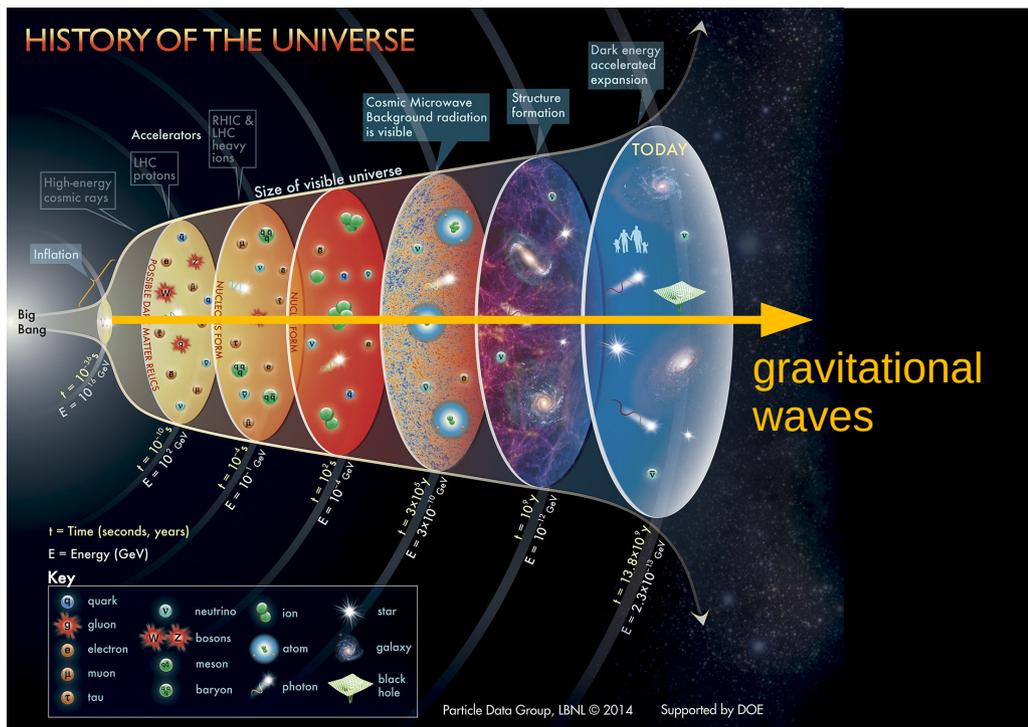




# Electromagnetic

## high-frequency gravitational wave detection



Valerie Domcke  
CERN

*Moriond Conference, La Thuile*  
March 18 – 25, 2023

based on [2011.12414](#)  
Living Review on UHF GW searches,

and work with Camilo Garcia-Cely,  
Torsten Bringmann, Elina Fuchs,  
Joachim Kopp, Sung Mook Lee and  
Nick Rodd

# high frequency ( $> \text{kHz}$ ) GW sources

## Cosmological

- sourced by violent cosmological event in the early Universe
- stochastic GW background (SGWB): stationary, isotropic, broad spectrum
- GW frequency determined by Hubble horizon at sourcing time  
→ high frequency = early Universe
- observationally bounded by BBN and CMB (extra radiation)
- vanilla cosmology: SGWB from cosmic inflation & CGWB very small. But in many BSM models, saturating BBN bound is easy

## Astrophysical

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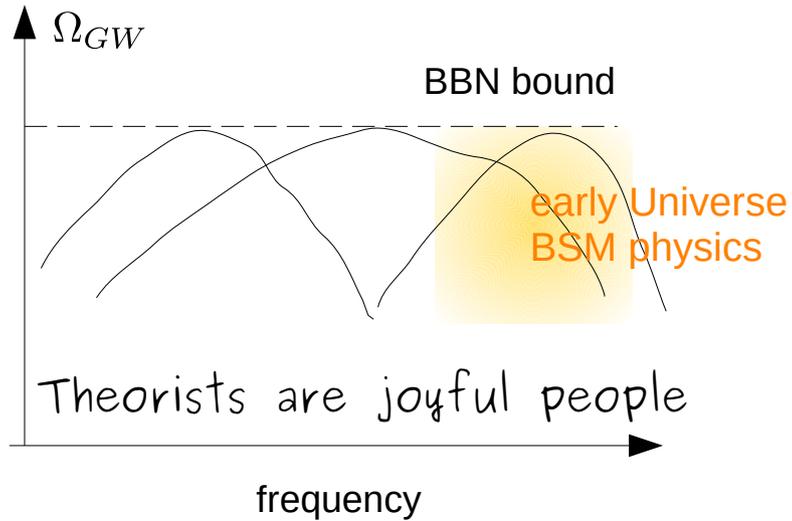
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## Astrophysical

- localized GW sources, both coherent and incoherent signals possible
- no strong astrophysical sources guaranteed in UHF band
- eg mergers of light primordial black holes or exotic compact objects, superradiance, neutron star mergers depending on QCD EoS.
- large signals require near-by events  
→ rare events with GW strain far above BBN bound are possible
- SGWB from unresolved sources, typically harder to detect

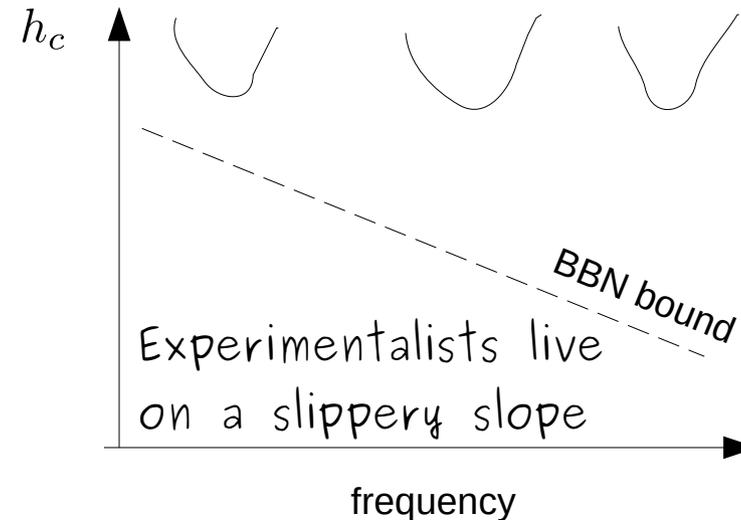
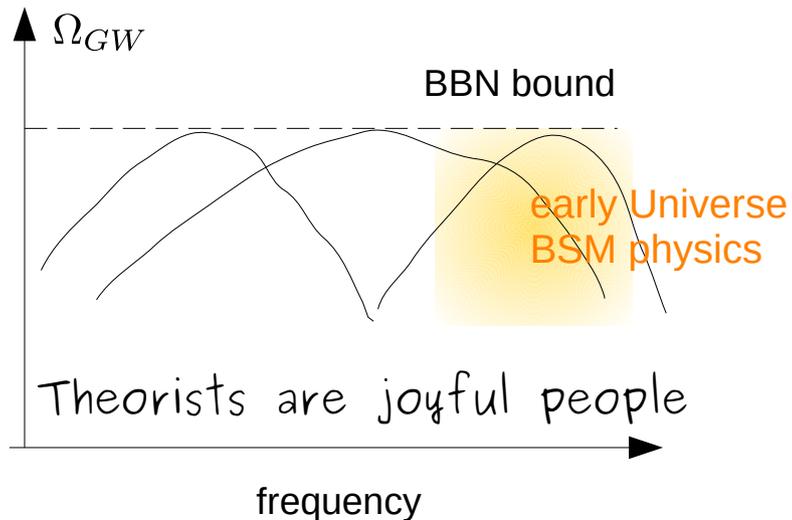
UHF GW searches are always a search for New Physics

