



Forward modelling pipeline of tSZ maps

Licong Xu, Íñigo Zubeldia, James Alvey, Boris Bolliet, and Anthony Challinor

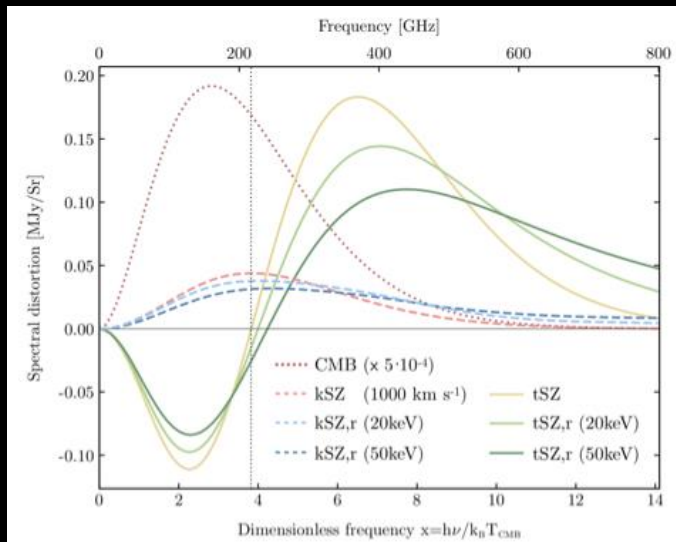
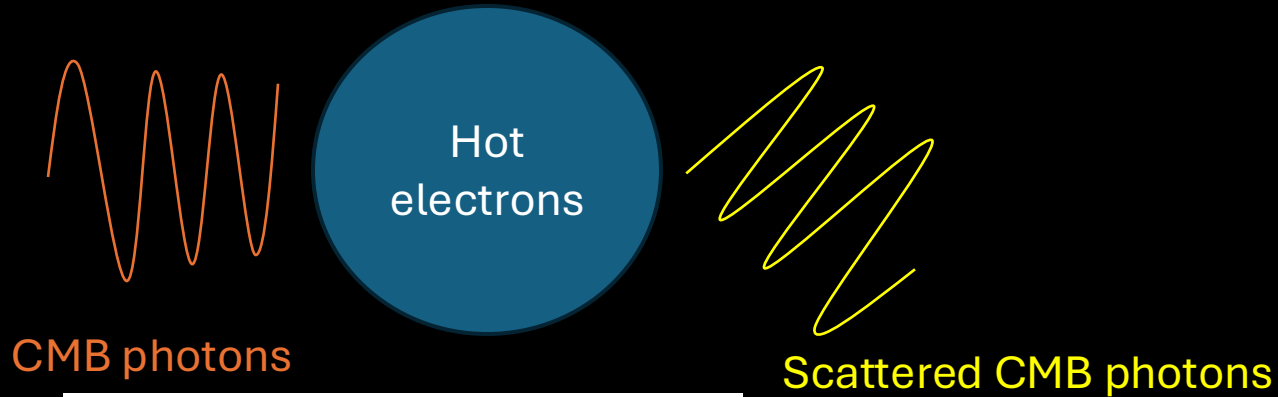
Cambridge-LMU meeting, Sep. 18, 2025

The thermal Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect

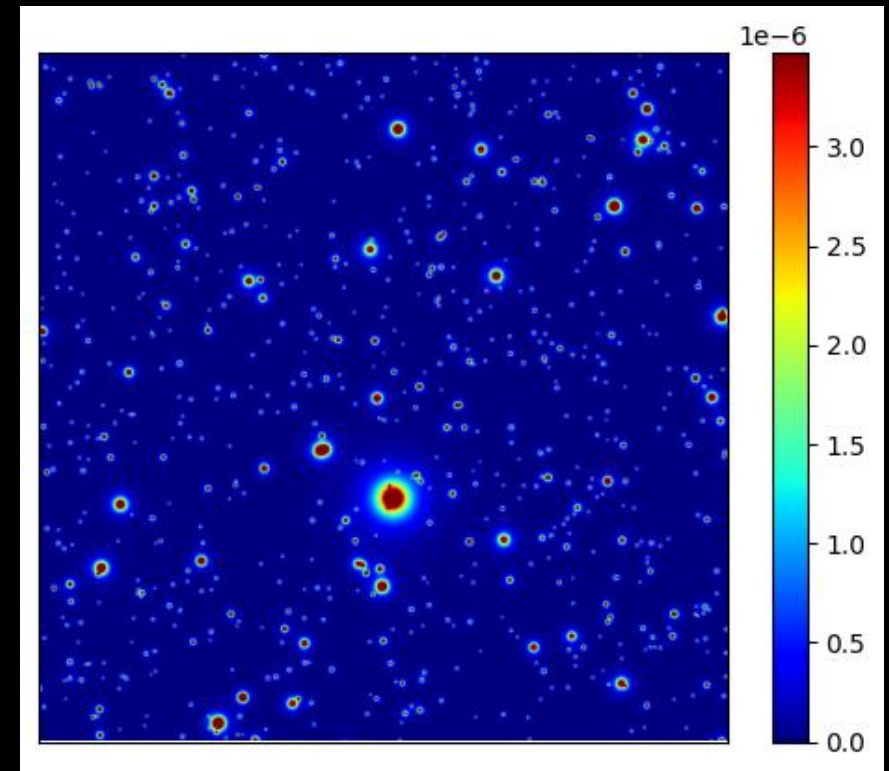
$$\frac{\Delta T_{CMB}}{T_{CMB}} = g(\nu) y$$

$$y(M, z, \theta) = \frac{\sigma}{m_e c^2} P_e \left(\sqrt{l^2 + d_A^2 \theta^2} \right) dl$$

Spectral distortion of the CMB sensitive to integrated pressure of profiles of clusters along line of sight



“Compton-y maps”



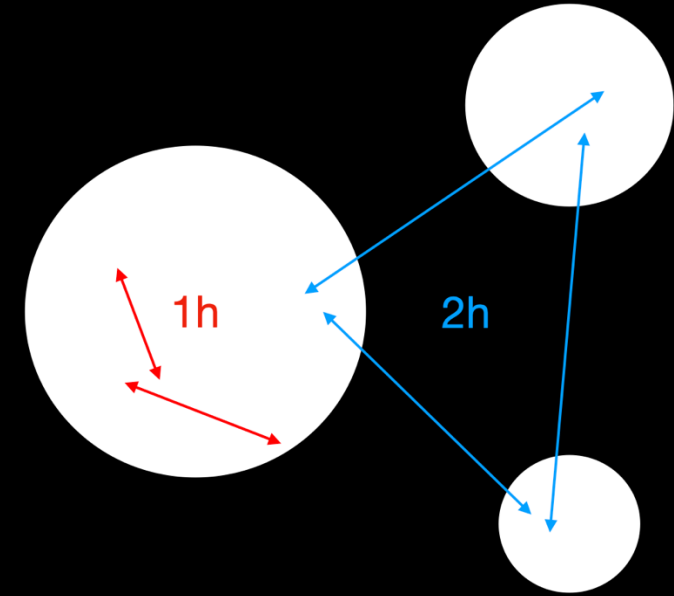
The tSZ power spectrum

Halo Model Formalism (Cooray & Sheth, 2002)

$$C_{\ell}^{yy} = C_{\ell}^{yy,1h} + C_{\ell}^{yy,2h}$$

“within each halo” “across halos”

$$C_{\ell}^{yy,1h} = \int_0^{z_{max}} dz \frac{dV}{dz} \int_{M_{min}}^{M_{max}} dM \underbrace{\frac{dN}{dM dV}}_{\text{HMF}} \underbrace{|y_{\ell}(M, z)|^2}_{\text{FT of halo pressure profile}}$$



