



# Early Dark Energy and Phantom Crossing in axio-dilaton Systems

Philippe Brax

Institut de Physique Théorique

Université Paris-Saclay

Collaboration with C. van de Bruck(Sheffield), C. Burgess (Perimeter), A. Davis (Cambridge), M. Mylova(Perimeter), F. Quevedo (Cambridge) and A. Smith (Sheffield).

2310.02092

[2410.11099](#)

[2408.10820](#)

[2505.05450](#)

2507.16723

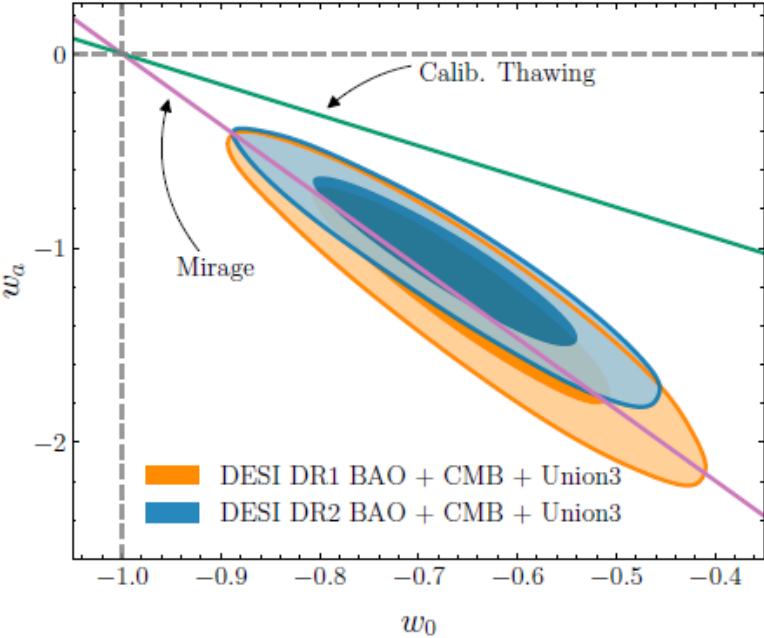


# Late Dark Energy

$$w_0 + w_a < -1$$



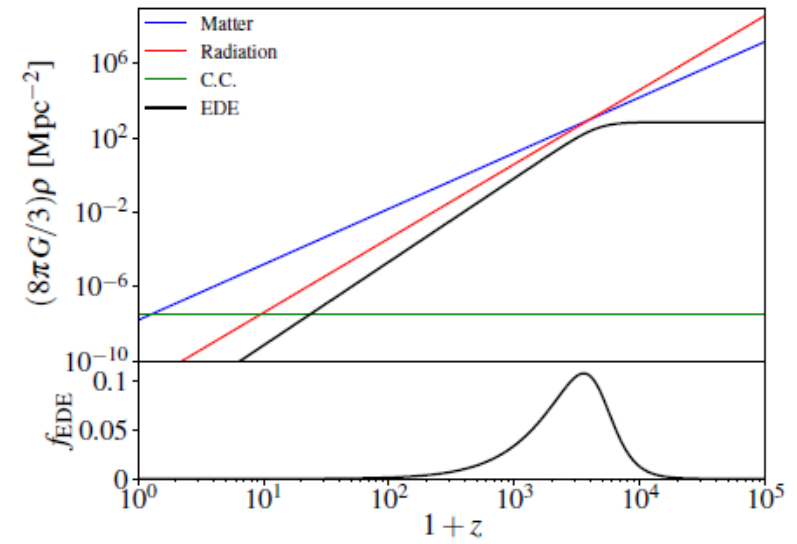
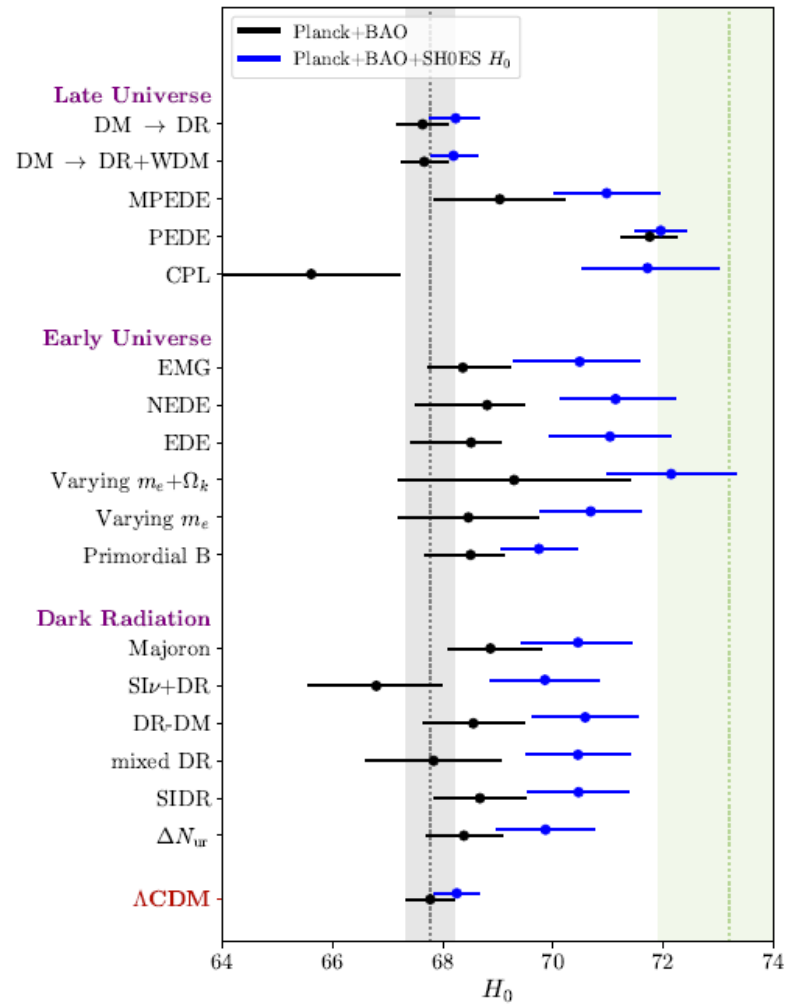
Phantom crossing



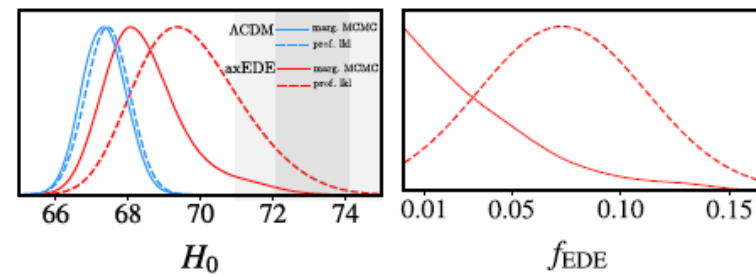
$$w = w_0 + w_a(1 - a)$$

E par si muove !

