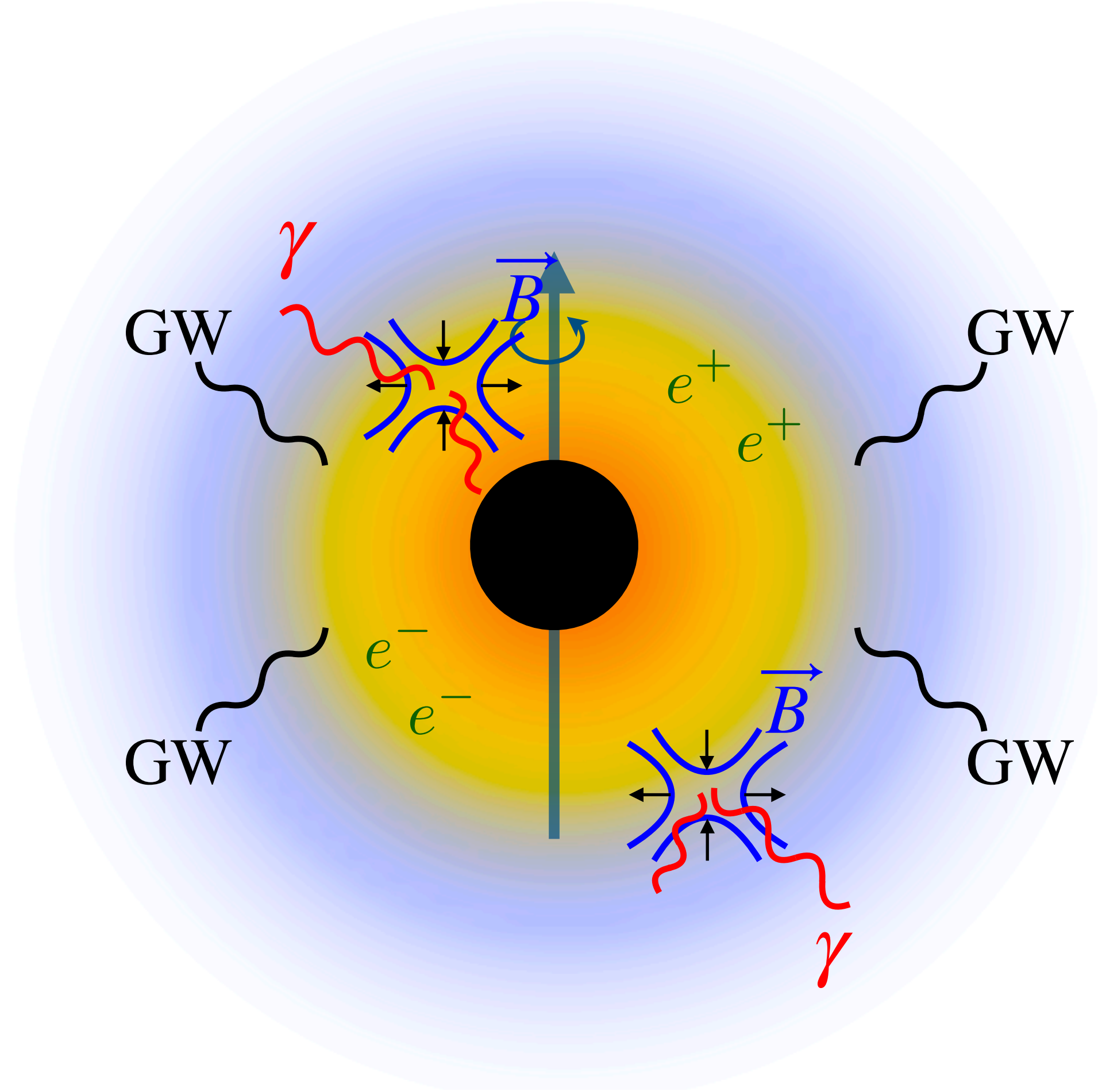


# Gravitational Waves from Superradiance Boson Clouds

Cristina Mondino



Phys. Rev. D 107 075025, arxiv:2212.09772

With: Nils Siemonsen, Daniel Egaña-Ugrinovic, Junwu Huang, Masha Baryakhtar, and William E. East  
+ ongoing work lead by Lorenzo Mirasola (U. Cagliari + CW group at INFN Roma/La Sapienza)

# New ultralight bosons

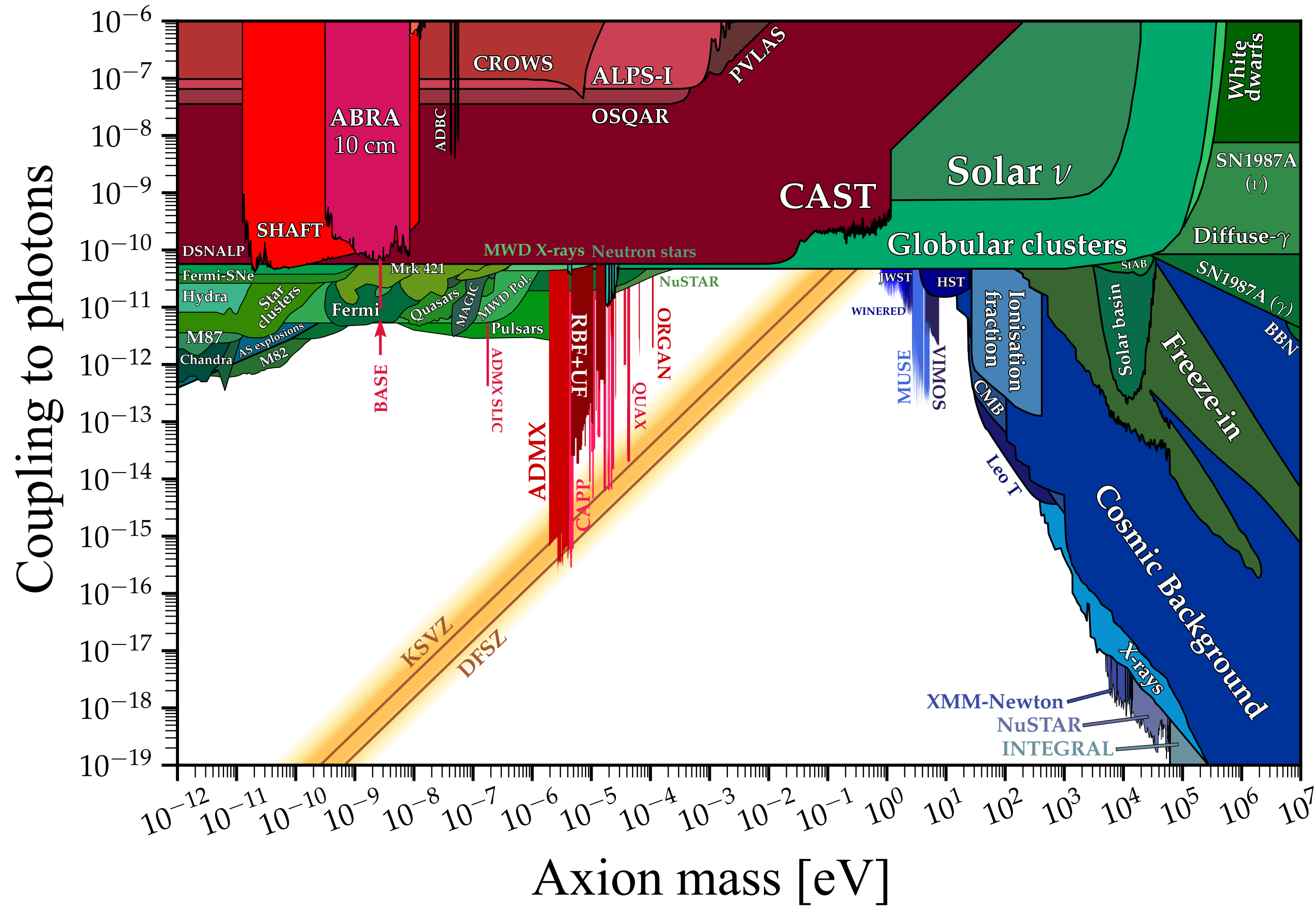
- Arise in several extensions of the DM (string theory)
- Good DM candidates or DM-SM mediators
- Naturally light (masses protected by approximate symmetries)
- Couple to SM particles

**Spin 0 - QCD Axion/ALPs**

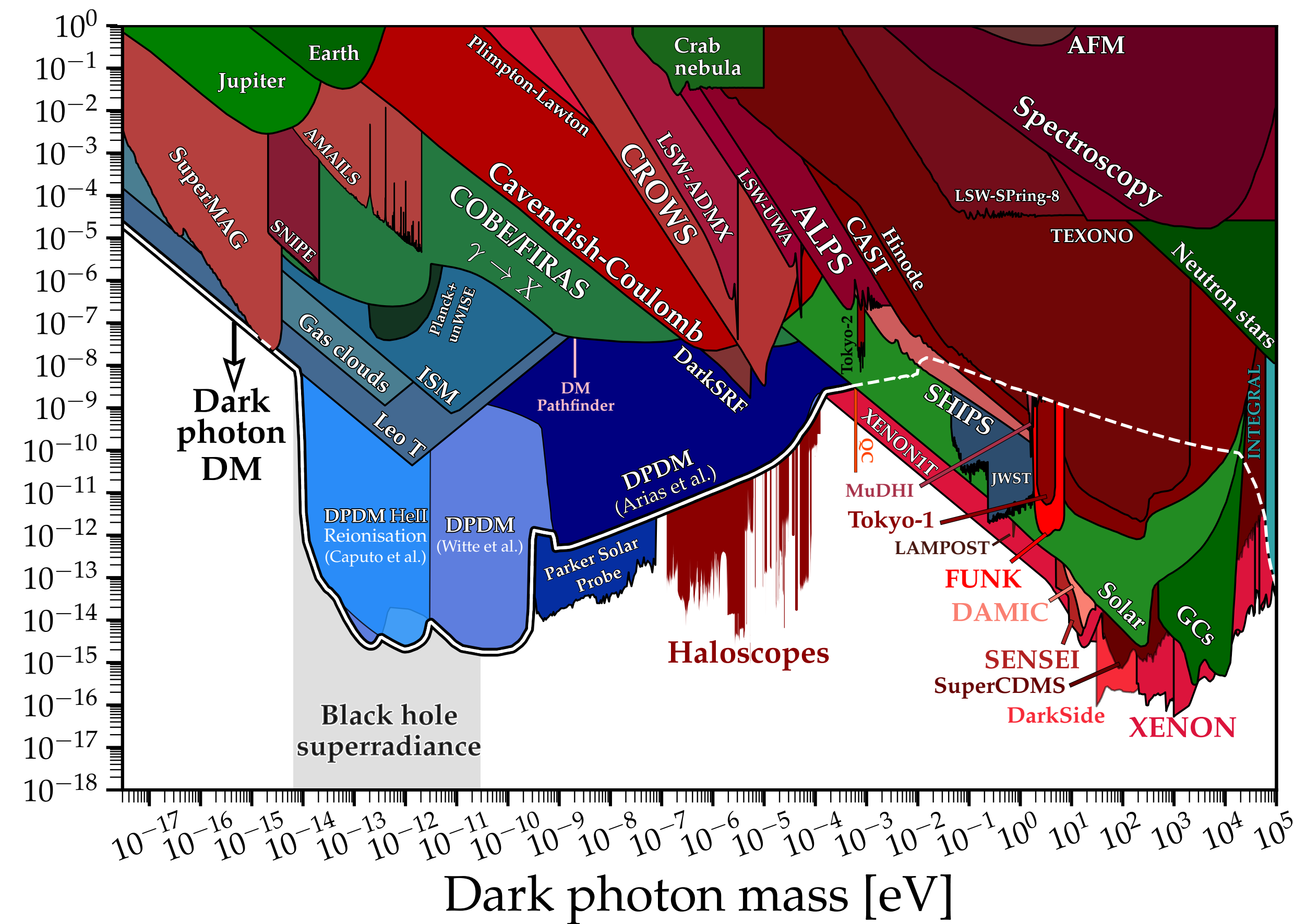
**Spin 1 - Dark Photons**

# New bosons: coupling to photons

## Spin 0 - QCD Axion/ALPs



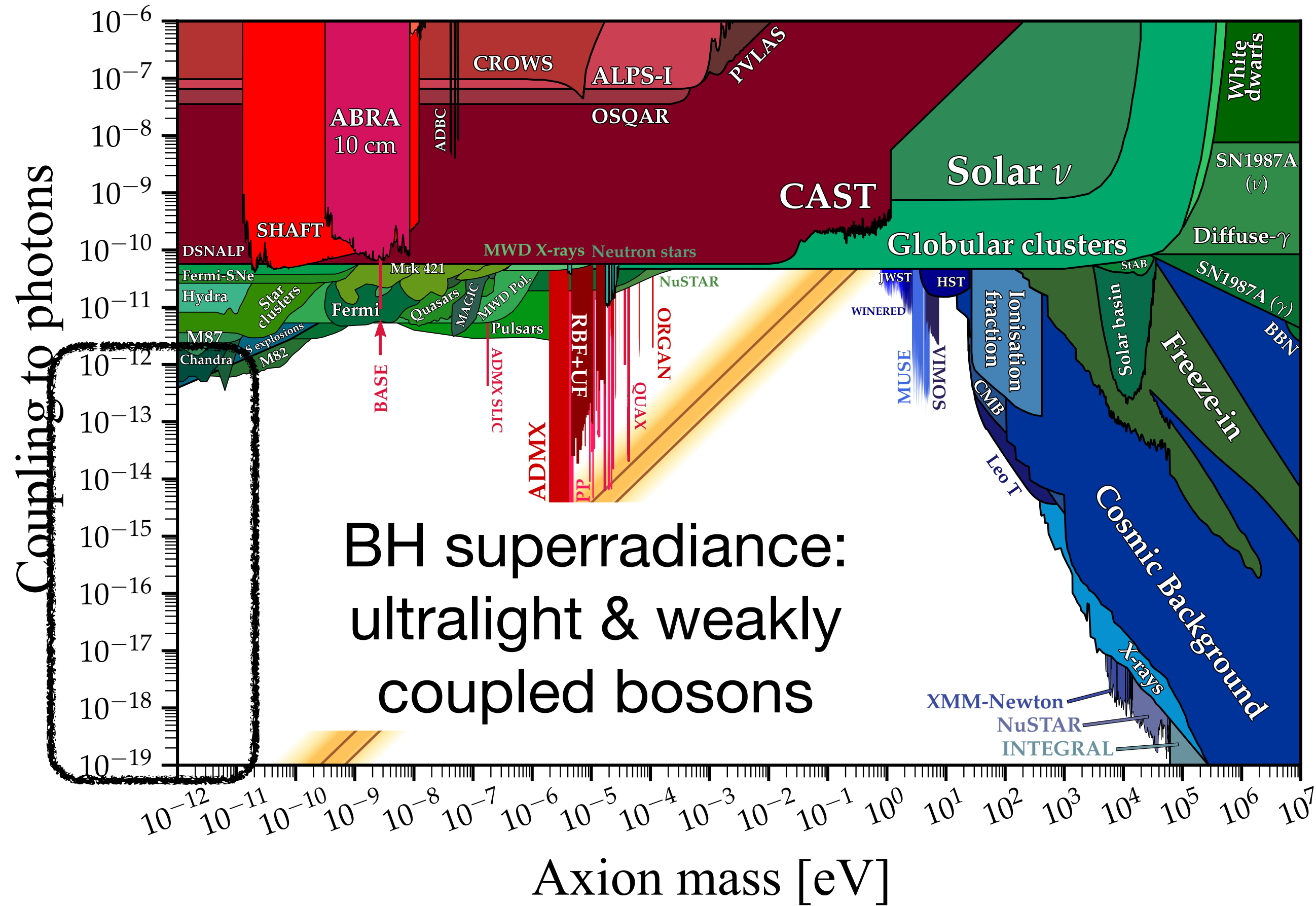
## Spin 1 - Dark Photons



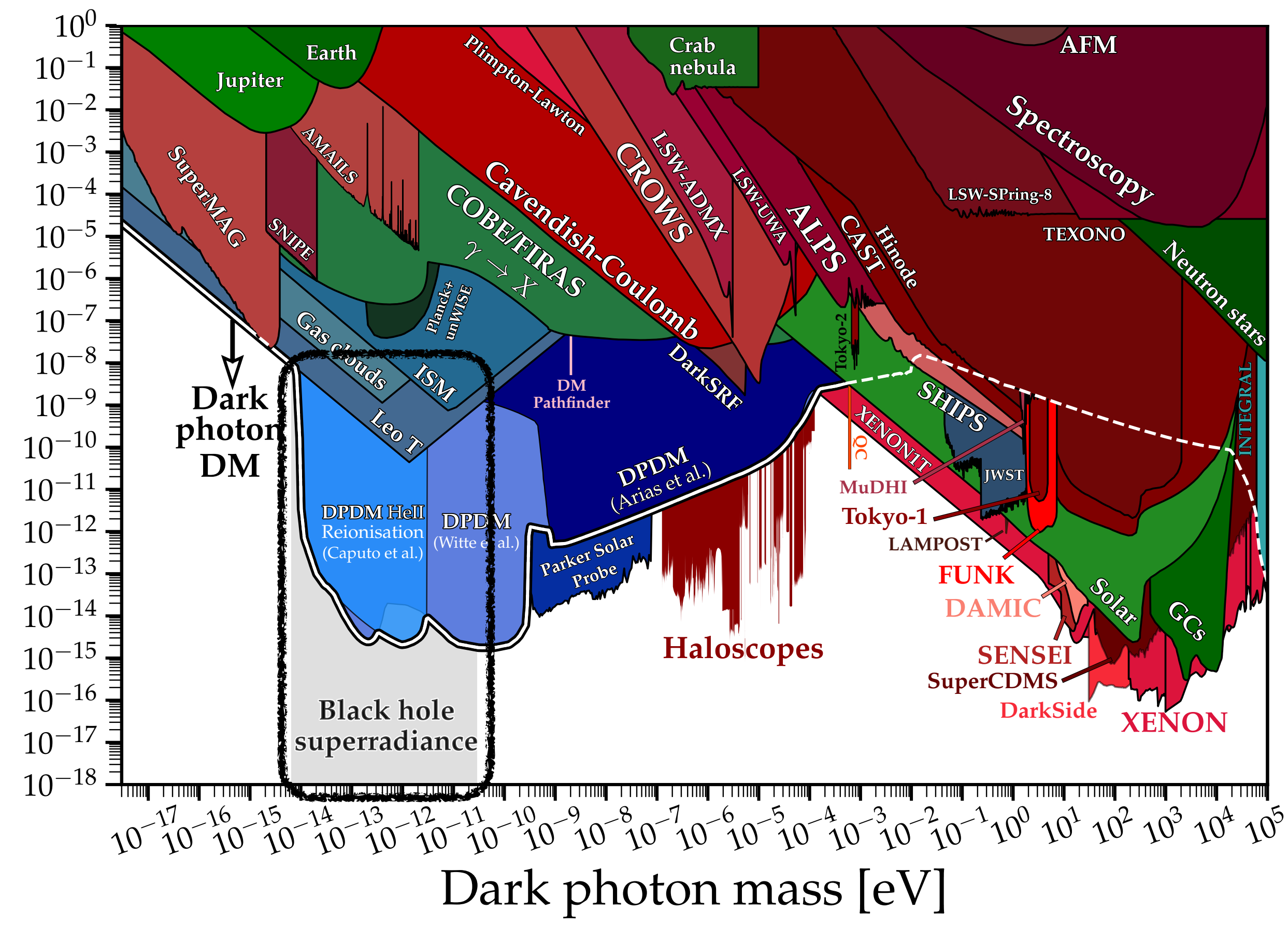
From Ciaran O'Hare ([cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/](https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/))

# New bosons: coupling to photons

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## Spin 1 - Dark Photons

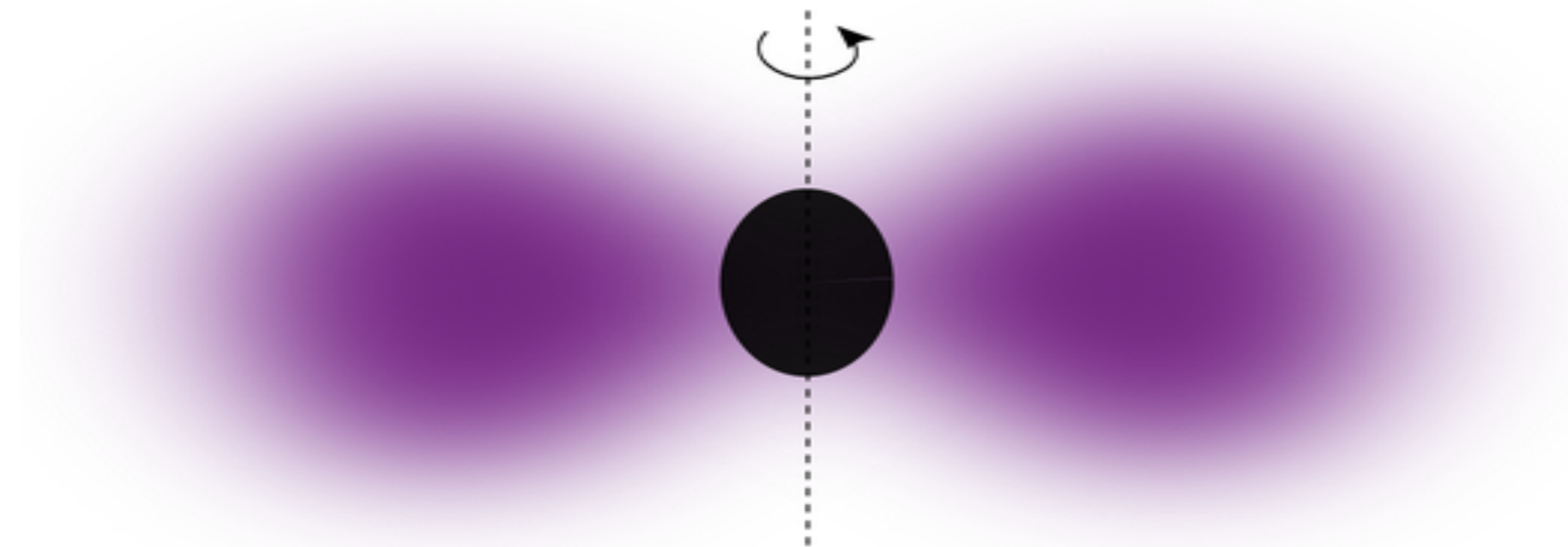


From Ciaran O'Hare ([cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/](https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/))

# How are ultralight particles produced?

## Gravitational coupling

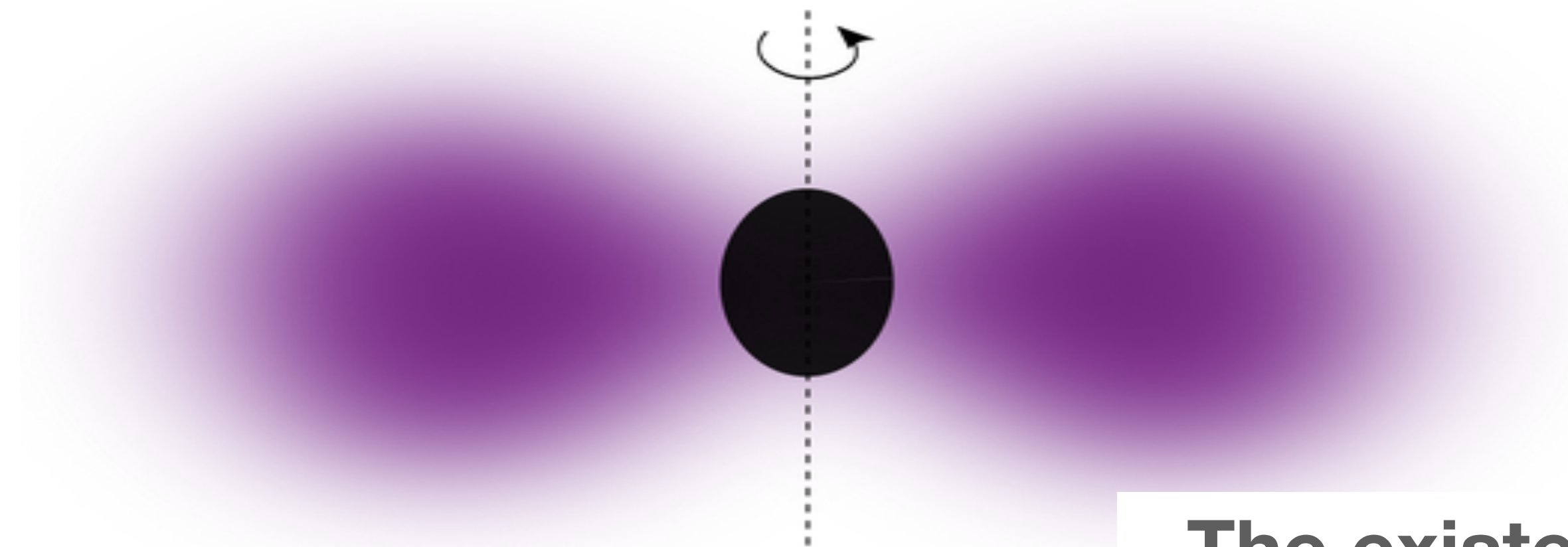
- Around spinning black holes



# How are ultralight particles produced?

## Gravitational coupling

- Around spinning black holes



**The existence of astrophysical  
BHs *guarantees* the production  
of these particles!**

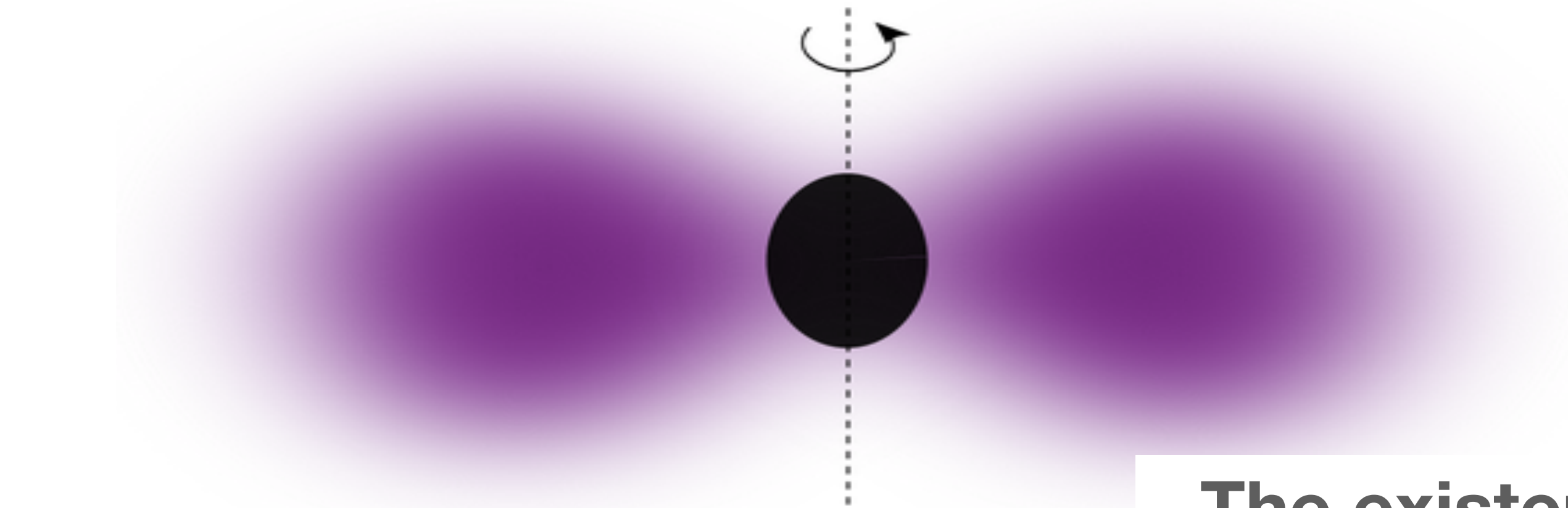
# How are ultralight particles produced?

