

# Axion Detection with Optomechanical Cavities

**Yikun Wang**

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**PASCOS 2023**

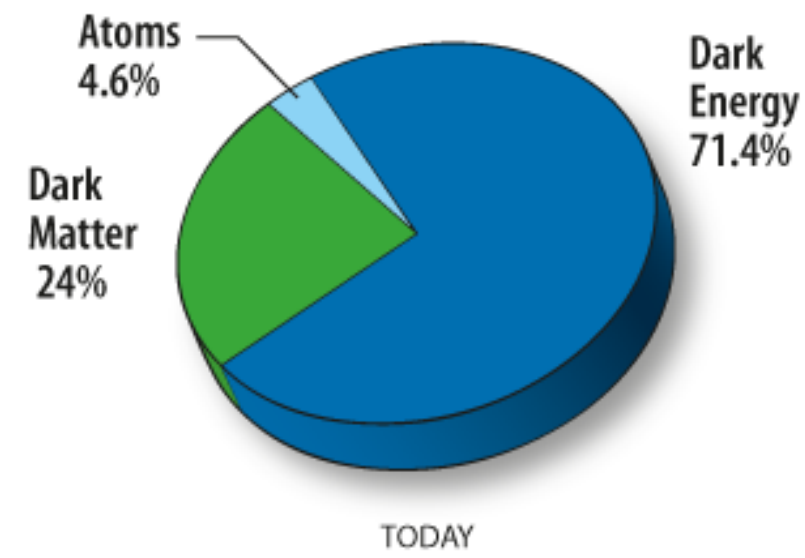
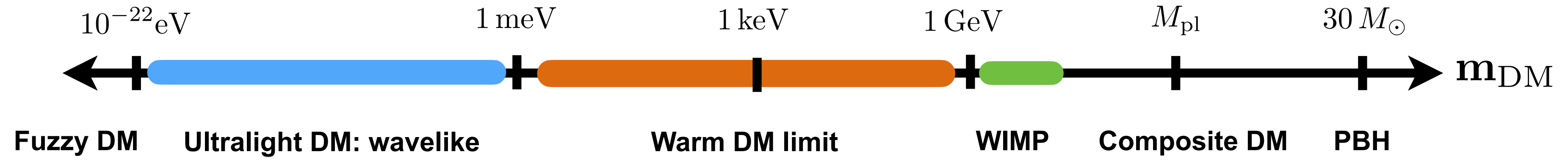
June 26, 2023, Irvine

**arXiv: 2211.08432**

*In Collaboration with: Clara Murgui, Kathryn Zurek*

*Upcoming: Experimental proposal with Rana Adhikari, Jack Harris, Yuta Michimura and Yogesh Patil*

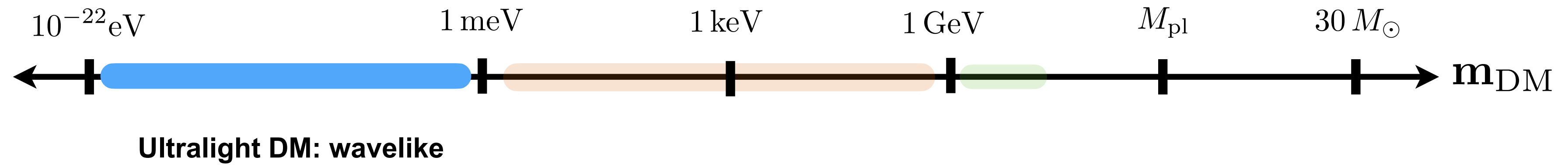
# Dark Matter Direct Detection



$$v_{\text{DM}} \sim 200 \text{ km/s}$$

$$\rho_{\text{DM}} \sim 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

# Axion Dark Matter



# Axion Dark Matter



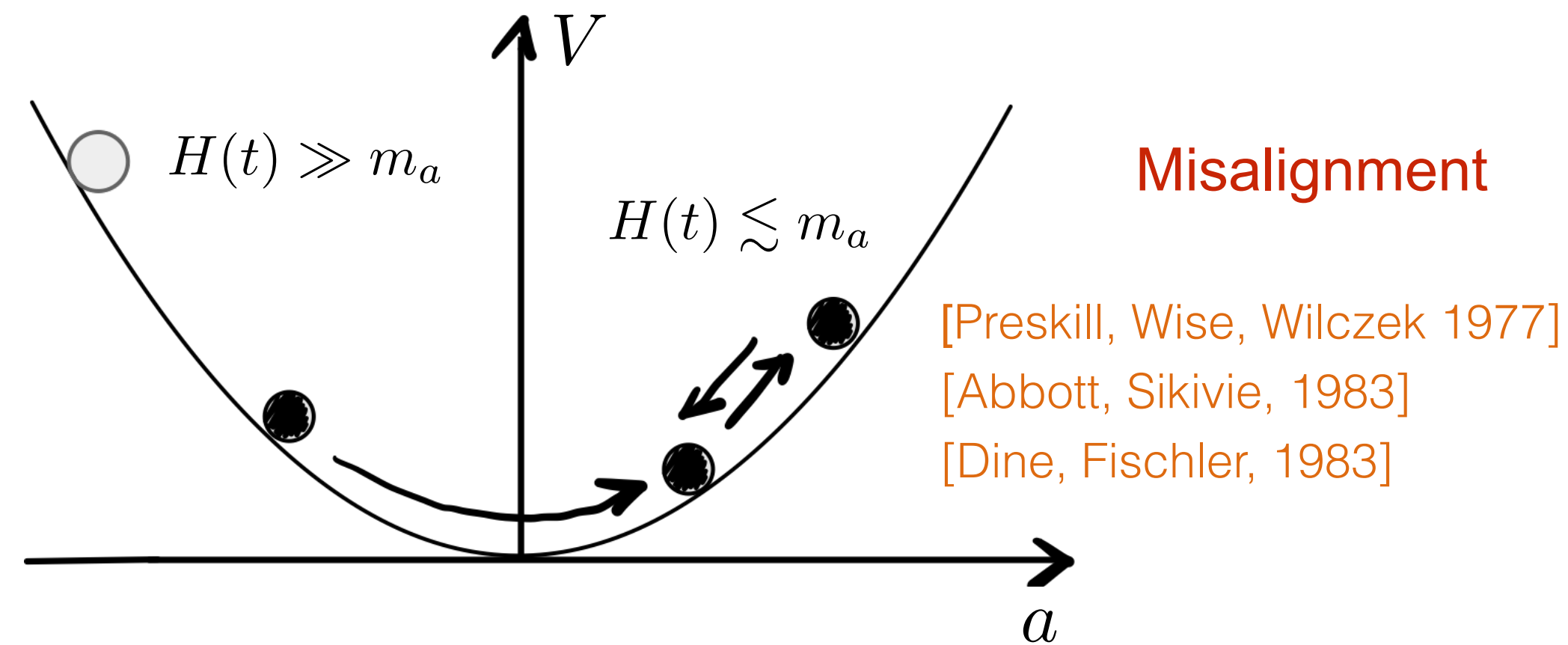
Ultralight DM: wavelike

Ultralight oscillating bosonic field

## Production:

- Misalignment and variations
- Topological defects in early universe

...



DM abundance  $\Omega_a h^2 \sim 0.1 \left( \frac{10 \mu\text{eV}}{m_a} \right)^{7/6} \langle \theta_i^2 \rangle$

# Axion Dark Matter



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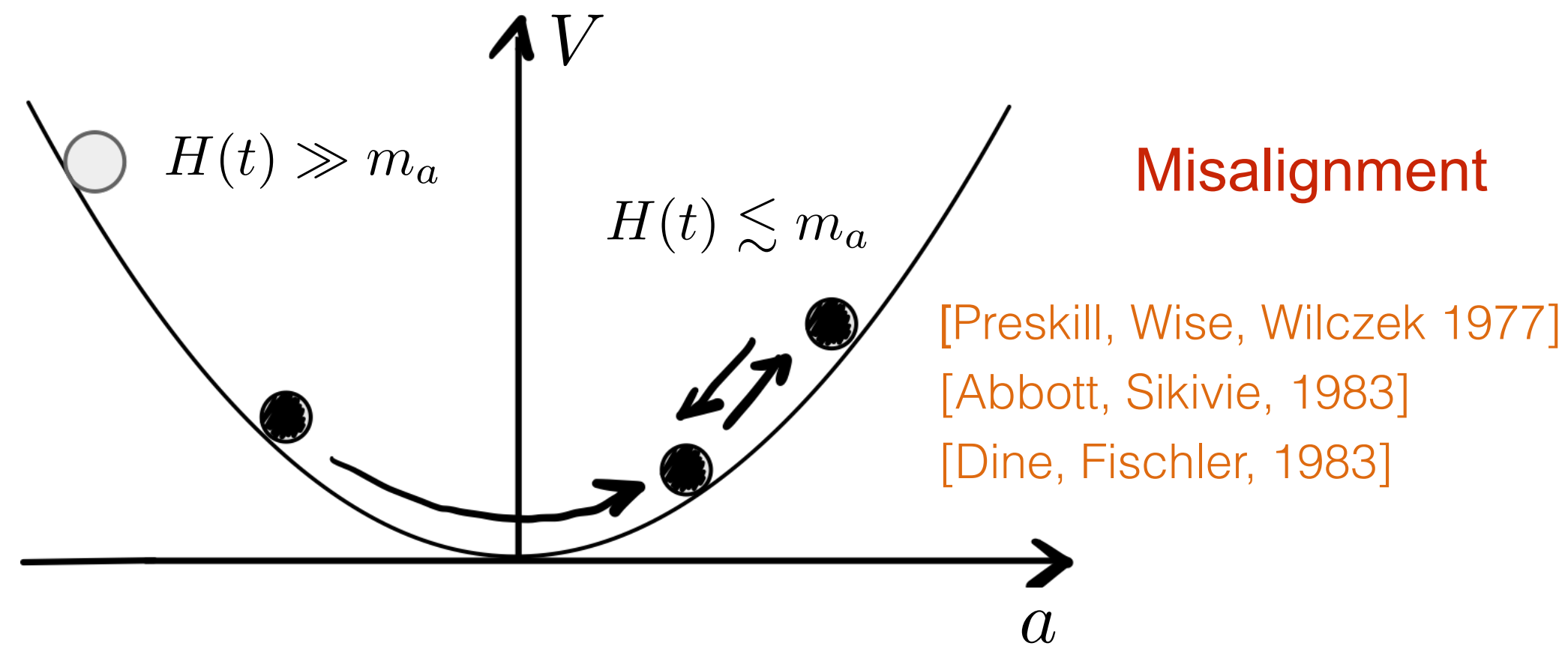
Ultralight oscillating bosonic field, that weakly couples to the SM

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{f} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 f + \frac{a}{f_a} G \tilde{G} + \frac{a}{f_a} F \tilde{F}$$

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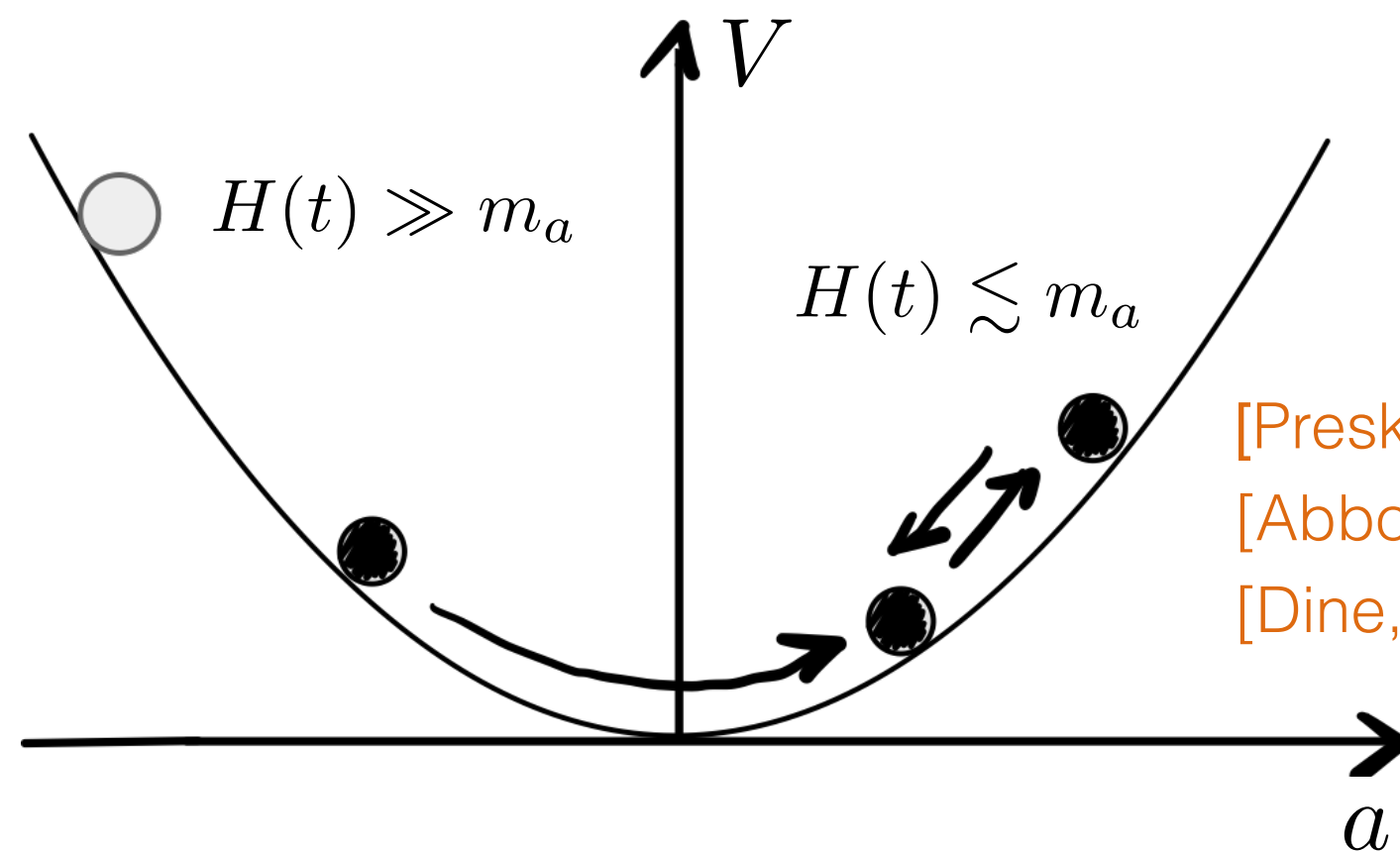
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- ...

## QCD axion and axion like particles

Pseudo-Nambu-Goldstone bosons from the spontaneous breaking of global symmetries



Misalignment

- [Preskill, Wise, Wilczek 1977]
- [Abbott, Sikivie, 1983]
- [Dine, Fischler, 1983]

QCD axion:  
a solution to the strong CP problem

$$m_a \sim \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{f_a}$$

- [Peccei, Quinn 1977] [Wilzeck, 1978] [Weinberg, 1978]

Axion like particles

- [Chikashige et al. 78; Gelmini, Roncadelli 80]
- [Wilczek 82; Berezhiani, Khlopov 90]
- [Witten 84; ....]

