

# The (first) LISA miracle

**DESY theory workshop 2024**

„Whispers from the dark universe“

September 26th, 2024

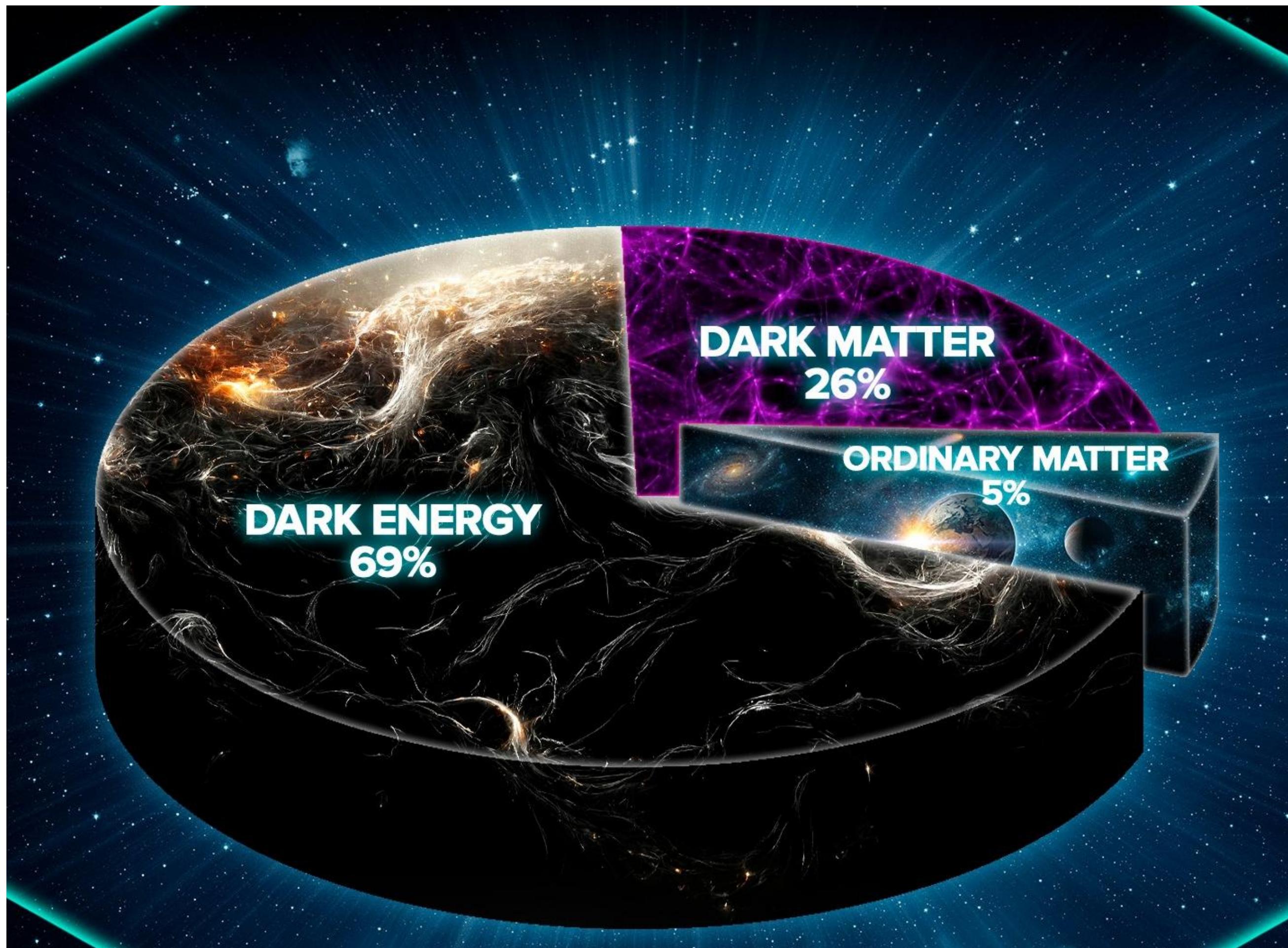
**Carlo Tasillo,**  
**Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY)**

Based on work with Torsten Bringmann, Paul Frederik Depta,  
Tomás Gonzalo, Felix Kahlhöfer, Thomas Konstandin, Jonas  
Matuszak and Kai Schmidt-Hoberg

JCAP 05 (2024) 065, arXiv: [2311.06346]



# We only understand 5%.



We need

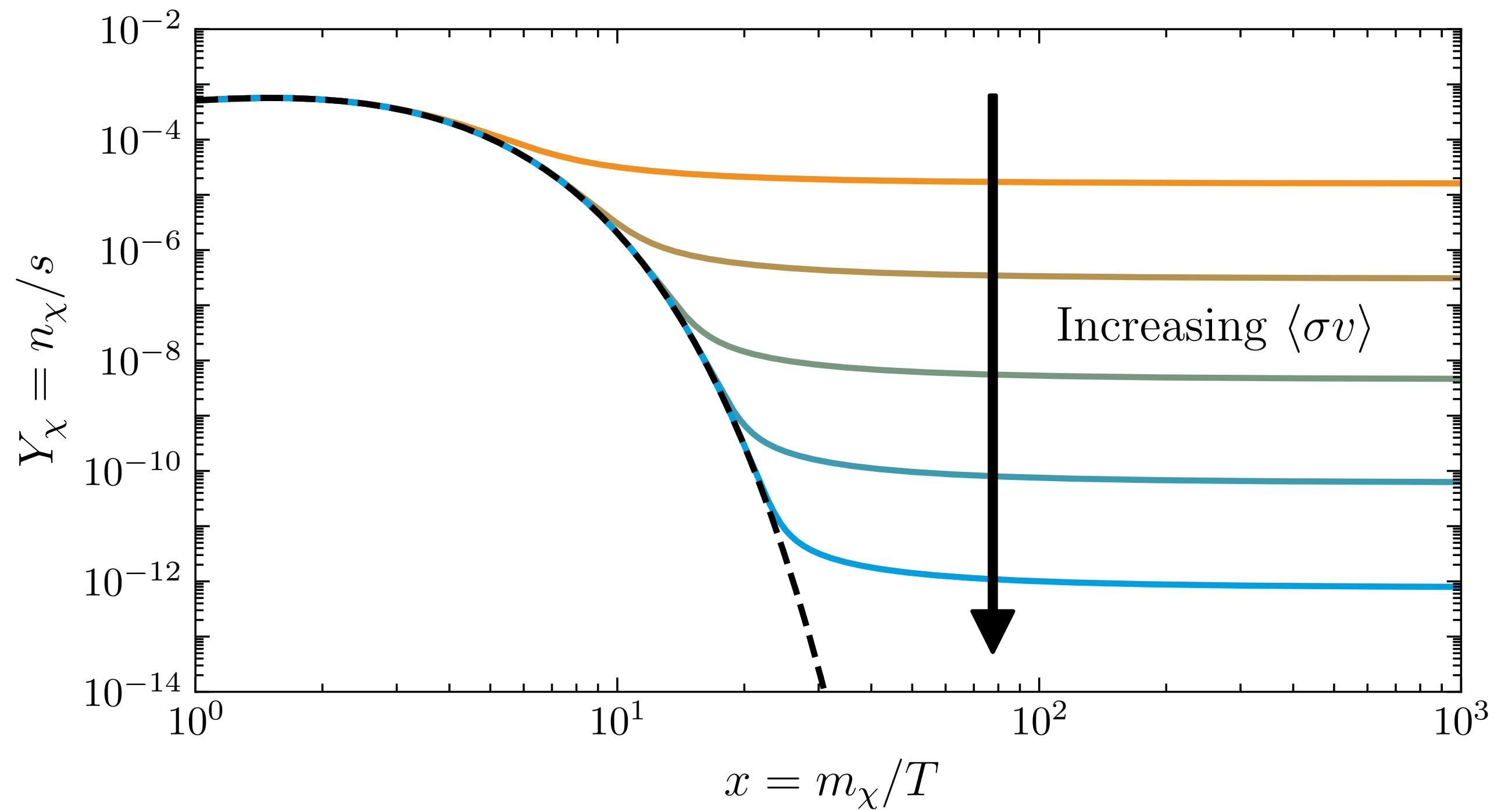
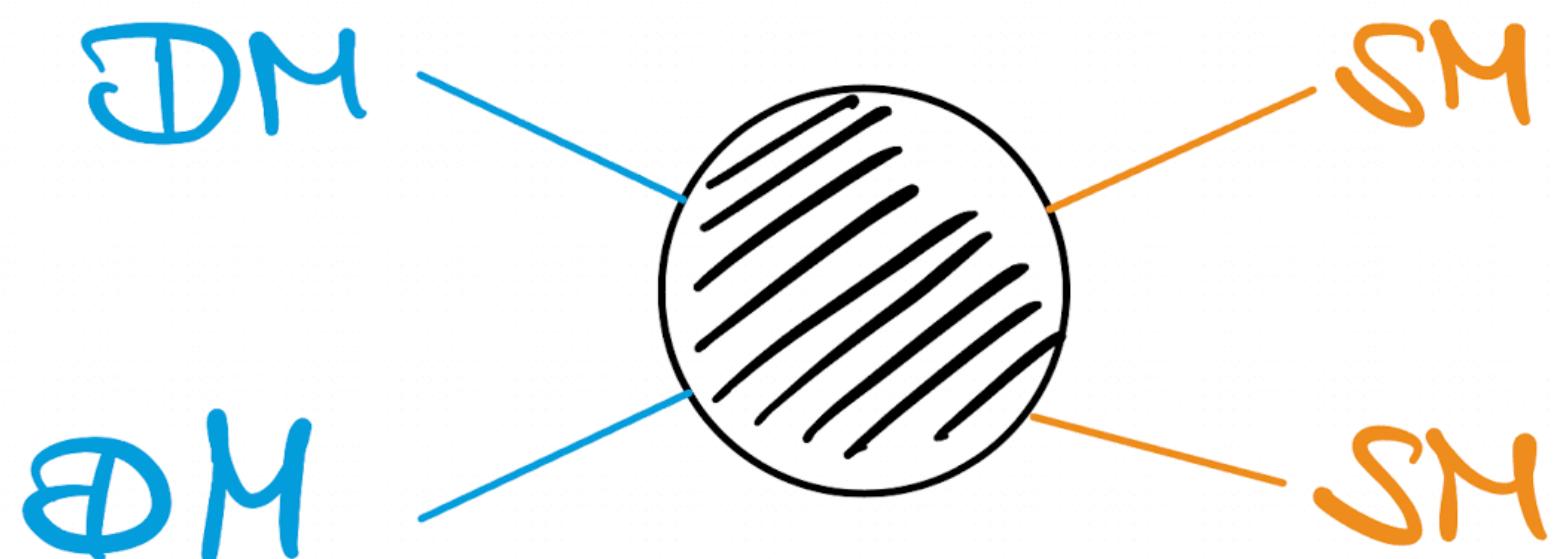
$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.12$$

of cold dark matter in order to explain the CMB, galaxy clustering, the bullet cluster, galactic rotation curves, ...

Cirelli+ [2406.01705]

# The WIMP miracle.

If DM can annihilate into SM particles with a cross section  $\langle \sigma v \rangle$  ...

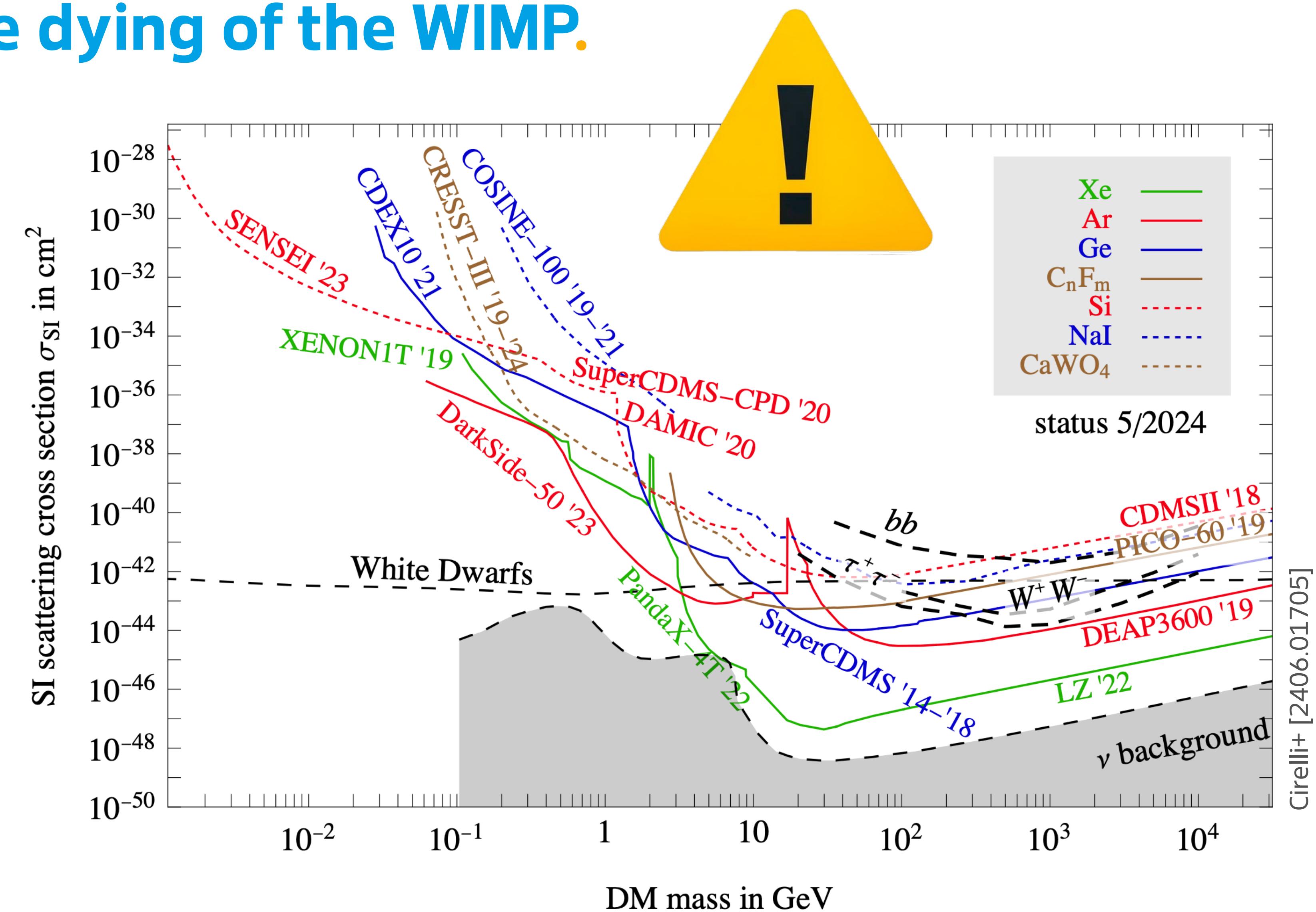


... the DM abundance can freeze out to the observed relic abundance for weak interactions and  $m_{\text{DM}} \simeq \mathcal{O}(\text{TeV})$ .

