

# **Axions in the sky and on tables**

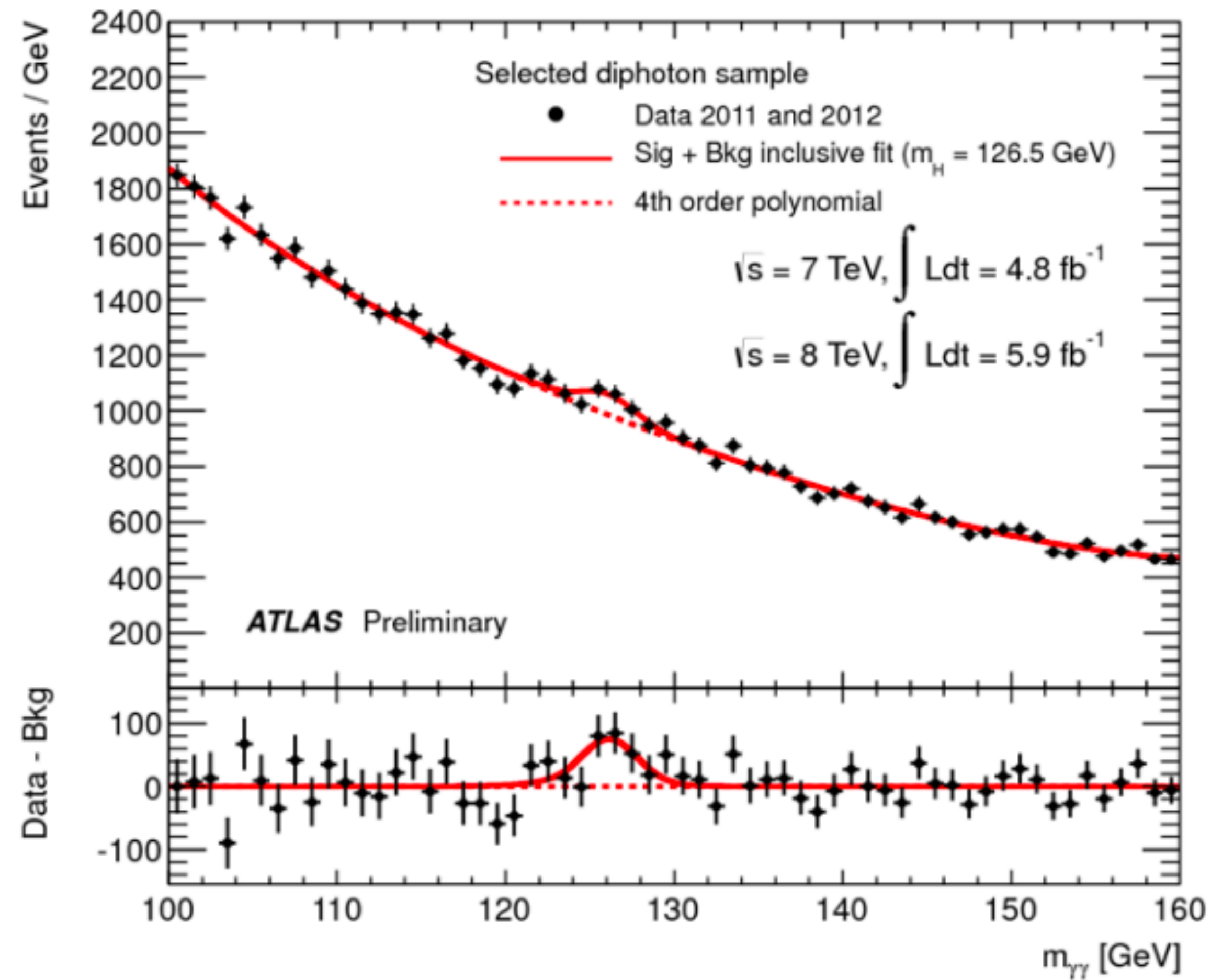
**Hyungjin Kim (DESY)**

**2nd CERN Baltic Conference**

**Two milestones**  
in high energy physics  
during past 10 years

# The discovery of the Higgs boson

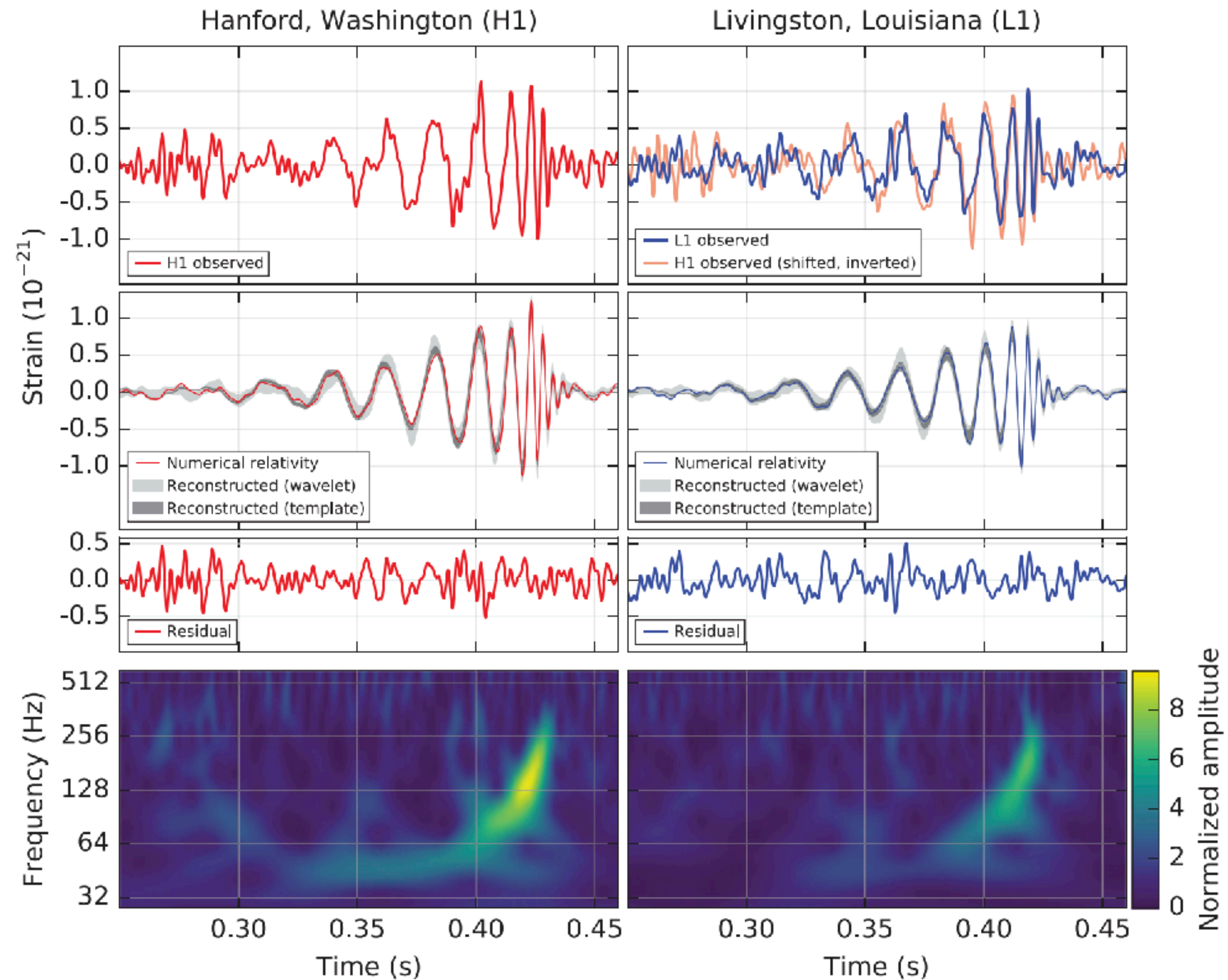
July 2012



(Image: ATLAS Collaboration/CERN)

# The first observation of gravitational waves

2015



Abbott et al (16)

Two milestones  
in high energy physics  
during past 10 years

Two milestones  
in high energy physics  
during past 10 years

confirming the standard model (SM) physics

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{M_P^2}{2} R + \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \right]$$

# Two milestones

in high energy physics

during past 10 years

confirming the standard model (SM) physics

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{M_P^2}{2} R + \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \right]$$

while leaving no clear sign of beyond SM physics ...

and yet

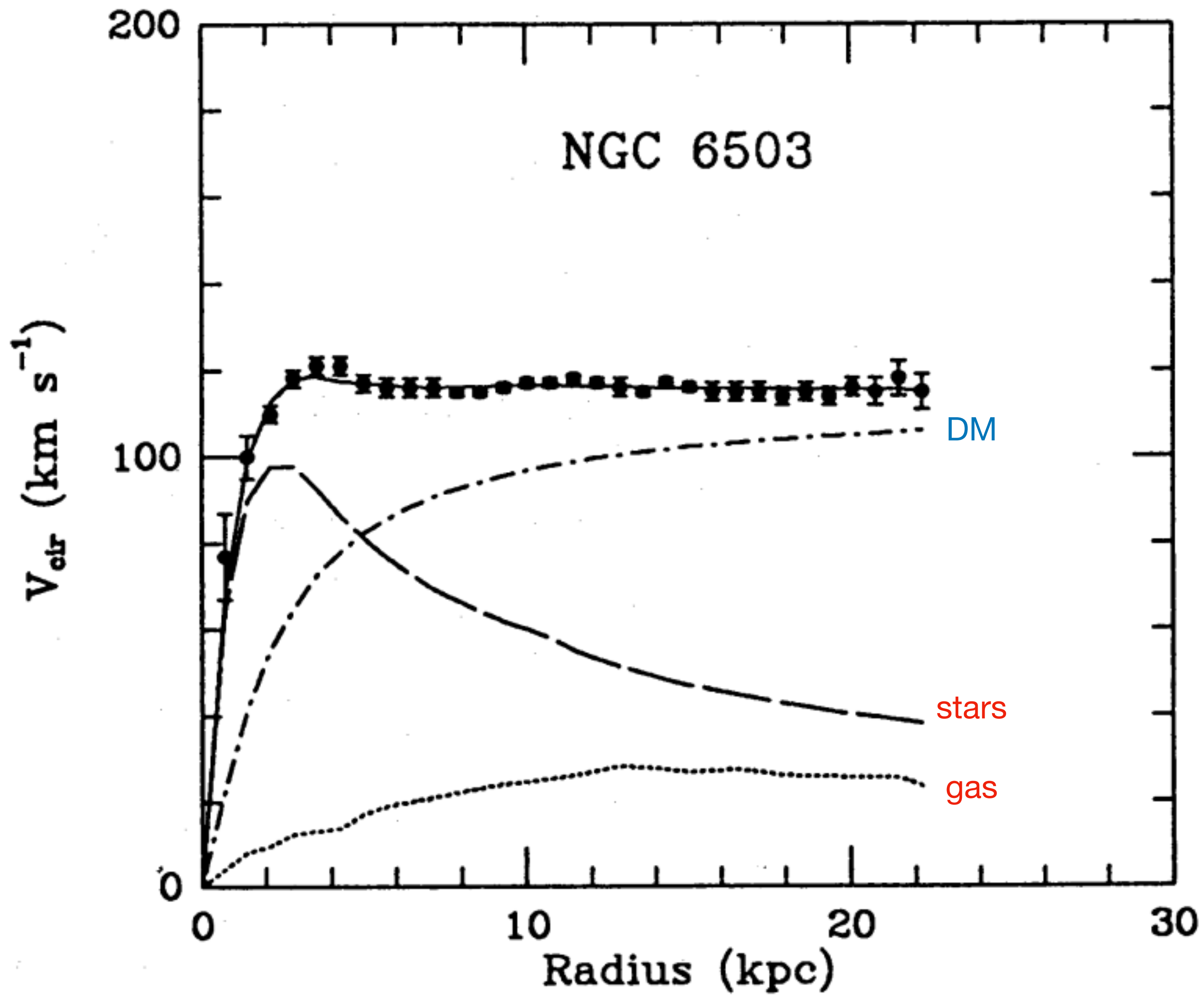
we know there are something more than just SM



NGC 6503



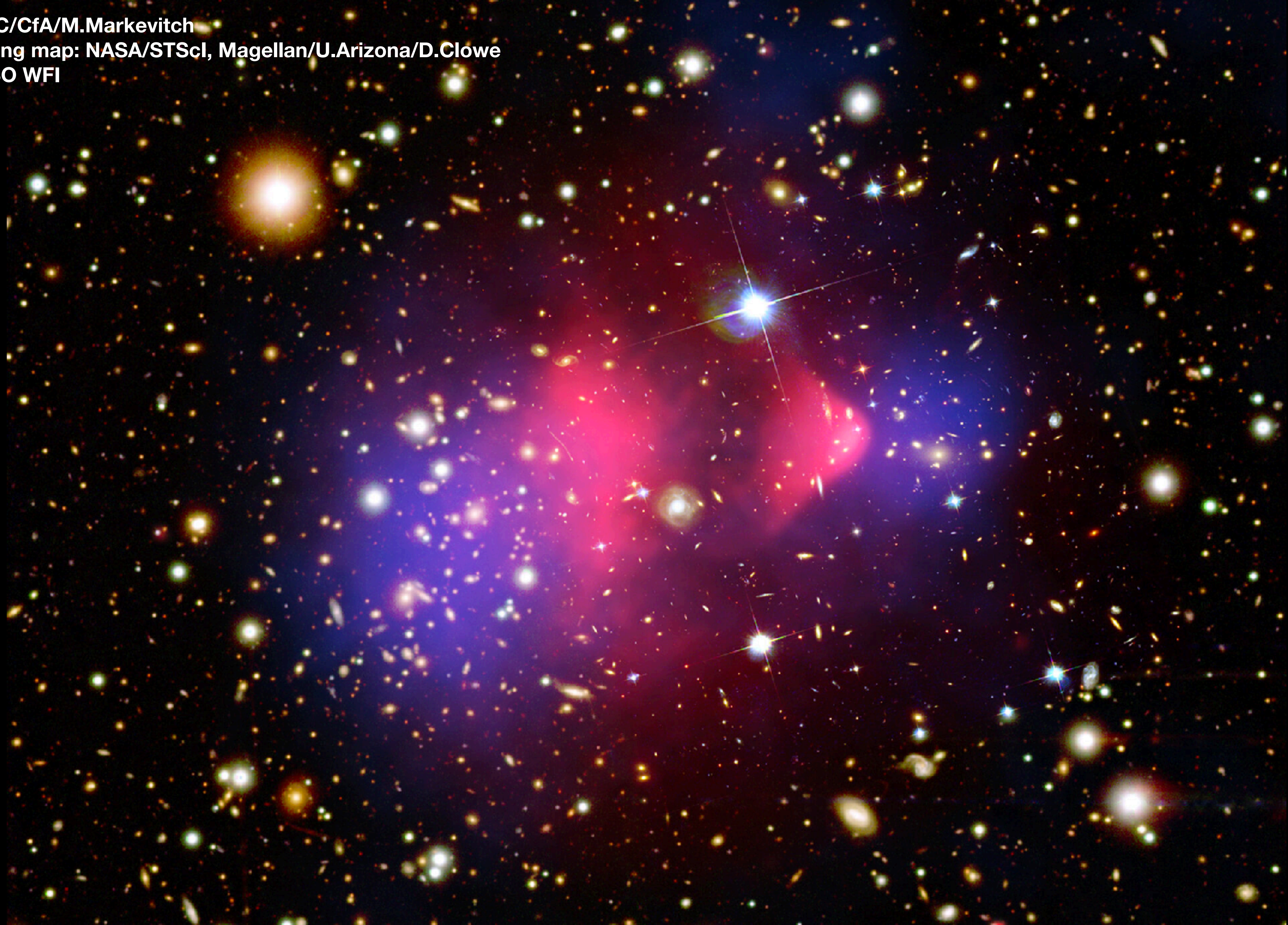
Credit: NASA/ESA



X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/M.Markevitch

Optical and lensing map: NASA/STScI, Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe

Lensing map: ESO WFI



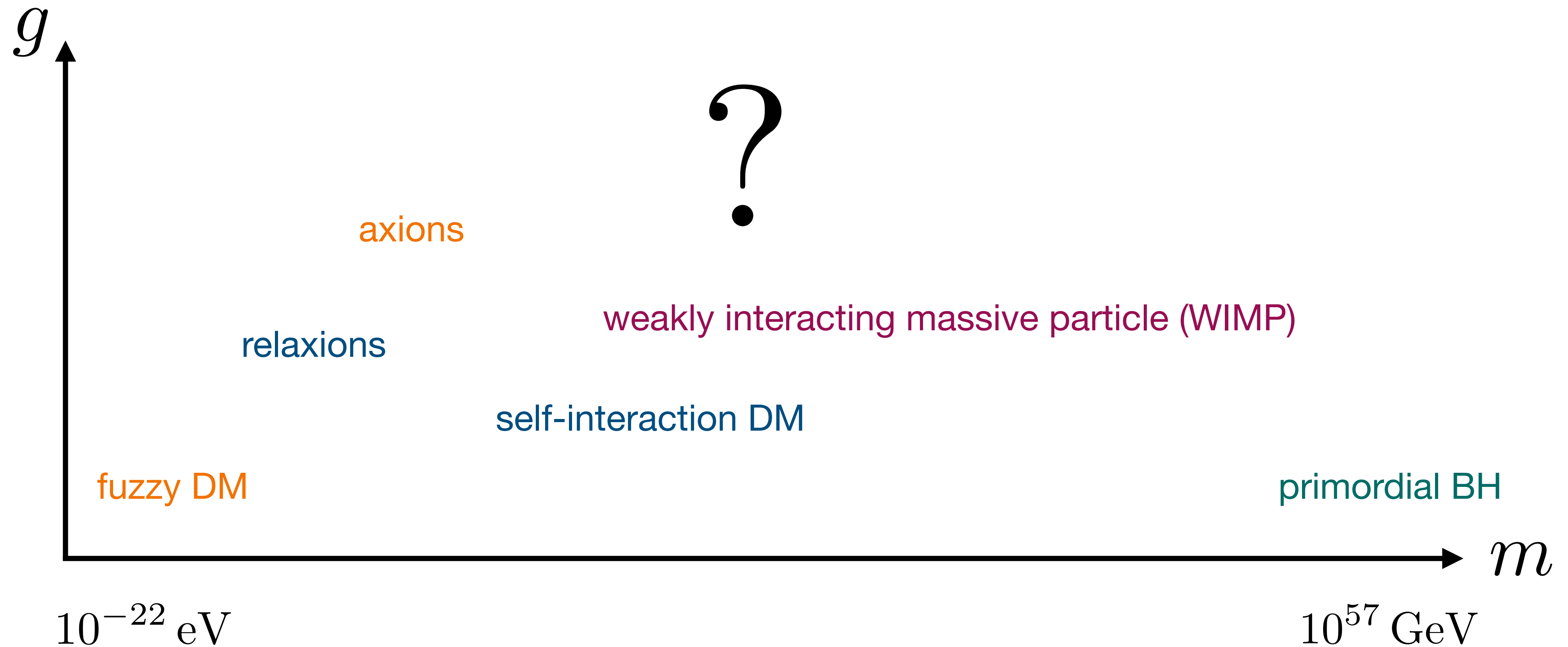
certainly

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{M_P^2}{2} R + \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{BSM}}(m^2, g) \right]$$

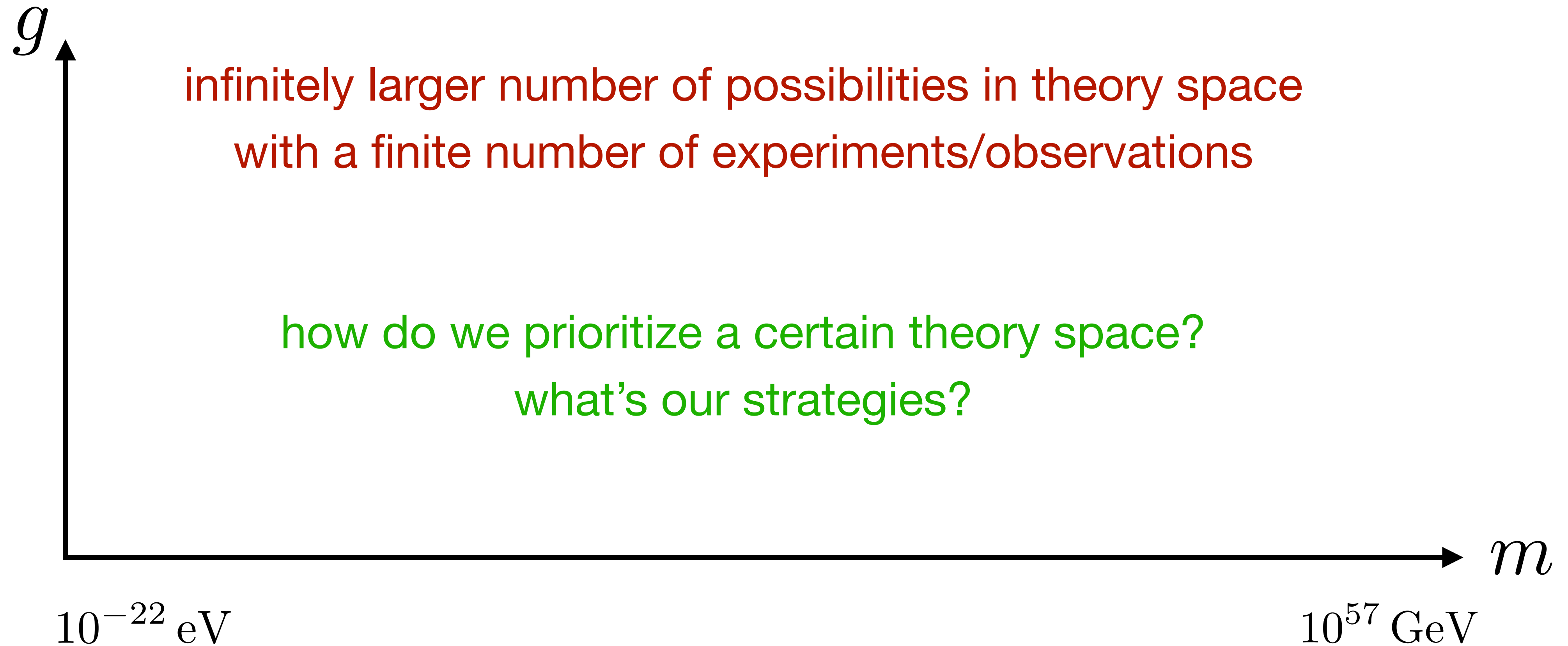
where should we look for ?

without any guiding principle  
searching for new physics could be challenging

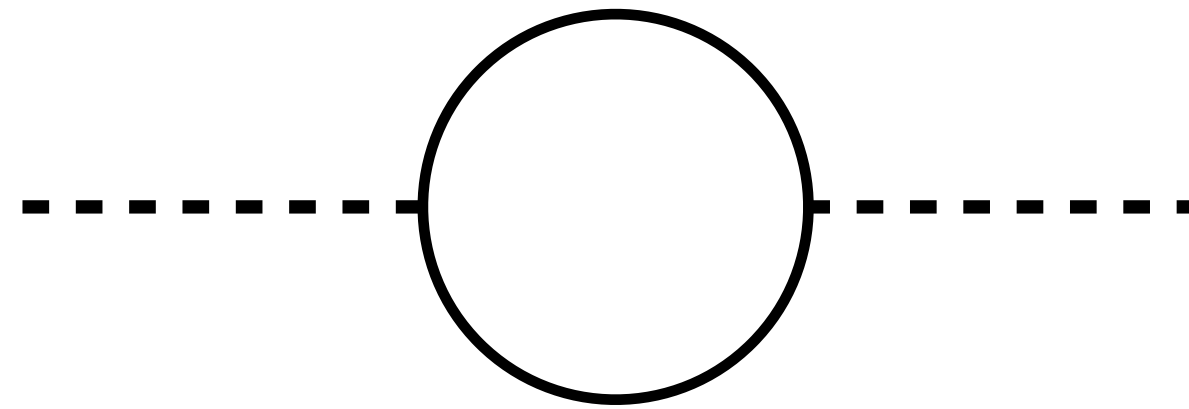
for dark matter



without any guiding principle  
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# naturalness reasoning

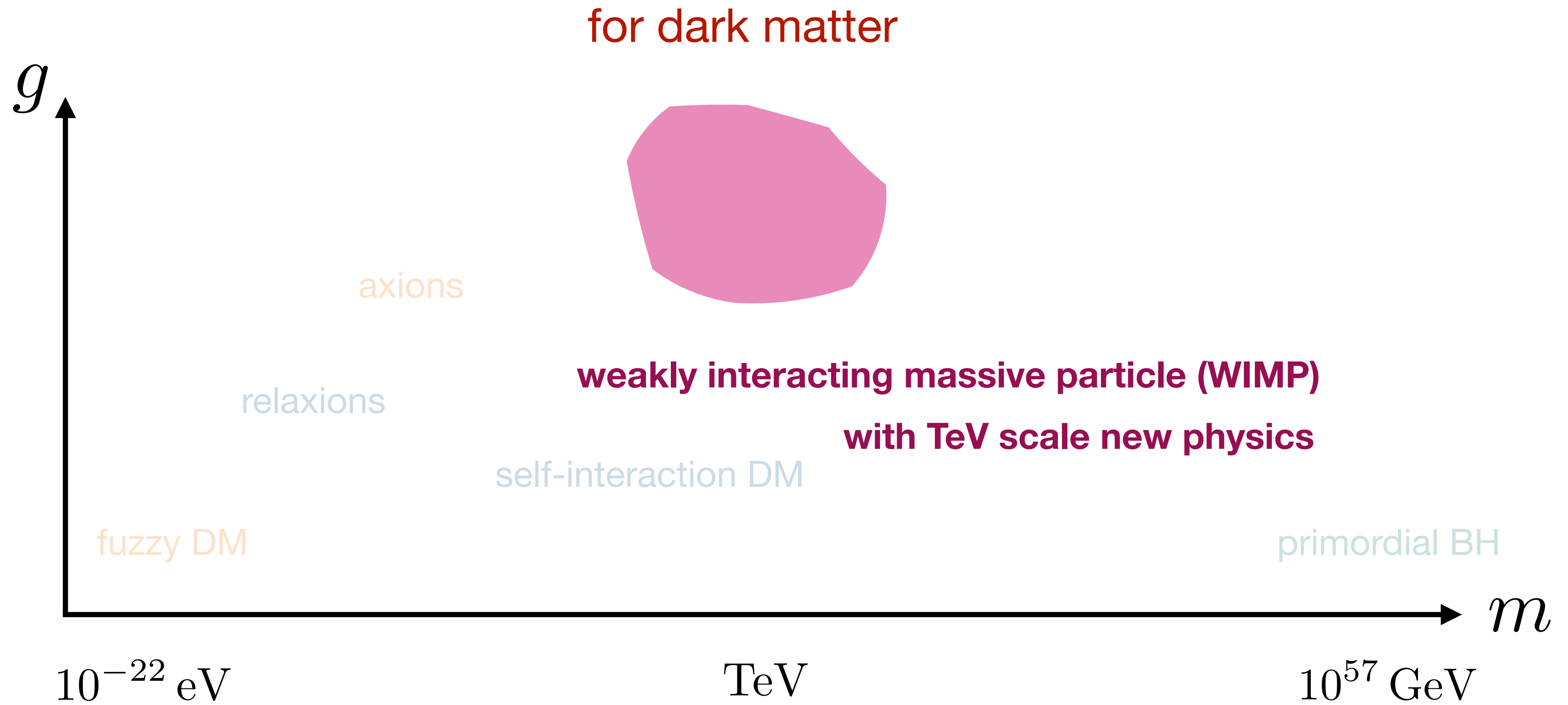


$$\Delta m_H^2 = -\frac{3y_t^2}{8\pi^2} \Lambda^2$$

canonical approaches based on symmetry  
introduce TeV scale new dynamics  
to soften UV sensitivities of the Higgs mass

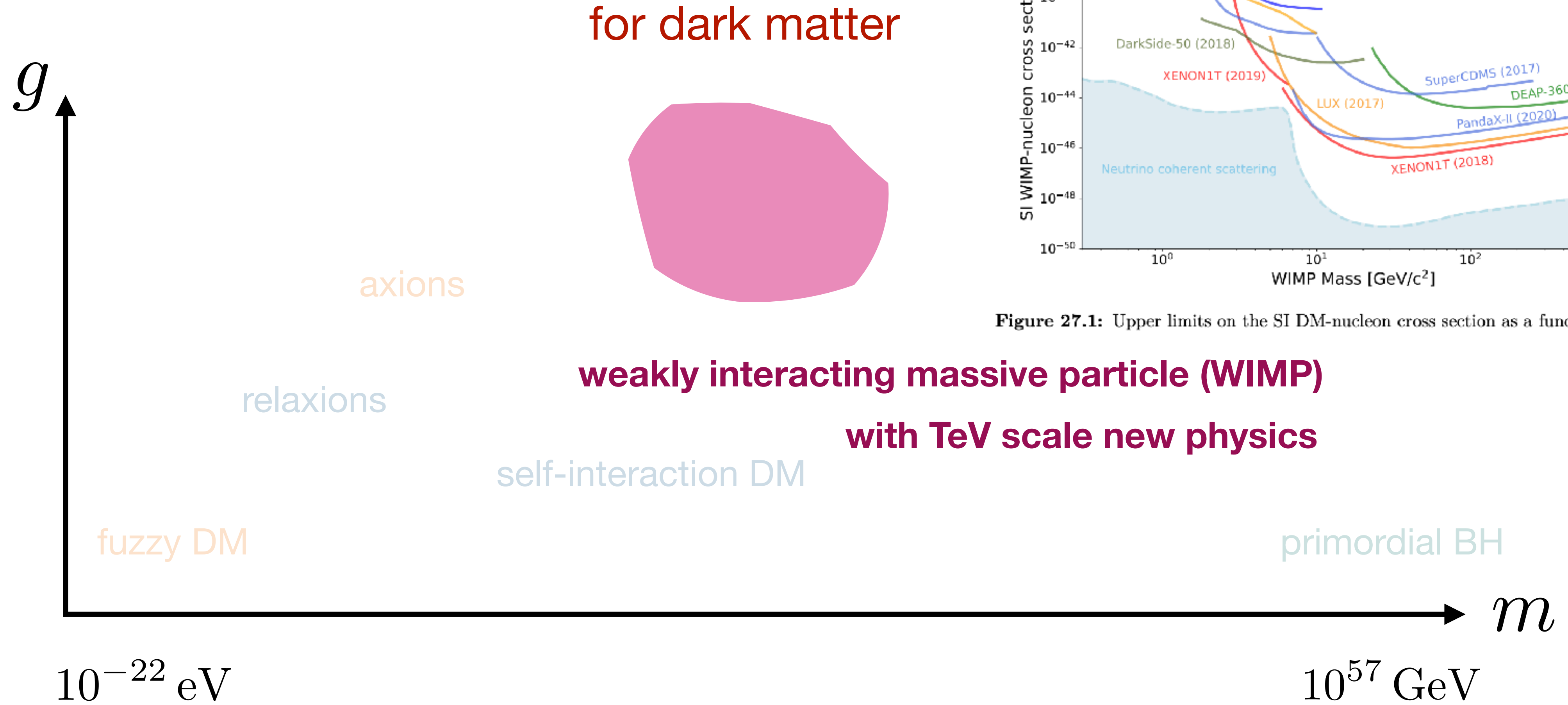
e.g. supersymmetry, technicolor, compositeness, etc.

