



Dark Photon Dark Matter Detection with Radio Telescopes

Jia Liu
Peking University

Collaborated with Haipeng An, Xingyao Chen, Shuailiang Ge, Wen-Qing Guo, Fapeng Huang, Xiaoyuan Huang, Zhiyao Lu, Yan Luo, Wei Xue

2010.15836, 2207.05767, 2301.03622, 2405.12285

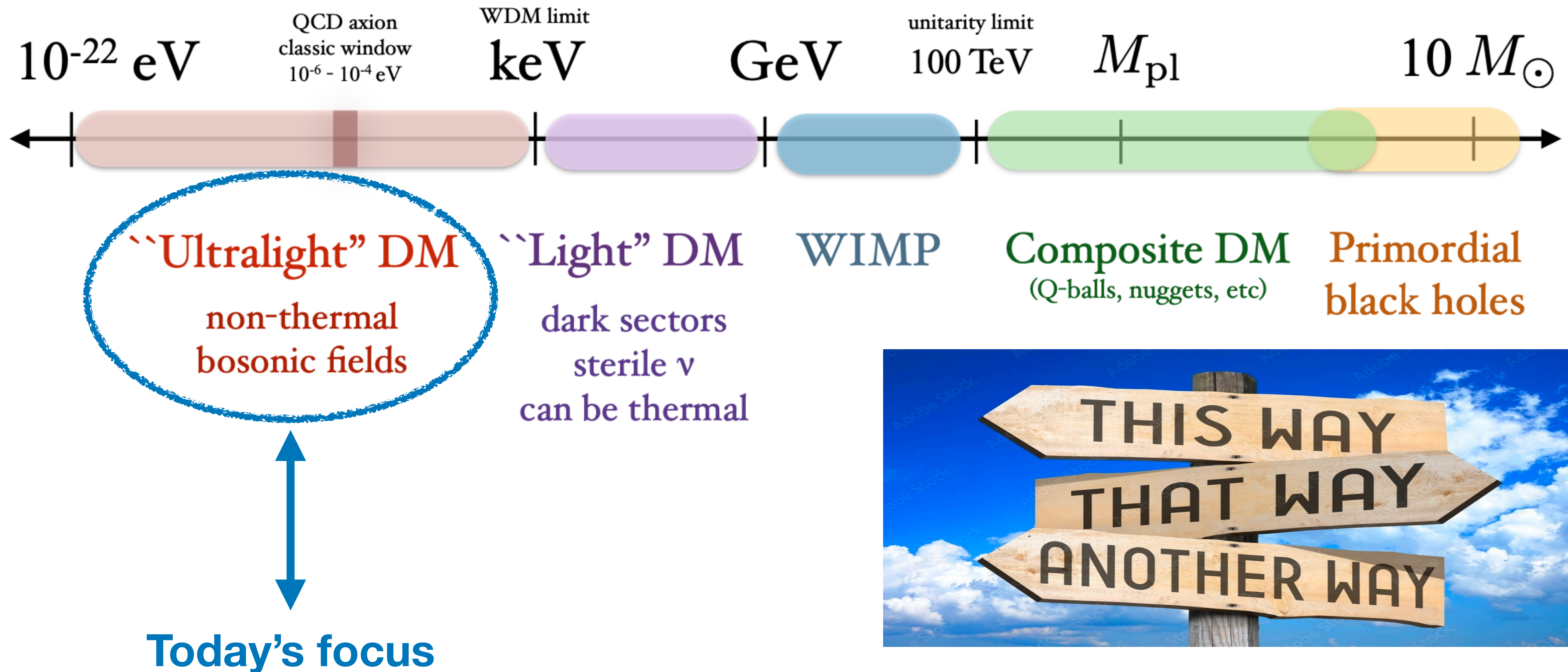
XIX International Conference on Topics in Astroparticle and
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2025-03-18 @ Xichang

Outlines

- Ultralight bosonic dark matter
- Detection using radio telescopes
 - Resonant conversion at solar corona
 - Local conversion at radio telescope
- Summary

The dark matter candidate models

1904.07915, TASI lecture



HEP at a cross-road: explore all directions!

Ultralight Bosonic Dark Matter

- Ultralight: $m \lesssim \text{keV}$, ultralight due to shift symmetry (pseudo-Nambu Goldstone, e.g. Axion)
- Bosonic: Pauli-exclusion for fermionic DM
- Exits as classical fields ($m \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ eV}$)
- Typical models:
 - Pseudo-scalar: Axion, Axion-like Particle
 - Dark Scalar: dilaton-like coupling
 - Vector: kinetic mixing dark photon, $U(1)_{B-L}$ dark photon etc

Ultralight bosonic dark matter: Dark Photon

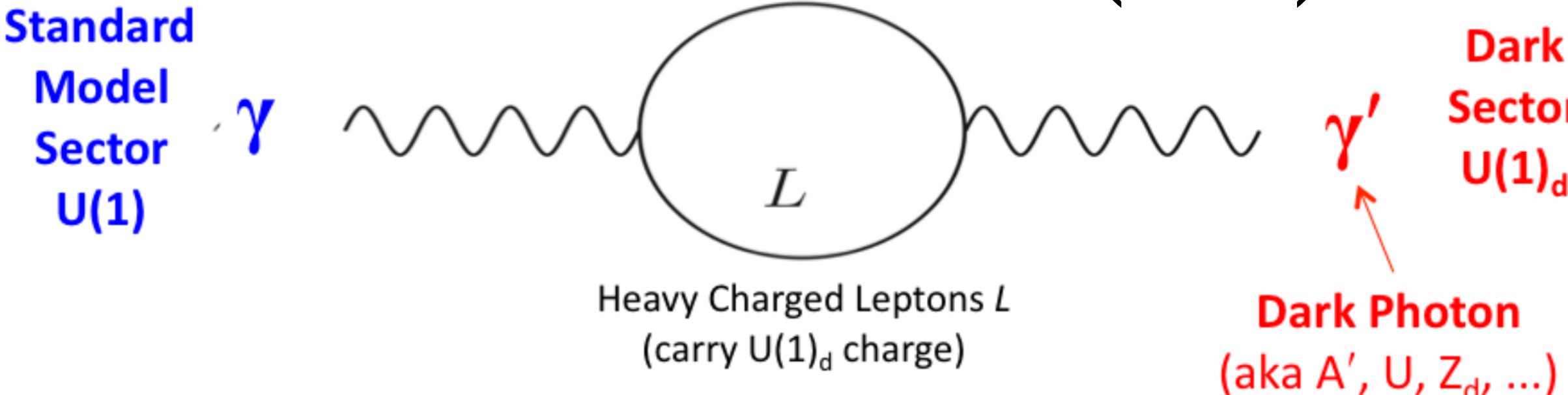
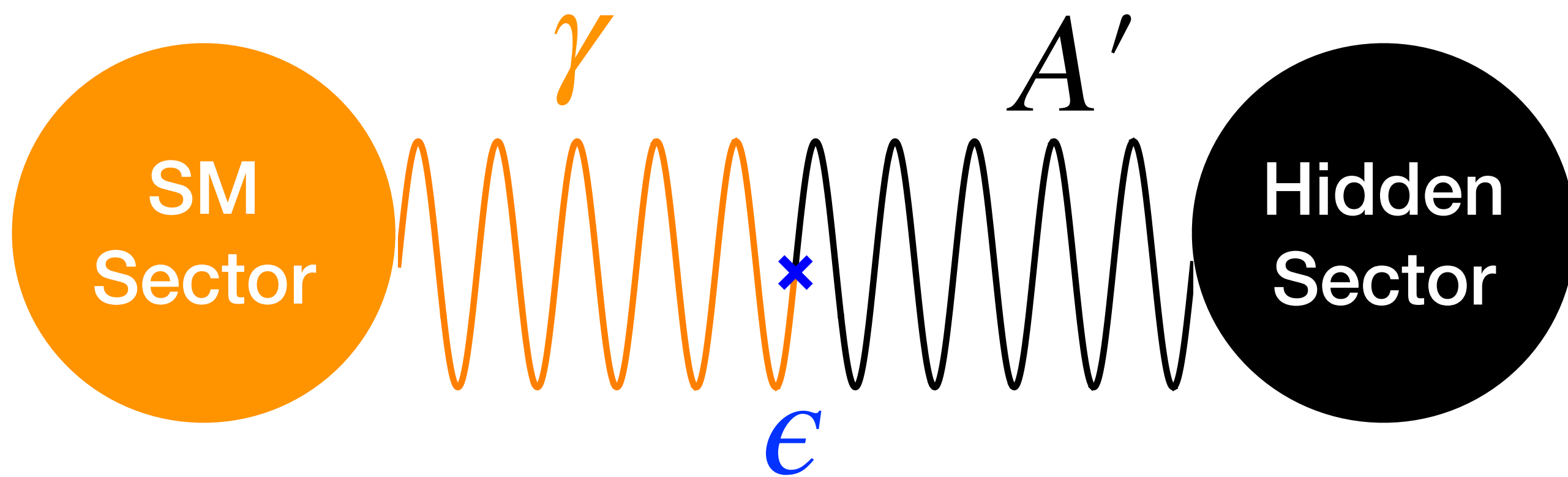
- Maxwell Equations: $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + 0 \times A^\mu A_\mu - eA_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu$

- Extra U(1) extension of Maxwell Equations

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + 0 \times A^\mu A_\mu - eA_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu - \frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{A'}^2 A'^\mu A'_\mu - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon F'_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$$

A proper low energy model from UV physics
Log dependence of UV scale

$$\epsilon \sim -\frac{gg'}{16\pi^2} \log\left(\frac{m_L^2}{\mu^2}\right)$$



- Two free parameters: $m_{A'}$ and ϵ

Ultralight kinetic mixing dark photon dark matter

- The kinetic basis
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + 0 \times A^\mu A_\mu - eA_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu$$

$$-\frac{1}{4}\textcolor{red}{F'}_{\mu\nu}\textcolor{red}{F'}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\textcolor{blue}{m}_{A'}^2 \textcolor{red}{A'}^\mu \textcolor{red}{A}'_\mu - \frac{1}{2}\textcolor{blue}{\epsilon} \textcolor{red}{F'}_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

- Proper redefine and canonicalize the Lagrangian

$$\begin{pmatrix} A \\ A' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{1-\epsilon^2}} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\epsilon^2}} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{A} \\ \tilde{A}' \end{pmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + 0 \times \tilde{A}^\mu \tilde{A}_\mu - e\tilde{A}_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu$$

$$-\frac{1}{4}\textcolor{red}{\tilde{F}'}_{\mu\nu}\textcolor{red}{\tilde{F}'}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\textcolor{blue}{m}_{A'}^2}{\sqrt{1-\epsilon^2}} \textcolor{red}{\tilde{A}'}^\mu \textcolor{red}{\tilde{A}'}_\mu + e\frac{\textcolor{blue}{\epsilon}}{\sqrt{1-\epsilon^2}} \textcolor{red}{\tilde{A}'}_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu$$

The mass basis

Ultralight kinetic mixing dark photon dark matter

- Proper redefine and canonicalize the Lagrangian

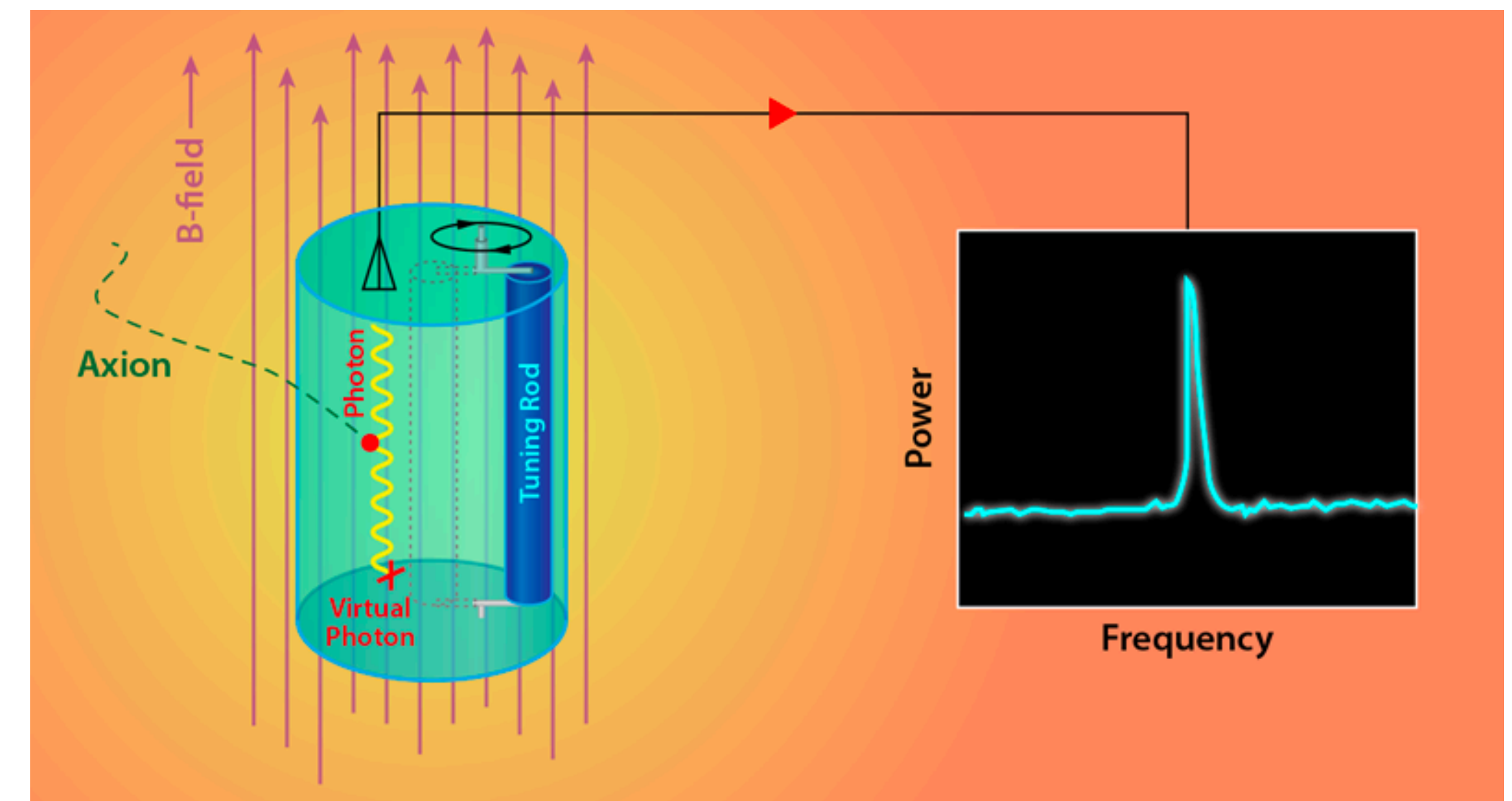
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{A'}^2 A'_\mu A'^\mu - e\epsilon A'_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu$$

at leading ϵ

- Two free parameters: $m_{A'}$ and ϵ
- **Coupling** to SM EM current j_{em} with suppression
 - Neutral atom is not charged!
- **Stability**: when $m_{A'} < 2m_e$, decay via highly suppressed $A' \rightarrow 3\gamma$
- **Relic abundance**: non-minimal Misalignment, inflationary fluctuations, parametric resonances, cosmic strings etc...
 - $\mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$ eV (Radio Wave) is the right mass for these mechanisms

