

# AXI-HIGGS COSMOLOGY

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Based on arXiv:2102.11257, and ongoing project  
in collaboration with Fung, Li, Luu, Qiu and Tye



# Puzzles from Precision Cosmology

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Since half a century before, cosmology has made tremendous progress, moving from a speculative to a precision science. The inflation scenario, big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN), cosmic microwave background (CMB) and structure formation have merged theory and data into a nice picture about our universe. However, a series of puzzles also arise... ..

- Li-7 problem
- Hubble tension
- $S_8$  tension
- Isotropic cosmic birefringence (ICB) anomaly
- ... ..

Question: is there an underlying theory being responsible for these puzzles or at least some of them?



# Big-Bang Nucleosynthesis

PHYSICAL REVIEW

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## Letters to the Editor

**P**UBLICATION of brief reports of important discoveries in physics may be secured by addressing them to this department. The closing date for this department is five weeks prior to the date of issue. No proof will be sent to the authors. The Board of Editors does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by the correspondents. Communications should not exceed 600 words in length.

### The Origin of Chemical Elements

R. A. ALPHER\*

Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University,  
Silver Spring, Maryland

AND

H. BETHE

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

AND

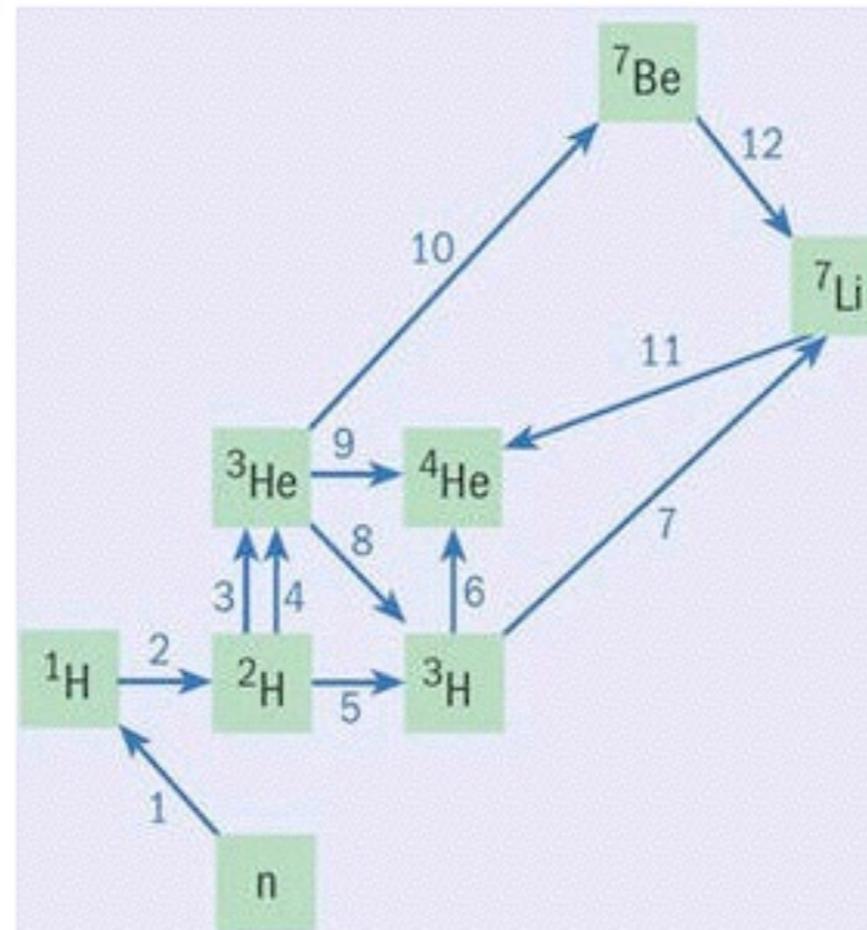
G. GAMOW

The George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

We may remark at first that the building-up process was apparently completed when the temperature of the neutron gas was still rather high, since otherwise the observed abundances would have been strongly affected by the resonances in the region of the slow neutrons. According to Hughes,<sup>2</sup> the neutron capture cross sections of various elements (for neutron energies of about 1 Mev) increase exponentially with atomic number halfway up the periodic system, remaining approximately constant for heavier elements.

Using these cross sections one finds by integration

Equation (1) varies with element number  $Z$  as  $Z^{-2}$  for  $Z < 10$ , and as  $Z^{-1}$  for  $Z > 10$ . The given division of the

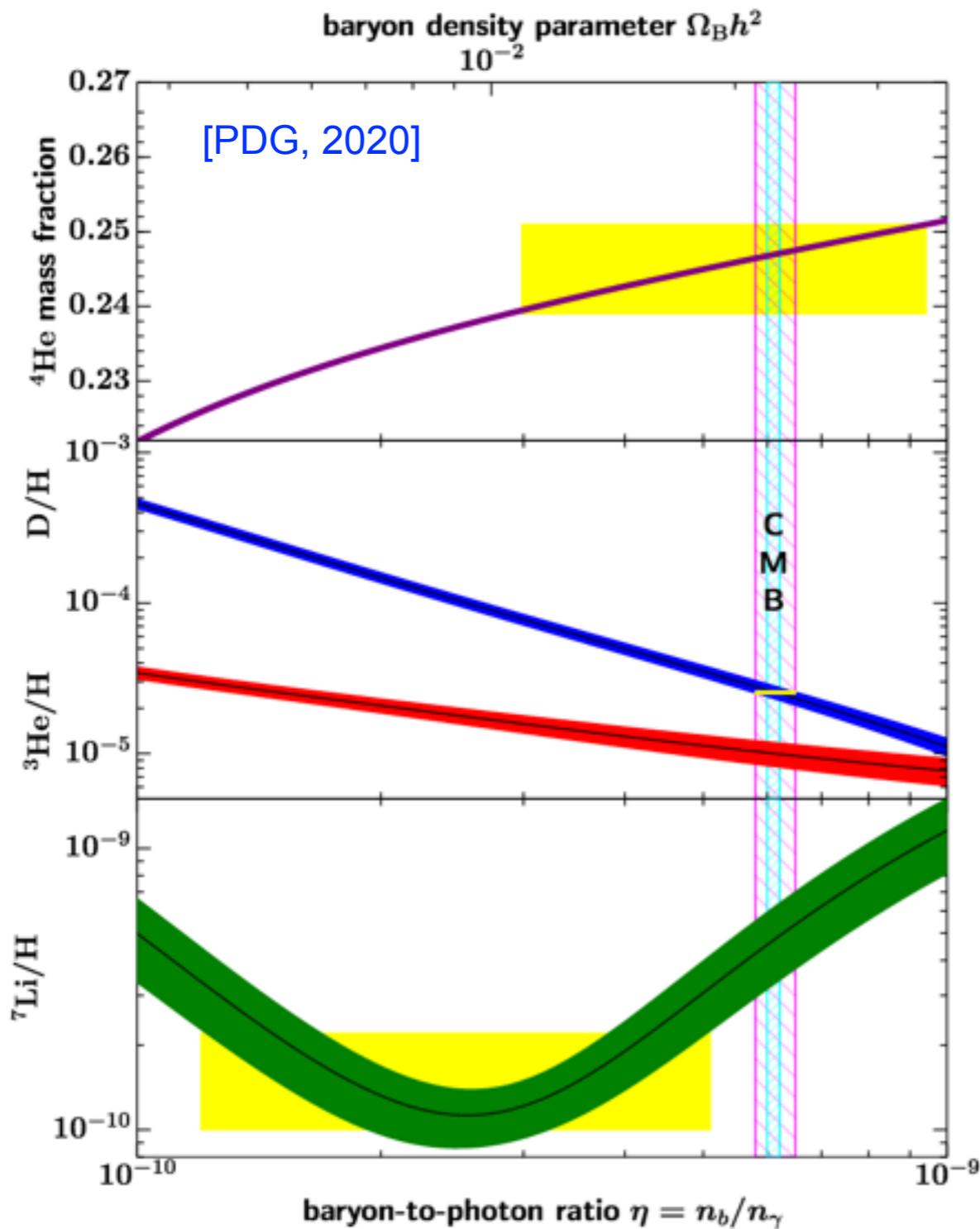


- 1  $n \rightarrow {}^1\text{H} + e^- + \bar{\nu}$
- 2  ${}^1\text{H} + n \rightleftharpoons {}^2\text{H} + \gamma$
- 3  ${}^2\text{H} + {}^1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \gamma$
- 4  ${}^2\text{H} + {}^2\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + n$
- 5  ${}^2\text{H} + {}^2\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{H} + {}^1\text{H}$
- 6  ${}^2\text{H} + {}^3\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + n$
- 7  ${}^3\text{H} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li} + \gamma$
- 8  ${}^3\text{He} + n \rightarrow {}^3\text{H} + {}^1\text{H}$
- 9  ${}^3\text{He} + {}^2\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + {}^1\text{H}$
- 10  ${}^3\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Be} + \gamma$
- 11  ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He}$
- 12  ${}^7\text{Be} + n \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li} + {}^1\text{H}$

BBN - lays out one of the corner stones of Big-Bang theory



# Li-7 Problem



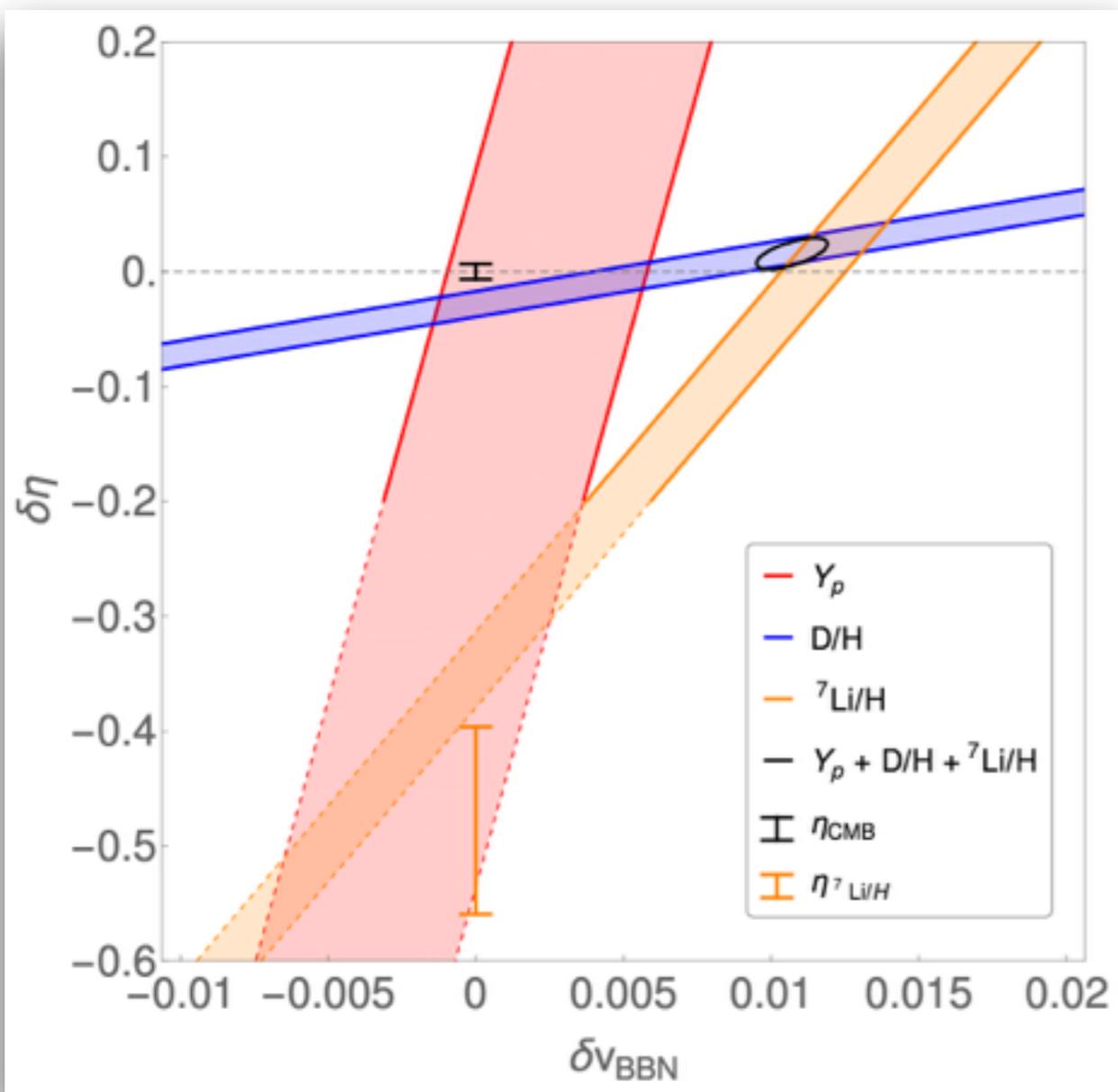
	Prediction [28]	Observation [46]
$Y_p$	$0.2471 \pm 0.0002$	$0.245 \pm 0.003$
$D/\text{H} \times 10^5$	$2.459 \pm 0.036$	$2.547 \pm 0.025$
${}^7\text{Li}/\text{H} \times 10^{10}$	$5.62 \pm 0.25$	$1.6 \pm 0.3$

- Despite its great success in testing He-4 and D/H, while using the CMB eta as input, LCDM fails to predict Li-7 matching with the observation at 8-9 sigma C.L.



