



WHITE DWARF COOLING: LEPTOPHILIC DARK PHOTONS

Based on [\[arXiv: 2405.00094\]](#) in collaboration with **Jaime Hoefken Zink**

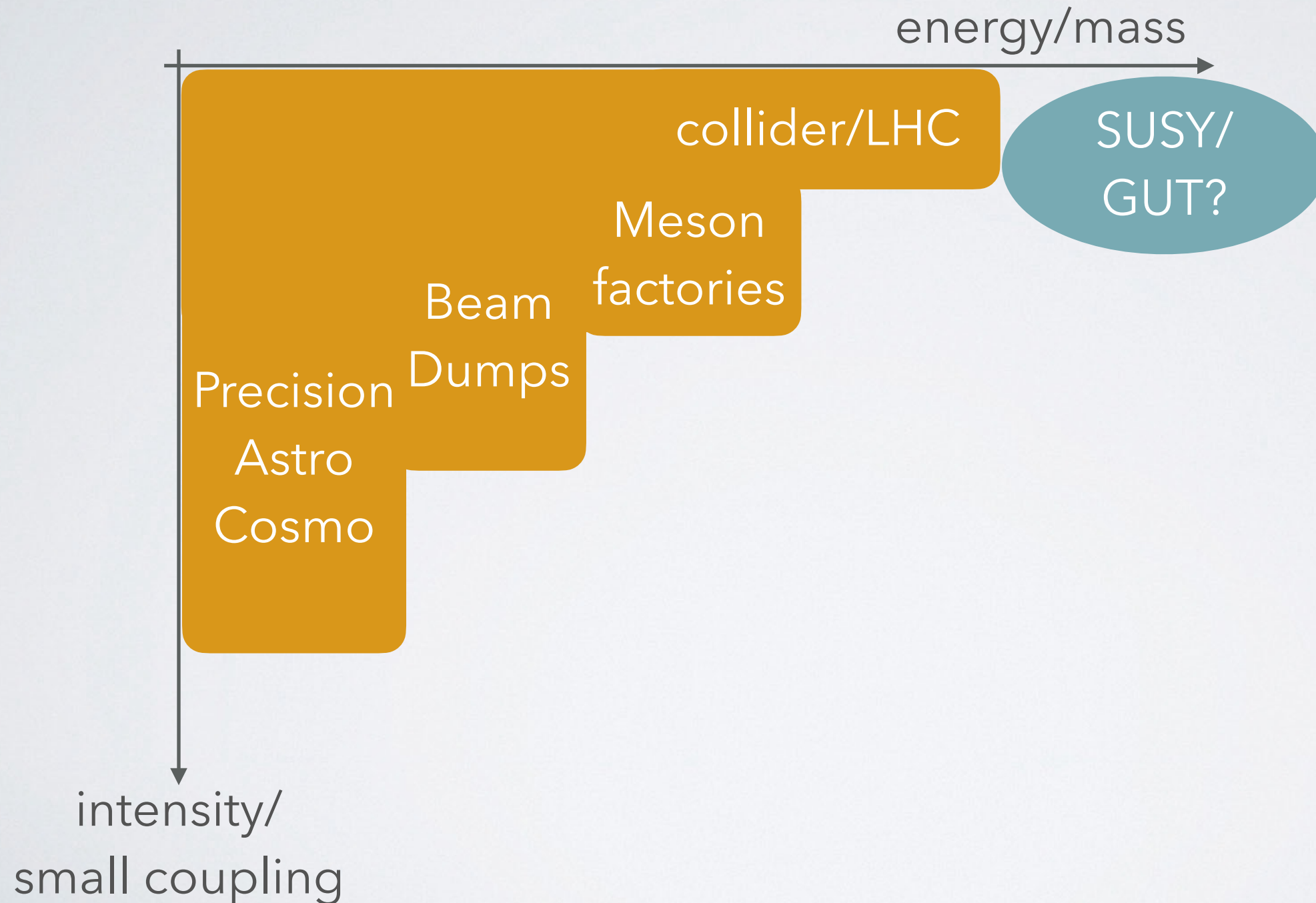
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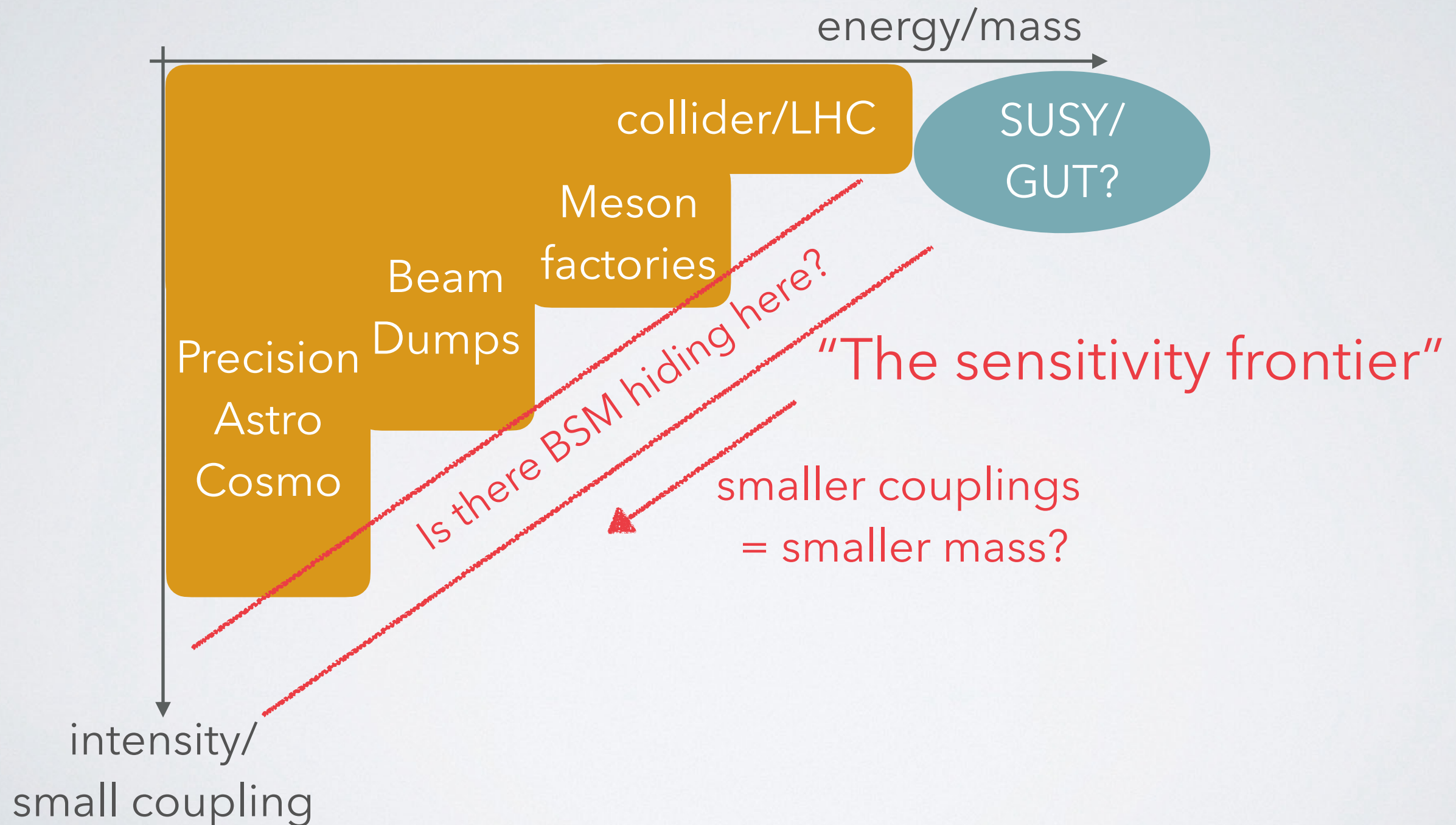
WHERE TO LOOK FOR BSM

- Many UV theories predict heavy new states with sizeable couplings (e.g. SUSY, GUTs, String Models, ...)



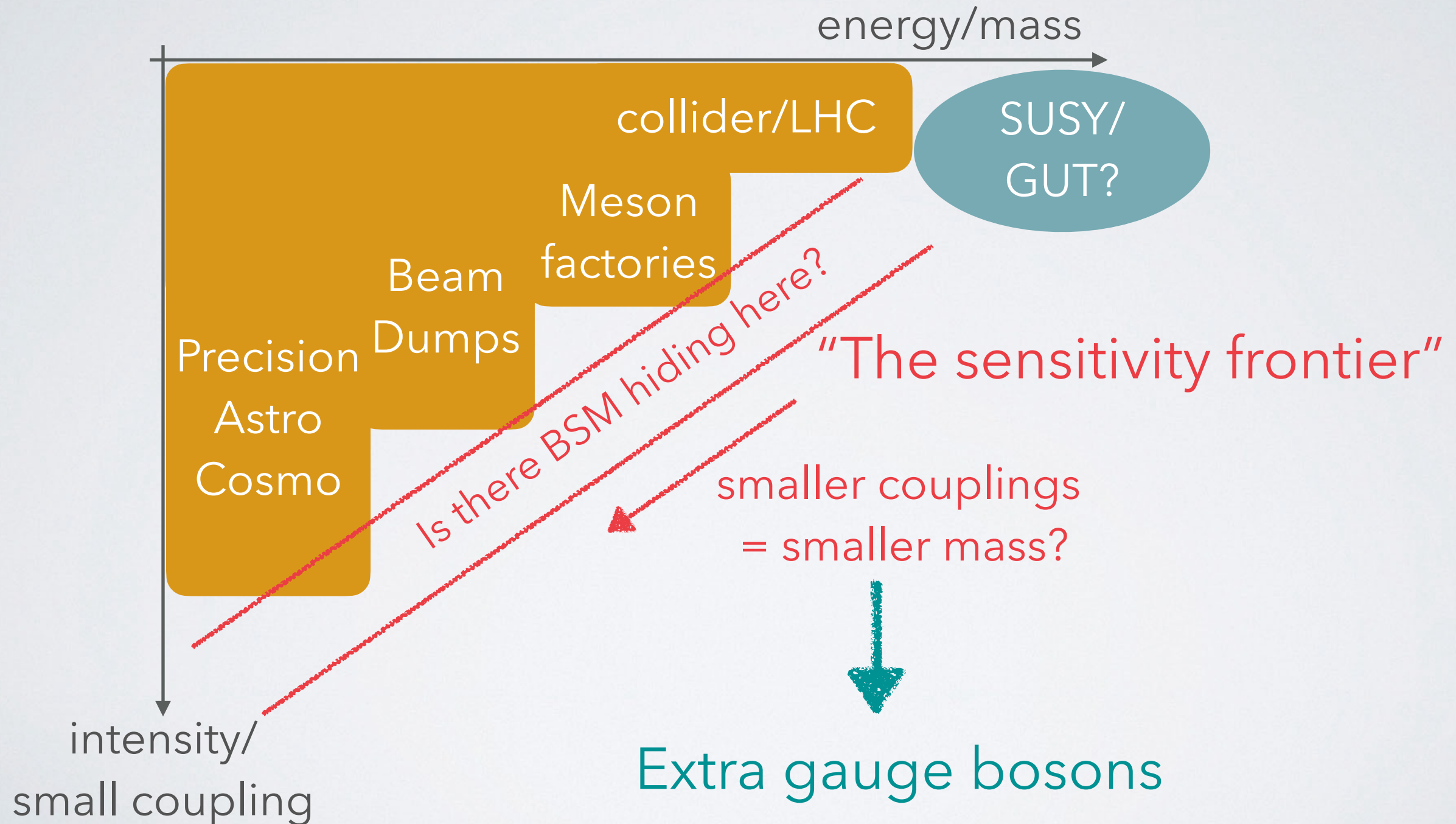
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DARK PHOTONS