The detection of ultralight bosonic dark matter

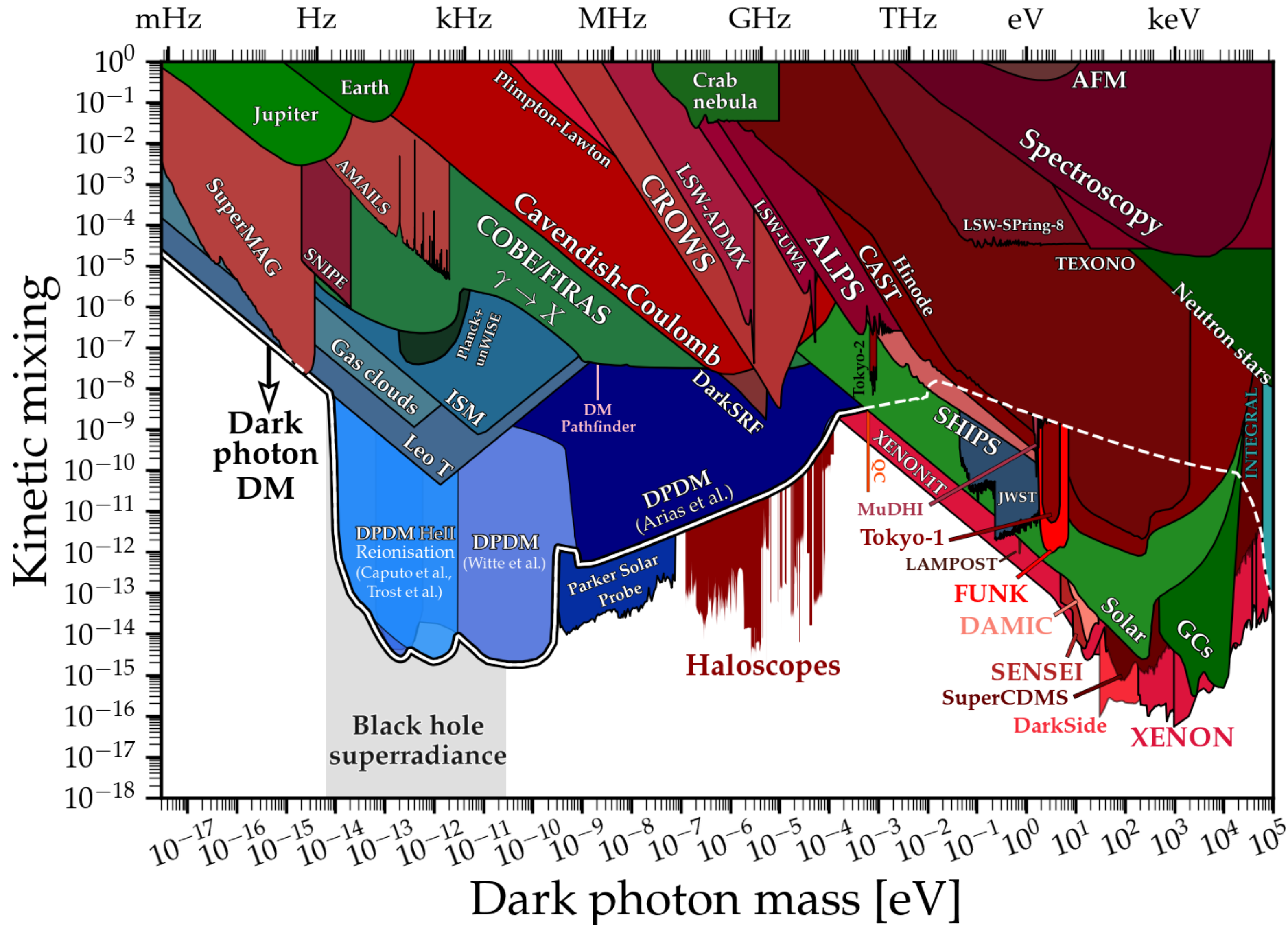
- Mass ranges from $[10^{-22}, 10^3]$ eV, DM exist as **classical fields**
 - **Interacting feebly** with SM sector, interdisciplinary collaboration with **Atomic Molecular Optics, Astrophysics, Astronomy and Cosmology**
- Various detection methods:
 - Star as Laboratory: exotic energy loss (A', ALP, S)
 - Early universe CMB, Gamma ray propagation, Black Hole picture and polarization (ALP, A')
 - **Lab resonant cavity searches: (ADMX, HAYSTAC ...)** (ALP, A')
 - Lab broad-band searches (WISPDMMX, Dark E-field ...) (A')
 - 5th force, Equivalent Principle test (S, A')
 - DM direct detection experiments (XENONnT, PANDAX-4T, CDEX) (ALP, A')
 - **Radio astronomy (ALP, A')**



Experimental searches is related to model and couplings

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} a F_{\mu\nu} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} \sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

Ultralight kinetic mixing dark photon dark matter

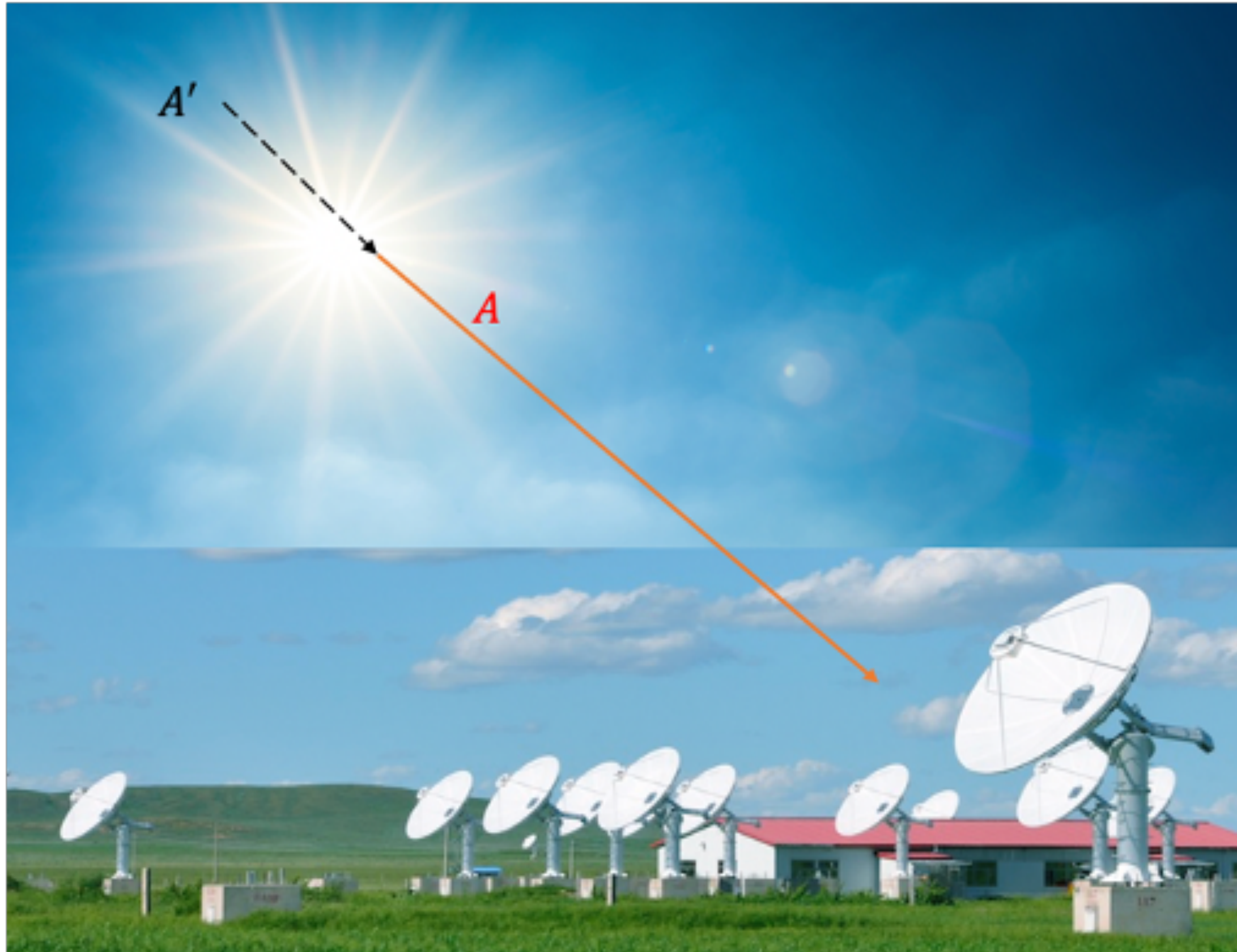


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Existing constraints from radio telescopes

Solar physics



**Dark photon dark matter
resonant conversion at solar corona**

An, Huang, JL, Xue, 2010.15836
An, Chen, Ge, Liu, Luo, 2301.03622
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Radio telescope at Earth



**Dark photon dark matter
conversion at radio telescope**

An, Ge, Guo, Huang, JL, Lu, 2207.05767

Radio astronomy and ultralight bosonic dark matter

- Corresponding frequency (e.g. SKA)
 - Low band: 50 MHz - 350 MHz (0.2 - 1.44 μeV)
 - Mid band: 350 MHz - 14 GHz (1.44 - 57.8 μeV)



Artist's impression of a Low-Band SKA Sparse Aperture Array Station

SKA1 Telescope Expected Performance – Imaging

Nominal Frequency	110 MHz	300 MHz	770 MHz	1.4 GHz	6.7 GHz	12.5 GHz
Range [GHz]	0.05-0.35	0.05-0.35	0.35-1.05	0.95-1.76	4.6-8.5	8.3-15.3
Telescope	Low	Low	Mid	Mid	Mid	Mid
FoV [arcmin]	327	120	109	60	12.5	6.7
Max. Resolution [arcsec]	11	4	0.7	0.4	0.08	0.04
Max. Bandwidth [GHz]	0.3	0.3	1	1	4	5
Cont. rms, 1 hr [$\mu\text{Jy}/\text{beam}$] ^a	26	14	4.4	2	1.3	1.2
Line rms, 1 hr [$\mu\text{Jy}/\text{beam}$] ^b	1850	800	300	140	90	85
Resolution Range for Cont. and Line rms [arcsec] ^c	12–600	6–300	1–145	0.6–78	0.13–17	0.07–9
Channel width (uniform resolution across max. bandwidth) [kHz]	5.4	5.4	15.2	15.2	61.0	79.3
Spectral zoom windows X narrowest bandwidth [MHz]	4 X 4.0	4 X 4.0	4 X 3.125	4 X 3.125	4 X 3.125	4 X 3.125
Finest zoom channel width [Hz]	244	244	190	190	190	190

