

The Heavy Dark Photon: Cosmological and Astrophysical Bounds revised

Jaeyoung Park(Seoul National University)

with Andrea Caputo(CERN), Francesco D'Eramo(University of Padova)
and Seokhoon Yun(IBS,CTPU-PTC)

Work in progress

Dark Photon

-One of the simple extension of Standard Model

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}F_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_{\gamma'}^2}{2}A'_\mu A'^\mu \Rightarrow \varepsilon e A'_\mu J_{\text{EM}}^\mu$$

A'_μ	Dark photon field	$F'_{\mu\nu}$	Dark photon field strength
$m_{\gamma'}$	Dark photon mass	ε	Kinetic mixing parameter

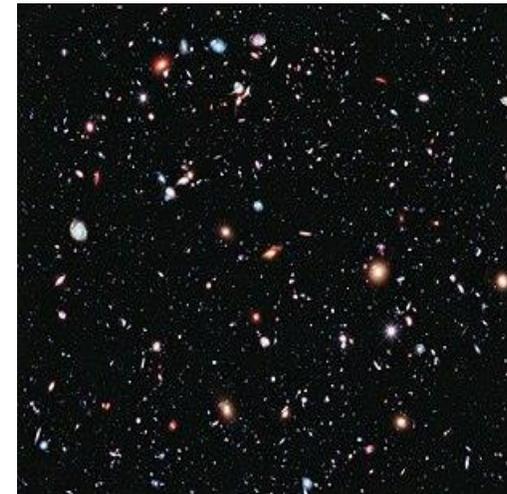
MeV Dark Photon

Supernovae as dark photon factory

- Internal temperature $T \sim \text{MeV}$
- Dark photon modifies supernova observables

Dark photon in the early universe

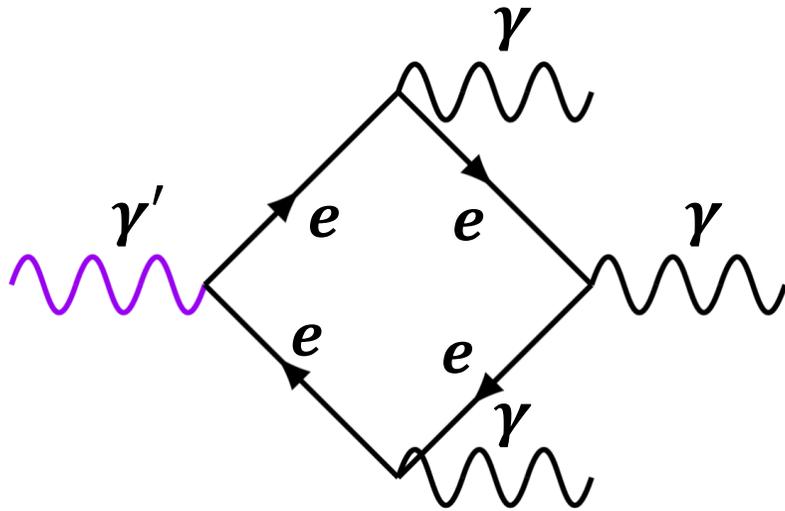
- Reheating temperature $\geq O(1) \text{ MeV}$
- Thermal production until $T_{\text{universe}} \sim m_{\gamma'}$
- Influence on cosmological phenomena



Pictures from Wikipedia

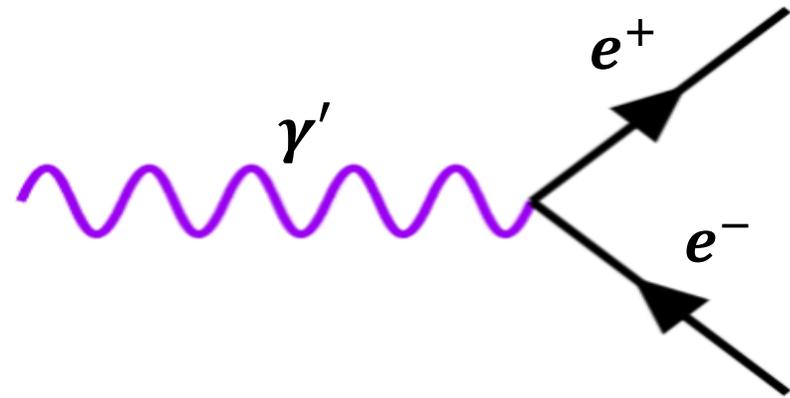
Lifetime of MeV Dark Photon

$$m_{\gamma'} < 2m_e$$



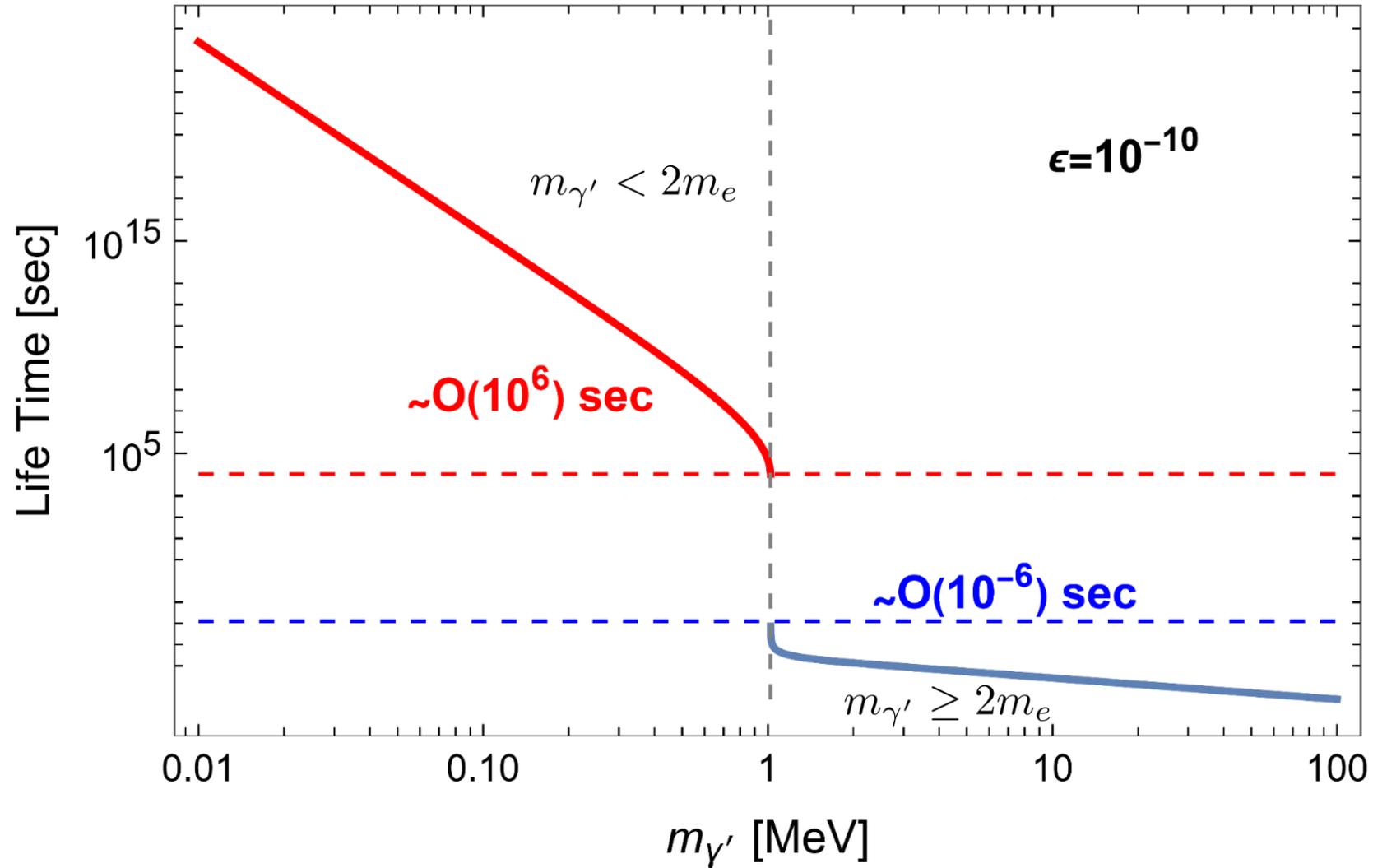
$$\Gamma \propto \varepsilon^2 \frac{m_{\gamma'}^8}{(2m_e)^8} m_{\gamma'}$$

$$m_{\gamma'} \geq 2m_e$$



$$\Gamma \propto \varepsilon^2 m_{\gamma'}$$

Lifetime of MeV Dark Photon



Plasma effect on Dark Photon

-Plasma effect changes refractive properties of each photon polarization $\pi_{T,L}$ which can be expressed with plasma frequency ω_{pl}

-These changes modify coupling between dark photon and EM current

$$\varepsilon e \frac{m_{\gamma'}^2}{m_{\gamma'}^2 - \pi_{T,L}} A'_{\mu} J_{EM}^{\mu}$$

-When $m'_{\gamma} \approx \text{Re } \pi_{T,L}$: effective photon mass, resonant enhancement

Contents

1. Introduction

2. Astrophysical Dark Photons

- Supernova as dark photon factory

- Dark photon effect on supernova observables

 - :SN Cooling, Low energy explosion, Prompt Gamma ray, Positron injection, Fireball formation, Diffuse Gamma-ray