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon_A}{2} F_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu}$$

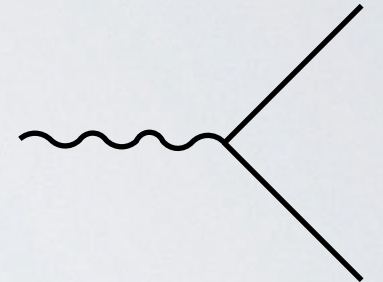
[Okun '82; Holdom '86]

- For light mediators $M_X \ll M_Z$ kinetic terms can be diagonalised by simple field redefinition:

$$A^\mu \rightarrow A^\mu - \epsilon_A X^\mu$$



$$eA_\mu J_{\text{EM}}^\mu - \epsilon_A eX_\mu J_{\text{EM}}^\mu$$



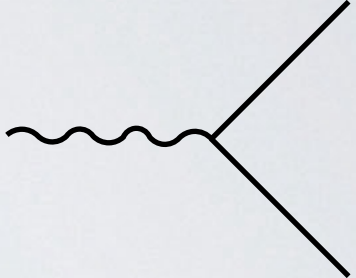
Coupling to EM current suppressed by ϵ_A , where typically $\epsilon_A \propto g_x/16\pi^2$

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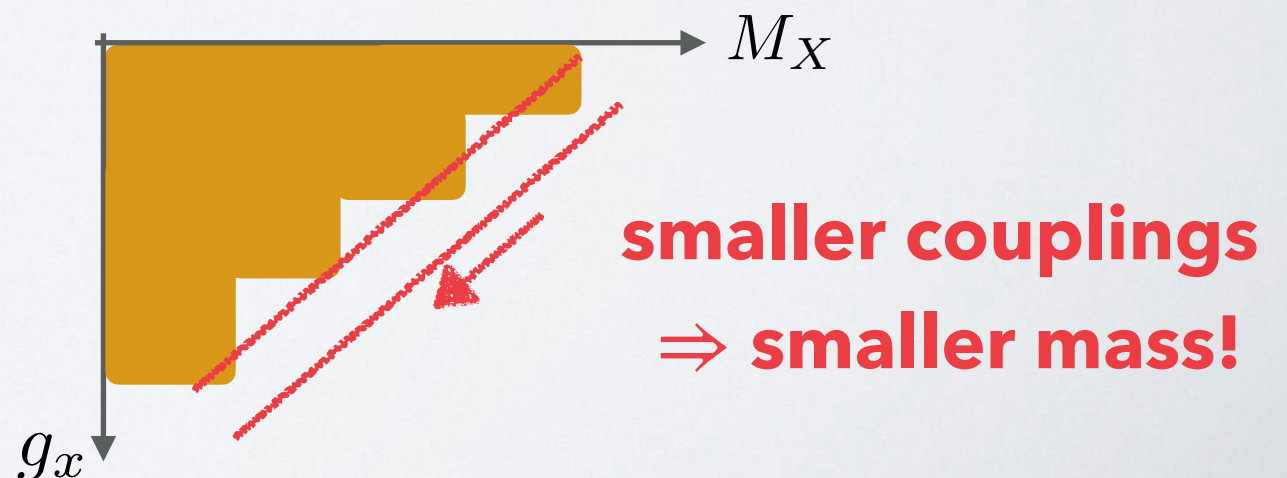
$$A^\mu \rightarrow A^\mu - \epsilon_A X^\mu \quad \longrightarrow \quad eA_\mu J_{\text{EM}}^\mu - \epsilon_A e X_\mu J_{\text{EM}}^\mu$$


Coupling to EM current suppressed by ϵ_A , where typically $\epsilon_A \propto g_x/16\pi^2$

- If $U(1)_X$ is broken by VEV f of scalar, mass is related to coupling:

$$\mathcal{L} = (D_\mu S)^\dagger D^\mu S \supset g_x^2 f^2 X_\mu X^\mu$$

$$\Rightarrow M_X = g_x f$$



BEYOND THE MINIMAL

- SM fields can be charged under new $U(1)_X$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = -g_x J_X^\mu X_\mu \quad J_X^\mu = \sum_{\psi} \bar{\psi} Q_\psi \gamma^\mu \psi \quad \psi = Q, L, u, d, \ell, \nu$$

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- SM Lagrangian has accidental global symmetries $U(1)_B, U(1)_{L_e}, U(1)_{L_\mu}, U(1)_{L_\tau}$.

- Four independent anomaly-free combinations:

$$B - L$$

charging
quarks &
leptons

$$L_\mu - L_e$$

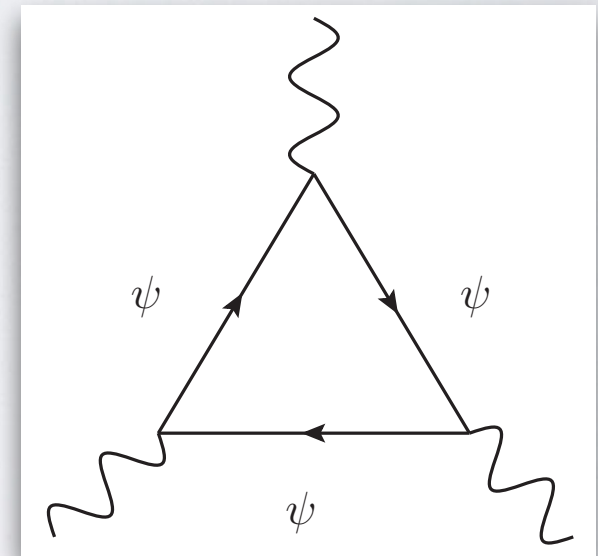
charging 1st &
2nd generation
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$$L_e - L_\tau$$

charging 1st &
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$$L_\mu - L_\tau$$

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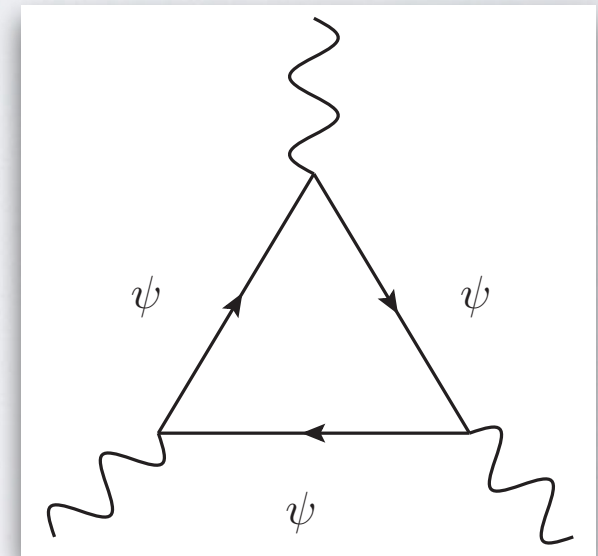
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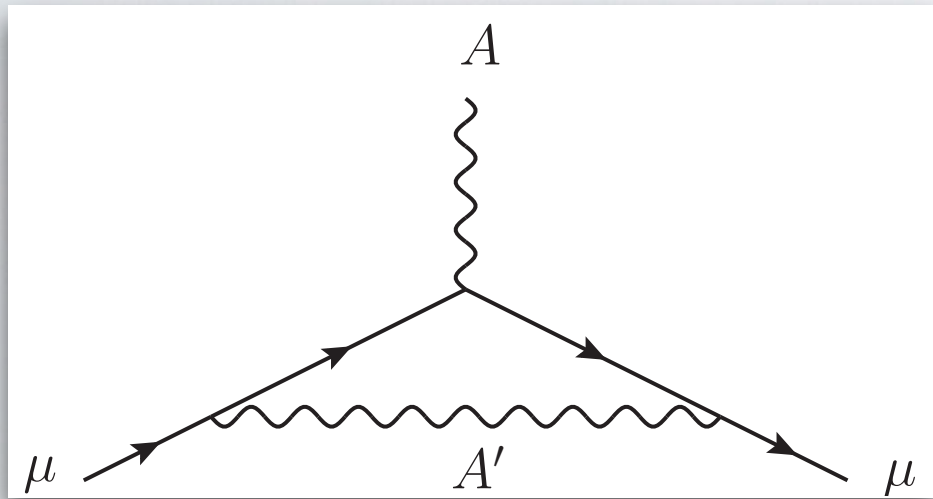


What can these do for us?