## Gravitational coupling

- Around spinning black holes

(stellar mass BH)  
Compton wavelength  $\sim$  km

$m \sim \frac{1}{GM} \sim 10^{-12} \text{eV}$



**The existence of astrophysical  
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(very quick review of)  
**Black Hole Superradiance**

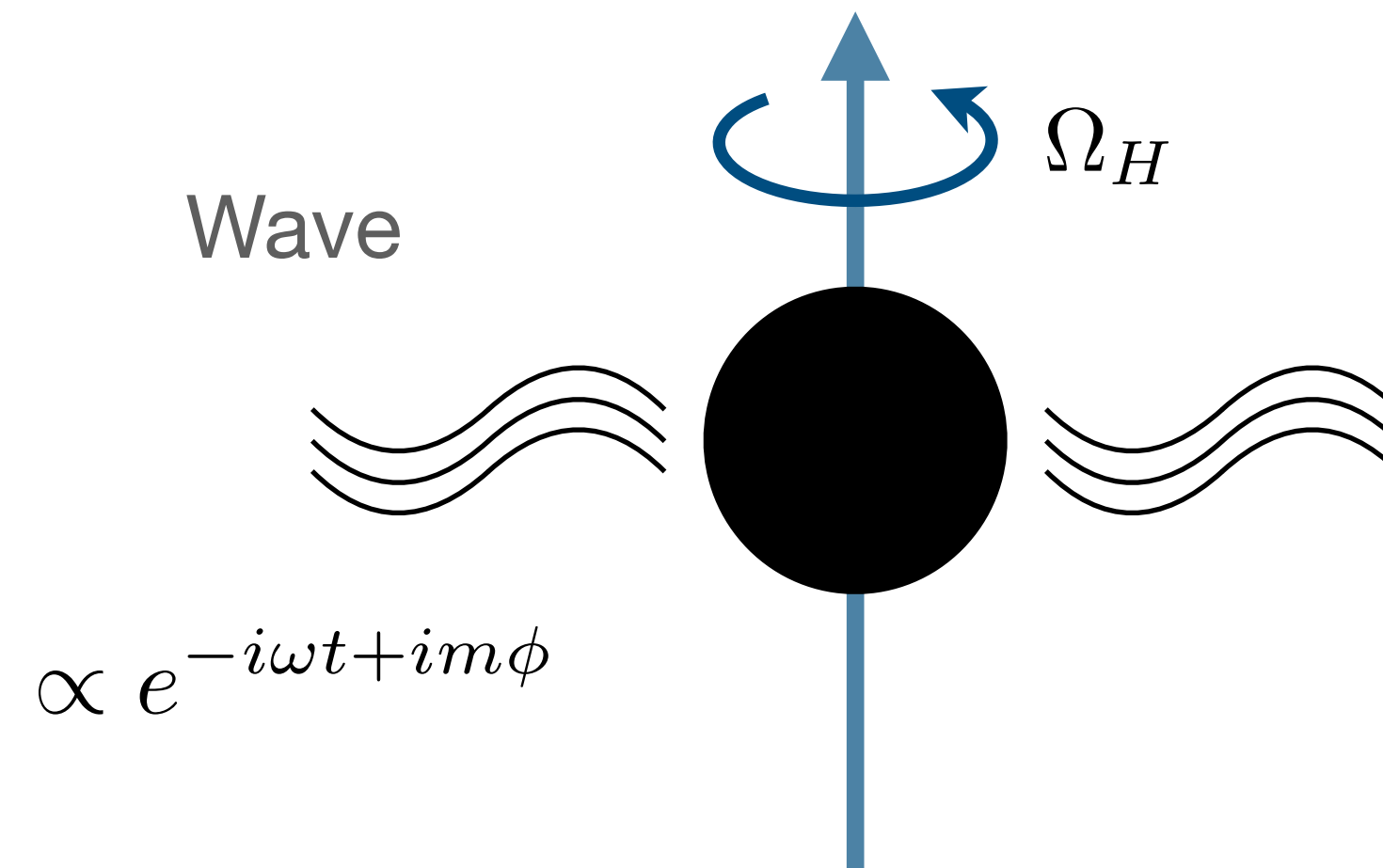


# Black hole superradiance

Y. B. Zeldovich, 1971  
C. W. Misner, 1972  
A. A. Starobinskii, 1973  
S. L. Detweiler, 1980  
....

Classical instability:

- Rotating object
- Perfect absorber  
(dissipation is necessary)

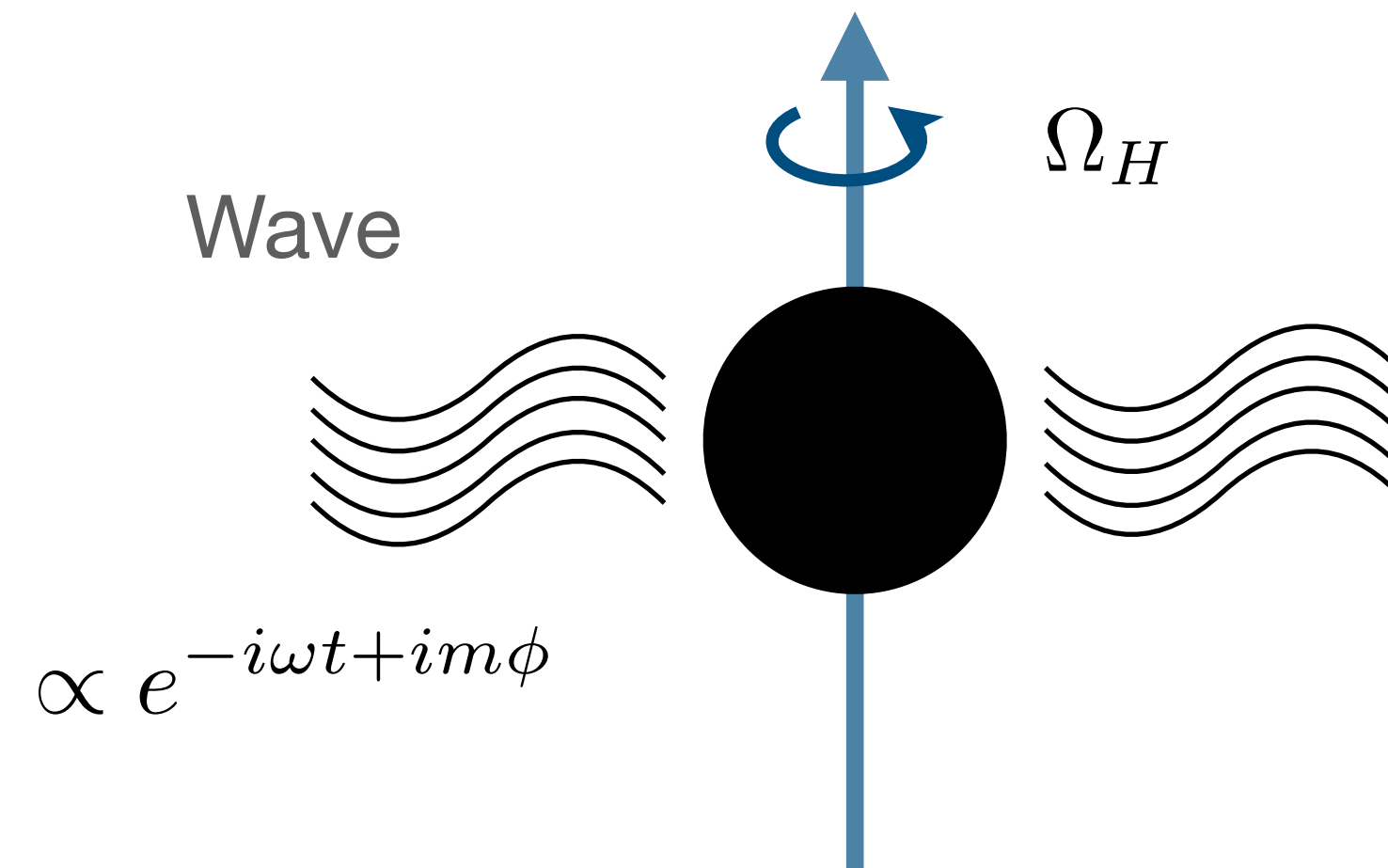


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If  $\frac{\omega}{m} < \Omega_H$  :

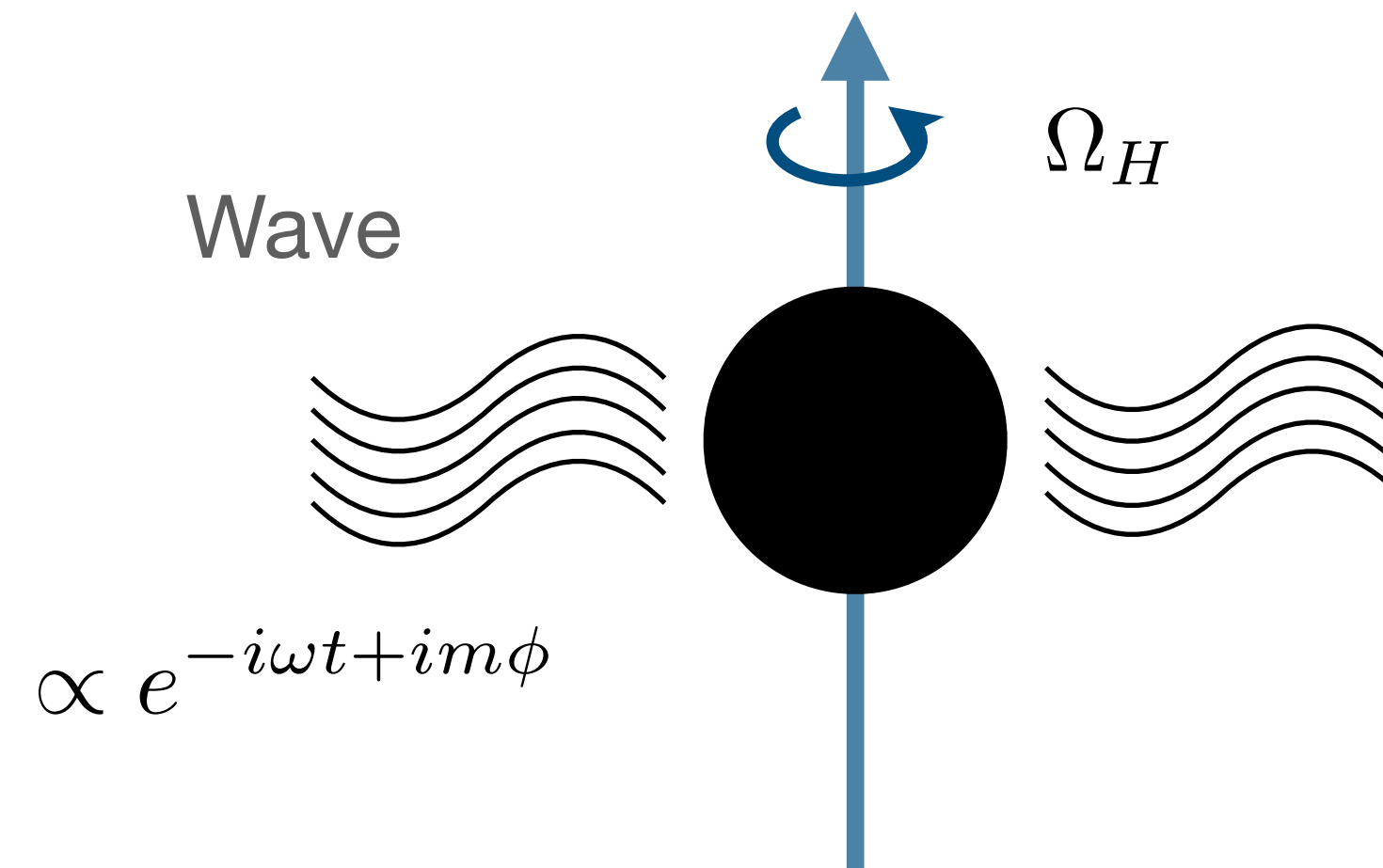
- Wave is amplified
- BH spins down

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If  $\frac{\omega}{m} < \Omega_H$  :

- Wave is amplified
- BH spins down

Massive bosonic field with mass  $\mu$

$$V(r) = -\frac{GM\mu}{r}$$

- Gravitationally bound to the BH
- Occupation number of the “gravitational atom” grows exponentially

# Black hole superradiance - spin 1 field

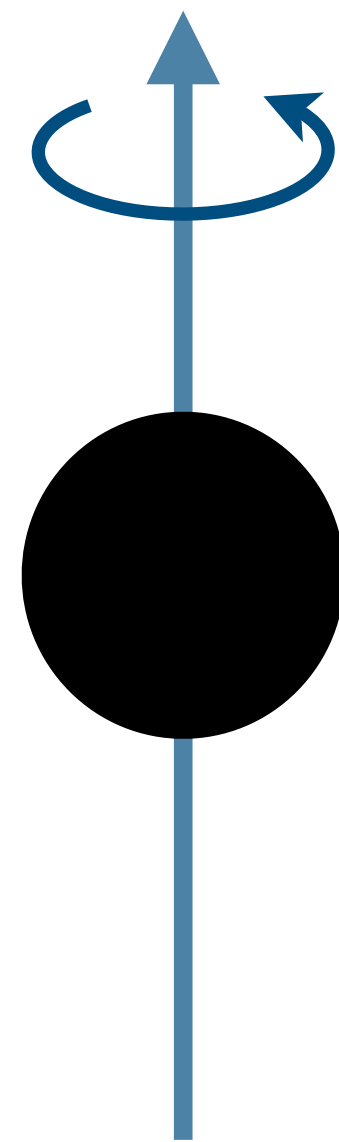
M. Baryakhtar, R. Lasenby, M. Teo, PRD 2017  
D. Bauman, H.S. Chia, J. Stout, L.T. Haar JCAP 2019

New massive vector boson

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} F'_{\mu\nu} F'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 A'^{\mu} A'_{\mu}$$

EOM in Kerr spacetime

$$D_{\mu} F'^{\mu\nu} = \mu^2 A'^{\nu}$$



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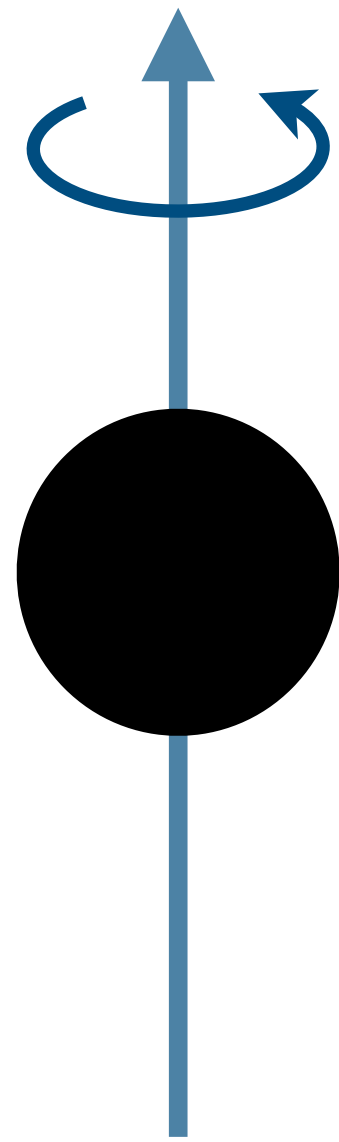
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- Hydrogen-like wave functions
- Energy with imaginary component if

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- Energy with imaginary component if  $\frac{\mu}{m} \lesssim \Omega_{\text{H}}$

“Gravitational atom” with exponential growth of the occupation number.

$$N \simeq 10^{77} \left( \frac{M}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Delta a^*}{0.1} \right)$$

# Black hole superradiance - spin 1 field

M. Baryakhtar, R. Lasenby, M. Teo, PRD 2017  
 D. Bauman, H.S. Chia, J. Stout, L.T. Haar JCAP 2019

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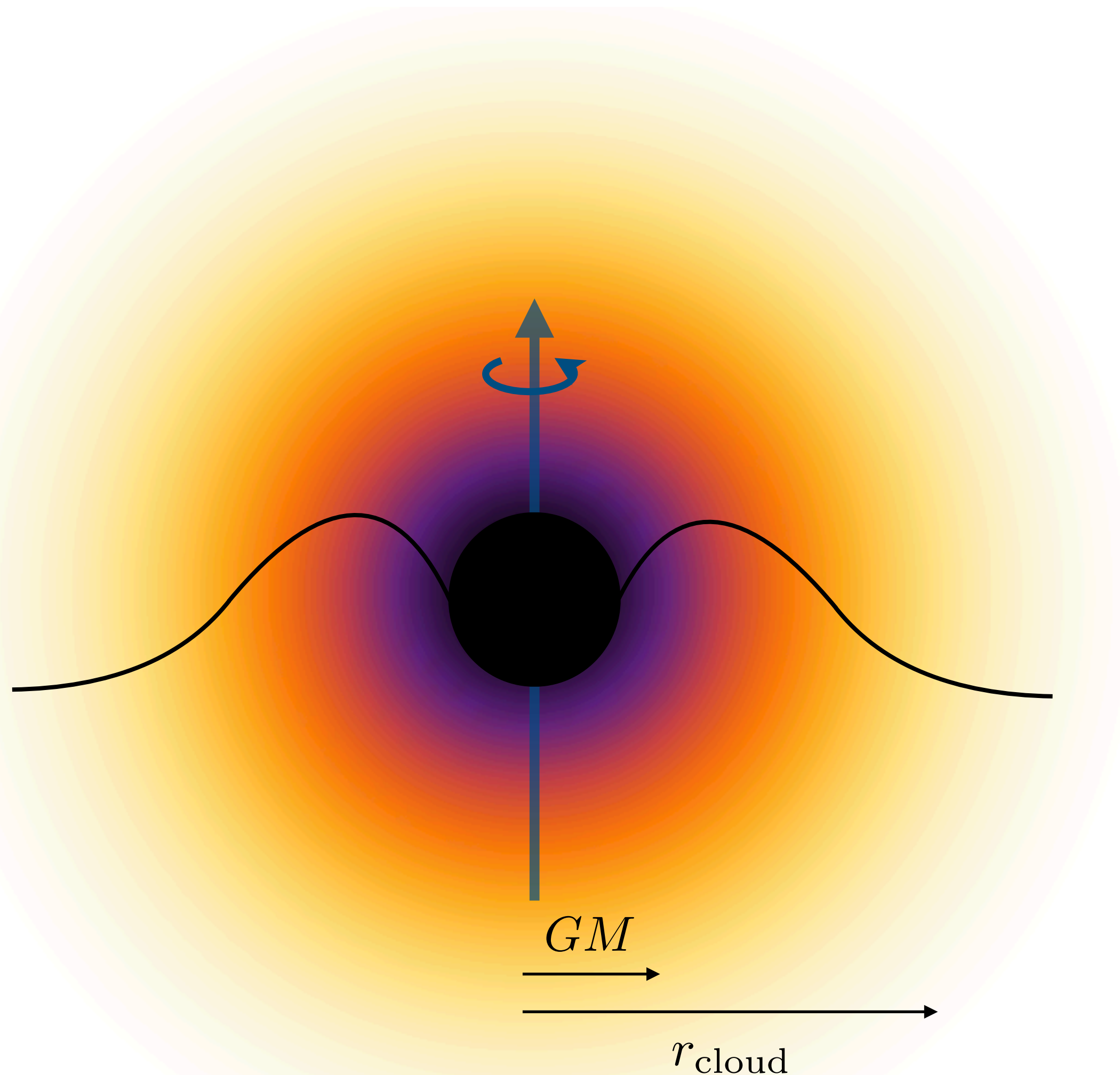
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“Gravitational atom” with exponential growth of the occupation number.

Lowest energy level ( $n=0, l=0, m=1$ )

$$r_{\text{cloud}} \sim \frac{1}{\alpha\mu} = \frac{GM}{\alpha^2} \gg GM$$

gravitational coupling  $\alpha \equiv \mu GM$

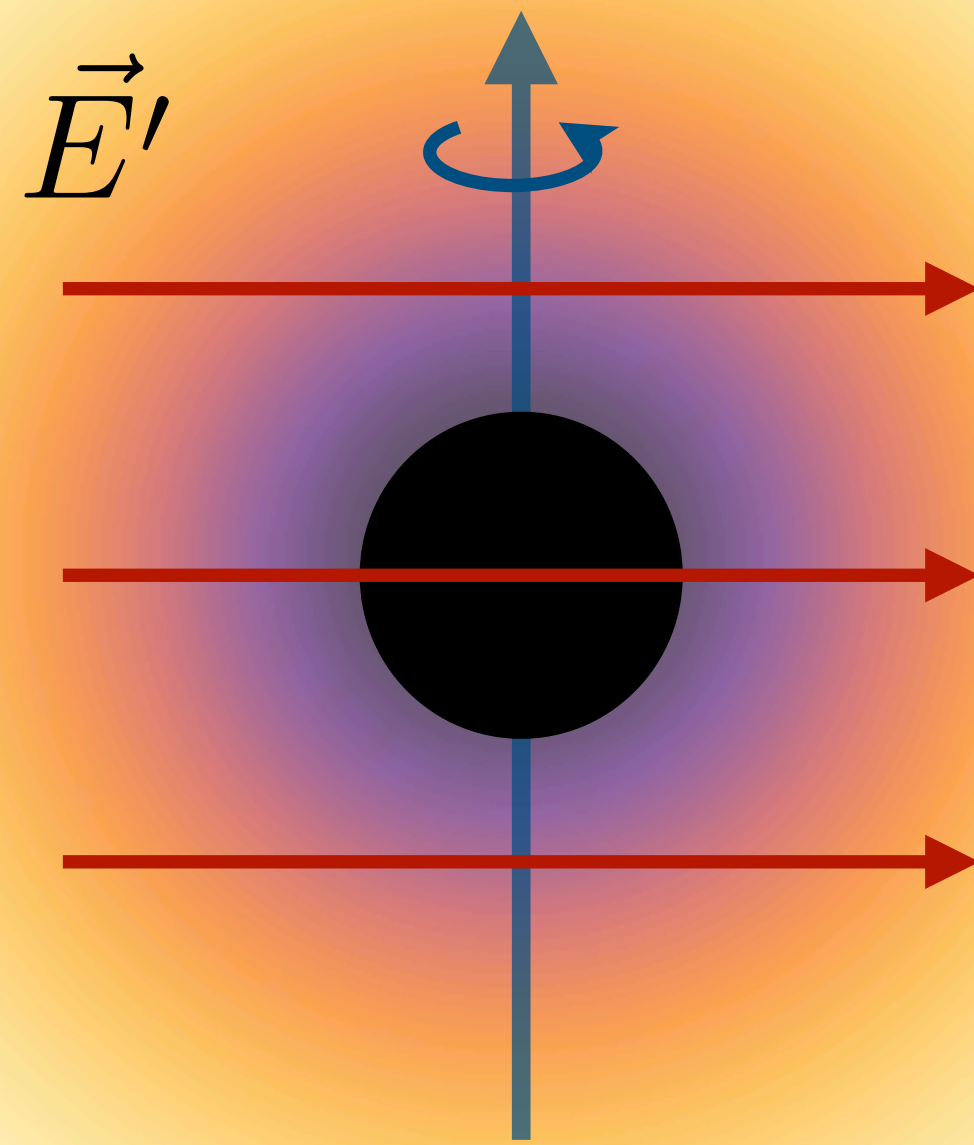


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“Gravitational atom” with exponential growth of the occupation number.

Large, rotating dark electric field

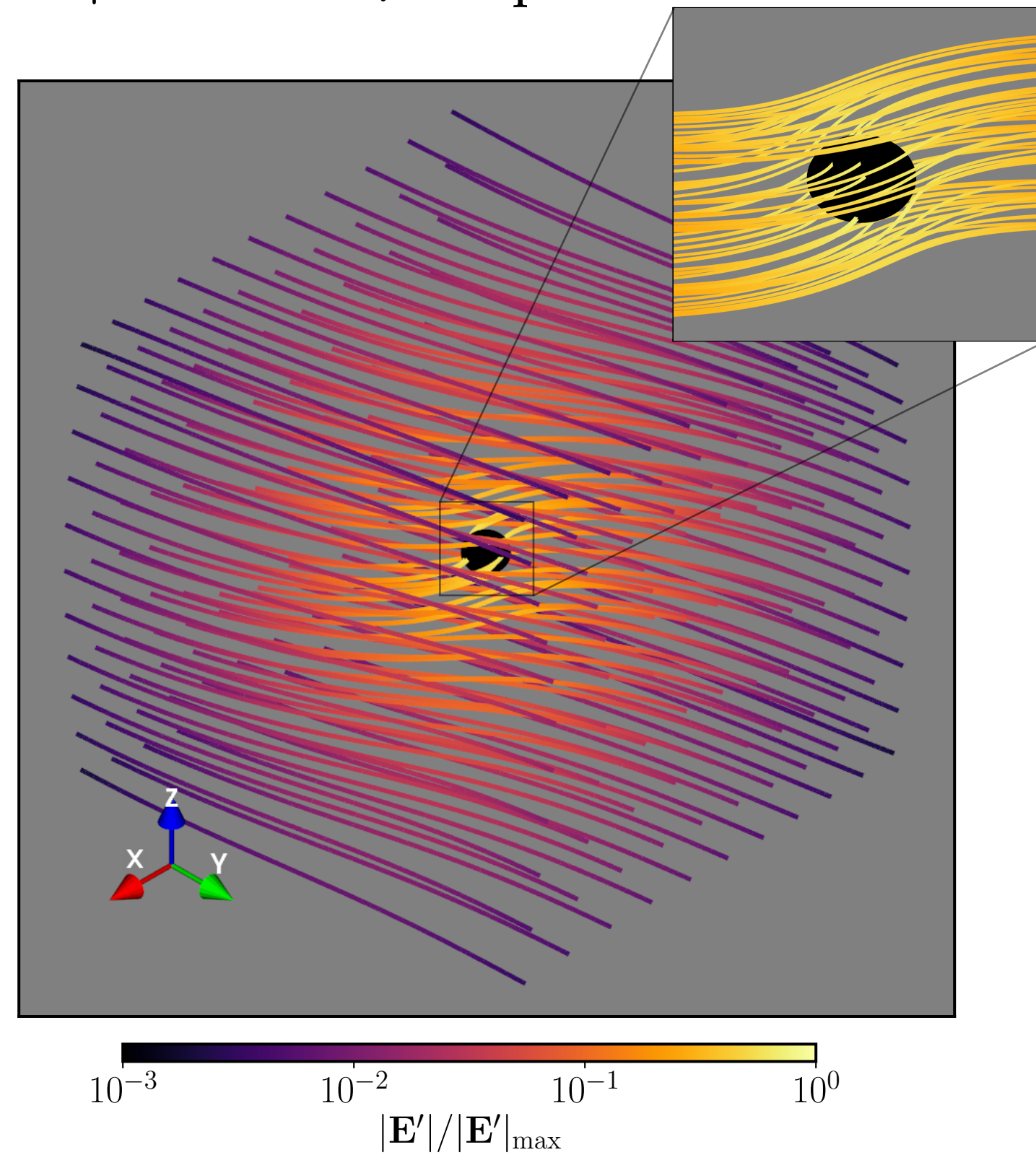
$$|\vec{E}'| \sim \alpha^{5/2} \mu M_{\text{pl}}$$

Rotating with period  $\sim 2\pi/\mu$

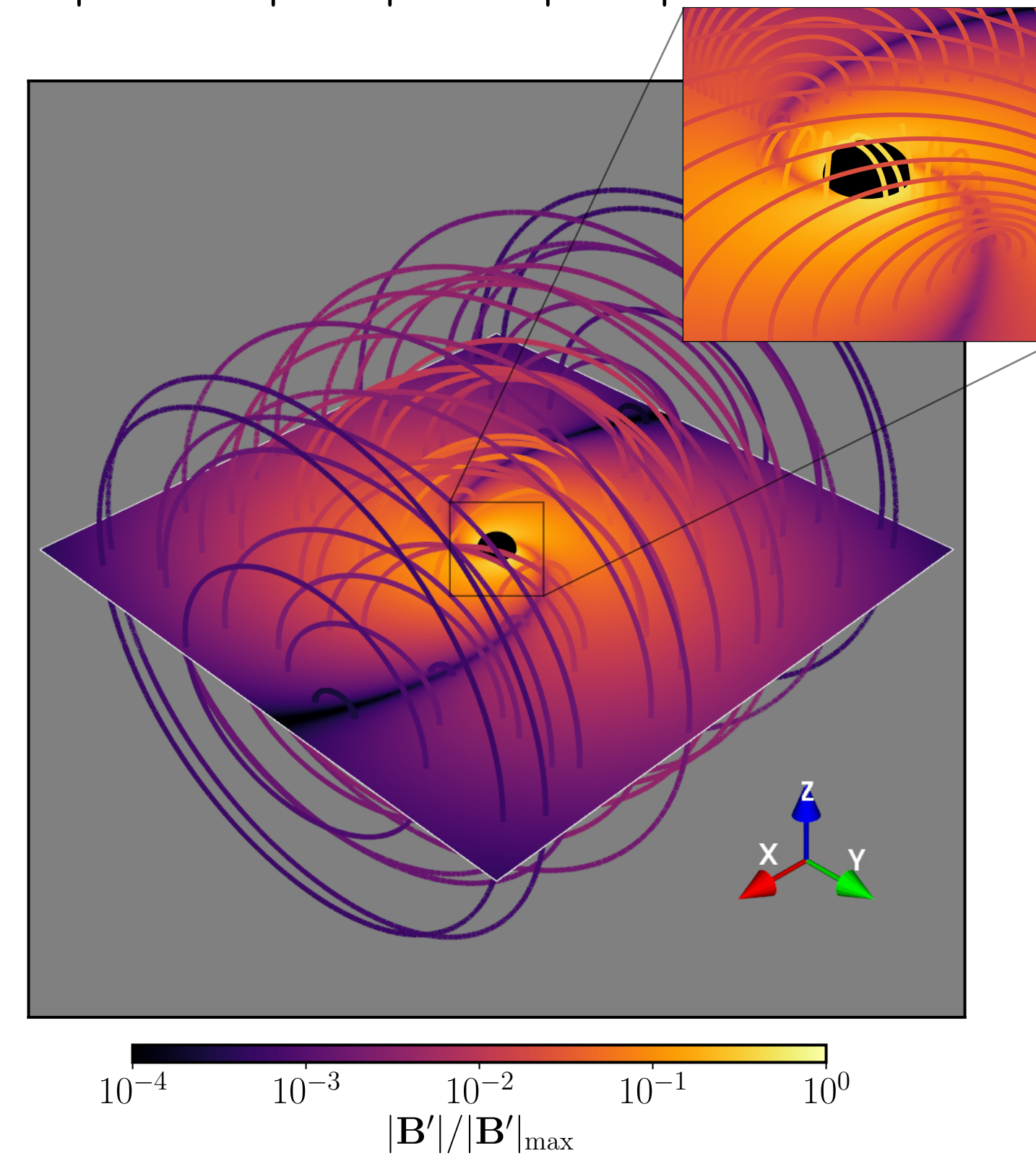


# Black hole superradiance - spin 1 field

$$|\vec{E}'| \sim \alpha^{5/2} \mu M_{\text{pl}}$$



$$|\vec{B}'| \sim \alpha |\vec{E}'| \ll |\vec{E}'|$$



# Observational signatures

BH superradiance can be used to probe the existence of ultralight bosons

0905.4720, String Axiverse

A. Arvanitaki, S. Dimopoulos, S. Dubovsky, N. Kaloper, J. March–Russell

1004.3558, Exploring the String Axiverse with Precision Black Hole Physics

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1801.01420, Constraining the mass of dark photons and axion–like particles through black–hole superradiance

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1. Spin distribution of BH population
2. Continuous gravitational wave signal

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1. Spin distribution of BH population

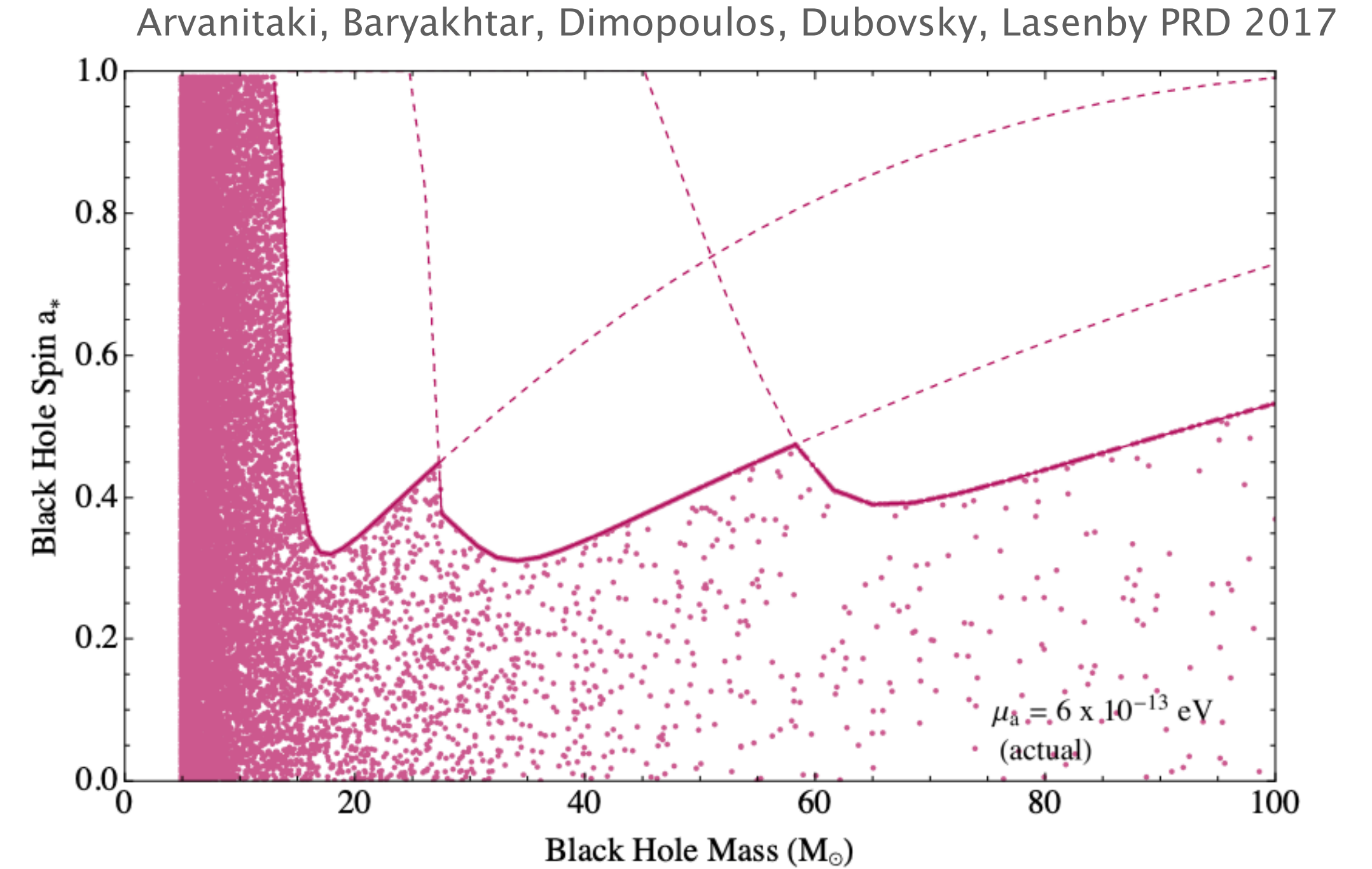
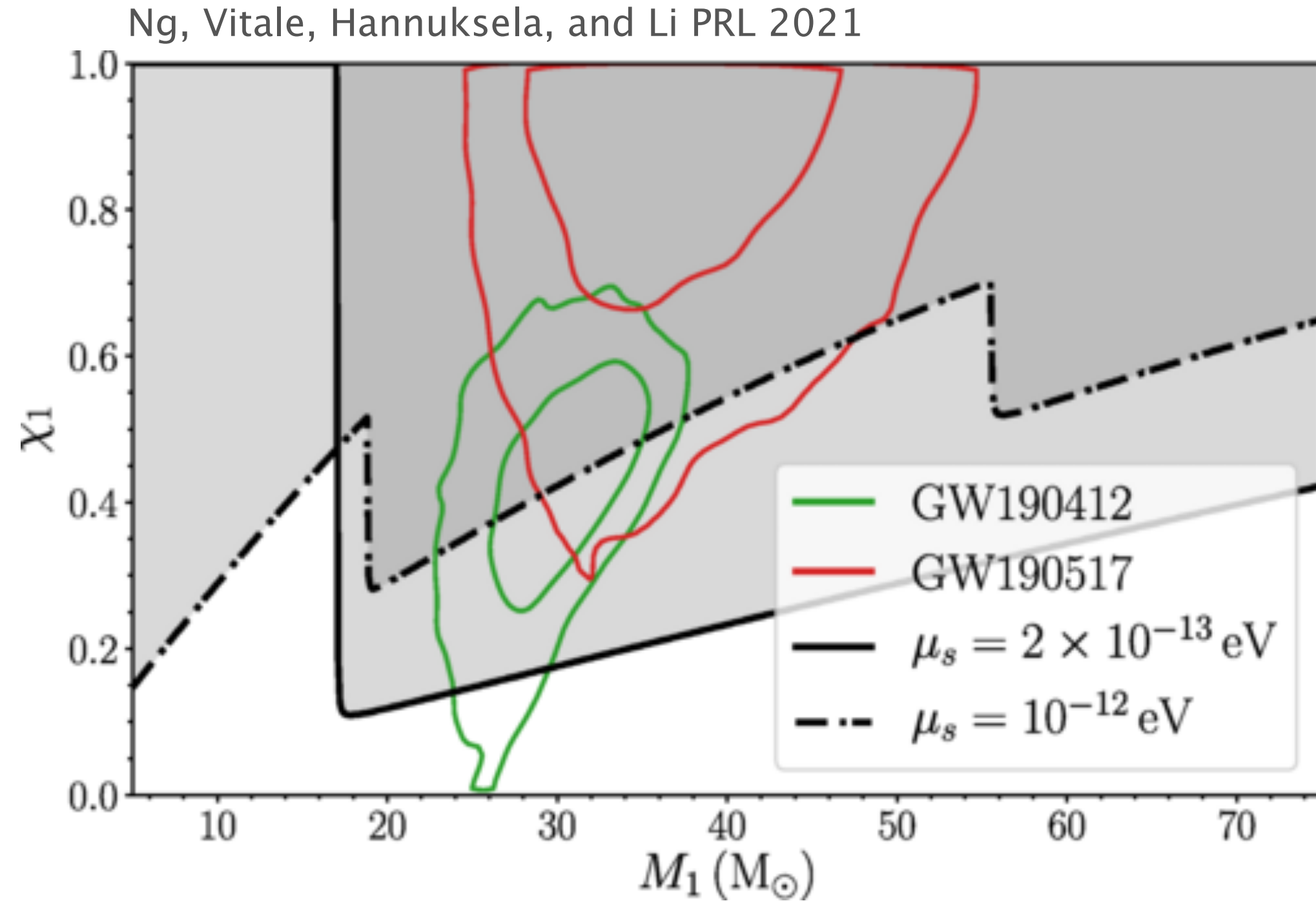
2. Continuous gravitational wave signal