“Sum of (FT of) pressure profile of all the halos in the catalogue, averaged over ensemble halo population”

$C_{\ell}^{yy,2h}$: correlations between spatial positions of halos (clustering)

Note:

- the 2h halo term is not significant if we include massive clusters
- but **might be** non-negligible if we remove massive clusters
- We neglect 2h term in our current analysis

The tSZ power spectrum

$$C_{\ell}^{yy,1h} = \int_0^{z_{max}} dz \frac{dV}{dz} \int_{M_{min}}^{M_{max}} dM \frac{dN}{dM dV} |y_{\ell}(M, z)|^2$$

Cosmology (Ω_m, σ_8) at large scale

Gas physics at small scale

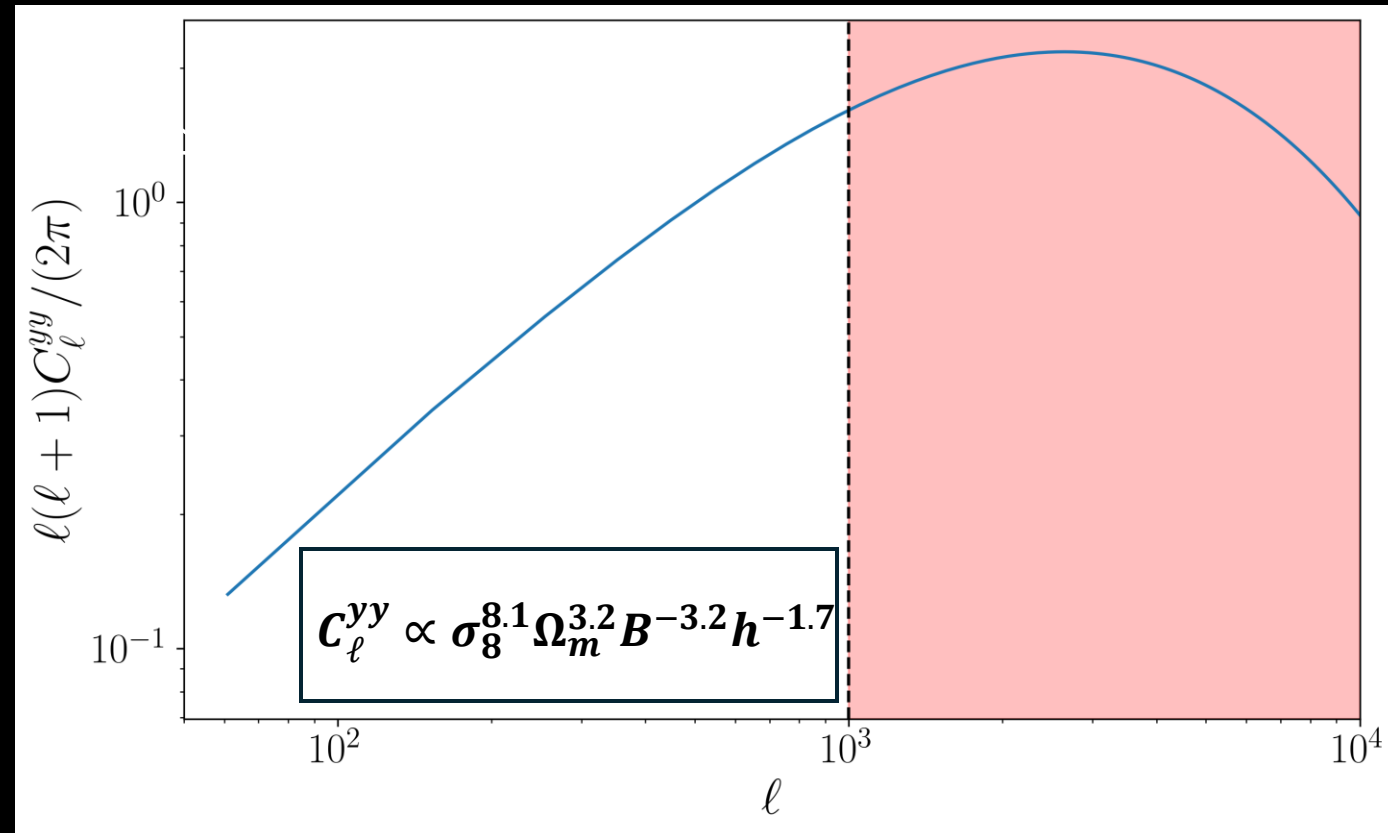
Assume Generalized NFW pressure profile:

$$P_e(x) = C \times P_0 (c_{500} x)^{-\gamma} [1 + (c_{500} x)^{\alpha}]^{(\gamma-\beta)/\alpha}$$

$x = r/r_{500}$

Use Arnault 2010 parameters:

$\{\gamma, \alpha, \beta, P_0, c_{500}\}$ are constants



Likelihood analysis

- Clusters follow **Poisson** Statistics
- But people assume a **Gaussian** likelihood

$$\chi^2 = (\hat{\mathbf{C}} - \mathbf{C})^T \mathbf{M}^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{C}} - \mathbf{C})$$

$$C_{\ell}^{yy,tot} = \underbrace{C_{\ell}^{tSZ,1h}}_{\text{Signal}} + \underbrace{A_{CIB}C_{\ell}^{CIB} + A_{IR}C_{\ell}^{IR} + A_{RS}C_{\ell}^{RS} + A_{CN}C_{\ell}^{CN}}_{\text{FG Residual}}$$

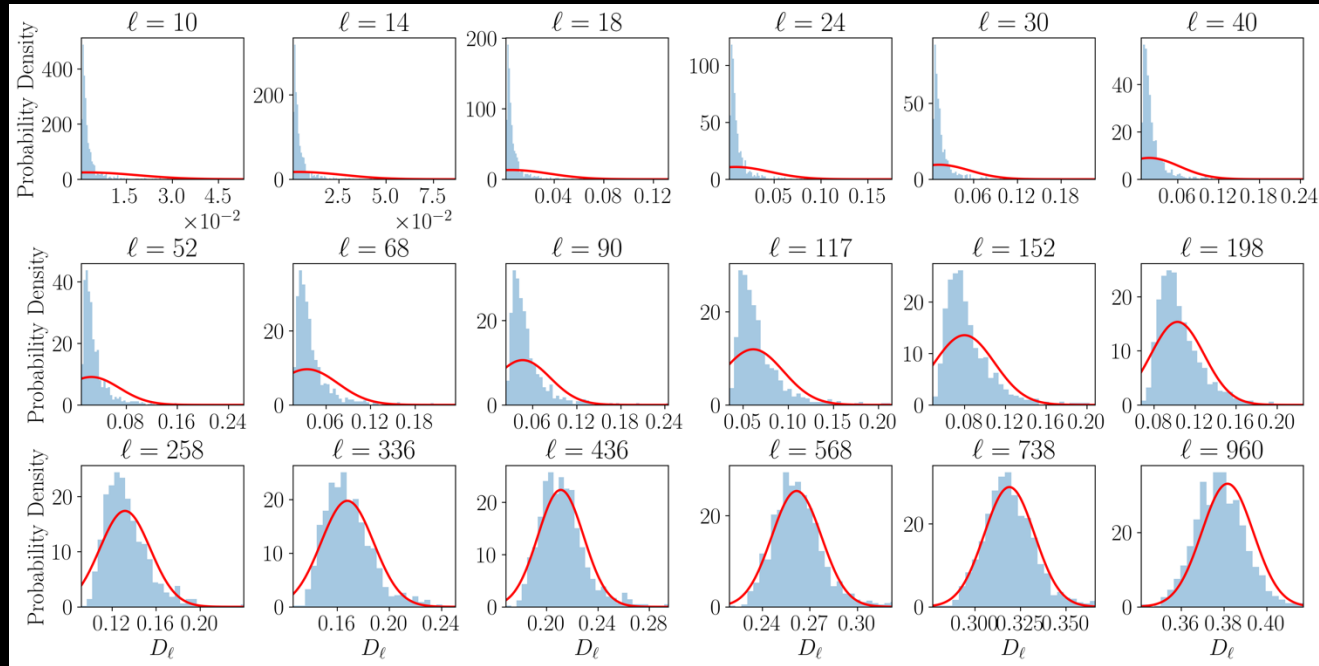
- Include the **trispectrum** term in the covariance matrix

