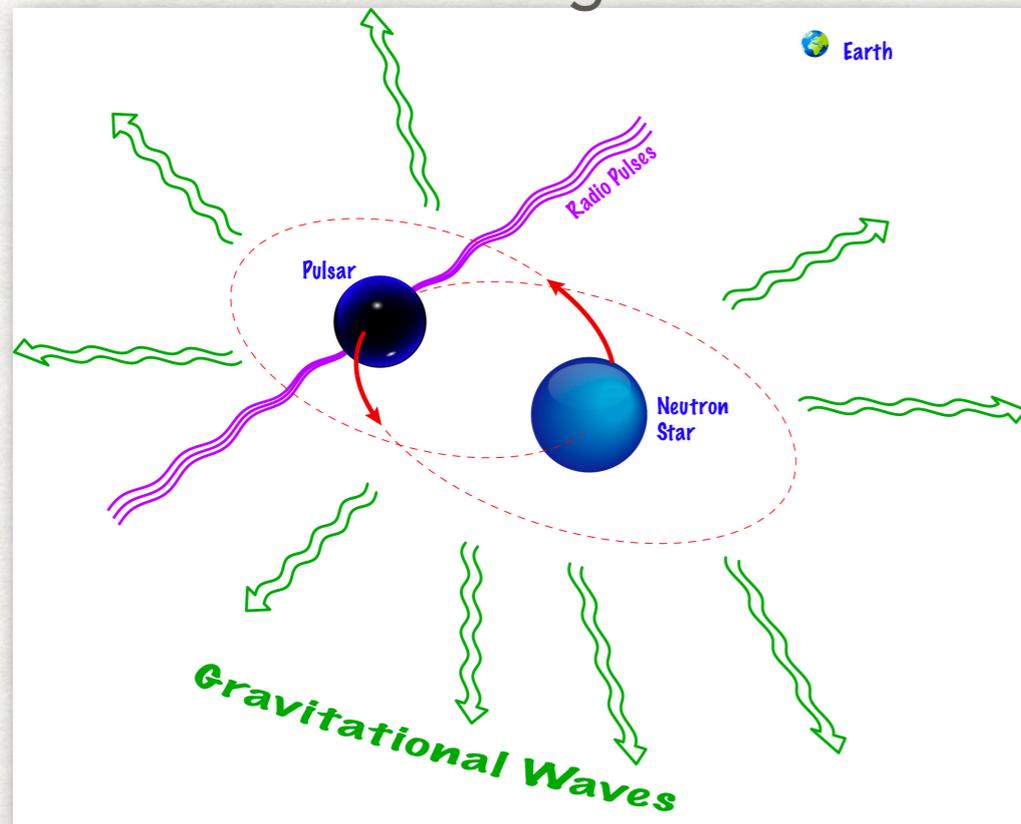
$$t_{\text{RMS}} \equiv \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_n (t_n^{\text{data}} - t_n^{\text{fit}})^2} \sim 50 \text{ ns}$$

\*in reality, some other delays, shall describe a relevant few later

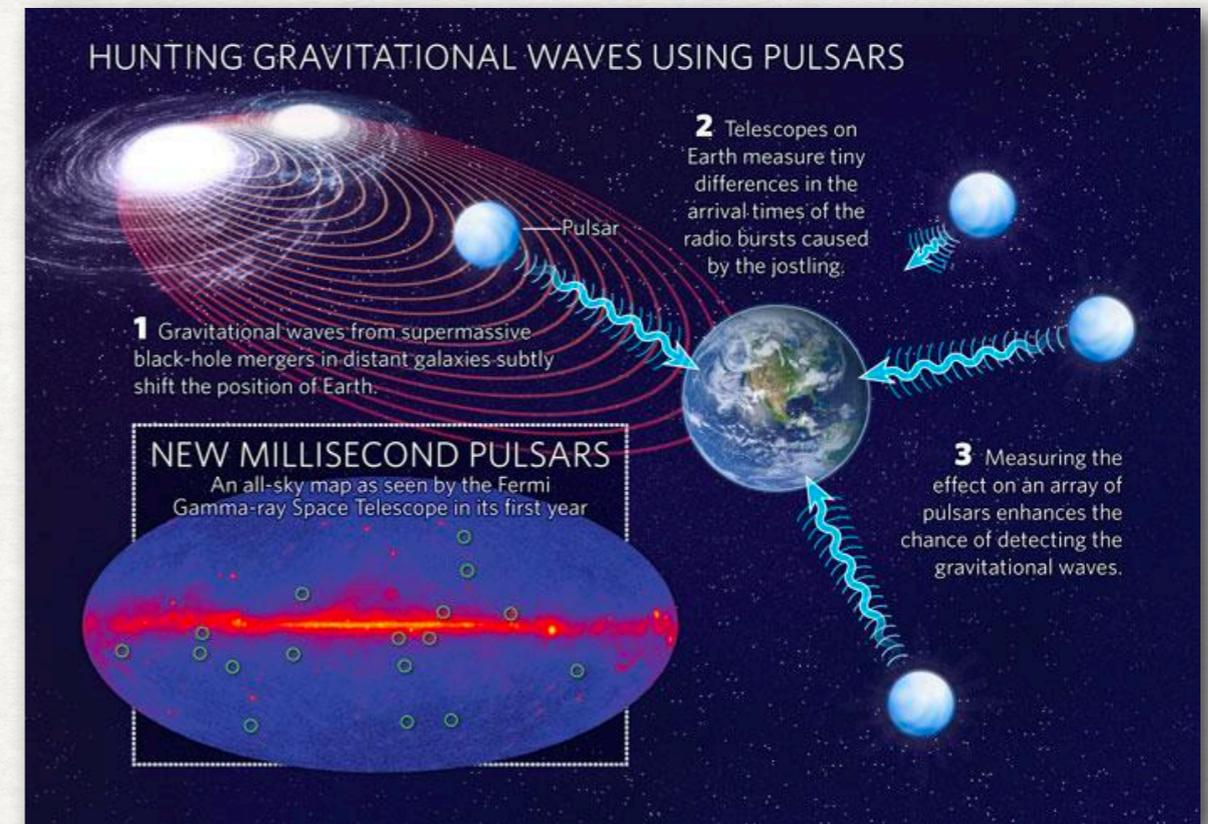
# PHYSICS FROM PULSAR TIMING

- Any phenomenon that predicts time dependent  $\delta\phi \equiv \int dt \delta\nu(t)$  can possibly be observed and constrained.

Hulse-Taylor binary used to  
"Detect" GW through its  
contracting orbit



Can be used as an extremely low  
frequency GW detector



# PTA COLLABORATIONS



## Today

- $N_p \sim 73$
- $T = 10$  to  $20$  years
- $1$  to  $10$  kpc away



## Future

- Several precursors currently running
- $N_p \sim 200-1000$
- Projected to start  $\sim 2030$
- $T = 20+$  years



# SKA AND OPTIMISTIC

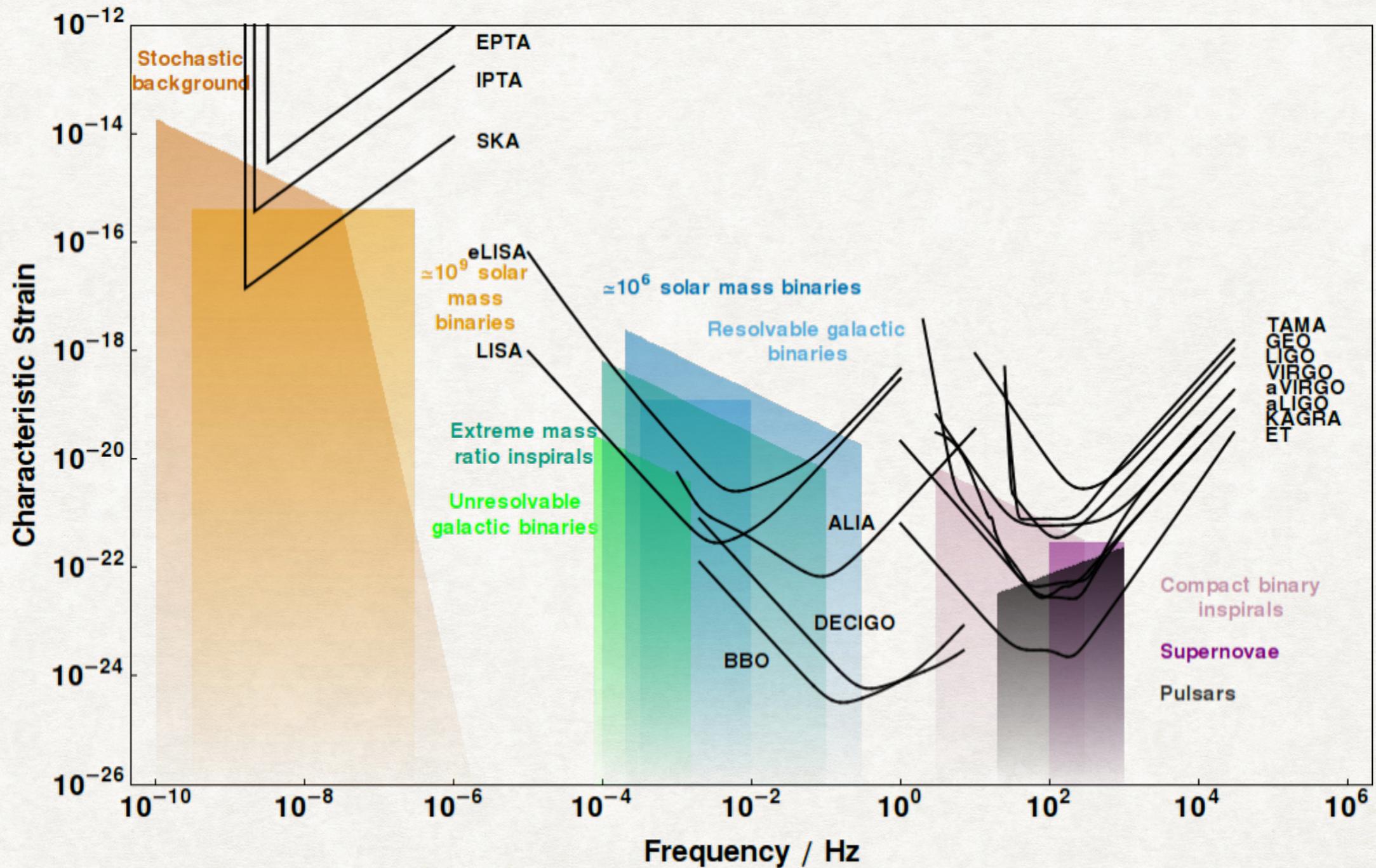
- SKA

$$N_P = 200, t_{\text{rms}} = 50 \text{ ns}, \Delta t = 2 \text{ week}, T = 20 \text{ years}, z_0 = 5 \text{ kpc.}$$

- Optimistic

$$N_P = 1000, T = 30 \text{ yr}, t_{\text{rms}} = 10 \text{ ns}, \Delta t = 1 \text{ week}, z_0 = 10 \text{ kpc}$$

# PTA VS OTHER GRAVITY WAVE DETECTORS



Moore, Cole, Berry

# SUBHALO PROBES

- Gravitational probes are broadly of two varieties
- Probe gravitational interaction between light and DM, e.g. Lensing
- Or probe gravitational interaction of DM with some test mass, i.e. Doppler effect e.g. Carney, Ghosh, Krnjaic, Taylor. [arXiv:1903.00492](#)
- PTAs have both kinds of signal (see also [1804.01991](#) van Tilburg, Taki, Weiner for larger masses with astrometry instead)

# EXISTING LITERATURE

- Ultralight DM causing GW like delays - Not this work
- [Khmelnitsky, Rubakov - 1309.5888], [Graham, Kaplan, Mardon, Rajendran, Terrano - 1512.06165]
- PTAs are sensitive accelerometers: Doppler Delay - Discussed here
- [Seto, Corray - astro-ph/0702586] , [Baghram, Afshordi, Zurek - 1101.5487]  
[Kashiyama, Seto - 1208.4101],[Kazumi, Oguri, Masamune - 1801.07847]
- Gravitational potential wells along the light path: Shapiro Delay - Discussed here
- [Siegel, 0801.3458], [Siegel, Hertzberg, Fry - astro-ph/0702546],  
[Baghram, Afshordi, Zurek - 1101.5487], [Clark, Lewis, Scott - 1509.02938] ,  
[Schutz, Liu - 1610.04234]

# OUR WORK

- Explicit calculations of SNR
- Comprehensive analysis of all signal types
- Extension to diffuse halos

# TYPES OF SIGNALS

- Type of effect: Doppler or Shapiro
- Length of signal: Dynamic or Static
- Number of signals accumulated:  
(single) Deterministic or (many) Stochastic
- Signal Affects Earth: shows up in all pulsars or on individual pulsars: Earth term (only for Doppler) vs Pulsar Term (for Doppler and Shapiro).
- There could be 8 (Doppler) + 4(Shapiro) distinct signal types!

**START WITH MONOCHROMATIC PBH**

# DOPPLER DELAY

- Recognize the ratio  $\frac{\delta\nu}{\nu}$  is  $v_{\text{rel}}/c$
- Thus sensitive to tiny accelerations

$$\left(\frac{\delta\nu}{\nu}\right)_D = \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \int \nabla\Phi dt,$$

- velocity shape for a point object transit looks like:

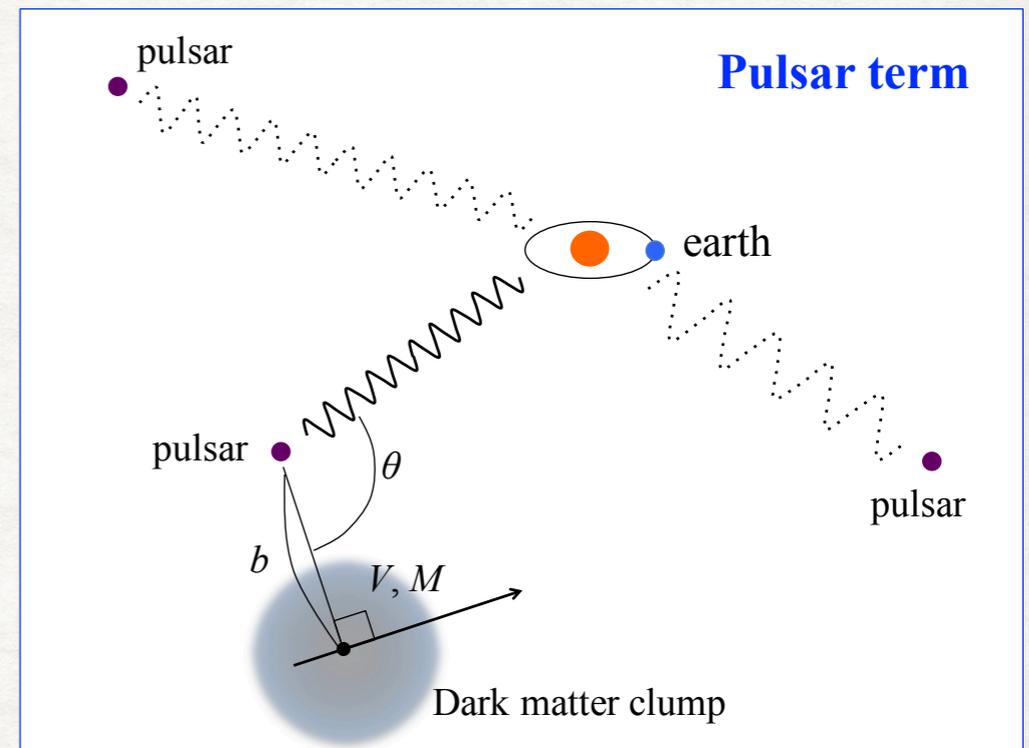
$$\left(\frac{\delta\nu}{\nu}\right)_D = \frac{GM}{v^2\tau_D} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x_D^2}} (x_D \hat{\mathbf{b}} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}},$$