# Early Dark Energy



Early dark energy fraction



# The low energy description



Higher order terms in derivatives are suppressed unless breaking the expansion scheme by terms of order:

$$\partial/H = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

On large scales, GR can be seen as the lowest order effective action involving the metric up to two derivatives:

$$S_{\text{Einstein-Hilbert}} = \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (R + \dots)$$

Incorporating a single scalar field, the effective action up to second order in derivatives:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{R}{16\pi G_N} - \frac{(\partial\phi)^2}{2} - V(\phi) + \mathcal{L}_m(\psi_i, \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}) \right)$$

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = A^2(\phi) g_{\mu\nu}$$

In these theories the effective potential takes into account the presence of matter

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\varphi) = V(\varphi) + \left( \frac{A(\varphi)}{A(\varphi_c)} - 1 \right) \rho_m$$

The conserved matter density is related to the Einstein frame density by

$$\rho_E = \frac{A(\varphi)}{A(\varphi_c)} \rho_m$$

The dark energy density becomes:

$$\rho_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\varphi}^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\varphi)$$

Calibration with the observed matter density is taken when

$$\varphi = \varphi_c$$

Conservation of dark energy reads:

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{eff}} + 3H(1 + \omega_{\text{eff}})\rho_{\text{eff}} = 0$$

$$\omega_{\text{eff}} = \frac{p_\varphi}{\rho_{\text{eff}}}$$

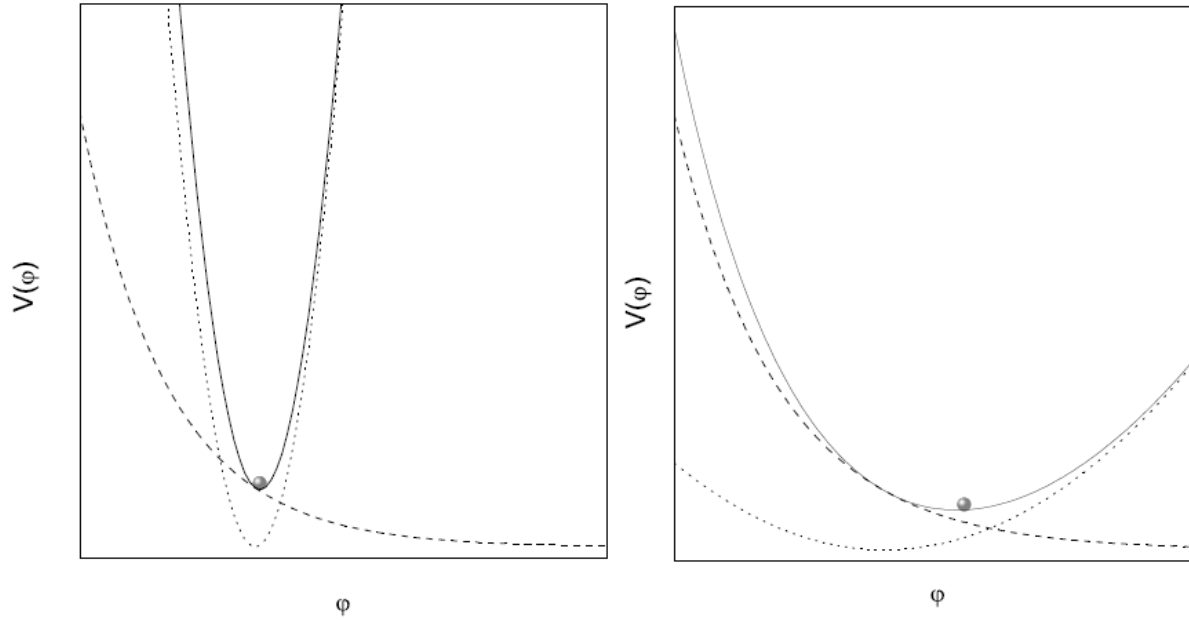
$$p_\varphi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\varphi}^2 - V(\varphi)$$

Calibration is usually taken to be now but in principle this has to be determined by comparison with data.

Assume that the effective potential has a minimum

$$\frac{dV}{d\phi} = -\frac{\beta(\phi)}{m_{\text{Pl}}} \frac{A(\phi)}{A(\phi_c)} \rho_m$$

