

# Relativistic Astrophysics: Progress, Promise and Prospects

Roger Blandford  
SCEECS  
KIPAC  
Stanford University



Shanghai - Texas Symposium

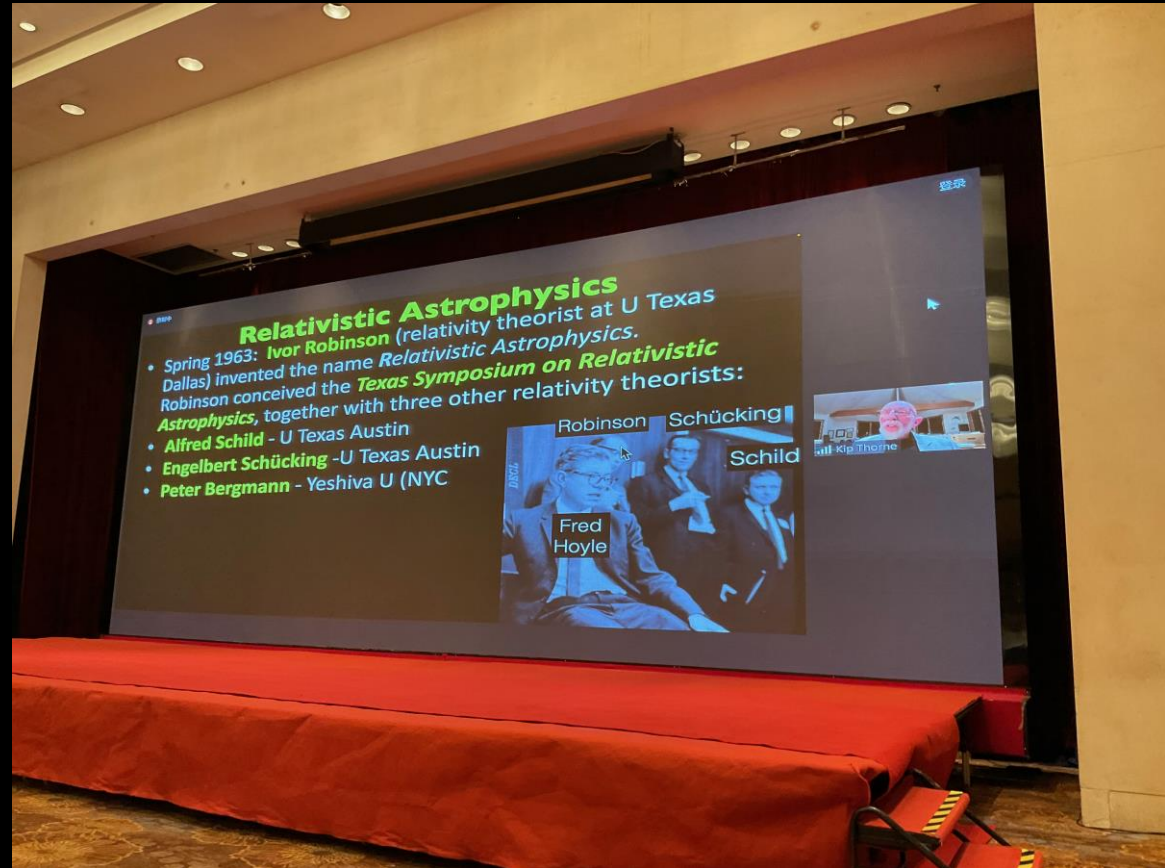


# Progress, Promise and Prospects

- Progress: Relativistic Astrophysics since Texas I in 1963
- Promise: Bold Aspirations
- Prospects: Realizable Projects and Programs in the Near Term

# Relativistic Astrophysics

- Black Holes
- Neutron Stars
- Gravitational Waves
- Cosmology

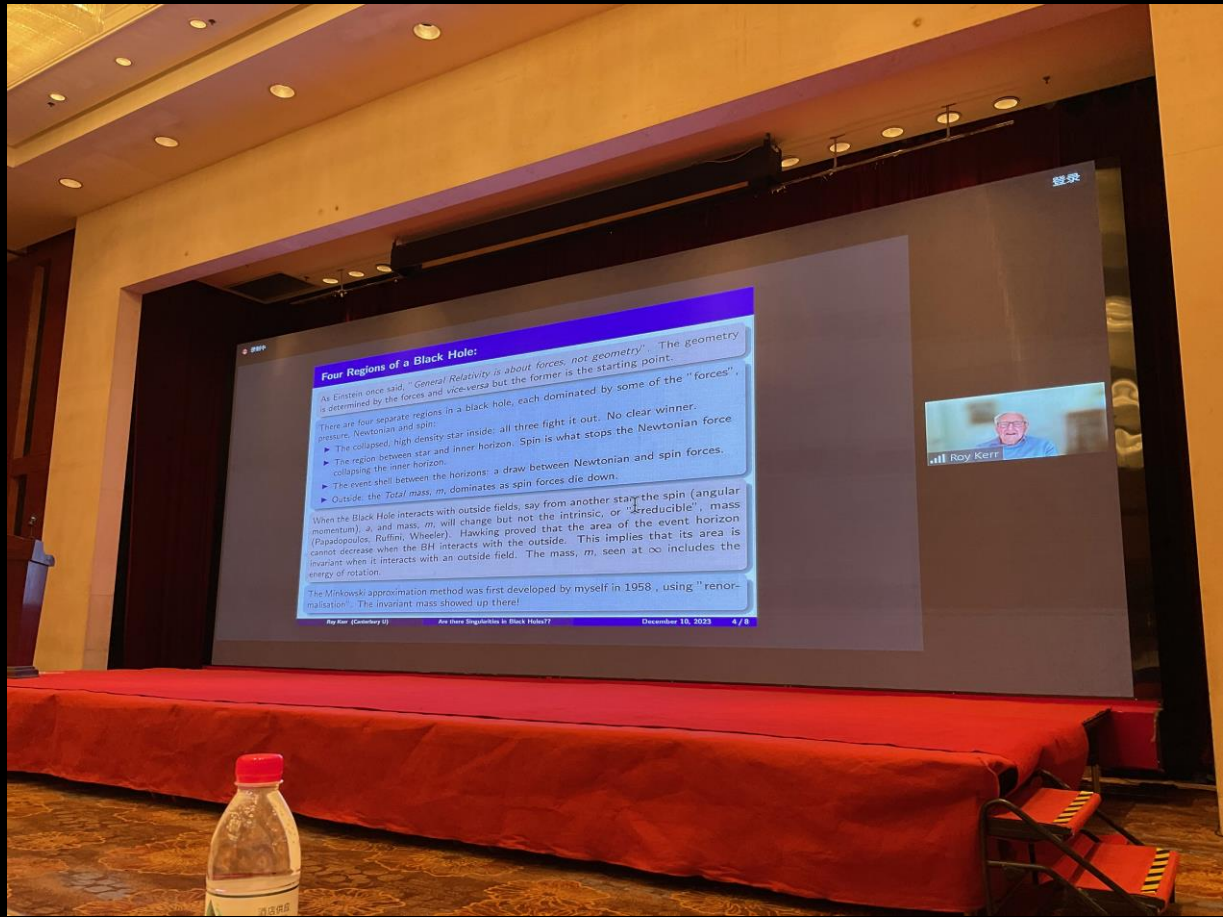


# Progress

# Black Holes

- Kerr metric
  - General Relativity
  - Event horizon, gravitational and rotational energy
  - Singularities
  - Kerr-Newman...





# Black Holes

- Kerr metric
  - General Relativity
  - Event horizon, gravitational and rotational energy
  - Singularities
  - Kerr-Newman...
- Active Galactic Nuclei
  - Prime Movers
  - Radio Sources, Jets, Blazars
  - EHT Imaging
  - 0.3 ZeV Cosmic Rays (Amaterasu); TeV  $\gamma$ , PeV  $\nu$







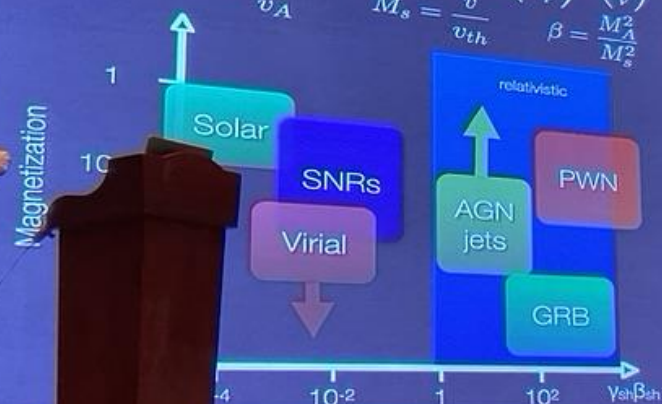


# Parameter Space of shocks

"Magnetization"

$$\sigma \equiv \frac{B^2/4\pi}{(\gamma-1)nmc^2} = \frac{2}{M_A^2} = \left(\frac{\omega_c}{\omega_p}\right)^2 \left(\frac{c}{v}\right)^2 = \left[\frac{c/\omega_p}{R_L}\right]^2$$

$$M_A = \frac{v}{v_A} \quad M_s = \frac{v}{v_{th}} \quad \beta = \frac{M_A^2}{M_s^2} = \frac{m_i}{m_e}$$

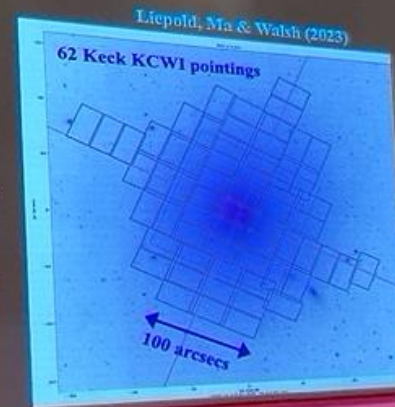


# Revisit M87 Black Hole

Our approach: integral field spectrographs on  
8-10m ground-based telescopes

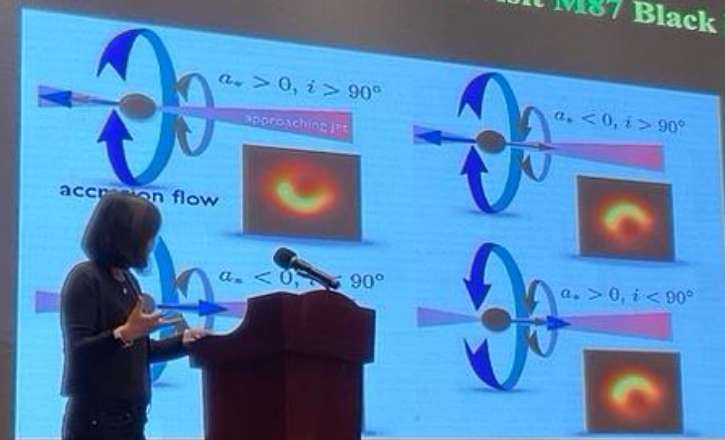
## New Keck integral-field spectroscopy

1 pointings with Keck KCWI (2020-2022)  
3 hr science + 3 hr sky  
over 7 kpc x 24 kpc field of view  
S/T spectra for 461 spatial bins  
spectral range 4000-5600 Å  
stellar kinematics from 0 pc to 12 kpc from nucleus  
total of 1000 observational constraints





## Revisit M87 Black Hole



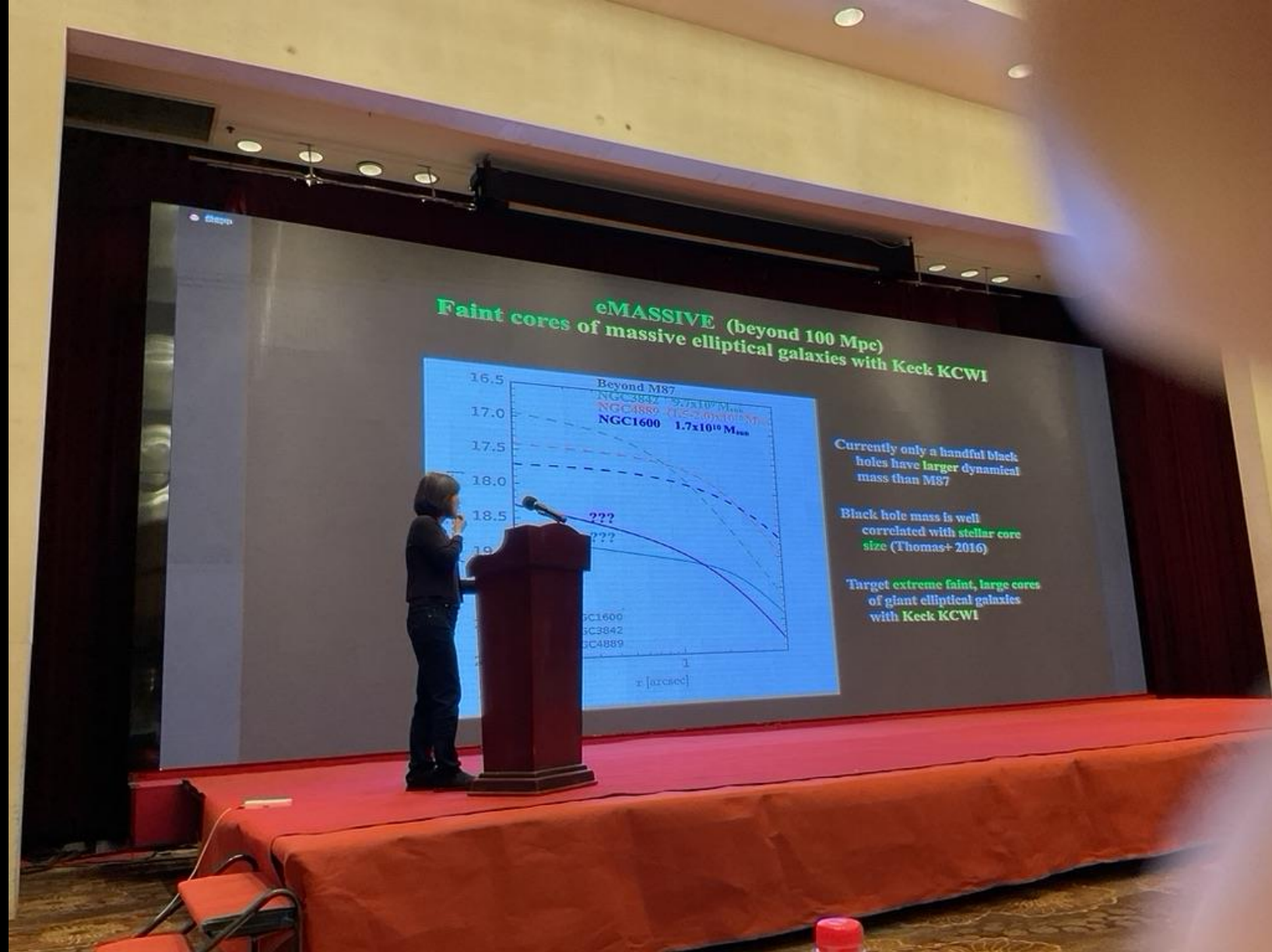
Net angular momentum of stars

Our best-fit galaxy model

Net stellar L is nearly aligned with jet!

BH spin pointing towards us

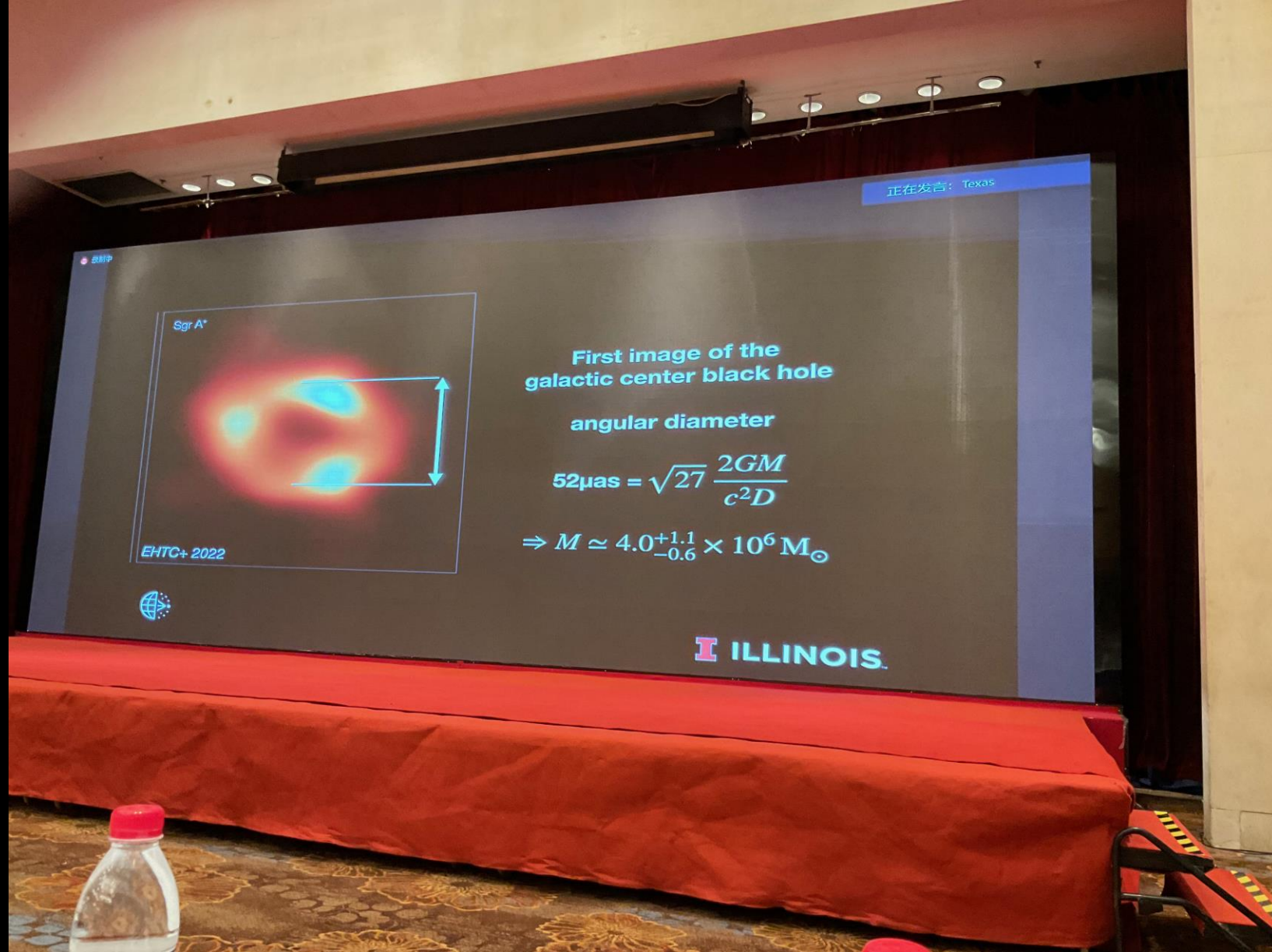
(T Paper 5 (2019))



