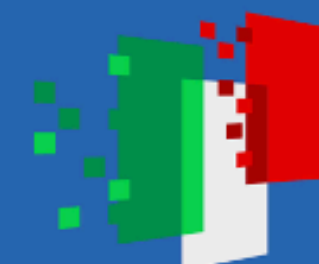




Finanziato  
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NextGenerationEU



Ministero  
dell'Università  
e della Ricerca



Italiadomani  
PIANO NAZIONALE  
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



# Missione 4 Istruzione e Ricerca

**Martina Gerbino (INFN Ferrara),  
AxionOrigins Kickoff meeting,  
26 Jan 2024**



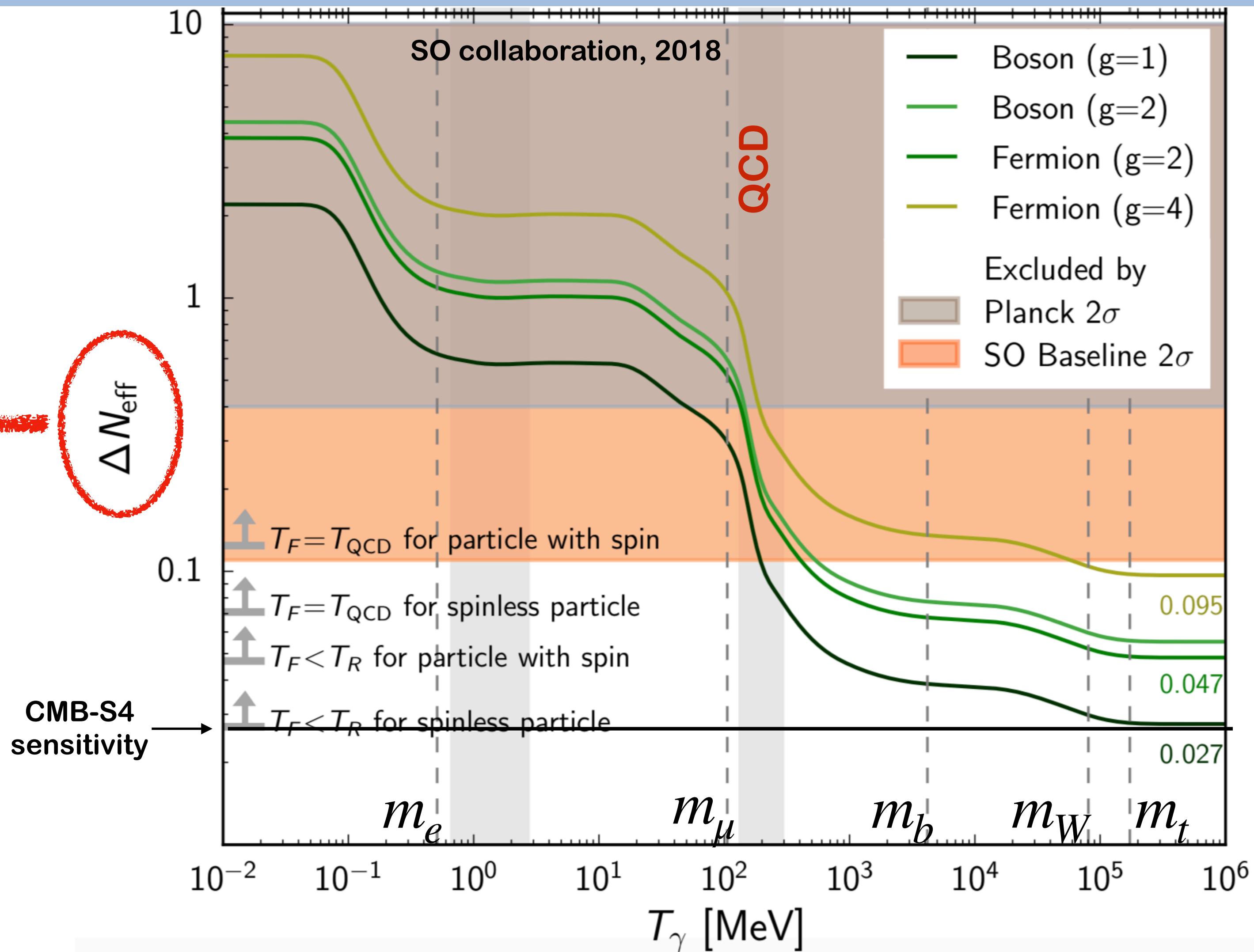
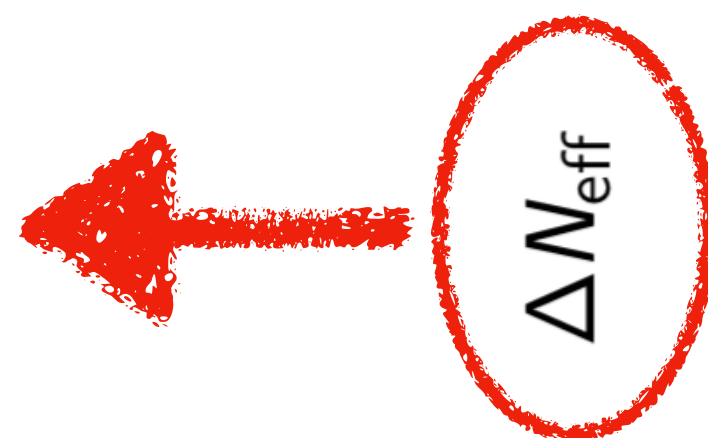
**Based on  
L. Caloni,  
MG, M. Lattanzi and L. Visinelli, JCAP  
2022**

# Cosmological phenomenology of axion-like particles

# The money plot for light relics

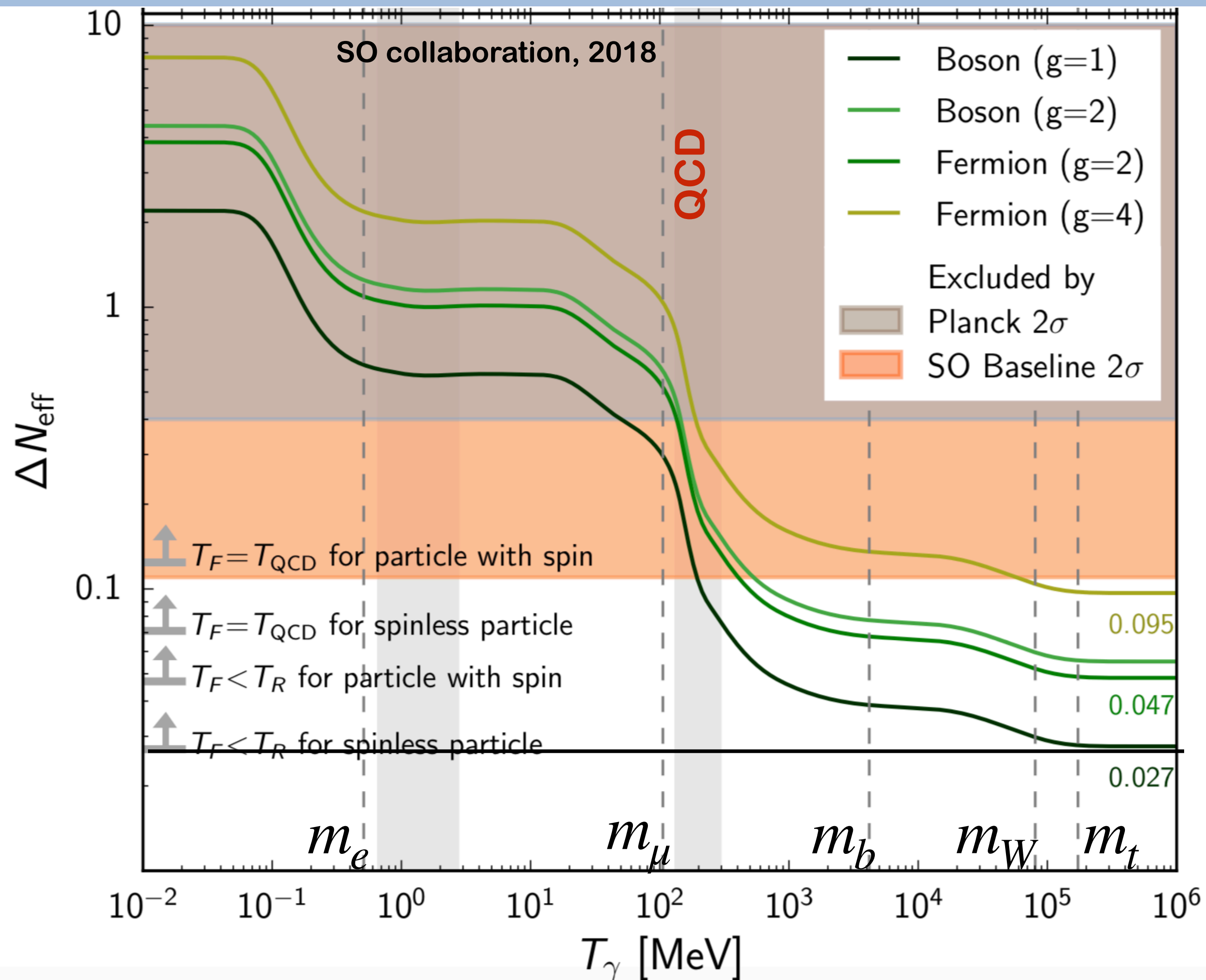


Extra (relativistic) contributions beyond photons and active neutrinos



# The money plot for light relics

Must account for additional effects if light relics are massive (and ALPs do have masses!)





# Cosmological phenomenology

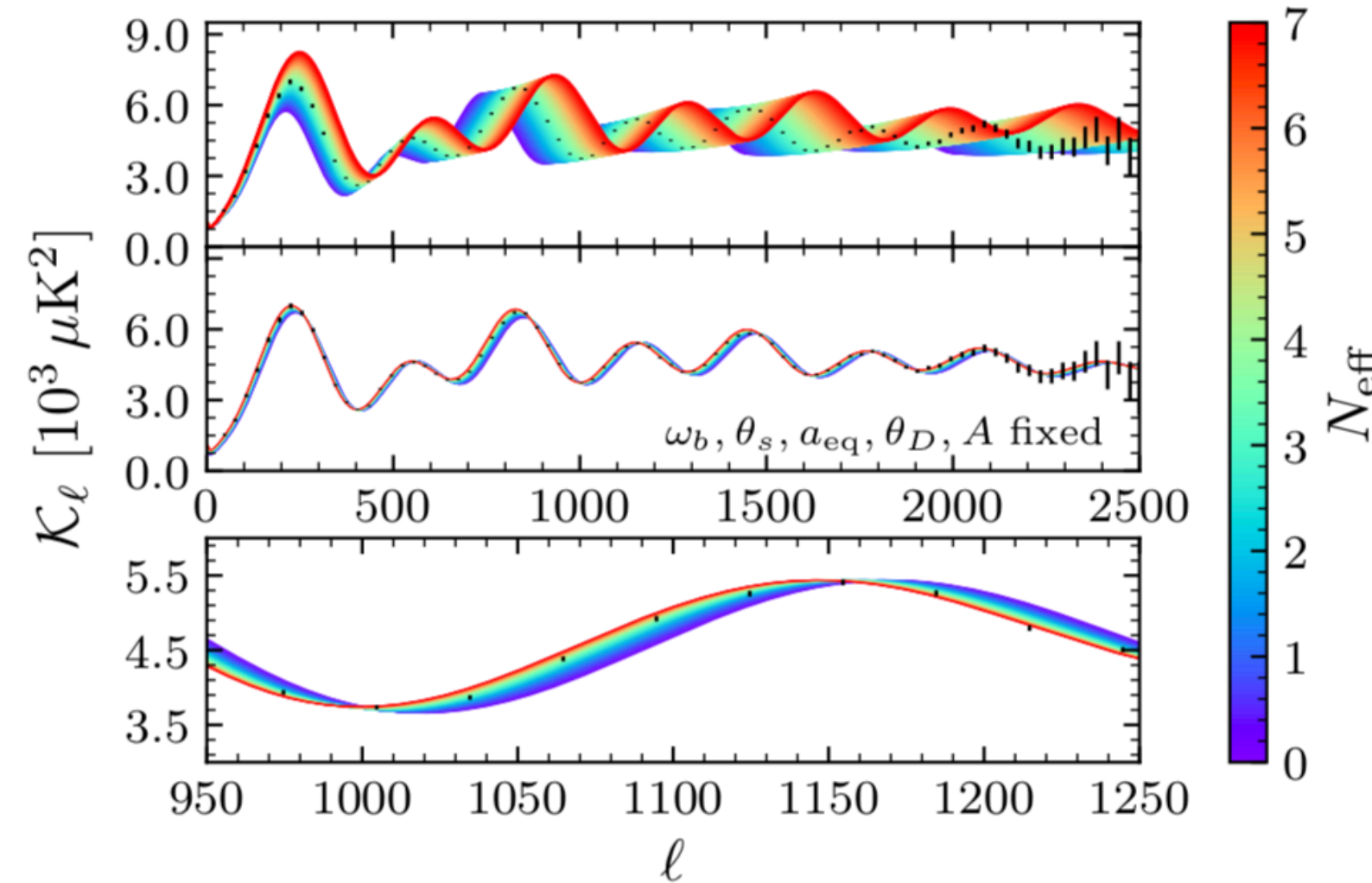
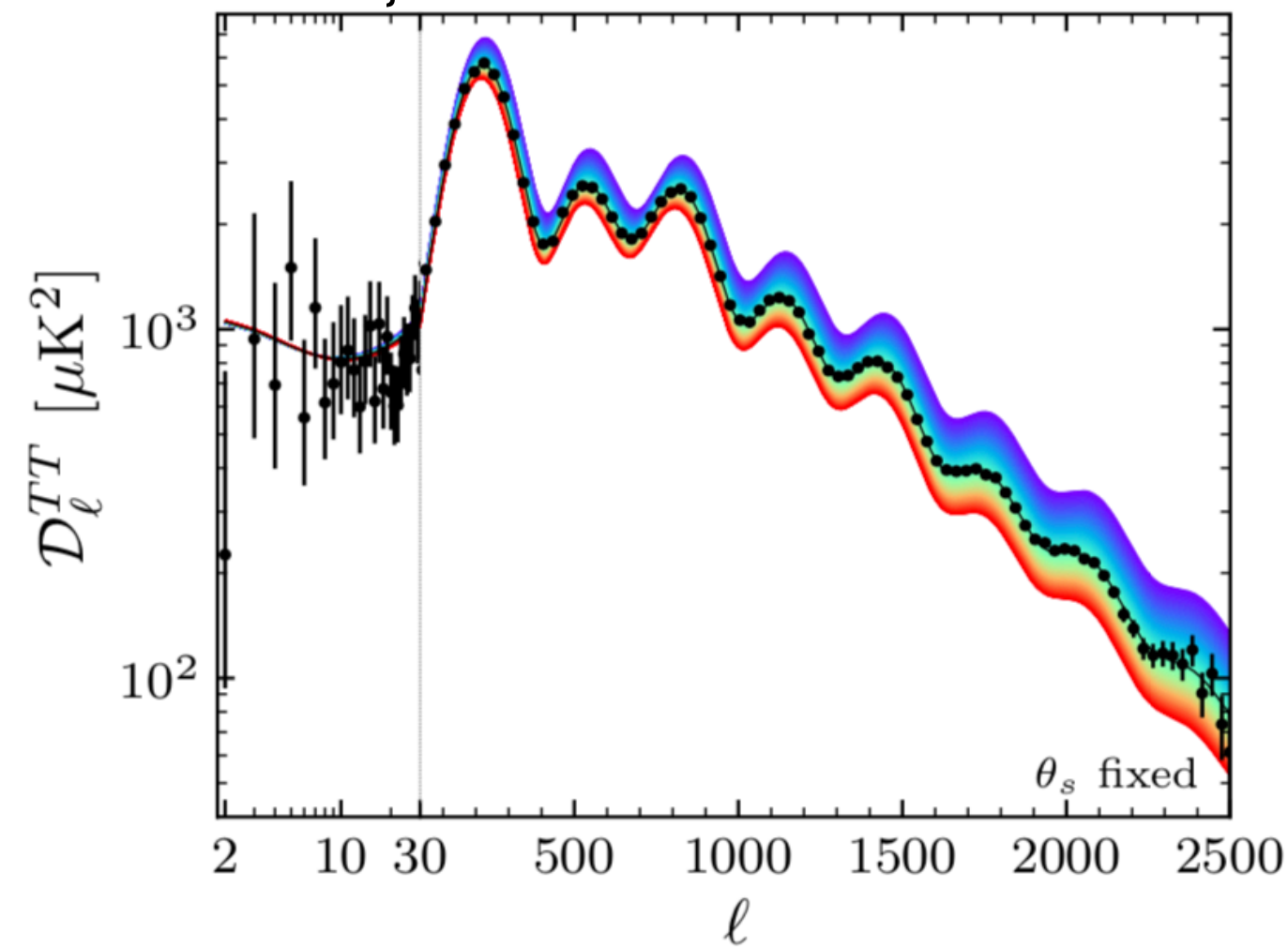
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2203.07377, credit: B. Wallisch



**Massless/highly relativistic**

Damping tail suppression:  
 $\theta_d \sim \sqrt{H(N_{\text{eff}})}$

Shift of acoustic peak position:  
 $\phi \sim N_{\text{eff}}$



# Cosmological phenomenology

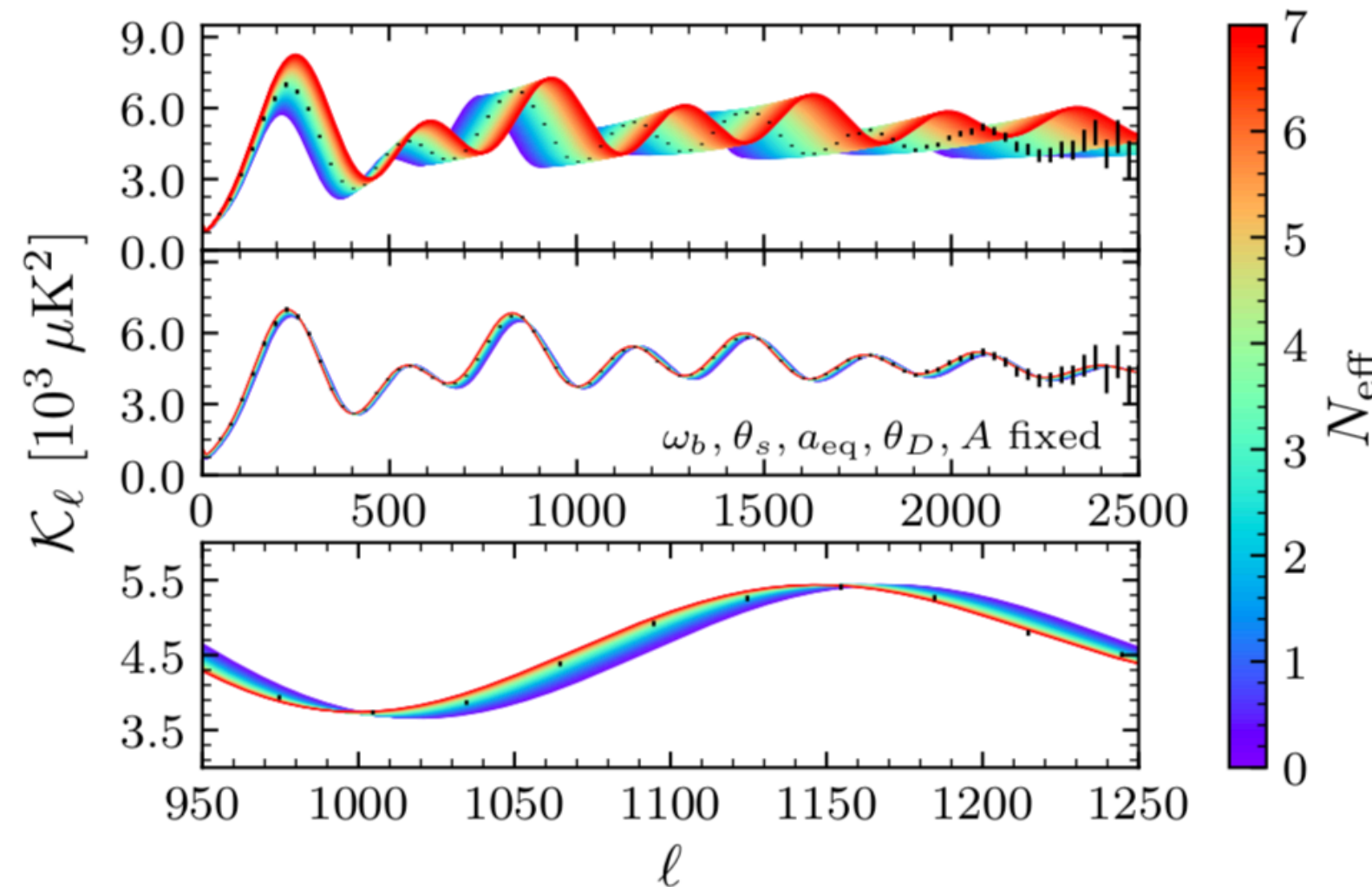
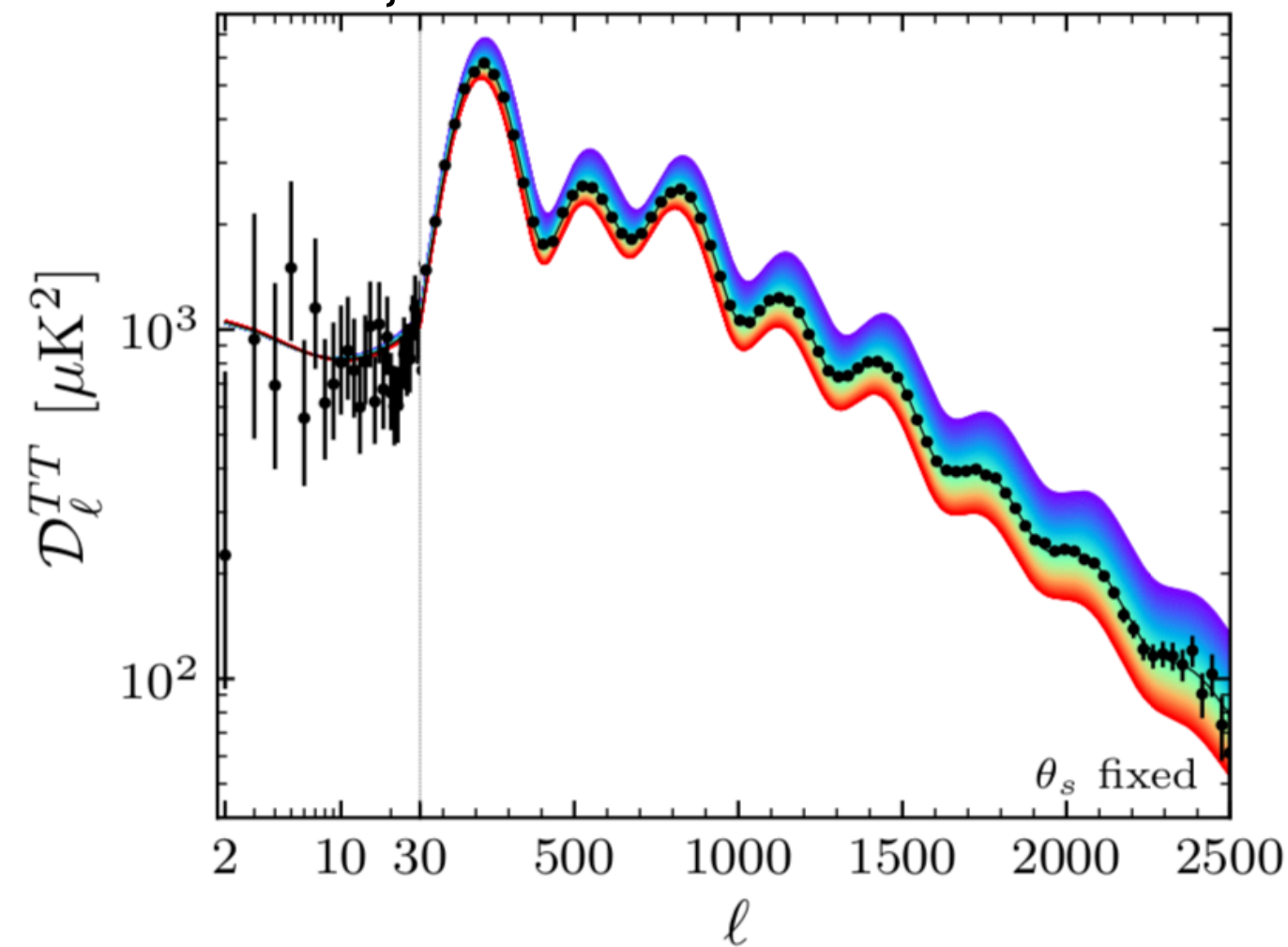
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2203.07377, credit: B. Wallisch