3. Cosmological Dark Photons

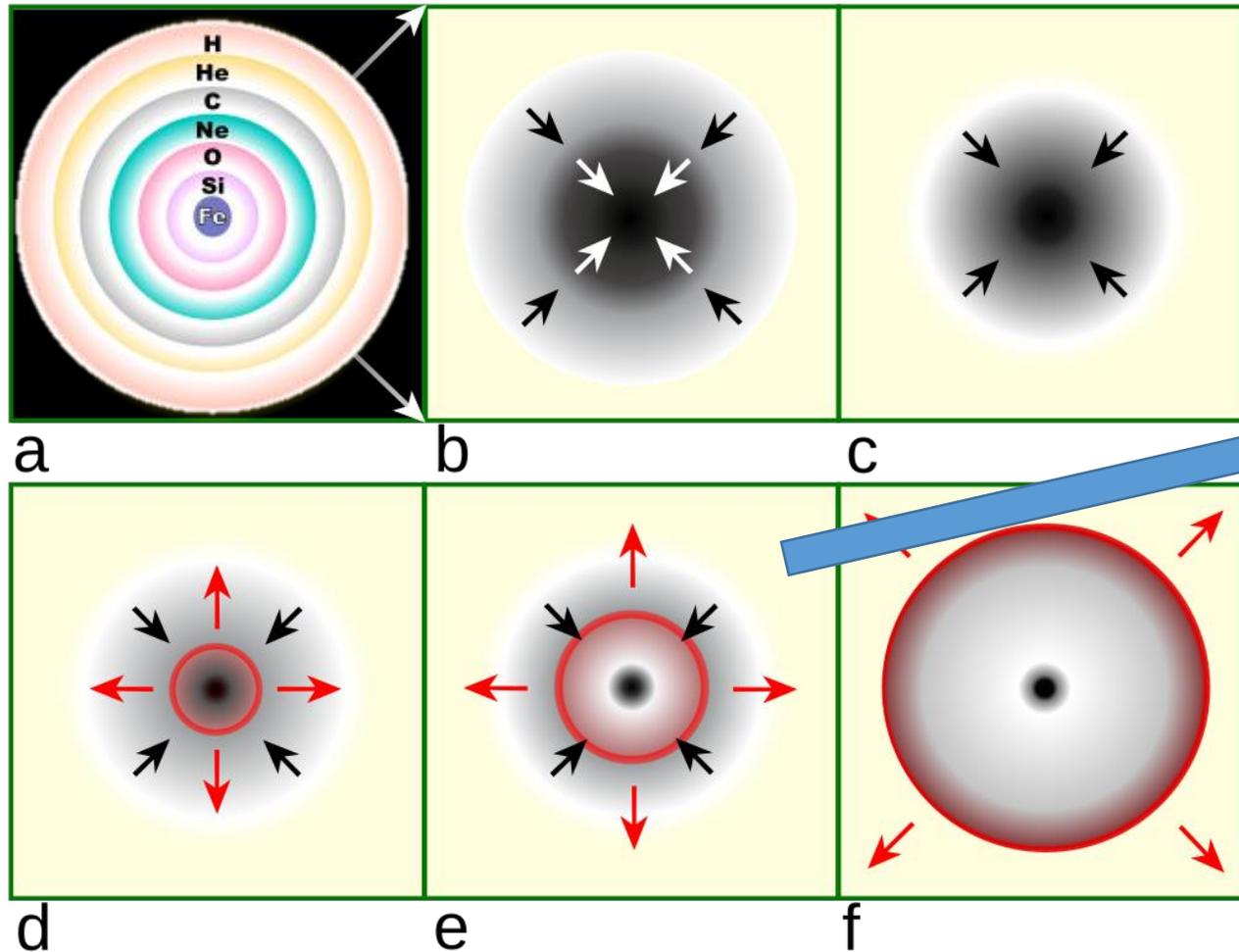
- Dark photon freeze-in abundance

- Astrophysical & Cosmological consequences

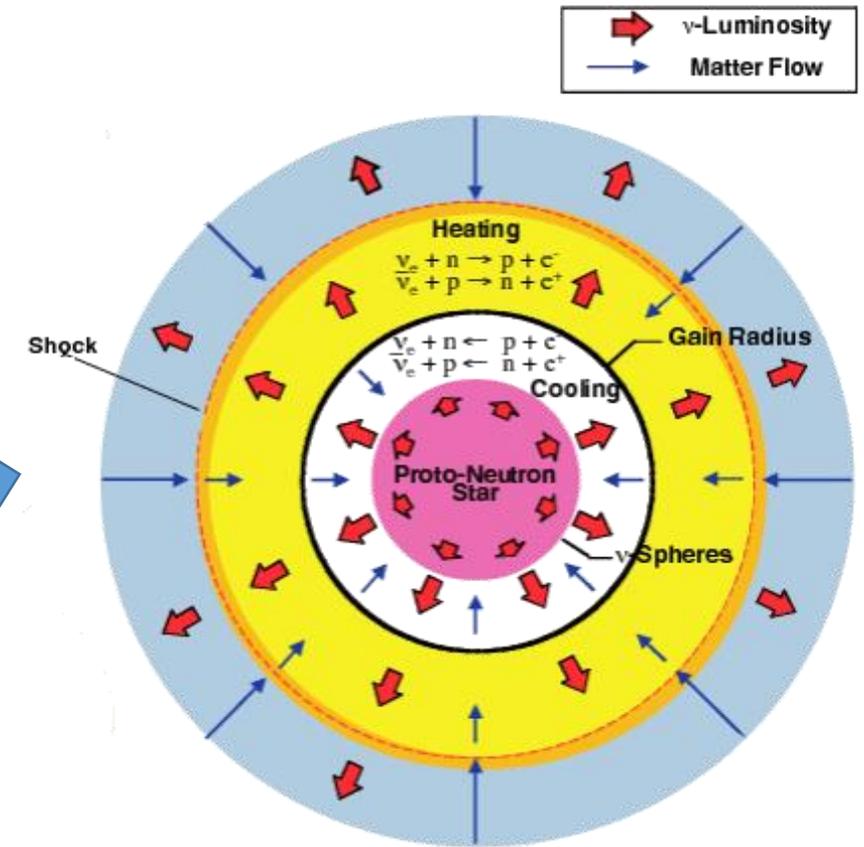
 - :Extra-/Galactic X-ray & CMB/BBN/ ΔN_{eff}

Astrophysical Dark Photons

Core- Collapse SN



Wikipedia, Type II Supernova with modification

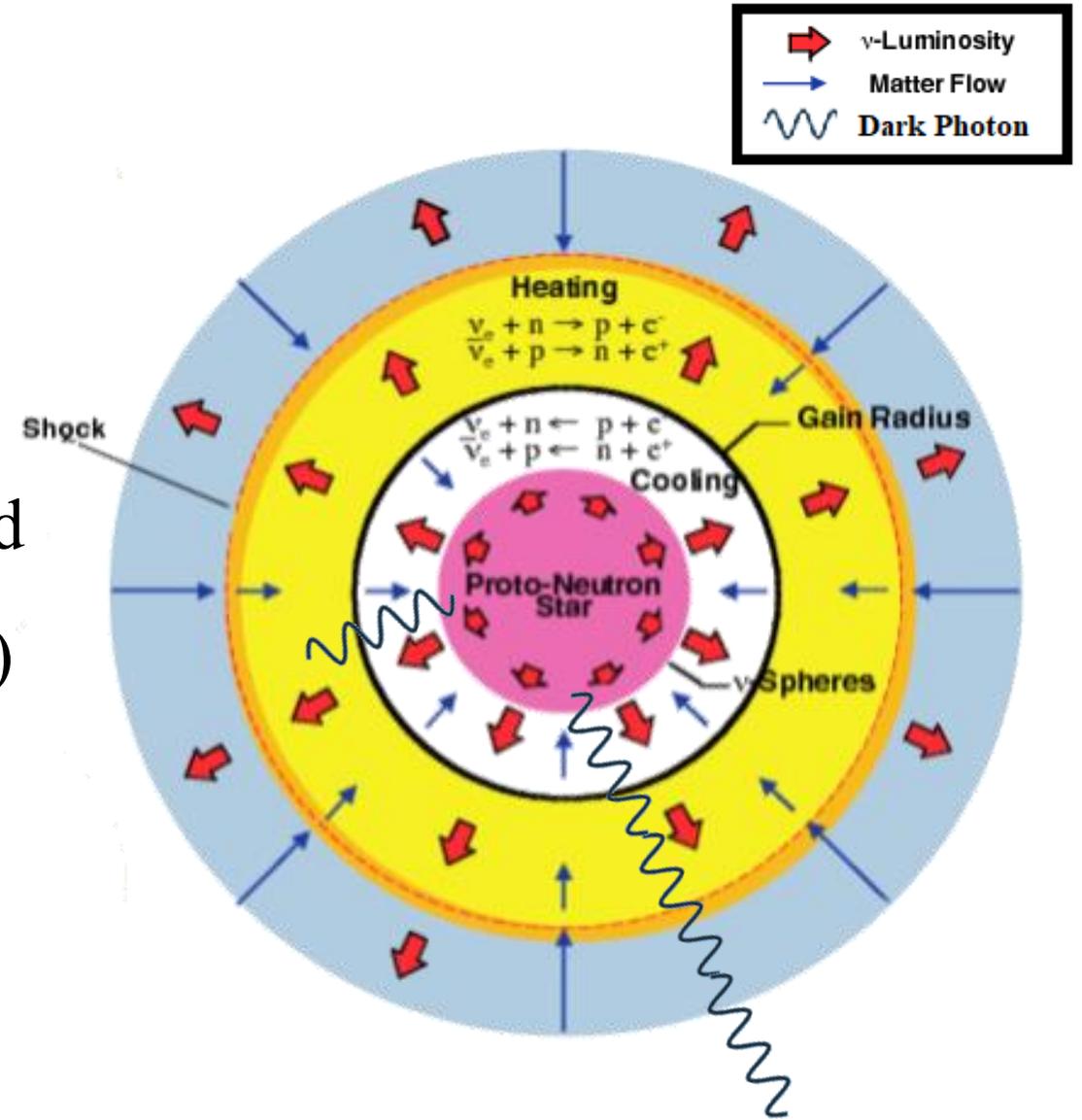


Tharrington, Arnold & Messer, Bronson & Hoffman, Forrest. (2006). Overview of NLCF FY 2006 Allocations. CUG Proceedings. 1.

Dark photon in SN

$-T_{PNS} \sim 30 \text{ MeV}$

- Energetic dark photons from PNS decay into SM particles/are absorbed in PNS or in mantle(outside of PNS) or outside of progenitor star
- Dark photon can modify supernova observables



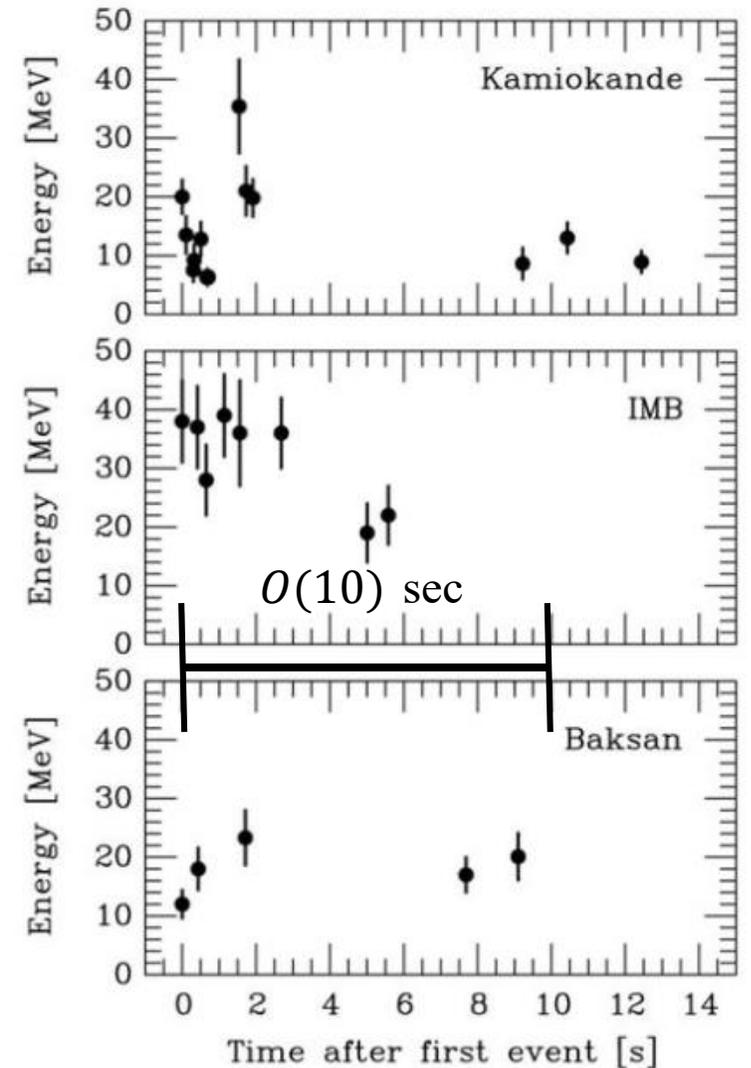
SN 1987a Cooling

Additional cooling indicates
shorter time scale of SN neutrino signal:

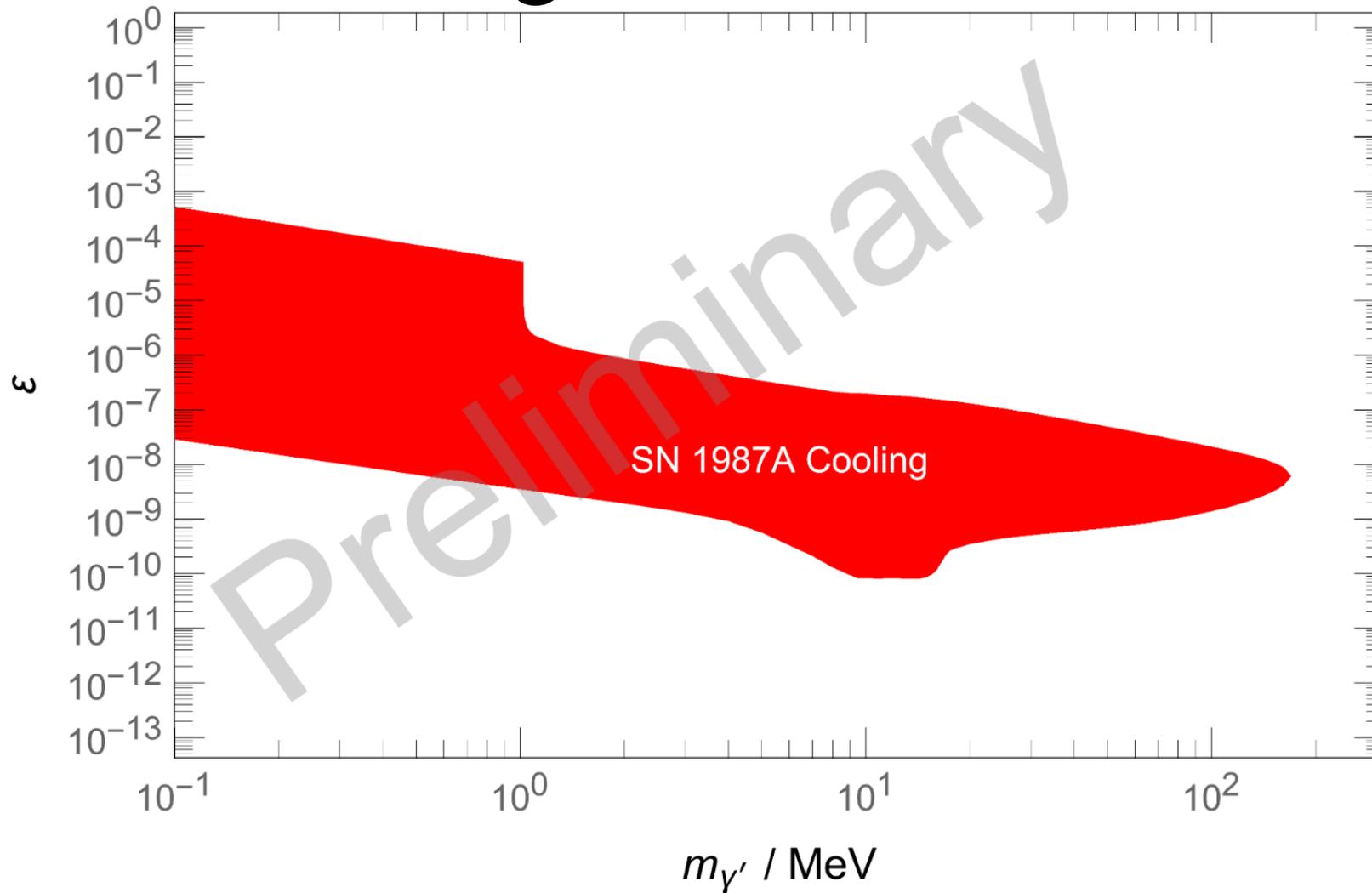
Raffelt's criterion

$$L_{DP} \leq L_{\nu} \text{ at 1 sec}$$

G.Raffelt, Stars as laboratories for
fundamental physics

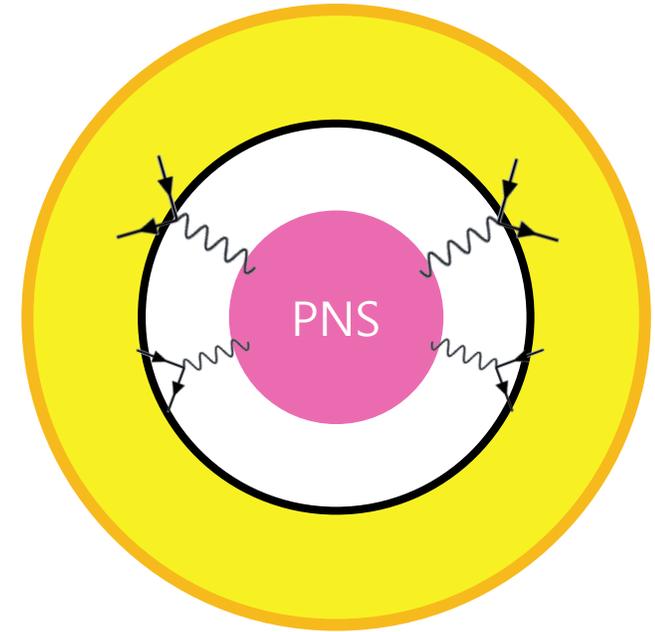
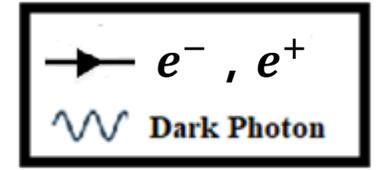


SN 1987a Cooling



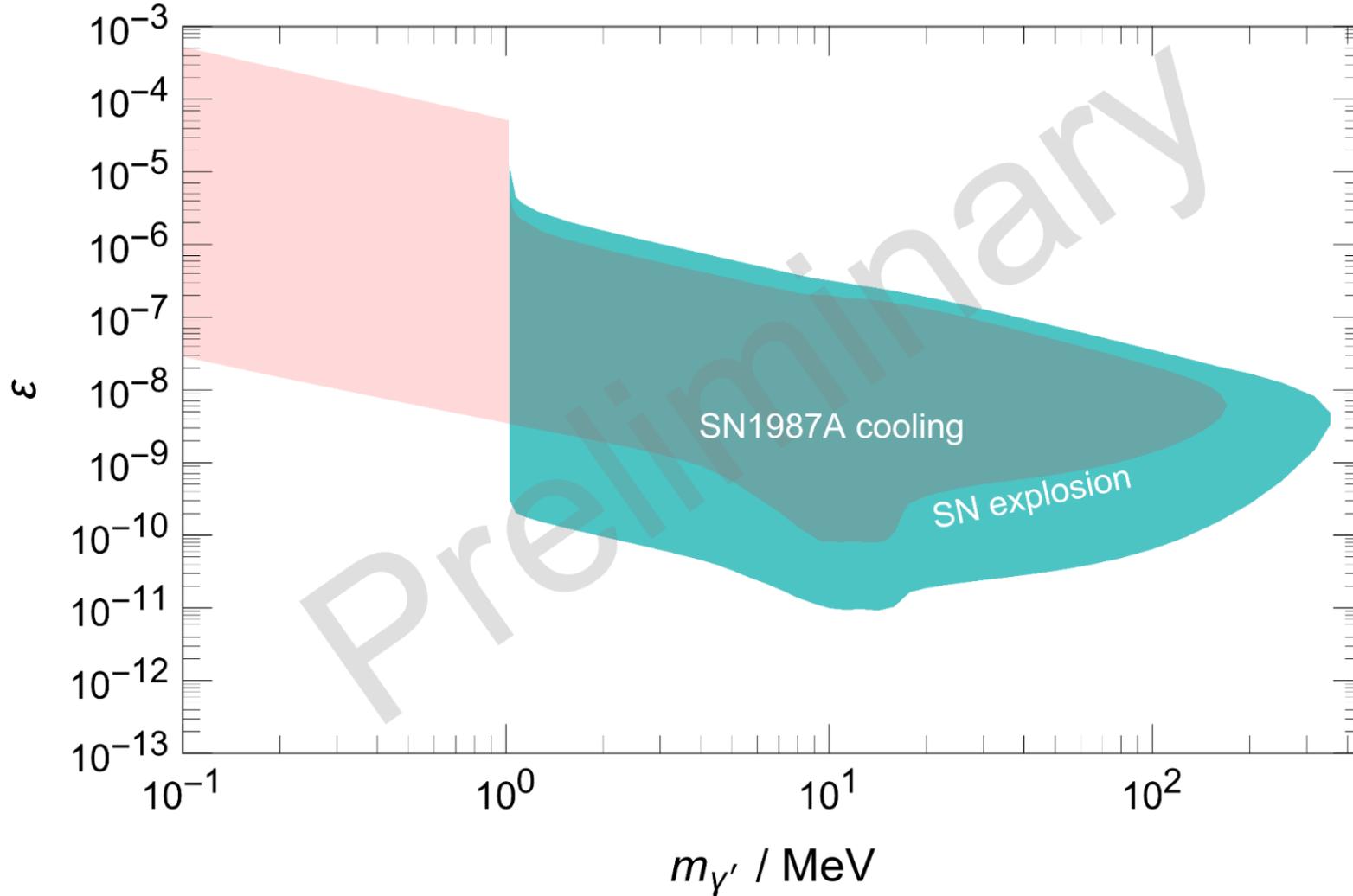
Low energy SN explosion

- Dark photon might dump its energy in the mantle
- Absorption process is not effective in mantle due to low density of charged particle
- Low energy SN explosion limits maximal energy from dark photon decay as $0.1B = 10^{50}$ erg
- Dark photon should decay before SN event end: Decay to e^+e^- pair



