

# Interacting Dark Sectors in Cosmology

**New Physics from Galaxy Clustering, GGI**

**Melissa Joseph, [University of Utah](#)**

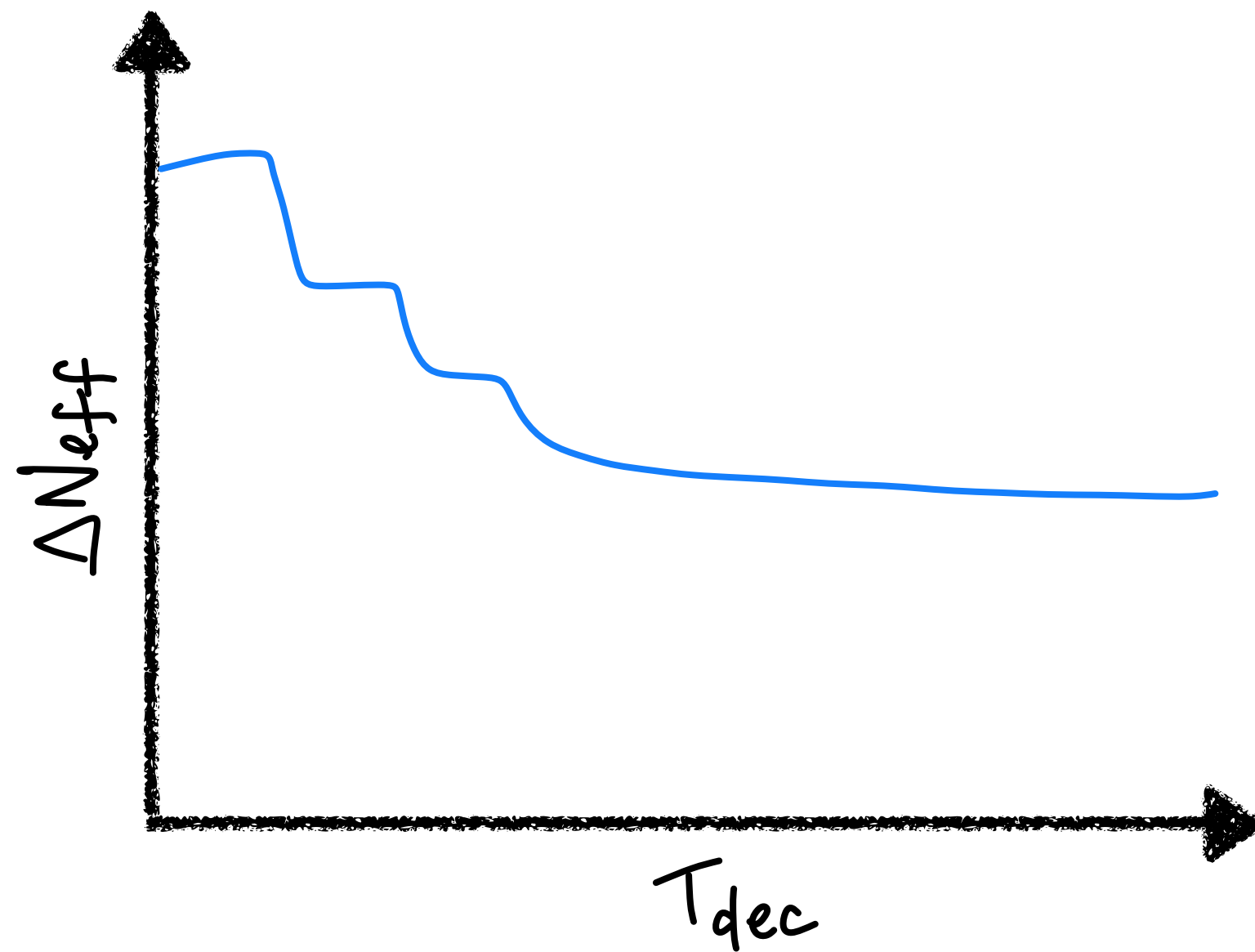
# Motivations for Interacting DM-DR

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- What new physics might we expect?
  - $N_{\text{eff}}$  - generic feature of new dofs at high energy
  - DM interactions - for freeze-out models of DM production, we might expect DM-DR interactions as a result
- Tensions in data
  - Hubble
  - LSS -  $S_8$ ,  $\text{Ly}\alpha$

# Light Relics ( $N_{\text{eff}}$ )

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## Minimal Extensions

$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \sim 0.027$  Scalar  
 $0.047$  Fermion  
 $0.057$  Gauge Boson

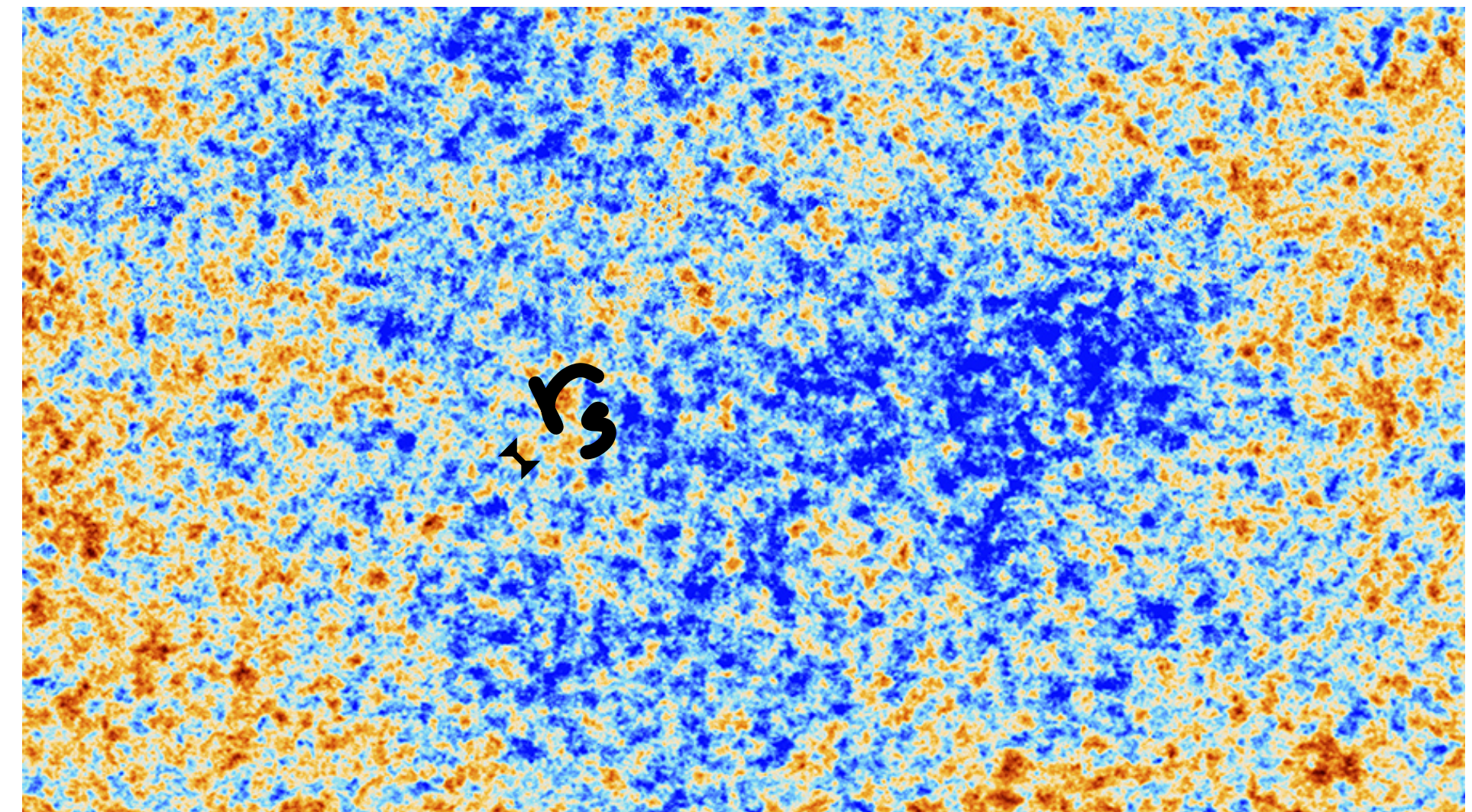
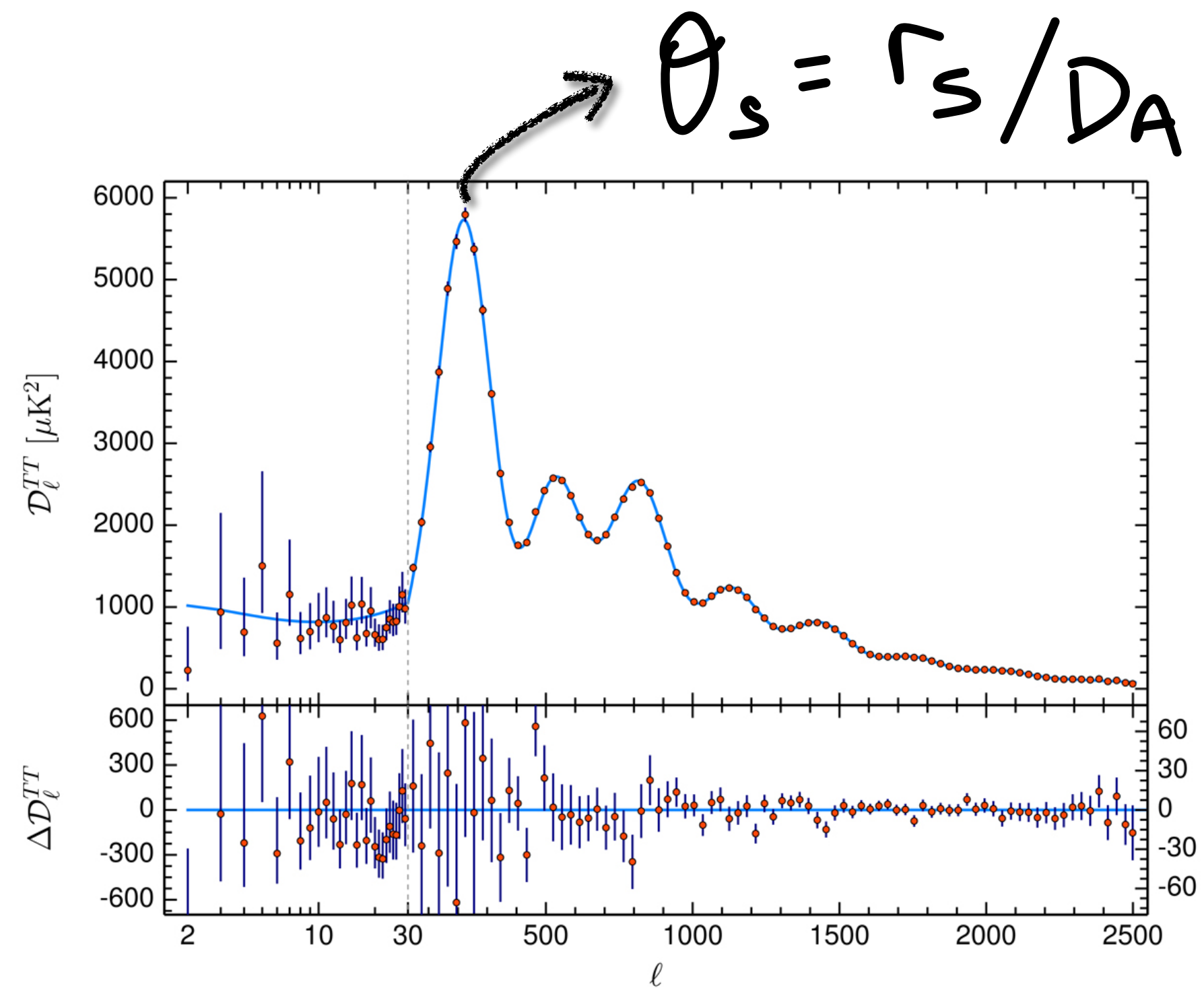
Forecasts for future sensitivity:

Simons SO: 0.05

Already seeing constraints from ACT DR6



# Hubble Tension

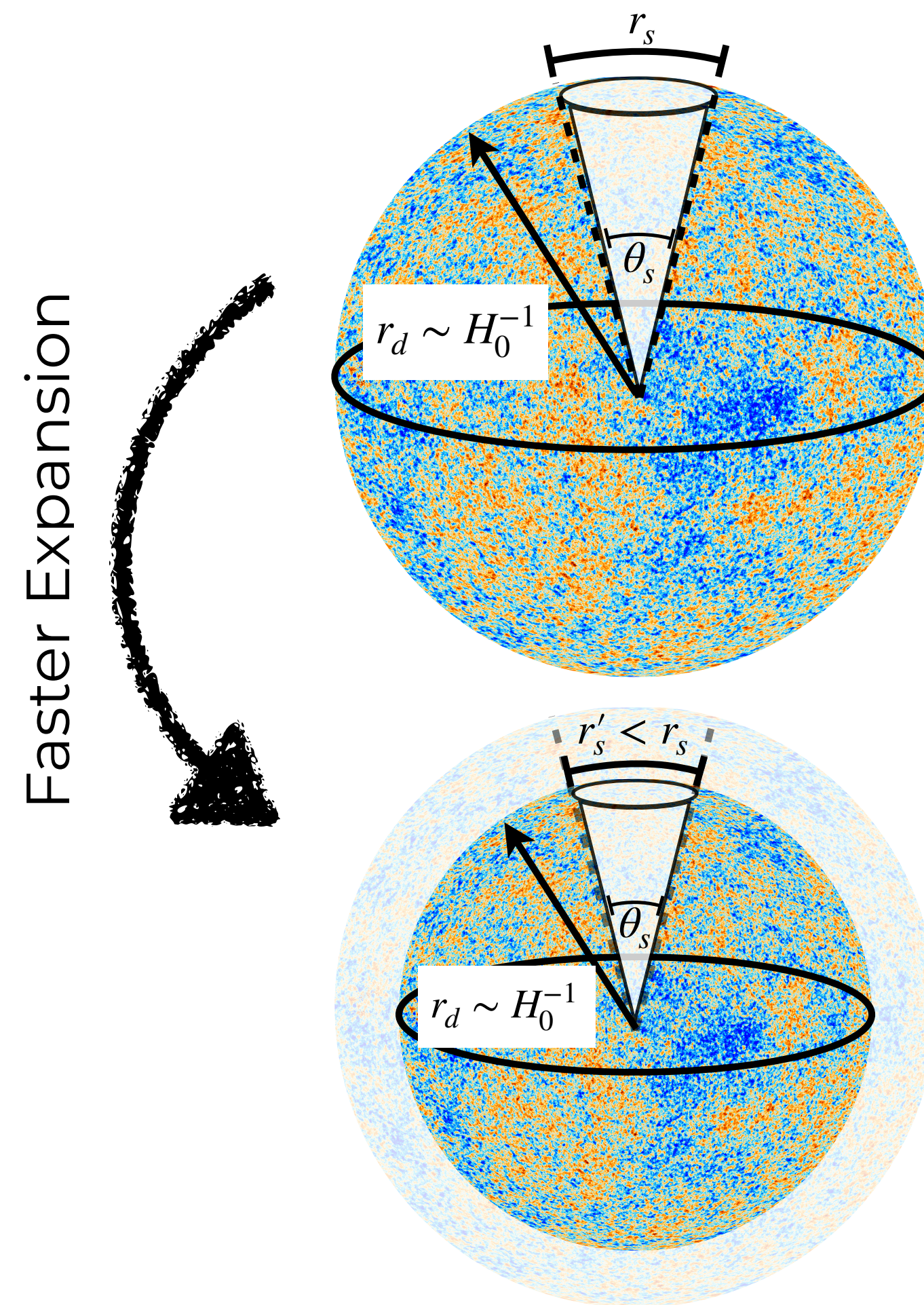




# Hubble Tension

$$r_s = \int_{z_{rec}}^{\infty} dz \frac{c_s}{H(z)} \quad D_{\text{CMB}} \propto 1/H_0$$

$\theta_s$  fixed  $\Rightarrow r_s \downarrow$  &  $H_0 \uparrow$



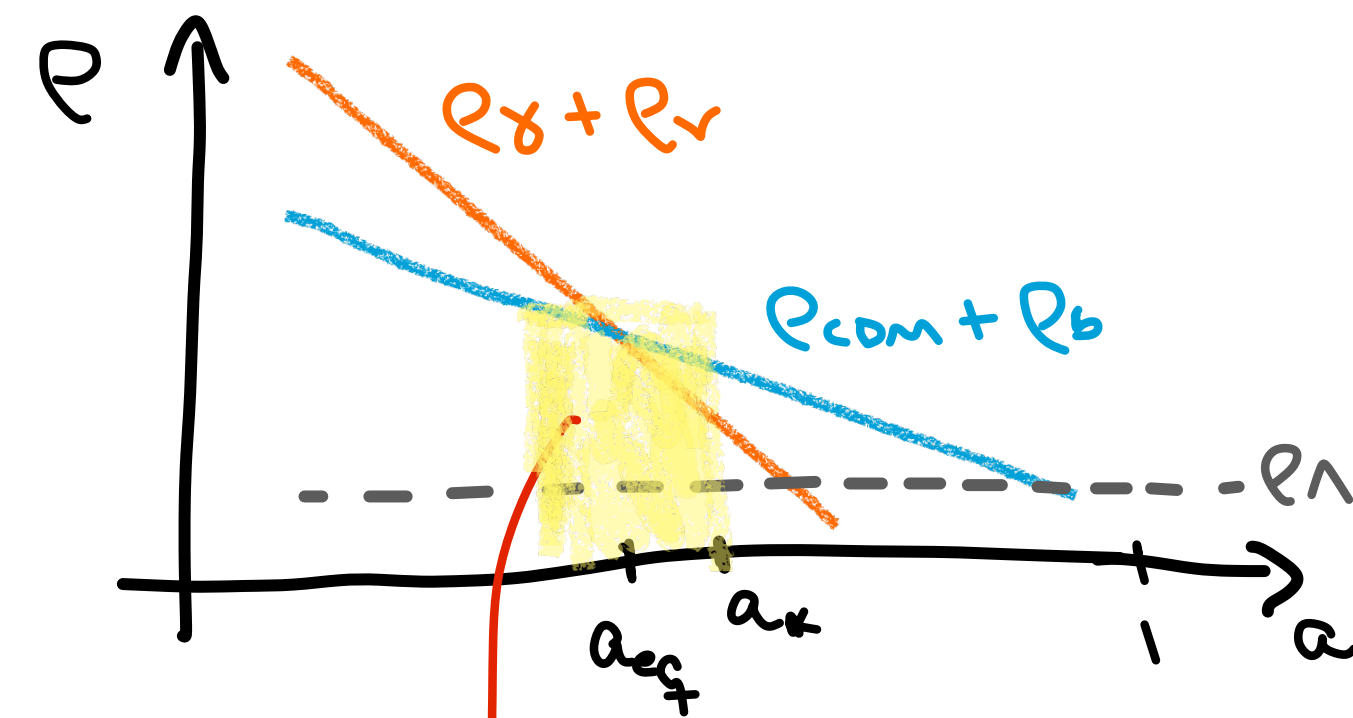
Credit: H. Bagherian



# Hubble Tension

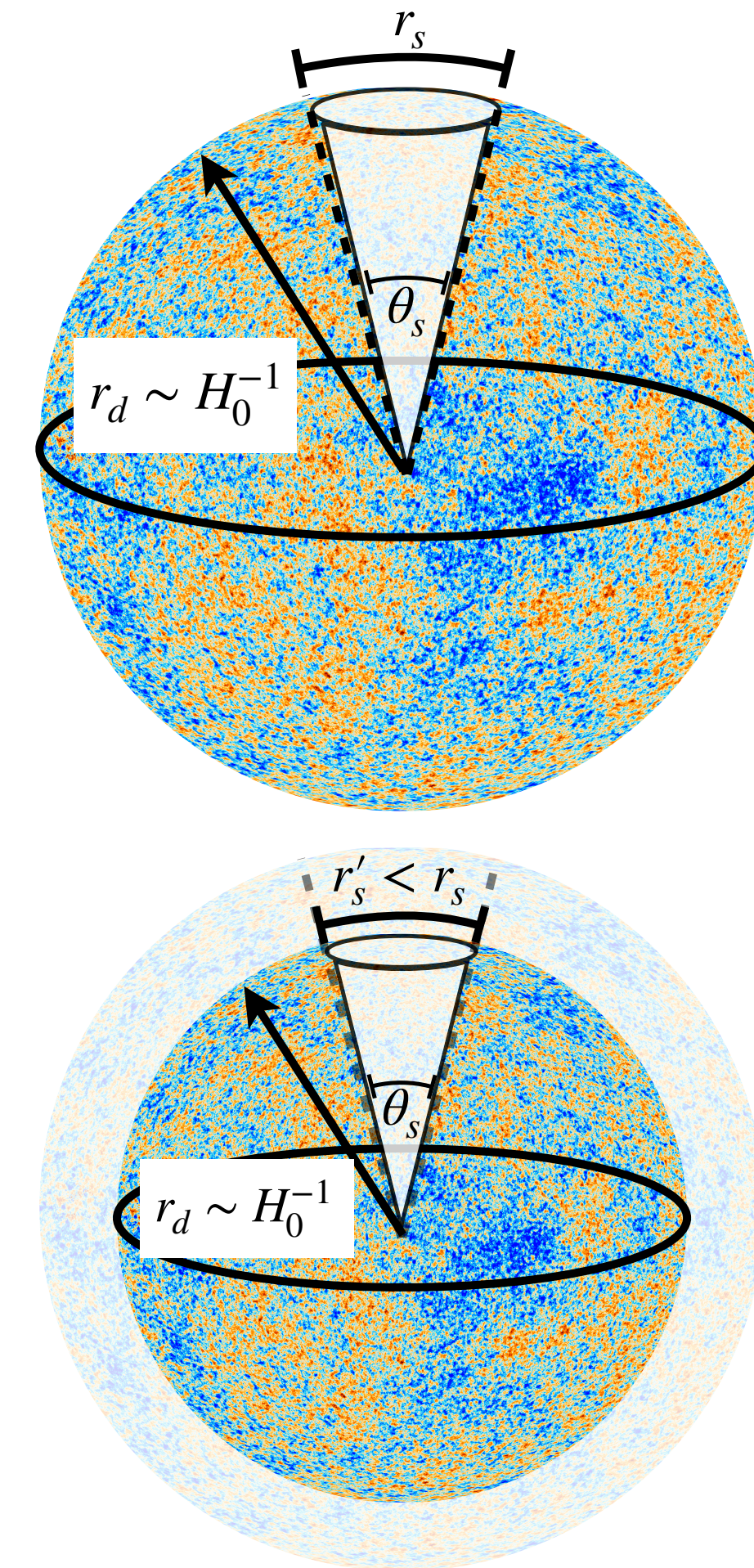
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add extra energy  
near recombination  
( $\rho_{\text{new}} \sim \text{few \% of } \rho_{\text{rad}}$ )

Faster Expansion



Credit: H. Bagherian



# Outline

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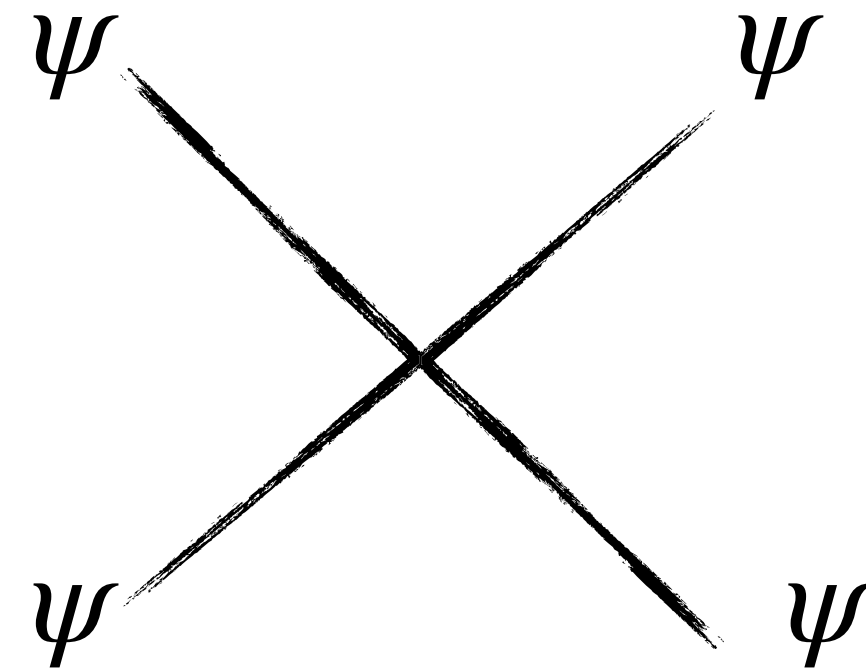
- Interacting DM-DR models
  - Interacting DM-DR with mass threshold
  - New Atomic Dark Matter (nuADaM)
- Cosmological Signatures
- Constraints from ACT DR6 on  $N_{\text{eff}}$
- Updated Constraints from ACT (Preliminary)