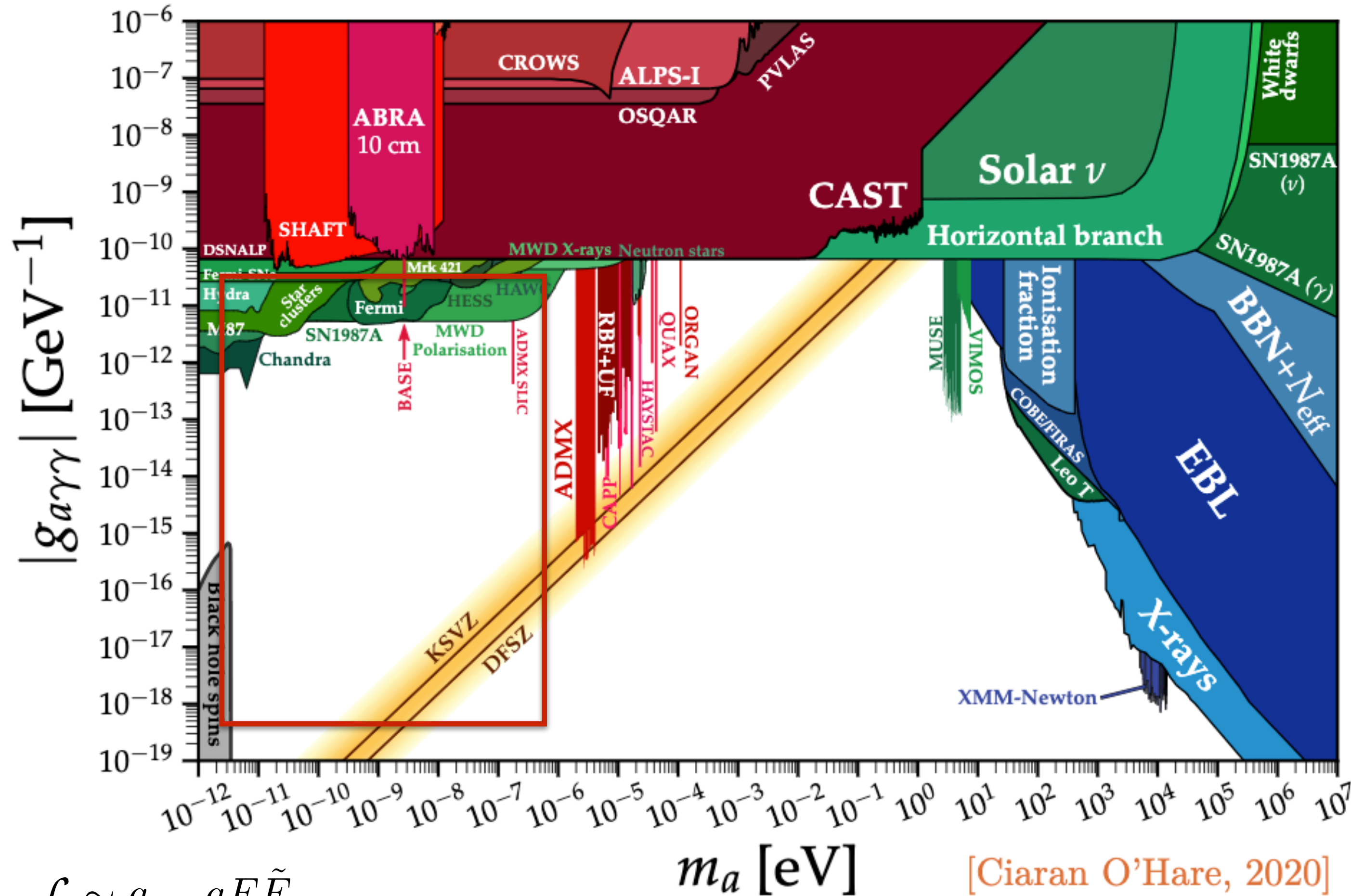
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# Axion Searches



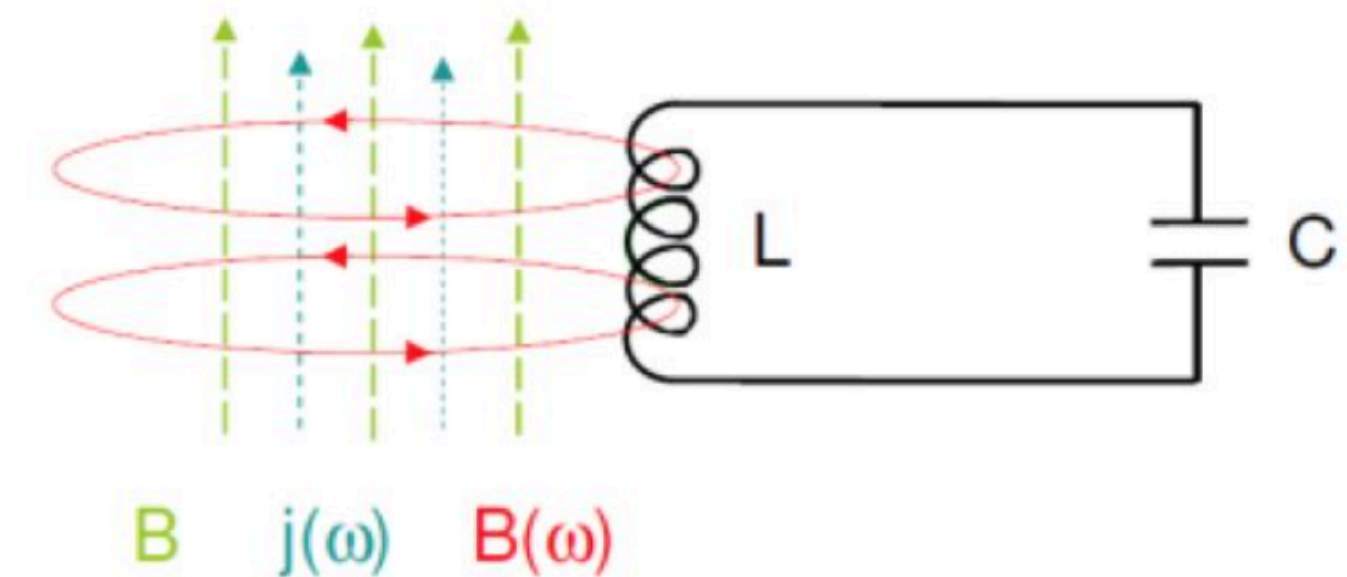
$$\mathcal{L} \sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} a F \tilde{F}$$

- Solar Axions (CAST etc)
- Astrophysical bounds
- Cosmological bounds
- Other laboratory experiments: LSW, fifth force, meson decay etc
- Axion as dark matter
  - Non-EM couplings
  - Axion electromagnetism (**Axion Haloscopes**, etc)

**Sub- $\mu\text{eV}$**

DM-Radio, SRF cavity, WISPLC, DANCE, CASPER ...

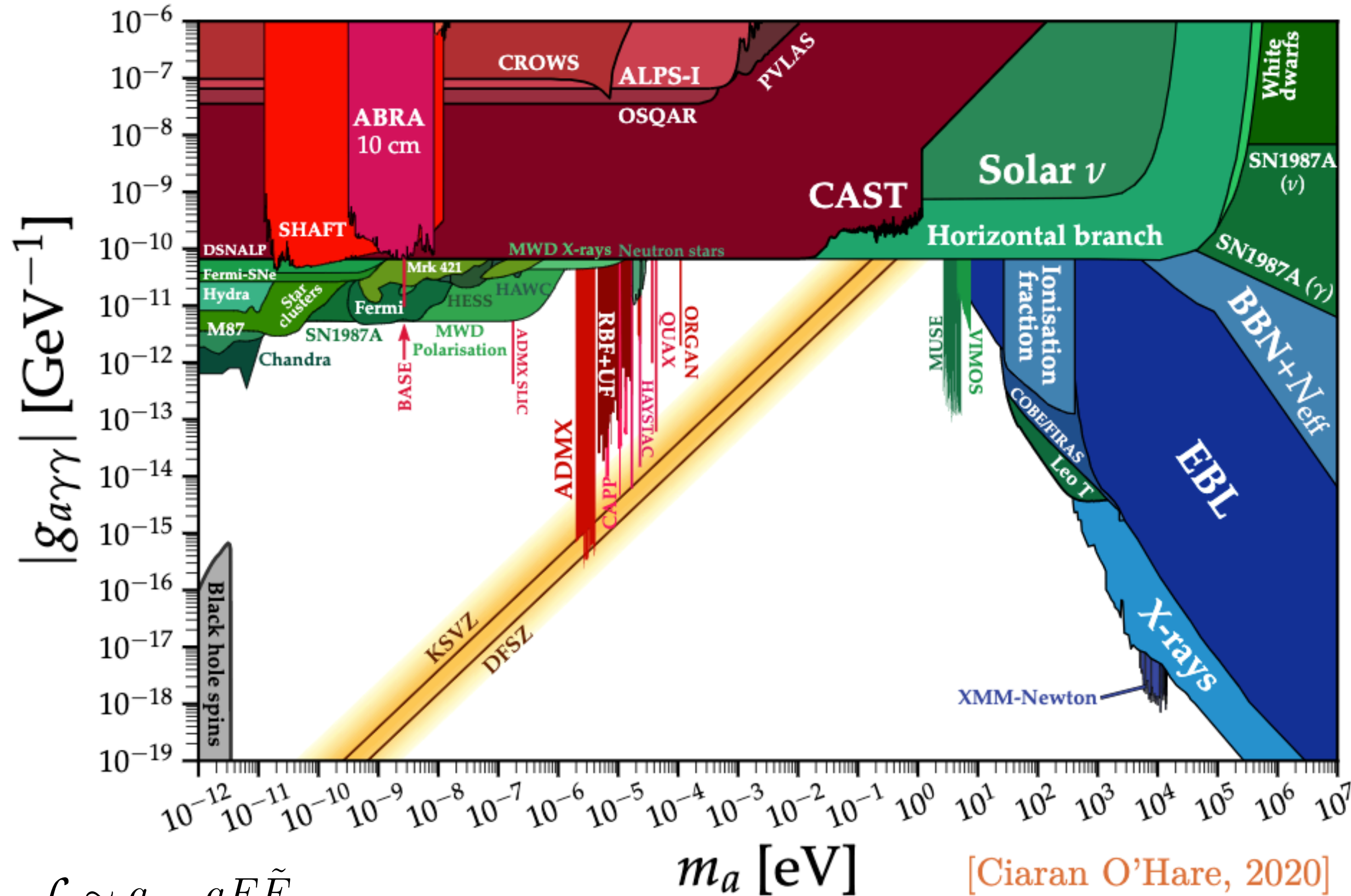
E.g. Lumped element



(From Maria Simanovskaia's slides)

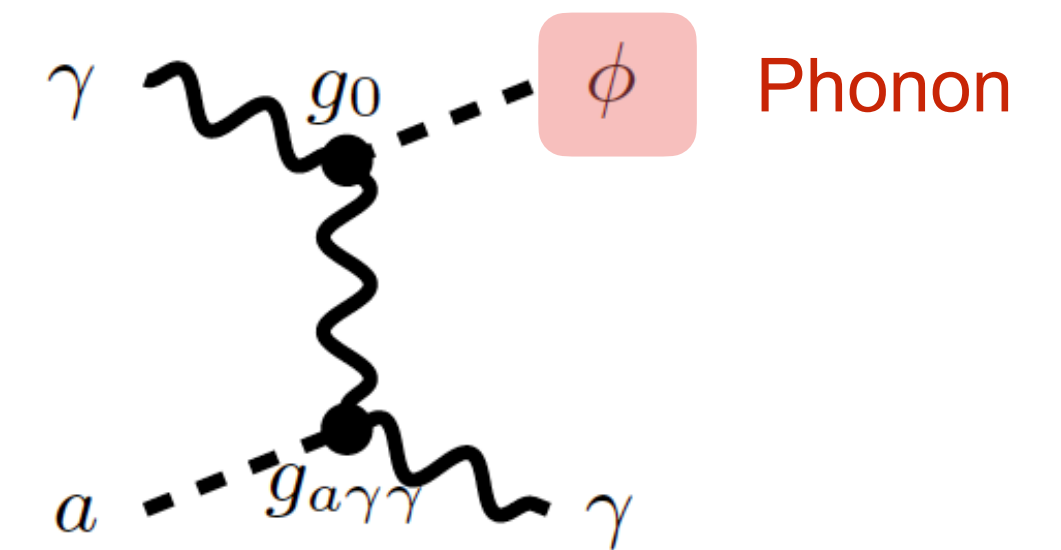
[Jaeckel1, Rybka, Winslow, and the Wave-like Dark Matter Community, 2022]

# Axion Searches

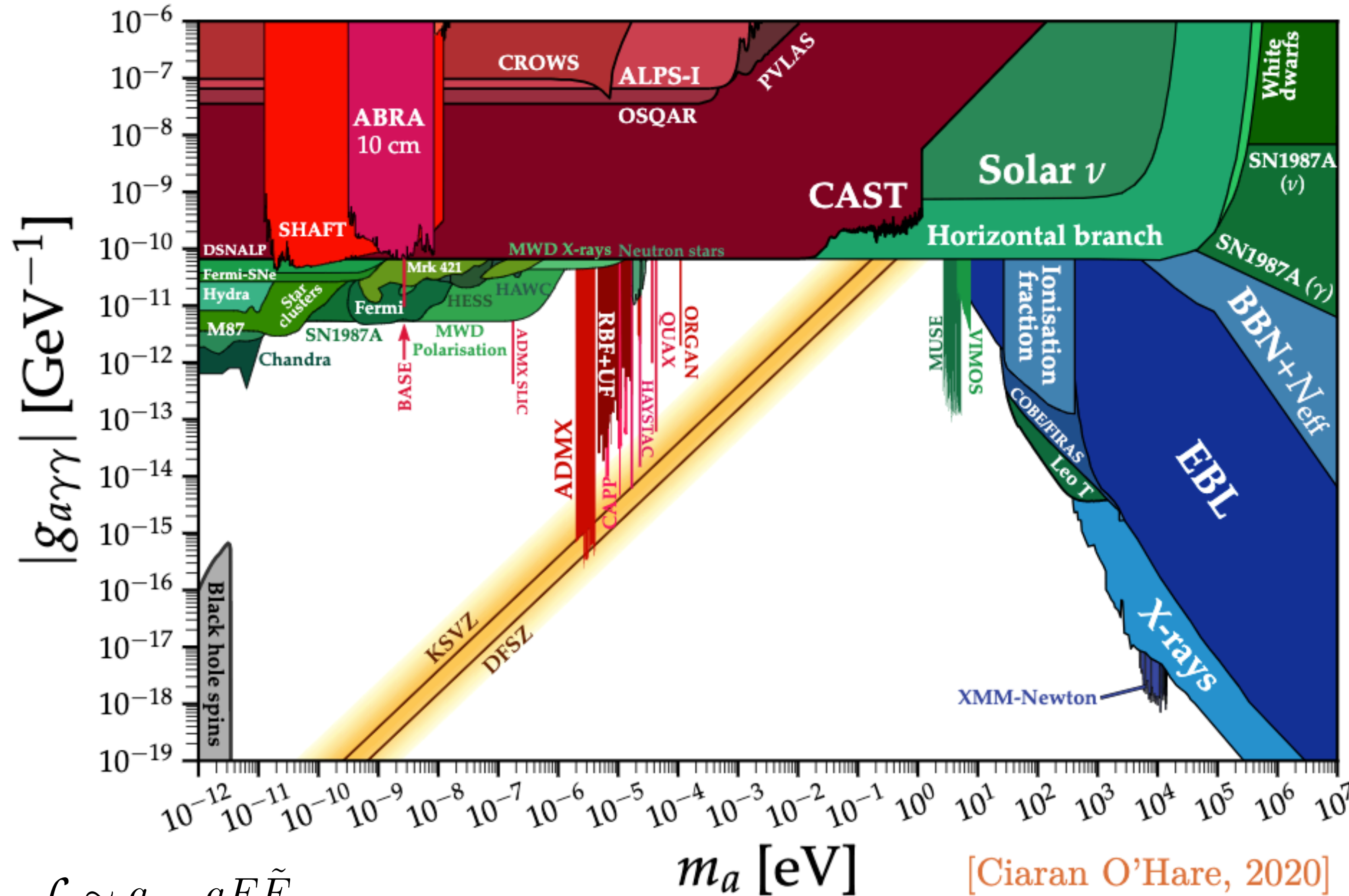


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## Axion direct detection with optomechanical cavities

