

# Ultralight bosons and gravitational waves: Theory

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# Dark matter & Gravitational Waves



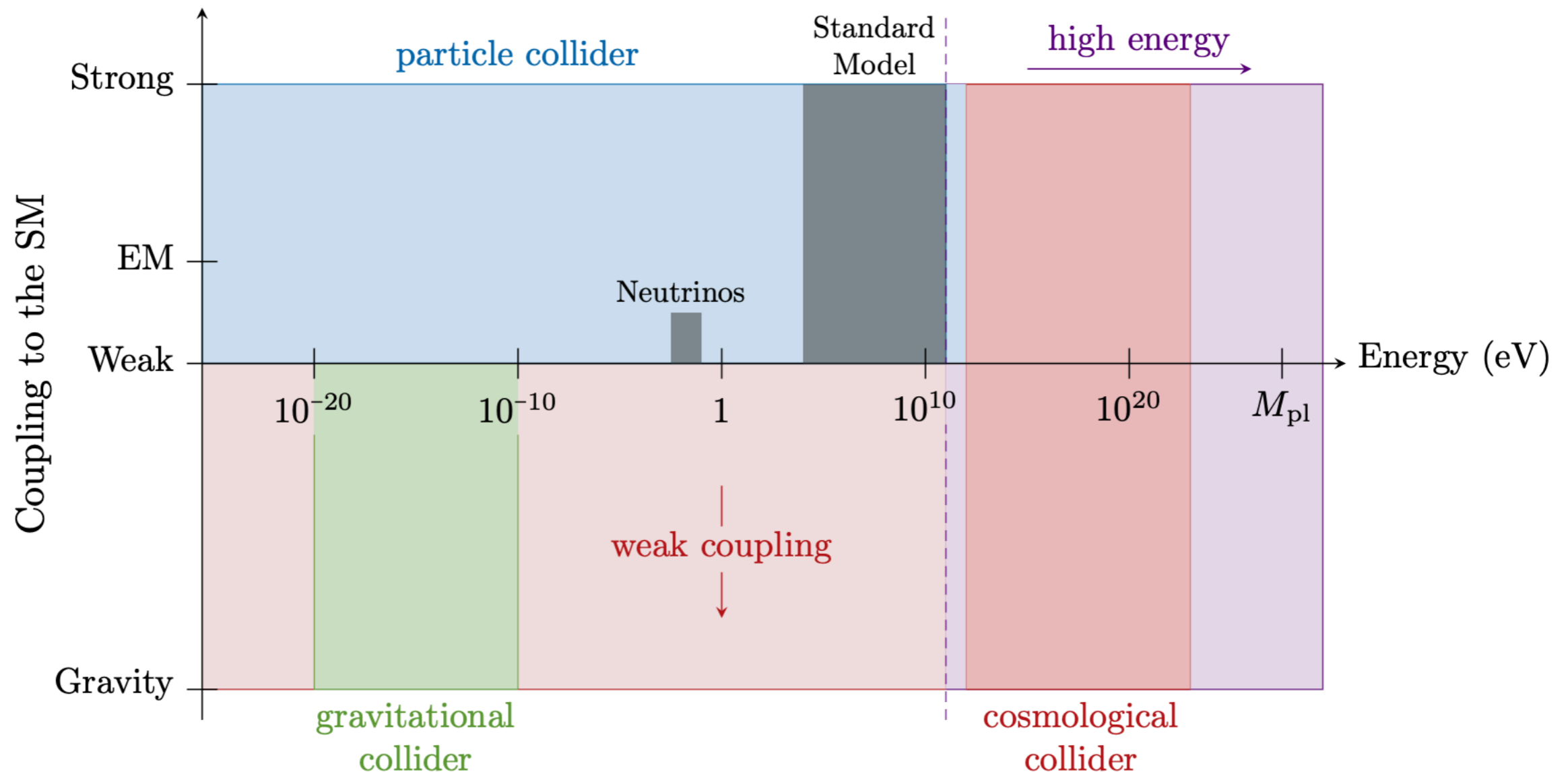
From: Bertone *et al*, arXiv:1907.10610

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# Ultralight bosons & Black holes



From: Baumann et al '20, PRD101, 083019

**Particles** with masses  $\sim 10^{-21}$  eV –  $10^{-11}$  eV have Compton wavelengths as large as the size of **astrophysical black holes** ranging from  $\sim 10M_{\odot}$  –  $10^{10}M_{\odot}$ .

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{R}{16\pi} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla^{\mu} \Phi \nabla_{\mu} \Phi - \frac{\mu_S^2}{2} \Phi^2 - \frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \mu_V^2 A_{\nu} A^{\nu}$$

# Massive bosonic fields around black holes

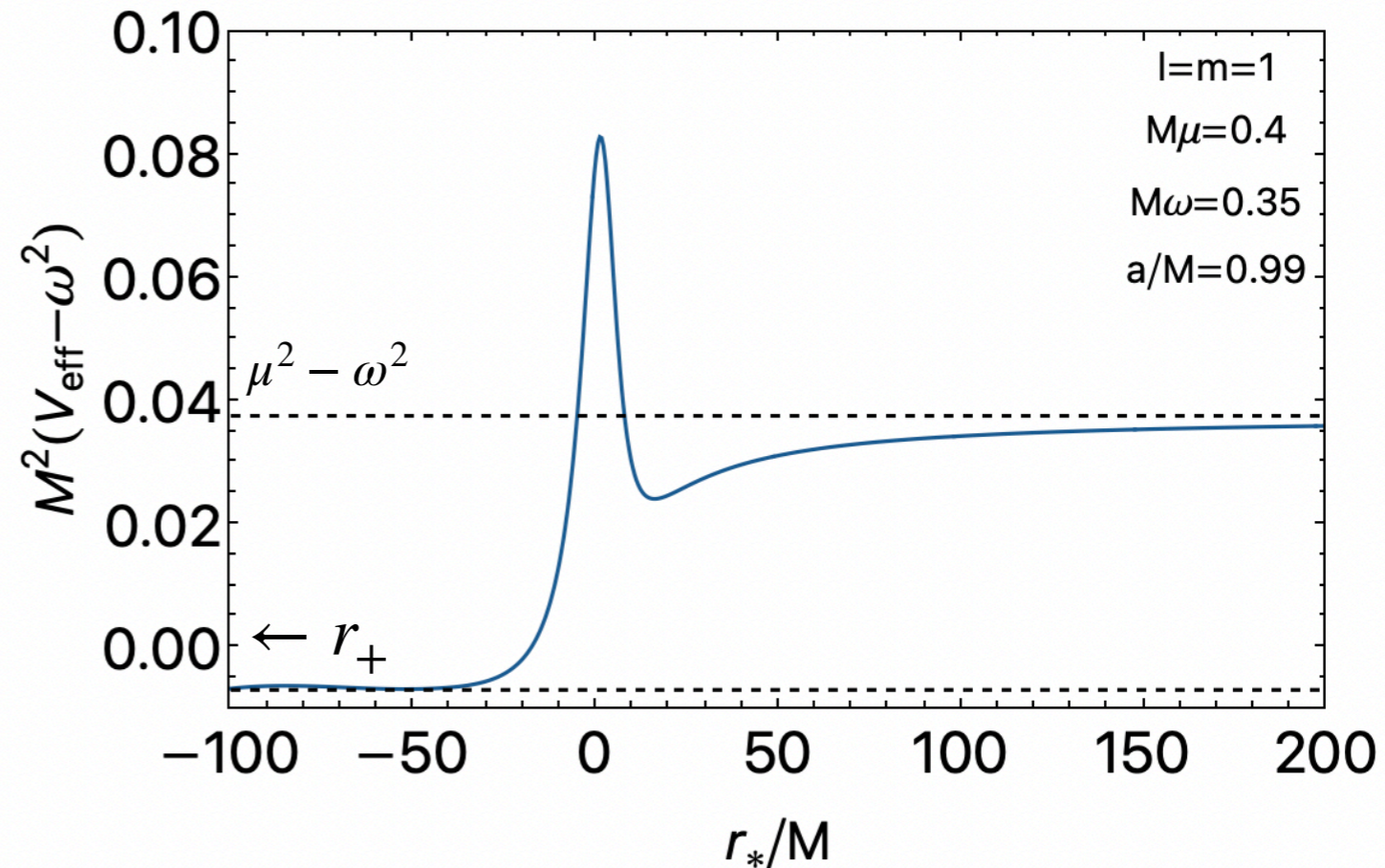
Damour '76; Gaina '78; Zouros & Eardley '79; Detweiler '80; Cardoso&Yoshida, '05; Dolan '07; Rosa & Dolan '12; Pani *et al* '12; RB, Cardoso & Pani '13; Baryakthar, Lasenby & Teo '17; East '17; Cardoso *et al* '18; Frolov *et al* '18; Dolan '18; Baumann *et al* '19; RB, Grillo & Pani '20; Dias, Lingetti, Pani & Santos '23...