Signal period

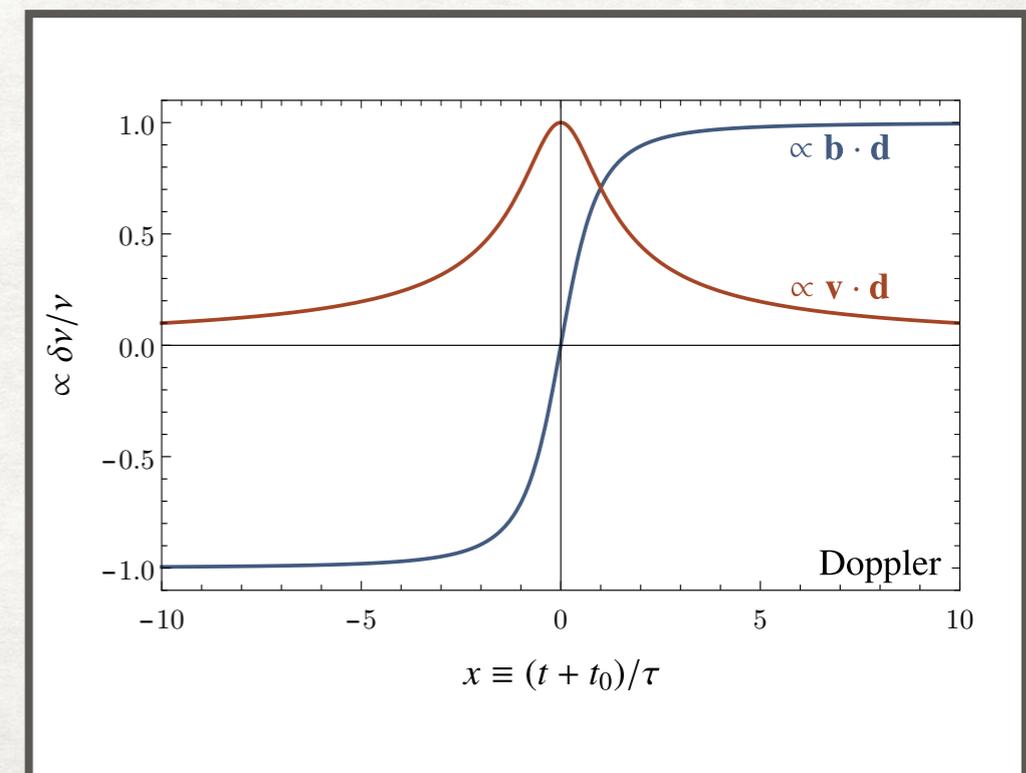
Dimensionless time variable

Impact parameter

$$|\mathbf{b}| = \tau v$$



Source: Kashiyama, Seto - 1208.4101



# DOPPLER GEOMETRY

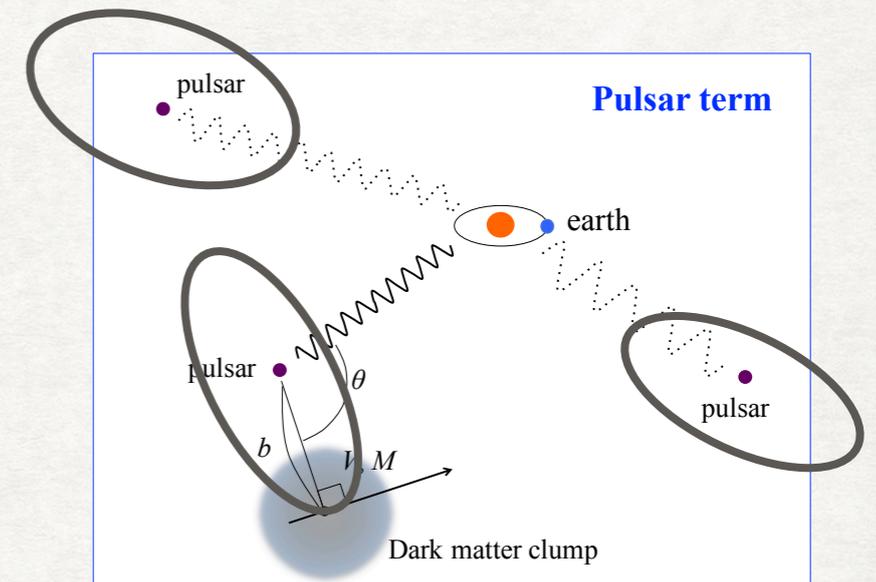
- To determine typical timescale, let us determine object of closest approach
- Cross-section for Doppler, is a circle.
- Remembering  $|\mathbf{b}| = \tau v$

$$\tau_{\min} \approx \frac{1}{v} \sqrt{\frac{M}{N_P f \rho_{\text{DM}} v T}}$$

$$\approx \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{\sqrt{N_P f}} \left( \frac{M}{10^{-9} M_{\odot}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

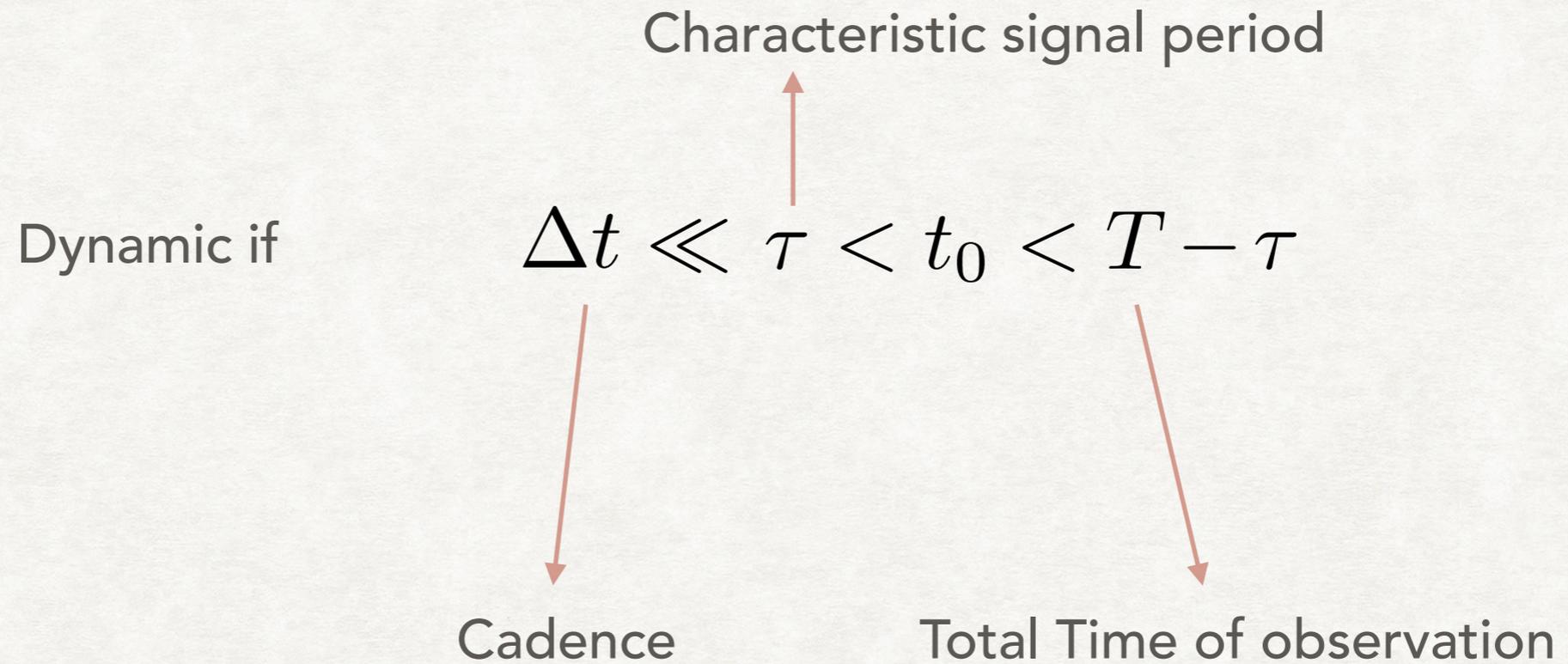
Number of pulsars

Fraction of DM in M mass PBH



$N_P$  pulsars  
 $N_P \times$  cross-section

# DYNAMIC VS STATIC



Static otherwise

$$\tau \gtrsim T$$

# DETECTING DYNAMIC SIGNALS

- Similar to a bump hunt / LIGO signal / Microlensing signal
- Doppler - leaves a permanent imprint
- Shapiro - Blip (As we will see)
- SNR is a solved problem in signal processing.

$$\text{SNR}^2 = 4 \int_0^\infty df \frac{|\tilde{h}(f)|^2}{S_{\dot{\delta}t}(f)}$$

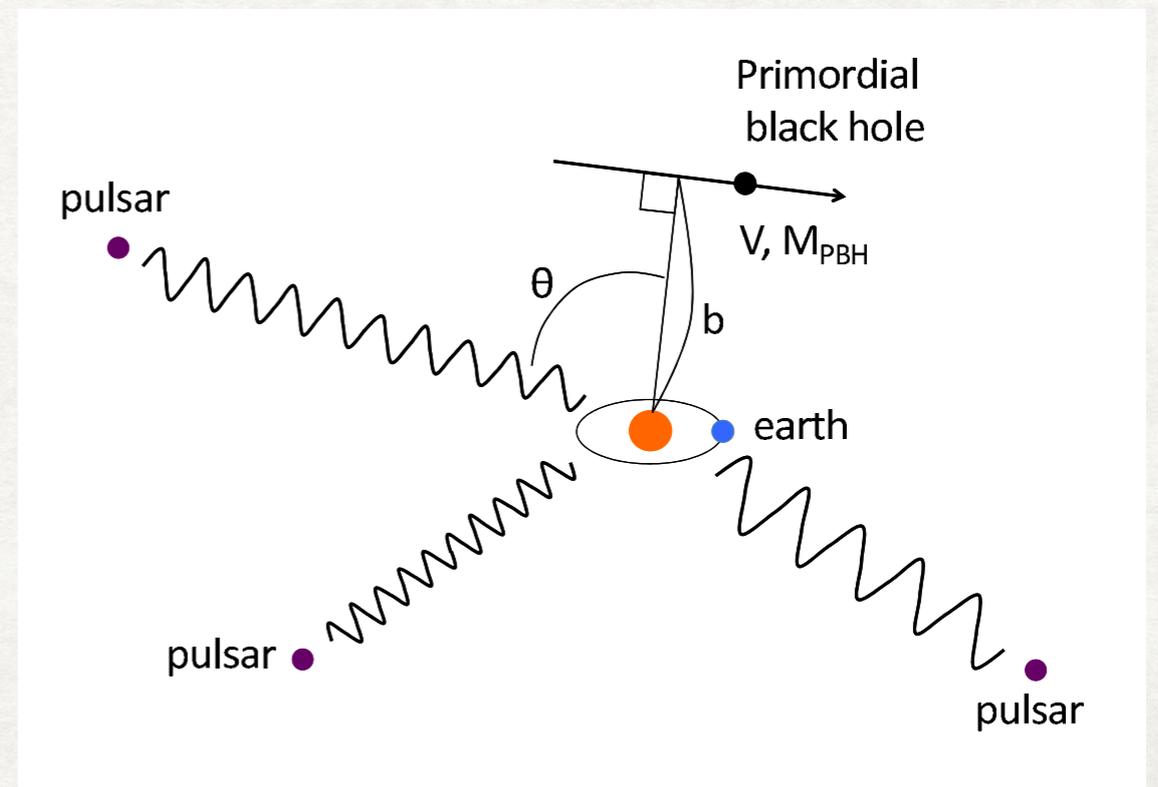
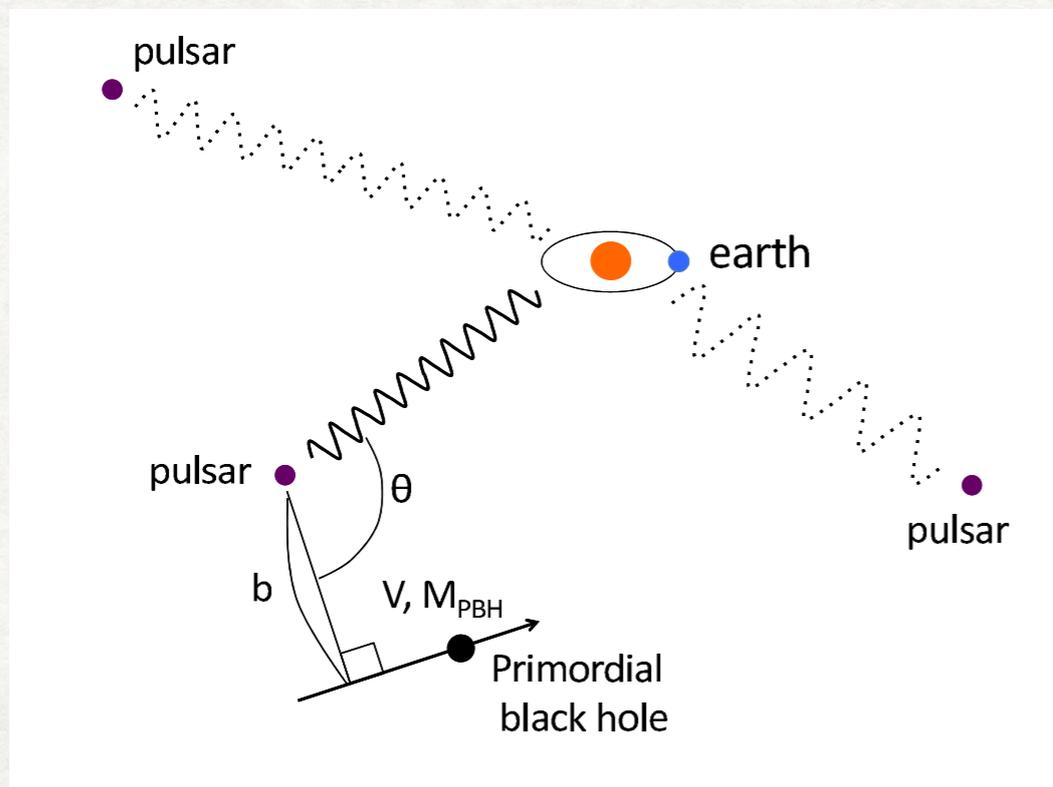
Fourier transform  
of Signal

Cadence  $\sim$  2 weeks

$$S_{\dot{\delta}t}(f) \equiv 8\pi^2 t_{\text{RMS}}^2 \Delta t f^2$$

# PULSAR TERM VS EARTH TERM FOR DOPPLER

- Many more pulsars  $\rightarrow$  impact parameter far lower for one lucky pulsar.
- Angular correlations  $\rightarrow$  sensitivity far higher for earth term



# BOUNDS FROM DYNAMIC SIGNALS (DOPPLER)

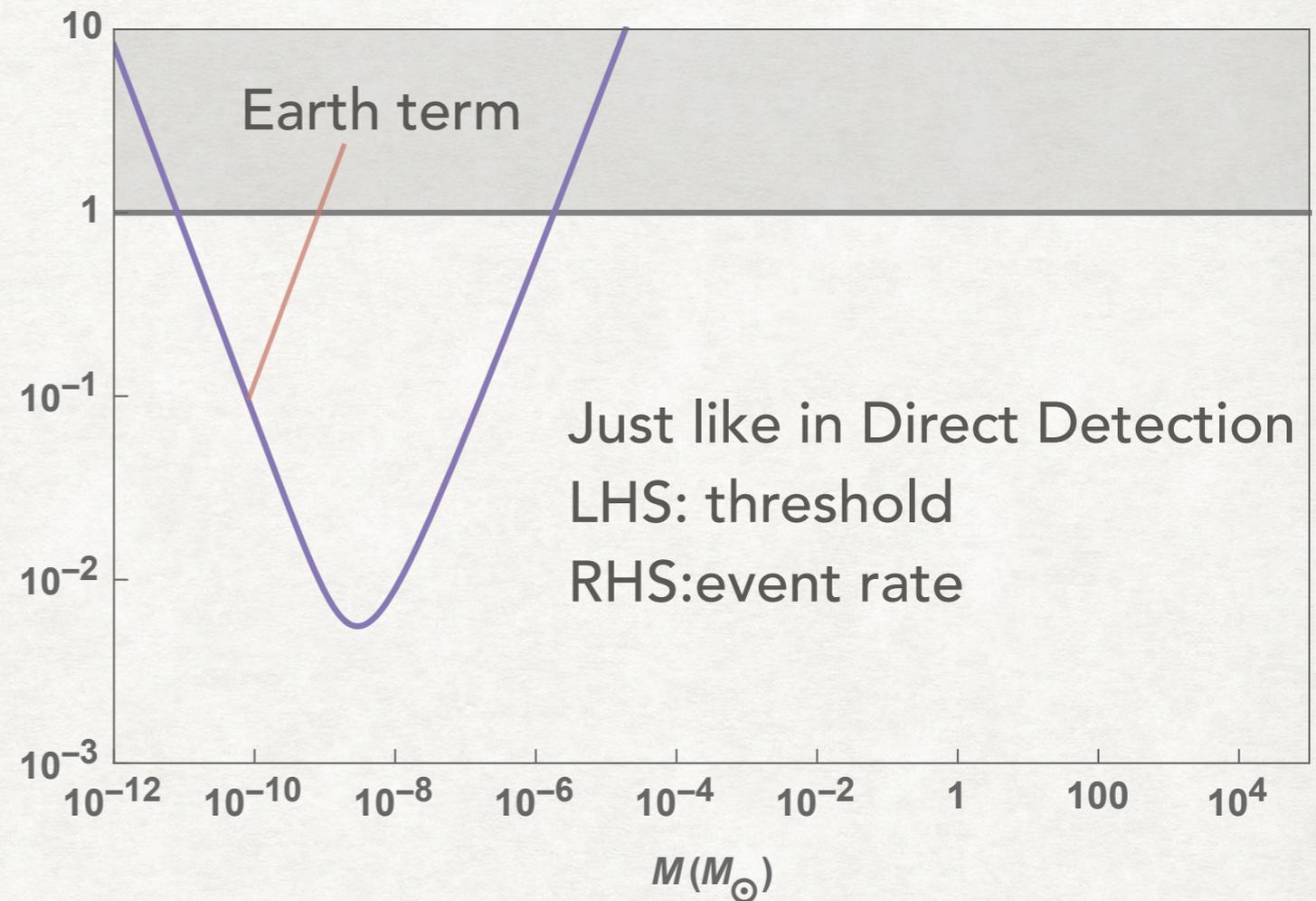
- For Doppler Pulsar Term,

- LHS:

$$f_{D, \text{dyn}}^L \lesssim 0.01 \left( \frac{10^{-9} M_{\odot}}{M} \right) \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^4 f_{DM}$$