# challenges in UHF GW detection



CMB/BBN bound constrains energy

# challenges in UHF GW detection

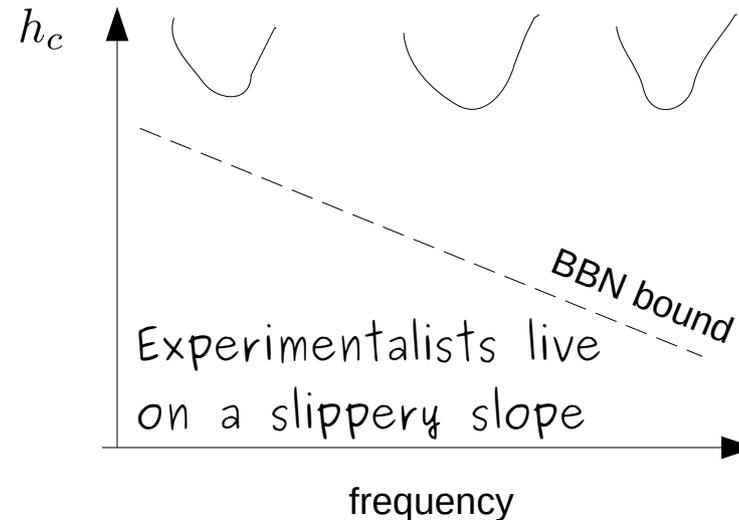
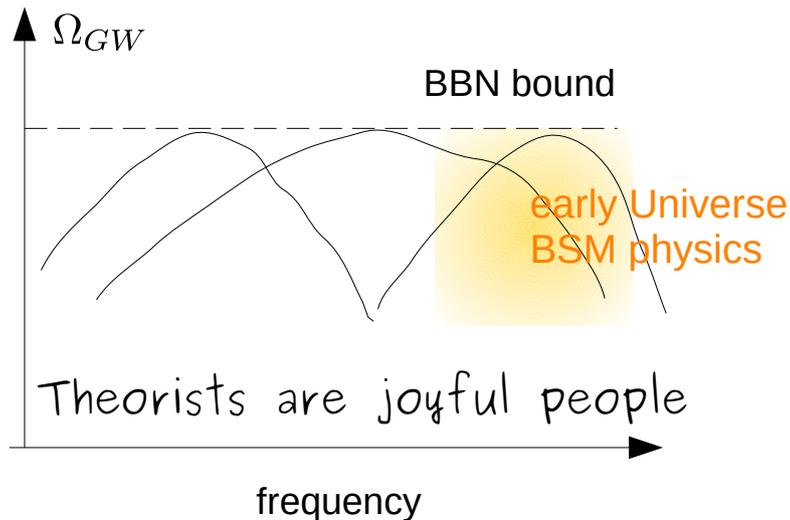


$$\Omega_{GW} \propto f^2 h_c^2$$

CMB/BBN bound constrains energy

experiments measure displacement

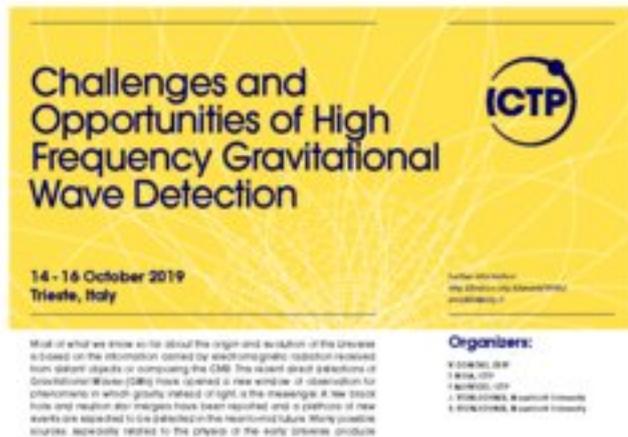
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$$\Omega_{GW} \propto f^2 h_c^2$$

CMB/BBN bound constrains energy

experiments measure displacement



A screenshot of the workshop website. The title is "Ultra-High-Frequency GWs: A Theory and Technology Roadmap" held from 12-15 Oct 2021 at CERN. The page includes a navigation menu with "Overview", "Timetable", "Registration", "Participant List", "Videoconference", "Communications", and "Support". The main content area describes the workshop's aim to foster technology development for ultra-high-frequency gravitational wave detection and lists topics like science case, detector concepts, and international collaboration.

all talks available online:

1st workshop  
<http://indico.ictp.it/event/9006/>

2nd workshop:  
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1074510/>

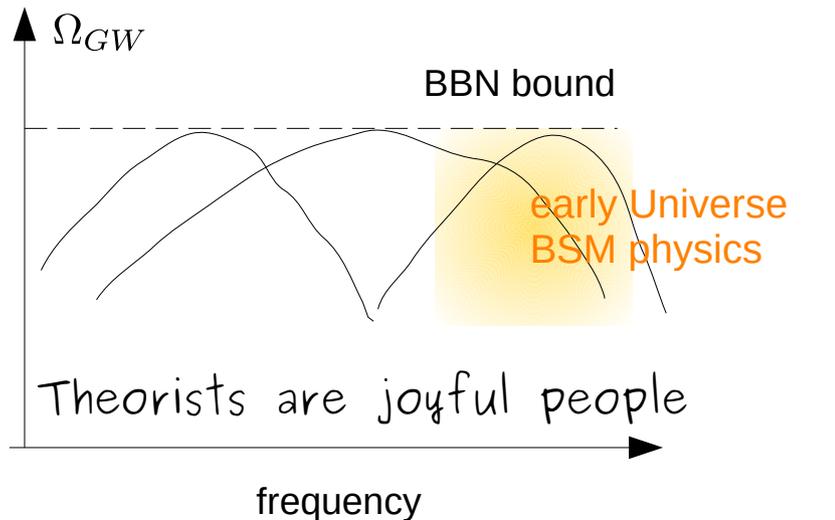
Living Review:  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.12414>

UHG GW initiative:  
<https://www.ctc.cam.ac.uk/activities/UHF-GW.php>

3rd workshop: Dec 4 – 8 2023 @ CERN !