# One Solution to Li-7 Problem

[B. Li and M.-C. Chu, 2005; T. Dent et. al.; 2007; M.-K. Cheoun et. al., 2011; K. Moroi et. al., 2019]



- The solution: varying Higgs VEV during the BBN epoch
- => Modified W-boson mass, mass splitting  $m_p - m_n$ , and pion mass (mediator for nuclear interaction)
- => Modified n-p converting and nucleon interacting rates

$$Y_p(\delta v_{\text{BBN}}, \delta \eta) \simeq Y_p(0, 0)(1 - 3.6\delta v_{\text{BBN}} + 0.039\delta \eta)$$

$$D/H(\delta v_{\text{BBN}}, \delta \eta) \simeq D/H(0, 0)(1 + 6.9\delta v_{\text{BBN}} - 1.6\delta \eta)$$

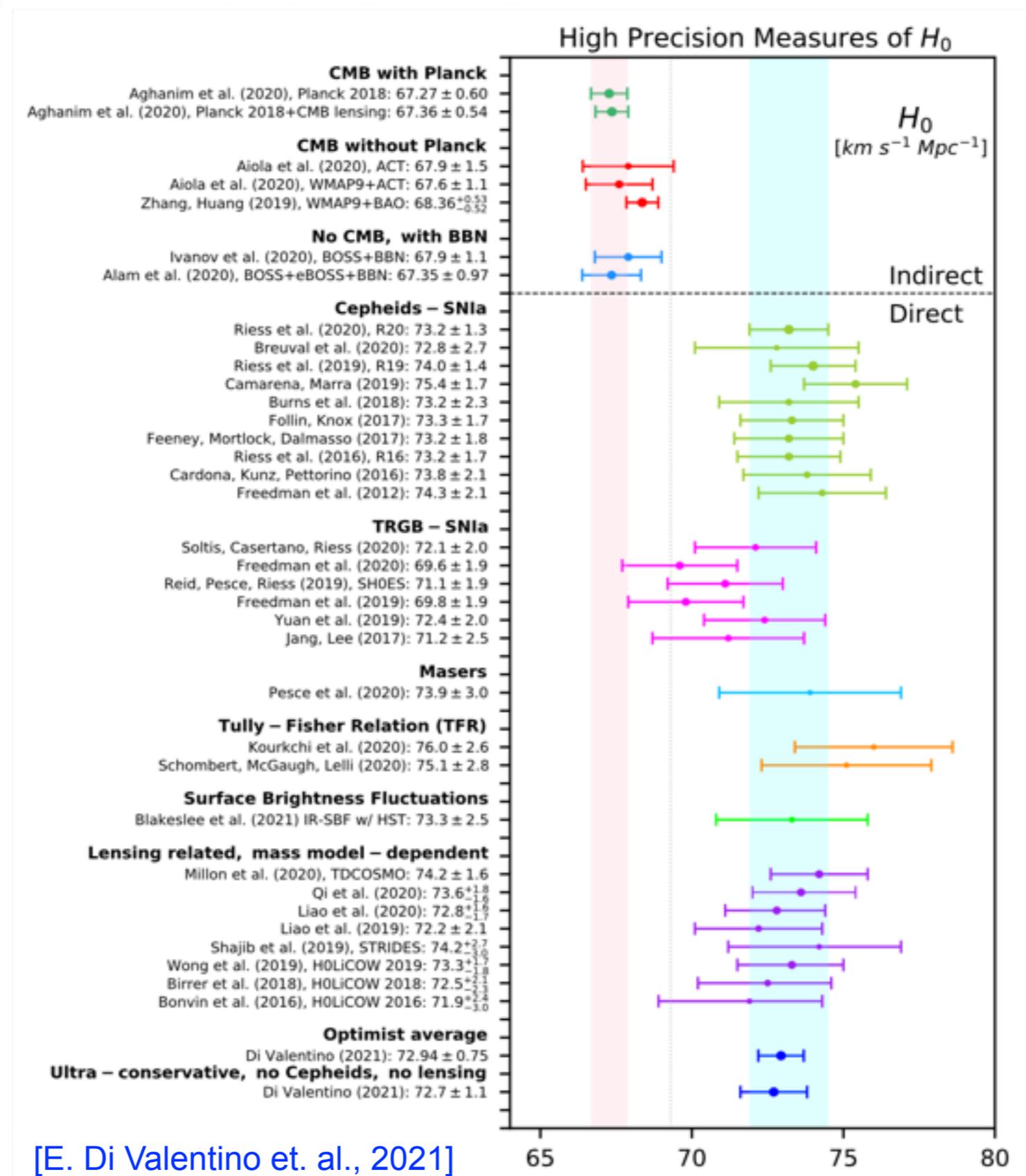
$${}^7\text{Li}/H(\delta v_{\text{BBN}}, \delta \eta) \simeq {}^7\text{Li}/H(0, 0)(1 - 64\delta v_{\text{BBN}} + 2.1\delta \eta)$$

- => Modified BBN determination for eta (The tension is reduced from 8.8 sigma to 2.5 sigma, according to reduced chi-2)

$$\delta v_{\text{BBN}} = (1.1 \pm 0.1)\%, \quad \delta \eta = (1.7 \pm 1.3)\%$$



# Hubble Tension



[E. Di Valentino et. al., 2021]



# One Solution to Hubble Tension

- One solution: modified electron mass  $m_e$  during recombination epoch [Planck collaboration, 2015]

[L. Hart and J. Chluba, 2019]

Parameter	<i>Planck</i> 2018 + varying $\alpha_{EM}(z, p)$	<i>Planck</i> 2018 + BAO + varying $\alpha_{EM}(z, p)$	<i>Planck</i> 2018 + varying $m_e(z, p)$	<i>Planck</i> 2018 + BAO + varying $m_e(z, p)$
$\Omega_b h^2$	$0.02233 \pm 0.00018$	$0.02243 \pm 0.00016$	$0.0197^{+0.0012}_{-0.0015}$	$0.02254 \pm 0.00019$
$\Omega_c h^2$	$0.1198 \pm 0.0017$	$0.1201 \pm 0.0017$	$0.1045^{+0.0074}_{-0.0082}$	$0.1209 \pm 0.0019$
$100\theta_{MC}$	$1.0405 \pm 0.0049$	$1.0441 \pm 0.0038$	$0.950 \pm 0.046$	$1.0466 \pm 0.0049$
$\tau$	$0.0545 \pm 0.0077$	$0.0549 \pm 0.0076$	$0.0513 \pm 0.0081$	$0.0544 \pm 0.0075$
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	$3.044 \pm 0.015$	$3.043 \pm 0.015$	$3.030 \pm 0.018$	$3.044 \pm 0.016$
$n_s$	$0.9640 \pm 0.0071$	$0.9622 \pm 0.0069$	$0.9655 \pm 0.0064$	$0.9645 \pm 0.0066$
$\alpha_{EM}/\alpha_{EM,0}$	$0.9997 \pm 0.0035$	$1.0022 \pm 0.0027$	--	--
$m_e/m_{e,0}$	--	--	$0.878^{+0.057}_{-0.065}$	$1.0081 \pm 0.0070$
$p$	$-0.0011 \pm 0.0035$	$0.0007 \pm 0.0031$	$0.0014 \pm 0.0043$	$-0.0007 \pm 0.0043$
$H_0$	$67.3 \pm 1.4$	$68.45 \pm 0.88$	$44^{+9}_{-10}$	$69.1 \pm 1.2$

- => Reduced cross section of Thomson scattering (inversely prop to the square of  $m_e$ ) and hence increased  $z^*$  and decreased sound horizon at rec
- => Unchanged angular sound horizon at rec, despite the increase of the  $H_0$  value



# Our Methodology

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If the variation of  $m_e$  during the recombination epoch is caused by a shift ( $\sim 1\%$ ) to Higgs VEV, potentially these these two puzzles can be connected ... ..

Despite this, we would conduct a semi-analytical study, to understand better how that is achieved in  $\Lambda$ CDM +  $m_e$

For this purpose, we introduce a LINEAR scheme for the analysis including four parameters to characterize  $\Lambda$ CDM +  $m_e$ :  $w_b$ ,  $w_c$ ,  $h$  and  $v$ . We set their values best-fitting the CMB data in the  $\Lambda$ CDM model as the reference point ( $v = v_0$ ), and then extract out their deviations from the reference point required for explaining the CMB + BAO data

As a start, we encode these requirements as variation conditions of two observables

$$d \ln r_* - d \ln D_* = d \ln \theta_* \equiv 0$$

$$d \ln r_d + d \ln h = d \ln(r_d h) \equiv \text{BAO} - \text{CMB(Ref)}$$

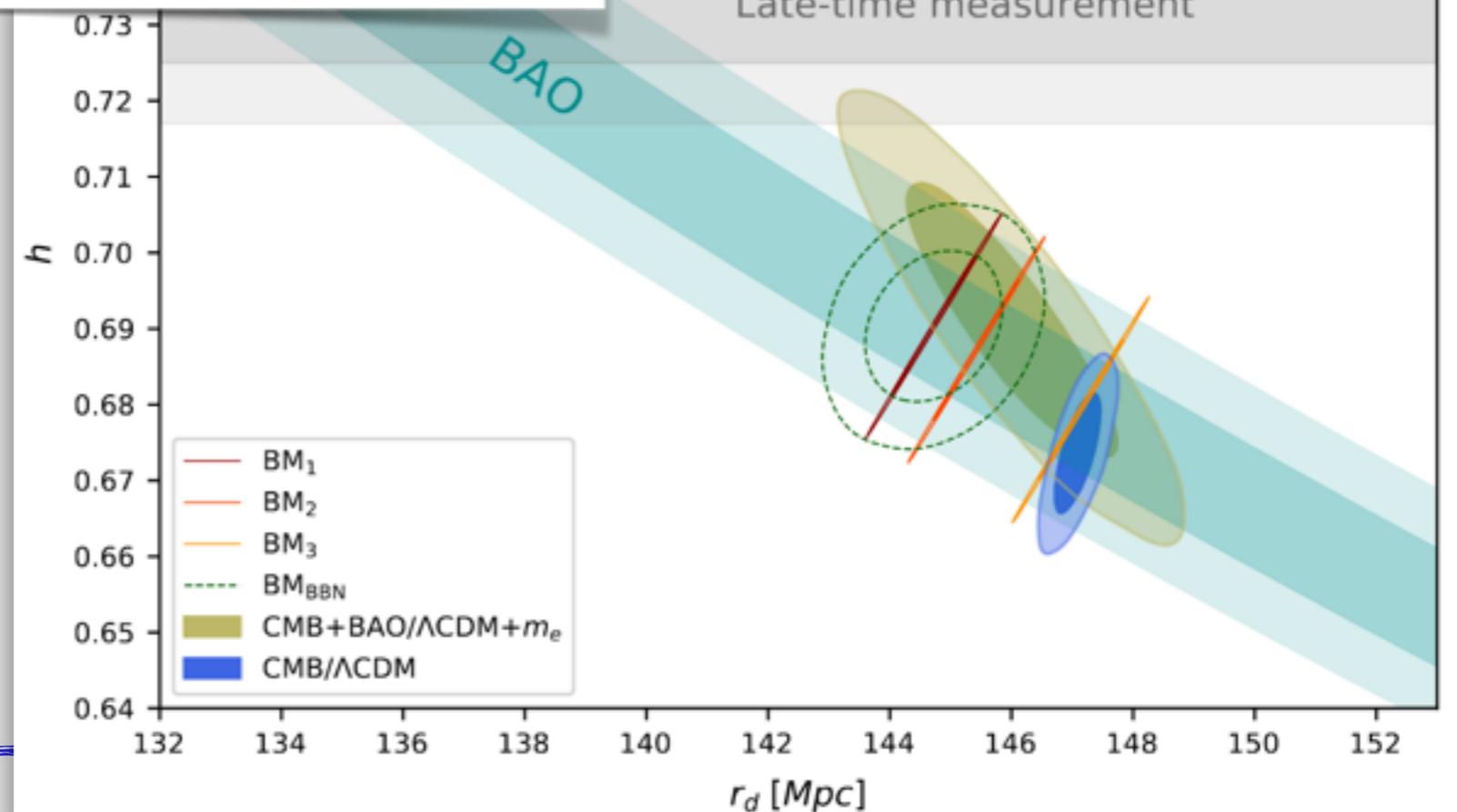
Then the shift to  $H_0$  or  $h$  can be solved out in various benchmark models characterized by different values of  $w_b$  and  $v$  (e.g., the ones favored by BBN)