$$\beta(\phi) = m_{\text{Pl}} \frac{d \ln A(\phi)}{d\phi}$$



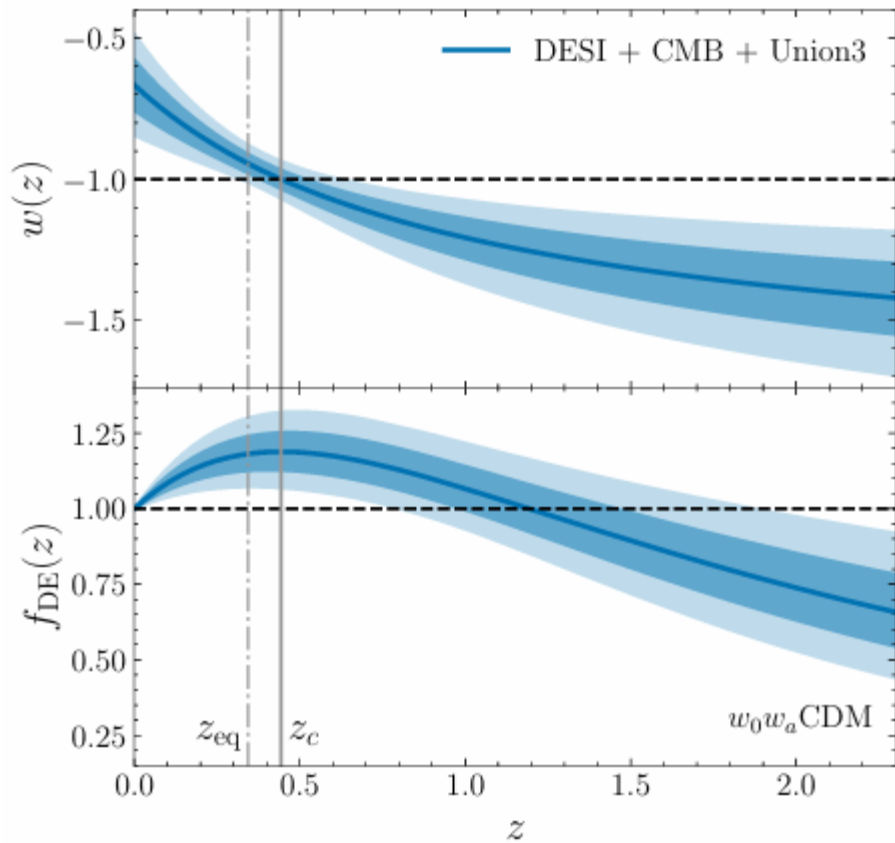
Concentrate on the evolution of the minimum close to calibration taken to be at low redshift:

$$\phi - \phi_c = -\frac{\beta(\phi_c)}{m_{\text{eff}}^2 m_{\text{Pl}}} (\rho_m - \rho_c)$$

$$m_{\text{eff}}^2 = \left. \frac{d^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{d\phi^2} \right|_{\phi=\phi_c}$$

$$\omega_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{1 - \beta^2(\phi_c) \frac{\rho_m}{V_{\text{DE}}} \frac{(\rho_m - \rho_c)}{m_{\text{Pl}}^2 m_{\text{eff}}^2}}$$

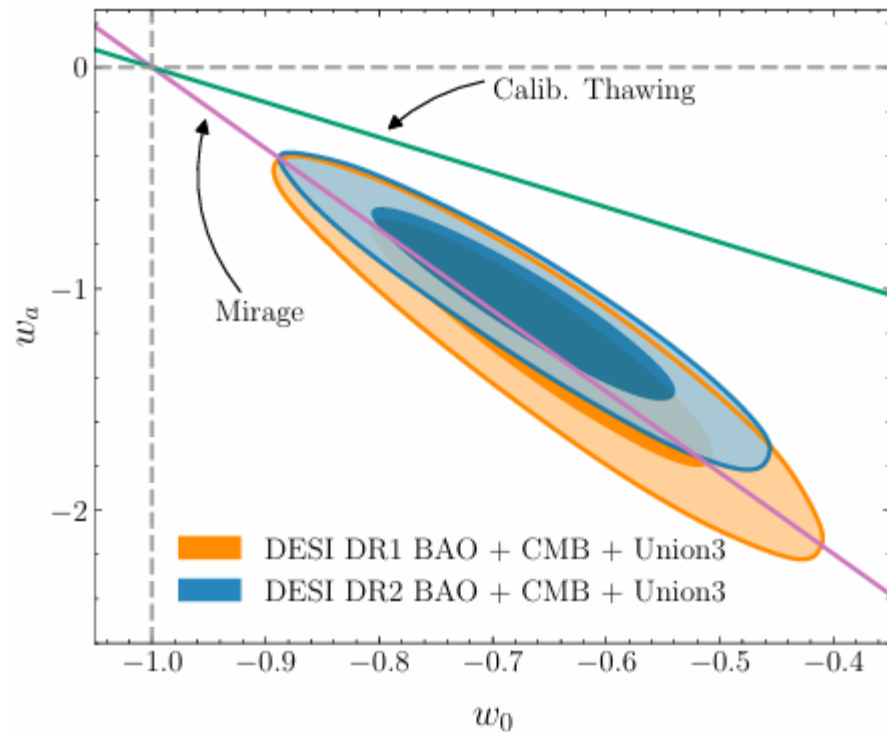
$$V_{\text{DE}} = V(\phi_c)$$



$$\omega_0 = -1 + \frac{z_c}{z_c+1} \omega_a \Rightarrow z_c \sim 0.37$$

1/3.66

$$\frac{\beta^2(\phi_c)H_0^2}{m_{\text{eff}}^2} = -\frac{\Omega_{\Lambda 0}}{9\Omega_{m0}^2(1+z_c)^5}\omega_a$$



$$-1.6 \leq \omega_a \leq -0.8$$

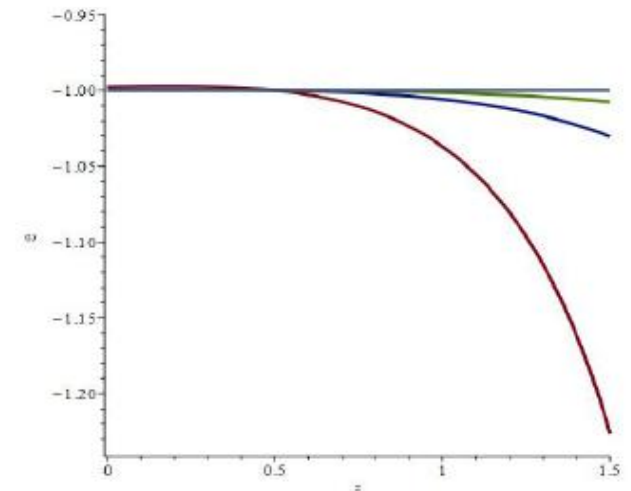
$$0.047 \leq \frac{\beta^2(\phi_c)H_0^2}{m_{\text{eff}}^2} \leq 0.093$$

$$\omega_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{1 - \beta^2(\phi_c) \frac{\rho_m}{V_{\text{DE}}} \frac{(\rho_m - \rho_c)}{m_{\text{Pl}}^2 m_{\text{eff}}^2}}$$

