

# Transient Targets for Dark Matter Searches Using Quantum Sensors

Joshua Eby

Oskar Klein Centre  
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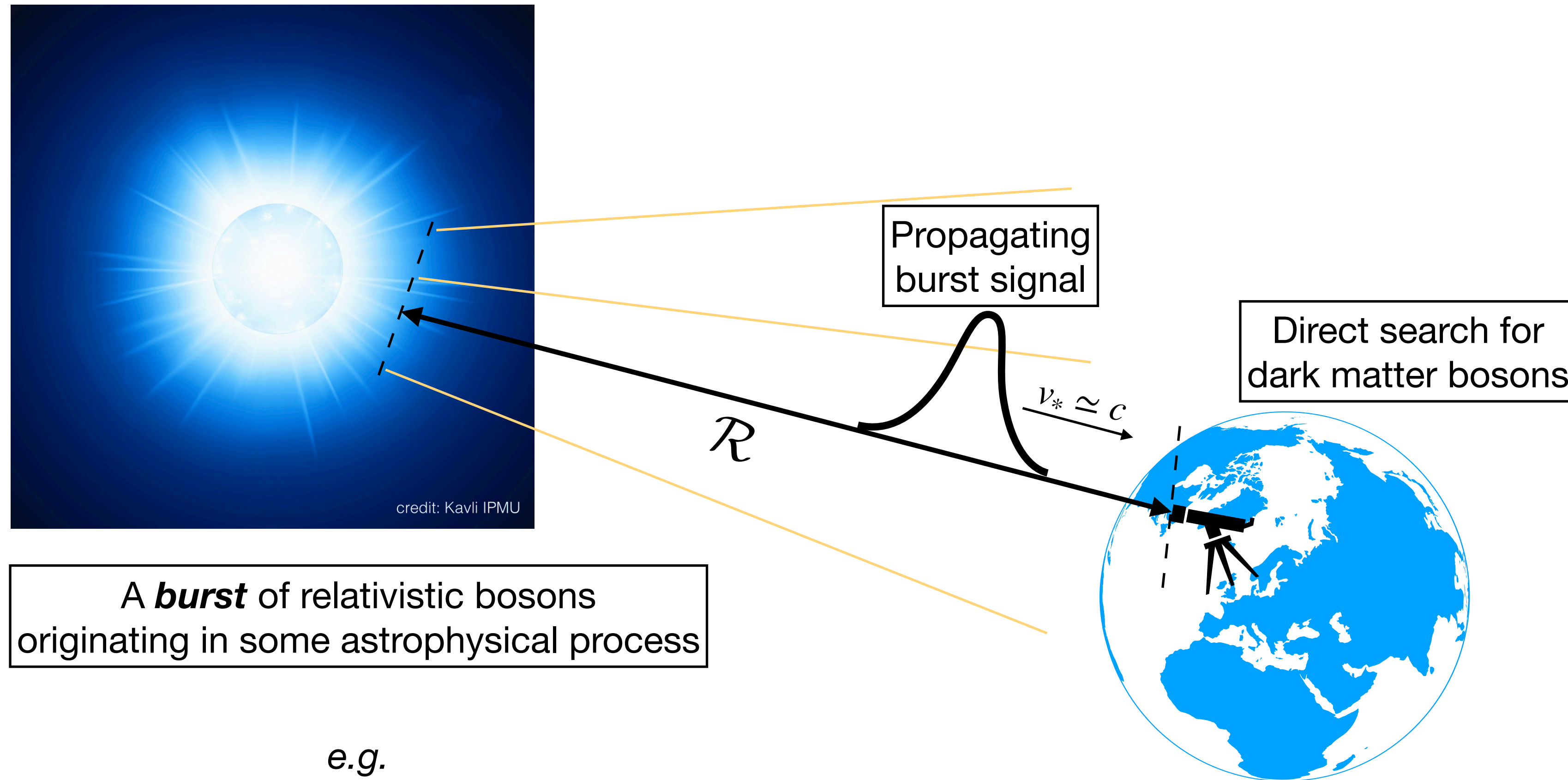
*2nd Terrestrial Very-Long-Baseline Atom  
Interferometer Workshop  
03/04/2024*

## Based on

**J Eby**, Shirai, Stadnik, Takhistov (2106.14893)  
Arakawa, **J Eby**, Safronova, Takhistov, Zaheer (2306.16468)  
Arakawa, Zaheer, **J Eby**, Takhistov, Safronova (2402.06736)



# The Basic Picture



A **burst** of relativistic bosons originating in some astrophysical process

e.g.

- *Bosenovae* from collapse of boson stars **[this talk]**
- Dark sector emission
- Astrophysical merger events
- [etc.]

## Outline

1. Ultralight dark matter
2. Relativistic ULDM *bursts*
3. Experimental sensitivity

Natural units used throughout:

$$1 \text{ eV} \simeq 10^{-32} \text{ g} \simeq 10^{-66} M_{\odot}$$

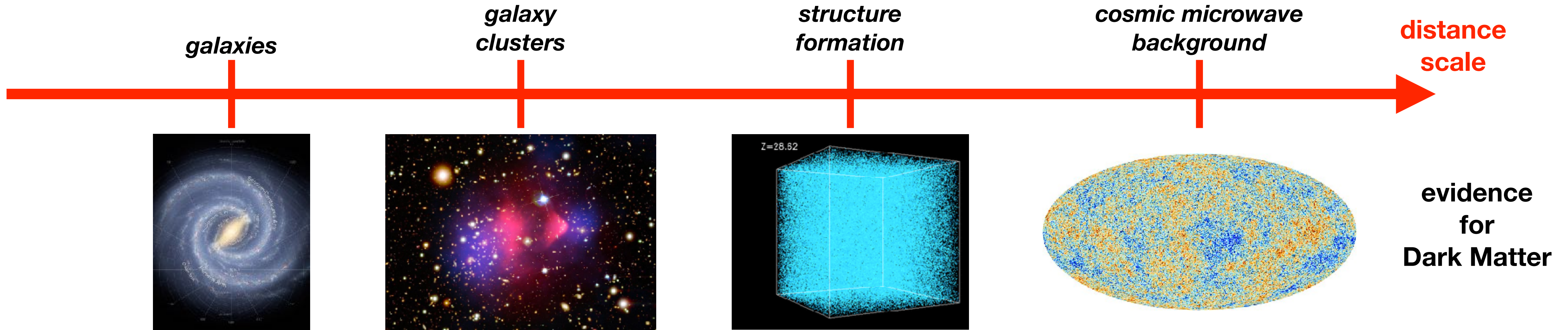
$$1 \text{ eV} \simeq (10^{-7} \text{ m})^{-1}$$

$$1 \text{ eV} \simeq (10^{-15} \text{ sec})^{-1}$$

# Ultralight Dark Matter



# Dark Matter



## Local DM Properties:

**Density of DM in our neighborhood**

$$\rho_{\text{dm}} = 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

“local density”

**DM velocities**  
~Maxwell-Boltzmann

$$v_{\text{dm}} \simeq 240 \text{ km/sec} \simeq 10^{-3}$$

mean velocity

## Concordance model of Cosmology:

$\Lambda$ CDM

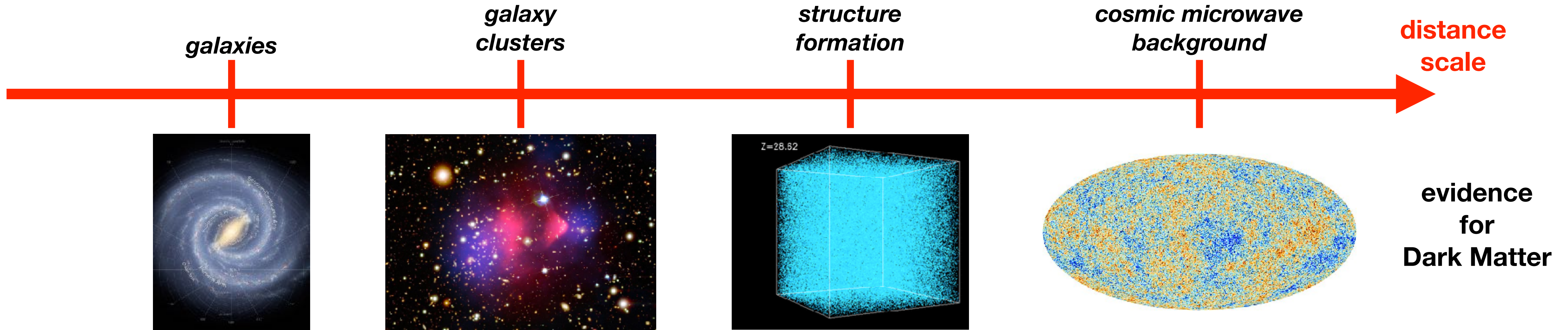
6 parameters  
fit all\* observations  
at %-level precision!

$\Lambda$ : Dark Energy

CDM: Cold Dark Matter



# Dark Matter



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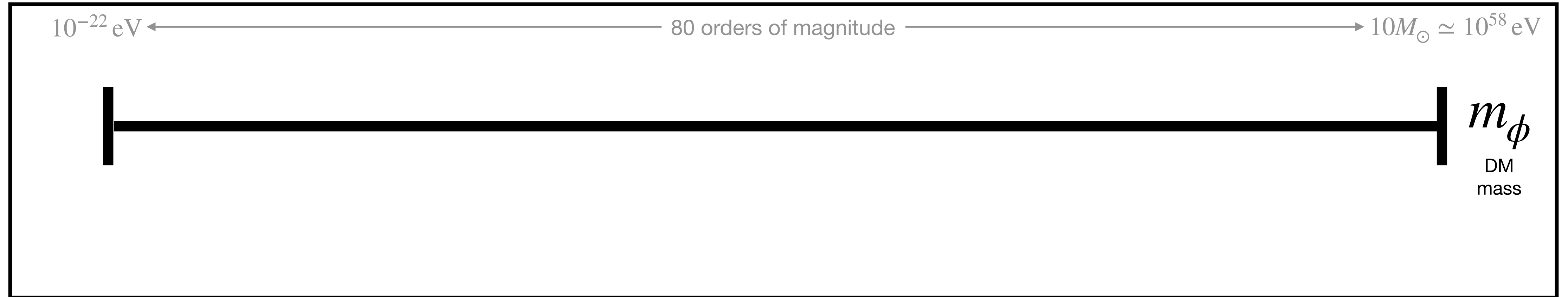
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# The Dark Matter Mystery

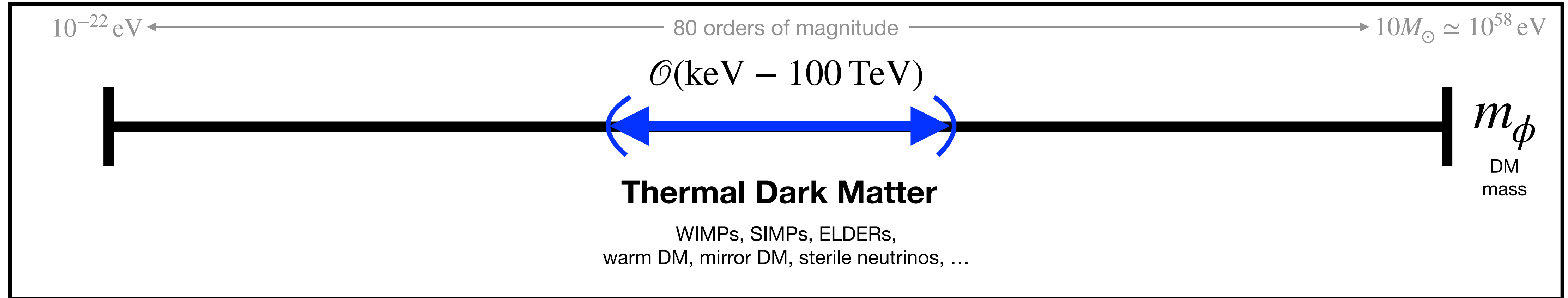
Models of  
Dark Matter





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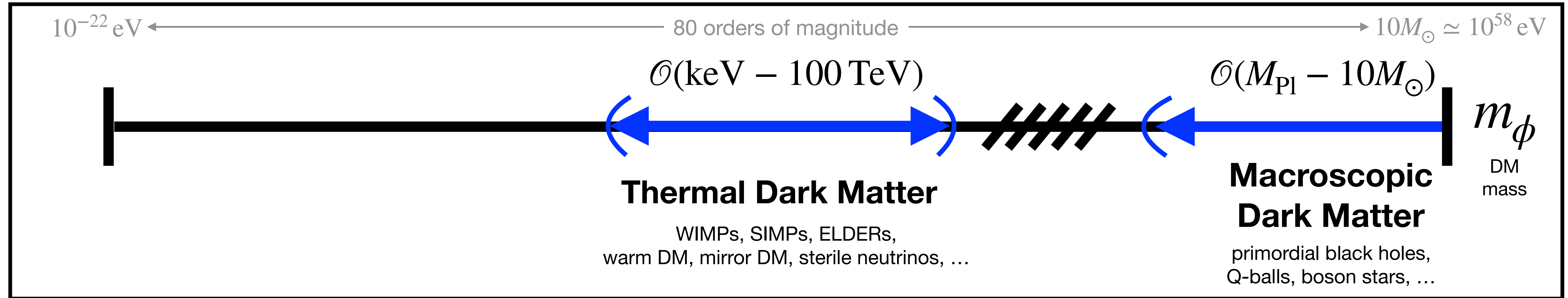
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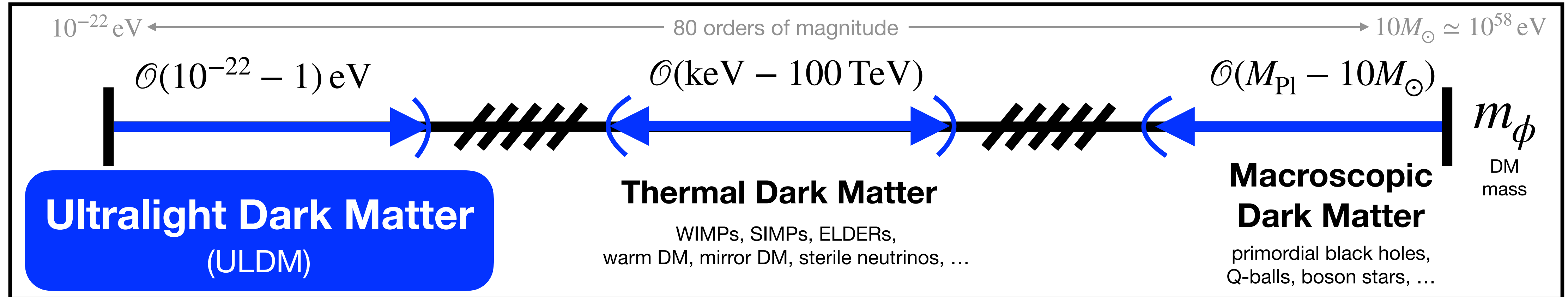
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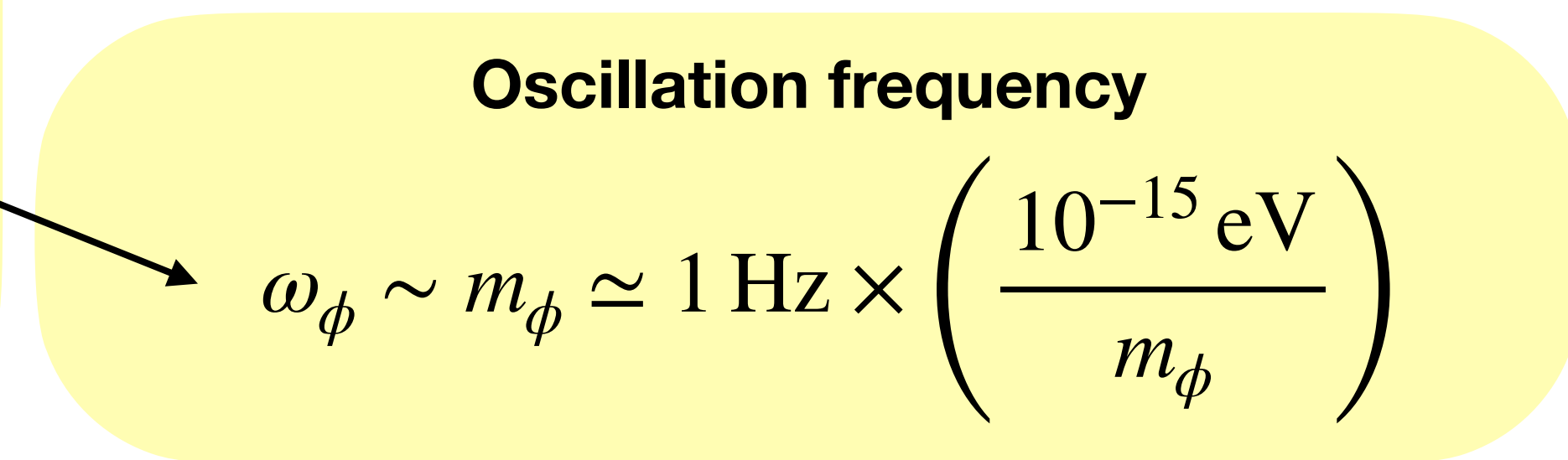
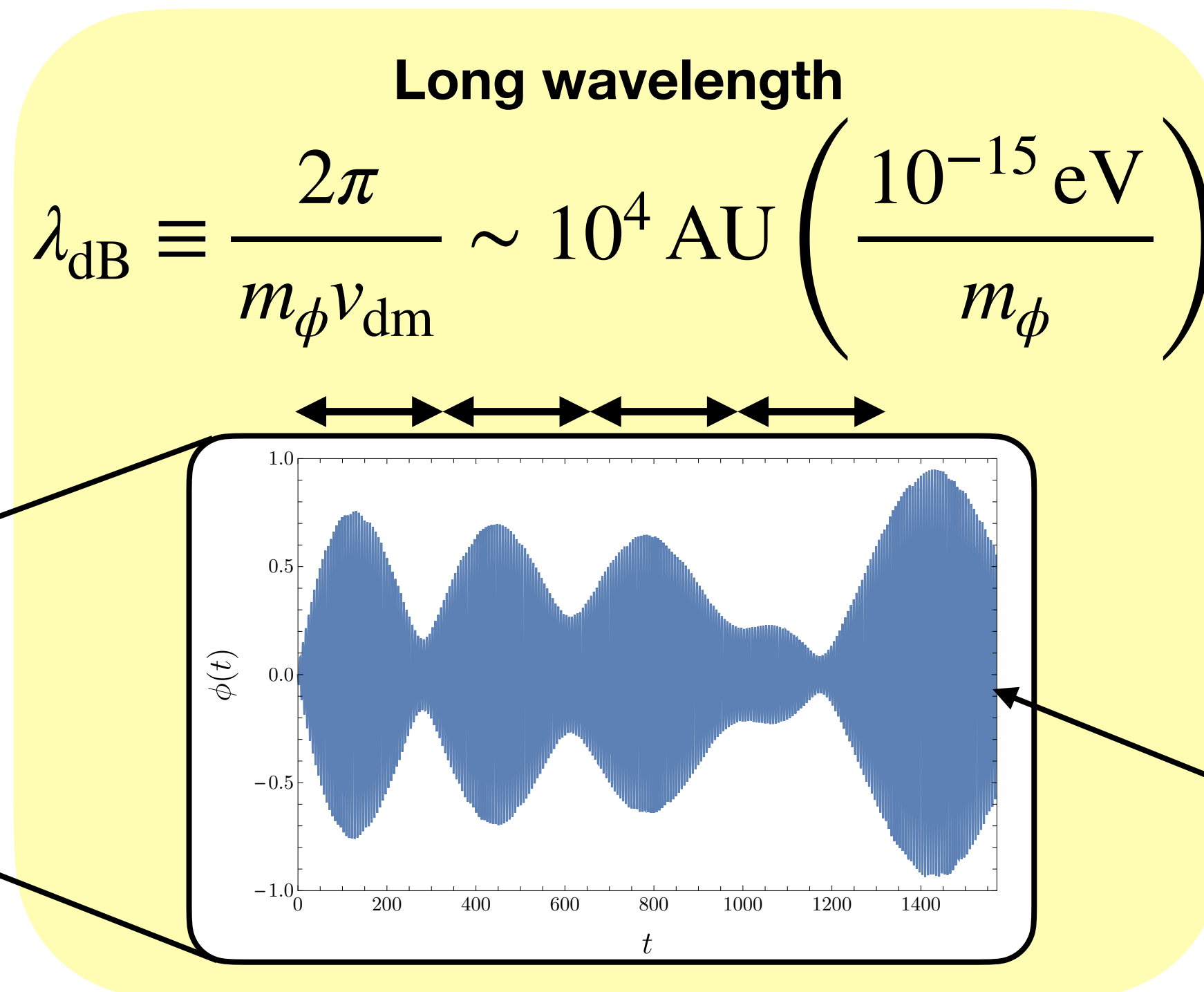
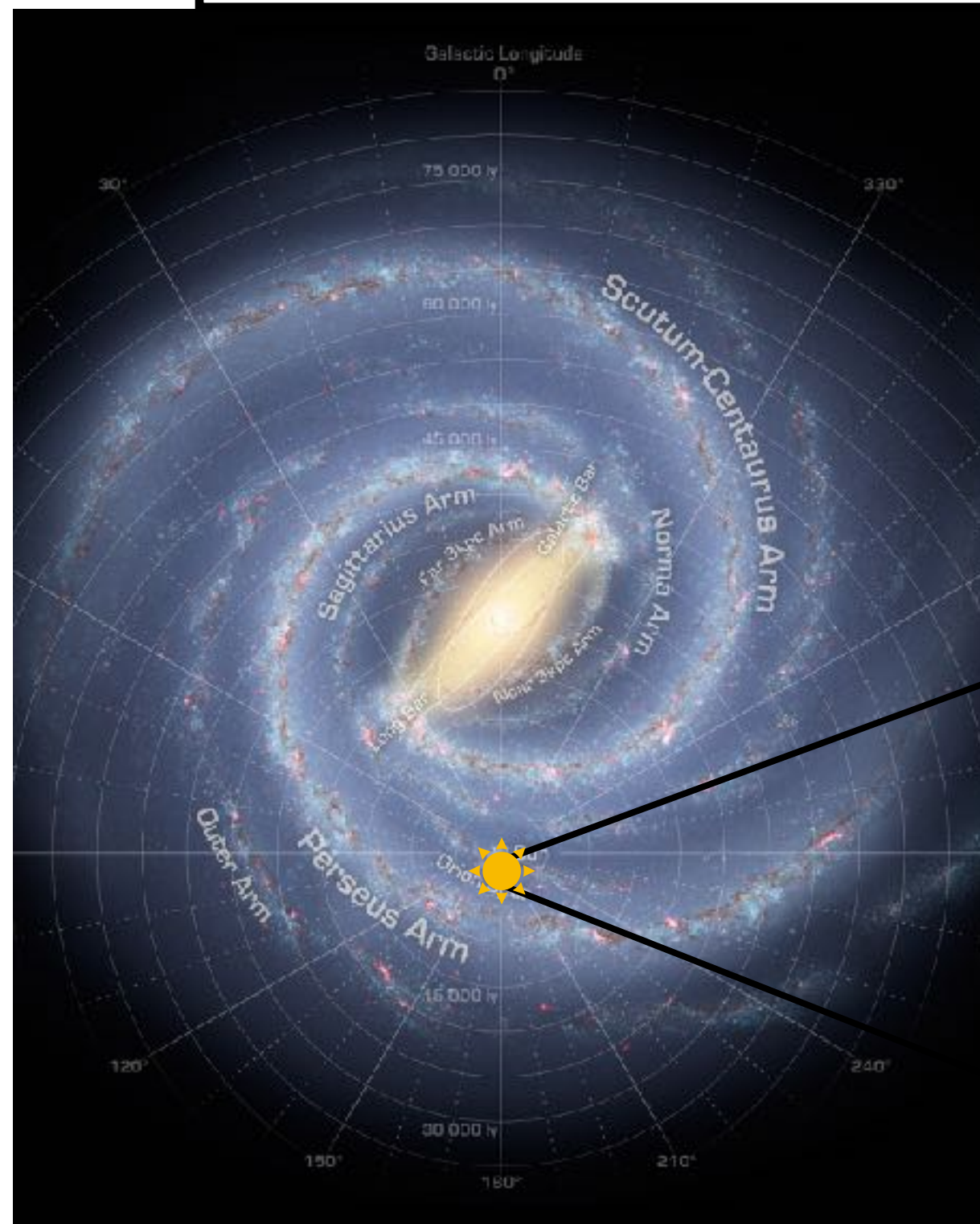
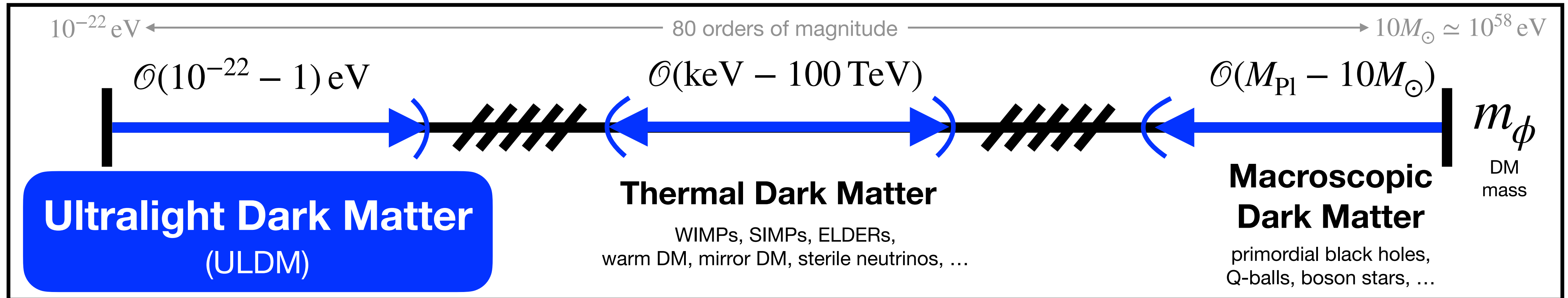
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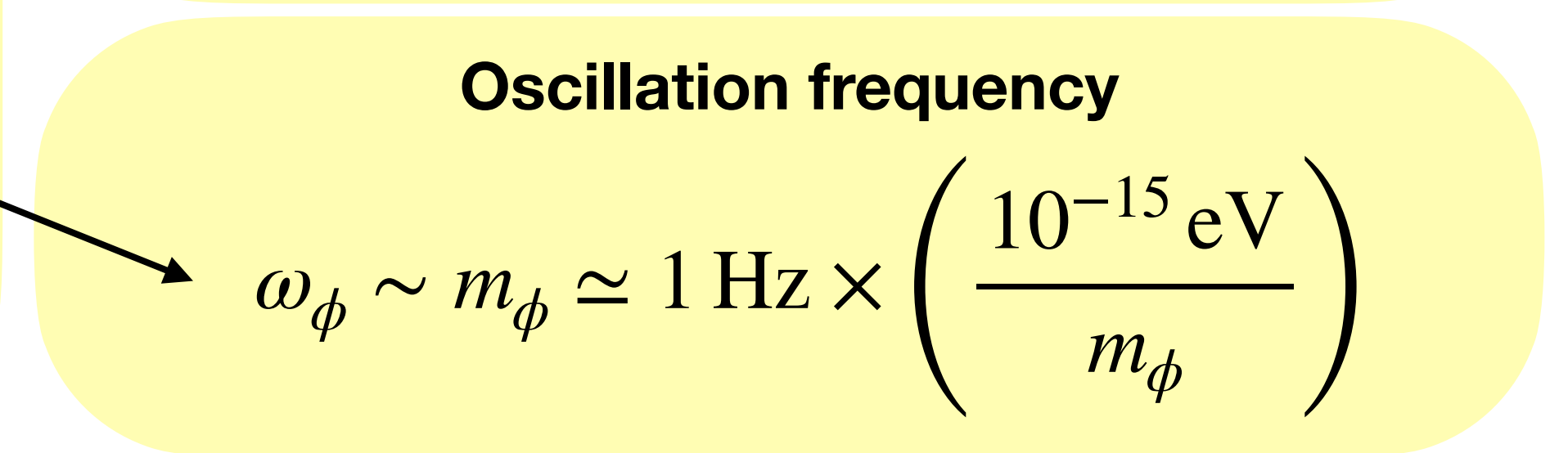
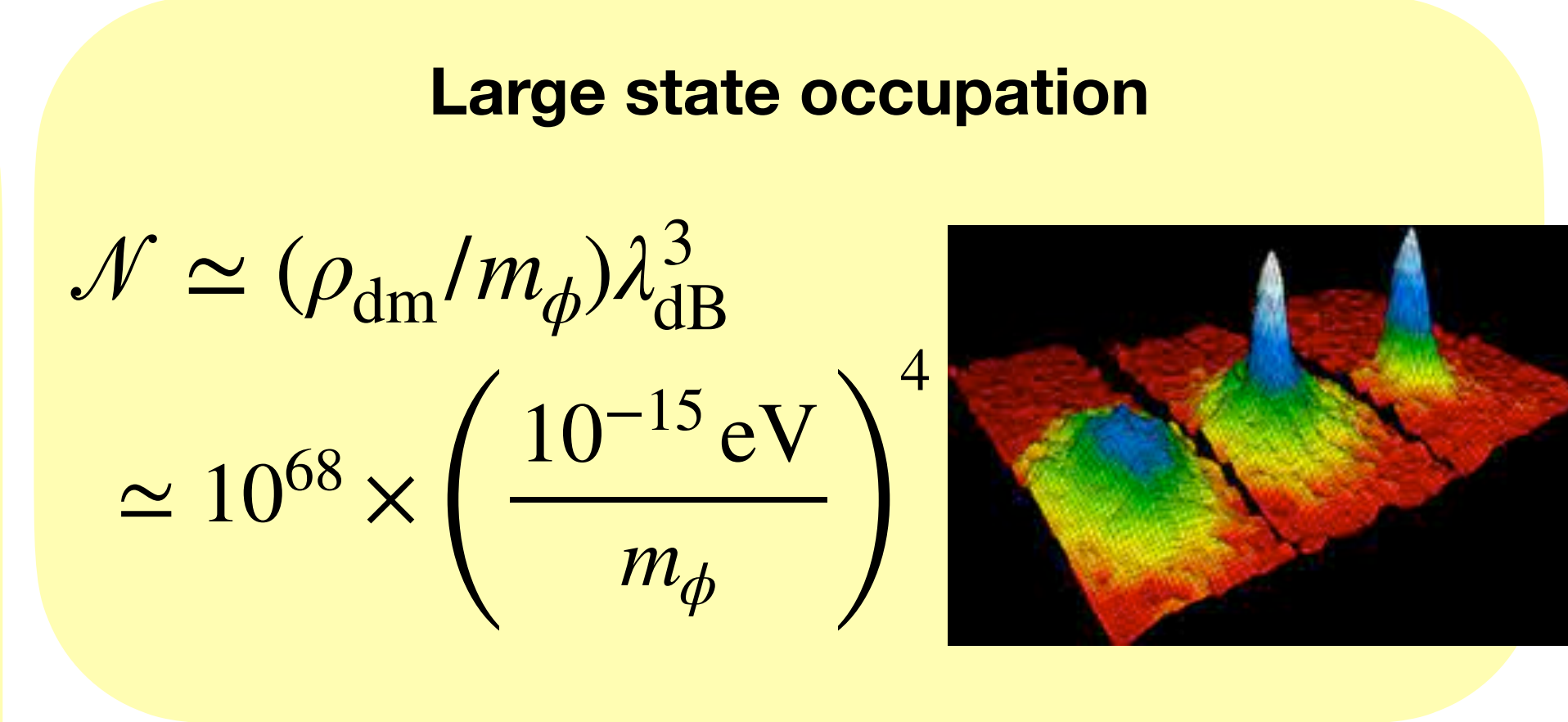
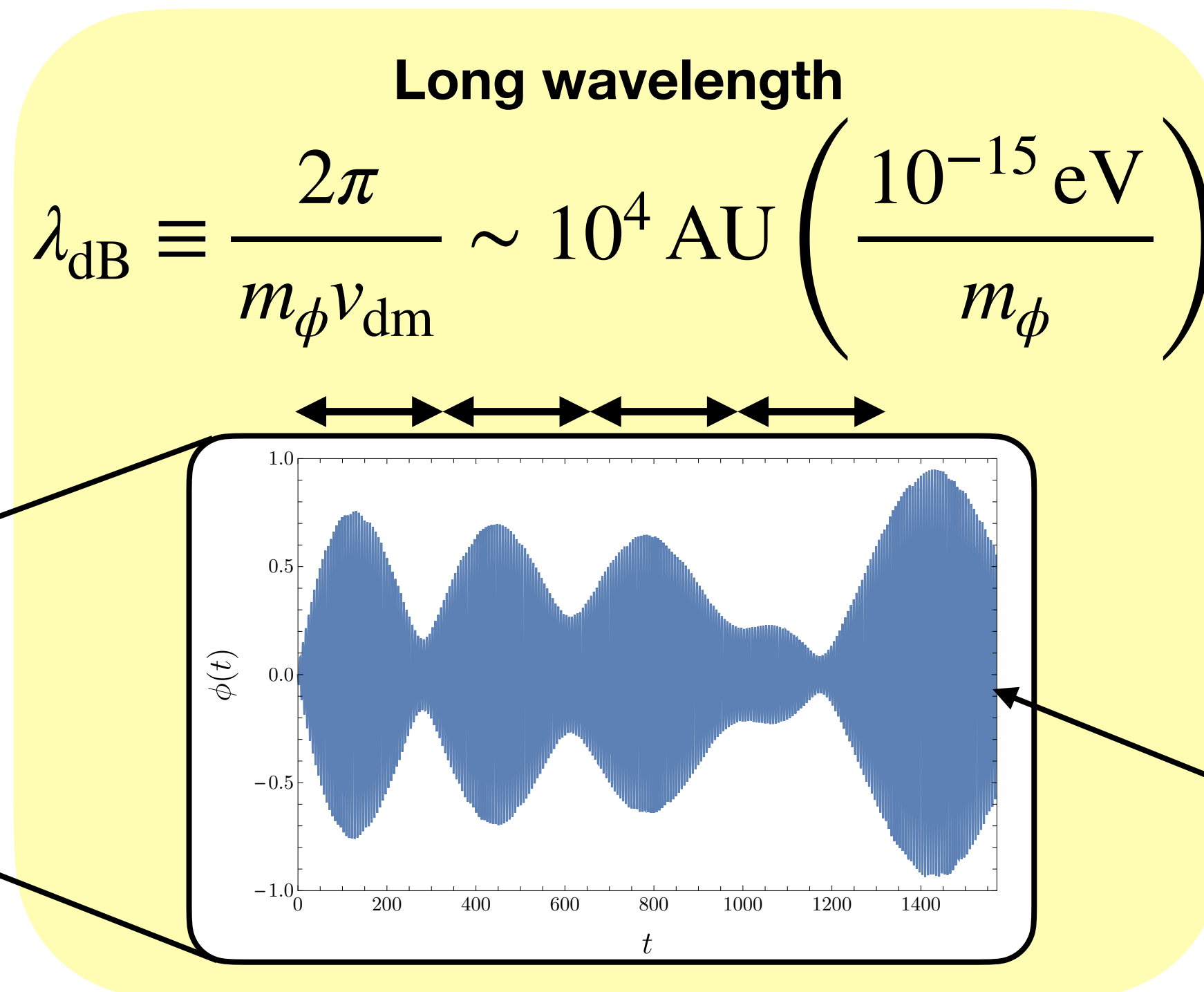
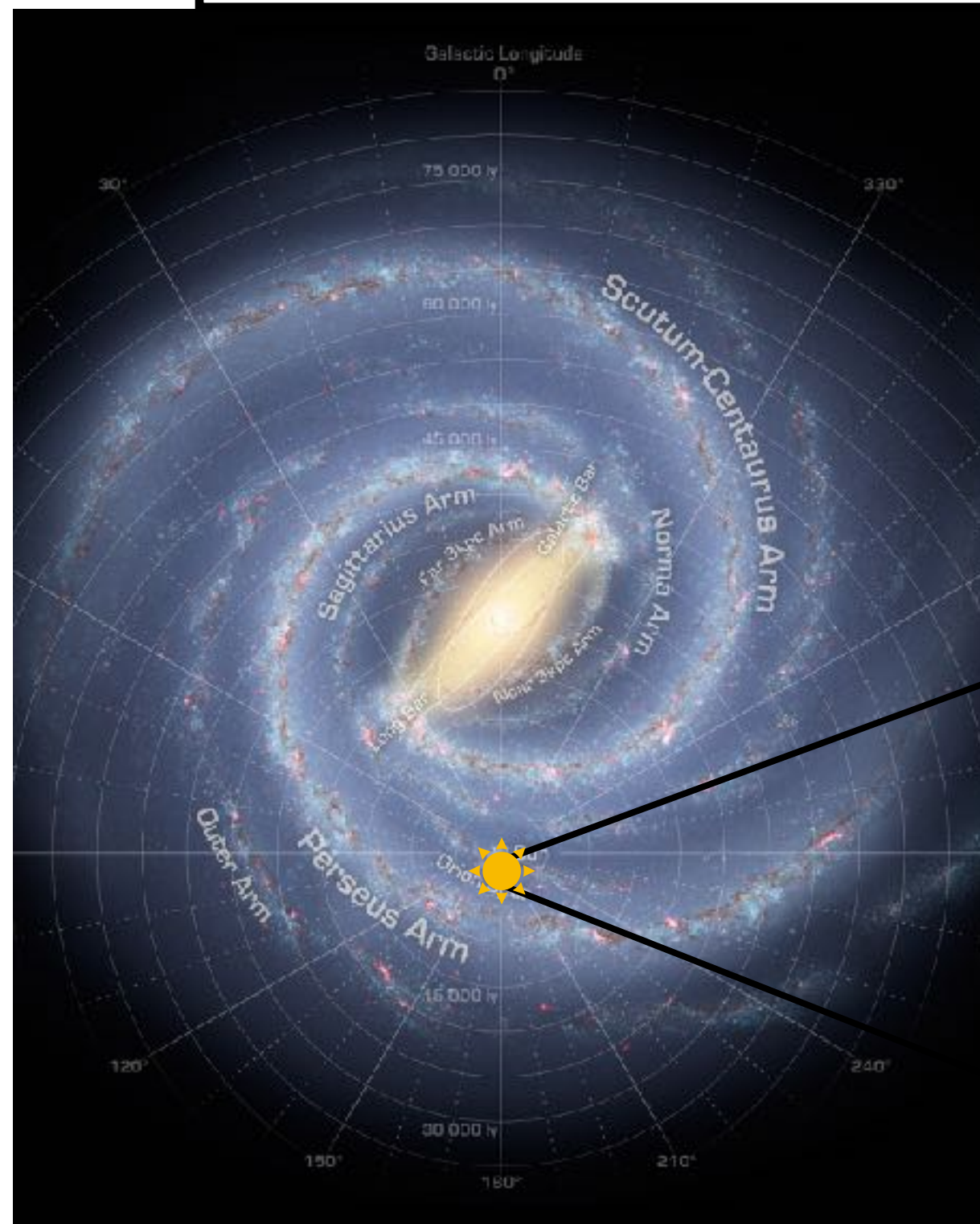
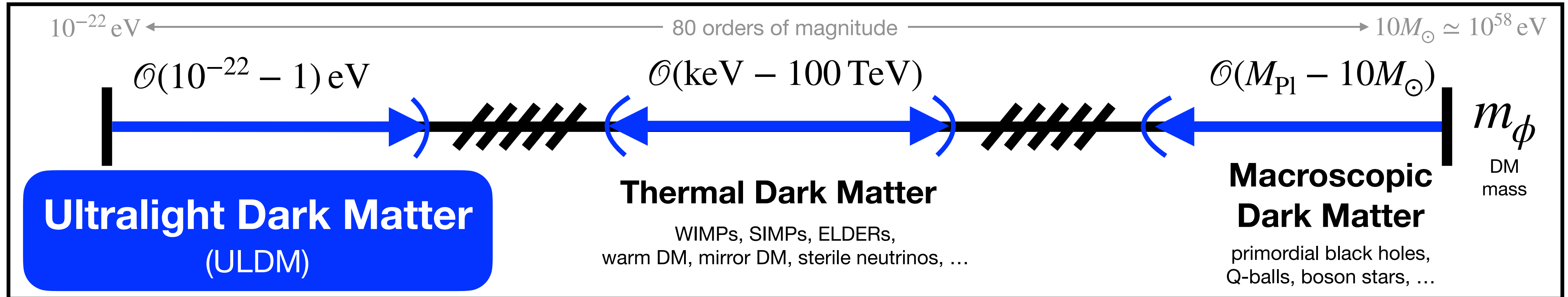
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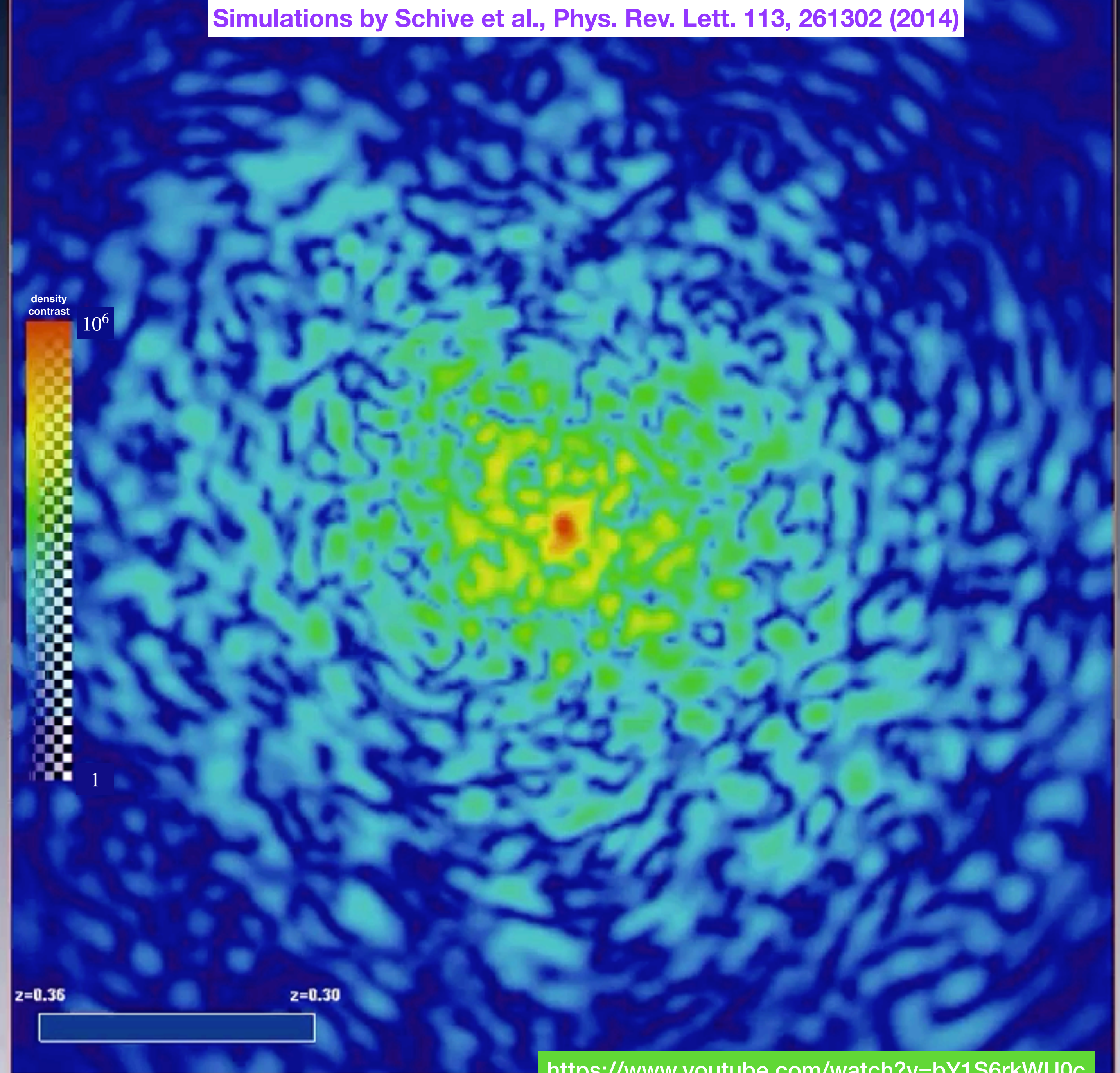




# ULDM Waves

Example with  $m_\phi \simeq 10^{-22}$  eV

Simulations by Schive et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 261302 (2014)



