

Searches for Ultra-Low-Mass Dark Matter

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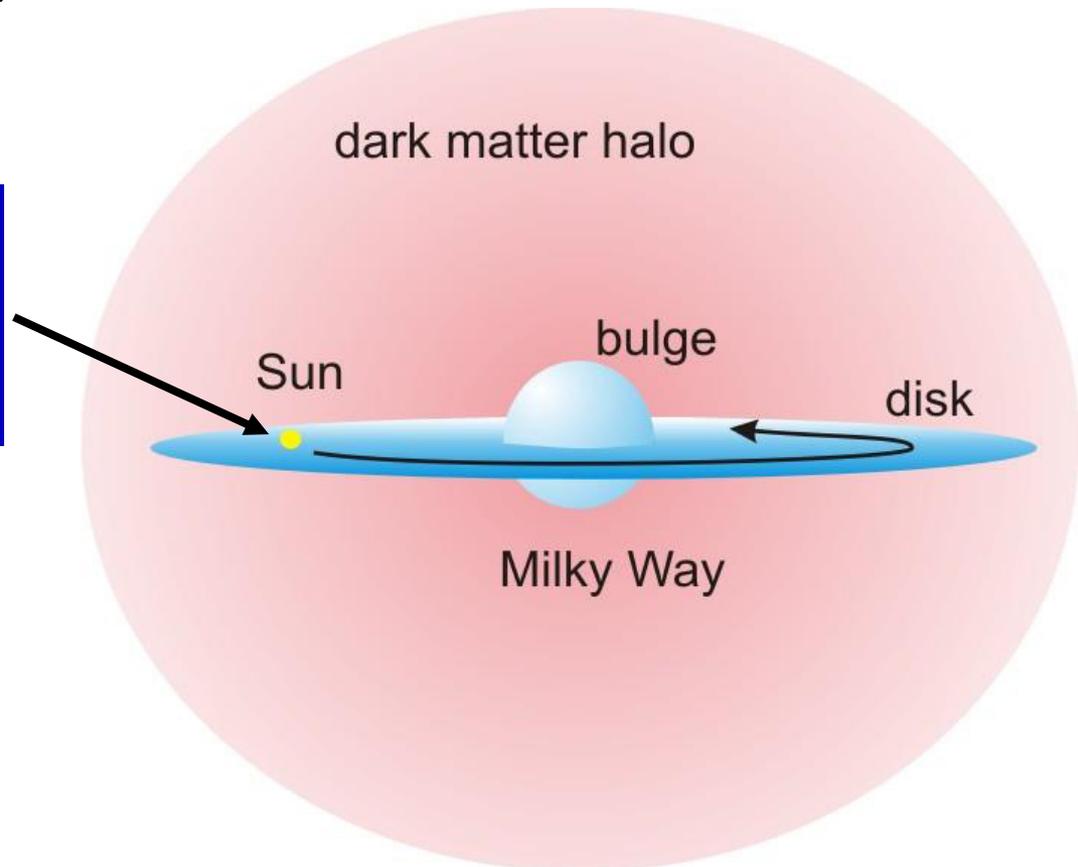
Virtual Colloquium, PSI, March 2021

Dark Matter

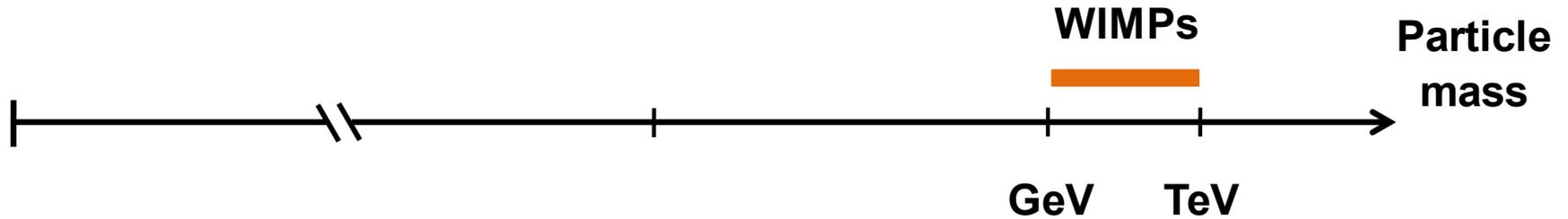
Strong astrophysical evidence for existence of **dark matter** (~5 times more dark matter than ordinary matter)

$$\rho_{\text{DM}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

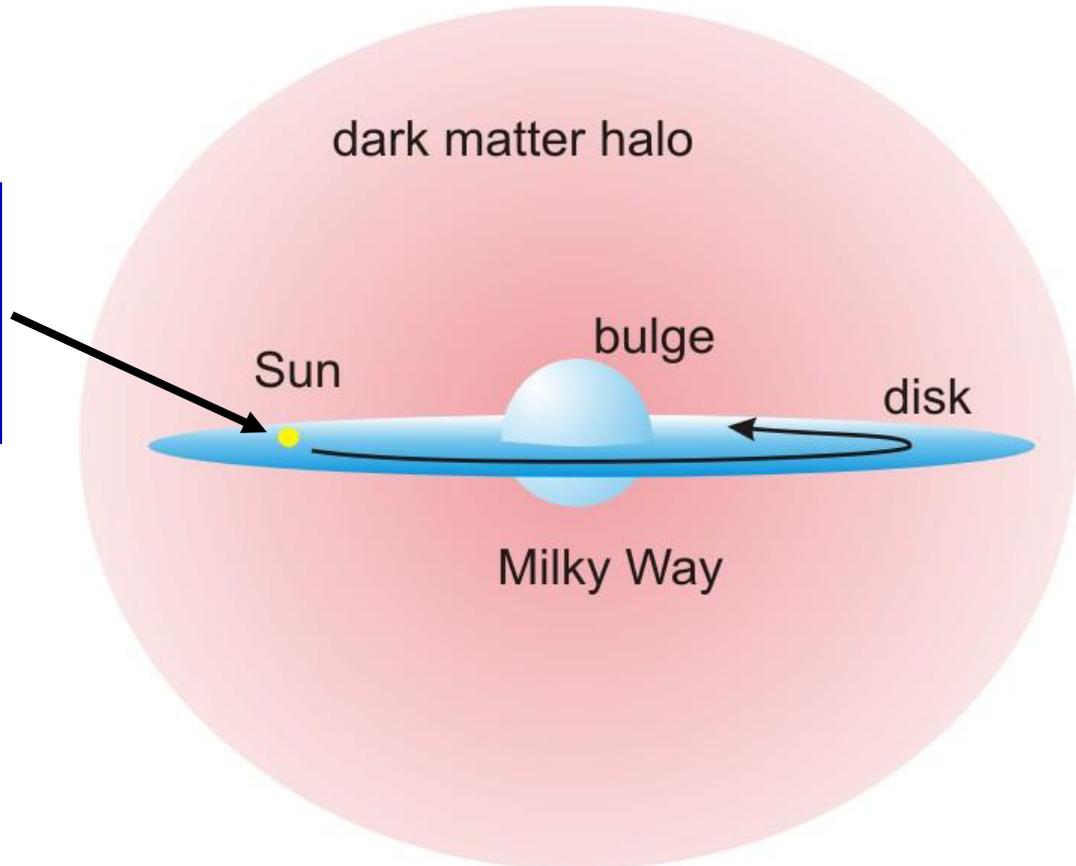
$$v_{\text{DM}} \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$$



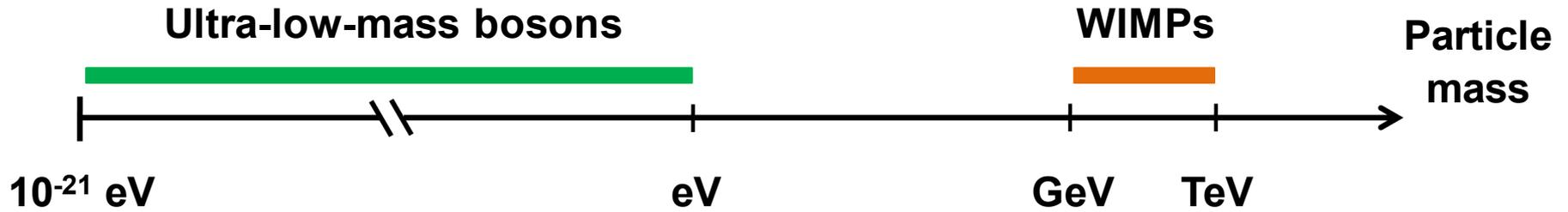
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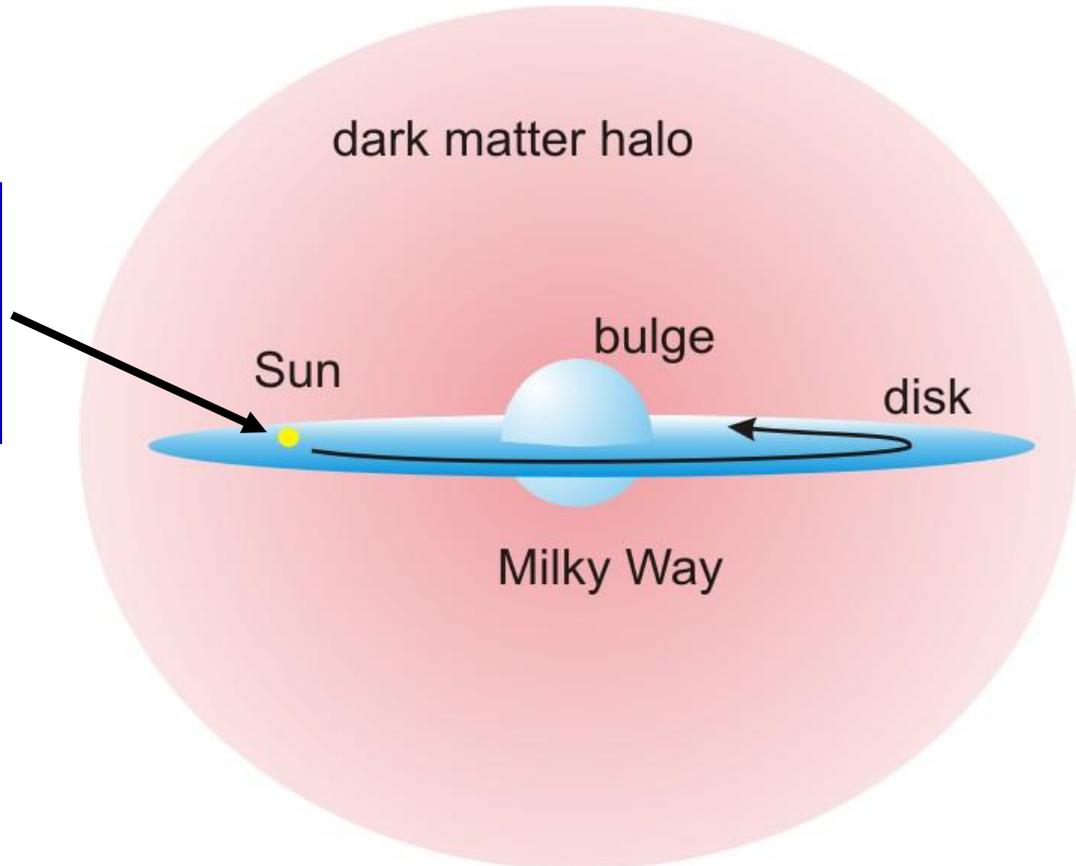
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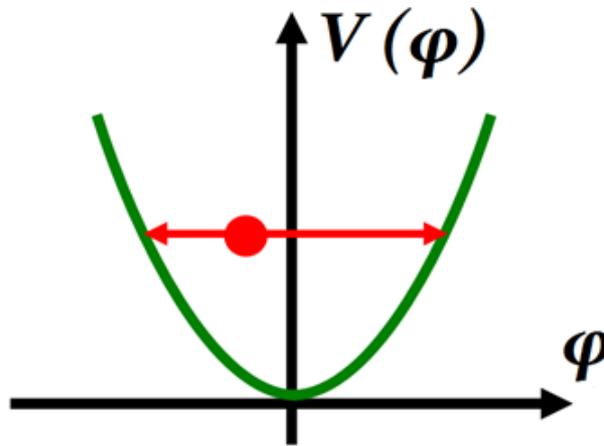


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Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

- Low-mass spin-0 particles form a coherently oscillating classical field $\varphi(t) = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi c^2 t / \hbar)$, with energy density $\langle \rho_\varphi \rangle \approx m_\varphi^2 \varphi_0^2 / 2$ ($\rho_{\text{DM,local}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$)



$$V(\varphi) = \frac{m_\varphi^2 \varphi^2}{2}$$

$$\ddot{\varphi} + m_\varphi^2 \varphi \approx 0$$

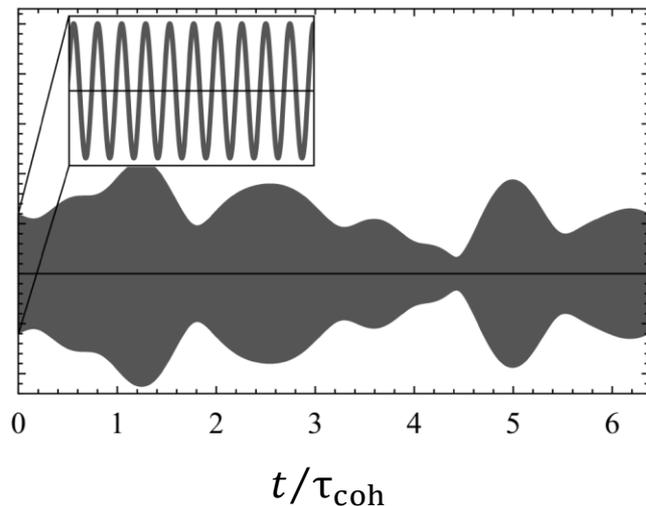
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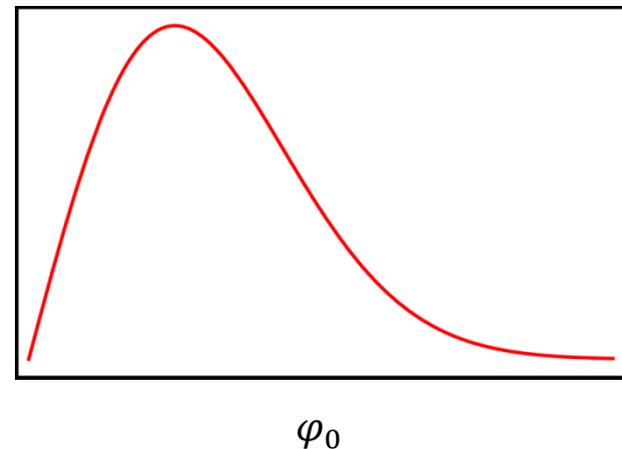
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- $\Delta E_\varphi / E_\varphi \sim \langle v_\varphi^2 \rangle / c^2 \sim 10^{-6} \Rightarrow \tau_{\text{coh}} \sim 2\pi / \Delta E_\varphi \sim 10^6 T_{\text{osc}}$

Evolution of φ_0 with time



Probability distribution function of φ_0
(e.g., Rayleigh distribution)



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- $10^{-21} \text{ eV} \lesssim m_\varphi \lesssim 1 \text{ eV} \Leftrightarrow 10^{-7} \text{ Hz} \lesssim f_{\text{DM}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ eV}$



Lyman- α forest measurements [suppression of structures for $L \lesssim \mathcal{O}(\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi})$]

- **Wave-like signatures** [cf. *particle-like* signatures of WIMP DM]

Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

Dark Matter

**Scalars
(Dilatons):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} +\varphi$$

→ **Time-varying
fundamental constants**

- Atomic clocks
- Cavities and interferometers
 - Torsion pendula
- Astrophysics (e.g., BBN)

**Pseudoscalars
(Axions):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} -\varphi$$

→ **Time-varying spin-
dependent effects**

- Co-magnetometers
 - Particle g -factors
- Spin-polarised torsion pendula
- Spin resonance (NMR, ESR)

Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

Dark Matter



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(Dilatons):**

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Dark-Matter-Induced Variations of the Fundamental Constants

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)],

[Hees, Minazzoli, Savalle, Stadnik, Wolf, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \frac{\varphi}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \approx \frac{\varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t)}{\Lambda_\gamma} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} \Rightarrow \frac{\delta\alpha}{\alpha} \approx \frac{\varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t)}{\Lambda_\gamma}$$

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$$\varphi = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t - \mathbf{p}_\varphi \cdot \mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{F} \propto \mathbf{p}_\varphi \sin(m_\varphi t)$$

Lab frame

Solar System (and lab) move through stationary dark matter halo

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φ^2 interactions also exhibit the same oscillating-in-time signatures as above, as well as ...