# Observational signatures: spin distribution

BH superradiance can be used to probe the existence of ultralight bosons

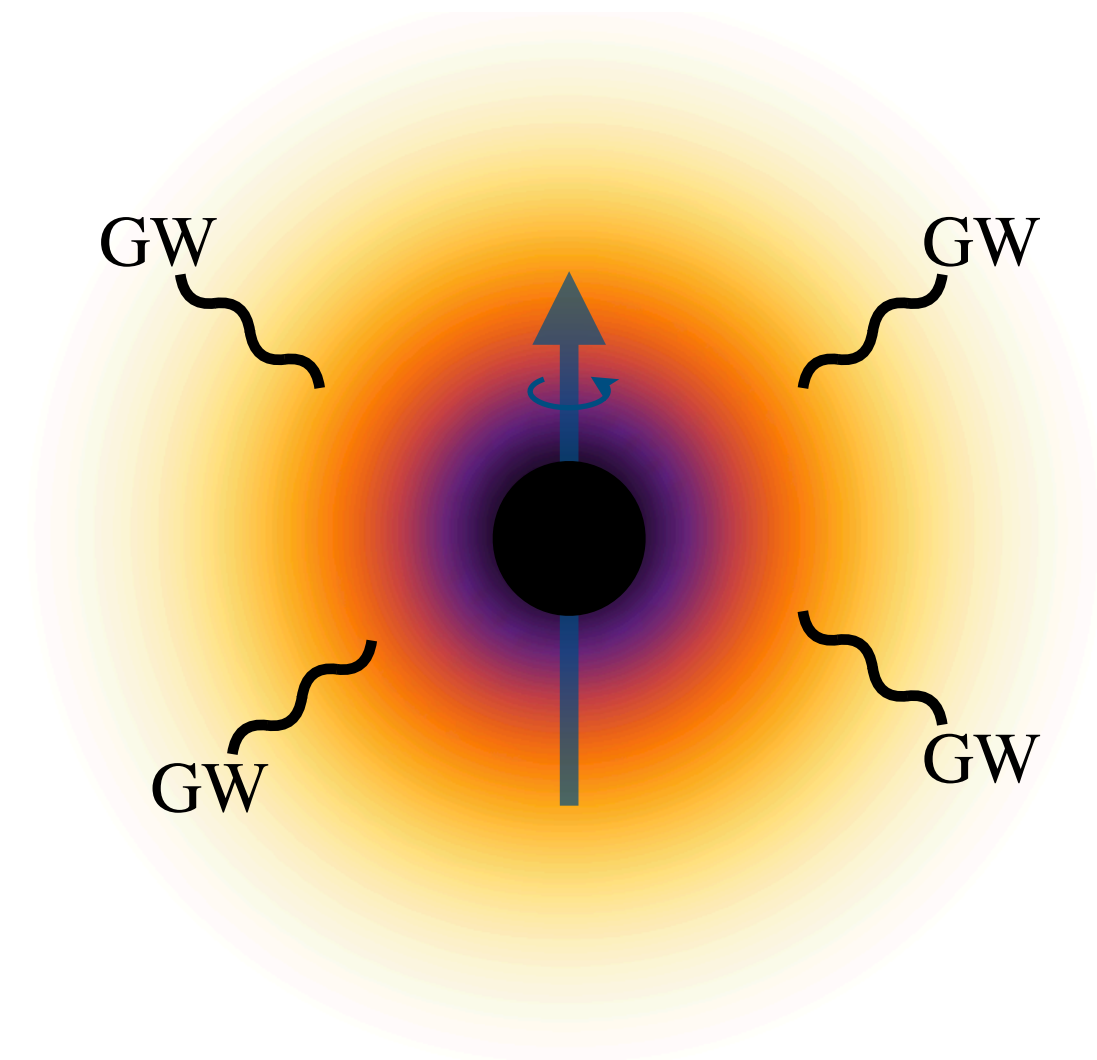
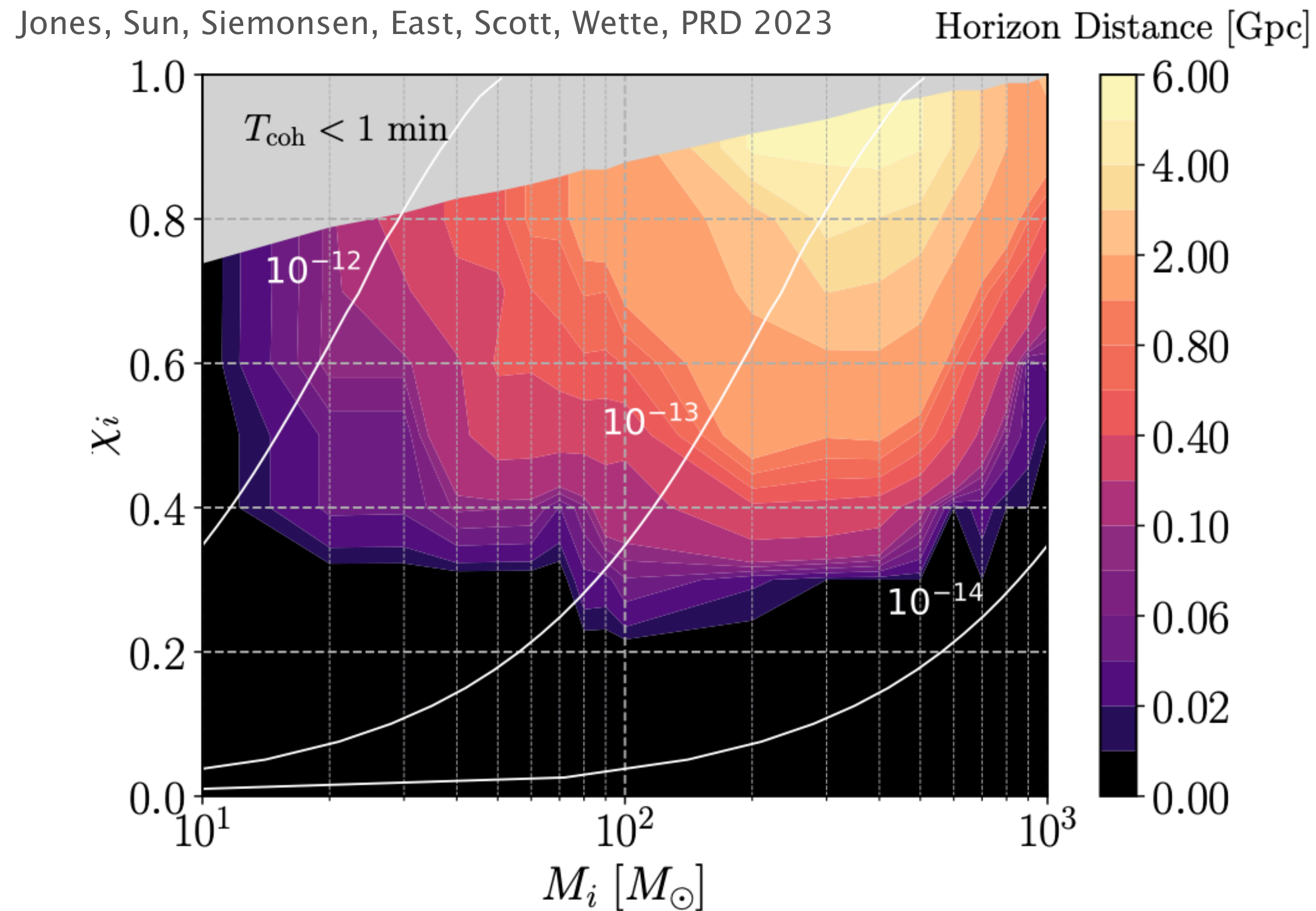
Axion masses around  $10^{-13}$  eV already disfavored!



\* depends on the time between BH formation and the merger (longer merger time, longer time for SR to grow)

# Observational signatures: continuous GW

BH superradiance can be used to probe the existence of ultralight bosons



Vector boson clouds could be seen with targeted CW searches of BH merger remnants in future LVK observing runs!

\* needs good sky localization

# Kinetically-mixed dark photon superradiance

Phys. Rev. D (2023), arxiv:2212.09772

N. Siemonsen, **CM**, D. Egaña-Ugrinovic, J. Huang, M. Baryakhtar, W. E. East

See also:

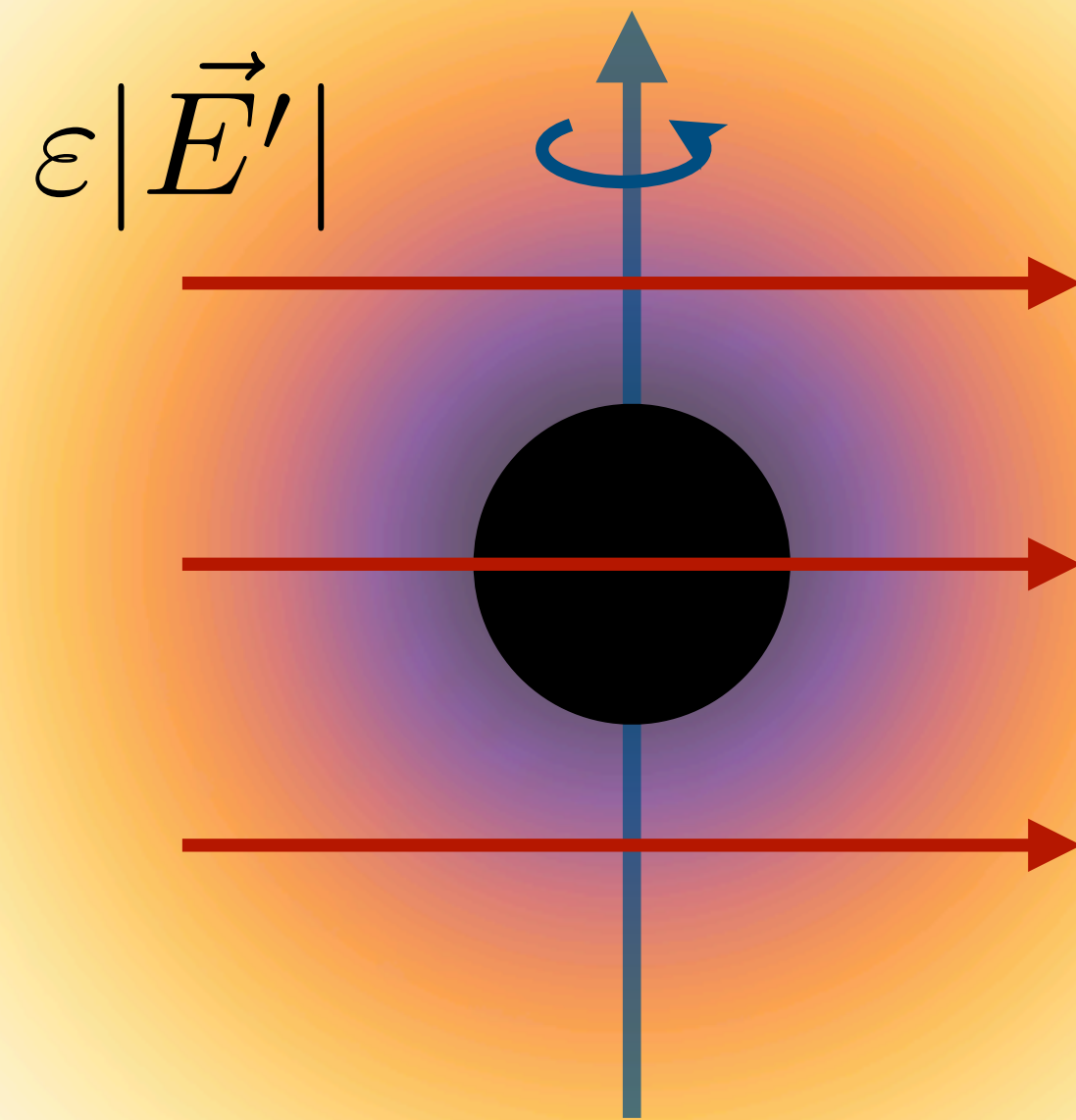
S. Xin and E. R. Most, Dark magnetohydrodynamics: Black hole accretion in superradiant dark photon clouds, 2406.02992

# Dark photon kinetic mixing

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 A'^{\mu}A'_{\mu} + J_{\text{EM}}^{\mu}(A_{\mu} + \varepsilon A'_{\mu})$$

$$A_{\mu} \overset{\varepsilon \ll 1}{\text{---} \times \text{---}} A'_{\mu}$$

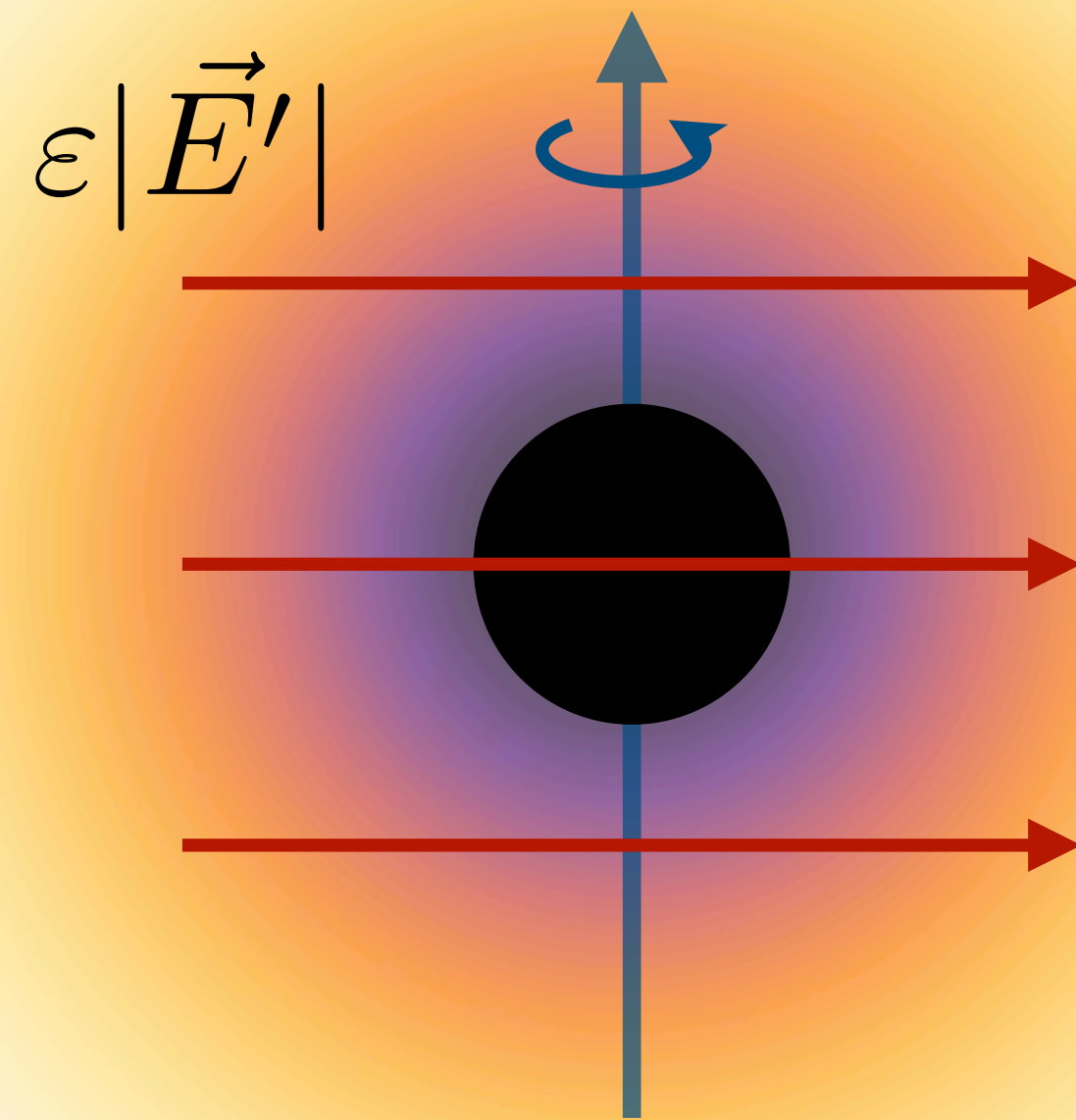
Coupling to SM charged particles:  $e\varepsilon$



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$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 A'^{\mu}A'_{\mu} + J_{\text{EM}}^{\mu}(A_{\mu} + \varepsilon A'_{\mu}) \quad \varepsilon \ll 1 \quad A_{\mu} \text{ } \overset{\varepsilon \ll 1}{\text{wavy}} \text{ } A'_{\mu}$$

Coupling to SM charged particles:  $e\varepsilon$

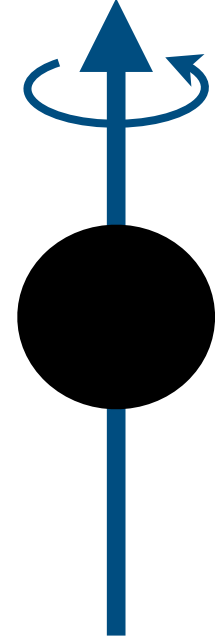


Large, rotating electric field

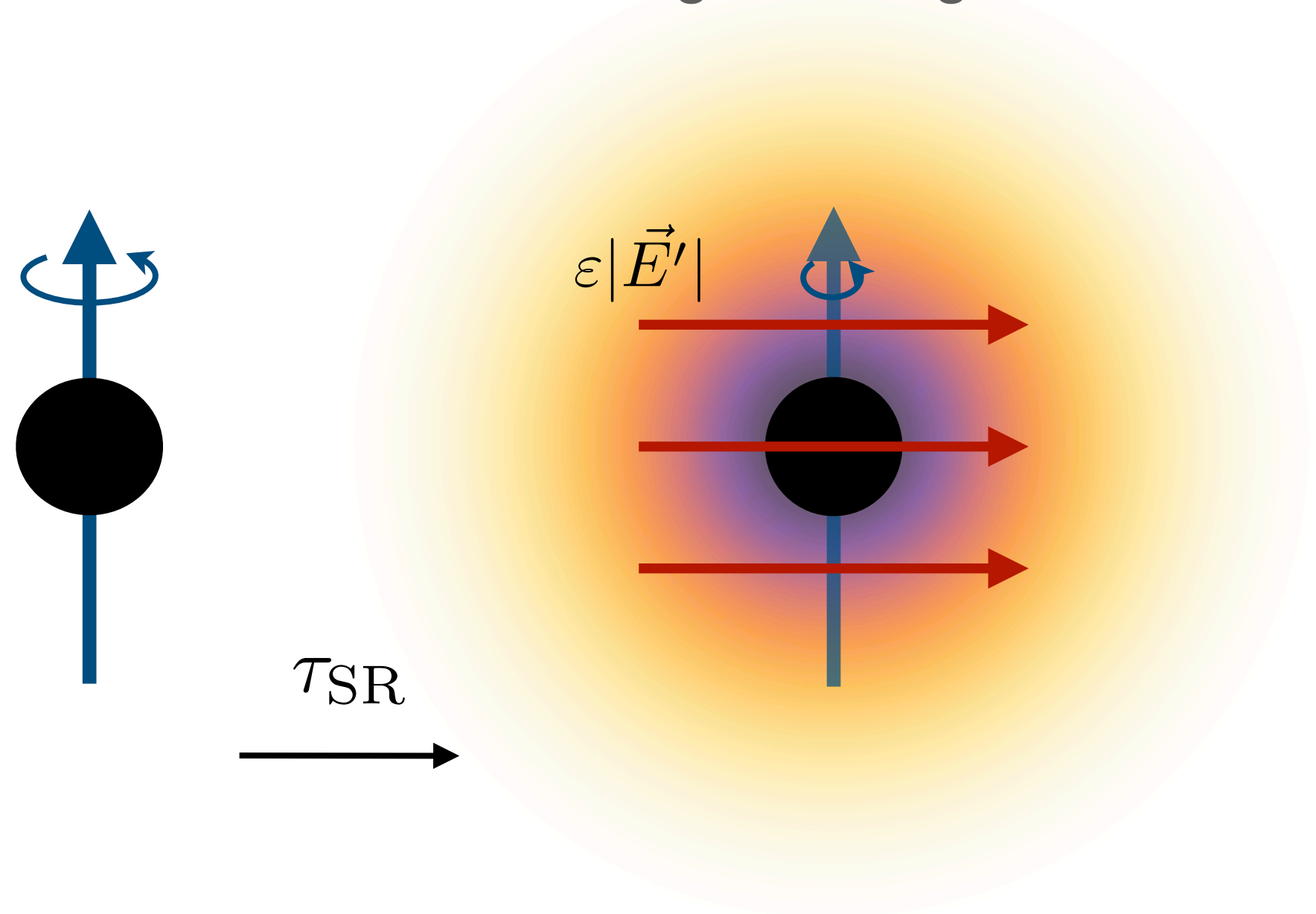
$$|\vec{E}| = \varepsilon|\vec{E}'| \sim \varepsilon\alpha^{5/2}\mu M_{\text{pl}}$$

$$|\vec{E}| \sim 10^{13} \text{ V/m} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{10^{-7}}\right) \left(\frac{\alpha}{0.1}\right)^{5/2} \left(\frac{\mu}{10^{-12} \text{ eV}}\right)$$