**Massive bosonic fields** can form (quasi-)bound states around black holes.

$$\nabla_{\mu} \nabla^{\mu} \Phi = \mu^2 \Phi \quad (\mu \equiv m_b / \hbar)$$

$$\Phi = \frac{\Psi(r)}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2}} S_{\ell m}(\theta) e^{im\phi} e^{-i\omega t}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dr_*^2} \Psi(r) + (\omega^2 - V_{\text{eff}}) \Psi(r) = 0$$



A (macroscopic) “**gravitational atom**” but with some important differences when compared to the hydrogen atom:

- i) **boundary conditions** at the horizon: horizon acts as a dissipative membrane
- ii) **no Pauli exclusion principle** for bosons

# Instability of spinning black holes

Review: RB, Cardoso & Pani “Superradiance” Lect. Notes Phys. 971 (2020), 2nd ed.

❖ System is **unstable** for some values of  $M\mu$ .

$$\Re(\omega_{nlm}) \approx \mu \left[ 1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2n^2} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^4) \right]$$

$$\Im(\omega_{nlm}) \propto (m\Omega_H - \Re(\omega_{nlm})) \alpha^{4l+5}$$

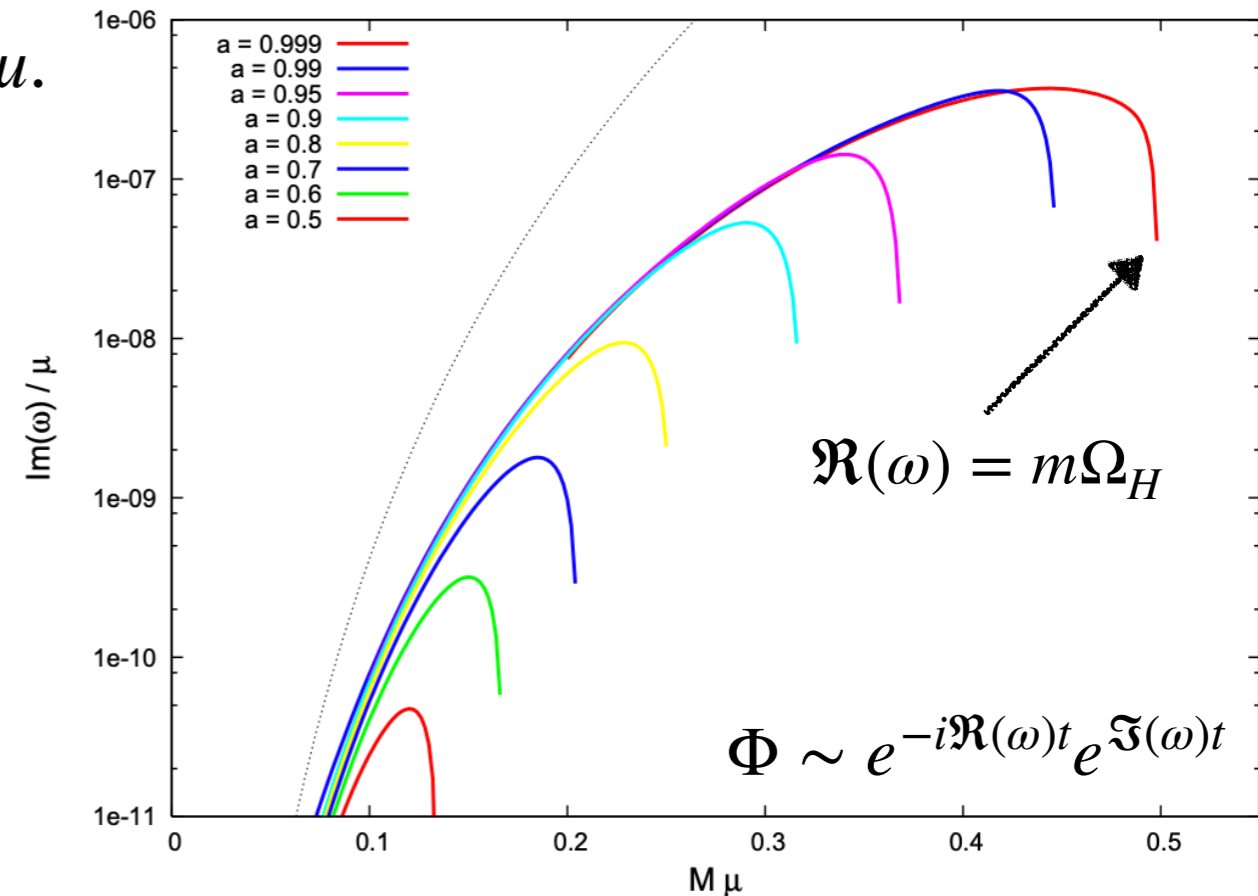
$$\Re(\omega_{nlm}) < m\Omega_H \implies \Im(\omega_{nlm}) > 0$$

$\Omega_H$  - BH's angular velocity

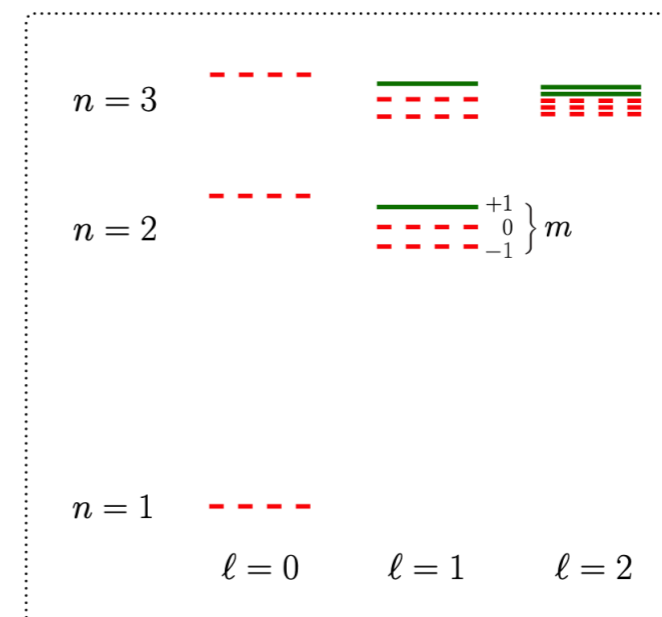
$$\alpha := M\mu = R_G/\lambda_C$$

Superradiant (rotational)  
**energy extraction** drives  
instability.

Zel'dovich, '71; Press and Teukolsky, '72-74



From: Dolan, arXiv:0705.2880

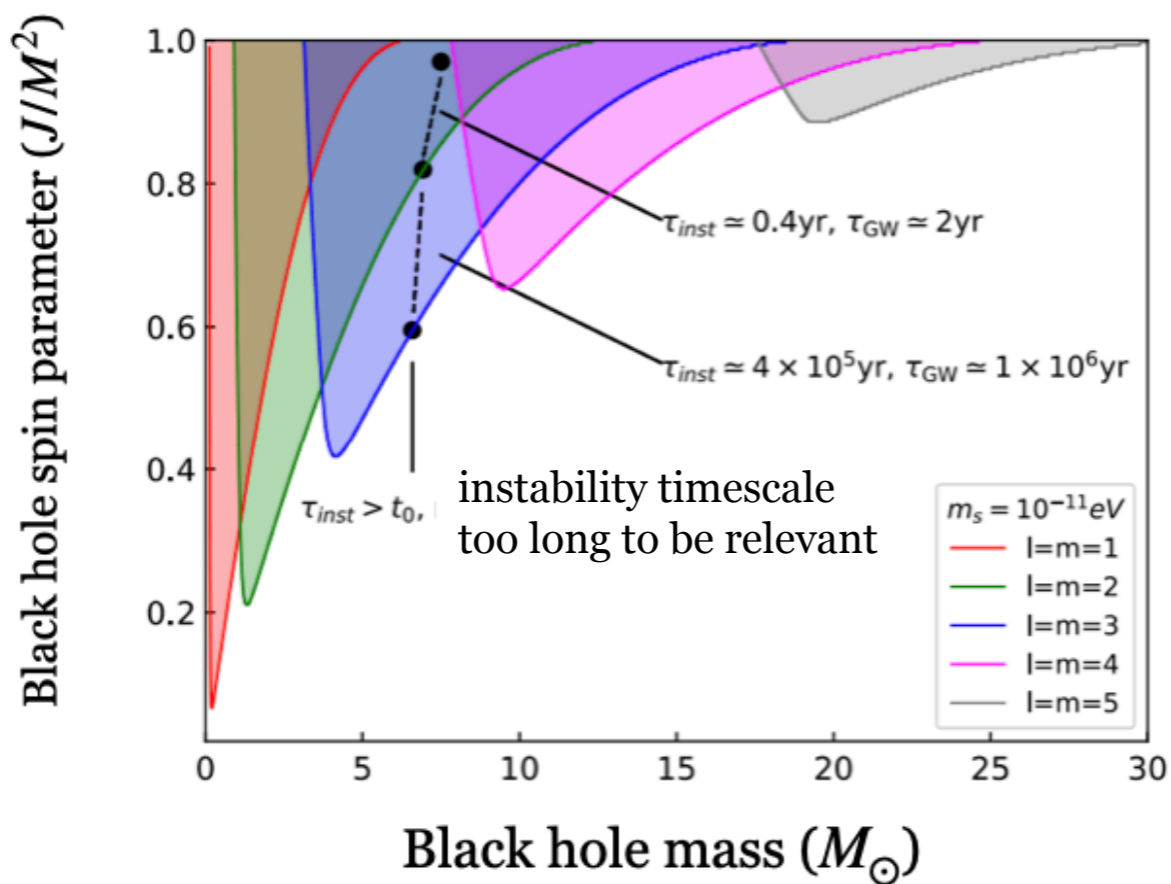
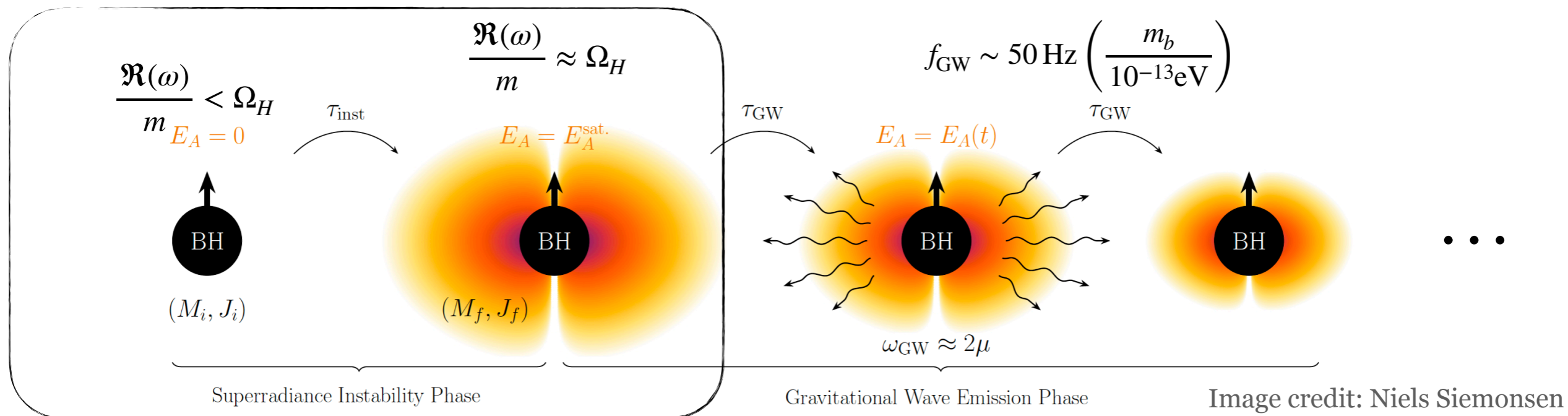


