

# Time-Varying Electric Dipole Moments and Spin-Precession Effects Induced by Axion Dark Matter

Yevgeny Stadnik

Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow

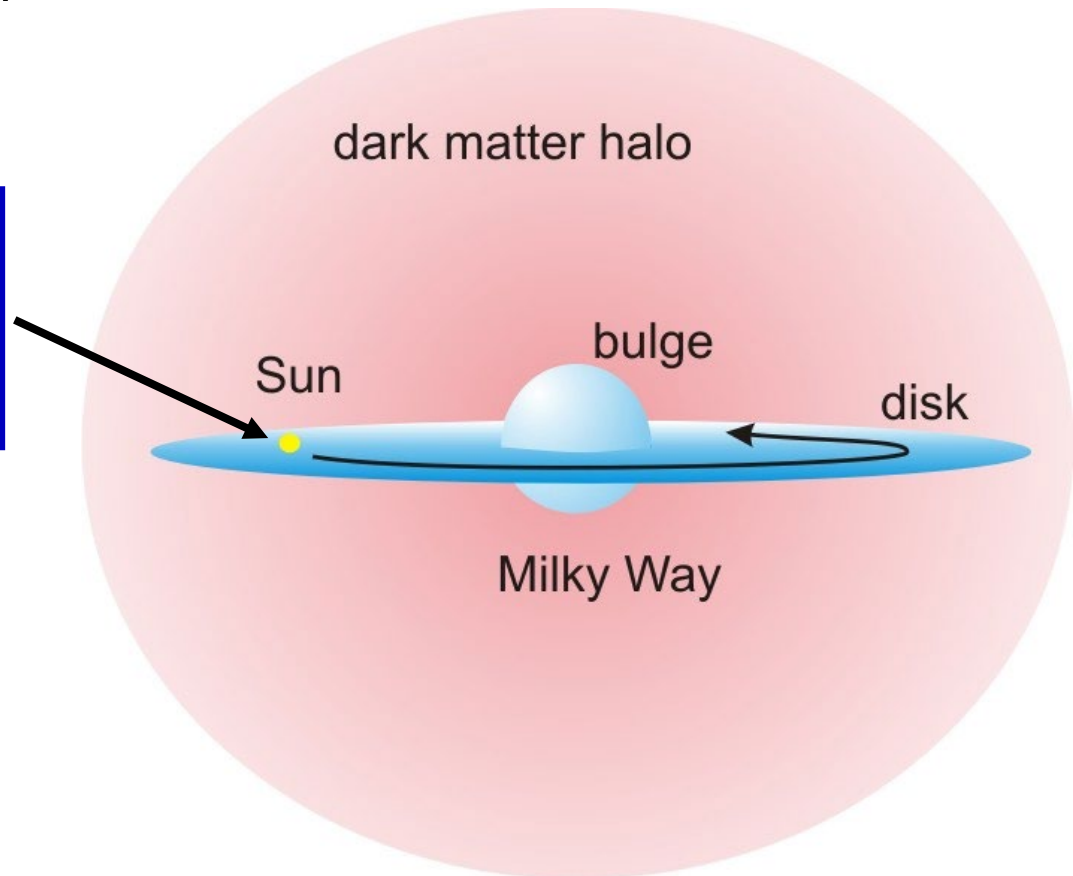
University of Sydney, Australia

**“The Axion Quest” – 20<sup>th</sup> Rencontres du Vietnam,  
ICISE, Quy Nhon, Vietnam, 4-10 August 2024**

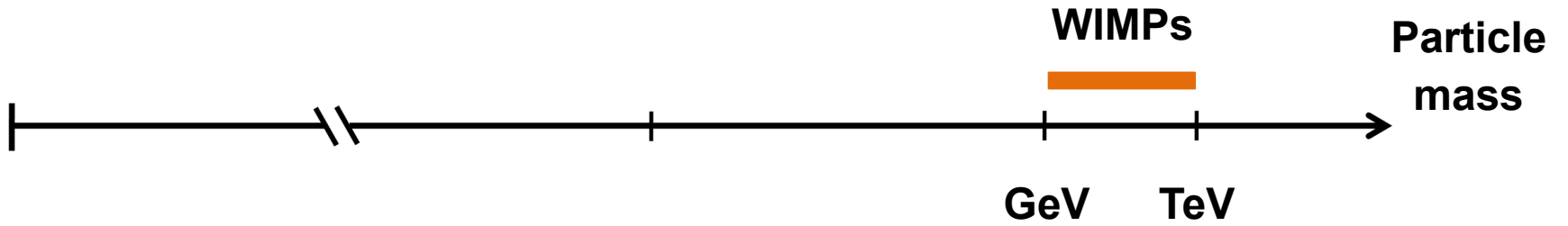
# Dark Matter

Strong astrophysical evidence for existence of **dark matter** (~5 times more dark matter than ordinary matter)

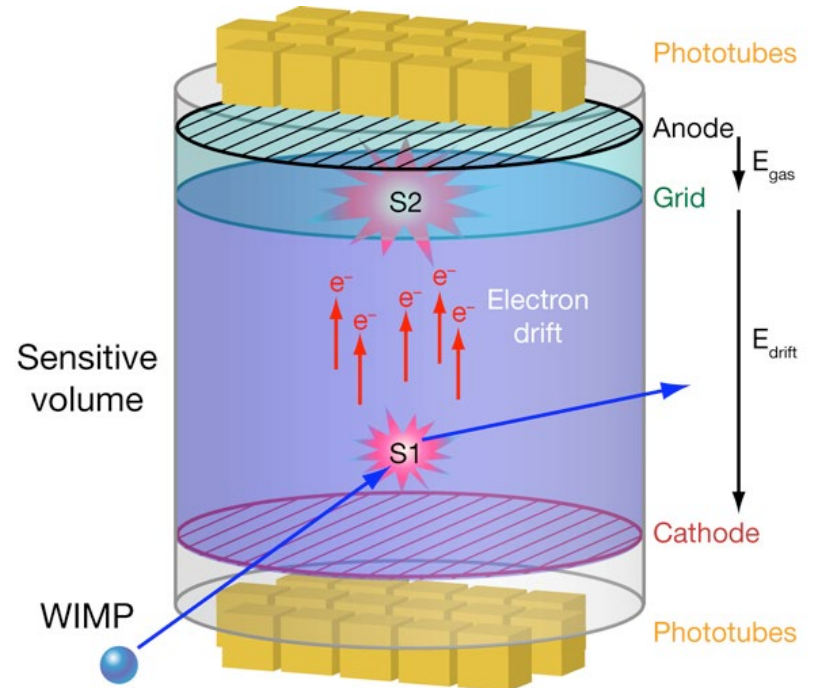
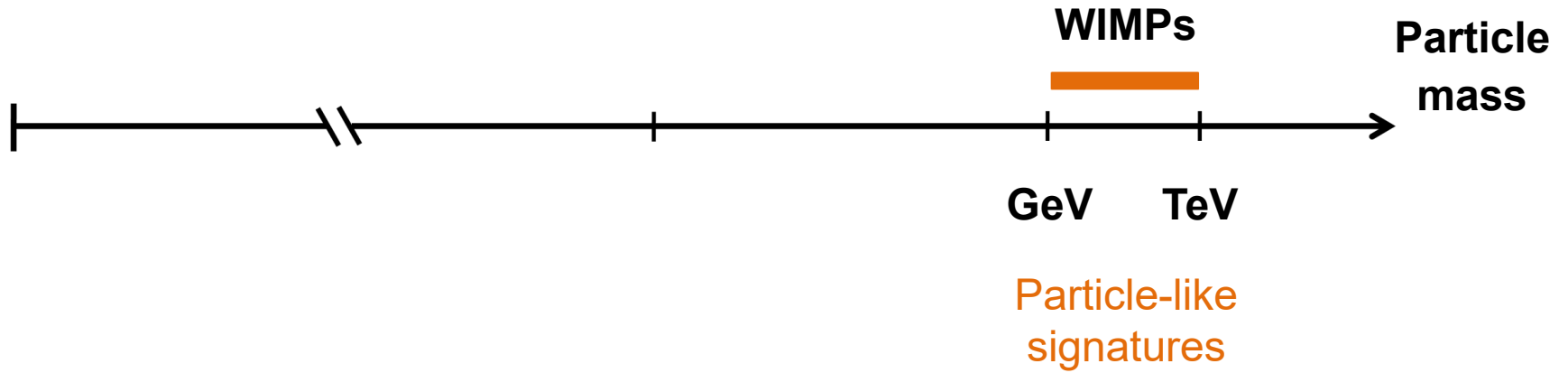
$$\rho_{\text{DM}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$
$$v_{\text{DM}} \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$$



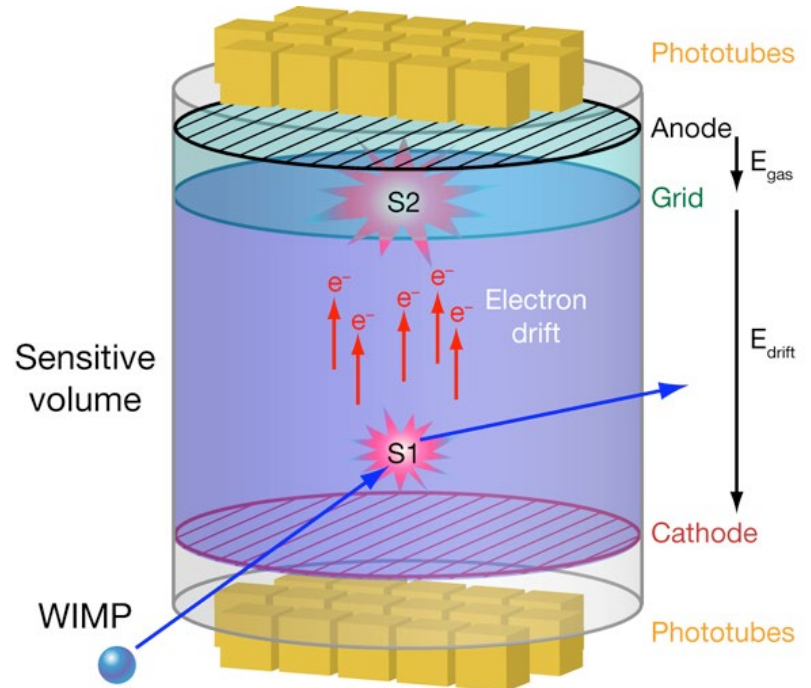
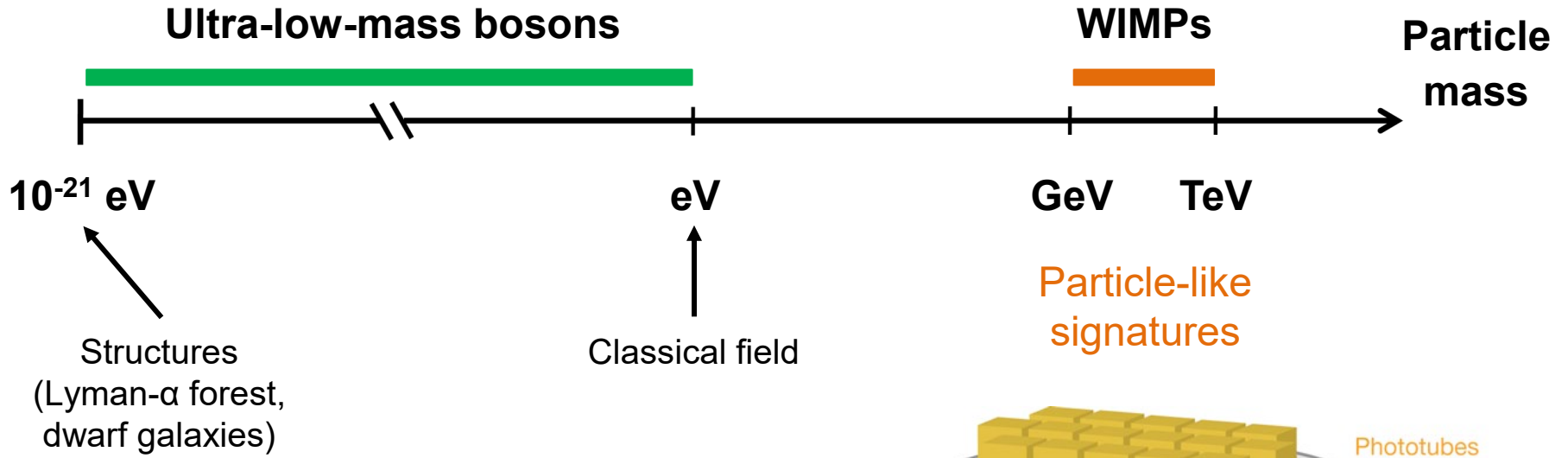
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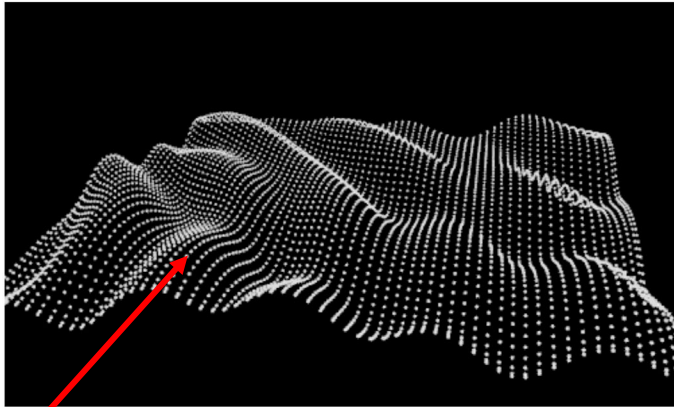
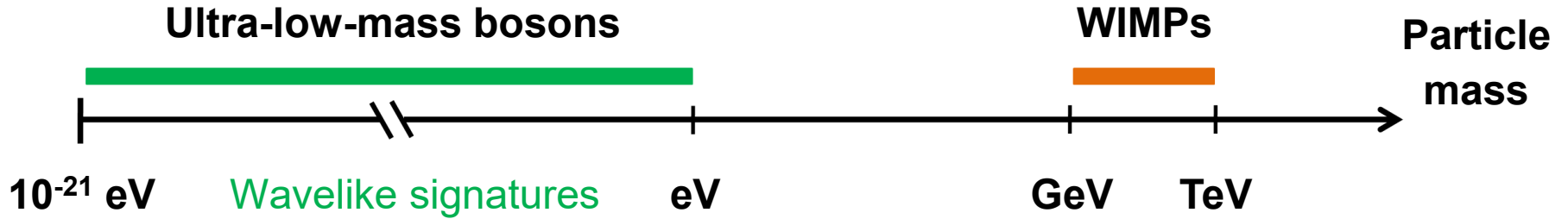
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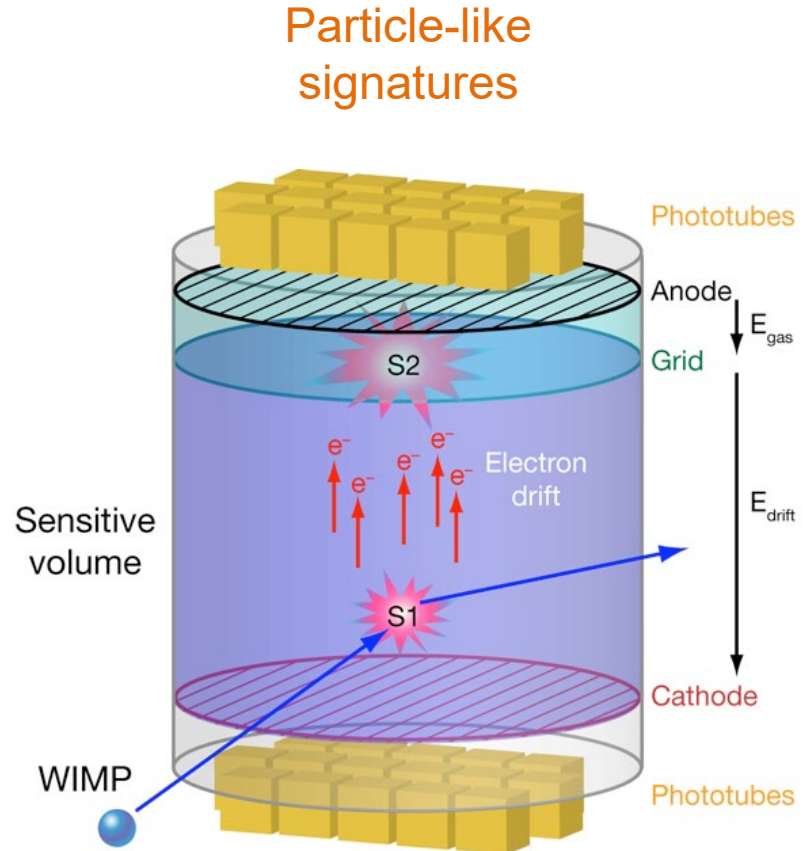
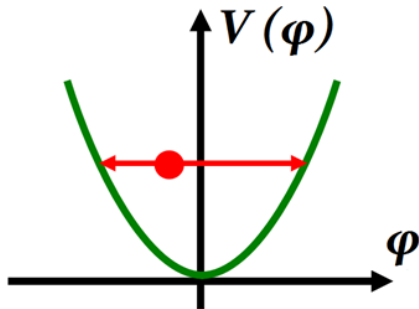
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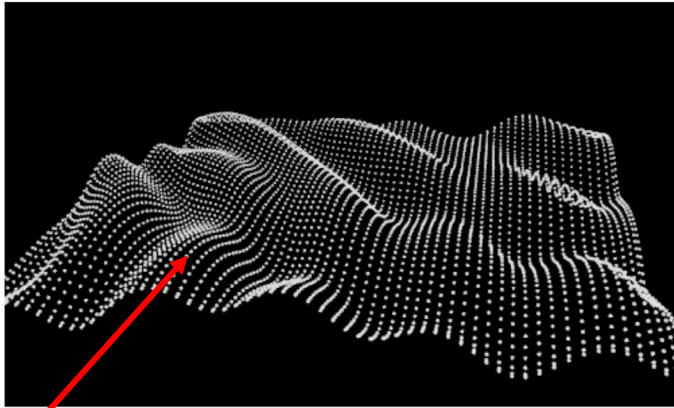
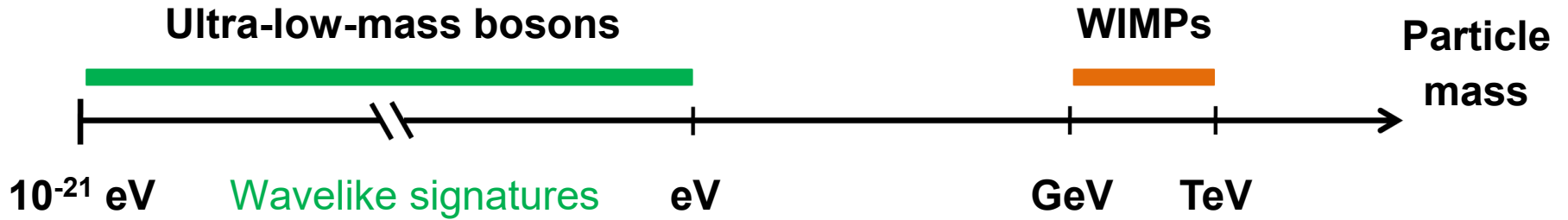


$$\varphi(t) \sim \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi c^2 t / \hbar), \quad \varphi_0 \sim \sqrt{\rho_{\text{DM}} / m_\varphi}$$

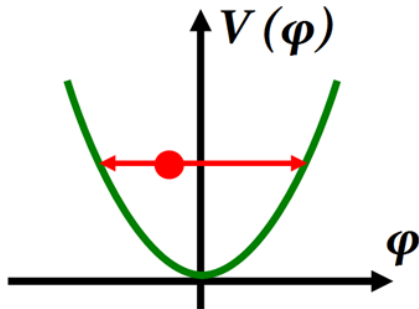


# Dark Matter

Particle-like signatures



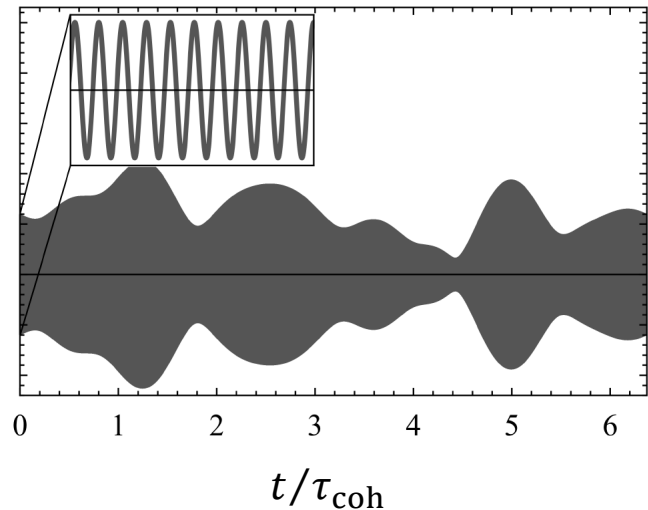
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$$\Delta E_\varphi / E_\varphi \sim \Delta v_\varphi^2 / c^2 \sim 10^{-6}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau_{\text{coh}} \sim 2\pi / \Delta E_\varphi \sim 10^6 T_{\text{osc}}$$

Evolution of  $\varphi_0$  with time



# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**

**Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):**

$$a \xrightarrow{P} -a$$

**Scalars  
(Dilatons):**

$$\varphi^n \xrightarrow{P} \varphi^n, n = 1, 2$$

**Time-varying EDMs and  
spin-precession effects**

- Co-magnetometers
  - Particle  $g$ -factors
- Spin-polarised torsion pendula
- Spin resonance (NMR, ESR)

**Spatio-temporal variations  
of “constants”**

- Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)
- Cavities and interferometers
- Torsion pendula (accelerometers)
  - Astrophysics (e.g., BBN)



# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

Dark Matter

Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):

$$^P a \rightarrow -a$$

## Time-varying EDMs and spin-precession effects

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*More traditional axion dark matter detection methods tend to focus on the electromagnetic coupling*

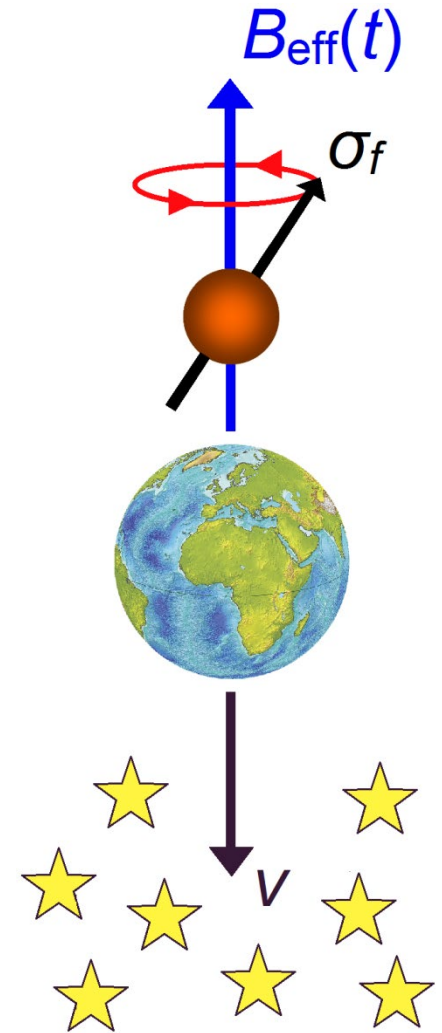
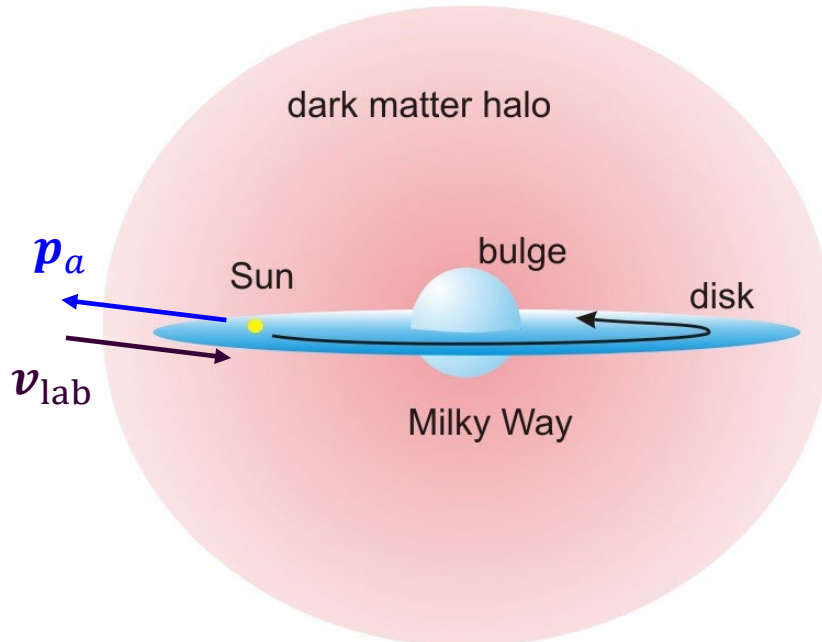
*Here I focus on relatively new detection methods based on **non-electromagnetic** couplings leading to spin-based signatures*

