

Using CMB spectral distortions to distinguish between dark matter solutions to the small-scale crisis

James Diacoumis, University of New South Wales

CERN Theory Workshop 2018, Geneva,
12-16th March

Based on [1707.07050](#) in collaboration
with Yvonne Wong



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Intro

- We'd like an elevator pitch for SD's, can they say something definitive about popular DM models?
- Vanilla WIMP DM annihilation does not produce a very strong spectral distortion signal (Pasquale Serpico's talk.)
- Most natural place to look is at DM on small length scales as SD's are sensitive to $1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \lesssim k \lesssim 10^4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.
- If we could solve the small-scale structure crisis with SD's we have our "elevator pitch" (Joe Silk's talk.)

To clarify the question:

- We have access to incredibly small scales with spectral distortions. $1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \lesssim k \lesssim 10^4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.
- We have a large class of DM models which look to explain “small-scale structure” problems.
- i.e. they change things on the scales accessible by spectral distortions.
- What can we actually say with spectral distortions about these models and is it realistic to go after them with PIXIE???

Small scale crisis

- **Missing Satellites Problem:**

- CDM simulations predict far more satellite galaxies than we actually observe.

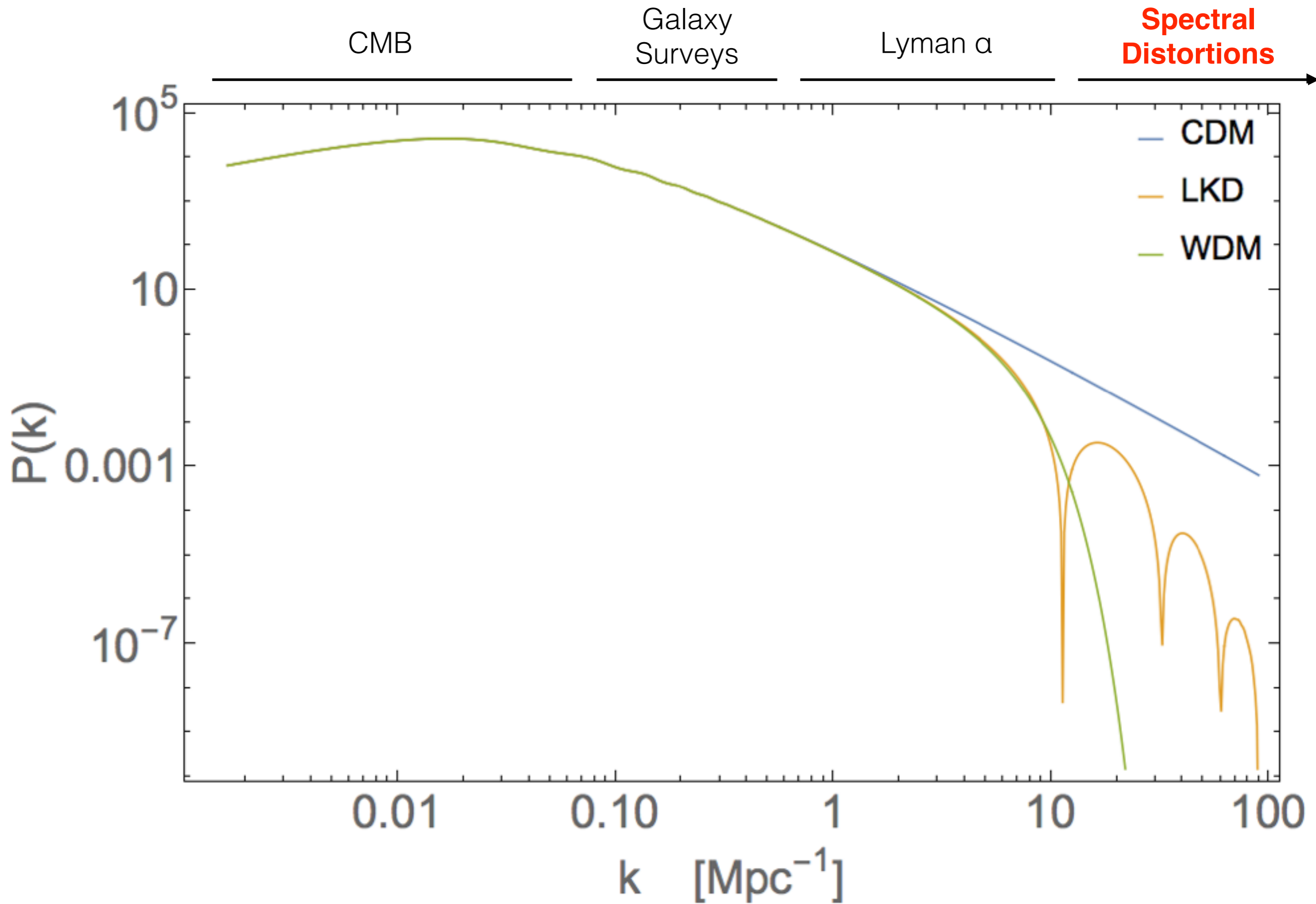
- **Too Big to Fail Problem:**

- CDM simulations predict many more massive and dense satellites than we observe. They are “too big to fail” at forming stars.

- **Core VS Cusp Problem:**

- CDM simulations predict DM density grows at the centre of a galaxy. Observations indicate galactic ‘cores’ with constant density.