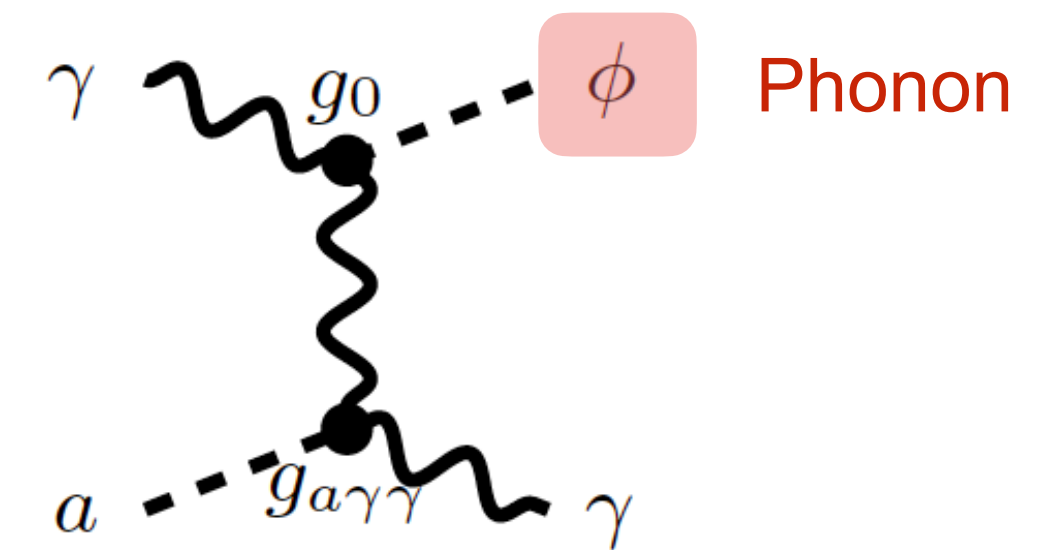


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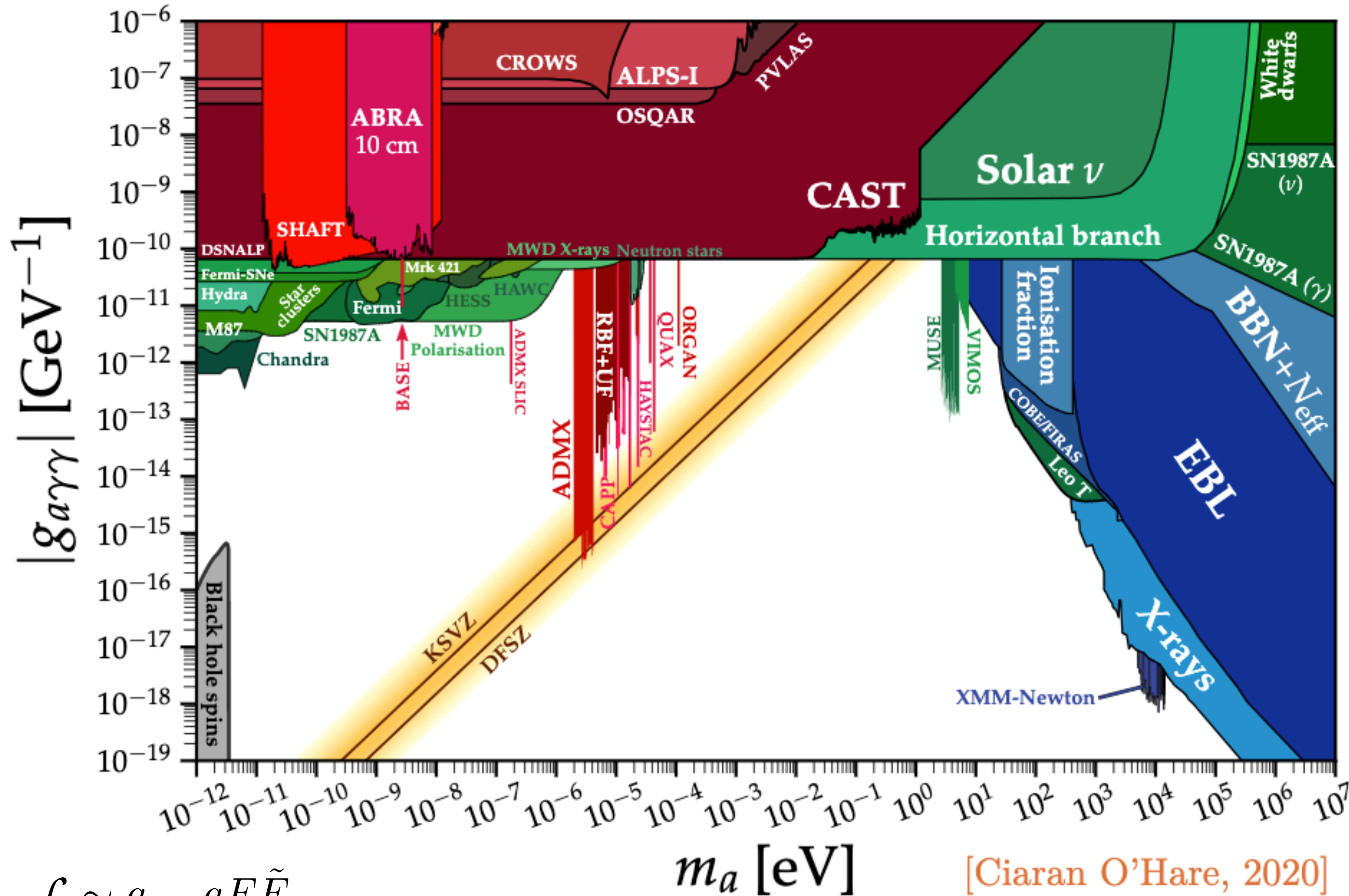
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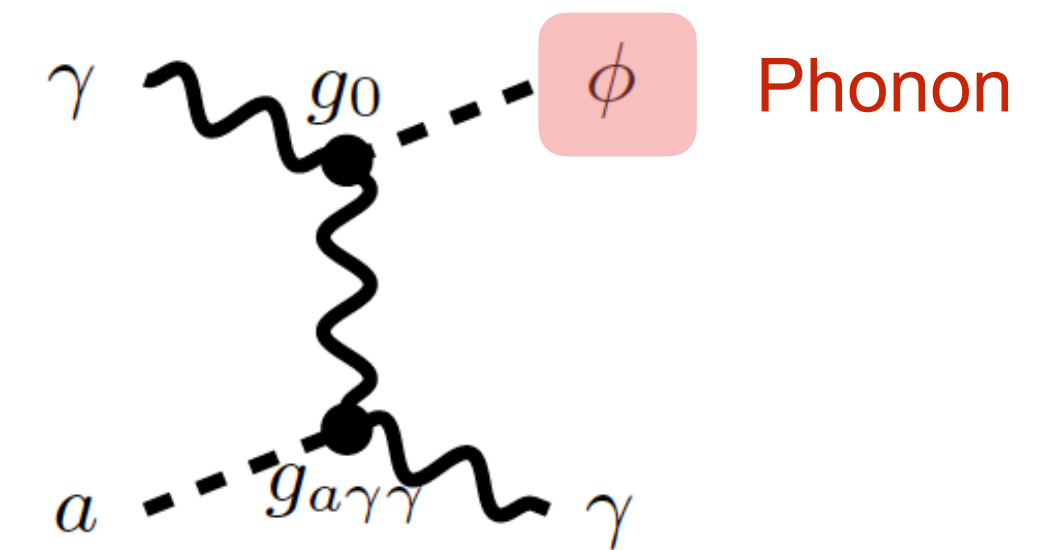
👉 **Phonons** provide the **kinematic matching**:  
break the scaling between  $m_a$  and the cavity size;

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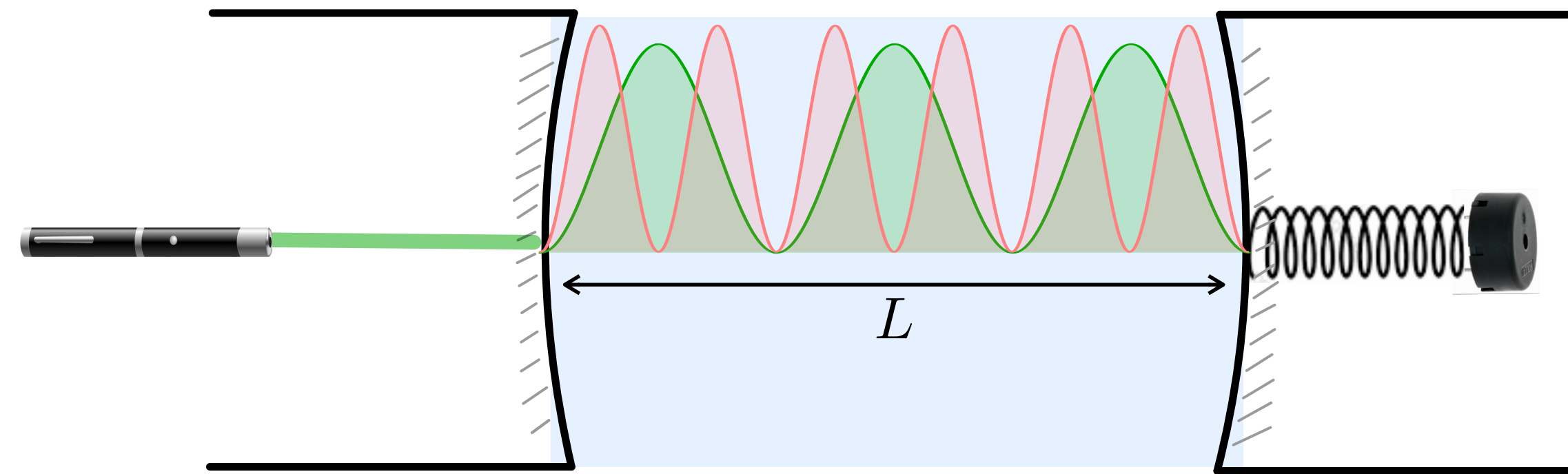
## Axion direct detection with optomechanical cavities



👉 **Phonons** provide the **kinematic matching**:  
break the scaling between  $m_a$  and the cavity size;

👉 **Coherent enhancement** from the large population of photons and/or phonons;

# Cavity Optomechanics

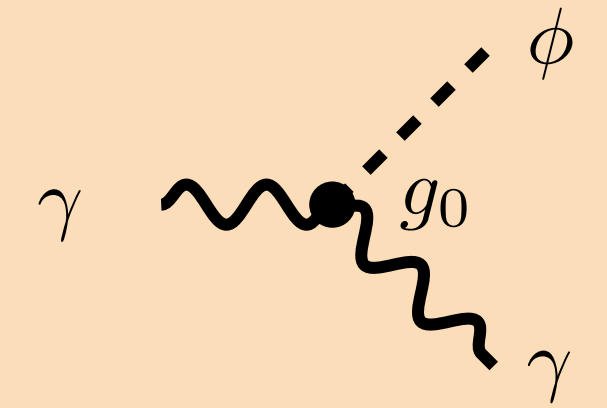


Mirrors confine light & sound

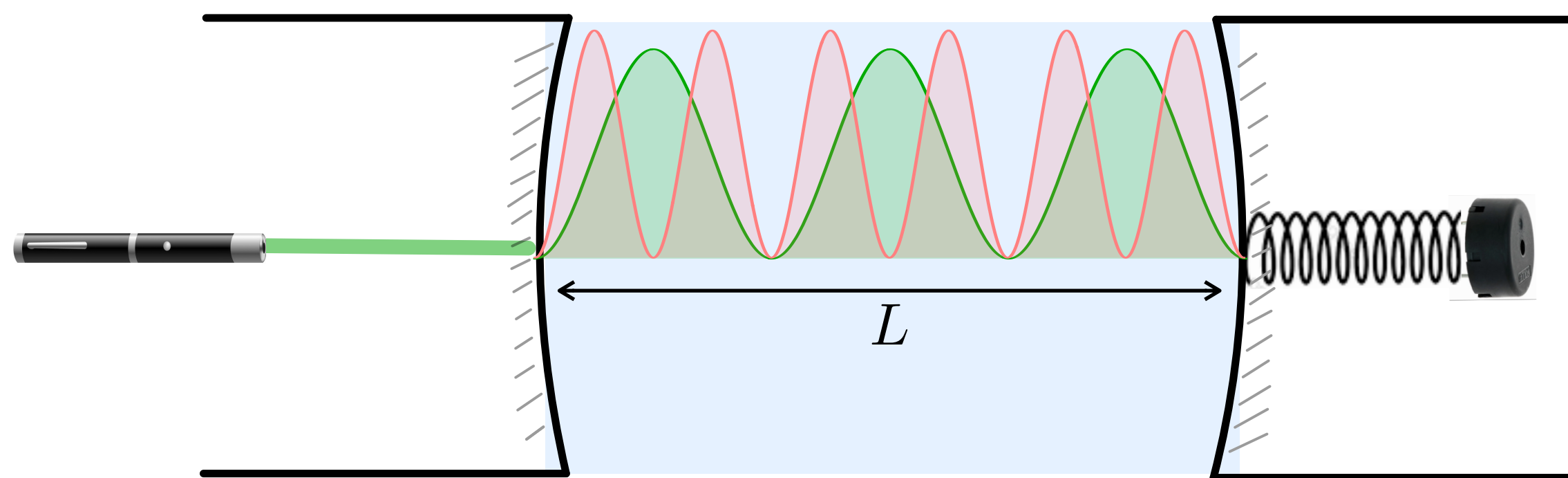
## Optomechanical interaction

$$H_{\text{OM}} = -\frac{1}{2}\alpha \int d^3 \mathbf{r} n(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{OM}} = \sum_{i,j,k} g_0 a_i a_j^\dagger (b_k + b_k^\dagger)$$

'mech'      'opts'      photons      phonon



# Cavity Optomechanics

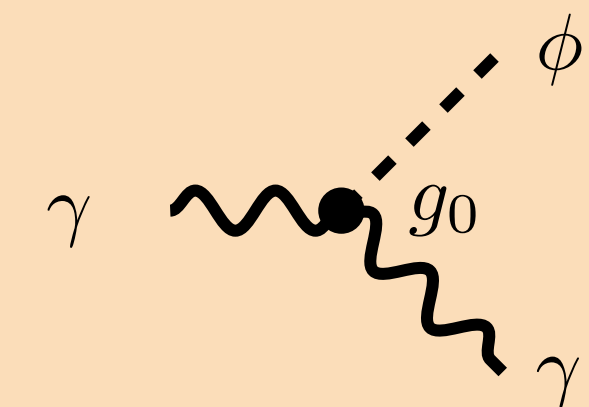


Mirrors confine light & sound

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‘mech’
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phonon



Optical resonance:  $\omega_{\text{opt}} = n \frac{\pi}{L}$

Optical width:  $\kappa = \tau_{\text{opt}}^{-1} = \frac{\pi}{L \mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}}$

Quantization of light

Photon population:  $N_\gamma^{\text{circ}} = \frac{4P_{\text{laser}}}{\omega_{\text{opt}} \kappa}$

Mechanical resonance:  $\Omega_m = n_m c_s \frac{\pi}{L}$  Mechanical width:  $\Gamma_m = \tau_{\text{ac}}^{-1} = c_s \frac{\pi}{L \mathcal{F}_{\text{ac}}}$

*Integer mechanical mode number* (pointing to  $n_m$ )  
*speed of sound* (pointing to  $c_s$ )

Phonon population:  $N_\phi^{\text{circ}} = N_{\text{phi}} \frac{(\Gamma_m/2)^2}{(\Omega_m - \Omega_{m.d.})^2 + (\Gamma_m/2)^2}$

*Acoustic finesse*  
 $\mathcal{F}_{\text{ac}} = \left[ \frac{1 - r_1^{\text{ac}} r_2^{\text{ac}}}{\pi r_1^{\text{ac}} r_2^{\text{ac}}} \right]^{-1}$

Quantization of sound

# Cavity Optomechanics

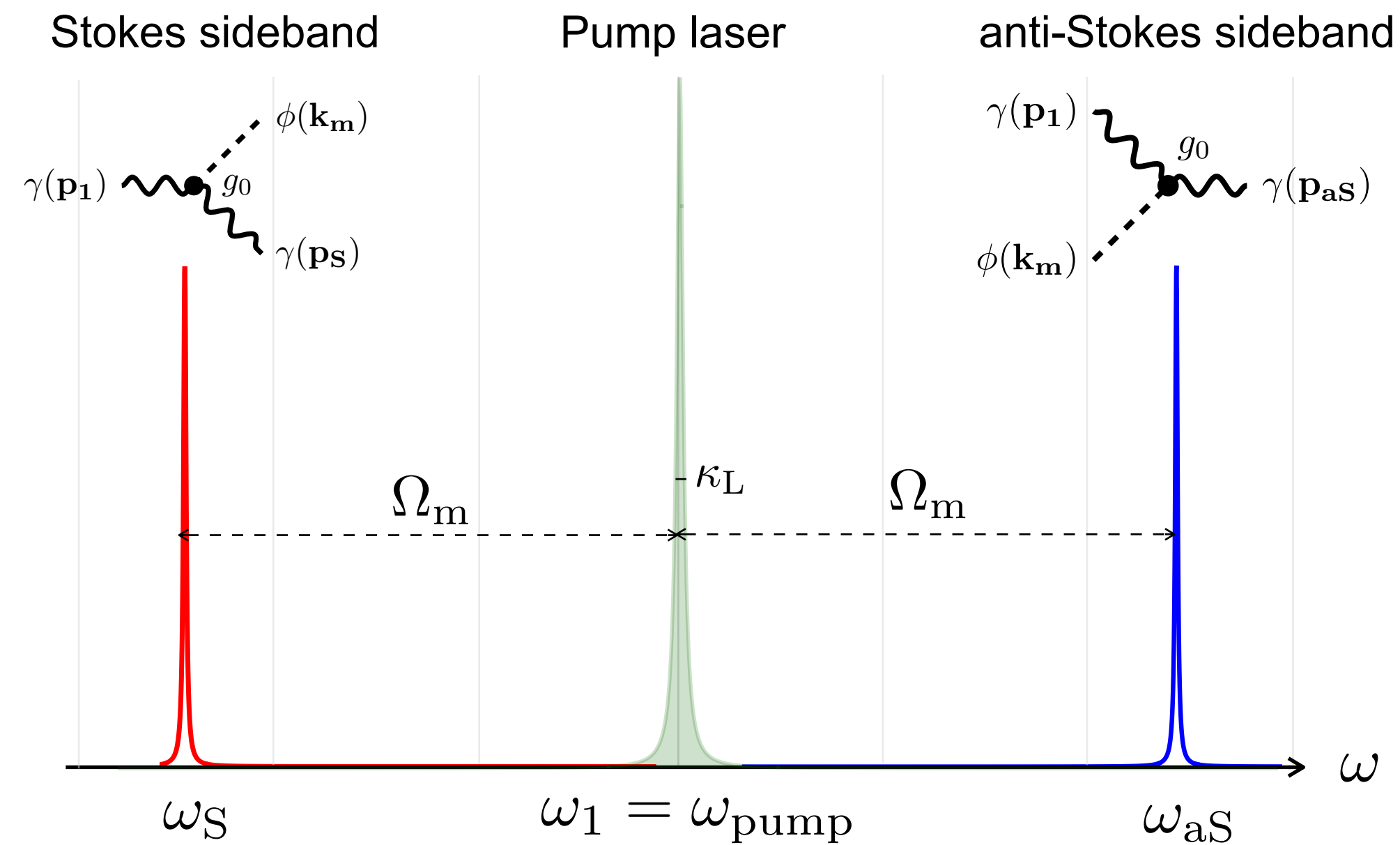
[Aspelmeyer et al., 2013]

