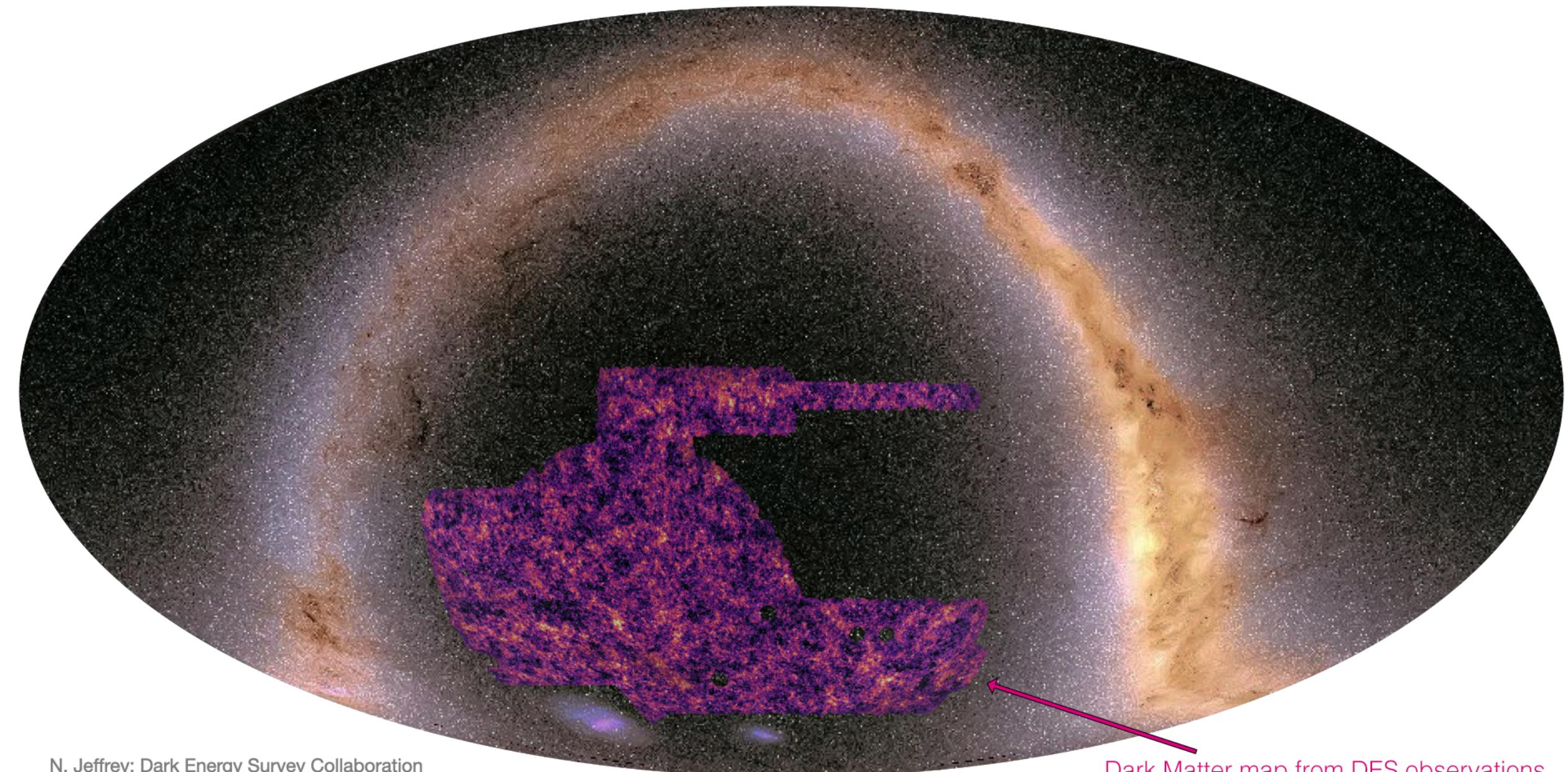


The era of simulation-based inference for gravitational lensing

Niall Jeffrey
he/him, n.jeffrey@ucl.ac.uk



Simulation-based inference: SBI

Accuracy

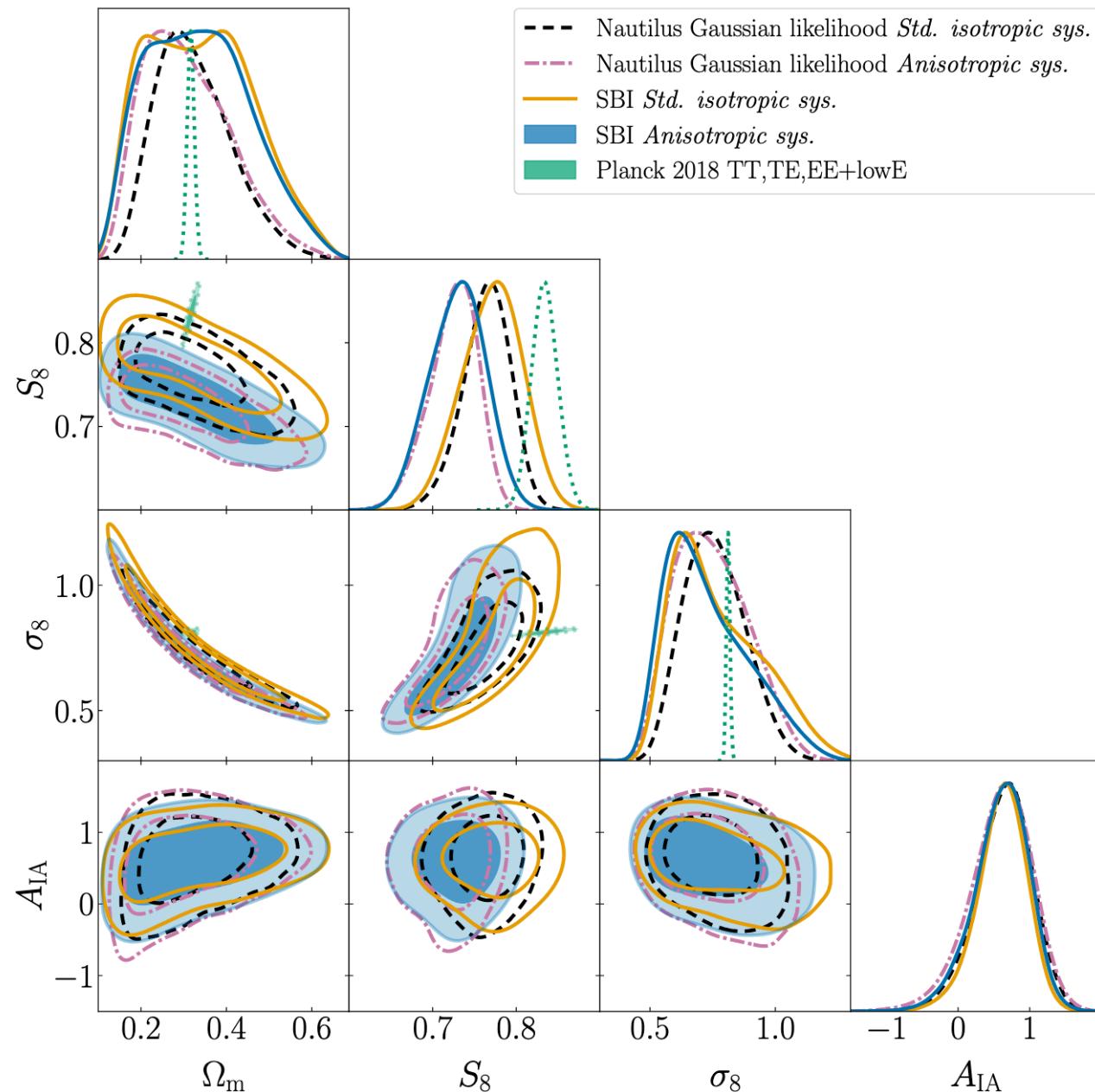
Realistic forward modelling

Precision

Beyond classical statistics
(e.g. power spectra)