Mono-chromatic signal

$$A' \rightarrow \gamma$$

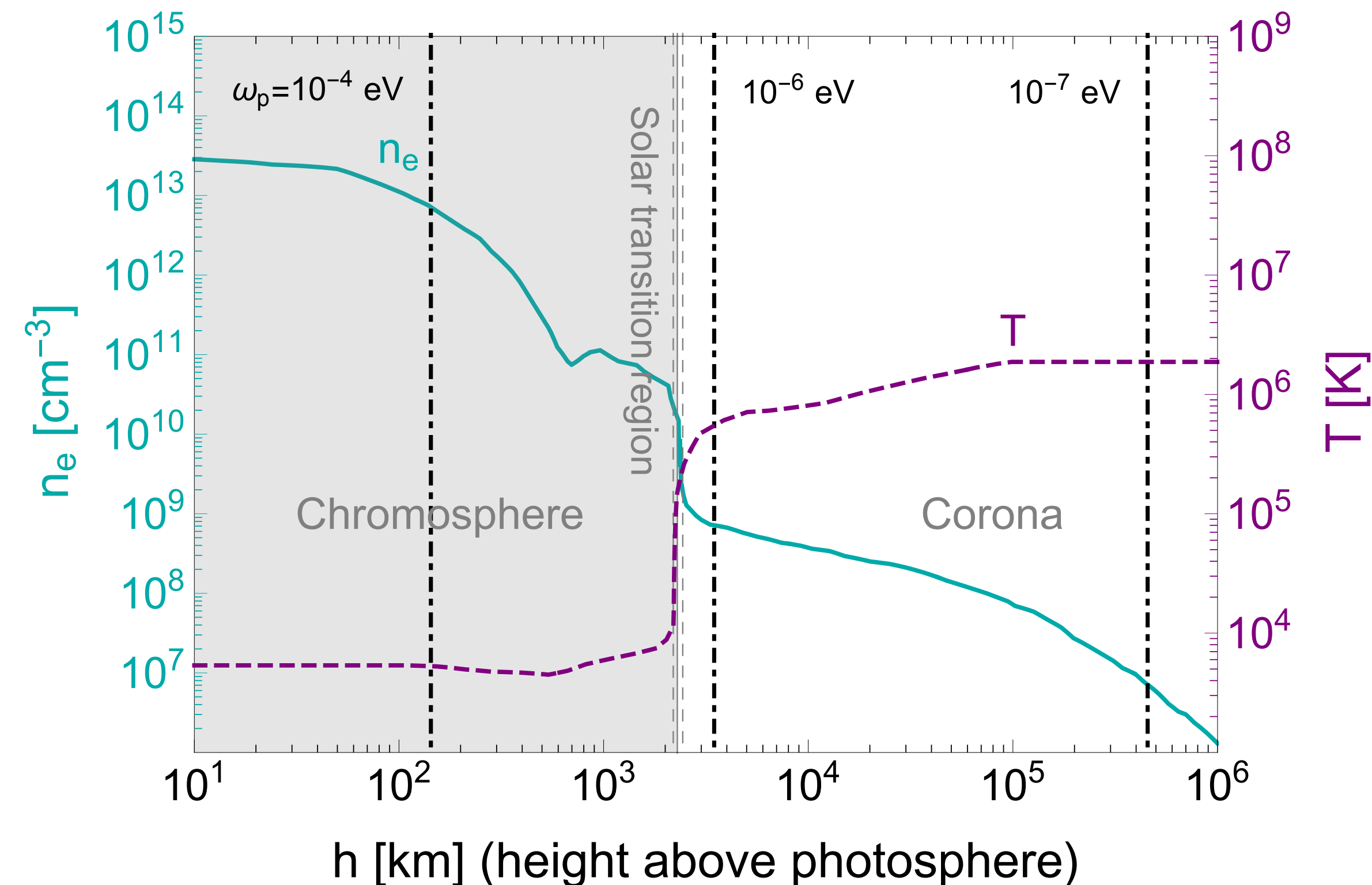
Line signal spectral sensitivity
 $1000 \mu\text{Jy} \sim 10^{-29} \text{W m}^{-2} \text{Hz}^{-1}$

Bump hunting: bin size

The photon mass in the solar corona

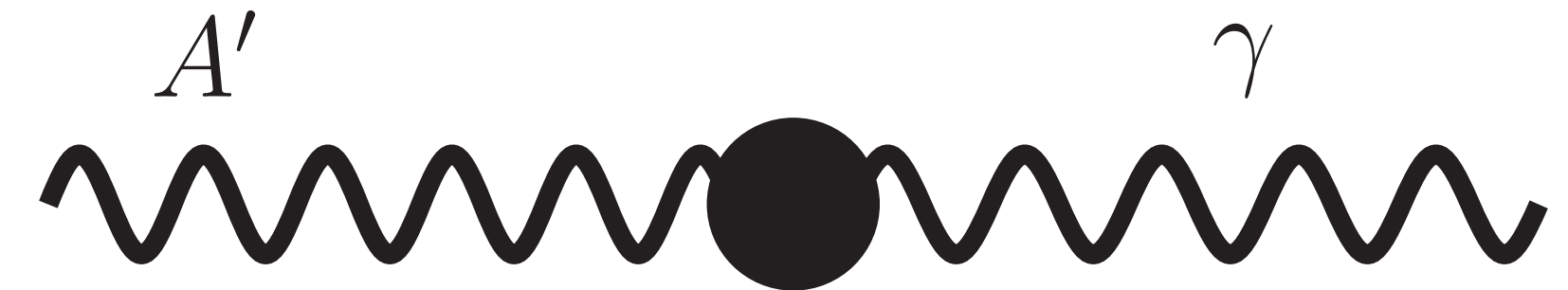
- The plasma frequency

$$\omega_p = \left(\frac{4\pi\alpha n_e}{m_e} \right)^{1/2} = \left(\frac{n_e}{7.3 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{1/2} \mu\text{eV}$$



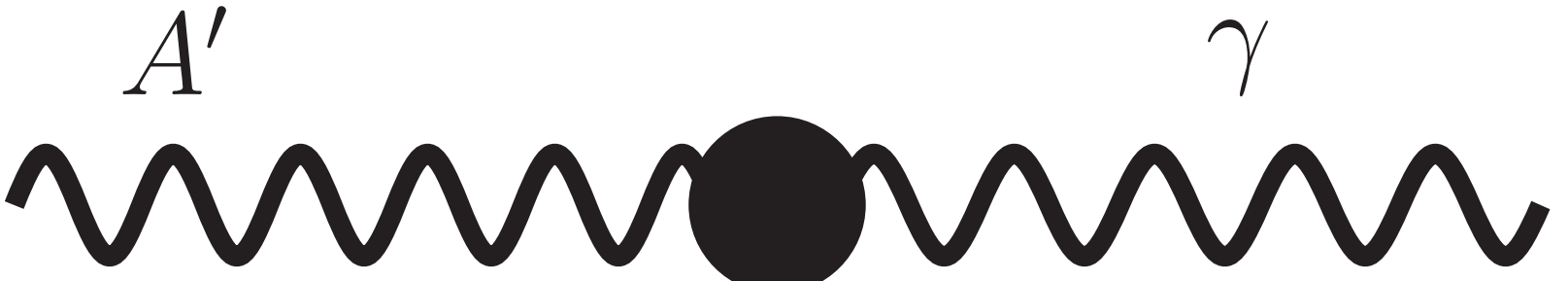
- Resonant conversion $A' \rightarrow \gamma$

- When $m_{A'} = \omega_p$



- For any A' mass, it can happen at a radius r_c
 - $m_{A'} = \omega_p(r_c)$
 - Can set limits for mass range $m_{A'} \in [10^{-8}, 10^{-5}] \text{ eV}$

The dark photon dark matter conversion at solar corona

- The resonant conversion probability ([QFT method](#)) 
- $$P_{A' \rightarrow \gamma}(v_r) = \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{dt}{2\omega} \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_{A'}^\mu - p_\gamma^\mu) \sum_{\text{pol}} |\mathcal{M}|^2$$
- $$= \frac{2}{3} \times \pi \epsilon^2 m_{A'} v_r^{-1} \left| \frac{\partial \ln \omega_p^2(r)}{\partial r} \right|^{-1}_{\omega_p(r)=m_{A'}}$$
- $\mathcal{M} = -\epsilon m_{A'}^2 \left(\xi_\gamma^*(p) \cdot \xi_{A'}(p) \right)$

$\frac{1}{3} \sum_{\text{pol}} |\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{2}{3} \epsilon^2 m_{A'}^4$

$\int dt \delta(E_{A'} - E_\gamma) = 2\omega^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial \ln \omega_p^2}{\partial t} \right)^{-1}$
- $$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

- Due to the forced 4-momentum conservation, it applies to resonant conversion only.
- The [wave method](#) can work and is in agreement with QFT calculation

$$\left[\omega^2 - k^2 - \begin{pmatrix} \omega_p^2 & -\epsilon m_{A'}^2 \\ -\epsilon m_{A'}^2 & m_{A'}^2 \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} A(r, t) \\ A'(r, t) \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

The spectral power of the resonant conversion

- The radiation power per solid angle at conversion radius r_c

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\mathcal{P}}{d\Omega} &\approx 2 \times \frac{1}{4\pi} \rho_{\text{DM}} v_0 \int_0^b dz 2\pi z P_{A' \rightarrow \gamma}(v_r) \\ &= P_{A' \rightarrow \gamma}(v_0) \rho_{\text{DM}} v(r_c) r_c^2\end{aligned}$$

- z is impact parameter for incoming A'
- b is the max impact parameter which can reach r_c
- $v_0 \sim 220\text{km/s}$ is the DM local velocity dispersion
- The spectral power flux density per solid angle

$$S_{\text{sig}} = \frac{1}{1\text{AU}^2} \frac{1}{\mathcal{B}} \frac{d\mathcal{P}}{d\Omega}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B} &= \max(B_{\text{sig}}, B_{\text{res}}) \\ B_{\text{sig}} &\approx \frac{m_{A'} v_0^2}{2\pi} \sim 130 \text{ Hz} \times \frac{m_{A'}}{\mu\text{eV}}\end{aligned}$$

Sensitivity of the radio telescope

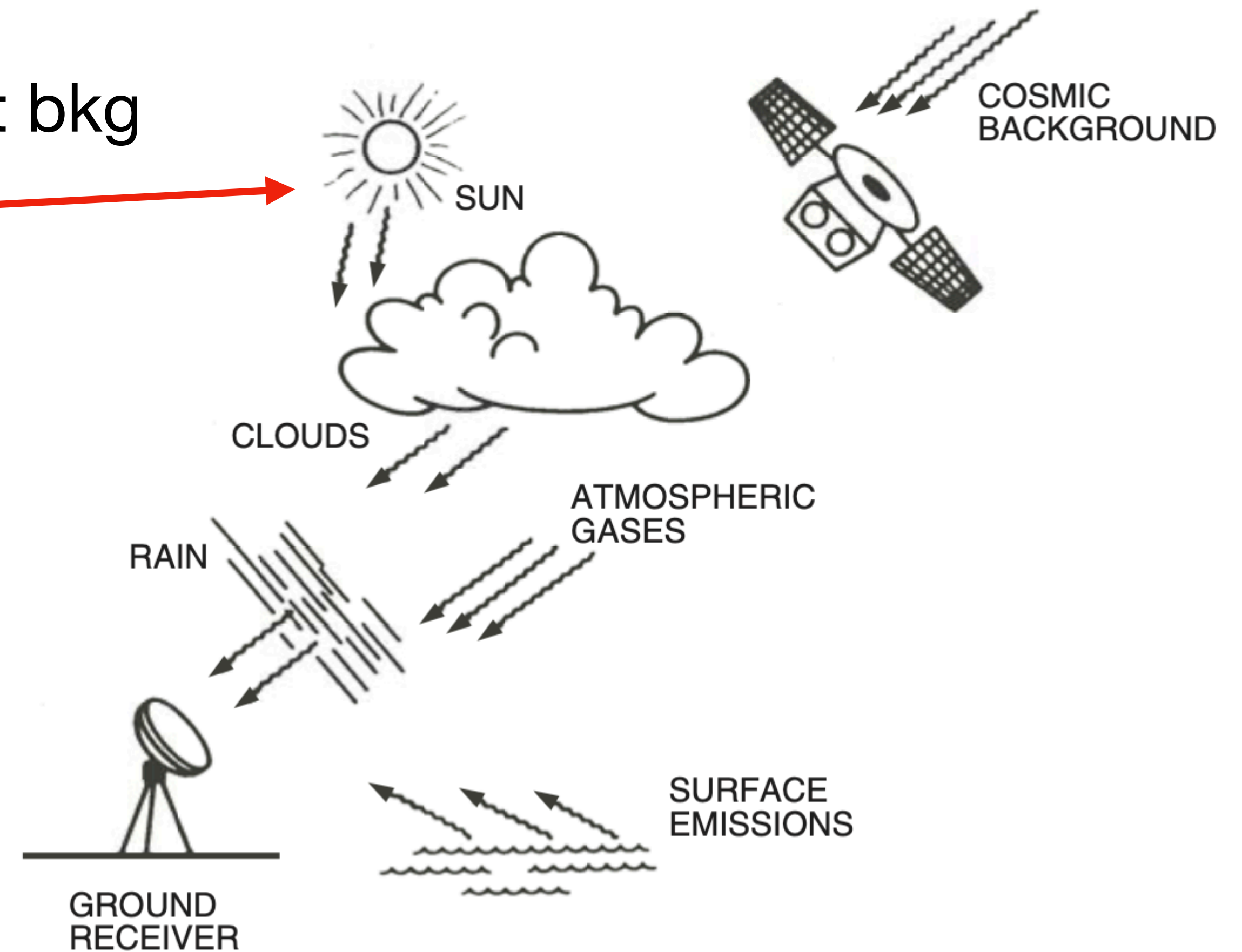
- The system equivalent flux density
- For solar observation, Sun is the largest bkg

$$\text{SEFD} = 2k_B \frac{T_{\text{sys}} + T_{\odot}^{\text{nos}}}{A_{\text{eff}}}$$

- The minimum detectable flux density

$$S_{\text{min}} = \frac{\text{SEFD}}{\eta_s \sqrt{n_{\text{pol}} \mathcal{B} t_{\text{obs}}}}$$

Name	f [MHz]	B_{res} [kHz]	$\langle T_{\text{sys}} \rangle$ [K]	$\langle A_{\text{eff}} \rangle$ [m ²]
SKA1-Low	(50, 350)	1	680	2.2×10^5
SKA1-Mid B1	(350, 1050)	3.9	28	2.7×10^4
SKA1-Mid B2	(950, 1760)	3.9	20	3.5×10^4
LOFAR	(10, 80)	195	28,110	1,830
LOFAR	(120, 240)	195	1,770	1,530