**Dashed:**  
stable

**Solid:**  
unstable

From: Baumann+, arXiv:1804.03208

# Evolution of the superradiant instability



For most unstable mode:

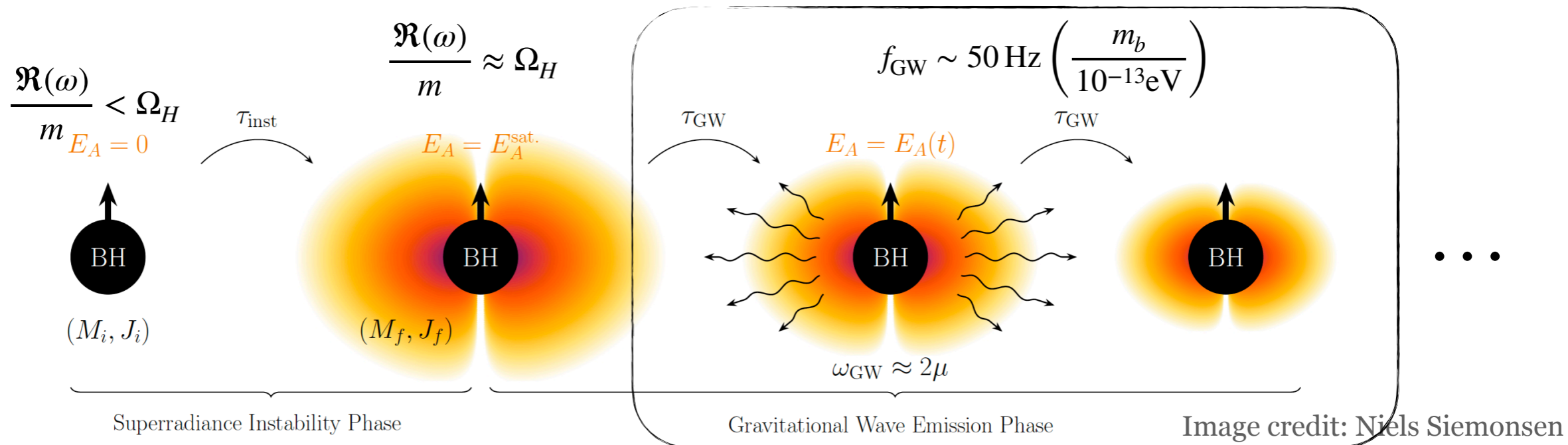
$$\tau_{inst}^{\text{scalar}} \approx 30 \text{ days} \left( \frac{M}{10 M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{0.1}{M\mu} \right)^9 \left( \frac{0.9}{J/M^2} \right)$$

$$\tau_{inst}^{\text{vector}} \approx 280 \text{ s} \left( \frac{M}{10 M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{0.1}{M\mu} \right)^7 \left( \frac{0.9}{J/M^2} \right)$$

(even smaller instability timescales for massive spin-2 case, Dias+ '23)

$$M\mu \approx 0.1 \left( \frac{M}{15 M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{m_b c^2}{10^{-12} \text{ eV}} \right)$$

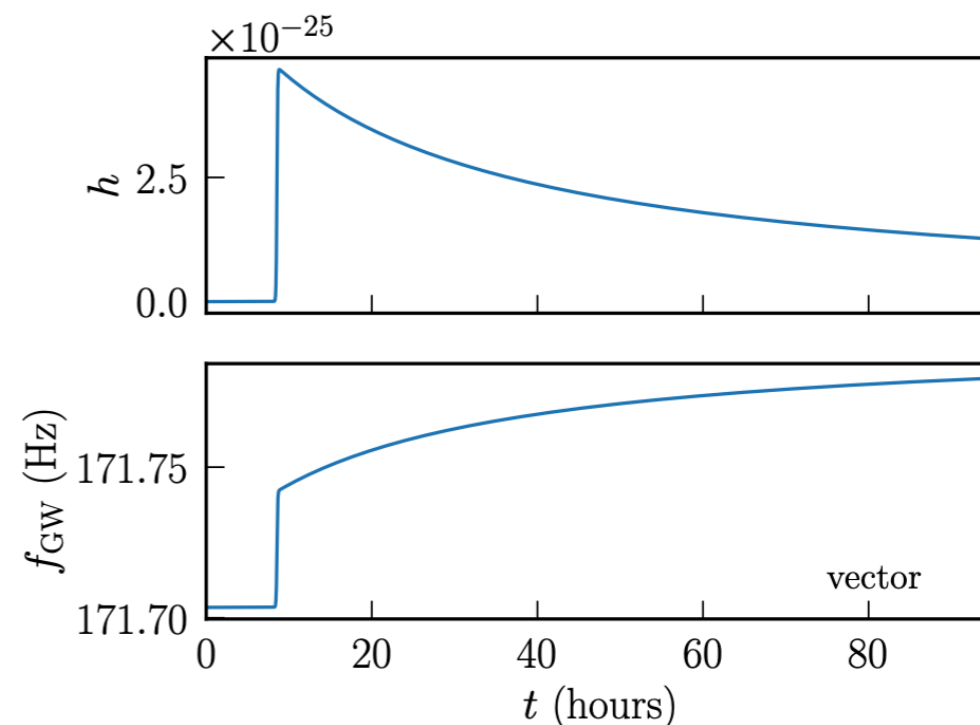
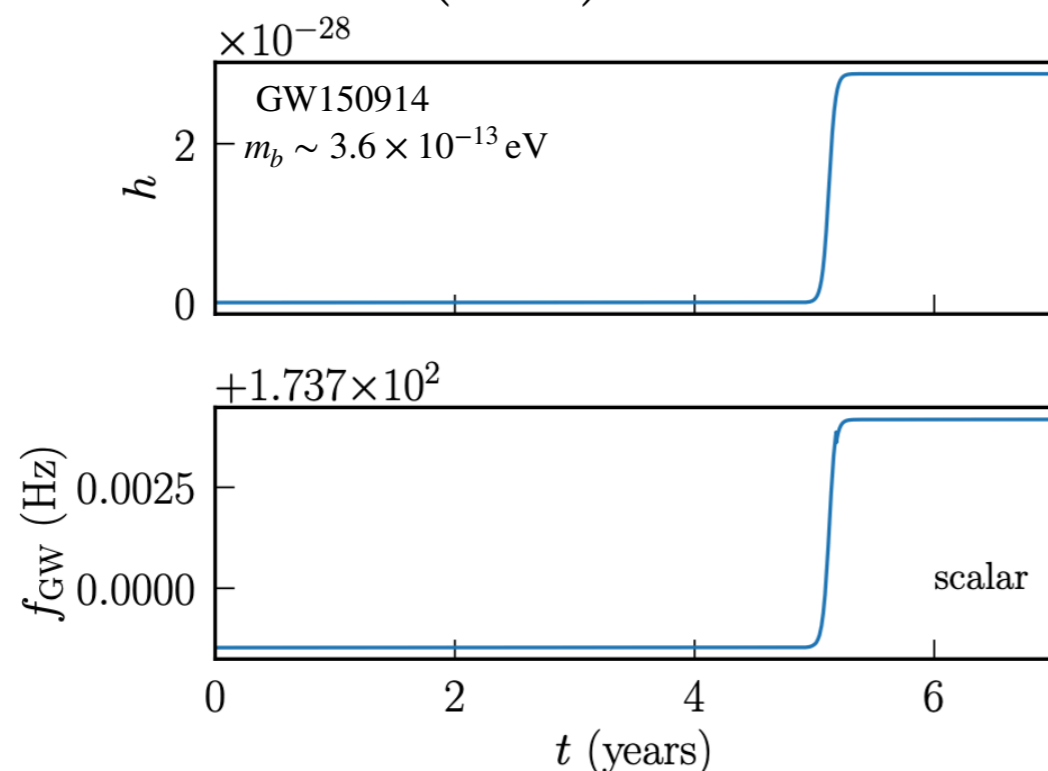
# Evolution of the superradiant instability



