



Thermal effects in ν DM production

IRN Neutrino 2023, Karlsruhe

Salvador Rosauero-Alcaraz

In collaboration with A. Abada, G. Arcadi, M. Lucente & G. Piazza,
based on arXiv:2308.01341



Introduction

Origin of neutrino masses

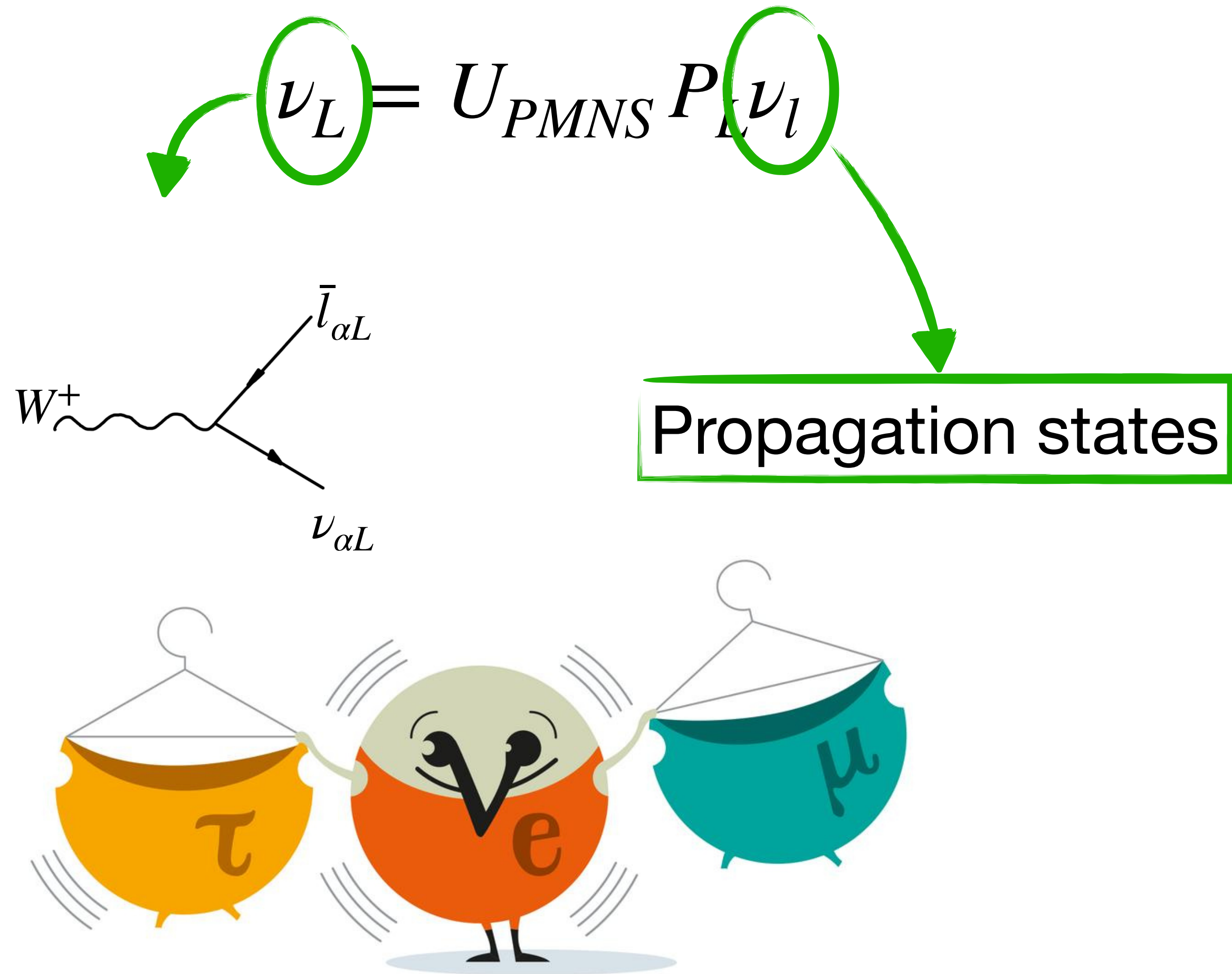
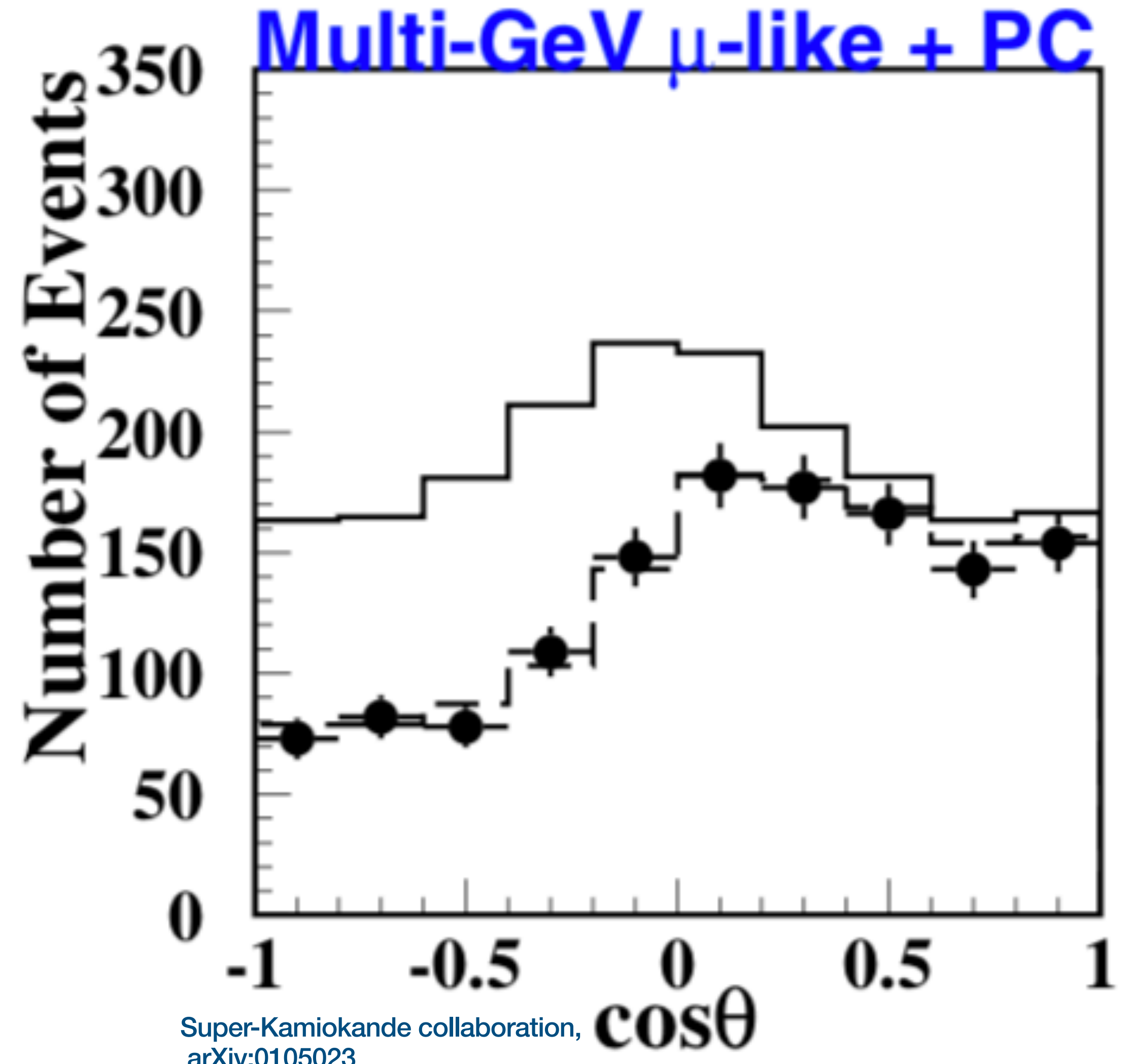


Illustration: © Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



Introduction

Origin of neutrino masses

Include singlet fermions N_R

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\bar{L}_L Y_\nu \tilde{\Phi} N_R - \frac{1}{2} \bar{N}_R^c M N_R + h.c.$$

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After SSB, Dirac mass term $m_D = v_H Y_\nu$

$$m_{\nu_l} \sim m_D M^{-1} m_D^T$$

$$\Theta = m_D M^{-1}$$

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“PMNS” mixing matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ N_R^c \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} N & \Theta \\ R & S \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathcal{U}} P_L \begin{pmatrix} \nu_l \\ n_h \end{pmatrix}$$

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Interactions between n_h and SM through active-heavy mixing

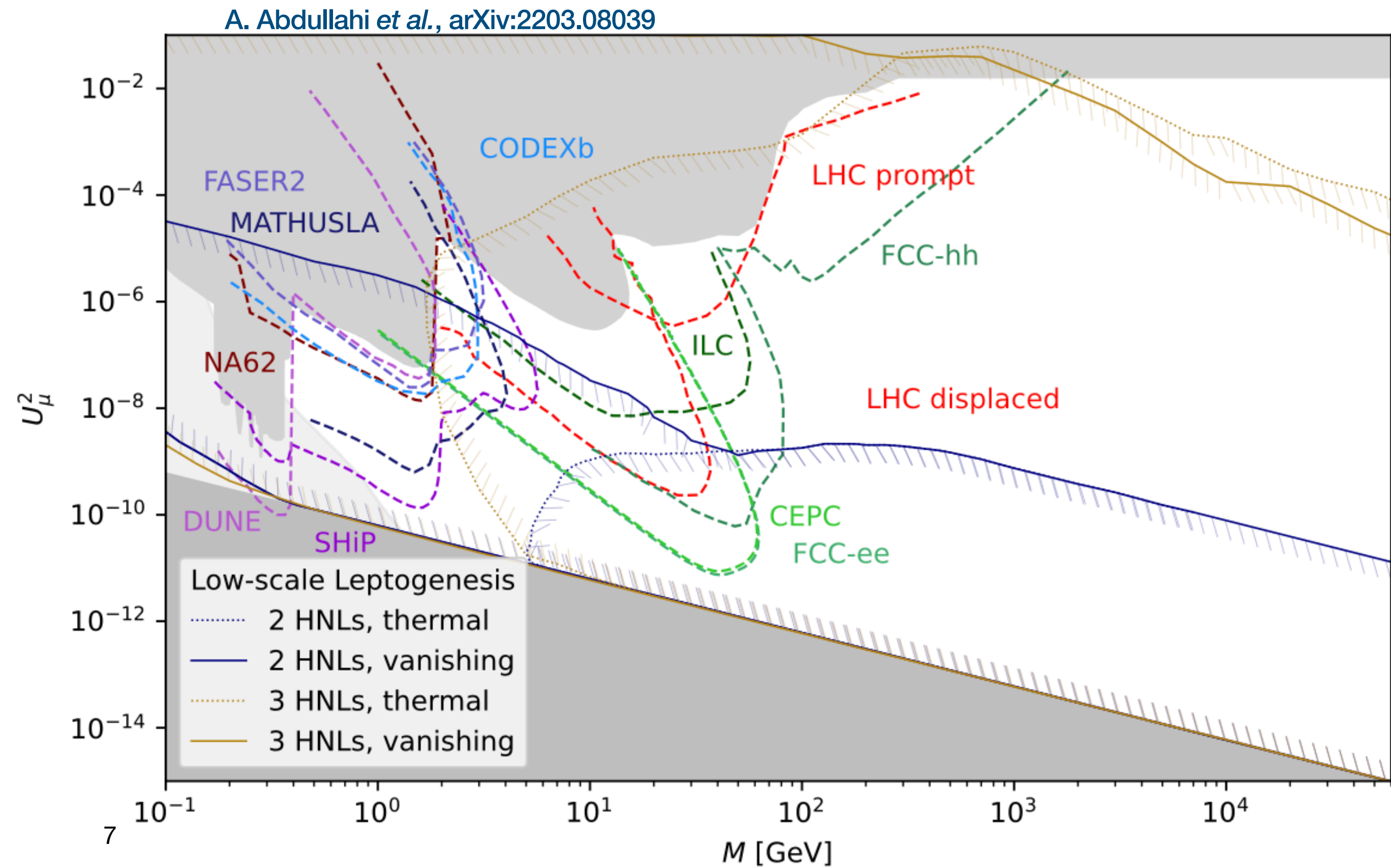
$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu P_L (N \nu_l + \Theta n_h) + h.c.$$

Need **at least 2 heavy ν** to explain oscillations

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Neutrino as dark matter

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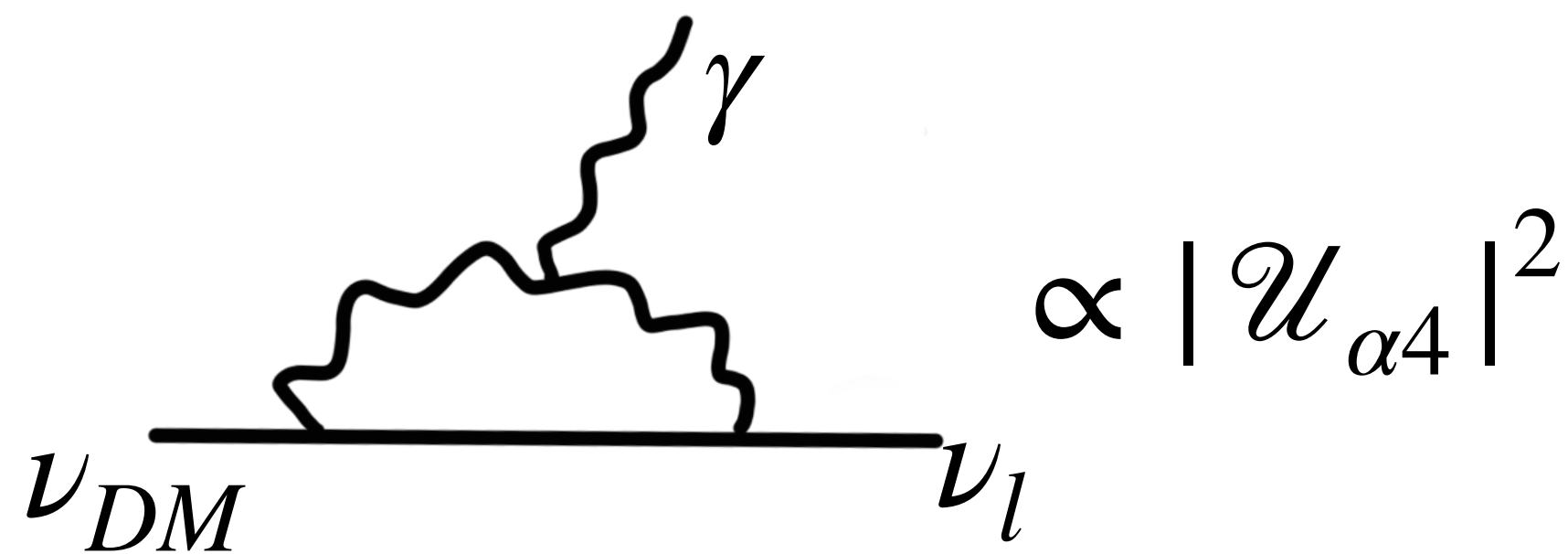
One could have a singlet fermion with $M = m_{DM} \sim \text{keV}$