# Black Holes

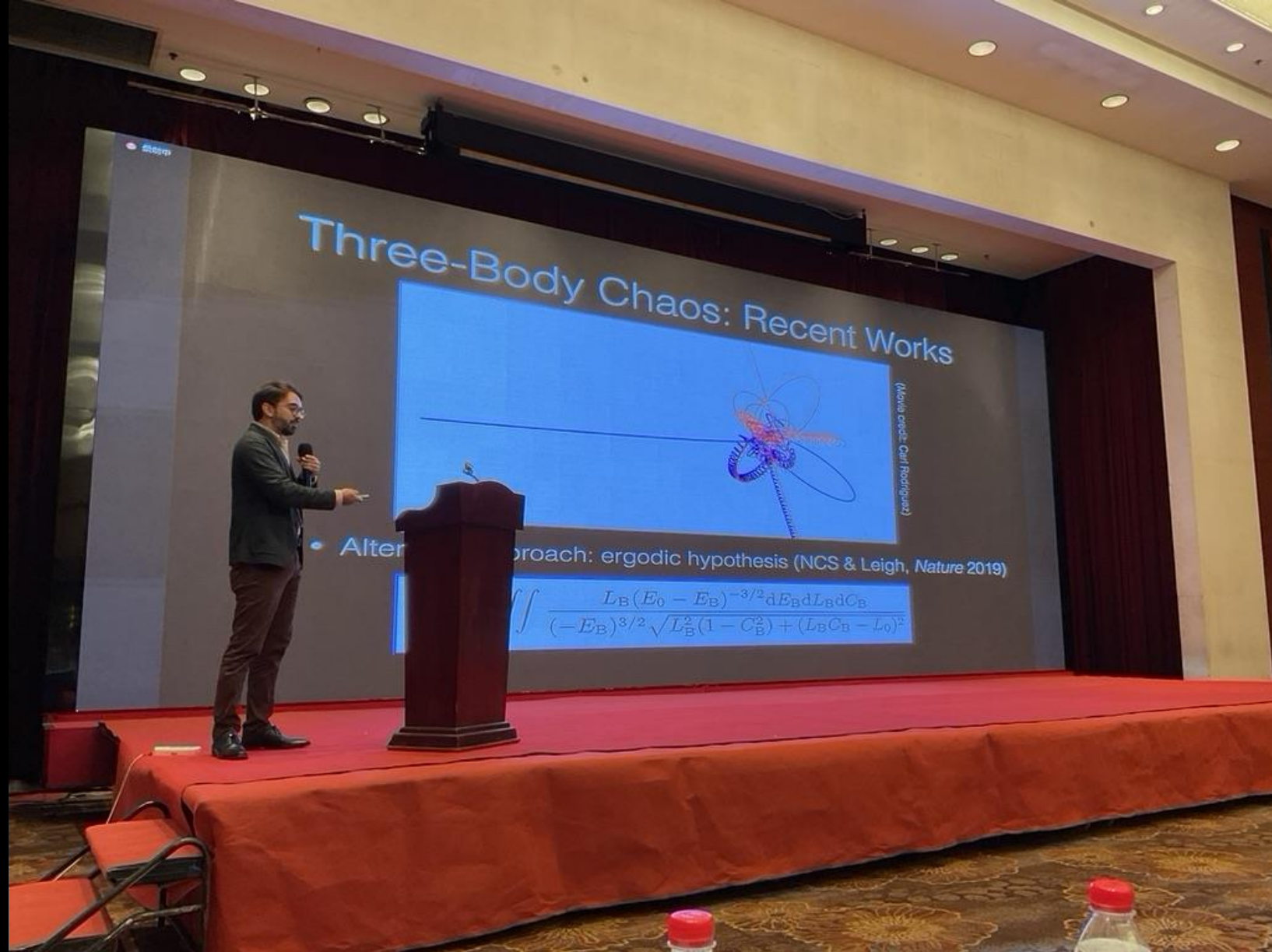
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- Dormant Galactic Nuclei
  - SgrA\*
  - Tidal Disruption Events; Quas-Periodic Eruptions



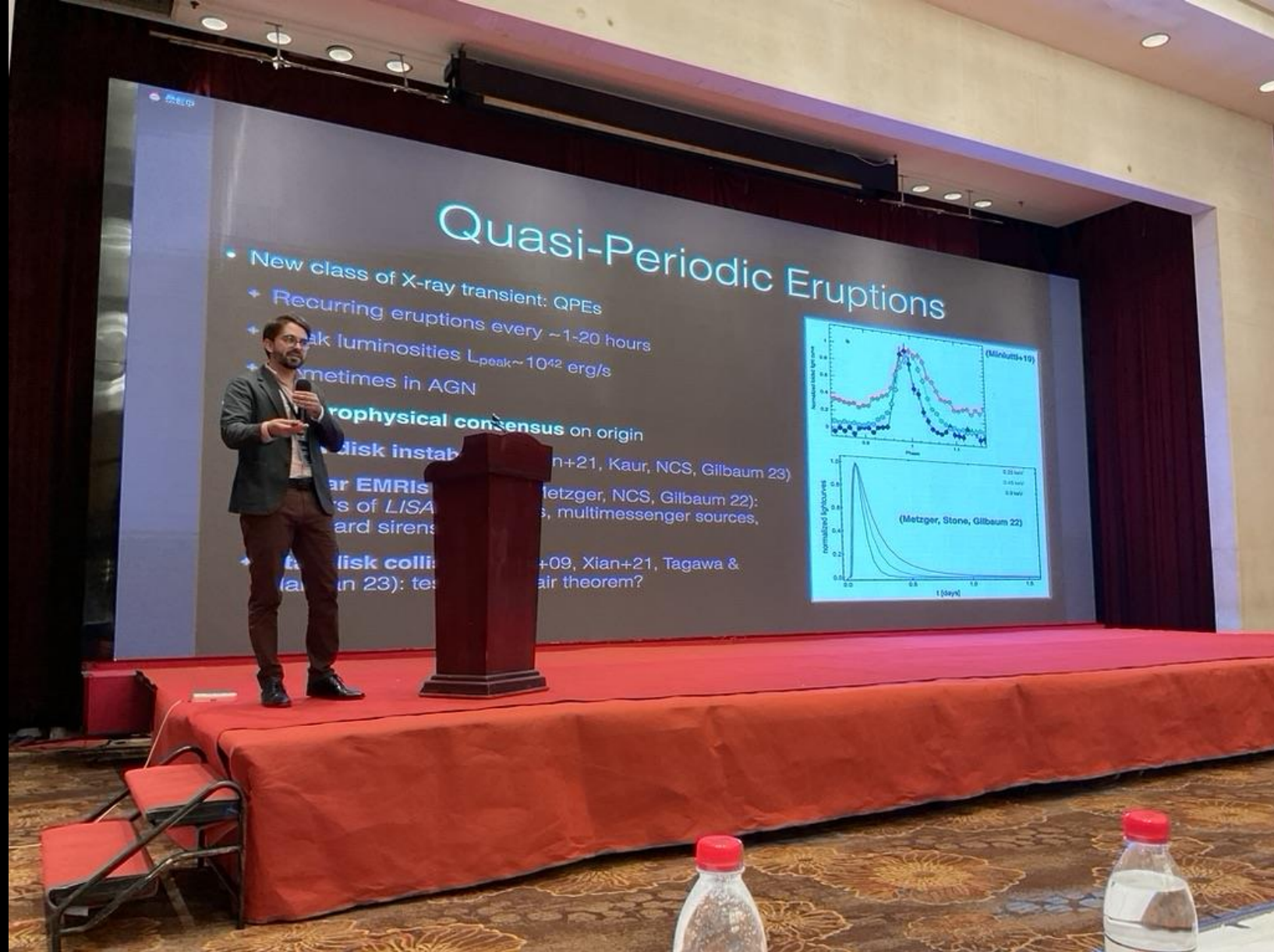








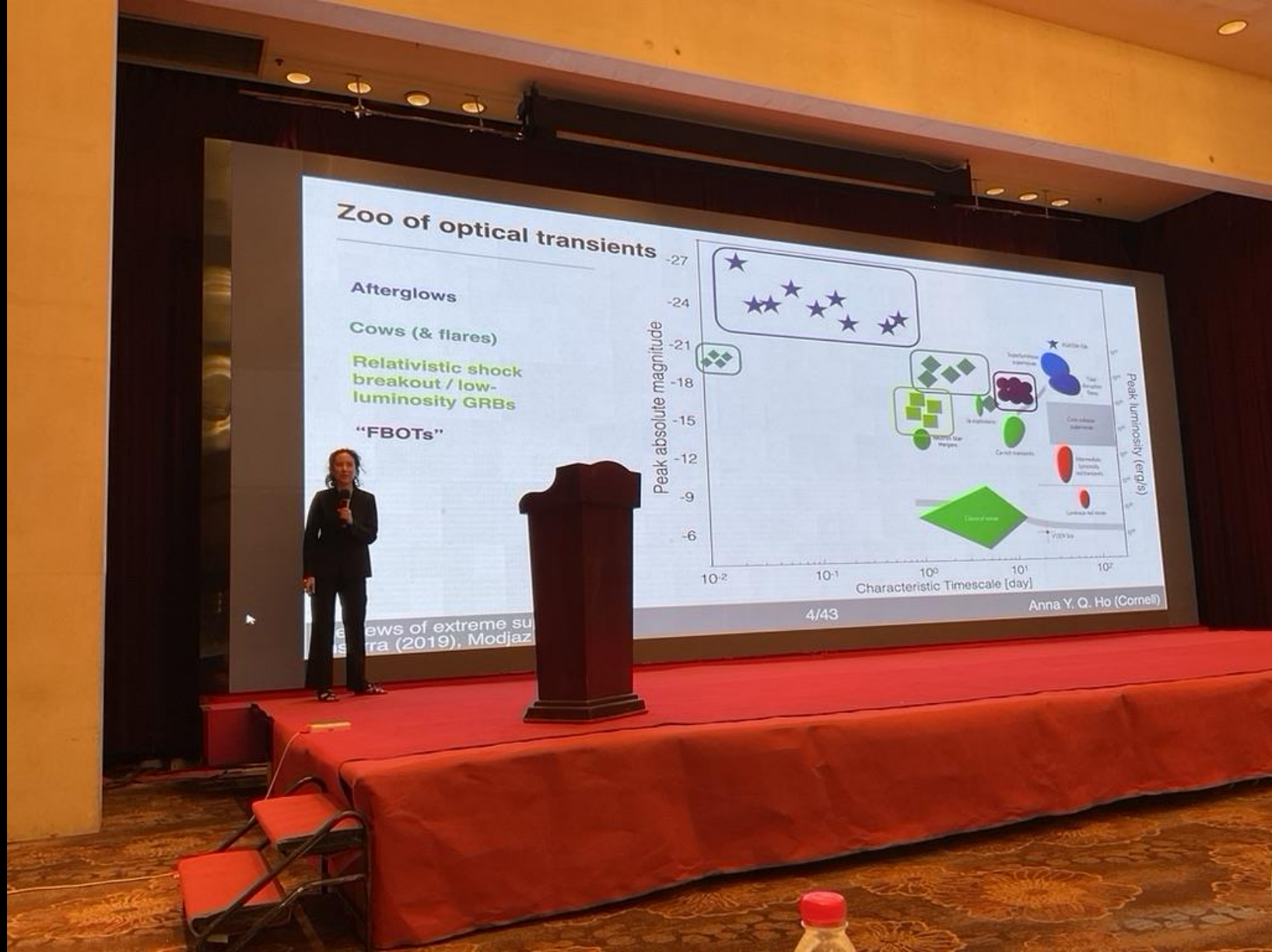


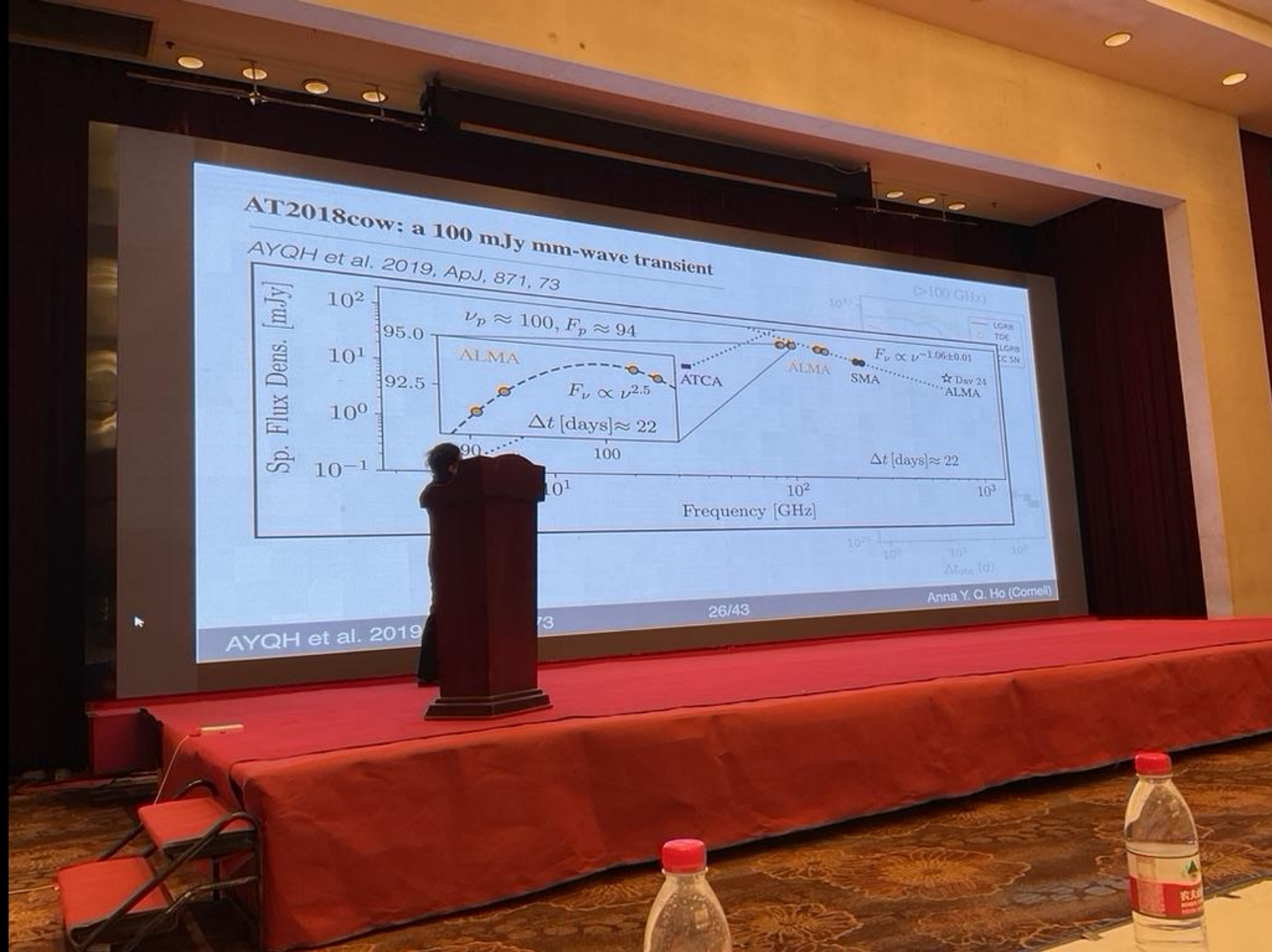


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- Dormant Galactic Nuclei
  - SgrA\*
  - Tidal Disruption Events; Quas-Periodic Eruptions
- High Mass X-ray Binaries
  - Cyg X1, SS 433...
  - Galactic Superluminals
- Gamma Ray Bursts and Core-Collapse Supernovae
  - Long
  - Short
  - Jets