with naturalness reasoning





# with naturalness reasoning



Particle Data Group 2021

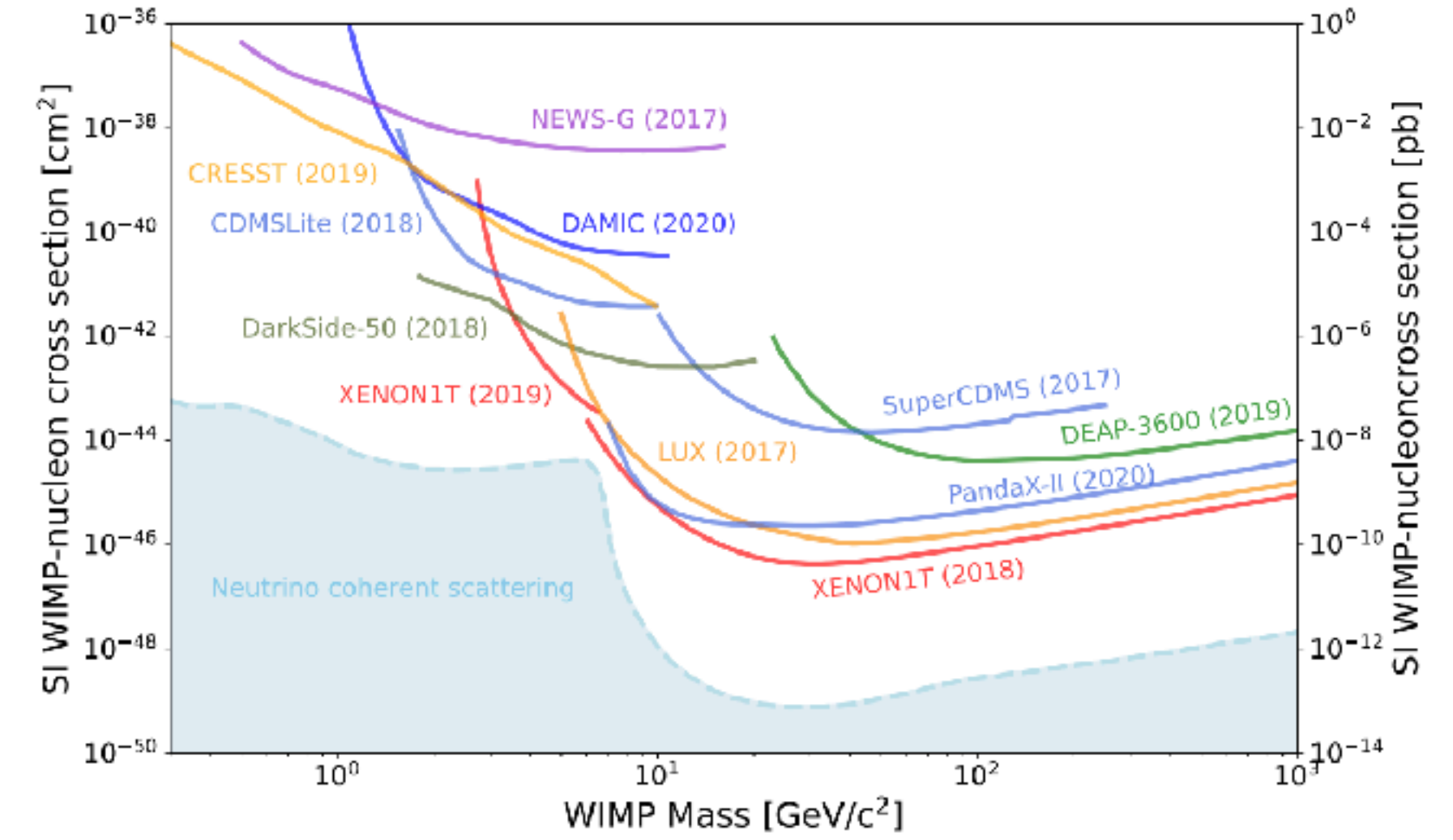
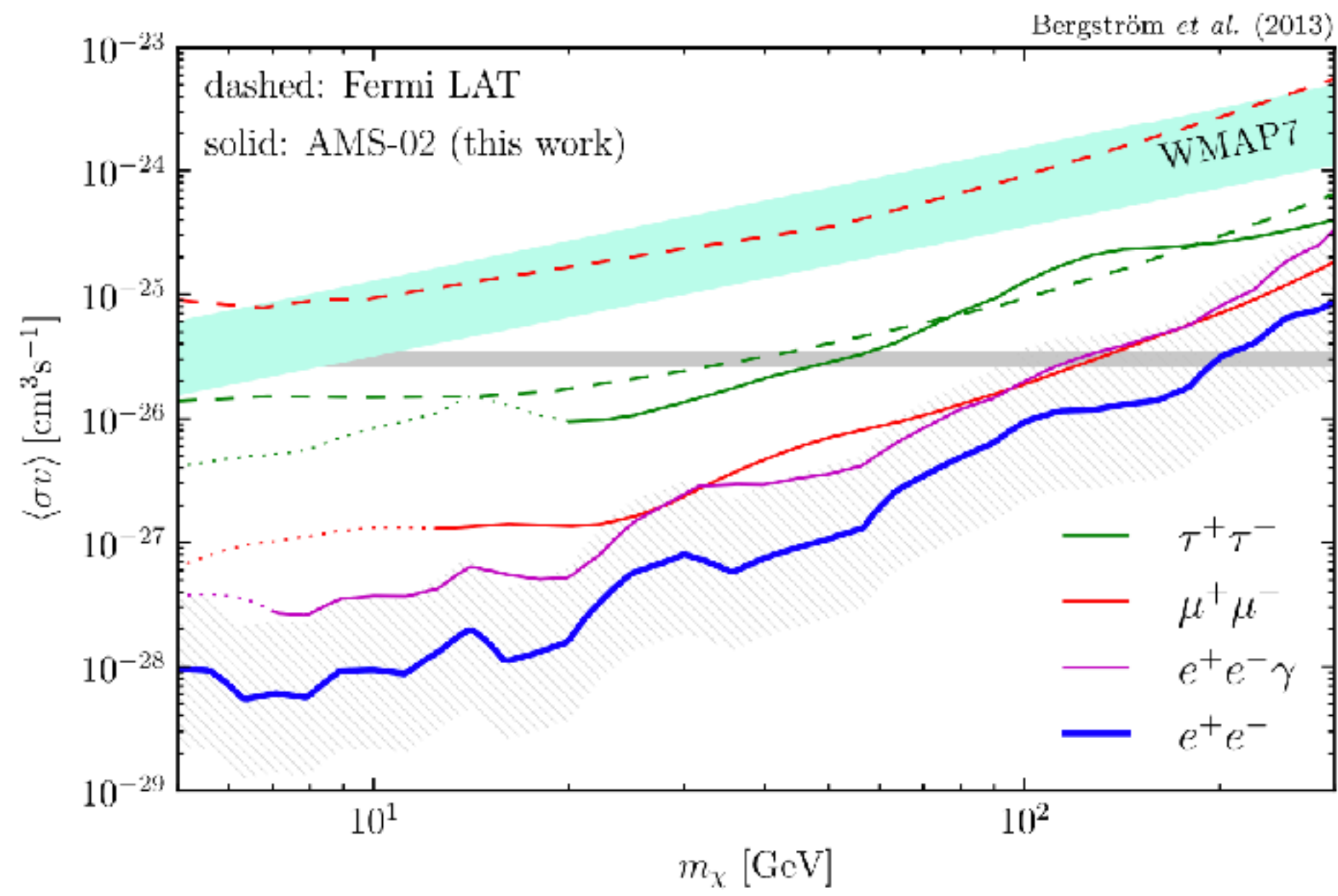


Figure 27.1: Upper limits on the SI DM-nucleon cross section as a function of DM mass.



naturalness reasoning

for dark matter

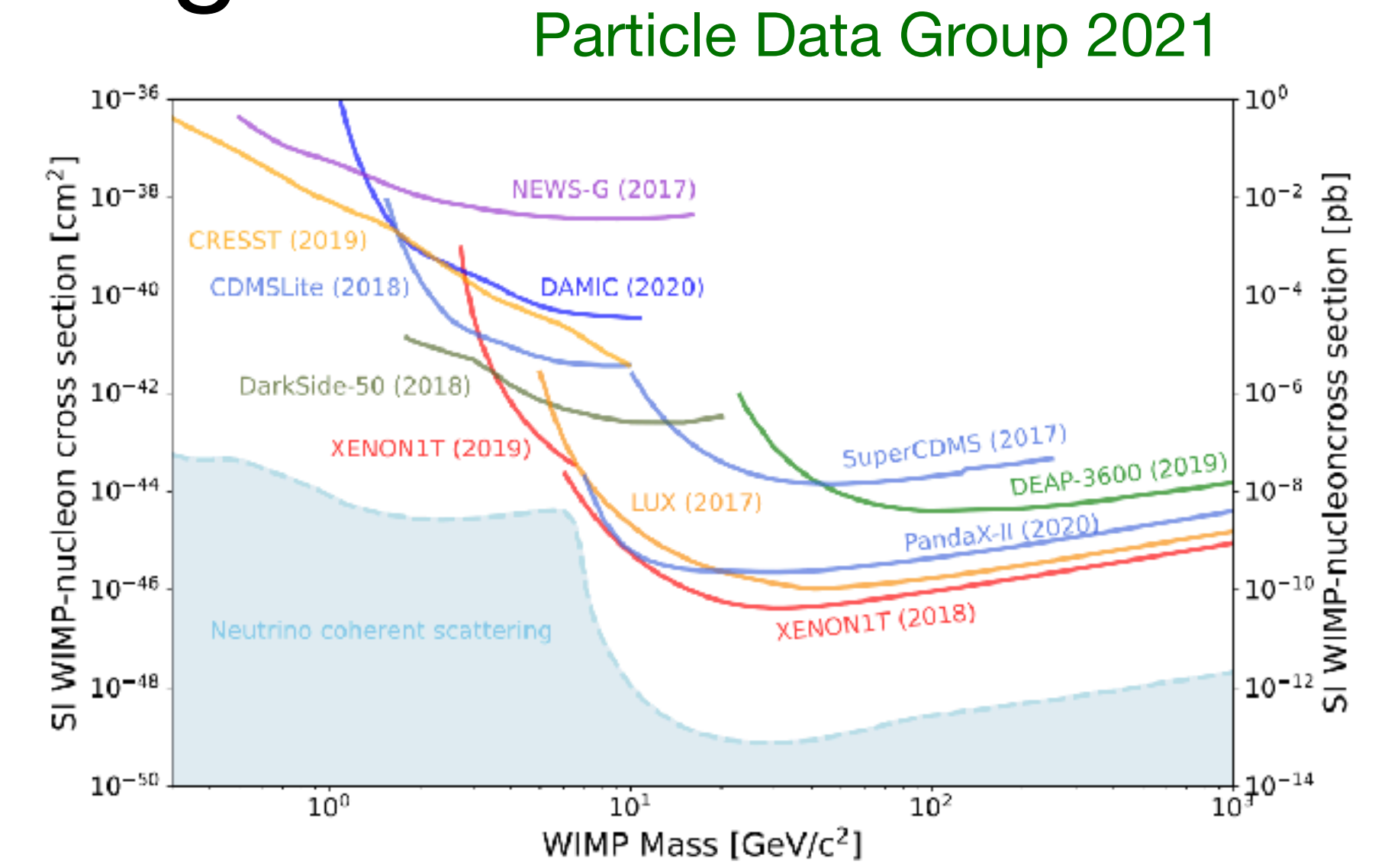
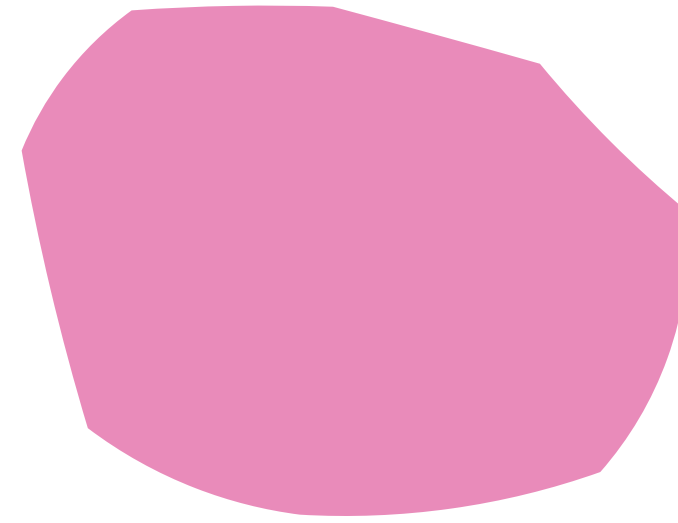
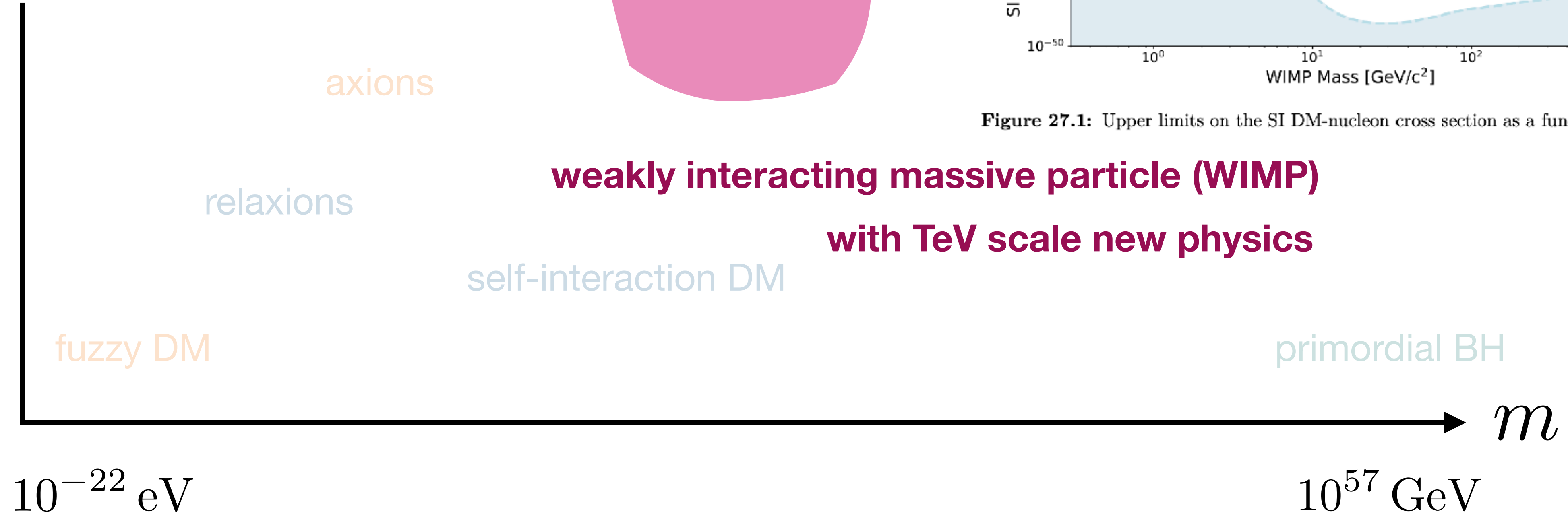
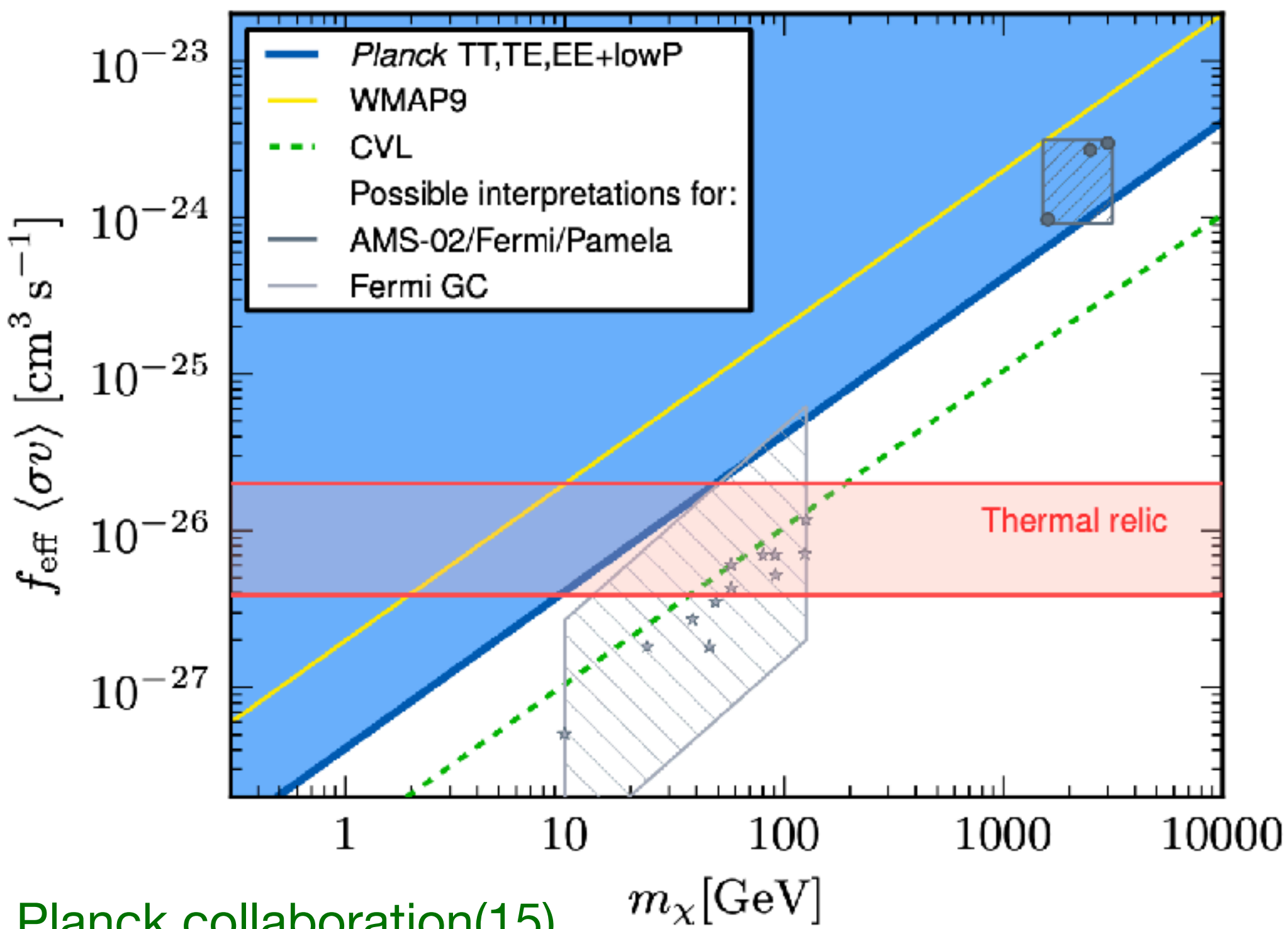
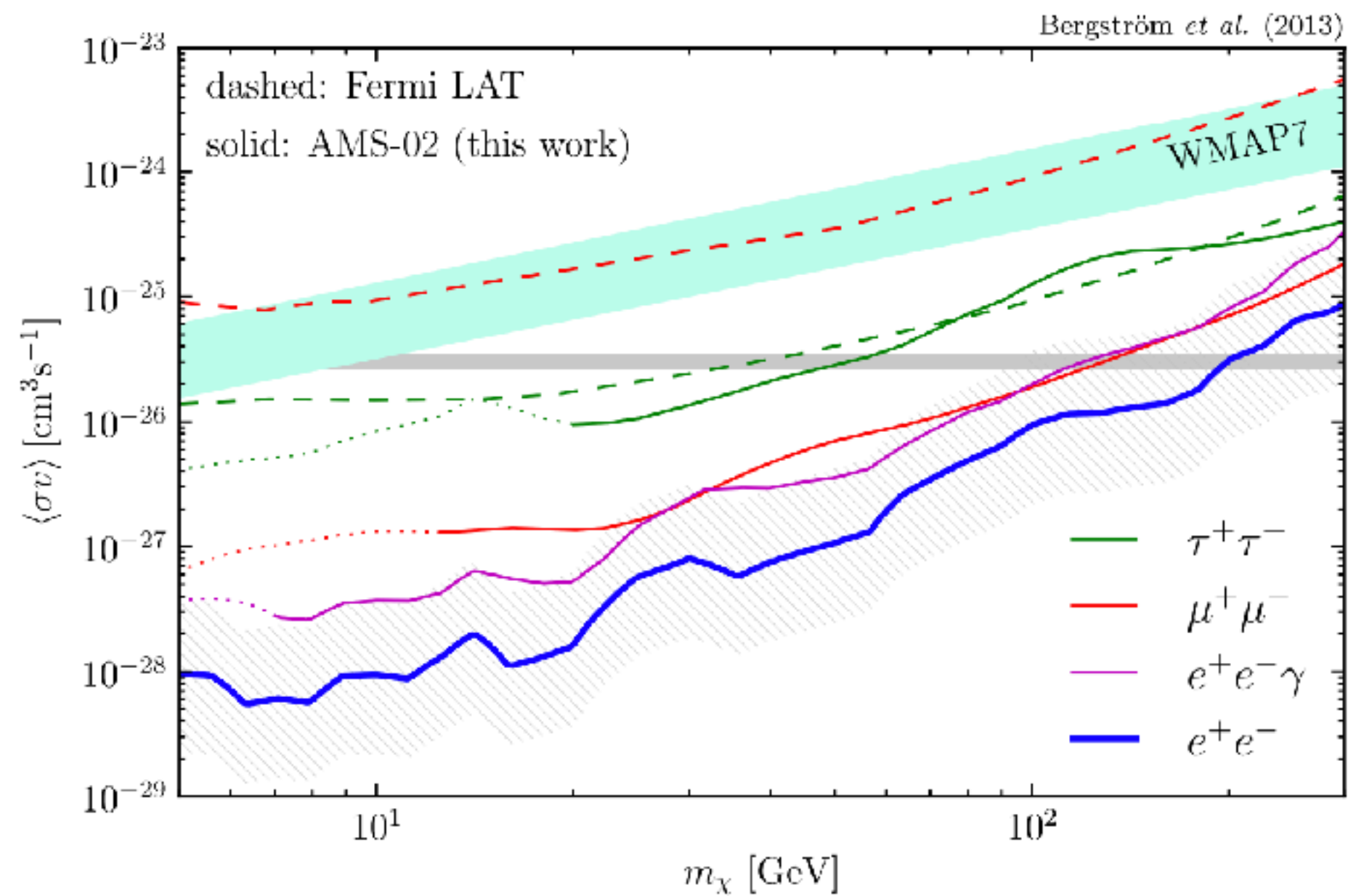


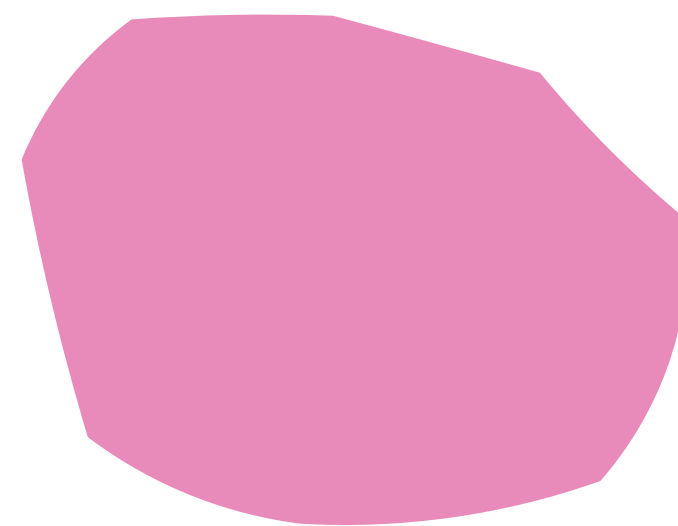
Figure 27.1: Upper limits on the SI DM-nucleon cross section as a function of DM mass.





naturalness reasoning

for dark matter



weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP)

with TeV scale new physics

f-interaction DM

primordial BH



Particle Data Group 2021

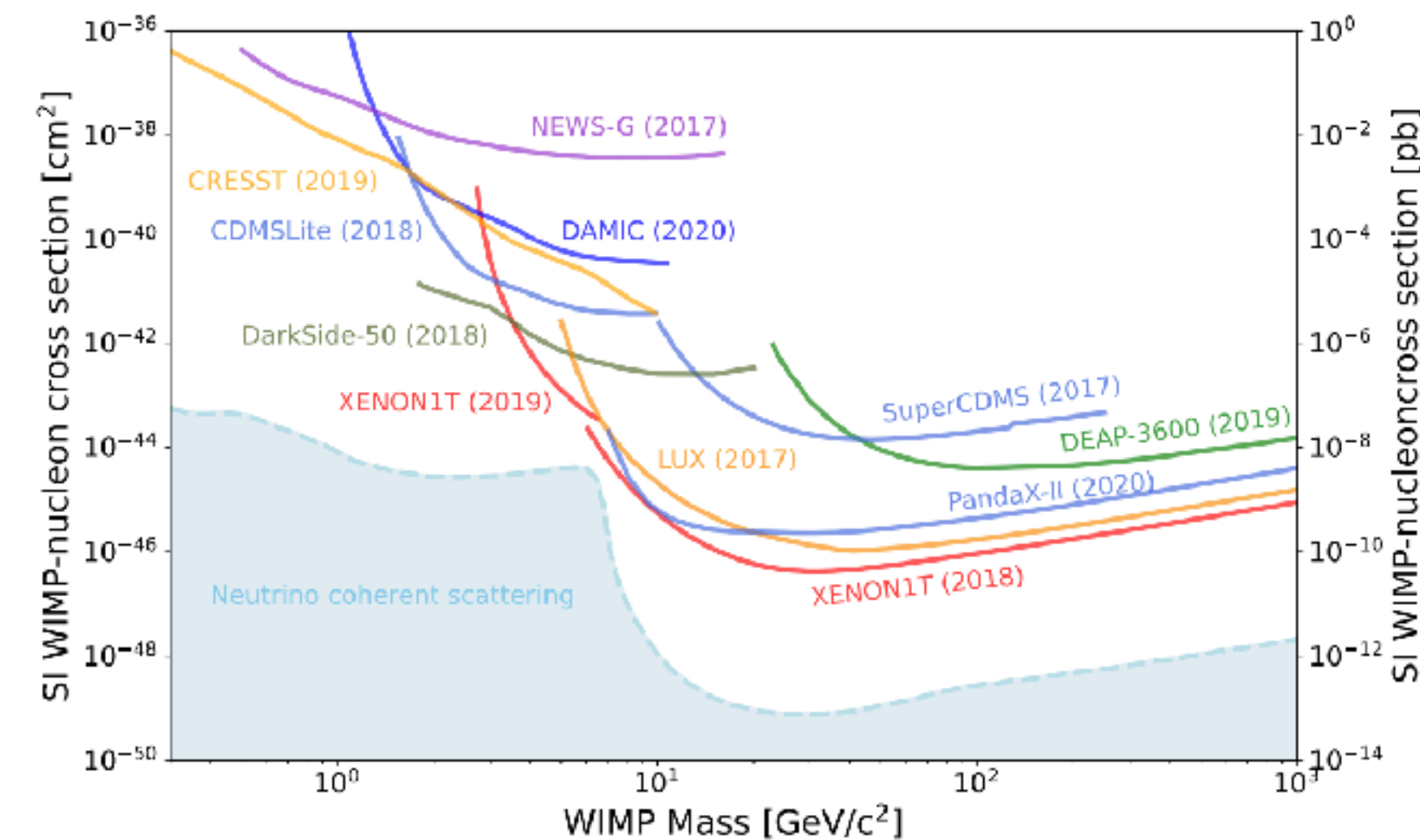


Figure 27.1: Upper limits on the SI DM-nucleon cross section as a function of DM mass.