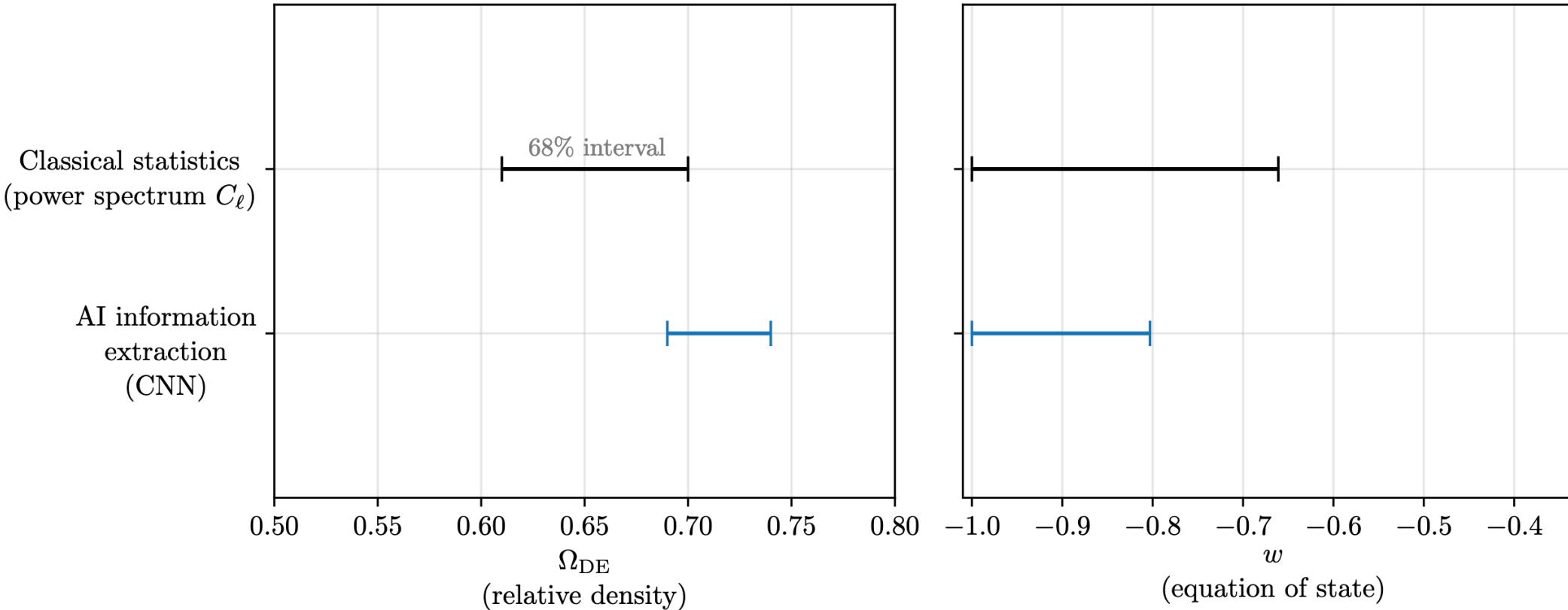
KiDS results

Accuracy



Dark Energy Survey (DES) results

Dark Energy inference $\times 2$ improvement with AI (DES Year 3)



Accuracy
+
Precision

Outline

1. Simulation-based inference
2. Simulating the data
3. Results — how do I know this is right?

1. Simulation-based inference

Data x , Model M 

Data x , Model M



Model parameters

$p(\theta | x, M)$

A red arrow points from the text "Model parameters" down towards the probability density function $p(\theta | x, M)$.

Data x , Model M



Model parameters
↓
 $p(\theta | x, M)$

$$p(M_1 | x) \text{ vs } p(M_0 | x)$$

Data x , Model M



Model parameters
↓
 $p(\theta | x, M)$

$$p(M_1 | x) \text{ vs } p(M_0 | x)$$

if you are interested in model comparison, see <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.11241> NJ & Wandelt

Parameter inference:

“Likelihood”


$$p(\theta | x, M) \propto p(x | \theta, M) p(\theta | M)$$

Likelihood-free inference

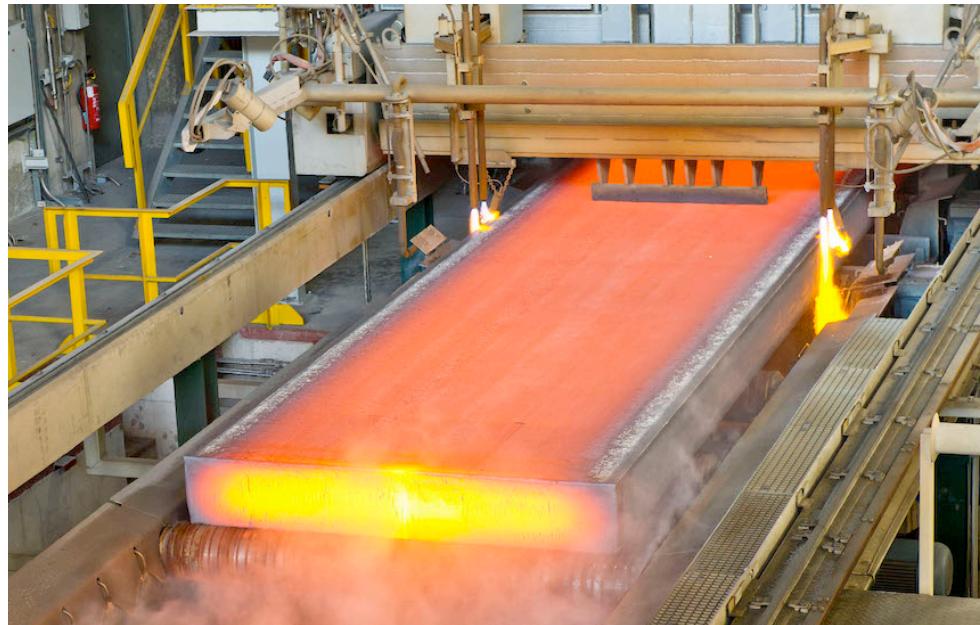
$$p(x | \theta) ?$$

Draw x_i from the distribution $p(x | \theta_i)$ by running a simulation:

$$\{x_i, \theta_i\}$$

Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



EuroMetal.net



CALDA.AI

Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$

Data: x
(Temperature / K)