# Hubble Tension - Benchmarks

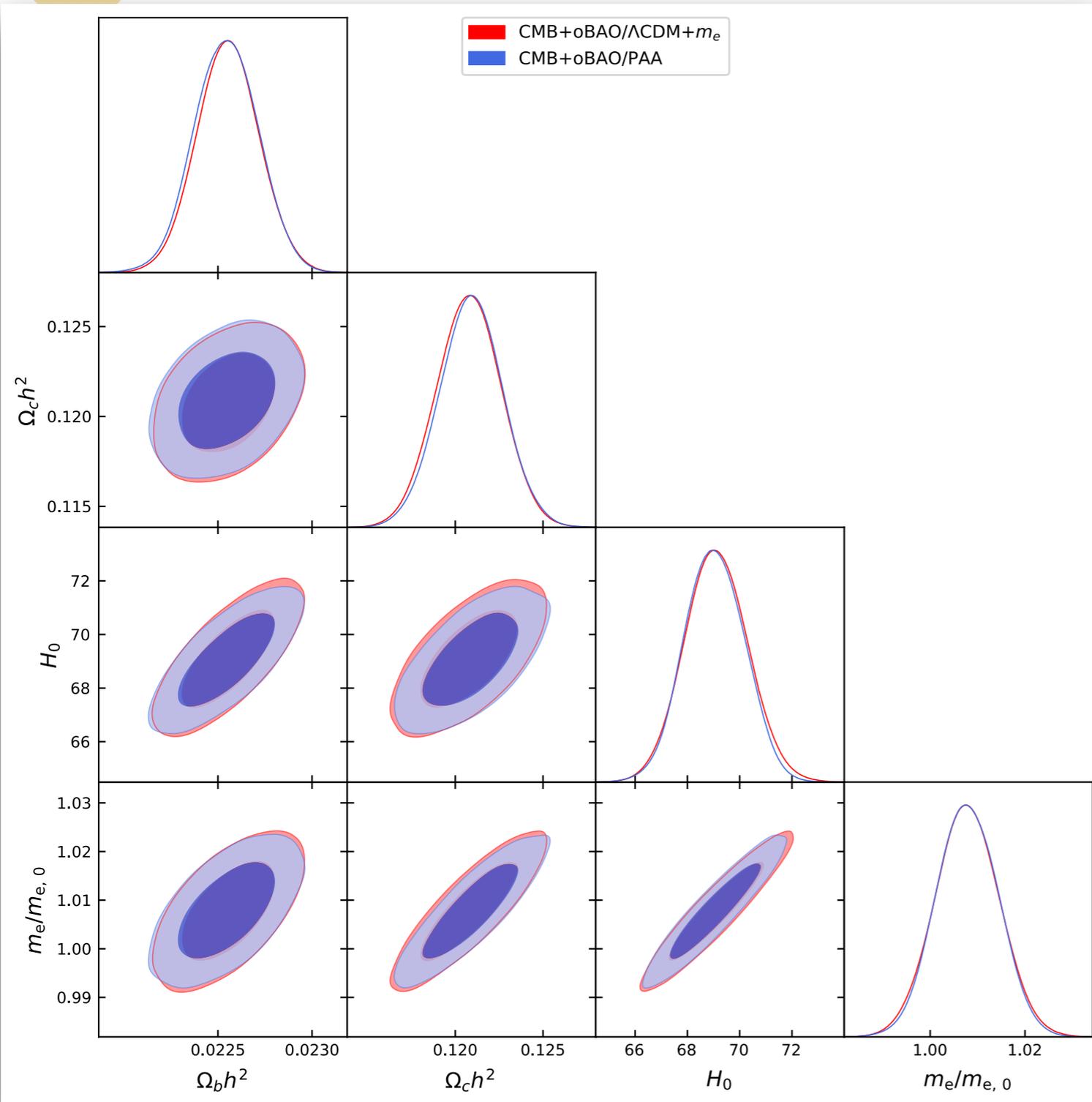
Models	$v/v_0$	$\omega_b$	$\omega_c$	$h$	$r_d$
Ref	1.000	0.02238	0.1201	0.6732	147.07
$\Lambda$ CDM+ $m_e$ +P18+BAO	$1.008 \pm 0.007$ (0.8 $\pm$ 0.7)%	$0.02255 \pm 0.00017$ (0.8 $\pm$ 0.8)%	$0.1208 \pm 0.0019$ (0.6 $\pm$ 1.6)%	$0.6910 \pm 0.014$ (2.6 $\pm$ 2.1)%	$146.0 \pm 1.3$ (-0.7 $\pm$ 0.9)%
BM <sub>1</sub>	1.011 1.1%	0.02276 1.7%	$0.1236 \pm 0.0017$ (2.9 $\pm$ 1.4)%	$0.6904 \pm 0.0061$ (2.6 $\pm$ 0.9)%	$144.5 \pm 0.4$ (-1.8 $\pm$ 0.3)%
BM <sub>2</sub>	1.010 1.0%	0.02238 0.0%	$0.1229 \pm 0.0017$ (2.3 $\pm$ 1.4)%	$0.6872 \pm 0.0061$ (2.1 $\pm$ 0.9)%	$145.4 \pm 0.5$ (-1.1 $\pm$ 0.3)%
BM <sub>3</sub>	1.000 0.0%	0.02260 1.0%	$0.1189 \pm 0.0017$ (-1.0 $\pm$ 1.4)%	$0.6793 \pm 0.0061$ (0.9 $\pm$ 0.9)%	$147.1 \pm 0.5$ (0.1 $\pm$ 0.3)%
BM <sub>BBN</sub>	$1.011 \pm 0.001$ (1.1 $\pm$ 0.1)%	$0.02276 \pm 0.00030$ (1.7 $\pm$ 1.3)%	$0.1236 \pm 0.0019$ (2.9 $\pm$ 1.6)%	$0.6904 \pm 0.0066$ (2.6 $\pm$ 1.0)%	$144.8 \pm 0.7$ (-1.6 $\pm$ 0.5)%
BM <sub>BBN(NL)</sub>	$1.012 \pm 0.002$ (1.2 $\pm$ 0.2)%	$0.02290 \pm 0.00031$ (2.3 $\pm$ 1.4)%	$0.1243 \pm 0.0019$ (3.5 $\pm$ 1.6)%	$0.6924 \pm 0.0068$ (2.8 $\pm$ 1.0)%	$144.3 \pm 0.8$ (-1.9 $\pm$ 0.5)%

The same trend as that in [L. Hart and J. Chluba, 2019] is observed, as  $v$  varies: a positive shift of  $v$  results in a smaller  $r_d$  and bigger  $h$  value.





# More Comprehensive Treatment (Preliminary)



CMB scales [W. Hu, 2000]

$$\delta l_a = \delta D_* - \delta r_* ,$$

$$\delta l_{\text{eq}} = \delta k_{\text{eq}} + \delta D_* ,$$

$$\delta l_D = \delta k_D + \delta D_* ,$$

BAO scales

$$\delta \alpha_{\perp}(z_{\text{eff}}) = \delta D(z_{\text{eff}}) - \delta r_d ,$$

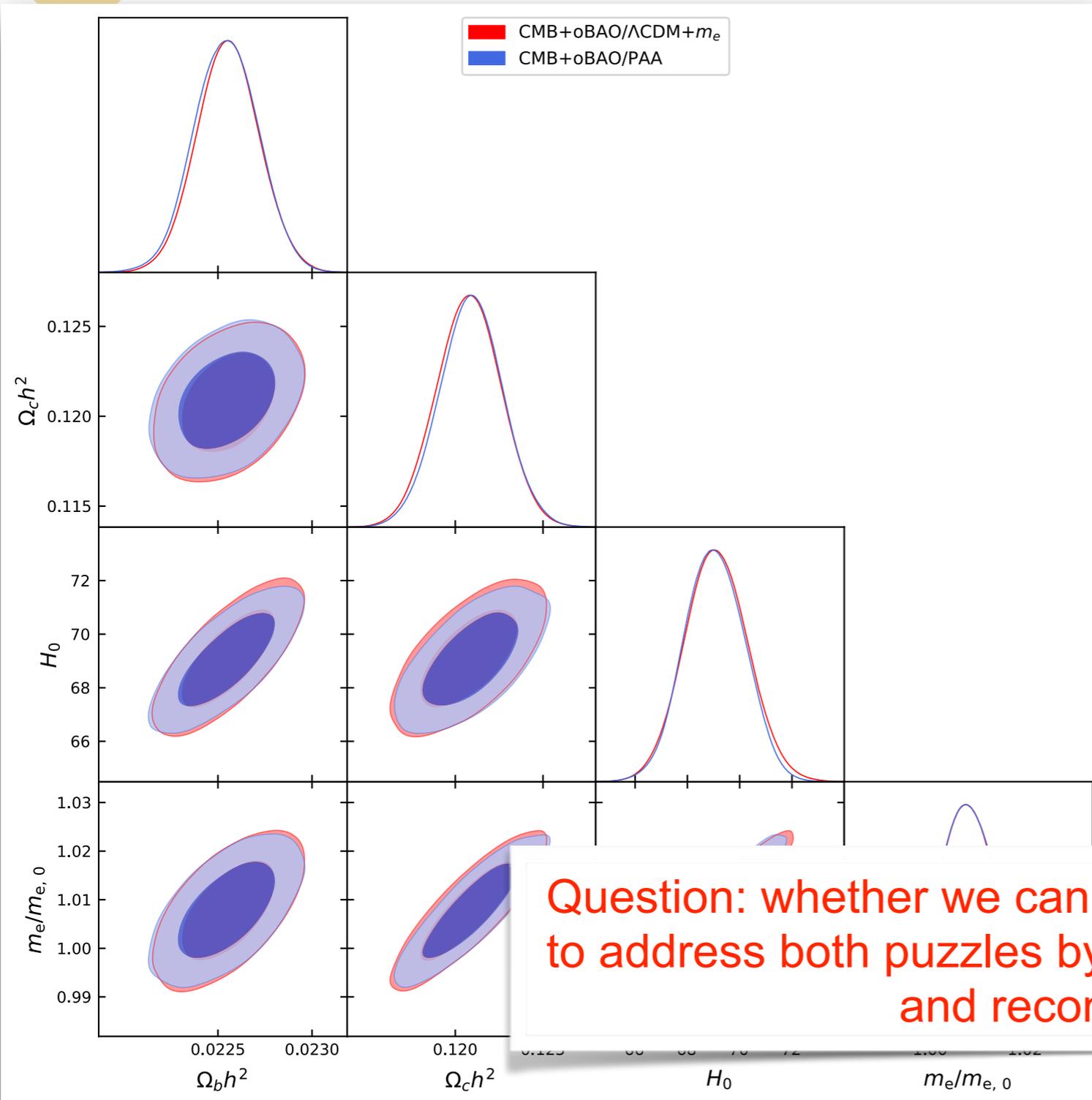
$$\delta \alpha_{\parallel}(z_{\text{eff}}) = \delta H(z_{\text{eff}}) + \delta r_d ,$$

$$\delta \alpha_V(z_{\text{eff}}) = \frac{2}{3} \delta D(z_{\text{eff}}) - \frac{1}{3} \delta H(z_{\text{eff}}) - \delta r_d$$

The numerical results in [L. Hart and J. Chluba, 2019] are almost perfectly reproduced using this semi-analytical+likelihood method!