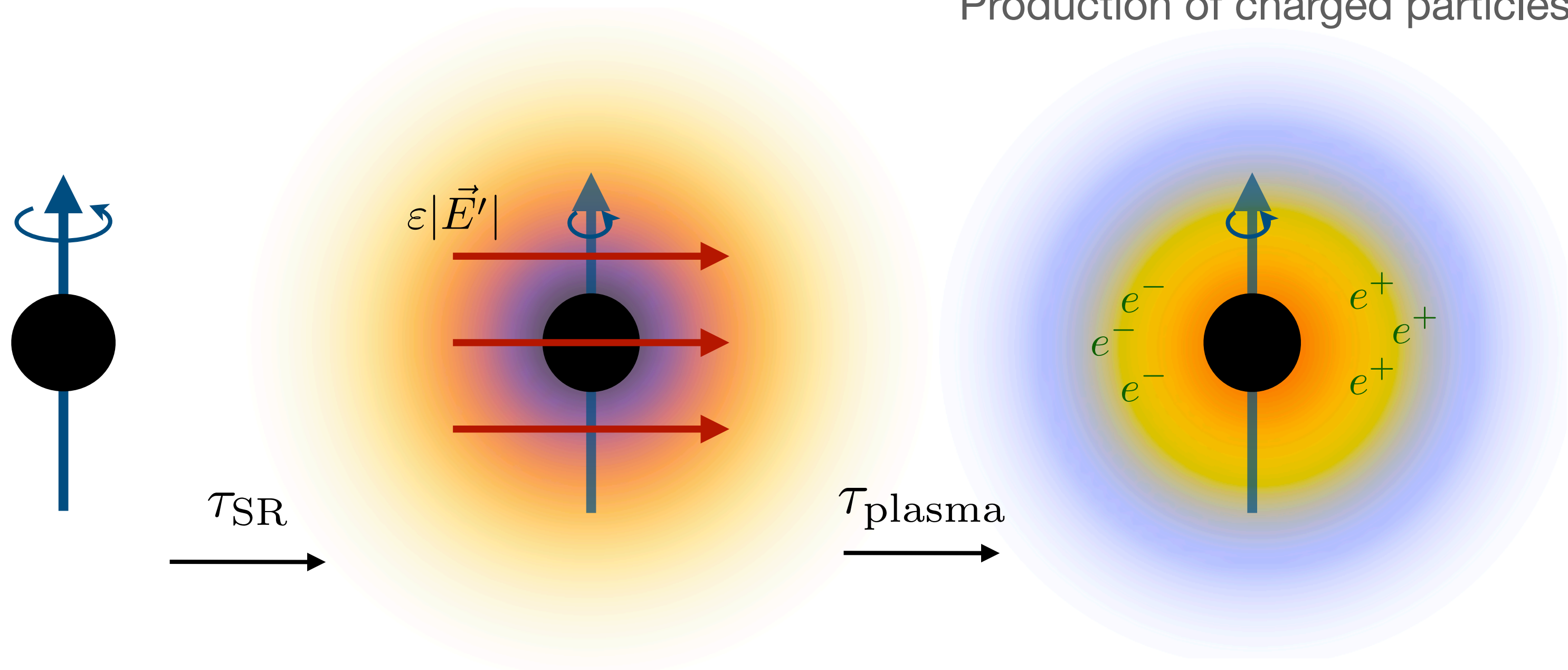


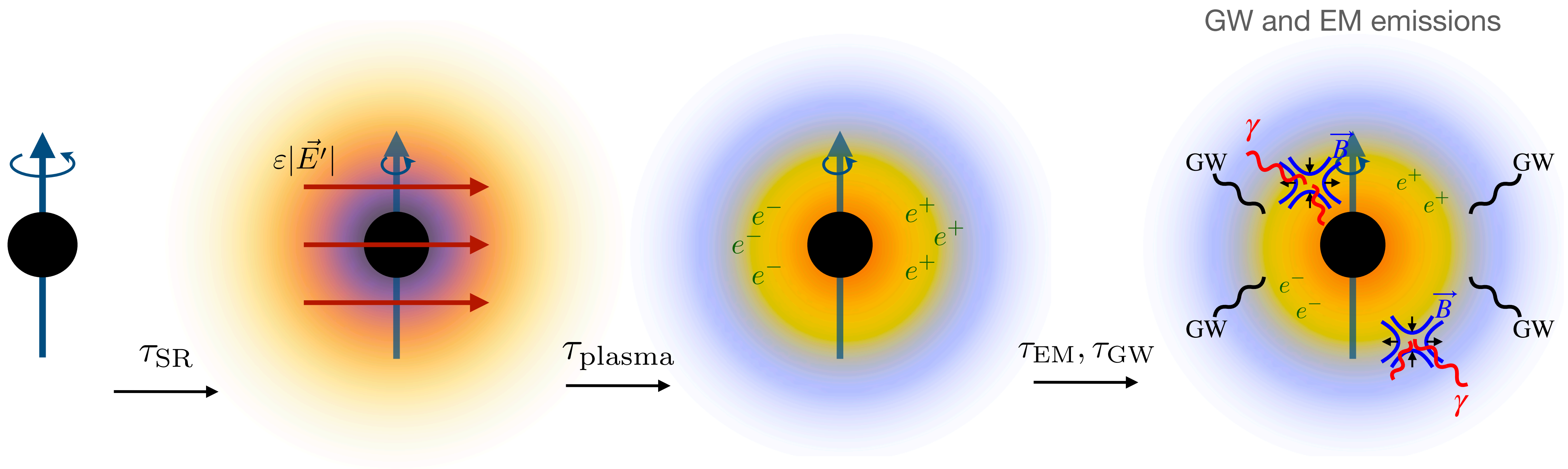


Cloud of large rotating electric field

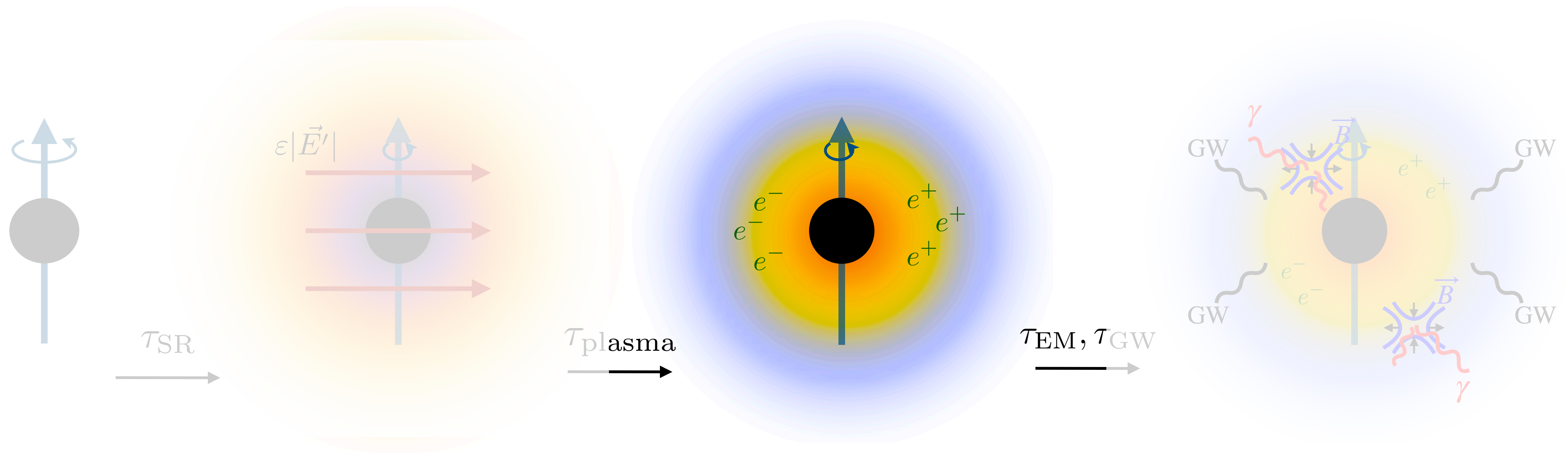


Production of charged particles

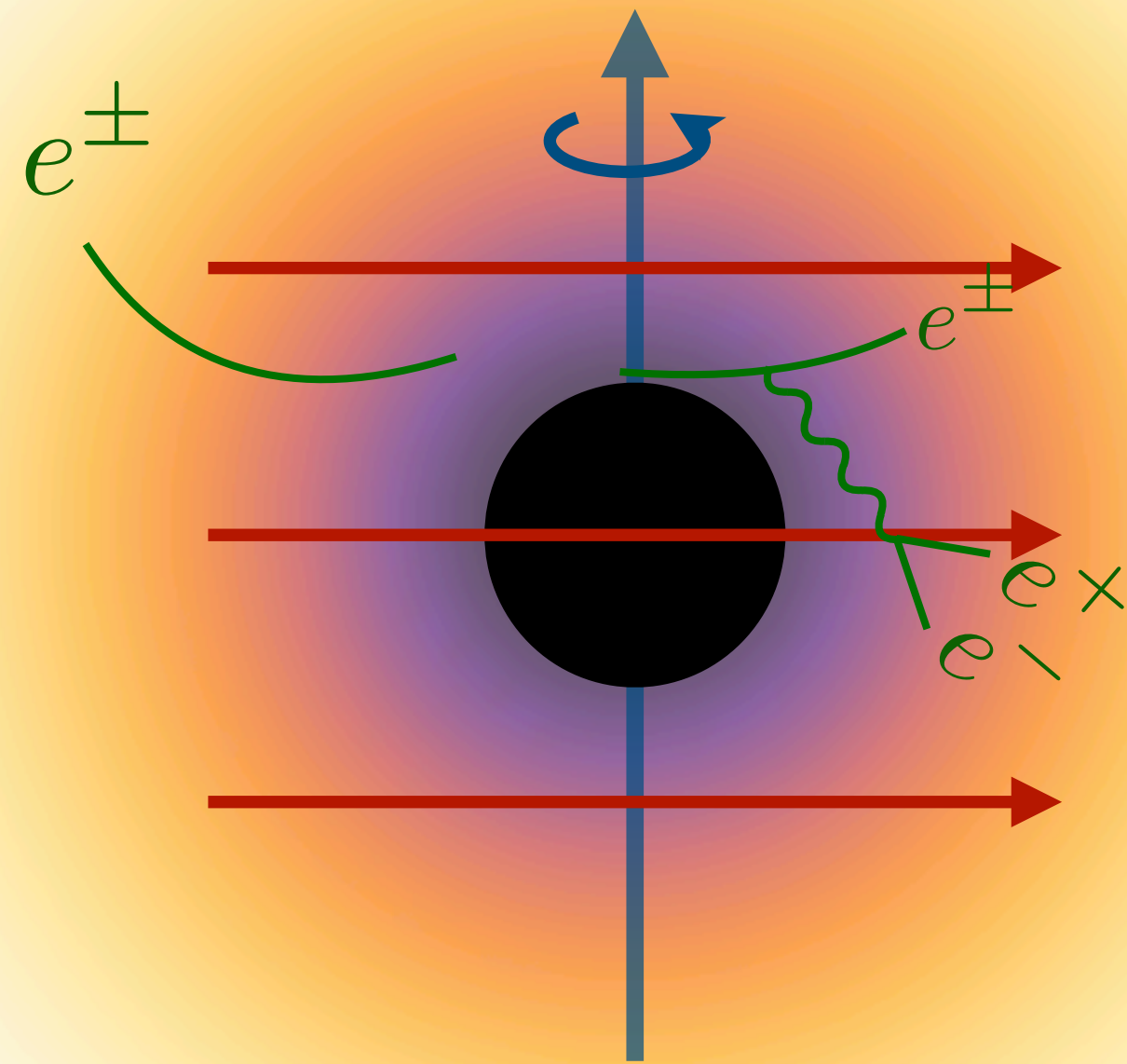




# Plasma production



# Plasma production



$$|\vec{E}| = \epsilon |\vec{E}'| \sim 10^{13} \text{ V/m}$$

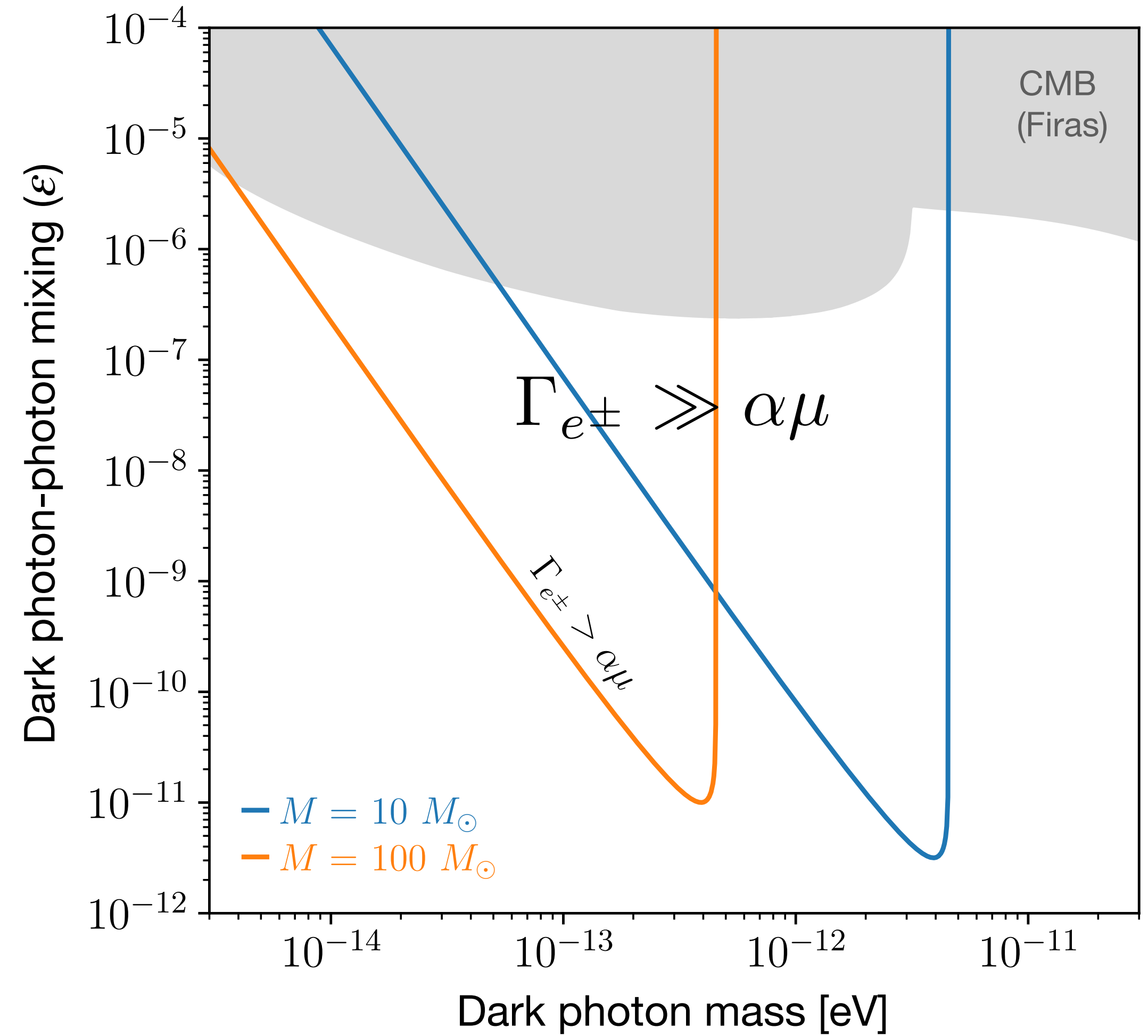
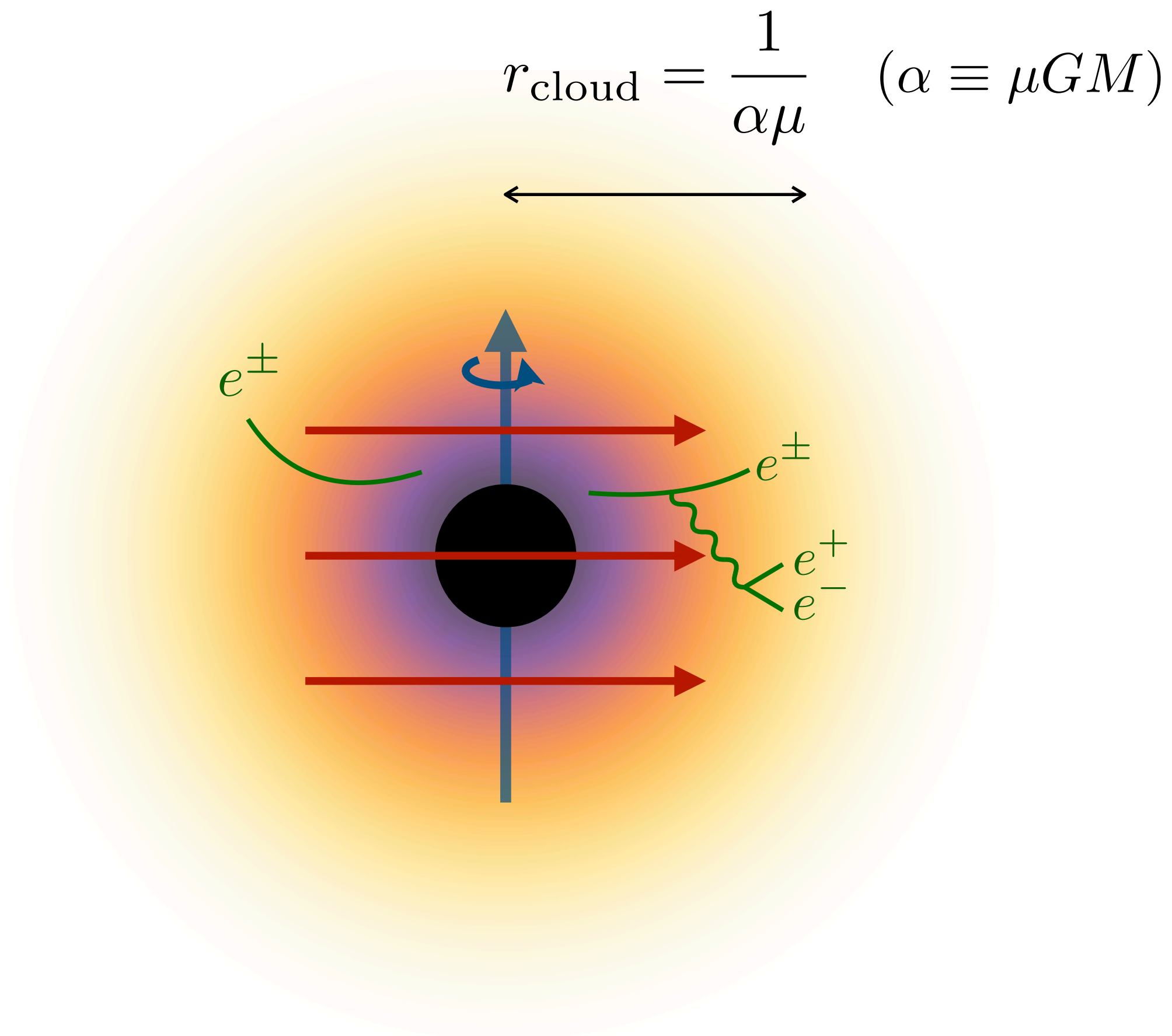
Synchrotron emission of high energy photons

$$\omega_{\text{syn}} \simeq \gamma_e^3 \mu \gg m_e$$

**Photon-assisted** Schwinger pair production

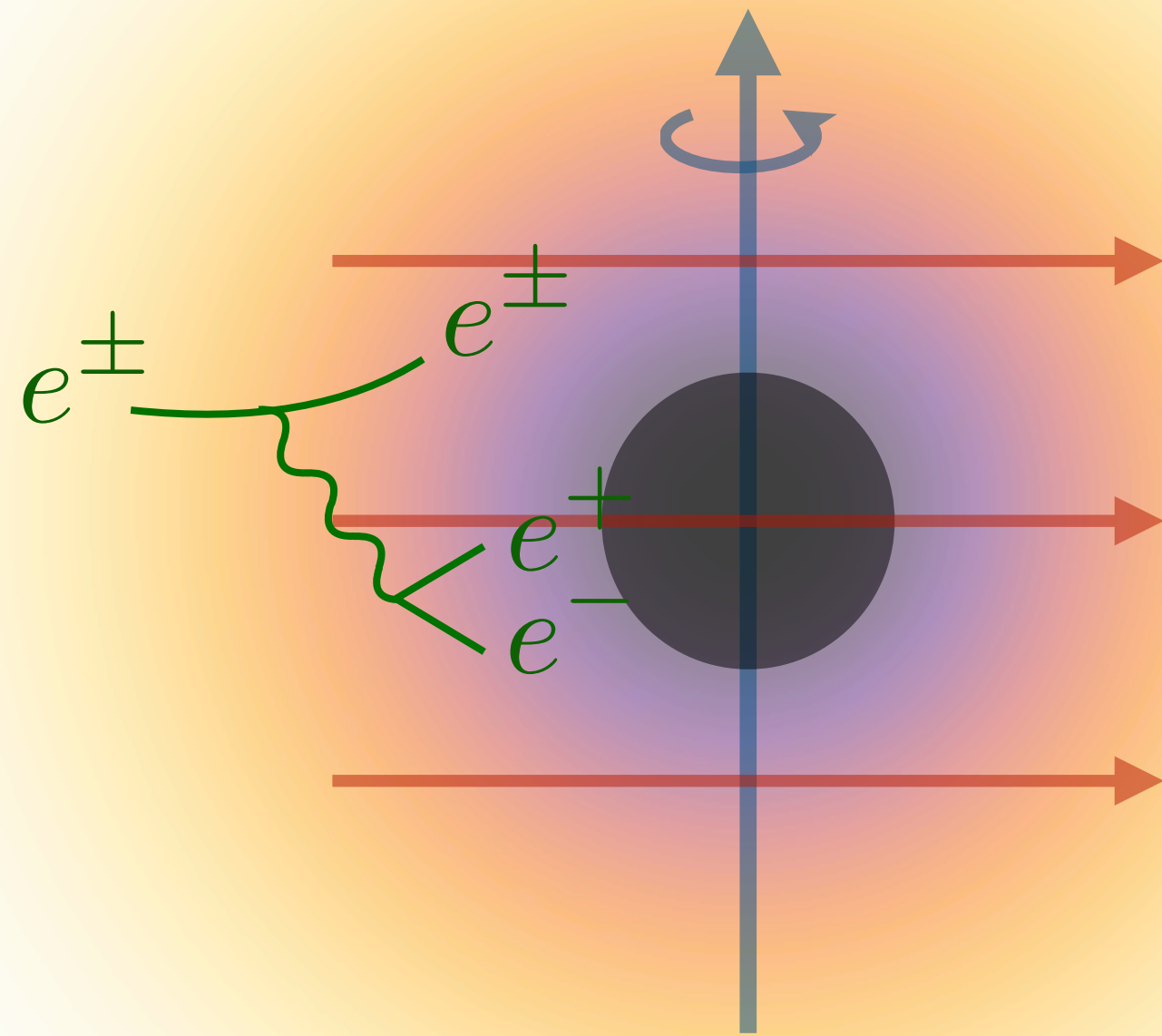
$$\Gamma_{e^\pm}$$

# Efficient plasma production



# Production cascade

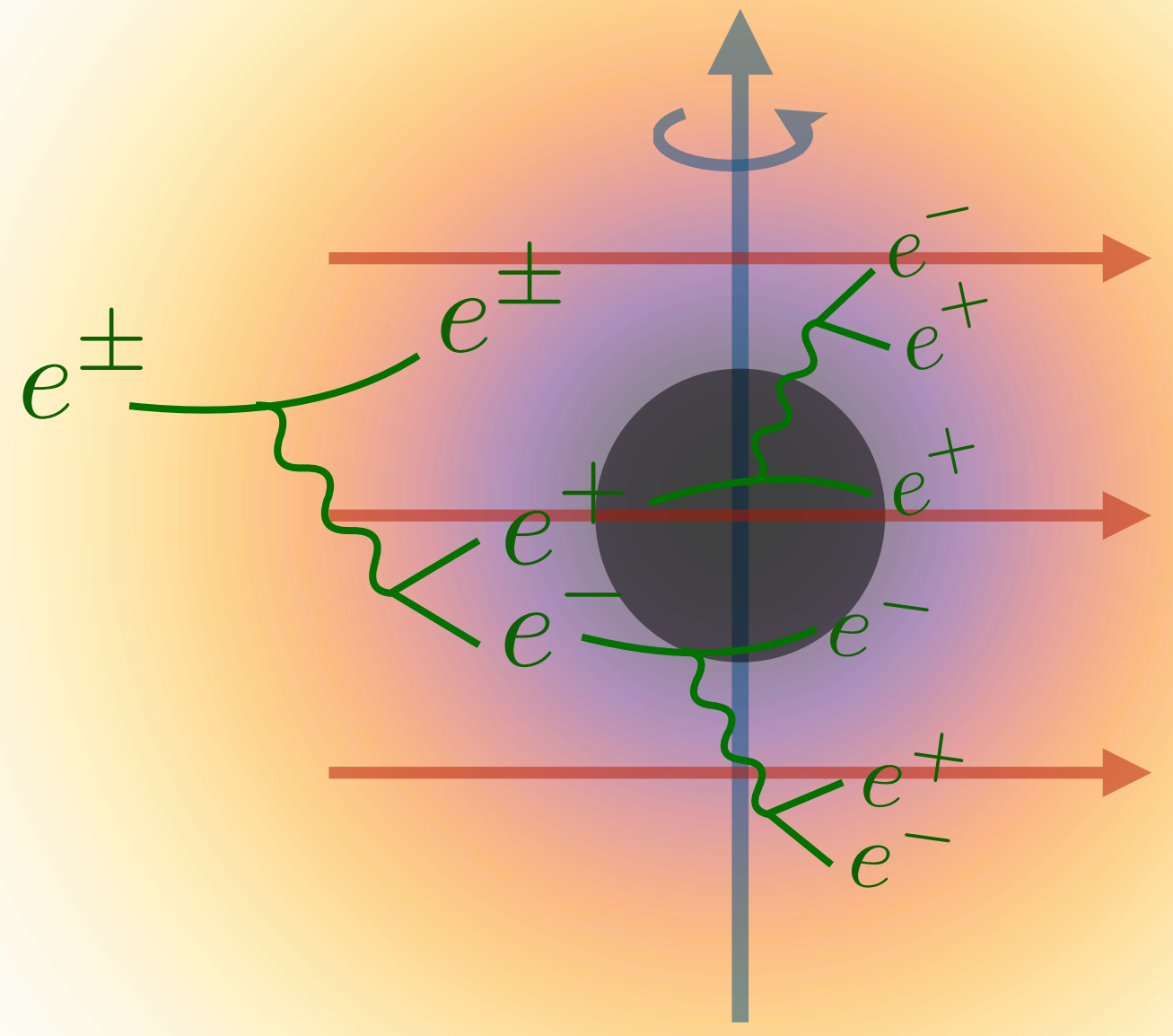
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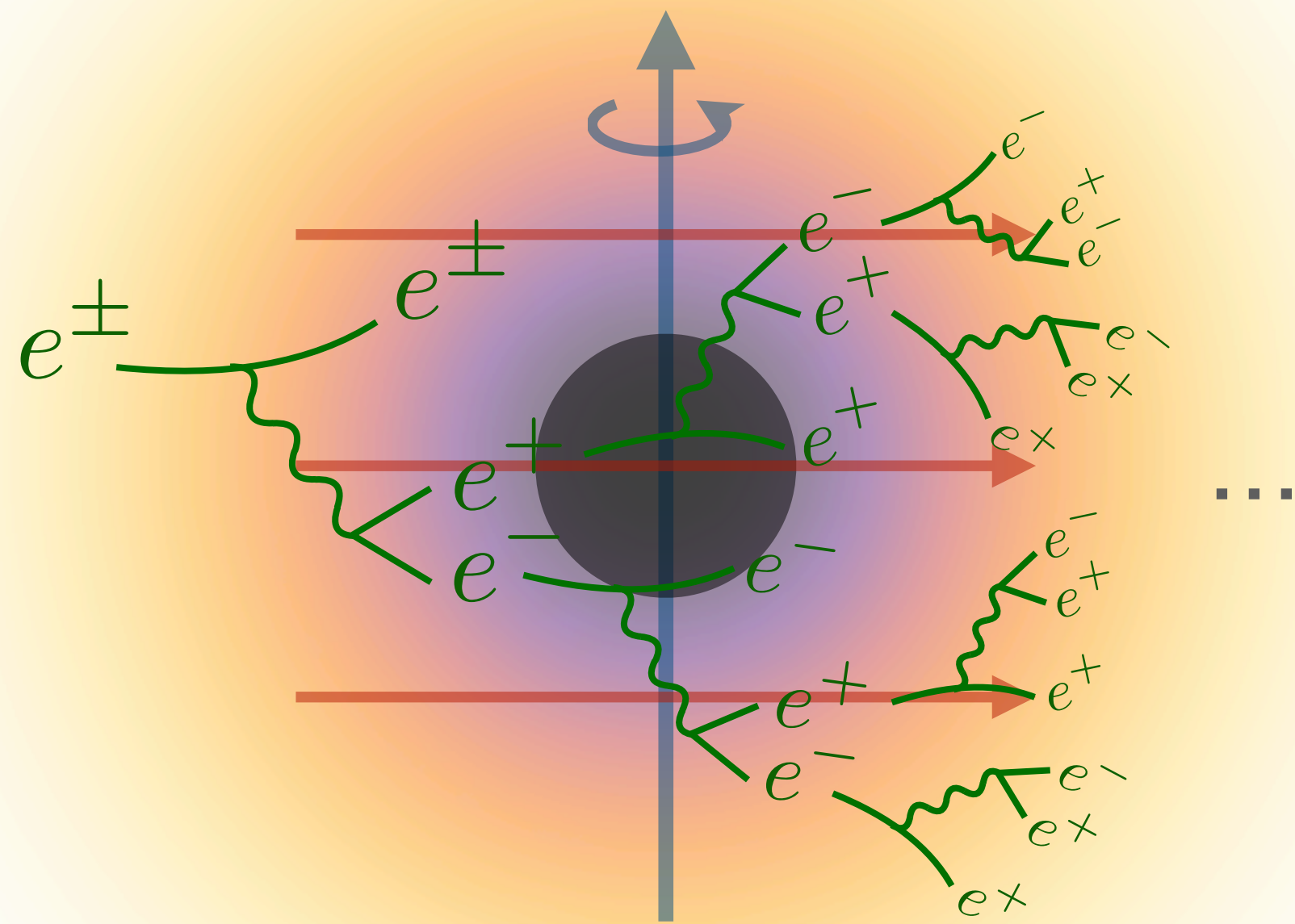
# Production cascade

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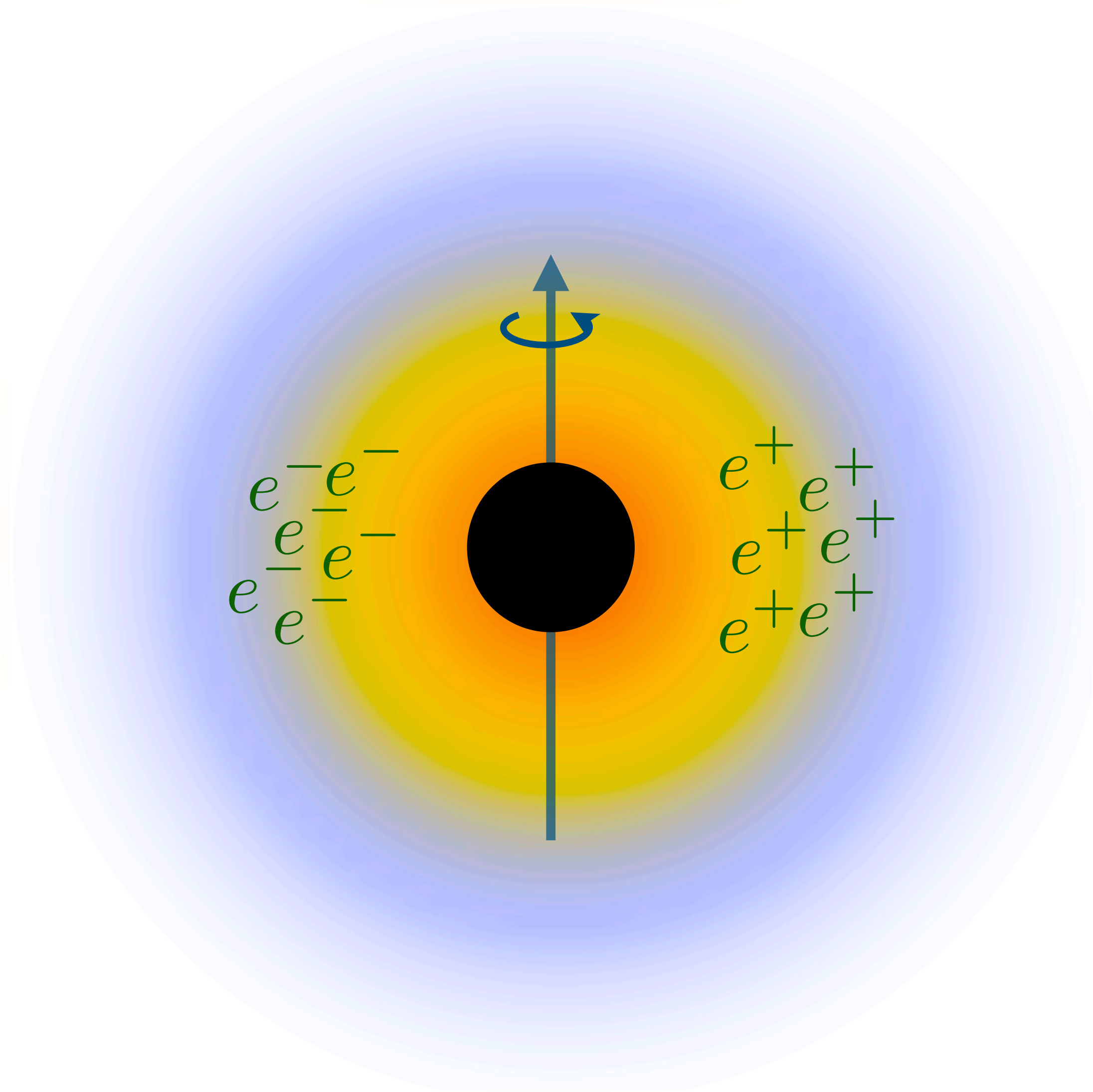


# Production cascade

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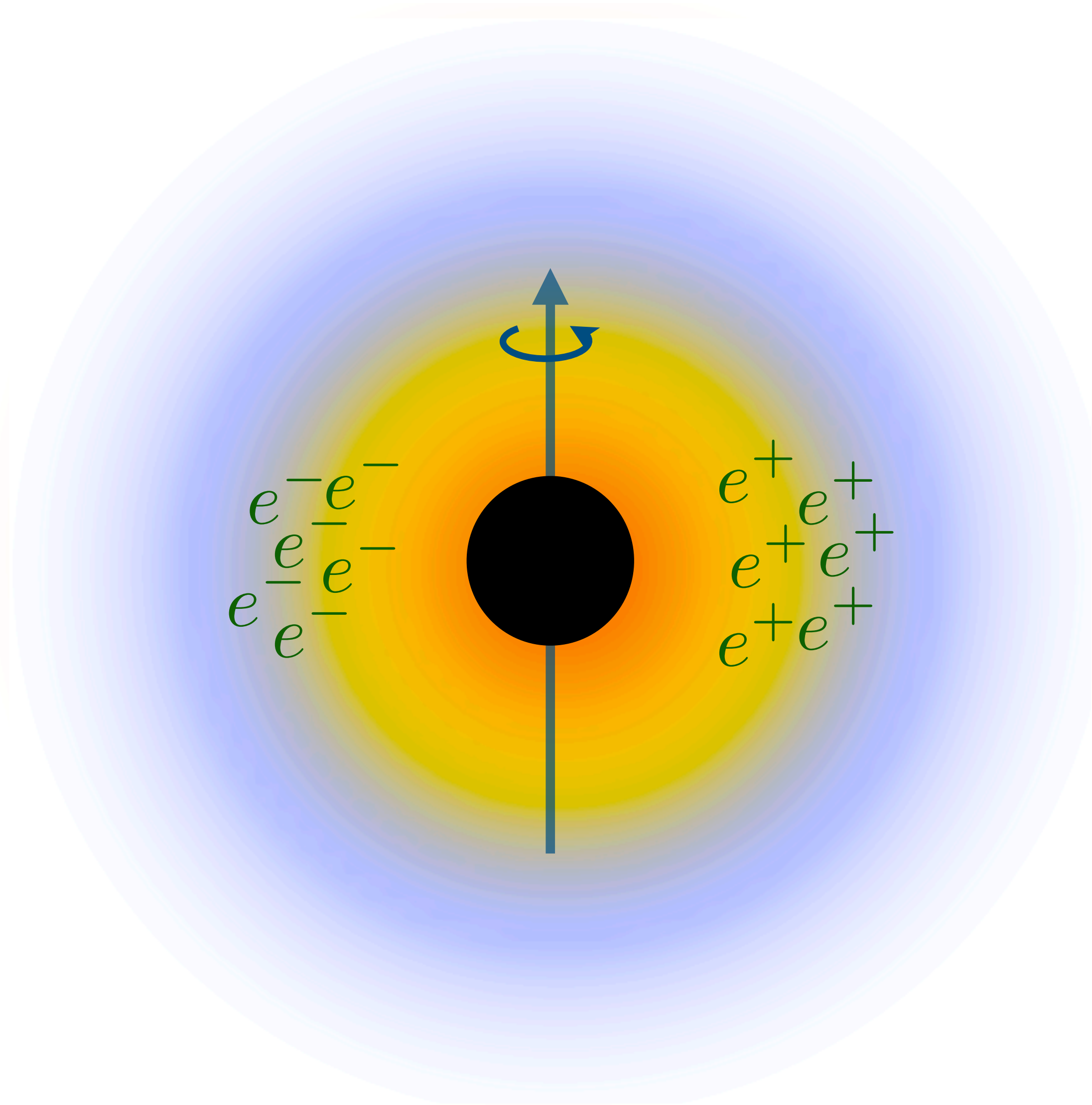
# Screening



$$en_e \simeq \varepsilon \nabla \cdot \vec{E}'$$

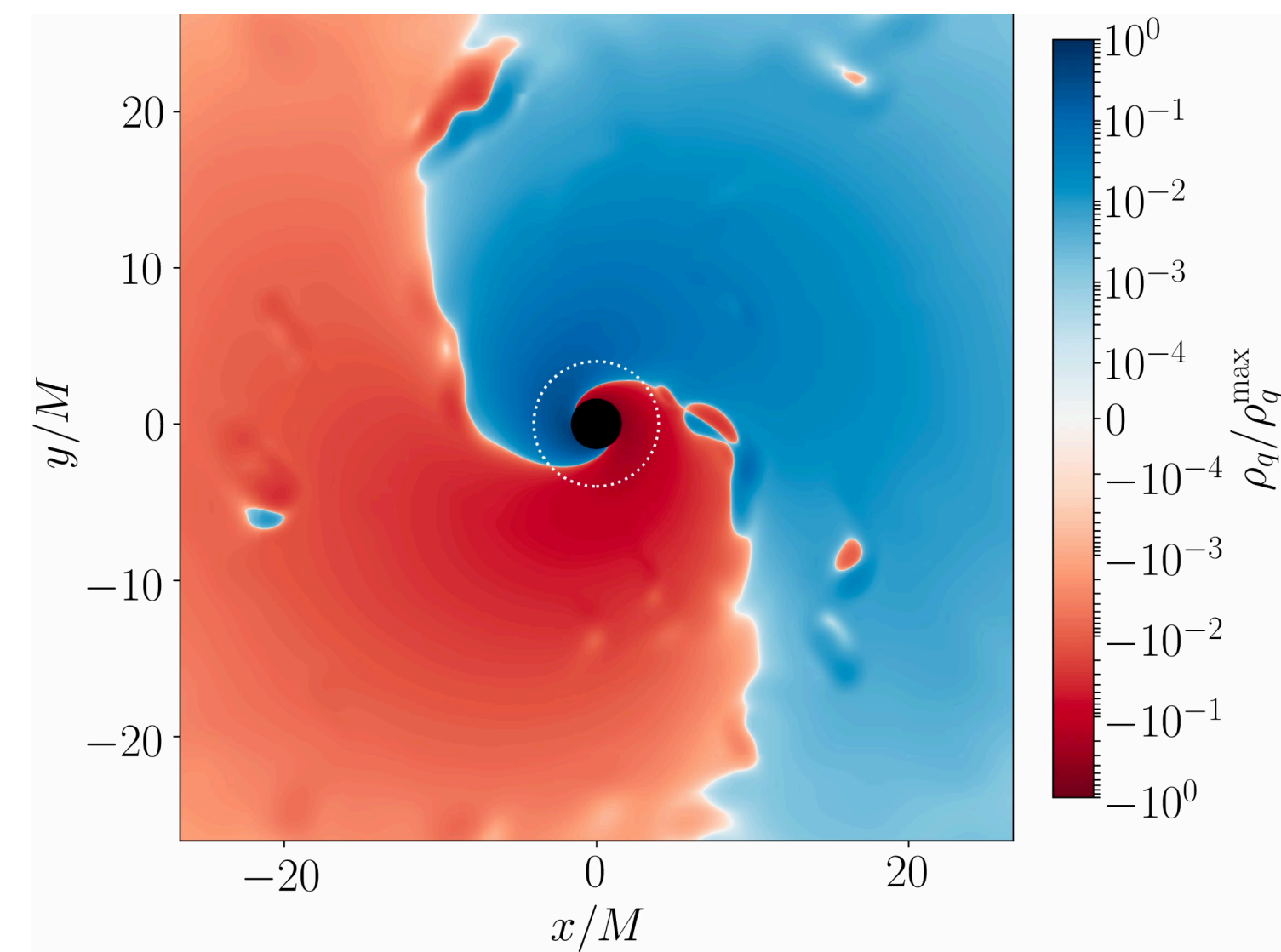
Charges separate and screen the background electric field

