

Thermal Axions: Production Mechanisms and Cosmological Signals

Francesco D'Eramo

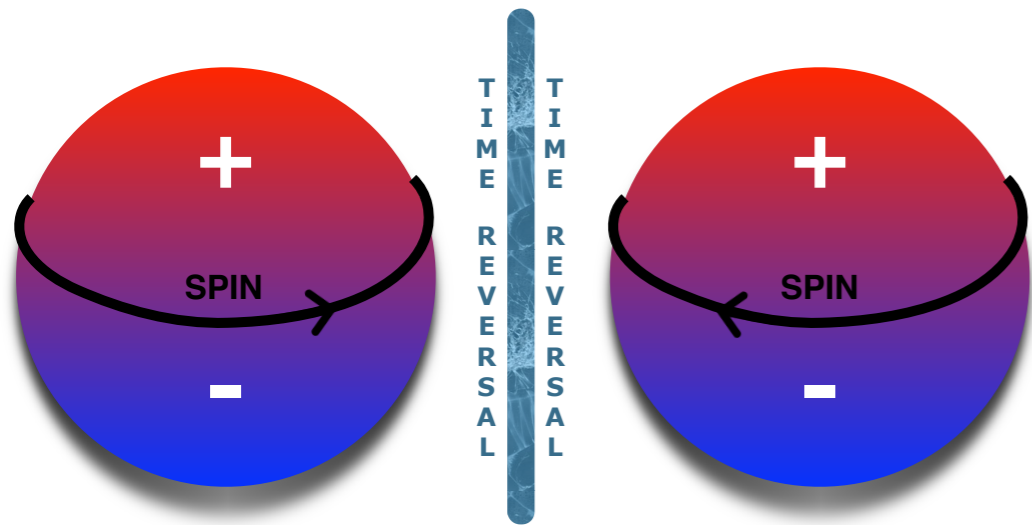
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DI PADOVA



The Strong CP Problem



No detection of time reversal invariance violation by strong interactions

vs

Why is the θ parameter of the QCD Lagrangian so small?

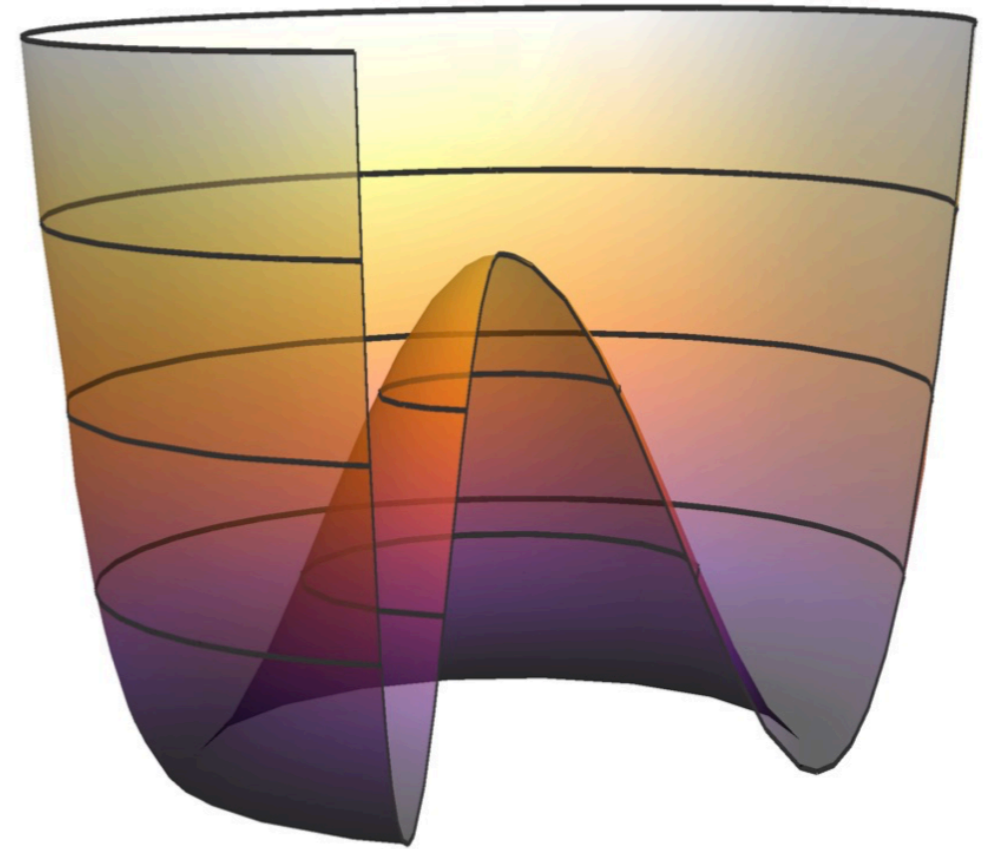
$$|\theta| \lesssim 10^{-10}$$

The Peccei-Quinn Mechanism

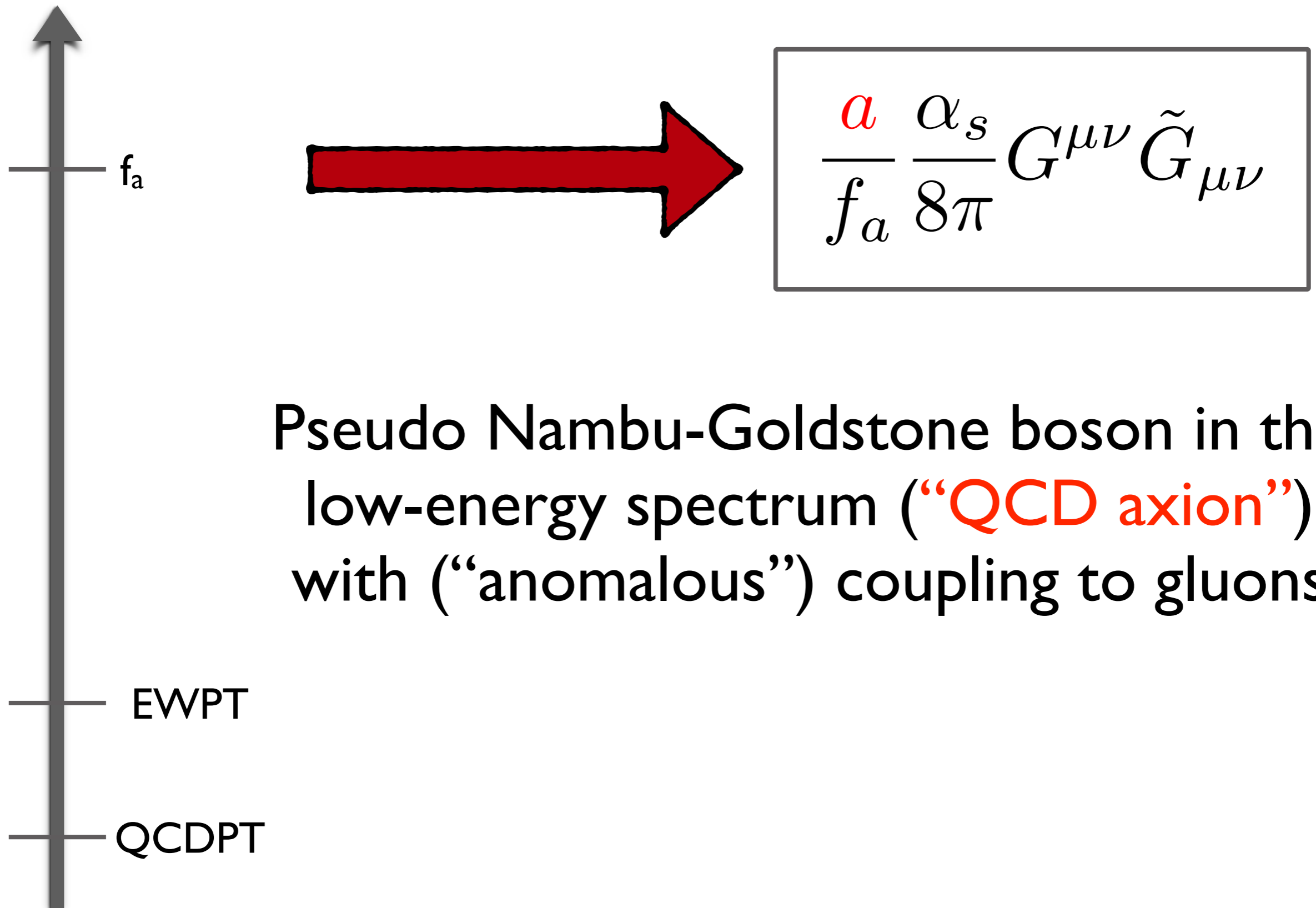
Dynamical solution to the strong CP problem

New global $U(1)_{PQ}$ symmetry

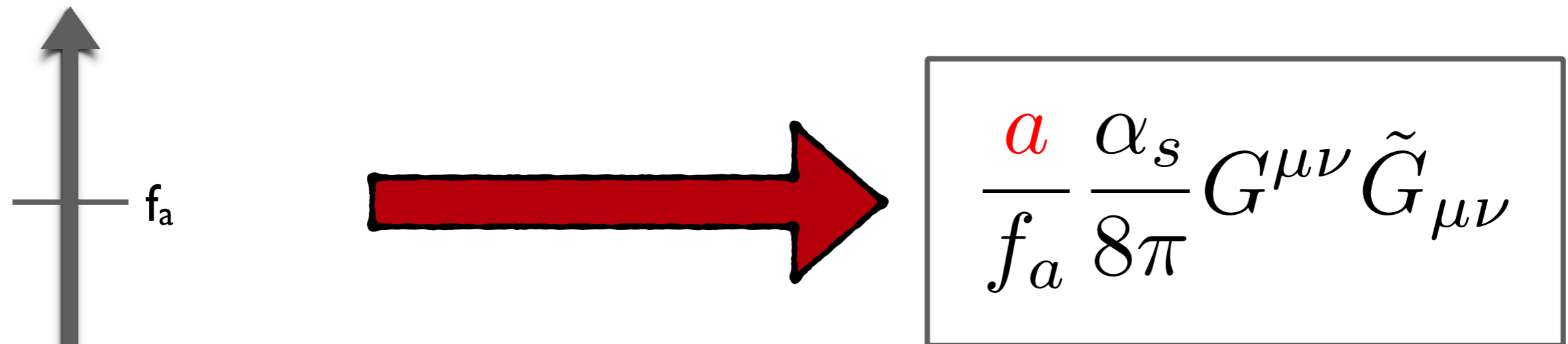
- spontaneously broken at the scale f_a
(with $f_a \gg$ weak scale)
- anomalous under strong interactions



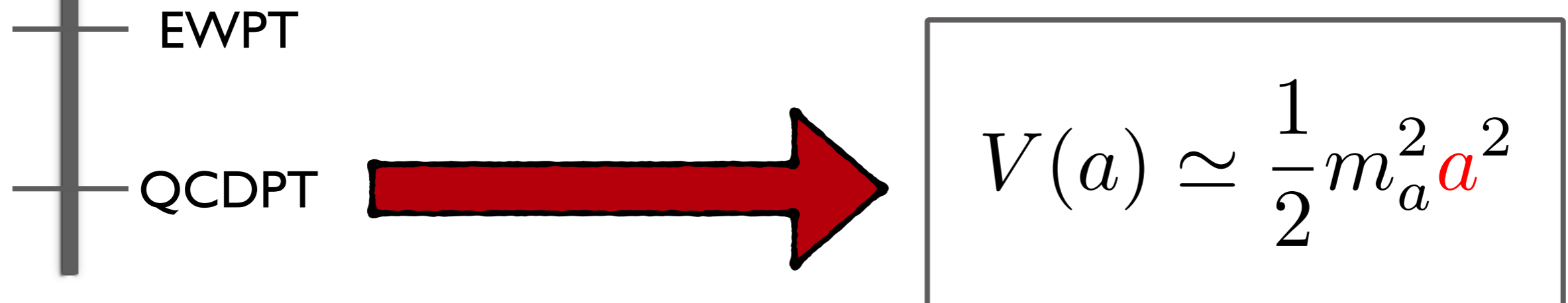
The Peccei-Quinn Mechanism



The Peccei-Quinn Mechanism



CP-conserving minimum!
Strong CP Problem Solved!



The QCD Axion

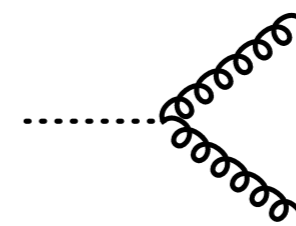
Axion (zero-temperature) mass
from non-perturbative potential

The QCD axion is very light!

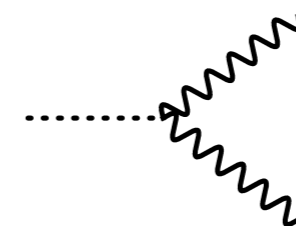
$$m_a \simeq 5.7 \left(\frac{10^{12} \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right) \mu\text{eV}$$

- Anomalous coupling to gluons and (not mandatory) to EW gauge bosons
- Derivative couplings to fermions

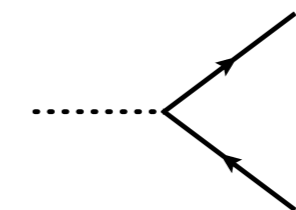
The QCD axion is very elusive!



$$\frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{a}{f} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}$$



$$c_{\gamma\gamma} \frac{e^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{a}{f} F^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$$

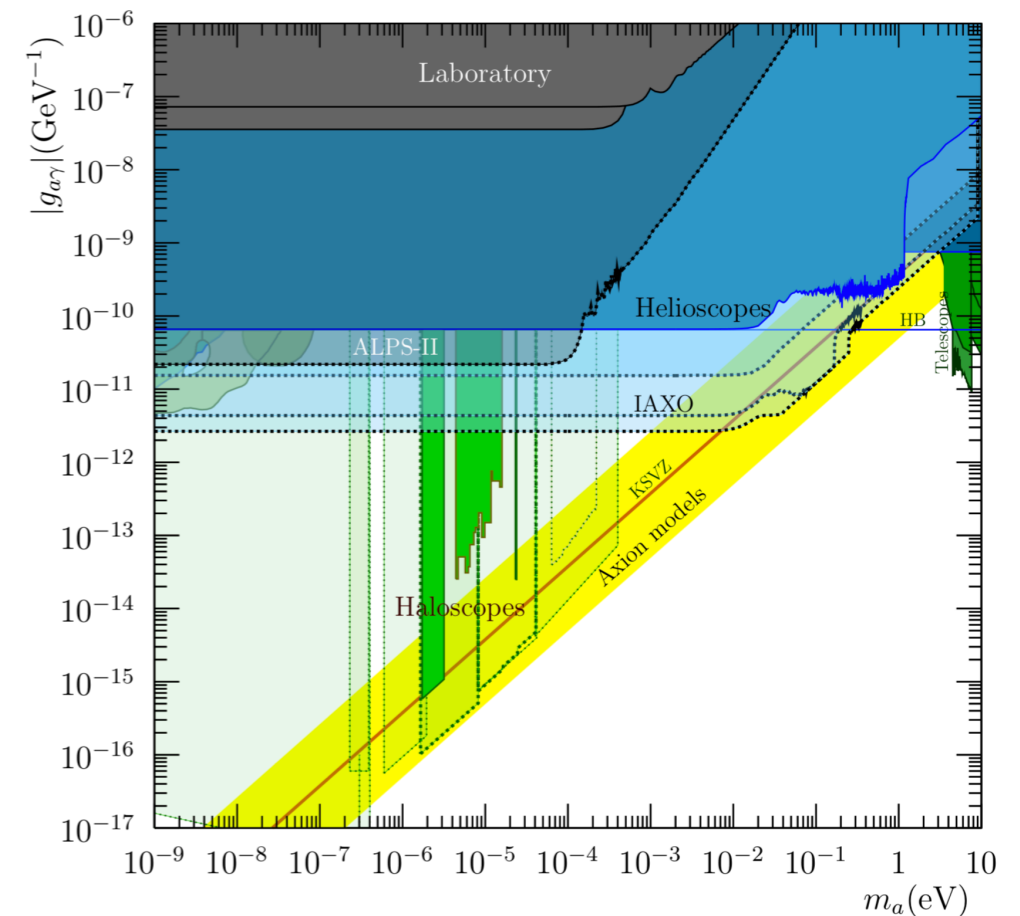


$$c_f \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f} \bar{f} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 f$$

Axion Signals

Very light and weakly coupled:

- detection challenging
- prominent role in the early universe

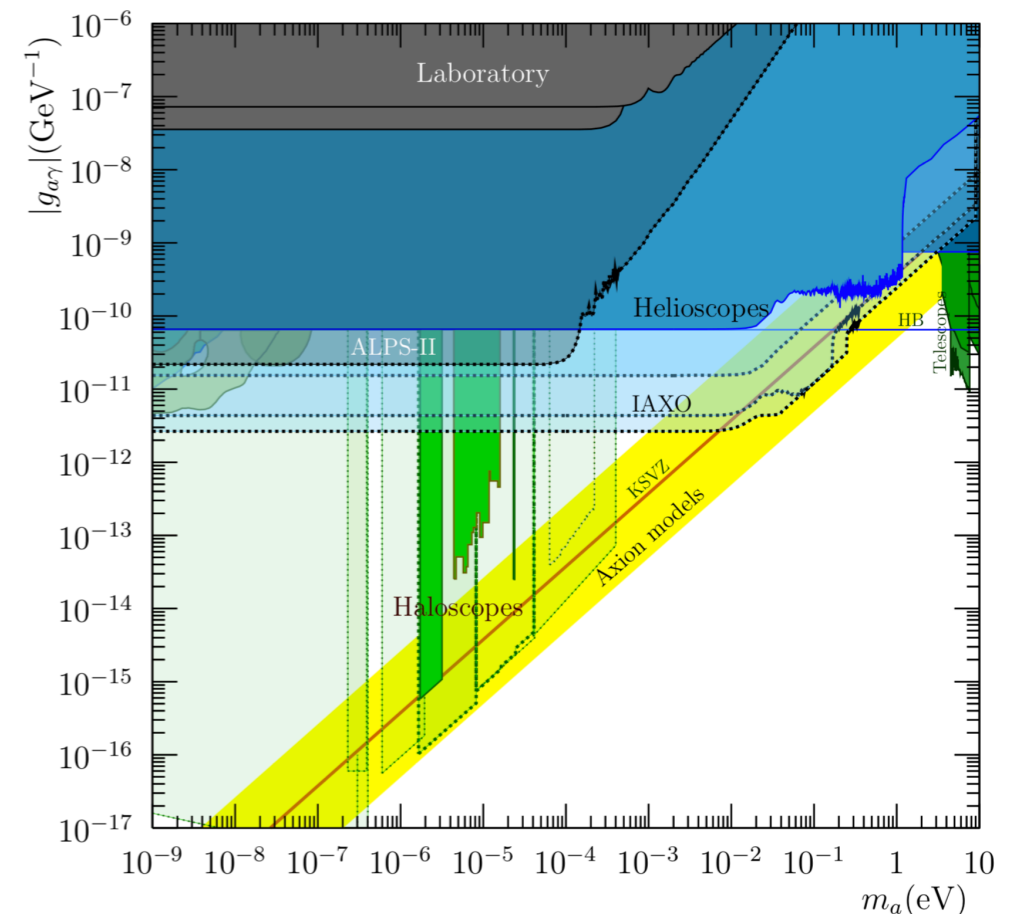


Irastorza and Redondo, Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 102 (2018)

Axion Signals

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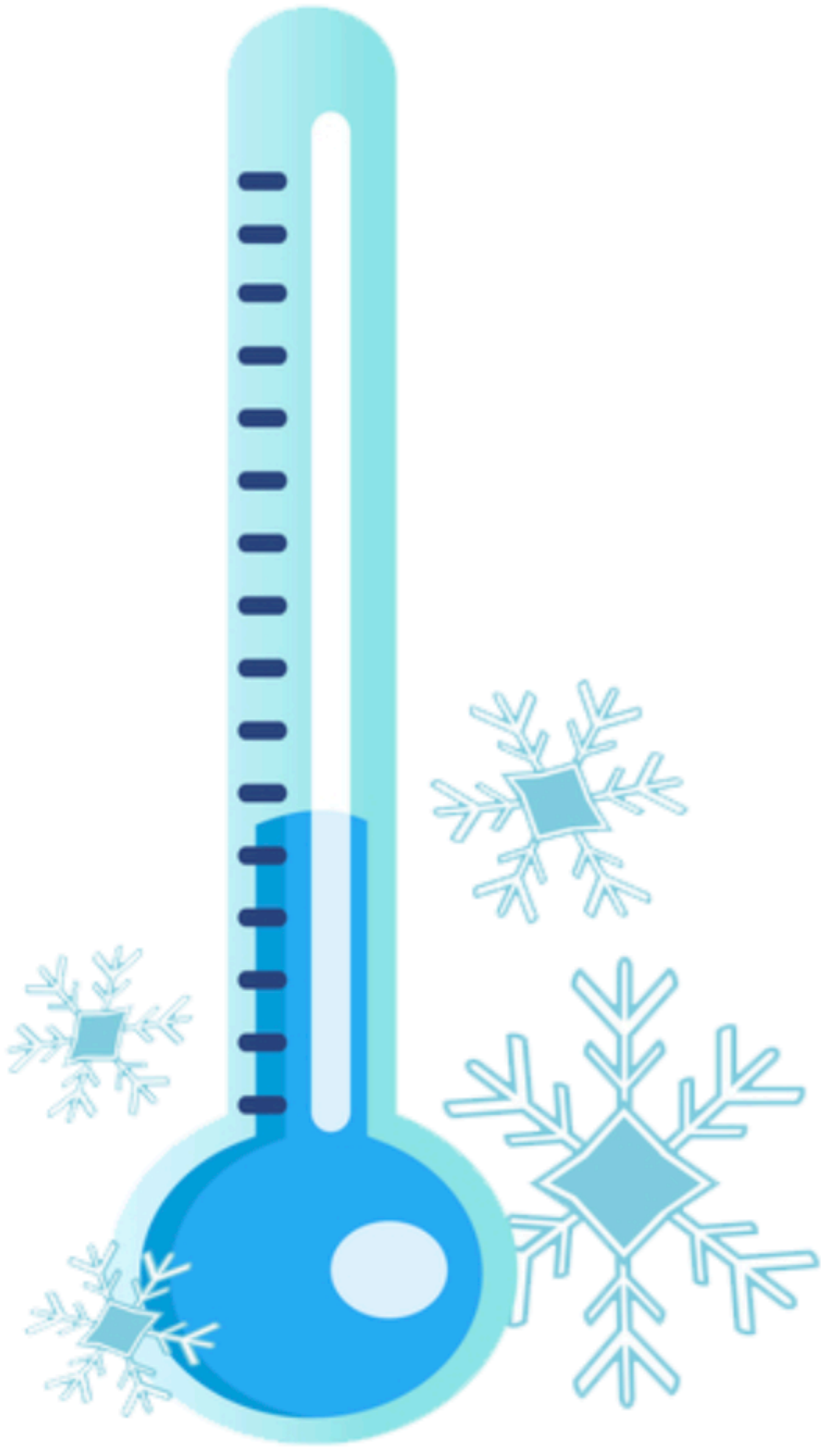


Irastorza and Redondo, Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 102 (2018)

In this talk:

Thermal (hot) axions in the early universe

How they are produced and their imprint in cosmological observables



Cold Axions

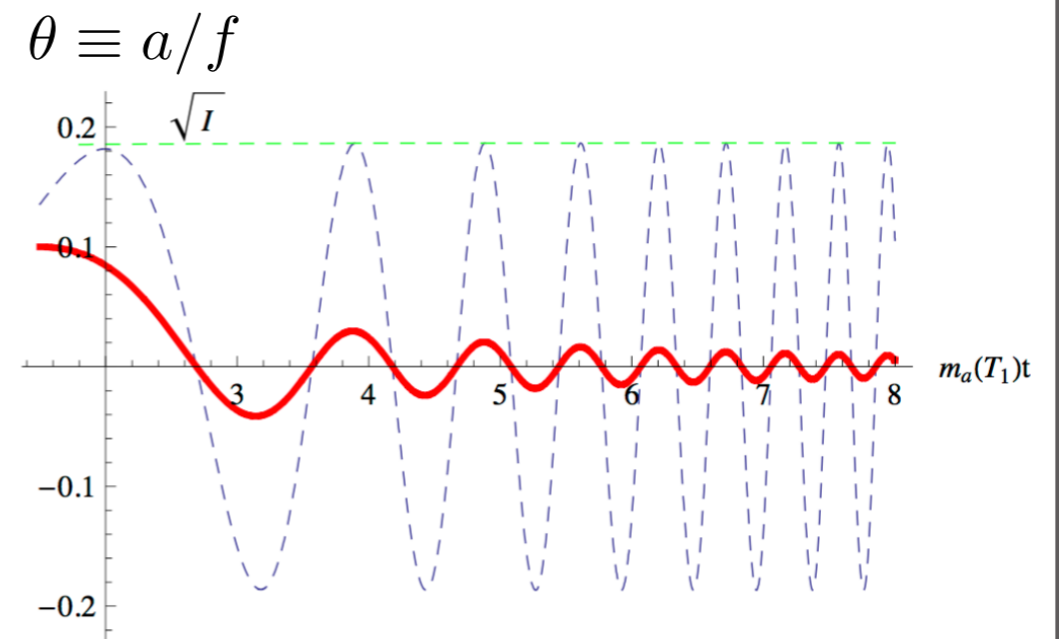
(Dark Matter)

Axion Dark Matter

Dark matter relic density gives us a hint about what f could be

$$\Omega_a h^2 \simeq 0.1 \theta_i^2 \left(\frac{f}{10^{11} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1.18}$$

Initial field value? It depends...



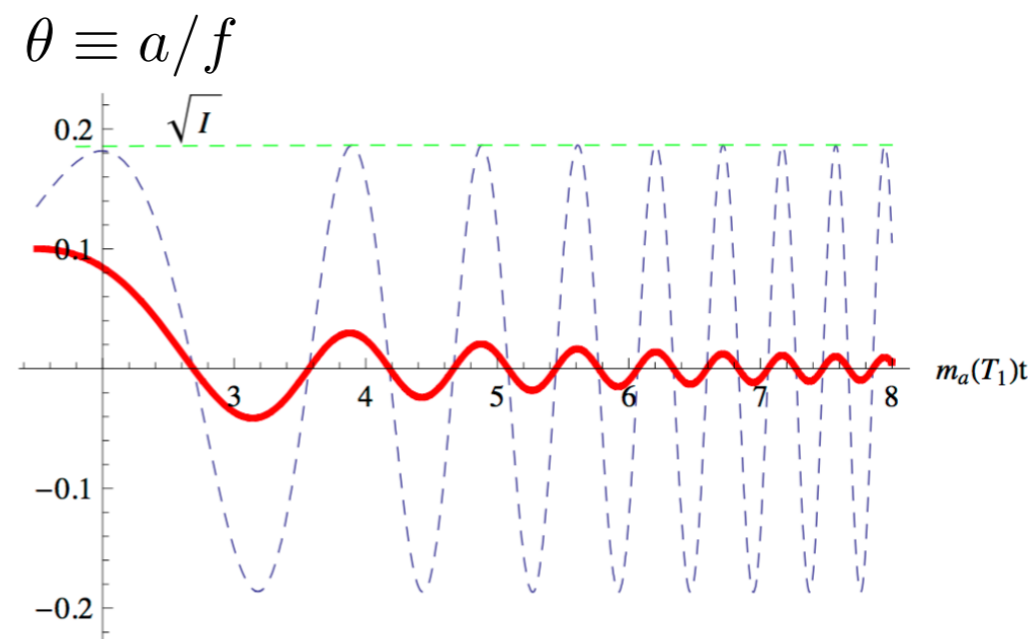
Bae, Huh, Kim, JCAP 0809 (2008)

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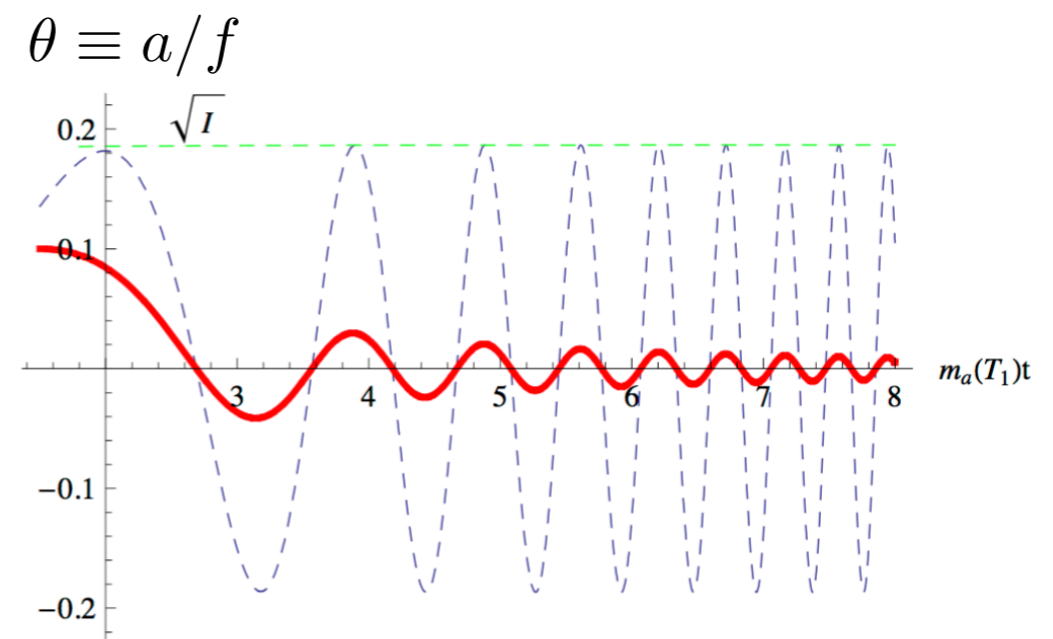
Was PQ broken during inflation?
If yes, was it restored afterward?