# “Axion Wind” Spin-Precession Effect

[Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]


$$\mathcal{L}_f = -\frac{C_f}{2f_a} \partial_i [a_0 \cos(m_a t - \mathbf{p}_a \cdot \mathbf{x})] \bar{f} \gamma^i \gamma^5 f$$

$$\Rightarrow H_{\text{wind}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_f \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}}(t) \propto \boldsymbol{\sigma}_f \cdot \mathbf{p}_a \sin(m_a t)$$

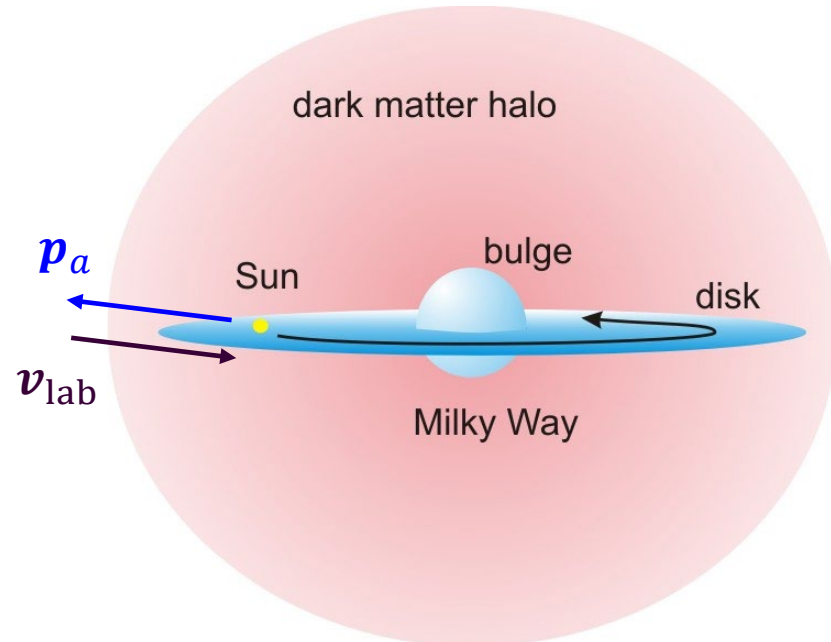


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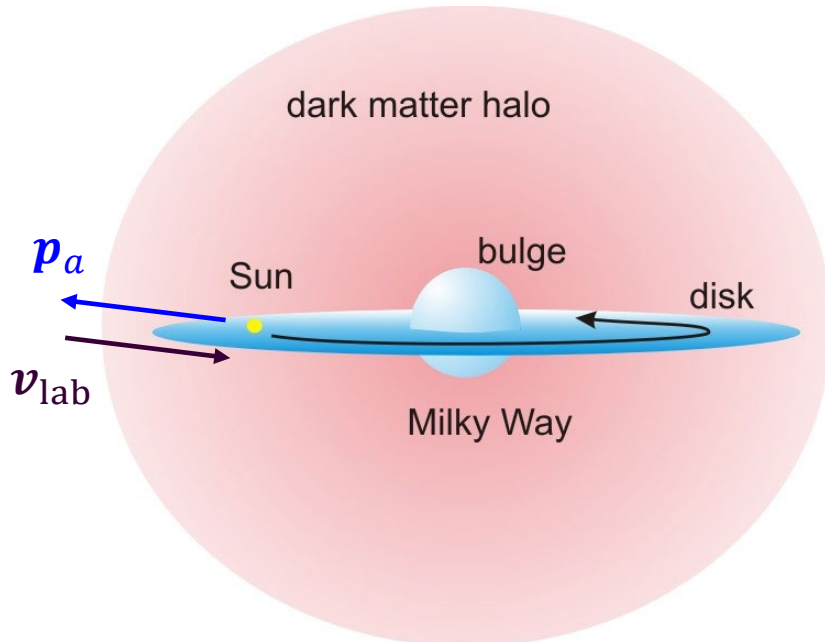
- *In lab frame, apparent direction of  $\mathbf{p}_a$  changes over the course of a day due to Earth's rotation*

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- *In lab frame, apparent direction of  $\mathbf{p}_a$  changes over the course of a day due to Earth's rotation*
- *$\langle \mathbf{p}_a \rangle \propto -\mathbf{v}_{\text{lab}}$  on long timescales, but on shorter timescales the direction of  $\mathbf{p}_a$  may differ from  $\langle \mathbf{p}_a \rangle$  due to random nature of  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{DM}}$  (Maxwell-Boltzmann distributed)*

[Centers *et al.*, *Nature Comm.* **12**, 7321 (2021)],

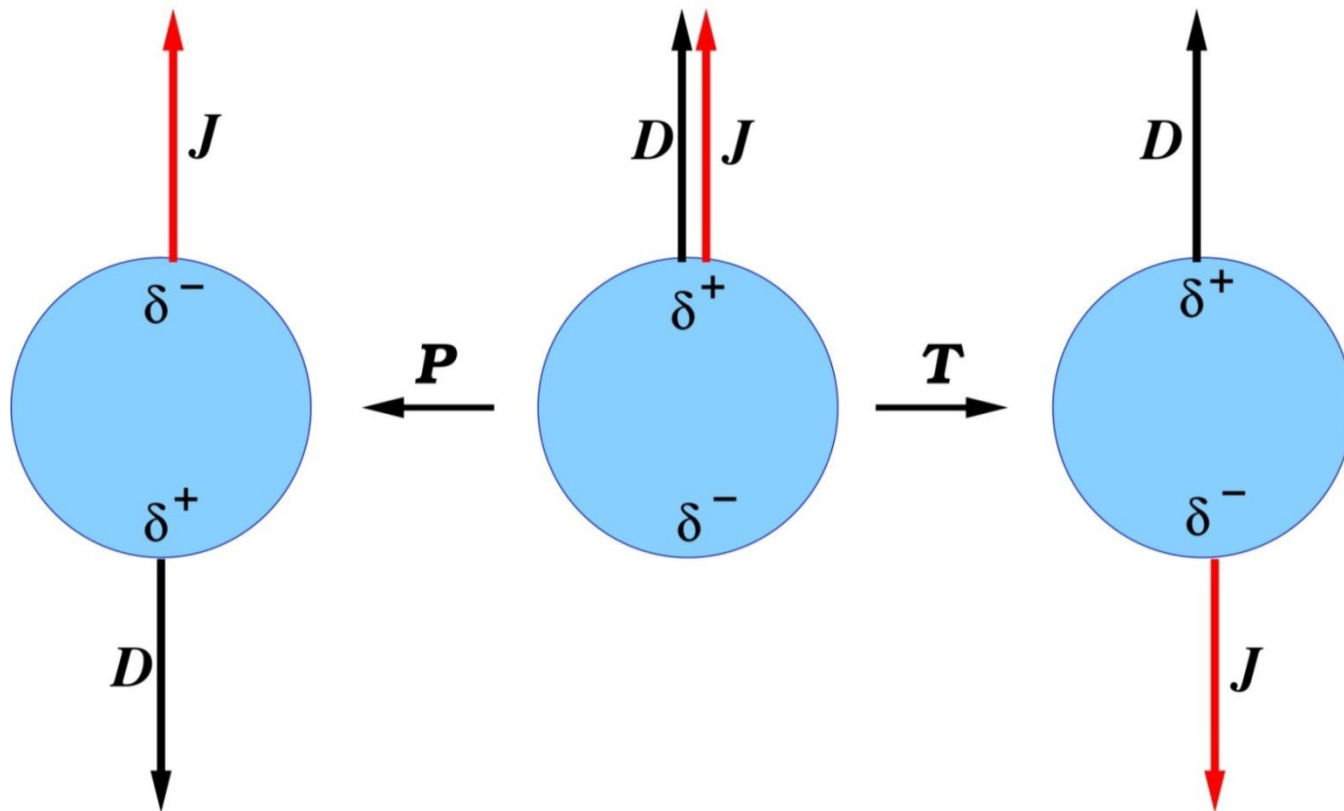
[Lisanti *et al.*, *PRD* **104**, 055037 (2021)]

# Oscillating Electric Dipole Moments

Nucleons: [Graham, Rajendran, *PRD* **84**, 055013 (2011)]

Atoms and molecules: [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

**Electric Dipole Moment (EDM)** = parity ( $P$ ) and time-reversal-invariance ( $T$ ) violating electric moment



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$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{C_G}{f_a} a_0 \cos(m_a t) G \tilde{G} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} \mathbf{d}(t) &\propto \mathbf{J} \cos(m_a t), \\ H_{\text{EDM}}(t) &= \mathbf{d}(t) \cdot \mathbf{E} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{cf. } \mathcal{L} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \theta G \tilde{G} \Rightarrow \theta \leftrightarrow \frac{C_G}{f_a} a_0 \cos(m_a t)$$

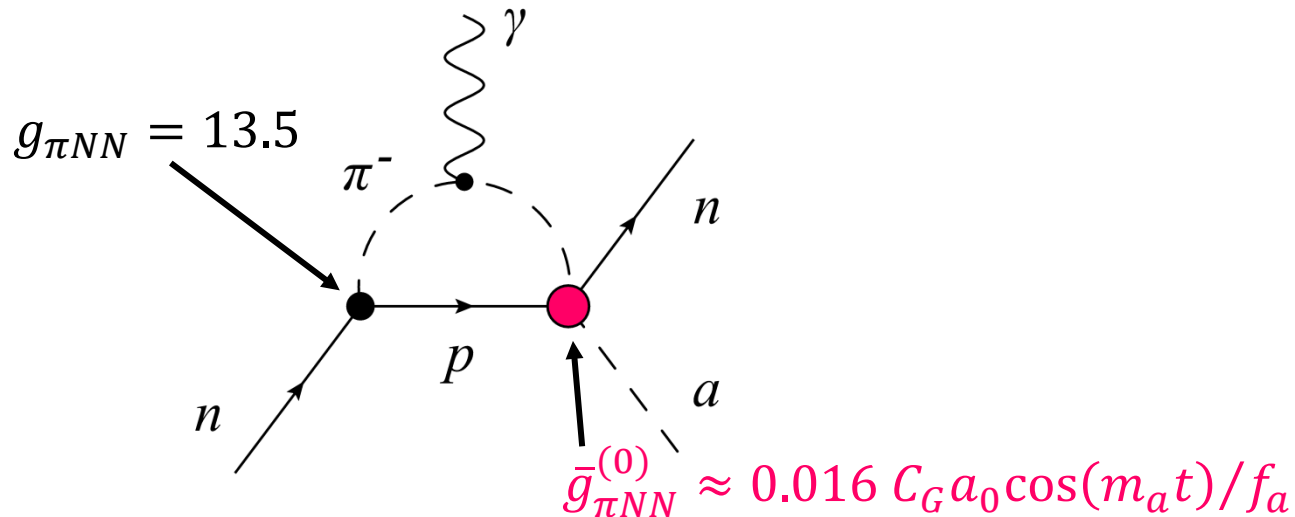
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## Nucleon EDMs



# Oscillating Electric Dipole Moments

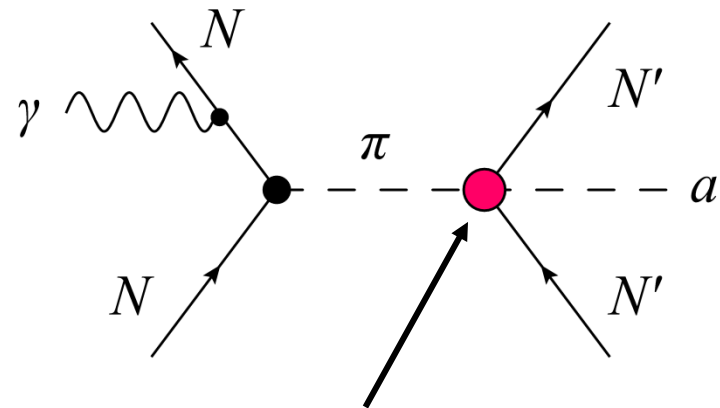
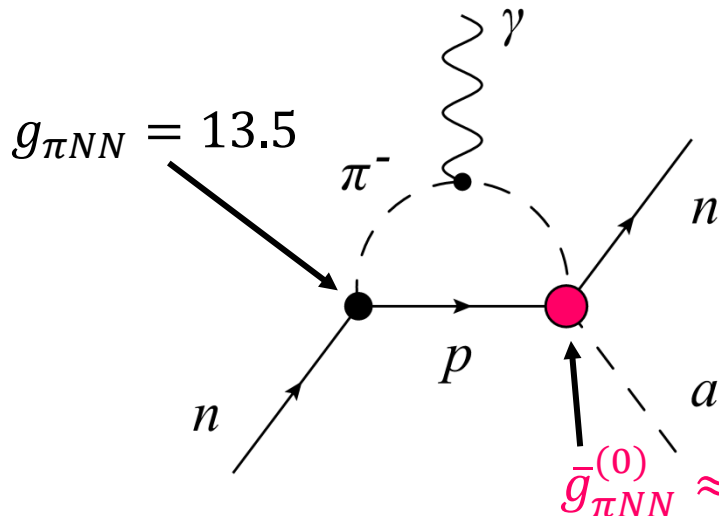
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**Nucleon EDMs**

**CP-violating intranuclear forces**



$$\bar{g}_{\pi NN}^{(0)} \approx 0.016 C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t) / f_a$$

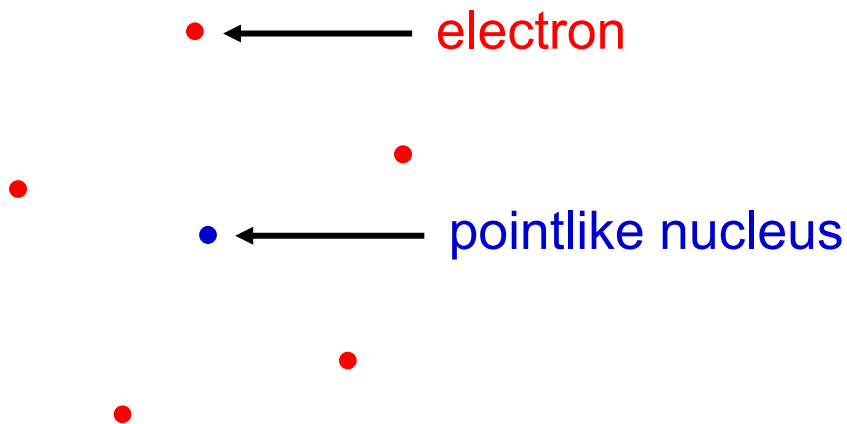
In nuclei, **tree-level** CP-violating intranuclear forces dominate over **loop-induced** nucleon EDMs [loop factor =  $1/(8\pi^2)$ ].



# Schiff's Theorem

[Schiff, *Phys. Rev.* **132**, 2194 (1963)]

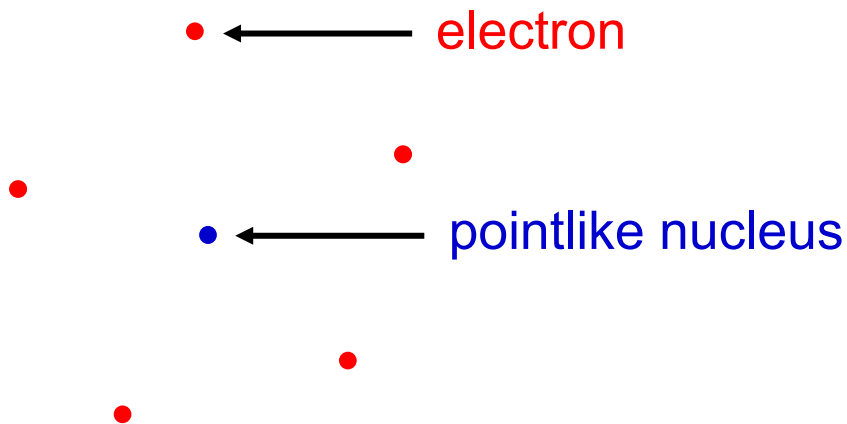
**Schiff's Theorem:** “In a neutral atom made up of point-like non-relativistic charged particles (interacting only electrostatically), the constituent EDMs are screened from an external electric field.”



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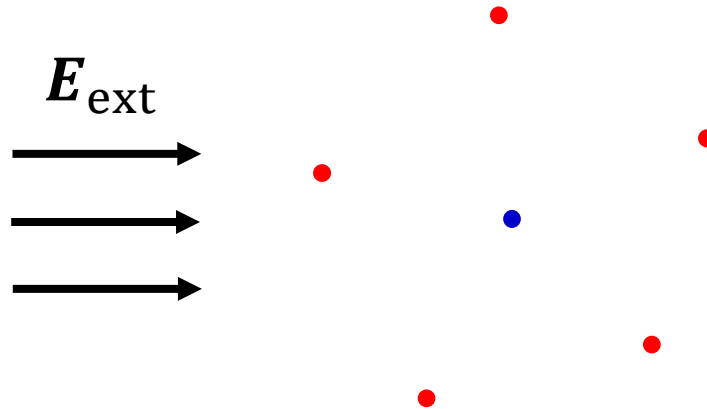


**Classical explanation for nuclear EDM:** A neutral atom does not accelerate in an external electric field!

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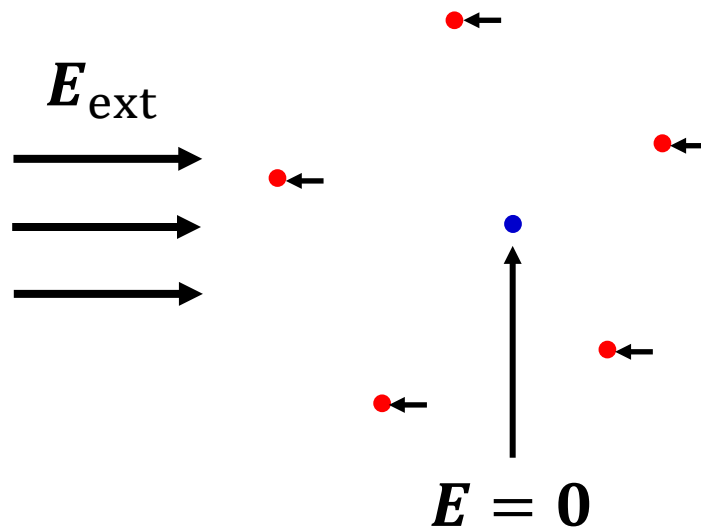


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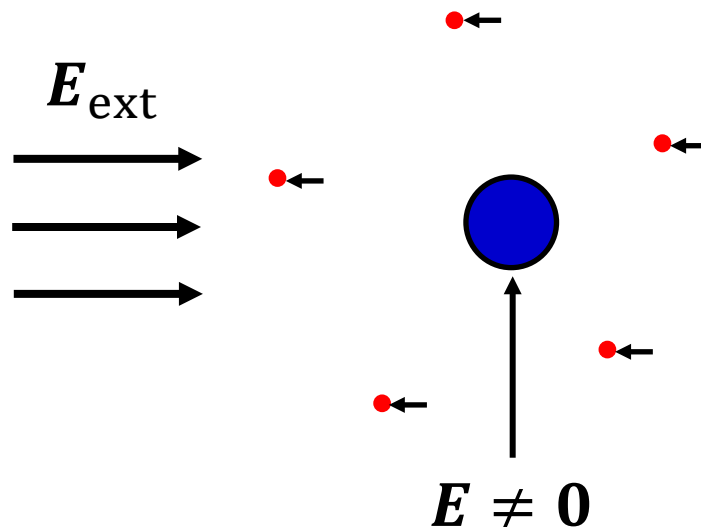
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# Lifting of Schiff's Theorem

[Sandars, *PRL* **19**, 1396 (1967)],

[O. Sushkov, Flambaum, Khriplovich, *JETP* **60**, 873 (1984)]

**In real (heavy) atoms:** Incomplete screening of external electric field due to finite nuclear size, parametrised by *nuclear Schiff moment*.



$$|\mathbf{S}_{\text{nucl}}| \sim |\mathbf{d}_{\text{nucl}}| \times R_{\text{nucl}}^2$$

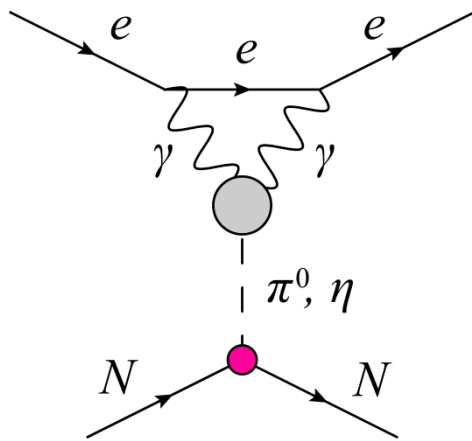
# Paramagnetic Atoms and Molecules

[Flambaum, Pospelov, Ritz, Stadnik, *PRD* **102**, 035001 (2020)]

CP-odd nuclear scalar polarisability arises at 2-loop level,  $\mathcal{O}(A)$  enhanced

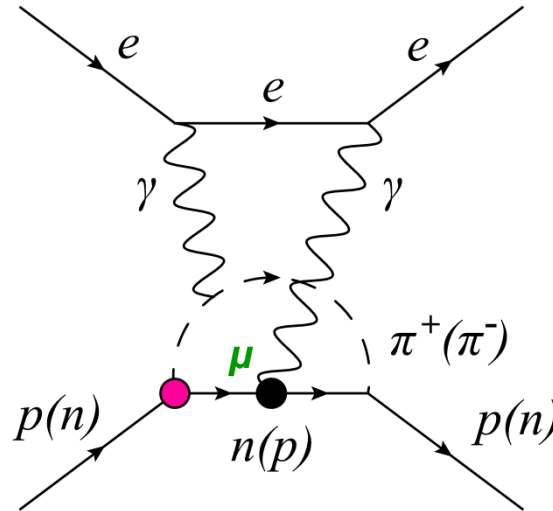
Interaction of one of photons with nucleus is *magnetic*  $\Rightarrow$  no Schiff screening

**LO:**  $\mathcal{O}(m_\pi^{-2})$



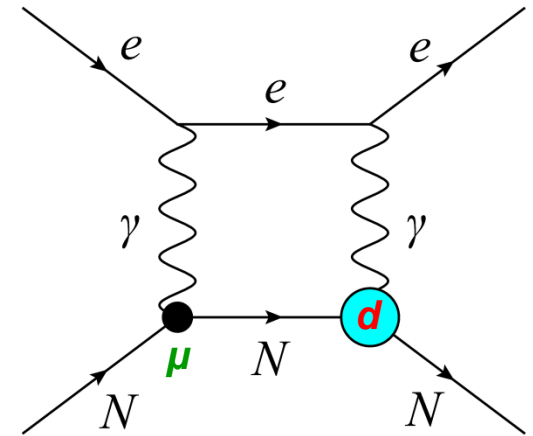
**CP-odd nucleon  
polarisabilities** ( $\propto E \cdot B$ )

**NLO:**  $\mathcal{O}(m_\pi^{-1})$



**CP-odd nucleon  
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**$\mu - d$ :**  $\mathcal{O}[\ln(A)/p_F]$   
[Fermi-gas model]