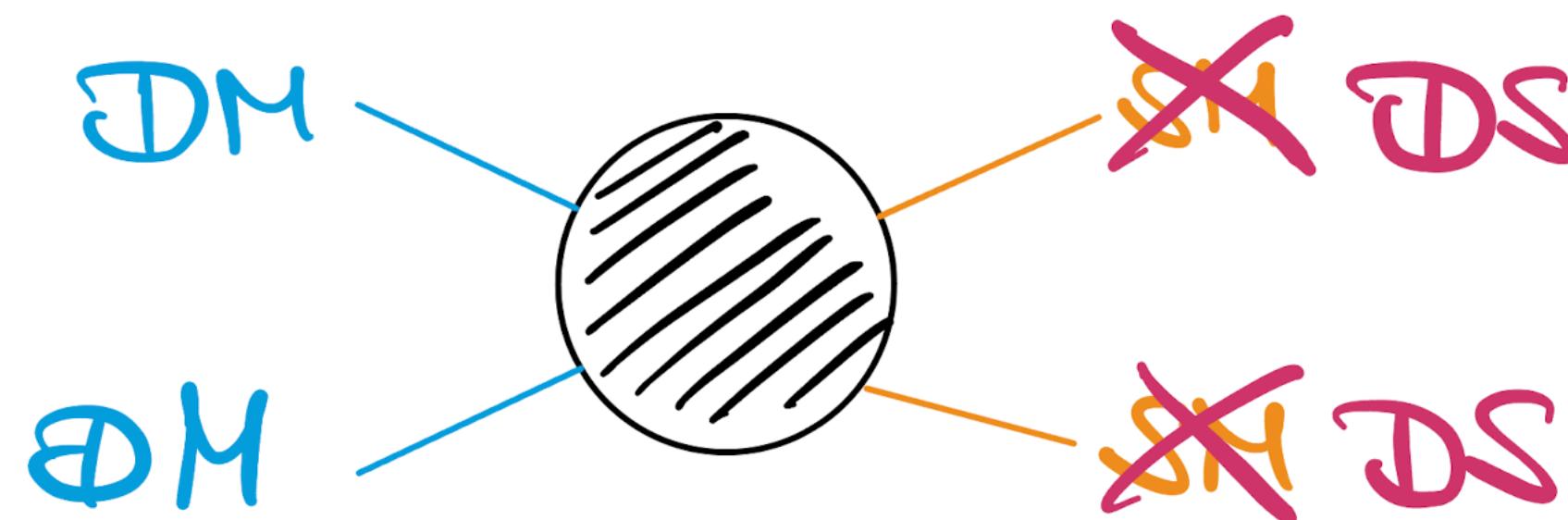
# Rage, rage against the dying of the WIMP.

Direct detection experiments put this scenario under pressure, excluding „vanilla” WIMPs.

[Lindner+ 2403.15860]

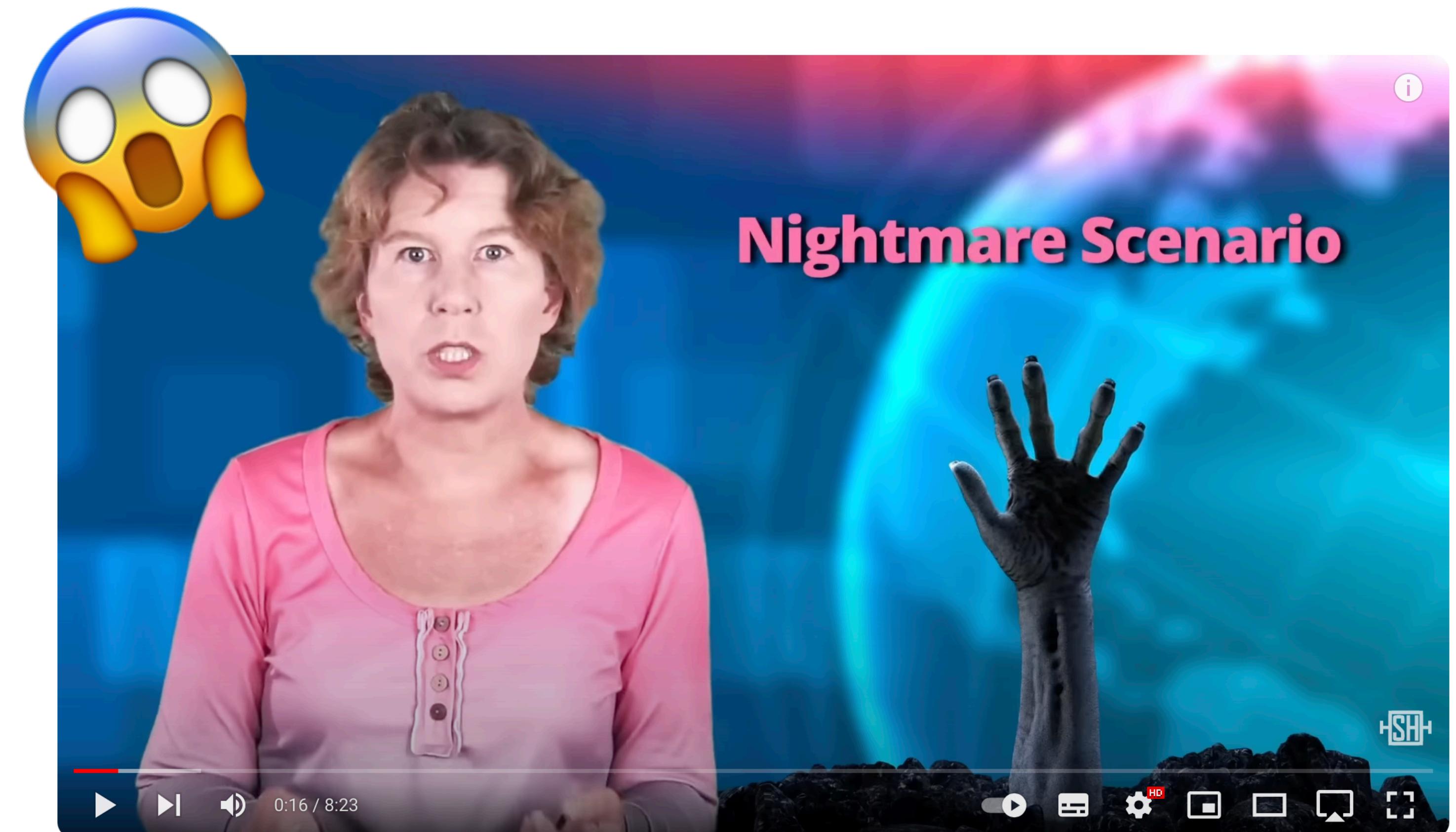


# The nightmare scenario.



What if WIMPs evade our detection because they never were in contact with the SM and froze out of a secluded dark sector?

Pospelov+ [0711.4866]



The Nightmare Scenario for Dark Matter is Inching Closer



Sabine Hossenfelder  
1,46 Mio. Abonnenten

Mitglied werden

Abonnieren

20.056



Teilen

Speichern



# At Last, There's -

A globe-span-

Astronomers detect 'cosmic bass note' of gravitational waves

Sound comes from the merging of supermassive black holes across the universe, according to scientists

# Gravitational Waves

Scientists have finally 'heard' the chorus of gravitational waves that ripple through the universe

Black Holes

Gravitational wave at the center of the M

# Scientists Re-

come from c-

holes

It may be a massive black

# of Low-Frequency Gravitational Waves

the waves, w-

## Scientists 'hear' cosmic hum from

ing everything in the universe.

Astron-

## A Background 'Hum' Pervades the Universe. Scientists Are Racing to Find Its Source

Astronomers are now seeking to pinpoint the origins of an exciting new form of gravitational waves that was announced earlier this year

Astro-

## ASTROPHYSICS

## SCIENCE

### Colossal gravitational waves—trillions of miles long—found for the first time

by studying rapidly spinning dead stars called pulsars, that suggests huge gravitational waves are creating gentle ripples in space-time across the universe

The Washington Post

In a major discovery, scientists say space-time churns like a choppy sea

The mind-bending finding suggests that everything around us is constantly being rolled by low-frequency gravitational waves

# First Evidence of Giant Gravitational Waves Thrills Astronomers

rs used to see such a form of ripple in

Monster gravitational waves

Scientists discover that universe is a

king gravitational wave

Ground

discoveries

Gravitational waves produce a background hum across the whole

universe

The results are

background, a hum of

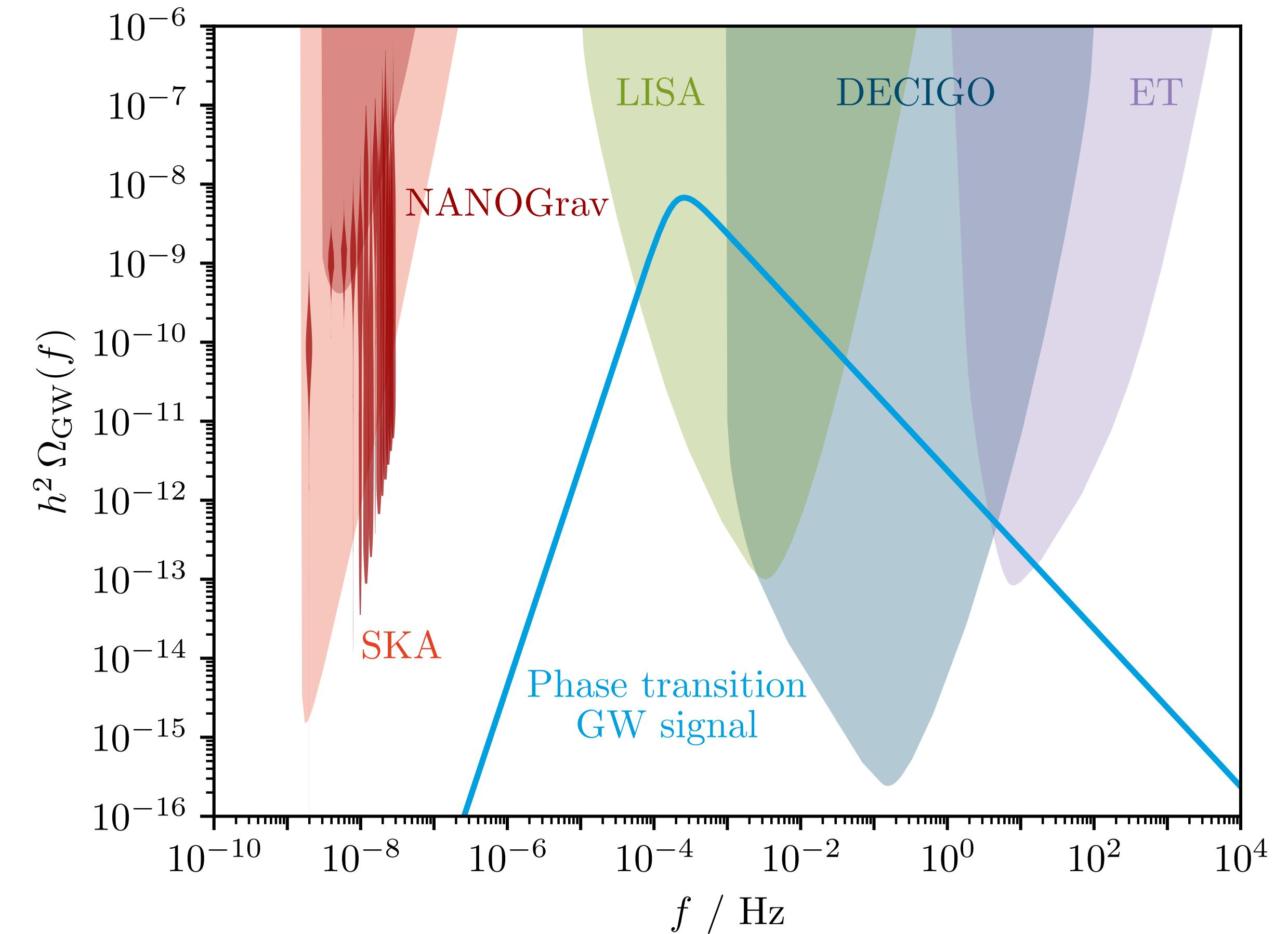
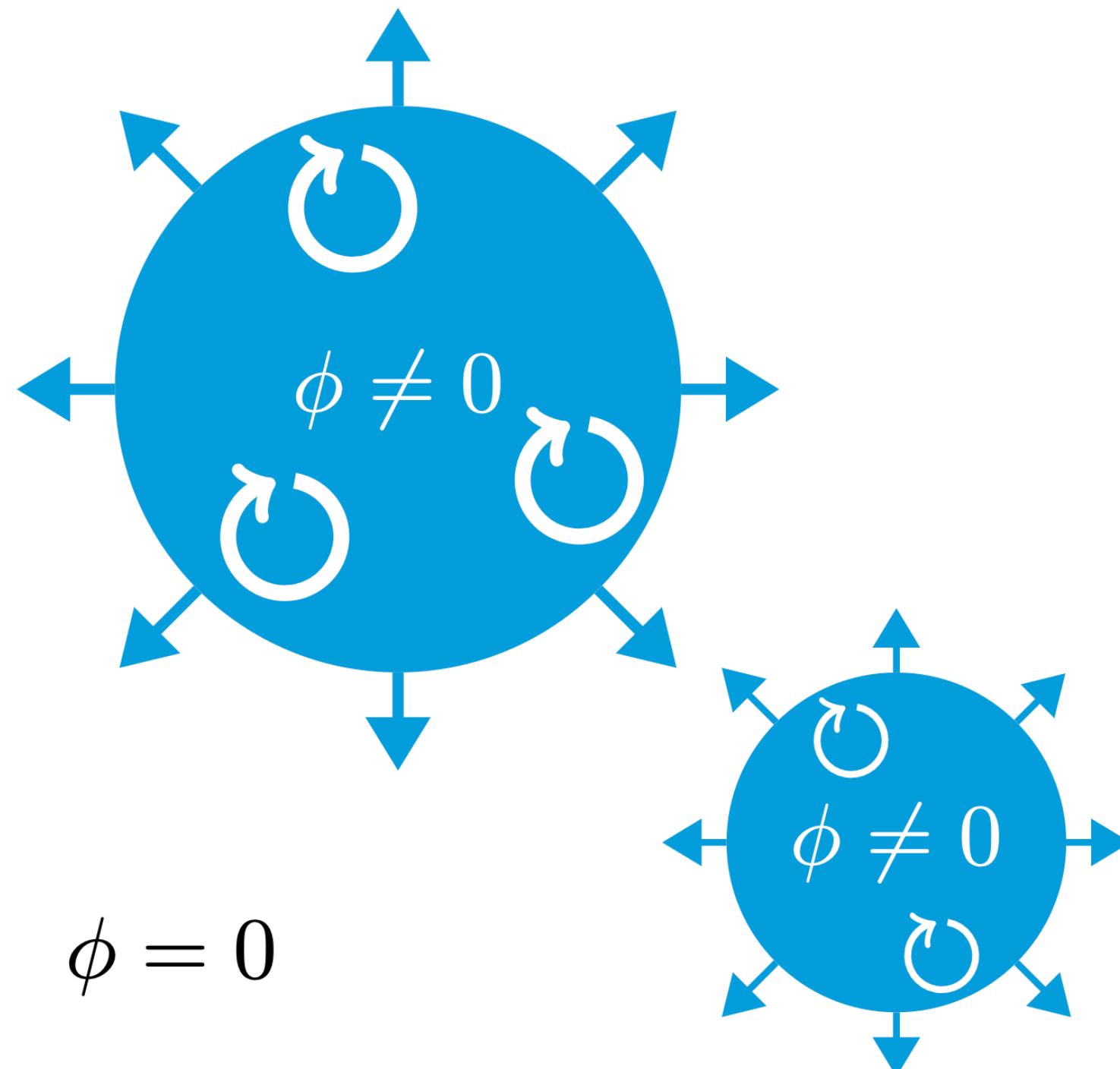
Universe.