Axion Dark Matter

Dark matter relic density gives us a hint about what f could be

$$\Omega_a h^2 \simeq 0.1 \theta_i^2 \left(\frac{f}{10^{11} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1.18}$$

Initial field value? It depends...



Bae, Huh, Kim, JCAP 0809 (2008)

Pre-Inflation

Single initial field value

Relic density depends on f and θ_i

Misalignment only

Post-Inflation

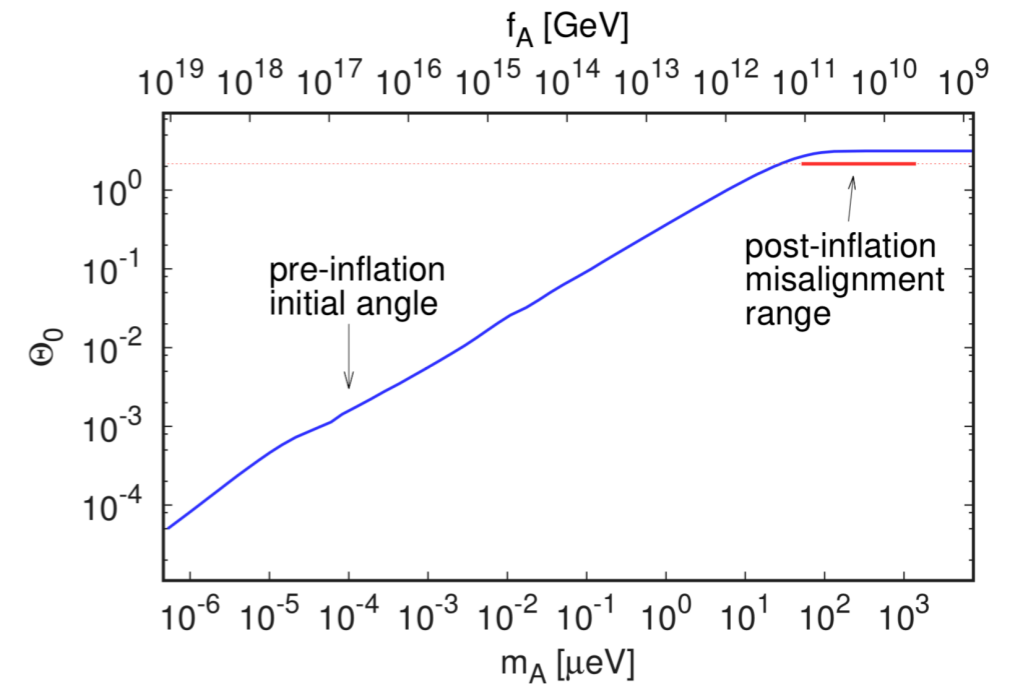
Average over initial field value

Relic density depends on f only

Misalignment + Topological defects

Axion Dark Matter

- PRE: initial field value unknown leads to a relation between θ and f (i.e. m_a)
- POST: uncertain topological defects contribution leads to a range for f (i.e. m_a)

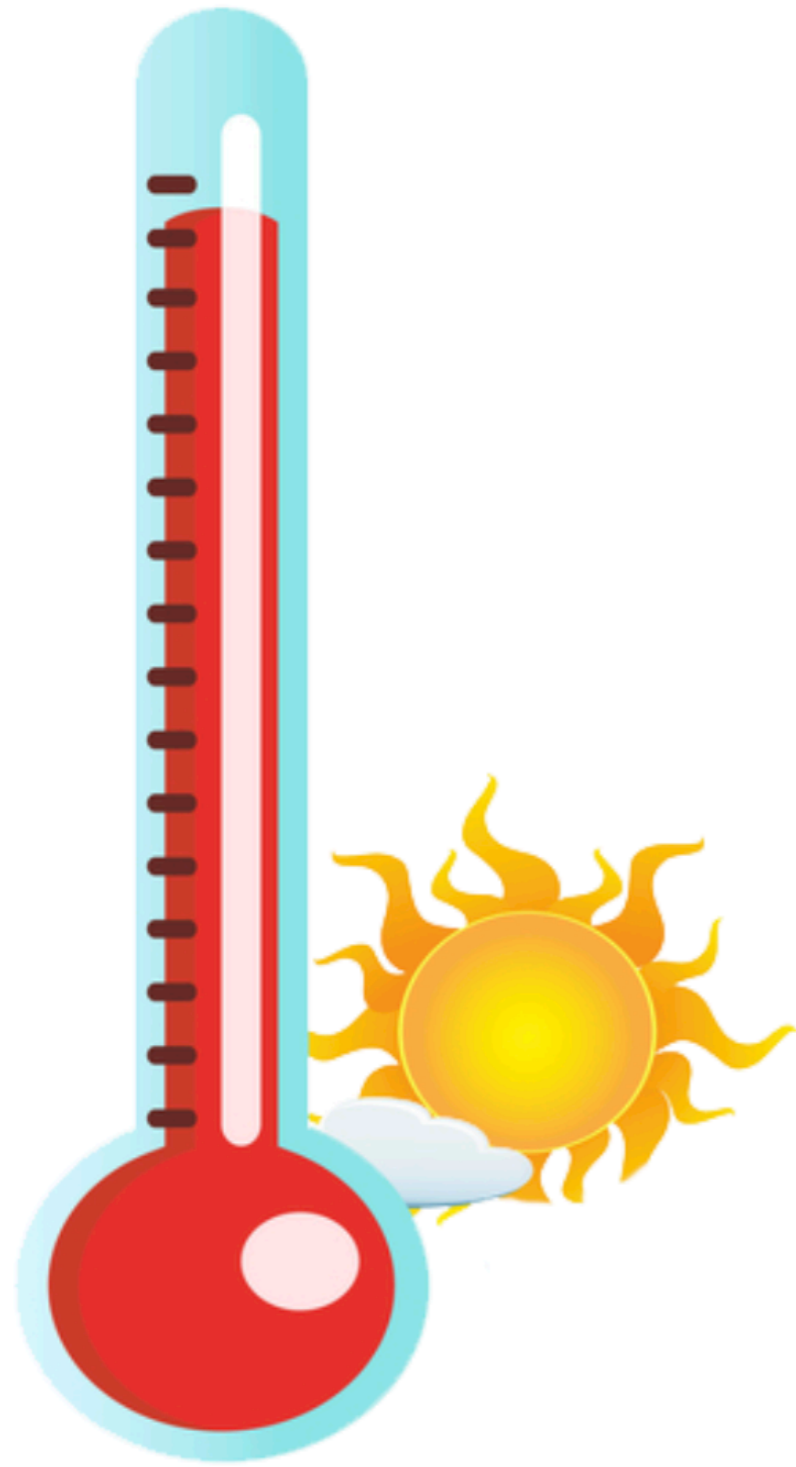


Borsanyi et al., Nature 539 (2016)

Motivated range for f (with caveats):

$$10^9 \text{ GeV} \lesssim f \lesssim 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$$

- Larger f : dilute dark matter abundance or fine-tune initial field value
- Lower f : axion sub-dominant dark matter component



Hot Axions

(Dark Radiation)

Thermal Axions

Scatterings and/or decays involving particles
belonging to the primordial thermal bath
(axion energy much higher than m_a , i.e. “hot”)

$$B_1 B_2 \rightarrow B_3 a$$

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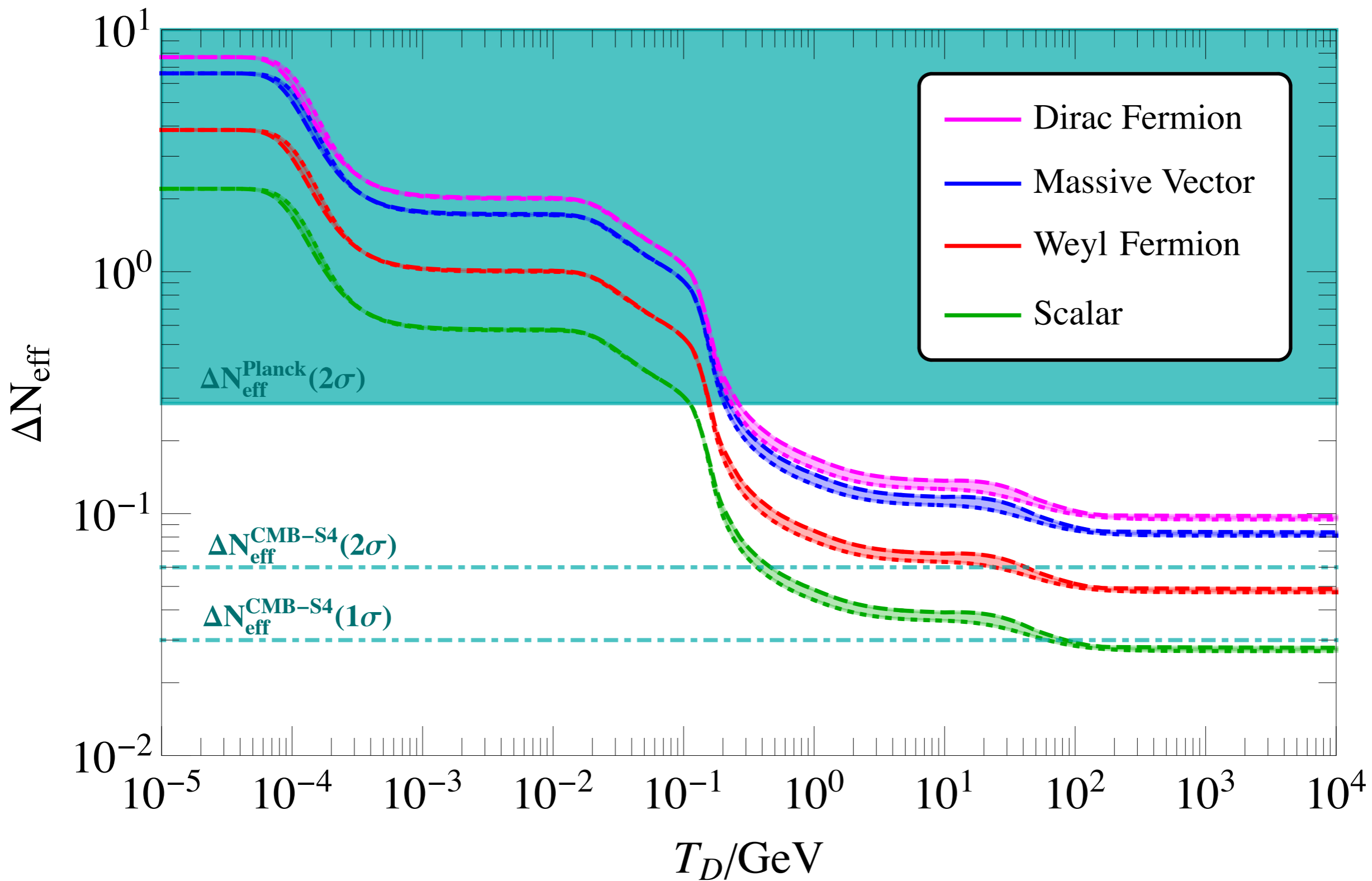
Additional radiation at:

- BBN ($m_a \lesssim \text{MeV}$)
- CMB formation ($m_a \lesssim 0.3 \text{ eV}$)

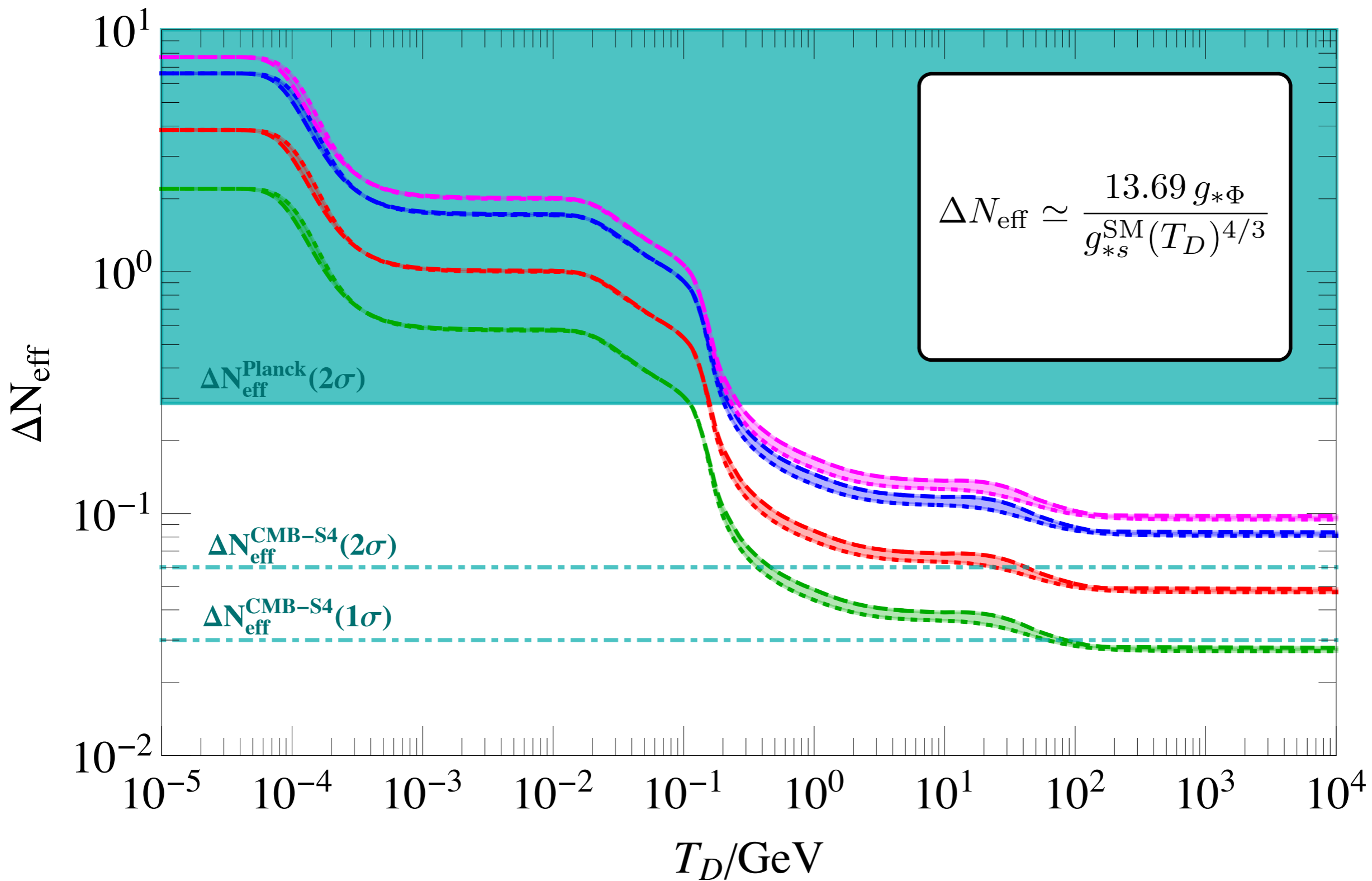
$$\rho_{\text{rad}} = \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{T_\nu}{T_\gamma} \right)^4 N_{\text{eff}} \right] \rho_\gamma$$

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{8}{7} \left(\frac{11}{4} \right)^{4/3} \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_\gamma}$$

Dark Radiation in the CMB



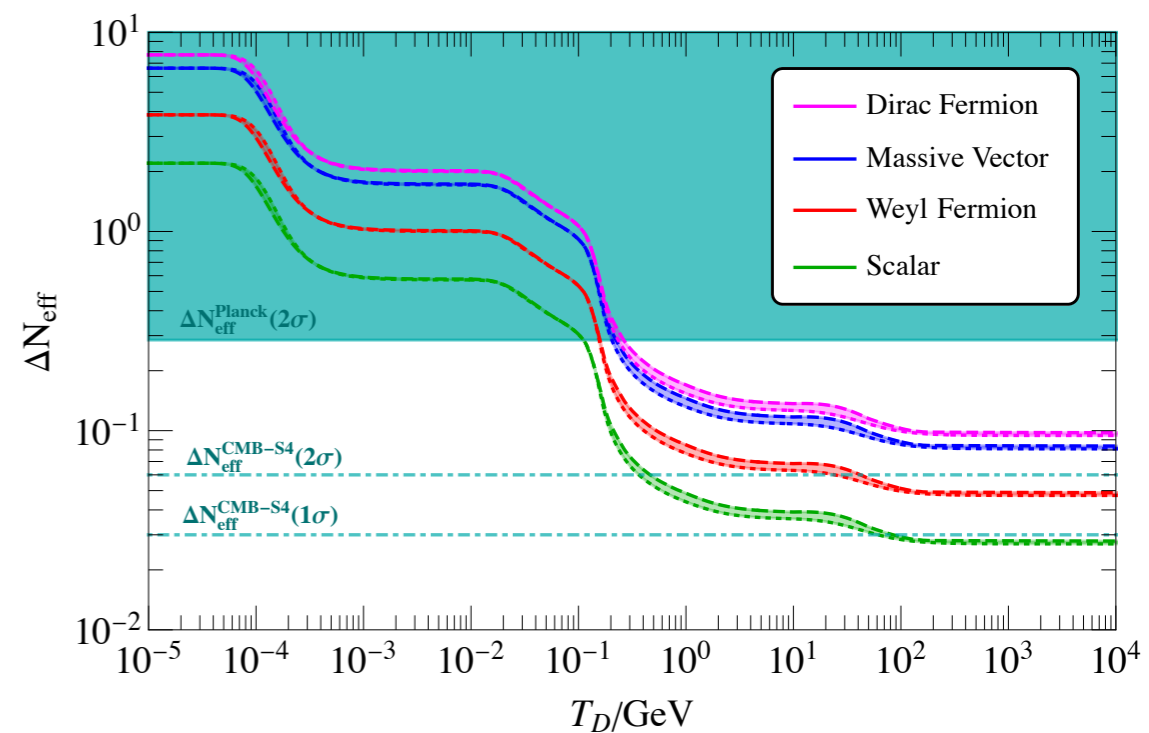
Dark Radiation in the CMB



Predicting ΔN_{eff}

Axions may never thermalize

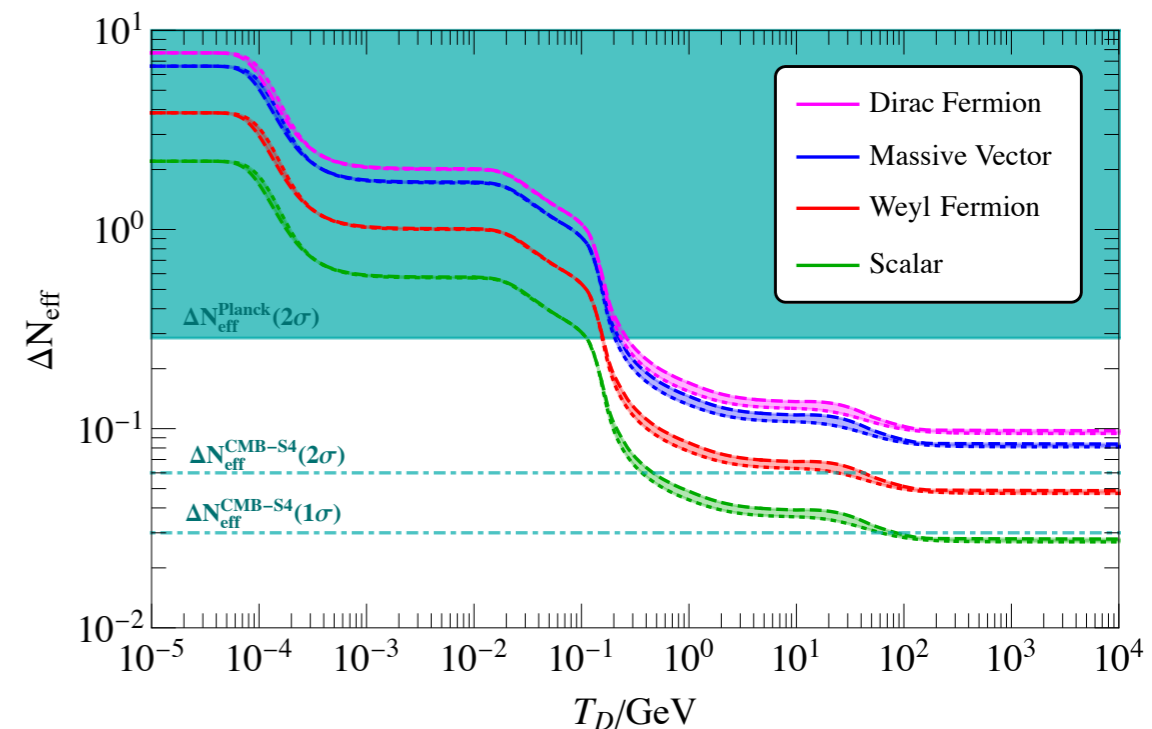
If they do, decoupling detail relevant
(effect larger the experimental error)



Predicting ΔN_{eff}

Axions may never thermalize

If they do, decoupling detail relevant
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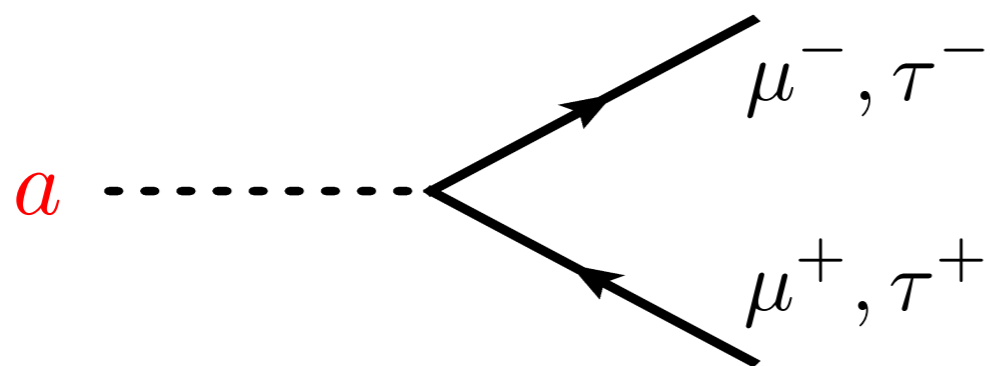
$$\frac{dn_a}{dt} + 3Hn_a = \sum_{\alpha} \gamma_{\alpha}$$

Right-hand side: processes
changing number of axions

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4}{7} \left(\frac{11}{4} \right)^{4/3} \left[\frac{2\pi^4 g_{*s}^{\text{CMB}}}{45\zeta(3)} Y_a \right]^{4/3} \simeq 74.85 Y_a^{4/3} \quad Y_a \equiv \frac{n_a}{s}$$

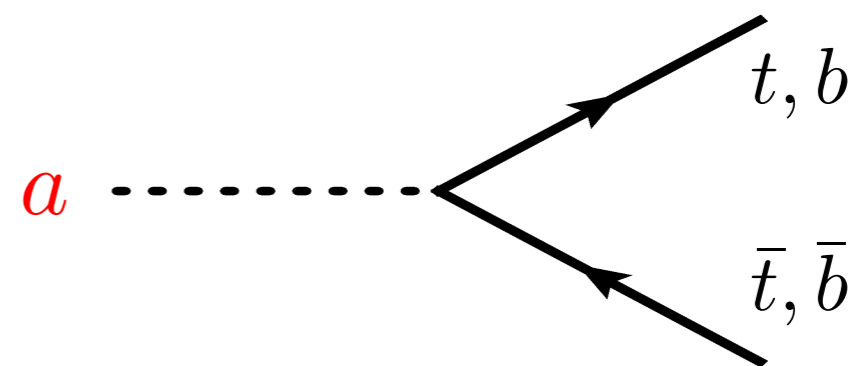
Production Mechanisms

Leptons



FD, Ferreira, Notari, Bernal, JCAP 1811 (2018)

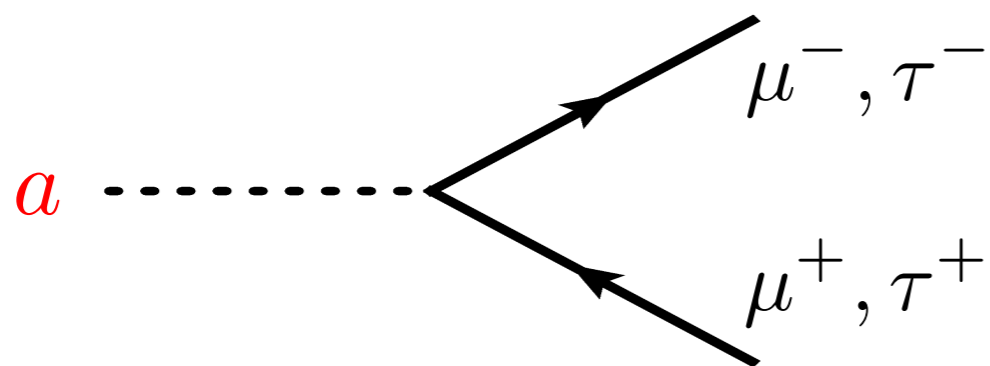
3rd Gen. Quarks



Arias-Aragon, FD, Ferreira, Merlo, Notari, JCAP 03 (2021)

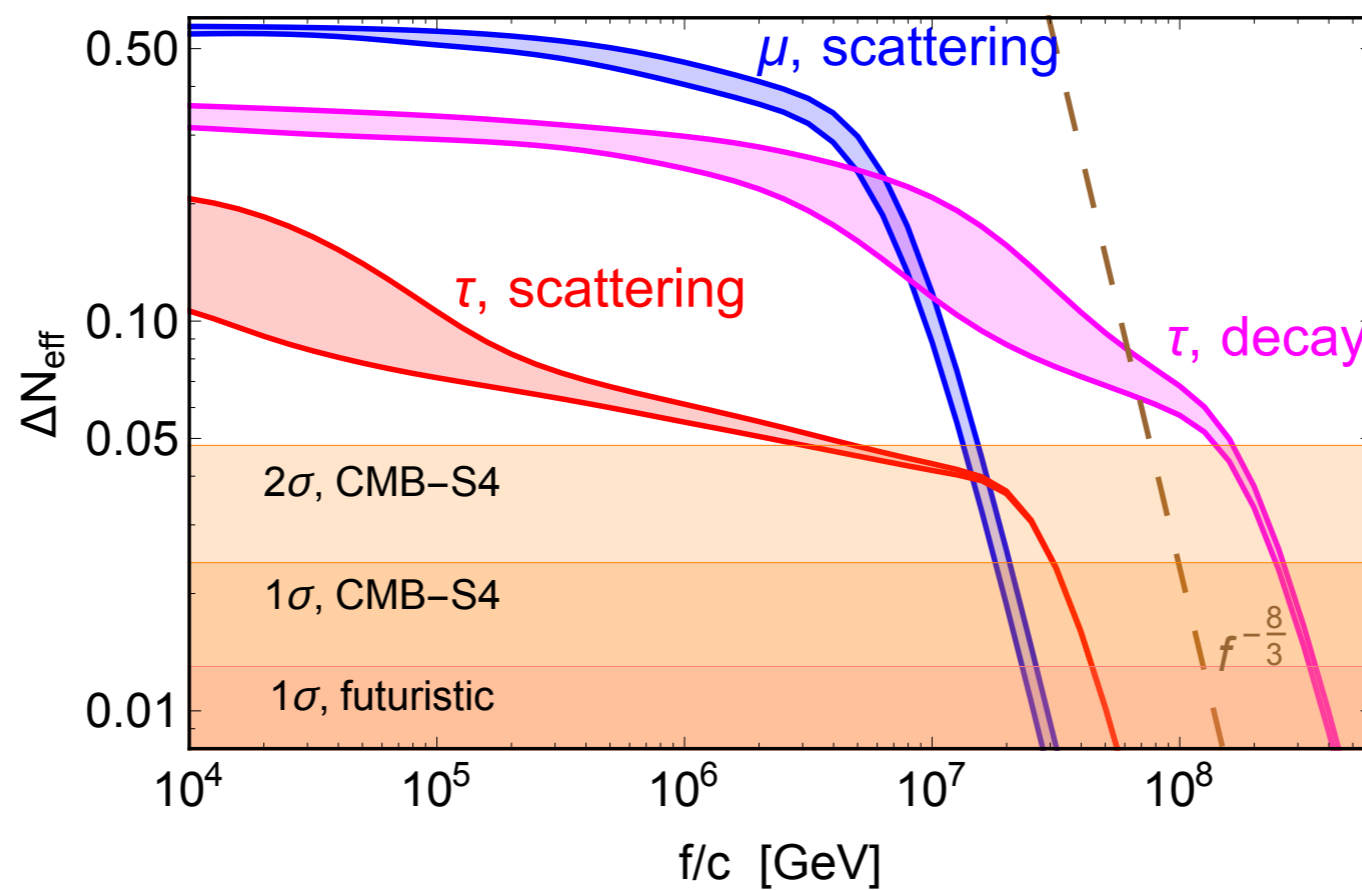
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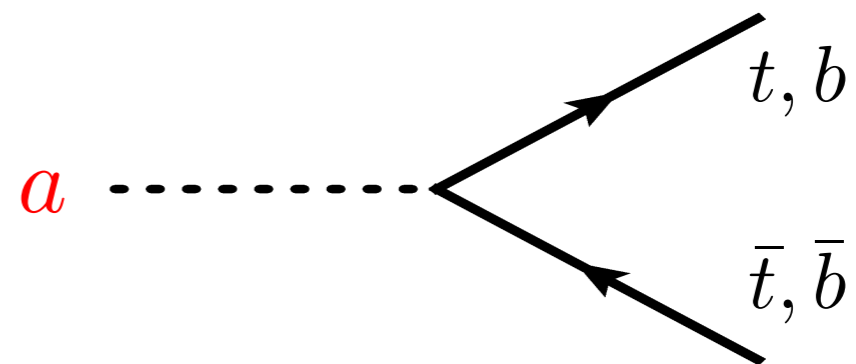
**They can
alleviate
the Hubble
tension**