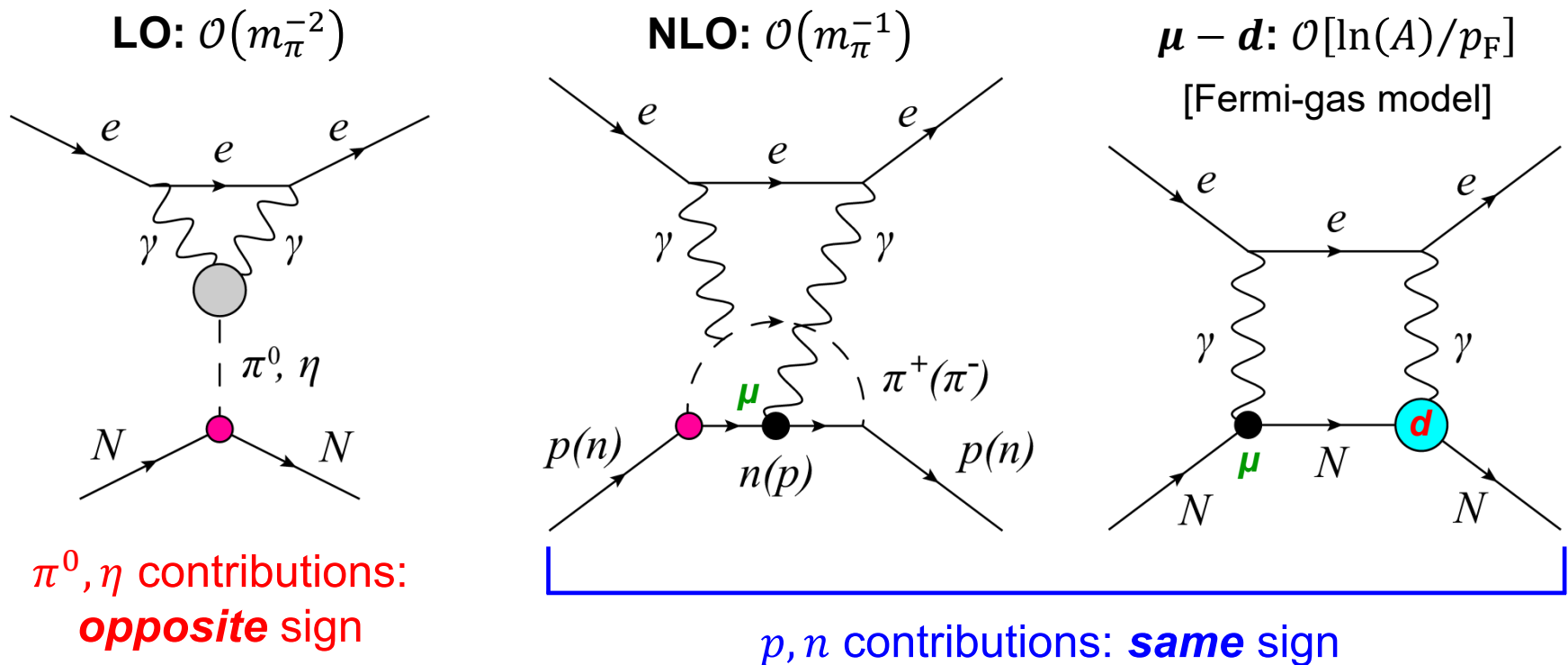
**Internal nuclear  
excitations**

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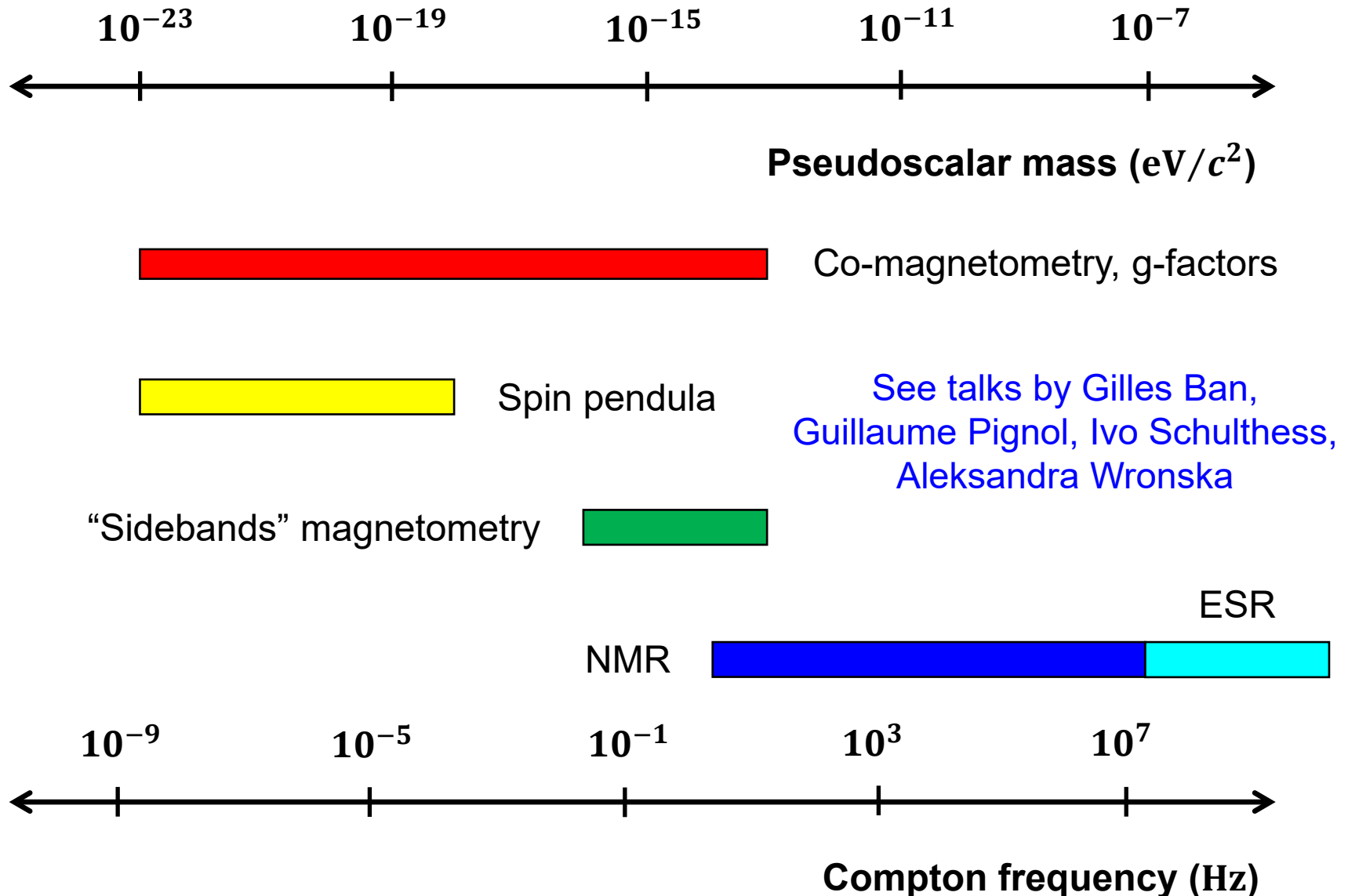
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For  $Z \sim 80$  &  $A \sim 200$ :  $C_{\text{SP}}(\theta) \approx [0.1_{\text{LO}} + 1.0_{\text{NLO}} + 1.7_{(\mu-d)}] \times 10^{-2} \theta \approx 0.03\theta$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{contact}} = -G_F C_{\text{SP}} \bar{N} N \bar{e} i \gamma_5 e / \sqrt{2}, \quad \theta \leftrightarrow C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t) / f_a$$

# Probes of Time-Varying EDMs and Spin-Precession Effects





Broadband Searches,  $a\bar{N}N/aG\tilde{G}/a\bar{e}e$ ,  $10^{-23}\text{eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-16}\text{eV}$

**Proposals:** [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013;  
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Lorentz-invariance-violation-type searches:  
Magnetometers, cold/ultracold particles, spin pendula

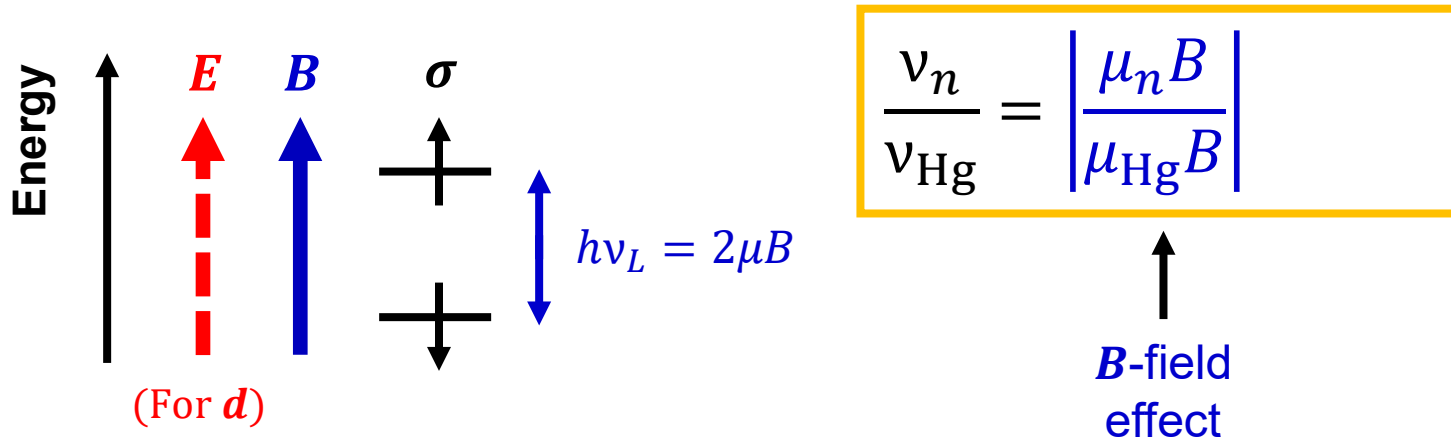
***Similar to previous searches for  
Lorentz-invariance violation  
using spin-polarised sources***

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**Experiment ( $n/\text{Hg}$ ):** [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

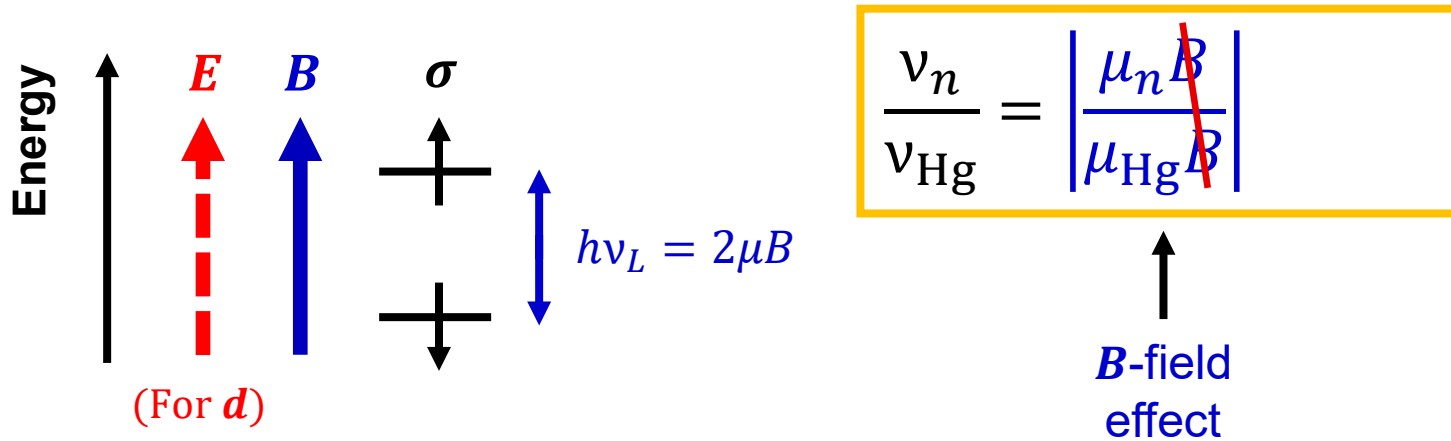


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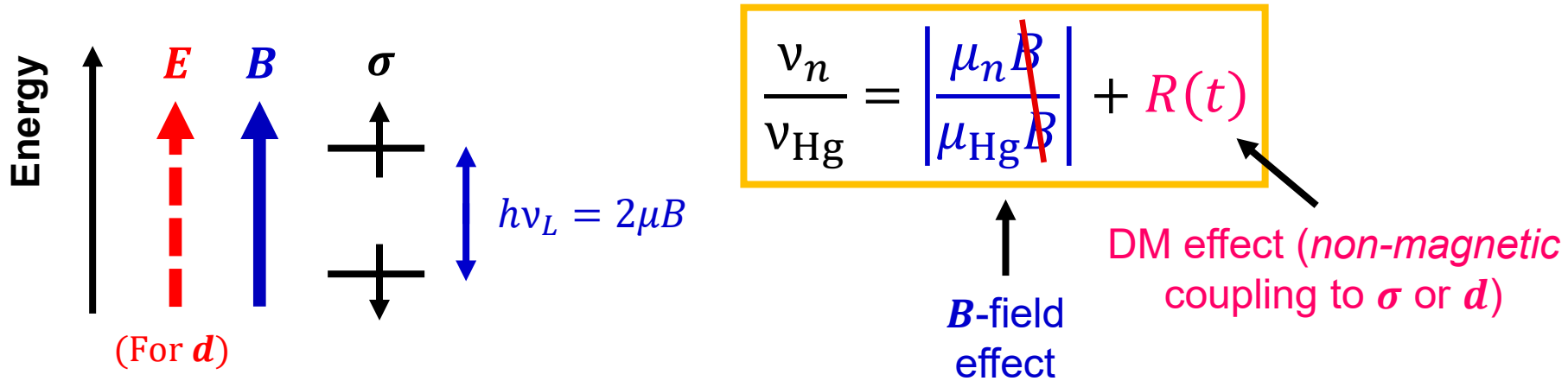


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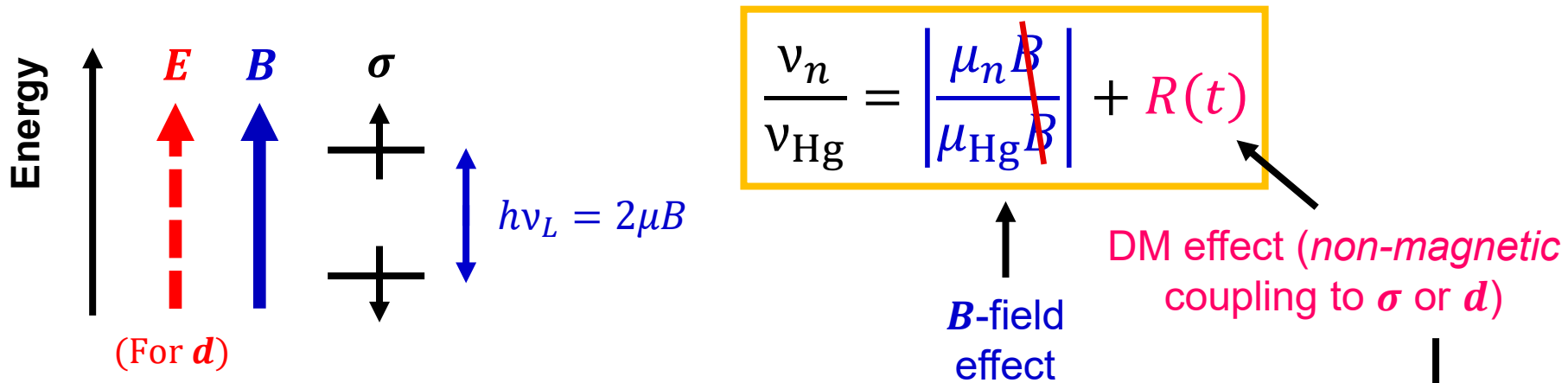


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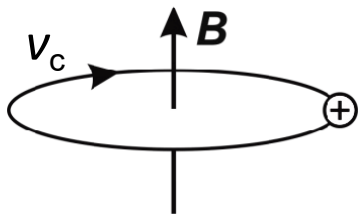
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**Proposal + Experiment ( $\bar{p}$ ):** [BASE collaboration, *Nature* **575**, 310 (2019)]



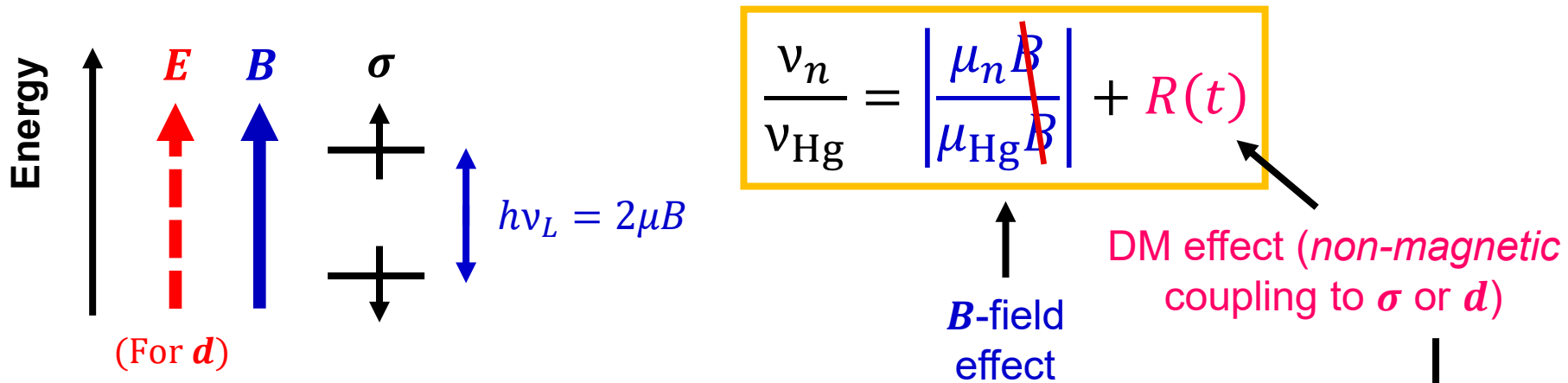
$$\left(\frac{\nu_L}{\nu_c}\right)_{\bar{p}} = \frac{|g_{\bar{p}}|}{2} + R(t)$$

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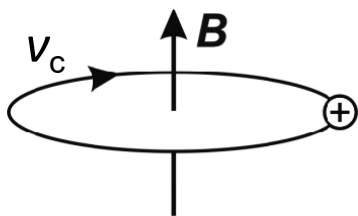
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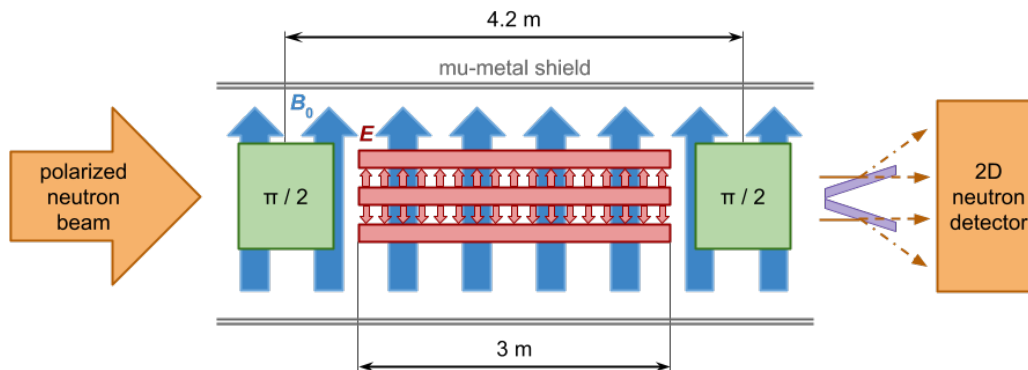
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← Antimatter probe!

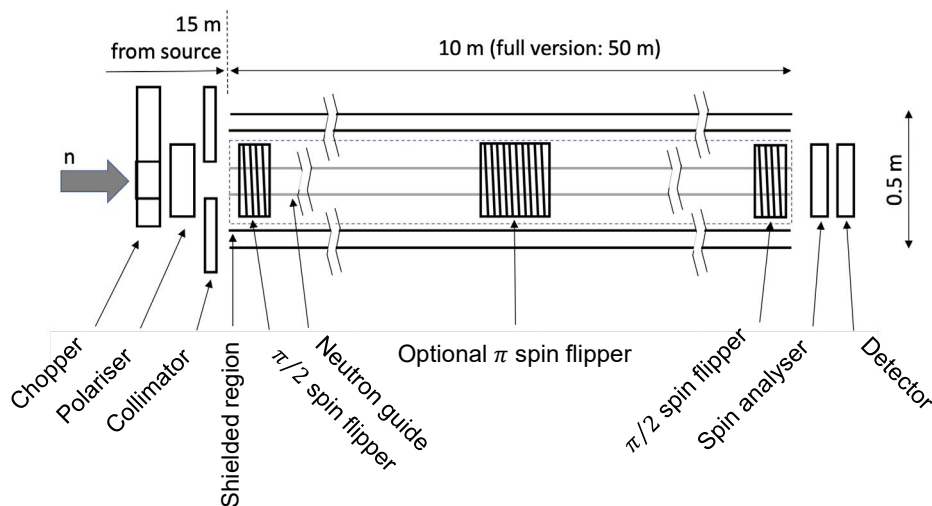
# Broadband Searches, $a\bar{n}n/aG\tilde{G}$ , $10^{-22}\text{eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-13}\text{eV}$

Besides stored or trapped particles, can also use particle beams:

Experiment ( $n$  beam): [Schulthess *et al.*, *PRL* **129**, 191801 (2022)]



Proposal at ESS ( $n$  beam): [Fierlinger, Holl, Milstead, Santoro, Snow, Stadnik, arXiv:2404.15521]

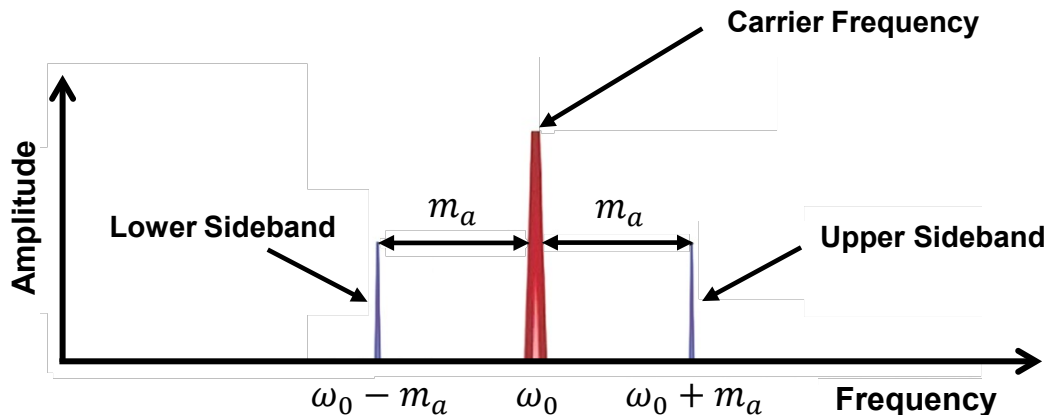


# Broadband Searches, $a\bar{N}N$ , $10^{-16}\text{eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-13}\text{eV}$

**Proposal:** [Garcon *et al.*, *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **3**, 014008 (2018)]

“Sidebands” magnetometry technique –

In the presence of a weak AC (pseudo)magnetic field, sideband features develop around the carrier frequency



**Experiment (Formic acid NMR):** [Garcon *et al.*, *Sci. Adv.* **5**, eaax4539 (2019)]

**Experiment (Hg):** [nEDM collaboration, *SciPost Phys.* **15**, 058 (2023)]



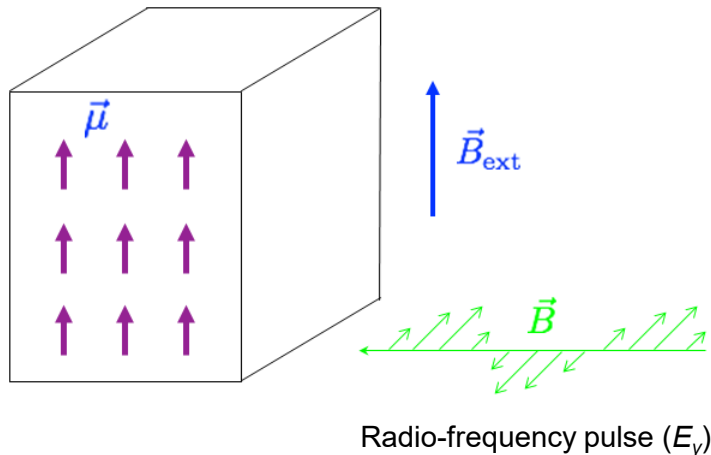
# Resonant Searches, $a\bar{N}N/aG\tilde{G}$ , $10^{-14}\text{eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-7}\text{eV}$

In resonant-type searches, the DM-induced signal may be enhanced by up to  $Q_{\text{DM}} \sim 10^6$

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[Bloch *et al.*, *Sci. Adv.* **8**, eabl8919 (2022)]