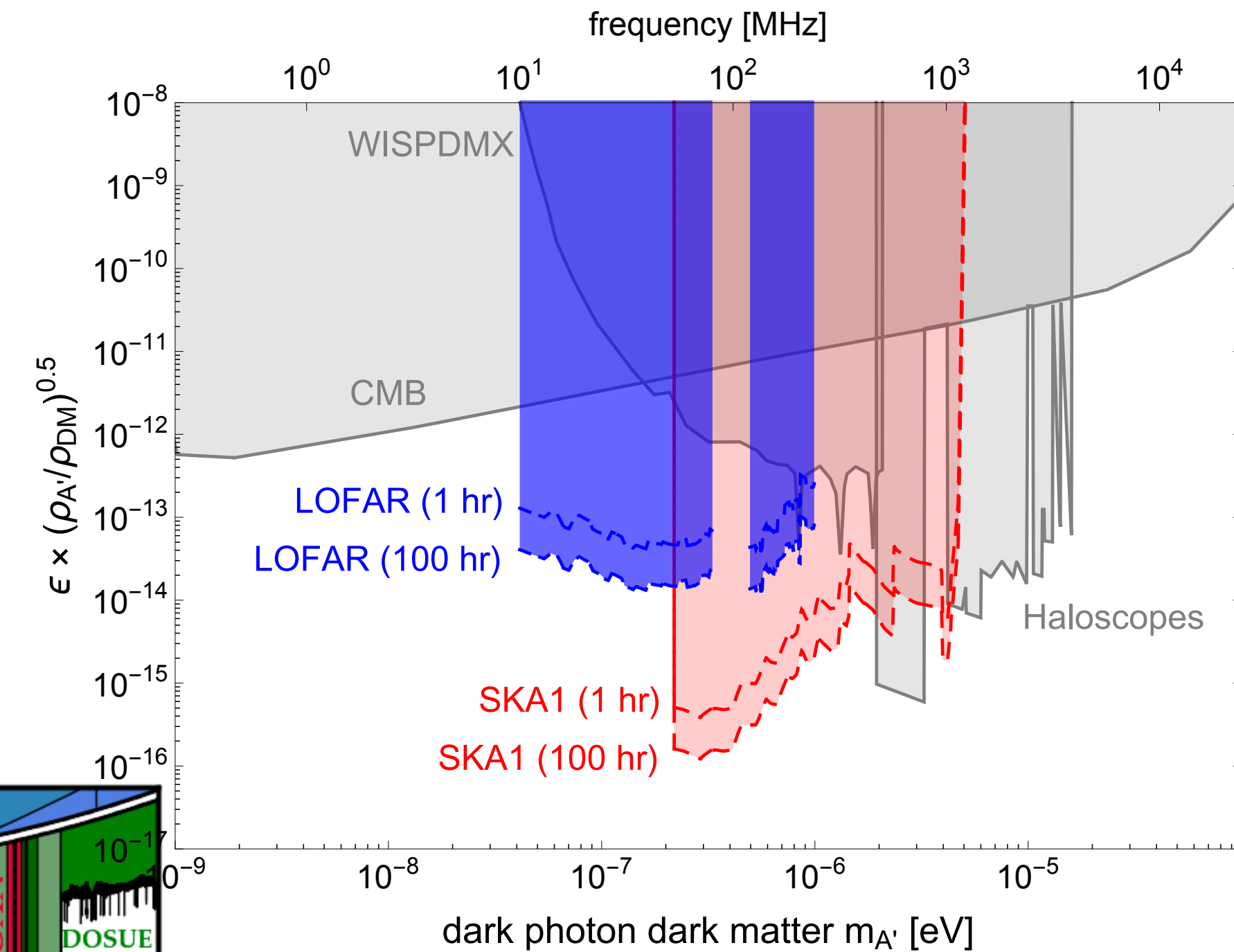
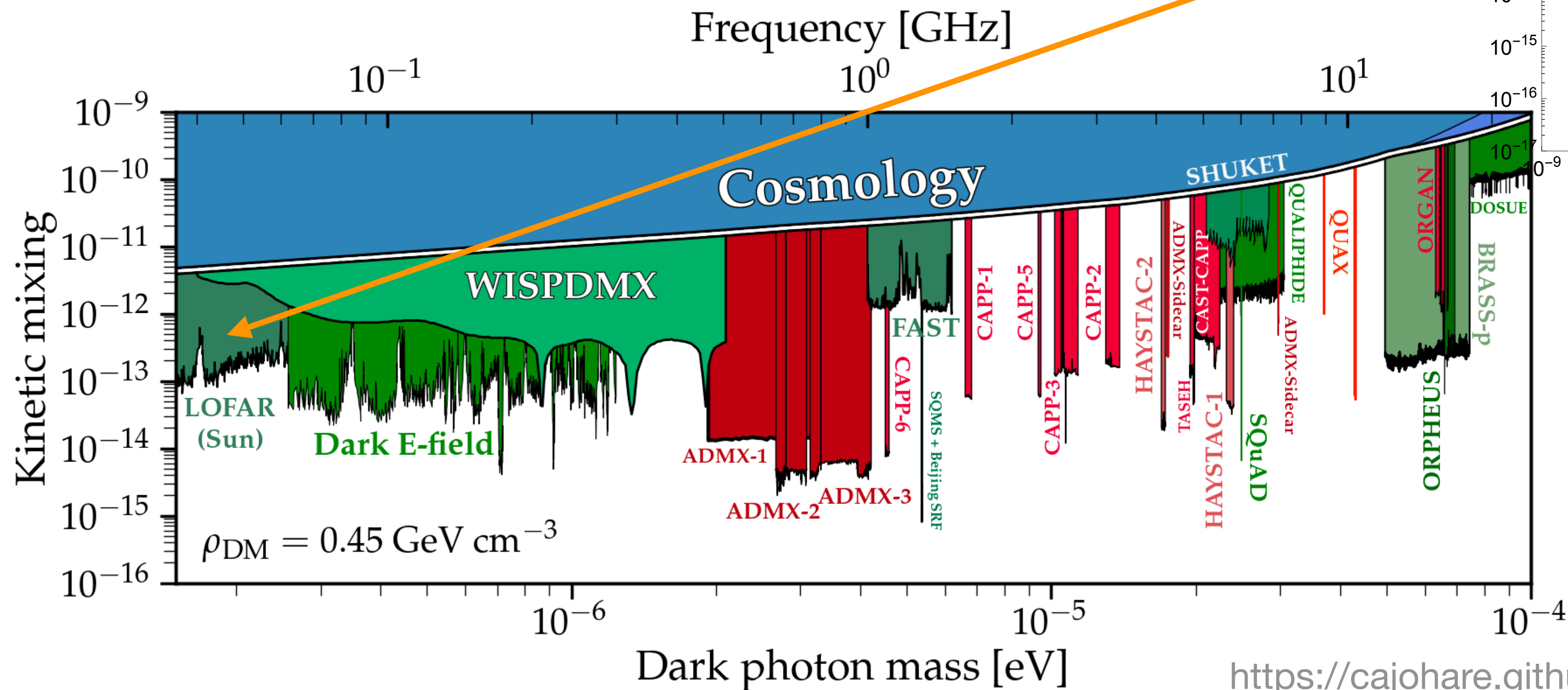


The sensitivity of DPDM from solar resonant conversion

- Attenuation of the mono-photon signal is considered,

$$S_{\text{sig}} \times P_s = S_{\text{min}}$$

- 10 MHz lower end from LOFAR threshold
- 1 GHz higher end due to photon attenuation



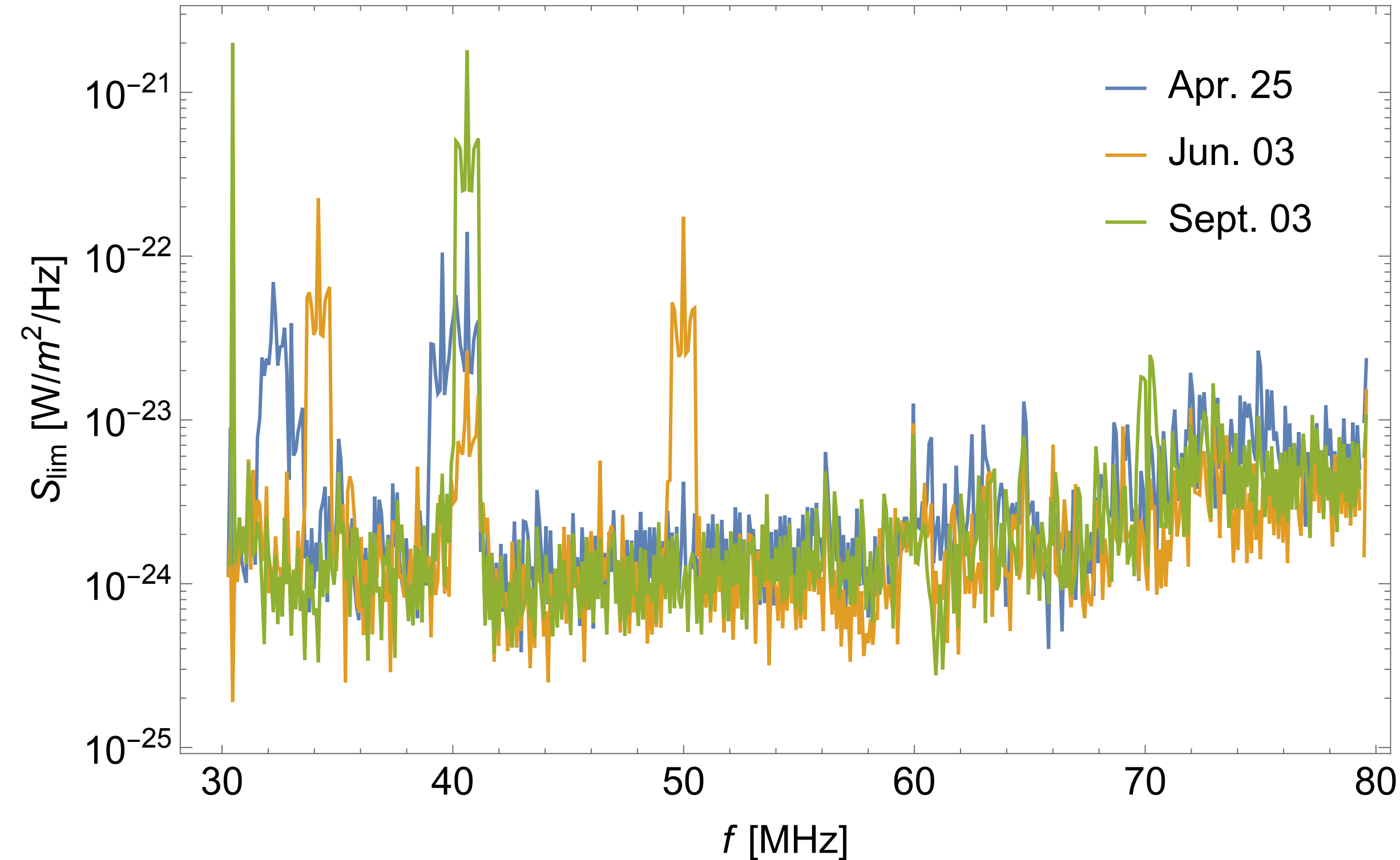
Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 18, 181102

Experimental limits from LOFAR data

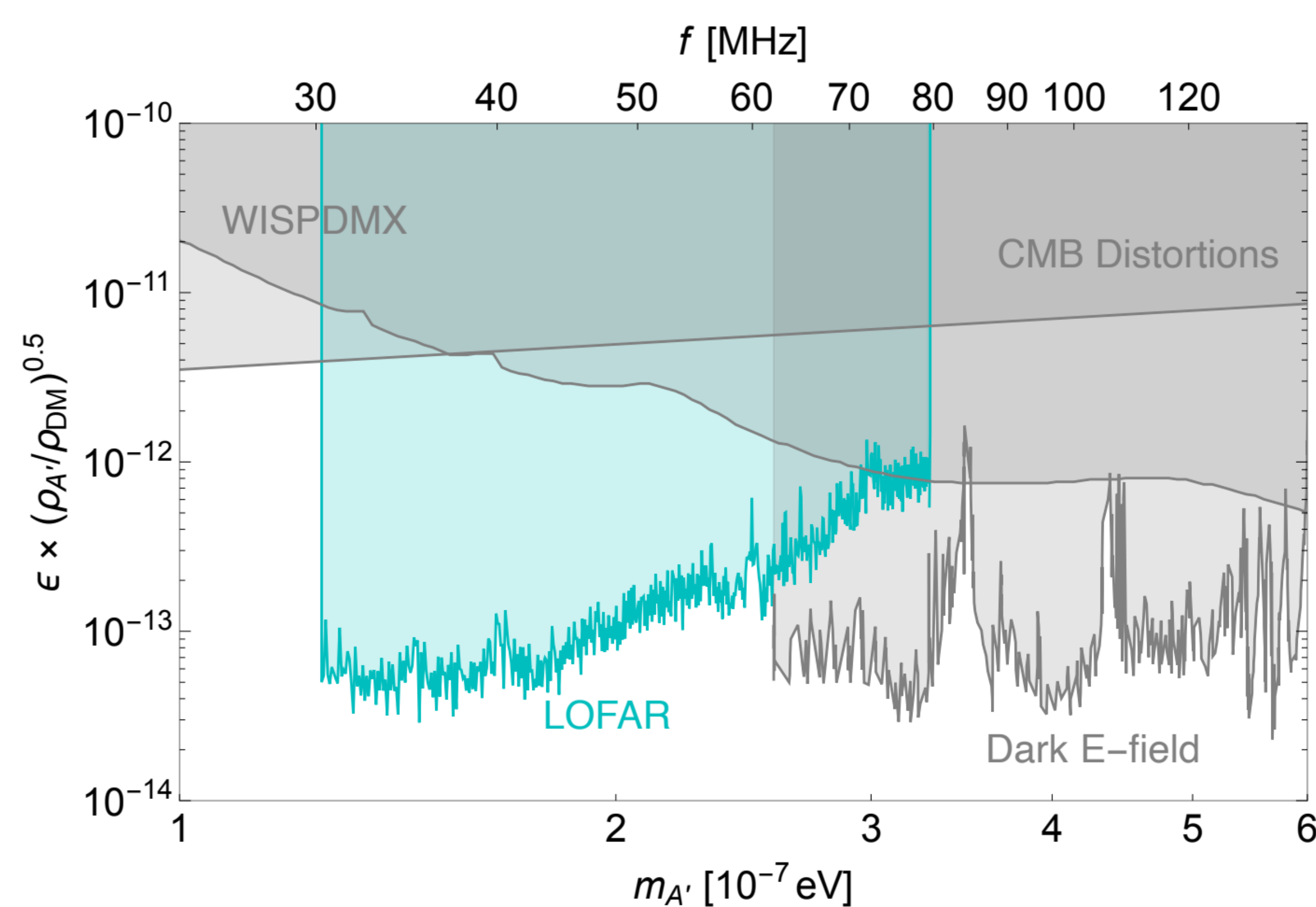
- Three sets of data lasting 17 minutes
- Low band of LOFAR, [30, 80] MHz
- Frequency resolution $B_{\text{res}} = 97$ kHz
- We use Log likelihood Ratio test to set limits

$$L(S, a) = \prod_{i=i_0-5}^{i_0+5} \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{B(a, f_i) + S\delta_{ii_0} - \bar{O}_i}{\sigma_i} \right)^2 \right]$$