# Interacting Radiation w/ a massive mediator

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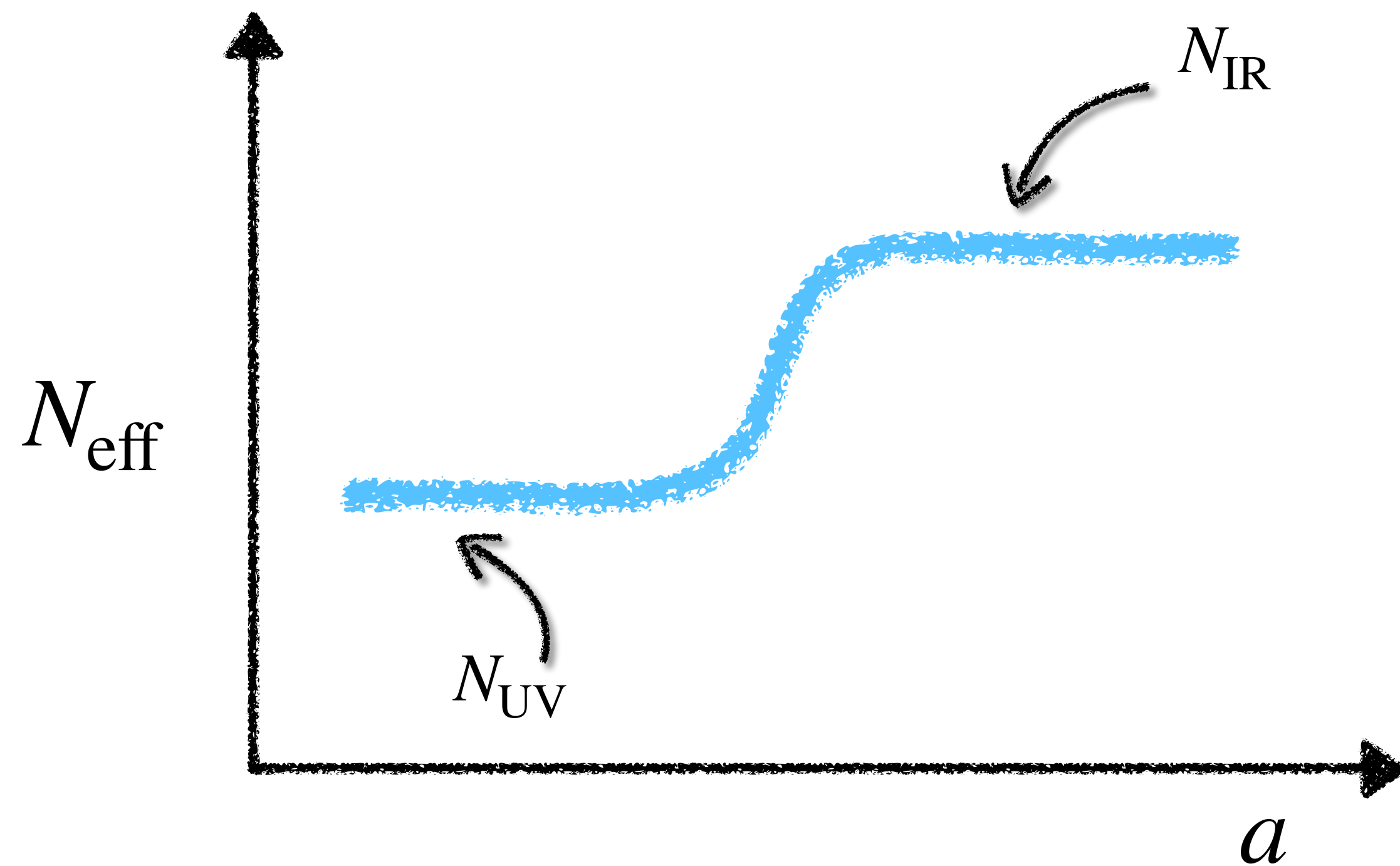
$$\mathcal{L}_{DS} \propto \lambda \phi \psi^2 + \lambda^2 (\phi^* \phi)^2 \\ + m_\phi^2 \phi^* \phi + \lambda_{DM} \phi \chi^2$$

$$m_\phi \sim \text{eV}$$



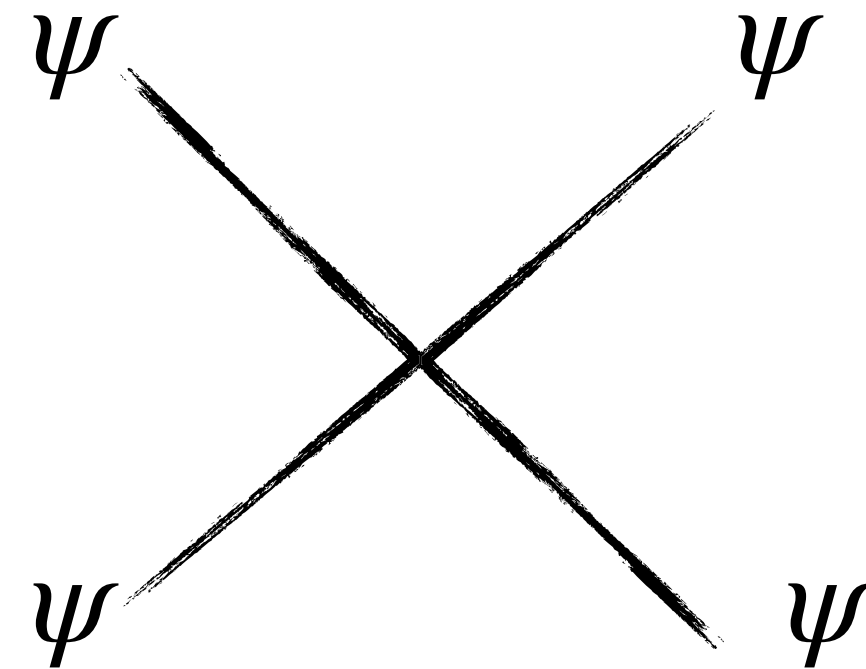


# Interacting Radiation w/ a massive mediator



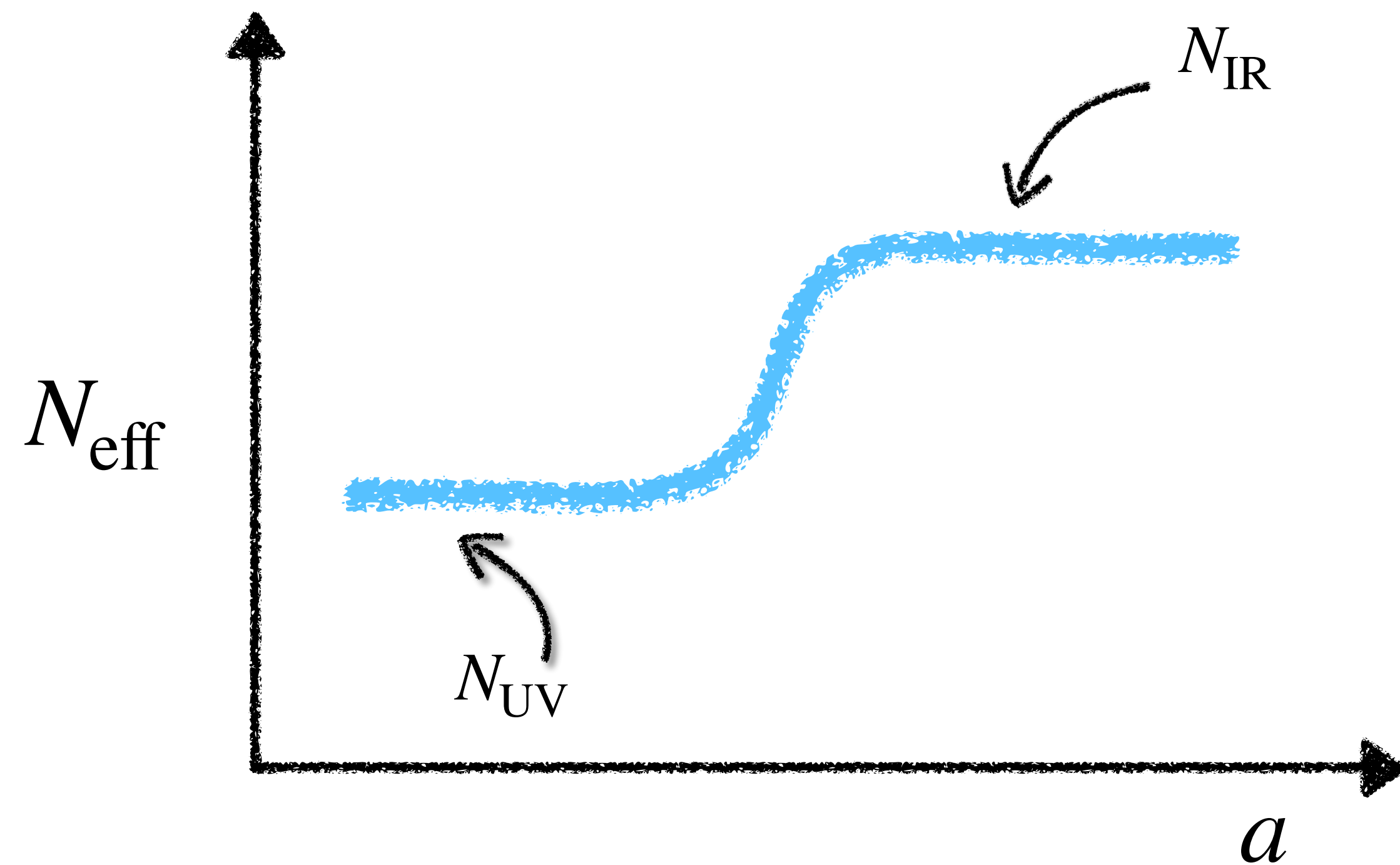
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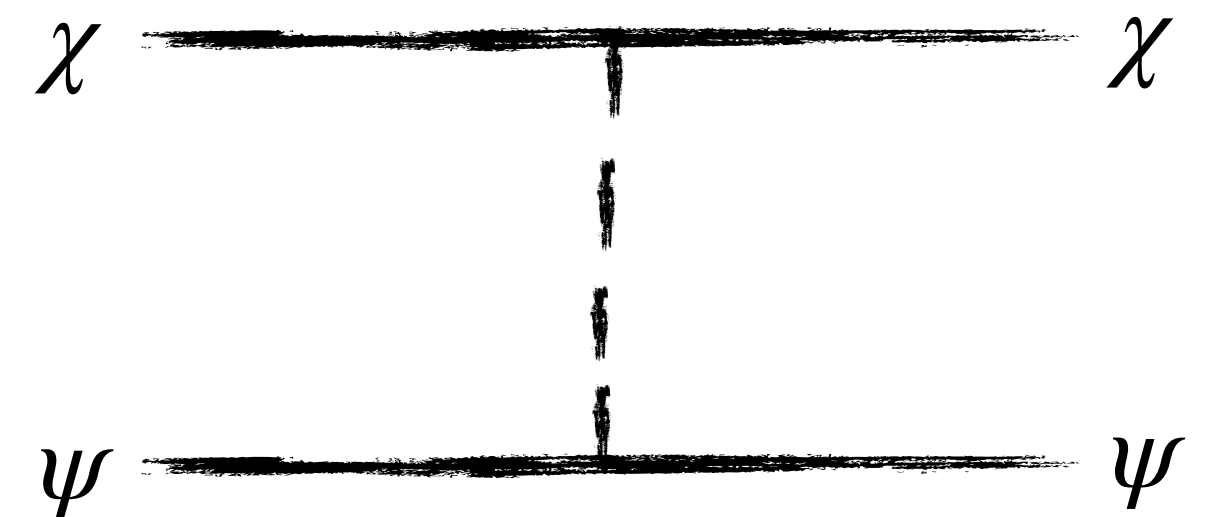
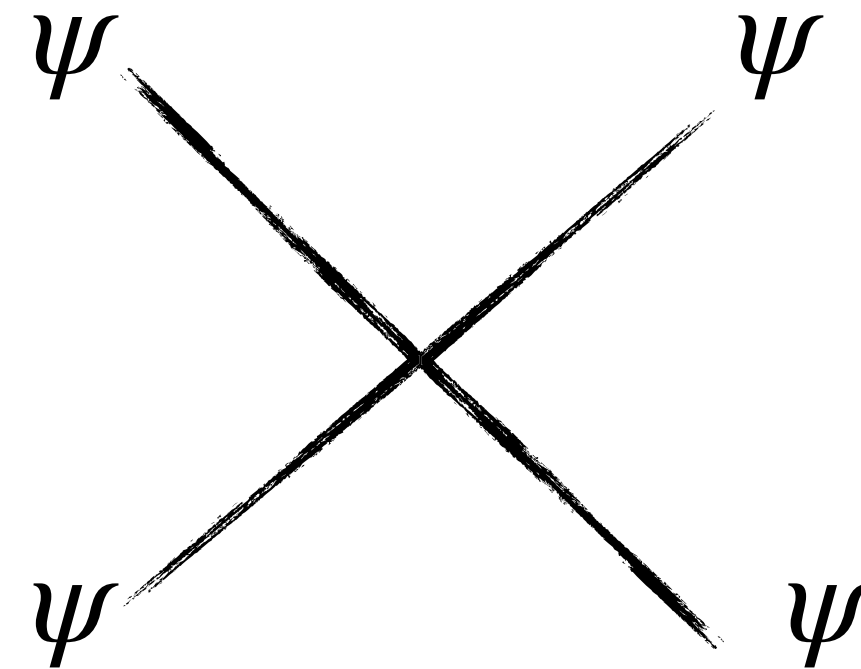
# Interacting Radiation w/ a massive mediator