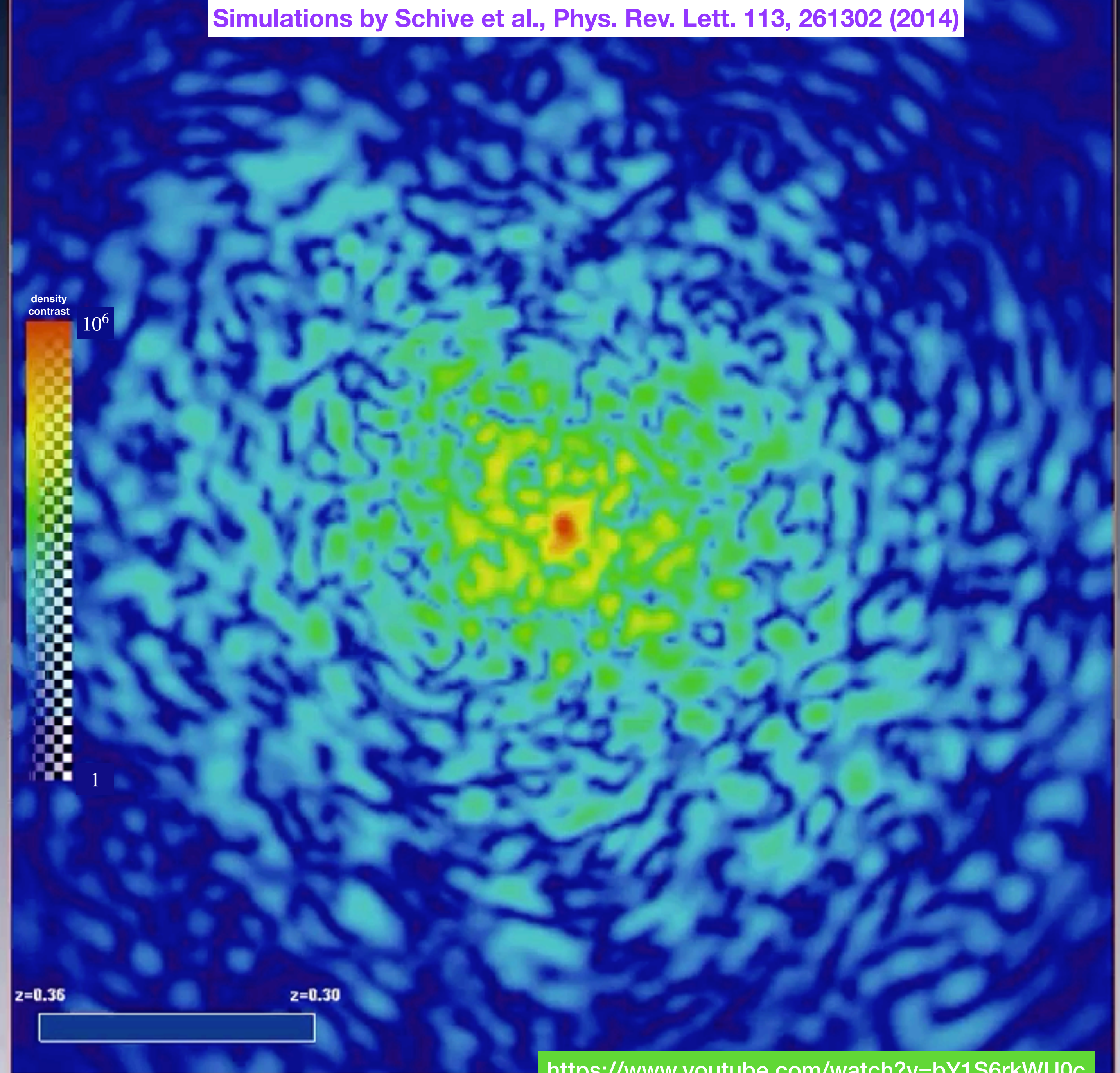
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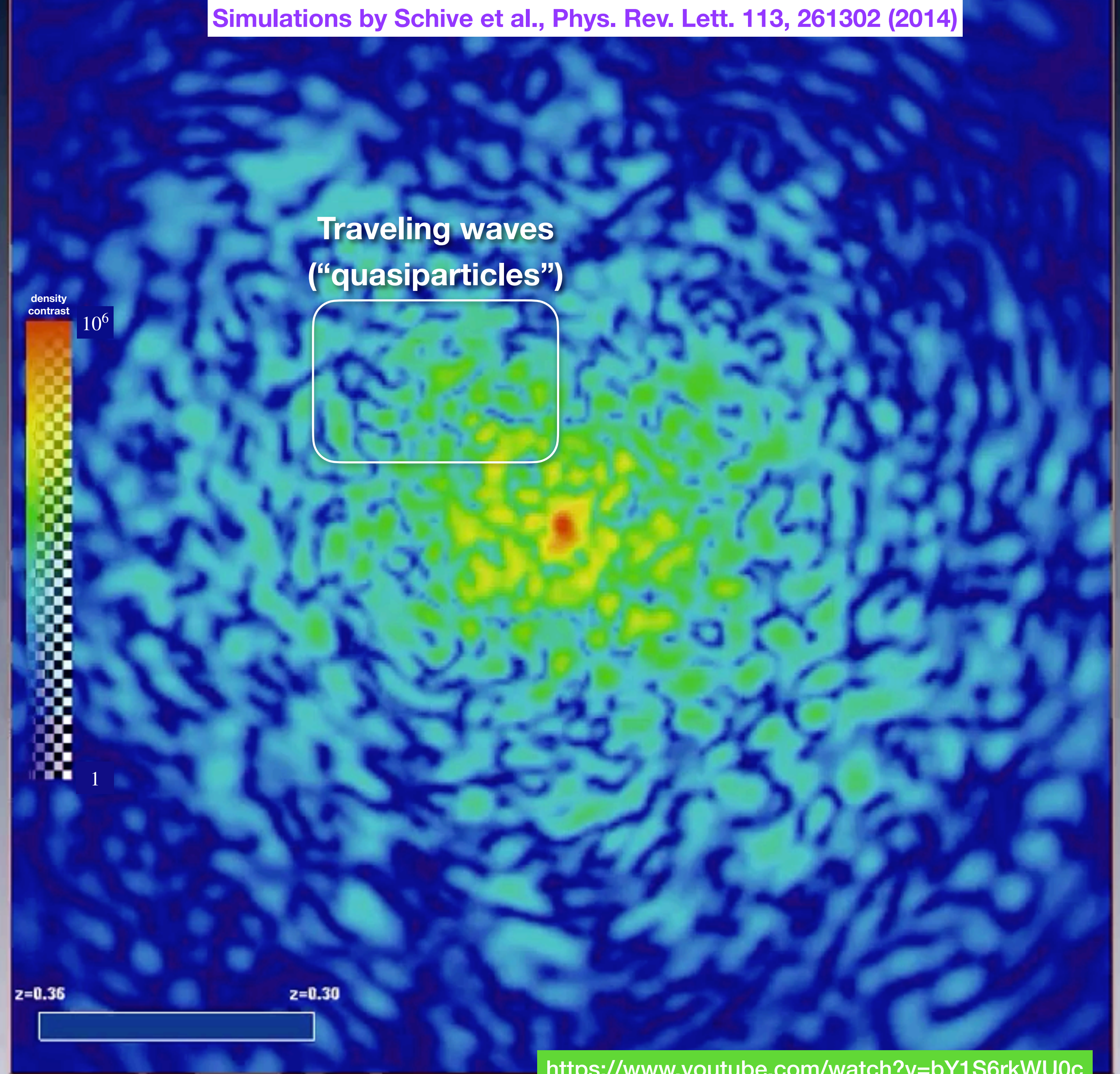
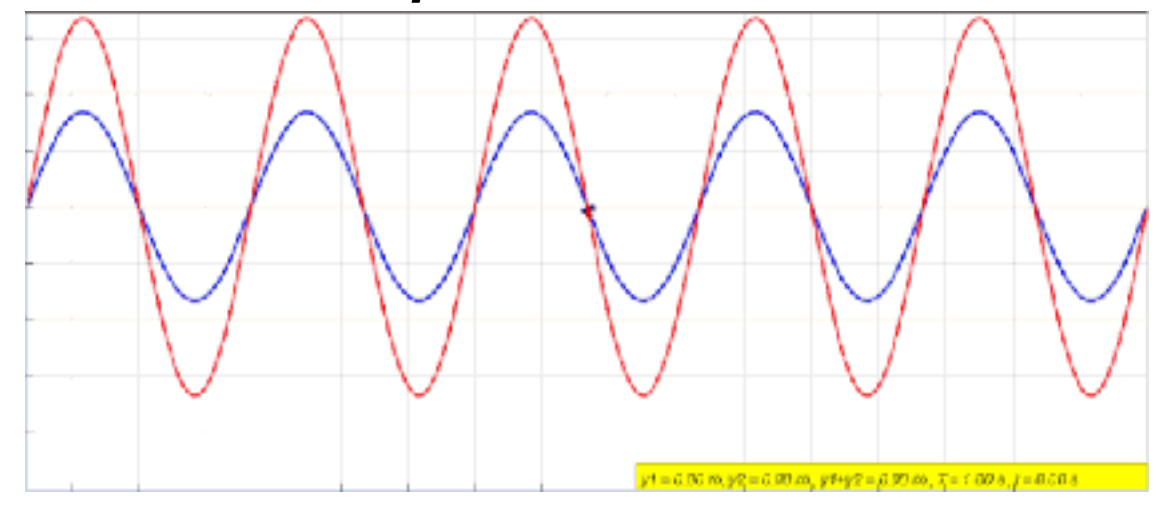


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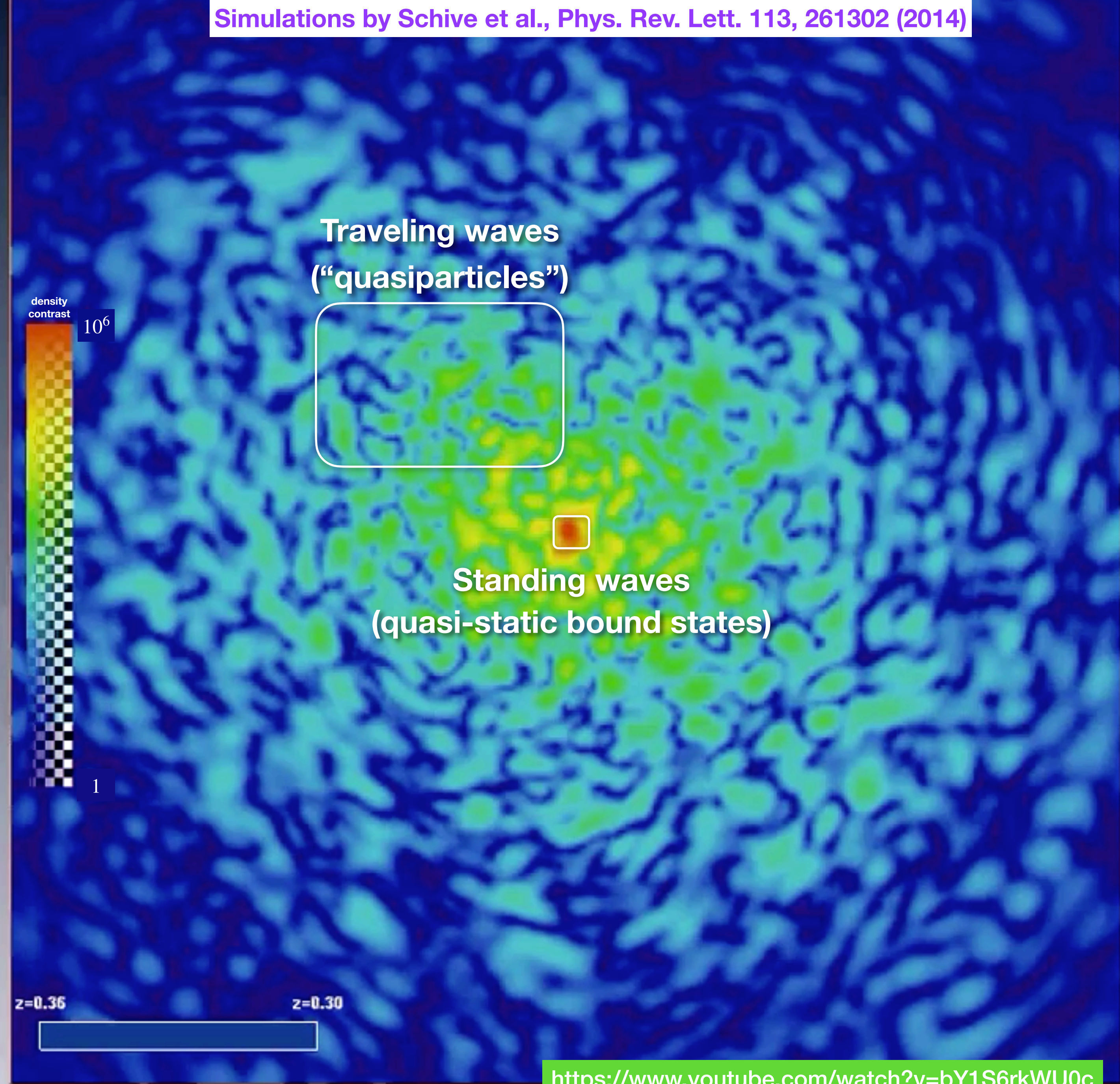
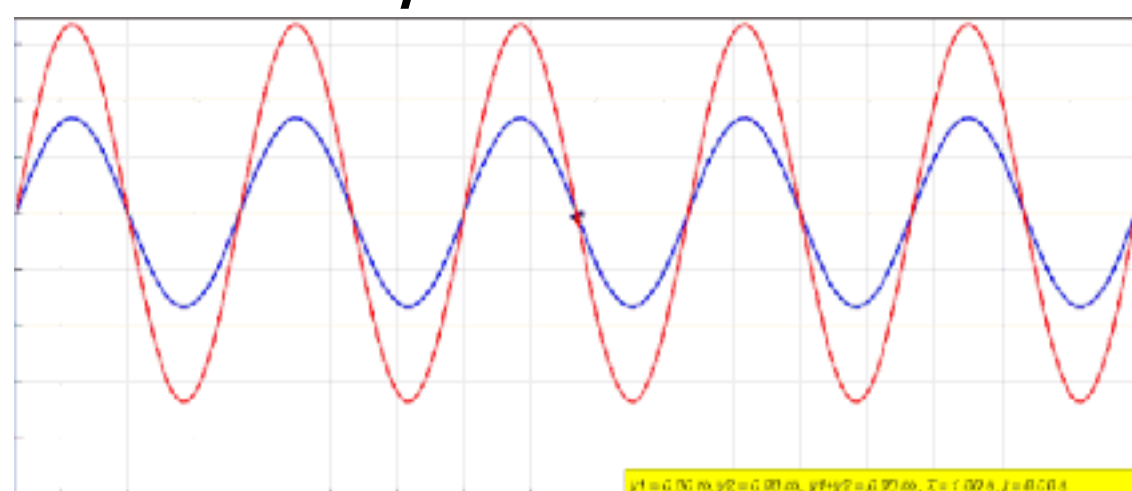


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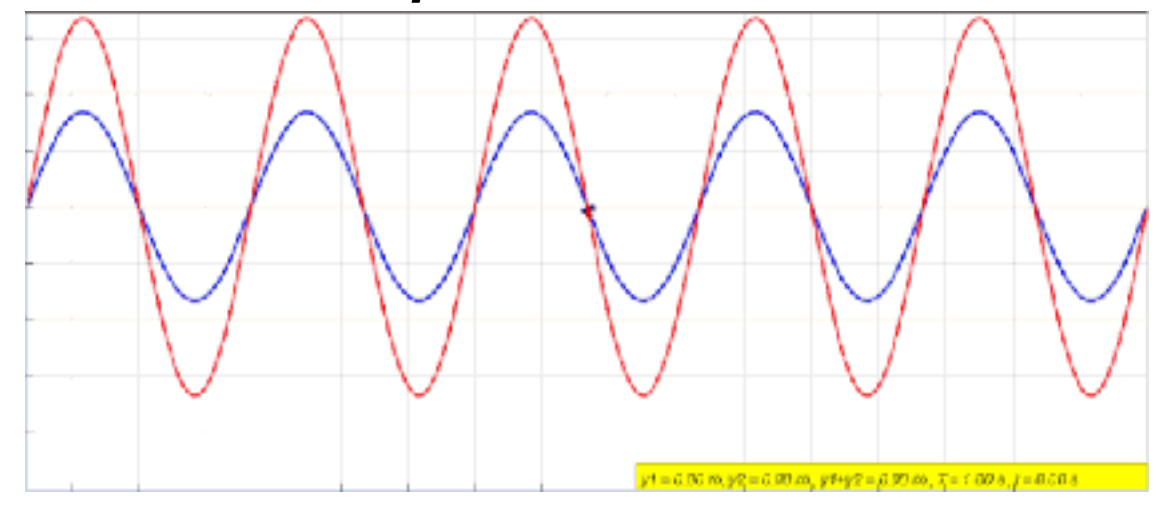


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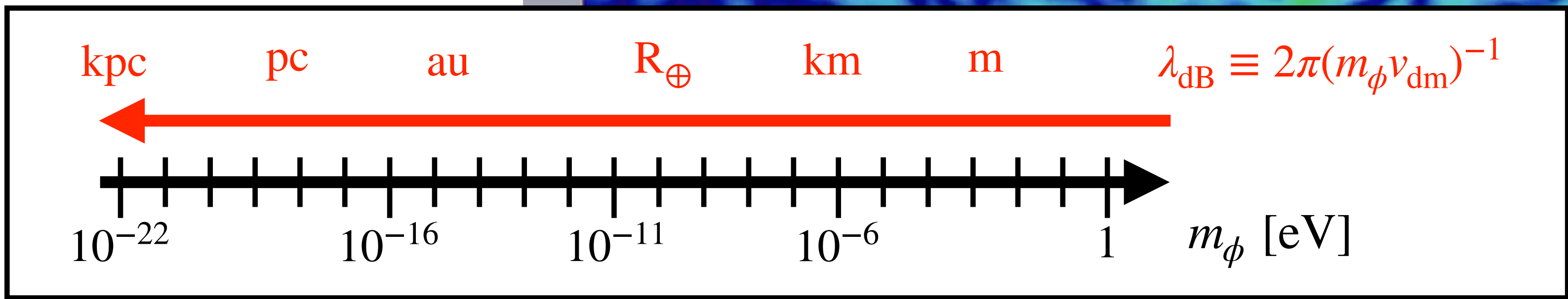
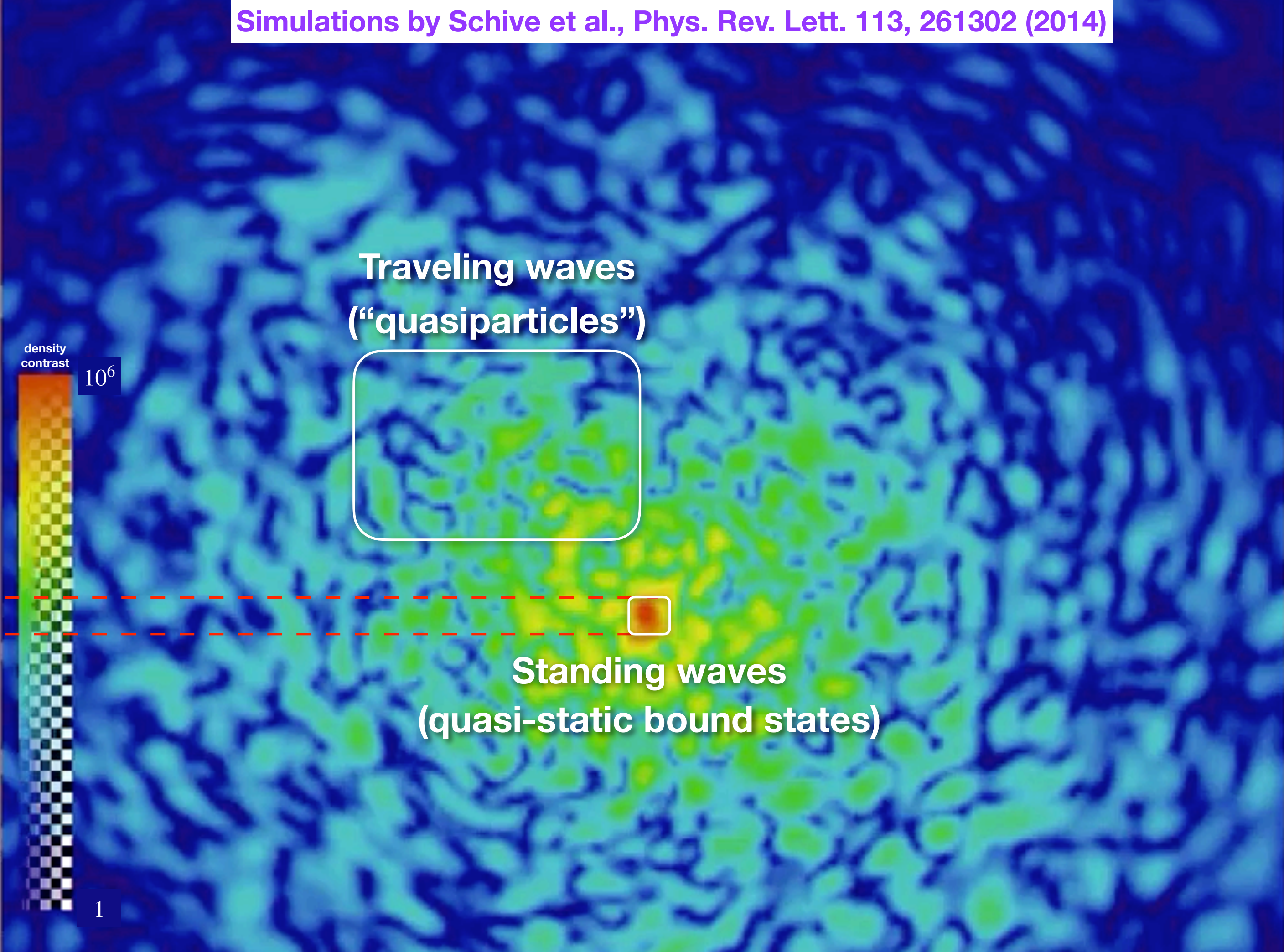
Example with  $m_\phi \simeq 10^{-22}$  eV



$\lambda_{dB}$

Wave amplitude  $\iff$  DM density

Variations of  $\rho_{dm}$   
on scales of order  $\lambda_{dB}$



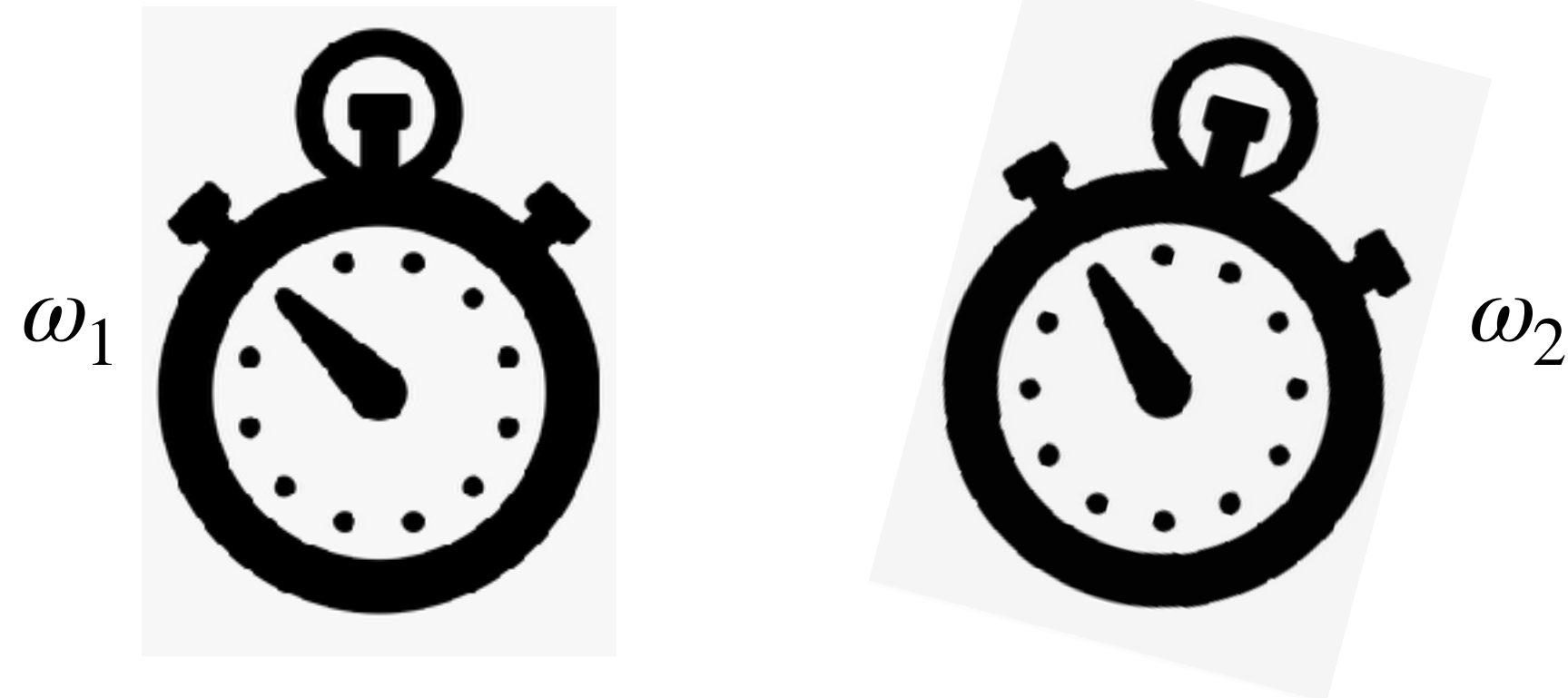
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# Basics of Quantum Sensor Searches

Basic procedure: Compare two “clocks”  
with different couplings to ULDM field

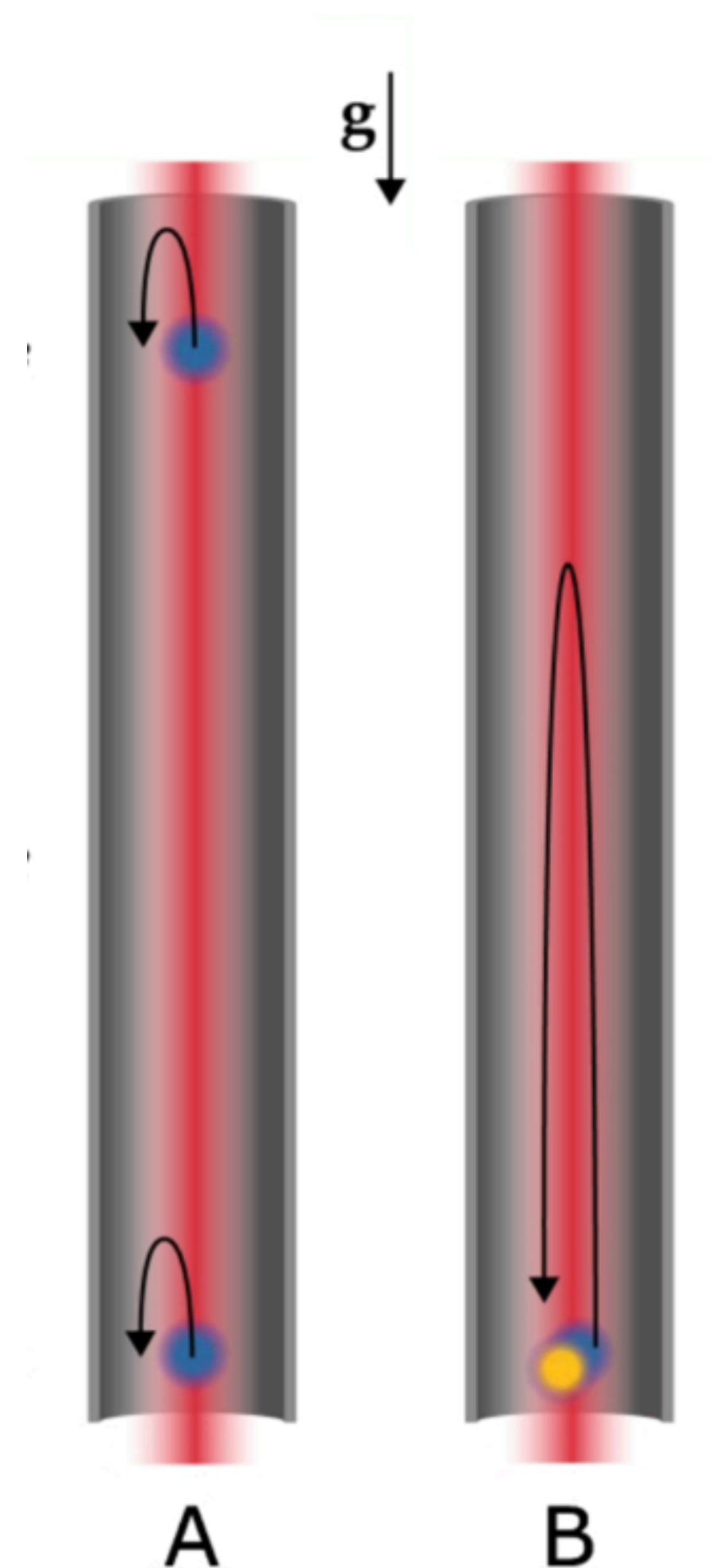
Atom 1  $\longleftrightarrow$  Atom 2  
Atomic transition 1  $\longleftrightarrow$  Atomic transition 2  
Atomic transition  $\longleftrightarrow$  Cavity  
...  $\longleftrightarrow$  ...



Look for peak in Fourier spectrum  
at DM Compton frequency

$$\omega_\phi \simeq m_\phi \simeq \text{few Hz} \left( \frac{m_\phi}{10^{-15} \text{ eV}} \right)$$

Derevianko + Pospelov (1311.1244)  
Arvanitaki, Huang, Van Tilburg (1405.2925)  
Stadnik + Flambaum (1412.7801, 1503.08540)



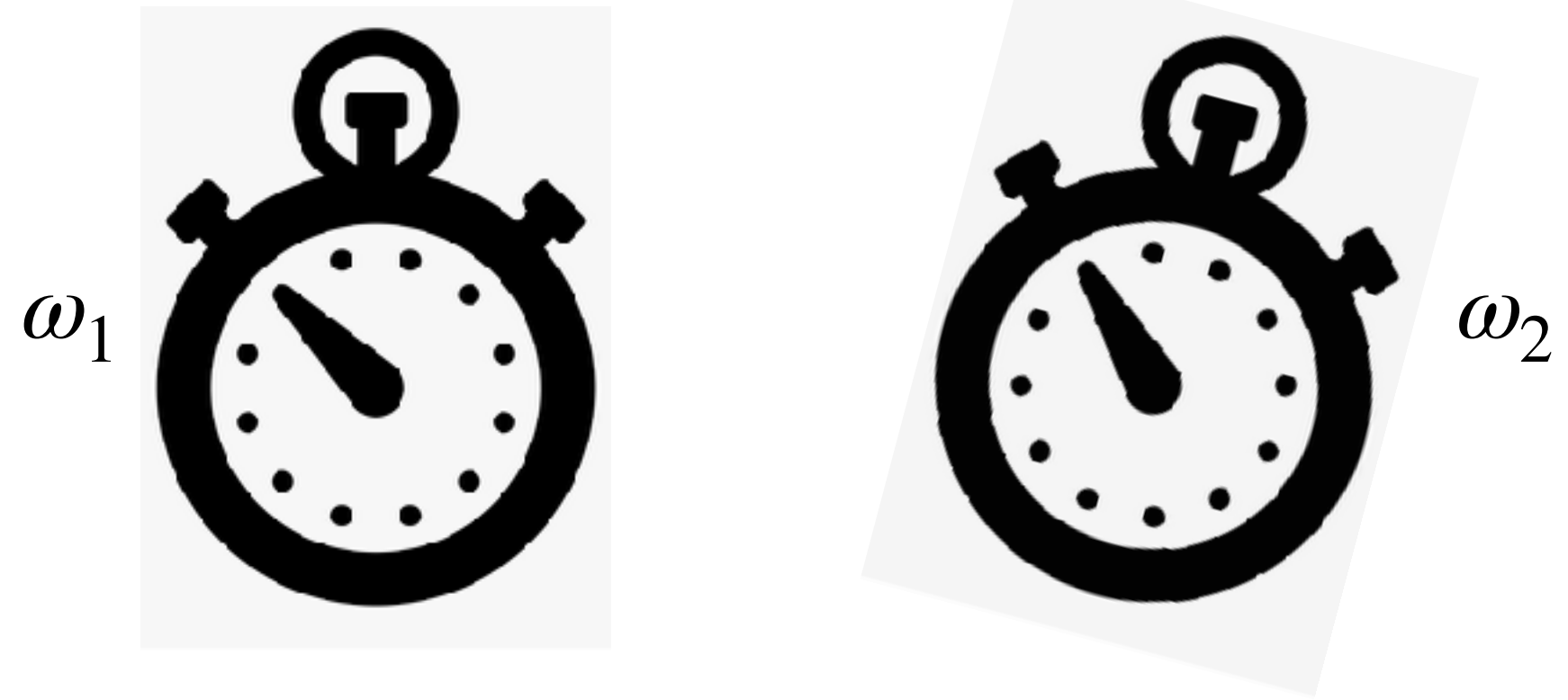
“New Horizons: Scalar and Vector  
Ultralight Dark Matter”  
(2203.14915)



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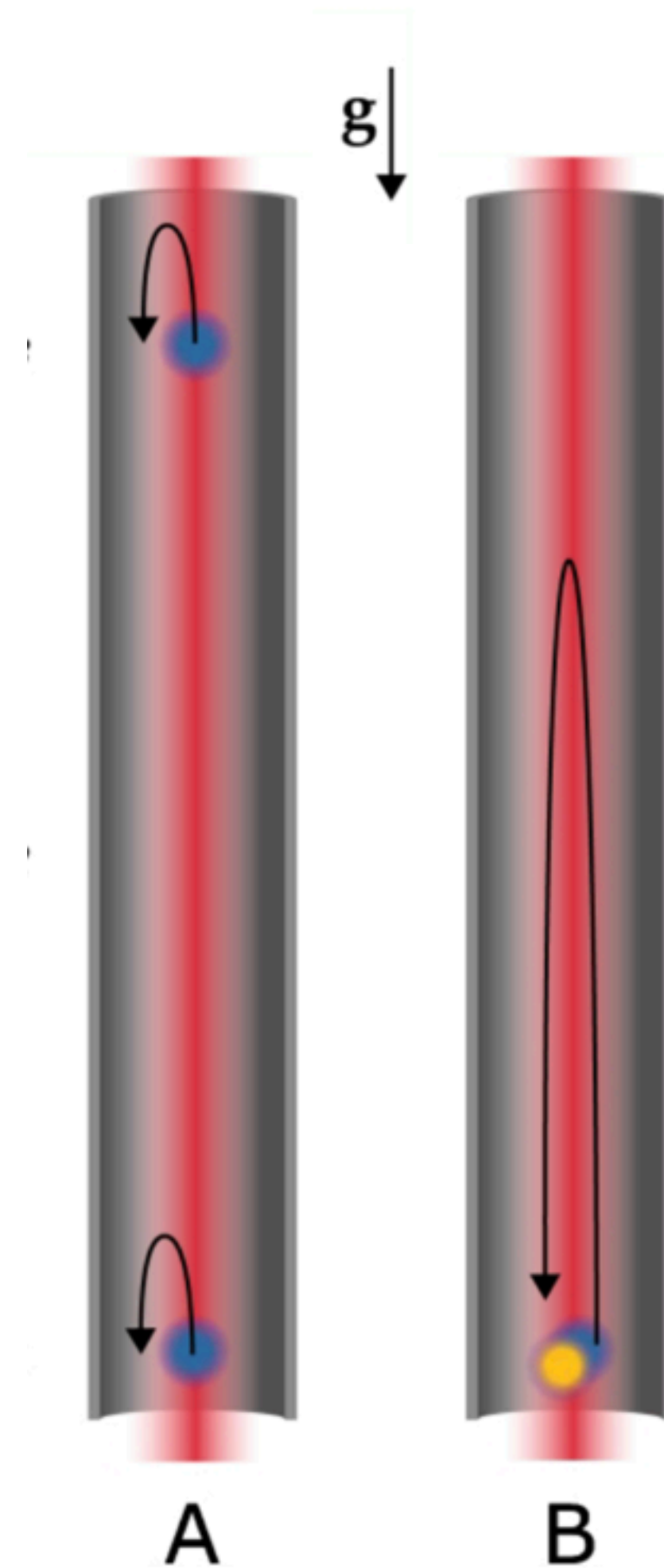
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“New Horizons: Scalar and Vector Ultralight Dark Matter” (2203.14915)

(e.g.) ULDM-photon interaction

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{c.f. } \mathcal{L}_{\text{EM}} \supset \frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

Leads to effective oscillation of fine-structure constant

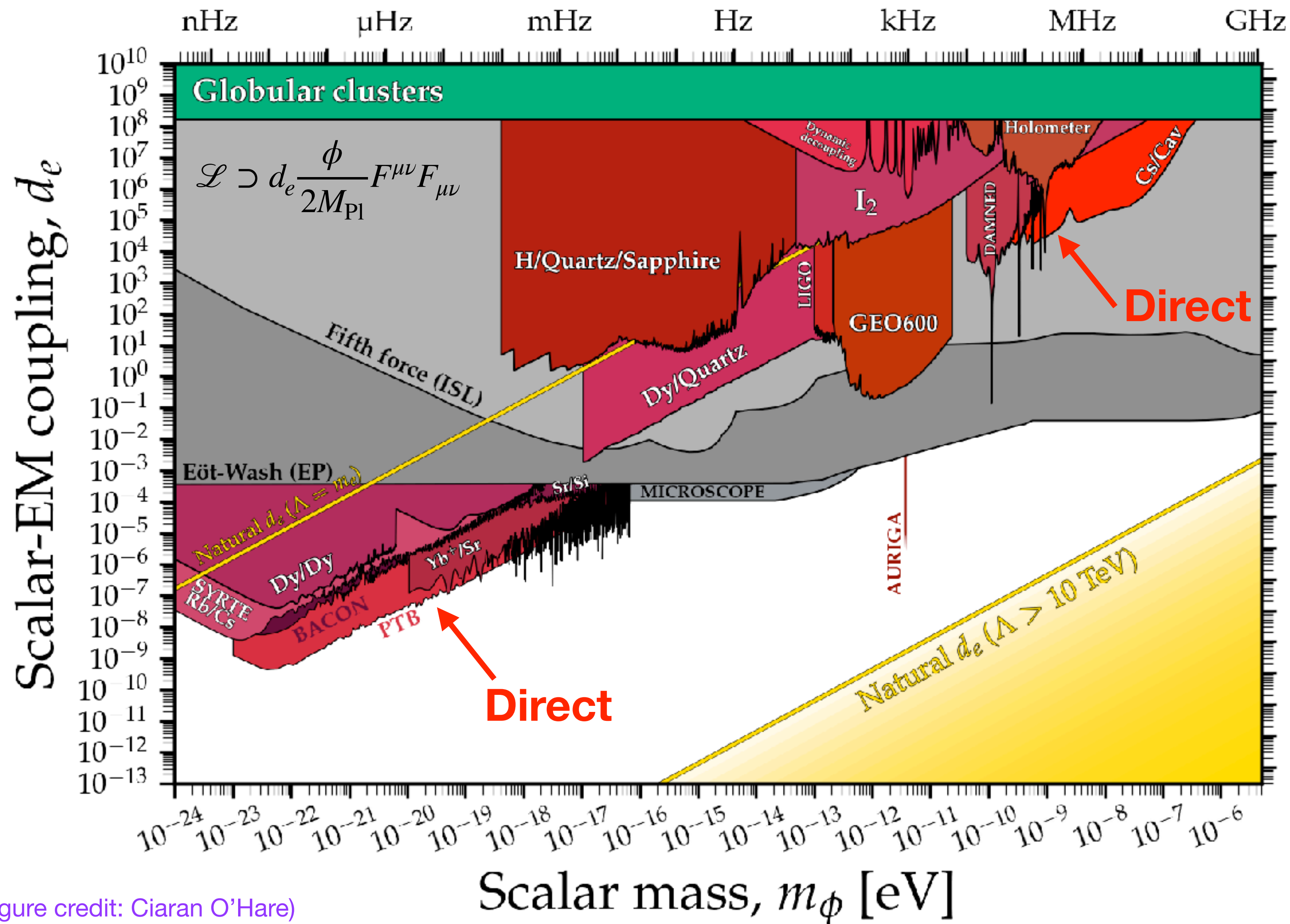
$$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha$$

with

$$\frac{\delta\alpha}{\alpha} \simeq \frac{d_e \phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \simeq 10^{-18} \left( \frac{d_e}{10^{-2}} \right) \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_{\text{dm}}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{10^{-15} \text{ eV}}{m_\phi} \right)$$



# Current Status

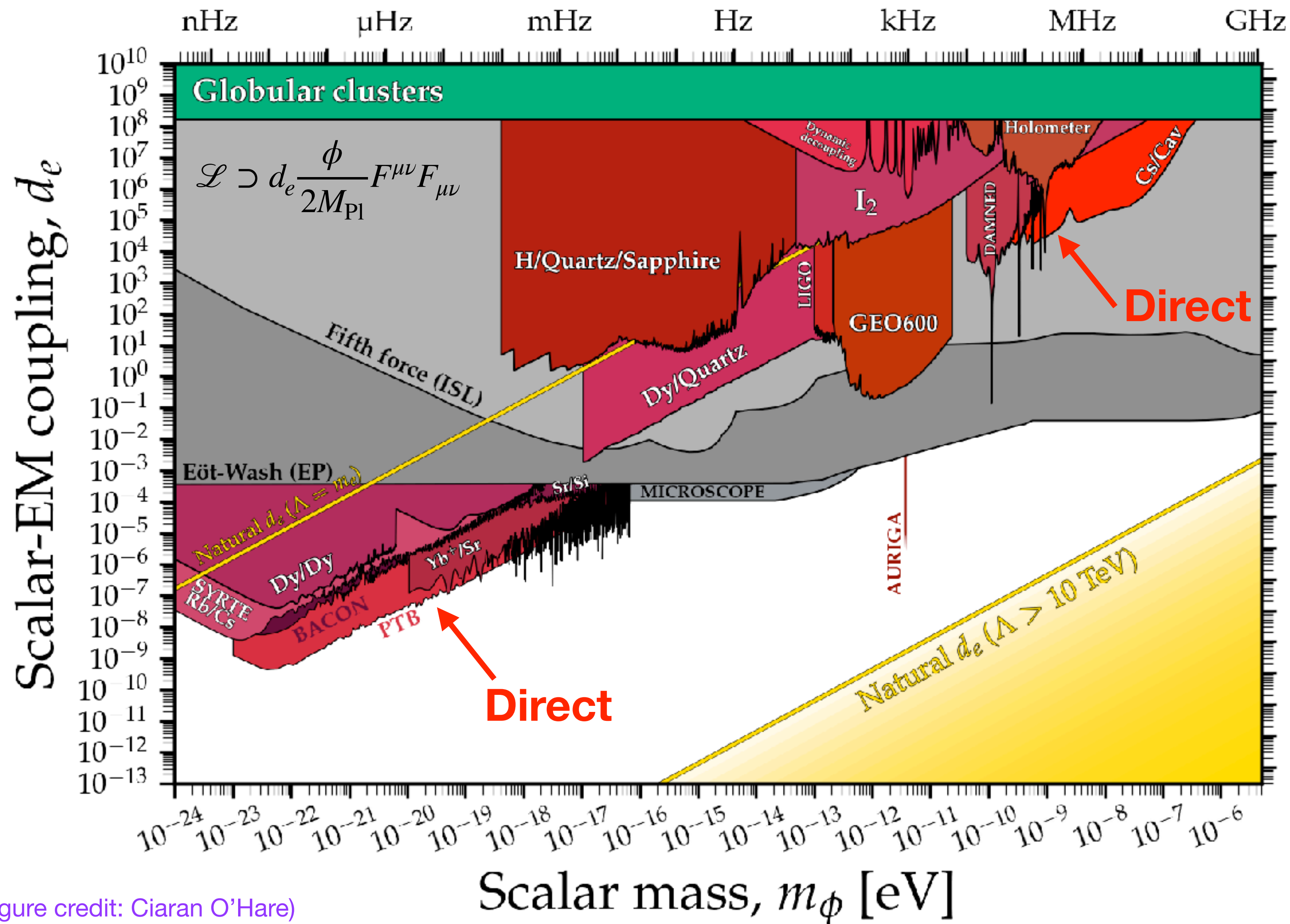


Direct searches depend critically on DM properties near Earth: density  $\rho_{\text{dm}}$  and velocity dispersion  $v_{\text{dm}}$  along with the frequency of the incoming ULDM field  $\omega_\phi$

Many such searches ongoing, well-established techniques



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Can we use these techniques to probe ULDM with even greater sensitivity, including at high frequency  $\gtrsim$  mHz ?

(figure credit: Ciaran O'Hare)

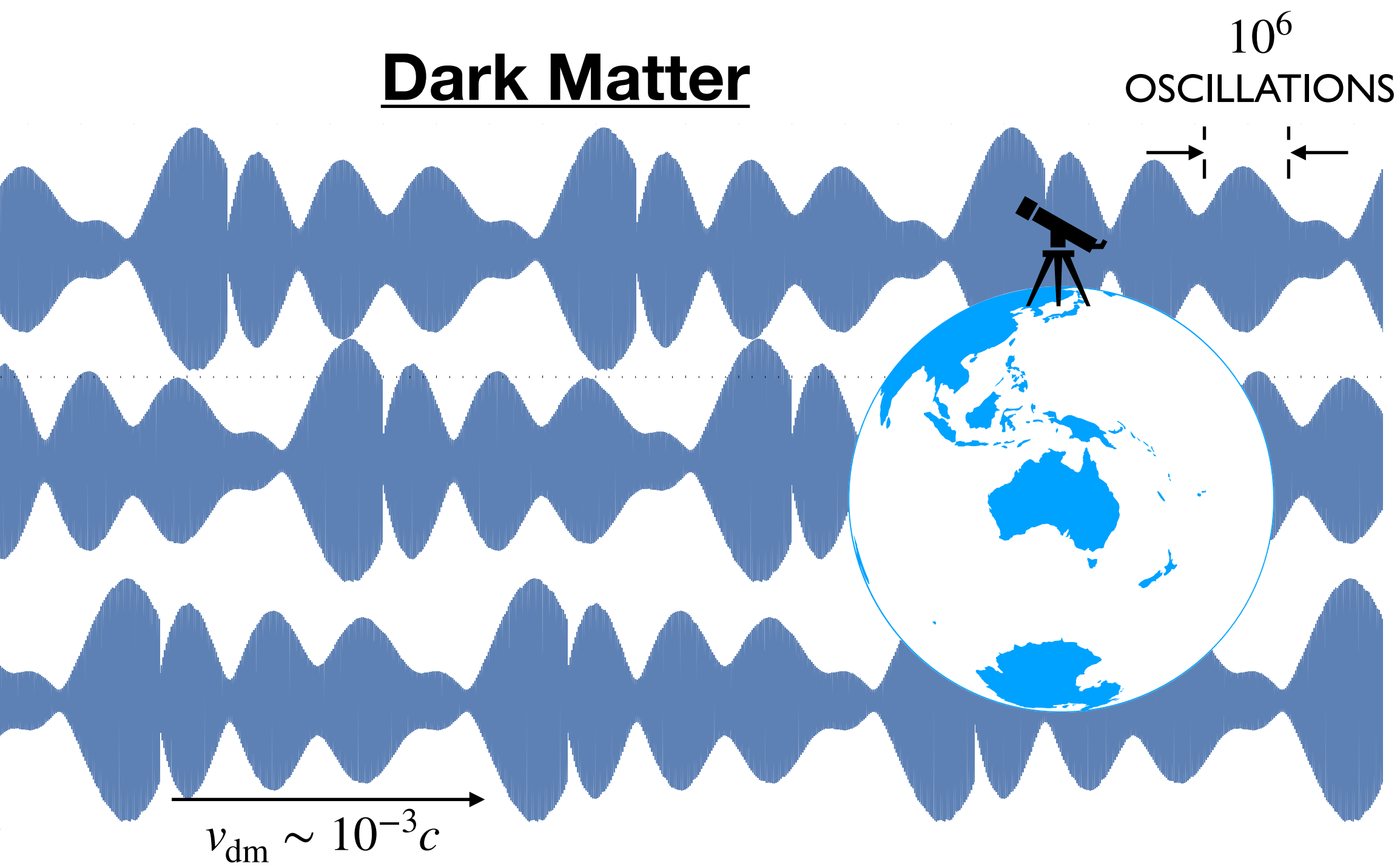


**Beyond (mere) cold DM:**

**Relativistic bursts of ULDM**



# Dark Matter



Local DM density:

$$\rho_{\text{dm}} \simeq 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

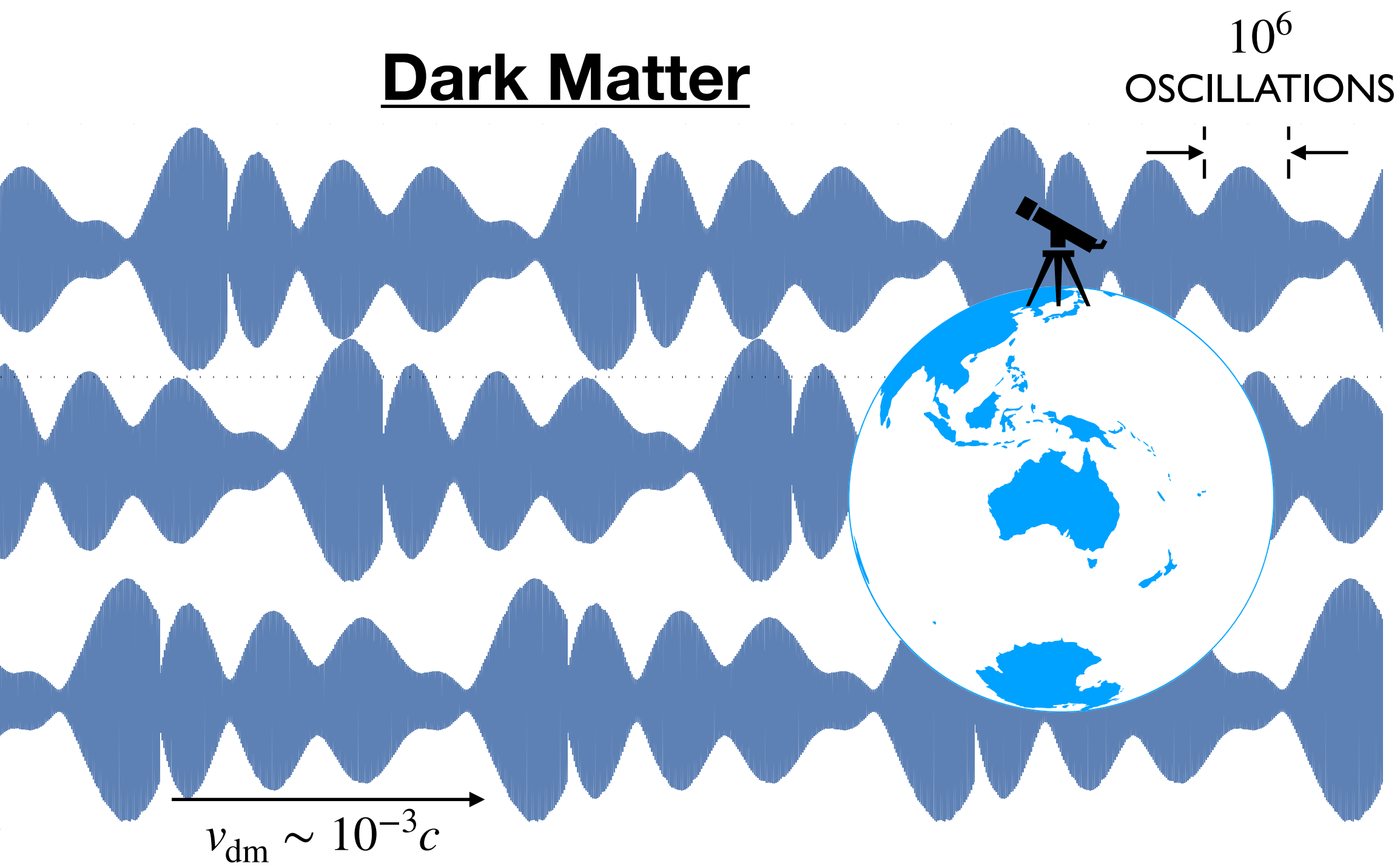
Ultralight scalars are high 'quality' oscillators:

$$v_{\text{dm}} \simeq 10^{-3}c$$

$$\tau_{\text{dm}} \sim 2\pi v_{\text{dm}}^{-2} m_{\phi}^{-1} \sim 10^6 / m_{\phi}$$



## Dark Matter



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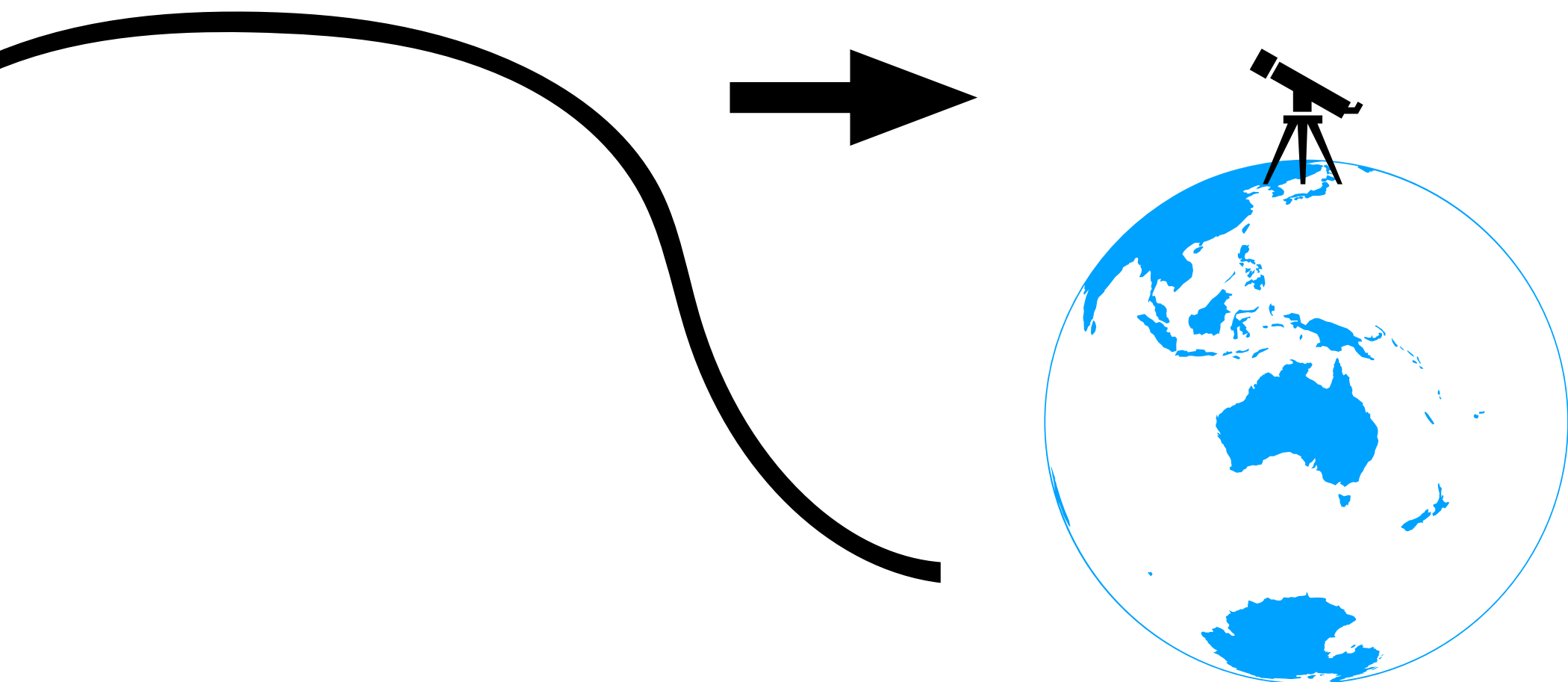
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## Relativistic Burst



Burst density:

$$\rho_* \sim ?$$

Relativistic velocity:

$$v_* \simeq c$$

$\tau_* \sim ?$   
coherence?