[Kashkanova et al., 2017]

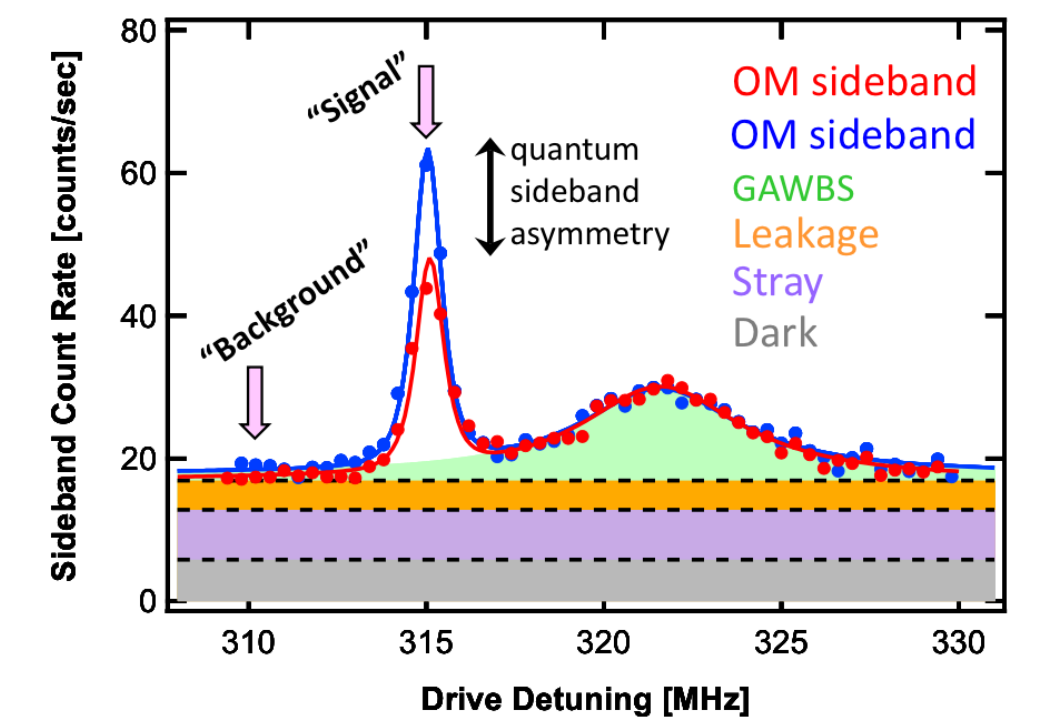
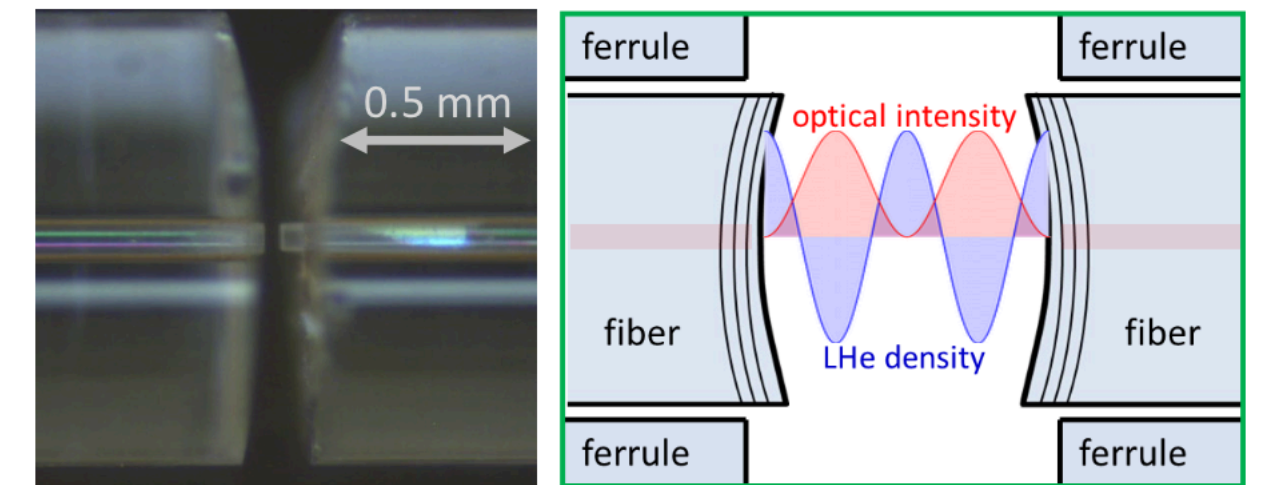
[Reningner et al., 2017]

$$H_{\text{OM}} \ni g_0 a_{n_1} a_{n_2}^\dagger (b_{n_m} + b_{n_m}^\dagger)$$

$$g_0 = \omega_{\text{opt}} \frac{3 \epsilon_r - 1}{2 \epsilon_r + 2} \frac{1}{\epsilon_r} \sqrt{\frac{|\mathbf{k}_m|}{2 c_s \rho V_{\text{mode}}}} a_{\text{ovl}} \quad \text{with} \quad a_{\text{ovl}} = \text{sinc} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} (n_1 + n_2 \pm n_m) \right)$$



[Shkarin A, et al., 2019]

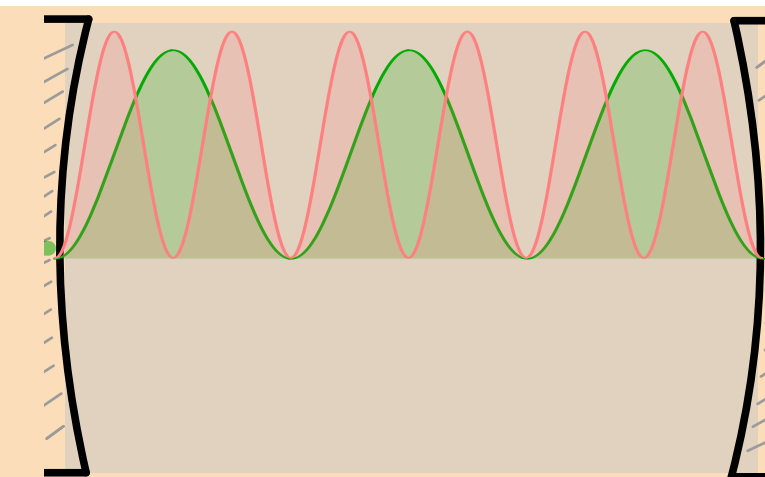


(From Jack Harris's slides)

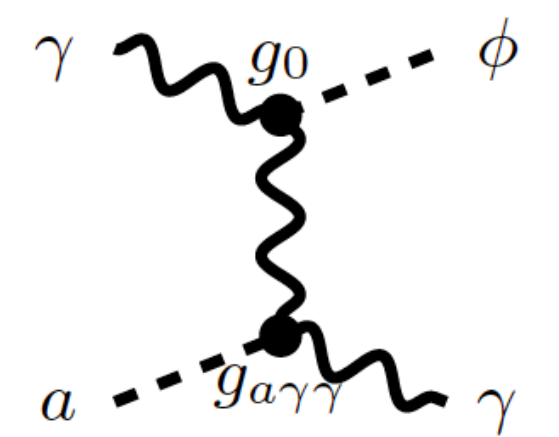
## Cavity optomechanical kinematics

$$\pm \mathbf{k}_m = 2\mathbf{p}_1 \approx -2\mathbf{p}_2 \quad (n_m = 2n_1 = 2n_2)$$

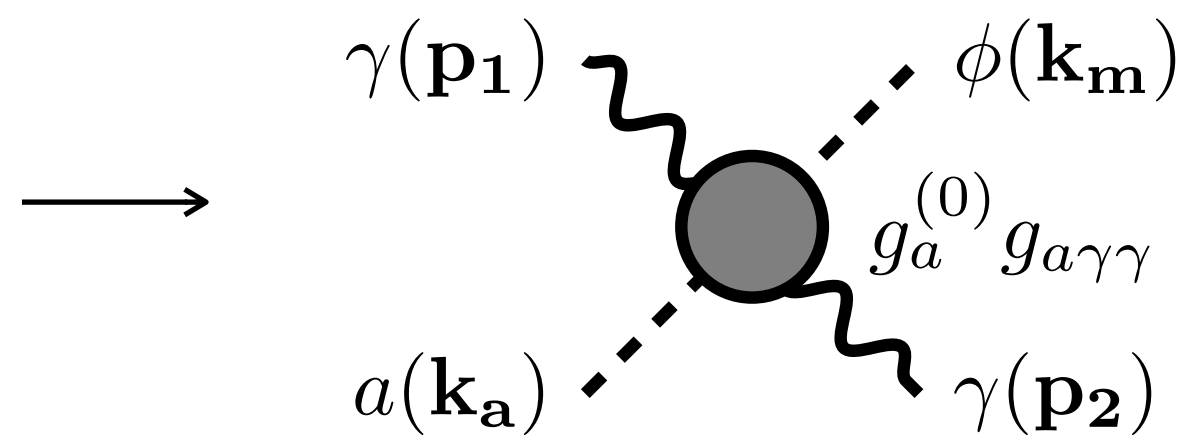
$$\Omega_m \approx 2c_s \omega_1$$



# Axiomechanics - kinematics



$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} a$$



$$g_a^{(0)} \propto a_{\text{ovl}} = \text{sinc} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \left( n_1 + n_2 - n_m + \frac{k_a}{\pi/L} \right) \right)$$

$$H_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha g_{a\gamma\gamma} \int d^3\mathbf{r} a(\mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$H_{\text{eff}} \ni g_{a\gamma\gamma} g_a^{(0)} a(t) a_{n_1} a_{n_2}^\dagger b_{n_m}^\dagger$$



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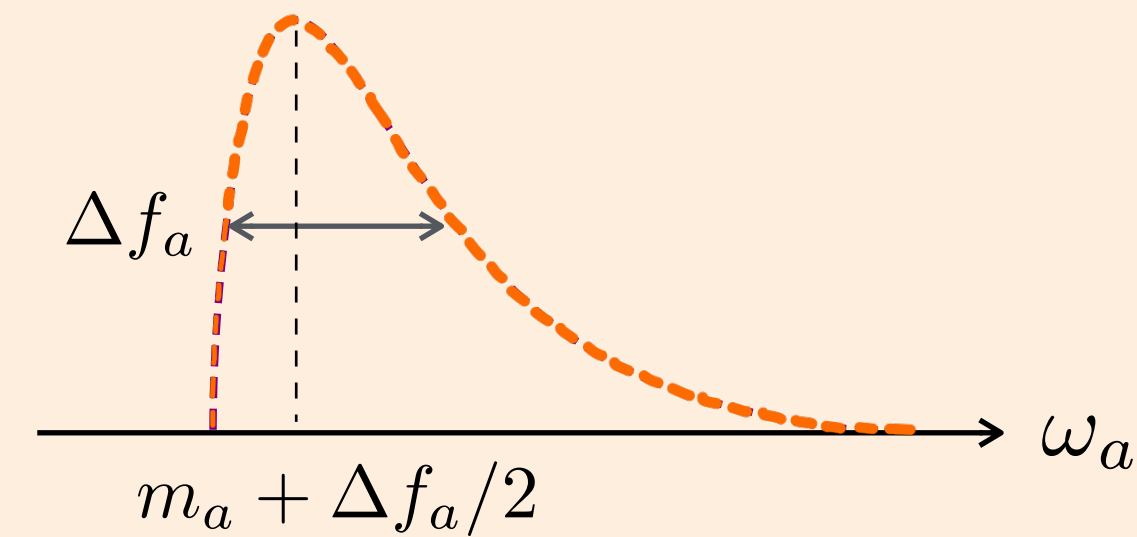
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Axion dark matter  $|a(\omega_a)|^2 = \frac{2\rho_a}{m_a^2} B(\omega_a)$

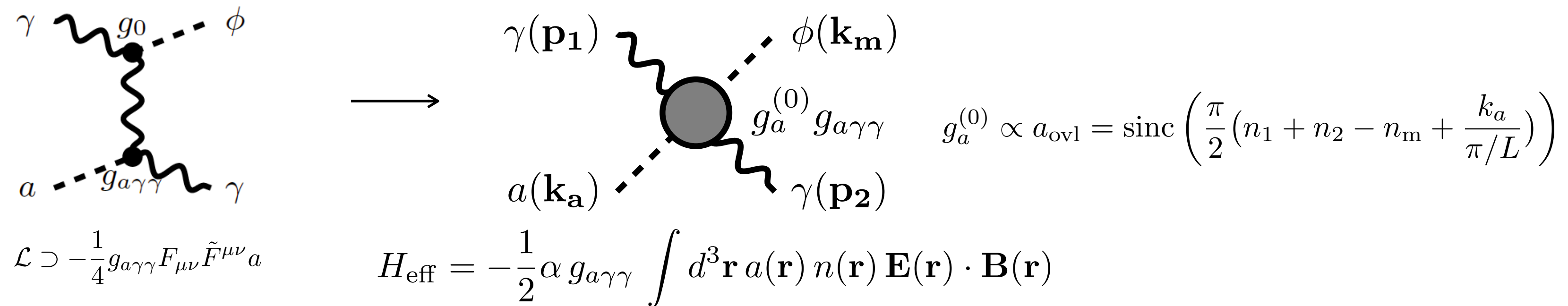
$$k_a \sim v_a m_a \sim v_a \omega_a$$

(recall  $k_m \sim c_s^{-1} \Omega_m$ ,  $p_{1,2} \sim \omega_{1,2}$ )



Axion width  $\Delta f_a = \tau_a^{-1} = m_a v_a^2 / (2\pi) \sim 10^{-7} m_a$

# Axiomechanics - kinematics

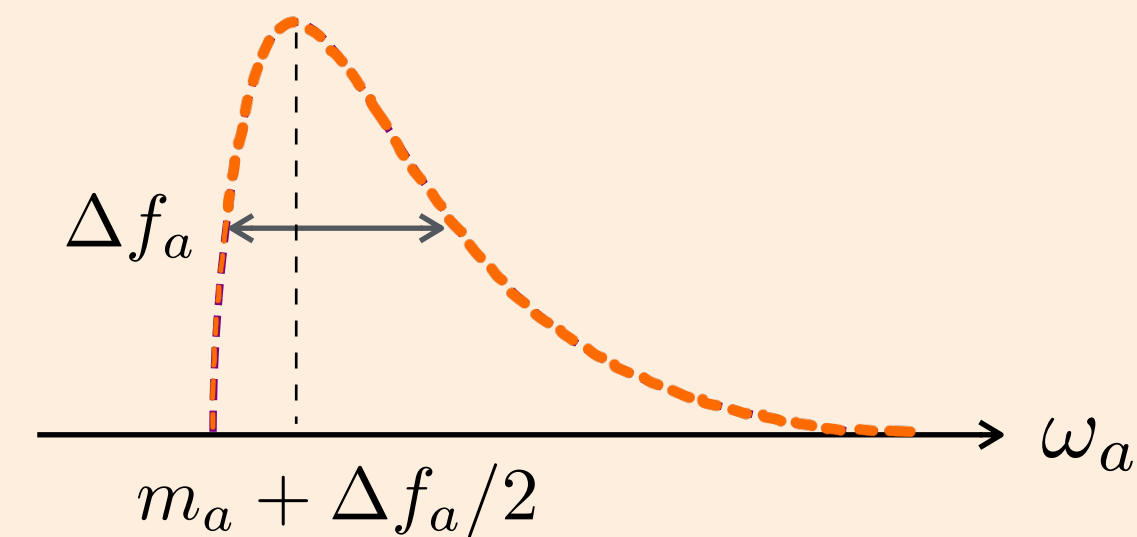


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Axion width  $\Delta f_a = \tau_a^{-1} = m_a v_a^2 / (2\pi) \sim 10^{-7} m_a$