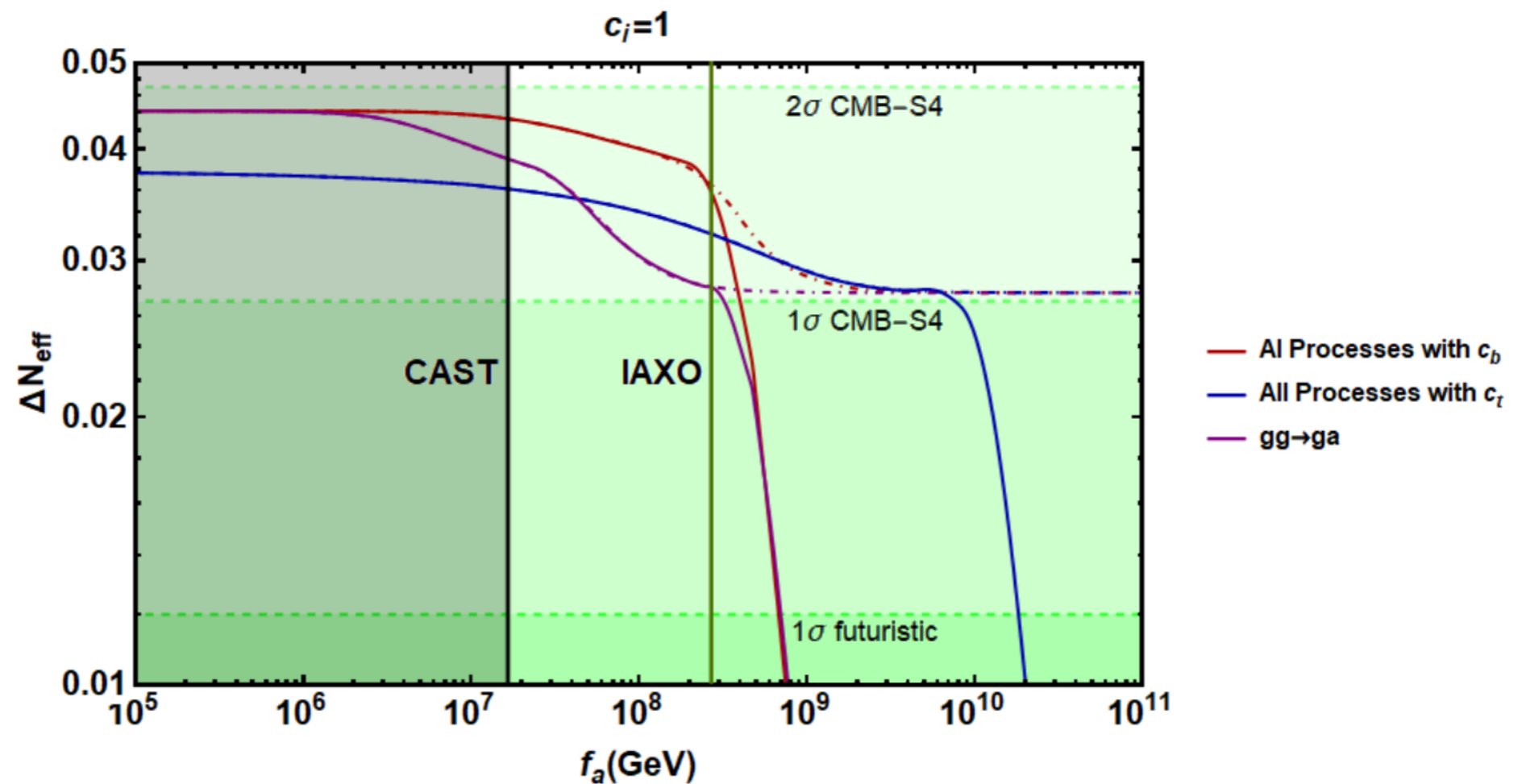
Production Mechanisms

Within the reach of CMB-S4 surveys

3rd Gen. Quarks

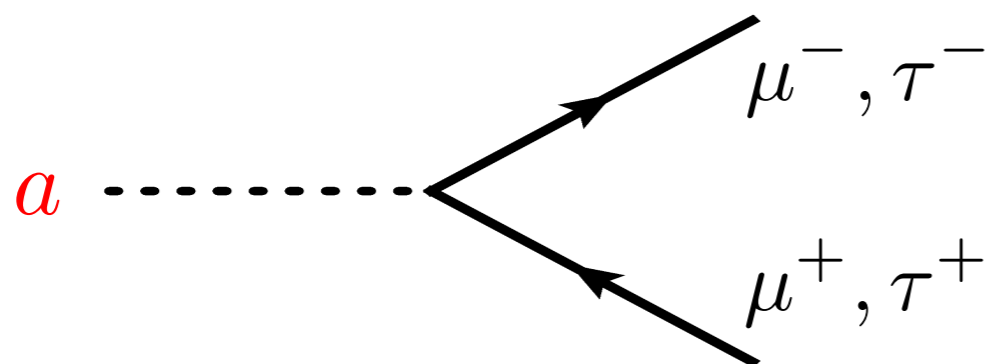


Arias-Aragon, FD, Ferreira, Merlo, Notari, JCAP 03 (2021)



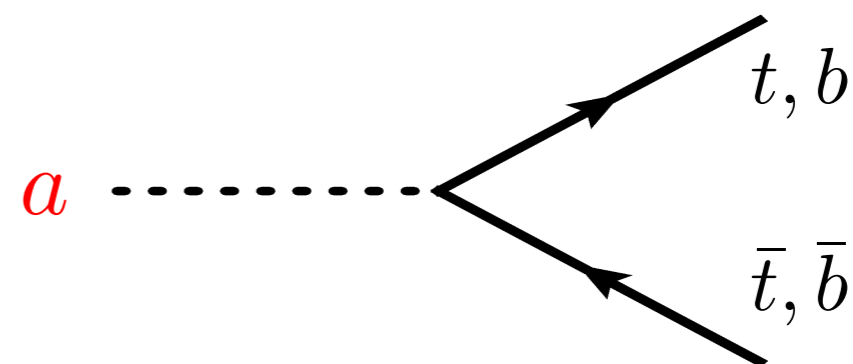
Production Mechanisms

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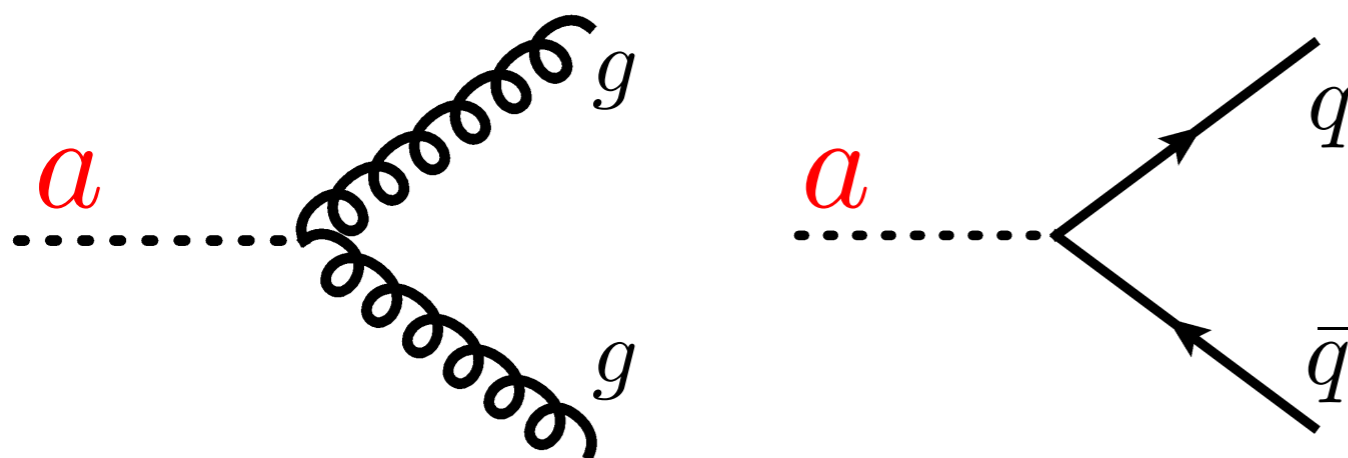
FD, Ferreira, Notari, Bernal, JCAP 1811 (2018)

3rd Gen. Quarks



Arias-Aragon, FD, Ferreira, Merlo, Notari, JCAP 03 (2021)

1st and 2nd Gen. Quarks and Gluons

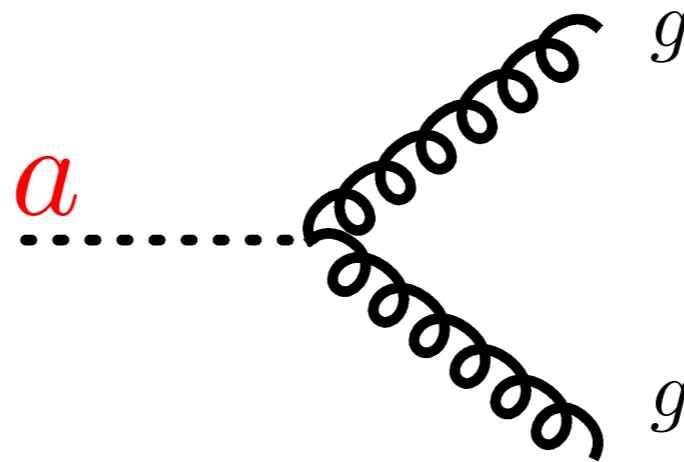


QCD phase transition
cannot be ignored

FD, Hajkarim, Yun, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022)

FD, Hajkarim, Yun, JHEP 10 (2021)

Gluon coupling



FD, Hajkarim, Yun, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 15

Model Independent Contribution

Strong CP Problem

$$\frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}$$

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Above QCDPT

$$gg \rightarrow ga$$

$$\bar{q}q \rightarrow ga$$

$$q/\bar{q} g \rightarrow q/\bar{q} a$$

Long-range of gluon-mediated interactions
give rise to unpleasant IR behavior

Masso, Rota, Zsembinski, PRD66 (2002)

Graf, Steffen, PRD 83 (2011)

Salvio, Strumia, Xue, JCAP 01 (2014)

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Below QCDPT

$$\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi a$$

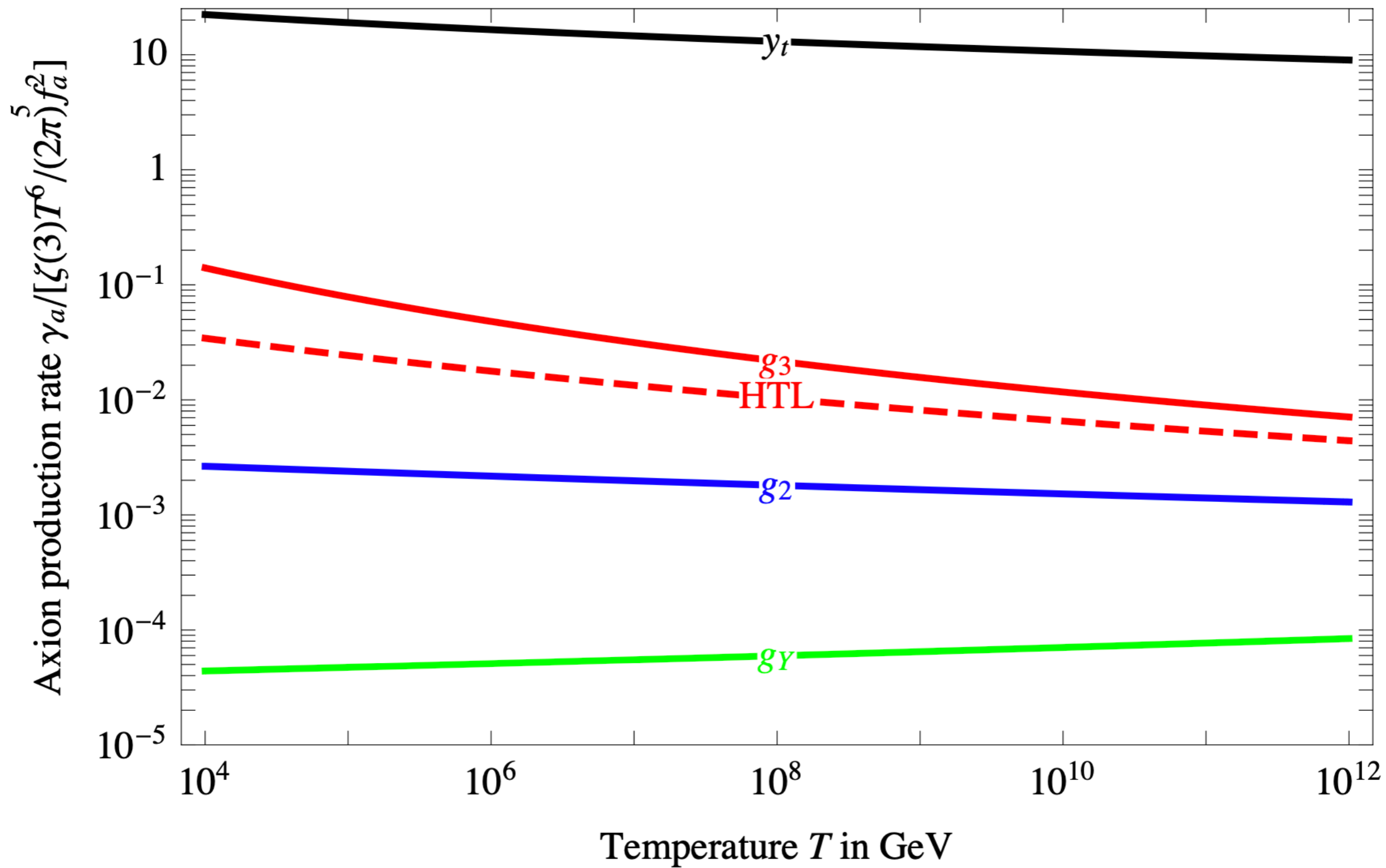
Thermalization via pion scattering
requires rather small values of f_a

Perturbative control only for $T < 62 \text{ MeV}$

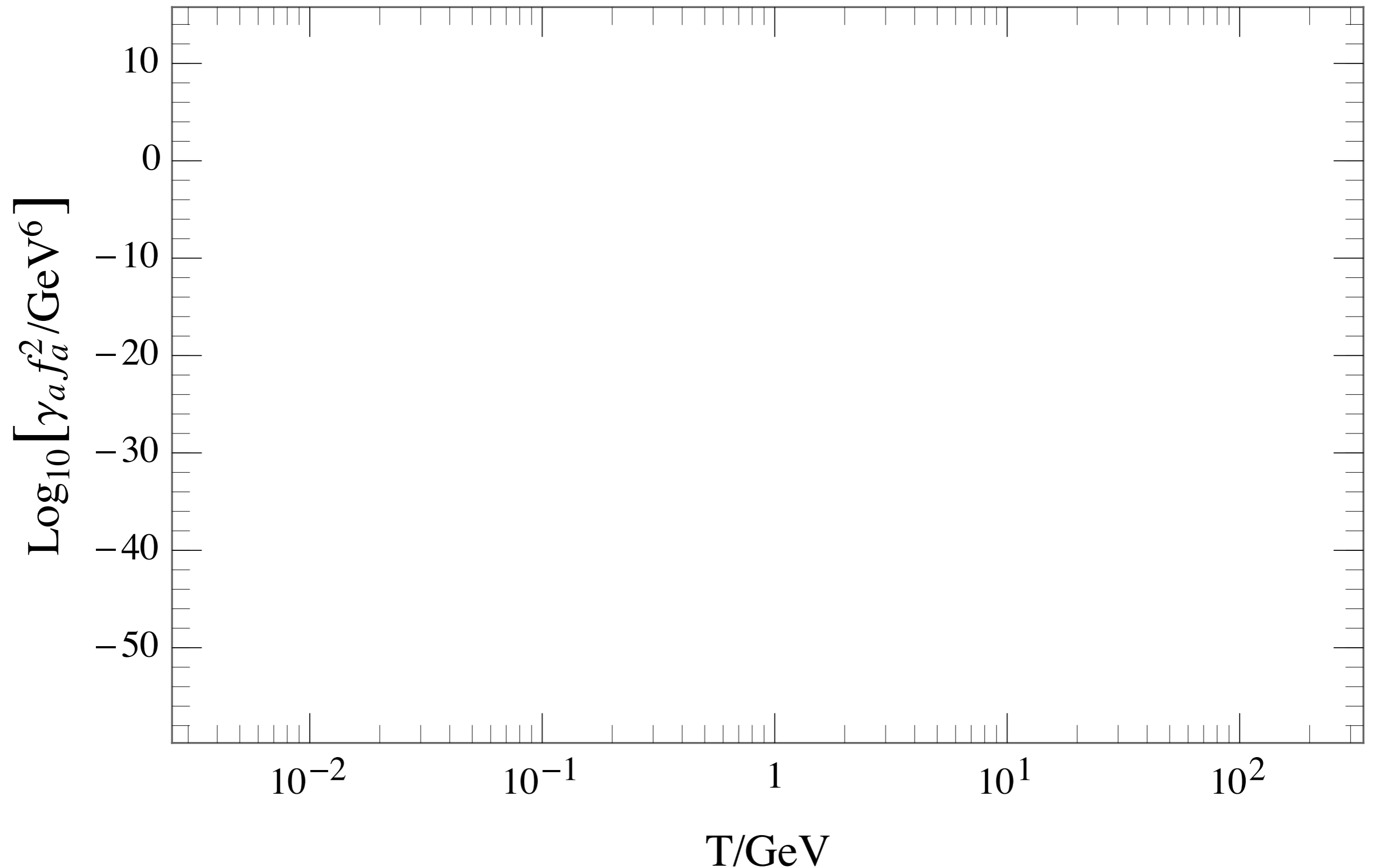
Phys.Lett.B 316 (1993)

Di Luzio, Martinelli, Piazza, Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021)

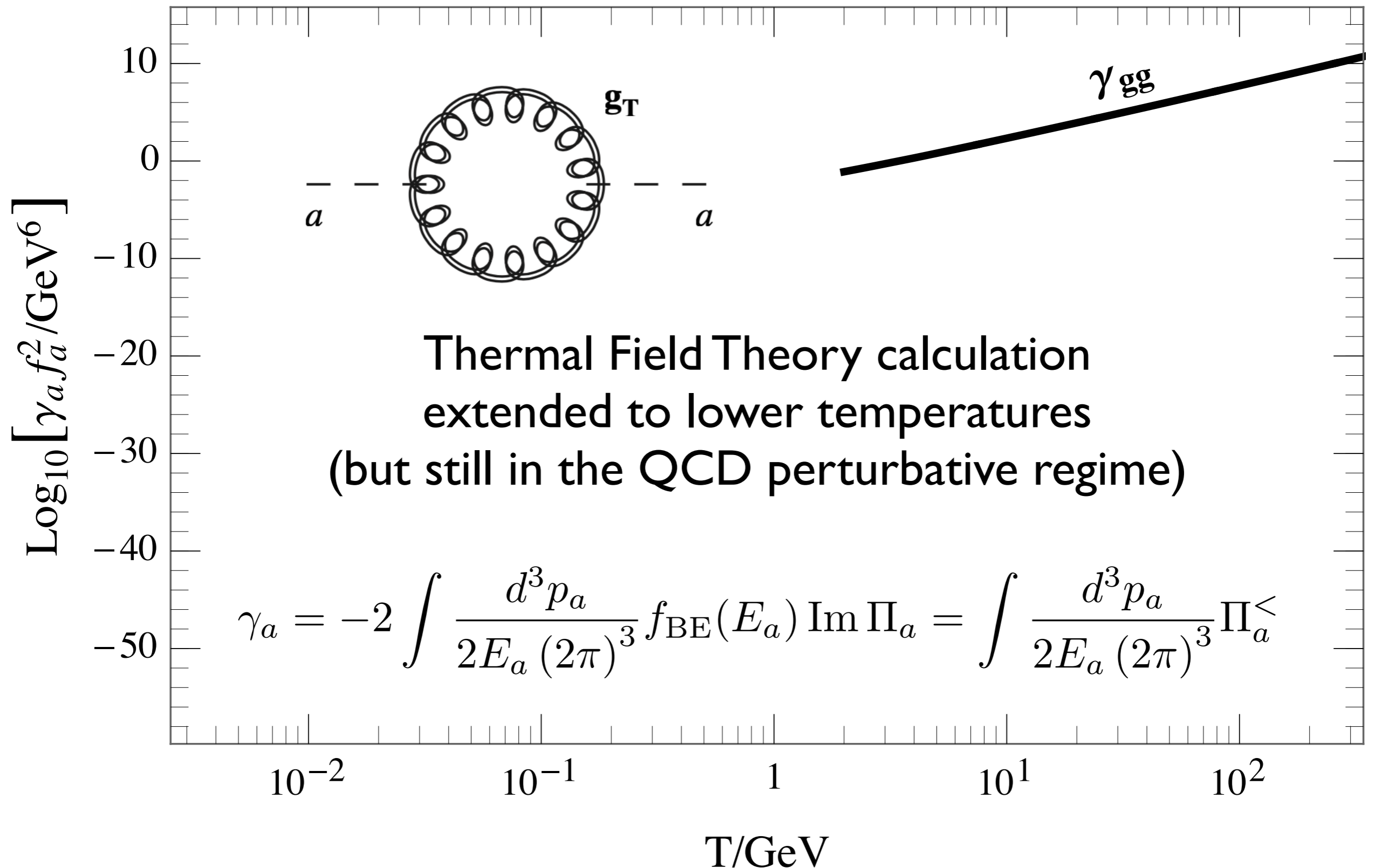
Thermal Gluon Scattering



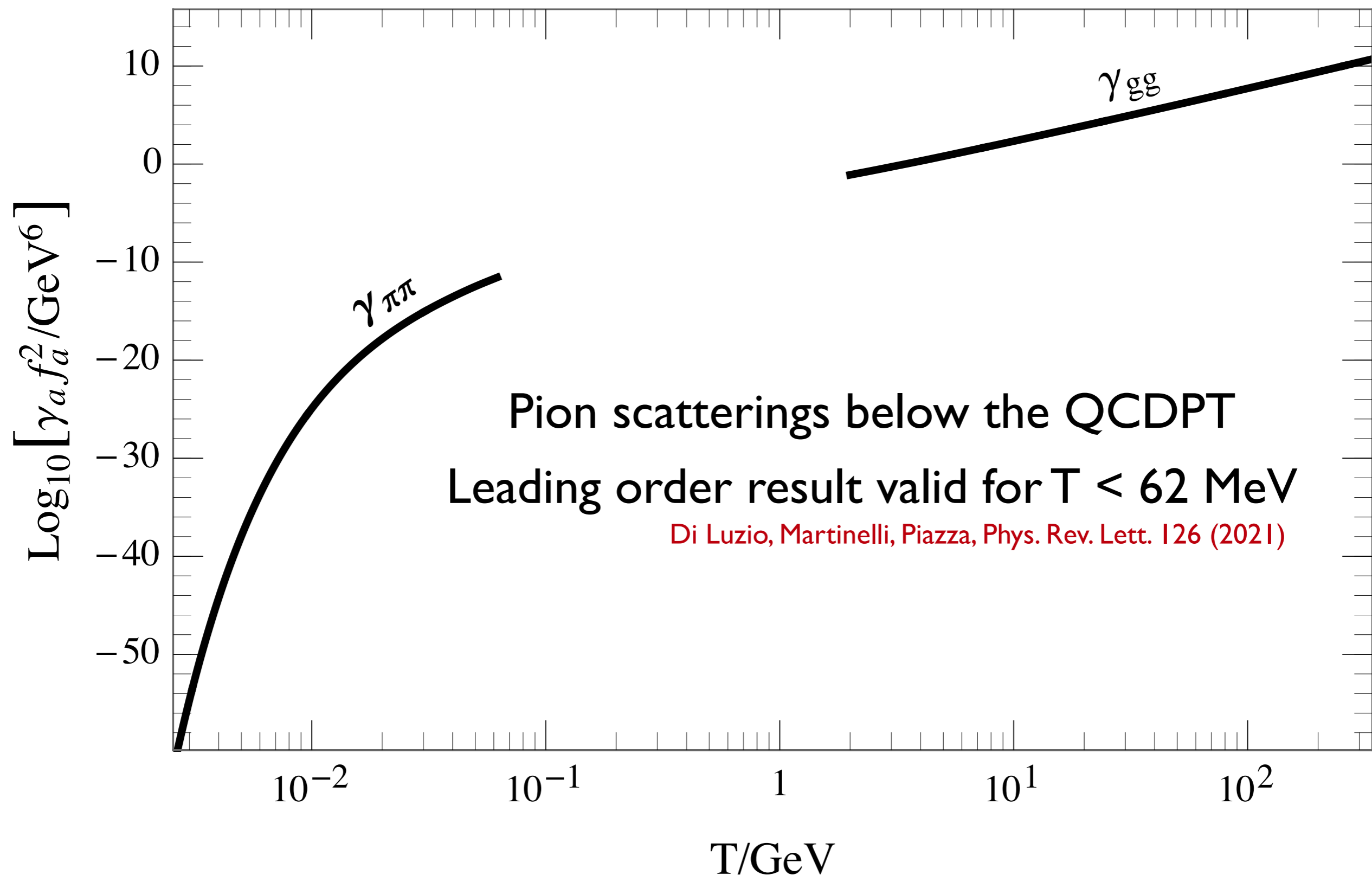
Rate Across the QCDPT



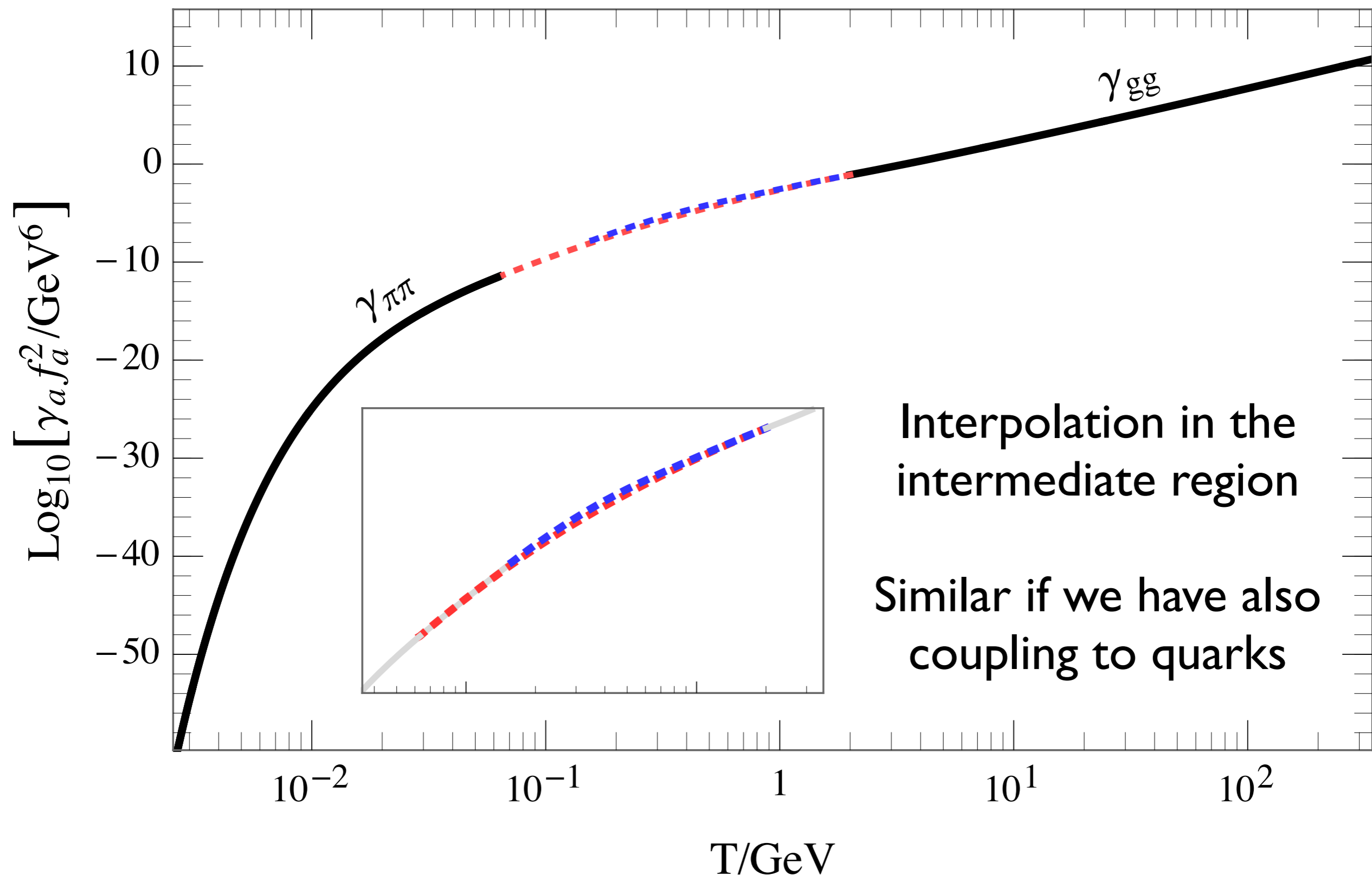
Rate Across the QCDPT



Rate Across the QCDPT



Rate Across the QCDPT



UV Completions



FD, Hajkarim, Yun, JHEP 10 (2021)