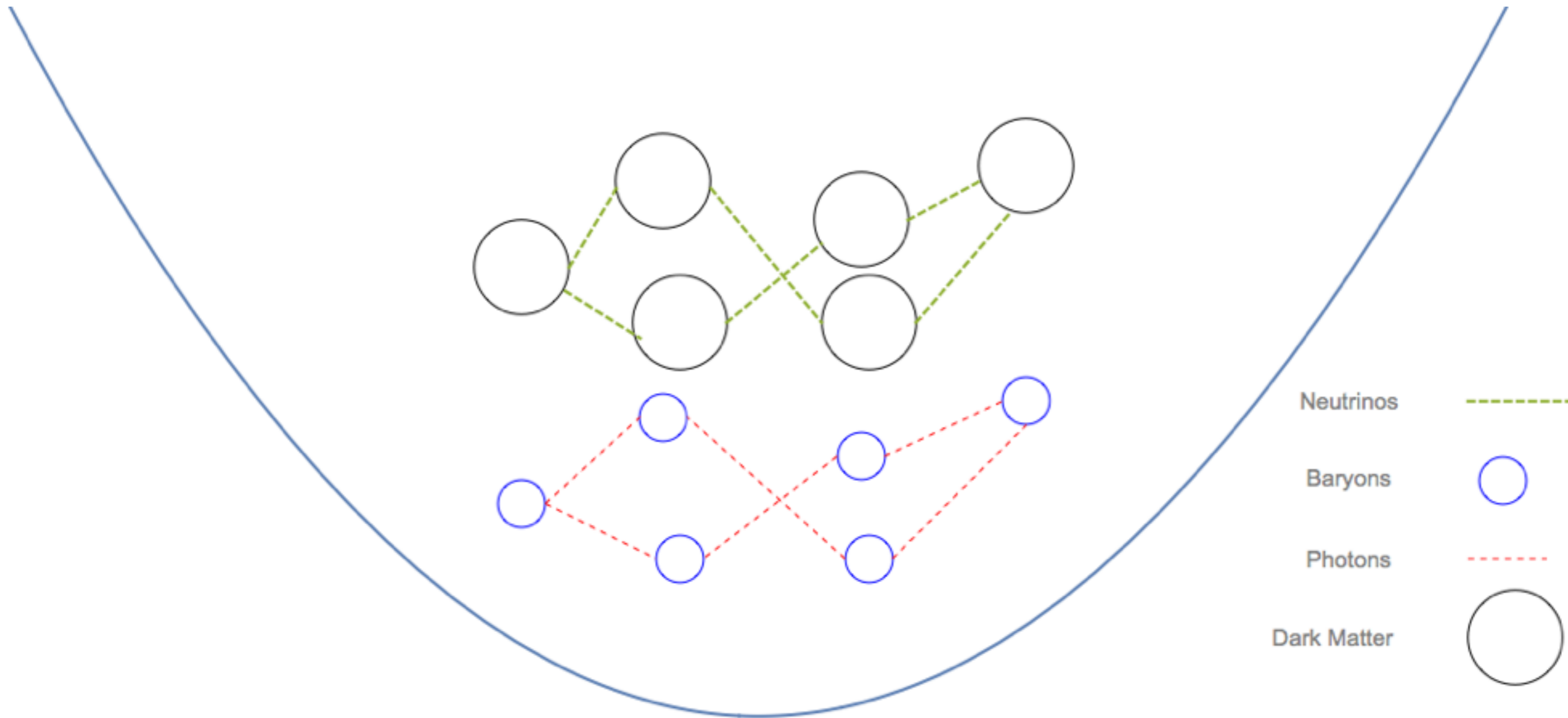
Motivation



Warm Dark Matter

- μ distortion only occurs in radiation domination.
- Suppression in power either has to be primordial or affect the radiation component to alter spectral distortions.
- Same reasoning for any DM model only influencing the matter component i.e. SIDM

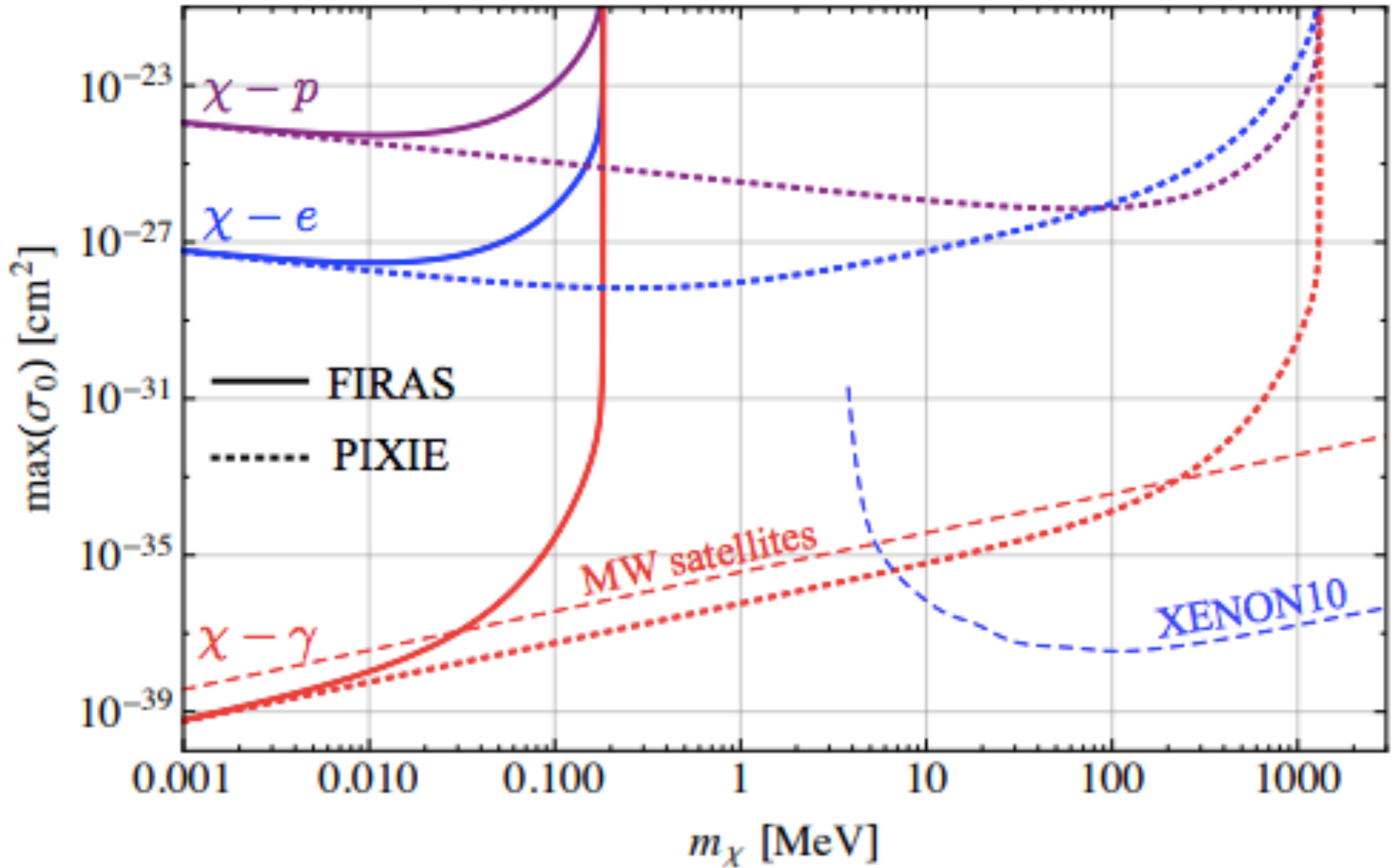
Late Kinetic Decoupling



- Neutrinos ‘knock’ the DM out of the wells which washes out structure.