$$T_{\ell\ell'} = \int_0^{z_{max}} dz \frac{dV}{dz d\Omega} \int_{M_{min}}^{M_{max}} dM \frac{dn(M, z)}{dM} |y_{\ell}(M, z)|^2 |y_{\ell'}(M, z)|^2 \longrightarrow \text{“Covariance of the power spectrum”}$$

- Sensitive to four posterior-driven parameters:
 - $F = \sigma_8 \left(\frac{\Omega_m}{B} \right)^{0.40} h^{-0.21}, A_{CIB}, A_{IR}, A_{RS}$

Why we do SBI?

- tSZ is non-Gaussian and analytical likelihood difficult to write, SBI does not need likelihood



- No need to model covariance if you have a good forward model

SBI – A brief introduction

SBI is

- Produce lots of simulations with parameter-data pairs: $\{\theta_i, d_i\}$
 - Density estimation task, three ways: $p(\theta|d)$, $p(d|\theta)$, $p(\theta, d)$
- Comment: this is the same as Generative AI*

Many ways to do that:

- Simply estimate the KDE
- Neural networks

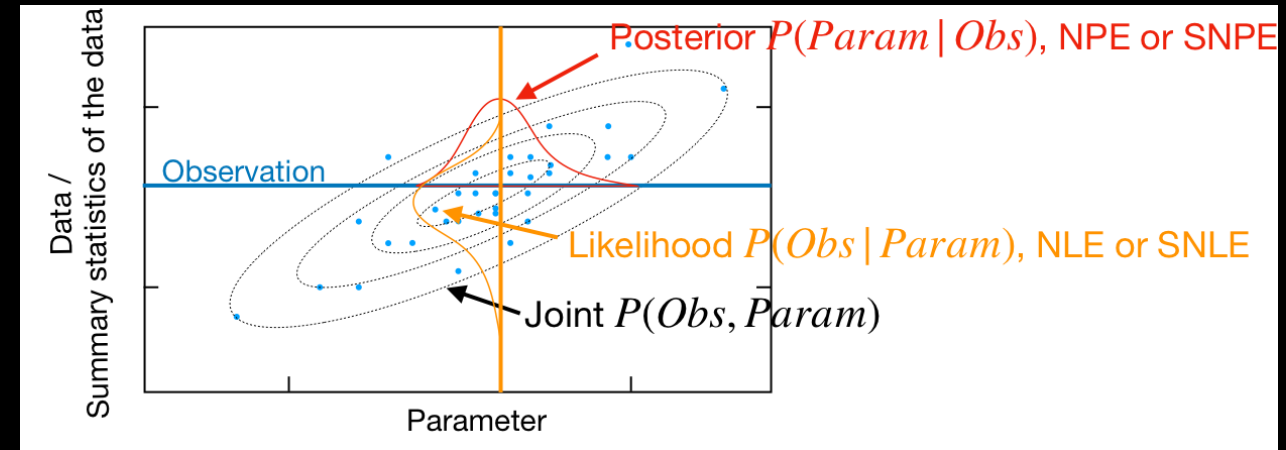
Examples of neural networks:

- Simple Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM):

$$p(d|\theta) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k(\theta; w) N[(d|\mu_k(\theta; w), \Sigma_k(\theta, w)]$$

- Autoregressive models:

$$p(d|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(d_i|d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{i-1}; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(d_i|d_{<i}; \theta) \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Masked Autoencoder Density Estimation (MADE)} \\ \text{Masked Autoregressive Flow (MAF)} \end{array}$$



SBI – NPE & NLE

Given data x , compress the data into some summary statistics t

Neural Posterior Estimation (NPE)

- Learn the **posterior** $p(\theta|t)$
- So the learned posterior should be **similar to true posterior** $p^*(\theta|t)$
- So weights w of Neural Net should be tuned to minimize

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(x)}[\text{KL}((p^*(\theta|t)||p(\theta|t;w)))]$$

Avg. over data

Similarity

$$Loss = -\frac{1}{N_{samples}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{samples}} \ln p(\theta_i|t_i, w)$$

Neural Likelihood Estimation (NLE)

- Learn the **likelihood** $p(t|\theta)$
- So the learned likelihood should be **similar to true likelihood** $p^*(t|\theta)$
- So weights w of Neural Net should be tuned to minimize

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta)}[\text{KL}((p^*(t|\theta)||p(t|\theta;w)))]$$

Avg. over params

Similarity

$$Loss = -\frac{1}{N_{samples}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{samples}} \ln p(t_i|\theta_i, w)$$

SBI – Likelihood based

~~Given data \mathbf{x}~~ , compress the data into some summary statistics \mathbf{t}

$$\chi^2 = (\hat{\mathbf{c}} - \mathbf{c})^T \mathbf{M}^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{c}} - \mathbf{c}) \longrightarrow \text{“Data are Gaussian with Covariance } \mathbf{M}\text{”}$$

$$C_\ell^{yy} = C_\ell^{yy, \text{signal}} + N_\ell^{yy}$$

Theoretical tSZ PS given
cosmo params

$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^T$ (Cholesky decomposition)
 $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{v}$ (transform from standard Gaussian)

Likelihood benchmark:

- Cobaya with Metropolis-Hastings algorithm
- $z_{\min} = 0.005, z_{\max} = 3.0$
- $M_{\min} = 10^{10} M_\odot h^{-1}, M_{\max} = 3.5 \times 10^{15} M_\odot h^{-1}$

SBI details:

- 9000 parameter-data pairs
- Train:Validation split = 80:20
- Averaging over ensemble of 10 networks: reduce intrinsic bias of NN

