

# Cosmological Varying Kinetic Mixing

arXiv. 2302.03056

**Xucheng Gan, DL**

**27/09/2023, Axion++ workshop**



# Outline

- **Lightning Review**
- Dark photon dark matter  $A'$  and kinetic mixing  $\epsilon$
- Dark photon freeze-in through constant  $\epsilon$
- **This work**
- Scalar-controlled kinetic mixing  $\epsilon(\phi)$
- UV model: scalar-photon coupling  $d_e^{(1,2)}$
- Signals and constraints on  $d_e^{(1,2)}$

## Dark Photon and Kinetic Mixing

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}F'^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_{A'}^2}{2}A'_\mu A'^\mu - eA_\mu \bar{f}\gamma^\mu f$$

## Dark Photon and Kinetic Mixing

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}F^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}F'^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_{A'}^2}{2}A'_\mu A'^\mu - eA_\mu \bar{f}\gamma^\mu f$$

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$$A \rightarrow A + \epsilon A', \quad A' \rightarrow A'$$

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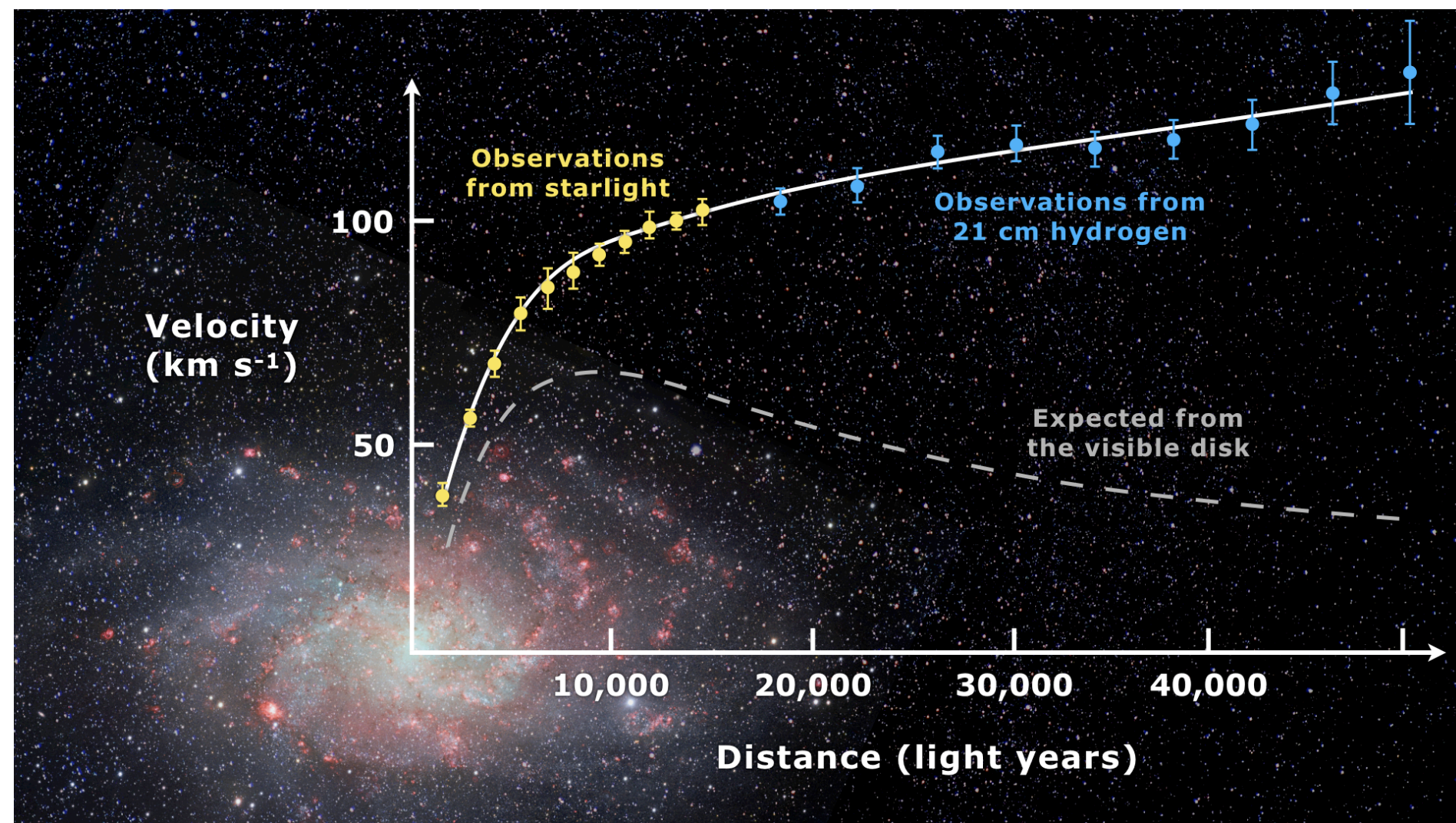
$$A \rightarrow A + \epsilon A', \quad A' \rightarrow A'$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}F'^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{A'}^2 A'_\mu A'^\mu - \epsilon e A'_\mu \bar{f}\gamma^\mu f$$

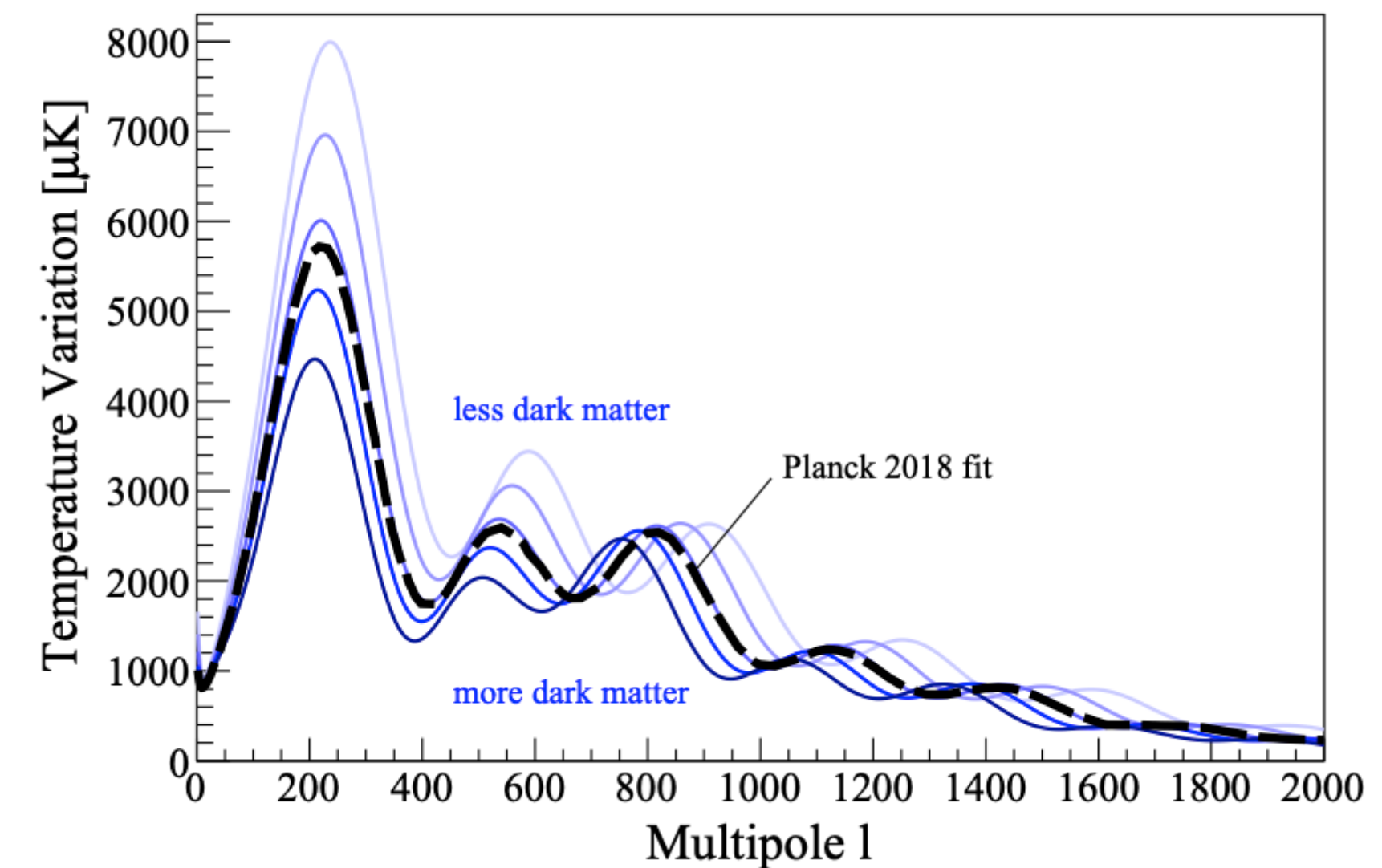
**effective coupling:  $\epsilon e$**

# Dark Photon Dark Matter

## Dark Matter Exists!



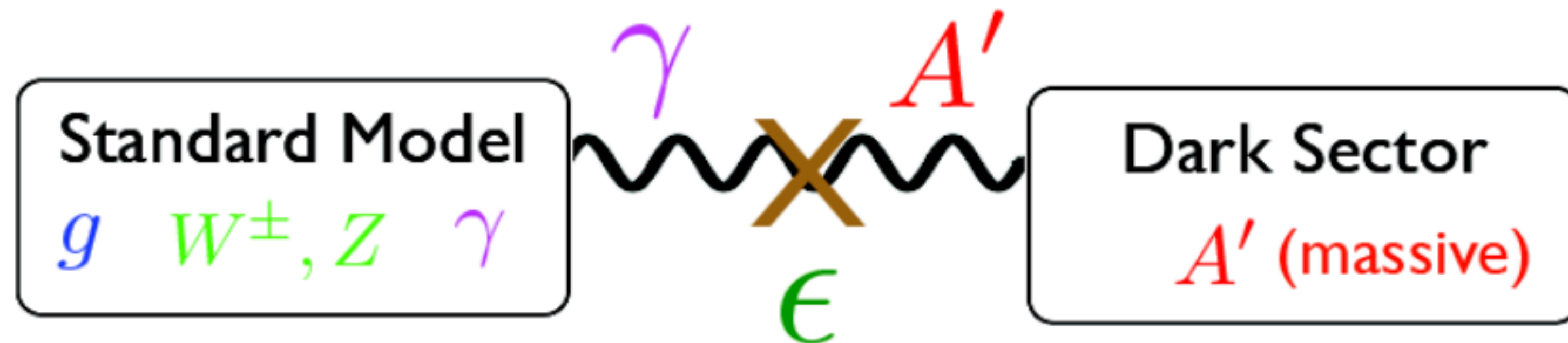
<http://background.uchicago.edu/~whu/intermediate/driving2.html>



- Dark matter consists 26.8% of the total mass-energy content.
- Dark matter particles interact very weakly with the standard model particles.

# Dark Photon Dark Matter

Kinetic mixing as portal to the dark sector



$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{\epsilon}{2} F^{Y,\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}$$

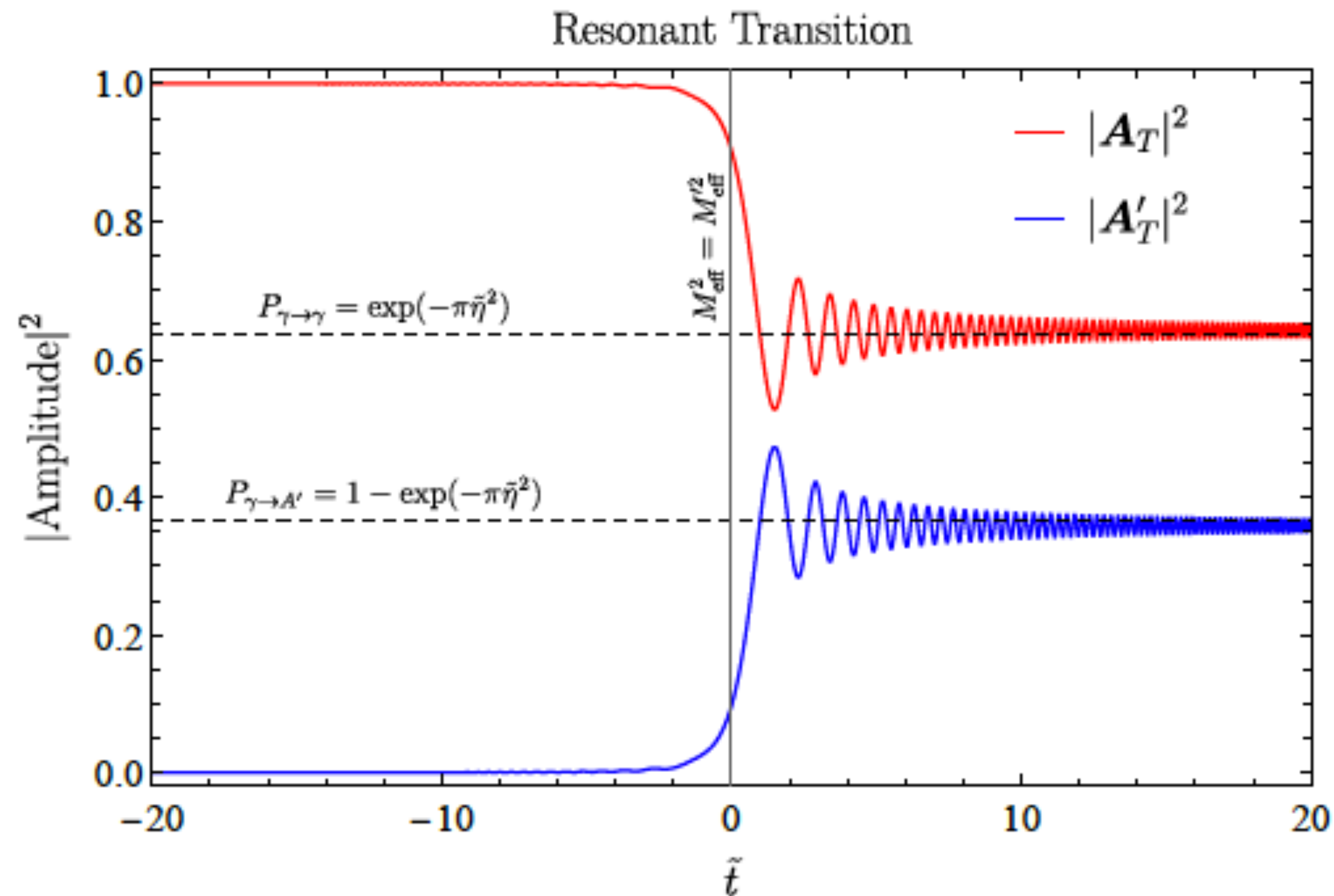
“Kinetic Mixing”

Holdom  
Galison, Manohar

**Simplest: dark sector consists of just a  $A'$**



# $A'$ Freeze-in: $\gamma \rightarrow A'$



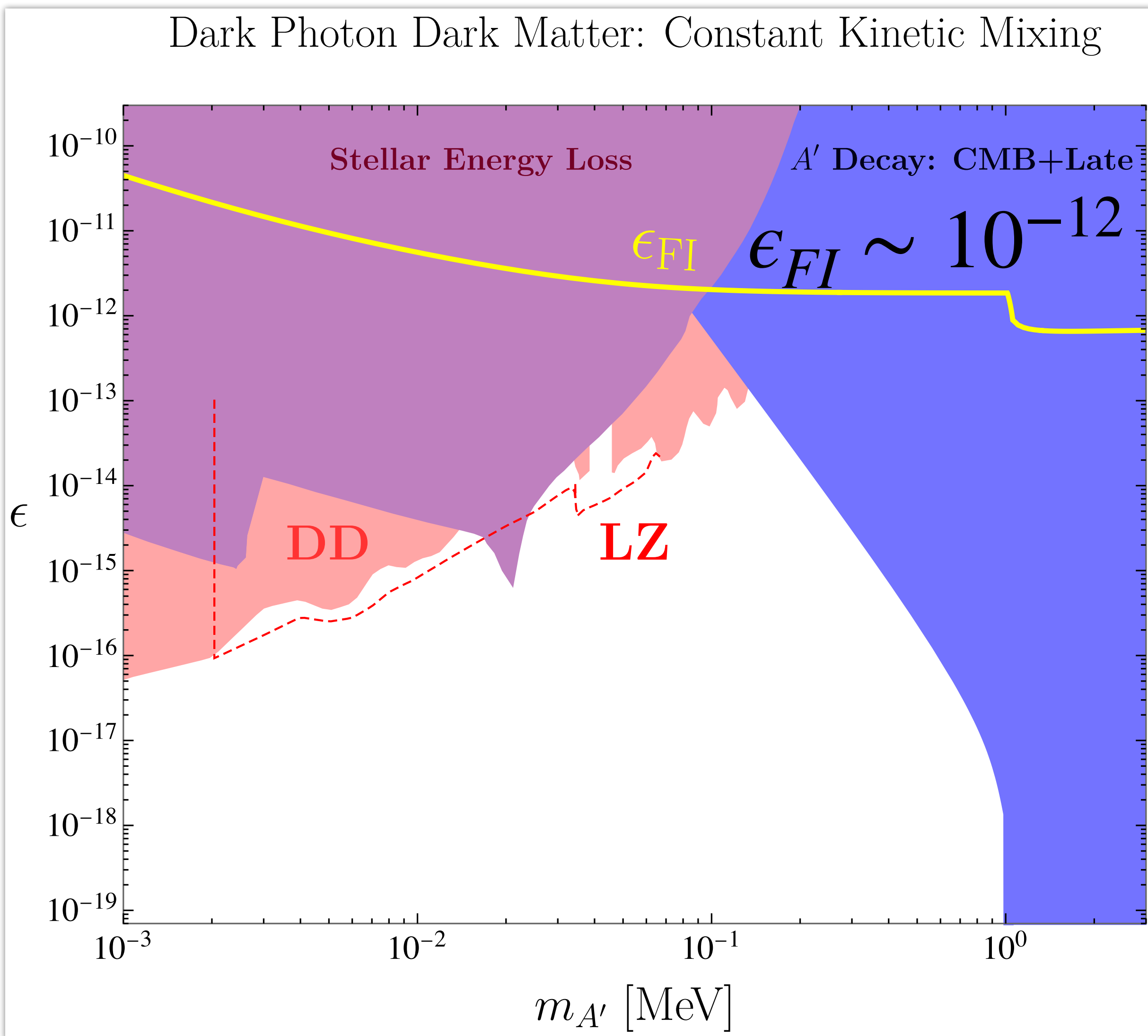
$$\Omega_{A'} \sim \epsilon^2 \alpha^{3/2} \frac{m_{pl}}{T_{eq}}$$