Benchmark

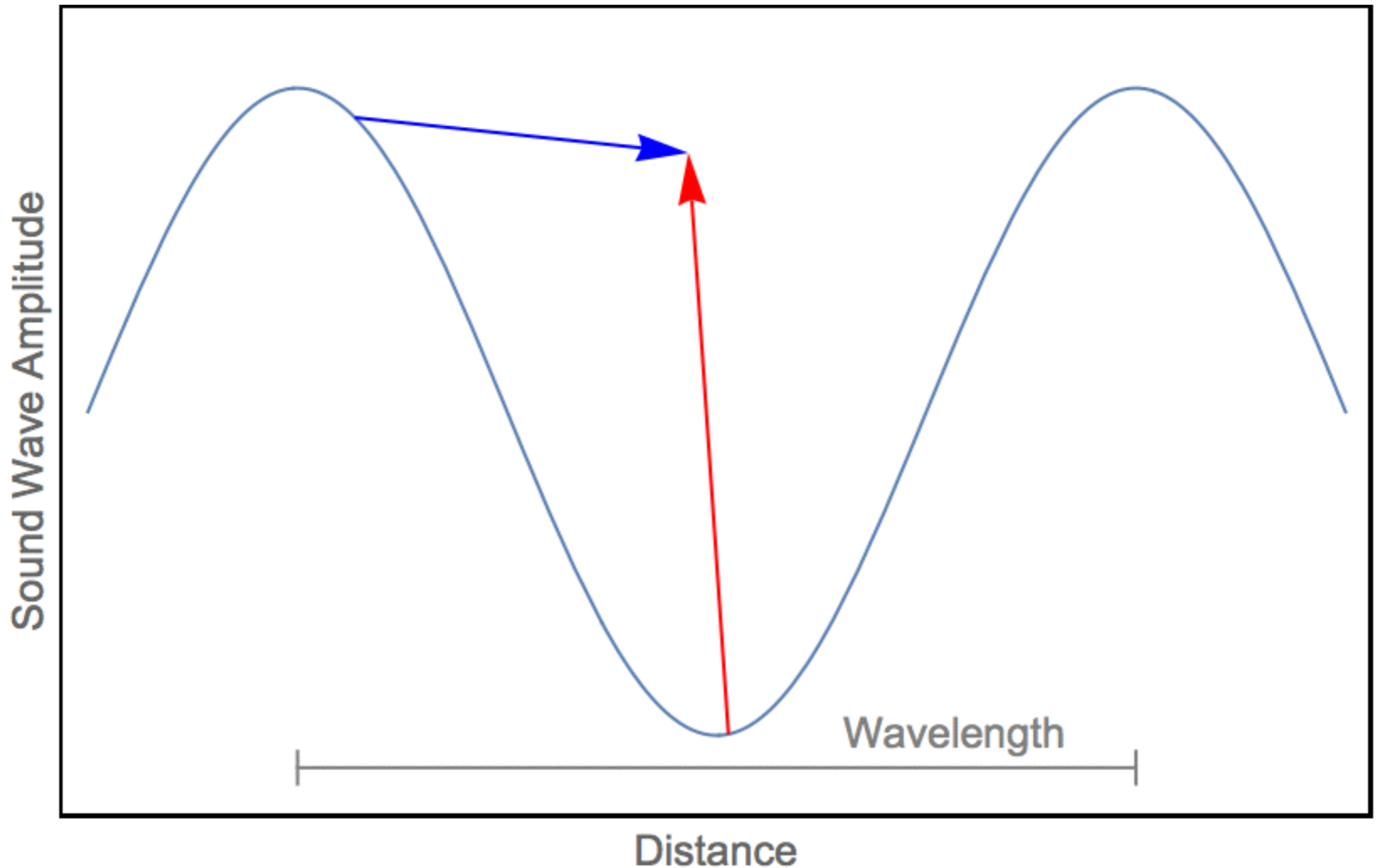
$$T_\gamma \propto 1/a$$
$$T_\chi \propto 1/a^2$$



Can we improve on this?

- Extend parameter space to higher mass DM.
- Can we include DM-neutrino interactions?
- Don't consider direct energy transfer but instead consider the effects on the perturbations themselves and how they're dissipated.

How do Spectral Distortions occur?



Heating Rate

- The heating rate of CMB photons due to dissipation of small-scale acoustic modes is:

$$\frac{d(Q/\rho_\gamma)}{dz} \approx \frac{64c^2}{15\mathcal{H}\dot{\kappa}} \int \frac{dk}{2\pi^2} k^4 P_{\mathcal{R}}(k) (\Theta_1^2 + \dots).$$

$$\text{Heating Rate} \approx \text{Const factors} \int \text{Primordial Power Spectrum} \left(\text{Photon Temp Transfer Functions} \right).$$

- The photon temperature transfer function has the form:

$$\Theta_1 \approx A \left(\frac{c_s}{c} \right) \sin(kr_s) \exp\left(-\frac{k^2}{k_D^2}\right).$$

$$\text{Photon Temp Transfer Function} \approx \text{Const factors} \quad \text{Acoustic oscillations} \quad \text{Diffusion damping}$$

Late Kinetic Decoupling from Neutrinos (LKD ν)

- Equations of motion for a coupled neutrino-DM fluid.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{\theta}_\nu &= k^2 \psi + k^2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \delta_\gamma - \sigma_\gamma \right) - \dot{\mu} (\theta_\nu - \theta_{\text{DM}}), \\
 \dot{\theta}_{\text{DM}} &= k^2 \psi - \mathcal{H} \theta_{\text{DM}} - S^{-1} \dot{\mu} (\theta_{\text{DM}} - \theta_\nu).
 \end{aligned}$$

Velocity Divergence $\rightarrow \dot{\theta}_\nu$
 Gravitational Source $\rightarrow k^2 \psi$
 Density perturbation $\rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \delta_\gamma$
 Anisotropic Stress $\rightarrow \sigma_\gamma$
 Neutrino-DM interactions $\rightarrow -\dot{\mu} (\theta_\nu - \theta_{\text{DM}})$ and $-S^{-1} \dot{\mu} (\theta_{\text{DM}} - \theta_\nu)$

- Interaction rate for neutrino-DM scattering

$$\dot{\mu} = a \sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu} c n_{\text{DM}}$$

- Interaction rate for photon-baryon scattering

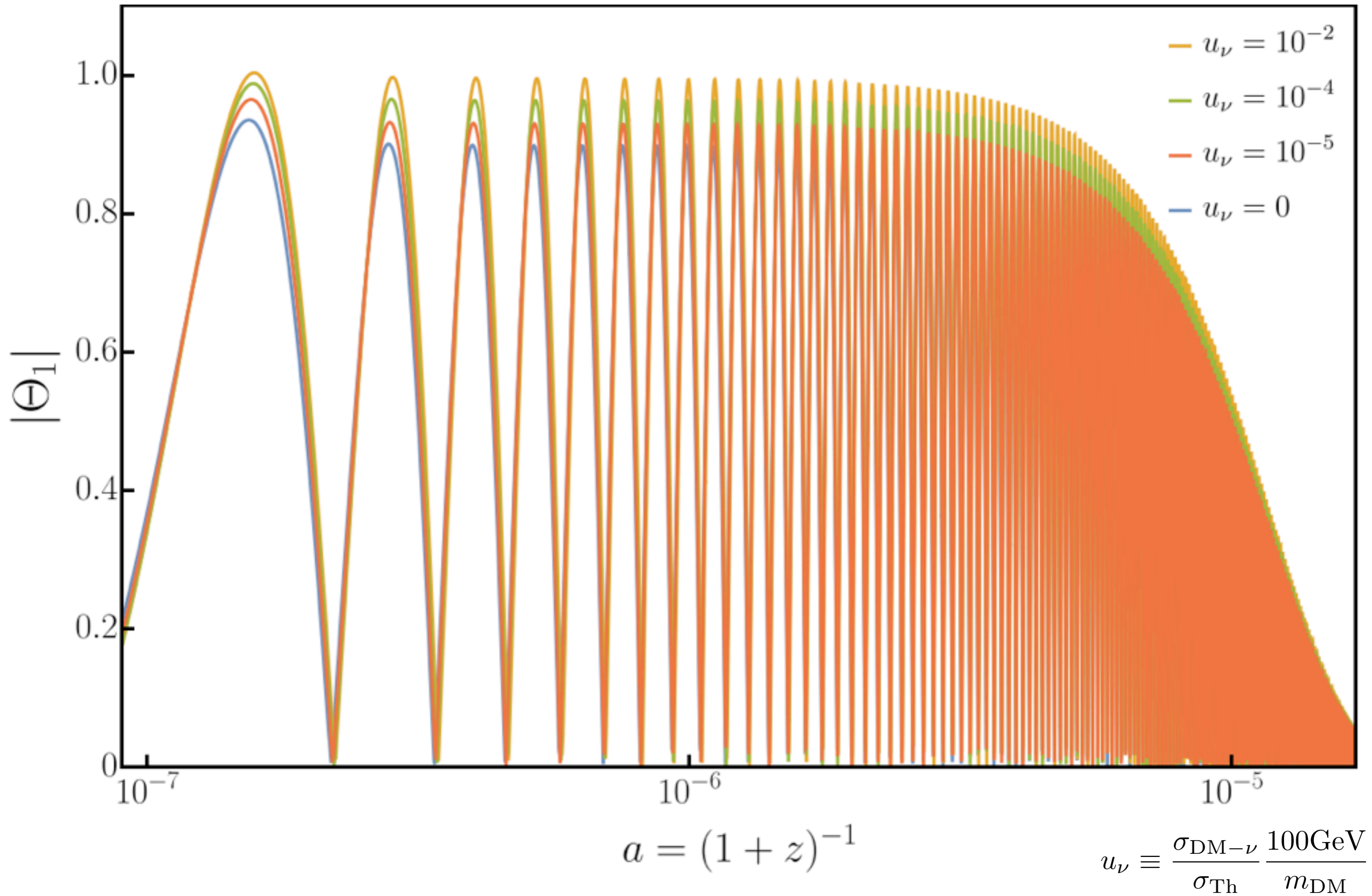
$$\dot{\kappa} = a \sigma_{\text{Th}} c n_e$$