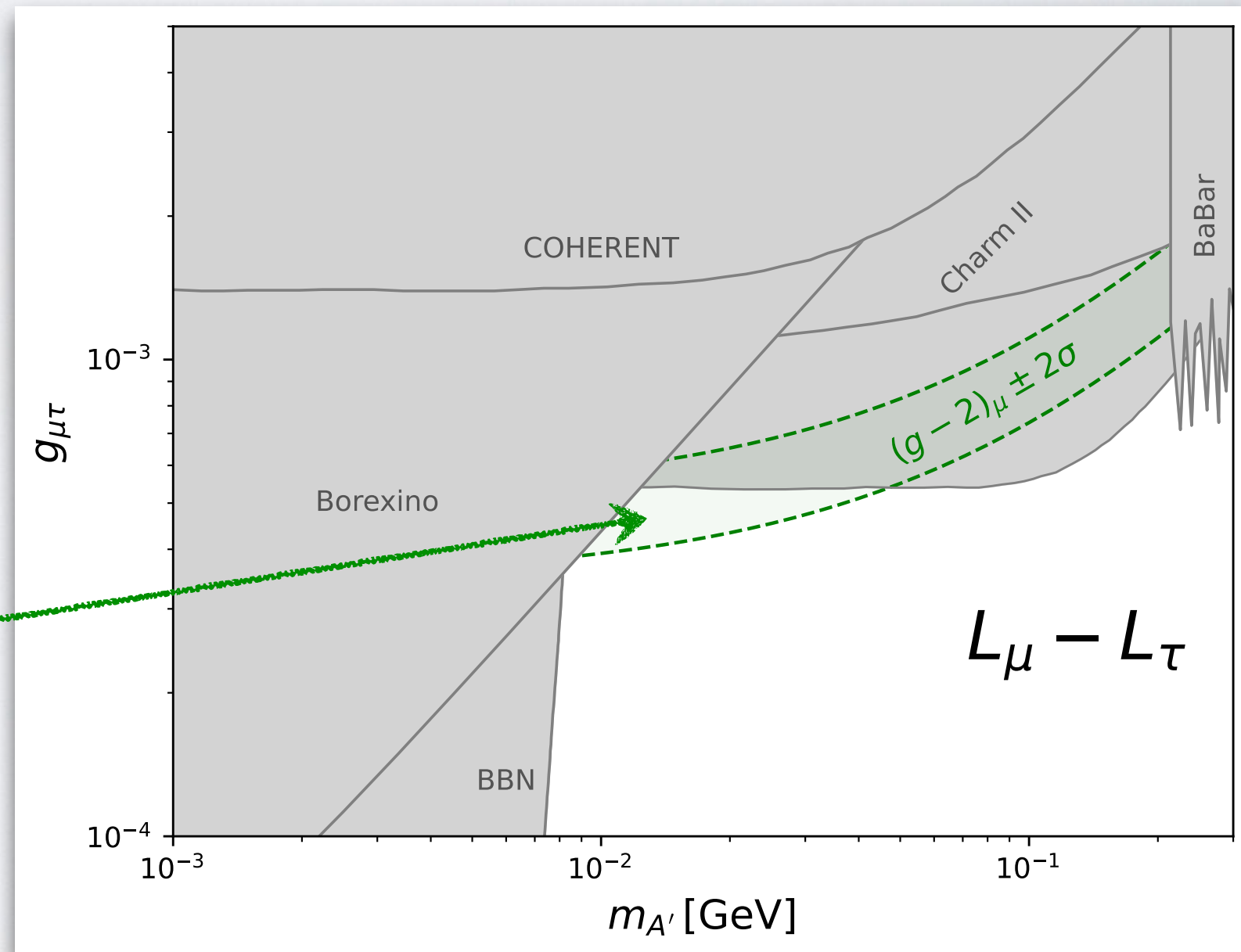
ANOMALOUS MAGNETIC MOMENT

- Muon-philic vectors contribute to $(g - 2)_\mu$ at one-loop level

$$\Delta a_\mu = \frac{g_\mu^2}{4\pi^2} \int_0^1 du \frac{u^2(1-u)}{u^2 + \frac{(1-u)}{x_\mu^2}}, \quad \text{where } x_\mu = m_\mu/M_{A'}$$

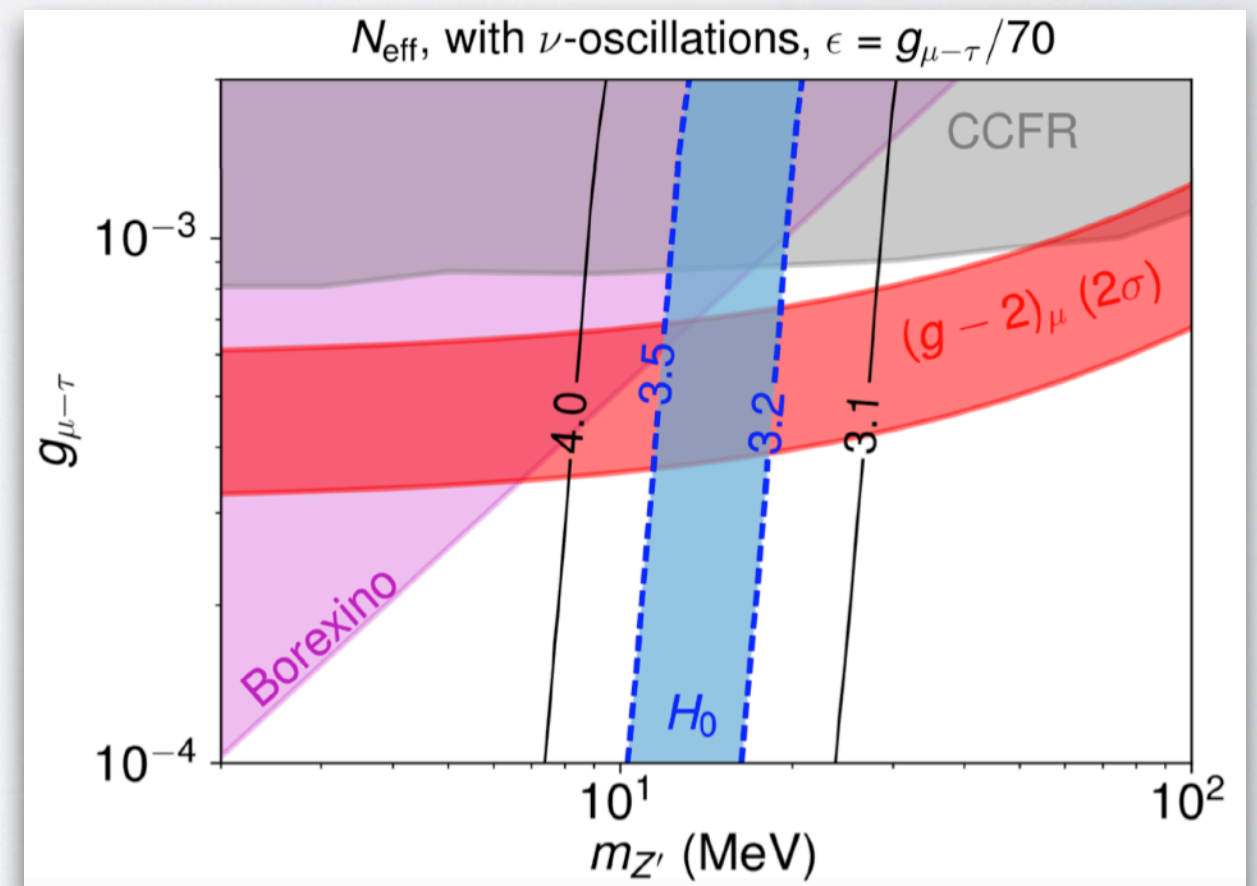
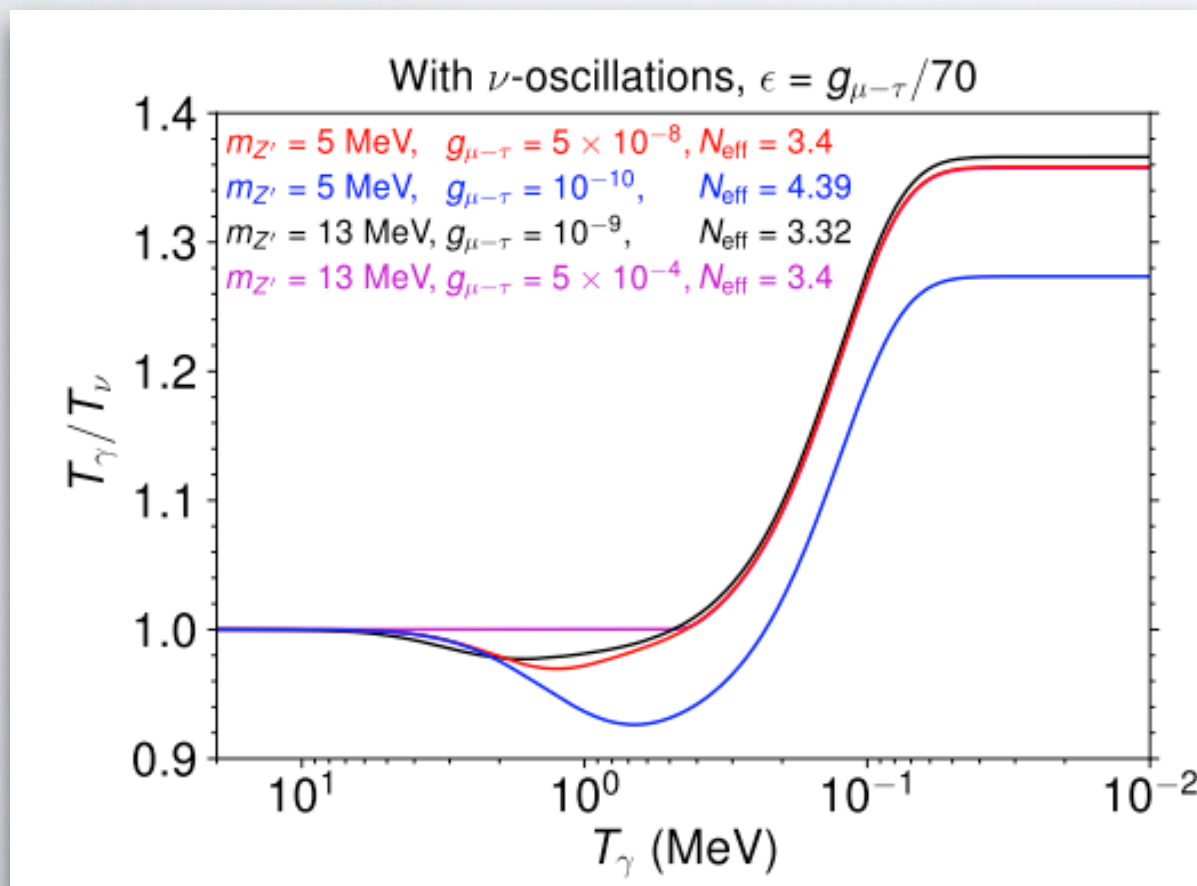
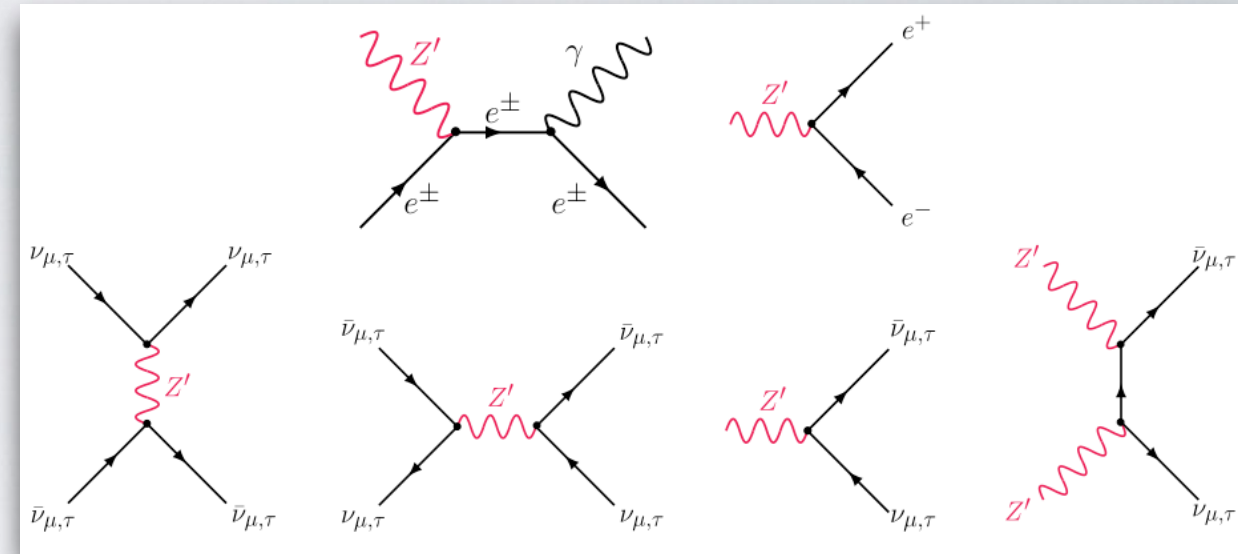