For first time ever, scientists "hear" gravitational waves rippling through the universe

Luckily, we live in the age of gravitational wave cosmology.

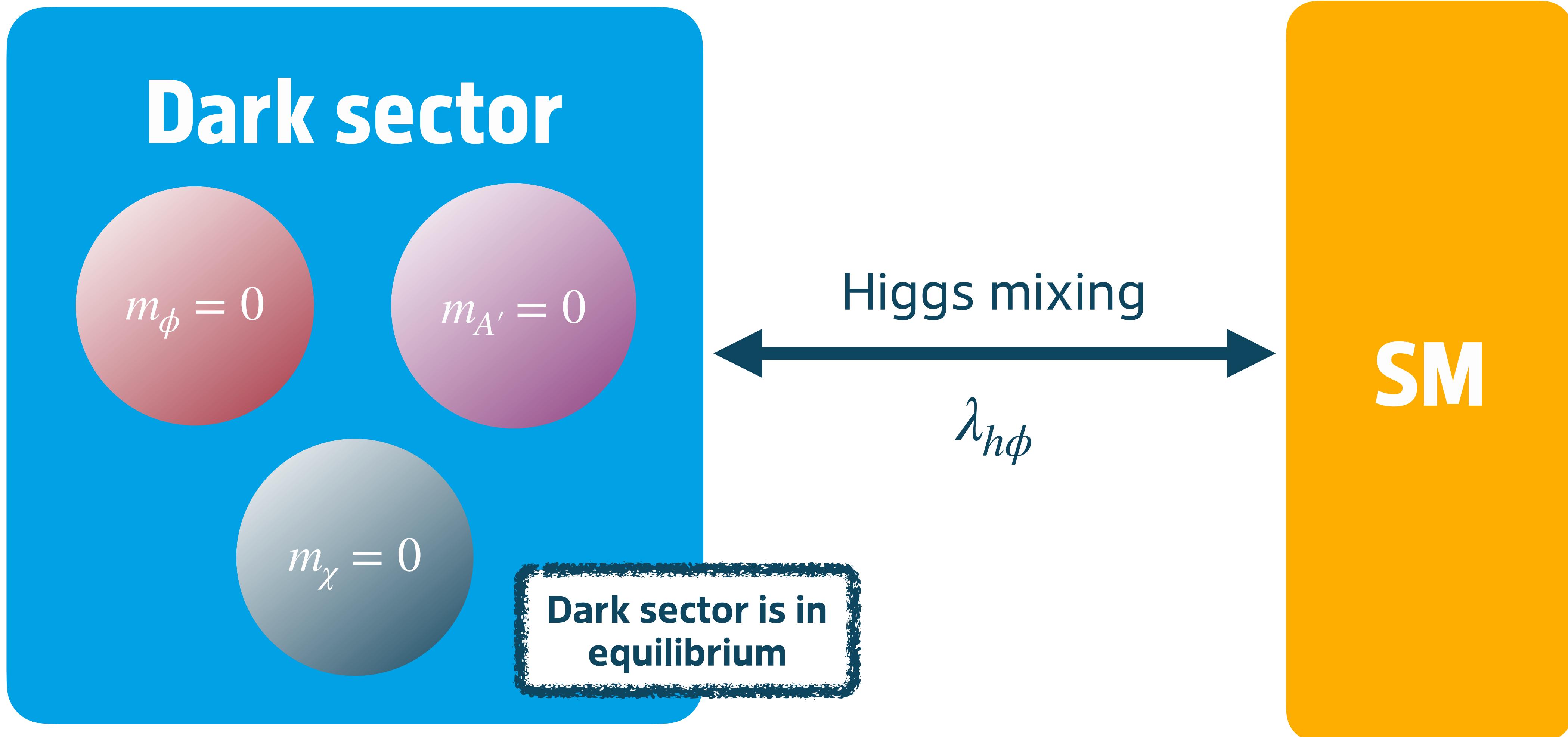
# First-order phase transitions produce GW backgrounds.

Bubbles of the new phase nucleate,  
collide and perturb the plasma...



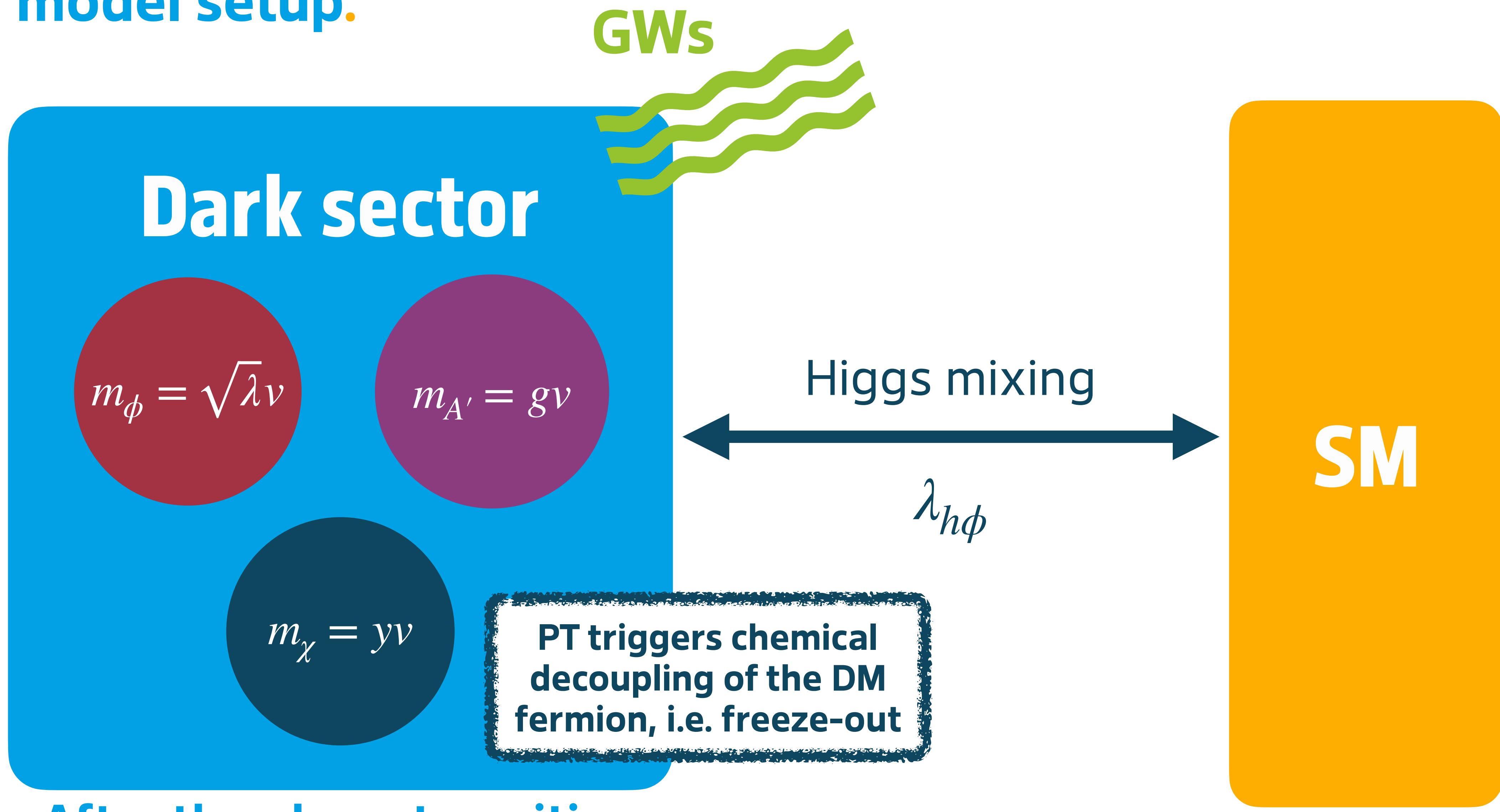
... giving rise to an observable stochastic  
gravitational wave background.

# Our model setup.



**Before the phase transition**

# Our model setup.



**After the phase transition**

# A first glance at our punchline.

**Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics**  
An IOP and SISSA journal

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## Hunting WIMPs with LISA: correlating dark matter and gravitational wave signals

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**ABSTRACT:** The thermal freeze-out mechanism in its classical form is tightly connected to physics beyond the Standard Model around the electroweak scale, which has been the target of enormous experimental efforts. In this work we study a dark matter model in which freeze-out is triggered by a strong first-order phase transition in a dark sector, and show that this phase transition must also happen close to the electroweak scale, i.e. in the temperature range relevant for gravitational wave searches with the LISA mission. Specifically, we consider the spontaneous breaking of a U(1)' gauge symmetry through the vacuum expectation value of a scalar field, which generates the mass of a fermionic dark matter candidate that subsequently annihilates into dark Higgs and gauge bosons. In this set-up the peak frequency of the gravitational wave background is tightly correlated with the dark matter relic abundance, and imposing the observed value for the latter implies that the former must lie in the milli-Hertz range. A peculiar feature of our set-up is that the dark sector is not necessarily in thermal equilibrium with the Standard Model during the phase transition, and hence the temperatures of the two sectors evolve independently. Nevertheless, the requirement that the universe does not enter an extended period of matter domination after the phase transition, which would strongly dilute any gravitational wave signal, places a lower bound on the portal coupling that governs the entropy transfer between the two sectors. As a result, the predictions for the peak frequency of gravitational waves in the LISA band are robust, while the amplitude can change depending on the initial dark sector temperature.

**KEYWORDS:** cosmological phase transitions, dark matter theory, particle physics - cosmology connection, primordial gravitational waves (theory)

ARXIV EPRINT: [2311.06346](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.06346)

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<https://doi.org/10.1088/1475-7516/2024/05/065>

JCAP05(2024)065

## Theorem:

There is a correlation between the **GW peak frequency** and the **DM abundance**.

## Proof:

$f_{\text{peak}} \propto \nu$  and  $\Omega_{\text{DM}} \propto \nu^2$  for a transition with vacuum expectation value  $\nu$ .

## Lemma:

$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.12 \implies f_{\text{peak}} \simeq \mathcal{O}(\text{mHz})$ . If DM freeze-out is triggered by a strong phase transition, it is observable using LISA.