- $\dot{\kappa}/\dot{\mu}$ is proportional to

$$u_\nu \equiv \frac{\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu}}{\sigma_{\text{Th}}} \frac{100 \text{ GeV}}{m_{\text{DM}}}$$

Transfer Functions (LKD ν)

$k = 100 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$



How can we understand the physics?

- The photon temperature transfer function has the form:

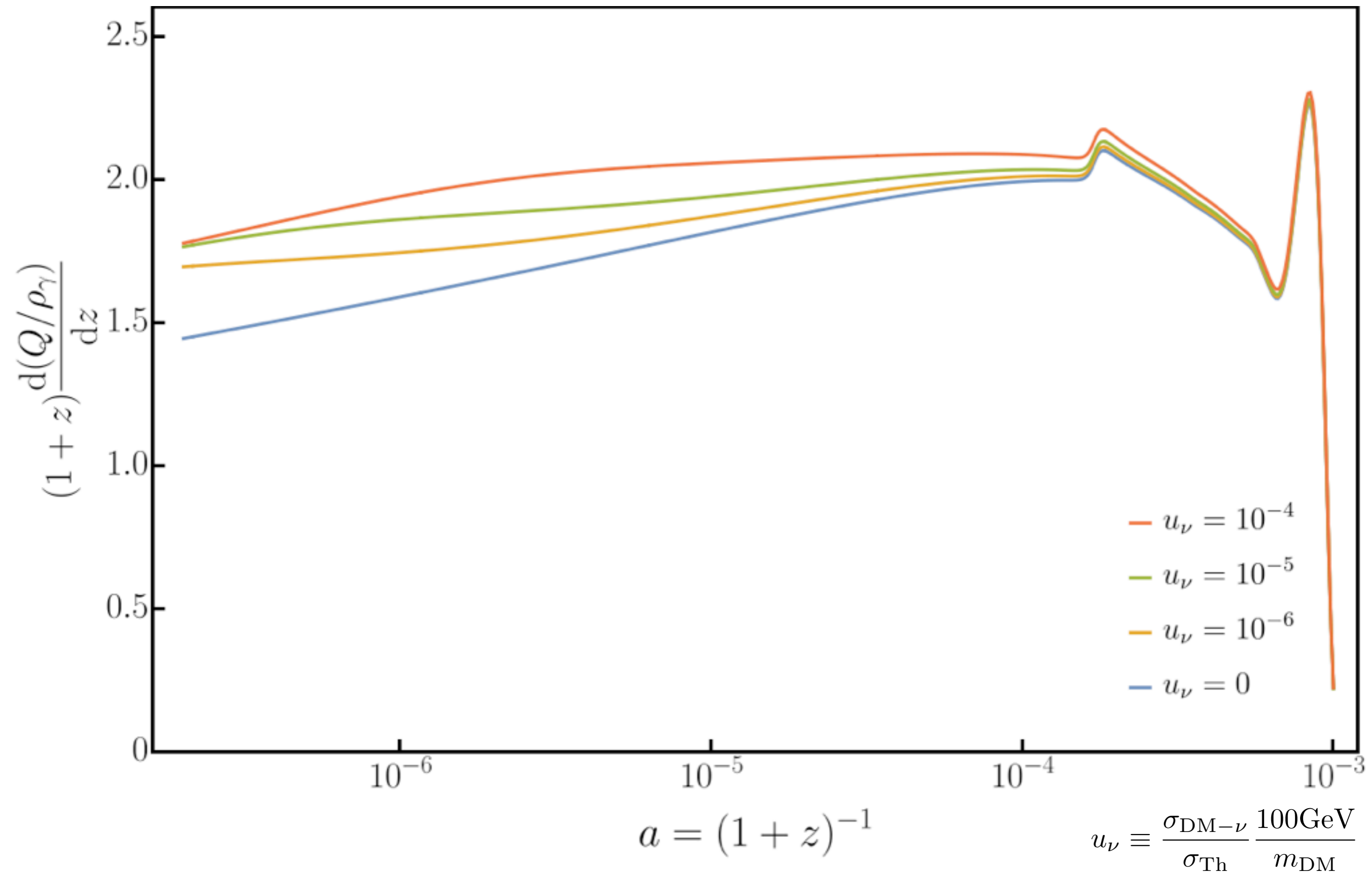
$$\Theta_1 \approx A \left(\frac{c_s}{c} \right) \sin(kr_s) \exp \left(-\frac{k^2}{k_D^2} \right).$$

Where $A = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{4}{15} f_\nu}$ and $f_\nu = \frac{\rho_\nu}{\rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu} \simeq 0.41$