- In $U(1)_{L_\mu - L_\tau}$ this can still explain anomaly



NEUTRINOS AND HUBBLE

- Decay of A' heats neutrino gas and delays the decoupling
 \Rightarrow increase of N_{eff} at early times
- Leads to larger H_0



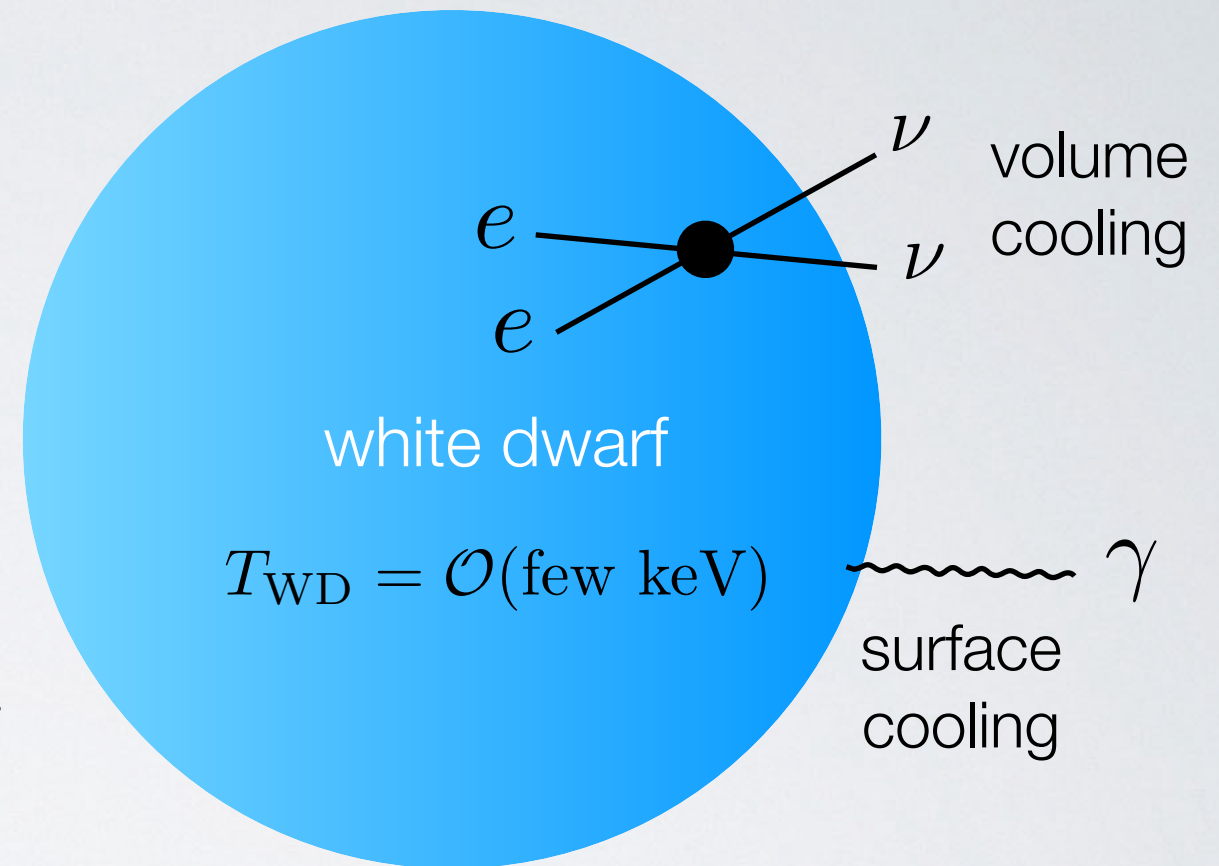
Where could these explanations be tested??

WHITE DWARF COOLING



WHITE DWARFS

- WDs formed after normal star has exhausted fuel
- Only hot dense core of C and O
- Core supported by electron degeneracy pressure
Mass of the sun, radius of the earth!
→ Very dense: $\sim 10^6 \text{ kg/m}^3$
(solar core $\sim 10^5 \text{ kg/m}^3$)

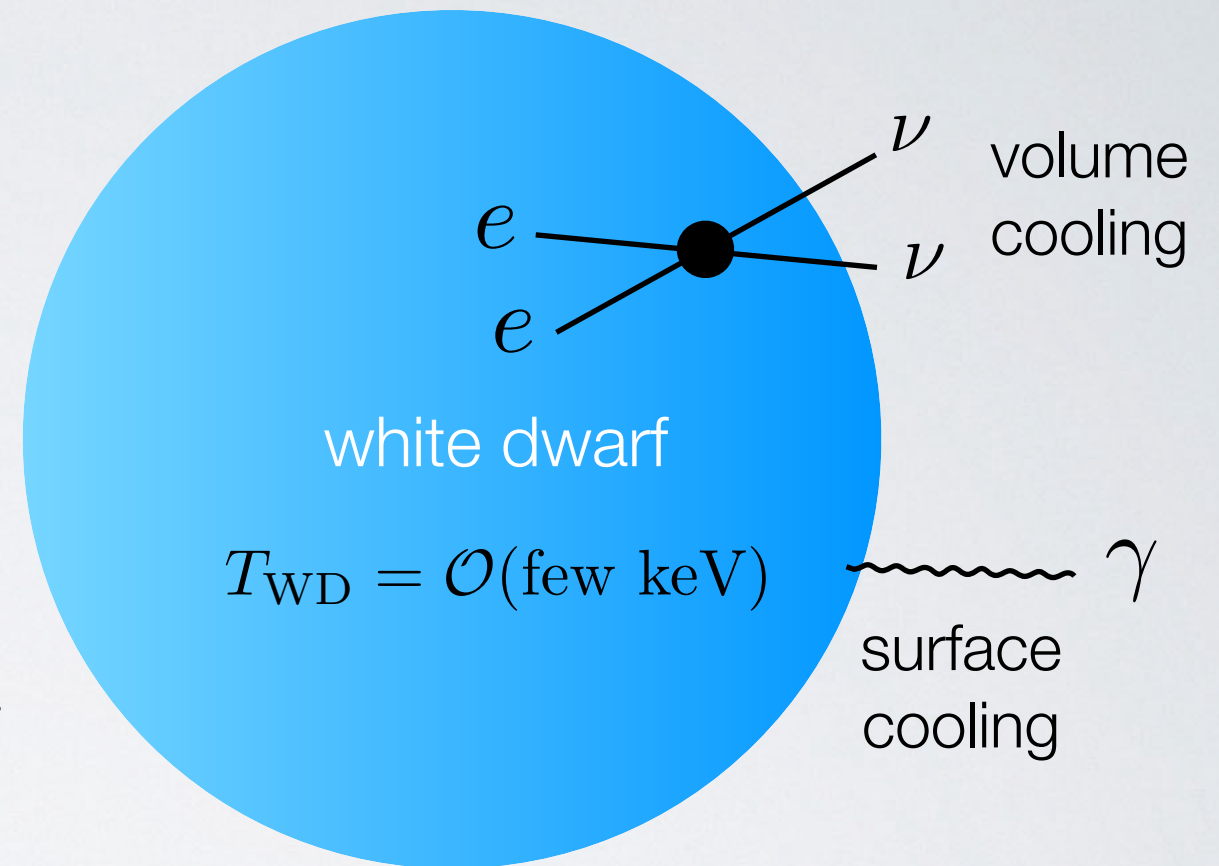


- Star cools down over billions of years via photons and neutrinos:

$$\frac{dT_{WD}}{dt} = - \frac{L_{\gamma}}{4\pi R_{WD}\sigma_{SB}T_{WD}} - \frac{L_{\nu}}{4\pi R_{WD}\sigma_{SB}T_{WD}}$$

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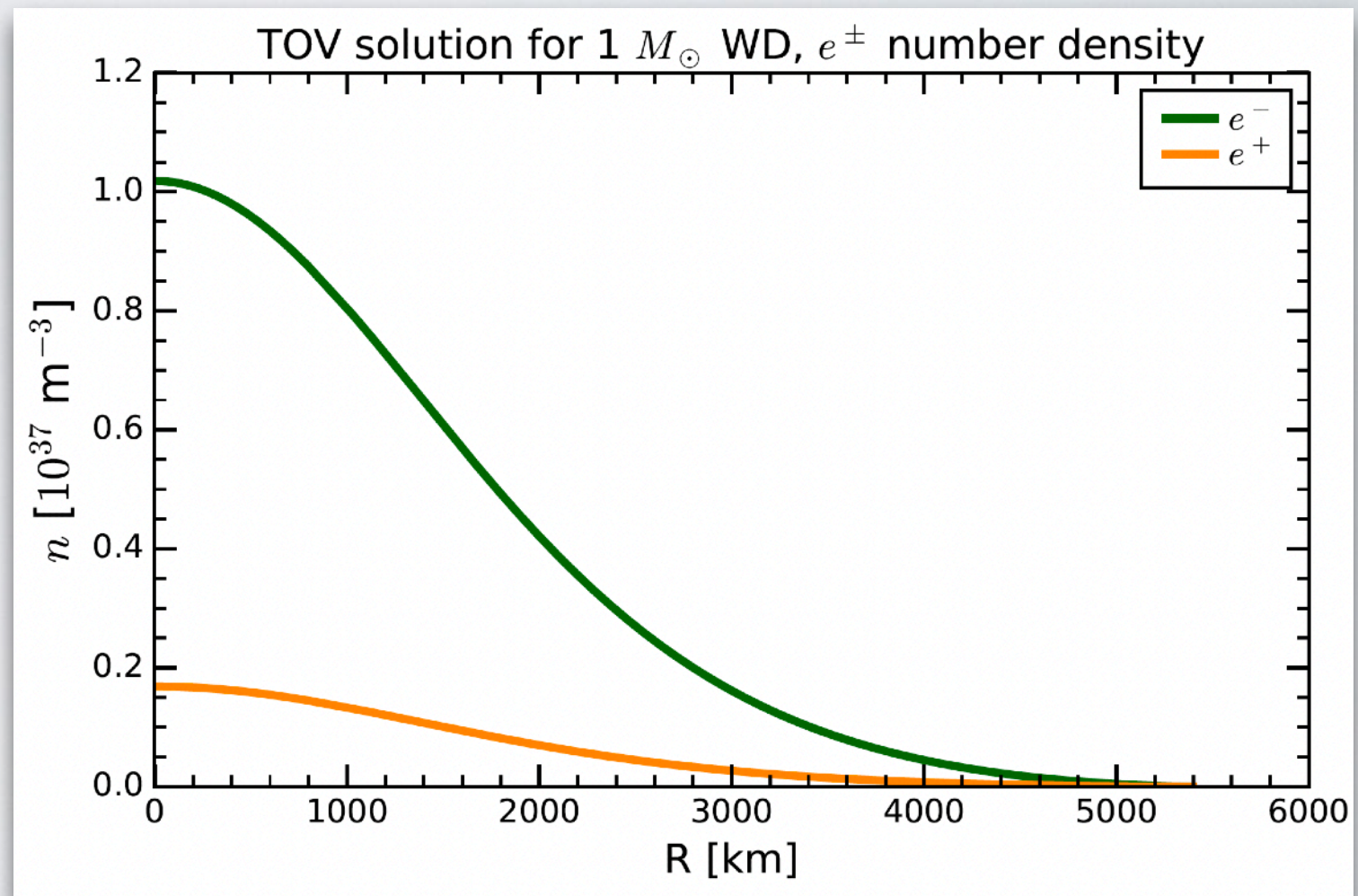
$$\frac{dT_{WD}}{dt} = - \frac{L_{\gamma} \leftarrow \text{COLD}}{4\pi R_{WD} \sigma_{SB} T_{WD}} - \frac{L_{\nu} \leftarrow \text{HOT}}{4\pi R_{WD} \sigma_{SB} T_{WD}}$$