For most unstable mode:

$$\tau_{\text{GW}}^{\text{scalar}} \approx 10^5 \text{ yr} \left( \frac{M}{10 M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{0.1}{M\mu} \right)^{15} \left( \frac{0.5}{\Delta(J/M^2)} \right)$$

$$\tau_{\text{GW}}^{\text{vector}} \approx 2 \text{ days} \left( \frac{M}{10 M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{0.1}{M\mu} \right)^{11} \left( \frac{0.5}{\Delta(J/M^2)} \right)$$





# Gravitational-wave signatures

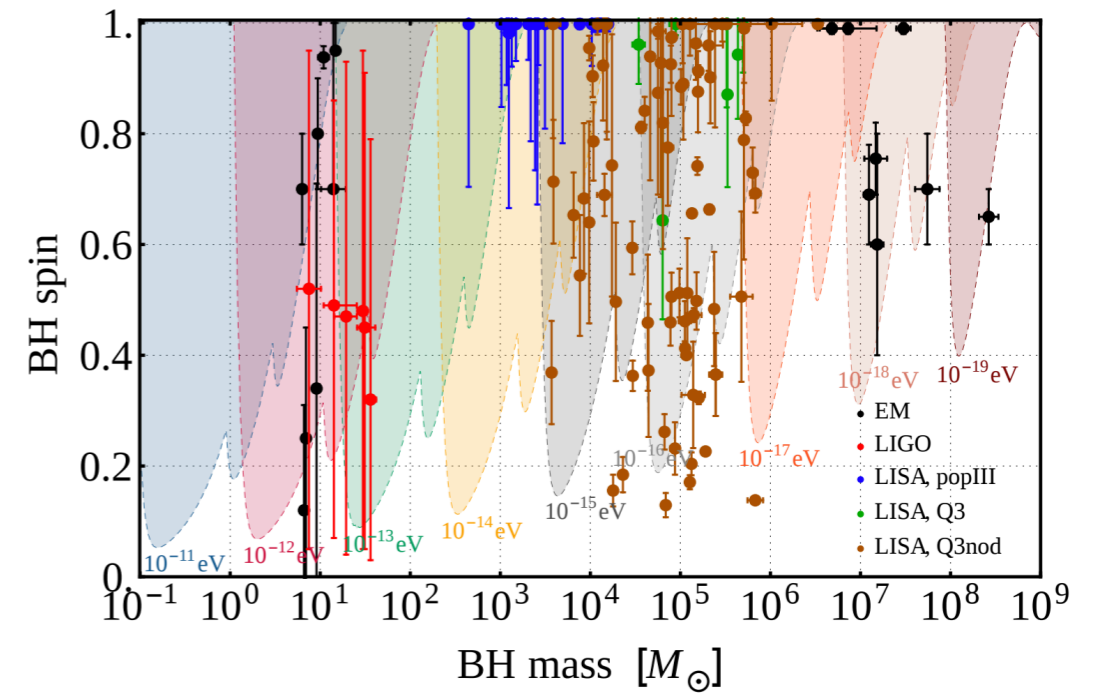
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# Gravitational-wave signatures

## ❖ Indirect constraints through **black hole mass & spin measurements**

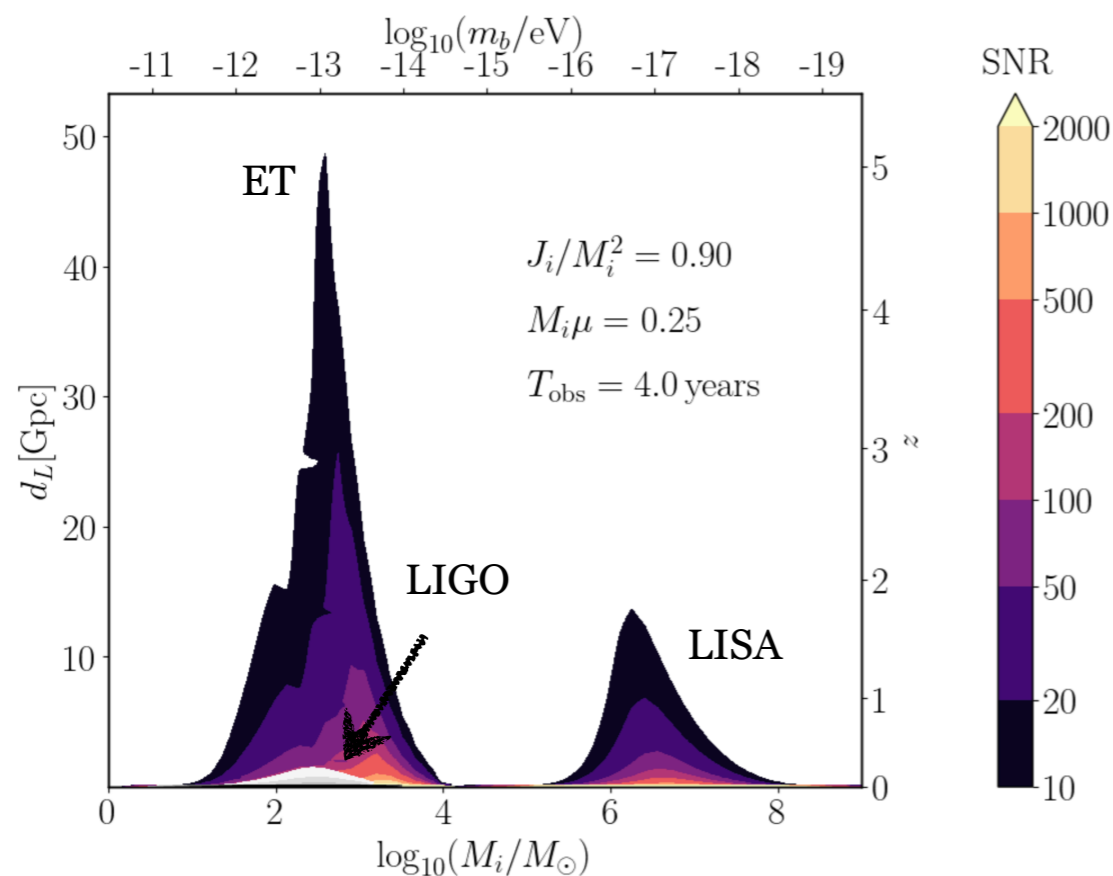
Arvanitaki+ '09; Pani+'12; Arvanitaki+ '16;  
RB+ '17; Cardoso+'18; Ng+ '21...