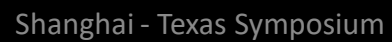
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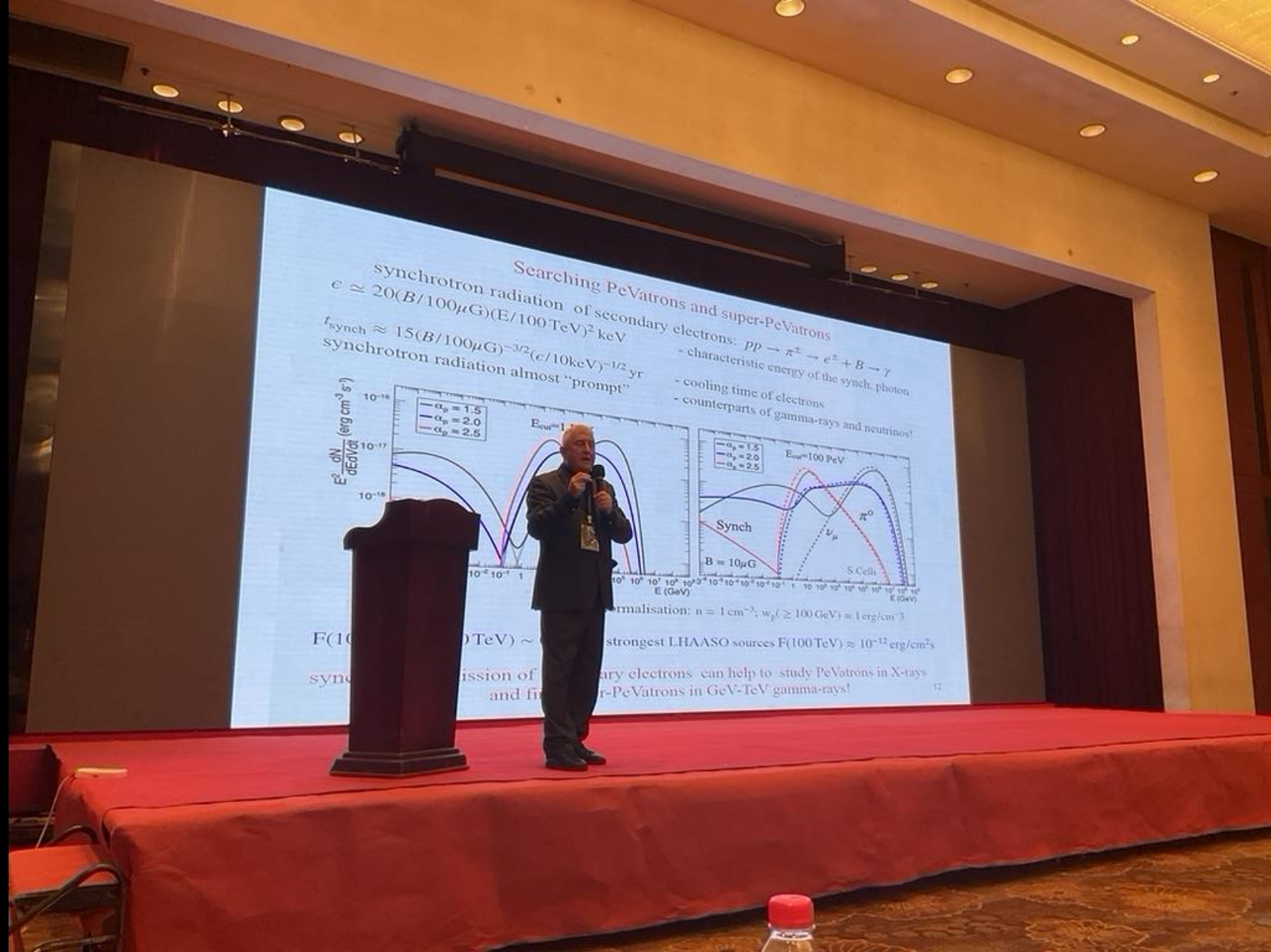
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  - Galactic Superluminals
- Gamma Ray Bursts
  - Long
  - Short
  - Jets
- Primordial Black Holes
  - QED in Curved Space Time
- Quantum Gravity
  - Wormholes, White Holes...

# Neutron Stars

- Low Mass X-ray Binaries
  - Sco-X1...
- Pulsars
  - Cosmic Laboratories, Astronomical Tools
  - Binary Pulsars and Tests of GR
  - Millisecond Pulsars
  - Pulsar Wind Nebulae; PeV  $\gamma$ ; Pevatrons











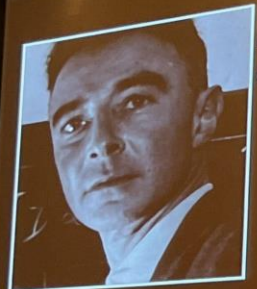
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  - Millisecond Pulsars
  - Pulsar Wind Nebulae; PeV  $\gamma$ ; Pevatrons
- Supernovae
  - Core collapse etc
  - Lensing
  - White Dwarf
  - Kilonovae; Multi-Messenger Astrophysics



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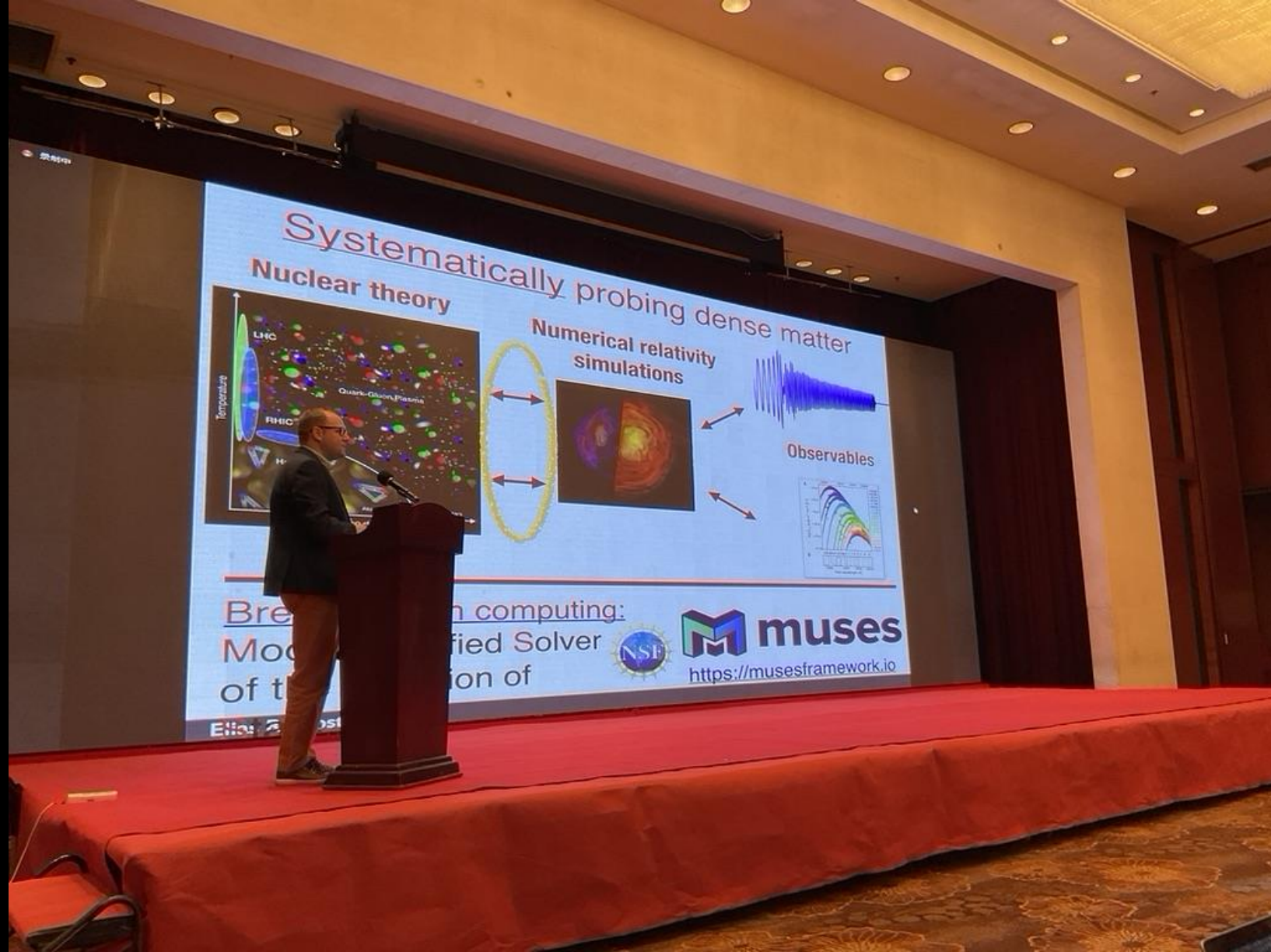
Robert  
Oppenheimer

Hartland  
Snyder

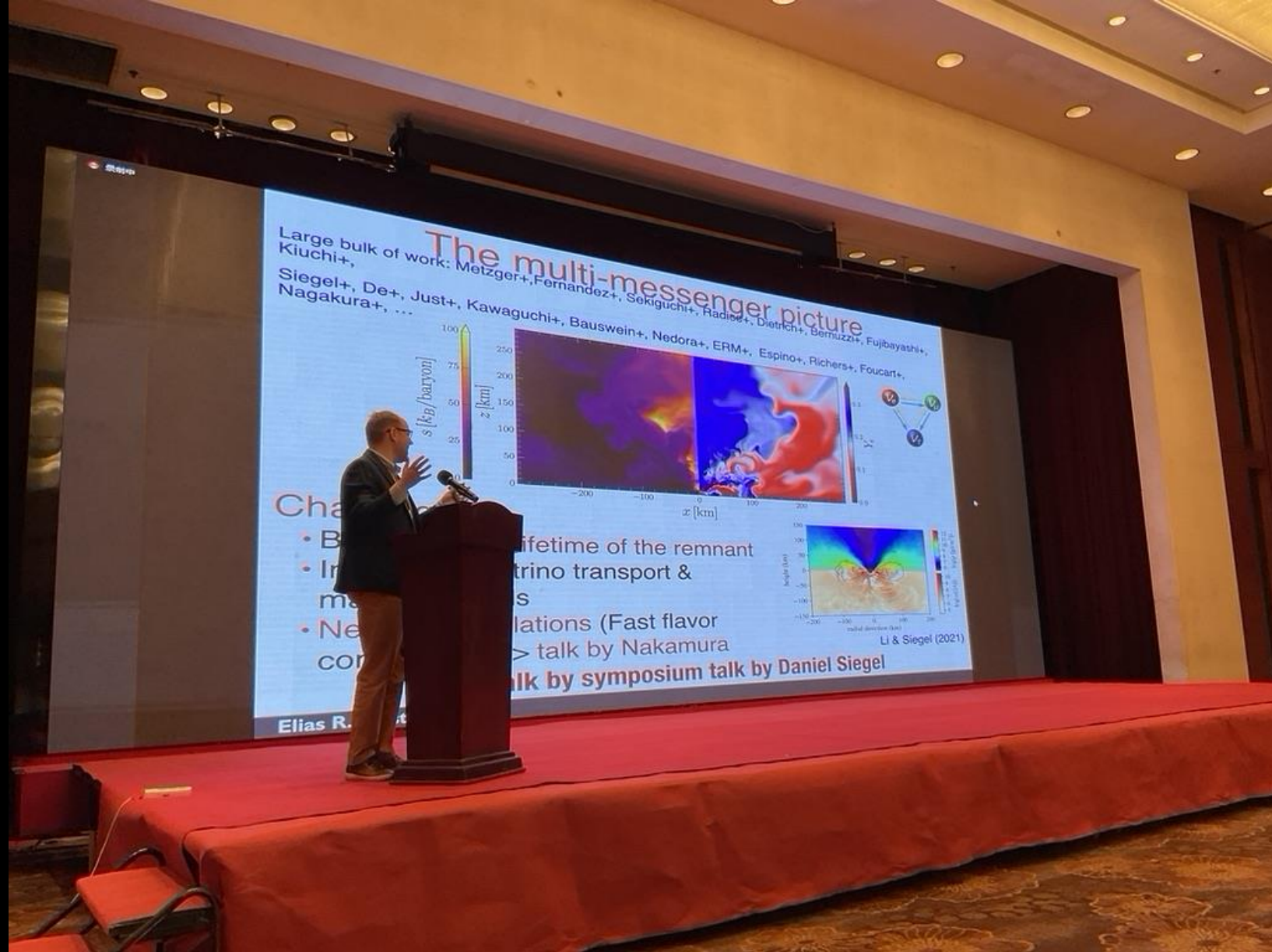


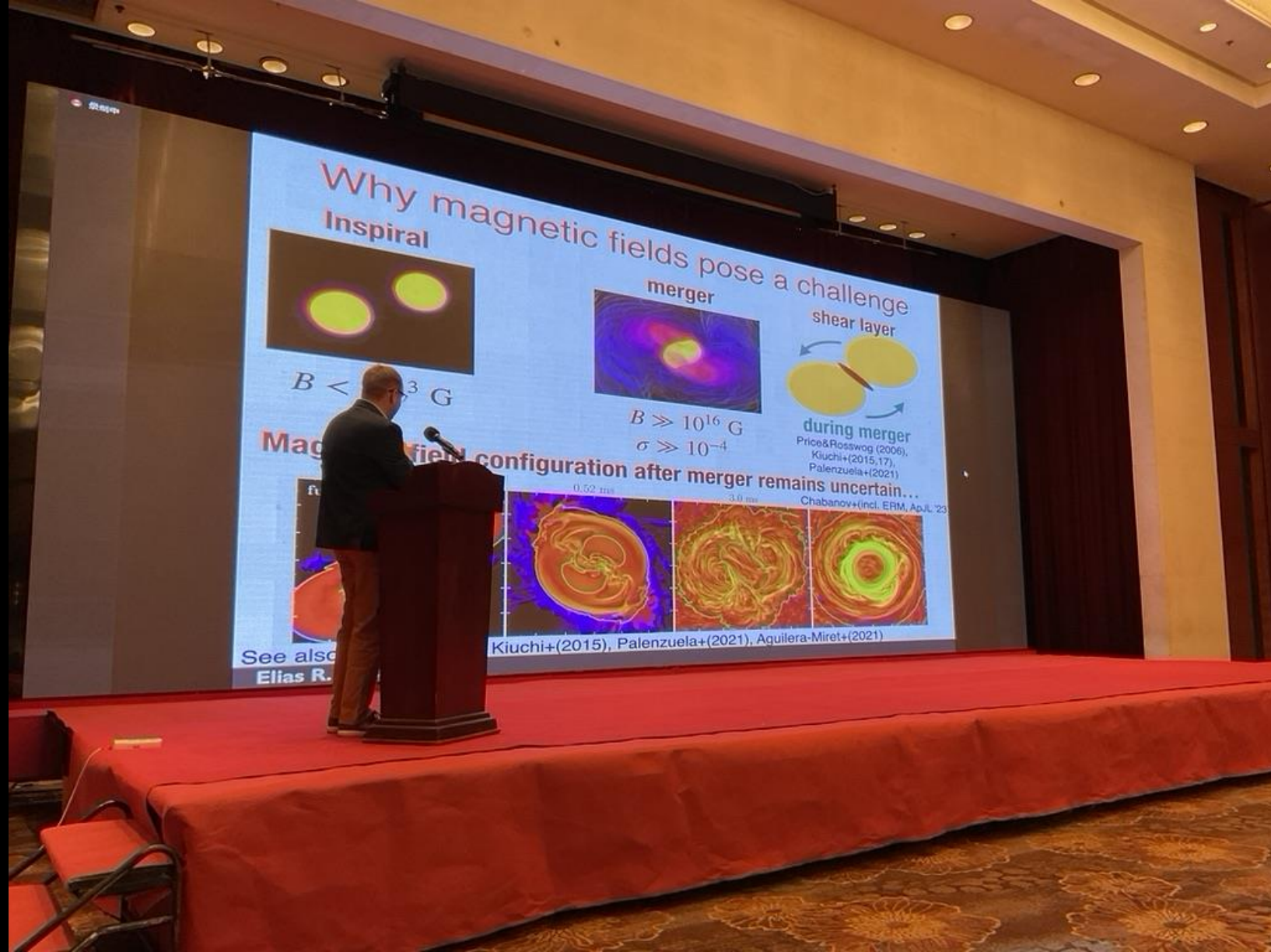
Kip Thorne

What happens to a massive star ( $\gtrsim \text{few } M_{\odot}$ )  
when it exhausts its nuclear fuel?