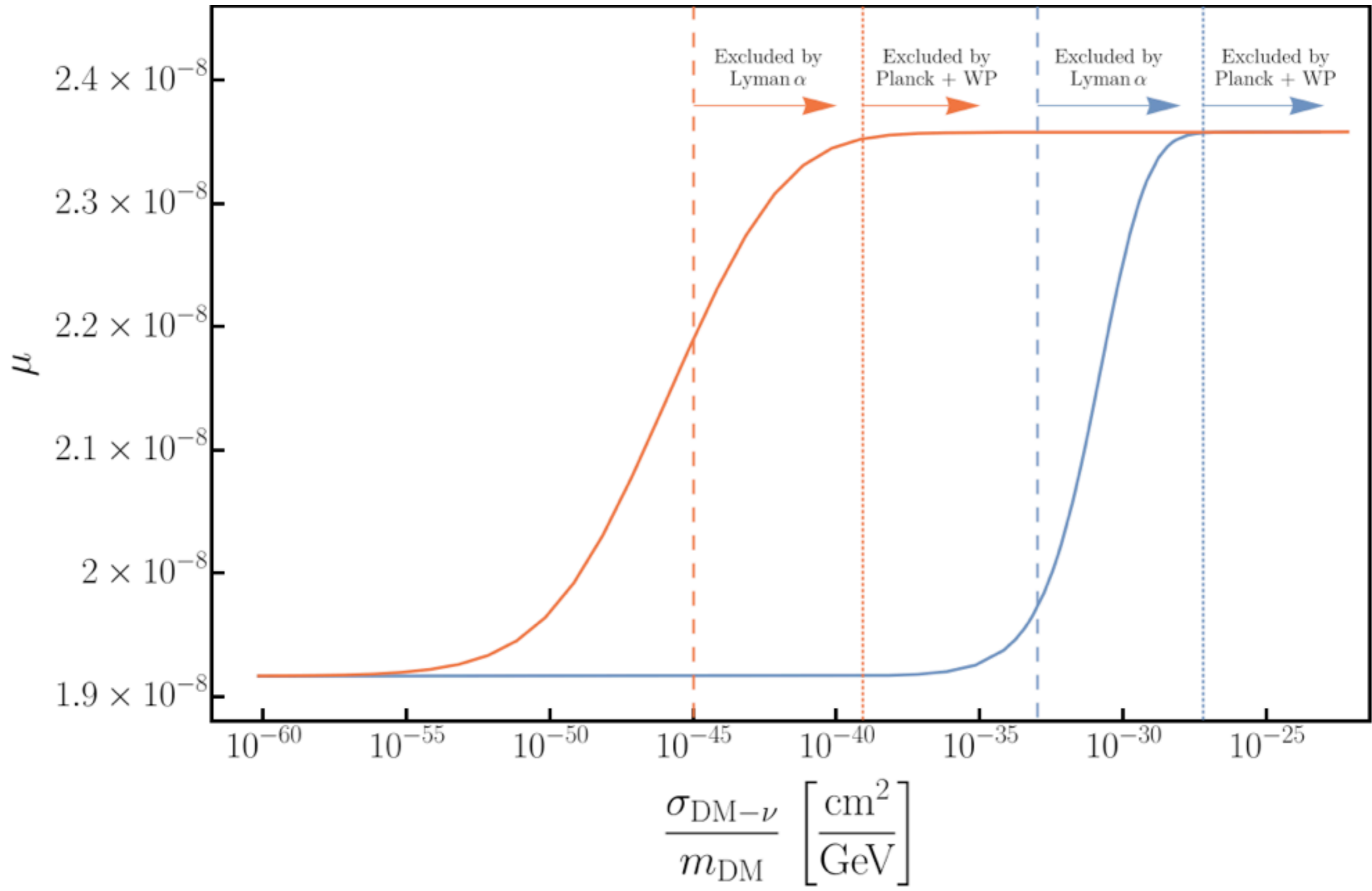
- Neutrinos normally don't participate in acoustic oscillations as they **stream** freely.
 - When coupled to DM they 'cluster' more efficiently and participate in acoustic oscillations as photons.
- ⇒ Overall increase in oscillation amplitude.

Heating Rate (LKD ν)

$$\mathcal{A}_i = 1$$



Expected μ – distortion (LKD ν)



Late Kinetic Decoupling from Photons (LKD γ)

- Equations of motion for a coupled photon-baryon and photon-DM fluid.

Velocity Divergence

Gravitational Source

Expansion

Density perturbation

Baryon-photon coupling

Photon-DM coupling

$$\dot{\theta}_b = k^2 \psi - \mathcal{H}\theta_b + c_s^2 k^2 \delta_b - R^{-1} \dot{\kappa} (\theta_b - \theta_\gamma),$$

$$\dot{\theta}_\gamma = k^2 \psi + k^2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \delta_\gamma - \sigma_\gamma \right) - \dot{\kappa} (\theta_\gamma - \theta_b)$$

$$- \dot{\mu} (\theta_\gamma - \theta_{\text{DM}}),$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{DM}} = k^2 \psi - \mathcal{H}\theta_{\text{DM}} - S^{-1} \dot{\mu} (\theta_{\text{DM}} - \theta_\gamma).$$

- Interaction rate for photon-DM scattering

$$\dot{\mu} = a\sigma_{\text{DM}-\gamma} c n_{\text{DM}}$$

- Interaction rate for photon-baryon scattering

$$\dot{\kappa} = a\sigma_{\text{Th}} c n_e$$

- $\dot{\kappa}/\dot{\mu}$ is proportional to

$$u_\gamma \equiv \frac{\sigma_{\text{DM}-\gamma}}{\sigma_{\text{Th}}} \frac{100\text{GeV}}{m_{\text{DM}}}$$