# Screening

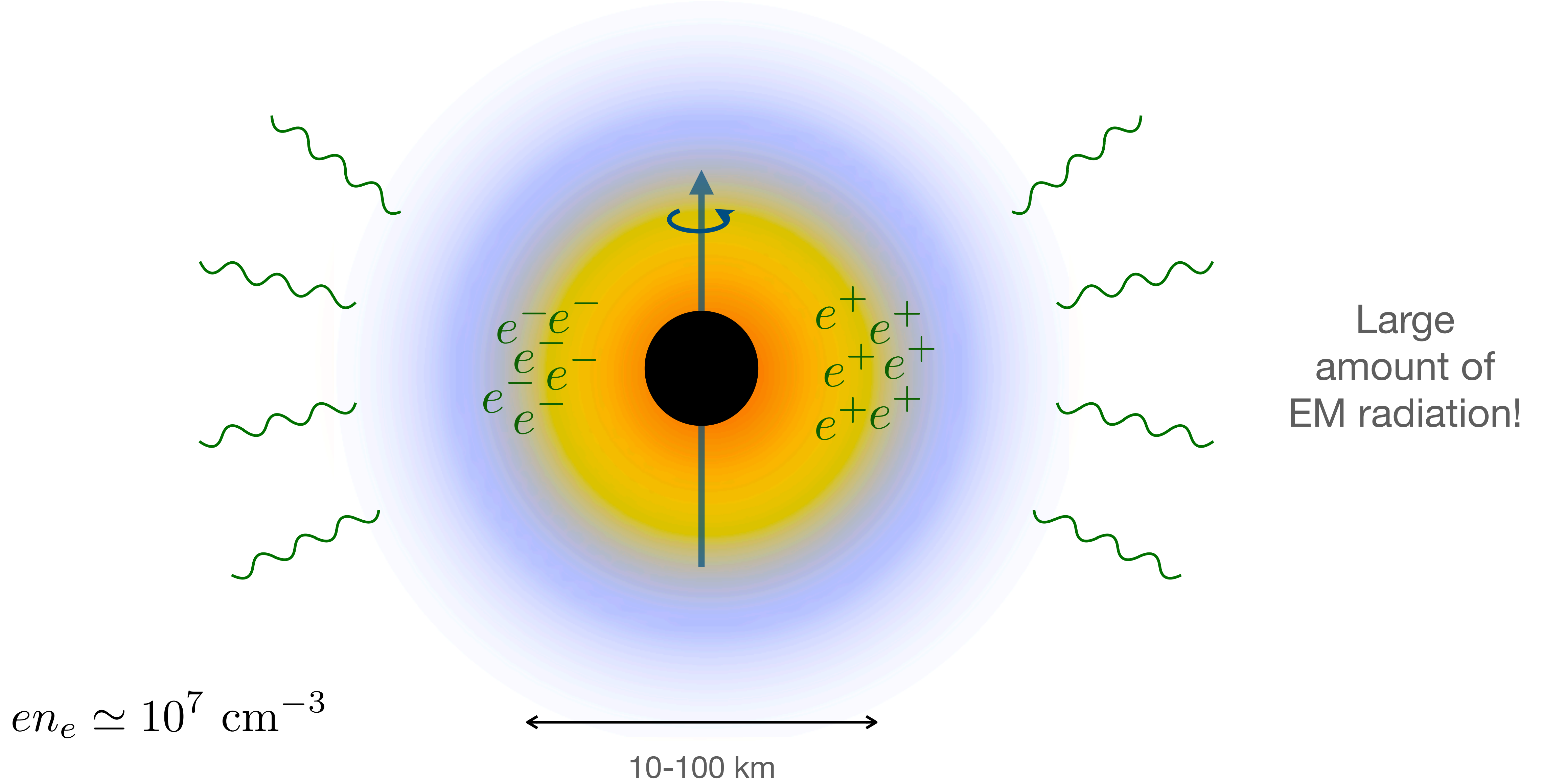


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Charges separate and screen the background electric field



# Rotating dipole

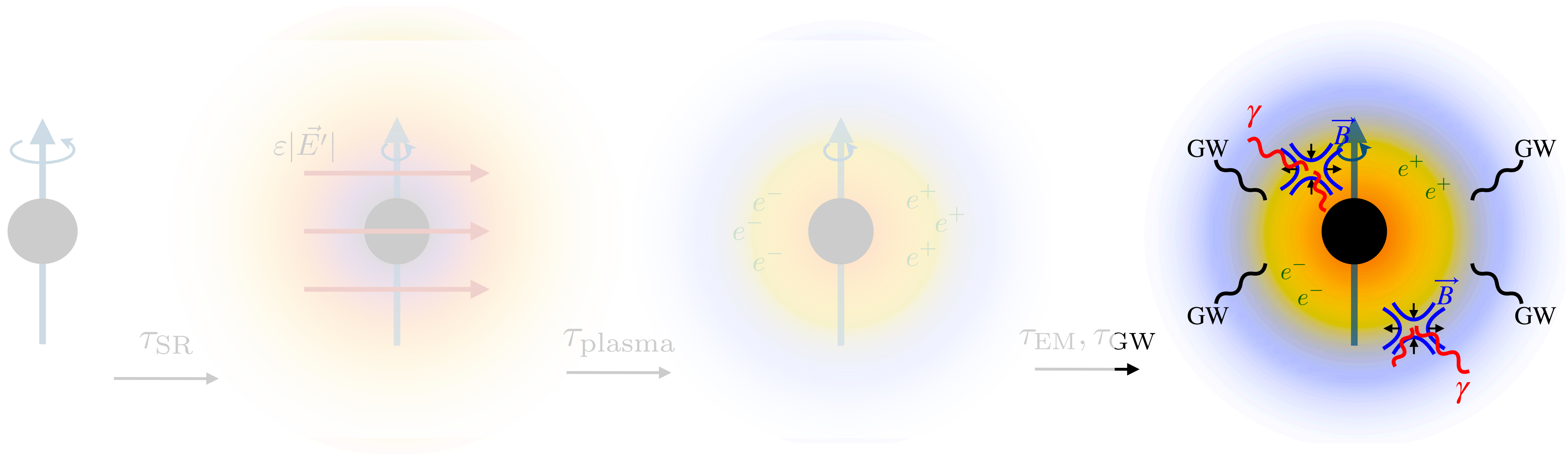


$$en_e \simeq 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

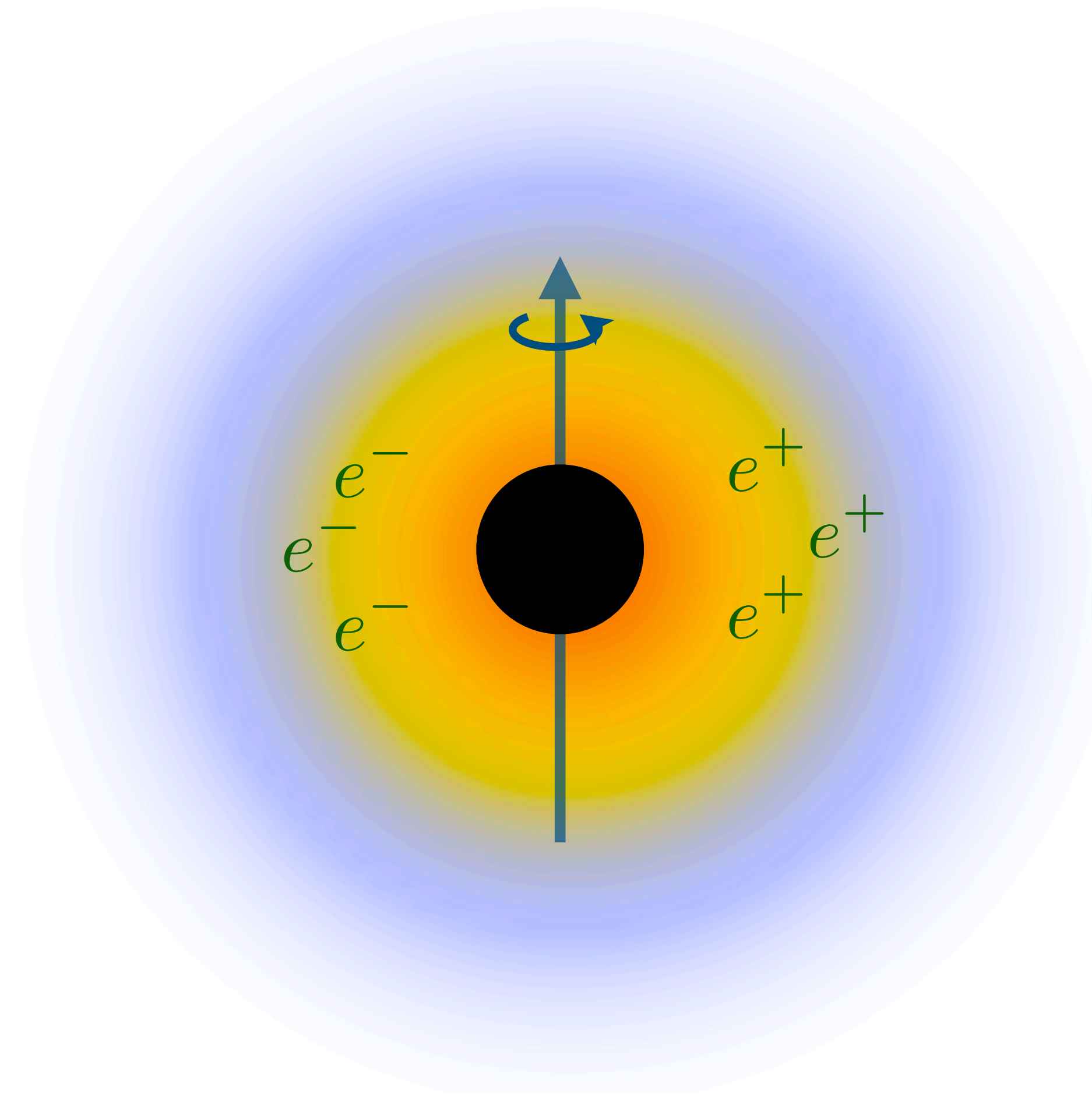
10-100 km

Large amount of EM radiation!

# EM emissions

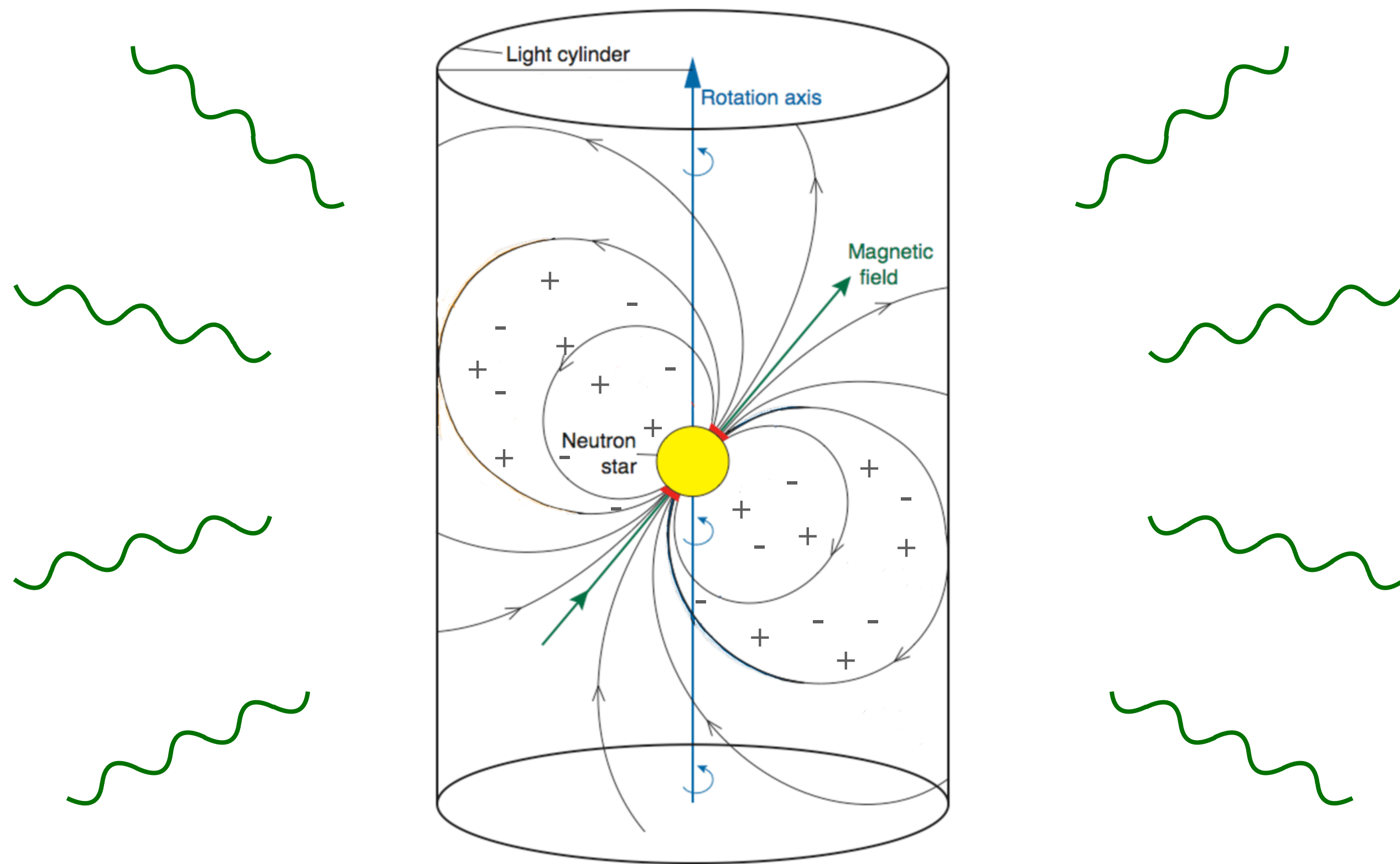


# SR cloud + plasma

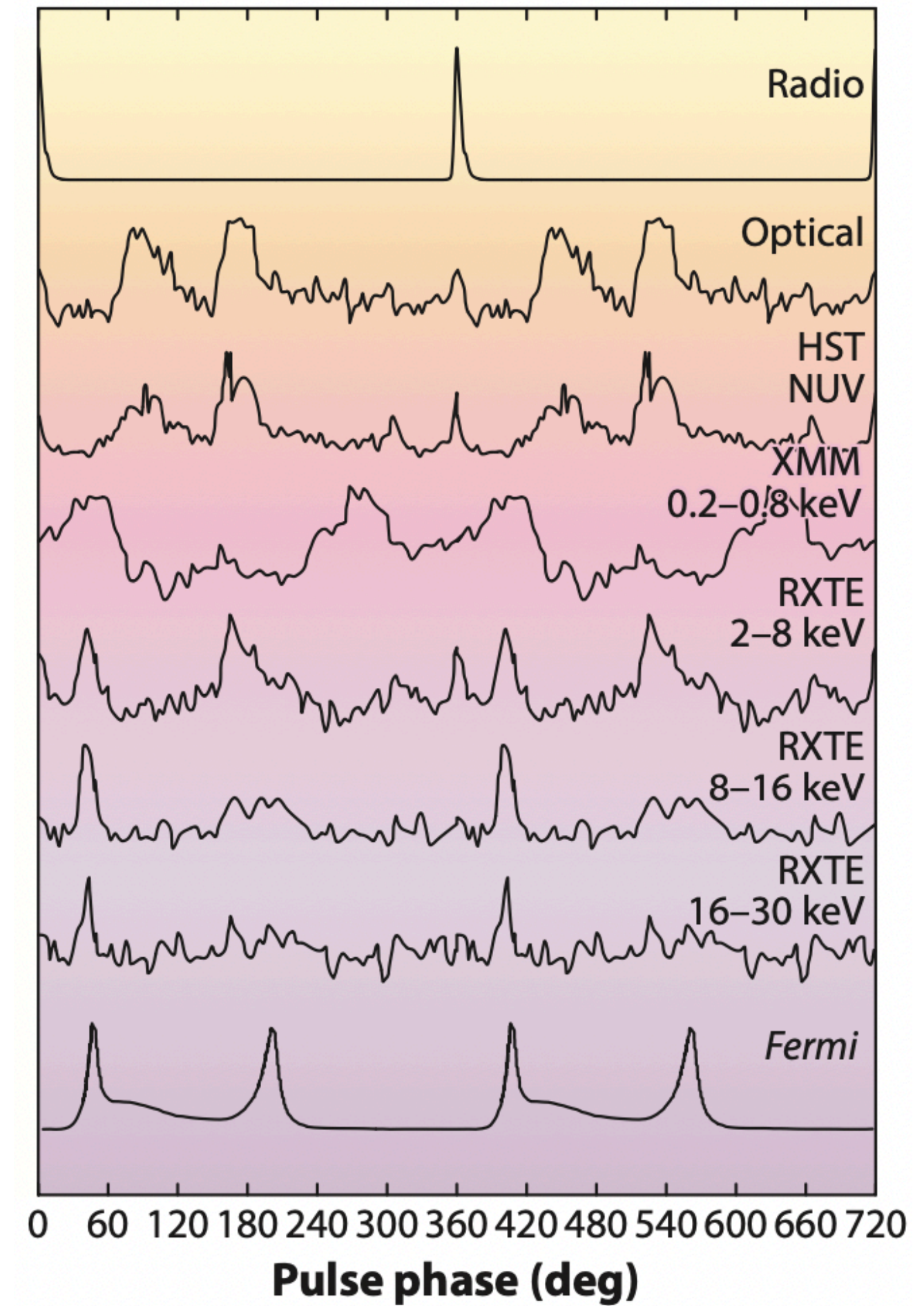


# Neutron star pulsar

Magnetosphere of neutron star pulsar



Emission spectra of the Vela pulsar



From *Pulsar Magnetospheres and Their Radiation*

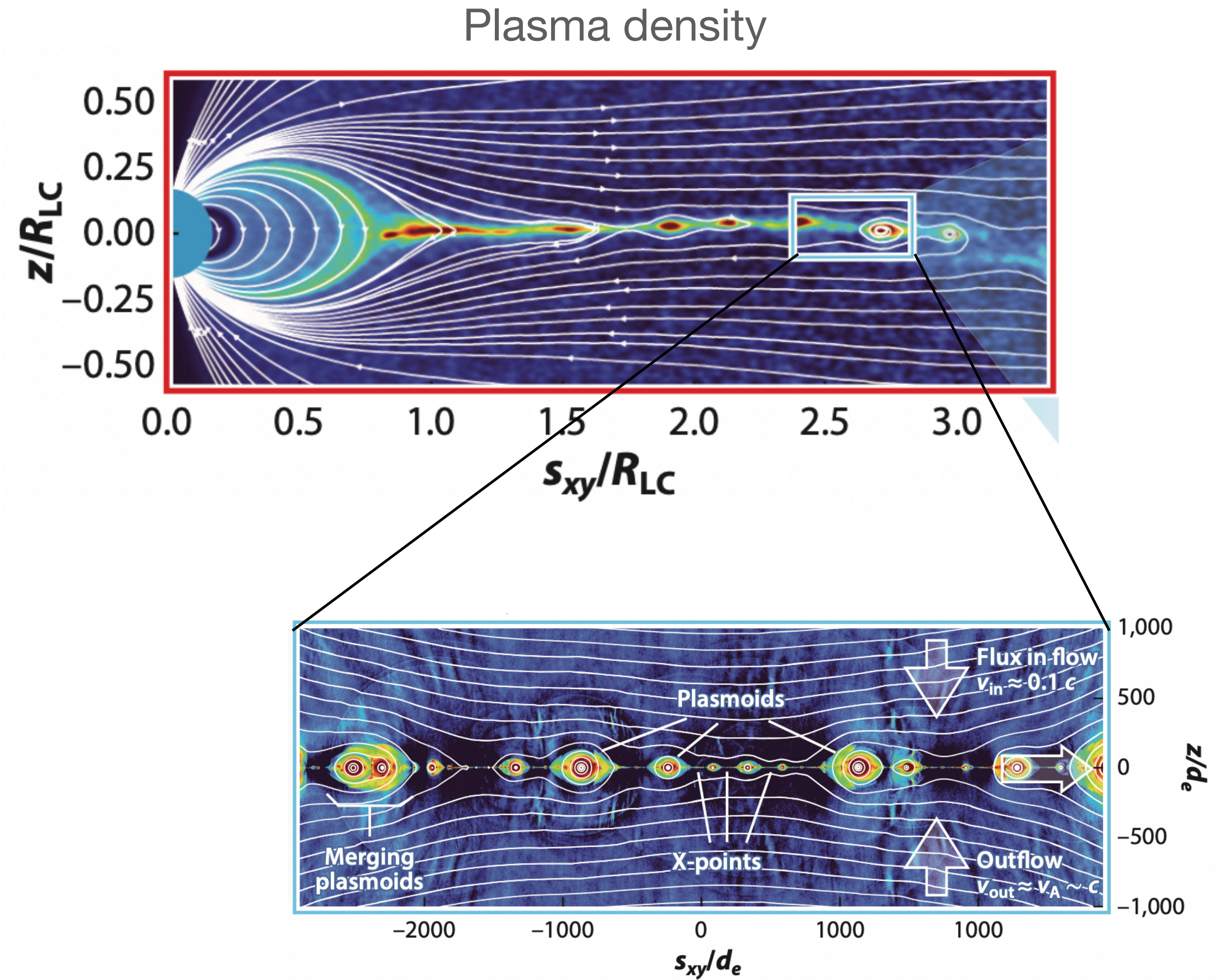
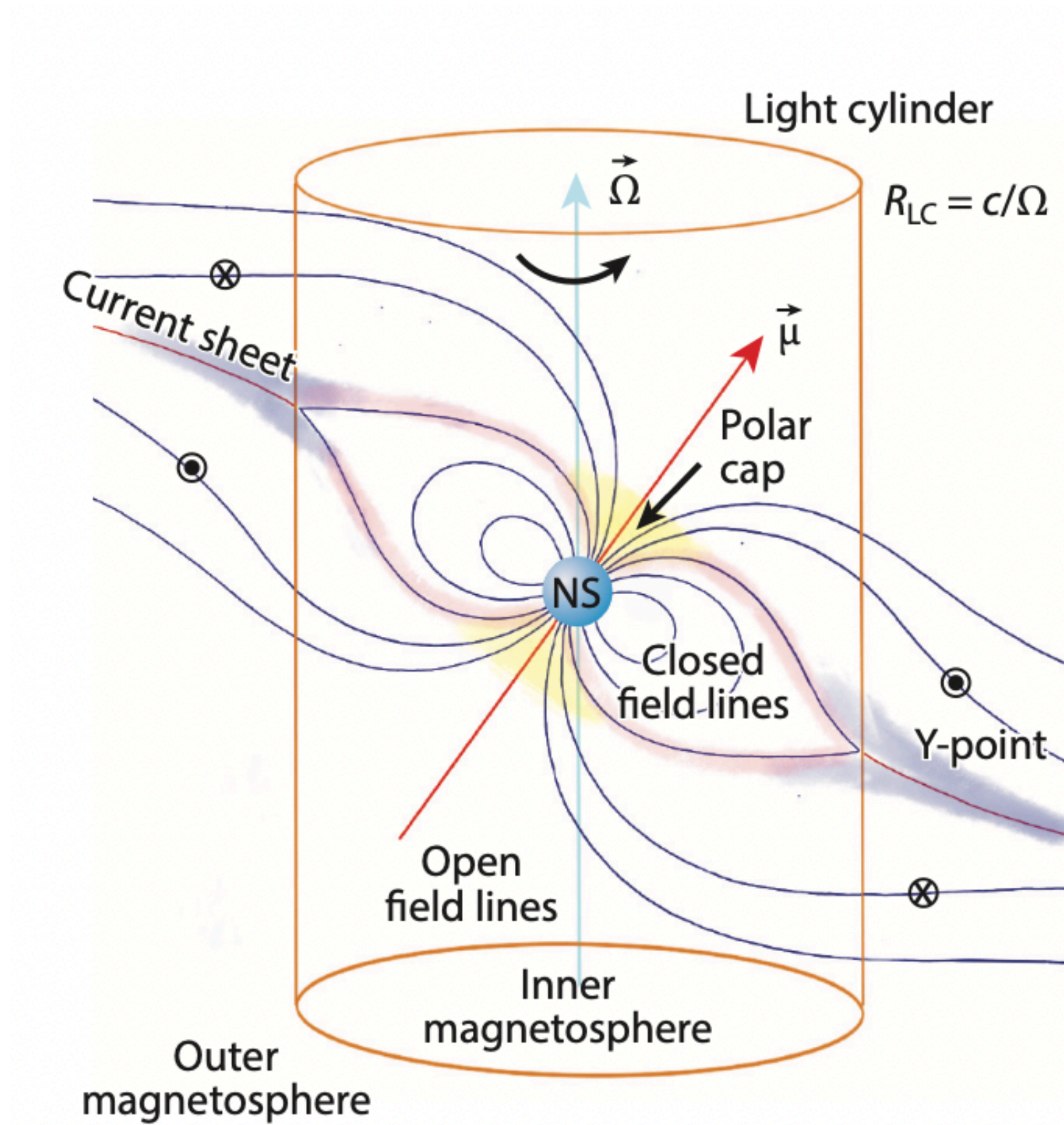
A. Philippov and M. Kramer

Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 2022

GEMMA2, Roma, 17th of September 2024

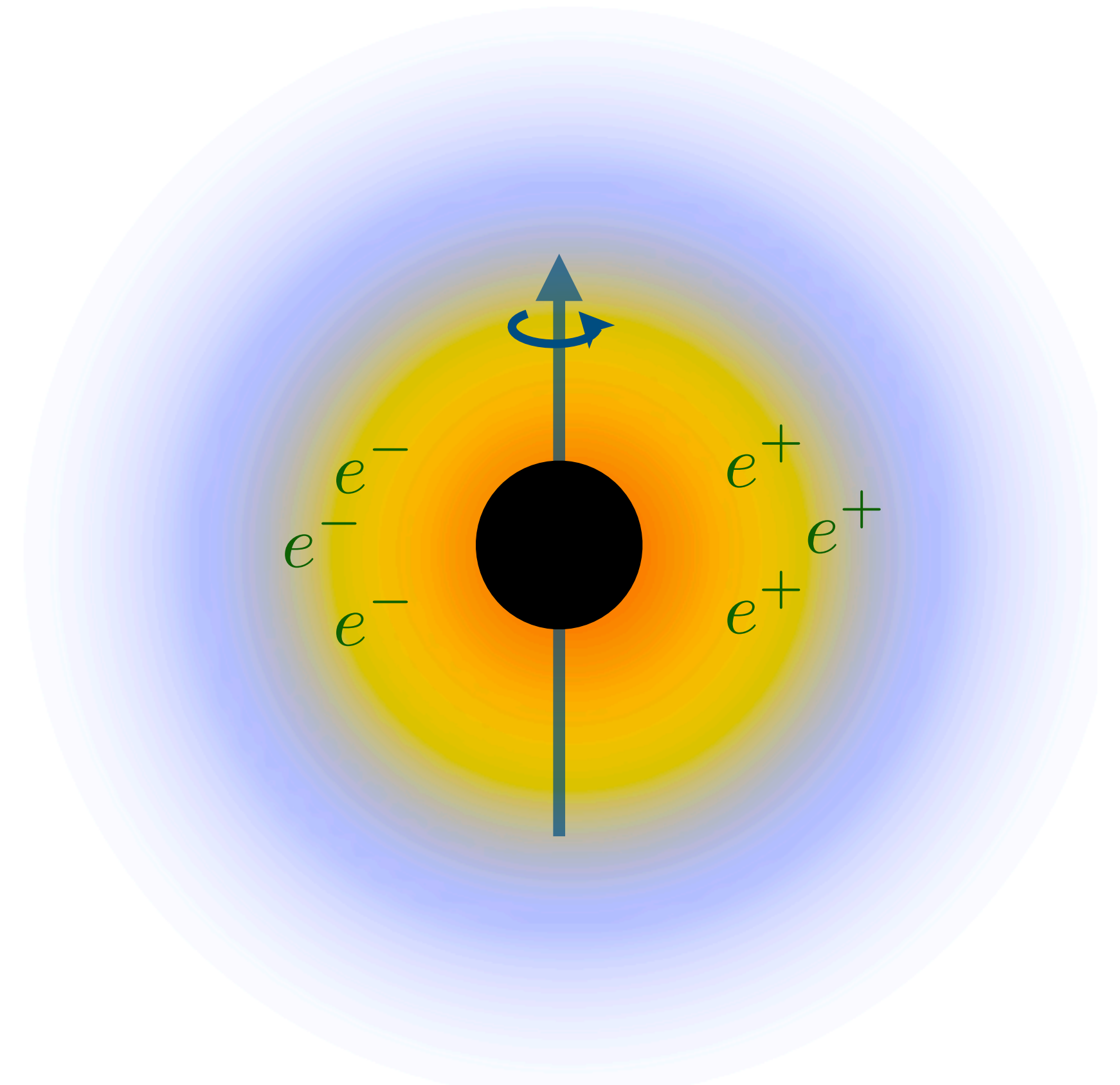
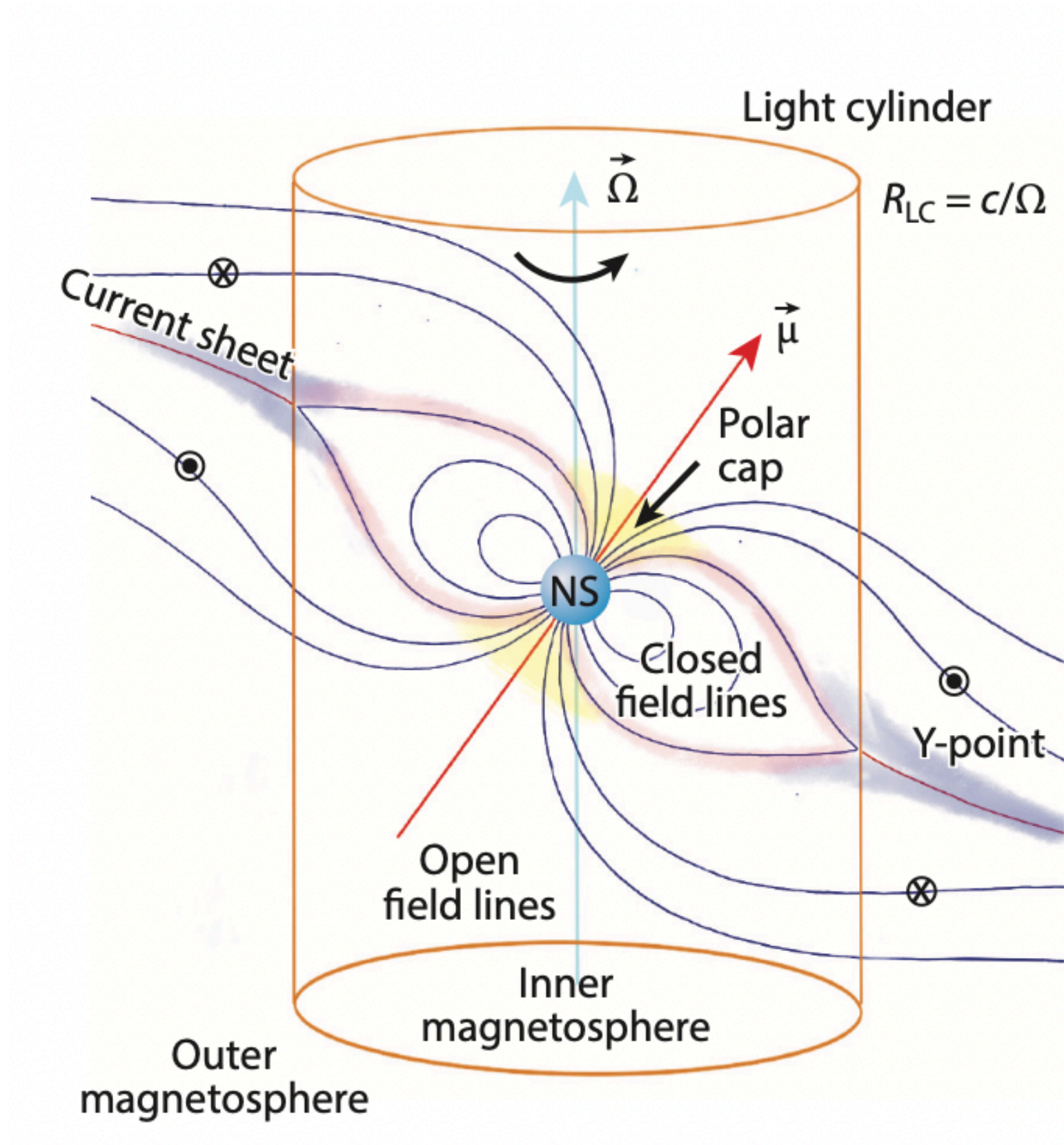


