



Machine Learning Dark Matter Halo Formation

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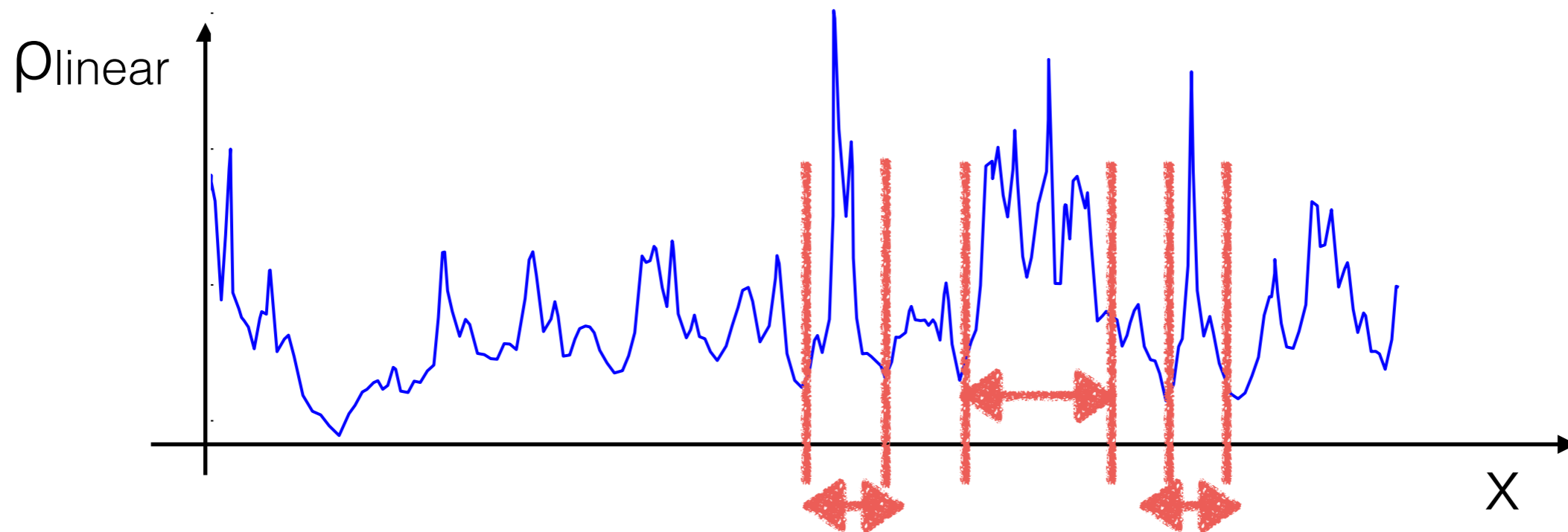
University College London

with H.V. Peiris, A. Pontzen, M. Lochner

arXiv:1802.04271

A machine learning approach

Train a machine learning algorithm to learn cosmological structure formation from N-body simulations.



Aim: gain insights into the physics driving halo formation

Supervised classification

Initial conditions ($z=99$)

Information about the local environment around DM particle

Random Forest

Final halos ($z=0$)

Predict whether DM particle will belong to a mass range of halos or not

Which aspects of early-Universe density field contain relevant information to predict dark matter halo formation?