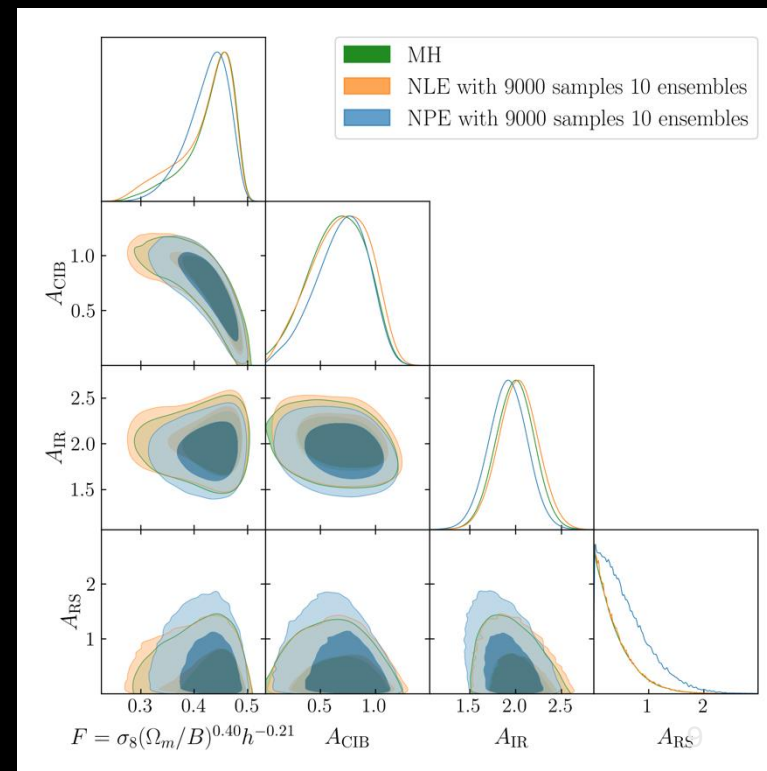
Conclusion:

- NLE: all within 0.2σ
- NPE: worst within 0.33σ (A_{IR})

tszpower: Cosmological Parameter Inference with tSZ Power Spectrum

Python 3.8+ JAX License Apache 2.0

A repository for computing the thermal Sunyaev-Zel'dovich (tSZ) power spectrum and performing cosmological parameter inference using both Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) and Simulation-Based Inference (SBI). Built with JAX for accelerated computation and automatic differentiation.



SBI – Halo based

“ C_ℓ^{yy} non-Gaussian at low ℓ so Gaussian likelihood is not correct”

tSZ maps

Given data \mathbf{x} , compress the data into some summary statistics \mathbf{t}

1. Generating cluster catalogues

cosmocnc

cosmocnc is a Python package for evaluating the number count likelihood of galaxy cluster catalogues in a fast, flexible and accurate way. It is based on the use of Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) convolutions in order to evaluate some of the likelihood integrals. The code was introduced in [Zubeldia & Bolliet \(2024\)](#), where the likelihood formalism and implementation are described in detail. If you use the code, please cite the paper.

- Sample N clusters from the HMF
- Assign random sky coordinate (no clustering)
- For each cluster in the catalogue:
 - (z, M, lon, lat)

2. Painting clusters onto sky

XGPaint.jl

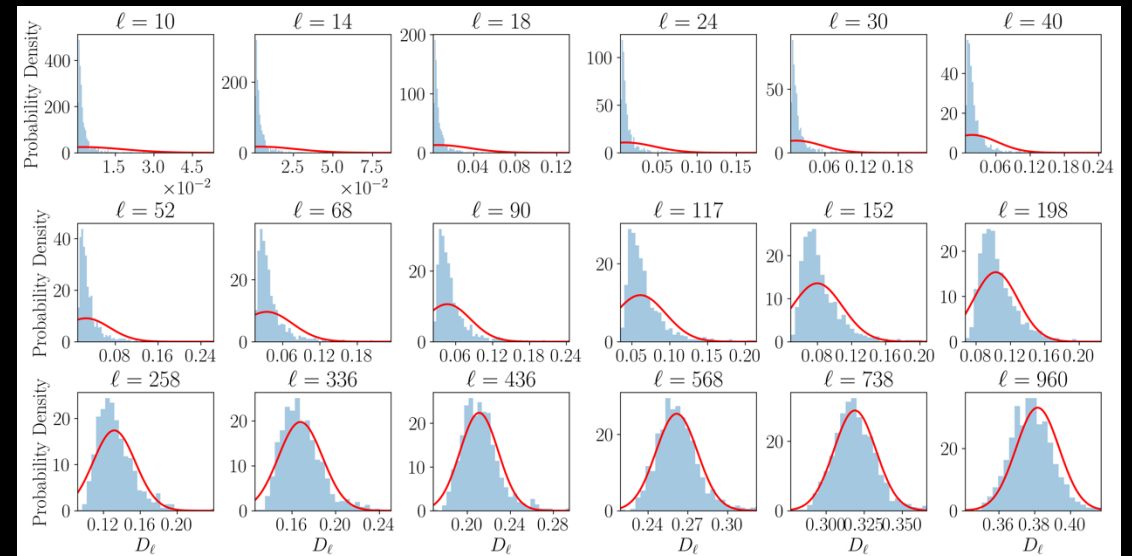
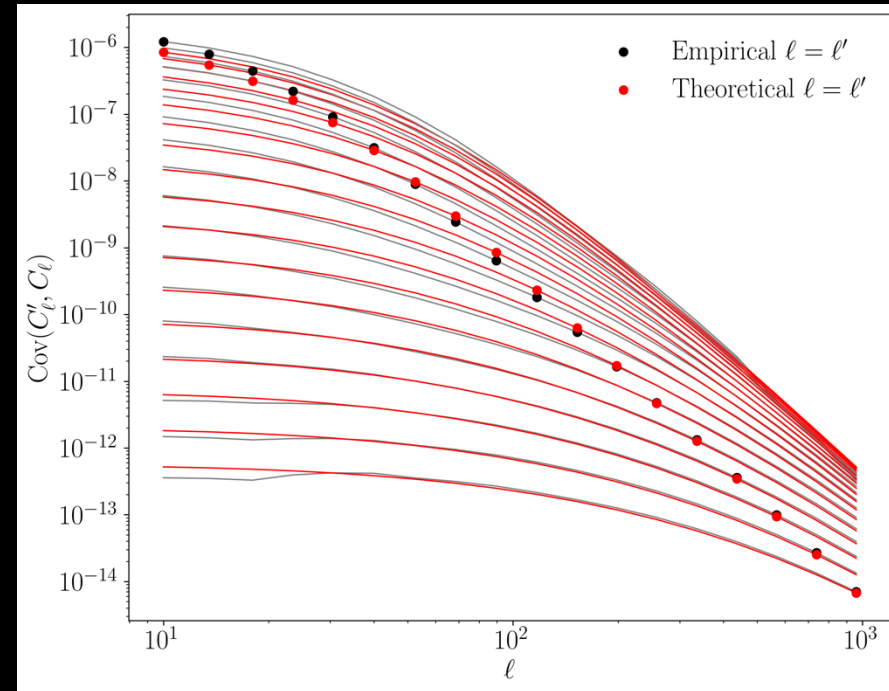
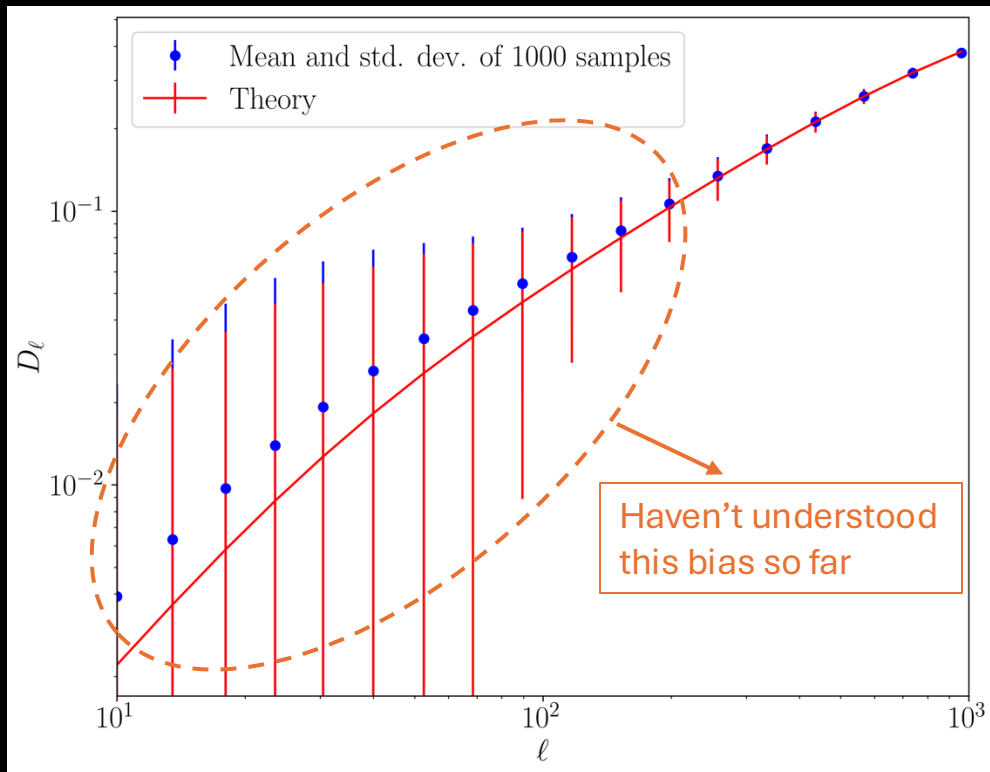
docs dev CI passing codecov 23%