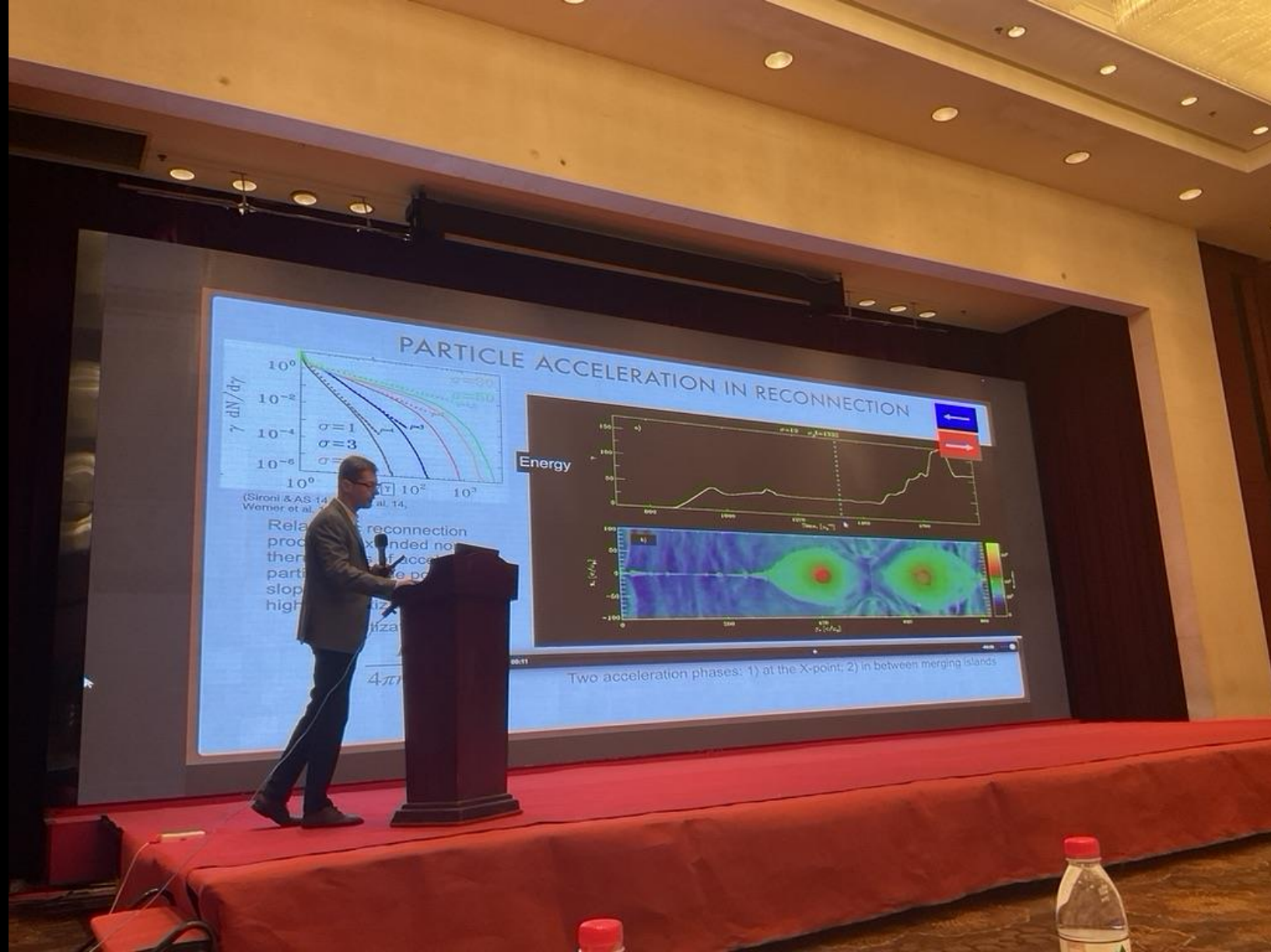












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  - Kilonovae; Multi-Messenger Astrophysics
- Magnetars
  - Soft Gamma Repeaters
  - Fast Radio Bursts

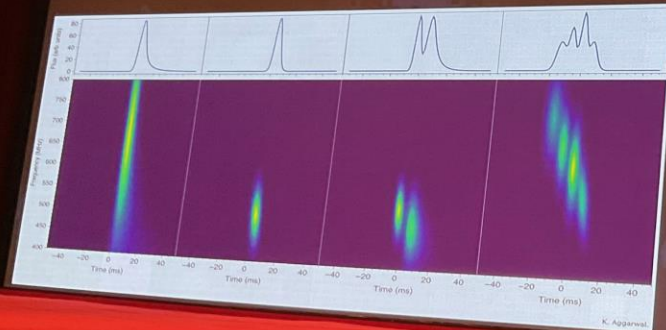
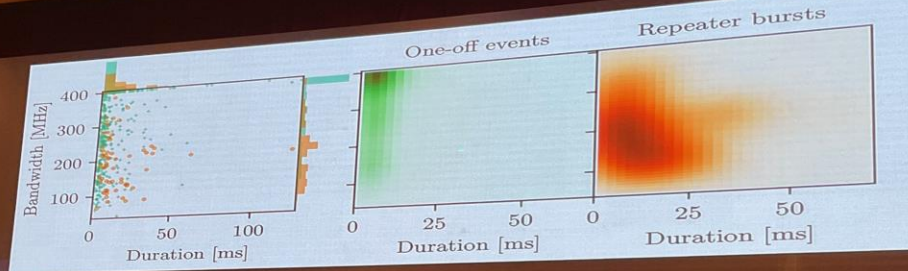
## CHIME FINDS FRBS ALMOST EVERY DAY, LOTS OF REPEATERS

- ONE IS IN A NEARBY SPIRAL  
"ONLY" 170 Mpc AWAY,  $z = 0.0337$
- ONE IS IN A GLOBULAR CLUSTER IN M81  
3.6 Mpc AWAY





# MULTIPLE FRB CLASSES? CHIME/FRB, PLEUNIS ET AL. 2021



REPEATERS HAVE  
BROADER PULSES AND  
ARE NARROW BAND

ONE-OFFS HAVE  
NARROWER PULSES AND  
ARE BROAD BAND

## Sources of repeating FRBs

- Magnetars make all the repeaters?
    - There are at least 3 subcategories of magnetars:
      - Regular Galactic magnetars that make FRB 200428
      - Special (young?) magnetars that make active repeaters
      - Magnetars made in old environments that make FRB 20200120E
  - Other types of sources that make repeaters?
    - Interacting neutron stars?
    - Accreting BH systems?
    - Other possibilities?
  - What is essential to produce active repeaters?
    - Periodicity (binary, precession)? No!
    - PRS (SNR)? No!
    - Large and variable RM (binary)? No!
- The sources seems to prefer a complicated, dynamic, involving, magnetized environment, but it is not clear

# Gravitational Waves

- Binary Pulsars
- LIGO – Virgo – KAGRA
  - BHB, NSB, BHNSB
  - Numerical relativity



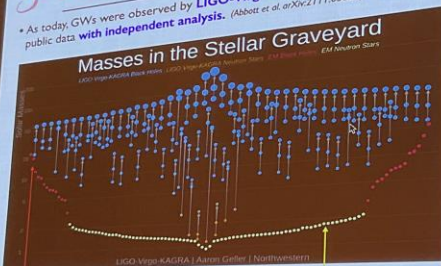
正在发言: Texas



## Discovering/Characterizing Black Holes & Neutron Stars in the Universe

As today, GW's were observed by **LIGO-Virgo detectors** from about **100 coalescences, plus tens of events** pulled out from public data **with independent analysis.** (Abbott et al. arXiv:2111.03634) (Nitz et al. 21, Olsen et al. 22, Mehta et al. 23)

### Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

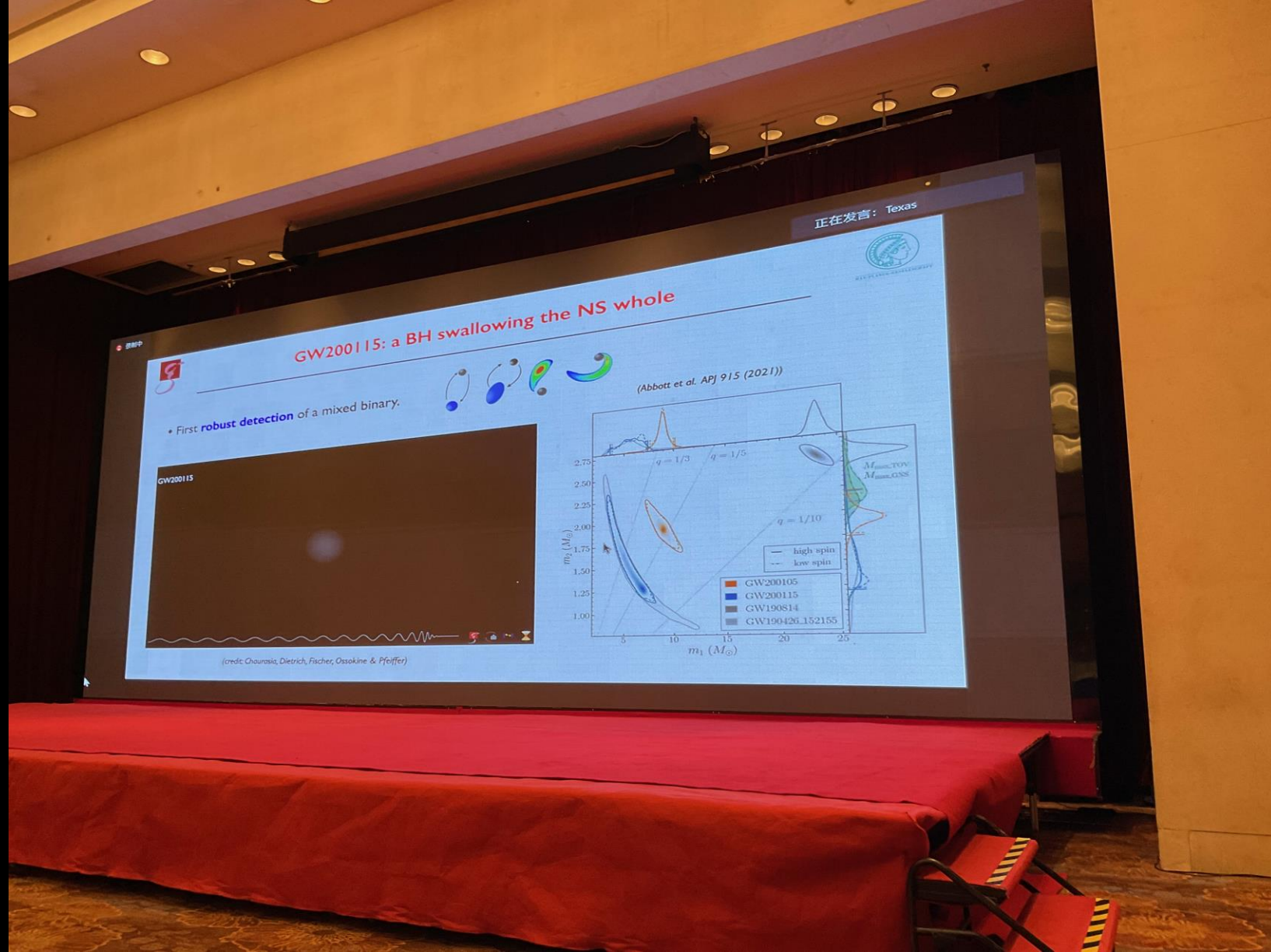


Cygnus X-1

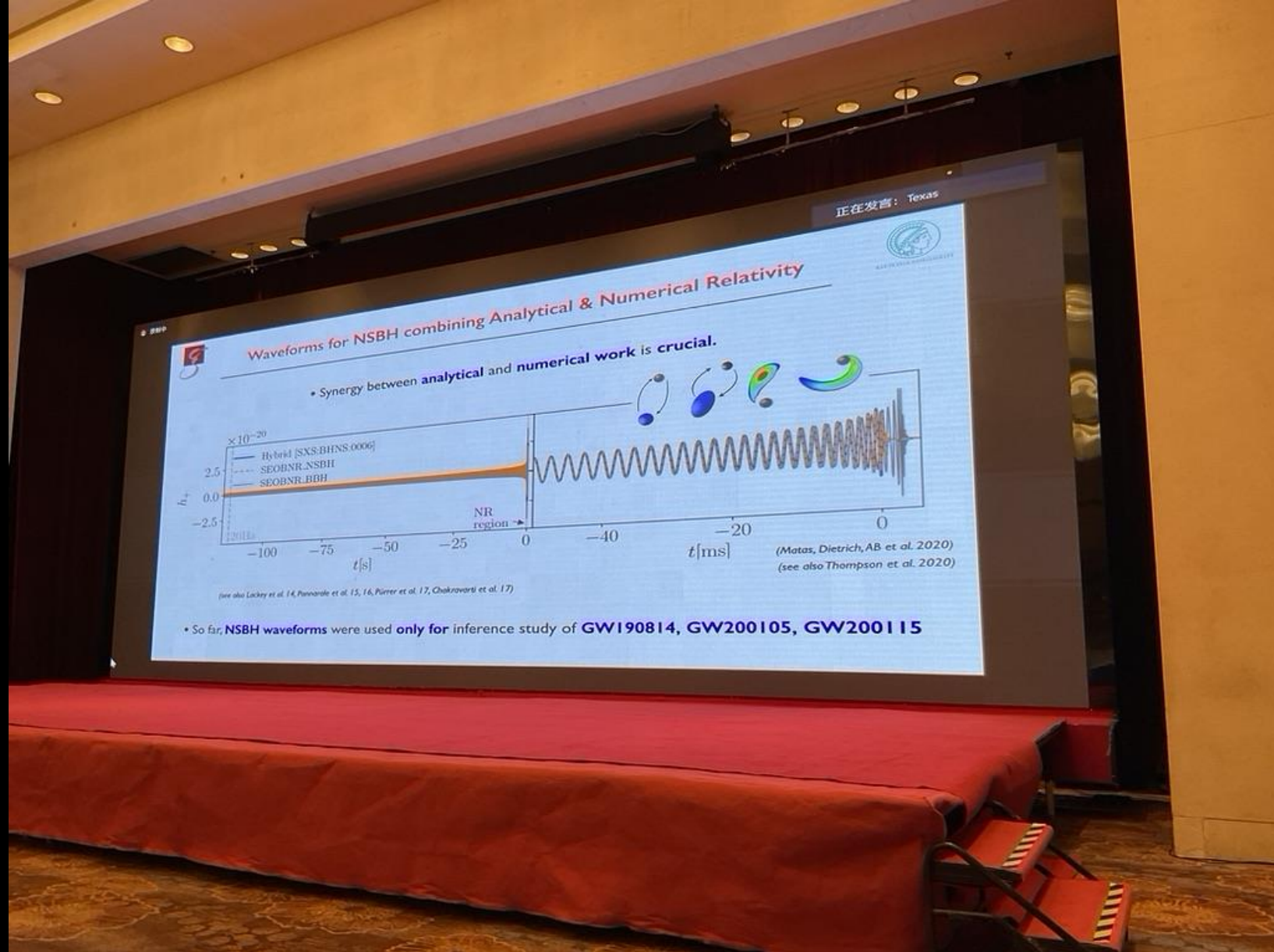


Pulsar

- How **black holes** and **neutron stars** form, which is their **astrophysical environment**, and how do they **form binaries**?
- How **matter behaves** under **extreme density and pressure**? Can **dark matter** make compact objects?
- What's the **origin** of the **most energetic phenomena** in our Universe?
- Is **General Relativity** violated? What is the **nature** of the observed **dark objects**?
- Can we discover **new fundamental particles**, and **infer** the **cosmological model** of our **Universe** through gravitational-wave observations?



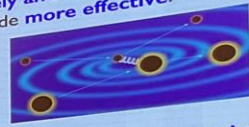






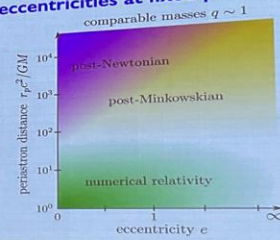
## Theoretical Advances to Enable Precision GW Astronomy

- PN, PM, GSF, perturbation theory should be combined in EOB approach more effectively and in novel ways to largely improve analytical solutions of two-body problem. Calibration to NR should be made more effective.
- Scattering-amplitude/effective-field-theory/quantum-field-theory methods from high-energy physics have brought new tools to solve two-body problem in classical gravity.
- Frontier in analytical, perturbative calculations: 6PM/5PN.



(APS/Summer)

- The PM approximation is more accurate than PN for scattering encounters at large velocities, or equivalently large eccentricities at fixed periastron distance.

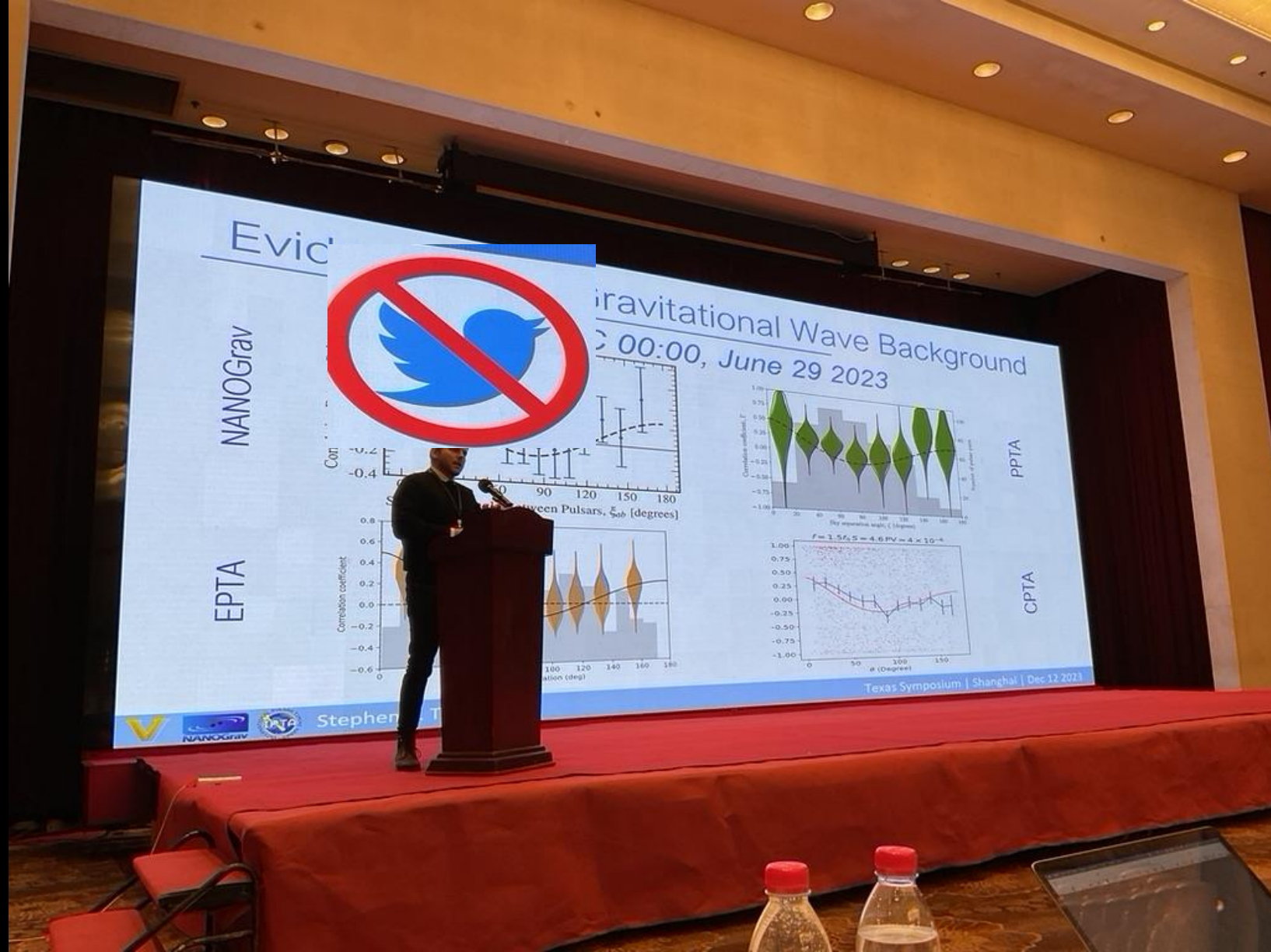


(Khodja, A8, Steinhoff &amp; Vines 22)

|       | 0PN                                            | 1PN | 2PN | 3PN | 4PN | 5PN  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| $G$   | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 1 PM |
| $G^2$ | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 2 PM |
| $G^3$ | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 3 PM |
| $G^4$ | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 4 PM |
| $G^5$ | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 5 PM |
| $G^6$ | $(1 + v^2 + v^4 + v^6 + v^8 + v^{10} + \dots)$ |     |     |     |     | 6 PM |