$$\Omega_{A'} \sim 0.1$$

$$\epsilon \sim 10^{-12}$$

$$T_{\text{res}} : m_\gamma = m_{A'}$$

# Late time constraints $z \ll 1000$



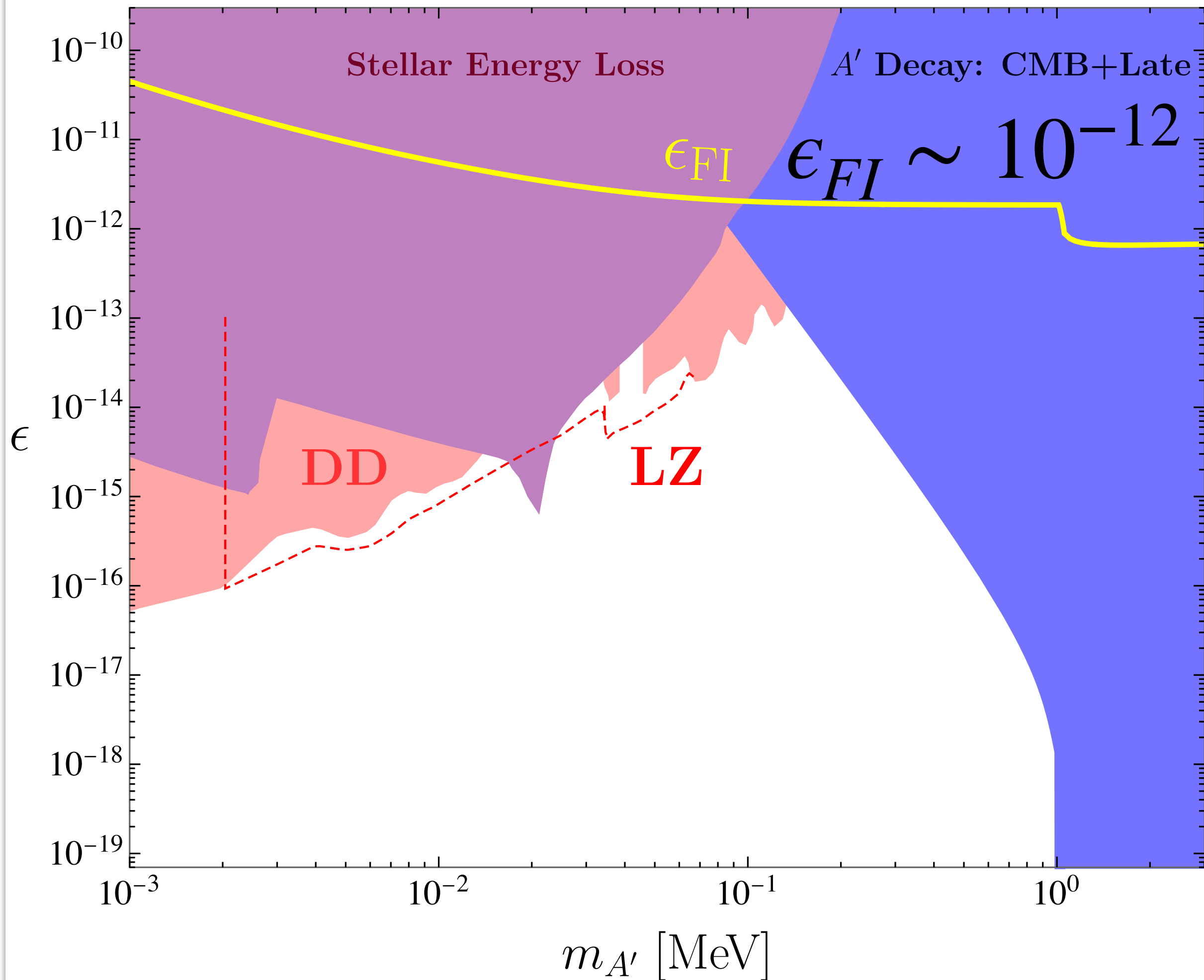
Stellar Energy Loss:  $\gamma \rightarrow A'$

$A'$  Decay:  $A' \rightarrow 3\gamma, A' \rightarrow e^-e^+$

Redondo, Postma 2005

# Late time constraints $z \ll 1000$

Dark Photon Dark Matter: Constant Kinetic Mixing



Stellar Energy Loss:  $\gamma \rightarrow A'$

$A'$  Decay:  $A' \rightarrow 3\gamma, A' \rightarrow e^-e^+$

Redondo, Postma 2005

**Simplest DPDM freeze-in through the constant kinetic mixing is ruled out**



**time parameter?**

So... What if we promote  $\epsilon$  to a field-dependent variable?

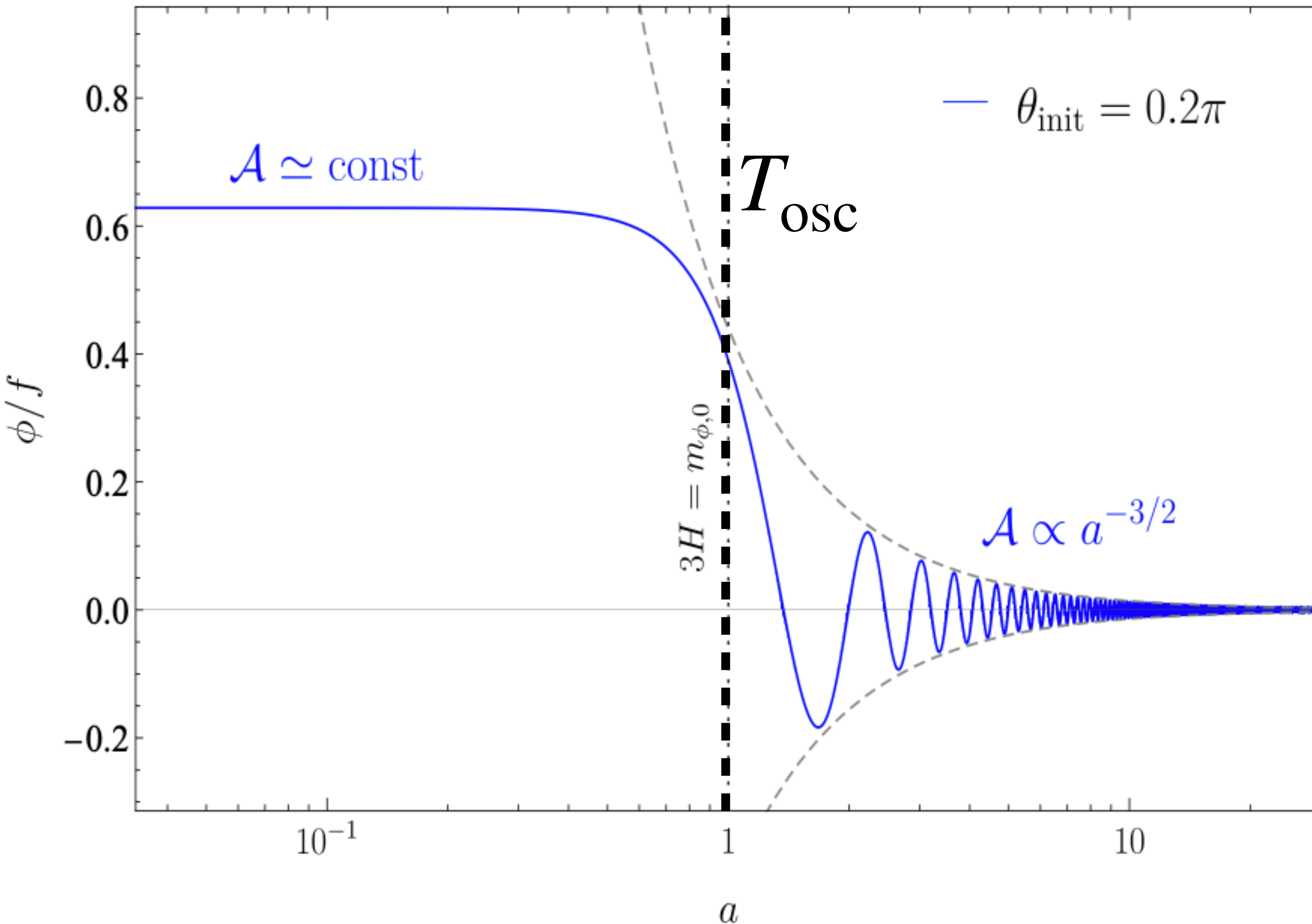
$$\epsilon F^{\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \frac{\phi}{\Lambda} F^{\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}$$

**Time-evolution of homogeneous single scalar field:  
KG equation in the FRW metric**

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + m_{\phi}^2\phi = 0$$

**Misalignment initial condition:**  $\theta_{\text{ini}} = \frac{\phi_{\text{ini}}}{f} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

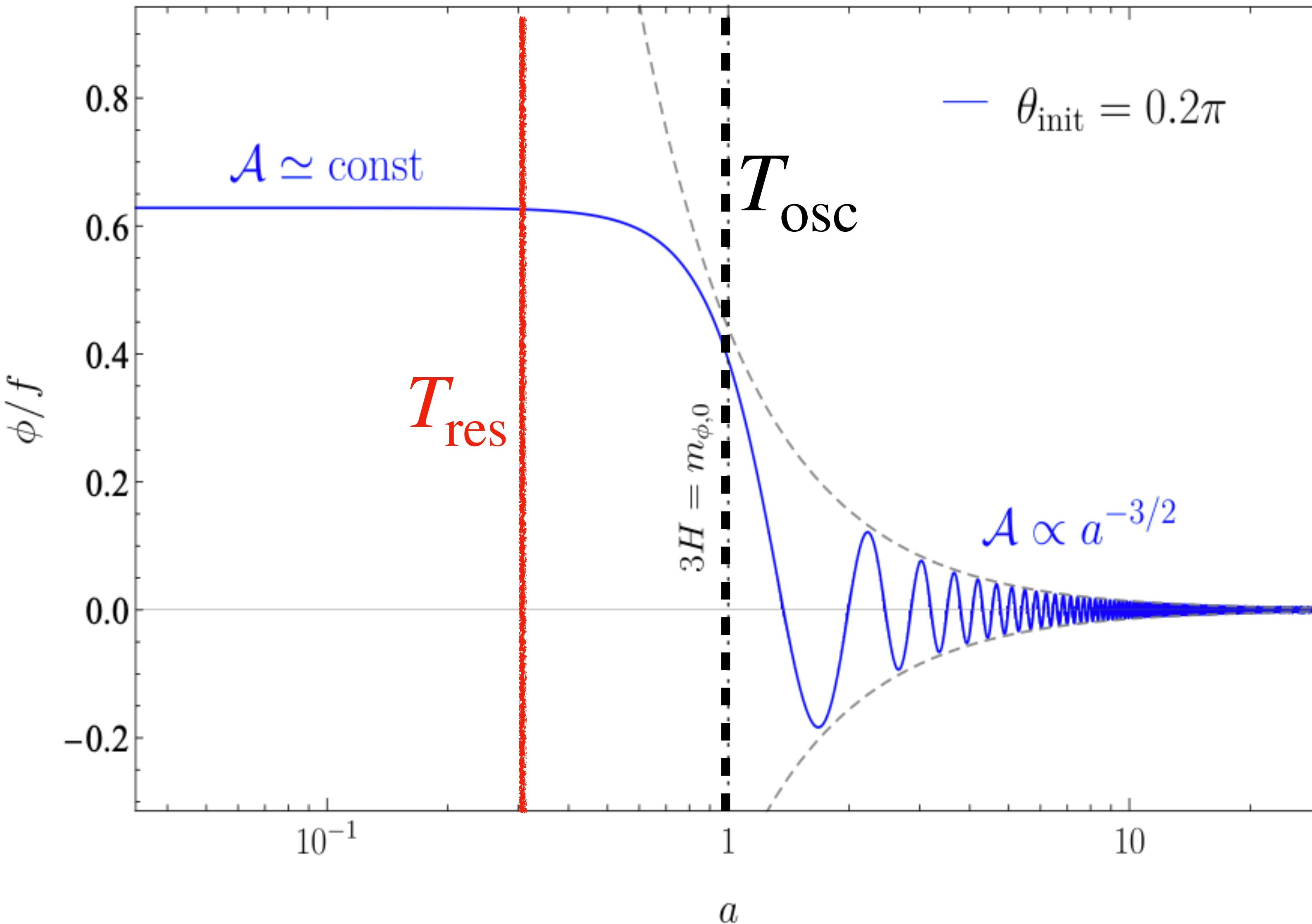
# Time-evolution of homogeneous single scalar field



$$\phi = \begin{cases} \phi_{\text{ini}} , & 3H > m_{\phi} \\ \frac{\sqrt{\rho_{\phi}}}{m_{\phi}} \cos(m_{\phi} t) , & 3H < m_{\phi} \end{cases}$$

$$T_{\text{osc}} \sim \sqrt{m_{\phi} M_{\text{pl}}}$$

# Time-evolution of homogeneous single scalar field



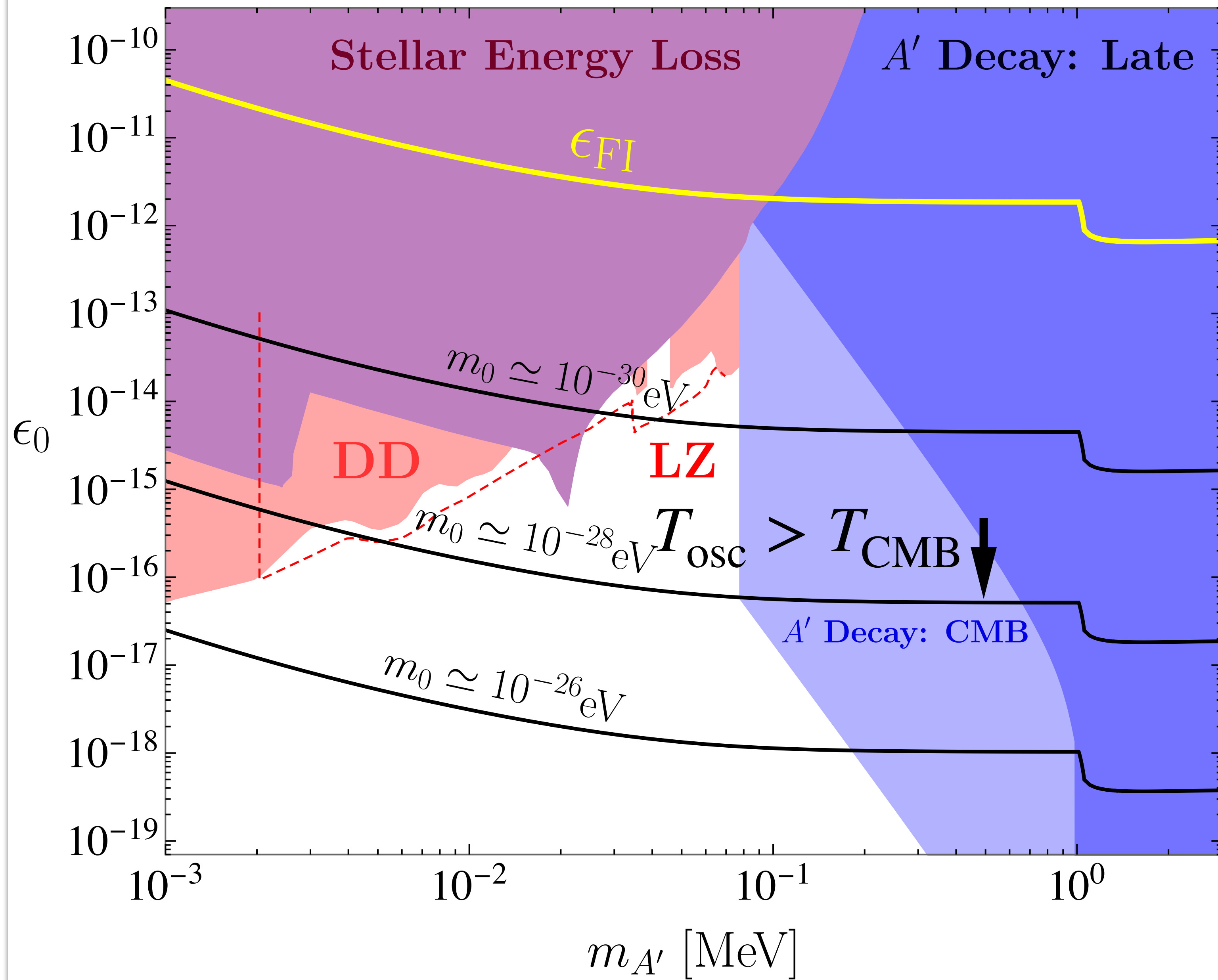
$$\phi = \begin{cases} \phi_{\text{ini}} , & 3H > m_{\phi} \\ \frac{\sqrt{\rho_{\phi}}}{m_{\phi}} \cos(m_{\phi} t) , & 3H < m_{\phi} \end{cases}$$

$$T_{\text{osc}} \sim \sqrt{m_{\phi} M_{\text{pl}}}$$

$\phi$ : subcomponent of DM.

$$\mathcal{F} = 10^{-3}$$

Varying Kinetic Mixing:  $m_0 \ll 10^{-25} \text{eV}$



$$m_0 \ll 10^{-25} \text{eV}$$

$$T_{\text{osc}} < T_{\text{res}} \quad \epsilon_{FI} \sim 10^{-12}$$

$$\epsilon_0 \sim \epsilon_{FI} \left( \frac{T_0}{T_{\text{osc}}} \right)^{3/2}$$

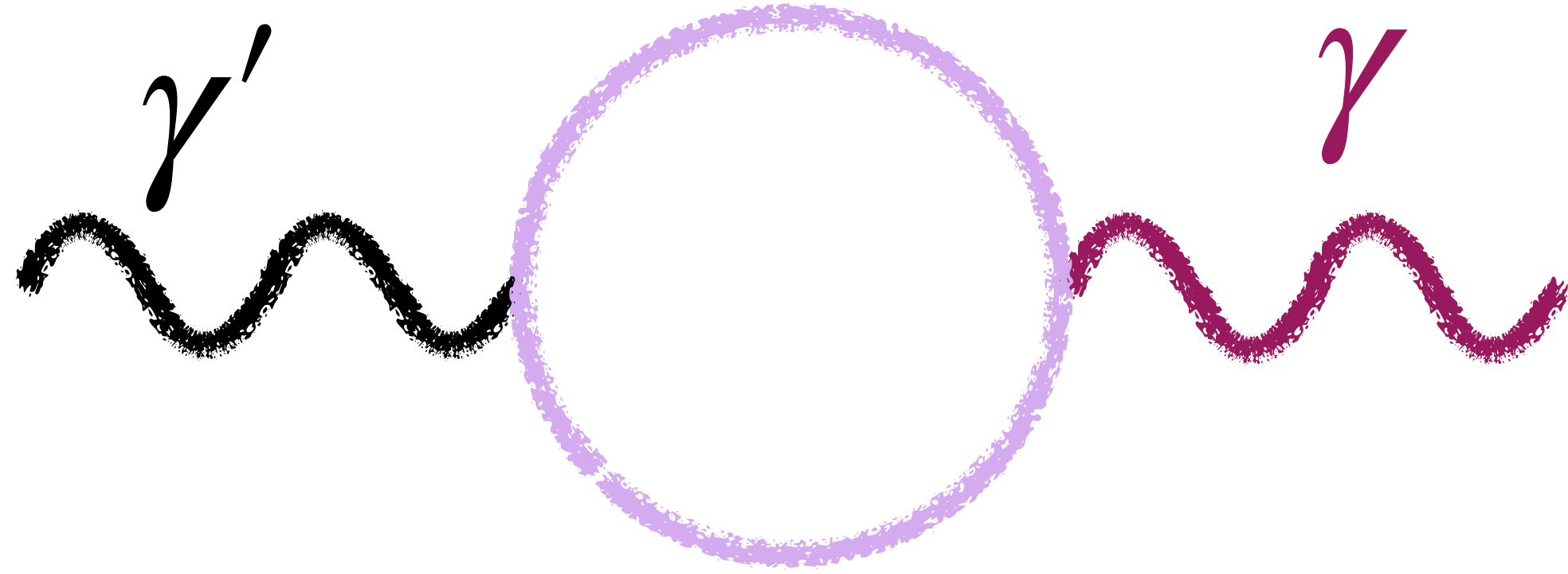
$$T_{\text{osc}} \sim \sqrt{m_\phi M_{\text{pl}}}$$