Earth term scales the same way

- At some Mass  $M$ , even the nearest PBH starts failing dynamic constraint.



$$f_{D, \text{dyn}}^R \lesssim 3 \left( \frac{M}{10^{-7} M_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^3$$

Earth term has  $N_p=1$

# SHAPIRO DELAY

- Similar to Sachs-Wolfe effect
- In frequency domain given by,

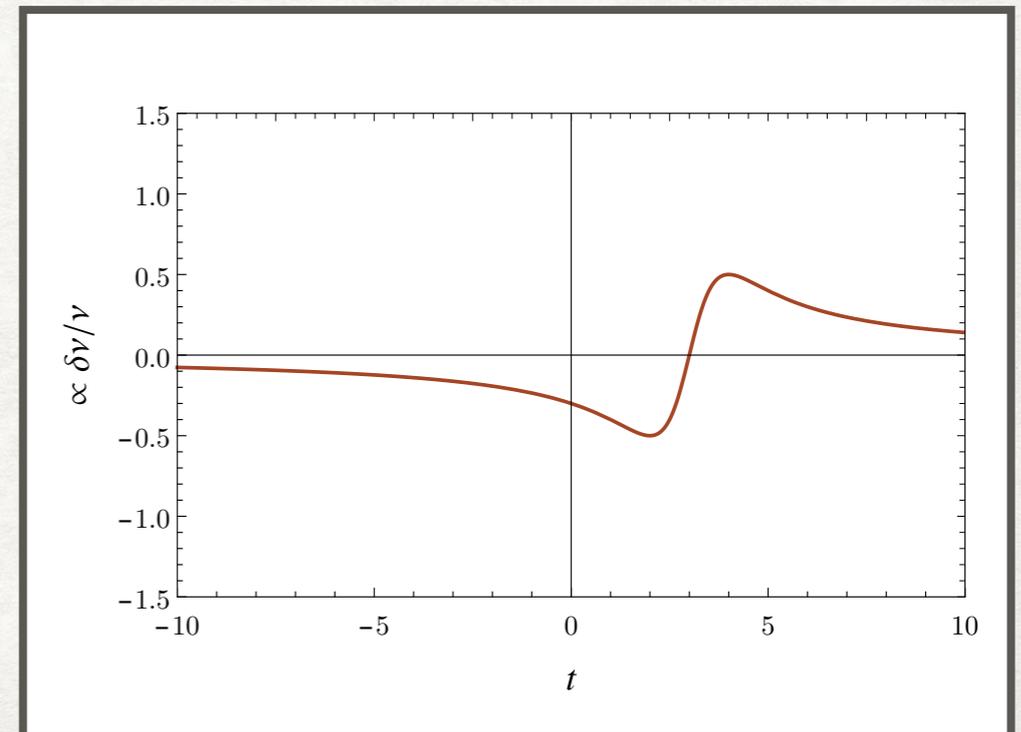
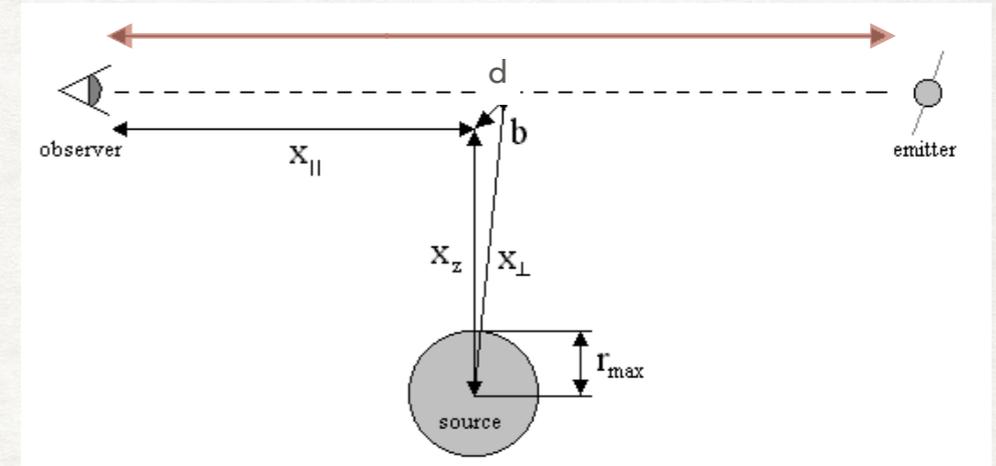
$$\left(\frac{\delta\nu}{\nu}\right)_S = -2 \int \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \Phi dz$$

- For a point object,

$$\left(\frac{\delta\nu}{\nu}\right)_S = \frac{4GM}{\tau_S} \frac{x_S}{1 + x_S^2}$$

Duration of signal

Dimensionless time variable





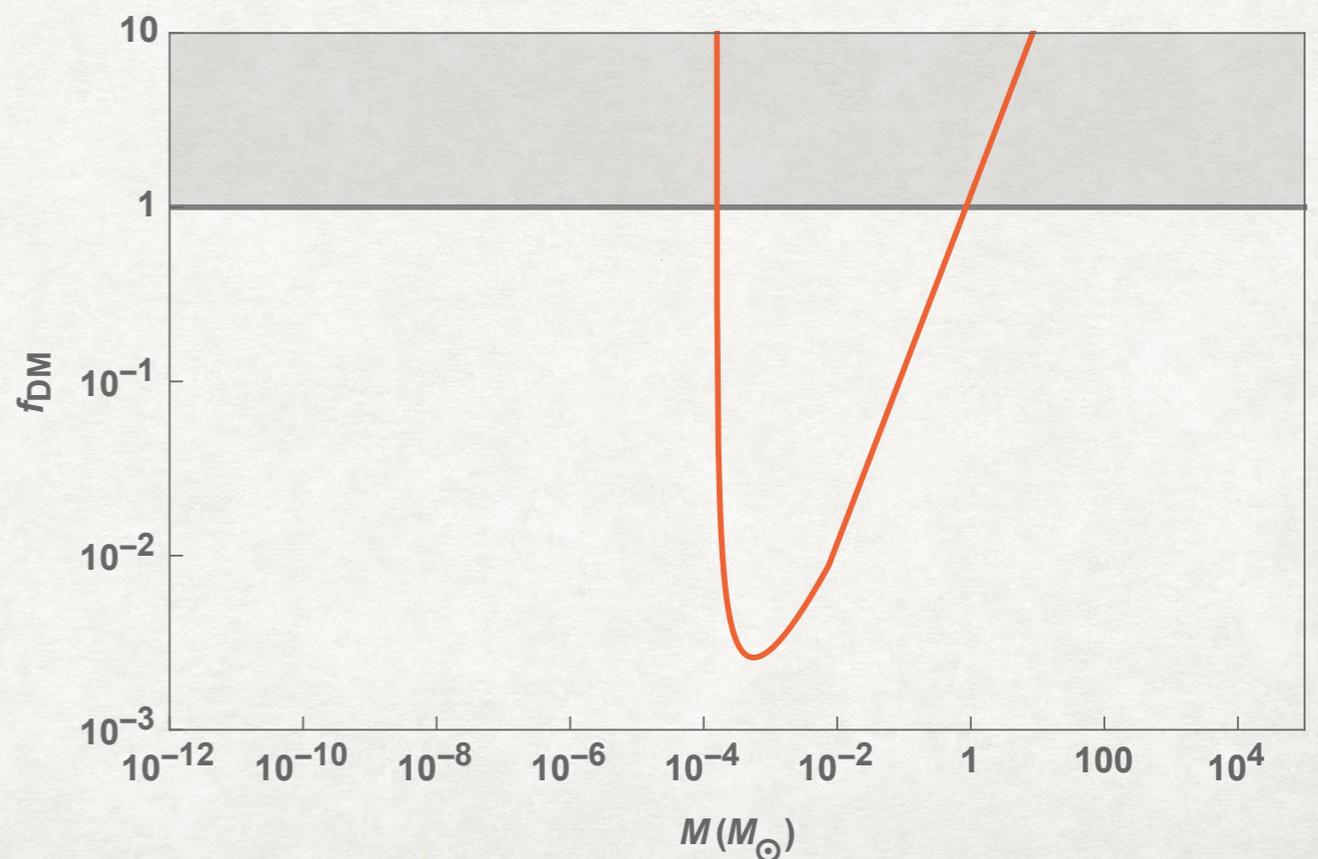
# BOUNDS FROM DYNAMIC SIGNALS (SHAPIRO)

- For small enough  $\tau_{\min}$ ,

$$\text{SNR} = 4 \frac{GM}{c^6 t_{\text{rms}}} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\Delta t}}$$

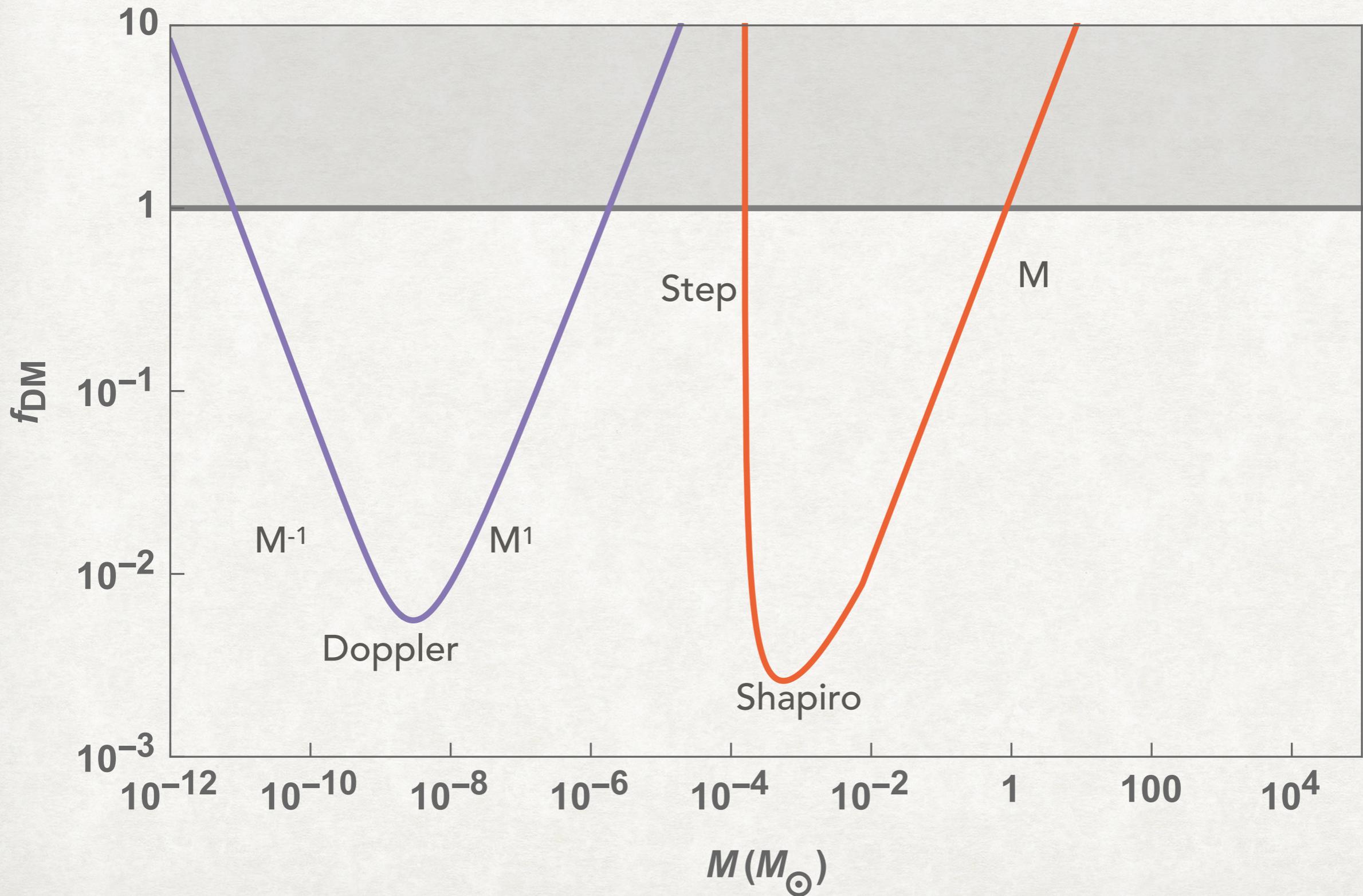
- Low enough masses are simply incapable of producing signal
- RHS just like before,  $f \sim M$ ,

$$f_{\text{S, dyn}}^R \lesssim 0.8 \left( \frac{M}{10^{-2} M_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^2$$