KSVZ Axion – Theory

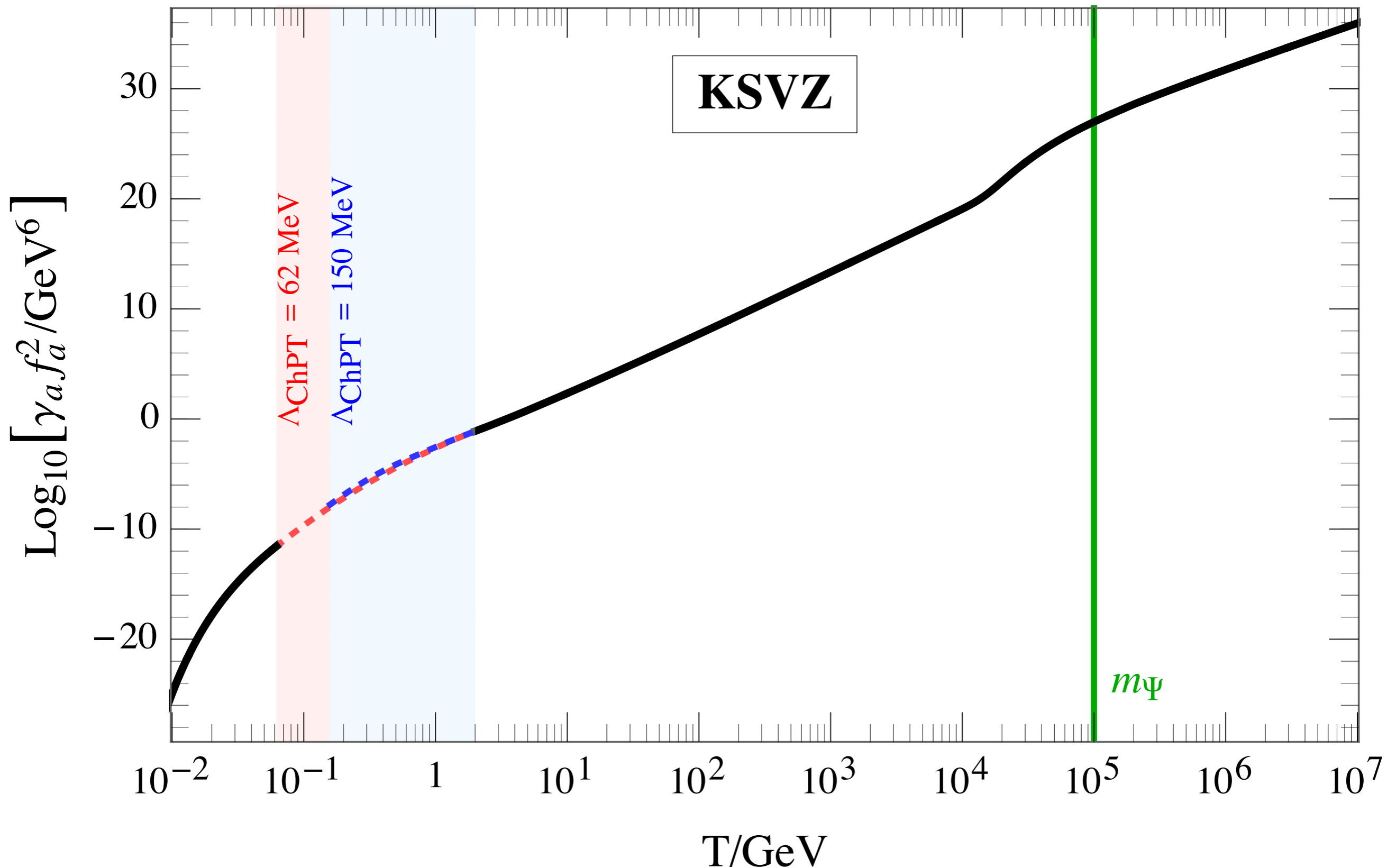
↑ Energy

$$(\partial^\mu \varphi)^\dagger \partial_\mu \varphi + \bar{\Psi} i \not{D} \Psi - \lambda_\varphi \left(|\varphi|^2 - v_\varphi^2/2 \right)^2 - (y_\Psi \varphi^\dagger \bar{\Psi}_L \Psi_R + \text{h.c.})$$

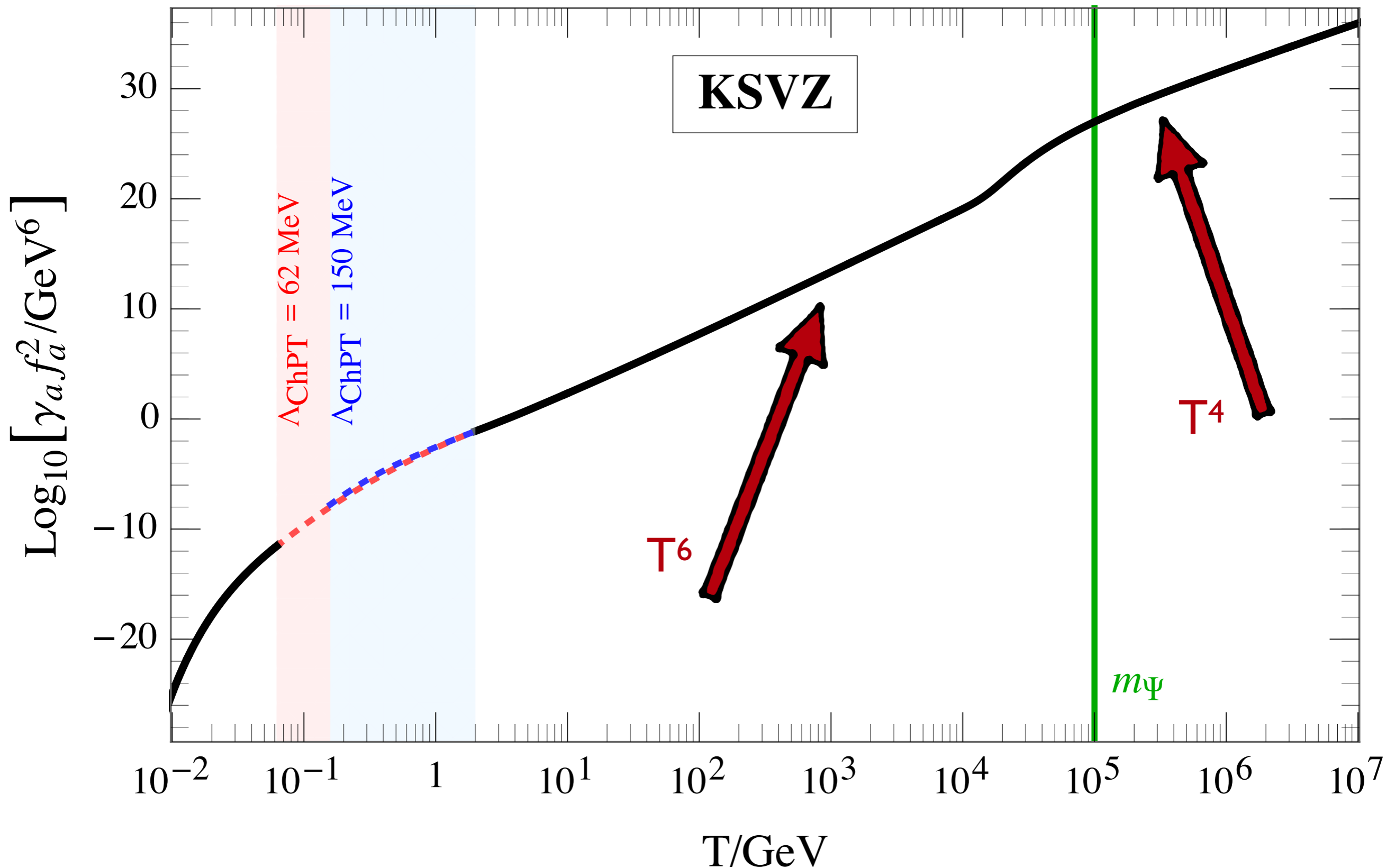
$$\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu a \partial_\mu a + \bar{\Psi} i \not{D} \Psi - \left[m_\Psi e^{-ia/v_\varphi} \bar{\Psi}_L \Psi_R + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu a \partial_\mu a + \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{v_\varphi} G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A\mu\nu}$$

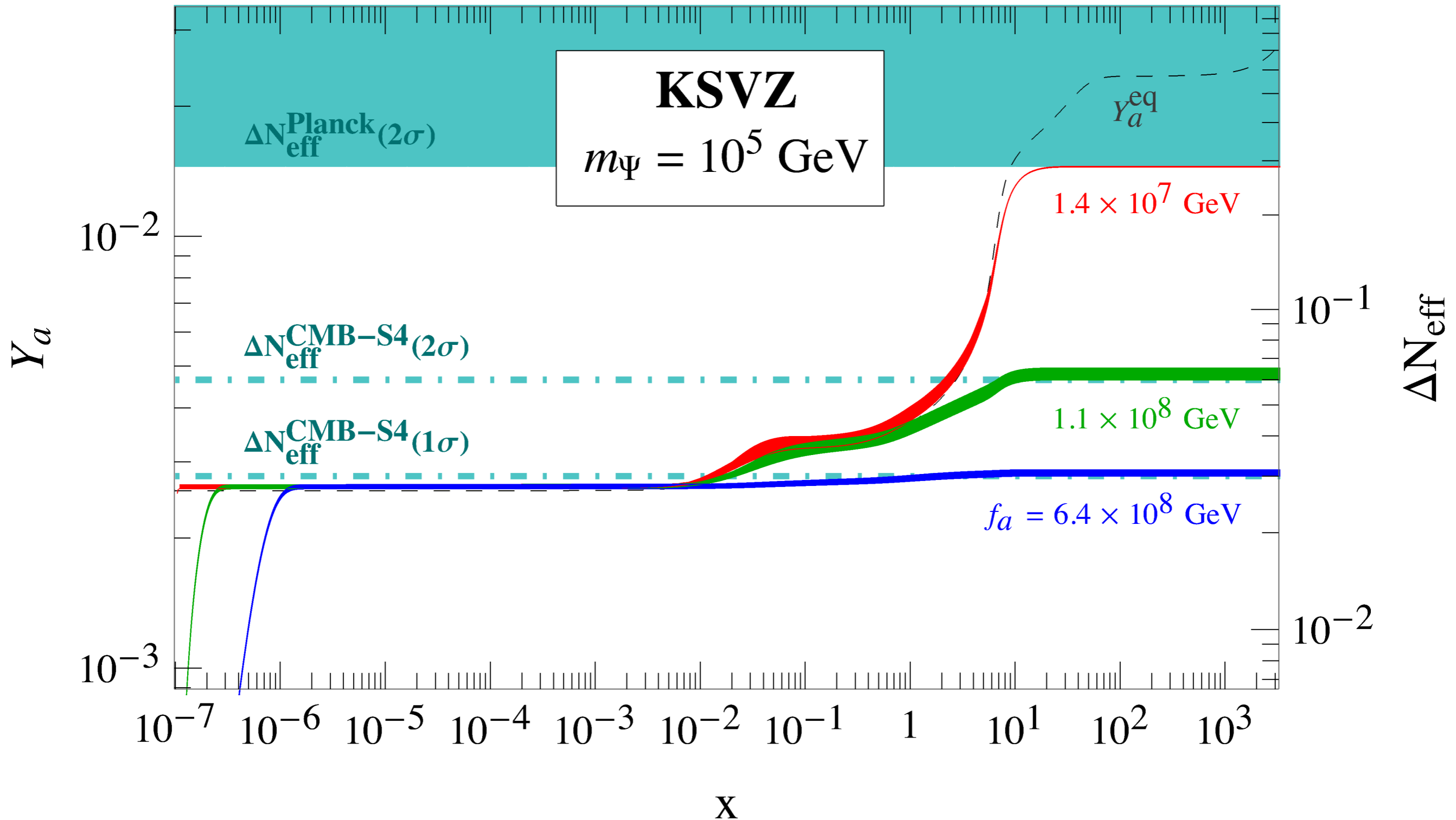
KSVZ Axion — Production Rate



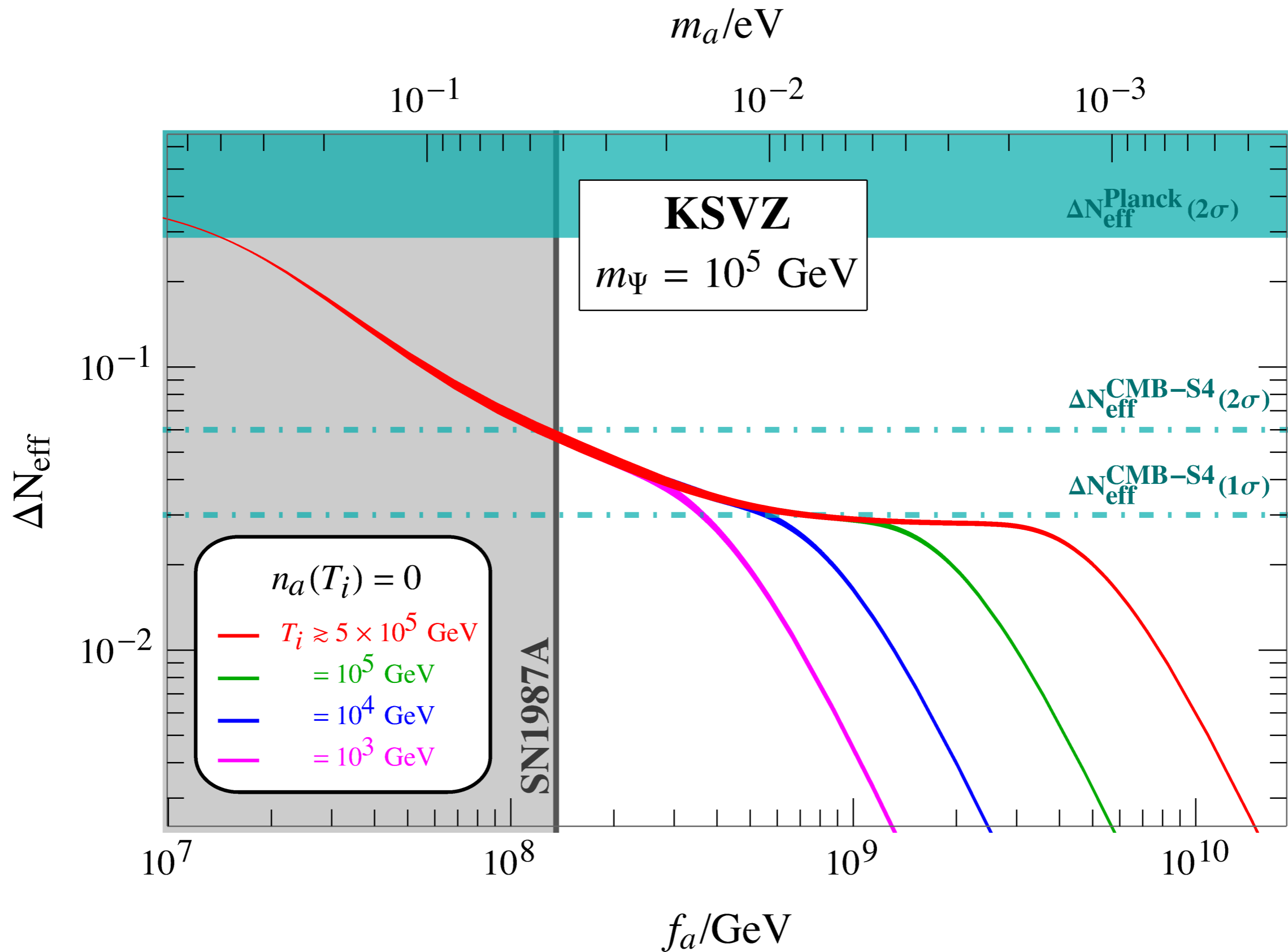
KSVZ Axion — Production Rate



KSVZ Axion — Y_a vs x



KSVZ Axion — ΔN_{eff}



DFSZ Axion – Theory

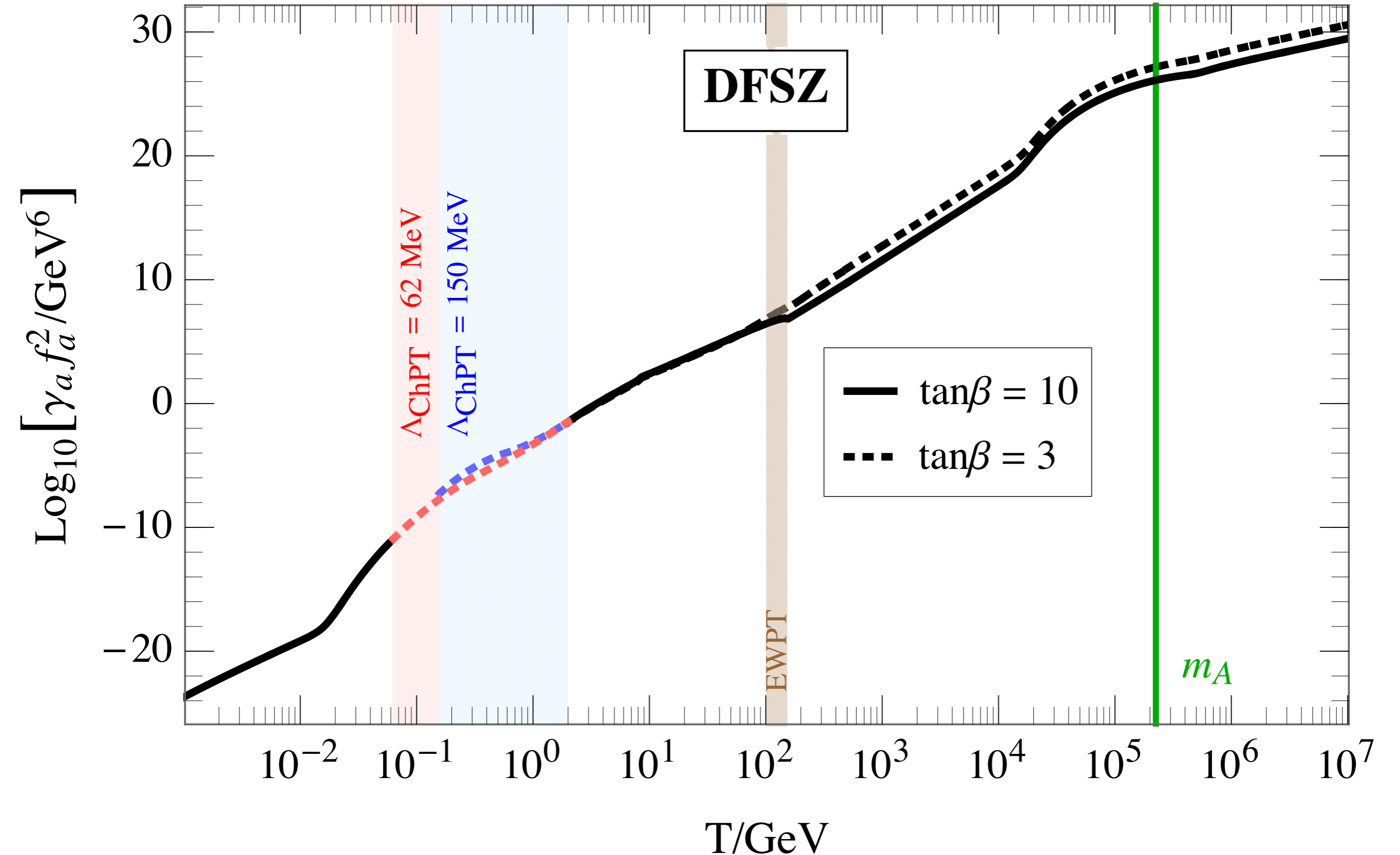
↑ Energy

$$B \left(\frac{\varphi^\dagger}{v_\varphi/\sqrt{2}} \right)^r H_u^T i\sigma^2 H_d + \text{h.c.}$$

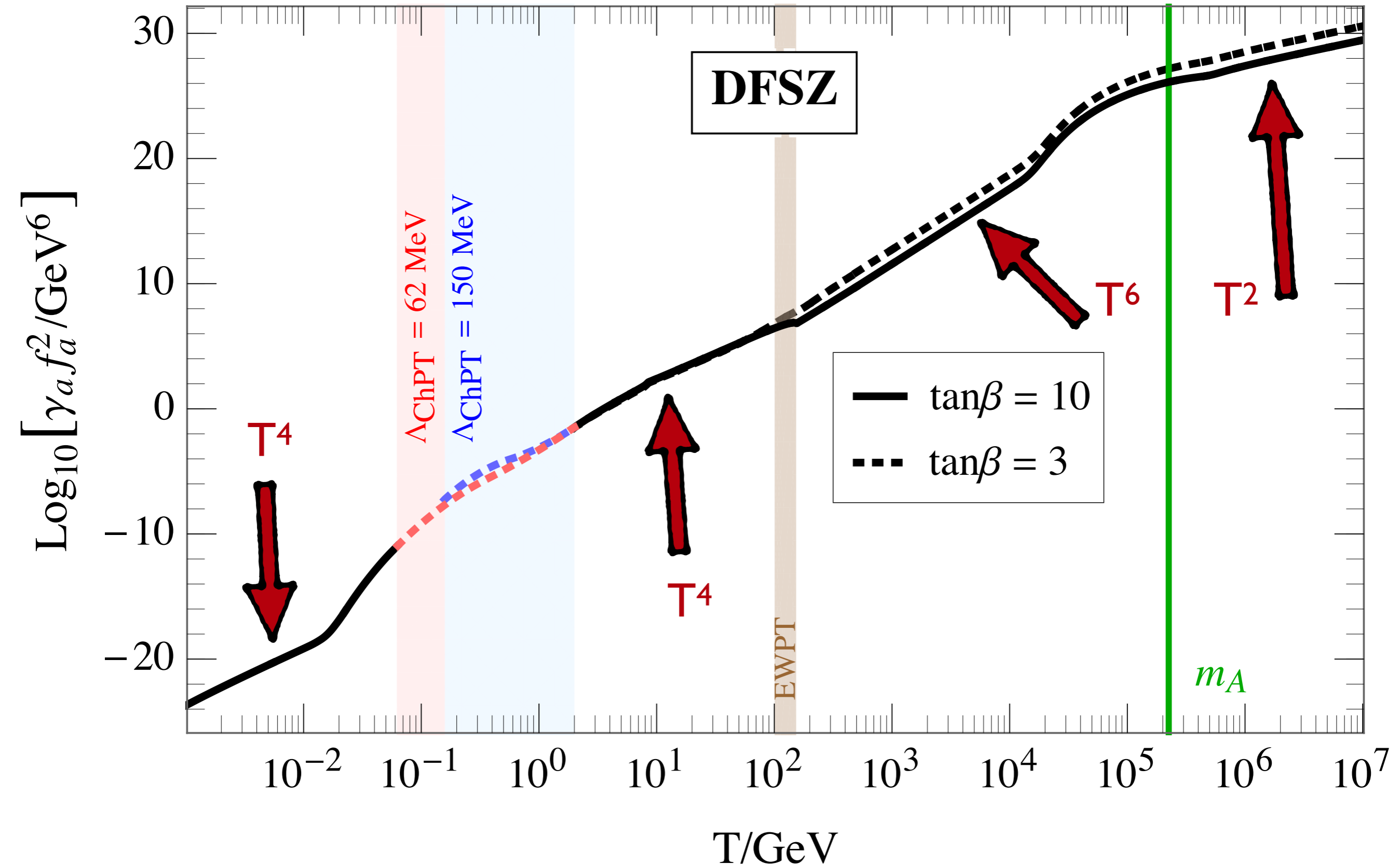
$$\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu a \partial_\mu a - B \left[e^{-i \frac{N_{\text{DW}}}{3} \frac{a}{v_\varphi}} H_u^T i\sigma^2 H_d + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu a \partial_\mu a - \frac{\partial_\mu a}{v_\varphi} \left[\sum_f q_f \bar{f} \gamma^\mu f + \sum_\alpha q_{H_\alpha} H_\alpha^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}^\mu H_\alpha \right] \\ & + \frac{a}{v_\varphi} \left[N_{\text{DW}} \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A\mu\nu} + c_W \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} W_{\mu\nu}^I \tilde{W}^{I\mu\nu} + c_Y \frac{g'^2}{32\pi^2} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} \right] \end{aligned}$$