# Constant Kinetic Mixing

$\Psi, \Psi'$

$\Psi : (e, e', M)$

$\Psi' : (e, -e', M')$



$$\epsilon = \frac{ee'}{6\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{M}{M'} \right)$$

Bob Holdom 1985

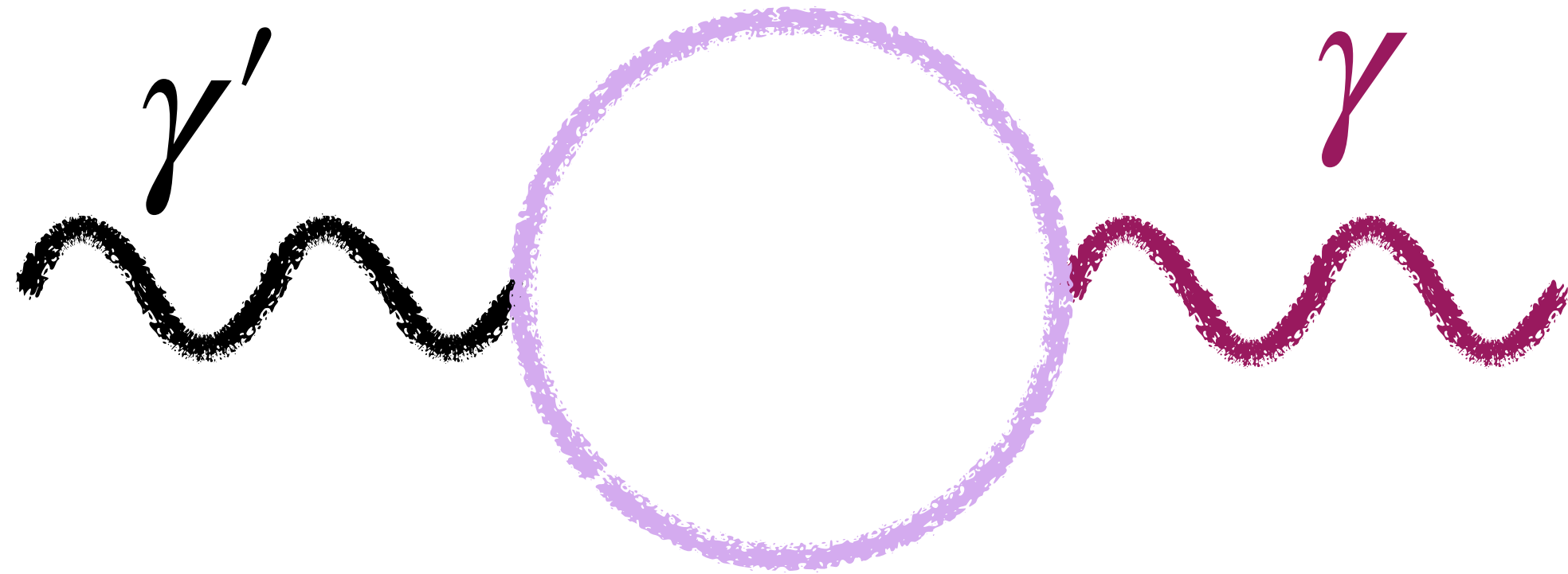


# Constant Kinetic Mixing

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$$\epsilon = \frac{ee'}{6\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{M}{M'} \right)$$

Bob Holdom 1985

$M = M' : \text{Constant mixing vanishes}$

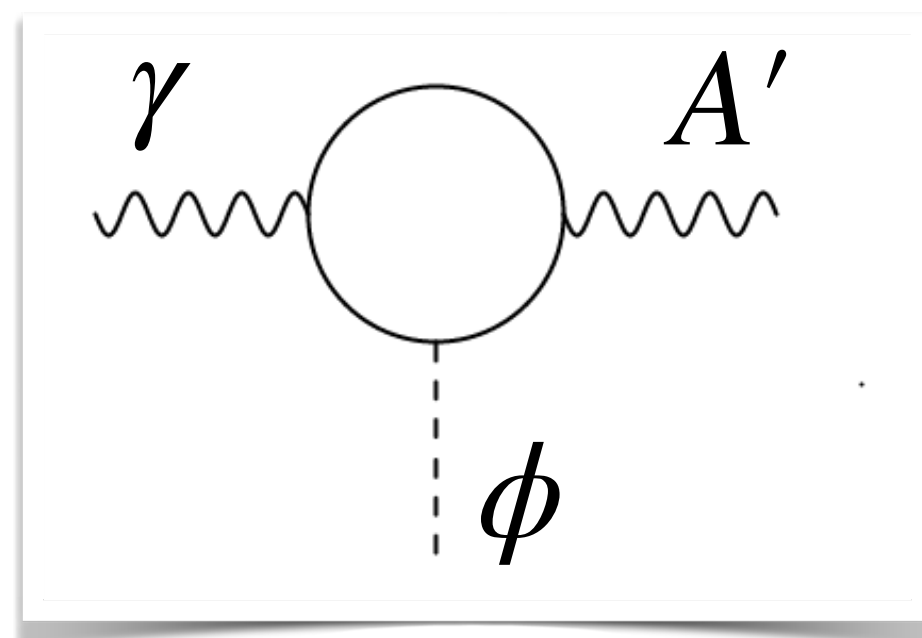
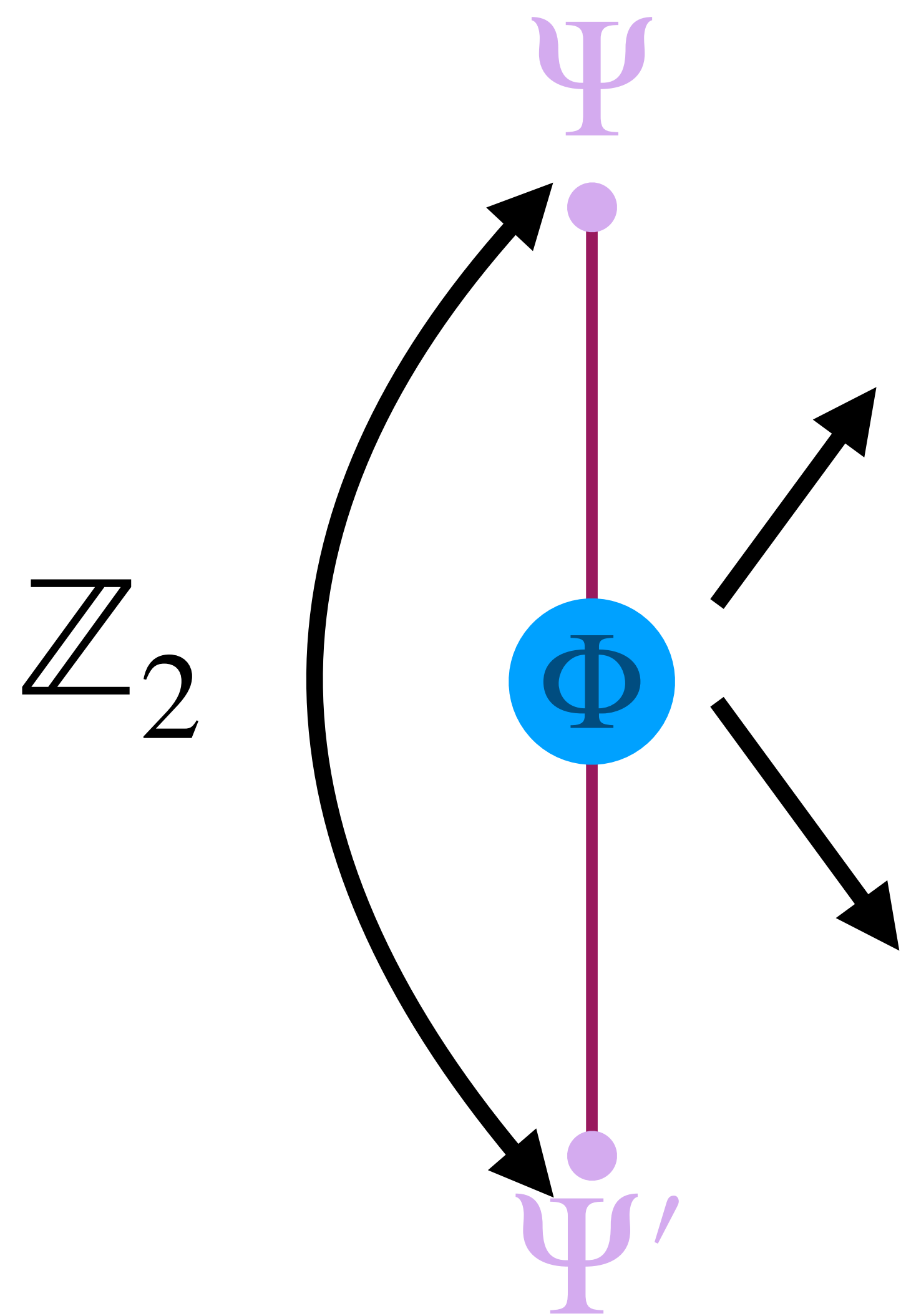
Kinetic mixing is forbidden by  $Z_2 : \Psi \leftrightarrow \Psi', A \rightarrow A, A' \rightarrow -A'$

# Field-dependent Kinetic Mixing

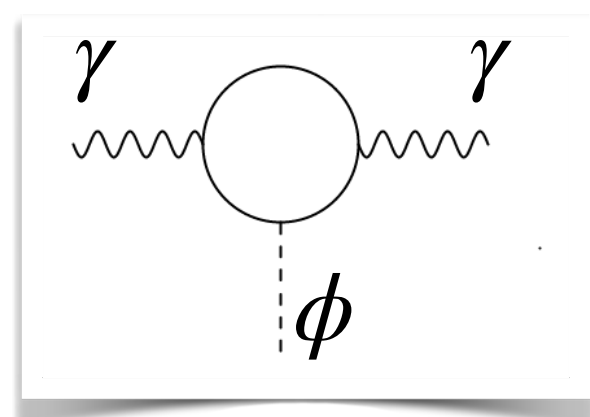
$$(M, M') \rightarrow (M + y\phi, M + y'\phi)$$

$$\epsilon \rightarrow \frac{ee'}{6\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{M + y\phi}{M + y'\phi} \right) \simeq \frac{ee'(y - y')\phi}{6\pi^2 M}$$

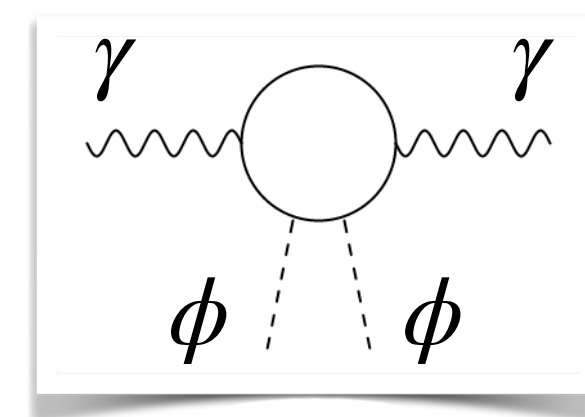
**$Z_2$  is broken by  $\phi$  so the kinetic mixing is dependent on  $\phi$**



$$\frac{\phi}{\Lambda_{\text{KM}}} FF'$$



**Linear**  
( $y'_\phi = 0$ )



**Quadratic**  
( $y_\phi = -y'_\phi$ )

$$c_1 \frac{\phi}{\Lambda_\gamma} FF + c_2 \frac{\phi^2}{\Lambda_\gamma^2} FF$$

$$\Lambda_\gamma \sim \frac{M}{y} \sim e' \Lambda_{\text{KM}}$$

$$\Lambda_{\text{KM}} \sim \frac{M}{ye'}$$

## Field dependent fine-structure constant

$$-\frac{1}{16\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}}F^2 + d_{\gamma,n} \left( \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^n F^2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{16\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^{\text{eff}}}F^2$$

$$\frac{\Delta\alpha}{\alpha} \propto \begin{cases} d_{\gamma,1}\phi, & \text{linear} \\ d_{\gamma,2}\phi^2, & \text{quadratic} \end{cases}$$

**The fine-structure constant becomes time-dependent**

# Measurement of the time-varying fine-structure constant

**Atomic Clock**

$$f_A \propto \alpha^{\xi_A + 2}$$

$\xi_A$  varies for different atoms and transition channels

$$\frac{\delta(f_A/f_B)}{f_A/f_B} \propto \Delta\xi_{AB} d_\gamma \kappa \phi(t)$$

# Celestial Constraints on $\alpha(t)$

## BBN

$$m_{np} = m_n - m_p$$

$$\Delta m_{np} \propto \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} d_{\gamma}^{(n)} \phi$$

**Change He abundance**

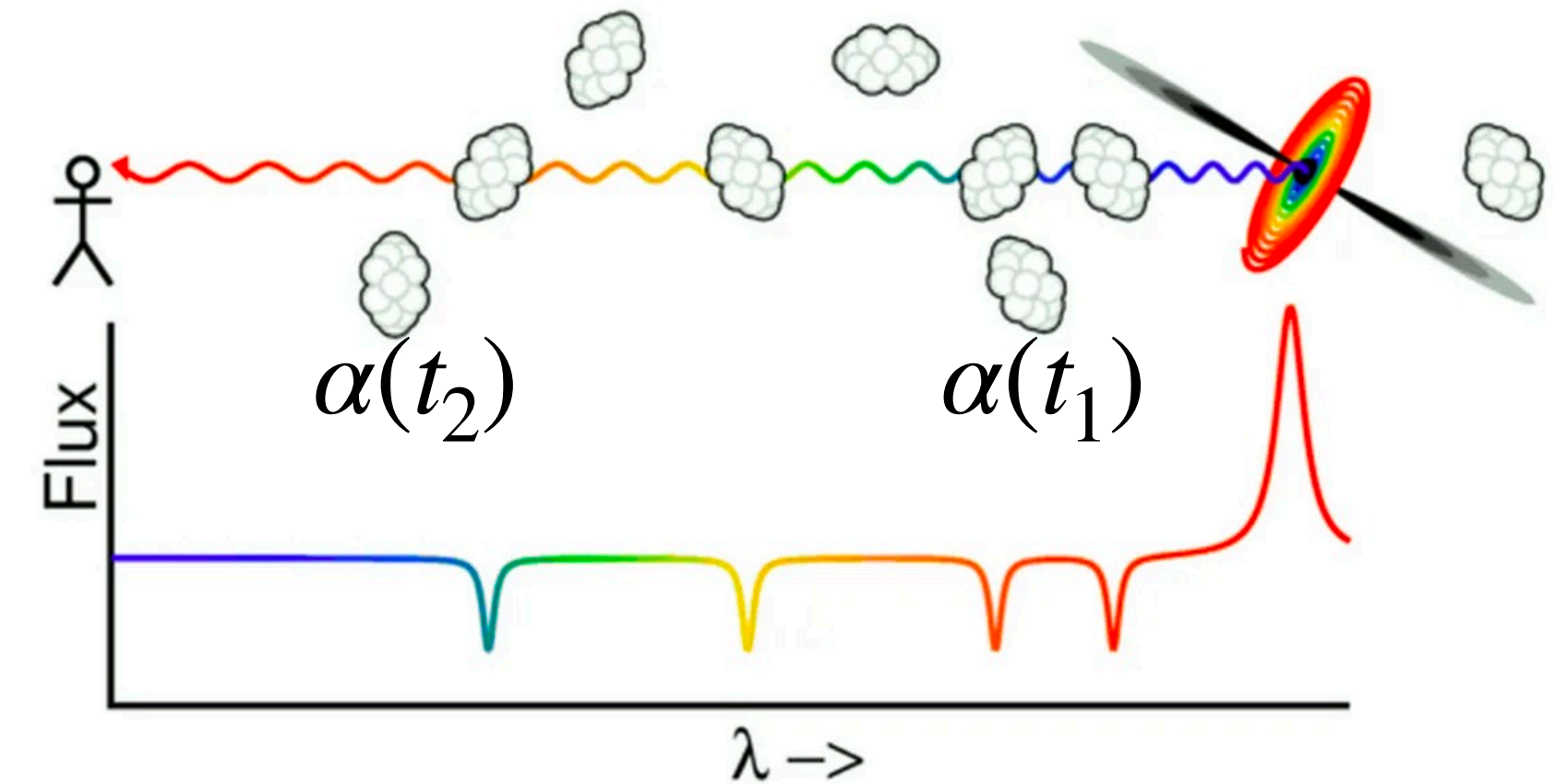
Y. V. Stadnik, V. V. Flambaum PRL 2015

## Lyman- $\alpha$

$$10 \text{Mpc}^{-1} \sim 10^{-28} \text{eV}$$

$$d_{\text{quasar}} \sim m_{\phi}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \sim m_e \alpha_{\text{em}}$$



L. Hamaide, H. Muller, and D. J. E. Marsh, PRD 2022

# Equivalence Principle Test

Ultralight  $\phi$  provides the 5th force  
and modifies the Newtonian  
interaction

$$V_{ij}(r) = -\frac{Gm_i m_j}{r} \left( 1 + \alpha_{ij} e^{-r/\lambda} \right)$$