C



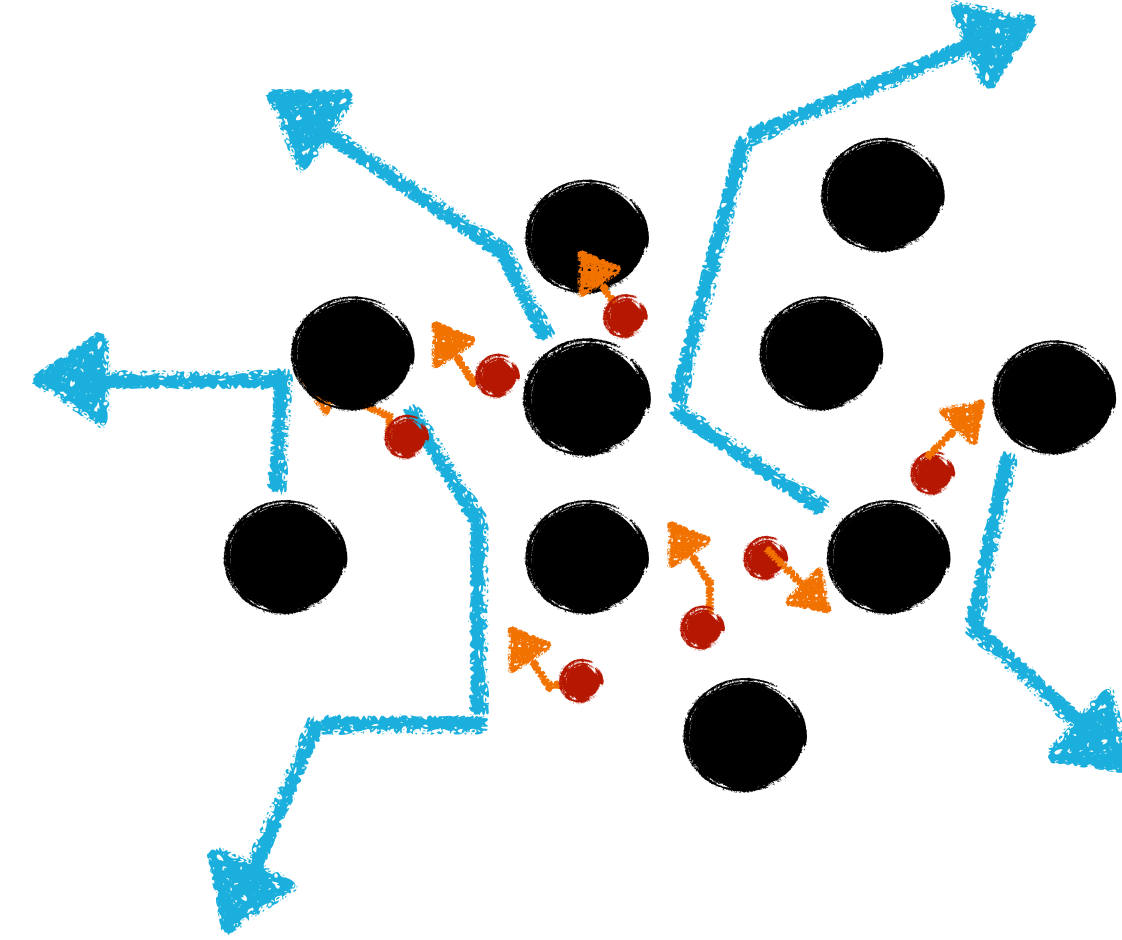
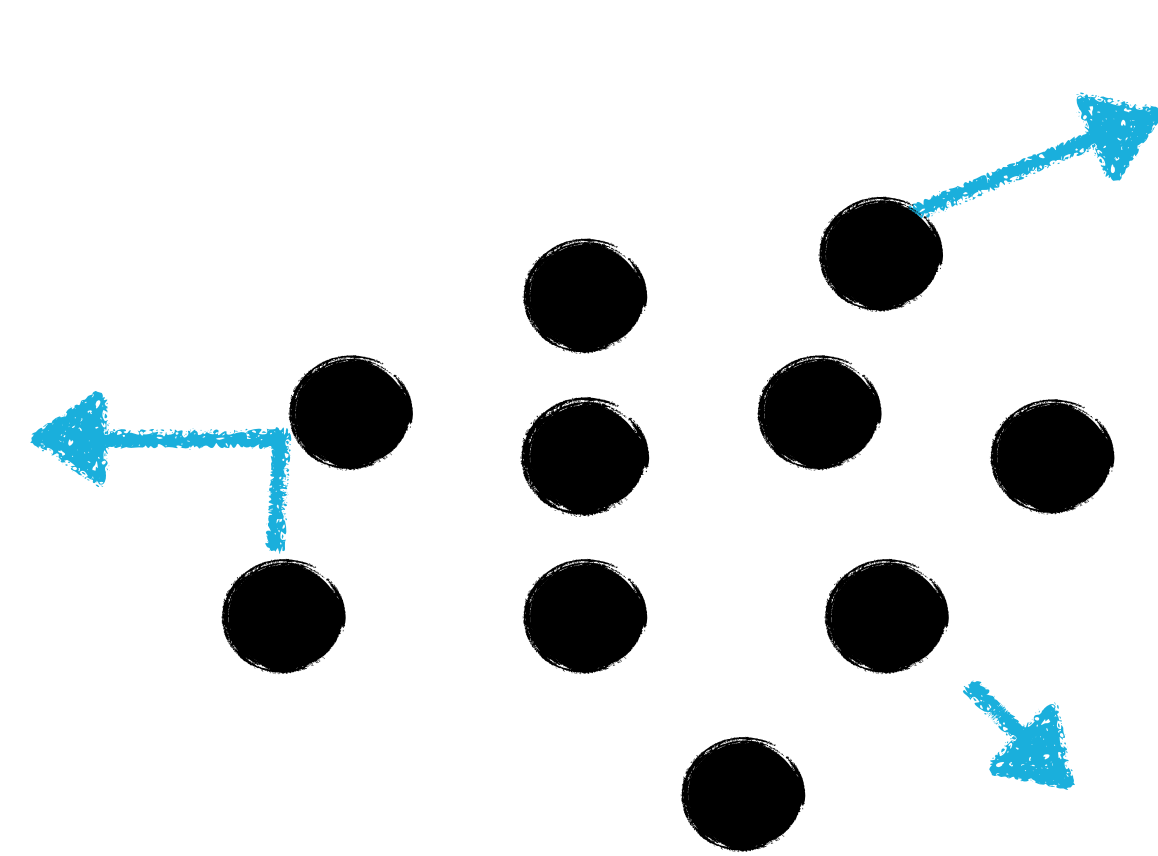
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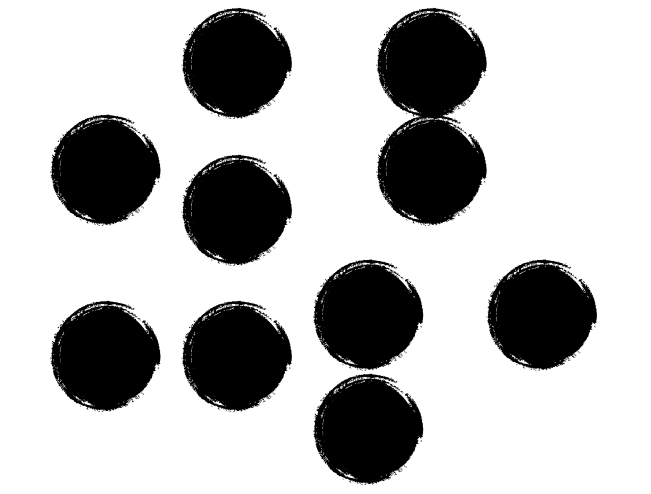




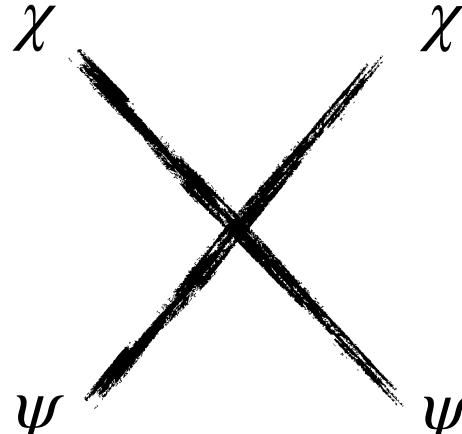
# DM-DR Interactions w/ a massive mediator