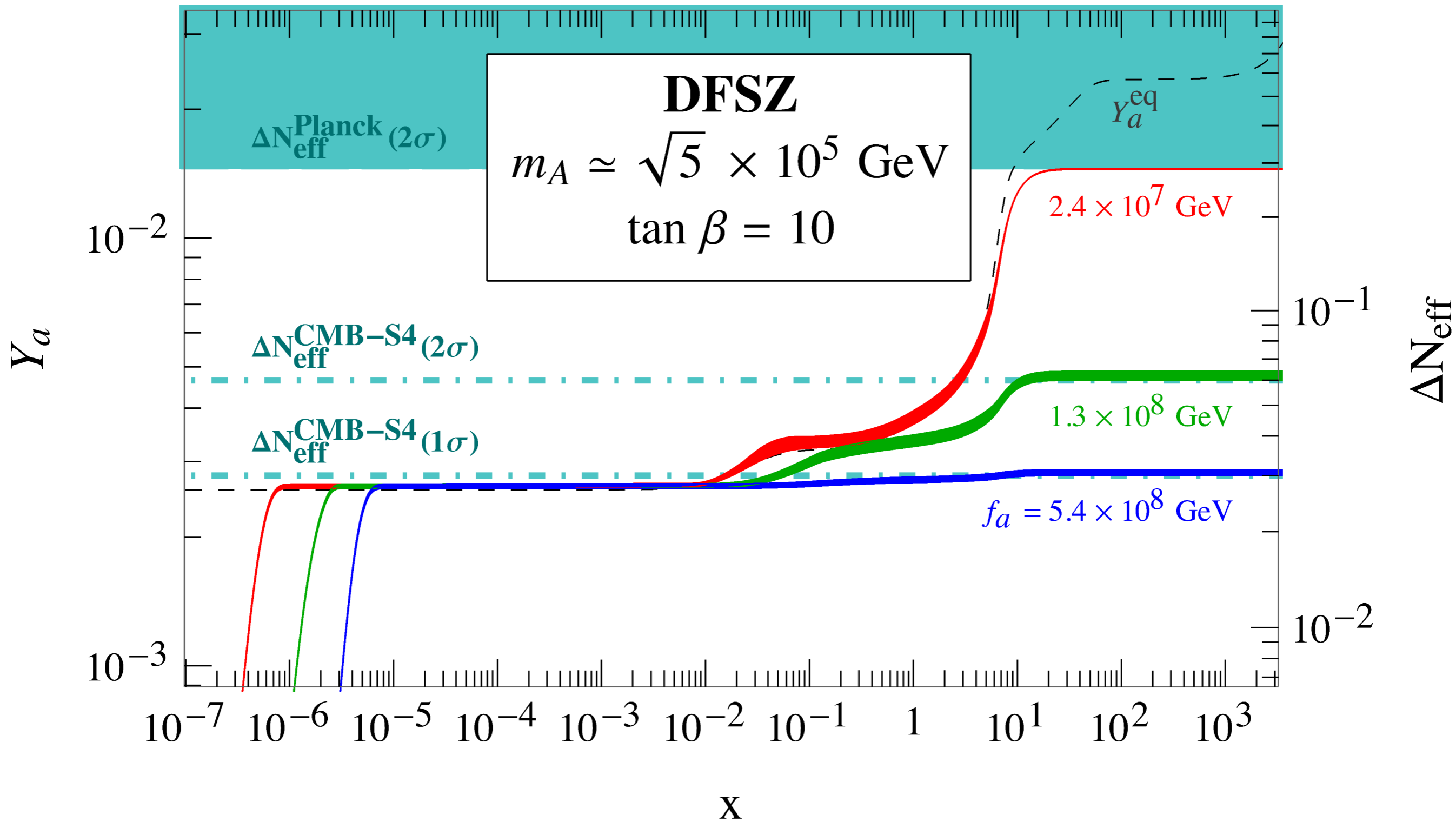
DFSZ Axion — Production Rate



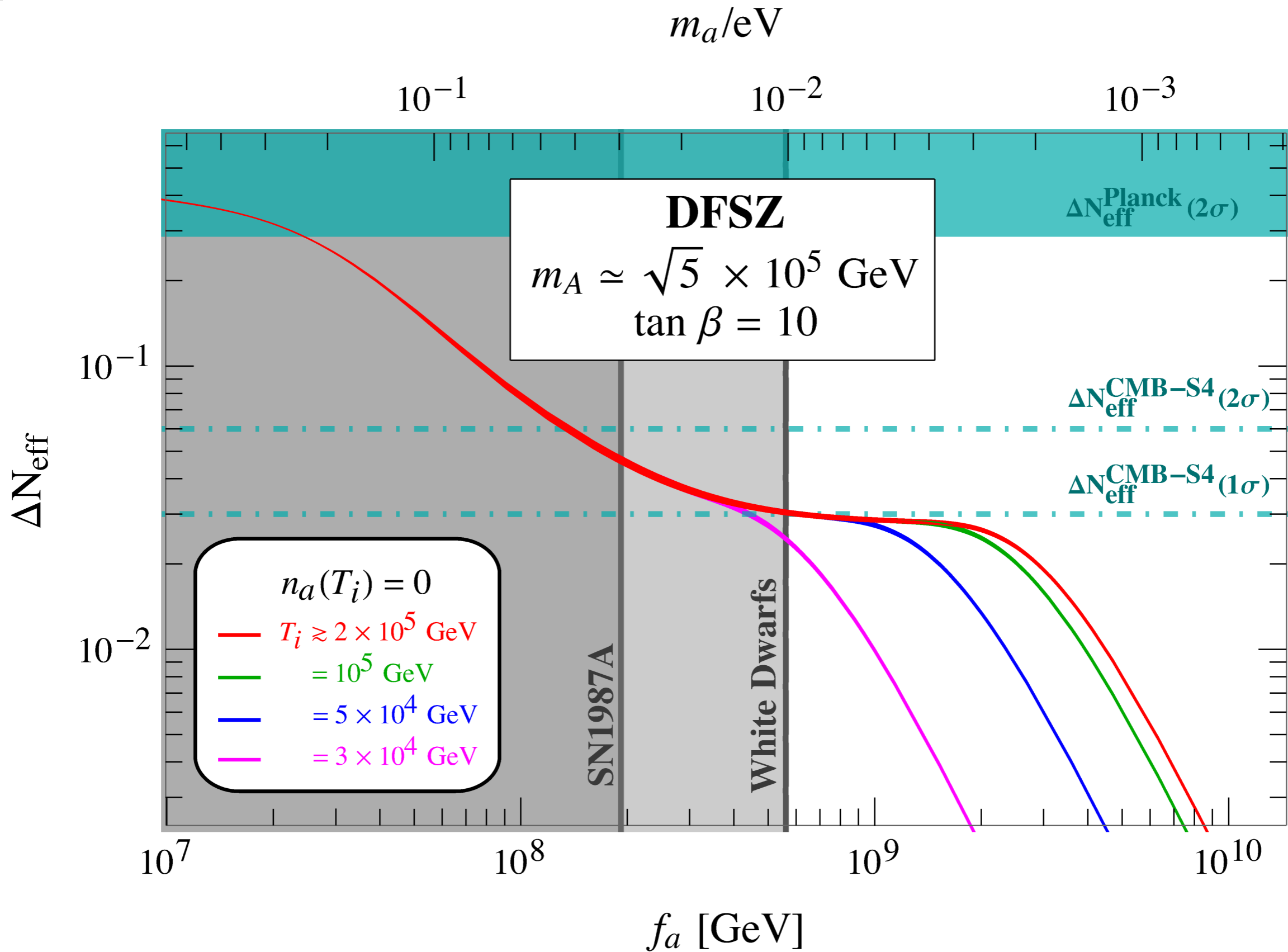
DFSZ Axion — Production Rate



DFSZ Axion — Y_a vs x

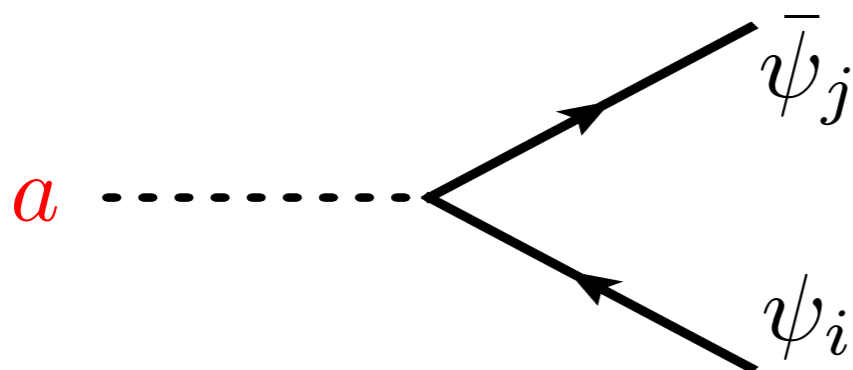


DFSZ Axion — ΔN_{eff}



Flavor Violating Axions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FV}}^{(a)} = \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} \sum_{\psi_i \neq \psi_j} \bar{\psi}_i \gamma^\mu \left(c_{\psi_i \psi_j}^V + c_{\psi_i \psi_j}^A \gamma^5 \right) \psi_j$$



Target of several
terrestrial experiments

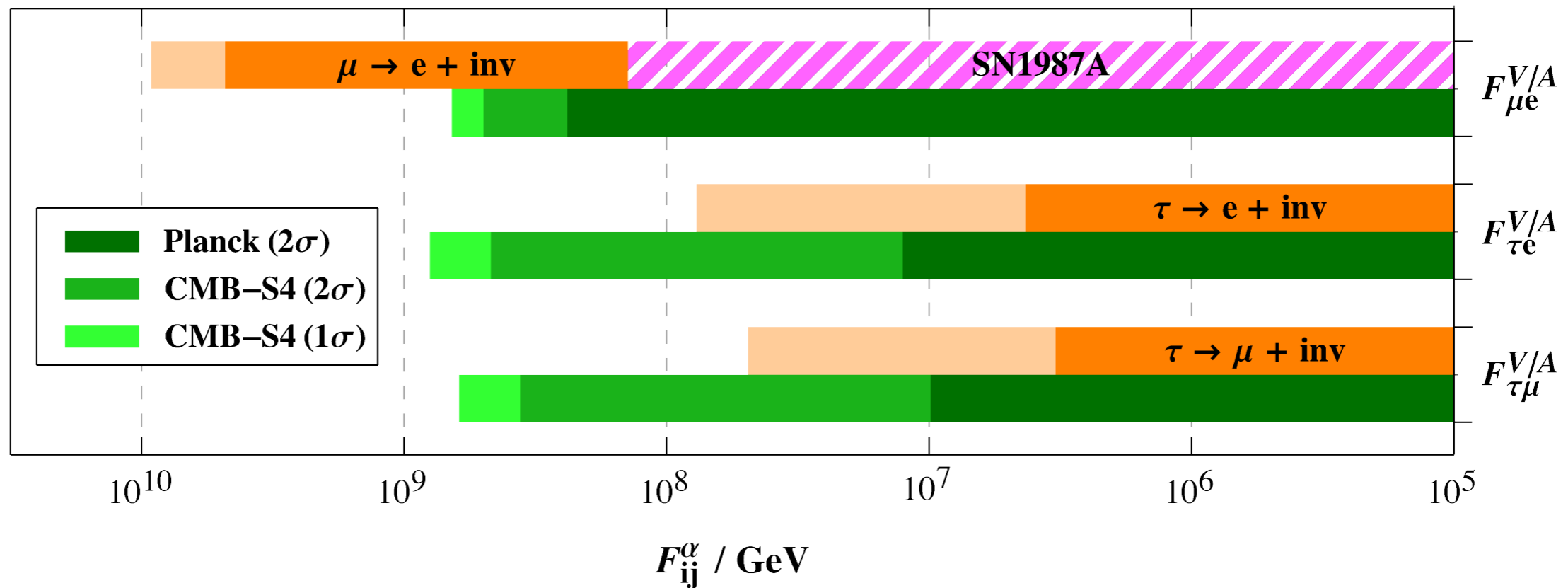
What about their role
in the early universe?

They mediate hot axion production
via decays and scatterings

Flavor Violating Axions

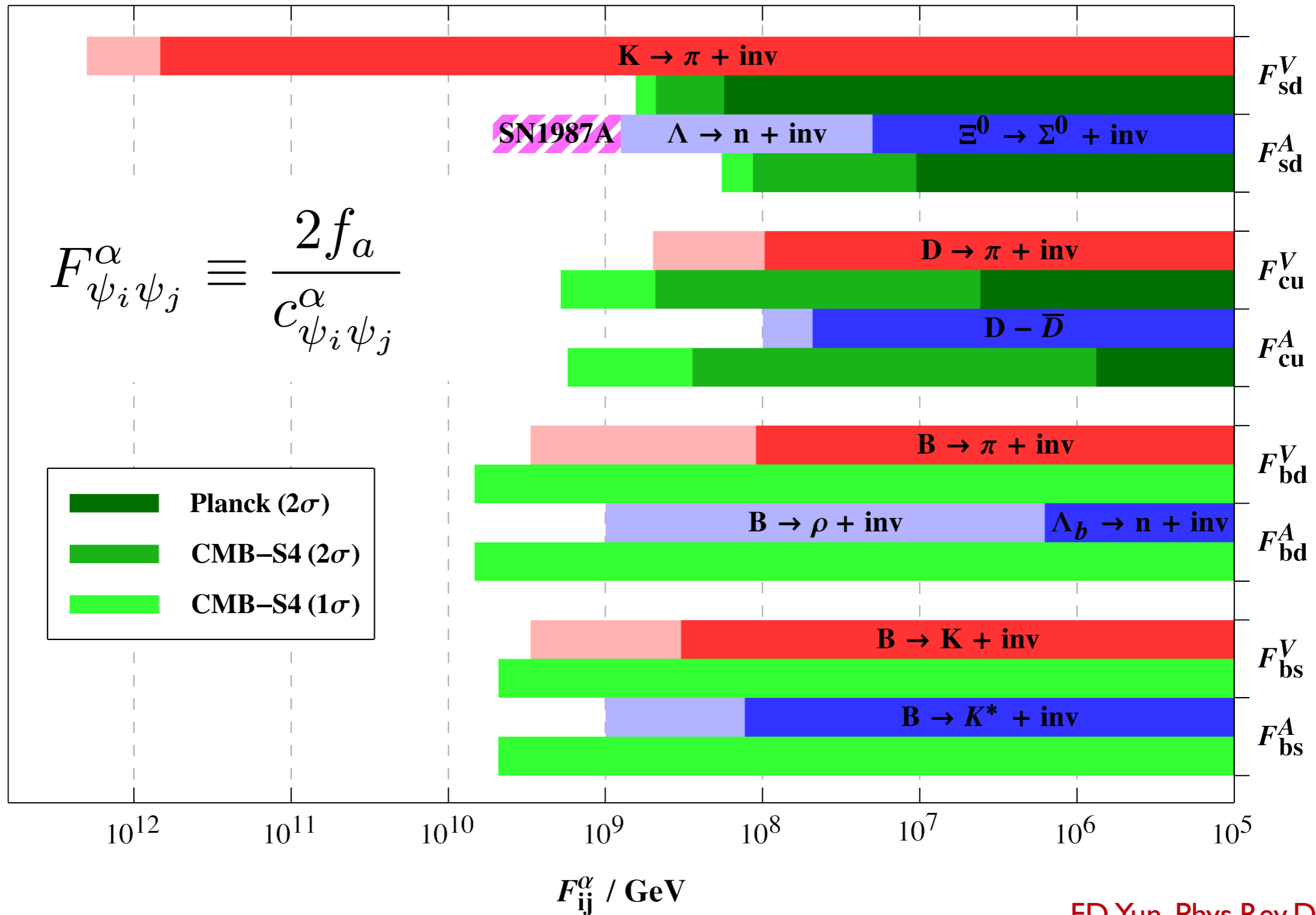
$$F_{\psi_i \psi_j}^\alpha \equiv \frac{2f_a}{c_{\psi_i \psi_j}^\alpha}$$

Leptonic FV

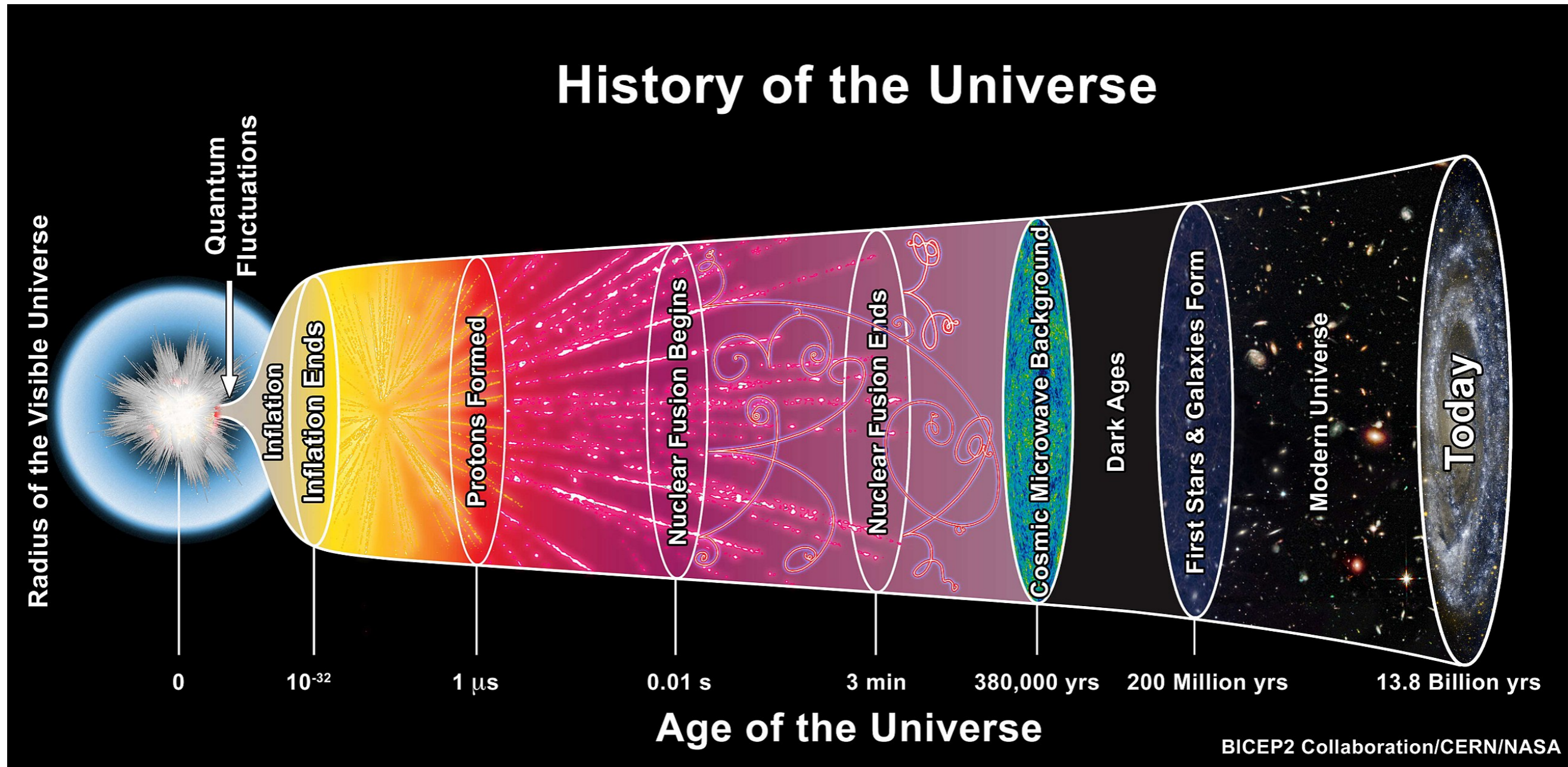


Flavor Violating Axions

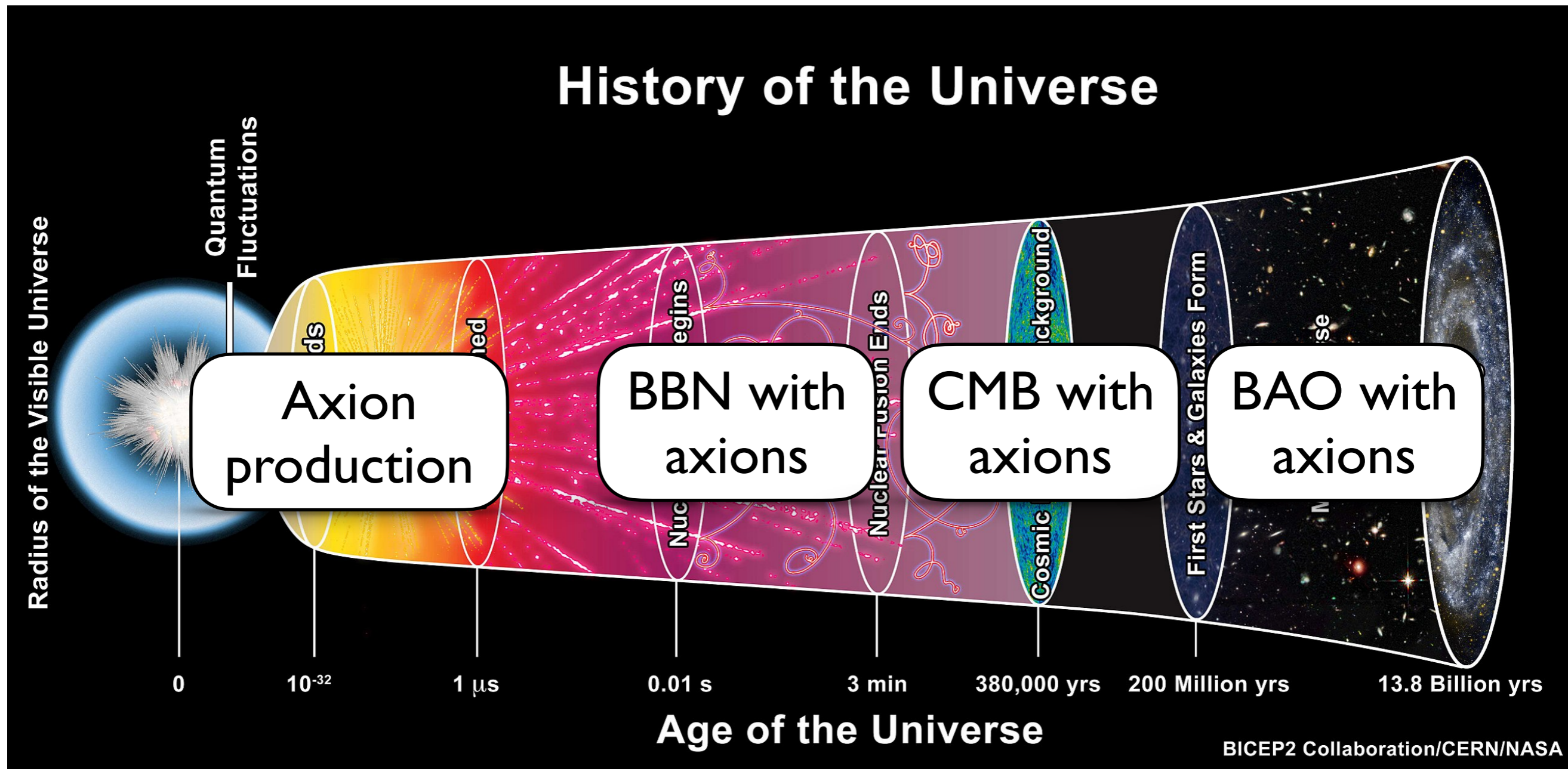
Hadronic FV



Global Cosmological Analysis



Global Cosmological Analysis



KSVZ Axion Mass Bound

KSVZ Axion Model

| Parameter | Planck 2018 (TT TE EE) | Planck 2018 + lensing | Planck 2018 +lensing+BAO |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| $\Omega_b h^2$ | 0.02244 ± 0.00017 | 0.02243 ± 0.00015 | 0.02250 ± 0.00015 |
| $\Omega_c h^2$ | $0.1224^{+0.0018}_{-0.0021}$ | $0.1225^{+0.0016}_{-0.0022}$ | $0.1208^{+0.0012}_{-0.0014}$ |
| $100 \theta_{MC}$ | $1.04060^{+0.00038}_{-0.00034}$ | 1.04058 ± 0.00036 | 1.04081 ± 0.00032 |
| τ | 0.0557 ± 0.0079 | 0.0564 ± 0.0076 | $0.0581^{+0.0070}_{-0.0080}$ |
| $\log(10^{10} A_S)$ | 3.053 ± 0.017 | $3.055^{+0.015}_{-0.016}$ | $3.055^{+0.014}_{-0.016}$ |
| n_s | 0.9687 ± 0.0051 | 0.9681 ± 0.0049 | 0.9703 ± 0.0043 |
| m_a [eV] | < 1.04 (< 1.86) | < 0.888 (< 1.67) | < 0.282 (< 0.420) |
| f_a [10^7 GeV] | > 0.55 (> 0.31) | > 0.64 (> 0.34) | > 2.02 (> 1.35) |
| $\sum m_\nu$ [eV] | < 0.297 (< 0.422) | < 0.278 (< 0.381) | < 0.156 (< 0.192) |
| ΔN_{eff} | < 0.349 (< 0.378) | < 0.340 (< 0.373) | < 0.226 (< 0.275) |
| Y_P | $0.24746^{+0.00077}_{-0.0017}$ | $0.24741^{+0.00074}_{-0.0016}$ | $0.24693^{+0.00048}_{-0.00097}$ |
| $10^5 \cdot (D/H)$ | $2.556^{+0.033}_{-0.042}$ | $2.558^{+0.029}_{-0.040}$ | 2.531 ± 0.028 |
| H_0 [Km/s/Mpc] | $67.0^{+1.2}_{-0.77}$ | $66.9^{+1.2}_{-0.73}$ | 67.90 ± 0.53 |
| σ_8 | $0.790^{+0.029}_{-0.012}$ | $0.793^{+0.023}_{-0.011}$ | $0.8052^{+0.0099}_{-0.0075}$ |

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| $100 \theta_{MC}$ | $1.04060^{+0.00038}_{-0.00034}$ | 1.04058 ± 0.00036 | 1.04081 ± 0.00032 |
| τ | 0.0557 ± 0.0079 | 0.0564 ± 0.0076 | $0.0581^{+0.0070}_{-0.0080}$ |
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| H_0 [Km/s/Mpc] | $67.0^{+1.2}_{-0.77}$ | $66.9^{+1.2}_{-0.73}$ | 67.90 ± 0.53 |
| σ_8 | $0.790^{+0.029}_{-0.012}$ | $0.793^{+0.023}_{-0.011}$ | $0.8052^{+0.0099}_{-0.0075}$ |

95% and 99% CL

DFSZ Axion Mass Bound

DSFZ Axion Model ($\tan \beta = 3$)

| Parameter | Planck 2018 (TT TE EE) | Planck 2018 + lensing | Planck 2018 +lensing+BAO |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\Omega_b h^2$ | 0.02243 ± 0.00017 | 0.02244 ± 0.00017 | 0.02250 ± 0.00015 |
| $\Omega_c h^2$ | $0.1223^{+0.0018}_{-0.0023}$ | $0.1224^{+0.0017}_{-0.0024}$ | $0.1208^{+0.0012}_{-0.0016}$ |
| $100 \theta_{MC}$ | $1.04061^{+0.00039}_{-0.00035}$ | $1.04061^{+0.00040}_{-0.00035}$ | 1.04081 ± 0.00031 |
| τ | 0.0554 ± 0.0080 | $0.0566^{+0.0071}_{-0.0081}$ | $0.0576^{+0.0069}_{-0.0077}$ |
| $\log(10^{10} A_S)$ | 3.052 ± 0.017 | $3.055^{+0.015}_{-0.017}$ | 3.054 ± 0.015 |
| n_s | 0.9685 ± 0.0053 | 0.9682 ± 0.0052 | $0.9702^{+0.0042}_{-0.0048}$ |
| m_a [eV] | < 0.710 (< 1.81) | < 0.697 (< 1.42) | < 0.209 (< 0.293) |
| f_a [10^7 GeV] | > 0.80 (> 0.31) | > 0.82 (> 0.40) | > 2.72 (> 1.94) |
| $\sum m_\nu$ [eV] | < 0.312 (< 0.426) | < 0.288 (< 0.390) | < 0.157 (< 0.193) |
| ΔN_{eff} | < 0.358 (< 0.401) | < 0.360 (< 0.392) | < 0.243 (< 0.290) |
| Y_P | $0.24732^{+0.00077}_{-0.0018}$ | $0.24731^{+0.00077}_{-0.0018}$ | $0.24689^{+0.00061}_{-0.0012}$ |
| $10^5 \cdot (D/H)$ | $2.554^{+0.032}_{-0.041}$ | $2.554^{+0.032}_{-0.042}$ | 2.531 ± 0.028 |
| H_0 [Km/s/Mpc] | $67.0^{+1.2}_{-0.82}$ | $67.0^{+1.2}_{-0.79}$ | 67.90 ± 0.58 |
| σ_8 | $0.792^{+0.027}_{-0.012}$ | $0.794^{+0.022}_{-0.010}$ | $0.8059^{+0.0093}_{-0.0071}$ |

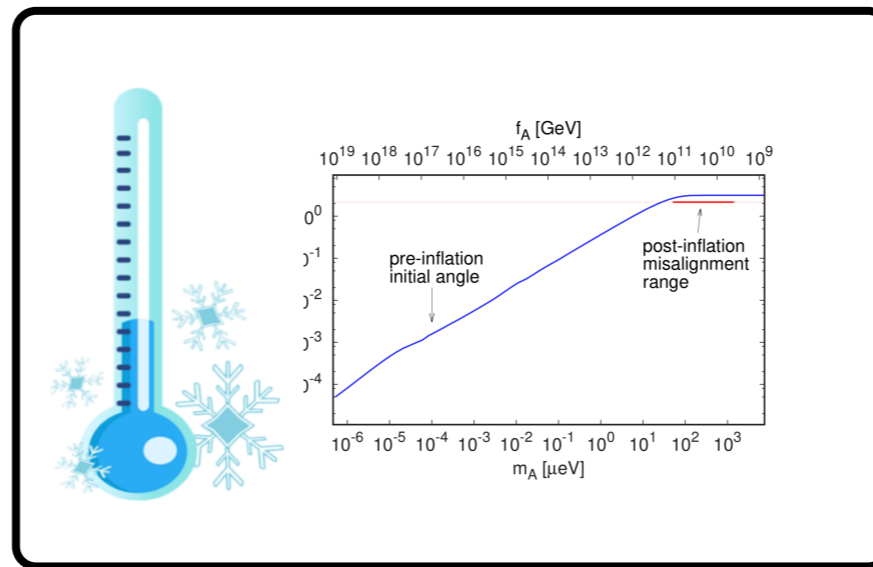
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95% and 99% CL