Eötvös parameter

$$\eta = \left( \frac{\Delta a}{a} \right)_{ij} = \frac{|\vec{a}_i - \vec{a}_j|}{|\vec{a}_i + \vec{a}_j|} = (-1 \pm 27) \times 10^{-15}$$

$$\eta \propto \begin{cases} (d_e^{(1)})^2, & \text{linear} \\ (d_e^{(2)})^2 \rho_\phi, & \text{quadratic} \end{cases}$$

pheno of  $d_\gamma$  from  $\epsilon(\phi)$  UV model

## Linear Coupling

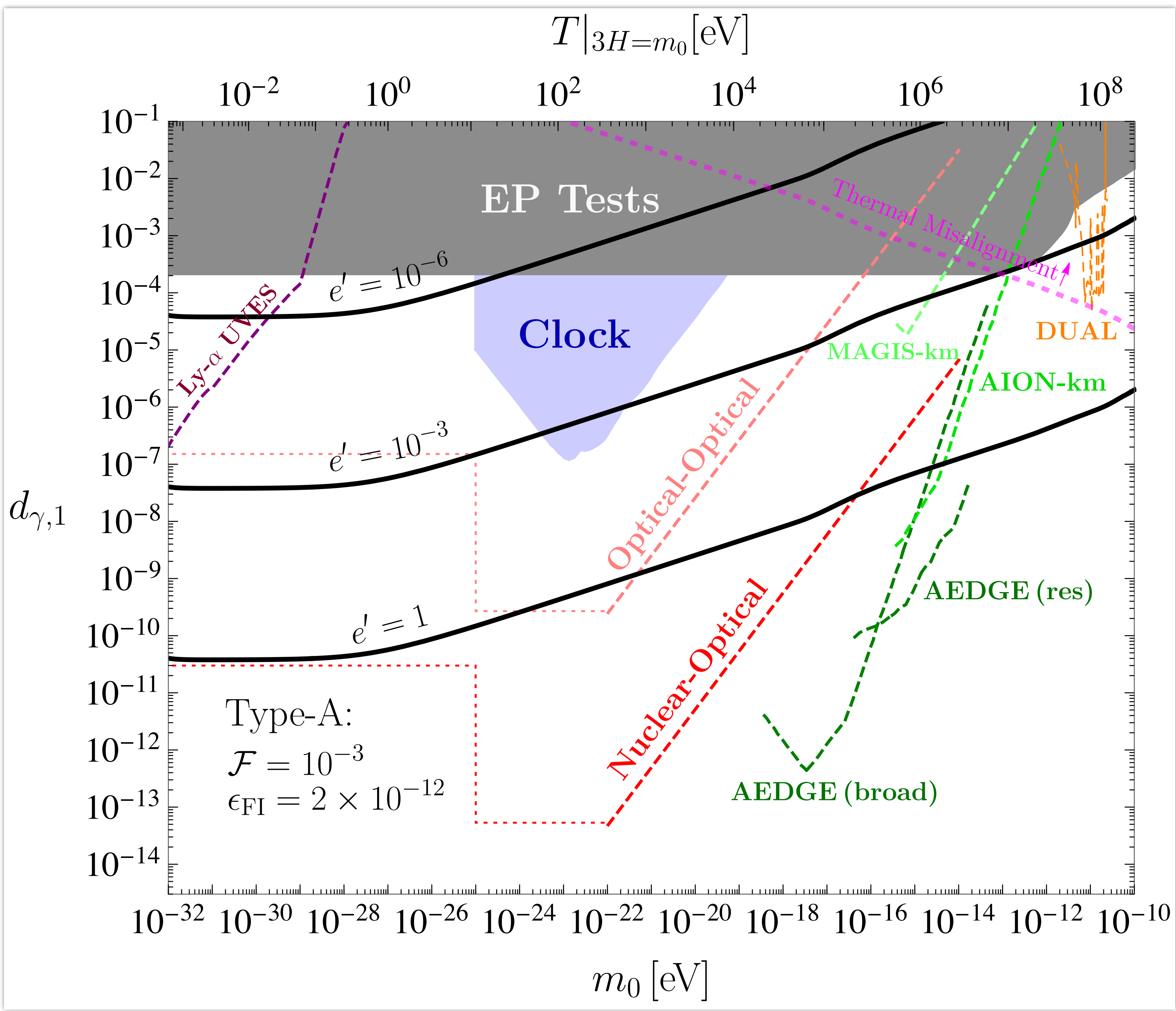
$$d_{\gamma,1} \sim \frac{m_{pl} \epsilon_{FI}}{e' |\phi|_{osc}}$$

$$\epsilon_{FI} \sim 10^{-12}$$

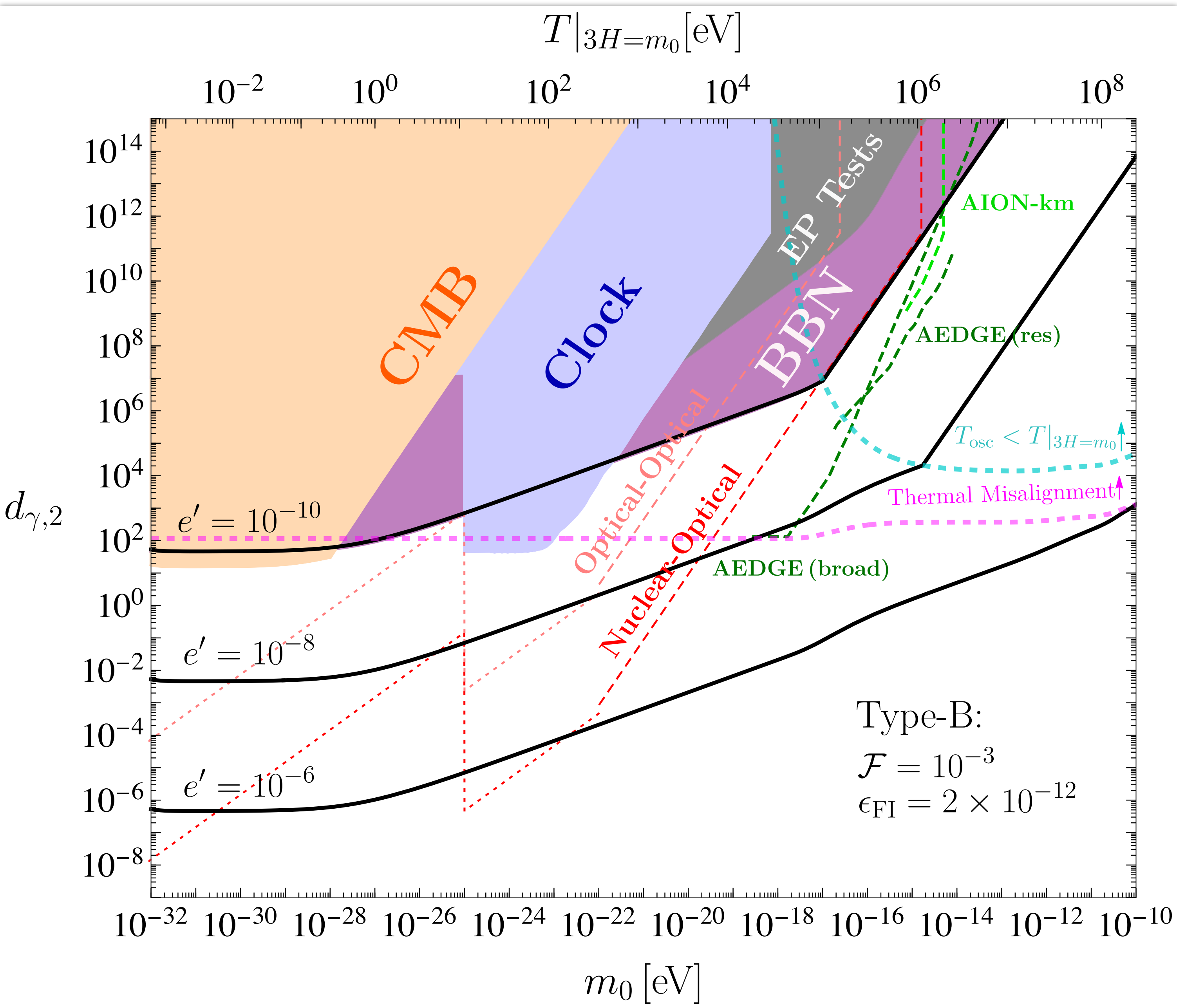
$$m_0 \sim 10^{-28} \text{eV}$$

$$|\phi|_{osc} \sim 10^{16} \text{GeV}$$

$$e' \sim 1 \rightarrow d_{\gamma,1} \sim 10^{-10}$$







## Quadratic Coupling

$$d_{\gamma,2} \sim \left( \frac{m_{pl} \epsilon_{FI}}{e' |\phi|_{osc}} \right)^2$$

$$\epsilon_{FI} \sim 10^{-12}$$

$$m_0 \sim 10^{-28} \text{eV}$$

$$|\phi|_{osc} \sim 10^{16} \text{GeV}$$

$$e' \sim 10^{-6} \rightarrow d_{\gamma,2} \sim 10^{-6}$$

# Conclusion:

- DPDM and photon are connected by the kinetic mixing.
- $\phi$  dependent kinetic mixing relieves  $\epsilon_{\text{FI}}$  tension.
- The ultralight scalar to photon coupling modifies  $\alpha_{\text{em}}$ .
- Signals and constraints from various experiments/observations.

A scenic view of a European town, likely in the Alps, featuring a river, stone buildings, and mountains in the background. The text "Thanks For Your Attention!" is overlaid in a large, bold, purple font.

**Thanks For  
Your  
Attention!**

# Suppress UV Freeze-in

We want

$$\frac{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma' + \phi}^{\delta\phi_{FF'}}}{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma'}^{\phi_{\text{osc}} FF'}} \ll 1$$

# Suppress UV Freeze-in

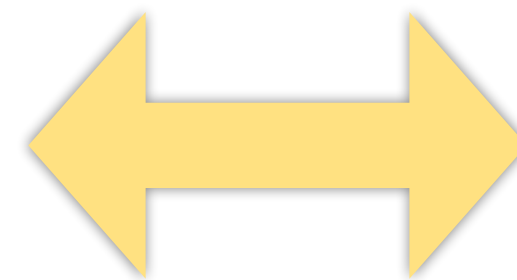
$$\frac{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma' + \phi}}{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma'}} \sim \frac{m_{DM} T_{rh}}{|\phi|_{osc}^2} \ll 1 \quad \phi_{osc} = \phi(T_{osc})$$

*GUT*  $10^{16} \text{ GeV}$

NR Ultralight Boson:

$$|\phi|_{osc} = \sqrt{2\rho_\phi / m_\phi}$$

$$m_\phi \sim 10^{-20} \text{ eV}$$



$$|\phi|_{osc} \sim 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$$

**Ultralight  $\phi$  suppresses UV FI**

## 1. Schrödinger Equation

We begin with the traditional time domain method which was first developed by Landau and Zener [75, 76], and later used within the context of neutrino physics [77, 78] (see also the discussion in Ref. [18]). Working in the ultrarelativistic and collisionless limit, the dispersion relation of Eq. (2) corresponds to (up to an arbitrary phase) the following Schrödinger-type time-dependent equation

$$i\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}_T \\ \mathbf{A}'_T \end{pmatrix} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \xi & \eta \\ \eta & -\xi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}_T \\ \mathbf{A}'_T \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where  $\xi = (M_{\text{eff}} - M'_{\text{eff}})/4\omega$  and  $\eta = \epsilon M_{\text{eff}}/2\omega$  (we remind the reader that we have shortened our notation such that only the real part is included in  $M_{\text{eff}}^2$  and  $M'_{\text{eff}}^2$ ). Now, expanding  $\mathbf{A}_T$  and  $\mathbf{A}'_T$  in terms of the instantaneous basis of the  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0)$  Hamiltonian, we have

$$\mathbf{A}_T = c_\gamma(t) e^{-i \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \xi(t')}, \quad \mathbf{A}'_T = c_{A'}(t) e^{i \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \xi(t')}. \quad (\text{B2})$$

To determine the time-dependent coefficients  $c_\gamma$  and  $c_{A'}$ , we substitute Eq. (B2) into Eq. (B1), which yields the following differential equations,

$$i\partial_t c_\gamma = \eta c_{A'} e^{2i \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \xi(t')}, \quad i\partial_t c_{A'} = \eta c_\gamma e^{-2i \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \xi(t')}. \quad (\text{B3})$$

Since Eq. (B3) is symmetric under  $c_\gamma \leftrightarrow c_{A'}$ , it follows that conversion probability satisfies  $P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} = P_{A' \rightarrow \gamma}$ . Assuming an initially negligible dark photon density,  $\gamma \rightarrow A'$  dominates over the inverse process, corresponding to the initial condition  $c_\gamma(-\infty) = 1$ ,  $c_{A'}(-\infty) = 0$ . For  $\epsilon \ll 1$ ,  $c_\gamma(t) \simeq 1$  and the  $\gamma \rightarrow A'$  transition probability at  $t = \infty$  (to leading order in  $\epsilon$ ) is approximately

$$P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} \simeq |c_{A'}(\infty)|^2 \simeq \left| \eta \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt' e^{-2i \int_{-\infty}^{t'} dt'' \xi(t'')} \right|^2. \quad (\text{B4})$$

This integral can be evaluated using the saddle point approximation, which gives

$$P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} \simeq \sum_{t_{\text{res}}} \pi \eta^2 \left| \frac{d\xi}{dt} \right|^{-1} \Big|_{t_{\text{res}}}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

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$$P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} \simeq \sum_{t_{\text{res}}} \pi \eta^2 \left| \frac{d\xi}{dt} \right|^{-1} \Big|_{t_{\text{res}}}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

where the sum includes all times  $t_{\text{res}}$  at which  $\xi(t_{\text{res}}) = 0$ . Using the definitions of  $\eta$  and  $\xi$ , we find that Eq. (B5) gives  $P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'}$  agrees with  $-\Delta f_\gamma / f_\gamma$ , where  $\Delta f_\gamma / f_\gamma$  is given by integrating Eq. (8) over time.

In order to calculate  $P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'}$  to the all orders in  $\epsilon$ , we utilize the Dykhne-Davis-Pechukas (DDP) method [79–83]. This gives

$$P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} = 1 - \prod_{t_{\text{res}}} e^{-\frac{1}{\omega} \text{Im} \int_0^{t_c} dt (\Pi_+ - \Pi_-)}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

where

$$\Pi_{\pm} = \frac{M_{\text{eff}}^2 + M'_{\text{eff}}{}^2}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\left( \frac{d(M_{\text{eff}}^2 - M'_{\text{eff}}{}^2)}{dt} \Big|_{t_{\text{res}}} \right)^2 t^2 + 4\epsilon^2 M_{\text{eff}}^4} \quad (\text{B7})$$

and

$$t_c = 2i\epsilon M_{\text{eff}}^2 \left| \frac{d(M_{\text{eff}}^2 - M'_{\text{eff}}{}^2)}{dt} \right|^{-1} \Big|_{t_{\text{res}}}. \quad (\text{B8})$$

Performing the time integral in Eq. (B6) from  $t = 0$  to  $t = t_c$ , we find that the transition probability to all orders in

FIG. 6. The time evolution (in terms of the dimensionless time variable  $\tilde{t}$ ) of the transverse field components  $A_T$  and  $A'_T$ , as described by the two-level system of Eq. (B1). Numerical solutions of Eq. (B1) are shown as red and blue lines, for the SM-like and dark-like photon states, respectively. Along the dashed gray lines, we show the late-time semi-analytic estimate, provided by Eq. (B9). Resonant enhancement occurs at  $\tilde{t} = 0$ , corresponding to  $M_{\text{eff}} \simeq M'_{\text{eff}}$  near the vertical gray line.

$\epsilon$  is

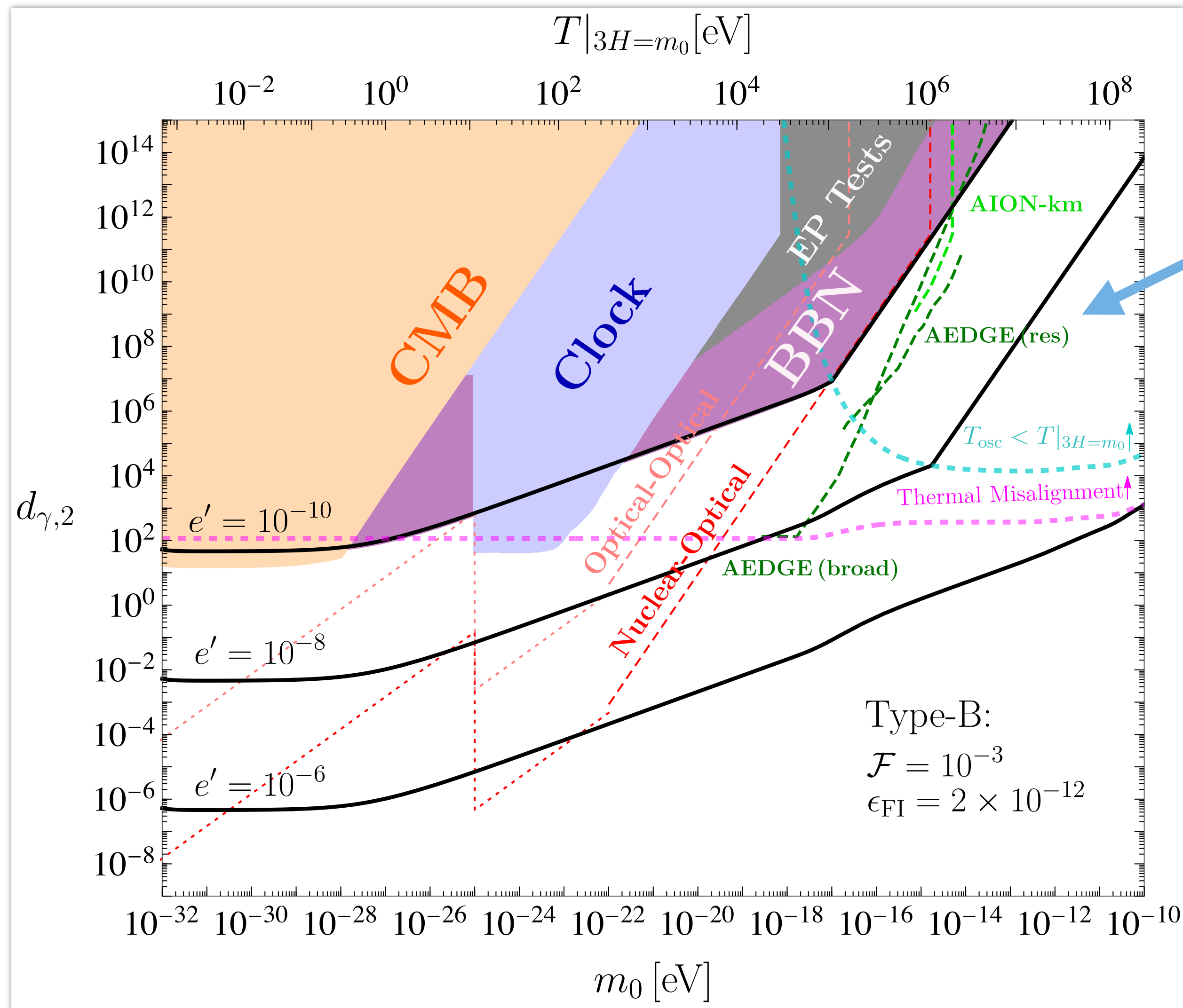
$$P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'} \simeq 1 - \exp \left( \sum_{t_{\text{res}}} \pi \eta^2 \left| \frac{d\xi}{dt} \right|^{-1} \Big|_{t_{\text{res}}} \right). \quad (\text{B9})$$

The probability for  $\gamma \rightarrow \gamma$  is given by  $P_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma} = 1 - P_{\gamma \rightarrow A'}$ .