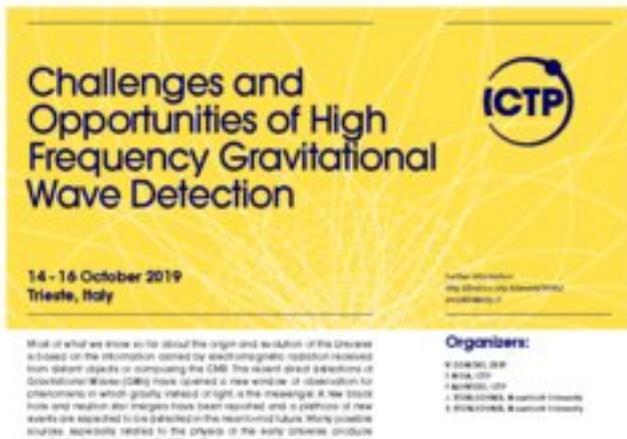
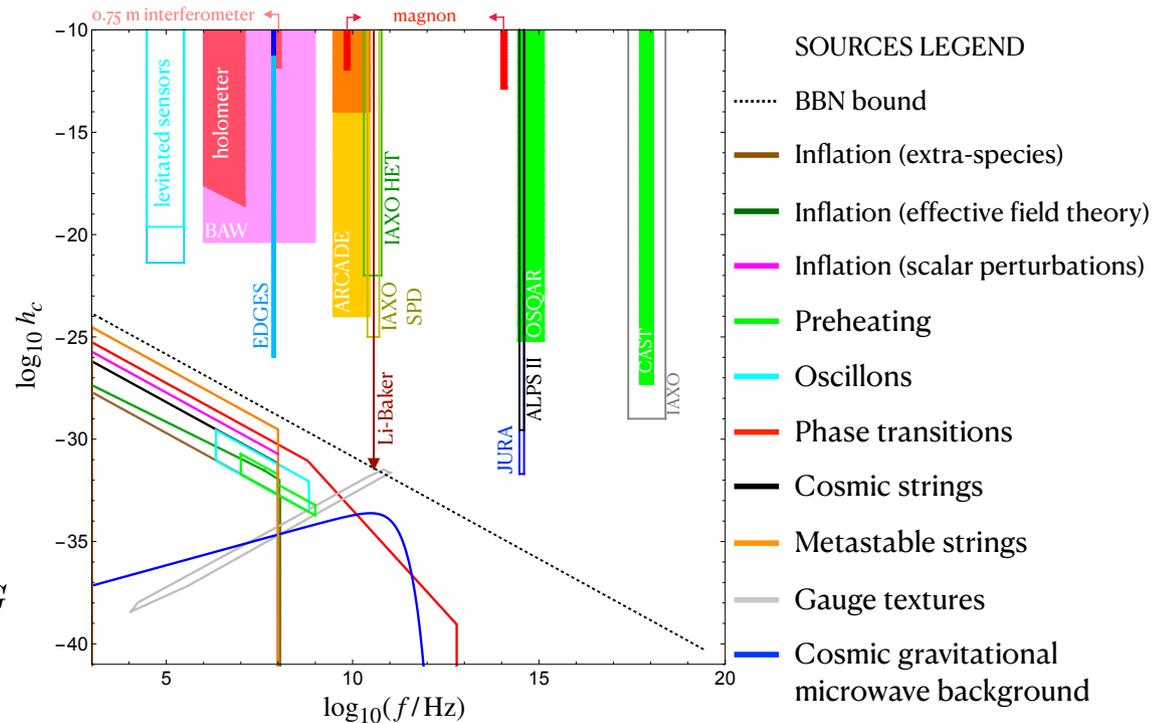
Valerie Domcke - CERN

# challenges in UHF GW detection



Theorists are joyful people

CMB/BBN bound constrains energy



Ultra-High-Frequency GWs: A Theory and Technology Roadmap  
 12-15 Oct 2021  
 CERN  
 Europe/Zurich timezone

Overview  
 Timetable  
 Registration  
 Participant List  
 Videoconference  
 Communications  
 Support  
 TWorkshops.secretaria...

This workshop is part of the Ultra-High-Frequency Gravitational Waves initiative (see the [website](#) of our initiative) and comes after a first meeting held at ICTP in Trieste in 2019 (see the [website](#) of the first workshop) that led to a review [paper](#) on the subject.

The aim of this meeting is to foster the technology development that is necessary to get to ultra-high-frequency gravitational wave detection. In particular, we will discuss

- the science case for UHF-GW searches
- new detector concepts
- feasibility studies and construction of prototypes for proposed detector concepts
- coordinating an international effort to support collaborations working on UHF-GW detectors

The workshop will combine theoretical developments regarding GW sources in different parts of the ultra-high-frequency band with experimental concepts aiming at probing them.

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Valerie Domcke - CERN

# GW electrodynamics

Classical electrodynamics + linearized GR,  $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$  :

$$\partial_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = j_{\text{eff}}^\mu = (-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}, \nabla \times \mathbf{M} + \partial_t \mathbf{P})$$

$$\partial_\nu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

effective current  
effective polarization vector  
effective magnetization vector

with

$$P_i = -h_{ij}E_j + \frac{1}{2}hE_i + h_{00}E_i - \epsilon_{ijk}h_{0j}B_k,$$

$$M_i = -h_{ij}B_j - \frac{1}{2}hB_i + h_{jj}B_i + \epsilon_{ijk}h_{0j}E_k,$$

induced at linear order in h  
in presence of external E,B field  
VD, Garcia-Cely, Rodd `22

Direct analogy with axion electrodynamics

$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{P} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{B}, \quad \mathbf{M} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E}$$

McAllister et al `18  
Tobar, McAllister, Goryachev `19  
Ouellet, Bogorad `19

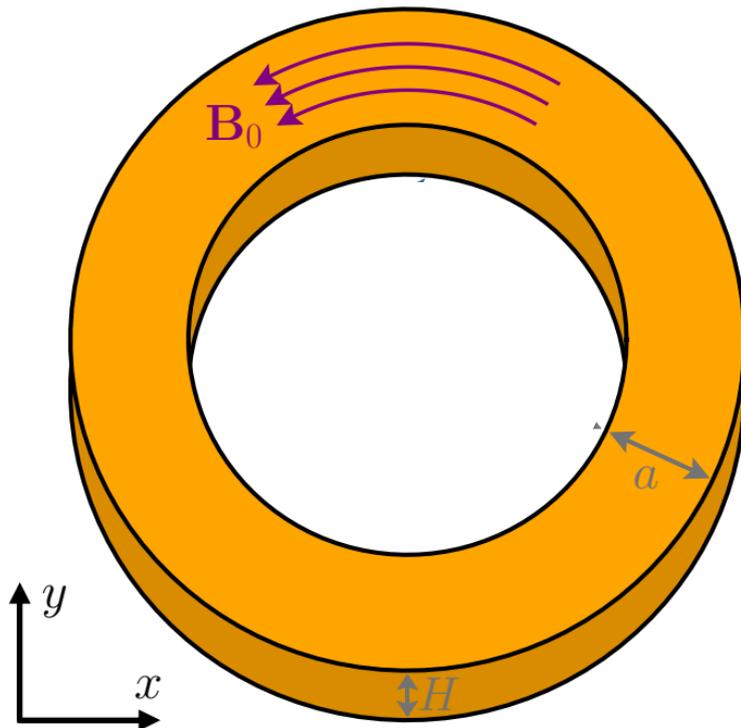
effective source terms in Maxwell's equation due to GW

# GW signal in axion haloscopes

eg ABRACADABRA, SHAFT, DM Radio:

VD, Garcia-Cely, Rodd '22

static magnetic field

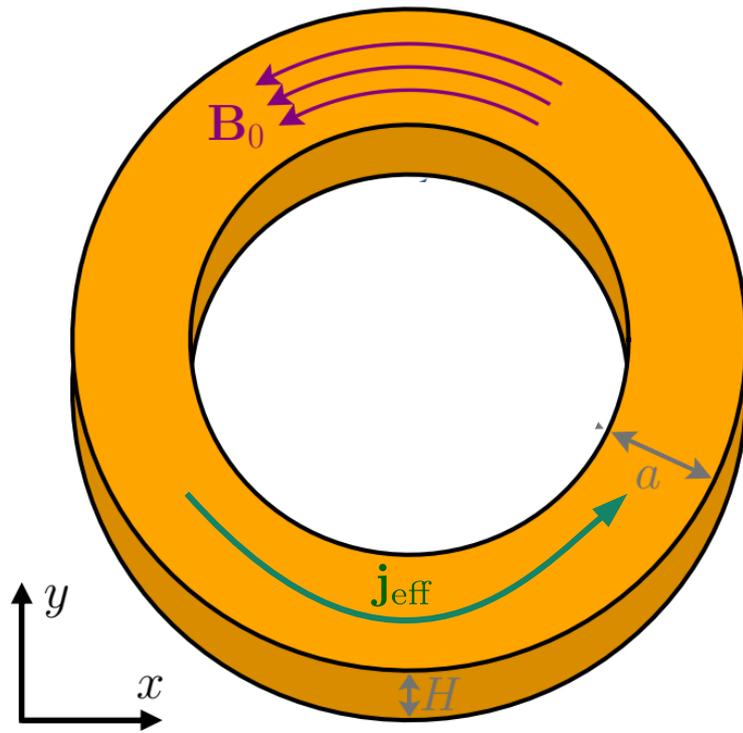


low-mass axion haloscopes are high frequency GW detectors

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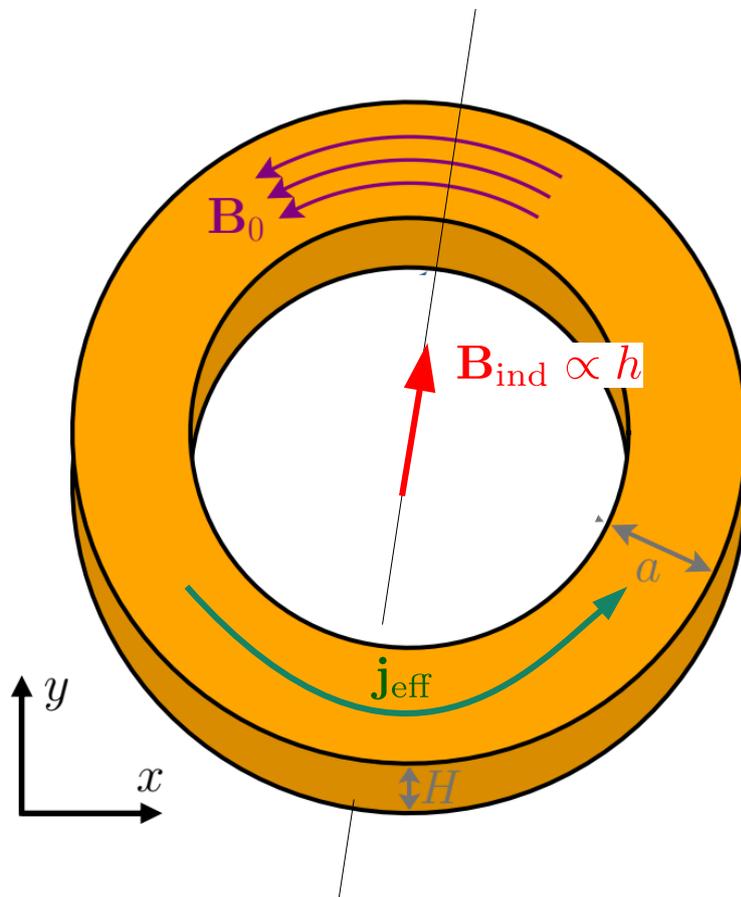
effective current

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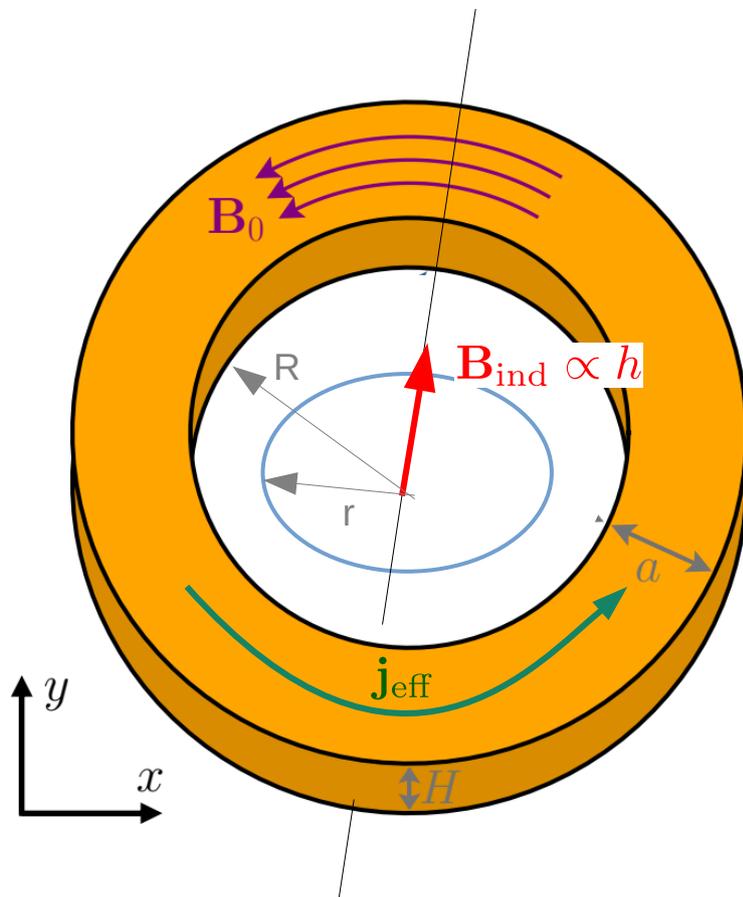
induced oscillating magnetic field

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static magnetic field

effective current

induced oscillating magnetic field

measure magnetic flux ( $\sim h$ )  
through pickup loop

at leading order in  $(\omega R)$  :

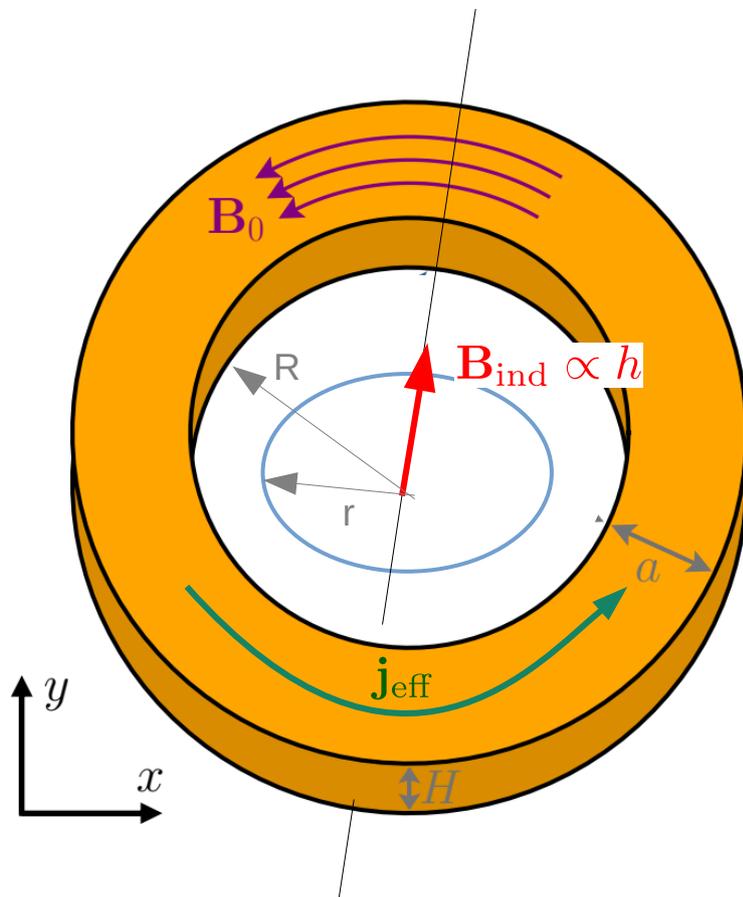
$$\Phi_{\text{gw}} = \frac{i e^{-i\omega t}}{16\sqrt{2}} h^\times \omega^3 B_0 \pi r^2 R a (a + 2R) s_{\theta_h}^2$$

low-mass axion haloscopes are  
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VD, Garcia-Cely, Rodd '22



static magnetic field

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measure magnetic flux ( $\sim h$ )  
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at leading order in  $(\omega R)$ :  $\sim (\omega L)^3 h B_0 L^2$

$$\Phi_{\text{gw}} = \frac{i e^{-i\omega t}}{16\sqrt{2}} h \times \omega^3 B_0 \pi r^2 R a (a + 2R) s_{\theta_h}^2$$

match to axion induced flux to recast  
axion-photon coupling bounds as GW bounds