# Neutron star pulsar



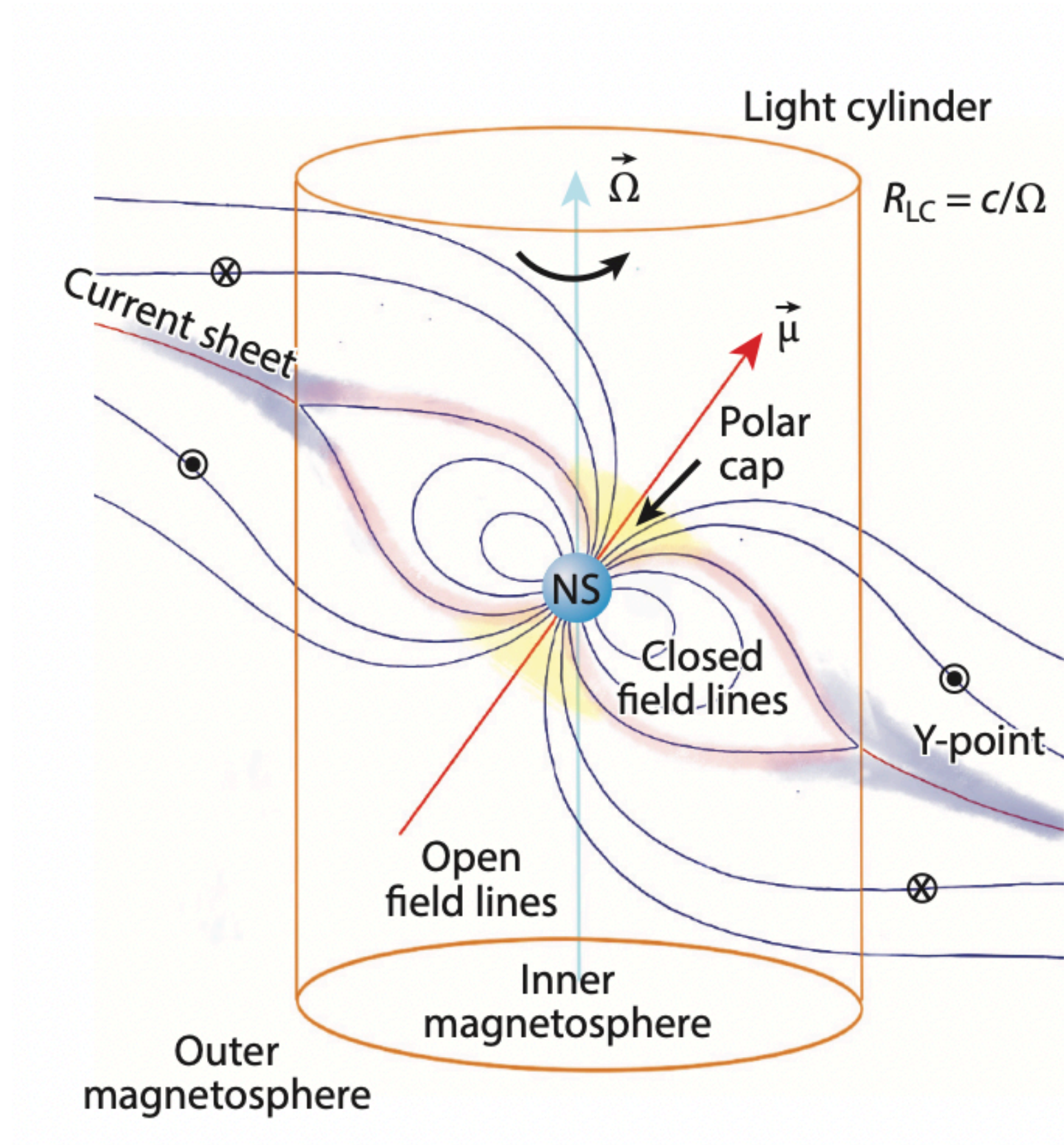
From *Pulsar Magnetospheres and Their Radiation*  
 A. Philippov and M. Kramer  
 Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 2022

# Analogy



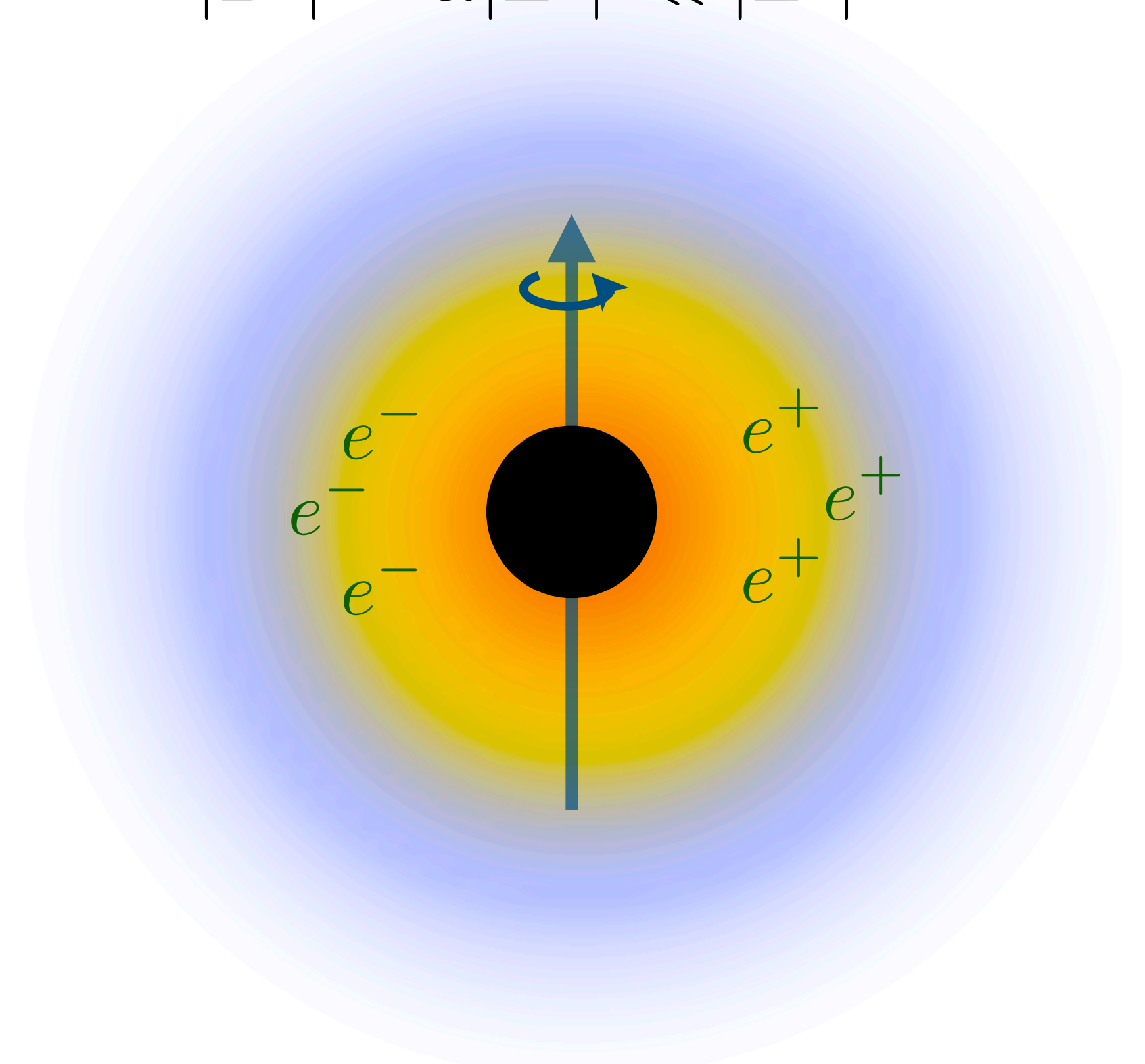
- Large EM fields
- Rotating objects (  $\sim$  ms periods)

# Difference



Magnetically dominated

$$|\vec{B}'| \sim \alpha |\vec{E}'| \ll |\vec{E}'|$$

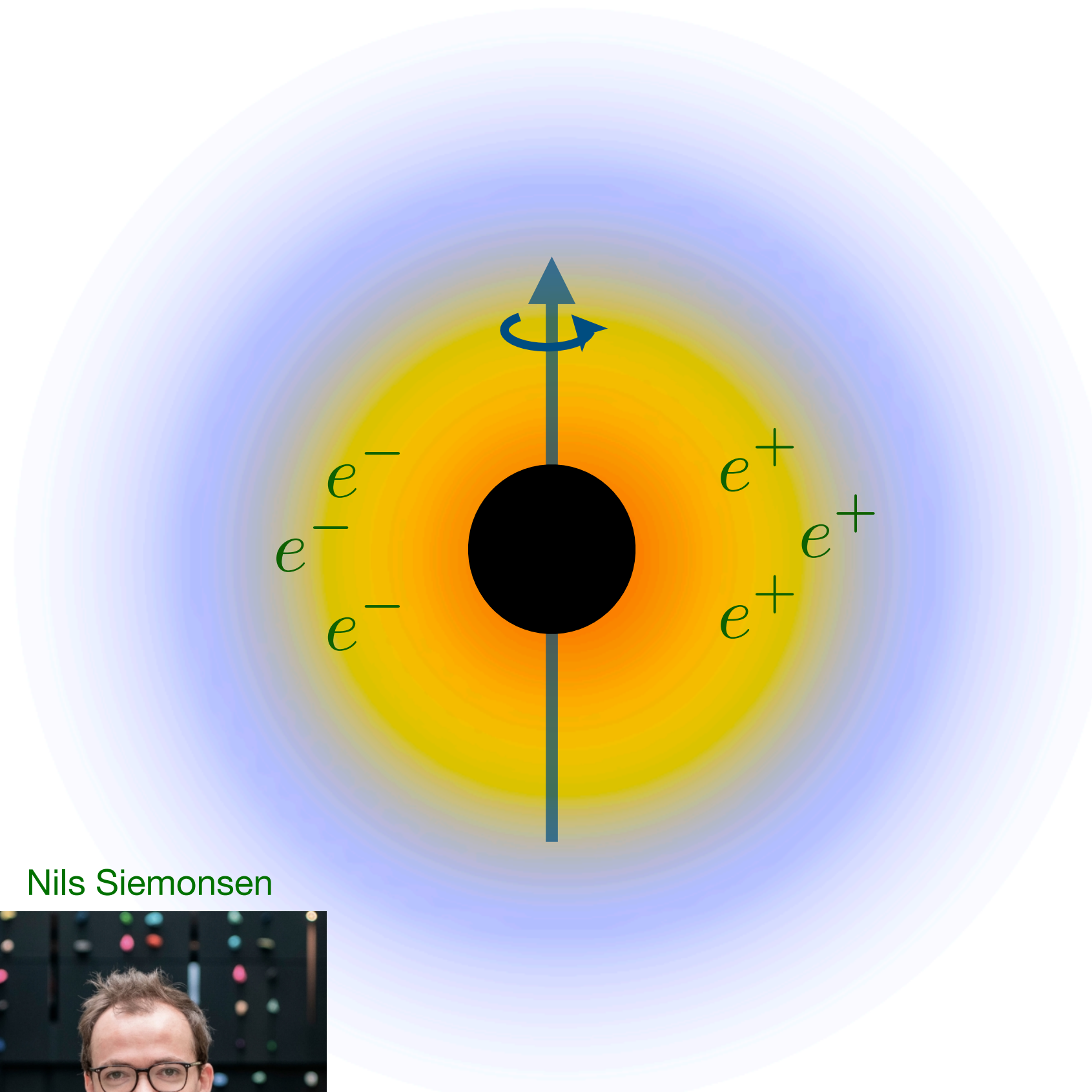


Electrically dominated



Dissipation is important

# SR cloud + plasma model



Nils Siemonsen



Full GR numerical simulation

$$\partial_t \vec{B} = -\nabla \times \vec{E}$$

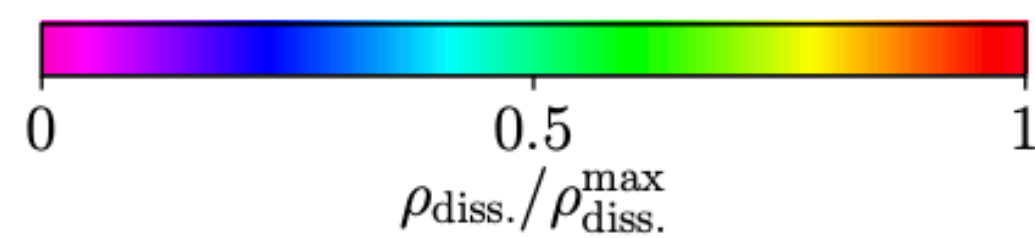
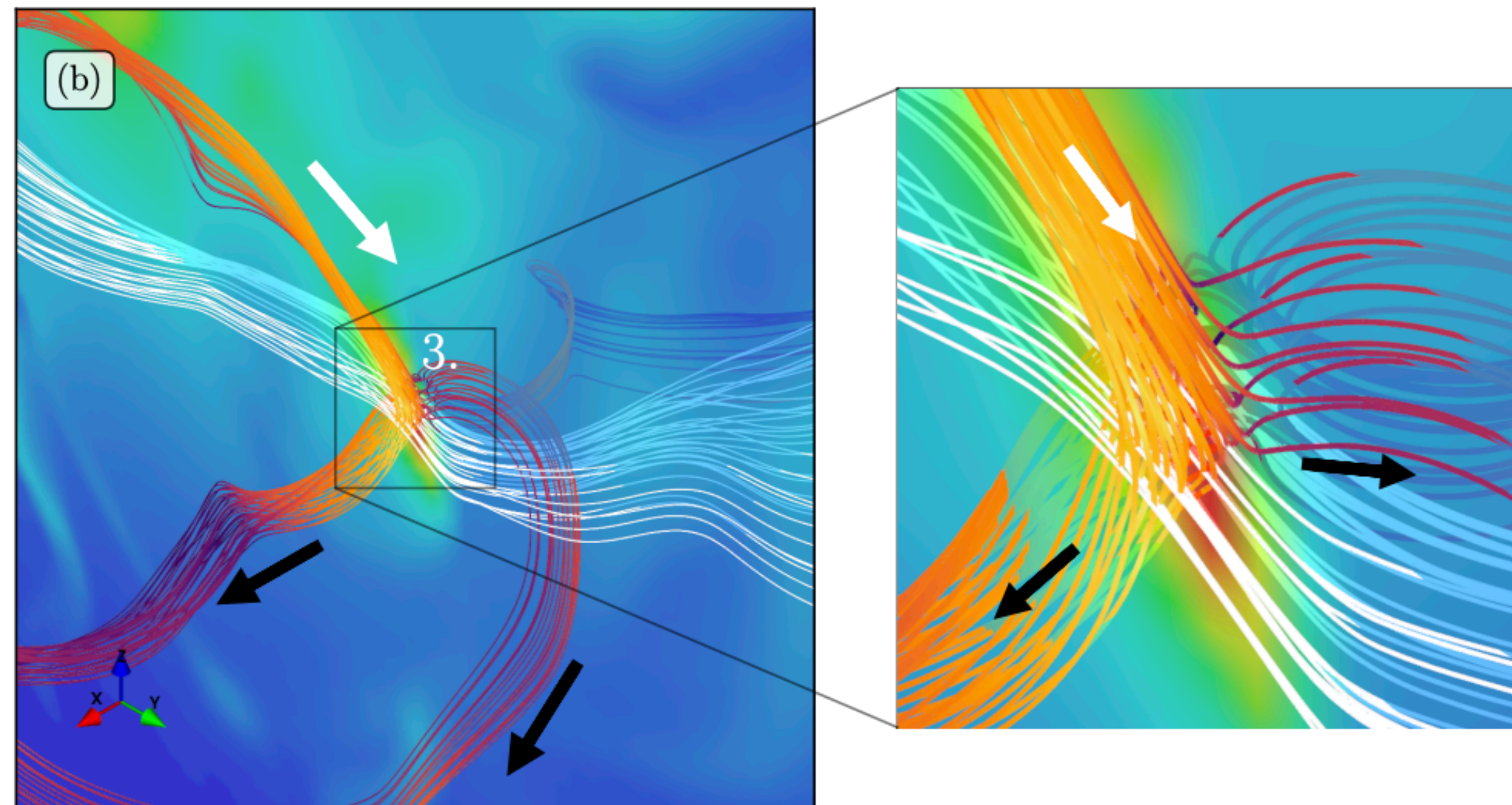
$$\partial_t \vec{E} = \nabla \times \vec{B} - \vec{J} - \epsilon \mu^2 \vec{A}'$$

Superradiance field (source)

Ohm's law  $\vec{J} = \sigma(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$

- Solve equations for the E, B fields
- Compute EM energy emitted for  $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$  ( $\sigma \gg \mu$ )

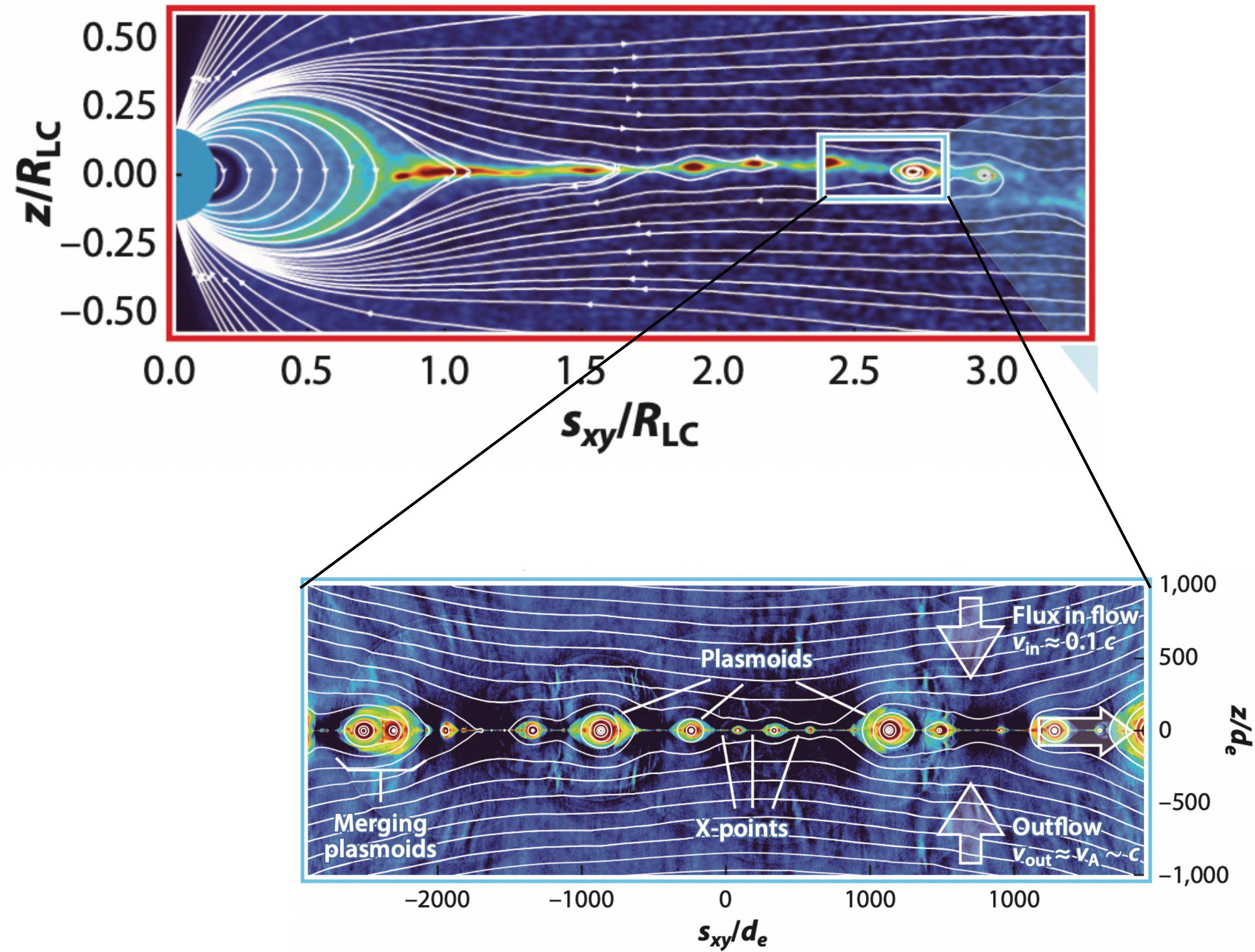
# Simulation: energy dissipation



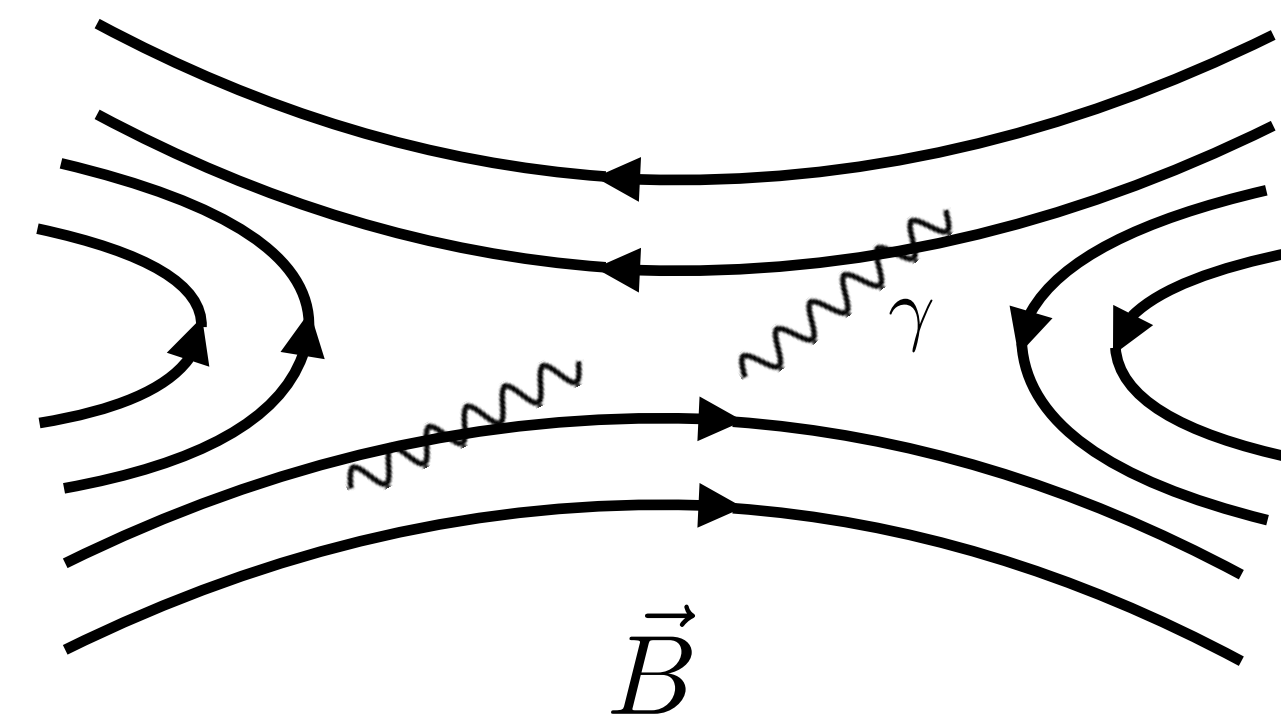
The dissipative energy density is maximal in the regions of magnetic field lines reconnection.

# Magnetic reconnection

Plasma density



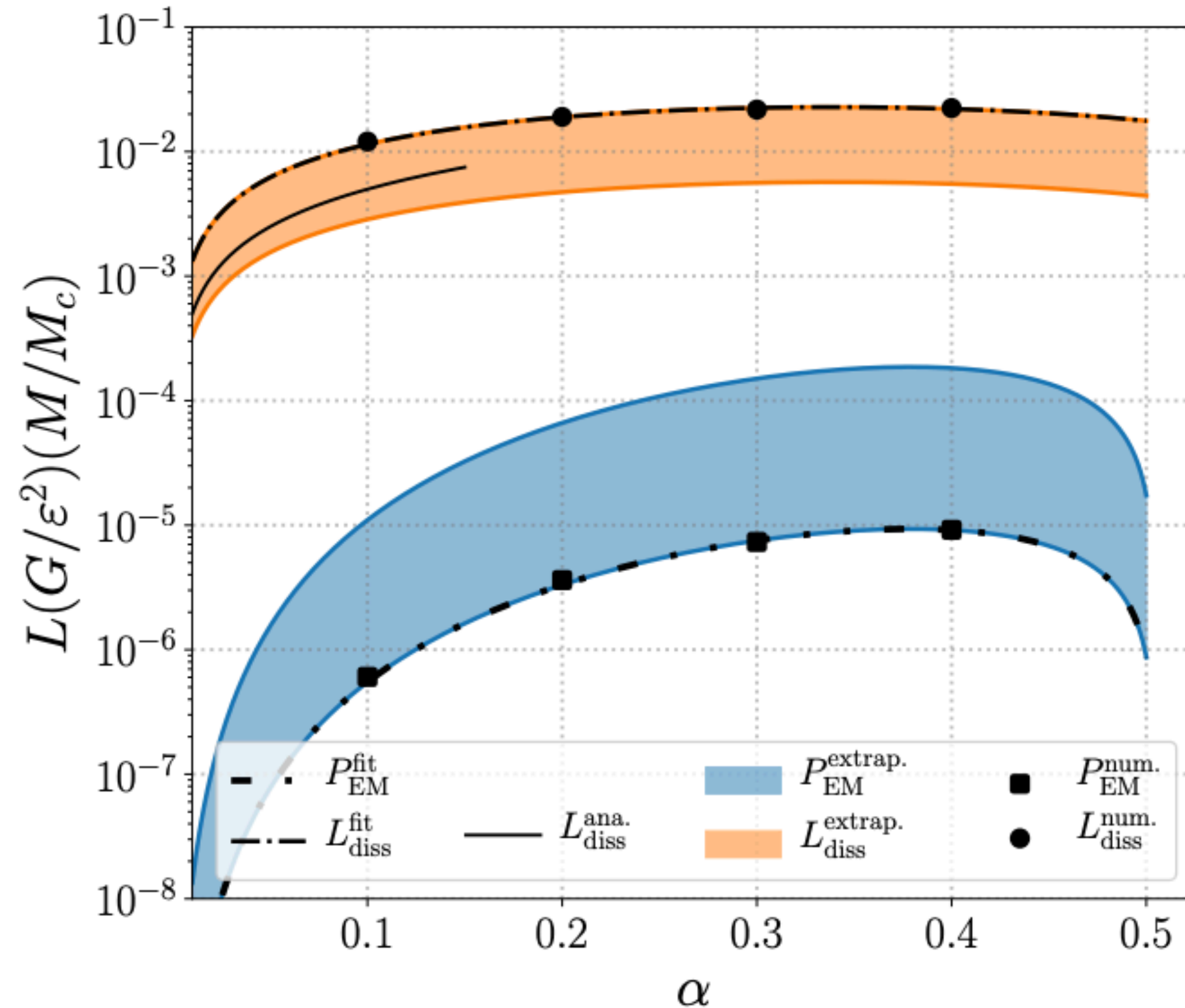
- Discontinuity in the magnetic field lines
- In a **neutron star pulsars** it happens on the equatorial plane (2d structures “current sheets”)



Field energy dissipated into particle acceleration and high energy emissions

# Simulation: power output

Numerical solutions and fit

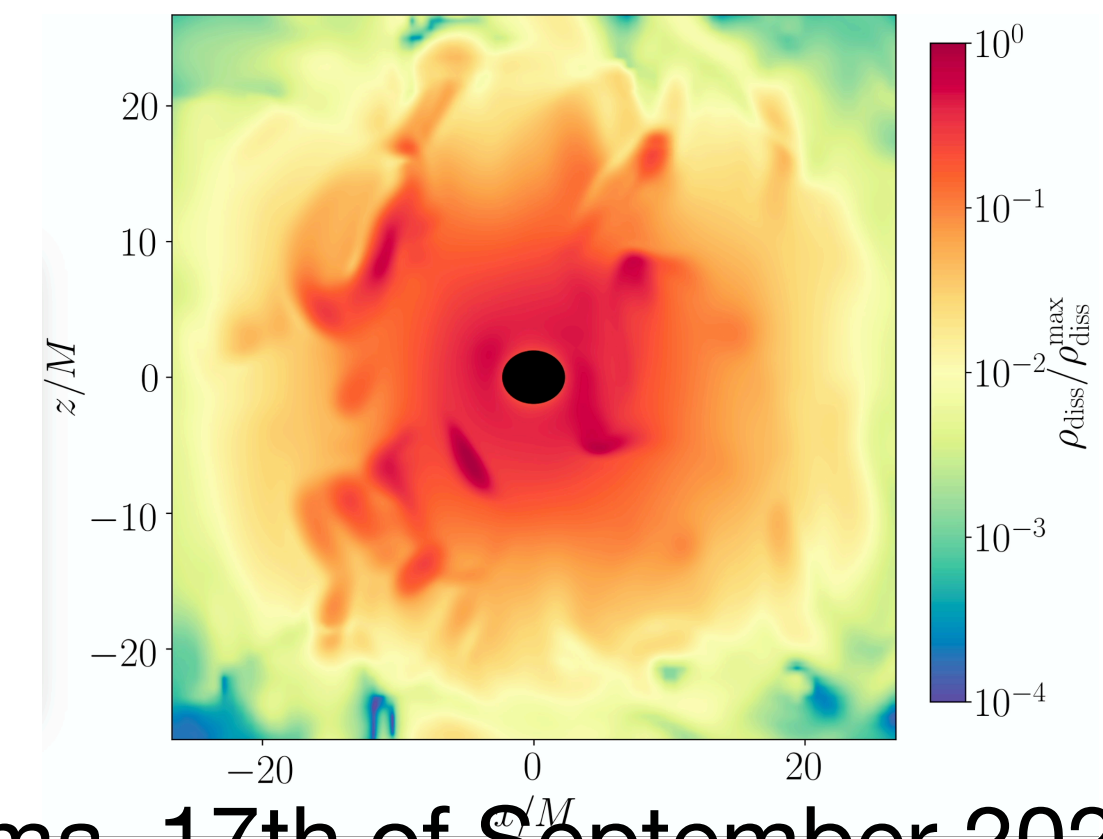


- Poynting flux

$$P_{EM} = \oint dS \vec{r} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})$$