# The miracle at work.

**Peak frequency:**  $f_{\text{peak}} \simeq 10 \text{ mHz} \left( \frac{\beta/H}{100} \right) \left( \frac{T^{\nu}}{1 \text{ TeV}} \right) \simeq 10 \text{ mHz} \left( \frac{\nu}{1 \text{ TeV}} \right)$

**DM abundance:**  $\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 \simeq 0.1 \frac{10^{-8} \text{ GeV}^{-2}}{\langle \sigma v \rangle} \propto \frac{\nu^2}{y^2}$

Assuming that dominant annihilation channel is  $\chi\chi \rightarrow \phi\phi$ :

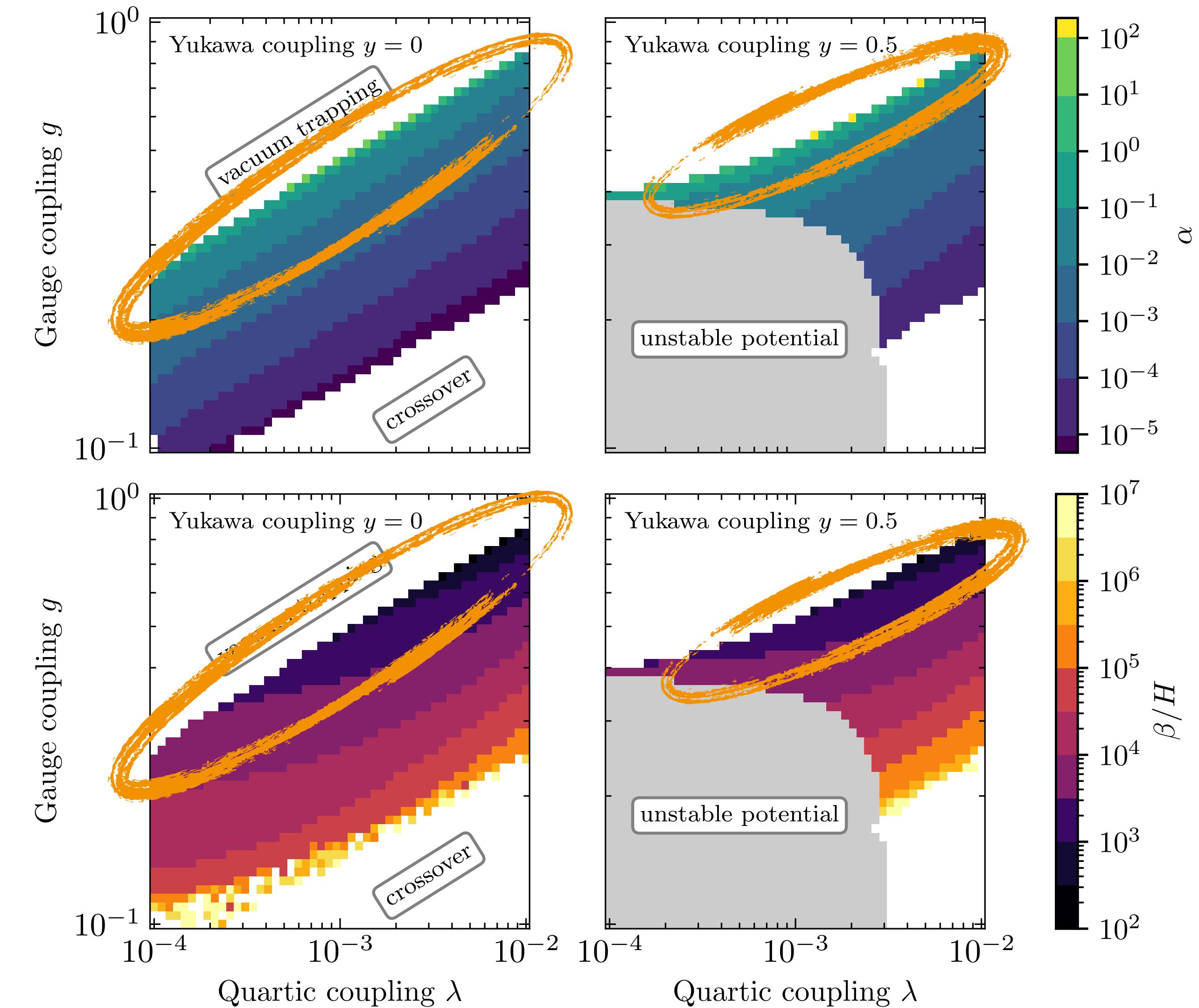
$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \sim \frac{y^4}{m_\chi^2} \sim \frac{y^2}{\nu^2}$$

Since Yukawa coupling  $y$  is **a-priori** arbitrary: **no correlation expected...**

# Intermediate Yukawa couplings.

**Strong-GW condition:**

Sizable couplings and  $m_\phi \lesssim m_{A'}$



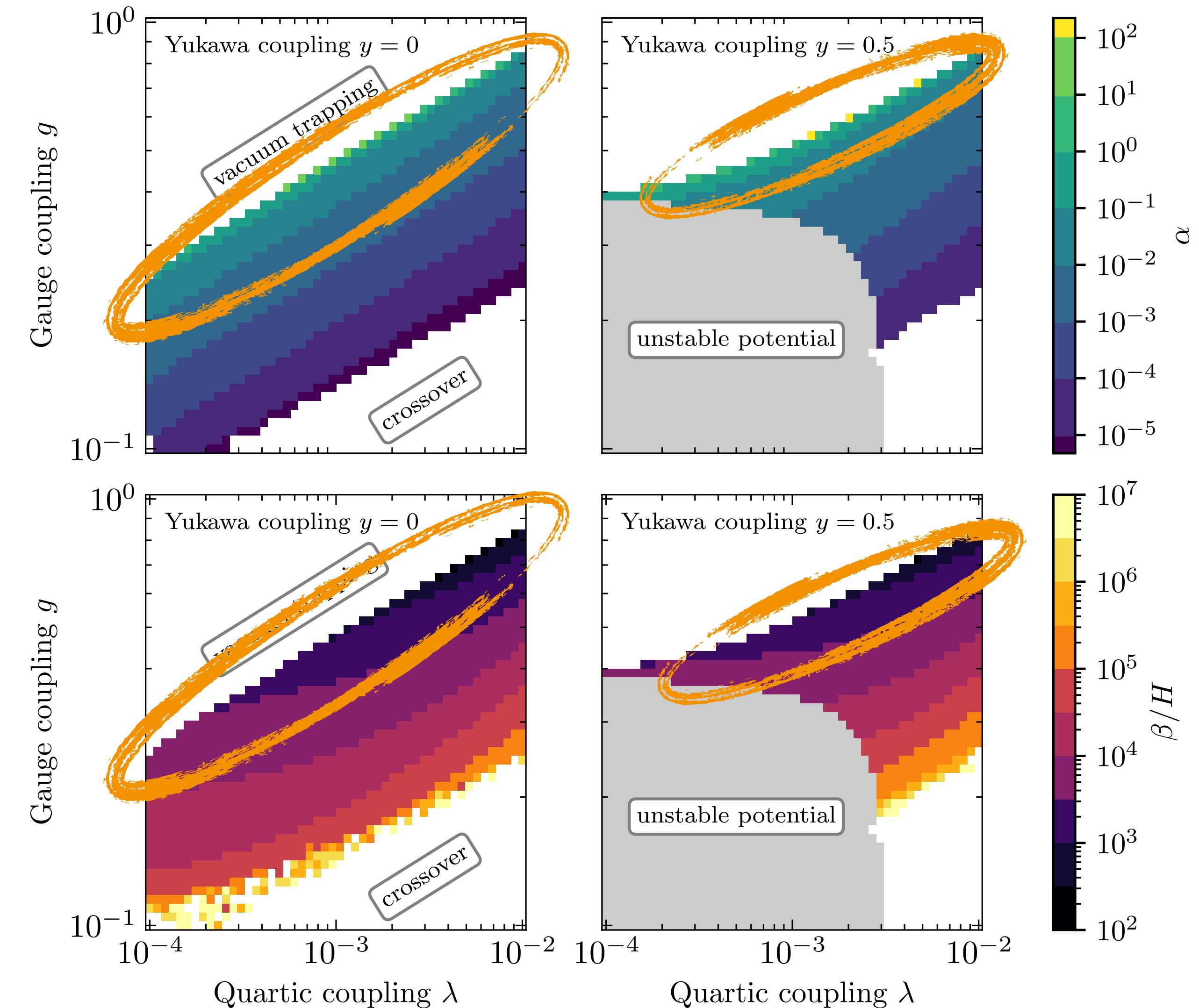
# Intermediate Yukawa couplings.

**Strong-GW condition:**

Sizable couplings and  $m_\phi \lesssim m_{A'}$

**Freeze-out condition:**

DM cannot be lightest dark sector state:  $m_\phi < m_\chi$  or  $m_{A'} < m_\chi$



# Intermediate Yukawa couplings.

**Strong-GW condition:**

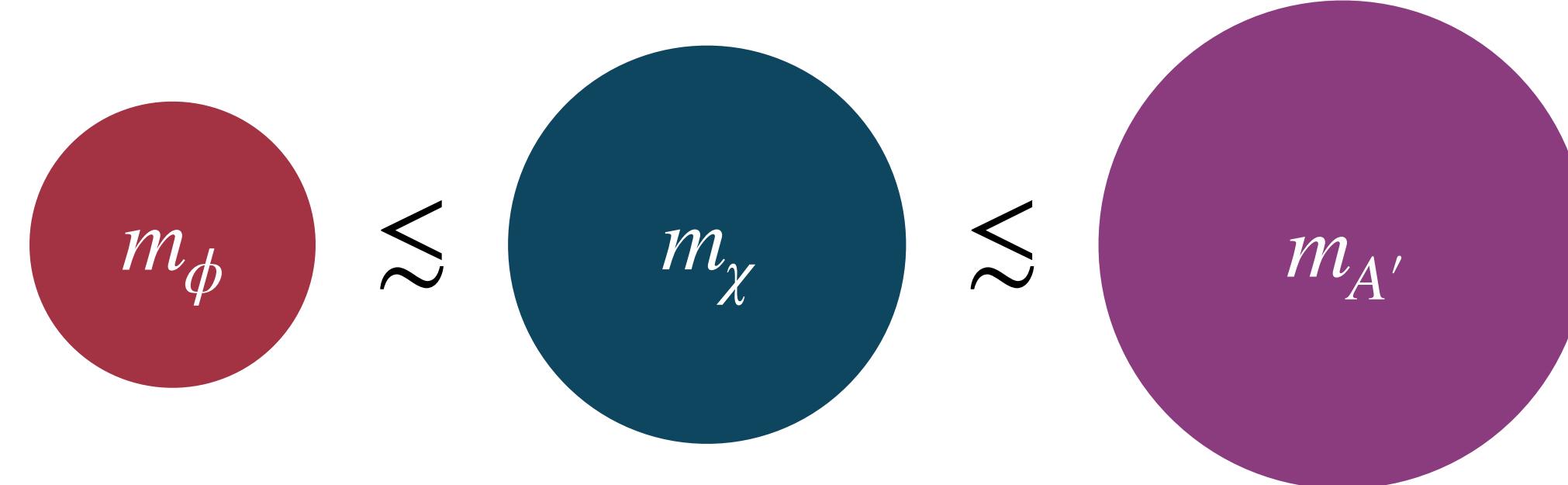
Sizable couplings and  $m_\phi \lesssim m_{A'}$

**Freeze-out condition:**

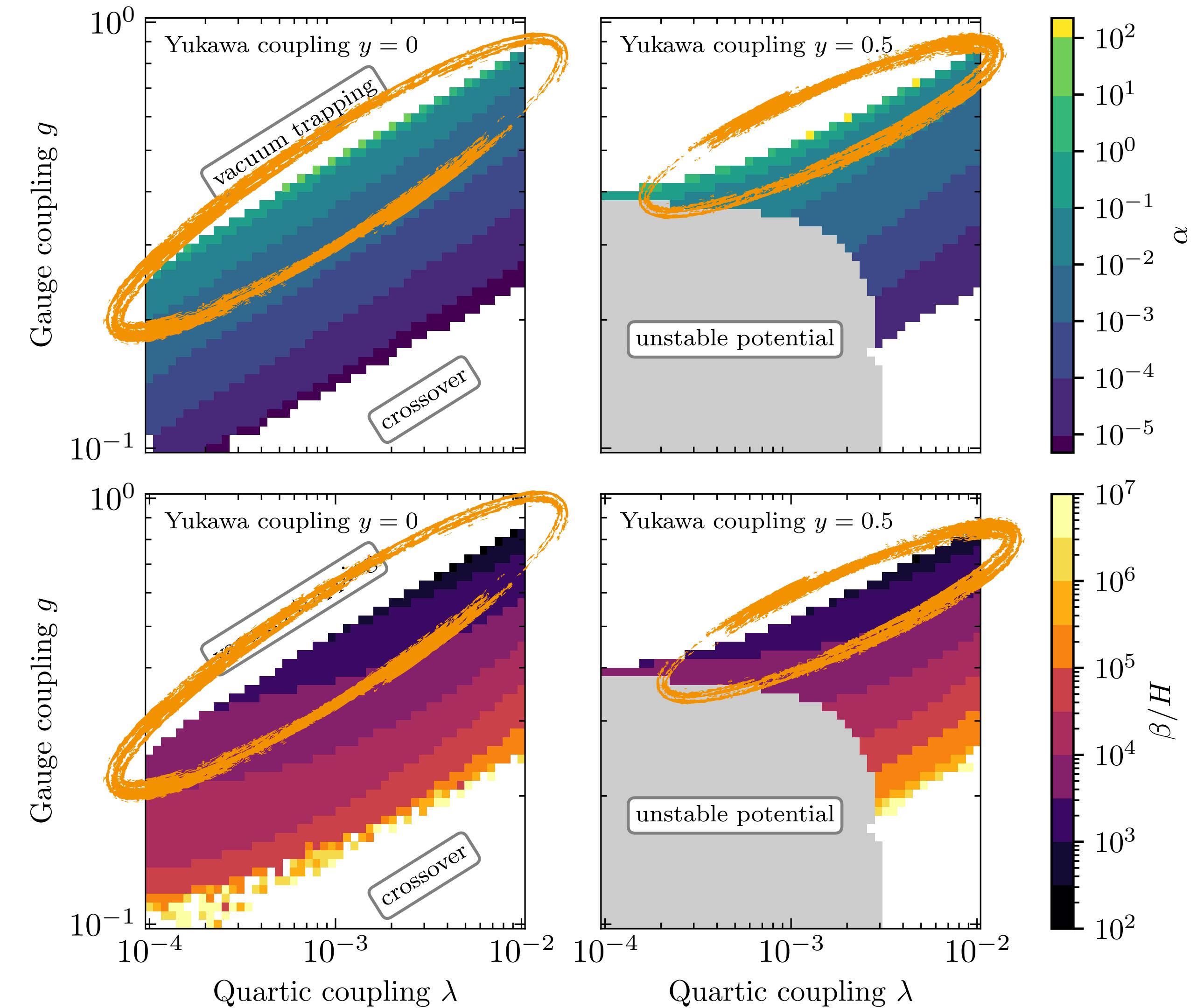
DM cannot be lightest dark sector

state:  $m_\phi < m_\chi$  or  $m_{A'} < m_\chi$

**Conclusion:**



Yukawa couplings are bounded and  $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ . Miracles can happen! 😊



# You shouldn't be convinced.

**So far we skipped over several potential issues:**

- Sizable Yukawa couplings vs. vacuum stability
- What about the  $\chi\chi \rightarrow A'A'$  and  $\chi\chi \rightarrow \phi A'$  annihilations?
- Influence of temperature ratio  $\xi = T_{\text{DS}}/T_{\text{SM}}$  on  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}(f)$  and  $\Omega_{\text{DM}}$ ?
- $\lambda_{h\phi}$ : Collider bounds? Early matter domination?