EQUATION OF STATE

- **EoS of White Dwarfs well-known:**
- Salpeter EoS: degenerate ideal gas + corrections (non-uniformity, Coulomb potential, ...)
[Salpeter; *Astrophys. J.* 134, 669 (1961)]
- **Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff (TOV) equations:** solving the Einstein field equations in Schwarzschild metric with fluid

$$\frac{dp(r)}{dr} = -G \frac{\epsilon(r) + p(r)}{r(r - 2G m(r))} [m(r) + 4\pi p(r) r^3]$$

$$\frac{dm(r)}{dr} = 4\pi \epsilon(r) r^2$$



Extract density profiles

[Tolman, *Phys. Rev.*, 55, 364 (1939)]

[Oppenheimer & Volkoff, *Phys. Rev.*, 55, 374 (1939)]

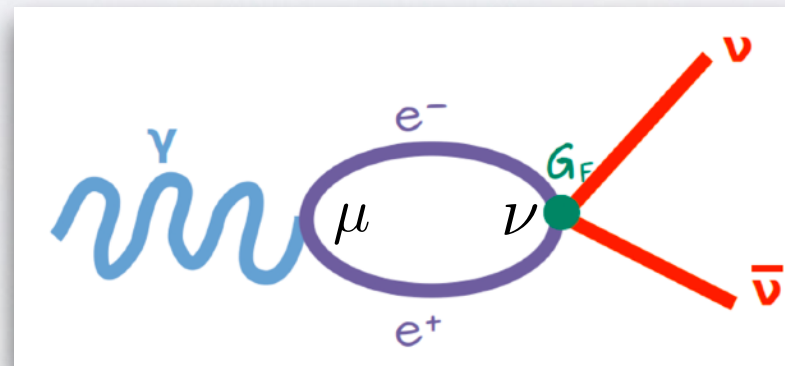
[Mathew & Nandy, *Res. Astron. Astrophys.* **17** 061]

PLASMON DECAY

- Early WD cooling via “on-shell” photon decay in plasma into neutrinos



- Since in WDs the typical $q^2 \ll M_W^2, M_Z^2$ we can compute this as



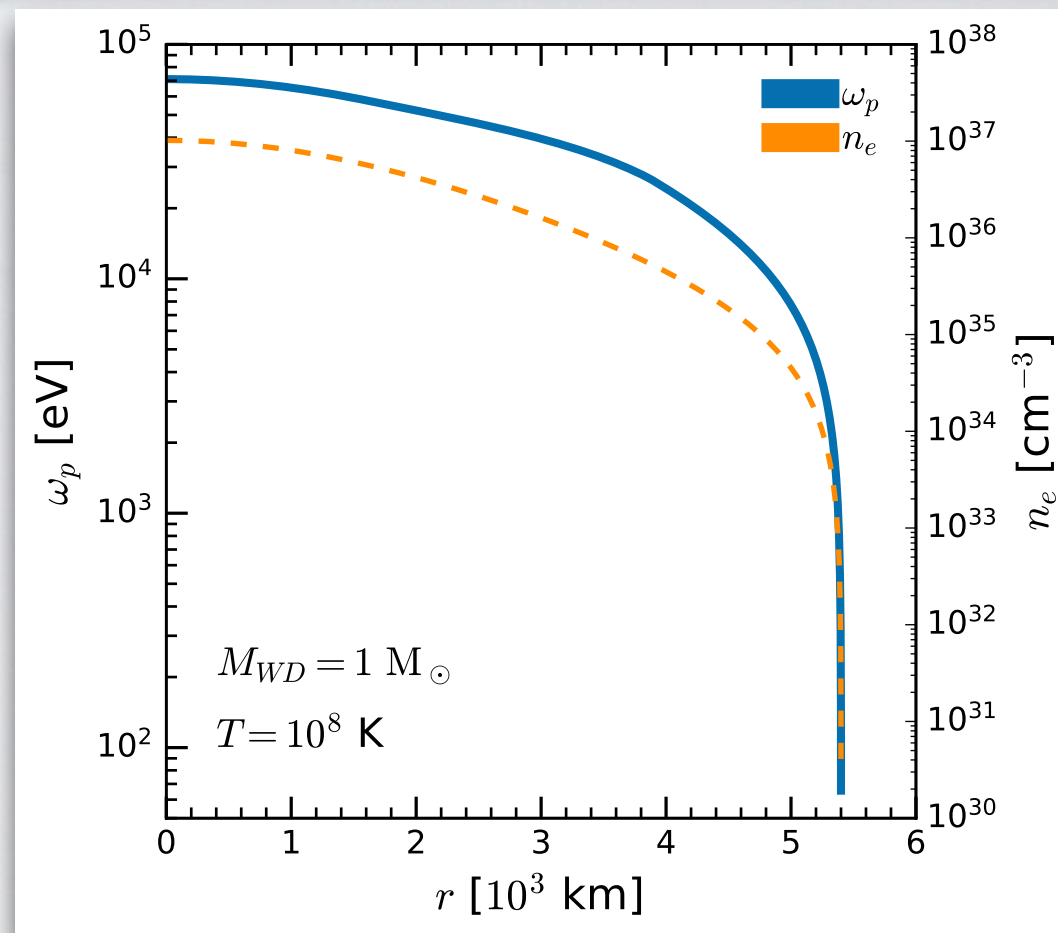
$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\Gamma_{\lambda}^{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_{\mu}(\mathbf{q}, \lambda) \right) \bar{u}(p_1) \gamma_{\nu} (1 - \gamma_5) u(p_2)$$

with effective vertex $\Gamma_{\lambda}^{\mu\nu}$ for each photon polarization with couplings C_V^{SM}, C_A^{SM}

WD NEUTRINO LUMINOSITY

- **Plasmon decay width** in terms of effective vertex $\Gamma_\lambda^{\mu\nu}$ and **plasmon frequencies** $\omega_\lambda(q)$.

$$\Gamma_\lambda(q) = -\frac{G_F^2}{12\pi} \frac{\omega_\lambda(q)^2 - q^2}{\omega_\lambda(q)} (\Gamma_\lambda^{\alpha\mu} \varepsilon_\mu(q, \lambda)) (\Gamma_{\alpha\rho}^\lambda \varepsilon^\rho(q, \lambda))^*$$

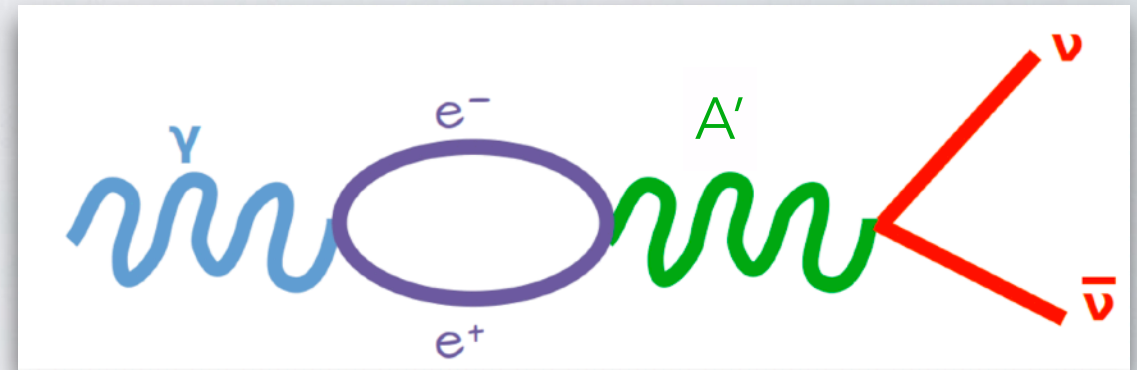


- **Neutrino emissivity & total luminosity:**

$$Q_\lambda \equiv \int d^3\vec{q} \Gamma_\lambda(q) \omega_\lambda(q) n_B(\omega_\lambda(q), T) \quad L_\nu = 4\pi \int_0^{R_{WD}} \sum_\lambda Q_\lambda(r) r^2 dr$$

PLASMON DECAY - DARK PHOTONS

- Leptophilic dark photons contribute



- Since **dark photon couples to plasma electrons** have to compute full thermal propagator (Dyson sum)

$$D_{A'}^{\mu\nu} = \text{[Diagrammatic Dyson sum: } A' \text{ wavy line} + \text{[Loop with } e^+, e^- \text{]} + \text{[Two loops with } e^+, e^- \text{]} + \dots \text{]} \quad \text{Thermal loops!}$$

$$= \frac{-i(g^{\mu\nu} - q^\mu q^\nu / m_{A'}^2)}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2} + \frac{-i(g_\lambda^\mu - q^\mu q_\lambda / m_{A'}^2)}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2} (i \Pi_{A'}^{\lambda\sigma}) \frac{-i(g_\sigma^\nu - q_\sigma q^\nu / m_{A'}^2)}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2} + \dots$$

$$= \frac{-i g^{\mu\lambda}}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2 - F_{A'}} P_{L\lambda}^\nu + \frac{-i g^{\mu\lambda}}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2 - G_{A'}} P_{T\lambda}^\nu$$