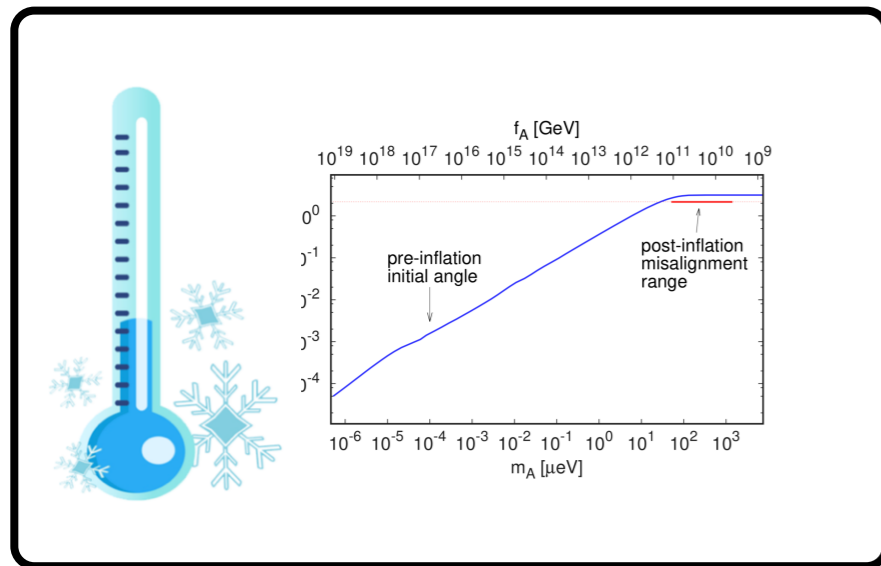
Outlook



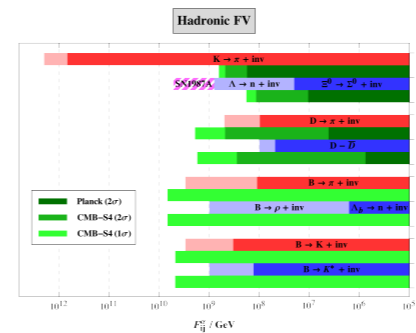
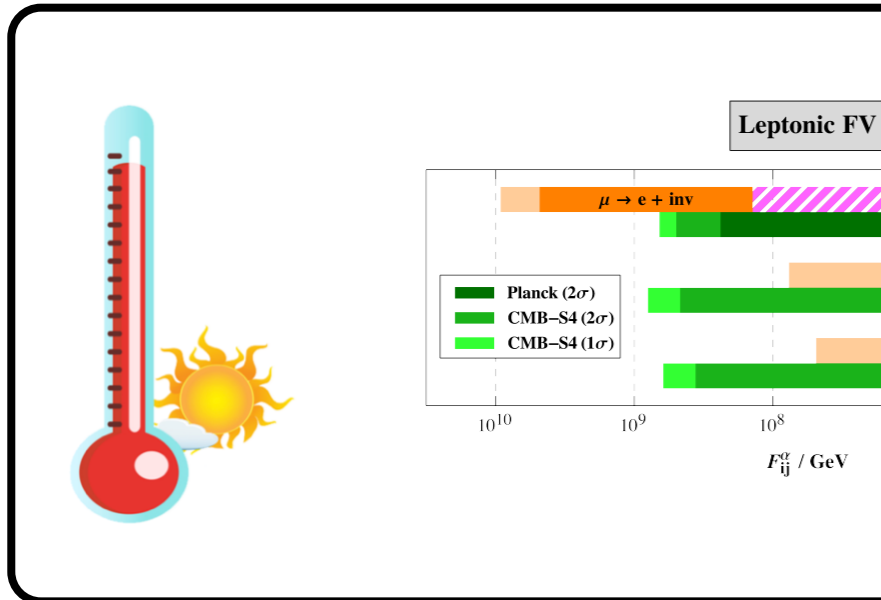
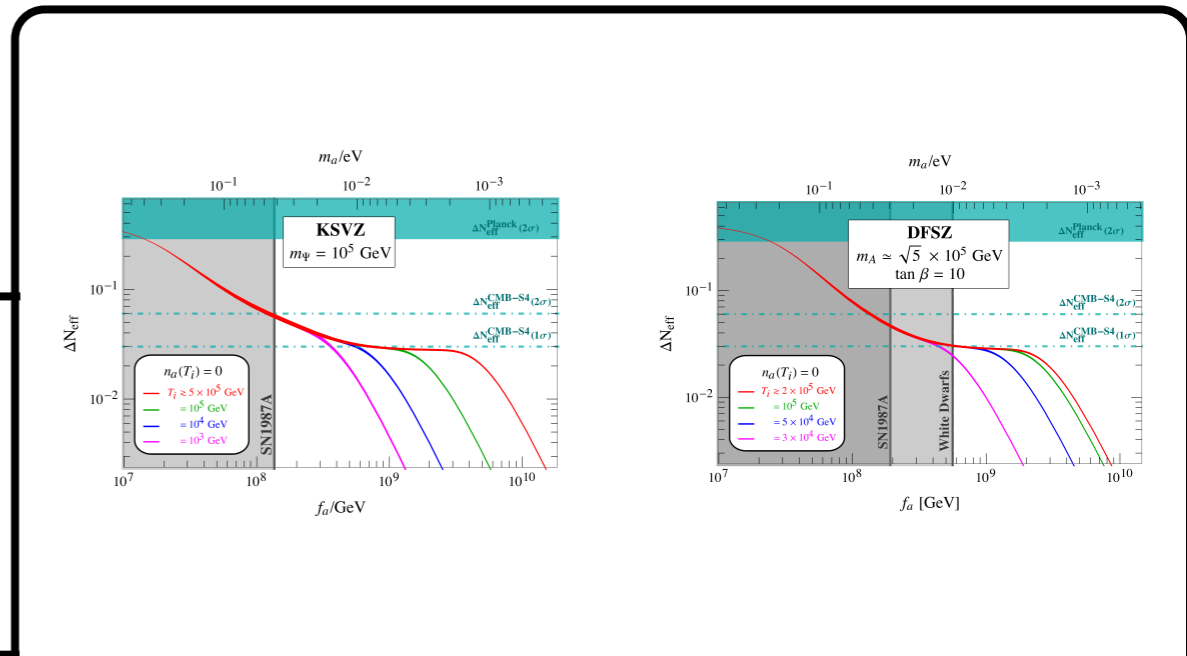
Peccei-Quinn Mechanism and QCD Axion

Motivated and testable scenario
for physics beyond the standard model
rich of cosmological consequences

Outlook



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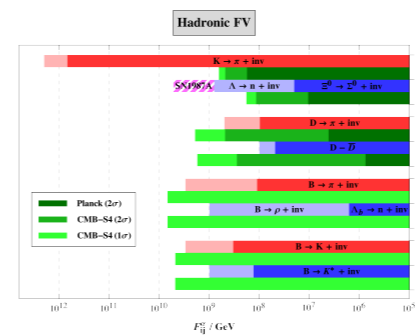
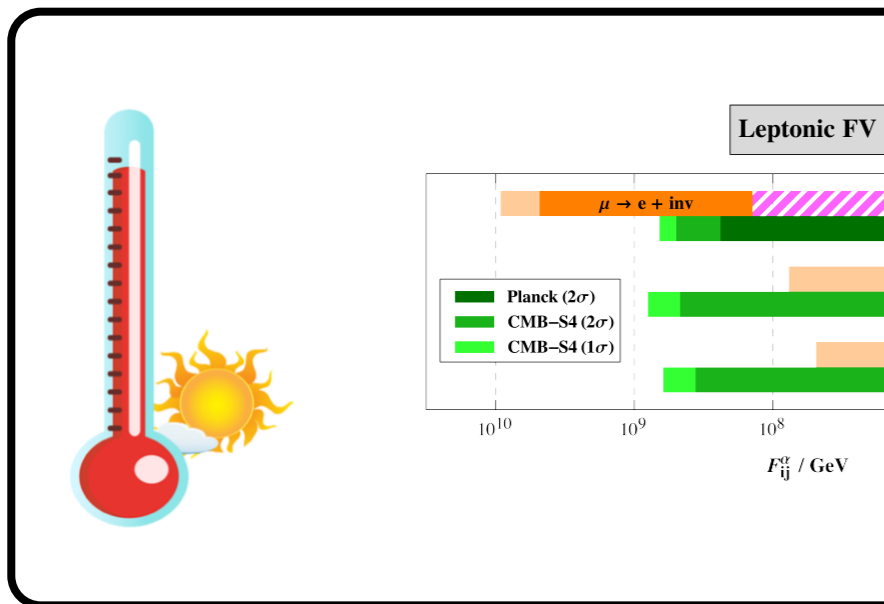
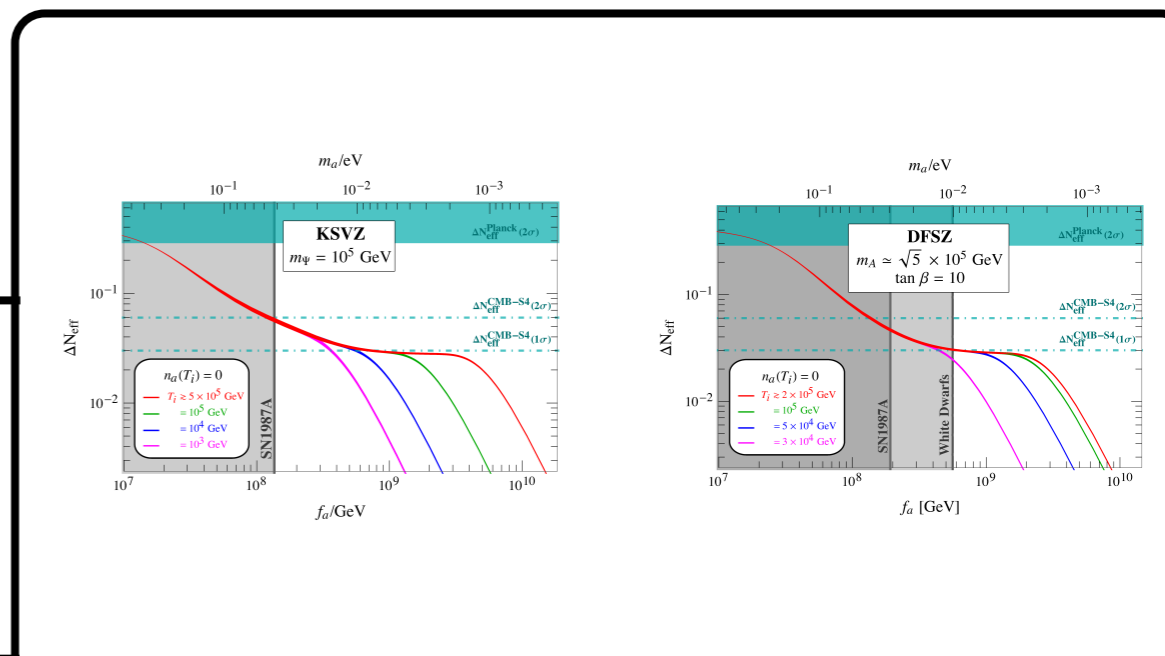
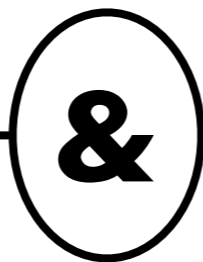
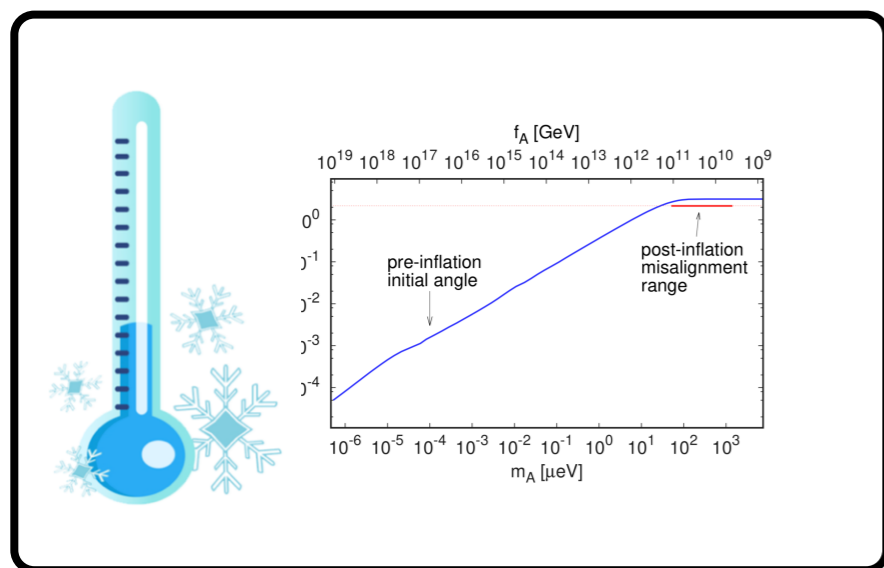
KSVZ Axion Model

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| n_s | 0.9687 ± 0.0051 | 0.9681 ± 0.0049 | 0.9703 ± 0.0043 |
| m_a [eV] | $< 1.04 (< 1.86)$ | $< 0.888 (< 1.67)$ | $< 0.282 (< 0.420)$ |
| f_a [10^7 GeV] | $> 0.55 (> 0.31)$ | $> 0.64 (> 0.34)$ | $> 2.02 (> 1.35)$ |
| $\sum m_\nu$ [eV] | $< 0.297 (< 0.422)$ | $< 0.278 (< 0.381)$ | $< 0.156 (< 0.192)$ |
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Thermally Produced Axions

Complementary to other probes of the PQ mechanism

Outlook



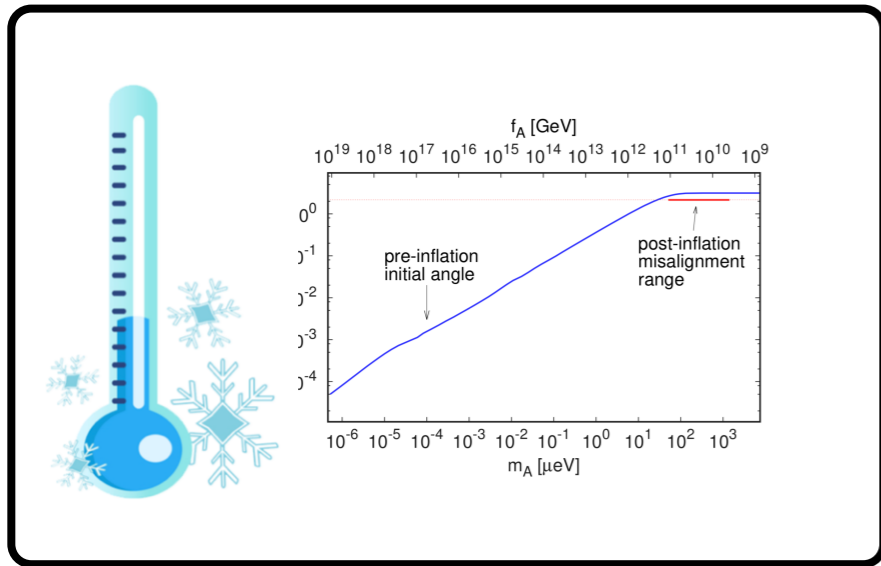
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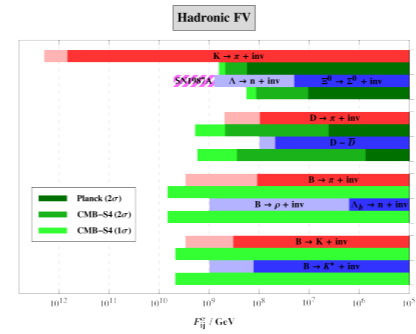
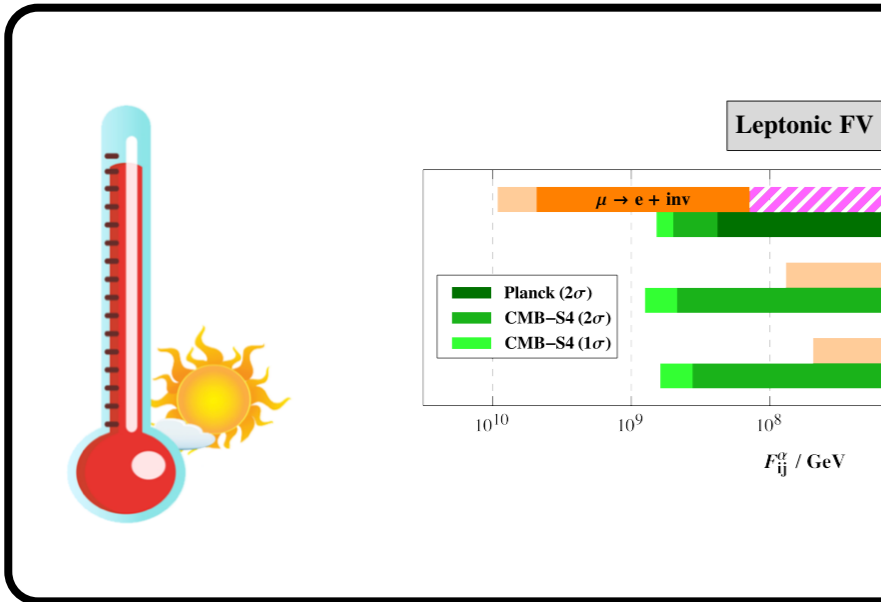
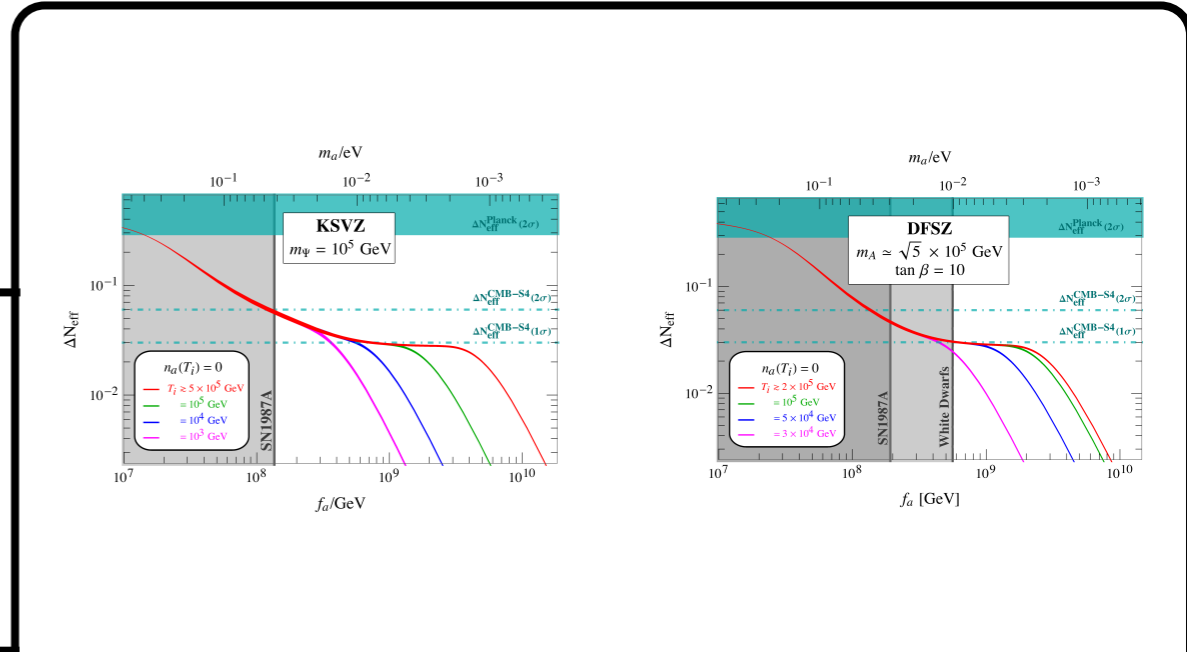
Future Work

Other UV completions (e.g. for flavor violation),
modified cosmological histories, beyond the QCD axion...

Outlook



&



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HVALA VAM!

BACKUP

SLIDES

The Strong CP Problem

CP violation in Quantum Chromodynamics

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} \supset -\theta \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} - \sum_q \bar{q} m_q e^{-i\theta_q \gamma^5} q$$

Observable consequence:
neutron electric
dipole moment

$$d_n \simeq 2.4 \times 10^{-16} \bar{\theta} \text{ e cm} \quad \bar{\theta} \equiv \theta - \sum_q \theta_q$$

Crewther, Di Vecchia, Veneziano, Witten, PLB88 (1979) and PLB91 (1980)

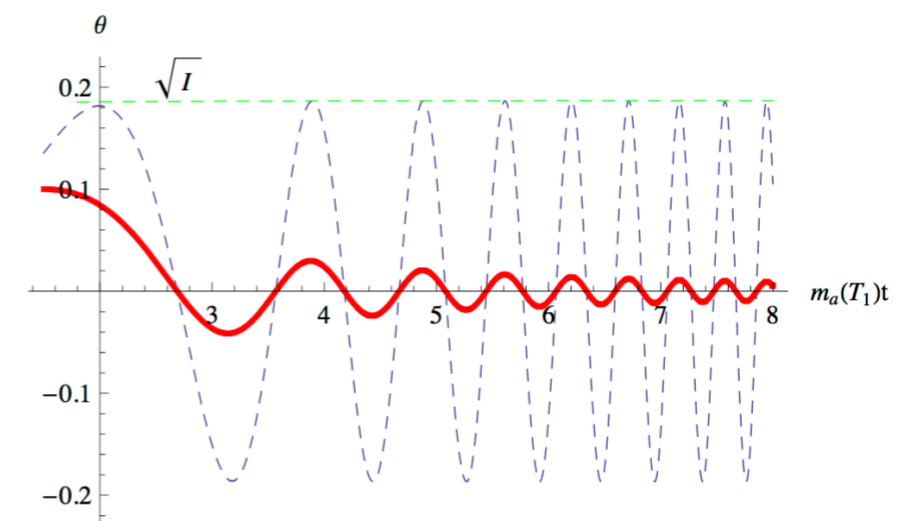
Experimental
Bound

$$|\bar{\theta}| \lesssim 10^{-10}$$

Pendlebury et al.. PRD92 (2016)

The QCD Axion

Peccei-Quinn (PQ) solution:
 θ promoted to a field (axion)



Axion field value is
dynamically relaxed to zero

An appealing dark
matter candidate

Theoretical top-down motivation
Recent experimental effort,
new ideas for axion detection

Axion Cold Dark Matter

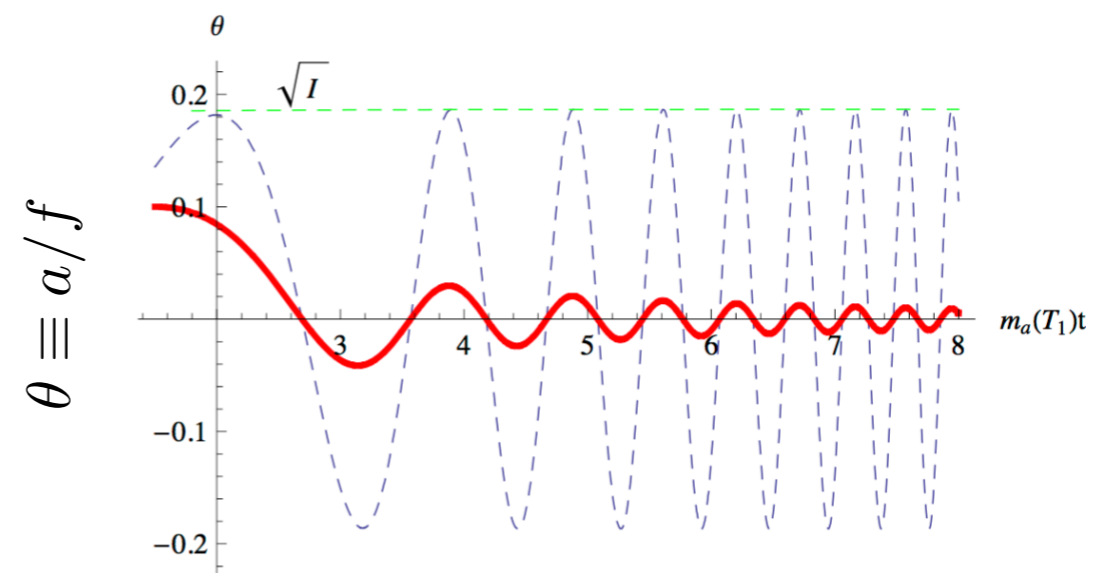
Axion condensate evolution in the early universe

$$\frac{d^2 a}{dt^2} + 3H \frac{da}{dt} + m_a(T)^2 a = 0$$

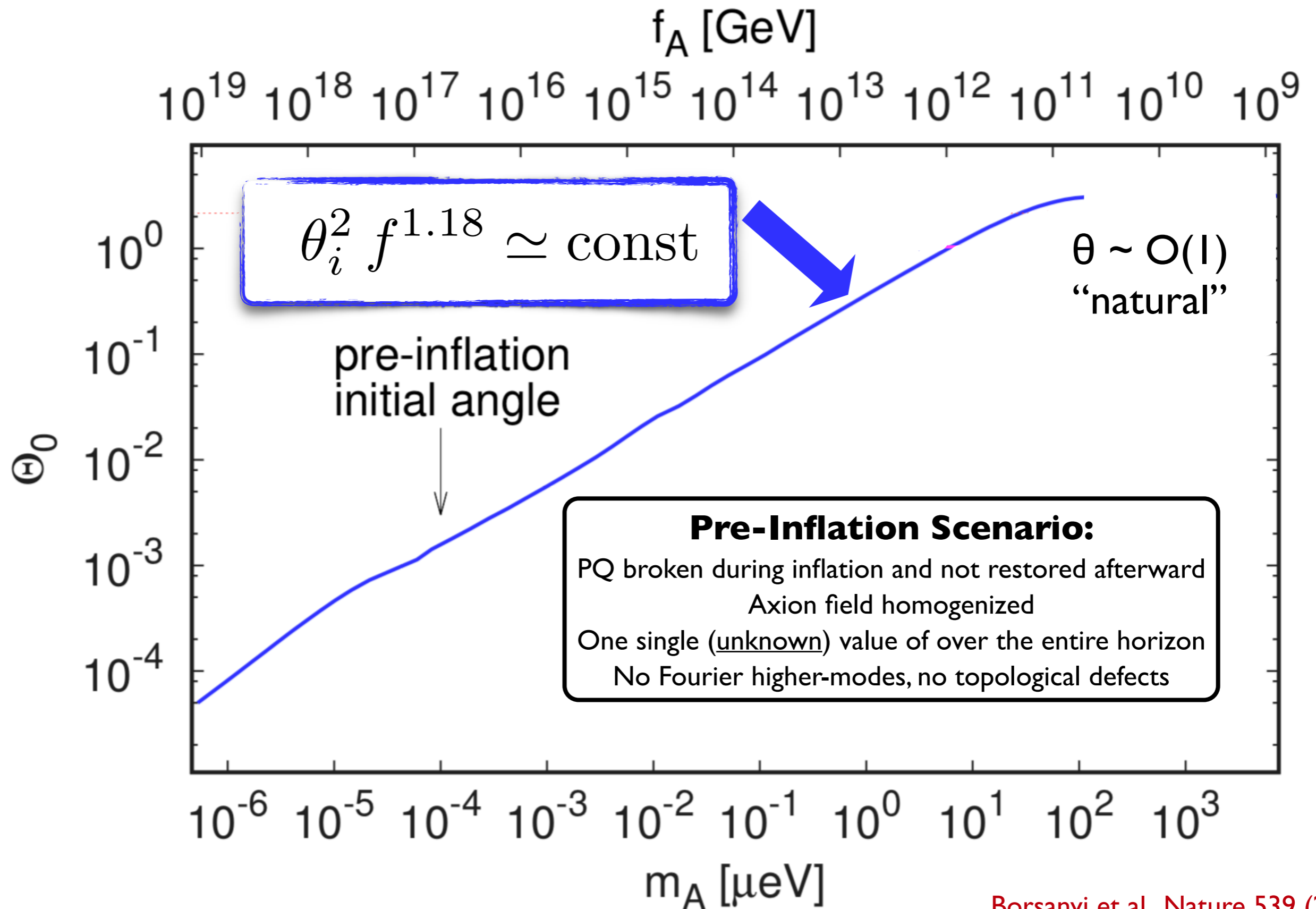
- $3H(T) > m_a(T)$: axion field stuck by “Hubble “friction
- $3H(T) < m_a(T)$: axion field oscillates, energy density stored in oscillations evolves as non-relativistic matter

$$\Omega_a h^2 \simeq 0.1 \theta_i^2 \left(\frac{f}{10^{11} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1.18}$$

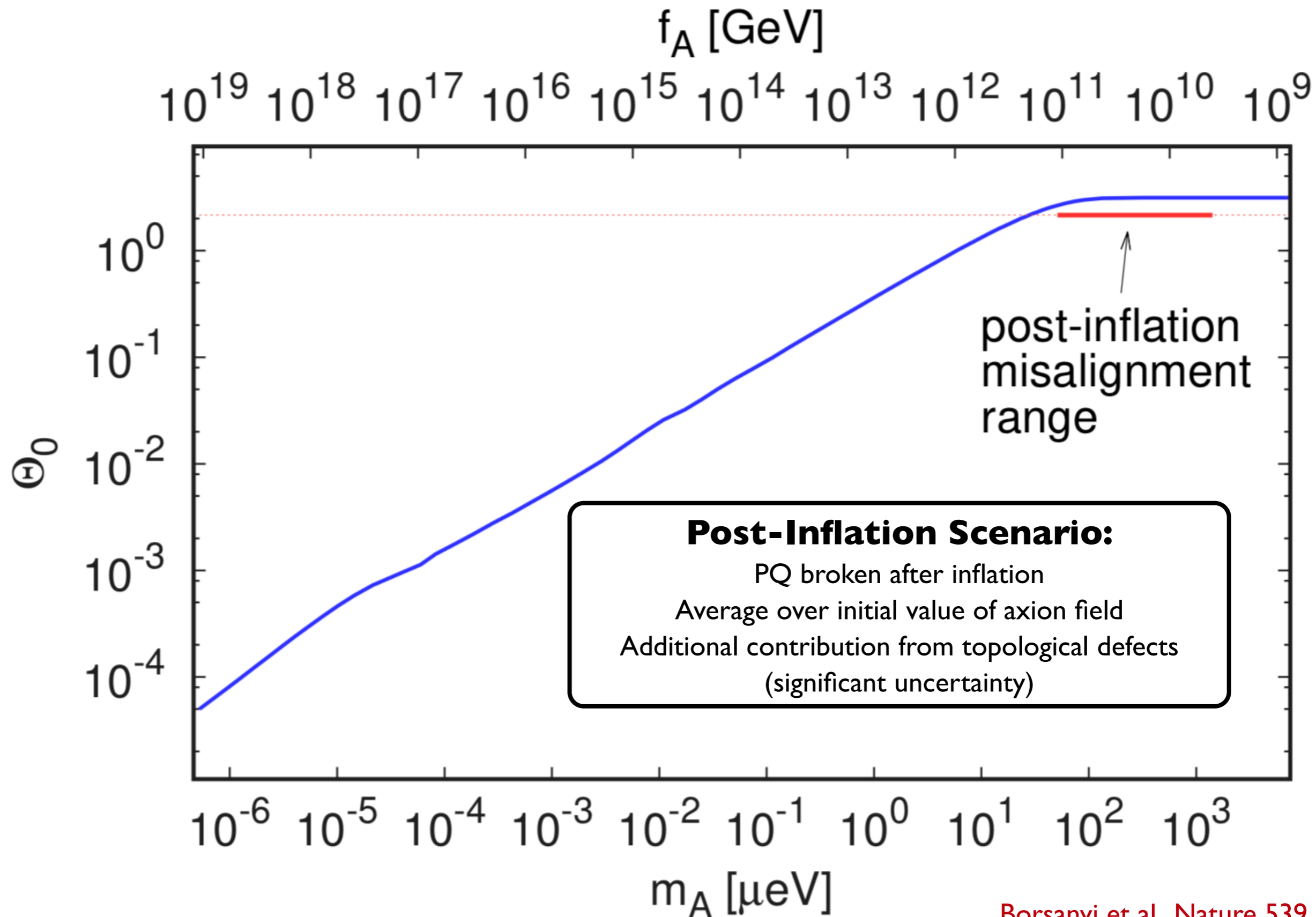
What is the initial axion field value?
It depends...