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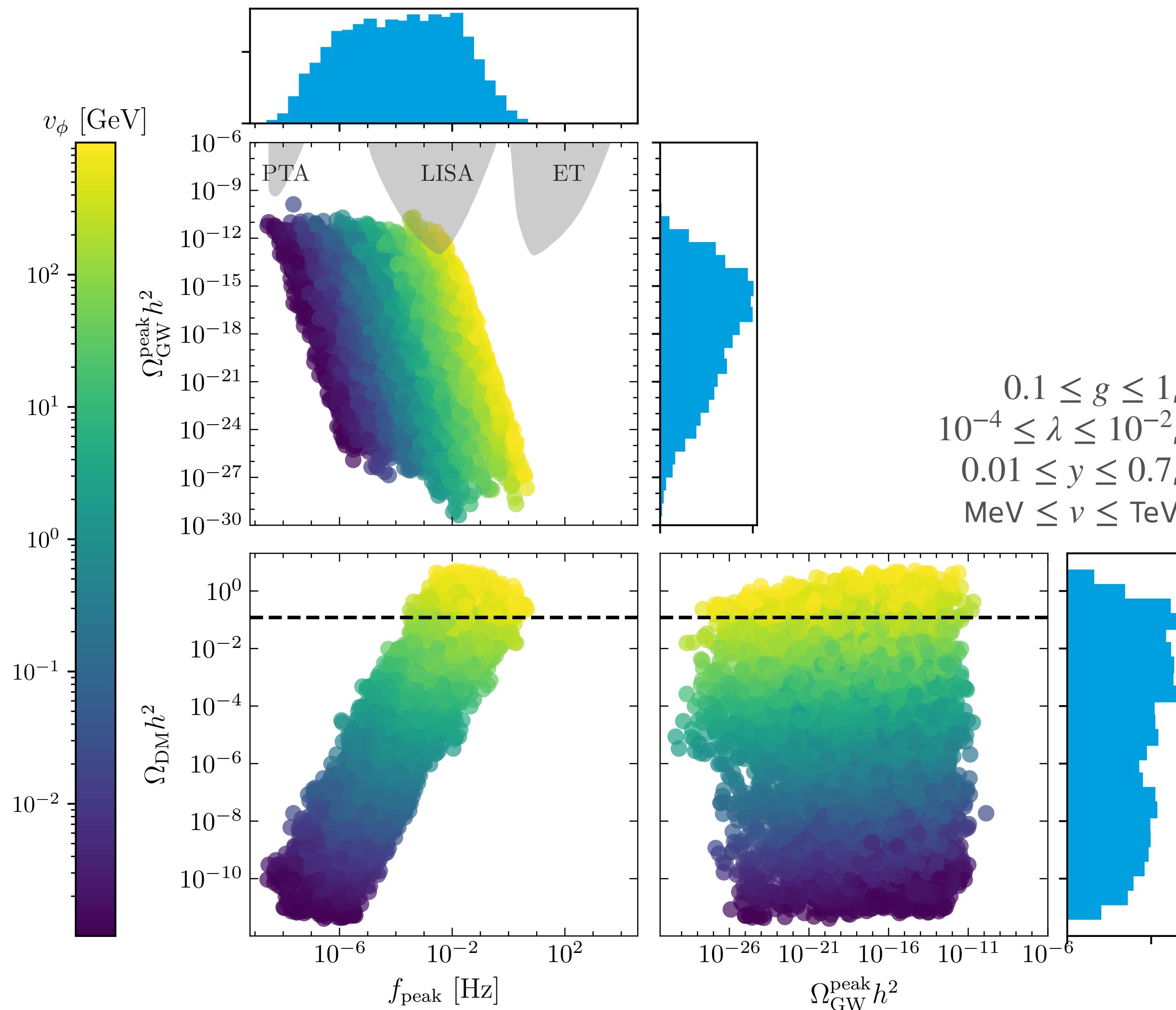
- Sizable Yukawa couplings vs. vacuum stability
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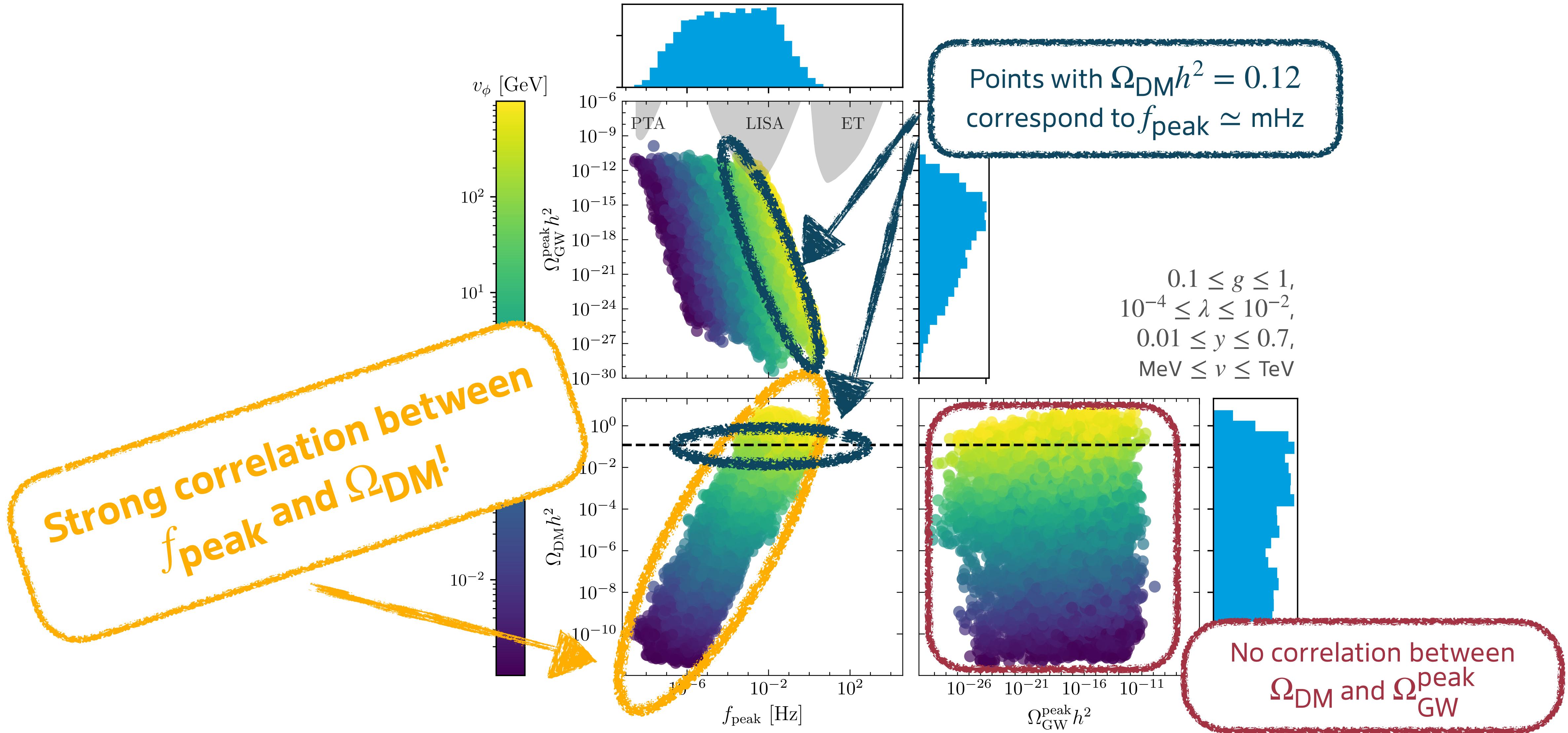
We performed full model scans\* over  $\lambda, g, y, v, \xi, \lambda_{h\phi}$  and confirmed the LISA miracle!

\* TransitionListener & DarkSUSY [Ertas+ 2109.06208, Bringmann+ 1802.03399]

# Results of our scans.



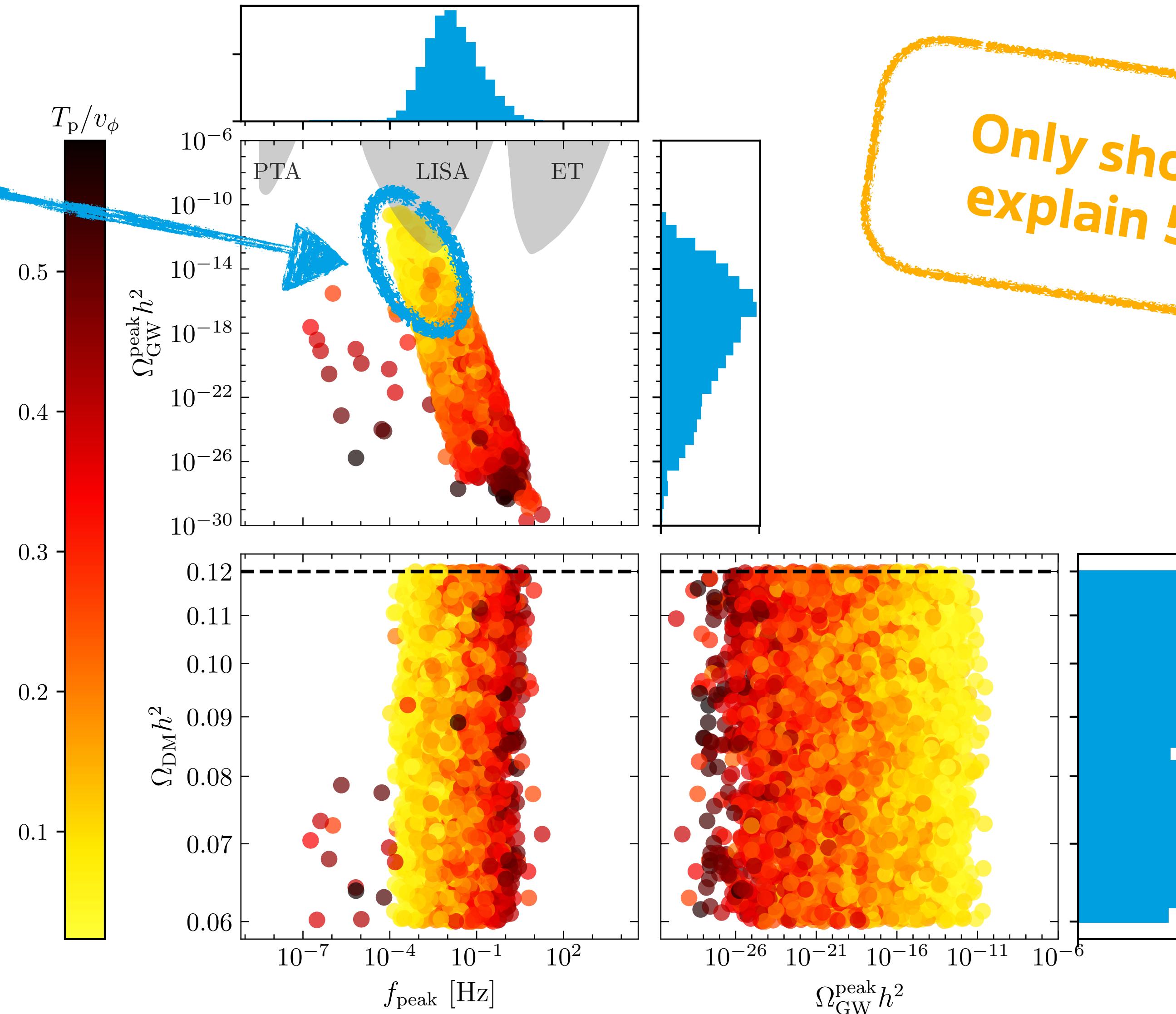
# Results of our scans.



# Selection: observed DM abundance is explained.

Strong supercooling

35% of points with strong supercooling and correct DM abundance are observable



# Ongoing work.

Is there a LISA miracle also for other model classes? What about conformal models? Can we explain PTA data?

See Jonas' talk!