$\delta t \sim ?$   
duration?

**Sensitivity?**



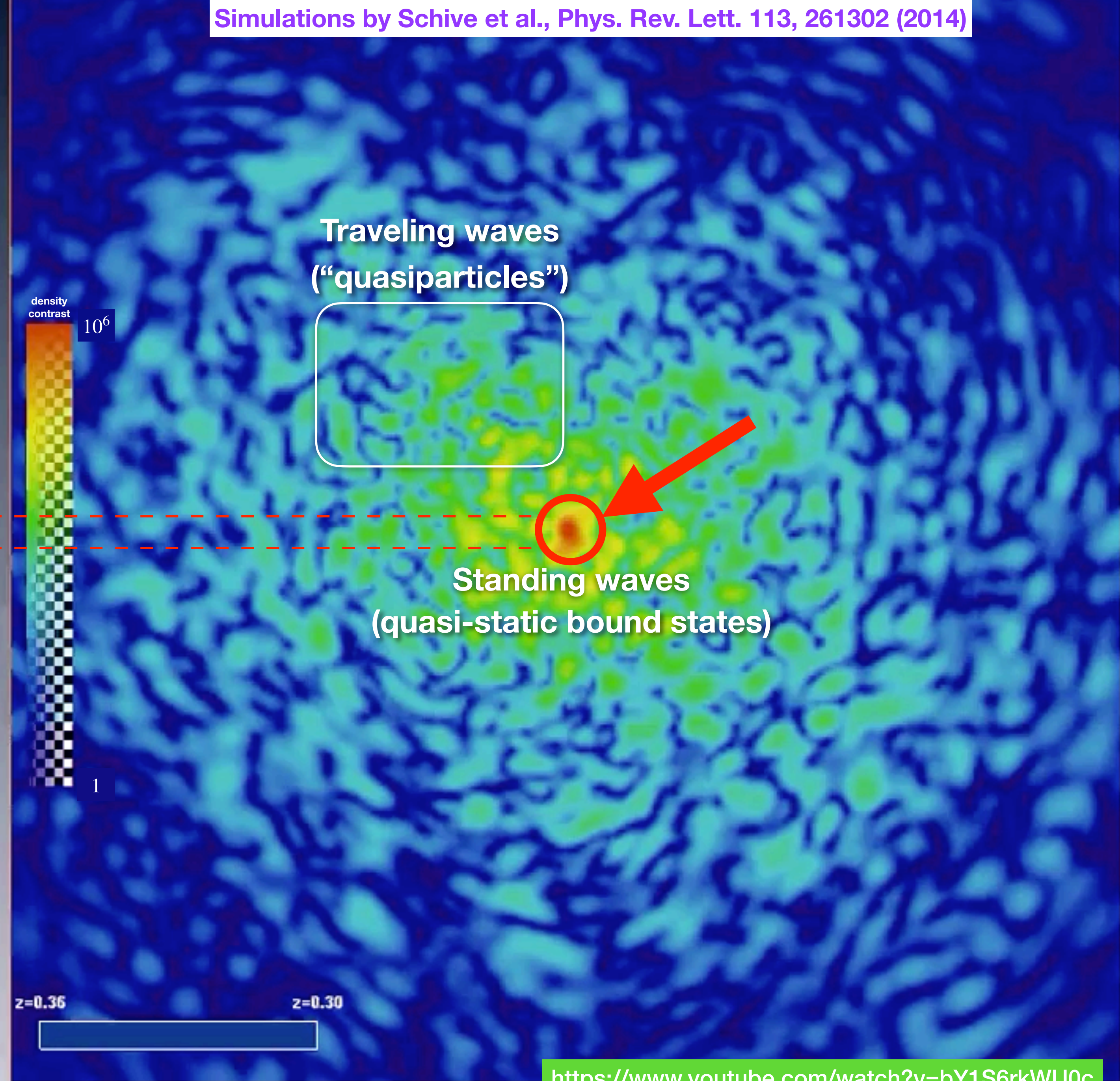
# Bound States

$\lambda_{dB}$



The standing wave patterns correspond to extremely dense configurations,  $\rho \gg \rho_{dm}$

**Can source novel signals!**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY1S6rkWU0c>



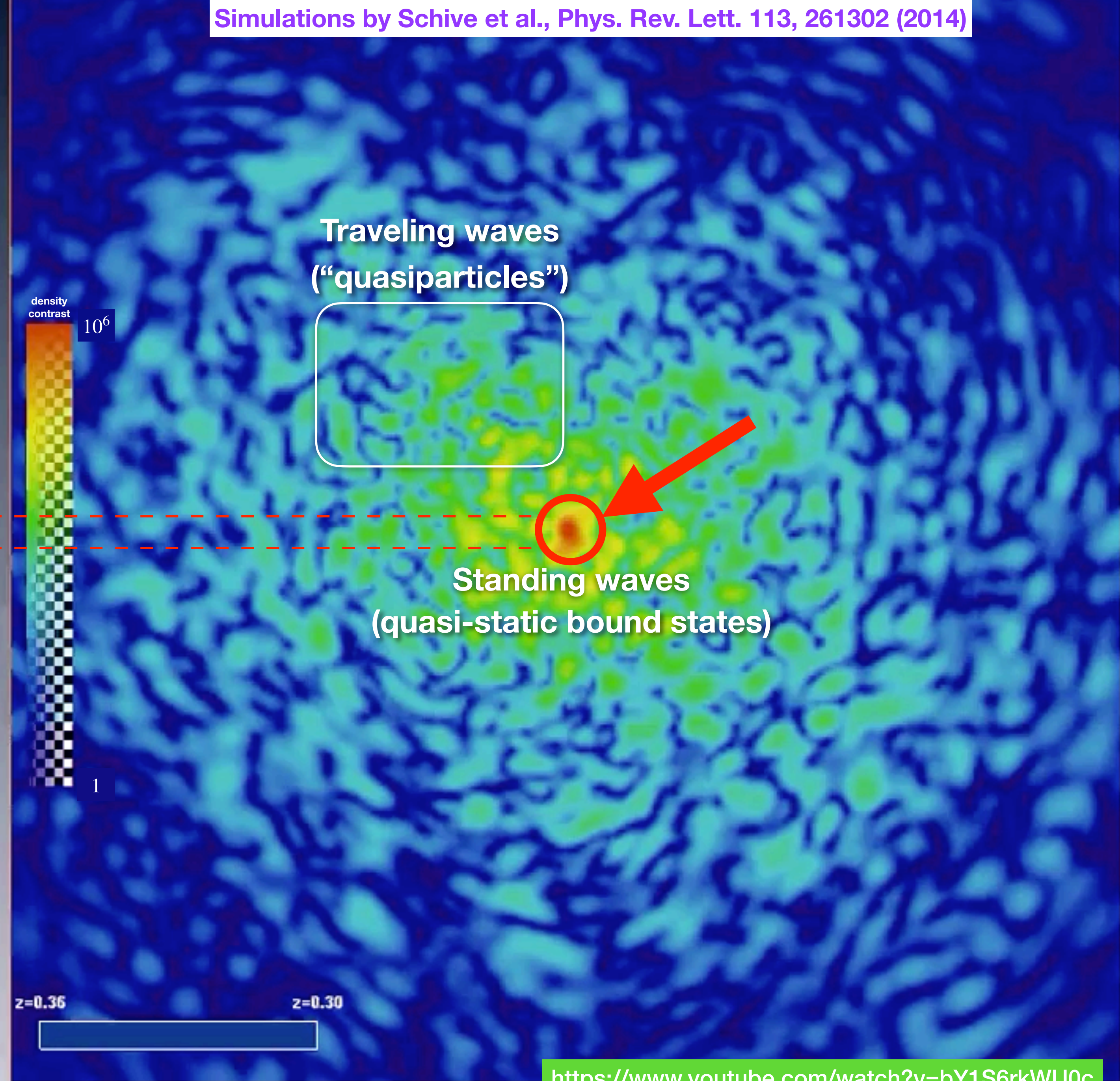
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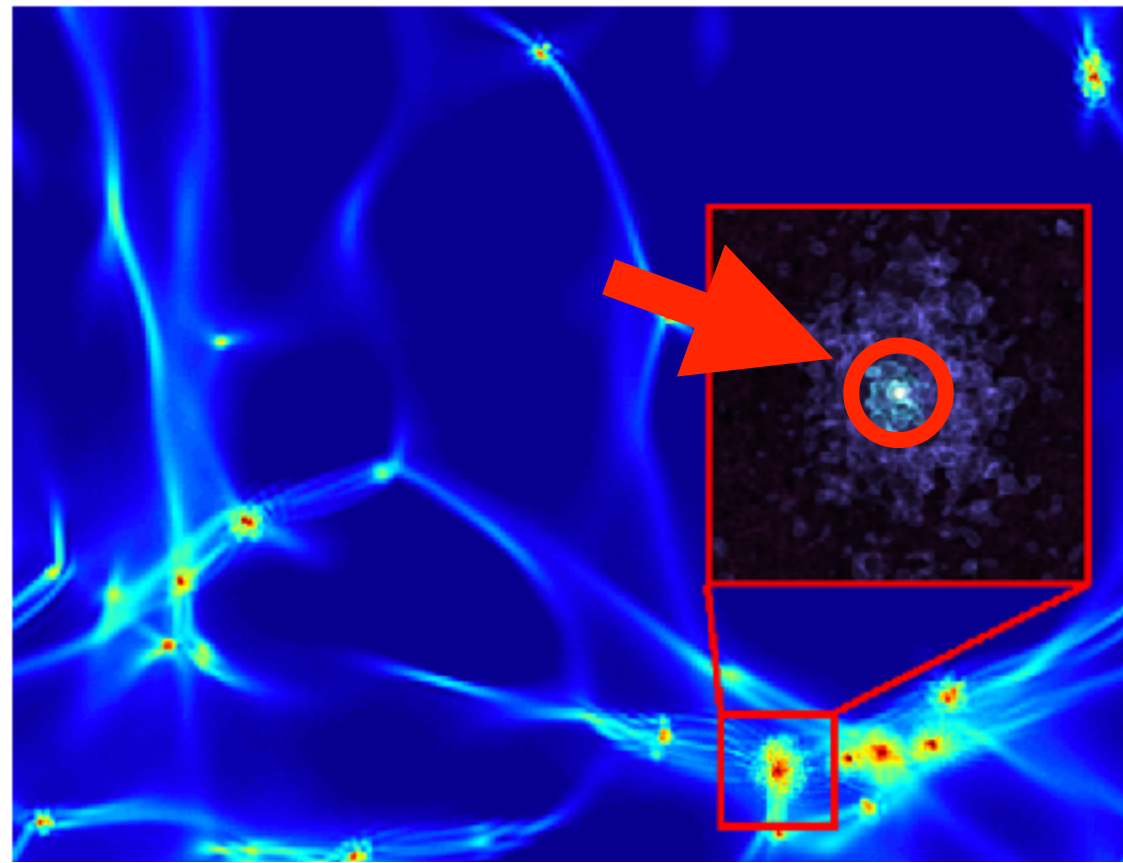
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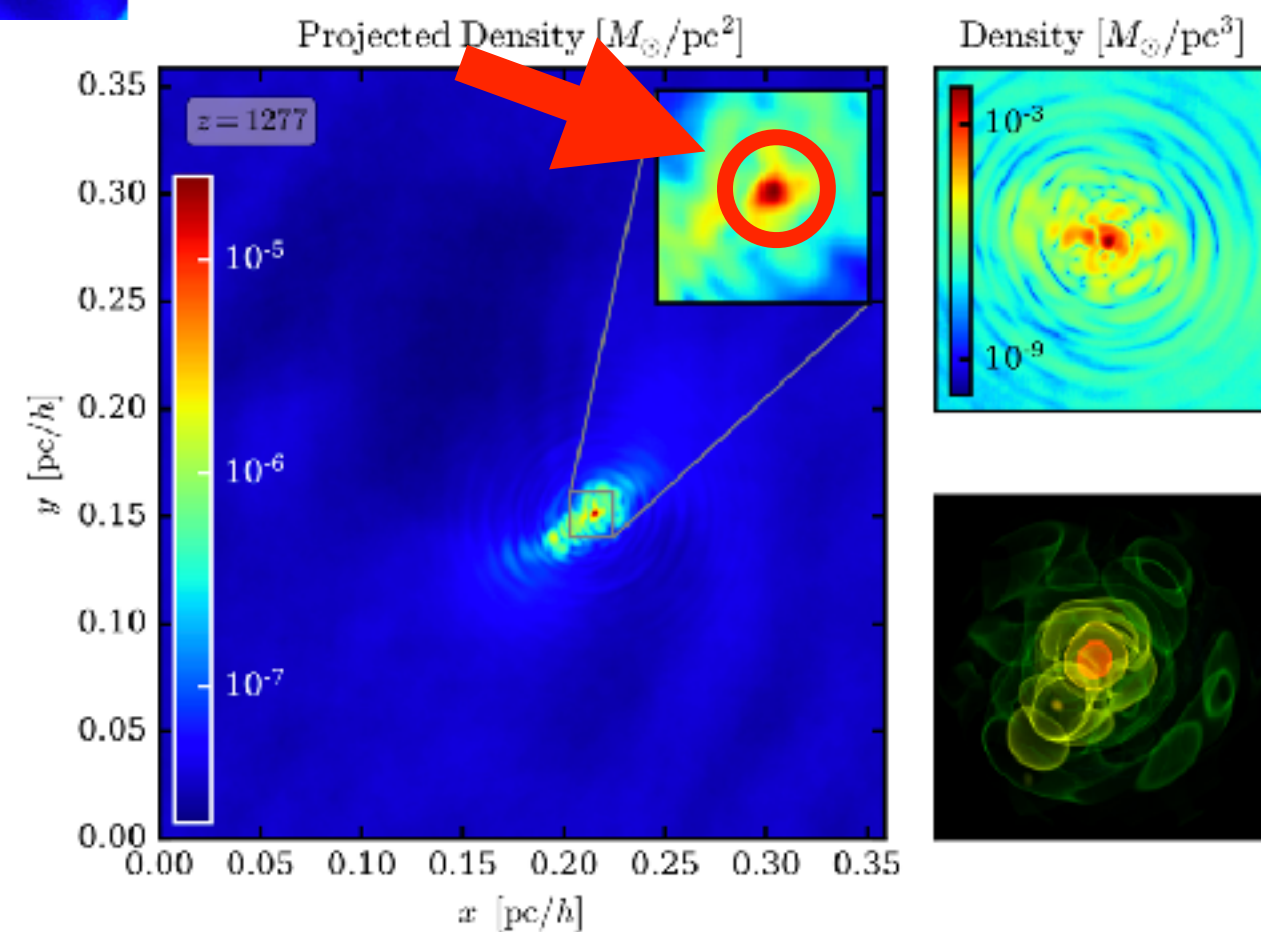
# Boson Stars

Gravitationally-bound, dense configuration  
formed from  $N \gg 1$  ULDM particles

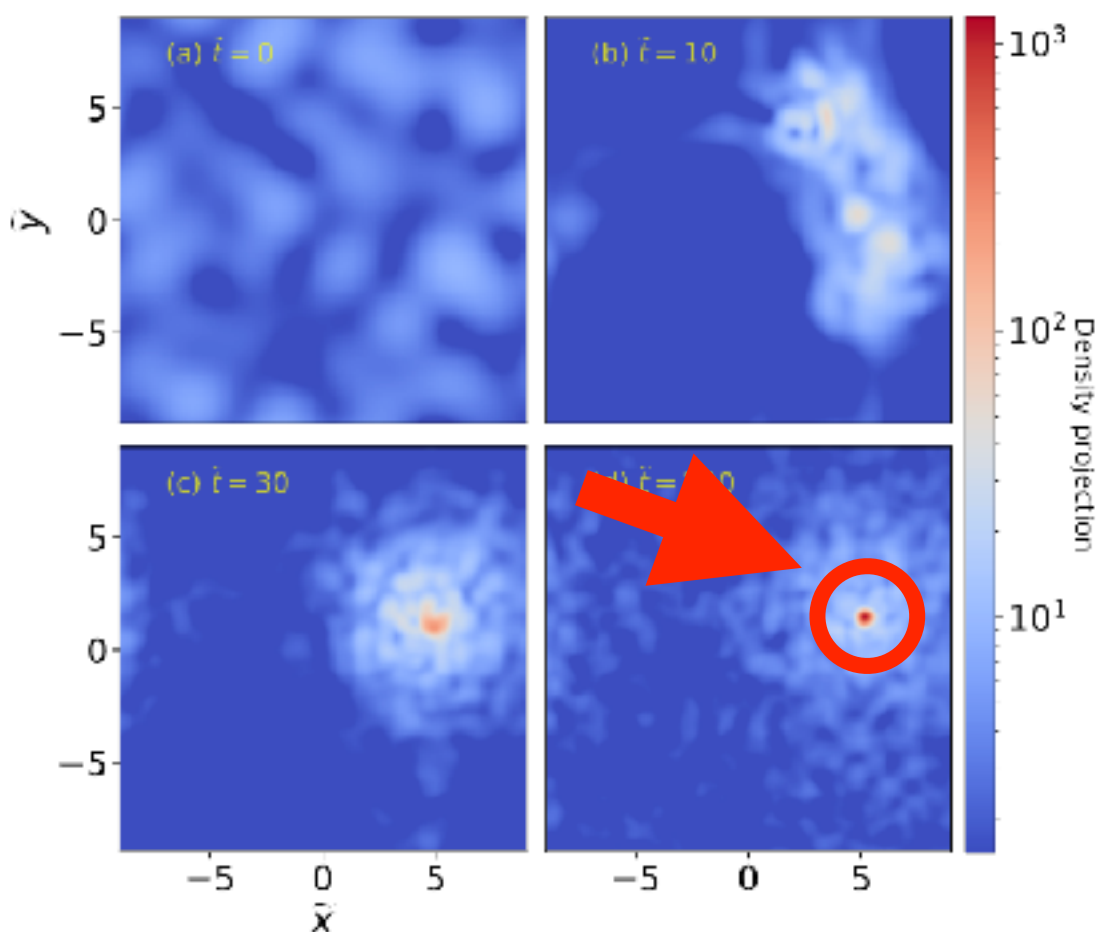
- Can also be understood as...
- *standing wave pattern*
  - *ground state of eq. of motion*
  - *Bose-Einstein condensate*



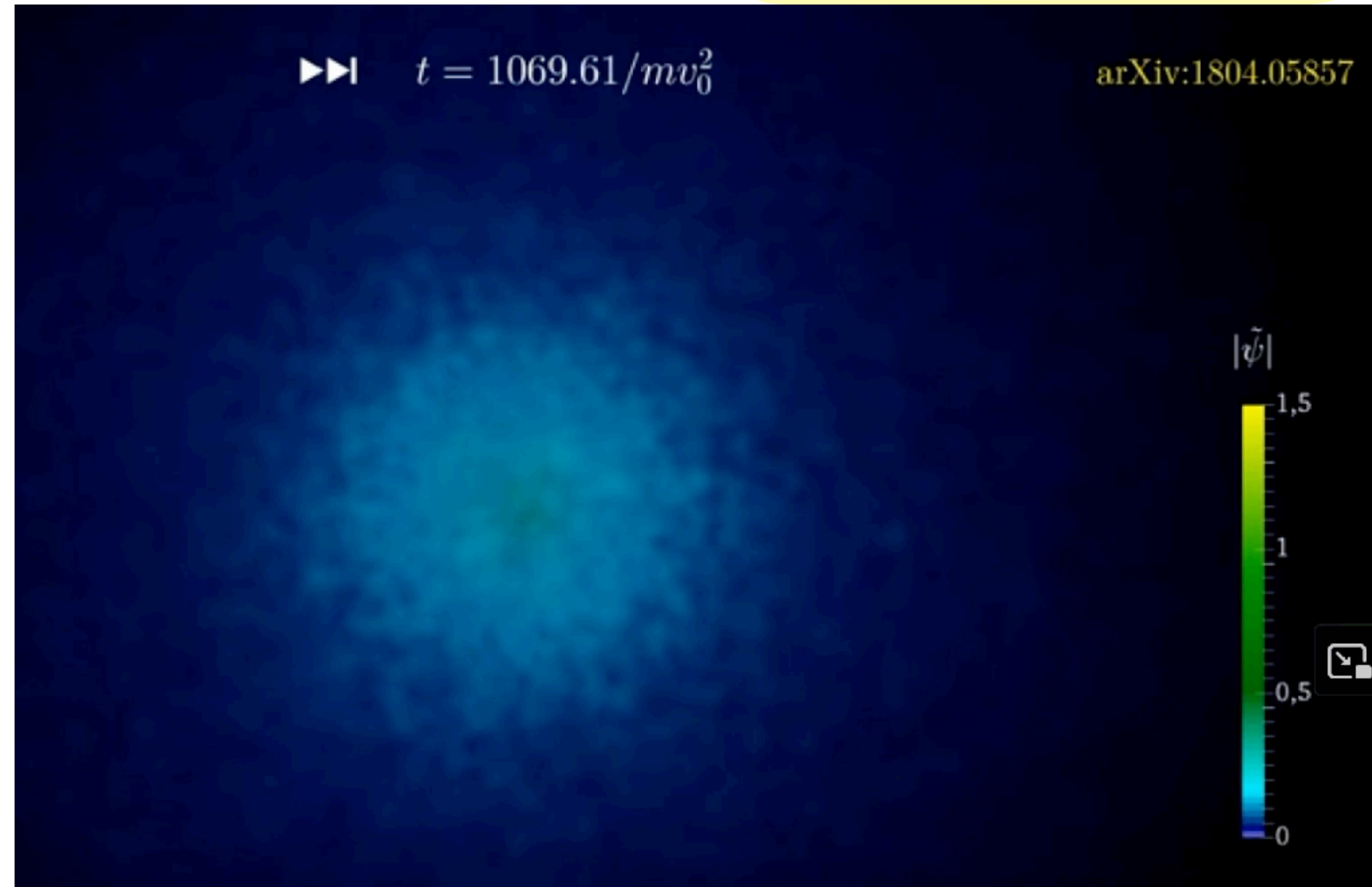
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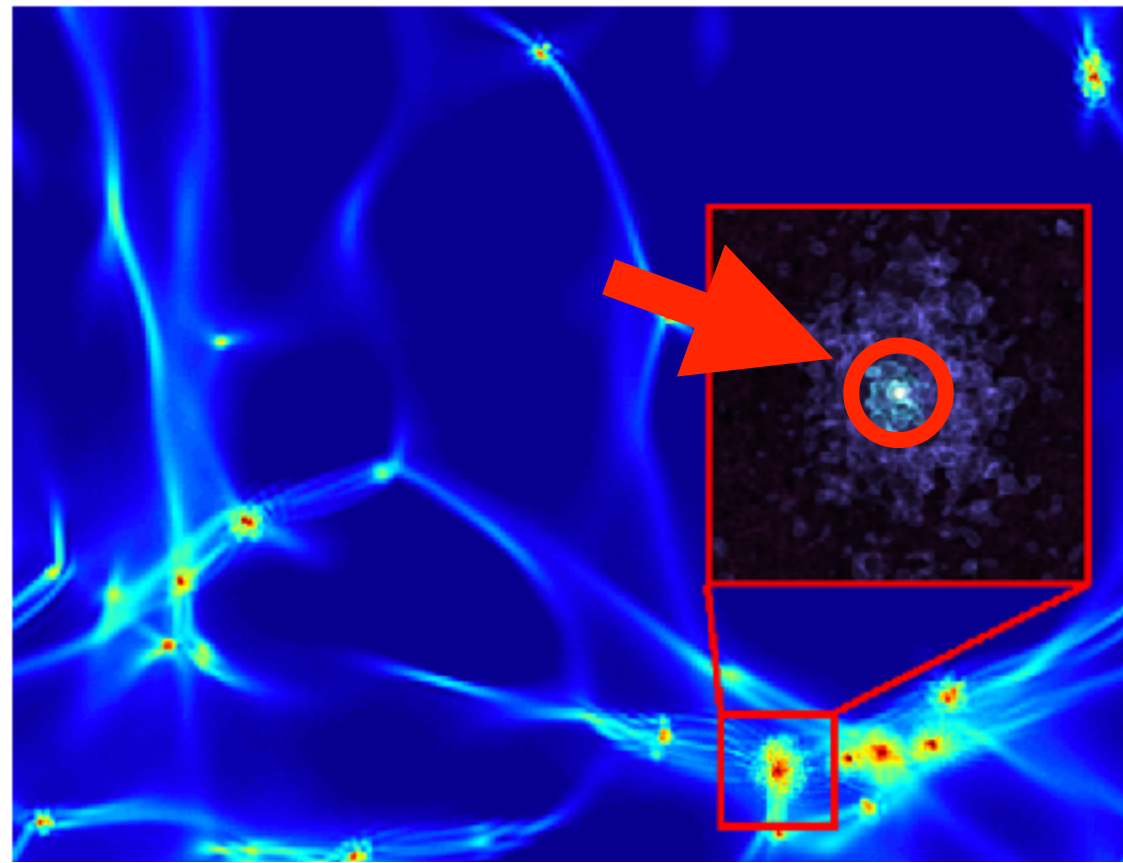
(among others!)



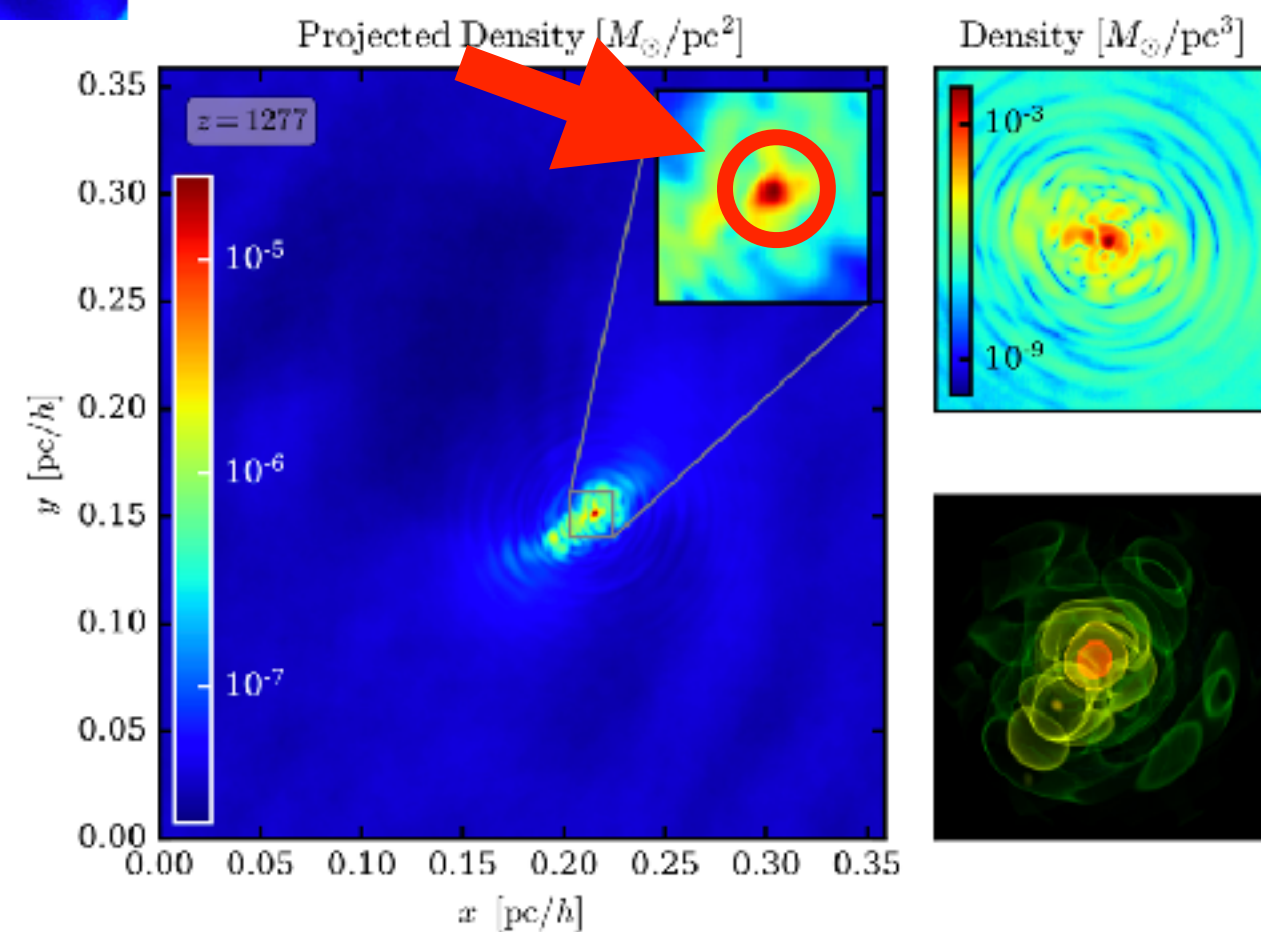
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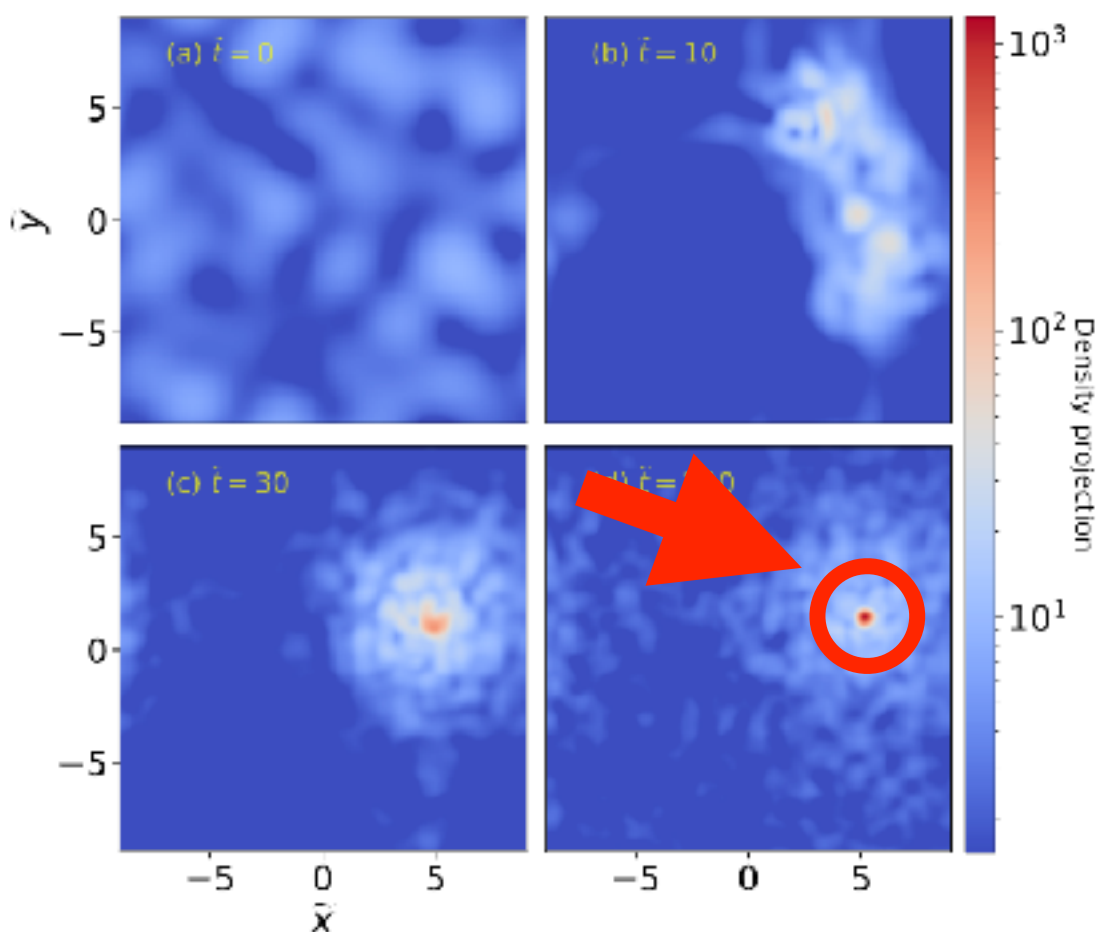
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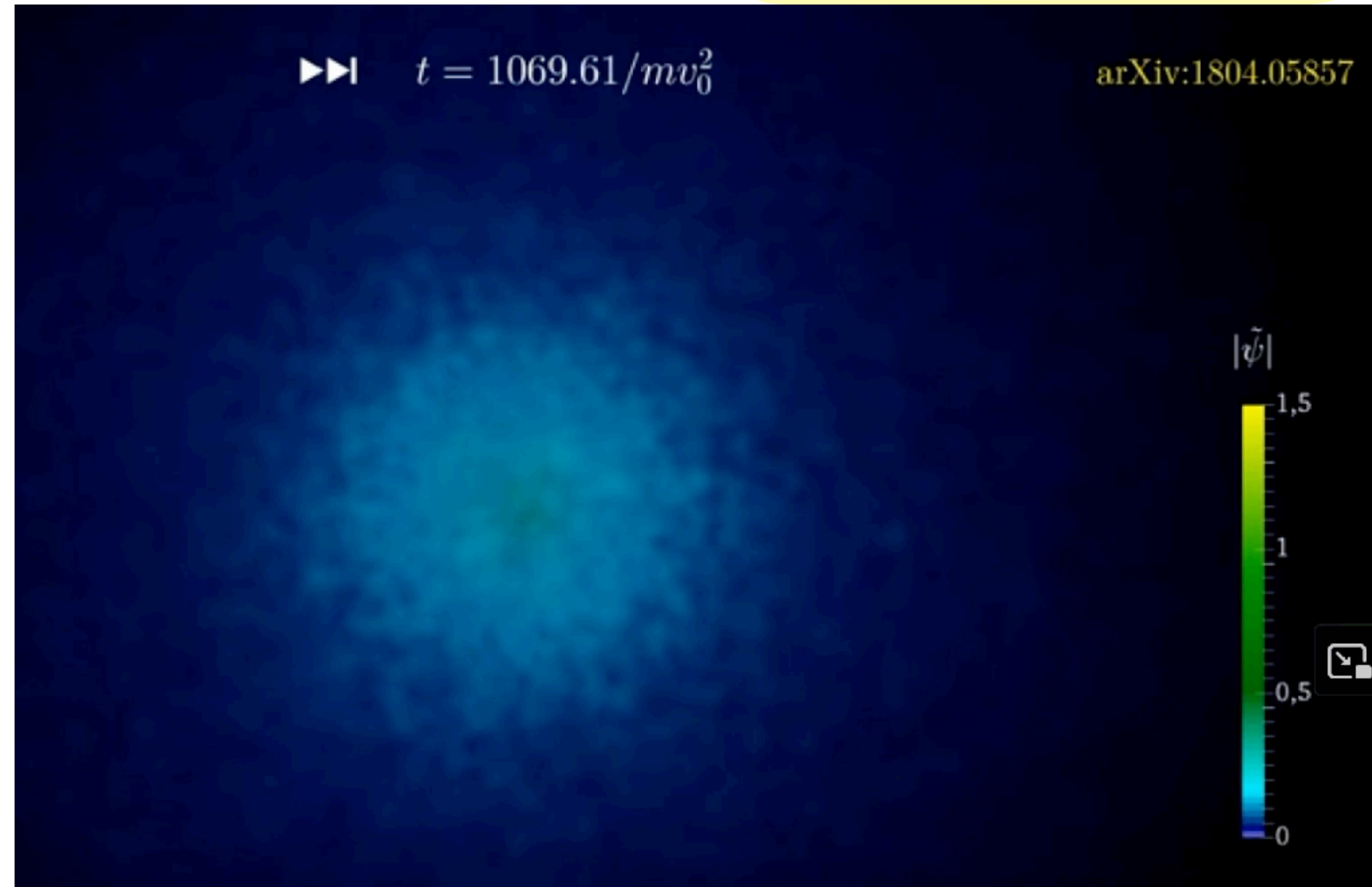
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# Equations of Motion

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi \supset \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4 - \dots$$



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- ULDM is
- non-relativistic
  - classical field
  - gravitating



$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left[ -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m_\phi} + V_g(|\psi|^2) + V_{int}(|\psi|^2) \right] \psi$$

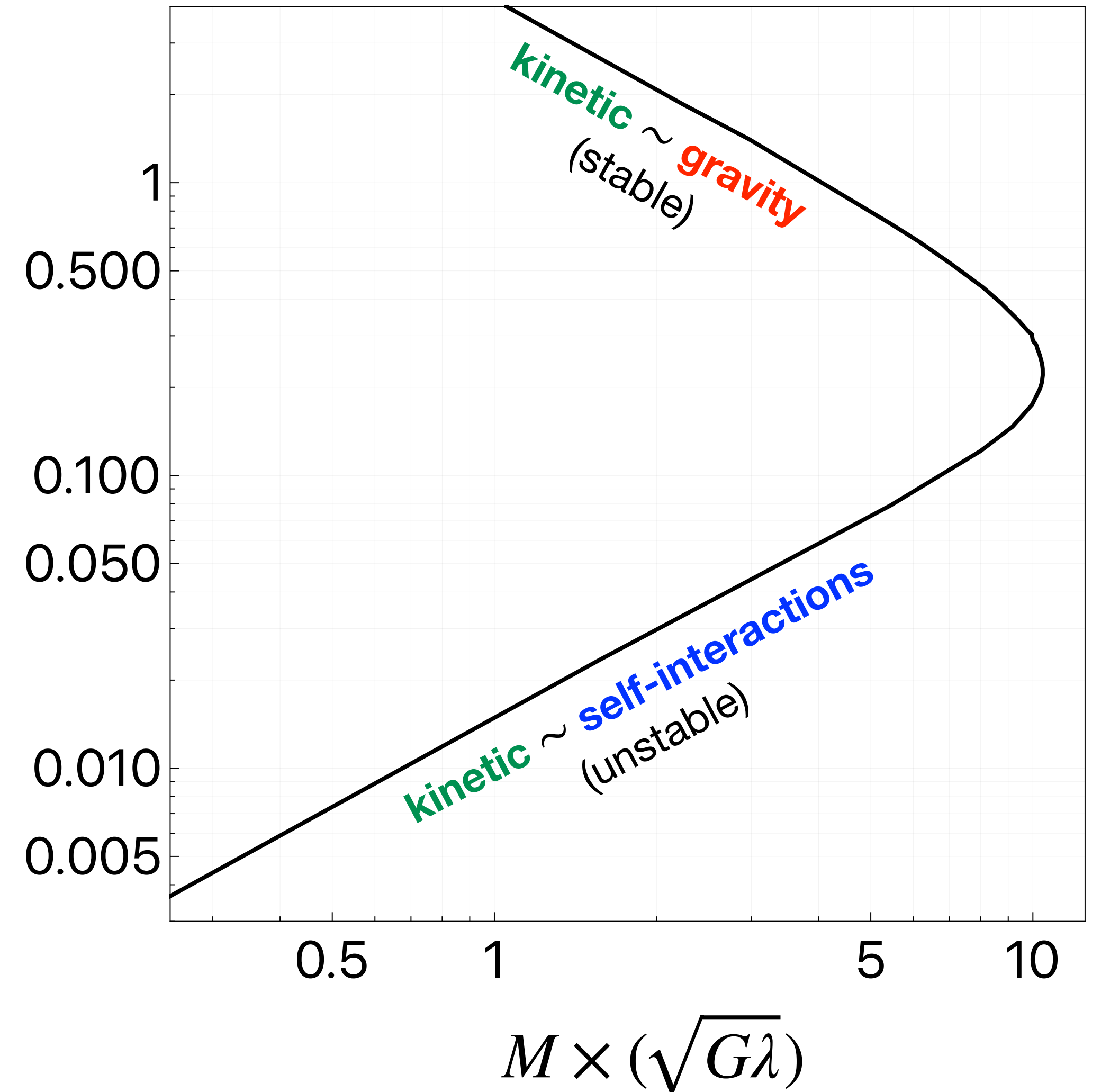
$$R \times (m_\phi^2 \sqrt{G/\lambda})$$

**Boson star:**  
ground state of  
Schrödinger eq.  
with self-gravity

**kinetic**  
 $\propto \frac{1}{m_\phi R^2}$

**gravity**  
 $\propto -\frac{Gm_\phi M}{R}$

**self-interactions**  
 $\propto -\frac{\lambda M}{m_\phi^3 R^3} + \dots$

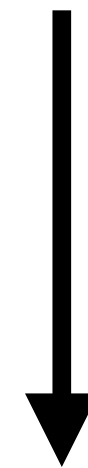




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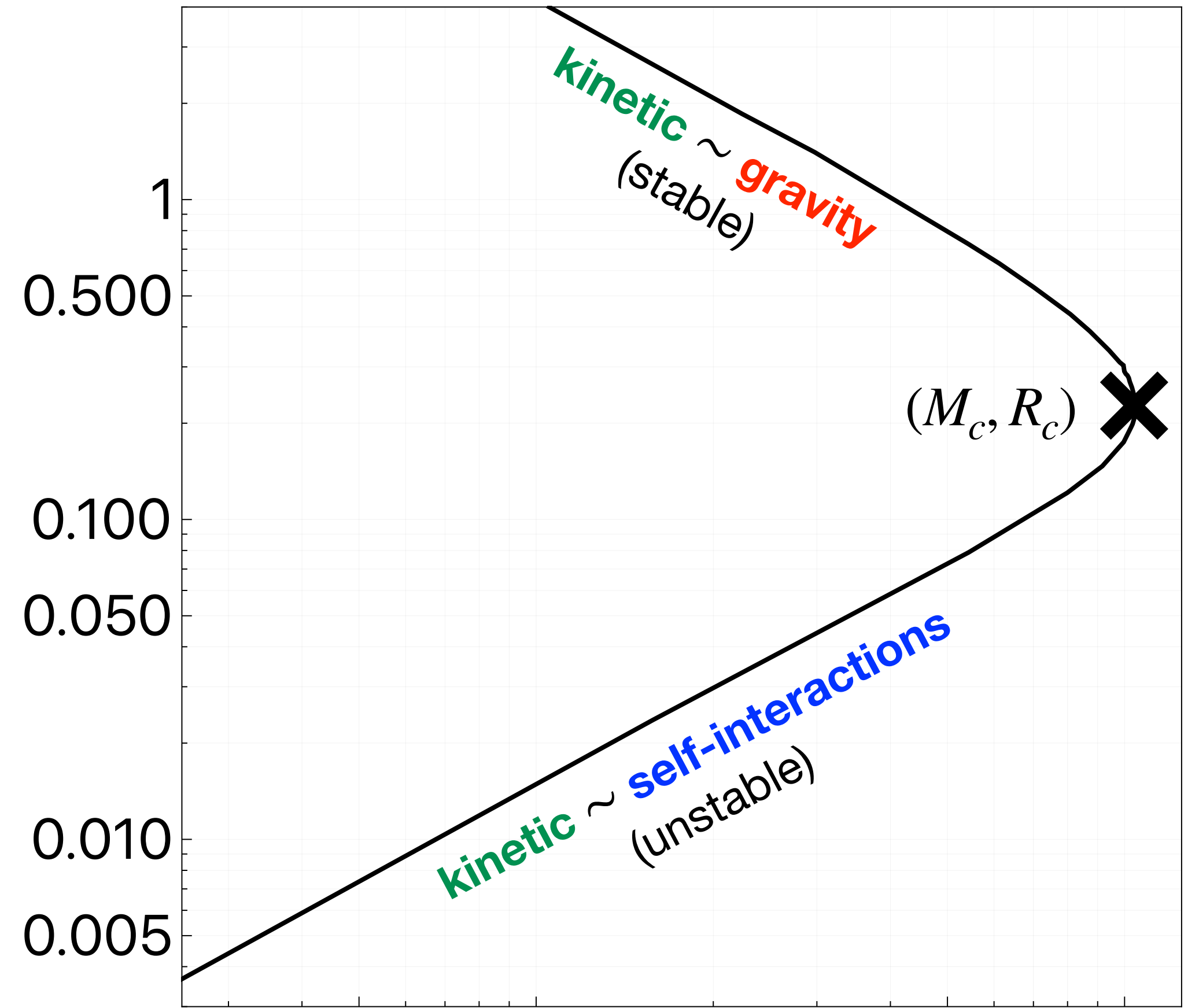
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$$M_c \simeq \frac{10}{\sqrt{G\lambda}} \simeq 10^3 M_\odot \left( \frac{10^{-80}}{\lambda} \right)^{1/2}$$