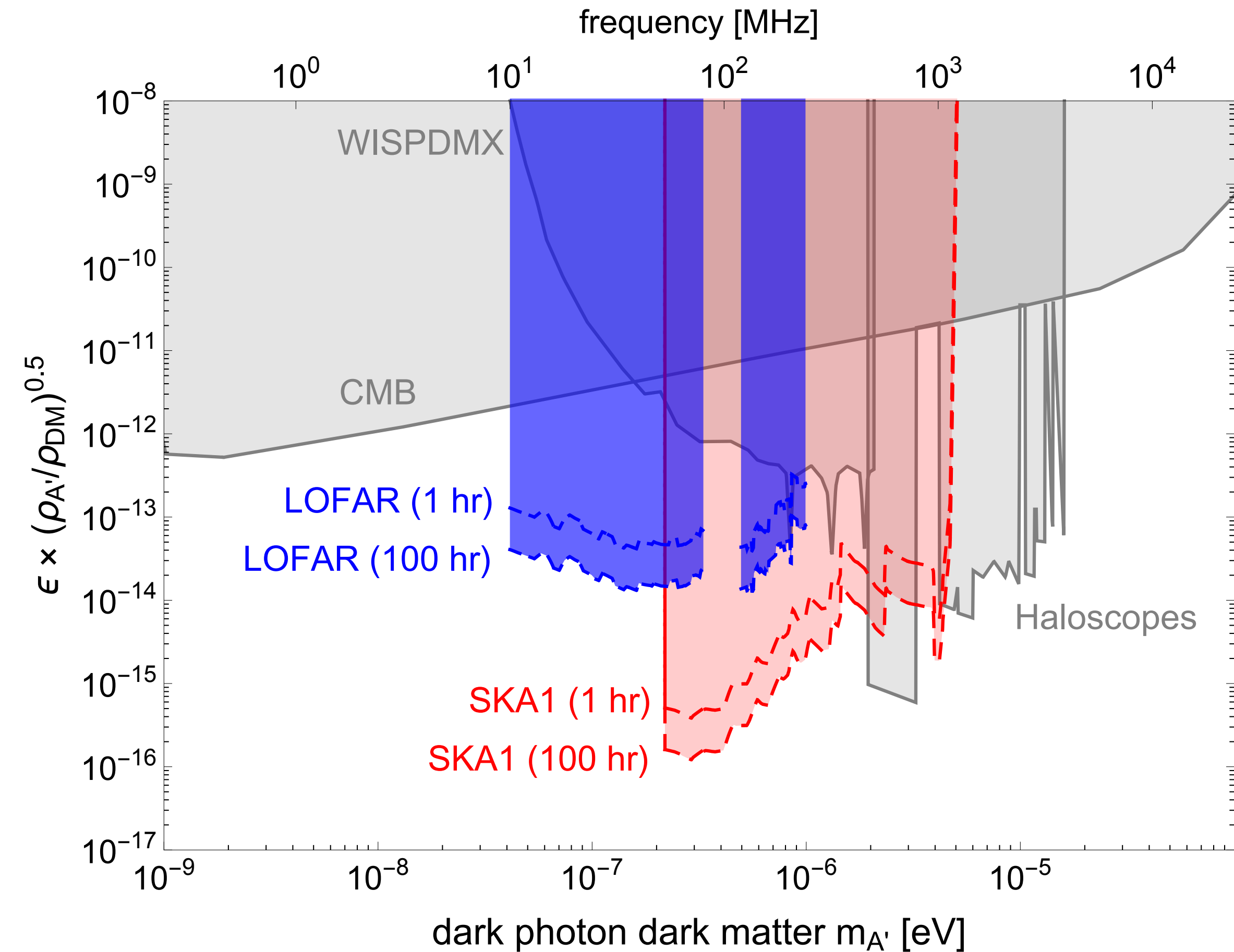
- The signal is narrow and inside one bin
- We do side-band analysis with ± 5 near bins
- We have included a detailed Monte Carlo simulation of absorption and scattering during the photon propagation



Experimental limits from LOFAR data



Nature Communications 15 (2024) 915



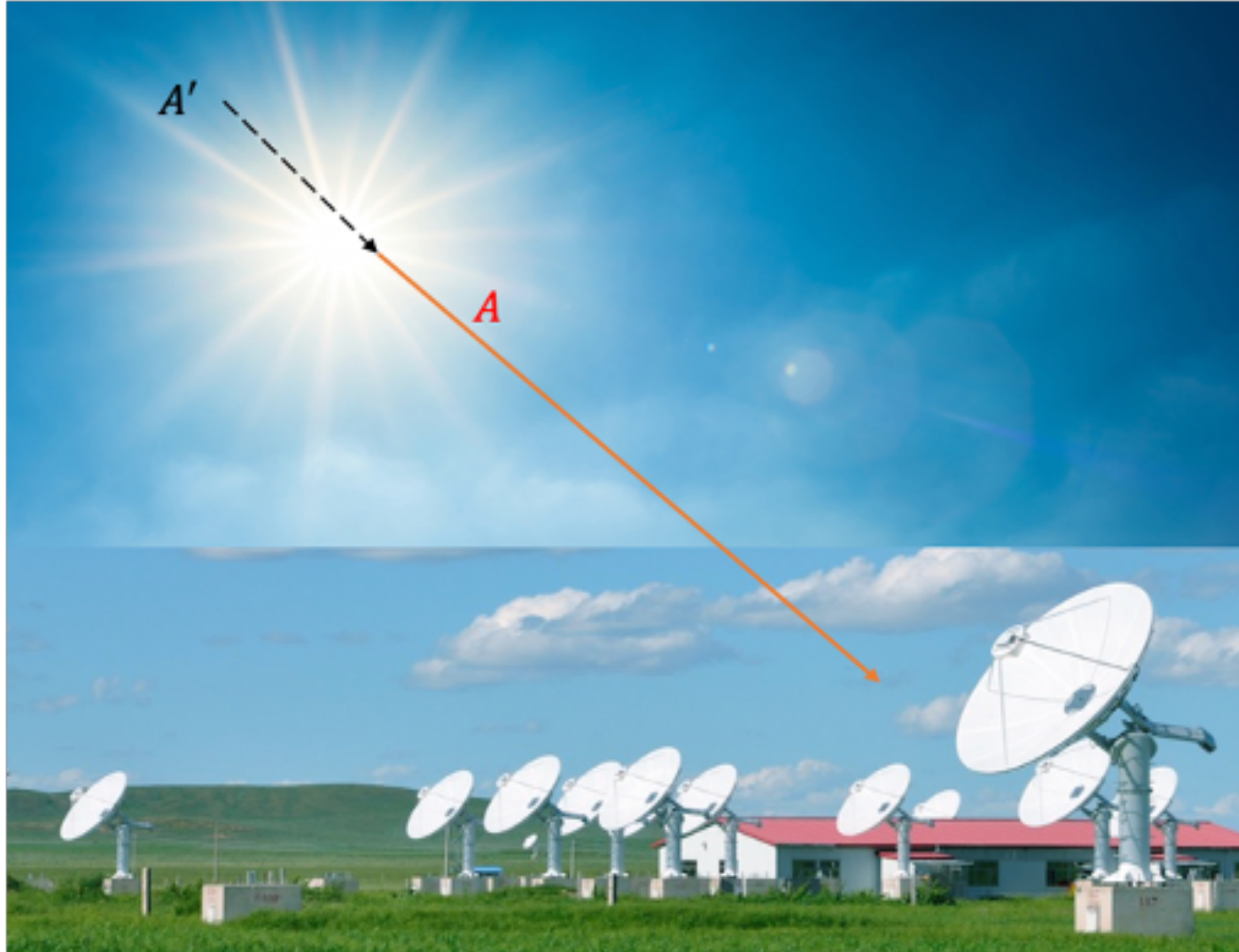
- The real experimental LOFAR limits can reach $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-13})$
- The real data limits are similar to previous theoretical estimation

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Existing constraints 6: radio telescopes

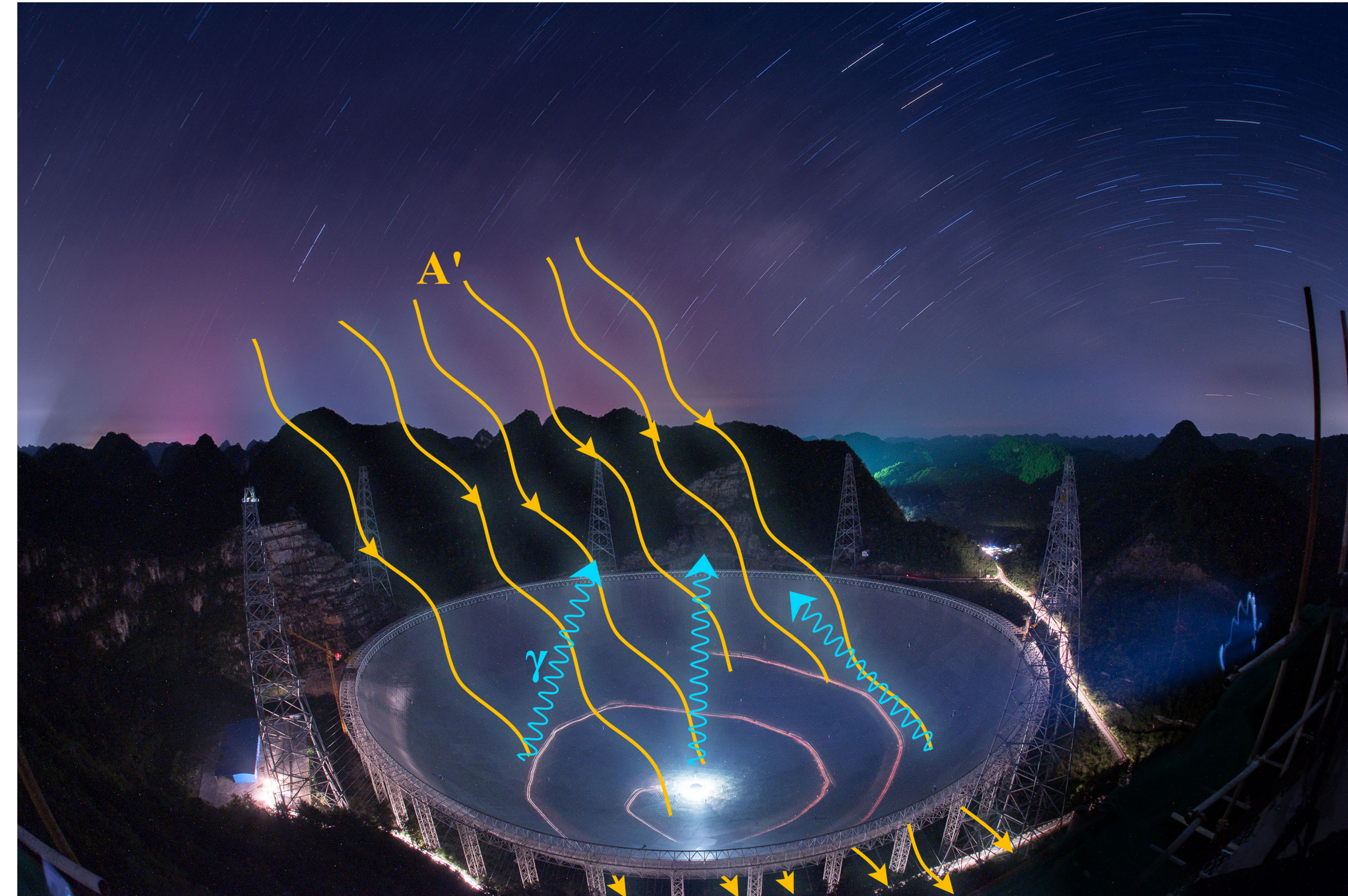
Solar physics



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Radio telescope at Earth



**Dark photon dark matter
conversion at radio telescope**

An, Ge, Guo, Huang, JL, Lu, 2207.05767

Direct detection of DPDM using dish antenna radio telescope

- Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}F'_{\mu\nu}F'^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{A'}^2 A'_\mu A'^\mu - \epsilon e A'_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu + e A_\mu j_{\text{em}}^\mu.$$