EuroMetal.net

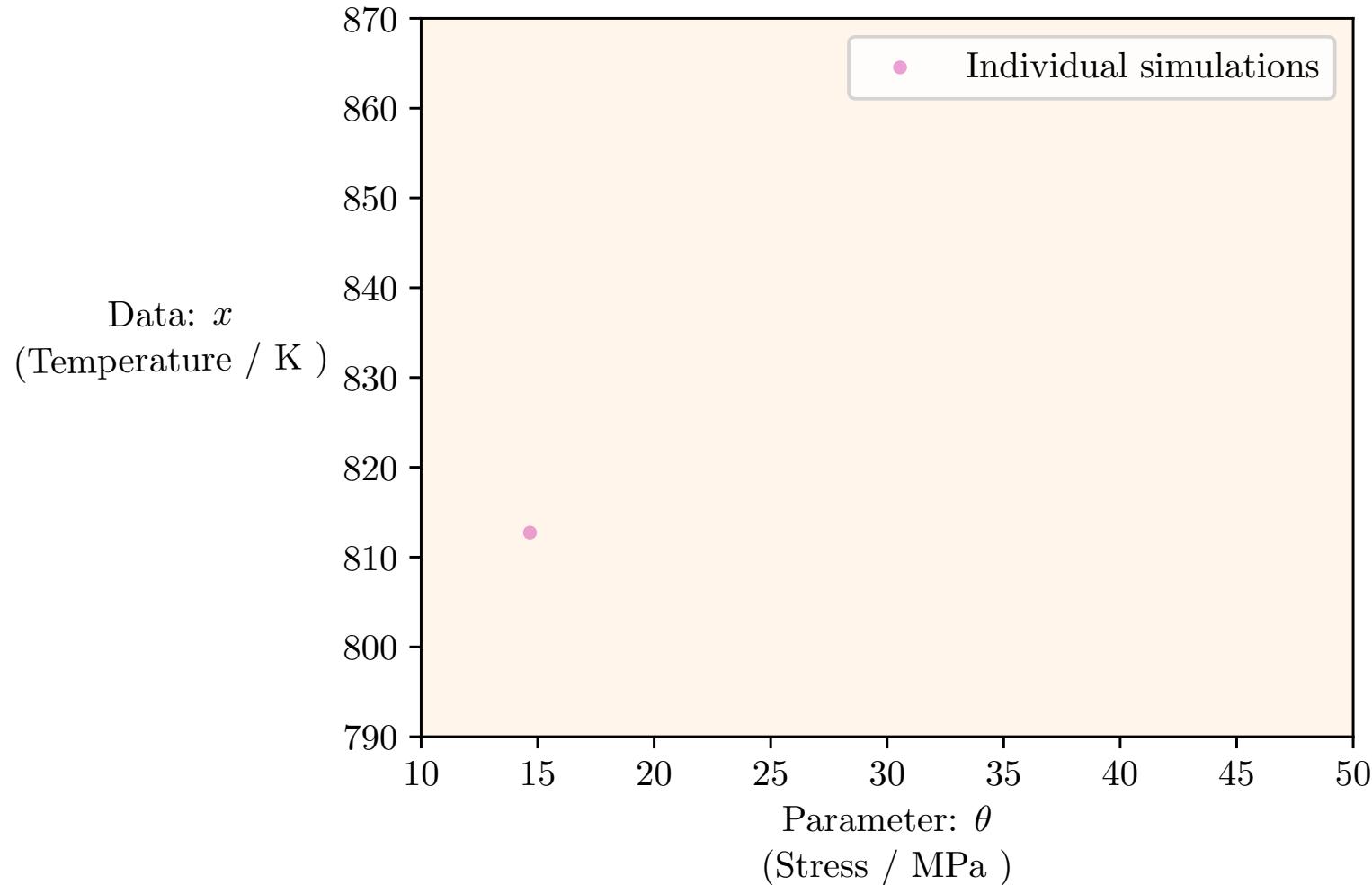
Parameter: θ
(Stress / MPa)



CALDA.AI

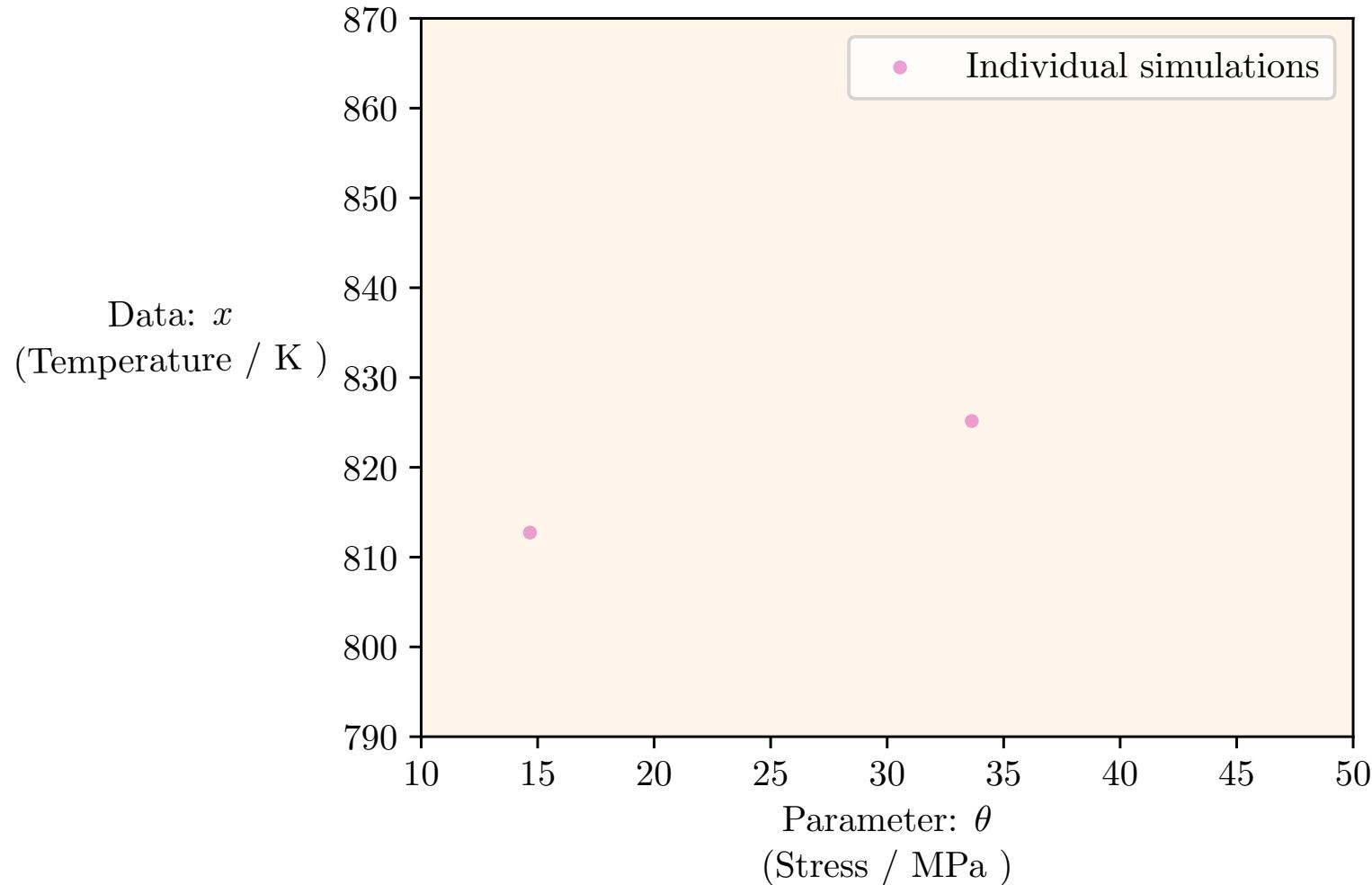
Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



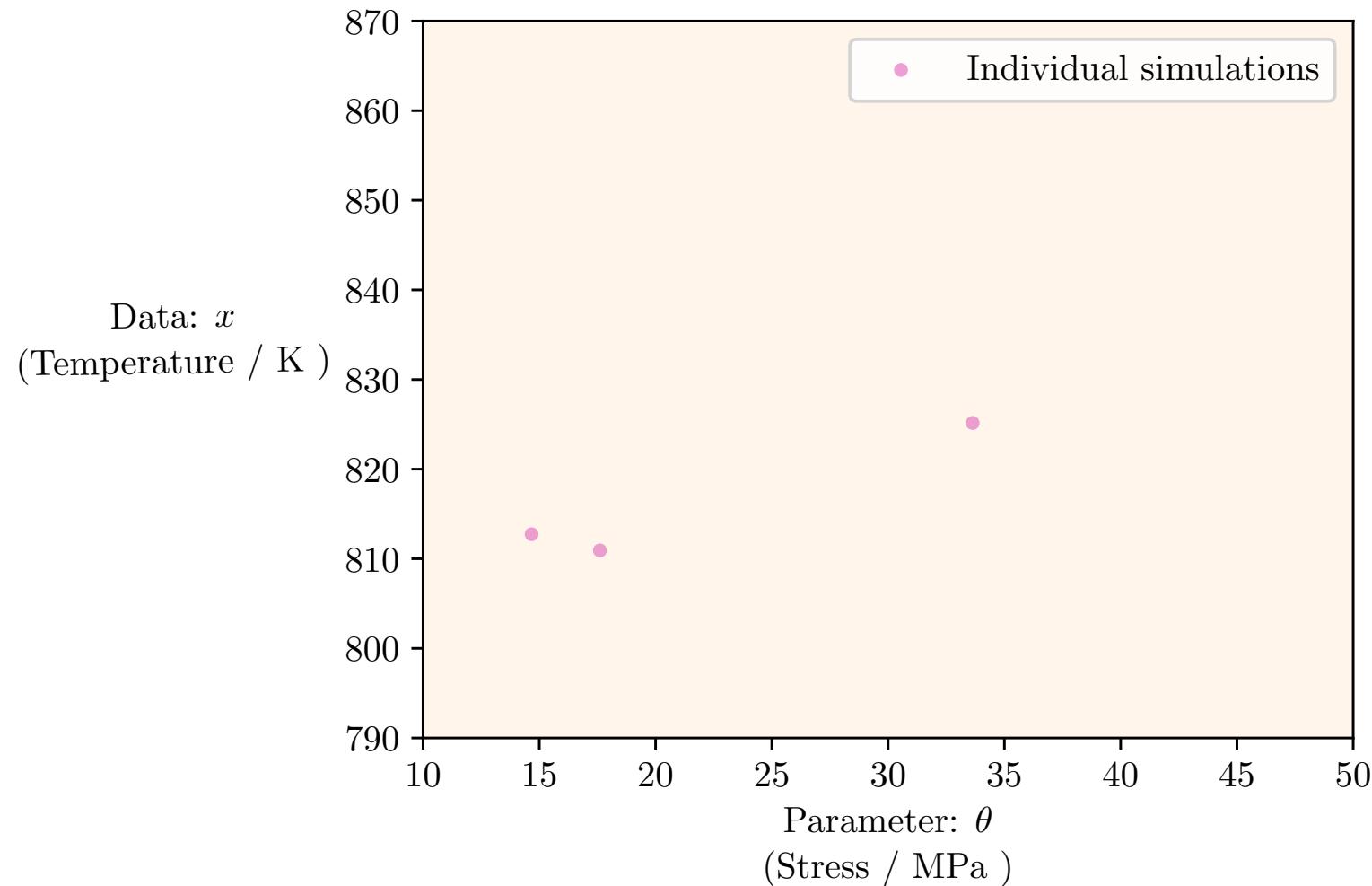
Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