SHAPIRO SIGNAL CAN NEVER HAVE AN  
EARTH TERM:  
SAMPLING VOLUMES DO NOT OVERLAP

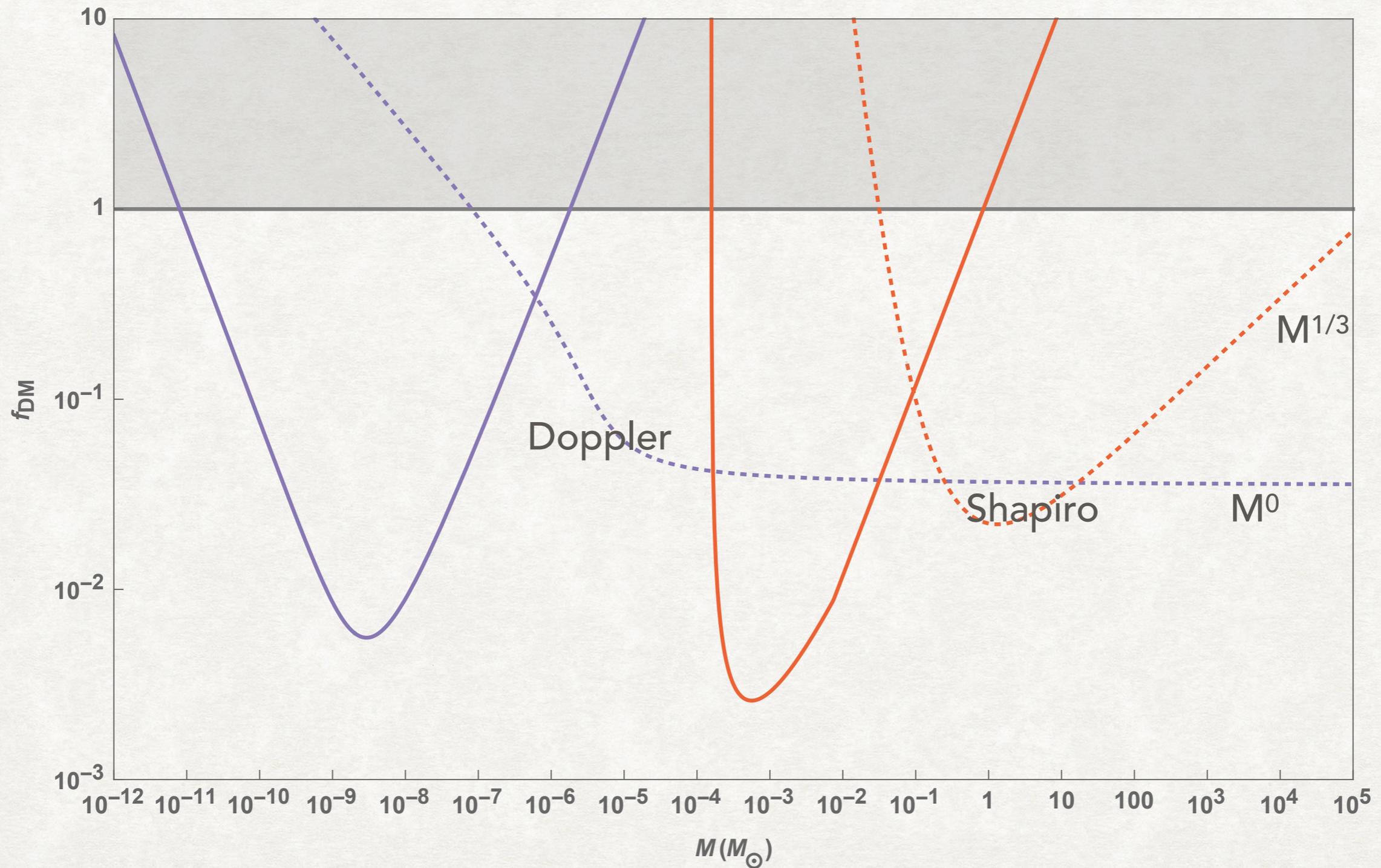
# FRACTION VS M SCALING - DYNAMIC LIMIT



# SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO (STATIC SIGNALS)

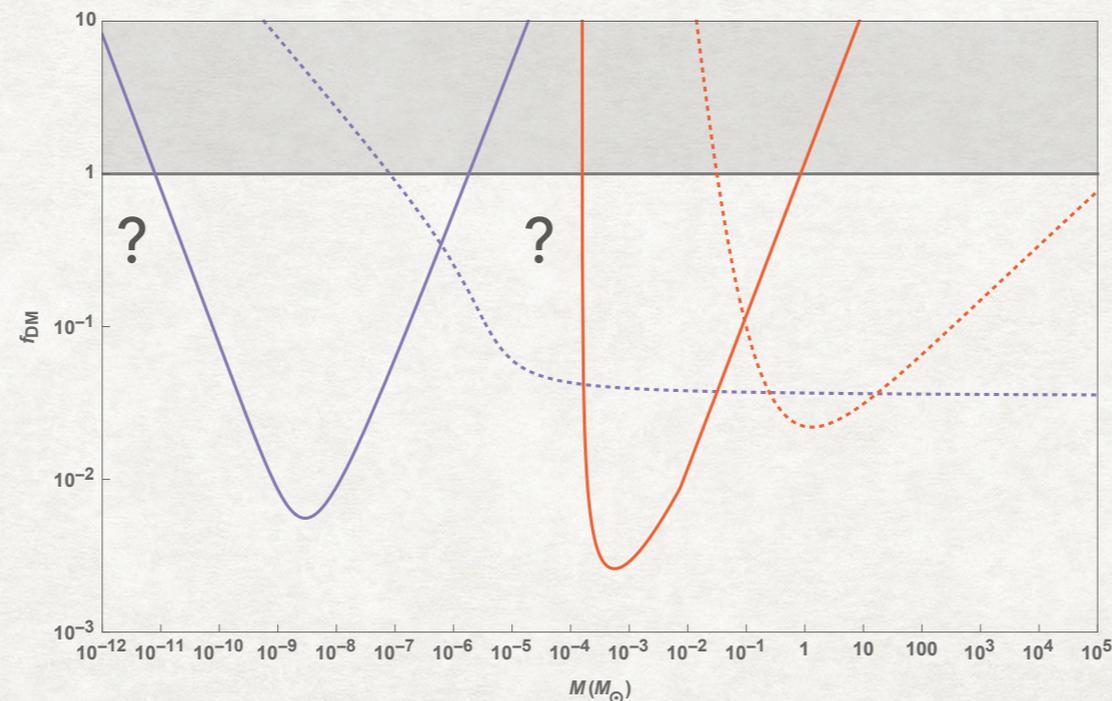
- In the limit that you don't see the whole signal, Taylor expand.
- A constant first derivative i.e. spin-down or sometimes even spin-up is already observed (incalculable from first principles).
- Subtracted as part of the fitting procedure.
- Subtraction also relevant to dynamic signals (more on this later)
- Second derivative much less common.
- Non-observation of second derivative can be used to set constraints.

# FRACTION VS M SCALING -STATIC



# STOCHASTIC SIGNAL

- In 1901.04490 we considered only deterministic single event.
- Left on the table: multiple events at lower masses which do not pass the threshold SNR individually
- Lose ability to fit for deterministic signal shape



# STOCHASTIC SNR

$$\langle \delta\phi(t)\delta\phi(t') \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N \langle \delta\phi_i(t)\delta\phi_i(t') \rangle + \sum_{i \neq j}^{N(N-1)} \langle \delta\phi_i(t)\delta\phi_j(t') \rangle \equiv R_1(t, t') + R_2(t, t')$$

1-halo      2-halo

$$\text{SNR}_P^2 = \frac{N_P}{2\tilde{N}^2} \int dt dt' \langle R_I^{\text{sub}}(t, t')^2 \rangle_{\mathcal{P}}$$

$$\text{SNR}_E^2 = \frac{N_P(N_P - 1)}{2\tilde{N}^2} \int dt dt' \langle R_{IJ}^{\text{sub}}(t, t')^2 \rangle_{\mathcal{P}}$$

Sum over all events  $i$ ,  
Average over ensemble

Deterministic Signal: care about the single closest event. A random "Best pulsar" exists

Stochastic signal:

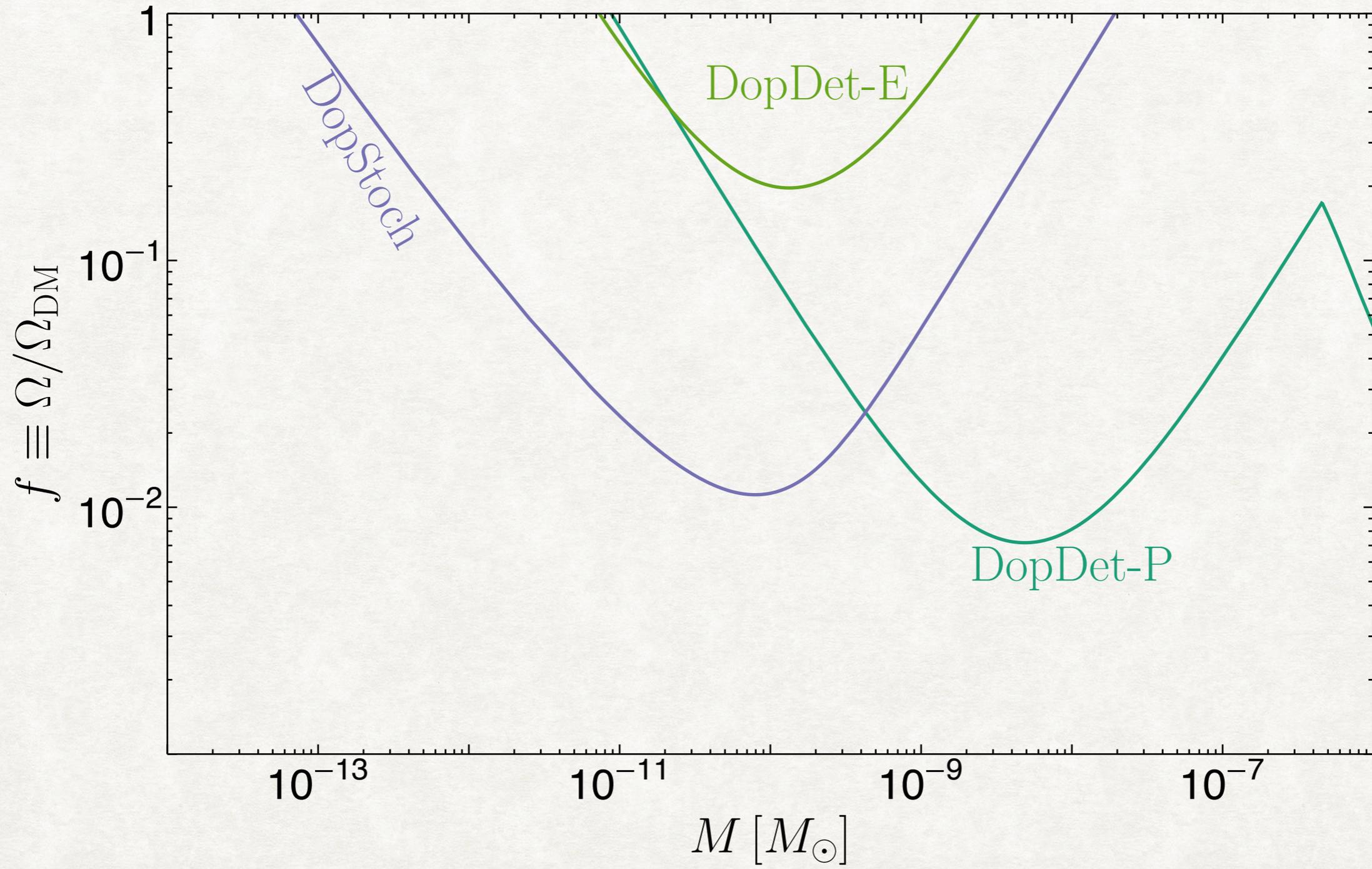
Pulsar Term -  $N_P$  pulsars accumulating more statistics

Earth Term - can cross-correlate across pulsars with angular correlations.

For the highest single die roll, helps to roll die several times,  
For sum of 100 die rolls, no point repeating the 100 roll.

# DOPPLER SUMMARY

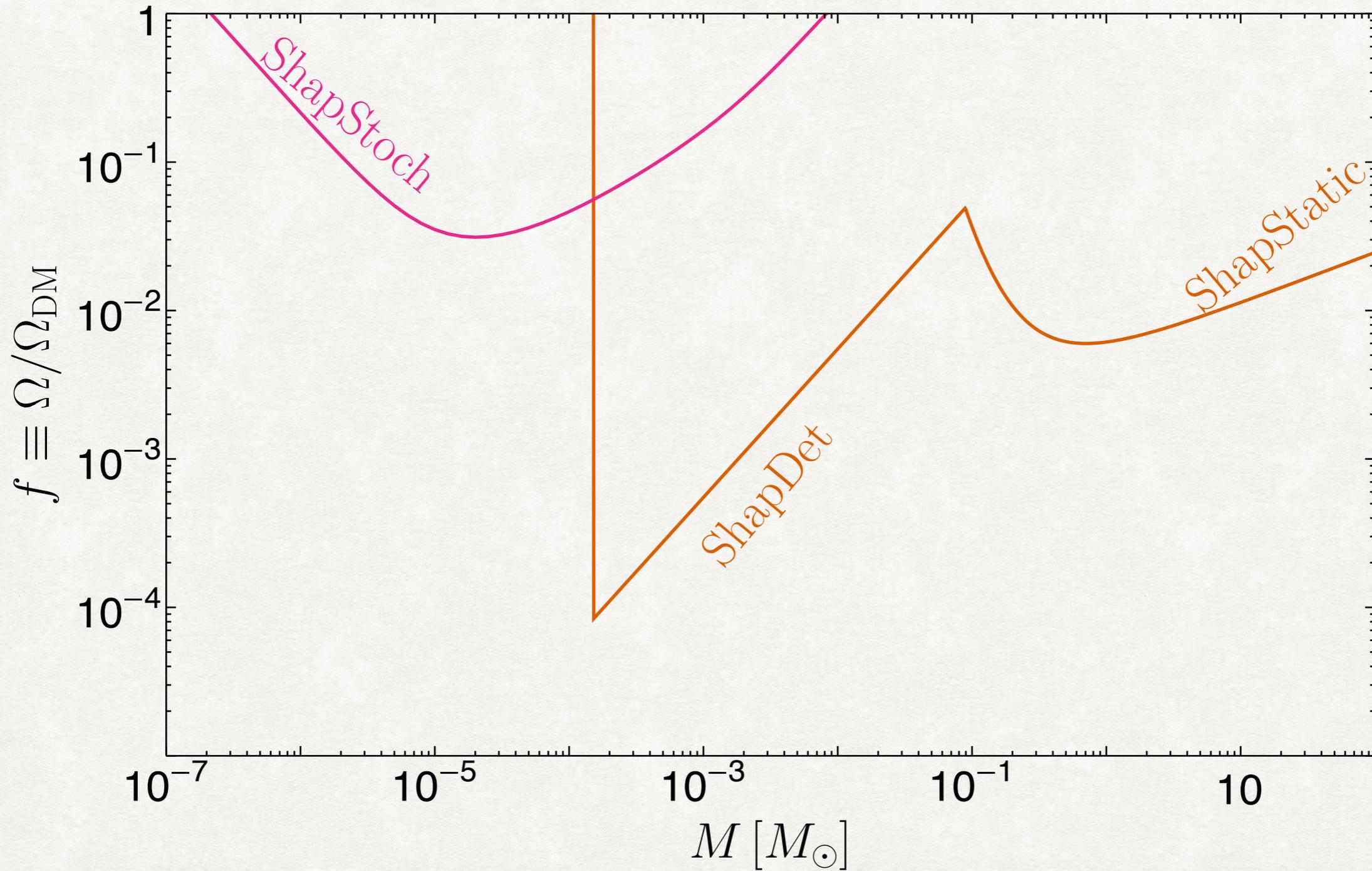
Stochastic Signal: Random walk in velocity



OPTIMISTIC

# SHAPIRO SUMMARY

Stochastic Signal: Random addition of blips



OPTIMISTIC

# MAJOR BACKGROUNDS

## BARYONS

THE COSMIC ENERGY INVENTORY

Masataka Fukugita, P. J. E. Peebles, 0406095

Parameter	Components <sup>a</sup>	Totals <sup>a</sup>
Dark sector:		0.954 ± 0.003
Dark energy	0.72 ± 0.03	
Dark matter	0.23 ± 0.03	
Primeval gravitational waves	≤ 10 <sup>-10</sup>	
Primeval thermal remnants:		0.0010 ± 0.0005
Electromagnetic radiation	10 <sup>-4.3 ± 0.0</sup>	
Neutrinos	10 <sup>-2.9 ± 0.1</sup>	
Prestellar nuclear binding energy	-10 <sup>-4.1 ± 0.0</sup>	
Baryon rest mass:		0.045 ± 0.003
Warm intergalactic plasma	0.040 ± 0.003	
Virialized regions of galaxies	0.024 ± 0.005	
Intergalactic	0.016 ± 0.005	
Intracluster plasma	0.0018 ± 0.0007	Static
Main-sequence stars: spheroids and bulges	0.0015 ± 0.0004	
Main-sequence stars: disks and irregulars	0.00055 ± 0.00014	Dynamic
White dwarfs	0.00036 ± 0.00008	
Neutron stars	0.00005 ± 0.00002	
Black holes	0.00007 ± 0.00002	
Substellar objects	0.00014 ± 0.00007	
H I + He I	0.00062 ± 0.00010	
Molecular gas	0.00016 ± 0.00006	
Planets	10 <sup>-6</sup>	
Condensed matter	10 <sup>-5.6 ± 0.3</sup>	
Sequestered in massive black holes	10 <sup>-5.4</sup> (1 + ε <sub>n</sub> )	