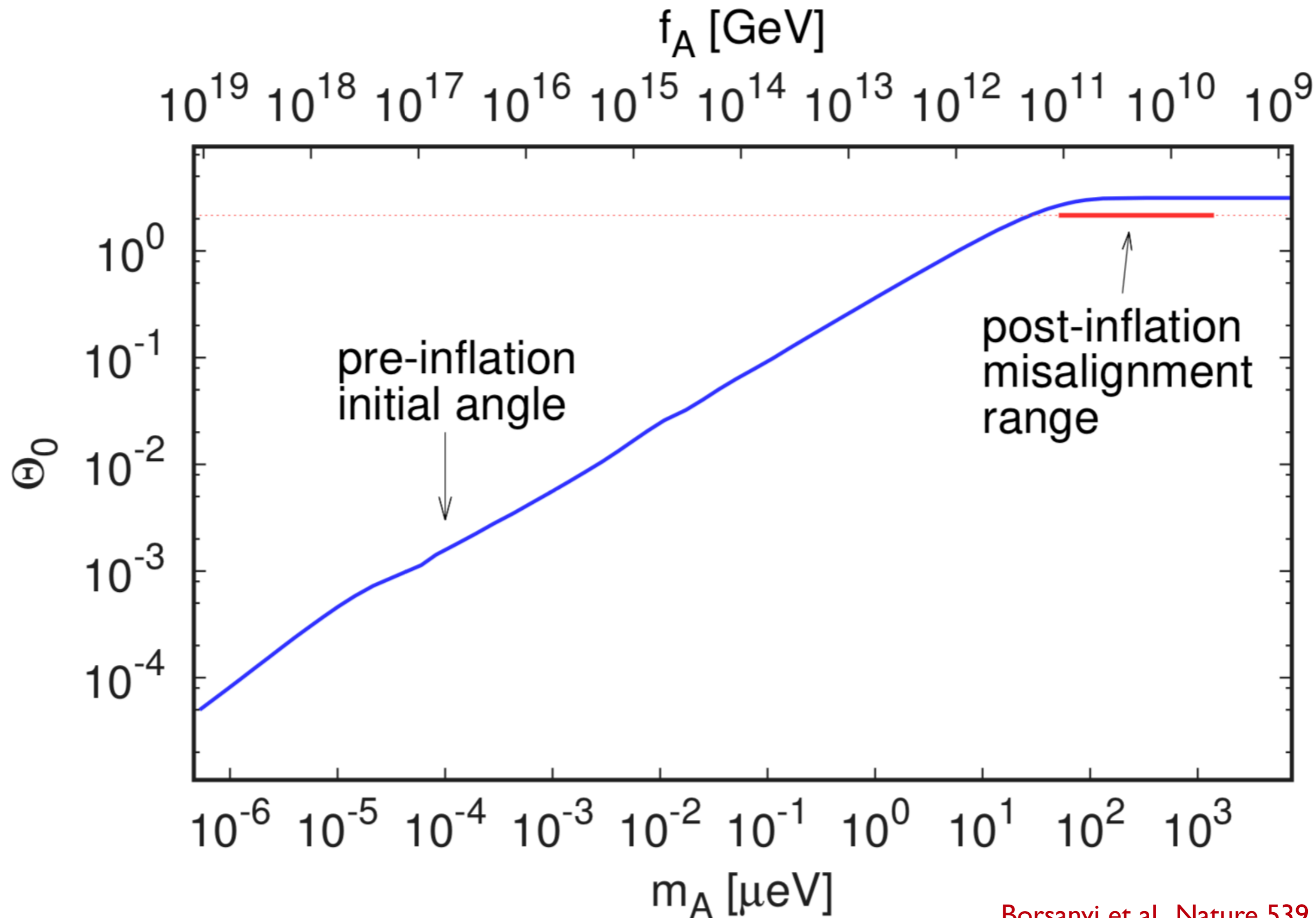
Pre-Inflation Scenario



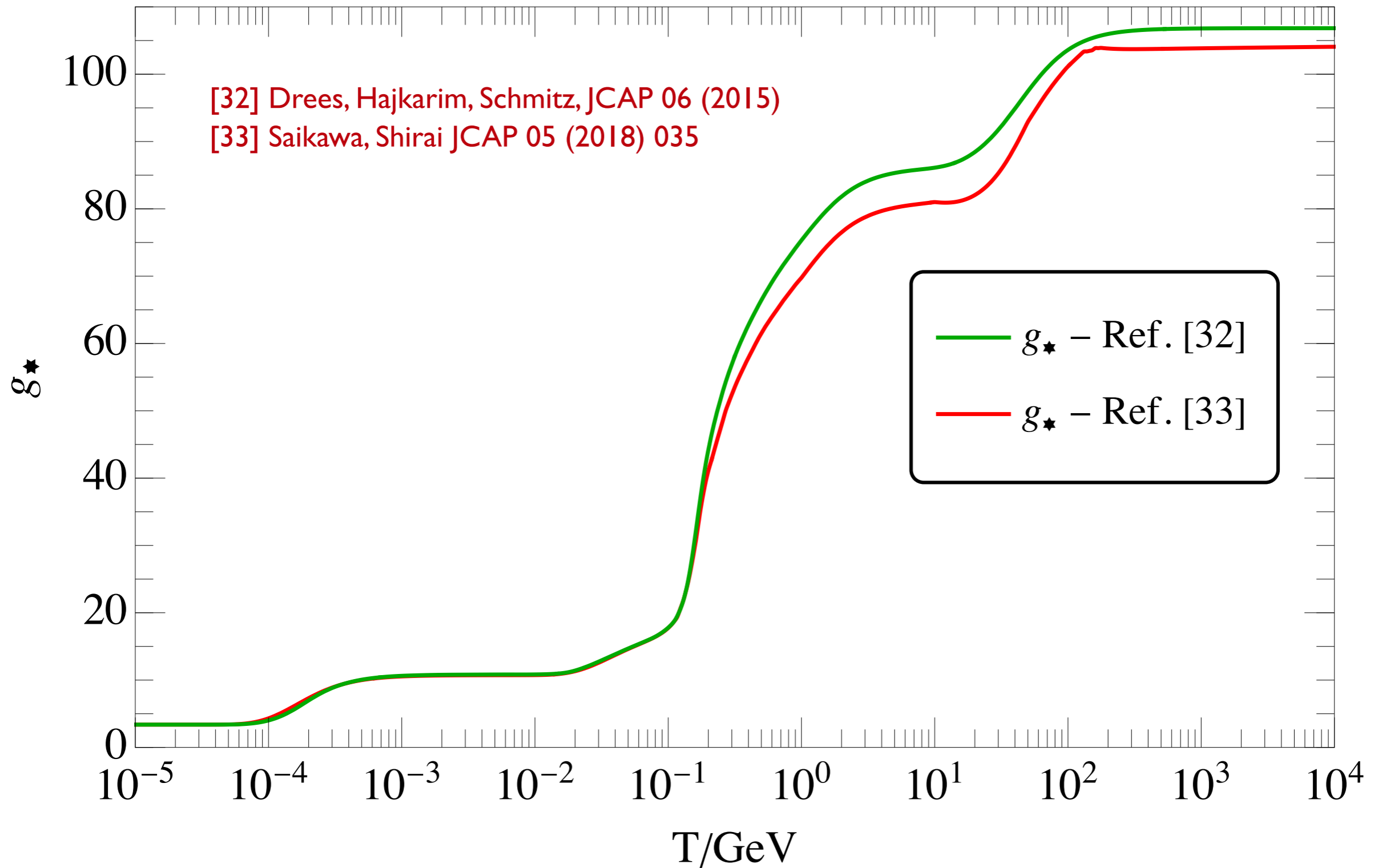
Post-Inflation Scenario



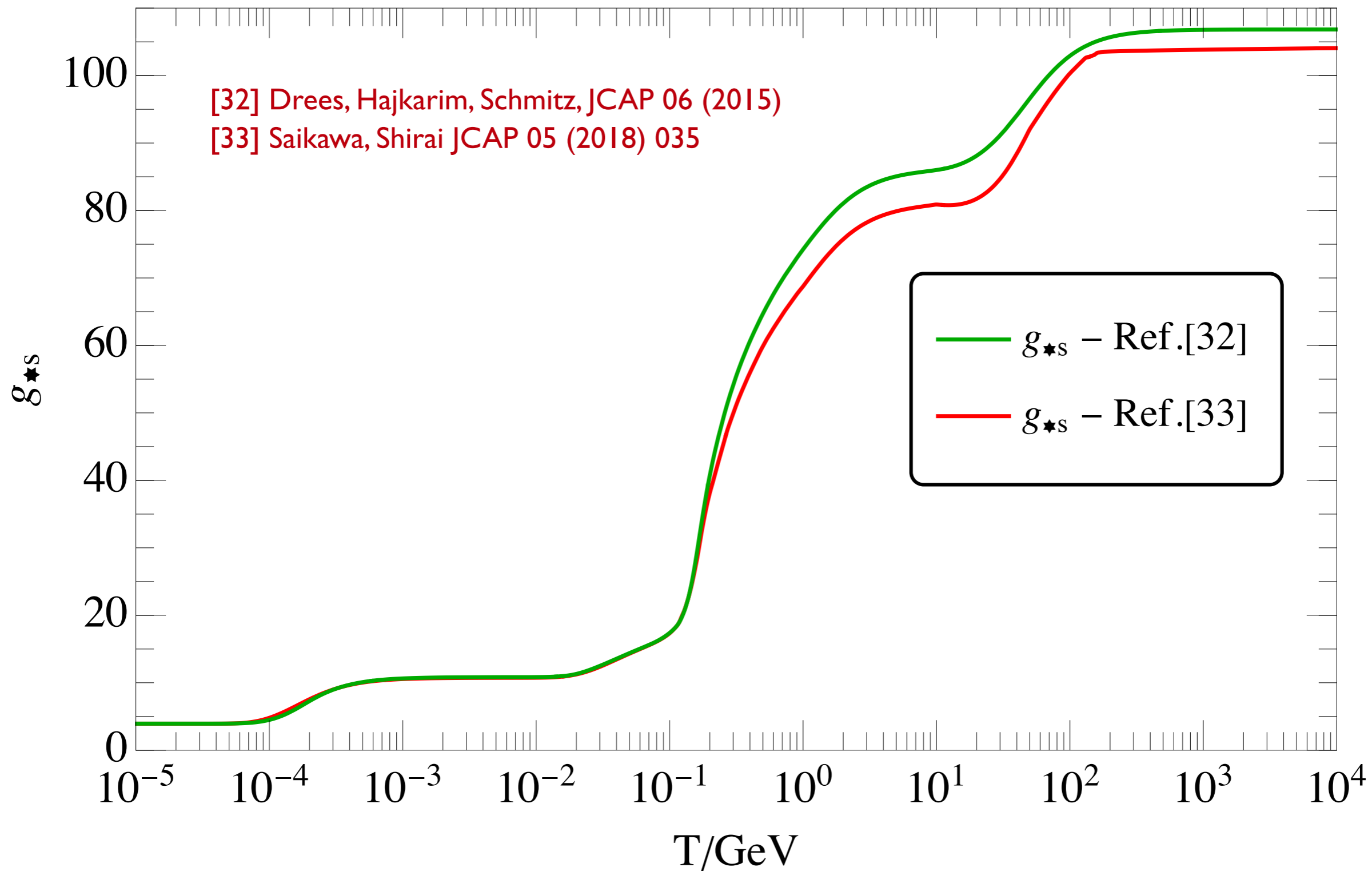
Axion Cold Dark Matter



Thermal Bath I - Energy



Thermal Bath II - Entropy



Collision Rates

$$g g \rightarrow g a \quad \Gamma_{\text{gauge}} \propto \alpha_s^3 \frac{T^3}{f^2}$$

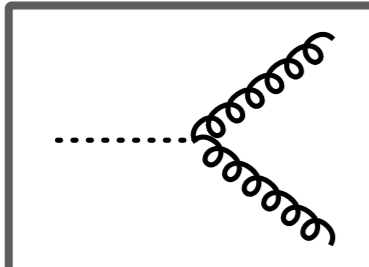
(and others)

$$f h \rightarrow f a \quad \Gamma_{\text{fermion}}^{\text{UV}} \propto y_f^2 \frac{T^3}{f^2}$$

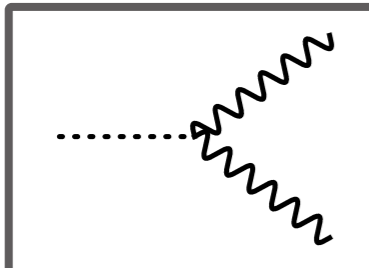
$$f g \rightarrow f a \quad \Gamma_{\text{fermion}}^{\text{IR}} \propto \alpha_s m_f^2 \frac{T}{f^2}$$

ΔN_{eff} barely within reach
of future CMB surveys

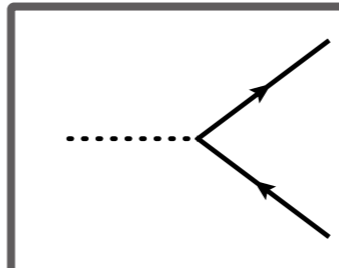
Potentially large
contribution to ΔN_{eff}



$$\frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}$$

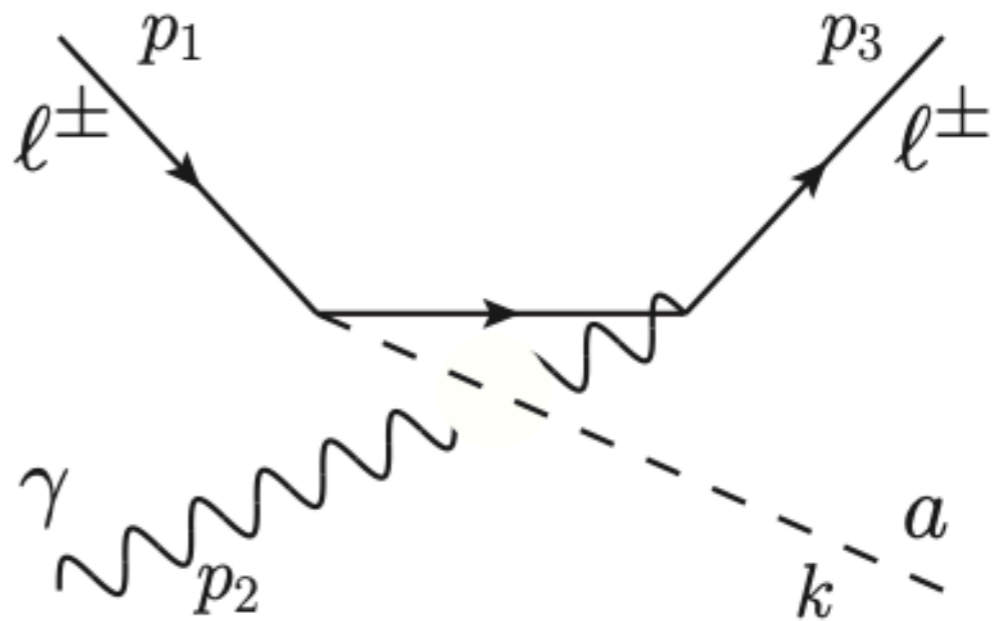
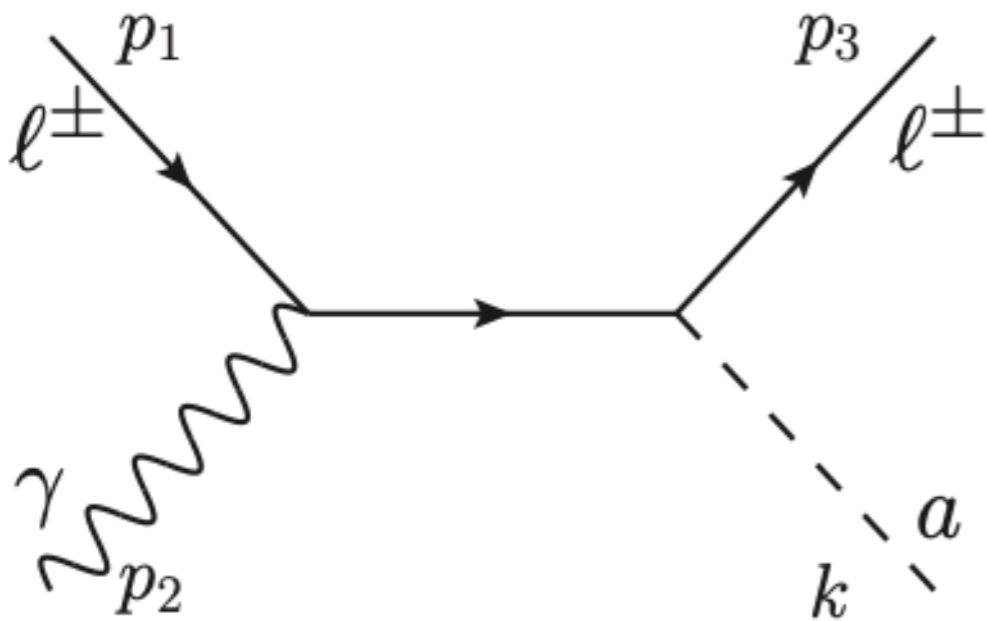
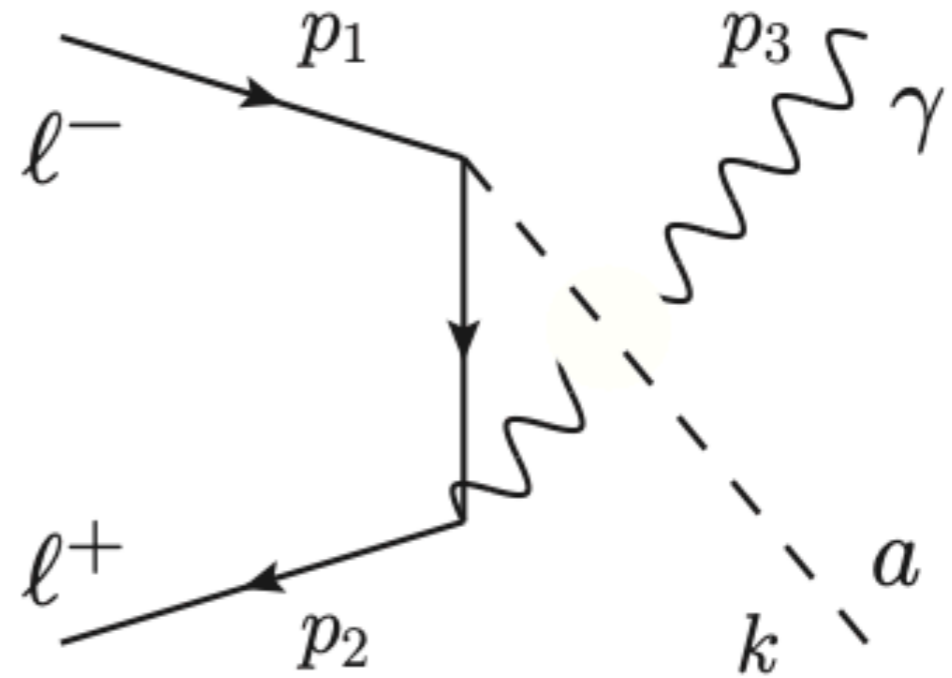
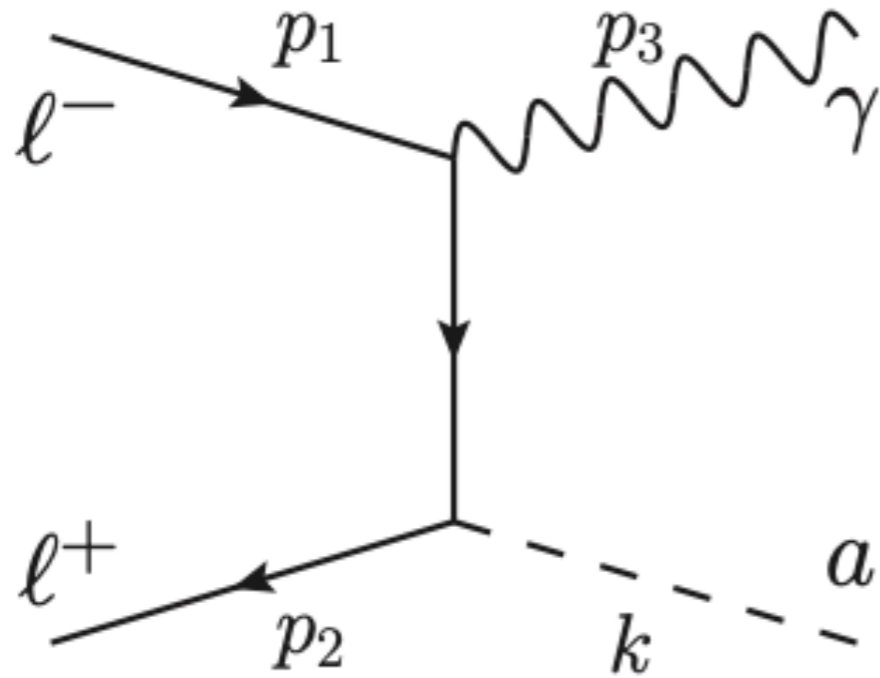


$$c_{a\gamma\gamma} \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{8\pi} F^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$$



$$c_\psi \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi$$

Production via Fermions



Production Rates – Leptons

Production vs
Expansion Rates:

$$Y_a(T) \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T)}{H(T)} \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T) M_{\text{Pl}}}{T^2}$$

Above EWPT

$L_L e_R \rightarrow H a$
(and others)

$$\Gamma_{\text{UV}} \propto y_l^2 \frac{T^3}{f_a^2}$$

Below EWPT

$l^+ l^- \rightarrow \gamma a$
(and others)

$$\Gamma_{\text{IR}} \propto \alpha_{\text{em}} m_l^2 \frac{T}{f_a^2}$$

Production Rates – Leptons

Production vs
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(and others)

Efficient at high temperatures
(UV production)

Below EWPT

$l^+ l^- \rightarrow \gamma a$
(and others)

Efficient at low temperatures
(IR production)

Production Rates – Leptons

Production vs
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Potentially large
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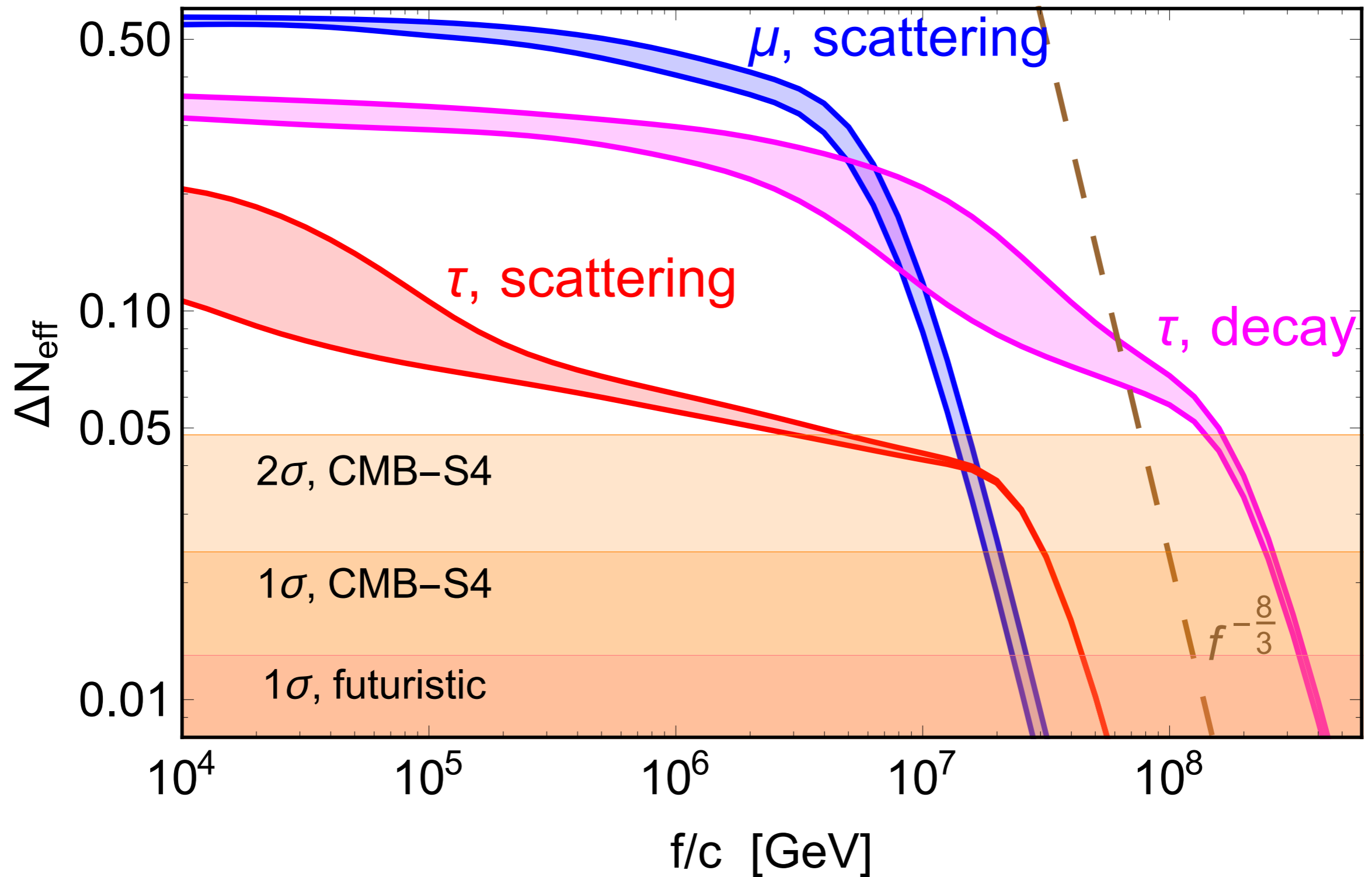
Production Rates – Leptons

$$Y_a(T) \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T)}{H(T)} \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T) M_{\text{Pl}}}{T^2}$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{UV}} \propto y_l^2 \frac{T^3}{f_a^2}$$
$$\Gamma_{\text{IR}} \propto \alpha_{\text{em}} m_l^2 \frac{T}{f_a^2}$$

- Production rate enhanced for heavy leptons
- IR domination makes largest achievable ΔN_{eff} originating from light leptons