Energy conservation:  $\omega_1 + m_a \simeq \omega_2 + \Omega_m$

Momentum conservation ( $a_{\text{ovl}} = 1$ ):  $\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{k}_a = \mathbf{p}_2 + \mathbf{k}_m$

Axiomechanics kinematics:

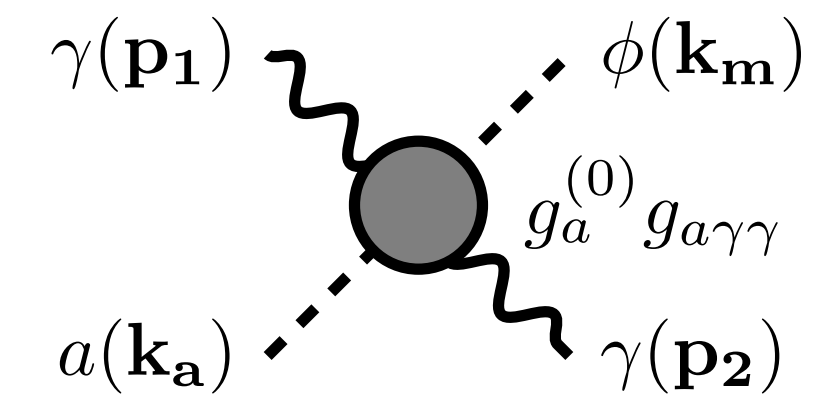
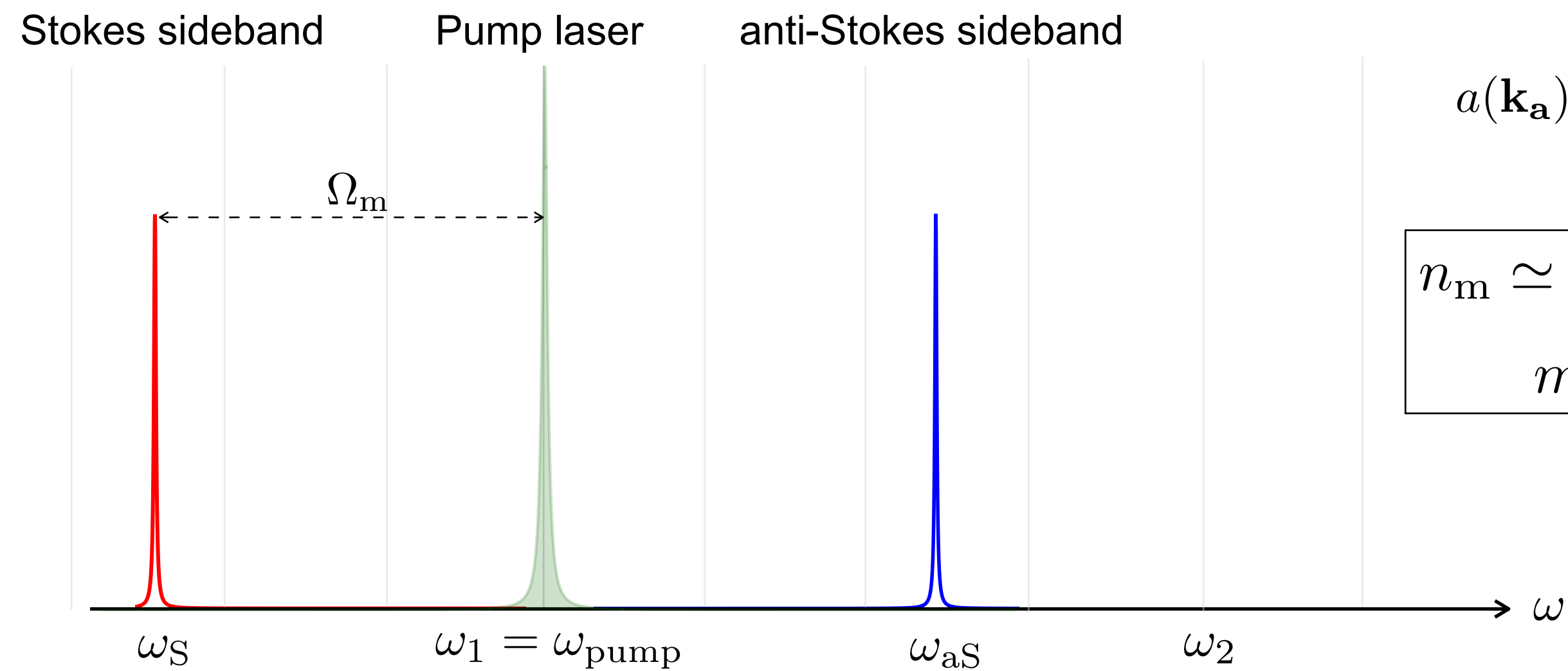
$$n_m \simeq 2n_1 + [m_a / \omega_{\text{FSR}}]$$

$$m_a \simeq \Delta + \Omega_m$$

Axion mass decouples from  $\omega_{\text{FSR}}$ , thus the cavity length, because of the phonon mode.

# Axiptomechanics - the signal and the rate

$$H_{\text{eff}} \ni g_{a\gamma\gamma} g_a^{(0)} a(t) a_{n_1} a_{n_2}^\dagger b_{n_m}^\dagger$$

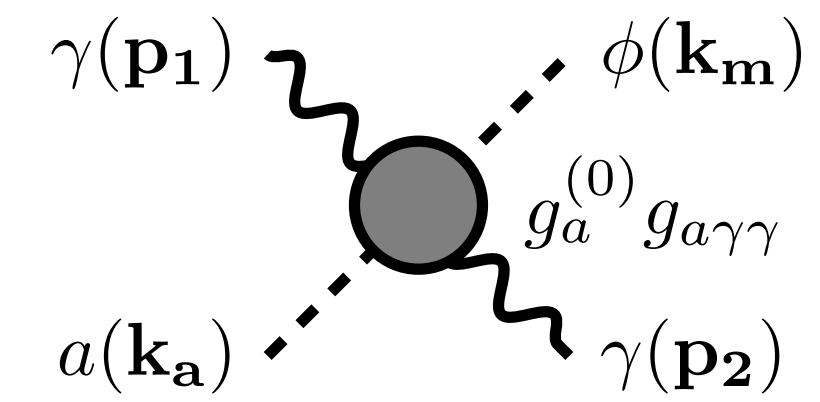
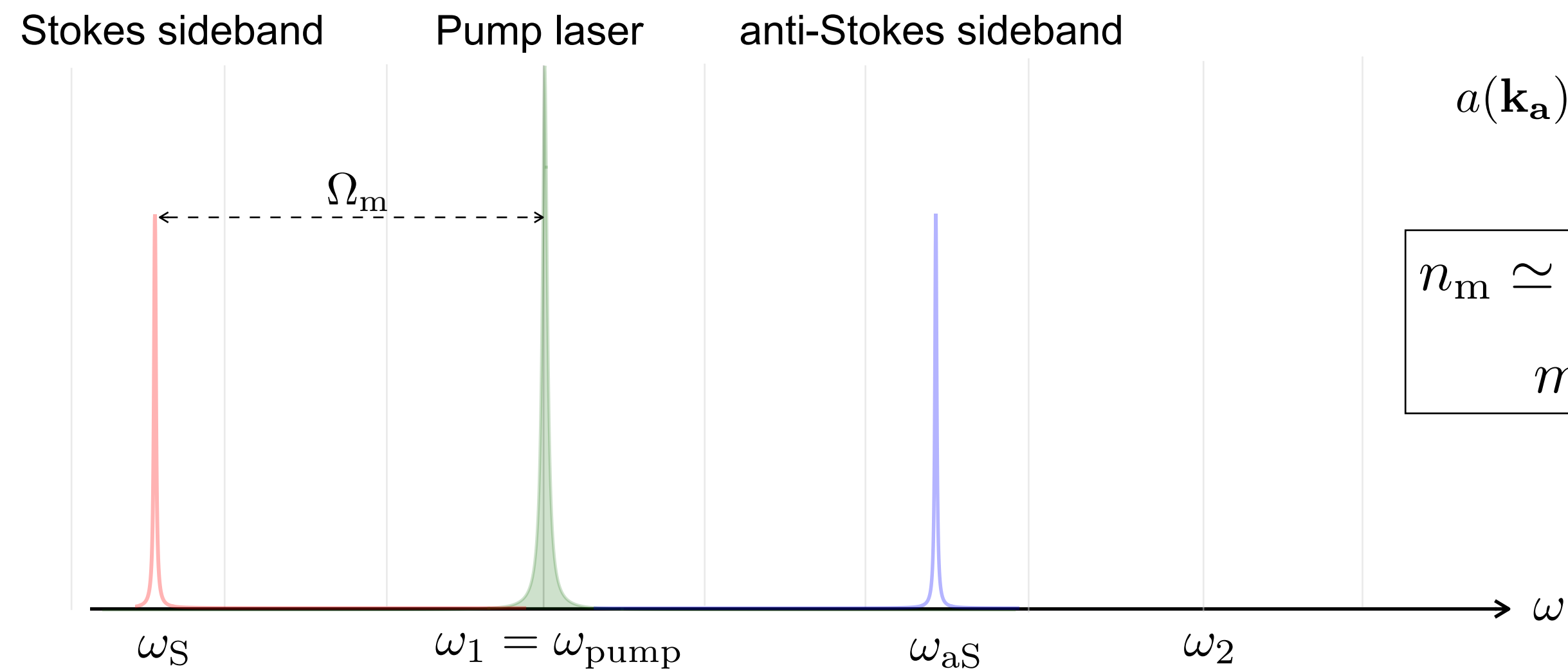


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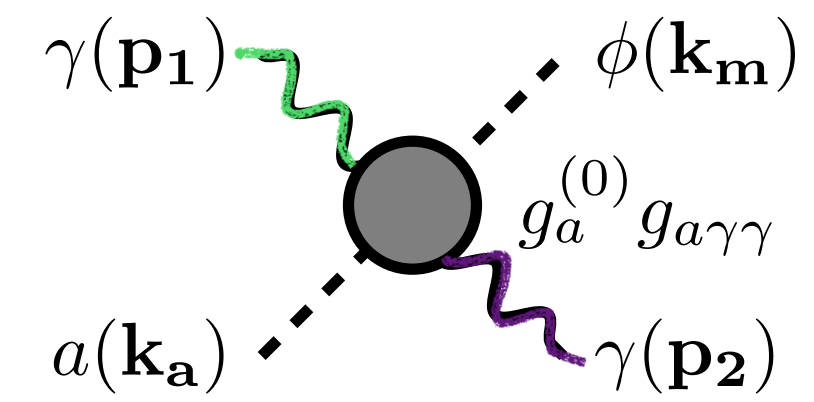
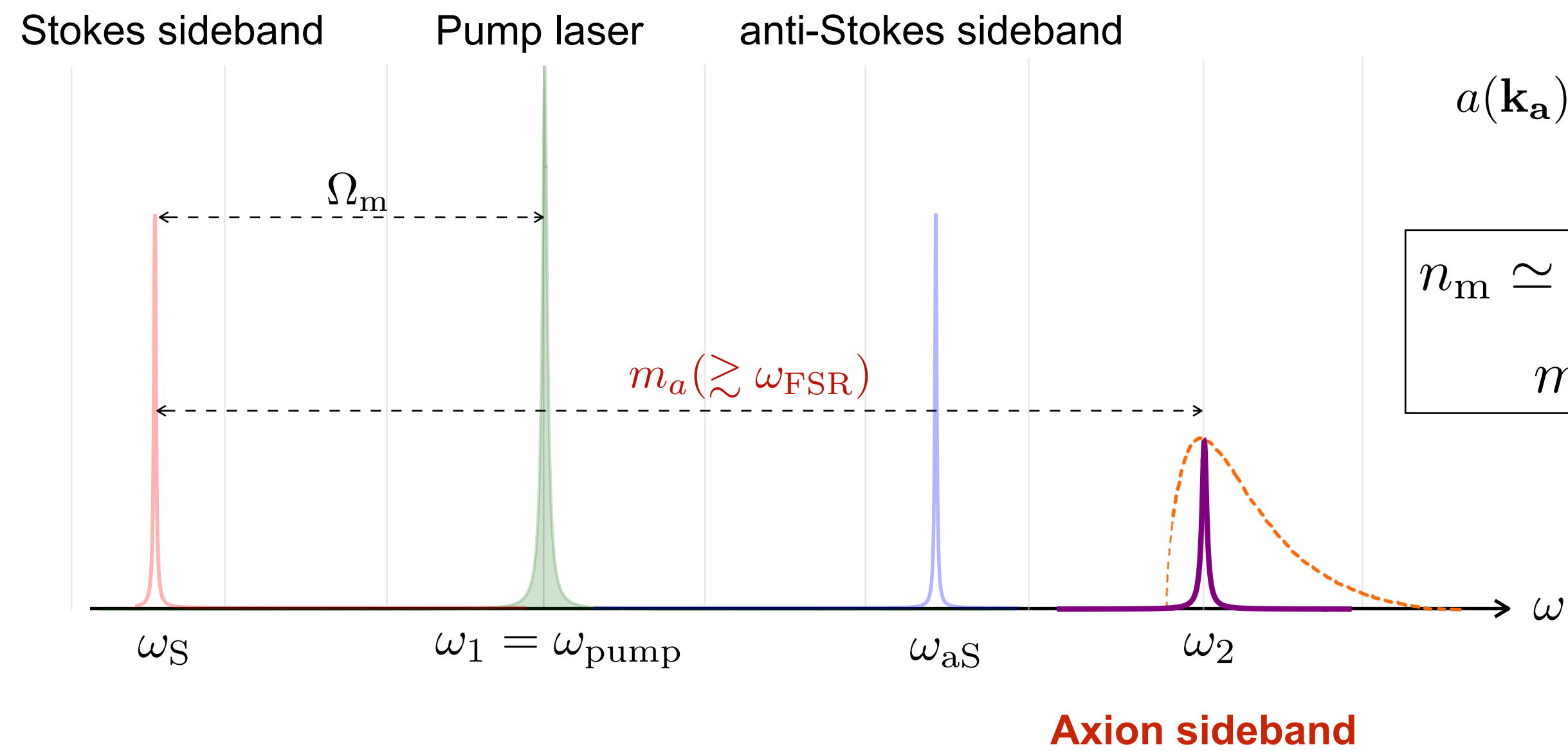