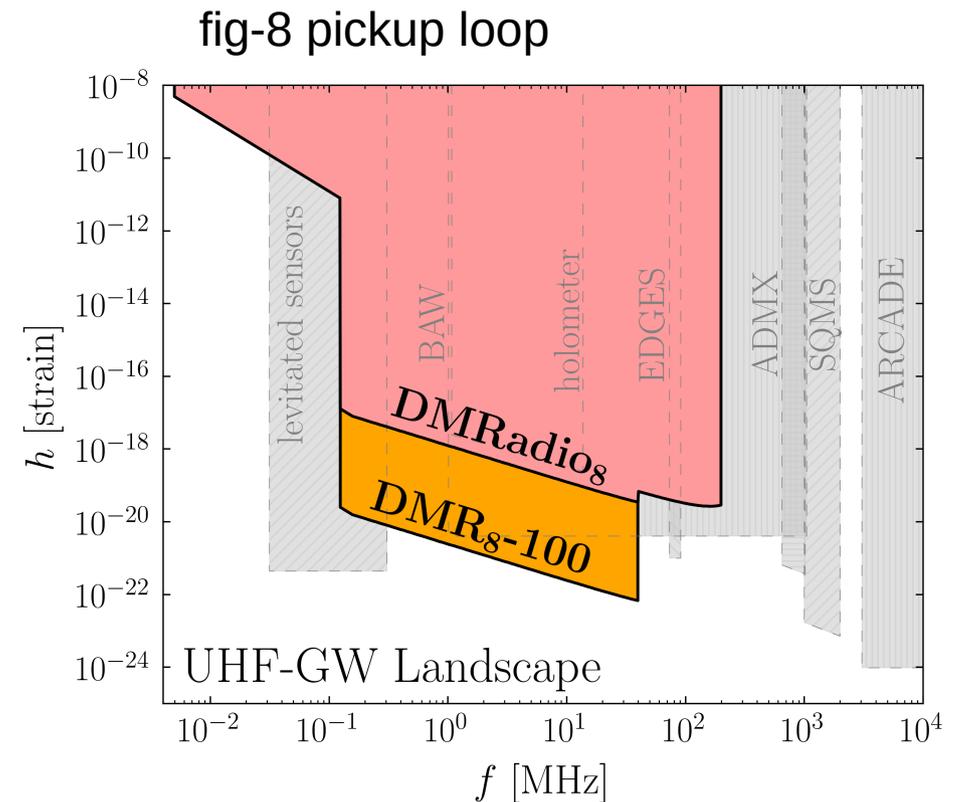
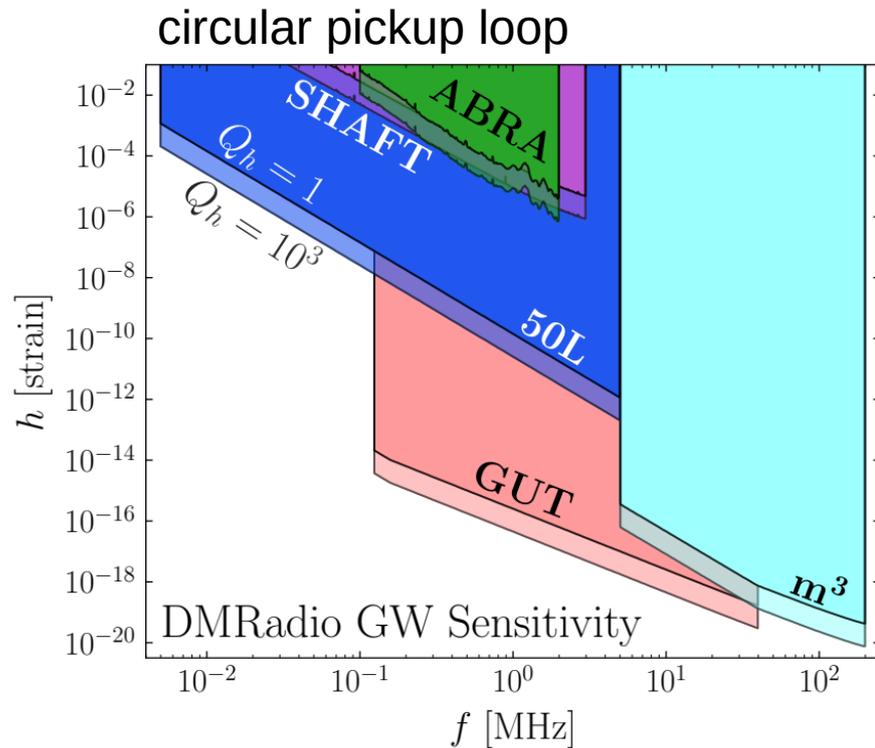
$$\Phi_a = e^{-i\omega t} g_{a\gamma\gamma} \sqrt{2\rho_{\text{DM}}} B_0 \pi r^2 R \ln(1 + a/R)$$

$$\sim (\omega L) g_{a\gamma\gamma} B_0 L^2$$

low-mass axion haloscopes are  
high frequency GW detectors

# bounds and prospects

VD, Garcia-Cely, Rodd '22



bounds from recasting ABRA [2102.06722] and SHAFT limits [2003.03348]

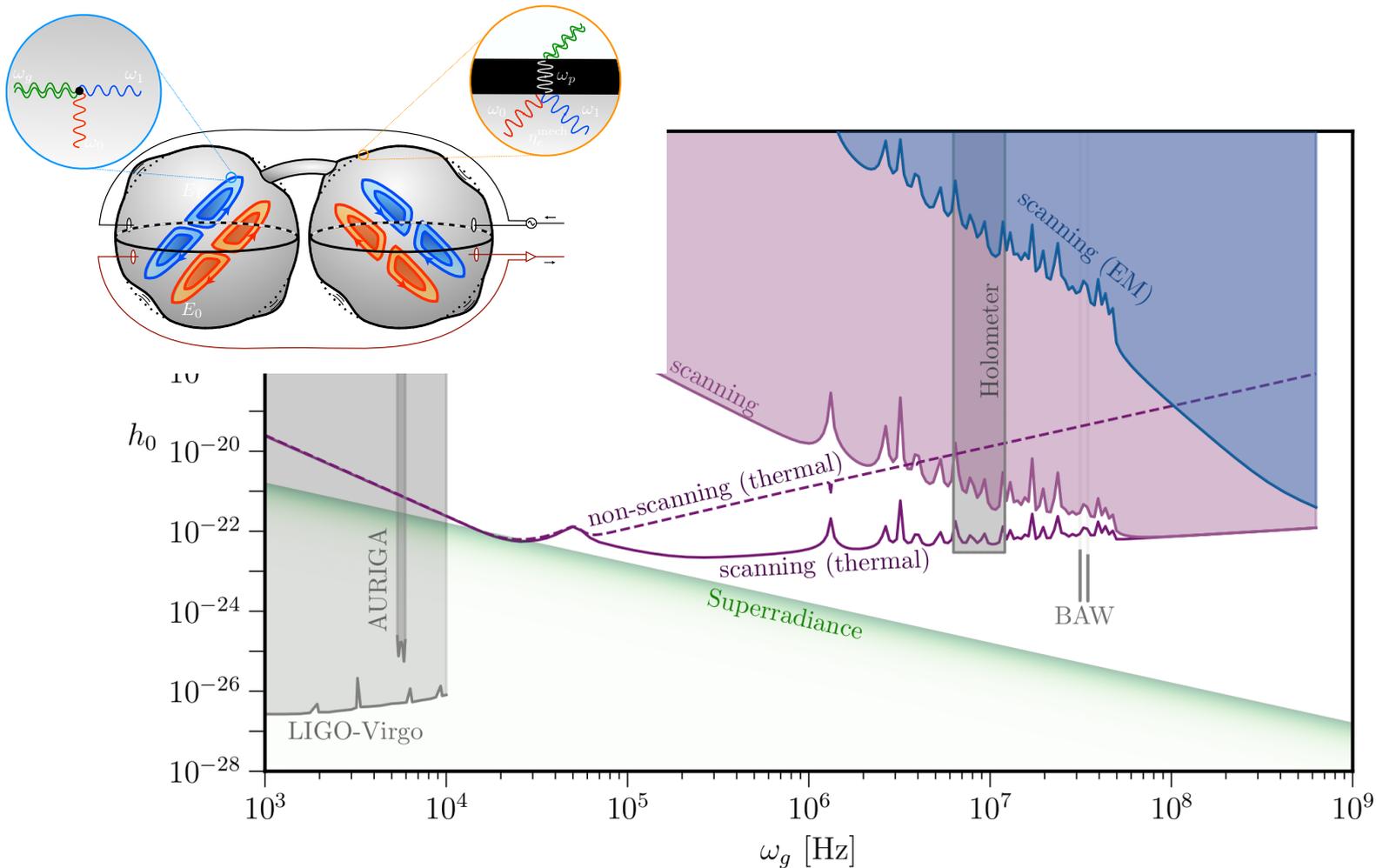
prospects for DM Radio proposals [Snowmass Letters of Interest CF2]

