

# Dark Matter from rotating axions

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**CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
QUANTUM UNIVERSE



Universität Hamburg

## WHISPERS FROM THE DARK UNIVERSE - PARTICLES & FIELDS IN THE GRAVITATIONAL WAVE ERA

HELMHOLTZ

24 - 27 September 2024 DESY Hamburg, Germany



The annual DESY Theory Workshop is organized by the elementary particle physics community in Germany. The focus is on a topical subject in theoretical particle physics and related fields. The workshop features:

- > **Plenary sessions** of specialized talks by invited speakers.
- > **Parallel sessions**, allowing young researchers to present their work (Wednesday and Thursday afternoon).
- > The **DESY Heinrich-Hertz-Lecture on Physics** for public outreach.

### Plenary Talks

P. Agrawal (Oxford U.)	J. Harz (Mainz U.)	N. Porayko (MPI Bonn)
O. Buchmueller (ICL London)	L. Heisenberg (Heidelberg U.)	R. Porto (DESY)
M. Buschmann (GRAPPA/UvA)	A. Hook (Maryland U.)	C. Prescod-Weinstein (N. Hampsh.)
A. Chou (Fermilab)	B. Kavanagh (IFCA Santander)	E.-M. Rossi (Leiden U.)
S. Ellis (Geneva U.)	M. Kamionkowski (J. Hopkins)	K. Schutz (McGill U.)
R. Flauger (UC, San Diego)	E. Lim (King's College)	X. Siemens (Oregon State U.)
G. Franciolini (CERN)	M. Peloso (Padua U.)	J. van de Vis (Leiden U.)

### DESY Heinrich Hertz Lecture on Physics

Marc Kamionkowski (Johns Hopkins University)  
Thursday, September 26, 2024, DESY Auditorium

### Parallel Sessions and Convenors

Contributions by young researchers are especially encouraged. Deadline for abstract submission will be on June 30, 2024.



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[Programme on INDICO](#)

[Andreas Ringwald Fest](#)

# This talk

## Based on:

### Rotating axions :

Beyond the standard misalignment mechanism

[Eroncel, Soerensen, Sato, Servant, 2206.14259]

[Eroncel, Soerensen, Sato, Servant, 2406.xxxx]

### Gravitational signatures (axion mini-clusters)

[Eroncel, Servant 2207.10111]

### Gravitational-wave signatures

[Gouttenoire, Servant, Simakachorn, 1912.02569, 2108.10328 , 2111.01150]

### Axion fragmentation

[Fonseca, Morgante, Sato, Servant, 1911.08472]

[Chatrchyan, Eroncel, Koschnitzke, Servant, 2305.03756]

# Axions & Axion-Like-Particles

**Axions could arise either as a higher dimensional gauge field, or as a Pseudo Nambu Goldstone boson (PNGB) from spontaneous breaking of global symmetry which is not exact but broken weakly.**

**In this talk I assume the second possibility as a simple benchmark. Important for cosmology: Axion is accompanied by its partner, the radial mode of a complex scalar field.**

# Axion-Like-Particles (ALPs).

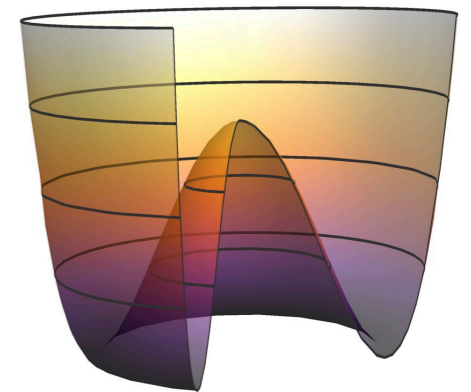
Consider complex scalar field

$$\Phi = \phi e^{i\theta}$$

charged under anomalous U(1) global symmetry (Peccei-Quinn symmetry)

Spontaneously broken at scale  $f_a$   $V(\varphi) = \lambda \left( |\varphi|^2 - \frac{f_a^2}{2} \right)^2$

$$\langle \varphi \rangle = f_a / \sqrt{2}$$



Axion as Goldstone boson

$$\theta \rightarrow \theta + \text{const.}$$

$$\theta = a / f_a$$

# ALPs.

**Non-perturbative effects at energy  $\Lambda_b \ll f_a$  break the shift symmetry and generate a potential/mass for the axion**

$$\mathbf{V} = m_a^2(T) f_a^2 [1 - \cos(\theta)]$$

$$\mathbf{m}_a = \Lambda_b^2 / f_a$$

**QCD axion**

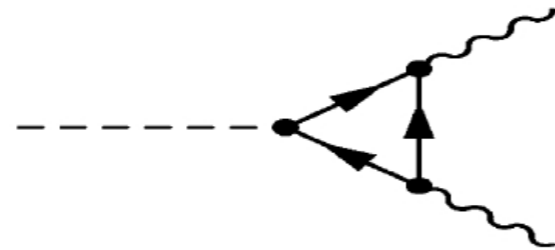
$$\mathbf{m}_a^2 f_a^2 \approx (76 \text{ MeV})^4$$

**Generic ALP**

**$m_a$  and  $f_a$  : free parameters**

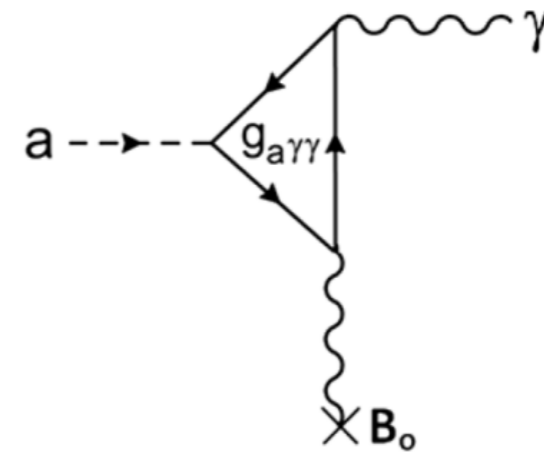
# The hunt for axions.

Mainly through Axion-photon coupling



$$\frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

In a background magnetic field:  
axion $\leftrightarrow$ photon conversion

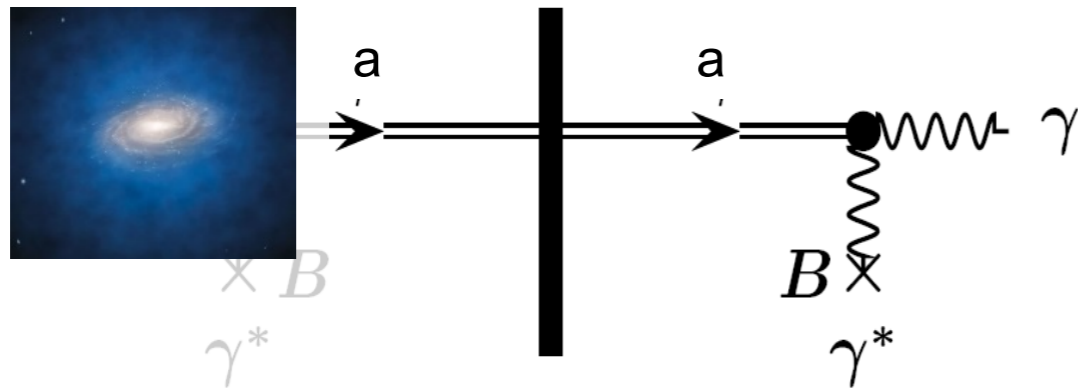


If long-lived: Dark Matter candidate

Lifetime depends on axion-photon coupling.  
However, relic abundance only depends on  $f_a$

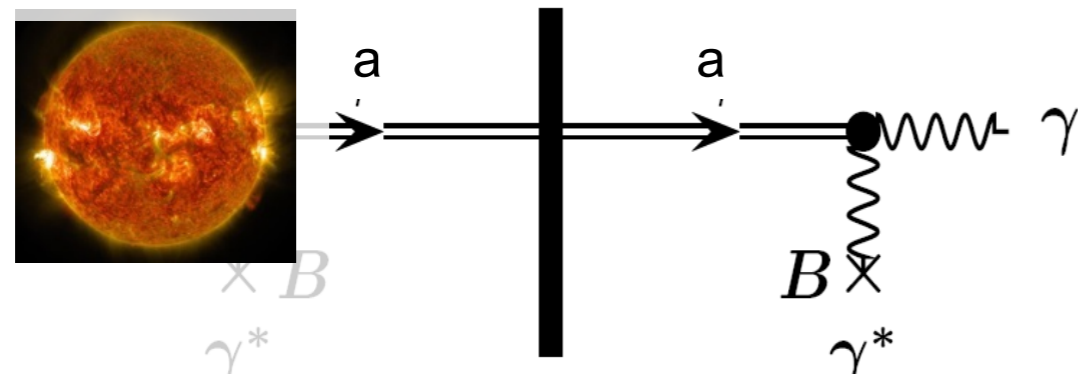
# Three main ways to search for ALPs.

All rely on ALP-photon mixing in magnetic field



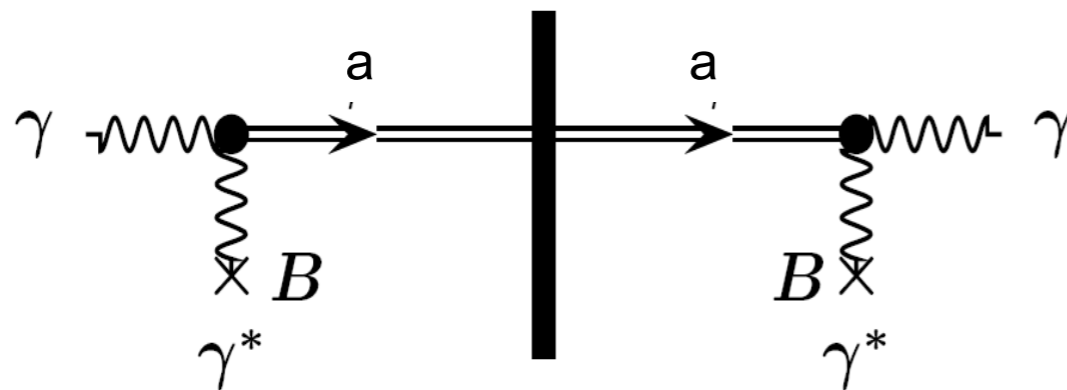
Haloscopes

looking for dark matter constituents, microwaves



Helioscopes

Axions emitted by the sun, X-rays



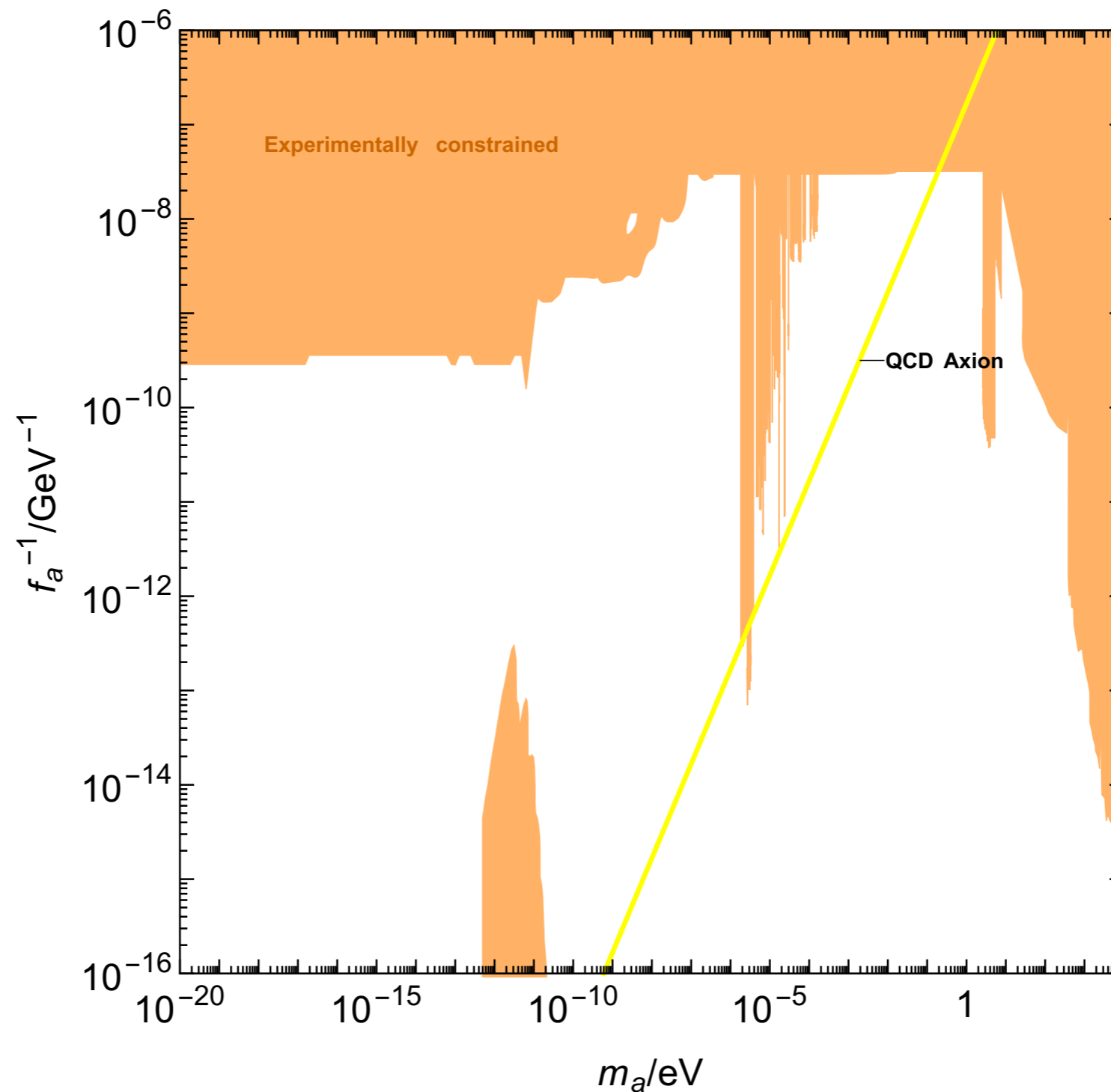
Purely laboratory experiments

“light-shining-through-walls”,  
microwaves, optical photons



# The Axion-Like-Particle (ALP) parameter space.

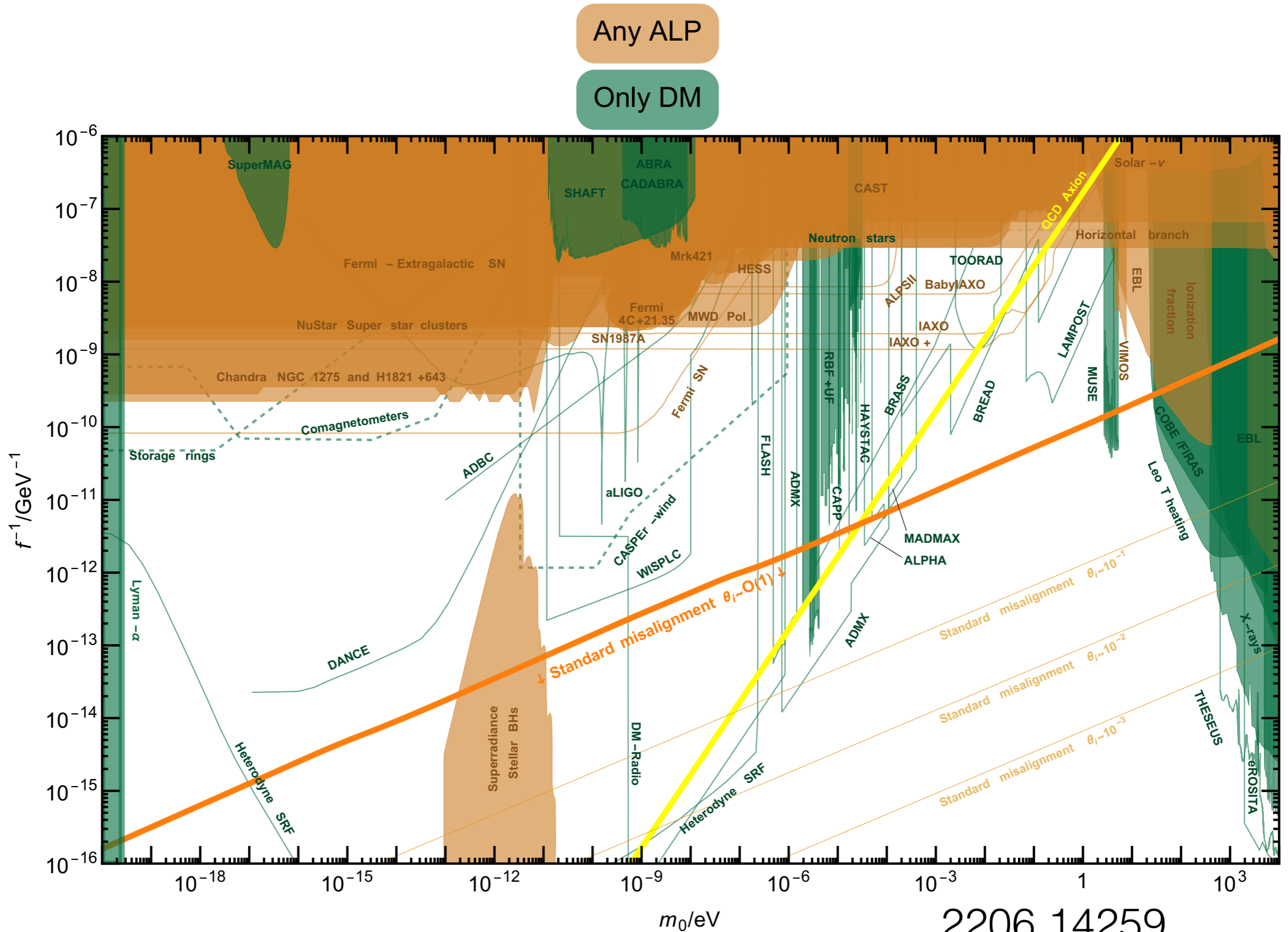
If axions are given an interaction to photons then a long list of constraints from ALP searches apply



$$\frac{f_\gamma}{f_a} \approx 0.5 \times 10^3$$

assuming KSVZ-like coupling

# The hunt for axions.



# A whole set of experiment constraints.

All data can be found here:

C. O'Hare, *cajohare/axionlimits: Axionlimits*, <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/> (2020) [10.5281/zenodo.3932430].

All experiments also listed in tables 1 and 2 of 2206.14259:

Experiment:	Principle	DM?	Ref.
<i>Haloscope constraints</i>			
ABRACADABRA-10cm	Haloscope	DM	[76]
ADMX	Haloscope	DM	[77–83]
BASE	Haloscope (Cryogenic Penning Trap)	DM	[84]
CAPP	Haloscope	DM	[85–87]
CAST-RADES	Haloscope	DM	[88]
DANCE	Haloscope (Optical cavity polarization)	DM	[89]
Grenoble Haloscope	Haloscope	DM	[90]
HAYSTAC	Haloscope	DM	[91, 92]
ORGAN	Haloscope	DM	[93]
QUAX	Haloscope	DM	[94, 95]
RBF	Haloscope	DM	[96]
SHAFT	Haloscope	DM	[97]
SuperMAG	Haloscope (Using terrestrial magnetic field)	DM	[98]
UF	Haloscope	DM	[99]
Upload	Haloscope	DM	[100]
<i>Haloscope projections</i>			
ABDC	Haloscope	DM	[101]
ADMX	Haloscope	DM	[102]
aLIGO	Haloscope	DM	[103]
ALPHA	Haloscope (Plasma haloscope)	DM	[104]
BRASS	Haloscope	DM	[105]
BREAD	Haloscope (Parabolic reflector)	DM	[106]
DANCE	Haloscope (Optical cavity polarization)	DM	[107]
DMRadio	Haloscope (All stages: 50L, $m^3$ and GUT)	DM	[108, 109]
FLASH	Haloscope (Formerly KLASH)	DM	[110, 111]
Heterodyne SRF	Haloscope (Superconduct. Resonant Freq.)	DM	[112, 113]
LAMPOST	Haloscope (Dielectric)	DM	[114]
MADMAX	Haloscope (Dielectric)	DM	[115]
ORGAN	Haloscope	DM	[93]
QUAX	Haloscope	DM	[116]
TOORAD	Haloscope (Topological anti-ferromagnets)	DM	[117, 118]
WISPLC	Haloscope (Tunable LC circuit)	DM	[119]
<i>LSW and optics</i>			
ALPS	Light-shining-through wall	Any	[120]
ALPS II	Light-shining-through wall (projection)	Any	[121]
CROWS	Light-shining-through wall (microwave)	Any	[122]
OSQAR	Light-shining-through wall	Any	[123]
PVLAS	Vacuum magnetic birefringence	Any	[124]
<i>Helioscopes</i>			
CAST	Helioscope	Any	[125, 126]
babyIAXO	Helioscope (projection)	Any	[1, 127, 128]
IAXO	Helioscope (projection)	Any	[1, 127, 128]
IAXO+	Helioscope (projection)	Any	[1, 127, 128]

**Table 1.** List of experimental searches for axions and ALPs. The table is continued in table 2. All experiments here rely on the axion-photon coupling.

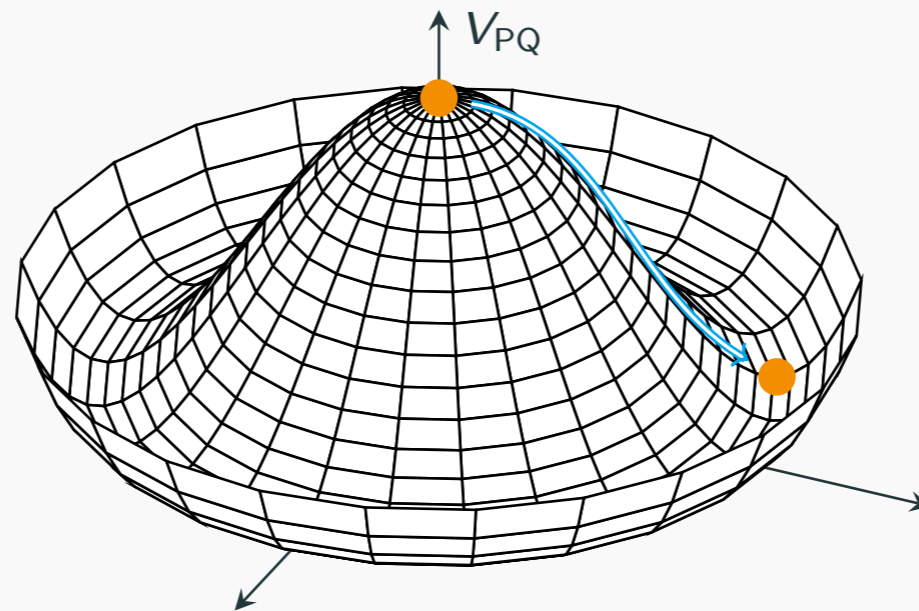
Experiment:	Principle	DM?	Reference
<i>Astrophysical constraint</i>			
4C+21.35	Photon-ALP oscillation on the $\gamma$ -rays from blazars	Any	[129]
Breakthrough Listen	ALP $\rightarrow$ radio $\gamma$ in neutron star magn. fields	DM	[130]
Bullet Cluster	Radio signal from ALP DM decay	DM	[131]
Chandra	AGN X-ray prod. in cosmic magn. field	Any	[132–135]
BBN + $N_{\text{eff}}$	ALP thermal relic perturbing BBN and $N_{\text{eff}}$	Any	[136]
Chandra MWD	X-rays from Magnetic White Dwarf ALP prod.	Any	[137]
COBE/FIRAS	CMB spectral distortions from DM relic decay	DM	[138]
Distance ladder	ALP $\leftrightarrow$ $\gamma$ perturbing luminosity distances	Any	[139]
Fermi-LAT	SN ALP product. $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ -rays in cosmic magn. field	Any	[140–142]
Fermi-LAT	AGN X-ray production $\rightarrow$ ALP in cosmic magn. field	Any	[143]
Haystack Telescope	ALP DM decay $\rightarrow$ microwave photons	DM	[144]
HAWC TeV Blazars	$\gamma \rightarrow$ ALP $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ conversion reducing $\gamma$ -ray attenuation	Any	[145]
H.E.S.S.	AGN X-ray production $\rightarrow$ ALP in cosmic magn. field	Any	[146]
Horizontal branch stars	stellar metabolism and evolution	Any	[147]
LeoT dwarf galaxy	Heating of gas-rich dwarf galaxies by ALP decay	DM	[148]
Magnetic white dwarf pol.	$\gamma \rightarrow$ ALP conversion polarizing light from MWD stars	Any	[149]
MUSE	ALP DM decay $\rightarrow$ optical photons	DM	[150]
Mrk 421	Blazar $\gamma$ -ray $\rightarrow$ ALP $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ -ray in cosmic magn. field	Any	[151]
NuStar	Stellar ALP production $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ in cosmic magn. fields	Any	[152, 153]
NuStar, Super star clusters	Stellar ALP production $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ in cosmic magn. fields	Any	[153]
Solar neutrinos	ALP energy loss $\rightarrow$ changes in neutrino production	Any	[154]
SN1987A ALP decay	SN ALP production $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ decay	Any	[155]
SN1987A gamma rays	SN ALP production $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ in cosmic magnetic field	Any	[156, 157]
SN1987A neutrinos	SN ALP luminosity less than neutrino flux	Any	[157, 158]
Thermal relic compilation	Decay and BBN constraints from ALP thermal relic	Any	[159]
VIMOS	Thermal relic ALP decay $\rightarrow$ optical photons	Any	[160]
White dwarf mass relation	Stellar ALP production perturbing WD metabolism	Any	[161]
XMM-Newton	Decay of ALP relic	DM	[162]
<i>Astrophysical projections</i>			
ARCS	X-ray signal from ALP DM decay	DM	[163]
Fermi-LAT	SN ALP production $\rightarrow$ $\gamma$ in cosmic magnetic field	Any	[164]
IAXO	Helioscope detection of supernova axions	Any	[165]
THESEUS	ALP DM decay $\rightarrow$ x-ray photons	DM	[166]
<i>Neutron coupling:</i>			
CASPER-wind	NMR from oscillating EDM (projection)	DM	[167, 168]
CASPER-ZULF-Comag.	NMR from oscillating EDM	DM	[168, 169]
CASPER-ZULF-Sidechain	NMR (constraint & projection)	DM	[168, 170]
NASDUCK	ALP DM perturbing atomic spins	DM	[171]
nEDM	Spin-precession in ultracold neutrons and Hg	DM	[168, 172]
K-3He	Comagnetometer	DM	[173]
Old comagnetometers	New analysis of old comagnetometers	DM	[174]
Future comagnetometers	Comagnetometers	DM	[174]
SNO	Solar ALP flux from deuterium dissociation	Any	[175]
Proton storage ring	EDM signature from ALP DM	DM	[176]
Neutron Star Cooling	ALP production modifies cooling rate	Any	[177]
SN1987 Cooling	ALP production modifies cooling rate	Any	[178]
<i>Coupling independent:</i>			
Black hole spin	Superradiance for stellar mass black holes	Any	[72–74]
Lyman- $\alpha$	Modification of small-scale structure	DM	[60]

**Table 2.** List of experimental searches for axions and ALPs.

**Which of these axions can make  
Dark Matter ?**

# Pre- and post-inflationary scenarios.

Potential of full complex PQ scalar field



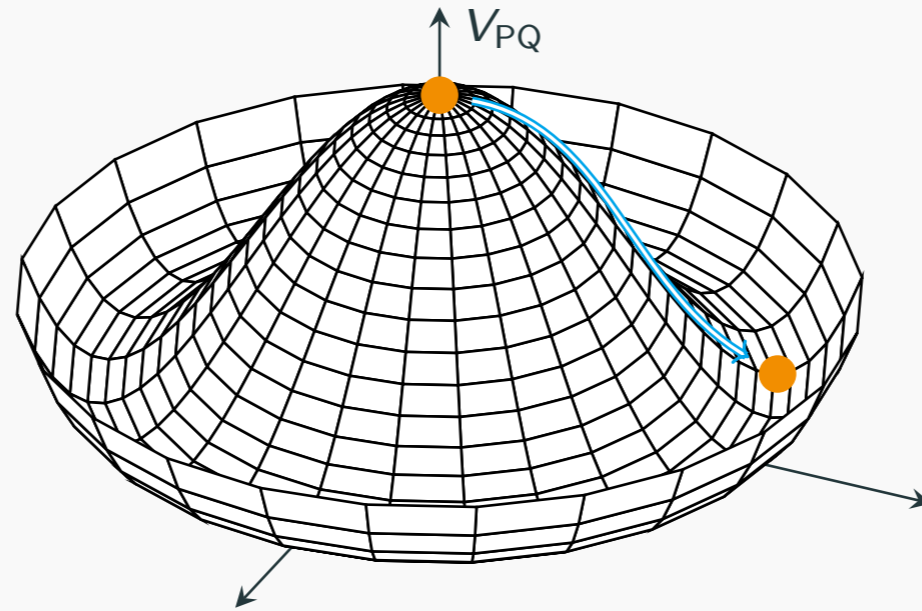
## Post-inflationary scenario

- **Different** initial angle in each Hubble patch.
- **Inhomogeneous** including topological defects.

## Pre-inflationary scenario

- **Random** initial angle in the observable universe.
- Initially **homogeneous** w/o topological defects.

# Pre- and post-inflationary scenarios.



## Post-inflationary scenario

- **Different** initial angle in each Hubble patch.
- **Inhomogeneous** including topological defects.