$$E_{\text{decay}} \leq 10^{50} \text{ erg}$$

Low energy SN explosion



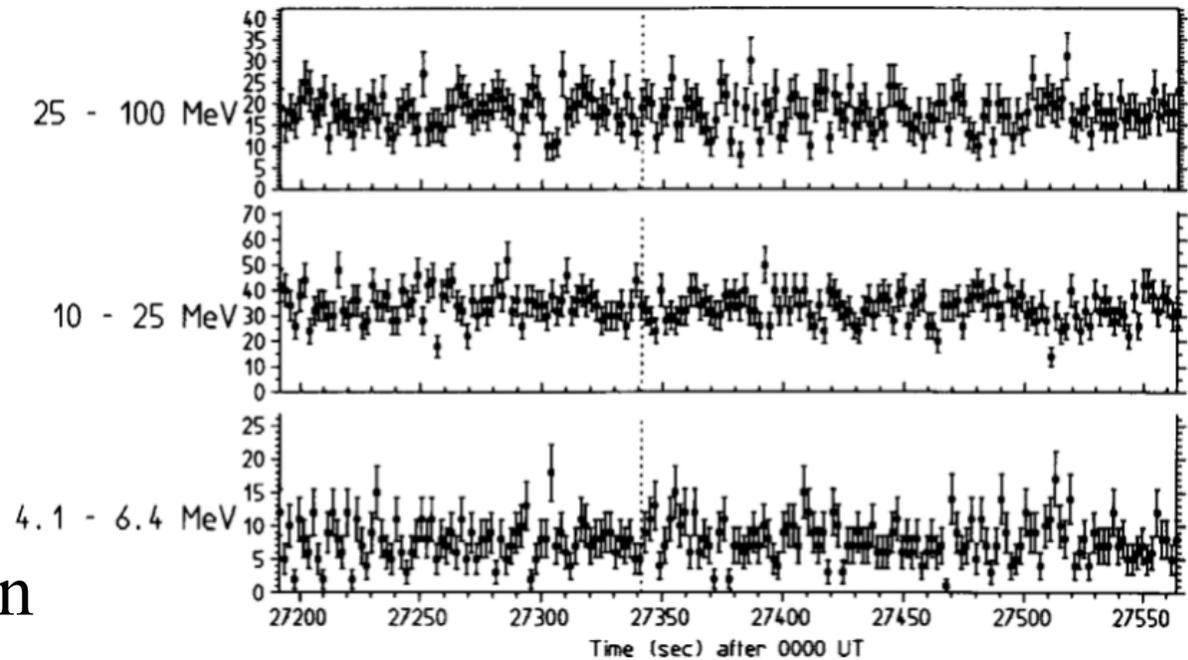
SN 1987a Prompt gamma ray

-Dark photon might decay outside,
which might generate photon(s)

-During SN 1987a event,

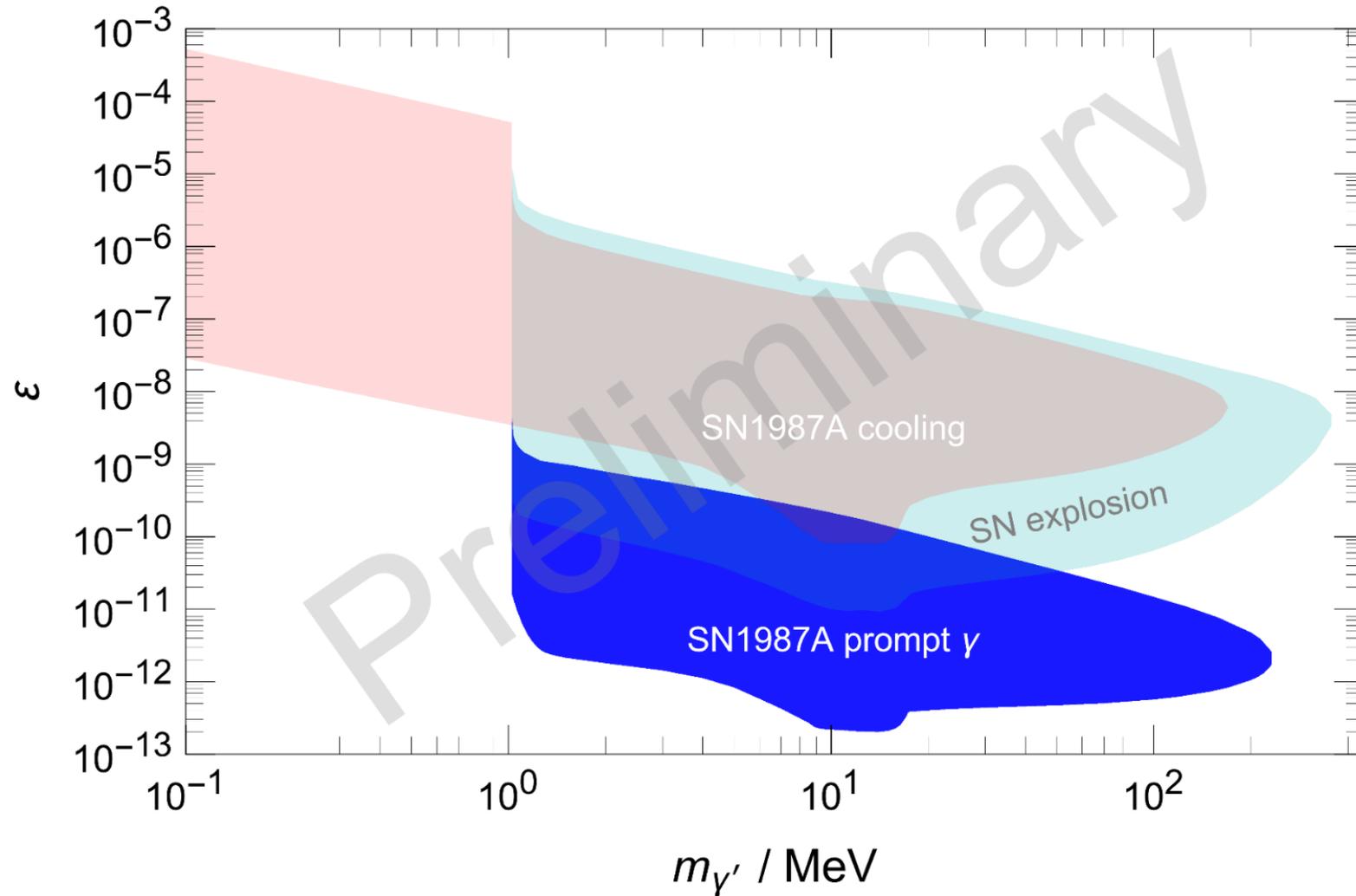
No excess on photon with 1~100
MeV energy

-If DP decay can generate such photon
with certain parameters, it should be
ruled out



L. Oberauer. et.al 1993

SN 1987a Prompt gamma ray



Positron injection

-Along with prompt gamma ray,

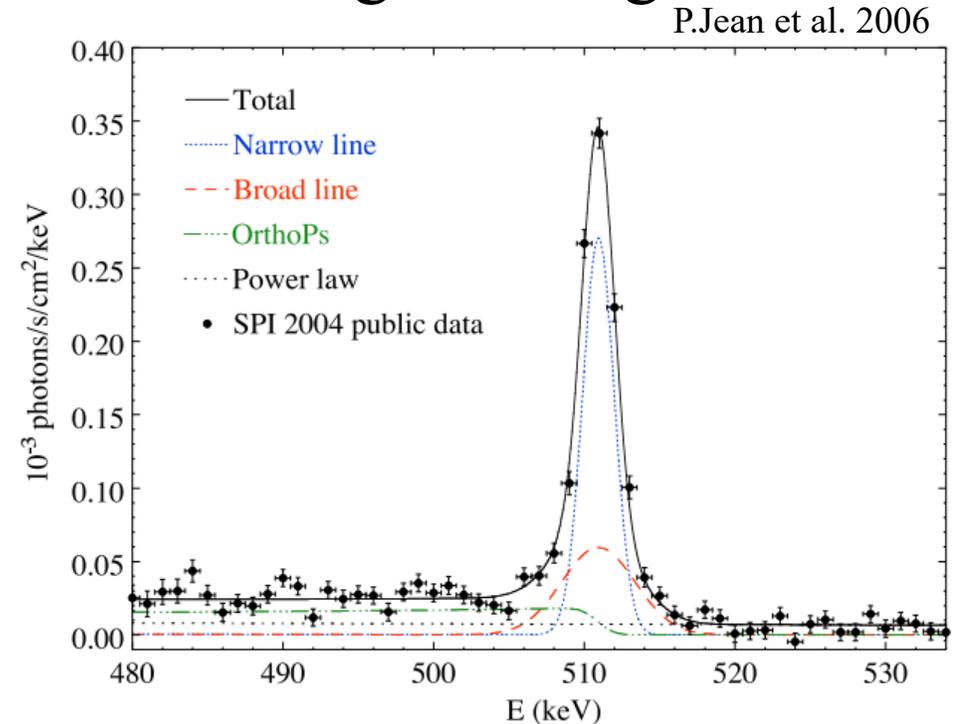
dark photon decay at outside of progenitor star can generate galactic