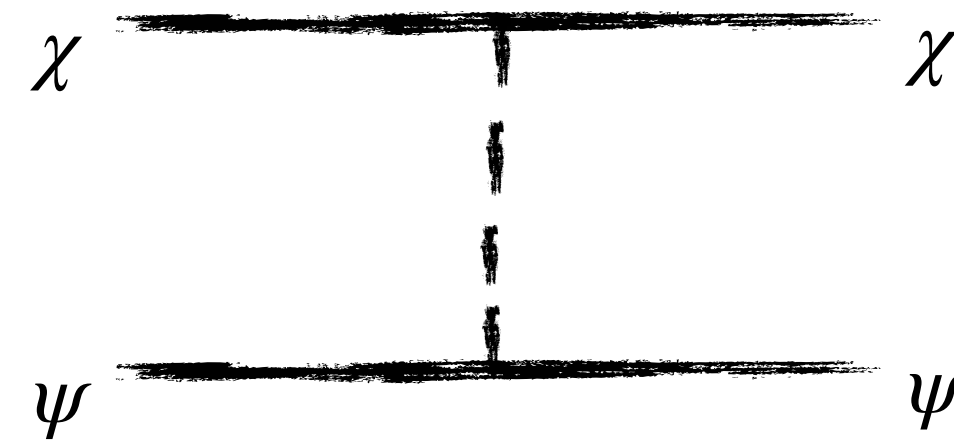
vs



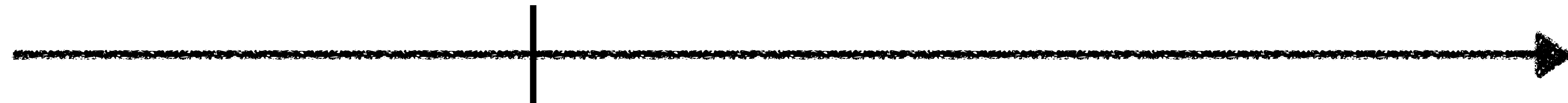
Standard CDM

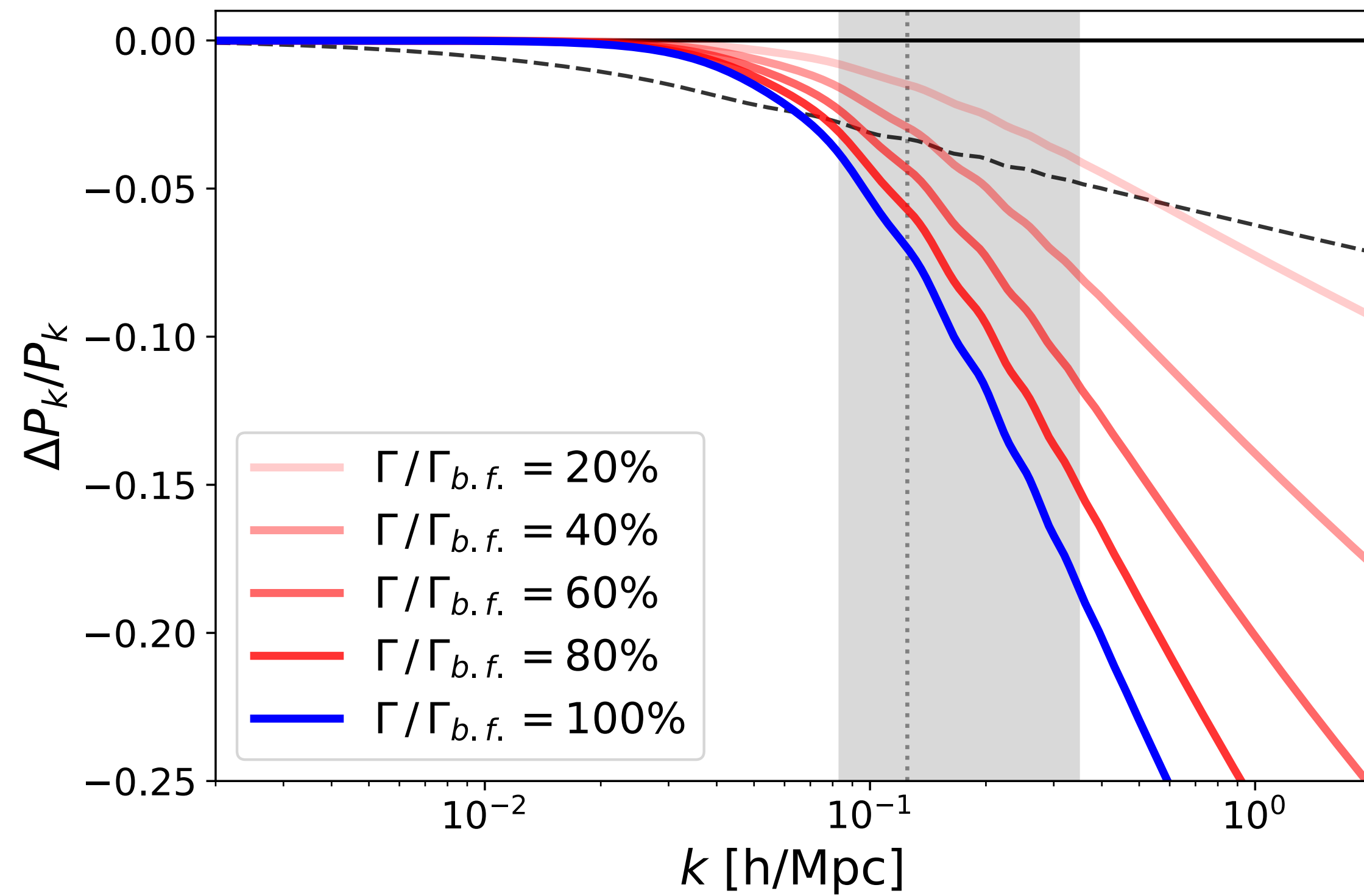
$$\Gamma \propto \frac{T_d^2}{M_\chi} \left( \frac{T_d}{m_\phi} \right)^4$$


$$T \sim m_\phi$$



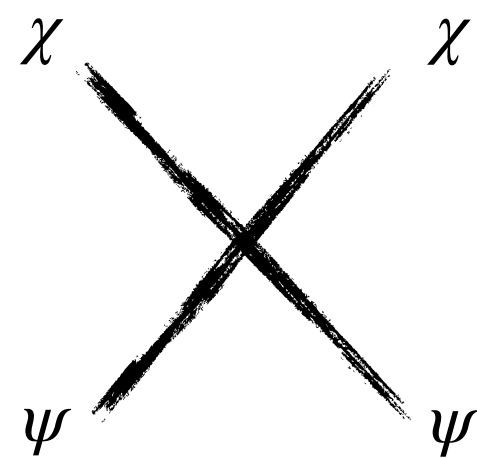
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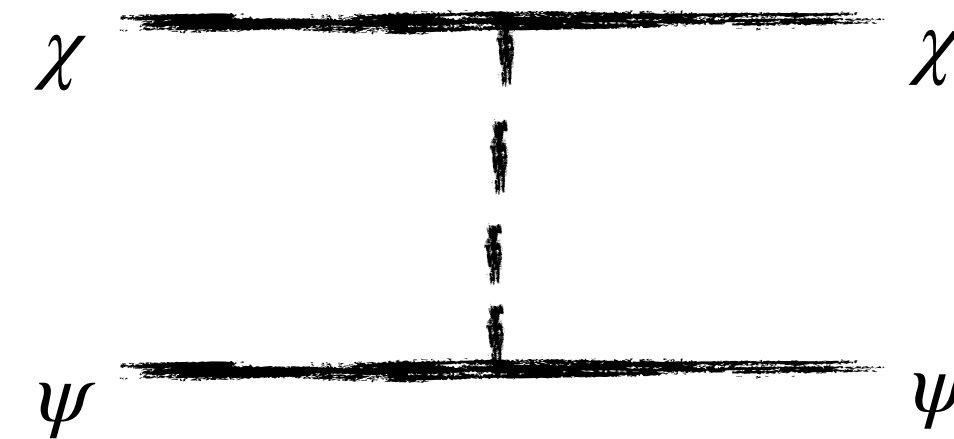


$$\frac{P_{\text{interacting}}}{P_{\text{not-interacting}}} \simeq \begin{cases} 1 & k \ll k_{s.o.} \\ 1 - \sqrt{2} \frac{\Gamma}{H} \times \log k/k_{s.o.} & k \gg k_{s.o.} \end{cases}$$

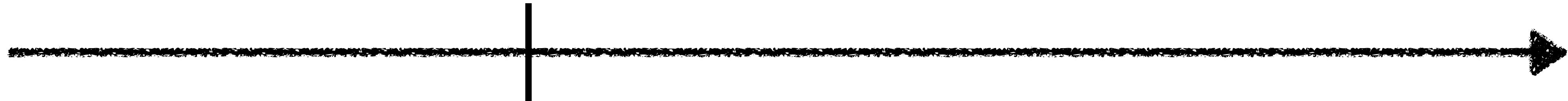
Smooth suppression in log k  
due to weak coupling



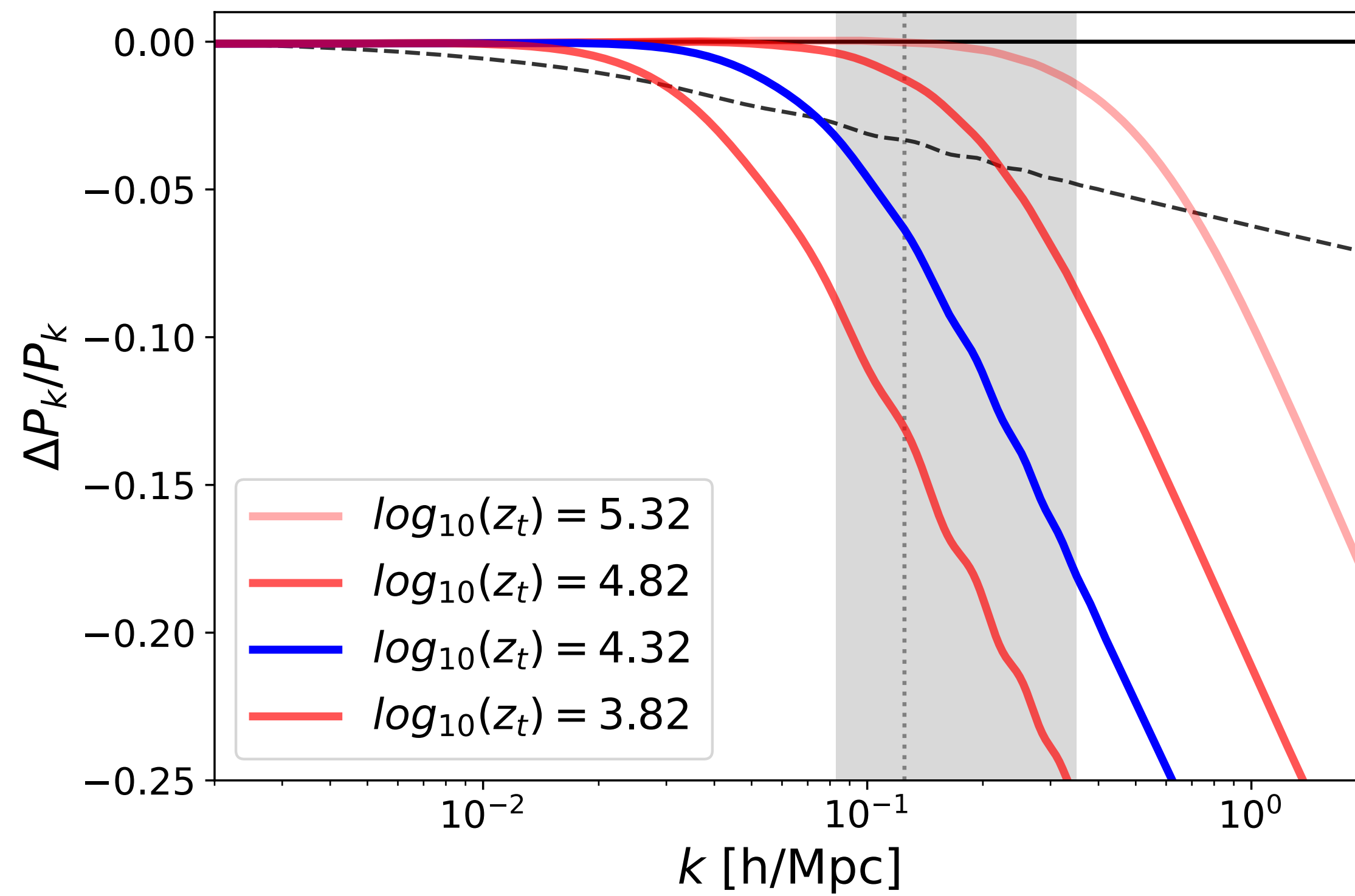
$$T \sim m_\phi$$



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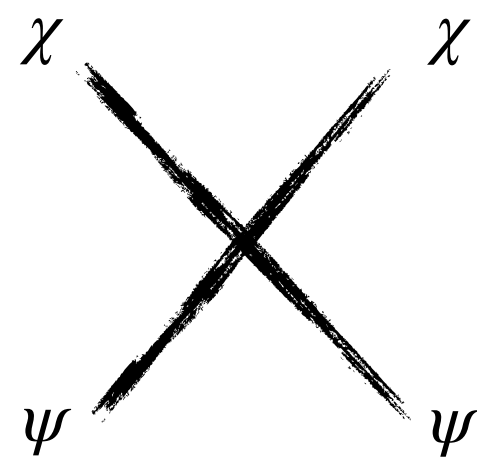
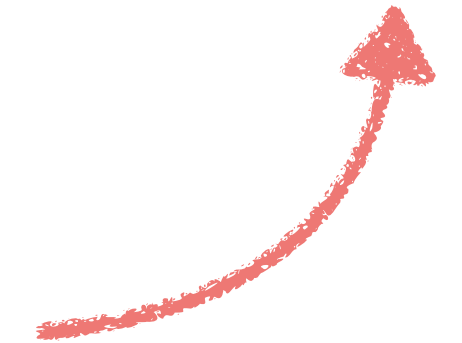