**Nano-Hertz gravitational waves and sub-GeV dark matter from a nearly conformal phase transition**

Jonas Matuszak  
Based on work in preparation with: Sowmiya Balan, Torsten Bringmann, Felix Kahlhöfer, Carlo Tasillo

26. September 2024

KIT – The Research University in the Helmholtz Association

<i>Ido Ben-...</i>	<i>The dawn of nuclear...</i>	<i>Bubble misalignme...</i>	<i>High-frequency grav...</i>	<i>New early dark ene...</i>
<i>Feynman Integrals, ...</i>	<i>Wolfram ...</i>	<i>Fuminob...</i>	<i>Alessand...</i>	<i>Aleksand...</i>
<i>Pyry Kuu...</i>	<i>Anapole Dark Matter...</i>	<i>Jun'ya Ku...</i>	<i>First Pulsar Polariza...</i>	<i>Fitting the DESI BA...</i>
	<i>Onur Yonar</i>		<i>Xiao Xue</i>	<i>Mustafa ...</i>
<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
Seminar room 3	Foyer main auditorium			
16:00 - 16:30	16:00 - 16:30			
<i>Conformal line defe...</i>	<i>Application of 3D Ef...</i>	<i>Detecting Gravitatio...</i>	<i>Exorcising the gho...</i>	
<i>Julien Ba...</i>	<i>Maximilia...</i>	<i>Anna-Mal...</i>	<i>Dr. Amja...</i>	
<i>Integrated correlato...</i>	<i>Prospects for const...</i>	<i>The impact of cosmi...</i>	<i>Relic Neutrino Bac...</i>	
<i>Herr Ales...</i>	<i>Krzysztof...</i>	<i>Enrico Pe...</i>	<i>Alessand...</i>	
<i>The Higgs Branch o...</i>	<i>Small Instanton-Ind...</i>	<i>The Equation of Stat...</i>	<i>Measuring SGWB in...</i>	
<i>Lorenzo ...</i>	<i>Jonathan...</i>	<i>Henda M...</i>	<i>Ameek M...</i>	

# Summary.



## The *first* LISA miracle:

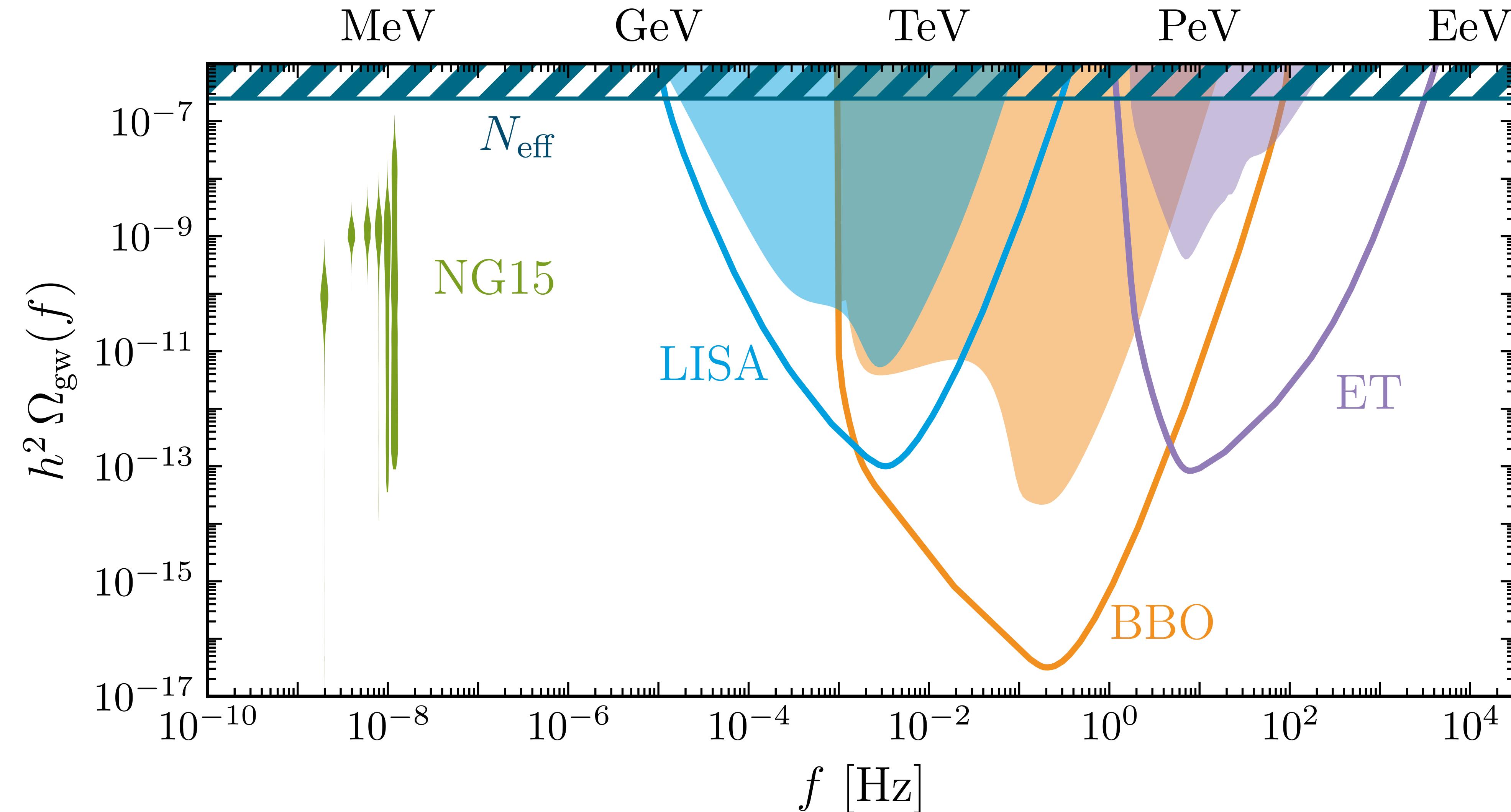
- In our  $U(1)'$  model there is a robust correlation between  $f_{\text{peak}}$  and  $\Omega_{\text{DM}}$
- $\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.12$  corresponds to mHz frequencies, i.e. the LISA band
- A future LISA detection of a GW background would hint towards secluded DS freeze-out
- Ongoing work on other model setups

**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**

**Do you have any questions?**



# Backup: Current bounds on cosmic GW backgrounds.



# Backup: Model details.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & |D_\mu \Phi|^2 - \frac{1}{4} A'_{\mu\nu} A'^{\mu\nu} + \mu^2 \Phi^* \Phi - \lambda (\Phi^* \Phi)^2 \\ & + \chi_L^\dagger i \not{D} \chi_L + \chi_R^\dagger i \not{D} \chi_R - y \Phi \chi_L^\dagger \chi_R - y \Phi^* \chi_R^\dagger \chi_L\end{aligned}$$

The tree-level scalar potential of our model has a minimum at  $v_\phi = \pm \sqrt{\mu^2/\lambda}$ . One can hence expand the complex field as  $\Phi = (v_\phi + \phi + i\varphi)/\sqrt{2}$ , where  $\phi$  and  $\varphi$  are real scalar fields. In addition, the chiral fermions  $\chi_L$  and  $\chi_R$  can be written as a Dirac fermion  $\chi$ . The Lagragian in eq. (2.1) can thus be re-written as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - \frac{1}{4} A'_{\mu\nu} A'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_{A'}^2 A'^2 \\ & - g A'_\mu [\varphi \partial^\mu \phi - \phi \partial^\mu \varphi - v_\phi \partial^\mu \varphi] + \frac{g^2}{2} \phi^2 A'^2_\mu + \frac{g^2}{2} \varphi^2 A'^2_\mu + g^2 v_\phi \phi A'^2_\mu \\ & - \lambda v_\phi \phi^3 - \lambda v_\phi \varphi^2 \phi - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^2 \varphi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \varphi^4 \\ & + i \bar{\chi} \not{D} \chi - m_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi + \frac{g}{2} \bar{\chi} A' \gamma^5 \chi - \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} \phi \bar{\chi} \chi + i \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} \varphi \bar{\chi} \gamma^5 \chi,\end{aligned}$$

$$m_\phi^2 = -\mu^2 + 3\lambda v_\phi^2 = 2\lambda v_\phi^2, \quad m_\varphi^2 = 0, \quad m_{A'}^2 = g^2 v_\phi^2, \quad m_\chi^2 = \frac{y^2}{2} v_\phi^2.$$

# Backup: GWB details.

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \mathcal{R} h^2 \tilde{\Omega} \left( \frac{\kappa_{\text{sw}} \alpha}{\alpha + 1} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\beta}{H} \right)^{-1} \mathcal{Y} S(f)$$

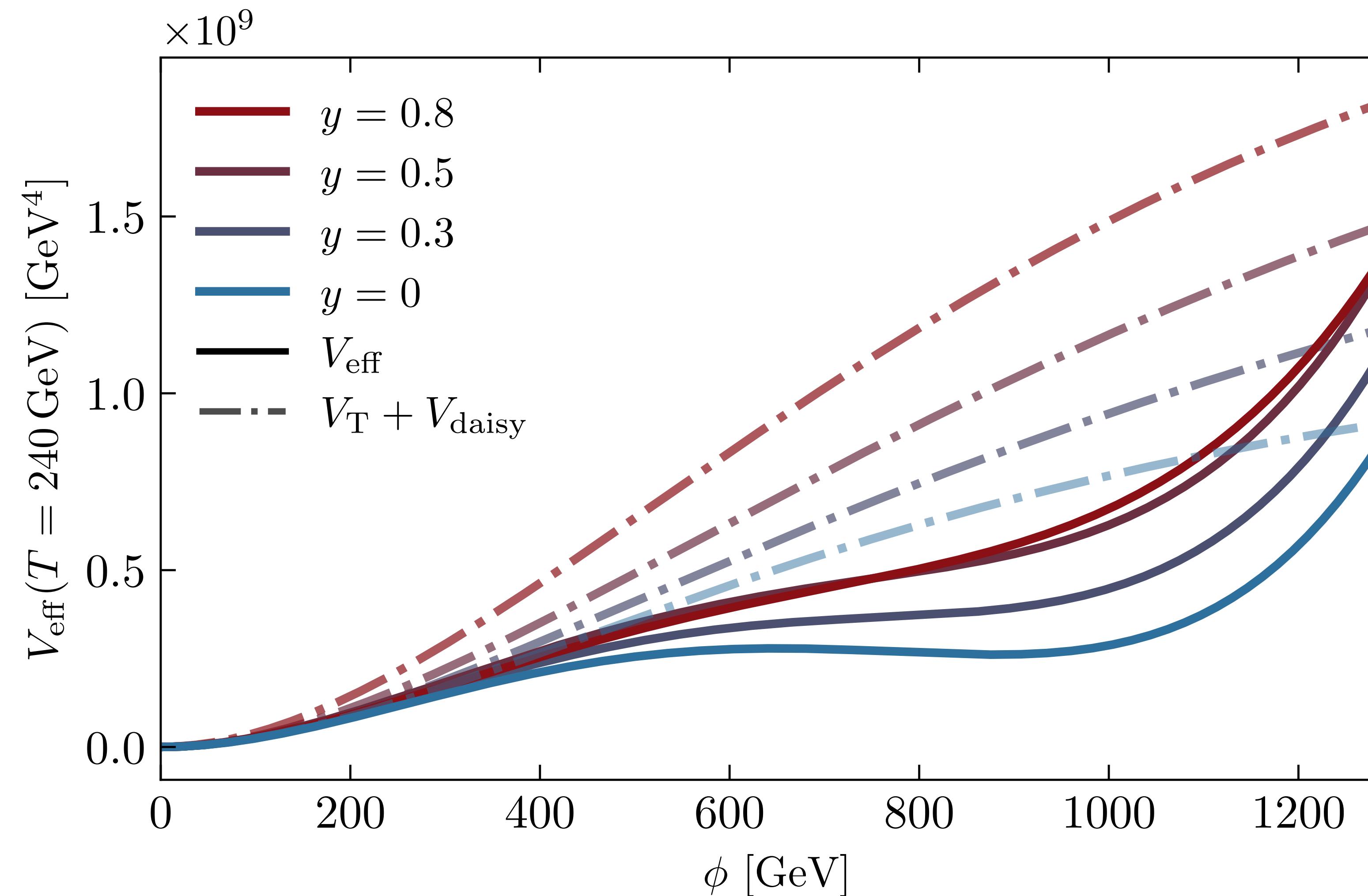
$$\mathcal{R} h^2 = \Omega_\gamma h^2 \left( \frac{h_{\text{SM},0}}{h_{\text{tot,p}}} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{g_{\text{tot,p}}}{g_{\gamma,0}} \right) = 1.653 \cdot 10^{-5} \left( \frac{100}{h_{\text{tot,p}}} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{g_{\text{tot,p}}}{100} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{Y} = \min [1, \tau_{\text{sh}} H] \simeq \min \left[ 1, \frac{3.38}{\beta/H} \sqrt{\frac{1+\alpha}{\kappa_{\text{sw}} \alpha}} \right]$$

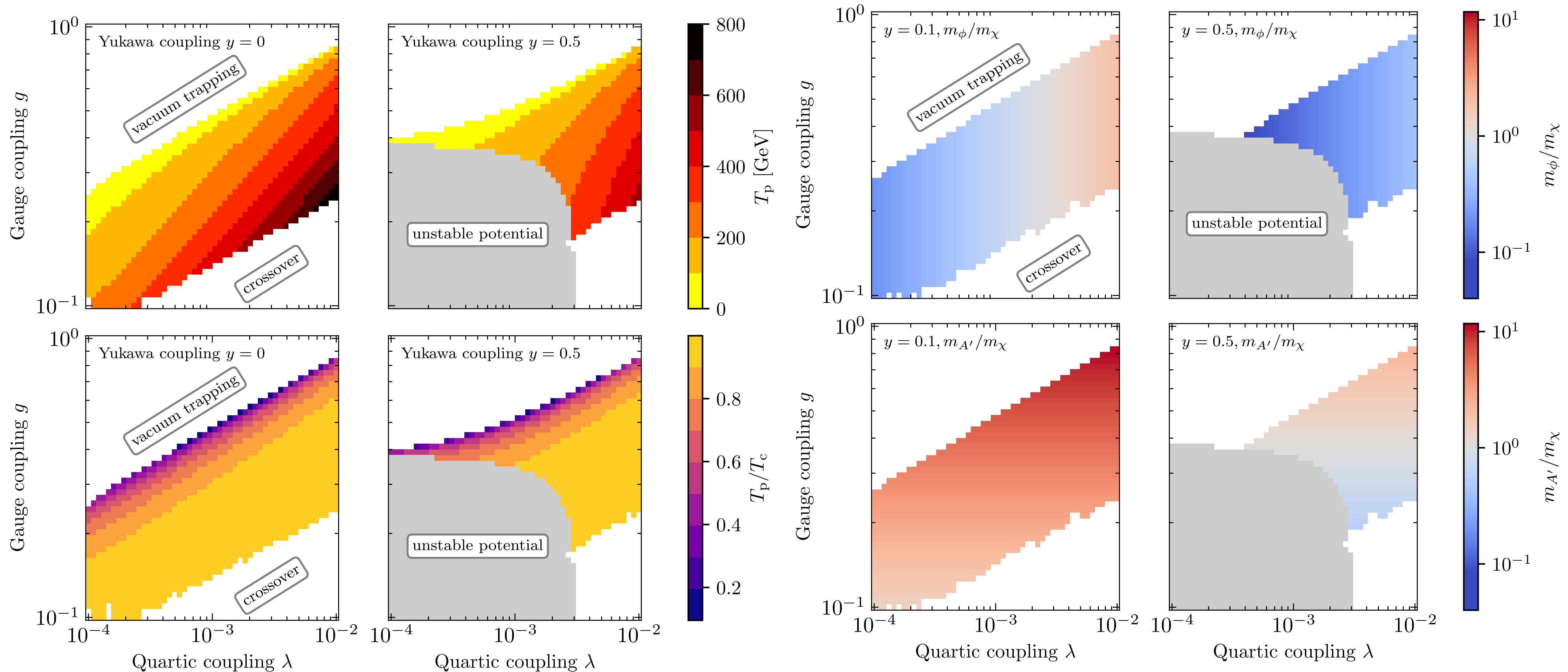
$$S(f) = \left( \frac{f}{f_{\text{peak}}} \right)^3 \left( \frac{7}{4 + 3(f/f_{\text{peak}})^2} \right)^{7/2}$$

$$f_{\text{peak}} = 8.9 \text{ mHz} \left( \frac{T_p}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right) \left( \frac{\beta/H}{1000} \right) \left( \frac{g_{\text{tot,p}}}{100} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{100}{h_{\text{tot,p}}} \right)^{1/3}$$