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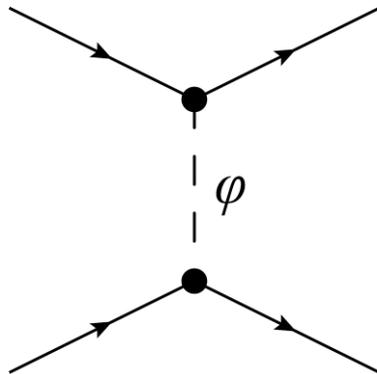
Fifth Forces: Linear vs Quadratic Couplings

[Hees, Minazzoli, Savalle, Stadnik, Wolf, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

Consider the effect of a massive body (e.g., Earth) on the scalar DM field

Linear couplings ($\varphi\bar{X}X$)

$$\square\varphi + m_\varphi^2\varphi = \pm\kappa\rho \quad \text{Source term}$$



$$\varphi = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t) \pm A \frac{e^{-m_\varphi r}}{r}$$



Profile outside of a spherical body

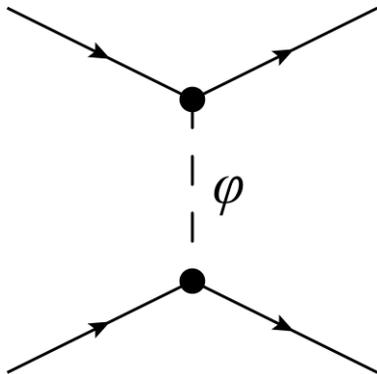
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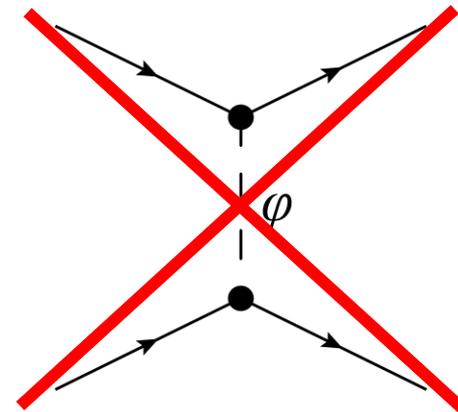
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Quadratic couplings ($\varphi^2\bar{X}X$)

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$$m_{\text{eff}}^2(\rho) = m_\varphi^2 \mp \kappa'\rho$$

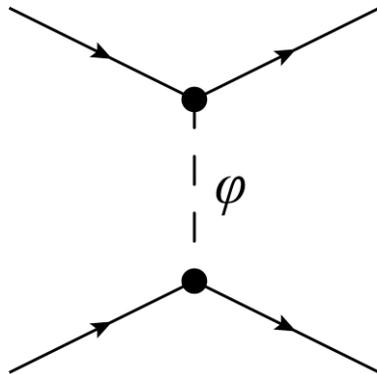
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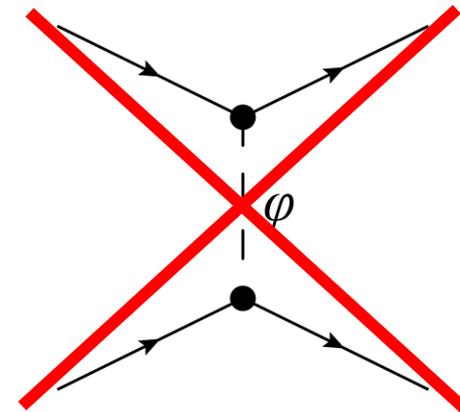


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↓
Gradients + amplification/screening

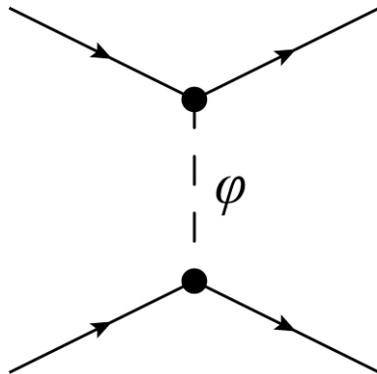
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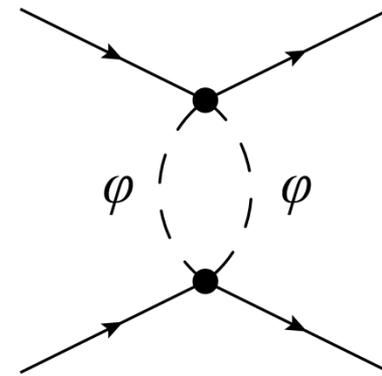


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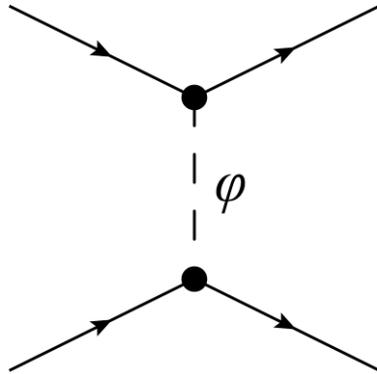
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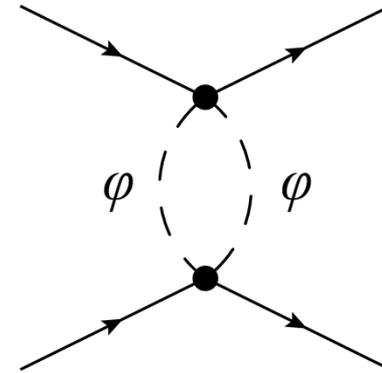


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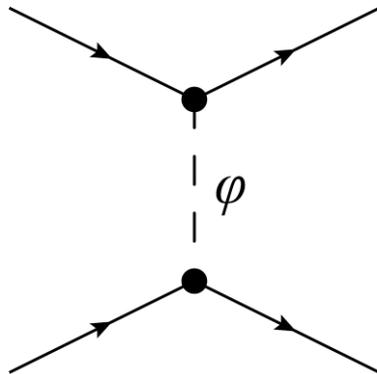
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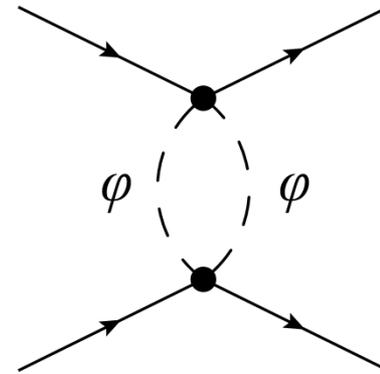
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“Fifth-force” experiments: torsion pendula, atom interferometry

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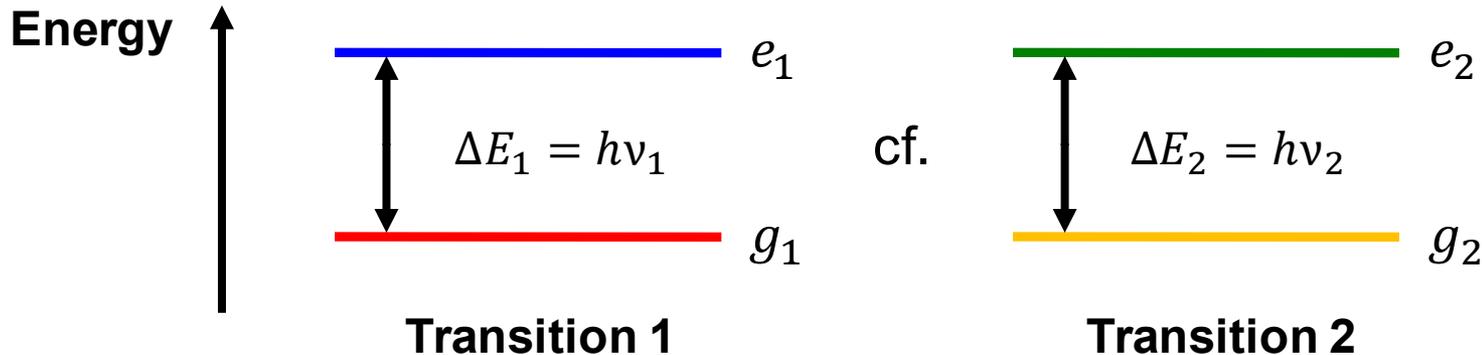


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Gradients + amplification/screening

Atomic Spectroscopy Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter



$$\frac{\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2)}{\nu_1/\nu_2} = (K_{X,1} - K_{X,2}) \frac{\delta X}{X}; \quad X = \alpha, m_e/m_N, \dots$$

Atomic spectroscopy (including clocks) has been used for decades to search for “slow drifts” in fundamental constants

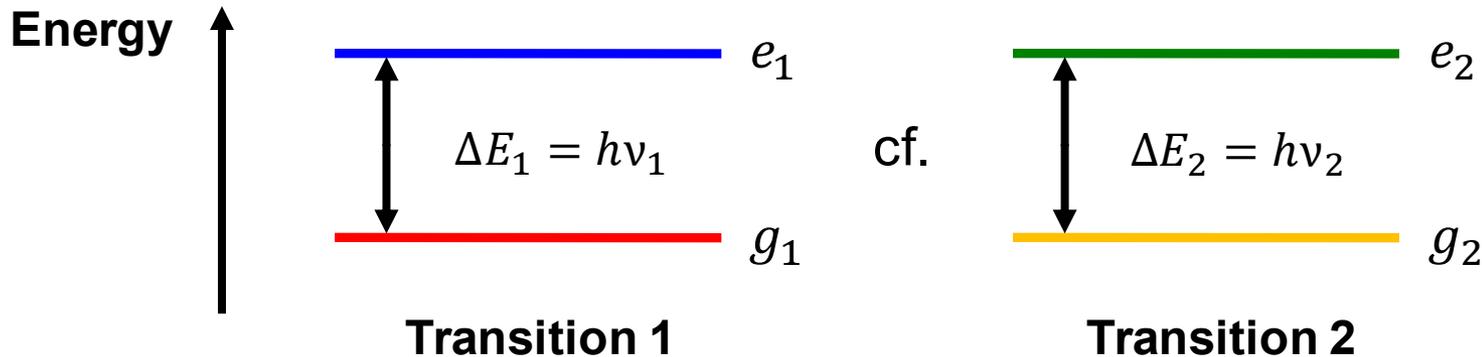
Recent overview: [Ludlow, Boyd, Ye, Peik, Schmidt, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **87**, 637 (2015)]

“Sensitivity coefficients” K_X required for the interpretation of experimental data have been calculated extensively by Flambaum group

Reviews: [Flambaum, Dzuba, *Can. J. Phys.* **87**, 25 (2009); *Hyperfine Interac.* **236**, 79 (2015)]

Atomic Spectroscopy Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015)], [Arvanitaki, Huang, Van Tilburg, *PRD* **91**, 015015 (2015)]



$$\frac{\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2)}{\nu_1/\nu_2} \propto \sum_{X=\alpha, m_e/m_N, \dots} (K_{X,1} - K_{X,2}) \cos(2\pi f_{\text{DM}} t); \quad 2\pi f_{\text{DM}} = m_\phi \text{ or } 2m_\phi$$

- **Dy/Cs [Mainz]:** [Van Tilburg *et al.*, *PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)],
[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)]
- **Rb/Cs [SYRTE]:** [Hees *et al.*, *PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)],
[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]
- **Yb⁺(E3)/Sr [PTB]:** [Huntemann, Peik *et al.*, Ongoing]
- **Al⁺/Yb, Yb/Sr, Al⁺/Hg⁺ [NIST + JILA]:** [Hume, Leibbrandt *et al.*, Ongoing]

Cavity-Based Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRA* **93**, 063630 (2016)]

Solid material



$$L_{\text{solid}} \propto a_B = 1/(m_e \alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{solid}} \propto 1/L_{\text{solid}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

(adiabatic regime)

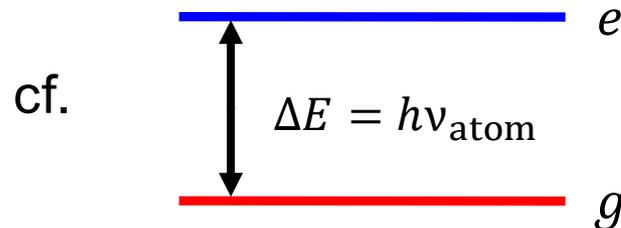
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Solid material



Electronic transition



$$L_{\text{solid}} \propto a_B = 1/(m_e \alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nu_{\text{solid}} \propto 1/L_{\text{solid}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

$$\nu_{\text{atom}} \propto \text{Ry} \propto m_e \alpha^2$$

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{atom}}}{\nu_{\text{solid}}} \propto \alpha$$

- **Sr vs Glass cavity [Torun]:** [Wcislo *et al.*, *Nature Astronomy* **1**, 0009 (2016)]
- **Various combinations [Worldwide]:** [Wcislo *et al.*, *Science Advances* **4**, eaau4869 (2018)]
 - **Cs vs Steel cavity [Mainz]:** [Antypas *et al.*, *PRL* **123**, 141102 (2019)]
 - **Sr⁺ vs Glass cavity [Weizmann]:** [Aharony *et al.*, arXiv:1902.02788]
- **Sr/H vs Silicon cavity [JILA + PTB]:** [Kennedy *et al.*, *PRL* **125**, 201302 (2020)]
- **H vs Sapphire/Quartz cavities [UWA]:** [Campbell *et al.*, arXiv:2010.08107]

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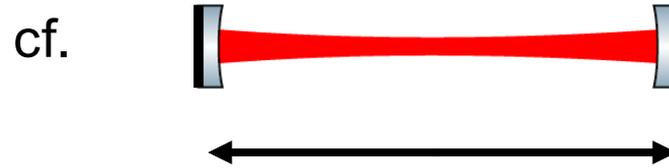
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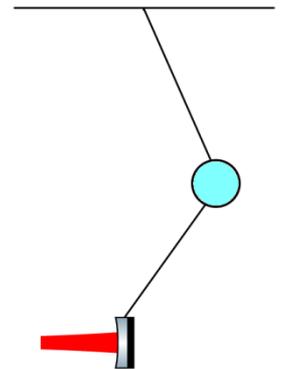
Freely-suspended mirrors



$$L_{\text{free}} \approx \text{const. for } f_{\text{DM}} > f_{\text{natural}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\text{free}} \approx \text{constant}$$

Double-pendulum suspensions



$$\frac{v_{\text{solid}}}{v_{\text{free}}} \propto m_e \alpha$$

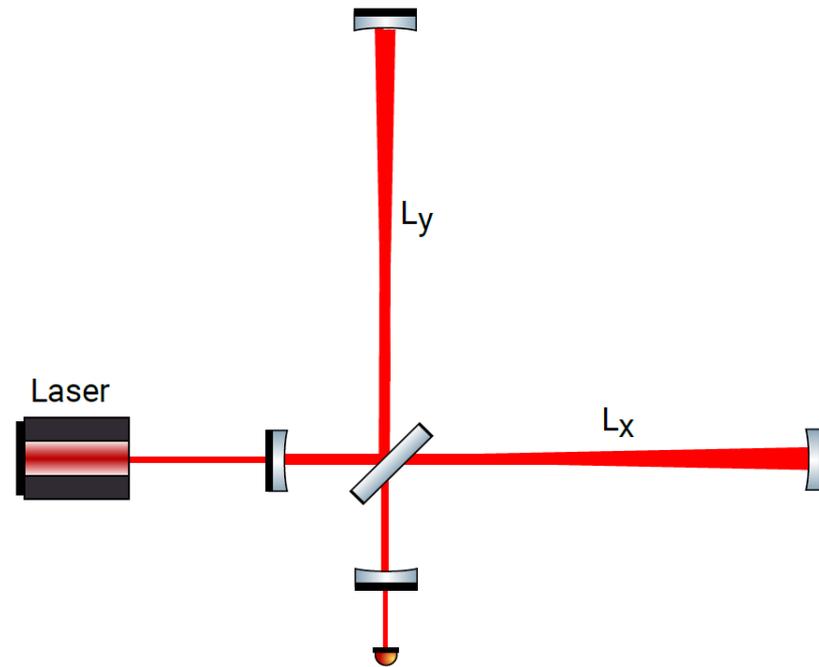
cf.