- Extended Maxwell Eqs

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}' = -\epsilon\rho - m_{A'}^2 A'^0,$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}' = 0,$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E}' + \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}'}{\partial t} = 0,$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}' - \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}'}{\partial t} = -\epsilon \mathbf{J} - m_{A'}^2 \mathbf{A}',$$

- Perfect conductor

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma(\mathbf{E} - \epsilon \mathbf{E}_D)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$$



FAST radio telescope

Direct detection of DPDM using dish antenna radio telescope

- The feature of current on a metal conductor plate induced by DPDM

$$i_{tot,x} = i_{up,x} + i_{down,x} \approx -2i\epsilon m_{A'} A'_x,$$

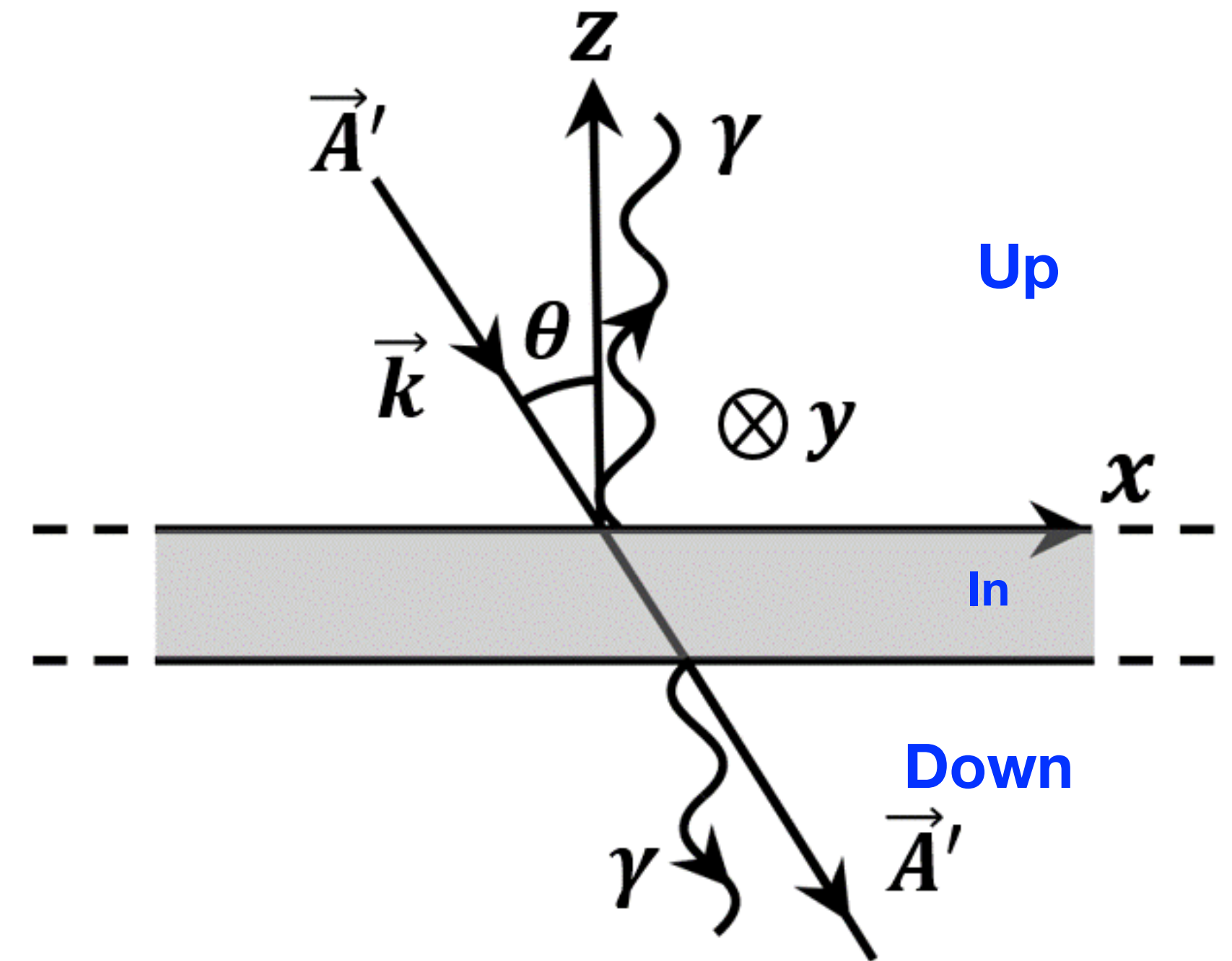
$$i_{tot,y} = i_{up,y} + i_{down,y} \approx -2i\epsilon m_{A'} A'_y,$$

$$\mathbf{J} = 0.$$

- Solving the reflected EM field
 - (always perpendicular to the surface)
 - Oscillating dipole unit

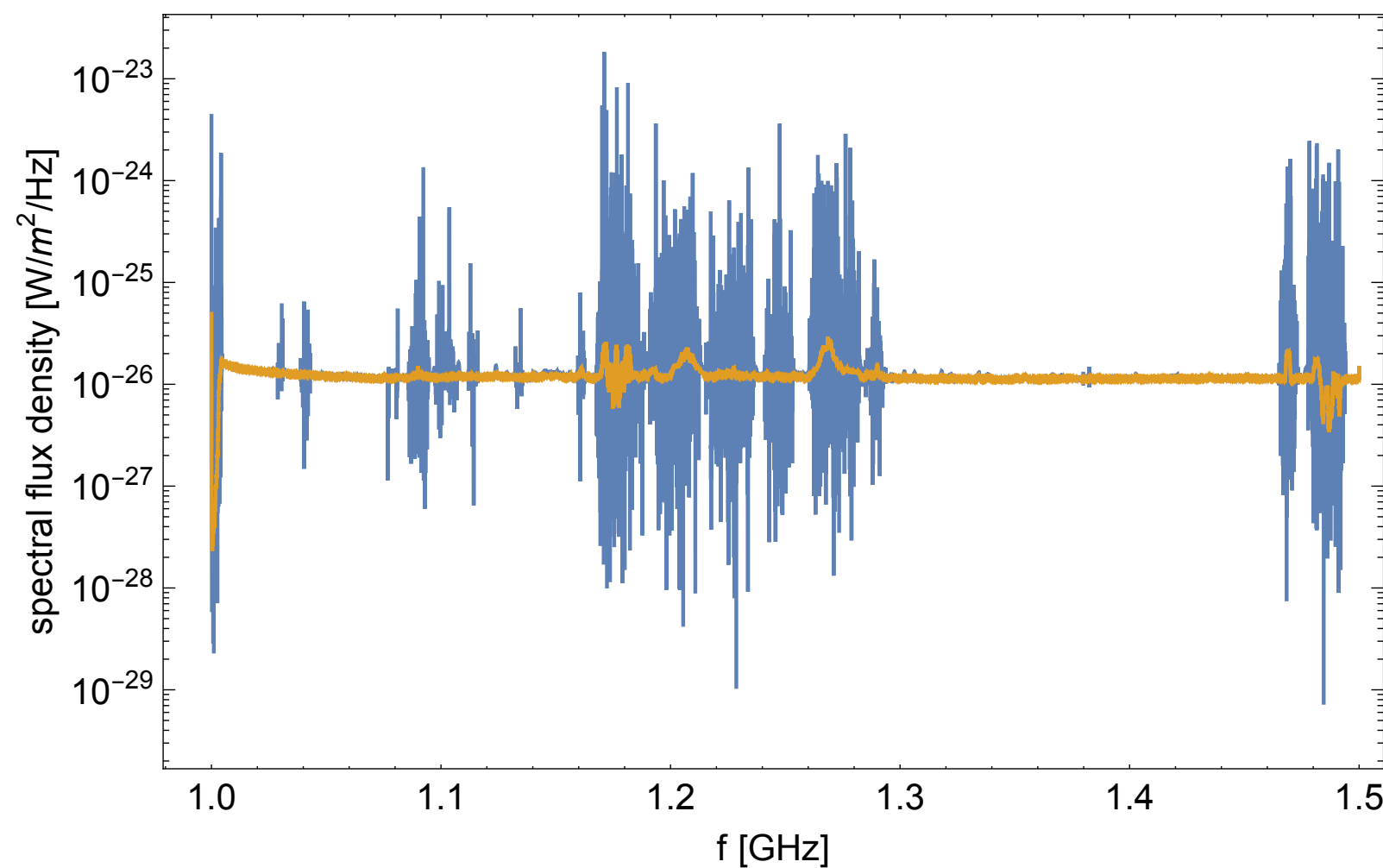
$$\boxed{d\mathbf{p} = 2\epsilon \mathbf{A}'_{\parallel} dS} \longrightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{B} = -\frac{\epsilon m_{A'}^2}{2\pi} \int dS_1 \mathbf{A}'_{\parallel} \times (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1) \frac{e^{im_{A'}|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_1|}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|^2}}$$

- Regular shapes of reflector can be solved
- General shapes need numerical integration