From: RB+, PRD96 6, 064050, '17

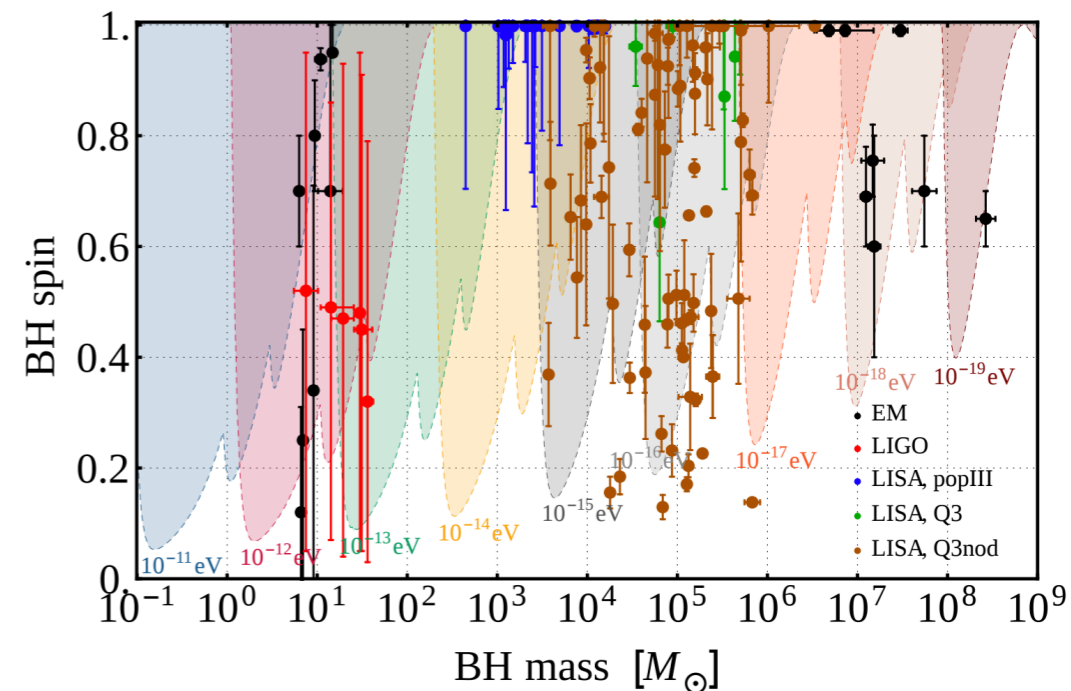


# Gravitational-wave signatures

❖ Indirect constraints through **black hole mass & spin measurements**



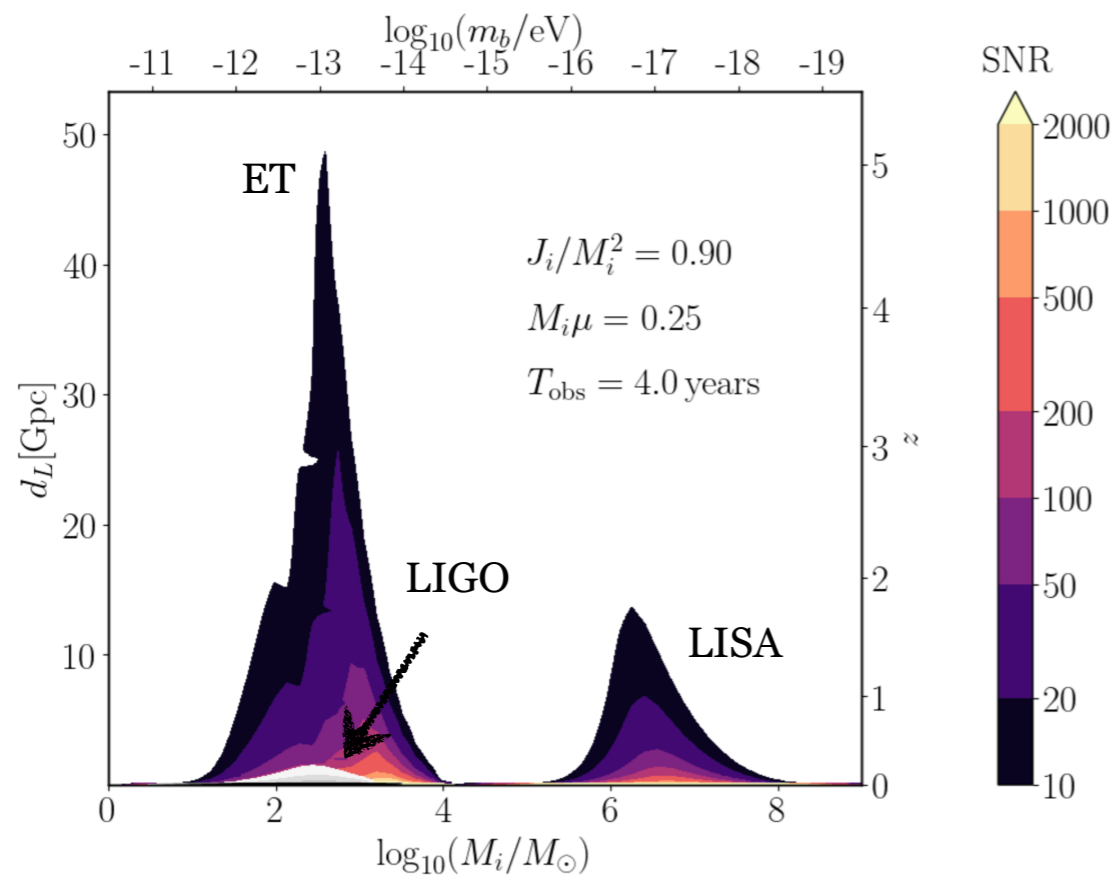
From: RB+, PRD96 6, 064050, '17



❖ **Continuous gravitational waves** from the boson cloud (also in the form of a stochastic background) [see Palomba's talk] Arvanitaki+'14; Yoshino&Kodama '14; RB+ '17; Baryakhtar+'17; Siemonsen&East '20; ...

# Gravitational-wave signatures

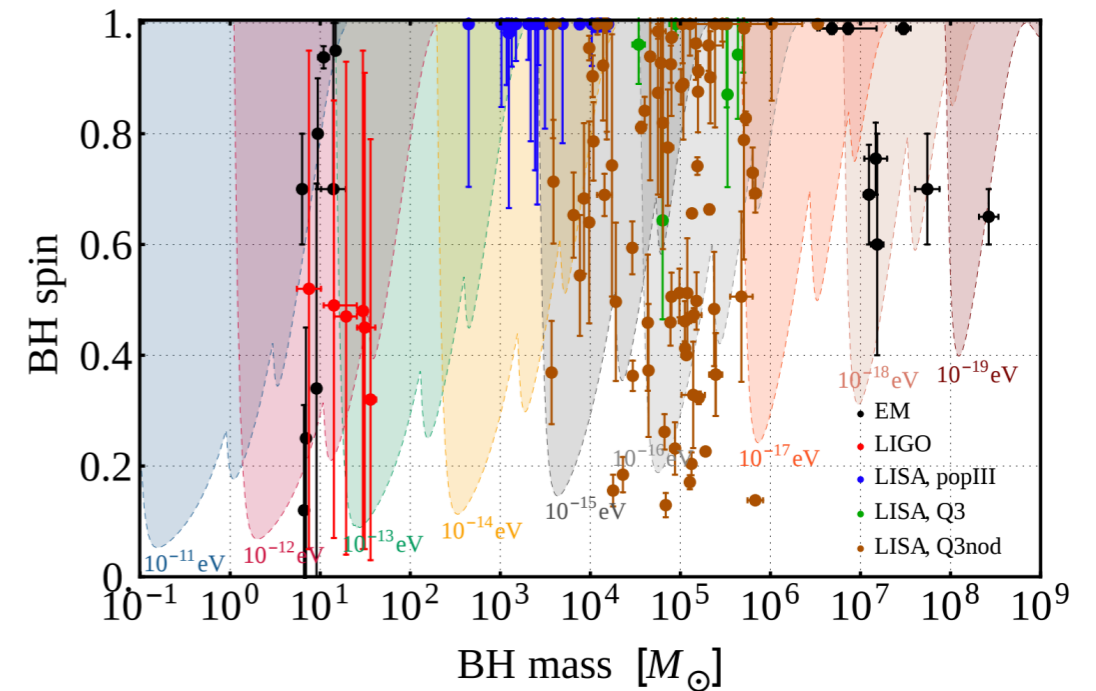
## ❖ Indirect constraints through **black hole mass & spin measurements**



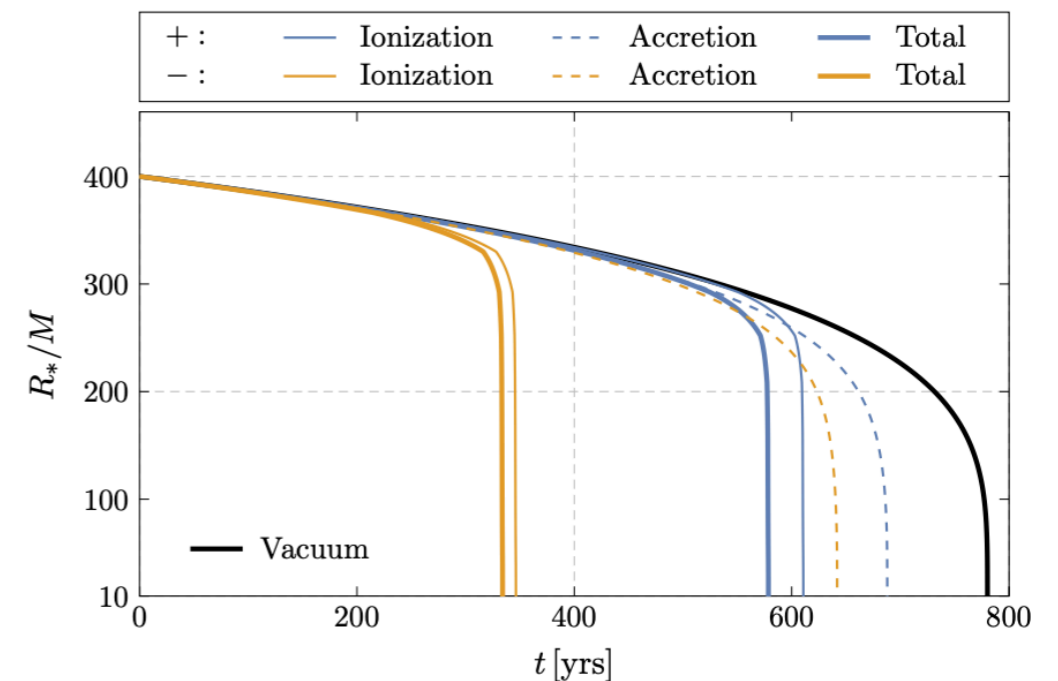
## ❖ Signatures in **binary systems**: resonances, dynamical friction, accretion, tidal Love numbers... [see Cole's talk]

Baumann+'18, '19, '21; Tomaselli+'23;  
de Luca & Pani '22; RB & Shah '23; Duque+'23...