# More Comprehensive Treatment (Preliminary)



CMB scales [W. Hu, 2003]

$$\delta l_a = \delta D_* - \delta r_* ,$$

$$\delta l_{\text{eq}} = \delta k_{\text{eq}} + \delta D_* ,$$

$$\delta l_D = \delta k_D + \delta D_* ,$$

BAO scales

$$\delta \alpha_{\perp}(z_{\text{eff}}) = \delta D(z_{\text{eff}}) - \delta r_d ,$$

$$\delta \alpha_{\parallel}(z_{\text{eff}}) = \delta H(z_{\text{eff}}) + \delta r_d ,$$

$$\delta \alpha_V(z_{\text{eff}}) = \frac{2}{3} \delta D(z_{\text{eff}}) - \frac{1}{3} \delta H(z_{\text{eff}}) - \delta r_d$$

Question: whether we can find a realization in particle physics to address both puzzles by varying the Higgs VEV in the BBN and recombination epochs?

analytical+MCMC method:



## Axi-Higgs Model: Our Proposal

A system of axion + Higgs, with the Higgs evolution being driven by the axion field.  
Effectively, we have

$$V = V_a + V_\phi = V_a(a) + |K(a) (m_s^2 F(a) - \kappa \phi^\dagger \phi)|^2$$

$$W = X(m_s^2 G(A) - \kappa K(A) H_u H_d) + \dots \rightarrow V_\phi = |m_s^2 G(a) - \kappa K(a) \phi^\dagger \phi|^2$$

$$\ddot{v} + (3H + \Gamma_\phi) \dot{v} - 2\kappa B v = 0$$

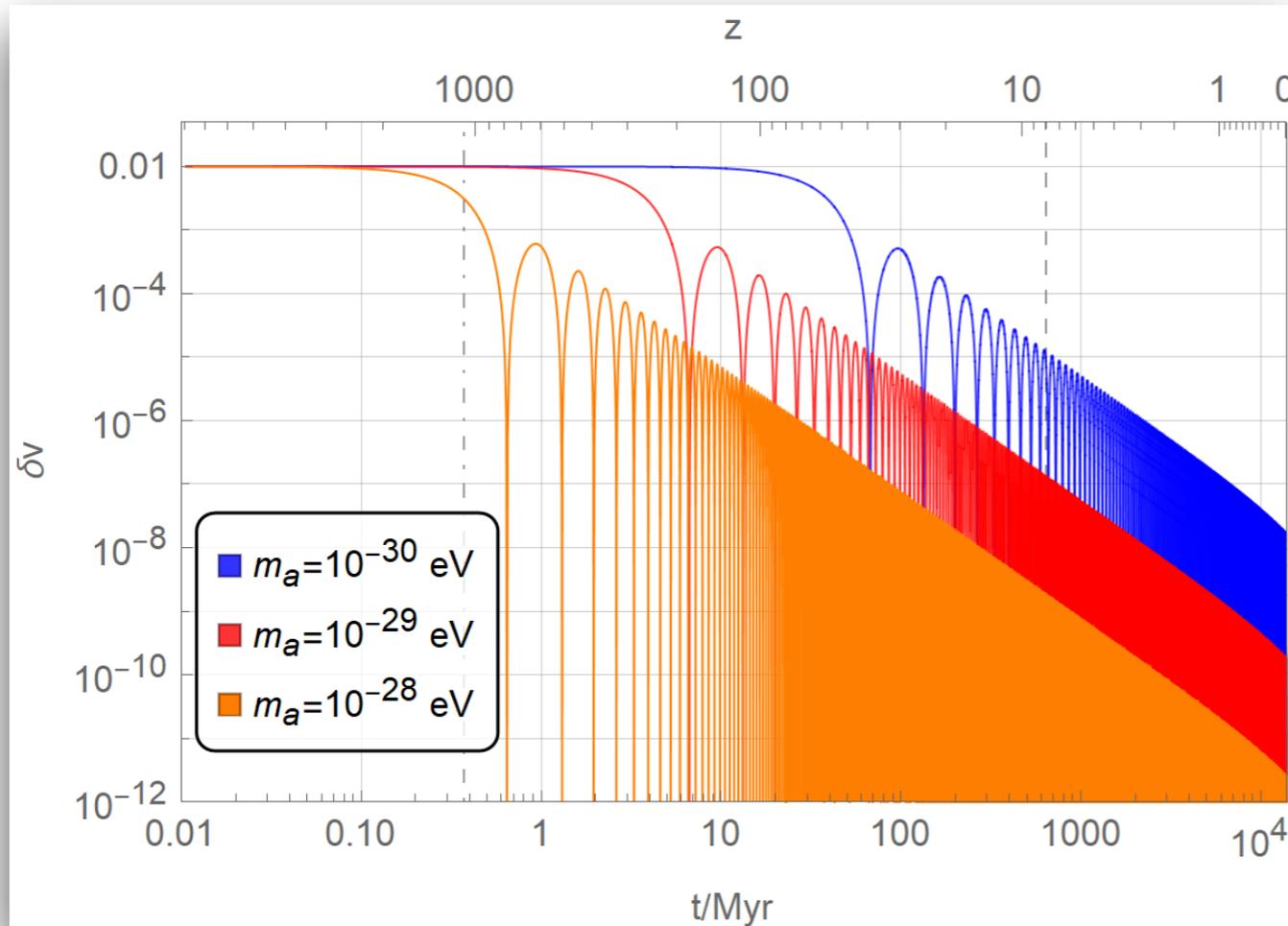
During cosmic evolution, any deviation of  $B(=\text{sqrt}(V_\phi))$  from zero will be stopped by the big Higgs decay width. If that happens, e.g., caused by axion oscillation, the Higgs VEV will be shifted instantly to an axion-driven profile defined by  $B=0$ .

$$\langle \phi^\dagger \phi \rangle = \frac{v^2}{2} = \frac{m_s^2}{\kappa} F(a)$$

$$\delta v(t) = F(a(t))^{1/2} - 1 \simeq \frac{C a(t)^2}{2M_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$



# Axi-Higgs Model



The axion evolution is approximately described by physics for a damped harmonic oscillator:

$$\ddot{a} + 3H(t)\dot{a} + \frac{\partial V_a}{\partial a} = 0$$

At early cosmic time, the large  $H(t)$  freezes the axion field to an initial value

$$a_{\text{ini}} = \left( \frac{2\delta v_{\text{ini}} M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{C} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\delta v_{\text{ini}} = \delta v_{\text{rec}} = \delta v_{\text{BBN}}$$

Once  $H(t)$  becomes smaller than  $m_a$ , the axion field starts to oscillate around the potential minimal point in an underdamped manner

$$a(t) \simeq \mathcal{A}_m(t) a_{\text{ini}} \cos(m_a t)$$

$$\Delta z \simeq 0.83 \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \right)^{2.5} \left( \frac{m_a}{10^{-30} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\delta v(t) = F(a(t))^{1/2} - 1 \simeq \frac{C a(t)^2}{2M_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$



# Axi-Higgs Model - Axion Mass

Condition 1: the axion field starts to roll down near or after the recombination  $\Rightarrow$  the same  $a_{\text{ini}}$  throughout the BBN-recombination epoch and hence  $a_{\text{rec}} = a_{\text{BBN}} \Rightarrow$

$$m_a \lesssim 3.3 \times 10^{-29} \text{ eV}$$

- Condition 2: the axion field oscillates with a highly-suppressed amplitude at low redshifts and today.  $\Rightarrow$  To satisfy the experimental bounds set by atomic-clock and quasar measurements



Atomic clock (AC)

$$\left. \frac{d(\delta v)}{dt} \right|_{t_0} \simeq \left. \frac{d(\delta \mu)}{dt} \right|_{t_0} = (0.08 \pm 0.36) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

[R. Lange et. al., 2021]

$$m_a > 1.0 \times 10^{-29} \text{ eV} \quad (68\% \text{ C.L.})$$

$$m_a > 1.6 \times 10^{-30} \text{ eV} \quad (95\% \text{ C.L.})$$



# Axi-Higgs Model

In this context, the Li-7 problem and Hubble tension can be simultaneously addressed, with a shift to the Higgs VEV throughout the BBN-recombination epoch.

Moreover, as an ultralight CP-odd bosonic D.O.F., the axion in this model has special properties:

- Big de Broglie wavelength ( $\sim 100-1000$  Mpc, in comparison to the galactic-cluster scale  $\sim 1-10$  Mpc)
- Coupling with photons

$$\mathcal{L} \sim \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

Question: will these properties bring detectable impacts on cosmology and astronomy, other than BBN and Hubble?



## $S_8$ ( $\sigma_8$ ) Tension

$\sigma_8$  is the matter clustering amplitude (root mean square of matter density fluctuations) on the scale of galactic cluster, namely,  $R_8 = 8h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ . In the Fourier momentum space, it is given by

$$\sigma_8^2 = \sigma^2(r = R_8) = \int_0^\infty \mathcal{P}_m(k) W^2(kR_8) dk$$

Yet, the effect of  $\sigma_8$  is inseparable from the growth rate of structure, in the galaxy-clustering observations. The direct observable is instead

$$S_8 \equiv \sigma_8 \left( \frac{\Omega_m}{0.3} \right)^{0.5}$$

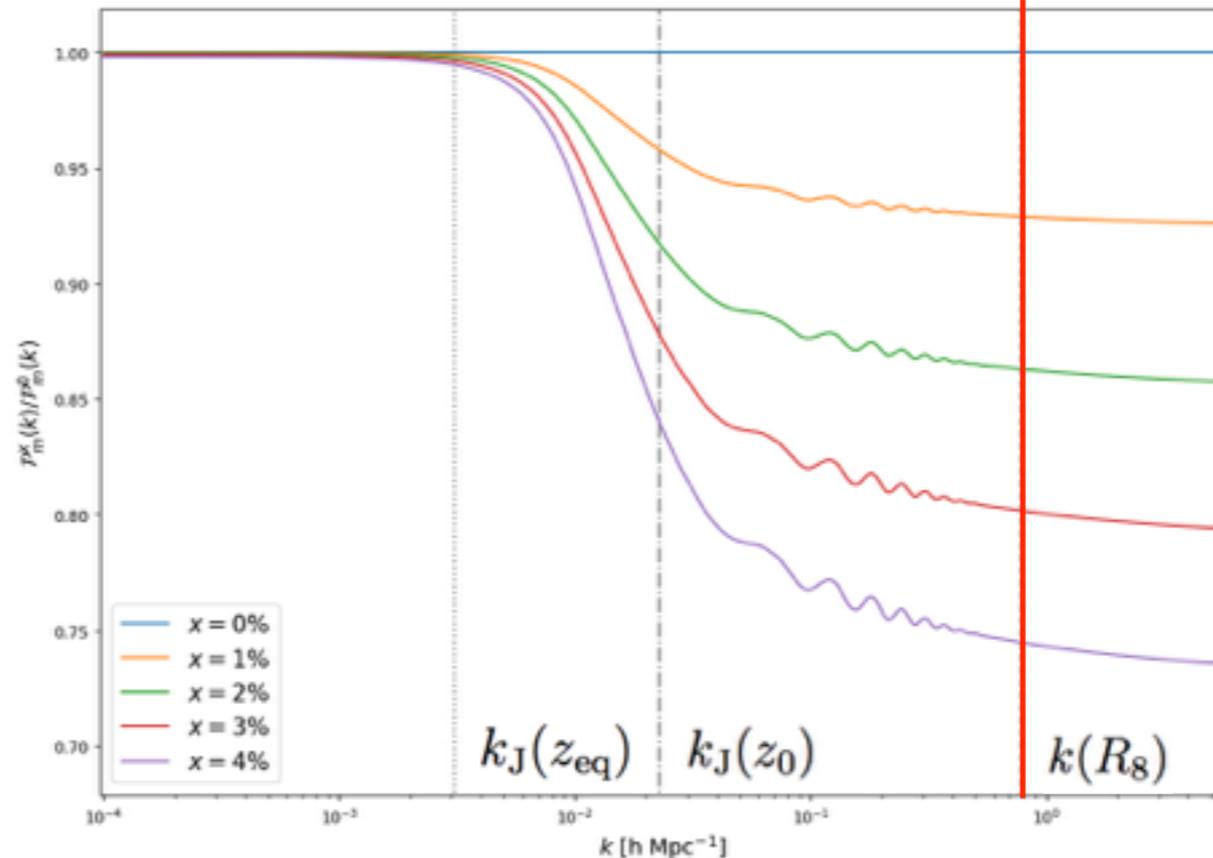
$S_8$  ( $\sigma_8$ ) tension: a  $\sim 2$ - $3$  sigma discrepancy between the inferred  $S_8$  value from the CMB data assuming the  $\Lambda$ CDM model and its value obtained from direct measurements in the late-time universe, in particular, DES and KiDS-1000

$$S_{8,\text{CMB}} = 0.832 \pm 0.013$$

$$S_{8,\text{DES}} = 0.773^{+0.026}_{-0.020}, \quad S_{8,\text{KiDS-1000}} = 0.766^{+0.020}_{-0.014}$$