Introduction

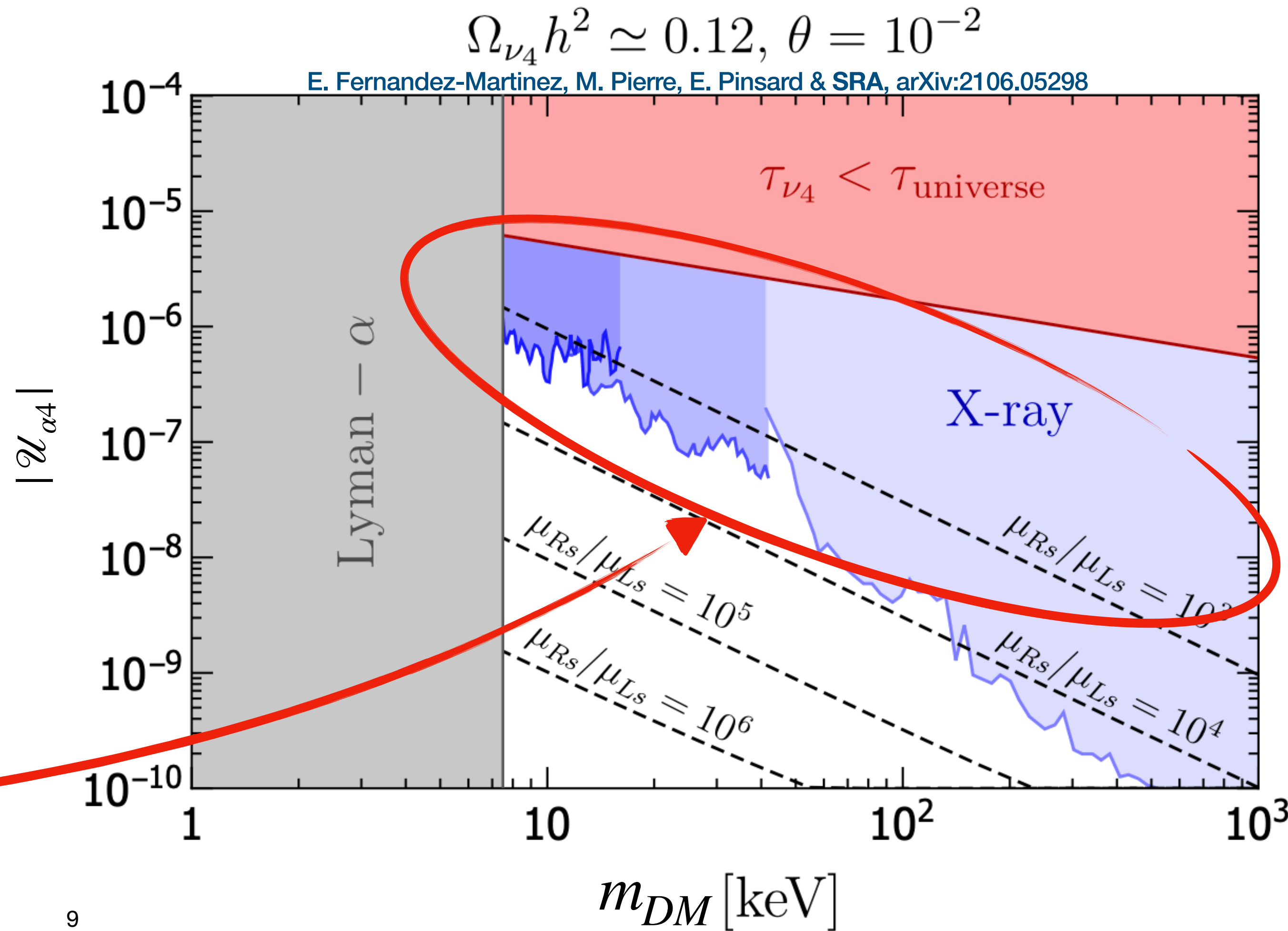
Neutrino as dark matter

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Monochromatic X-ray signal



Introduction

Neutrino dark matter production

For $T \leq 1 \text{ GeV}$

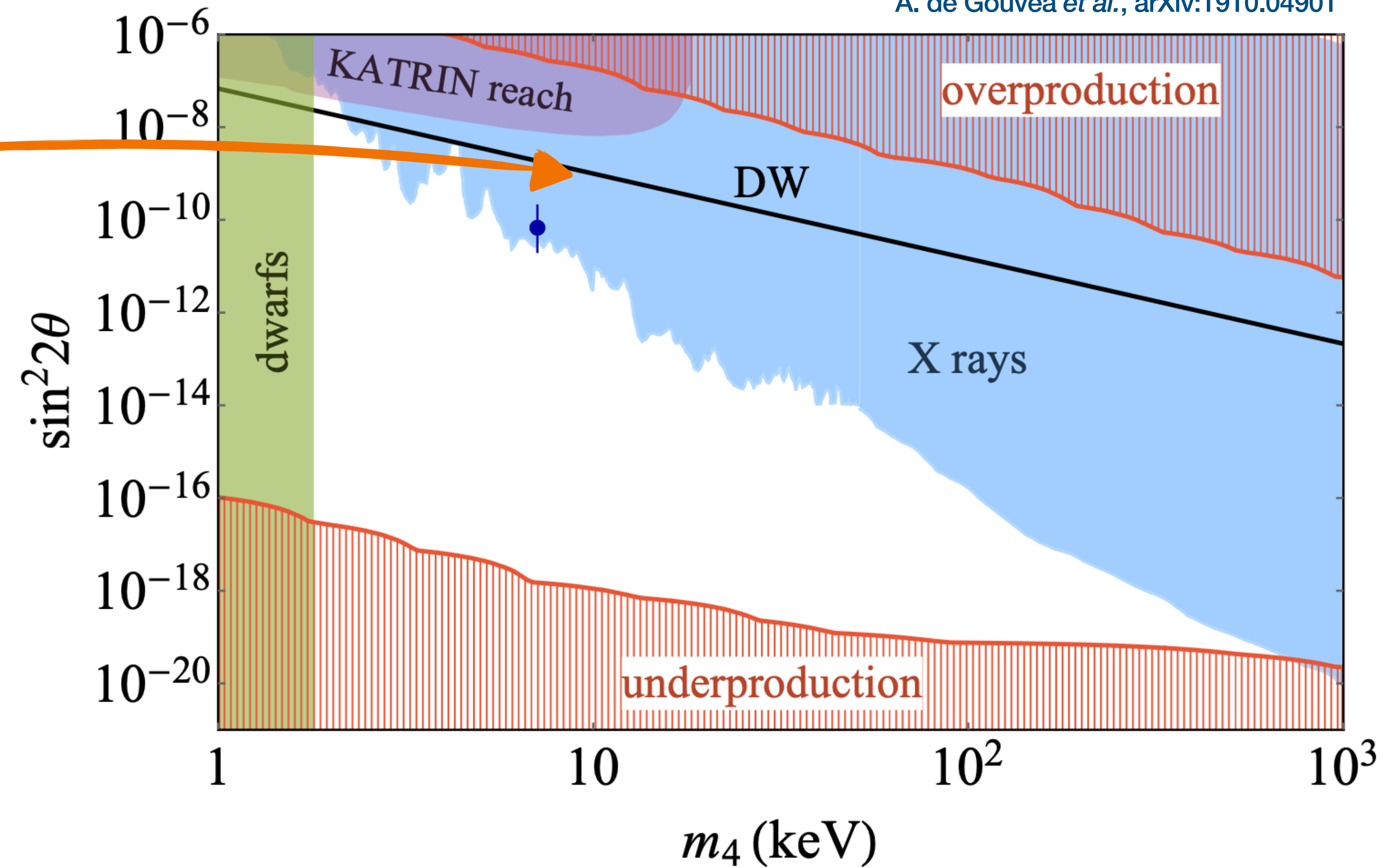
- Dodelson-Widrow mechanism

S. Dodelson & L. Widrow, arXiv:hep-ph/9303287

DM abundance from ν oscillations and collisions in the plasma

Irreducible contribution

A. de Gouvêa et al., arXiv:1910.04901



Introduction

Neutrino dark matter production

For $T \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$

Freeze-in production through
decay of heavier particles \rightarrow DM

$$\Gamma_s(T) \ll H(T)$$

Colder spectrum than with DW

$$\frac{df_{DM}}{dt} = \Gamma_s(p, t) \left[f_{DM}^{\text{eq}}(p, t) - \cancel{f_{DM}(p, t)} \right]$$

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$$\Omega_{DM} h^2 \propto \frac{m_{DM} \Gamma_s(A \rightarrow B + DM)}{m_A^2}$$

$$m_A \sim 150 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_{DM} \sim 10 \text{ keV}$$

$$\Gamma_s \sim 10^{-16} \text{ GeV}$$

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- SM bosons & heavy ν decays to DM

A. Abada *et al.*, arXiv:1406.6556

D. Boyanovsky & L. Lello, arXiv:1508.04077

M. Lucente, arXiv:2103.03253

A. Datta *et al.*, arXiv:2104.02030

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

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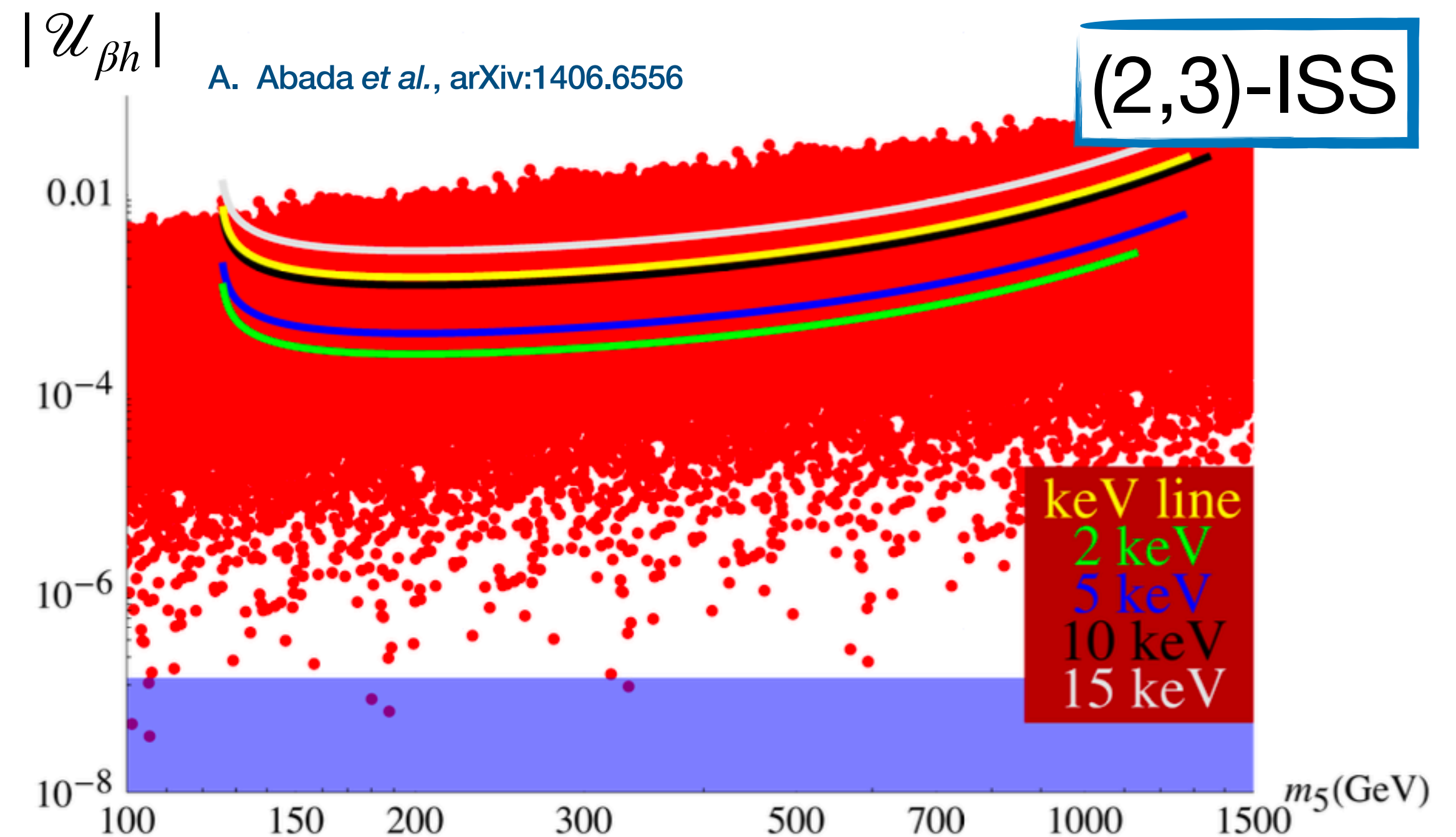
Production through SM + heavy ν decays

Rates using states at $T = 0$



A. Abada et al., arXiv:1406.6556
M. Lucente, arXiv:2103.03253

$$\Gamma_s \sim m_{n_h} \left(1 - \frac{M_H^2}{m_{n_h}^2} \right) \sum_{\alpha, \beta} |\mathcal{U}_{\alpha 4}|^2 |\mathcal{U}_{\beta h}|^2$$

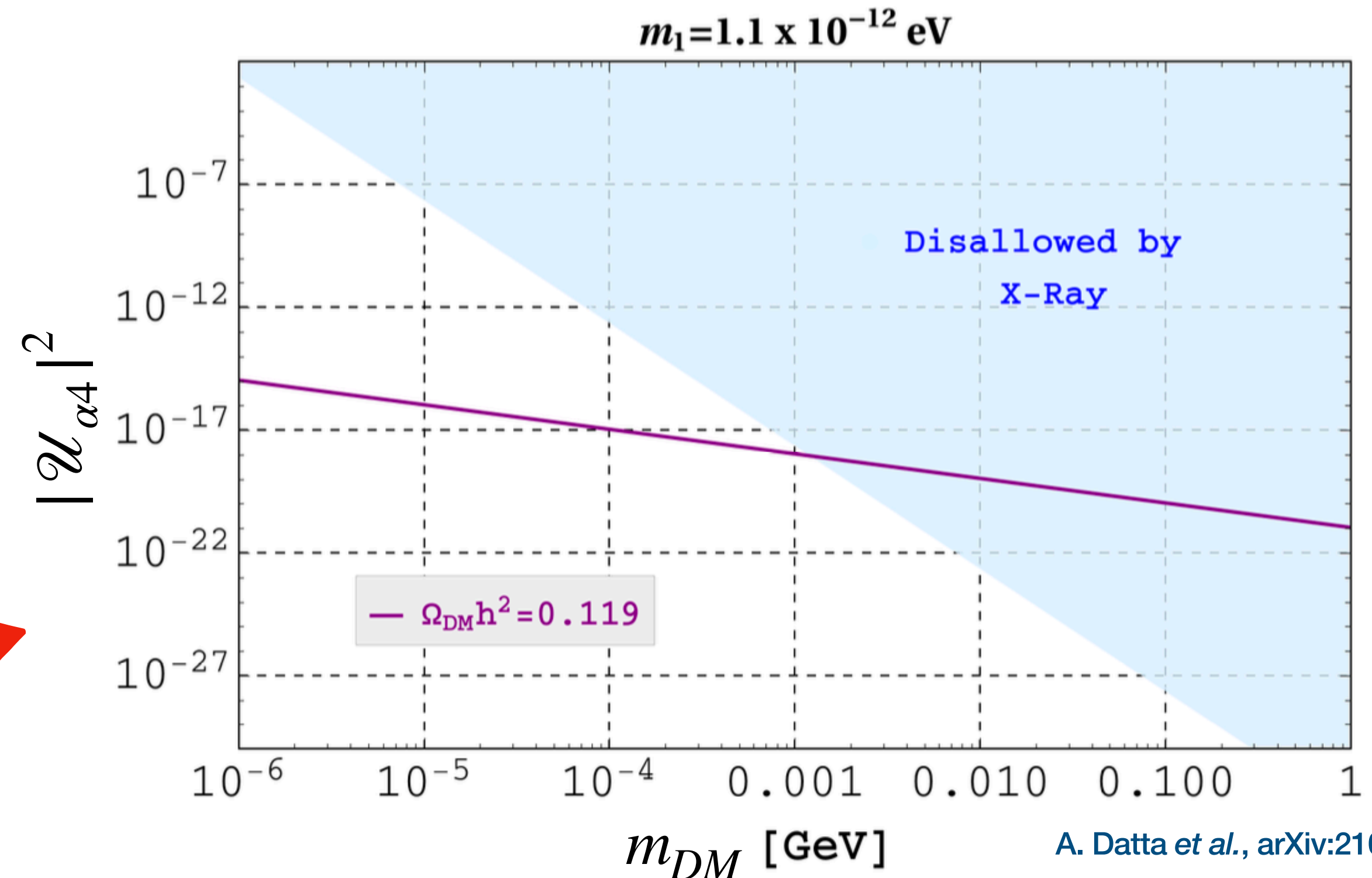


Production through SM + heavy ν decays

Rates using states at $T = 0$

$$n_h \rightarrow H + \nu_{DM}$$

A. Abada et al., arXiv:1406.6556
M. Lucente, arXiv:2103.03253



A. Datta et al., arXiv:2104.02030

$$Z(W) \rightarrow \nu_l(\ell_\alpha) + \nu_{DM}$$

$$\Gamma_s \sim G_F M_{Z(W)}^3 \sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} |U_{\alpha 4}|^2$$