$$\frac{v_{\text{atom}}}{v_{\text{solid}}} \propto \alpha$$

Small-scale experiment currently under development at Northwestern University

Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

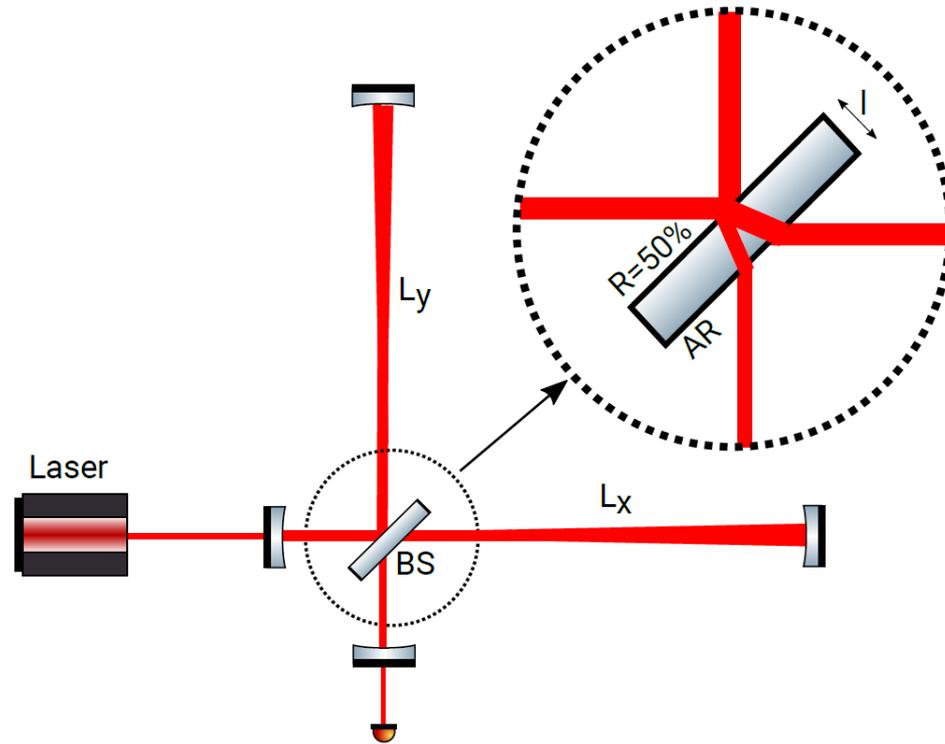
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



Michelson interferometer (GEO600)

Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

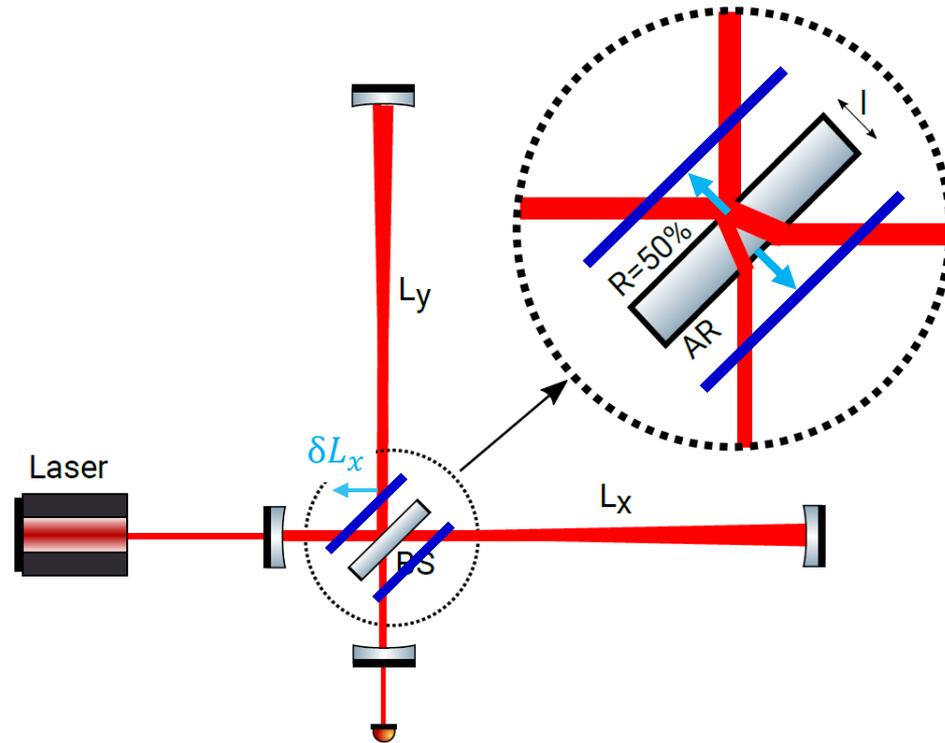
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- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter

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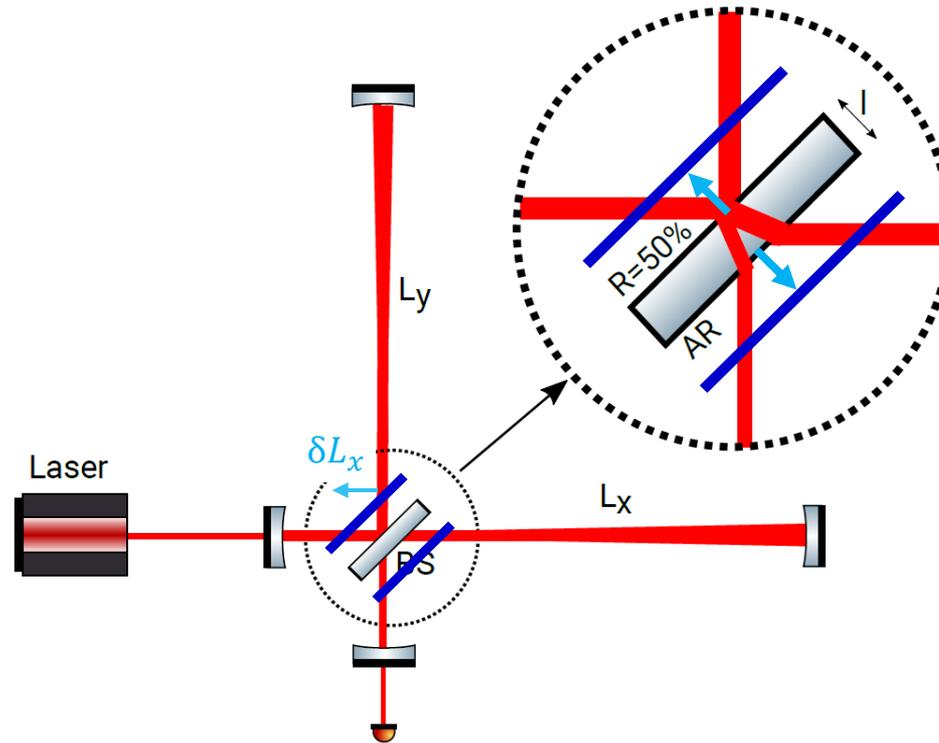
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter: $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$

Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



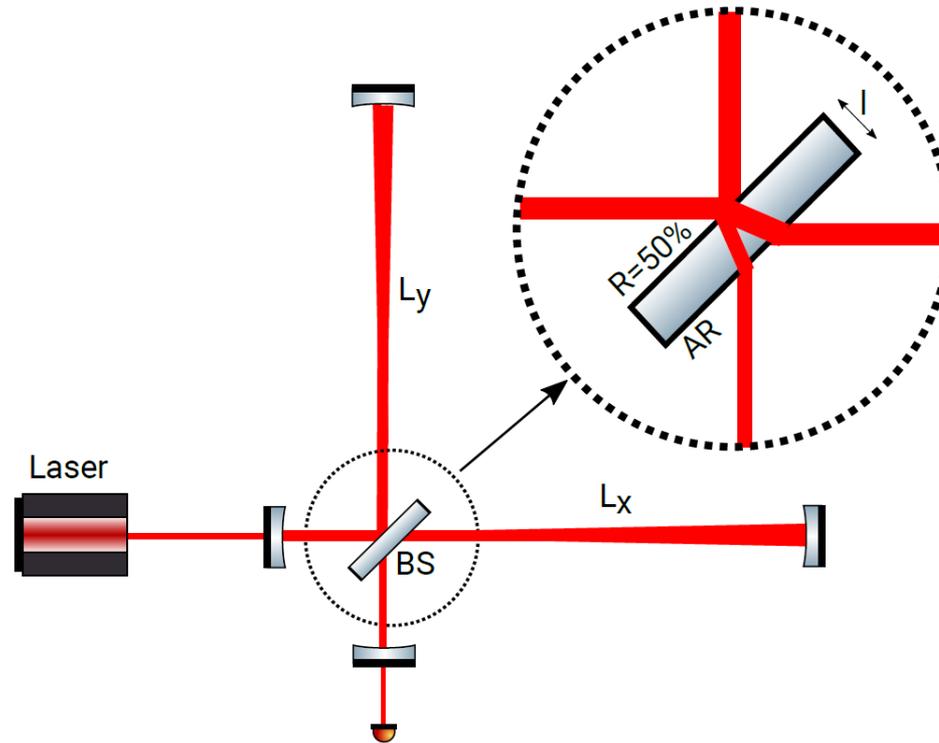
- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter: $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$

First results recently reported using GEO600 data:

[Vermeulen *et al.*, arXiv:2103.03783]

Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations of Fundamental Constants induced by Dark Matter

[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]



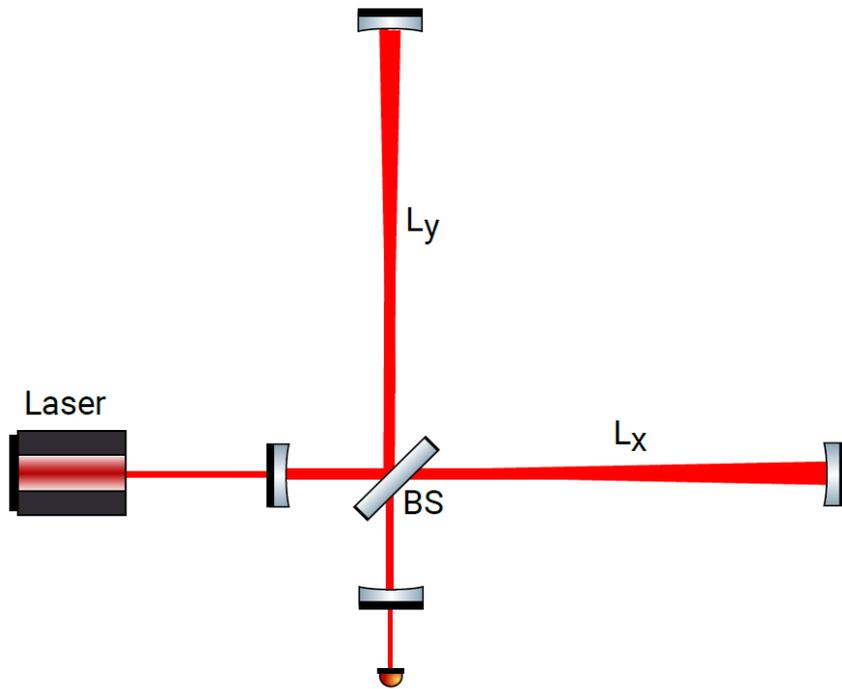
- Geometric asymmetry from beam-splitter: $\delta(L_x - L_y) \sim \delta(nl)$
- Both broadband and resonant narrowband searches possible:

$$f_{\text{DM}} \approx f_{\text{vibr,BS}}(T) \sim v_{\text{sound}}/l \Rightarrow Q \sim 10^6 \text{ enhancement}$$

Michelson vs Fabry-Perot-Michelson Interferometers

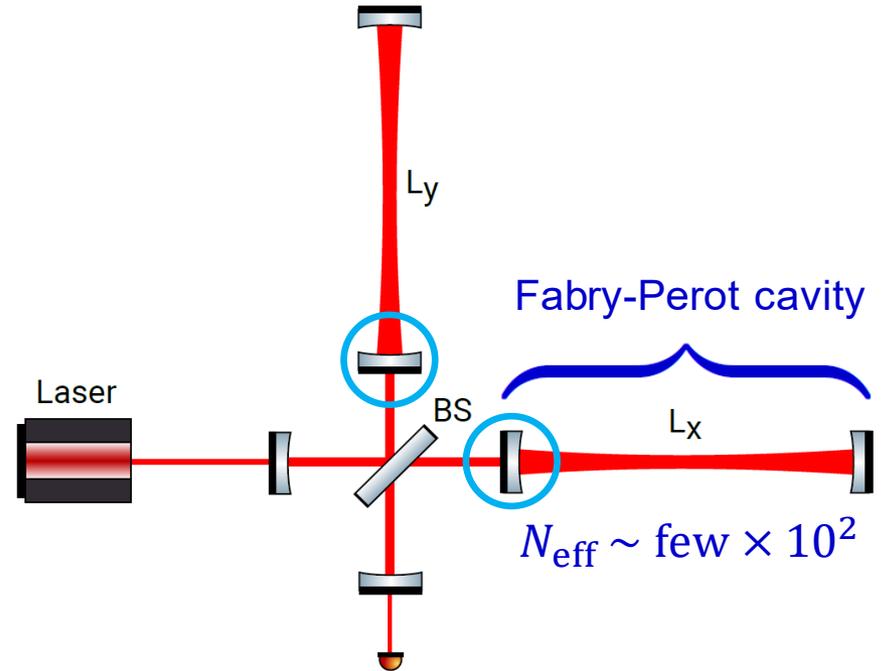
[Grote, Stadnik, *Phys. Rev. Research* 1, 033187 (2019)]