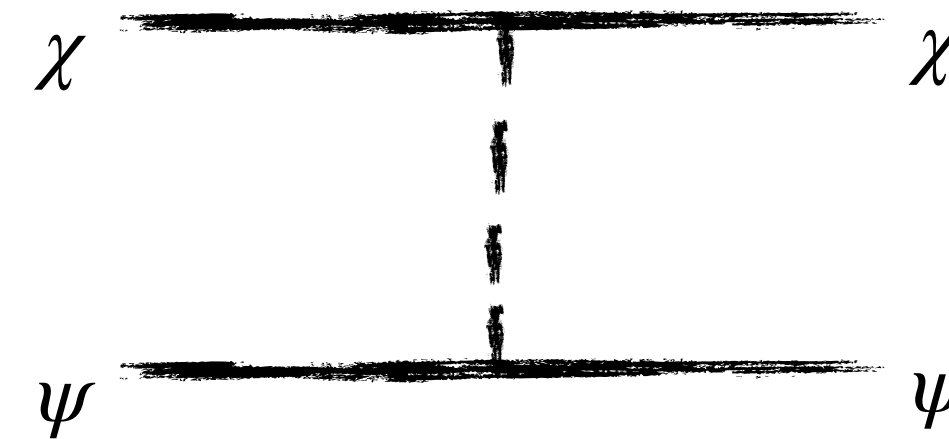


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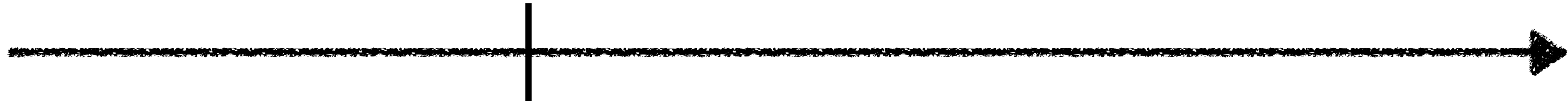
Shut-off when  $T \sim m$

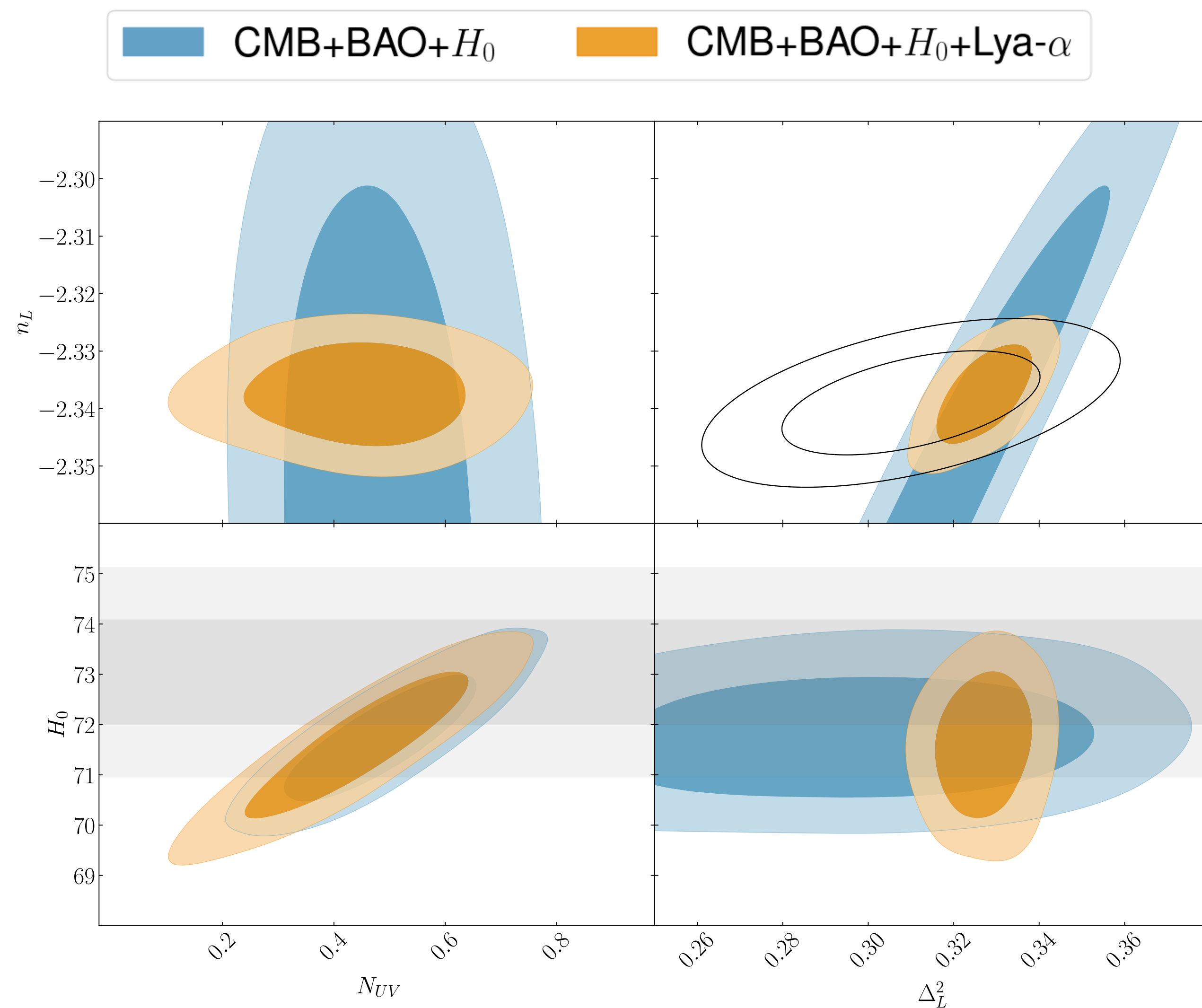


$$T \sim m_\phi$$



$$\Gamma \propto \frac{T_d^2}{M_\chi}$$

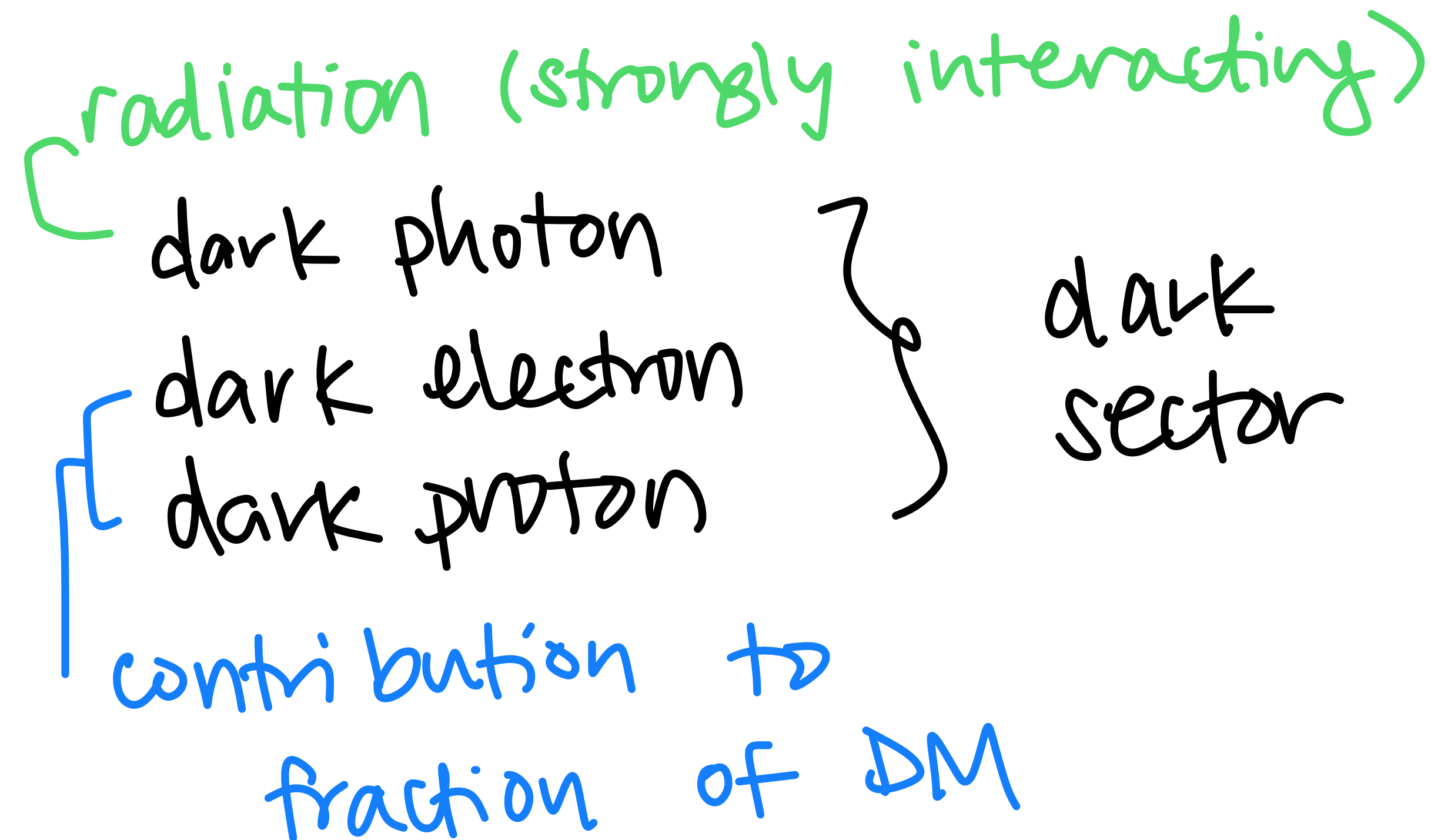




Compressed likelihood  
on amplitude  $\left( k^3 \frac{P(k)}{2\pi^2} \right)$   
and slope  $\left( \frac{d \ln P(k)}{d \ln k} \right)$  of  
MPS at  $z = 3$   
 $k = 0.009 \text{ s/km}$

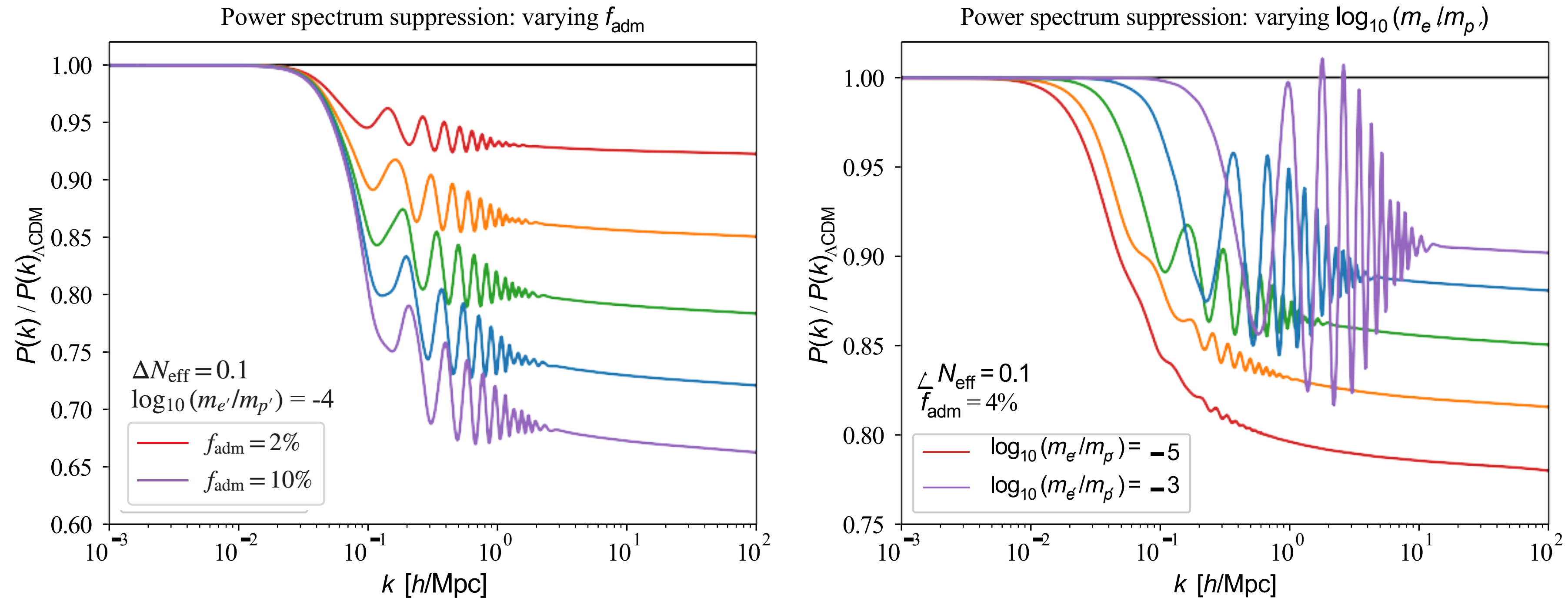
# New Atomic Dark Matter (NuADM)