R. Wilkinson, J. Lesgourgues and C. Boehm (2013)
1309.7588

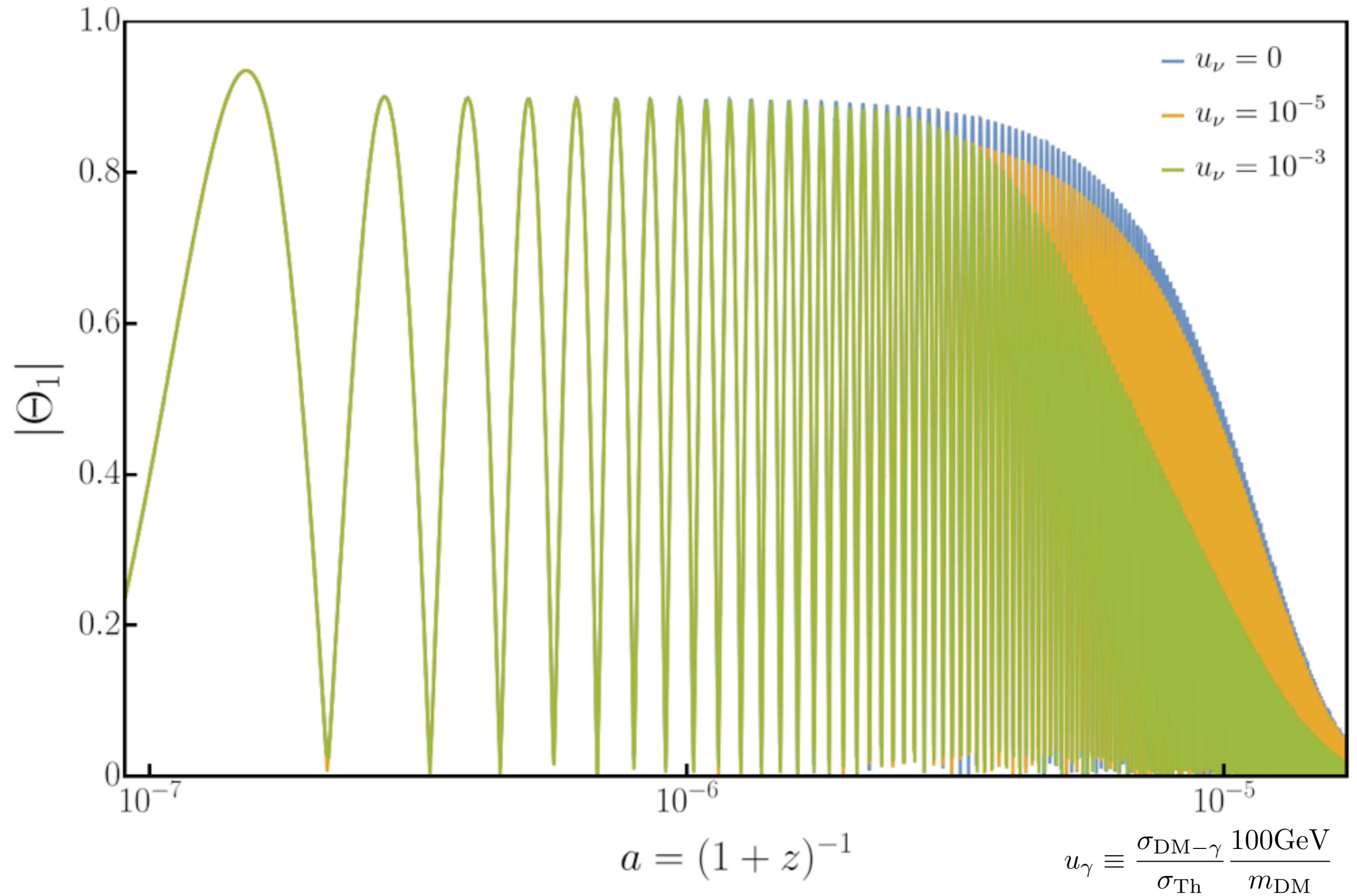
Heating Rate needs to be modified

$$\frac{d(Q/\rho_\gamma)}{dz} = \frac{4a\dot{\kappa}}{\mathcal{H}} \int \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi^2} P_{\mathcal{R}}(k) \left[\frac{(3\Theta_1 - v_b)^2}{3} + \frac{9}{2}\Theta_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\Theta_2 (\Theta_0^P + \Theta_2^P) + \sum_{\ell \geq 3} (2\ell + 1)\Theta_\ell^2 \right] \\ + \frac{4a\dot{\mu}_\gamma}{\mathcal{H}} \int \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi^2} P_{\mathcal{R}}(k) \left[\frac{(3\Theta_1 - v_{\text{DM}})^2}{3} + \frac{9}{2}\Theta_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\Theta_2 (\Theta_0^P + \Theta_2^P) + \sum_{\ell \geq 3} (2\ell + 1)\Theta_\ell^2 \right],$$

- DM-photon scattering provides a new channel through which small-scale perturbations can be dissipated directly.
- Can be written explicitly in terms of the transfer functions as before

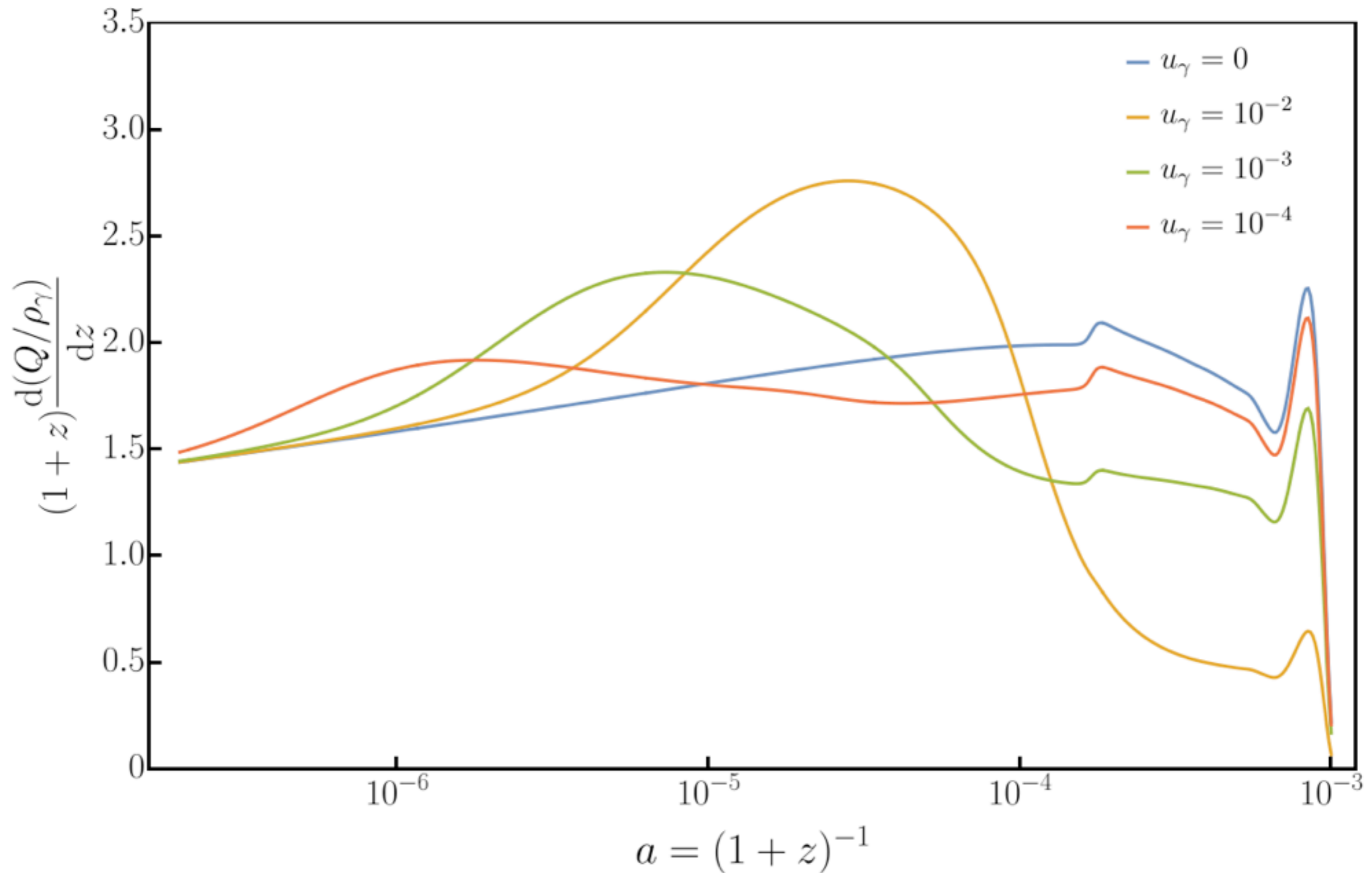
$$\frac{d(Q/\rho_\gamma)}{dz} \simeq \frac{4a}{\mathcal{H}} \int \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi^2} P_{\mathcal{R}}(k) k^2 \Theta_1^2 \left[\frac{1}{\dot{\kappa} + \dot{\mu}_\gamma} \frac{16}{15} + \frac{3\dot{\mu}_\gamma}{k^2} \left(\frac{k^2}{k^2 + 3S_\gamma^{-2} \dot{\mu}_\gamma^2} \right) \right].$$

Transfer Functions (LKD γ) $k = 100 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$



Heating Rate (LKD γ)

$$\mathcal{A}_i = 1$$



How can we understand the physics?

- The photon temperature transfer function has the form:

$$\Theta_1 \approx A \left(\frac{c_s}{c} \right) \sin(kr_s) \exp\left(-\frac{k^2}{\kappa_D^2}\right). \quad R = \frac{3\rho_b}{4\rho_\gamma} \ll 1$$

Where

$$\partial_z \kappa_D^{-2} = -\frac{c_s^2 a}{2\mathcal{H}\dot{\kappa}} \left(\frac{16}{15} + \frac{R^2}{1+R} \right).$$

Baryon -
Photon ratio

Diffusion Damping = Viscosity + Heat Conduction

- But it **changes** in the presence of photon-DM coupling

$$\partial_z \kappa_D^{-2}(k) \simeq -\frac{c_s^2 a}{2\mathcal{H}} \left(\frac{1}{\dot{\kappa} + \dot{\mu}} \frac{16}{15} + \frac{3\dot{\mu}}{k^2} \left(\frac{k^2}{k^2 + 3(S^{-1}\dot{\mu})^2} \right) \right)$$

- Heat conduction becomes non-negligible when DM is weakly coupled to photons. $S^{-1}\dot{\mu} \lesssim k$

How can we understand the physics?