**Michelson interferometer
(GEO 600)**



$$\delta(L_x - L_y)_{BS} \sim \delta(nl)$$

**Fabry-Perot-Michelson
interferometer (LIGO)**

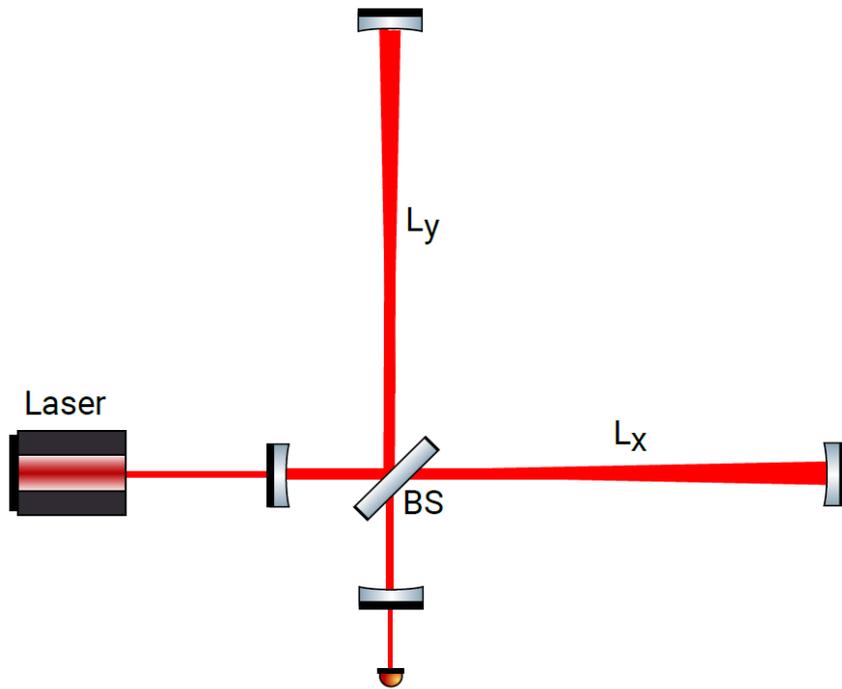


$$\delta(L_x - L_y)_{BS} \sim \delta(nl) / N_{\text{eff}}$$

Michelson vs Fabry-Perot-Michelson Interferometers

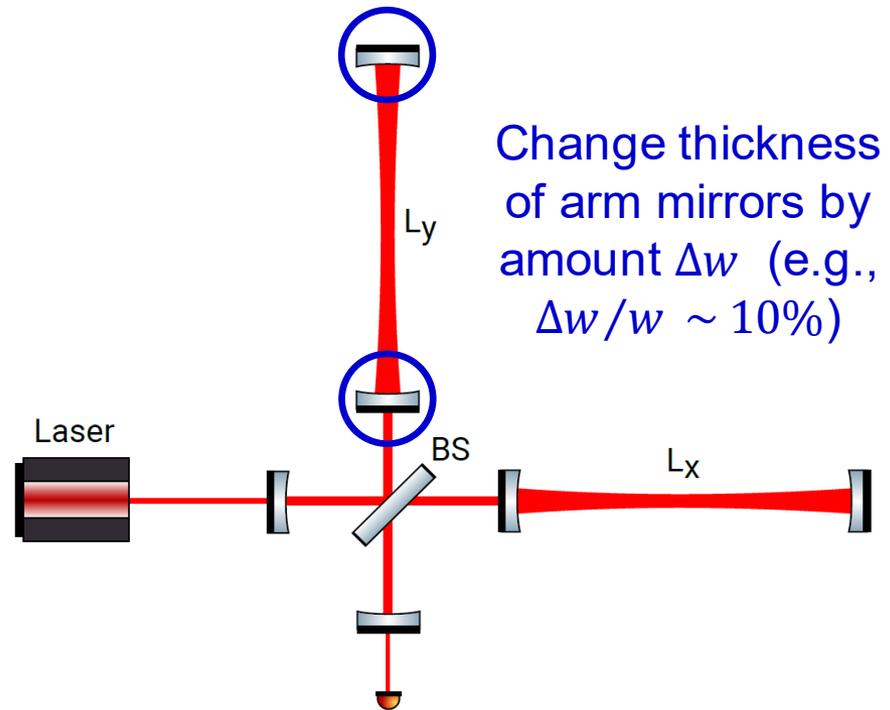
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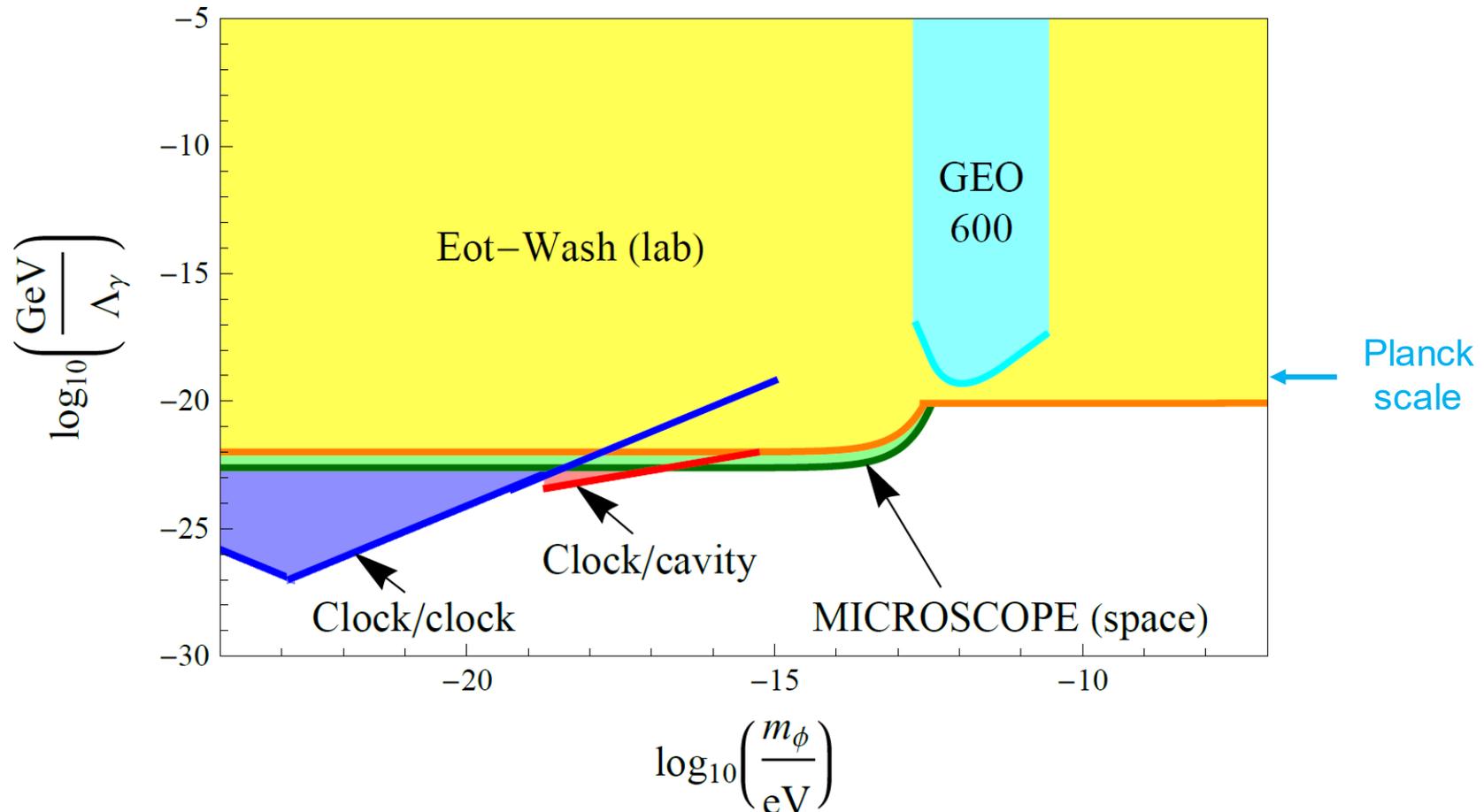


$$\delta(L_x - L_y) \approx \delta(\Delta w)$$

Constraints on Linear Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Photon

Clock/clock: [Van Tilburg *et al.*, *PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)], [Hees *et al.*, *PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)];
Clock/cavity: [Kennedy *et al.*, *PRL* **125**, 201302 (2020)]; **GEO600:** [Vermeulen *et al.*, arXiv:2103.03783]

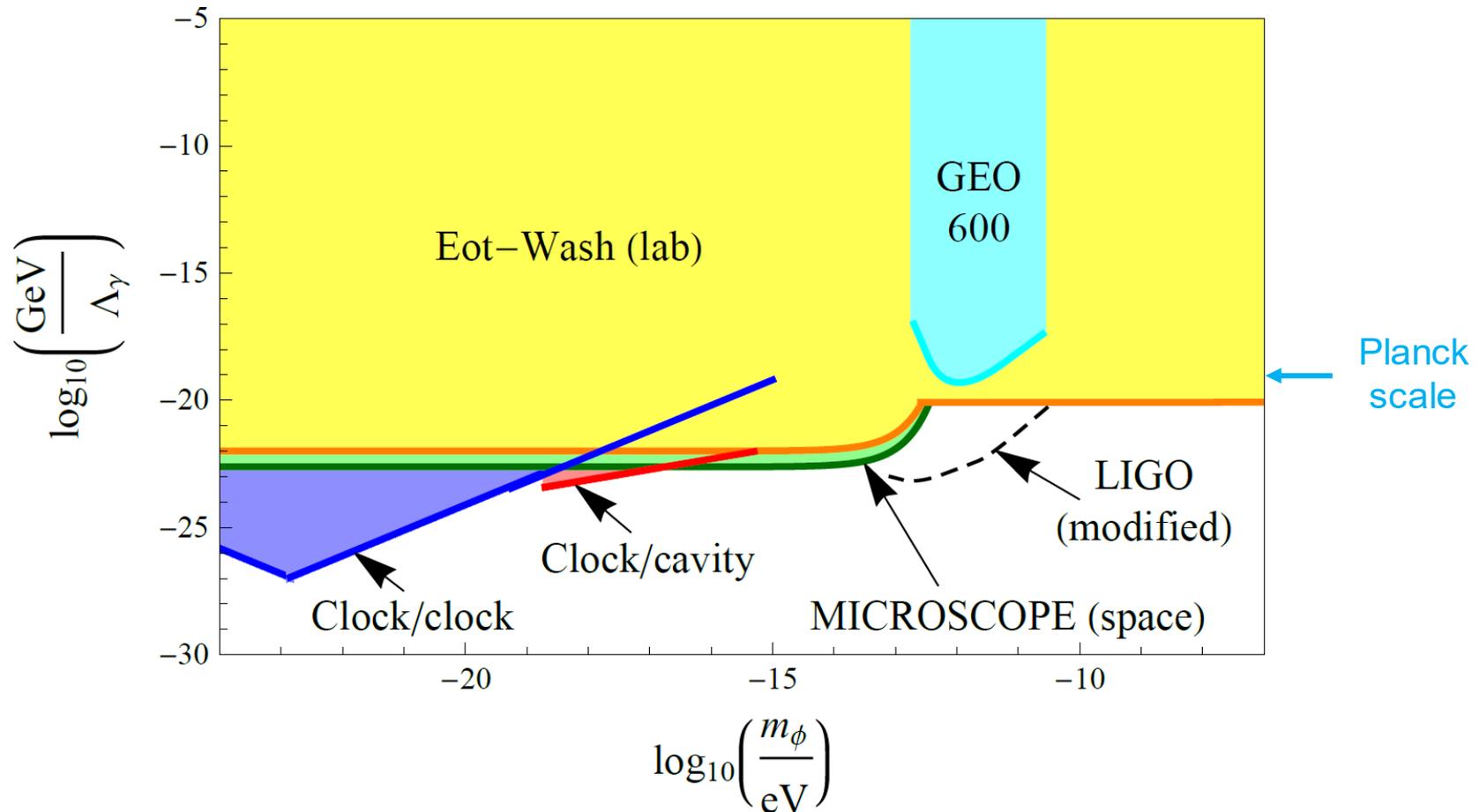
4 orders of magnitude improvement!



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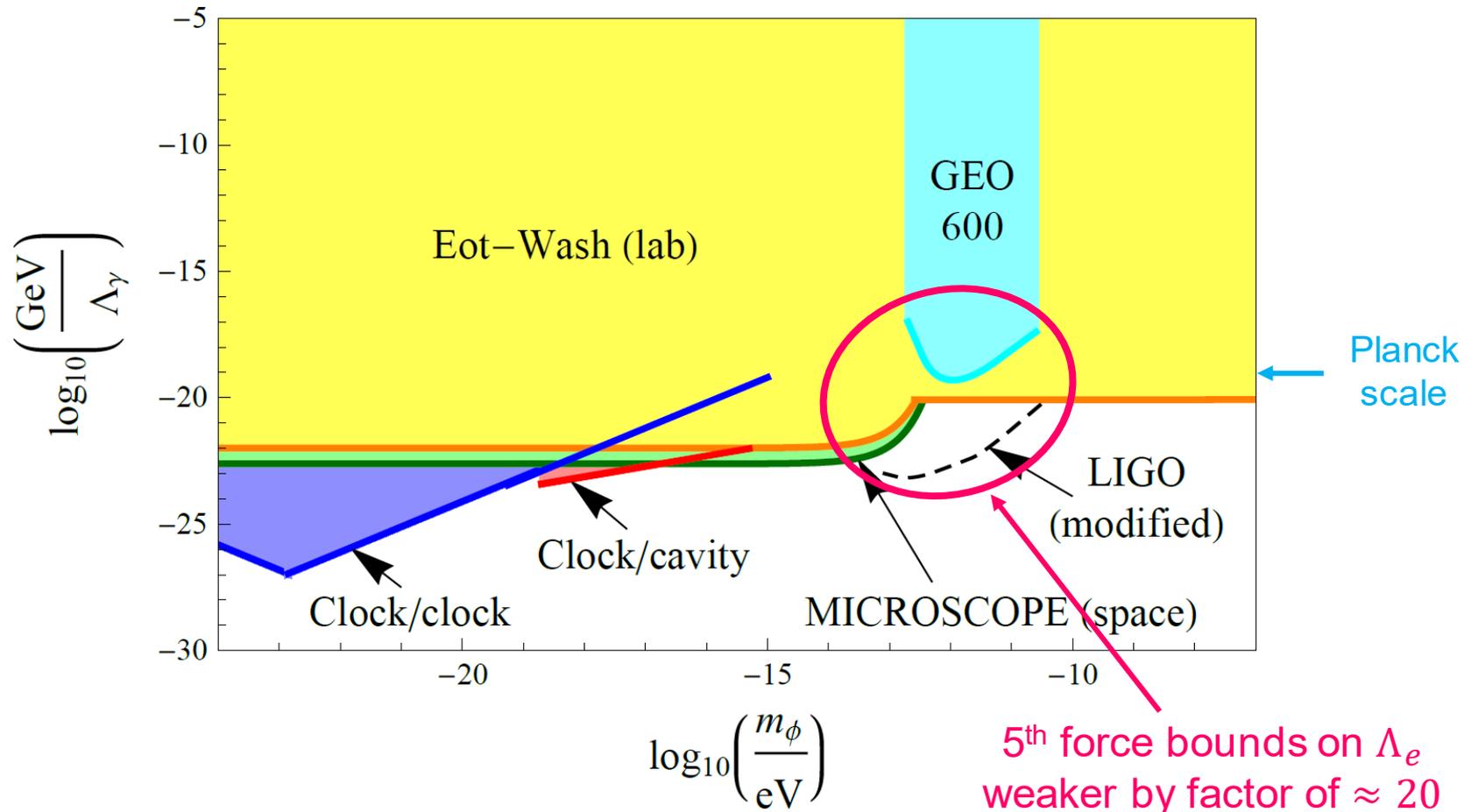
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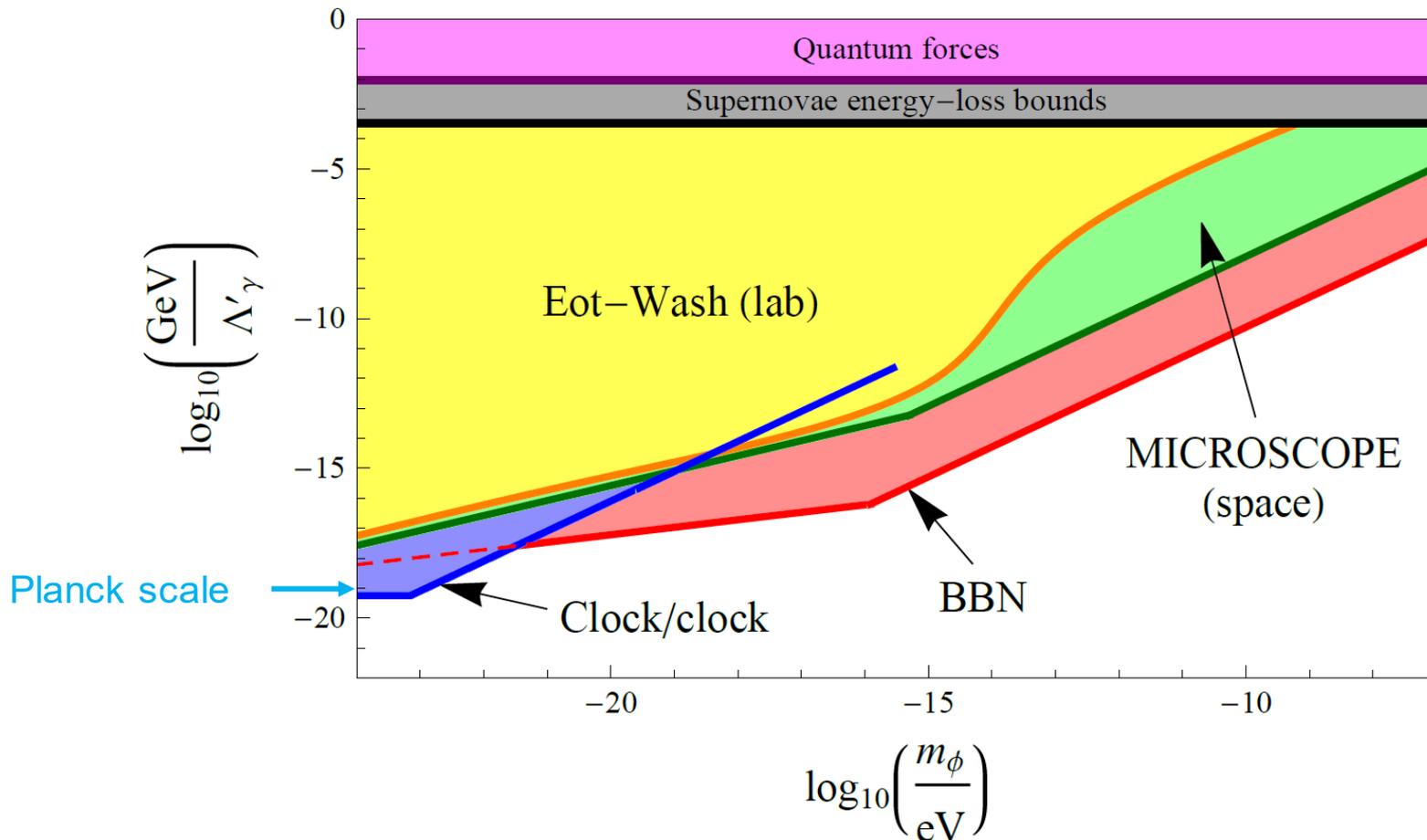
4 orders of magnitude improvement!