Buen-Abad et al, arXiv: [2411.08097](#)



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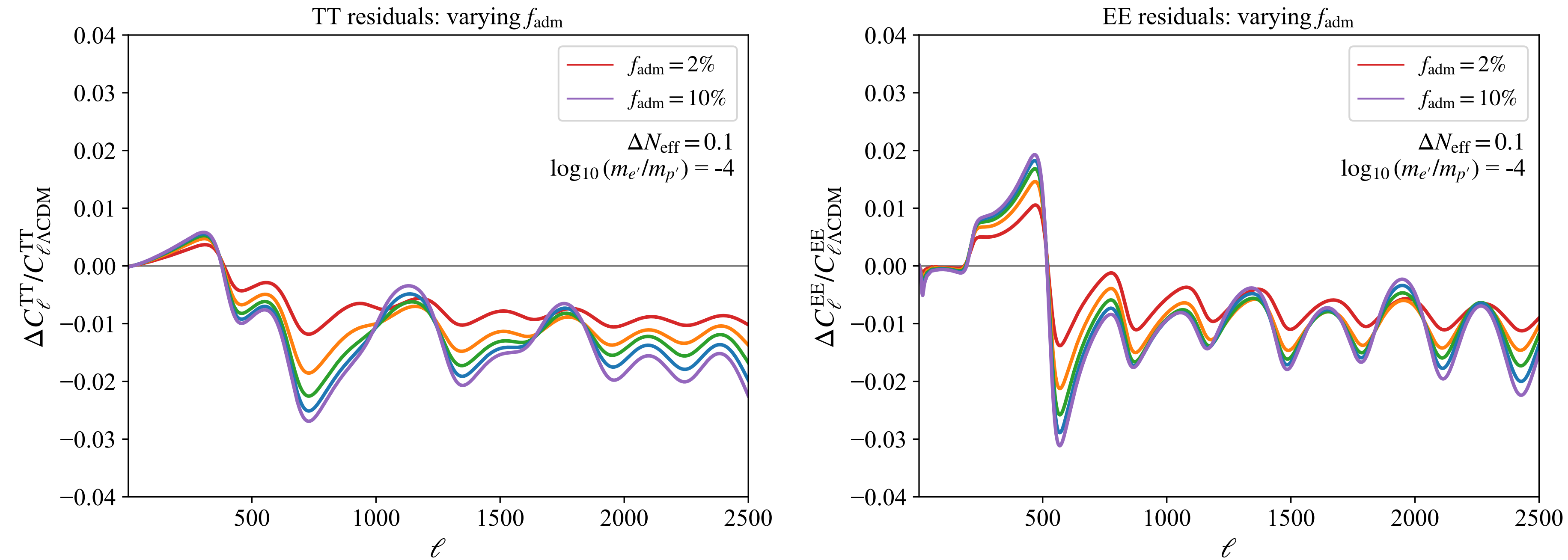


- Suppression of matter power spectrum at the scale of dark recombination
- Dark acoustic oscillations near decoupling redshift
- Fraction of interacting dark matter determines the amount of suppression



# New Atomic Dark Matter (NuADM)

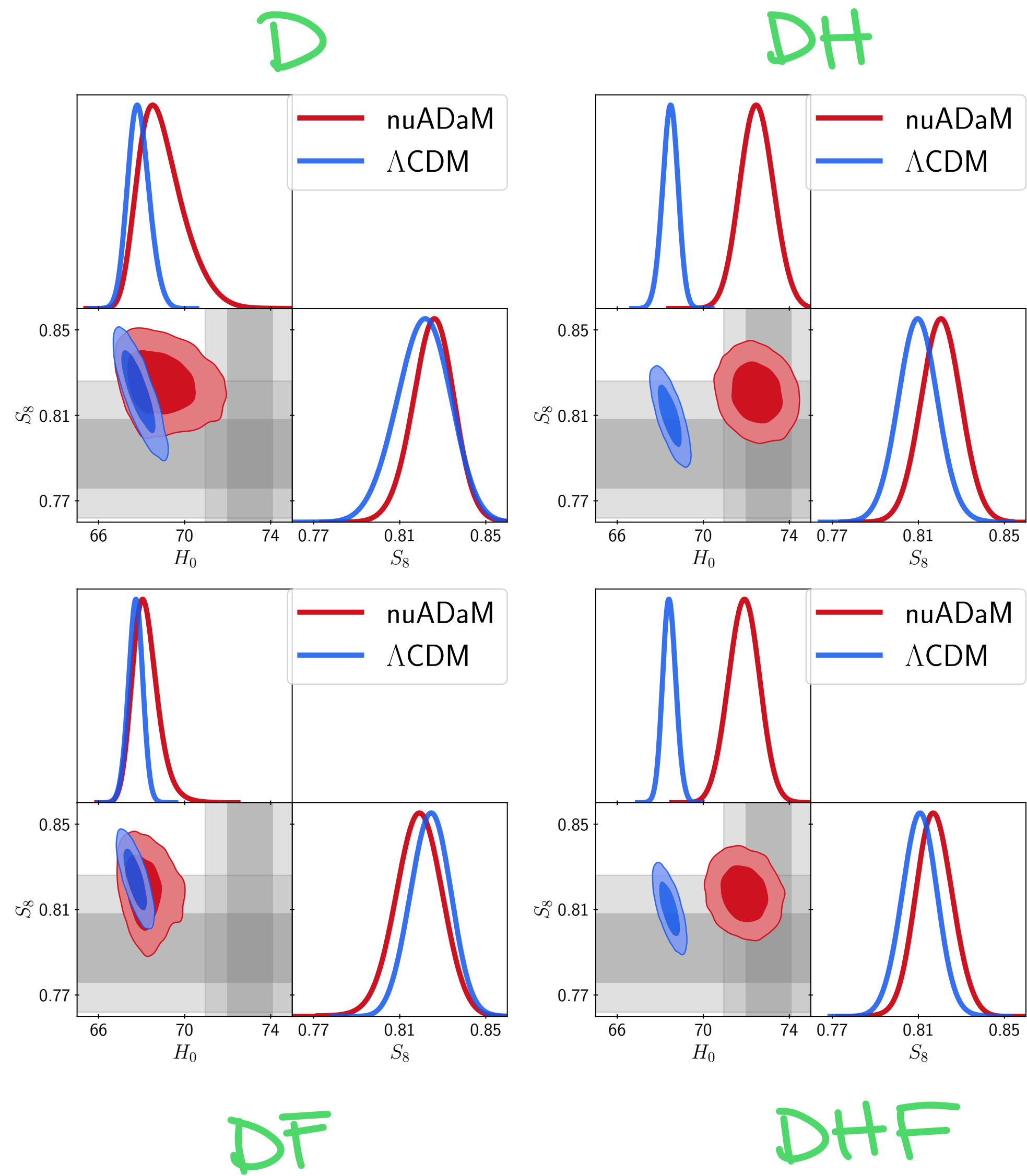
Buen-Abad et al, arXiv: [2411.08097](#)



- Constant suppression of high- $\ell$  tail given by fraction of interacting dark matter
- Different  $\ell$ -dependence to the damping of the tail

# New Atomic Dark Matter (NuADM)

Buen-Abad et al, arXiv: [2411.08097](#)



# Cosmological Signatures

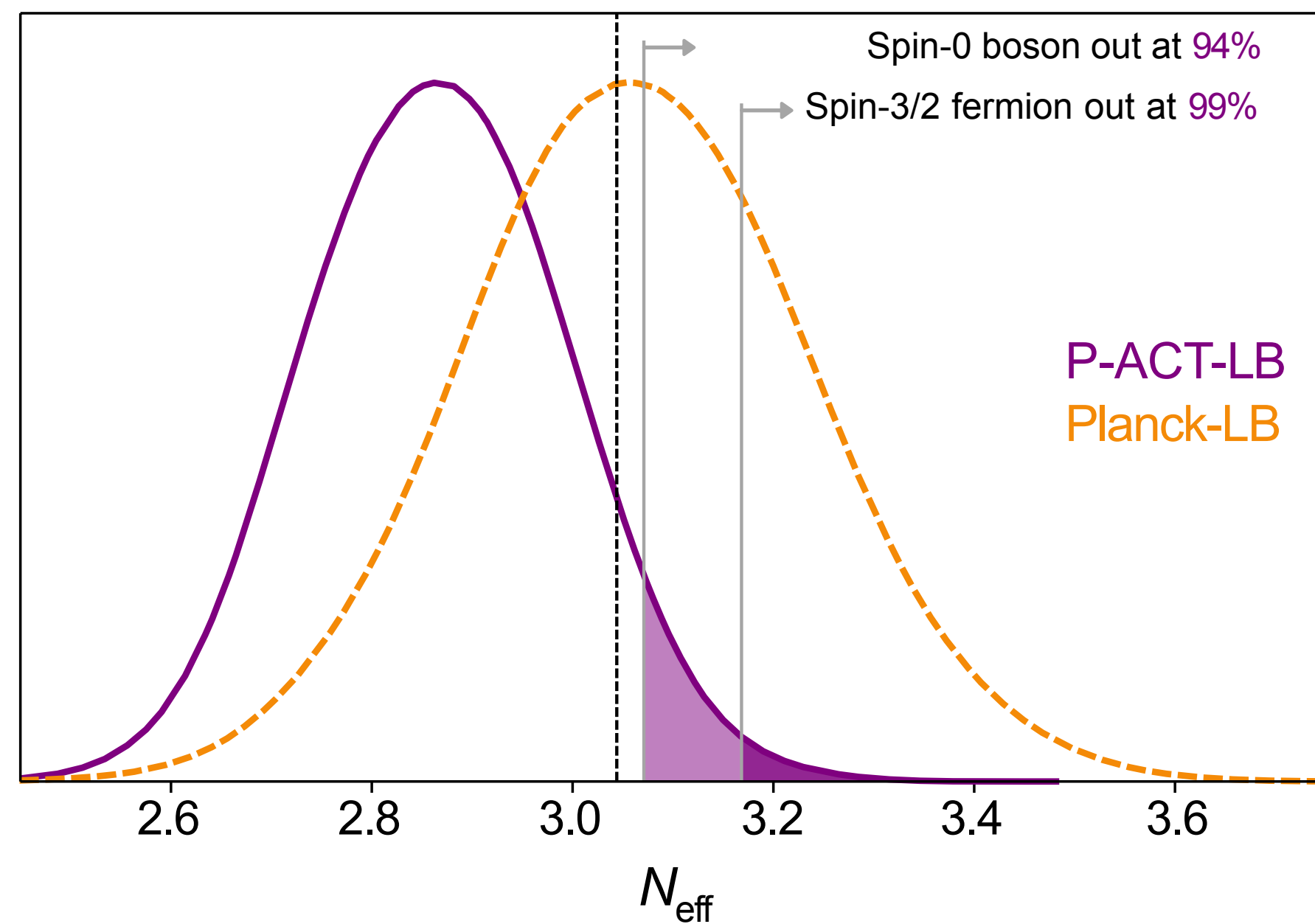
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- CMB
  - Silk damping
  - Phase shift
- LSS
  - DM interactions - suppression of structure formation at small scales
  - DAO