## Traditional NMR



$$\text{Resonance: } 2\mu B_{\text{ext}} = E_\gamma$$

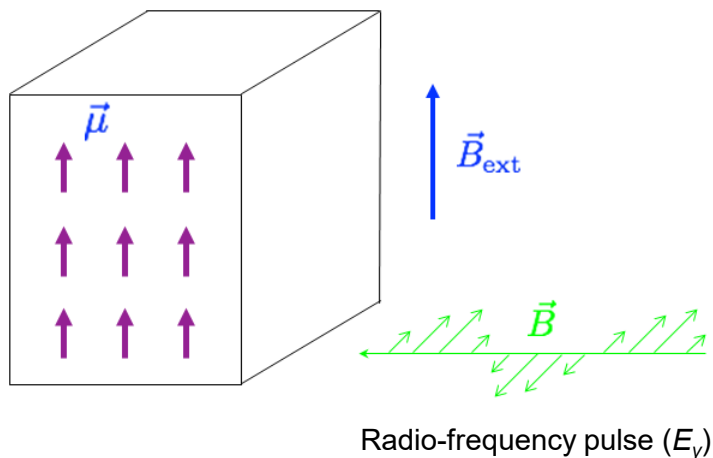
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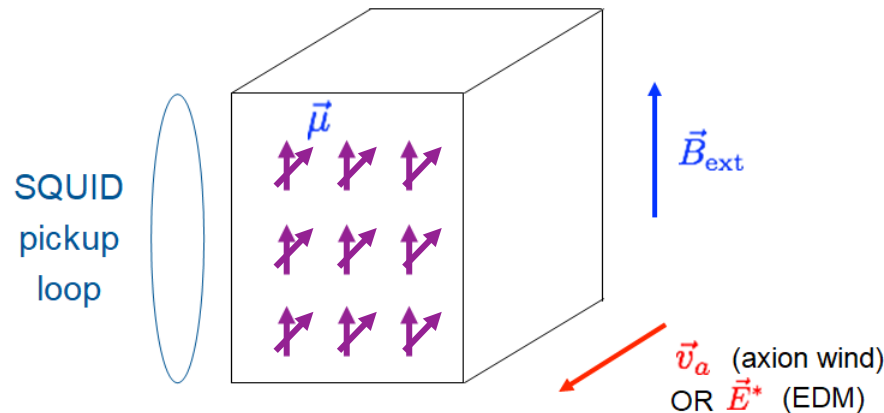
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## Traditional NMR



Resonance:  $2\mu B_{\text{ext}} = E_\gamma$

## Dark-matter-driven NMR



Resonance:  $2\mu B_{\text{ext}} \approx m_a$

Measure transverse magnetisation

# Second-Order, CP-Even Effects

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \theta G \tilde{G}, \quad \theta \leftrightarrow \frac{C_G}{f_a} a_0 \cos(m_a t)$$

$\theta$ -term may be absorbed into the quark mass matrix

$\Rightarrow$  Pion and nucleon masses depend on  $\theta^2$

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[Blum *et al.*, *PLB* **737**, 30 (2014)]

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$$m_\pi^2(\theta) = B \sqrt{m_u^2 + m_d^2 + 2m_u m_d \cos(\theta)}, \quad B = -\frac{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_0}{f_\pi^2} \approx 2 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left. \frac{\delta m_\pi}{m_\pi} \right|_{\theta \approx 0} \approx -\frac{m_u m_d}{4(m_u + m_d)^2} \theta^2$$

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[Kim, Perez, *PRD* **109**, 015005 (2024)]

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**Nuclear decay rates** [Zhang et al., *PRD* **108**, L071101 (2023)], [Broggini et al., *PLB* **855**, 138836 (2024)]

**BBN**  
[Blum et al., *PLB* **737**, 30 (2014)]

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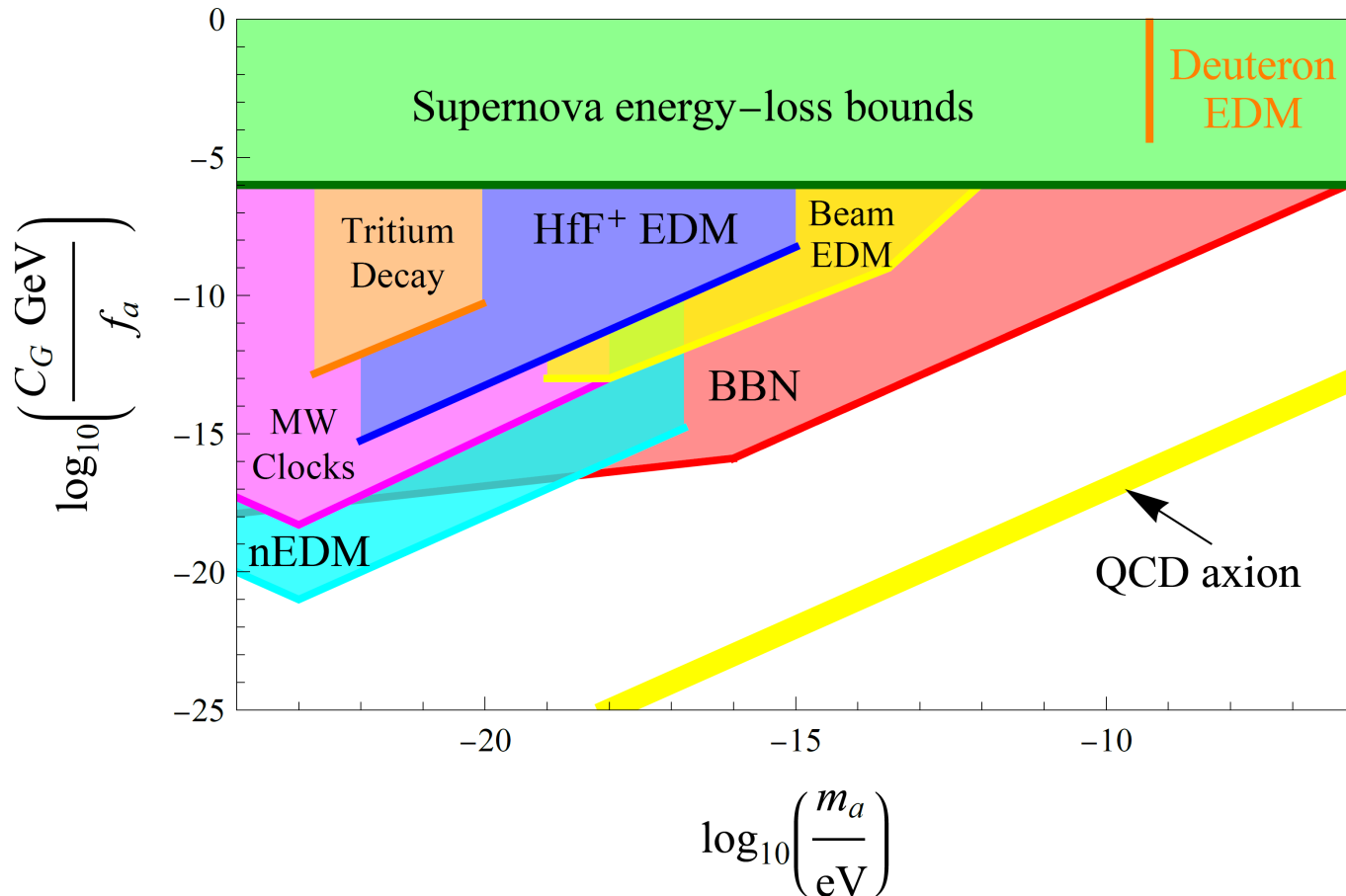
# Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Gluons

nEDM constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

HfF<sup>+</sup> EDM constraints: [Roussy *et al.*, *PRL* **126**, 171301 (2021)]

Beam EDM constraints: [Schulthess *et al.*, *PRL* **129**, 191801 (2022)]

Deuteron EDM constraints: [Karanth *et al.*, *PRX* **13**, 031004 (2023)]



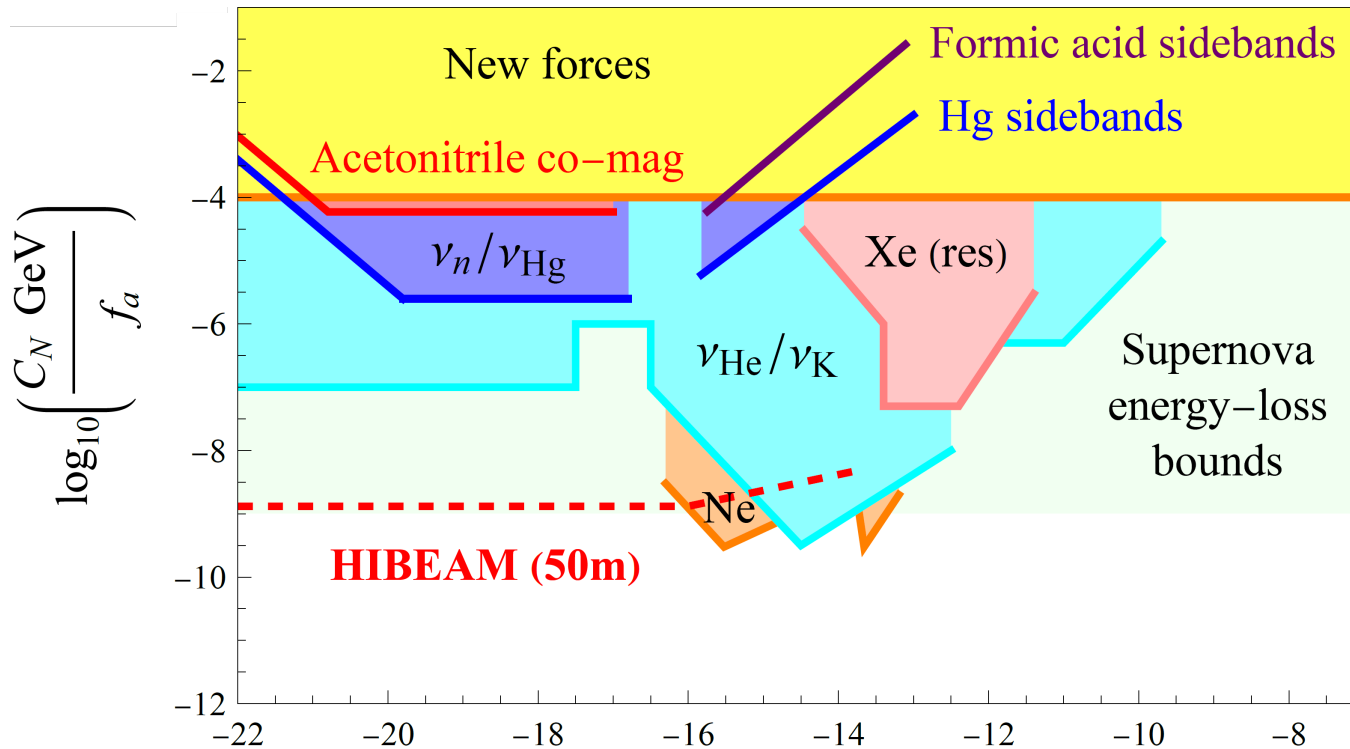
# Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Nucleons

$\nu_n/\nu_{\text{Hg}}$  constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

$\nu_{\text{He}}/\nu_{\text{K}}$  constraints: [Bloch *et al.*, *JHEP* **2020**, 167 (2020); *Nature Comm.* **14**, 5784 (2023)]

Xe (res) constraints: [Jiang *et al.*, *Nature Phys.* **17**, 1402 (2021)], [Bloch *et al.*, *Sci. Adv.* **8**, eabl8919 (2022)]

Hg sidebands constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *SciPost Phys.* **15**, 058 (2023)]



*Different nuclei generally have different relative contributions from proton and neutron spins*

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{m_a}{\text{eV}}\right)$$

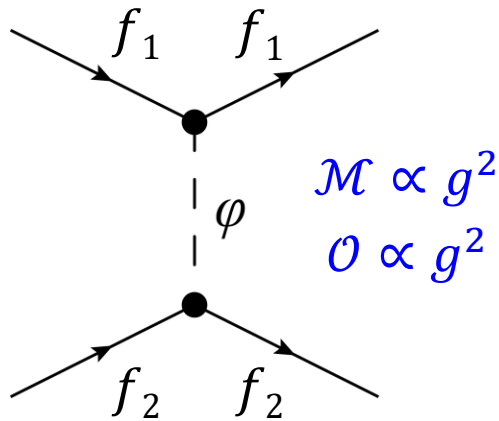
**HIBEAM projection:**  
[Fierlinger *et al.*, arXiv:2404.15521]

# Summary

- We have identified new signatures of axion(like) dark matter that have allowed us and other groups to improve the sensitivity to underlying interaction strengths compared with previous methods
- Novel approaches based on precision low-energy experiments (often “table-top” scale) searching for:
  - Time-varying electric dipole moments
  - Time-varying spin-precession effects
  - Varying fundamental “constants” of Nature

# Back-Up Slides

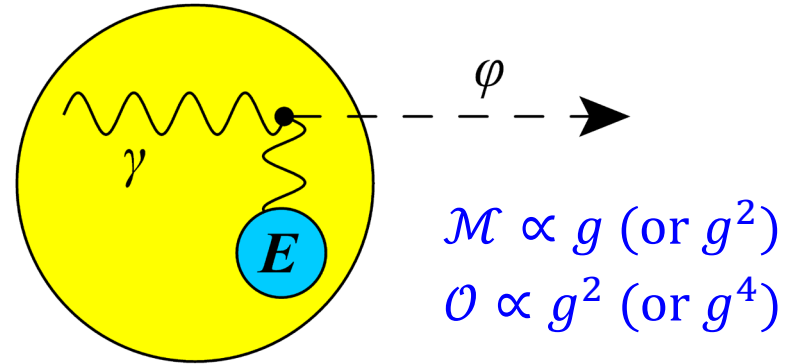
# Complementary Probes of Low-mass Scalars



$$\mathcal{M} \propto g^2$$

$$\mathcal{O} \propto g^2$$

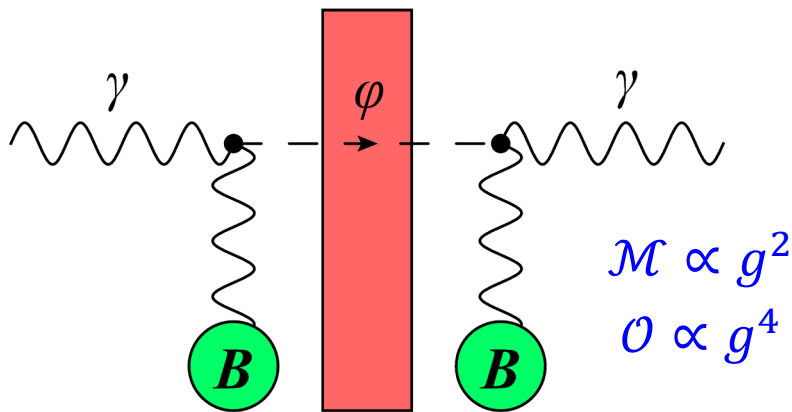
**New forces**



$$\mathcal{M} \propto g \text{ (or } g^2)$$

$$\mathcal{O} \propto g^2 \text{ (or } g^4)$$

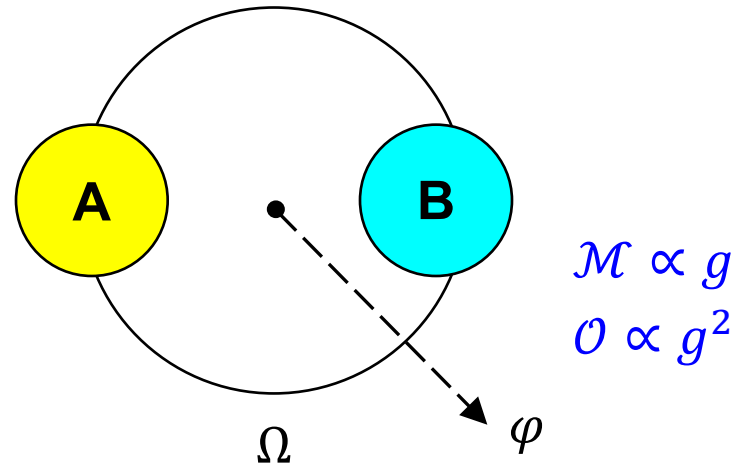
**Stellar emission**



$$\mathcal{M} \propto g^2$$

$$\mathcal{O} \propto g^4$$

**Interconversion with ordinary particles**

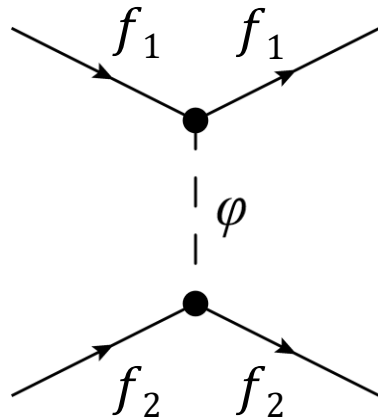


$$\mathcal{M} \propto g$$

$$\mathcal{O} \propto g^2$$

**Larmor radiation**

# Equivalence-Principle-Violating Forces



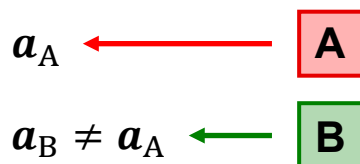
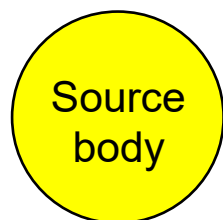
$$\mathcal{L}_f = -\frac{\varphi}{\Lambda_f} m_f \bar{f} f$$

$$\Rightarrow V_\varphi(r) = -\frac{m_1 m_2 e^{-m_\varphi r}}{\Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 4\pi r}$$

- Different mass-energy components of an atom generally scale differently with proton number  $Z$  and atomic number  $A = Z + N$ :

$$M_{\text{atom}} \approx (A - Z)m_n + Zm_p + Zm_e + 100Z(Z - 1)\alpha/A^{1/3} \text{ MeV} + \dots$$

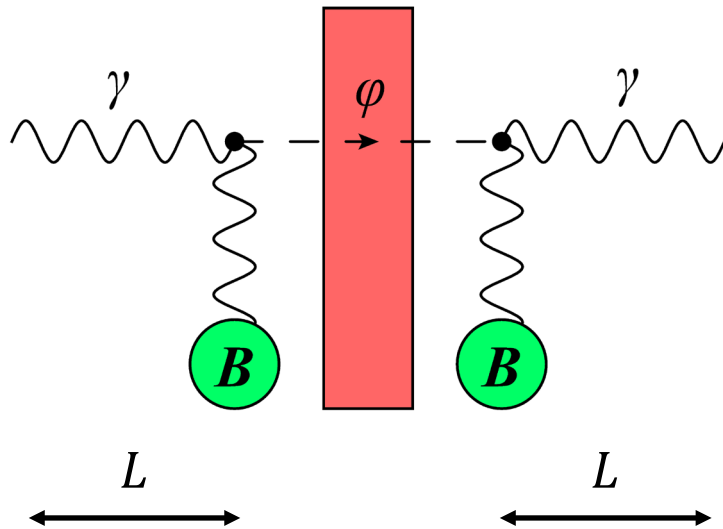
- Different atoms and isotopes would generally experience different accelerations, implying violation of the equivalence principle



$$\text{Eötvös ratio: } \eta_{AB} = 2 \frac{|a_A - a_B|}{|a_A + a_B|}$$

# Light-shining-through-a-wall Experiments

[ALPS Collaboration, *PLB* **689**, 149 (2010)], [OSQAR Collaboration, *PRD* **92**, 092002 (2015)]



$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \frac{\varphi}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow p_{\gamma \rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \gamma} = \left( \frac{B}{\Lambda_\gamma} \right)^4 \left[ \frac{1}{q} \sin \left( \frac{qL}{2} \right) \right]^4$$

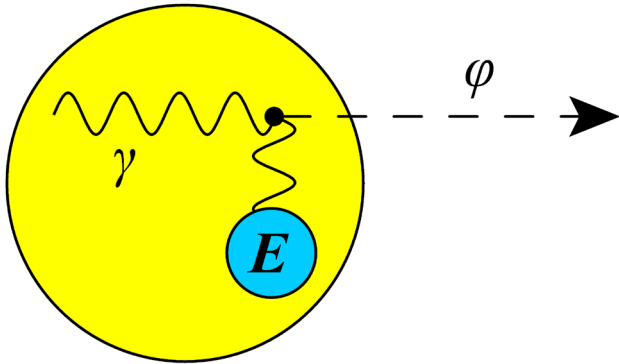
$q = |\mathbf{k}_\gamma - \mathbf{k}_\varphi|$  is the momentum transfer during interconversion

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} \propto \varphi F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \propto \varphi (\mathbf{B}^2 - \mathbf{E}^2) \Rightarrow \text{Need } \mathbf{E}_\gamma^{\text{lin}} \perp \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pseudoscalar}} \propto \varphi F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \propto \varphi \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \text{Need } \mathbf{E}_\gamma^{\text{lin}} \parallel \mathbf{B}$$

# Astrophysical Emission (Hot Media)

[Raffelt, *Phys. Rept.* **198**, 1 (1990)]

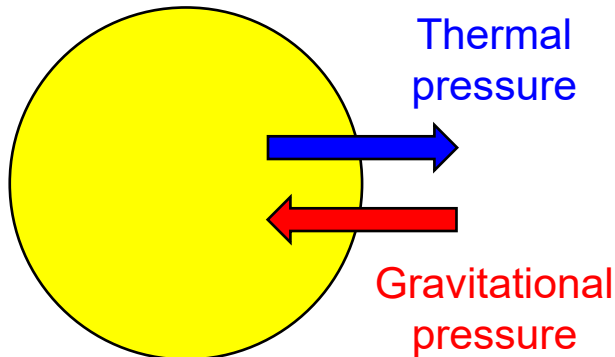


$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \frac{\varphi}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \Rightarrow \varepsilon_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \varphi} \sim \frac{T^7}{\Lambda_\gamma^2}$$

Emission possible for  $m_\varphi \lesssim \mathcal{O}(T)$

**Primakoff-type conversion**

Excessive energy loss via additional channels would contradict stellar models and observations



Increased heating in active stars (e.g., Sun and main sequence stars, HB stars, red giants)

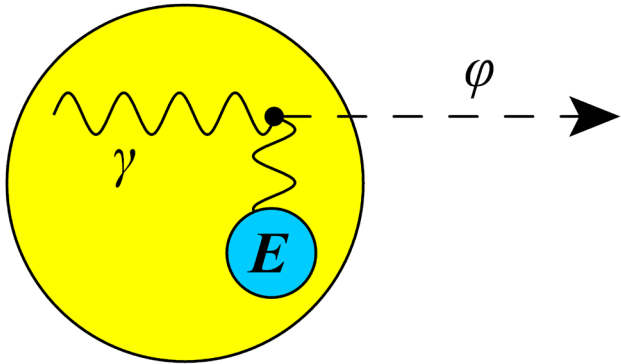
$$\langle E_{\text{mech}} \rangle = \langle E_{\text{kin}} \rangle + \langle E_{\text{grav}} \rangle = \langle E_{\text{grav}} \rangle / 2 < 0$$

$$\langle E_{\text{mech}} \rangle \downarrow \Rightarrow -\langle E_{\text{grav}} \rangle / 2 = \langle E_{\text{kin}} \rangle \uparrow$$



# Astrophysical Emission (Hot Media)

[Raffelt, *Phys. Rept.* **198**, 1 (1990)]

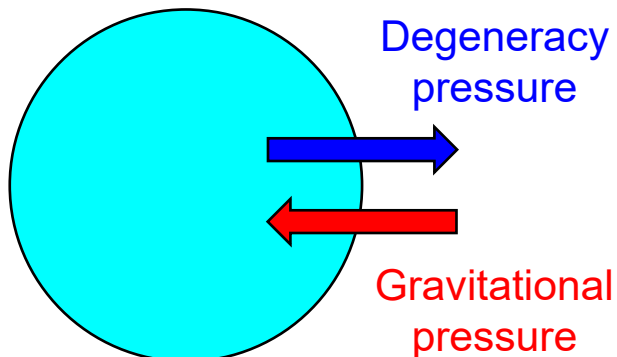


$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \frac{\phi}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \Rightarrow \epsilon_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \phi} \sim \frac{T^7}{\Lambda_\gamma^2}$$