- The photon temperature transfer function has the form:

$$\Theta_1 \approx A \left(\frac{c_s}{c} \right) \sin(kr_s) \exp\left(-\frac{k^2}{k_D^2}\right) \cdot \quad S = 3\rho_{\text{DM}}/4\rho_\gamma \ll 1$$

DM - Photon ratio

Where

$$\partial_z k_D^{-2}(k) \simeq -\frac{c_s^2 a}{2\mathcal{H}} \left(\frac{1}{\dot{\kappa} + \dot{\mu}} \frac{16}{15} + \frac{3\dot{\mu}}{k^2} \left(\frac{k^2}{k^2 + 3(S^{-1}\dot{\mu})^2} \right) \right)$$

Diffusion Damping \simeq Viscosity $+$ Heat Conduction

- The extra term due to heat conduction is also present for a photon-baryon fluid but suppressed during tight-coupling.
- Heating Rate is damped due to additional viscosity of the fluid and enhanced due to additional heat conduction.

⇒ Competing effects dominate at different times

Something nice

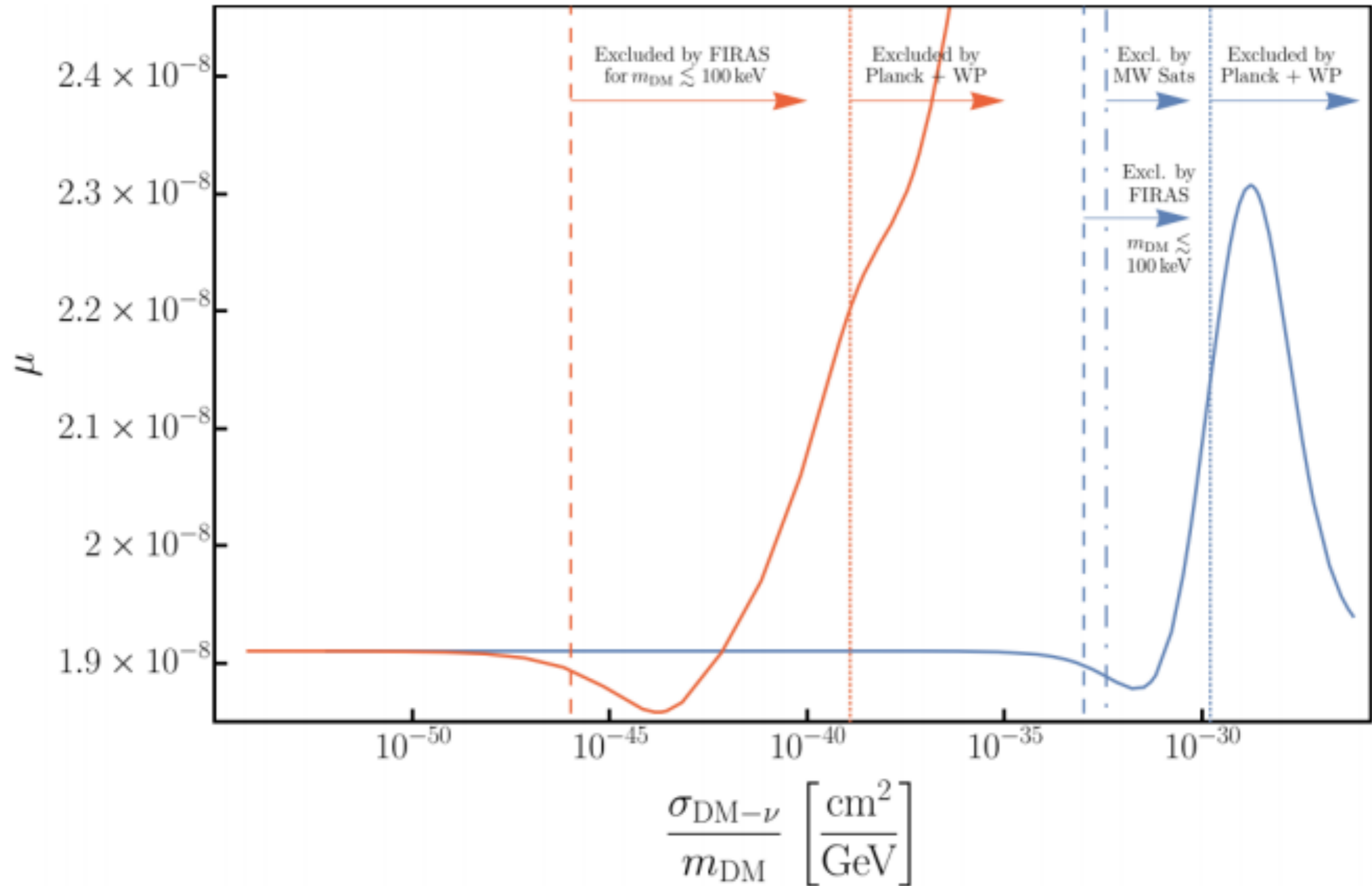
- The heating rate reduces to the exact same standard form

$$\frac{dQ}{dz} \approx -4A^2 \int \frac{k^4 dk}{2\pi^2} P_R(k) \left[\partial_z k_D^{-2}(k) \right] e^{-2k^2/k_D^2(k)}$$