- Crosses the phantom divide when:  $\rho_m < \rho_c$
- Negligible variation unless:  $m_{\text{eff}} \simeq H_0, \beta(\phi_c) \sim 1$

## Two major issues!

- ❑ For such a low mass, the minimum is not an attractor so undamped oscillations. Need to make comparison in Jordan frame.
- ❑ Long range forces with gravitational strength!
  - Interactions between DE-DM



$z_c = 0.5$

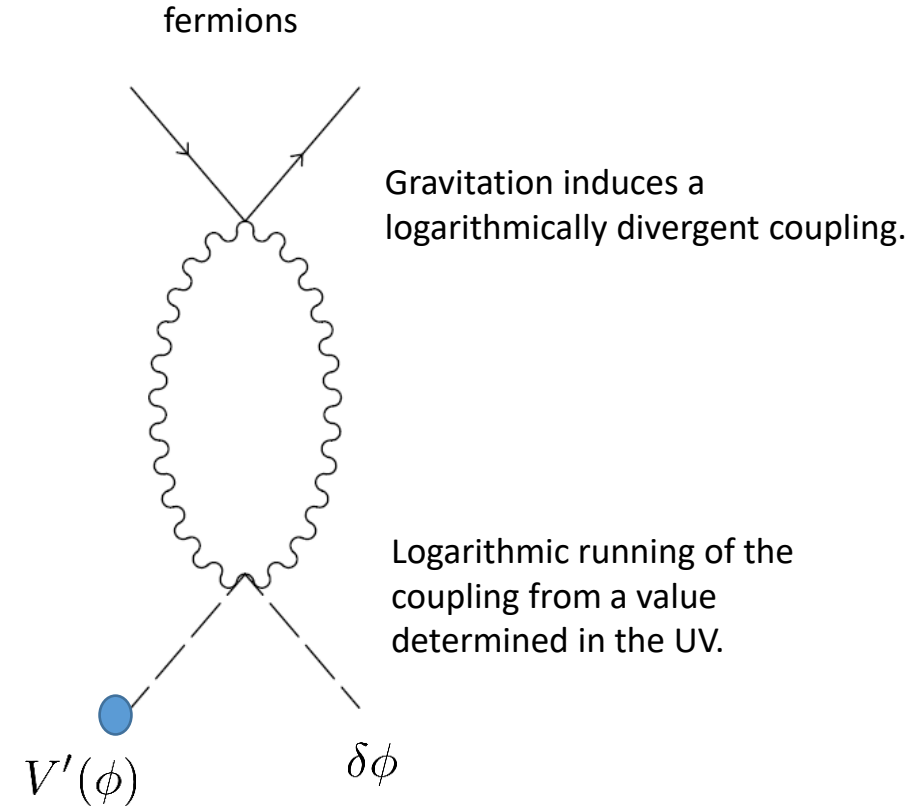
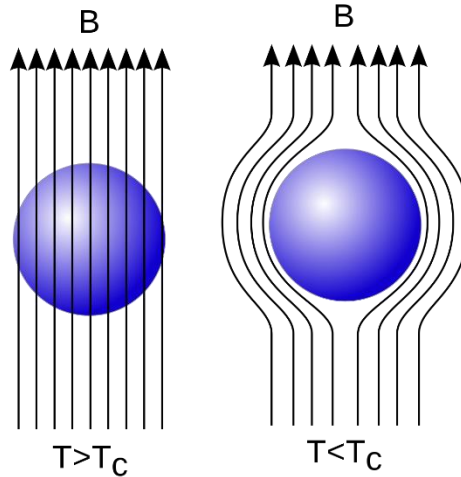
$$\beta(\phi_c) = 0.1, \frac{m_{\text{eff}}}{H_0} = 2, 5, 10, 10^3$$

- Interaction between DE-baryon

Could be postulated to vanish...

Generically non-vanishing coupling becomes unobservable thanks to:

**Screening**



In single field case, screening implies:

$$m_{\text{eff}}/H_0 \gtrsim 10^3 \Rightarrow \omega_{\text{eff}} \simeq -1$$

## Multi-field dark energy sector

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}g_{ij}(\phi^k)\partial_\mu\phi^i\partial^\mu\phi^j - V(\phi^i)$$

For light dark energy fields, such a screening can only happen with more than one field and a **non-trivial  $\sigma$ -model metric**.

Screening even if dark energy field **light** and with non-negligible **coupling to matter**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{2}((\partial\phi)^2 + W^2(\phi)(\partial a)^2)$$

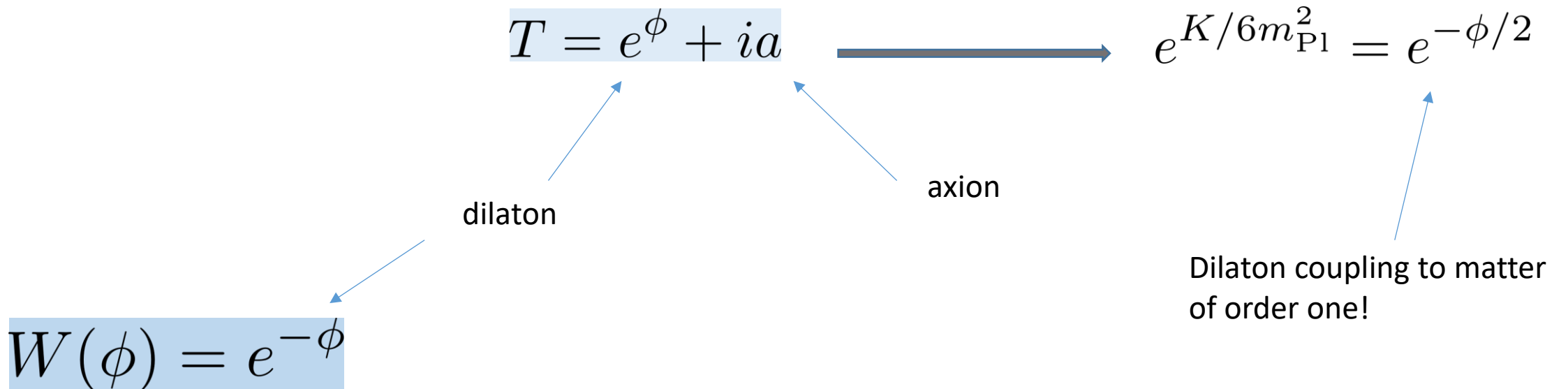
Dilaton

Axion

The axio-dilaton case corresponding to the volume modulus of compactifications from 10d to 4d:

$$K = -3m_{\text{Pl}}^2 \ln(T + \bar{T}) \longrightarrow \beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$$