Production through SM + heavy ν decays

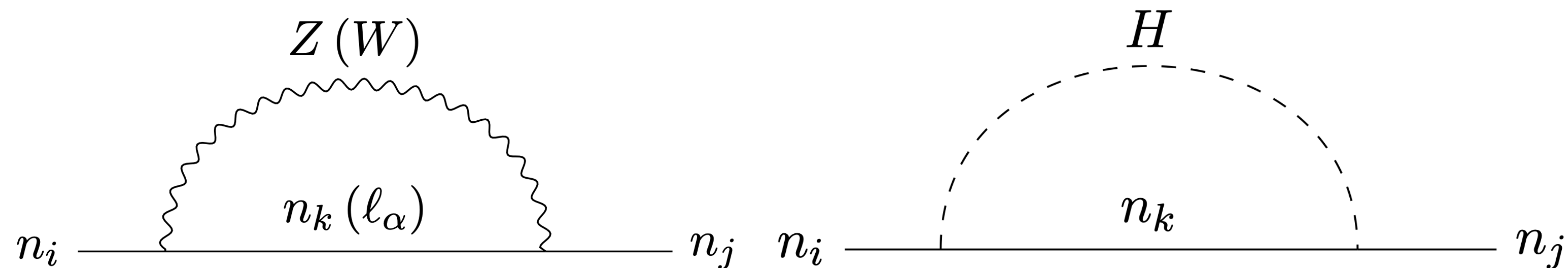
Propagating states in the early Universe

One should not use the $T = 0$ ν -states to compute the production rate

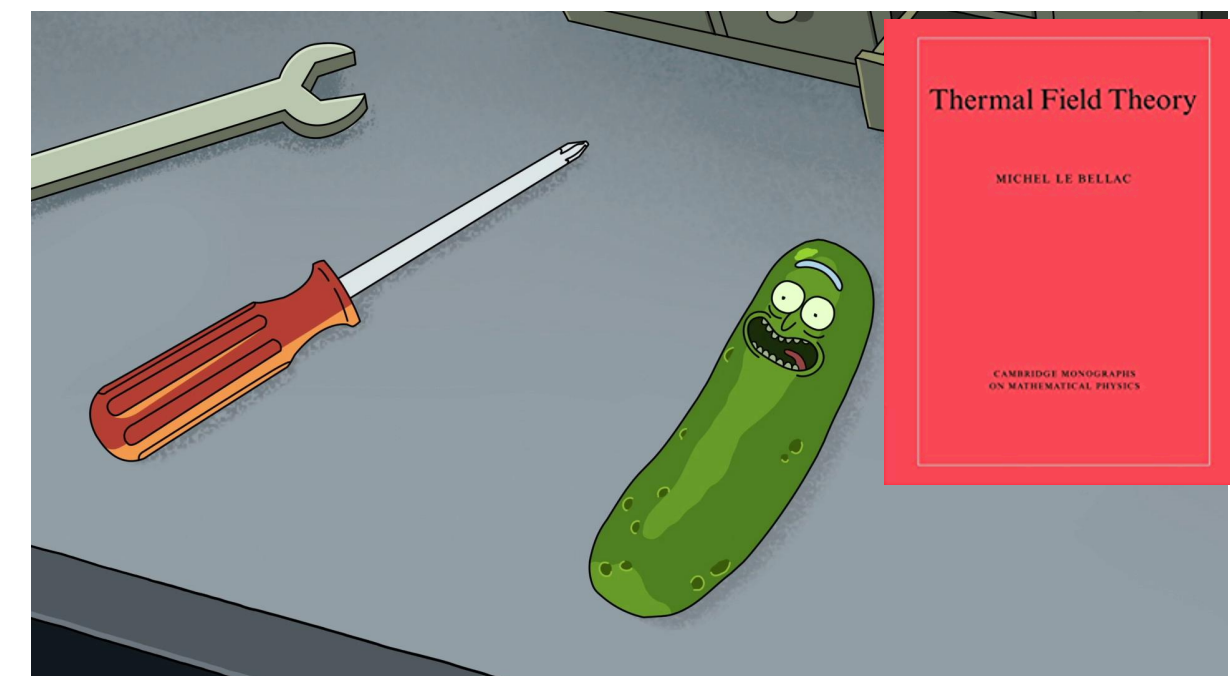
D. Boyanovsky *et al.*, arXiv:1609.07647

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

Just like matter effects in ν oscillations, the mixing changes with T



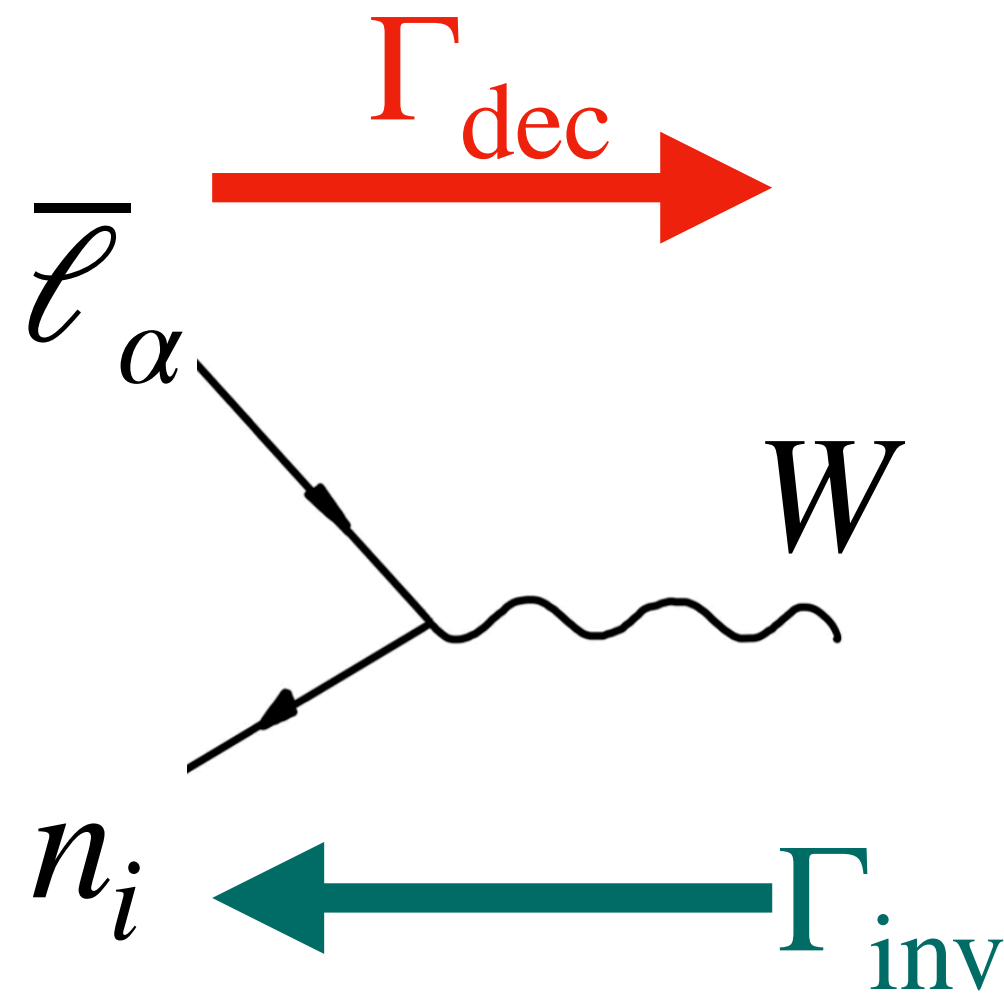
Le Bellac, Thermal Field Theory (1996)



Optical theorem in TFT

M. Le Bellac, Thermal Field Theory (1996)
H. Weldon, Phys. Rev. D (1983)

Example



How does the n_i distribution evolve with time?

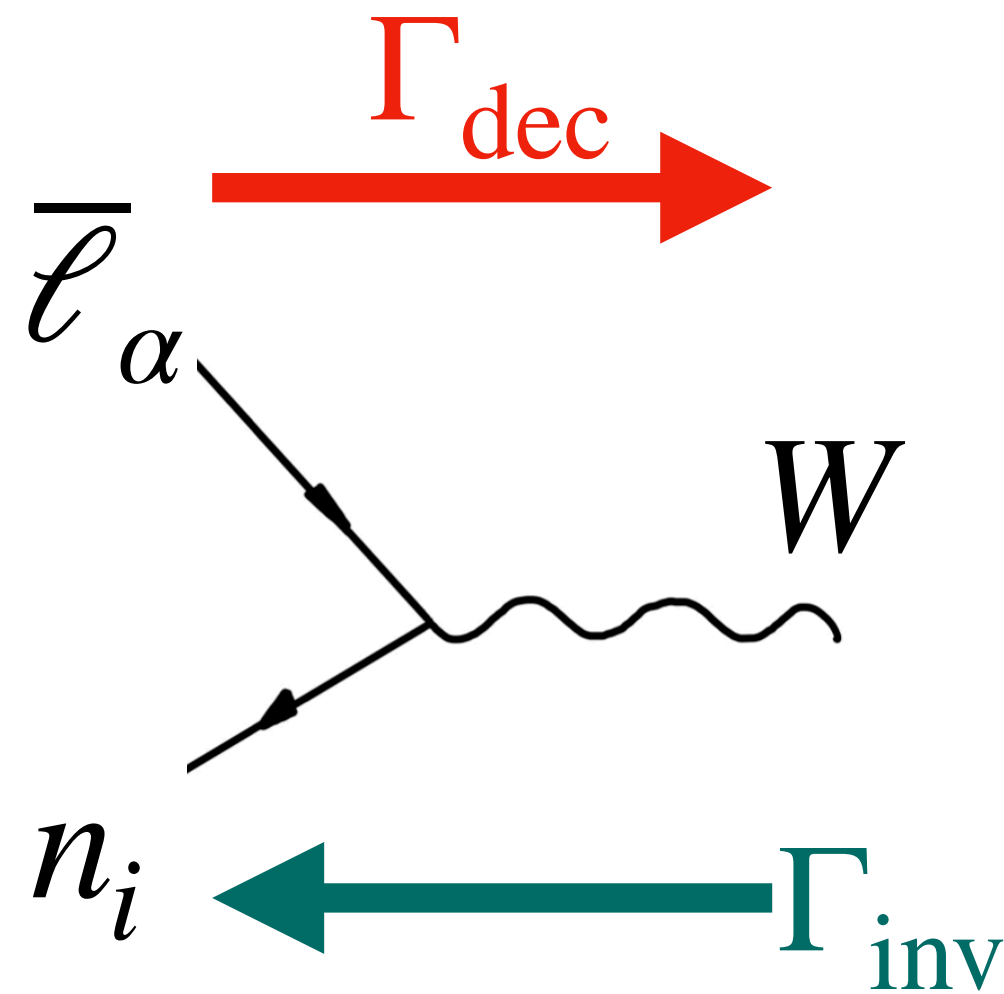
$$\frac{df_{n_i}}{dt} = -\Gamma_{\text{dec}}f_{n_i} + \Gamma_{\text{inv}}(1 - f_{n_i})$$

Γ_{dec} represents the decay through $n_i \bar{\ell}_\alpha \rightarrow W$, while Γ_{inv} the inverse process

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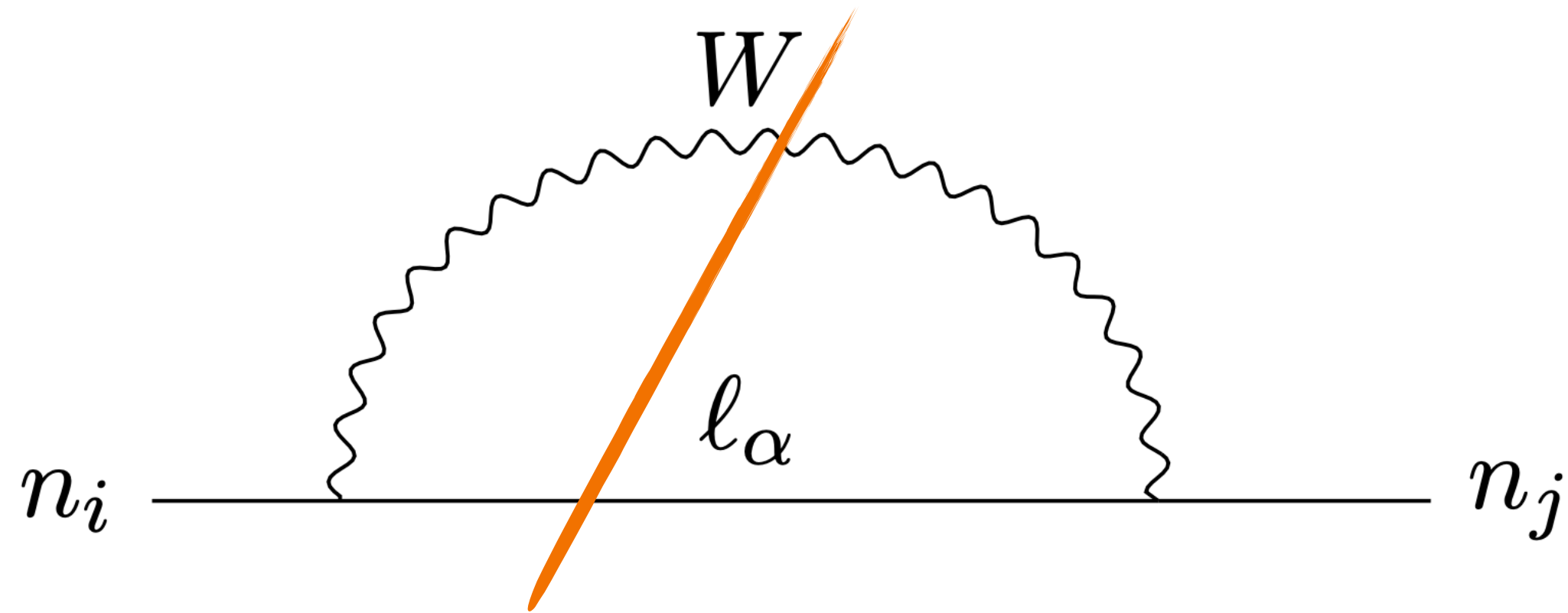
$$\Gamma \equiv \Gamma_{\text{dec}} + \Gamma_{\text{inv}} \propto \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{2E_\ell 2E_W} [f_F(1 + f_B) + (1 - f_F)f_B] \delta(p_0 + E_\ell - E_W)$$

$$\frac{df_{n_i}}{dt} = \Gamma [f_{n_i}^{\text{eq}} - f_{n_i}]$$

Γ is the rate at which n_i approaches equilibrium

Optical theorem in TFT

M. Le Bellac, Thermal Field Theory (1996)
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Γ is the rate at which n_i approaches equilibrium

$$\frac{df_{n_i}}{dt} = \Gamma \left[f_{n_i}^{\text{eq}} - f_{n_i} \right]$$

$$\text{Im}\Sigma_{ii} \propto \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{2E_\ell 2E_W} \left[f_B(E_W) + f_F(E_\ell) \right] \delta(p_0 + E_\ell - E_W)$$

$$\Gamma \propto \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{2E_\ell 2E_W} \left[f_F + f_B \right] \delta(p_0 + E_\ell - E_W)$$