**GLOBAL (axionic)  
COSMIC STRINGS**



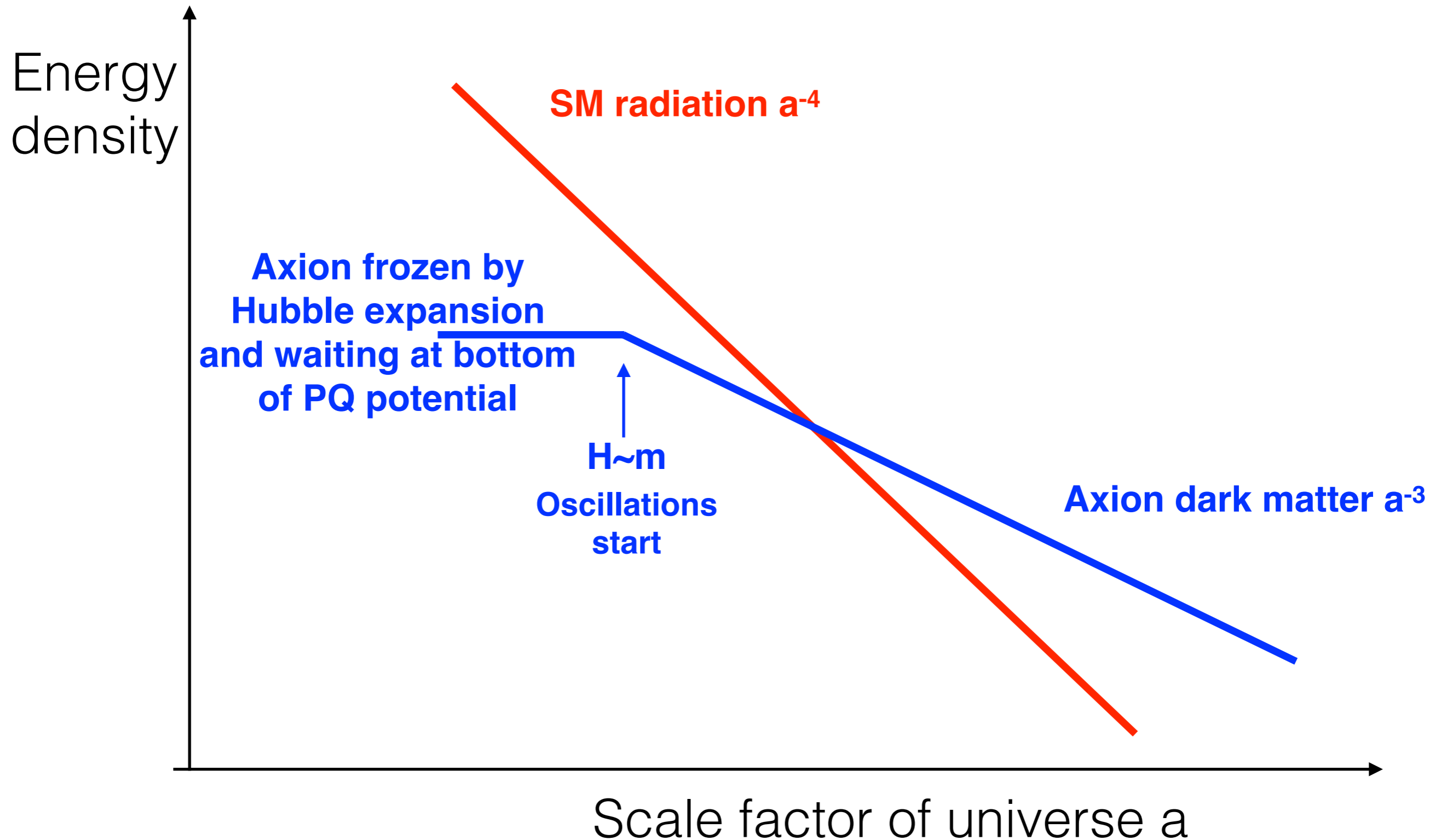
**primordial GW bgd**

## Pre-inflationary scenario

- **Random** initial angle in the observable universe.
- Initially **homogeneous** w/o topological defects.

# Usual story.

(Most axion cosmology literature is about the rather late cosmology from moment axion gets a mass)



# Axions from the misalignment mechanism.

## Axion late cosmology

Start with ALP lagrangian  $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{f^2}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \theta \partial_\nu \theta - V(\theta) = -\frac{f^2}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \theta \partial_\nu \theta - m_a^2 f^2 (1 - \cos \theta)$ .

Neglecting fluctuations, the homogeneous zero-mode satisfies

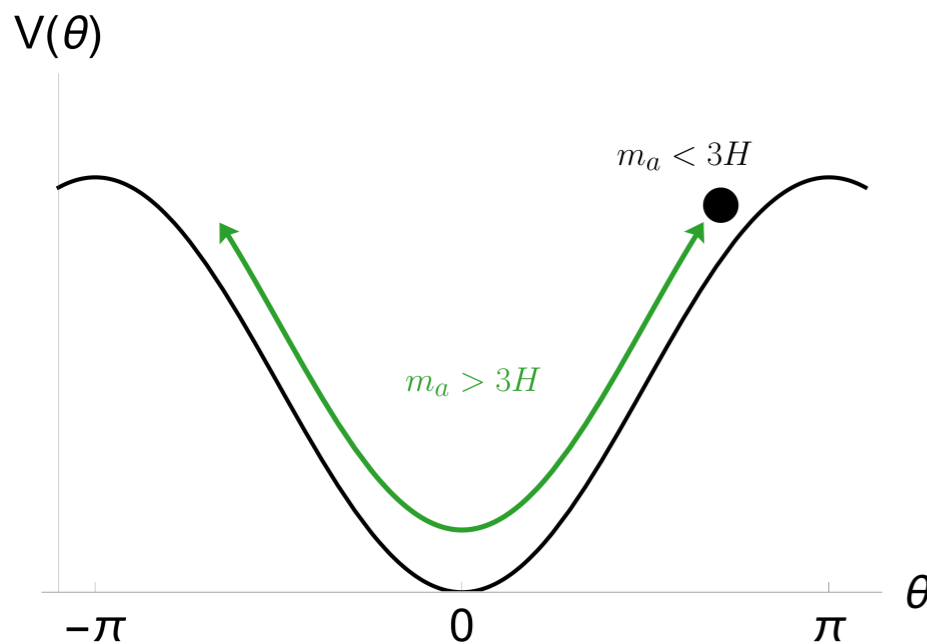
$$\ddot{\Theta} + 3H\dot{\Theta} + m_a^2(T) \sin(\Theta) = 0,$$

$\rho_\rho$

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - a^2(t) \left[ \frac{dr^2}{1 - kr^2} + r^2 d\Omega^2 \right]$$

With initial conditions:

$$\Theta(t_i) = \Theta_i, \quad \dot{\Theta}(t_i) = 0. \quad \text{standard assumption}$$



>  $m_a \ll 3H \iff \rho_a \propto a^0$  (Frozen)

>  $m_a \gg 3H \iff \rho_a \propto a^{-3}$  (Oscillating)

→ standard misalignment mechanism

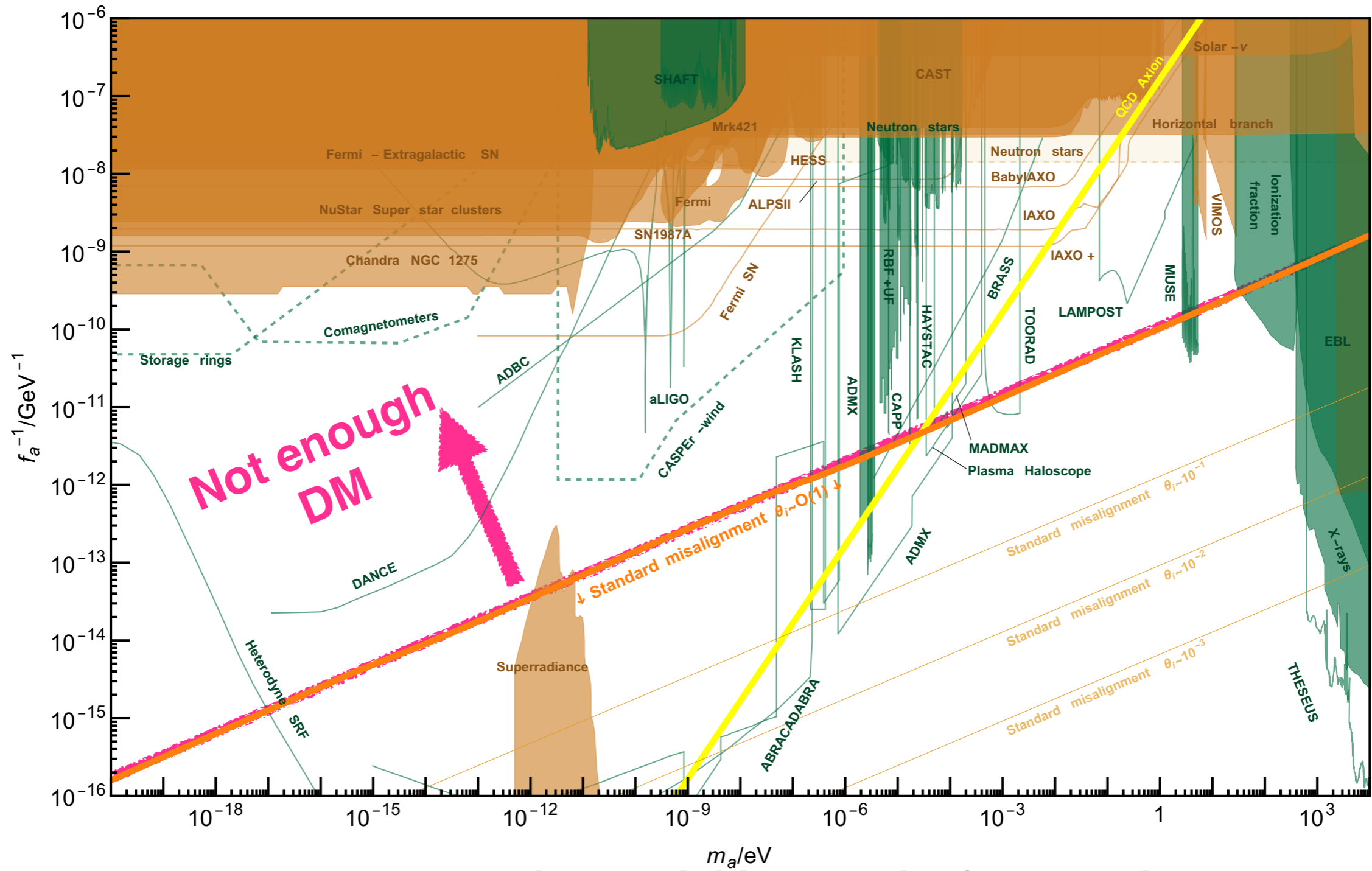
For  $\Theta_i \sim 1$   $\rho_{\text{DM}} \sim \rho_{\text{osc}} \left( \frac{a_{\text{osc}}}{a_0} \right)^3 \sim m_a^2 f_a^2 \left( \frac{T_0}{T_{\text{osc}}} \right)^3$

$$T_{\text{osc}} \sim \sqrt{m_a M_{\text{Pl}}}$$

$\rho_{\text{DM}}$  grows with  $f_a$  → Axion Dark Matter overabundance for too large  $f_a$



# Conventional misalignment makes too little DM for low $f_a$



**A way out: switch on initial velocity for the axion**

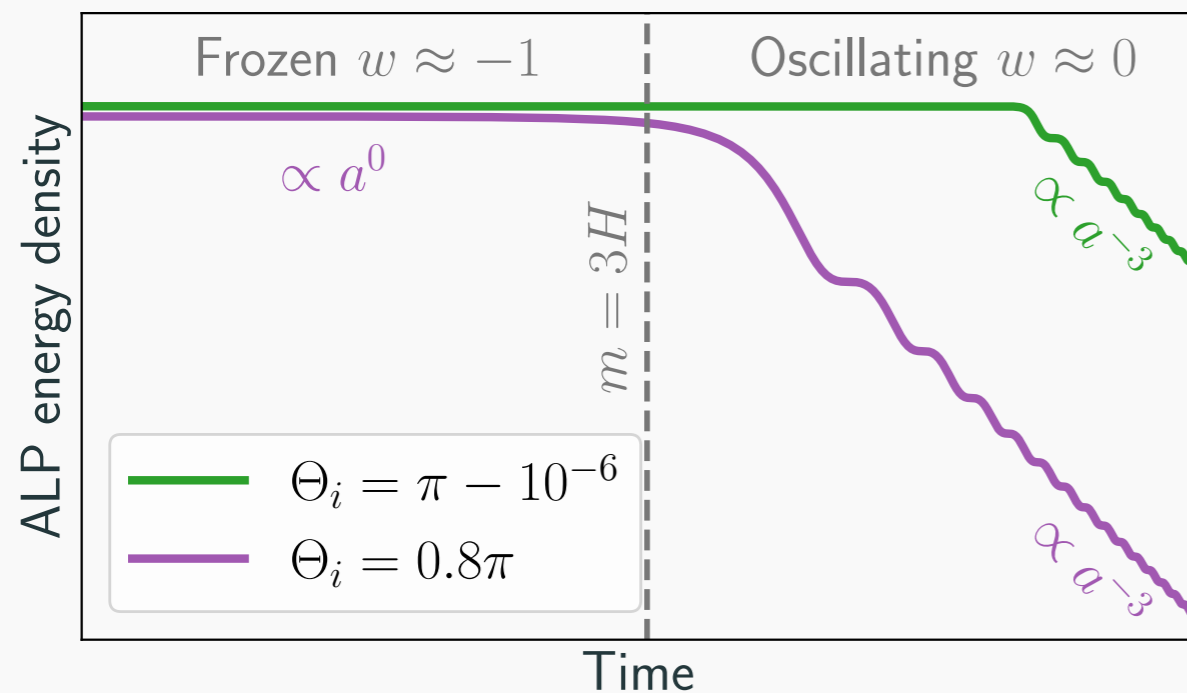
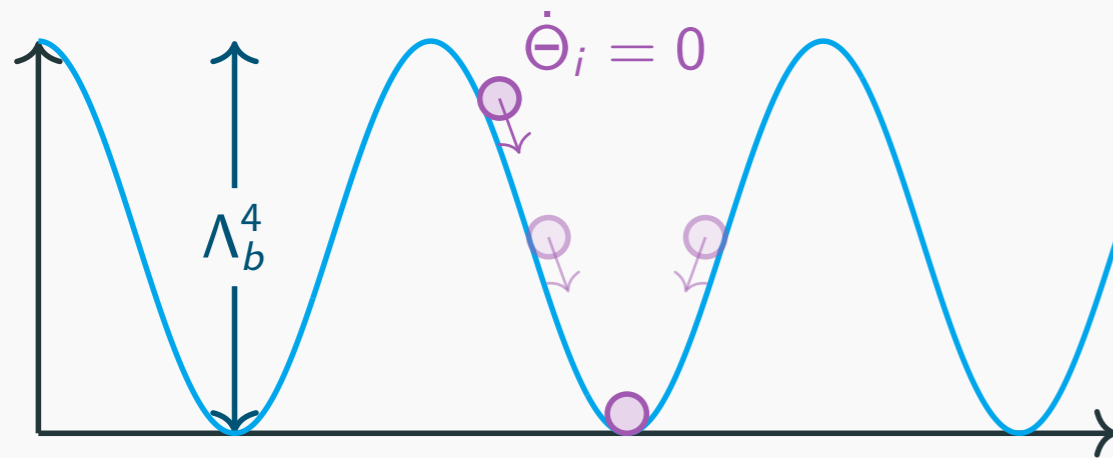
# Standard versus kinetic Misalignment.

## Two ways to delay the onset of oscillations

Initial field value tuned to top of potential:

Standard (Large) misalignment

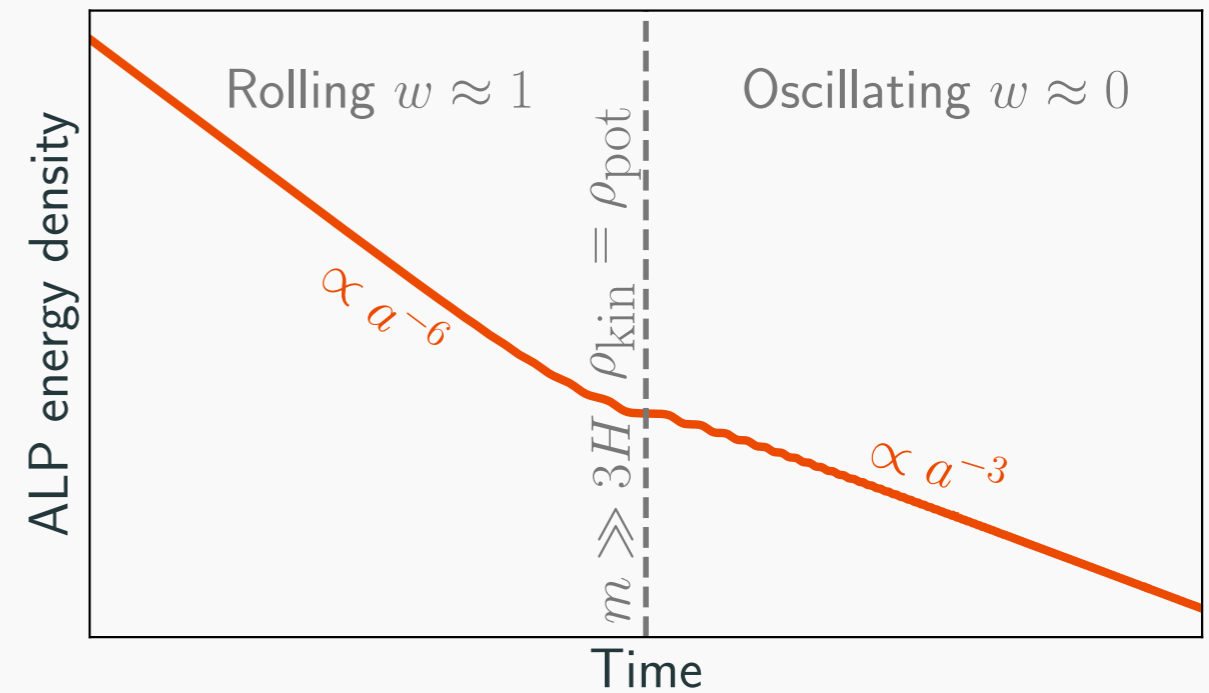
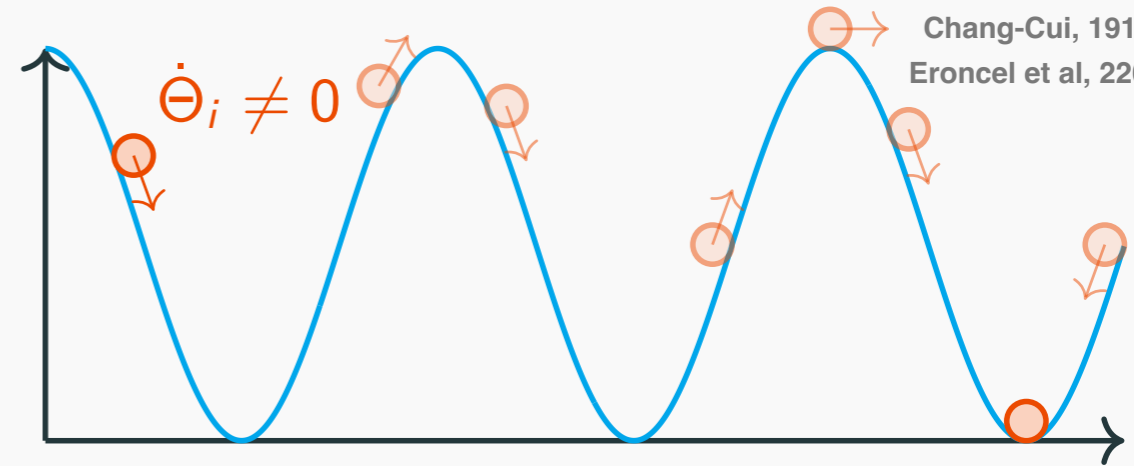
Zhang, Chiueh 1705.01439; Arvanitaki et al. 1909.11665



Large initial velocity

Kinetic misalignment

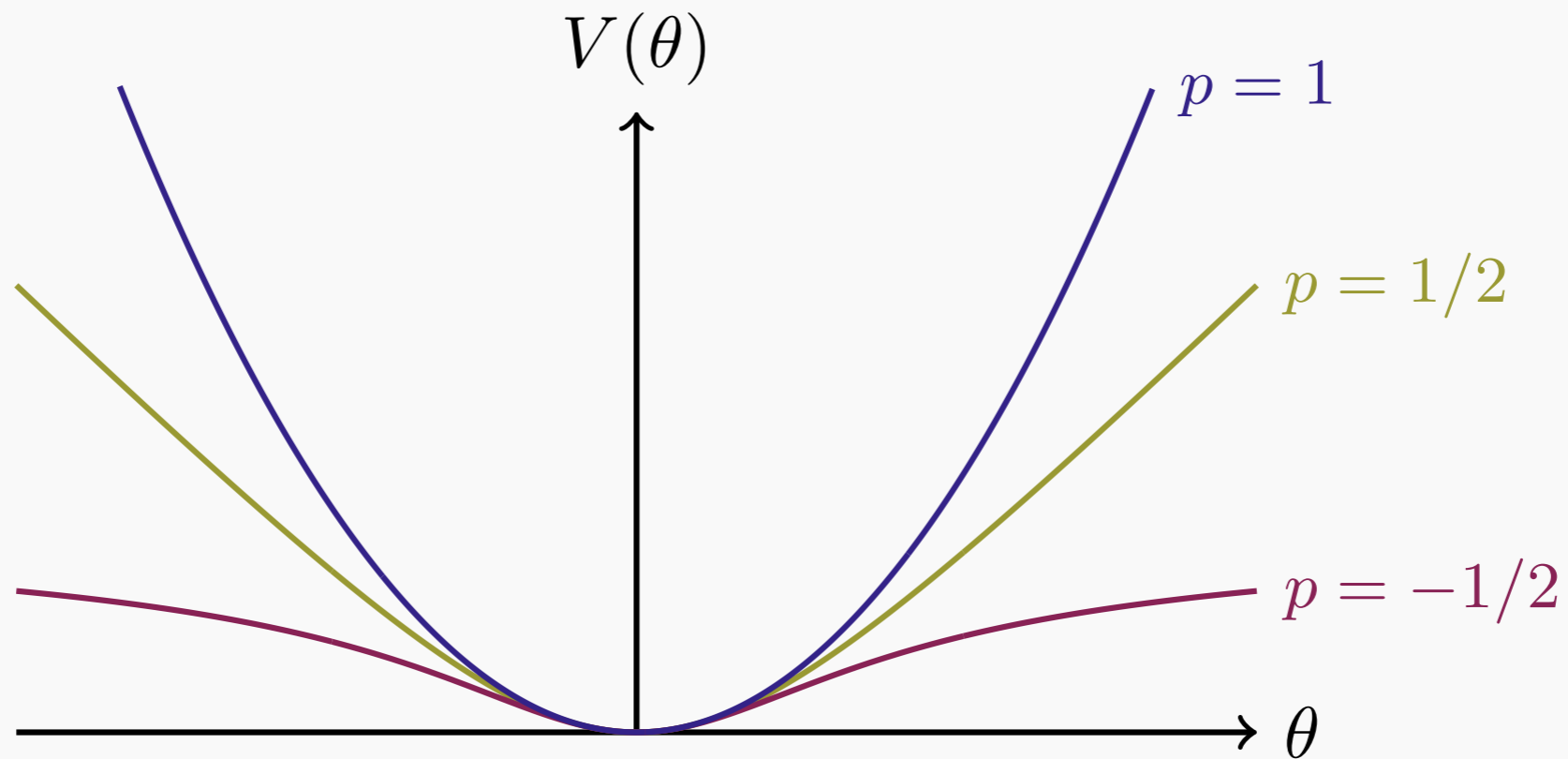
Co et al. 1910.14152  
Chang-Cui, 1911.11885  
Eroncel et al, 2206.14259



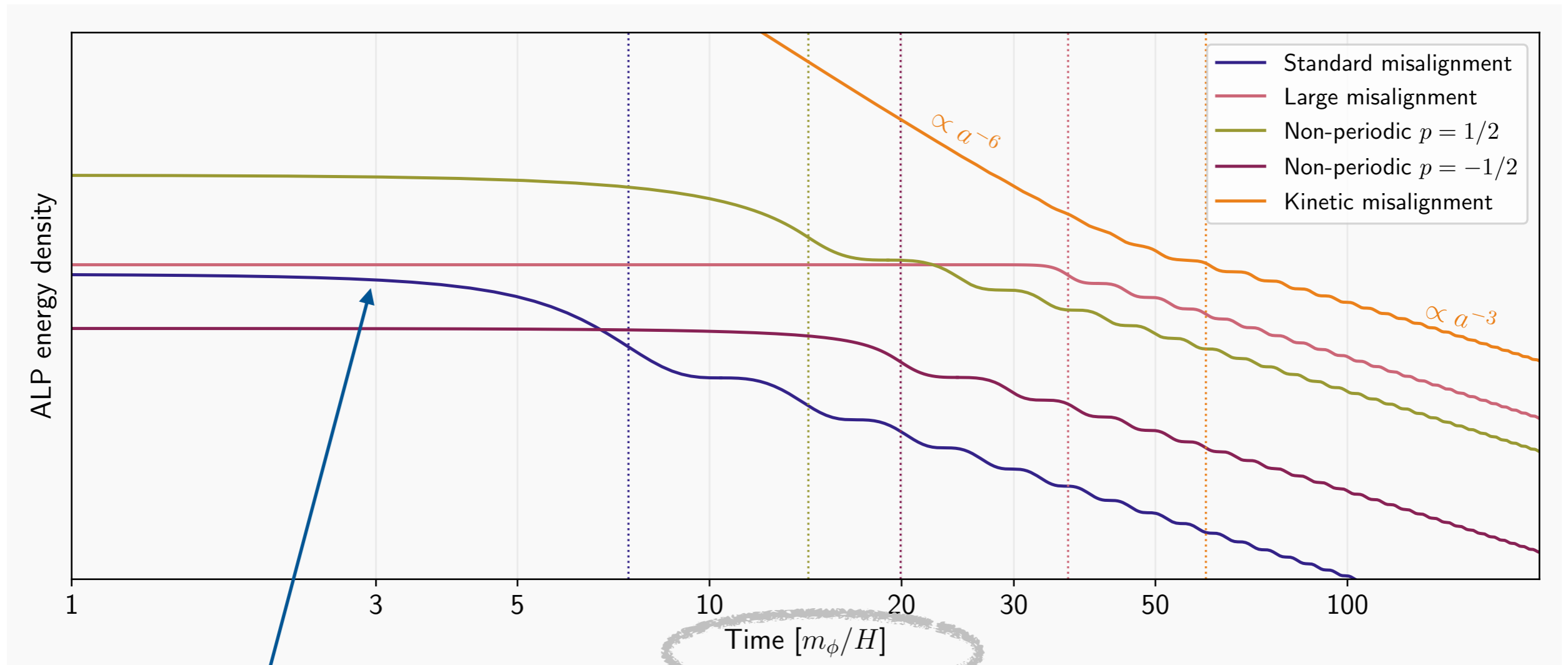
# A third way to delay the onset of oscillations: a non-periodic potential.

1906.06352, 2305.03756

$$V(\theta) = \frac{m_{\phi}^2 f_{\phi}^2}{2p} \left[ \left(1 + \theta^2\right)^p - 1 \right], \quad p < 1.$$

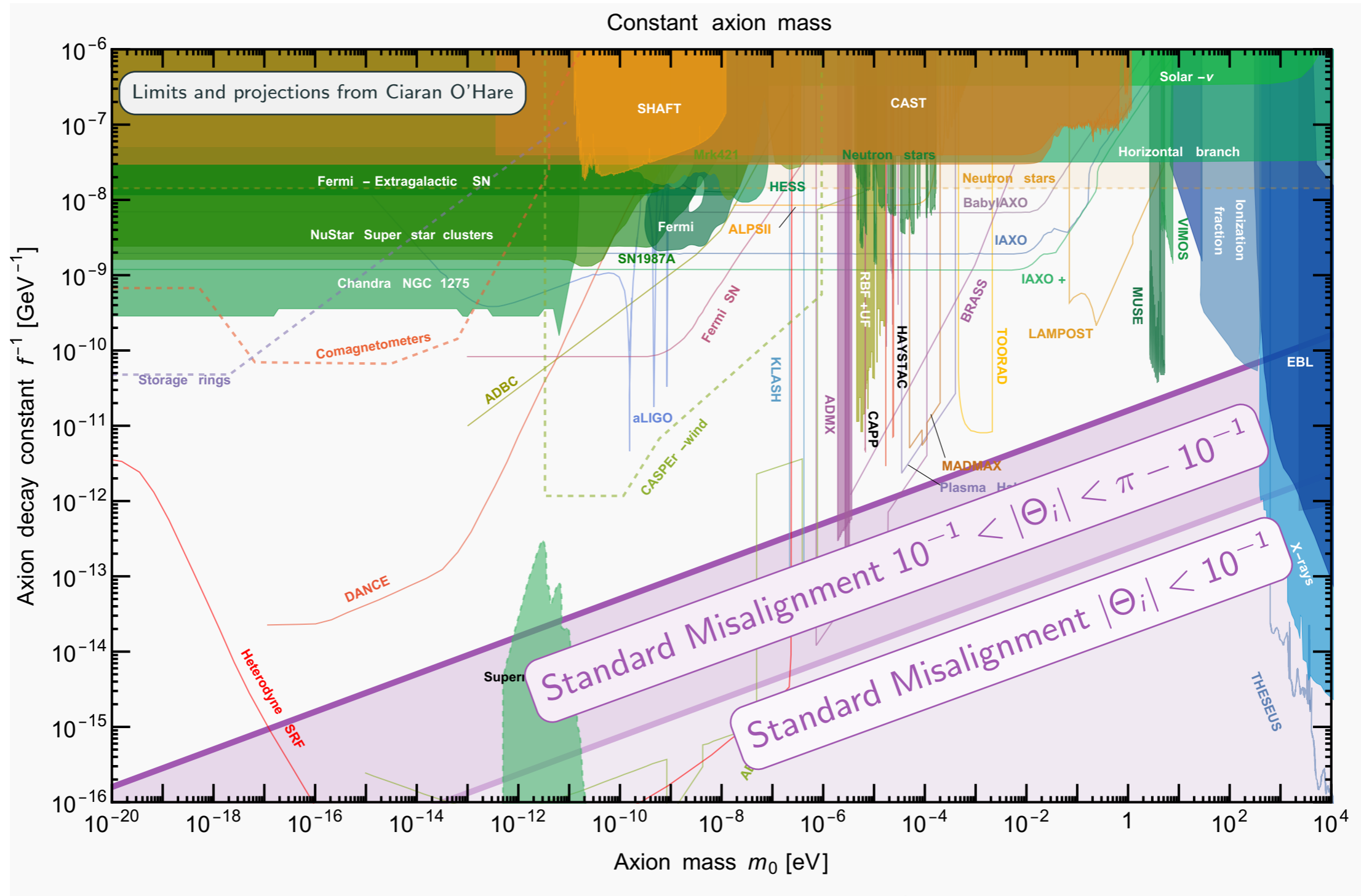


Common property of all these cases: onset of oscillations is **delayed** which **boosts** the dark matter abundance, and extends the ALP dark matter parameter space to **lower** decay constants.