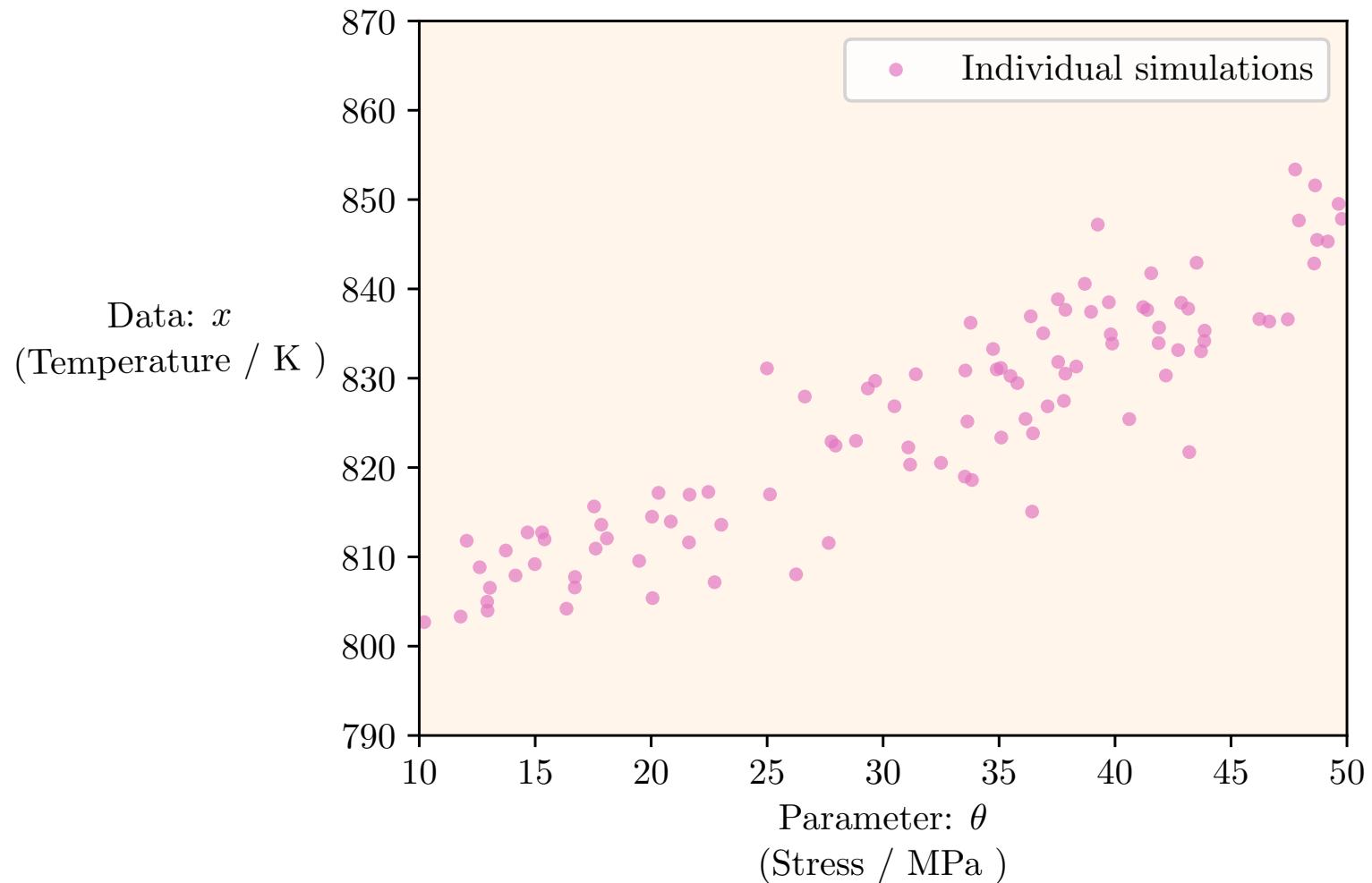
Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



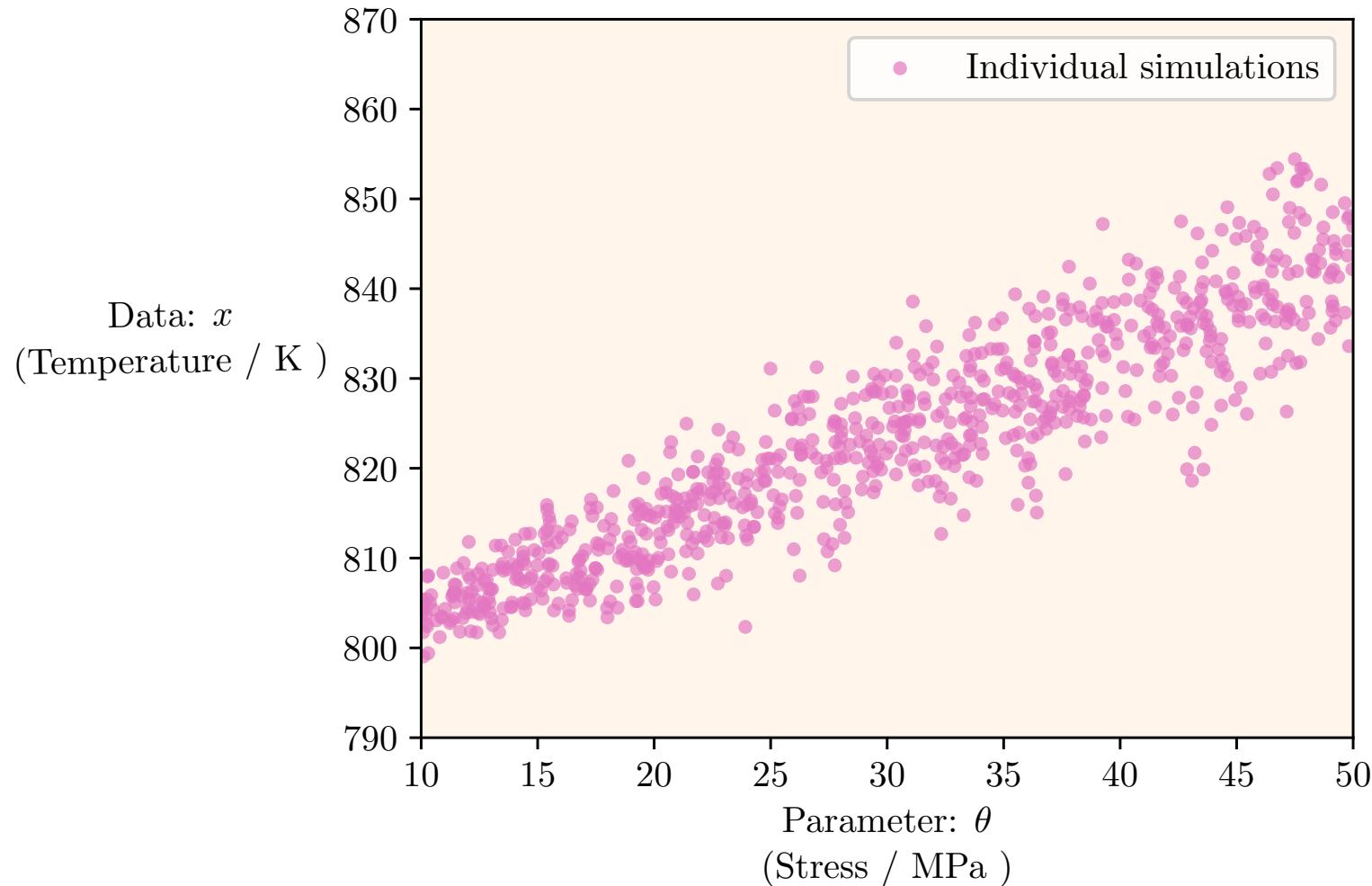
Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