DM production without heavy ν

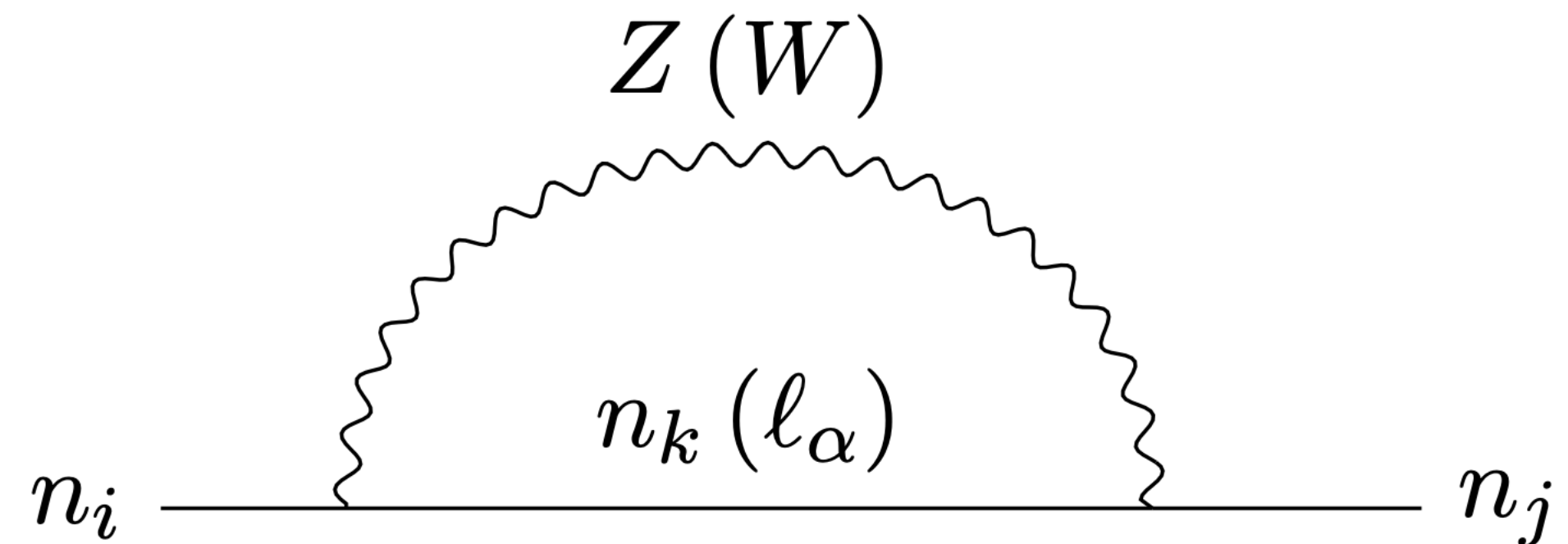
Gauge boson contributions

Consider just a light ν species
and the keV DM candidate

D. Boyanovsky *et al.*, arXiv:1609.07647

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

$$\Sigma_{ij}^W(p_0, p, T) = \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{U}_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} \mathcal{U}_{\alpha j} \sigma(p_0, p, T)$$

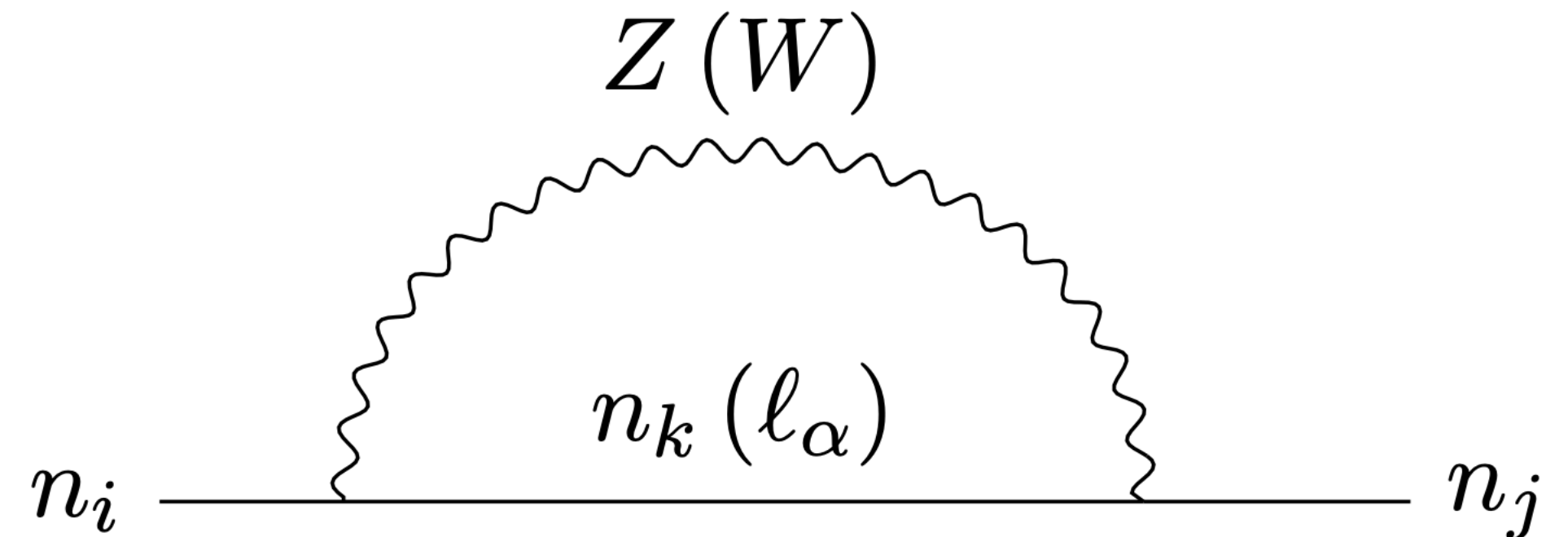


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$$\Sigma_{ij}^W(p_0, p, T) = \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{U}_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} \mathcal{U}_{\alpha j} \mathcal{O}(p_0, p, T)$$

The new dispersion relations are given by

$$(p_0^2 - p^2) \mathbb{1}_{2 \times 2} + \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^h(T) - \frac{m_{DM}^2}{4} \tan^2 2\theta & -\frac{m_{DM}^2}{2} \tan 2\theta \\ -\frac{m_{DM}^2}{2} \tan 2\theta & -m_{DM}^2 \left[1 + \frac{1}{4\alpha^h} \tan^2 2\theta \right] \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

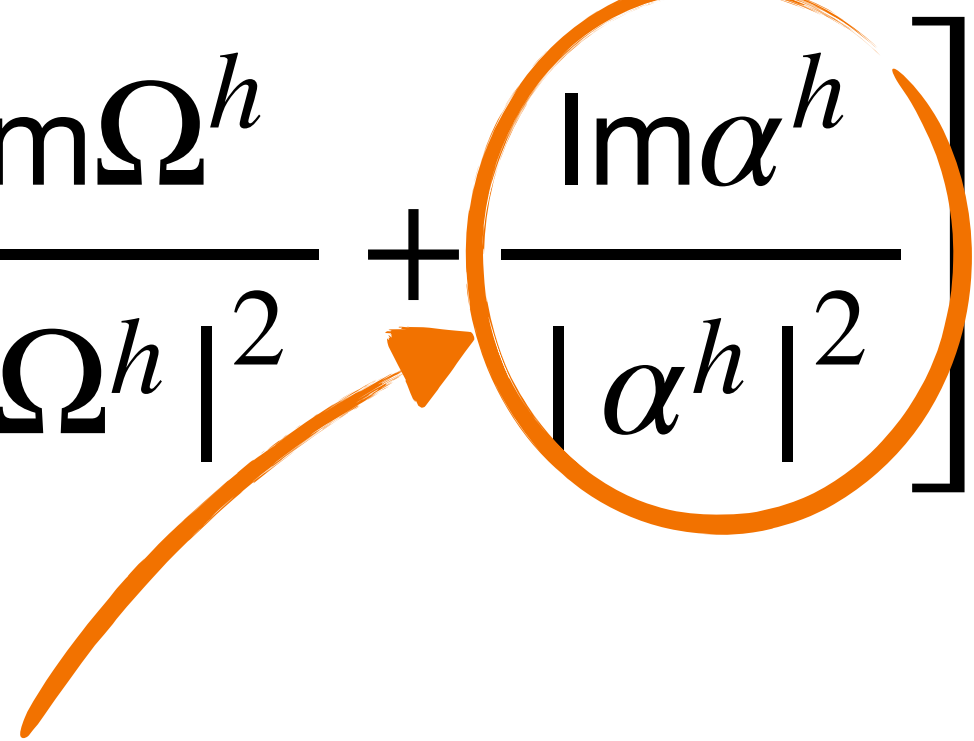
Self-energy corrections

$$\mathcal{U}_{\alpha 4} \sim \sin 2\theta$$

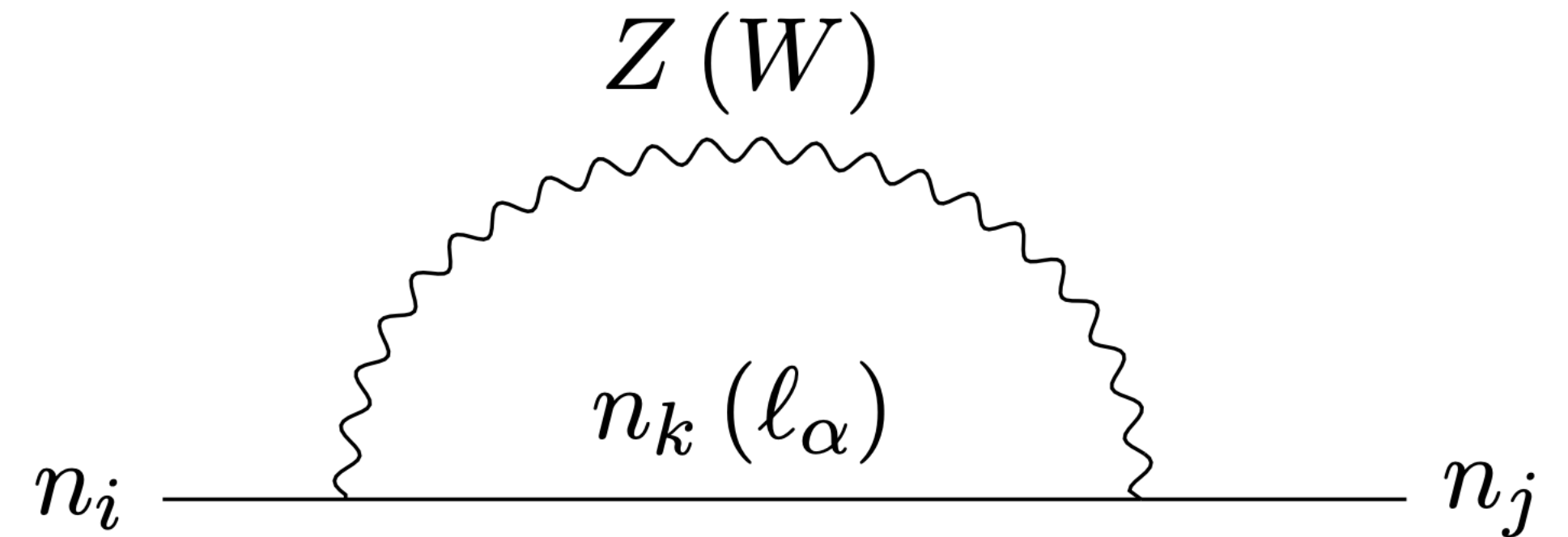
DM production without heavy ν

Gauge boson contributions

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, [arXiv:2308.01341](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.01341)

$$\Gamma_s^h \sim \theta^2 \left[\frac{\text{Im}\Omega^h}{|\Omega^h|^2} + \frac{\text{Im}\alpha^h}{|\alpha^h|^2} \right]$$


Only for Majorana ν



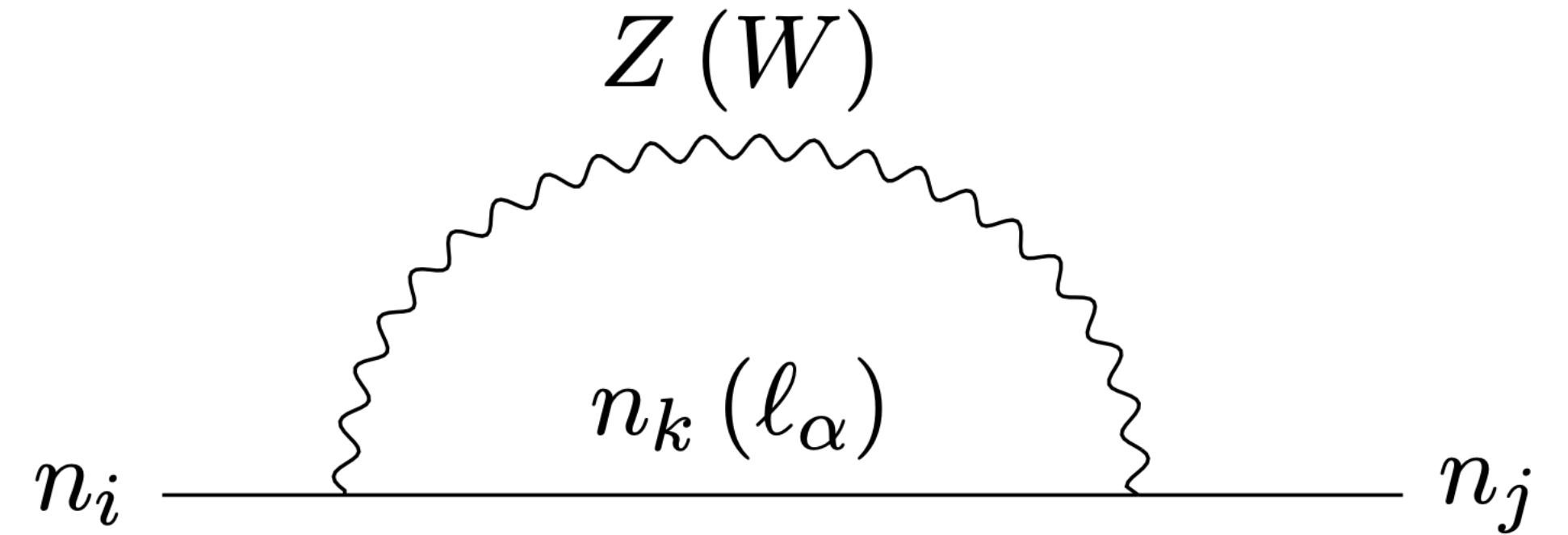
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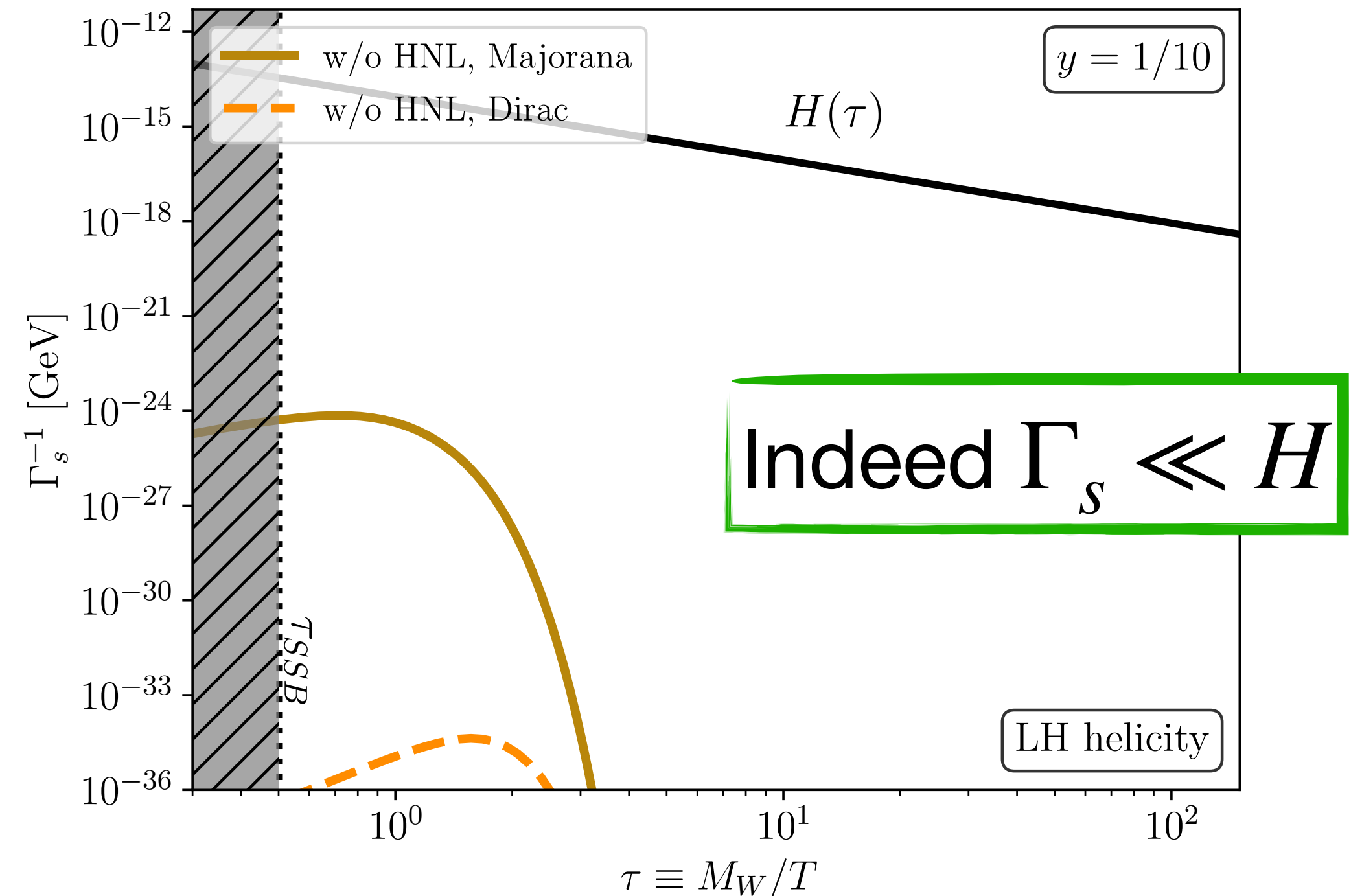
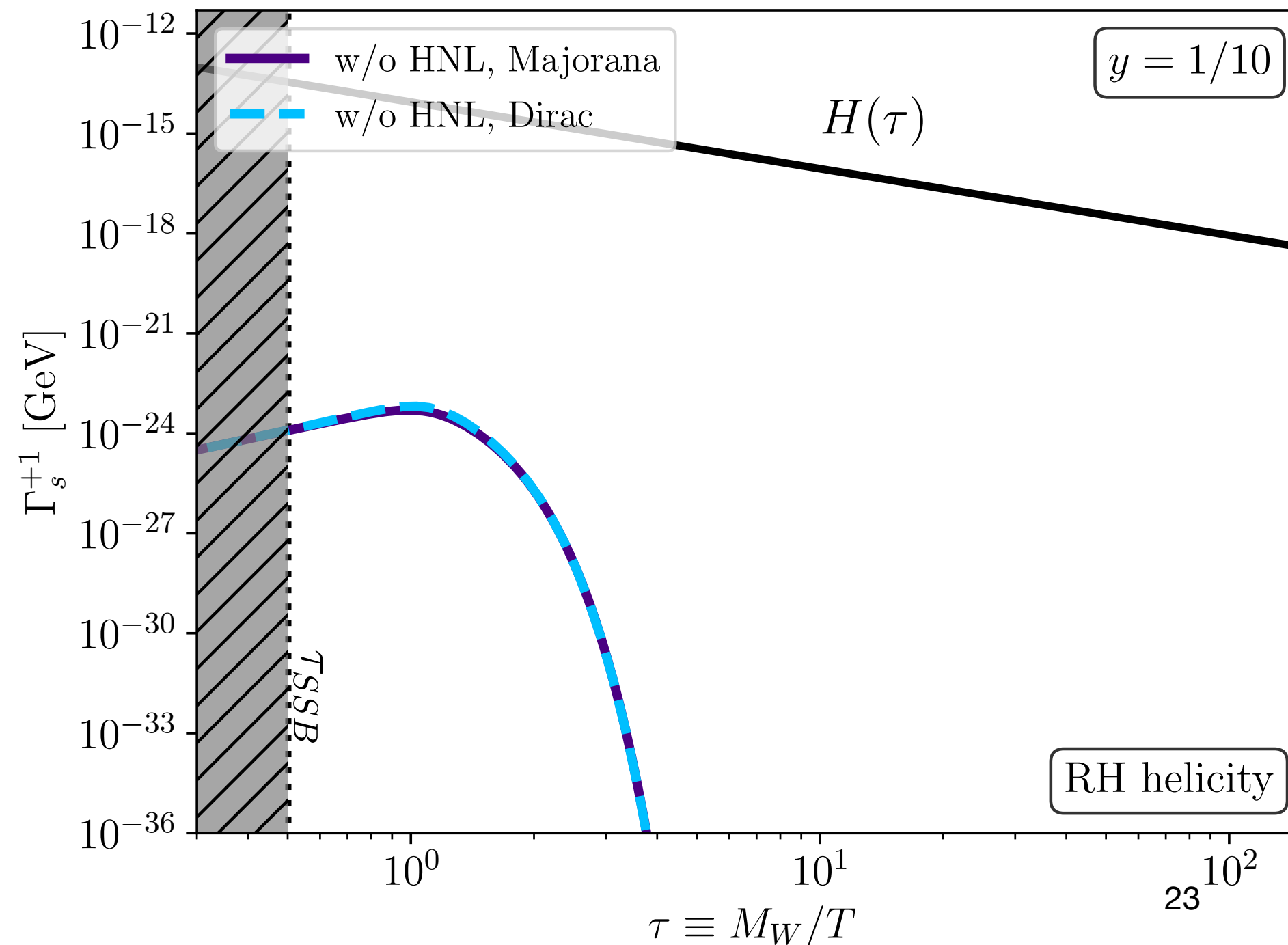
A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