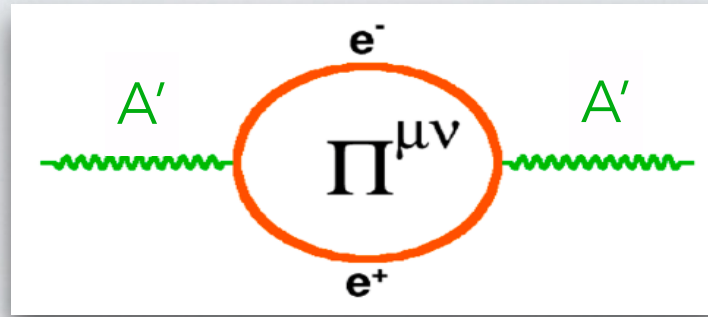
Longitudinal & transverse components

with

$$F_{A'} = \frac{q^2}{q^2} \Pi_{A'}^{00}$$

$$G_{A'} = \Pi_{A'}^{xx}$$

DARK PHOTON SELF ENERGY



- Evaluate A' self-energy in **thermal background** — a **beast!**

$$\Pi_{A'}^{\mu\nu}(q) = -\epsilon_A^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{tr}[\gamma^\mu(\not{k} + m_e)\gamma^\nu(\not{q} - \not{k} - m_e)]$$

$$\times \left\{ \frac{i}{k^2 - m_e^2} - 2\pi [\theta(-k^0) + \text{sign}(k^0) \tilde{f}(k^0 - \mu)] \delta(k^2 - m_e^2) \right\}$$

$$\times \left\{ \frac{i}{(q-k)^2 - m_e^2} - 2\pi [\theta(-q^0 + k^0) + \text{sign}(q^0 - k^0) \tilde{f}(q^0 - k^0 + \mu)] \delta((q-k)^2 - m_e^2) \right\}$$



with $\tilde{f}(x) = (1 + e^{\beta x})^{-1}$

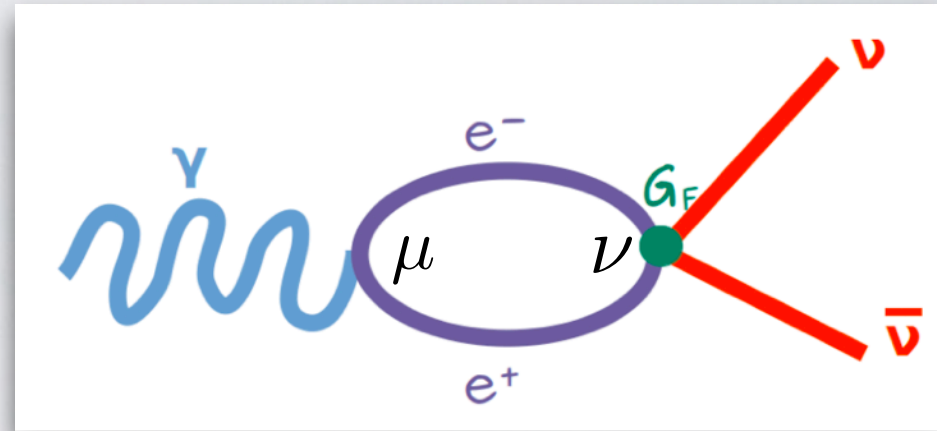
Thermal fermion propagators

- But, this is essentially the plasmon self-energy: $\epsilon_A^2 \times \Pi_\gamma^{\mu\nu}$!

Identify $F_{A'} = \frac{q^2}{q^2} \Pi_{A'}^{00} = \epsilon_A^2 \frac{q^2}{q^2} \Pi_L^\gamma$ $G_{A'} = \Pi_{A'}^{xx} = \epsilon_A^2 \Pi_T^\gamma$ with known results!

PLASMON DECAY - DARK PHOTONS

- Repeat computation as before



but shifting the couplings by the A' coupling and full propagator:

$$C_{V,L}(q) \rightarrow C_V^{SM} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 G_F} \frac{e \epsilon_A g_x Q_{\nu_\alpha}}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2 - F_{A'}} \longleftarrow \Pi_L^\gamma$$

$$C_{V,T}(q) \rightarrow C_V^{SM} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 G_F} \frac{e \epsilon_A g_x Q_{\nu_\alpha}}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2 - G_{A'}} \longleftarrow \Pi_T^\gamma$$

$$C_A(q) \rightarrow C_A^{SM} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{16 G_F} \frac{\tan^2 \theta_W e \epsilon_A g_x Q_{\nu_\alpha}}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2 - G_{A'}} \longleftarrow \Pi_T^\gamma$$

THREE REGIMES

- **Heavy regime** ($m_{A'} \gg T, \omega_P$)

$$\frac{1}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2} \sim \frac{-1}{m_{A'}^2}$$

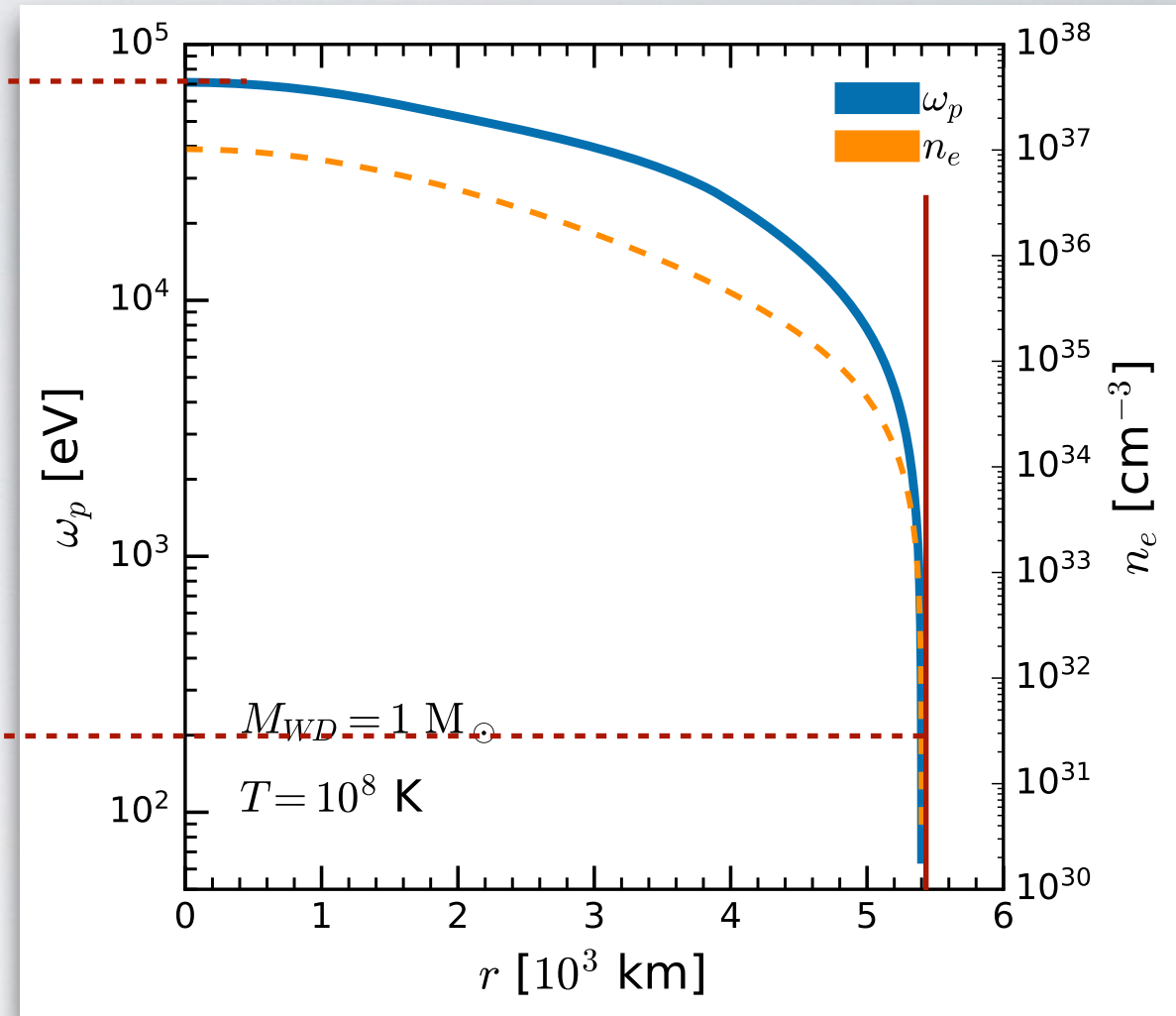
- **Ultra-light regime** ($m_{A'} \ll T, \omega_P$):

$$\frac{1}{q^2 - m_{A'}^2} \sim \frac{1}{q^2} \quad \text{Mass independent!}$$

- **Resonant regime** ($m_{A'} \sim T, \omega_P$):

- dark photon goes on resonance w/ plasma frequency $\omega_P(r)$!
- regulate pole via *Breit-Wigner propagator*!

100 keV



200 eV

$M_{WD} = 1 M_{\odot}$

$T = 10^8 \text{ K}$

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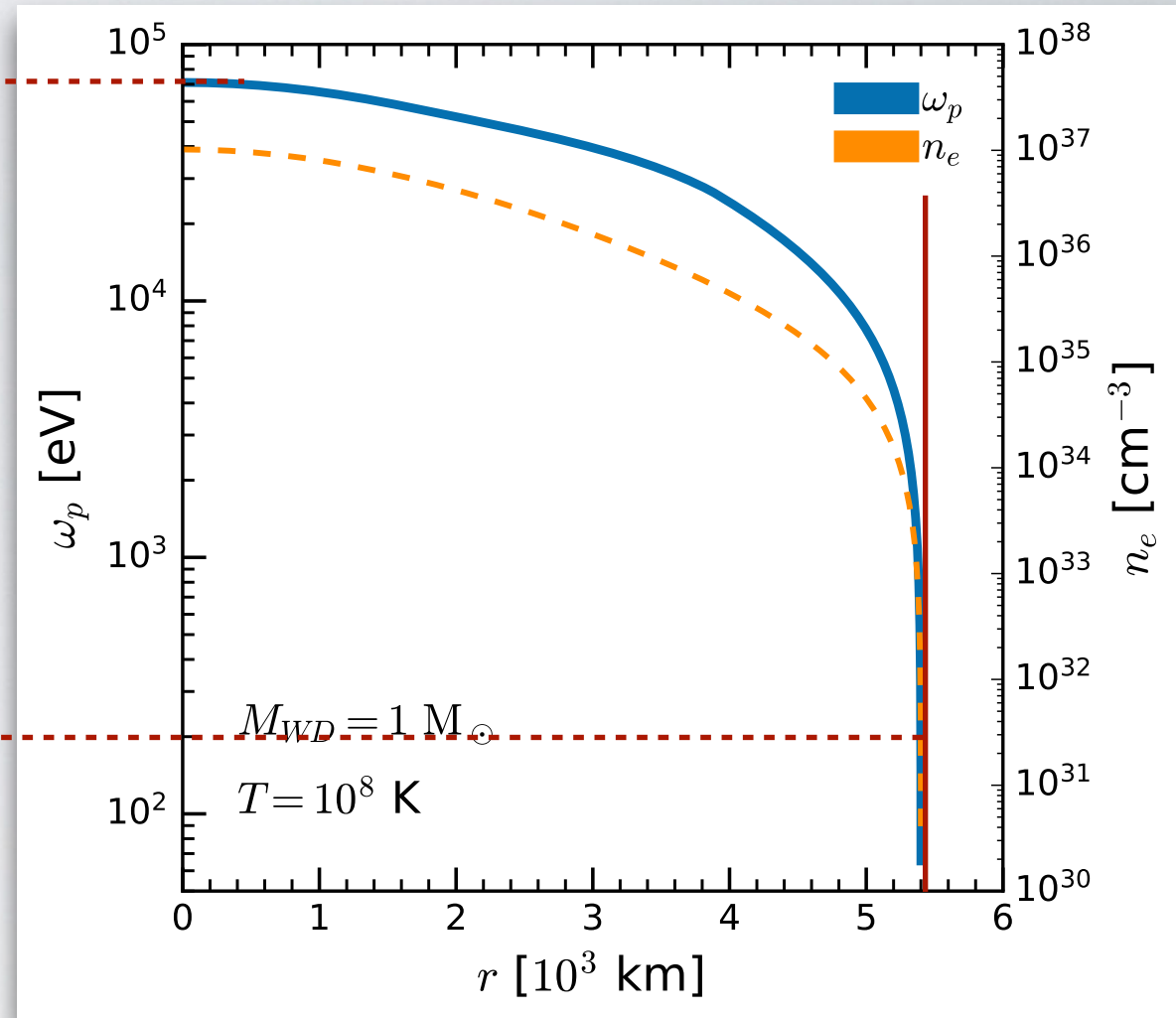
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$$G_{\text{BW}}^{\mu\nu}(q^2) = \frac{-i(g^{\mu\lambda} - q^\mu q^\lambda / m^2)}{q^2 - m^2 - \text{Re}(F) - i \text{Im}(F)} P_{L\lambda}^\nu + \frac{-i(g^{\mu\lambda} - q^\mu q^\lambda / m^2)}{q^2 - m^2 - \text{Re}(G) - i \text{Im}(G)} P_{T\lambda}^\nu$$