## $S_8$ ( $\sigma_8$ ) Tension

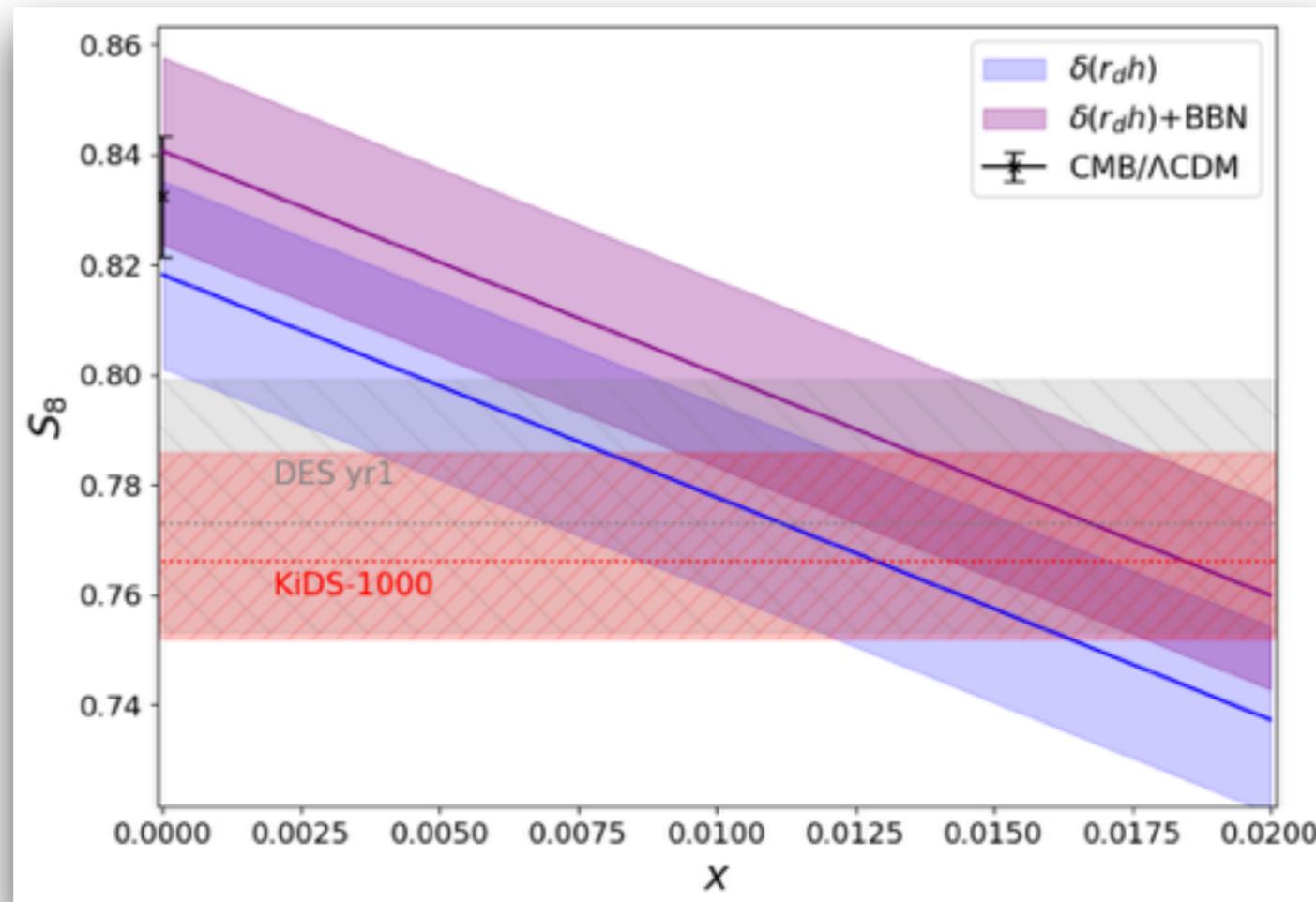


“Axi-Higgs” opportunity: its axion is wavy, and hence can suppress the formation of structure in the universe scale-dependently. Here the suppression scale is determined by its mass  $m_a$ , while the suppression strength is determined by its matter density ( $x = \omega_a/\omega_m$ )

$$k_J(z) = \frac{\sqrt{m_a H(z)}}{(1+z)} \quad a_{\text{ini}} \simeq 3.7 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{x}{0.01} \right)^{1/2}$$



## $S_8$ ( $\sigma_8$ ) Tension



- Applying the linear analysis again with the extra parameter  $x$  and constraint  $\delta S_8 = 0.5\delta\Omega_m + \delta\sigma_8$  we find (using **AxionCAMB**)

$$H_0 \simeq H_{0,P18} (1.01 \pm 0.01 + 1.37\delta v_{\text{rec}} - 0.52x)$$

$$S_8 \simeq S_{8,P18} (0.98 \pm 0.02 + 2.62\delta v_{\text{rec}} - 4.86x)$$

- By turning on  $x$ , the  $S_8$  tension with the late-time measurements gets alleviated



# Cosmic Birefringence

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PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 12

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## ARTICLES

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### **Einstein equivalence principle and the polarization of radio galaxies**

Sean M. Carroll and George B. Field

*Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138*

(Received 26 December 1990)

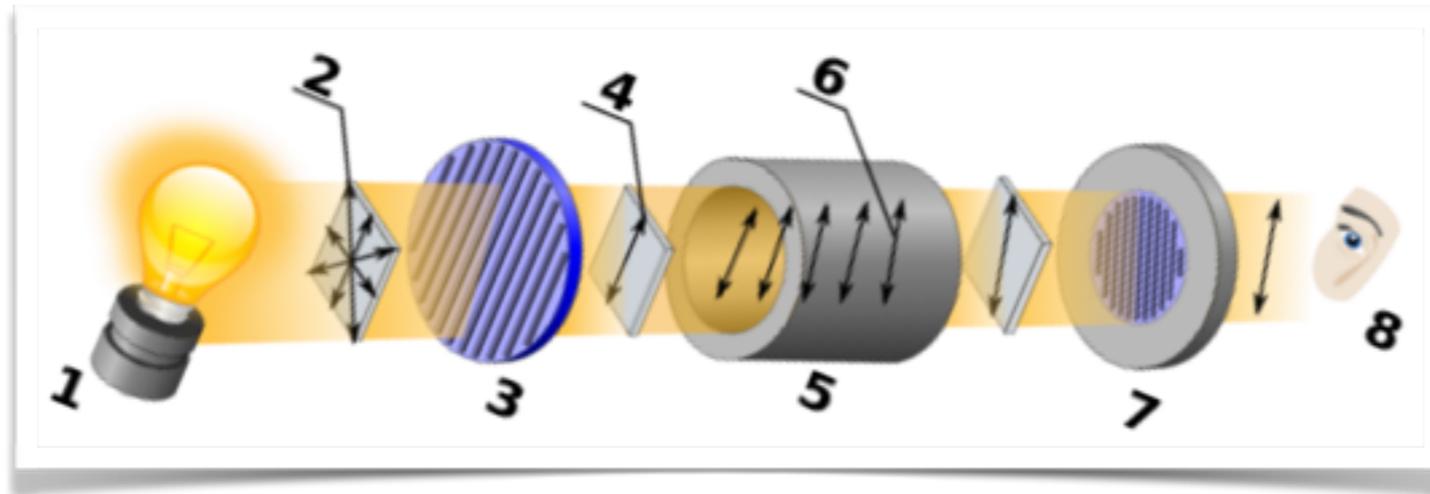


# Cosmic Birefringence

$$L \sim -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu a\partial_\mu a - \frac{1}{2}m_a^2 a^2 + \frac{g}{2}aF_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

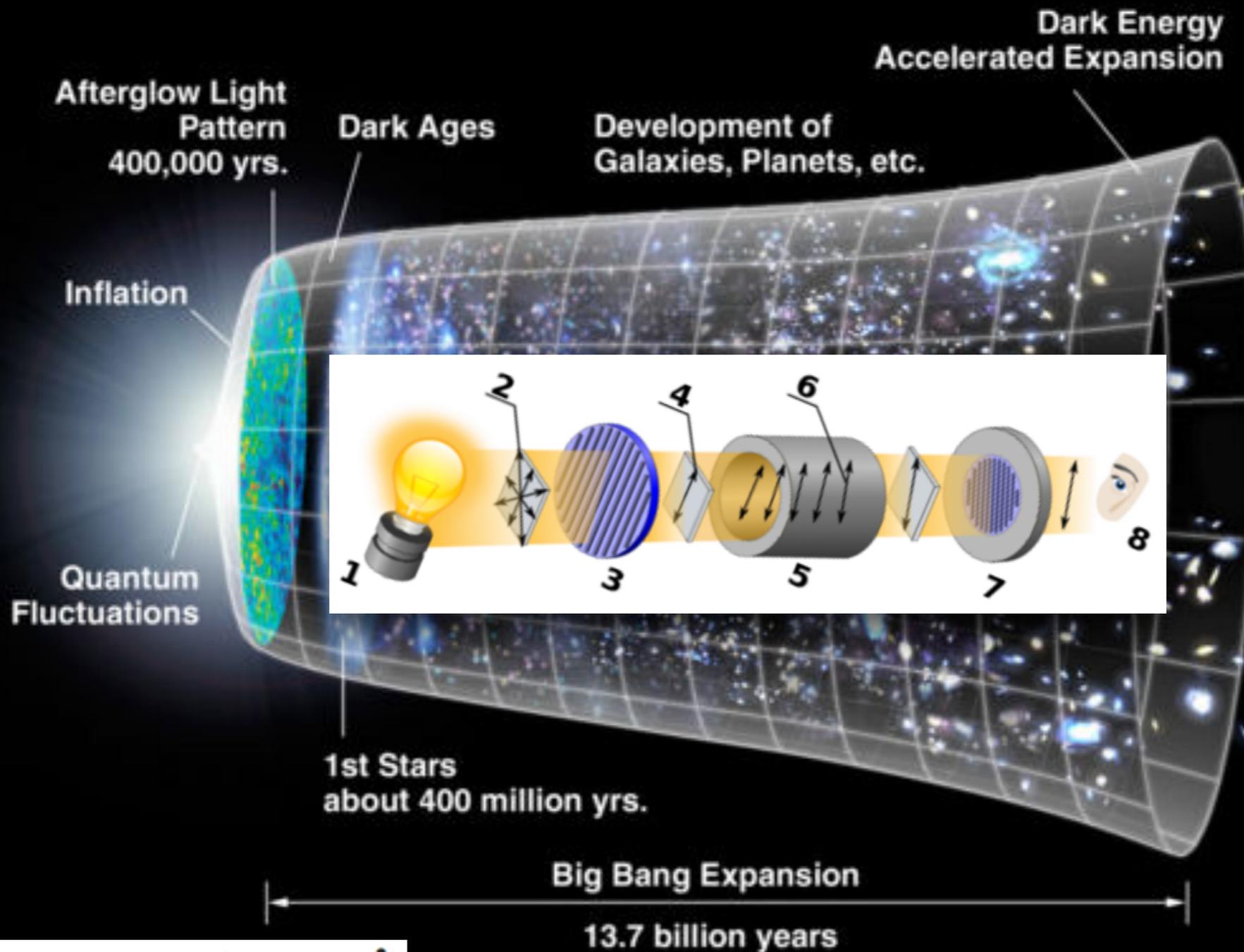
$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t^2 + k^2 + m_a^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \partial_t^2 + k^2 + \eta(t)k & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \partial_t^2 + k^2 - \eta(t)k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} i\hat{a} \\ f_+ \\ f_- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Parity-violating interaction** => Different dispersion relations for left- and right-circular polarized photons => Oscillating (linear) polarization angle



$$\Delta\phi = g \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \partial_t a(x, t) = g \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \partial_t [a_0(x, t) \cos(m_a t + \theta(x, t))]$$

# Parity-Violating Imprints in CMB



$$\beta = \frac{1}{2} g_{\phi\gamma} \int_{t_{\text{LSS}}}^{t_0} dt \dot{\phi}$$

$$C_{\ell}^{EB,o} = \frac{1}{2} \sin(4\beta) (C_{\ell}^{EE} - C_{\ell}^{BB})$$

[Lue, Wang, Kamionkowski, PRL(1999)]



# ICB Anomaly

Featured in Physics

Editors' Suggestion

Access by Hong Kong Unive

## New Extraction of the Cosmic Birefringence from the Planck 2018 Polarization Data

Yuto Minami and Eiichiro Komatsu

Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 221301 – Published 23 November 2020

Physics See synopsis: [Hints of Cosmic Birefringence?](#)

Article

References

Citing Articles (2)