Constraints on Quadratic Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Photon

Clock/clock + BBN constraints: [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015); *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]; **MICROSCOPE + Eöt-Wash constraints:** [Hees *et al.*, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

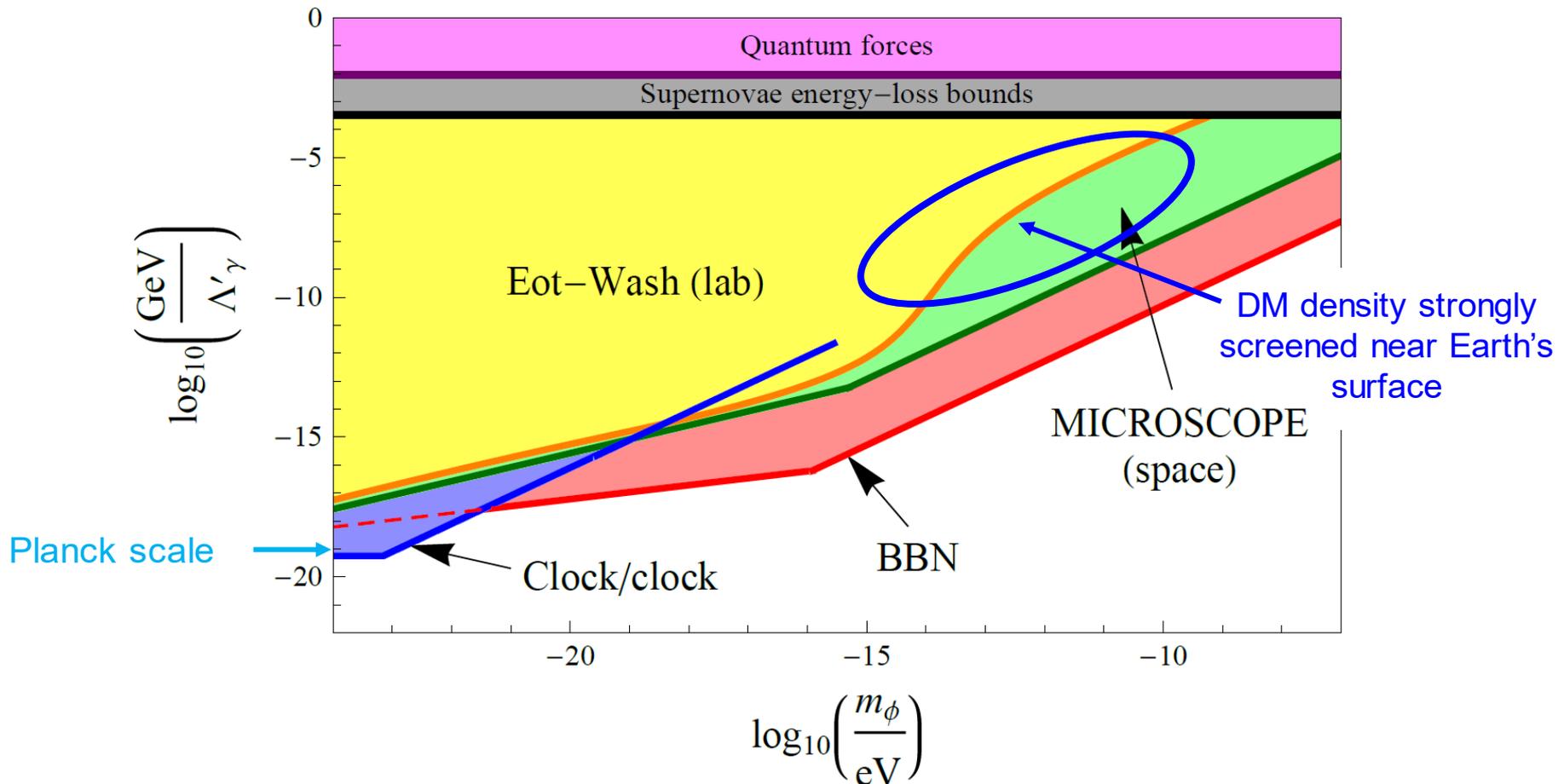
15 orders of magnitude improvement!



Constraints on Quadratic Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Photon

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15 orders of magnitude improvement!



Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

Dark Matter



*More traditional axion detection methods tend to focus on the **electromagnetic** coupling*

**Pseudoscalars
(Axions):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} -\varphi$$

*Here I focus on relatively new detection methods based on **non-electromagnetic** couplings*



Time-varying spin-dependent effects

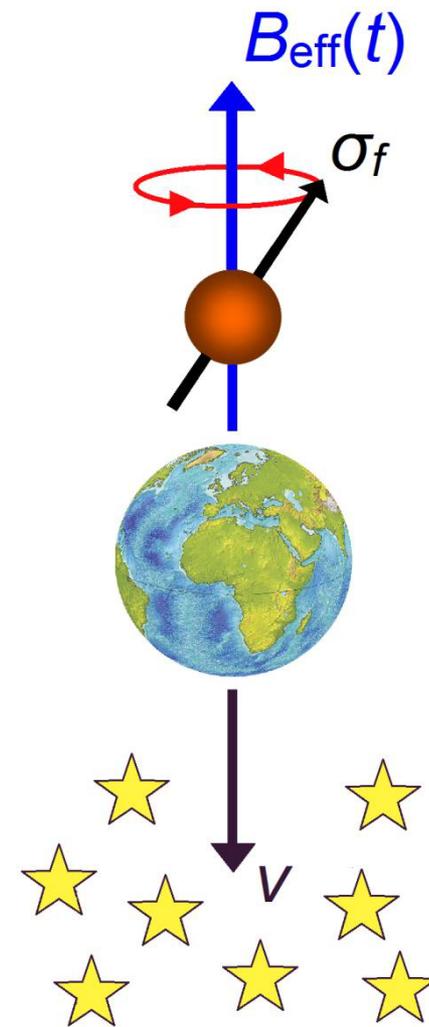
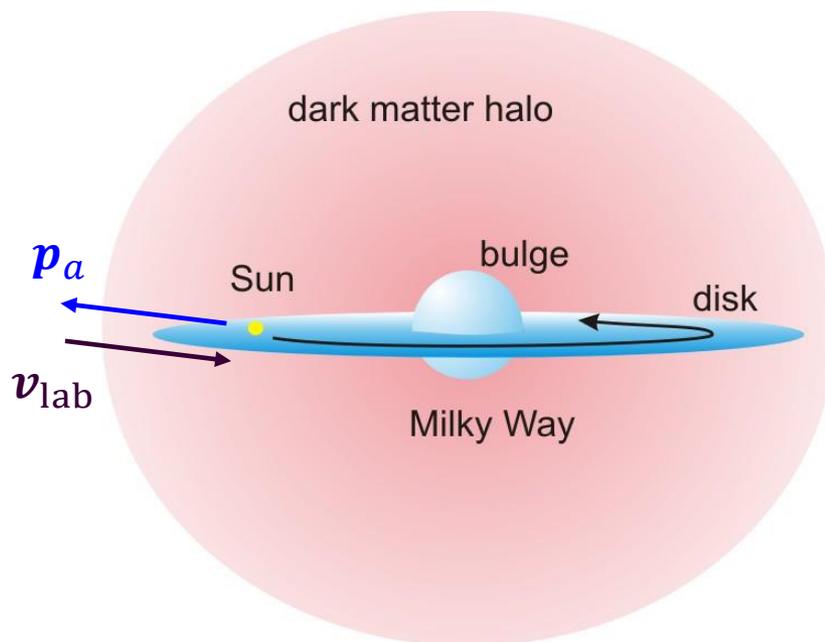
- Co-magnetometers
- Particle g -factors
- Spin-polarised torsion pendula
- Spin resonance (NMR, ESR)

“Axion Wind” Spin-Precession Effect

[Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

$$\mathcal{L}_f = -\frac{C_f}{2f_a} \partial_i [a_0 \cos(m_a t - \mathbf{p}_a \cdot \mathbf{x})] \bar{f} \gamma^i \gamma^5 f$$

$$\Rightarrow H_{\text{wind}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_f \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}}(t) \propto \boldsymbol{\sigma}_f \cdot \mathbf{p}_a \sin(m_a t)$$

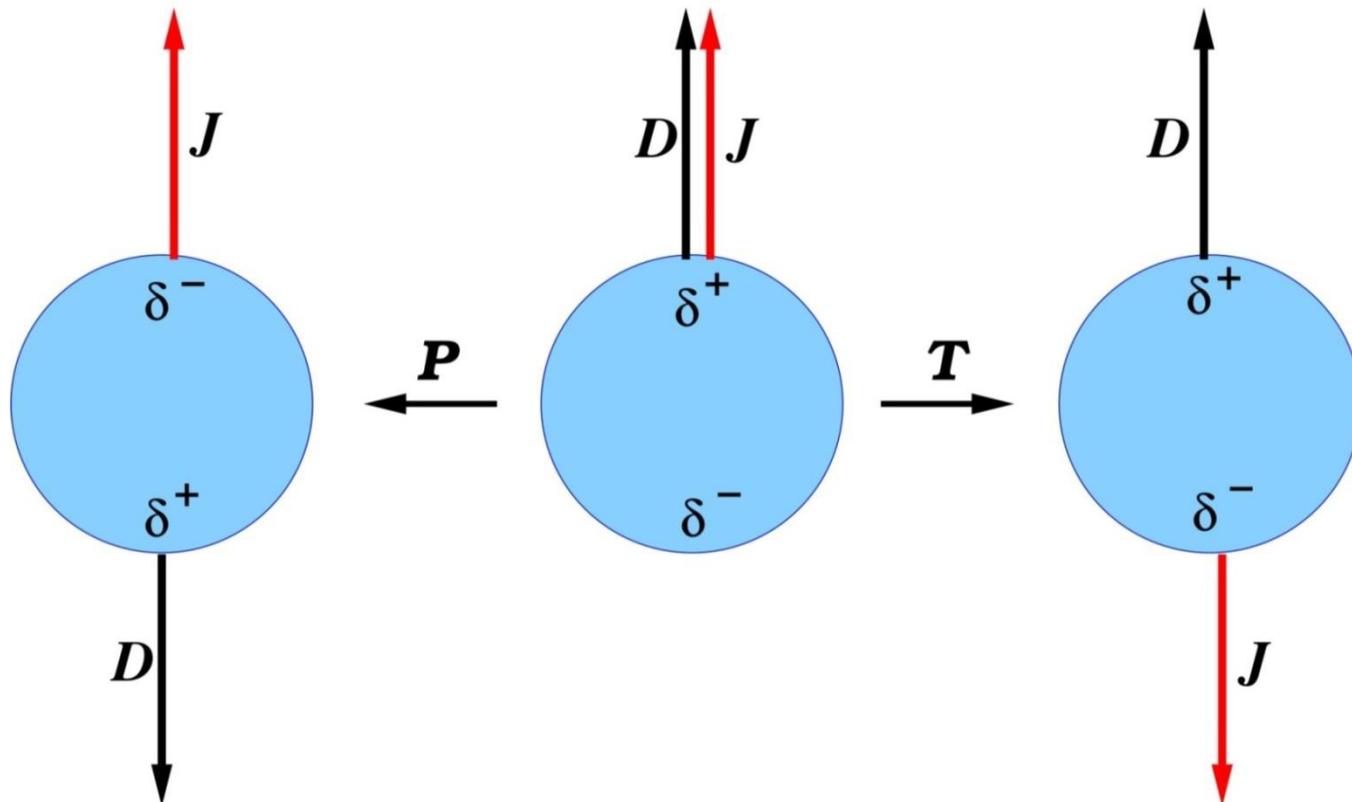


Oscillating Electric Dipole Moments

Nucleons: [Graham, Rajendran, *PRD* **84**, 055013 (2011)]

Atoms and molecules: [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

Electric Dipole Moment (EDM) = parity (P) and time-reversal-invariance (T) violating electric moment



Oscillating Electric Dipole Moments

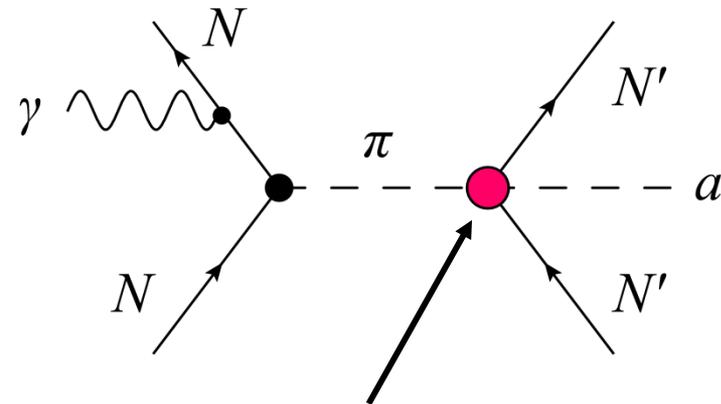
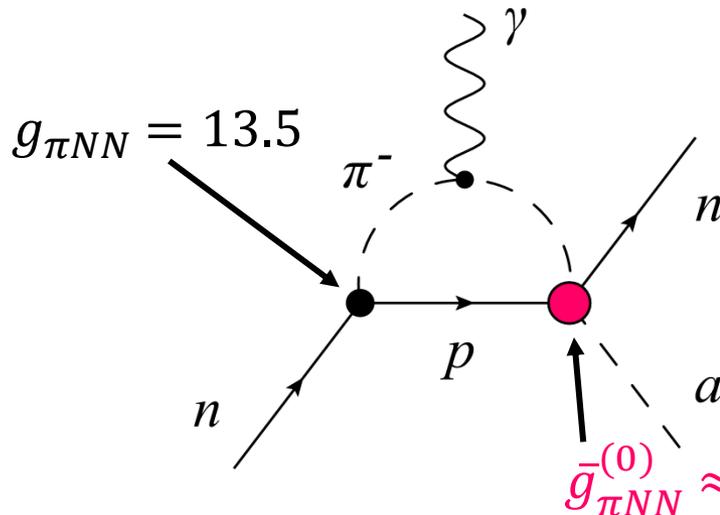
Nucleons: [Graham, Rajendran, *PRD* **84**, 055013 (2011)]

Atoms and molecules: [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

$$\mathcal{L}_G = \frac{C_G g^2}{32\pi^2 f_a} a_0 \cos(m_a t) G \tilde{G} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} H_{\text{EDM}}(t) &= \mathbf{d}(t) \cdot \mathbf{E}, \\ \mathbf{d}(t) &\propto \mathbf{J} \cos(m_a t) \end{aligned}$$

Nucleon EDMs

CP-violating intranuclear forces



$$\bar{g}_{\pi NN}^{(0)} \approx 0.016 C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t) / f_a$$

In nuclei, **tree-level** CP-violating intranuclear forces dominate over **loop-induced** nucleon EDMs [loop factor = $1/(8\pi^2)$].

Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

Proposals: [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013;
Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014); Stadnik, thesis (Springer, 2017)]

Use spin-polarised sources: *Atomic magnetometers*,
cold/ultracold particles, *torsion pendula*

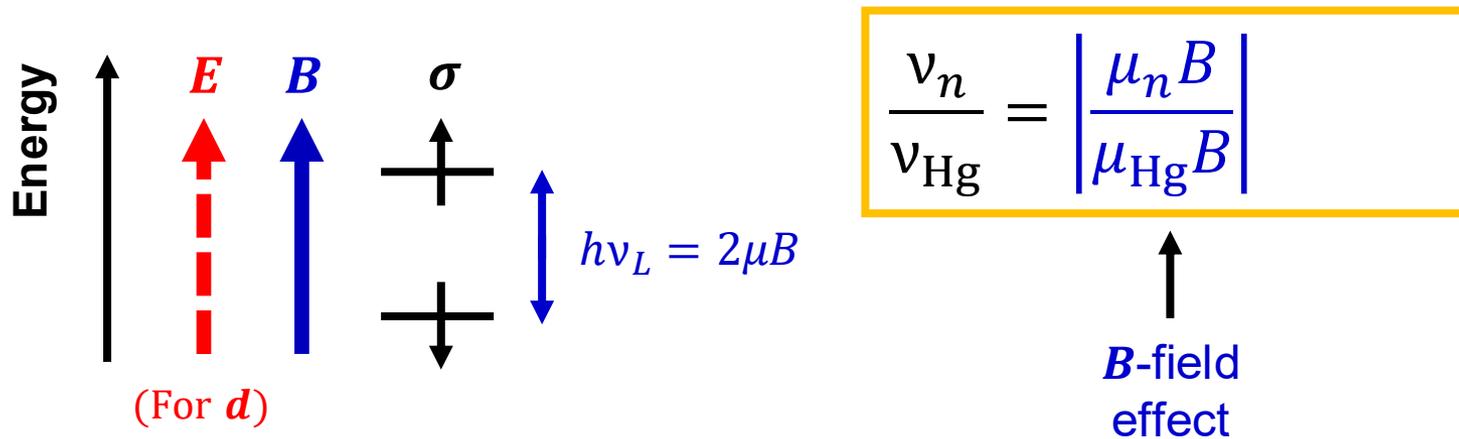
***Similar to previous searches for
Lorentz-invariance violation***

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Experiment (n/Hg): [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