positron injection

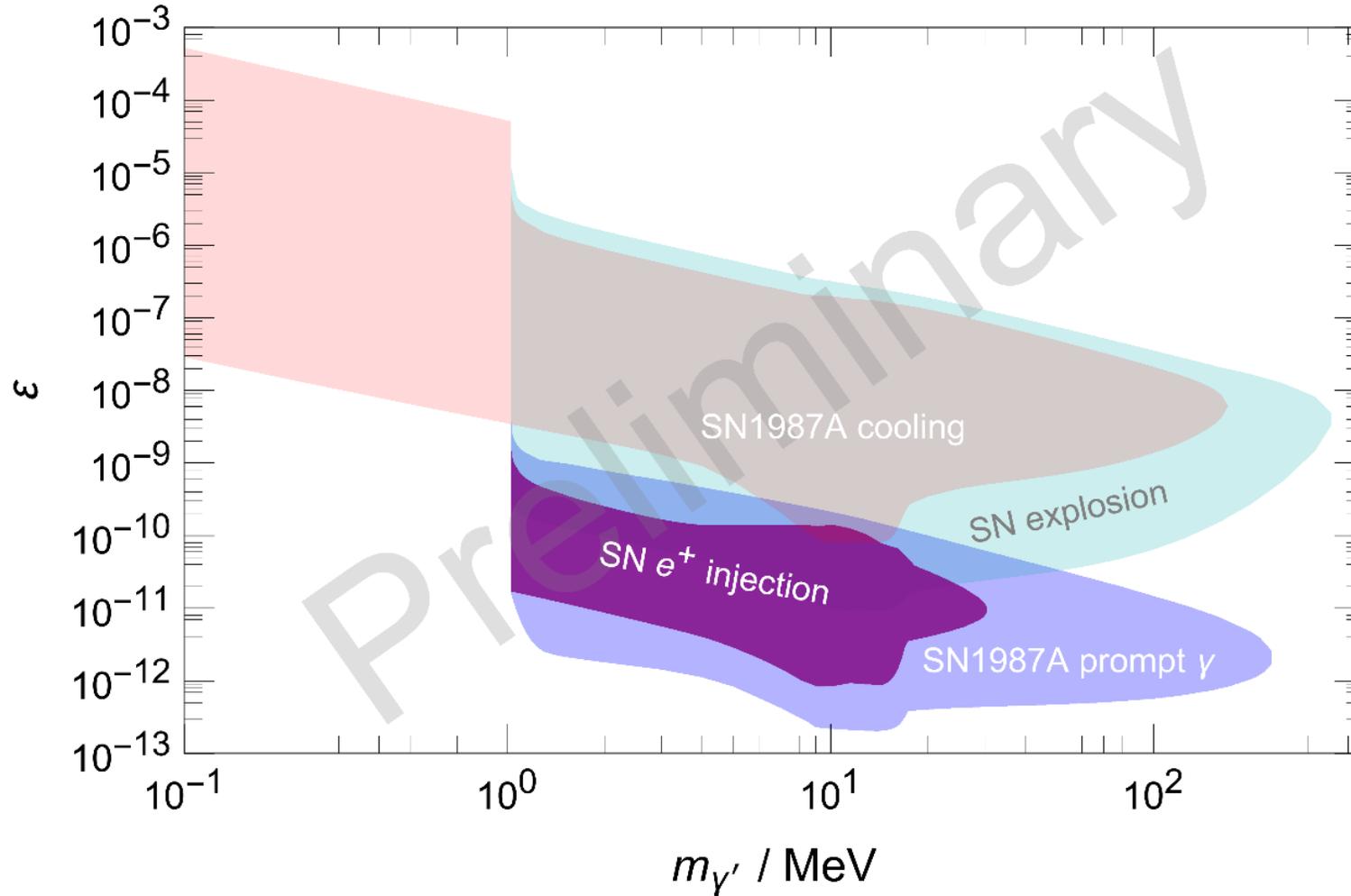
-From INTEGRAL/SPI 511 keV line,

Maximum positron injection rate:

$$P_{e^+} \leq O(10^{43}) \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

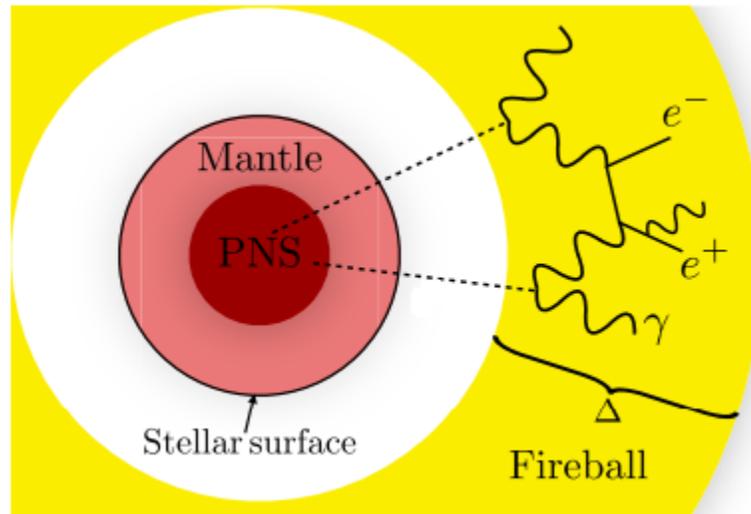


Positron injection



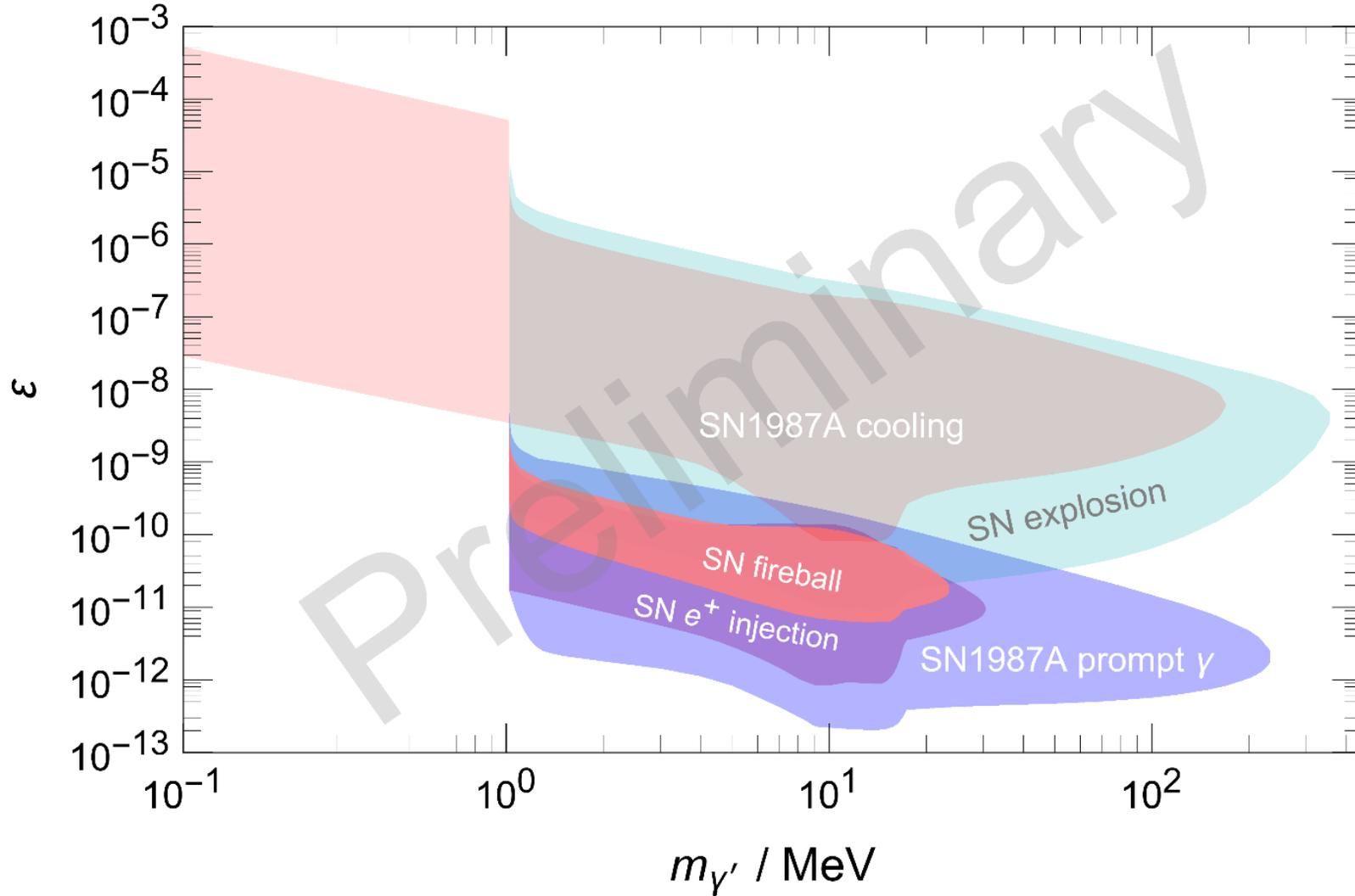
Fireball formation

- Fireball(optically thick plasma) formation might occur around SN
- Fireball changes the estimated photon spectrum and positron injection rate
- Pierre Venus Orbiter(PVO) indicated SN1987a event excludes the fireball formation



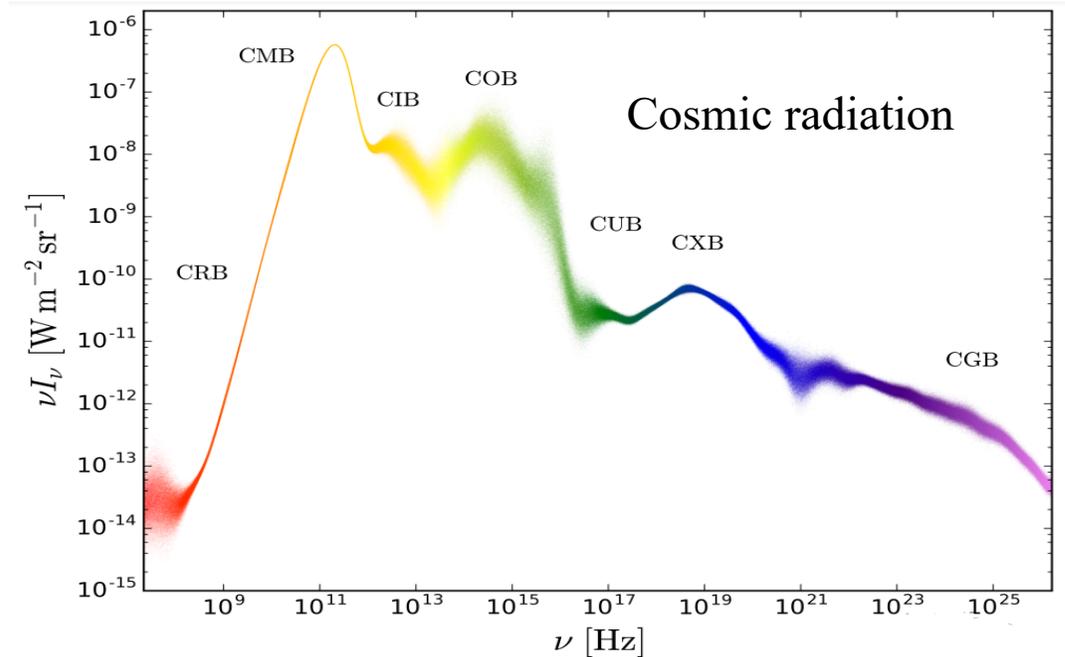
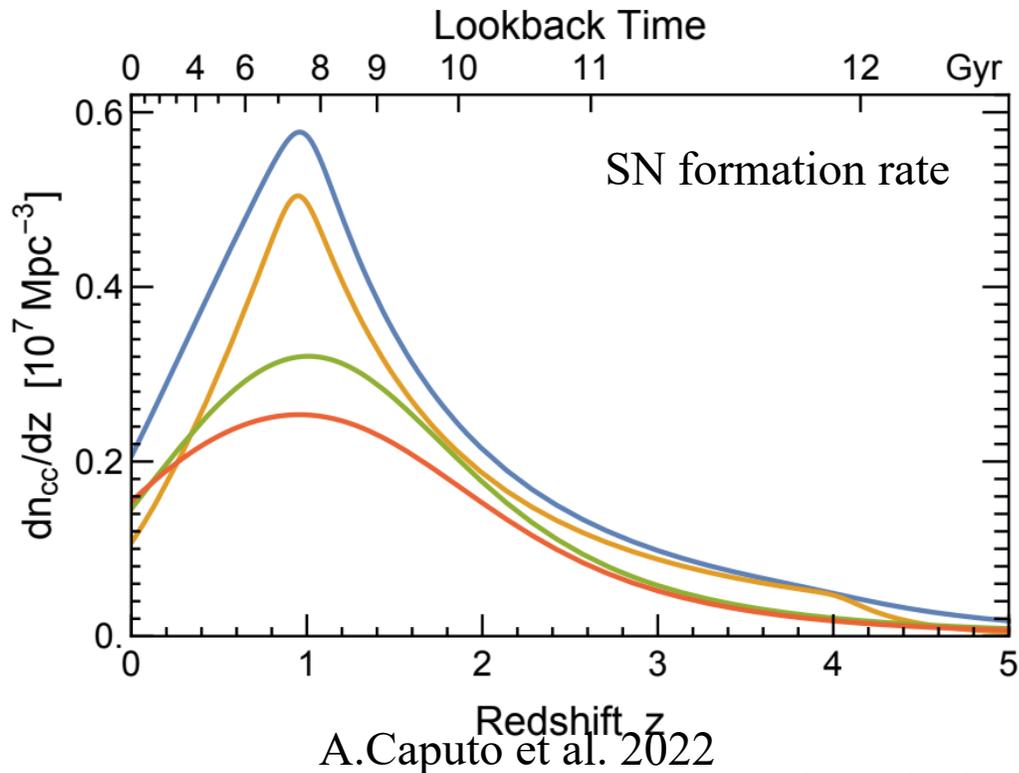
M.Diamond et al., 2023