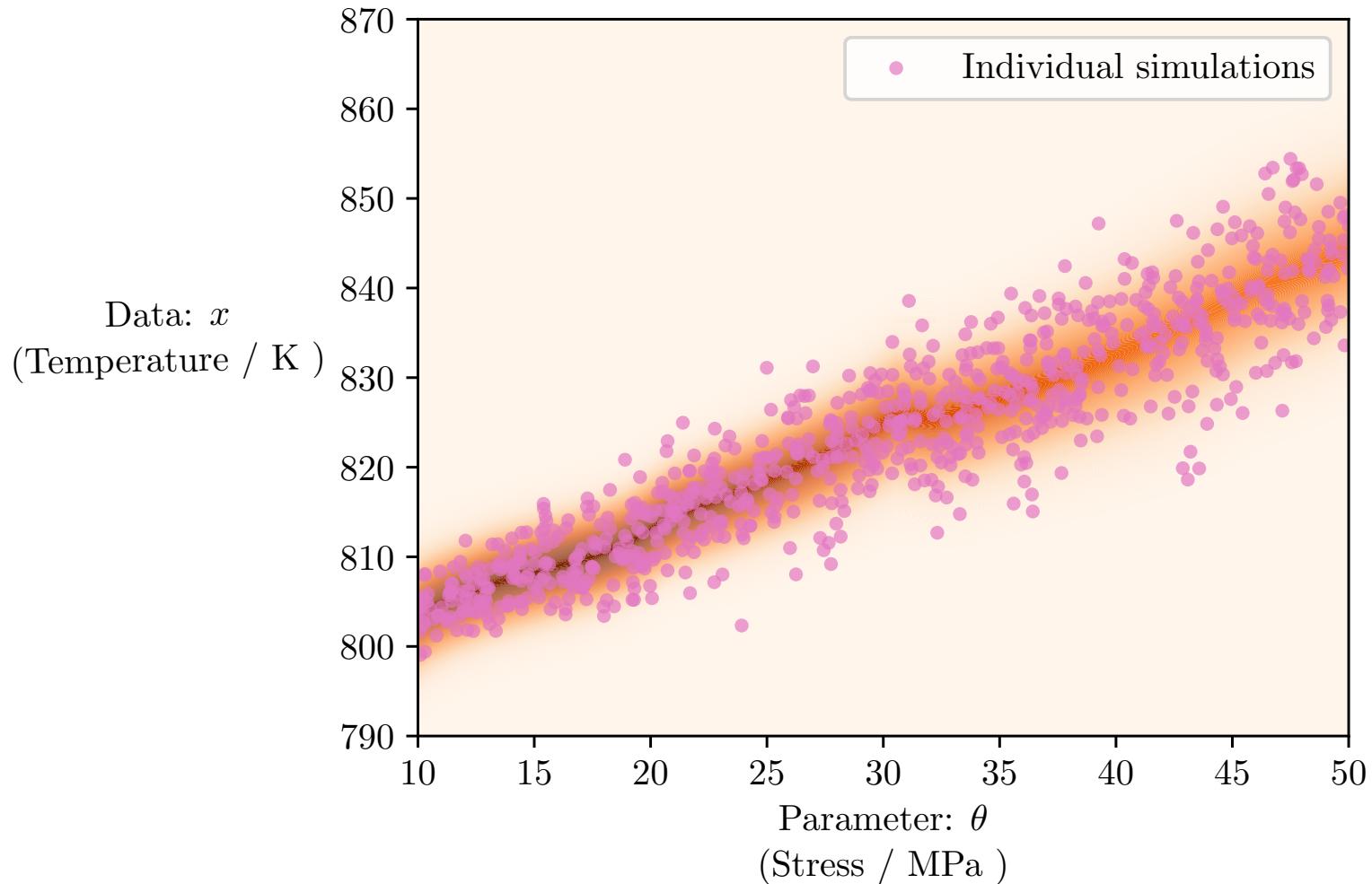
Industry example: inferring Stress

$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



Industry example: inferring Stress

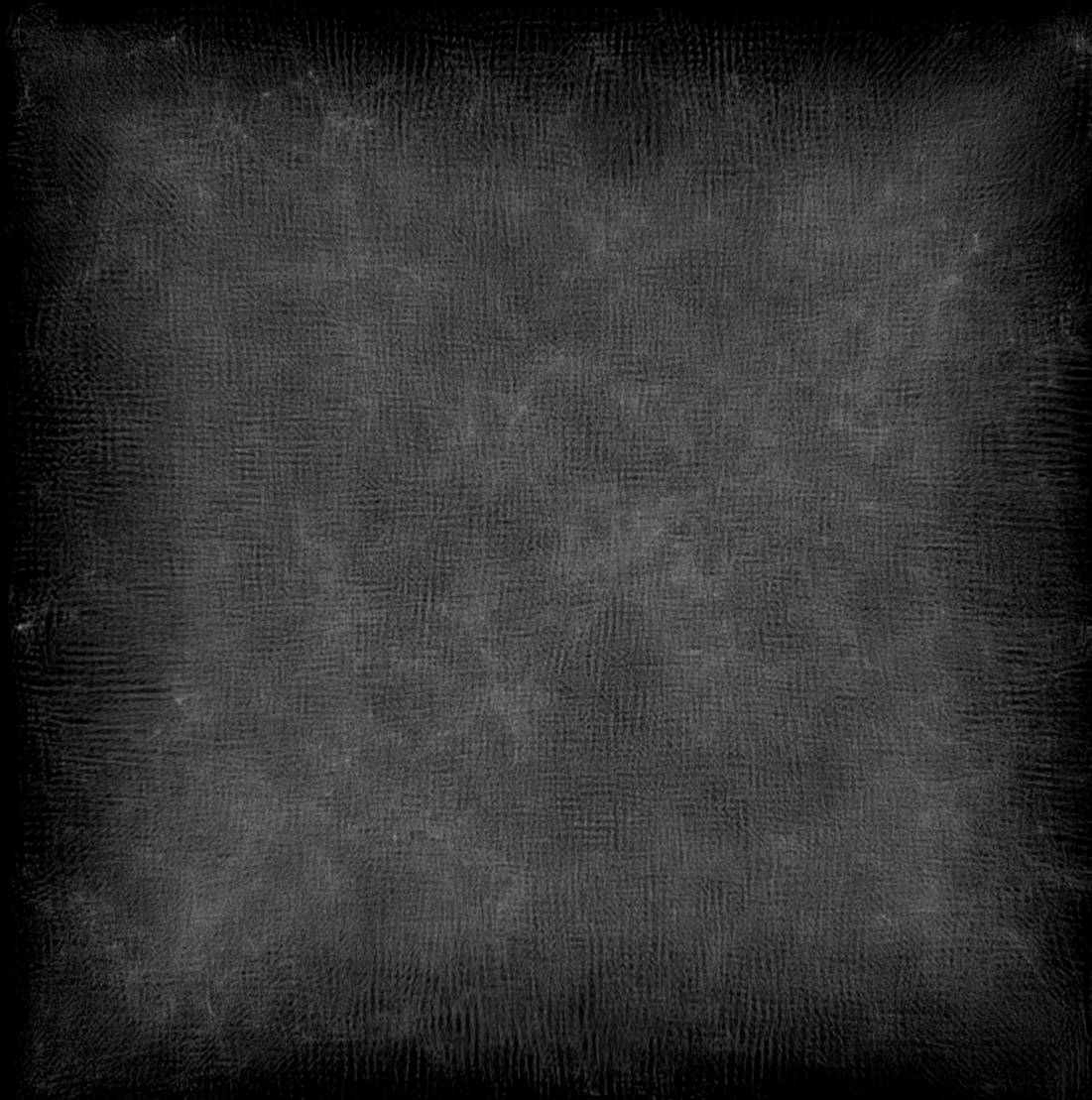
$$p(x | \theta) ?$$