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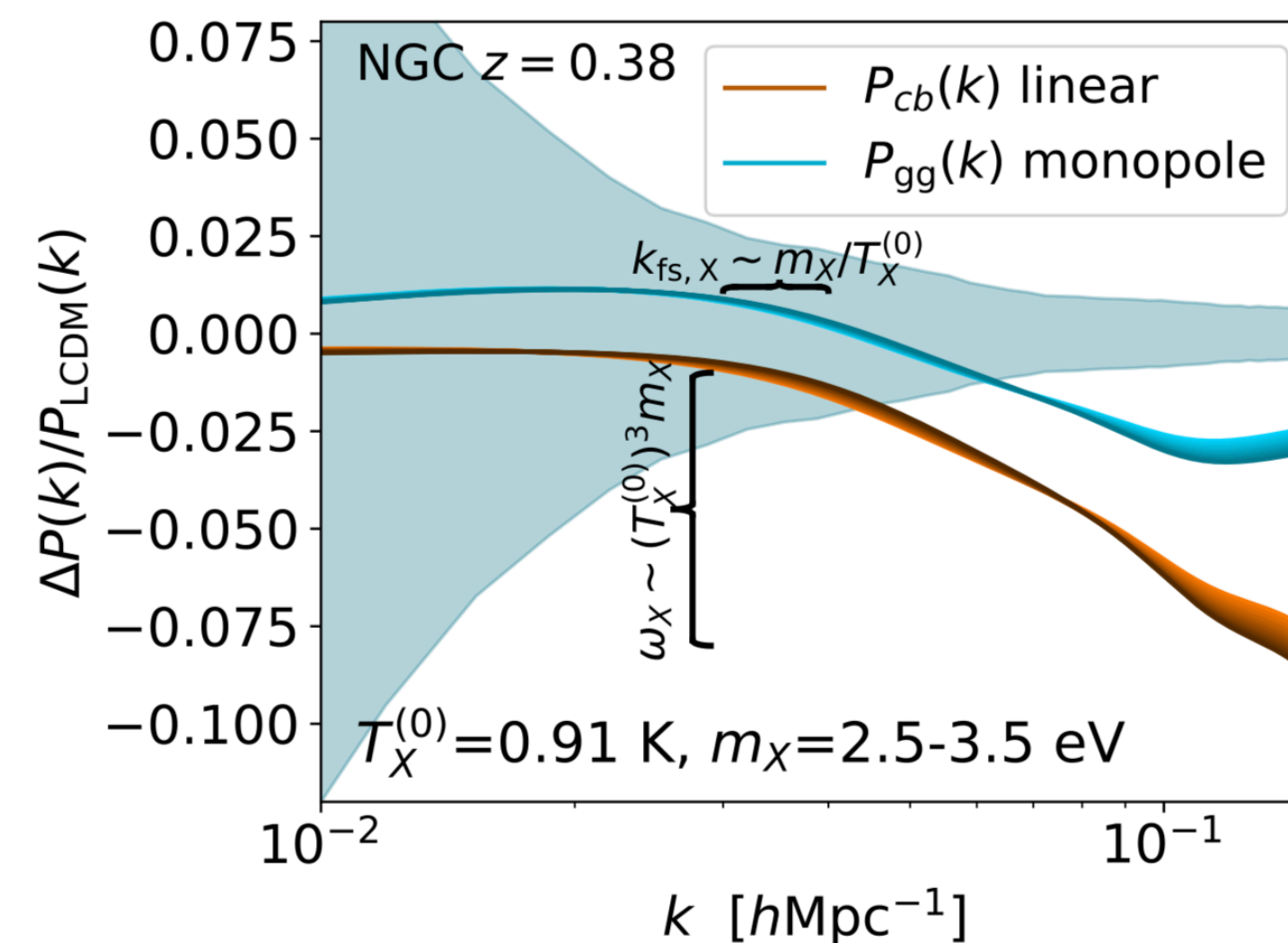
Damping tail suppression:  
 $\theta_d \sim \sqrt{H(N_{\text{eff}})}$

Shift of acoustic peak position:  
 $\phi \sim N_{\text{eff}}$

**Massive/non-relativistic**

Amplitude from abundance:  $\omega_a \sim m_a/g^*s(T_d)$

Suppression from free-streaming scale:  $k_{\text{fs}} \sim m_a g^*s(T_d)^{1/3}$



Xu, Munoz, Dvorkin, 2022

# Cosmological phenomenology

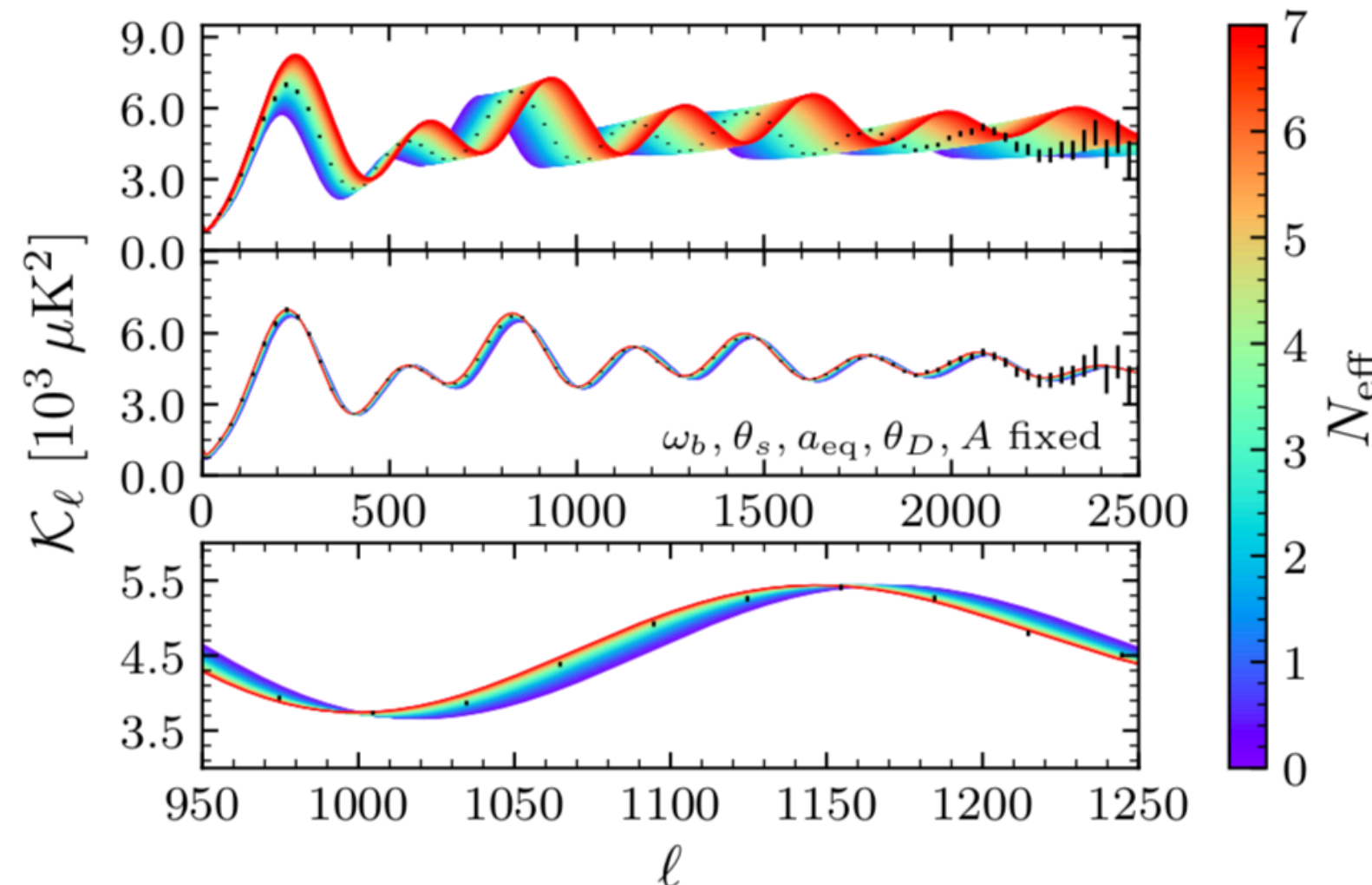
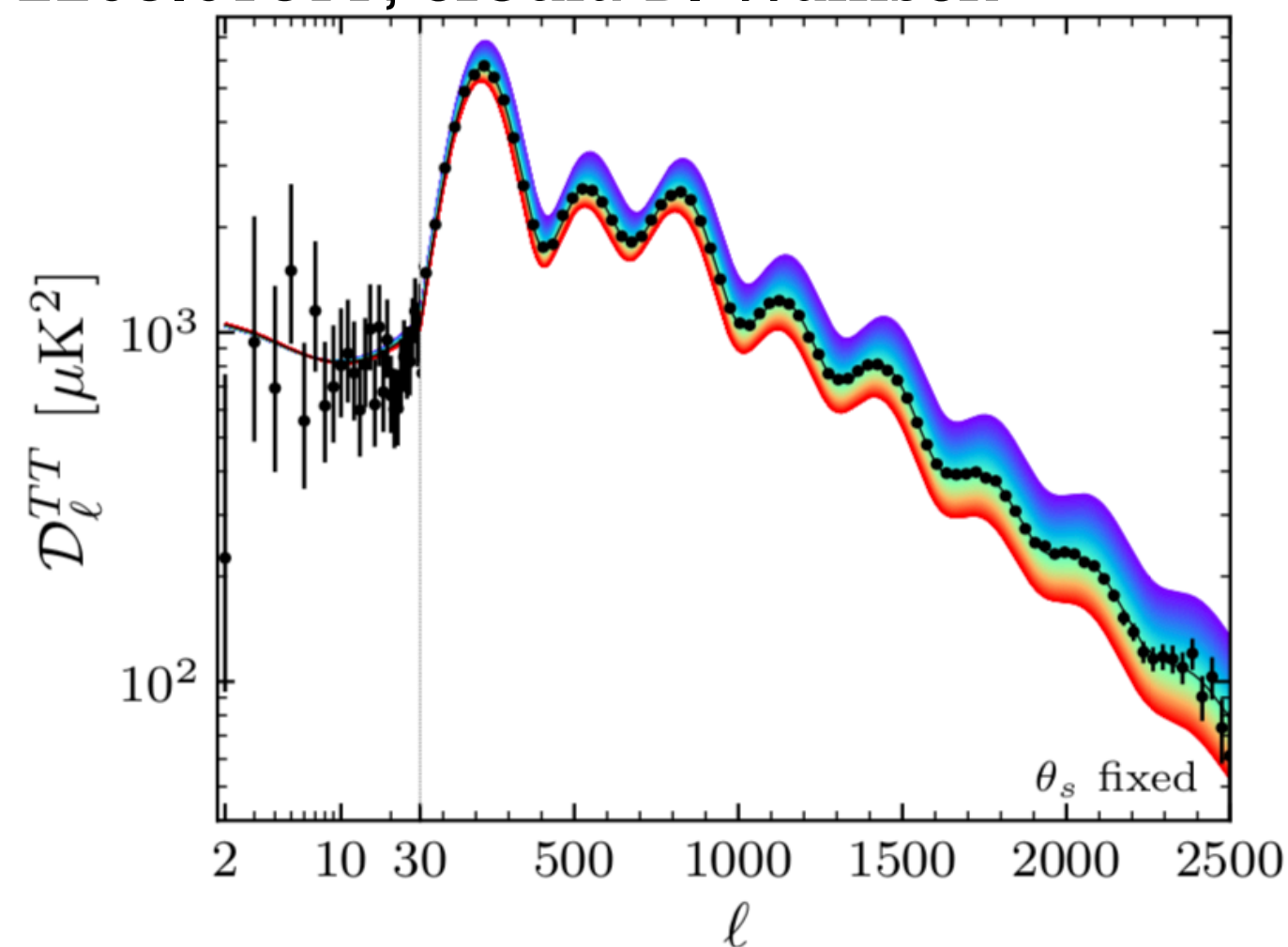
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2203.07377, credit: B. Wallisch

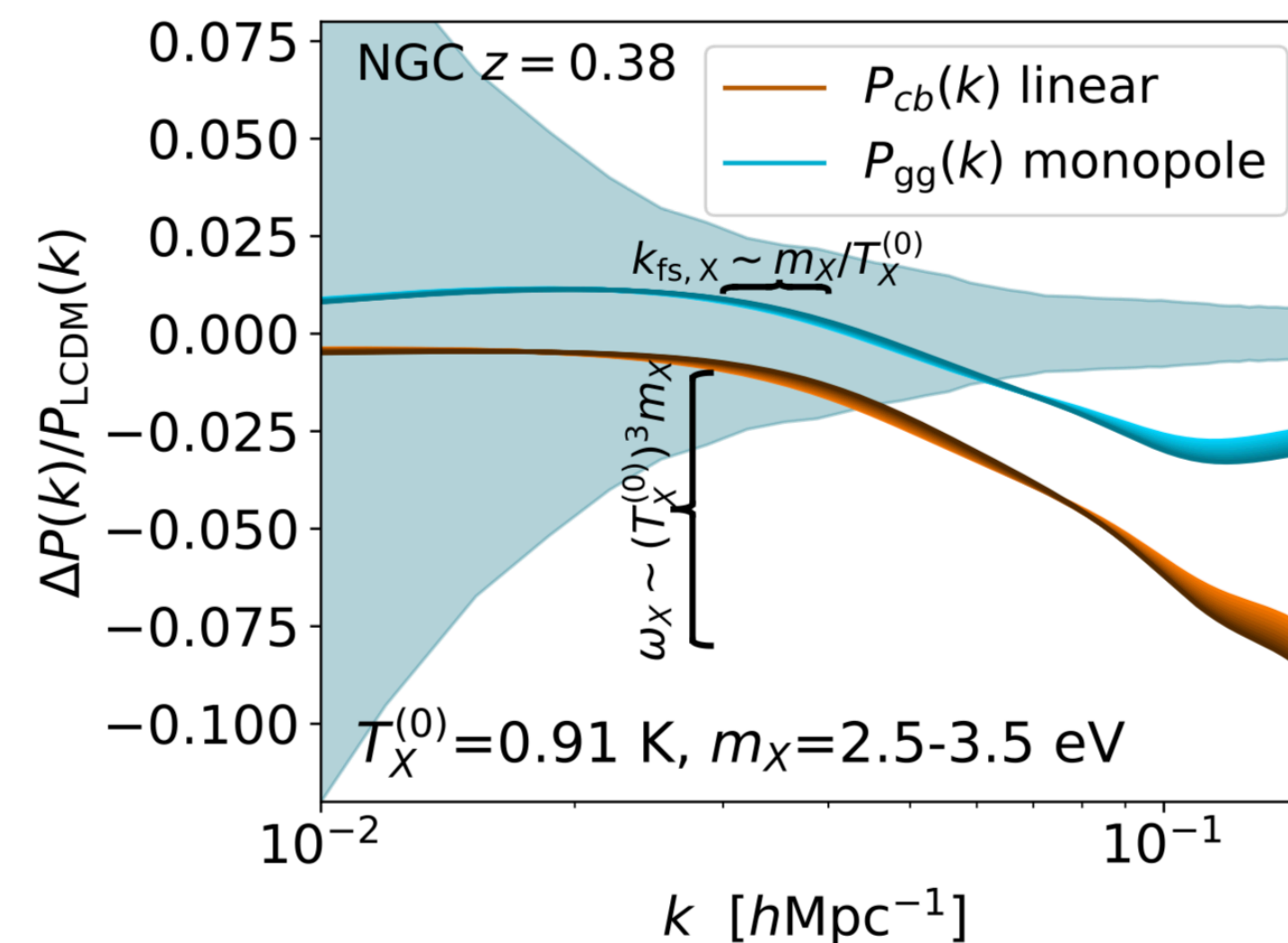


**Massless/highly relativistic**

Damping tail suppression:  
 $\theta_d \sim \sqrt{H(N_{\text{eff}})}$

Shift of acoustic peak position:  
 $\phi \sim N_{\text{eff}}$

This effect propagates  
to all matter tracers  
including gravitational lensing of CMB



Xu, Munoz, Dvorkin, 2022



# Cosmological phenomenology



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Thermally produced axions via coupling with gluons and photons in the early Universe

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \supset \frac{1}{2}(\partial^\mu a)(\partial_\mu a) - \frac{1}{2}m_0^2 a^2 + \mathcal{L}_{ag} + \mathcal{L}_{a\gamma},$$





## Thermally produced axions via coupling with gluons and photons in the early Universe

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After rotation of the quark fields and explicit mass breaking:

$$m_a^2 = m_0^2 + \left(\frac{C_g}{f_a}\right)^2 F_\pi^2 m_\pi^2 \frac{z}{(1+z)^2} \approx m_0^2 + \left(5.8 \mu\text{eV} \frac{10^{12} \text{ GeV}}{f_a/C_g}\right)^2$$

Effective axion mass

$$\gamma_g = \frac{\zeta(3)}{4\pi^5} \alpha_s^2 T^6 \left(\frac{C_g}{f_a}\right)^2 F_g(T)$$

Axion-gluon coupling

$$g_{a\gamma} = g_{a\gamma}^0 - \frac{\alpha_{\text{EM}} C_g}{3\pi} \frac{4+z}{f_a(1+z)} \approx g_{a\gamma}^0 - 2.3 \times 10^{-15} \text{ GeV}^{-1} \left(\frac{10^{12} \text{ GeV}}{f_a/C_g}\right)$$

Axion-photon coupling

Thermally produced axions via coupling with gluons and photons in the early Universe

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Effective axion mass

Axion-gluon coupling

Axion-photon coupling

We want to constrain these parameters!



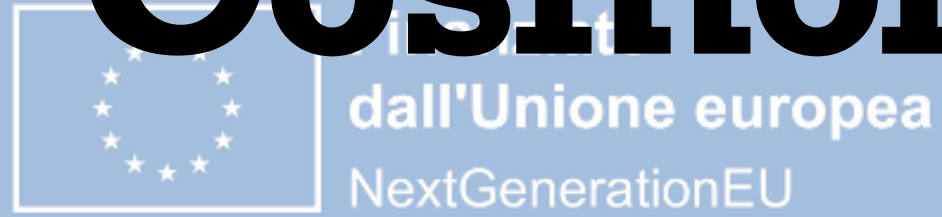
Thermally produced axions via coupling with gluons and photons in the early Universe

Relic population established at freeze-out condition  $\Gamma(T_d) = H(T_d)$

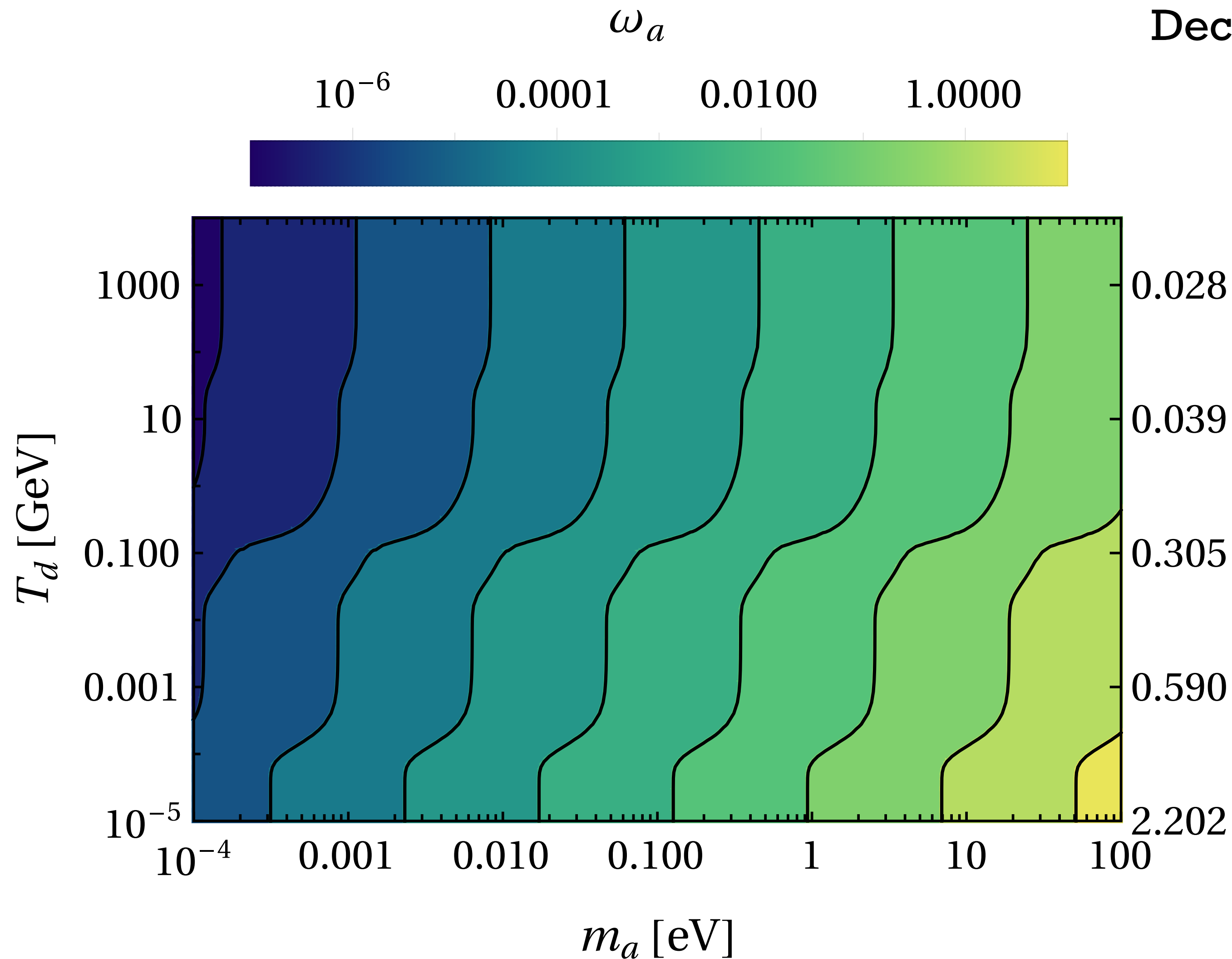
Decoupling temperature  $T_d$  sets axion abundance  $\omega_a$