The volume modulus can be decomposed in:



Screening depends on the profile of the dilaton in compact objects

$$\square\phi = WW'(\partial a)^2 + \frac{\beta}{m_{\text{Pl}}^2}\rho$$

The screening criterion depends on the large mass of the axion inside the object

$$m_{\text{in}}R \gg 1$$

It also requires a sharp jump of the axion between vacuum and matter:

$$V(a) = \frac{1}{2}m_a^2(a - a_+)^2 + \rho_m \frac{(a - a_-)^2}{2\Lambda_a^2}$$

# Exponential Screening:

Screening takes place when:

$$W^2(\phi) = e^{-\xi\phi/m_{\text{Pl}}}$$

The coupling to matter becomes:

$$\beta_{\text{eff}} = \beta \frac{R}{2\xi G_N M}$$

$$\xi = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$$

**Screening in solar system:**

$$\xi \gtrsim 10^9 \Rightarrow \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{\xi} \lesssim 10^9 \text{ GeV}$$

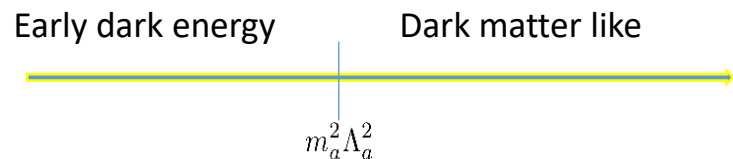
$$\Lambda_\phi = \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{\xi}$$

# Early dark energy for free!

$$V(a) = \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 (a - a_+)^2 + \rho_m \frac{(a - a_-)^2}{2\Lambda_a^2}$$

$$V(a_-) = \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 (a_+ - a_-)^2$$

Early dark energy



A fraction of added matter

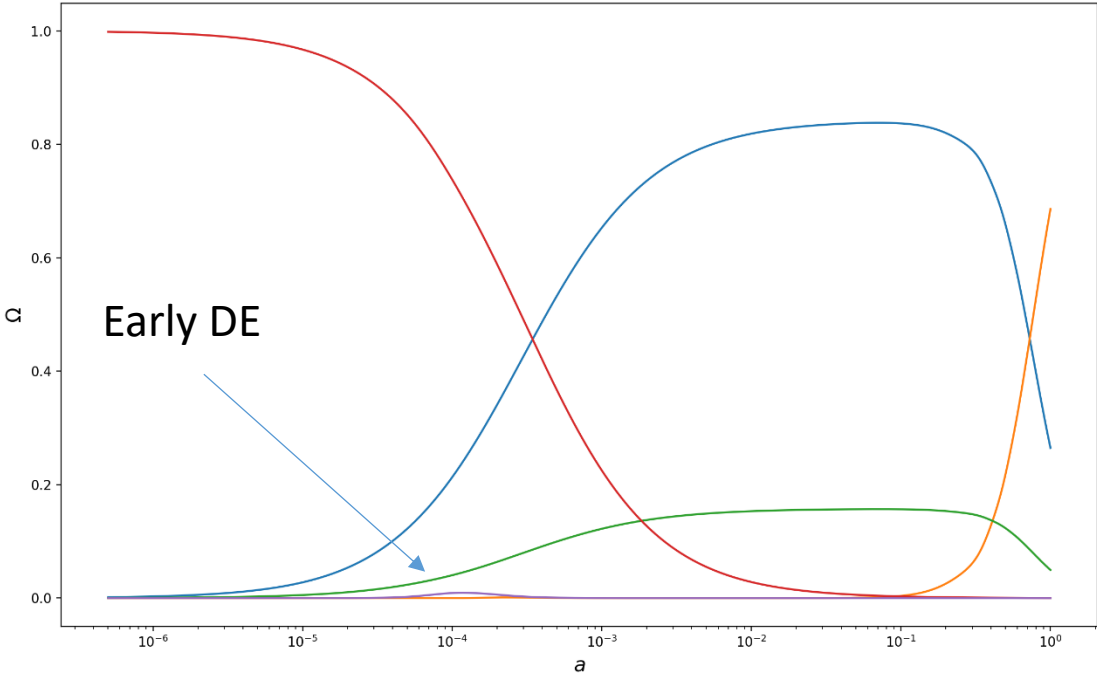
$$V(a_+) = \rho_m \frac{(a_+^2 - a_-)^2}{2\Lambda_a^2}$$

For specific application, we take an Albrecht-Skordis potential:

$$V(\phi) = U(\phi)e^{-\lambda\phi/m_{\text{Pl}}}$$

Quadratic with non-trivial minimum

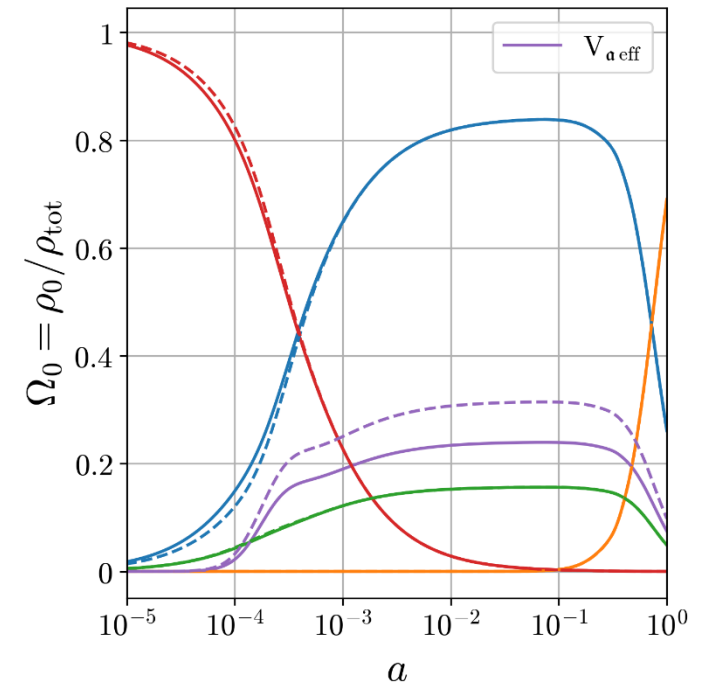
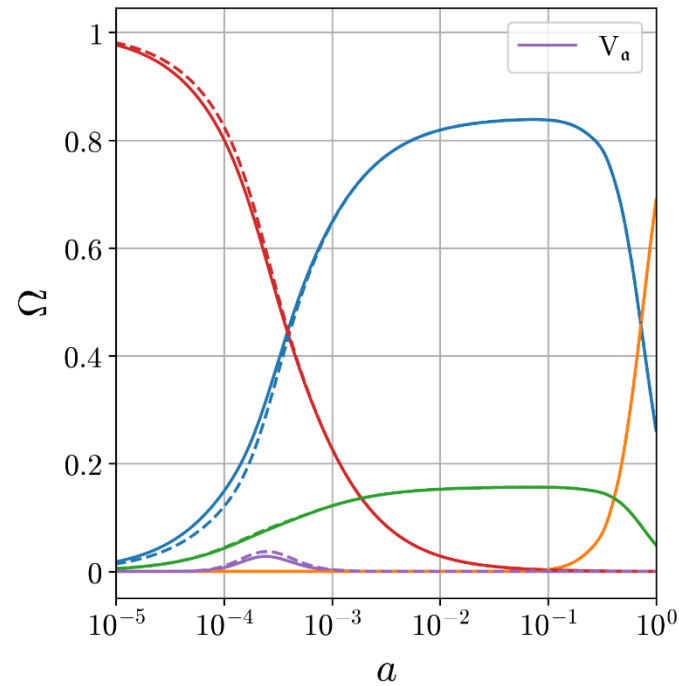
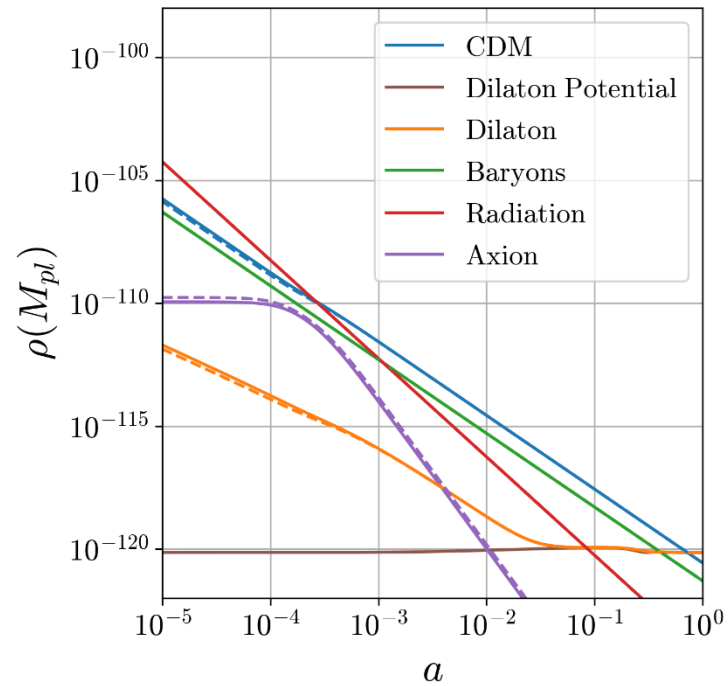
$$A(\phi) = e^{-\beta\frac{\phi}{m_{\text{Pl}}}}$$