# Gravitational Waves

- Binary Pulsars
- LIGO – Virgo – KAGRA
  - BHB, NSB, BHNSB
  - Numerical relativity
- nHz Background
  - Binary Massive Black Holes
- LISA (Pathfinder, 2035+), TaiJi, TianQin, DECIGO
- B-Modes
- Atom Interferometry

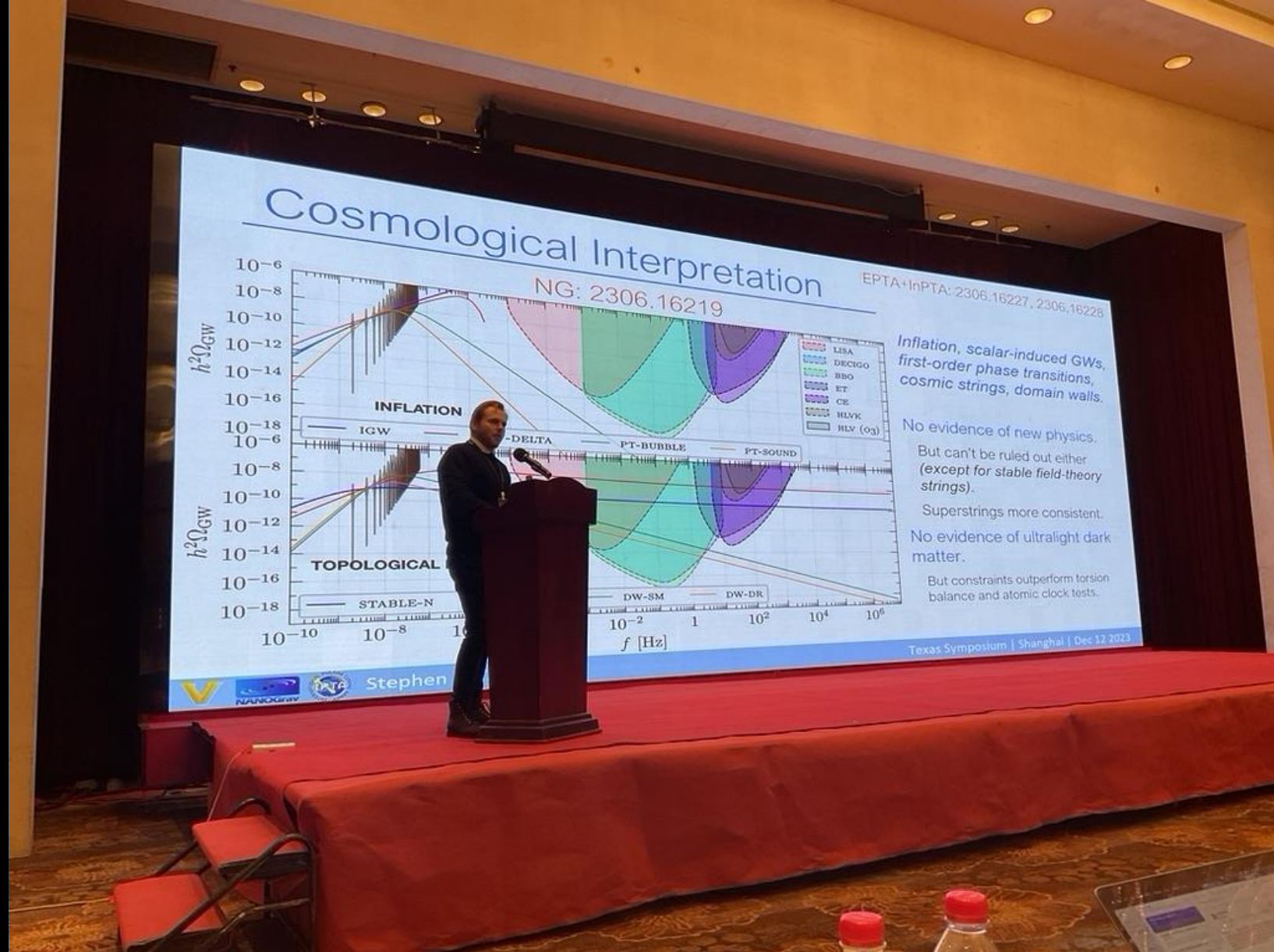












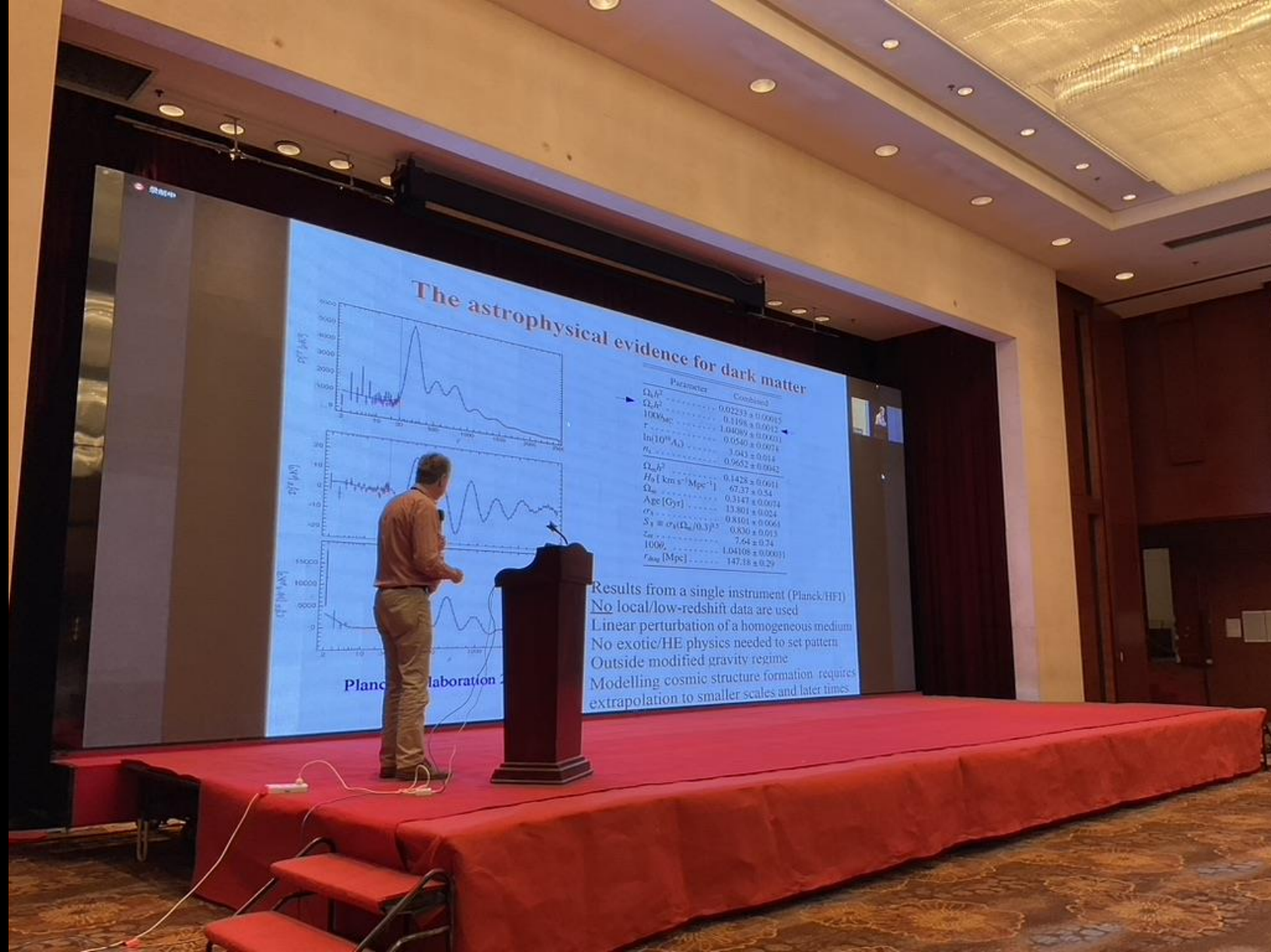


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# Cosmology

- Big Bang
  - Nucleosynthesis
  - Massive Neutrinos
  - Baryogenesis
  - Inflation
  - Alternatives
- Cosmic Microwave Background
  - Fluctuations, Polarization, Lensing





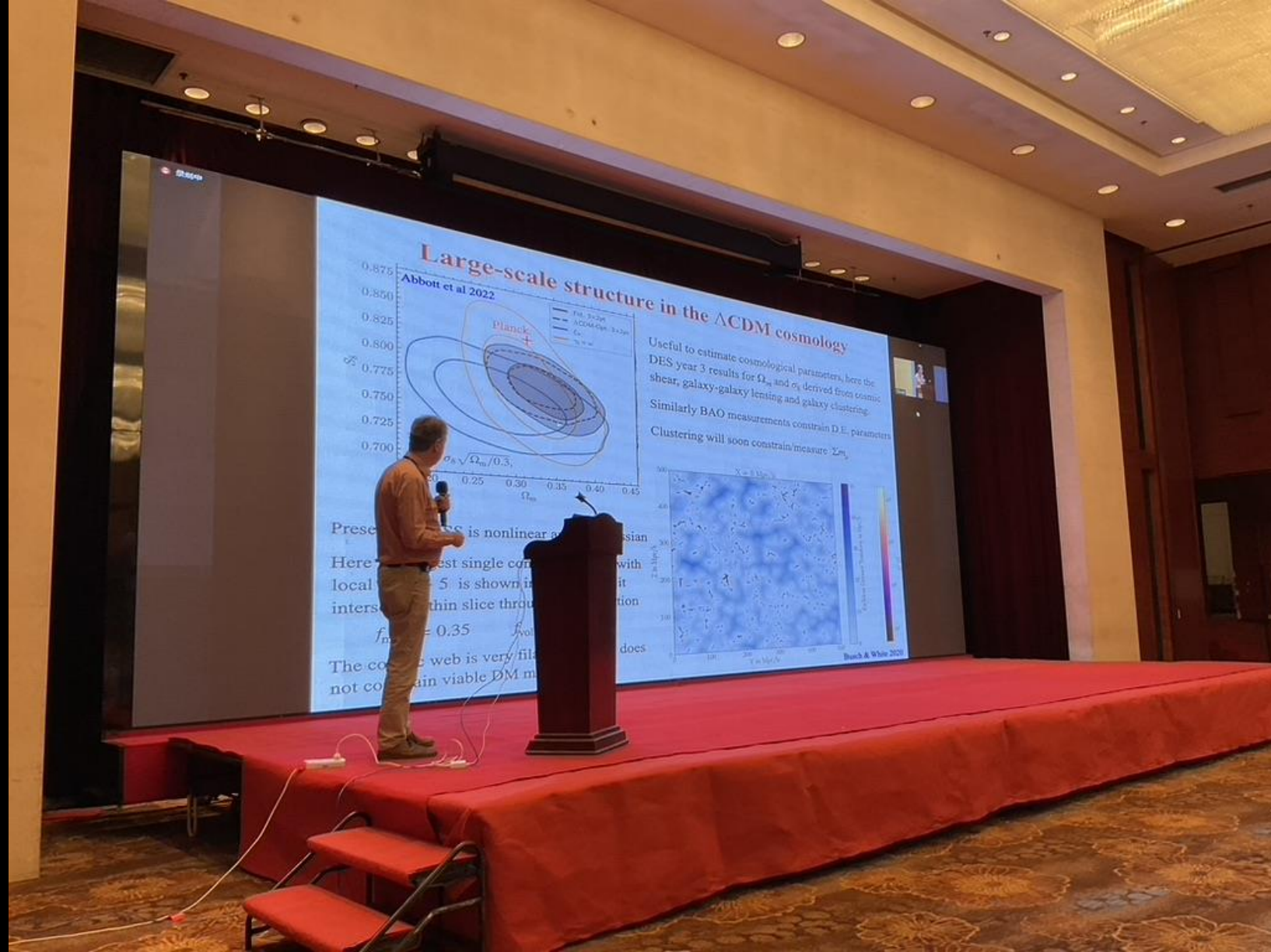


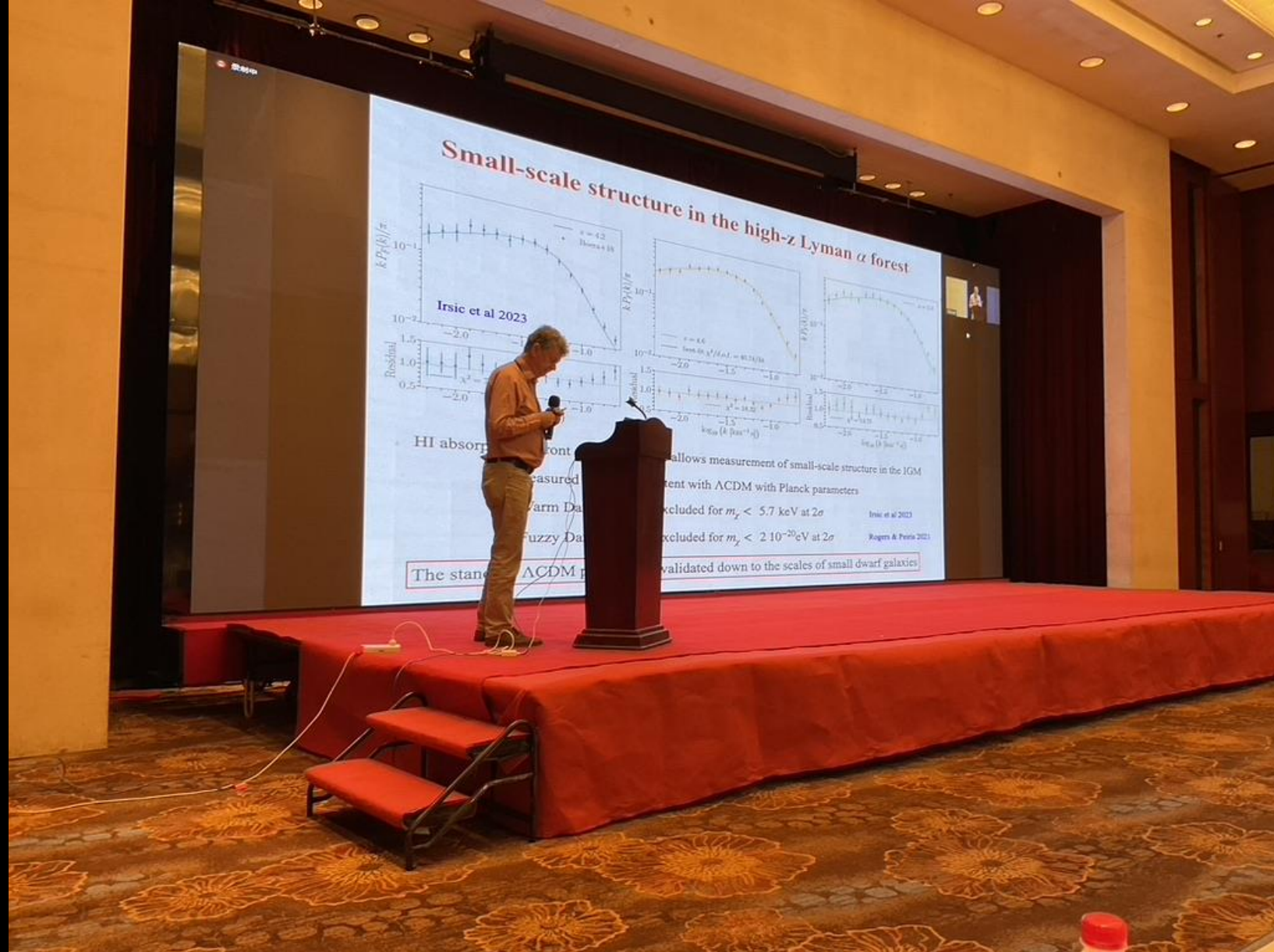
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- Dark Matter
  - CMB, Large Scale Structure, BAO; Clusters, Galaxies
  - WIMPs, Axions, Fields...
  - Direct and Indirect Detection,
  - Strong and Weak Lensing
- Cosmography
  - Hubble Constant
  - Cosmological Constant
  - Standard Model, Near Field Cosmology
  - Tensions