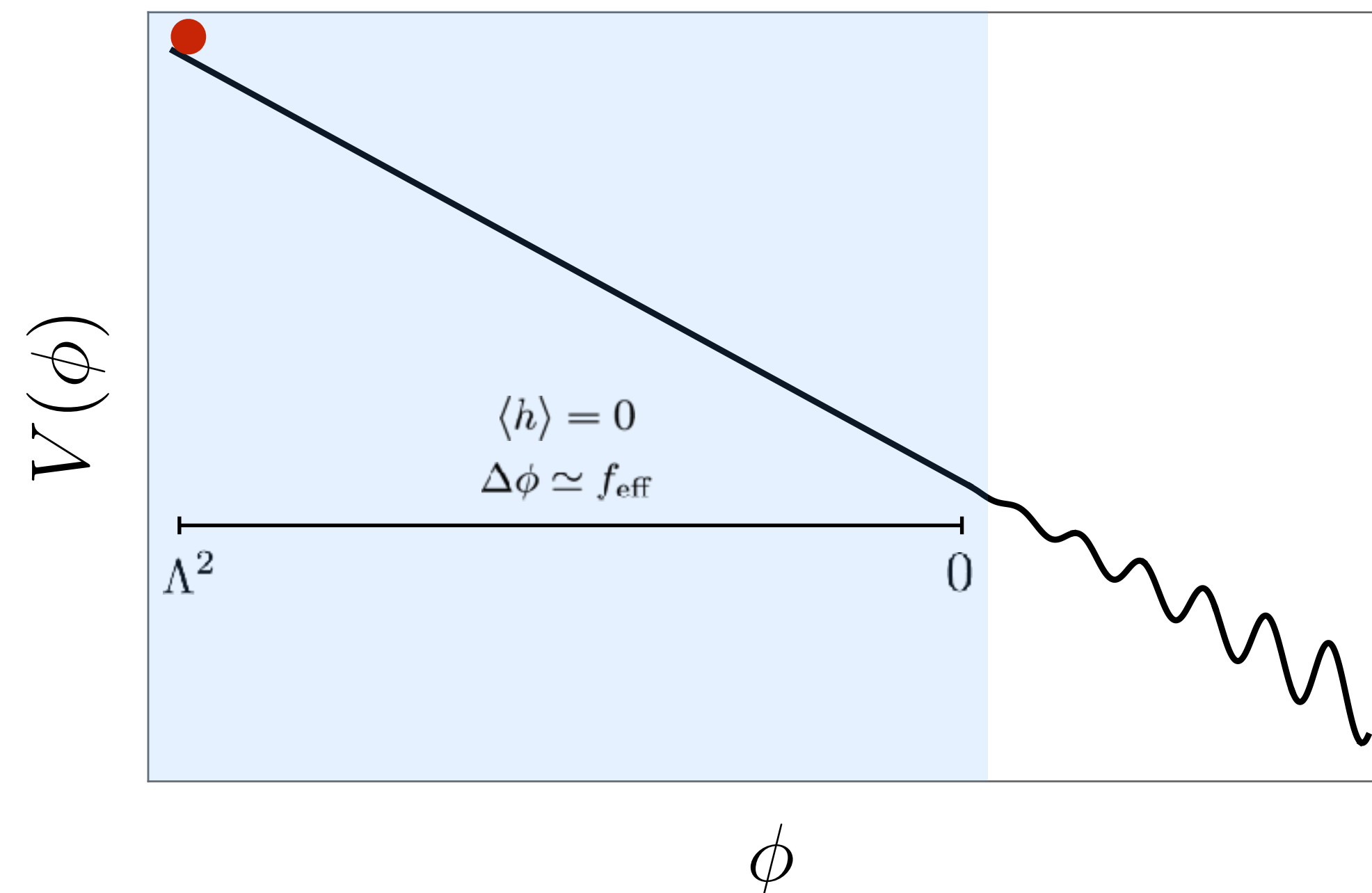
**WIMP** and **TeV scale new physics**  
guided by naturalness reasoning  
are under **intense pressure**  
from DM (in)direct detection exps. and LHC

A recent development in naturalness reasoning  
provide interesting new insights

a particularly interesting proposal is  
**cosmological relaxation of EW scale**

Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran (15)

$$V(\phi) = \left( \Lambda^2 - \Lambda^2 \frac{\phi}{f_{\text{eff}}} \right) |h|^2 - \frac{\Lambda^4}{f_{\text{eff}}} \phi - \mu_b^2 |h|^2 \cos(\phi/f)$$

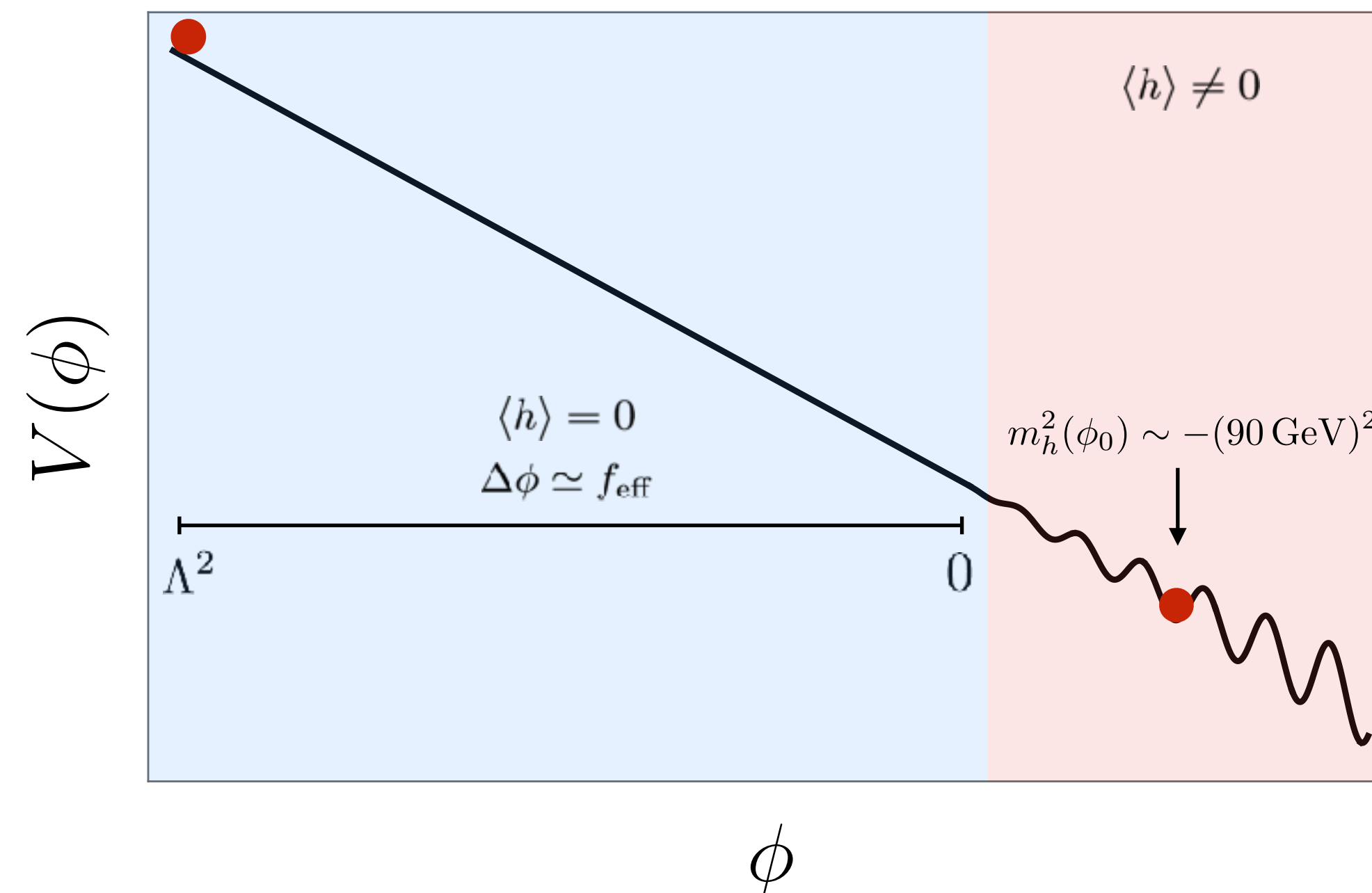


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this solution is distinctive to canonical approaches  
as it resolves the hierarchy problem in a *dynamical way*

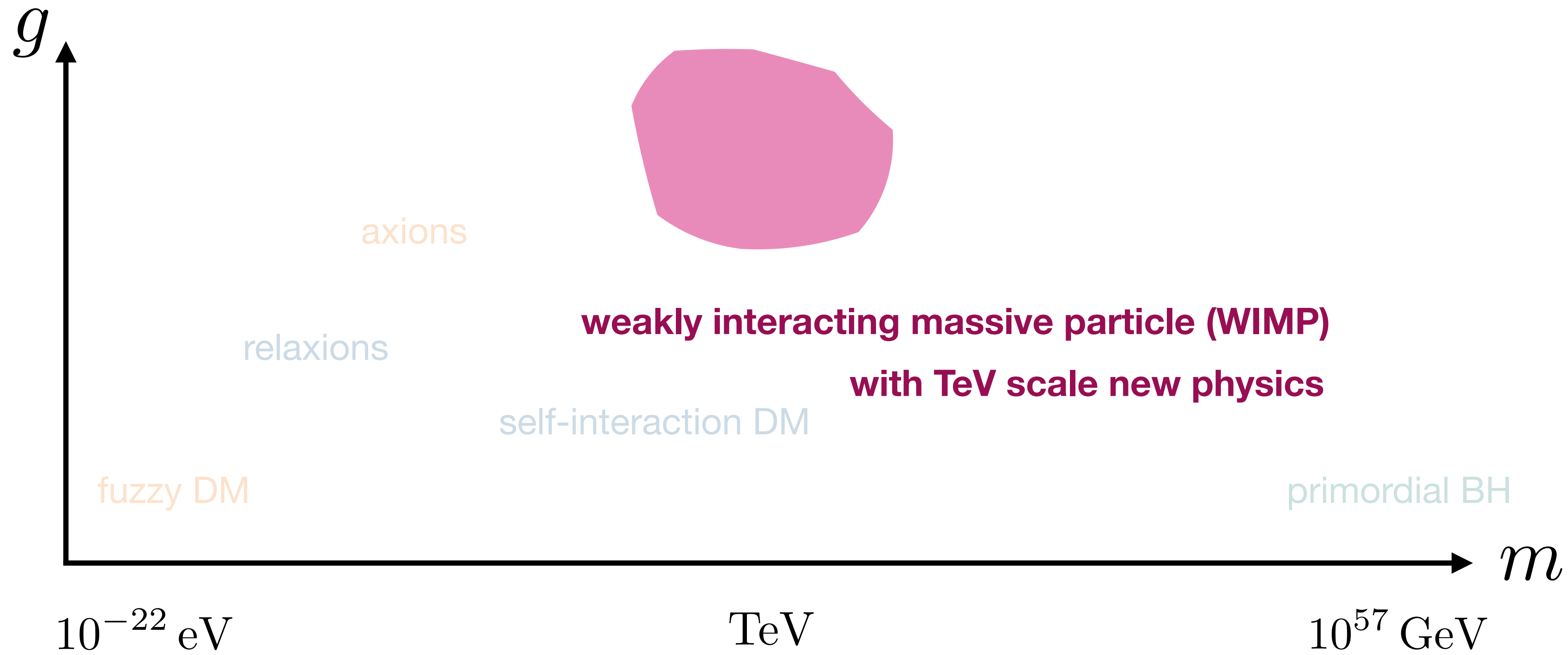
predictions/signatures are also quite different:  
unlike symmetry-based approaches predicting TeV scale new physics  
*this dynamical solution predicts an IR d.o.f — an axion-like particle*

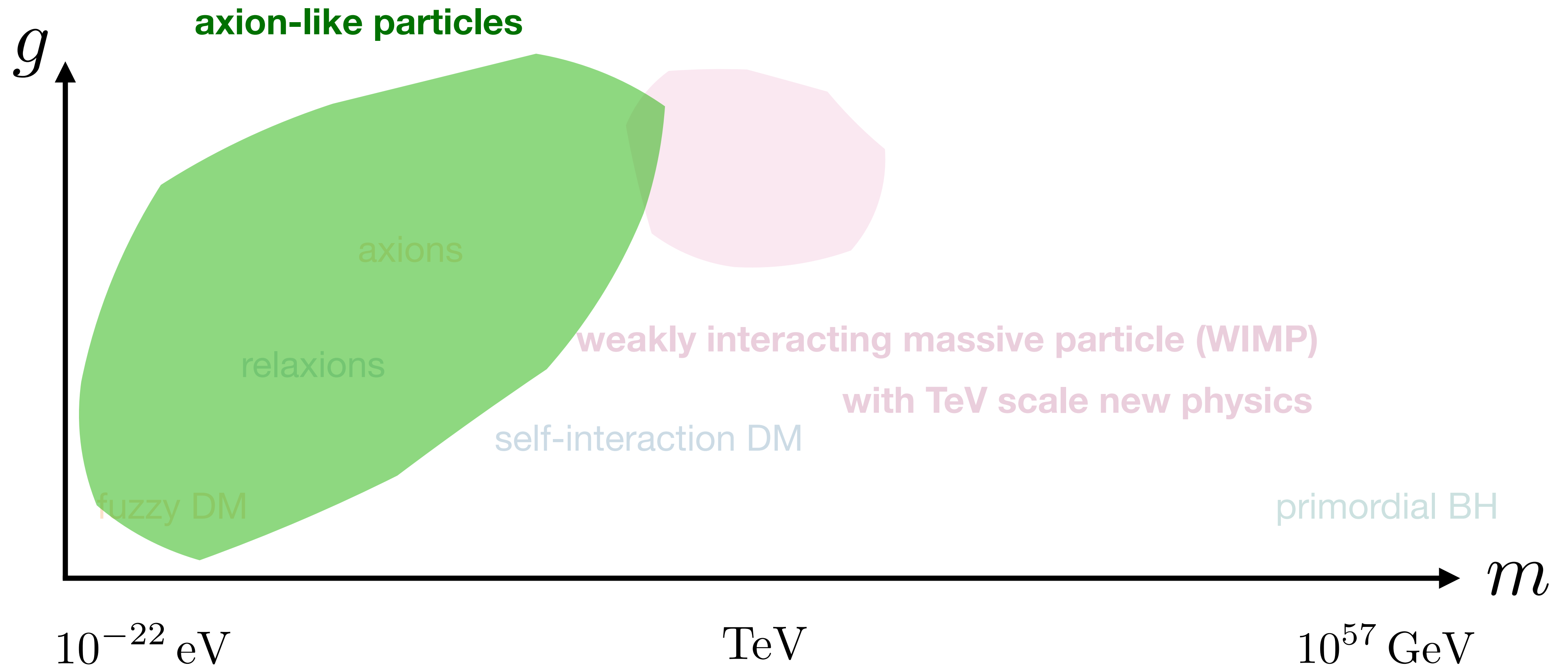
not only cosmological relaxation scenario  
but also *many other dynamical solutions*  
*predicts axion-like particles*

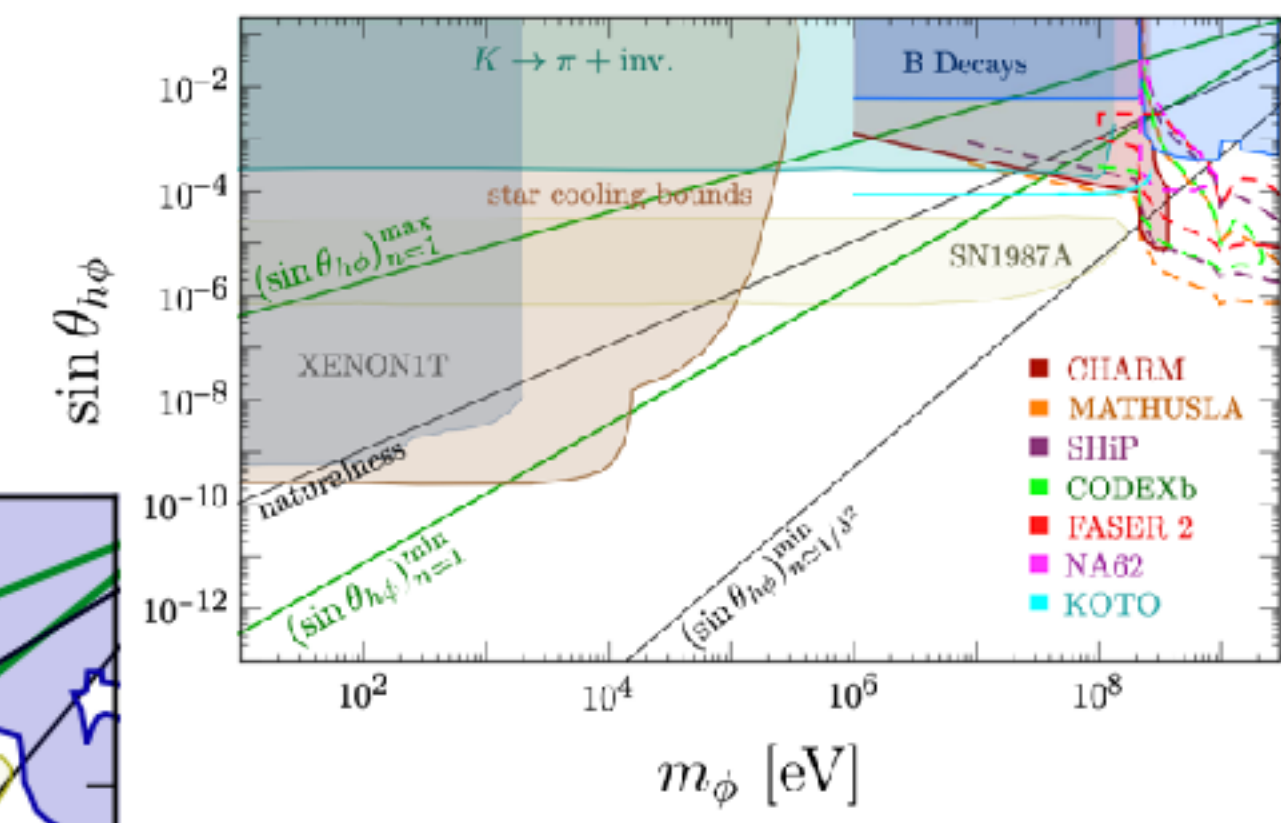
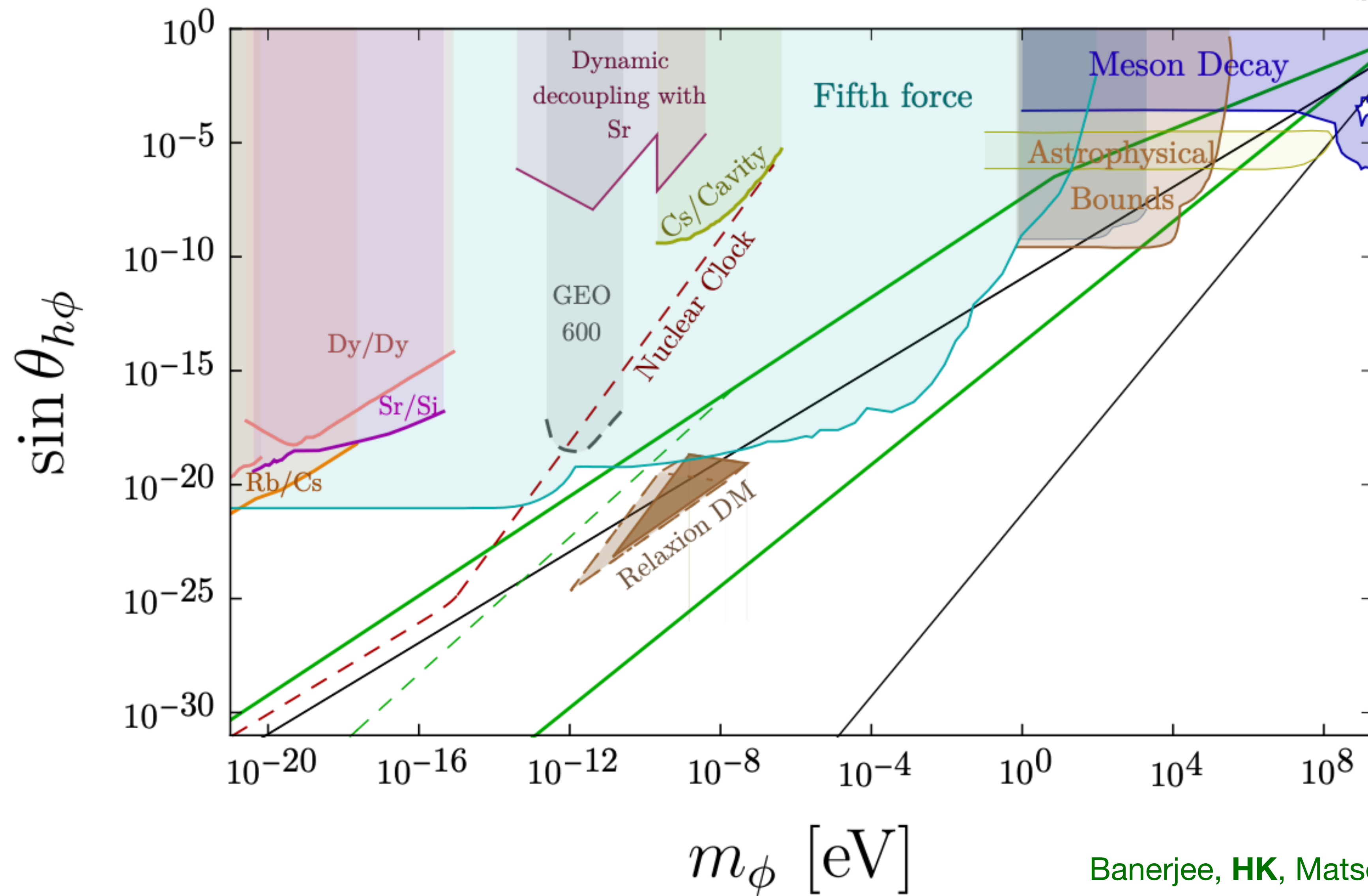
at the same time this axion-like particles  
*can also be dark matter* in the universe!

Svrcek, Witten (08); Arvanitaki et al (09);  
Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran (15); Arvanitaki et al (16);  
Banerjee, **HK**, Perez (18); Arkani-Hamed et al (20);  
Tito D'Agnolo, Teresi (21); Chatrchyan, Servant (22);  
many others ...









Banerjee, **HK**, Matsedonskyi, Perez, Safronova (20)  
 see also Chatrchyan and Servant (22)

as this type of solution predicts a light degree of freedom  
strategies for new physics search must be adapted accordingly

since the mass of axion-like particle is less restricted

it introduces *new challenges*:

*where / how should we search for this new physics?*

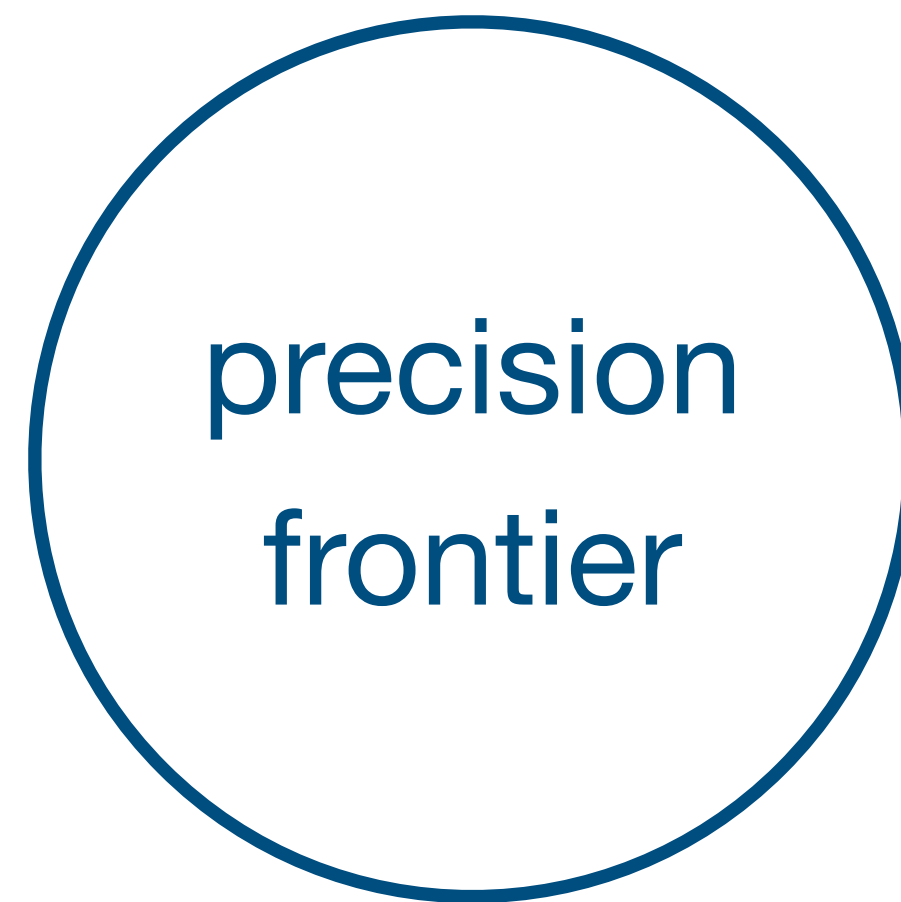
intensity/energy  
frontier

precision  
frontier

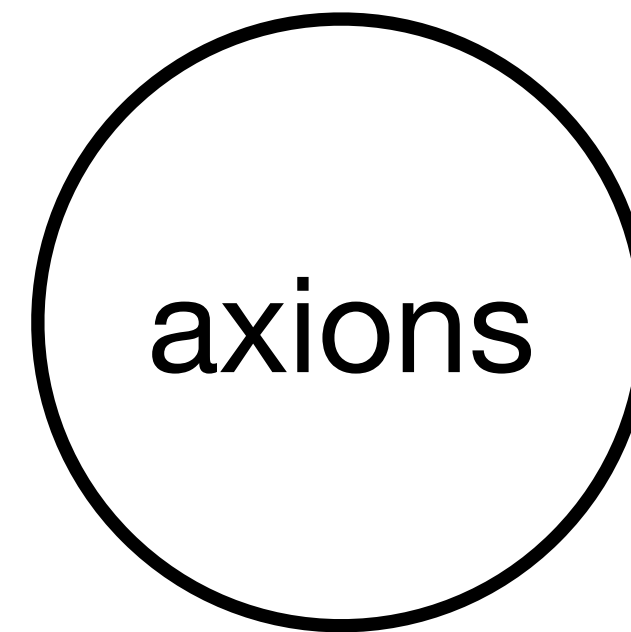
axions

astrophysics  
frontier

in past 10 years  
interesting progress has been made  
for *searching for axion-like particle (DM)*  
*in the 'sky' and on 'tables'*



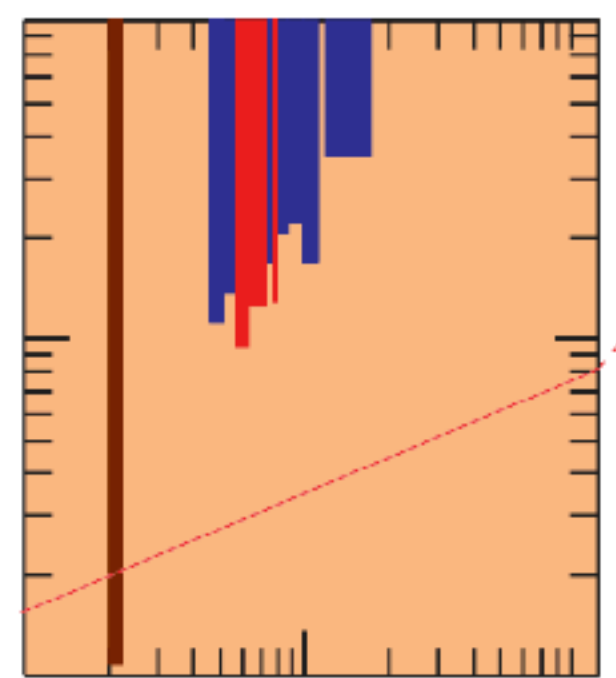
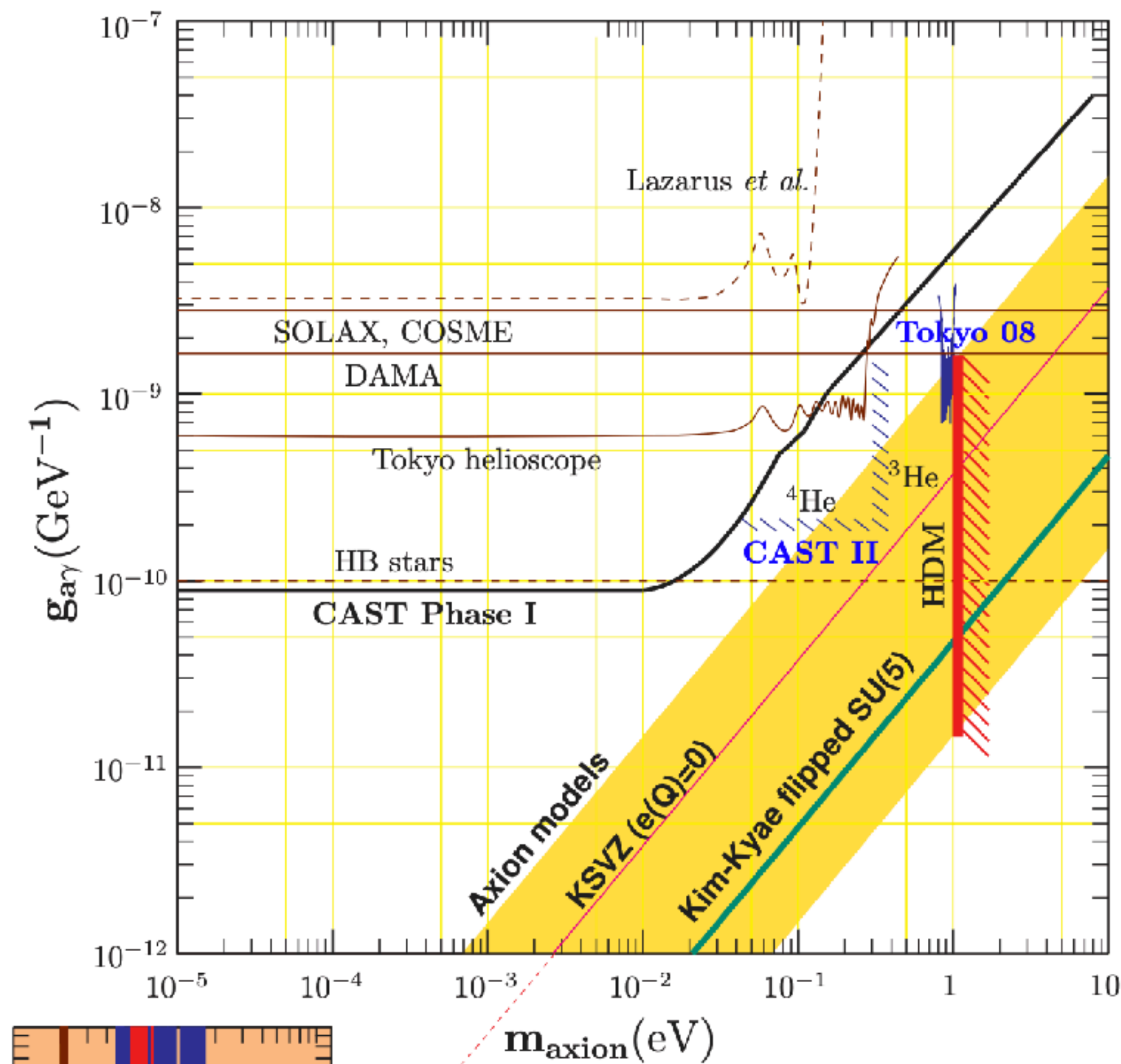
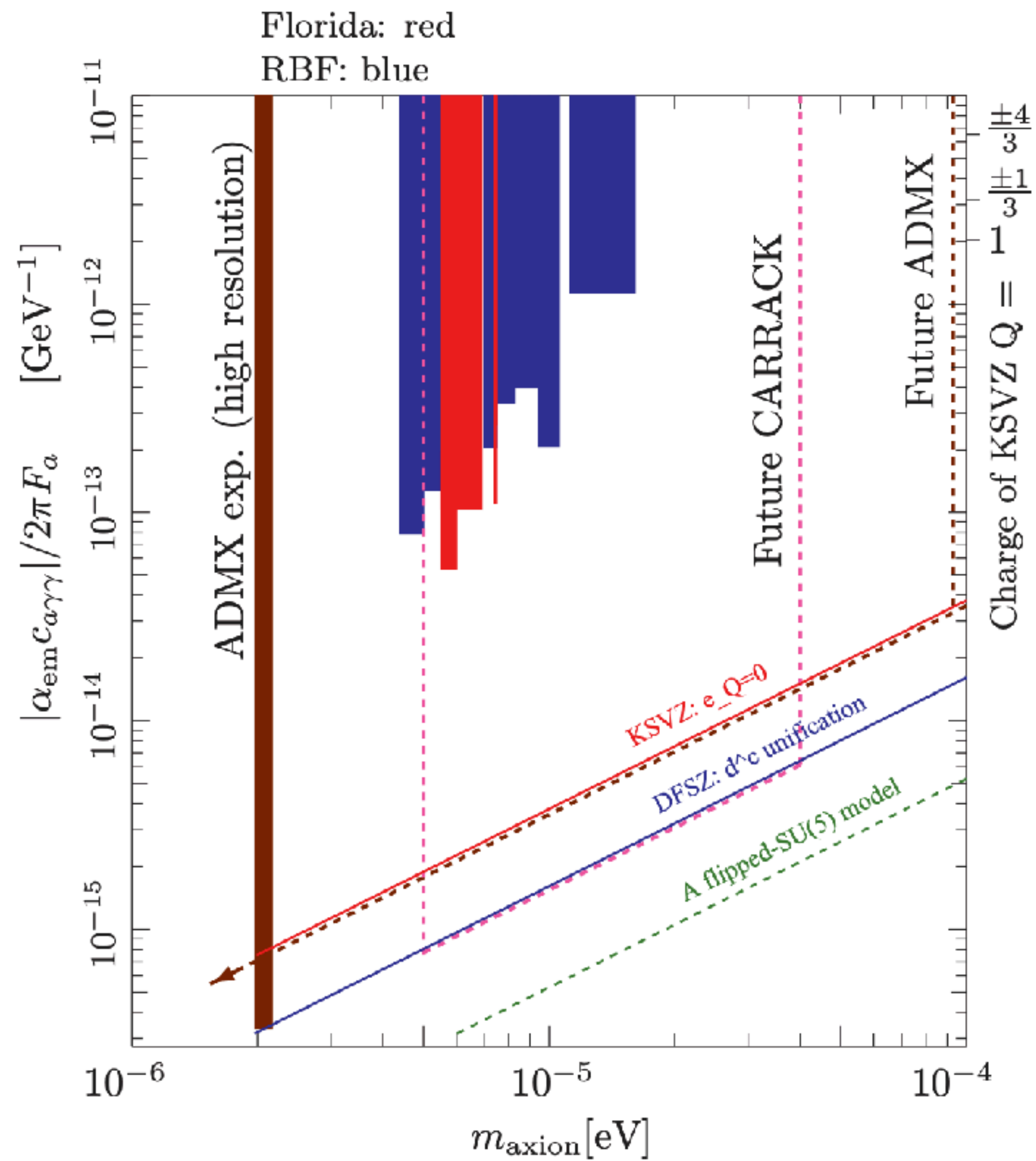
'Table'



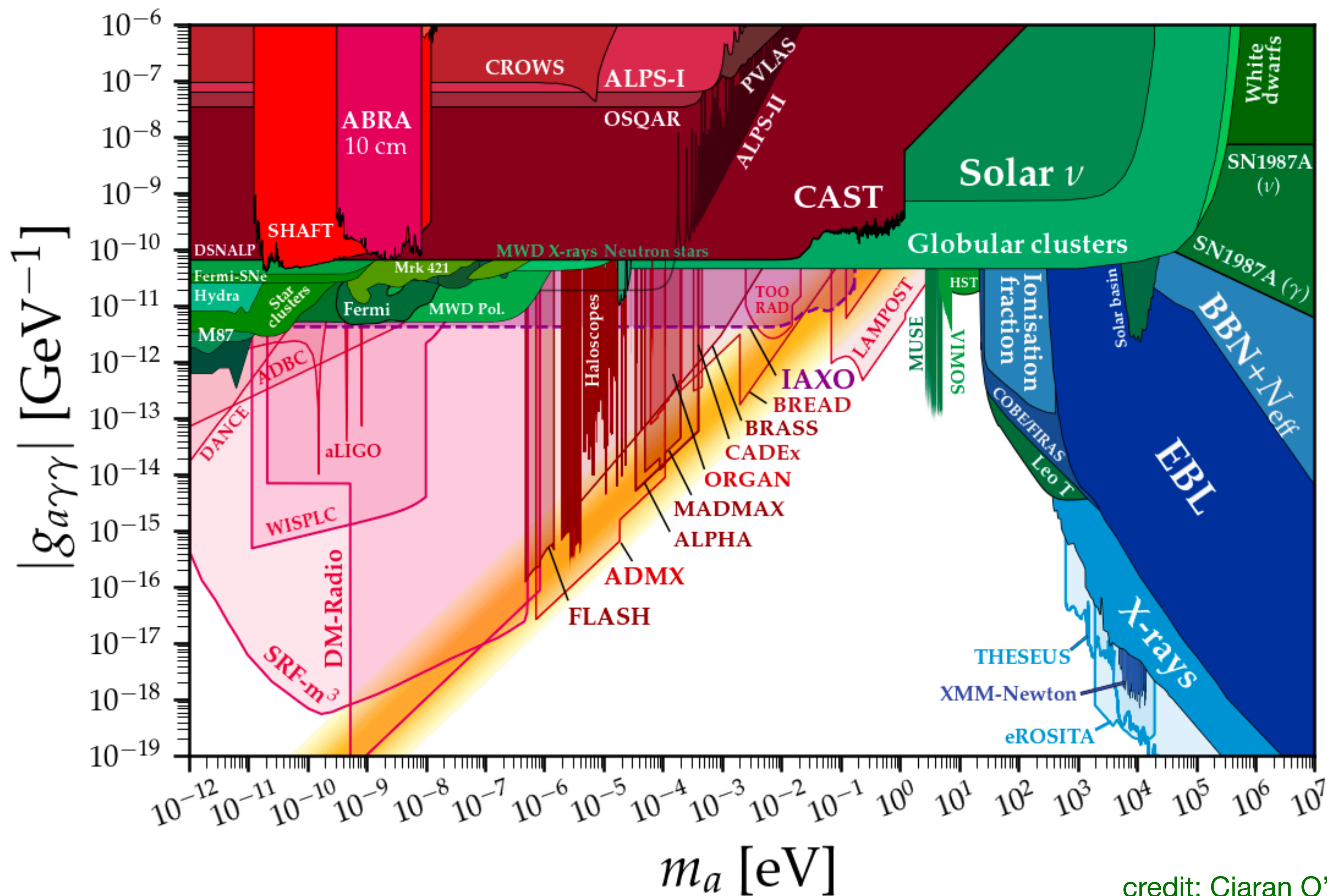
'Sky'



axion searches on 'tables'  
 looked like this 14 years ago ...