Usual  
story

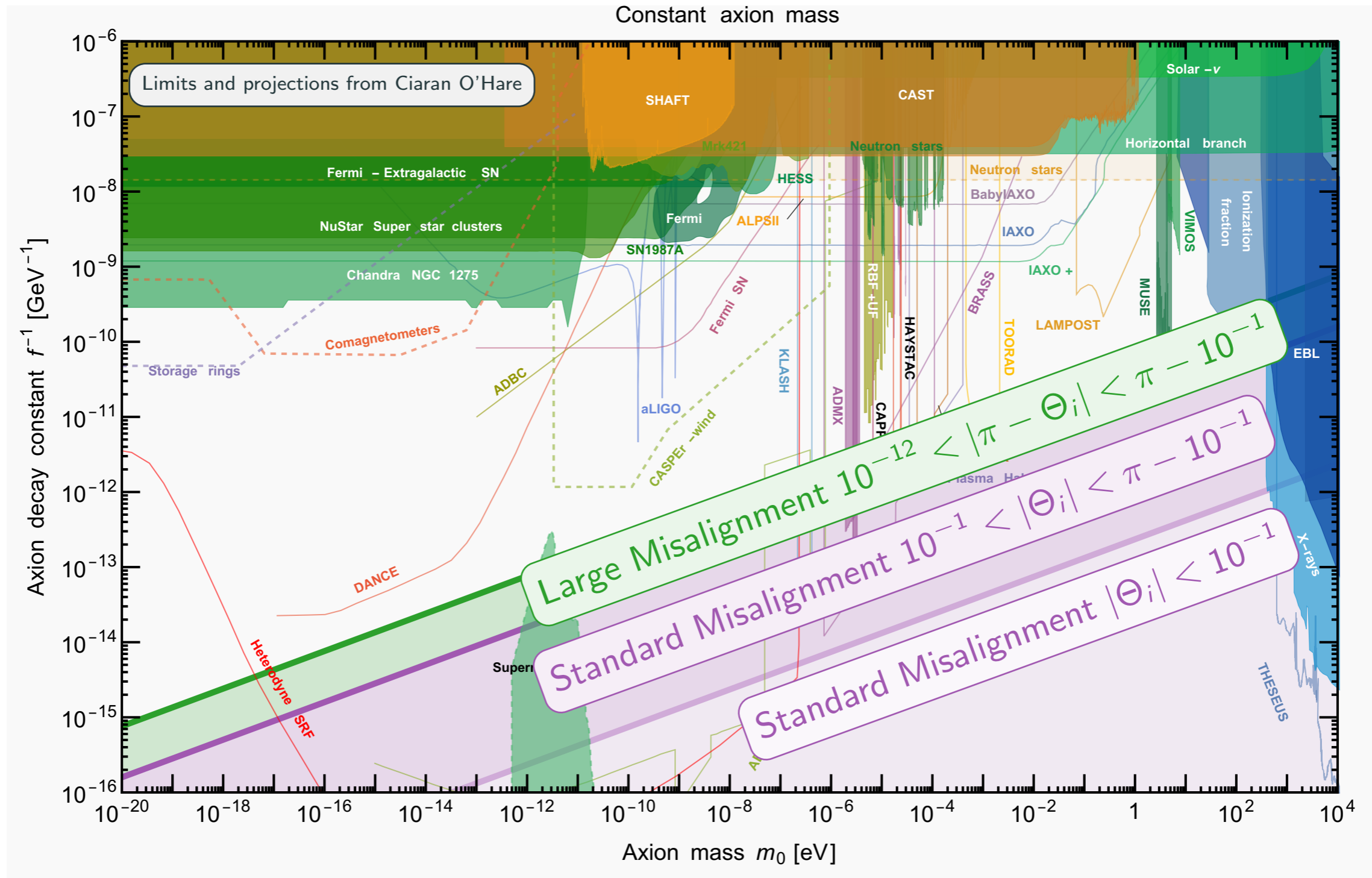
# ALP DM parameter space.



**(KSVZ-like coupling)**

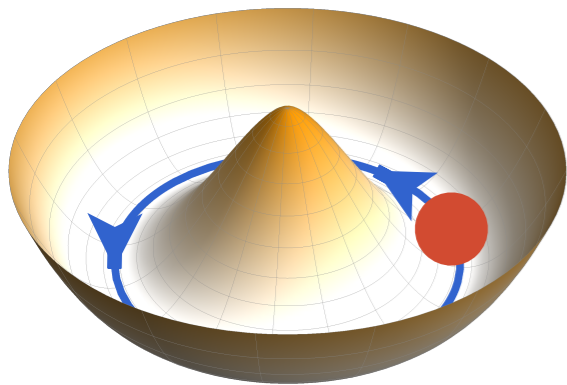
$$g_{\theta\gamma} = (\alpha_{\text{em}}/2\pi)(1.92/f)$$

# ALP DM parameter space.

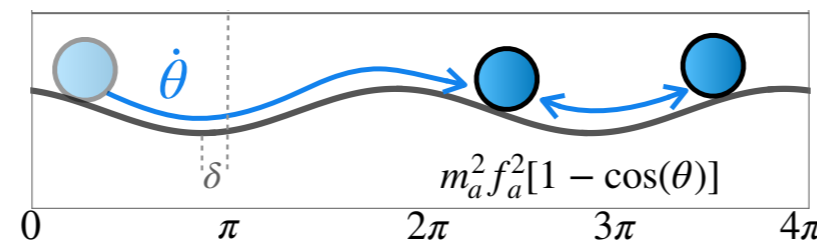


# Kinetic misalignment.

Add kinetic energy to delay onset of oscillations



circle of  
 $\phi = f_a$



- > Delay oscillations
- $\Rightarrow$  less redshift
- $\Rightarrow$  more DM
- $\Rightarrow$  lower  $f_a$

-> ALP can be DM for low  $f_a$

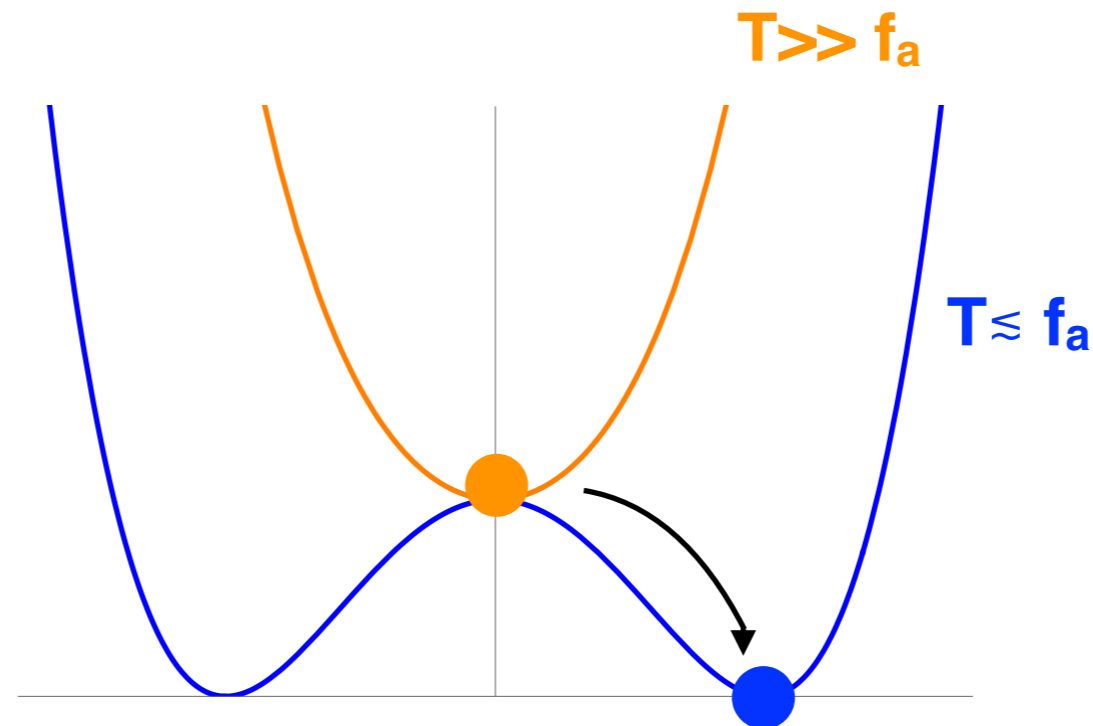
Co, Hall, Harigaya et al '19'20  
Chang, Cui'19  
Eröncel et al, '22

# Axion cosmology.

“Common” story:

Starts at  $\langle\phi\rangle=0$

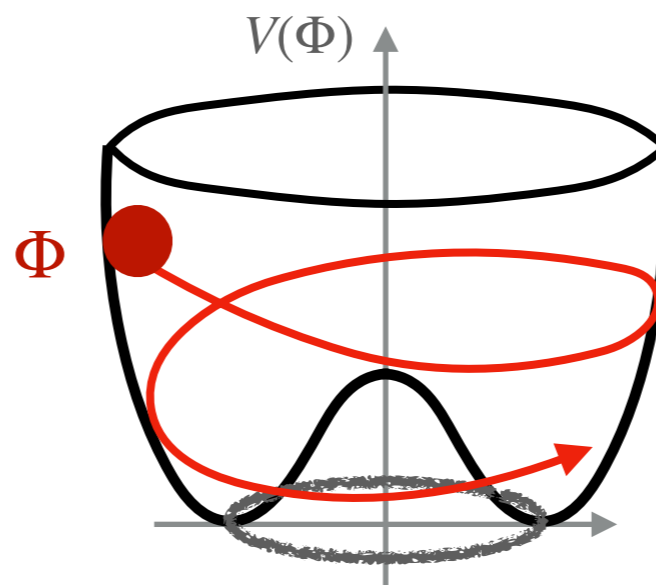
*Studies axion cosmology ignoring the radial mode*



Alternative:

Starts at  $\langle\phi\rangle \gg f_a$

(field can be driven naturally to these large field values during inflation due to a negative Hubble-induced mass term)



*Radial mode /axion  
interplay*



# How did the axion acquire a kick?

If PQ symmetry is broken explicitly at high energies  
→ mexican hat potential is tilted

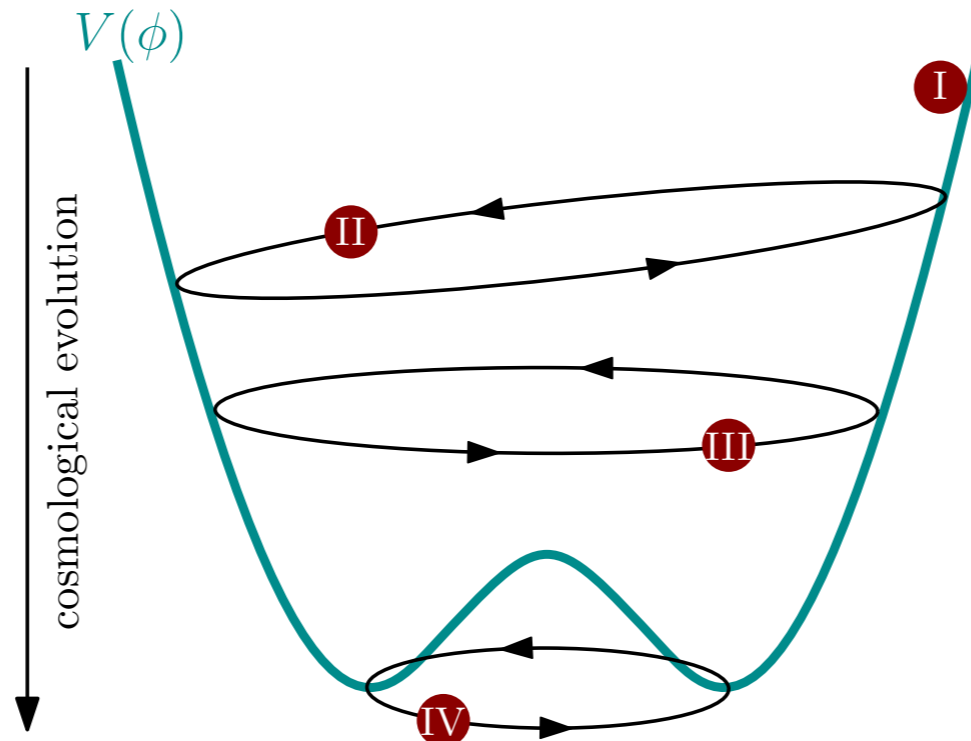


Figure by P. Simakachorn

If radial mode of PQ field starts at large VEV, the angular mode gets a large kick in the early universe

With initial conditions:

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{\Theta}_i^2 \gg 2m^2(T_i)$$

Delayed axion oscillations !

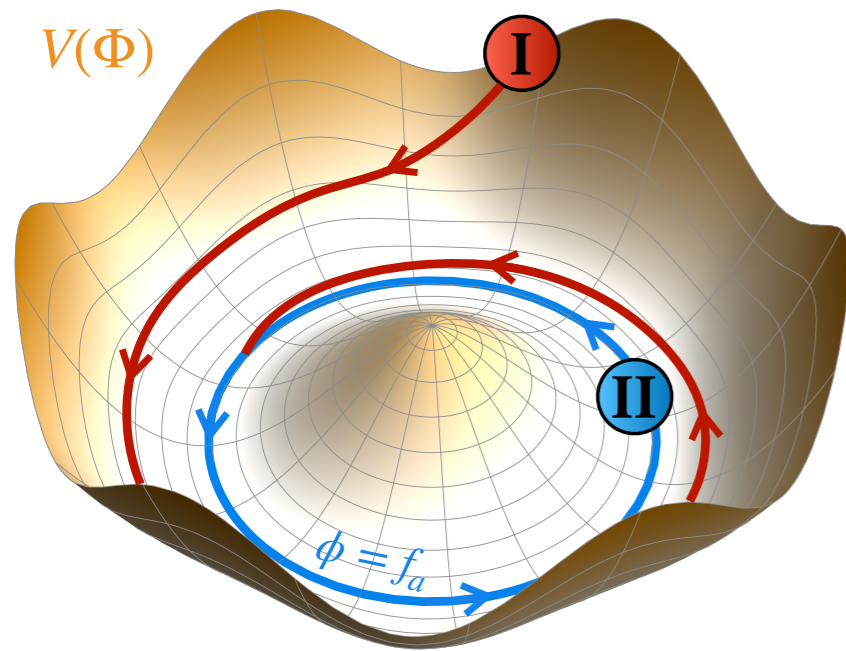
→ kinetic misalignment mechanism

[Co, Harigaya, Hall'19]

1910.14152

2004.00629

# Initial conditions.



**Similar to Affleck-Dine '85 scenario**

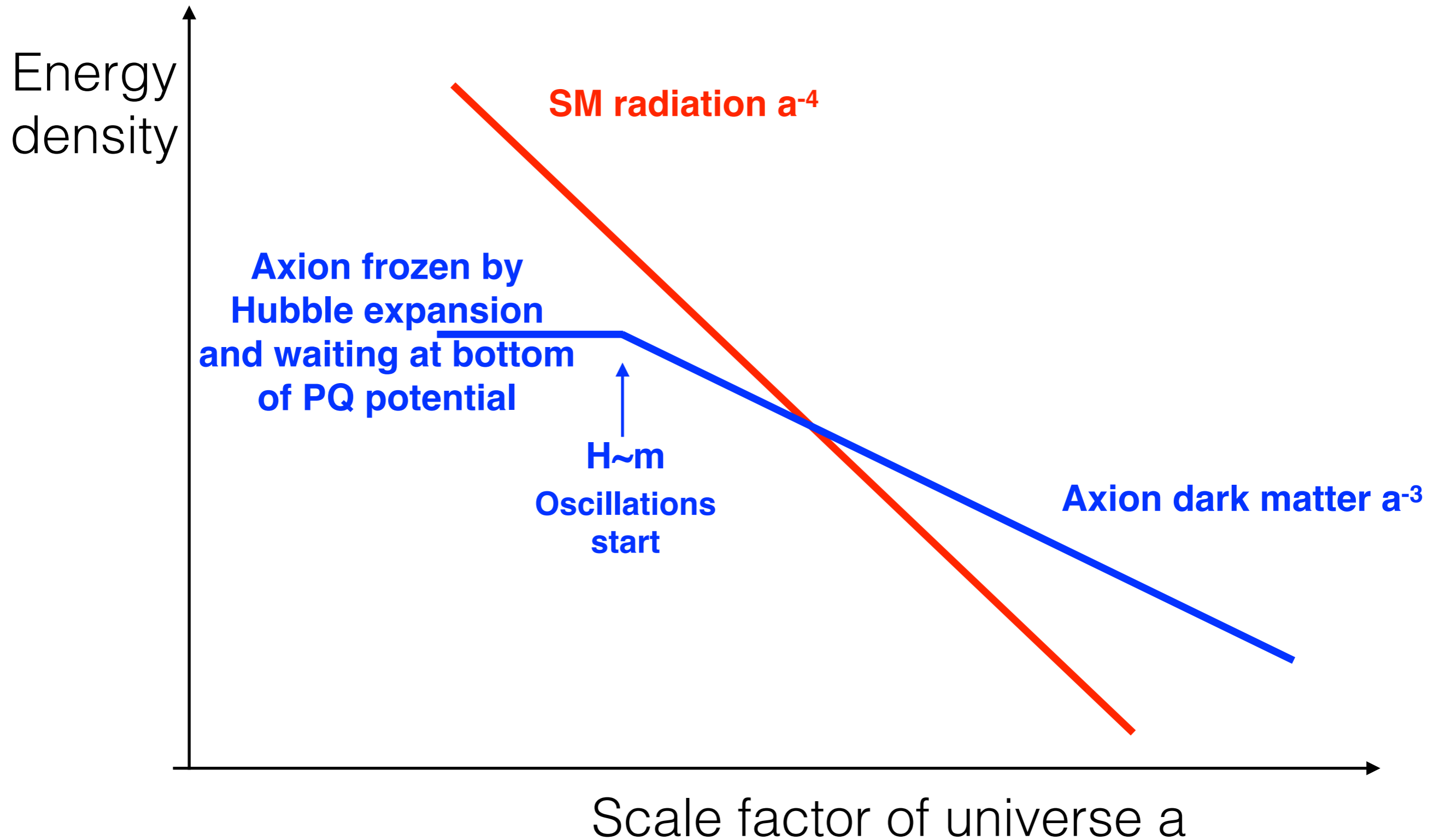
**At early times,  $\phi$  is driven away from  $\phi = 0$ ,  
towards  $\langle \phi \rangle \gg f_a$   
by negative Hubble-induced mass term  $H \gg m_\phi$**

$$V_H(\Phi, H) \supset -cH^2 |\Phi|^2$$

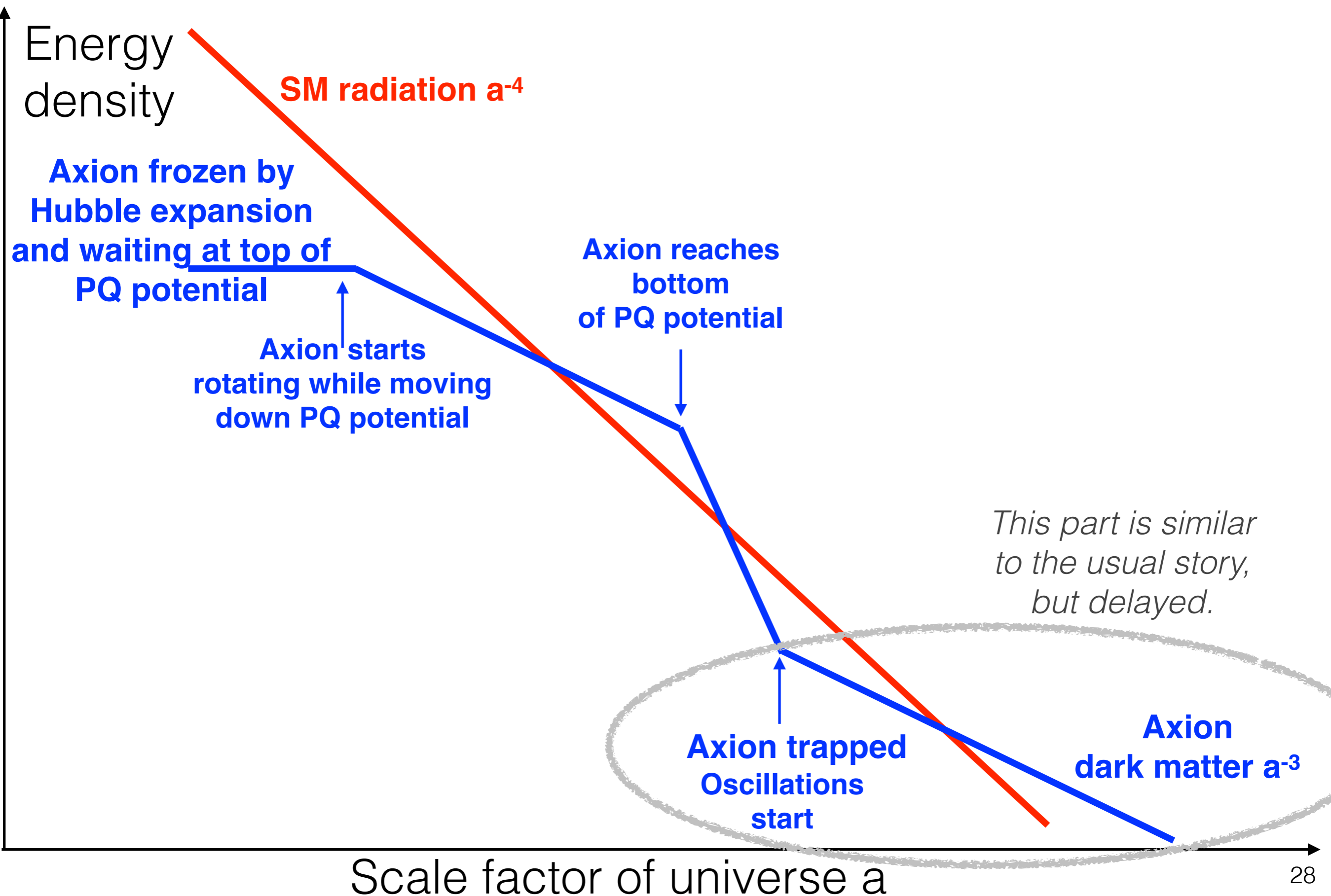
Dine, Randall, Thomas '95

**+ explicit U(1) breaking term transfers radial  
mode motion into kick for the axion**

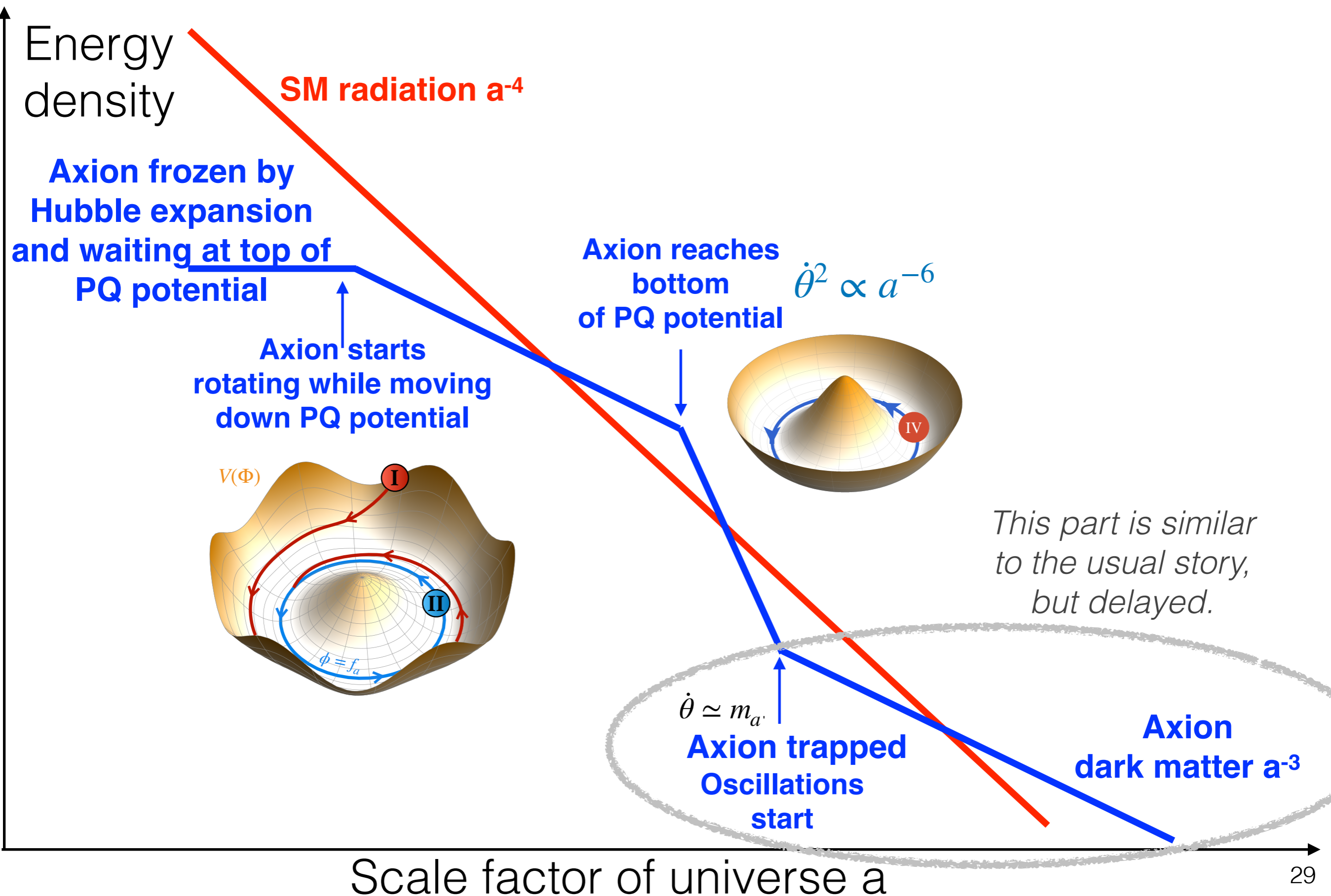
# Usual story.



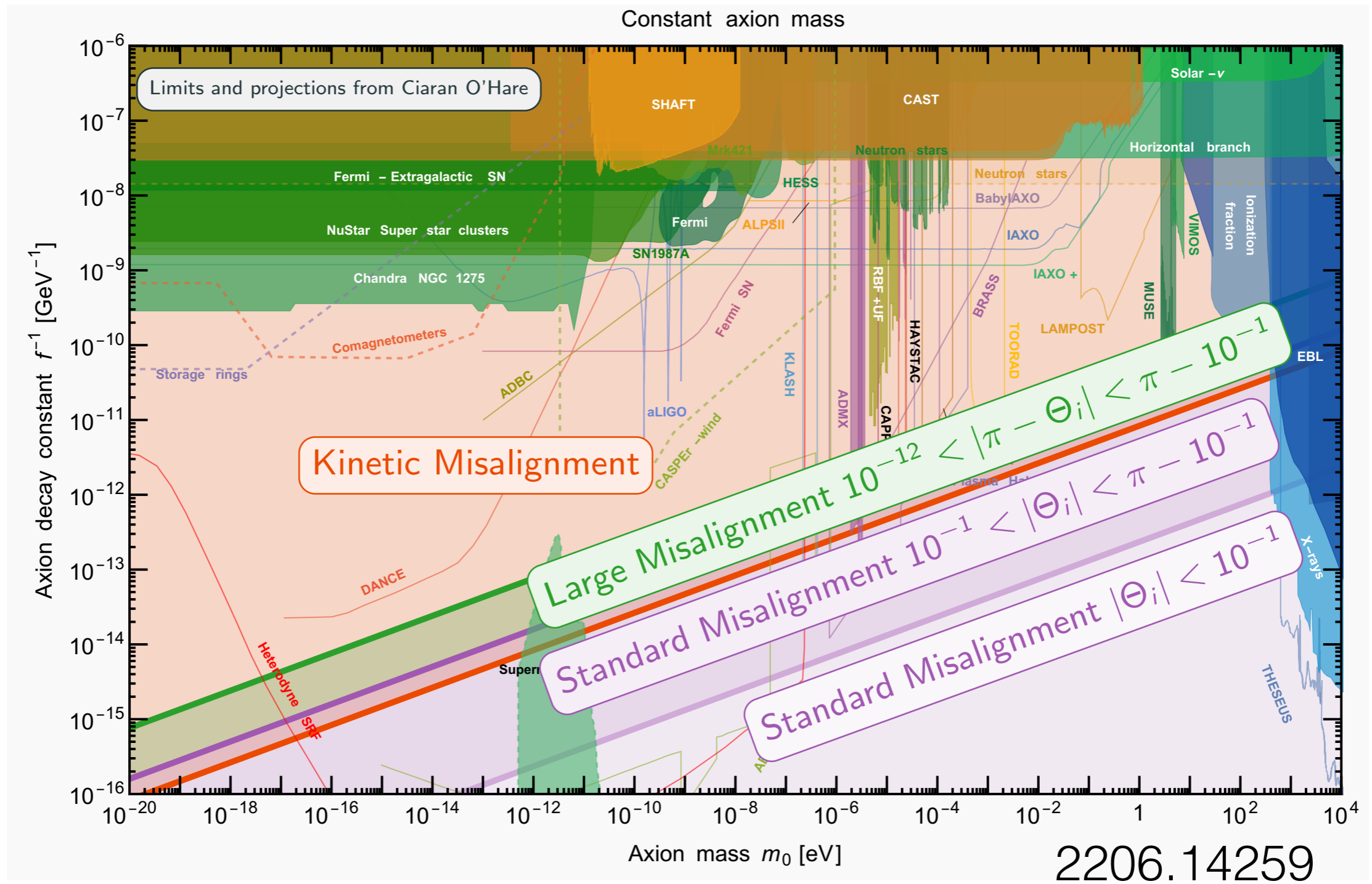
# New story.