$$\Gamma_s^h \sim \theta^2 \left[\frac{\text{Im}\Omega^h}{|\Omega^h|^2} + \frac{\text{Im}\alpha^h}{|\alpha^h|^2} \right]$$

$m_{DM} \sim 10 \text{ keV}$
 $|\mathcal{U}_{\alpha 4}| \sim 10^{-6}$



$$y \equiv p/T$$



DM production without heavy ν

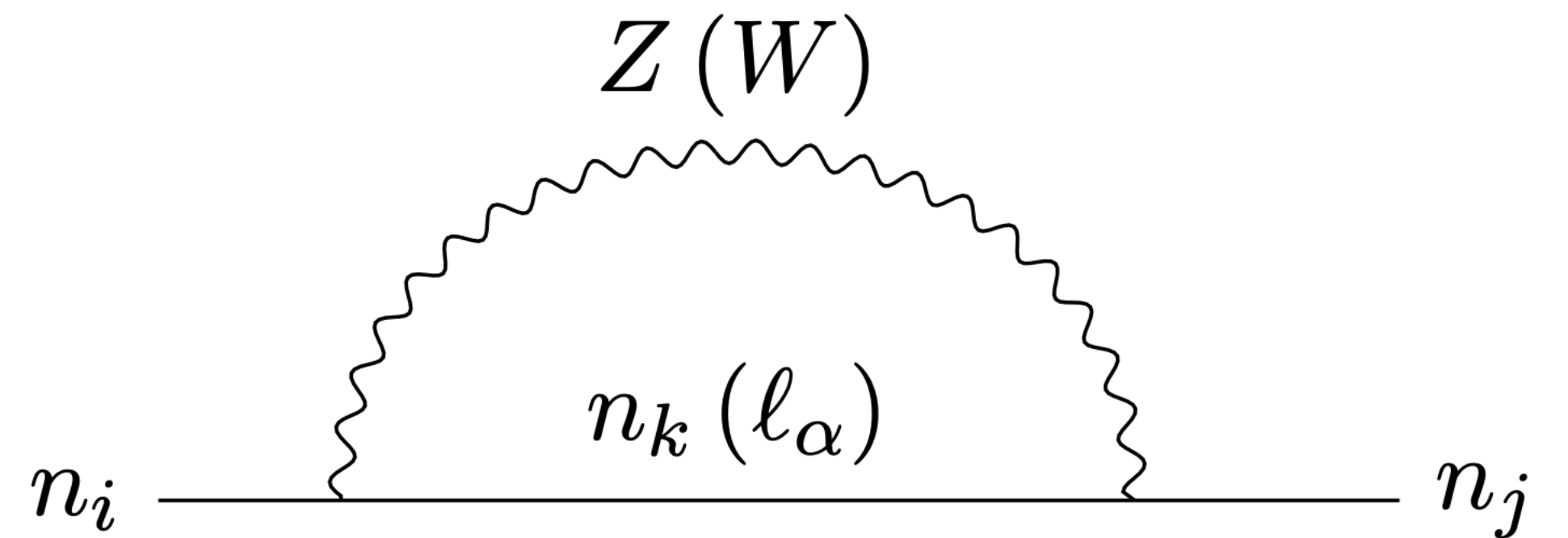
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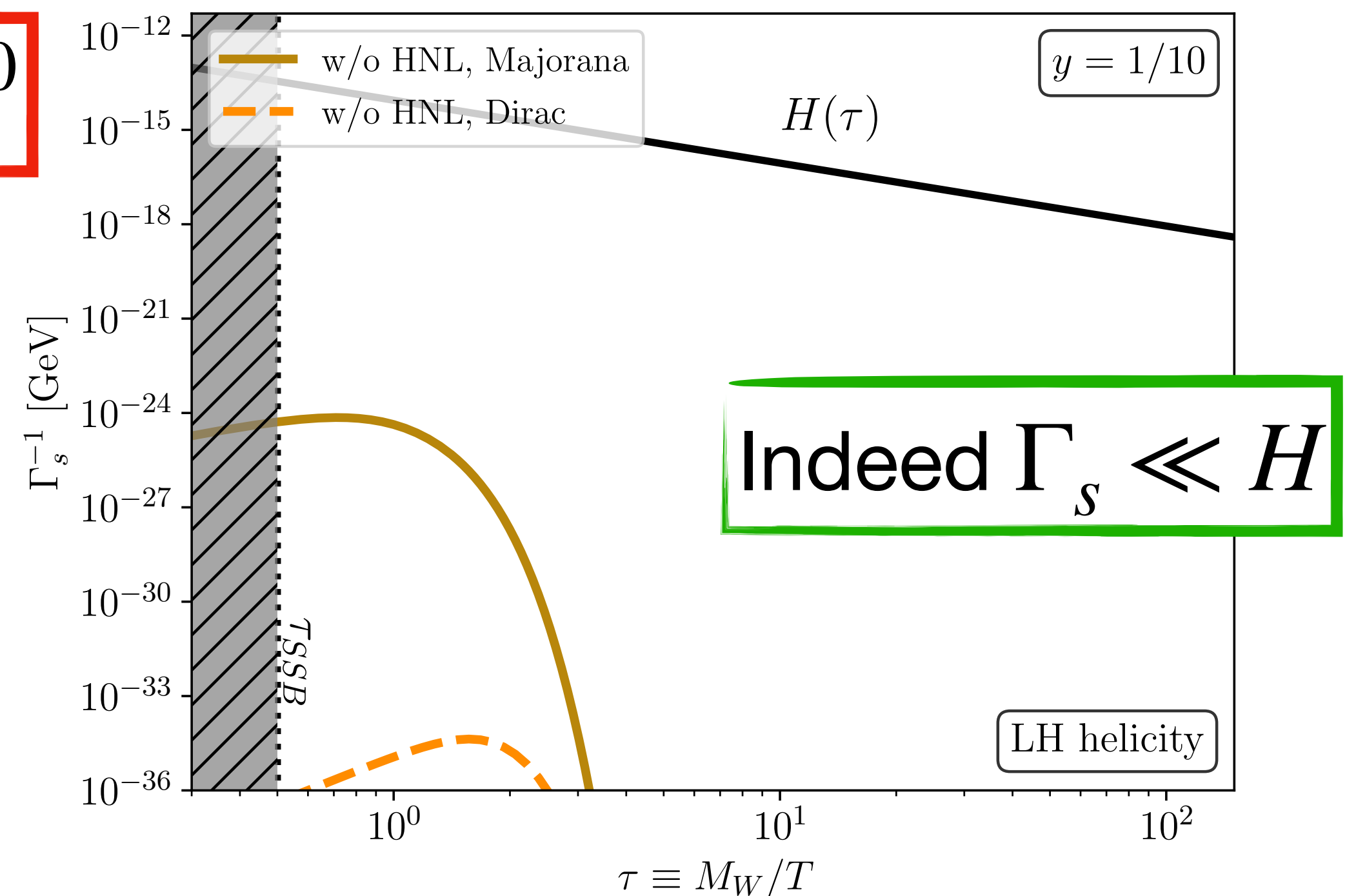
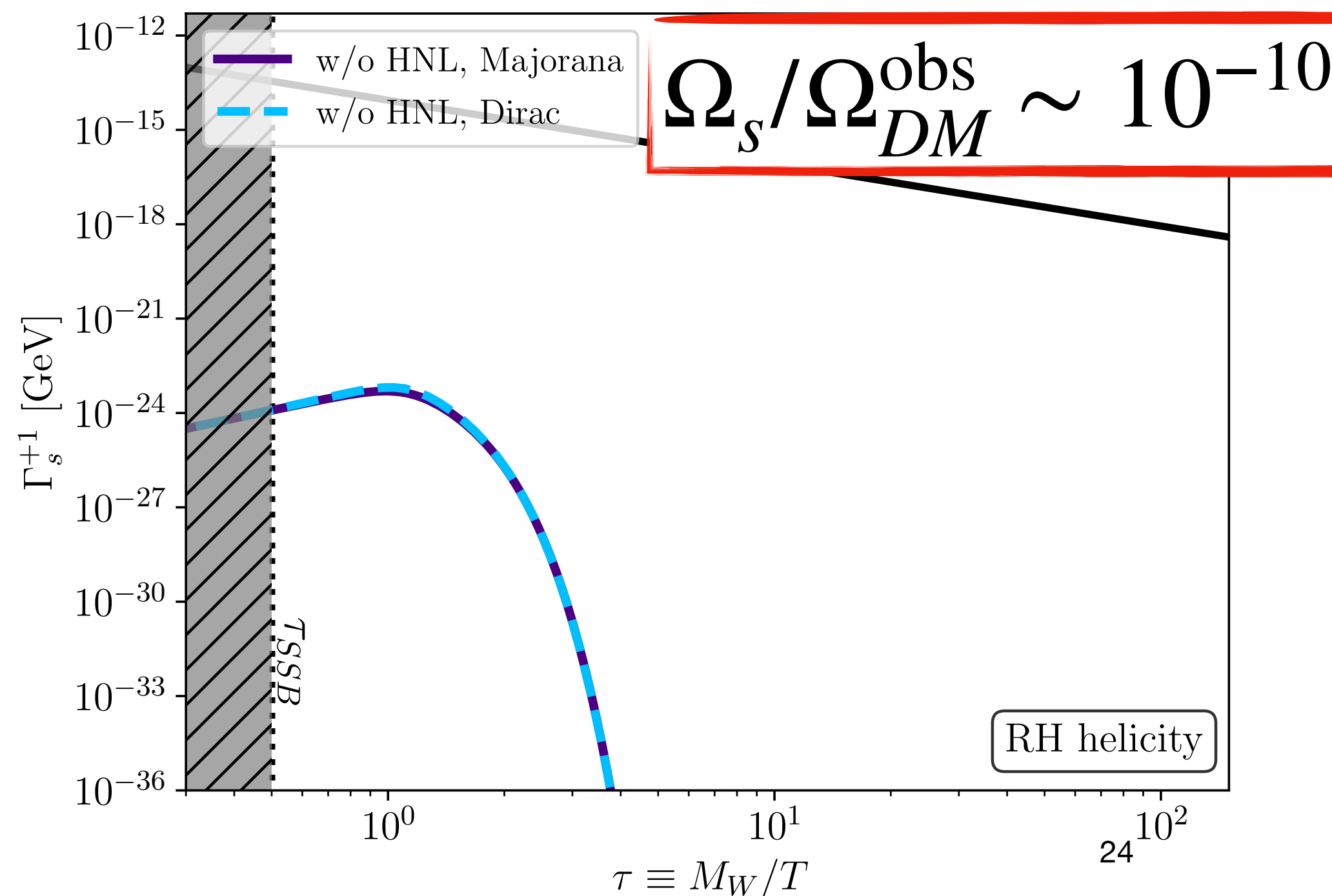
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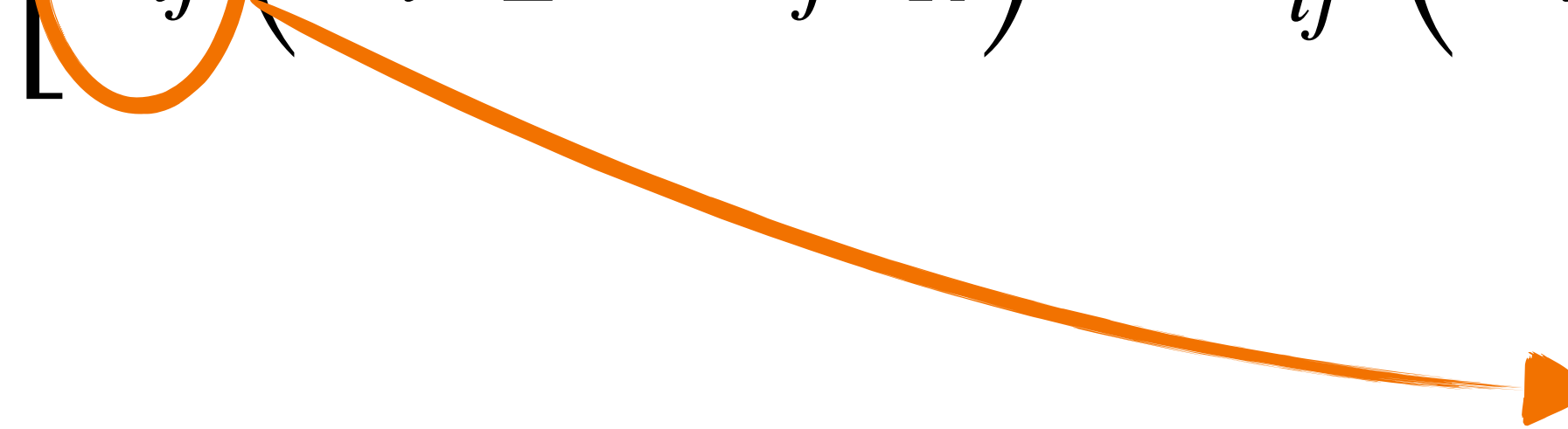
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DM production including heavy ν