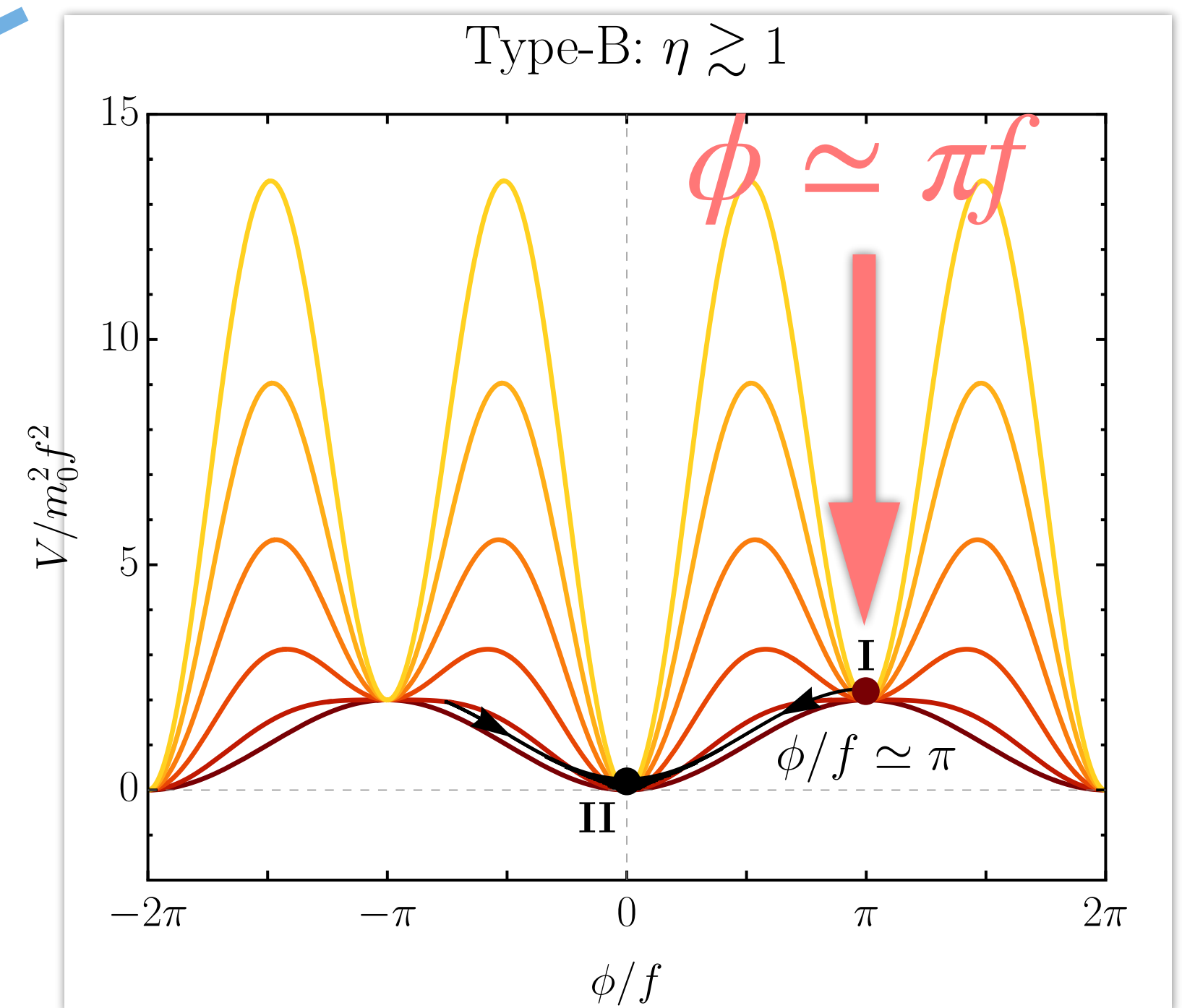
In Fig. 6, we compare the numerical solution of Eq. (B1) ( $|c_\gamma|^2$  in red and  $|c_{A'}|^2$  in blue) to the semi-analytic approximation of Eq. (B9) (dashed gray lines). In the figure, we have defined the dimensionless quantities  $\tilde{t} \equiv t |d\xi(t_{\text{res}})/dt|^{-1/2}$  and  $\tilde{\eta} \equiv \eta |d\xi(t_{\text{res}})/dt|^{-1/2}$ . The resonantly enhanced transitions occurs when  $M_{\text{eff}}^2 \simeq M'_{\text{eff}}^2$ , denoted as  $\tilde{t} \simeq 0$  near the vertical gray line. Before this time,  $|c_\gamma| \simeq 1$  and  $|c_{A'}| \simeq 0$ . Near the resonance, photons convert to the dark photons. After the resonance,  $c_\gamma$  and  $c_{A'}$  oscillate around the asymptotic value given in Eq. (B9).



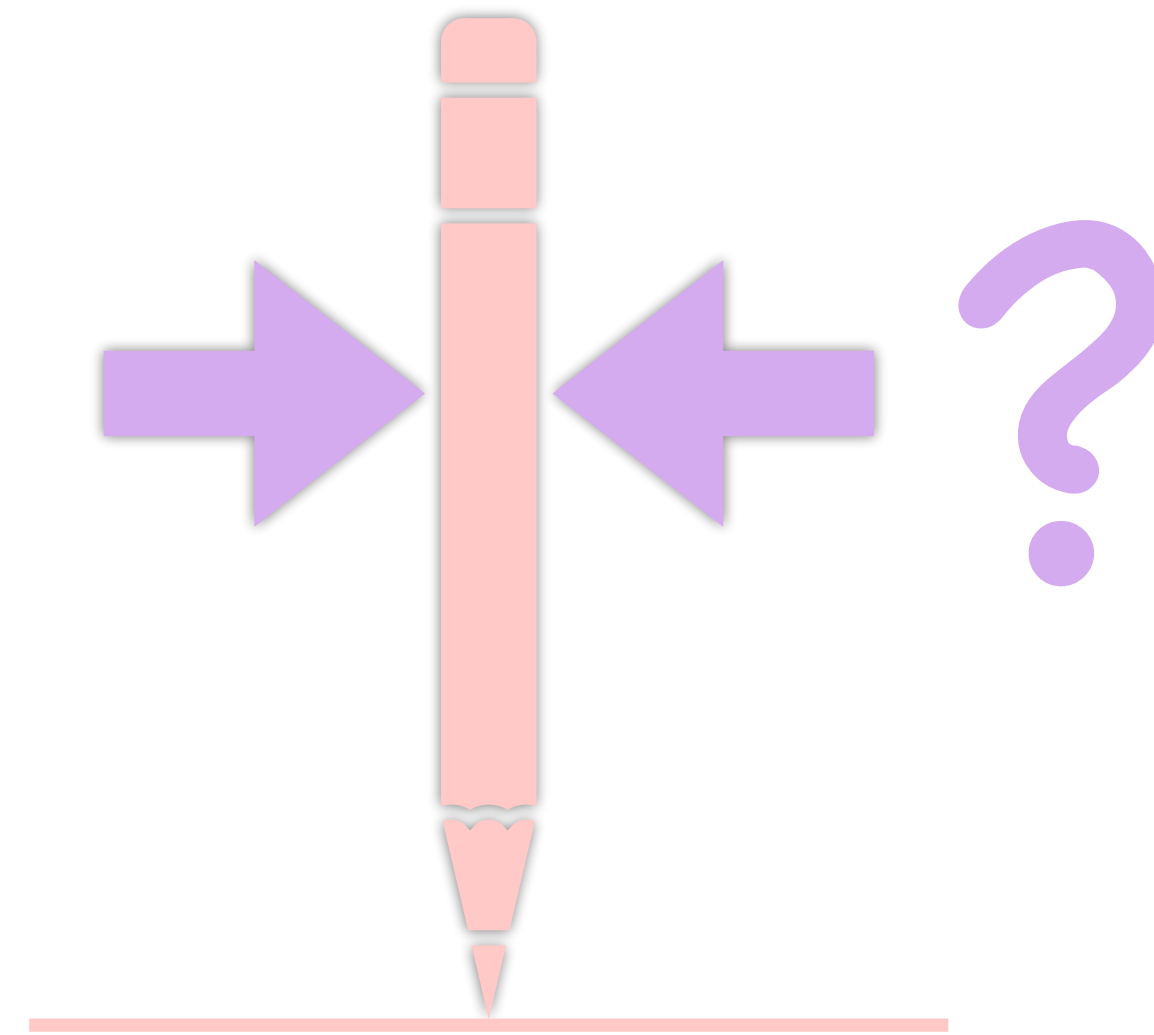
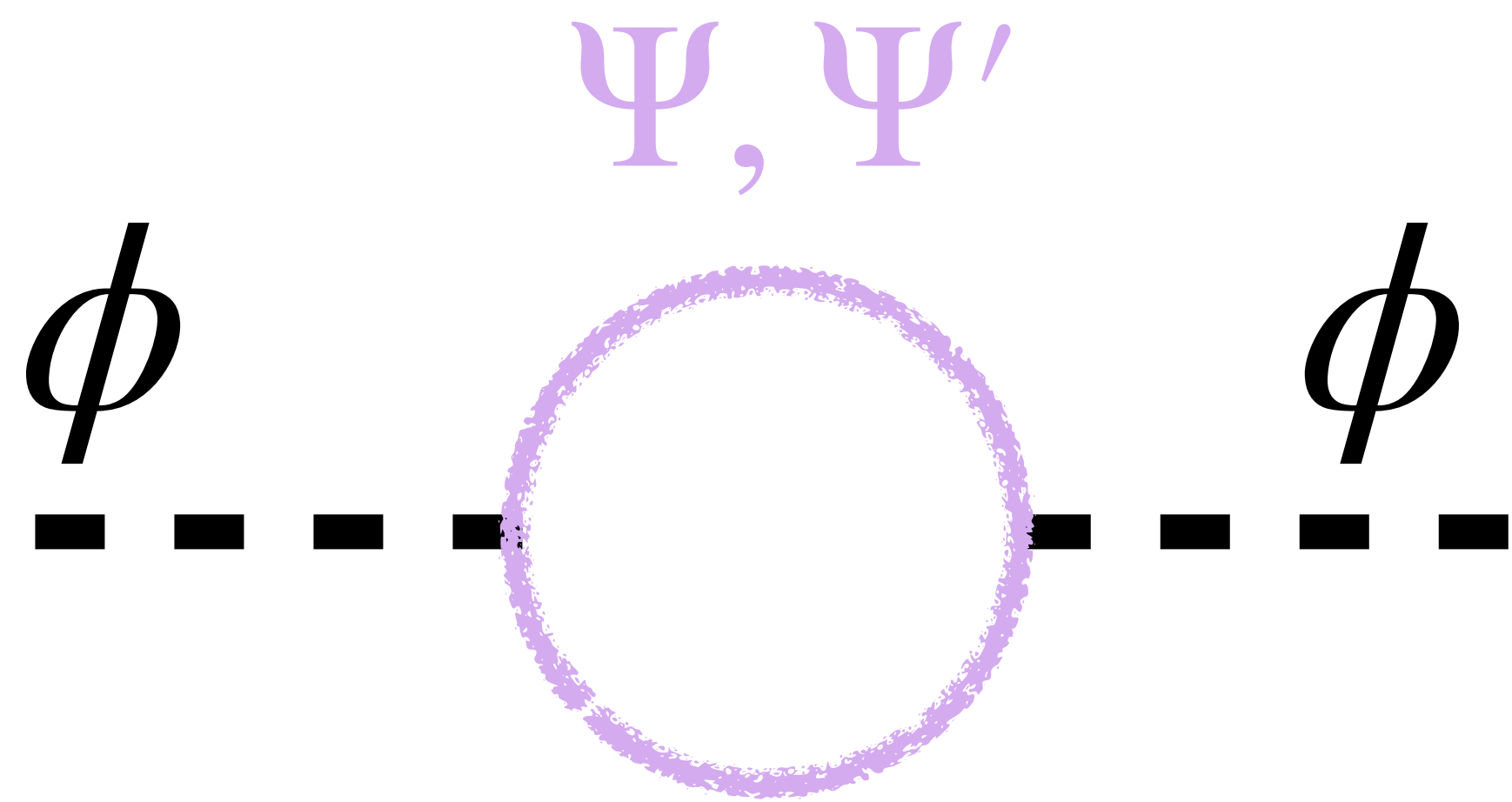
# Scalar-Photon Coupling: Quadratic



Trapped Misalignment



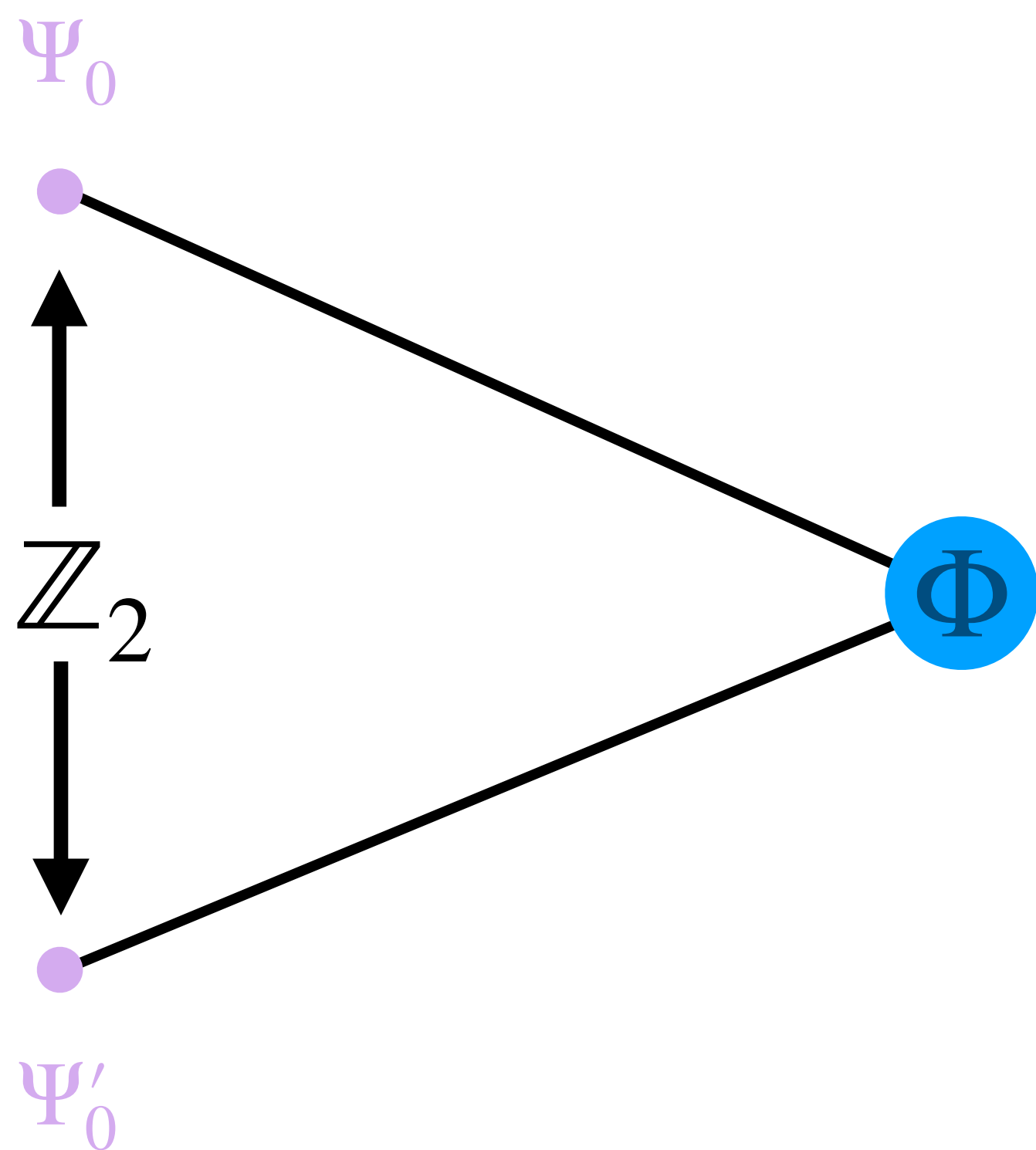
# Protect Scalar Naturalness



$$\Delta m_\phi \simeq 10^{-11} \text{eV} \left( \frac{\epsilon_{\text{FI}}}{10^{-12}} \right) \left( \frac{M}{10 \text{TeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{10^{17} \text{GeV}}{|\phi|_{\text{osc}}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{e'} \right)$$

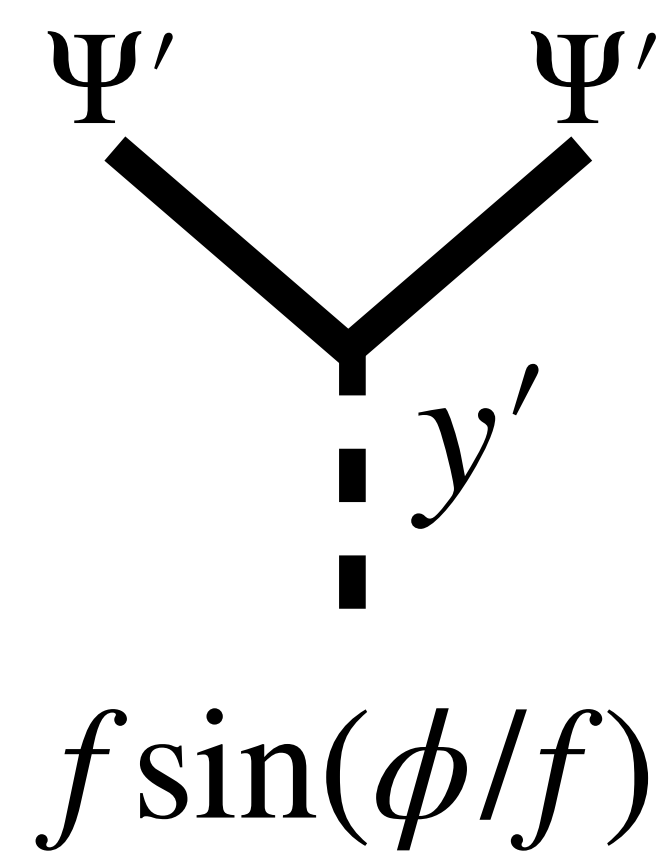
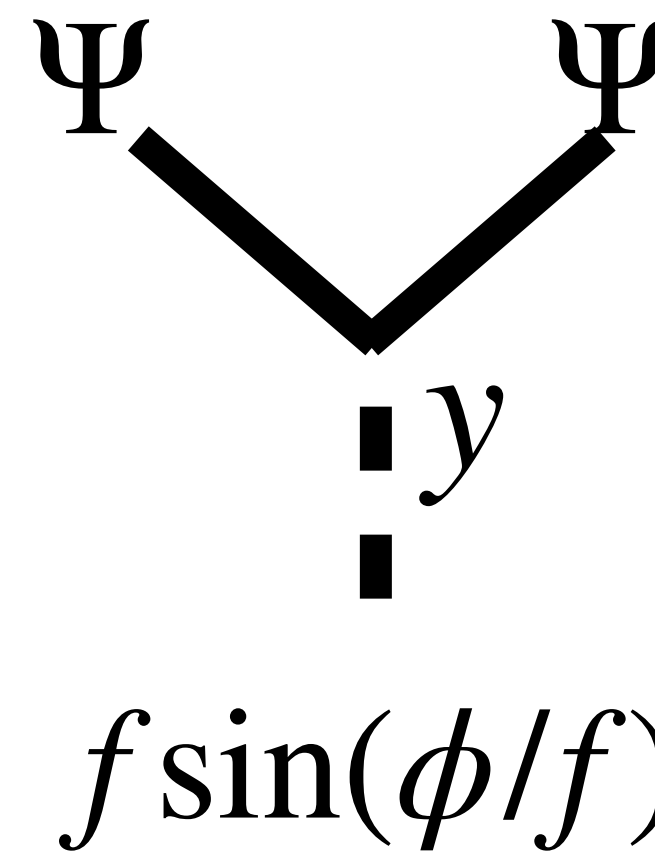
$$\gg 10^{-20} \text{eV}$$