# Cosmological phenomenology



Decoupling temperature  $T_d$  sets axion abundance  $\omega_a$



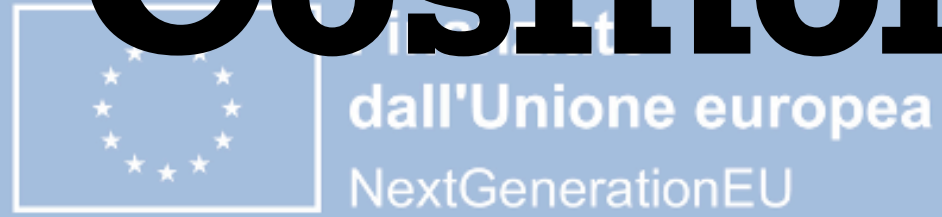
$$\omega_a \simeq m_a n_a \simeq \left( \frac{m_a}{130 \text{ eV}} \right) \left( \frac{g_{*,s}(T_d)}{10} \right)^{-1}$$

$$= 0.011 \left( \frac{m_a}{\text{eV}} \right) \Delta N_{\text{eff}}^{3/4}$$

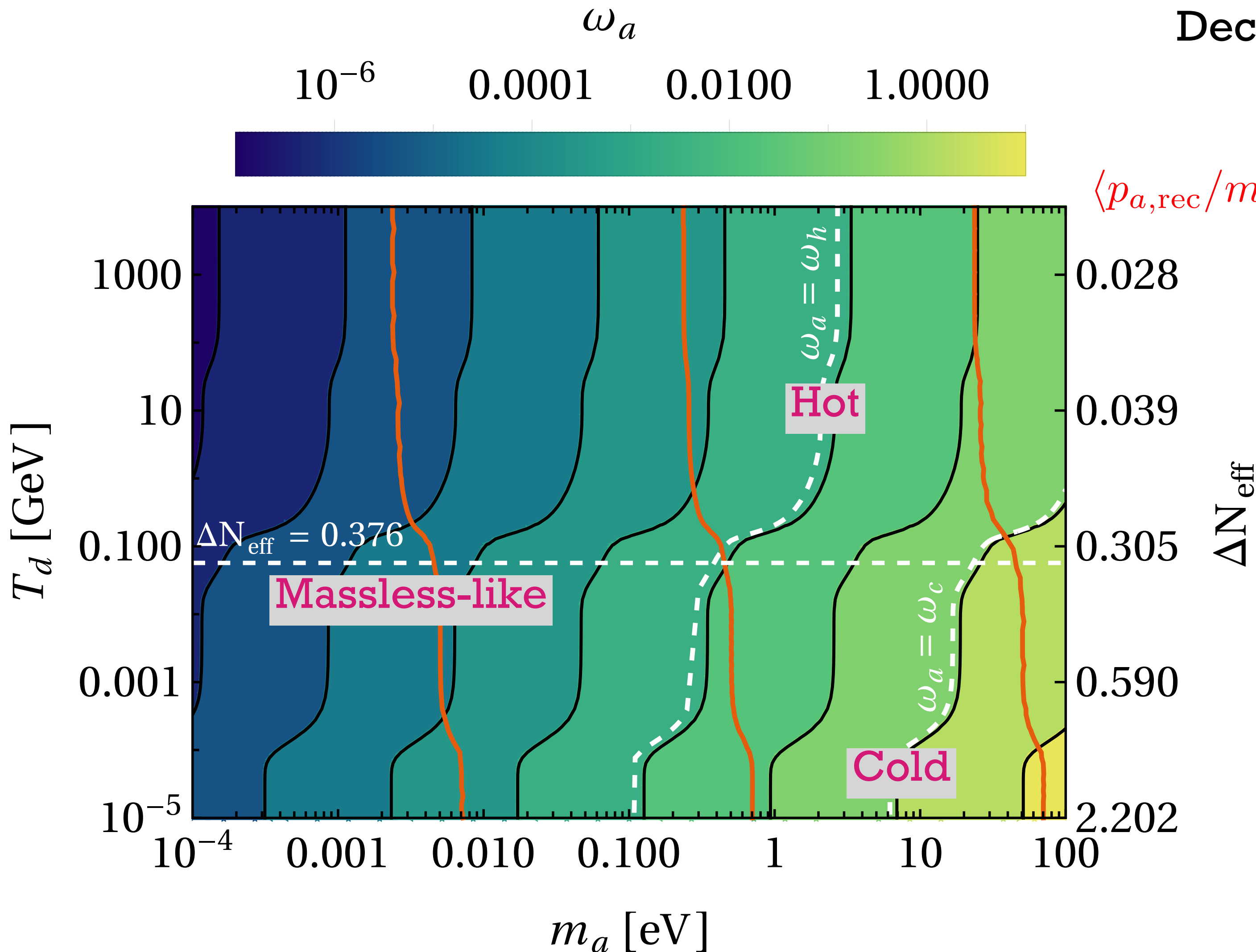
$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \equiv \frac{\rho_a^{\text{mless}}}{\rho_\nu^{\text{mless}}} \propto \frac{g_a}{g_\gamma} \left( \frac{T_a}{T_\gamma} \right)^4 \simeq 0.027 \left( \frac{g_{*s}(T_d)}{106.75} \right)^{-4/3}$$

Phenomenology fully determined by any 2 of  $\omega_a, m_a, T_d, N_{\text{eff}}$

# Cosmological phenomenology



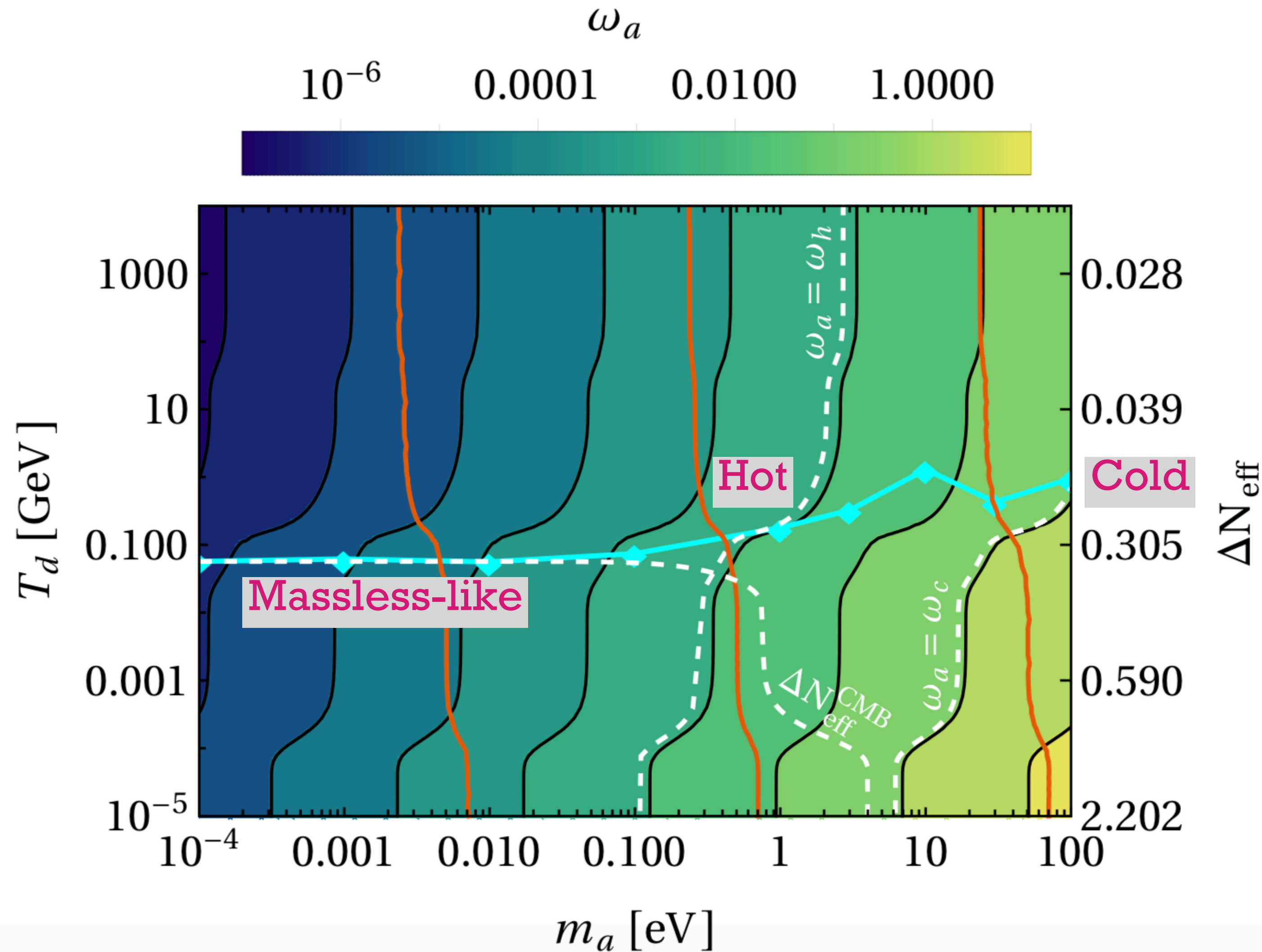
Decoupling temperature  $T_d$  sets axion abundance  $\omega_a$



$$\langle p_{a,rec}/m_a \rangle = [10^2, 1, 10^{-2}]$$

Depending on the ALP mass, we expect cosmological bounds to follow any of the white line

# Summary of cosmological results

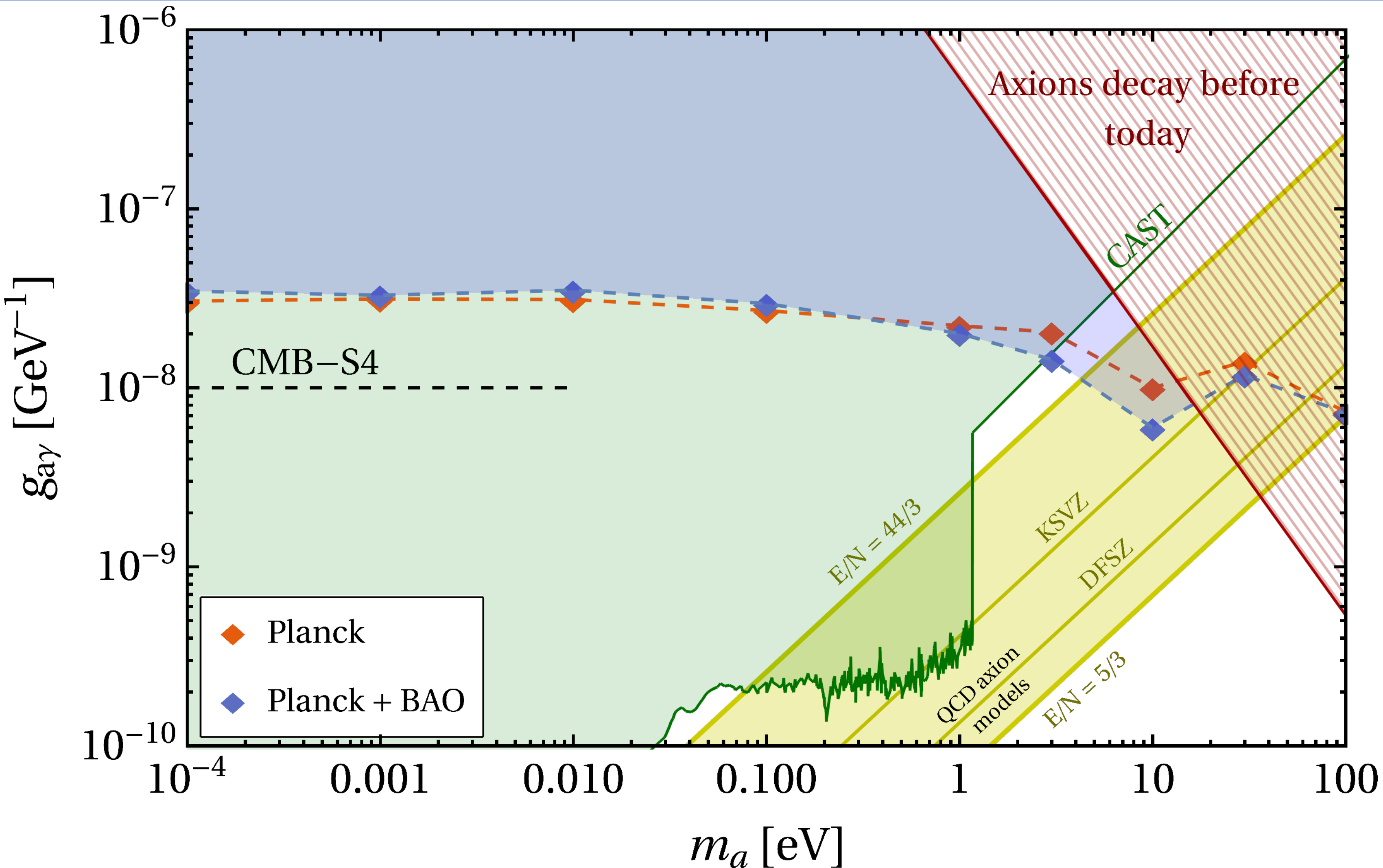


Bounds follow expectations  
in extreme regimes

Need for dedicated numerical analysis  
in intermediate ( $\sim$ eV) regime



# Bounds on axion-photon coupling



Broader than CAST below eV  
 Excludes viable region  
 in the  $\sim 10\text{eV}$  mass range

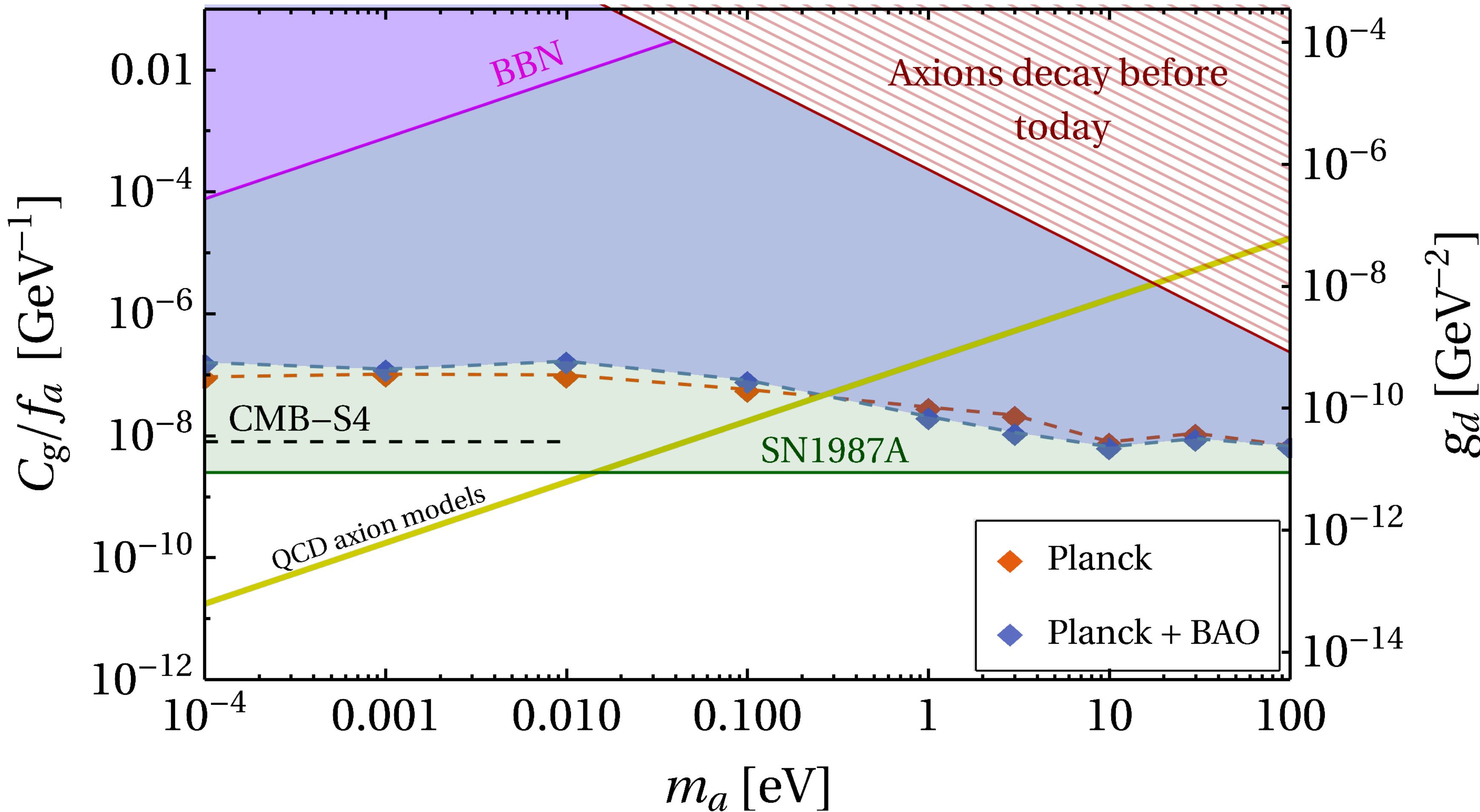
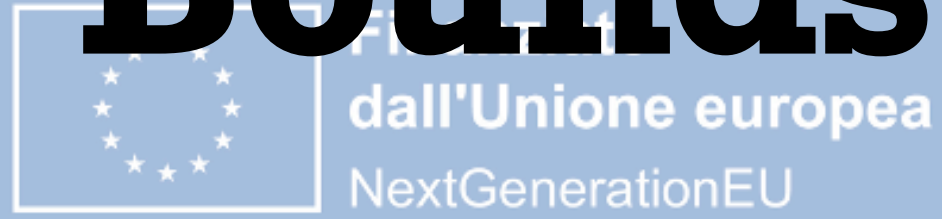
$m_a > 20\text{eV}$ ,  
 account for radiative decay

+current CMB small-scale:  
 1.6x stronger bounds  
 in the low-mass regime

+future CMB:  
 3x stronger bounds

For light axions:  
 From stellar evolution:  
 2x stronger bounds  
 From globular clusters:  
 3x stronger bounds

# Bounds on axion-gluon coupling



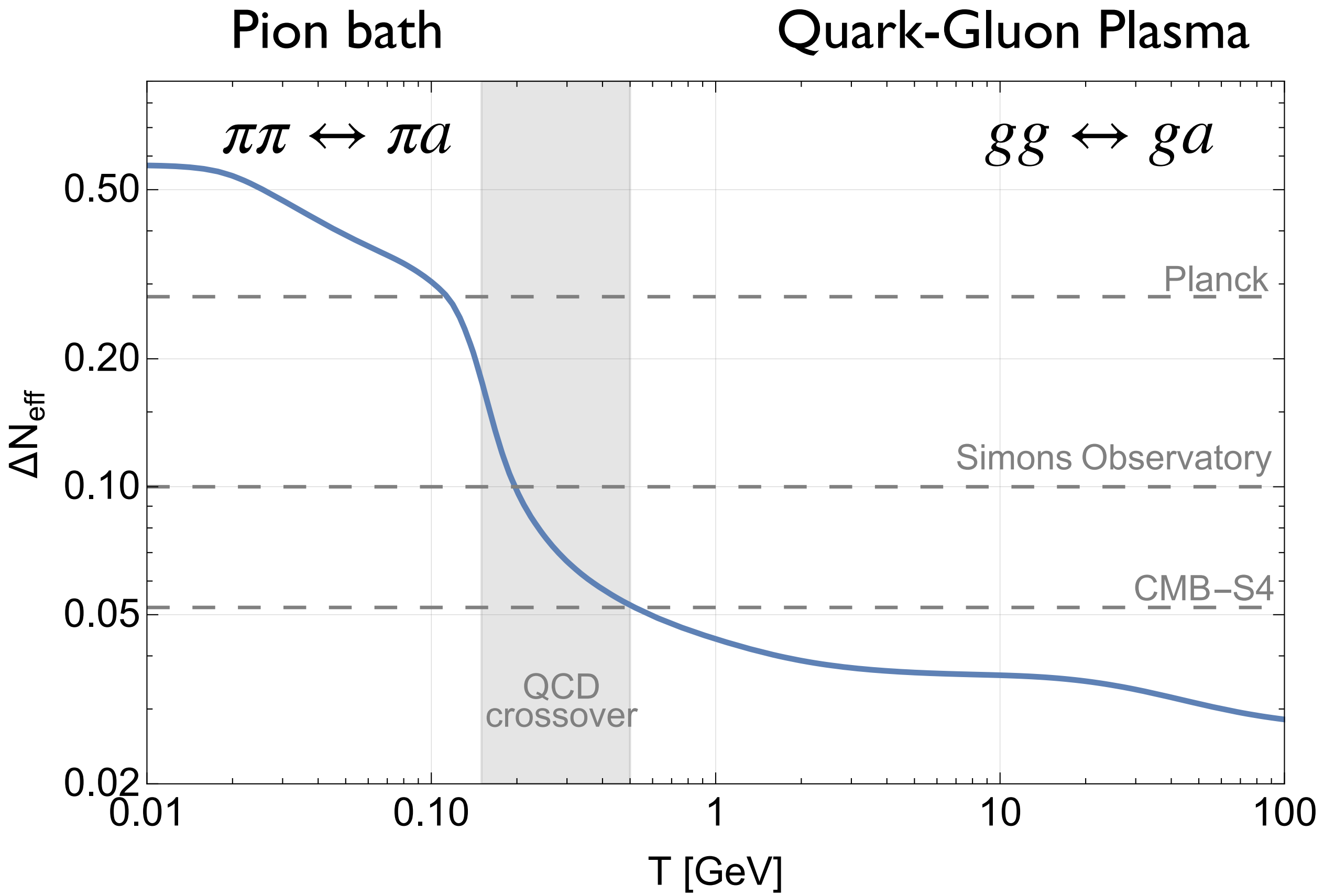
**Current cosmology:**  
 Complementary to astro bounds  
 +current CMB small-scale:  
 ~6x stronger bounds  
 in the low-mass regime  
 +future CMB:  
 >10x stronger bounds  
 in low-mass regime

**KSVZ QCD axion:  $f_a > 2 \cdot 10^7$  GeV  
 ->  $m_a < 0.3$  eV**

**QCD axion thermal  
production**



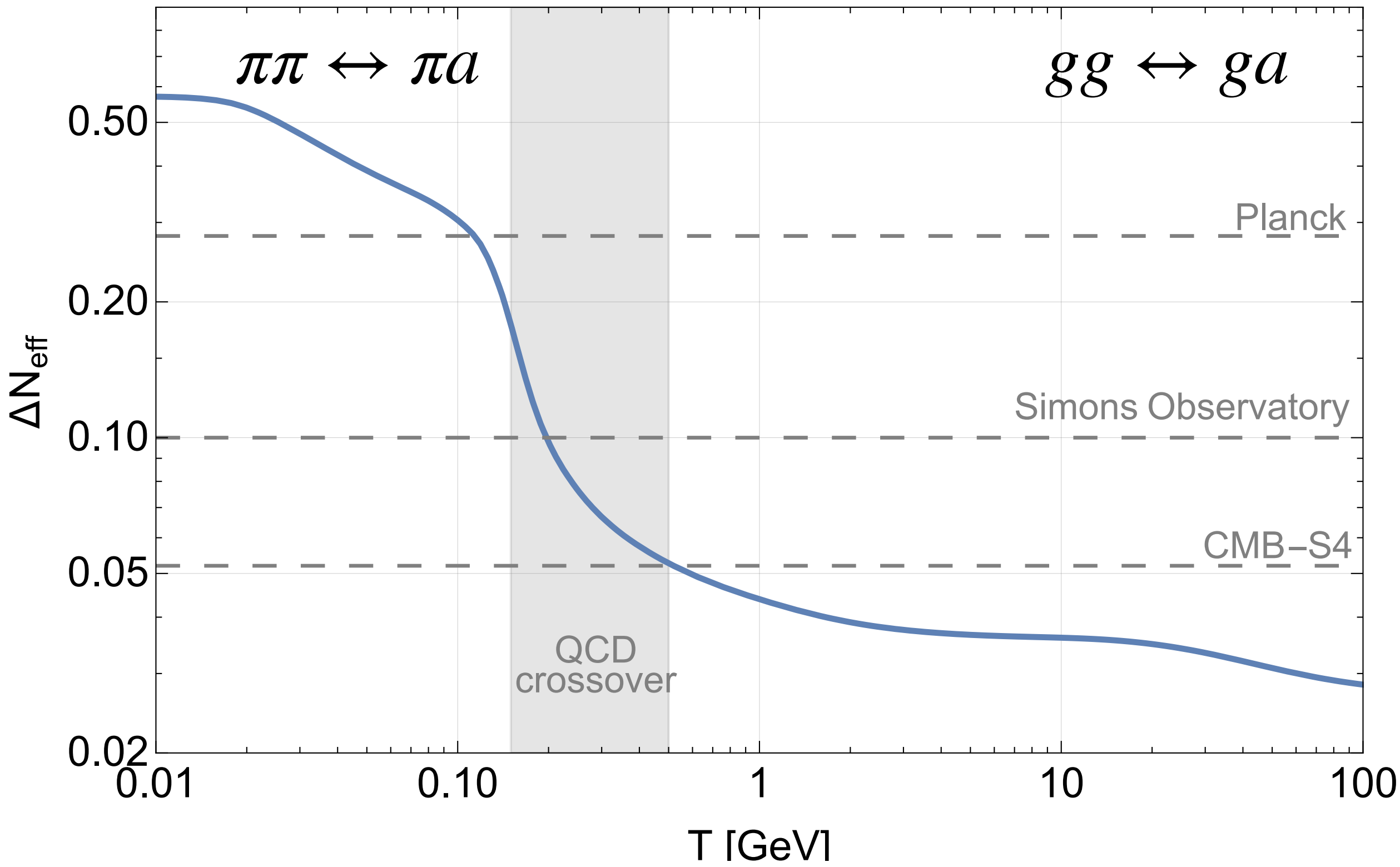
$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu a) (\partial^\mu a) + \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G^{a,\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$$