Training the machine learning algorithm

1. Machine learning input:

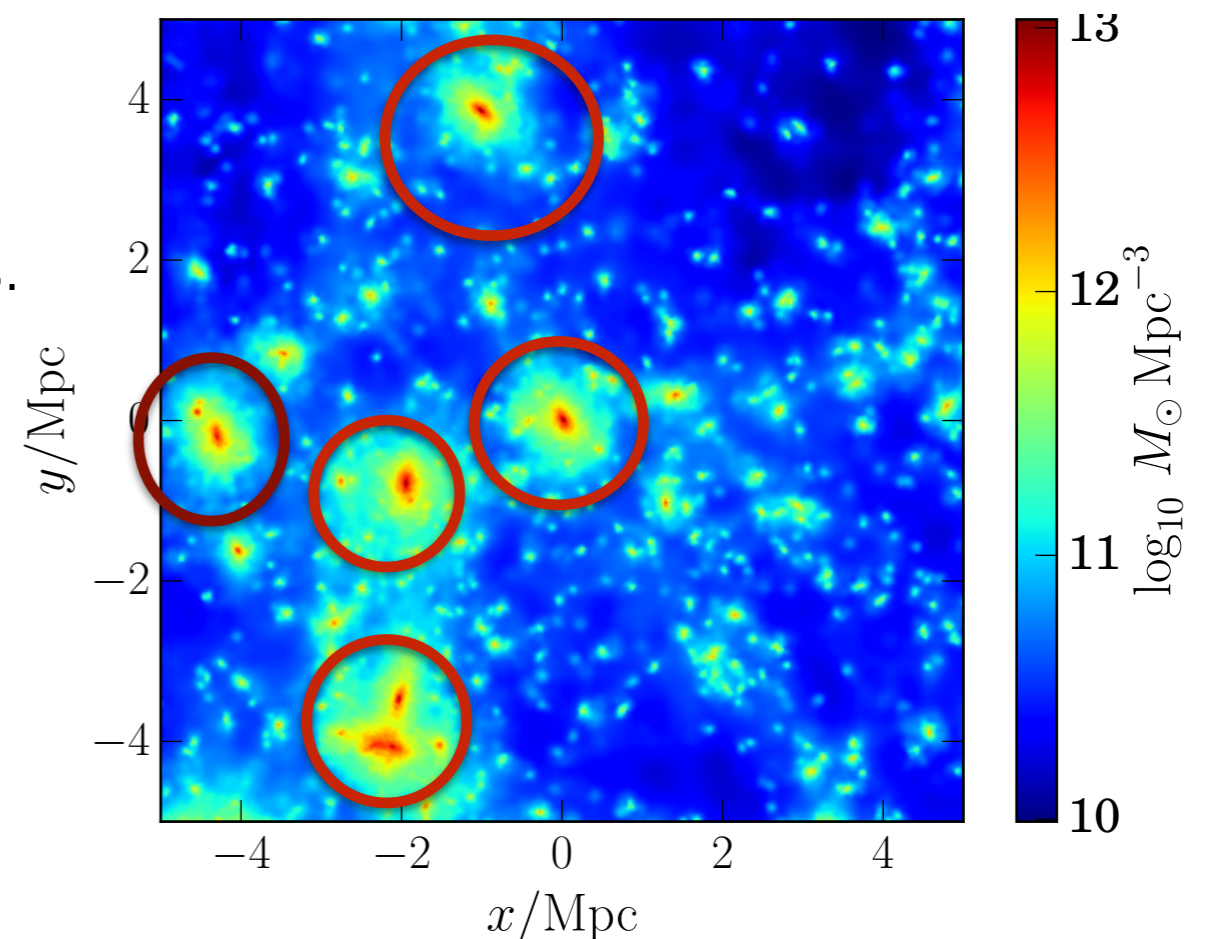
Given a sphere of mass scale M_i centred on particle p , calculate:

1. Density contrast
(motivated by extended Press-Schechter theory)
2. Tidal shear tensor
(motivated by Sheth-Tormen theory)

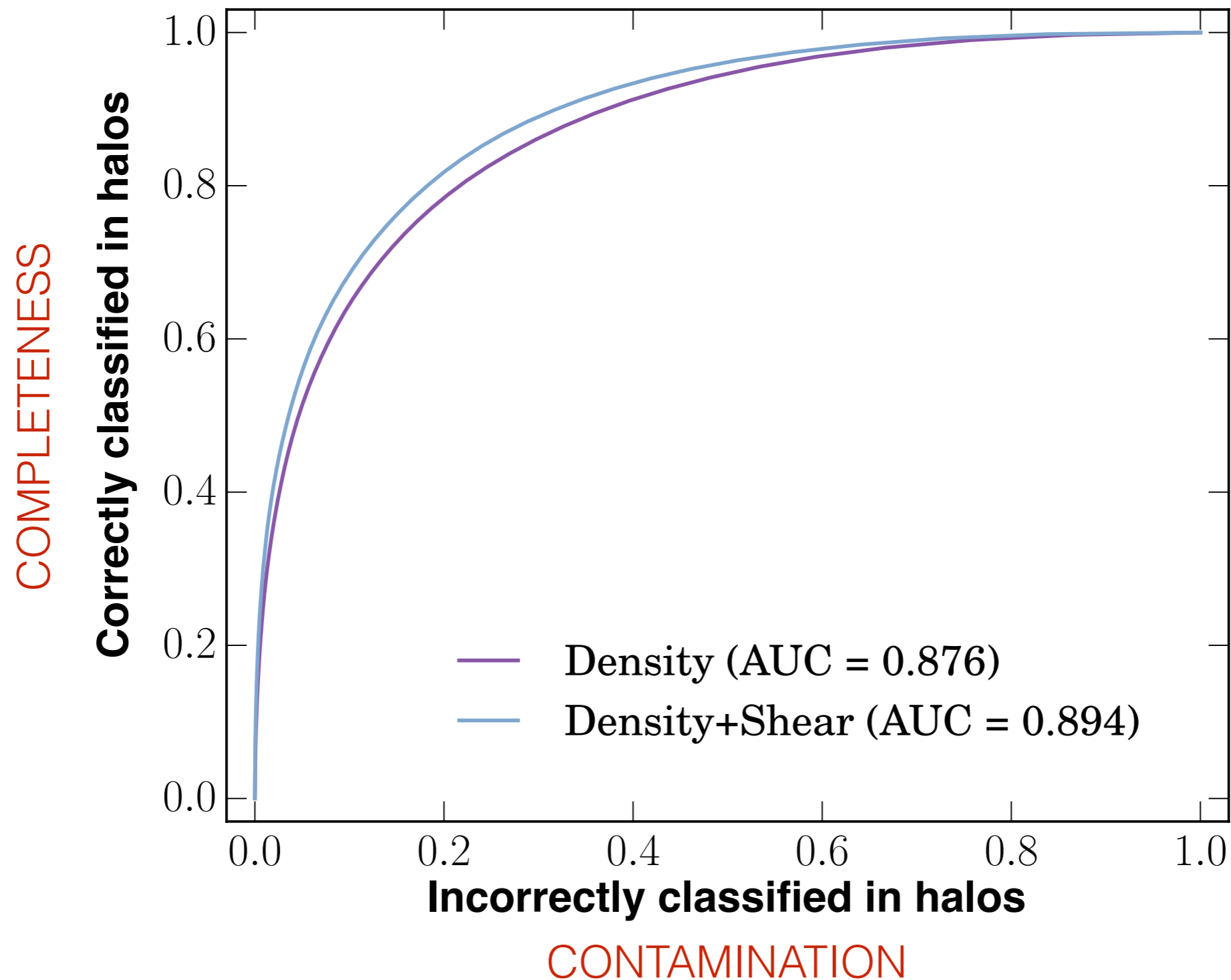
Do the same procedure for 50 mass scales.