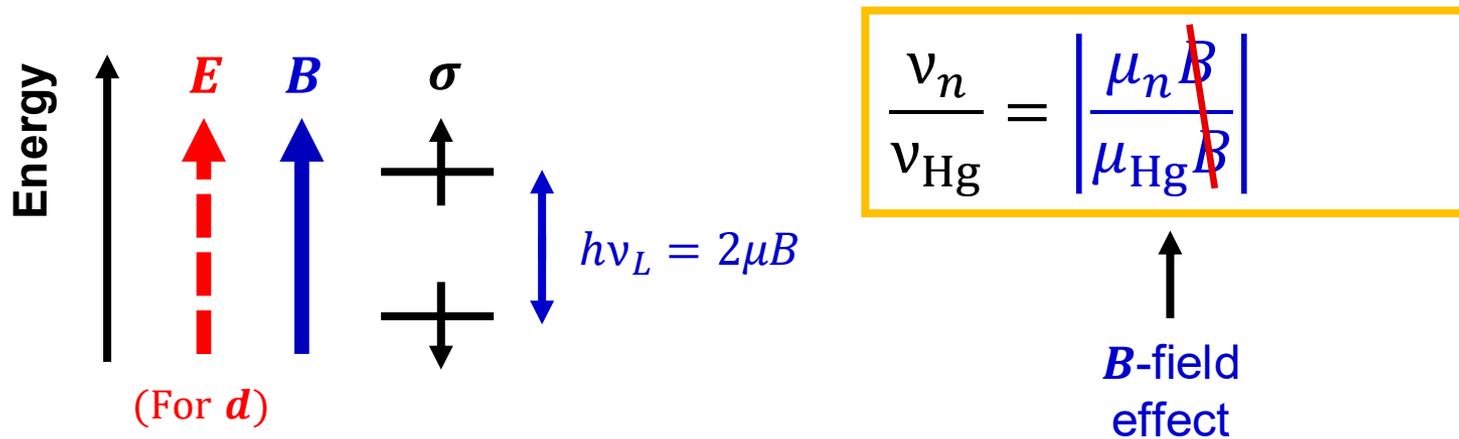


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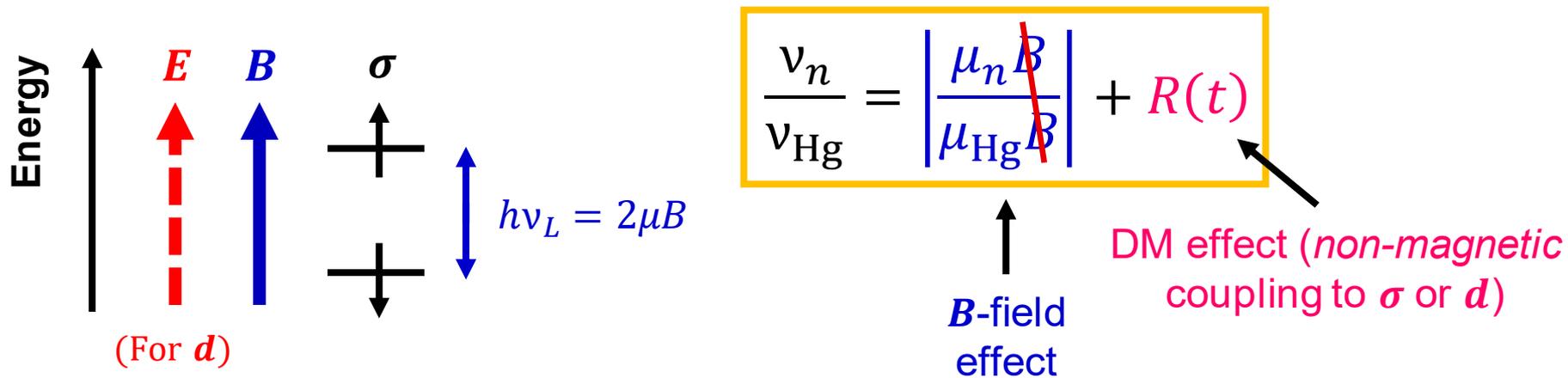


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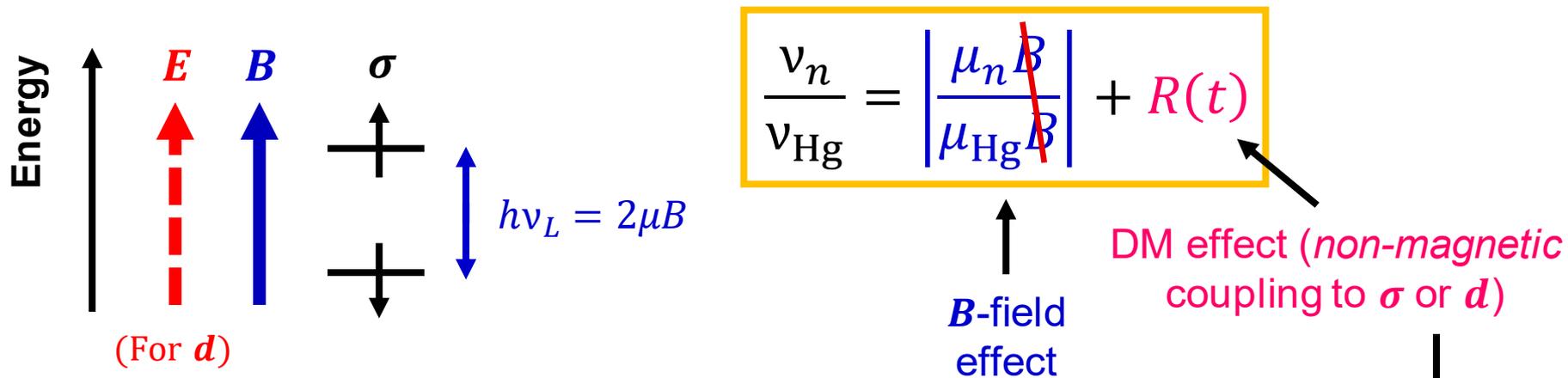


Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

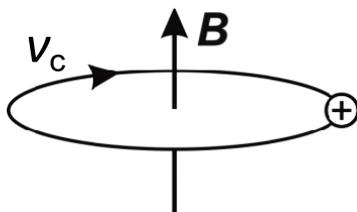
Proposals: [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013; Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014); Stadnik, thesis (Springer, 2017)]

Use spin-polarised sources: Atomic magnetometers, cold/ultracold particles, *torsion pendula*

Experiment (n/Hg): [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]



Proposal + Experiment (\bar{p}): [BASE collaboration, *Nature* **575**, 310 (2019)]



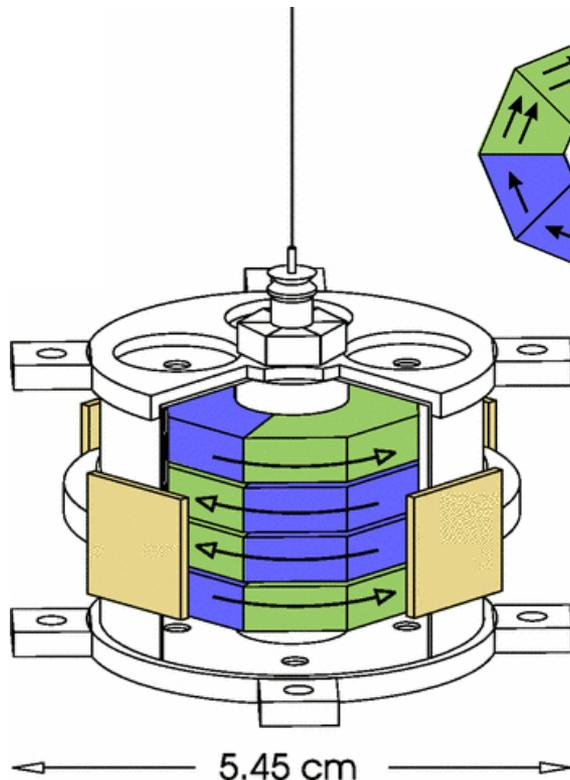
$$\left(\frac{\nu_L}{\nu_c} \right)_{\bar{p}} = \frac{|g_{\bar{p}}|}{2} + R(t)$$

Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

Proposals: [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013;
Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014); Stadnik, thesis (Springer, 2017)]

Use spin-polarised sources: *Atomic magnetometers*,
cold/ultracold particles, torsion pendula

Experiment (Alnico/SmCo₅): [Terrano *et al.*, *PRL* **122**, 231301 (2019)]



μ_{Alnico}
 μ_{SmCo_5}

$$\mu_{\text{pendulum}} \approx 0$$

$(\sigma_e)_{\text{Alnico}}$
 $(\sigma_e)_{\text{SmCo}_5}$

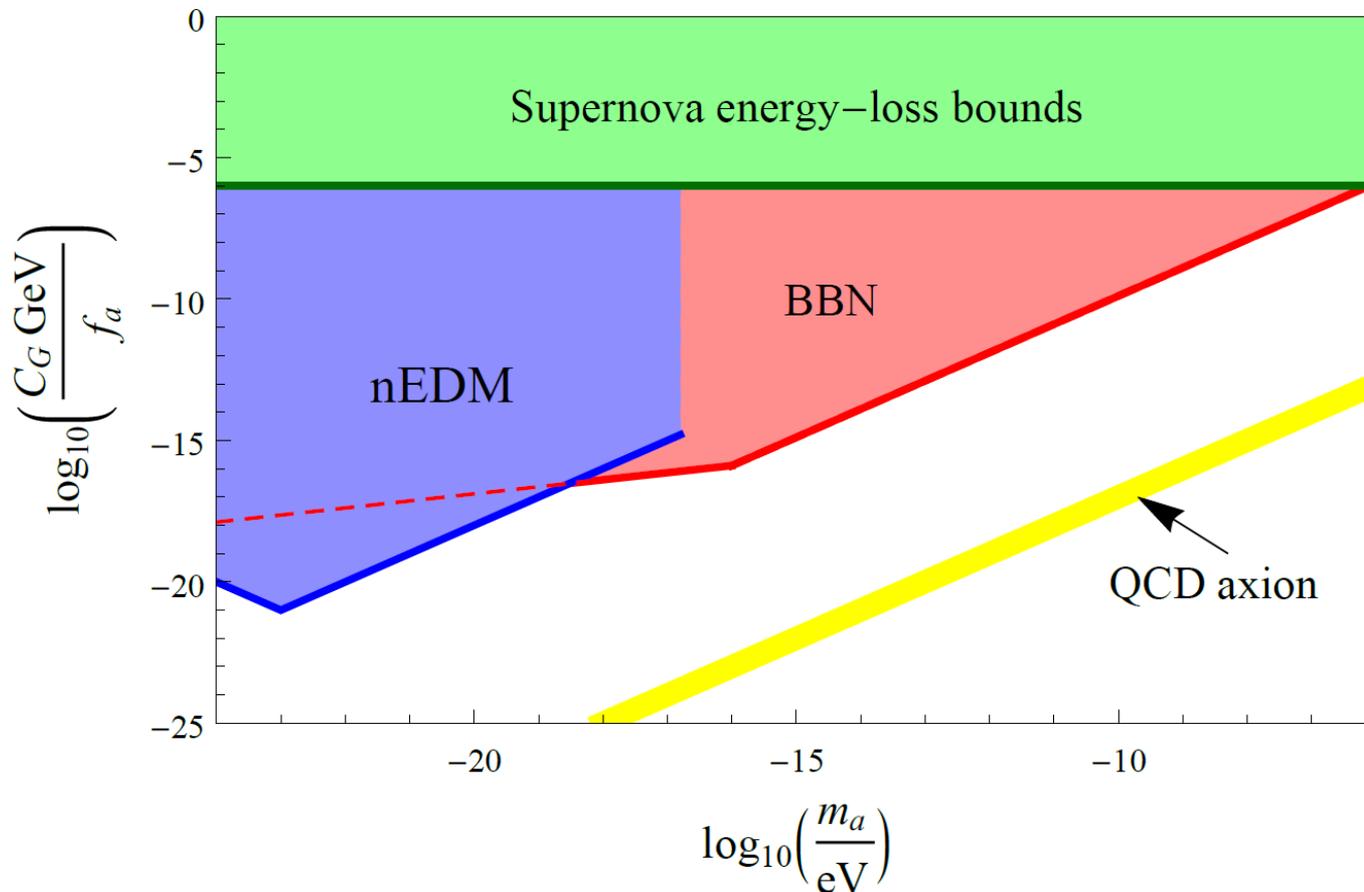
$$(\sigma_e)_{\text{pendulum}} \neq 0$$

$$\tau(t) \propto (\sigma_e)_{\text{pendulum}} \times B_{\text{eff}}(t)$$

Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Gluons

nEDM constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* 7, 041034 (2017)]

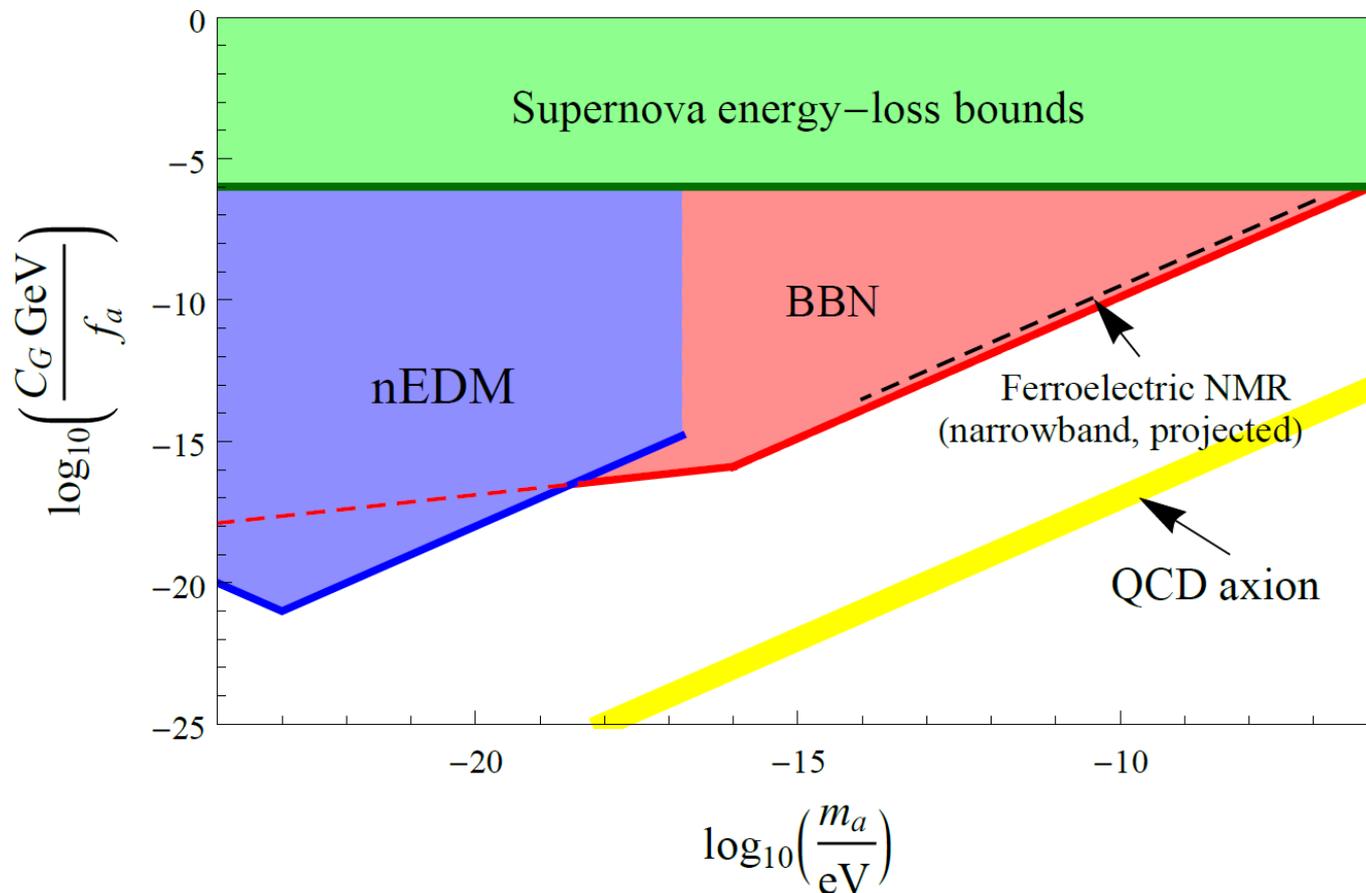
3 orders of magnitude improvement!



Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Gluons

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3 orders of magnitude improvement!