XGPaint.jl paints maps of extragalactic foregrounds using halo catalogs. Please read the [documentation](#).

- Assign beam convolved (FWHM=10') pressure profile for each cluster
- Paint clusters by sky positions
- Healpix workspace with $N_{side} = 1024$

SBI – Halo based

- 1000 full sky maps, fixed cosmology
- $z_{min} = 0.005, z_{max} = 3.0$
- $M_{min} = 10^{14} M_{\odot} h^{-1}, M_{max} = 10^{16} M_{\odot} h^{-1}$



SBI – Halo based

Simulation details:

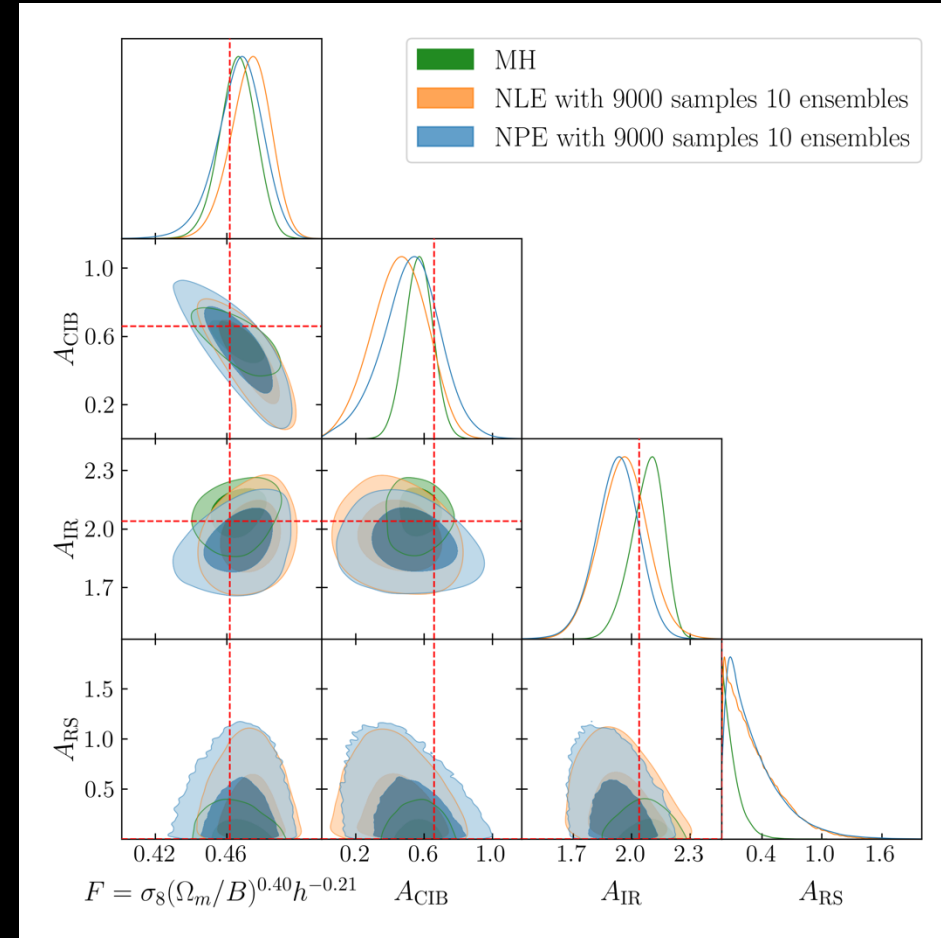
- Painting halos from halo model
- FG residuals painted as Gaussian random field (GRF) from template FG power spectrum
- No instrumental noise

SBI details:

- 9000 full-sky maps
- $z_{min} = 0.005, z_{max} = 3.0$
- $M_{min} = 10^{14} M_{\odot} h^{-1}, M_{max} = 10^{16} M_{\odot} h^{-1}$
 - C_{ℓ}^{yy} at low ℓ saturate if we decrease M_{min} further
 - Fewer clusters, so save computational time
- Take “true data” to be one realization of mock data

Conclusion:

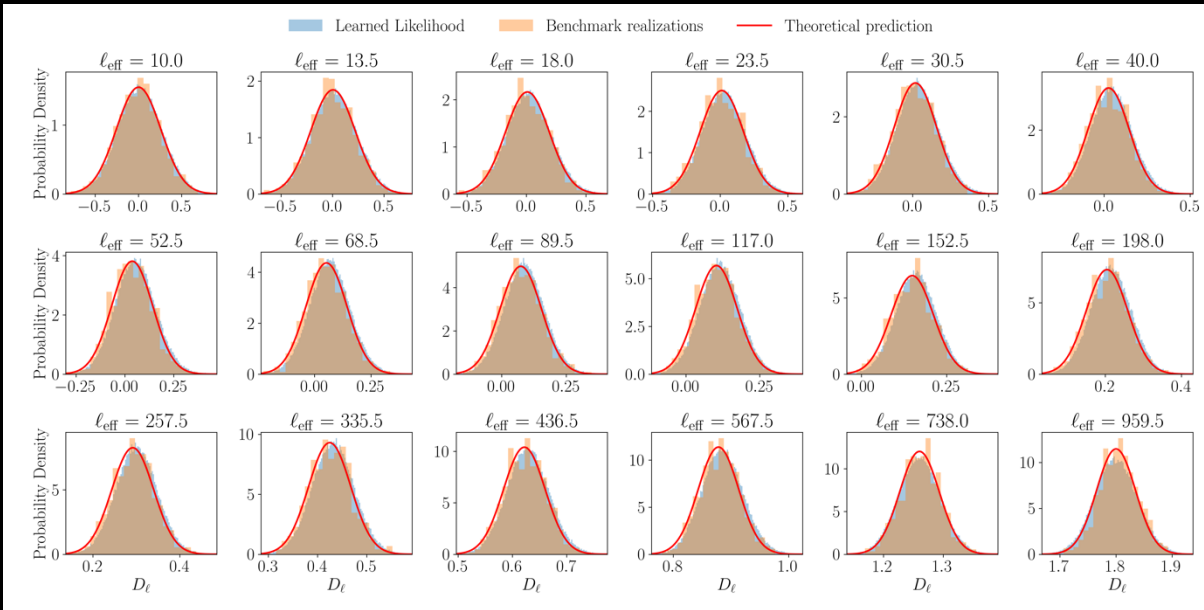
- SBI and likelihood agrees on F (cosmology)
- SBI predicts wider posteriors for foreground parameters → Haven't come up with an explanation yet