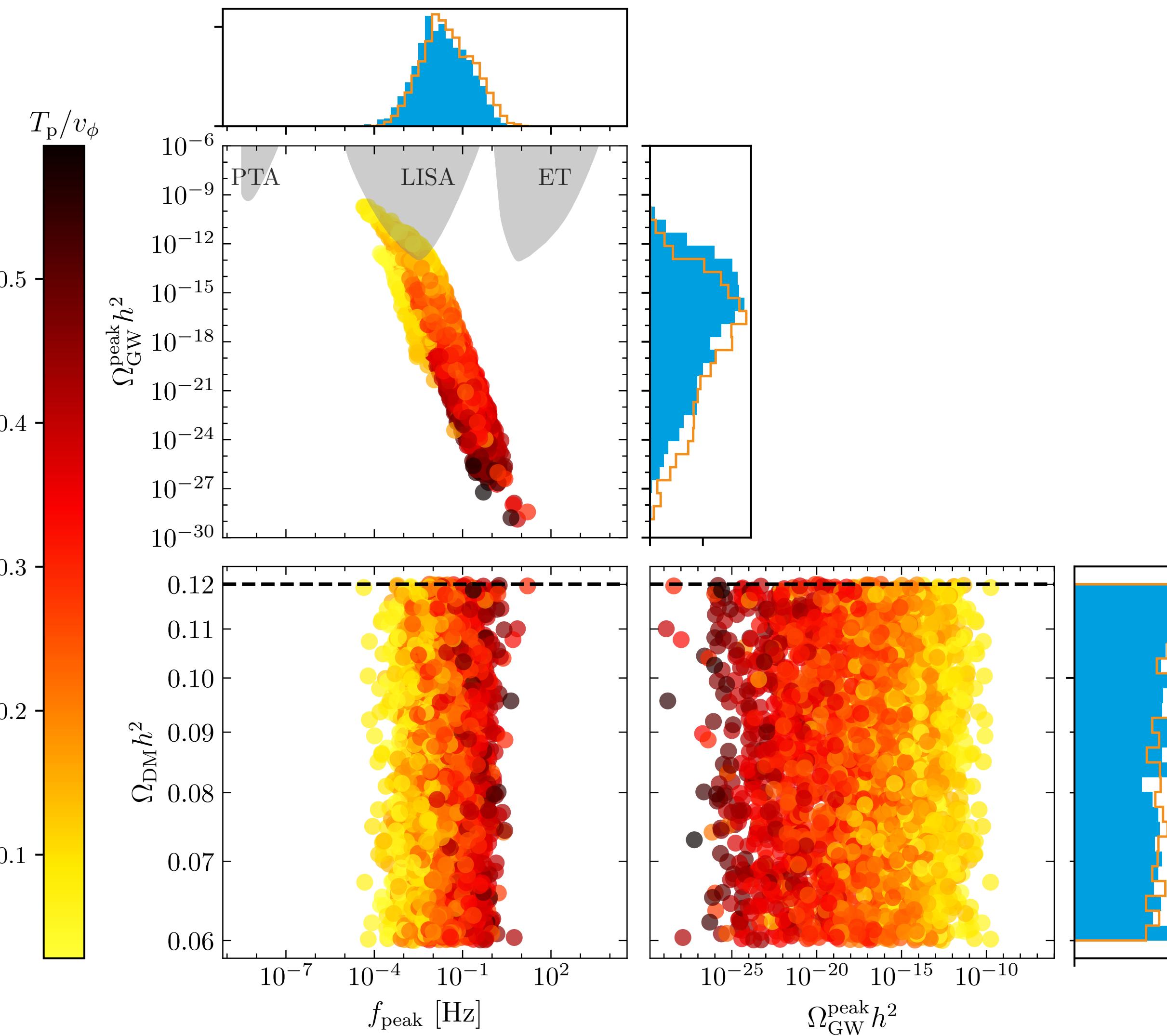
# Backup: Effect of Yukawa coupling on effective potential.



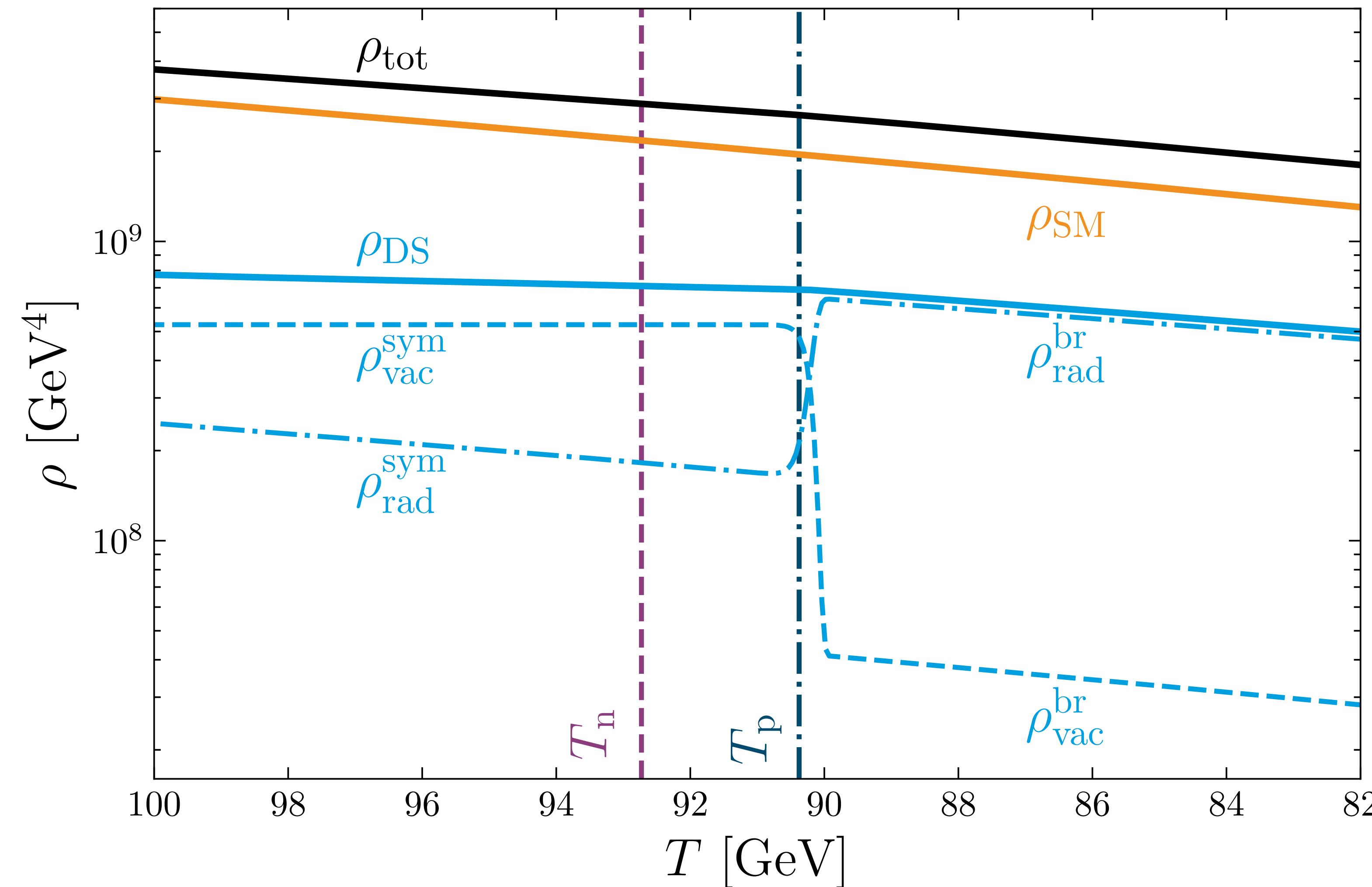
# Backup: Grid scans over couplings.



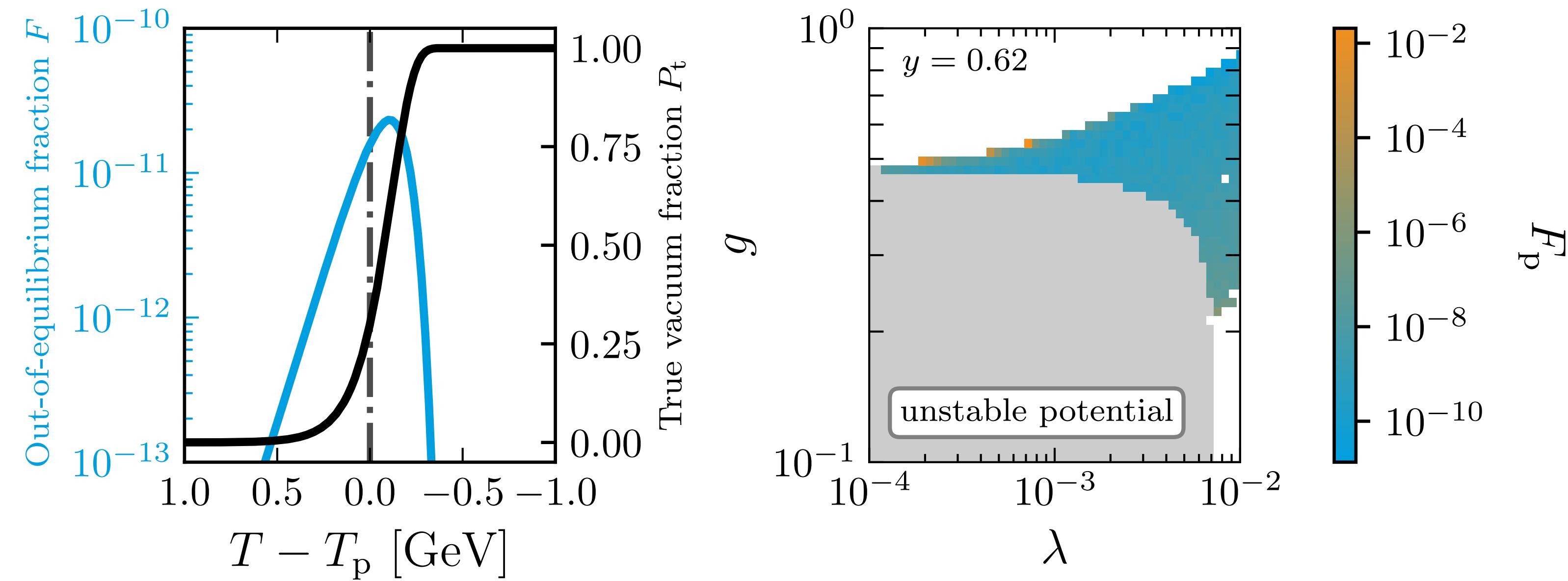
# Backup: Comparison with hot dark sector phase transition.