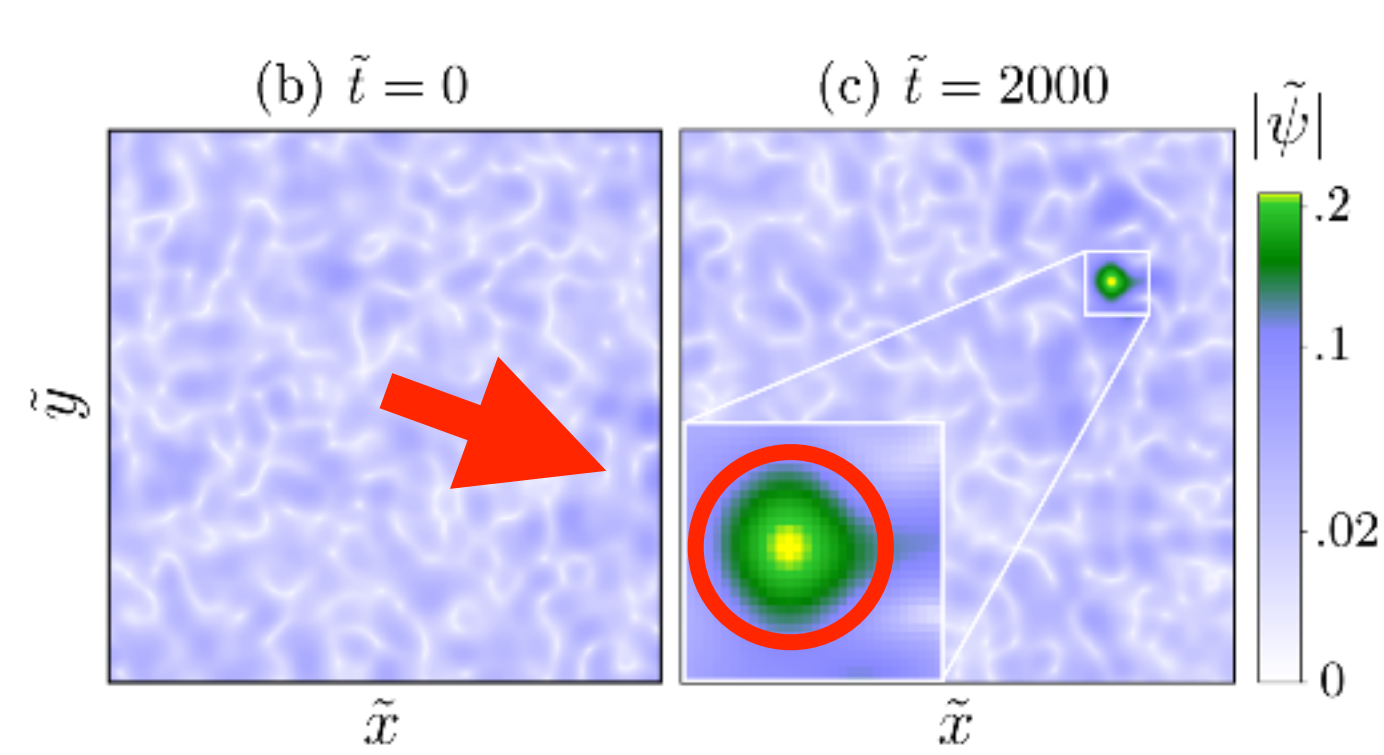
$$R_c \simeq \frac{0.2}{m_\phi^2} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{G}} \simeq 70 R_\odot \left( \frac{10^{-15} \text{ eV}}{m_\phi} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\lambda}{10^{-80}} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$M \times (\sqrt{G\lambda})$$

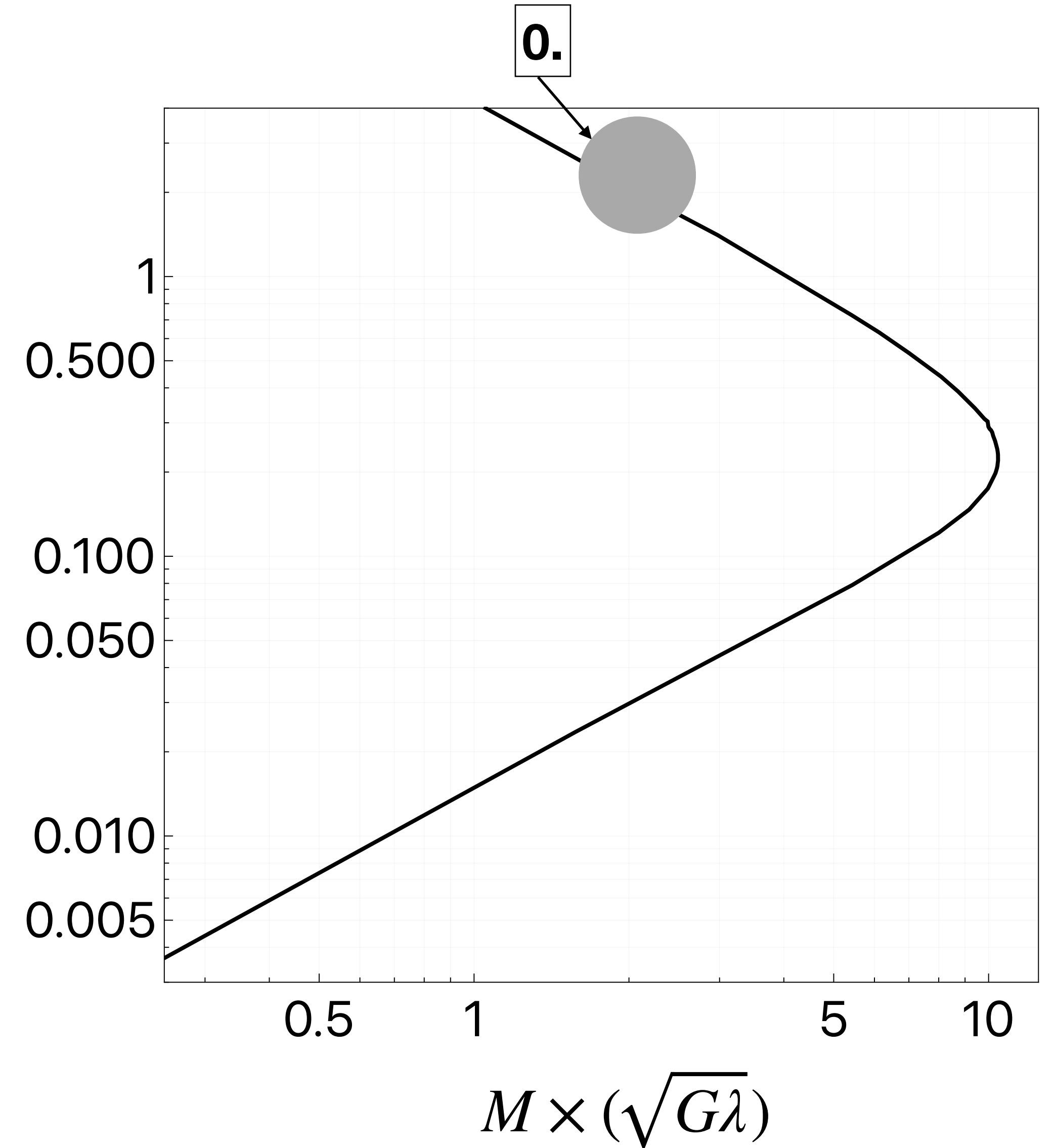


# Life Cycle of a Boson Star

0. Birth



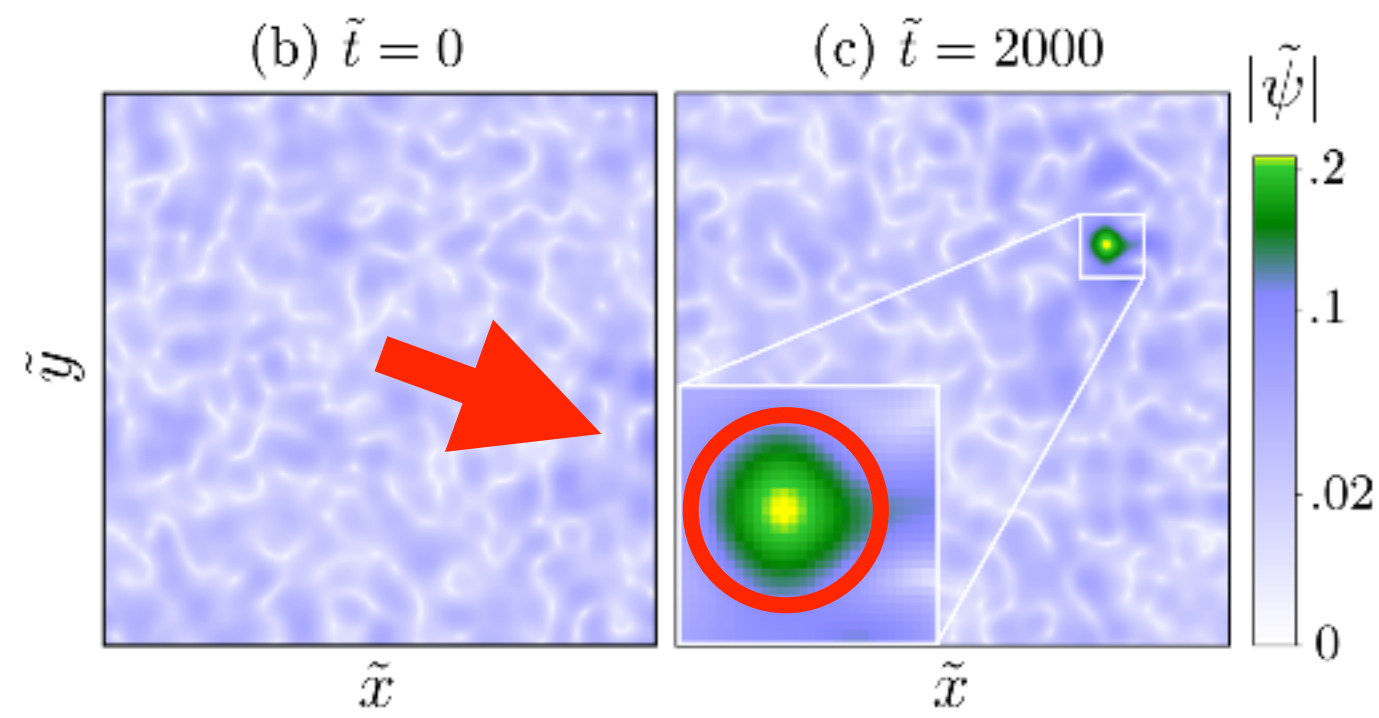
$R \times (m_{\phi}^2 \sqrt{G/\lambda})$



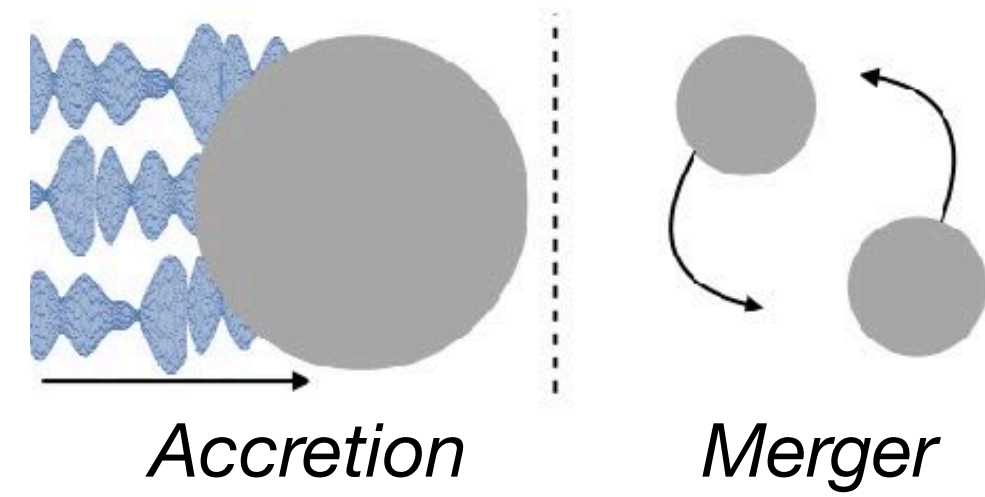


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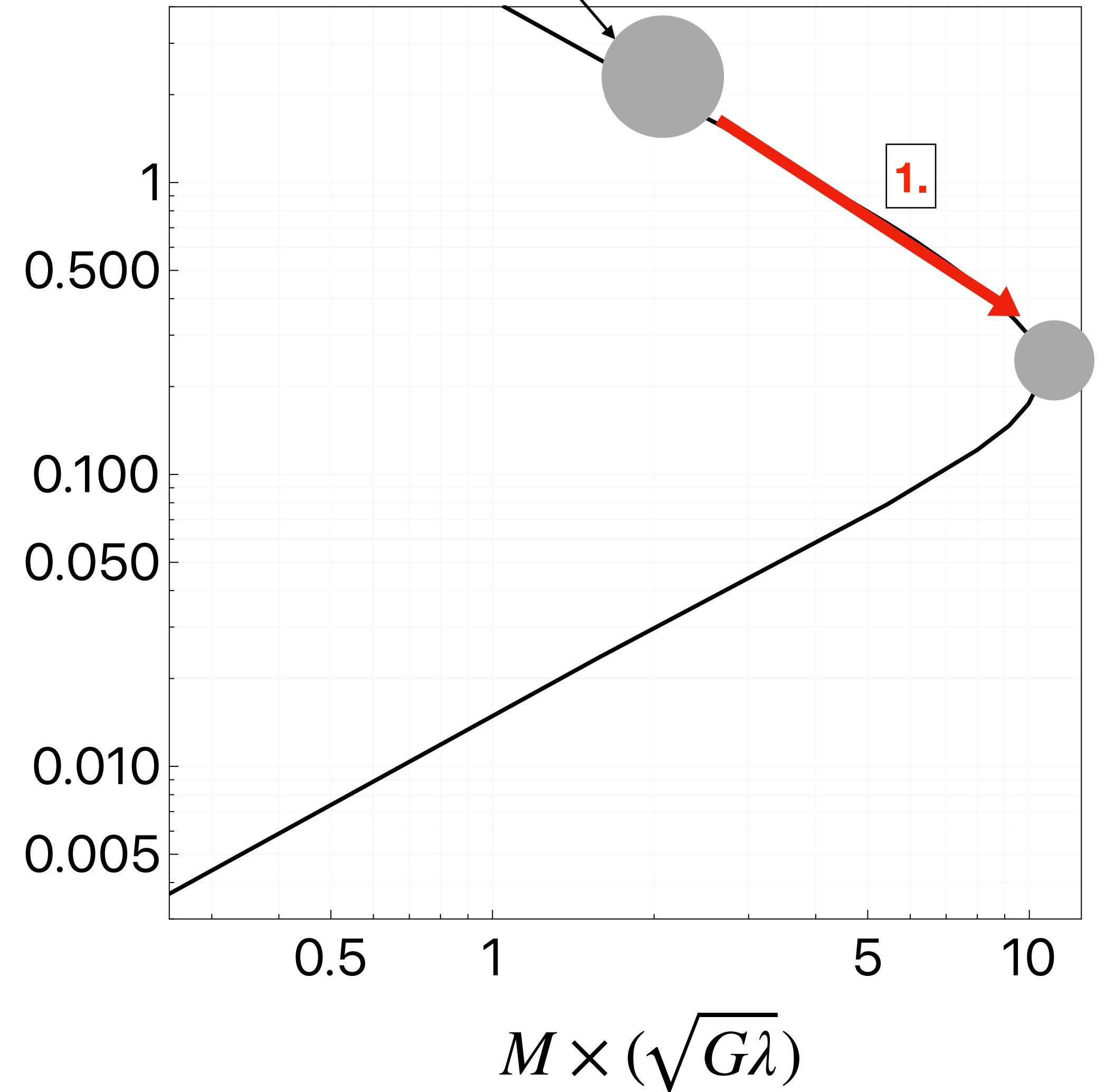
0. Birth



1. Growing up



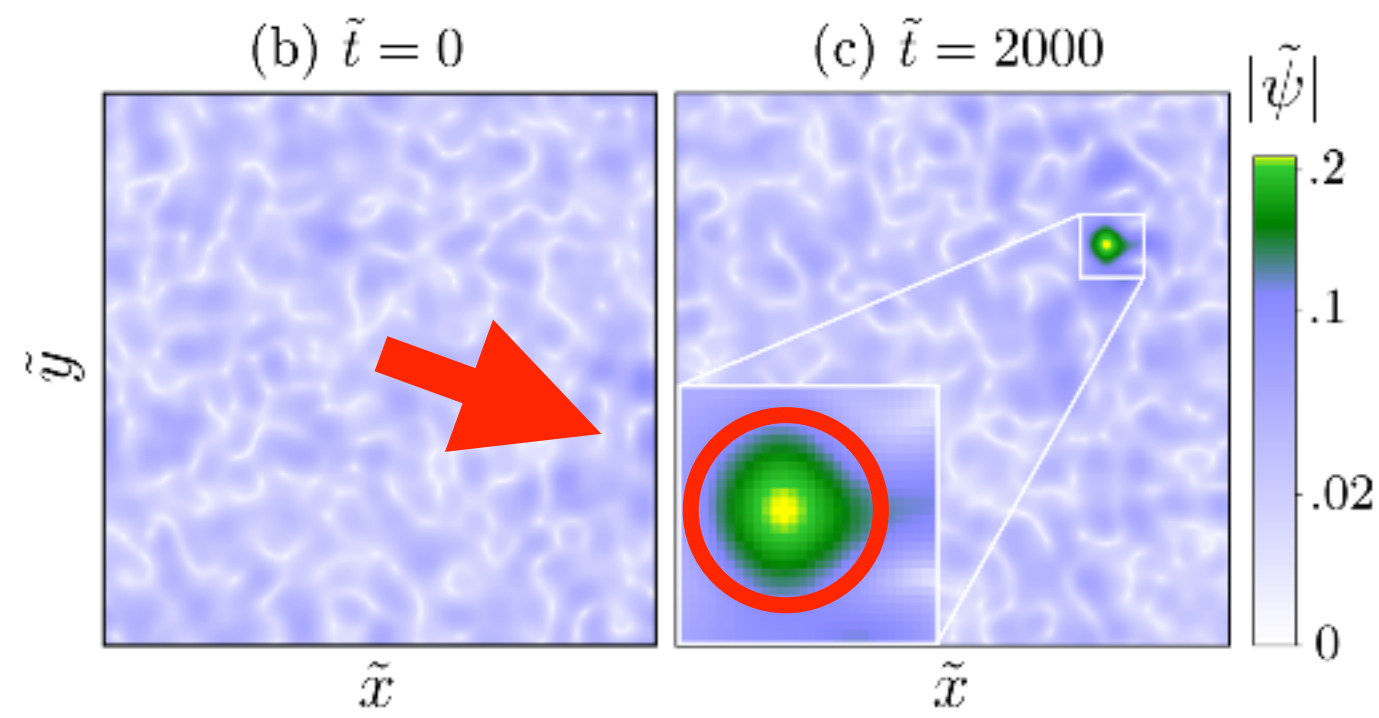
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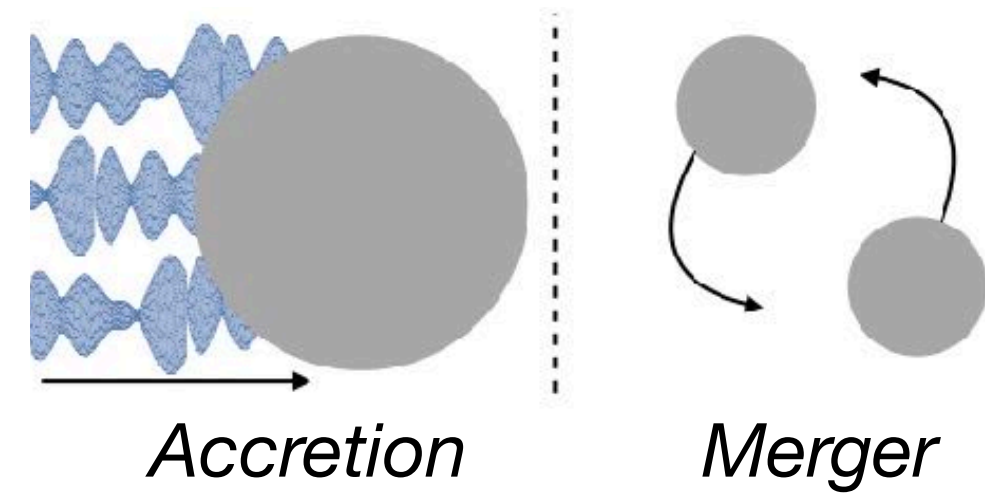


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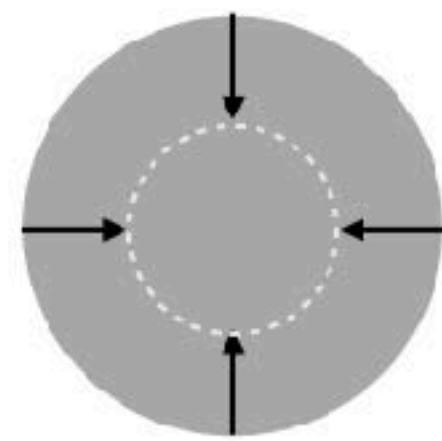
0. Birth



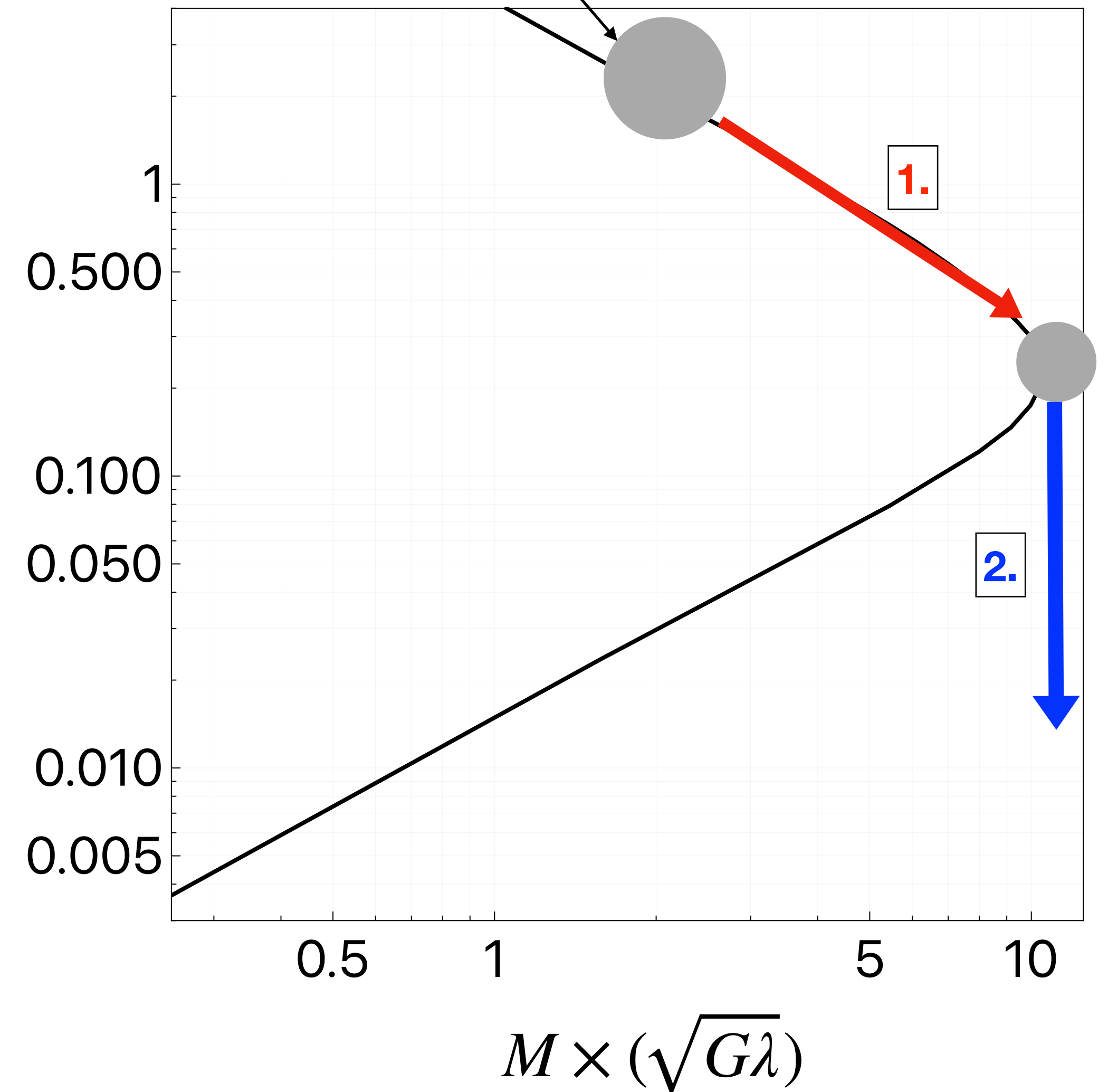
1. Growing up



2. Gravitational collapse



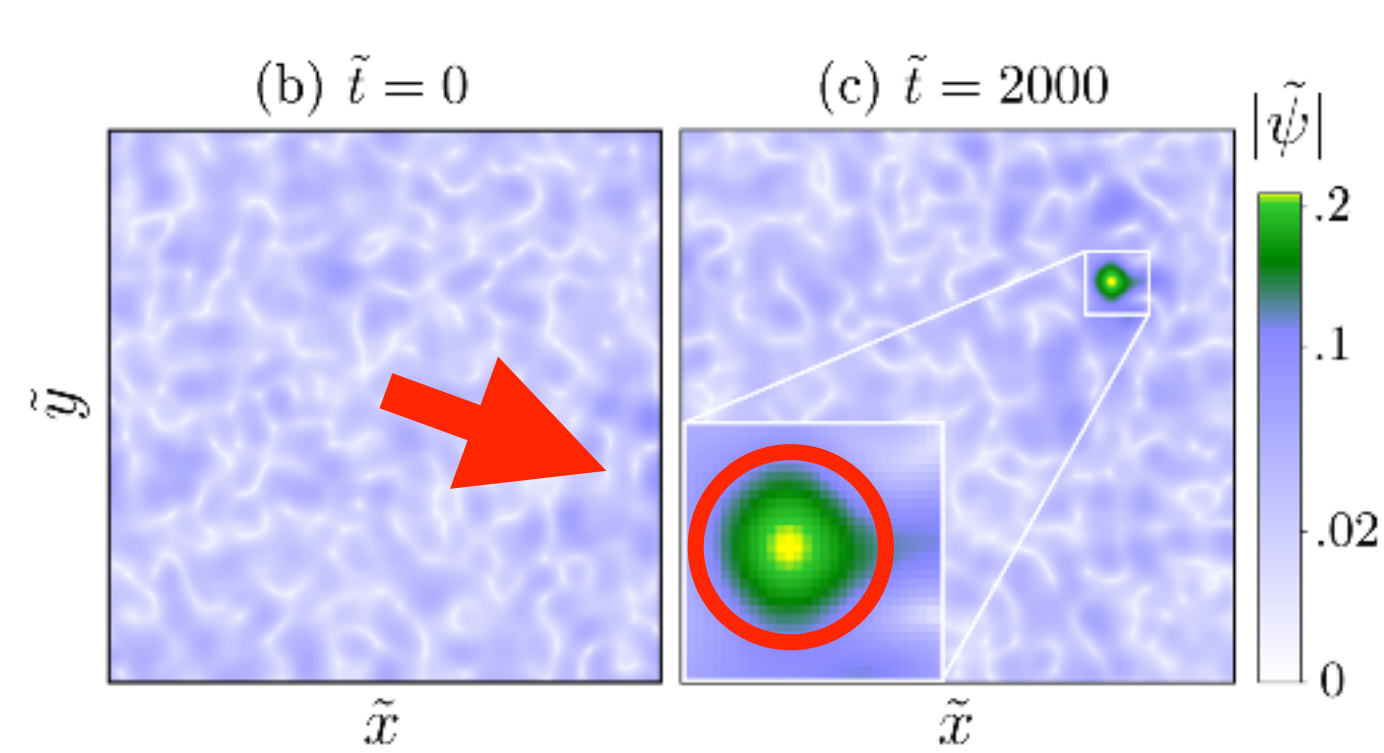
$$R \times (m_\phi^2 \sqrt{G/\lambda})$$



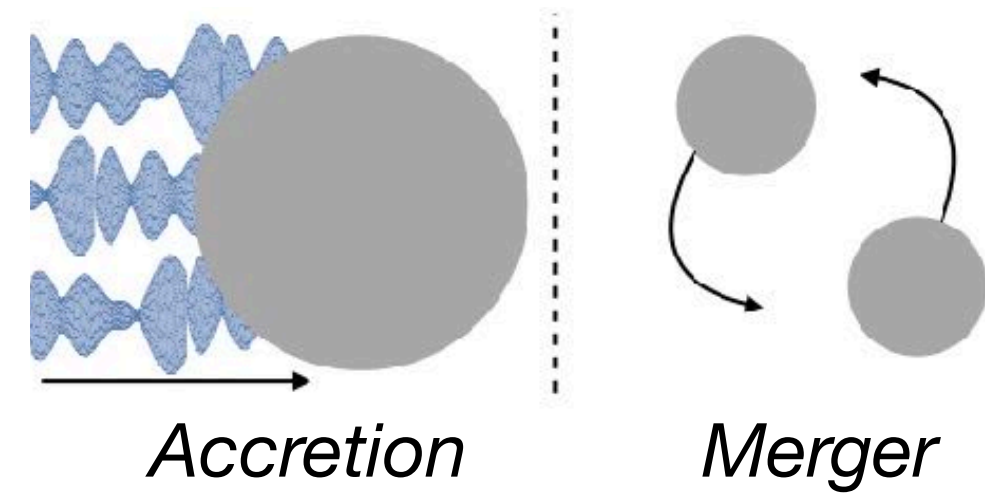


# Life Cycle of a Boson Star

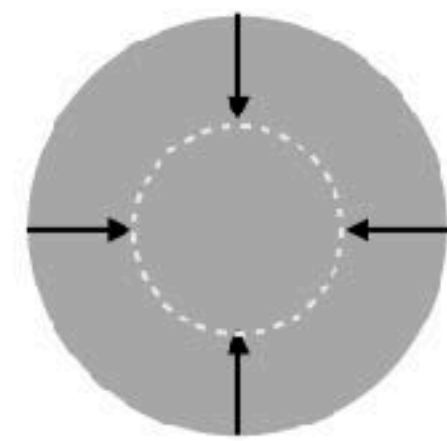
0. Birth



1. Growing up

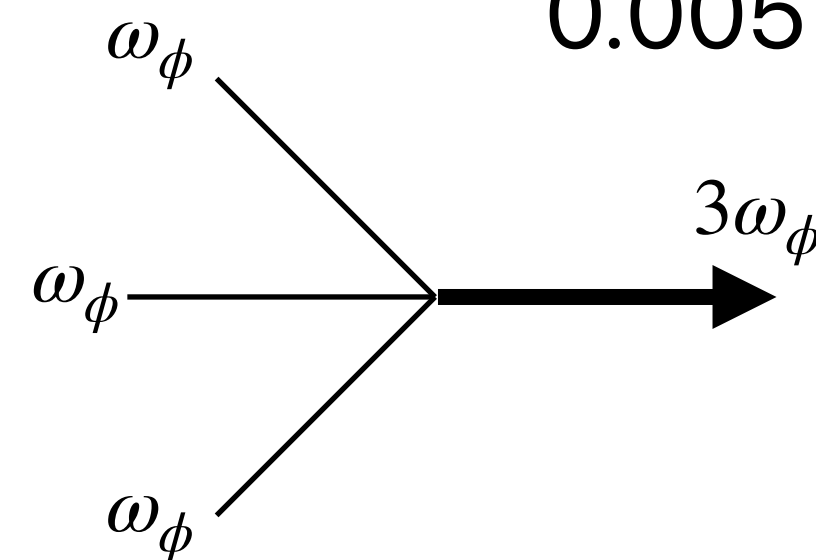


2. Gravitational collapse

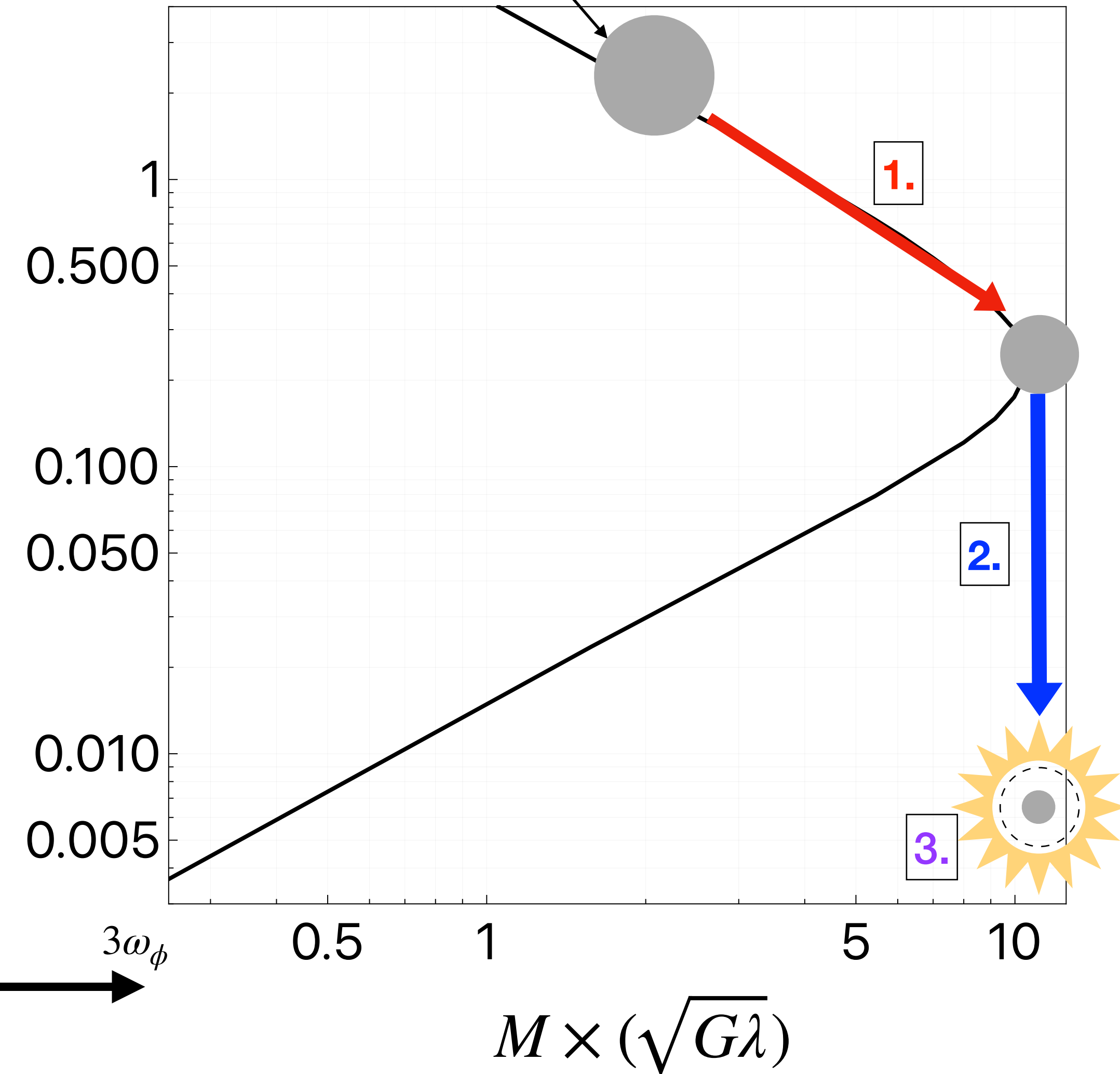


3. "Bosenova" explosion

Annihilations in core of collapsing boson star rapidly expel energy



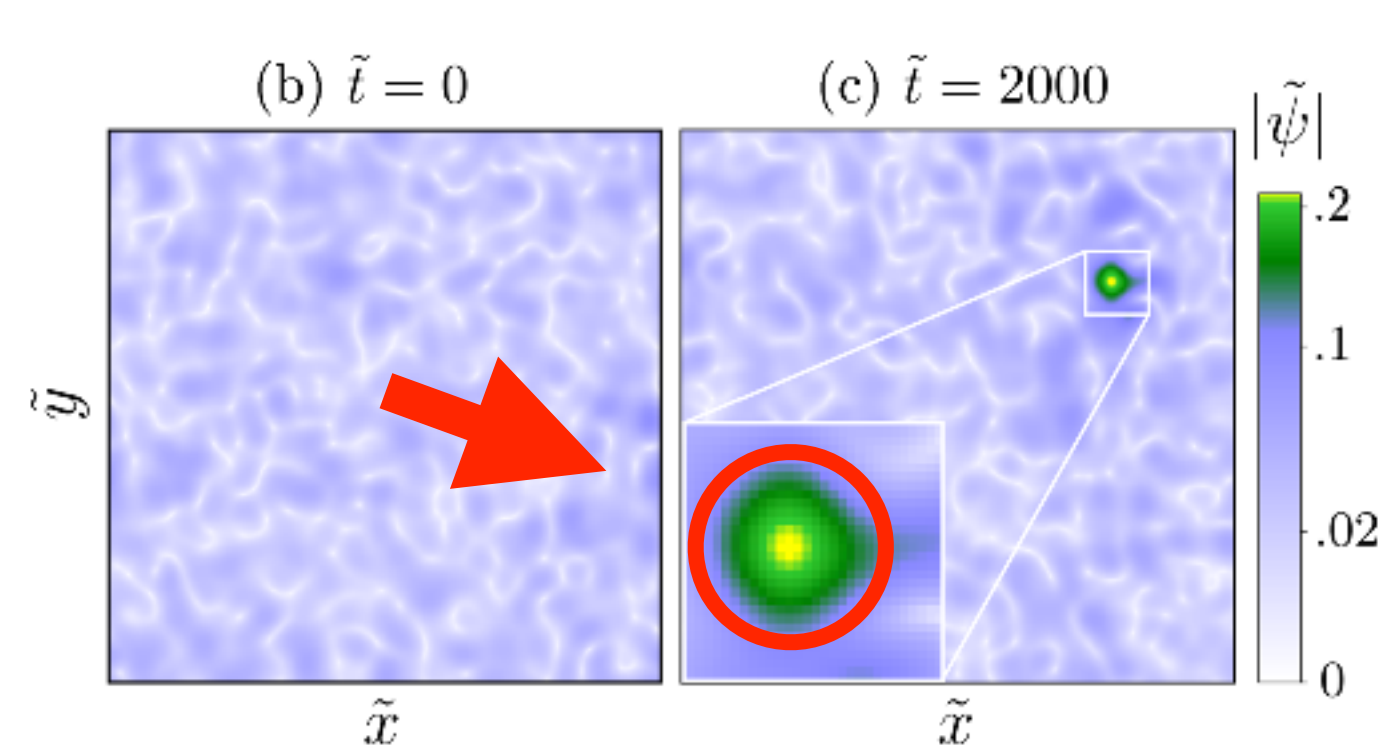
$$R \times (m_\phi^2 \sqrt{G/\lambda})$$



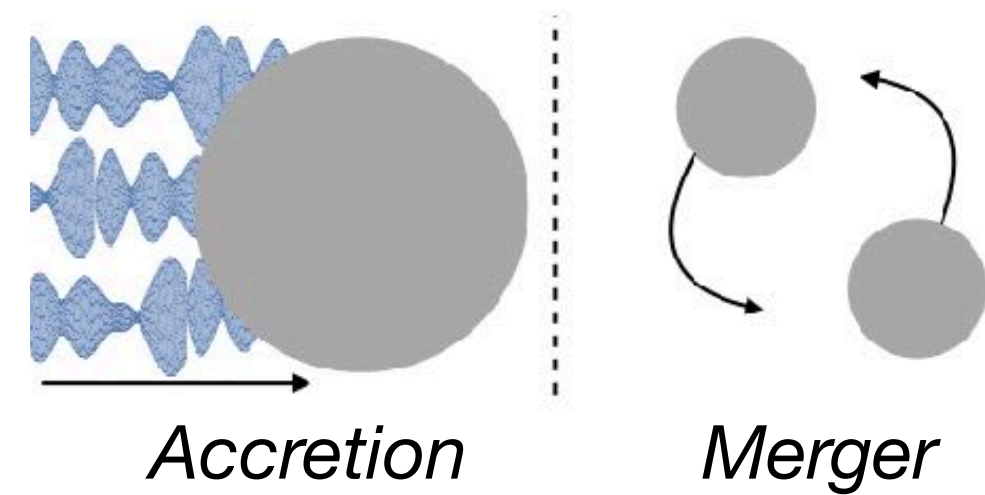


# Life Cycle of a Boson Star

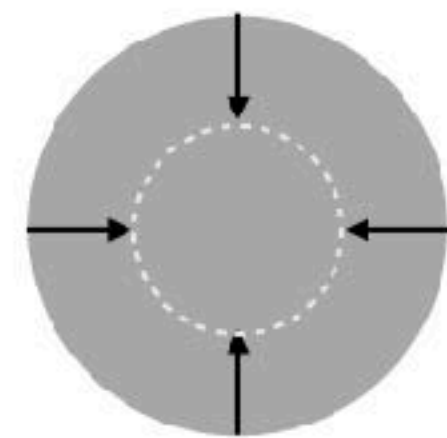
0. Birth



1. Growing up

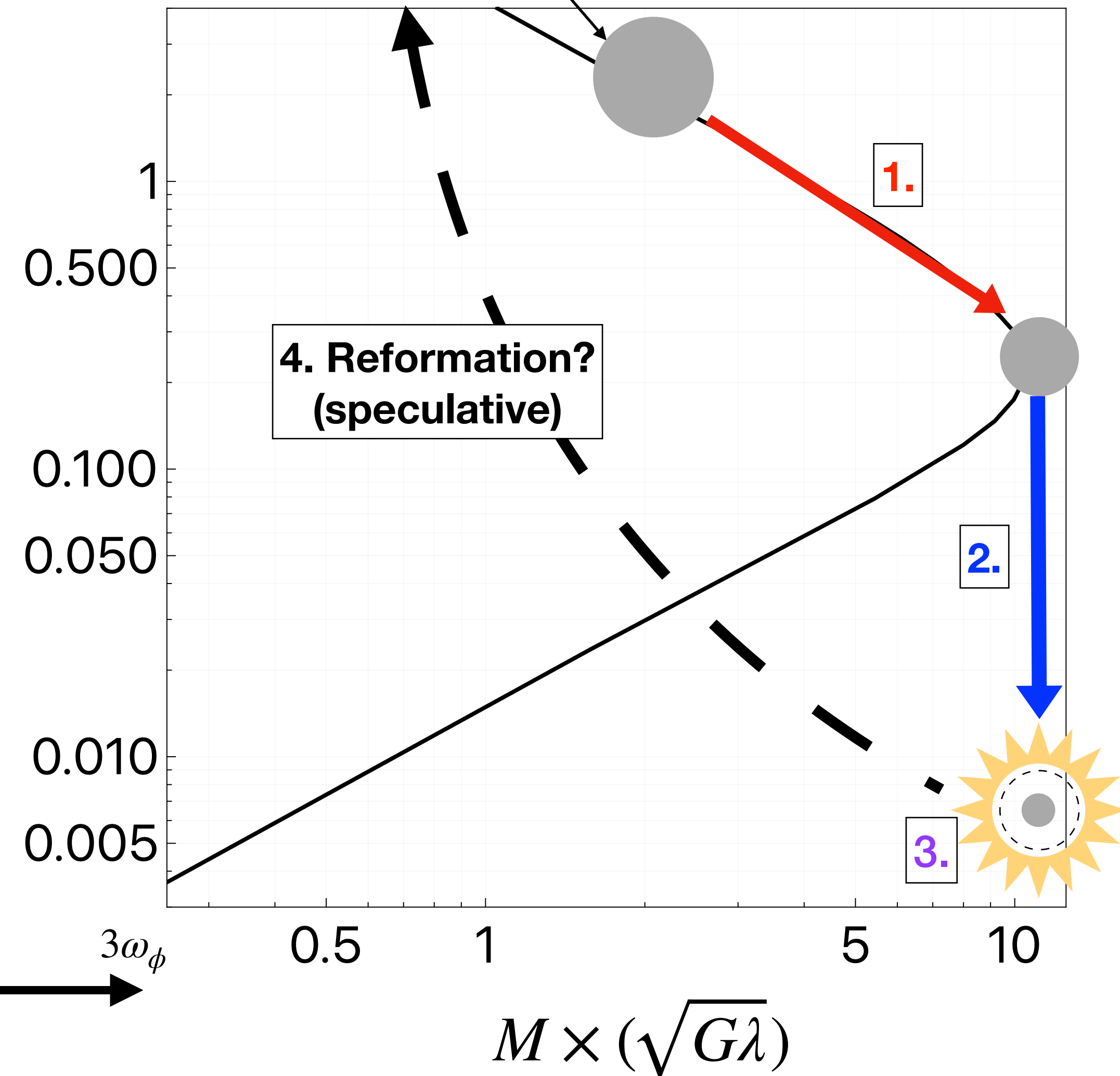
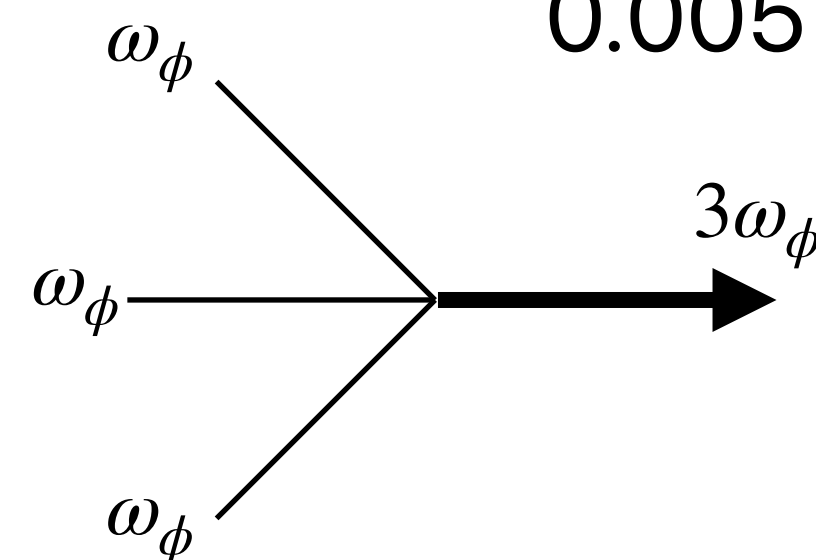