PDF

HTML

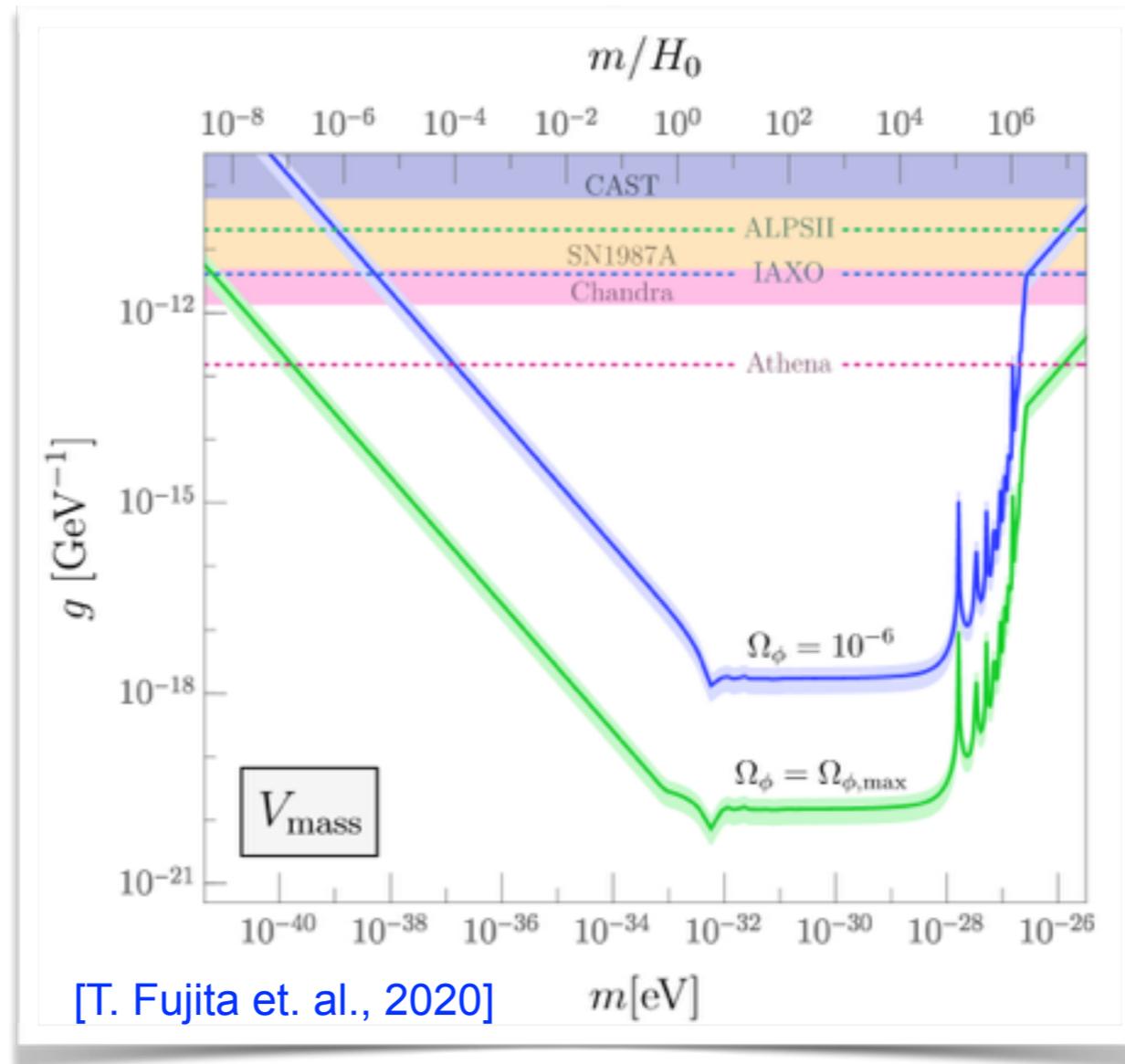
Export Citation

### ABSTRACT

We search for evidence of parity-violating physics in the Planck 2018 polarization data and report on a new measurement of the cosmic birefringence angle  $\beta$ . The previous measurements are limited by the systematic uncertainty in the absolute polarization angles of the Planck detectors. We mitigate this systematic uncertainty completely by simultaneously determining  $\beta$  and the angle miscalibration using the observed cross-correlation of the  $E$ - and  $B$ -mode polarization of the cosmic microwave background and the Galactic foreground emission. We show that the systematic errors are effectively mitigated and achieve a factor-of-2 smaller uncertainty than the previous measurement, finding  $\beta = 0.35 \pm 0.14$  deg (68% C.L.), which excludes  $\beta = 0$  at 99.2% C.L. This corresponds to the statistical significance of  $2.4\sigma$ .



# Axion Interpretation



Most-favored  
axion mass:

$$H_0(\sim 10^{-32} \text{eV}) < m_a < H_{\text{rec}}(\sim 10^{-28} \text{eV})$$

$$\beta \sim -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{a_{\text{ini}}}{f_a}, \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{a_{\text{ini}}}{f_a} \simeq 1.0 \pm 0.3$$

=> **Great opportunity for**  
“axi-Higgs”: the “vanilla”  
region of  $m_a$  in this model  
falls into this range



# Overall Picture on the Axi-Higgs Cosmology

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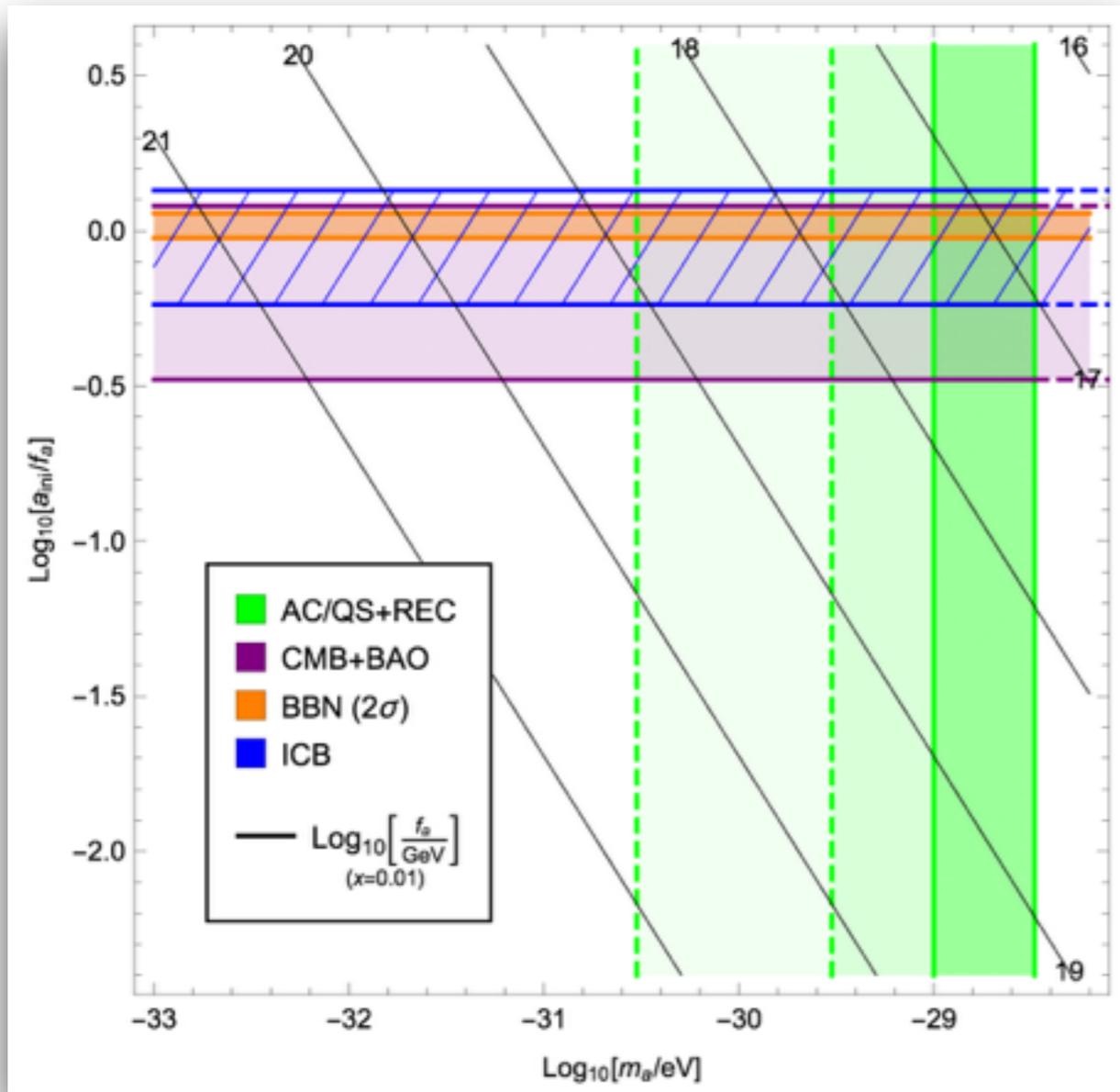
“Axi-Higgs” - a four-parameter system

$$m_a, \delta v_{ini} = C' \left( \frac{a_{ini}}{f_a} \right)^2 \text{ or } C', \frac{a_{ini}}{f_a} \text{ and } f_a$$

- $m_a$ : constrained by the requirement of the late-time oscillation and the bounds from the AC/QS measurements
- $\delta v_{ini}$ : constrained for addressing Li-7 problem and Hubble tension
- $a_{ini}/f_a$ : constrained for explaining ICB anomaly
- $f_a$ : the  $x$  value required for addressing  $S_8$  tension determines  $a_{ini}$  and hence  $f_a$



# Overall Picture on the Axi-Higgs Cosmology

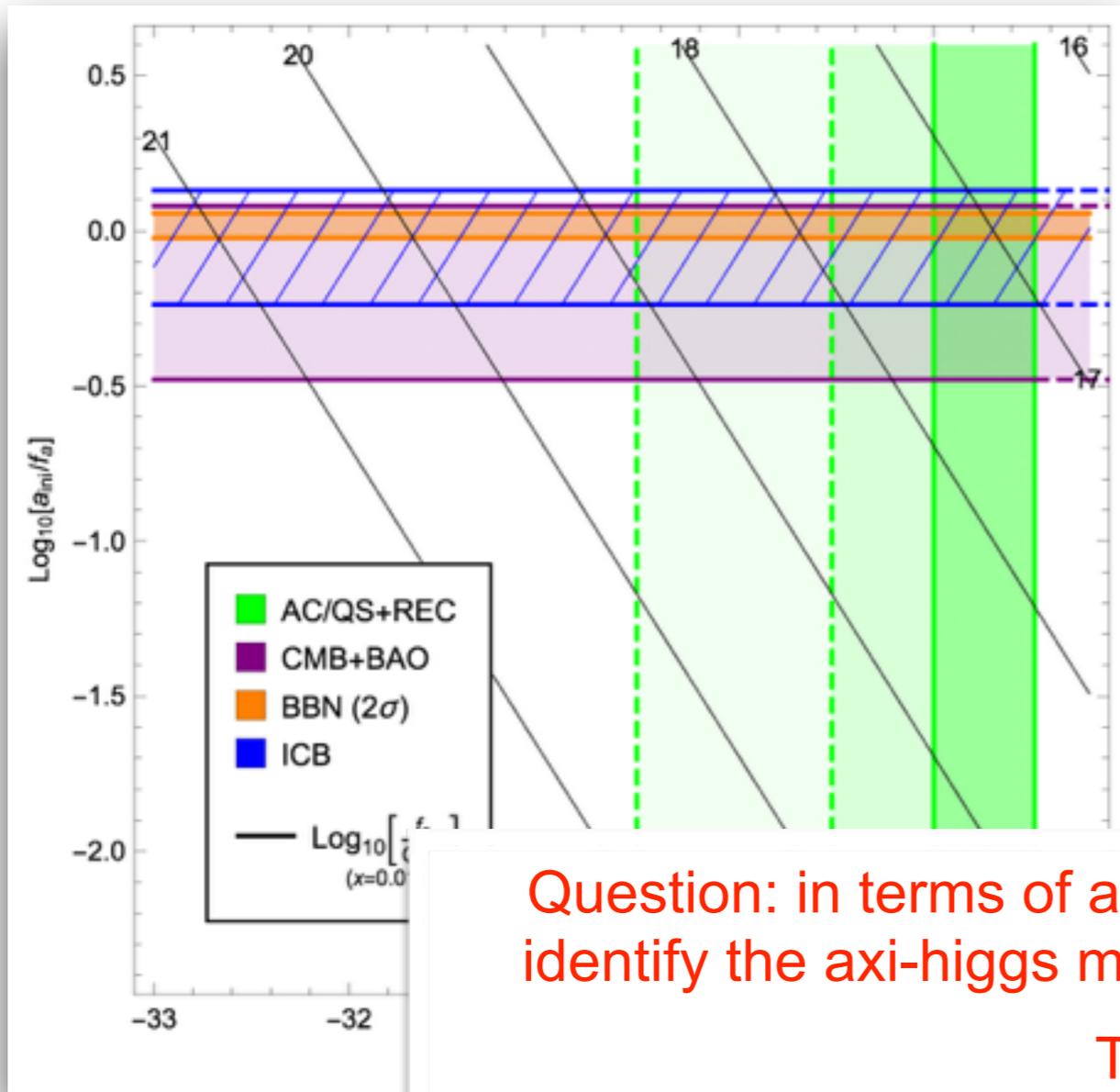


$$m_a, \delta v_{\text{ini}} = C' \left( \frac{a_{\text{ini}}}{f_a} \right)^2 \text{ or } C', \frac{a_{\text{ini}}}{f_a} \text{ and } f_a$$