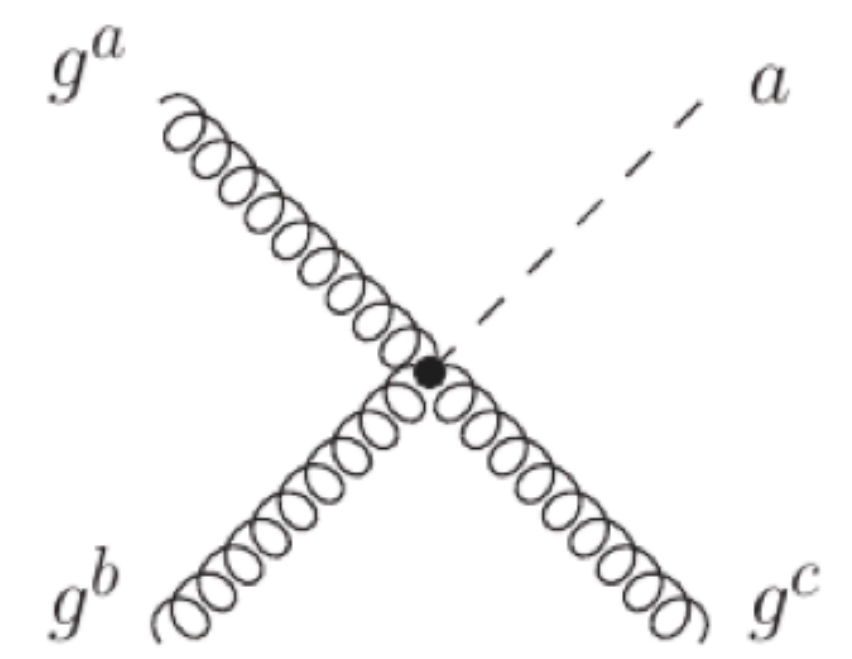
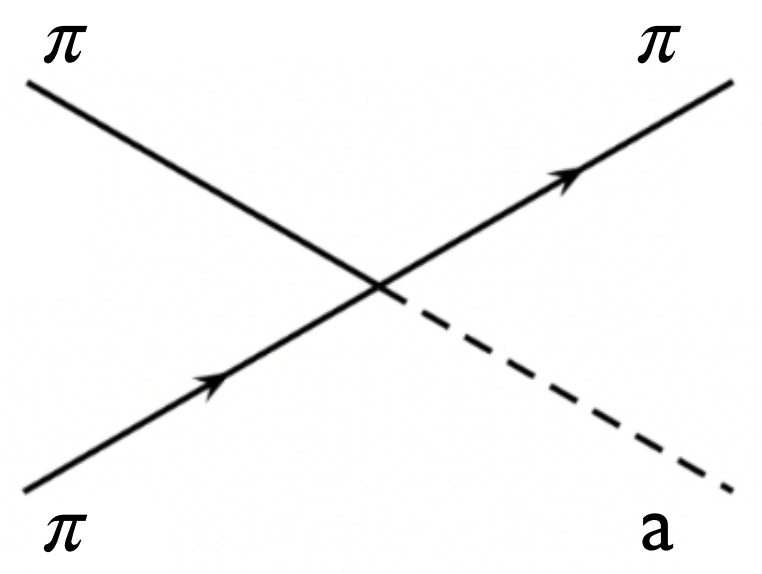
$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{8}{7} \left( \frac{11}{4} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \left( \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_\gamma} \right)_{\text{CMB}} \simeq 0.027 \left( \frac{106.75}{g_{*,s}(T_d)} \right)^{4/3}$$

Pion bath

Quark-Gluon Plasma



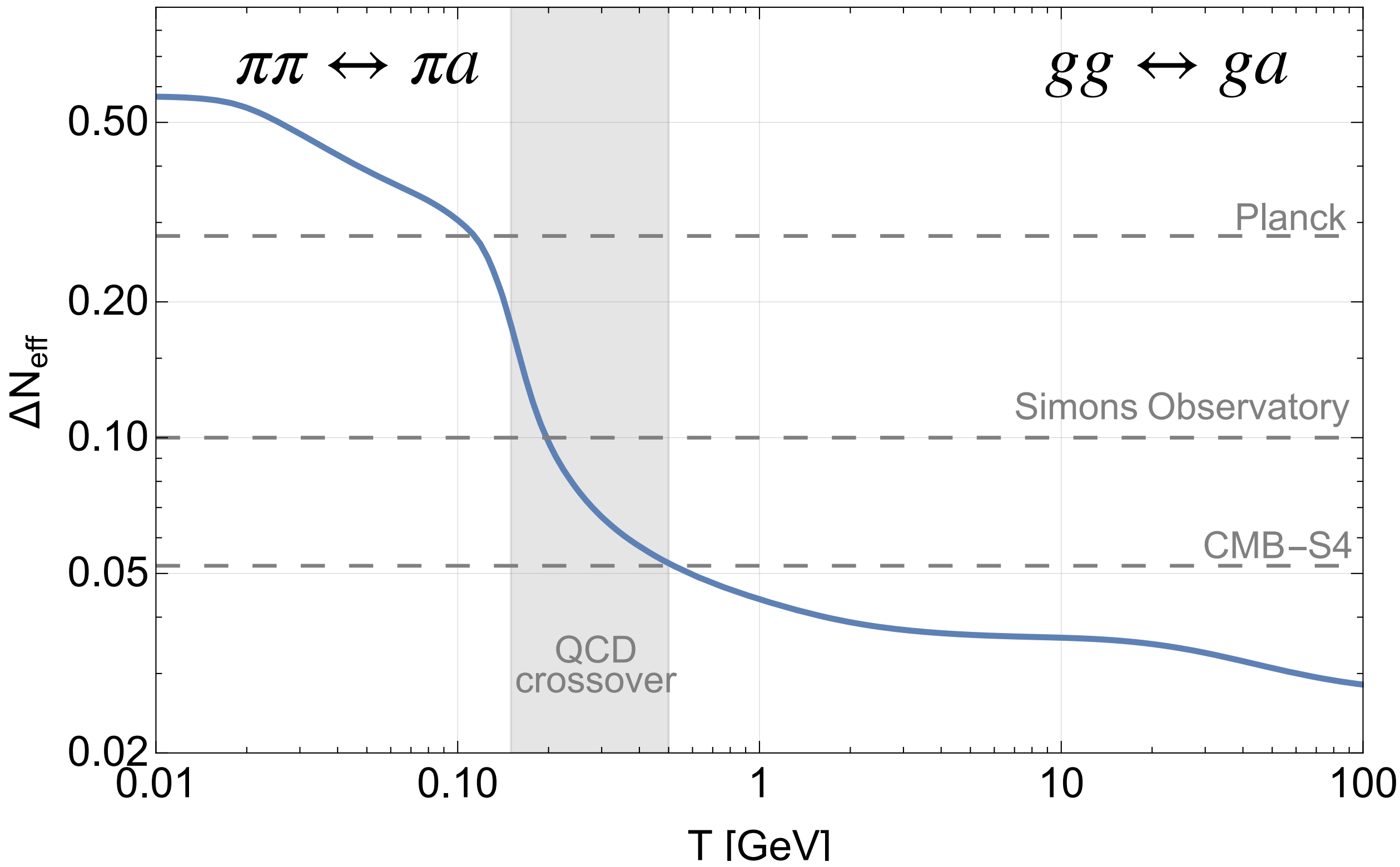
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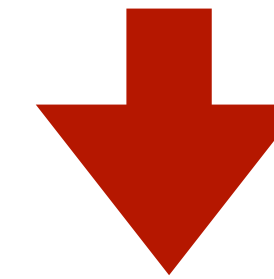


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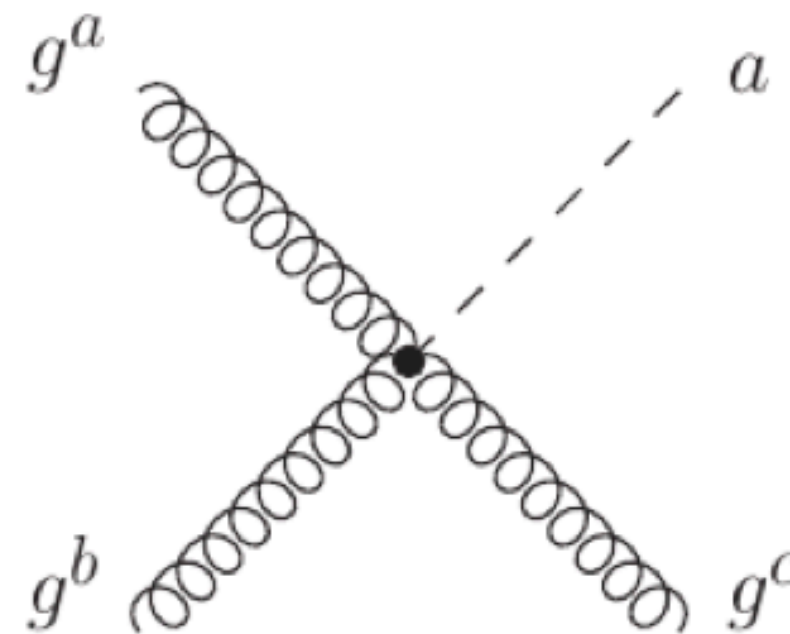
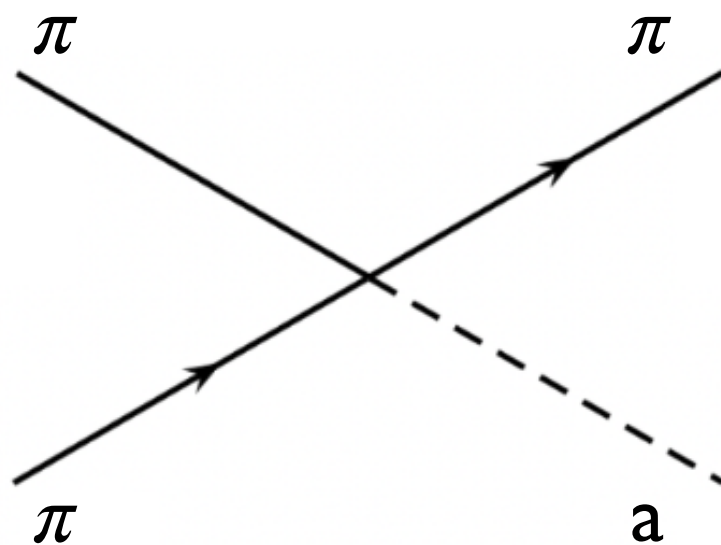


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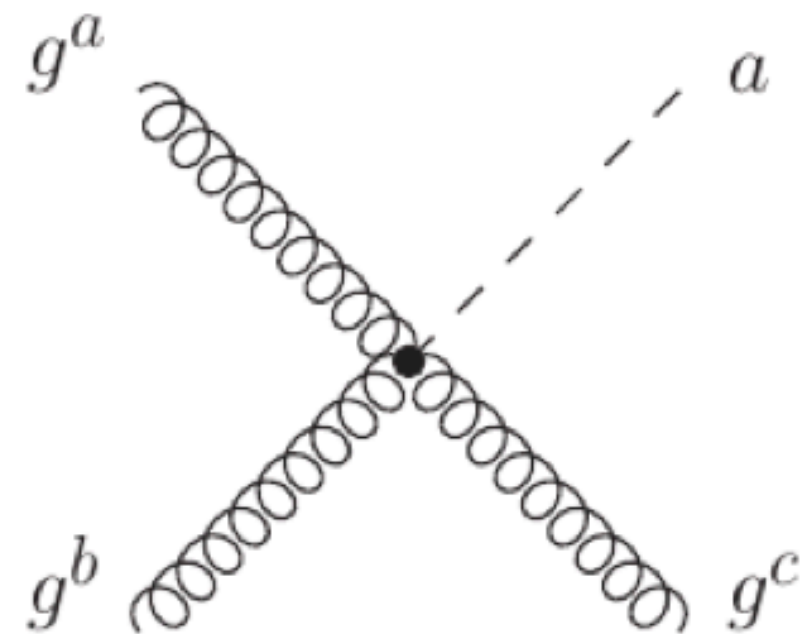
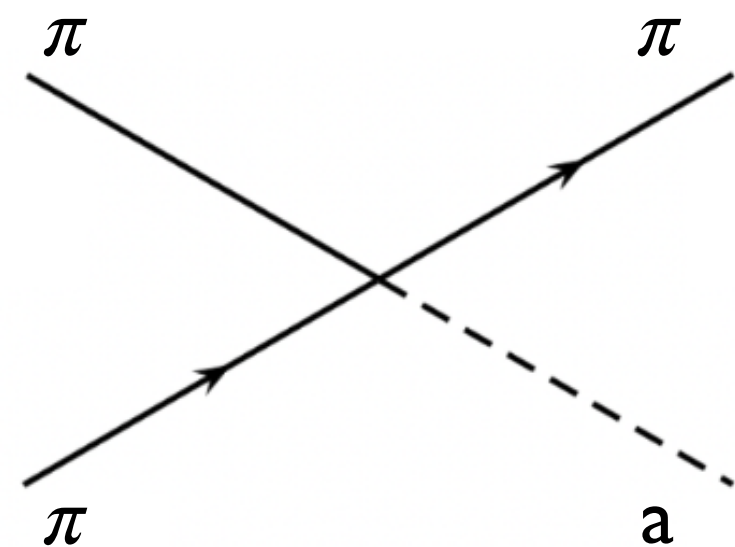
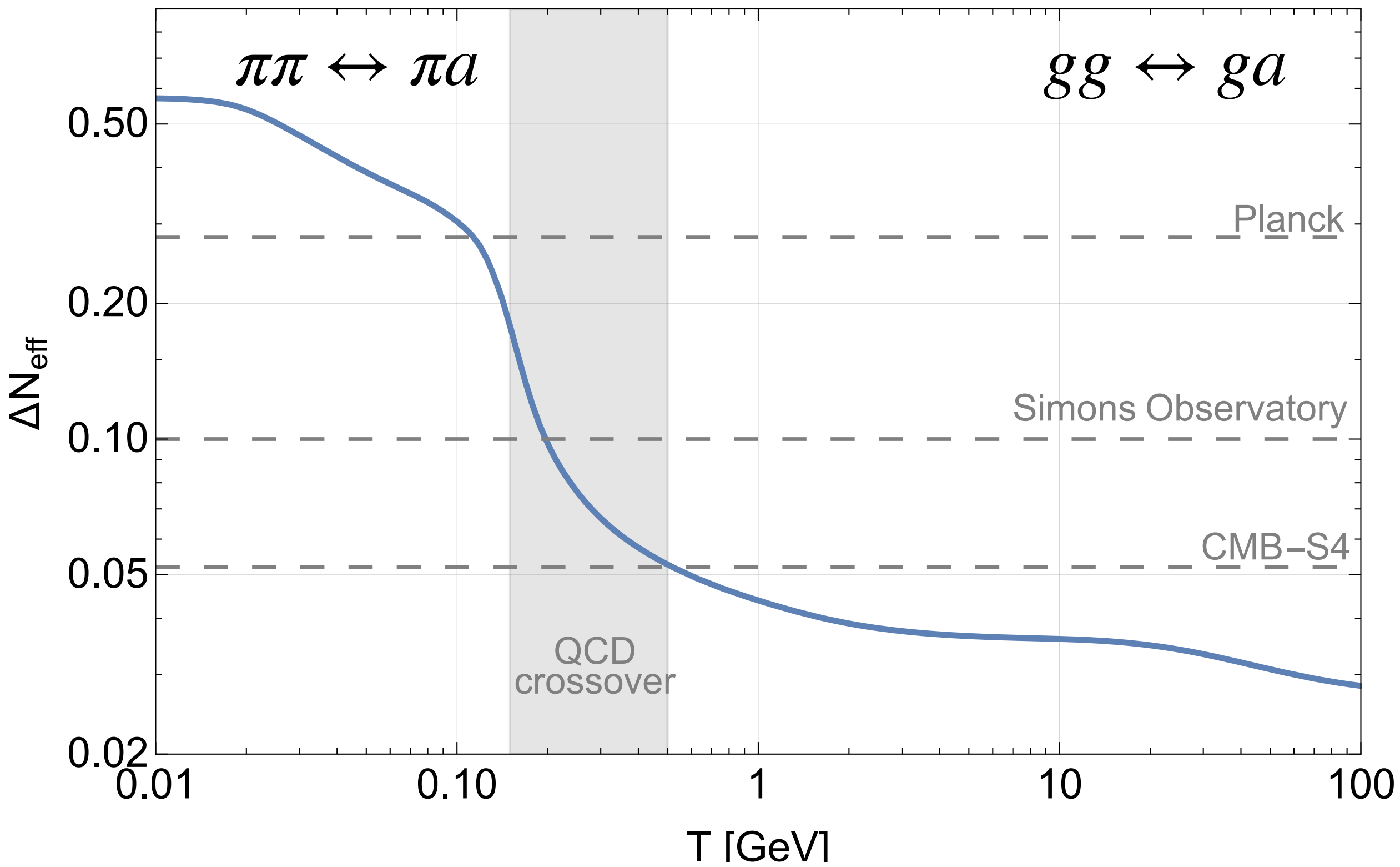
Solve Boltzmann equations

$$\frac{dY}{d \log x} = (Y^{\text{eq}} - Y) \frac{\Gamma}{H} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \frac{d \log g_{*s}}{d \log x} \right)$$

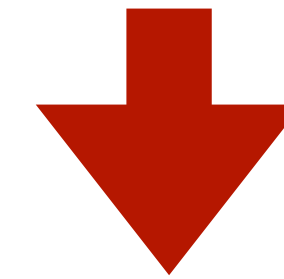


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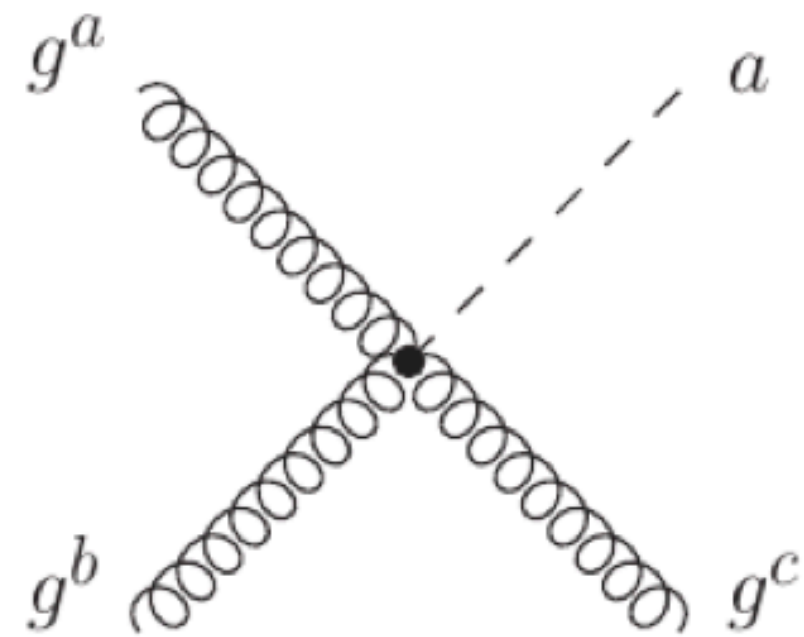
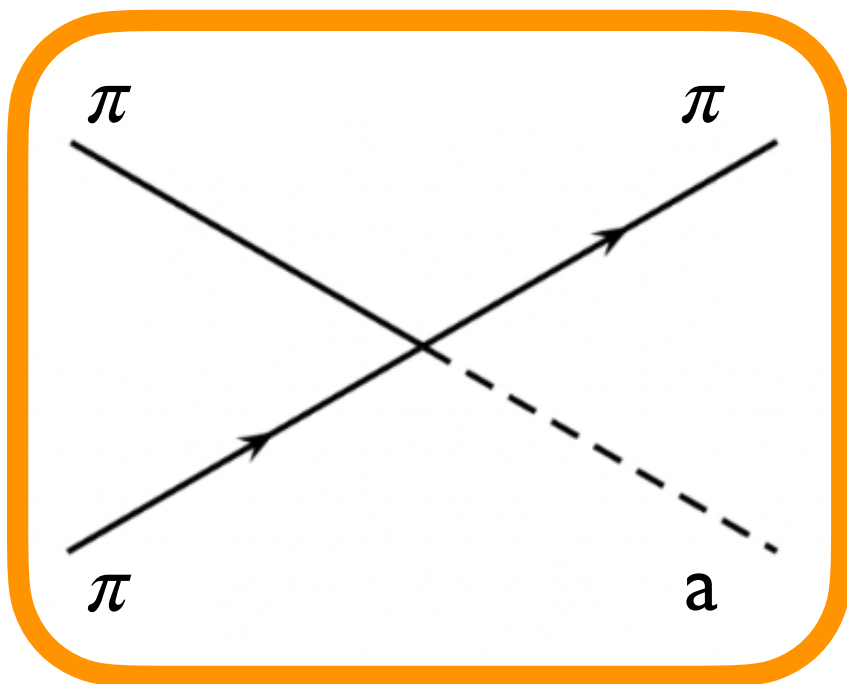
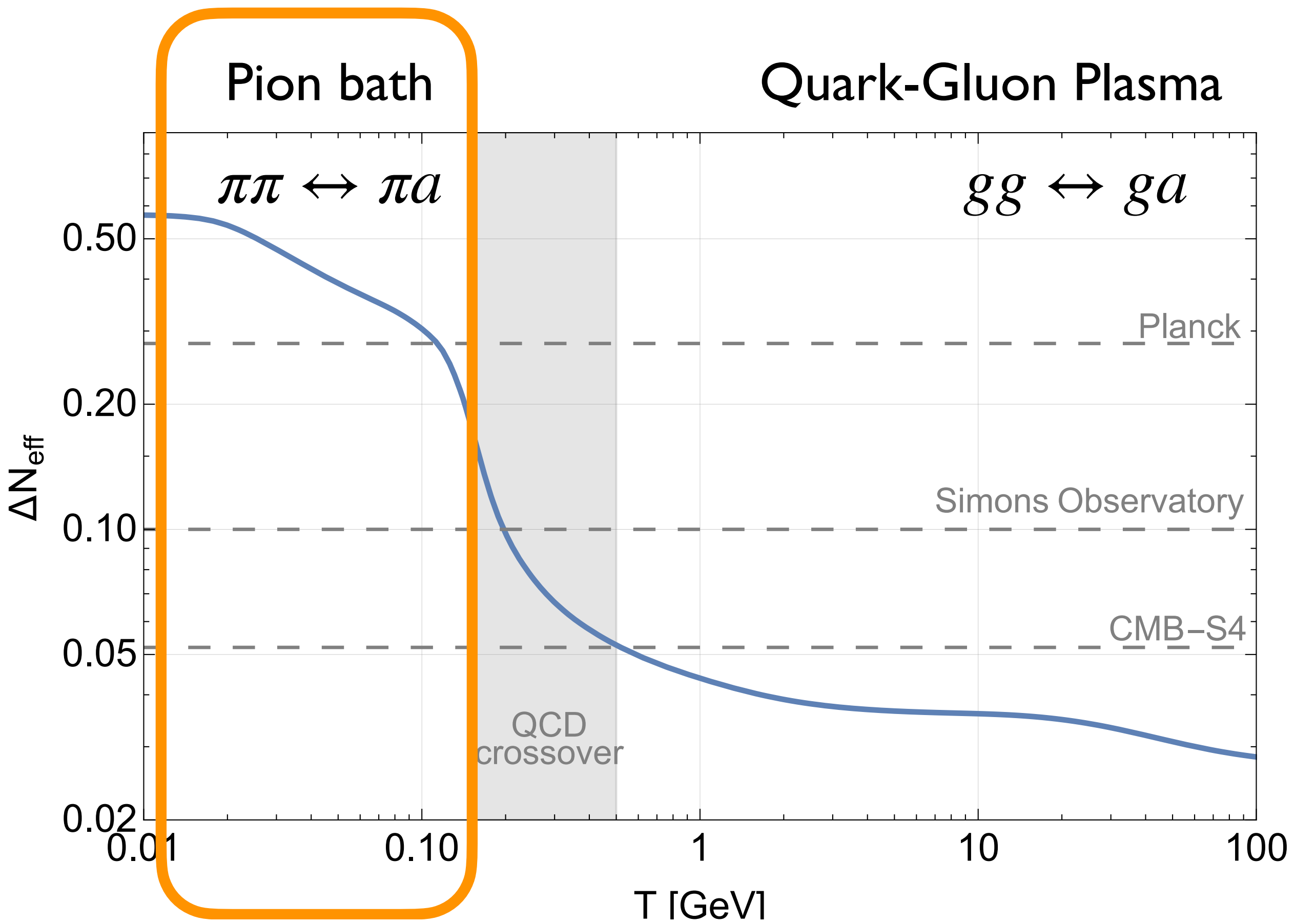
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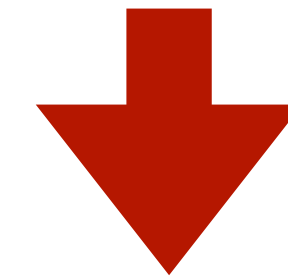
This formula may not be precise enough:

1. if the cross section depends on momentum, since different momenta will decouple at different times;
2. if the number of degrees of freedom decrease rapidly, higher momenta will be less diluted, leading to spectral distortions;
3. because production may be never in thermal equilibrium.