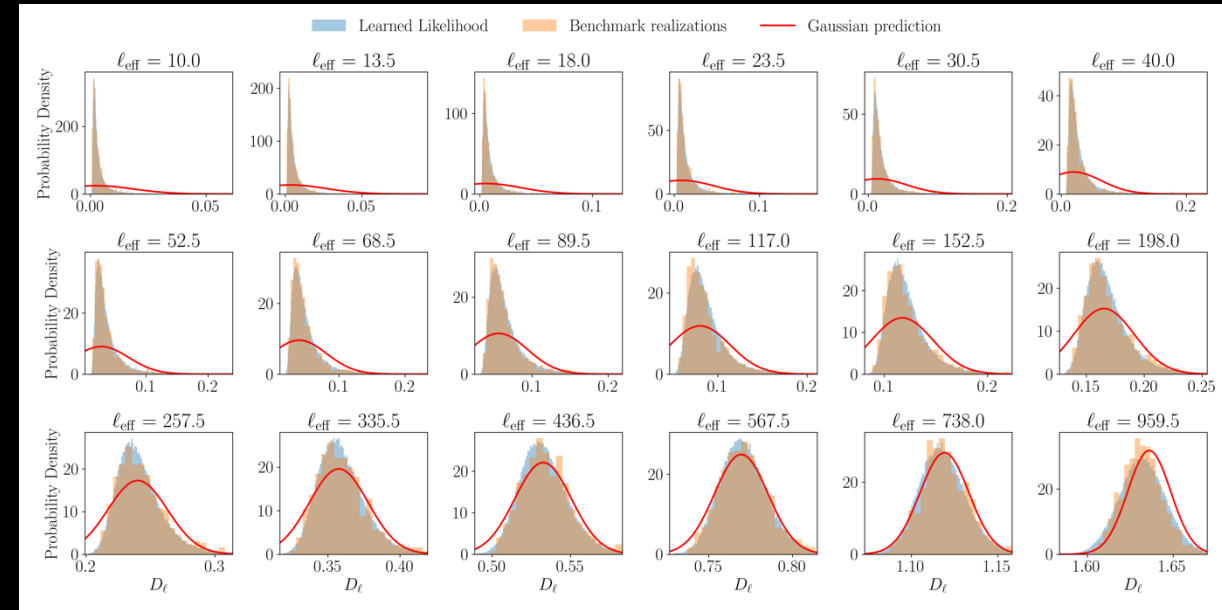
SBI – NLE Validation

- NLE learns the likelihood
- Can look at the learned likelihood at some input parameters (since SBI = generative AI)
- Meanwhile, we can generate many realizations of tSZ maps at those input parameters
- If SBI is learning correctly, these two should agree