still far away from BBN bound, but clear synergies with axion searches

# microwave cavities

effective current can also induce power in microwave cavities,  
in addition consider mechanical deformation of cavity walls:

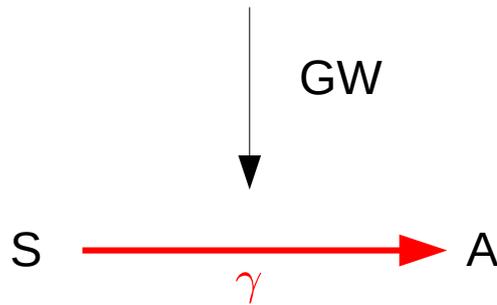
Berlin, Blas, D'Agnolo et al '23



see also Ejlli et al [1908.00232] :  
GW searches with LSW axion experiments

# optical frequency modulation

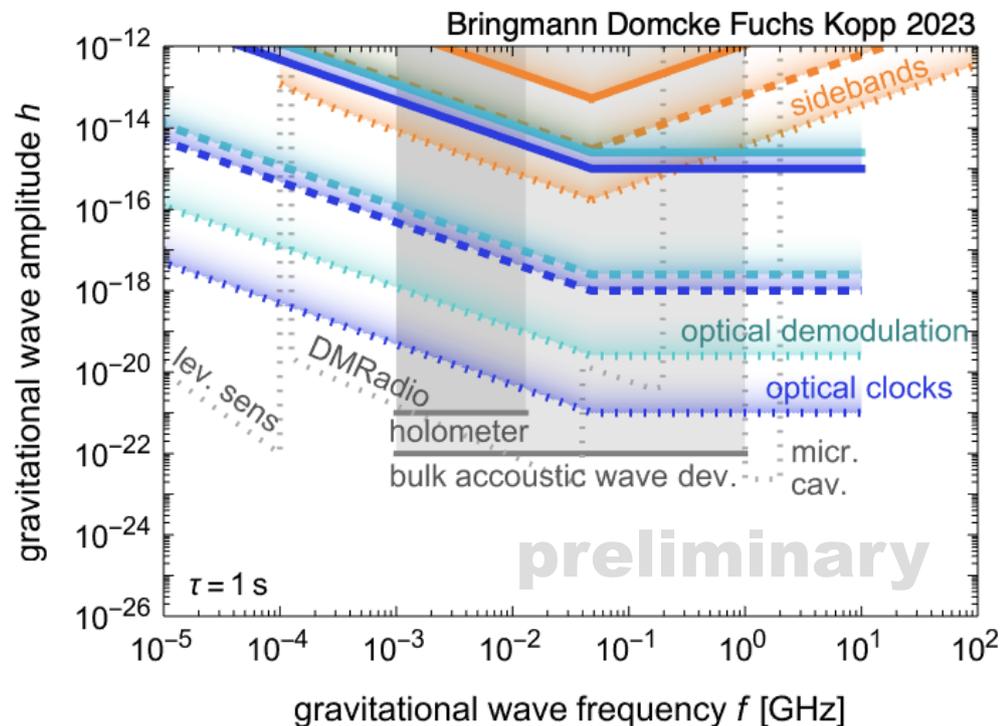
Bringmann, VD, Fuchs, Kopp – in preparation



$$\frac{\omega_\gamma^A - \omega_\gamma^S}{\omega_\gamma^A} = -\frac{1}{2}h_+ \times \left\{ \cos[\omega_g L + \varphi_0] - \cos \varphi_0 \right\}$$

(for free-falling S & A)

GW phase at (0,0)



frequency measurement by

amplification of side bands in cavities

optical demodulation via de-tuned cavities

optical clocks measuring frequency shift after pass through optical rectifier

# Conclusions and Outlook

- GW signals  $\gg$  kHz would be a smoking gun of BSM physics
- New techniques currently being explored for high-frequency GW detection, among them different electromagnetic GW detectors (also: 'light-shining-through the wall' axion searches, magnon detectors,...)
- Important synergies between axion searches and UHF GW searches
- A lot of room for new (and old?) ideas!

Next workshop Dec 4 – 8 @ CERN:  
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1257532/>

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**Thank you !**

Next workshop Dec 4 – 8 @ CERN:  
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backup slides

# BBN bound

radiation energy after electron decoupling:

$$\rho_{rad} = \frac{\pi^2}{30} \left( 2 + \frac{7}{4} \left( \frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} (3.046 + \Delta N_{eff}) \right) T^4$$

photons
neutrinos
BSM

at BBN or CMB decoupling:

$$\rho_{GW}(T) < \Delta \rho_{rad}(T) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left( \frac{\rho_{GW}}{\rho_\gamma} \right)_{T_{BBN,CMB}} \leq \frac{7}{8} \left( \frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} \Delta N_{eff} \simeq 0.05$$