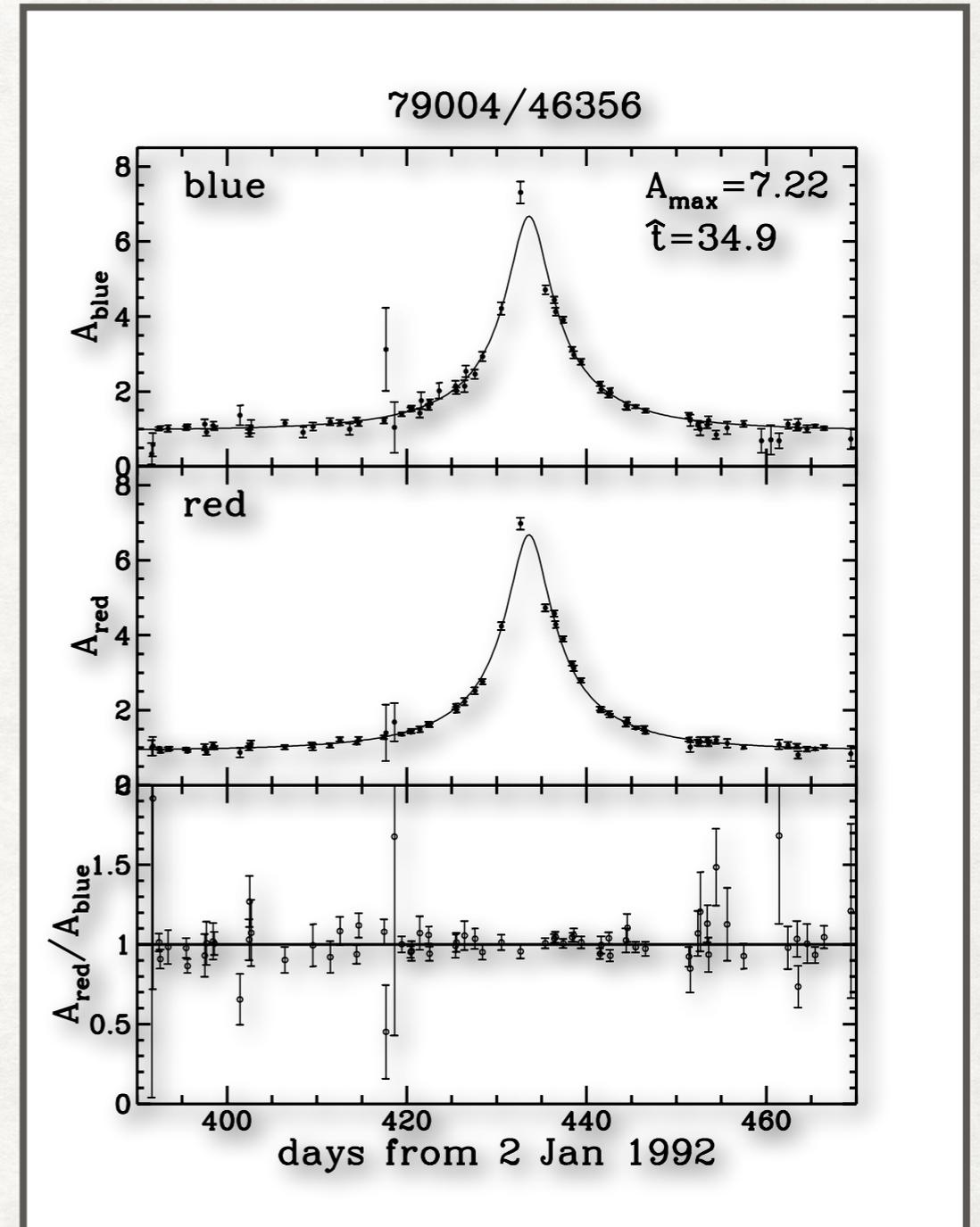
Most of the baryonic component will also be co-rotating with pulsar or earth

# OTHER SOURCES OF BACKGROUND

- Glitches: Sudden increase in frequency, followed by a slow relaxation (days-year). Reduced significantly for Earth Term
- We considered a simplistic white noise
- In reality,
- Dispersion through interstellar medium - frequency dependent and red
- Some pulsars also suffer from intrinsic red noise
- Next step: use collaboration code to check signal survival

# DYNAMIC BACKGROUNDS

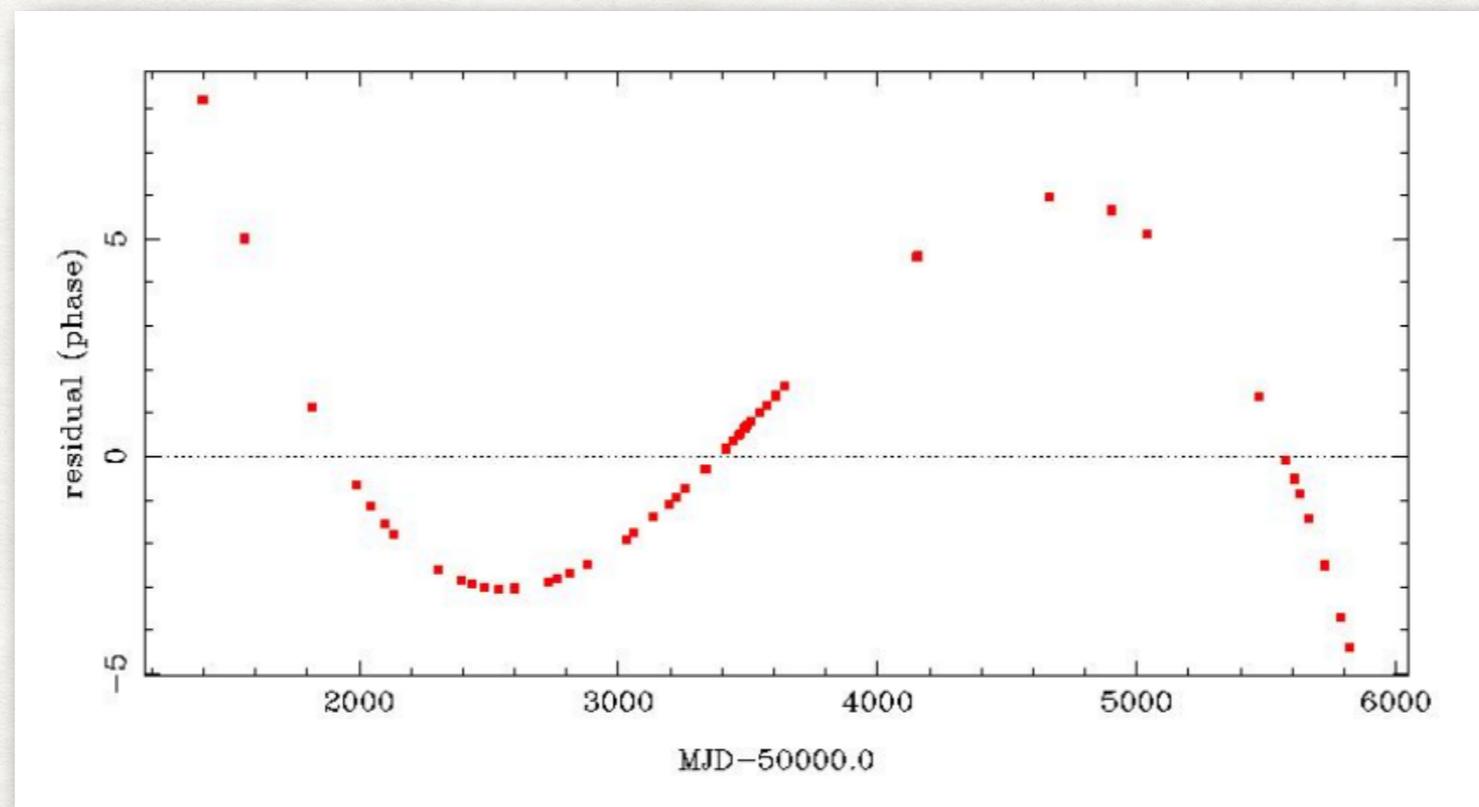
- Dynamic signal more spectacular than static signal.
- Shape differences could help differentiate from glitches etc.
- DM signals are non-dispersive
- Baryonic structure too few at these masses



Dispersion used in Microlensing to differentiate lensing blip from a dispersive blip

# STATIC BACKGROUNDS

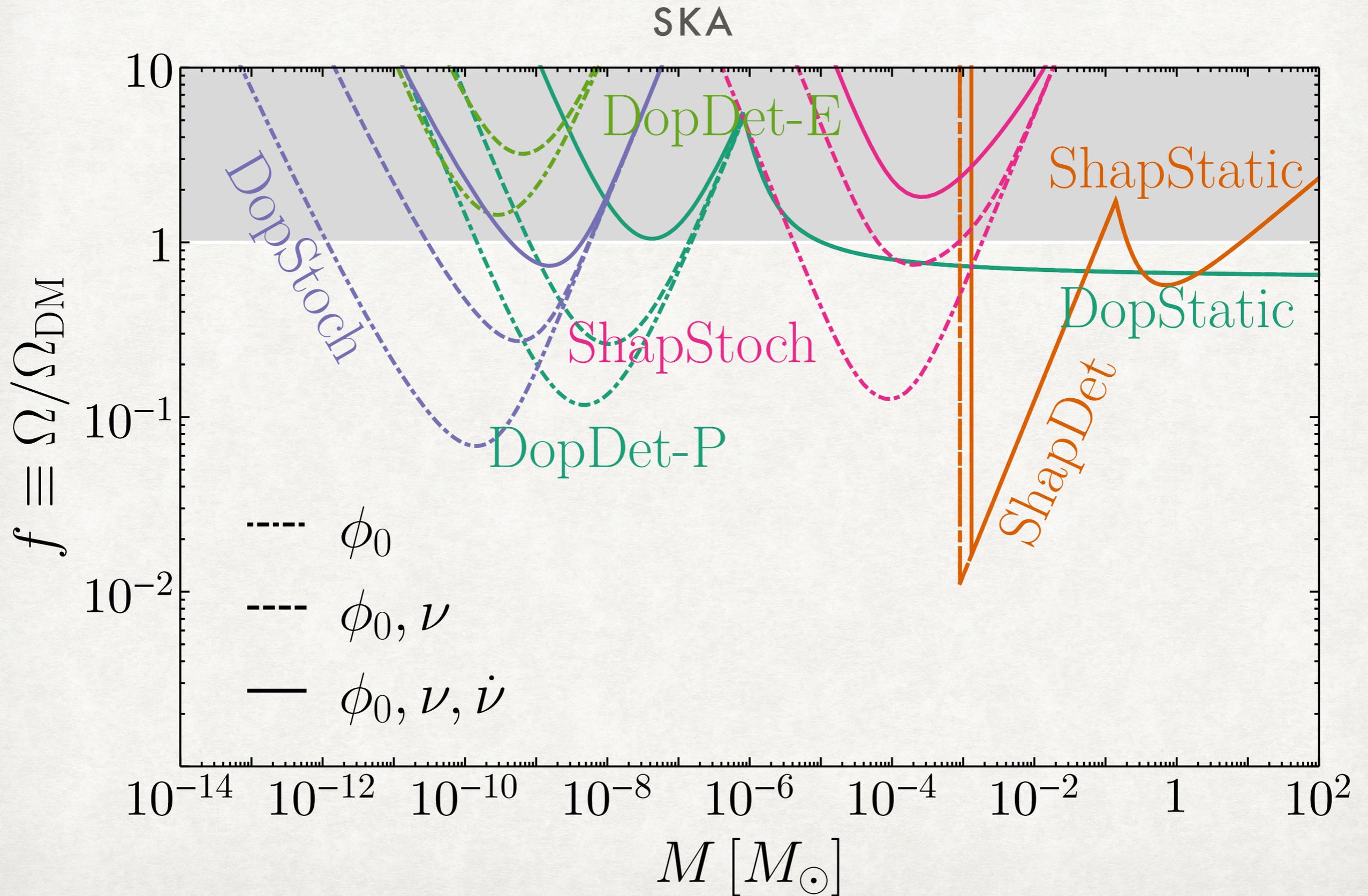
- A few pulsars already display non-zero second derivative.
- Will need to supplement with E&M observations to subtract known nearby objects.



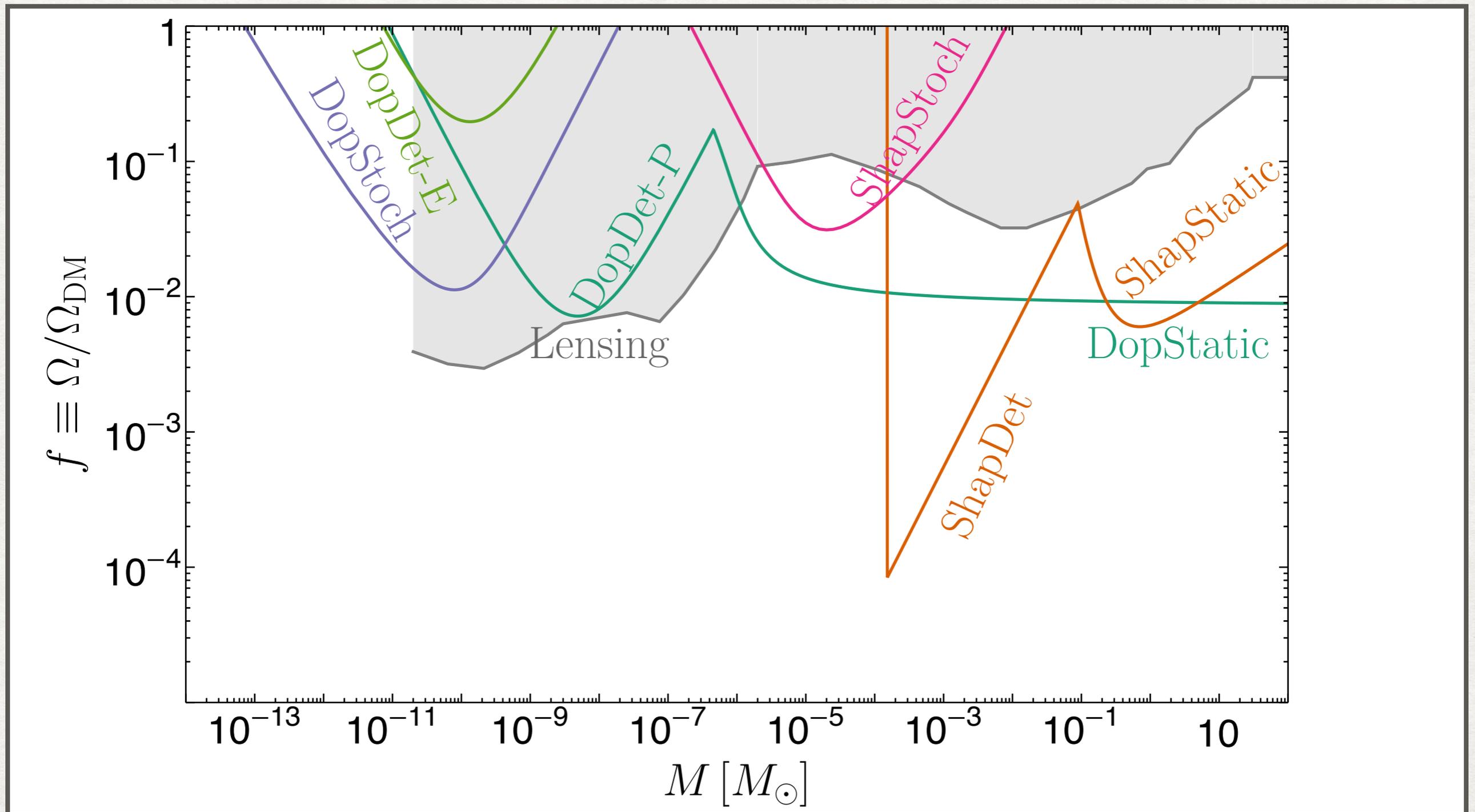
# MONTECARLO SIMULATION

- Assume PBHs randomly distributed
- Isotropic Maxwell distribution with velocity truncated at  $v_{esc}$ .
- Simulate  $N_p$  randomly distributed pulsars at appropriate distances.
- Simulate order  $O(10^5)$  universes and require more than 95% universes pass SNR cut.

# SUBTRACTION OF INTRINSIC PULSAR PARAMETERS

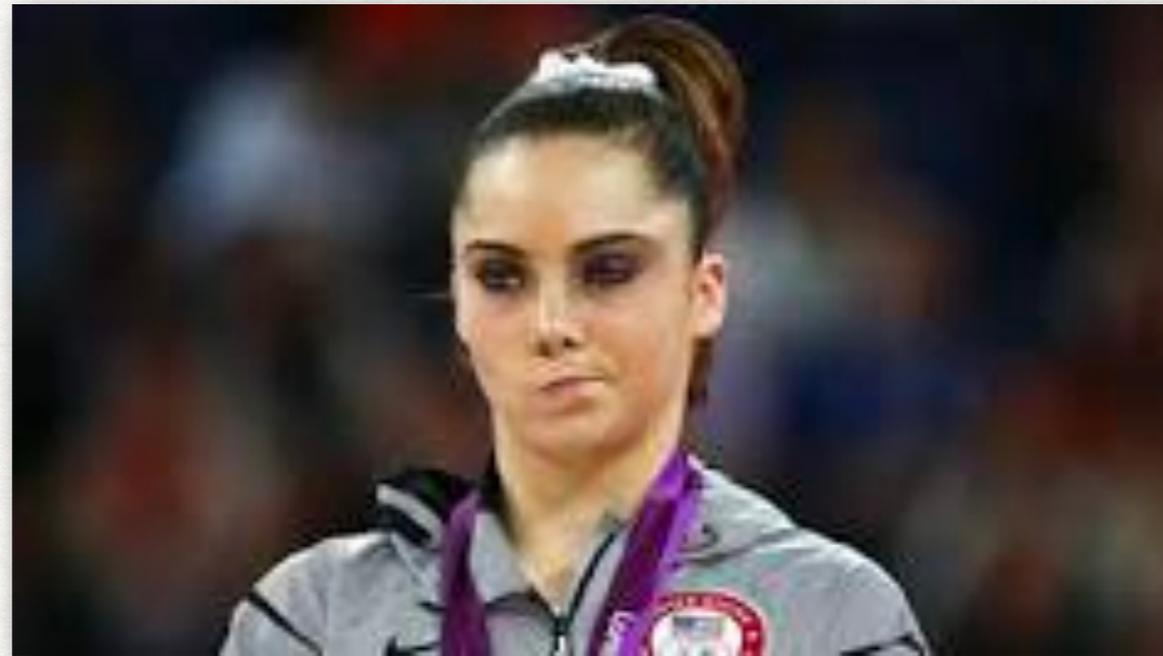


# RESULTS FOR PBH : OPTIMISTIC



Lensing constraint from Subaru, Machos, Eros, Ogle (MEO) and SN lensing

# IS THIS A SILVER MEDAL?



Limits comparable but subdominant to lensing for the most part

# MORE DIFFUSE OBJECTS

- We have seen point-like objects till now.
- If size of the object  $<$  impact parameter, Gauss' law: treat object as point like
- Signal loss if object size  $>$  impact parameter.
- Can get conservative estimate with  $M_{\text{enc}}(b)$ .