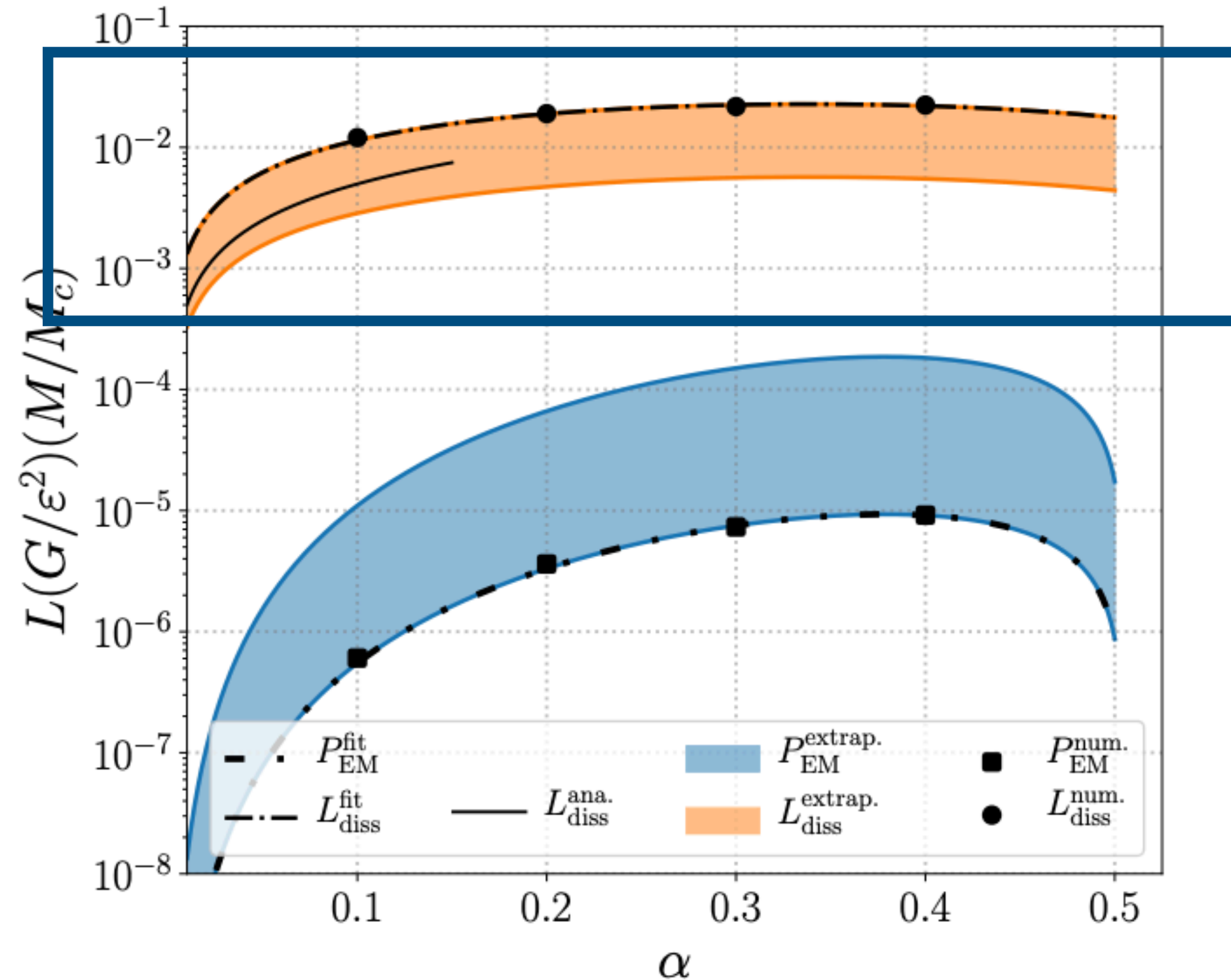
- Dissipative losses

$$L_{diss} = \int dV \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}$$



# Simulation: power output

Numerical solutions and fit

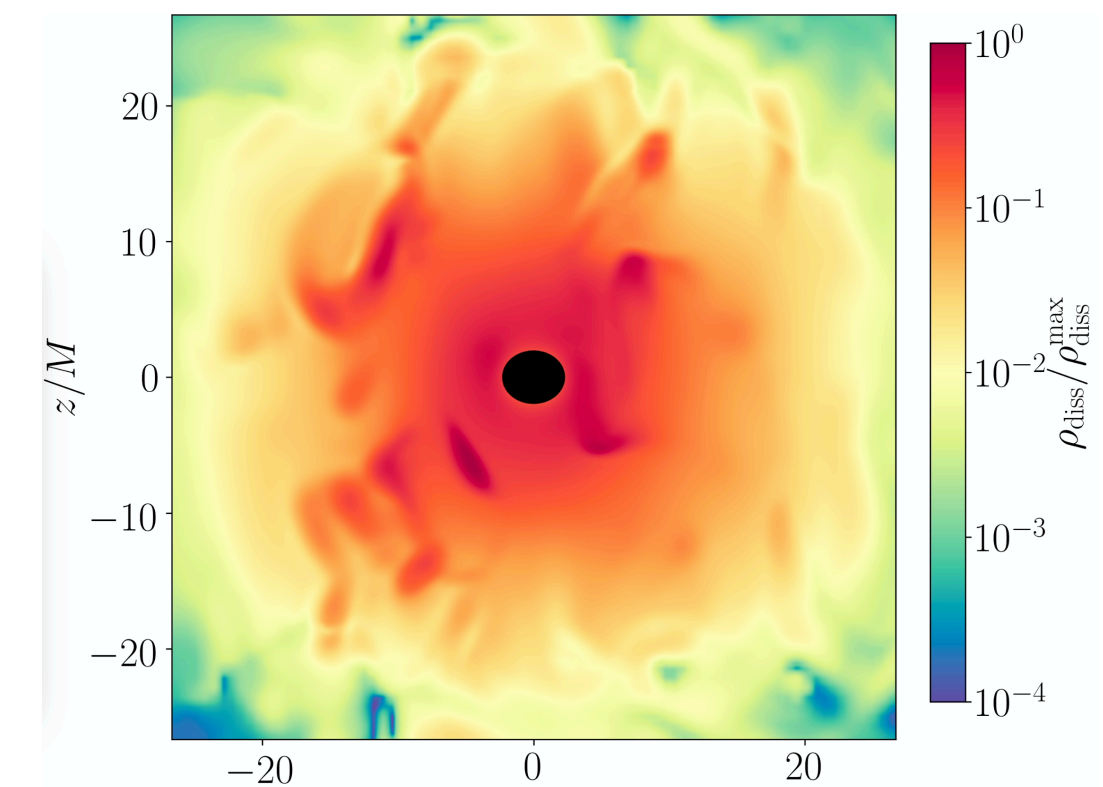


- Poynting flux

$$P_{EM} = \oint dS \vec{r} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})$$

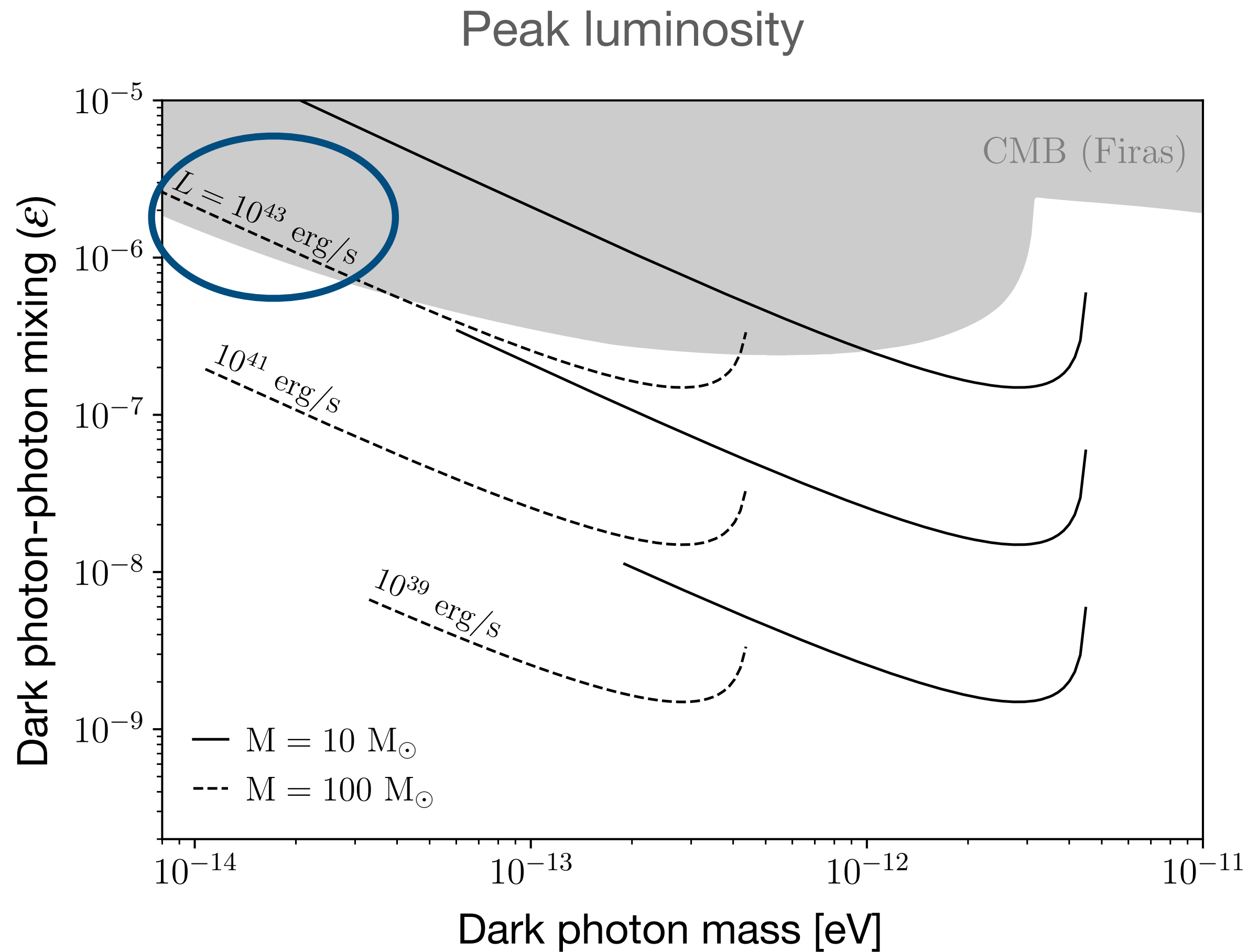
- Dissipative losses

$$L_{diss} = \int dV \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}$$





# Simulation: power output



$$L_{\text{fit}} = \epsilon^2 F(\alpha) \frac{M_c}{GM} \simeq 10^{43} \text{ erg/s}$$

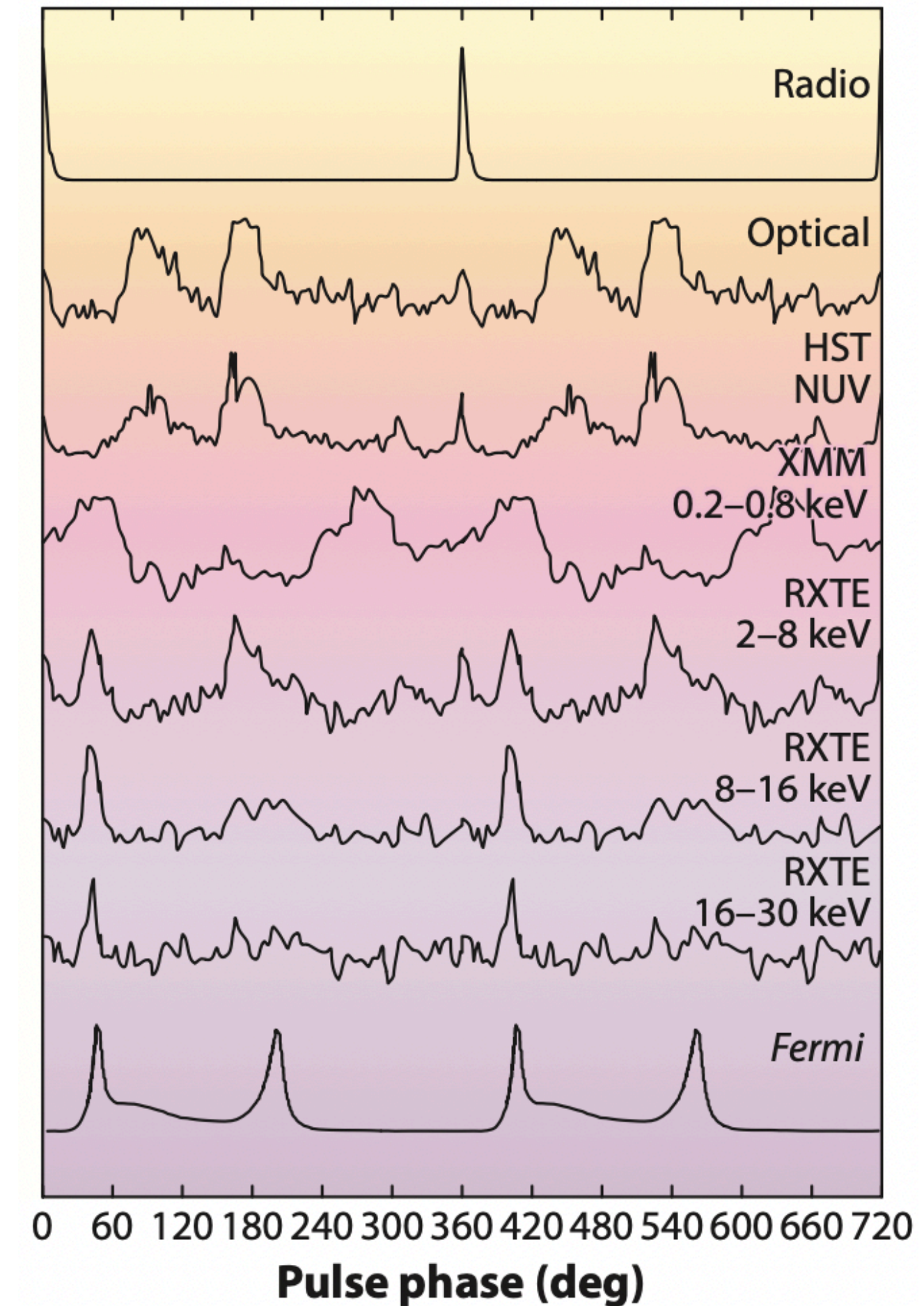
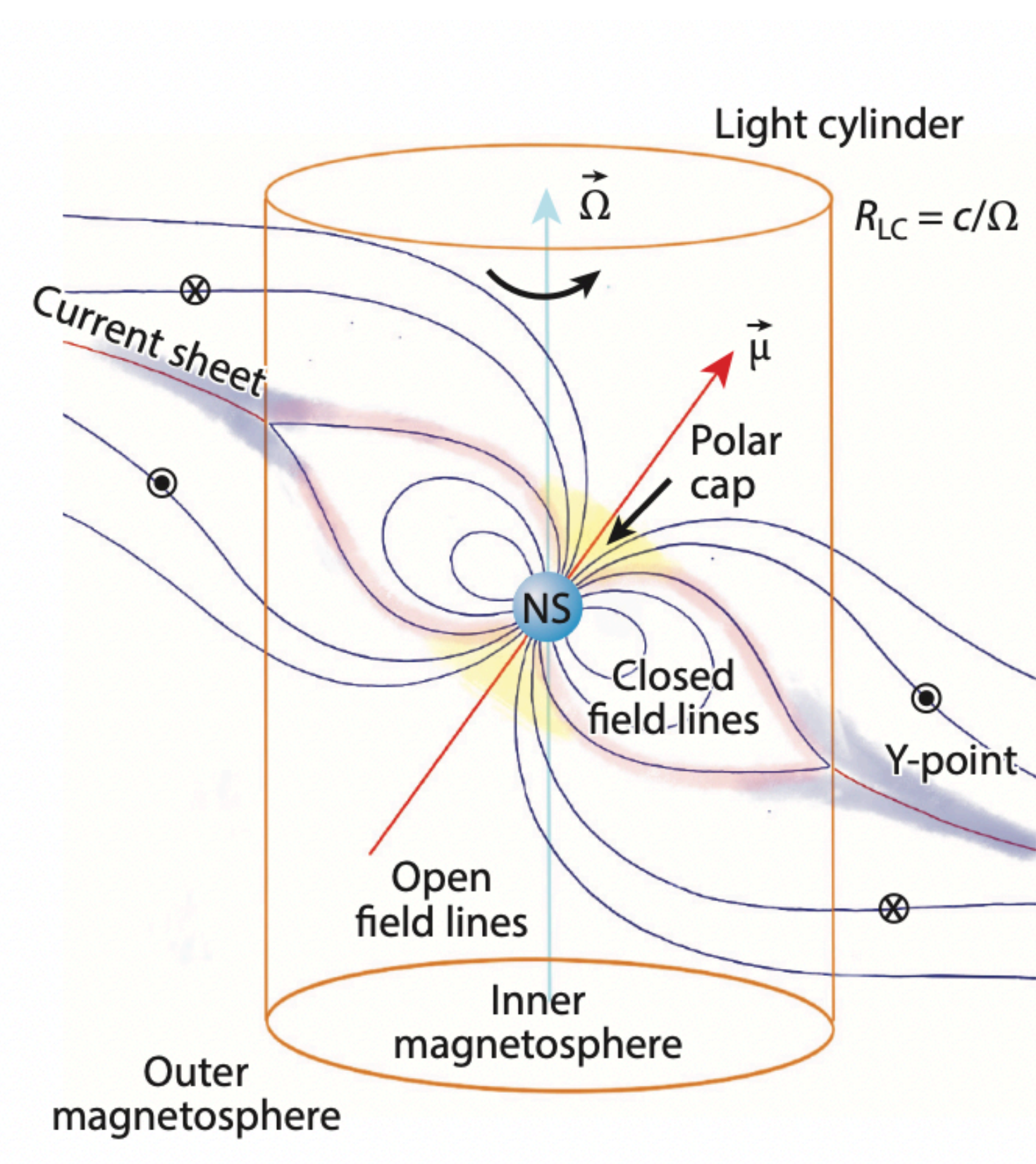
Crab pulsar  $L_{\text{crab}} \simeq 10^{38}$  erg/s

Supernova  $L_{\text{SN}} \simeq 10^{43} - 10^{45}$  erg/s

Can be observed at cosmological distances!!!

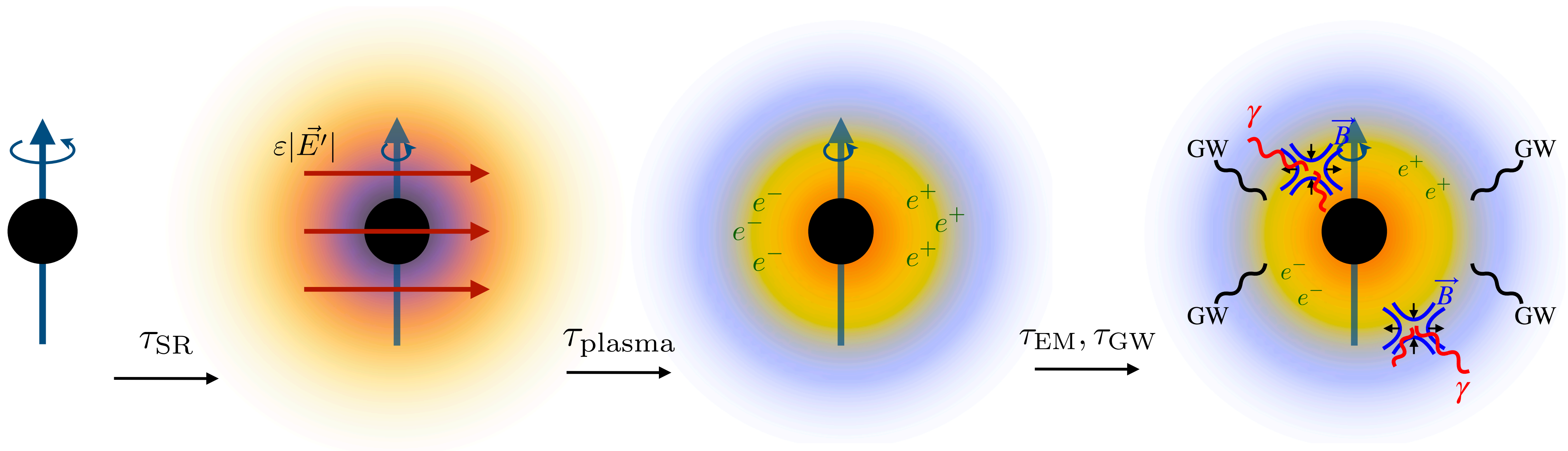
# “New pulsar”: periodicity and spectrum

- Cannot be robustly inferred from current simulations
- Pulsar analogy: low energy periodic component + X-ray/ $\gamma$ -ray emissions

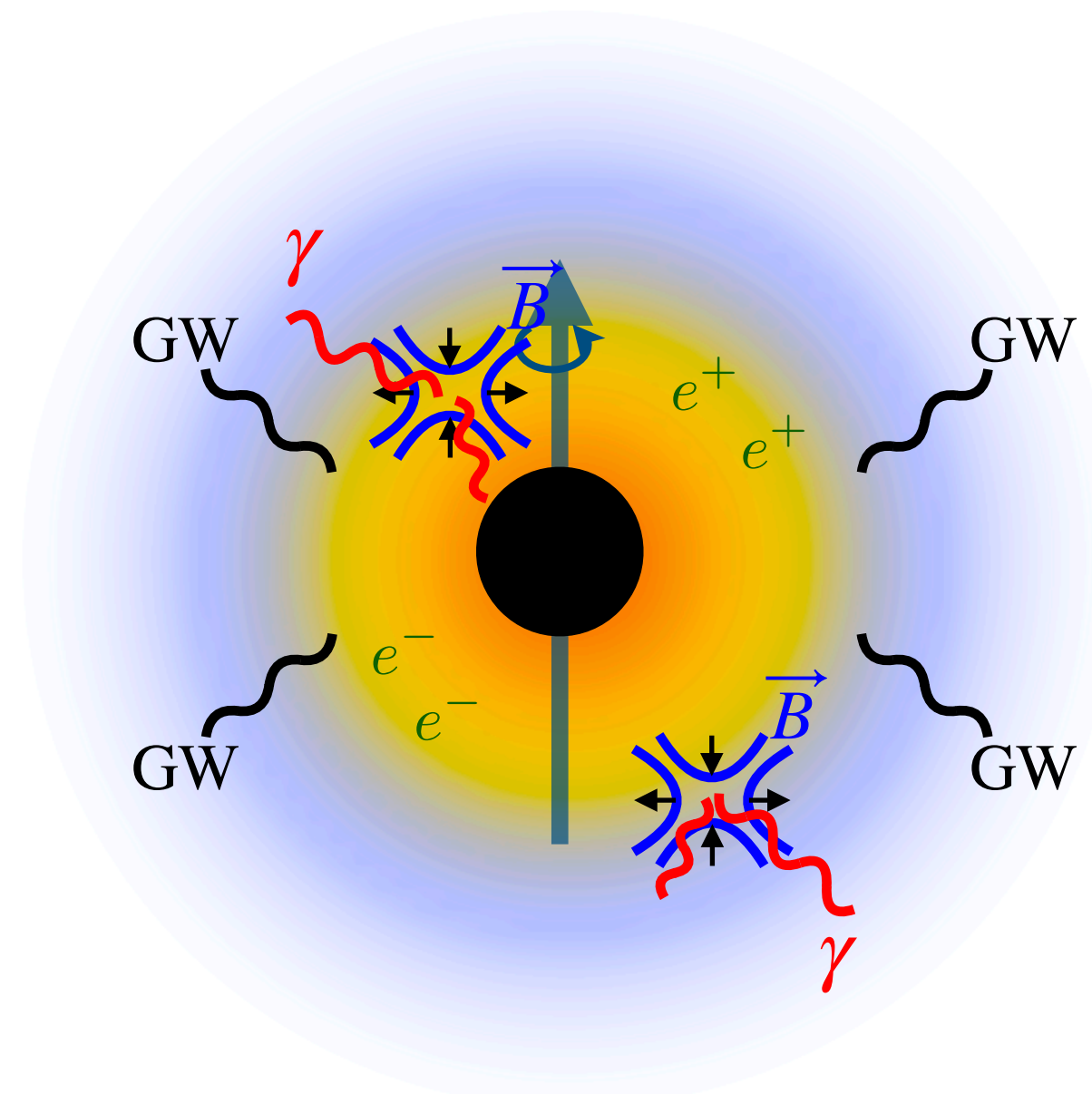


# Multimessenger signatures

# Evolution of the system

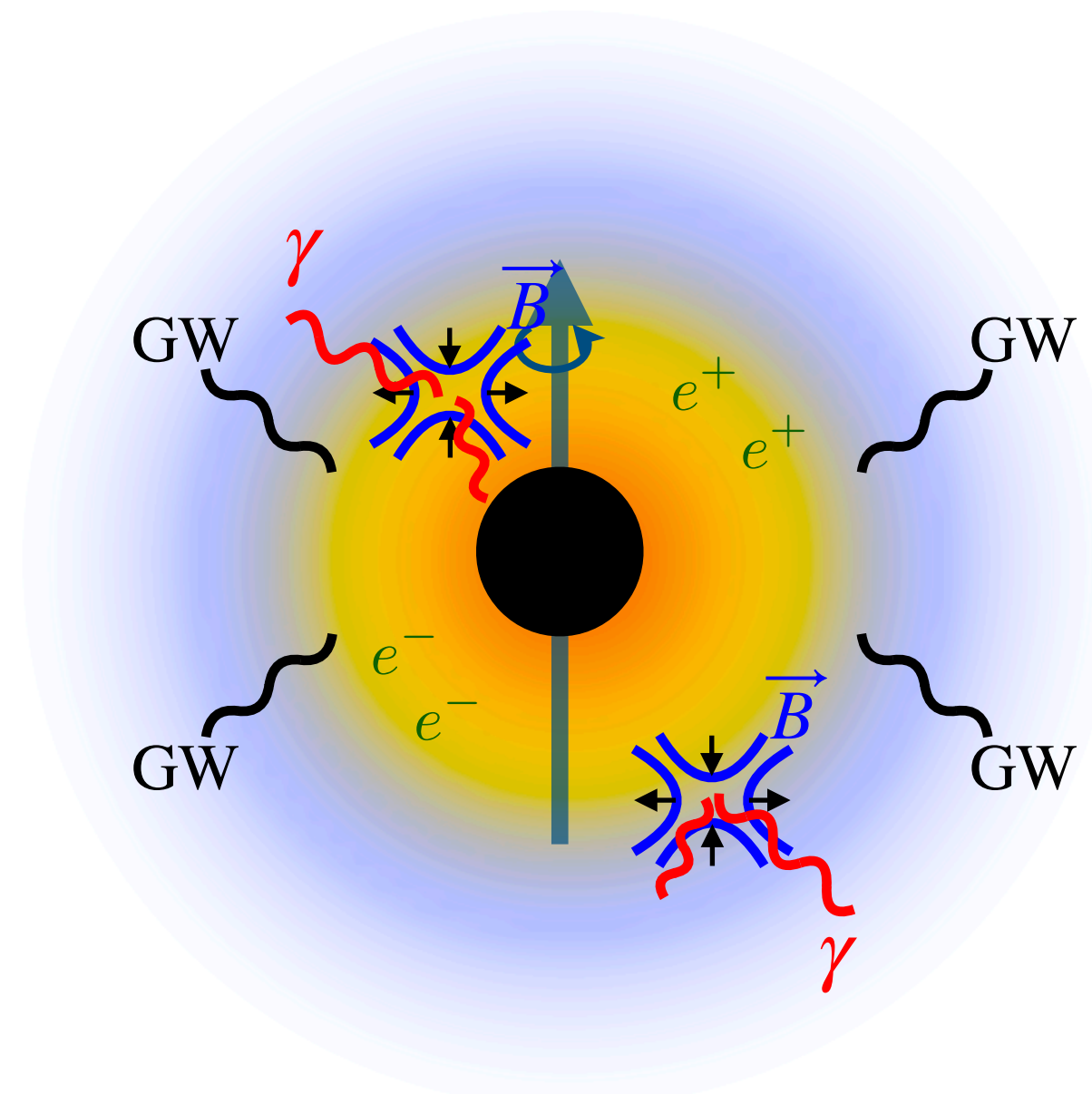


# Evolution of the system



- GW emissions with frequency  $\mu/\pi \sim \text{few} \times 100 \text{ Hz}$
- Low and high energy EM emissions with periodicity  $2\pi/\mu \sim \text{ms}$
- Decays over time with timescales from  $\sim \text{days}$  to  $\sim \text{thousands of years}$

# Evolution of the system



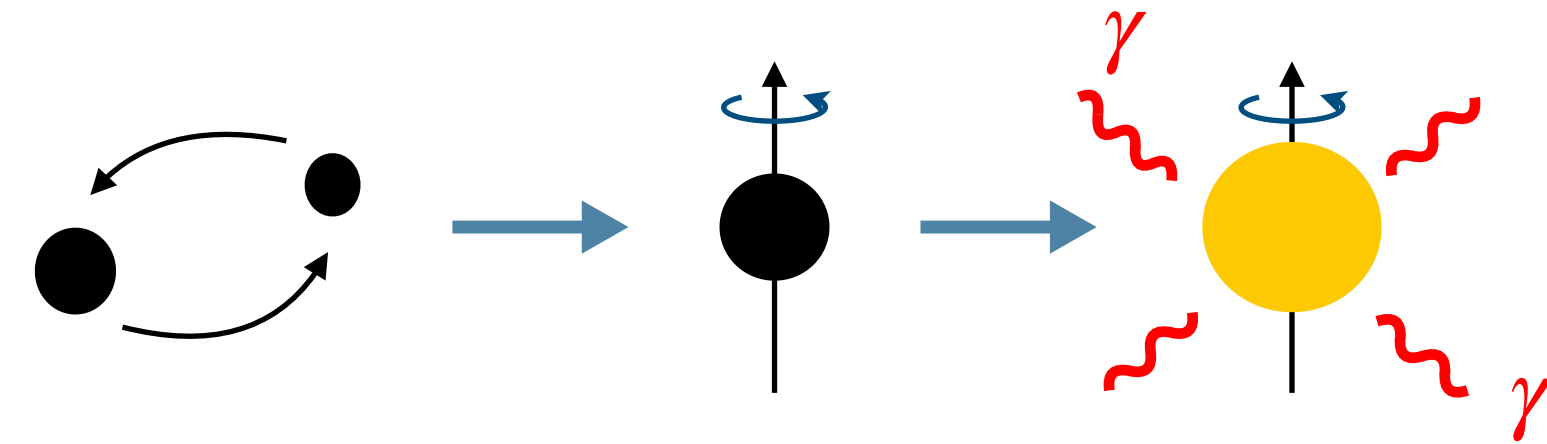
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Black Hole parameters: mass & spin

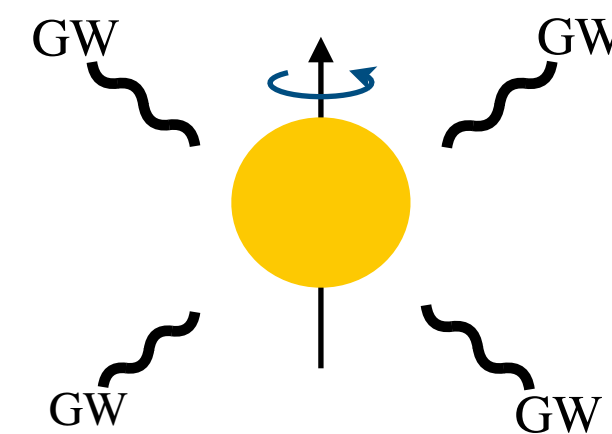
Dark photon parameters: Mass ( $\mu$ ) and coupling ( $\varepsilon$ )