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}_a}{\partial t} - H |\mathbf{k}| \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}_a}{\partial |\mathbf{k}|} = \Gamma_a (\mathcal{F}_a^{\text{eq}} - \mathcal{F}_a)$$



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$$C_{a\pi} = \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{m_d - m_u}{m_d + m_u} + c_d^0 - c_u^0 \right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{a\pi} \supset \frac{C_{a\pi}}{f_a f_\pi} \partial^\mu a \left( 2\partial_\mu \pi^0 \pi^+ \pi^- - \pi^0 \partial_\mu \pi^+ \pi^- - \pi^0 \pi^+ \partial_\mu \pi^- \right)$$

[Chang and Choi, hep-ph/9306216]

$$\text{LO: } \sum |\mathcal{M}_{LO}|^2 = \left( \frac{C_{a\pi}}{f_a f_\pi} \right)^2 \frac{9}{4} (s^2 + t^2 + u^2 - 3m_\pi^4)$$

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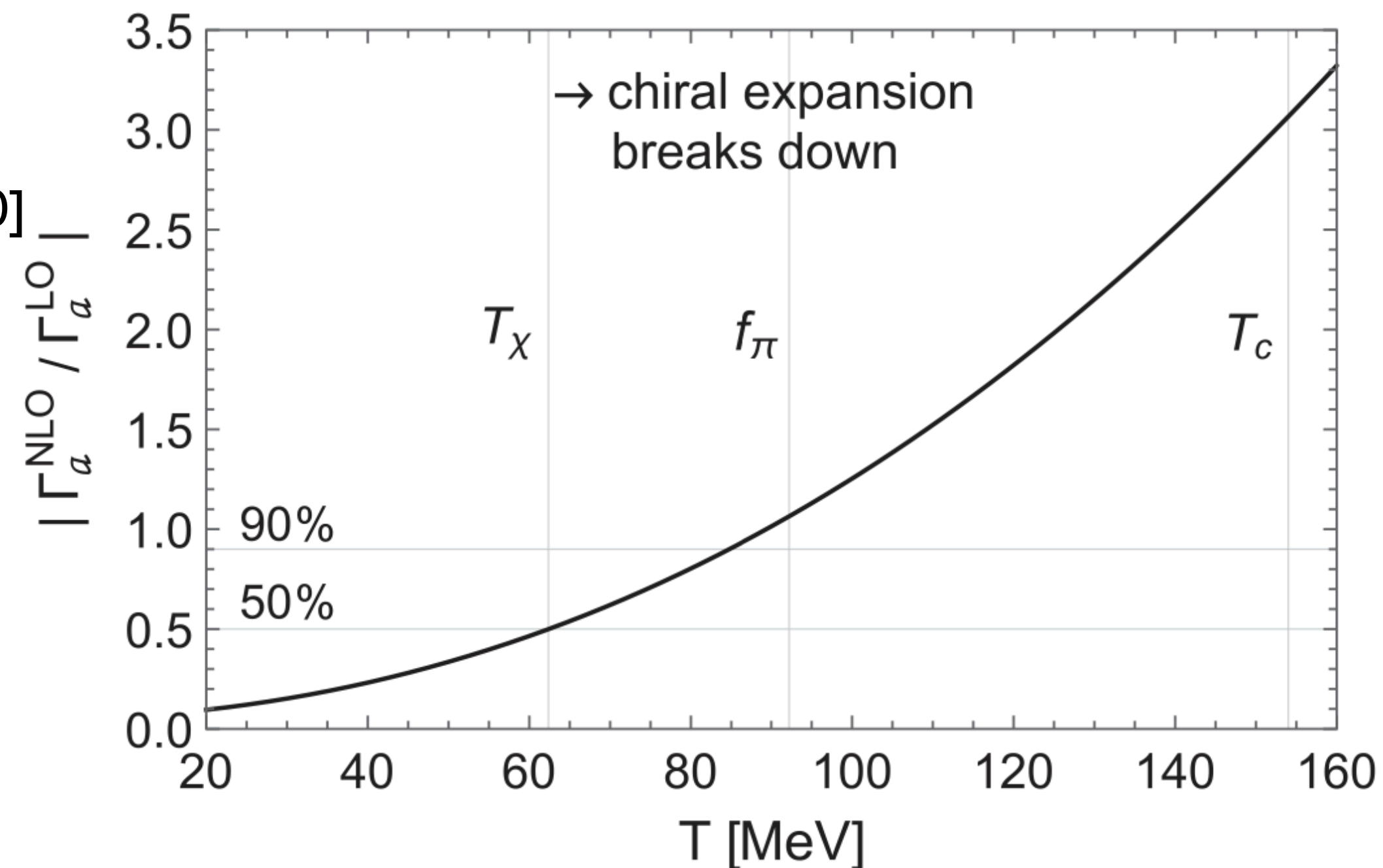
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[Di Luzio, Martinelli and Piazza, 2101.10330]

**NLO:**



Decompose amplitude into isospin channels:

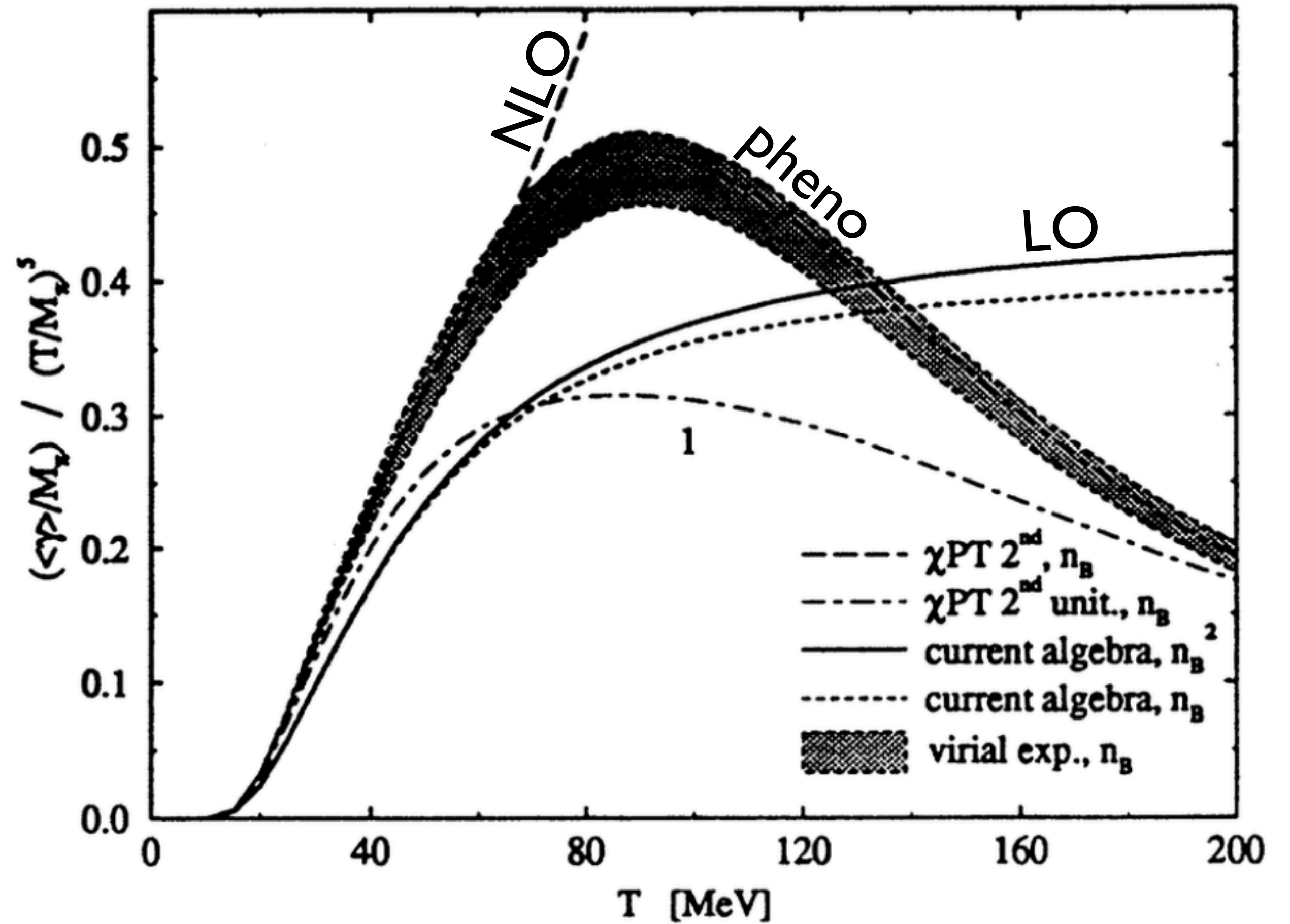
$$T_{\pi\pi} = \frac{1}{3} (T^0(s) + 3 T^1(s) + 5 T^2(s))$$

expand into partial waves

$$T^I = 32\pi \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell + 1) P_{\ell}(\cos \theta) t_{\ell}^I(s)$$

unitarity implies (in the elastic region)

$$t_{\ell}^I = \sqrt{\frac{s}{s - 4m_{\pi}^2}} \frac{e^{2i\delta_{\ell}^I(s)} - 1}{2i}$$





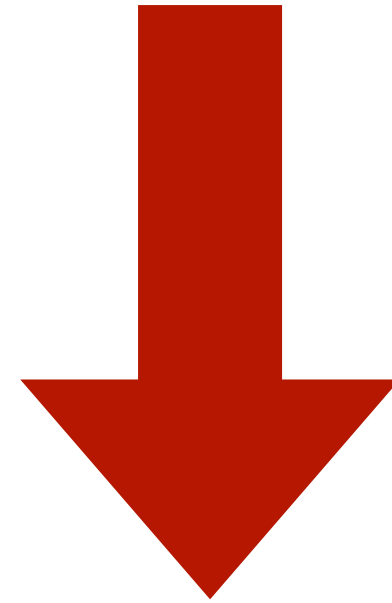
$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} c_0 \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q - \bar{q}_L M_a q_R + \text{h.c.}$$

$$M_a \equiv \begin{pmatrix} m_u & 0 \\ 0 & m_d \end{pmatrix} e^{i\frac{a}{2f_a}(1+c_3\sigma^3)}$$

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at low energies



$$\mathcal{L}_{\chi PT} \supset \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr}[\partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U^\dagger + 2B_0(M_a U^\dagger + U M_a^\dagger)] + \dots$$

$$U \equiv e^{i\vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\sigma} / f_\pi}$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} c_0 \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q - \bar{q}_L M_a q_R + \text{h.c.}$$

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$$U \equiv e^{i\vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\sigma} / f_\pi}$$

$a - \pi^0$  mixing rotated away by orthogonal

rotation with angle

$$\theta_{a\pi} \simeq \frac{f_\pi}{2f_a} \left( \frac{m_d - m_u}{m_d + m_u} - c_3 \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^0 &= \cos(\theta_{a\pi}) \pi_{\text{phys}}^0 + \sin(\theta_{a\pi}) a_{\text{phys}} \\ &\simeq \pi_{\text{phys}}^0 + \theta_{a\pi} a_{\text{phys}} \end{aligned}$$

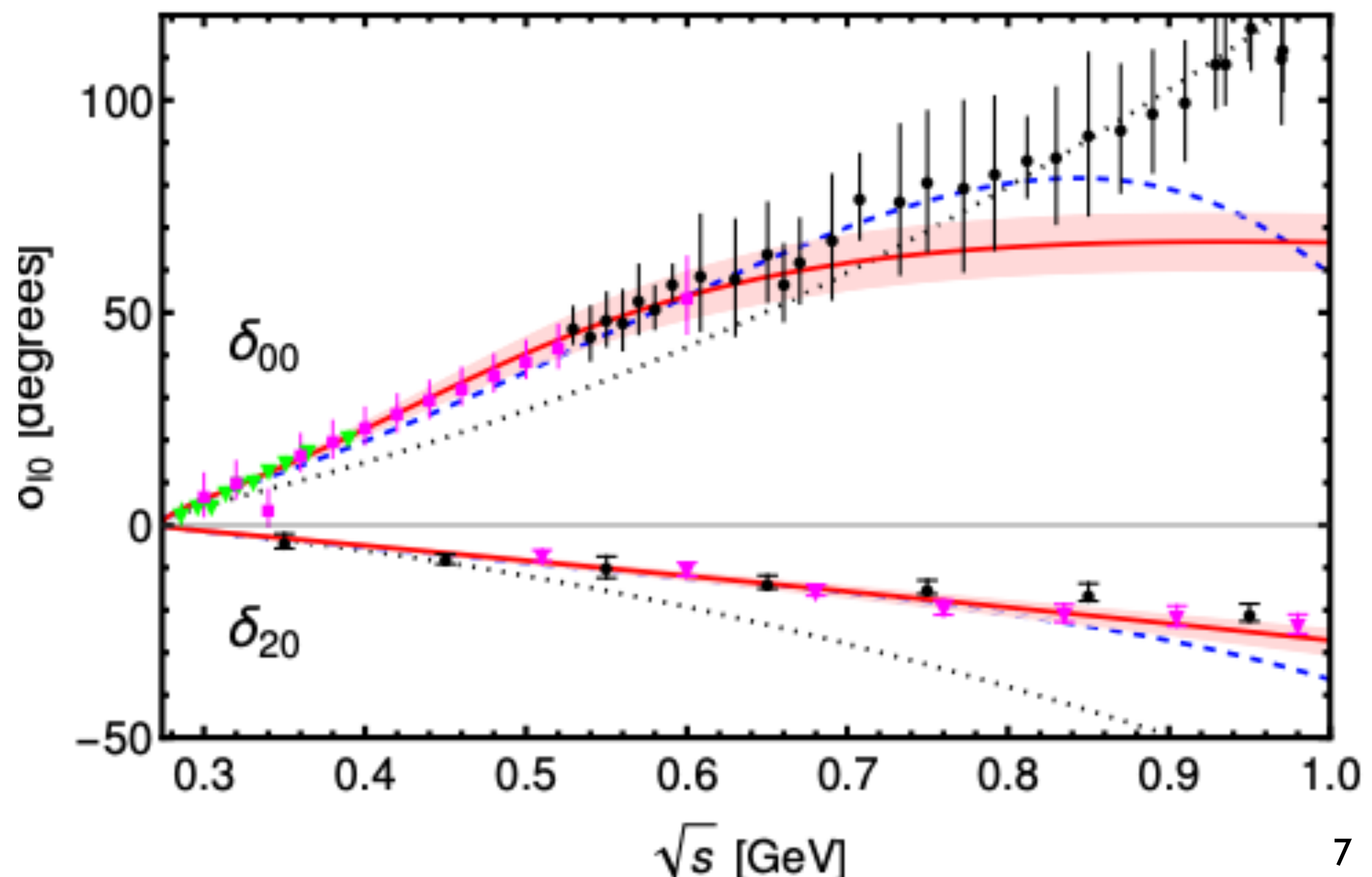
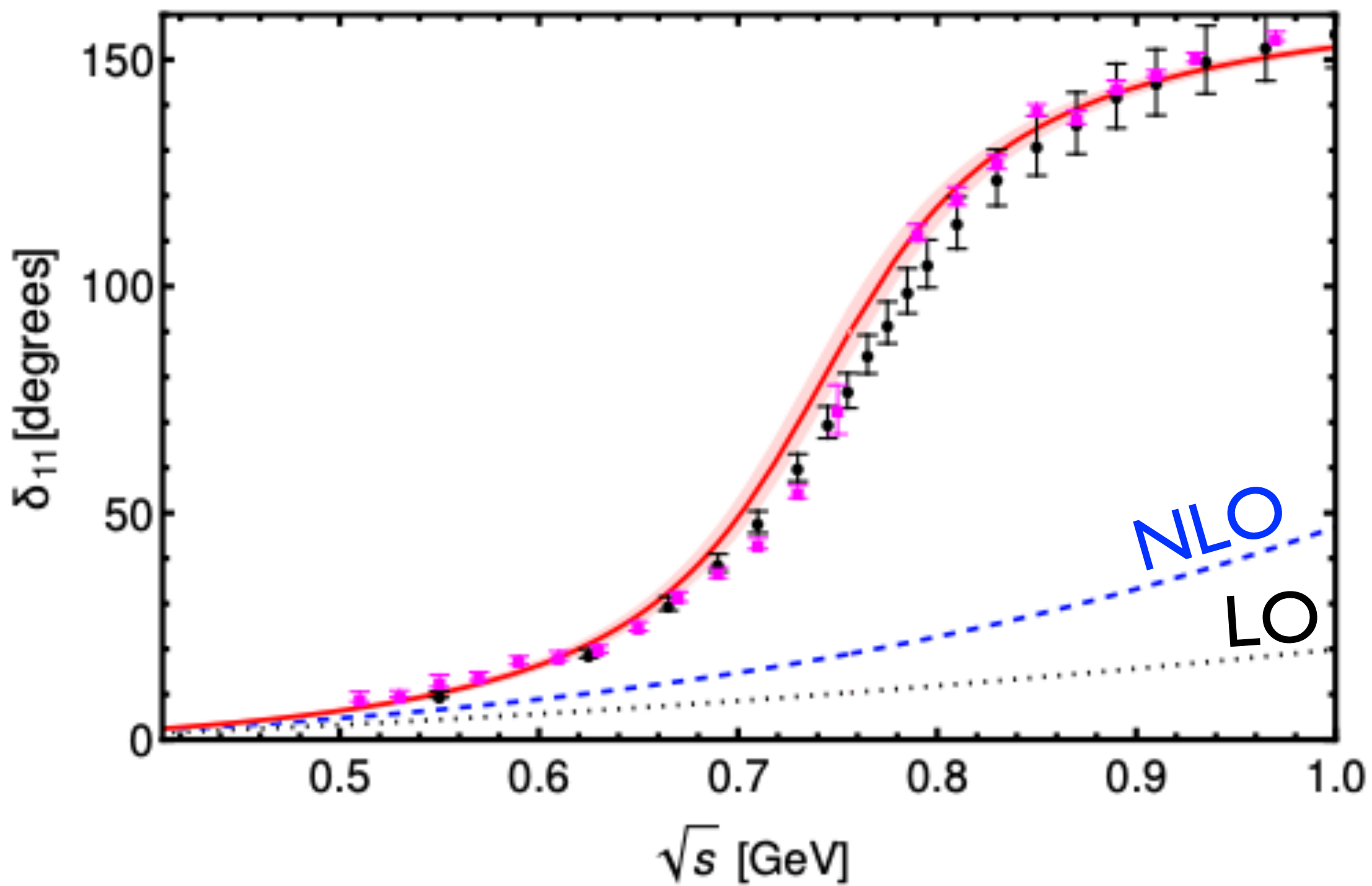
$$\mathcal{M}_{a\pi^i \rightarrow \pi^j \pi^k} = \theta_{a\pi} \mathcal{M}_{\pi^0 \pi^i \rightarrow \pi^j \pi^k} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_\pi^2}{s}\right)$$

1.  $\pi\pi$  final-state interactions are resonant:  $\sigma$  for  $I=L=0$ ,  $\rho$  for  $I=L=1$
2. Chiral Perturbation theory cannot produce these resonances
3. the unitarity relation implies that the phase shifts of the ChPT axion amplitude and  $\pi\pi$  amplitude are the same