# New story.



# ALP DM parameter space.



**Axion kinetic misalignment:**

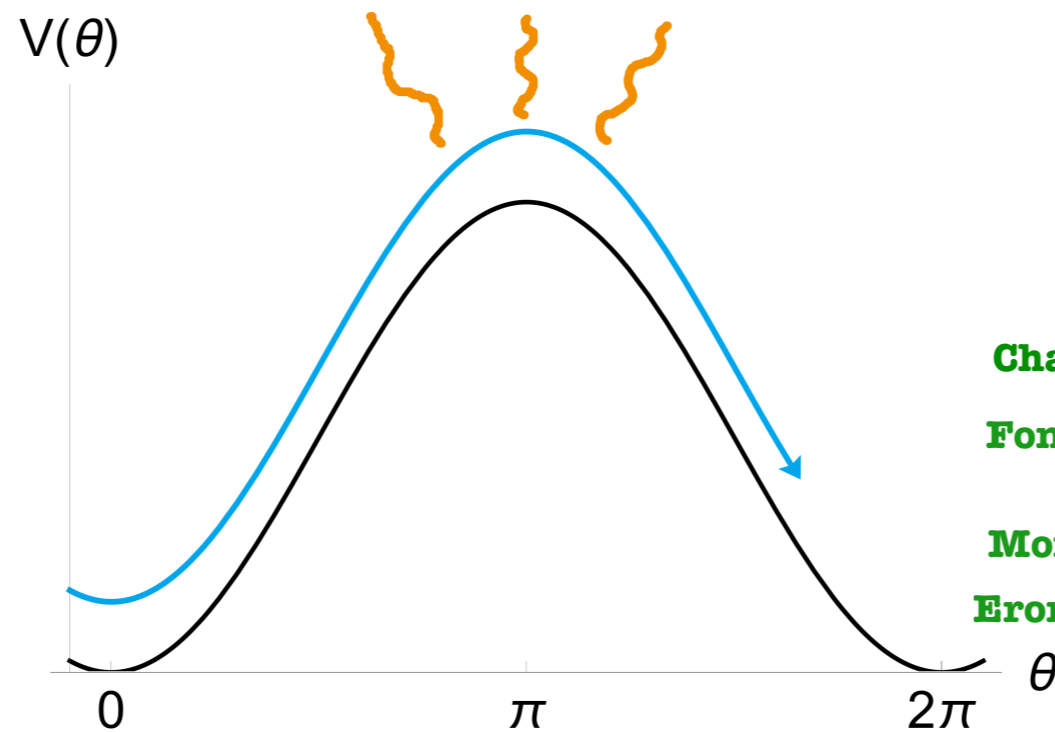
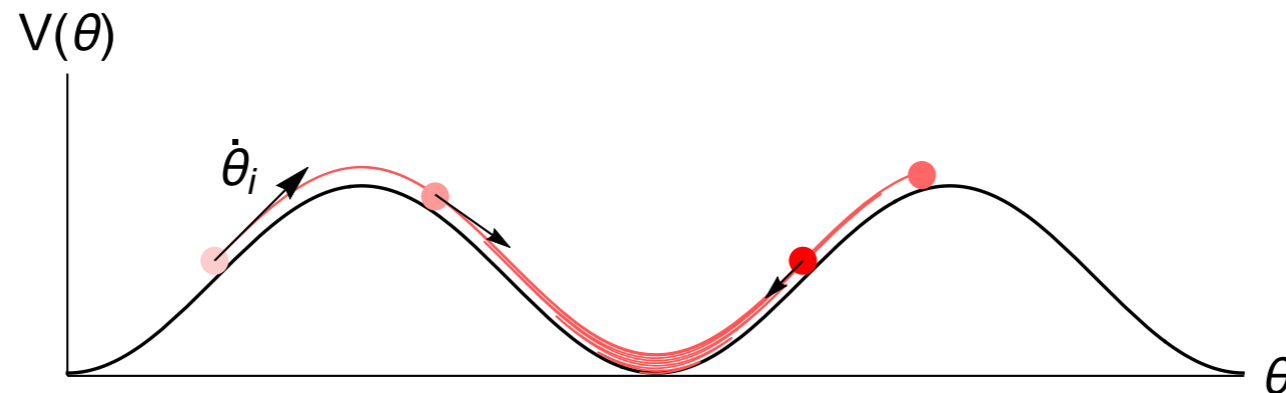


**Axion fragmentation.**



**Compact axion halos.**

# Axion fragmentation



**Chatrchyan et al, 1903.03116, 2004.07844**

**Fonseca, Morgante, Sato, Servant,  
1911.08472, 1911.08473**

**Morgante et al, 2109.13823**

**Eroncel et al'22, 2206.14259**



# Axion Fragmentation.

**Not considered in usual axion phenomenology with oscillations around one minimum: Fragmentation suppressed unless the field starts very close to the top of the potential (“large misalignment mechanism”) or for specific potentials with more than one cosine -> parametric resonance.**

**Greene, Kofman, Starobinsky, hep-ph/9808477**

**Chatrchyan et al, 1903.03116, 2004.07844**

**Arvanitaki et al, 1909.11665**

**However, becomes very relevant when field crosses many wiggles, with interesting implications, e.g. for the relaxion mechanism, but also as a new axion Dark Matter production mechanism.**

**Chatrchyan et al, 1903.03116, 2004.07844**

**Fonseca, Morgante, Sato, Servant'19**

**Morgante et al, 2109.13823**

**Generalization Eroncel et al, 2206.14259**

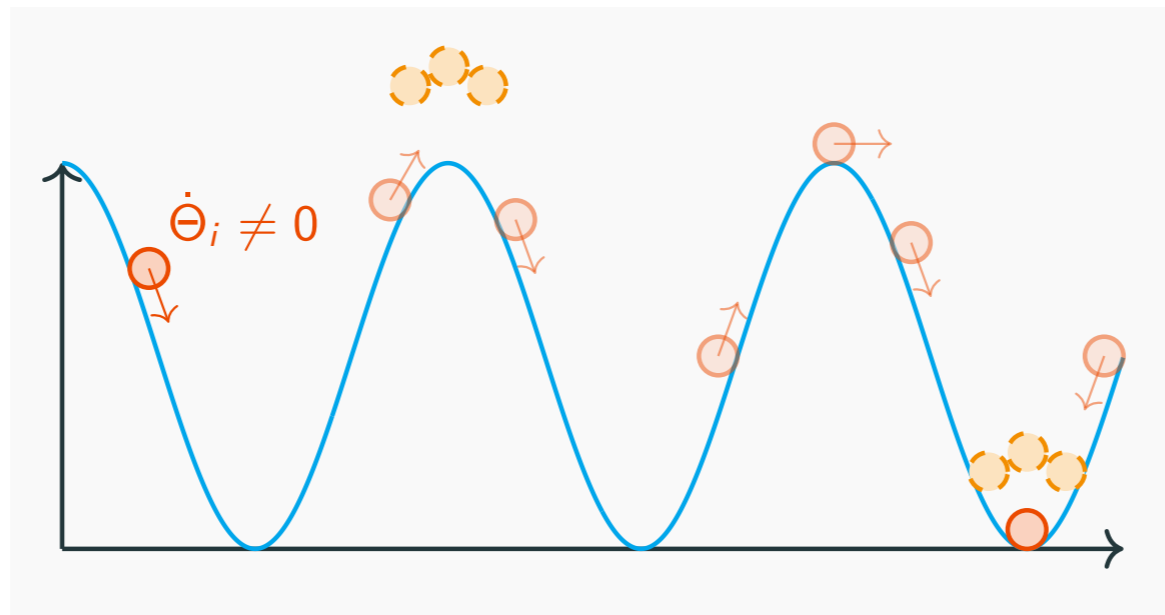
**(fragmentation before and after trapping + detailed application to DM)**

# ALP fluctuations.

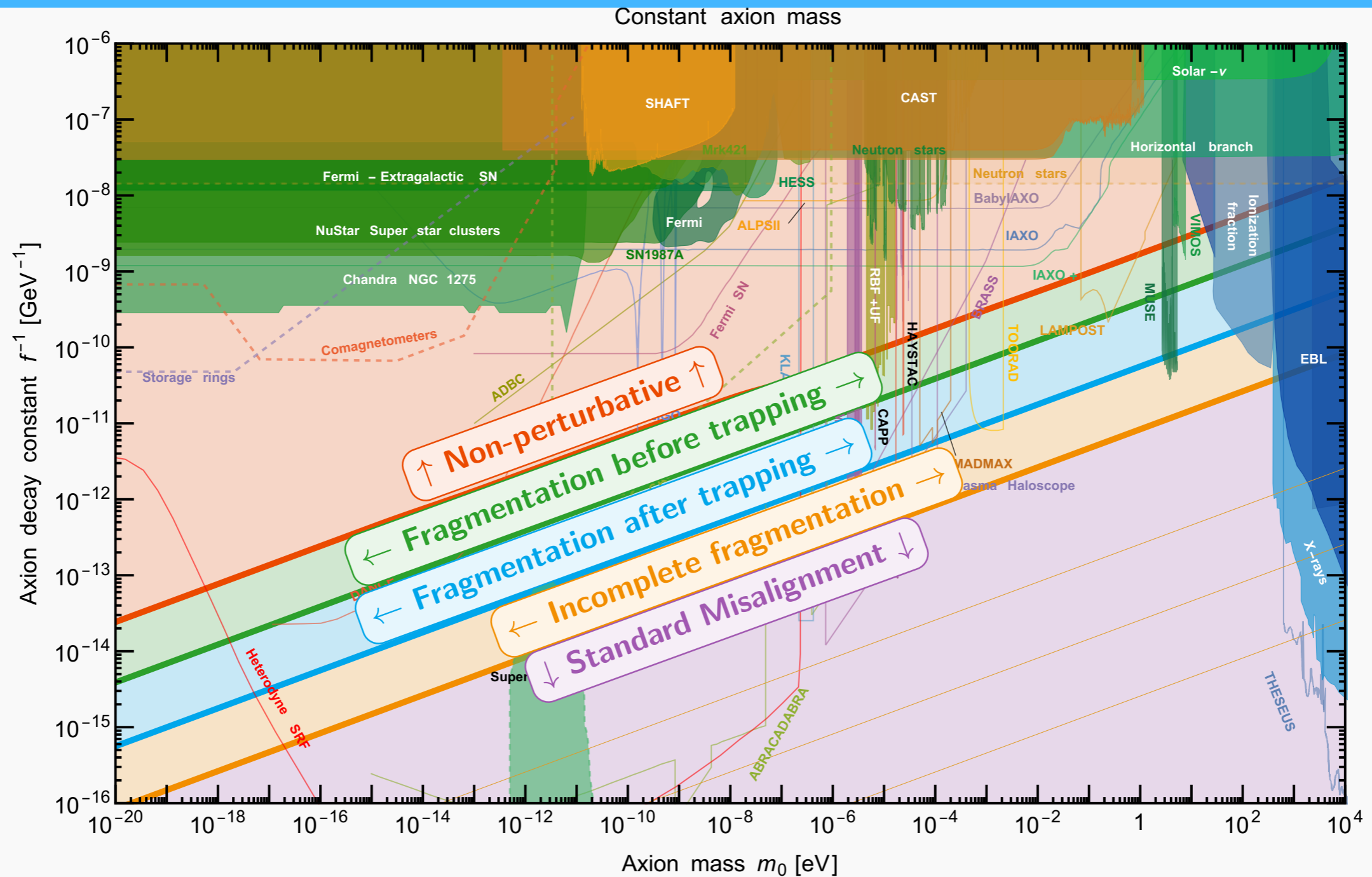
- Even in pre-inflationary scenario, ALP field has some **fluctuations** on top of the **homogeneous background**, which can be described by the **mode functions** in the Fourier space.

$$\theta(t, \mathbf{x}) = \Theta(t) + \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \theta_k e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} + \text{h.c.}$$

- Even though the fluctuations are small initially, they can be **enhanced exponentially** later via **parametric resonance** yielding to **fragmentation**.
- In the case of **efficient** fragmentation, all the energy of the **homogeneous mode** can be transferred to the **fluctuations**. [Fonseca et al. 1911.08472; Morgante et al. 2109.13823]

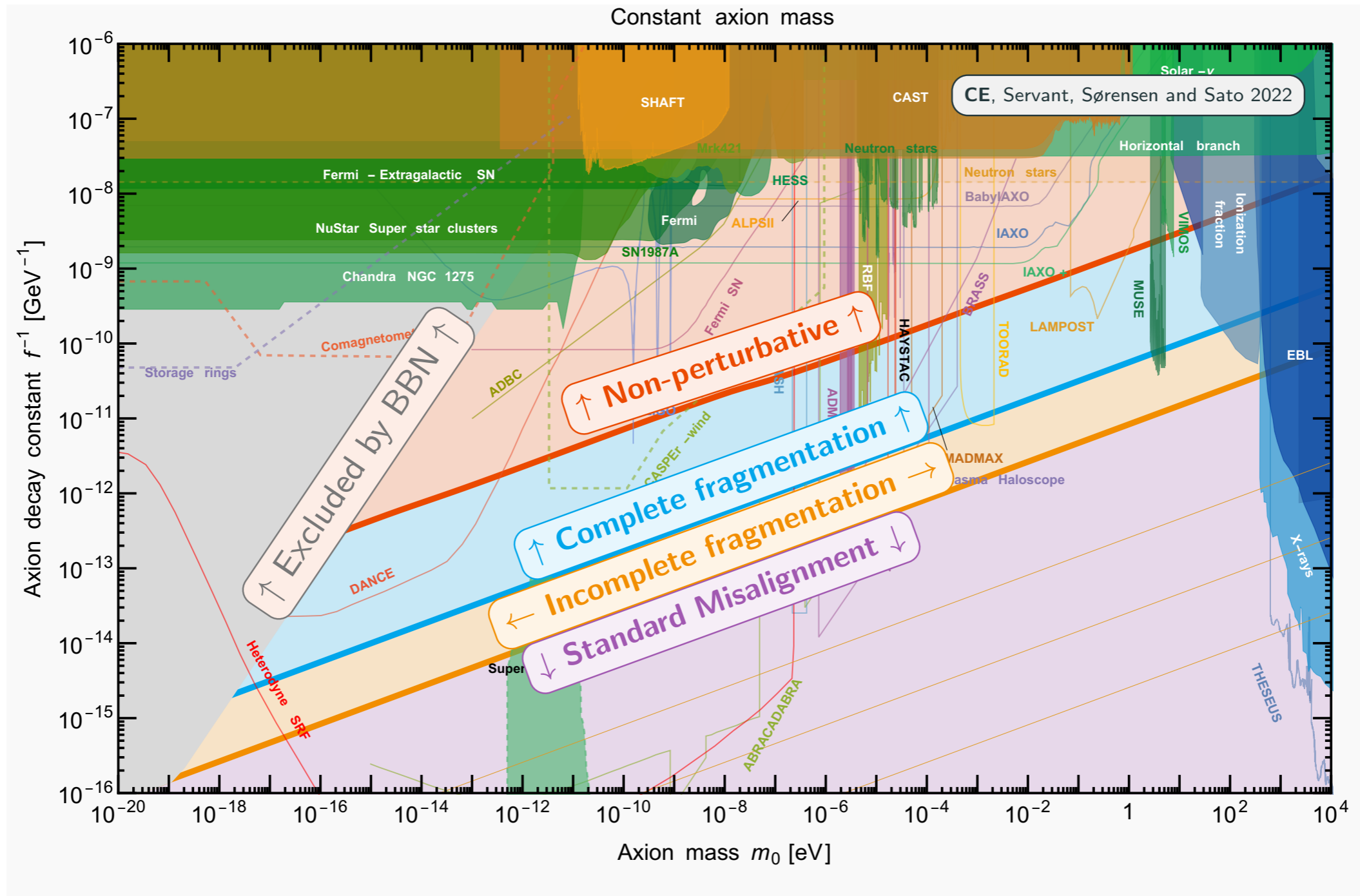


# Fragmentation regions in ALP parameter space.



2206.14259

# Fragmentation regions in ALP parameter space.



# ALP fluctuations.

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \phi_k e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} + \text{h.c.}$$

EoM for the **unavoidable adiabatic** perturbations :

$$\ddot{\phi}_k + 3H\dot{\phi}_k + \underbrace{\left[ \frac{k^2}{a^2} + V''(\phi) \Big|_{\bar{\phi}} \right]}_{\text{eff. frequency}} \phi_k = \underbrace{2\dot{\phi}_k V'(\phi) \Big|_{\bar{\phi}} - 4\dot{\phi}_k \dot{\bar{\phi}}}_{\text{source term}}$$

unstable when the **effective frequency**

- becomes negative  $\Rightarrow$  tachyonic instability
- is oscillating  $\Rightarrow$  parametric resonance

Growth rate of the perturbations depend **exponentially** on

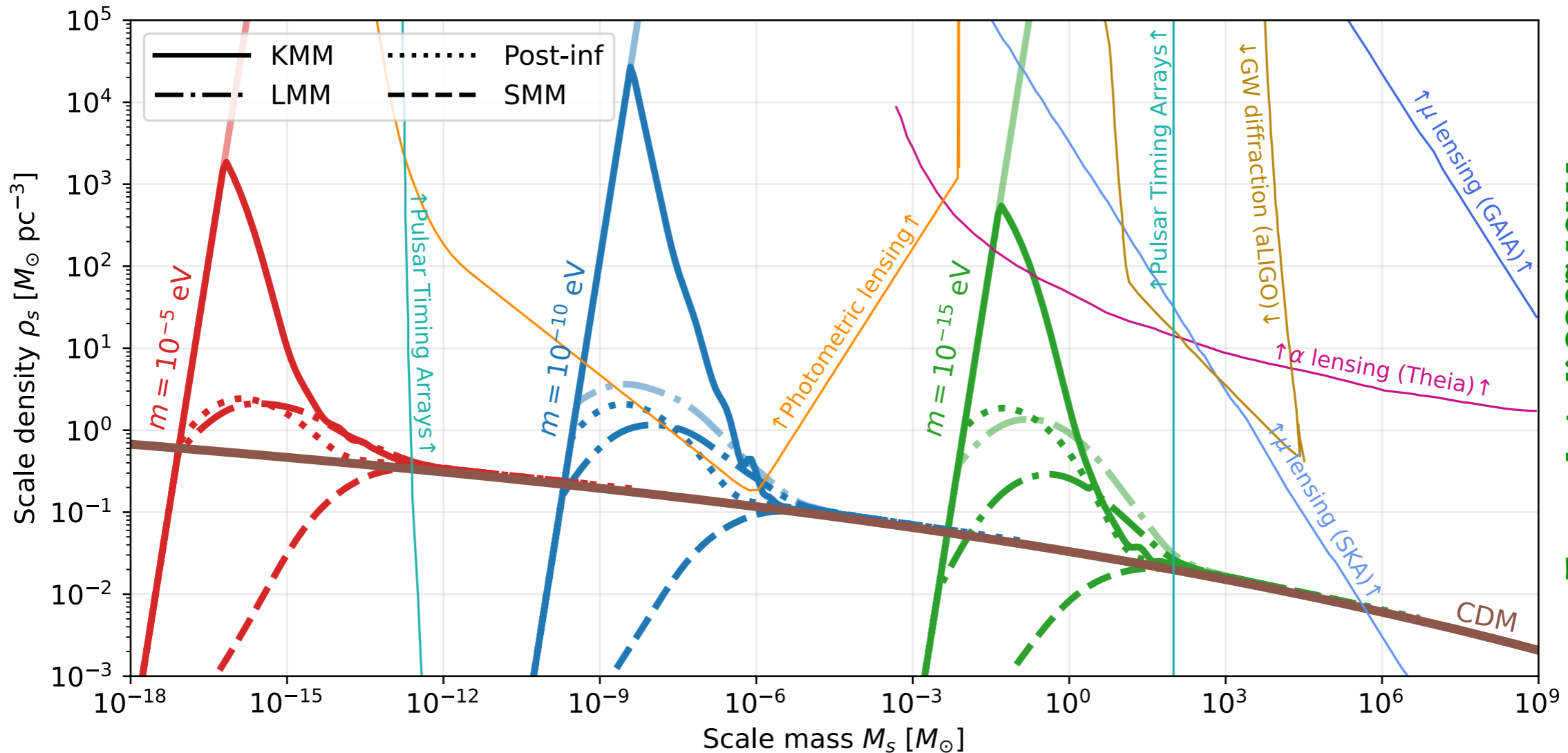
$$\frac{m_\phi}{H} \Big|_{\text{osc}}$$

**Dense and compact ALP mini-clusters can also be formed in the pre-inflationary scenario!**

# Observational tests: compact axion halos.

kinetic misalignment  $\rightarrow$  axion fragmentation  $\rightarrow$  structure formation enhancement

Scale density of axion compact structures



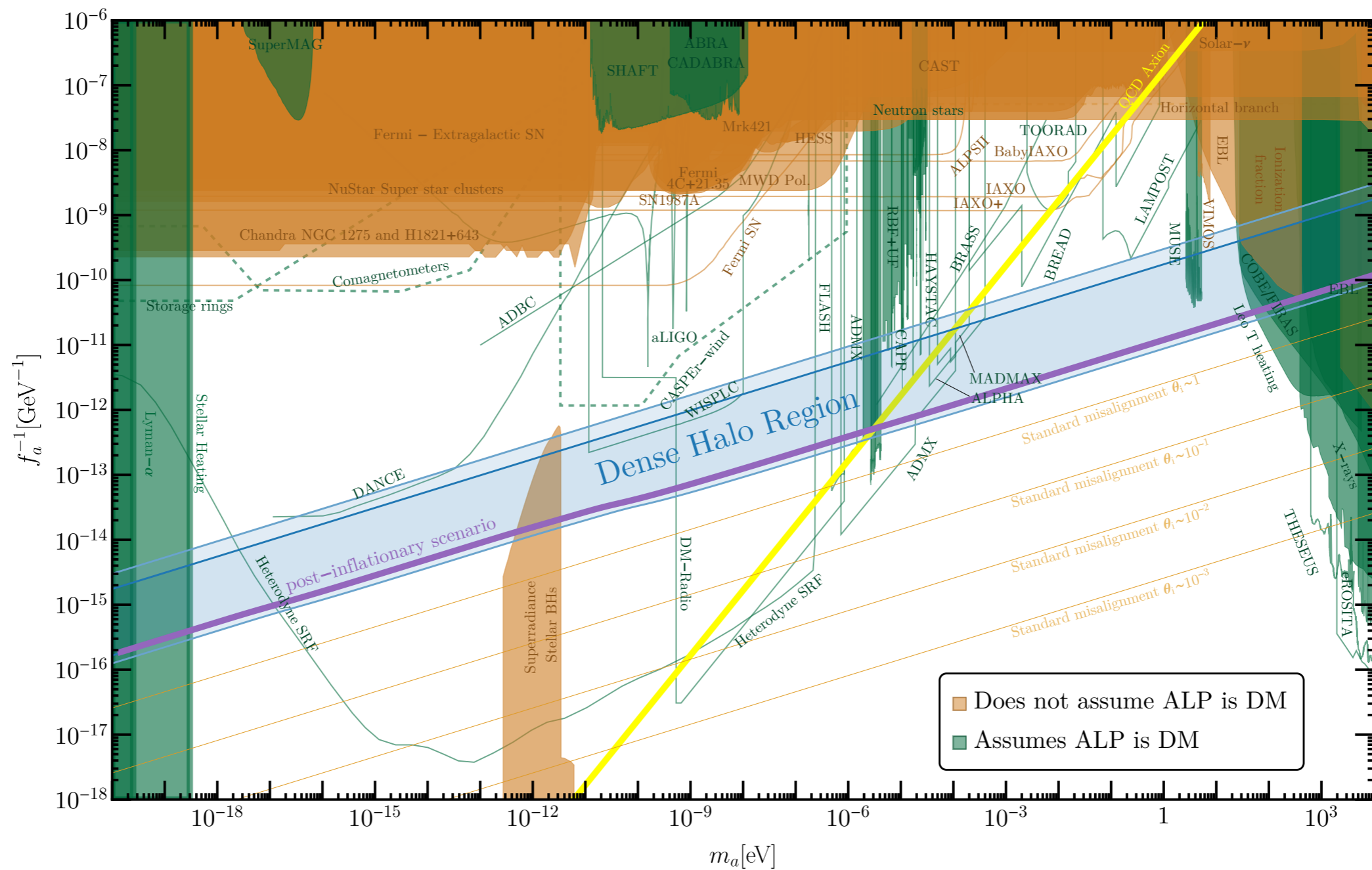
Eroncel et al, 2207.10111

- fragmentation
- ⋯ post-inflationary
- - - standard misalignment
- · - large misalignment

was studied in the context of large misalignment scenario in [Arvanitaki et al'19]

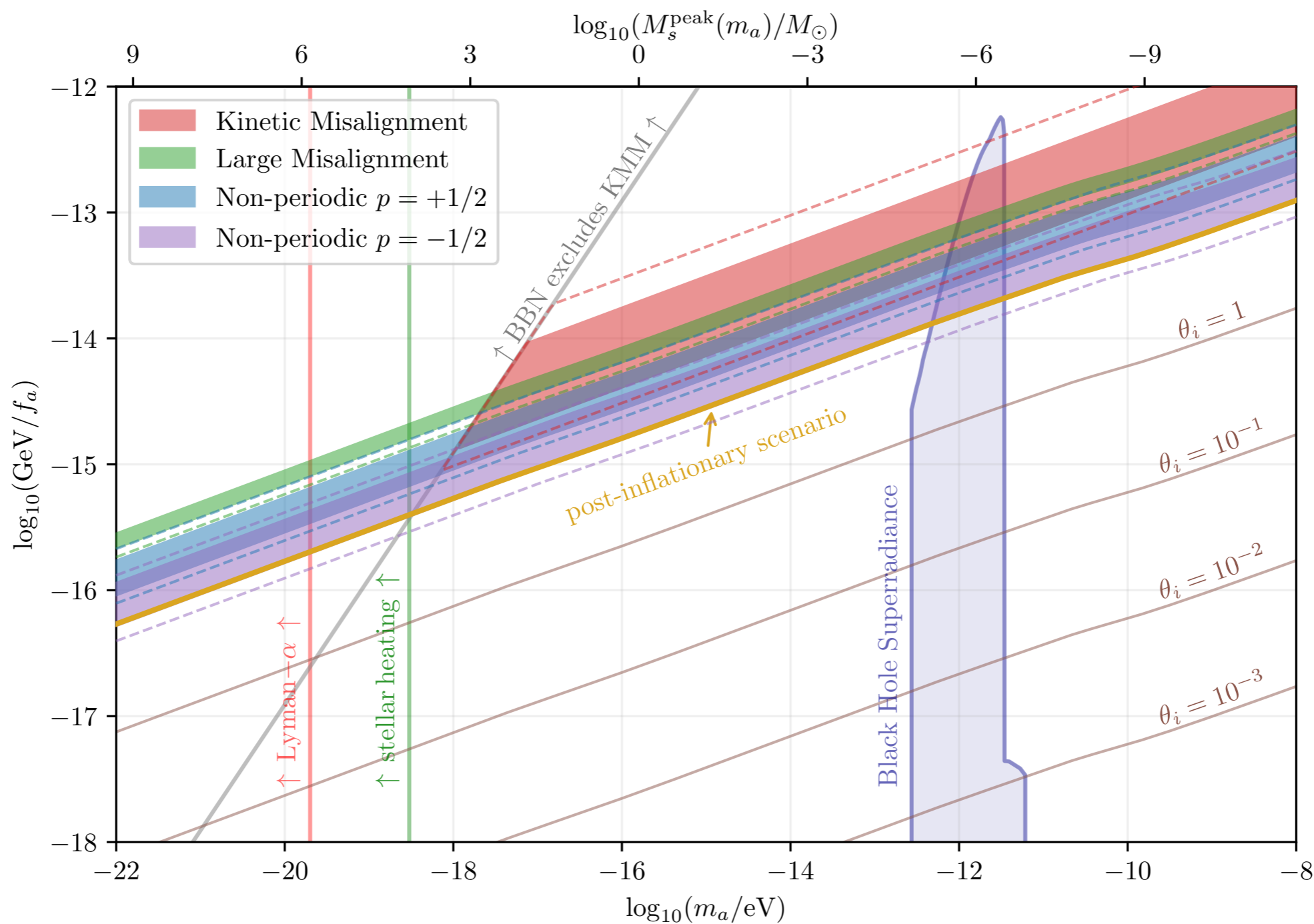
Different in the context of axion kinetic fragmentation: Eroncel et al, 2207.10111

# Parameter space where parametric resonance can create compact halos.



Chatrchyan et al, 2305.03756

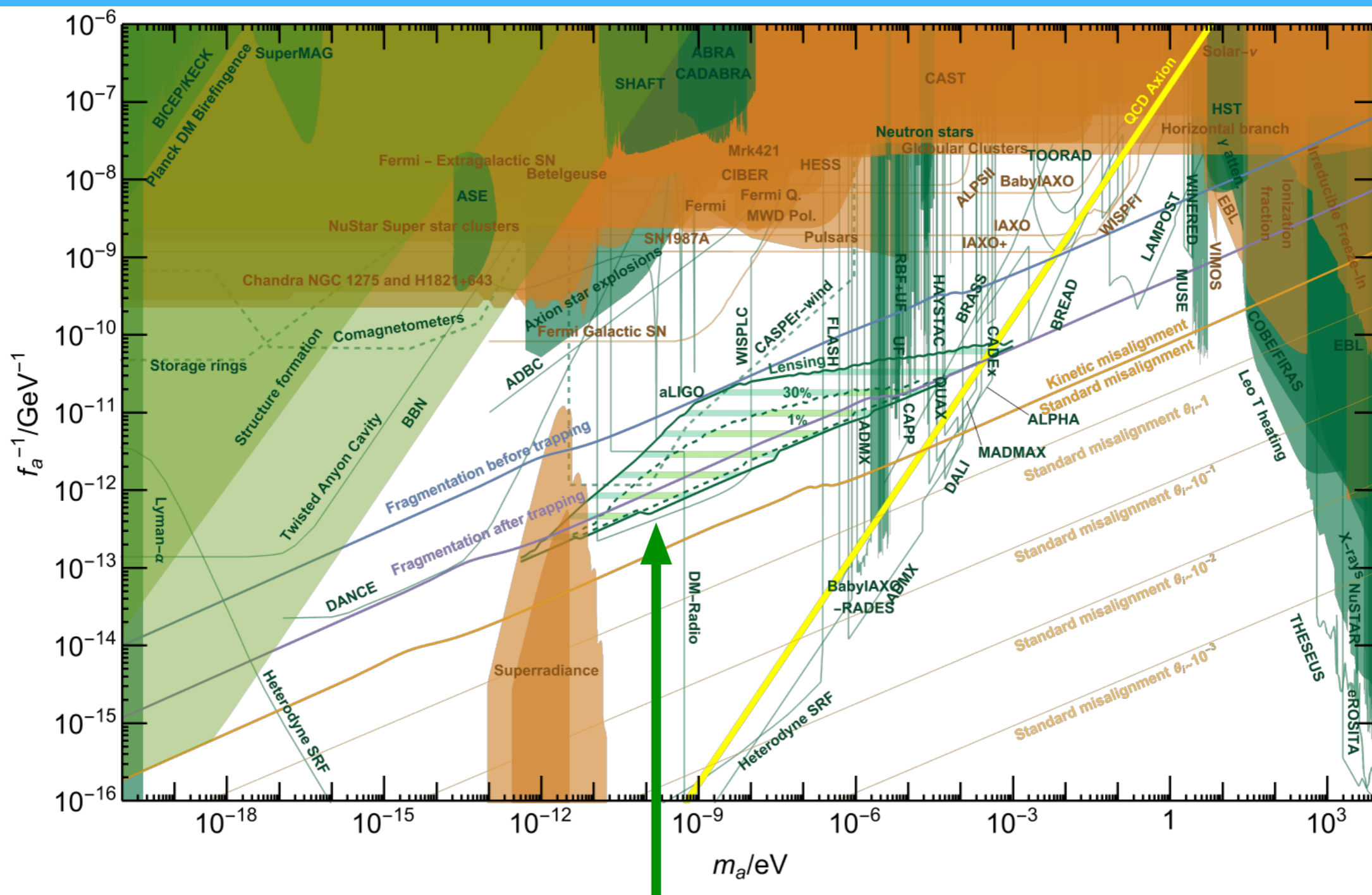
# Parameter space where parametric resonance can create compact halos.