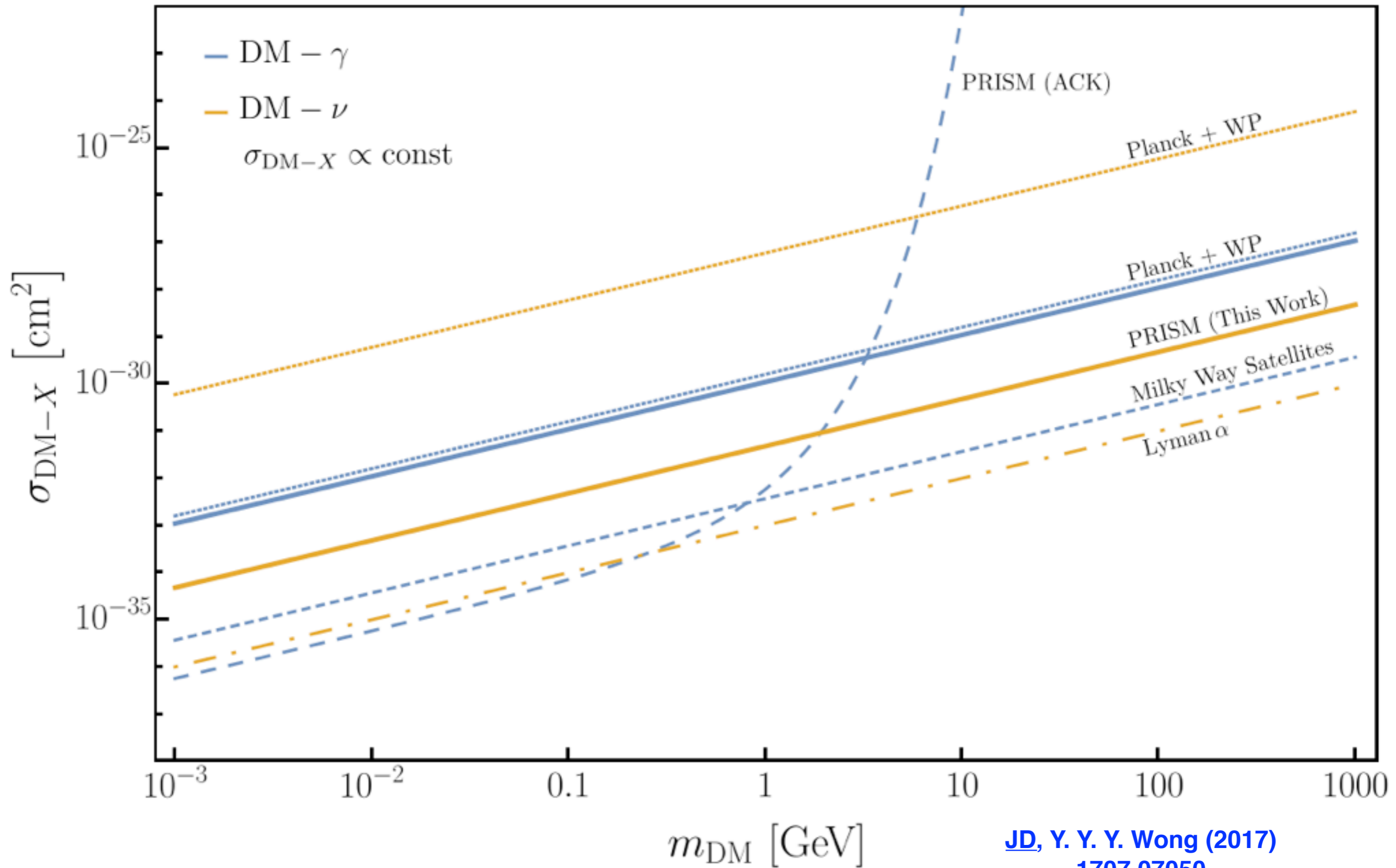
- Under the proviso that k_D is modified in the presence of DM-photon interactions to become k-dependant.
- Can interpret this effect as a modification of the diffusion damping process by DM-photon interactions

$$\partial_z k_D^{-2}(k) \simeq -\frac{c_s^2 a}{2\mathcal{H}} \left(\frac{1}{\dot{\kappa} + \dot{\mu}} \frac{16}{15} + \frac{3\dot{\mu}}{k^2} \left(\frac{k^2}{k^2 + 3(S^{-1}\dot{\mu})^2} \right) \right)$$

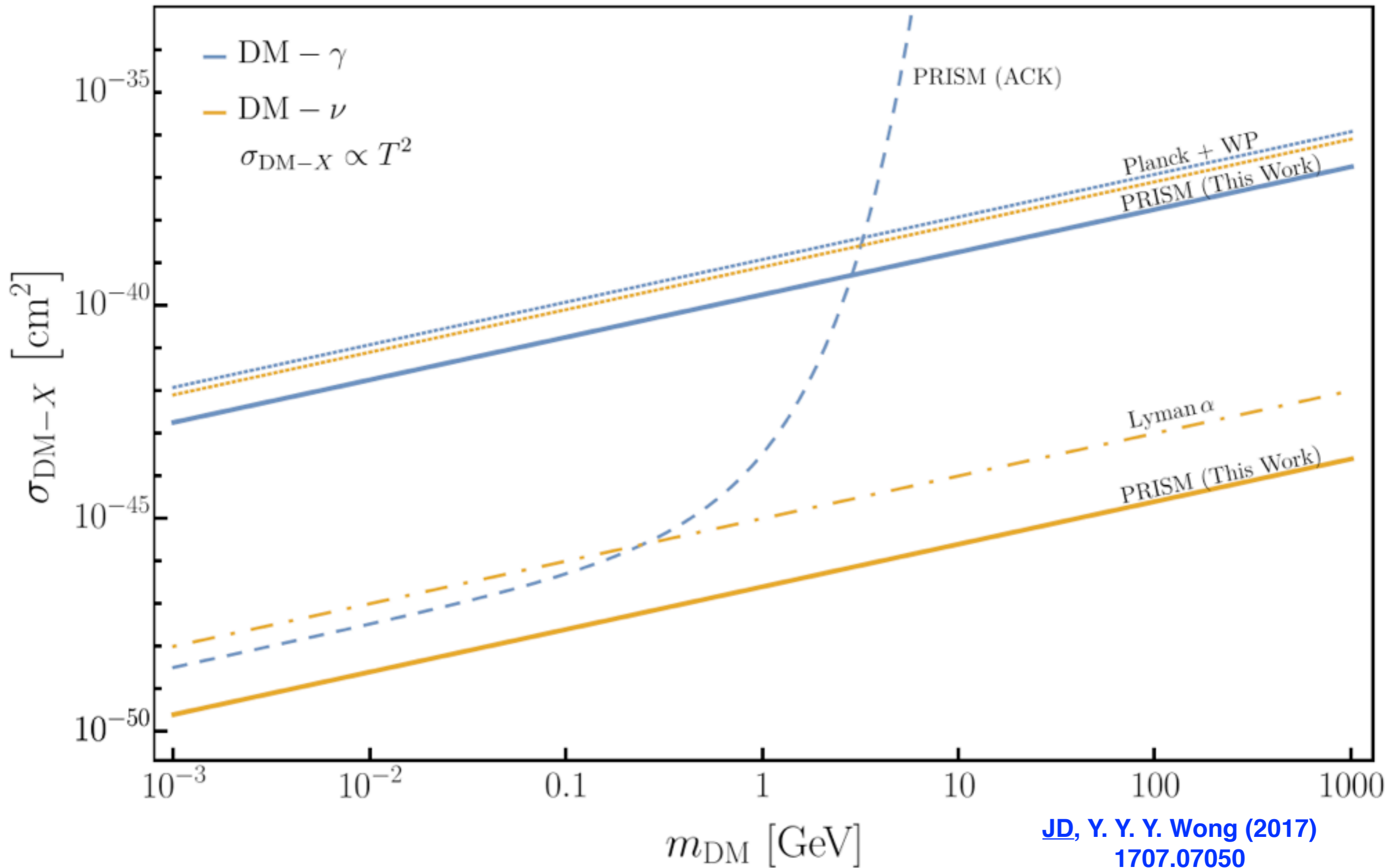
Expected μ – distortion (LKD γ)



Projected Constraints (PRISM)



Projected Constraints (PRISM)



Is this the end of the story?

- More to come on $\text{DM} - \nu$ and $\text{DM} - \gamma$ interactions
- Do we need to start pushing precision cosmology to pin down tiny effects?
- Look out for this in the coming weeks on arXiv

Conclusions

- Spectral Distortions offer access to phenomenally small-scale physics and by extension DM physics on small-scales.
- We're only sensitive to DM models which have an affect on the radiation component of the universe.
- If probed we can provide the strongest bounds on DM-neutrino scattering (orders of magnitude better than Lyman Alpha).
- But we need an additional order of magnitude on top of PIXIE, as the effect is $\Delta\rho/\rho \sim 10^{-9}$.
- New physics effects such as the change of the diffusion damping scale in the presence of a weakly coupled DM-photon system warrant further study.

Question for the crowd

- How optimistic are we to disentangle small y -distortion effects from the huge late-time background?
- Maybe by knowing measuring μ and r you could infer y ?
- If “matter only” DM models would produce tiny y -distortions that deviate from LCDM do we ever have a hope of getting to them?