From: RB+, PRD96 6, 064050, '17



## ❖ **Continuous gravitational waves** from the boson cloud (also in the form of a stochastic background) [see Palomba's talk]



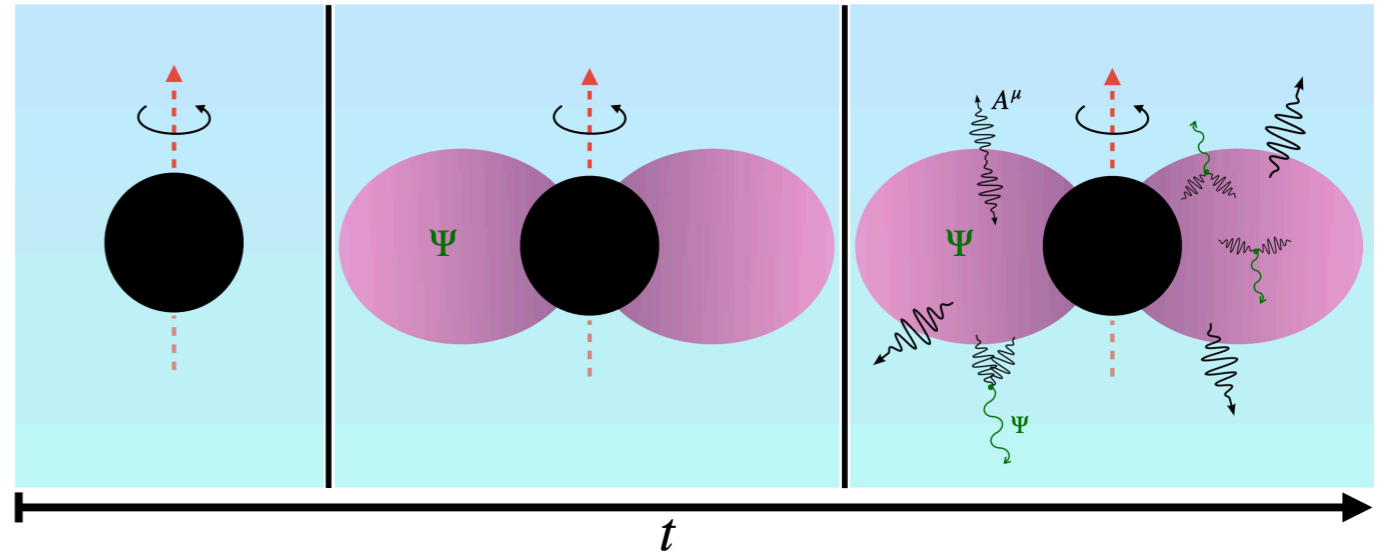
From: Bauman+, PRD105, 115036, '22 8/10

# Non-gravitational interactions

❖ Non-gravitational interactions of the ultralight boson e.g. axionic couplings to photons:

$$(\square - \mu^2)\Phi = \frac{k_a}{2}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}$$

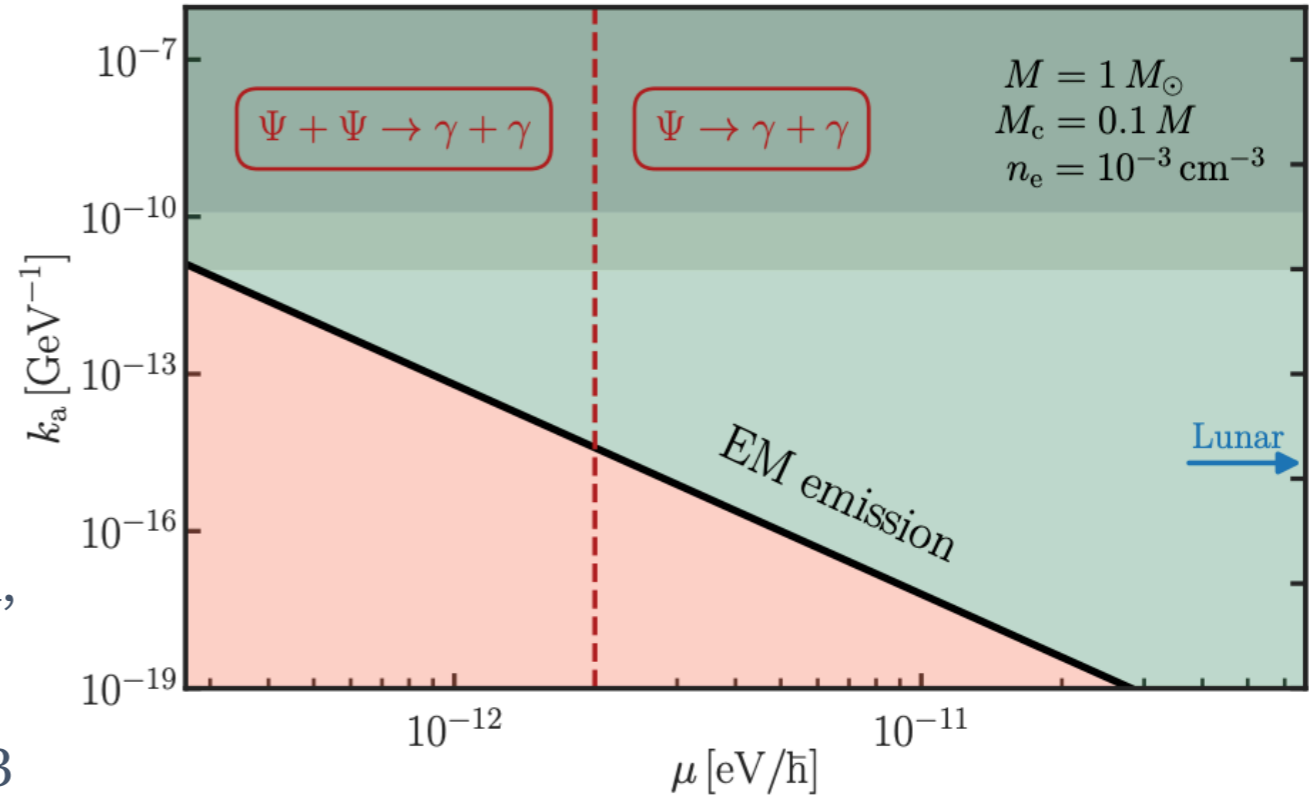
$$\nabla_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = j^\mu - 2k_a\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\nu\Phi$$



From: Spieksma *et al*, arXiv:2306.16447

Impact for gravitational-wave signatures?