**Neural Density
Estimation**

**i.e. learning probability
densities with AI**

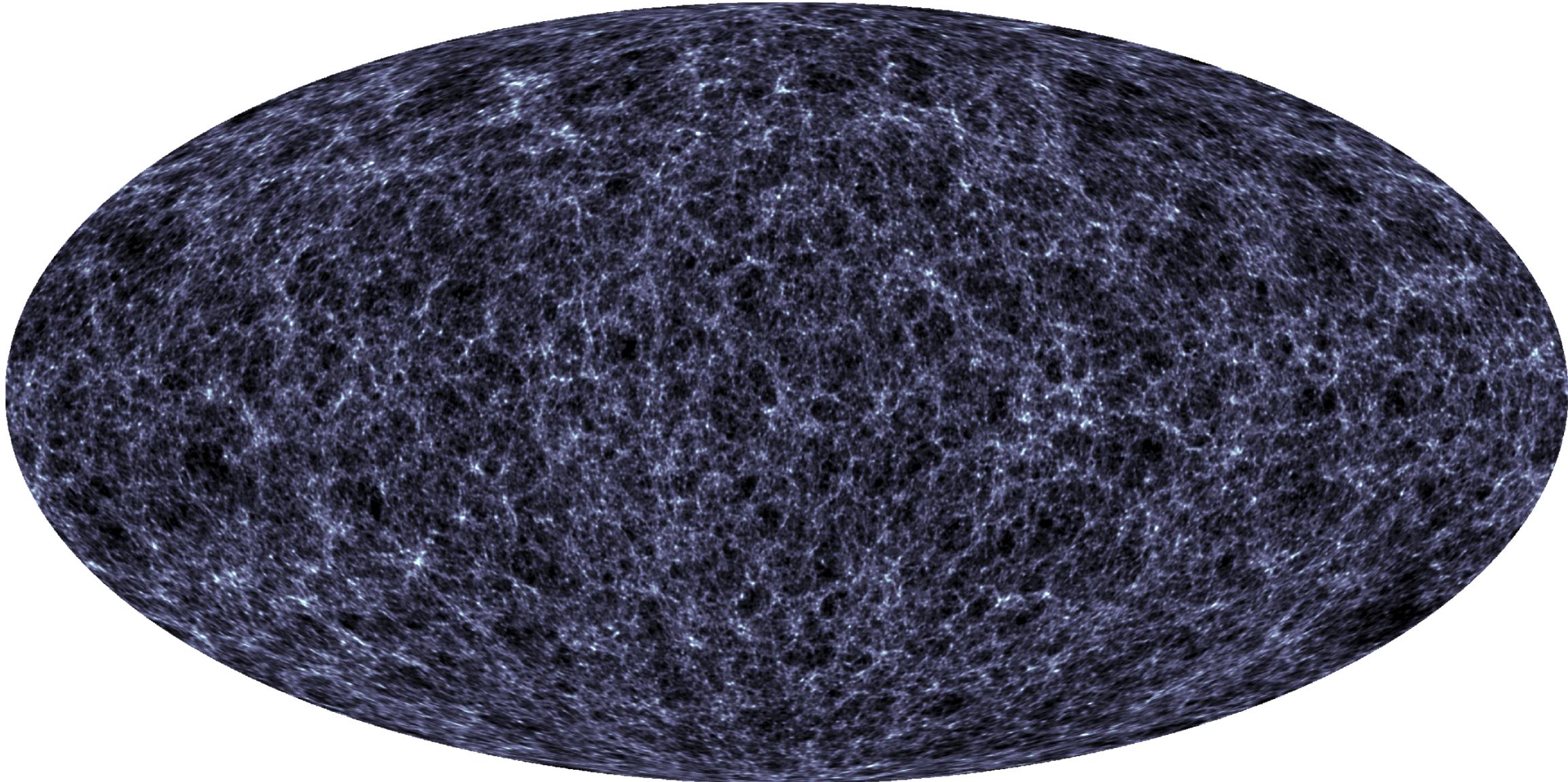
2. Simulating the data



Ω_{DE}
(relative density)

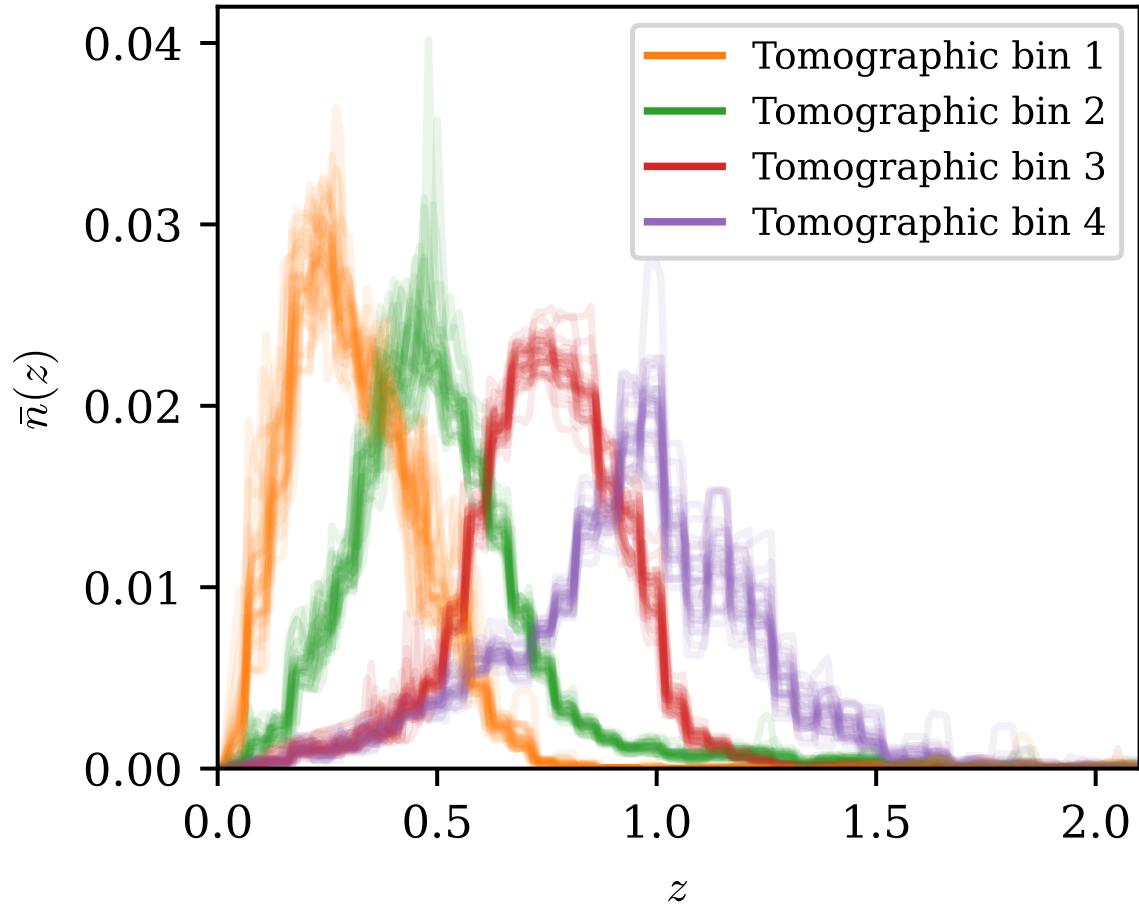
w
(equation of state)