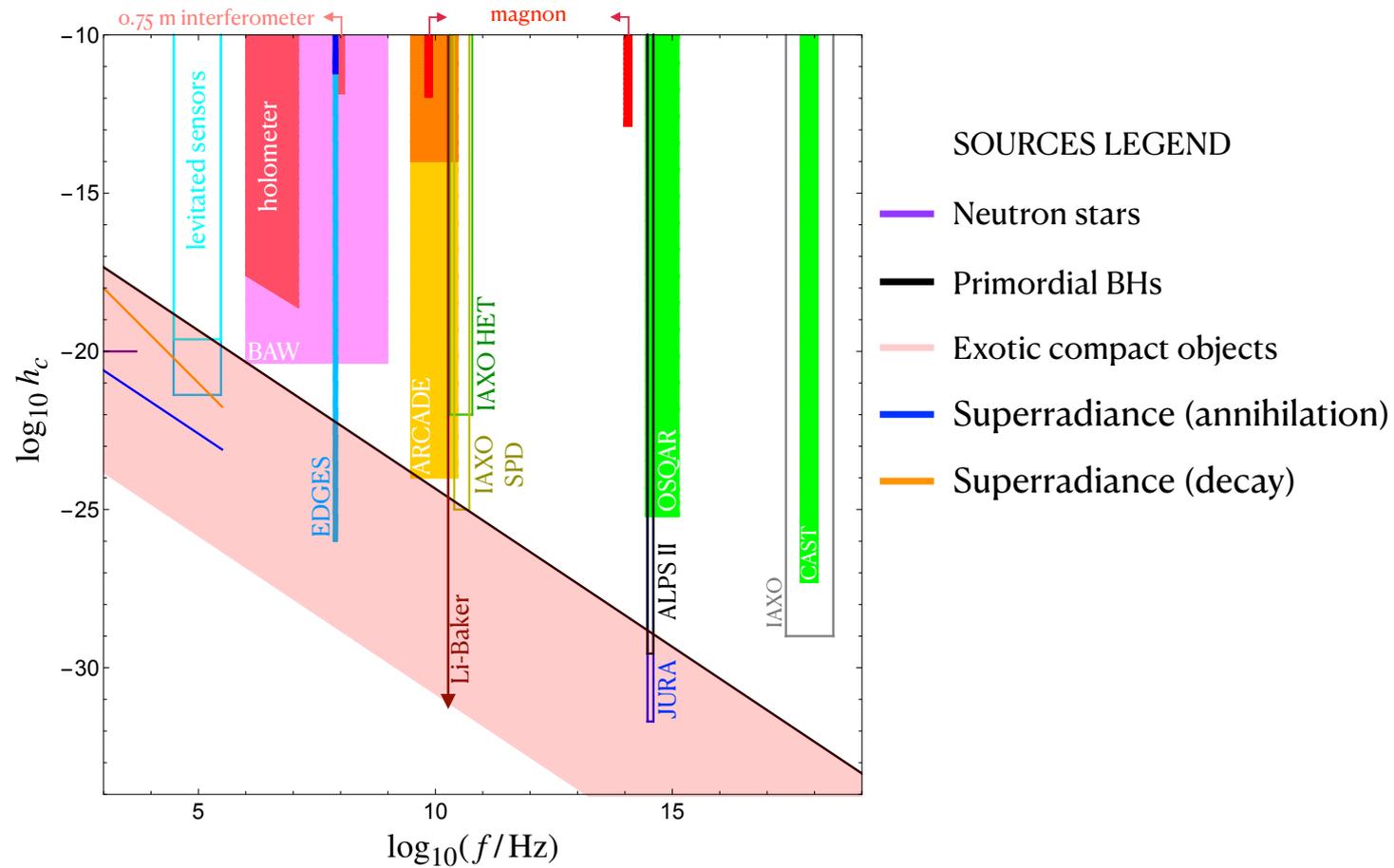
→ at BBN, CMB decoupling ~ 5 % GW energy density allowed

today:  $\frac{\rho_{GW}^0}{\rho_c^0} = \Omega_\gamma^0 \left( \frac{g_s^0}{g_s(T)} \right)^{4/3} \frac{\rho_{GW}(T)}{\rho_\gamma(T)} \leq 10^{-5} \Delta N_{eff} \simeq 10^{-6}$

note: constraint on total GW energy

→ today, energy fraction < 10<sup>-6</sup> (for GWs present at BBN / CMB decoupling)

# astrophysical sources



# GW electrodynamics

homogeneous Maxwell equation

$$0 = \nabla_{\mu} F_{\nu\rho} + \nabla_{\nu} F_{\rho\mu} + \nabla_{\rho} F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} F_{\nu\rho} + \partial_{\nu} F_{\rho\mu} + \partial_{\rho} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow F_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_{\alpha} A_{\beta} - \partial_{\beta} A_{\alpha} \quad \text{independent of background metric}$$

inhomogeneous Maxwell equation

$$\nabla_{\nu} (g^{\alpha\mu} F_{\alpha\beta} g^{\beta\nu}) = j^{\mu} \quad \rightarrow \partial_{\nu} (\sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\mu} F_{\alpha\beta} g^{\beta\nu}) = \sqrt{-g} j^{\mu}$$

$$\text{expand in } h: \quad g^{\alpha\mu} F_{\alpha\beta} g^{\beta\nu} \simeq F^{\mu\nu} - F_{\alpha}^{\nu} h^{\alpha\mu} - F^{\mu}_{\beta} h^{\beta\nu}, \quad \sqrt{-g} \simeq 1 + h/2$$

$$\partial_{\nu} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{h}{2} \right) F^{\mu\nu} - F_{\alpha}^{\nu} h^{\alpha\mu} - F^{\mu}_{\beta} h^{\beta\nu} \right) = \left( 1 + \frac{h}{2} \right) j^{\mu} + \mathcal{O}(h^2),$$

$$\partial_{\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} h \right) j^{\mu} + \partial_{\nu} \left( -\frac{1}{2} h F^{\mu\nu} + F_{\alpha}^{\nu} h^{\alpha\mu} + F^{\mu}_{\beta} h^{\beta\nu} \right) + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

---

$j_{\text{eff}}^{\mu}$

# [ a note on frames ]

GR is invariant under coordinate transformations, but linearized GR is not

## Transverse traceless (TT) gauge

- coordinates fixed by freely falling test masses
- GW takes very simple form  $h_{0\mu} = 0, h_i^i = 0, \partial_j h^{ij} = 0$
- rigid body seems to 'oscillate' in presence of GW

$$h_{ij}^{TT} = (h^+ e_{ij}^+(\phi_h, \theta_h) + h^\times e_{ij}^\times(\phi_h, \theta_h)) e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

## Proper detector frame

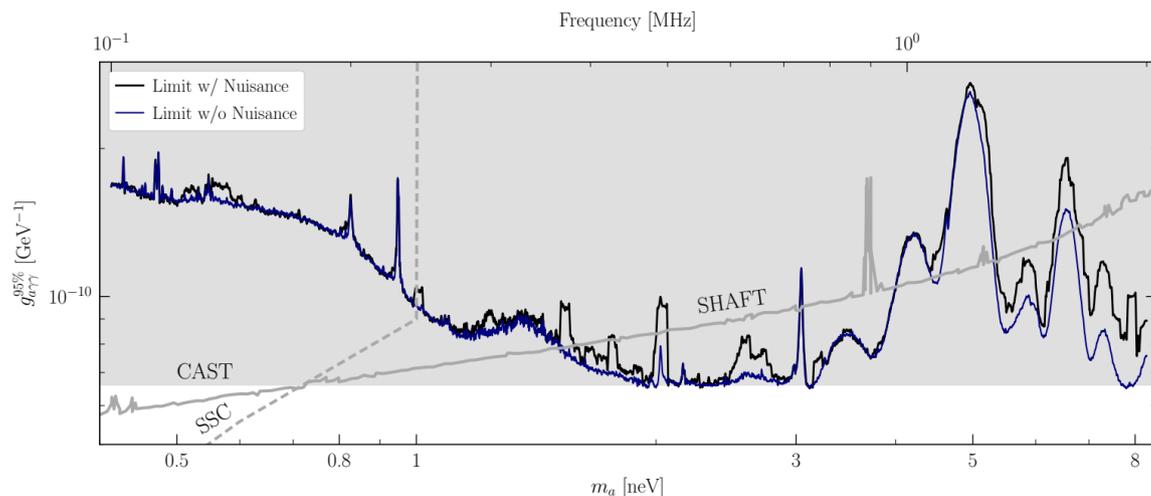
- coordinates fixed by laboratory frame
- GW takes a more involved form
- description of experimental setup and observables is straightforward

$$\begin{aligned} h_{00} &= \omega^2 F(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{r}, & b_j &\equiv r_i h_{ij}^{TT} \Big|_{\mathbf{r}=0}, \\ h_{0i} &= \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 [F(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) - iF'(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})] (\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{r} b_i - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{r} \hat{k}_i), \\ h_{ij} &= -i\omega^2 F'(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) (|\mathbf{r}|^2 h_{ij}^{TT} \Big|_{\mathbf{r}=0} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{r} \delta_{ij} - b_i r_j - b_j r_i), \end{aligned}$$