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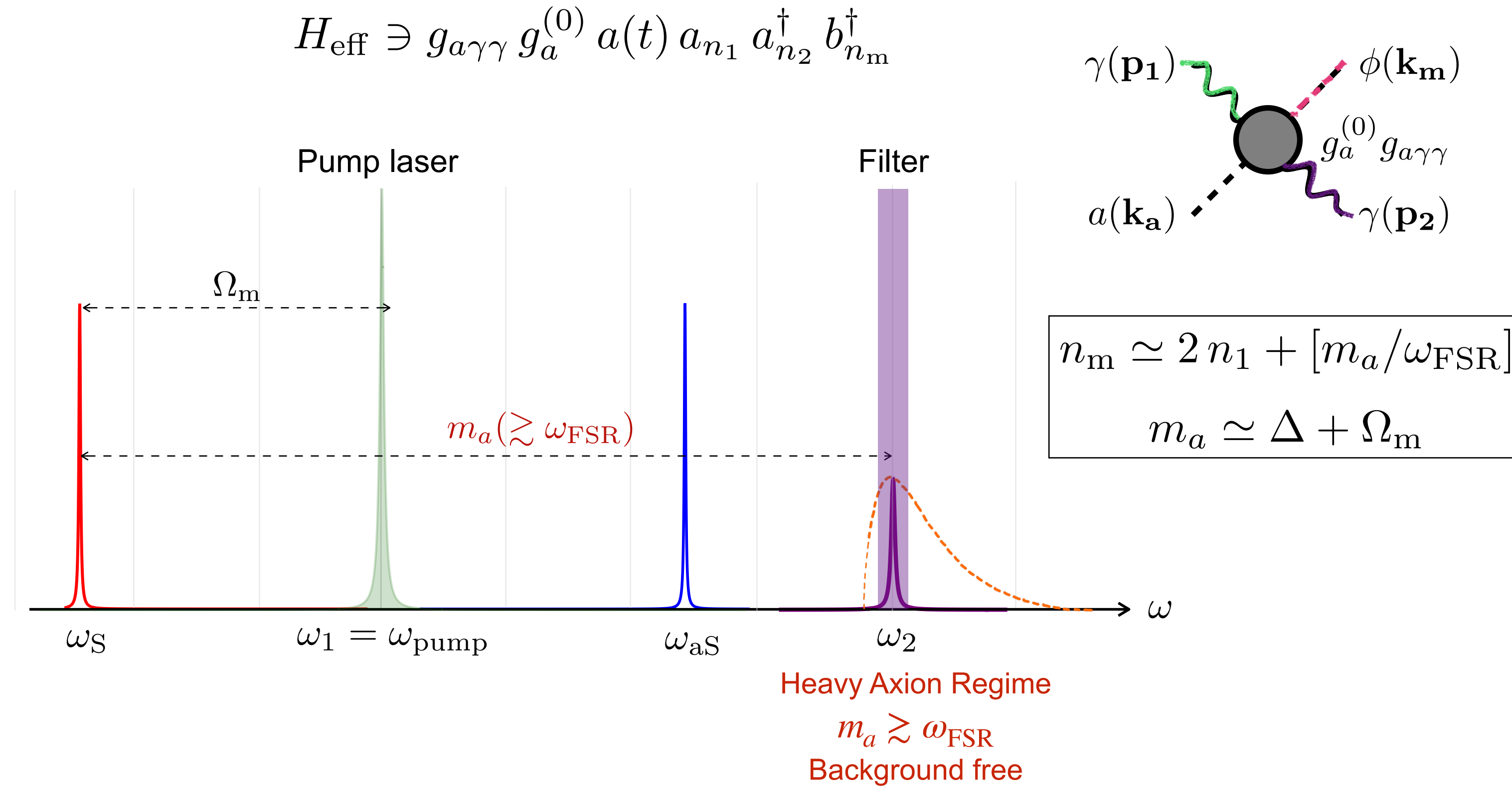


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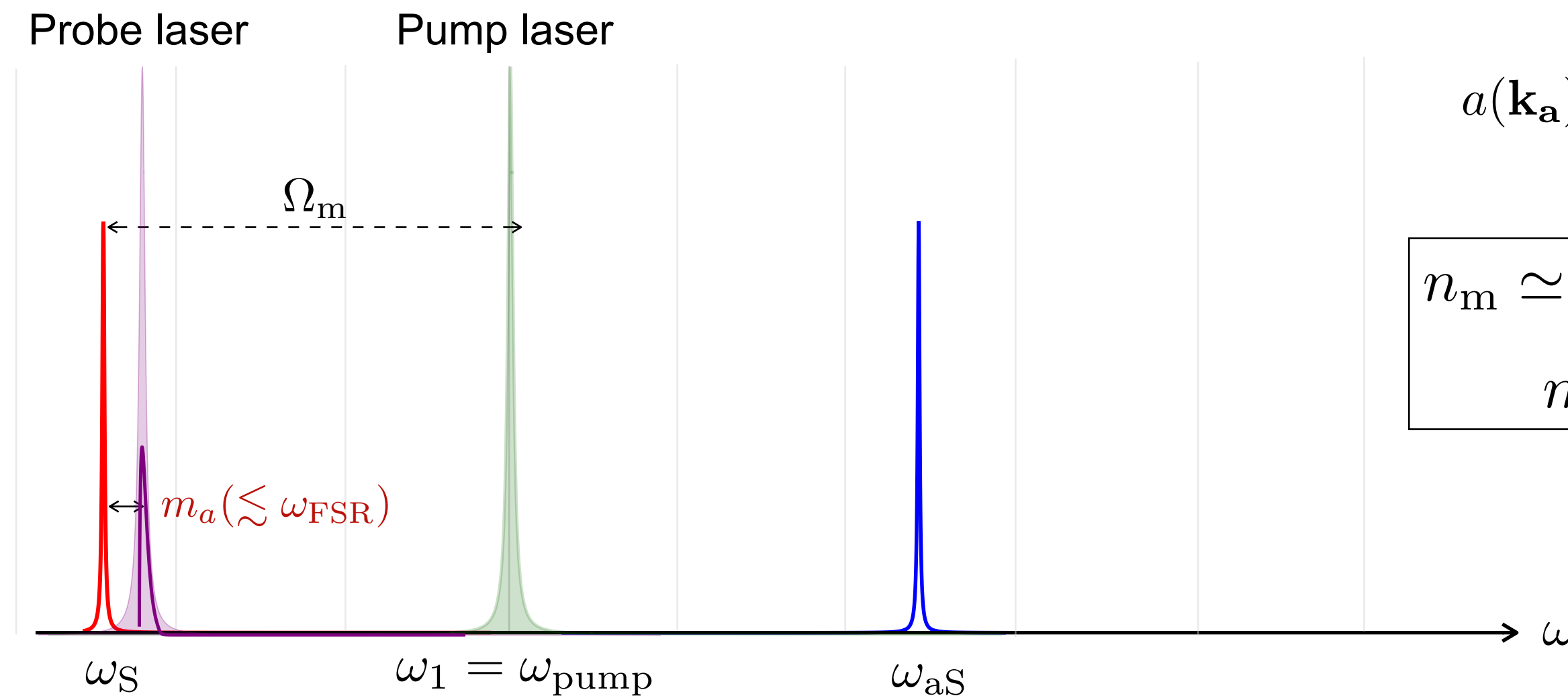
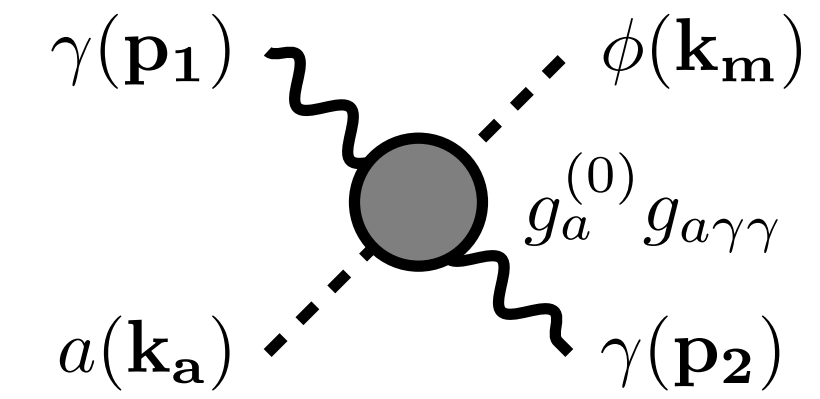
Single photon

$$\Gamma \sim (2\pi) |g_a^{(0)}|^2 \left( \frac{2\rho_a}{m_a^2} g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 \right) N_{\gamma, \text{pump}}^{\text{circ}} N_{\phi}^{\text{circ}}(\Delta_m) \int d\omega_2 B_{m_a}(\omega_2 + \Omega_m - \omega_{\text{pump}}) L(\omega_2 - \omega_{n_2}, \kappa)$$



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Light Axion Regime  
 $m_a \lesssim \omega_{\text{FSR}}$   
 Large background

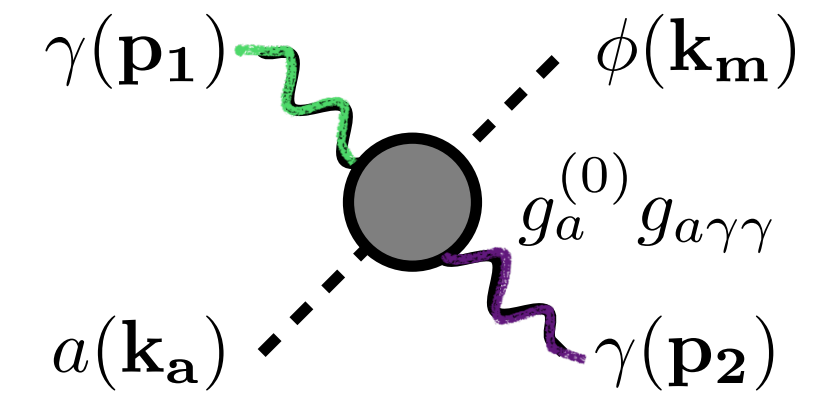
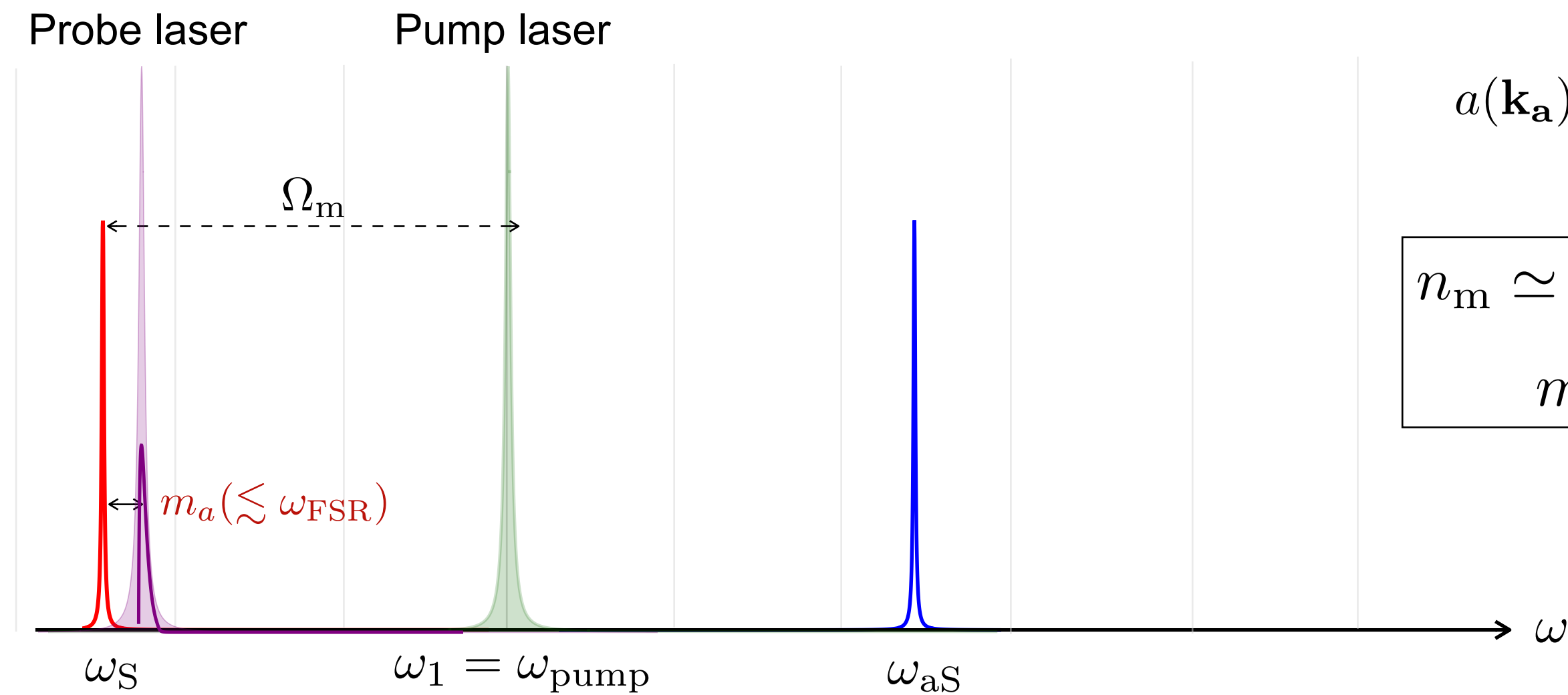
## Power readout

$$\Gamma \sim (2\pi) |g_a^{(0)}|^2 \left( \frac{2\rho_a}{m_a^2} g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 \right) N_{\gamma, \text{pump}}^{\text{circ}} N_{\gamma, \text{probe}}^{\text{circ}}(\Delta_{\text{probe}}) \int d\omega_2 B_{m_a}(\omega_2 + \Omega_{n_m} - \omega_{\text{pump}}) L(\omega_2 - \omega_{\text{probe}}, 2\kappa_L)$$



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$$H_{\text{eff}} \ni g_{a\gamma\gamma} g_a^{(0)} a(t) a_{n_1} a_{n_2}^\dagger b_{n_m}^\dagger$$



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# Sensitivity and scanning

## Narrowband detection


For a specific  $m_a$ :

1. Photon pop: probe laser need to be turned to a specific frequency;
2. Phonon pop: final-state phonons need to be populated at a specific frequency, as well as the filter;
3. Importantly, the cavity length need to be **turned** such that photons and phonons are on-resonance:

$$\omega_{1,2} = n_{1,2}\omega_{\text{FSR}}, \quad \Omega_m = c_s n_m \omega_{\text{FSR}}$$

$$\text{SNR} = \Gamma_{\text{sig}} / \Gamma_{\text{back}}$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{sig}} \sim \begin{cases} t_{\text{int}}/\tau_a & \text{if } t_{\text{int}} \ll \tau_a, \\ 1 & \text{if } t_{\text{int}} \gtrsim \tau_a, \end{cases}$$

 **Power readout**  $\Gamma_{\text{back}} = \begin{cases} \kappa\sqrt{N_{\gamma,\text{bkg}}}/4 & \text{if } t_{\text{int}} < \tau_a \\ \kappa\sqrt{N_{\gamma,\text{bkg}}}/(4\sqrt{t_{\text{int}}\kappa_{\text{sig}}}) & \text{if } t_{\text{int}} > \tau_a \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{SNR} \propto N_{\gamma}\sqrt{N_{\gamma}}$

 **Single photon**  $\Gamma_{\text{back}} = \Gamma_{\text{DCR}} \Rightarrow \text{SNR} \propto N_{\gamma}N_{\phi}$

### Reducible background photons:

- Tails of the pump laser, and the Stokes, anti-Stokes sidebands
- Filtering - experiment capability

Frequency based filtering:  $\mathcal{O}(200\text{dB})$

Polarization based filtering:  $\mathcal{O}(60\text{dB})$  commonly used

Other noise sources: thermal noise, mechanical noise, etc

# Sensitivity and scanning

$$\Gamma \sim (2\pi)|g_a^{(0)}|^2 \left( \frac{2\rho_a}{m_a^2} g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 \right) N_{\gamma,\text{pump}}^{\text{circ}} \{N_{\gamma,\text{probe}}^{\text{circ}}, N_{\phi}^{\text{circ}}\}$$

Scales with a one meter cavity

Optical frequency	$\omega_{\text{opt}}$	$\simeq 2\pi \times 200 \text{ THz}$ (0.8 eV)
Mechanical frequency	$\Omega_m$	$\simeq 2\pi \times 318 \text{ MHz}$ (1.4 $\mu\text{eV}$ )
Free spectral range	$\omega_{\text{FSR}} = \frac{\pi}{L}$	$2\pi \times 150 \text{ MHz}^*$ (0.6 $\mu\text{eV}^*$ )
Optical loss rate	$\kappa = \frac{\pi}{L\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}}$	$300 \text{ Hz}^*$ ( $2 \times 10^{-13} \text{ eV}^*$ )
Laser width	$\kappa_L$	$1 \text{ Hz}^*$ ( $6.6 \times 10^{-16} \text{ eV}^*$ )
Mechanical loss rate	$\Gamma_m = \frac{\pi c_s}{L\mathcal{F}_{\text{ac}}}$	$24 \text{ mHz}^*$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-17} \text{ eV}^*$ )
Optical finesse	$\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}$	$\pi \times 10^6^*$
Acoustic finesse	$\mathcal{F}_{\text{ac}}$	$\pi \times 10^4^*$
Axion bandwidth	$\Delta f_a = \frac{v^2}{2\pi} m_a$	$2.7 \times 10^{-7} m_a$

$$N_{\gamma}^{\text{circ}} \sim \frac{4P_{\text{laser}}}{\omega_{\text{opt}}\kappa} \quad N_{\phi}^{\text{circ}} = \frac{U_m}{\Omega_m} \lesssim \frac{1}{2\Omega_m} \rho_{\text{He}} c_s^2 \left( \frac{\delta\rho_{\text{He}}}{\rho_{\text{He}}} \right)^2 V_{\text{mode}}$$

**1** For usual experiments in their lab:

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow N_{\text{pump}} &\simeq 10^6 & P_{\text{pump}} &\sim 1 \mu\text{W} \\ \Rightarrow N_{\text{probe}} &\simeq 10^6 & L &\sim 100 \mu\text{m} \\ \Rightarrow N_{\phi} &= 1 & \mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}/\pi &\sim 10^5 \end{aligned}$$