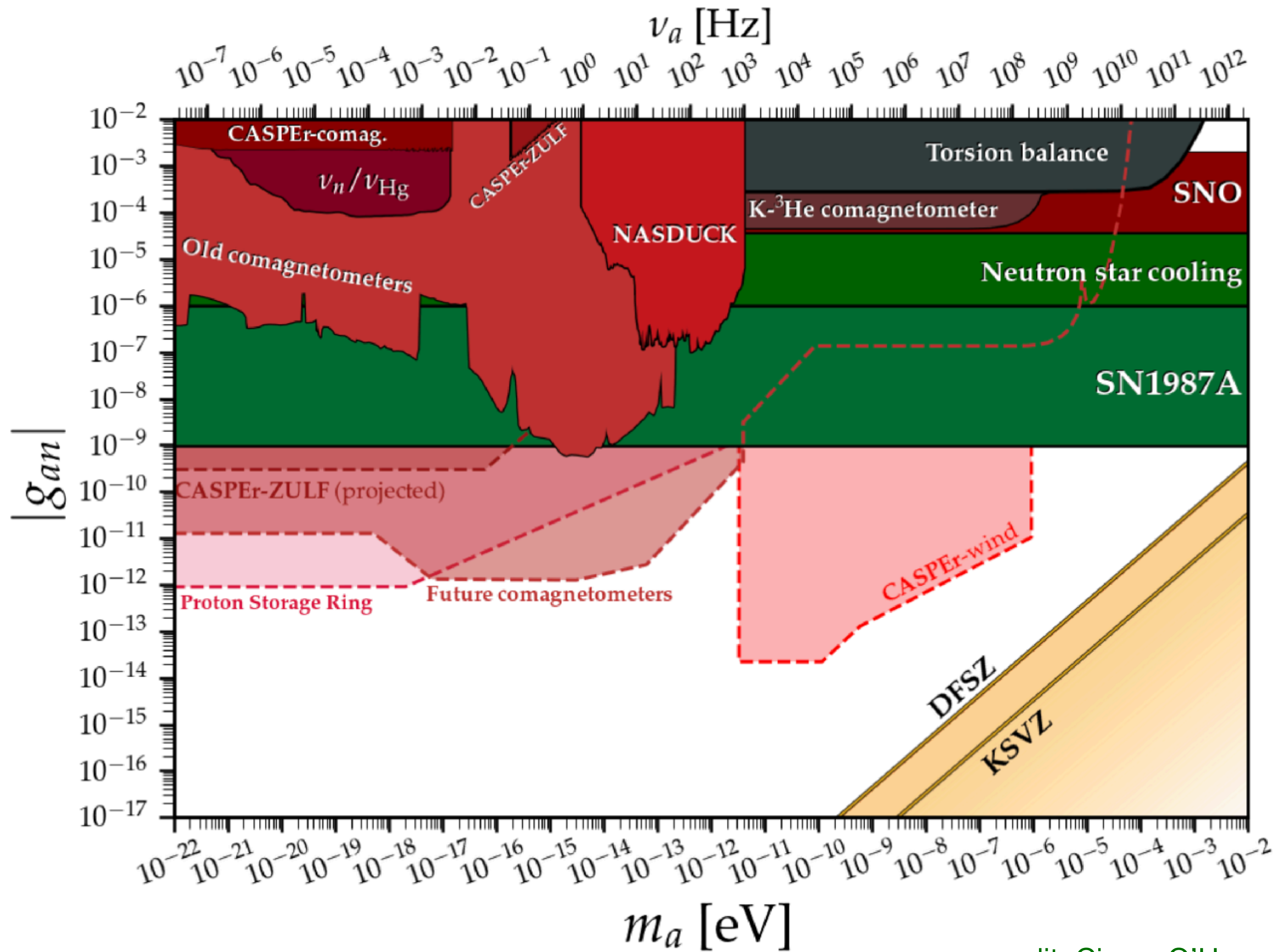


now it looks like ...



credit: Ciaran O'Hare





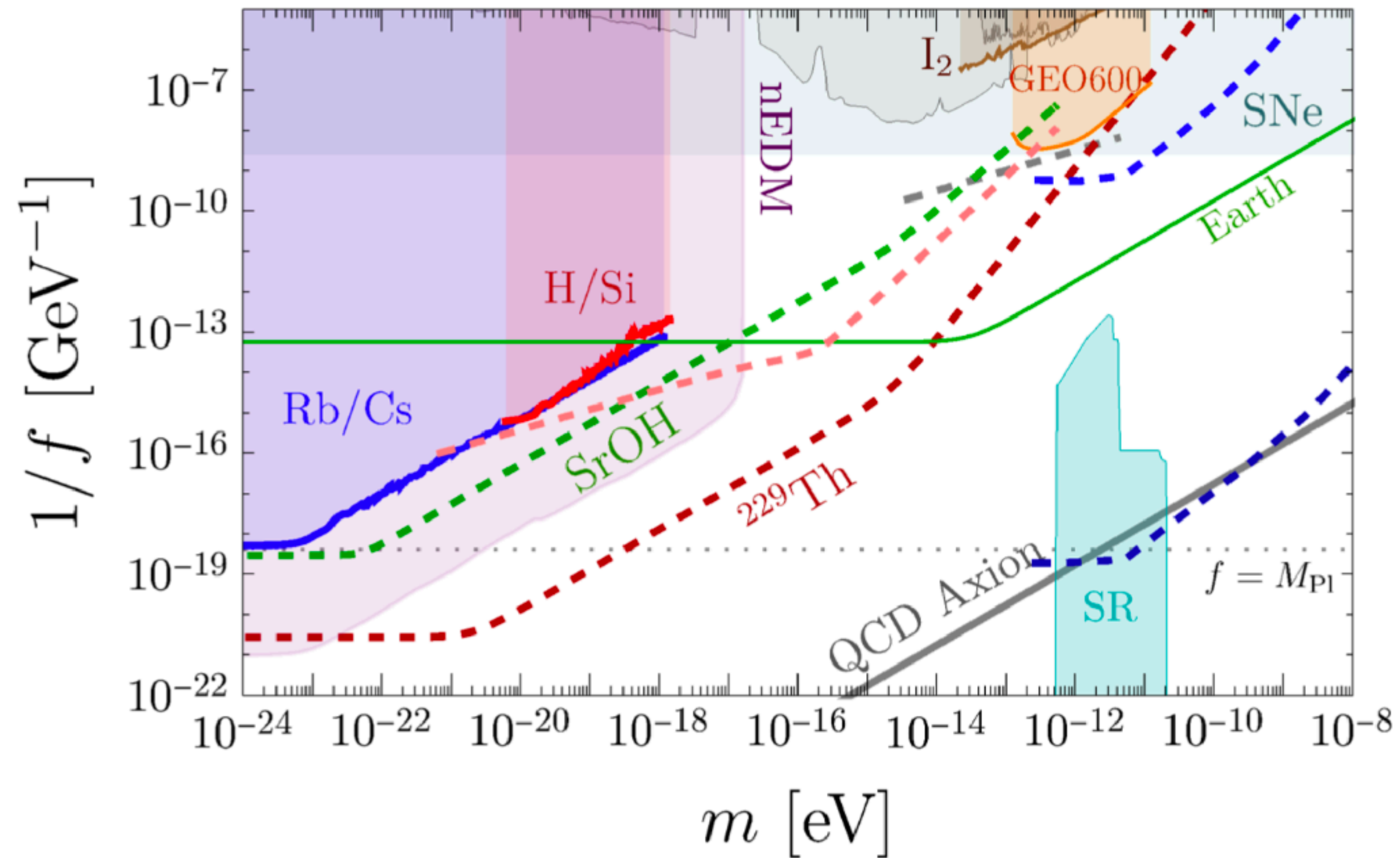
credit: Ciaran O'Hare

in addition to this

*axion DM* can also be searched

*with atomic/molecular spectroscopy, interferometry, and accelerometry*

HK, Perez (22)



In the standard model  
the following is allowed

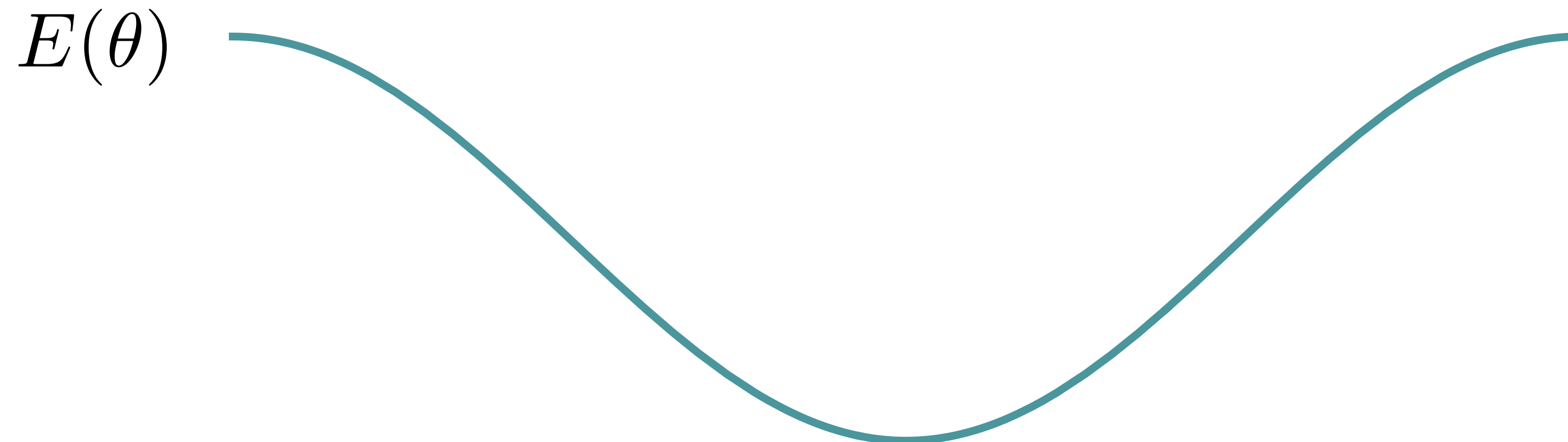
$$\mathcal{L} = \theta G \tilde{G}$$

In the standard model  
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$\theta$  is physical

QCD vacuum energy depends on  $\theta$



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$$\mathcal{L} = \theta G \tilde{G}$$

$\theta$  is physical

pion mass also depends on  $\theta$

$$m_{\pi}^2(\theta) = m_{\pi}^2(0) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d)^2} \sin^2(\theta/2)}$$

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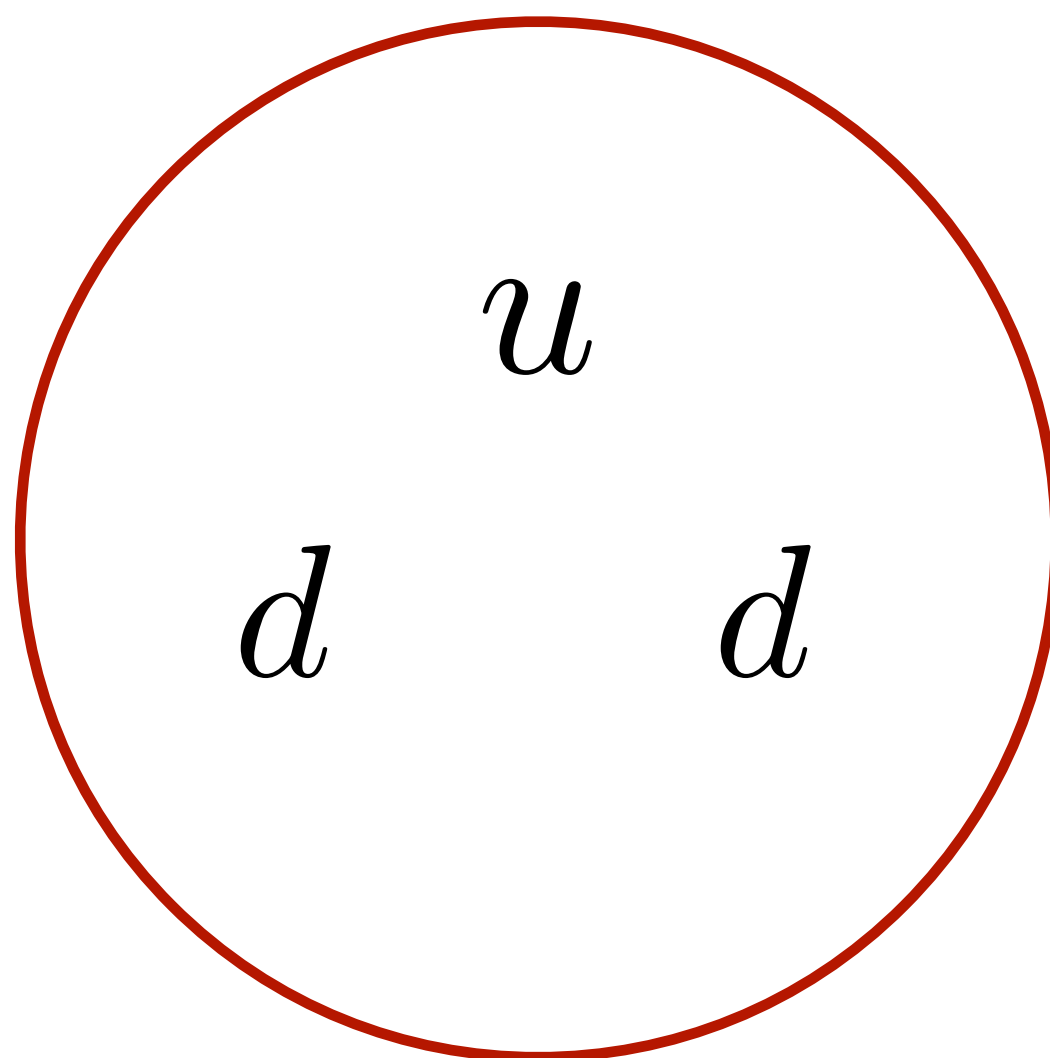
$$m_{\pi}^2(\theta) = m_{\pi}^2(0) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d)^2} \sin^2(\theta/2)}$$

*Different choice of  $\theta$  leads to different spectrum*

In the standard model  
the following is allowed

$$\mathcal{L} = \theta G \tilde{G}$$

$\theta$  is physical



$$d_n \sim 10^{-16} \theta \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}$$

$$|d_n|_{\text{exp}} \lesssim 10^{-26} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}$$

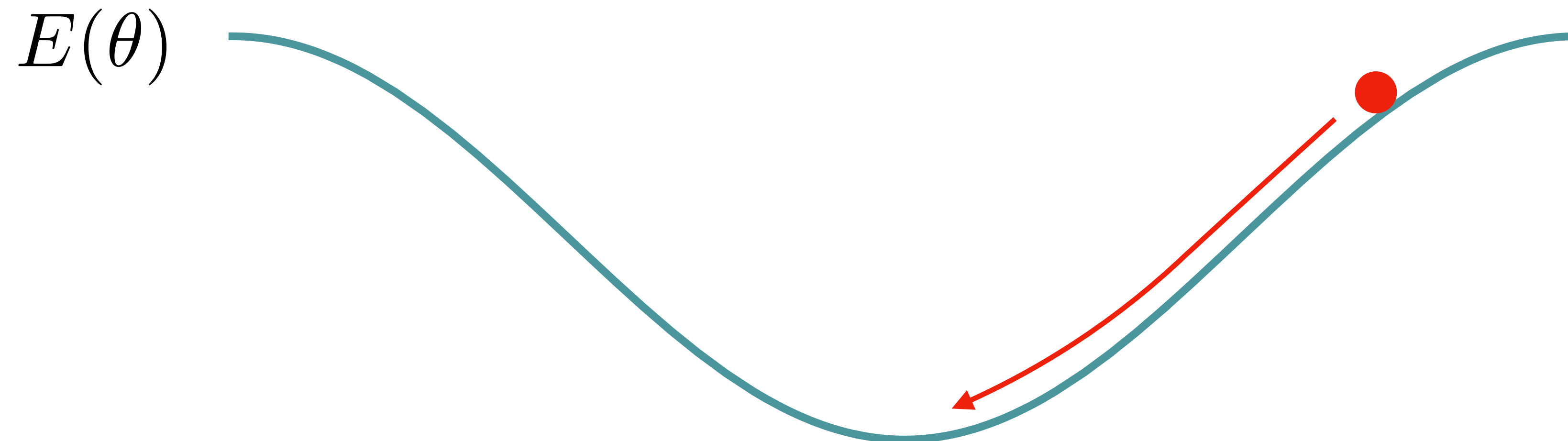
Abel et al (20)

*neutron electric dipole moment*

Consider

$$\mathcal{L} = \theta G \tilde{G}$$

Now imagine  $\theta = a/f$  as dynamical degrees of freedom

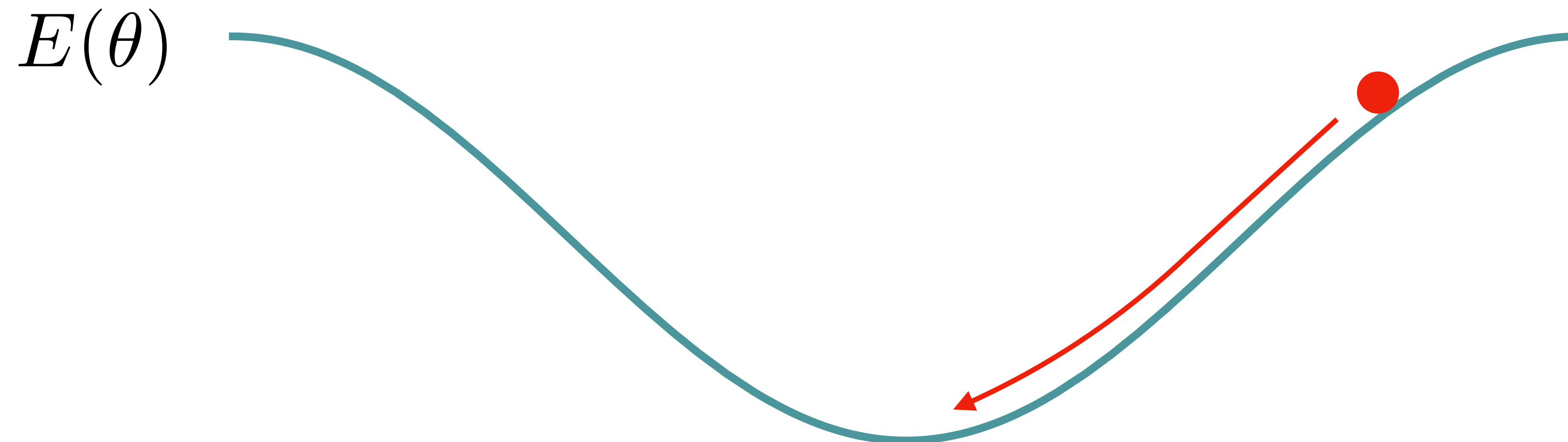




Consider

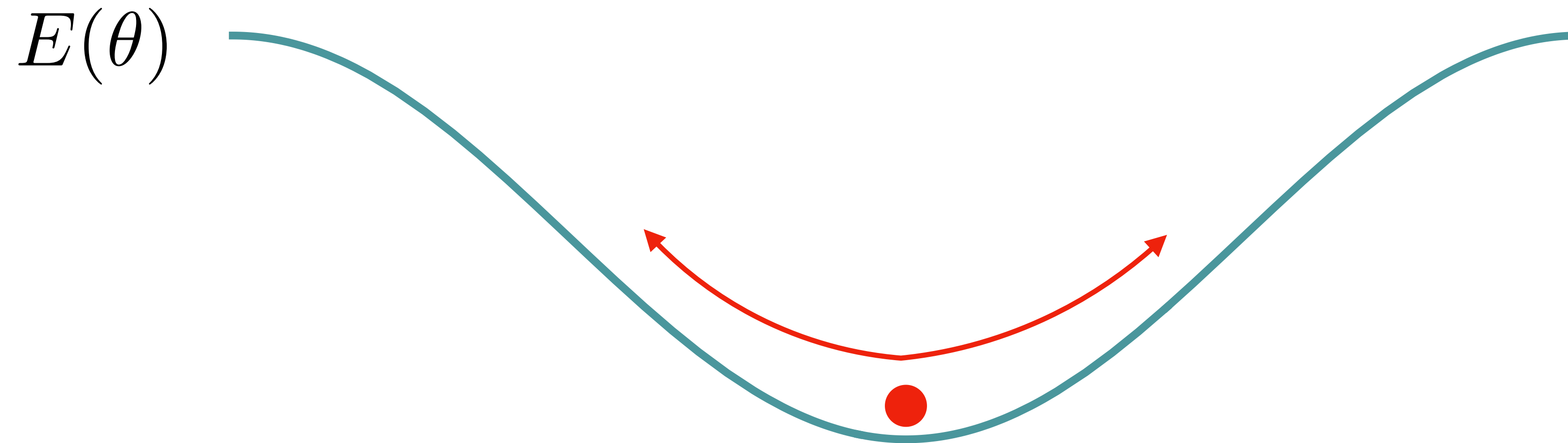
$$\mathcal{L} = \theta G \tilde{G}$$

Now imagine  $\theta = a/f$  as dynamical degrees of freedom



The strong CP angle dynamically relaxes to CP-conserving vacuum  
solving the strong CP dynamically

This *axion* could oscillate around minimum



Such a oscillating field behaves like matter

*Axion oscillation around its minimum comprises **DM** in the present universe*

What are the implications?

Since QCD spectrum depends on  $\theta$   
the presence of axion DM naturally imply

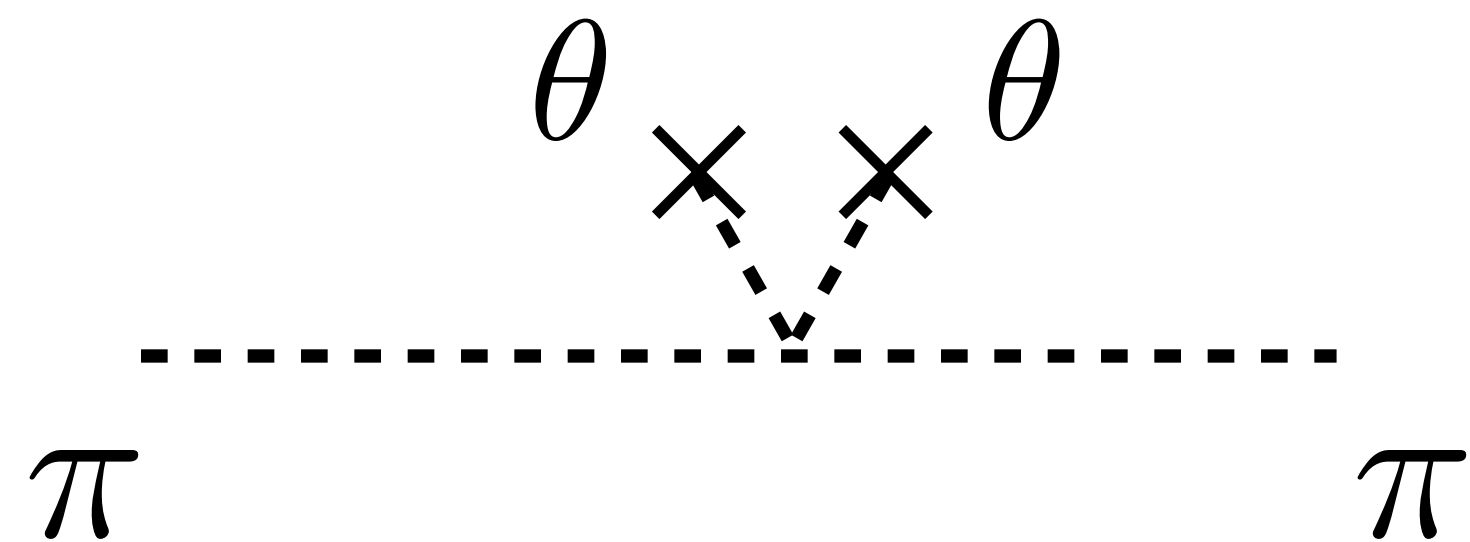
*oscillations of nuclear quantities*

What are the implications?

Since QCD spectrum depends on  $\theta$   
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*oscillations of nuclear quantities*

$$m_{\pi}^2(\theta)$$



$$\frac{\delta m_{\pi}^2}{m_{\pi}^2} = -\frac{m_u m_d}{2(m_u + m_d)^2} \theta^2$$

What are the implications?

Since QCD spectrum depends on  $\theta$   
the presence of axion DM naturally imply

*oscillations of nuclear quantities*

$$m_\pi^2(\theta) \quad m_N(\theta)$$



The diagram shows a horizontal line with a cross on the left and a dashed arc on the right, connected by a plus sign. This represents a tree-level vertex and a loop correction.

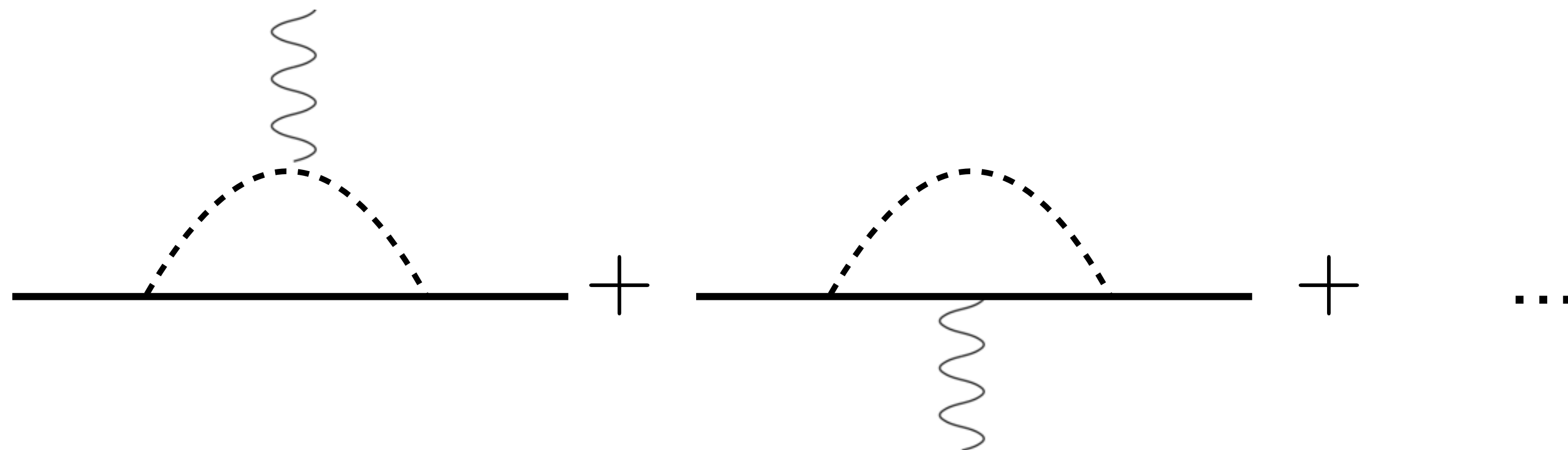
$$\Delta m_N \simeq -4c_1 m_\pi^2(\theta) - \frac{3g_A^2 m_\pi^3(\theta)}{32\pi f_\pi^2}$$

What are the implications?