1. Gaussian likelihood SBI



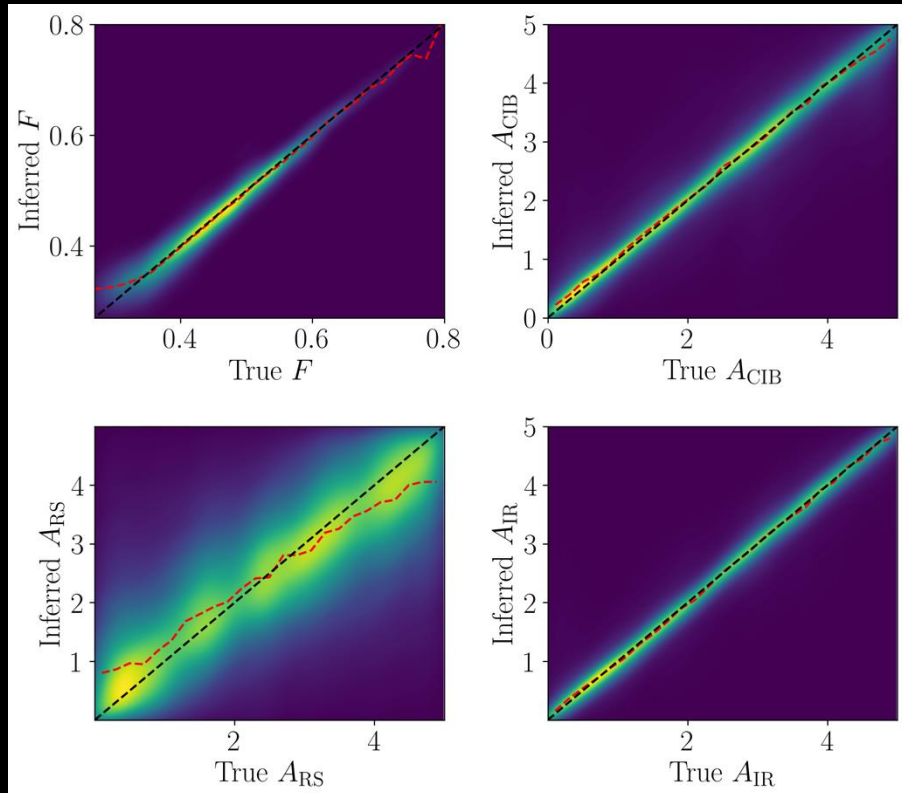
2. Halo based SBI from painting



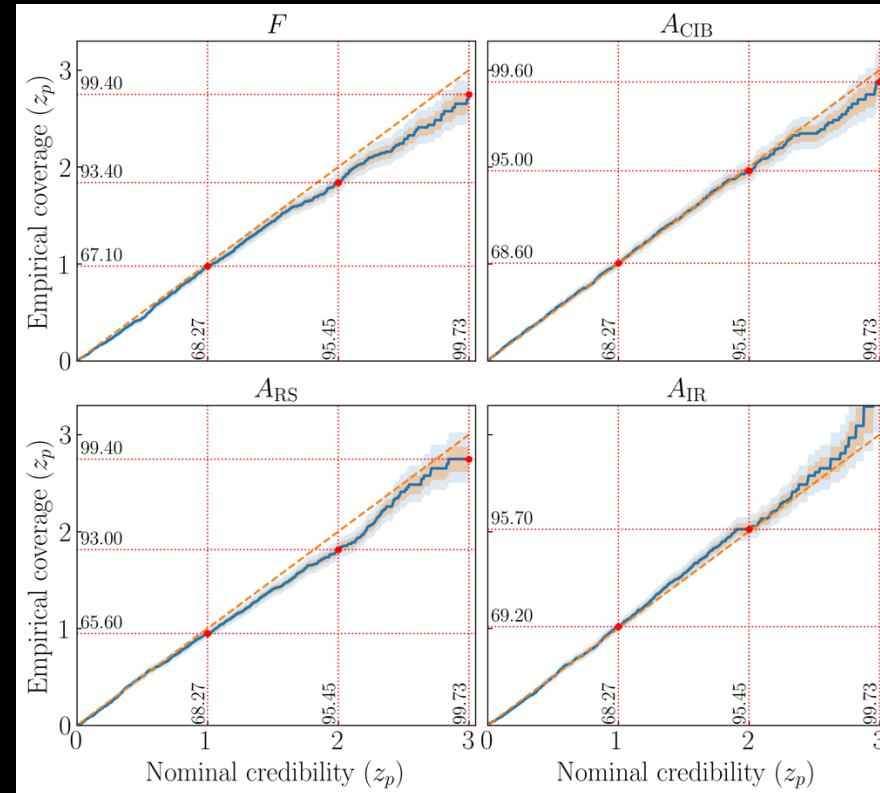
SBI – NPE Validation

- To test SBI is unbiased across parameter space of interest
- SBI is “amortized” (since SBI = generative AI), only need to train once
- Sampling posteriors at different mock observational data points is fast

Coverage plot



Probability-Probability (P-P) plot



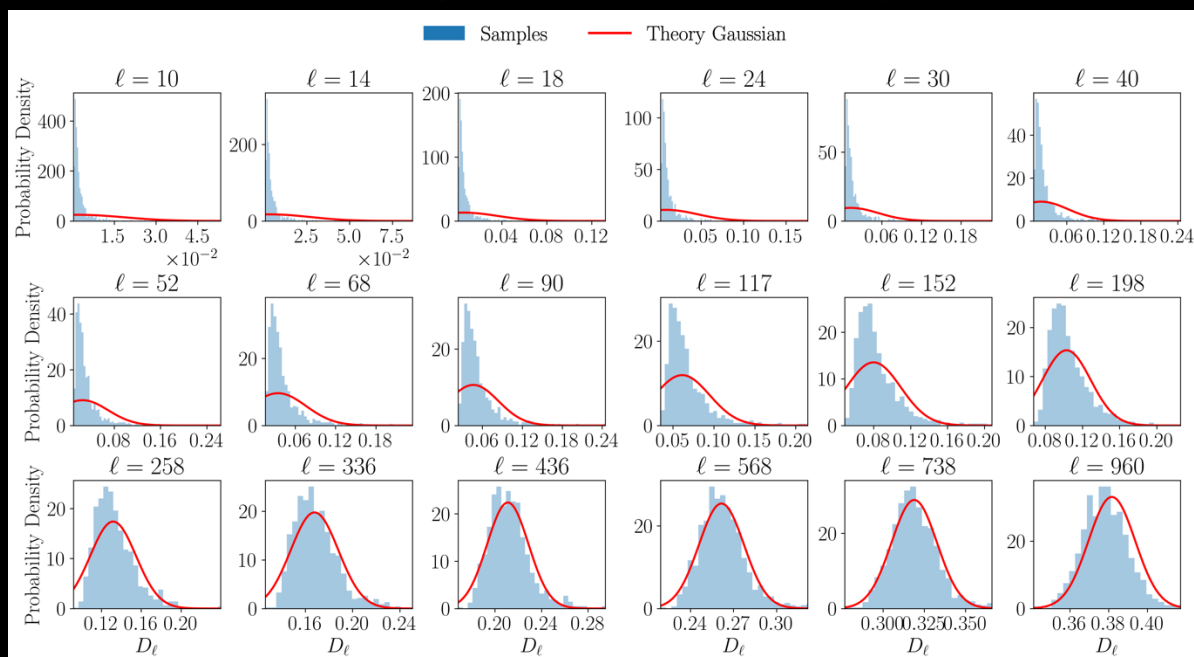
Is PS really the optimal thing to look at?

tSZ maps

Given data \mathbf{x} , compress the data into some summary statistics \mathbf{t}

$$z_{min} = 0.005, z_{max} = 3.0$$

$$M_{min} = 10^{14} M_{\odot} h^{-1}, M_{max} = 10^{16} M_{\odot} h^{-1}$$

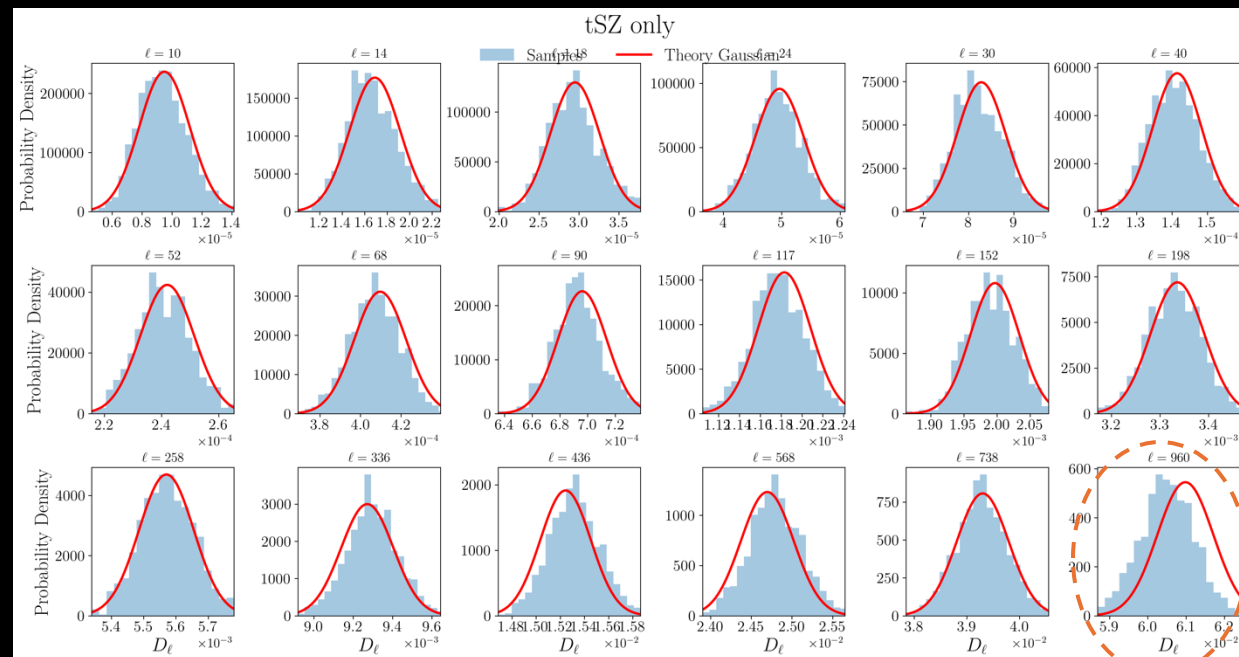


“Removing local clusters makes the low ℓ more Gaussian”

???

$$z_{min} = 0.5, z_{max} = 3.0$$

$$M_{min} = 10^{14} M_{\odot} h^{-1}, M_{max} = 10^{15} M_{\odot} h^{-1}$$



The masked part are resolved clusters!
→ “cluster number count”

To be fixed

Combine with cluster number count (coming soon ...)