# Backup: Evolution of energy densities.



# Backup: out-of-equilibrium fraction of the dark sector.

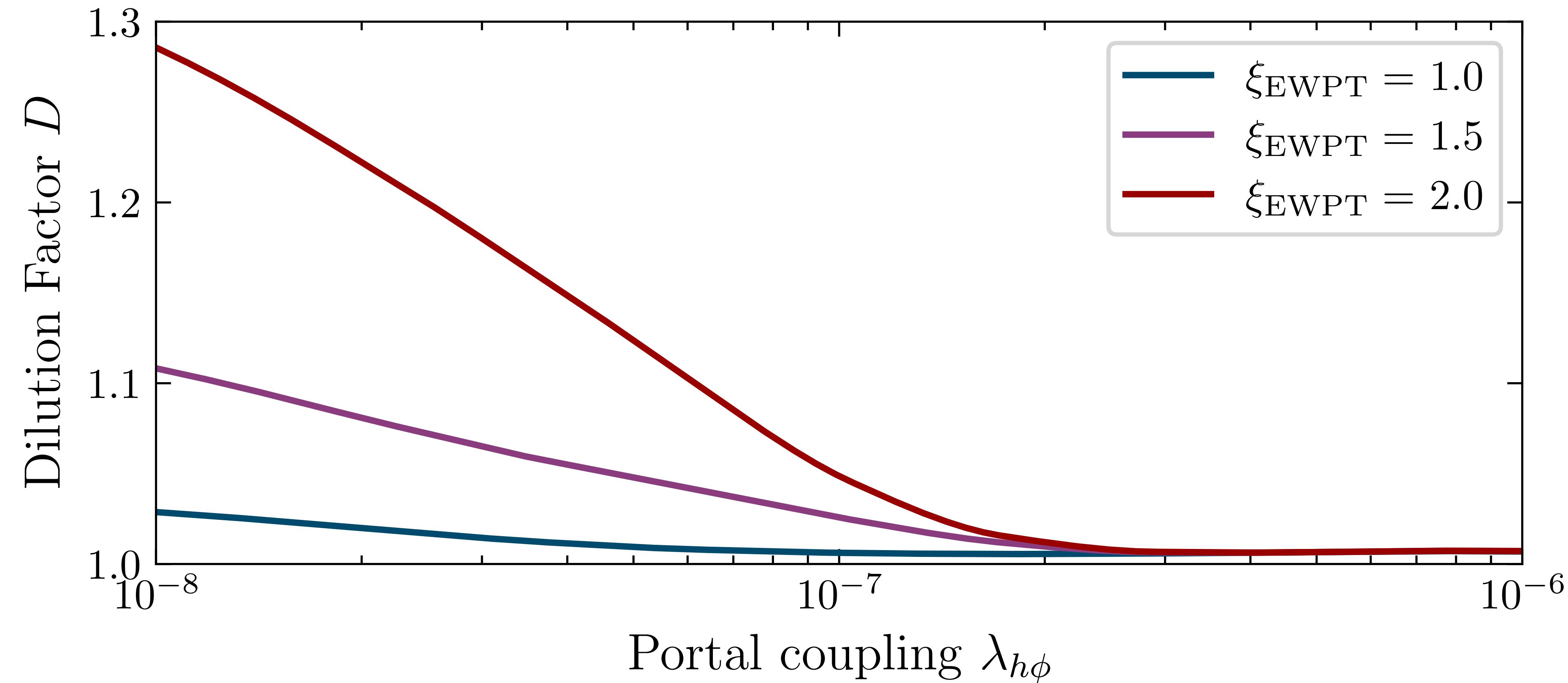


$$F(t) \equiv P(t - \tau) - P(t) > 0$$

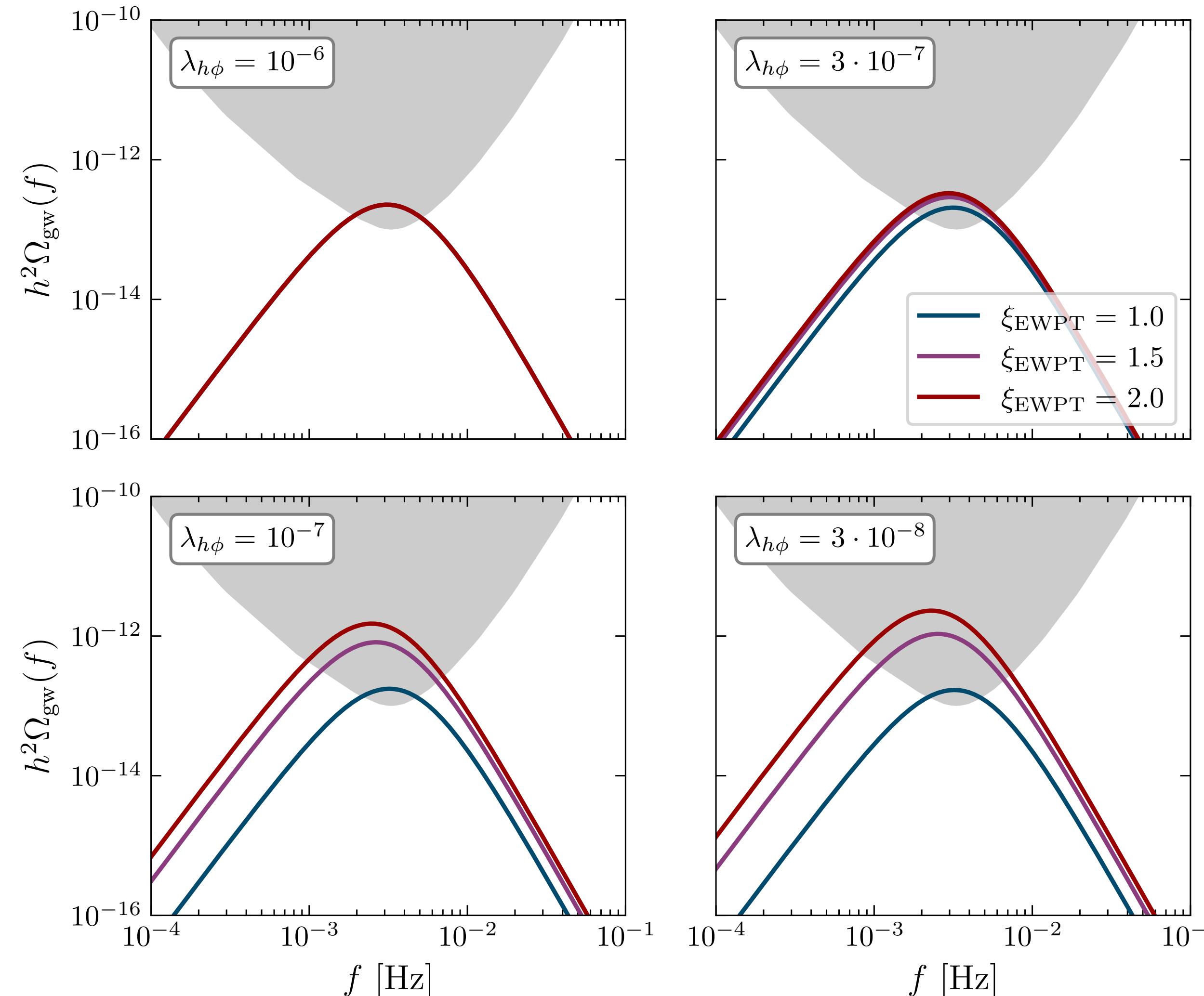
$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &\approx \exp(-0.34e^{\beta(t-t_p-\tau)}) - \exp(-0.34e^{\beta(t-t_p)}) \\ &\approx \beta\tau e^{\beta(t-t_p)} \exp(-0.34e^{\beta(t-t_p)}) \leq 0.37\beta\tau. \end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

Here, the last term follows by inserting the time at which  $F(t)$  peaks, which is found to be  $t \approx t_p - 1.08/\beta$ . Alternatively, one can interpret  $F$  as the volume fraction of a shell around the bubbles with the width of the mean free path of the particles that just entered the bubbles.

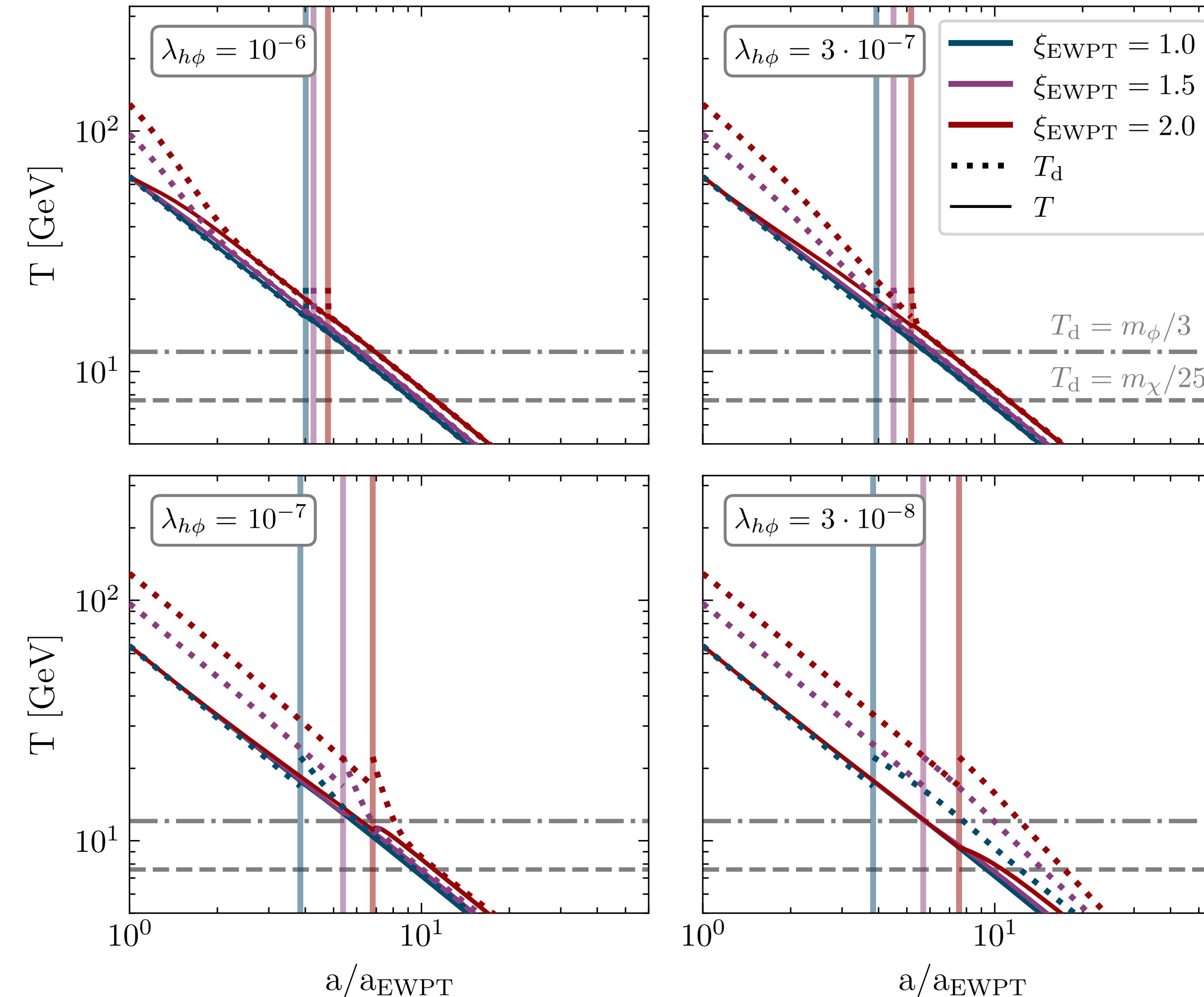
# Backup: Dilution effect.



# Backup: Effect of $\lambda_{h\phi}$ and $\xi$ .



# Backup: temperature evolution in the dark sector.

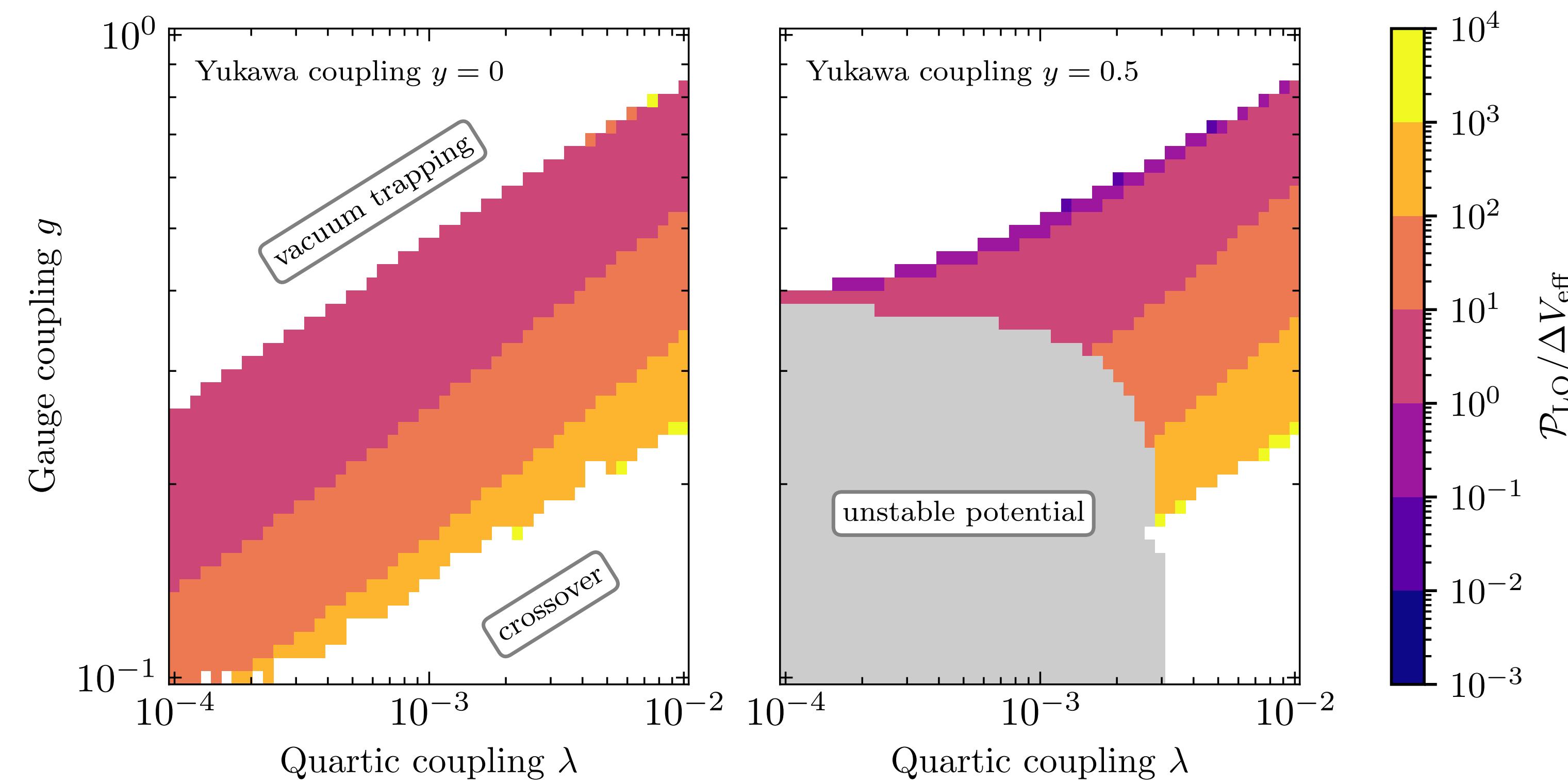


# Backup: „Detection probabilities”.

	Fraction of parameter points observable by LISA	
	$\xi_{\text{EWPT}} = 1, \lambda_{h\phi} = 10^{-6}$	$\xi_{\text{EWPT}} = 2, \lambda_{h\phi} = 10^{-7}$
Full sample	0.1%	0.5%
First-order PT	0.8%	3%
First-order PT + relic density	3%	8%
Strong supercooling	10%	21%
Strong supercooling + relic density	35%	69%

**Table 2.** Fraction of parameter points that predict an observable GW signal for LISA after imposing various selection requirements on the sample of points drawn from the parameter ranges discussed in section 2.5.

# Backup: Bödeker-Moore criterion.



Bödeker-Moore criterion: 
$$\begin{cases} \Delta V_{\text{eff}} > \mathcal{P}_{\text{LO}} & \text{Relativistic bubble walls} \\ \Delta V_{\text{eff}} < \mathcal{P}_{\text{LO}} & \text{Non-relativistic bubble walls} \end{cases}$$