2. Gravitational collapse



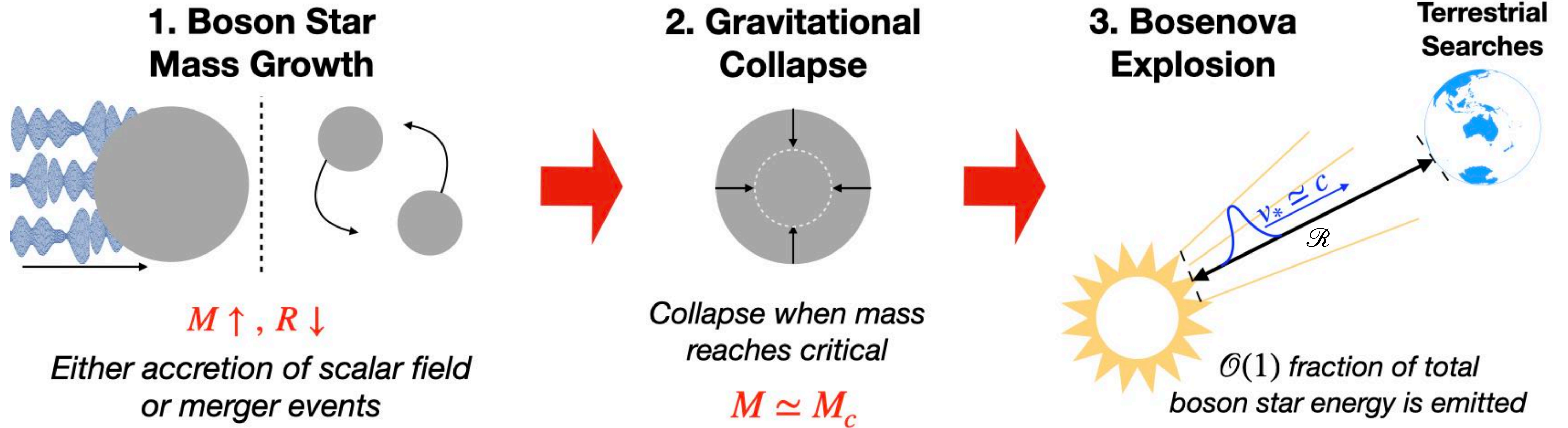
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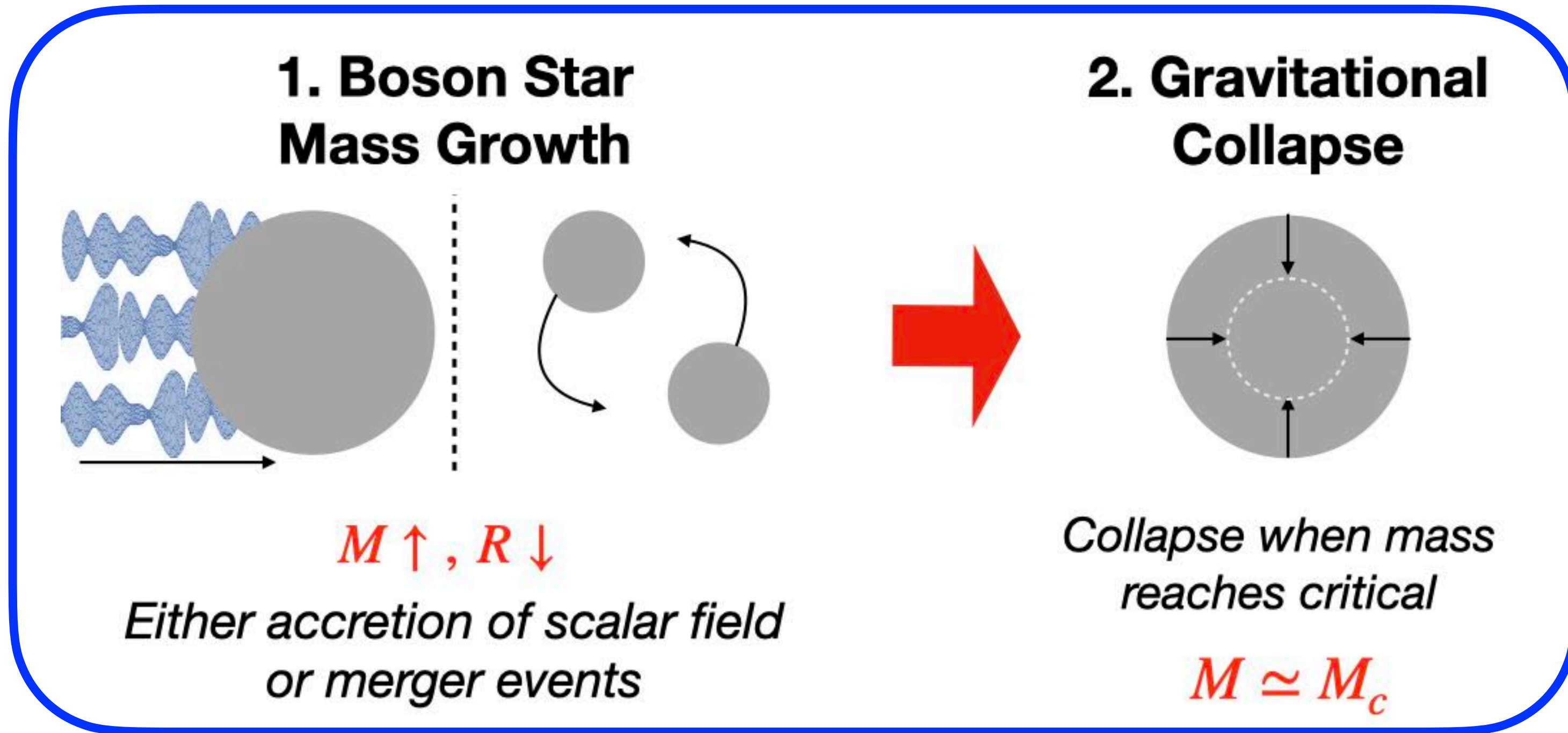


# Event Rate vs Burst Signal





# Event Rate vs Burst Signal



**Highly model-dependent:**

- *Cosmology (formation history)*
- *Astrophysics (mass growth, merger history)*
- *Particle physics (interactions → relaxation rate)*

Given a fraction  $f_{\text{bs}}$  of DM in boson stars, the number within radius  $r$  is approximately:

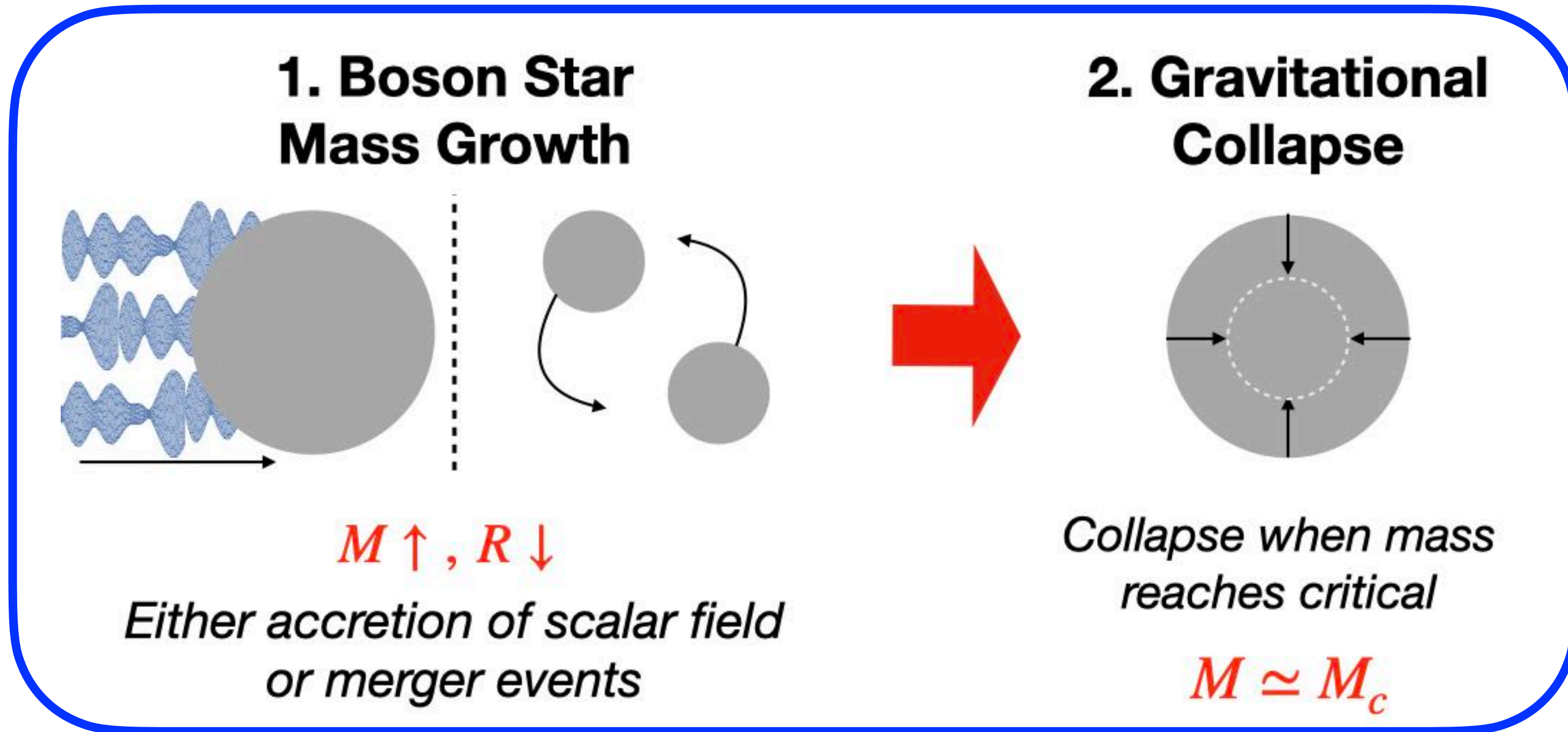
$$N_{\text{bs}}(r) \sim \frac{f_{\text{bs}} \rho_{\text{dm}} r^3}{M_c} \sim 10^7 f_{\text{bs}} \left( \frac{r}{10 \text{ kpc}} \right)^3 \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{10^{-80}}}$$

Compare with the total mass-energy inside each boson stars when it collapses:

$$M_c \simeq \frac{10}{\sqrt{G\lambda}} \simeq 10^3 M_{\odot} \sqrt{\frac{10^{-80}}{\lambda}}$$



# Event Rate vs Burst Signal



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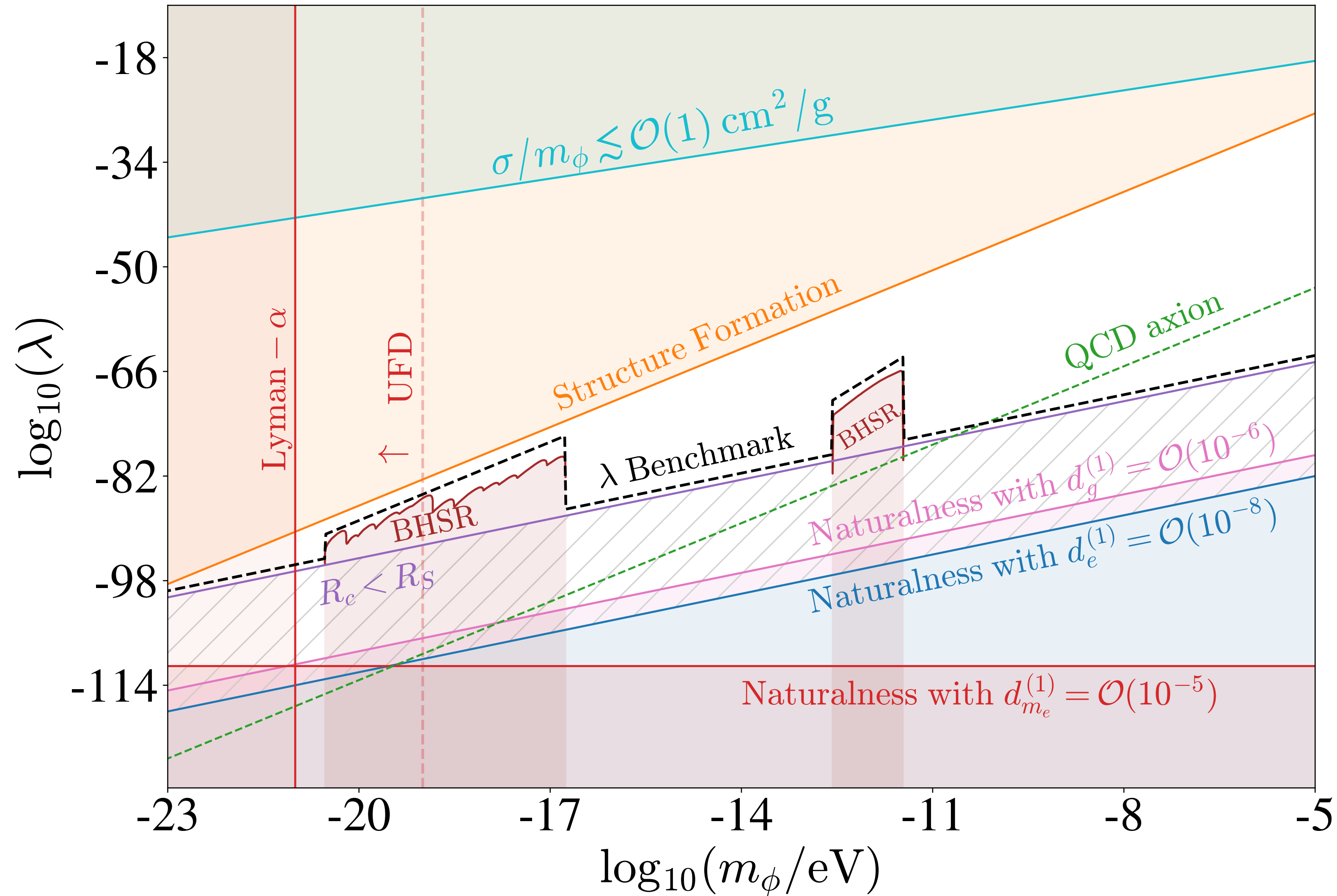
Compare with the total mass-energy  
 inside each boson stars when it collapses:

$$M_c \simeq \frac{10}{\sqrt{G\lambda}} \simeq 10^3 M_\odot \sqrt{\frac{10^{-80}}{\lambda}}$$

Strong self-interactions  $\leftrightarrow$  large  $\lambda \rightarrow$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Larger } N_{bs}(r) \rightarrow \text{Larger burst rate} \\ \text{Smaller } M_c \rightarrow \text{Smaller signal strength} \end{array} \right.$

# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

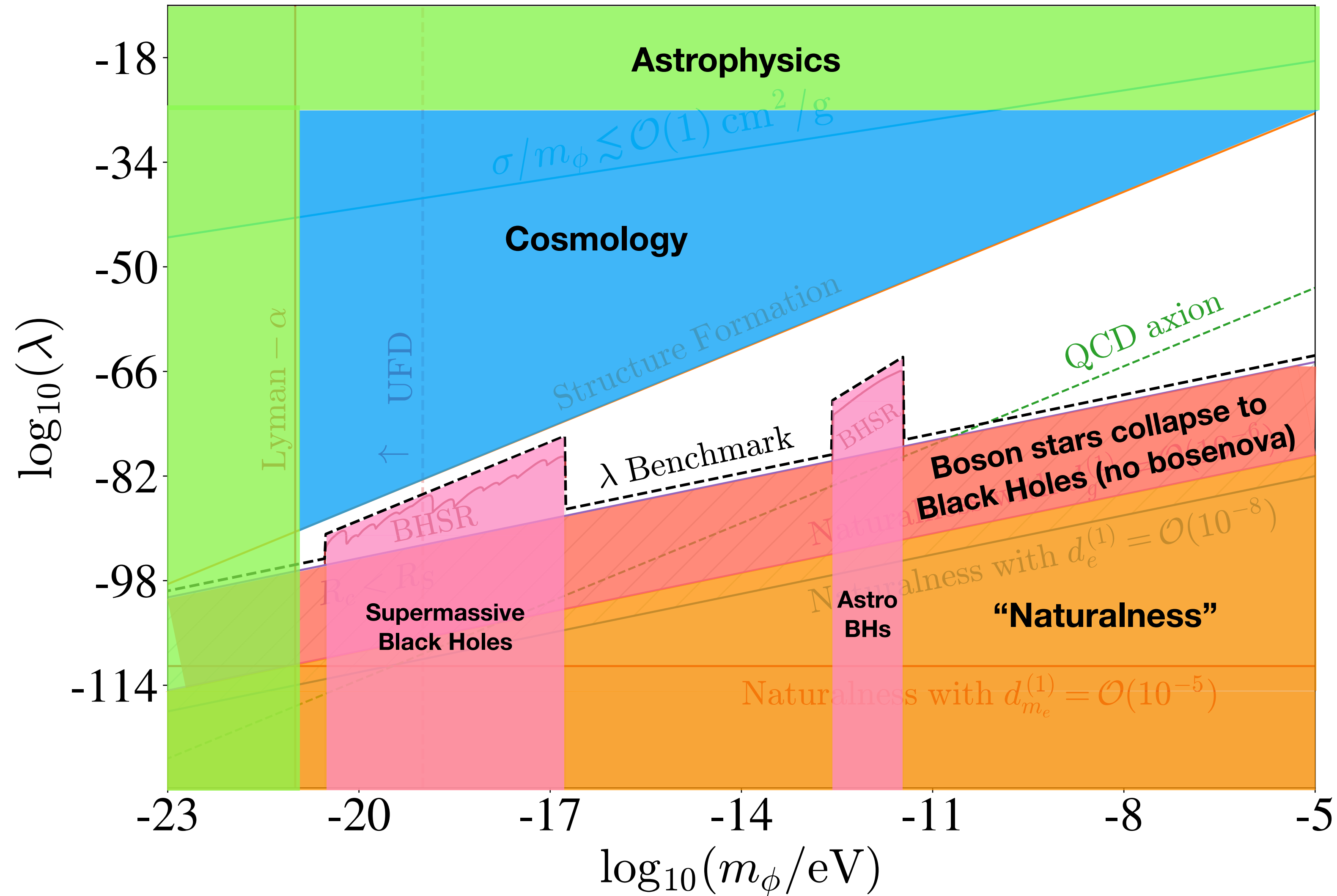
Arakawa, **JE**, Safronova,  
Takhistov, Zaheer  
(2306.16468)





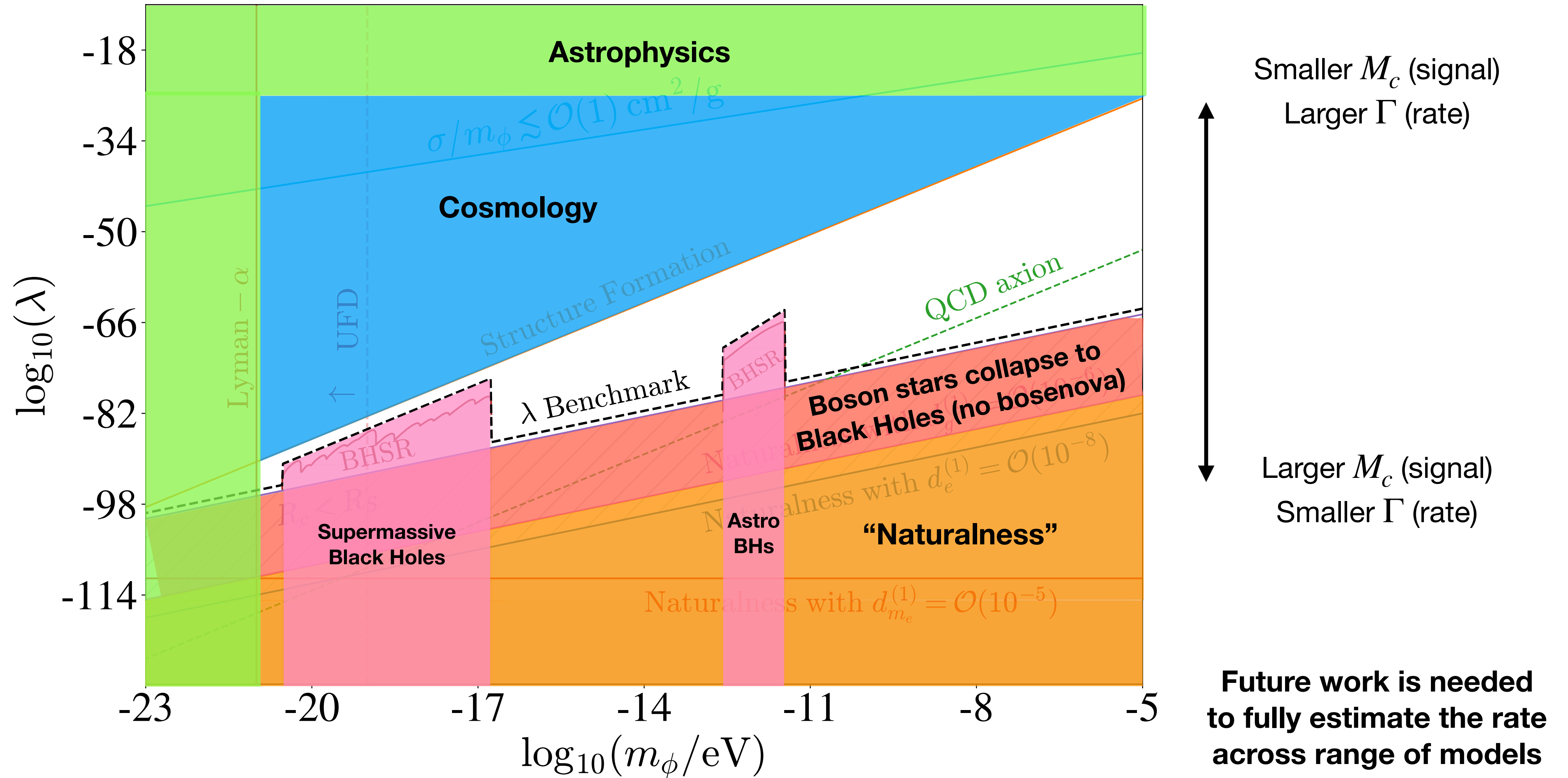
# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

Arakawa, **JE**, Safronova,  
Takhistov, Zaheer  
(2306.16468)



# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

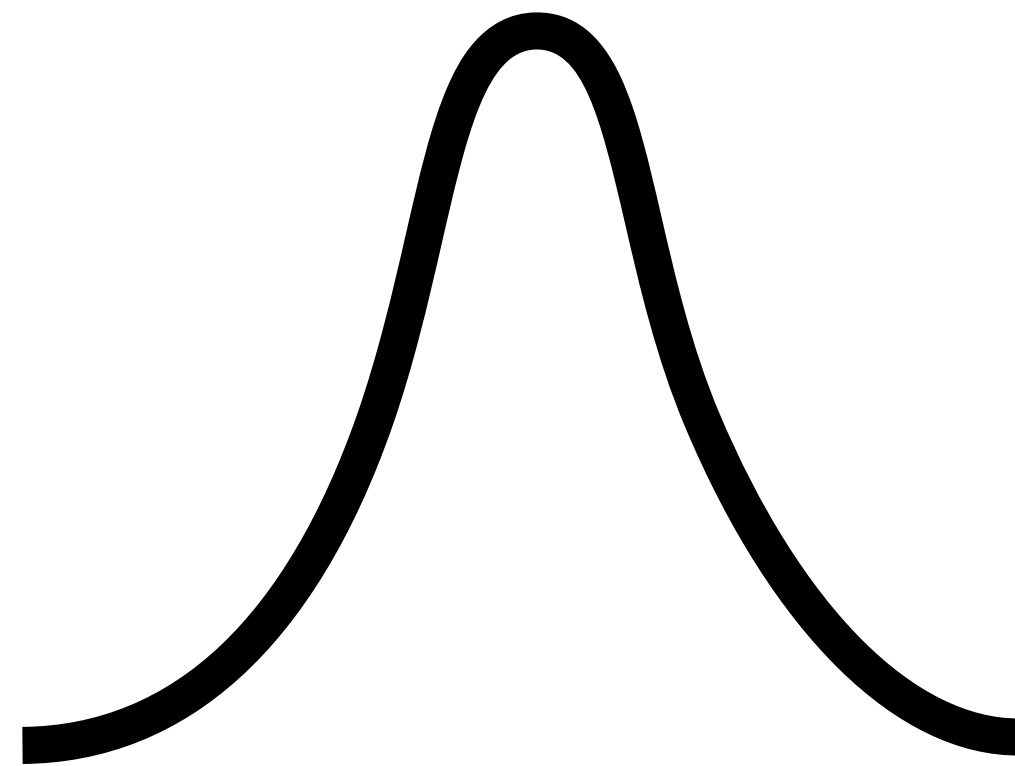
Arakawa, **JE**, Safronova,  
Takhistov, Zaheer  
(2306.16468)





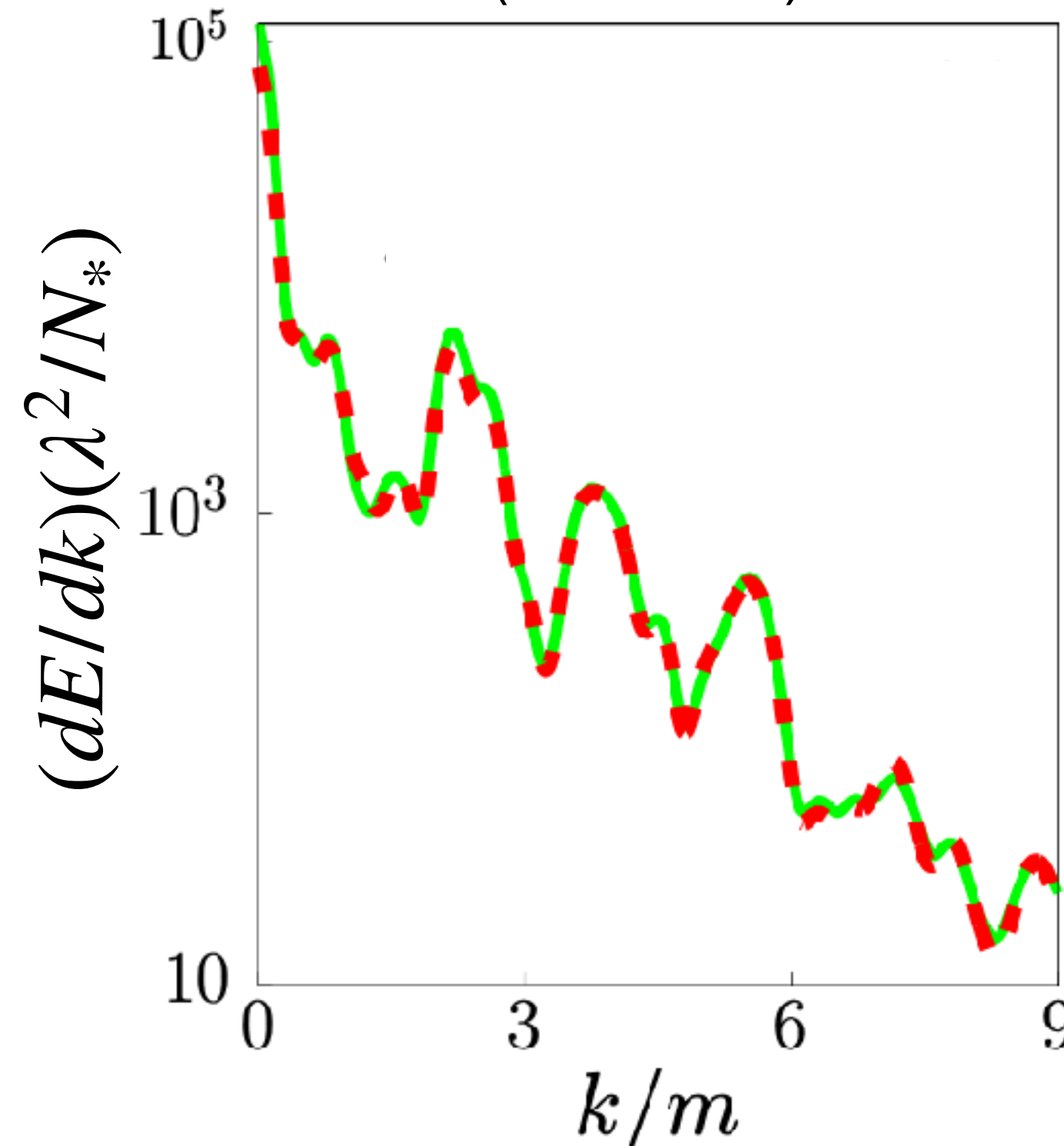
# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

## Burst properties:



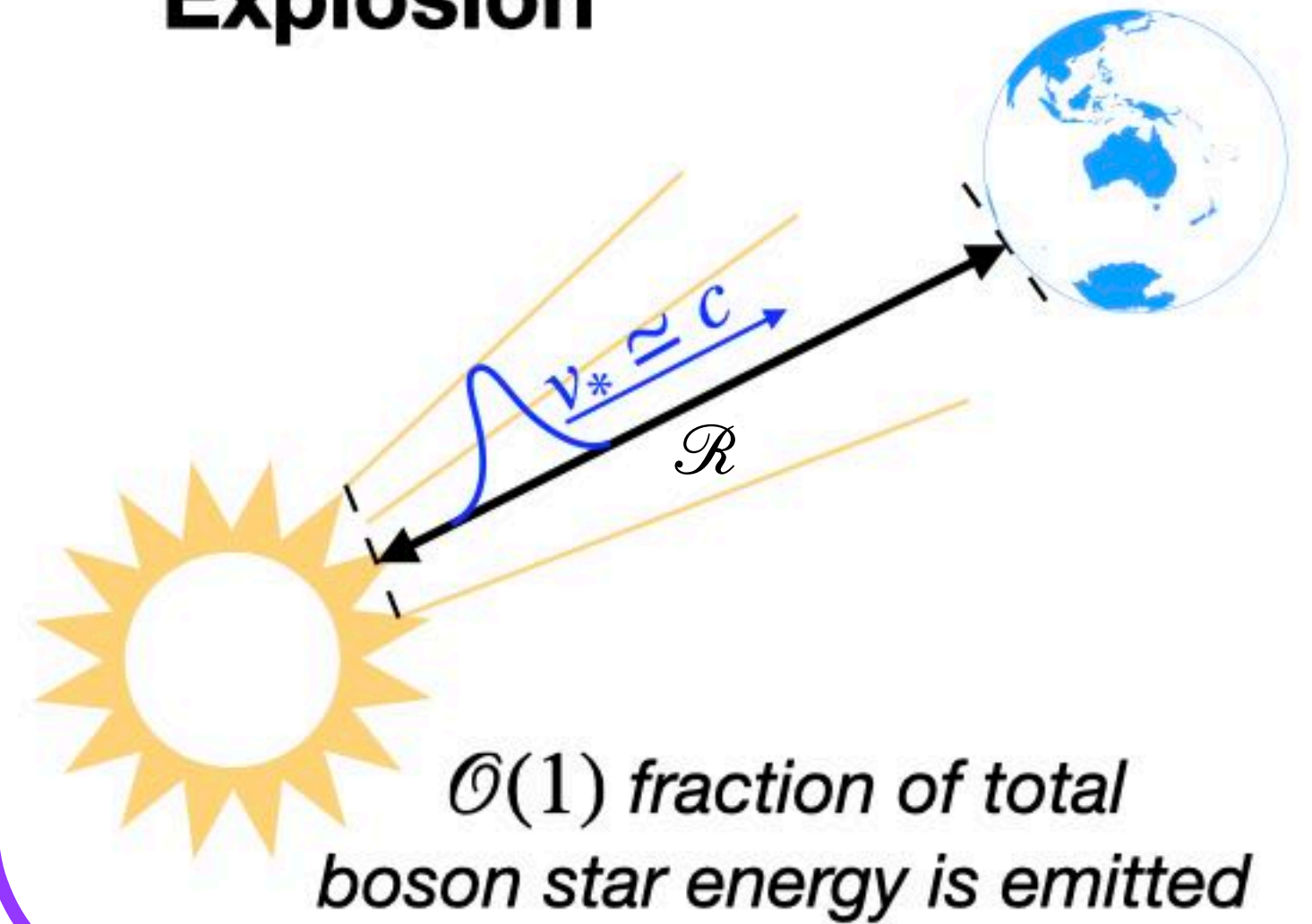
momentum spectrum of emission:  
 peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
 with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

Emission Spectrum  
(simulation):



## 3. Bosenova Explosion

## Terrestrial Searches



Simulations of  
collapse+explosion process

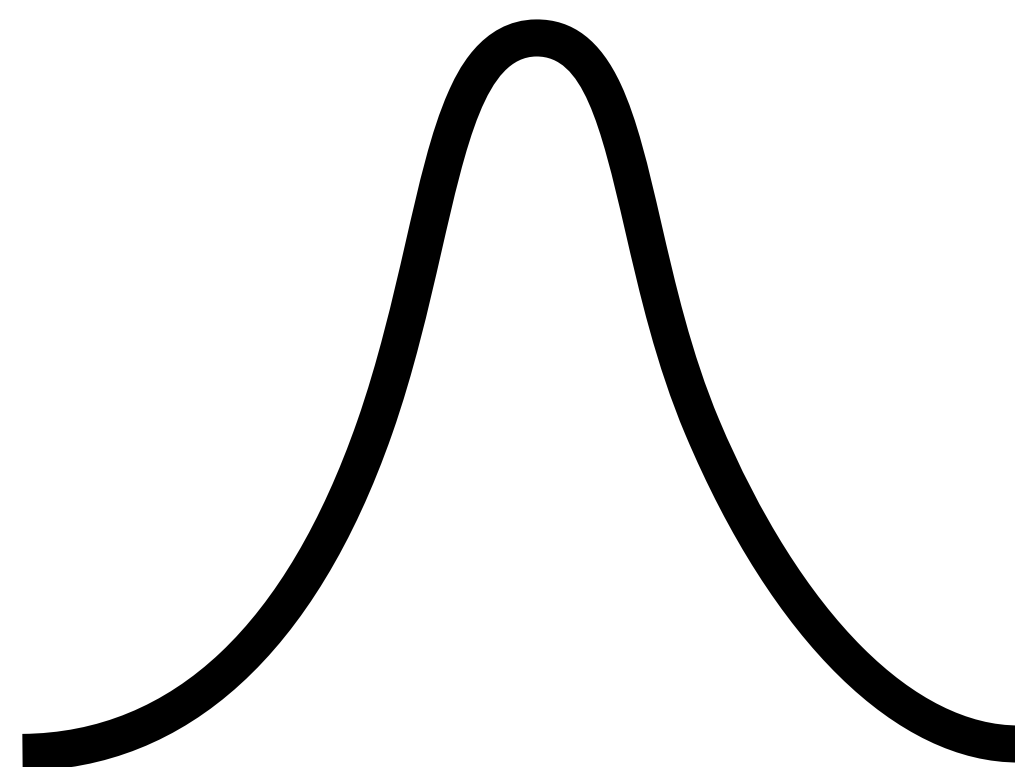
Levkov, Panin, Tkachev  
(1609.03611)

Bosenova predicted by

**JE**, Leembruggen,  
Suranyi, Wijewardhana  
(1608.06911)

# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

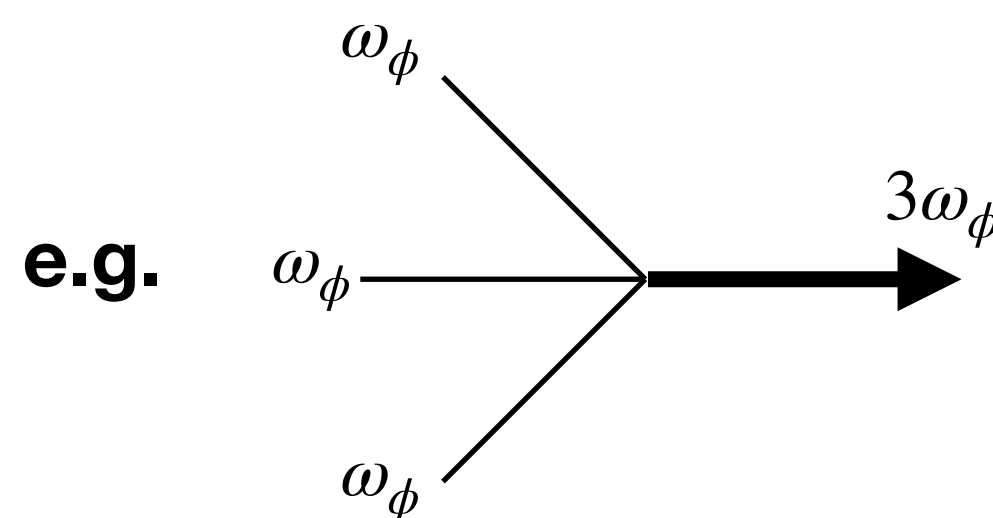
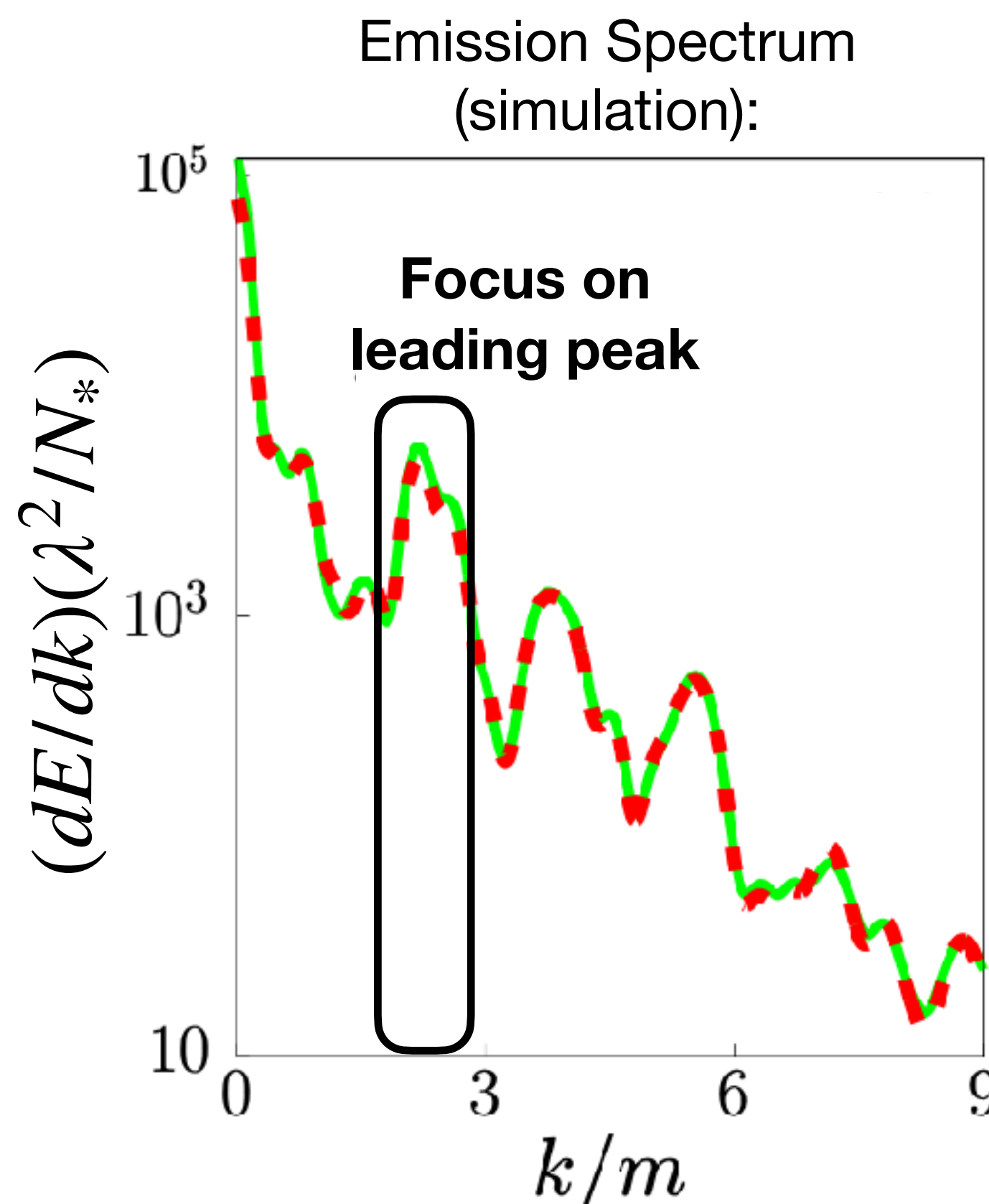
## Burst properties:



momentum spectrum of emission:

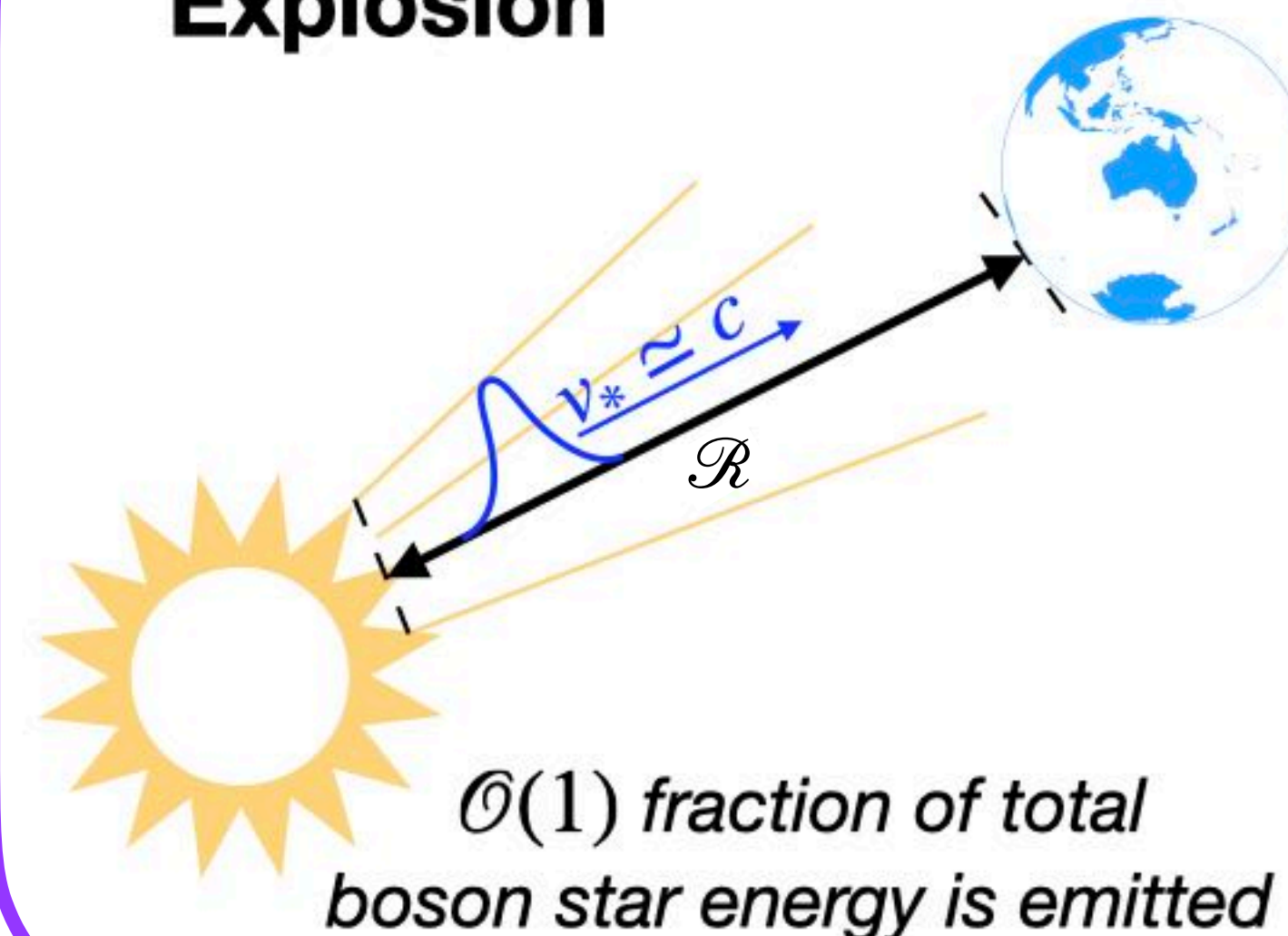
peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$

with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$



## 3. Bosenova Explosion

## Terrestrial Searches



Simulations of collapse+explosion process

Levkov, Panin, Tkachev  
(1609.03611)

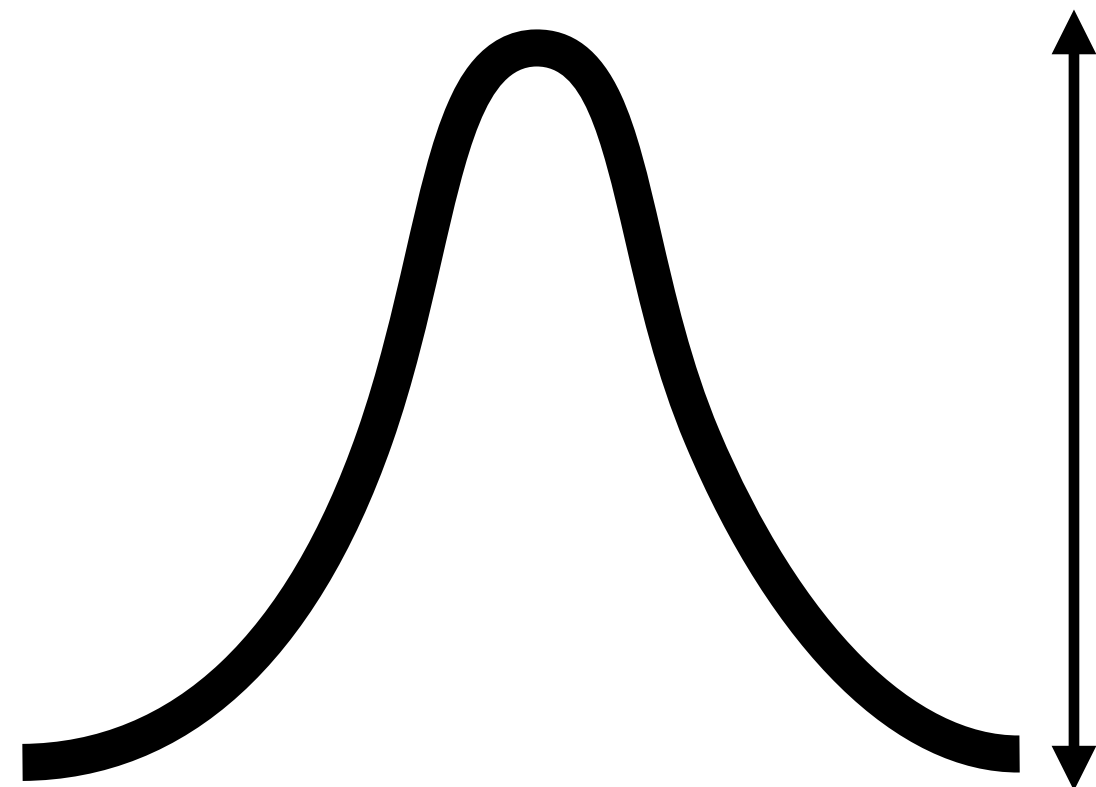
Bosenova predicted by

**JE**, Leembruggen,  
Suranyi, Wijewardhana  
(1608.06911)



# Event Rate vs Burst Signal

**Burst properties:**



momentum spectrum of emission:  
 peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
 with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