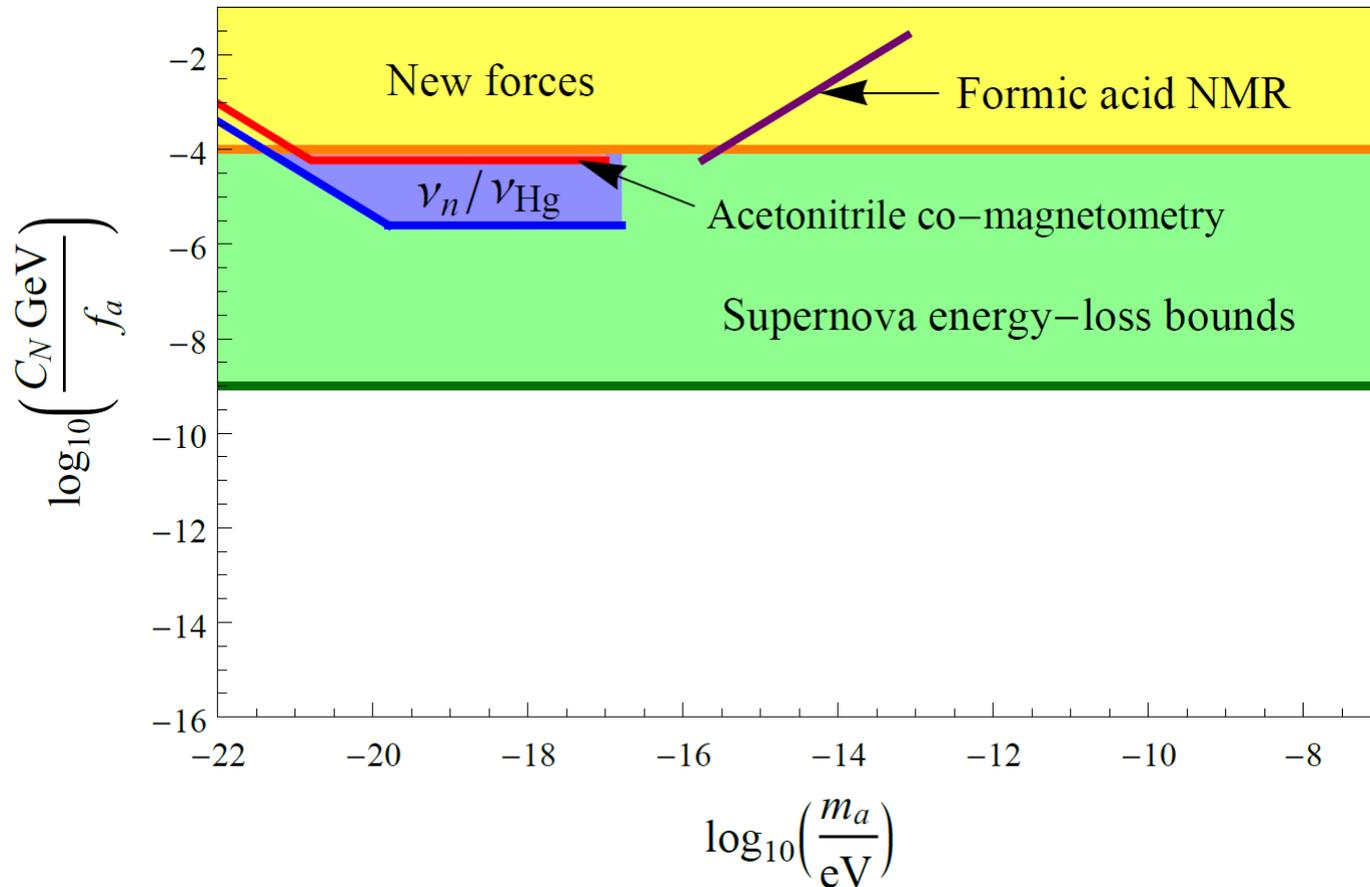


Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Nucleons

ν_n/ν_{Hg} constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

Acetonitrile constraints: [Wu *et al.*, *PRL* **122**, 191302 (2019)]

Formic acid NMR constraints: [Garcon *et al.*, *Sci. Adv.* **5**, eaax4539 (2019)]

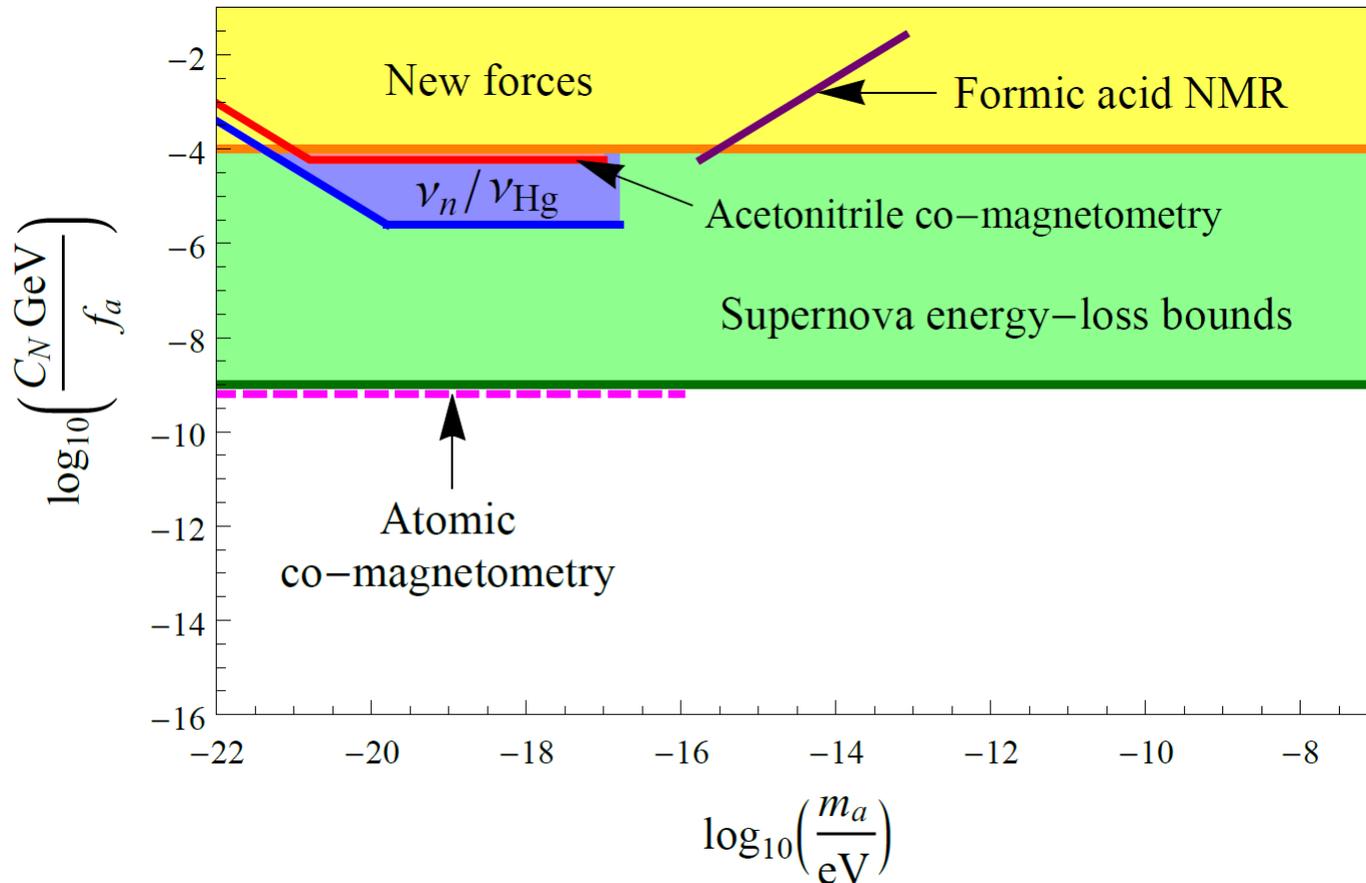


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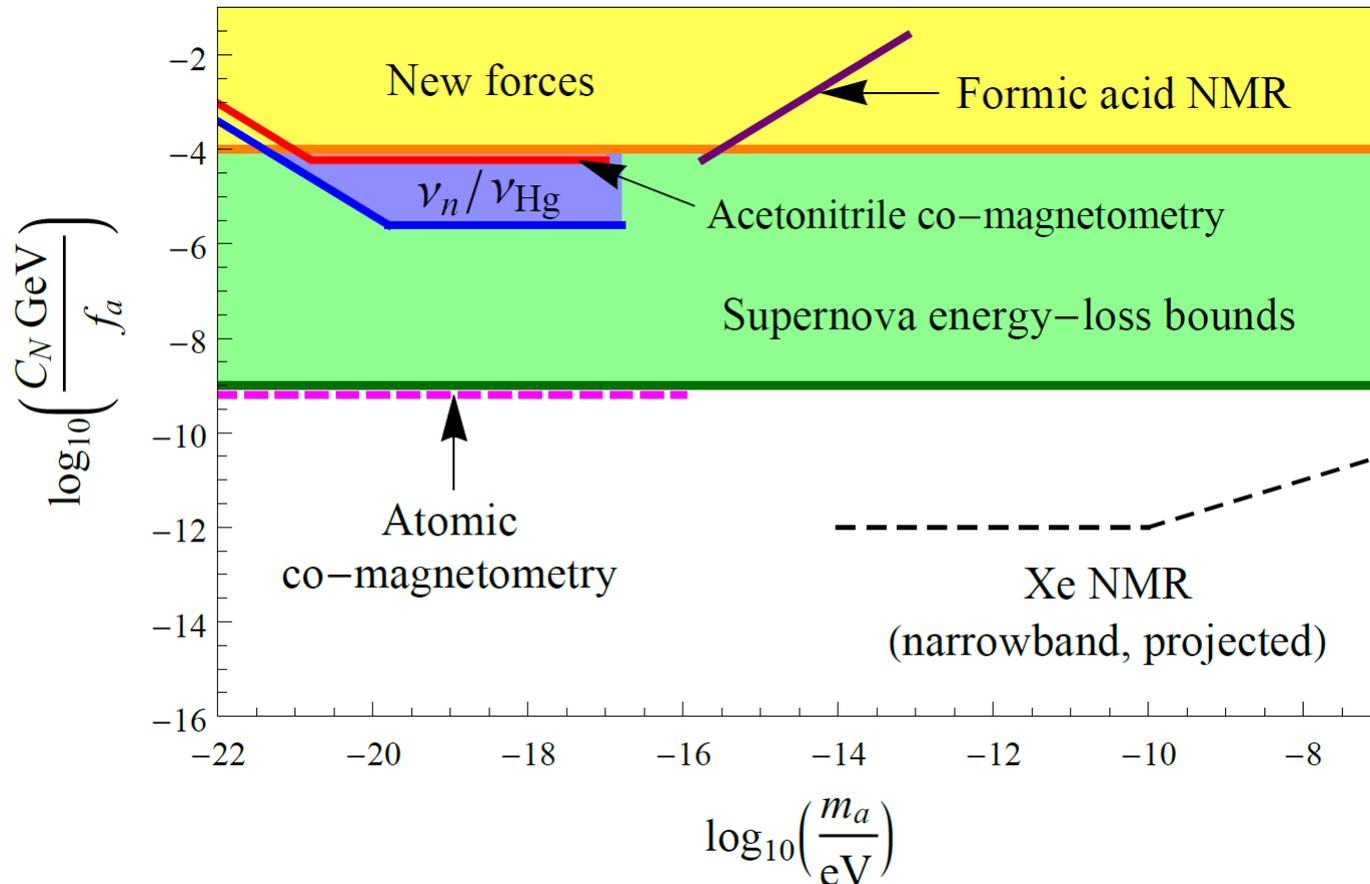


Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Nucleons

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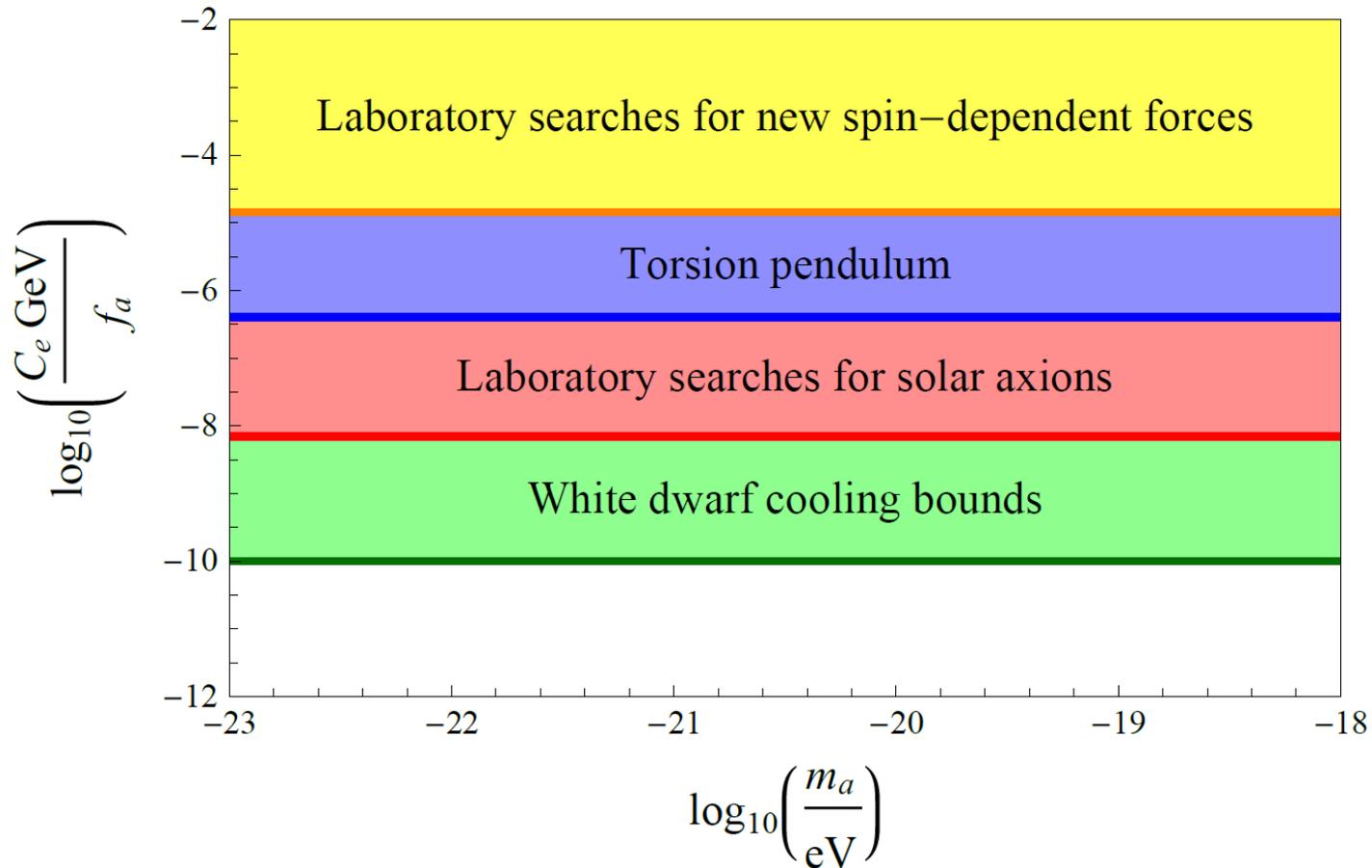
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Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with the Electron

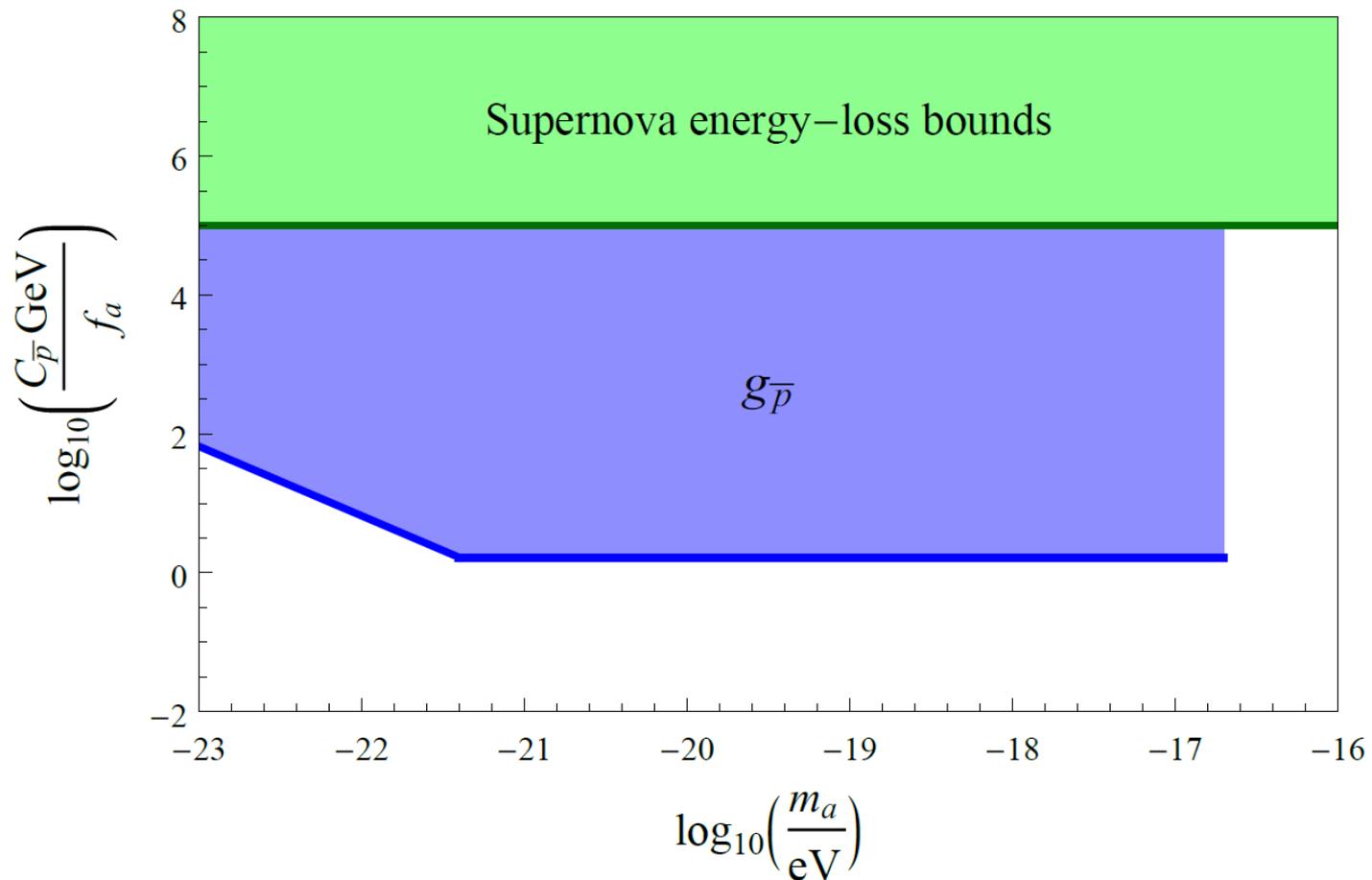
Torsion pendulum constraints: [Terrano *et al.*, *PRL* **122**, 231301 (2019)]



Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with the Antiproton

Antiproton constraints: [BASE collaboration, *Nature* **575**, 310 (2019)]

5 orders of magnitude improvement!