Since QCD spectrum depends on  $\theta$   
the presence of axion DM naturally imply

*oscillations of nuclear quantities*

$$m_\pi^2(\theta) \quad m_N(\theta) \quad g_{n,p}(\theta)$$

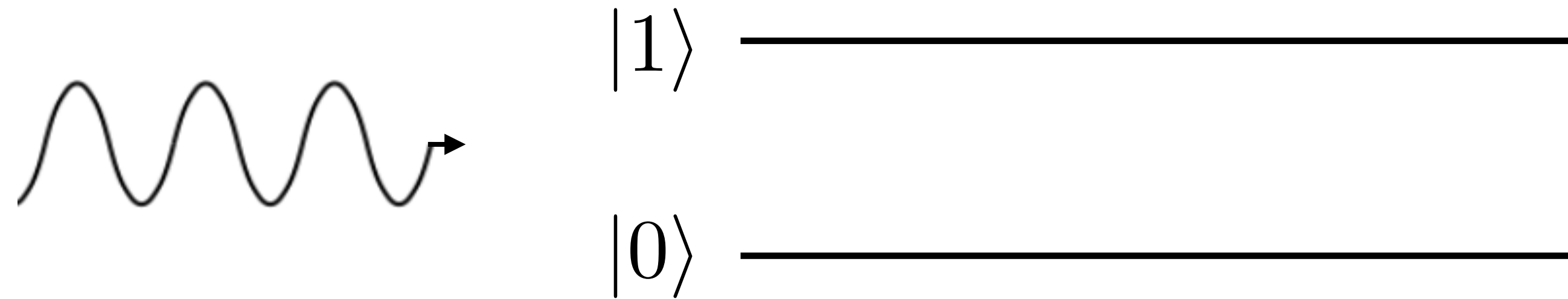


$$\Delta g_{n,p}(\theta) \simeq \pm \frac{g_A^2 m_N m_\pi(\theta)}{4\pi f_\pi^2}$$

Are oscillations of atomic energy level observable in a lab?

Are oscillations of atomic energy level observable in a lab?

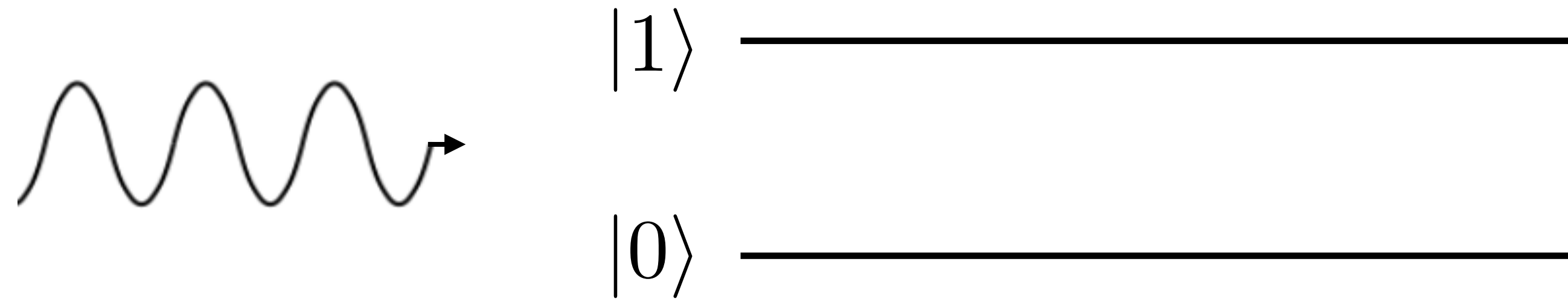
Imagine a situation where we interrogate atoms periodically  
to measure the transition frequency



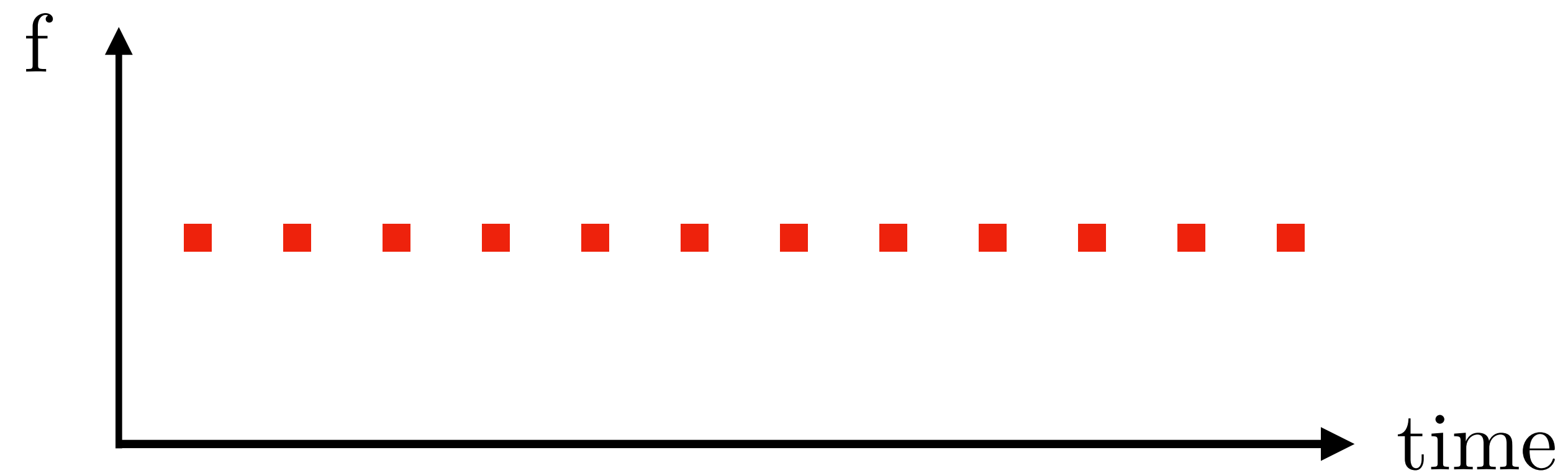


Are oscillations of atomic energy level observable in a lab?

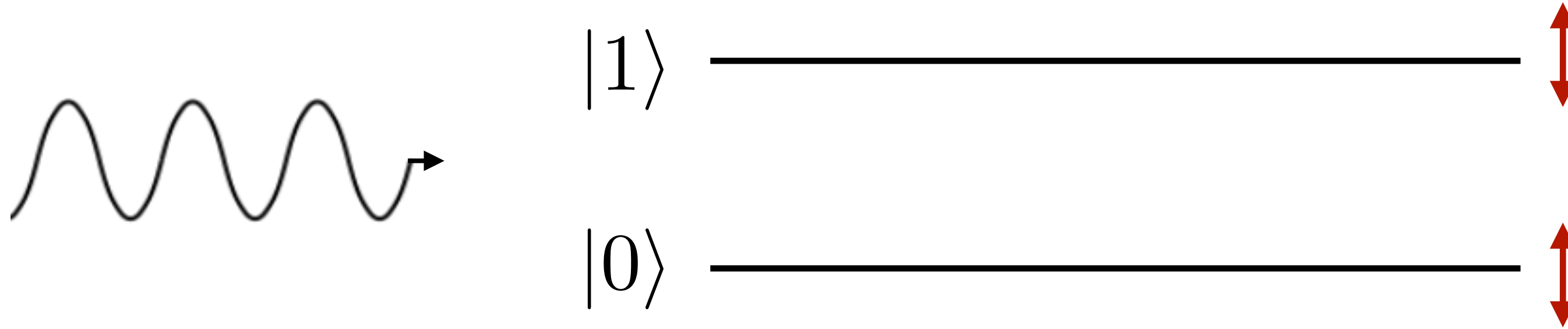
Imagine a situation where we interrogate atoms periodically to measure the transition frequency



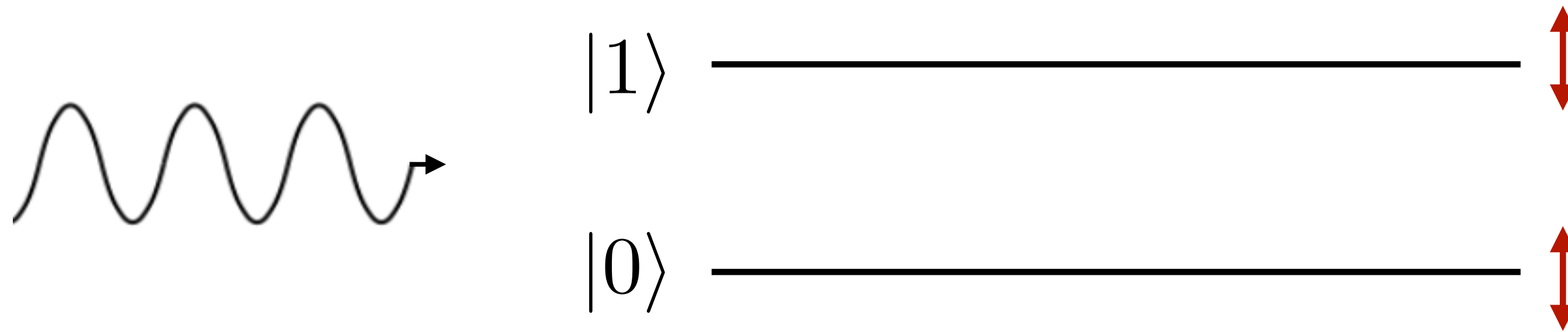
In an *ideal world* **without** axion, this measurement would give us



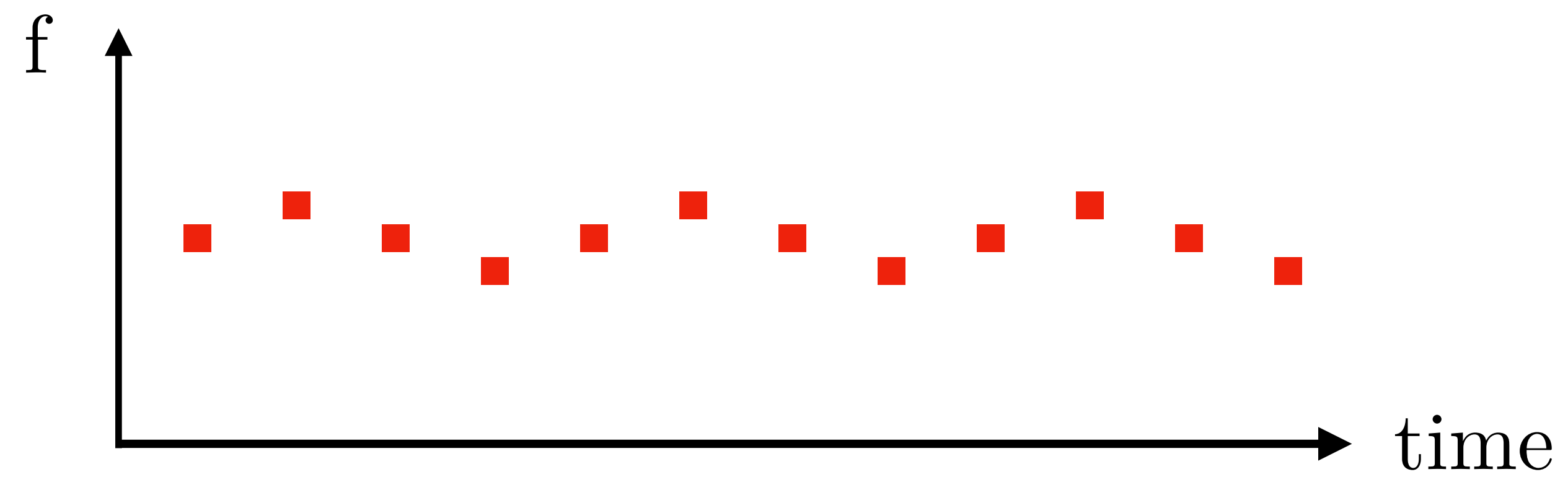
Now imagine the same exp. but **with axion**



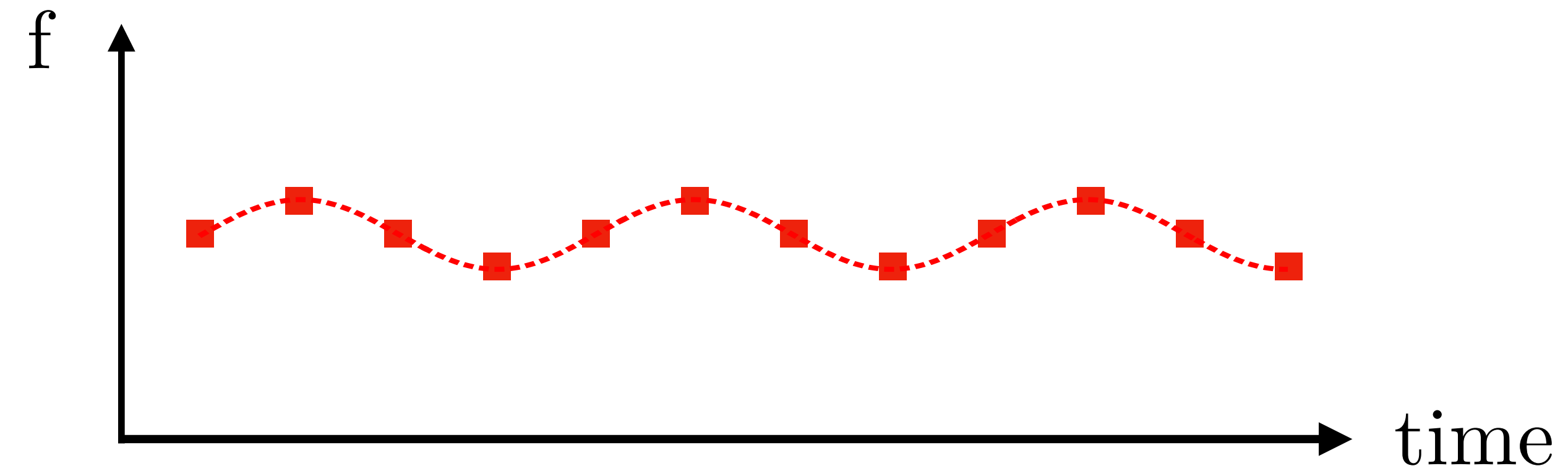
Now imagine the same exp. but **with axion**



the same measurement would give us

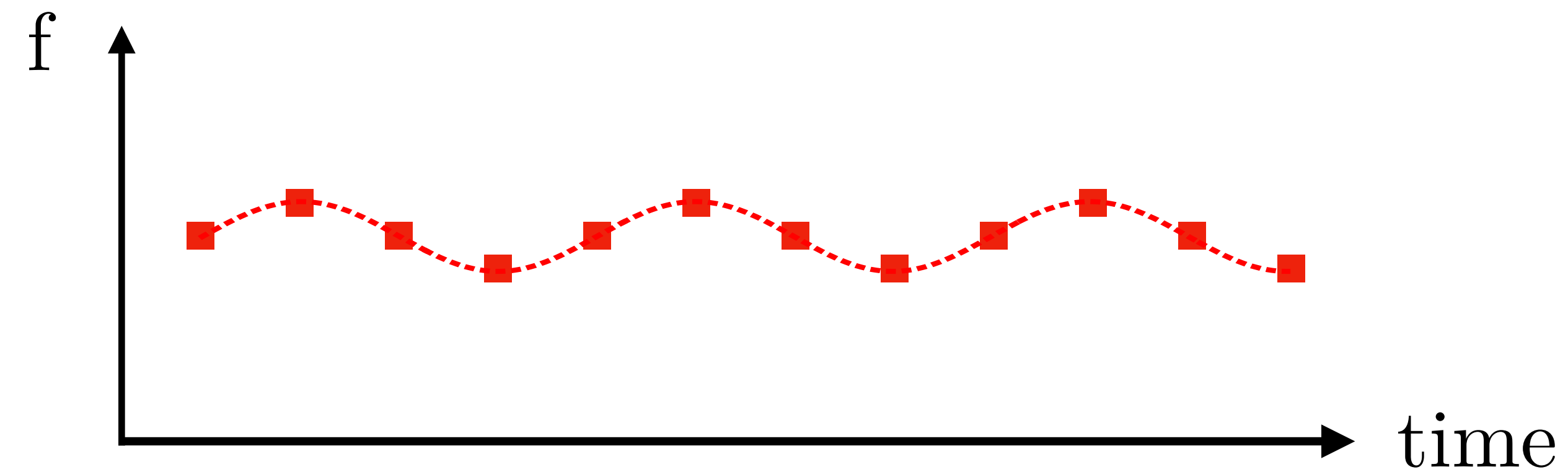


the same measurement would give us



by looking for a harmonic signal  
oscillations of energy level can be probed

the same measurement would give us



by looking for a harmonic signal  
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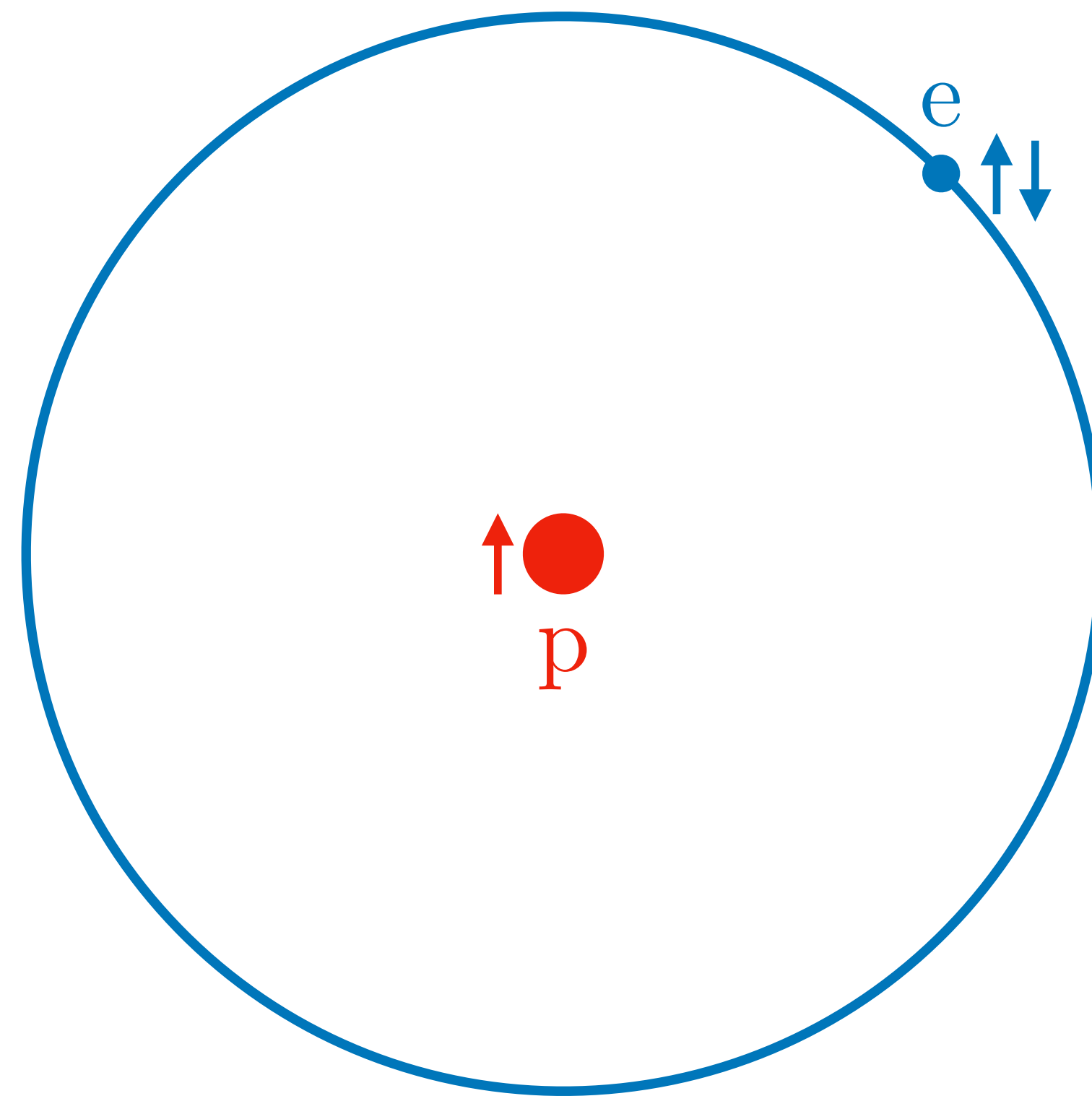
for dilaton-like (or scalar) DM searches

$$\mathcal{L} = \phi \bar{\psi} \psi + \phi F F + \phi G G$$

atomic clocks provide useful tools

To see how it works

let us consider *hyperfine splitting in hydrogen atom*

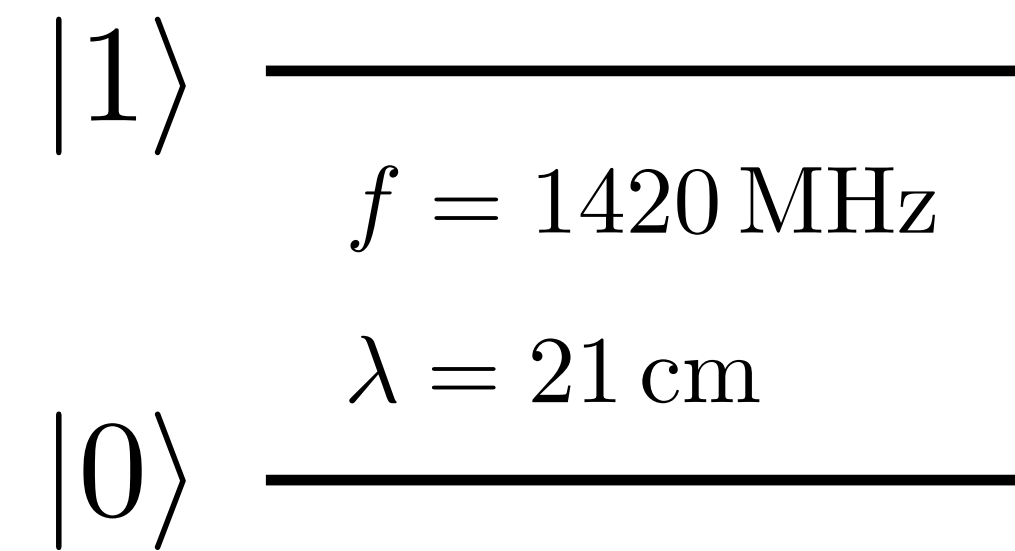
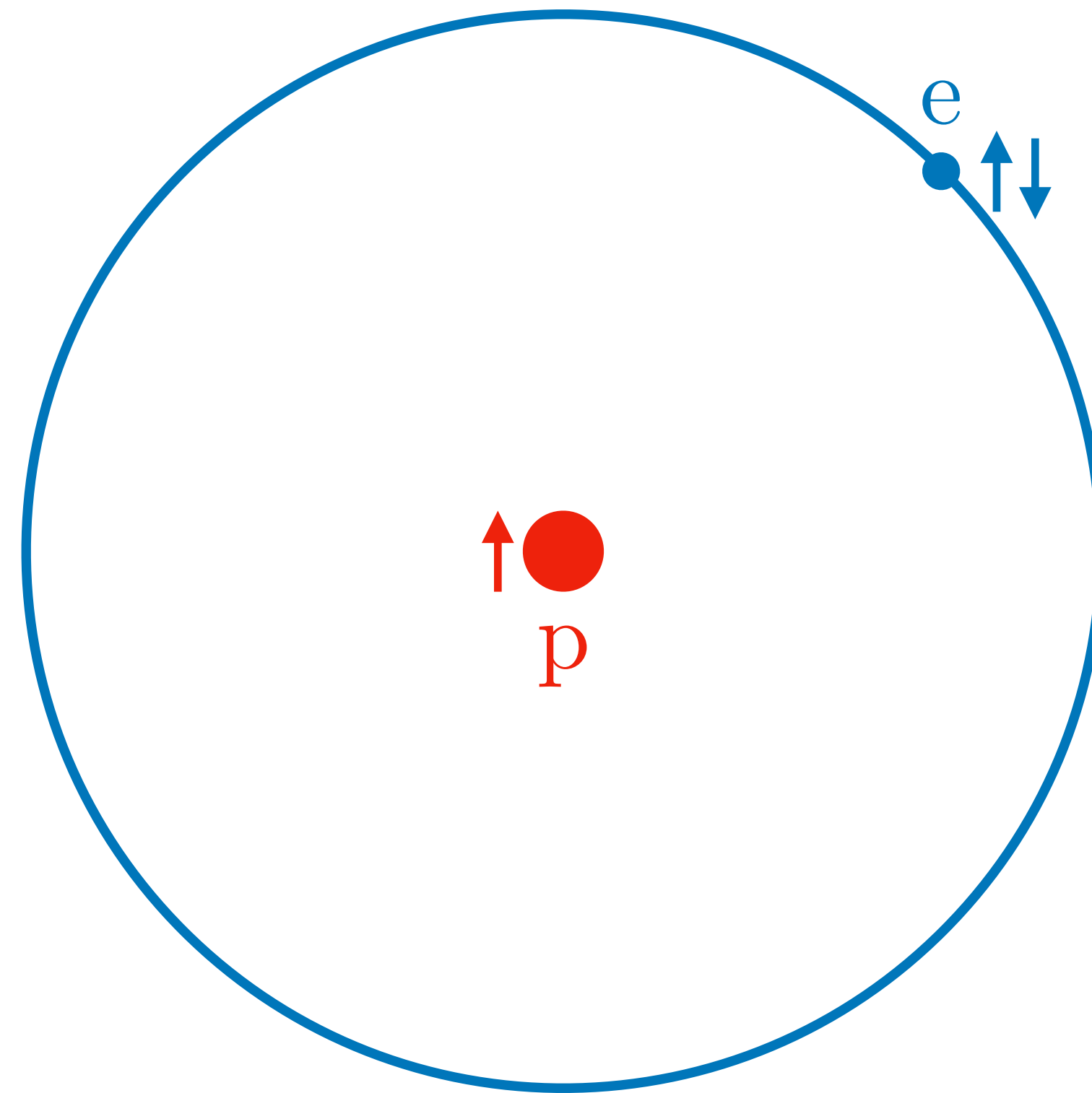


$$\begin{array}{l} |1\rangle \text{-----} \\ f = 1420 \text{ MHz} \\ \lambda = 21 \text{ cm} \\ |0\rangle \text{-----} \end{array}$$

$$H = -\vec{\mu}_e \cdot \vec{B}_p$$

To see how it works

let us consider *hyperfine splitting in hydrogen atom*



$$E = \frac{4}{3} (m_e^2 \alpha^4) \frac{g_p}{m_p}$$

In the presence of axion DM

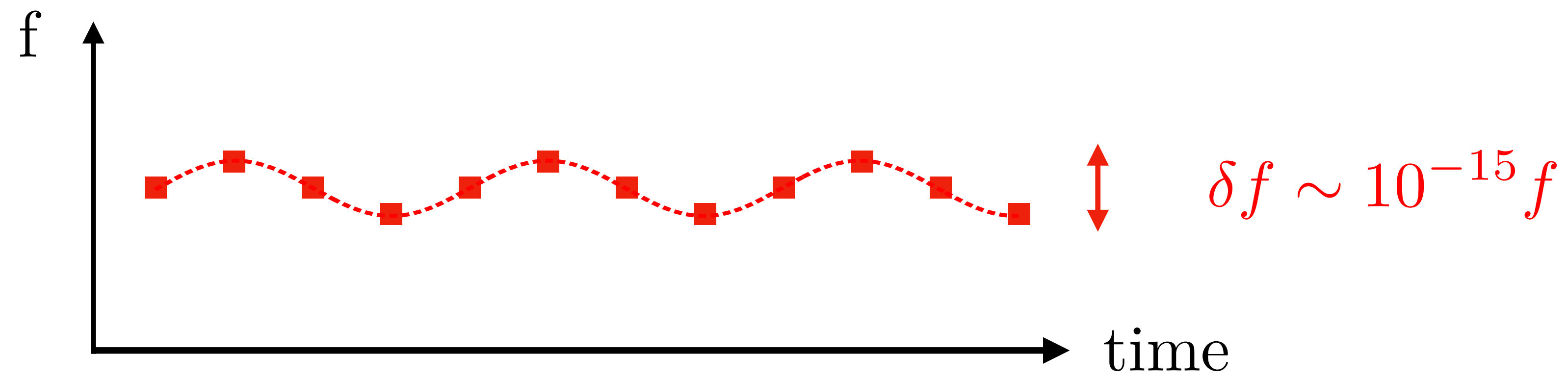
$$E = \frac{4}{3} (m_e^2 \alpha^4) \frac{g_p}{m_p}$$