# EXTENDED OBJECTS

- Parametrize the profile as NFW.

$$\rho(r, M_{\text{vir}}) = \frac{\rho_s}{(r/r_s)^\alpha (1 + r/r_s)^\beta}$$

$$\alpha = 1, \beta = 2$$

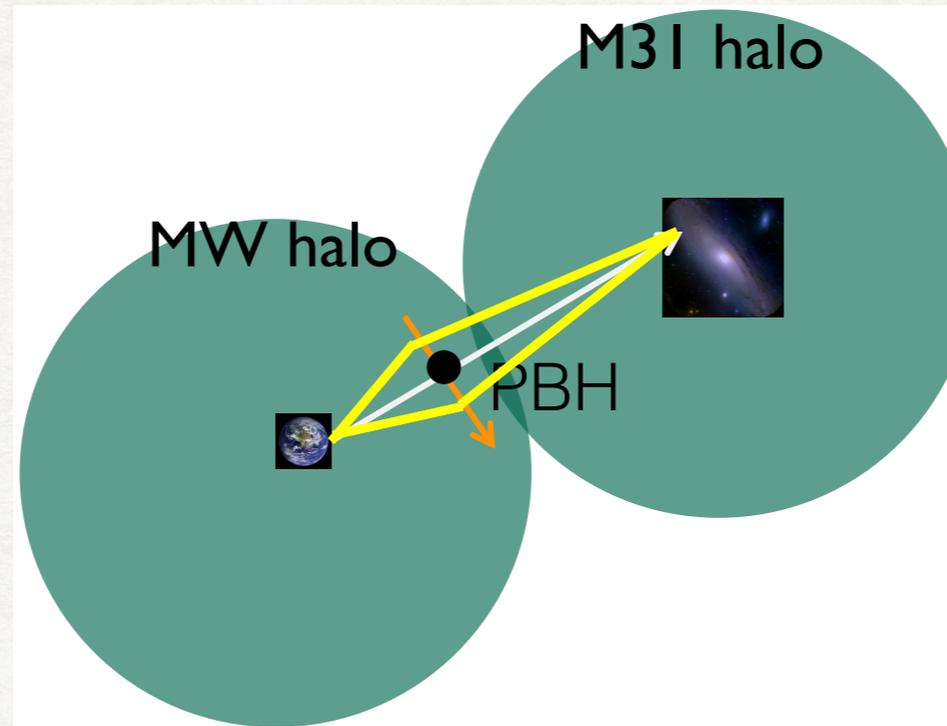
$$r_{\text{vir}} \equiv (3M_{\text{vir}}/800\pi\rho_c)^{1/3}$$

$$c \equiv r_{\text{vir}}/r_s$$

Retrieve PBH in the large  $c$  limit

# MICROLENSING

- Microlensing constraints from looking at M31/LMC



Source: Subaru

- Einstein radius

$$r_E \simeq \left( 4GM \frac{(D_S - D_L)D_L}{D_S} \right)^{1/2}$$

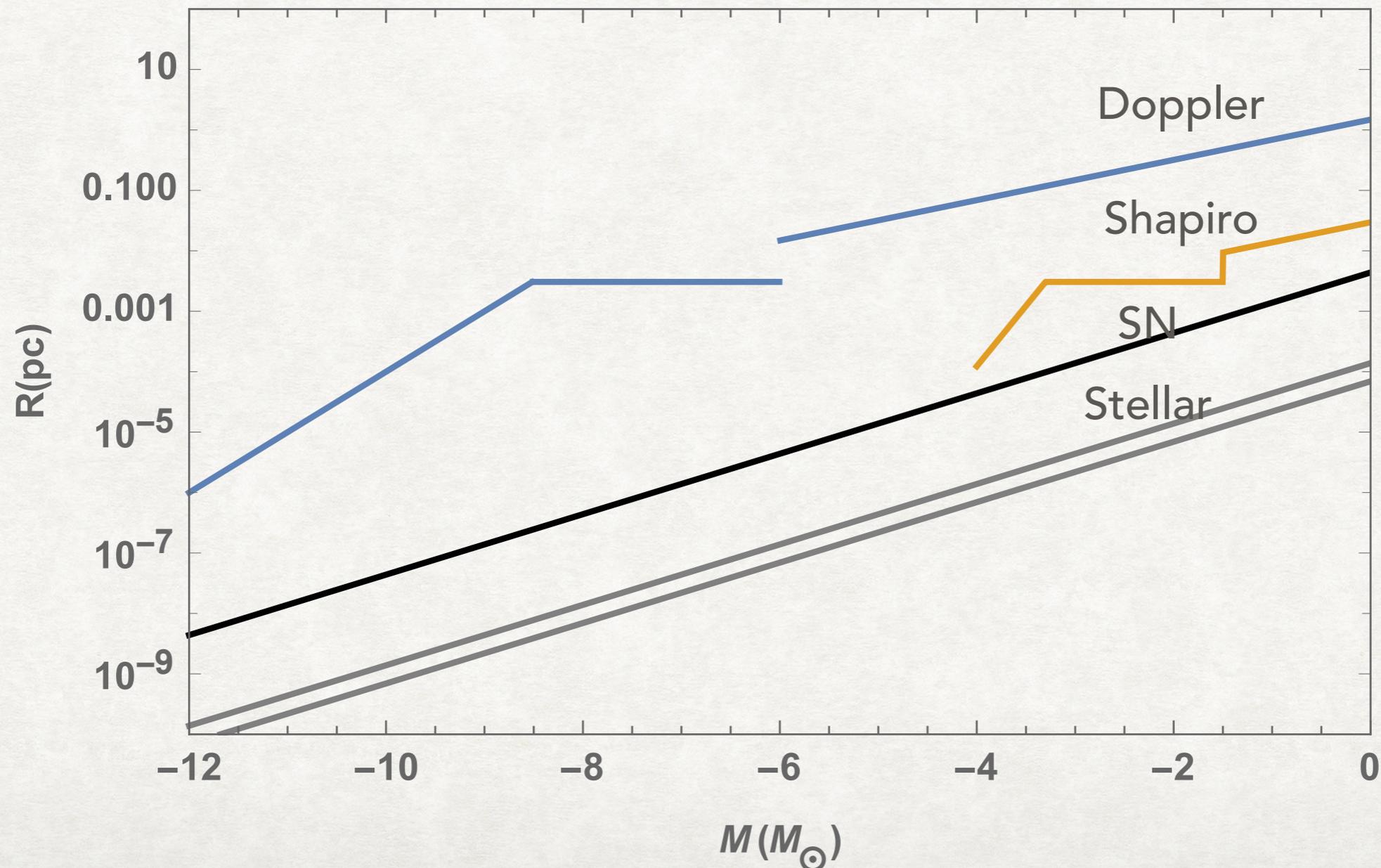
$D_S$  = Earth Star distance

$D_L$  = Earth Lens distance

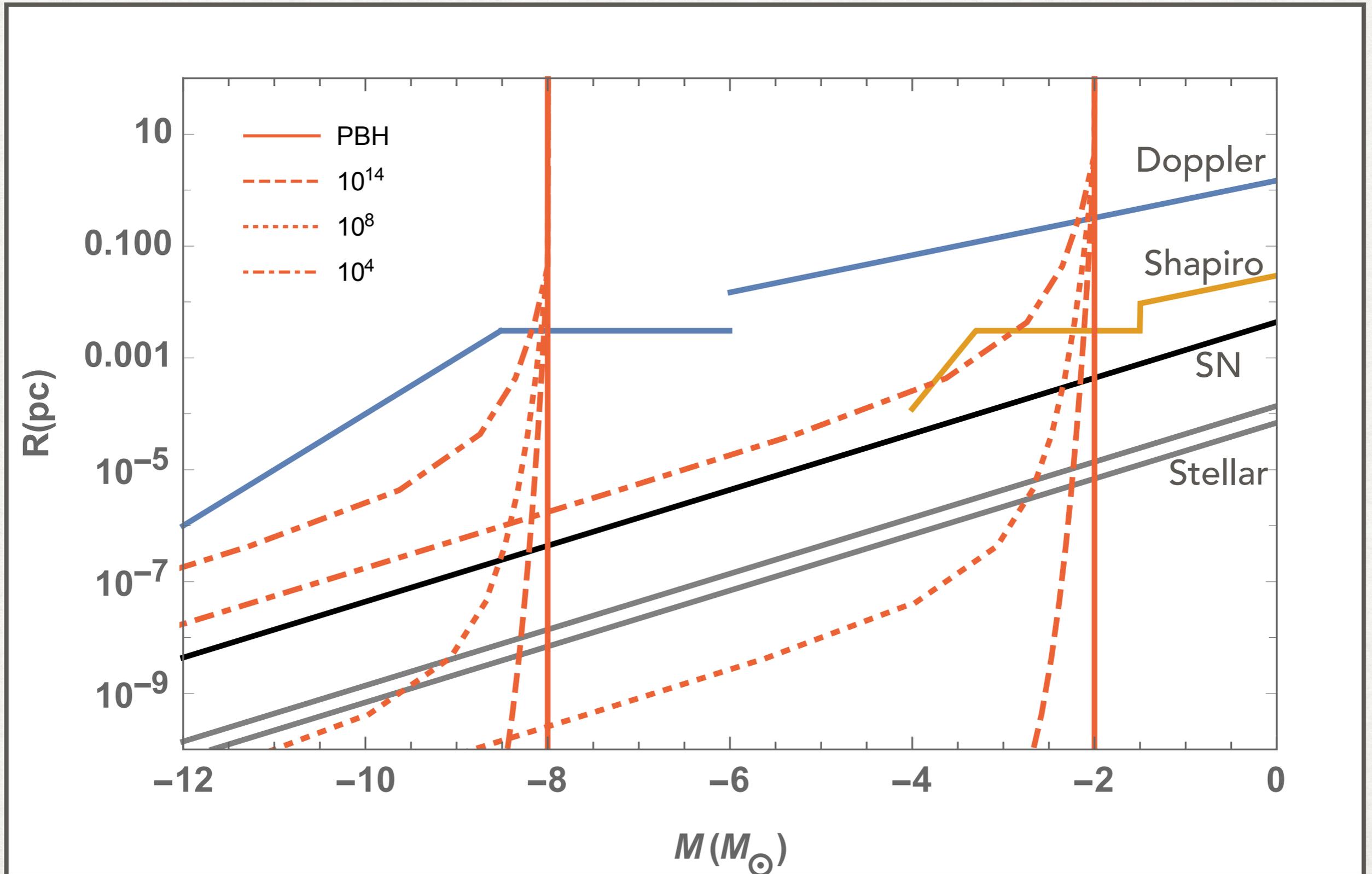
# IMPACT PARAMETER: PTA VS LENSING

- Lensing: (Billion Stars x few hours)      small impact parameter
- PTA: (100-1000 pulsars x few years)      enormous impact parameter

$$r_{\text{PTA}} \sim 10^{-3} \text{ pc} \times \begin{cases} \frac{M}{10^{-9} M_{\odot}} & \text{(Doppler Dynamic)} \\ \left(\frac{M}{10^{-3} M_{\odot}}\right)^2 & \text{(Shapiro Dynamic)} \end{cases} \quad r_E \sim \begin{cases} 10^{-6} \text{ pc} \left(\frac{M}{10^{-4} M_{\odot}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} & \text{(Stellar Lensing)} \\ 10^{-2} \text{ pc} \left(\frac{M}{10 M_{\odot}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} & \text{(Supernovae Lensing)} \end{cases}$$