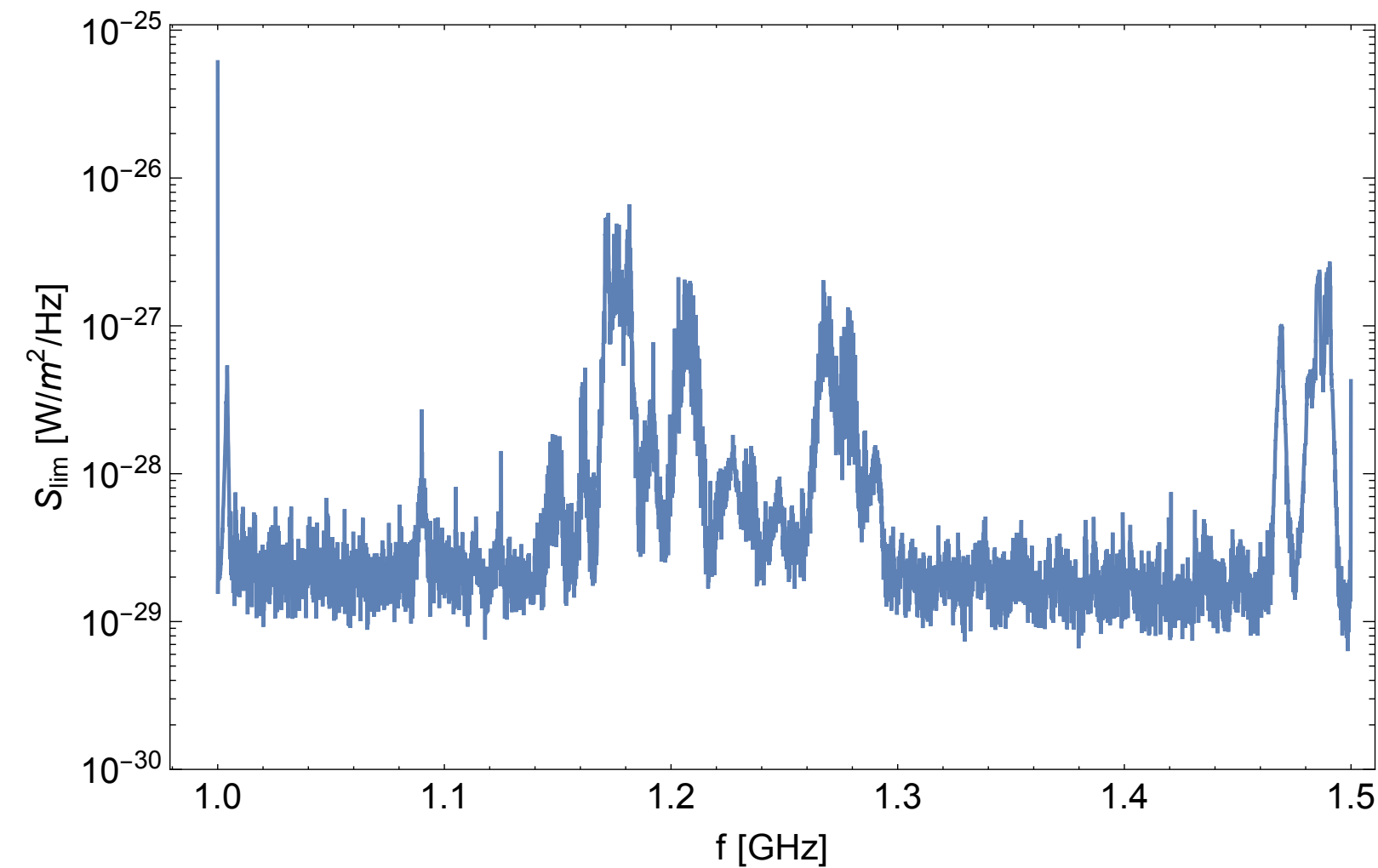
Constraints from FAST observation data

- ‘Bump hunting’ in the frequency data
- Using likelihood-based statistical test



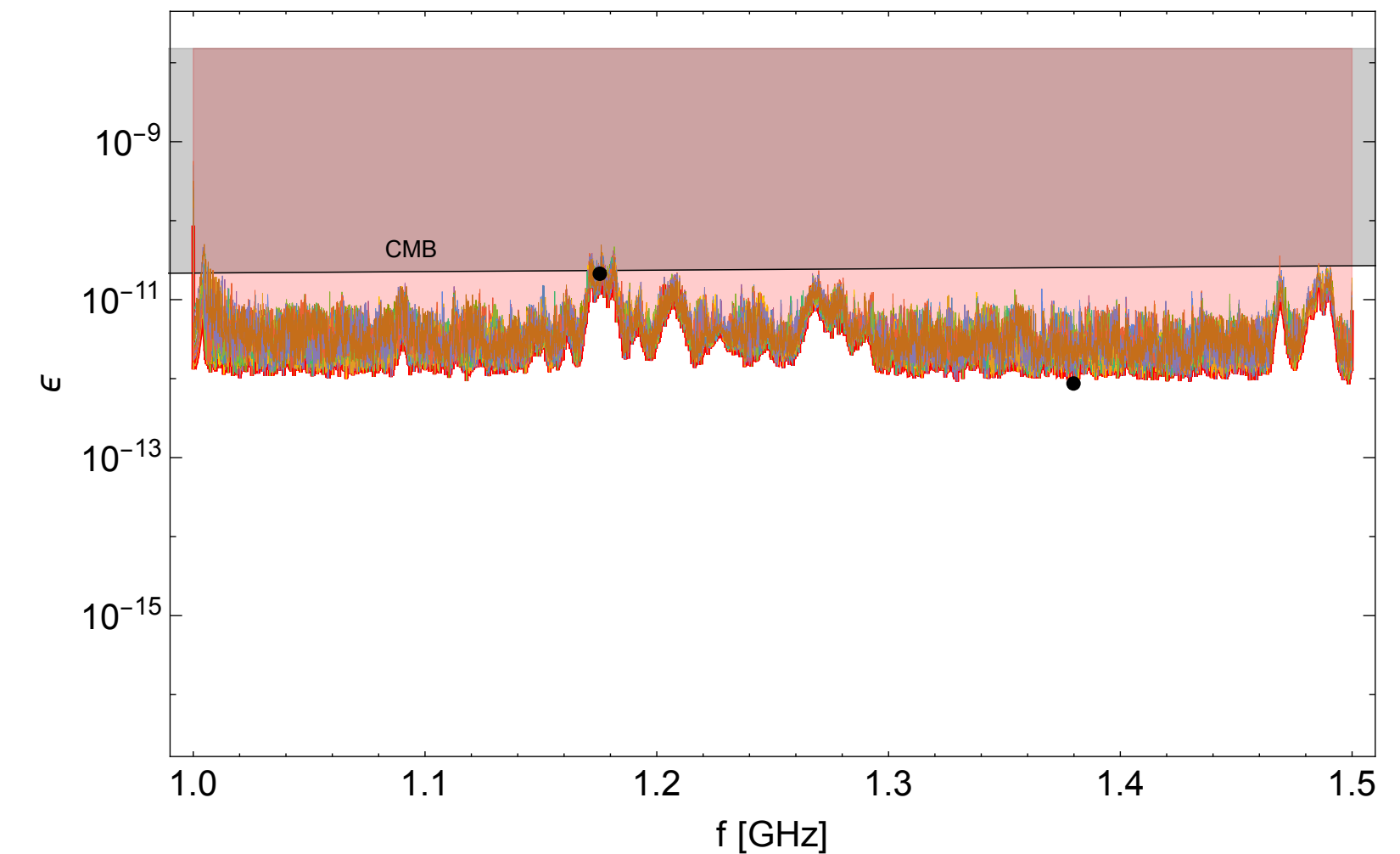
FAST data

$$S_{\text{obs}} \sim 10^{-26} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$$



FAST limit on line signal

$$S_{\text{lim}} \sim 10^{-29} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$$

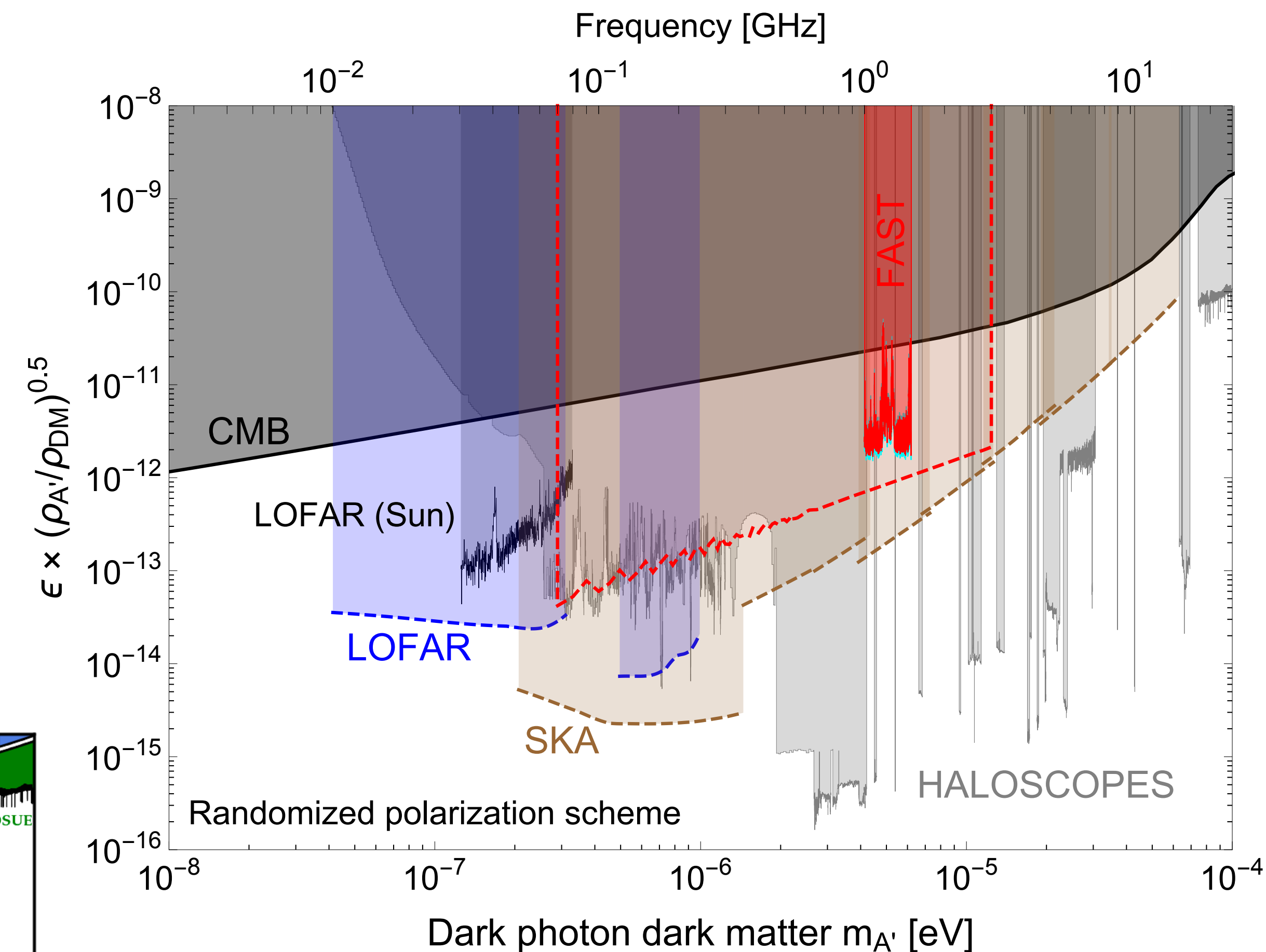
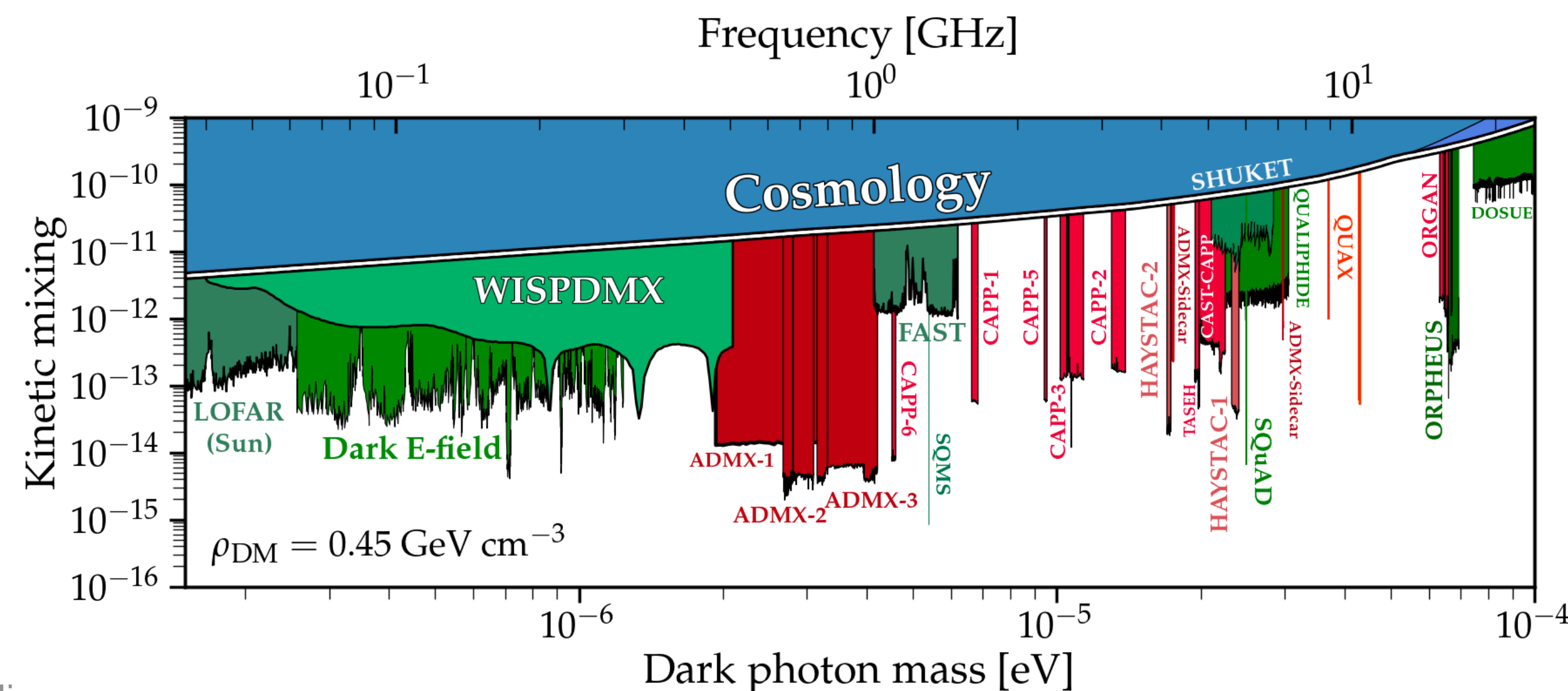


FAST limit on DPDM

$$\epsilon \sim 10^{-12}$$

The results for direct detection of DPDM using radio telescope

- The current constraints from FAST data using conversion at antenna dish
- The future sensitivities for dipole antenna array from LOFAR and SKA-low
- A comparison with other limits