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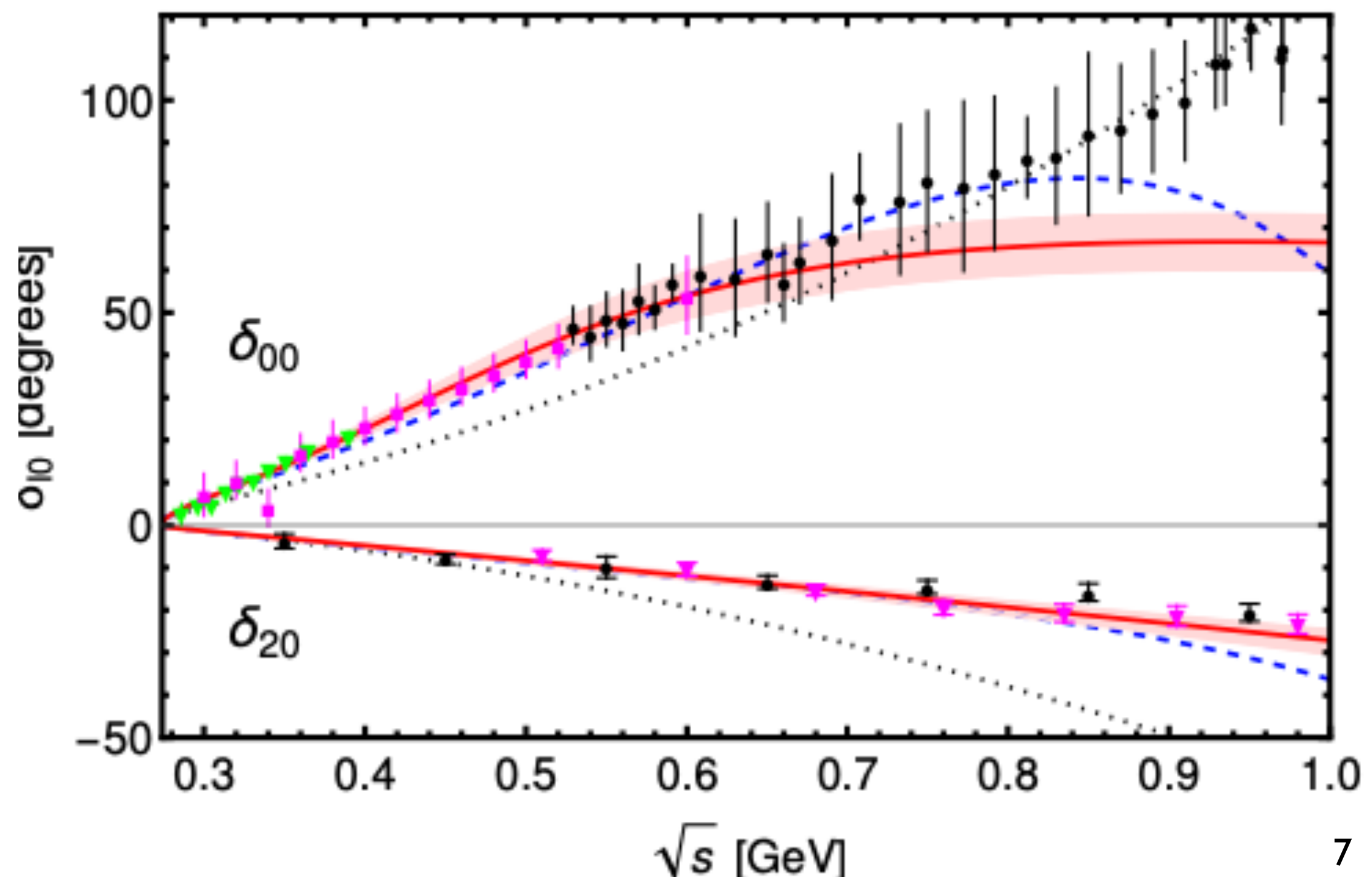
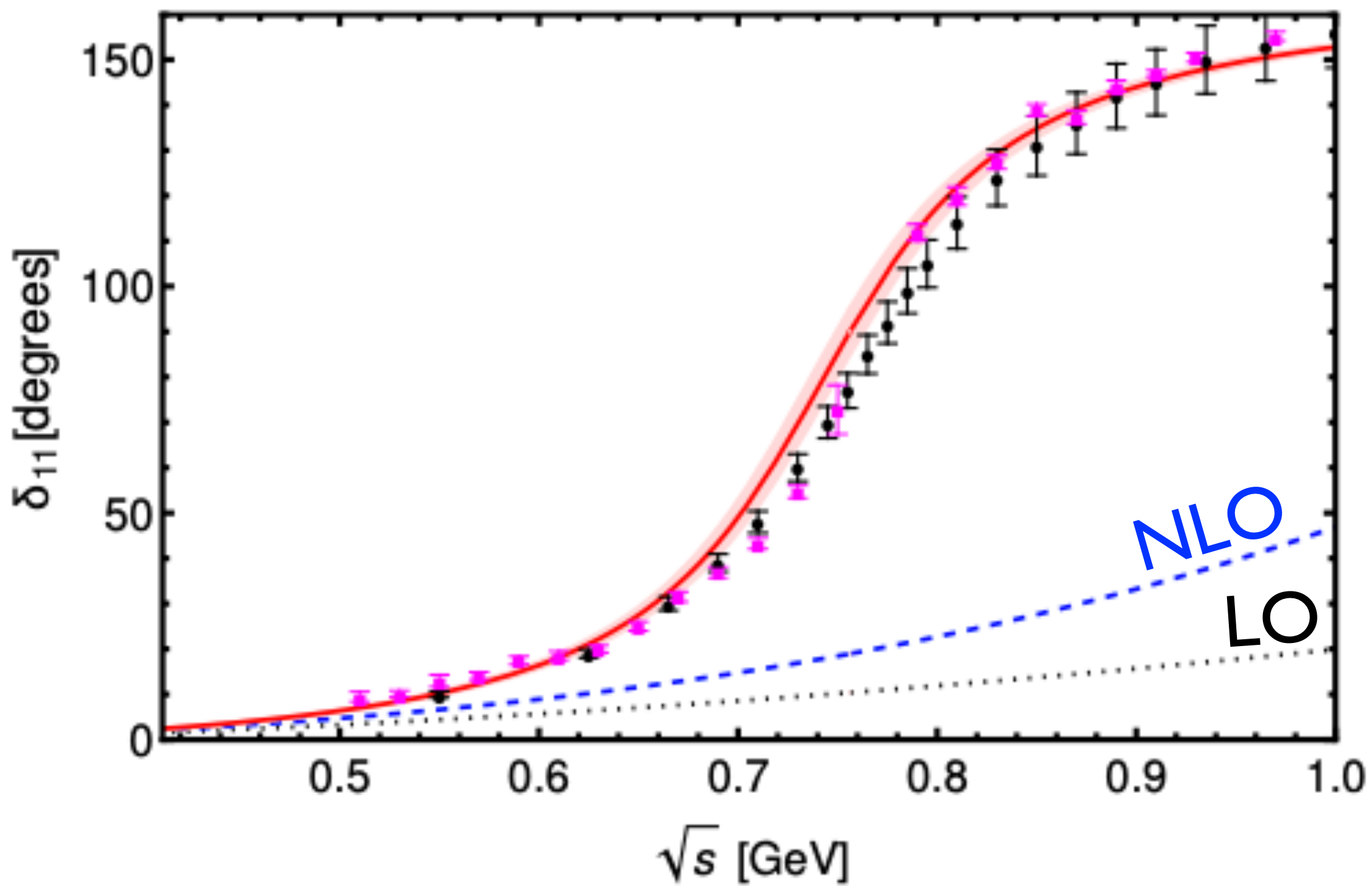
[Di Luzio, Camalich, Martinelli, Oller and Piazza, 2211.05073]



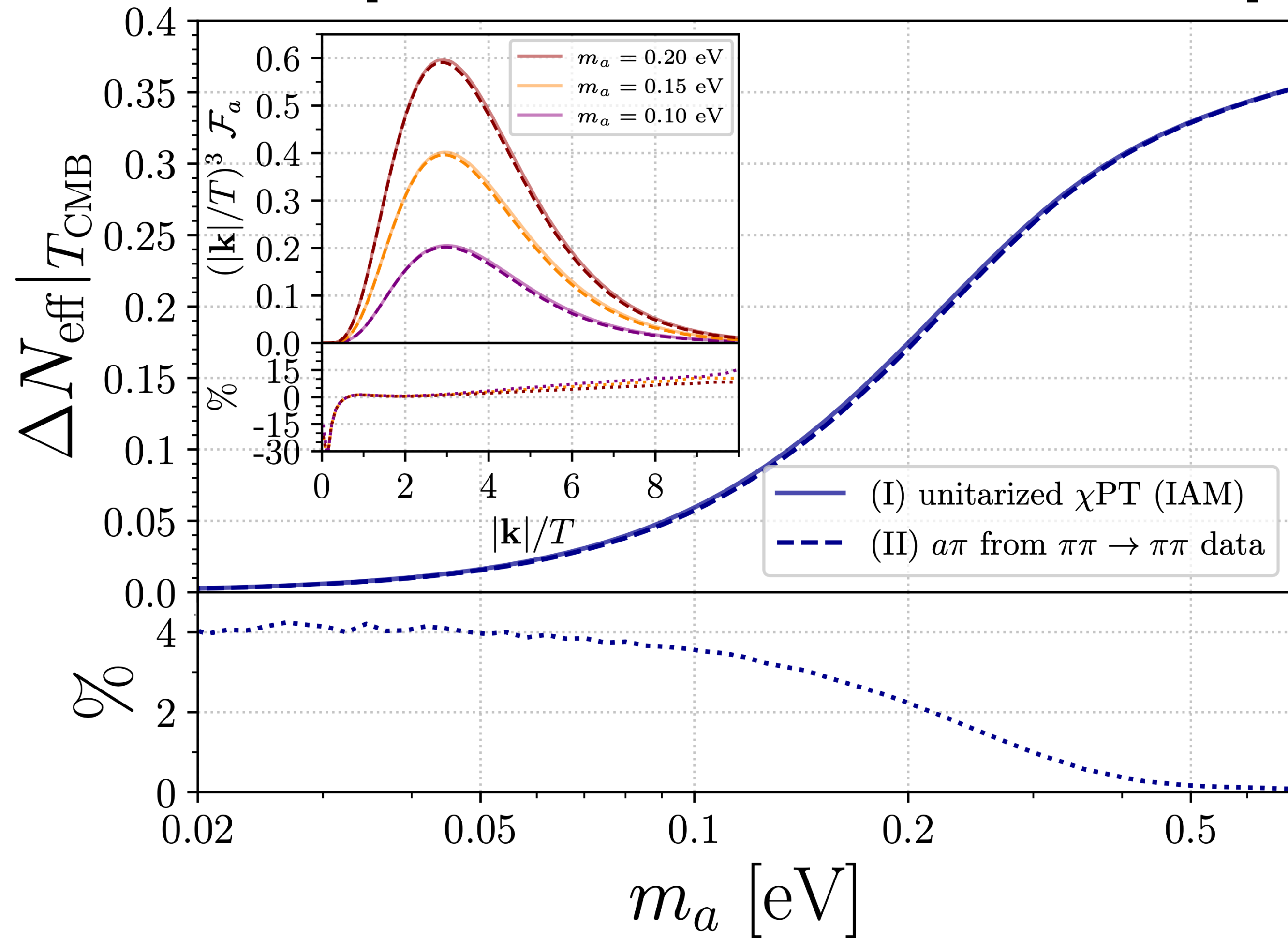
$$A_{IJ}(s) = \frac{A_{IJ}^{(2)}(s)}{1 - A_{IJ}^{(4)}(s)/A_{IJ}^{(2)}(s)}$$

Inverse  
Amplitude  
Method

[Di Luzio, Camalich, Martinelli, Oller and Piazza, 2211.05073]



[Bianchini, Grilli di Cortona and Valli 2310.08169]

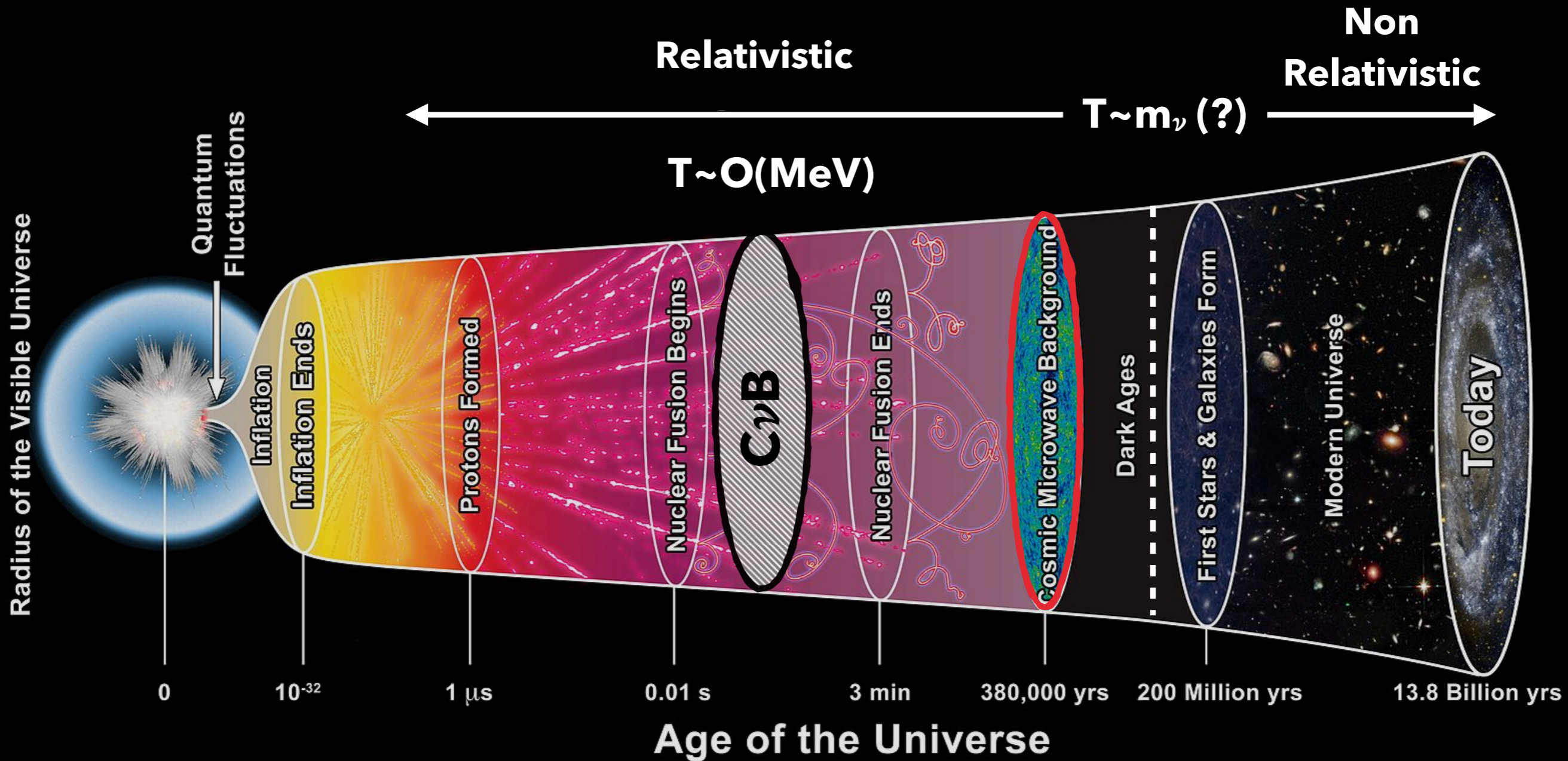






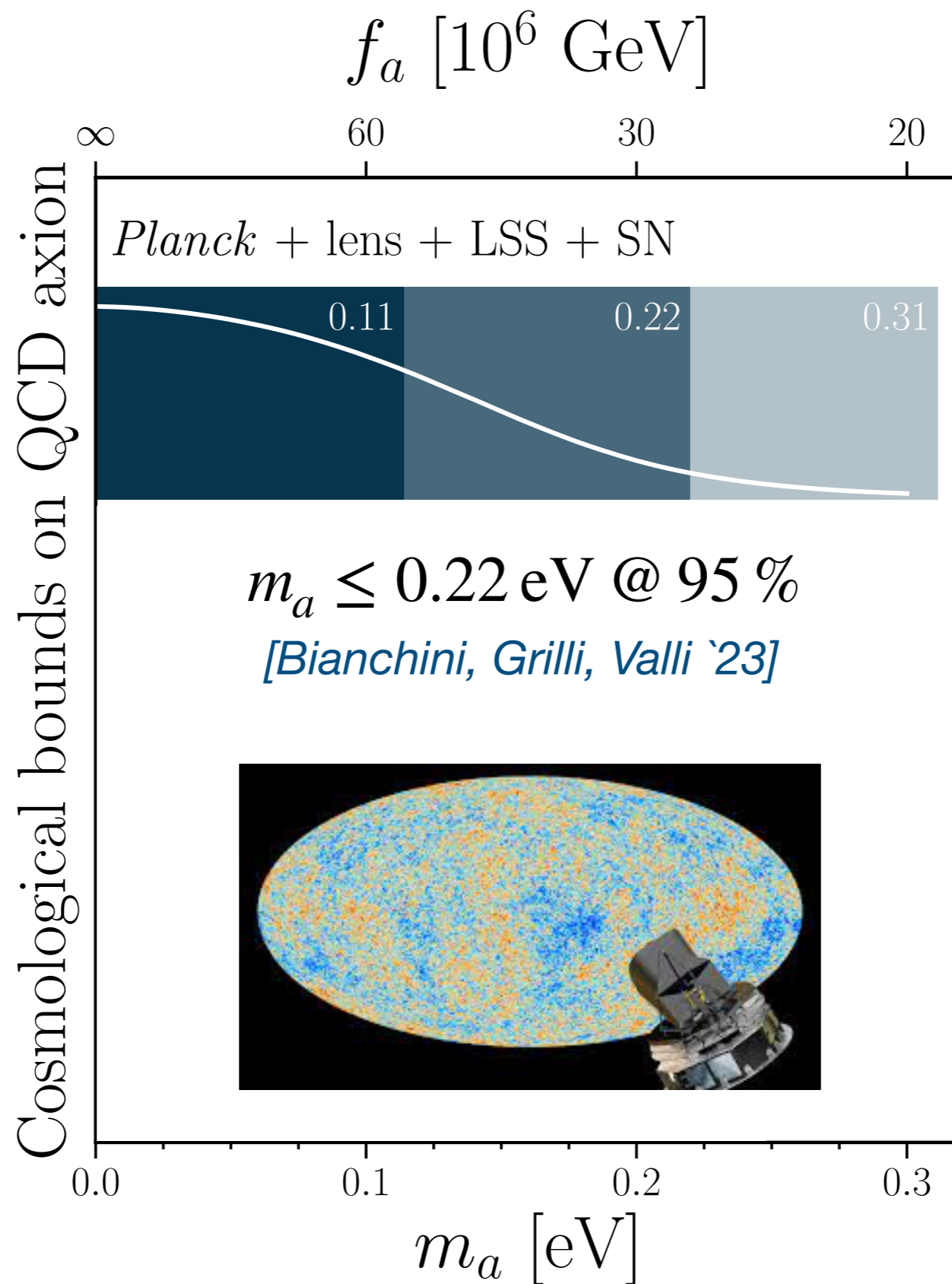
# (Hot) Axions ~ Neutrinos

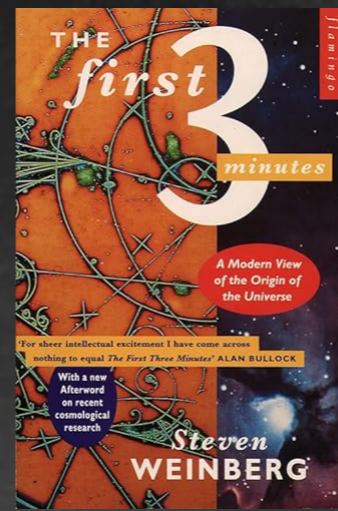
## Neutrino cosmology 101





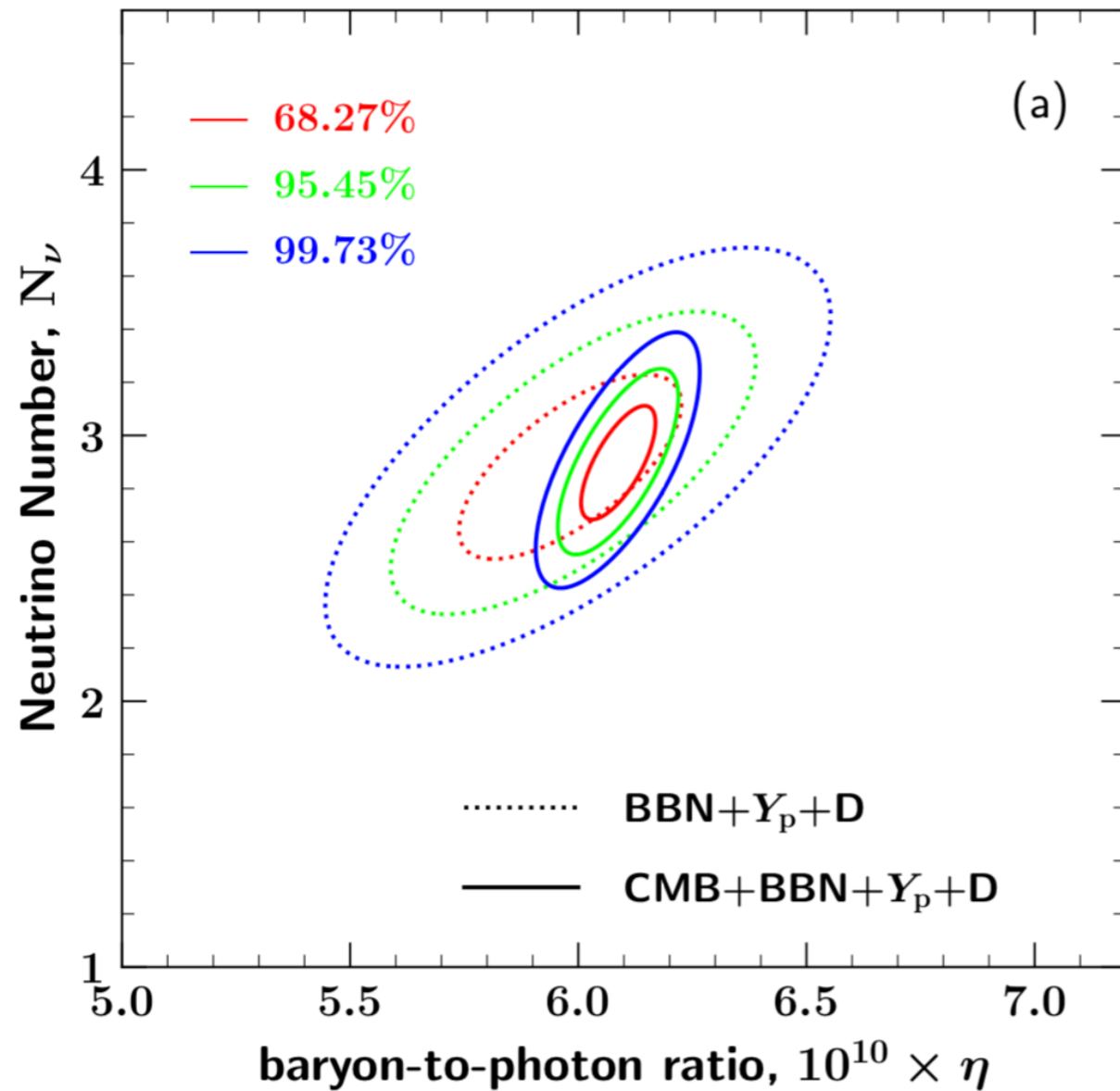
# Minimal QCD Axion ( $T_{\text{dec}} < T_c$ )