Emission possible for  $m_\phi \lesssim \mathcal{O}(T)$

**Primakoff-type conversion**

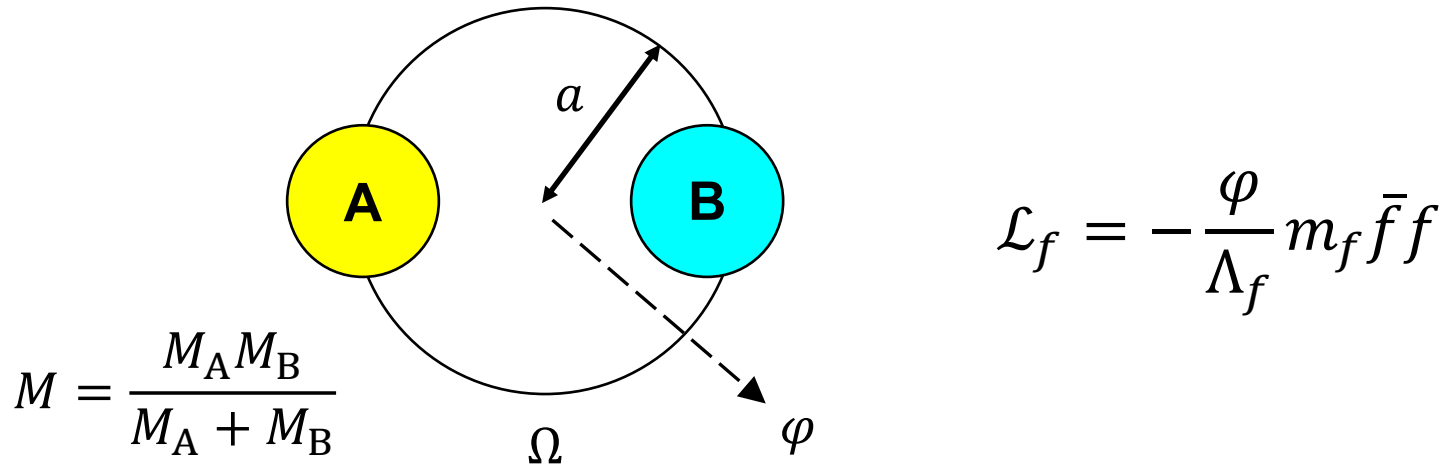
Excessive energy loss via additional channels would contradict stellar models and observations



Increased cooling in dead stars (e.g., white dwarves, neutron stars)

# Astrophysical Emission (Compact Binaries)

[Kumar Poddar *et al.*, *PRD* **100**, 123923 (2019)], [Dror *et al.*, *PRD* **102**, 023005 (2020)]



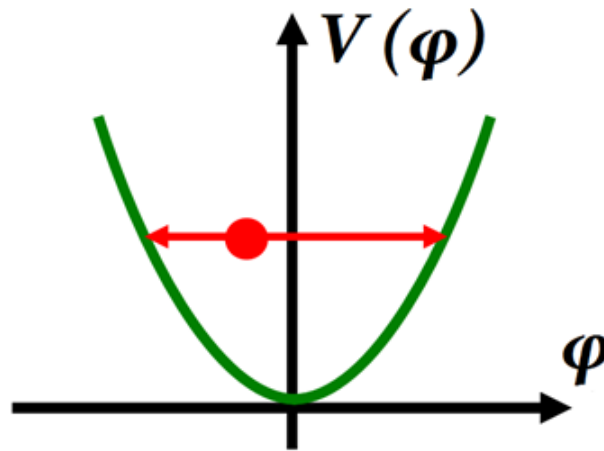
- Scalar Larmor radiation possible if  $m_\varphi < \Omega$  (higher-order modes also possible for an elliptical orbit if  $m_\varphi < n\Omega$ ,  $n = 2, 3, \dots$ ):

$$\frac{dE_\varphi}{dt} \sim \left(\frac{m_f}{\Lambda_f}\right)^2 (aM)^2 \Omega^4 \left(\frac{Q_A}{M_A} - \frac{Q_B}{M_B}\right)^2, \text{ for } \Omega a \ll 1$$

- Dipole nature requires  $Q_A/M_A \neq Q_B/M_B$ , which is readily satisfied, e.g., for neutron-star/white-dwarf binary systems in the case of  $f = n, e, \mu$

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

- Low-mass spin-0 particles form a coherently oscillating classical field  $\varphi(t) \approx \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi c^2 t / \hbar)$ , with energy density  $\rho_\varphi \approx m_\varphi^2 \varphi_0^2 / 2$  ( $\rho_{\text{DM,local}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$ )

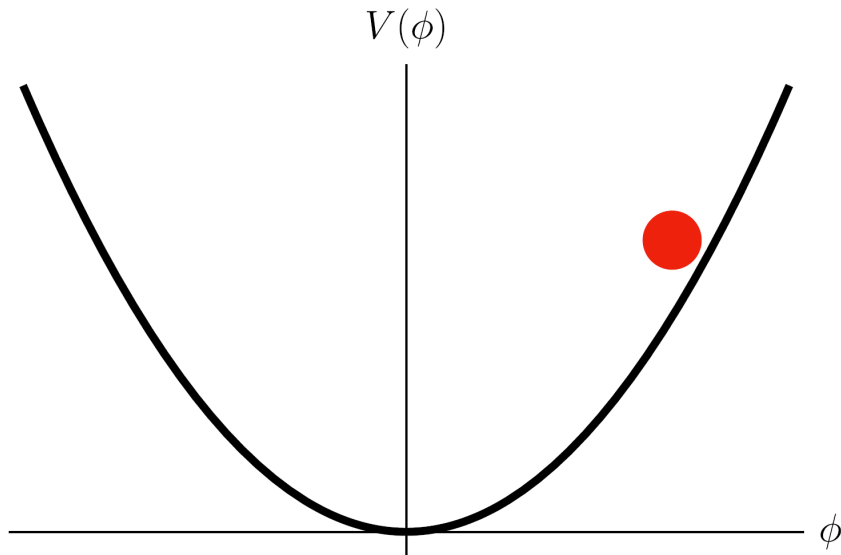


$$V(\varphi) = \frac{m_\varphi^2 \varphi^2}{2}$$

$$\ddot{\varphi} + m_\varphi^2 \varphi \approx 0$$

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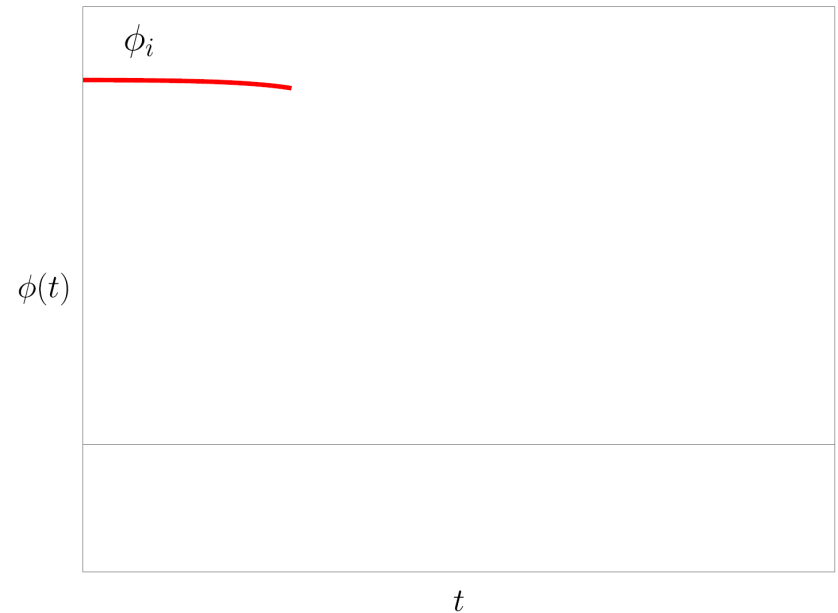
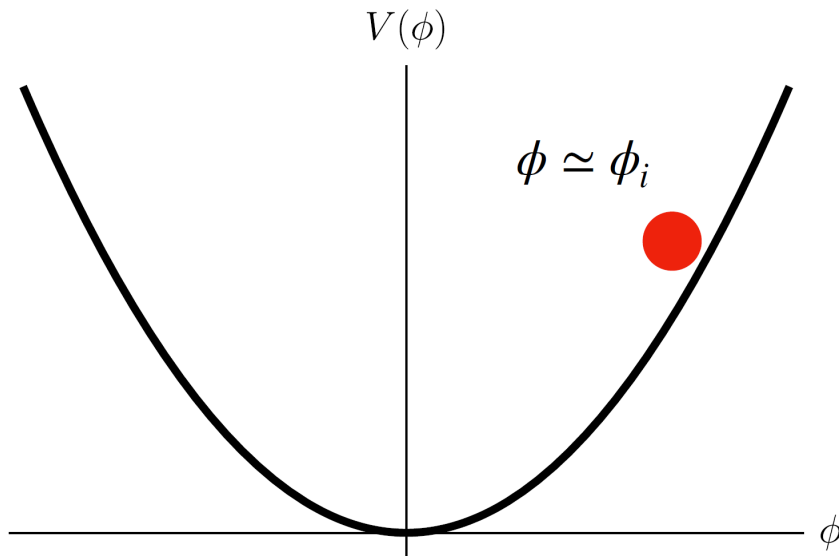


$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H(t)\dot{\phi} + m_\varphi^2\phi \approx 0 \quad \leftarrow$$
$$H(t) = \dot{a}(t)/a(t)$$

Damped harmonic oscillator with a  
time-dependent frictional term  
( $H$  = Hubble parameter,  $a$  = scale factor)

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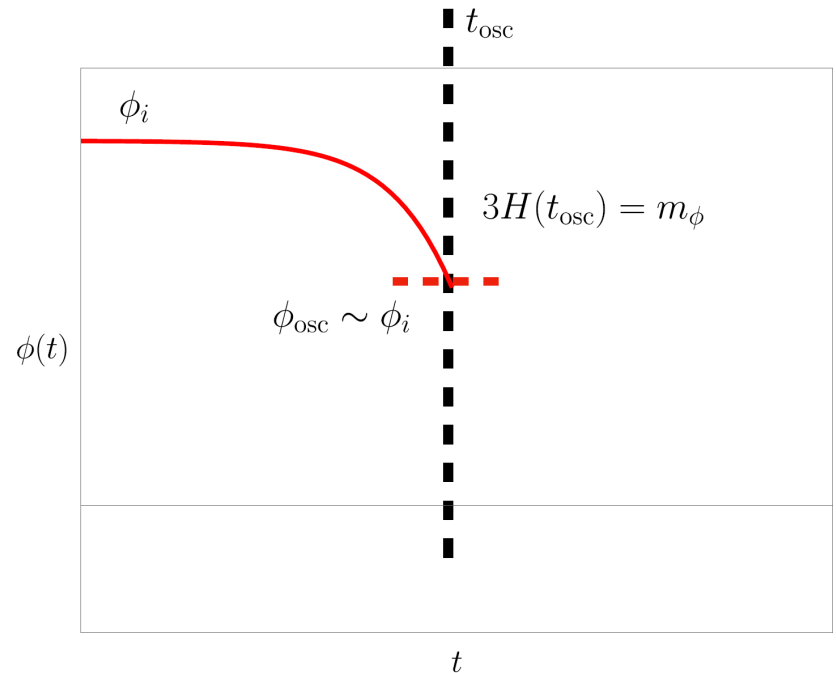
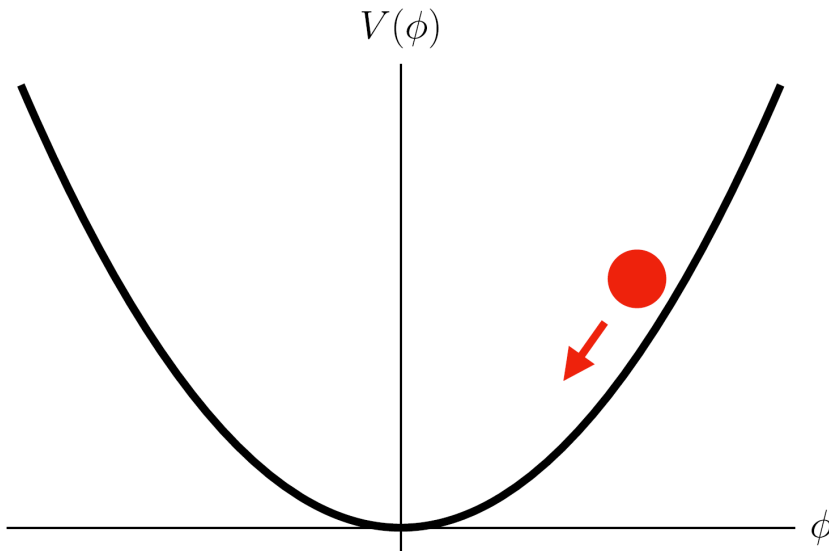
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$$m_\varphi \ll 3H(t) \sim 1/t$$

**Overdamped regime**

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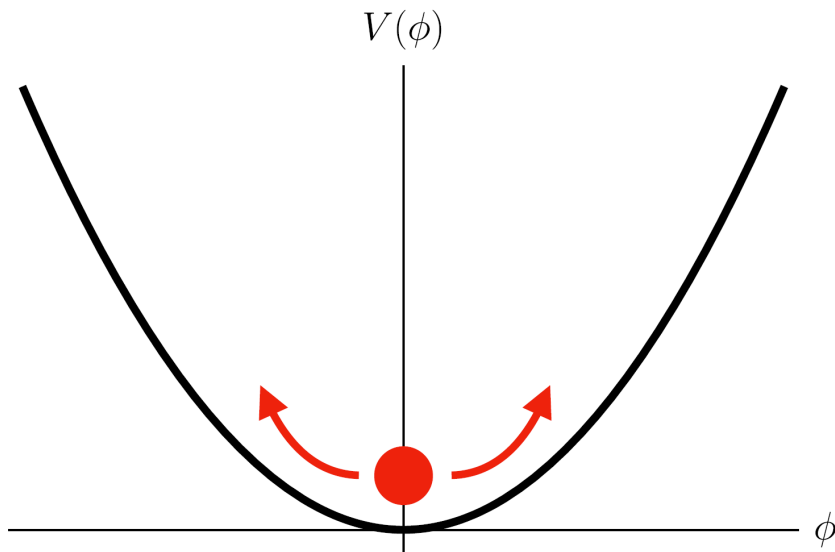
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Critically damped regime

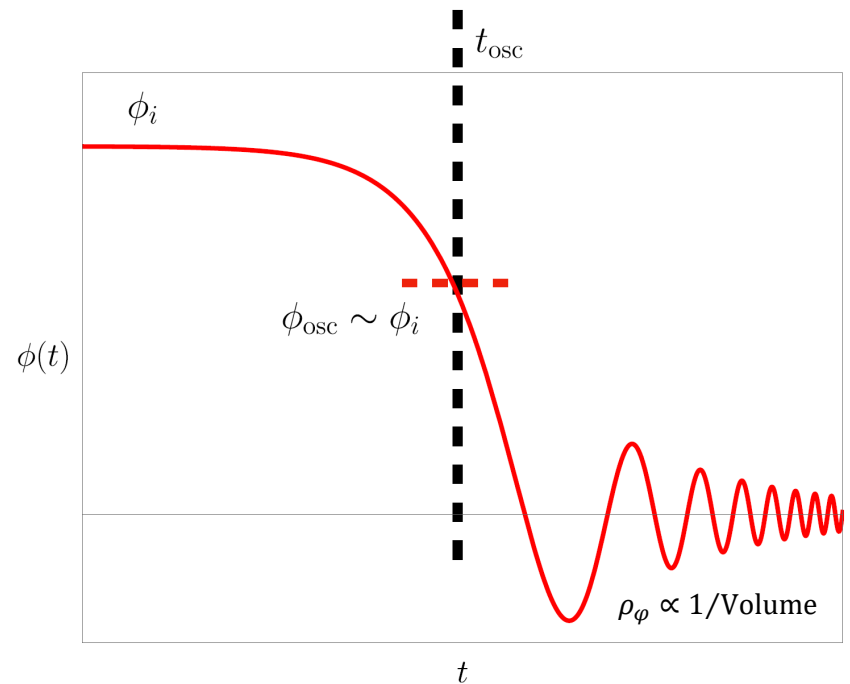
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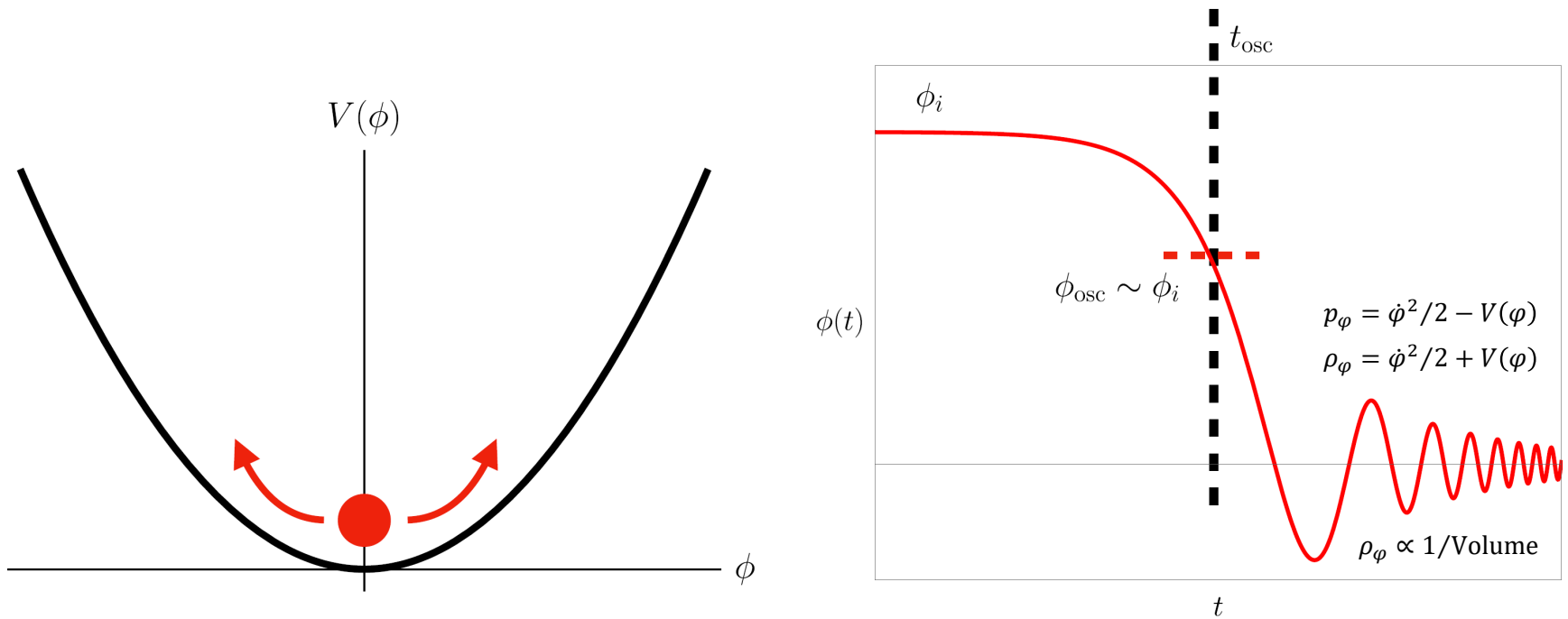
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**Underdamped regime**

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$$\ddot{\varphi} + 3H(t)\dot{\varphi} + m_\varphi^2 \varphi \approx 0$$

$$m_\varphi \gg 3H(t) \sim 1/t$$

“Vacuum misalignment” mechanism – non-thermal production,  $\rho_\varphi$  governed by initial conditions ( $\varphi_i$ ), redshifts as  $\rho_\varphi \propto 1/\text{Volume}$ , with  $\langle p_\varphi \rangle \ll \rho_\varphi$



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- *Coherently* oscillating field, since *cold* ( $E_\varphi \approx m_\varphi c^2$ )

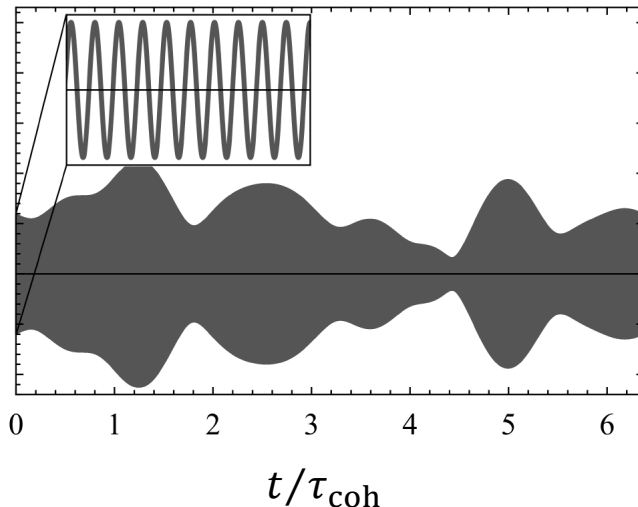
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- *Coherently* oscillating field, since *cold* ( $E_\varphi \approx m_\varphi c^2$ )
- $\Delta E_\varphi / E_\varphi \sim \langle v_\varphi^2 \rangle / c^2 \sim 10^{-6} \Rightarrow \tau_{\text{coh}} \sim 2\pi / \Delta E_\varphi \sim 10^6 T_{\text{osc}}$   
 $v_{\text{DM}} \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$   $Q_{\text{DM}} \sim 10^6$

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- $\Delta E_\varphi / E_\varphi \sim \langle v_\varphi^2 \rangle / c^2 \sim 10^{-6} \Rightarrow \tau_{\text{coh}} \sim 2\pi / \Delta E_\varphi \sim 10^6 T_{\text{osc}}$

Evolution of  $\varphi_0$  with time



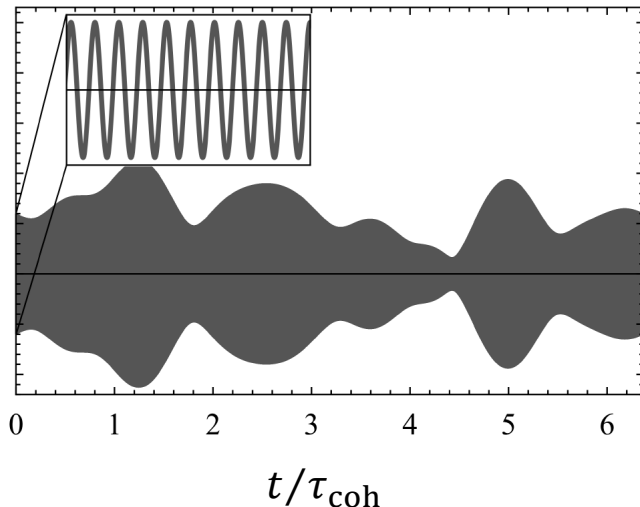
$$\varphi(t) \sim \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\varphi_0}{\sqrt{N}} \cos\left(m_\varphi t + \frac{m_\varphi v_i^2 t}{2} + \theta_i\right)$$

$v_i$  follow quasi-Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution  
(in the standard halo model)

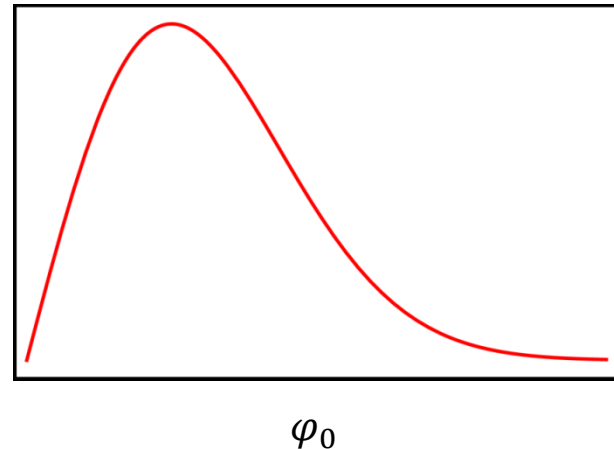
# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

- Low-mass spin-0 particles form a coherently oscillating classical field  $\varphi(t) \approx \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi c^2 t / \hbar)$ , with energy density  $\rho_\varphi \approx m_\varphi^2 \varphi_0^2 / 2$  ( $\rho_{\text{DM,local}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$ )
- *Coherently* oscillating field, since *cold* ( $E_\varphi \approx m_\varphi c^2$ )
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Evolution of  $\varphi_0$  with time



Probability distribution function of  $\varphi_0$   
(Rayleigh distribution)



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- *Classical* field for  $m_\varphi \lesssim 1 \text{ eV}$ , since  $n_\varphi (\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi} / 2\pi)^3 \gg 1$

\* Pauli exclusion principle rules out sub-eV *fermionic* dark matter

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- **Classical field for  $m_\varphi \lesssim 1 \text{ eV}$** , since  $n_\varphi (\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi} / 2\pi)^3 \gg 1$
- $10^{-21} \text{ eV} \lesssim m_\varphi \lesssim 1 \text{ eV} \Leftrightarrow 10^{-7} \text{ Hz} \lesssim f_{\text{DM}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$   
 $T_{\text{osc}} \sim 1 \text{ month}$  **IR frequencies**



Lyman- $\alpha$  forest measurements [suppression of structures for  $L \lesssim \mathcal{O}(\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi})$ ]

[Related figure-of-merit:  $\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi} / 2\pi \leq L_{\text{dwarf galaxy}} \sim 100 \text{ pc} \Rightarrow m_\varphi \gtrsim 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$ ]

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Lyman- $\alpha$  forest measurements [suppression of structures for  $L \lesssim \mathcal{O}(\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi})$ ]

- **Wave-like signatures** [cf. *particle-like* signatures of WIMP DM]