- $m_a$  is favored to be  $\sim 10^{-29}$  eV (68% C.L.) and  $\sim 10^{-29}$ - $10^{-30}$  eV (95% C.L), the mass region favored for addressing the ICB anomaly
- With  $C' \sim 0.01$ , addressing Li-7 problem, Hubble tension, and ICB anomaly all favor  $a_{\text{ini}}/f_a \sim 1.0$
- With the  $a_{\text{ini}}$  value ( $x \sim 0.01$ ) suggested for mitigating the  $S_8$  ( $\sigma_8$ ) tension,  $f_a$  is determined to be  $\sim 10^{17}$ - $10^{18}$  GeV, which one is tempted to identify with Planck scale



# Overall Picture on the Axi-Higgs Cosmology



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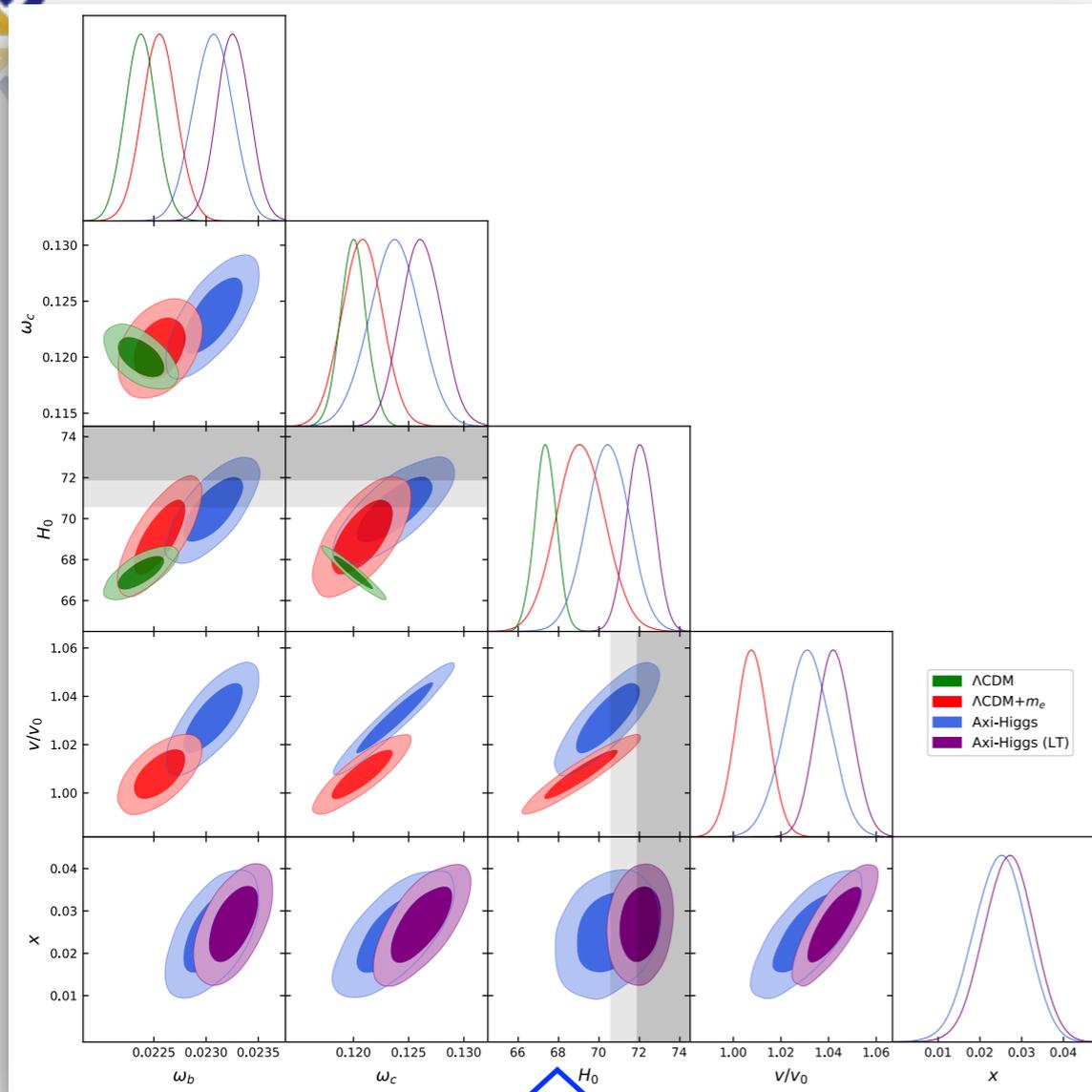
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Question: in terms of addressing the Hubble tension, should we identify the axi-higgs model as Hart & Chiluba (or LCDM +  $m_e$ )?

The answer is "No"



# H&C VS. Axi-Higgs (Preliminary)



**H & C**  
**LambdaCDM +  $m_e$**   
 (one extra DOF)

VS.

**Axi-Higgs**  
**LambdaCDM +  $v, w_a$**   
 (two extra DOFs;  $m_a$  is pre-fixed)

Different from the axion as fuzzy DM ( $\sim 10^{-22}$  eV), the axi-Higgs axion does not roll down until after recombination, so its gravitational impacts for the CMB before that are more like dark energy, instead of matter



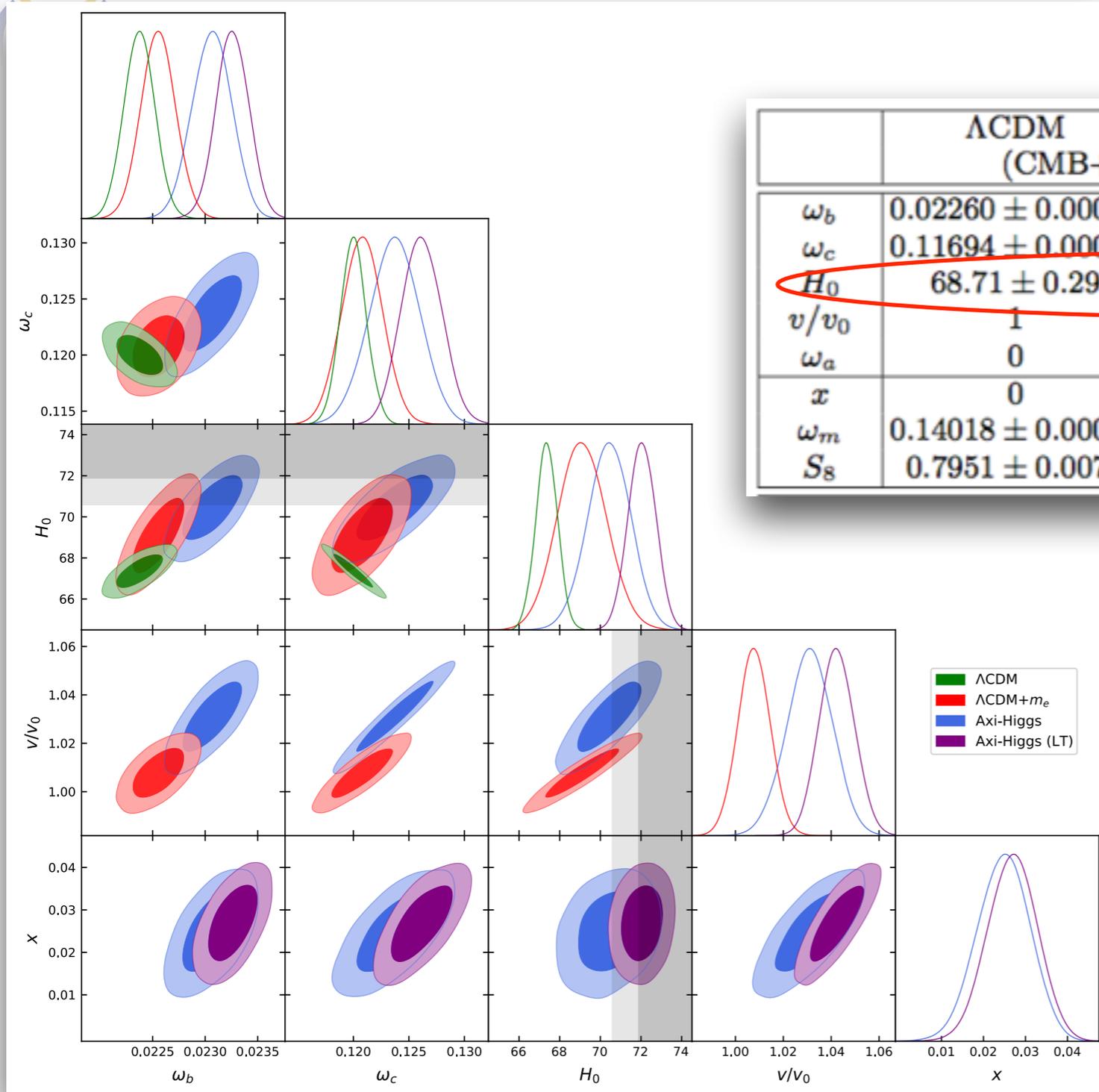
	$\delta\omega_b$	$\delta\omega_c$	$\delta h$	$\delta v$	$\delta\omega_a$
$\delta l_a$	0.0551	-0.1204	-0.1934	0.6837	-2.7368
$\delta l_{eq}$	0.0944	0.5082	-0.1936	0.0153	-2.7574
$\delta l_D$	0.2476	-0.0964	-0.1934	0.4551	-2.6578
$\delta\alpha_V(0.106)$	0.1634	+ 0.1873	-0.9334	+ 0.6161	-0.1999
$\delta\alpha_V(0.15)$	0.1613	+ 0.1759	-0.9062	+ 0.6161	-0.2946
$\delta\alpha_{\perp}(0.698)$	0.1465	0.0967	-0.7175	0.6161	-0.9536
$\delta\alpha_{\parallel}(0.698)$	0.1255	-0.0162	-0.4483	0.6161	-1.8942
$\delta\alpha_V(0.845)$	0.1354	0.0369	-0.5747	0.6161	-1.4521
$\delta\alpha_{\perp}(1.48)$	0.1329	0.0236	-0.5431	0.6161	-1.5622
$\delta\alpha_{\parallel}(1.48)$	0.1047	-0.1279	-0.1817	0.6161	-2.8242
$\delta\alpha_{\perp}(2.334)$	0.1254	-0.0165	-0.4475	0.6161	-1.8958
$\delta\alpha_{\parallel}(2.334)$	0.0968	-0.1702	-0.0807	0.6161	-3.1732
$S_8$	-0.1012	1.0539	-0.7688	$\sim 0$	-18.973

According to Friedmann eq.  $H_0^2 \propto \sum \omega_i$ ,  $w_{b,c}$  tend to increase faster as  $H_0$  increases, such that the variation equations fail in the LambdaCDM. In the axi-higgs Universe, however, these impacts (especially, on eq of  $\delta l_{eq}$ ) tend to be cancelled by that of  $w_a$  ("+" ( $w_{b,c}$ ) vs "-" ( $w_a$ ))  
 $\Rightarrow$  Axi-Higgs  $H_0$  is bigger than the H & C prediction!