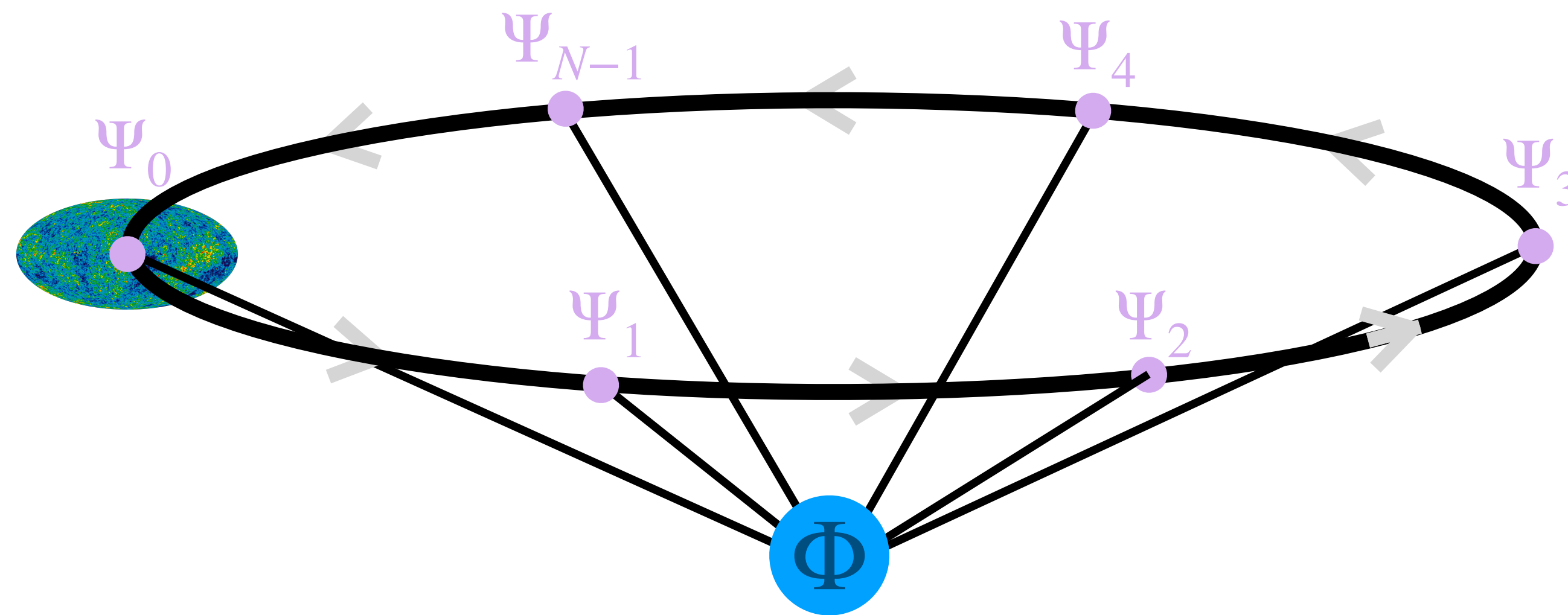
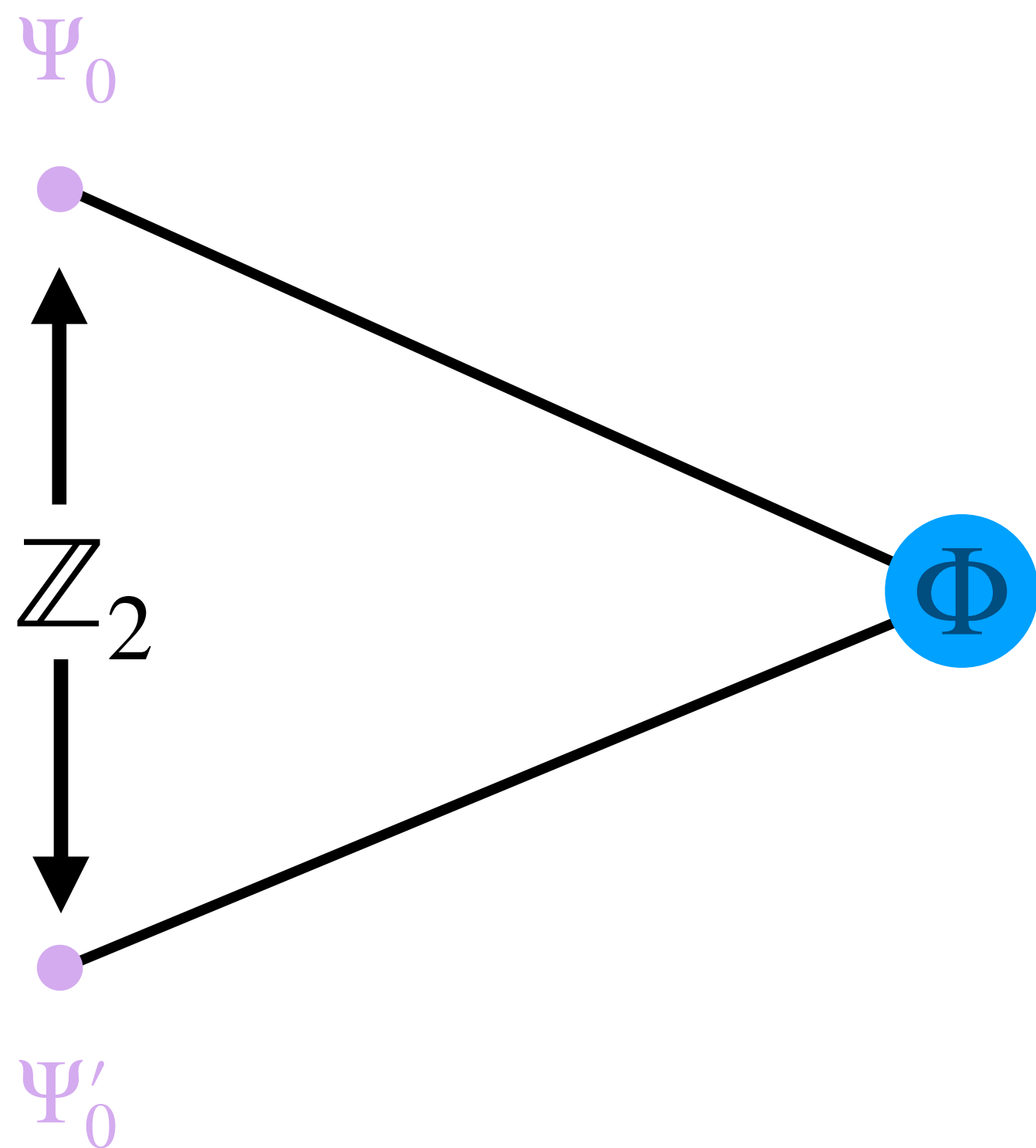
$\mathbb{Z}_2$



$$\mathcal{L}_{UV} \supset M (\bar{\Psi}\Psi + \bar{\Psi}'\Psi') + y\Phi\bar{\Psi}\Psi + y'\Phi\bar{\Psi}'\Psi' + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\Phi = \frac{if}{\sqrt{2}} \exp\left(i\frac{\phi}{f}\right)$$



$\mathbb{Z}_2$  $\times$  $\mathbb{Z}_N$ 

Hill et. al. 1995

Hook et. al. 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Dror et. al. , 2020

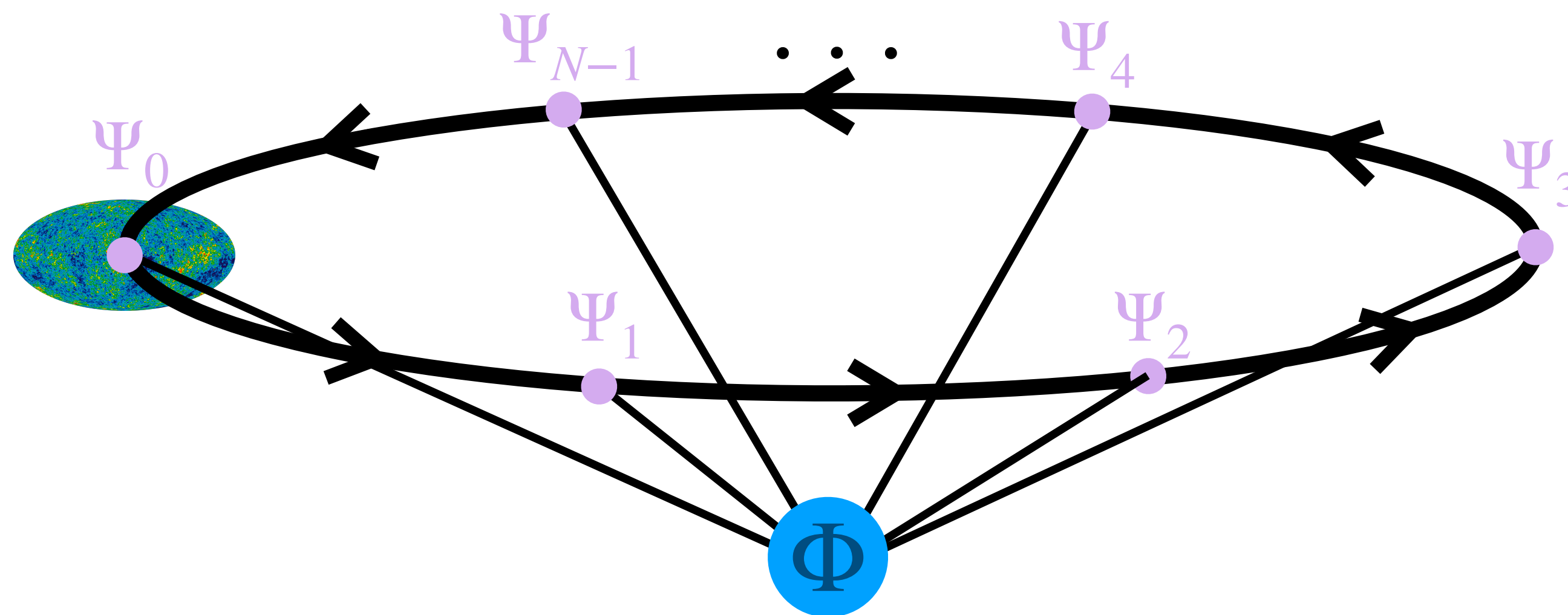
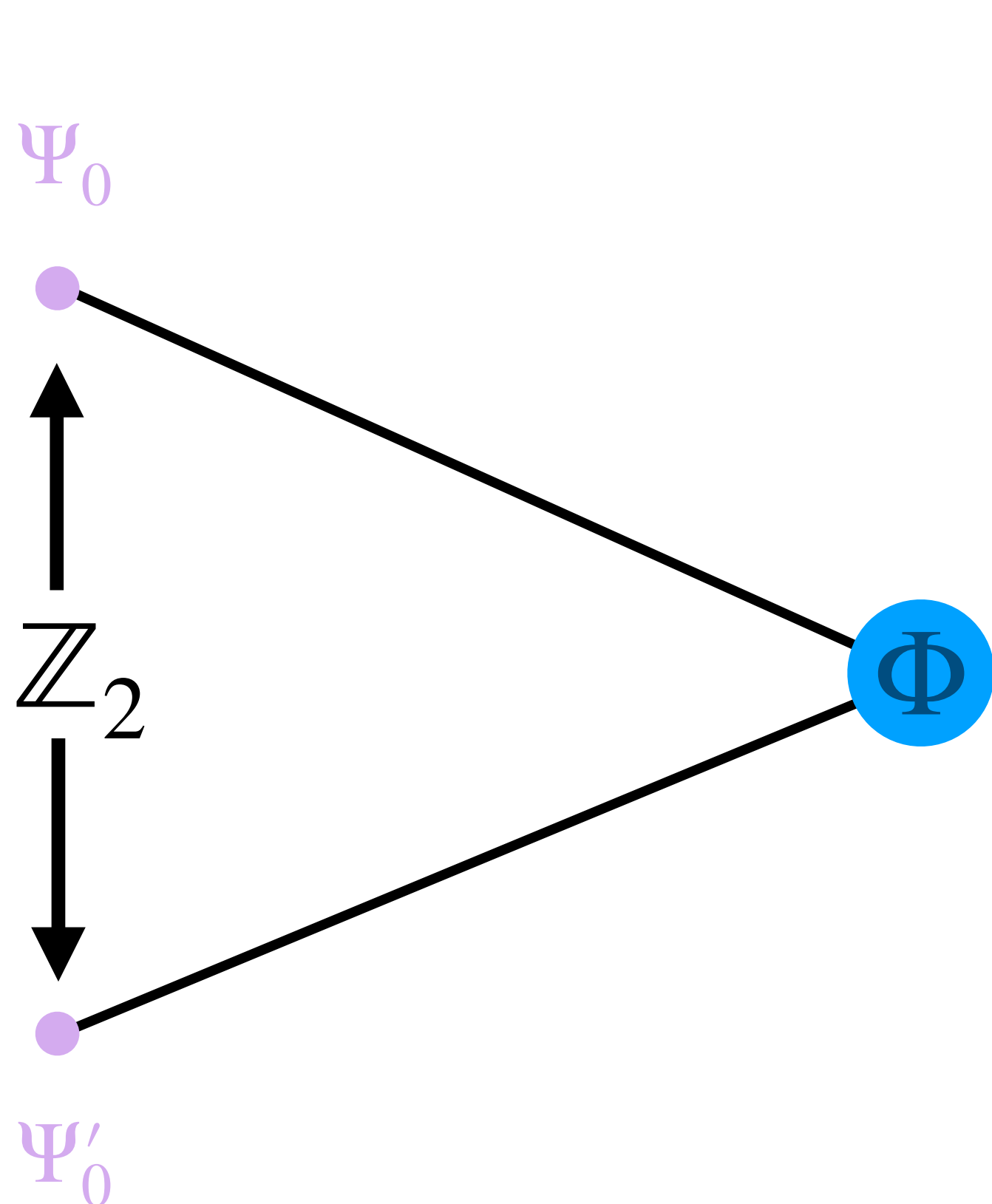
Ringwald et. al. , 2021

Perez et. al. , 2021

$\mathbb{Z}_2$  $\times$  $\mathbb{Z}_N$ 

$$(\Psi, \Psi', A')_k \rightarrow (\Psi, \Psi', A')_{k+1}$$

$$\Phi \rightarrow \Phi \exp\left(i\frac{2\pi}{N}\right)$$



$\mathbb{Z}_N$  as discretized  $U(1)$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{Z}_N} \sim \frac{\Phi^N}{M^{N-4}} + h.c.$$

**Backup**

# Suppress UV Freeze-in

We want

$$\frac{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma' + \phi}^{\delta\phi_{FF'}}}{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma'}^{\phi_{\text{osc}} FF'}} \ll 1$$

# Suppress UV Freeze-in

$$\frac{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma' + \phi}}{\Omega_{\gamma \rightarrow \gamma'}} \sim \frac{m_{DM} T_{rh}}{|\phi|_{osc}^2} \ll 1 \quad \phi_{osc} = \phi(T_{osc})$$

*GUT*  $10^{16} \text{ GeV}$

NR Ultralight Boson:

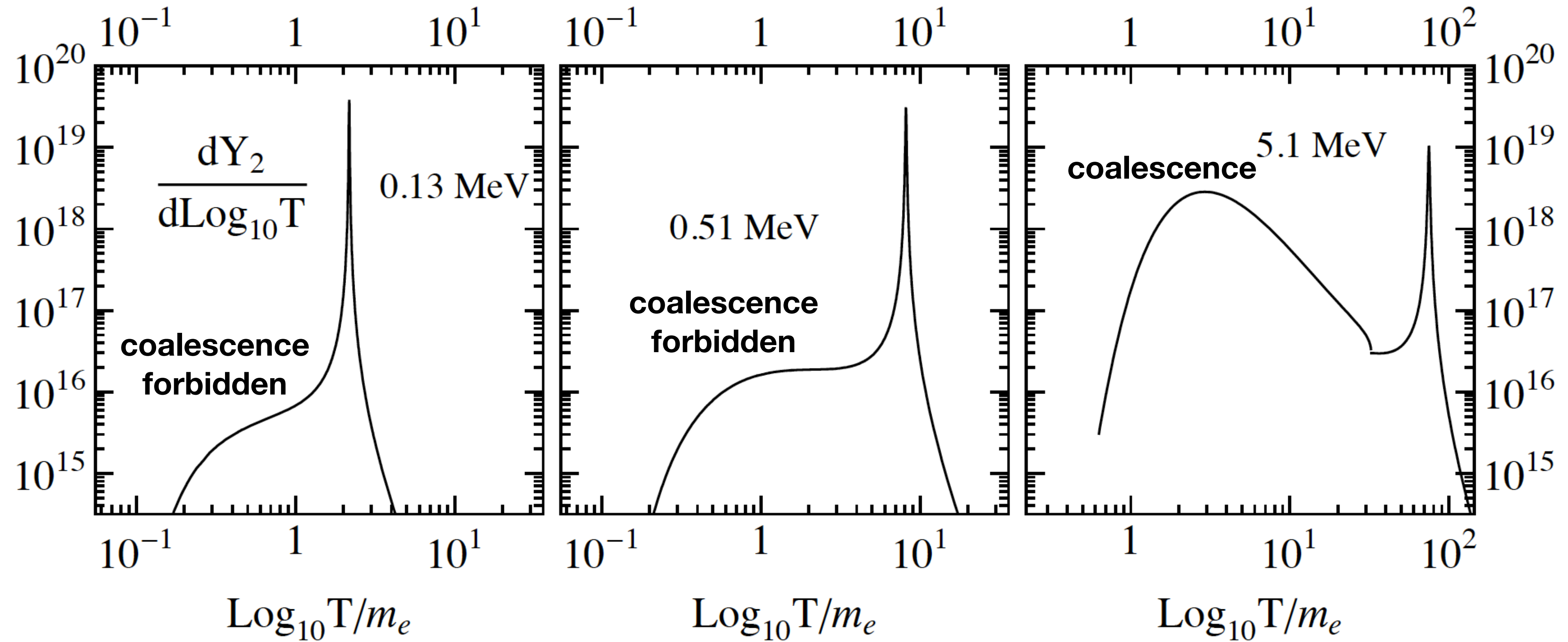
$$|\phi|_{osc} = \sqrt{2\rho_\phi / m_\phi}$$

$$m_\phi \sim 10^{-20} \text{ eV} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad |\phi|_{osc} \sim 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$$