100 keV



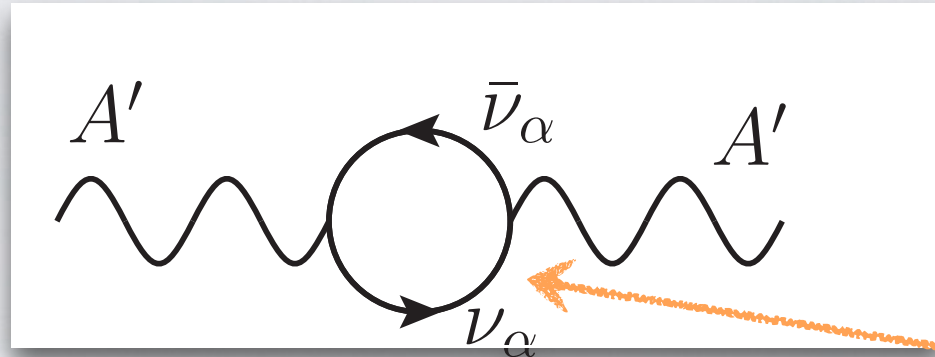
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BREIT WIGNER REGULATOR

- Compute the imaginary part of dark photon self-energy
 → In resonant region only due to neutrinos



Neutrinos are non-thermal!

- We find the typical relation

$$\bar{\Pi}_{A'}^{\mu\nu}(q^2) = -\frac{(k_\nu^\alpha)^2}{4\pi^2} q^2 g^{\mu\nu} \int_0^1 dx x (1-x) \log\left(\frac{m_\alpha^2}{m_\alpha^2 - x(1-x)q^2}\right)$$

- So the regulators

$$\text{Im}(\bar{\Pi}_{A'}^{\mu\nu})(q^2) = \frac{(k_\nu^\alpha)^2}{24\pi} \frac{(\omega_l^2 - q^2)^2}{q^2} P_L^{\mu\nu} - \frac{(k_\nu^\alpha)^2}{24\pi} (\omega_t^2 - q^2) P_T^{\mu\nu}$$

$\text{Im}(F)$

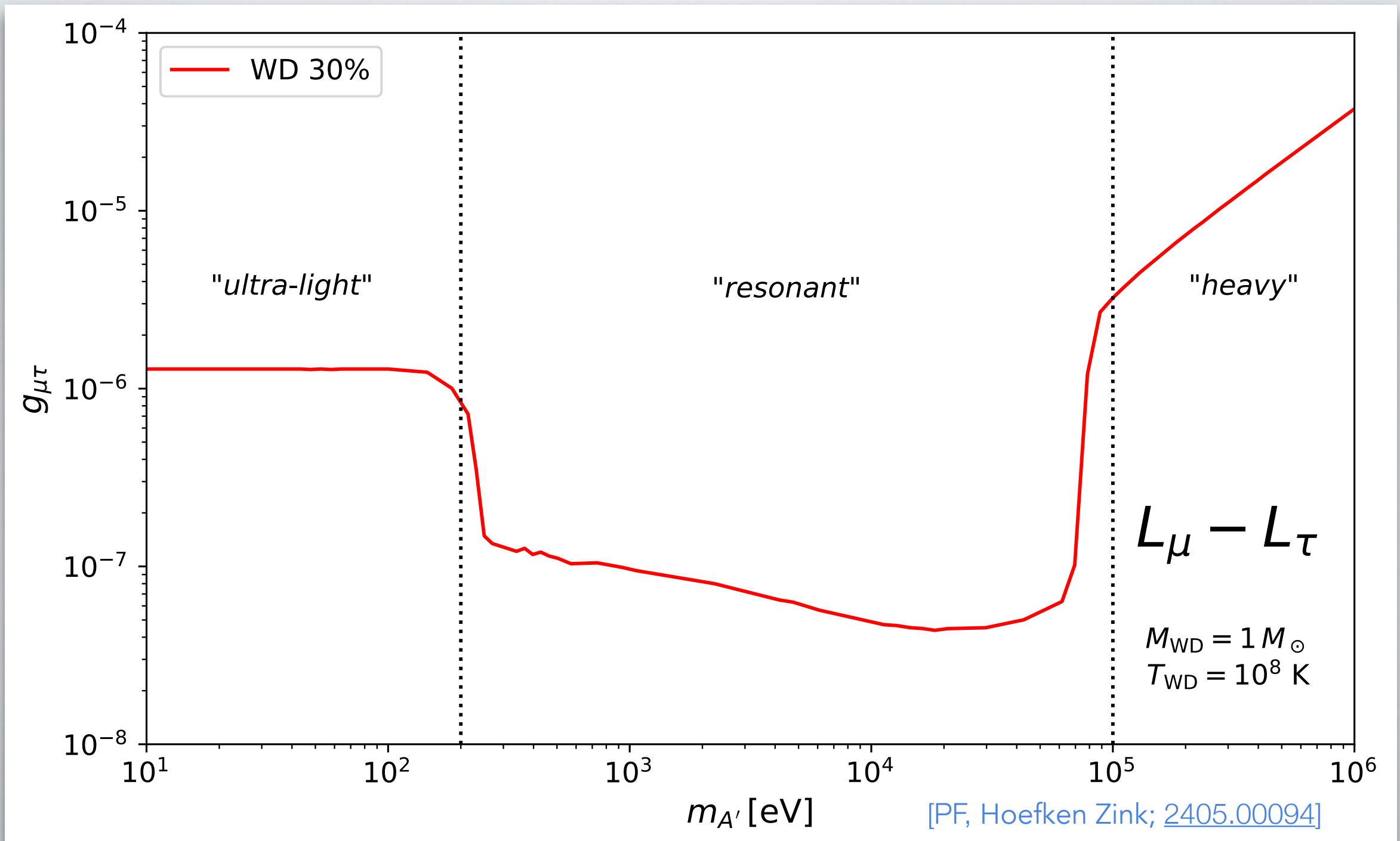
$\text{Im}(G)$

WD COOLING SENSITIVITIES

- Fraction of extra cooling $\epsilon^{\text{BSM}} = L_{\nu}^{\text{BSM}}/L_{\nu}^{\text{SM}} - 1$
- Existing bounds at 70% extra cooling @ 95% CL

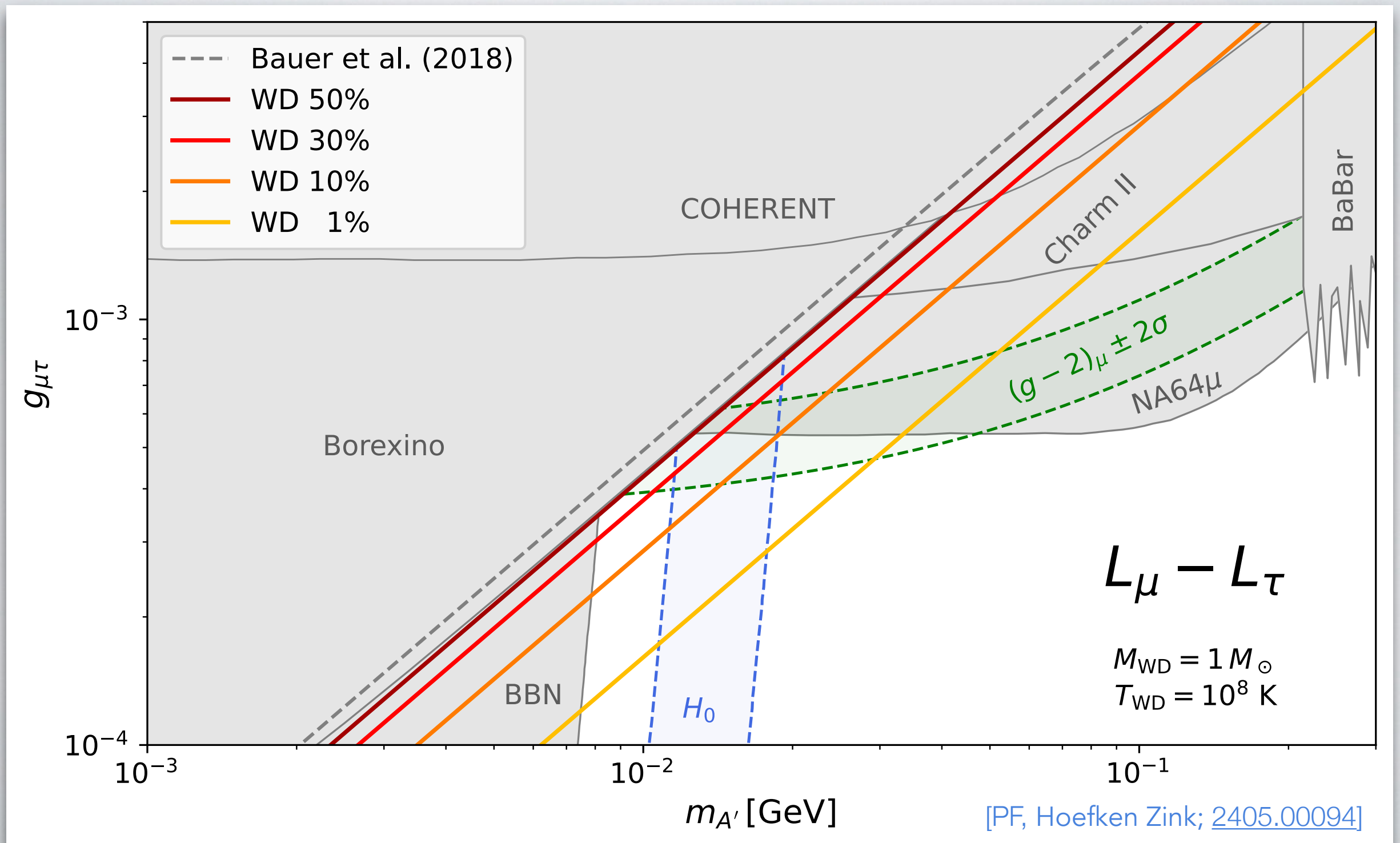
[Hansen et al., *Astrophys. J.* 809 (2015) no. 2, 141]

Finally some plots!