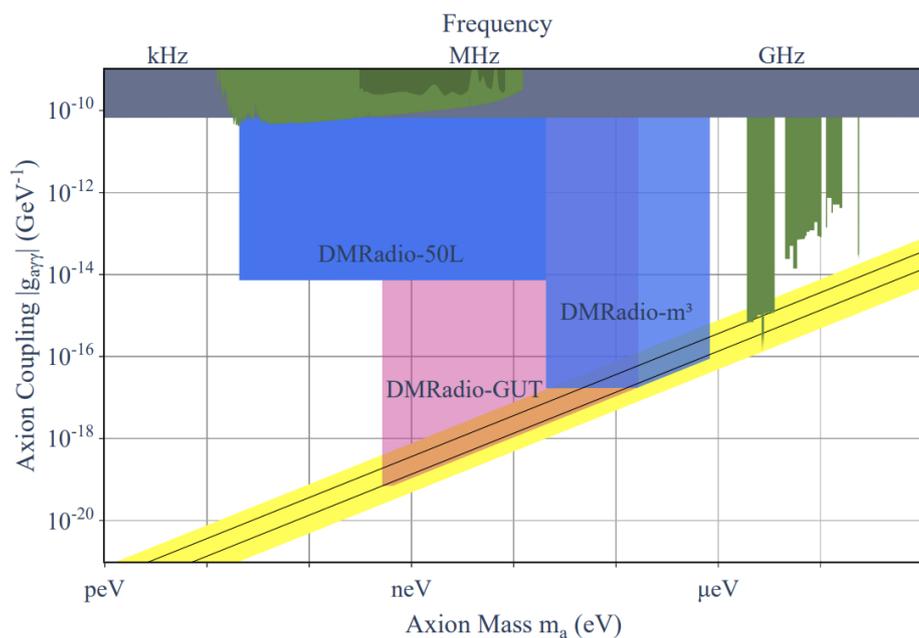
VD, Garcia-Cely, Rodd '22  
s.a. Berlin et al '21

we will consider a plane wave plane wave in the proper detector frame

# recasting axion searches



ABRA [2102.06722]  
SHAFT [2003.03348]



DM Radio proposals  
[Snowmass Letters of Interest CF2]

→ recast as bound on  $h$  taking into account reduced quality factor

$$\Phi_{\text{gw}} = \Phi_a (Q_a / Q_{\text{gw}})^{1/4}$$

$\nwarrow$   
 $\propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}$

# GW to photon conversion

(inverse) Gertsenshtein effect:

[Gertsenshtein '62, Boccaletti et al '70, Raffelt, Stodolsky '88]

$$(\square + \omega_{\text{pl}}^2/c^2) A_\lambda = -B \partial_z h_\lambda, \quad \square h_\lambda = \kappa^2 B \partial_z A_\lambda$$

$A_\lambda =$  photon

$h_\lambda =$  GW

$B =$  ext. transv. B - field

$\omega_{\text{pl}} =$  plasma frequency

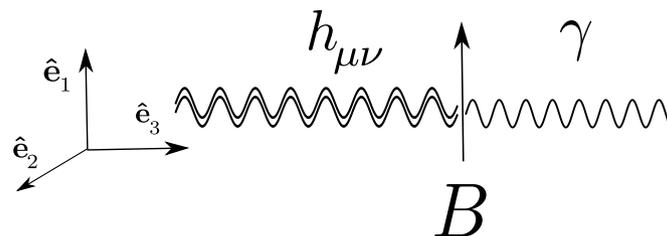
$$\mu^2 = 1 - \omega_{\text{pl}}^2/\omega^2$$

plane waves:

$$\rightarrow \psi(t, z) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\mu} A_\lambda \\ \frac{1}{\kappa} h_\lambda \end{pmatrix} = e^{-i\omega t} e^{iKz} \psi(0, 0),$$

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\mu}{c} \sqrt{\omega^2 + \left(\frac{\kappa B}{1+\mu}\right)^2} & -i \frac{\sqrt{\mu} \kappa B}{1+\mu} \\ i \frac{\sqrt{\mu} \kappa B}{1+\mu} & \frac{1}{c} \sqrt{\omega^2 + \left(\frac{\kappa B}{1+\mu}\right)^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

EM wave in curved space time  
(i.e. classical linearized general  
relativity)  $\rightarrow$  purely SM process

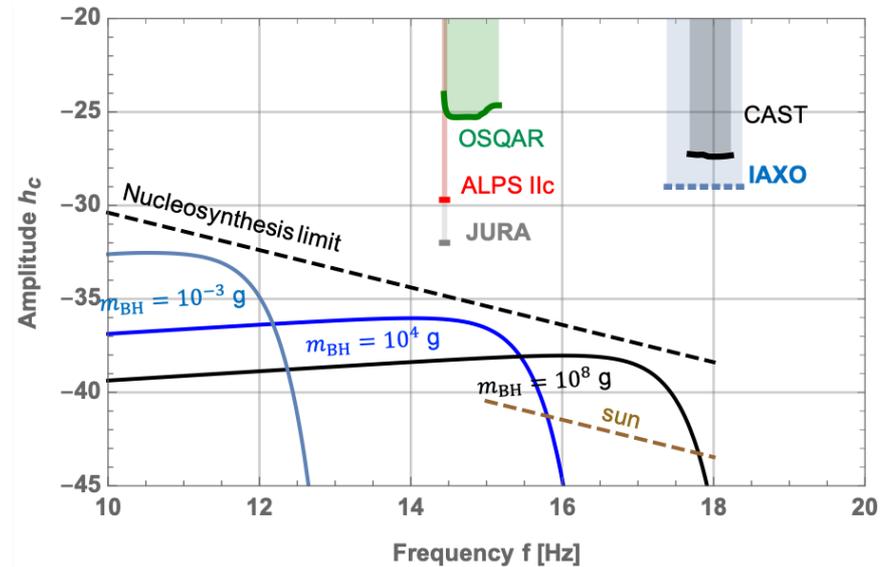
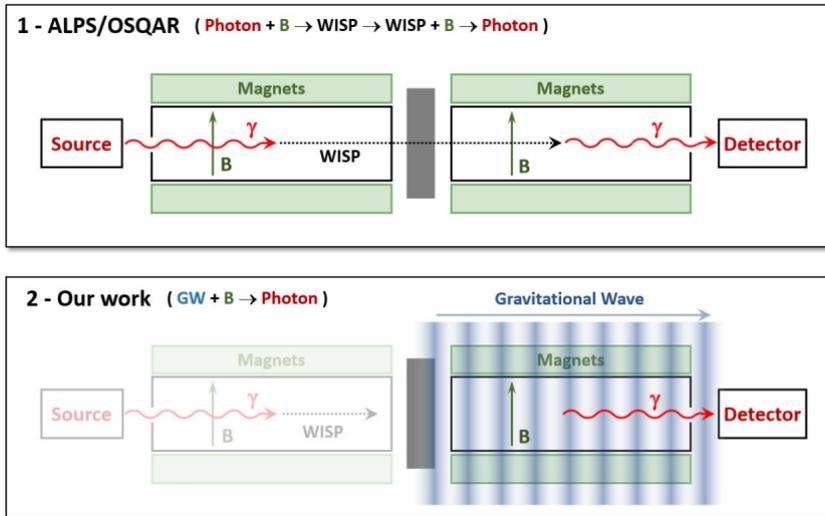


analogous to axion to photon conversion

# LSW experiments

Light-shining-through-the-wall (LSW) experiments:

[Ejilli et al `19]



axion bounds recast as HFGW bounds