# Use data not models – Lensing of '69 An example for data-driven inference

# Jenny Wagner

thegravitygrinch.blogspot.com

Debating the potential of machine learning in astrophysical surveys



# Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Stupidity



# **Race car**



#### Artificial Intelligence requires human understanding of model building

1) Particle physics pattern recognition



### 2) Life science image processing



3) Cosmological singularity theory



# Why back to maths? Reason 1: Model fit not possible



#### Data too sparse to fit a model

Image credits: J. DePasquale STScI; R. Griffiths et al. MNRAS 506(2), pp.1595-1608 (2021)

## Why back to maths? Reason 2: Model fit not neccessary



#### Data covers most of the area of interest

# Why back to maths? Reason 3: Model fit not unique



#### Several models explain data equally well

# Why back to maths? Reason 3: Model fit not unique



Several models explain data equally well

**Observables constrain local properties** 



Image credits: NASA/ESA M. J. Jee, H. Ford; J. Wagner, J. Liesenborgs, N. Tessore A&A 612, A17 (2018)

# Use data not models - get back to the formalism



local distortions (amplitude & direction)



# Use data not models - get back to the formalism



local distortions (amplitude & direction)





critical curve (linear approximation)



Image credits: Wagner, Universe 5(7) (2019); R. Griffiths et al. MNRAS 506(2) (2021)

#### explore distortions in sparse data



# verify assumptions by model comparison



### reconstruct a lens by joining data



local approach for sparse and large data sets extended by models into data-devoid regions machine learning support for modelling and model selection



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