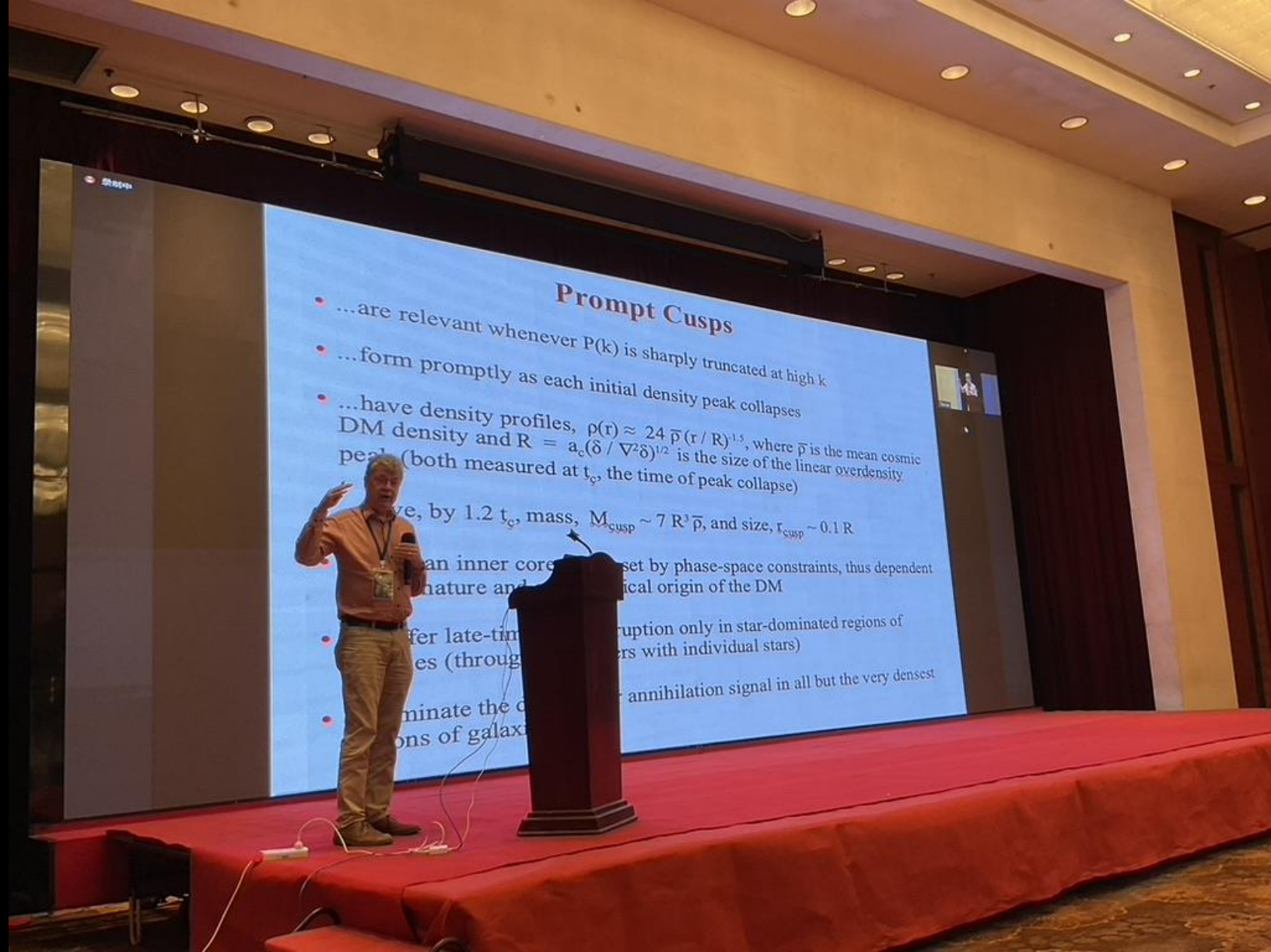






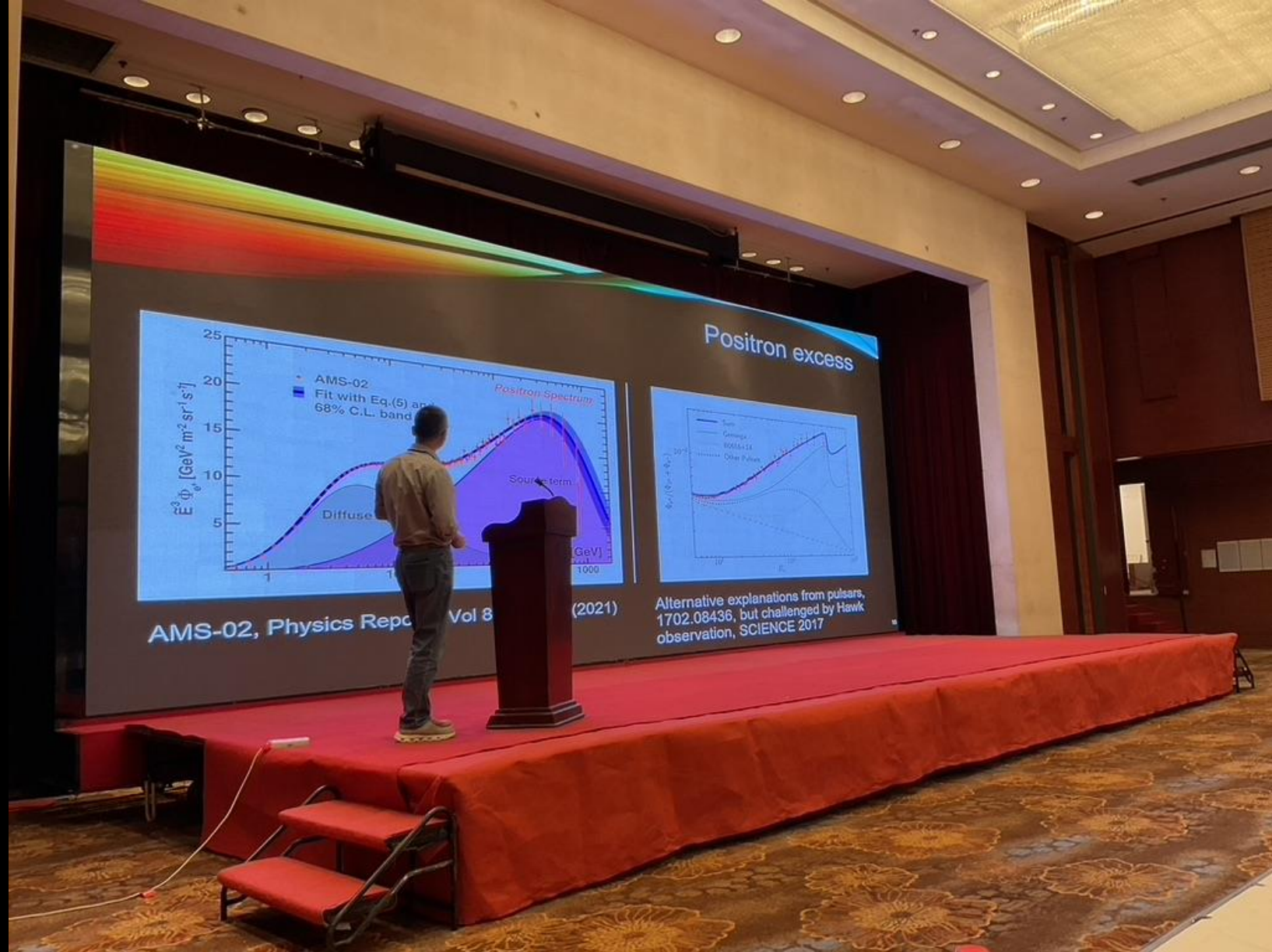




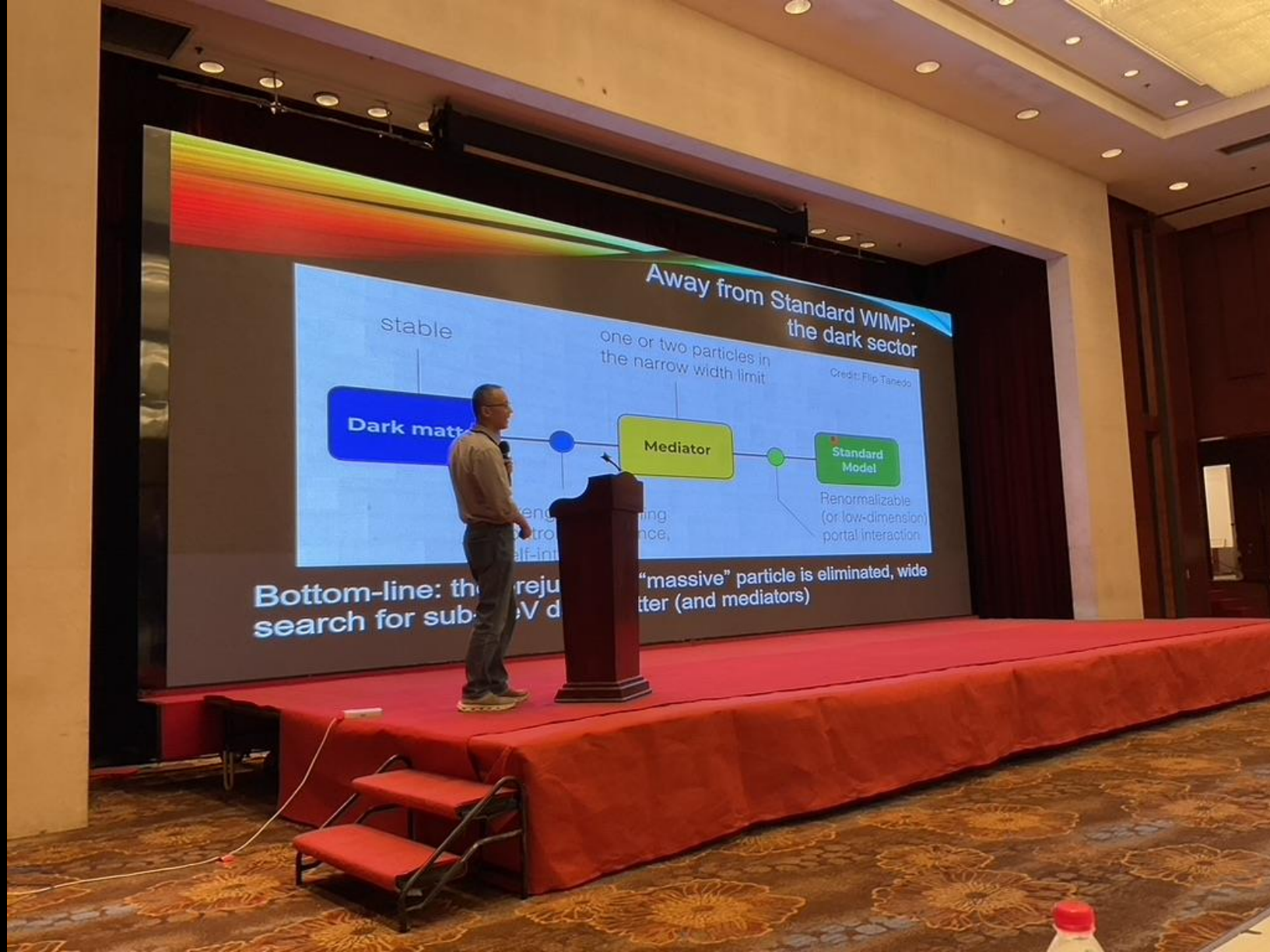




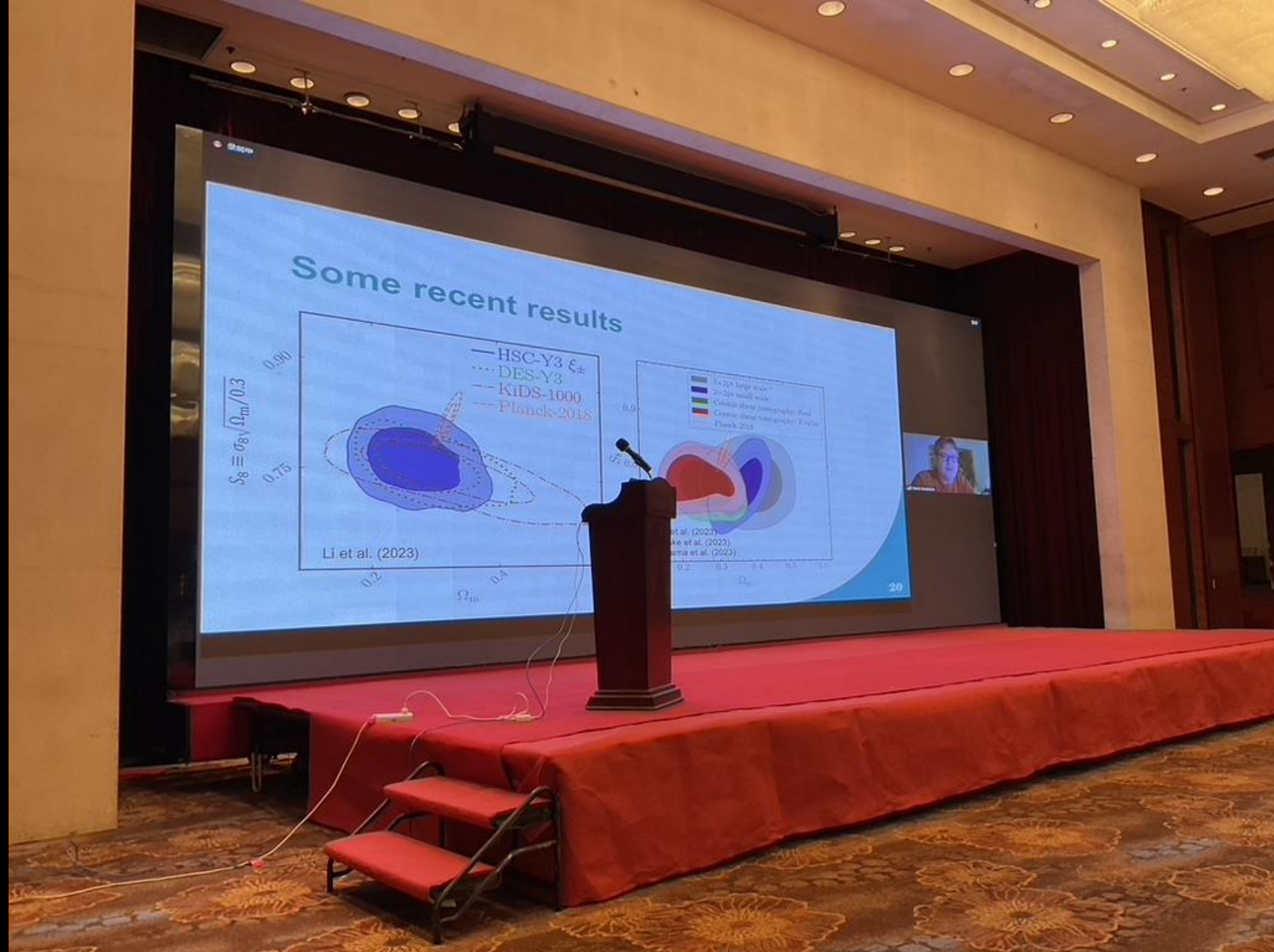


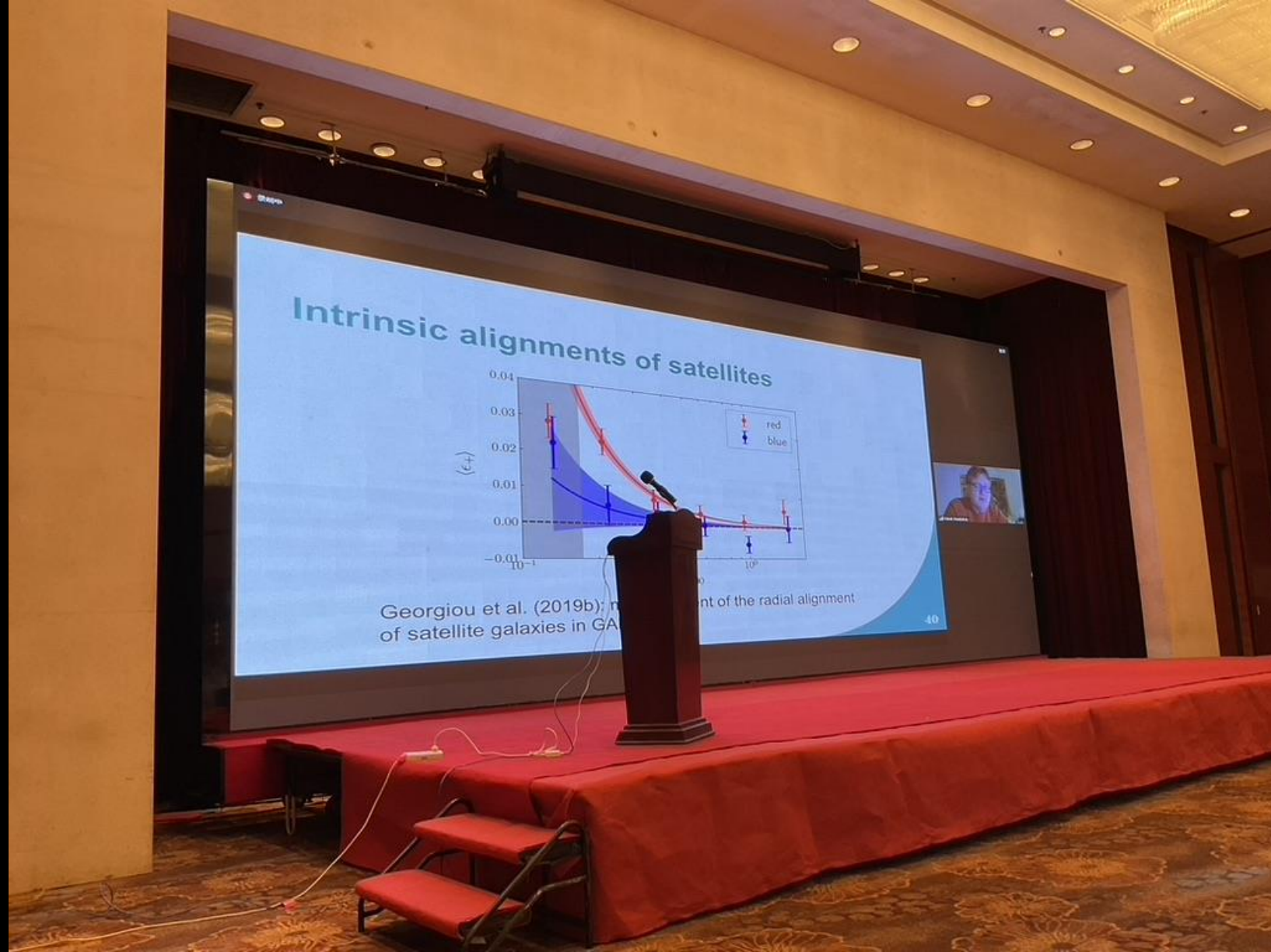








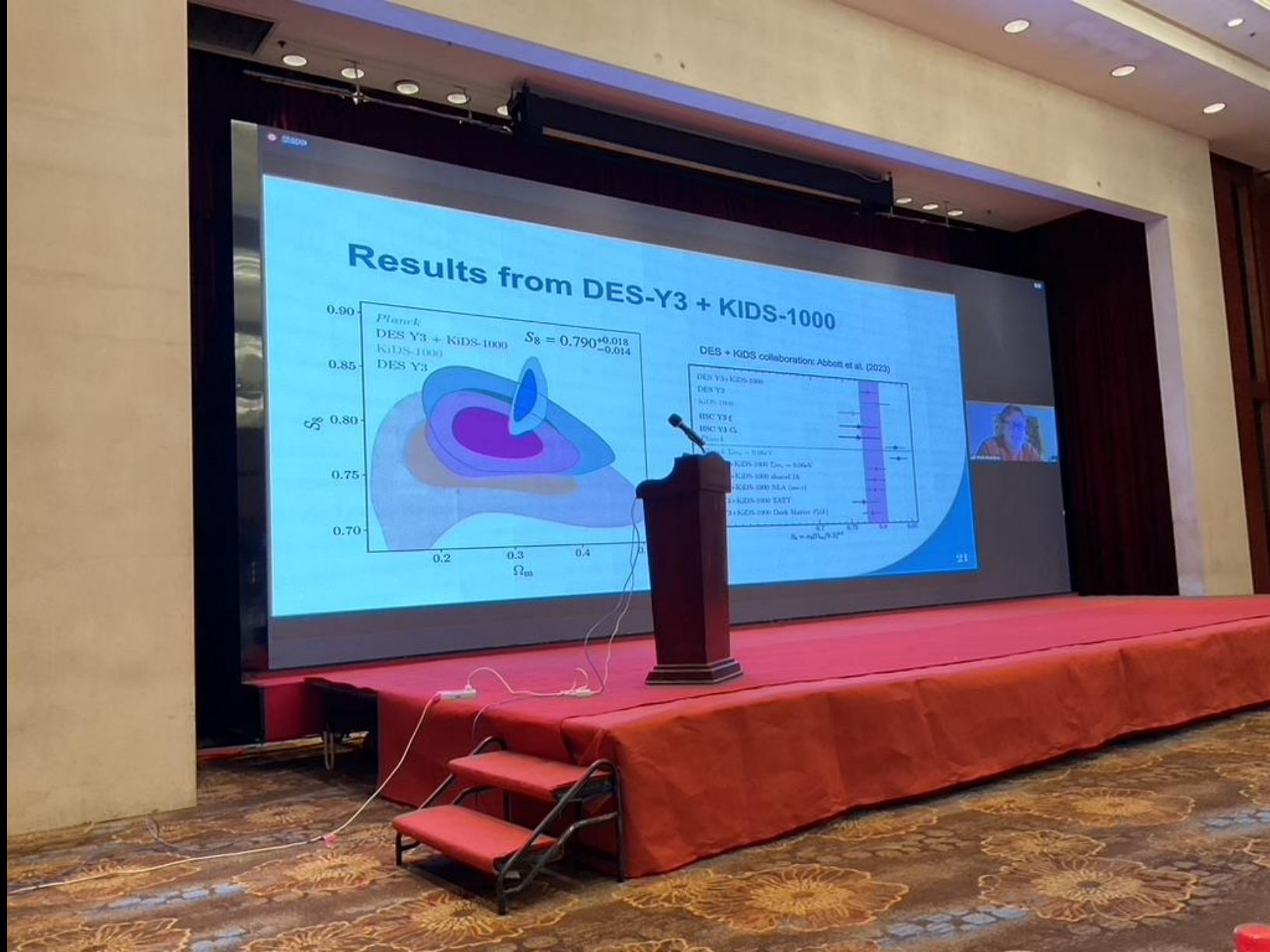




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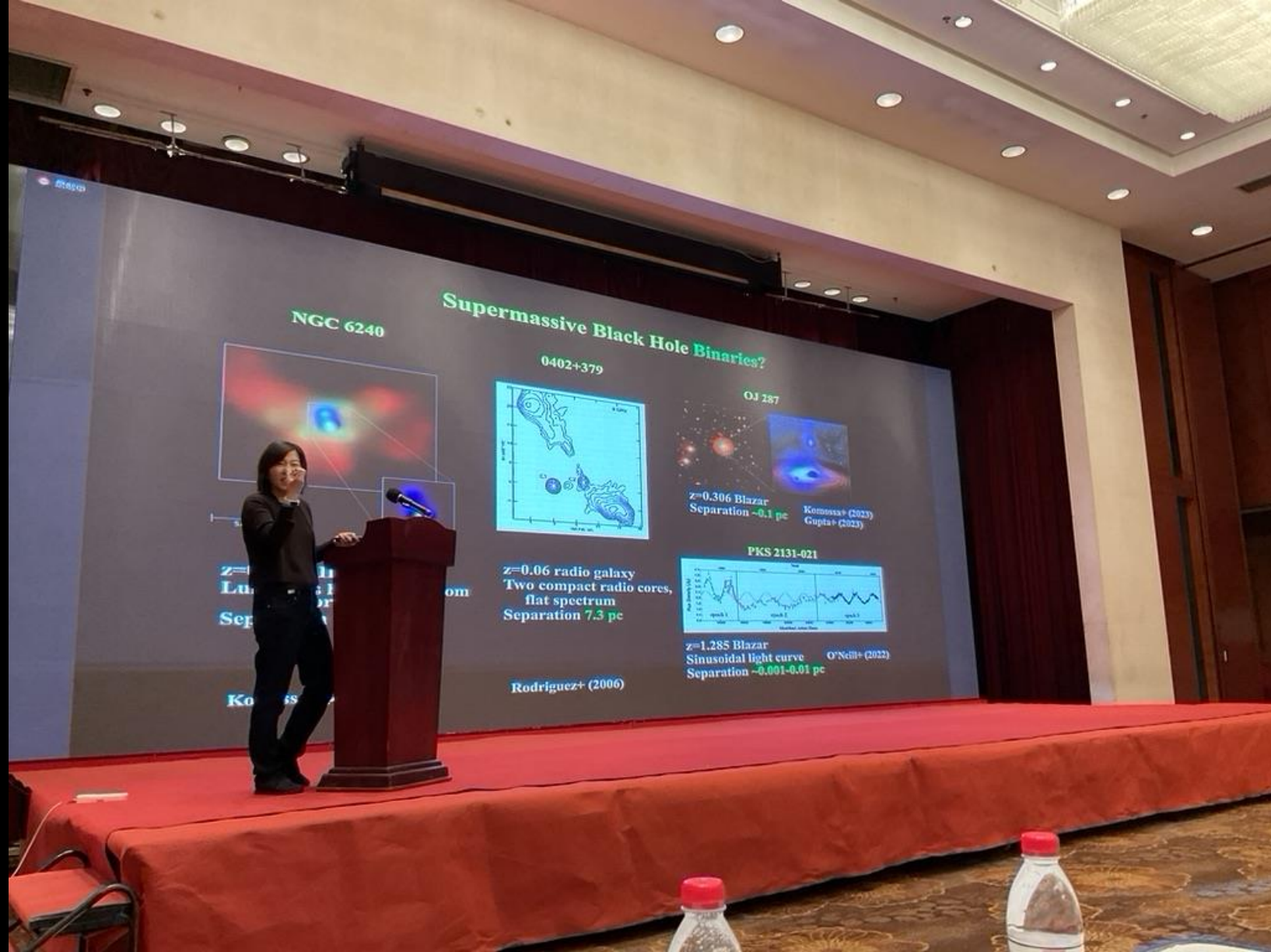
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- Narrative History of Galaxies

# Promise

- Black Holes
  - Kerr; Magnetosphere; Jet, Disk, Wind Dynamics; Binaries; Environment; UHECR...
- Neutron Stars