**2** What could be feasible to achieve:

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow N_{\text{pump}} &\simeq 10^{17} & P_{\text{pump}} &\sim 1 \text{ W} \\ \Rightarrow N_{\text{probe}} &\simeq 10^{17} & P_{\text{probe}} &\sim 1 \text{ W} \\ \Rightarrow N_{\phi} &\simeq 10^{14} & L &\sim 1 \text{ m} \\ & & \mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}/\pi &\sim 10^6 \end{aligned}$$

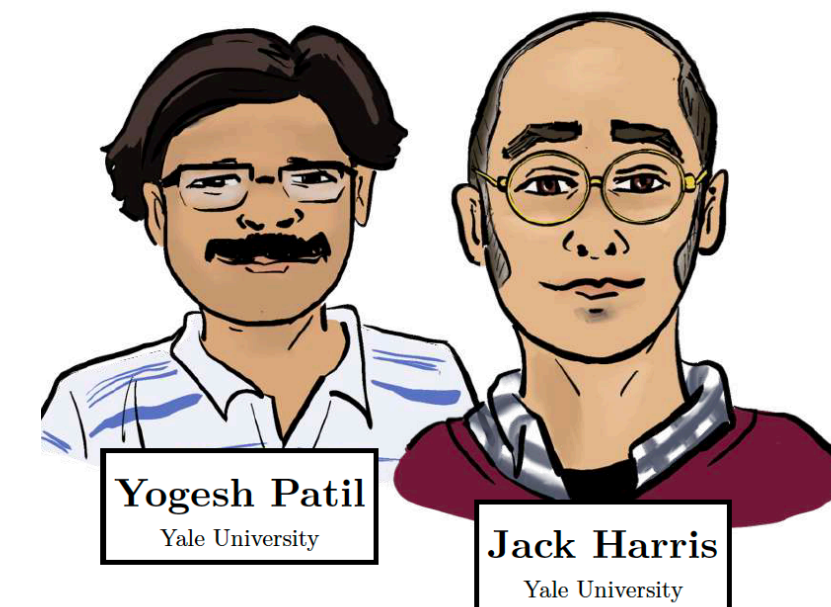
**3** What other experiments are aiming for:

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow N_{\text{pump}} &\simeq 10^{22} & P_{\text{pump}} &\sim 10 \text{ kW} \\ & & L &\sim 5 \text{ m} \\ & & \mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}/\pi &\sim 10^6 \end{aligned}$$

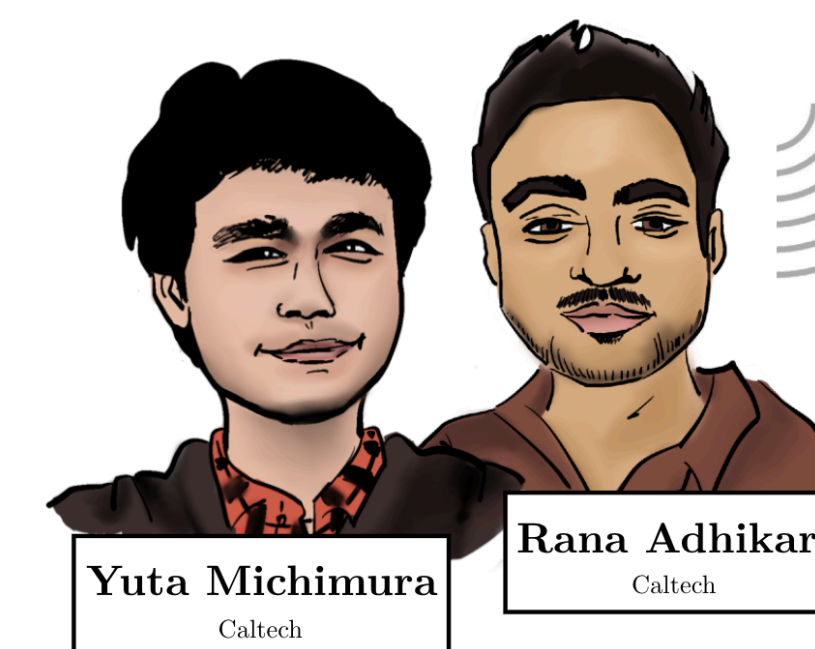


GQuEST

Yale University  
Jack Harris Lab



(by Clara Murgui)

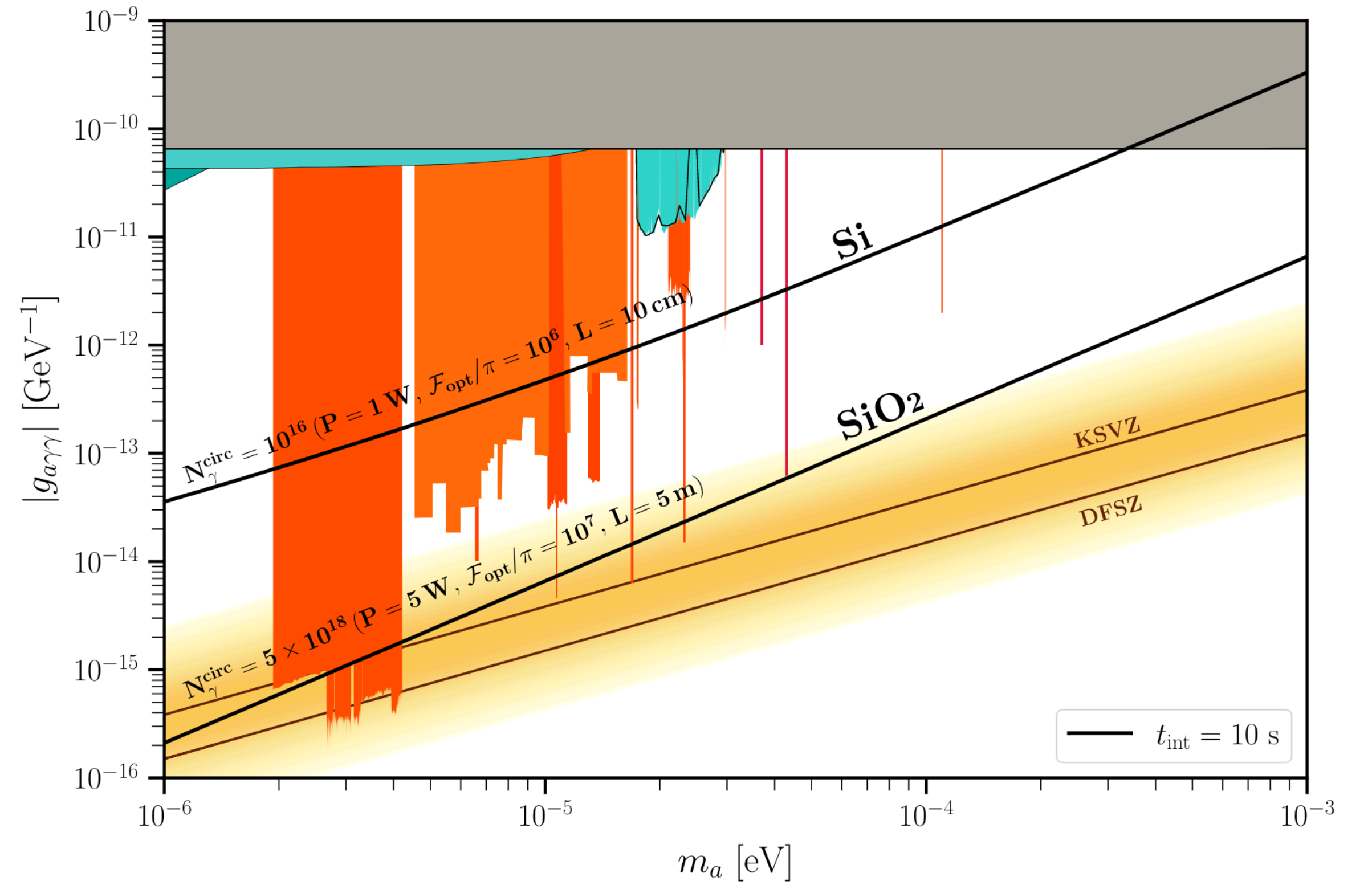
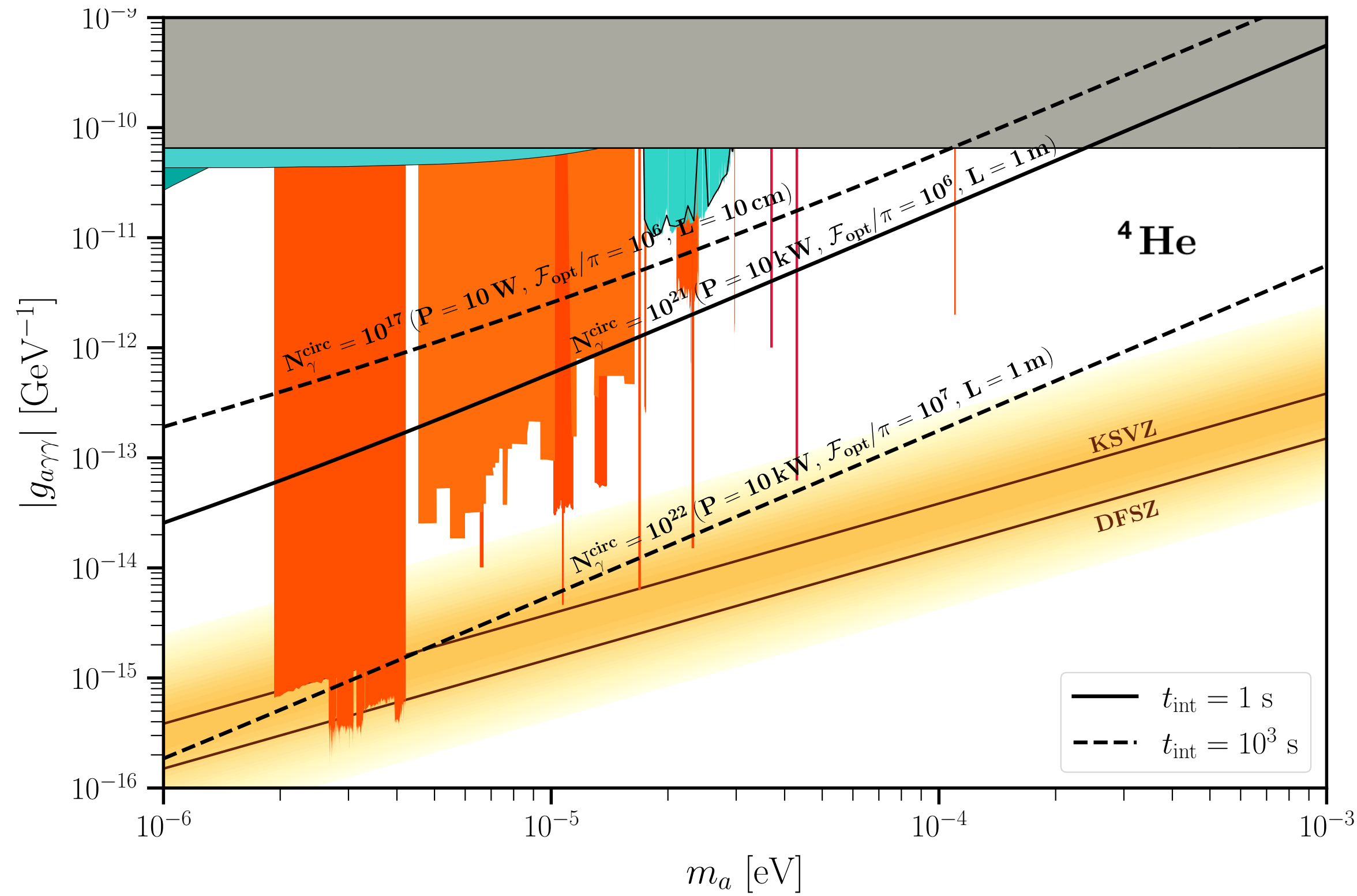


Yuta Michimura  
Caltech

Rana Adhikari  
Caltech

# The reach

## Populated final state of phonons



$$g_{a\gamma\gamma}^{\phi\text{-pop}} \propto \left( \rho^{1/2} c_s^{1/2} \frac{\epsilon_r + 2}{\epsilon_r - 1} \epsilon_r^{3/4} \right) \left( \frac{L^{1/2}}{\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}^{1/2}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\omega_{\text{opt}}^{3/2}} \frac{1}{P_{\text{pump}}^{1/2}} \frac{1}{N_{\phi}^{1/2}} \right) \frac{m_a}{\rho_a^{1/2}} \times \begin{cases} m_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{e^{\epsilon} - 1}{e^{1-\epsilon} \epsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}, & t_{\text{int}} > \kappa \\ (\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}} L)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1 + \epsilon^2/4)^{\frac{1}{2}}, & t_{\text{int}} > \tau \\ (\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}} L)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1 + \epsilon^2/4)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{t_{\text{int}} m_a} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, & t_{\text{int}} < \tau \end{cases}$$

# Summary and outlook

- 👉 **Axiomechanical coupling** allows the decoupling of the axion mass from the resonance frequency of the system, thus the system size, for resonance searches of the axion dark matter;
- 👉 **Highly coherent acoustic modes** that can be hosted in well developed optomechanical systems can coherently enhance the axion absorption rate on top of the coherent enhancement from optical modes;
- 👉 Theory prediction shows promising observational prospects of QCD axion and axion like particles with laboratory constructible **optomechanical cavities**.

Ongoing:

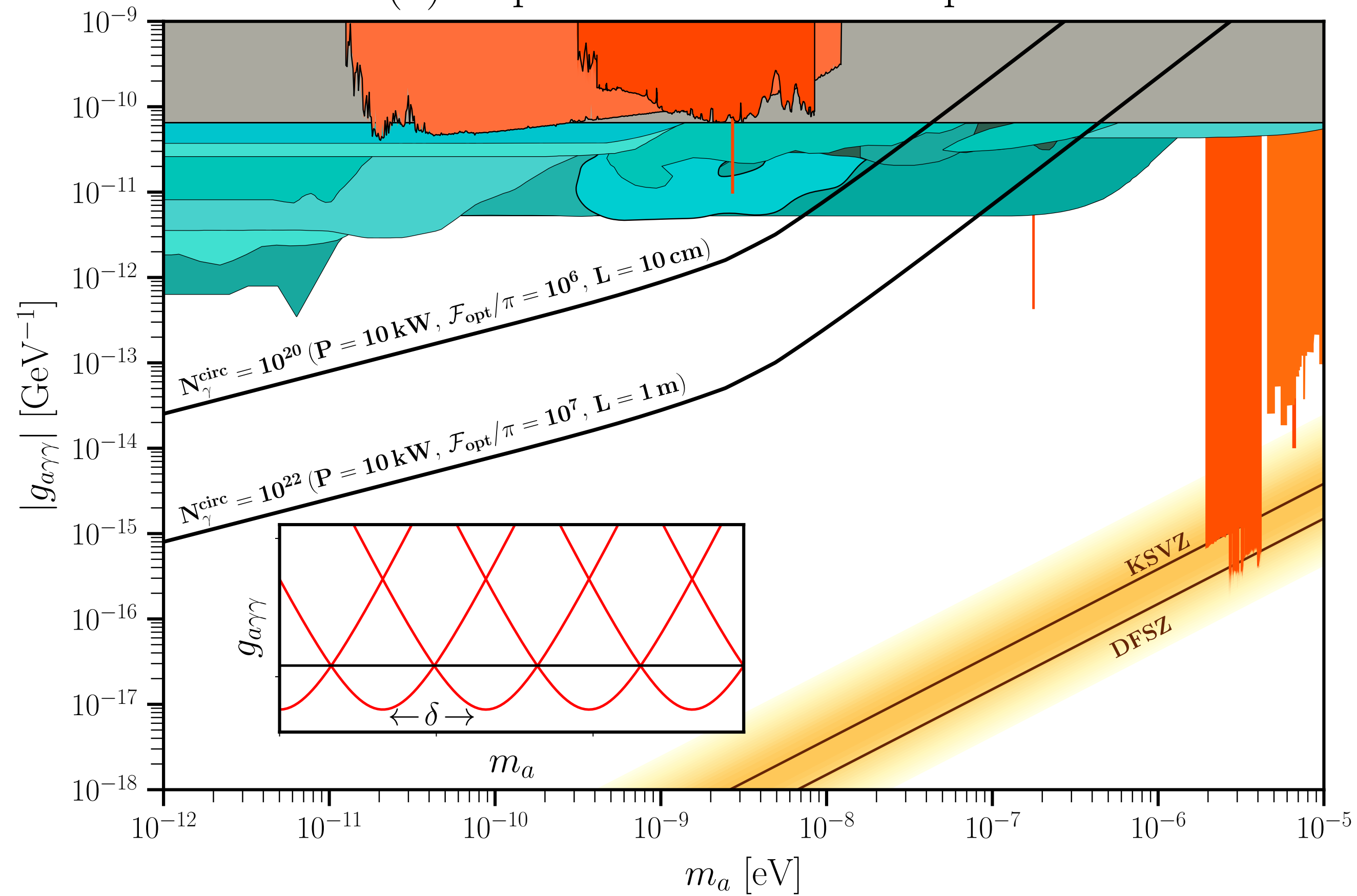
- 👉 **Gravitational wave?**
- 👉 **Filtering** of reducible backgrounds for single photon detection;
- 👉 **Thermal model** that will limit the injecting laser power and acoustic mode coherence;
- 👉 **Strong coupling regime**  $g_0 \tilde{N}_\phi \geq 1$ ;
- 👉 **A concrete experimental proposal.**