**Chatrchyan et al 2305.03756**



# Observability of compact halos from kinetic misalignment.



Region that can be probed by photometric lensing

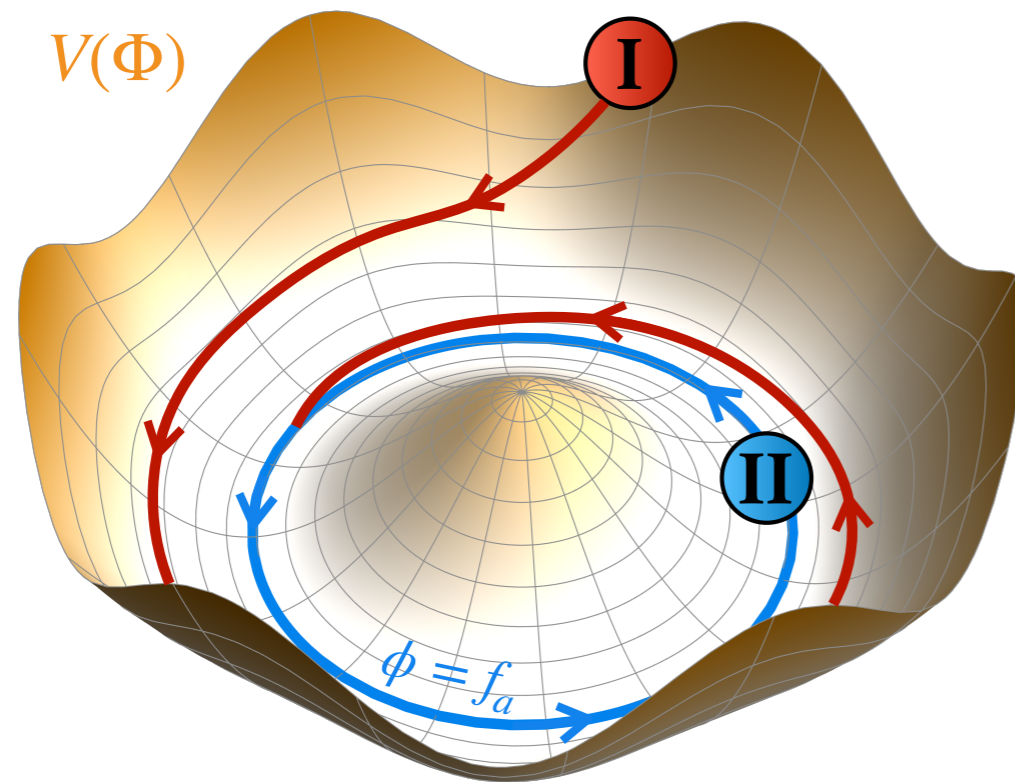
# Model implementations of a rotating axion .

## Complex scalar field

“Affleck-Dine Baryogenesis” (Affleck, Dine, 1985)

“Axiogenesis” (Co, Hall, Harigaya, et. al., '19)

“Kination cosmology” (Gouttenoire et al, '21)



$$\Phi \sim \phi e^{i\theta} \text{ with } U(1)\text{-symmetry}$$

Radial mode  $\phi$  oscillates in potential with mass  $\sqrt{V''(\Phi)}$ .

Angular mode  $\theta$  “axion” spins, with large kinetic energy.

## Requirements

1.  $U(1)$ -symmetric (**quadratic**) potential with spontaneous symmetry-breaking minimum

2. **Large** initial scalar VEV

3. Explicit  $U(1)$ -**breaking** term (wiggle for angular velocity)

4. **Damping** of radial motion

## Ingredients 1 & 2 : scalar potential

$$V(\Phi) = m_r^2 |\Phi|^2 \left[ \log \left( \frac{|\Phi|^2}{f_a^2} \right) - 1 \right] + \Lambda_b^4 \left[ \left( \frac{\Phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^l + \left( \frac{\Phi^\dagger}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^l \right] + \frac{\lambda^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^{2l-6}} |\Phi|^{2l-2}$$

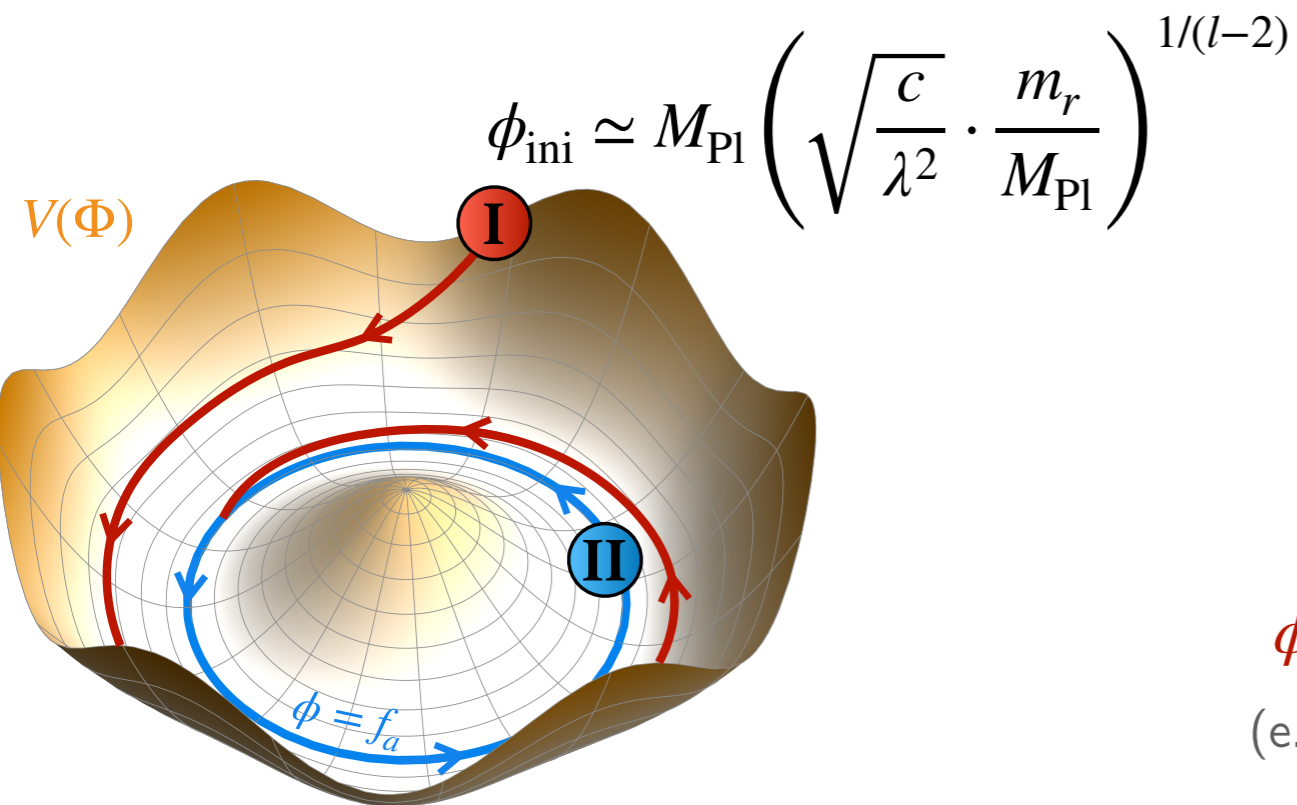
I.  $U(1)$ -conserving potential  
(quadratic)  
with a minimum  $f_a$

(motivated by supersymmetric setups)

$\propto \cos(l\theta)$

II. explicit breaking term  
(e.g.  $U(1)$  is not exact  
at high scales.)

stabilization  
i.e., at large  $|\Phi|$



### Ingredient 3 : large initial VEV $\phi_{\text{ini}}$

By adding a negative Hubble mass

$$V_H(\Phi, H) \supset -cH^2 |\Phi|^2$$

$\phi$  is driven away from  $\phi = 0$  at early times ( $H \gg m_r$ )  
(e.g. Dine, Randall, Thomas, 1995, Fujita & Harigaya 1607.07058)

## Trapping temperature:

$$T_* \approx (2.12)^{\frac{\gamma}{2+\gamma}} (2 \times 10^8)^{\frac{2}{6+\gamma}} \left(\frac{g_*}{72}\right)^{-\frac{2}{6+\gamma}} (m_a f_a)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6+\gamma}} \left(\frac{h^2 \Omega_{\phi,0}}{h^2 \Omega_{\text{DM}}}\right)^{-\frac{2}{6+\gamma}},$$

where:  $\left(\frac{h^2 \Omega_{\phi,0}}{h^2 \Omega_{\text{DM}}}\right) \approx \left(\frac{m_a}{5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}}\right) \left(\frac{Y}{40}\right),$

$$Y = \frac{n_{\text{PQ}}}{s},$$

$$n_{\text{PQ}} = \dot{\theta} \phi^2 \propto a^{-3}$$

Our goal: extract predictions for  $Y$  for any  $(m_a, f_a)$  as a function of the **UV parameters** of the theory that control the size of the kick, such as the **mass of the radial mode**  $m_\phi$  and  $n$  the **dimension of the explicit PQ-breaking higher-dimensional operators**

$$T_{\text{kick}} \approx \sqrt[4]{\frac{10}{g_*(T_{\text{kick}})\pi^2}} \sqrt{m_\phi m_{\text{Pl}}}.$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{kick}} = \mathcal{O}(1) \times m_\phi,$$

$$Y_{\text{kick}} = \frac{n_{PQ}}{s} = \epsilon \frac{m_\phi \phi_{\text{kick}}^2}{\frac{2\pi^2}{45} g_{*s} T_{\text{kick}}^3} \approx 0.8 \times \epsilon \left( \frac{M}{m_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^{\frac{2n-6}{n-2}} \left( \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{m_\phi} \right)^{\frac{n-6}{2n-4}},$$

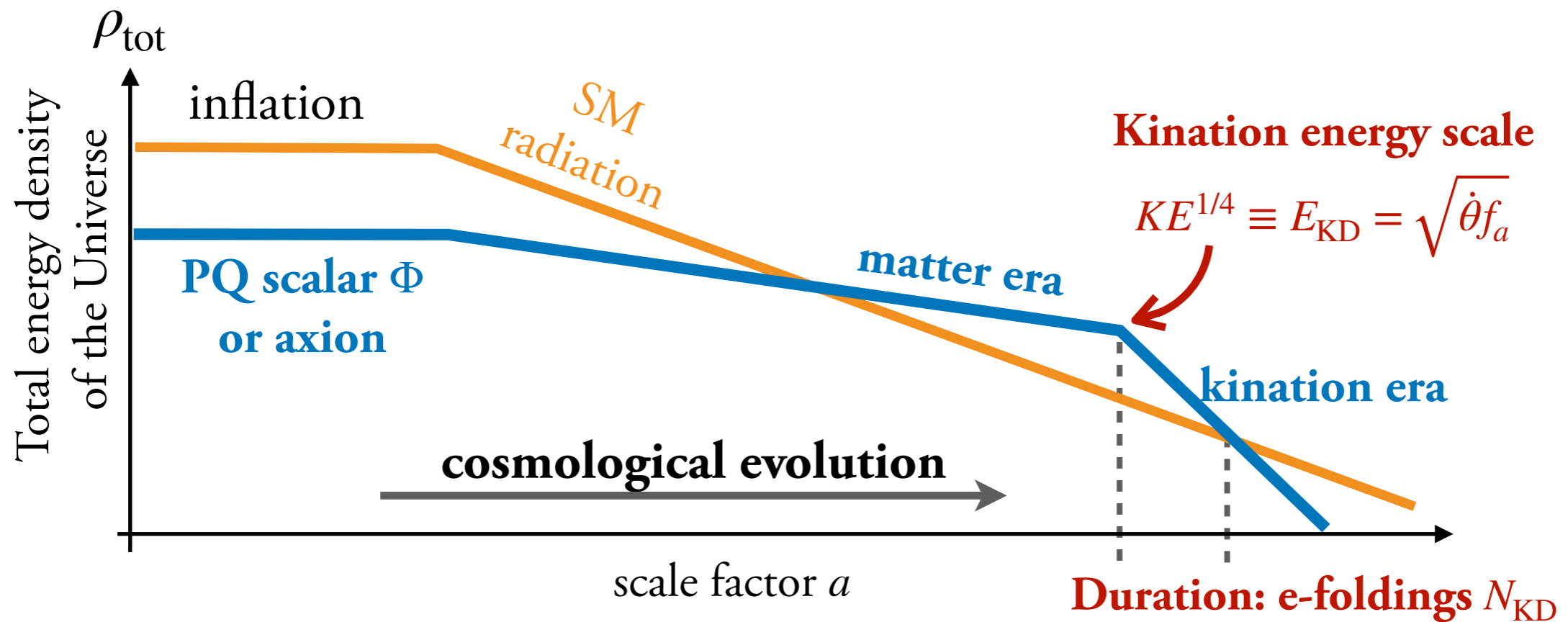
Once  $\langle \phi \rangle = f_a$   $\rho_a \propto \dot{\theta}^2 \propto a^{-6}$   
kination

BBN constraint:  $T_* \gtrsim 20 \text{ keV}$ .

Many other constraints to check:

- perturbativity
- homogeneity
- radial mode abundance and decay
- efficient radial mode damping

# Kination from a rotating axion .



are characterized by

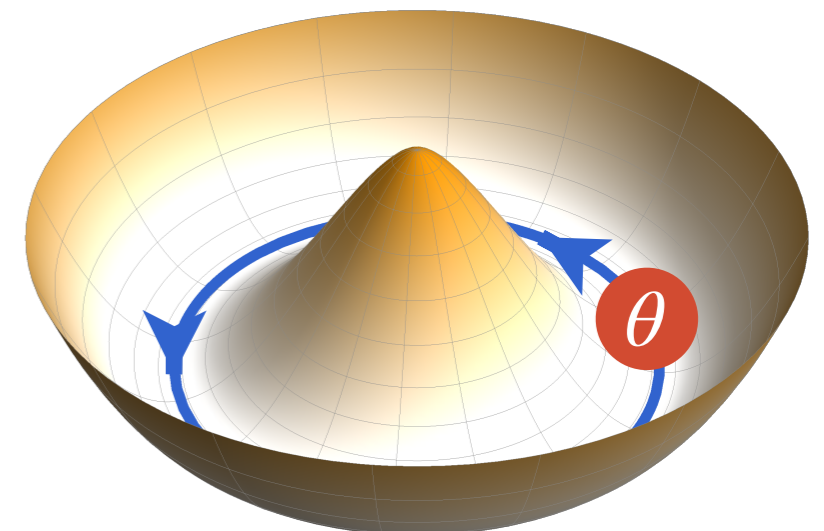
(given the spontaneous symmetry-breaking scale  $f_a$ )

1. **kination energy scale**  $E_{\text{KD}} = \sqrt{\dot{\theta} f_a}$

(the **spinning speed** of axion  $\dot{\theta}$  when kination starts)

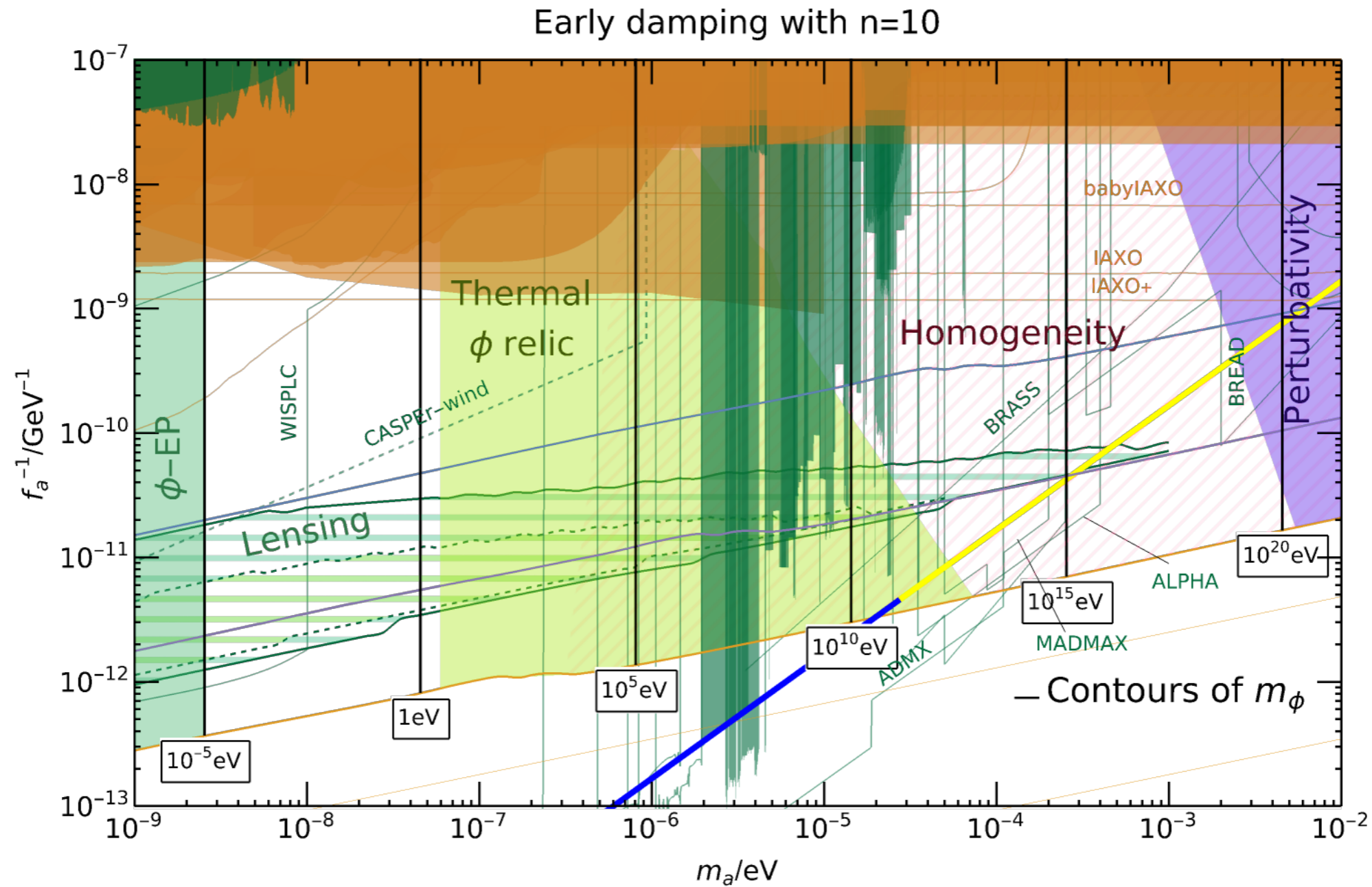
2. **the duration of kination era**  $N_{\text{KD}} = \log(a_{\text{start}}/a_{\text{end}})$

(related to the beginning of the matter era)



circle of  $\phi = f_a$

# Explicit UV completions realising the axion kinetic misalignment.

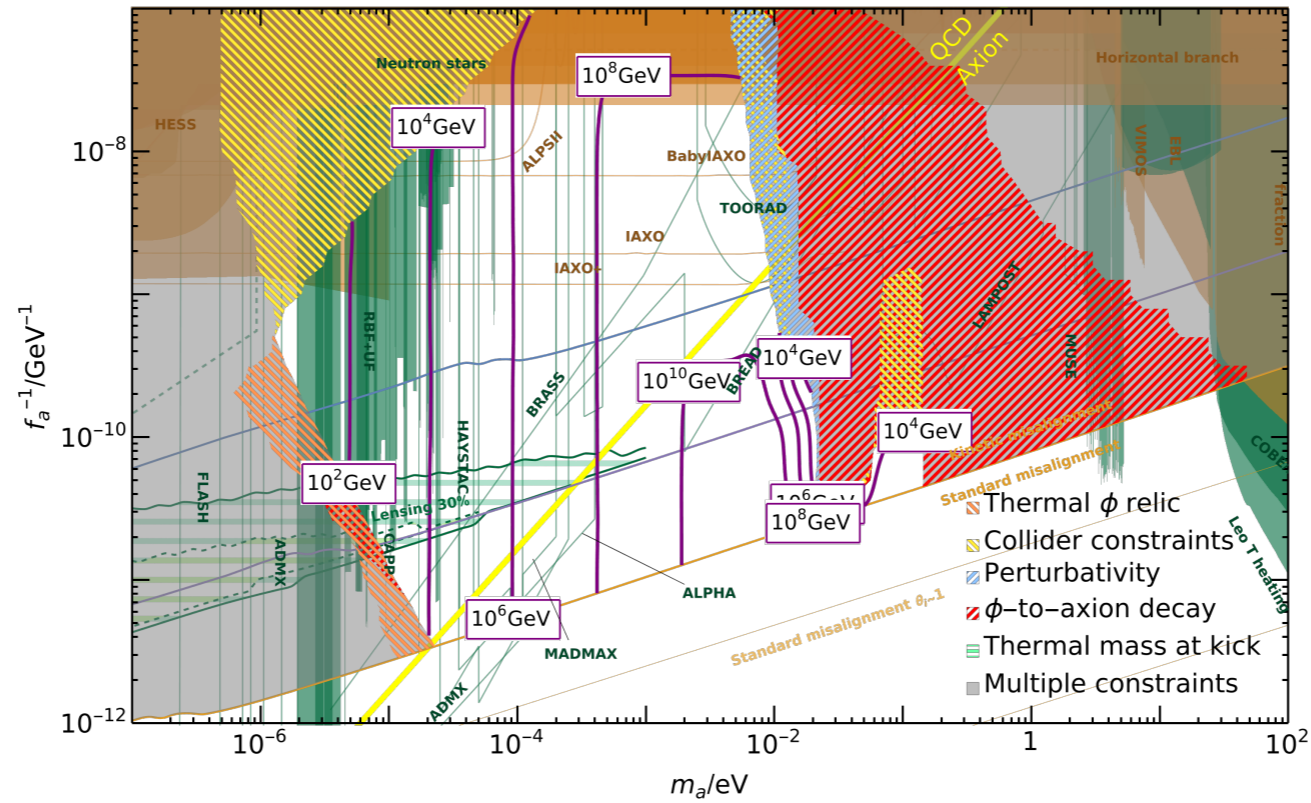


[Eroncel, Soerensen, Sato, Servant, 2406.xxxxx]

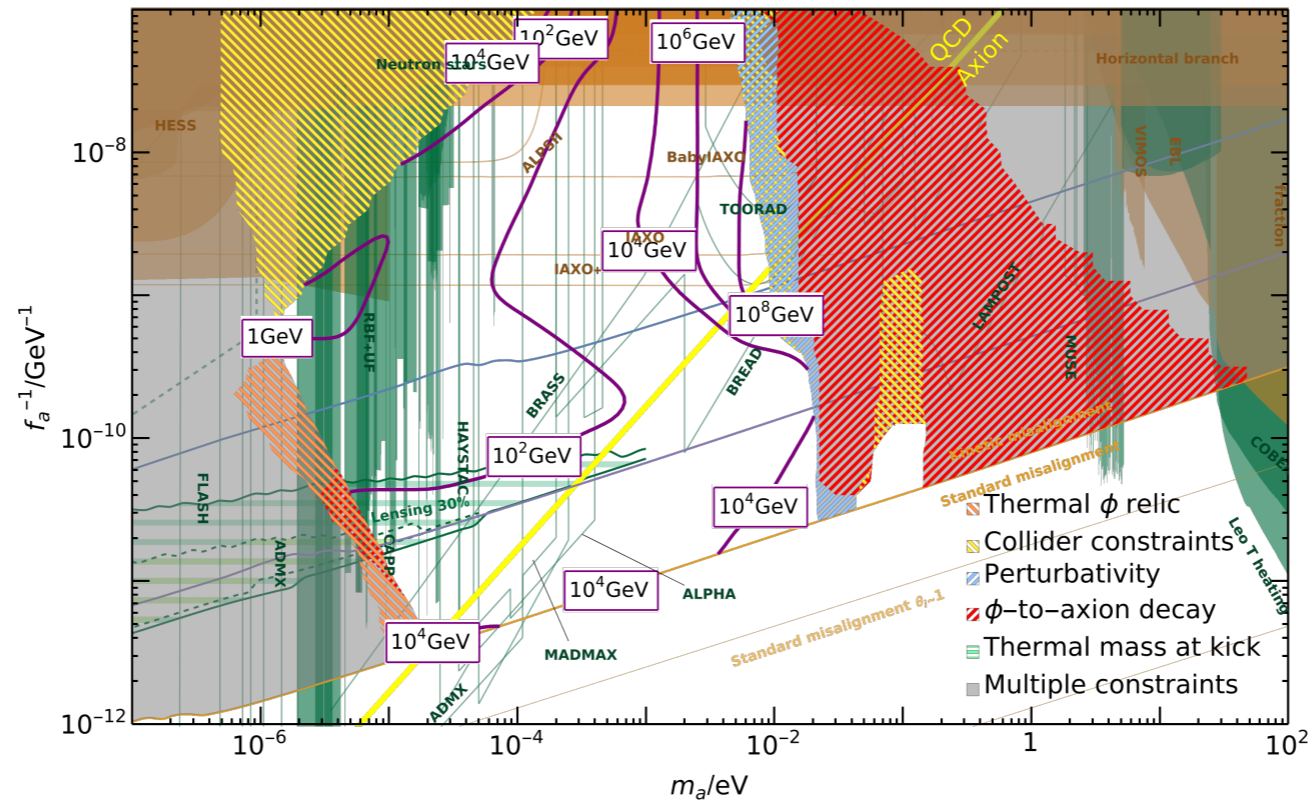


# Explicit UV completions realising the axion kinetic misalignment.

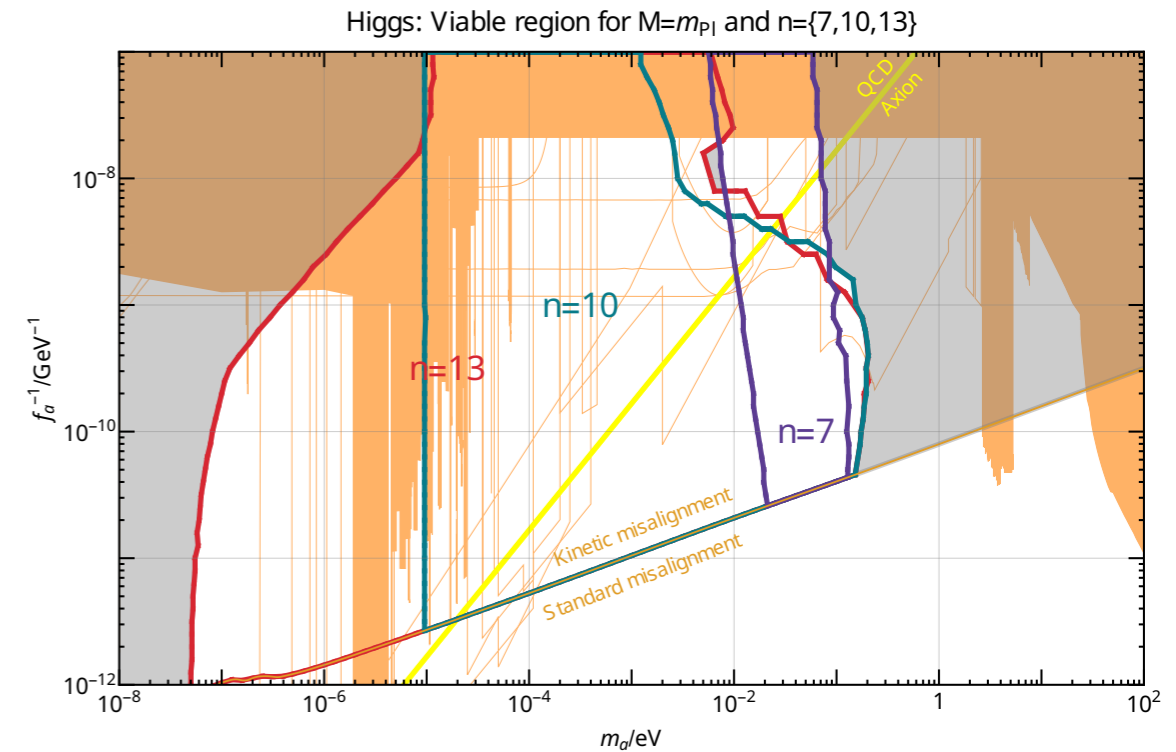
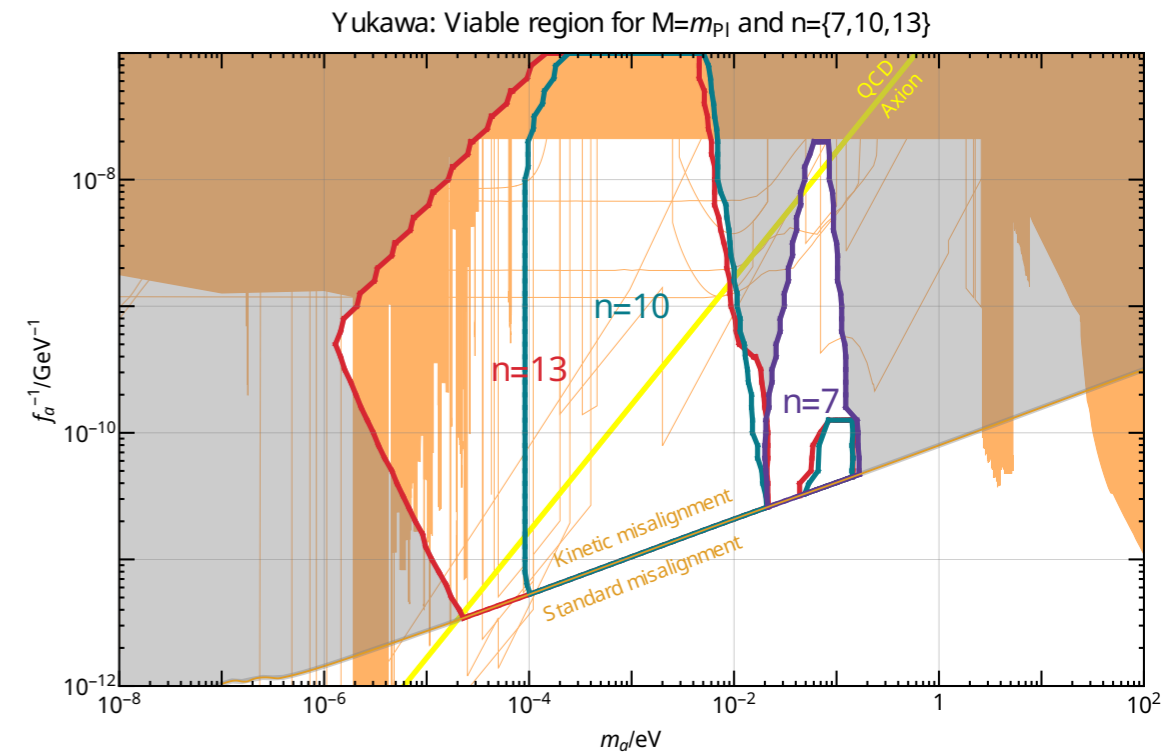
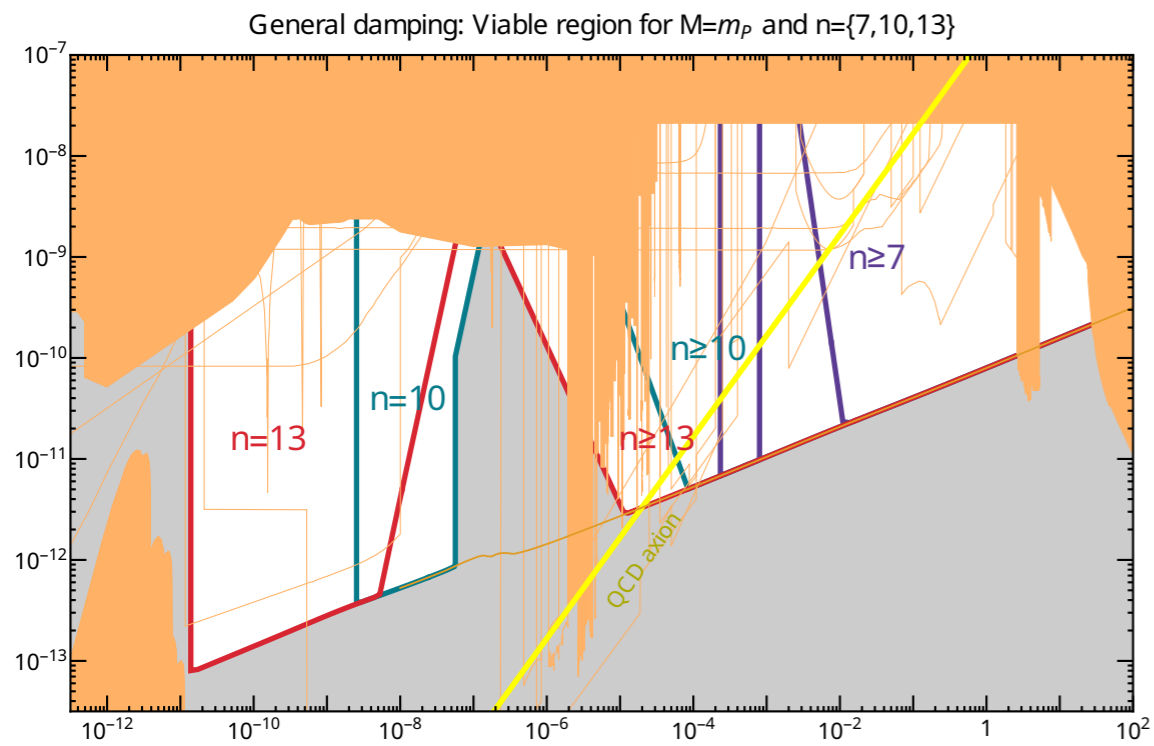
Yukawa: Upper bound on  $m_{\phi,0}$  for  $M=m_{\text{Pl}}$  and  $n=13$