# Predictions (Preliminary) on the Axi-Higgs $H_0$



	$\Lambda$ CDM (CMB+nBAO+WL)	Axi-Higgs	$\Lambda$ CDM (CMB+nBAO+WL+LT)	Axi-Higgs
$\omega_b$	$0.02260 \pm 0.00012$	$0.02306 \pm 0.00019$	$0.02271 \pm 0.00012$	$0.02326 \pm 0.00016$
$\omega_c$	$0.11694 \pm 0.00063$	$0.1237 \pm 0.0023$	$0.11613 \pm 0.00060$	$0.1261 \pm 0.0018$
$H_0$	$68.71 \pm 0.29$	$70.4 \pm 1.1$	$69.15 \pm 0.27$	$72.05 \pm 0.68$
$v/v_0$	1	$1.0309 \pm 0.0095$	1	$1.0424 \pm 0.0073$
$\omega_a$	0	$0.0038 \pm 0.0010$	0	$0.00416 \pm 0.00097$
$x$	0	$0.0248 \pm 0.0062$	0	$0.0269 \pm 0.0059$
$\omega_m$	$0.14018 \pm 0.00062$	$0.1512 \pm 0.0032$	$0.13947 \pm 0.00060$	$0.1542 \pm 0.0027$
$S_8$	$0.7951 \pm 0.0073$	$0.767 \pm 0.010$	$0.7846 \pm 0.0068$	$0.762 \pm 0.010$

**CMB + BAO + WL(S8)**  
 **$H_0 = 70.4 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$**

**CMB + BAO + WL(S8)**  
**+ Late-time  $H_0$**   
 **$H_0 = 72.05 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$**



## Summary on ``Axi-Higgs''

- One system: an axion coupled with the Higgs field, with the evolution of the Higgs VEV being driven by the axion field.
- Two accidentals:
  - the impacts of  $\delta\nu$  on BBN and CMB are mostly in  $W$ -boson (quark) mass and electron mass, respectively. But, they are intimately linked in the SM of particle physics, where the particle masses are proportional to the Higgs VEV.
  - A priori, only  $\delta\nu$  matters for addressing the Li-7 problem and Hubble tension. But, the drive of an axion allows us to connect them with solving the  $S_8$  ( $\sigma_8$ ) tension and the ICB anomaly.
- High predictivity. The four parameters to characterize this model are all well-determined, by addressing the said cosmic puzzles
- Great accessibility. It should be tested seriously in the near-future AC and QS measurements.

*Thank you!*



 大學教育資助委員會  
University Grants Committee

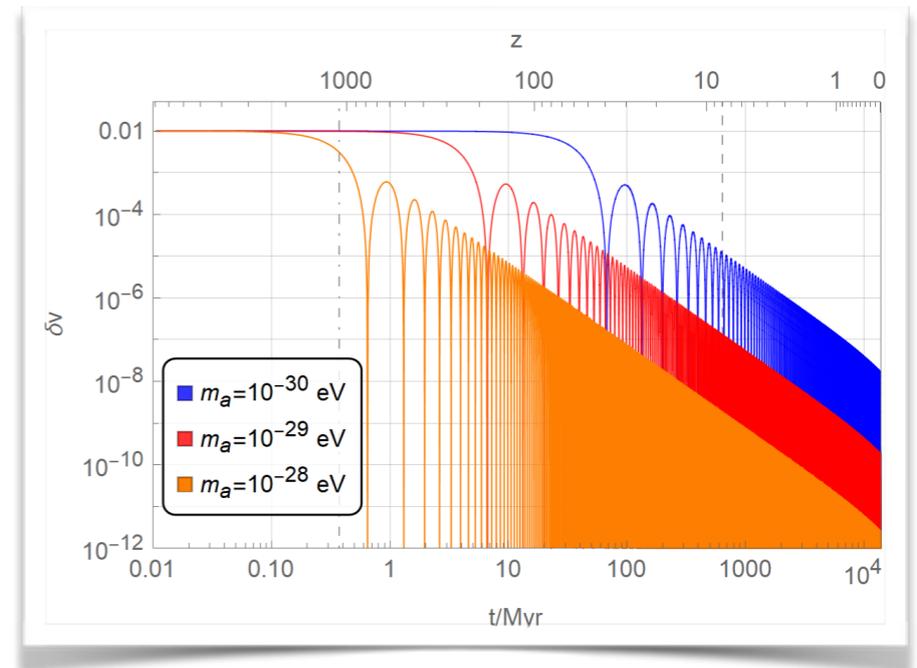
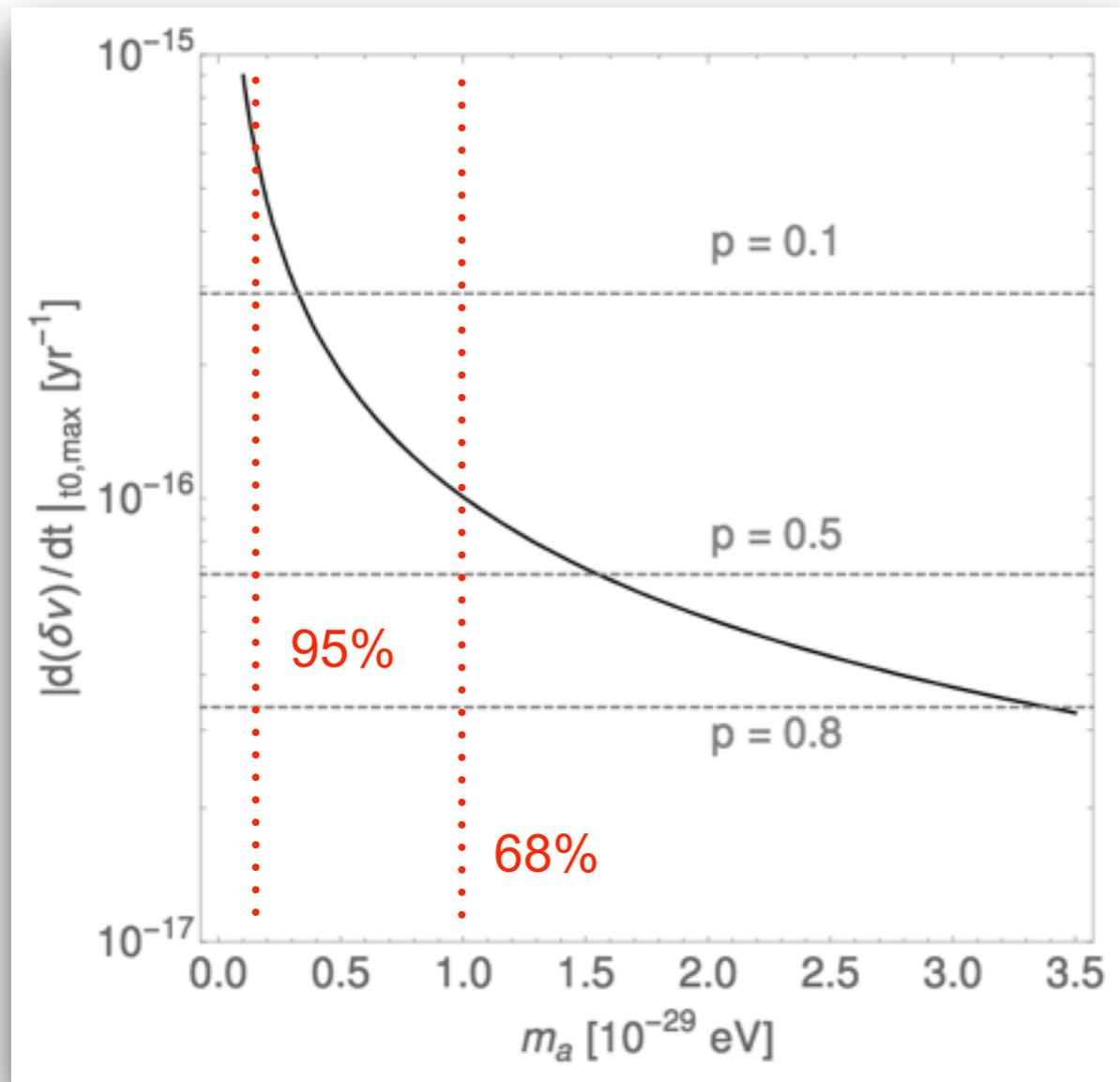
GRF under grant No. 16305219

AoE under grant No. AoE/P-404/18



# Testing "Axi-Higgs" - AC

AC: atomic frequency relies on the mass ratio  $m_e/m_p$   
 $\Rightarrow$  test the drift rate of Higgs VEV



$$\left. \frac{d(\delta v)}{dt} \right|_{t_{0,\max}} \simeq 1.0 \times 10^{-15} \left( \frac{m_a}{10^{-30} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

The next-generation AC technology may improve the sensitivity to a level

$$\sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-18}) \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

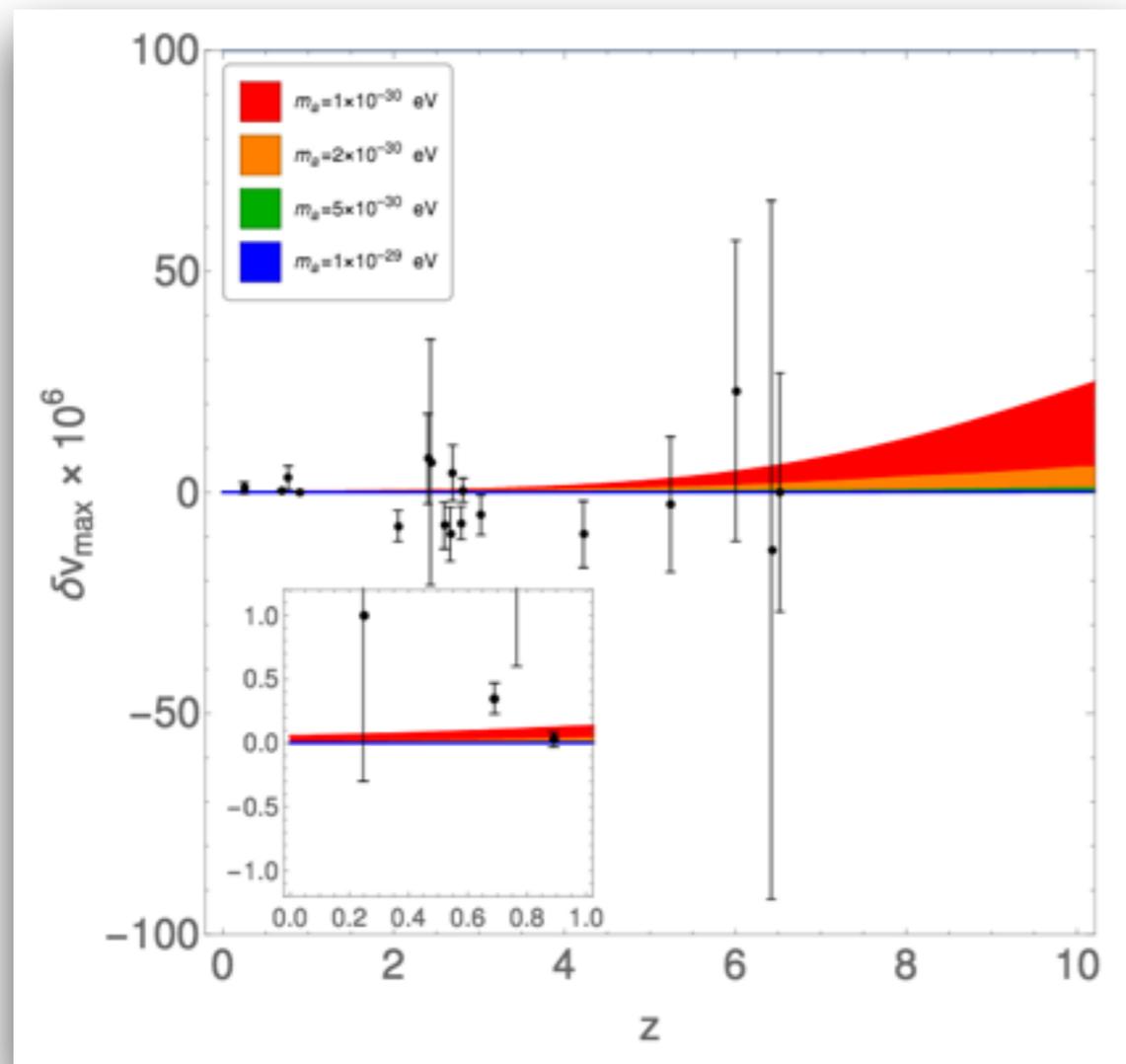


# Testing "Axi-Higgs" - QS

QS: the energy levels of electronic, vibrational, and rotational modes of molecules rely on the mass ratio  $\mu = m_e/m_p$  in different manners:

$$E_{\text{el}} \propto \mu^0, \quad E_{\text{vib}} \propto \mu^{-0.5}, \quad E_{\text{rot}} \propto \mu^{-1}$$

=> test the oscillation magnitude of Higgs VEV directly using the molecular absorption spectra of each quasar



$$\delta v_{\text{max}} \simeq 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \left( \frac{\delta v_{\text{rec}}}{0.01} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{10} \right)^3 \left( \frac{m_a}{10^{-30} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-2}$$

- The combination of eighteen QSs collected in [S. A. Levshakov et. al., 2020] yields a constraint weaker than the AC one at 95% C.L., namely

$$m_a > 5.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ eV}$$

- Could be well-tested in infrared and radio astronomy, with essentially improved precisions: TMT, JWST, FAST, SKA, etc., and in particular by correlating the data of the QSs at different redshifts (recall the application of PTA for detecting stochastic GWs)