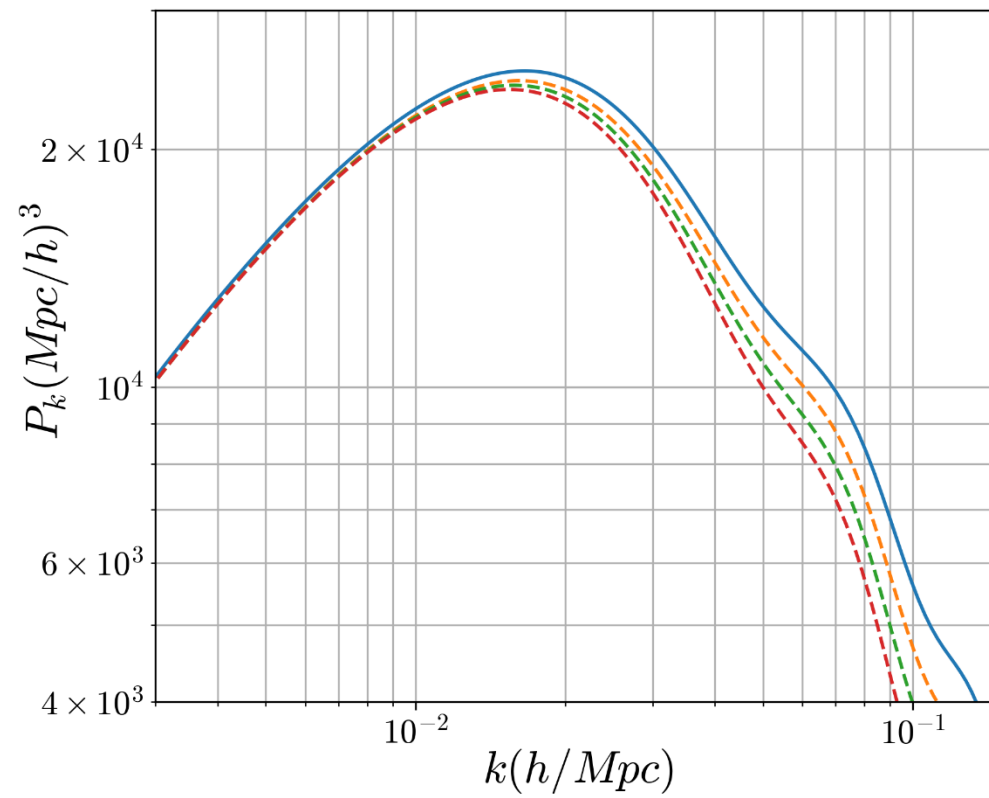
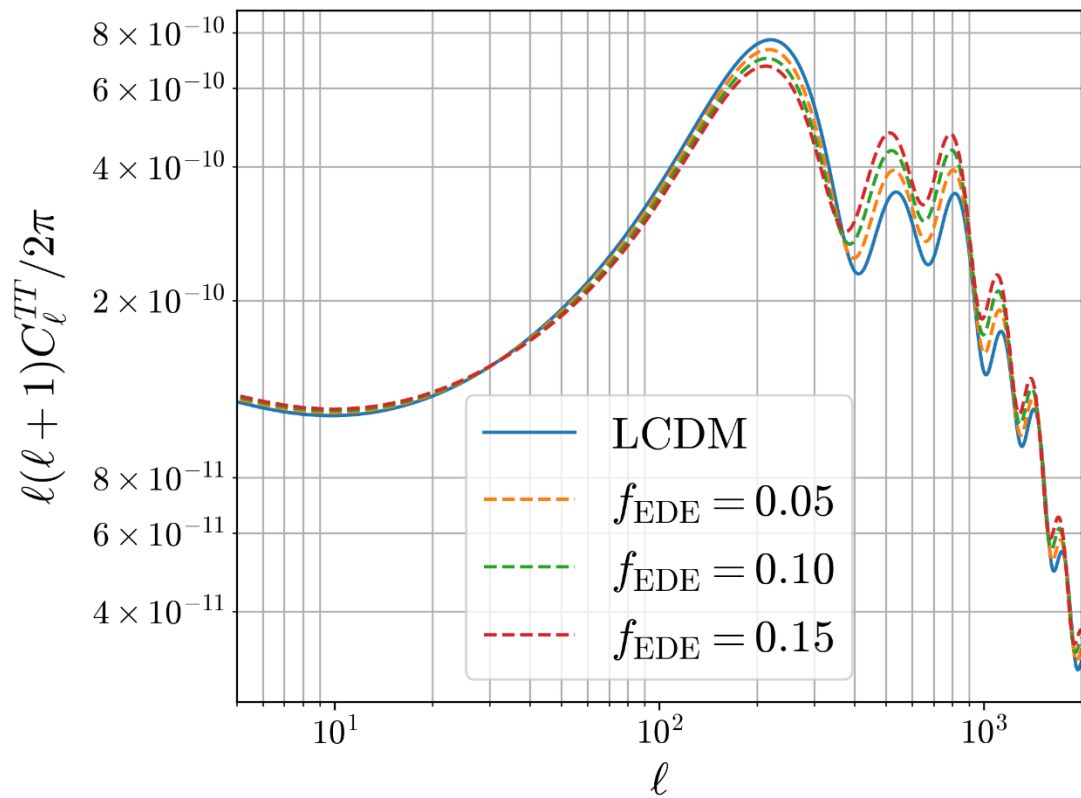
$$\lambda = 4\beta$$

Conformal rescaling

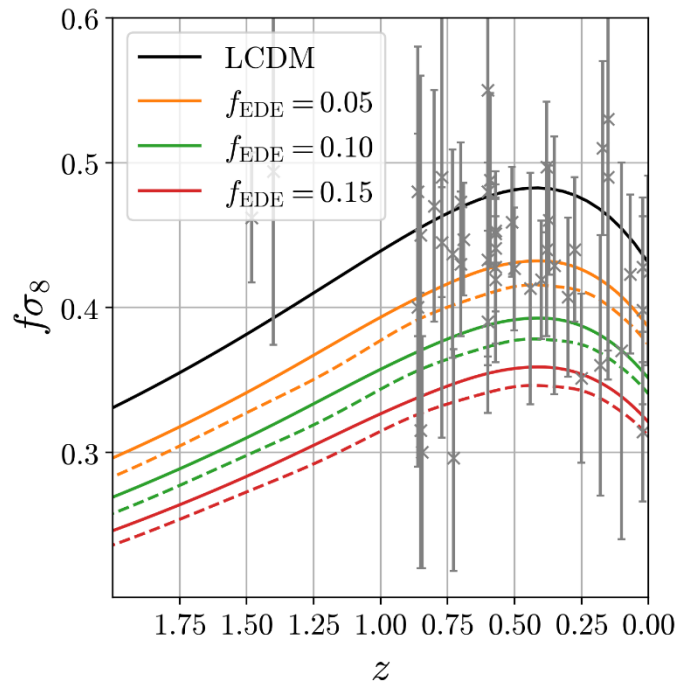
$$m_a = 2.10^{-15} \text{eV}, \Lambda_\phi = 2.10^8 \text{GeV}, \Lambda_a = 5.10^5 \text{GeV}$$



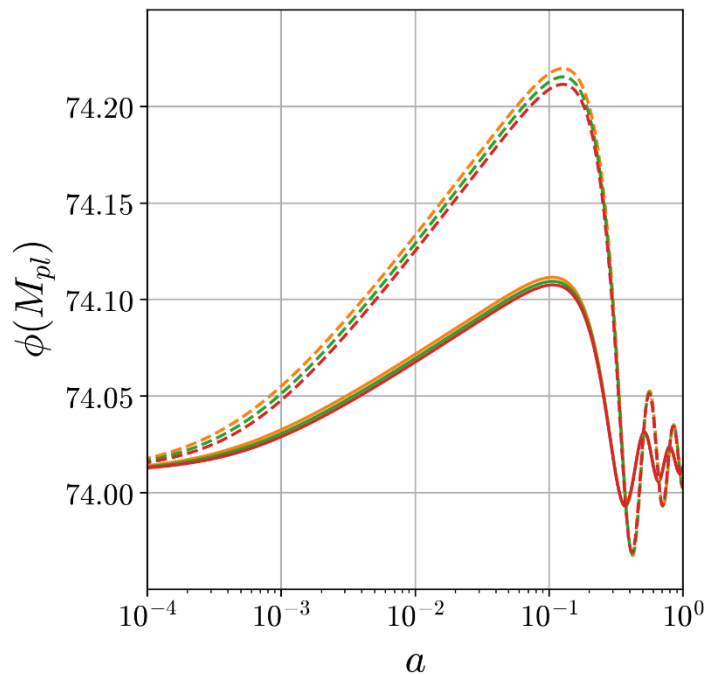
**Early dark energy** shows its face in the form of the axion potential.