Fireball formation



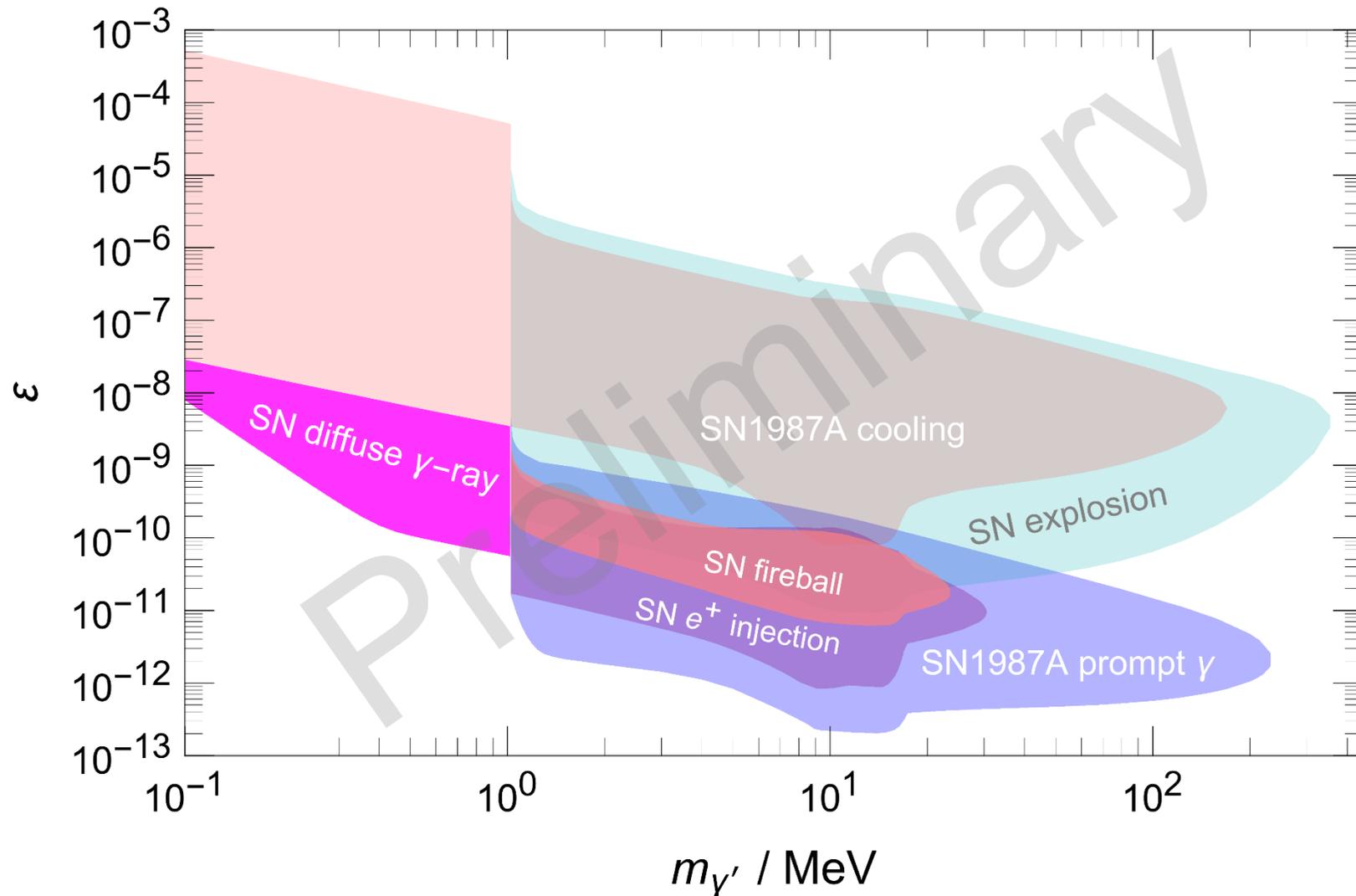
Supernova diffuse Gamma-ray

- Using SN formation rate, cosmic dark photon density can be derived
- These dark photon would make cosmic radiation



R. Hill et al. 2018

Supernova diffuse Gamma-ray

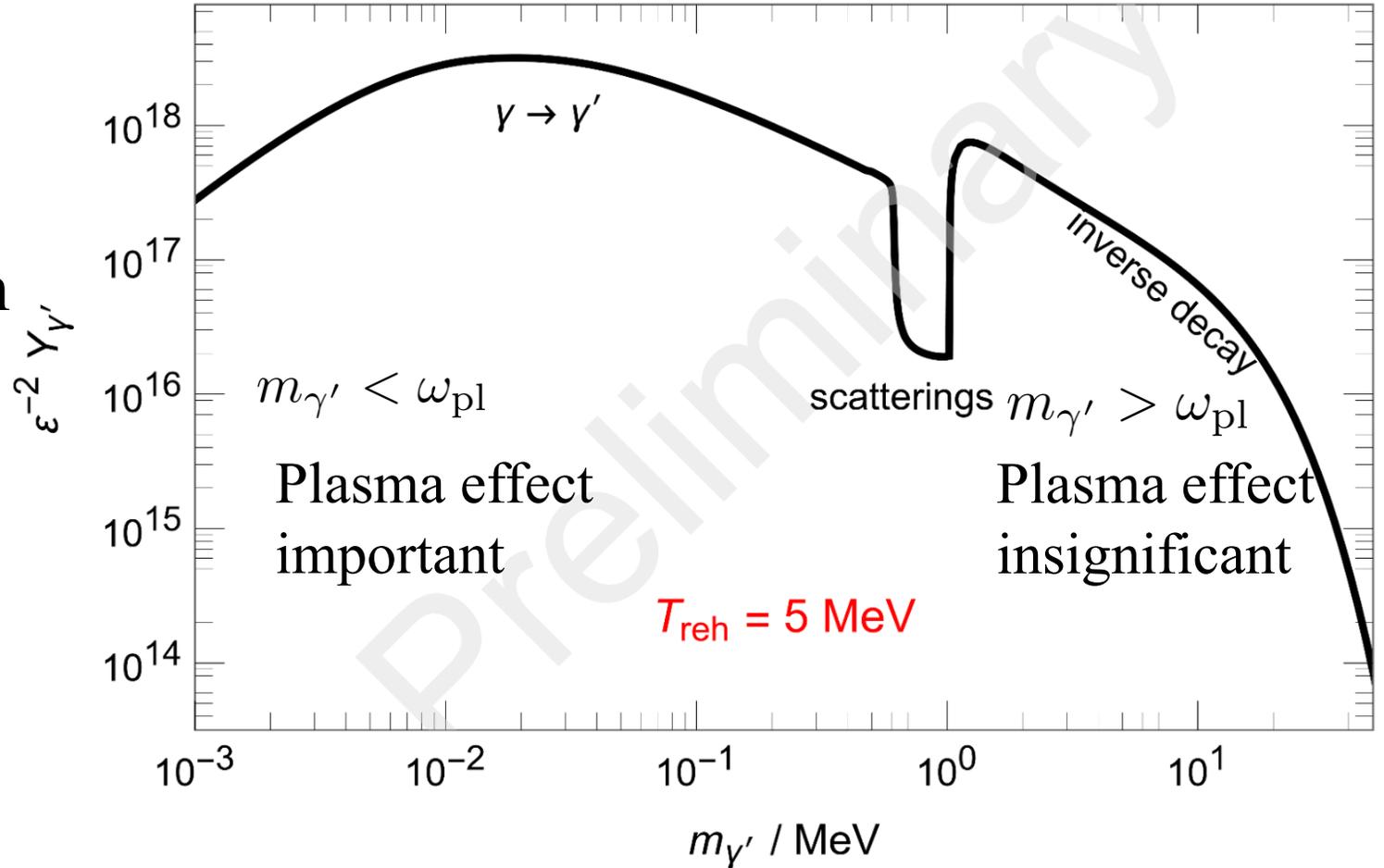


Cosmological Dark Photons

Dark photon abundance by freeze-in

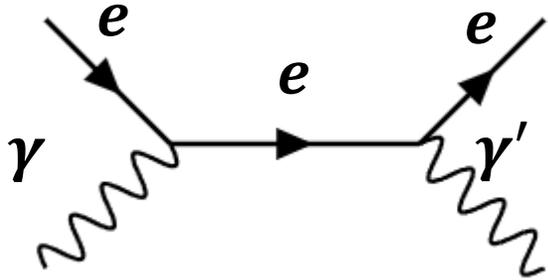
-Freeze-in Scenario:
Small kinetic mixing
& IR dominant production