Energy density  
in burst

total emitted  
energy,  $\sim M_c$

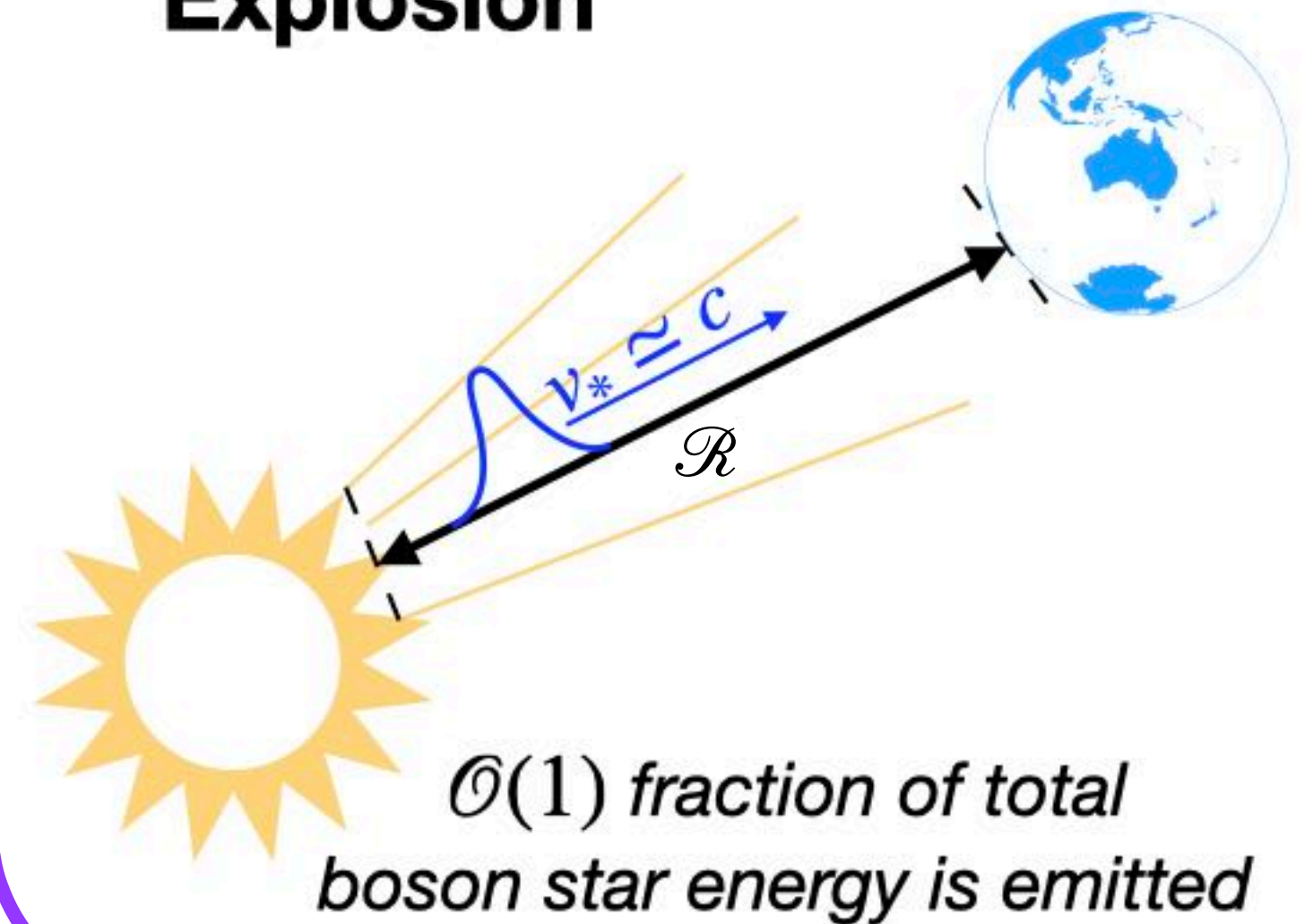
$$\rho_* \sim \frac{\mathcal{E}_{\text{emitted}}}{4\pi \mathcal{R}^2 \delta x}$$

burst distance

burst 'size'

**3. Bosenova  
Explosion**

**Terrestrial  
Searches**



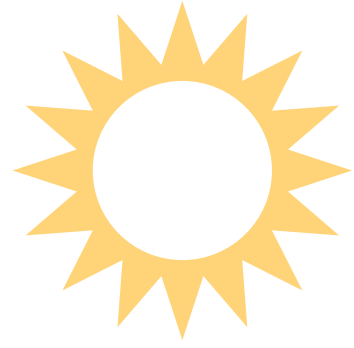
**Simulations of  
collapse+explosion process**

Levkov, Panin, Tkachev  
(1609.03611)

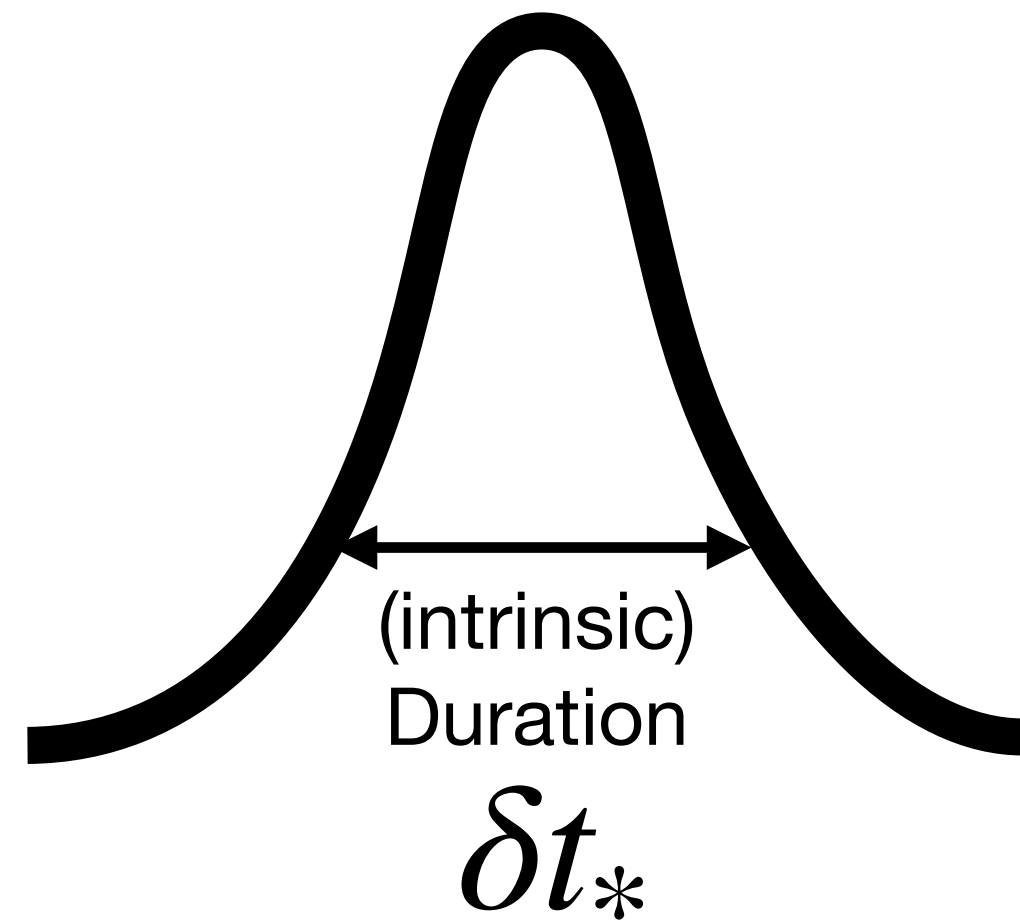
**Bosenova predicted by**

**JE**, Leembruggen,  
Suranyi, Wijewardhana  
(1608.06911)

# Wave Spreading in Flight



**At Source**



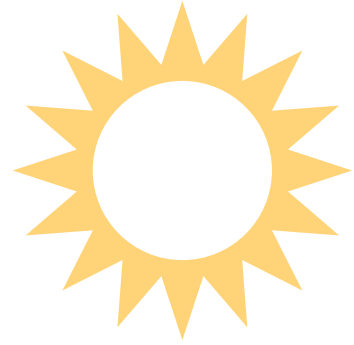
momentum spectrum of emission:

peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$

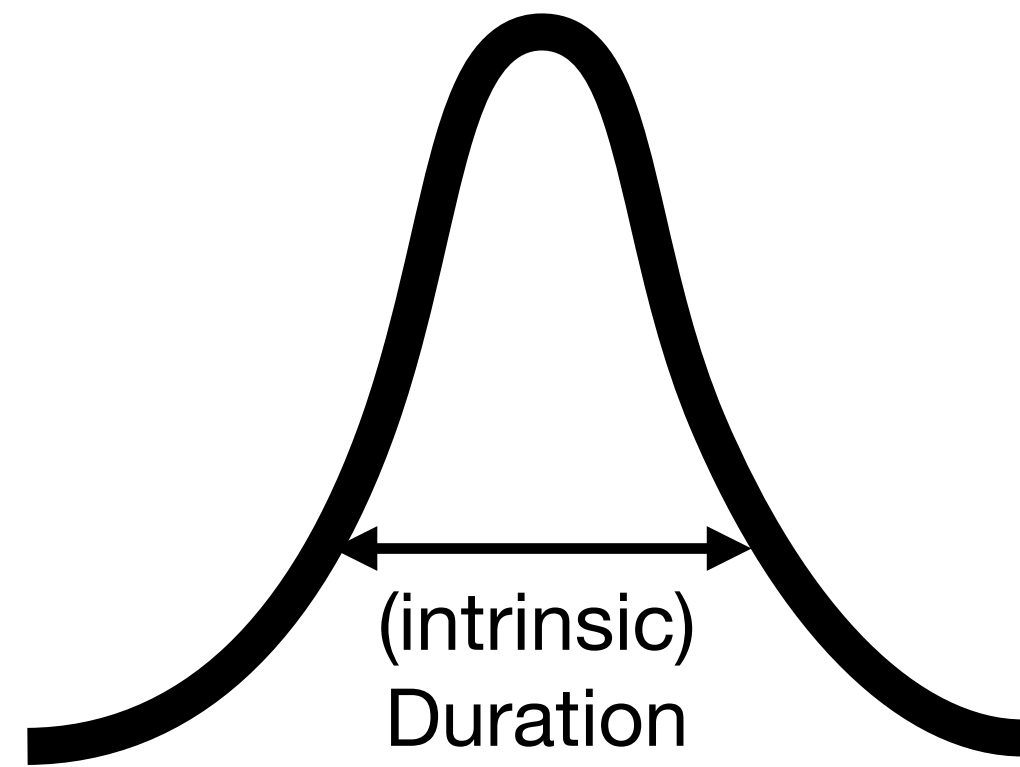
with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$



# Wave Spreading in Flight



**At Source**



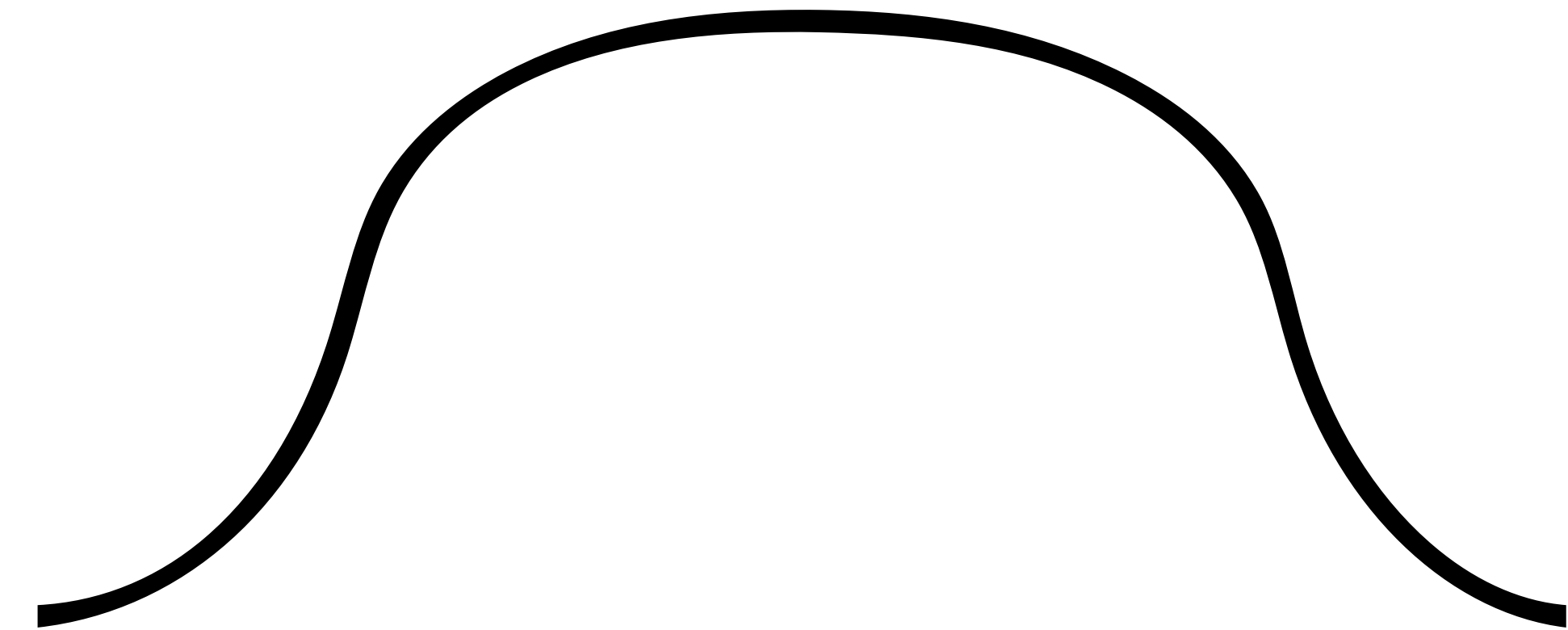
$\delta t_*$

momentum spectrum of emission:  
peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

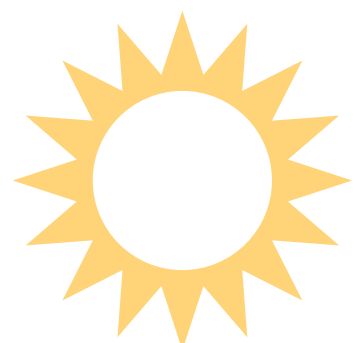
Fastest momentum modes  
move away from  
slower ones during propagation



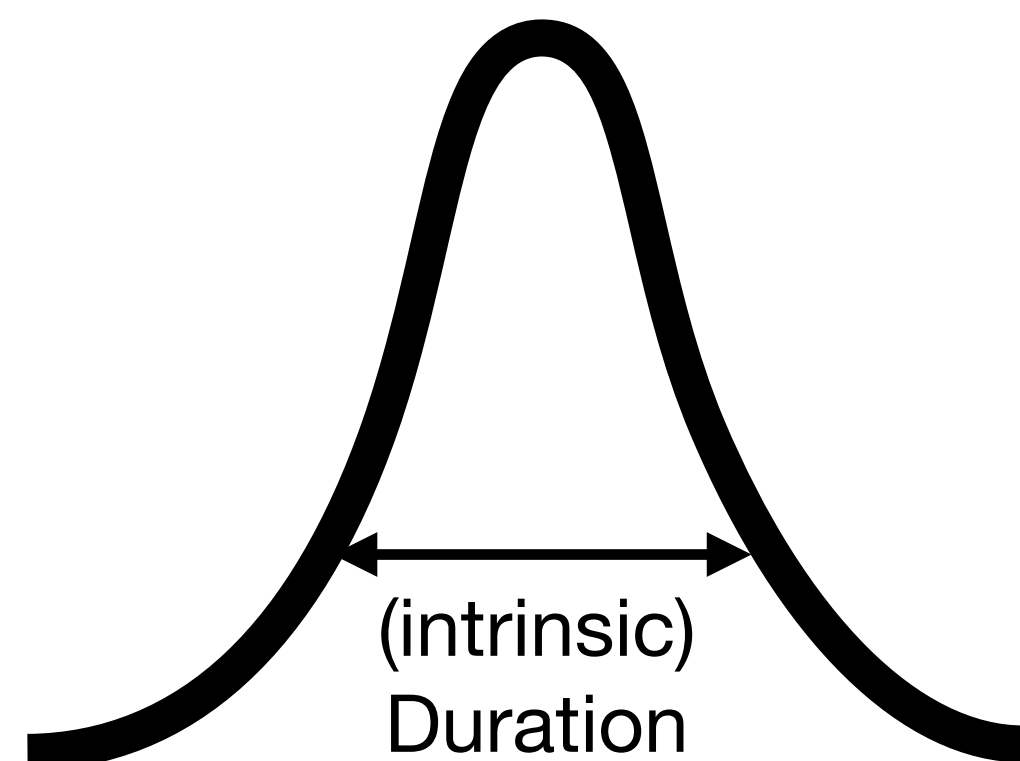
**At Detector**



# Wave Spreading in Flight



**At Source**



(intrinsic)  
Duration

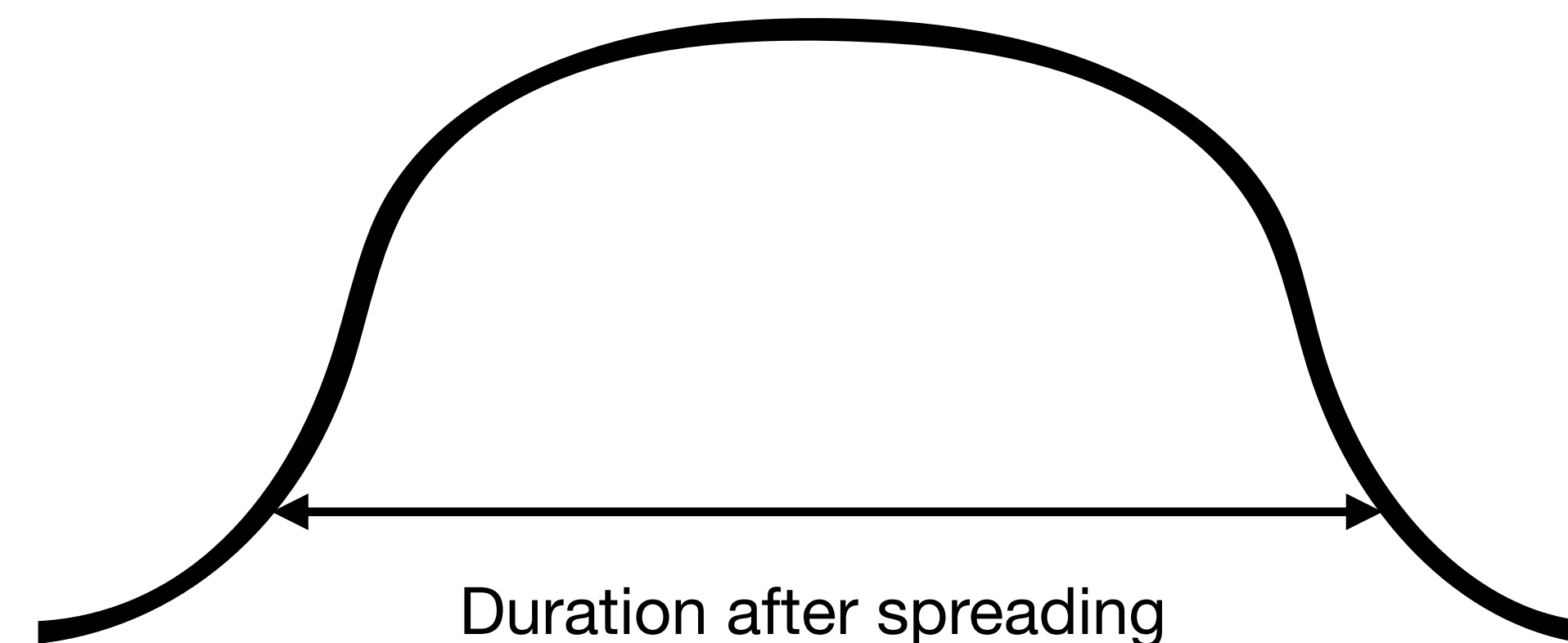
$$\delta t_*$$

momentum spectrum of emission:  
peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

Fastest momentum modes  
move away from  
slower ones during propagation



**At Detector**



Duration after spreading

$$\delta t \sim \mathcal{R}$$

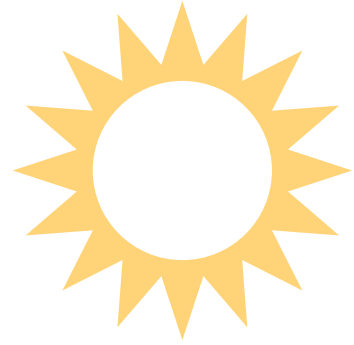
$$\sim \text{months} \left( \frac{\mathcal{R}}{\text{pc}} \right)$$

$\mathcal{R}$

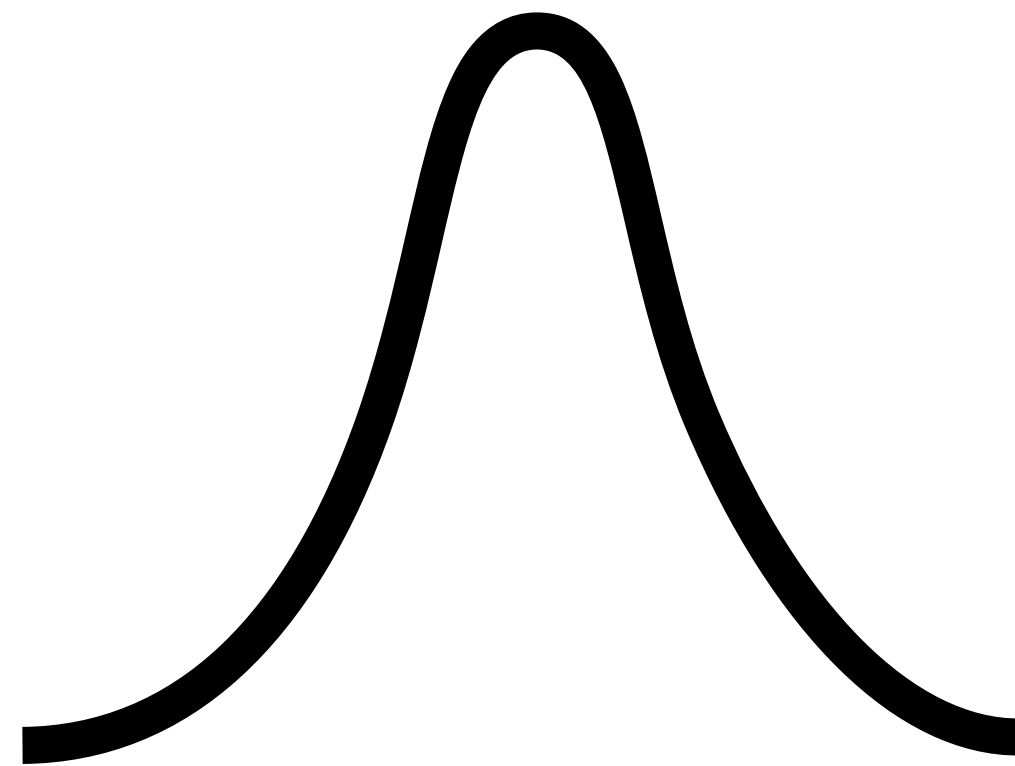
**This is the length of time during which  
the burst contributes to a signal in the detector!**



# Coherence Time



**At Source**

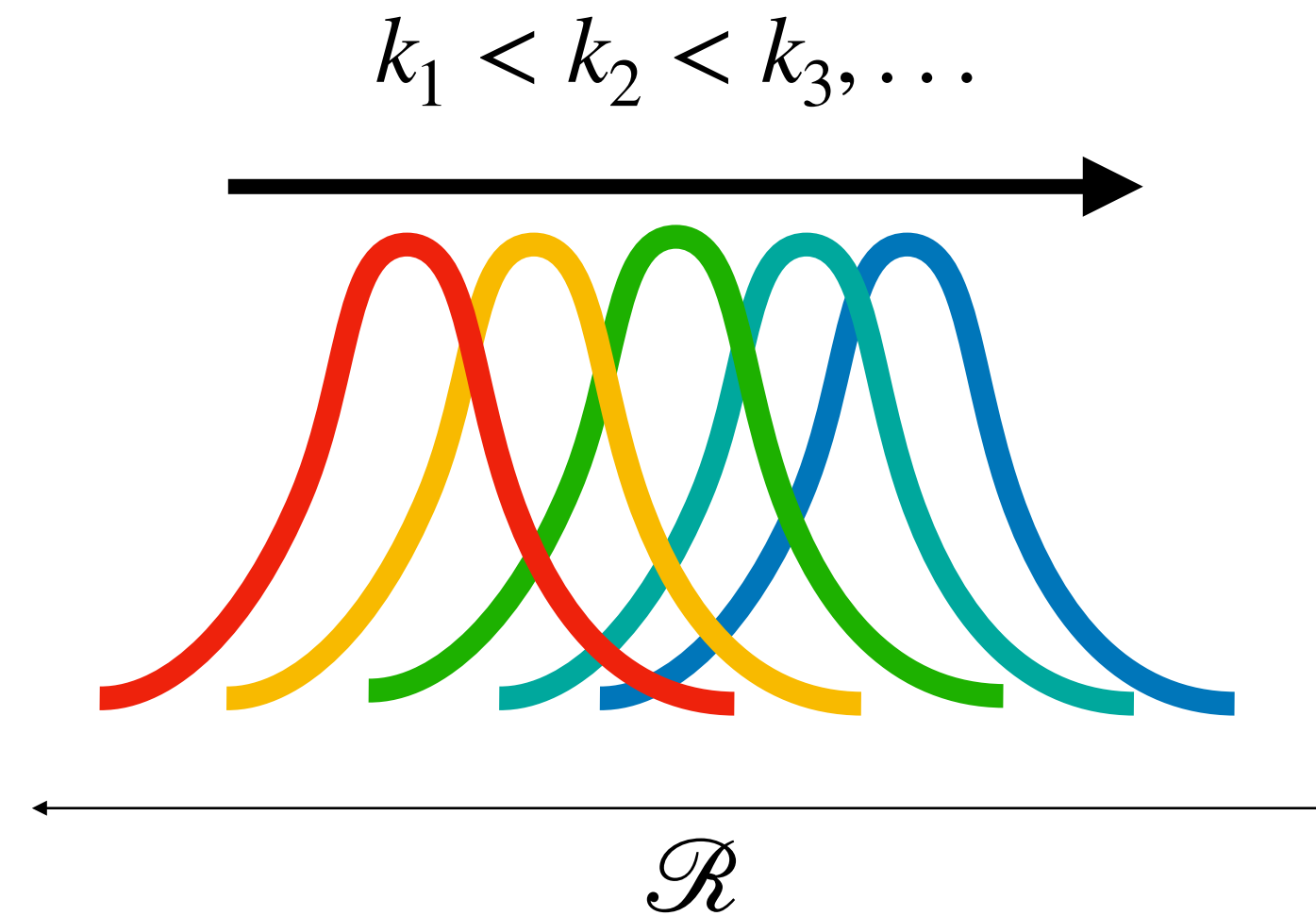


momentum spectrum of emission:  
peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

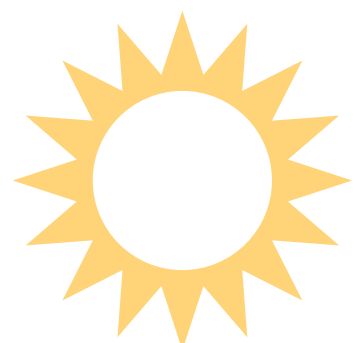
imagine discrete momentum modes

$$k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots$$

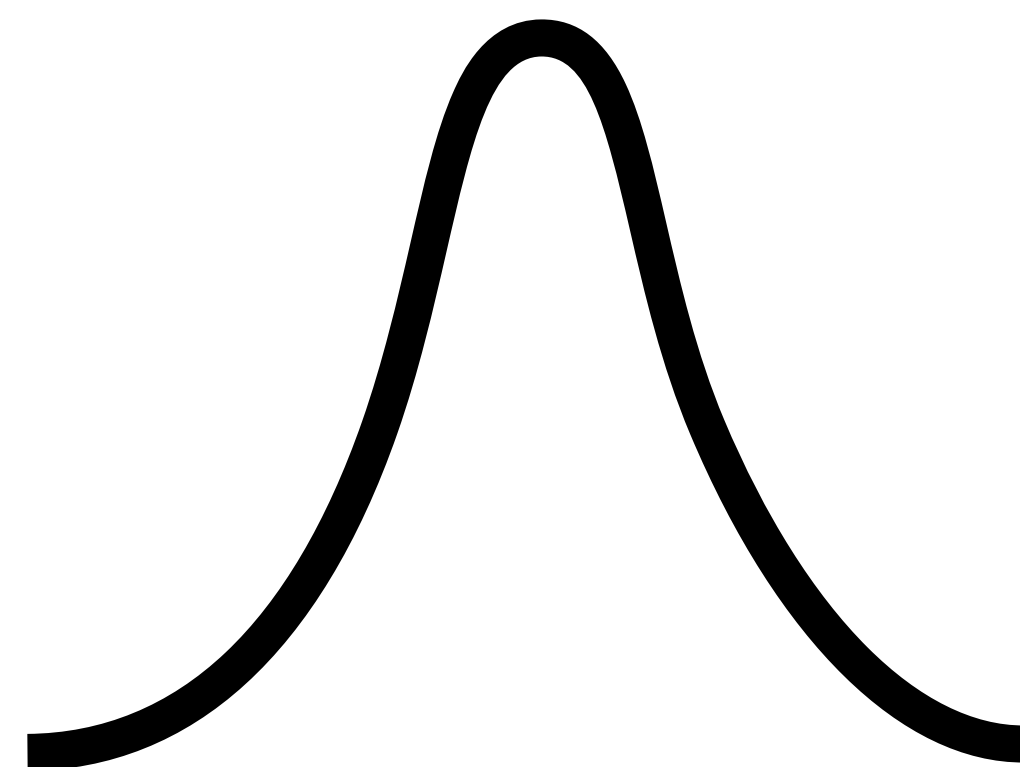
Fastest momentum modes  
move away from  
slower ones during propagation



# Coherence Time



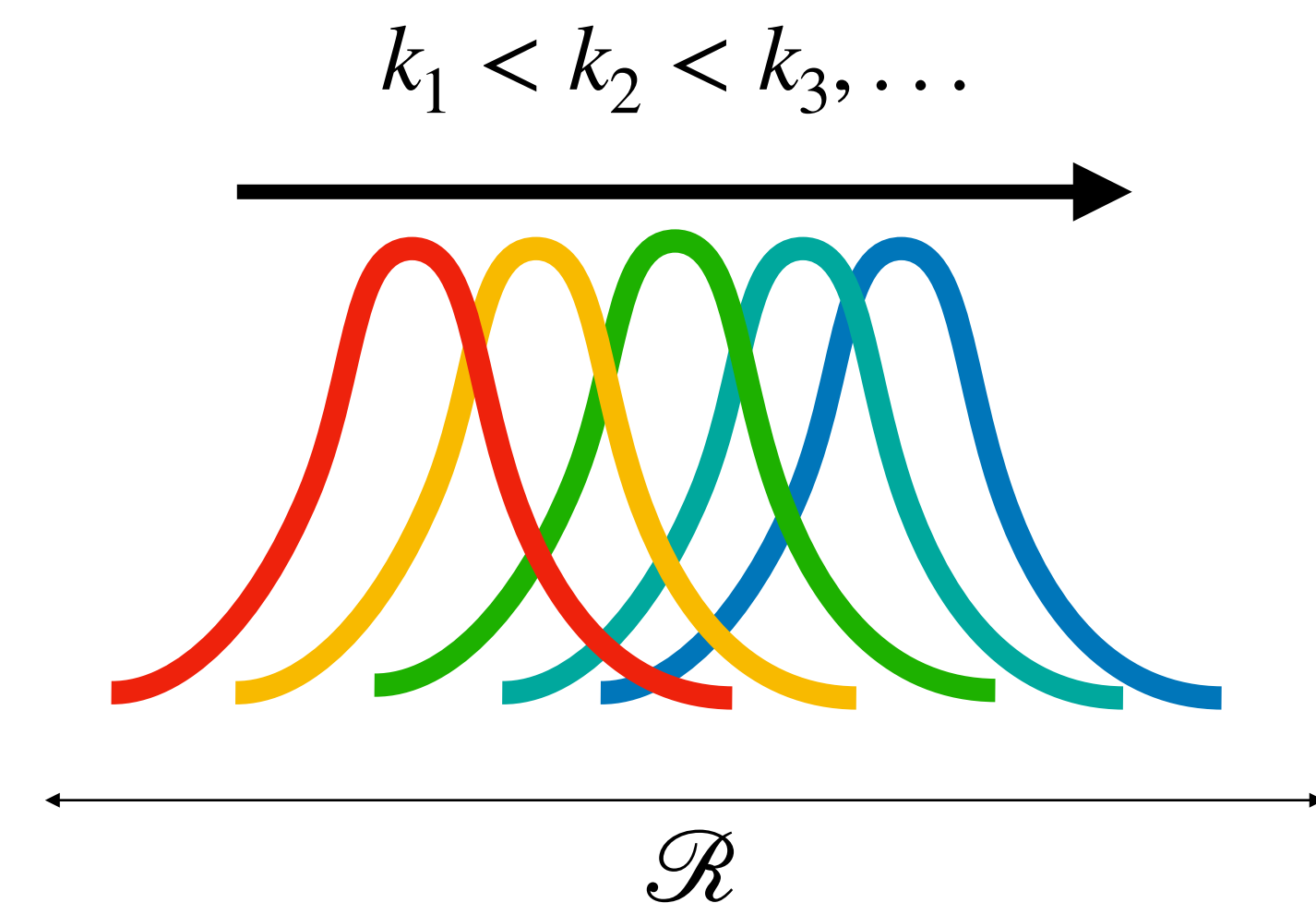
**At Source**



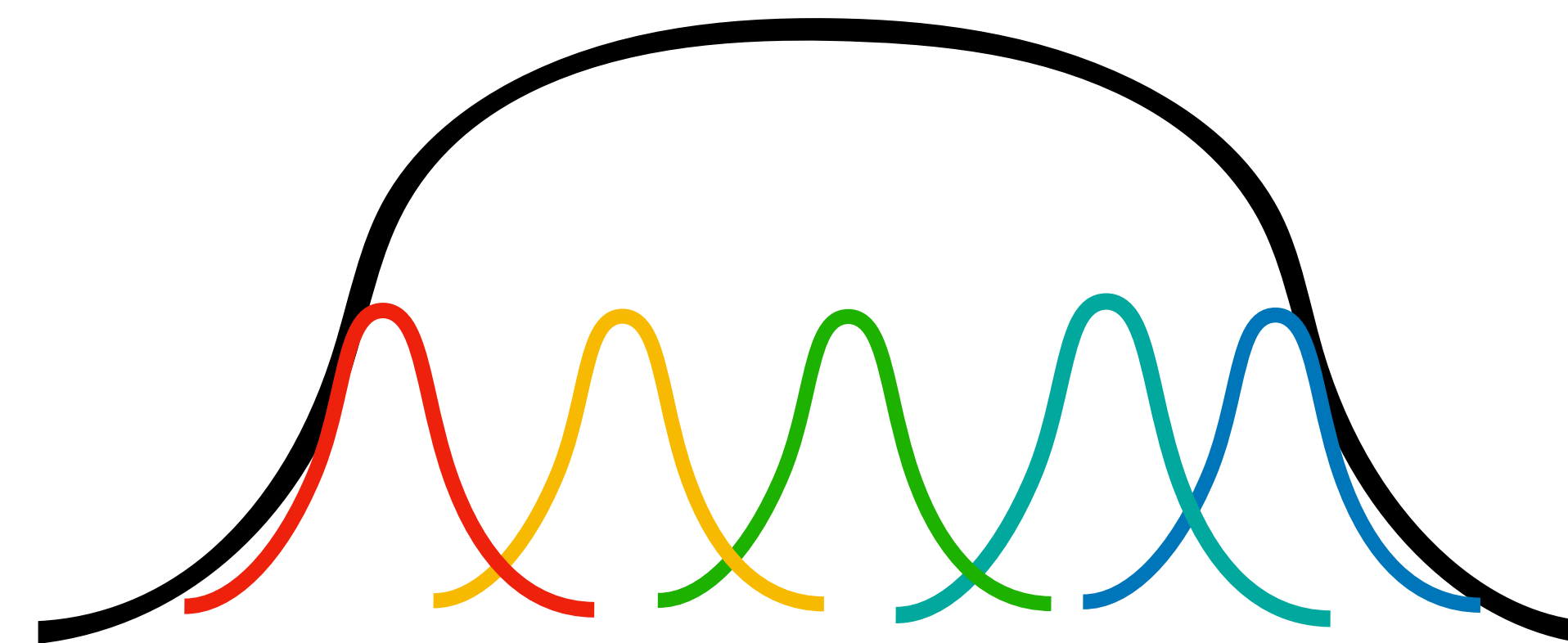
momentum spectrum of emission:  
peaked at  $k_0 \sim \text{few} \times m_\phi$   
with width  $\delta k \sim m_\phi$

imagine discrete momentum modes  
 $k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots$

Fastest momentum modes  
move away from  
slower ones during propagation



**At Detector**



modes arrive at different times

At any given moment in the detector,  
one sees a **narrow** distribution  
of momentum / energy

“effective coherence time”  $\tau_* \sim 10^{-2} \mathcal{R}$



# Sensitivity Estimation

**Sensitivity Ratio at  
fixed frequency  $\omega_0$**

$$\frac{d_{i,*}^{(\text{burst})}(\omega_0)}{d_{i,\text{DM}}^{(\text{DM})}(\omega_0)} \sim \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\rho_*} \right)^n \frac{t_{\text{int}}^{1/4} \min(\tau_{\text{DM}}^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}{\min(\delta t^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4}) \min(\tau_*^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}$$

**Timescales:**

Interrogation time <sup>†</sup>	$t_{\text{int}}$
DM coherence time	$\tau_{\text{DM}}$
Burst coherence time	$\tau_*$
Burst duration	$\delta t$

**“Is a given DM experiment equally/more sensitive to relativistic bursts compared to cold DM search?”**

<sup>†</sup>laser coherence, natural linewidth, ...

# Sensitivity Estimation

**Sensitivity Ratio at  
fixed frequency  $\omega_0$**

usual scaling of DM signal

$$\frac{d_{i,*}^{(\text{burst})}(\omega_0)}{d_{i,\text{DM}}^{(\text{DM})}(\omega_0)} \sim \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\rho_*} \right)^n \frac{t_{\text{int}}^{1/4} \min(\tau_{\text{DM}}^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}{\min(\delta t^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4}) \min(\tau_*^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}$$

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# Sensitivity Estimation

**Sensitivity Ratio at  
fixed frequency  $\omega_0$**

depends on ULDM-SM coupling:

$n = 1/2$  (linear coupling)

$n = 1$  (quadratic coupling)

usual scaling of DM signal

$$\frac{d_{i,*}^{(\text{burst})}(\omega_0)}{d_{i,\text{DM}}^{(\text{DM})}(\omega_0)} \sim \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\rho_*} \right)^n \frac{t_{\text{int}}^{1/4} \min(\tau_{\text{DM}}^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}{\min(\delta t^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4}) \min(\tau_*^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})}$$

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# Sensitivity Estimation

**Sensitivity Ratio at  
fixed frequency  $\omega_0$**

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depends on ULDM-SM coupling:

$n = 1/2$  (linear coupling)

$n = 1$  (quadratic coupling)

usual scaling of DM signal

$$\left( \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\rho_*} \right)^n t_{\text{int}}^{1/4} \min(\tau_{\text{DM}}^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})$$

$$\min(\delta t^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4}) \min(\tau_*^{1/4}, t_{\text{int}}^{1/4})$$

energy density in the burst

“did we catch all/most of the signal?”

“is the signal coherent for the whole integration time?”

**Timescales:**

Interrogation time <sup>†</sup>	$t_{\text{int}}$
DM coherence time	$\tau_{\text{DM}}$
Burst coherence time	$\tau_*$
Burst duration	$\delta t$

**“Is a given DM experiment equally/more sensitive to relativistic bursts compared to cold DM search?”**

<sup>†</sup>laser coherence, natural linewidth, ...



# Current and Future Experimental Sensitivity

**For axion-like particles  
(pseudoscalar couplings)**

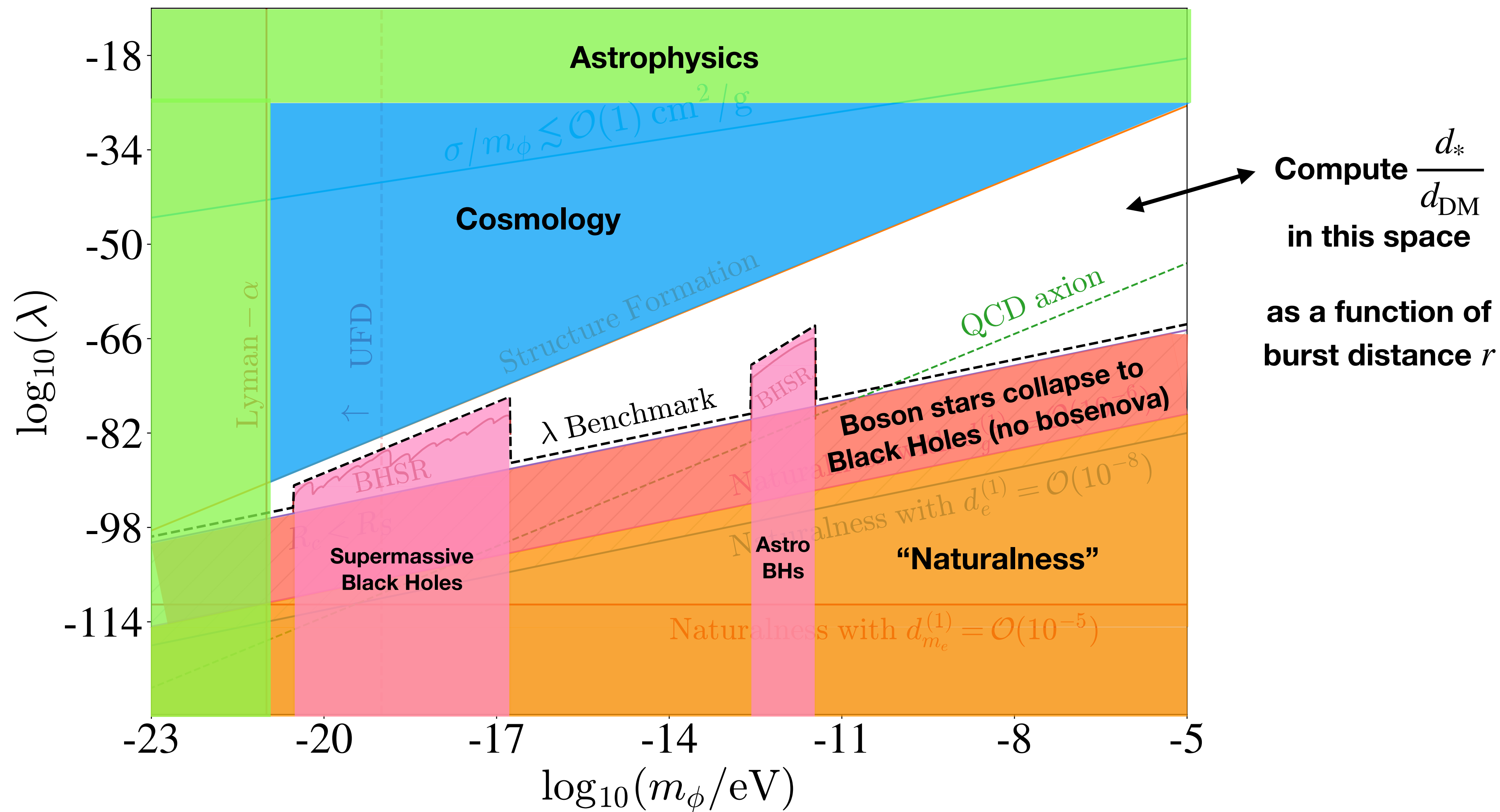
**JE**, Shirai, Stadnik,  
Takhistov (2106.14893)

**For dilaton-like particles  
(scalar couplings)**

Arakawa, **JE**, Safronova,  
Takhistov, Zaheer  
(2306.16468, 2402.06736)

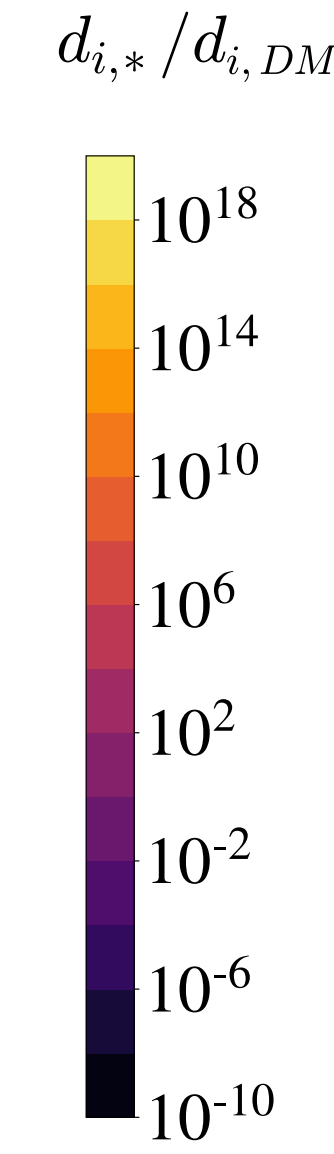
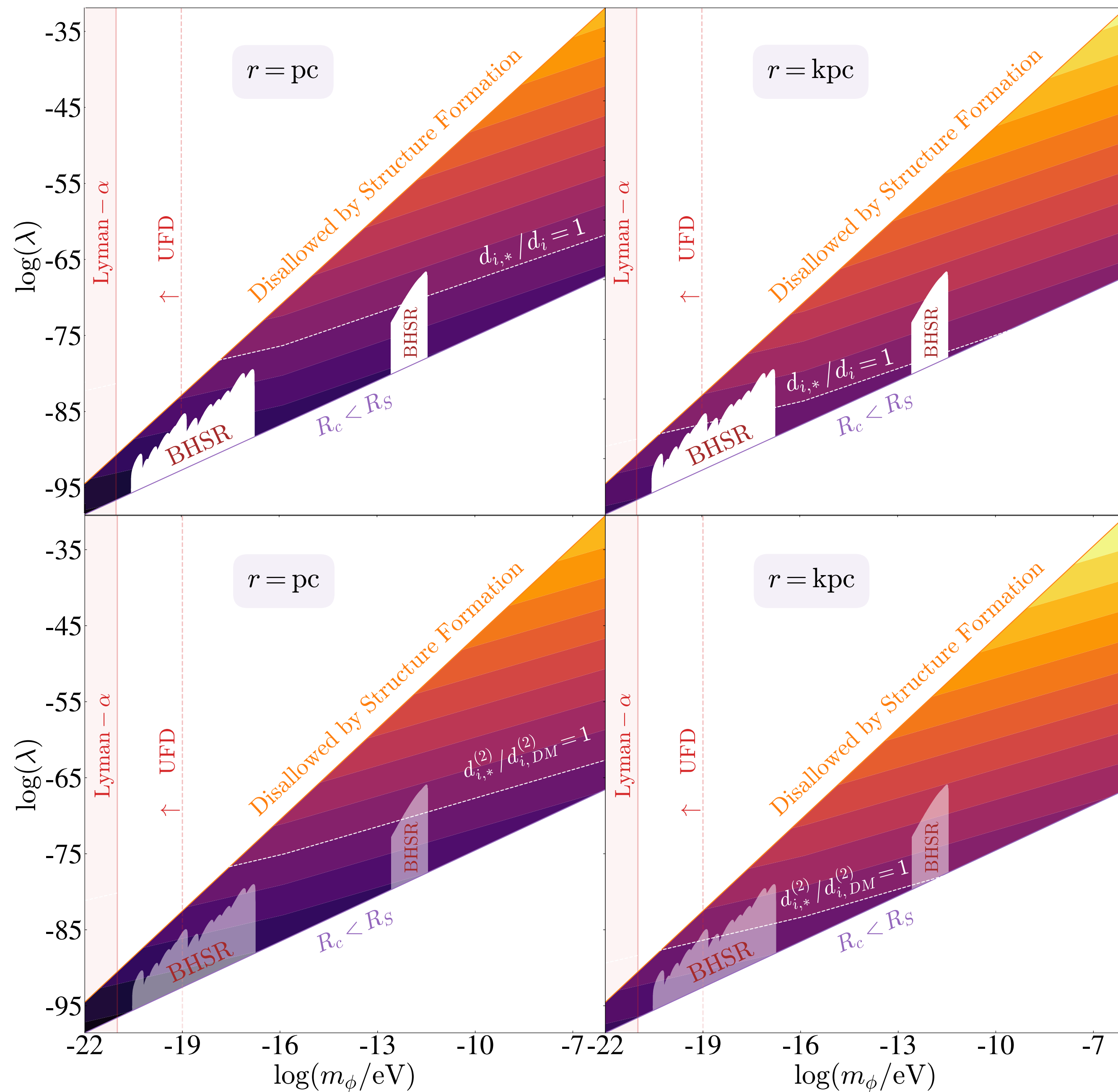
more relevant  
for atomic clocks,  
interferometers, and  
other quantum sensors