Higgs contribution

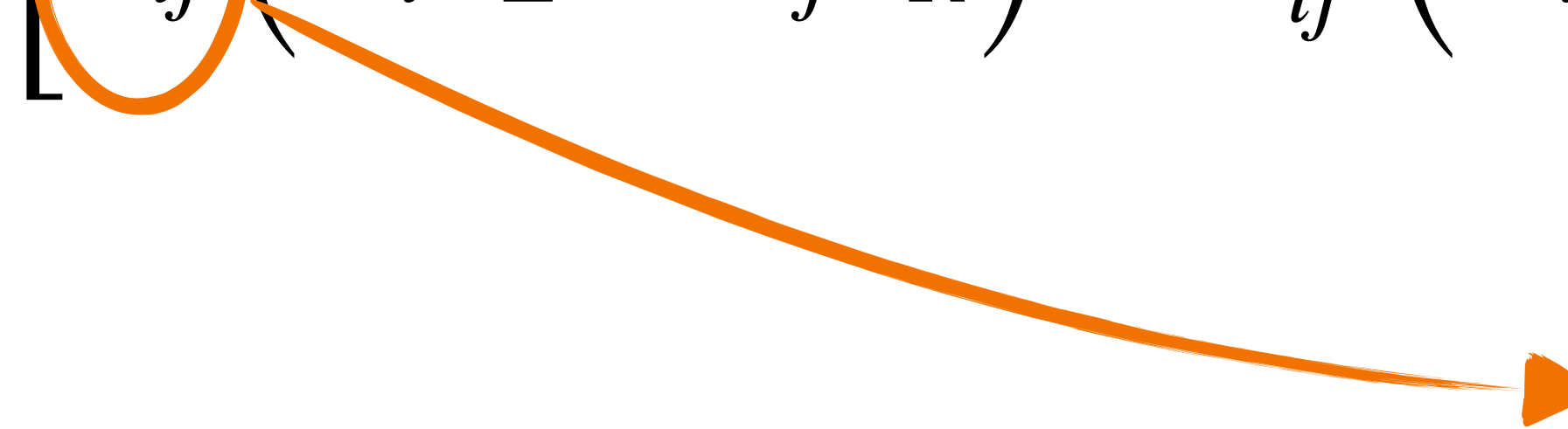
A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, *arXiv:2308.01341*

$$\mathcal{L}_H \supset -\frac{H}{2v_H} \sum_{i,j} \bar{n}_i \left[C_{ij} (m_i P_L + m_j P_R) + C_{ij}^* (m_i P_R + m_j P_L) \right] n_j$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \mathcal{U}_{\alpha i}^* \mathcal{U}_{\alpha j}$$

DM production including heavy ν

Higgs contribution

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, [arXiv:2308.01341](#)

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$$\sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \mathcal{U}_{\alpha i}^* \mathcal{U}_{\alpha j}$$

- Both helicities couple to the Higgs
- Heavy ν can give large contributions (mixing angles not affected)
- Fermion decays (n_h) to scalars tend to be larger with T

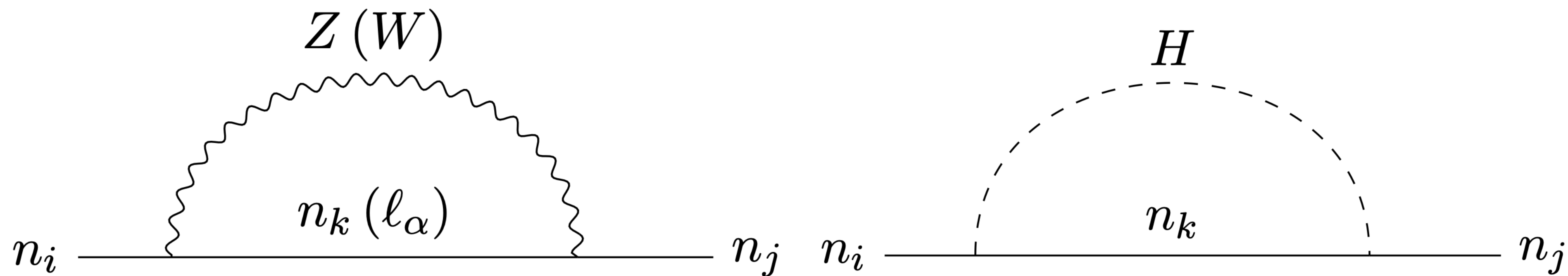
T. Lundberg & R. Pasechnik, [arXiv:2007.01224](#)

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A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, [arXiv:2308.01341](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.01341)

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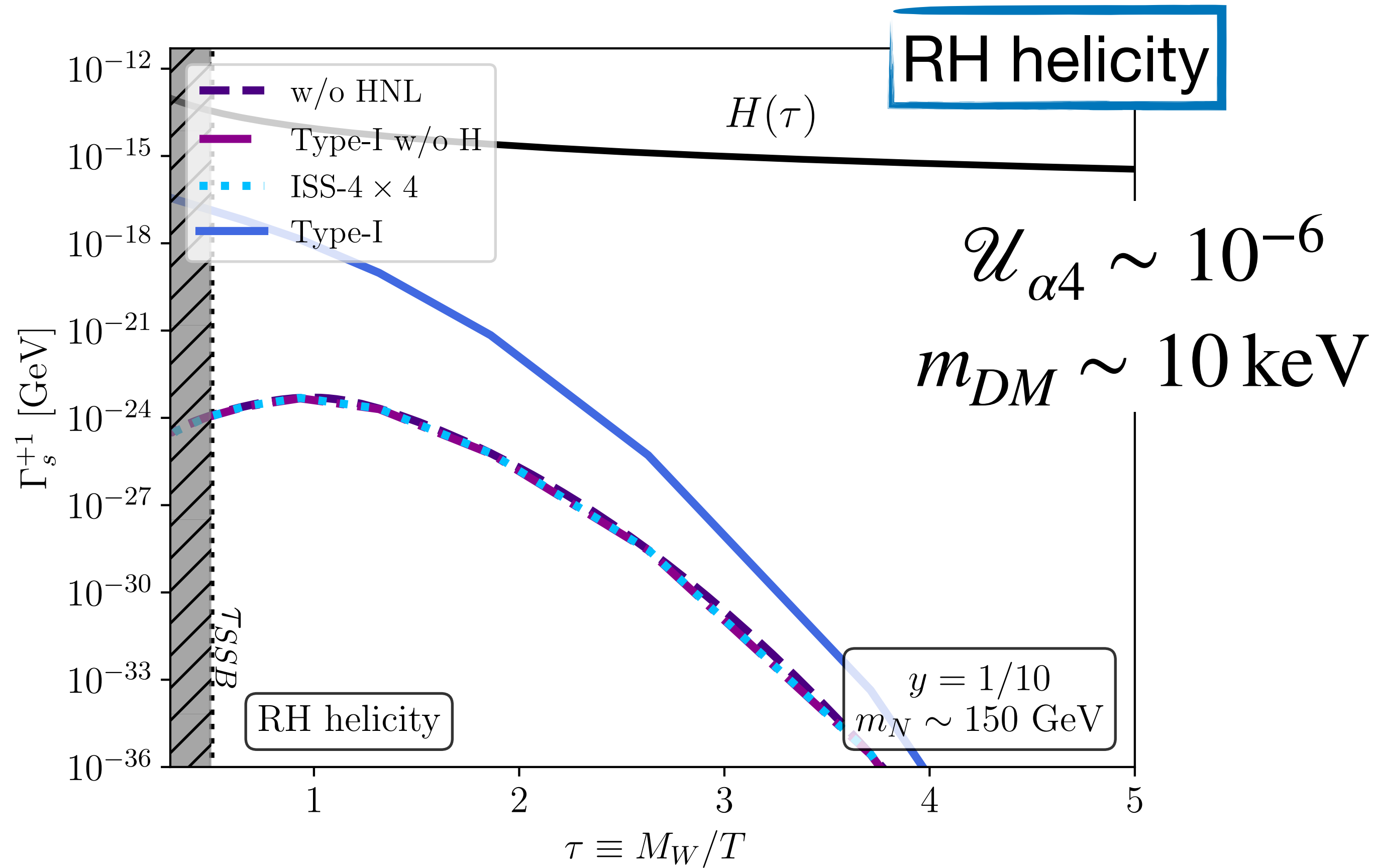
Take into account **all contributions**, which will describe all possible **2-body decays involving any ν , SM boson and DM**

Results

Production rates for fixed momenta

$$\Gamma_s^h(\tau, p) \ll H(\tau)$$

$$y \equiv p/T$$



Results

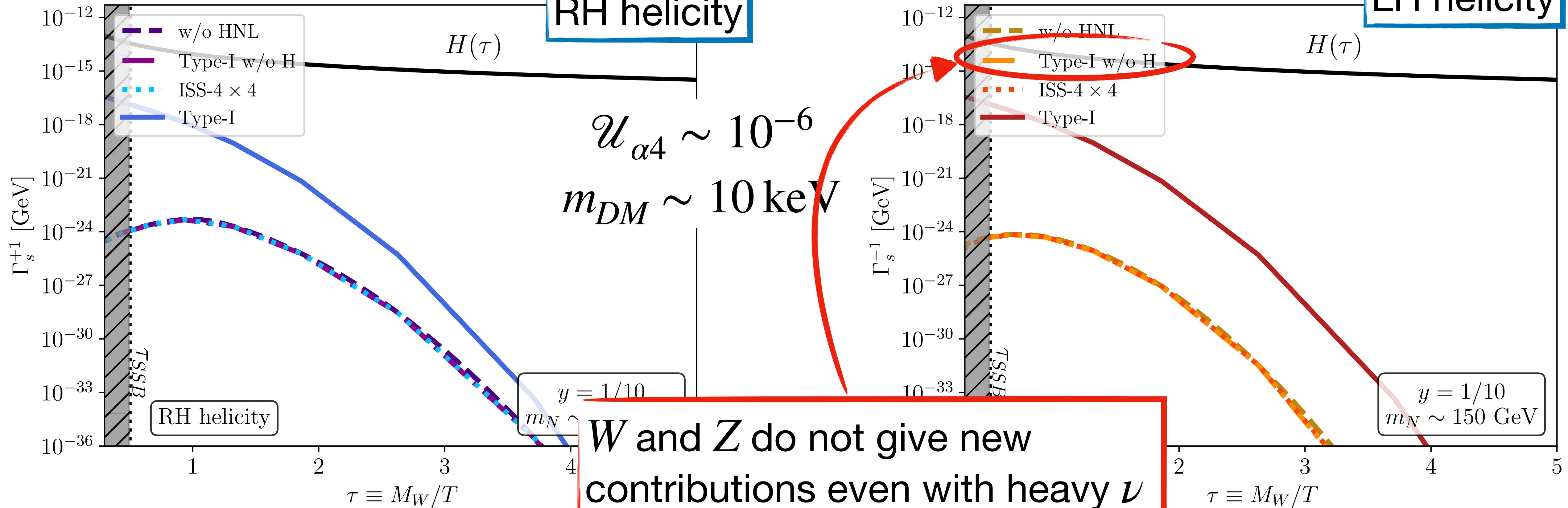
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RH helicity

LH helicity



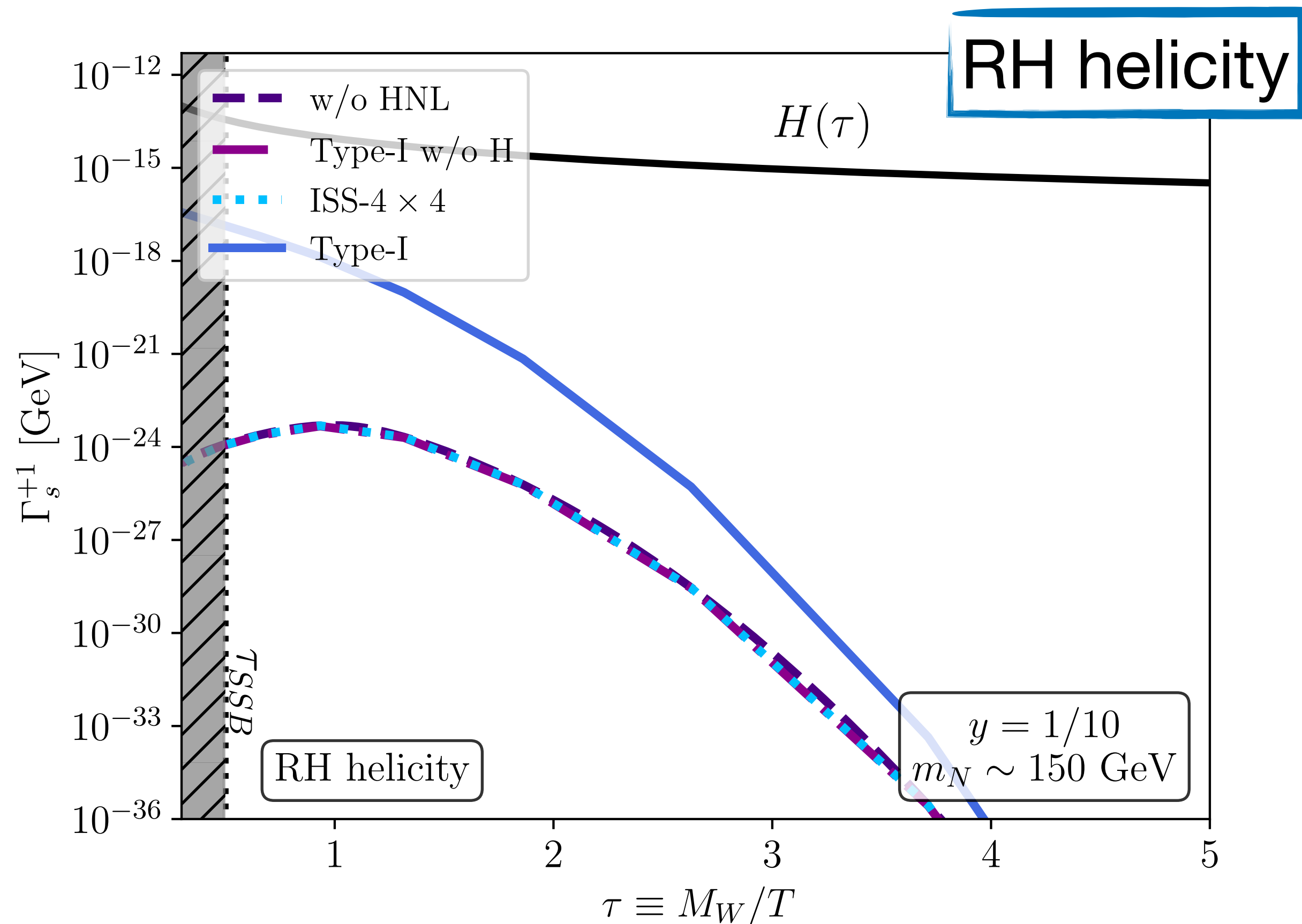
W and Z do not give new contributions even with heavy ν