-Thermal production
persists until $T \sim m_{\gamma'}$

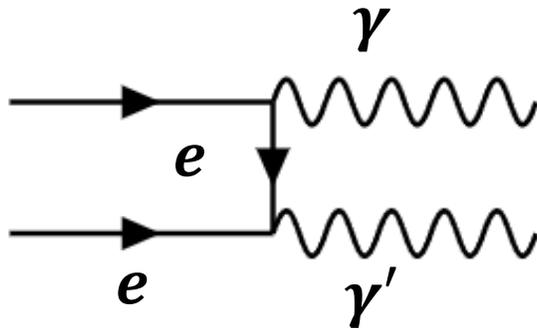


Scattering

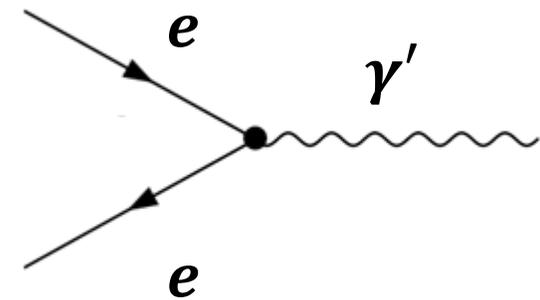
Compton-like scattering



Pair-annihilation



Inverse decay



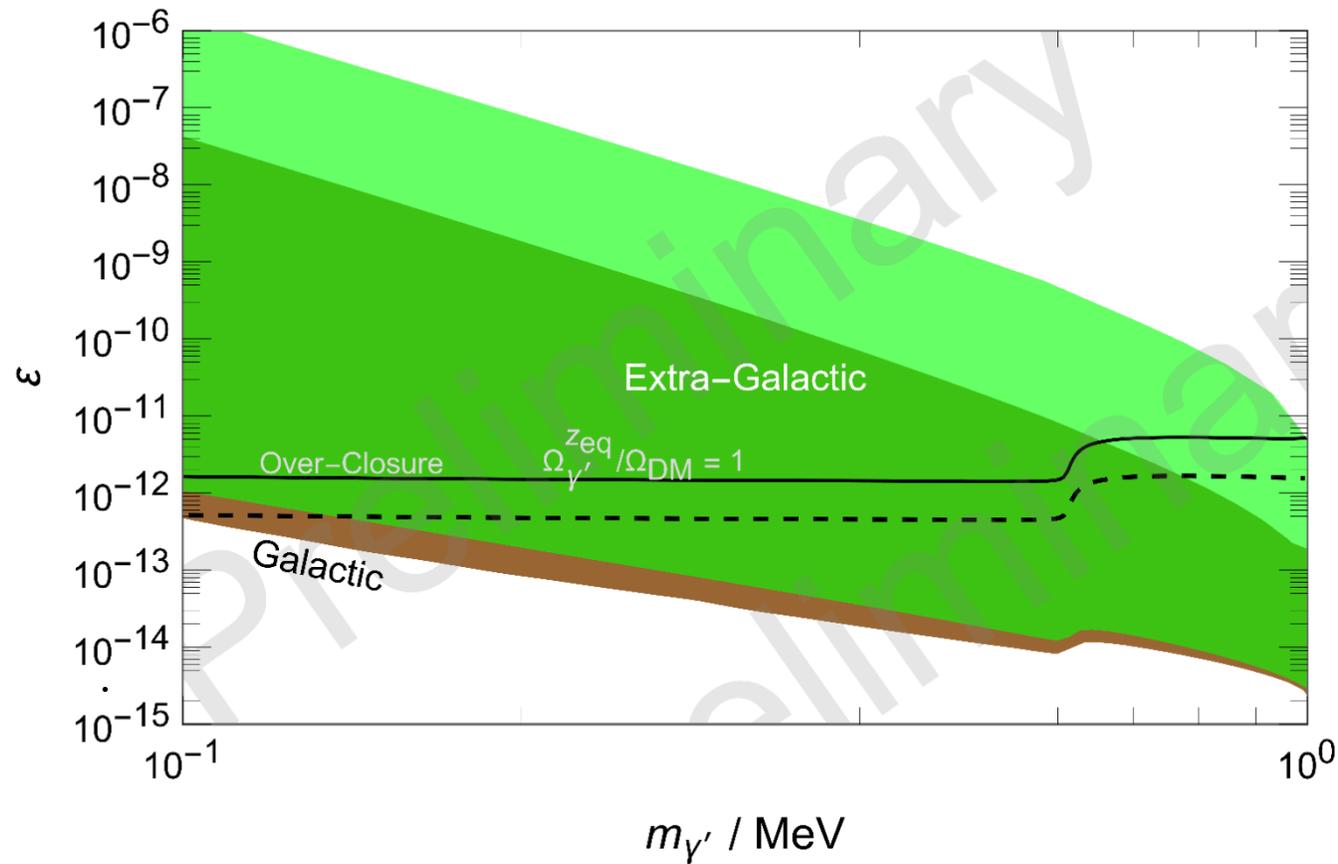
Extra-/Galactic Constraints

-From 3 photon decay, the estimated photon spectrum should be smaller than the observed one

-Galactic data from XNM-Newton, INTEGRAL, NuSTAR

-Extra-Galactic data from R. Hill et al., 2018

-Over the black solid line, dark photon abundance cause over-closure problem



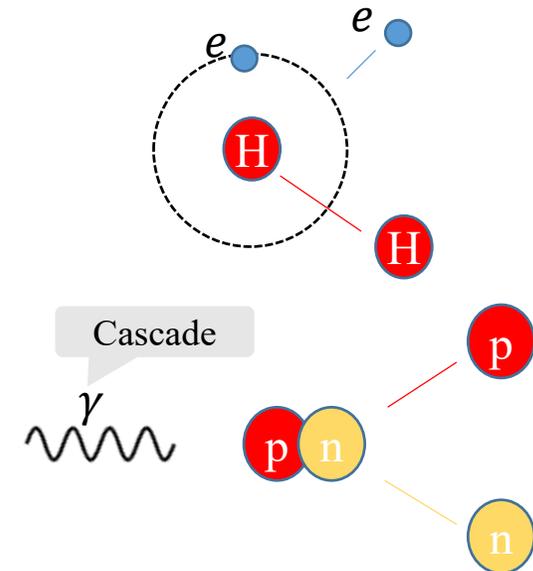
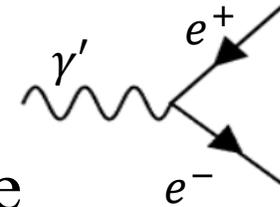
CMB/BBN/ ΔN_{eff} Constraints

-Dark photon decay into $e^+ - e^-$ pair
might affect cosmological phenomena in the early universe

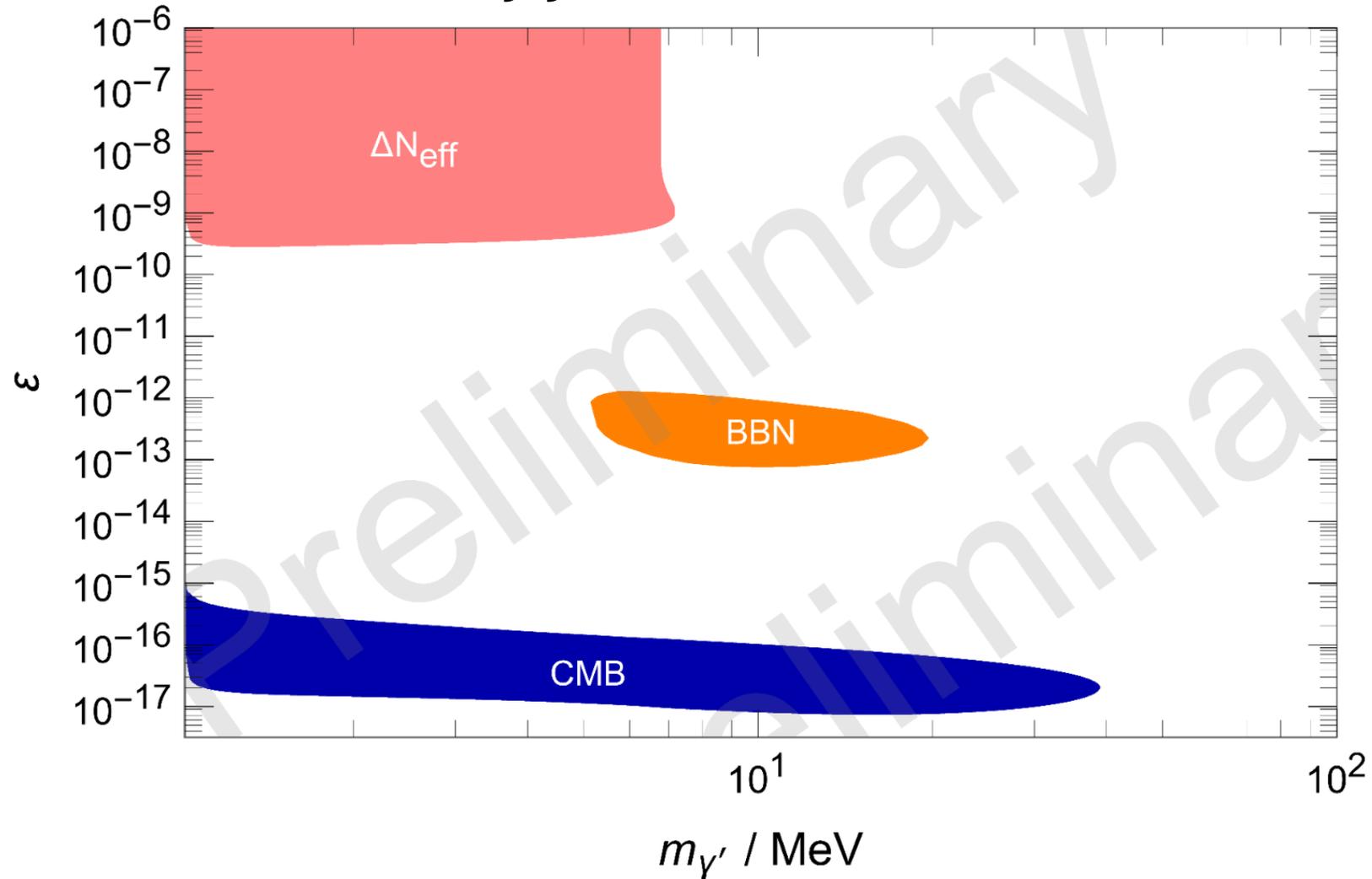
-The additional electron/positron enhance
ionization fraction, which affects CMB anisotropy

-The modified photon spectrum leads to additional
photo-dissociation of light nuclei