# Recall (self-interactions)



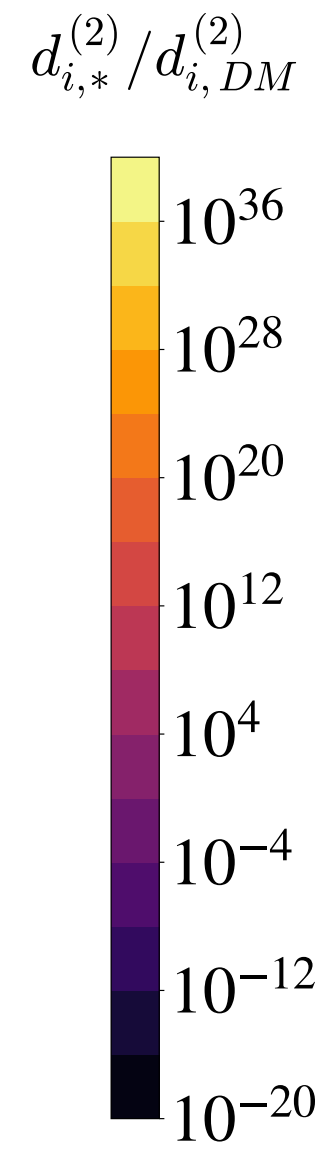


# Sensitivity Ratio



Linear couplings (2306.16468) e.g.  $\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$

**Below the dotted line:**  
 In a given quantum sensing experiment,  
 The signal from a nearby bosonova  
 would be **as strong or stronger than**  
 that of DM in the same parameter space



Quadratic couplings (2402.06736) e.g.  $\mathcal{L} \supset d_e^{(2)} \left( \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$

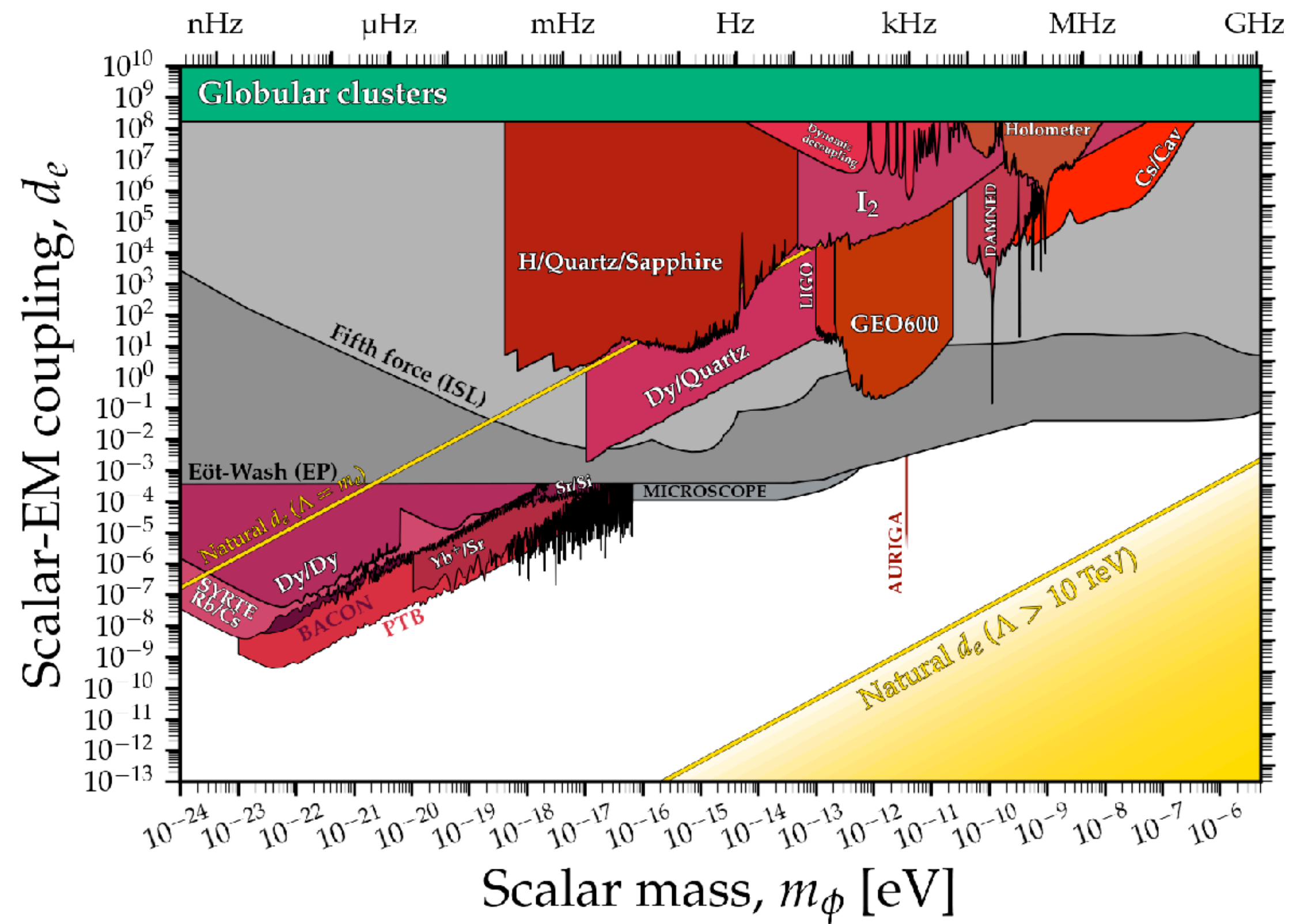
Interrogation time:  $t_{\text{int}} = 1 \text{ year}$

# Observables

Coupling to photons

Oscillation of  
fine-structure constant

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$





# Observables

## Coupling to photons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of fine-structure constant

## Coupling to electrons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_{m_e} \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \bar{e}e \longrightarrow \frac{m_e}{m_p} \rightarrow \frac{m_e}{m_p} + \frac{\delta m_e(d_{m_e}, \rho, m_\phi)}{m_p}$$

Oscillation of electron-proton mass ratio

## Coupling to gluons

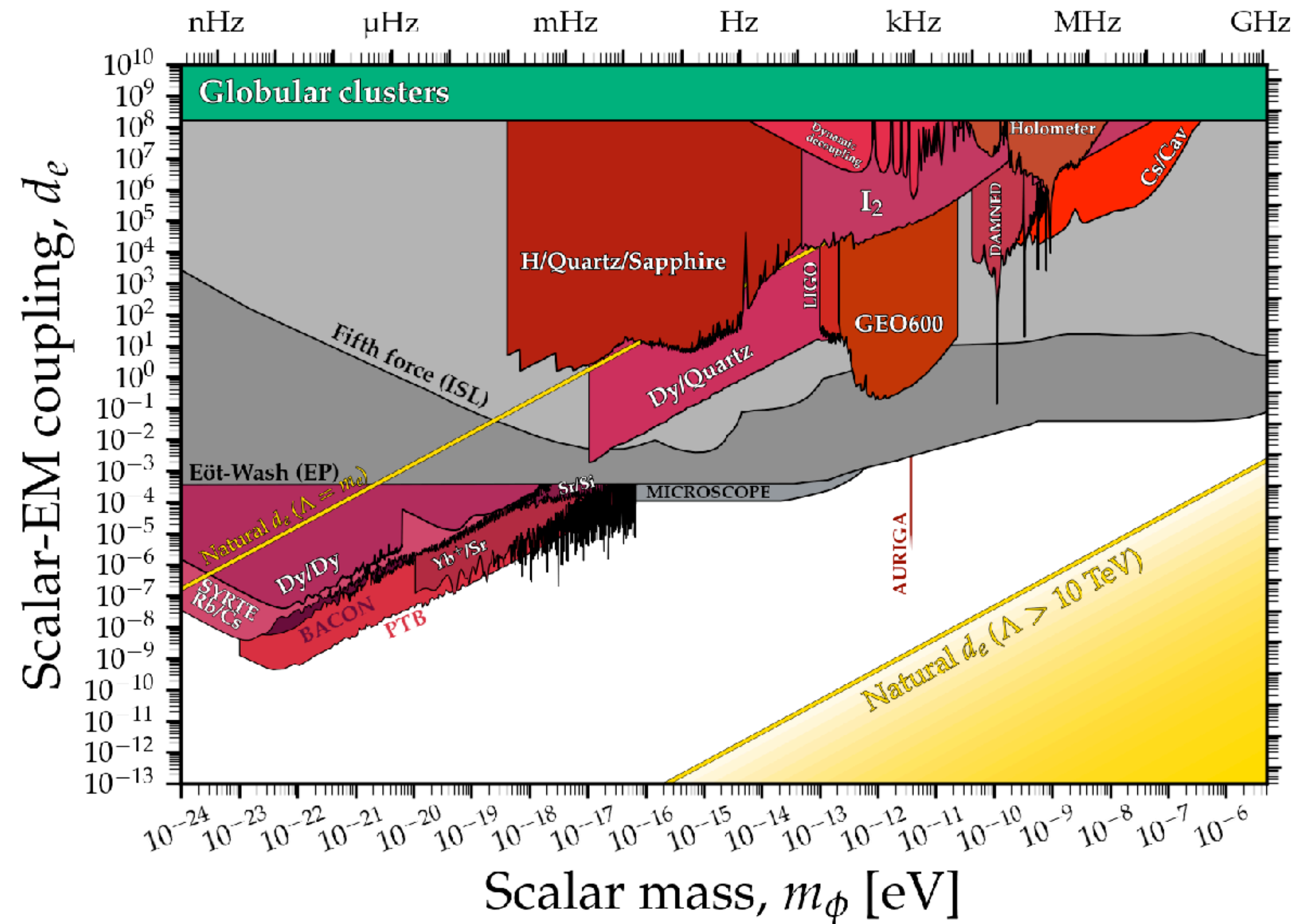
$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_g \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} G^{a\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

## Coupling to quarks

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_{m_q} \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \bar{q}q$$

$$\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \rightarrow \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} + \delta \left( \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \right) (d_{m_q}, d_g, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of ratio of quark mass to QCD scale



# Observables

This talk

## Coupling to photons

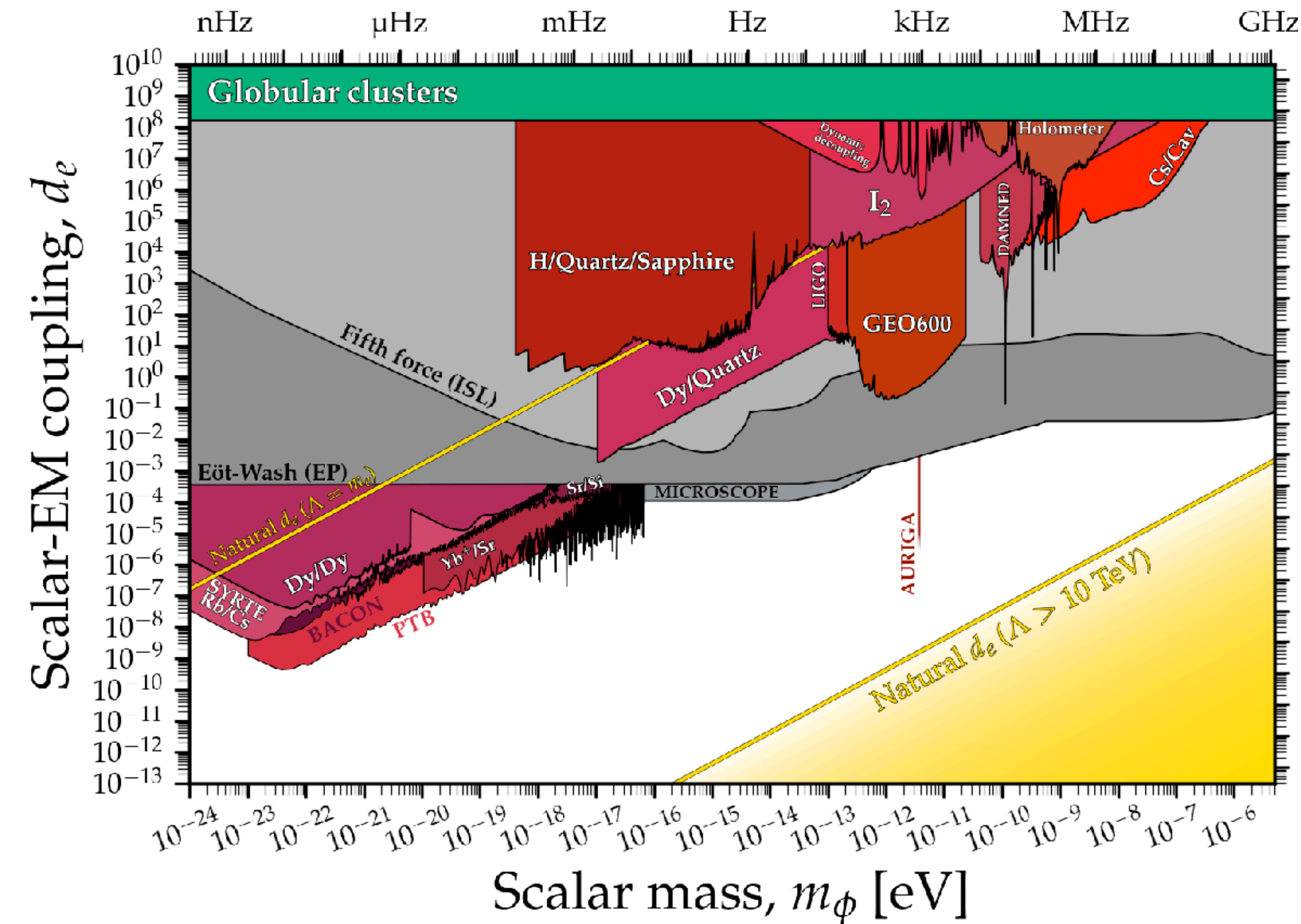
$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of fine-structure constant

## Coupling to electrons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_{m_e} \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \bar{e}e \longrightarrow \frac{m_e}{m_p} \rightarrow \frac{m_e}{m_p} + \frac{\delta m_e(d_{m_e}, \rho, m_\phi)}{m_p}$$

Oscillation of electron-proton mass ratio



## Coupling to gluons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_g \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} G^{a\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

## Coupling to quarks

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_{m_q} \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \bar{q}q$$

$$\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \rightarrow \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} + \delta \left( \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \right) (d_{m_q}, d_g, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of ratio of quark mass to QCD scale



# Searches for Photon Couplings

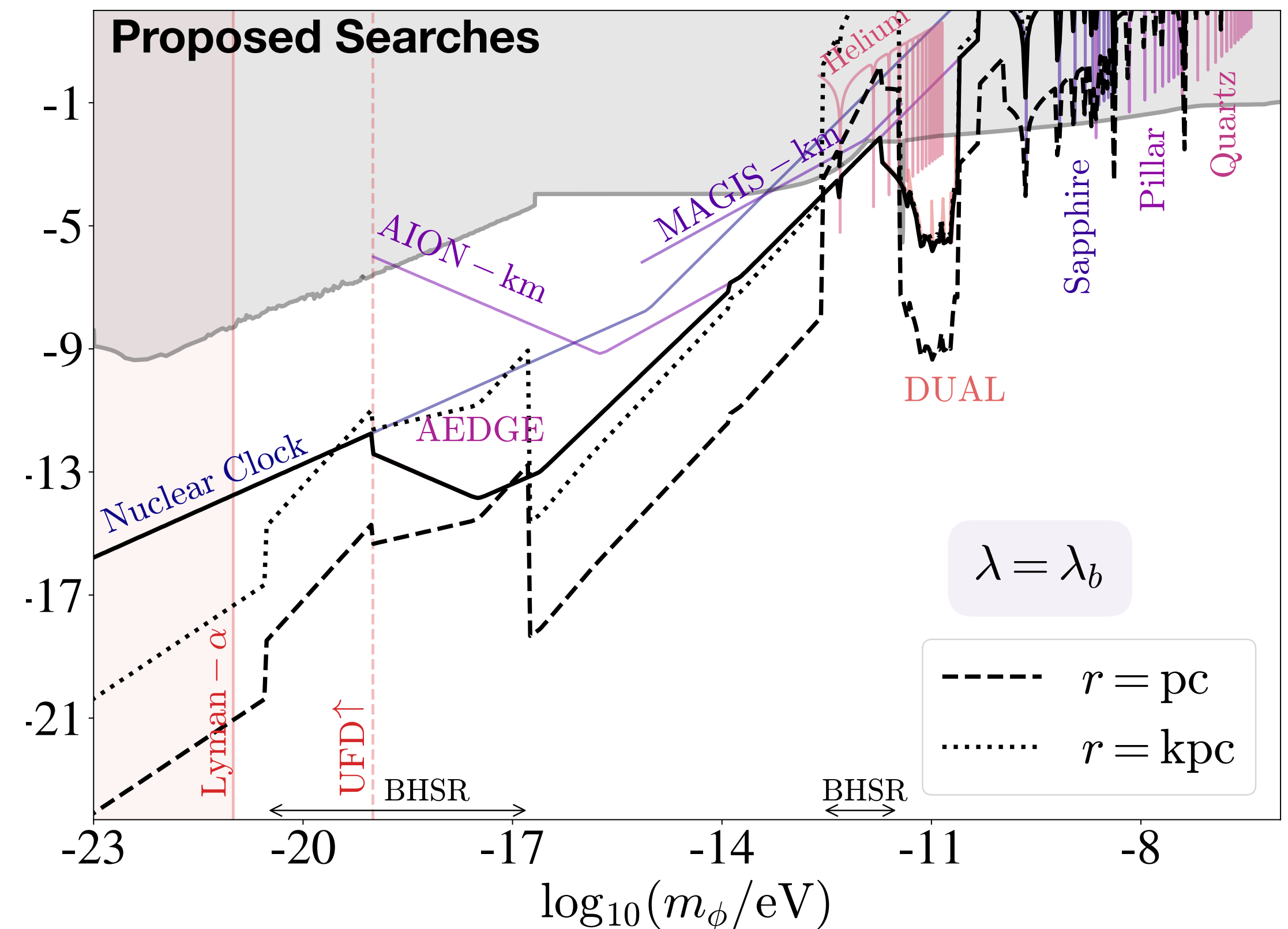
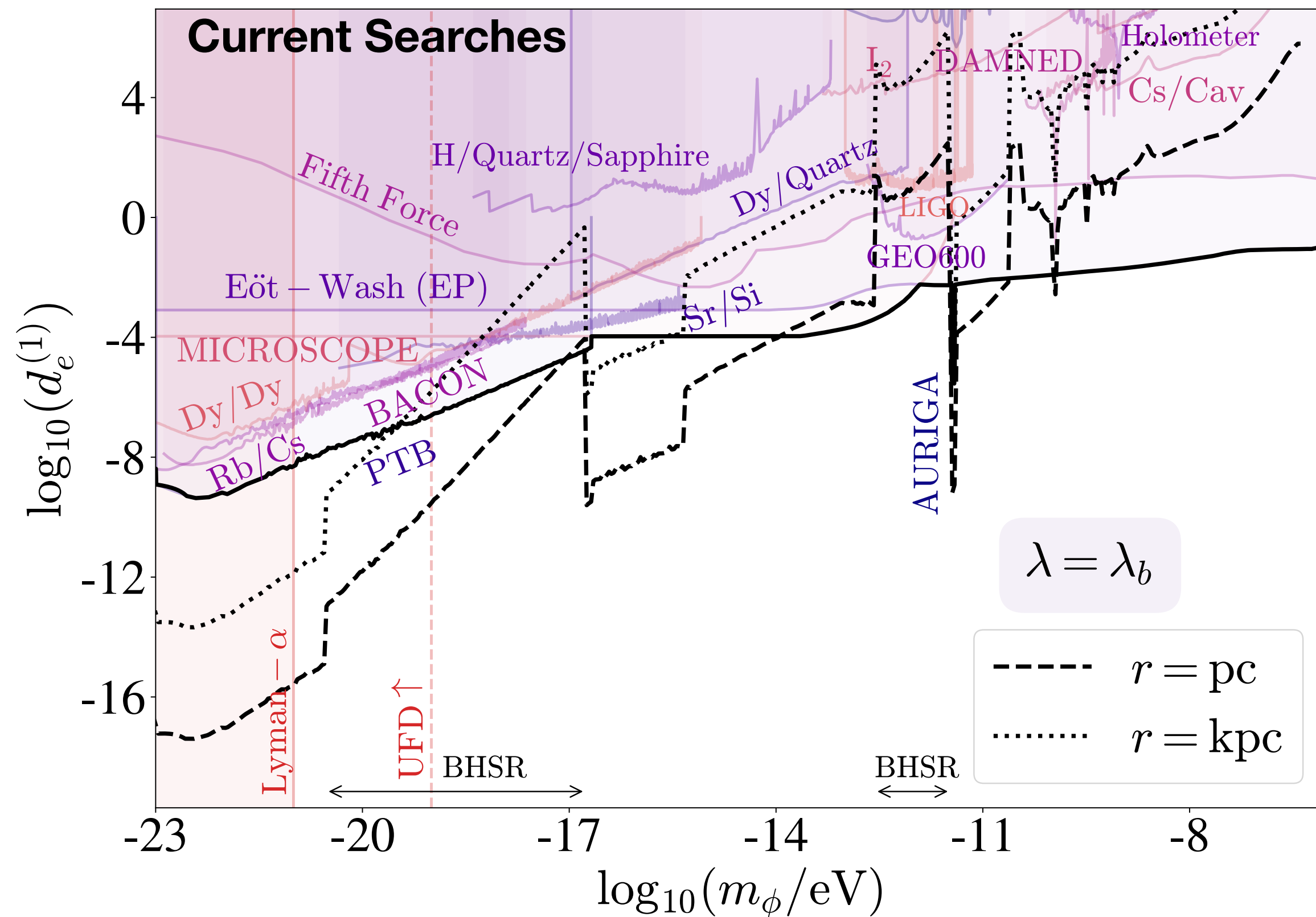
Coupling to photons

(linear)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of

fine-structure constant

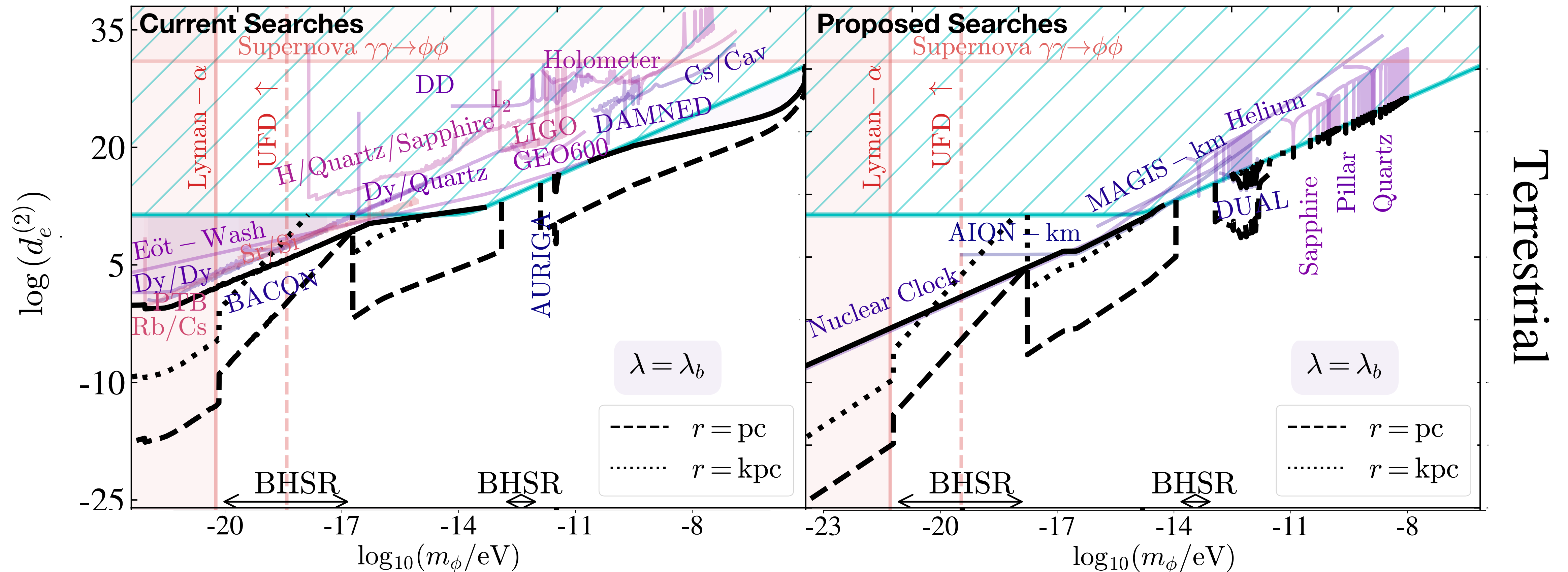


# Searches for Photon Couplings

Coupling to photons  
(quadratic)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e^{(2)} \left( \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of  
fine-structure constant



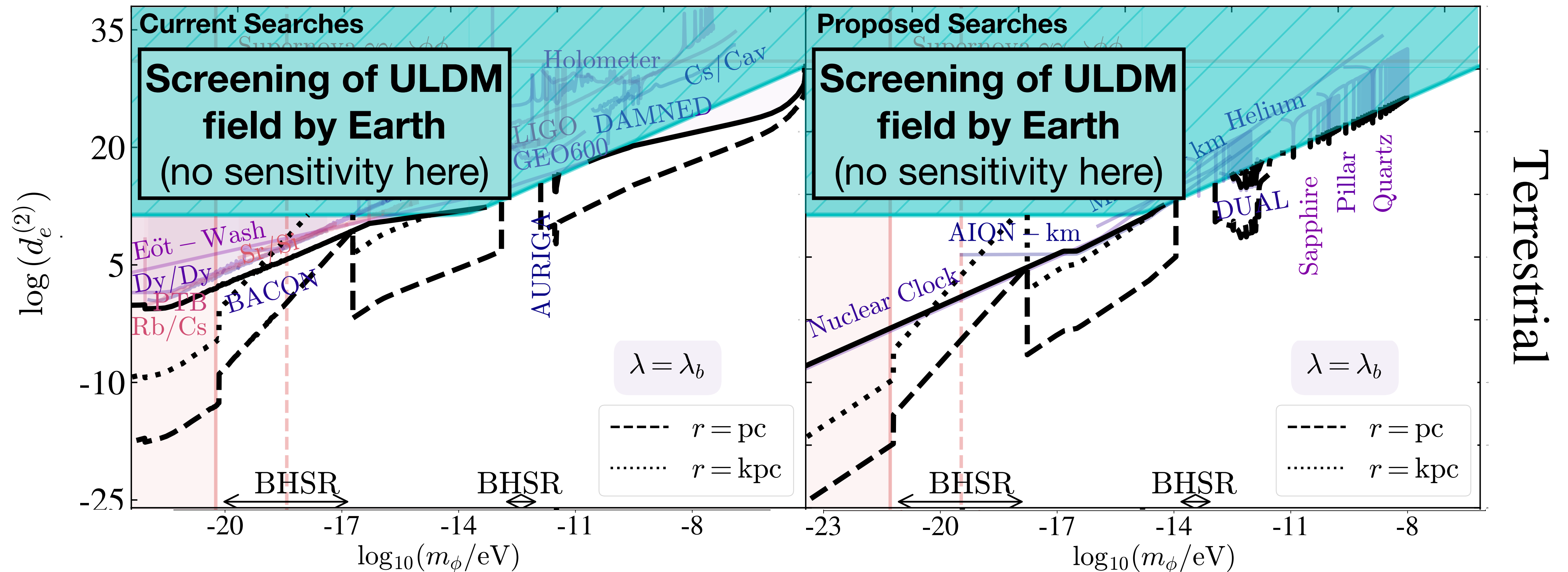


# Searches for Photon Couplings

Coupling to photons (quadratic)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_e^{(2)} \left( \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha(d_e, \rho, m_\phi)$$

Oscillation of fine-structure constant



# Conclusions

- [Ultralight dark matter fields induce oscillation of fundamental constants](#), leading to world-leading constraints on ULDM couplings to the Standard Model from quantum sensing experiments
- [Relativistic bursts of ULDM particles](#), originating in astrophysical processes (like *bosenovae* from boson star collapse) lead to signals in the very same experiments. [A long-baseline atom interferometer would be extremely useful for detection of such signals!](#)
- Bosenova signals allow [sensitivity to extremely weakly-coupled fields beyond current EP limits](#), even for masses up to  $m_\phi \sim 10^{-11}$  eV (kHz); can push to  $m_\phi \sim 10^{-8}$  eV (MHz) in the future
- **At present, detection is viable but exclusion is difficult; need stronger prediction of burst rate**
- Future experiments (including a TVLBAI!) will be able to **set strict limits on ULDM self-interactions** and thereby probe underlying fundamental models far beyond what is possible with DM searches



**Thank you for your attention!**

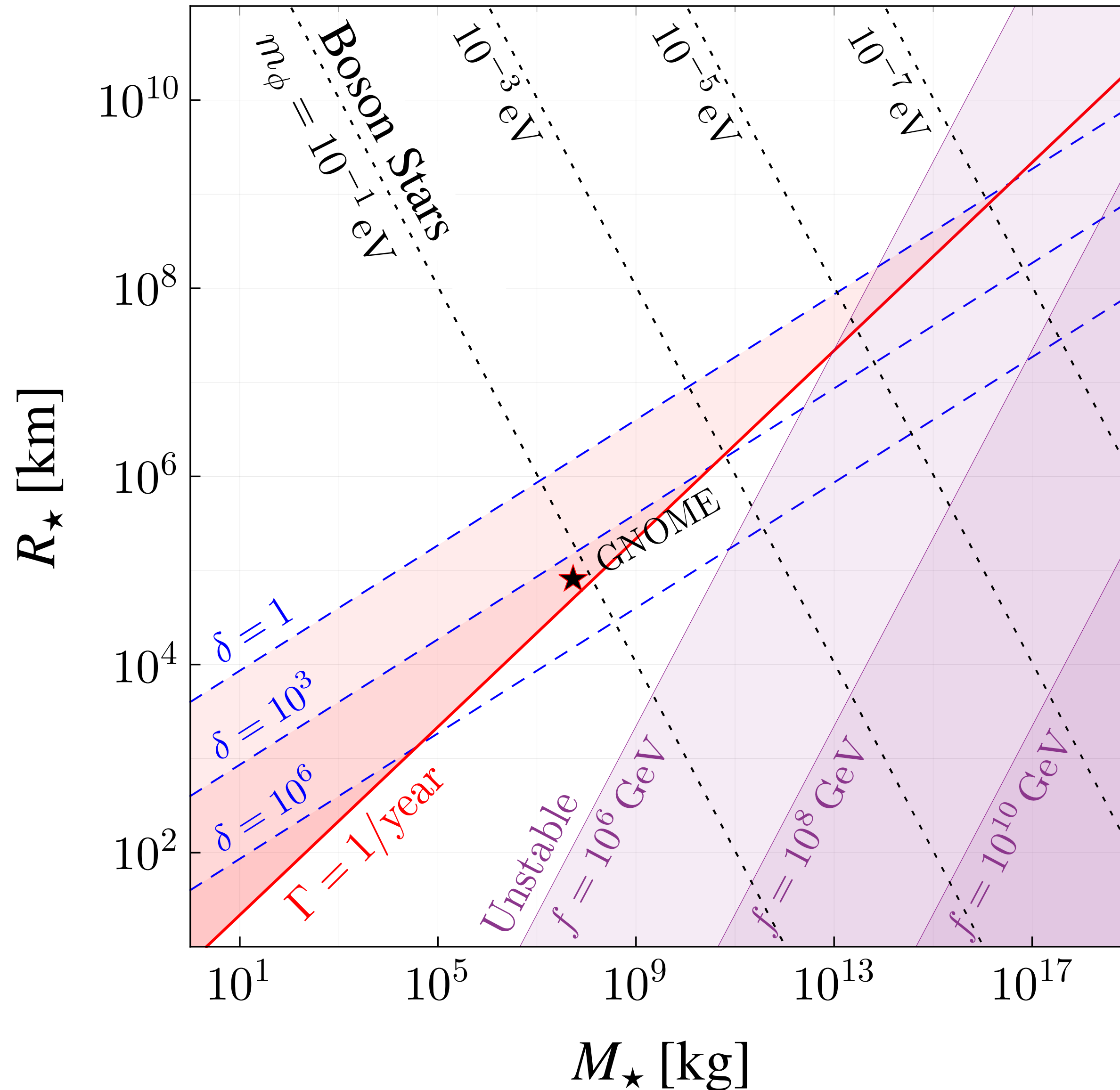




# Backup Slides



# Boson Star Encounters



## Overdensity

$$\delta \equiv \frac{\rho_\star}{\rho_{\text{dm}}} \propto \rho_{\text{local}}^{-1} R_\star^{-4} m_\phi^{-2}$$

## Encounter rate

$$\Gamma \equiv \frac{\rho_{\text{dm}}}{M_\star} \sigma_\star v_\star \propto \rho_{\text{local}} R_\star^3 m_\phi^2$$

Both parameters are only significant when

$$m_\phi \gtrsim 10^{-7} \text{ eV}$$

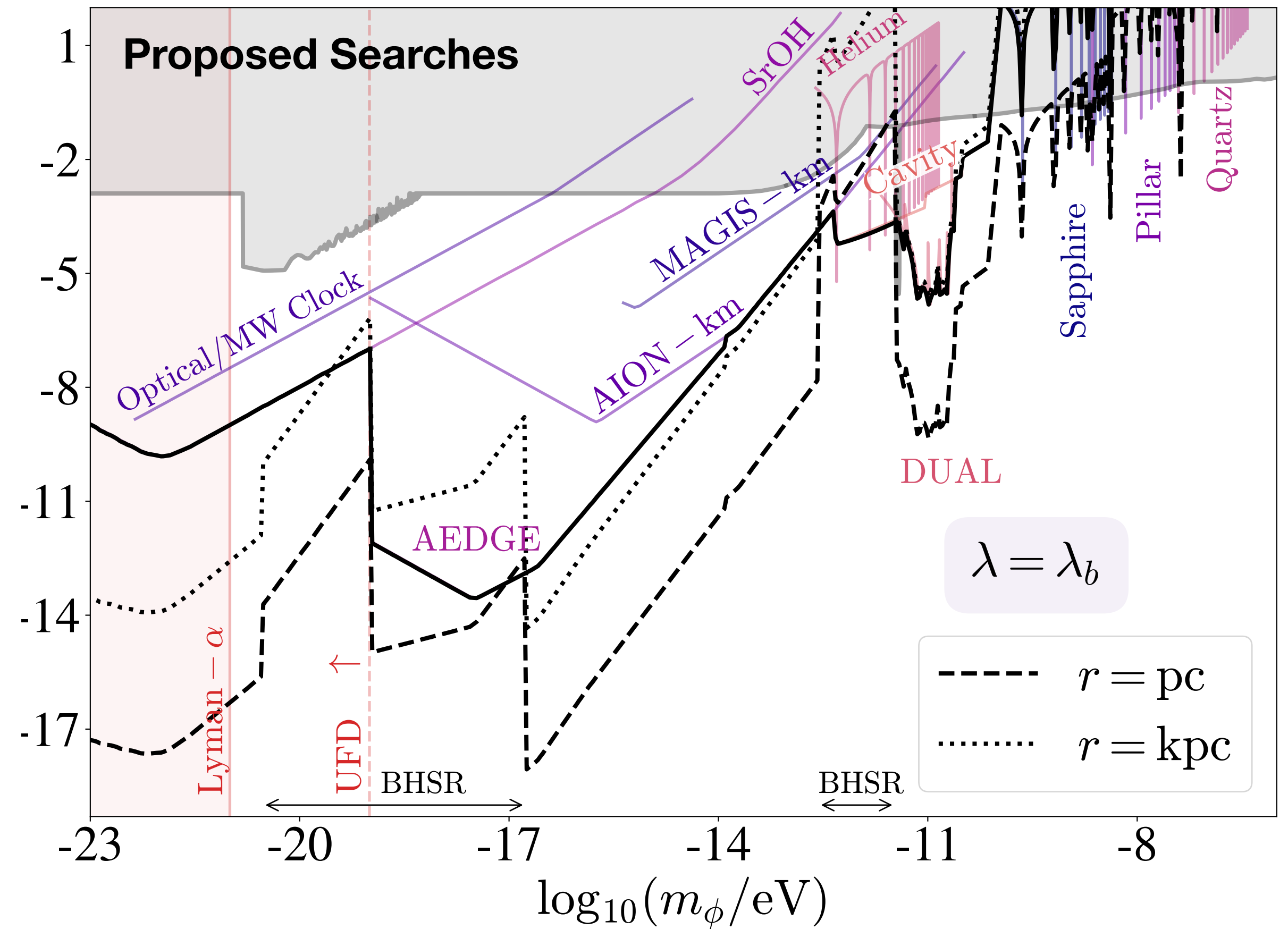
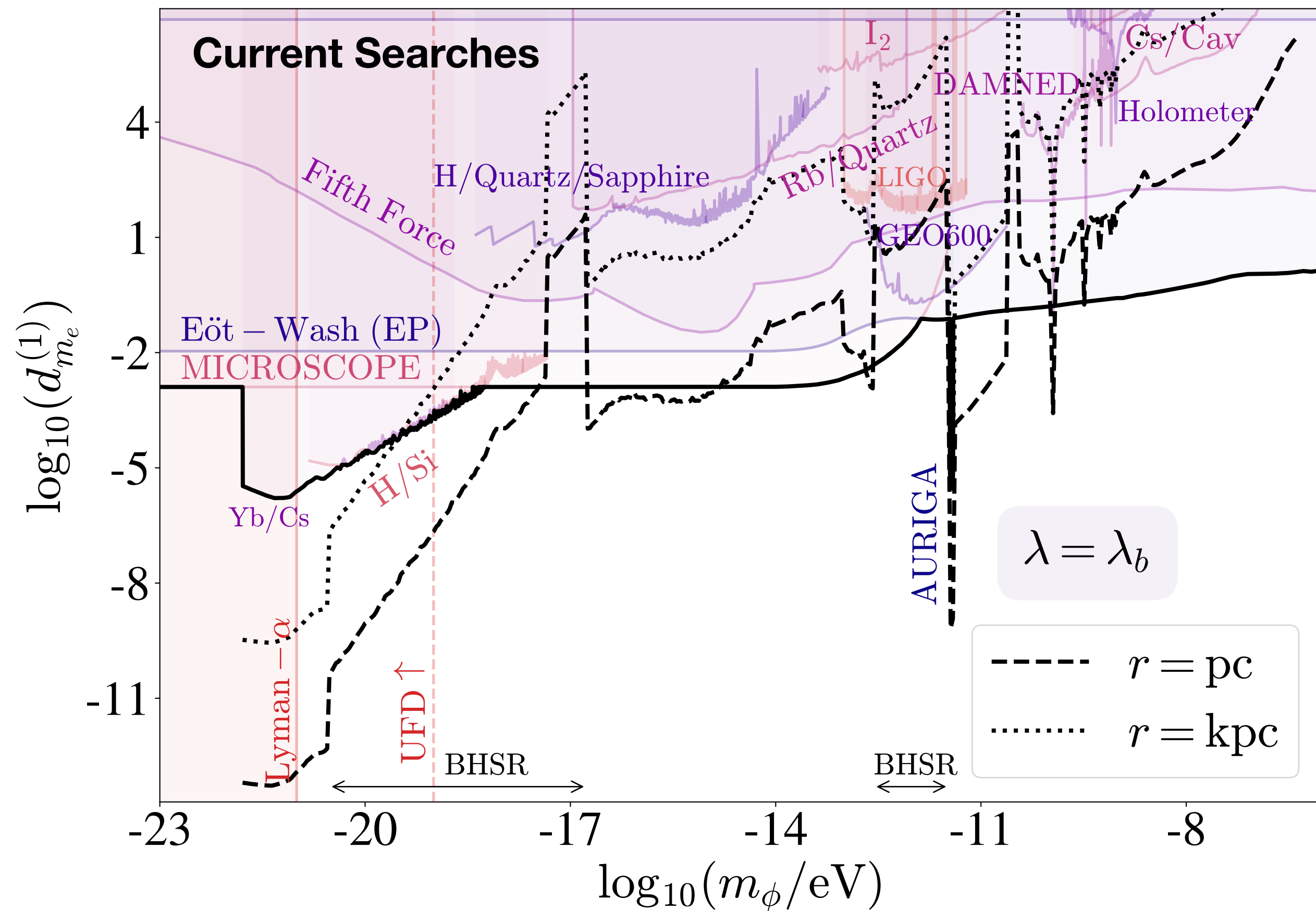
# Searches for Electron Couplings

Coupling to electrons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_{m_e} \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \bar{e}e \longrightarrow$$

Oscillation of electron-proton mass ratio

$$\frac{m_e}{m_p} \longrightarrow \frac{m_e}{m_p} + \frac{\delta m_e(d_{m_e}, \rho, m_\phi)}{m_p}$$





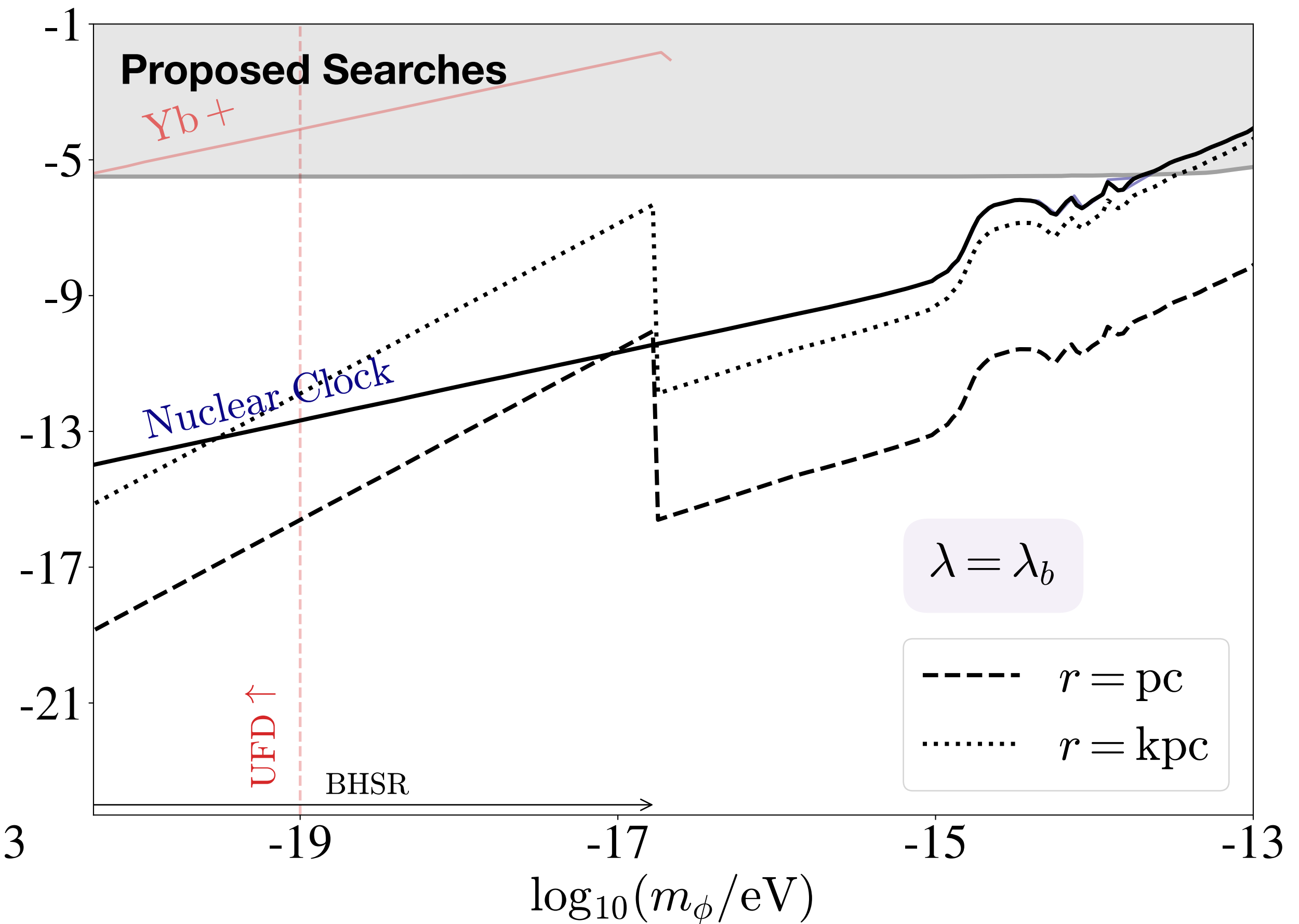
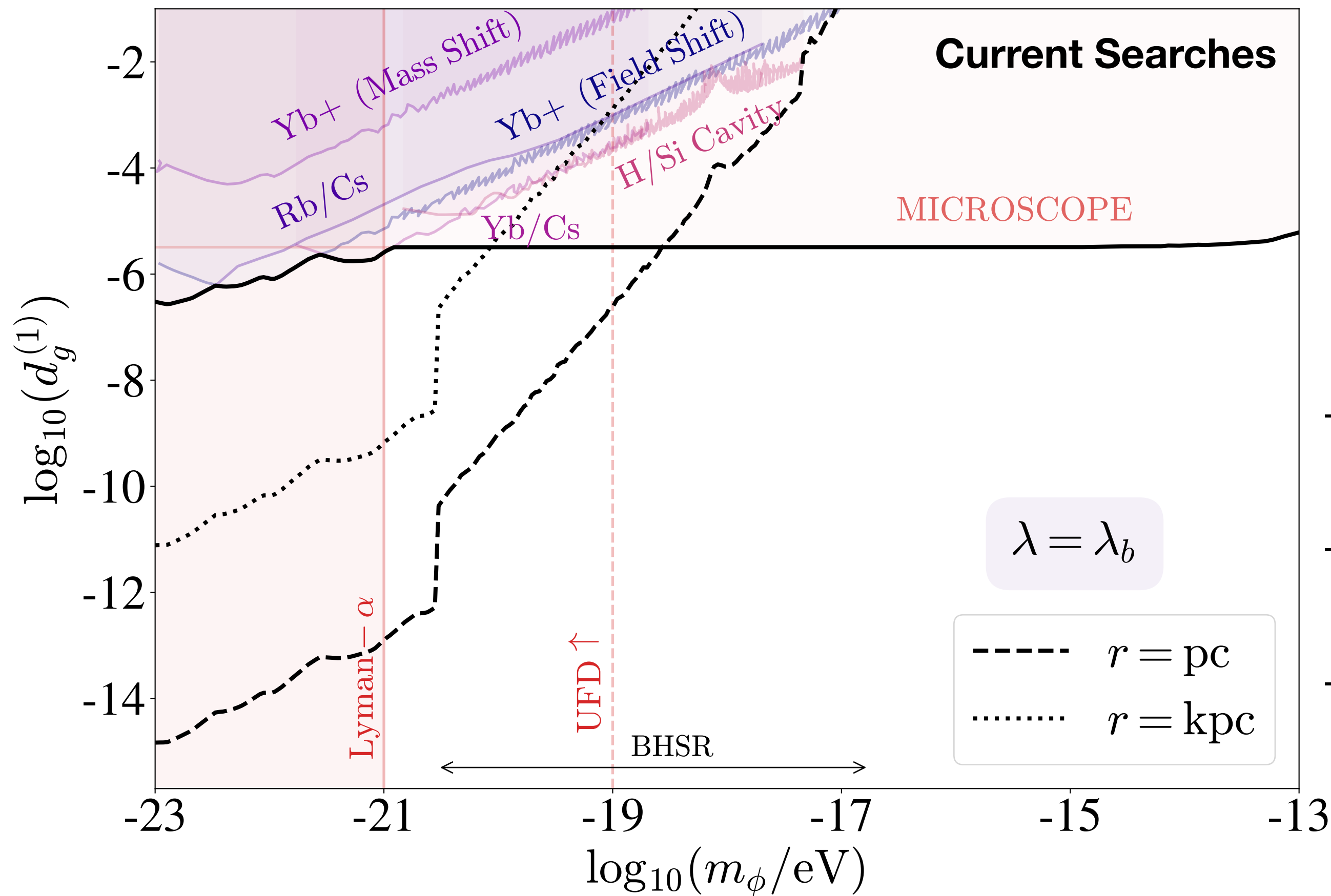
# Searches for Gluon Couplings