**Ultralight  $\phi$  suppresses UV FI**



# Dark photon dark matter freeze-in through the kinetic mixing

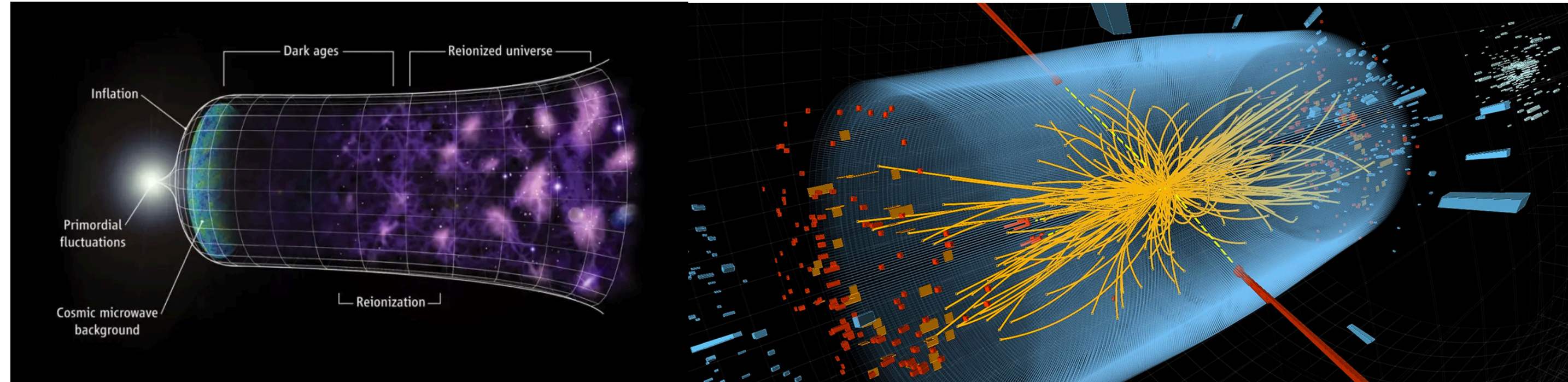


Redondo, Postma 2005

Freeze-in happens:  $T \approx T_{\text{res}} \sim 10m_{A'}$

$$\Omega_{A'} = 0.12 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \epsilon_{FI} \sim 10^{-12}$$

# Dark photon freeze-in from the early Universe



$$m_{\gamma}^2 = \begin{cases} \omega_p^2 = 4\pi\alpha(n_e/m_e), & (T \ll m_e) \\ \frac{3}{2}\omega_p^2 = (2/3)\alpha\pi T^2, & (T \gg m_e) \end{cases}$$

**Dominant:**

$$\gamma \rightarrow \gamma' @ T_{\text{res}} = m_{\gamma'} \sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi\alpha}}$$

$$e^- e^+ \rightarrow \gamma'$$

**resonant conversion:**  $m_{\gamma} = m_{\gamma'}$

**coalescence:**  $m_{\gamma'} > 2m_e$

**Sub-dominant:**

$$\gamma e \rightarrow \gamma' e \text{ Compton-like}$$

$$e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma' \text{ pair annihilation}$$

# Measurement of the time-varying fine-structure constant

## Atomic Clock

$$f_A \propto \left( \frac{\mu_A}{\mu_b} \right)^{\zeta_A} (\alpha)^{\xi_A + 2}$$

$$\frac{\delta(f_A/f_B)}{f_A/f_B} \simeq \left[ \zeta_A (d_{m_e} - d_g + M_A d_{\hat{m}}) + \Delta \xi_{AB} d_e \right] \kappa \phi(t),$$

Species	Transition	$\xi_A$
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ [22]	$4f^{14}6s^2 S_{\frac{1}{2}}^2 \leftrightarrow 4f^{13}6s^2 {}^2F_{\frac{7}{2}}^2$	-5.30
$^{27}\text{Al}^+$ [23]	$3s^2 {}^1S_0 \leftrightarrow 3s3p {}^3P_0$	0.008
$^{88}\text{Sr}^+$ [24]	$5s^2 S_{\frac{1}{2}} \leftrightarrow 4d^2 D_{\frac{5}{2}}$	0.43
$^{171}\text{Yb}$ [12]	$6s^2 {}^1S_0 \leftrightarrow 6s6p {}^3P_0$	0.31
$^{87}\text{Sr}$ [13]	$5s^2 {}^1S_0 \leftrightarrow 5s5p {}^3P_0$	0.06

# Celestial Constraints on $\alpha(t)$

## BBN

$$X_n^{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{m_{np}/T}}$$

$$Y_p \approx 2X_{n,\text{BBN}}$$

$$m_{np} = m_n - m_p$$

$$\Delta m_{np} \propto \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} d_\gamma^{(n)} \phi$$

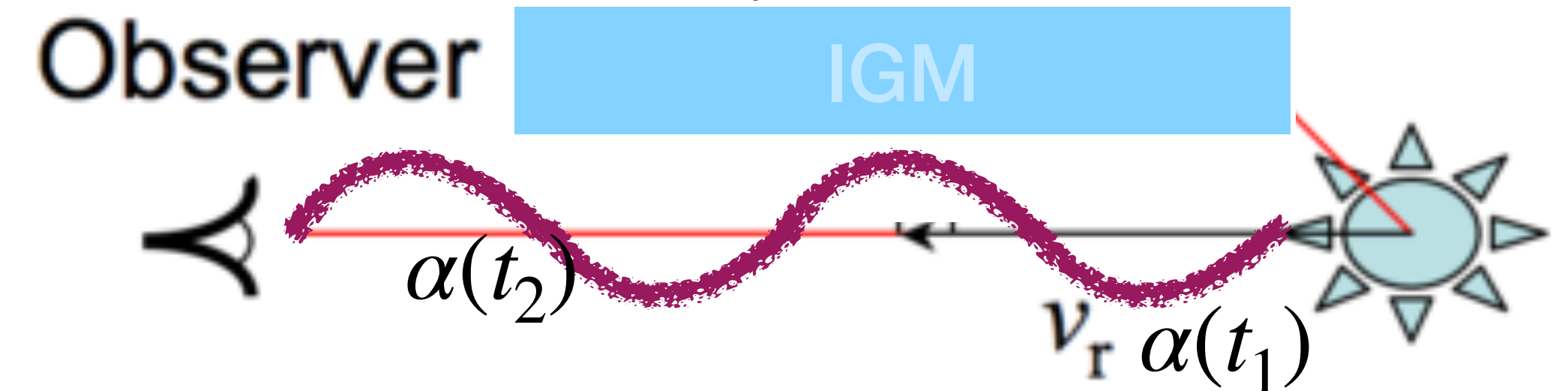
Y. V. Stadnik, V. V. Flambaum PRL 2015

## Lyman- $\alpha$

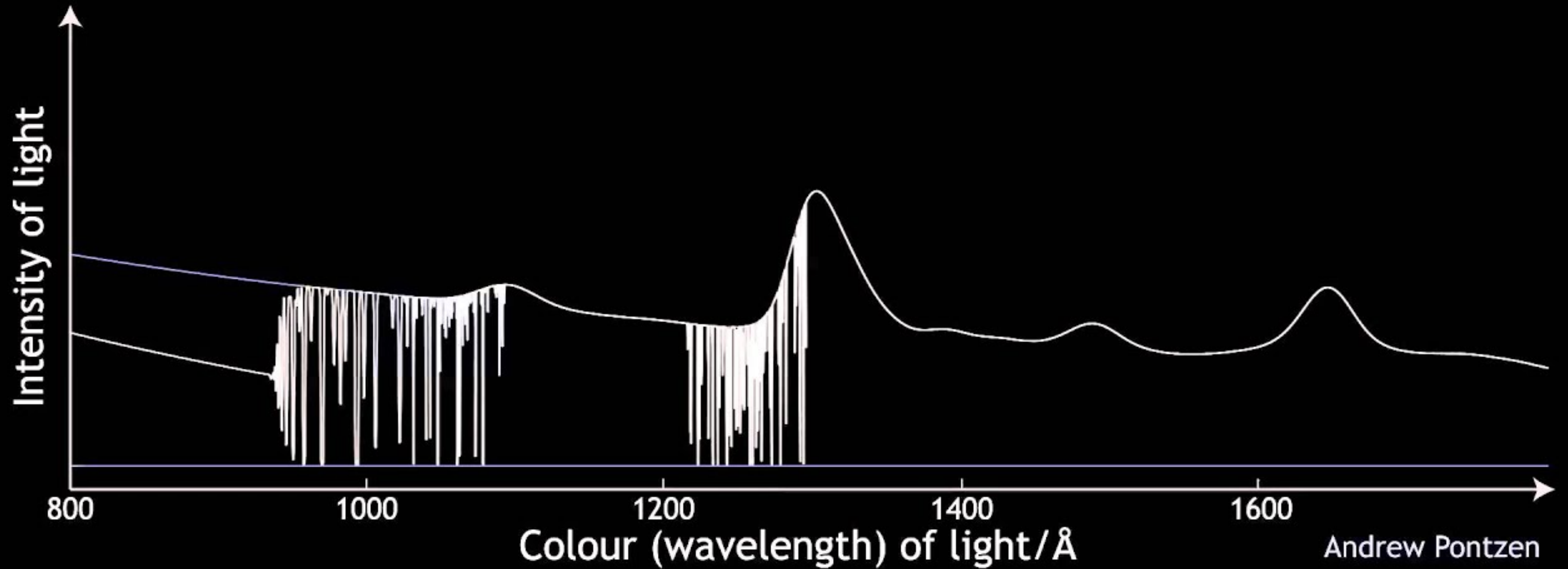
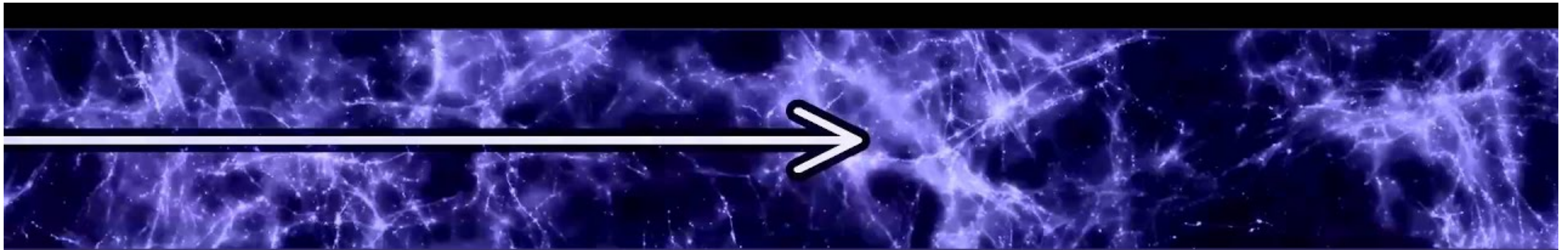
$$10\text{Mpc}^{-1} \sim 10^{-28}\text{eV}$$

$$d_{\text{pulsar}} \sim m_\phi^{-1}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \sim m_e \alpha_{\text{em}}$$



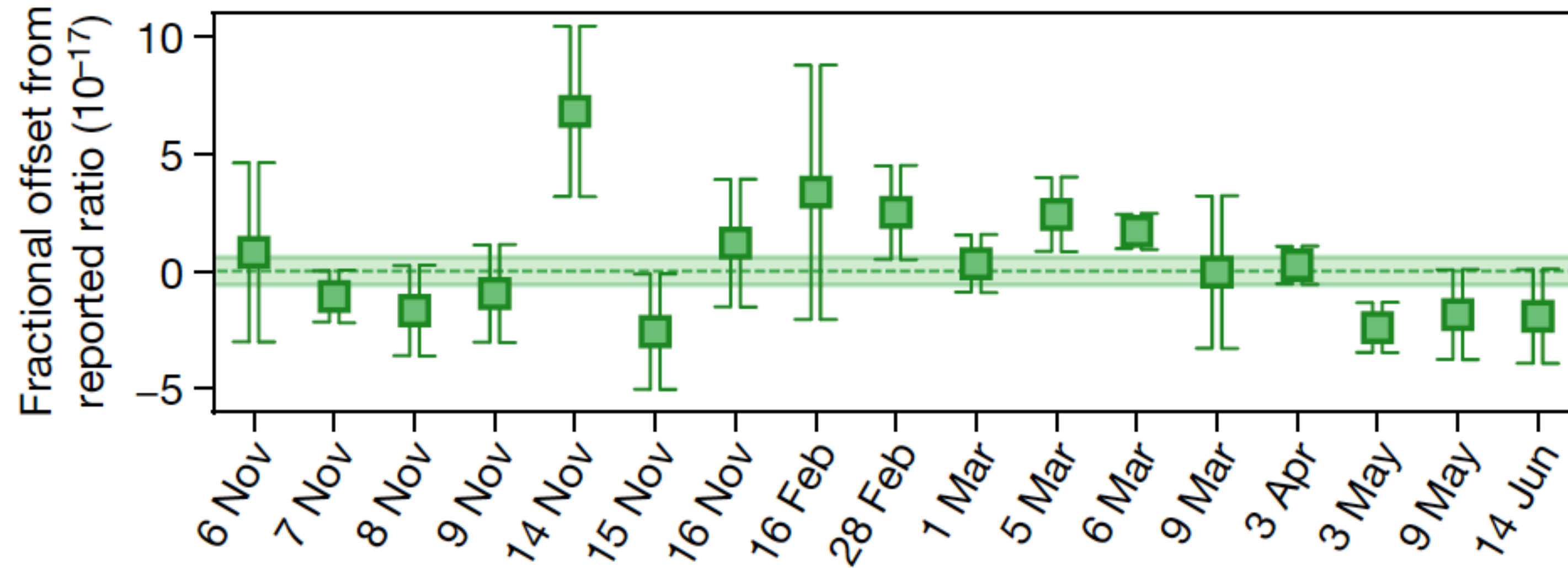
L. Hamaide, H. Muller, and D. J. E. Marsh, PRD 2022



Andrew Pontzen

# Frequency ratio measurements at 18-digit accuracy using an optical clock network

Al<sup>+</sup>/Yb ratio



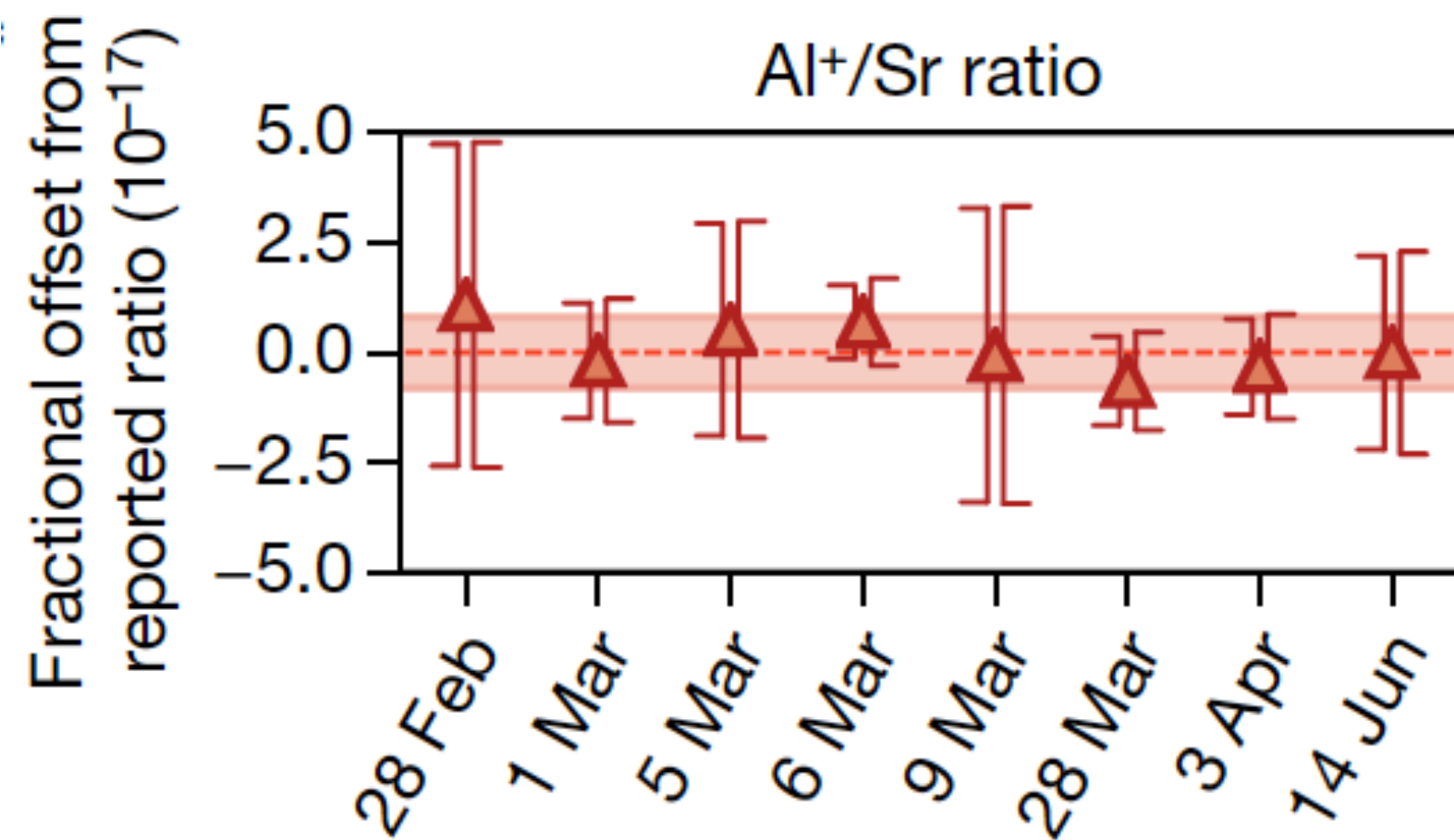
$$\nu_{\text{Al}^+}/\nu_{\text{Yb}} = 2.162887127516663703(13),$$

$$\nu_{\text{Al}^+}/\nu_{\text{Sr}} = 2.611701431781463025(21),$$

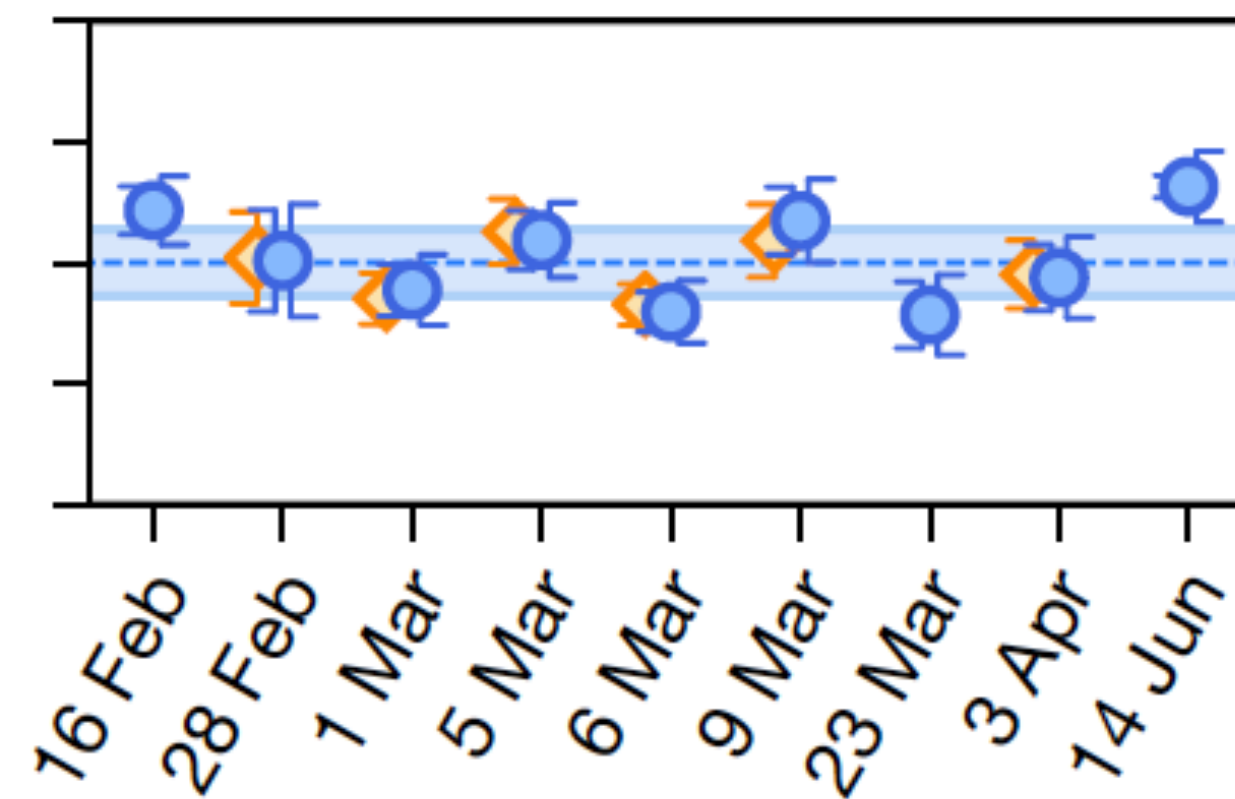
$$\nu_{\text{Yb}}/\nu_{\text{Sr}} = 1.2075070393433378482(82).$$