Summary

- We have identified new signatures of ultra-low-mass dark matter that have allowed us and other groups to improve the sensitivity to underlying interaction strengths by up to **15 orders of magnitude**
- Novel approaches based on precision low-energy experiments (often “table-top scale”):
 - Spectroscopy (clocks) [[Scalars](#)]
 - Optical cavities and interferometry [[Scalars](#)]
 - Magnetometry and particle g -factors [[Pseudoscalars](#)]
 - Torsion pendula [[Scalars](#) and [pseudoscalars](#)]

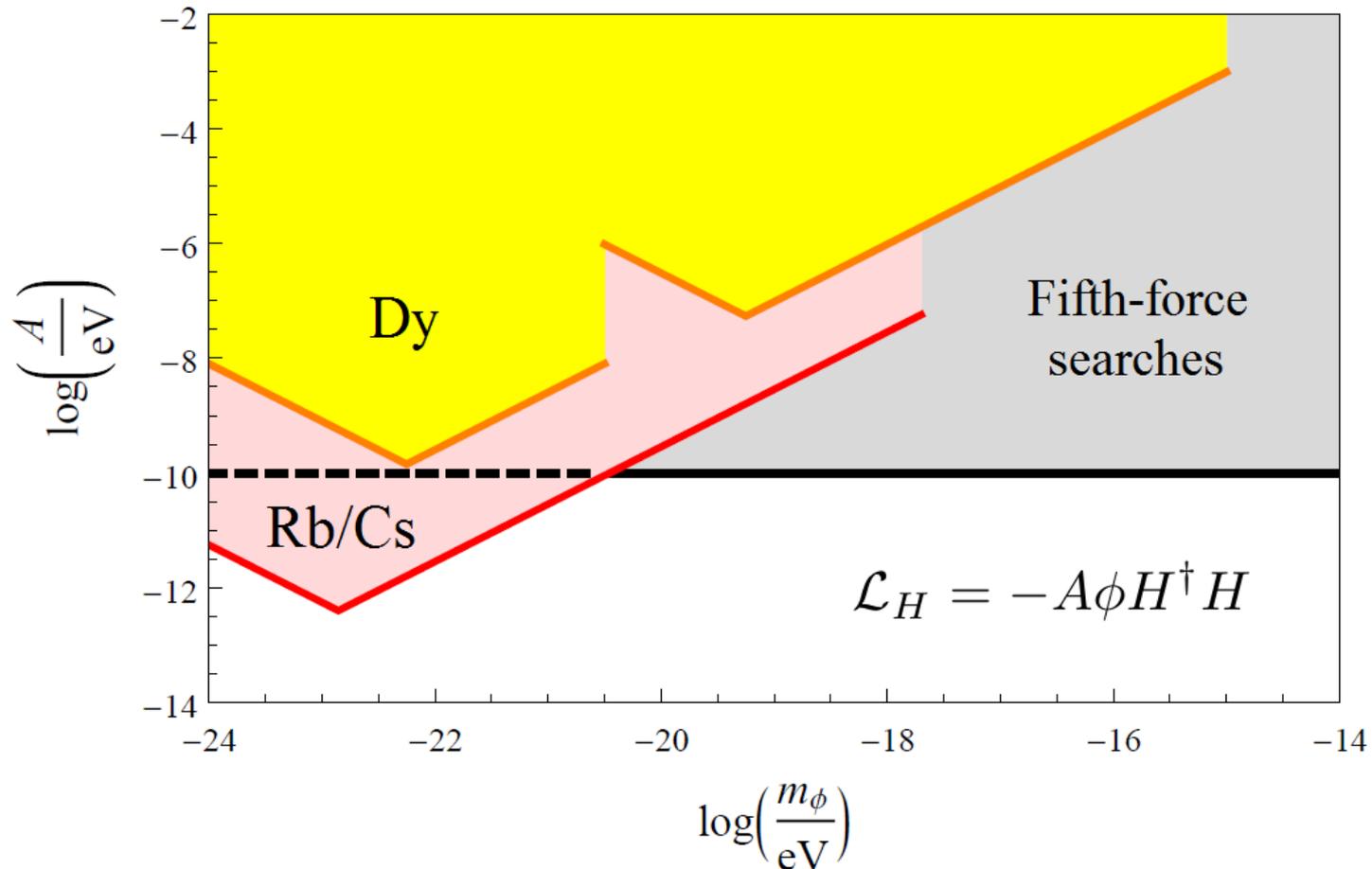
Back-Up Slides

Constraints on Linear Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Higgs Boson

Rb/Cs constraints:

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]

2 – 3 orders of magnitude improvement!



BBN Constraints on 'Slow' Drifts in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)]

- Largest effects of DM in early Universe (highest ρ_{DM})
- Big Bang nucleosynthesis ($t_{\text{weak}} \approx 1 \text{ s} - t_{\text{BBN}} \approx 3 \text{ min}$)
- Primordial ${}^4\text{He}$ abundance sensitive to n/p ratio (almost all neutrons bound in ${}^4\text{He}$ after BBN)

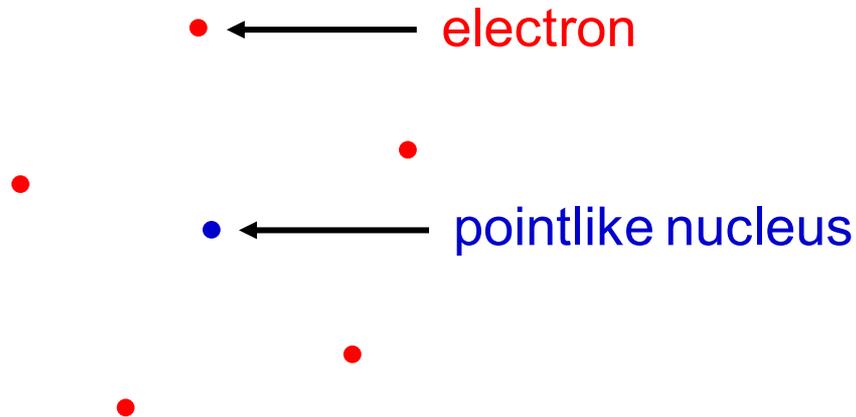
$$\frac{\Delta Y_p({}^4\text{He})}{Y_p({}^4\text{He})} \approx \frac{\Delta(n/p)_{\text{weak}}}{(n/p)_{\text{weak}}} - \Delta \left[\int_{t_{\text{weak}}}^{t_{\text{BBN}}} \Gamma_n(t) dt \right]$$



Schiff's Theorem

[Schiff, *Phys. Rev.* **132**, 2194 (1963)]

Schiff's Theorem: “In a neutral atom made up of point-like non-relativistic charged particles (interacting only electrostatically), the constituent EDMs are screened from an external electric field.”

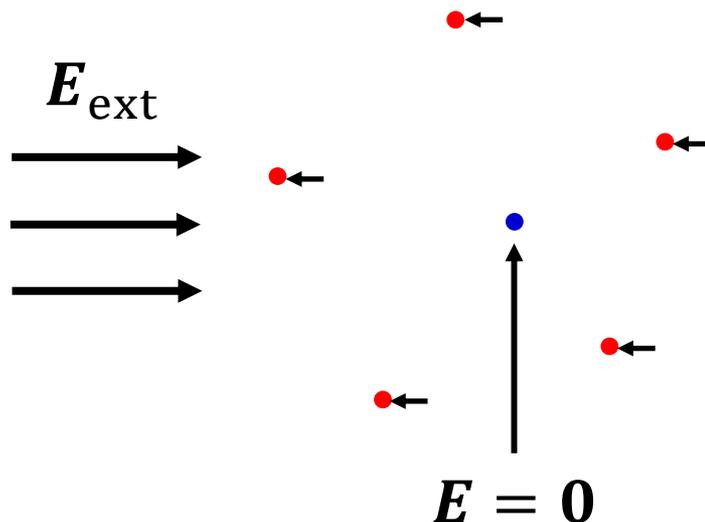


Classical explanation for nuclear EDM: A neutral atom does not accelerate in an external electric field!

Schiff's Theorem

[Schiff, *Phys. Rev.* **132**, 2194 (1963)]

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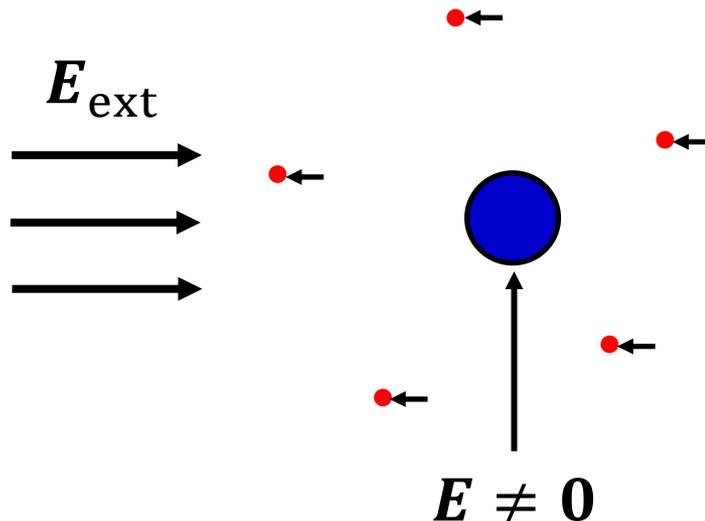
Classical explanation for nuclear EDM: A neutral atom does not accelerate in an external electric field!

Lifting of Schiff's Theorem

[Sandars, *PRL* **19**, 1396 (1967)],

[O. Sushkov, Flambaum, Khriplovich, *JETP* **60**, 873 (1984)]

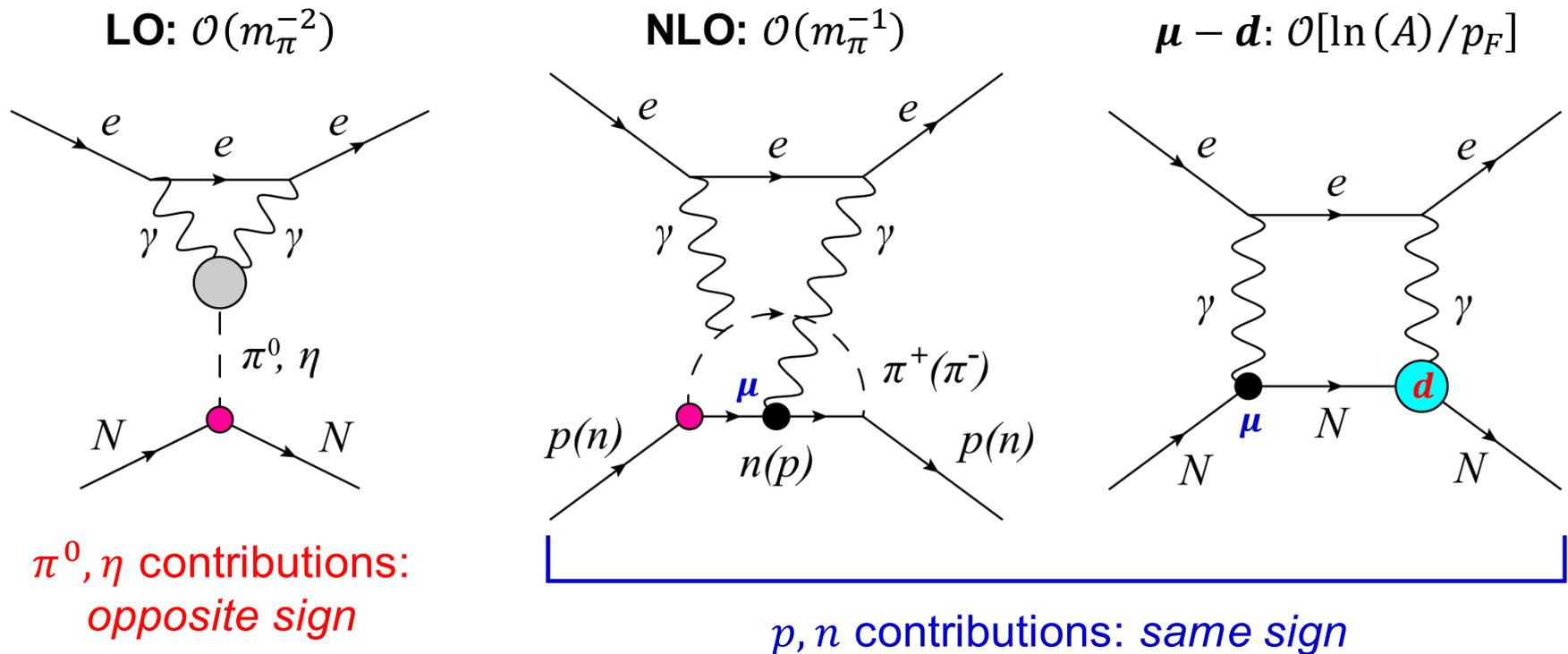
In real (heavy) atoms: Incomplete screening of external electric field due to finite nuclear size, parametrised by *nuclear Schiff moment*.



Hadronic CP Violation in Paramagnetic Molecules

[Flambaum, Pospelov, Ritz, Stadnik, *PRD* **102**, 035001 (2020)]

Hadronic CP-violating effects arise at 2-loop level, $\mathcal{O}(A)$ enhanced
 Interaction of one of photons with nucleus is *magnetic* \Rightarrow no Schiff screening



Example – $\bar{\theta}_{\text{QCD}}$ term [$\bar{\theta} \leftrightarrow C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t)/f_a$]:

$$\text{For } Z \sim 80 \text{ \& } A \sim 200: C_{\text{SP}}(\bar{\theta}) \approx [0.1_{\text{LO}} + 1.0_{\text{NLO}} + 1.7_{(\mu d)}] \times 10^{-2} \bar{\theta} \approx 0.03 \bar{\theta}$$

Bounds on Hadronic CP Violation Parameters

ThO bounds: [Flambaum, Pospelov, Ritz, Stadnik, *PRD* **102**, 035001 (2020)]

System	$ \bar{g}_{\pi NN}^{(1)} $	$ \tilde{d}_u - \tilde{d}_d $ (cm)	$ d_p $ (e cm)	$ \bar{\theta} $
ThO	4×10^{-10}	2×10^{-24}	2×10^{-23}	3×10^{-8}
<i>n</i>	1.1×10^{-10}	5×10^{-25}	—	2.0×10^{-10}
Hg	1×10^{-12}	5×10^{-27}	2.0×10^{-25}	1.5×10^{-10}
Xe	6.7×10^{-8}	3×10^{-22}	3.2×10^{-22}	3.2×10^{-6}

* These limits can formally be null within nuclear uncertainties

Current bounds from molecules are $\sim 10 - 100$ times weaker than from Hg & *n*, but are $\sim 10 - 100$ times stronger than bounds from Xe