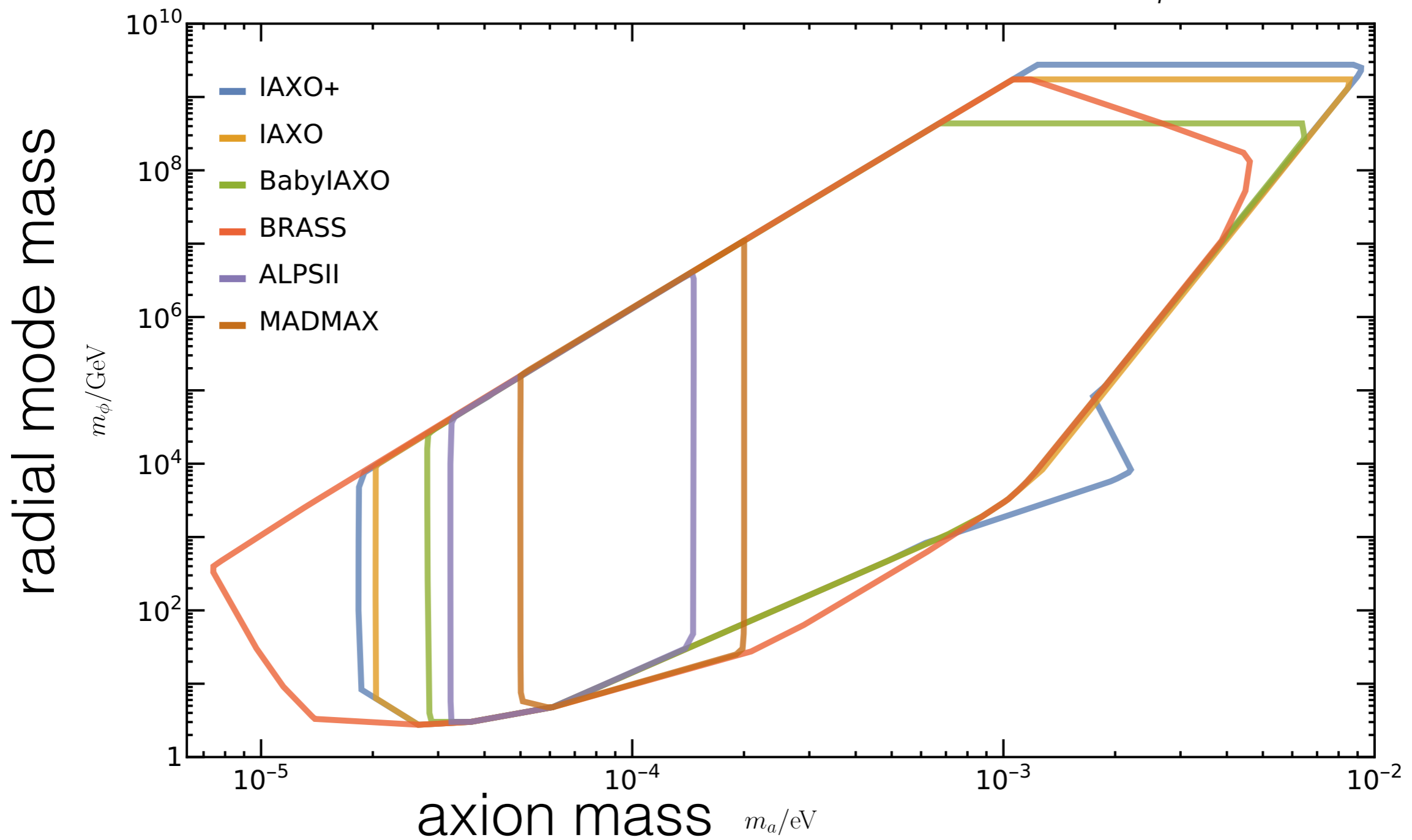
Yukawa: Lower bound on  $m_{\phi,0}$  for  $M=m_{\text{Pl}}$  and  $n=13$



# Explicit UV completions realising the axion kinetic misalignment.



# Correlations between axion mass and radial-mode mass.



# Conclusion.

## **Kinetic Misalignment Mechanism:**

**Moves the ALP Dark Matter window into testable territory.**

**A well-motivated alternative production mechanism for ALP Dark Matter.**

**We scrutinised the open parameter space of explicit UV realizations**

- **Cosmology of rotating axions:**

- All axion experiments are in principle sensitive to axion dark matter (even helioscopes and light-shining-through-the-wall experiments)

- QCD axion Dark Matter inside MADMAX and IAXO sensitivities**

- astro signatures: Much denser compact axion DM halos from kinetic fragmentation

- Gravitational waves: not discussed in this talk, however kination leads to a unique amplification of the primordial GW background from inflation and from cosmic strings (2111.01150)

- **UV models for the axion kick:**

- Axion typically not alone, e.g, its radial mode partner is a key player

**Extra material.**

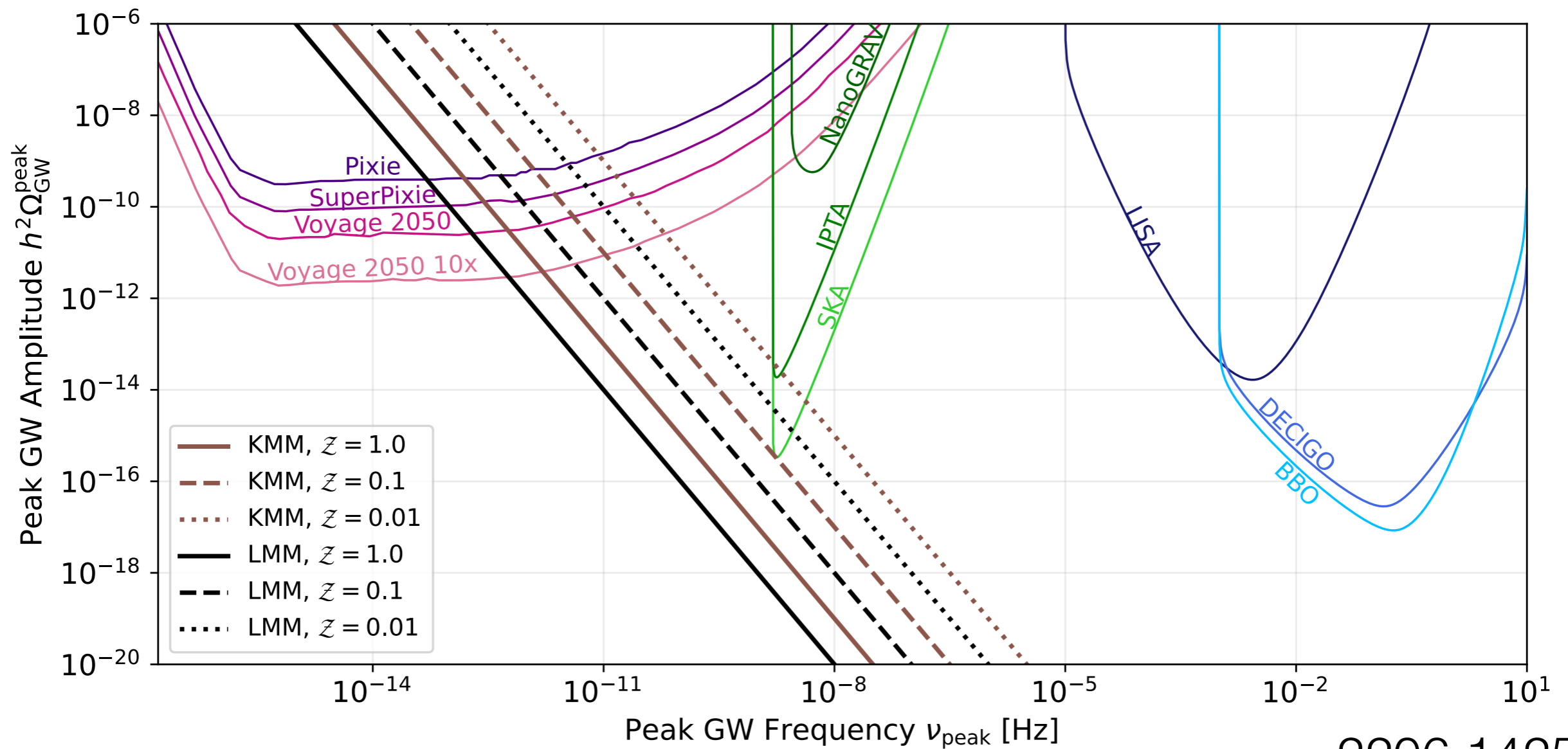
# GWs from axion fragmentation.

**The transfer of energy in the early universe from the homogeneous axion field into axion quantum fluctuations, inevitably produces a stochastic background of gravitational waves of primordial origin with a peak frequency controlled by the axion mass.**

$$\ddot{h}_{ij} + 3H\dot{h}_{ij} - \frac{\Delta h_{ij}}{a^2} = \frac{16\pi}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \Pi_{ij}^{\text{TT}},$$

$$\Pi_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t, \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{a^2} \left[ \partial_i \phi(t, \vec{x}) \partial_j \phi(t, \vec{x}) - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} (\partial_k \phi(t, \vec{x}) \partial_k \phi(t, \vec{x})) \right]$$

# Gravitational waves from ALP DM fragmentation.



$\mathcal{Z}$  = needed dilution factor of ALP energy density

# Equation of motion of complex scalar field in expanding universe .


$$\ddot{\Phi} - a^{-2}\nabla^2\Phi + 3H\dot{\Phi} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial\Phi^\dagger} = 0$$

with  $\Phi = \phi e^{i\theta}$


$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{\phi} - a^{-2}\nabla^2\phi + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) &= \phi\dot{\theta}^2 - a^{-2}\phi(\nabla\theta)^2, \\ \phi\ddot{\theta} - a^{-2}\phi\nabla^2\theta + 3H\phi\dot{\theta} &= -2\dot{\phi}\dot{\theta} + 2a^{-2}\nabla\phi\nabla\theta.\end{aligned}$$

For homogeneous field, these are Kepler problem:

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = \phi\dot{\theta}^2$$

centrifugal force 

$$\ddot{\theta} + 3H\dot{\theta} = -2\frac{\dot{\phi}}{\phi}\dot{\theta}$$

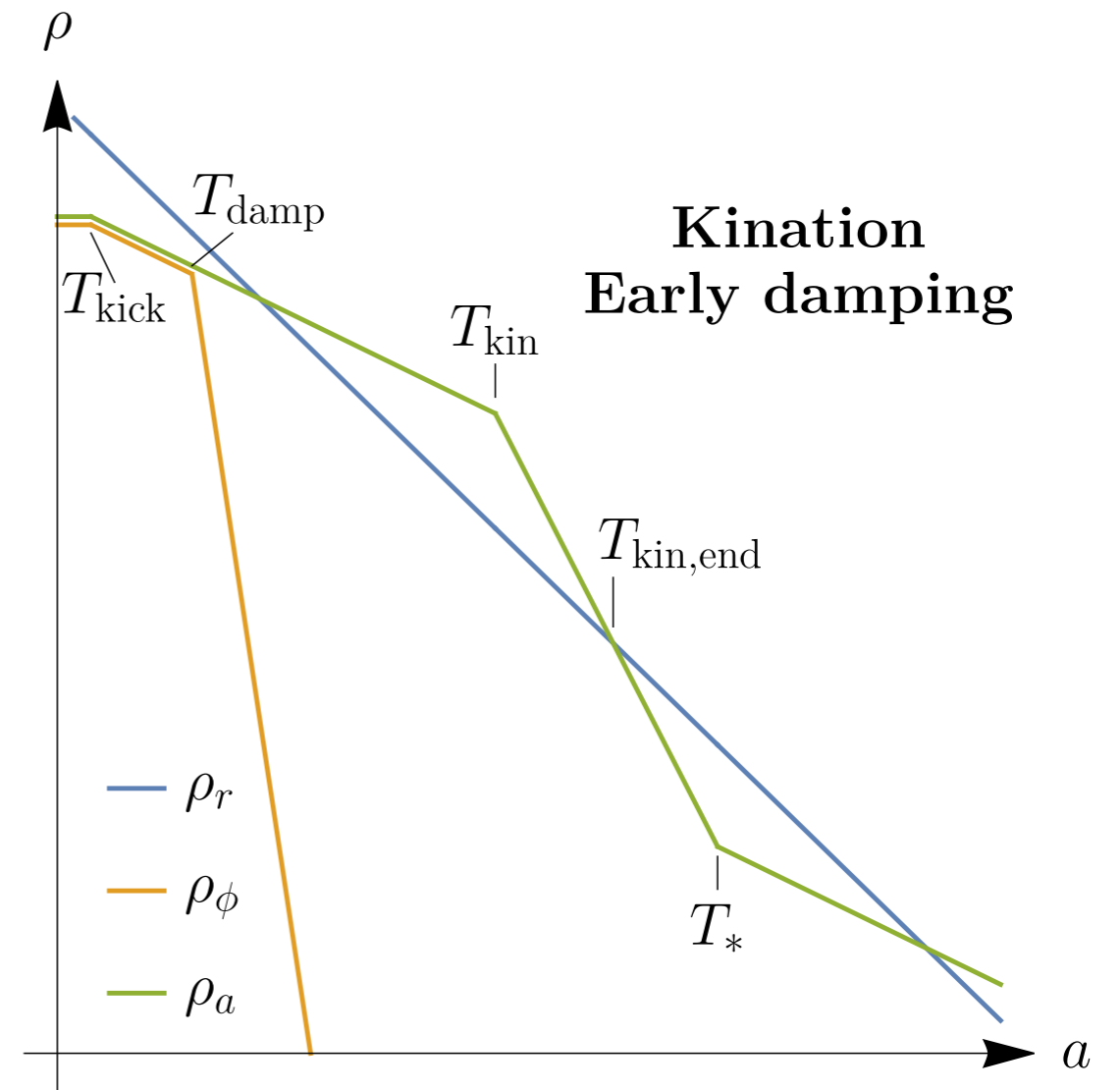
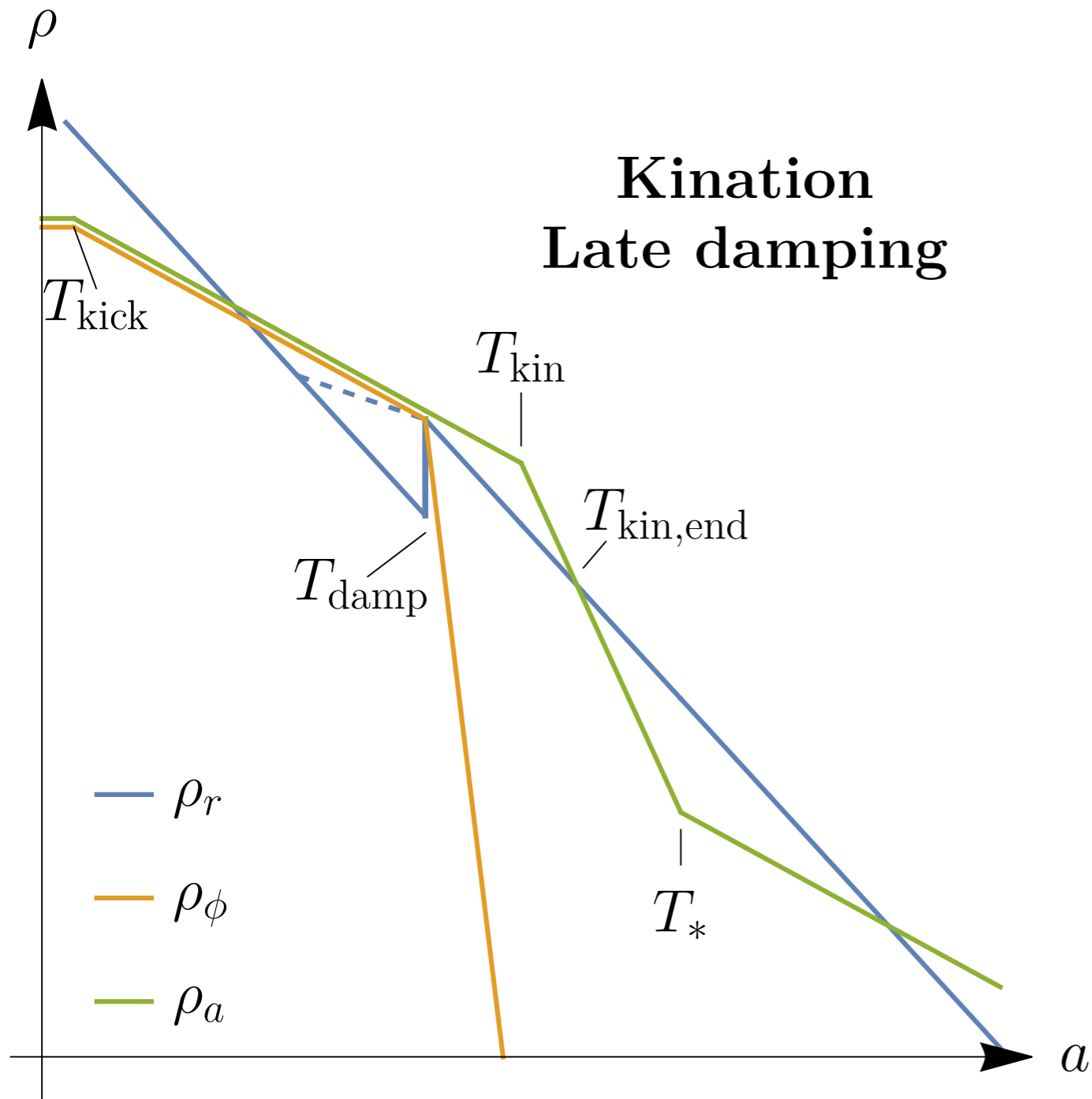
coriolis force 

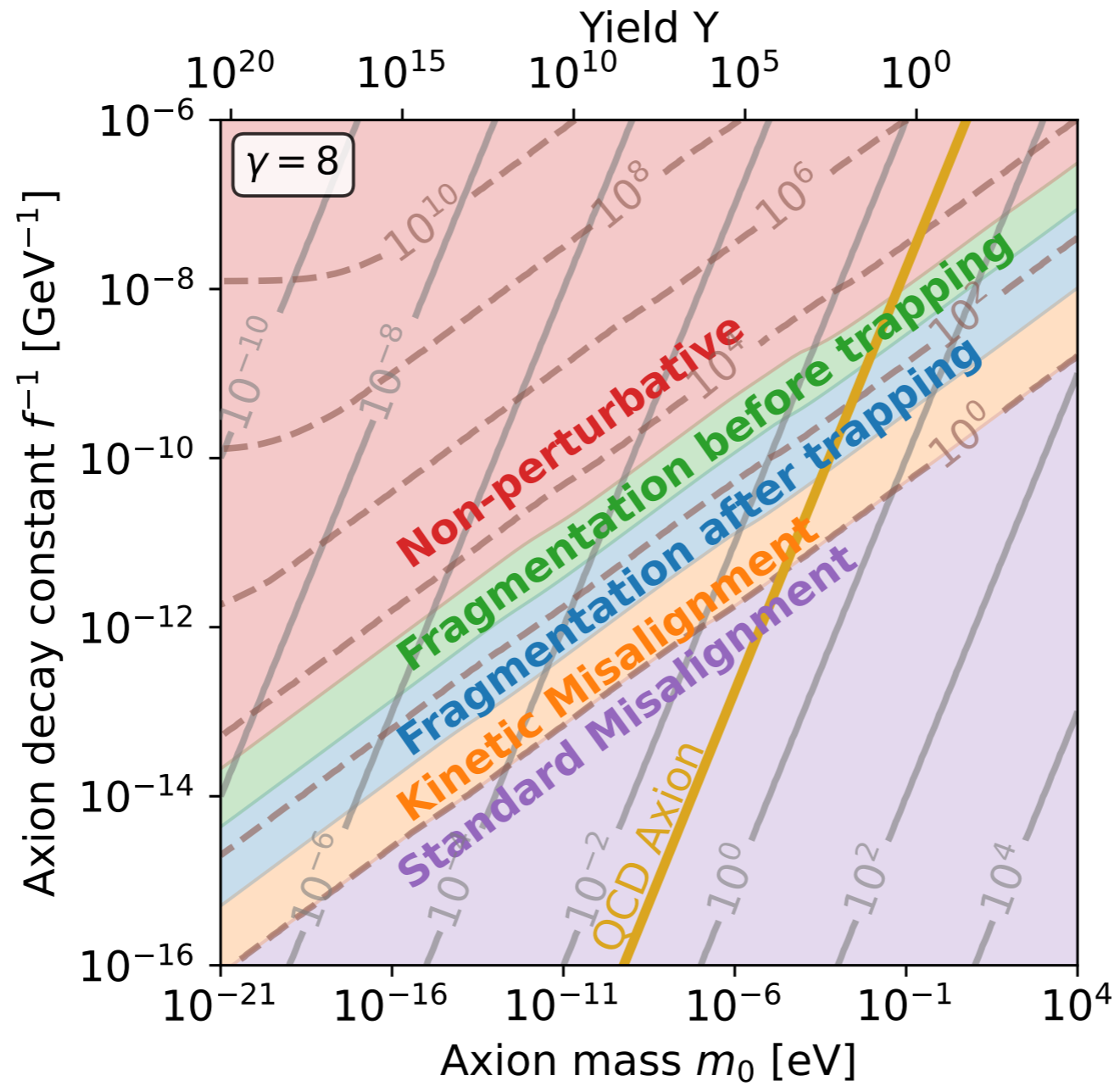
conservation of charge (angular momentum):

$$\frac{d}{dt}(a^3\phi^2\dot{\theta}) = 0$$



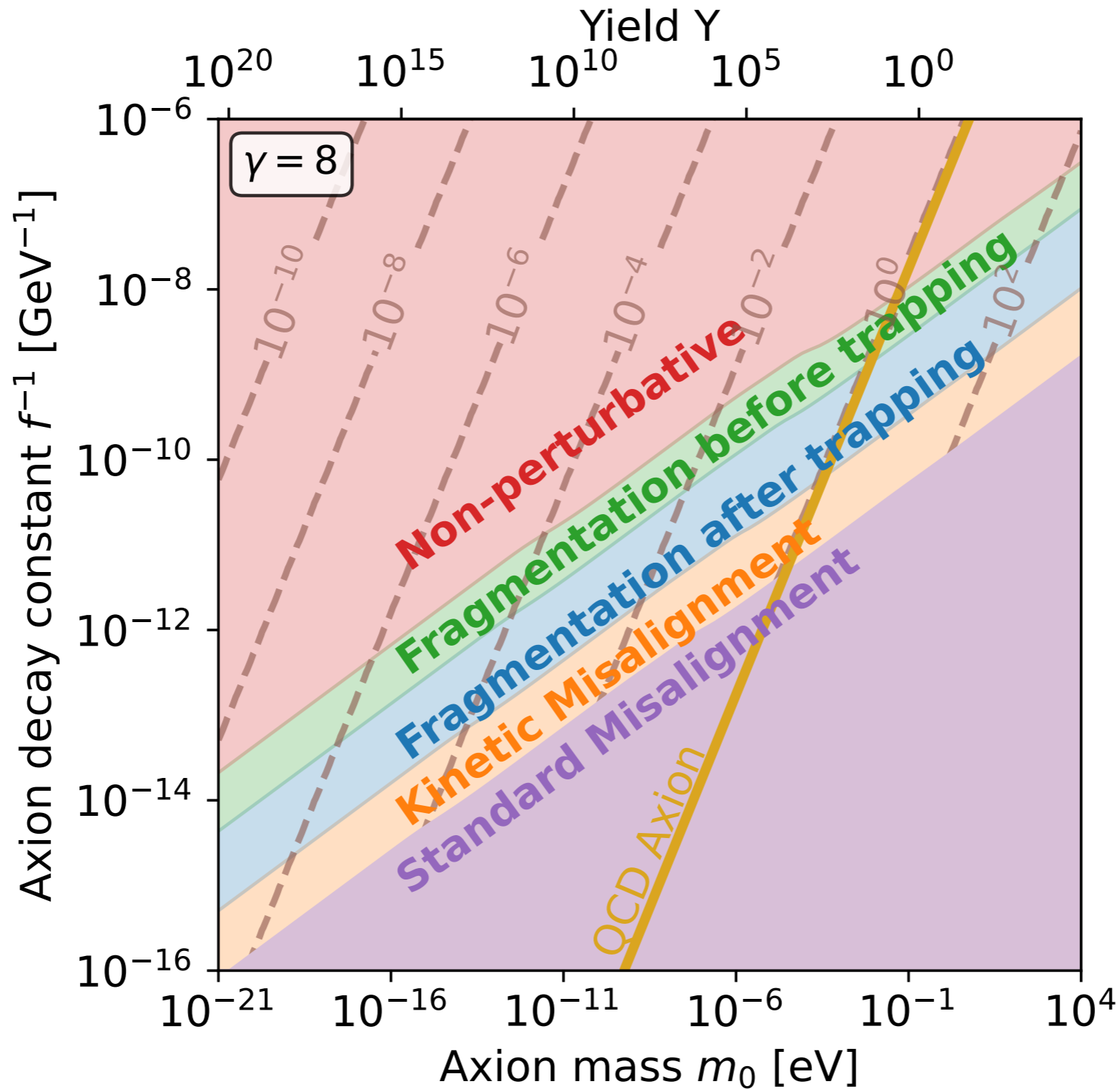
# Ingredient 4: Damping



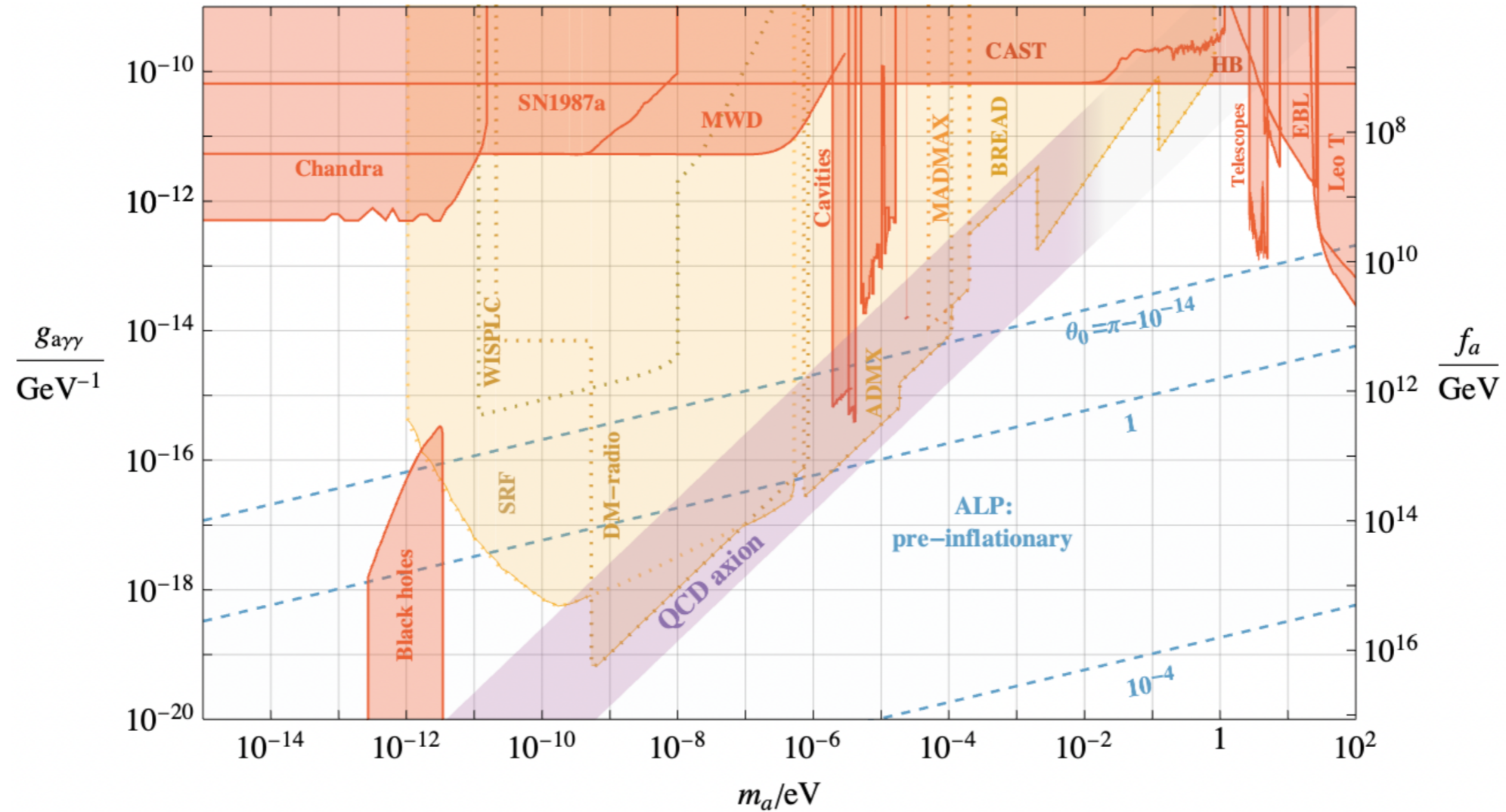


Solid lines: contours of zero-temperature barrier heights,  
 Dashed lines:  $(m/3H)_*$  contours