**d**

Al<sup>+</sup>/Sr ratio



Yb/Sr ratio



# Celestial Constraints on $\alpha(t)$

## BBN

$$m_{np} = m_n - m_p$$

$$\Delta m_{np} \propto \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} d_{\gamma}^{(n)} \phi$$

## Change He abundance

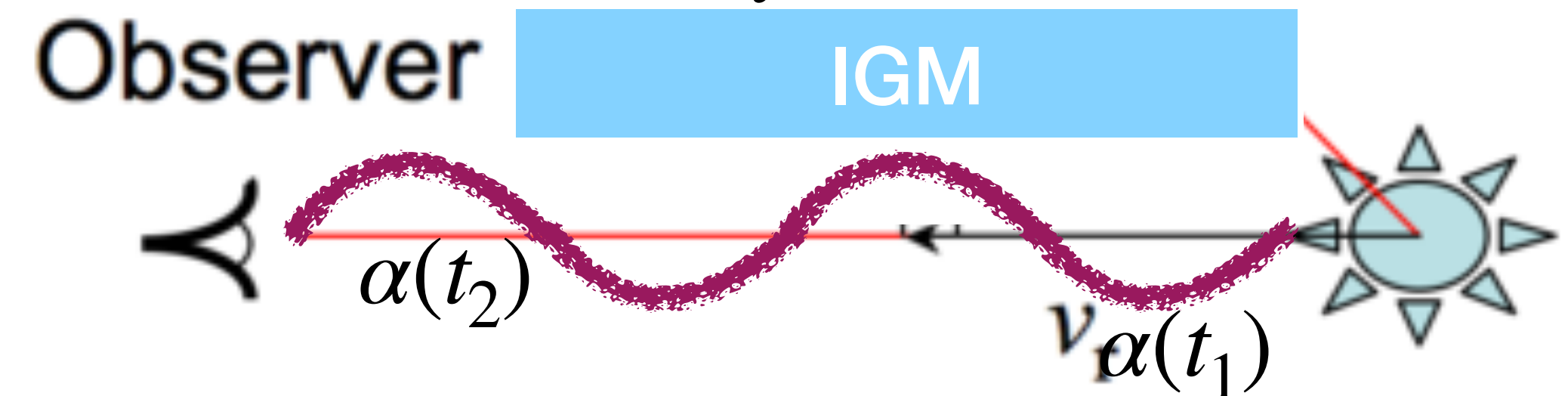
Y. V. Stadnik, V. V. Flambaum PRL 2015

## Lyman- $\alpha$

$$10 \text{Mpc}^{-1} \sim 10^{-28} \text{eV}$$

$$d_{\text{quasar}} \sim m_{\phi}^{-1}$$

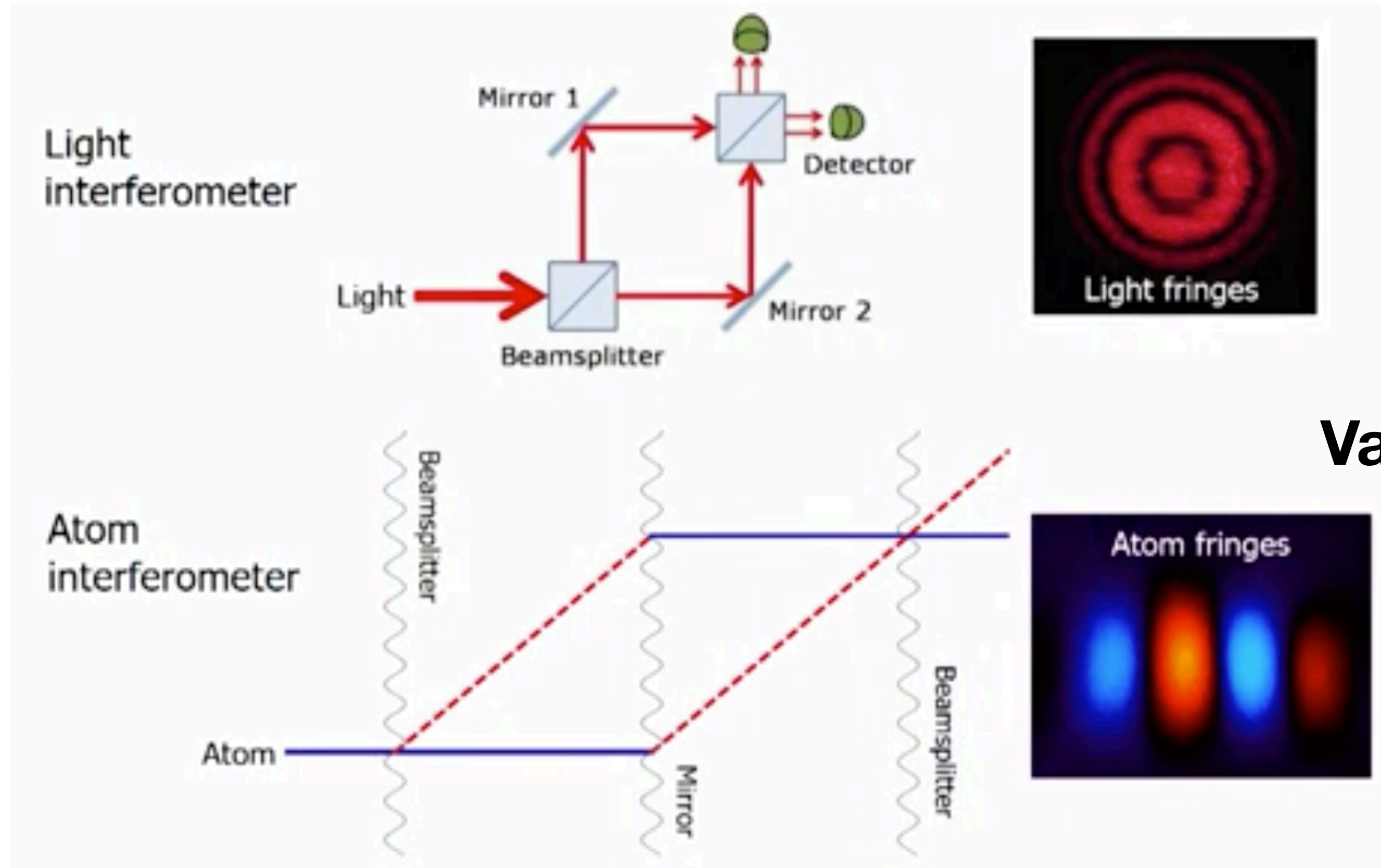
$$\Delta E_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \sim m_e \alpha_{\text{em}}$$



L. Hamaide, H. Muller, and D. J. E. Marsh, PRD 2022

# Celestial and Terrestrial Constraints

## Cold-atom Interferometer



**Laser: Excite and de-excite the atoms.  
Generate a quantum superposition  
of two paths and then recombining**

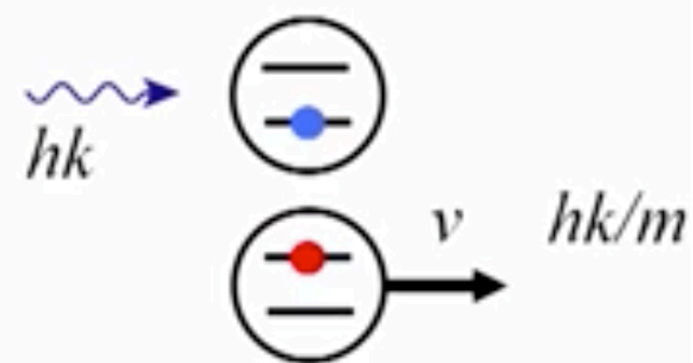
**Measurement: accumulated  
phase between the two paths**

**Varying  $\alpha_{em}$  modifies transition frequency**

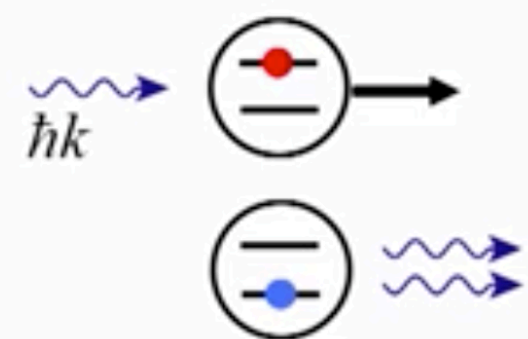
$$\frac{\Delta\omega_A}{\omega_A} \propto \sqrt{\rho_\phi} \xi_A d_e^{(1)}$$

**Signal of ultralight scalar:**

**(1) Light absorption:**



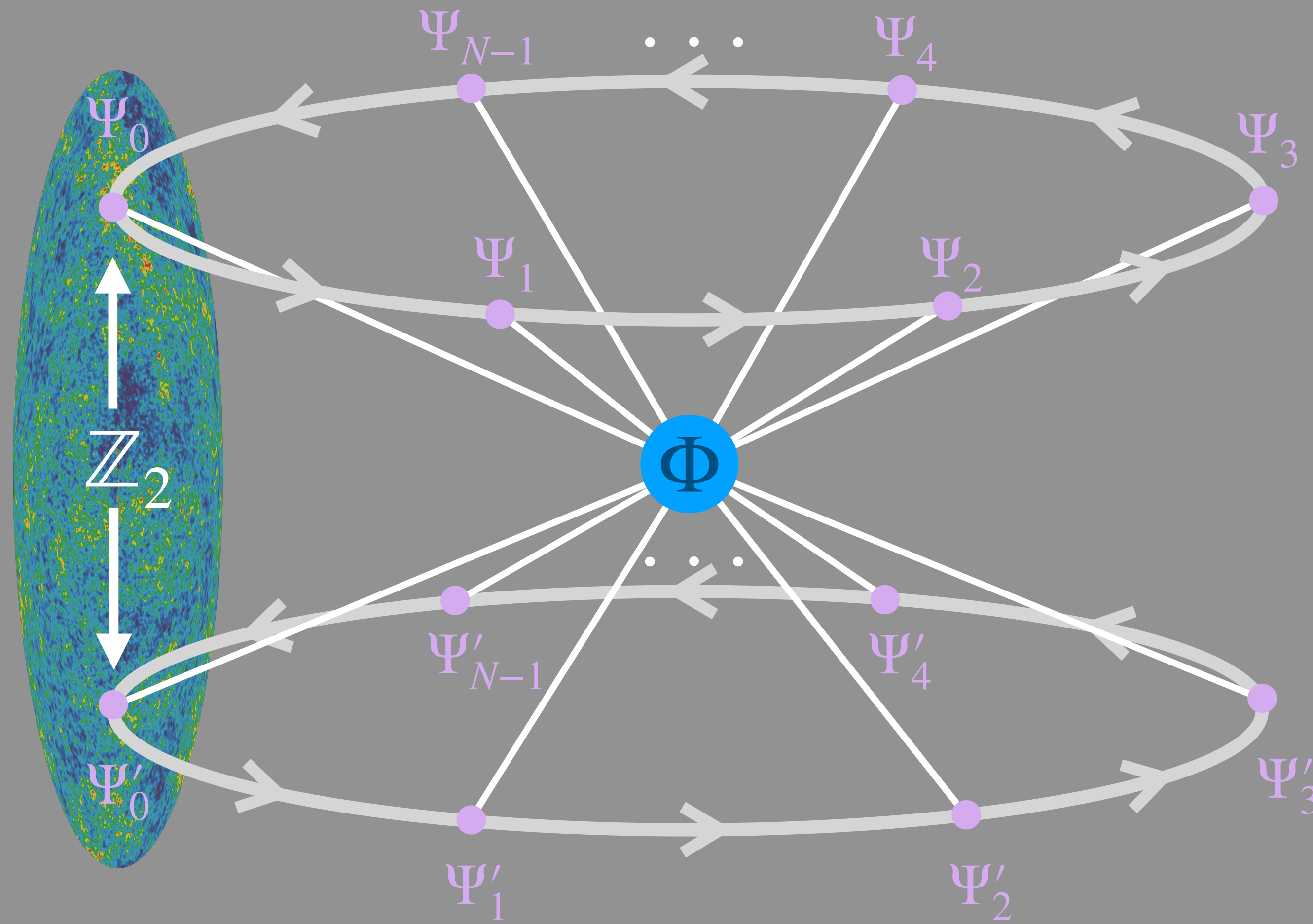
**(2) Stimulated emission:**



$$\bar{\Phi}_s = 8 \frac{\Delta\omega_A}{m_\phi} \left| \sin \left[ \frac{m_\phi n L}{2} \right] \sin \left[ \frac{m_\phi (T - (n - 1)L)}{2} \right] \sin \left[ \frac{m_\phi T}{2} \right] \right|$$



$$\mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_2$$



$$\epsilon_k \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda_{KM}} f \sin \left( \frac{\phi}{f} + \frac{2\pi k}{N} \right)$$

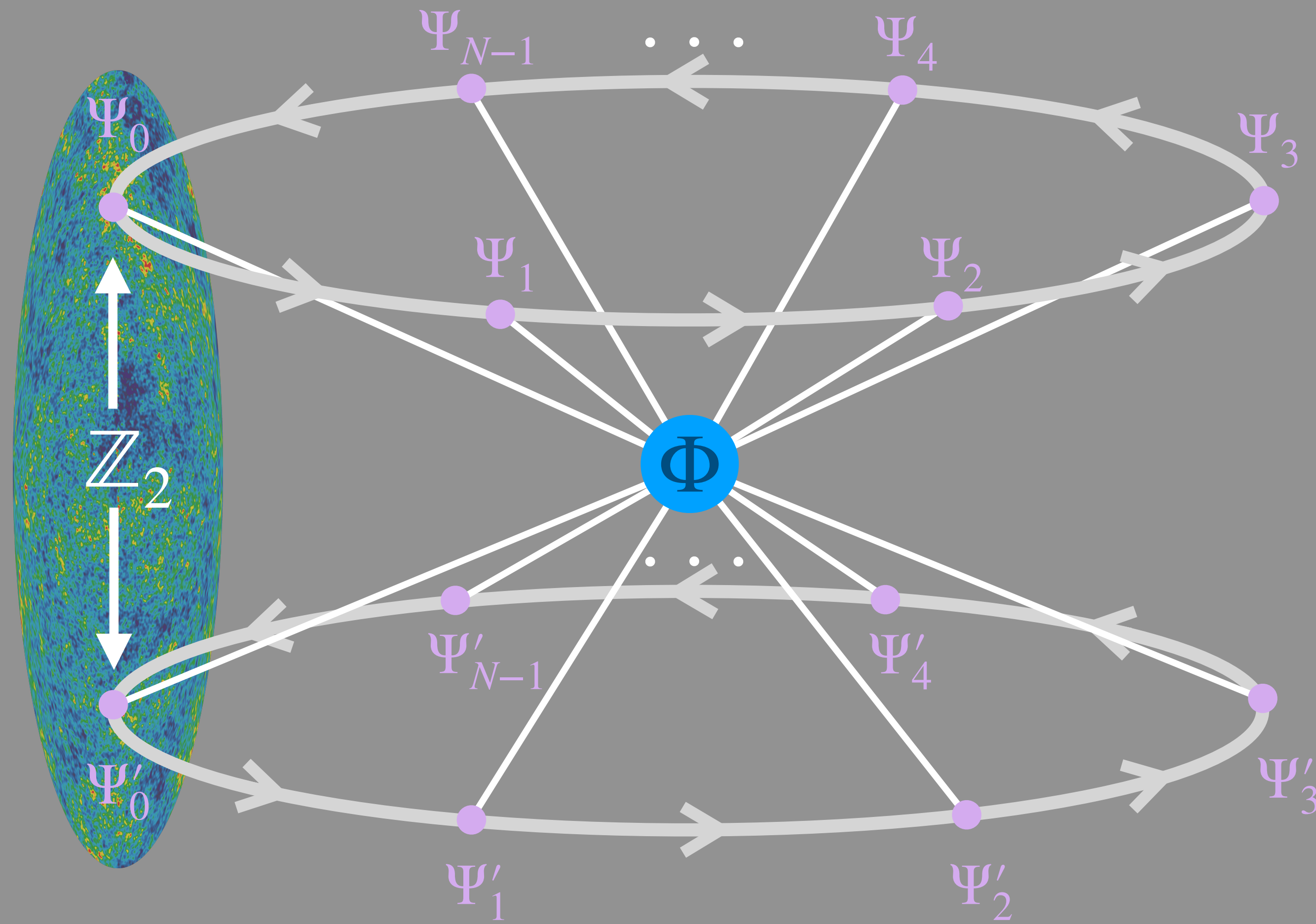
$$\left( \frac{\Delta \alpha_{em}}{\alpha_{em}} \right)_k \sim \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_\gamma} f \sin \left( \frac{\phi}{f} + \frac{2\pi k}{N} \right) \right)^i$$

Type-A:  $i=1$

Type-B:  $i=2$

$k=0$ : Our universe

$$\mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_2$$



Quantum Correction

$$V_{tot}(\phi) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} V\left(\phi + \frac{2\pi i}{N}\right)$$

$$\Delta m_{\phi}^2 \propto r^{N-2}$$

$$r \sim 10^{-10} \left(\frac{\epsilon_{FI}}{10^{-12}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{e'}\right)$$

$$N \sim 7 \quad \Delta m_{\phi} \ll 10^{-33} eV$$