Coupling to gluons

$$\mathcal{L} \supset d_g \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} G^{a\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

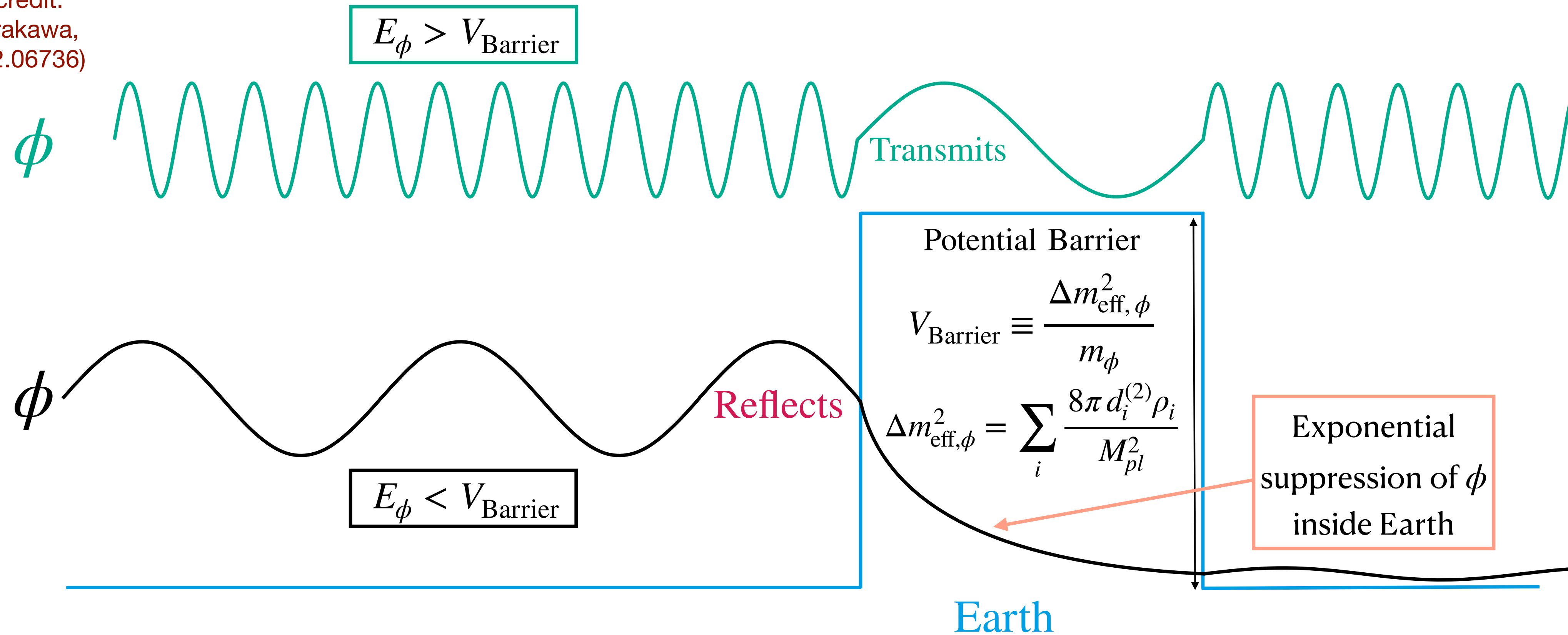
Oscillation of ratio of quark mass to QCD scale

$$\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \rightarrow \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} + \delta \left( \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \right) (d_g, \rho, m_\phi)$$



# Screening (Quadratic Couplings)

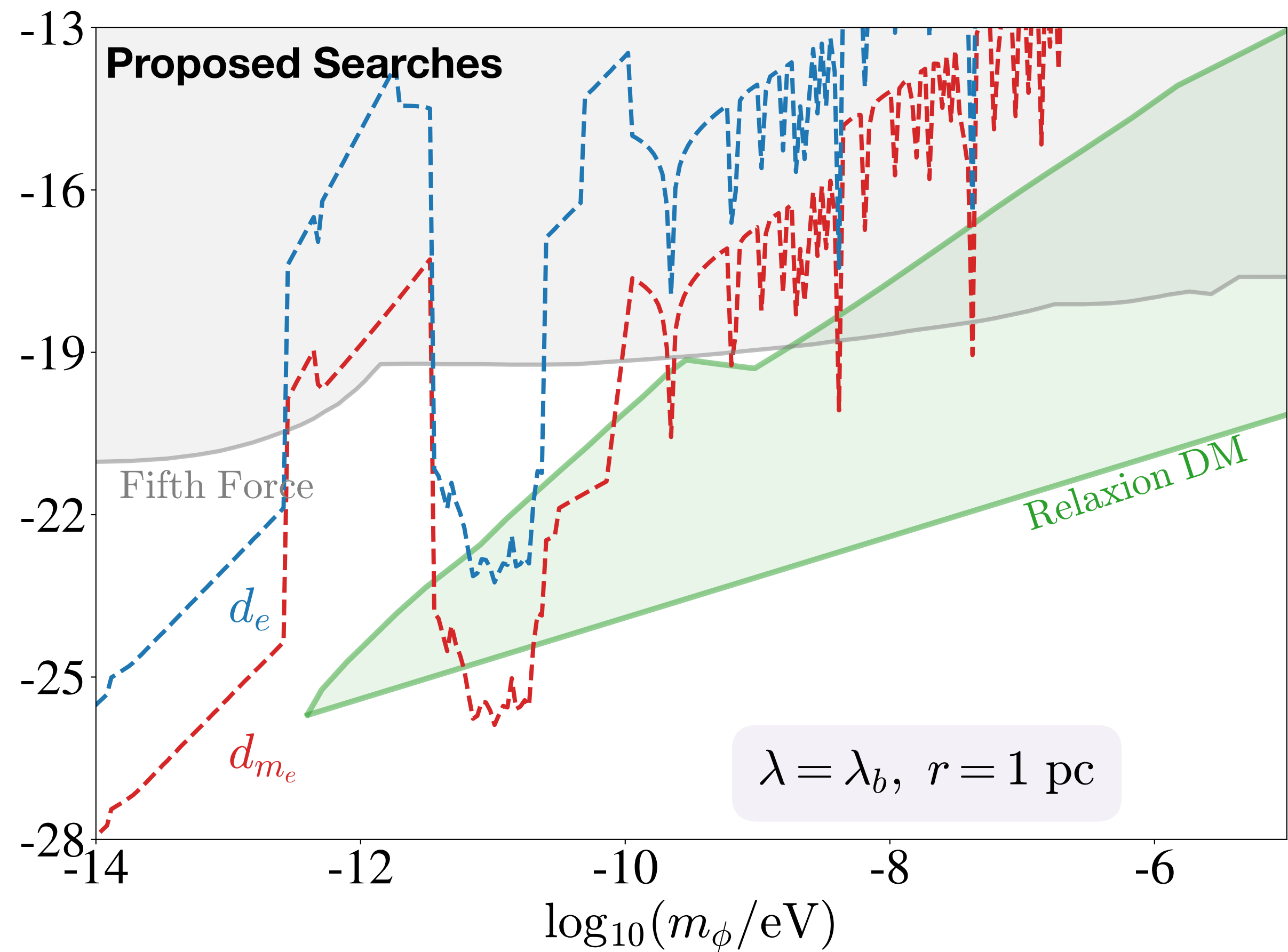
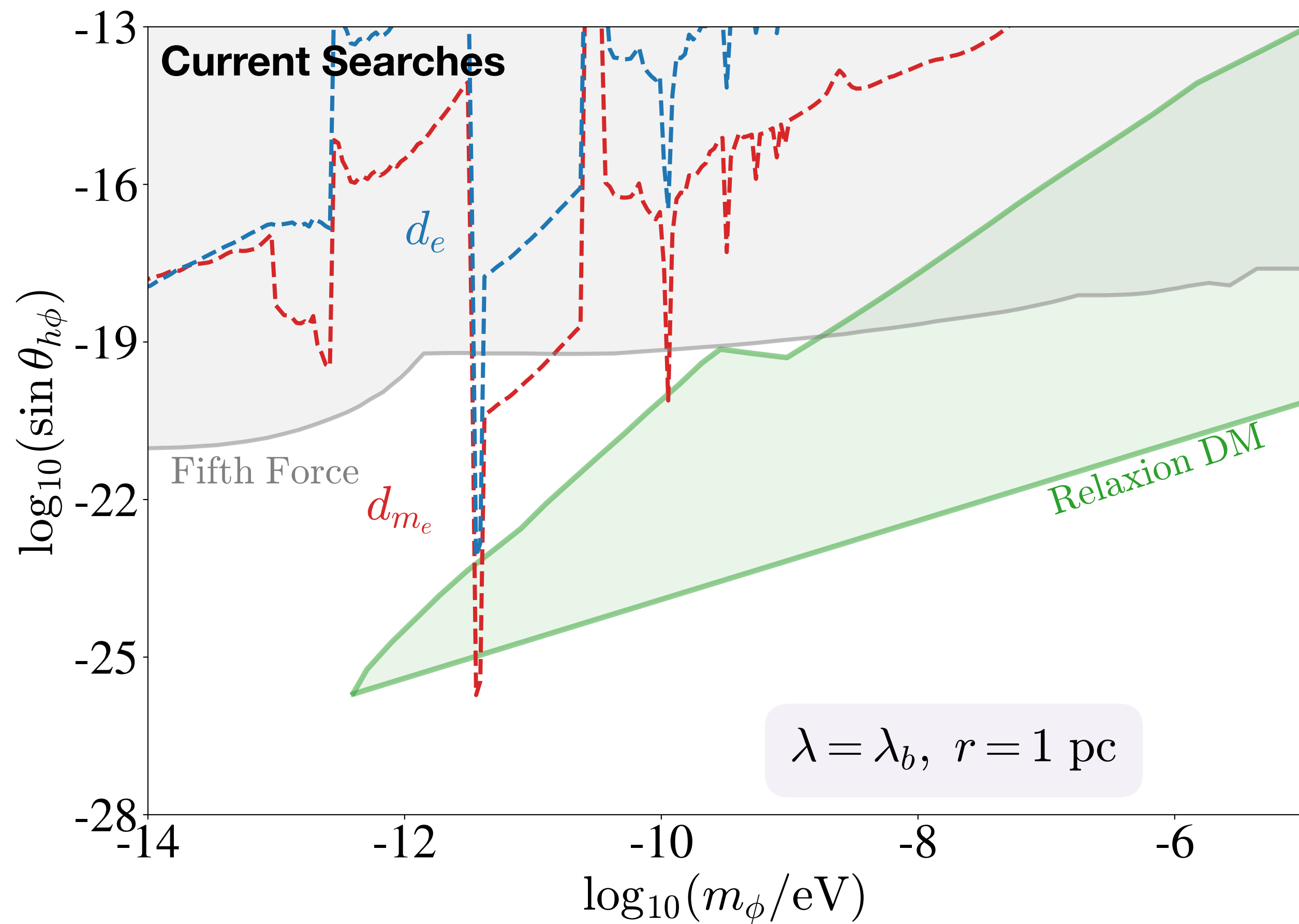
Image credit:  
Jason Arakawa,  
see (2402.06736)



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2 + d_{m_e}^{(2)} \left( \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 m_e \bar{e}e \simeq \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2 + d_{m_e}^{(2)} \left( \frac{\phi}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 \rho_e \simeq \frac{m_\phi^2 + \Delta m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$



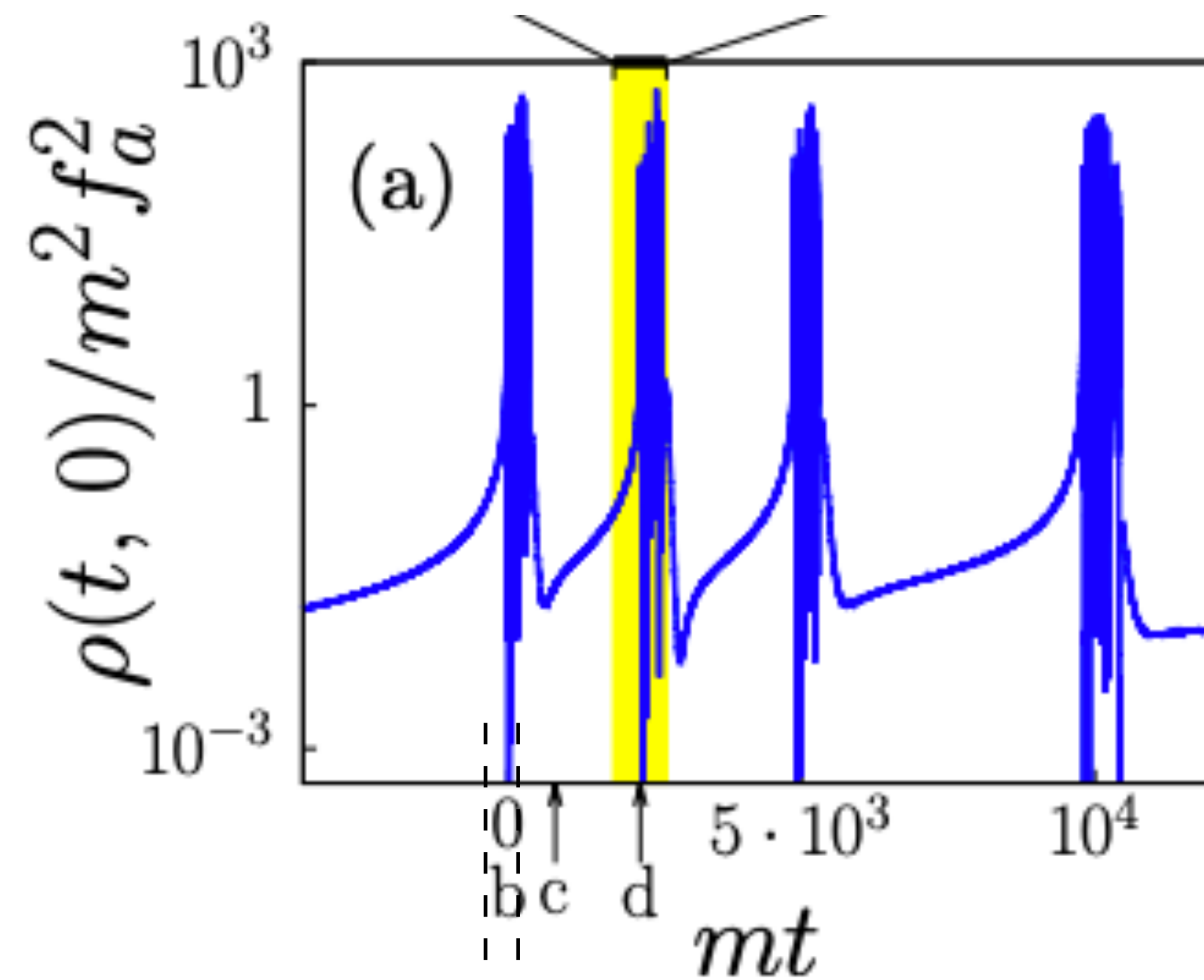
# Search for Relaxion DM



# Simulation Results

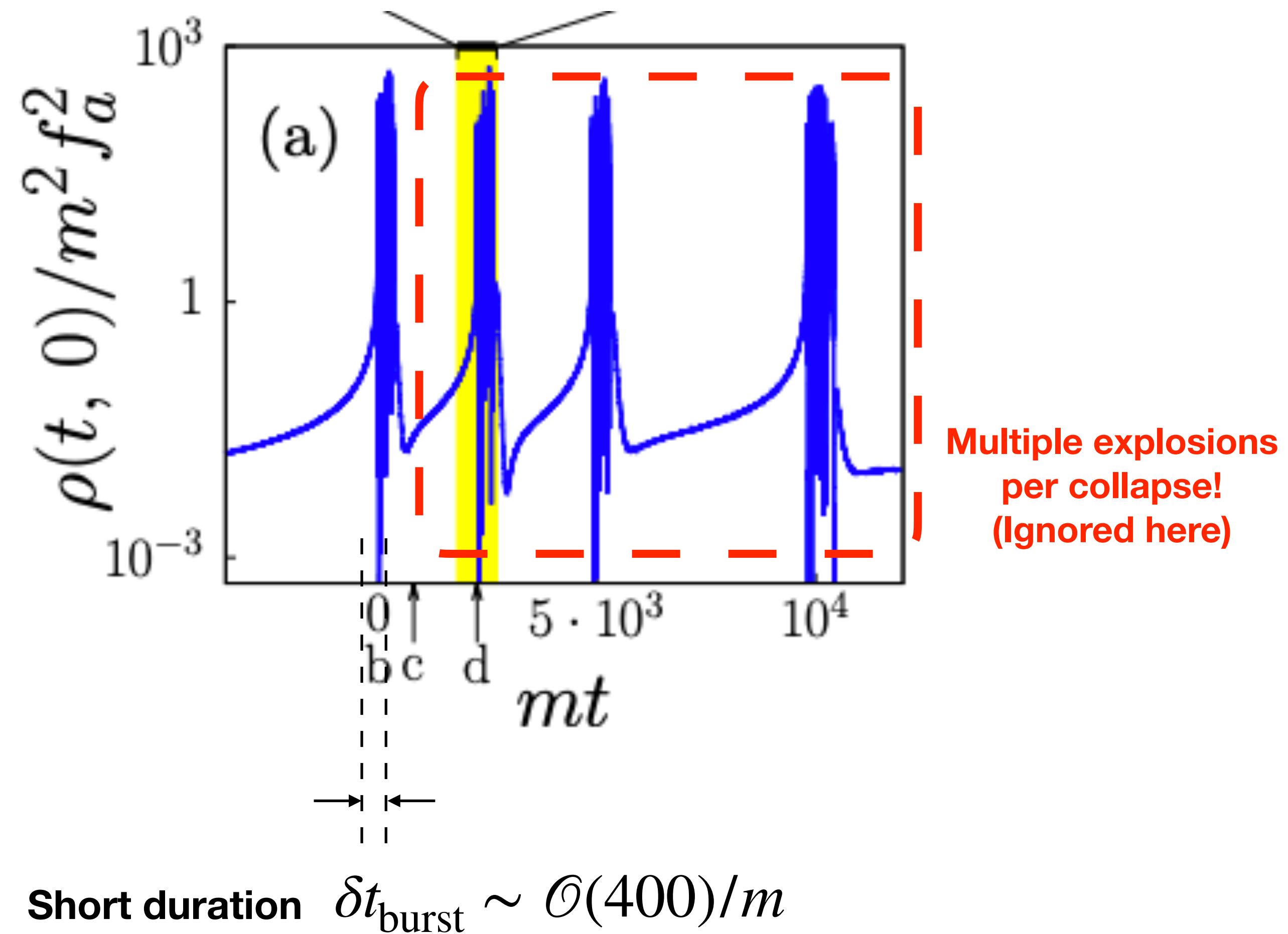


# Simulation Results



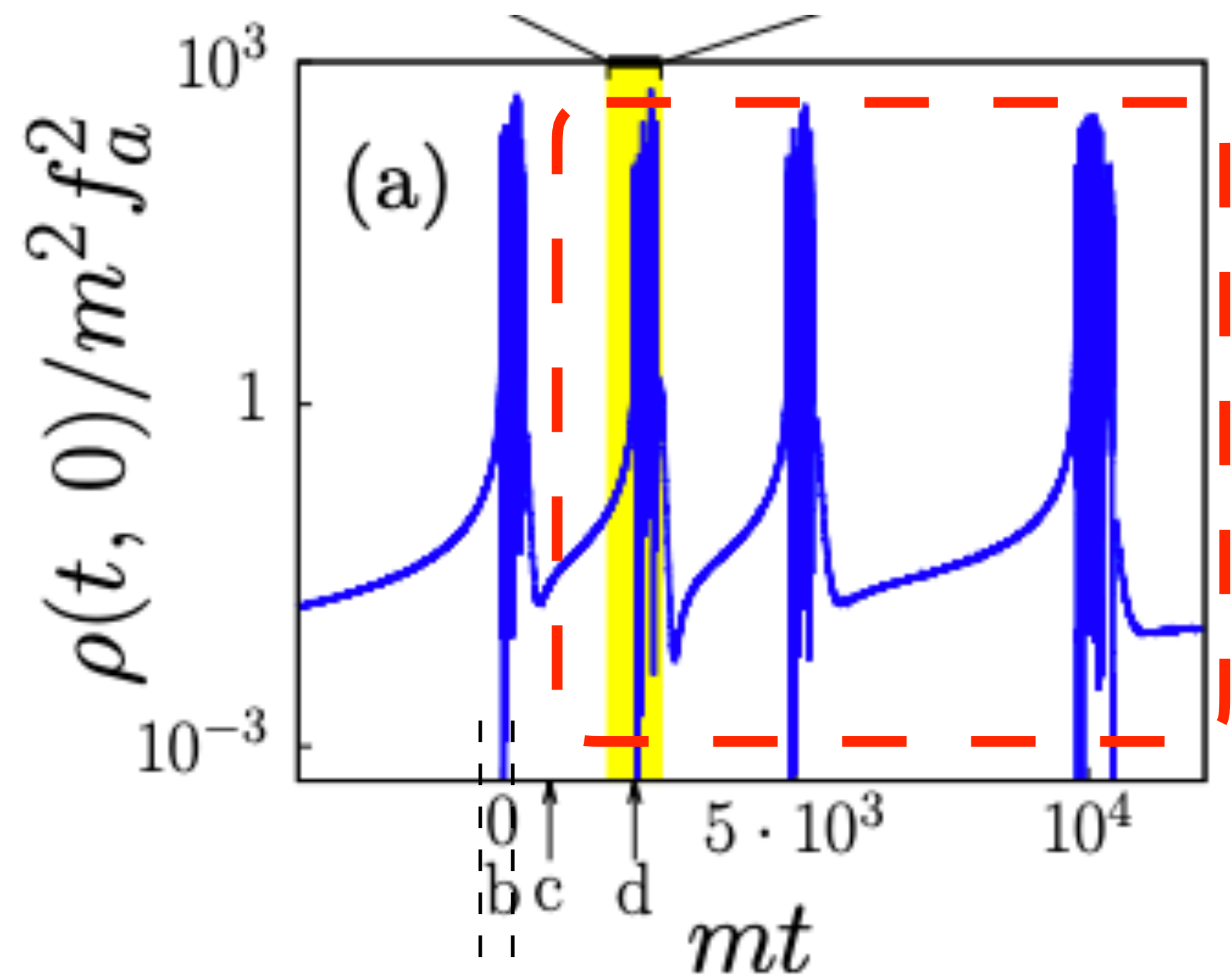
Short duration  $\delta t_{\text{burst}} \sim \mathcal{O}(400)/m$

# Simulation Results

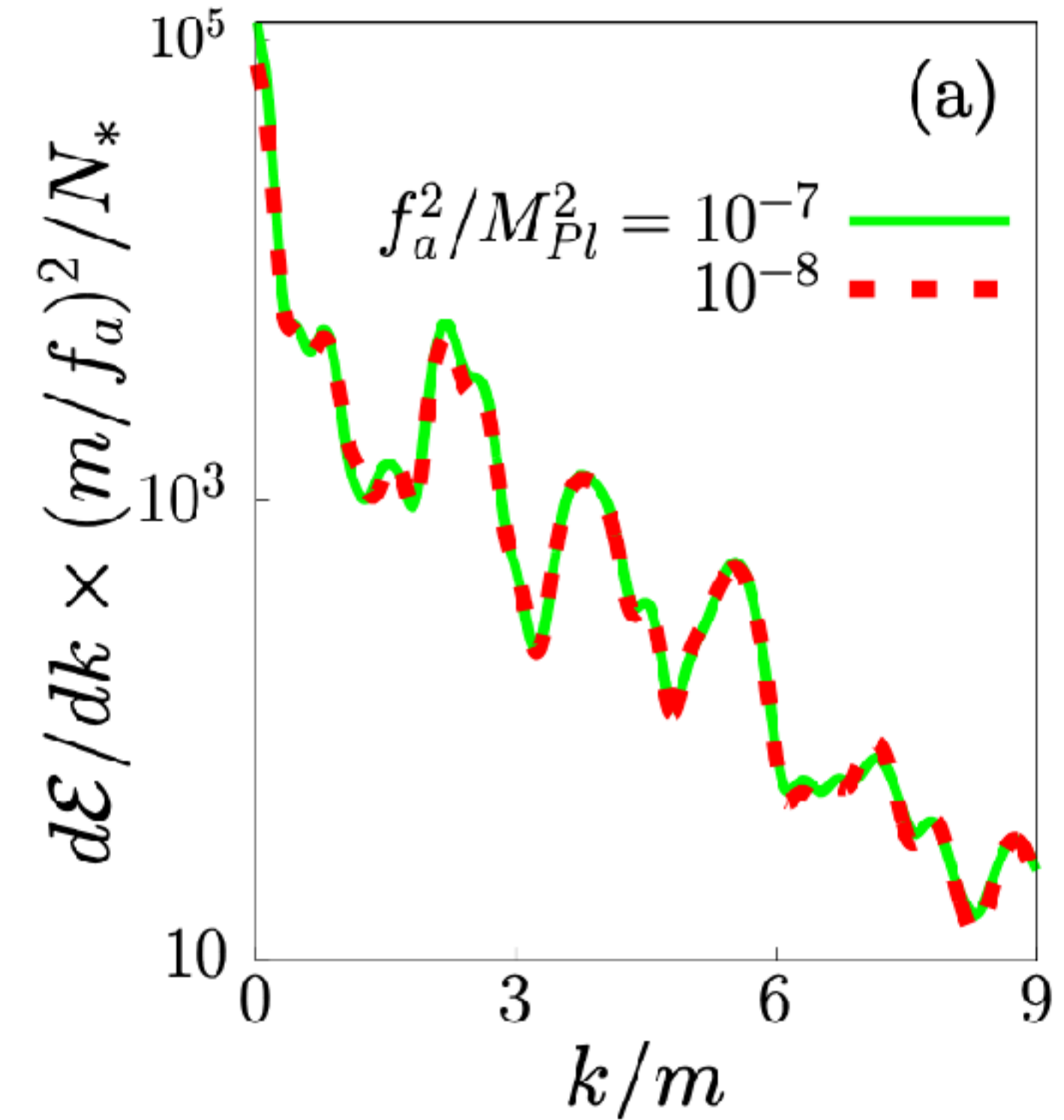




# Simulation Results

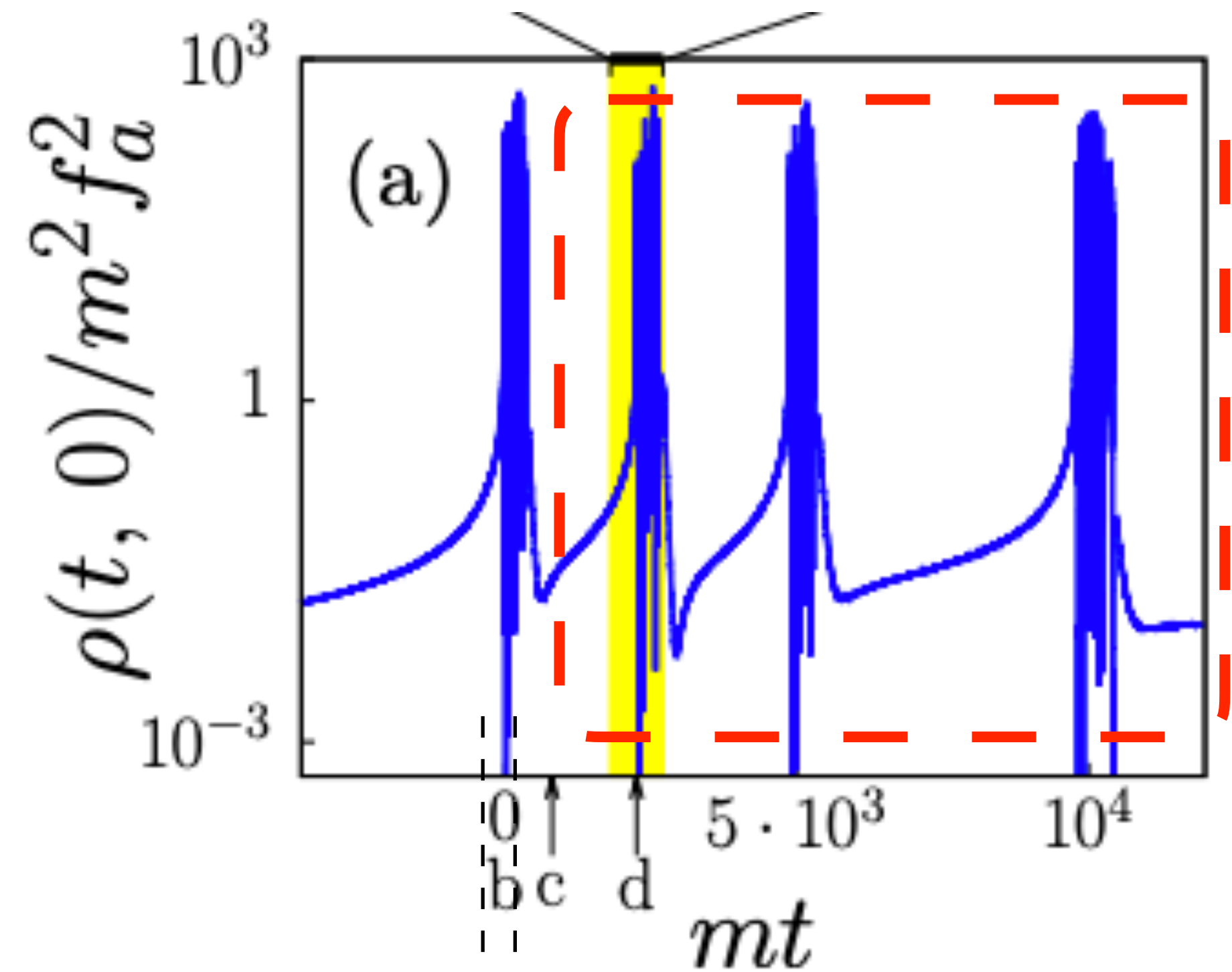


Multiple explosions  
per collapse!  
(Ignored here)



Short duration  $\delta t_{\text{burst}} \sim \mathcal{O}(400)/m$

# Simulation Results

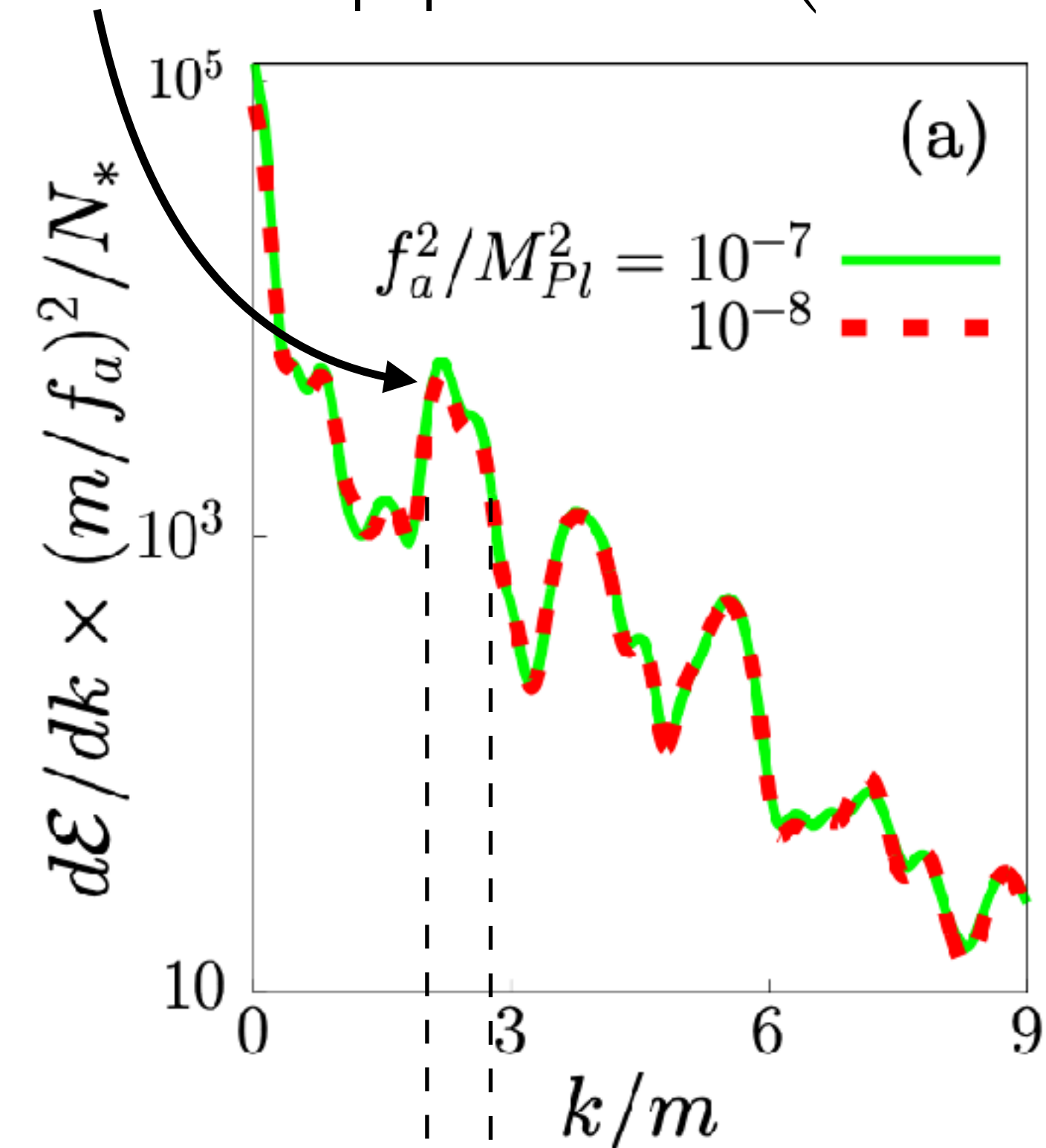


Multiple explosions  
per collapse!  
(Ignored here)

Short duration  $\delta t_{\text{burst}} \sim \mathcal{O}(400)/m$

Large integrated energy! In first peak alone,  

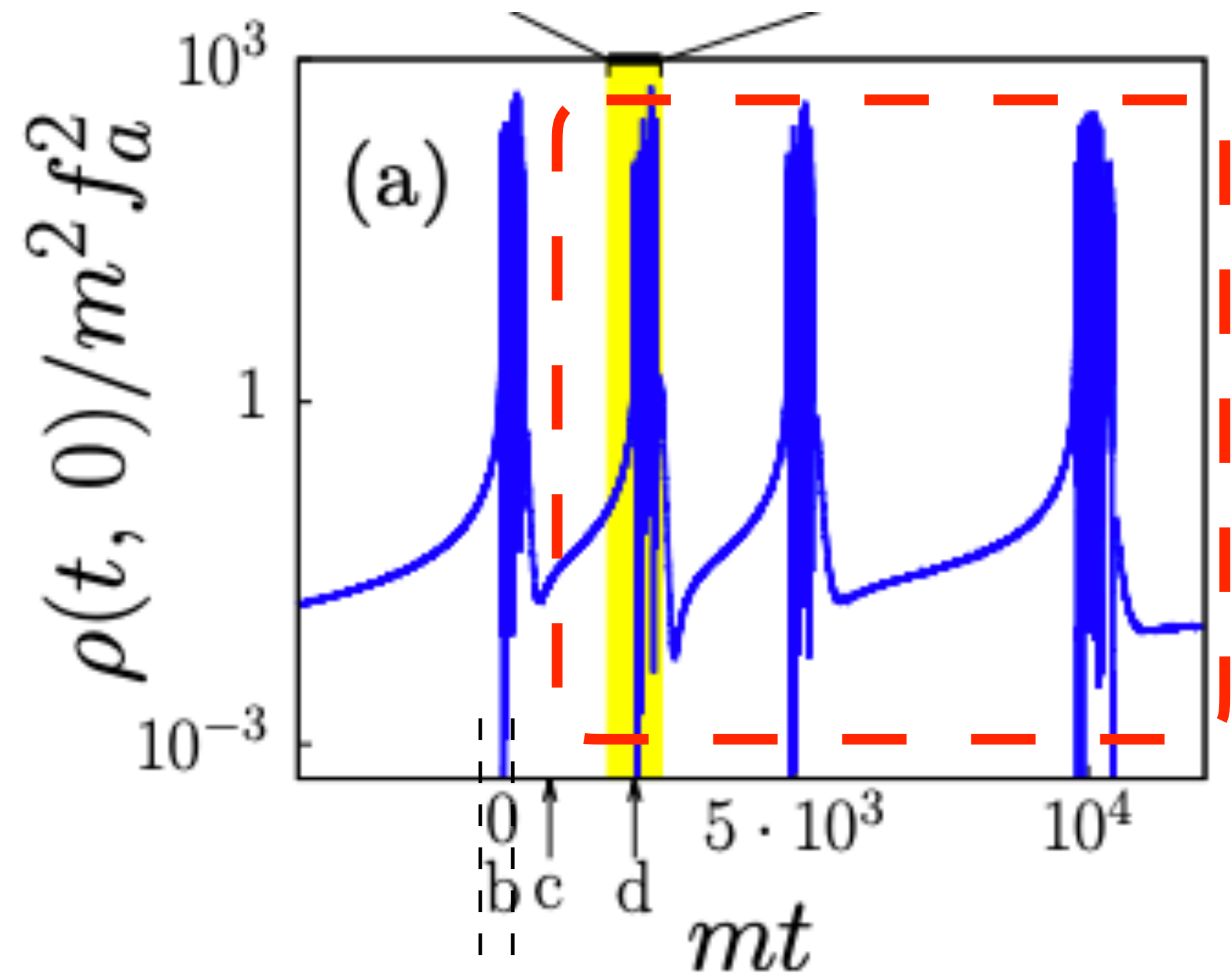
$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{peak}} \approx 3400 \frac{m}{|\lambda|} \simeq 10^2 M_{\odot} \left( \frac{f}{10^{16} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \frac{10^{-15} \text{ eV}}{m}$$



Momentum peak  $k_0 \simeq 2.4 m$   
with spread of  $\delta k \sim m$



# Simulation Results

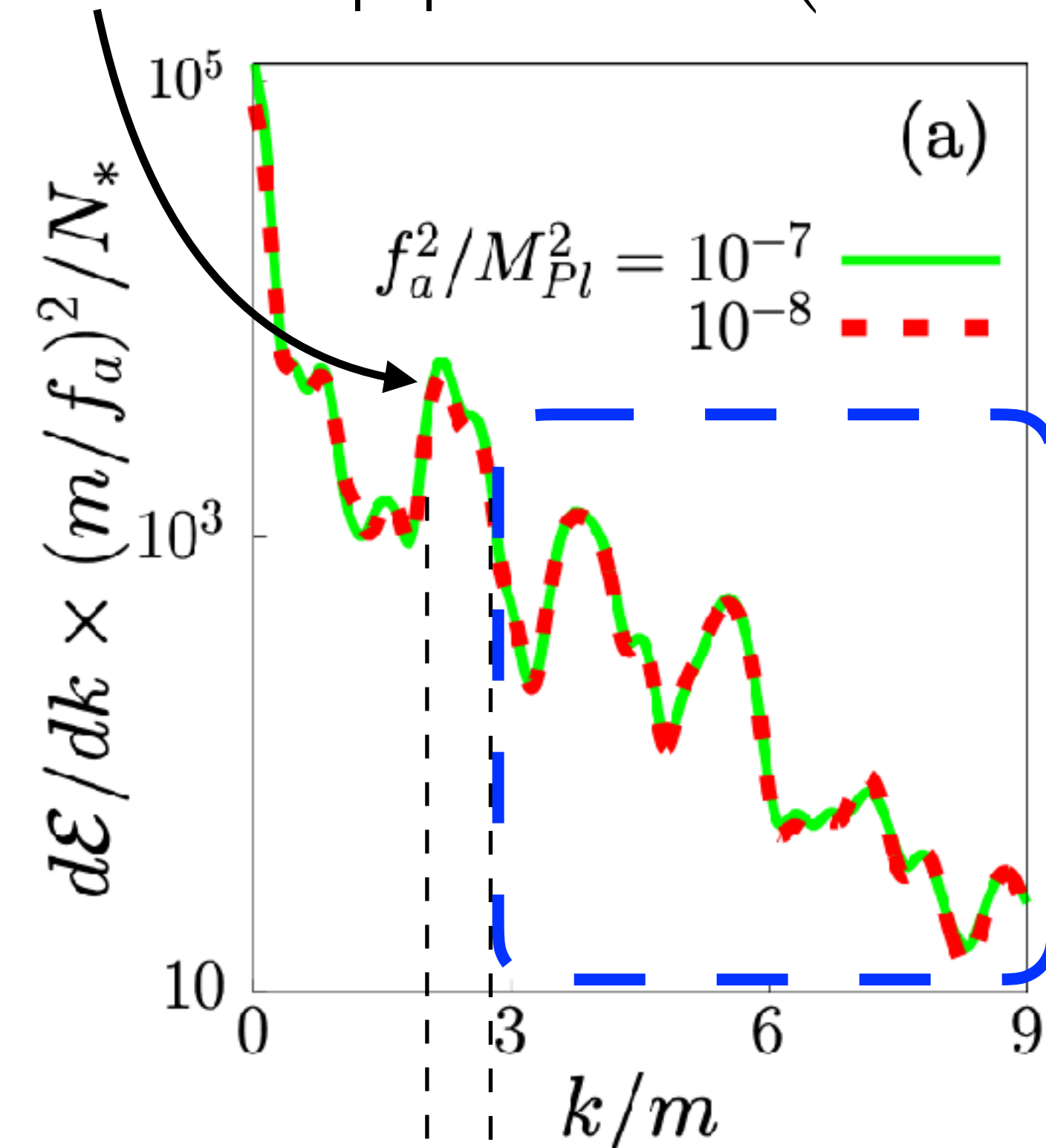


Multiple explosions  
per collapse!  
(Ignored here)

Short duration  $\delta t_{\text{burst}} \sim \mathcal{O}(400)/m$

Large integrated energy! In first peak alone,  

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{peak}} \approx 3400 \frac{m}{|\lambda|} \simeq 10^2 M_{\odot} \left( \frac{f}{10^{16} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \frac{10^{-15} \text{ eV}}{m}$$

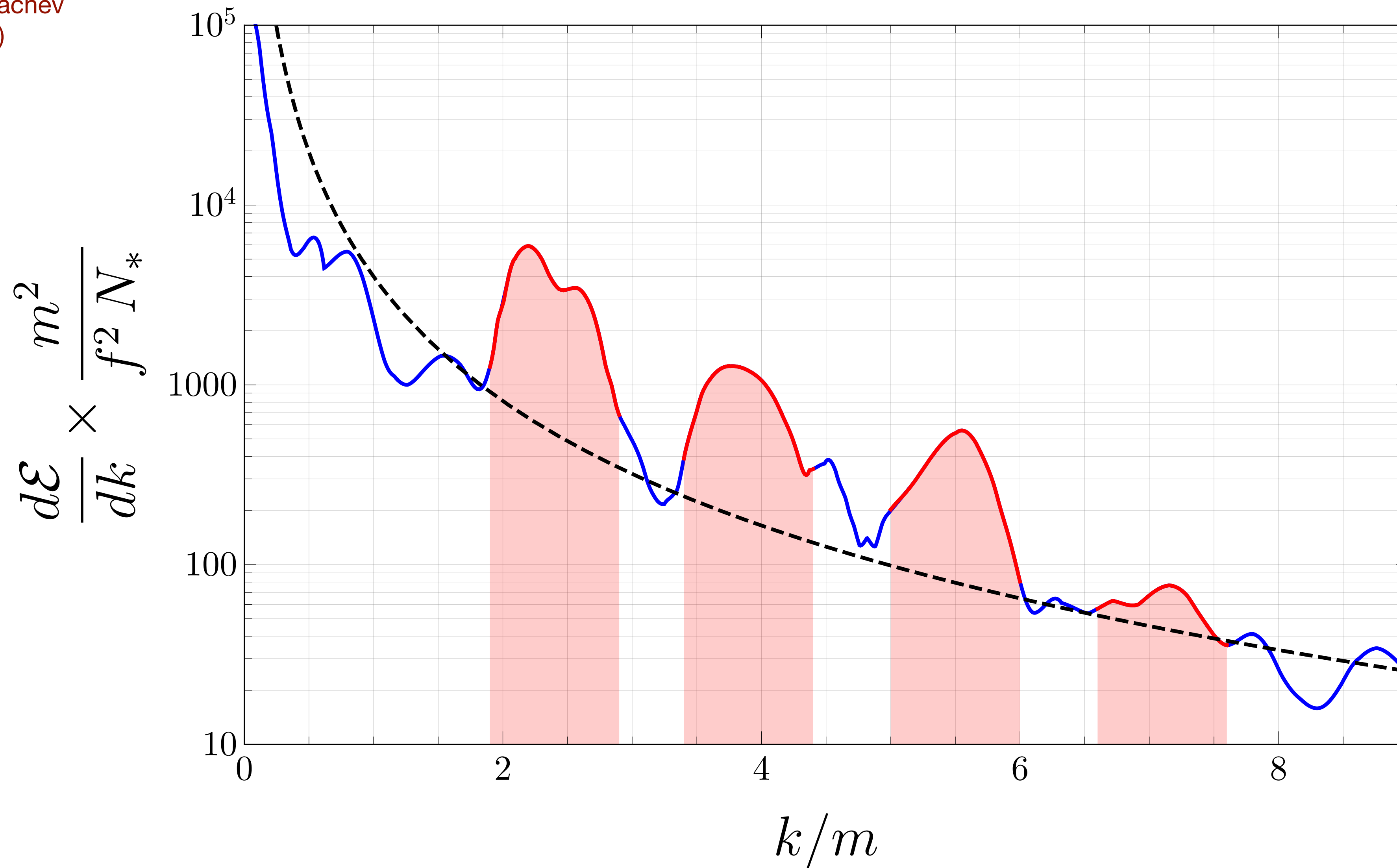


Higher-energy peaks!  
(Ignored here)

Momentum peak  $k_0 \simeq 2.4 m$   
with spread of  $\delta k \sim m$

# Emission Spectrum from Boson Star Collapse

Levkov, Panin, Tkachev  
(1609.03611)





# Other Sources of Bursts