Results

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RH helicity

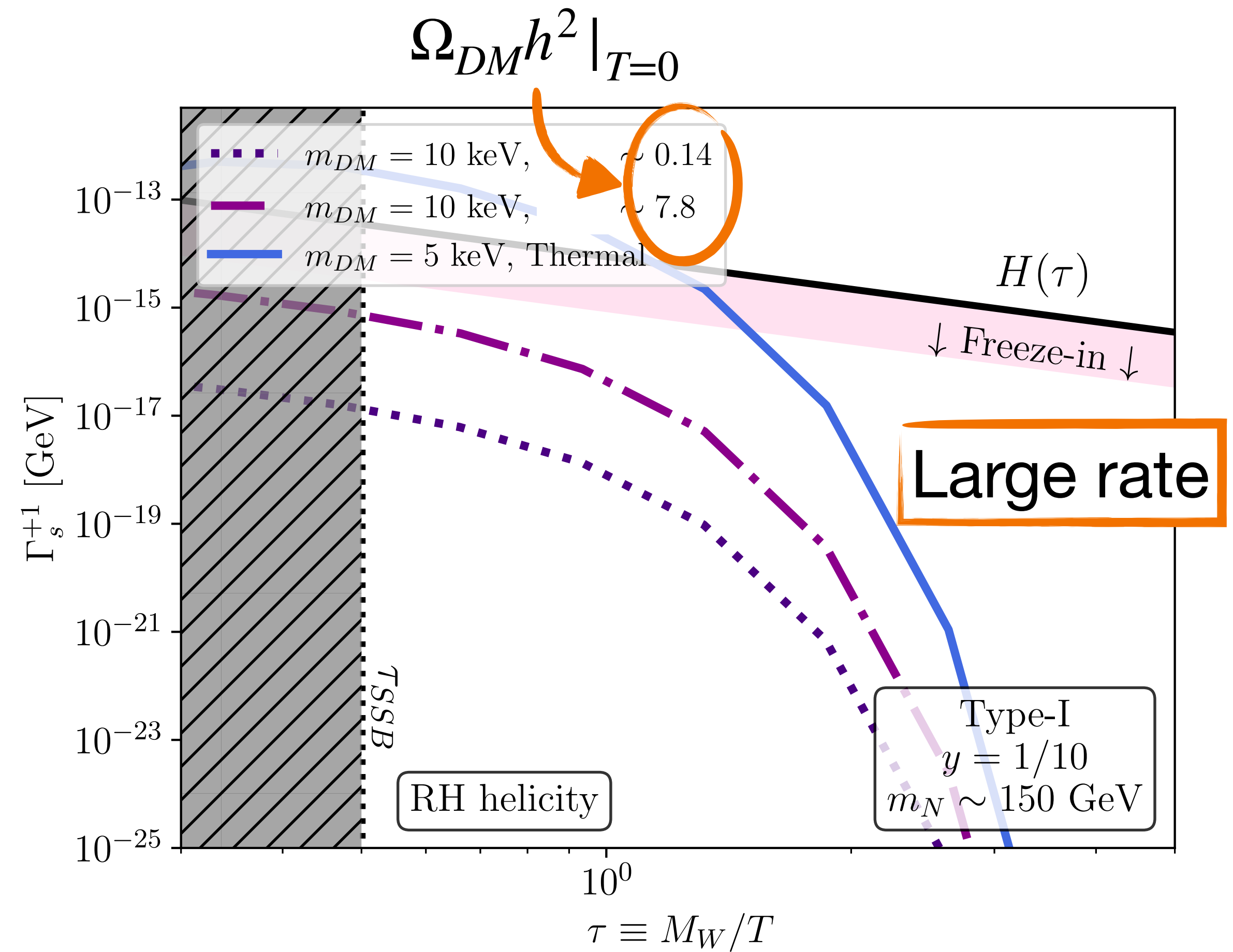
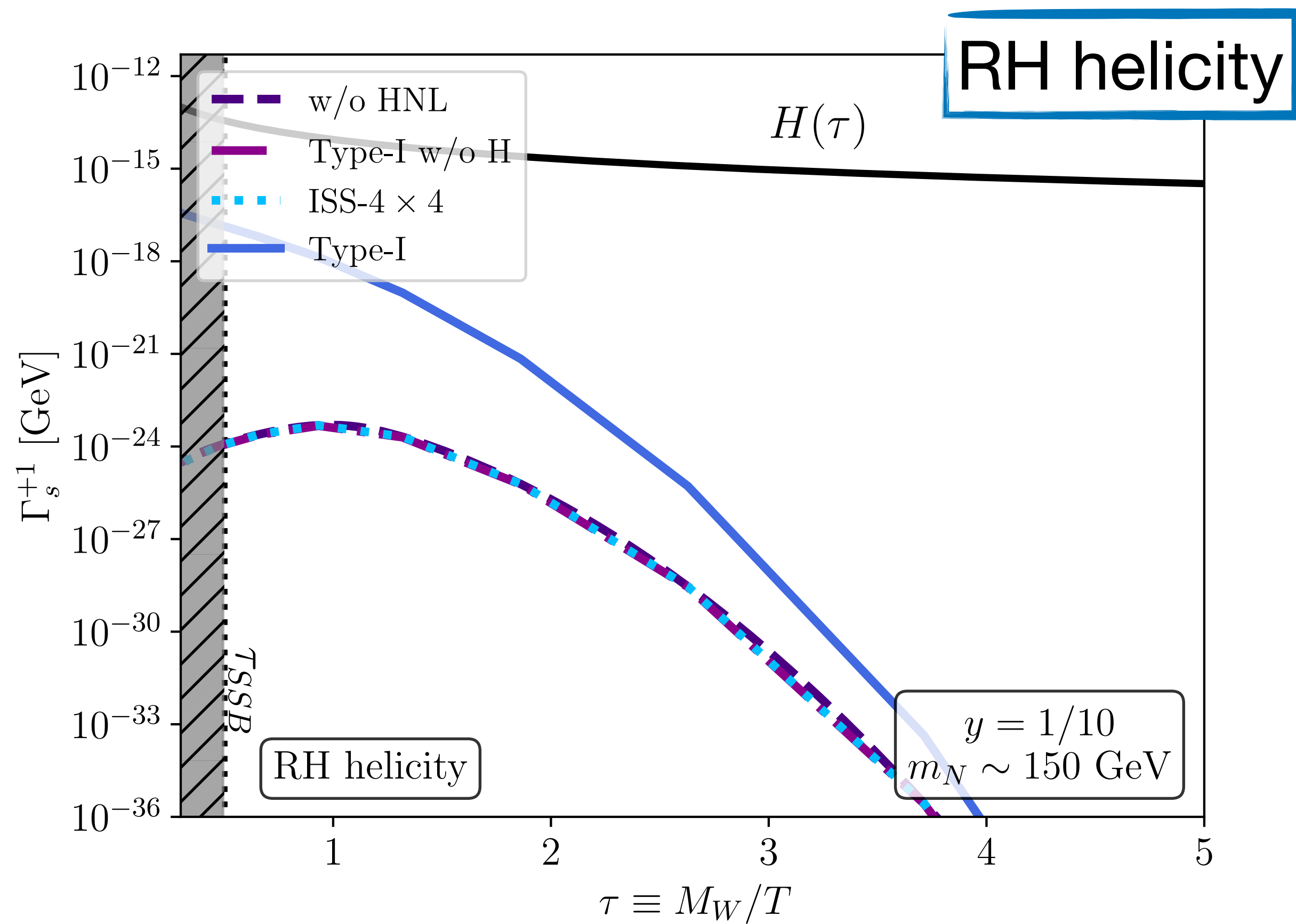
Inclusion of heavy ν and Higgs contribution improves greatly the production

$$f_{DM} = \Omega_s / \Omega_{DM}^{obs} \gtrsim 0.05$$

Results

Production rates for fixed momenta

$$\Gamma_s^h(\tau, p) \ll H(\tau)$$



Conclusions

- keV **neutrino DM** is still an interesting candidate
- Among the many possible production mechanisms, **freeze-in** comes up naturally within **neutrino mass models** necessary to explain oscillation data
- However **thermal effects** play a **fundamental role** in the production, dramatically changing the picture from the rates in vacuum

Conclusions

- We find that **weak gauge bosons do not contribute** to the production beyond the DW mechanism $\Omega_s/\Omega_{DM}^{obs} \sim 10^{-10}$
- However production through **heavier ν decays to the Higgs and DM** completely changes this picture, opening the possibility to **freeze-in ν DM**

$$\Omega_s/\Omega_{DM}^{obs} > 0.05$$

- A **scan of parameter space** is necessary as well as extend for $T > 160$ GeV including $2 \rightarrow 2$ **scatterings**



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Thank you!

Back up

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S. Dodelson & L. Widrow, arXiv:hep-ph/9303287

DM abundance from ν oscillations and collisions in the plasma

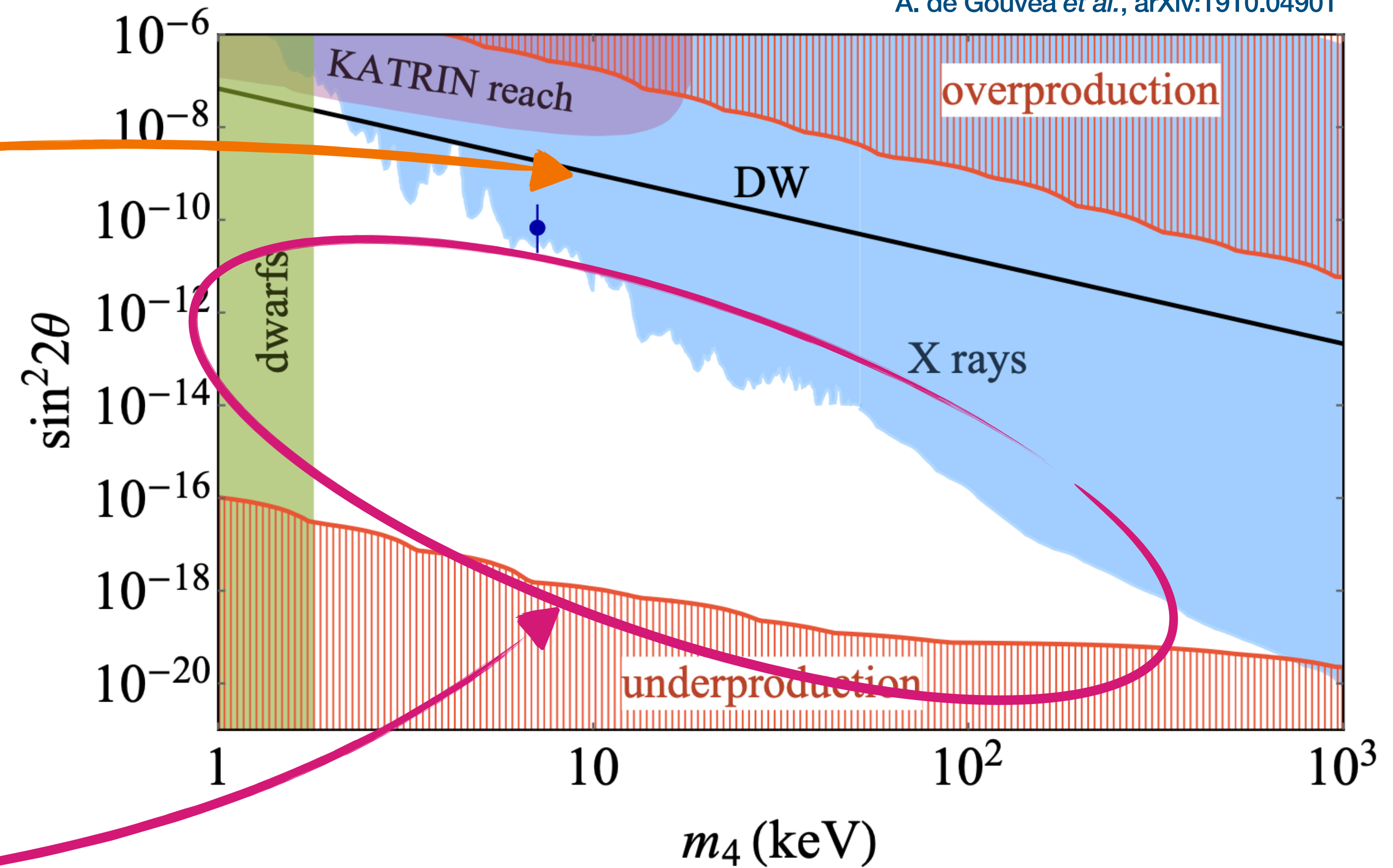
- Shi-Fuller mechanism

X. Shi & G. Fuller, arXiv:astro-ph/9810076

- Add ν self-interactions with a scalar mediator

A. de Gouvêa et al., arXiv:1910.04901

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A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

- Scalar coupled to singlet neutrinos

A. Merle *et al.*, arXiv:1306.3996
M. Drewes & J. U. Kand, arXiv:1510.05646
V. De Romeri *et al.*, arXiv:2003.12606
E. Fernandez-Martinez, M. Pierre, E. Pinsard & SRA, arXiv:2106.05298

Colder spectrum than with DW

$$\frac{df_{DM}}{dt} = \Gamma_s(p, t) \left[f_{DM}^{\text{eq}}(p, t) - f_{DM}(p, t) \right]$$

$$\Omega_{DM} h^2 \propto \frac{m_{DM} \Gamma_s(A \rightarrow B + DM)}{m_A^2}$$

$$m_A \sim 150 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_{DM} \sim 10 \text{ keV}$$

$$\Gamma_s \sim 10^{-16} \text{ GeV}$$

Self-energy decomposition

Projections

$$\Sigma = \gamma_0 \Sigma^{(0)} - \vec{\gamma} \cdot \hat{p} \Sigma^{(1)} + \Sigma^{(2)}$$

$$\Sigma_{ij}^W(p_0, p, T) = \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{U}_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} \mathcal{U}_{\alpha j} \sigma(p_0, p, T)$$

$$\Sigma^{(0)} = \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} [\gamma^0 \Sigma]$$

$$\Sigma^{(1)} = \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} [\vec{\gamma} \cdot \hat{p} \Sigma]$$

$$\Sigma^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} [\Sigma]$$

σ is the **self-energy contribution** in the **flavor basis** when ν masses can be neglected with respect to the other scales

Self-energy decomposition

Dispersion relation in the toy 2x2 case

$$(p_0^2 - p^2) \mathbb{1}_{2 \times 2} + \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^h(T) - \frac{m_{DM}^2}{4} \tan^2 2\theta & -\frac{m_{DM}^2}{2} \tan 2\theta \\ -\frac{m_{DM}^2}{2} \tan 2\theta & -m_{DM}^2 \left[1 + \frac{1}{4\alpha^h} \tan^2 2\theta \right] \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

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$$\Omega^h(T) = (p_0 - hp)(\sigma_L^{(0)} + h\sigma_L^{(1)})$$

LH helicity $h = -1$

RH helicity $h = +1$

$$\Omega^{-1} = 2p(\sigma_L^{(0)} - \sigma_L^{(1)})$$

$$\Omega^{+1} = \frac{m_{DM}^2}{2p}(\sigma_L^{(0)} + \sigma_L^{(1)})$$

DM production without heavy ν

Gauge boson contributions

D. Boyanovsky *et al.*, arXiv:1609.07647

A. Abada, G. Arcadi, G. Piazza, M. Lucente & SRA, arXiv:2308.01341

$$\Omega^h(T) \equiv 2p (\Delta_L + i\gamma_L) = \begin{cases} 2p(\sigma^{(0)} - \sigma^{(1)}) \\ \frac{m_{DM}^2}{2p}(\sigma^{(0)} + \sigma^{(1)}) \end{cases}$$

LH ν receive large thermal corrections ($h = -1$)
 Self-energy corrections chirality suppressed for RH ν ($h = +1$)

The equilibration rate is related to $\Gamma_s^h = -2\text{Im}(p_0)$

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$$p_0^2 - p^2 + \Omega^h - \frac{\theta^2 m_{DM}^2}{1 + m_{DM}^2/\Omega^h} = 0 \text{ for light } \nu$$

$$p_0^2 - p^2 - m_{DM}^2 - \theta^2 m_{DM}^2 \left(\frac{1}{\alpha^h} + \frac{1}{1 + \Omega^h/m_{DM}^2} \right) = 0 \text{ for DM}$$