tSZ maps

$\{C_\ell^{yy,masked}, N_{clusters}\}$

Given data \cancel{x} , compress the data into some summary statistics \cancel{t}

$N(M, z) \rightarrow N(q, z)$ Converting mass M to observables q (e.g., in tSZ, $q = SNR = \frac{y_0}{\sigma_{y_0}}$)

$$\frac{dN}{dqdz} \propto p(q, z) = \int dM \underbrace{p(M, z)}_{\text{HMF}} \underbrace{p(q|M, z)}_{\text{Scaling relations}}$$

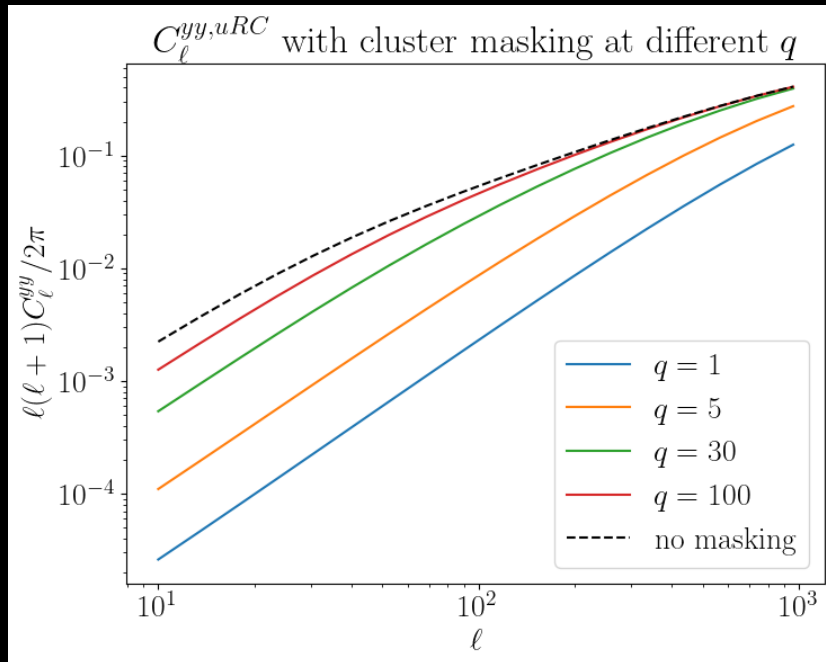
$$N \propto \int_{M,z} dM dz \underbrace{p(M, z) \int_{q_{min}}^{\infty} dq p(q|M, z)}_{\hat{\chi}, \text{ completeness}}$$

Combine with cluster number count (coming soon ...)

tSZ maps

Given data \cancel{x} , compress the data into some summary statistics \cancel{t} $\{C_\ell^{yy,masked}, N_{clusters}\}$

$$C_\ell^{yy,1h} = \begin{cases} \langle |y_\ell|^2 \hat{\chi} \rangle & \text{Resolved} \longrightarrow N_{clusters} \\ \langle |y_\ell|^2 (1 - \hat{\chi}) \rangle & \text{Unresolved} \end{cases}$$



Note in SBI:

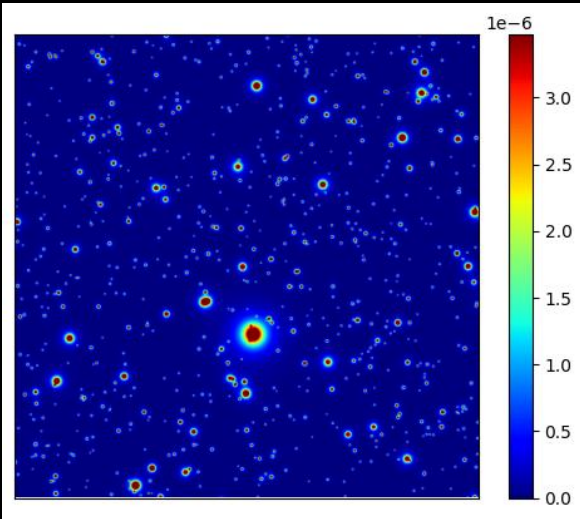
- No need to model covariance between $C_\ell^{yy,masked}$ & $N_{clusters}$
 - This covariance is not understood, can use SBI as test
- Can easily extend to full joint analysis of $C_\ell^{yy,full}$ & $N_{clusters}$ (where there is covariance but unclear how to model it)
- Things missing now: intrinsic & noise scattering

Exhausting all information in y -maps?

Summary statistics t

- C_ℓ^{yy}
 - $N_{clusters}$
- } This work

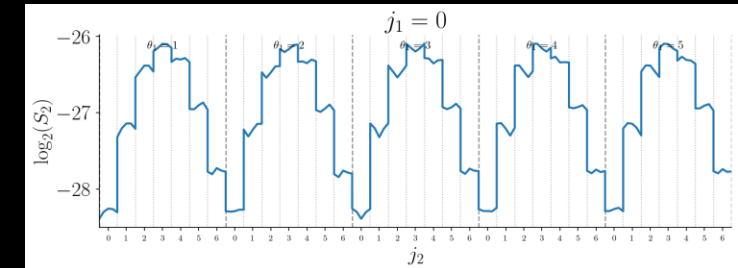
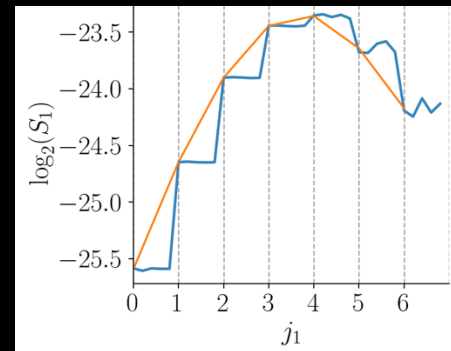
Data x



- Minkowski Functionals: V_0, V_1, V_2
 - Peaks
 - Minima
 - Moments
- } See Sabyr et al. (2025) for Gaussian likelihood analysis

$$\bullet \sigma_0 = \sqrt{\langle y^2 \rangle}, \sigma_1 = \sqrt{\langle |\nabla y|^2 \rangle}, S_1 = \sqrt{\langle y^2 \nabla^2 y \rangle}, K_1 = \sqrt{\langle y^3 \nabla^2 y \rangle}$$

- Wavelet scattering coefficients: $S_0, S_1, S_2 \longrightarrow$ Currently working on it
- CNNs
- and many more ...



tszpower



- Fast computation of tSZ power spectrum using Python & JAX with cosmopower emulator
- $2 \times$ faster than `class_sz` due to JIT compilation on tSZ PS, $10 \times$ faster for trispectrum
- Customized SBI backend based on `sbi` and PyTorch, interfaced with `wandb`

XGPaint



- Fast cluster map painting code with Julia backend
- Support Healpix & CAR workspace
- Painting NOT expensive (can provide scaling laws if required)

Time & Space complexities of halo-based simulations

GNFW is 1D grid $y(\theta) = y_0(M, z)I\left(\frac{\theta}{\theta_{500}}\right)$ so building the interpolation grid is cheap

Time complexity is $O(N_{clusters}N_{side}^2)$

General pressure profile is 3D: $y(M, z, \theta)$

Interpolation time is more expensive: $O(N_M N_z N_\theta)$

On Macbook M2 Pro: painting $N_{side} = 1024$ with 300,000 clusters takes 90 s

Cluster catalogue validation