energy level slightly changes as

$$\frac{\delta E}{E} \sim 10^{-15} \frac{1}{m_{15}^2 f_{10}^2} [1 + \cos(2mt)]$$

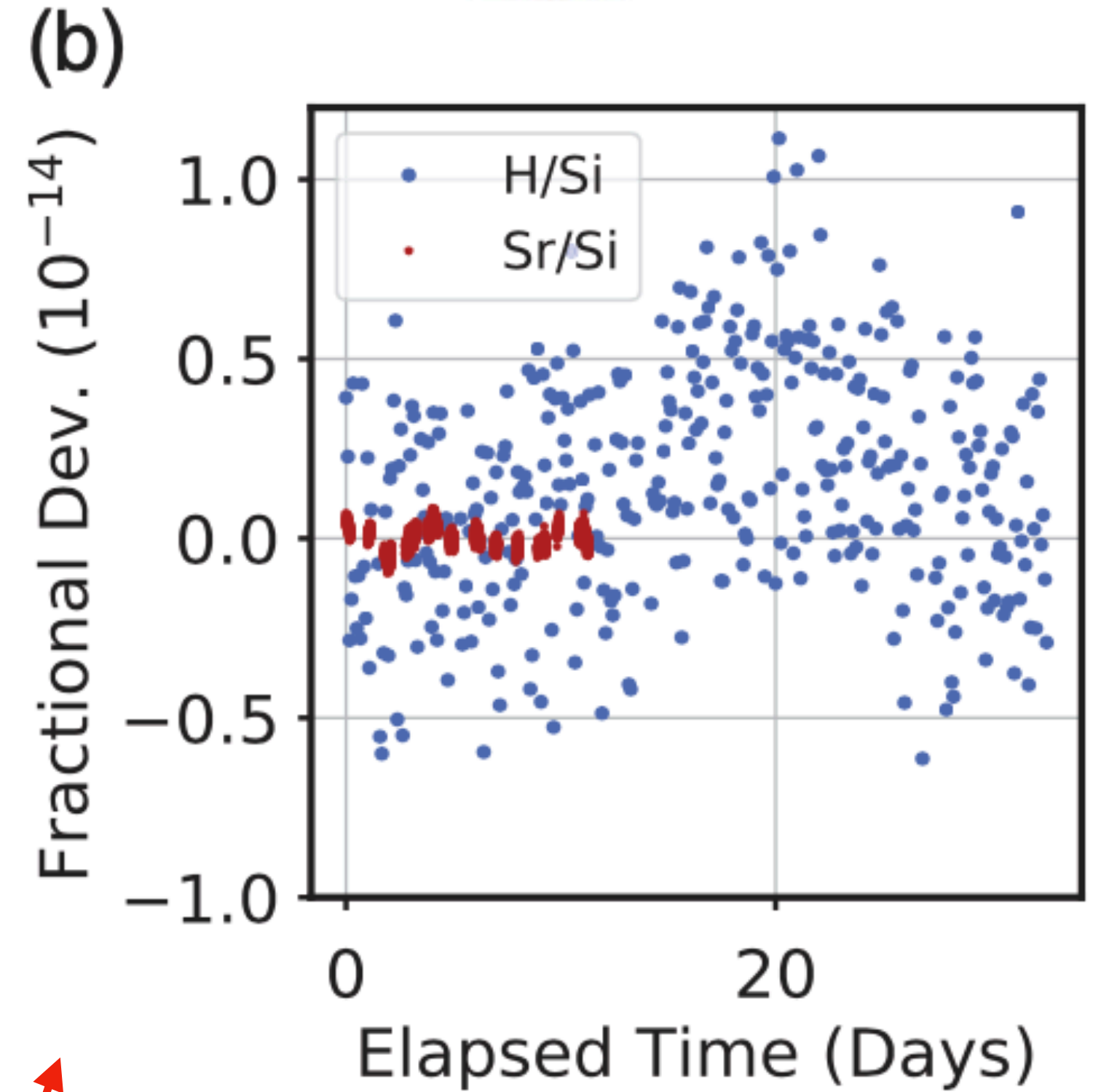
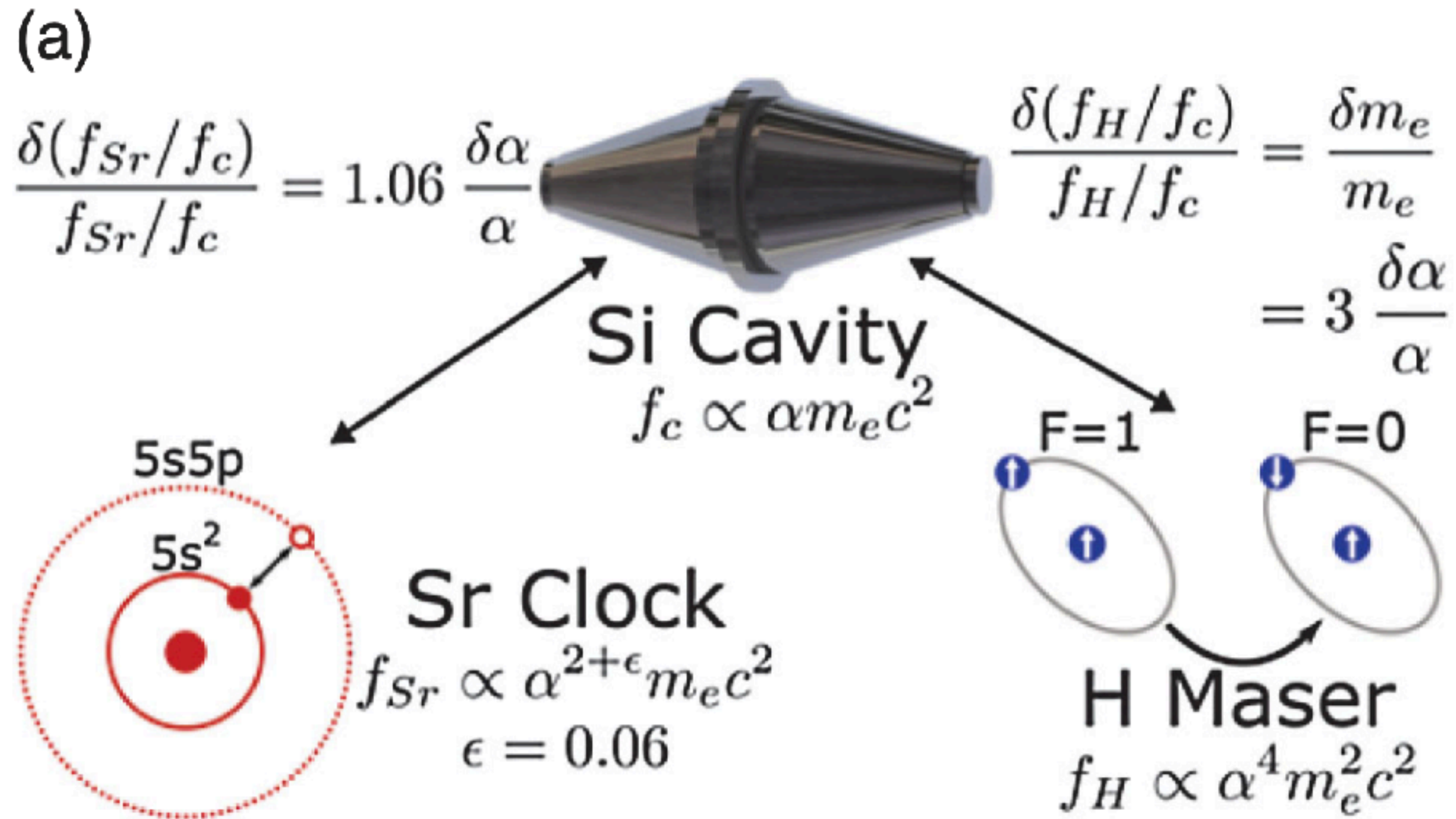


harmonic signal @  $\omega = 2m$

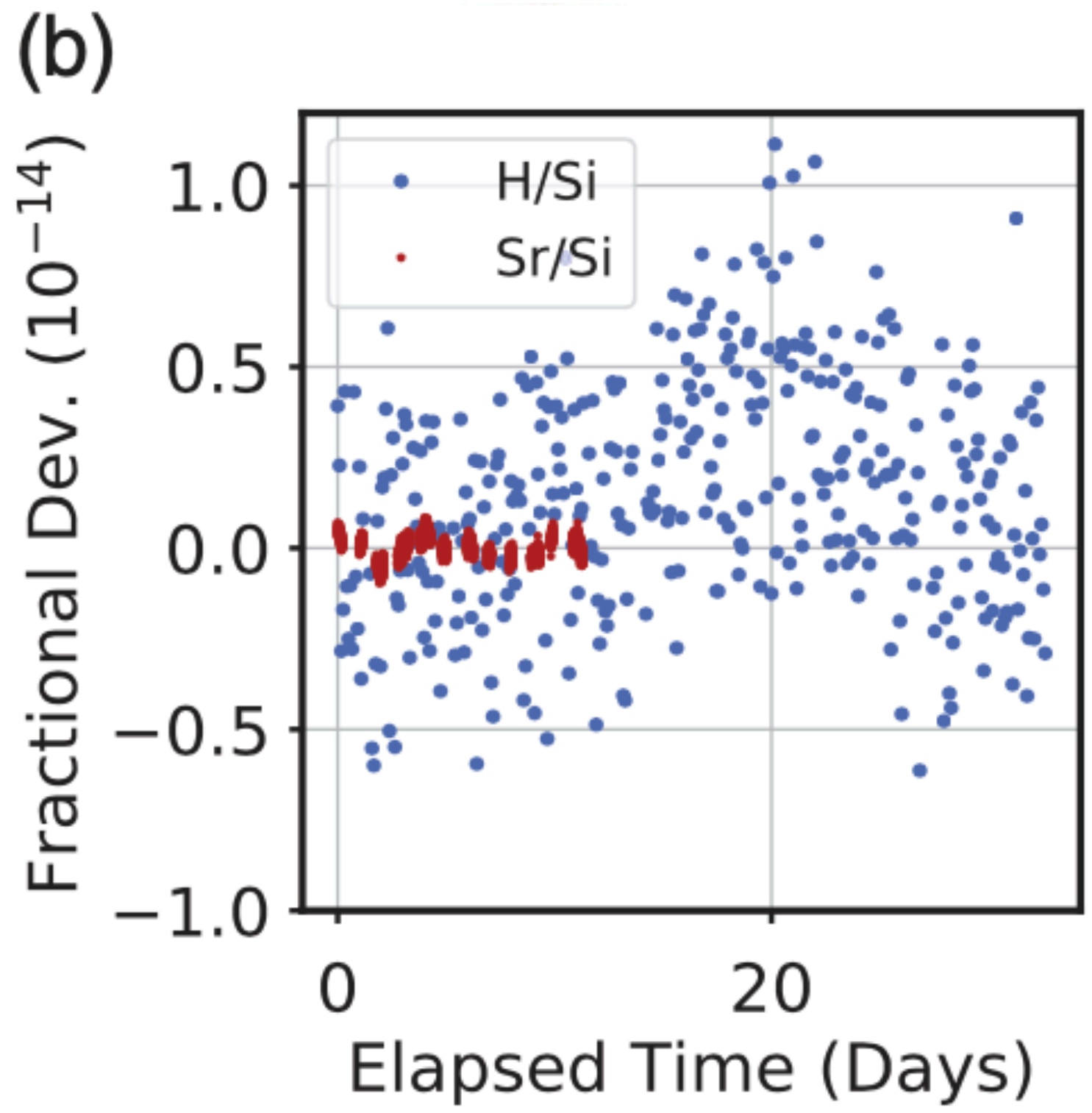
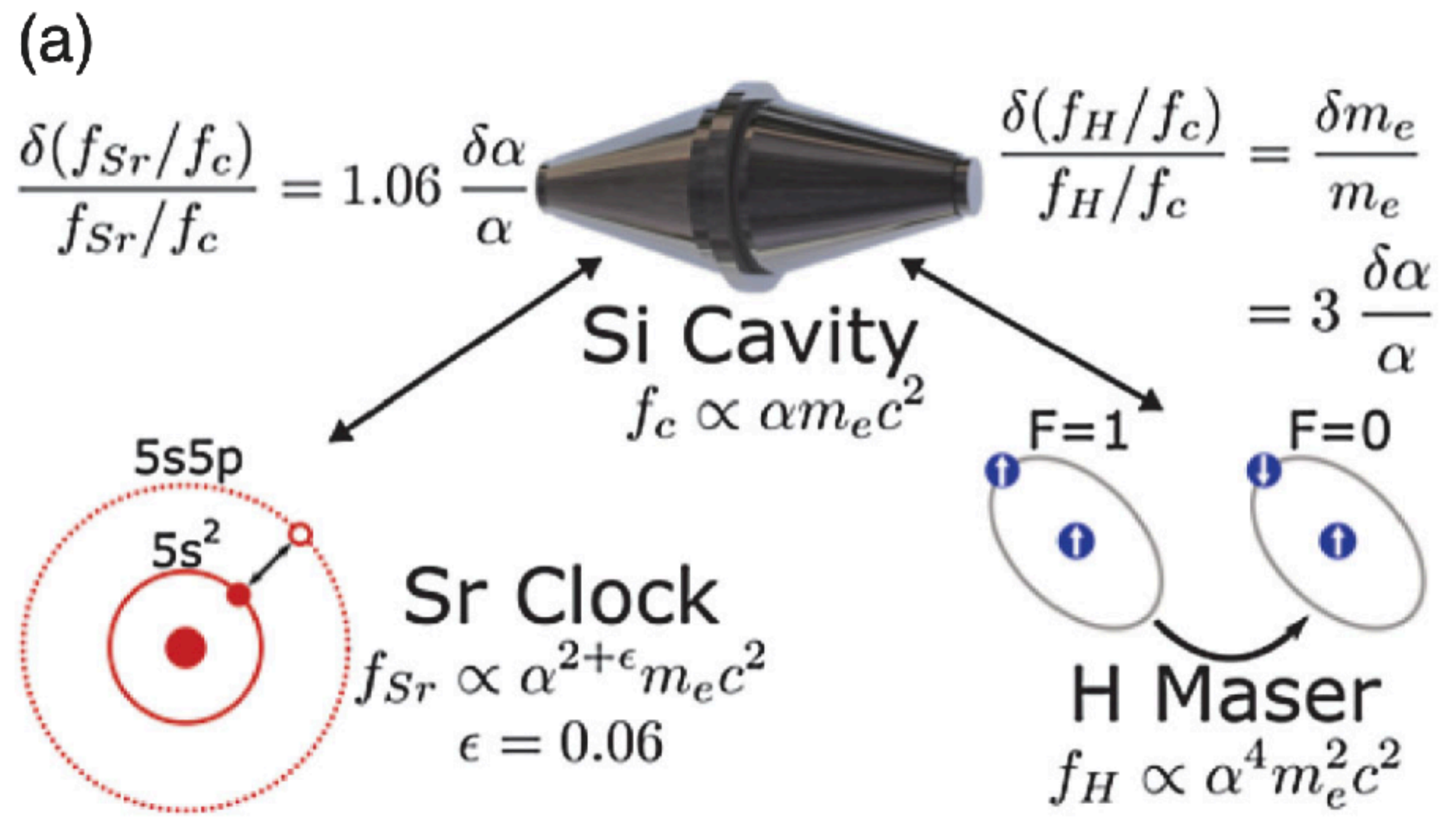


Is it a realistic system or just a toy model?

Is this observable?

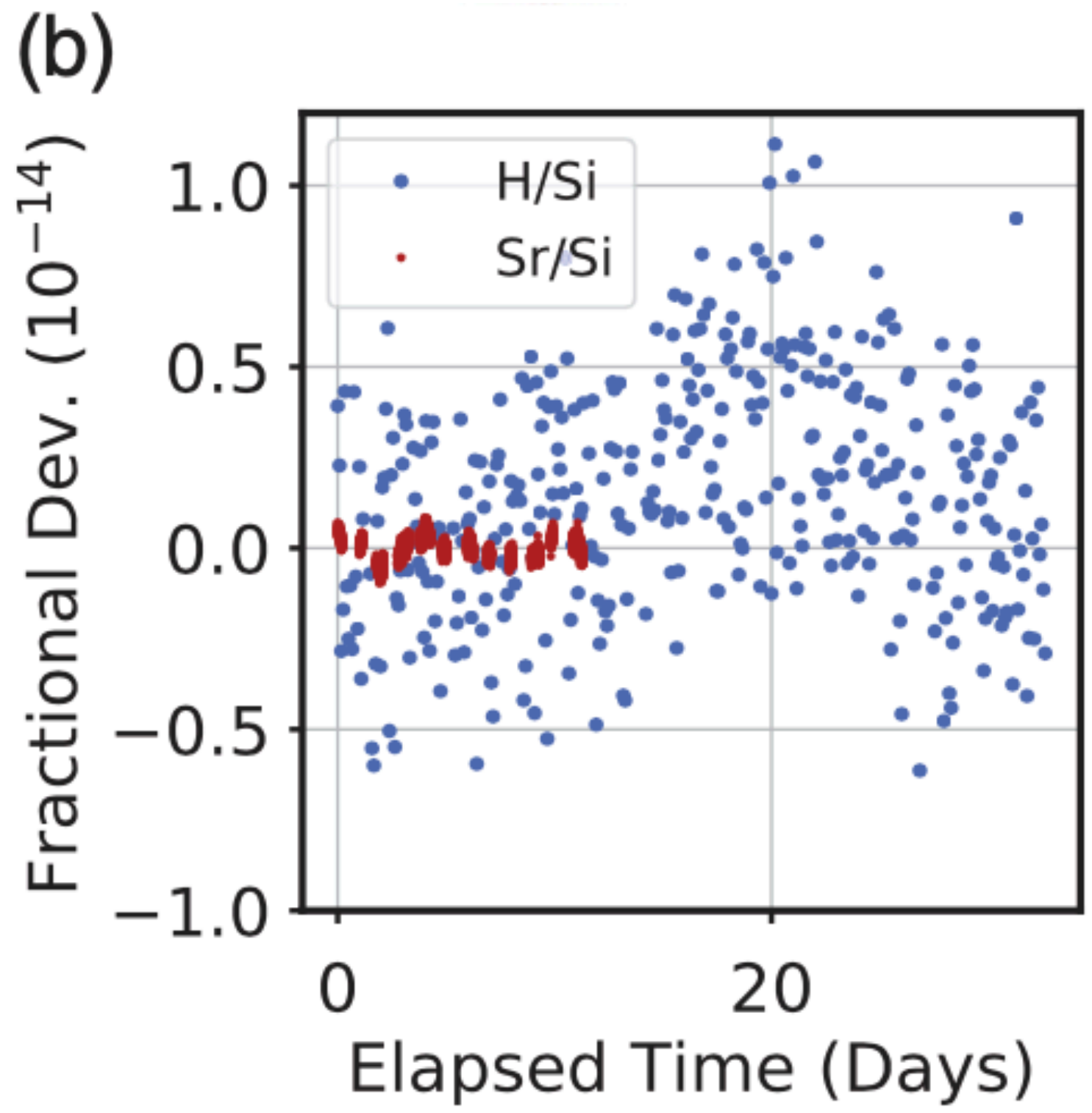
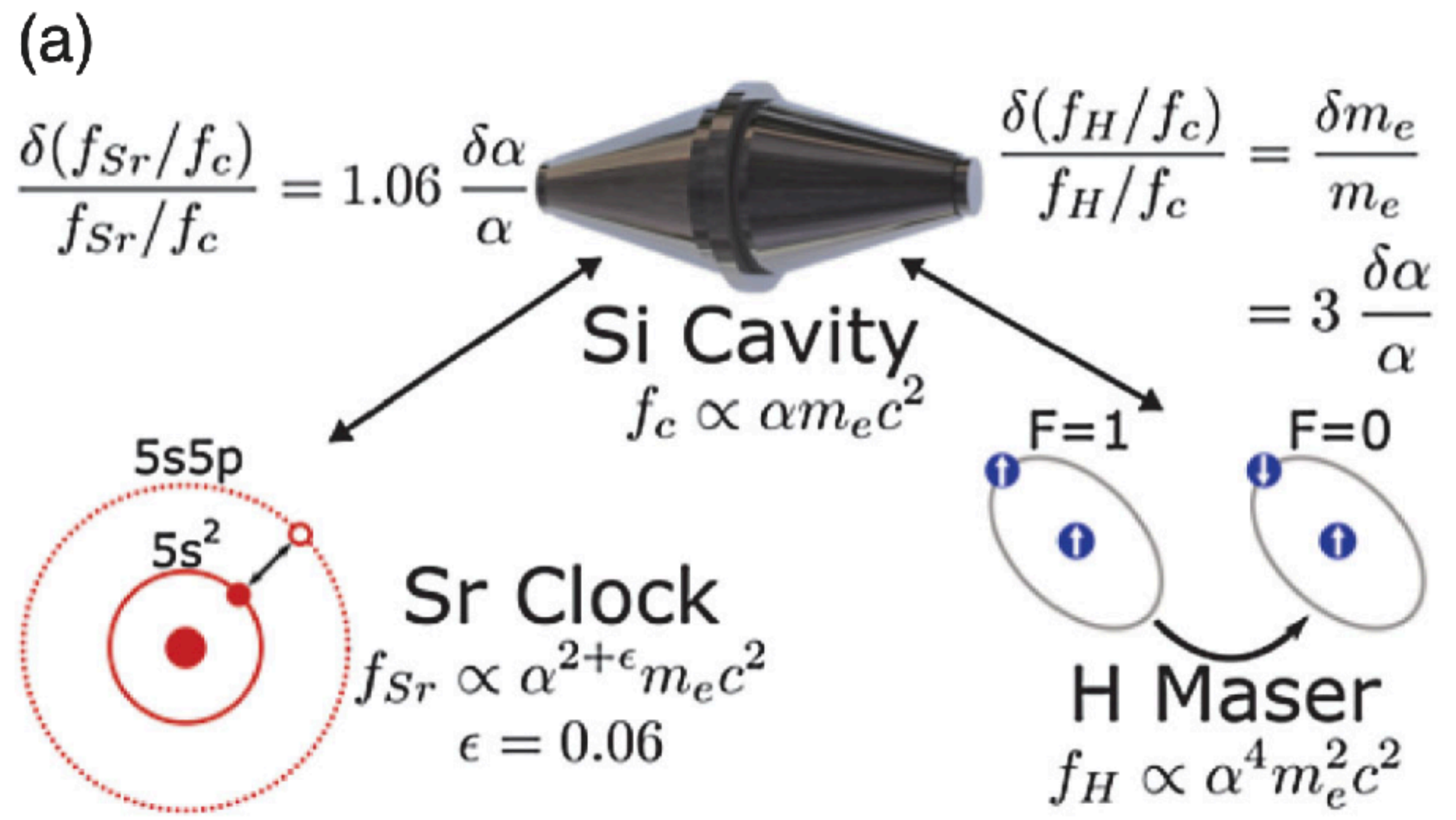


$\frac{\delta(f_H/f_{Si})}{(f_H/f_{Si})} \approx \frac{\delta f_H}{f_H}$



With 33 days of observation

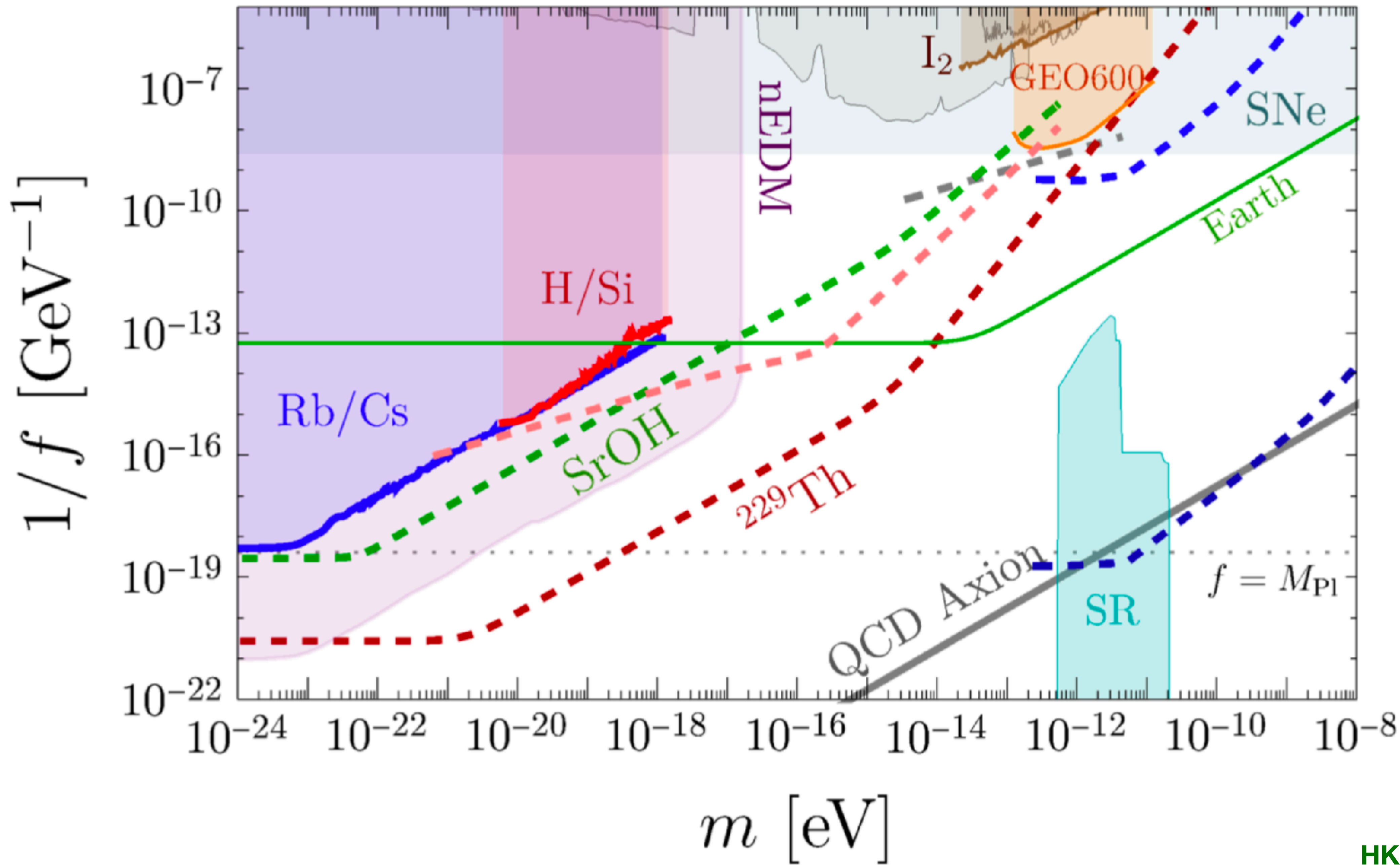
$$\delta f / f \sim 10^{-16}$$



With 33 days of observation

$$\delta f / f \sim 10^{-16}$$

$$(\delta f / f) \sim 10^{-15} \frac{1}{m_{15}^2 f_{10}^2} [1 + \cos(2mt)]$$



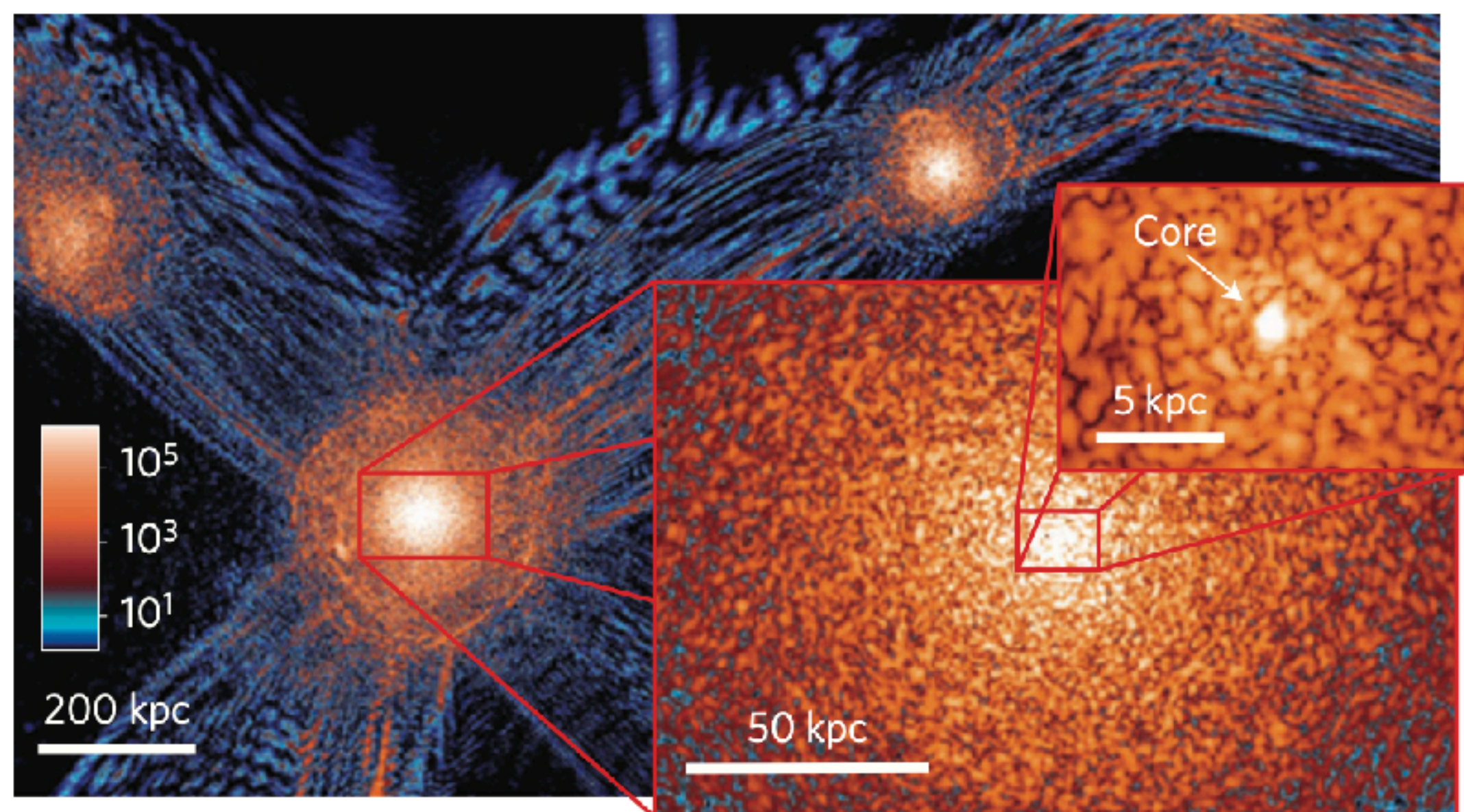
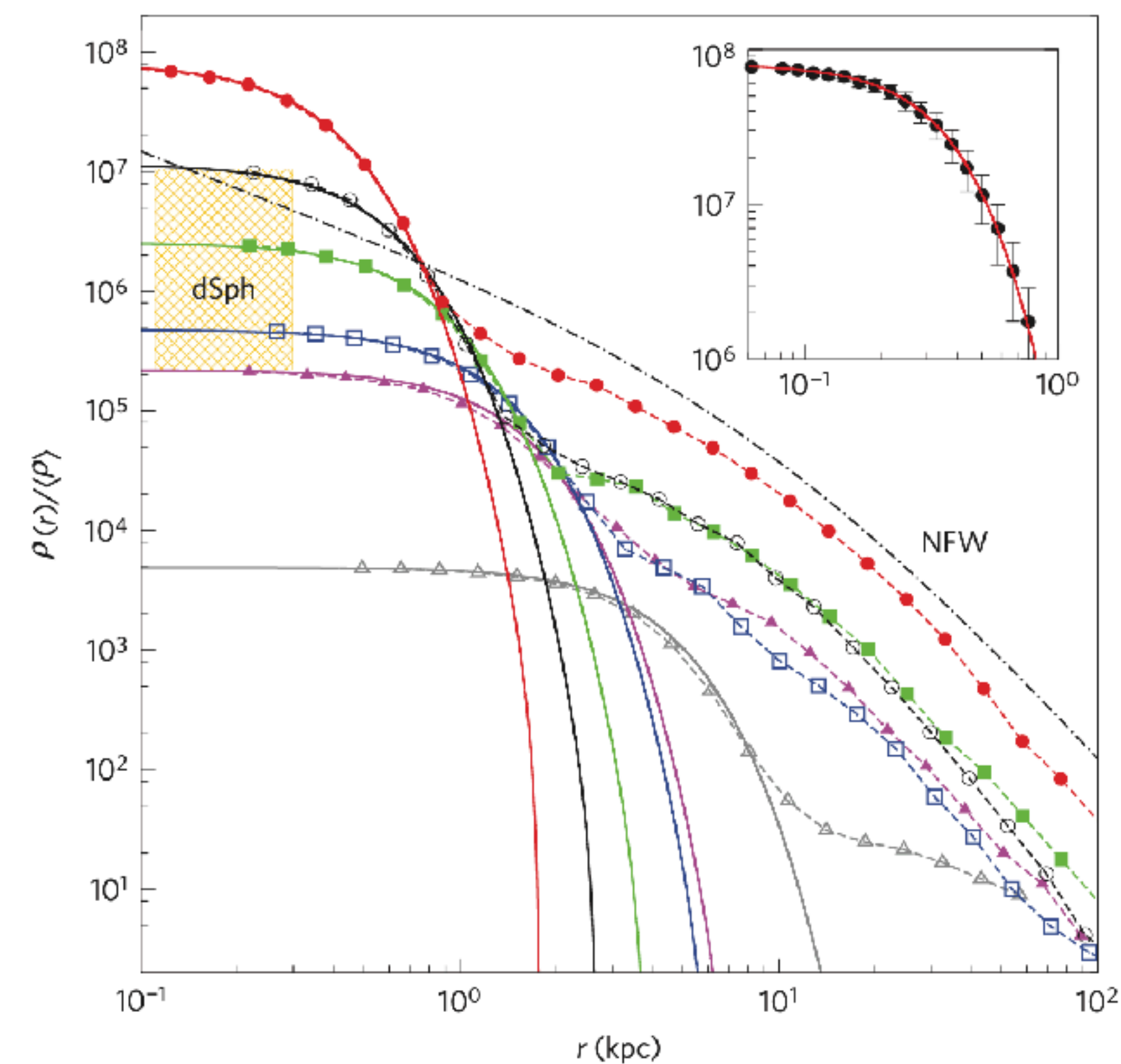
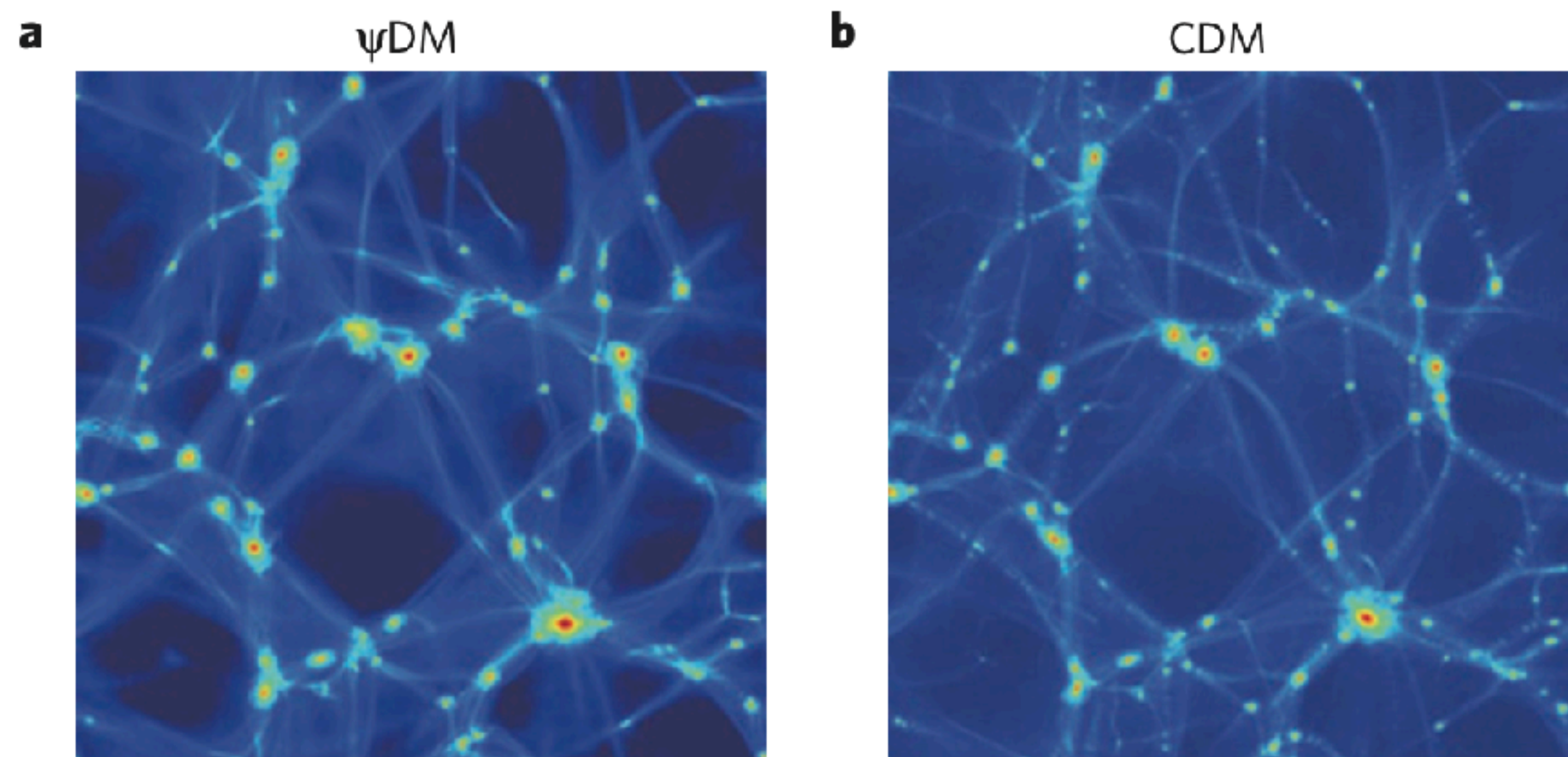
*axion DM searches* in the 'sky'  
has also observed significant progress  
during past 10 years

a characteristic feature of axion DM  
is its wave nature



$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{mv} \simeq 0.6 \text{ kpc} \left( \frac{10^{-22} \text{ eV}}{m} \right) \left( \frac{200 \text{ km/sec}}{v} \right)$$