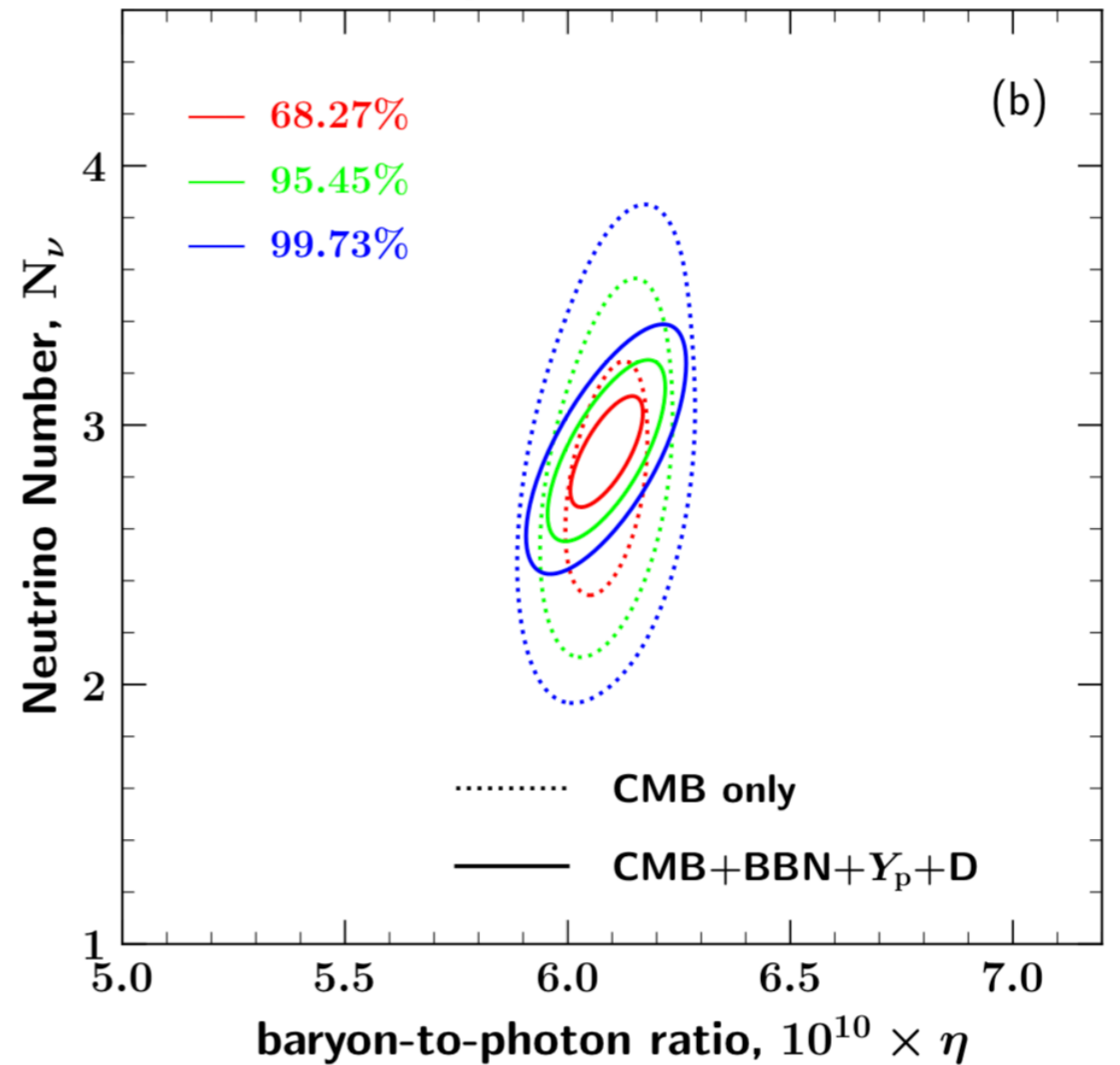


arXiv: 2207.13133

Comparison with BBN



Comparison with CMB

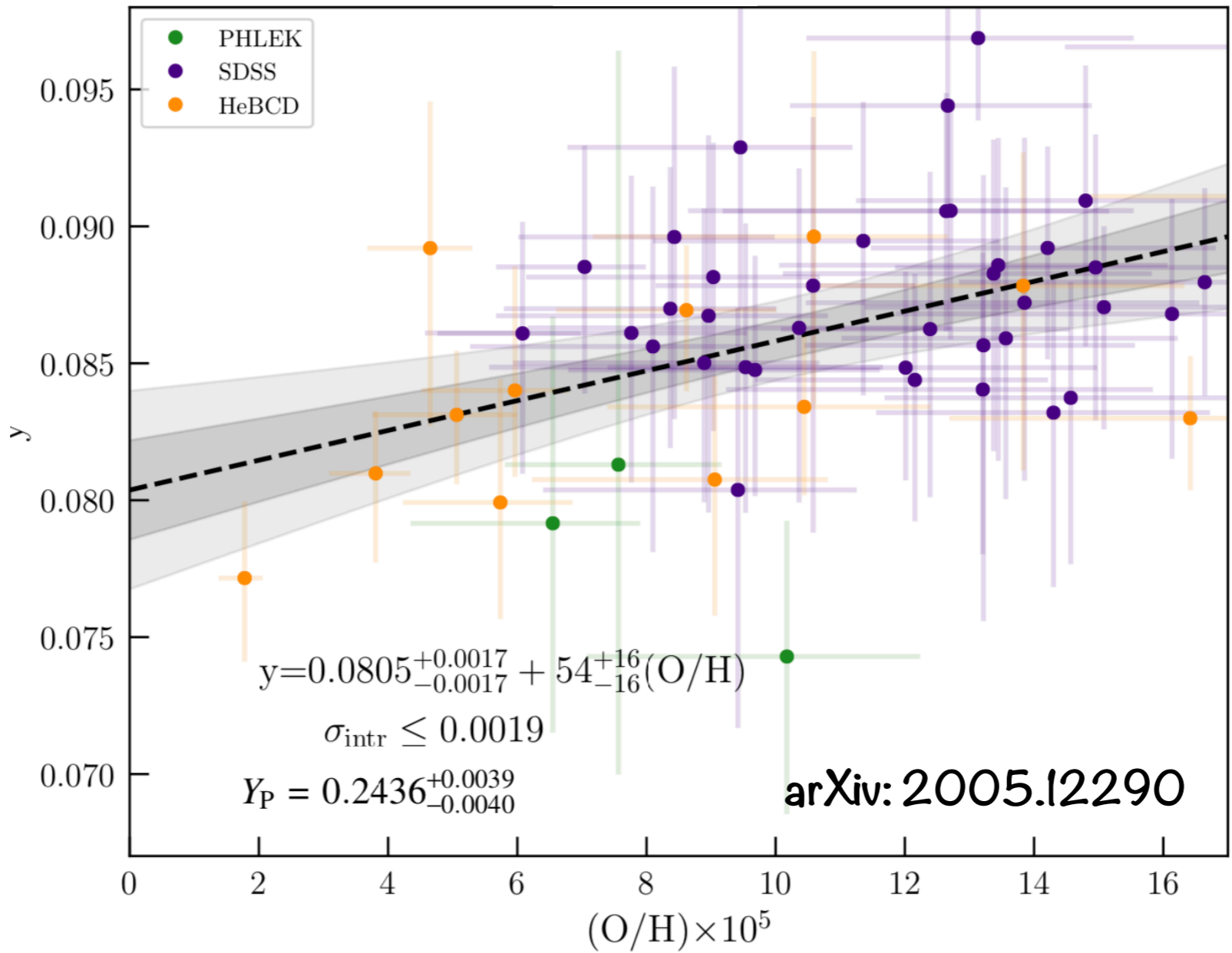
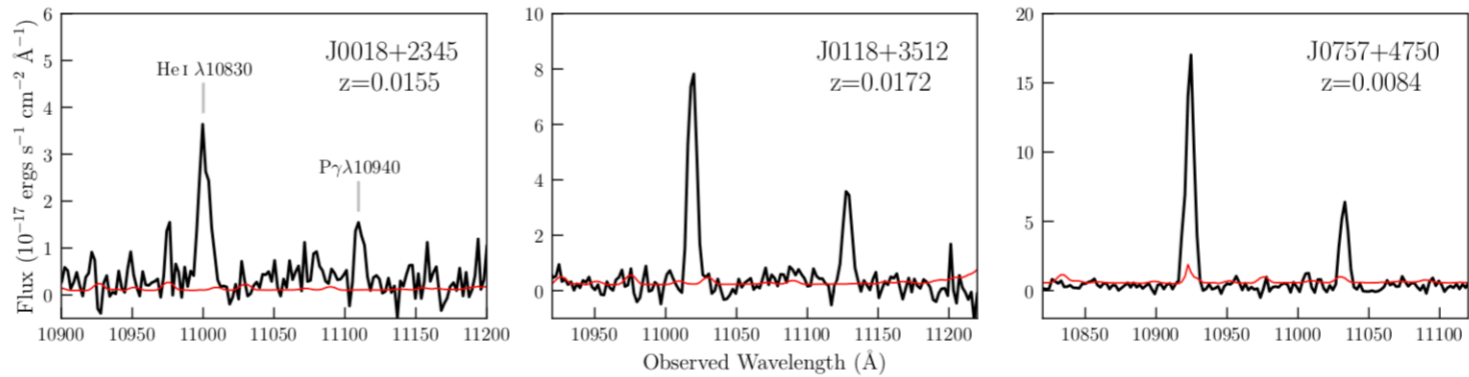


BBN IS COMPETITIVE WITH CMB TO CONSTRAIN  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$

# ${}^4\text{He}$

PDG 2021:  $Y_P = 0.245 \pm 0.003$

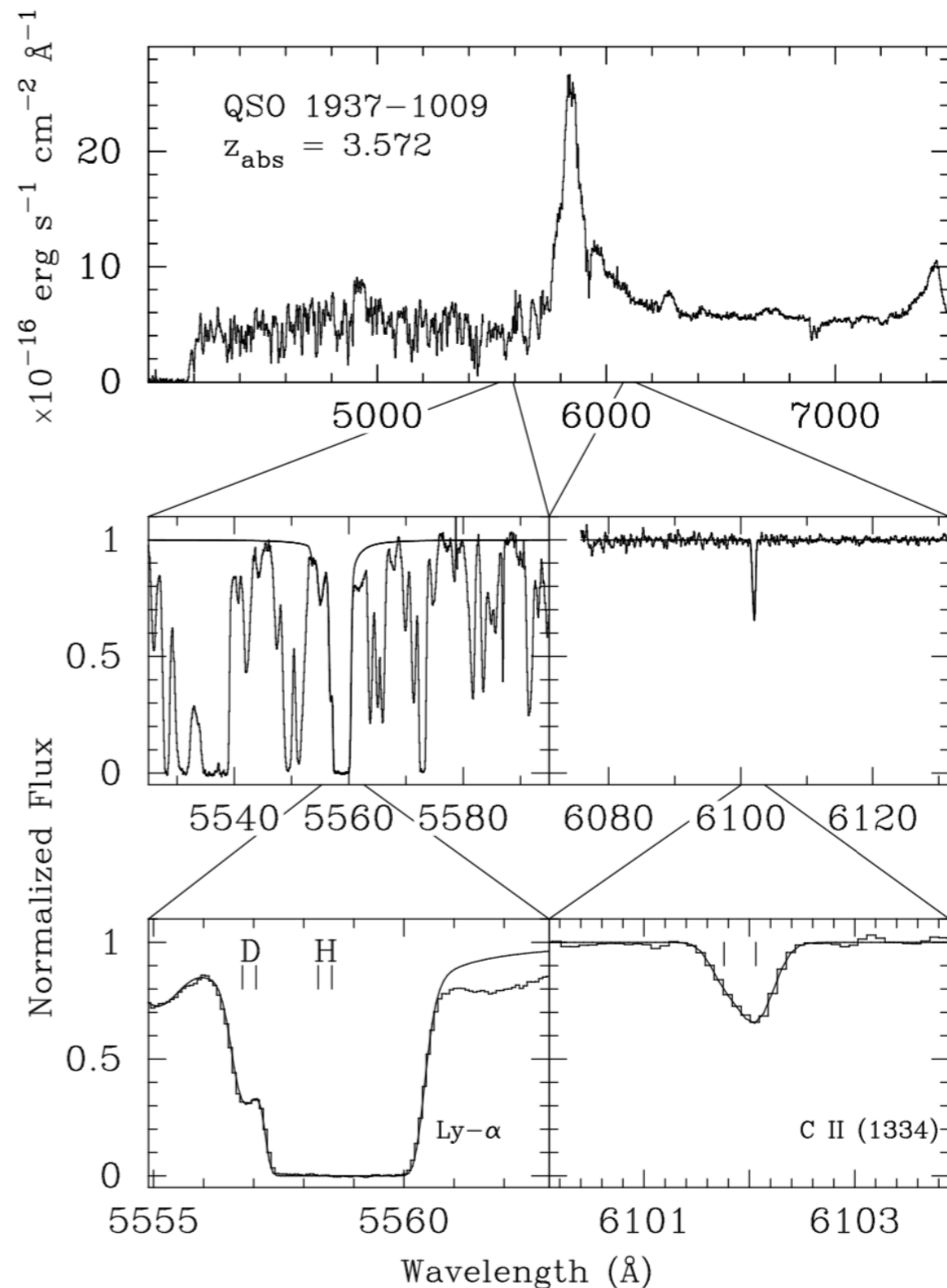
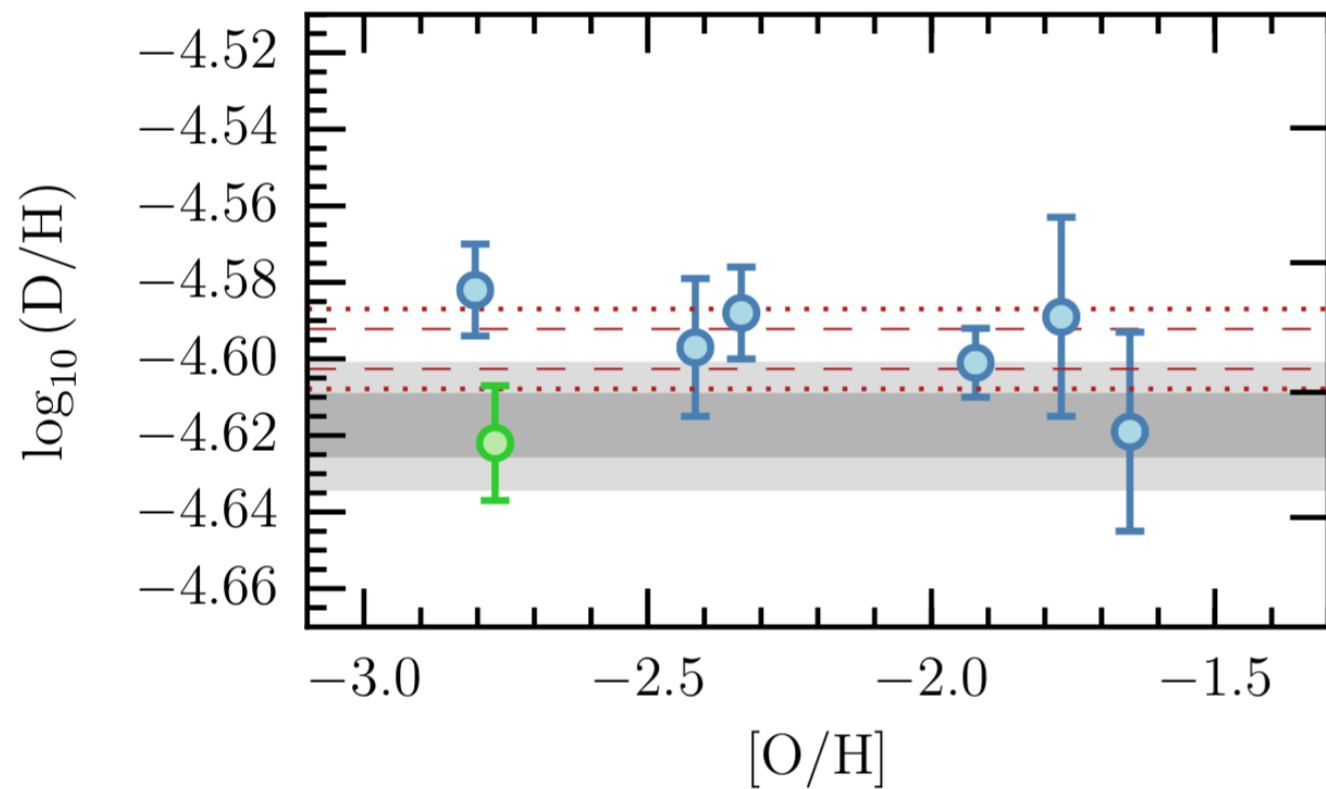
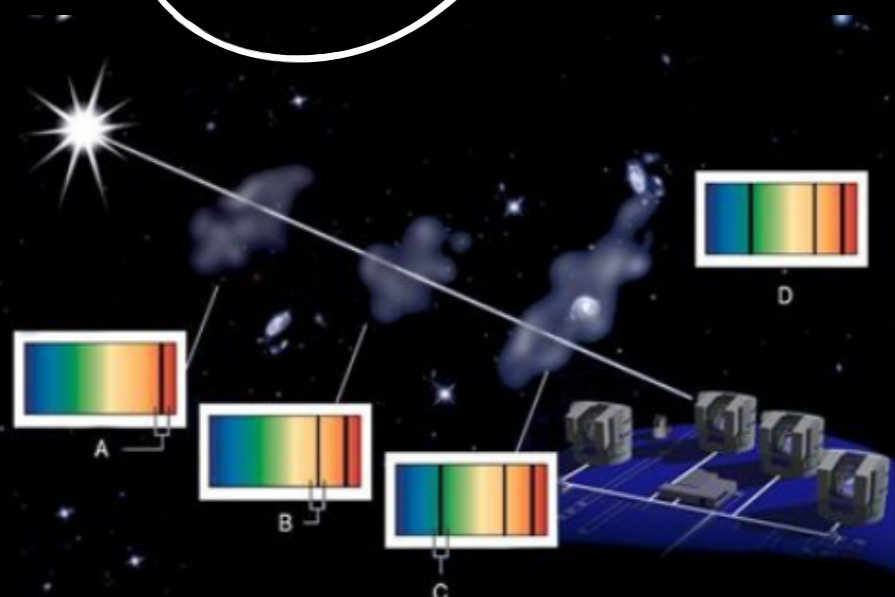
1% level measurement



# D

% level  
measurement

PDG 2021:  $(D/H) \times 10^5 = 2.547 \pm 0.025$



arXiv:1710.11129

astro-ph/9803071



# BBN ERA IN $\Lambda$ CDM

$$n + \nu_e \leftrightarrow p + e^-$$

$$n + e^+ \leftrightarrow p + \bar{\nu}_e$$



$$(n_n/n_p) |_{T \gtrsim \text{MeV}} \simeq \exp(-Q/T)$$

$$m_n - m_p \simeq 1.3 \text{ MeV}$$

$$(n_n/n_p) |_{T \simeq \text{MeV}} \simeq 1/6$$

Nucleosynthesis naively at  $T_{nucl.} \sim B_D \simeq 2.2 \text{ MeV} \dots$  BUT:

$$\Gamma(n + p \rightarrow D + \gamma) \sim n_B \langle \sigma v \rangle_{D\gamma}$$

$$\Gamma(n + p \leftarrow D + \gamma) \sim n_\gamma \exp(-B_D/T_\gamma) \langle \sigma v \rangle_{D\gamma}$$

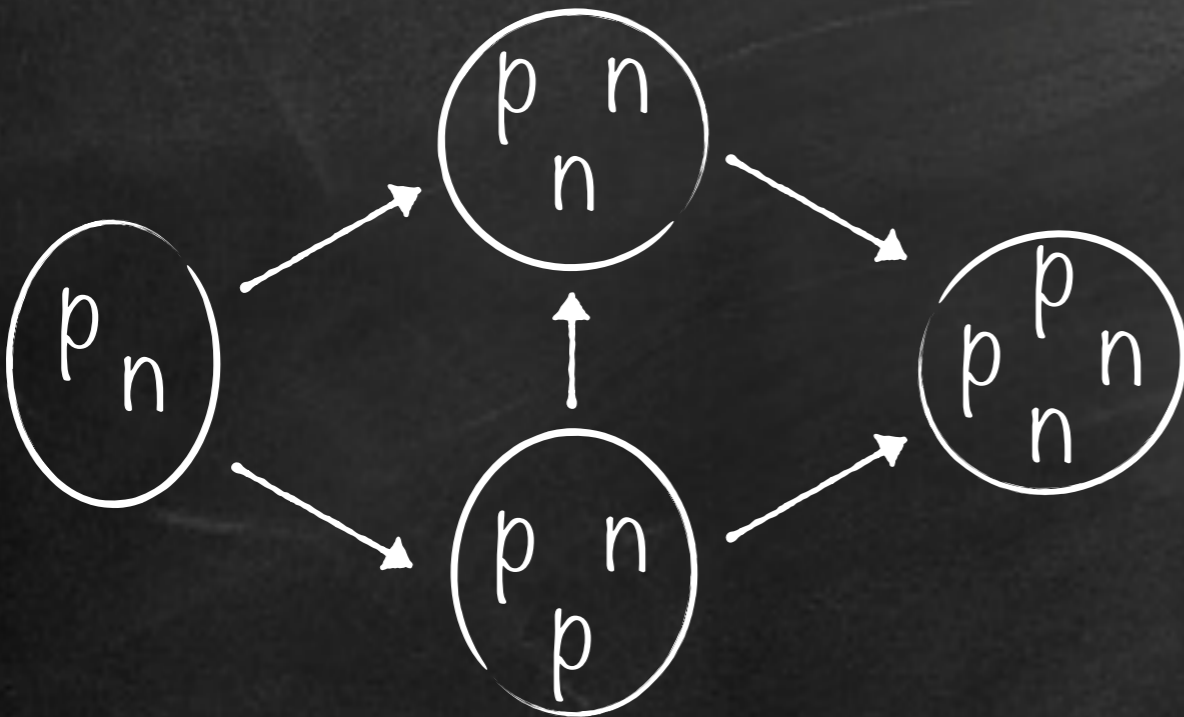
i.e., it really starts at  $T_{nucl.}$  such that:  $\eta_B \simeq \exp(-B_D/T_{nucl.})$

# BBN ERA IN $\Lambda$ CDM

Deuterium “bottleneck” implies  $T_{nucl.} \simeq 0.1$  MeV. After that :

~ all neutrons into helium-4

$$(n_n/n_p) |_{T \simeq 0.1 \text{ MeV}} \simeq 1/7$$



$$Y_P \equiv \frac{m_{4\text{He}}}{m_B} \simeq \frac{4(n_n/2)}{n_n + n_p} \simeq 0.25$$

Baryon mass fraction in helium-4

$\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$  residual amount of deuterium and helium-3 relative to  $p$ .

Lithium-7 “survives” in smaller relative abundance,  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-10})$ .

# PRyMordial: BBN state-of-the-art predictions

[Burns, Tait, Valli '23]

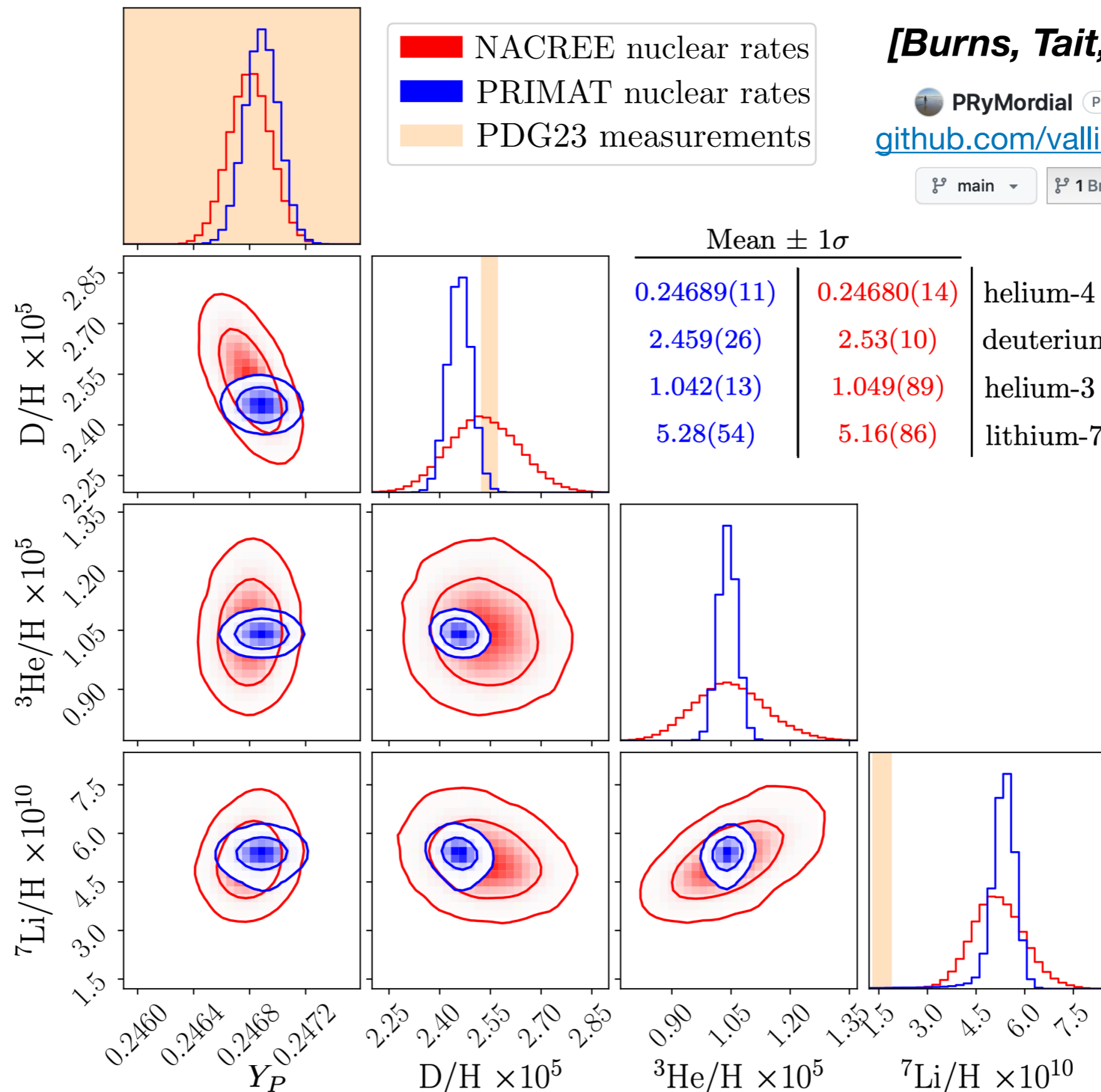
PRyMordial Public

[github.com/vallima/PRyMordial](https://github.com/vallima/PRyMordial)