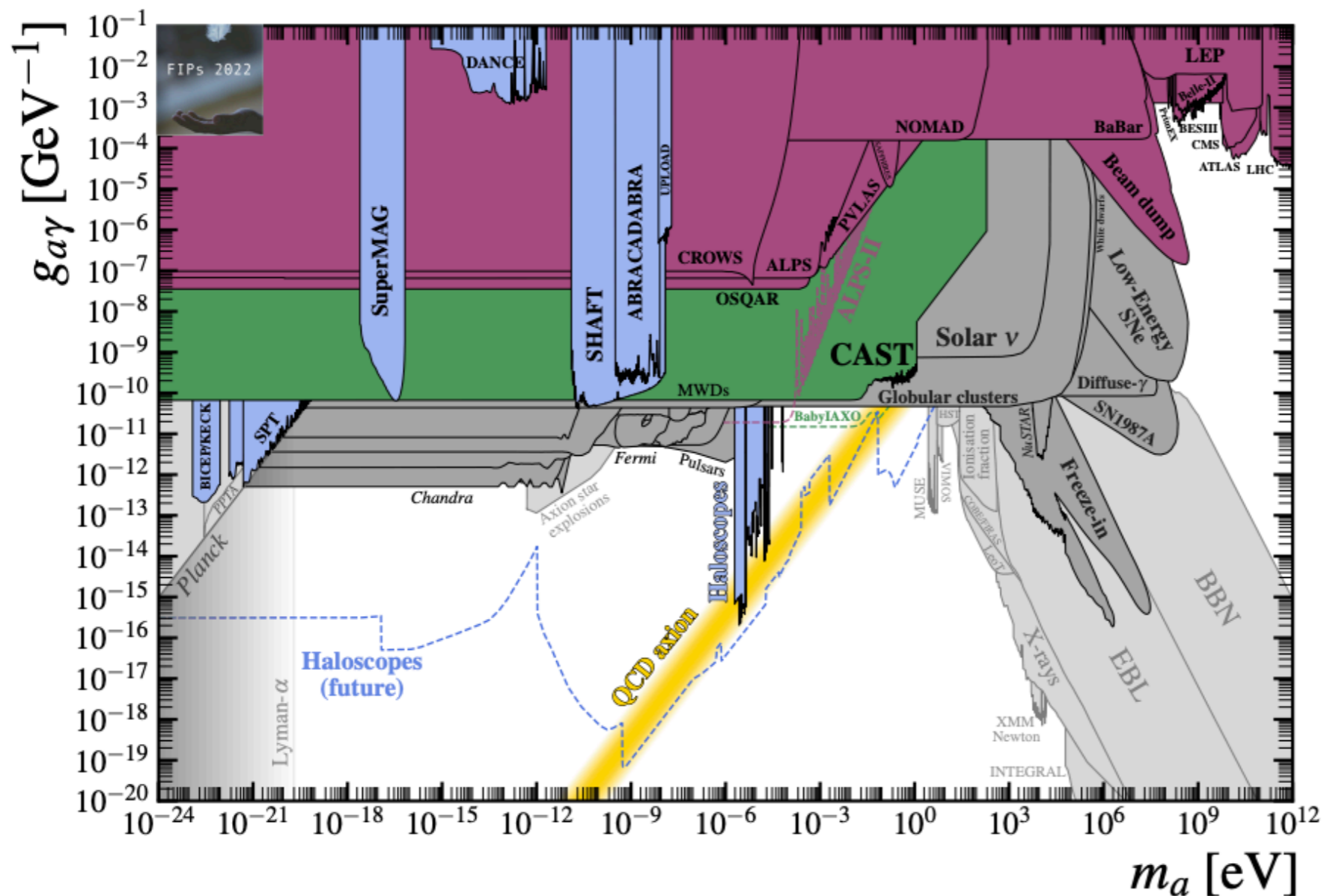
- *Axion coupling to photons*: Rosa & Kephart '18; Ikeda, RB & Cardoso '19; Spieksma+ '23
- *Axion self-interactions*: Baryakthar+ '20; Omiya+ '22
- *Axion coupling to neutrinos*: Chen, Xue & Cardoso '23
- *Dark photon mixing with EM photon*: Caputo+ '21; Siemonsen+ '23
- *Dark photon with Higgs mechanism*: East '22



From: Spieksma *et al*, arXiv:2306.16447

# Complementarity with other observations

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a - V(a) - \frac{g_{a\gamma}}{4} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + \dots, \quad V(a) \approx \frac{m_a^2 a^2}{2} + \mathcal{O}(a^4/f_a^4)$$



**Purple:** lab/collider constraints

**Green:** lack of solar axions

**Blue:** direct dark matter searches

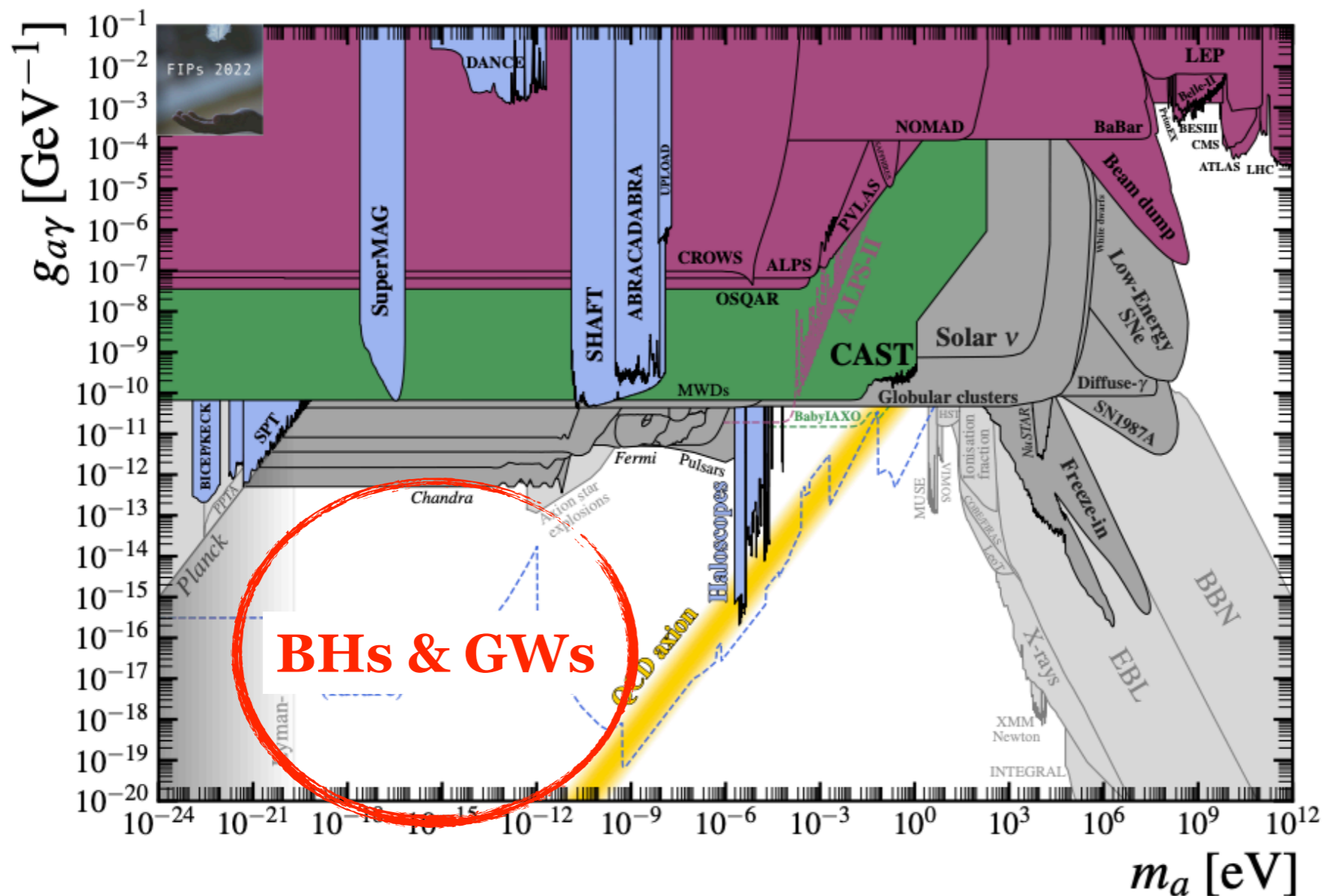
**Light grey:** astro/cosmo constraints that assume axions to be dark matter

**Dark grey:** astro/cosmo constraints that do not assume axions to be dark matter

From: Antel+, arXiv:2305.01715;  
see also <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