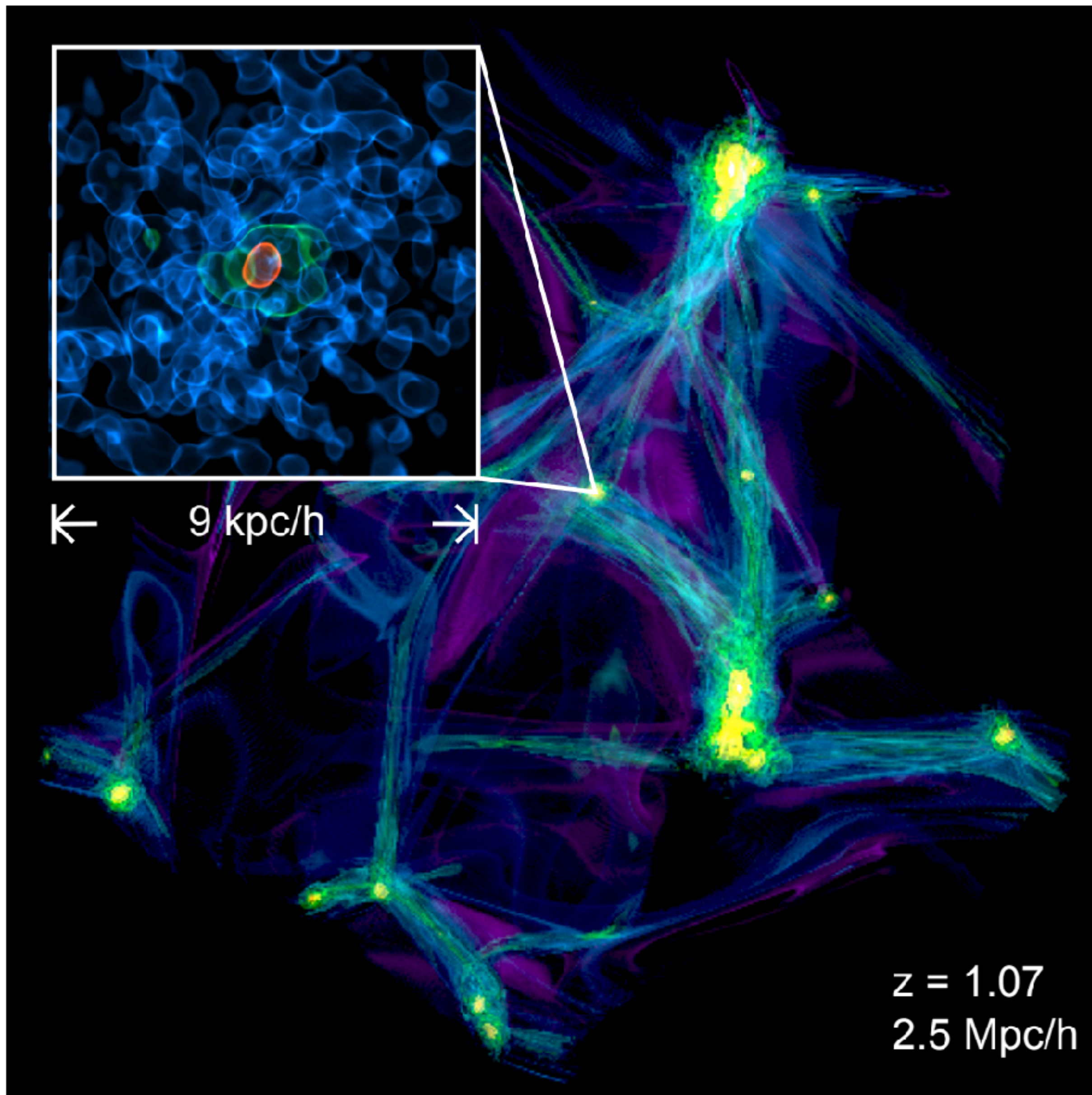
*the size of wavelength could be astronomical !*



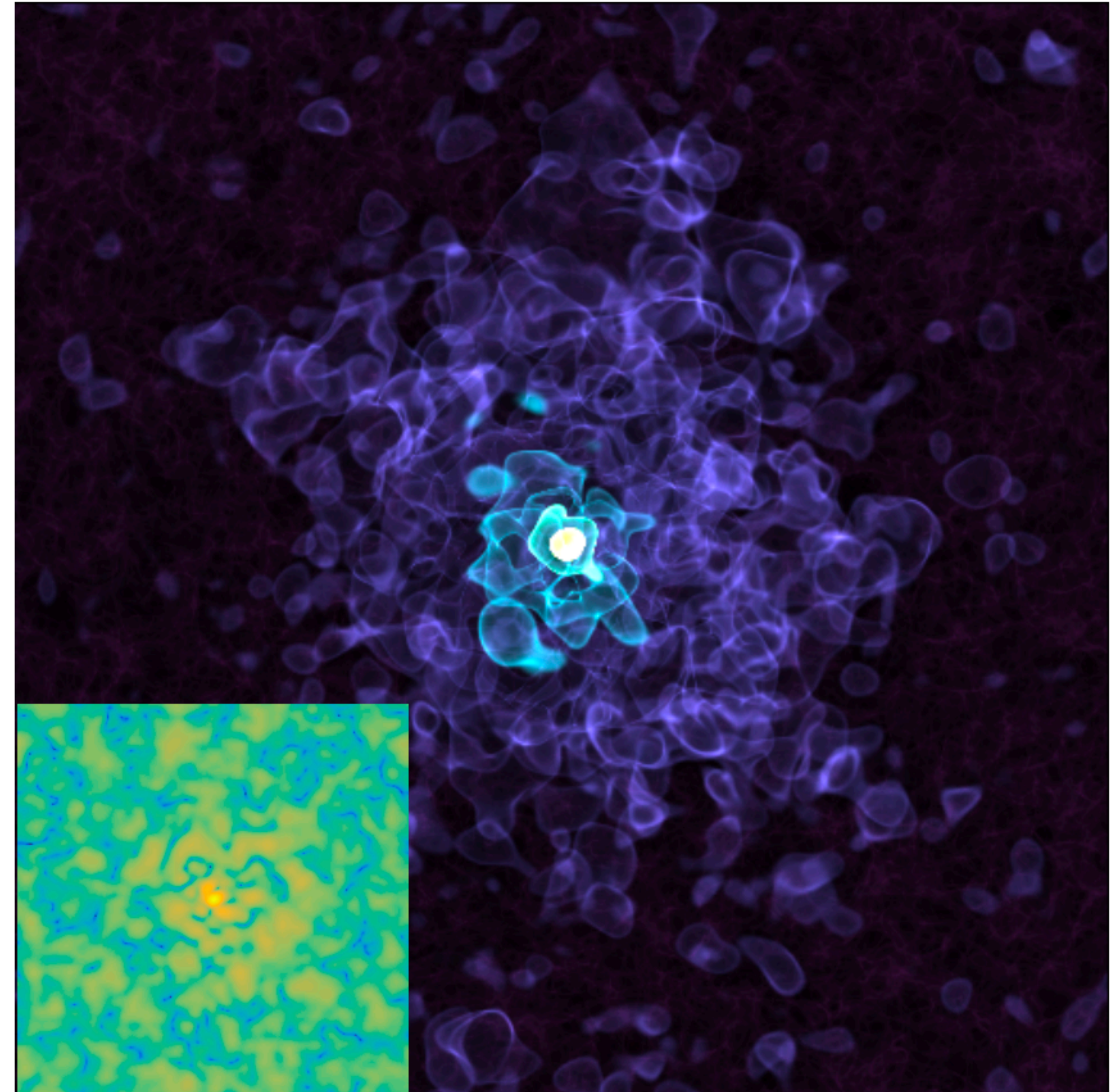
\* characteristic *soliton* at the center has been observed

\* small scale structures are erased





Veltmaat, Niemeyer, Schwabe (18)



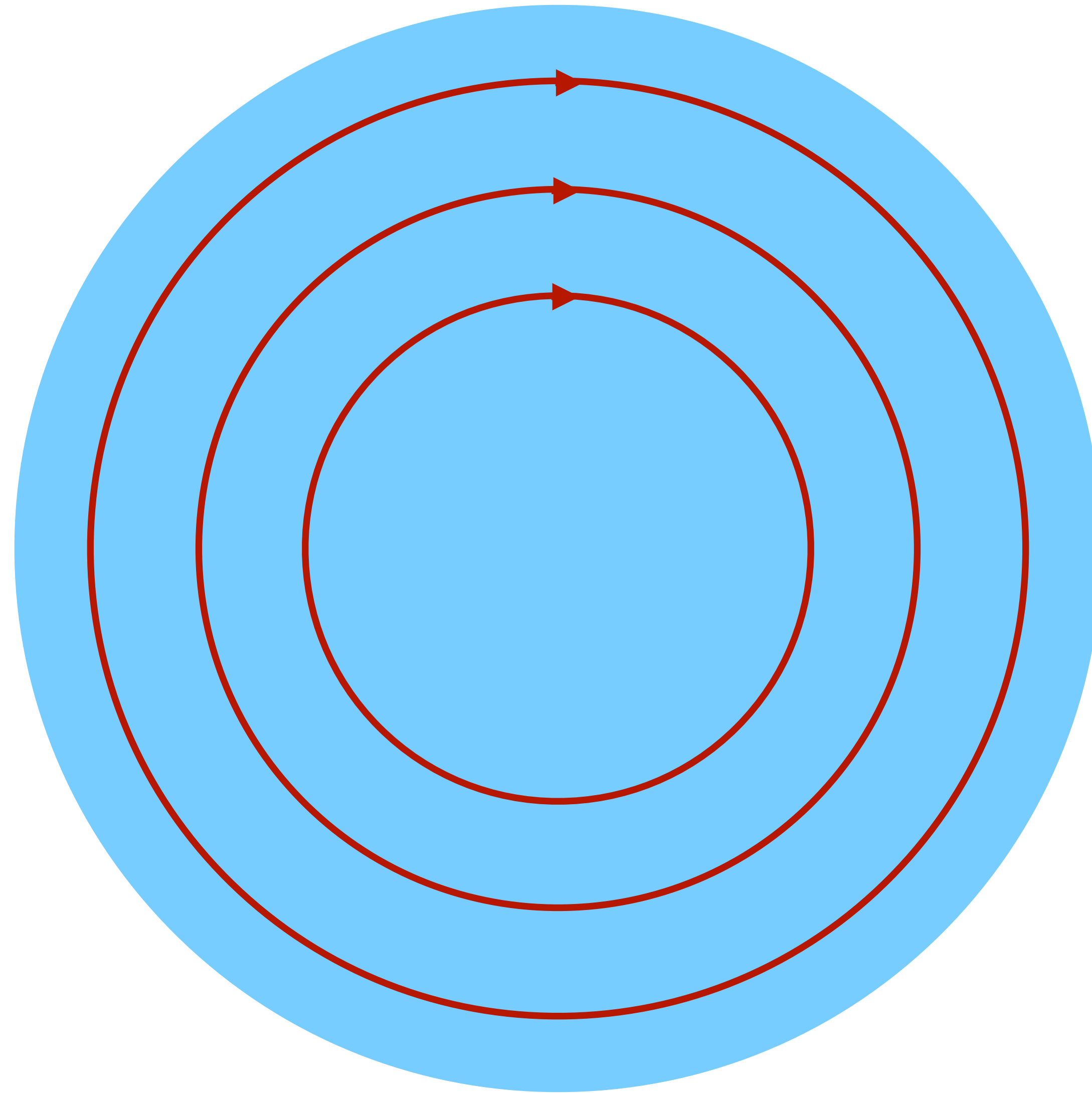
# Many interesting astrophysical phenomena arises from solitons and granule structure of axion DM

- **galaxy rotation curve** Bar, Blas, Blum, Sibiryakov (18); Bar, Blum, Eby, Sato (19); Bar, Blum Chen (21)
- **interaction between quasiparticle and stars** Amorisco, Loeb (18) ; Church, Mocz, Ostriker (18); Marsh, Niemeyer (19); Dalal et al (20); Dalal, Kravtsov (22)
- **large scale structures** Iršič et al (17); Hlozek et al (17); Kobayashi et al (17); Nori et al (18); Rogers, Peiris (20); Schutz (20); Laguë et al (21)

Axion (wave) dark matter can also be tested by  
*gravitational waves*

**HK**, Alessandro Lenoci, Isak Stomberg, Xiao Xue (in preparation)

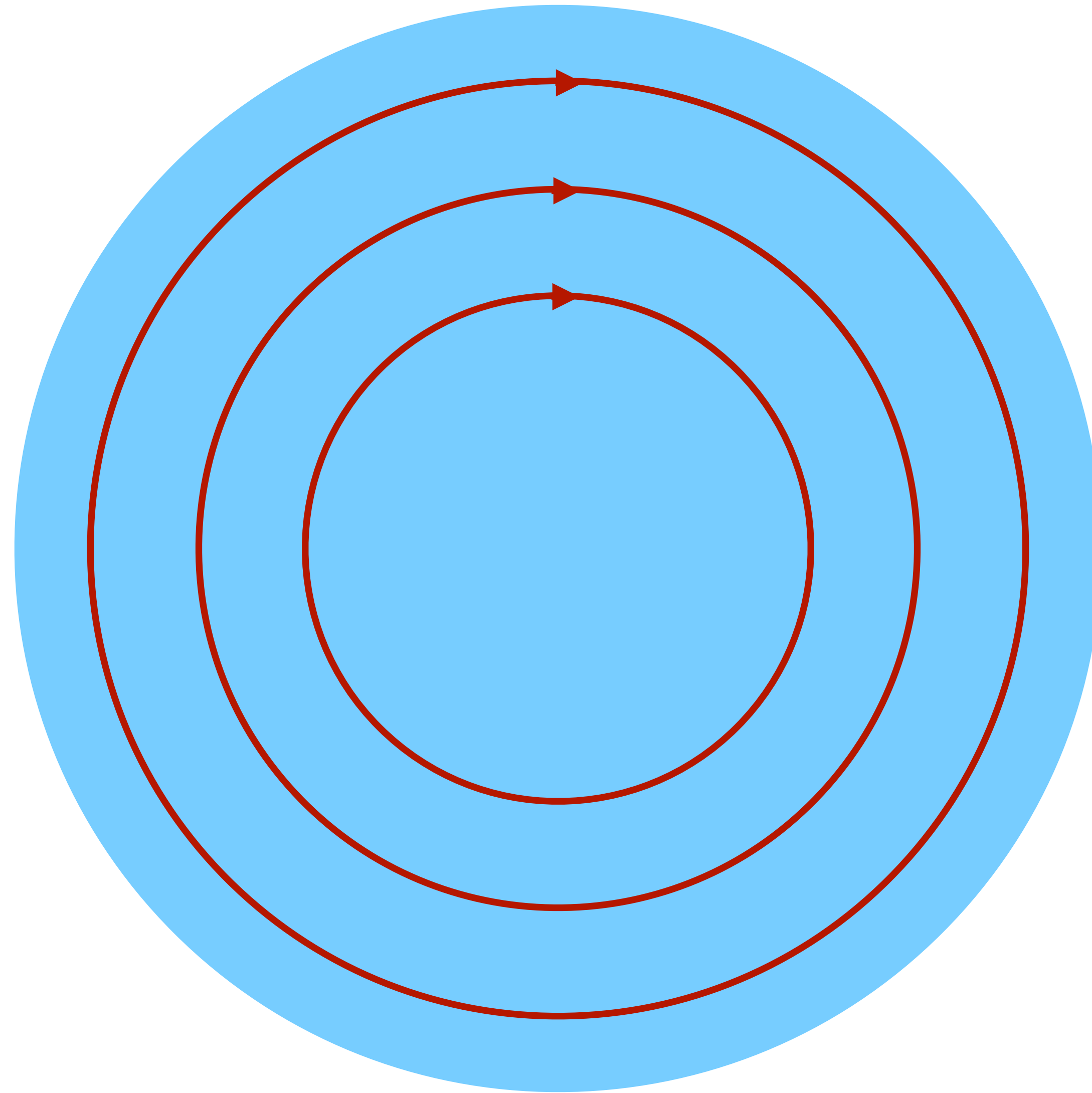
let us consider a gas cloud and stars (DM) in a circular orbit



gas

star (or dark matter)

imagine gas could contract via dissipation adiabatically

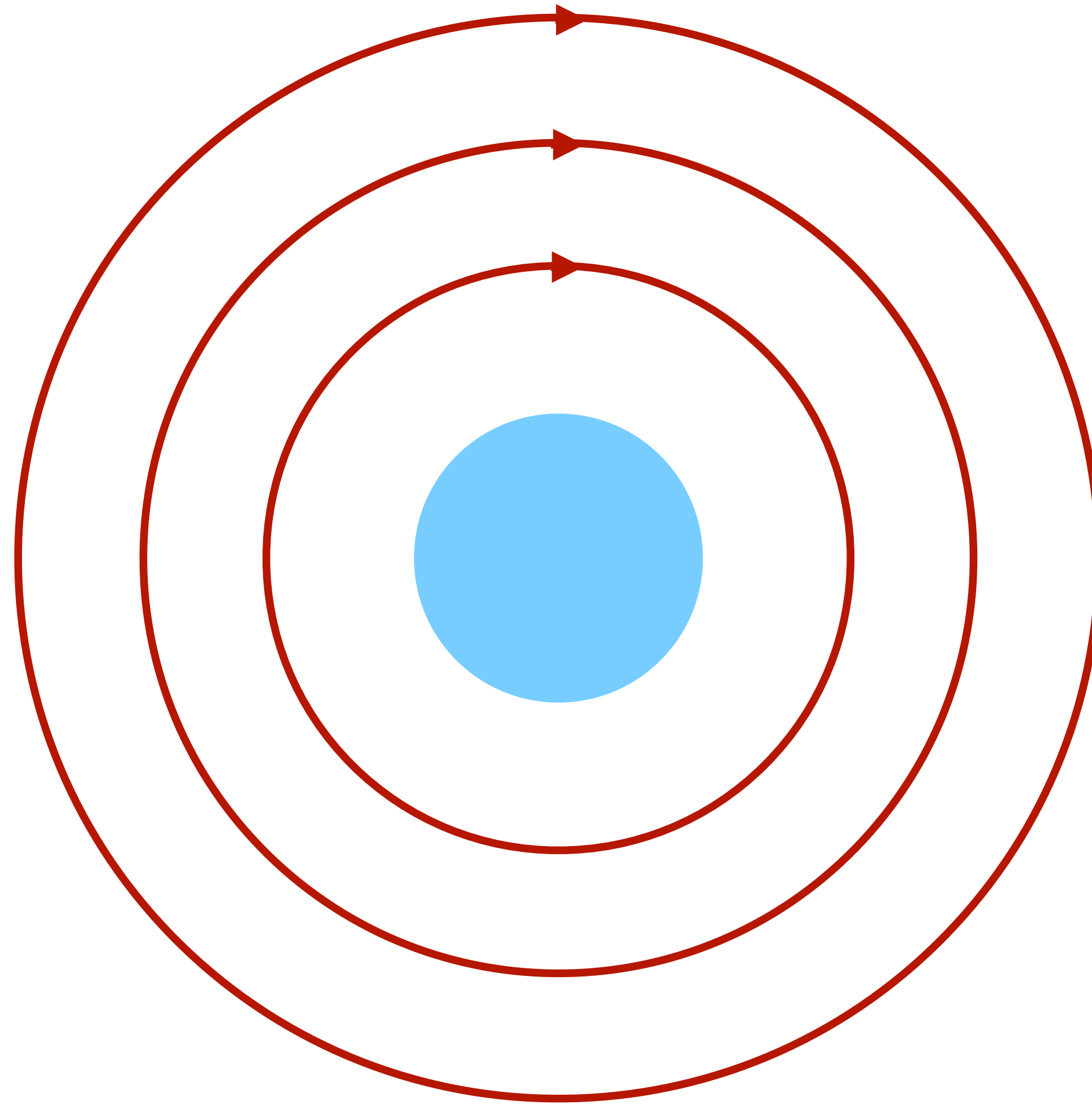


$$L = rv = \sqrt{GM_{\text{enc}}(r)r}$$

gas

star (or dark matter)

imagine gas could contract via dissipation adiabatically

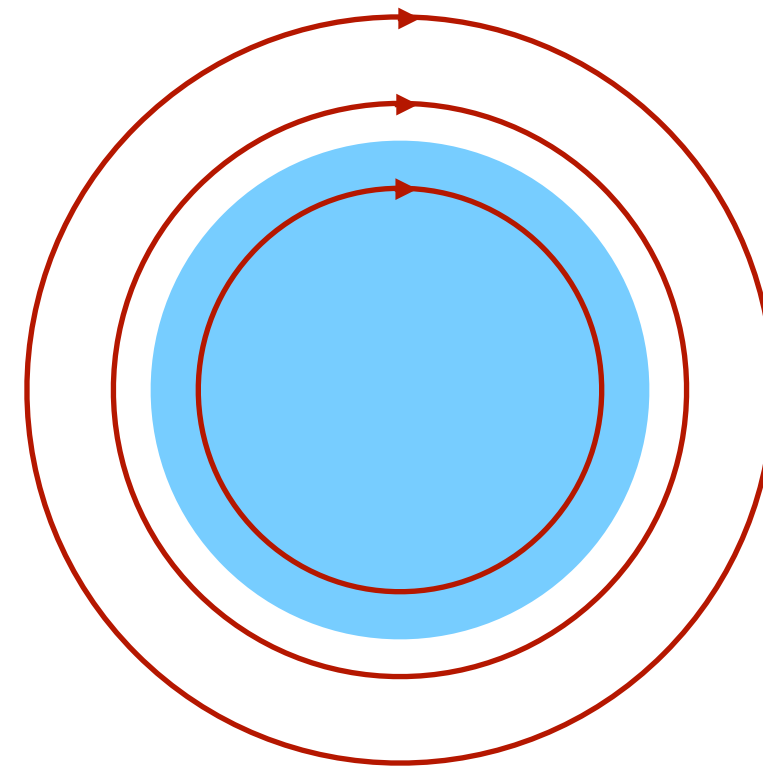


$$L = rv = \sqrt{GM_{\text{enc}}(r)r}$$

gas

star (or dark matter)

imagine gas could contract via dissipation adiabatically

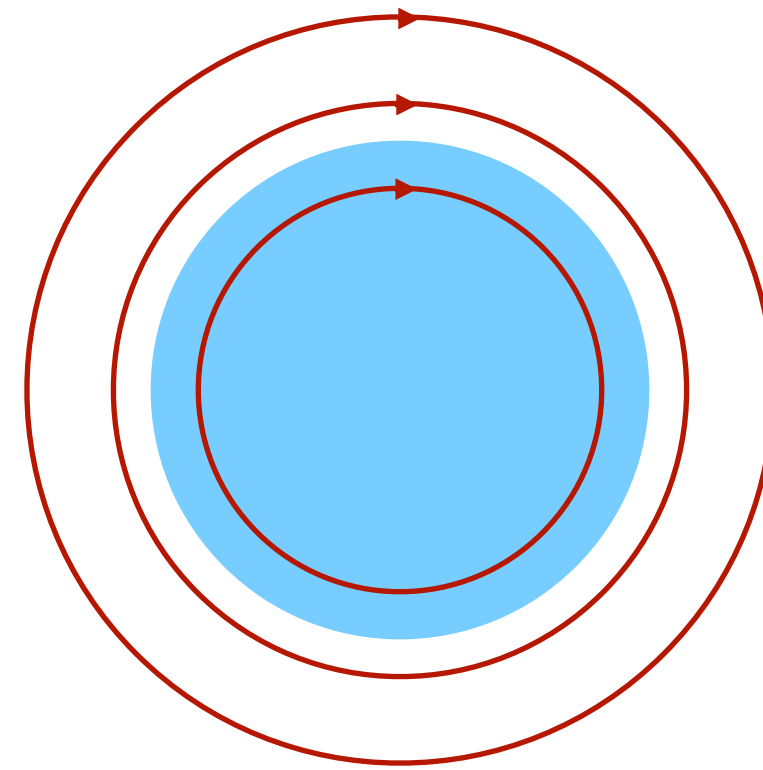


$$L = rv = \sqrt{GM_{\text{enc}}(r)r}$$

gas

star (or dark matter)

imagine gas could contract via dissipation adiabatically



*stellar (DM) distribution becomes steeper  
near the center of system*

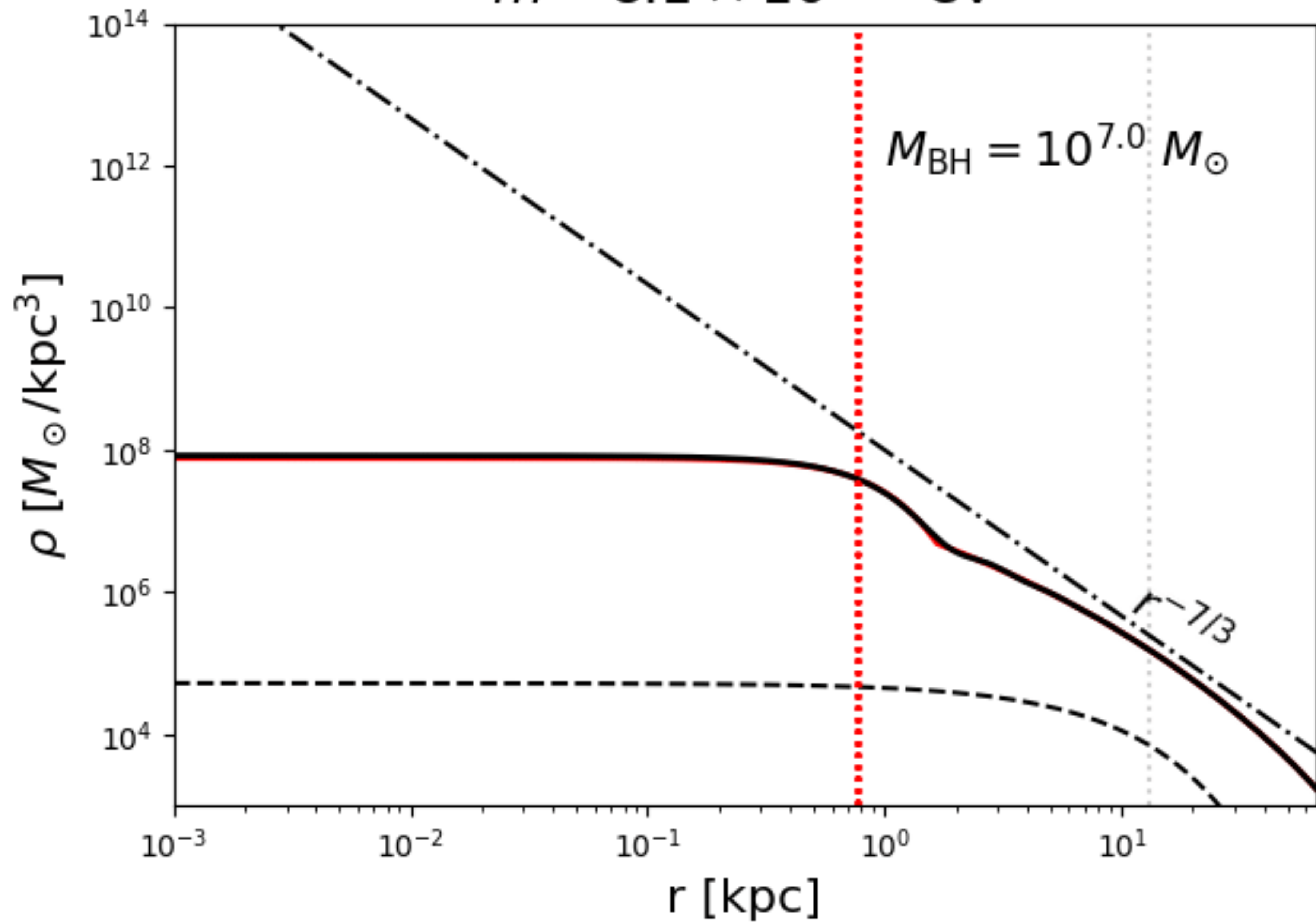
$$L = rv = \sqrt{GM_{\text{enc}}(r)r}$$

gas

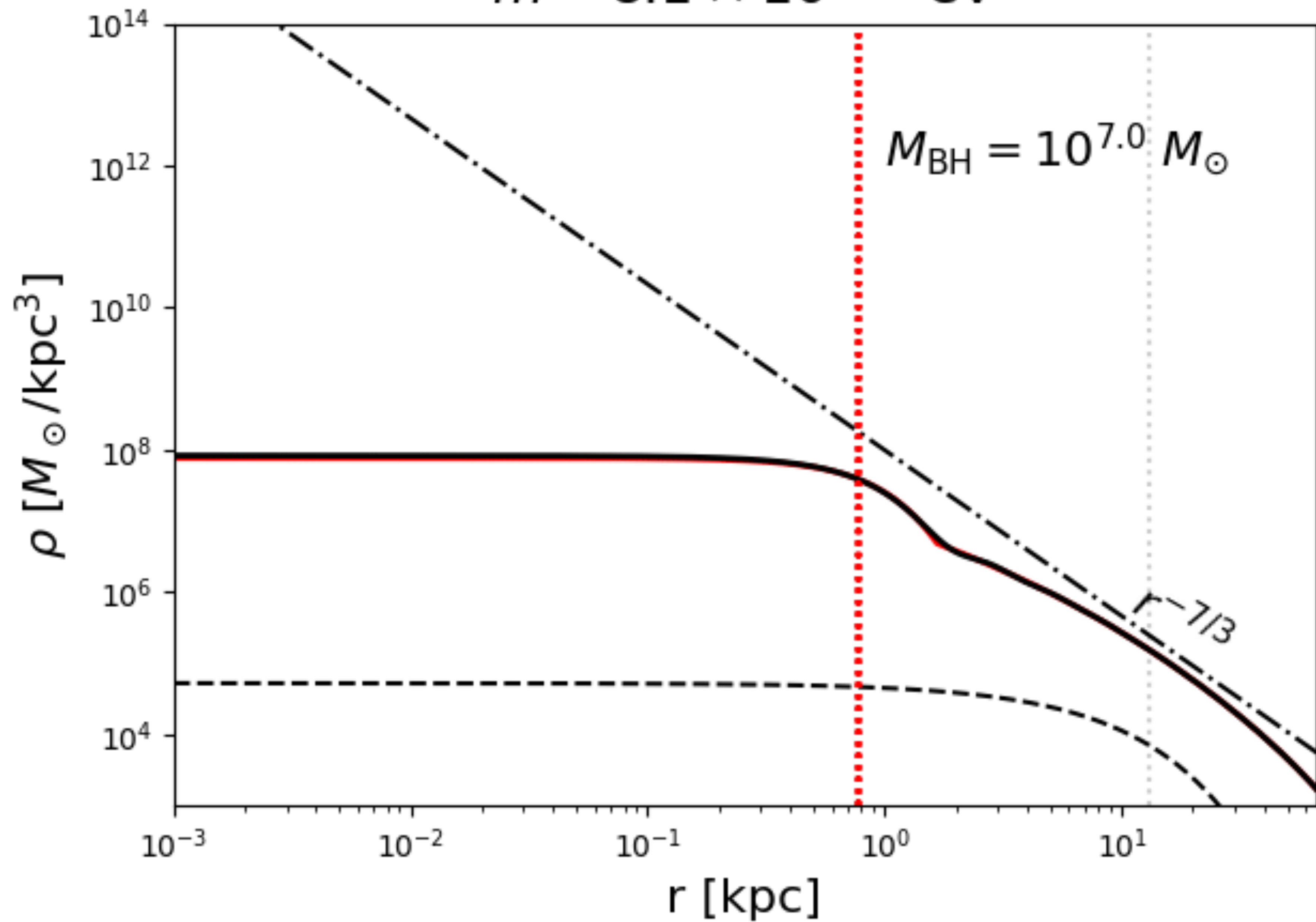
star (or dark matter)