  - (Magnetic) EoS; SQED Theory, Obs, Expt; FRB; knae, PWN; Emission, Transmission...
- Gravitational Waves
  - Open up pHz,  $\mu$ Hz, mHz Bands; Strong GR; nHz Background, Sources; BBH Provenance...
- Cosmology
  - Dark Matter; Inflation; Neutrinos; Standard Model; Archaeology...



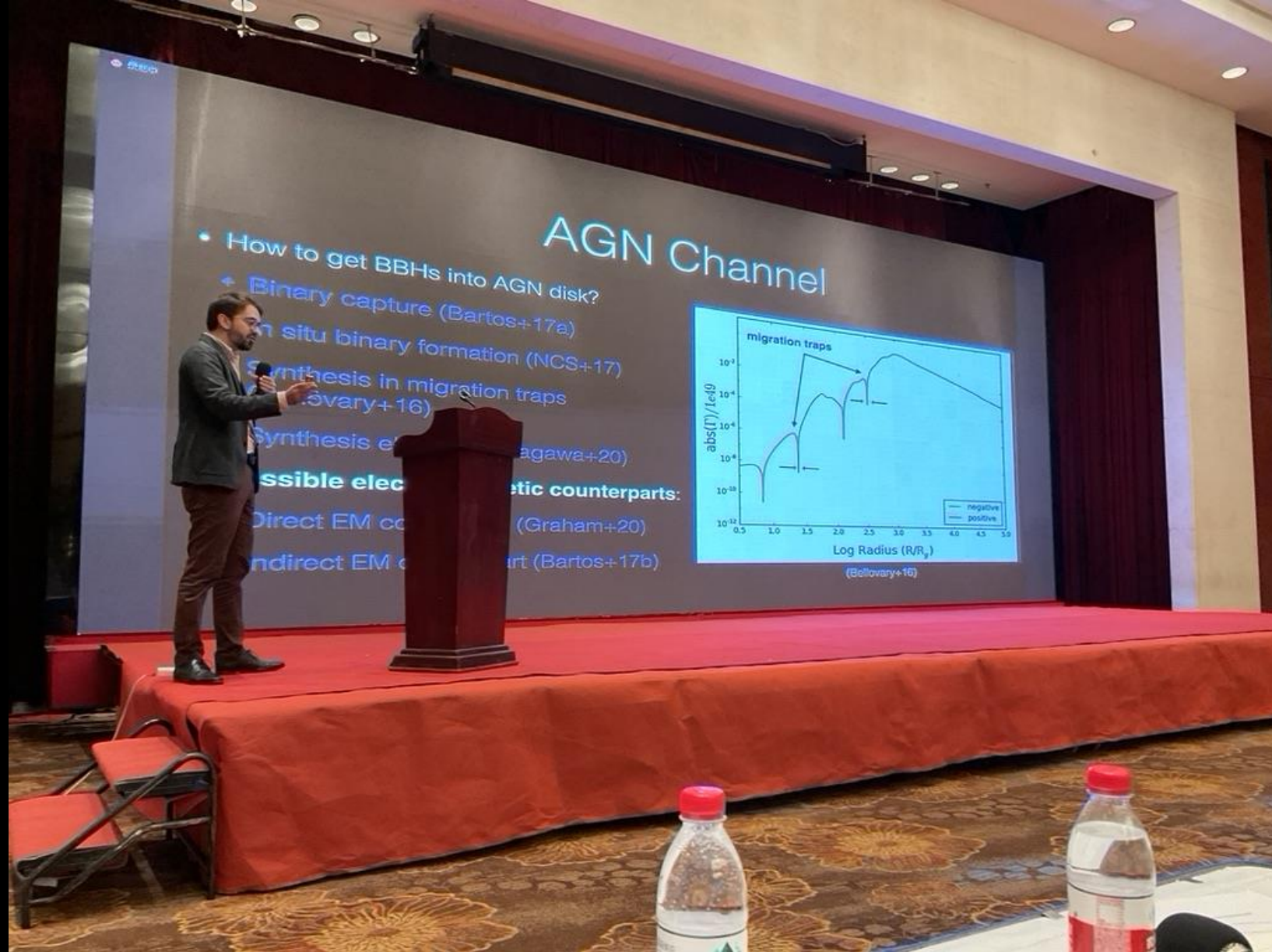




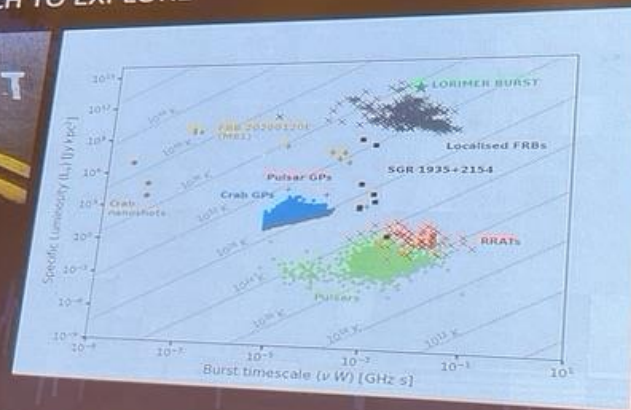








LOOK LEFT AND RIGHT  
STILL MUCH TO EXPLORE

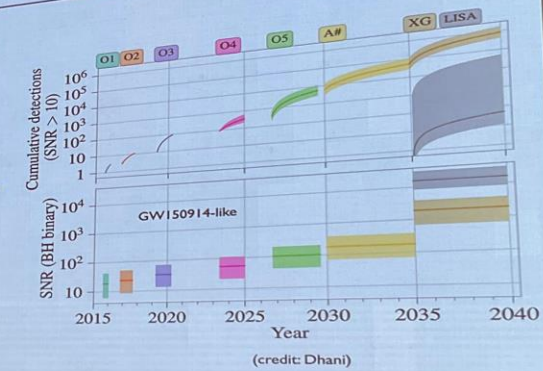




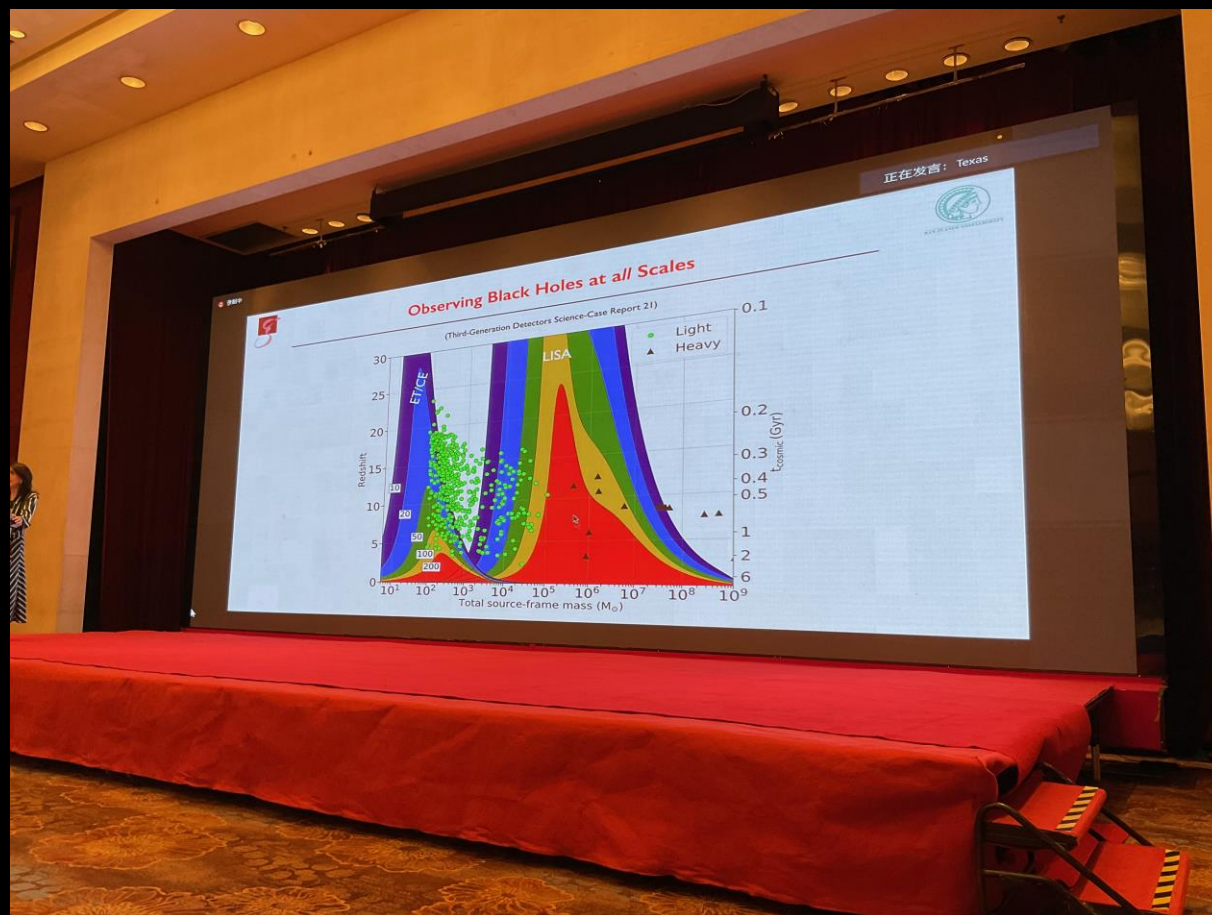
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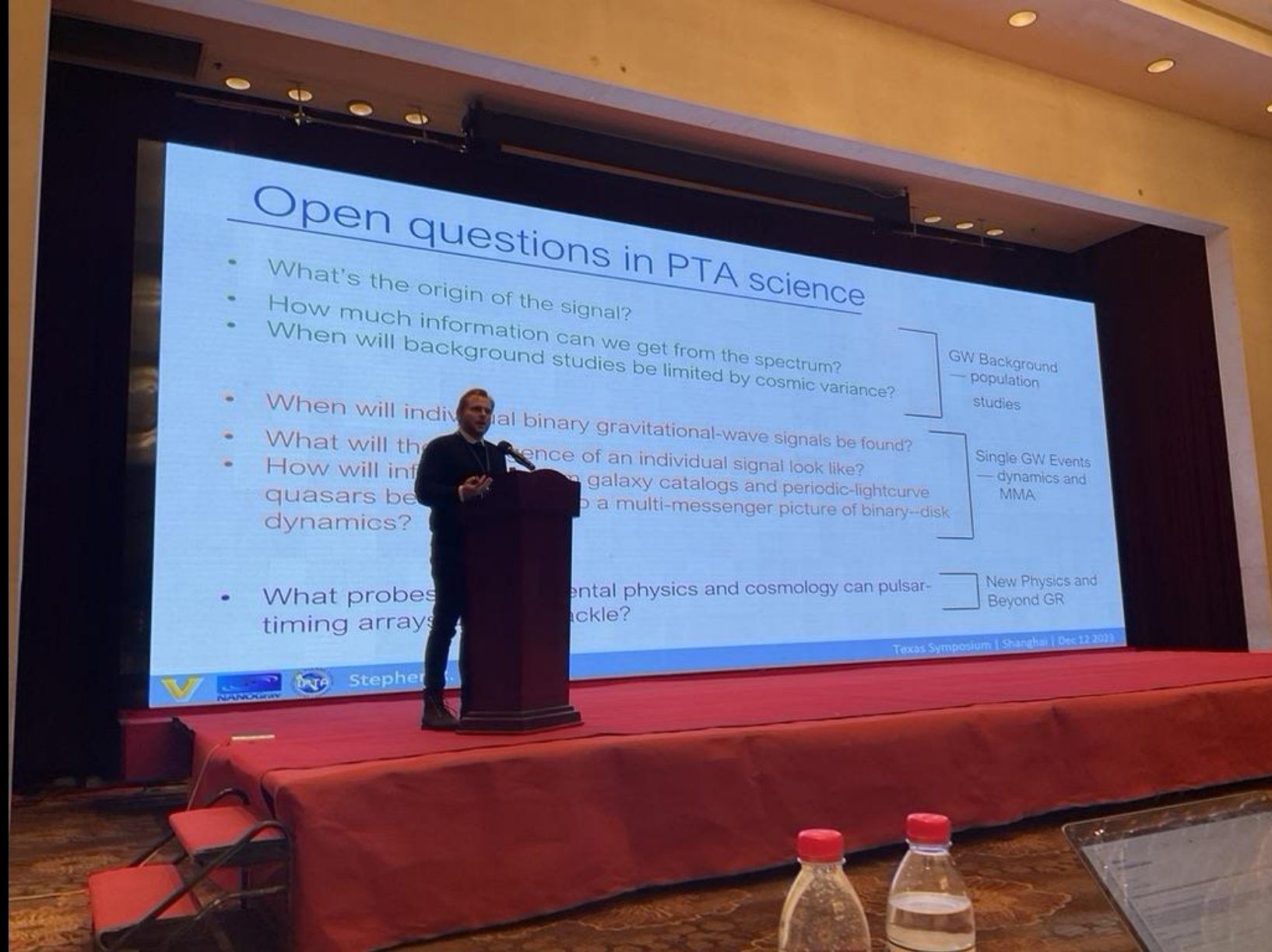
## Summary & Outlook