# Contours of trapping temperature in GeV.



# ALPs: Targets for haloscopes



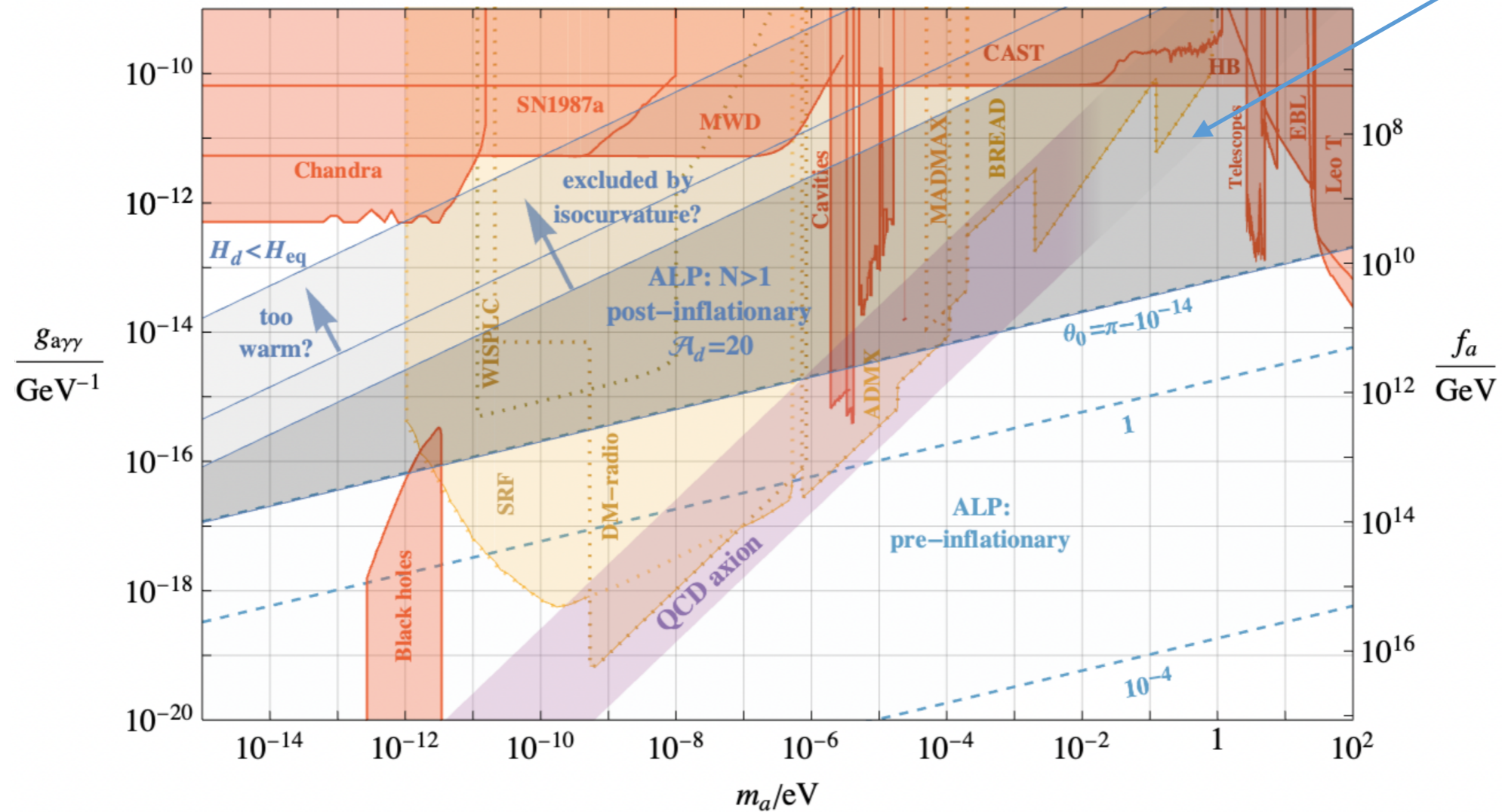
$$\frac{\Omega_a^{\text{mis}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \simeq 2.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \left( \frac{f_a}{10^{12} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_a}{10^{-6} \text{ eV}} \right)^{1/2} h(\theta_0) \theta_0^2$$

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} \simeq \frac{\alpha_{em}}{2\pi f_a}$$

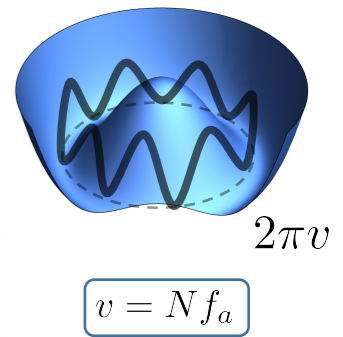
# The case $N_{DW} > 1$ .

Slide by Marco Gorghetto

## ALPs: Targets for haloscopes



Domain wall number



$$\frac{\Omega_a}{\Omega_{DM}} \simeq 2 \left( \frac{\mathcal{A}_d}{20} \right) \left( \frac{m_a}{H_d} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{f_a}{10^{12} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_a}{10^{-6} \text{ eV}} \right)^{1/2}$$

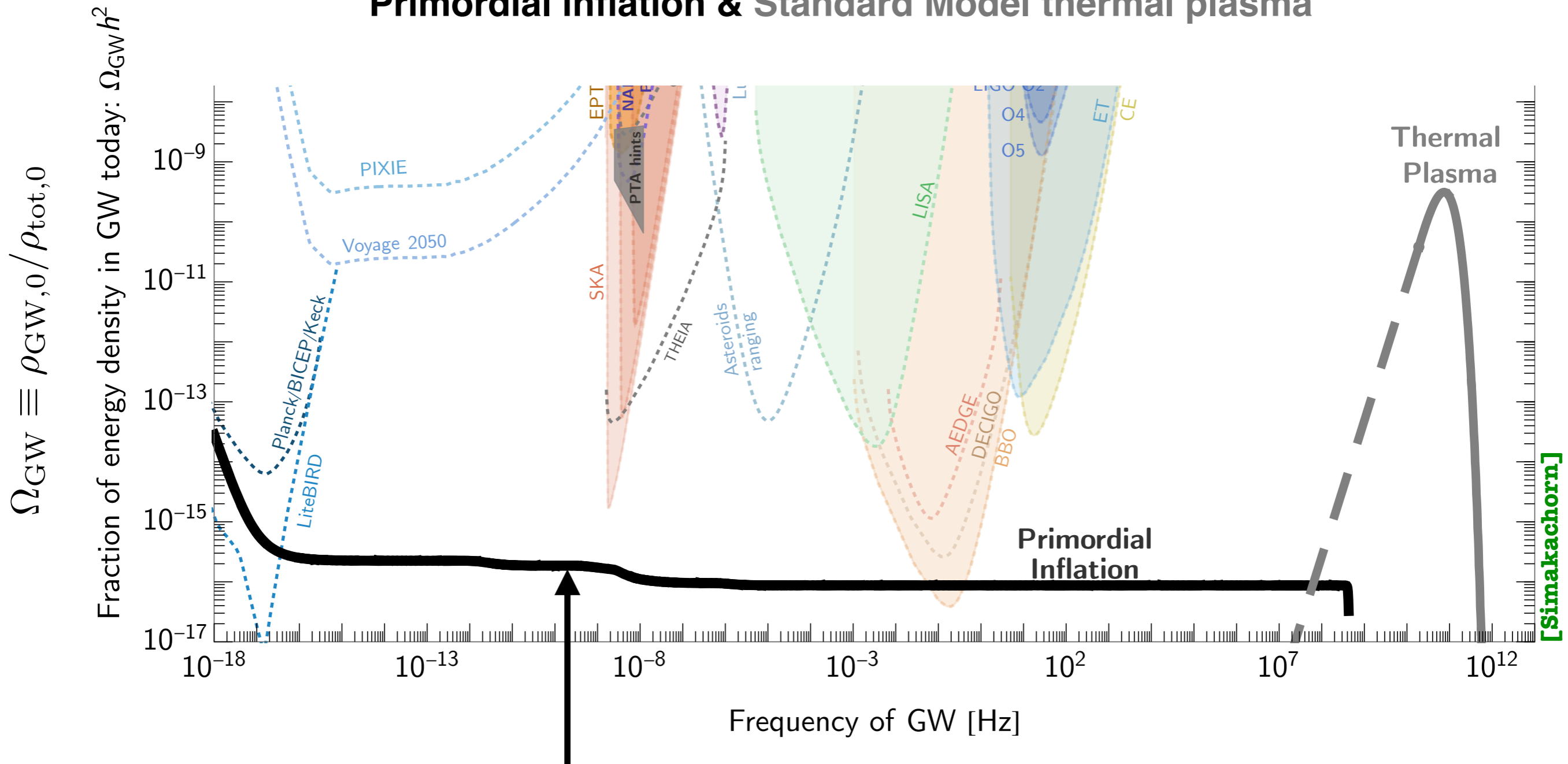
[2212.13263]

M. Gorghetto,  
E. Hardy

# Gravitational-wave signatures of axion cosmology .

# Standard Model sources of primordial GW.

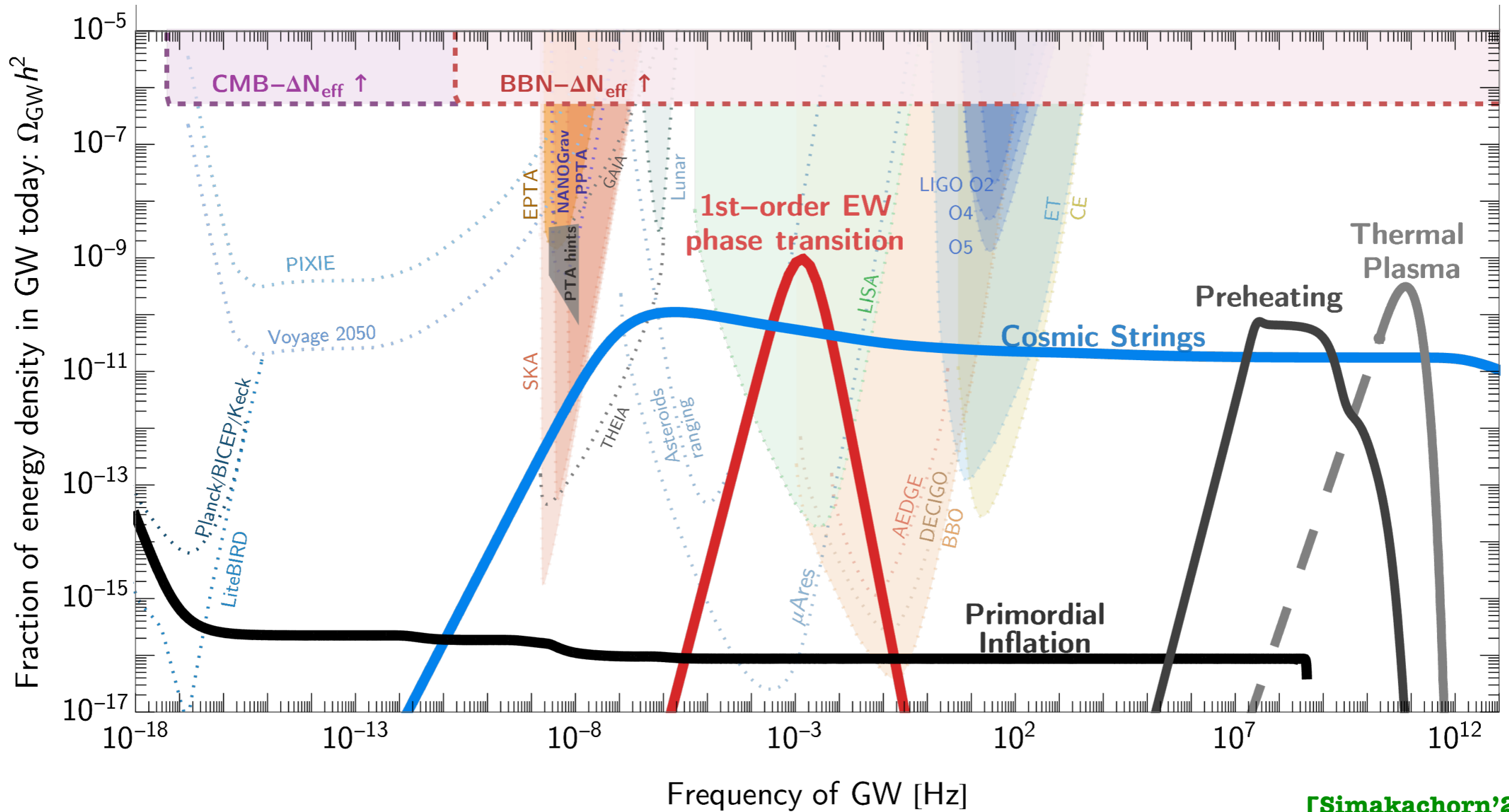
## Primordial inflation & Standard Model thermal plasma



**Irreducible GW background from amplification of initial quantum fluctuations of the gravitational field during inflation**

# Beyond-the-Standard Model sources.

## Preheating, first-order phase transitions, cosmic strings





# Reading the history of the universe.

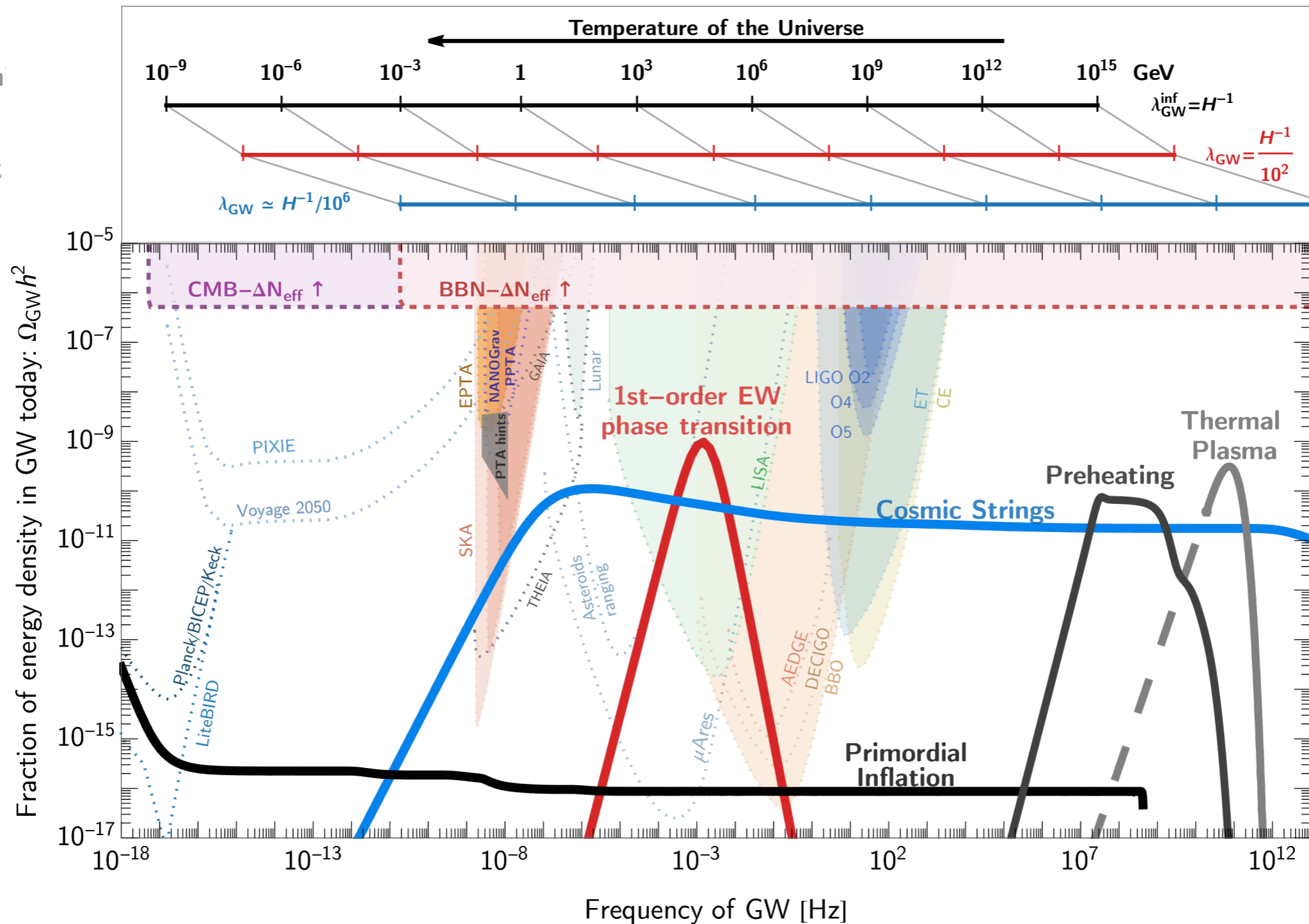
**GW frequency**  $f_{\text{GW},0} \simeq \lambda_{\text{GW}}^{-1} \left( \frac{a_{\text{prod}}}{a_0} \right)$

Low-freq. limit

$$f_{\text{GW}}^{\text{min}} \simeq H_0^{-1} \simeq 10^{-18} \text{ Hz}$$

High-freq. limit

$$f_{\text{GW}}^{\text{max}} \simeq 10^{13} \text{ Hz} \quad (\lambda_{\text{GW}} \sim H^{-1} \sim M_{\text{pl}}^{-1})$$



[Simakachorn]

# Reading the history of the universe.

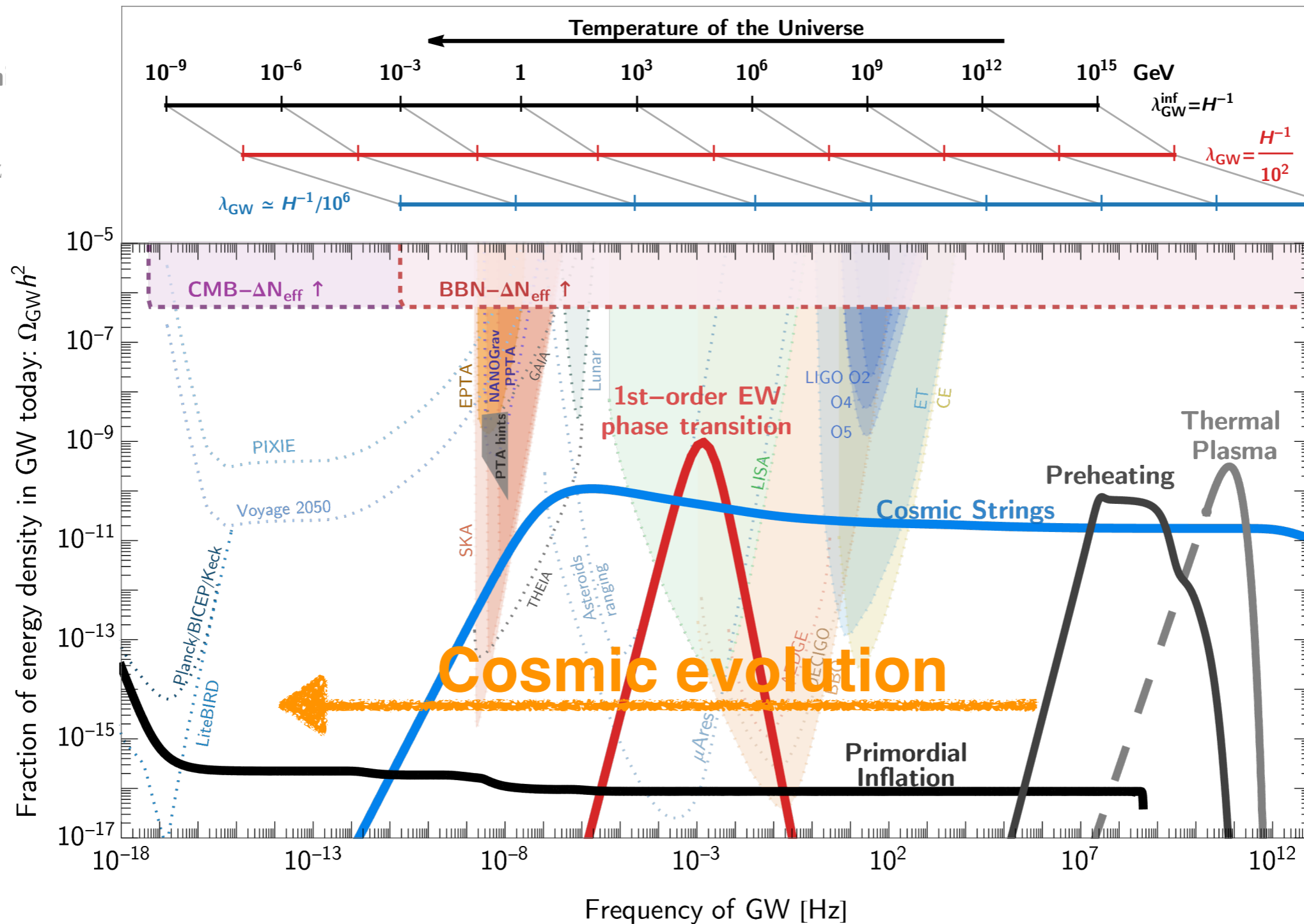
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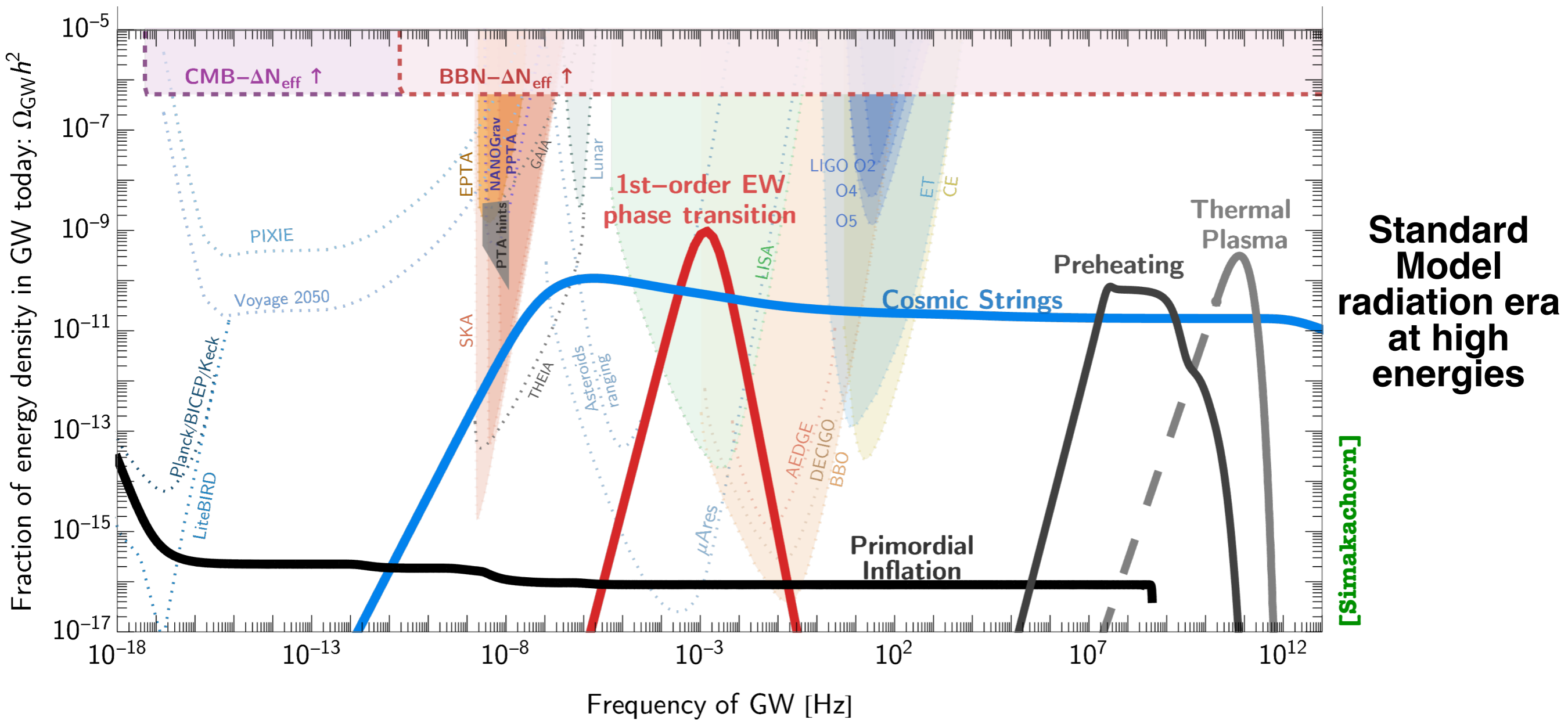
$$f_{\text{GW}}^{\text{max}} \simeq 10^{13} \text{ Hz} \quad (\lambda_{\text{GW}} \sim H^{-1} \sim M_{\text{pl}}^{-1})$$



[Simakachorn]

# GW spectra are sensitive to the cosmological history.

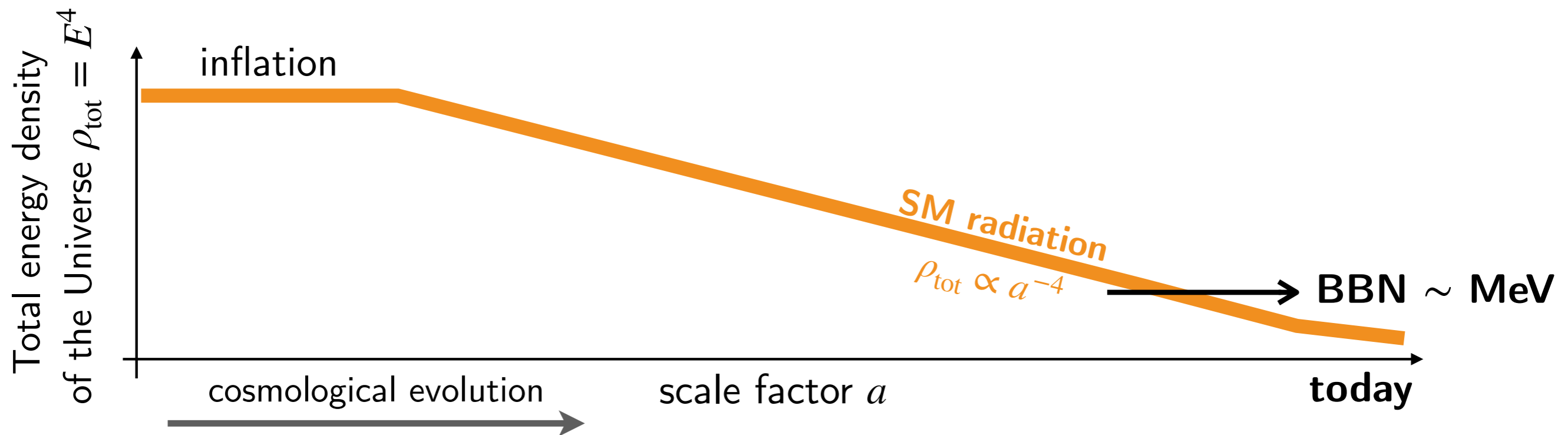
frequency  $f_{\text{GW},0} \simeq \lambda_{\text{GW}}^{-1} \left( \frac{a_{\text{prod}}}{a_0} \right)$       energy density  $\rho_{\text{GW},0} \simeq \rho_{\text{GW}}^{\text{prod}} \left( \frac{a_{\text{prod}}}{a_0} \right)^4$