main

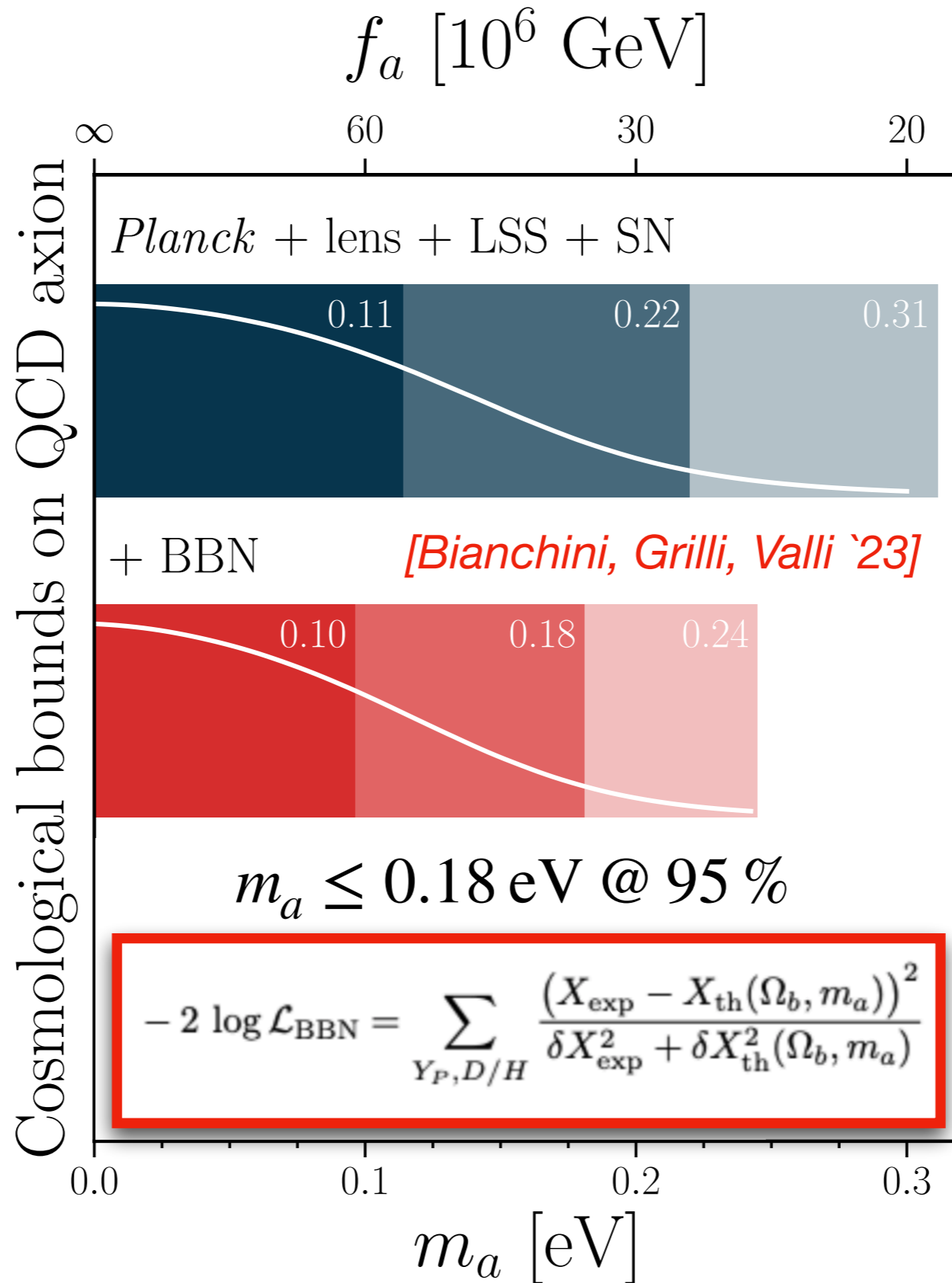
1 Branch

0 Tags



# Minimal QCD Axion $(T_D < T_c)$

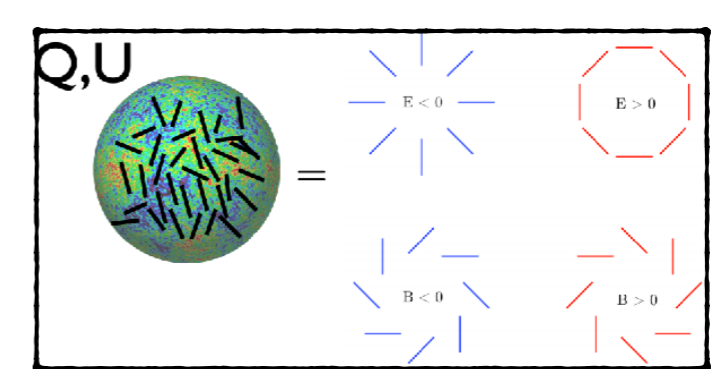
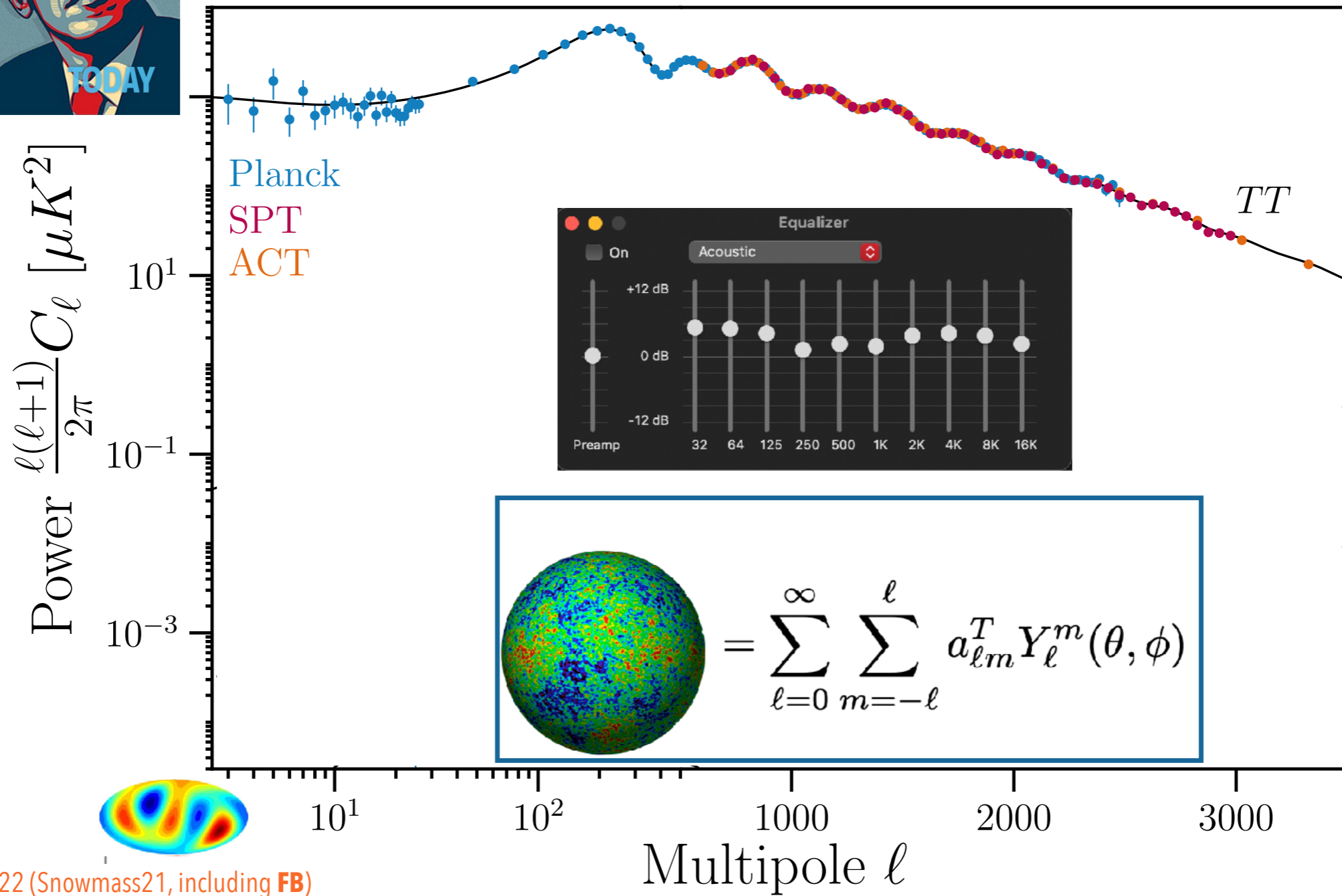
[Bianchini, Grilli, Valli '23]



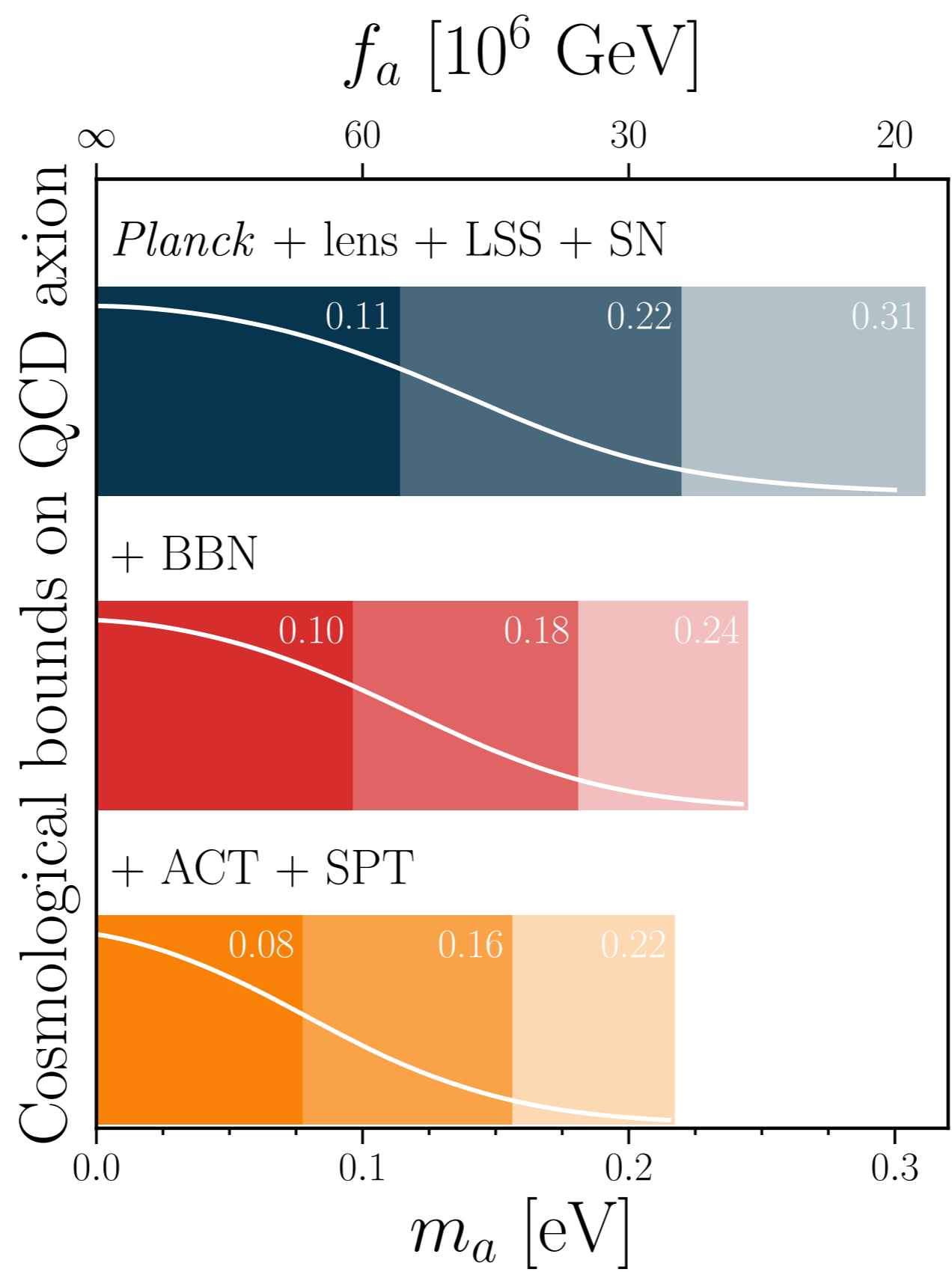




# CMB temperature measurements



# Minimal QCD Axion ( $T_{\text{dec}} < T_c$ )

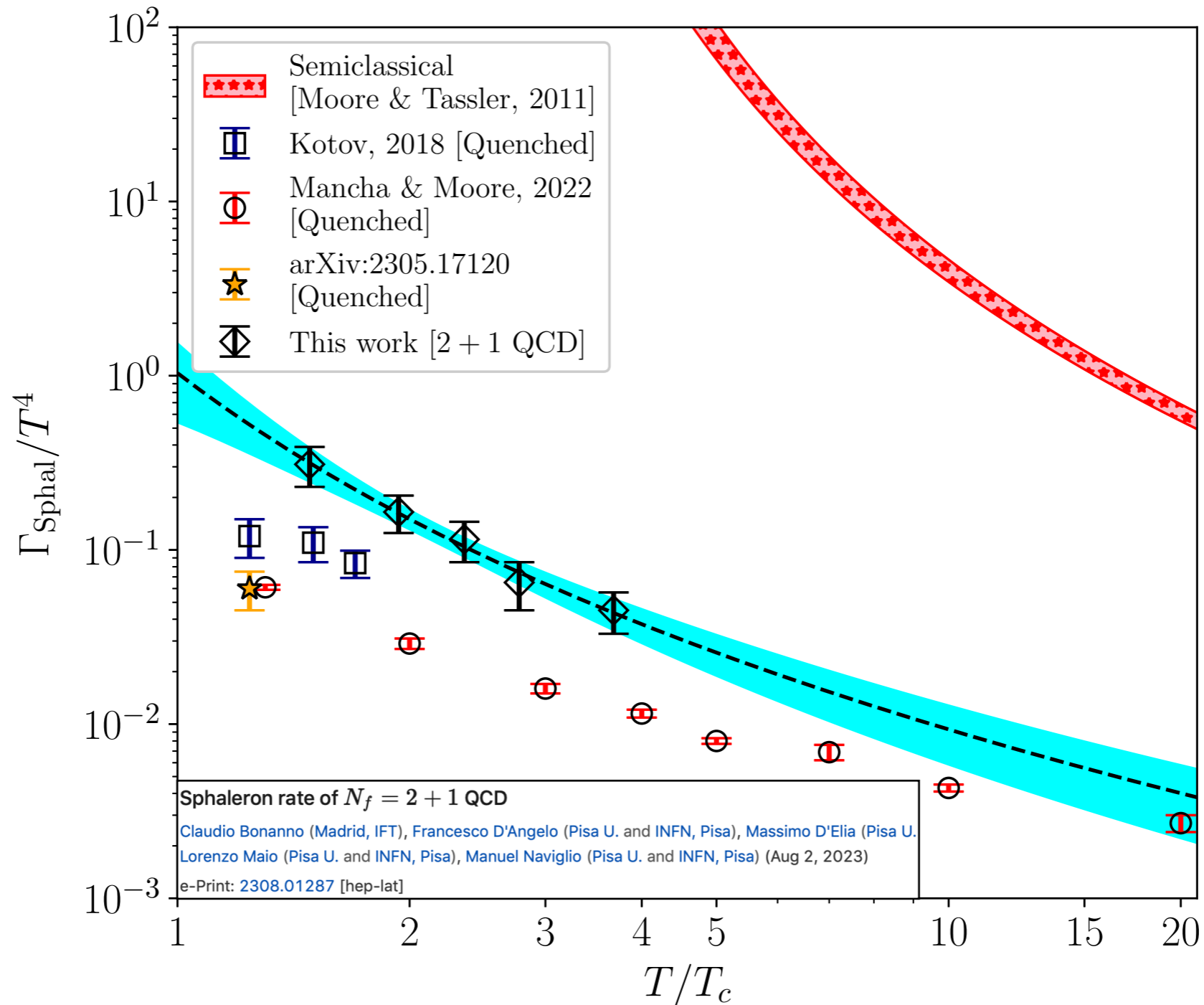
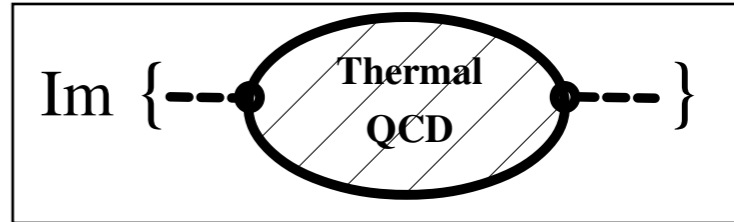
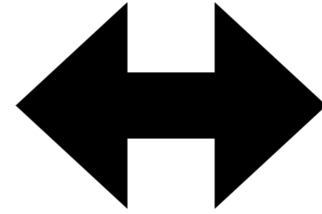


30% improvement with respect to  
 [Notari, Rompineve, Villadoro`23]

[Bianchini, Grilli, Valli `23]  
 $m_a \leq 0.16 \text{ eV}$   
 @ 95 % HDI

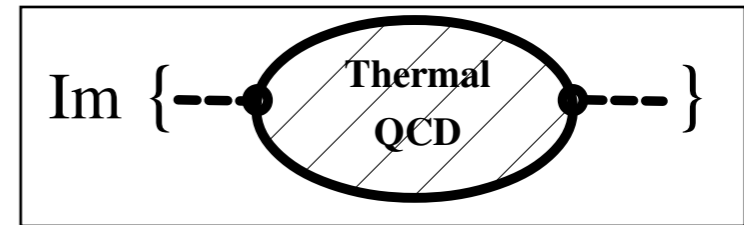
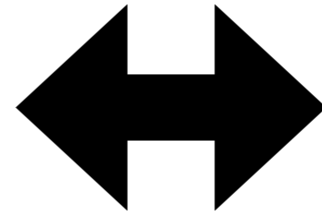
# Minimal QCD Axion $(T_D > T_c)$

$$\Gamma_a = \int d^4x e^{ikx} \langle Q(x) Q(0) \rangle$$



# Minimal QCD Axion ( $T_{\text{dec}} \gtrsim T_c$ )

$$\Gamma_a = \int d^4x e^{ikx} \langle Q(x) Q(0) \rangle$$



150 MeV < T < 600 MeV

$$\Gamma_{\text{sph}}(|\mathbf{k}| = 0) = \Lambda_0^4 (T/T_c)^\epsilon$$

$$\Lambda_0 \simeq 142.3 \text{ MeV}, \epsilon \simeq 1.81, T_c = 155 \text{ MeV}$$

[Bonanno, D'Angelo, D'Elia, Maio, Naviglio '23]

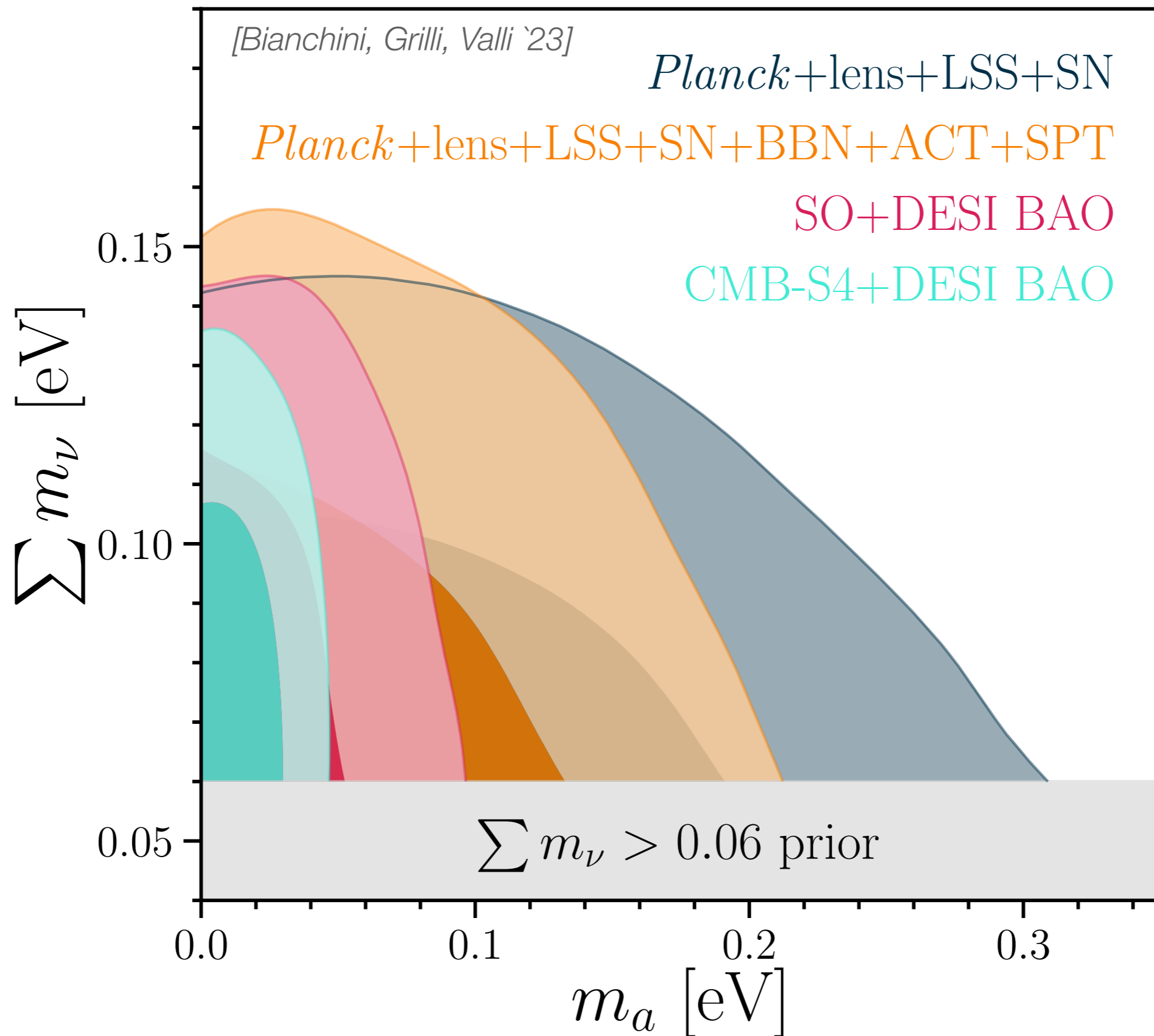
## ● Recipe for a reasonable (?) forecast:

- ( I ) Axion initially in thermal equilibrium
- ( II ) Extrapolate somehow sphaleron rate at non-zero momentum (e.g. constant within sphaleron size)

( III ) Set initial condition @  $T_c$ : 
$$\frac{dY_a}{dt} = \frac{\bar{\Gamma}_a}{H} (Y_a^{\text{eq}} - Y_a)$$



# Cosmo Present & Future of QCD Axion



REMARK: Minimal QCD axion  $\rightarrow$  “unavoidable” Hot Dark Matter



● **TODAY**  $\rightarrow$  linear Cosmology + improved ChPT :

$$m_a \leq 0.16 \text{ eV @ 95 \% probability}$$

(CMB + LSS + BBN)

● **FUTURE**  $\rightarrow$  cosmo bound competitive w/ current astro probes

- FINITE T EFFECTS IN AXION-PION SCATTERING ?  
arXiv:2312.15240
- THERMAL PRODUCTION BEYOND SU(2)<sub>F</sub> ChPT ?  
arXiv:2211.03799
- STRONG SPHALERONS BEYOND 0-MOMENTUM ?  
arXiv:2308.01287
- UV MODELS BEYOND THE MINIMAL QCD AXION ?  
arXiv:2108.05371
- NON-LINEAR COSMOLOGY OBSERVABLES ?
  - Lyman -  $\alpha$  constraints  $\longleftrightarrow$  targeted simulations ?
  - EFTofLSS (PyBird / CLASS-PT)  $\longleftrightarrow$  dedicated study ?
  - other current observables / exciting future forecasts ?