$$\ln(\delta + 1)$$



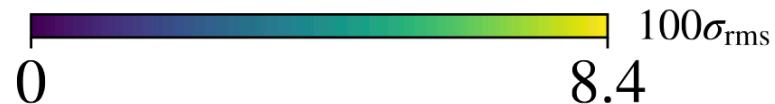
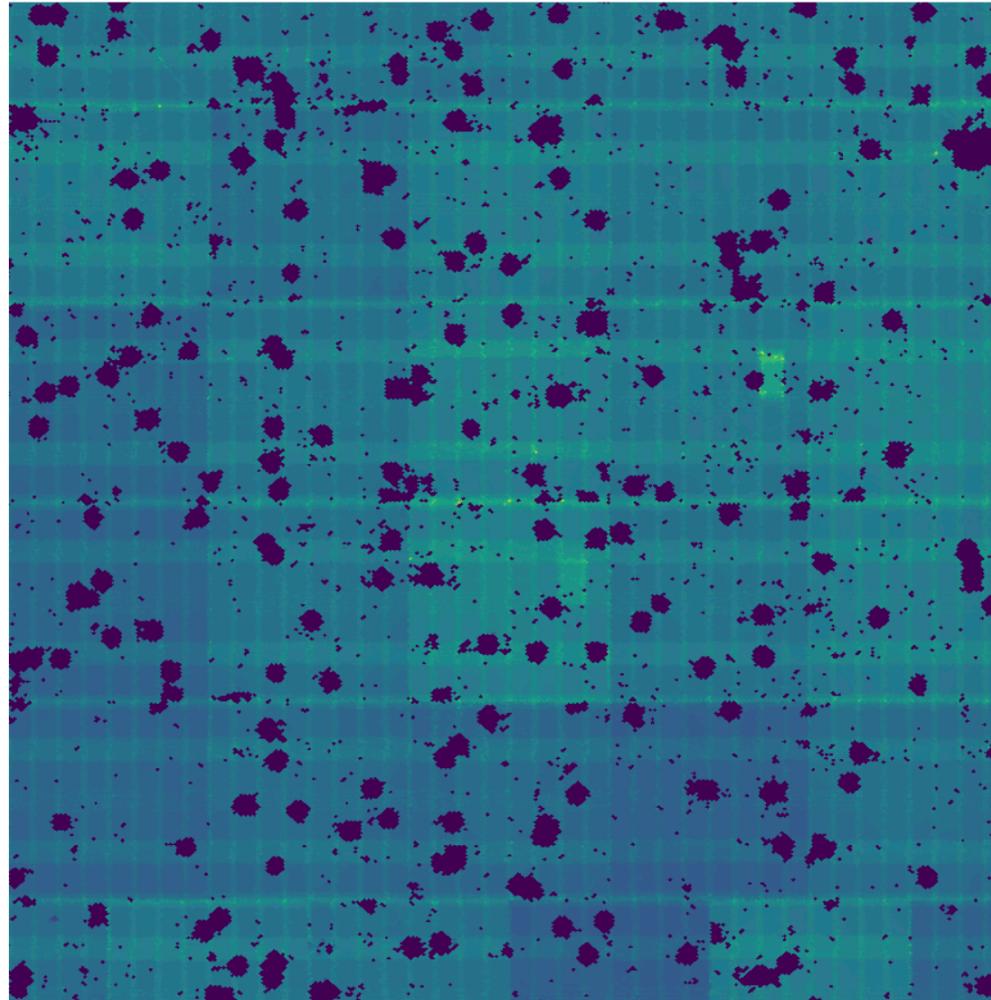
Systematics modelling