2. Machine learning output:

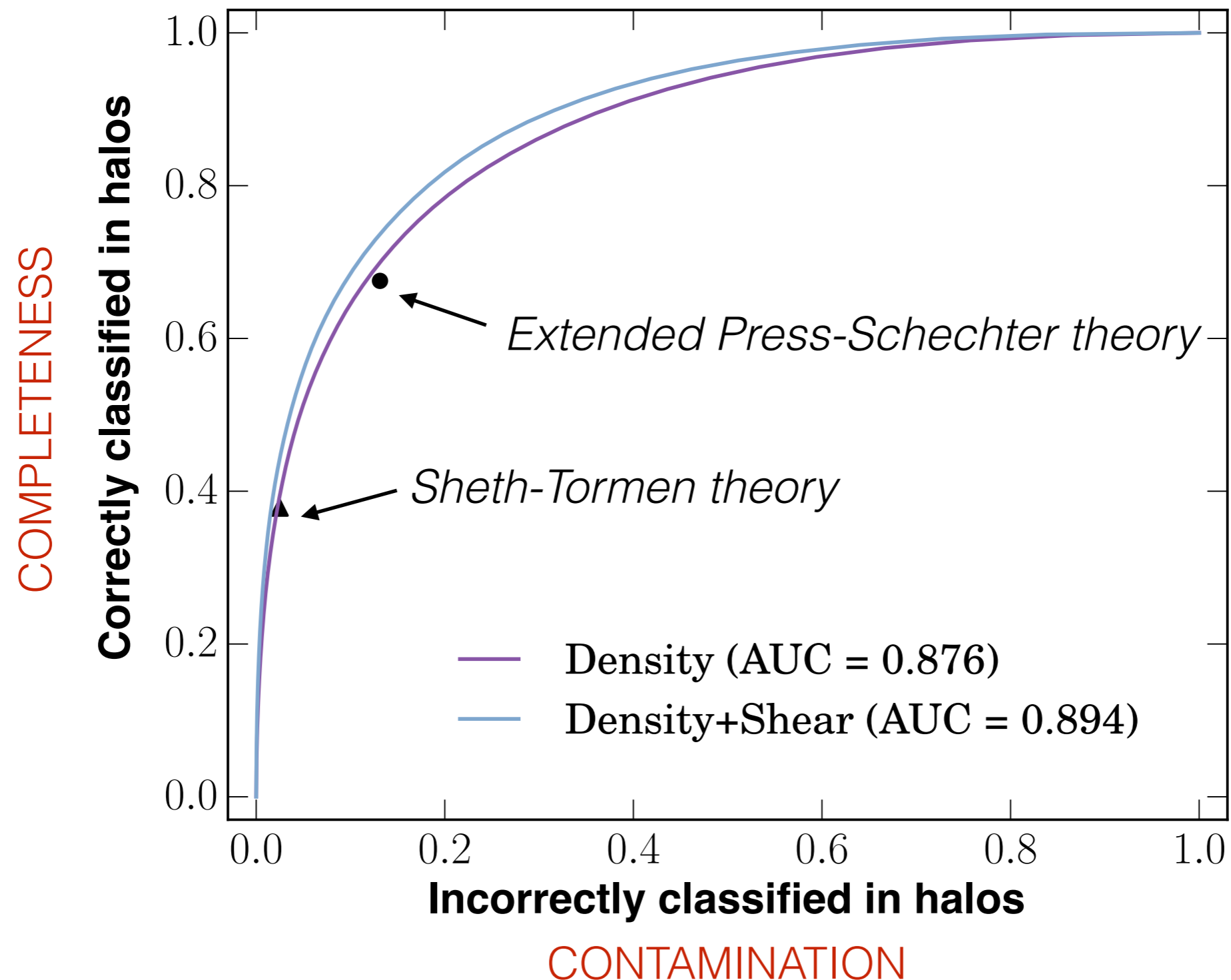
1. **IN** halos of mass, $10^{12} M_{\odot} < M < 10^{14} M_{\odot}$
2. **OUT**, otherwise.



ML predictions: adding the shear shows little improvement



Machine learning vs analytic frameworks



For more information see
arXiv:1802.04271