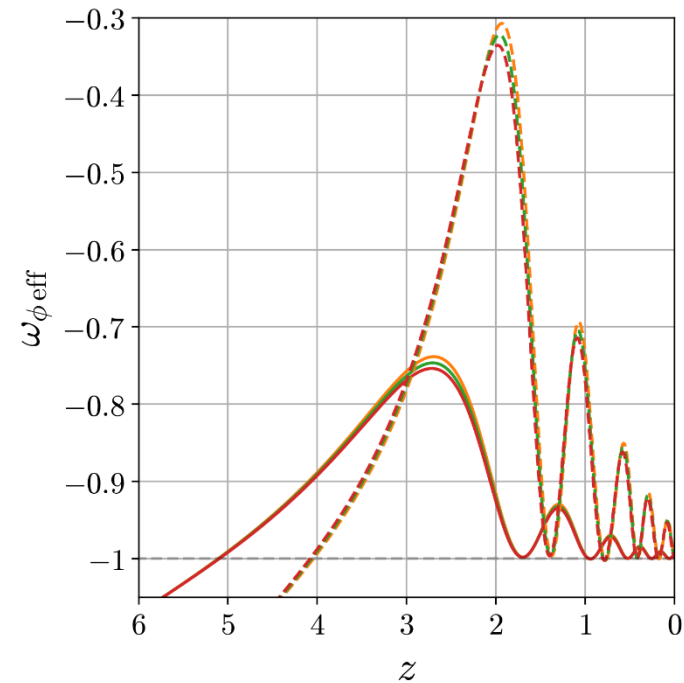
Increasing the early dark energy fraction increases the deviation from  $\Lambda$ CDM.



Dotted lines: the coupling to matter increases and growth reduces



The dilaton is light and oscillates



The effective equation states oscillates and crosses the phantom divide.

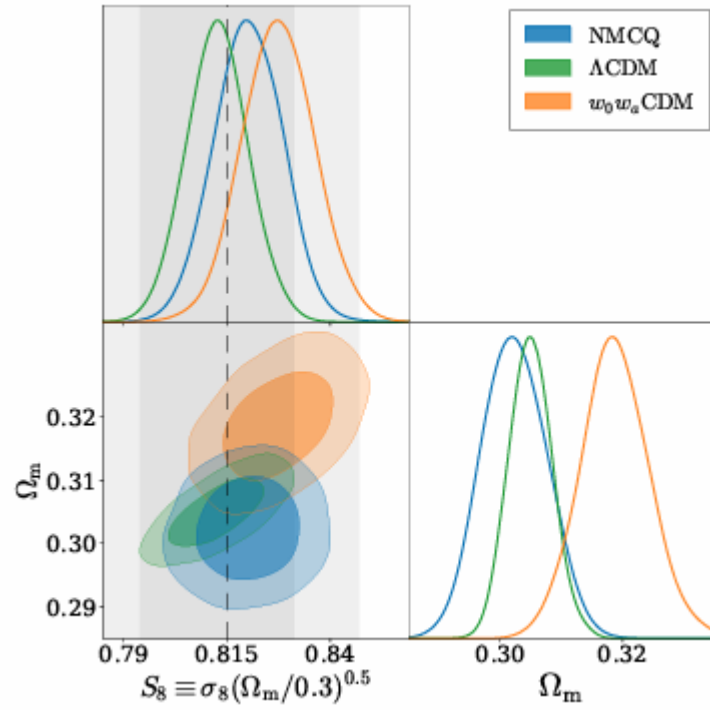
# Summary

Multi-field dark energy models coupled to matter can have a number of interesting features:

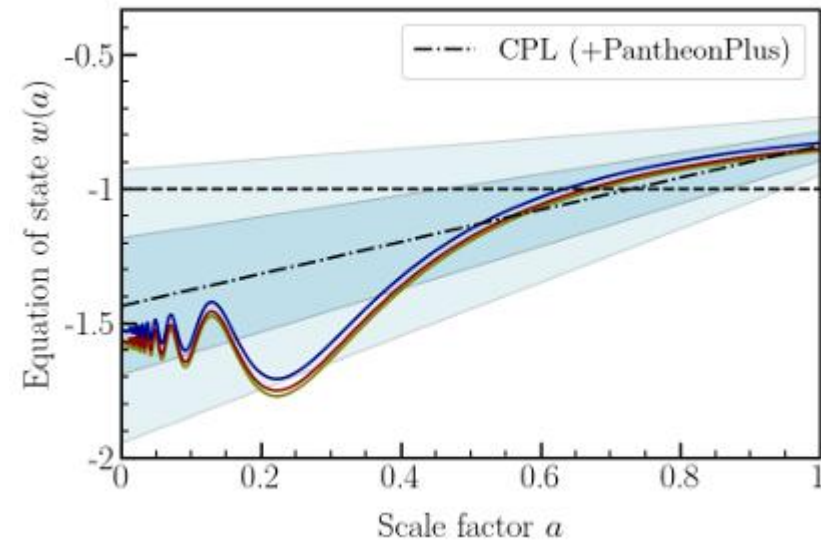
- ✓ Can accommodate a fraction of early dark energy whilst screening.
- ✓ Varying equation of state crossing phantom divide and oscillations.
- ✓ Have less growth than  $\Lambda$ CDM despite long range fifth forces.

**Model Building?**

# Prospects



2508.01759



2504.00776

Multi-field screening is a **natural** solution to:

an evolving equation of state crossing the **phantom** divide

A bit more