- The work at the interface between **analytical** and **numerical relativity** has been **essential to detect GW signals, and infer unique information** in astrophysics, cosmology and fundamental physics.
- With the **greater accuracy of upgraded (O5, A<sup>#</sup>, Virgo<sub>nEXT</sub>, LIGO-India) and future facilities and missions (Einstein Telescope, Cosmic Explorer and LISA)** come the **even greater challenges for theoretical GW modeling**.
- To **correctly interpret** future GW observations, and **avoid drawing wrong scientific conclusions**, the **precision** of theoretical GW predictions **must improve by two orders of magnitude or more**, depending on the binary's parameter space, and **must include all physical effects** (generic orbits, beyond-GR, matter/environment).









## Open questions in PTA science

- What's the origin of the signal?
- How much information can we get from the spectrum?
- When will background studies be limited by cosmic variance?

GW Background  
— population  
studies

- When will individual binary gravitational-wave signals be found?
- What will the influence of an individual signal look like?
- How will information from galaxy catalogs and periodic-lightcurve quasars be used to build a multi-messenger picture of binary-disk dynamics?

Single GW Events  
— dynamics and  
MMA

- What probes fundamental physics and cosmology can pulsar-timing arrays tackle?

New Physics and  
Beyond GR

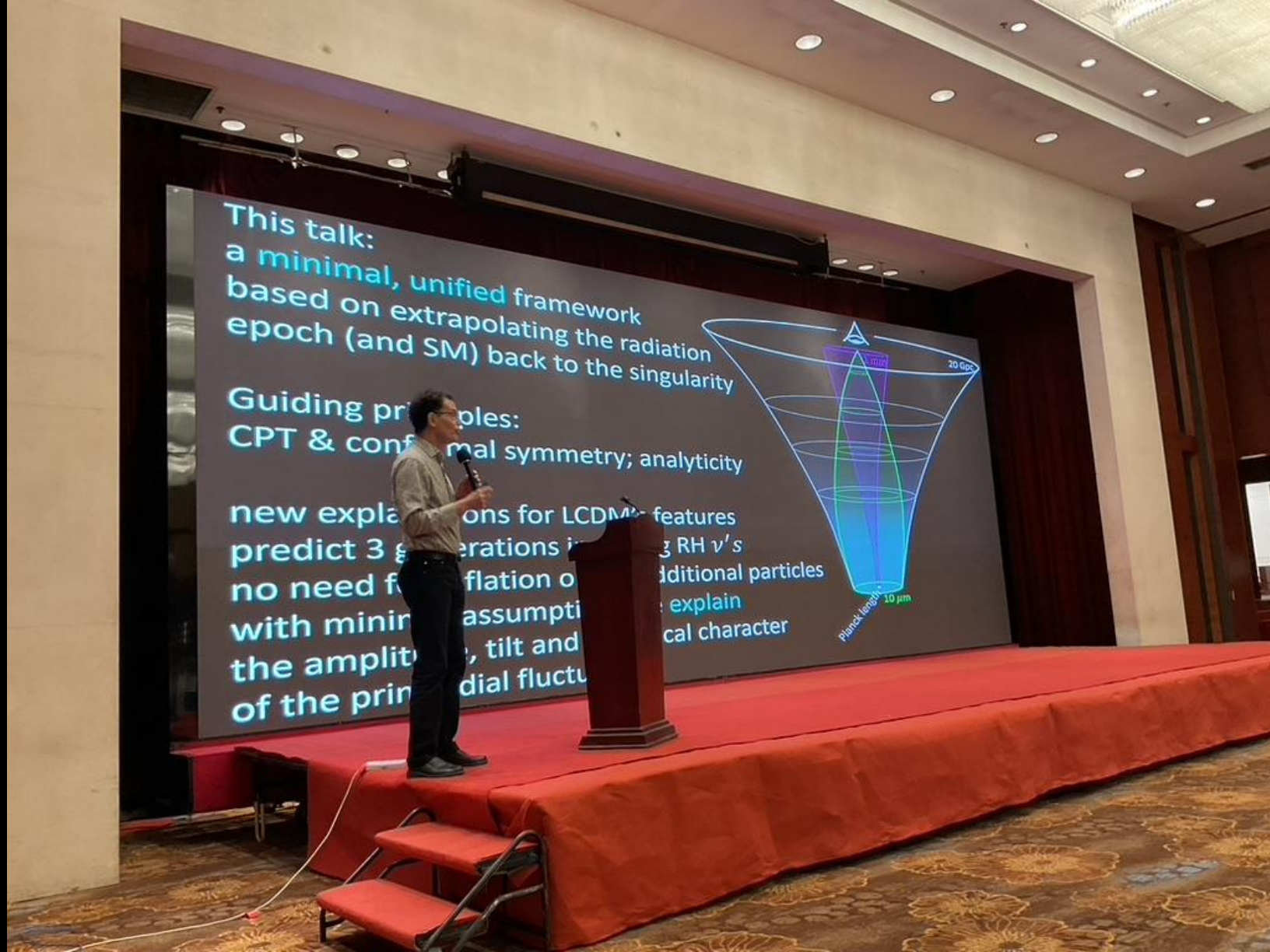
Texas Symposium | Shanghai | Dec 12, 2023



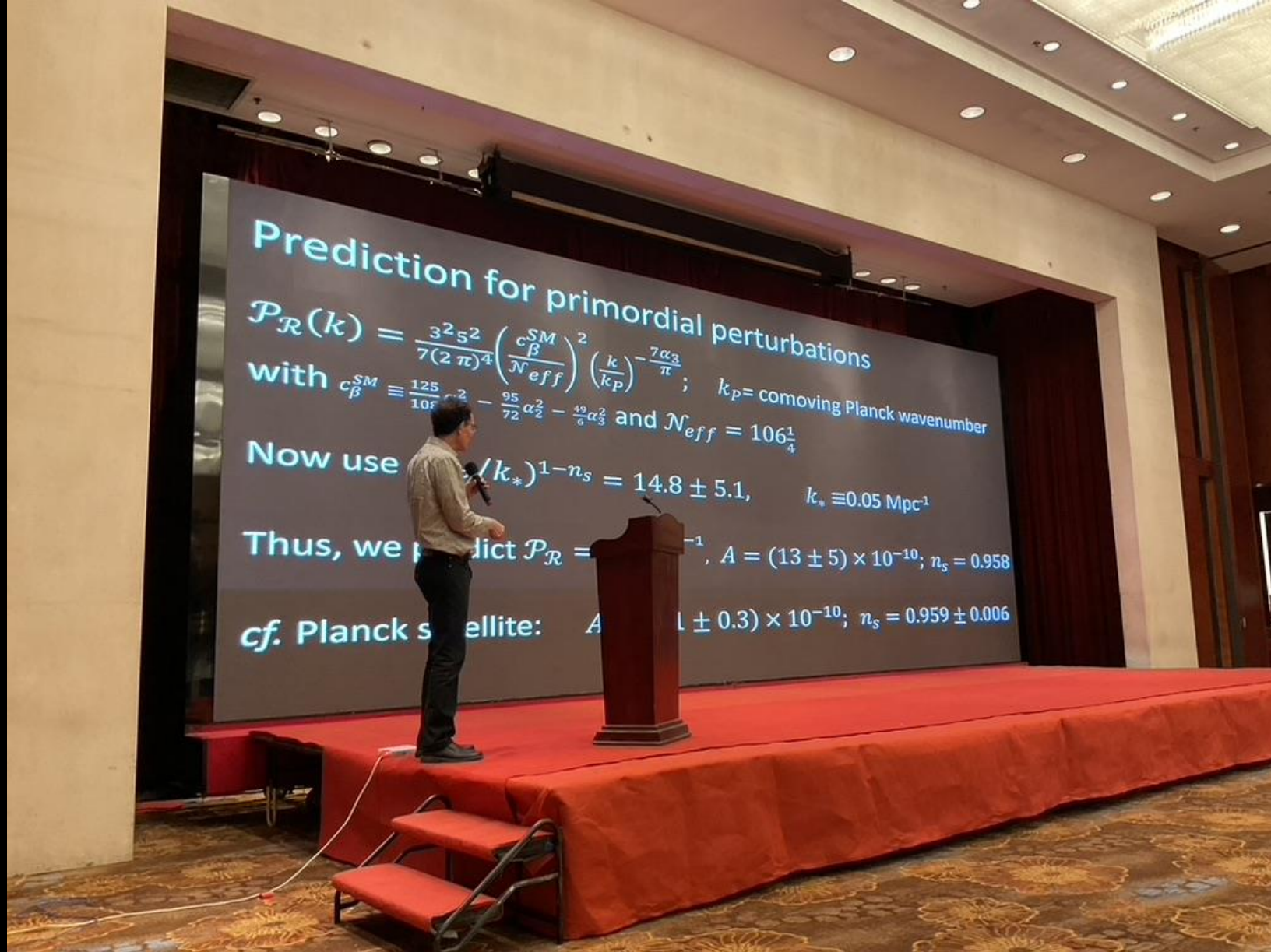












## Prediction for primordial perturbations

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = \frac{3^2 5^2}{7(2\pi)^4} \left( \frac{c_{\beta}^{SM}}{\mathcal{N}_{eff}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{k}{k_P} \right)^{-\frac{7\alpha_3}{\pi}}; \quad k_P = \text{comoving Planck wavenumber}$$

with  $c_{\beta}^{SM} \equiv \frac{125}{108} \alpha_1^2 - \frac{95}{72} \alpha_2^2 - \frac{49}{6} \alpha_3^2$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{eff} = 106\frac{1}{4}$

Now use  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k_*)^{1-n_s} = 14.8 \pm 5.1, \quad k_* \equiv 0.05 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

Thus, we predict  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} = A k^{-1}, \quad A = (13 \pm 5) \times 10^{-10}; \quad n_s = 0.958$

cf. Planck satellite:  $A = (11 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-10}; \quad n_s = 0.959 \pm 0.006$

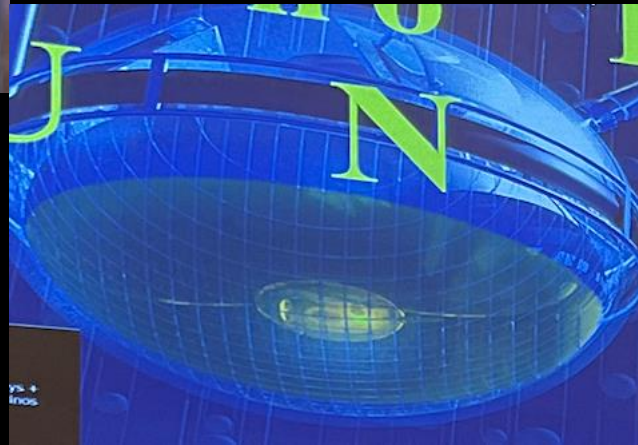
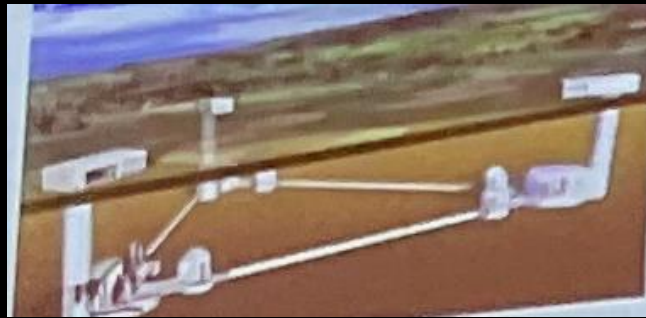
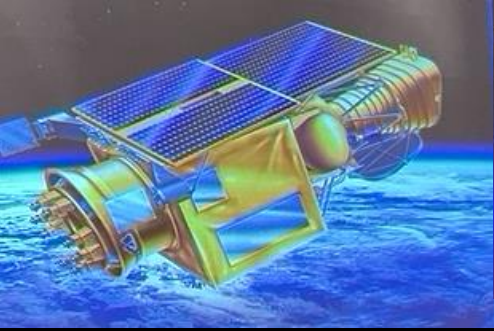


# Promise

- Black Holes
  - Kerr Spacetime; Magnetosphere; Jet, Disk, Wind Dynamics; Binaries; Environment; UHECR...
- Neutron Stars
  - (Magnetic) EoS; SQED Theory, Obs, Expt; FRB; k<sub>nae</sub>, PWN; Emission, Transmission...
- Gravitational Waves
  - Open up pHz,  $\mu$ Hz, mHz Bands; Strong GR; nHz Background, Sources; BBH Provenance...
- Cosmology
  - Dark Matter; Inflation; Neutrinos; Standard Model; Archaeology...

Expect the Unexpected!

# Prospects





# Scientific Discovery is “Logically Unscripted”

- CMB – antenna noise
- Quasars (massive BH) – radio source identifications
- Stellar BHs – X-ray source identifications
- Massive and mutable  $\nu$ 's – checking solar model
- Neutron stars – lunar X-rays
- Pulsars – interplanetary scintillation
- Gamma ray bursts – nuclear weapons monitoring
- Dark matter – galactic and stellar orbits
- Cosmic acceleration – supernova explosions
- Gravitational lenses – quasar follow up
- Gravitational radiation – pulsar timing
- Massive black hole binaries – LIGO....
- Fast Radio Bursts – transients e.g. NSB, PBH

# Top-Down and Bottom-Up Science

- Reductionist Approach
  - Celestial Mechanics, Stellar Atmospheres
  - EM, Plasma, for Modest Dynamic Range
  - Cosmological Subgrid Modeling?
  - Connect Data with Simulation using Machine Learning?
- Inductive Approach
  - Global Conservation Laws
  - Characteristic Length, Time, Mass, Energy Scales
- Special Sources vs Statistical Sample

# The Future of Relativistic Astrophysicists

- Longstanding, global, existential crises
  - Climate, energy, disease, deforestation, flood, drought, fire, resource, inequality...
- Needs adaptive, corrective, innovative and rapid response
  - Problems are global
  - Space and ground
  - Monitoring requires new instruments and creates large, heterogeneous, datasets
  - Machine learning...
- Solutions will involve many fields of science
  - Atomic, biology, chemistry, computational, engineering, fluid, nuclear, plasma, radiation...
  - Progress at interfaces, requiring boldness to "fail fast" and supply new insight
- Just like relativistic astrophysics!
- We need to become more broadly proficient
  - Learn new fields; resist specialization



# Summary

- Relativistic Astrophysics has grown remarkably over sixty years
  - Largely unscripted
  - Still growing today
- Observational Discovery, Theoretical Foundation, Astrophysics
  - Two way streets
  - Data and simulation
  - Huge public interest
- Black Holes, Neutron Stars, Gravitational Radiation, Cosmology
  - Scientifically entangled
  - Connects to most other areas of physics
- Texas Conferences are great!

See you in Arizona State University in 2025