DM production without heavy ν

Gauge boson contributions

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For Dirac ν

$$\Gamma_s^h = \frac{2\theta^2\gamma_L}{\left(1 + 2p\Delta_L/m_{DM}^2\right)^2 + 4p^2\gamma_L^2/m_{DM}^4} \equiv 2\left(\theta_{eff}^h\right)^2\gamma_L$$

DM production without heavy ν

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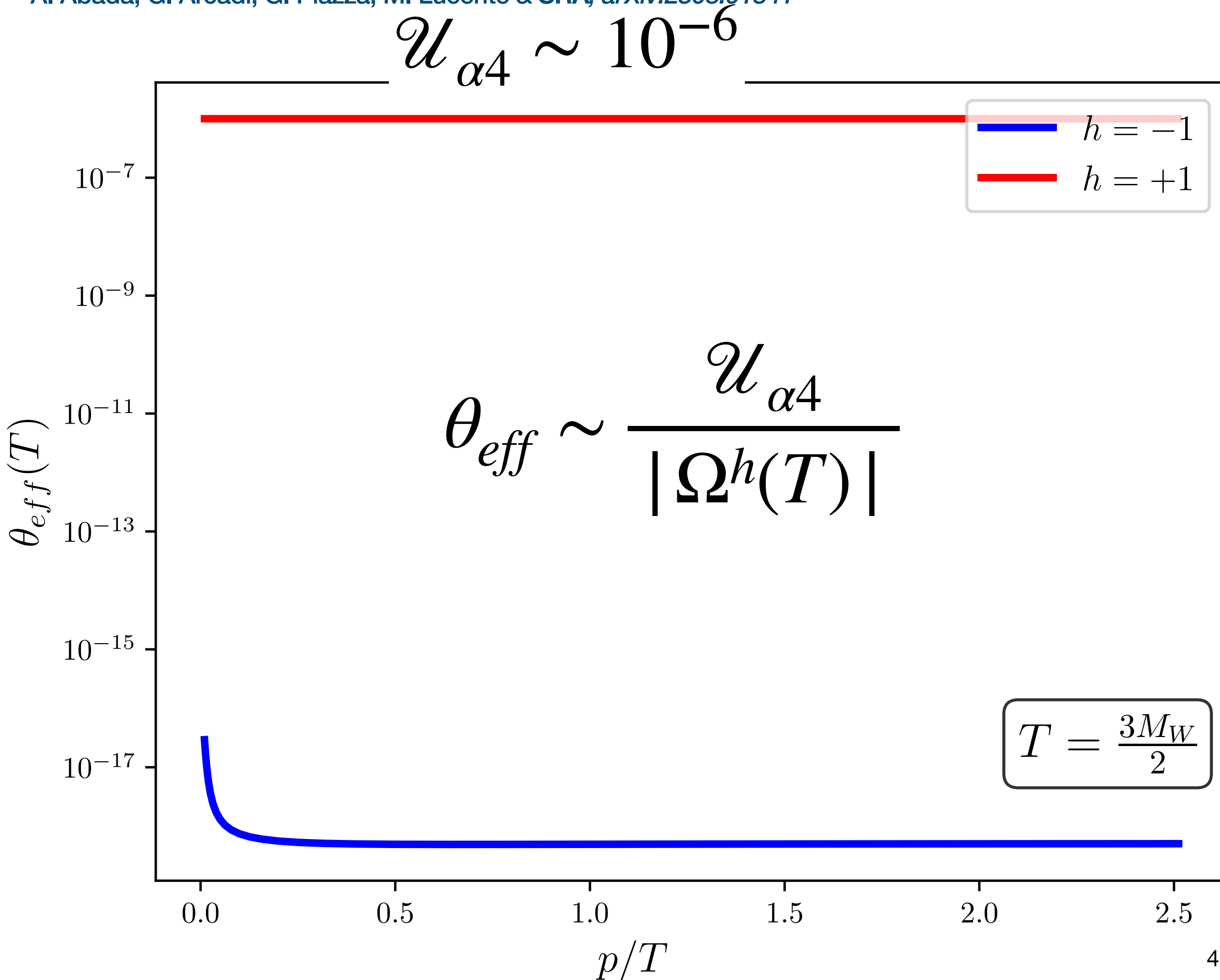
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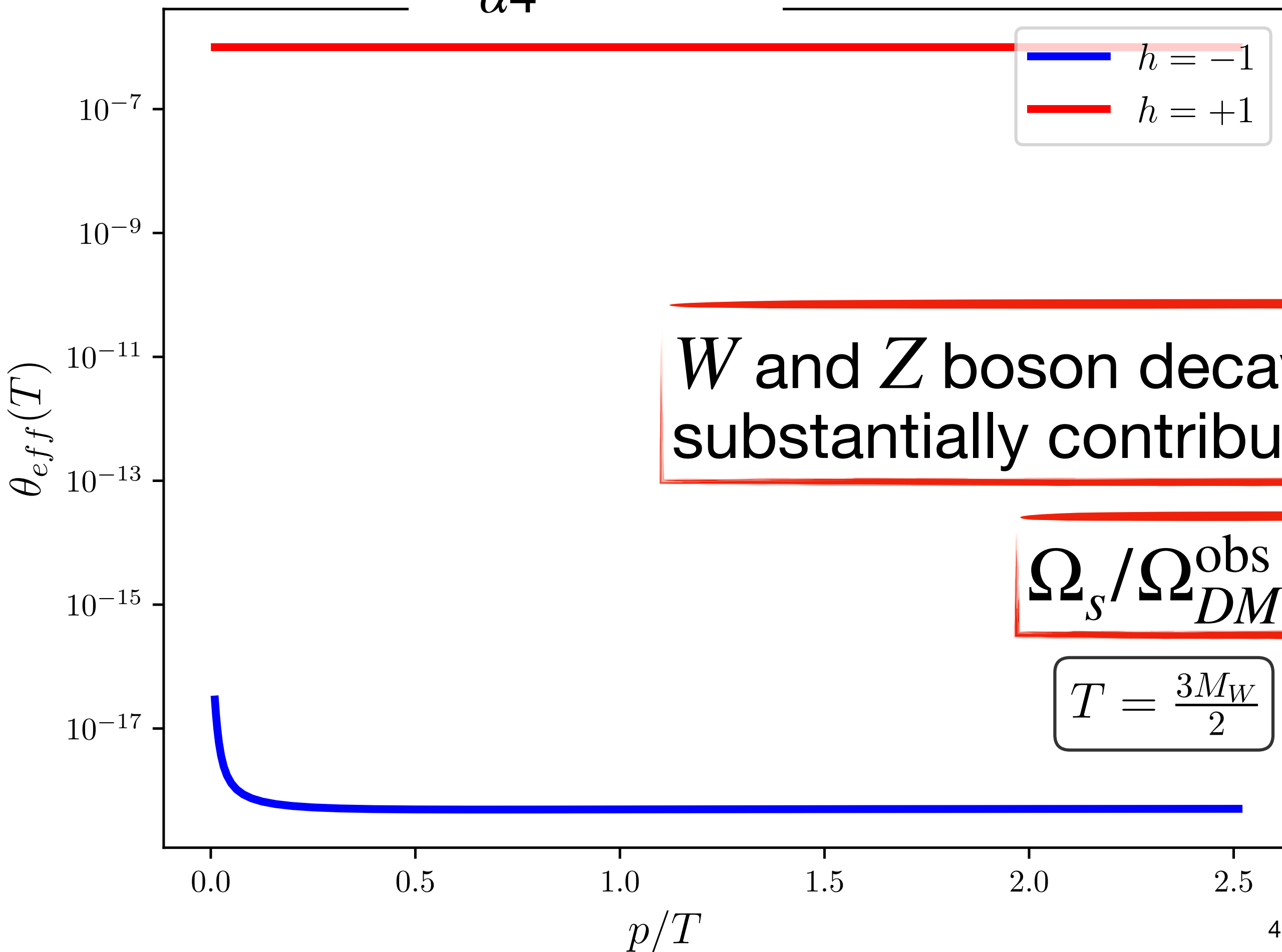
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LH ν receive large thermal corrections ($h = -1$)

Self-energy corrections chirality suppressed for RH ν ($h = +1$)

$$\mathcal{U}_{\alpha 4} \sim 10^{-6}$$



W and Z boson decays do not substantially contribute to DM production

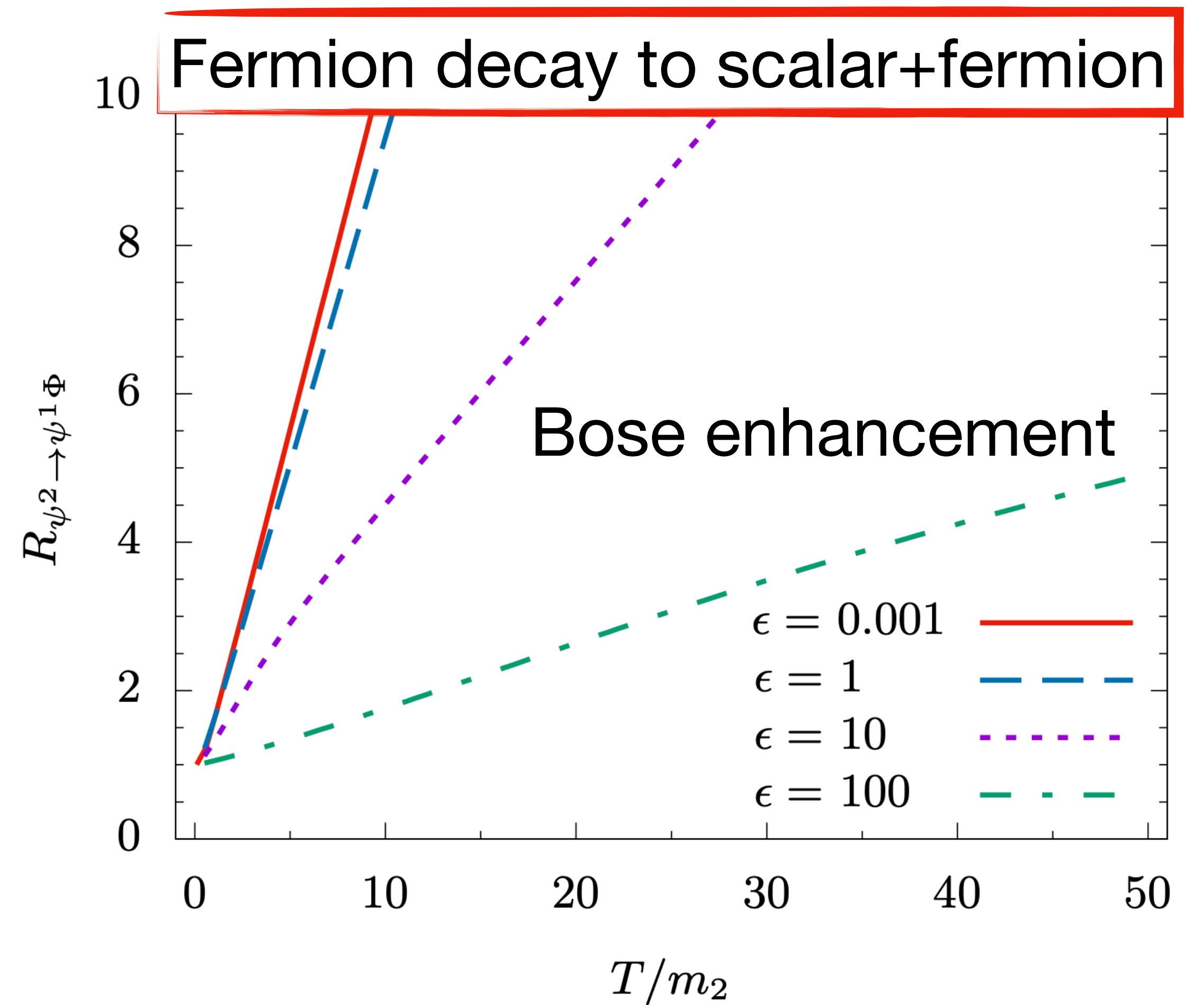
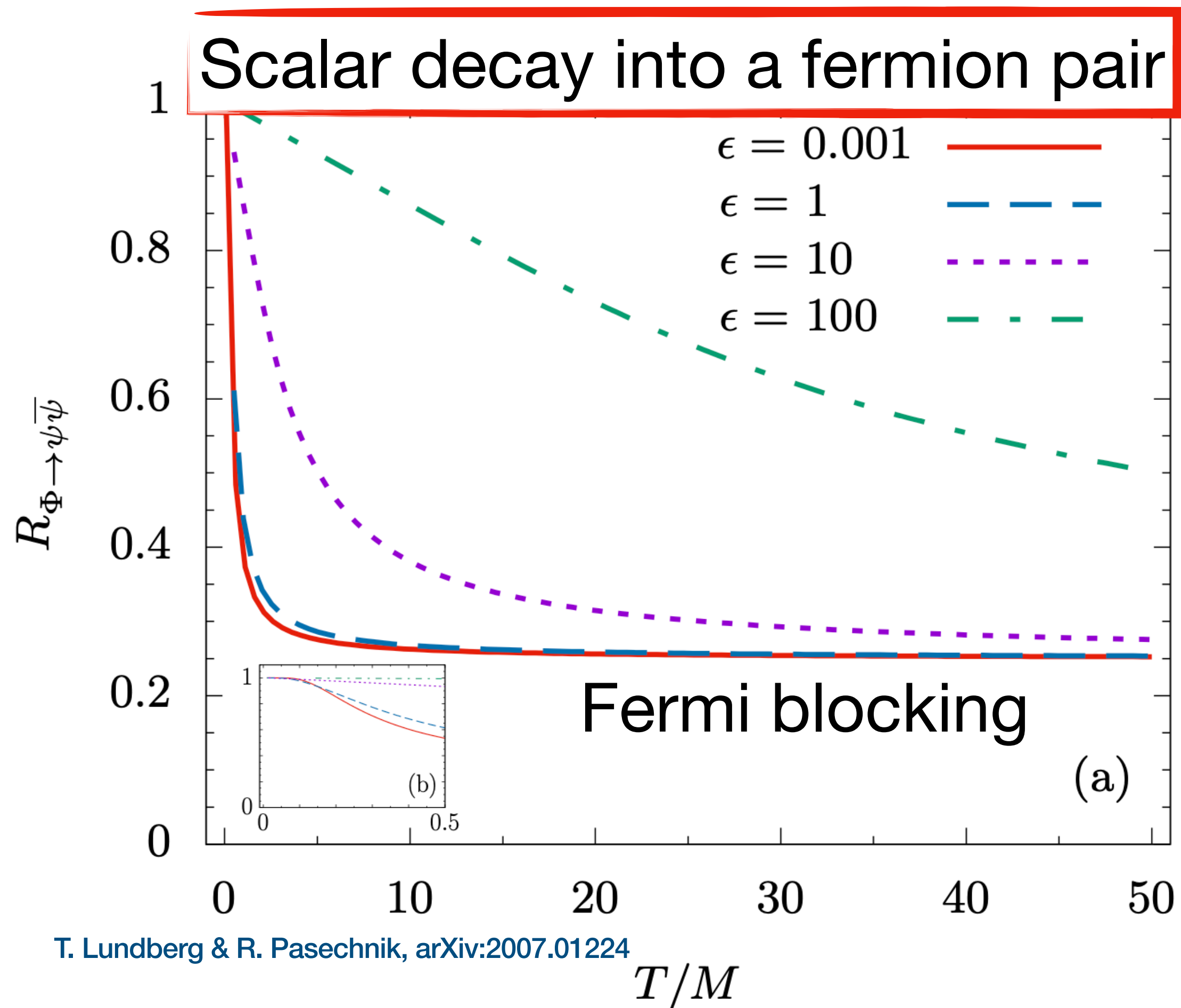
$$\Omega_s / \Omega_{DM}^{\text{obs}} \sim 10^{-10}$$

$$T = \frac{3M_W}{2}$$

$$\Gamma_s^h = 2 \left(\theta_{eff}^h \right)^2 \gamma_L$$

DM production including heavy ν

Higgs contribution



Results

Production rates for fixed temperature

$$\frac{df_{DM}^h}{d\tau} = \Gamma_s^h(\tau, y) \frac{f_{DM}^{\text{eq}}(\tau, y)}{\tau H(\tau)}$$

$$\tau \equiv M_W/T$$