# Multimessenger signatures

1. EM follow-ups of compact binary mergers  
(large  $\alpha$ , young system)

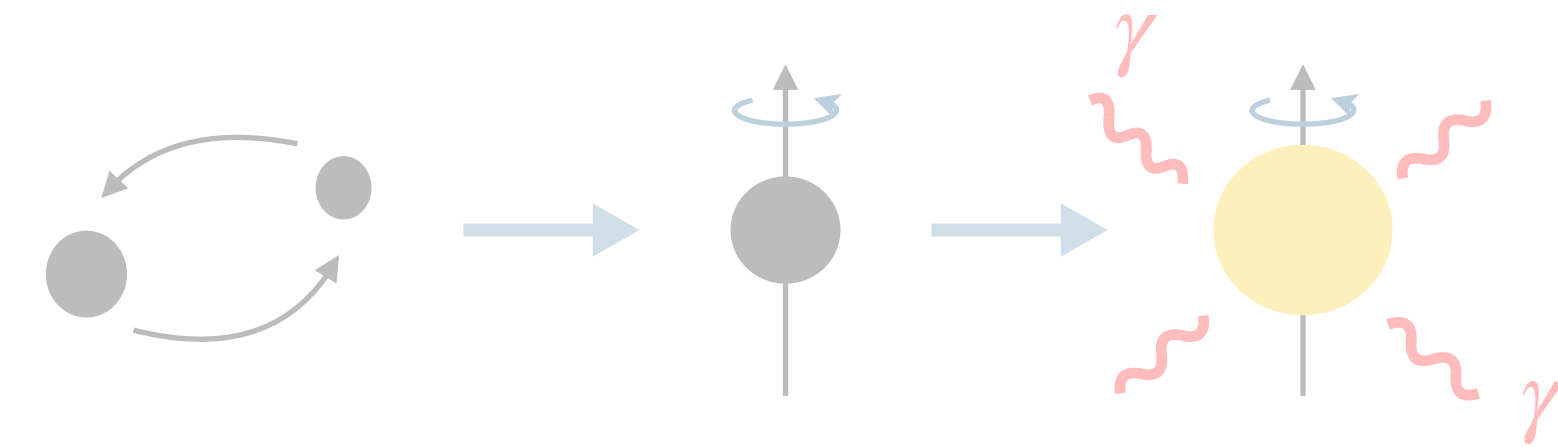


2. GW follow-ups of anomalous pulsars  
(small  $\alpha$ , old system)

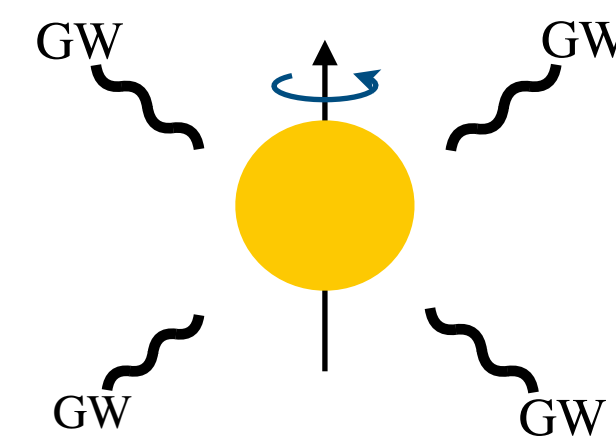


# Multimessenger signatures

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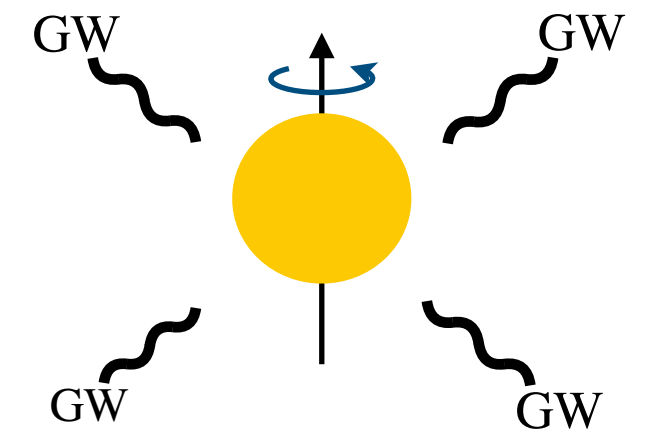


2. GW follow-ups of anomalous pulsars  
(small  $\alpha$ , old system)





# GW follow-up of “anomalous” pulsars



Small  $\alpha$ , old system

- Some of the observed pulsating sources could be old BHs with radiating SR cloud
- Search in existing catalogs:
  1. Pulsating sources with the same frequency  $\sim 2\pi/\mu$
  2. Sources that spin-up over time

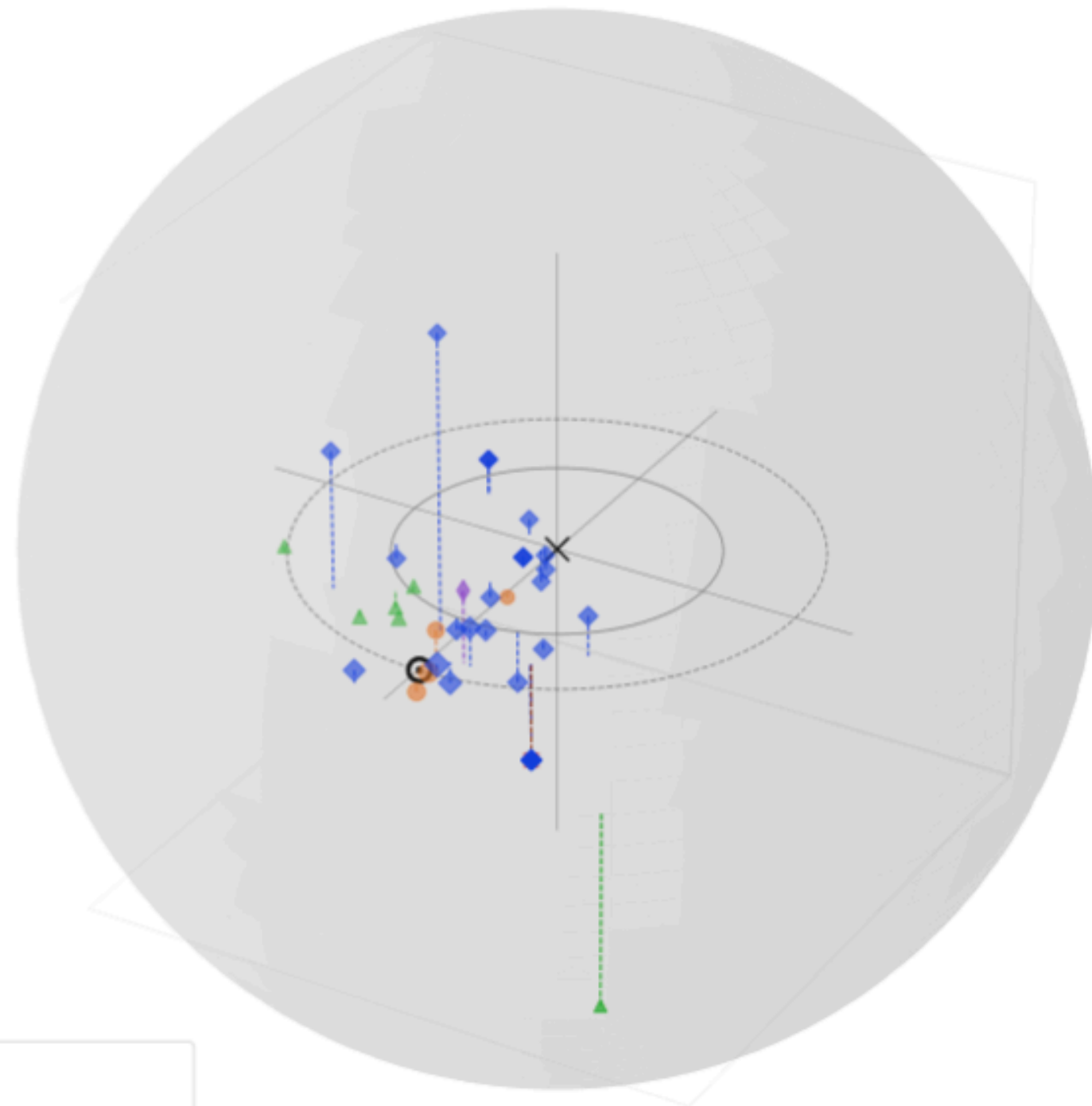
$$\dot{f}_{\text{int}} \simeq \frac{5}{8\pi} \alpha \mu^2 G P_{\text{GW}}$$

➔ Target for continuous GW searches!

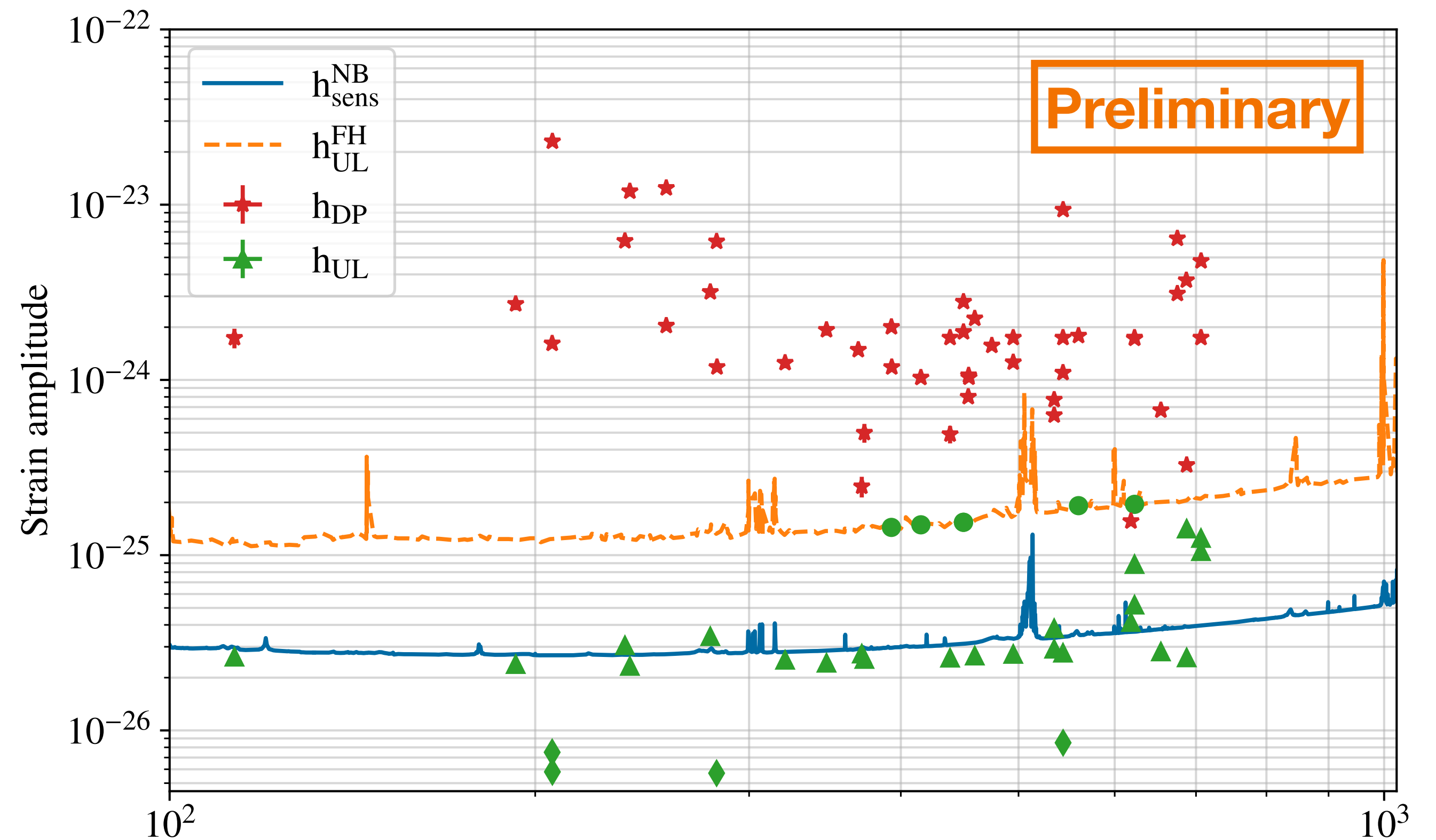
# GW follow-up of “anomalous” pulsars



Analysis lead by **Lorenzo Mirasola**, with C. Palomba, P. Astone, P. Leaci, S. Mastrogiovanni, L. D’Onofrio, S. D’Antonio, F. Amicucci



- ◆ Narrow Band
- O3 analysis
- ▲ ALL-SKY
- semi-coh (around 3d)
- ◆ Full-coh/semi-coh (0.17d)
- semi-coh (around 2d)
- × GC
- ⊙ Sun

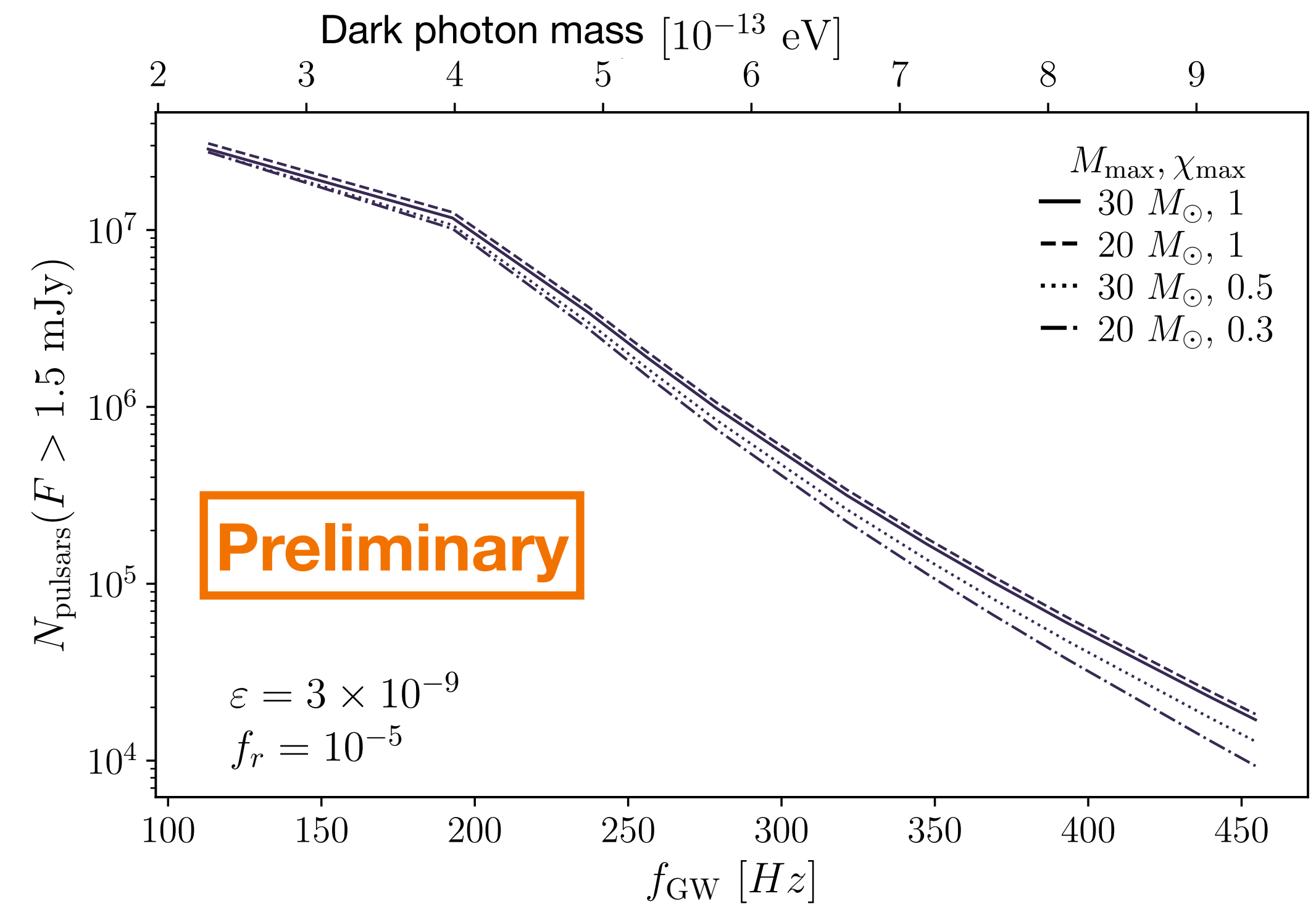
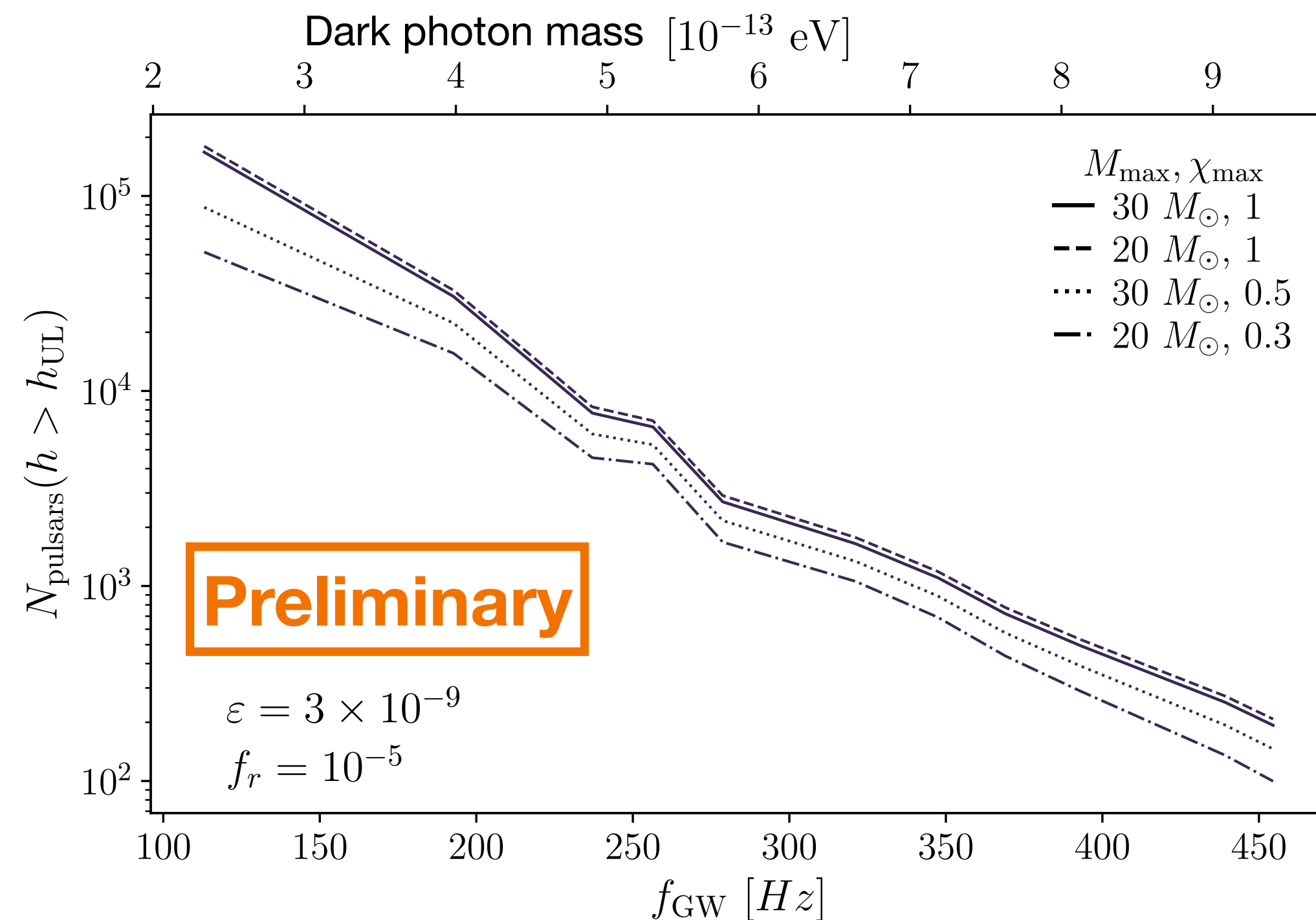


# Interpretation?

- Galactic BHs population
- Dark Photon parameters (mass & coupling)



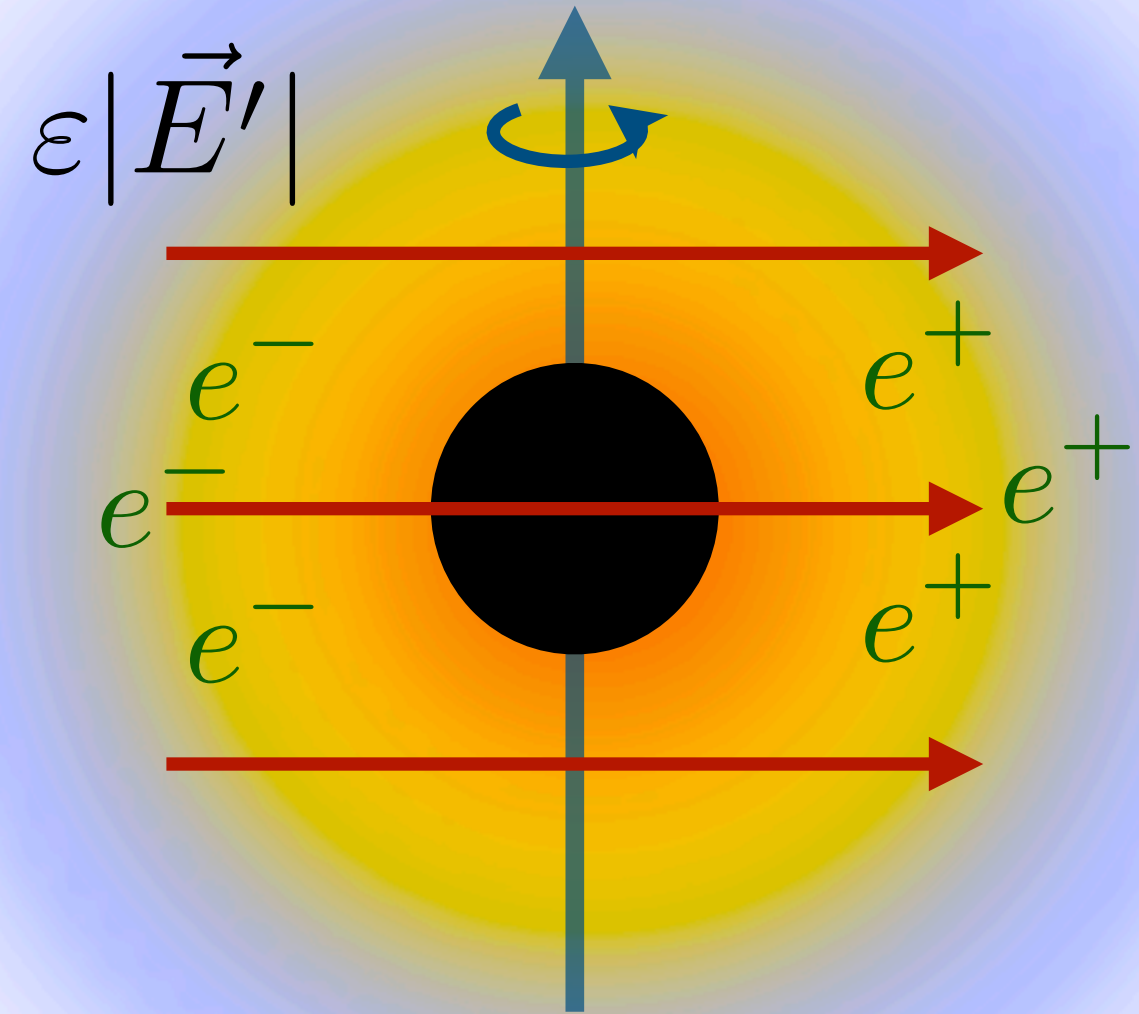
“Predict” number of expected  
observables events



Dark photon masses around  $10^{-13}$  eV with small kinetic mixing parameters are disfavored

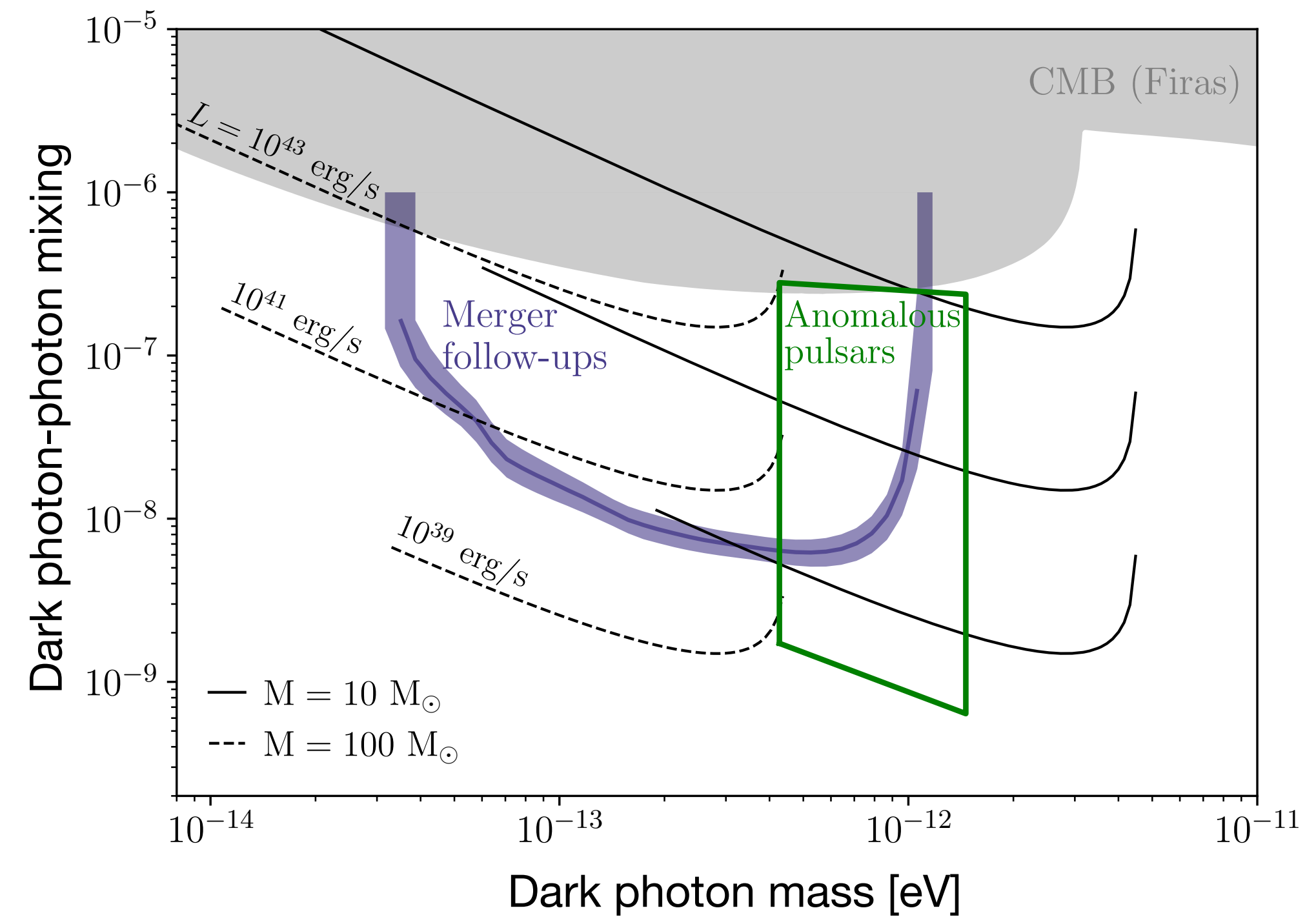
\* up to modeling uncertainties of the “new pulsar”

# Summary

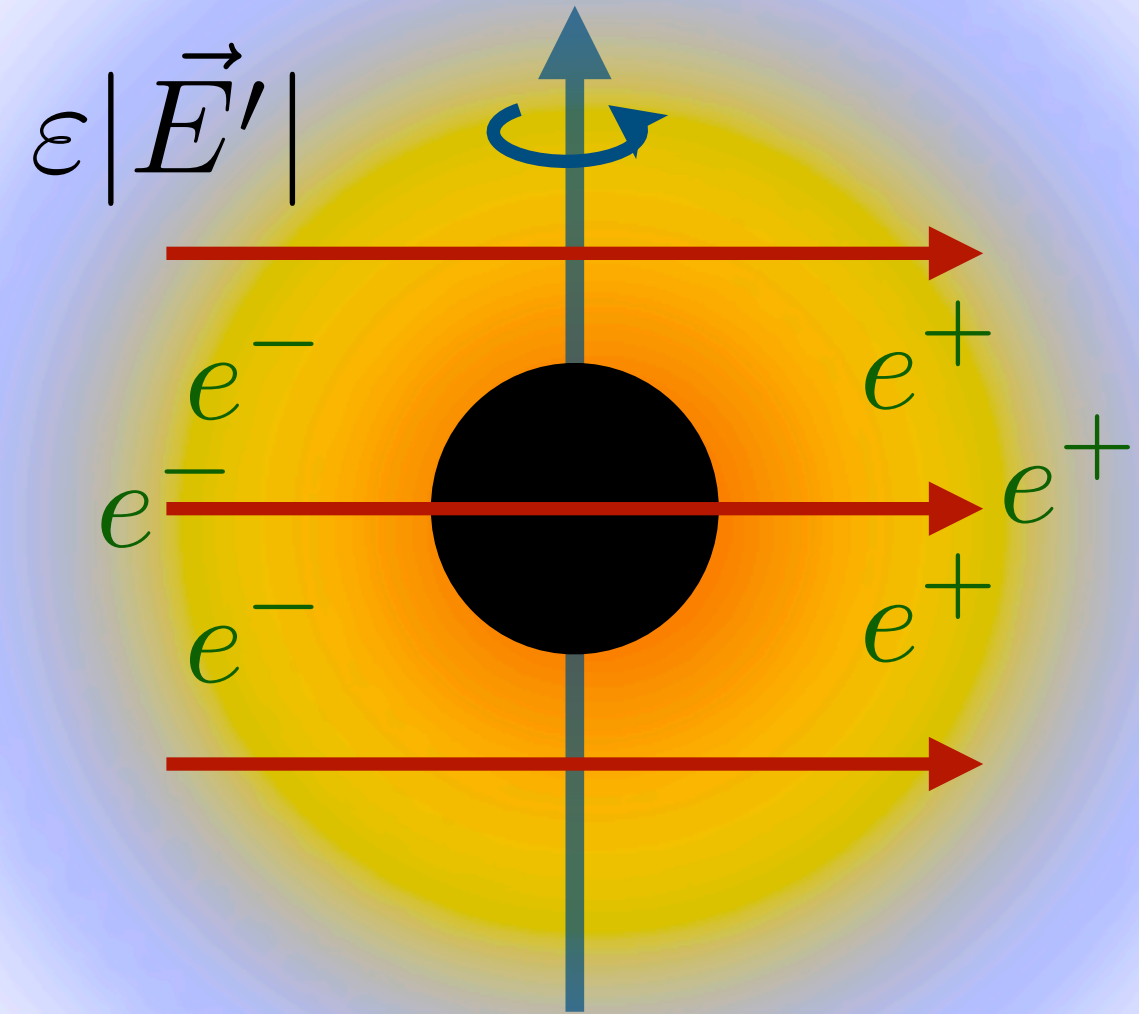


- Rotating black holes produce clouds of weakly coupled bosons through superradiance

- Dark photons that mix with the photon will lead to dramatic dynamics around the black hole: perhaps, a “new pulsar”!



# Summary



- Rotating black holes produce clouds of weakly coupled bosons through superradiance

Thank you!

- Dark photons that mix with the photon will lead to dramatic dynamics around the black hole: perhaps, a “new pulsar”!