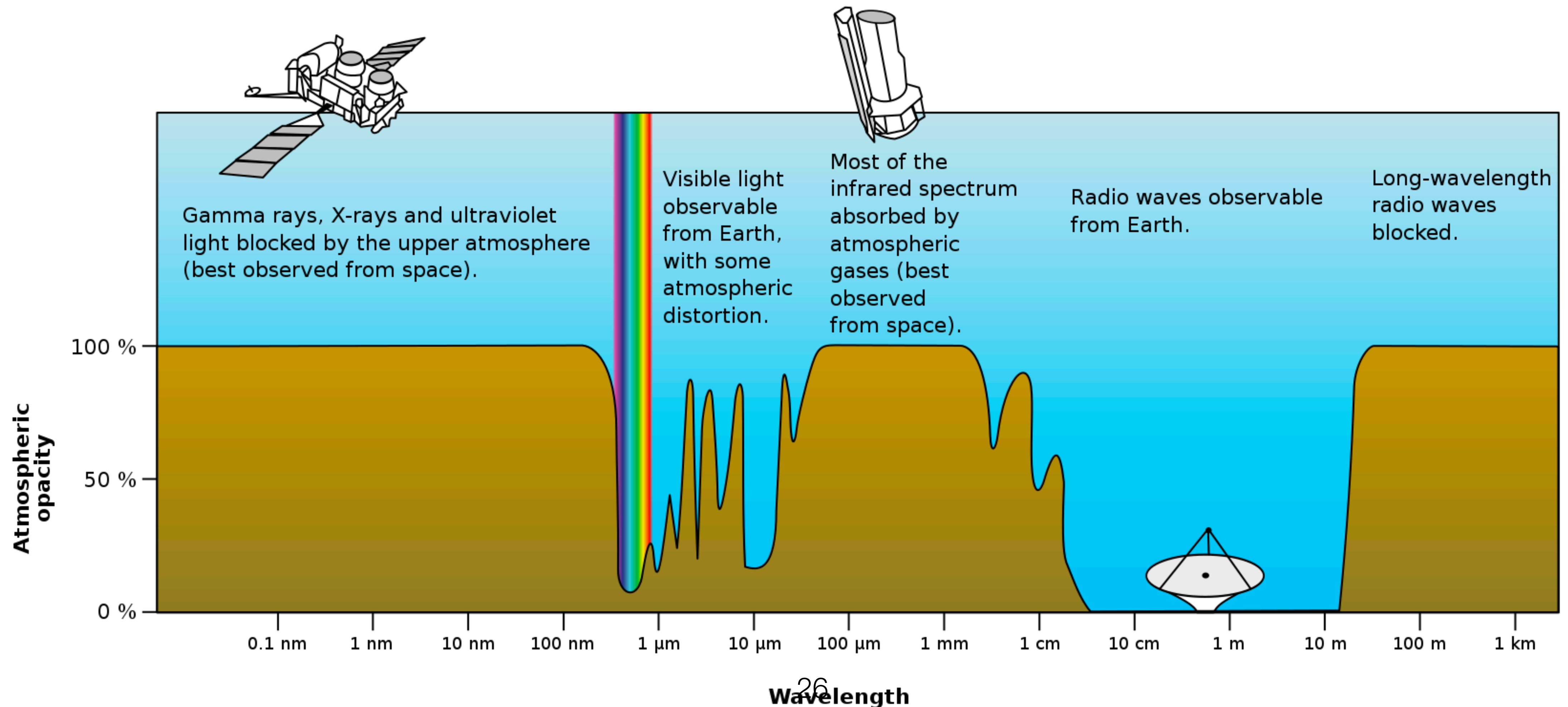


An, Ge, Guo, Huang, JL, Lu, 2207.05767

<https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/docs/dp.html>

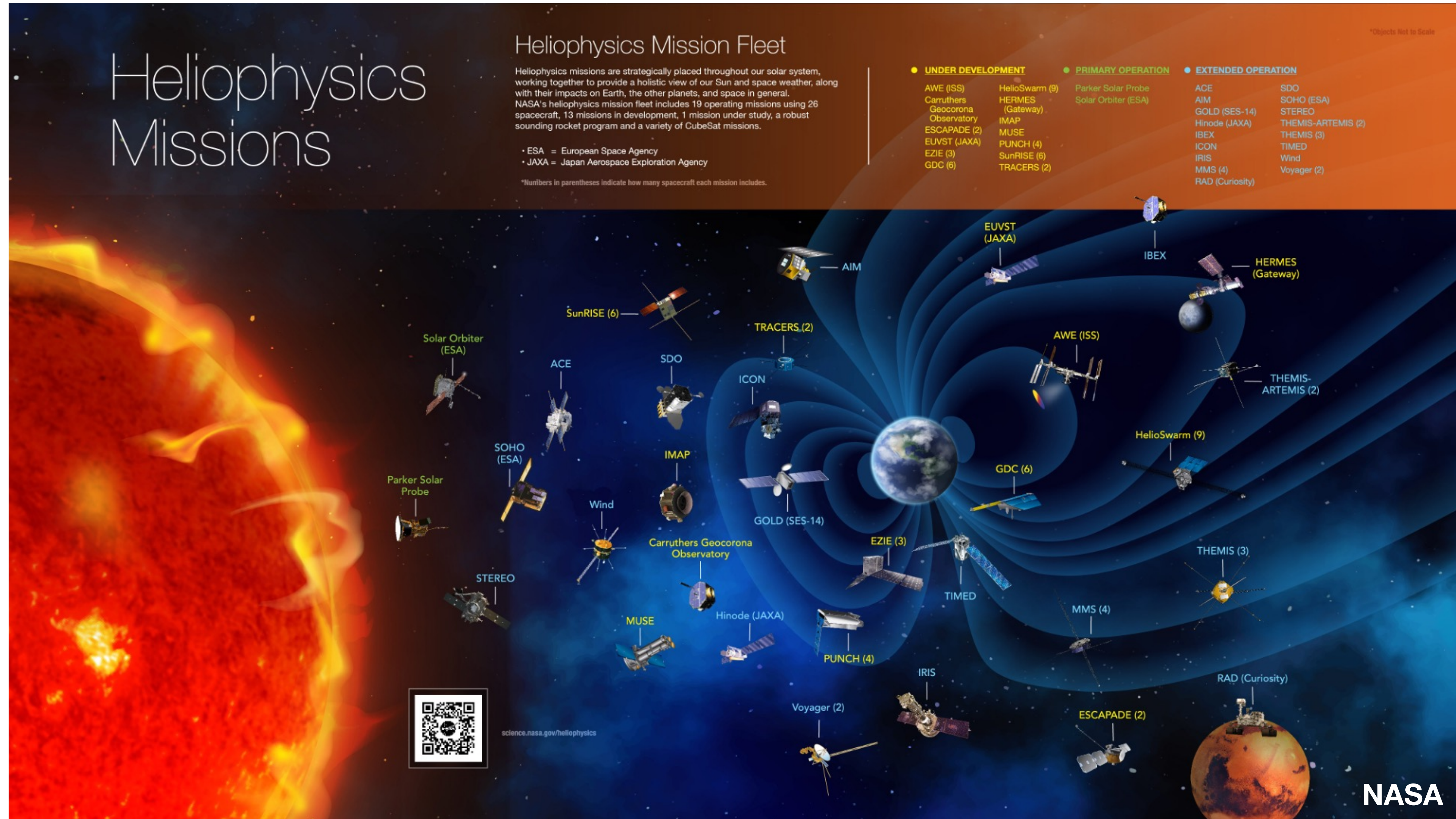
Future prospects: Going beyond Radio Window

- How to detect the frequencies outside the Radio Window?

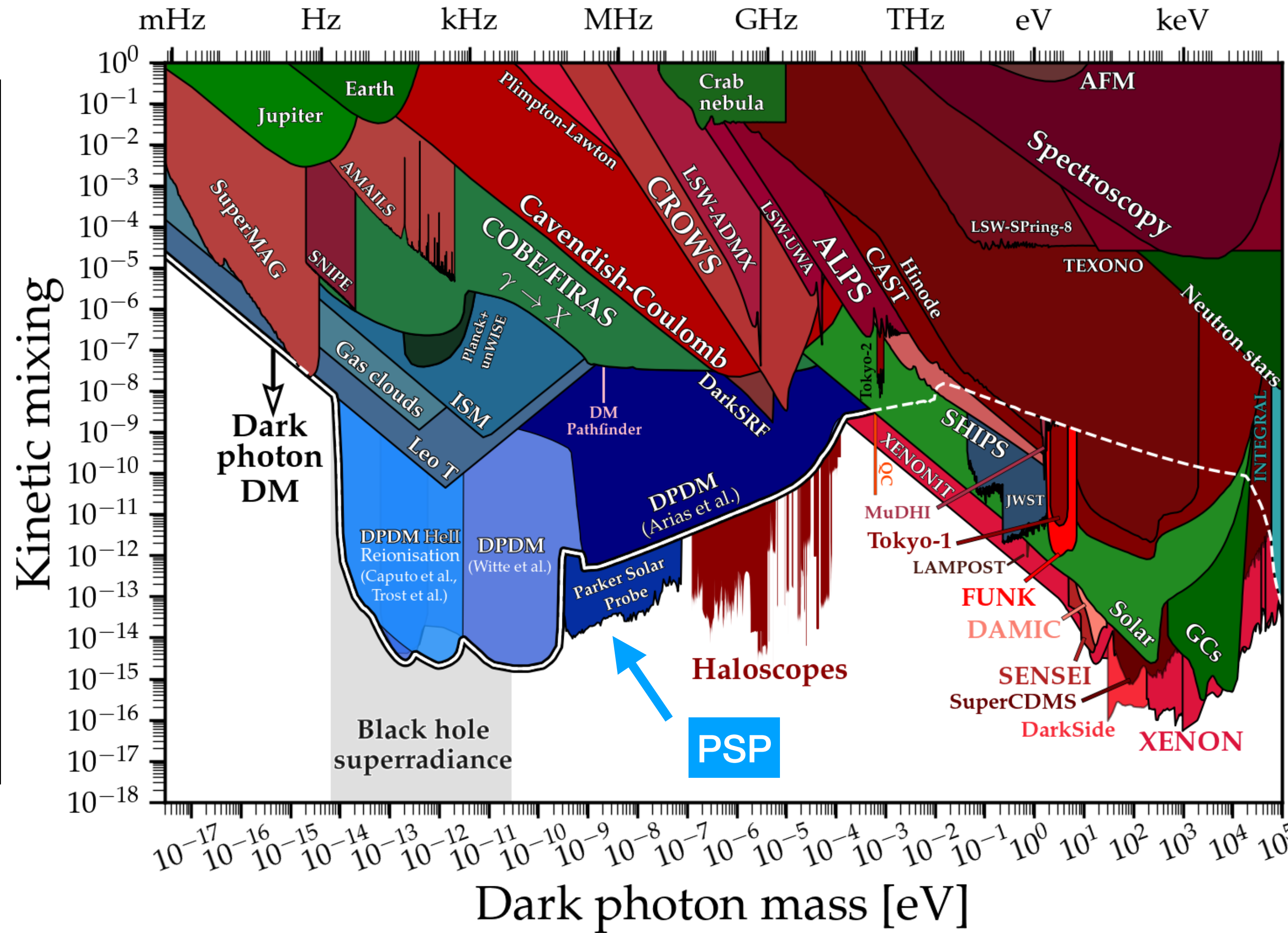
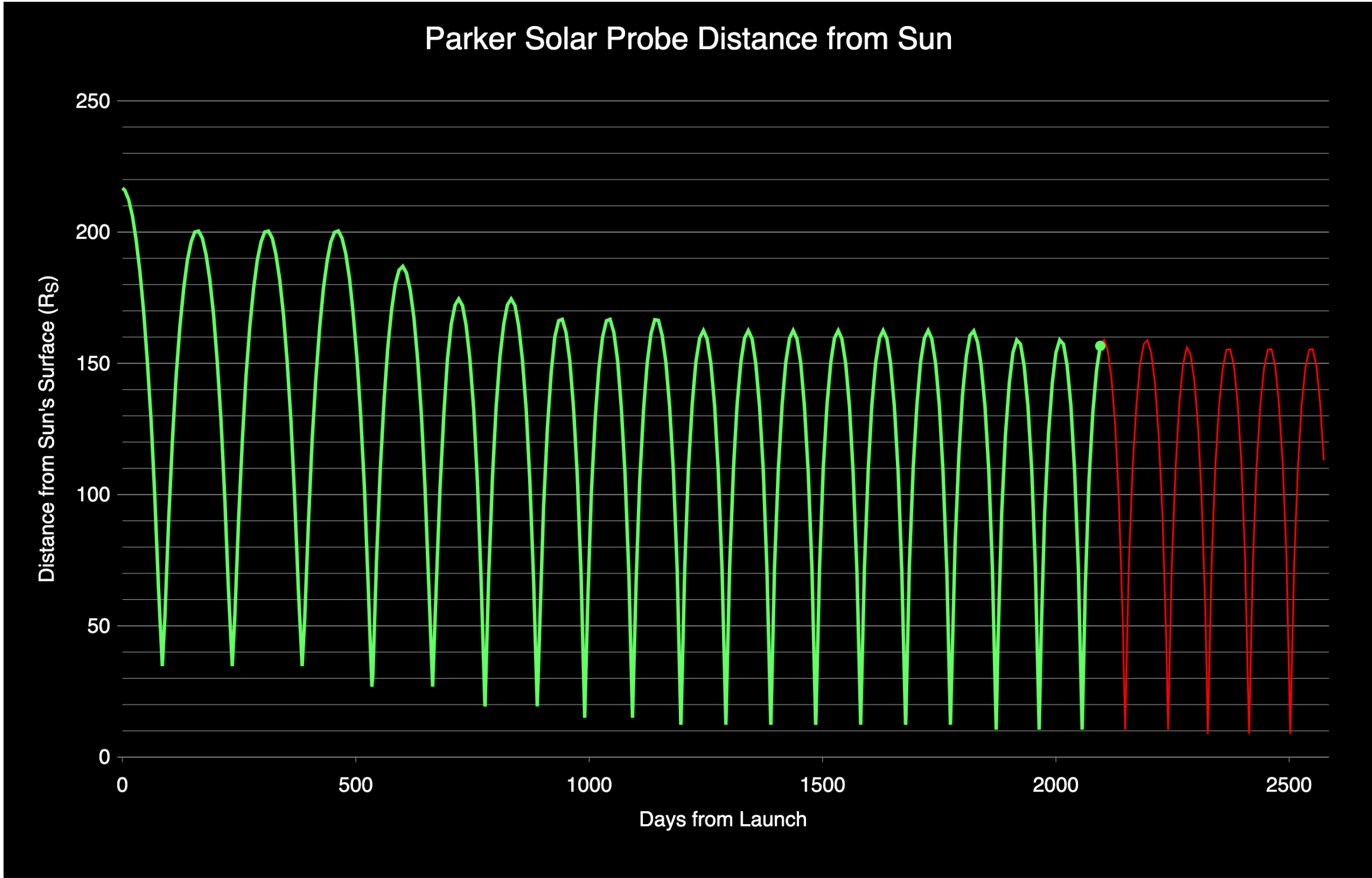


Future prospects: Space radio wave detections

- How to detect the frequencies outside the Radio Window?
- Solar signal: Go Space



Parker Solar Probe results



An, Ge, Liu, Liu, 2405.12285

Summary

- The detection of ultra-light bosonic dark matter and astronomical telescope observations can collaborate in a cross-disciplinary manner
 - DPDM can be converted into monochromatic photon signals within the solar plasma
 - Solar physics observation data can be used to detect ultra-light dark matter.
 - LOFAR、SKA、Daocheng Solar Radio Telescope
 - DPDM can be converted into monochromatic signals on the reflective surfaces or antenna arrays of telescopes.
 - Observing blank sky regions can help detect ultra-light dark matter.
 - FAST、LOFAR、SKA
 - Space-based radio telescopes can go beyond the radio window.

Backup slides