Samples from $p(\bar{n}(z)|x_{\text{phot}})$

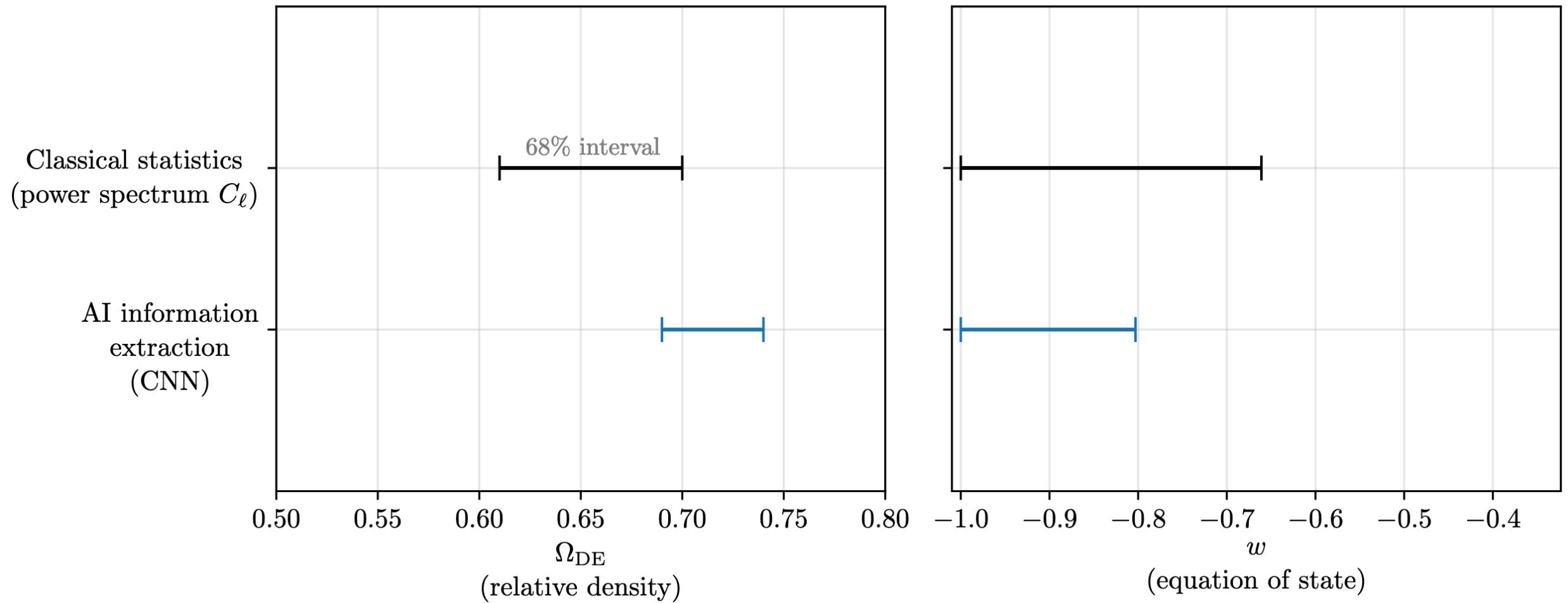


Intrinsic alignments

KiDS: spatially varying depth and noise



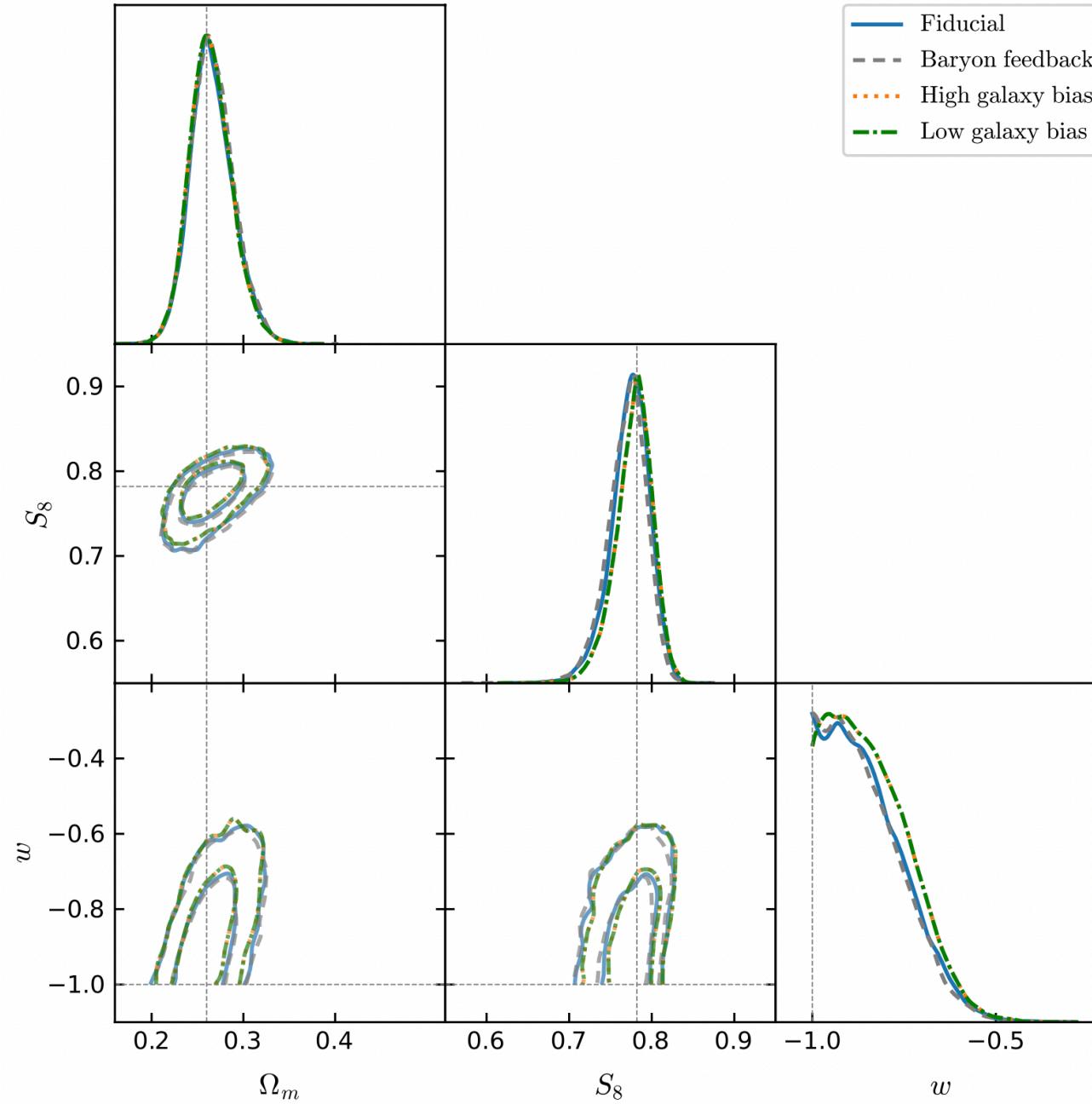
Dark Energy inference $\times 2$ improvement with AI (DES Year 3)



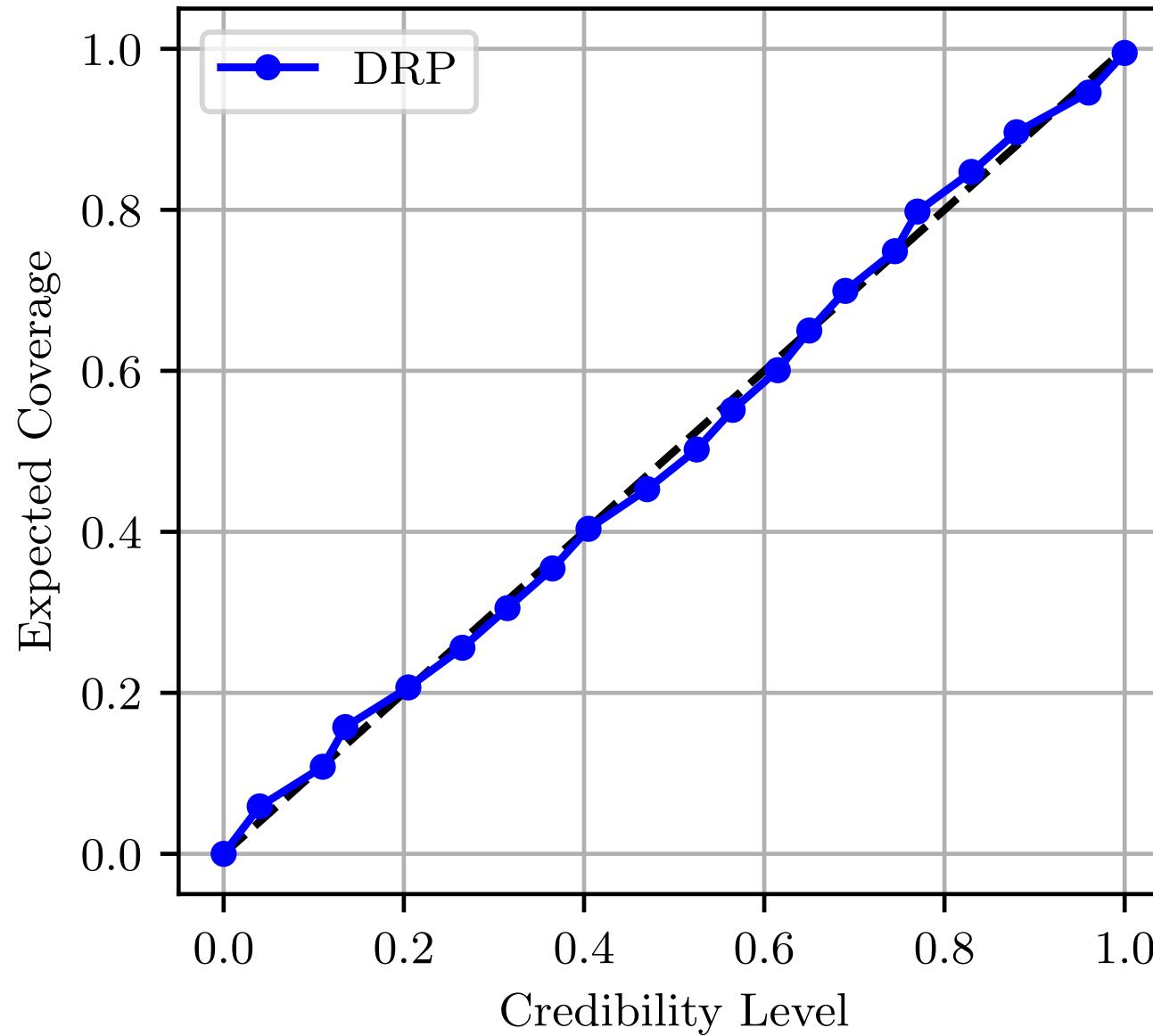
3. Results —

and how do we know this is right?

Injecting systematic error



How do I know this is right?



- Multiple Stage III papers:
 - DES 2-pt + map-level: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.02314>; NJ et al. DES Collaboration
 - DES wavelet moment results: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.10881>
 - DES persistent homology: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.13439>
 - KiDS 2-pt results: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.15402>
 - KiDS 2-pt methodology: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.15402>
- + if you are interested in model comparison: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.11241> NJ & Wandelt









- New AI enabled statistical analysis (i.e. SBI) results improve:
 - Accuracy
 - Precision
- Gower St. Simulation Suite now available: <http://www.star.ucl.ac.uk/GowerStreetSims/>
- Multiple Stage III papers:
 - DES 2-pt + map-level: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.02314>; NJ et al. DES Collaboration
 - DES wavelet moment results: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.10881>
 - DES persistent homology: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.13439>
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 - KiDS 2-pt methodology: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.15402>
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