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**

**Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):**

$$a \xrightarrow{P} -a$$

**Scalars  
(Dilatons):**

$$\varphi^n \xrightarrow{P} \varphi^n, n = 1, 2$$

**Time-varying EDMs and  
spin-precession effects**

- Co-magnetometers
  - Particle  $g$ -factors
- Spin-polarised torsion pendula
- Spin resonance (NMR, ESR)

**Spatio-temporal variations  
of “constants”**

- Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)
- Cavities and interferometers
- Torsion pendula (accelerometers)
  - Astrophysics (e.g., BBN)



# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

Dark Matter

Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):

$$^P \\ a \rightarrow -a$$

QCD axion resolves  
strong CP problem

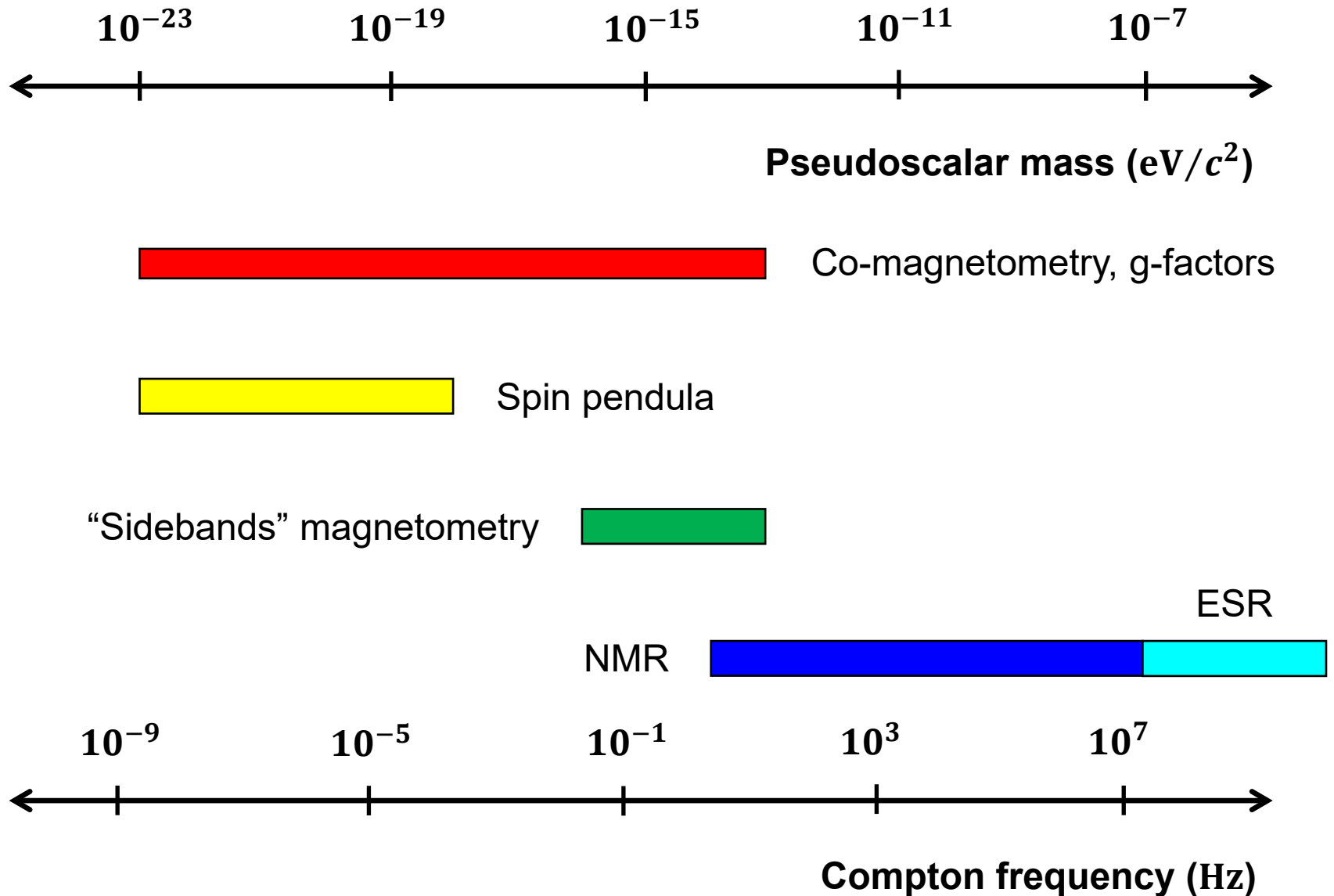
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*More traditional axion dark matter  
detection methods tend to focus on the  
electromagnetic coupling*

*Here I focus on relatively new  
detection methods based on  
**non-electromagnetic couplings**  
leading to spin-based signatures*

# Probes of Time-Varying EDMs and Spin-Precession Effects



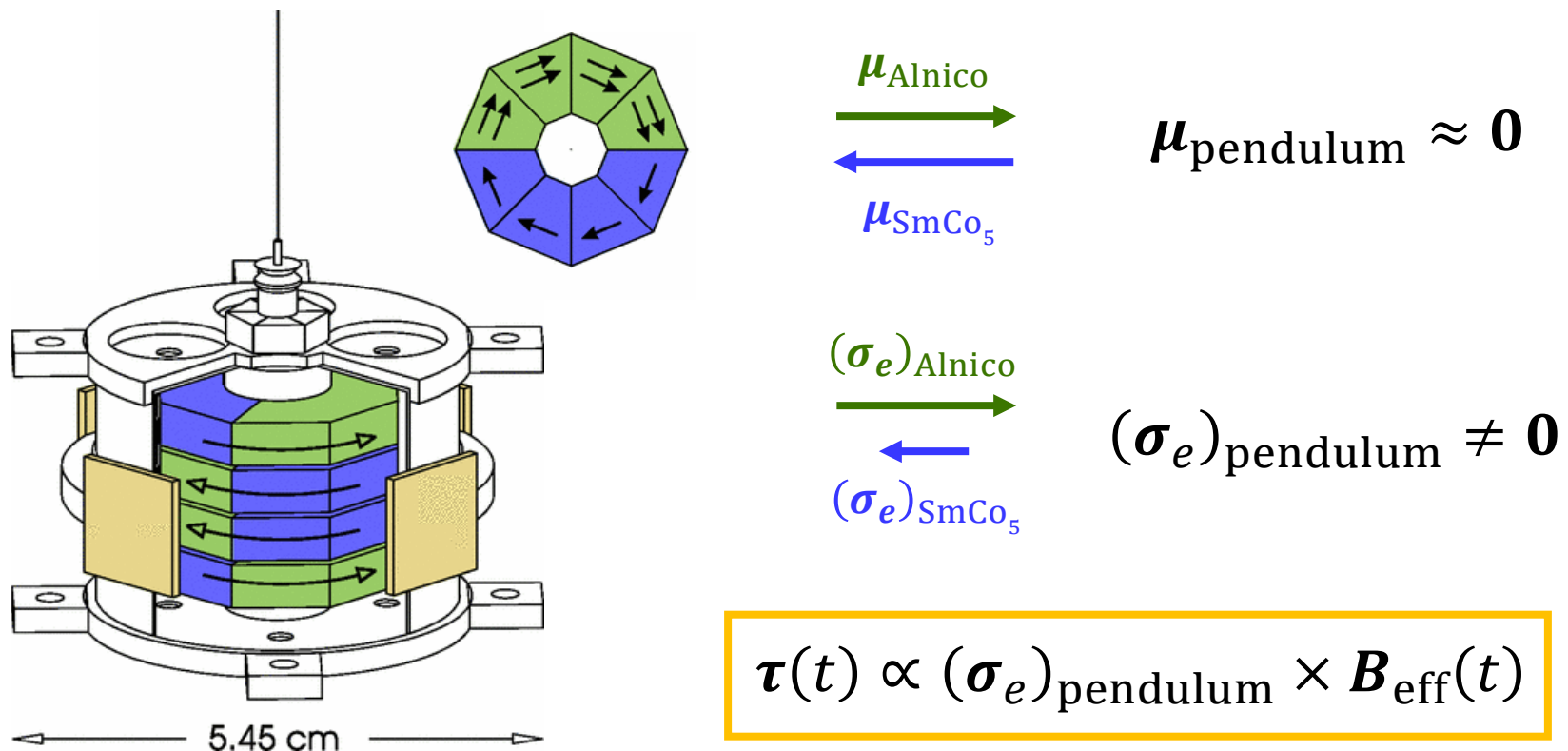
# Broadband Searches, $a\bar{e}e$ , $10^{-23} \text{ eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$

**Proposals:** [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013;  
Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014); Stadnik, thesis (Springer, 2017)]

Lorentz-invariance-violation-type searches:

Magnetometers, cold/ultracold particles, spin pendula

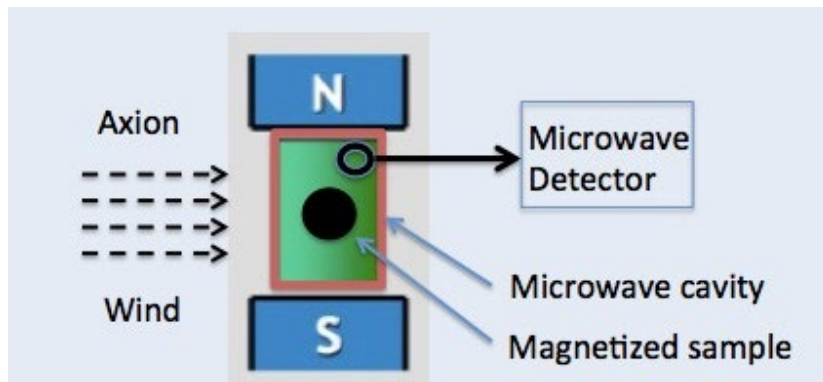
**Experiment (Alnico/SmCo<sub>5</sub>):** [Terrano *et al.*, *PRL* **122**, 231301 (2019)]



# Resonant Searches, $a\bar{e}e$ , $10^{-7} \text{ eV} \leq m_a \leq 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$

In resonant-type searches, the DM-induced signal may be enhanced by up to  $Q_{\text{DM}} \sim 10^6$

**Proposals (ESR):** [Krauss, Moody, Wilczek, Morris, HUTP-85/A006 (1985)], [Raffelt, MPI-PAE/PTH 86/85 (1985)], [Barbieri, Cerdonio, Fiorentini, Vitale, *PLB* **226**, 357 (1989)], [Caspers, Semertzidis, *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cosmic Axions*, 1990], [Kakhidze, Kolokolov, *Sov. Phys. JETP* **72**, 598 (1991); Vorob'ev, Kakhidze, Kolokolov, *Phys. Atom. Nuclei* **58**, 959 (1995)], [Barbieri *et al.*, *Phys. Dark Universe* **15**, 135 (2017)]



$$\text{Resonance: } 2\mu B_{\text{ext}} \approx E_{\text{res,cav}} \approx E_{\pm} \approx m_a$$

Measure photons resulting from  
axion-to-polariton conversion  
(hybridised cavity-magnon mode)

- **YIG [INFN]:** [Crescini *et al.*, *EPJ C* **78**, 703 (2018); *PRL* **124**, 171801 (2020)]
- **YIG [UWA]:** [Flower, Bourhill, Goryachev, Tobar, *Phys. Dark Universe* **25**, 100306 (2019)]

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**



**Scalars**

**(Dilatons):**

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**Spatio-temporal variations  
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- Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)
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# Dark-Matter-Induced Variations of the Fundamental Constants

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)],

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$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \frac{\varphi}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \approx \frac{\varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t)}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \Rightarrow \frac{\delta\alpha}{\alpha} \approx \frac{\varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t)}{\Lambda_\gamma}$$

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$\varphi^2$  interactions also exhibit the same oscillating-in-time signatures as above (except at frequency  $2m_\varphi$ ), as well as ...

\*  $\varphi^2$  interactions may arise in models with a  $Z_2$  symmetry ( $\varphi \rightarrow -\varphi$ )



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⇓

Screening of  $\varphi$  field in and around matter if  $\delta m_\varphi > 0$

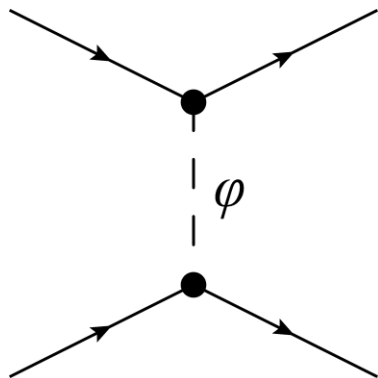
# Fifth Forces: Linear vs Quadratic Couplings

[Hees, Minazzoli, Savalle, Stadnik, Wolf, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

Consider the effect of a massive body (e.g., Earth) on the scalar DM field

## Linear couplings ( $\varphi\bar{X}X$ )

$$\square\varphi + m_\varphi^2\varphi = \pm\kappa\rho \quad \text{Source term}$$



$$\varphi = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t) \pm A \frac{e^{-m_\varphi r}}{r}$$



Profile outside of a spherical body

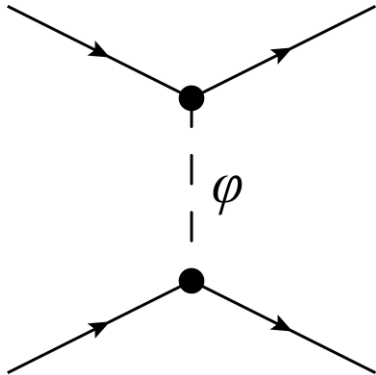
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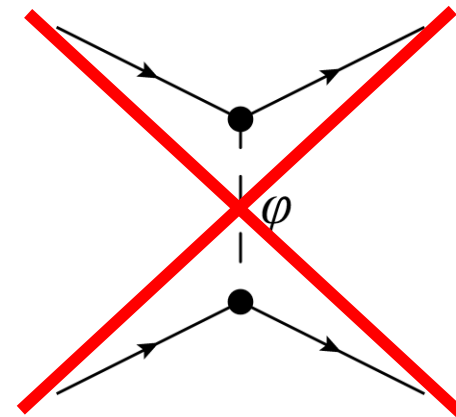
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**Quadratic couplings ( $\varphi^2\bar{X}X$ )**

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$$m_{\text{eff}}^2(\rho) = m_\varphi^2 \mp \kappa'\rho$$

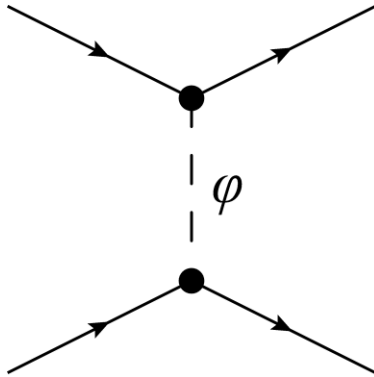
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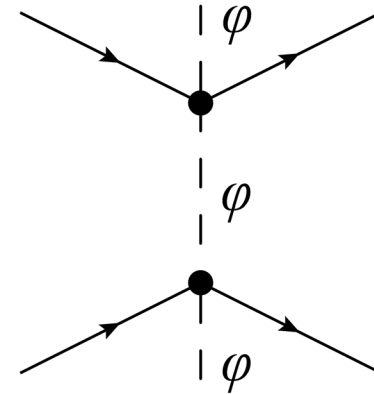


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↓  
**Gradients + amplification/screening**

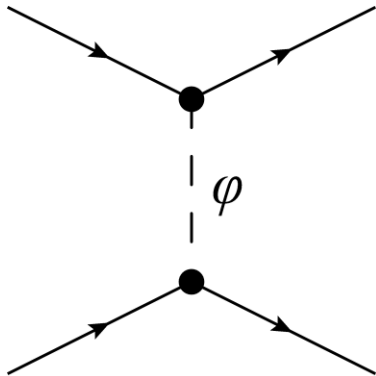
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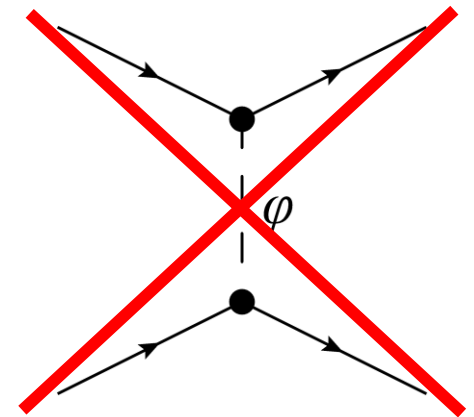
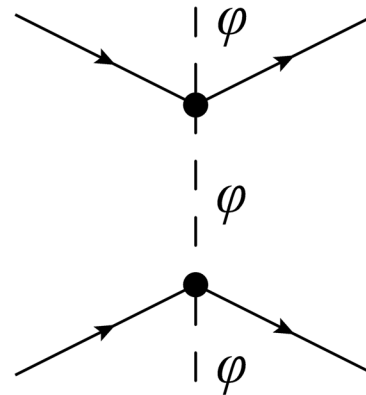


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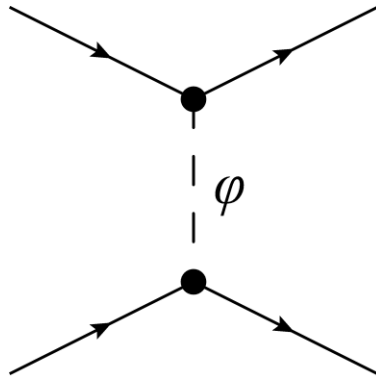
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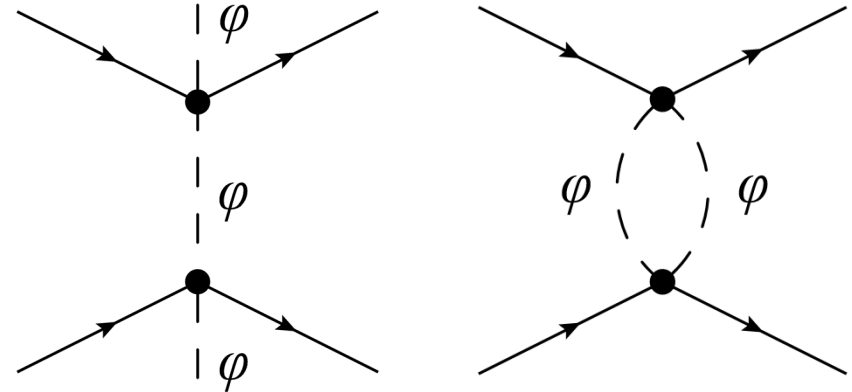


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↓  
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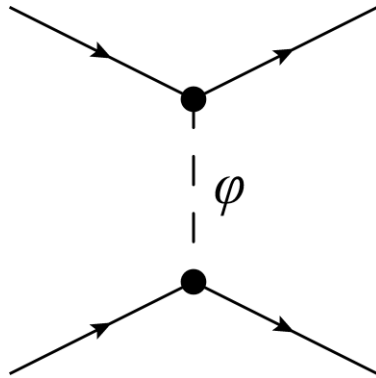
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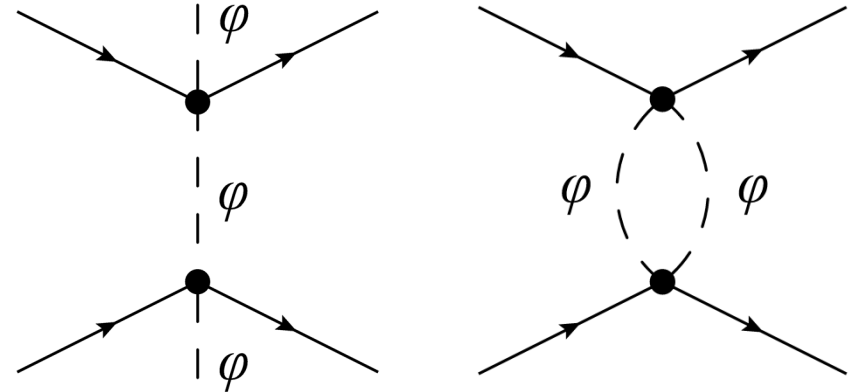


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**Motional gradients:**  $\varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t - \mathbf{p}_\varphi \cdot \mathbf{x})$

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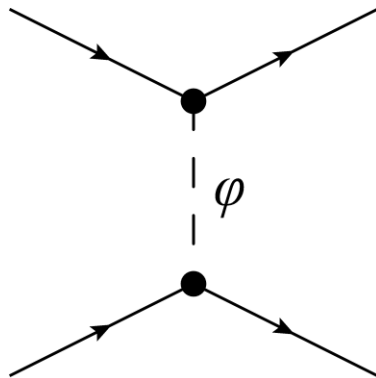
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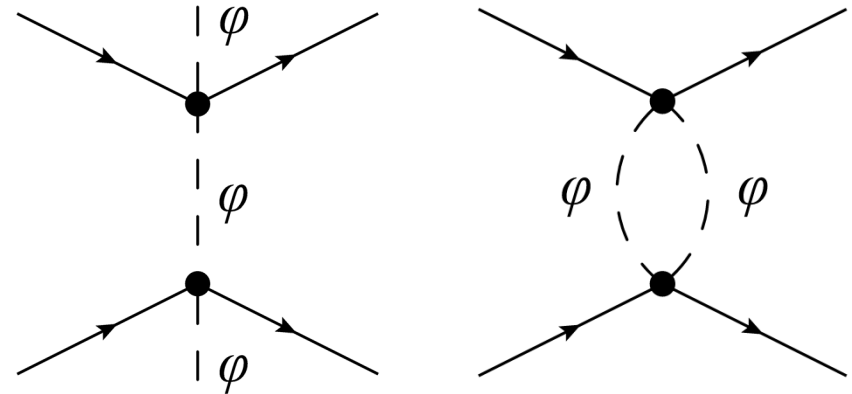
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“Fifth-force” experiments: torsion pendula, atom interferometry

**Quadratic couplings ( $\varphi^2\bar{X}X$ )**

$$\square\varphi + m_\varphi^2\varphi = \pm\kappa'\rho\varphi \quad \text{Effective mass}$$

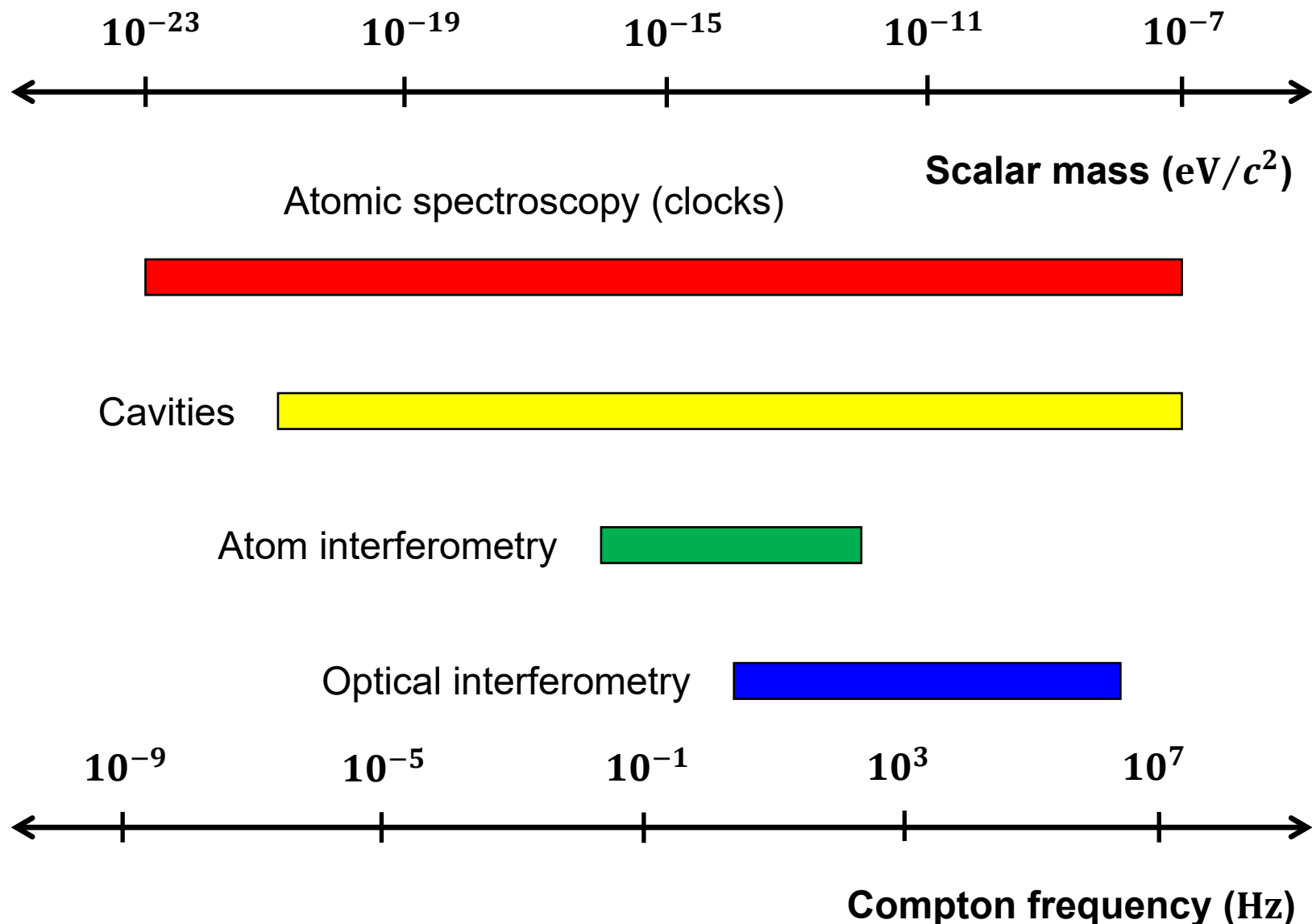


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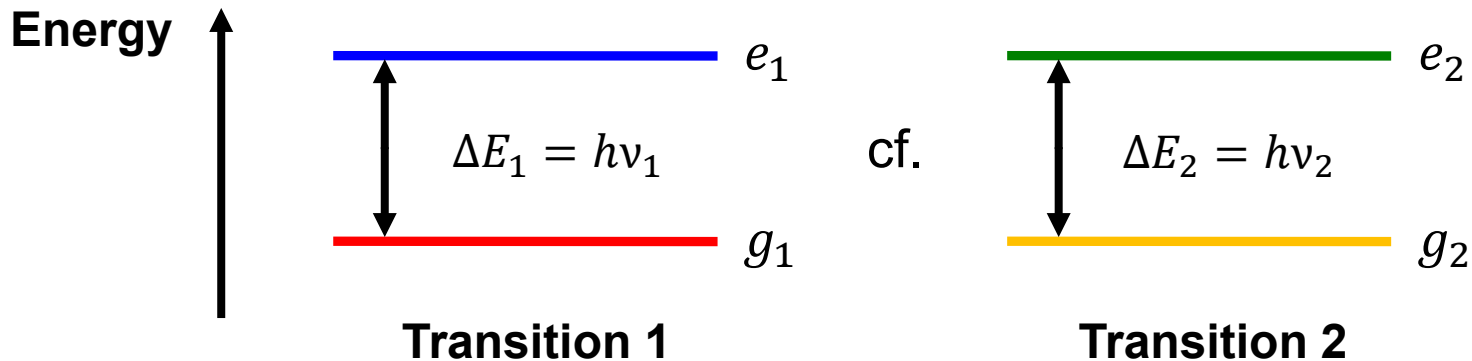