ΔN_{eff} from Leptophilic Axions



Hot Axions and H_0 Tension

Mismatch between early and late universe measurements

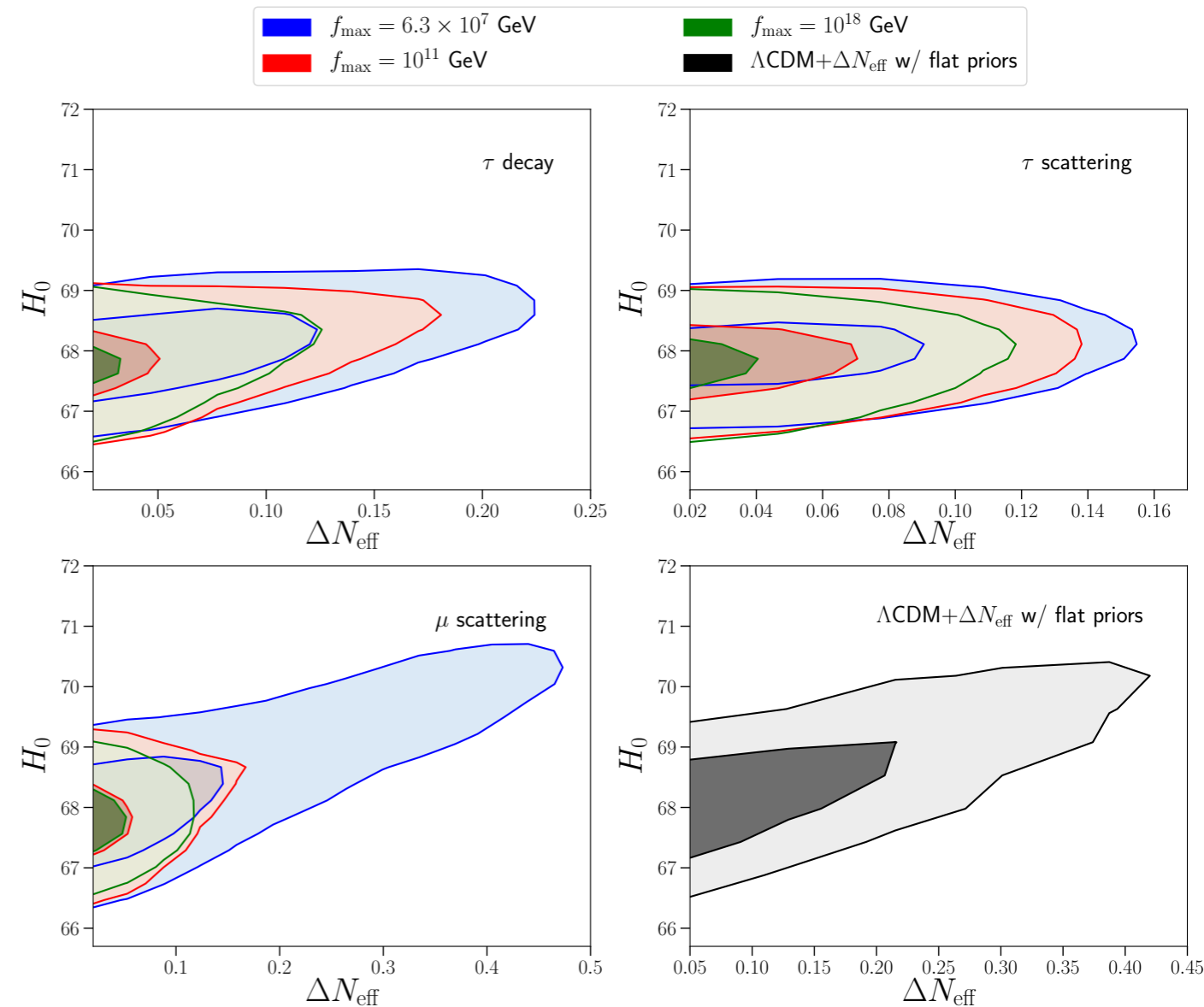
Planck 2018 results — 1807.06209
A. G. Riess et al., *Astrophys.J.* 861 (2018)

ΔN_{eff} can be the origin

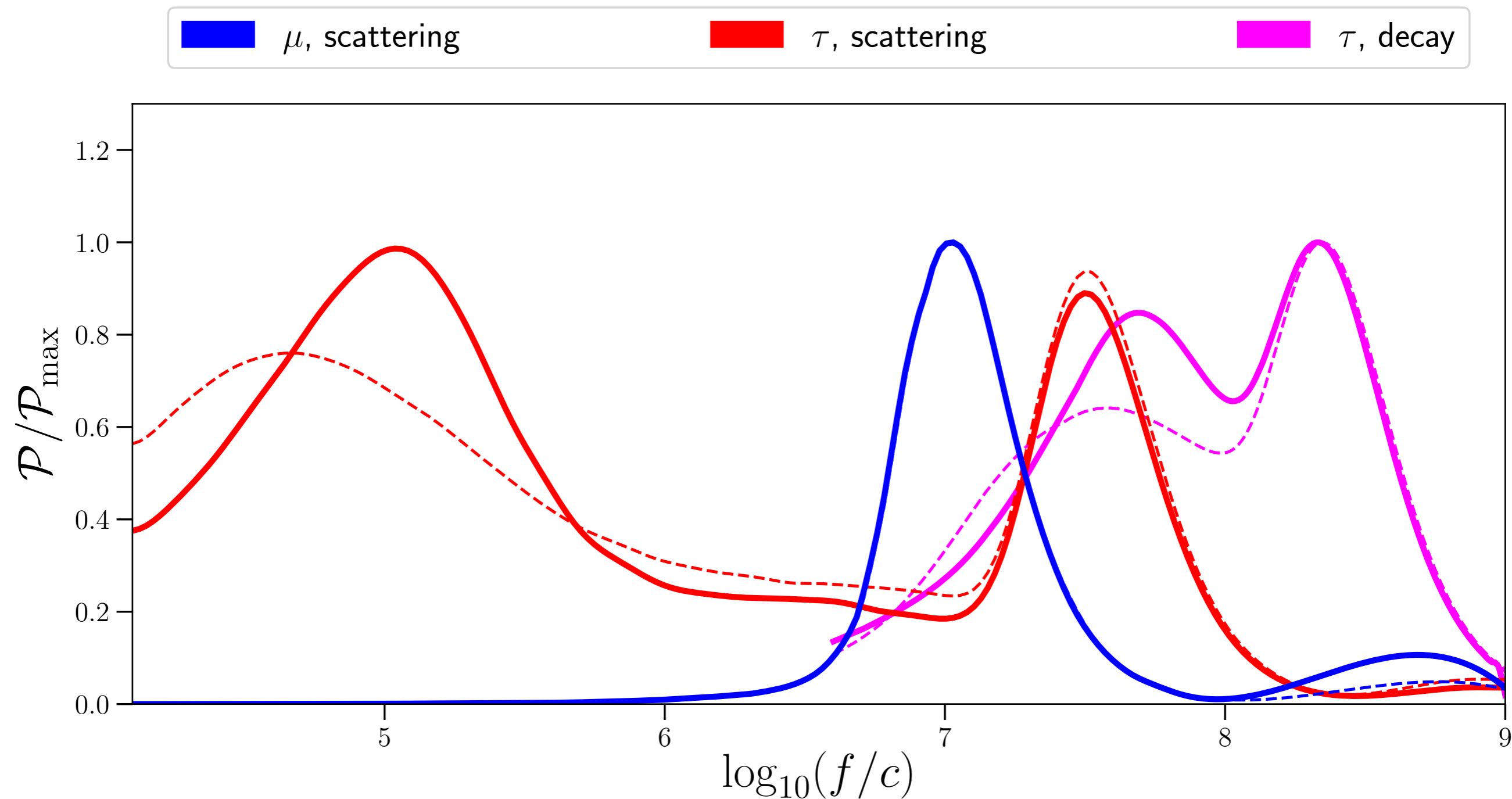
Bernal, Verde, Riess, *JCAP* 1610 (2016)

Could it be from axions?

Tension alleviated but...
interacting only with heavy leptons and large couplings



Posterior Distribution (flat ΔN_{eff})



Hubble Tension

| Model | Coupling | Prior $(f/c)_{\max}$ [GeV] | H_0 [km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹] | \mathcal{T} ($N\sigma$) |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Λ CDM+ ΔN_{eff} | μ scattering | 3×10^7 | $68.0^{+0.8}_{-0.7} (+2.3, -1.1)$ | 3.06 (2.75*) |
| | | 10^{11} | $67.8^{+0.6}_{-0.5} (+1.4, -1.1)$ | 3.36 |
| | | 10^{18} | $67.7^{+0.5}_{-0.4} (+1.2, -1.0)$ | 3.38 |
| | τ decay | 6.3×10^7 GeV | $68.1^{+0.6}_{-0.5} (+1.2, -1.0)$ | 3.18 |
| | | 10^{11} | $67.8^{+0.6}_{-0.5} (+1.2, -0.9)$ | 3.35 |
| | | 10^{18} | $67.7^{+0.5}_{-0.4} (+1.1, -0.9)$ | 3.39 |
| | τ scattering | 5×10^8 | $68.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5} (+1.0, -1.0)$ | 3.25 |
| | | 10^{11} | $67.8^{+0.5}_{-0.5} (+1.1, -1.0)$ | 3.33 |
| | | 10^{18} | $67.7^{+0.5}_{-0.5} (+1.1, -0.9)$ | 3.39 |
| | No coupling | - | $68.3^{+0.8}_{-0.7} (+1.8, -1.2)$ | 2.93 |
| Λ CDM+ N_{eff} | No coupling | - | $67.4^{+1.1}_{-1.2} (+2.3, -2.3)$ | 3.08 |
| Λ CDM | No coupling | - | $67.7^{+0.5}_{-0.4} (+0.9, -0.9)$ | 3.46 |

Production Rates – Heavy Quarks

Production vs
Expansion Rates:

$$Y_a(T) \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T)}{H(T)} \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T) M_{\text{Pl}}}{T^2}$$

Above EWPT

$Q_L q_R \rightarrow H a$
(and others)

$$\Gamma_{\text{UV}} \propto y_q^2 \frac{T^3}{f_a^2}$$

Below EWPT

$q \bar{q} \rightarrow g a$
(and others)

$$\Gamma_{\text{IR}} \propto \alpha_s m_q^2 \frac{T}{f_a^2}$$

Production Rates – Heavy Quarks

$$Y_a(T) \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T)}{H(T)} \simeq \frac{\Gamma(T) M_{\text{Pl}}}{T^2}$$

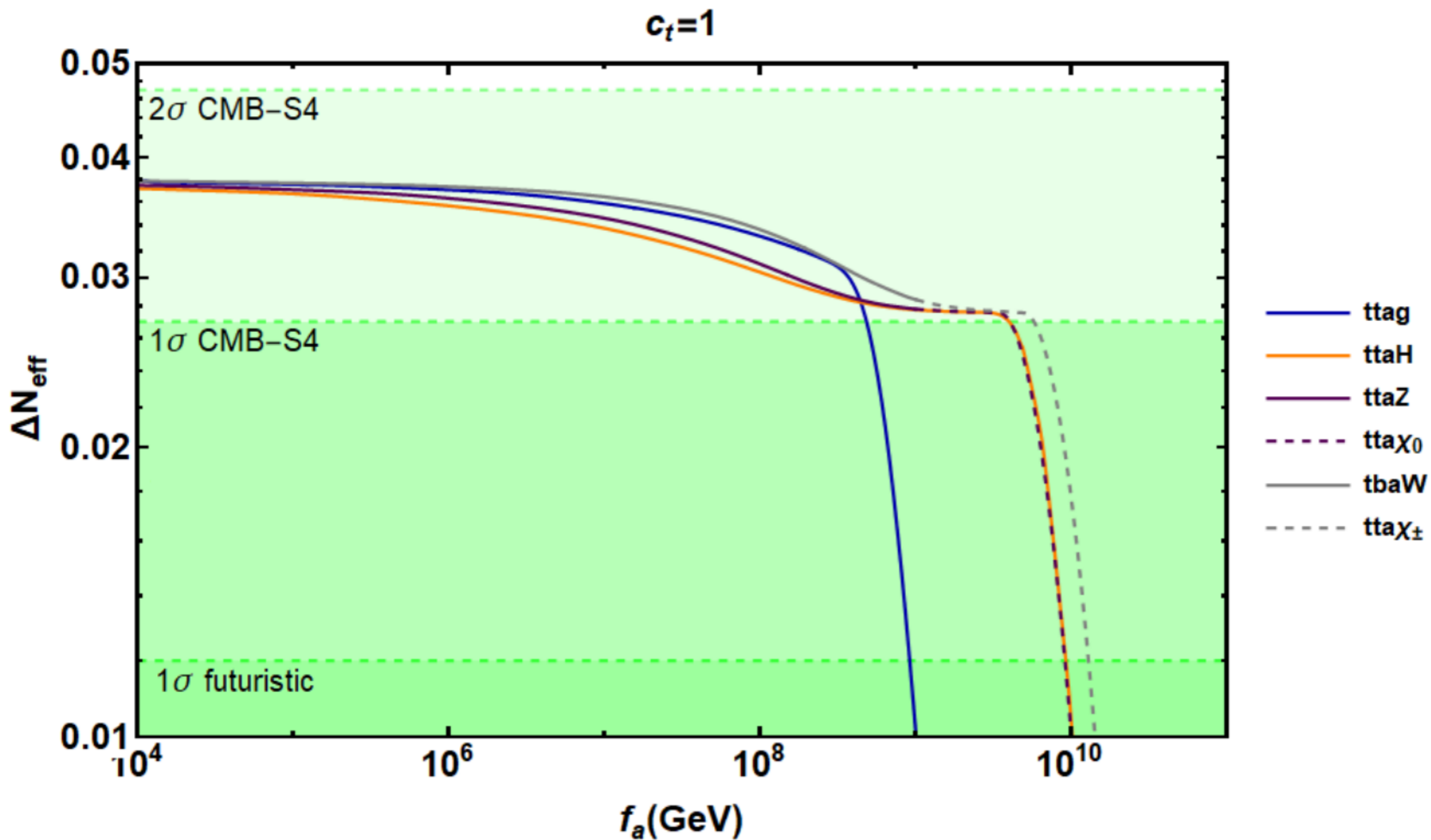
$$\Gamma_{\text{UV}} \propto y_q^2 \frac{T^3}{f_a^2}$$
$$\Gamma_{\text{IR}} \propto \alpha_s m_q^2 \frac{T}{f_a^2}$$

- Strong interactions enhance the rate
- Top quark requires a careful evaluation of EWPT (well-studied above and below the EWPT)
- Perturbative analysis only for b and t (confinement)

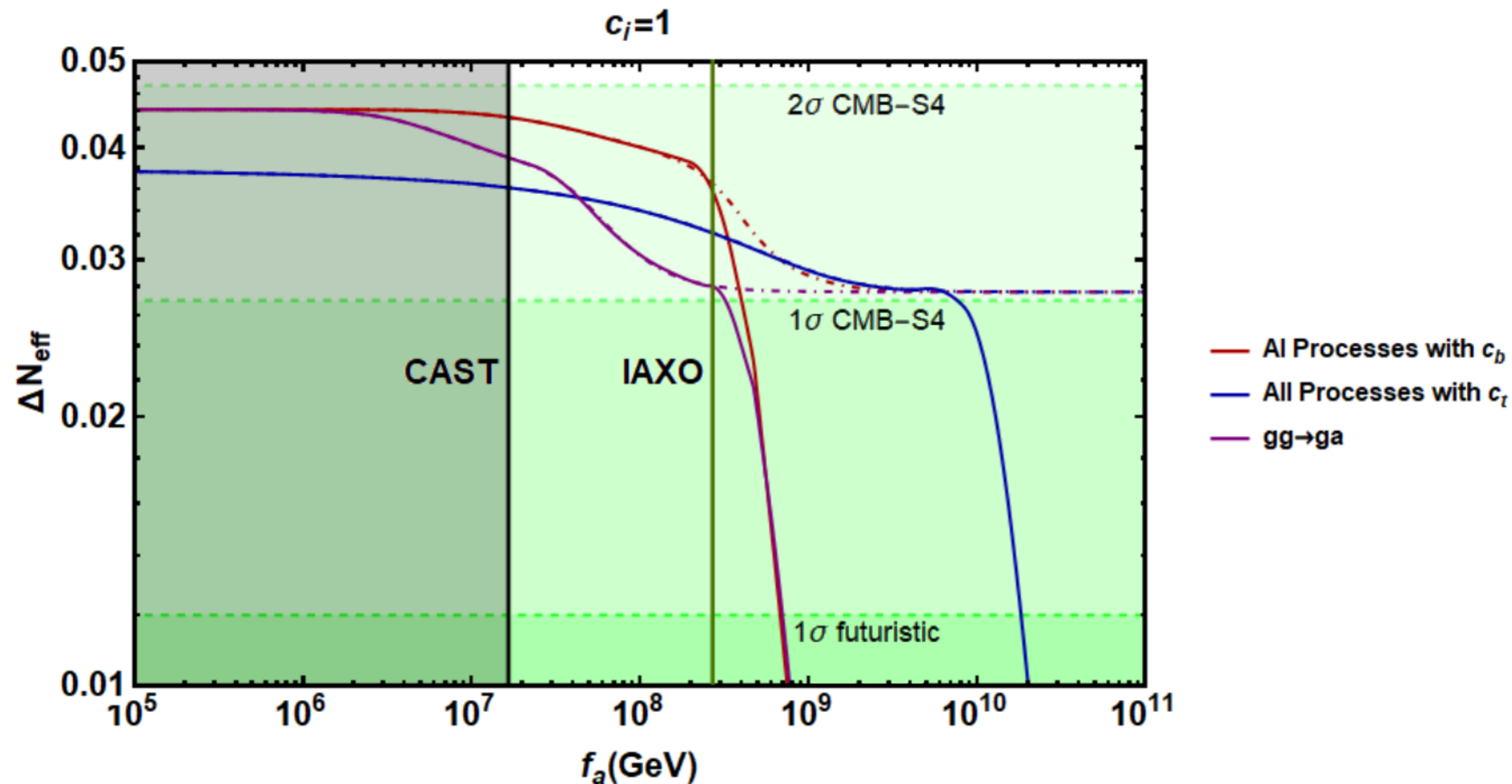
Salvio, Strumia, Xue, JCAP 1401 (2014)

Ferreira, Notari, Phys.Rev.Lett. 120 (2018)

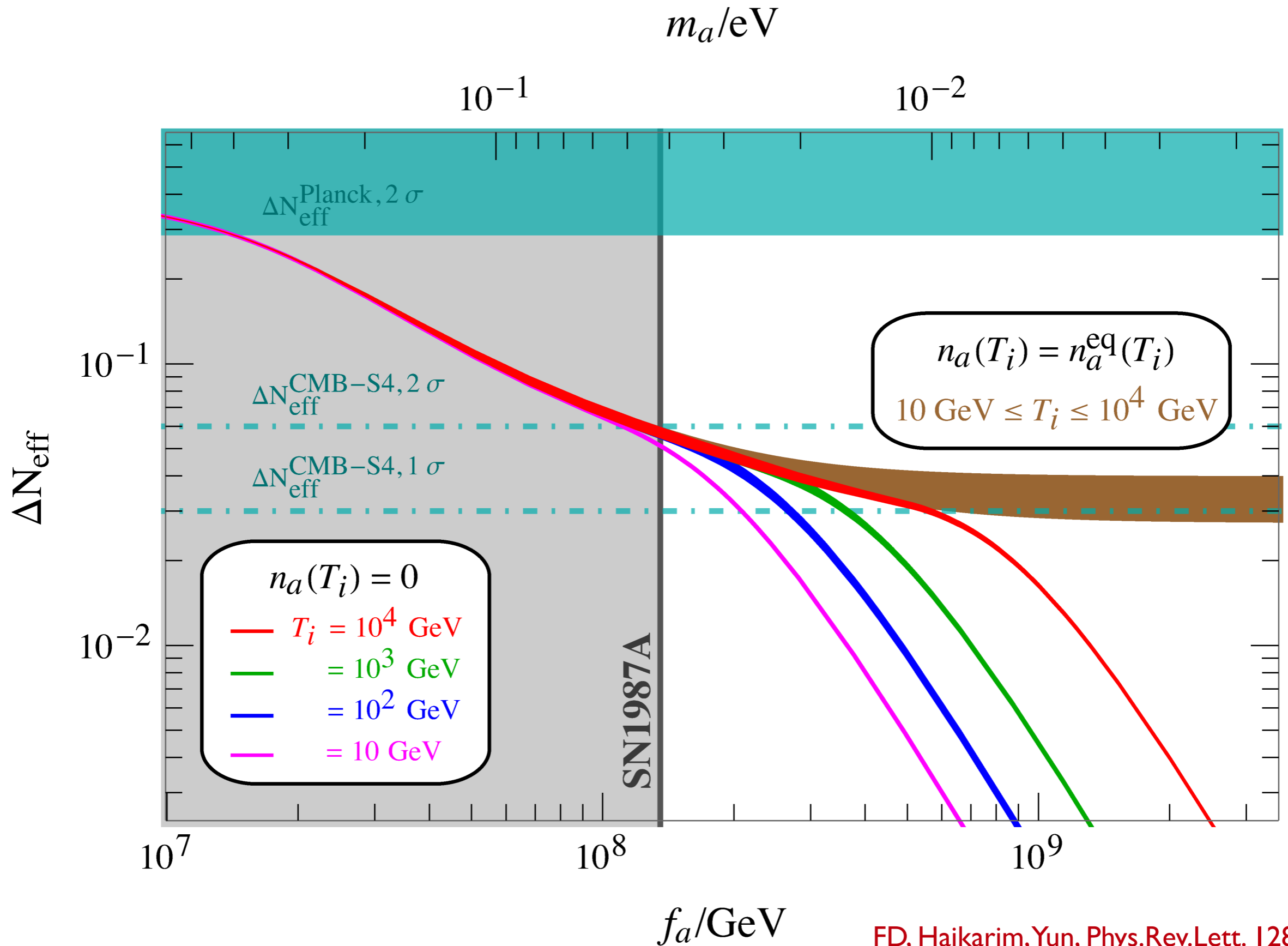
Top scatterings across the EWPT



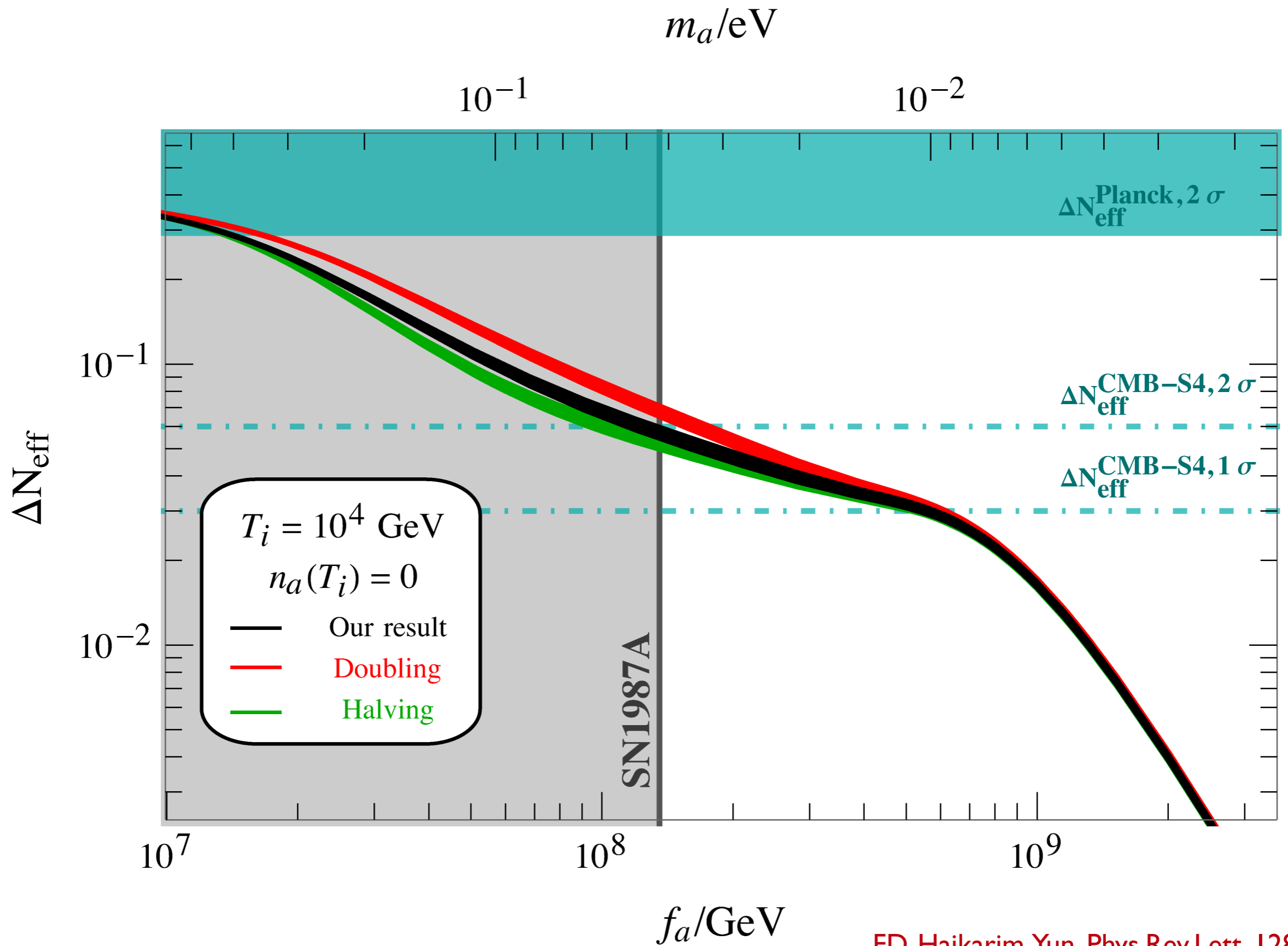
ΔN_{eff} from Heavy Quarks



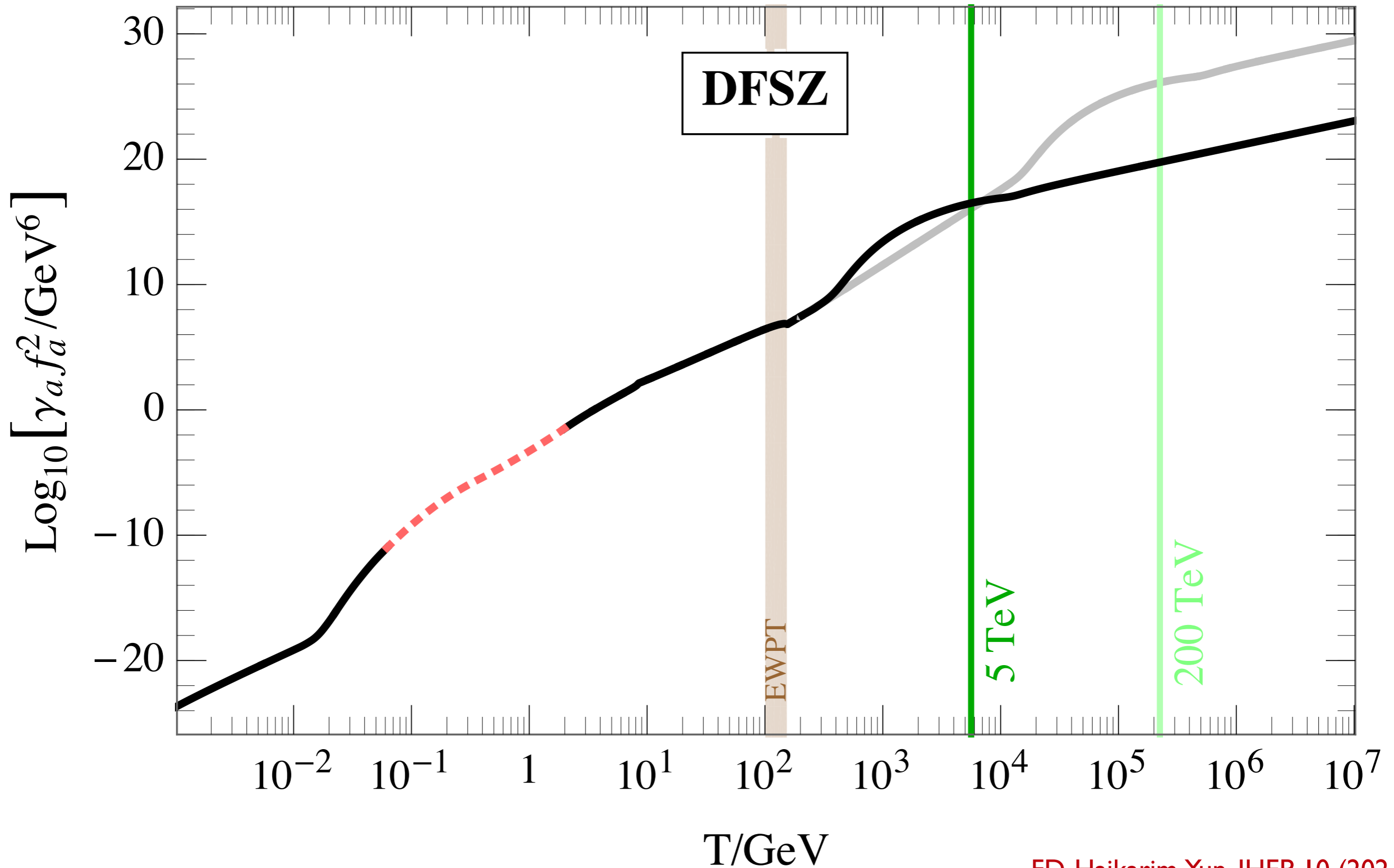
ΔN_{eff} around the QCDPT



More on the Interpolation



DFSZ with TeV Heavy Higgses



DFSZ with TeV Heavy Higgses