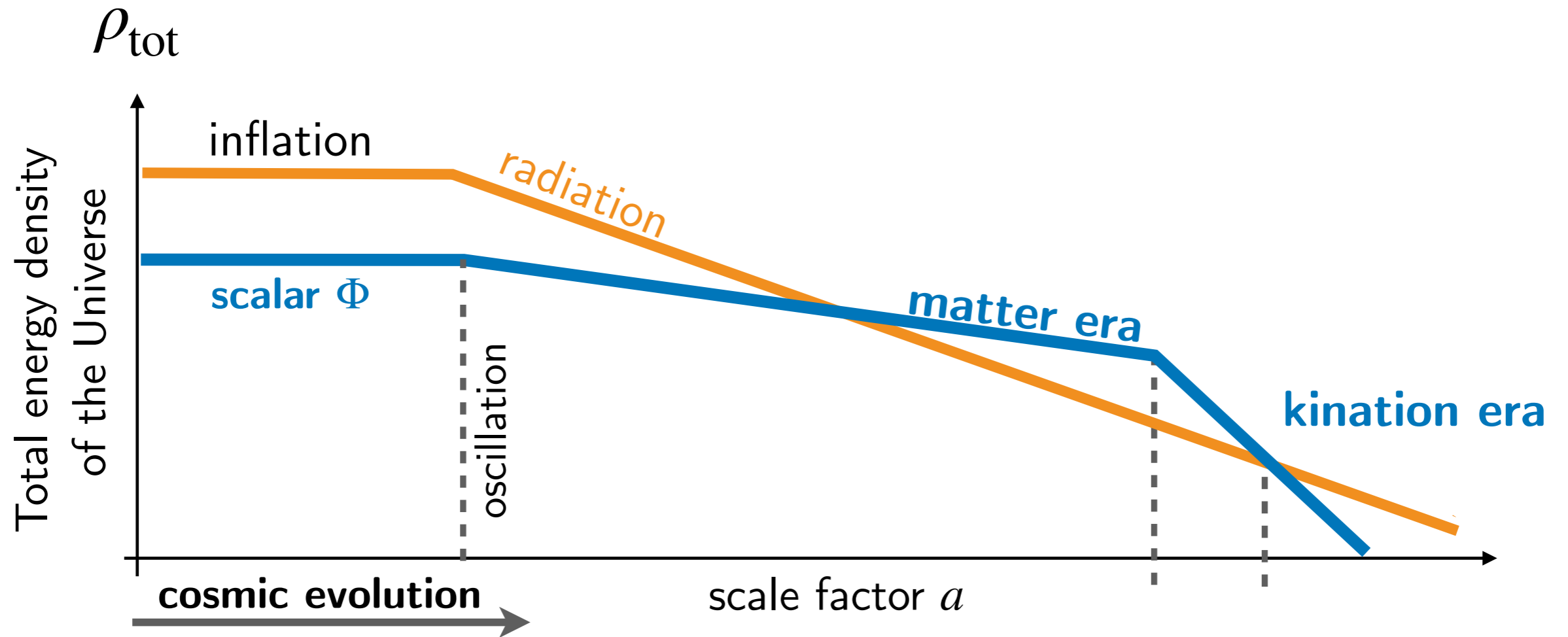
**What if the universe is not radiation-dominated at high energies?**

# Effect of non-standard cosmology on the GW spectrum.

# Standard cosmological history



# Early matter+kination era

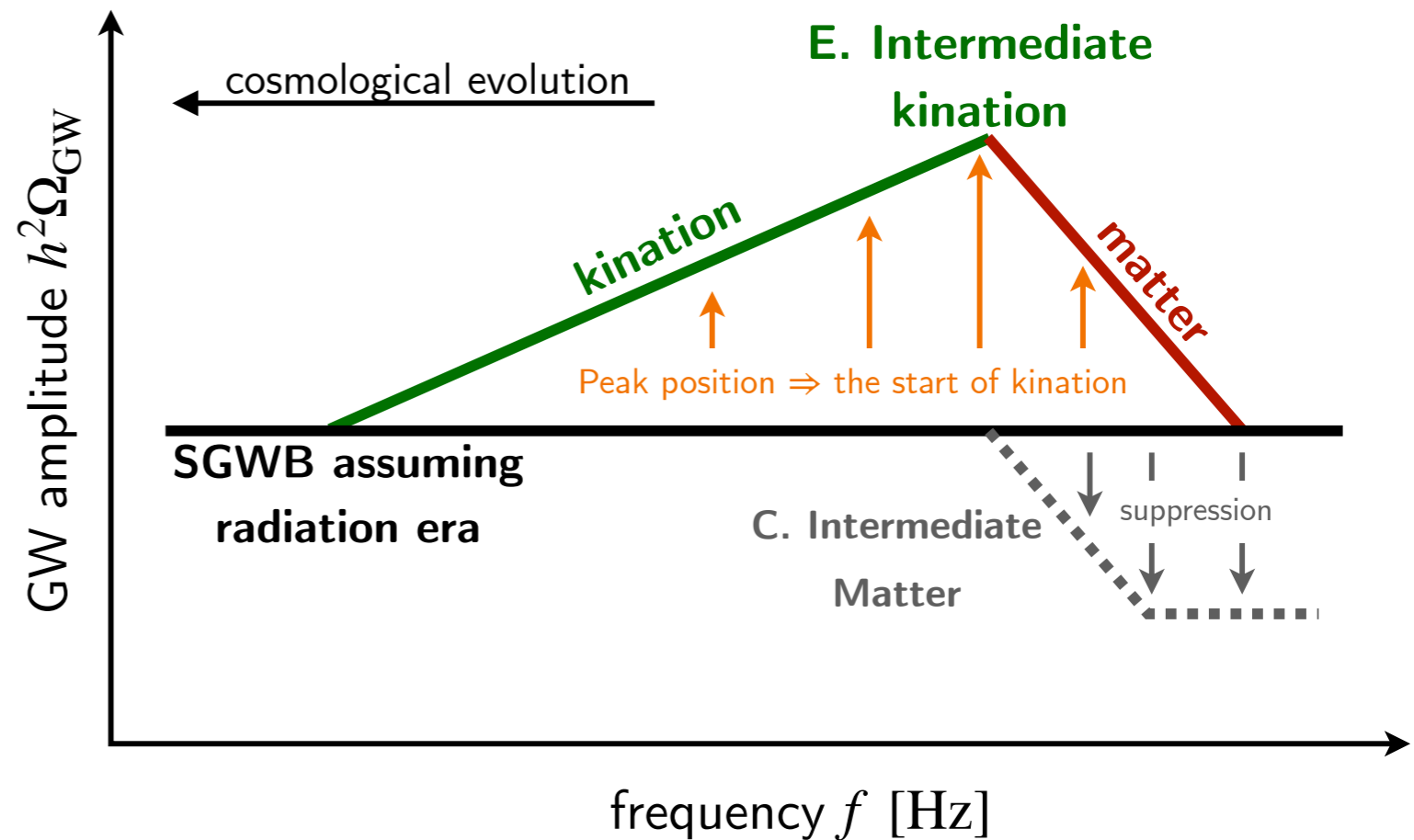
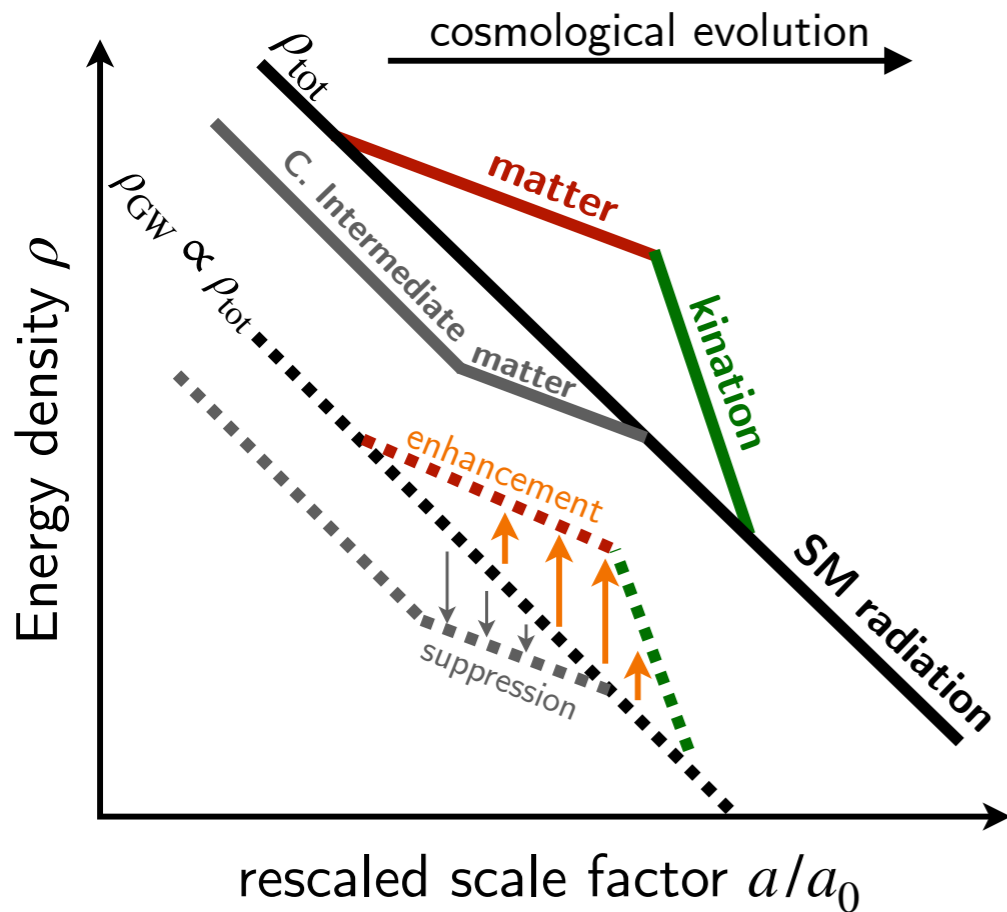


**GW from cosmic strings and from inflation track the total energy density of the universe.**

**—> Significantly enhanced by a matter + kination era**

# Impact of the cosmological history on Gravitational Waves:

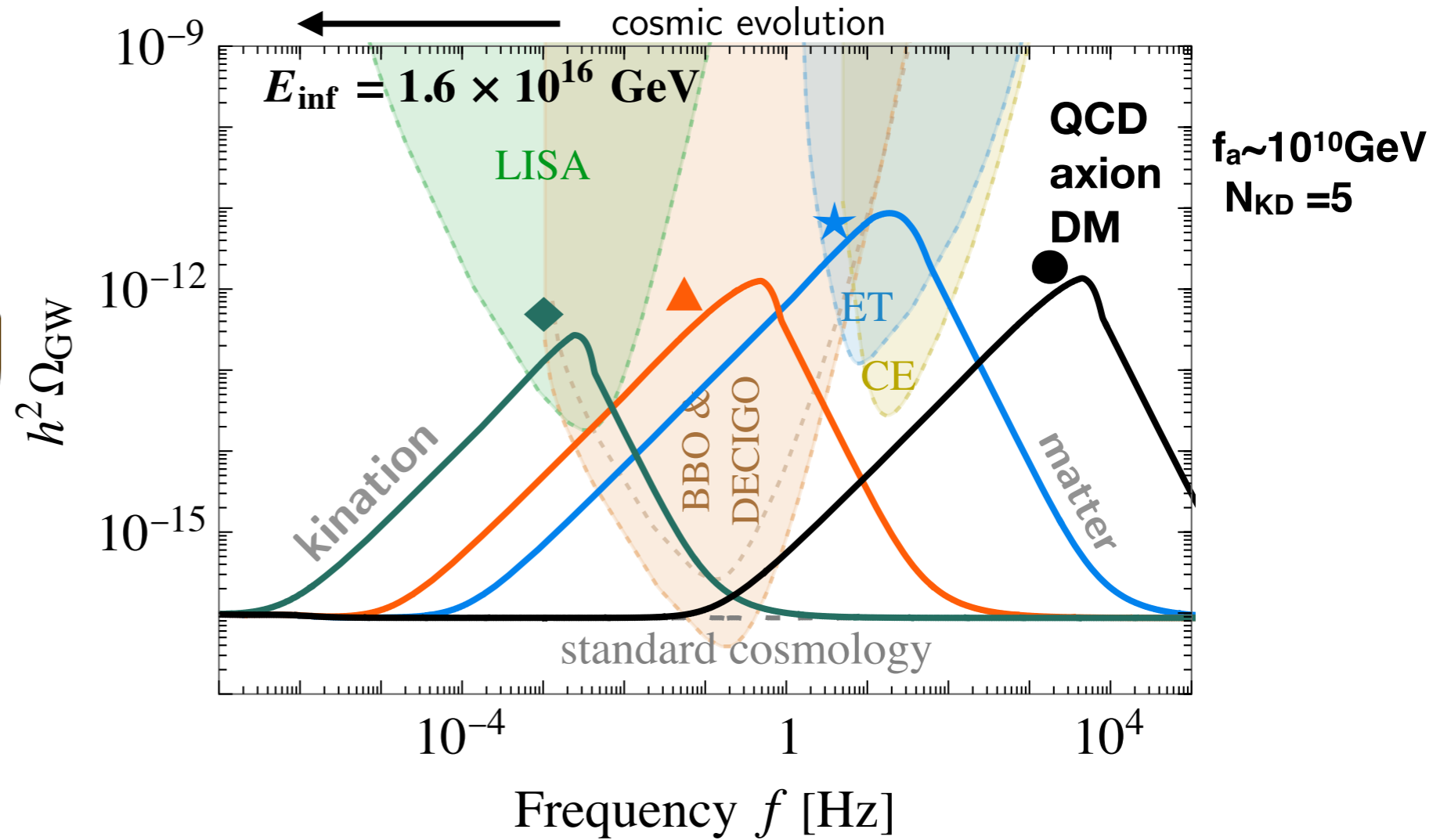
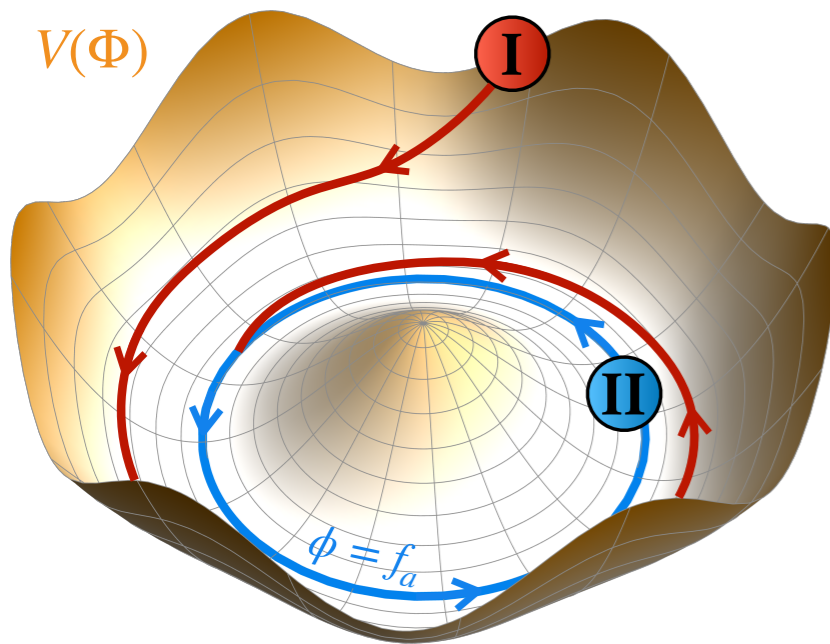
[1912.02569] [2111.01150]



Fraction of energy density in GW today

$$\Omega_{GW,0} = \left( \frac{\rho_{GW,prod}}{\rho_{tot,0}} \right) \left( \frac{a_{prod}}{a_0} \right)^4 = \left( \frac{\rho_{GW,prod}}{\rho_{tot,prod}} \right) \left( \frac{\rho_{tot,prod}}{\rho_{tot,0}} \right) \left( \frac{a_{prod}}{a_0} \right)^4$$

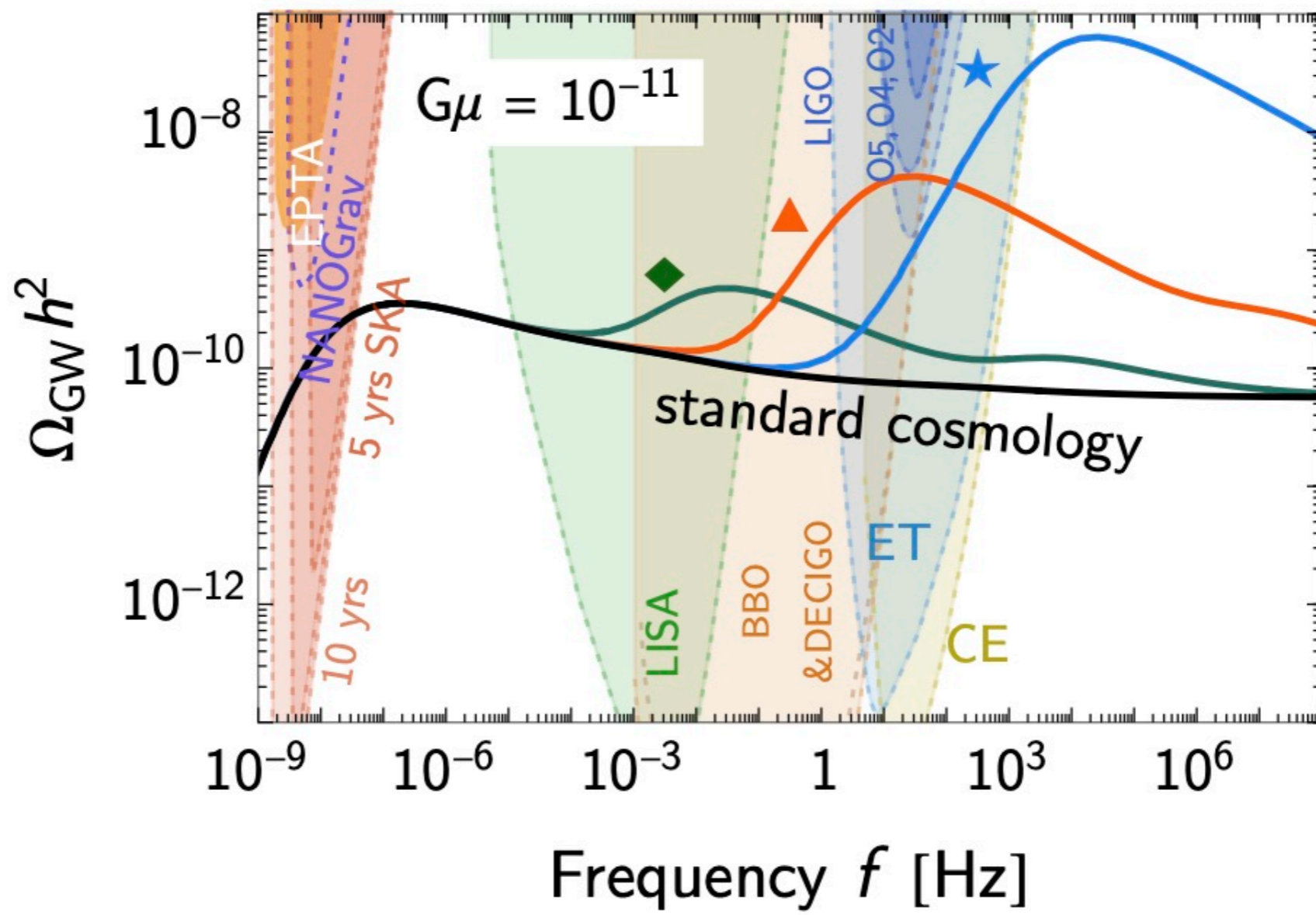
# Amplification of inflationary GW from axion-induced kination era.



[Gouttenoire et al 2108.10328 & 2111.01150]

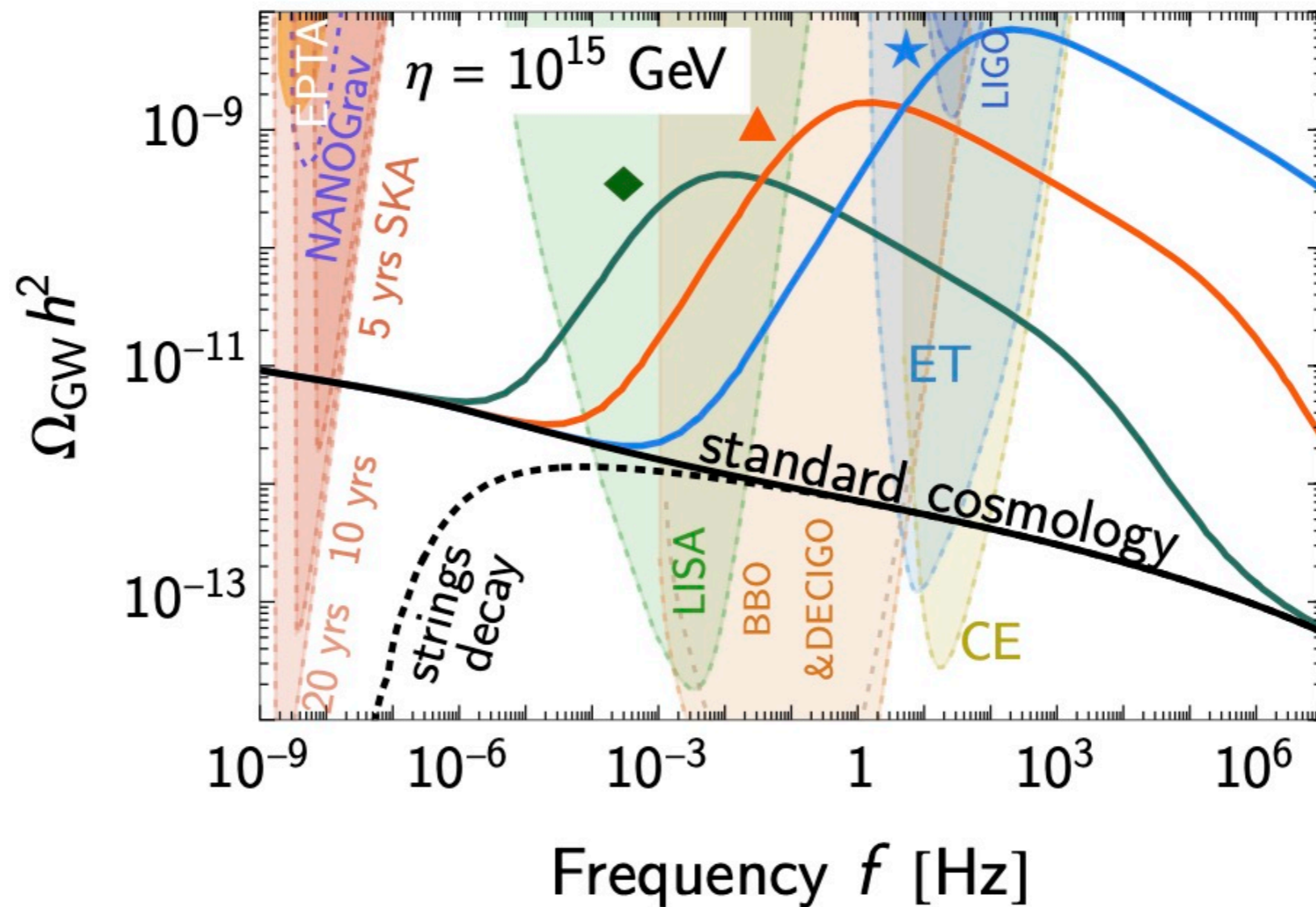


# Amplification of GW from local cosmic strings due to an axion-induced kination era.



[2111.01150]

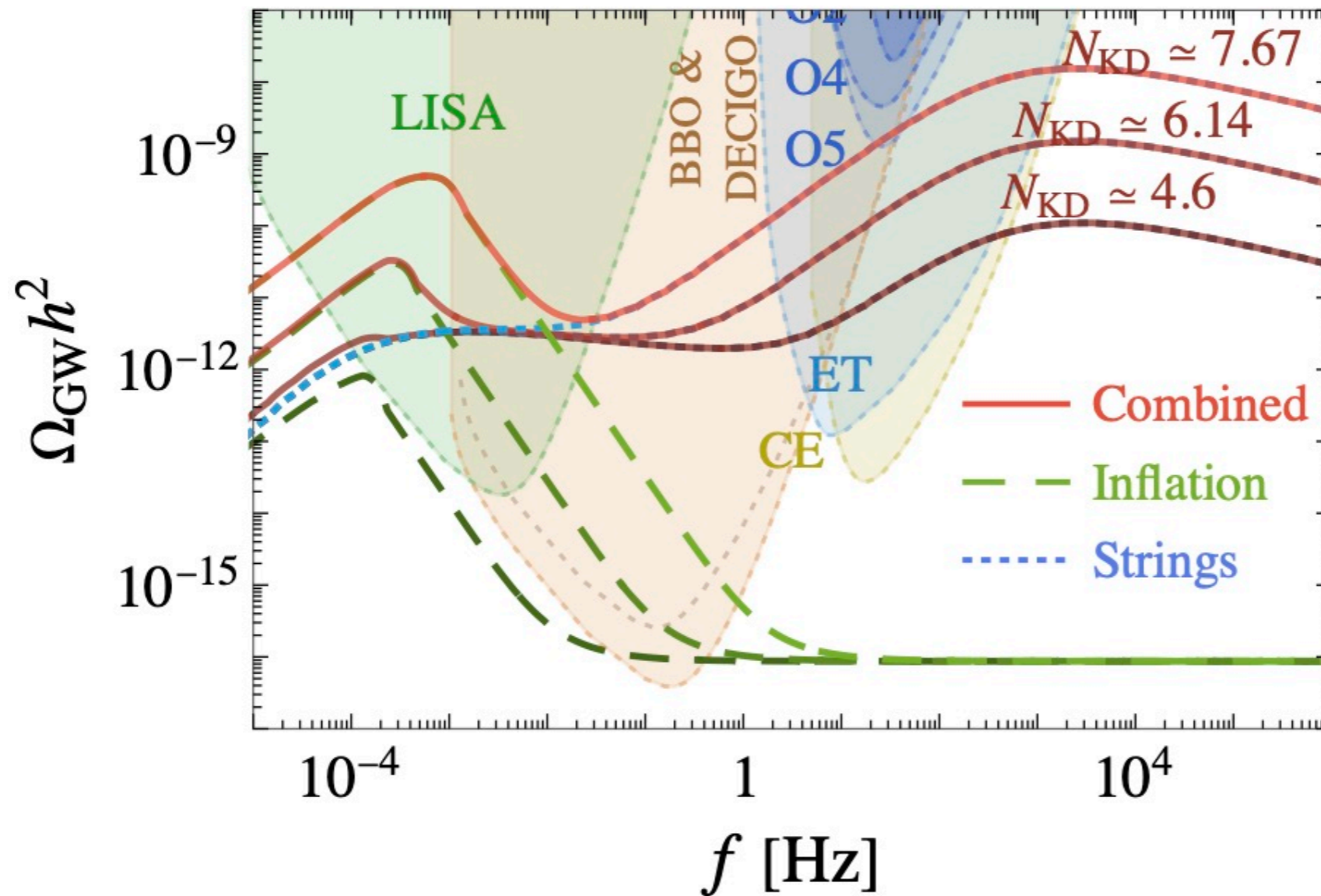
# Amplification of GW from global cosmic strings due to an axion-induced kination era.



[2111.01150]

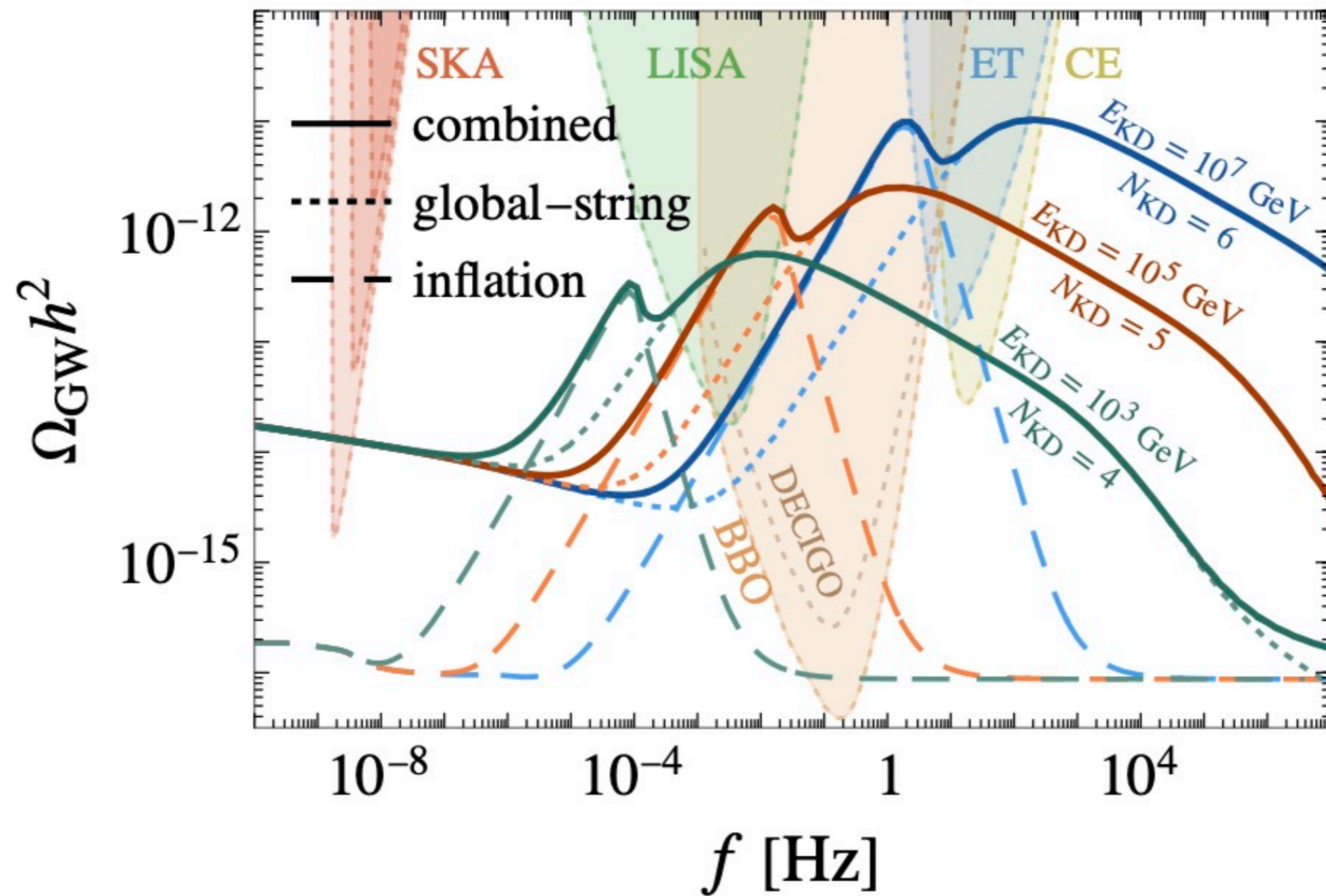
# Gravitational Waves from inflation & local cosmic strings in non-standard cosmology induced by rotating axions.

$$E_{\text{KD}} = 1 \text{ TeV}, G\mu = 10^{-15}$$



[2111.01150]

# Gravitational Waves from inflation & global cosmic strings in non-standard cosmology induced by rotating axions.



[2111.01150]