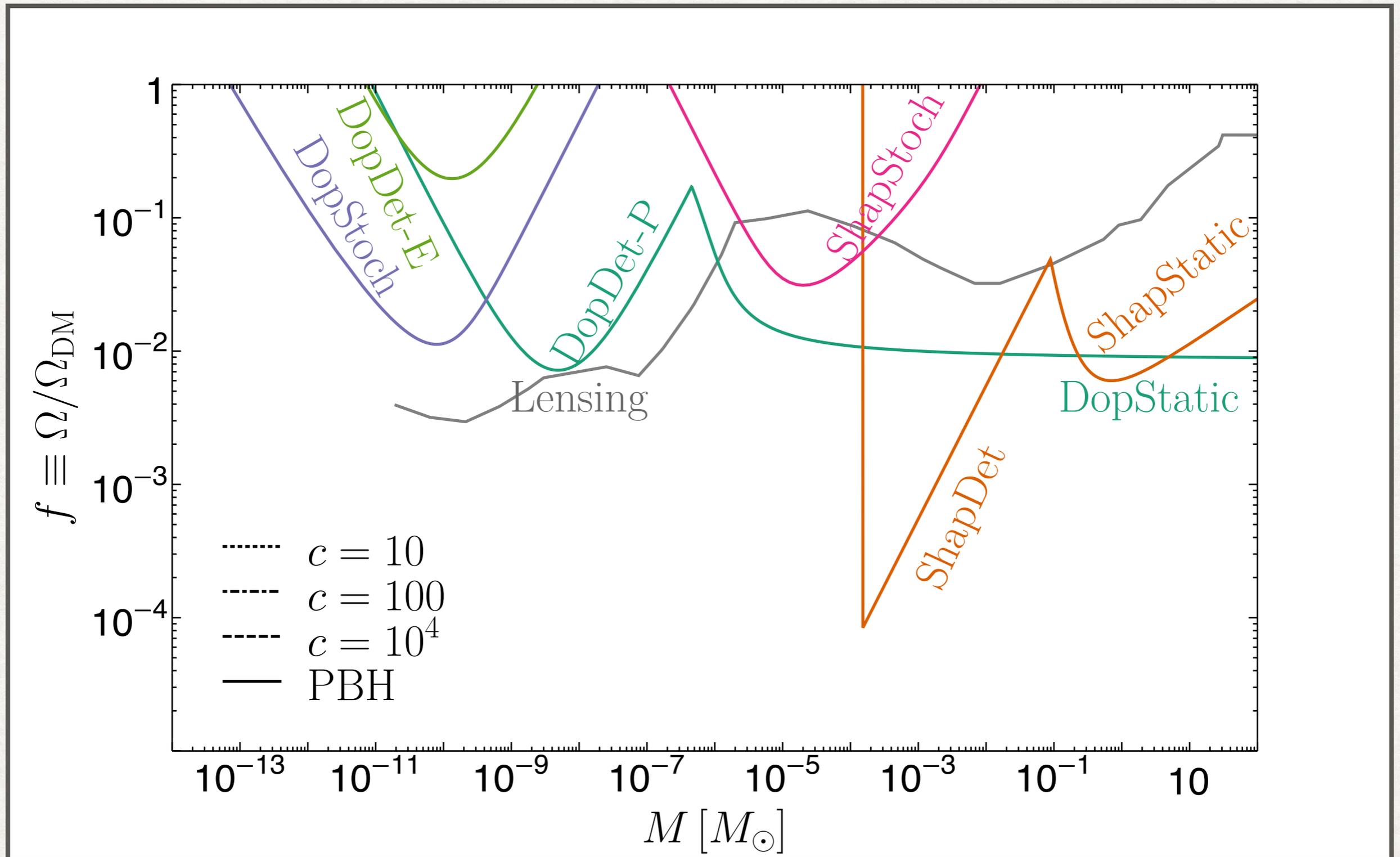


# SENSITIVITY TO DIFFUSE HALOS

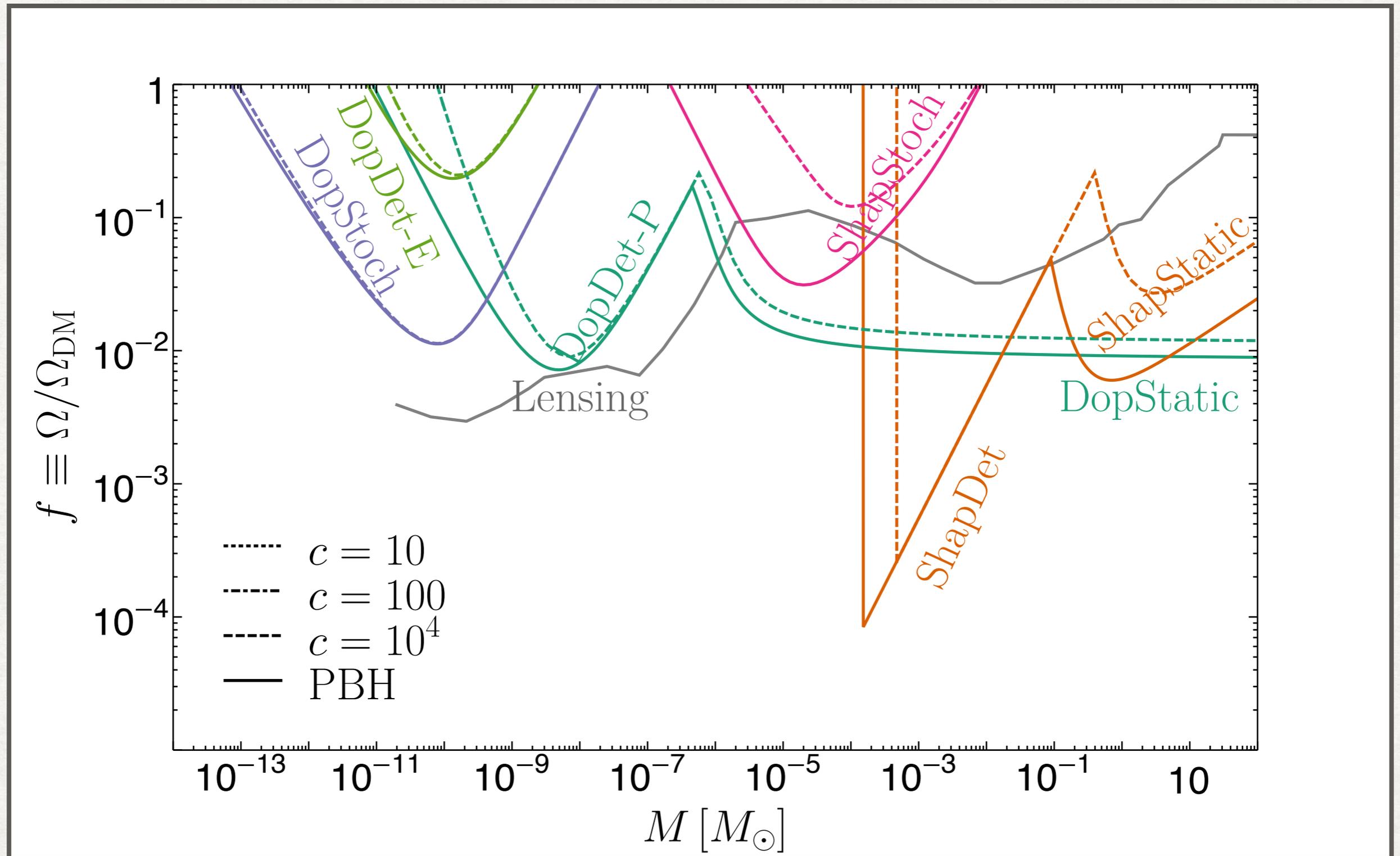


Limits iff red line intersects a probe radius

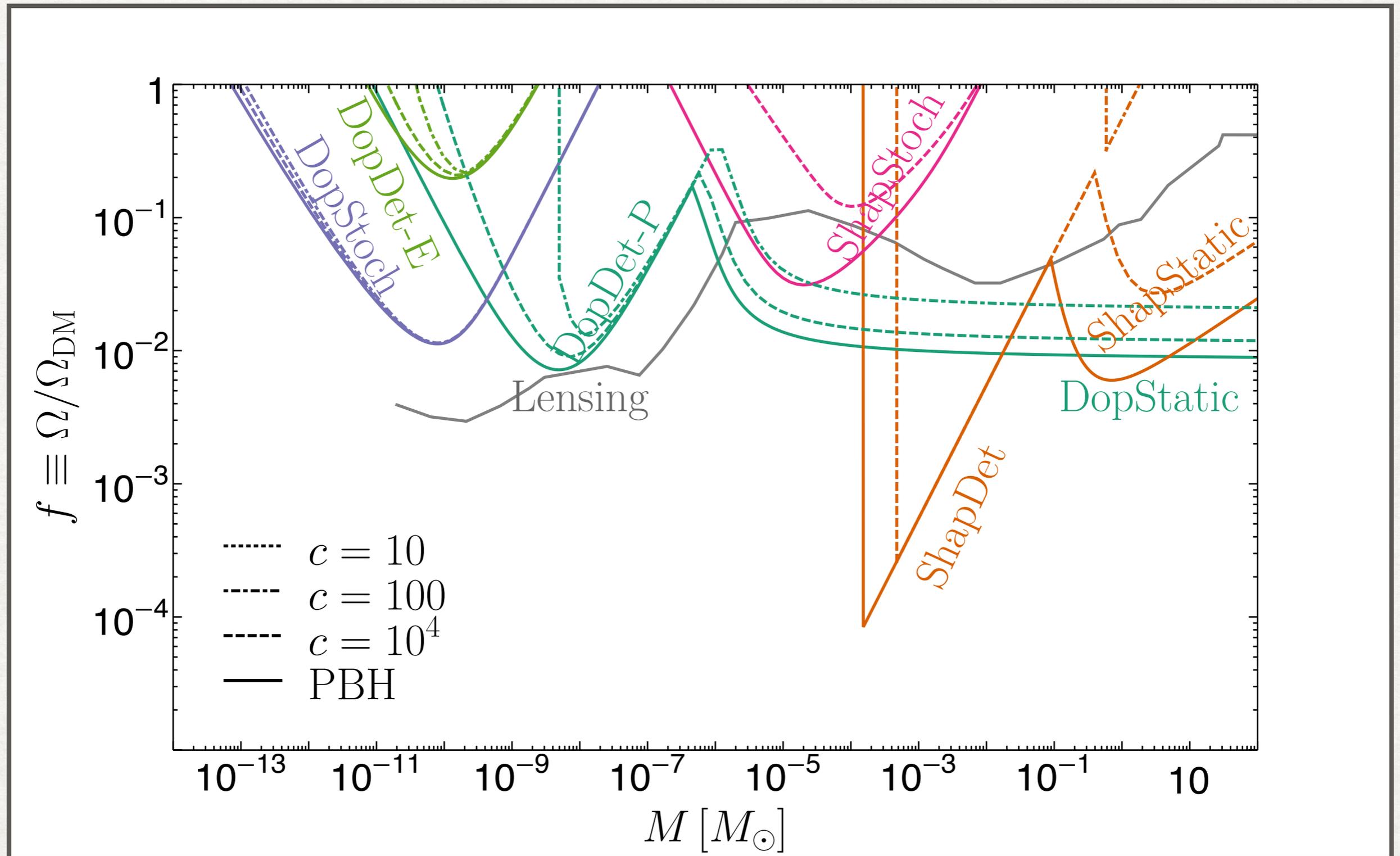
# LIMITS FOR DIFFUSE OBJECTS



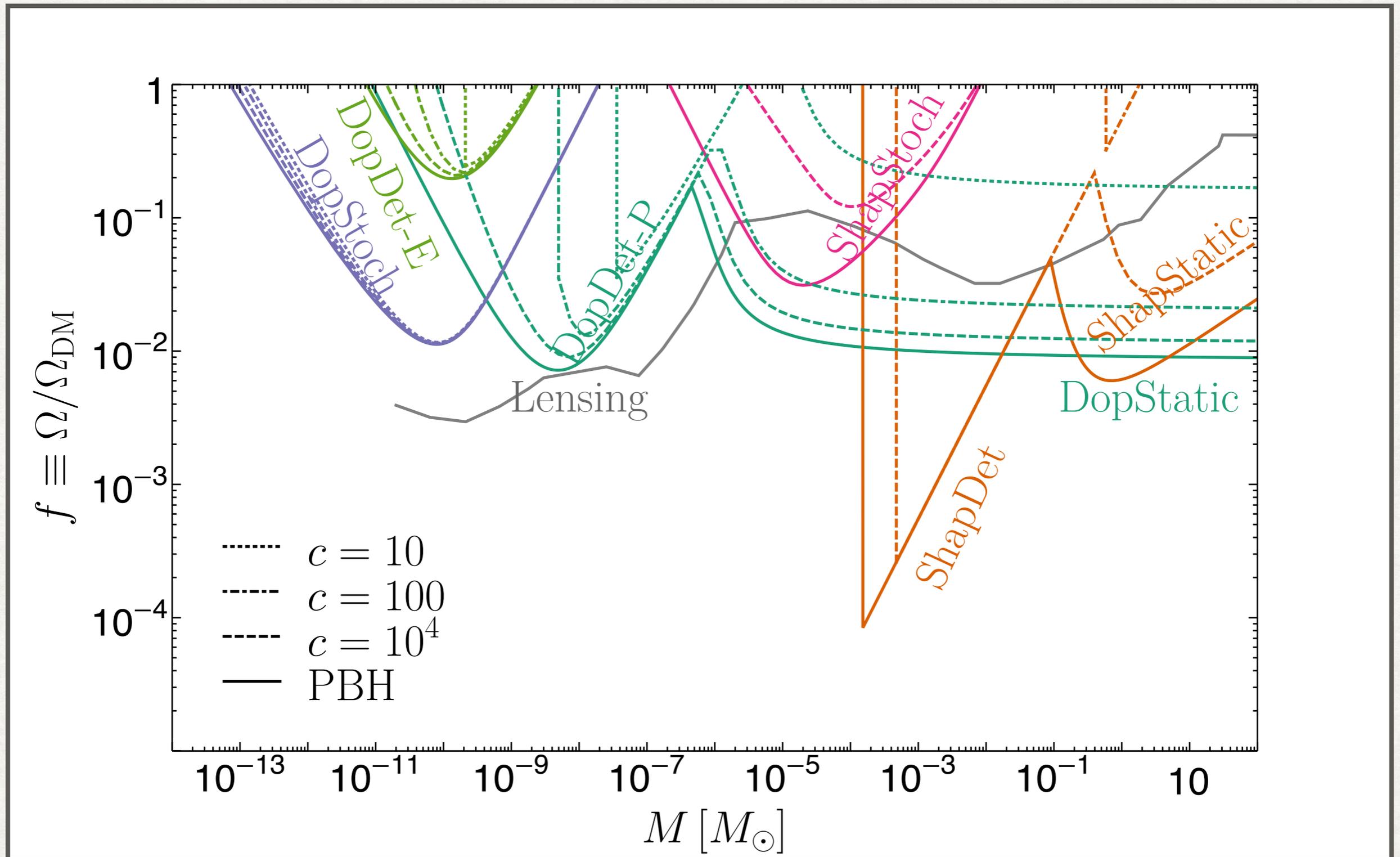
# LIMITS FOR DIFFUSE OBJECTS



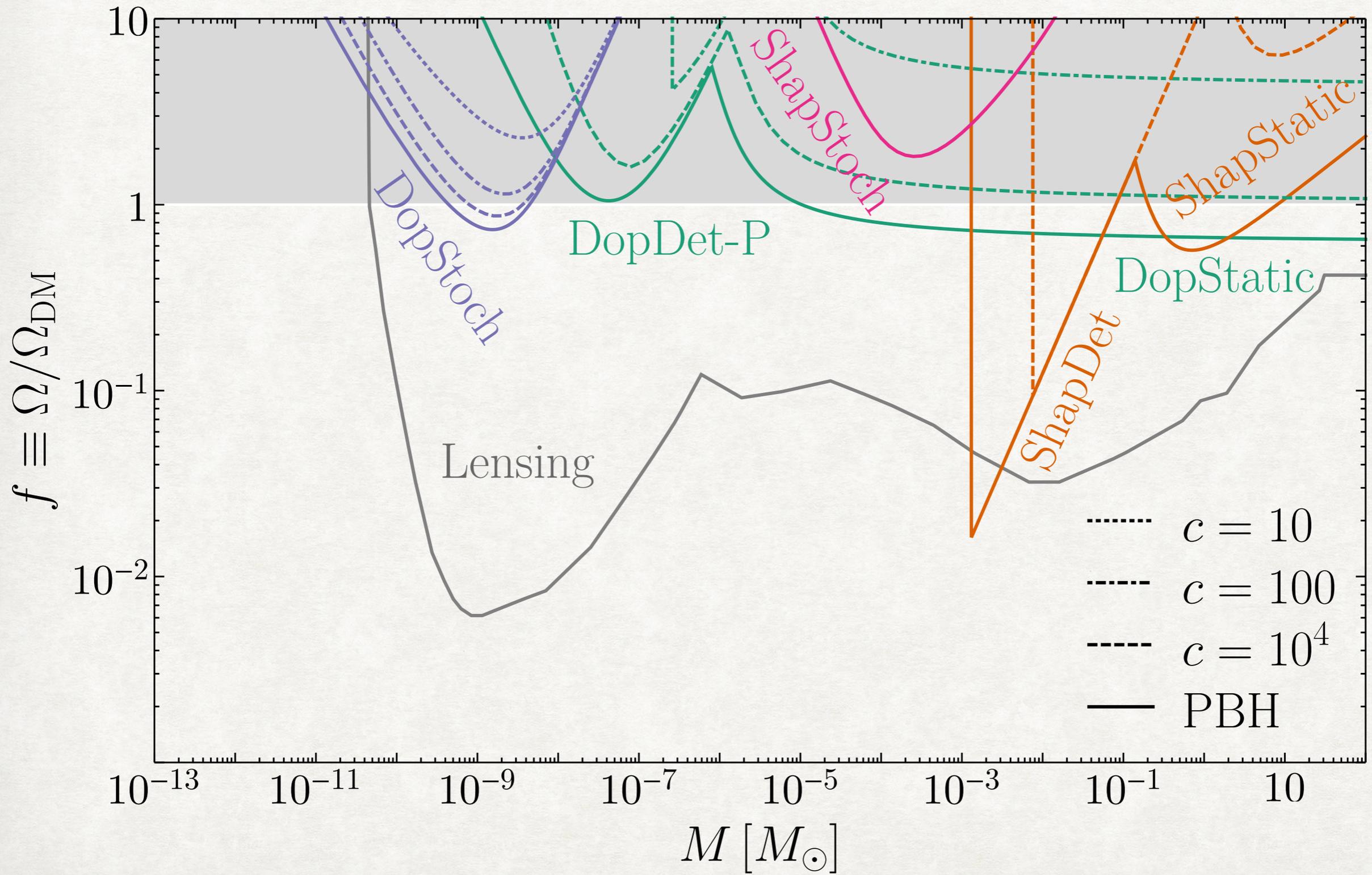
# LIMITS FOR DIFFUSE OBJECTS



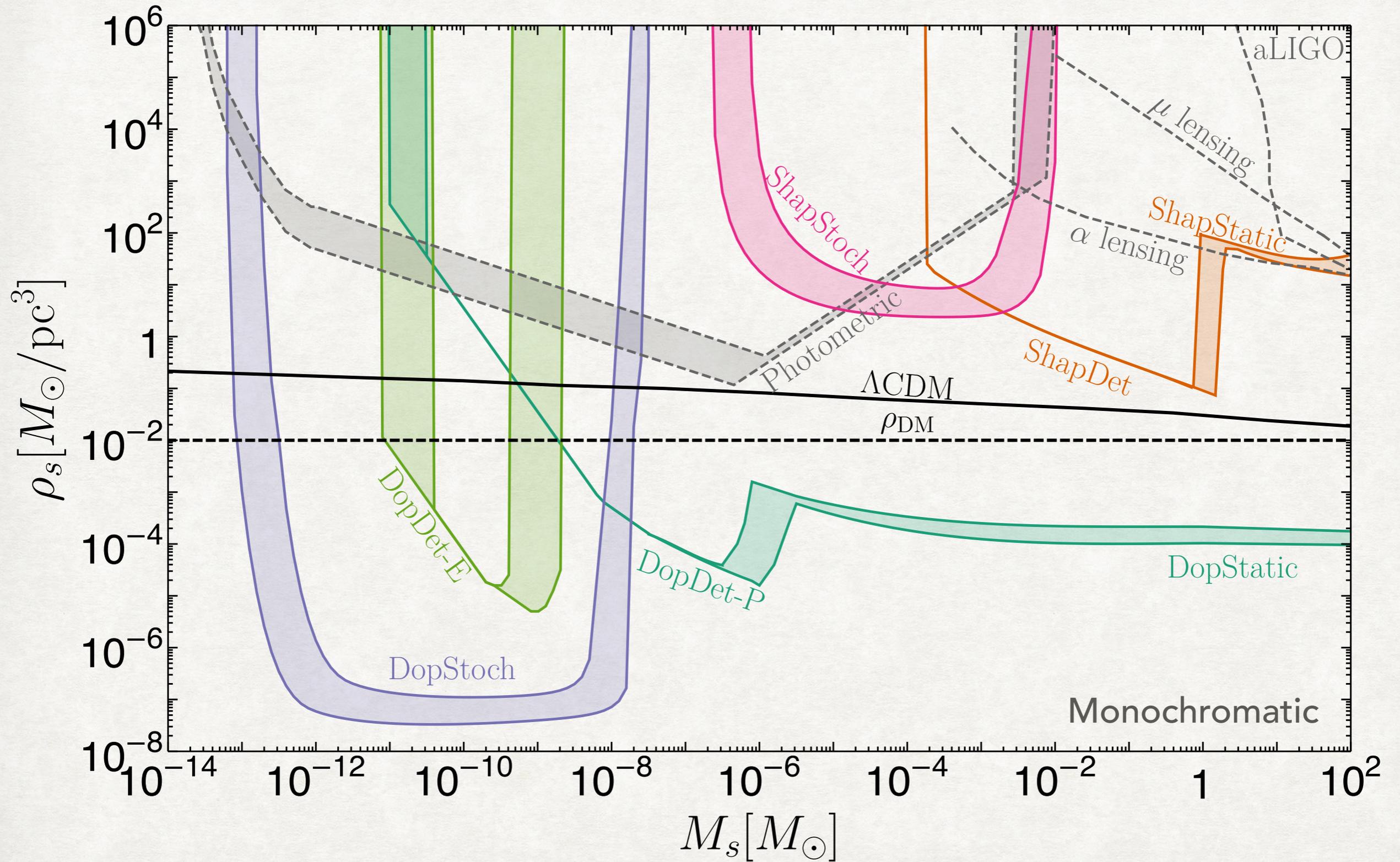
# LIMITS FOR DIFFUSE OBJECTS



# SKA



# TIDALLY STRIPPED CORES - OPTIMISTIC



Error bands correspond to  $f=1$  and  $f=0.3$

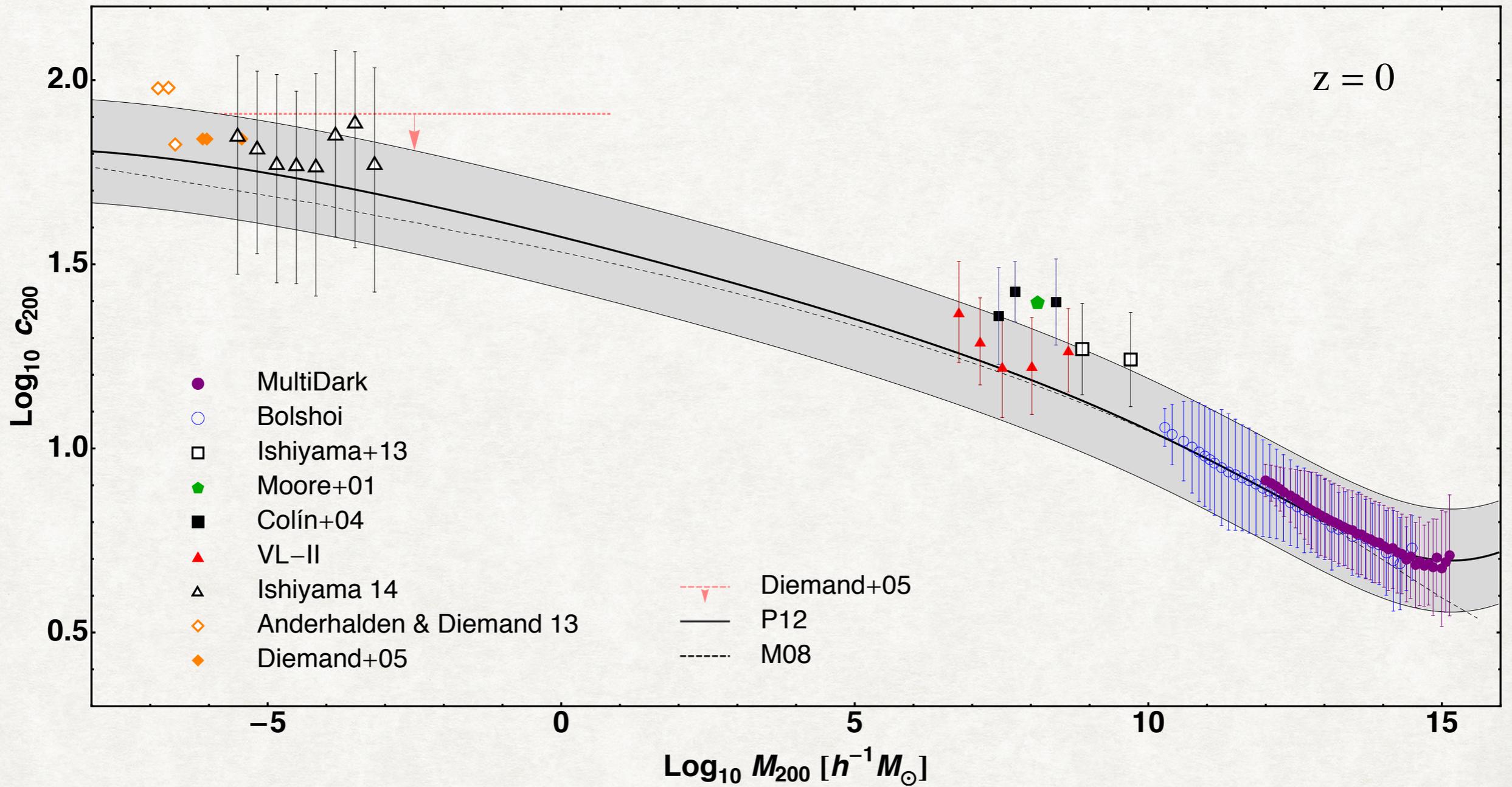
# EXTENDED HALO MASS FUNCTION

- Assume typical scale-free Halo mass function from Press-Schechter.
- $dn/dM \sim M^{-2}$
- Abrupt cutoffs:  $M_{\min}$ , and  $M_{\max}$
- Equal amount of DM in every decade of masses,
- Even large  $M_{\max}/M_{\min}$  can be probed using sensitivity solely in a small subset window.

# LIMIT SETTING PARAMETERS

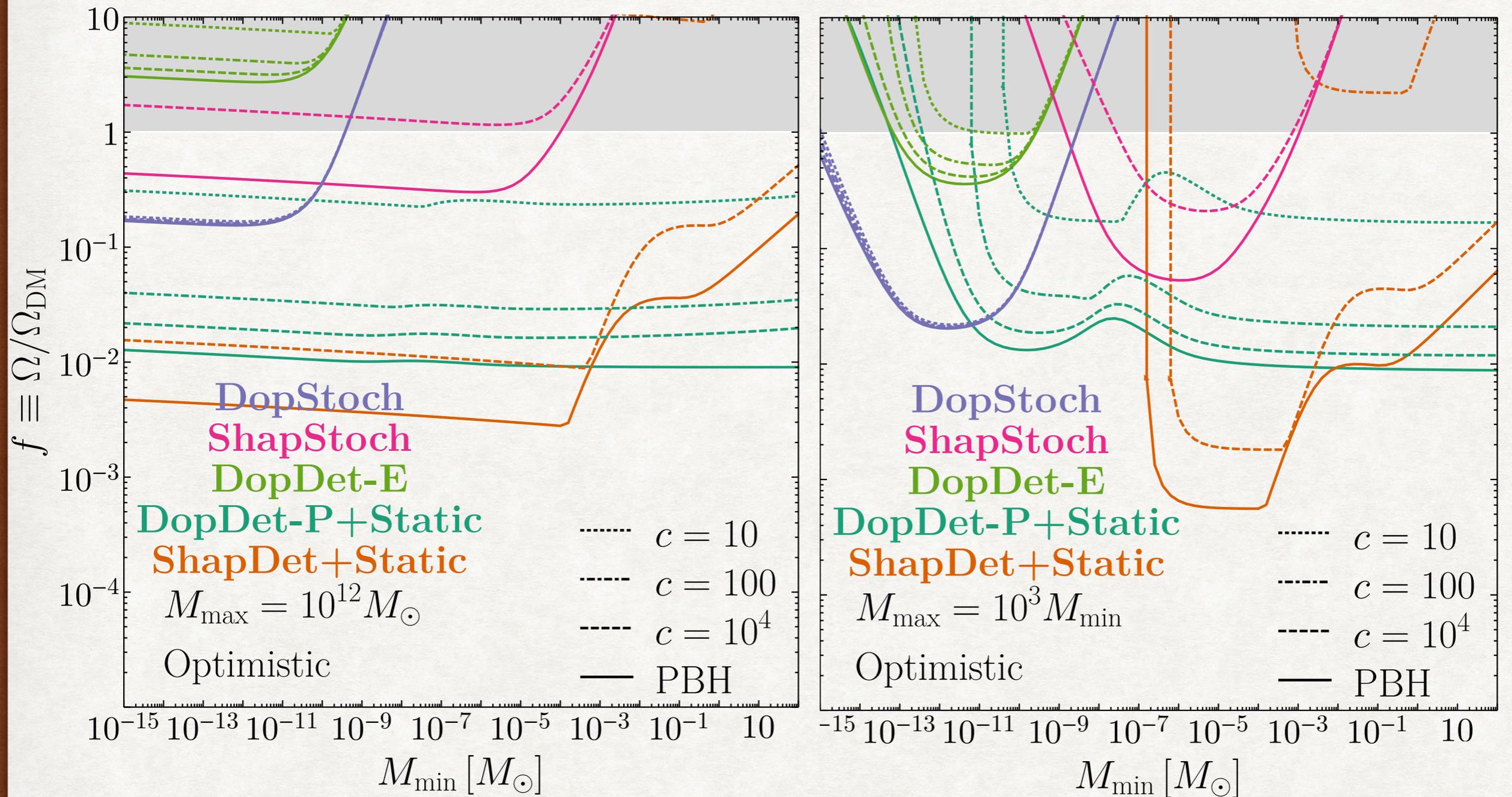
- Set Limits for
- $c$ , the concentration parameter
- $f$  the fraction of dark matter that has not disrupted
- Ignoring tidal disruption and sweeping it into  $c$  and  $f$

# GOAL: $C=100$



M usually cut off at  $10^{-6}$  because WIMPs wash out small-scale structure...

# EXTENDED HMF



# OUTLOOK

- MSPs across the GC?
- in DM rich environments?
- Extra galactic MSPs?
- Non-gravitational long range forces?
- Better understanding of subhalos today given an initial Power Spectrum
- Limits on sub halos today into limits on primordial power spectrum?
- Understanding better the map between substructure or the lack thereof today and particle physics models.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Pulsar timing can probe structure at a wide range of small scales.
- Doppler and Shapiro delays, especially in the dynamic regime, can provide a compelling discovery signal for DM subhalos.
- Probing CDM subhalos could be viable.