**Thank you!**



# The reach

(a) Populated final state of photons



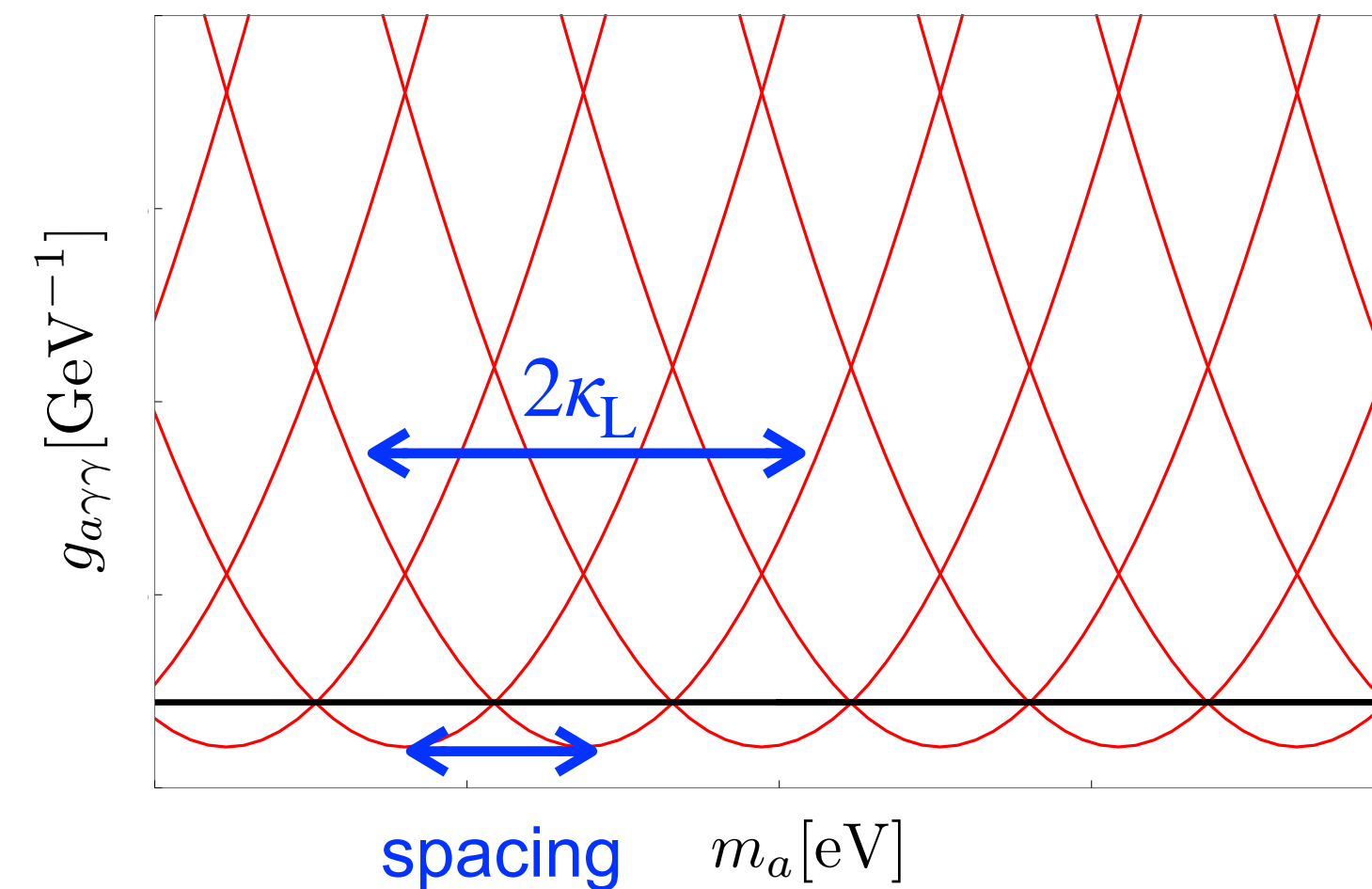
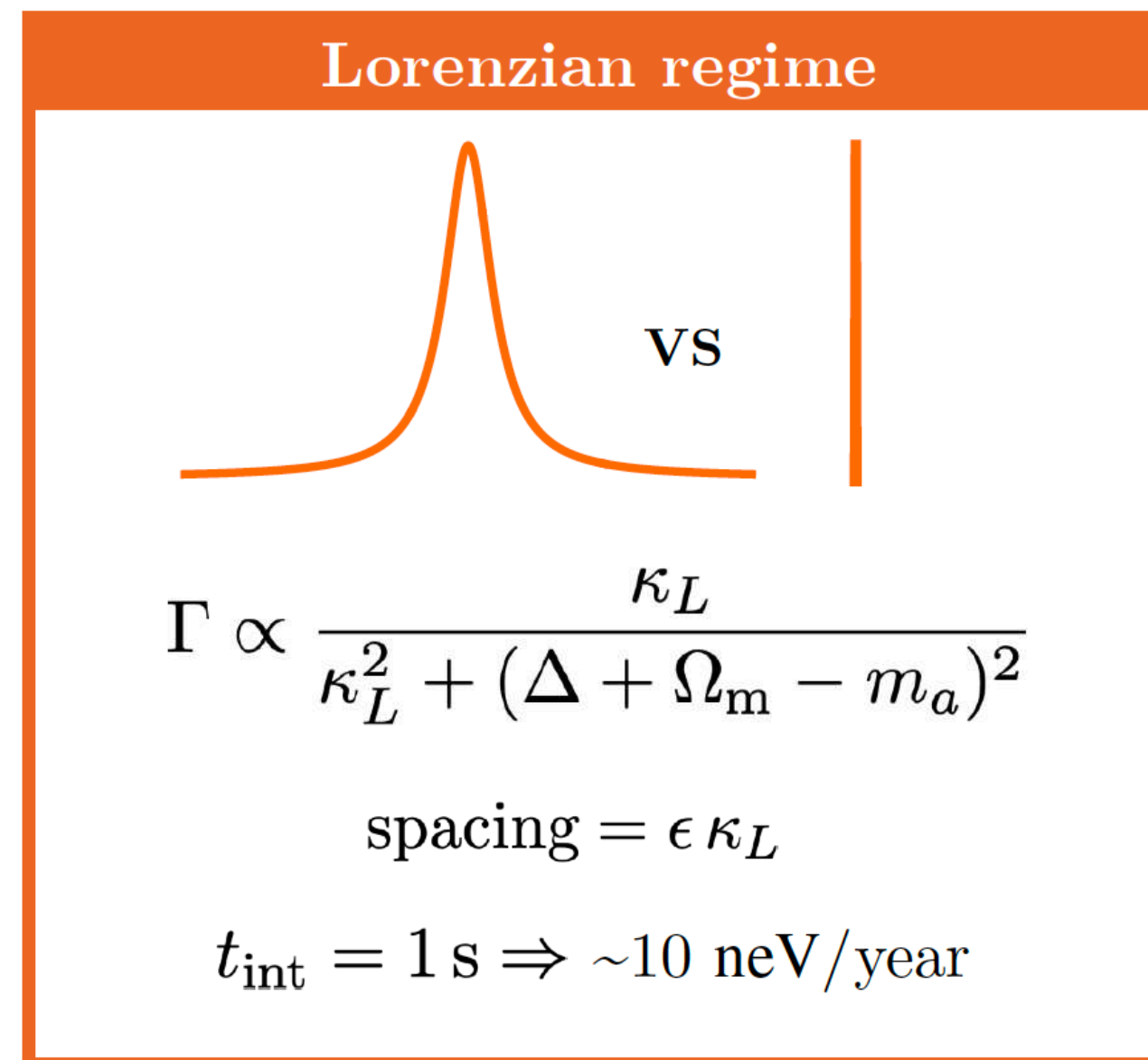
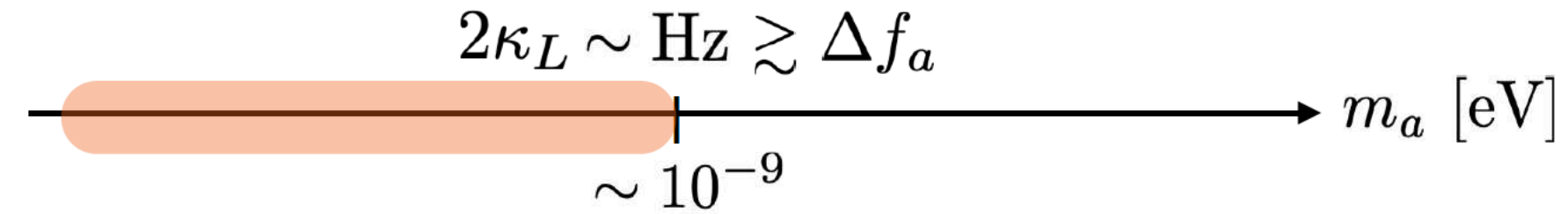
$$g_{a\gamma\gamma}^{\gamma\text{-pop}} \propto \left( \rho^{1/2} c_s^{1/2} \frac{\epsilon_r + 2}{\epsilon_r - 1} \epsilon_r^{3/4} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\mathcal{F}_{\text{opt}}^{5/4}} \frac{1}{L^{1/4}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\omega_{\text{opt}}^{5/4}} \frac{1}{P_{\text{pump}}^{1/2}} \frac{1}{P_{\text{probe}}^{1/4}} \right) \frac{m_a}{\rho_a^{1/2}} \times \begin{cases} m_a^{1/2} \left( \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{e^{1-\epsilon} - \epsilon} \right)^{1/4} \left( \frac{1}{t_{\text{int}} \kappa_L} \right)^{1/4}, & t_{\text{int}} > (2\tau_a) \\ \kappa_L^{1/2} (1 + \epsilon^2/4)^{1/2} \left( \frac{1}{t_{\text{int}} m_a} \right)^{1/4}, & t_{\text{int}} > \tau_a \\ \kappa_L^{1/2} (1 + \epsilon^2/4)^{1/2} \left( \frac{1}{t_{\text{int}} m_a} \right)^{1/2}, & t_{\text{int}} < \tau_a \end{cases}$$

# Sensitivity and scanning

$$\text{SNR} \geq 3 \quad \rightarrow \quad g_{a\gamma\gamma} > f(m_a, \text{cavity, lasers, material})$$

Scanning: covering an extended mass range

E.g.  $\Gamma_{\text{sig}} \propto \int d\omega_2 B_{m_a}(\omega_2 + \Omega_{n_m} - \omega_{\text{pump}}) L(\omega_2 - \omega_{\text{probe}}, 2\kappa_L)$

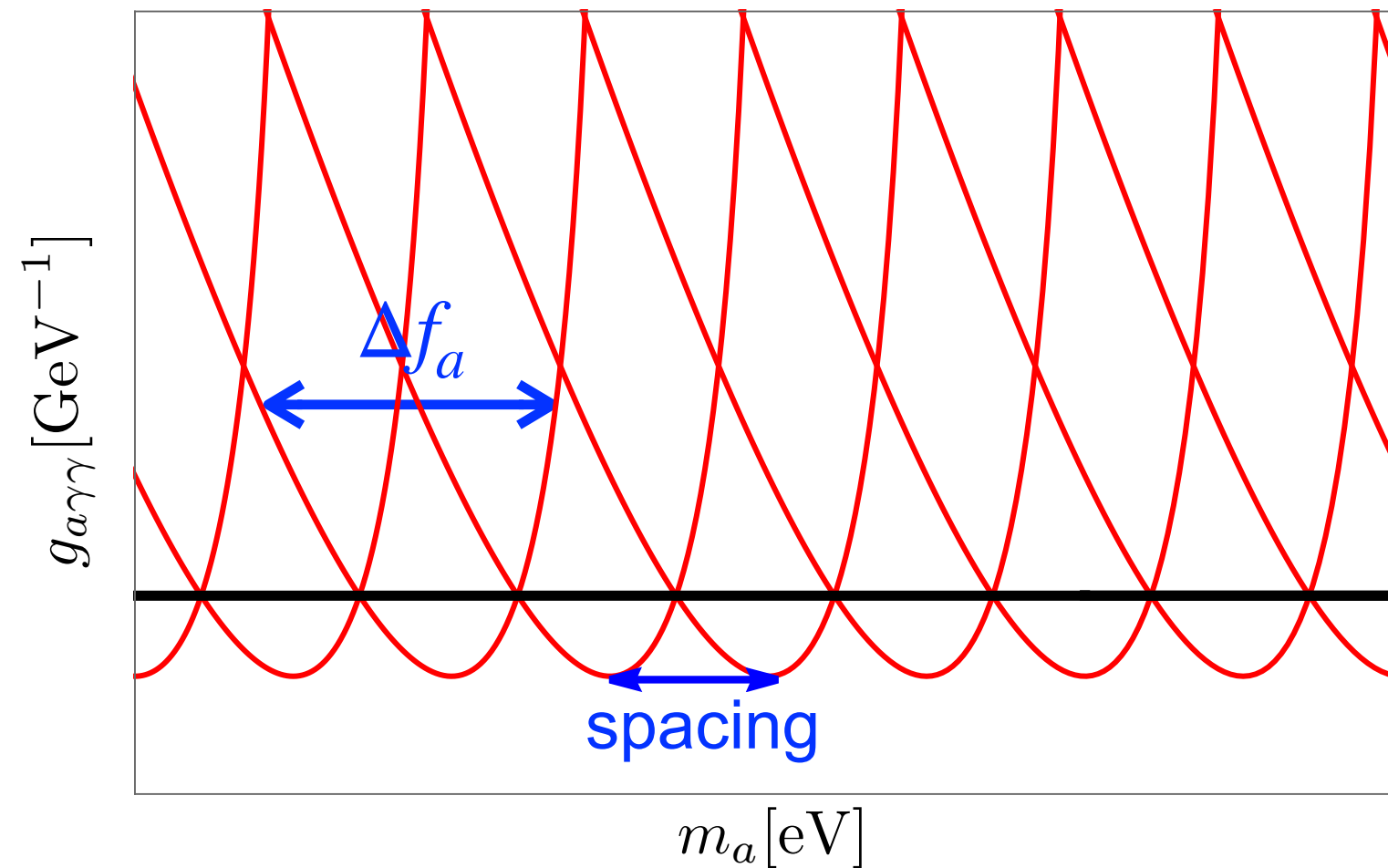
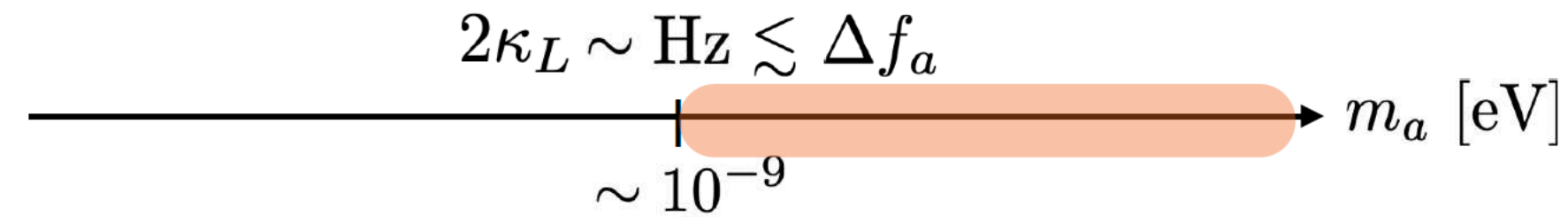


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**Boltzmann regime**

$\Gamma \propto B_{m_a}(\Delta + \Omega_m)$

spacing =  $\epsilon \left( \frac{\Delta f_a}{2} \right) = \epsilon \frac{m_a}{4\pi} v^2$

$t_{\text{int}} = 1 \text{ s} \Rightarrow \sim 1.6 \text{ oom/year}$