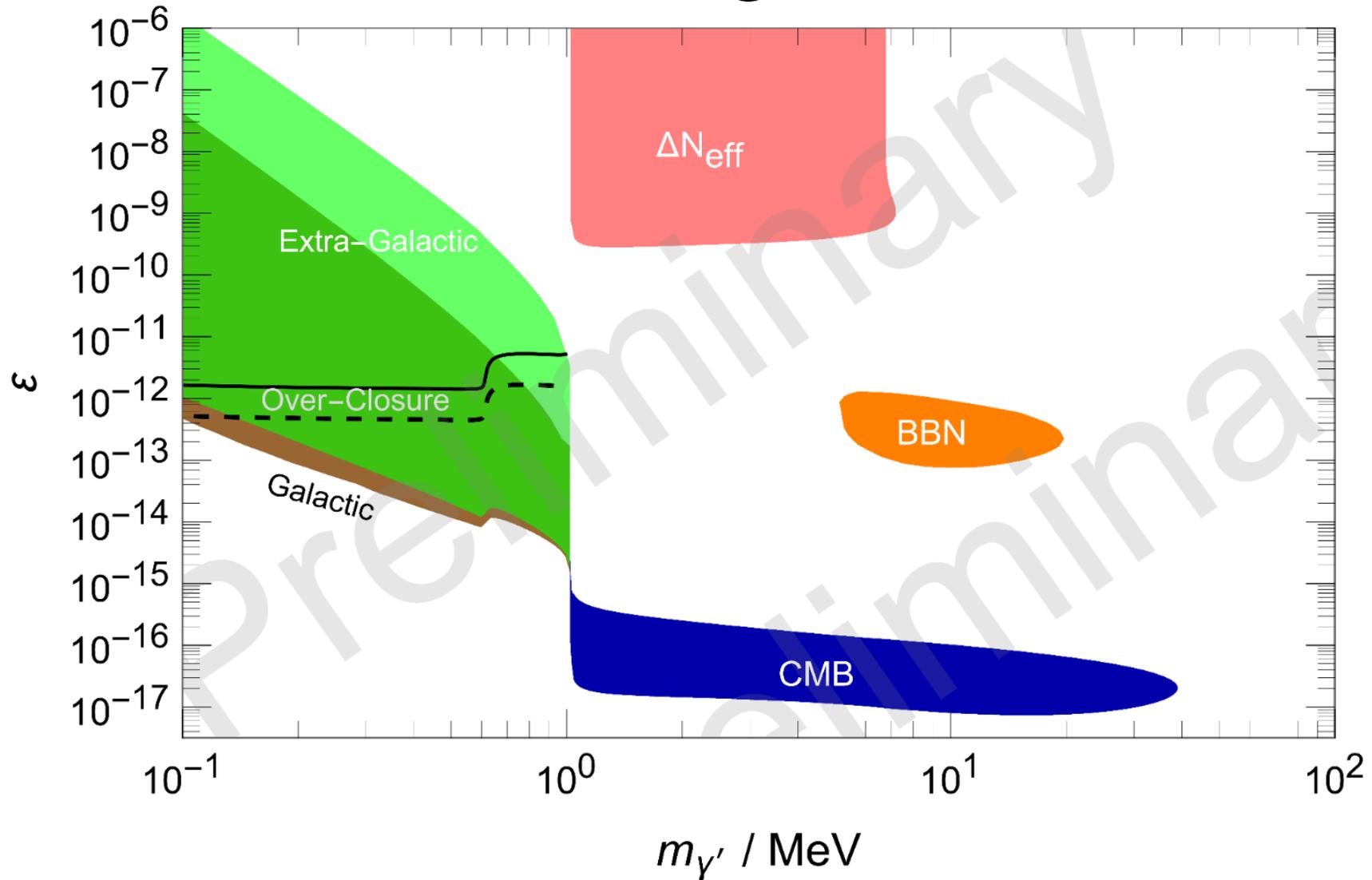
-The additional photon energy injection
might give ΔN_{eff} constraint



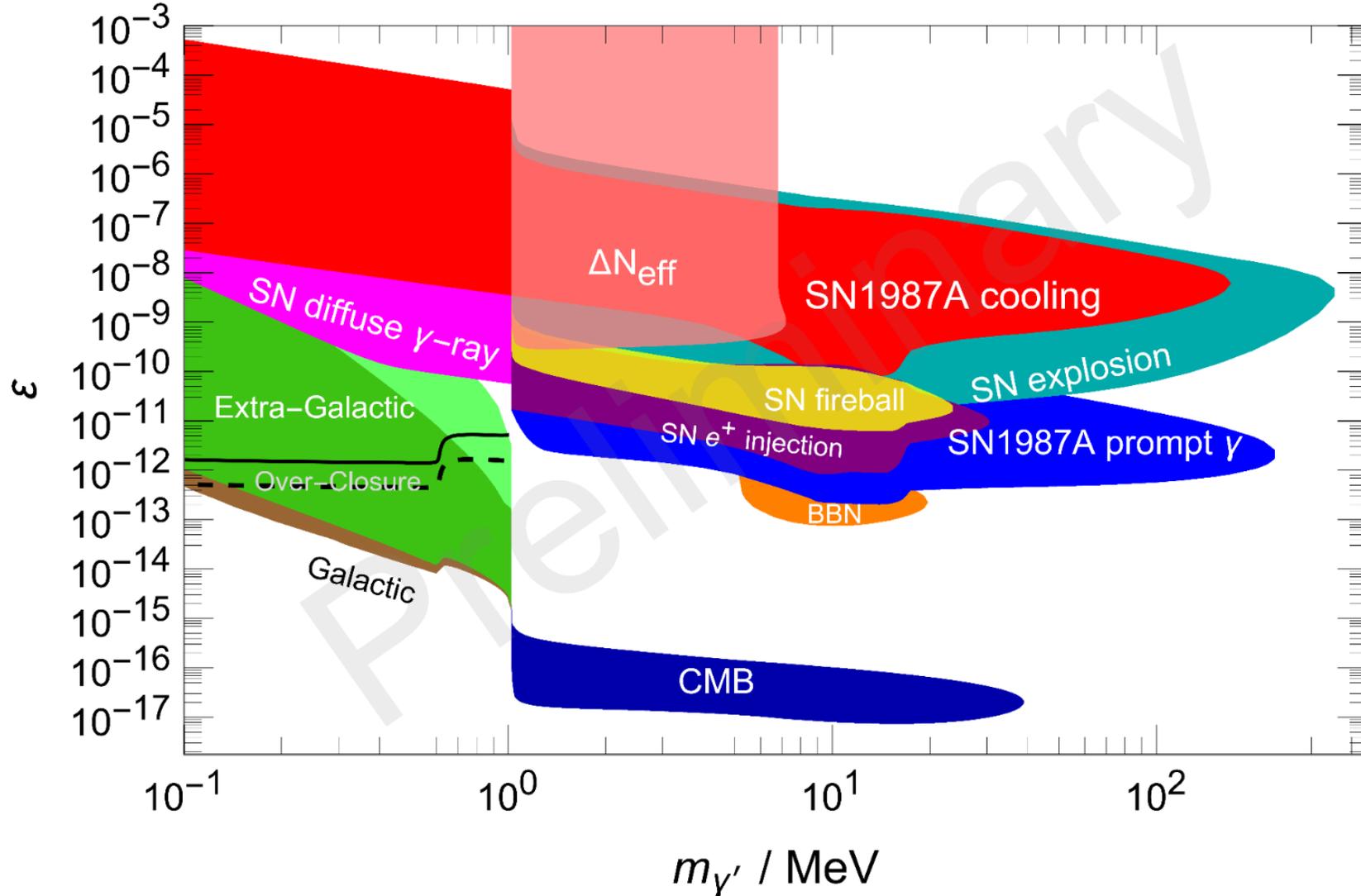
CMB/BBN/ ΔN_{eff} Constraints



Constraints of Cosmological Dark Photon



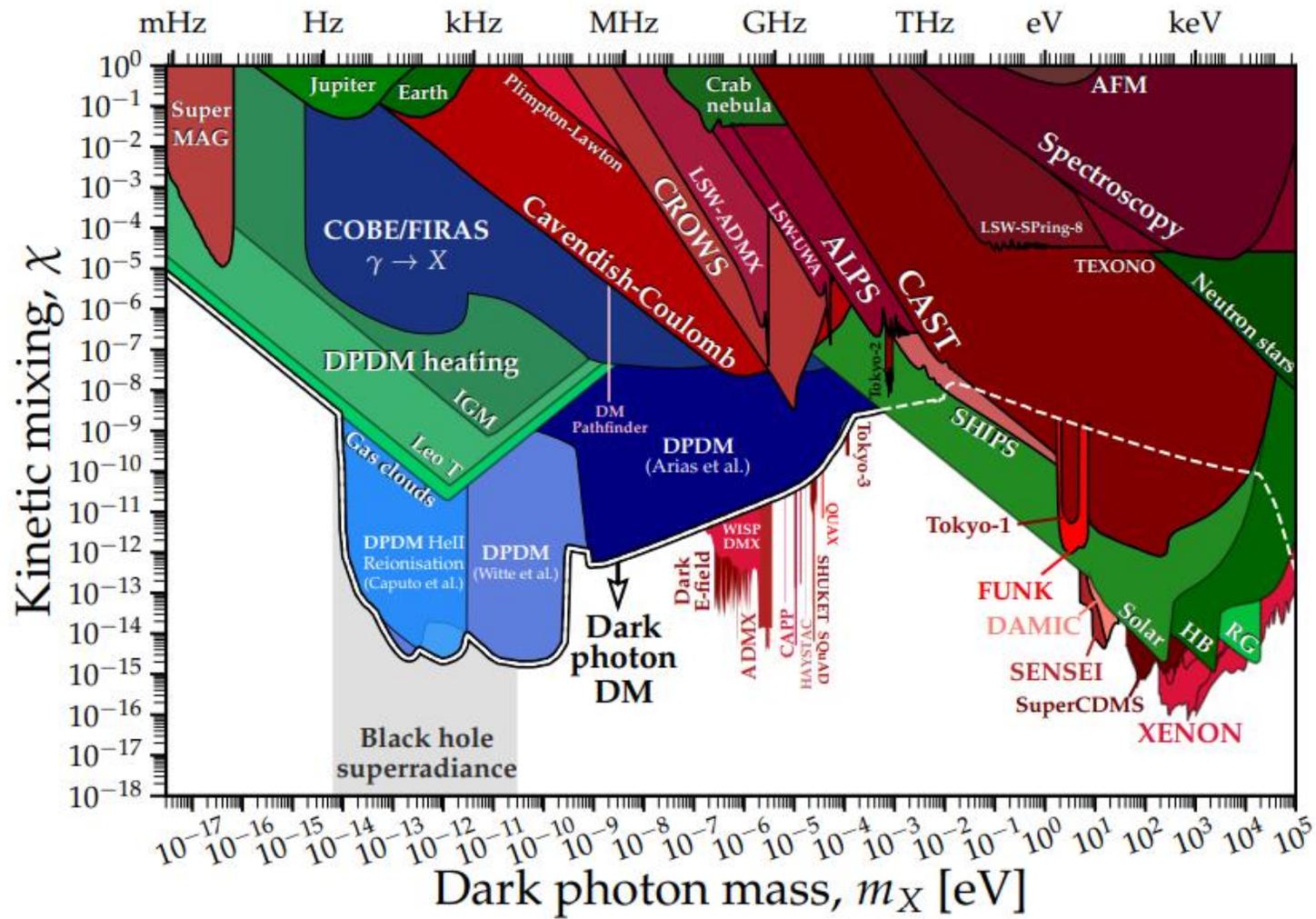
Final Plot



Summary

- MeV Dark photon constraint is revisited
- Dark photons produced by SN modify supernova observables, by which we derived constraints: SN Cooling, Low energy explosion, Prompt Gamma ray, Positron injection, Fireball formation, Diffuse Gamma-ray
- Using dark photon freeze-in abundance, we derived constraints from Extra-/Galactic X-ray & CMB/BBN/ ΔN_{eff}

Back up



A.Caputo et al.,2022

2025 CAU-IBS Beyond the Standard Model Workshop

Plasma effect causes resonant conversion from photon to dark photon

$$\varepsilon e \frac{m_{\gamma'}^2}{m_{\gamma'}^2 - \pi_{T,L}} A'_\mu J_{EM}^\mu$$

$\text{Re}\pi_{T,L}$: Photon effective mass

$\text{Im}\pi_{T,L}$: Absorption rate

$$\text{Re}\pi_T \approx \frac{3}{2} \omega_{pl}^2(T)$$

$$\text{Re}\pi_L \approx \frac{\tilde{\omega}^2}{\omega^2} m_{\gamma'}^2$$