**BACKUP**

# BOUNDS FROM DYNAMIC SIGNALS (DOPPLER)

- For Doppler

$$\text{SNR}_D = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \frac{GMT^{\frac{3}{2}}}{ct_{\text{rms}}v^2\sqrt{\Delta t}\tau}$$

$$\tau_{\text{min}} \propto \sqrt{\frac{M}{f}}$$

- Requiring the closest approaching PBH to have  $\text{SNR} > 4$ .
- $f$  scales as  $1/M$

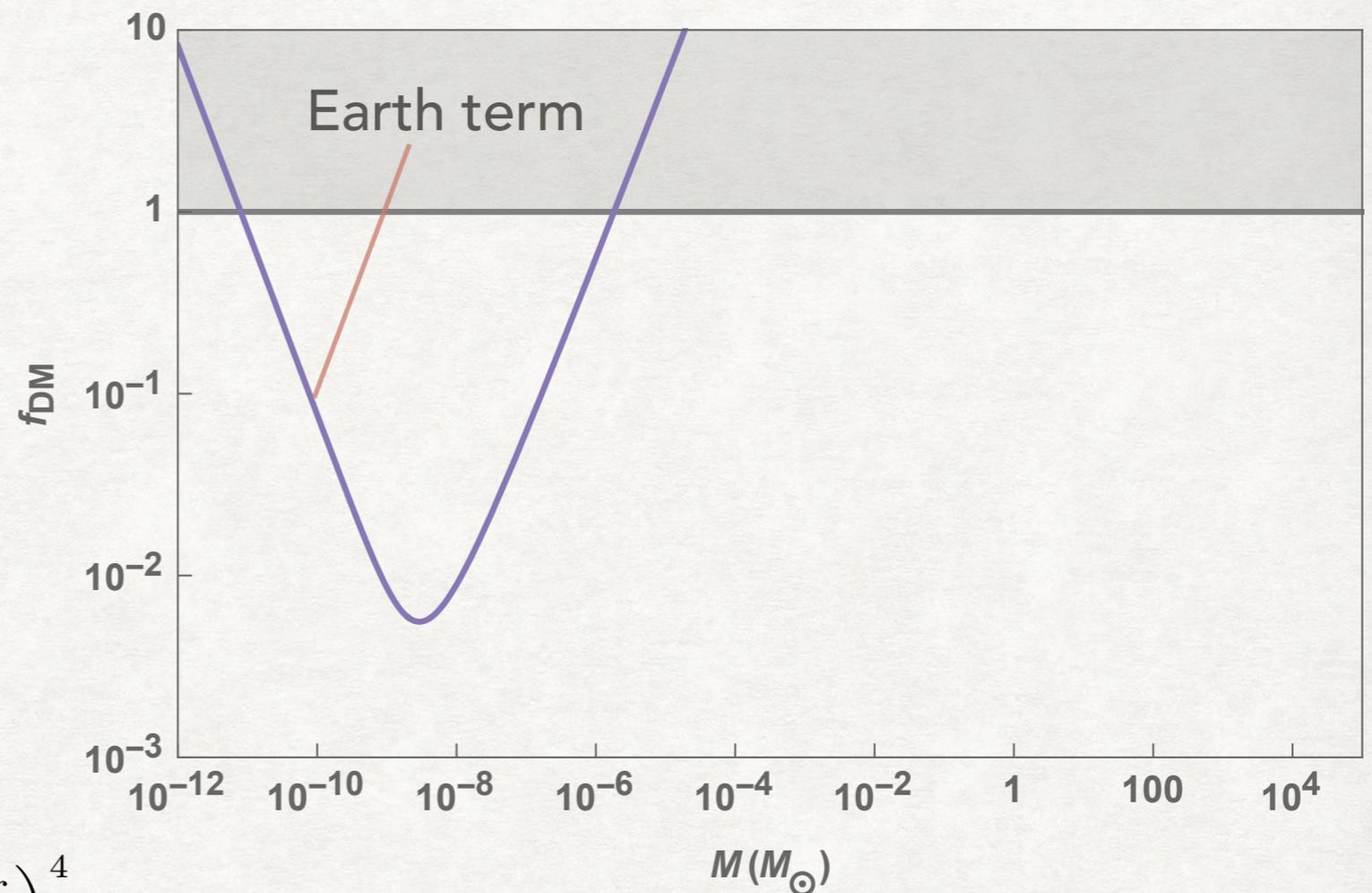
$$f_{D, \text{dyn}}^L \lesssim 0.01 \left( \frac{10^{-9} M_{\odot}}{M} \right) \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^4$$

Earth term scales the same way

- At some Mass  $M$ , even the nearest PBH starts failing dynamic constraint.
- This condition on  $f$  scales as  $M$

$$f_{D, \text{dyn}}^R \lesssim 3 \left( \frac{M}{10^{-7} M_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^3$$

Earth term has  $N_p=1$



# STATIC SIGNAL SENSITIVITY

Doppler

$$\frac{\ddot{\nu}}{\nu} \simeq \frac{2GMv}{r_{\min}^3} \sim 3 \times 10^{-32} \left( \frac{N_P f}{200} \right) \text{ Hz}^2$$

Shapiro

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\ddot{\nu}}{\nu} &\simeq \frac{16GMv^3}{r_{\times, \min}^3} \\ &\sim 8 \times 10^{-33} \left( \frac{N_P f}{200} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \left( \frac{M_{\odot}}{M} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{d}{\text{kpc}} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \text{ Hz}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Uncertainty in second derivative purely from rms fluctuations

$$\sigma_{\ddot{\nu}/\nu} = 6 \sqrt{\frac{2800 \Delta t}{T}} \frac{t_{\text{RMS}}}{T^3}$$

$$f_{\text{D, stat}} \lesssim 0.4 \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^{\frac{7}{2}}$$

$$f_{\text{S, stat}} \lesssim \left( \frac{200}{N_P} \right) \left( \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left( \frac{20 \text{ yr}}{T} \right)^{\frac{7}{3}} \left( \frac{\text{kpc}}{d} \right)$$

Notice no M dependence here