WD COOLING & $(g - 2)_\mu$

- Sensitivity to unprobed parameter space at 50% sensitivity or better



CONCLUSIONS

- Neutrino cooling of White Dwarfs is sensitive laboratory for (light) leptophilic mediators
- **Full computation of A' induced plasmon decay in resonant domain**
- Already at current sensitivities WD cooling excludes unconstrained parameter space of $U(1)_{L_\mu-L_\tau}$
- **Improved measurements of hot WD neutrino luminosity function can exclude $(g-2)_\mu$ explanation within $U(1)_{L_\mu-L_\tau}$!**
- For all the fun details ask me and check out our paper :)

[\[arXiv:2405.00094\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.00094)

MUITO OBRIGADO!

BACKUP

PLASMON PROPAGATOR

- Photon in plasma is on-shell with plasmon frequencies $\omega_\lambda(q)$
- Can extract field strength normalisations $Z_l(q)$ & $Z_t(q)$

Longitudinal: $D^{00} = \frac{1}{q^2 - \Pi_L(Q)}$

$$\lim_{q_0 \rightarrow \omega_l(q)} D^{00} = \frac{\omega_l^2(q)}{q^2} \frac{Z_l(q)}{q_0^2 - \omega_l(q)^2}$$

Transverse: $D^{xx} = \frac{1}{q_0^2 - q^2 - \Pi_T(Q)}$

$$\lim_{q_0 \rightarrow \omega_t(q)} D^{xx} = \frac{Z_t(q)}{q_0^2 - \omega_t(q)^2}$$

Solution

$$Z_l(q) = \frac{q^2}{\omega_l(q)^2} \left[-\frac{\partial \Pi_L}{\partial q_0^2} (\omega_l(q), q) \right]^{-1}$$

$$Z_t(q) = \left[1 - \frac{\partial \Pi_T}{\partial q_0^2} (\omega_t(q), q) \right]^{-1}$$

PLASMON PROPAGATOR

The residue of a pole in q_0^2 of $D^{\mu\nu}(q_0, q)$ can be identified with $\varepsilon^\mu(q)\varepsilon^\nu(q)^*$. So we have:

$$\text{Res}D^{00} = \text{Res}\left(\frac{\omega_l(q)^2}{q^2} \frac{Z_l(q)}{q_0^2 - \omega_l(q)^2}\right) = \frac{\omega_l(q)^2}{q^2} Z_l(q)$$

$$\text{Res}D^{xx} = \text{Res}\left(\frac{Z_t(q)}{q_0^2 - \omega_t(q)^2}\right) = Z_t(q)$$

From these expressions, we can find the polarization 4-vectors:

$$\varepsilon^\mu(q, \lambda = 0) = \frac{\omega_l(q)}{q} \sqrt{Z_l(q)} (1, 0)^\mu$$

$$\varepsilon^\mu(q, \lambda = \pm 1) = \sqrt{Z_t(q)} (0, \varepsilon_\pm(q))^\mu$$

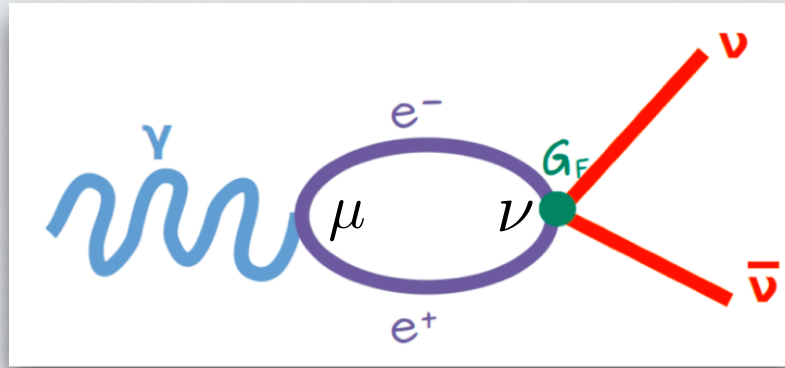
[J. Hoefken Zink]

- Obtain dispersion relations

$$\omega_l(q)^2 = \frac{\omega_l(q)^2}{q^2} \Pi_L(\omega_l(q), q)$$

$$\omega_t(q)^2 = q^2 + \Pi_T(\omega_t(q), q)$$

PLASMON DECAY AMPLITUDE



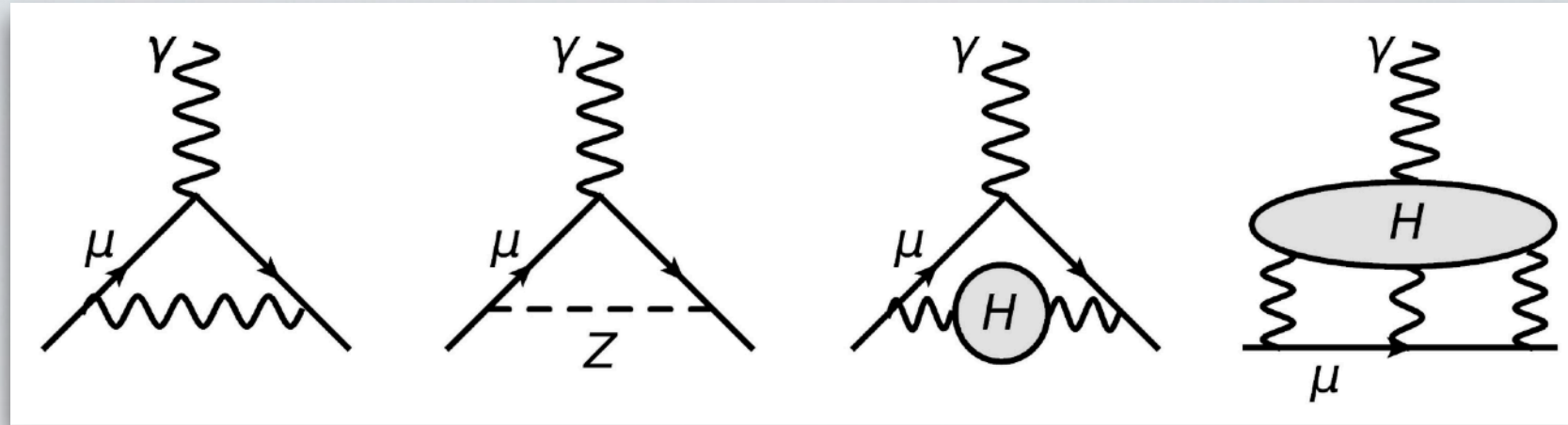
- In effective theory can write the plasmon decay amplitude in the SM as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} = & \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\alpha}} \left[\varepsilon_\mu(\omega_l, q) C_V \left(\Pi_L(\omega_l, q) \left(1, \frac{\omega_l}{q} \hat{q} \right)^\mu \left(1, \frac{\omega_l}{q} \hat{q} \right)^\nu \right) \right. \\ & + \varepsilon_\mu(\omega_t, q) g^{\mu i} \left(C_V \Pi_T(\omega_t, q) (\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j) \right. \\ & \left. \left. + C_A \Pi_A(\omega_t, q) (i\varepsilon^{ijm} \hat{q}^m) \right) g^{\nu j} \right] \bar{u}(p_1) \gamma_\nu (1 - \gamma_5) v(p_2) \end{aligned}$$

- Write this in terms of effective vertex $\Gamma_\lambda^{\mu\nu}$ as function of couplings C_V & C_A

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\Gamma_\lambda^{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_\mu(\mathbf{q}, \lambda) \right) \bar{u}(p_1) \gamma_\nu (1 - \gamma_5) u(p_2)$$

MUON MAGNETIC MOMENT



- The theoretical prediction for $(g - 2)_\mu$ within the SM has been determined to

$$a_\mu^{\text{SM}} = 116\,591\,810(43) \times 10^{-11}$$

[Aoyama et al; *Phys.Rept.* 887 (2020) 1-166]

- The recent Fermilab E989 result

$$a_\mu^{\text{FNAL}} = 116\,592\,059(22) \times 10^{-11}$$

[MUON g-2; *PRL* 131 (2023), 161802]

when combined with the previous BNL results leads to the **5.2 σ excess** of

$$\Delta a_\mu = 249(48) \times 10^{-11}$$

FULL MIXING LAGRANGINA

- Starting from the low-energy Lagrangian

One-loop corrections:
vacuum polarization

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} (F_{\mu\nu}, Z_{\mu\nu}, X_{\mu\nu}) \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \epsilon_A \\ 0 & 1 & \epsilon_Z \\ \epsilon_A & \epsilon_Z & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{\Pi} \right] \begin{pmatrix} F^{\mu\nu} \\ Z^{\mu\nu} \\ X^{\mu\nu} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Diagonalise tree-level kinetic terms to get effective one-loop action

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{\gamma\gamma} & \Pi_{\gamma Z} & \Pi_{\gamma X} \\ \Pi_{\gamma Z} & \Pi_{ZZ} & \Pi_{ZX} \\ \Pi_{\gamma X} & \Pi_{ZX} & \Pi_{XX} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\frac{\epsilon_A}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon_A^2 - \epsilon_Z^2}} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{\epsilon_Z}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon_A^2 - \epsilon_Z^2}} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon_A^2 - \epsilon_Z^2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G^T \mathbf{\Pi} G = \mathbf{\Pi} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \epsilon_A \Pi_{\gamma\gamma} + \epsilon_Z \Pi_{\gamma Z} \\ \cdot & 0 & \epsilon_A \Pi_{\gamma Z} + \epsilon_Z \Pi_{ZZ} \\ \cdot & \cdot & 2\epsilon_A \Pi_{\gamma X} + 2\epsilon_Z \Pi_{ZX} \end{pmatrix}$$

vacuum polarizations
in canonical normalisation