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# Backup slides



# Boson clouds and EMRIs

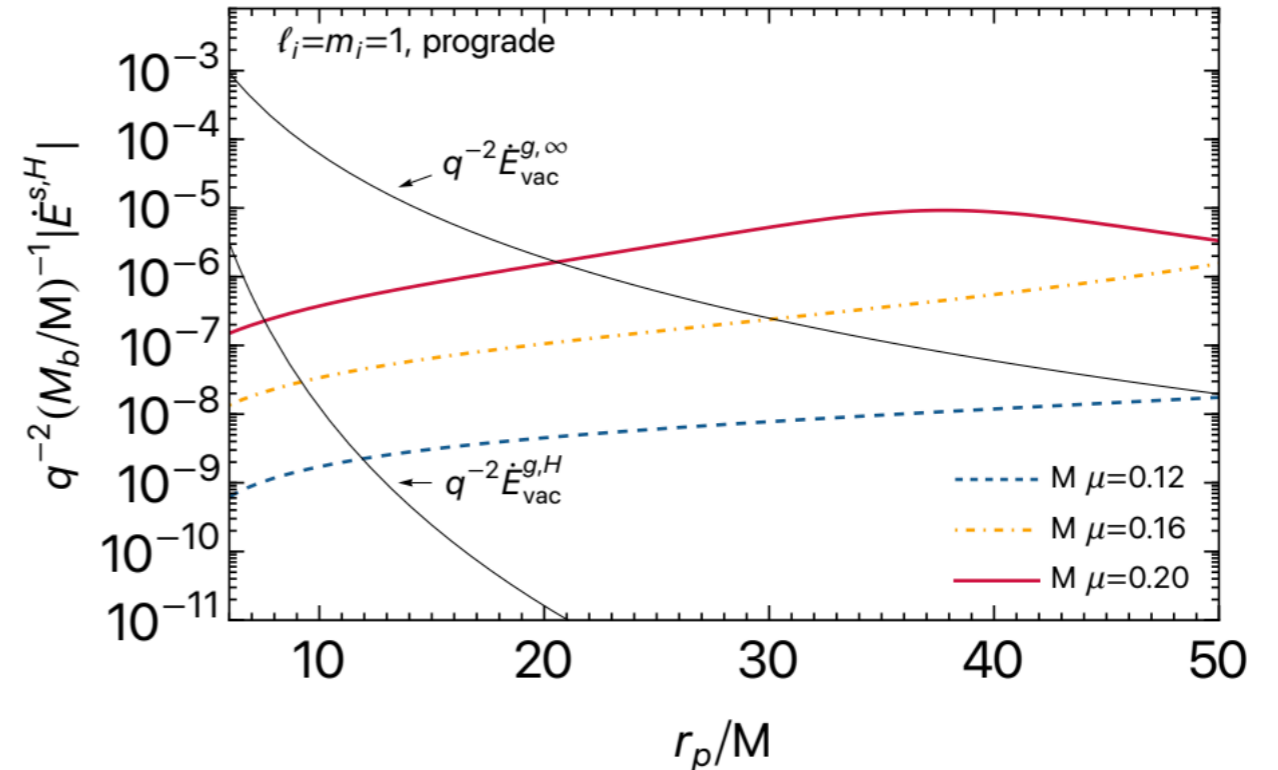
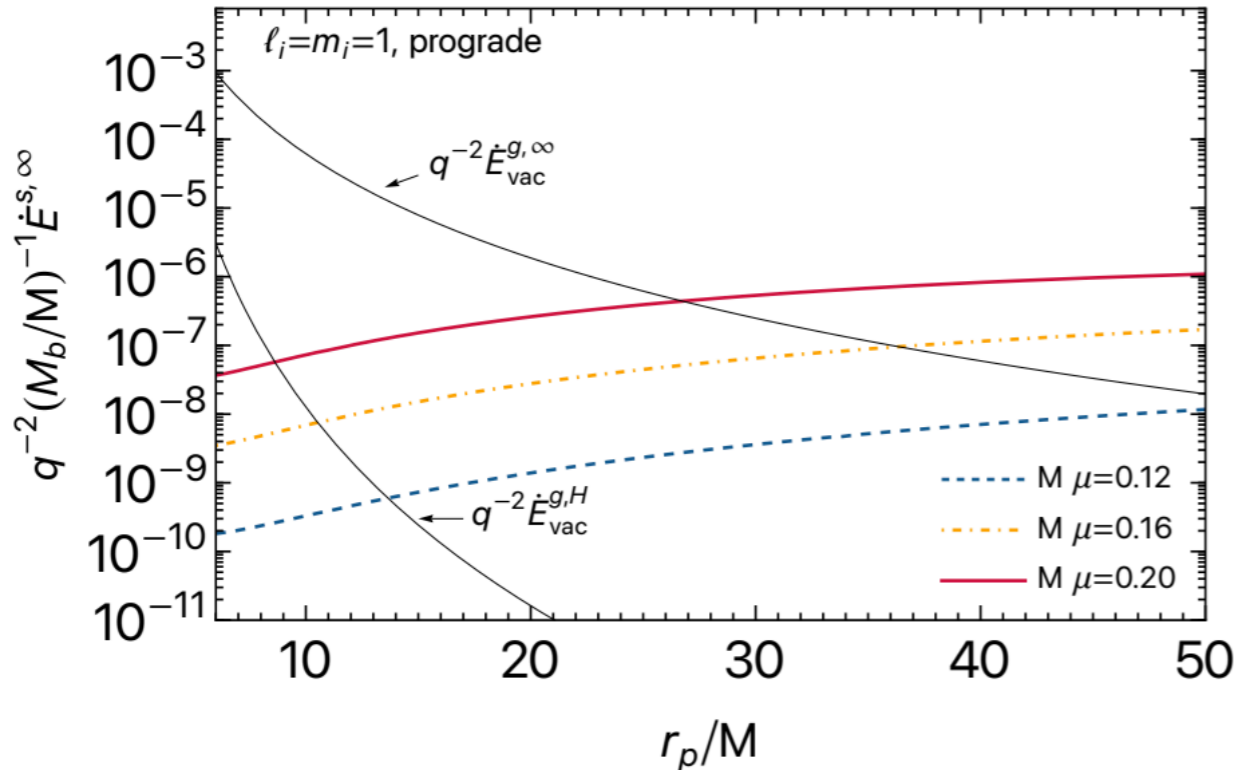
- ❖ First steps towards modelling fully-relativistic EMRIs in non-vacuum spacetimes: [Cardoso+ '21-22; Figueiredo+ '23 ;Duque+ '23]
- ❖ **(Non-spherical) boson clouds around BHs** [RB & Shah '23]

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi(T_{\mu\nu}^{\Phi} + T_{\mu\nu}^{pp}) \quad \square \Phi - \mu^2 \Phi = 0$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}^{(0,0)} + qg_{\mu\nu}^{(0,1)} + \epsilon^2 g_{\mu\nu}^{(2,0)} + \dots \quad \Phi = \epsilon(\Phi^{(1,0)} + q\Phi^{(1,1)}) + \dots \quad q \equiv m_p/M \ll 1$$

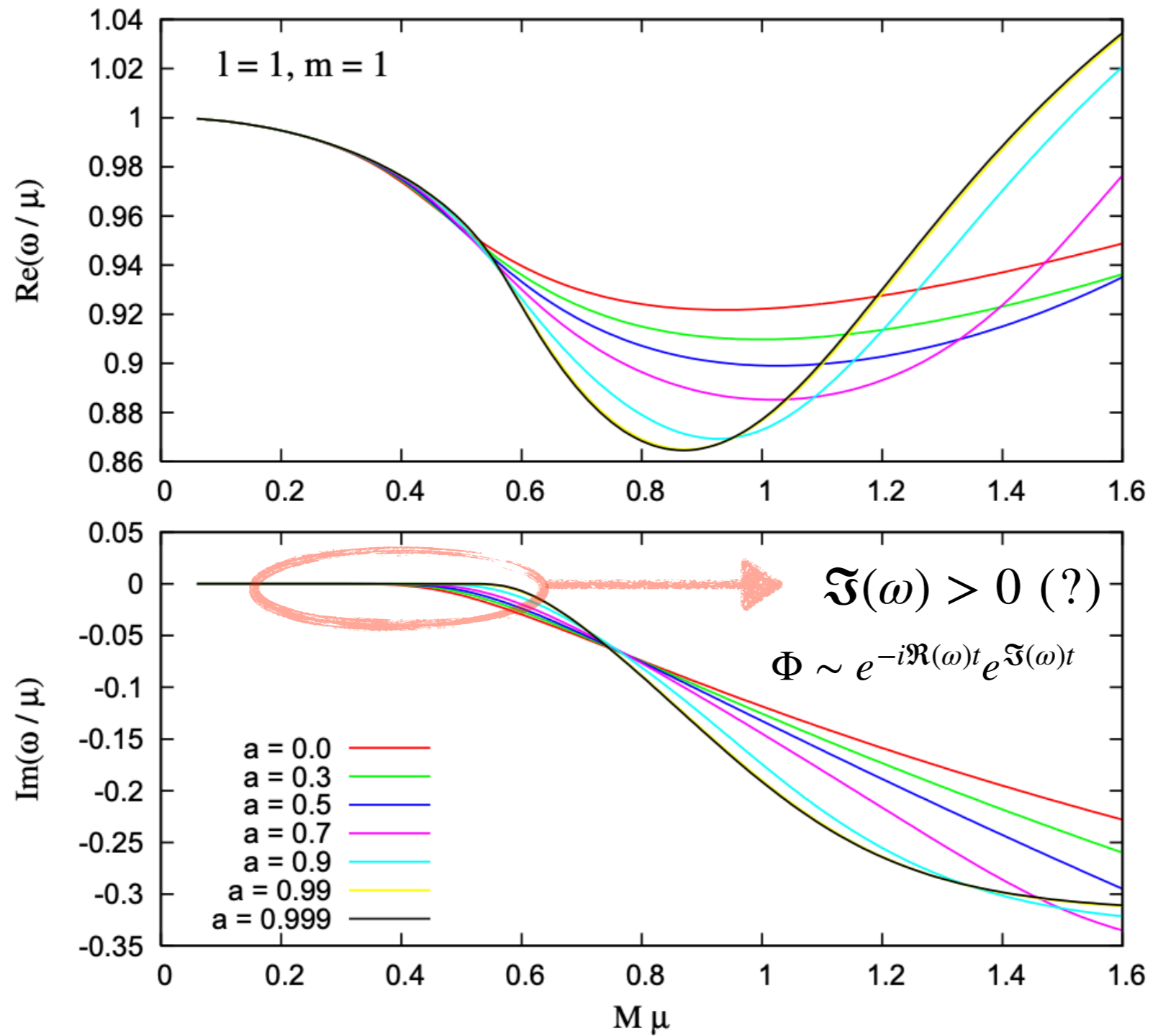
$$\epsilon \ll 1$$

$$\dot{E}_{\text{orb}} = -\dot{E}^{\text{GW},\infty} - \dot{E}^{\text{GW},H} - \dot{E}^{S,\infty} - \dot{E}^{S,H}$$



[From: RB & S. Shah, 2307.16093]

# Spectrum of quasi-bound states



$$M\mu \equiv \frac{Mm_b}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} = R_G / \lambda_C$$

From: Dolan, arXiv:0705.2880