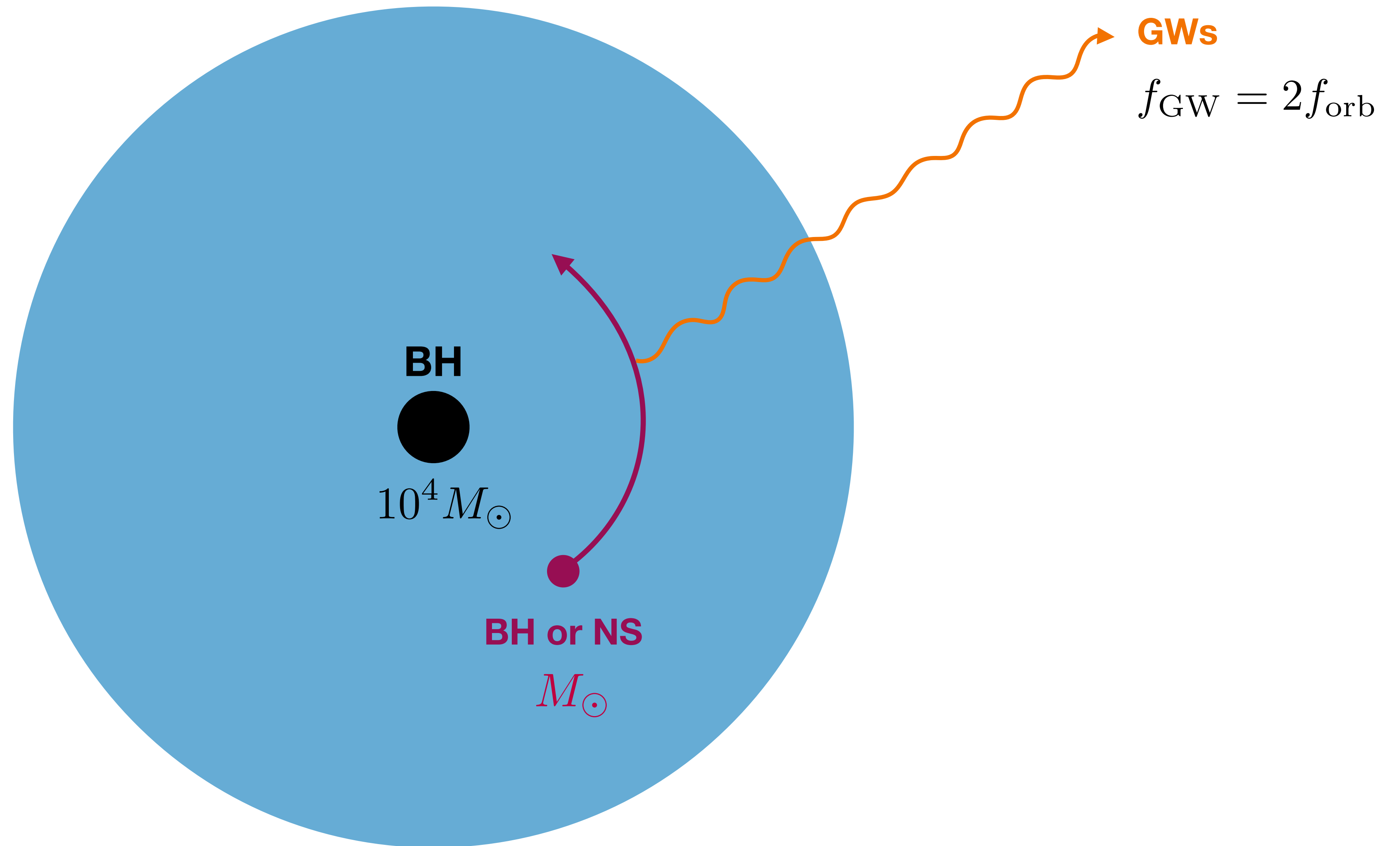


$$m = 8.1 \times 10^{-23} \text{ eV}$$

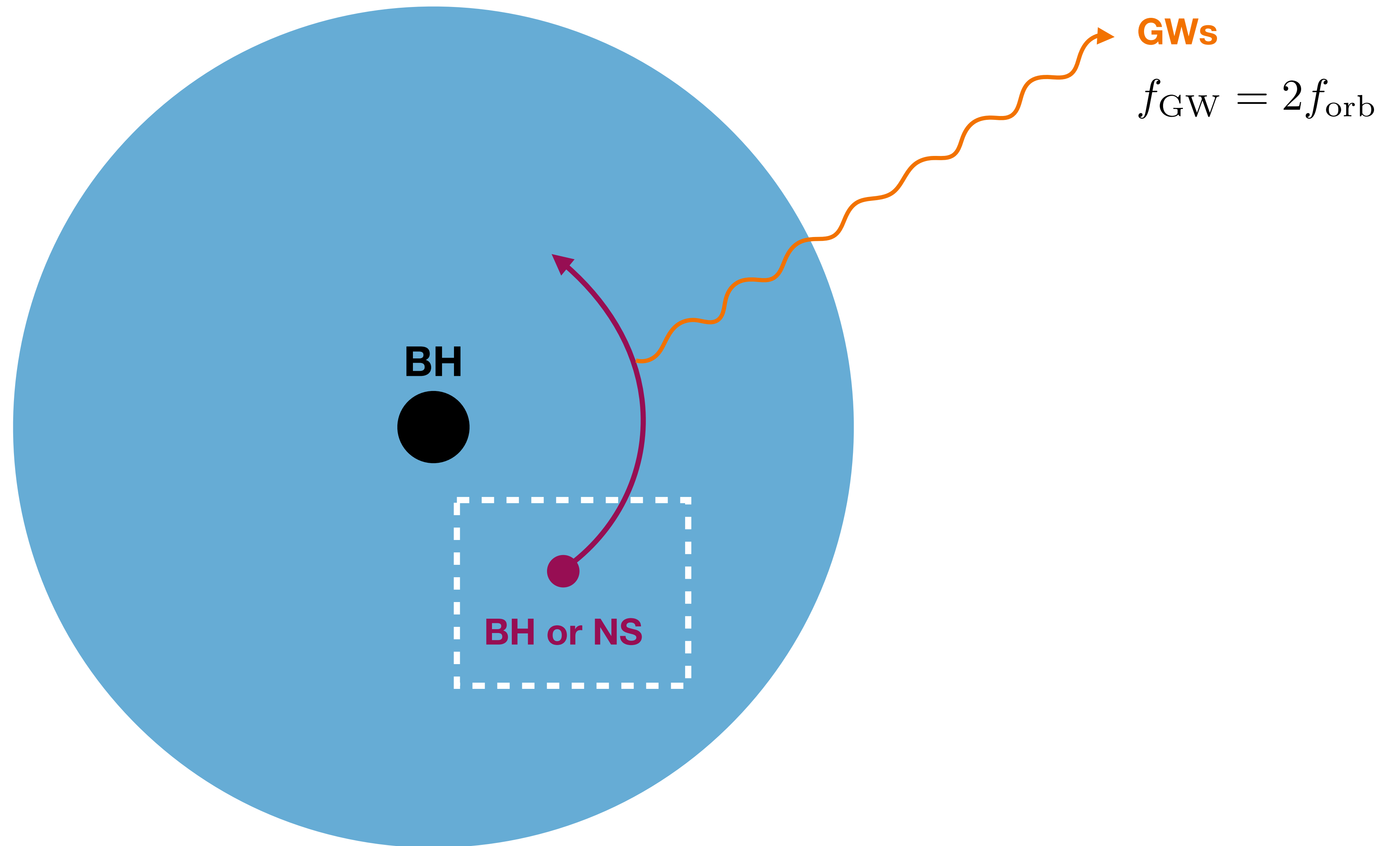


$$m = 8.1 \times 10^{-23} \text{ eV}$$

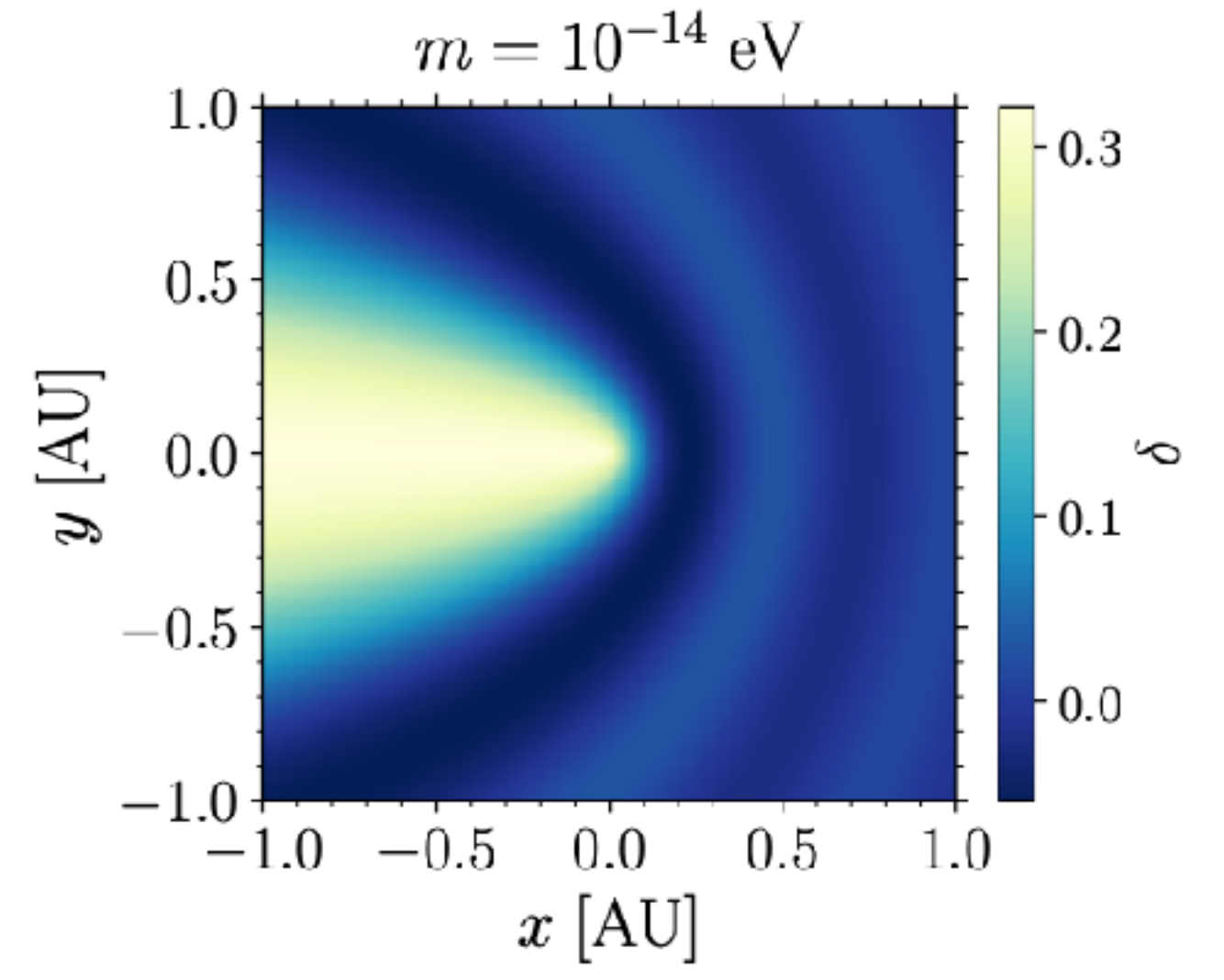
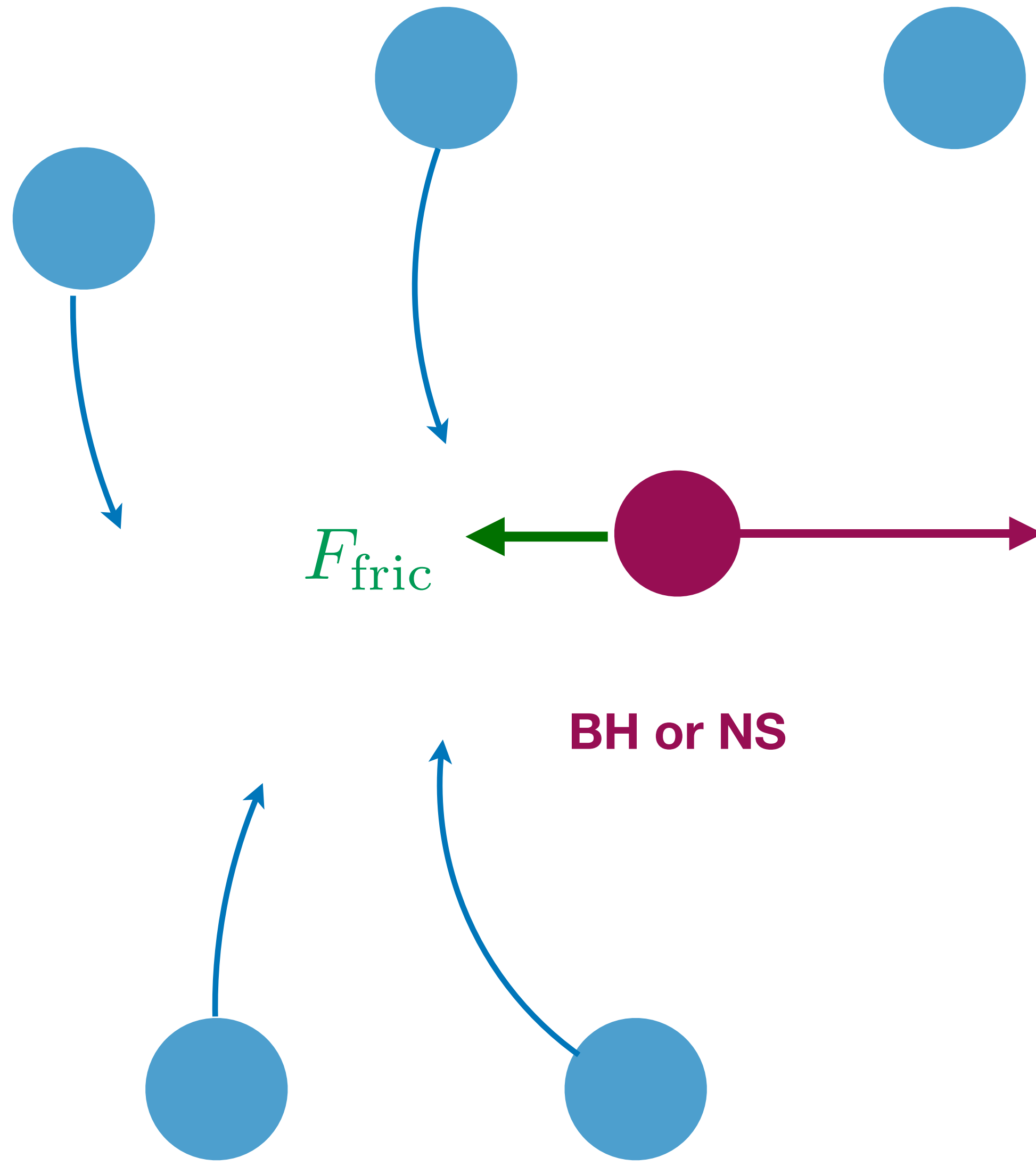




**Adiabatically compressed DM halo**

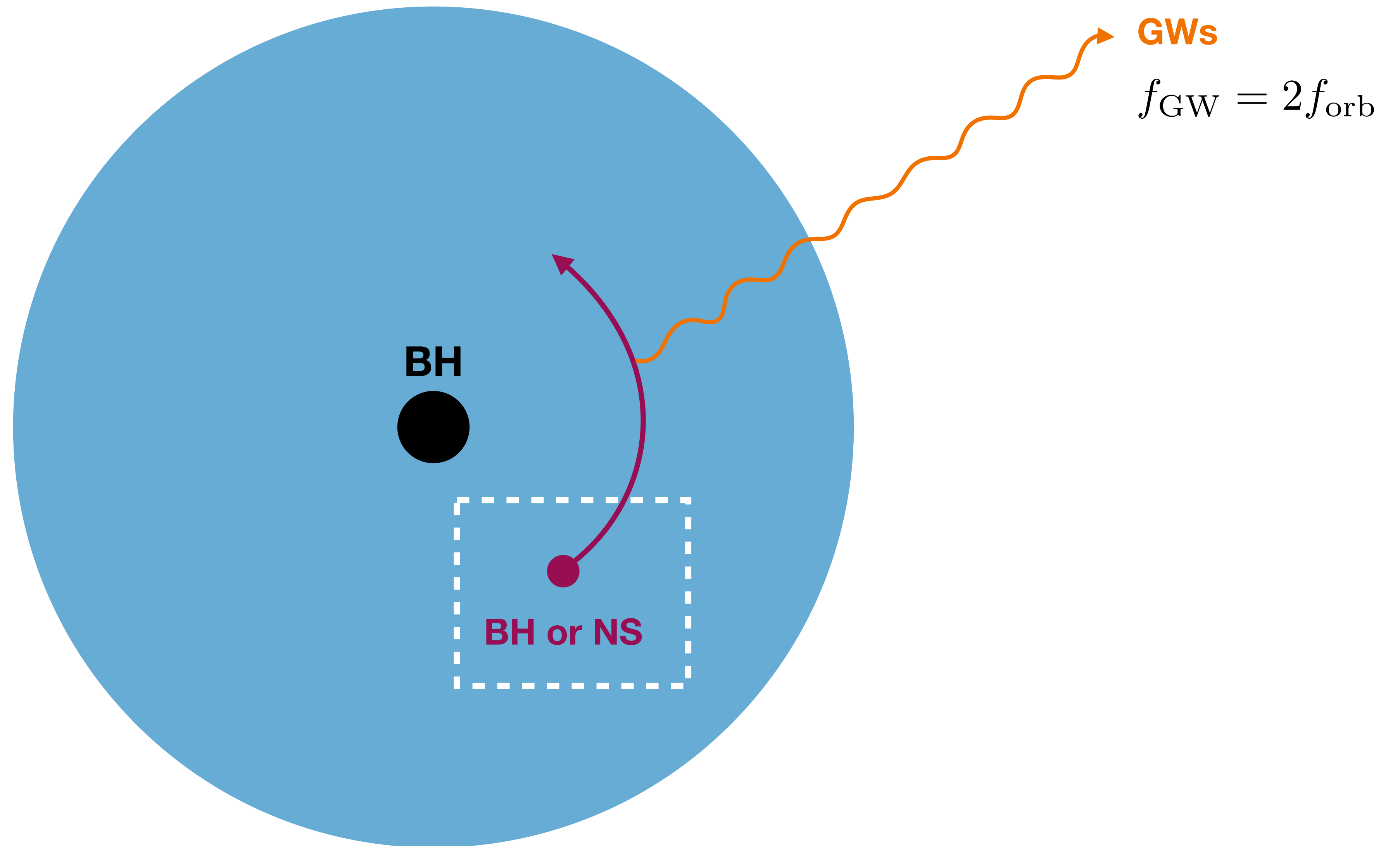


**Adiabatically compressed DM halo**



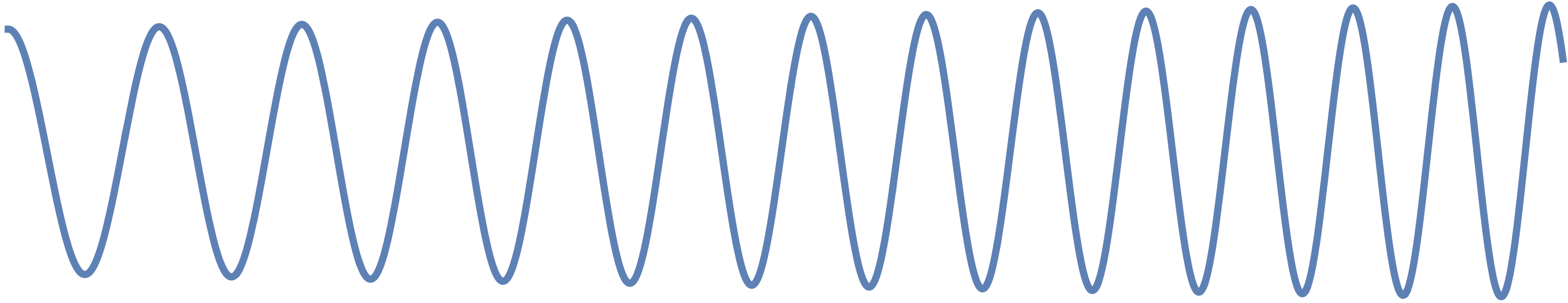
**HK**, Alessandro Lenoci (21)

DM overdensity forms  
behind the **BH or NS**  
exerting **additional frictional force**

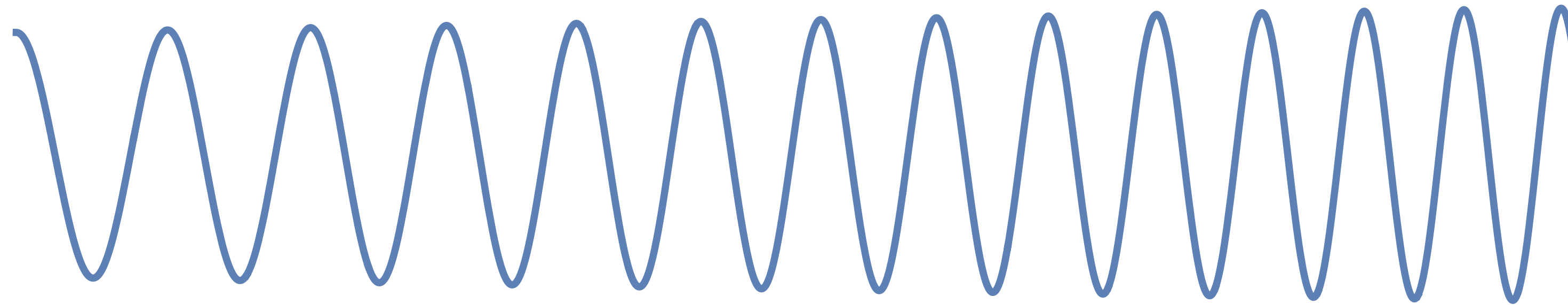


**In adiabatically compressed DM halo, the orbit of BH (or NS) decay faster**

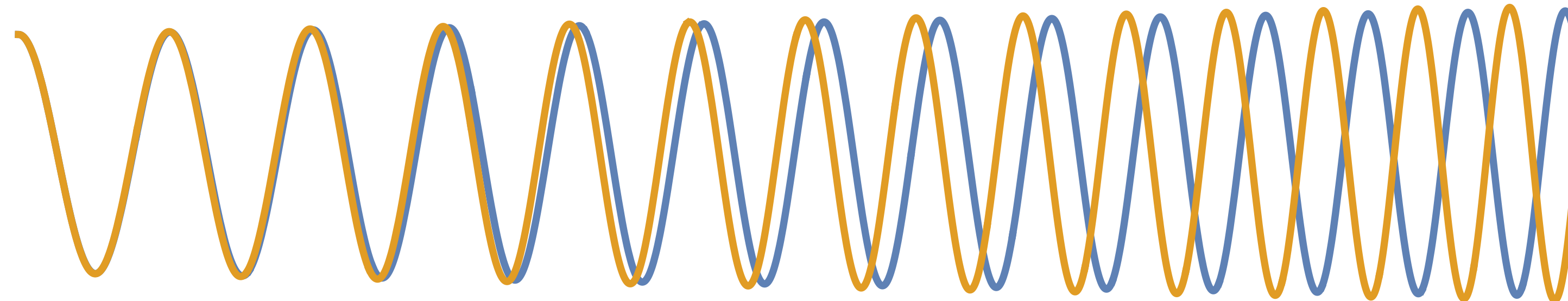
In the absence of compressed halo  
gravitaitonal wave would look like



In the absence of compressed halo  
gravitaitonal wave would look like



But in the presence of compressed DM halo  
it would instead look like

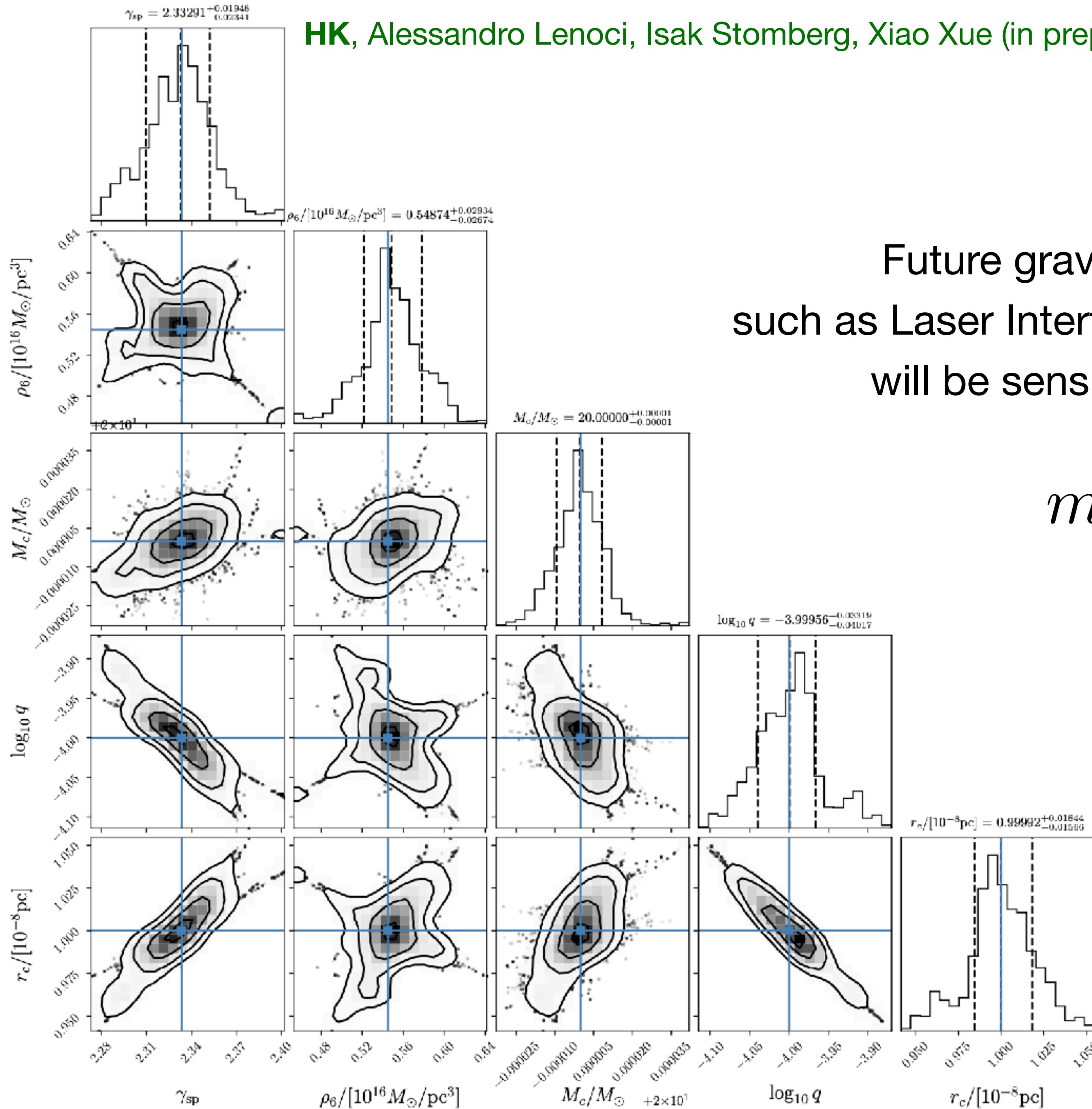


*dephasing takes place here*



Preliminary

HK, Alessandro Lenoci, Isak Stomberg, Xiao Xue (in preparation)



Future gravitational wave detectors such as Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) will be sensitive to this kind of signal

$$m \sim 10^{-14} \text{ eV}$$

# Summary

- A fresh look at hierarchy problem has revealed an interesting direction for new physics search in the context of axion and axion-like particles
- Axion (DM) search could be challenging as its mass is less restricted
- Over past  $\sim 10$  years, interesting progress has been made in terms of terrestrial axion detection as well as astrophysical probes of axion
- To maximize the discovery potential, probing axions from multiple physics frontier, e.g. precision/astro/intensity, is needed