**Gradients + amplification/screening**

# Probes of Oscillating Fundamental Constants



# Atomic Spectroscopy Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter



$$\frac{\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2)}{\nu_1/\nu_2} = (K_{X,1} - K_{X,2}) \frac{\delta X}{X}; \quad X = \alpha, m_e/m_N, \dots$$

Atomic spectroscopy (including clocks) has been used for decades to search for “slow drifts” in fundamental constants

**Recent overview:** [Ludlow, Boyd, Ye, Peik, Schmidt, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **87**, 637 (2015)]

“Sensitivity coefficients”  $K_X$  required for the interpretation of experimental data have been calculated extensively by Flambaum group

**Reviews:** [Flambaum, Dzuba, *Can. J. Phys.* **87**, 25 (2009); *Hyperfine Interac.* **236**, 79 (2015)]

# Effects of Varying Fundamental Constants on Atomic Transitions

[Dzuba, Flambaum, Webb, *PRL* **82**, 888 (1999); *PRA* **59**, 230 (1999);  
Dzuba, Flambaum, Marchenko, *PRA* **68**, 022506 (2003); Angstmann, Dzuba, Flambaum,  
*PRA* **70**, 014102 (2004); Dzuba, Flambaum, *PRA* **77**, 012515 (2008)]

- Atomic optical transitions:

$$\nu_{\text{opt}} \propto \left( \frac{m_e e^4}{\hbar^3} \right) F_{\text{rel}}^{\text{opt}}(Z\alpha)$$

The diagram illustrates the components of the equation for the optical transition frequency. A red arrow points from the text 'Non-relativistic atomic unit of frequency' to the term  $\left( \frac{m_e e^4}{\hbar^3} \right)$  in the equation. A blue arrow points from the text 'Relativistic factor' to the term  $F_{\text{rel}}^{\text{opt}}(Z\alpha)$  in the equation.

Non-relativistic atomic unit of frequency

Relativistic factor

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$$\frac{\nu_{\text{opt},1}}{\nu_{\text{opt},2}} \propto \frac{\left( m_e e^4 / \hbar^3 \right) F_{\text{rel},1}^{\text{opt}}(Z\alpha)}{\left( m_e e^4 / \hbar^3 \right) F_{\text{rel},2}^{\text{opt}}(Z\alpha)}$$

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- Atomic optical transitions:

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$$K_\alpha(\text{Sr}) = 0.06, K_\alpha(\text{Yb}) = 0.3, K_\alpha(\text{Hg}) = 0.8$$



$$|\mathbf{p}_e|_{\text{near nucleus}} \sim Z\alpha m_e c$$

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For transitions between closely spaced energy levels that arise due to the near cancellation of contributions of different nature, the  $K_\alpha$  sensitivity coefficients can be greatly enhanced, e.g.:

-  $|K_\alpha(\text{Cf}^{15+})| \approx 50$  [Dzuba *et al.*, *PRA* **92**, 060502(R) (2015)]

-  $|K_\alpha(^{229}\text{Th})| \sim 10^4$  [Flambaum, *PRL* **97**, 092502 (2006)]



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[Dzuba, Flambaum, Webb, *PRL* **82**, 888 (1999); *PRA* **59**, 230 (1999);  
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- Atomic hyperfine transitions:

$$\nu_{\text{hf}} \propto \left( \frac{m_e e^4}{\hbar^3} \right) [\alpha^2 F_{\text{rel}}^{\text{hf}}(Z\alpha)] \left( \frac{m_e}{m_N} \right) \mu$$

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[Dzuba, Flambaum, Webb, *PRL* **82**, 888 (1999); *PRA* **59**, 230 (1999);  
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$$K_\alpha(\text{H}) = 2.0, K_\alpha(\text{Rb}) = 2.3, K_\alpha(\text{Cs}) = 2.8$$



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 Increasing  $Z$

- Atomic hyperfine transitions:

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$$K_\alpha(\text{H}) = 2.0, K_\alpha(\text{Rb}) = 2.3, K_\alpha(\text{Cs}) = 2.8$$

 Increasing  $Z$

$K_{m_e/m_N} = 1$

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 Increasing **Z**

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$$\nu_{\text{hf}} \propto \left( \frac{m_e e^4}{\hbar^3} \right) [\alpha^2 F_{\text{rel}}^{\text{hf}}(Z\alpha)] \left( \frac{m_e}{m_N} \right) \mu$$

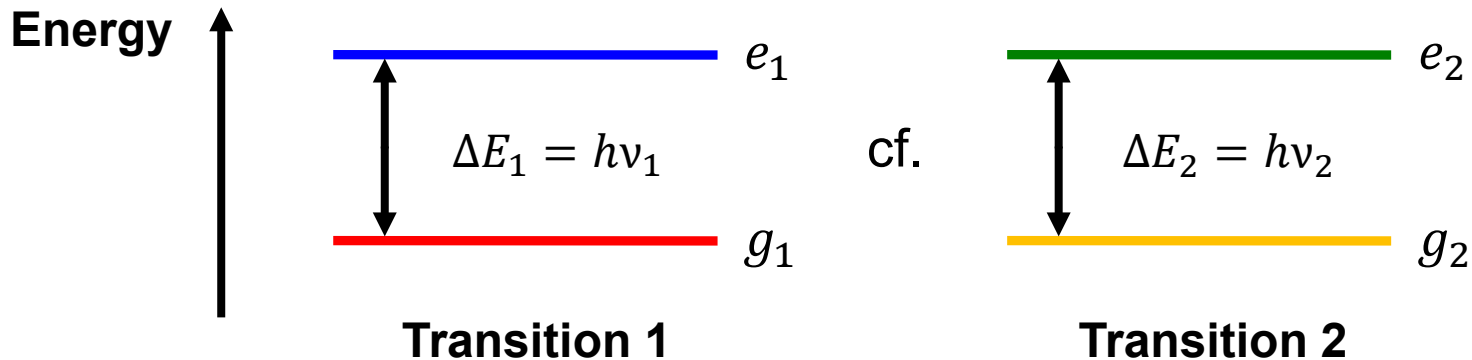
$\nwarrow K_{m_e/m_N} = 1$   
 $\longleftarrow K_{m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \neq 0$

$$K_\alpha(\text{H}) = 2.0, K_\alpha(\text{Rb}) = 2.3, K_\alpha(\text{Cs}) = 2.8$$

 Increasing **Z**

# Atomic Spectroscopy Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Arvanitaki, Huang, Van Tilburg, *PRD* **91**, 015015 (2015)], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015)]



$$\frac{\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2)}{\nu_1/\nu_2} \propto \sum_{X=\alpha, m_e/m_N, \dots} (K_{X,1} - K_{X,2}) \cos(2\pi f_{\text{DM}} t); \quad 2\pi f_{\text{DM}} = m_\phi \text{ (lin.) or } 2m_\phi \text{ (quad.)}$$

- **Dy/Cs [Mainz]:** [Van Tilburg *et al.*, *PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)]
- **Rb/Cs [SYRTE]:** [Hees *et al.*, *PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]
  - **Al<sup>+</sup>/Yb, Yb/Sr, Al<sup>+</sup>/Hg<sup>+</sup> [NIST + JILA]:** [BACON Collaboration, *Nature* **591**, 564 (2021)]
    - **Yb/Cs [NMIJ]:** [Kobayashi *et al.*, *PRL* **129**, 241301 (2022)]
    - **Yb<sup>+</sup>(E3)/Sr [PTB]:** [Filzinger *et al.*, *PRL* **130**, 253001 (2023)]

# Cavity-Based Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRA* **93**, 063630 (2016)]

**Solid material**



$$L_{\text{solid}} \propto a_B = 1/(m_e \alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{solid}} \propto 1/L_{\text{solid}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

(adiabatic regime)

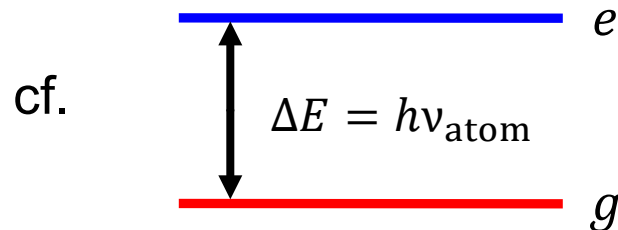
# Cavity-Based Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRA* **93**, 063630 (2016)]

**Solid material**



**Electronic transition**



$$L_{\text{solid}} \propto a_B = 1/(m_e \alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nu_{\text{solid}} \propto 1/L_{\text{solid}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

$$\nu_{\text{atom}} \propto R_y \propto m_e \alpha^2$$

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{atom}}}{\nu_{\text{solid}}} \propto \alpha$$

- **Sr vs Glass cavity [Torun]:** [Wcislo *et al.*, *Nature Astronomy* **1**, 0009 (2016)]
- **Various combinations [Worldwide]:** [Wcislo *et al.*, *Science Advances* **4**, eaau4869 (2018)]
  - **Cs vs Steel cavity [Mainz]:** [Antypas *et al.*, *PRL* **123**, 141102 (2019)]
  - **Sr/H vs Silicon cavity [JILA + PTB]:** [Kennedy *et al.*, *PRL* **125**, 201302 (2020)]
  - **Sr<sup>+</sup> vs Glass cavity [Weizmann]:** [Aharony *et al.*, *PRD* **103**, 075017 (2021)]
  - **H vs Sapphire/Quartz cavities [UWA]:** [Campbell *et al.*, *PRL* **126**, 071301 (2021)]

# Cavity-Based Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRA* **93**, 063630 (2016)]

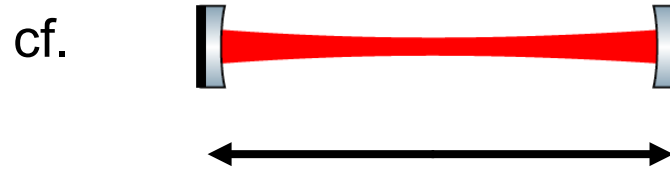
**Solid material**



$$L_{\text{solid}} \propto a_B = 1/(m_e \alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{solid}} \propto 1/L_{\text{solid}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

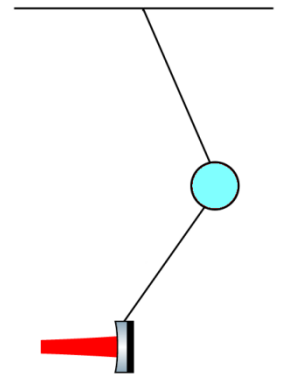
**Freely-suspended mirrors**



$$L_{\text{free}} \approx \text{const. for } f_{\text{DM}} > f_{\text{natural}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{free}} \approx \text{constant}$$

**Double-pendulum suspensions**



$$\frac{v_{\text{solid}}}{v_{\text{free}}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

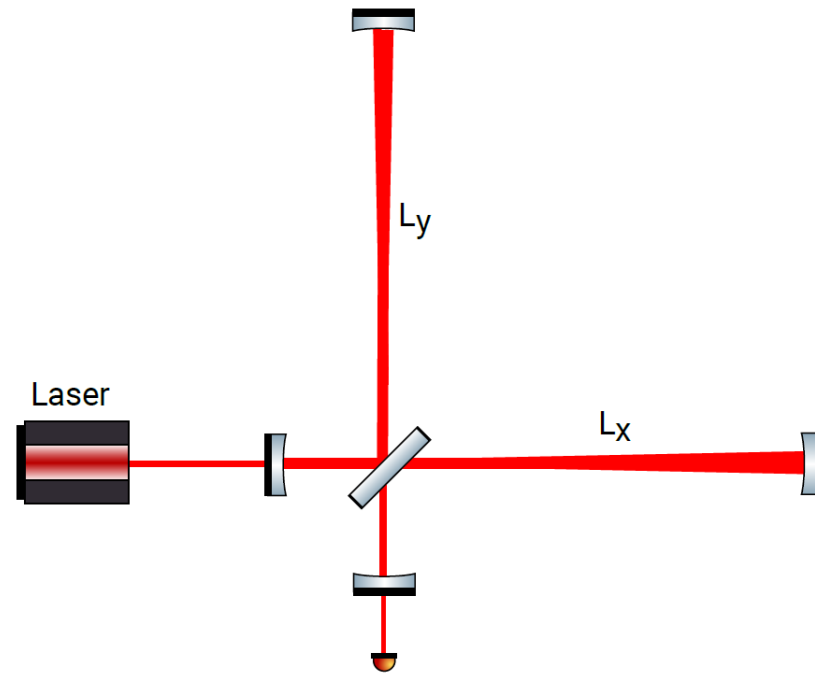
cf.  $\frac{v_{\text{atom}}}{v_{\text{solid}}} \propto \alpha$

Small-scale experiment currently under development at Northwestern University



# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

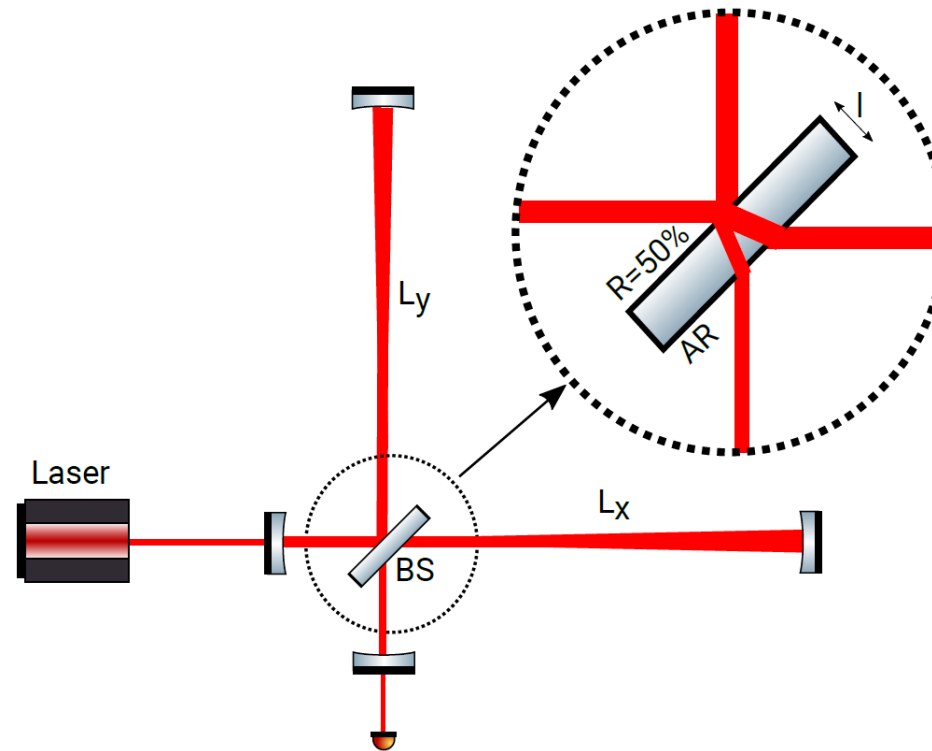
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



**Michelson interferometer (GEO600)**

# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

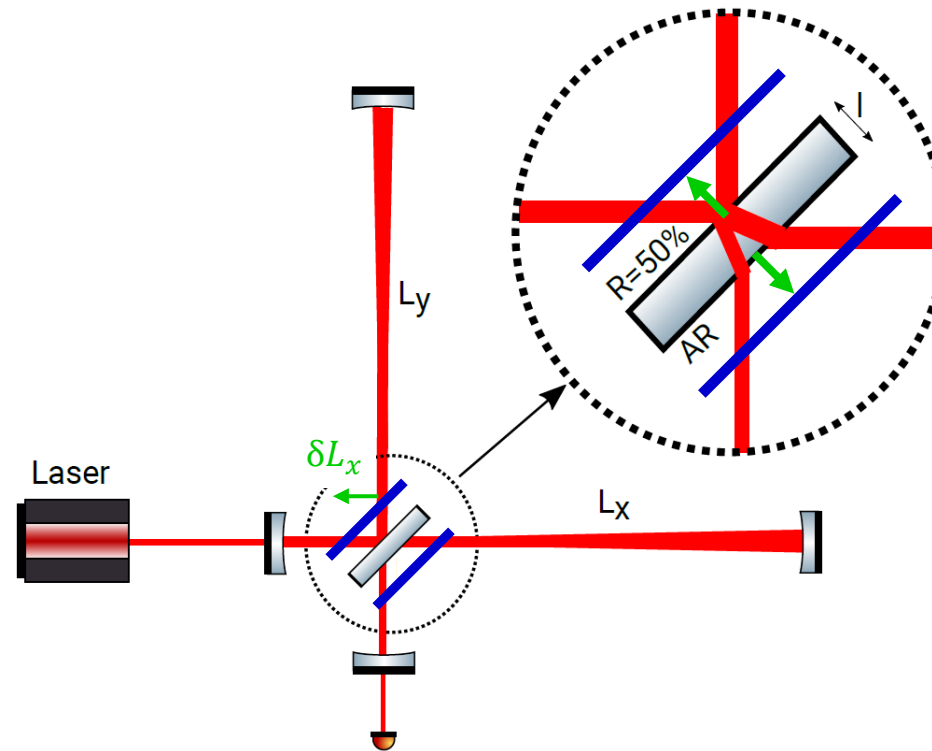
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter

# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

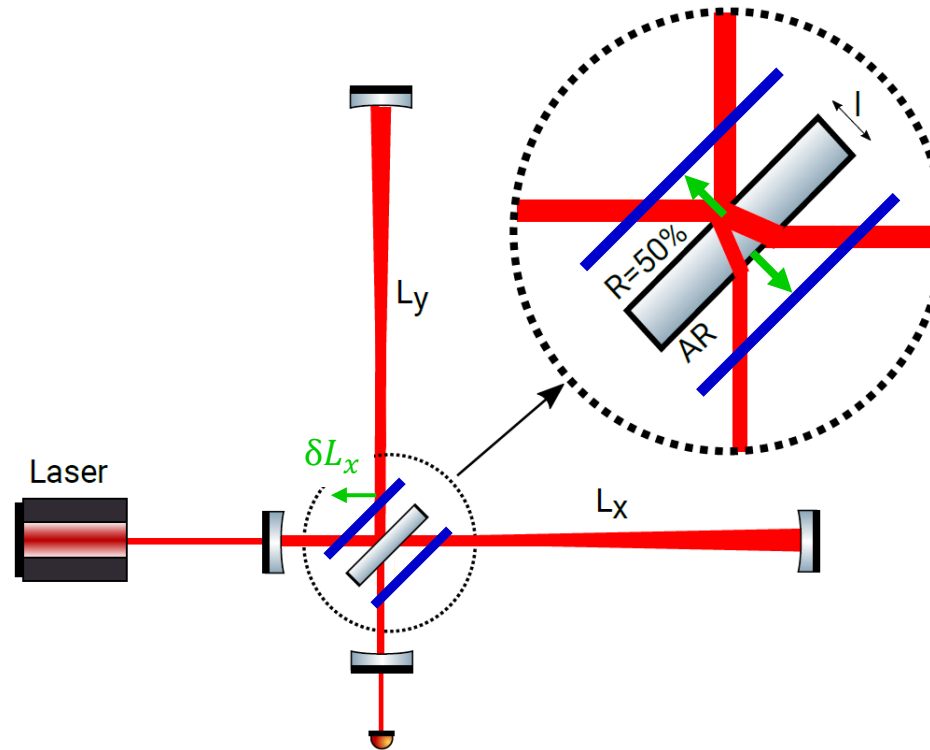
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter:  $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$

# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



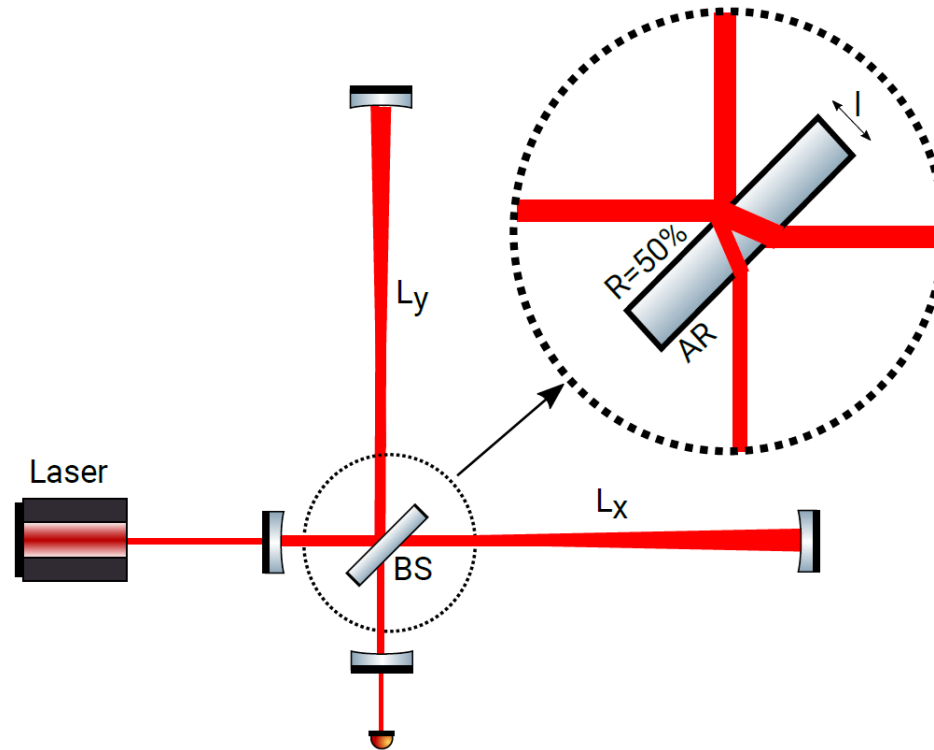
- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter:  $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$

First results recently reported using GEO600 and Fermilab holometer data:

[Vermeulen *et al.*, *Nature* 600, 424 (2021)], [Aiello *et al.*, *PRL* 128, 121101 (2022)]

# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



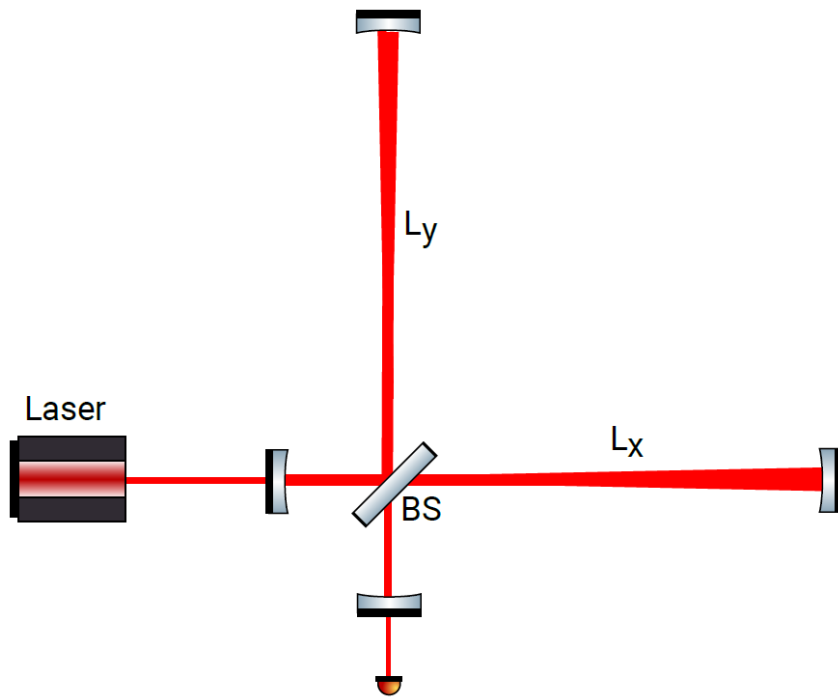
- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter:  $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$
- Both broadband and resonant narrowband searches possible:

$$f_{\text{DM}} \approx f_{\text{vibr,BS}}(T) \sim v_{\text{sound}}/l \Rightarrow Q \sim 10^6 \text{ enhancement}$$

# Michelson vs Fabry-Perot-Michelson Interferometers

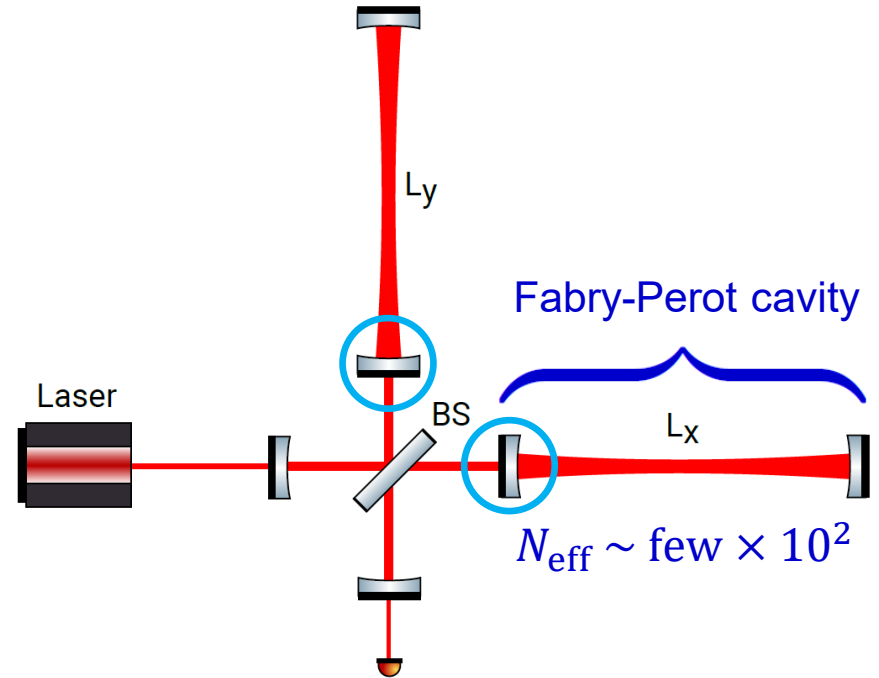
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]

**Michelson interferometer  
(GEO 600)**



$$\delta(L_x - L_y)_{BS} \sim \delta(nl)$$

**Fabry-Perot-Michelson IFO  
(LIGO/VIRGO/KAGRA)**

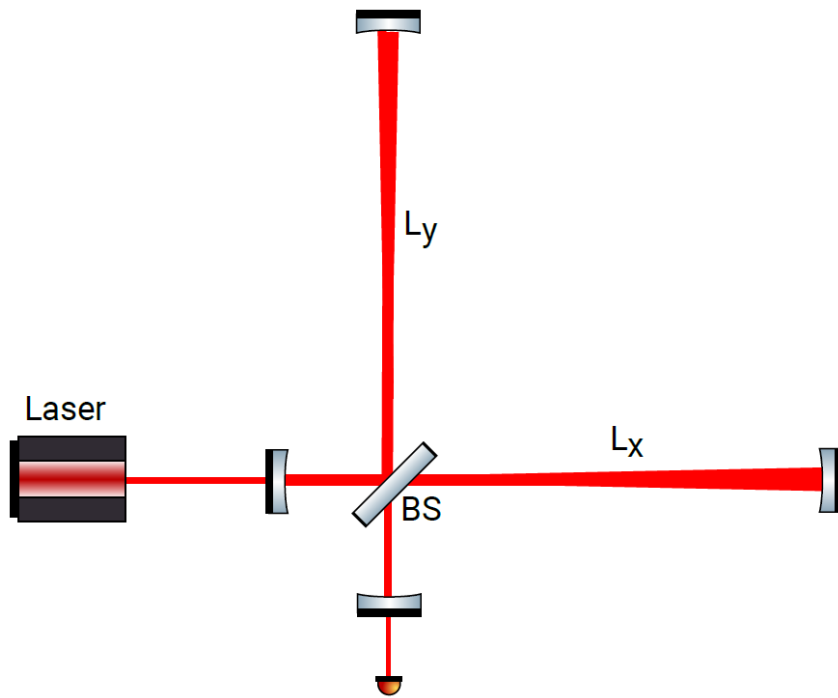


$$\delta(L_x - L_y)_{BS} \sim \delta(nl) / N_{\text{eff}}$$

# Michelson vs Fabry-Perot-Michelson Interferometers

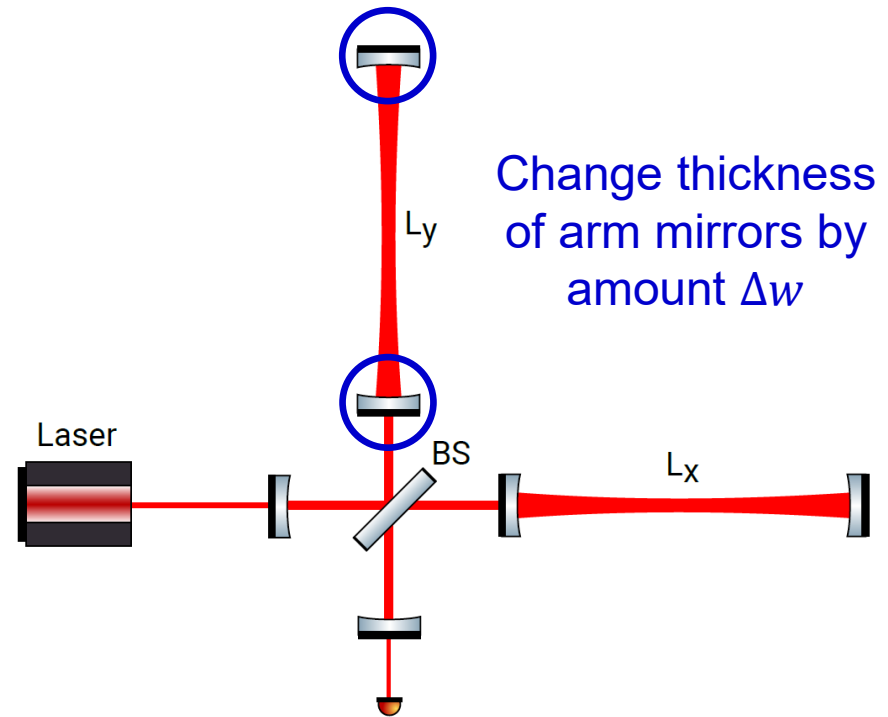
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]

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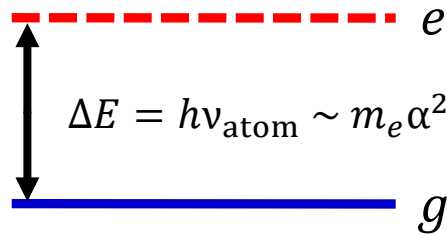


$$\delta(L_x - L_y) \approx \delta(\Delta w)$$

# Atom Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

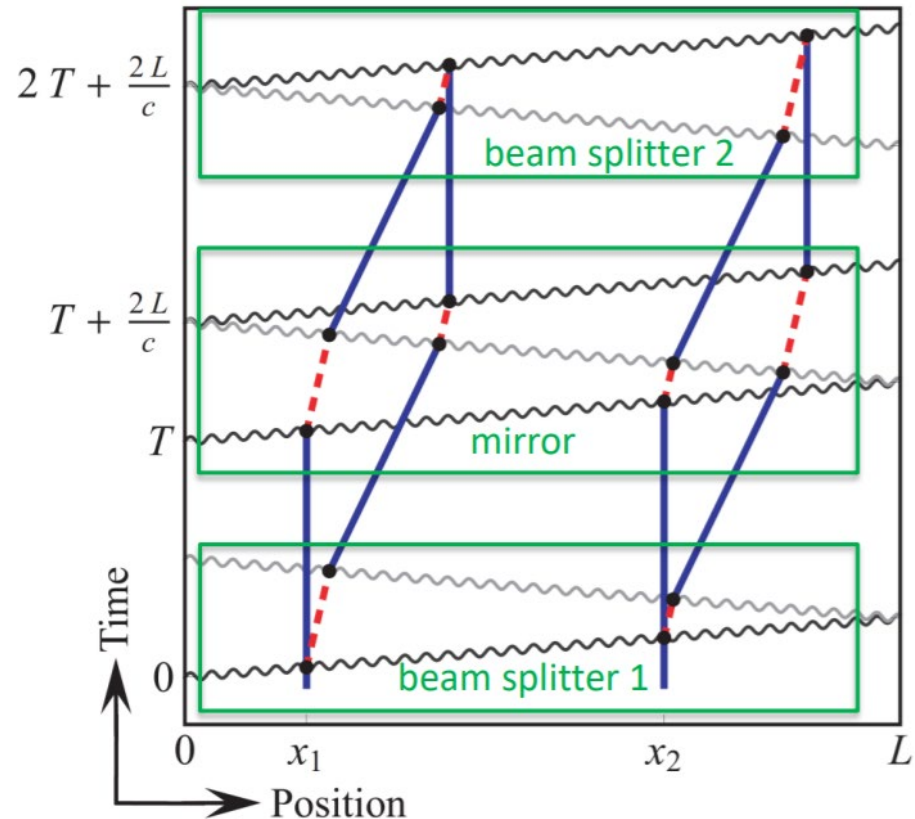
[Arvanitaki, Graham, Hogan, Rajendran, Van Tilburg, *PRD* **97**, 075020 (2018)]

Electronic transition



When  $T_{\text{osc}} \sim 2T$ :

$$\delta(\Delta\Phi)_{\text{max}} \sim T_{\text{osc}} \delta\nu_{\text{atom}}$$



AION-10 experiment under construction at Oxford [Badurina *et al.*, *JCAP* **05** (2020) 011]

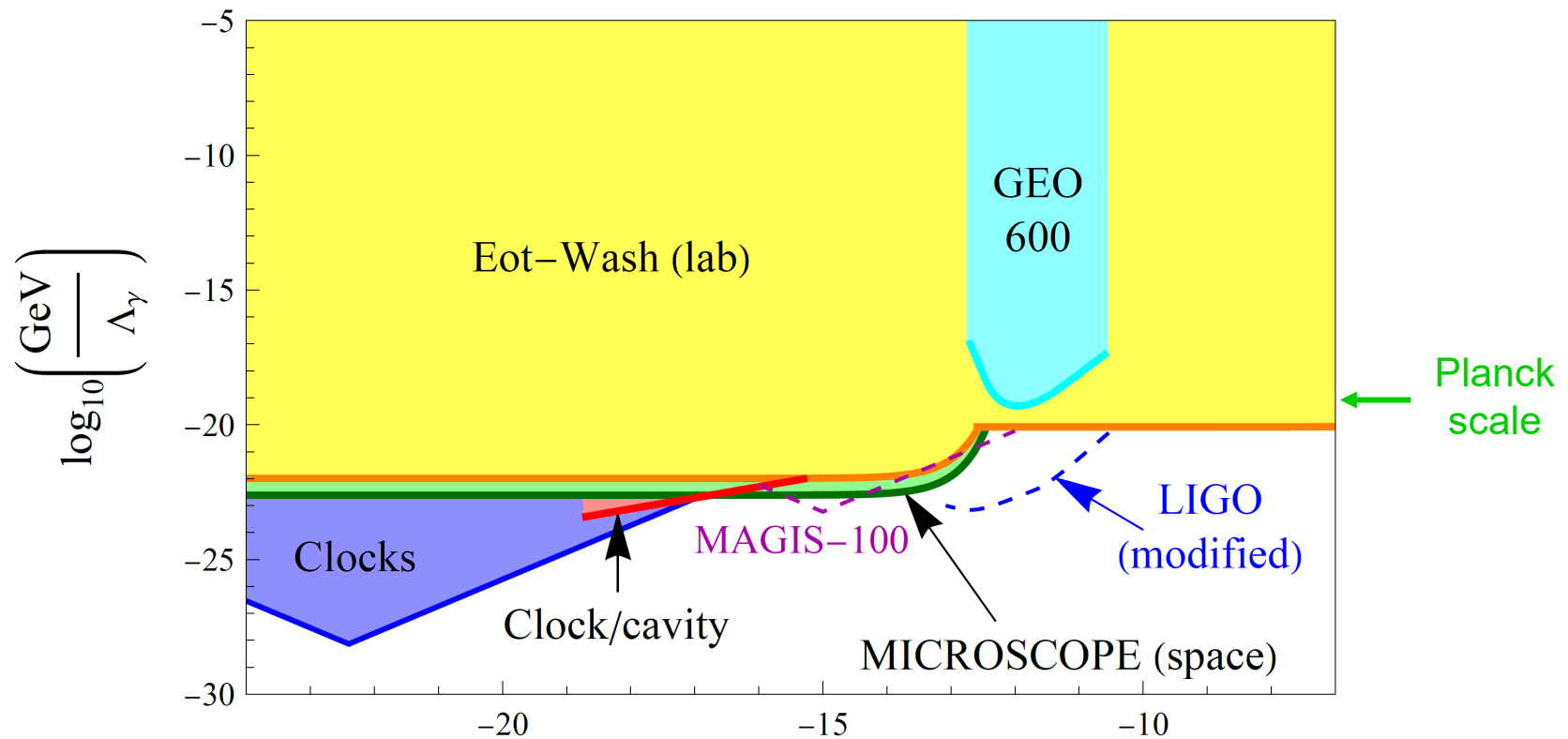
MAGIS-100 experiment under construction at Fermilab [Abe *et al.*, *QST* **6**, 044003 (2021)]



# Constraints on Scalar Dark Matter with $\varphi F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} / 4\Lambda_\gamma$ Coupling

**Clock/clock:** [*PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)], [*PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)], [*Nature* **591**, 564 (2021)], [*PRL* **130**, 253001 (2023)]; **Clock/cavity:** [*PRL* **125**, 201302 (2020)]; **GEO600:** [*Nature* **600**, 424 (2021)]

**5 orders of magnitude improvement!**



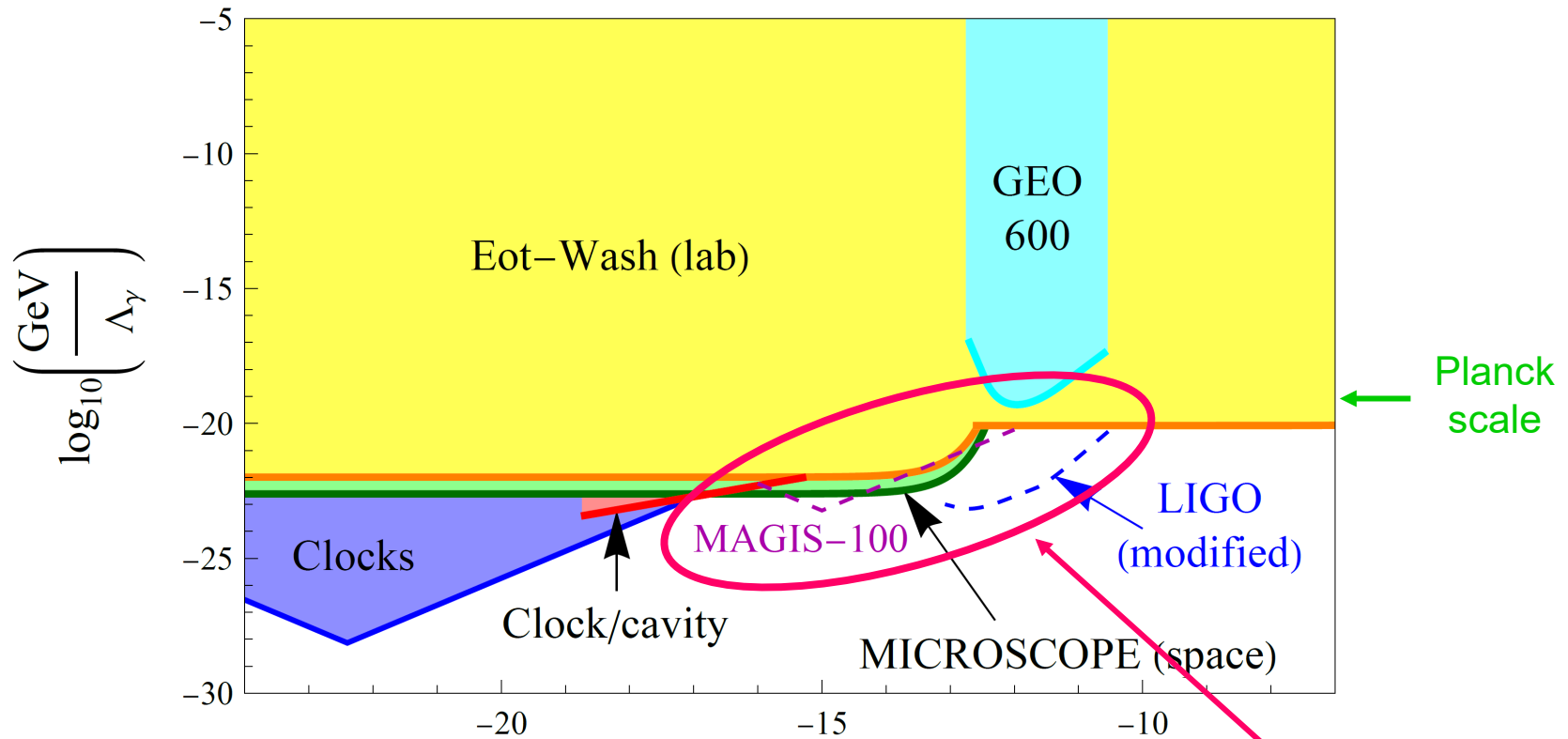
For a more comprehensive set of bounds, see, e.g., FIPs 2022 workshop report: [*Antel et al., EPJ C* **83**, 1122 (2023)]

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{m_\phi}{\text{eV}}\right)$$

# Constraints on Scalar Dark Matter with $\varphi F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} / 4\Lambda_\gamma$ Coupling

**Clock/clock:** [*PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)], [*PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)], [*Nature* **591**, 564 (2021)],  
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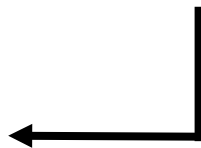
5<sup>th</sup> force bounds on  $\Lambda_e$   
weaker by factor of  $\approx 20$

# BBN Constraints on 'Slow' Drifts in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)]

- Largest effects of DM in early Universe (highest  $\rho_{\text{DM}}$ )
- Big Bang nucleosynthesis ( $t_{\text{weak}} \approx 1 \text{ s} - t_{\text{BBN}} \approx 3 \text{ min}$ )
- Primordial  $^4\text{He}$  abundance sensitive to  $n/p$  ratio (almost all neutrons bound in  $^4\text{He}$  after BBN)

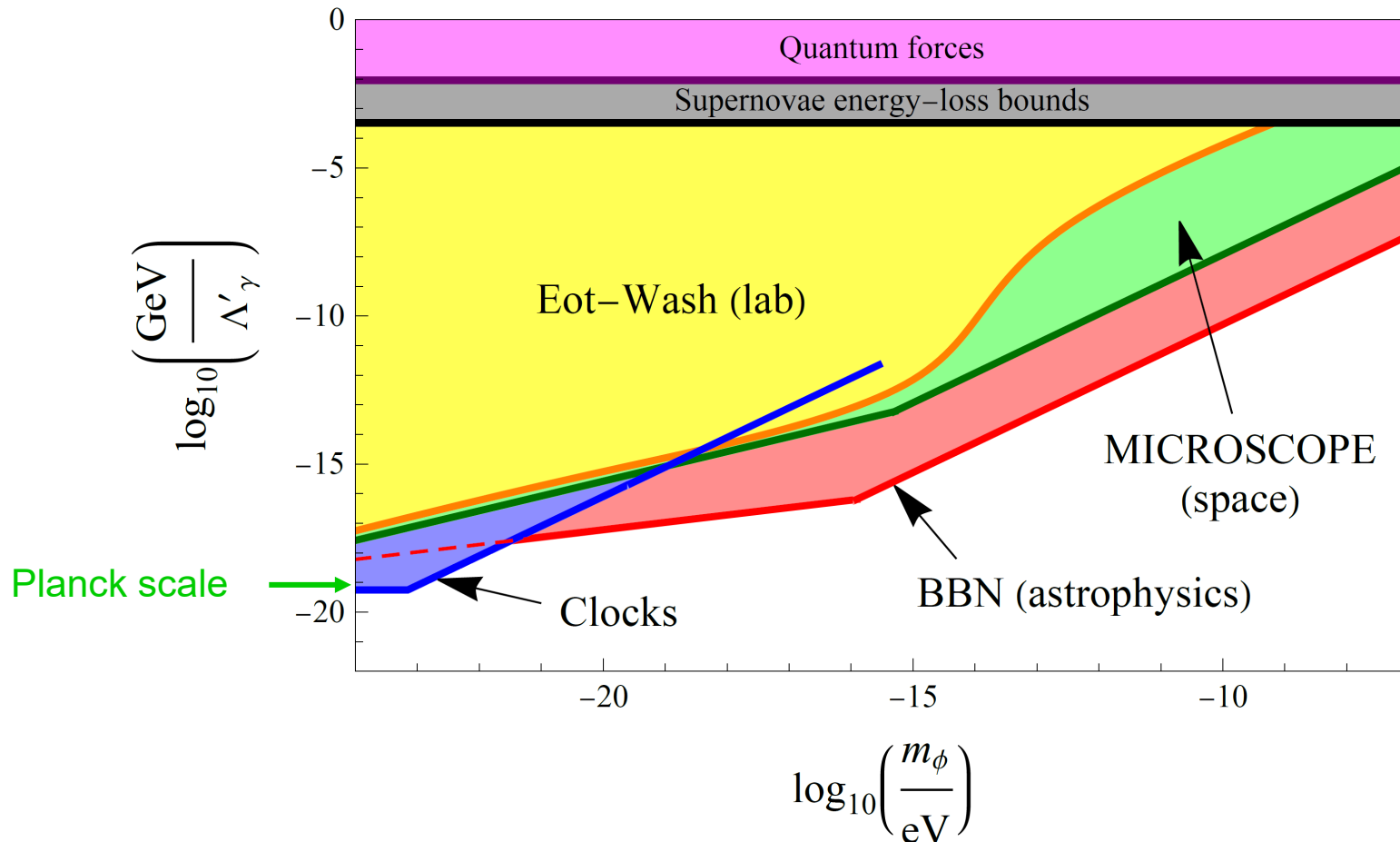
$$\frac{\Delta Y_p(^4\text{He})}{Y_p(^4\text{He})} \approx \frac{\Delta(n/p)_{\text{weak}}}{(n/p)_{\text{weak}}} - \Delta \left[ \int_{t_{\text{weak}}}^{t_{\text{BBN}}} \Gamma_n(t) dt \right]$$



# Constraints on Scalar Dark Matter with $\varphi^2 F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} / 4(\Lambda'_\gamma)^2$ Coupling

**Clock/clock + BBN constraints:** [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015); *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]; **MICROSCOPE + Eöt-Wash constraints:** [Hees *et al.*, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

**15 orders of magnitude improvement!**



# Constraints on Scalar Dark Matter with $\varphi^2 F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} / 4(\Lambda'_\gamma)^2$ Coupling

**Clock/clock + BBN constraints:** [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015); *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]; **MICROSCOPE + Eöt-Wash constraints:** [Hees et al., *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

**15 orders of magnitude improvement!**