> dynamics in  
DR can alter  
these effects

# ACT DR6 Constraints

## Free-streaming



$$N_{\text{eff}} = 2.73 \pm 0.14 \quad (68\%, \text{P-ACT}),$$
$$= 2.86 \pm 0.13 \quad (68\%, \text{P-ACT-LB}),$$

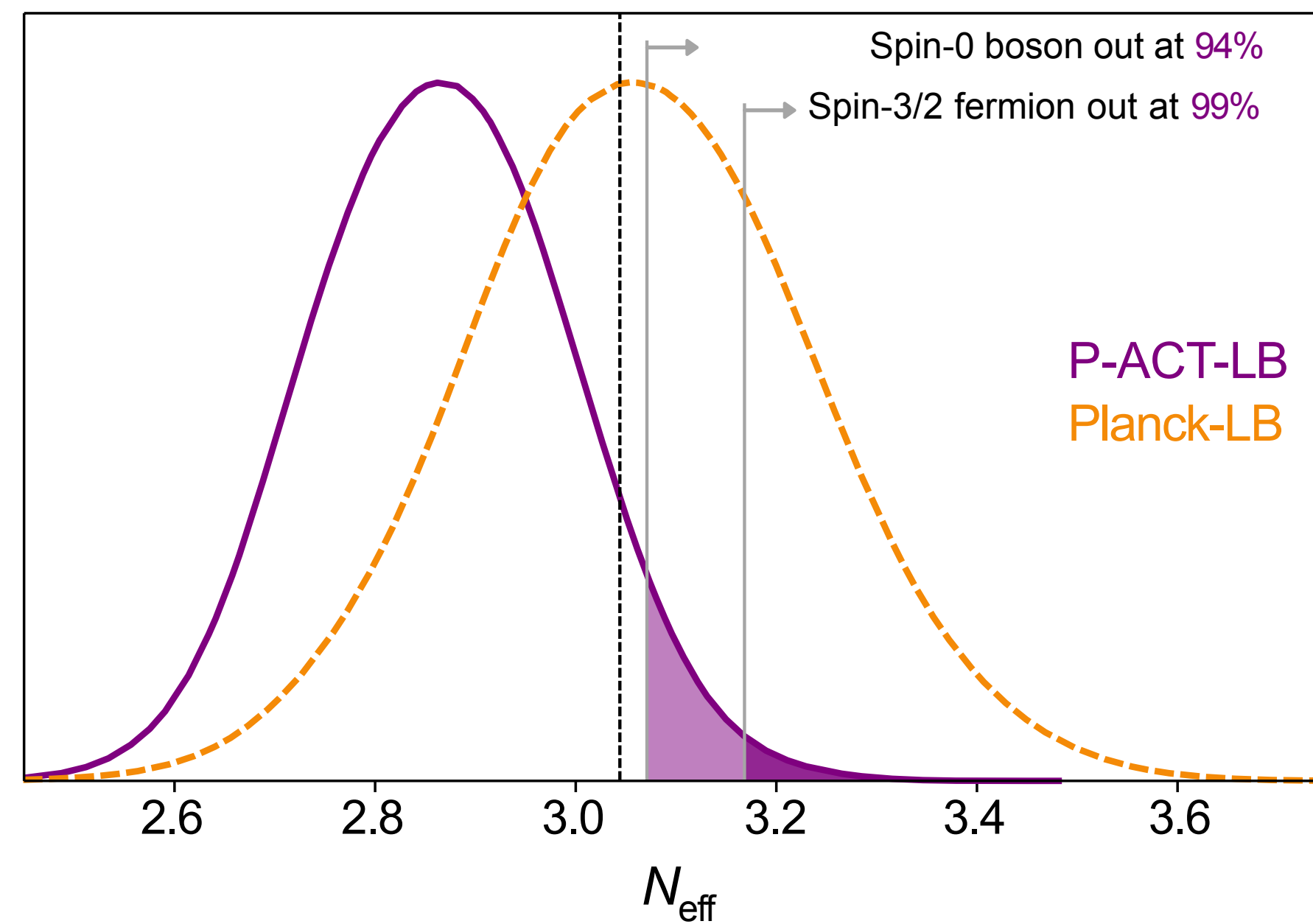
L - CMB lensing

B - DESI DR1 BAO

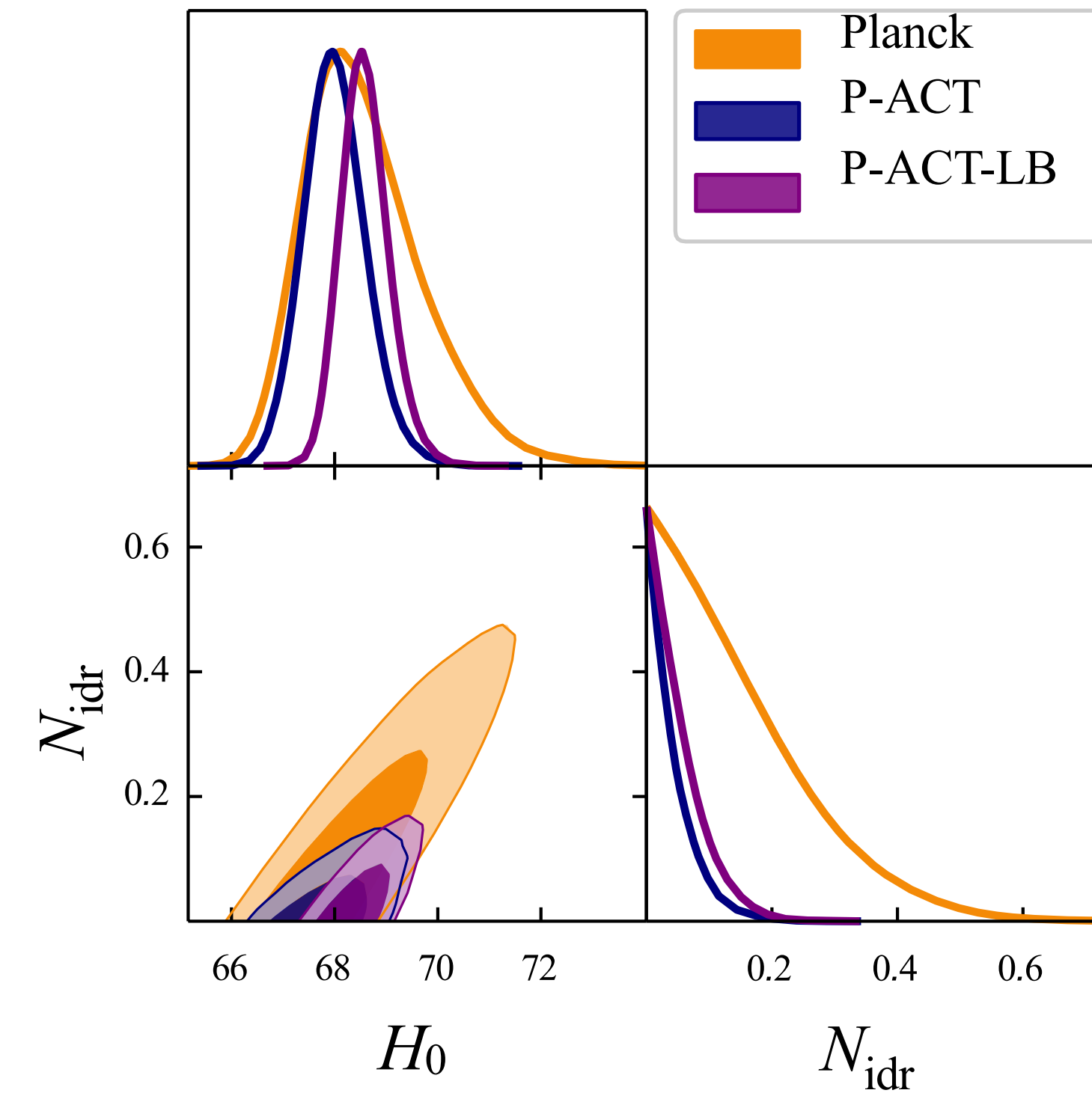


# ACT DR6 Constraints

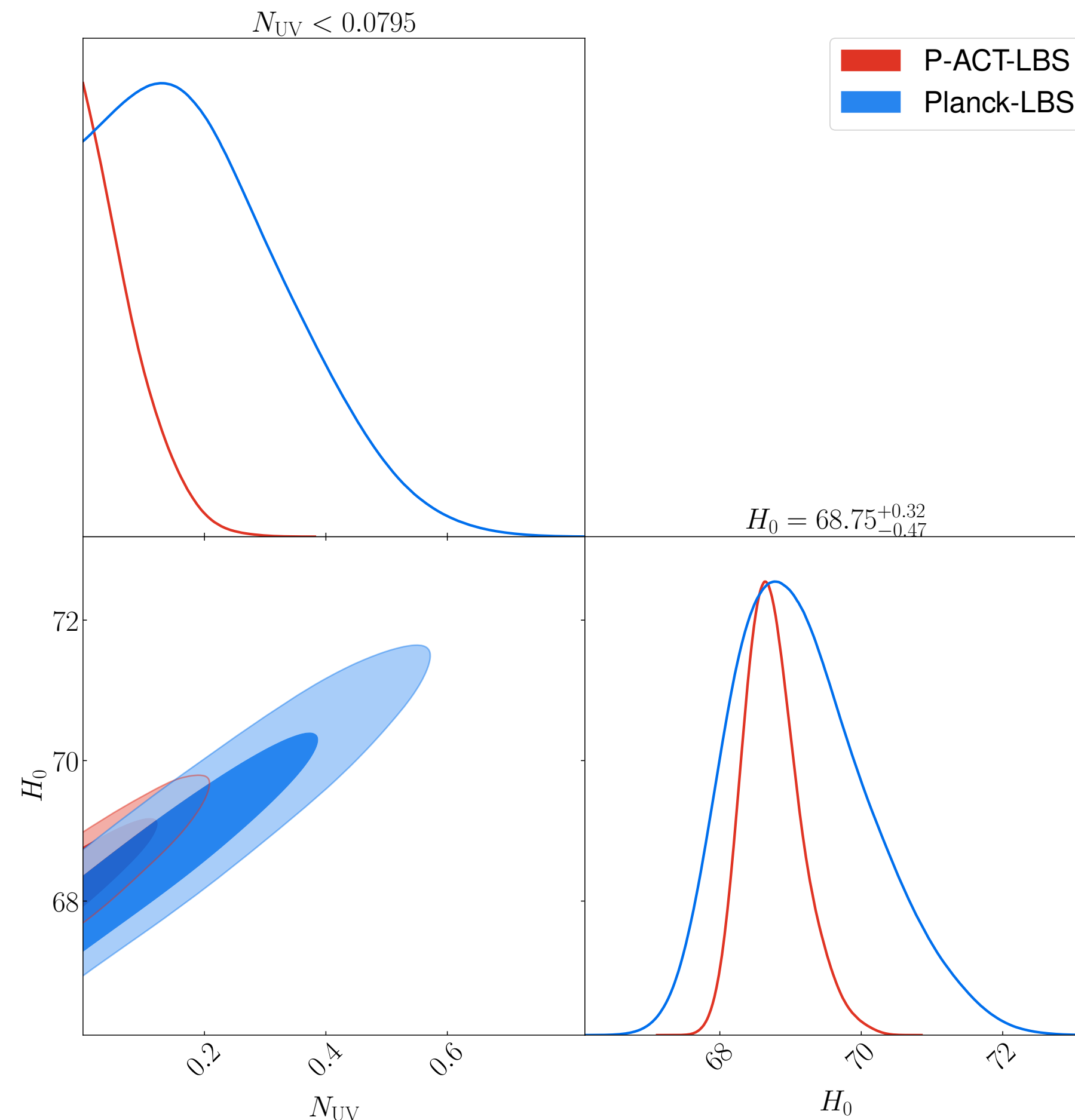
## Free-streaming



## Self-interacting

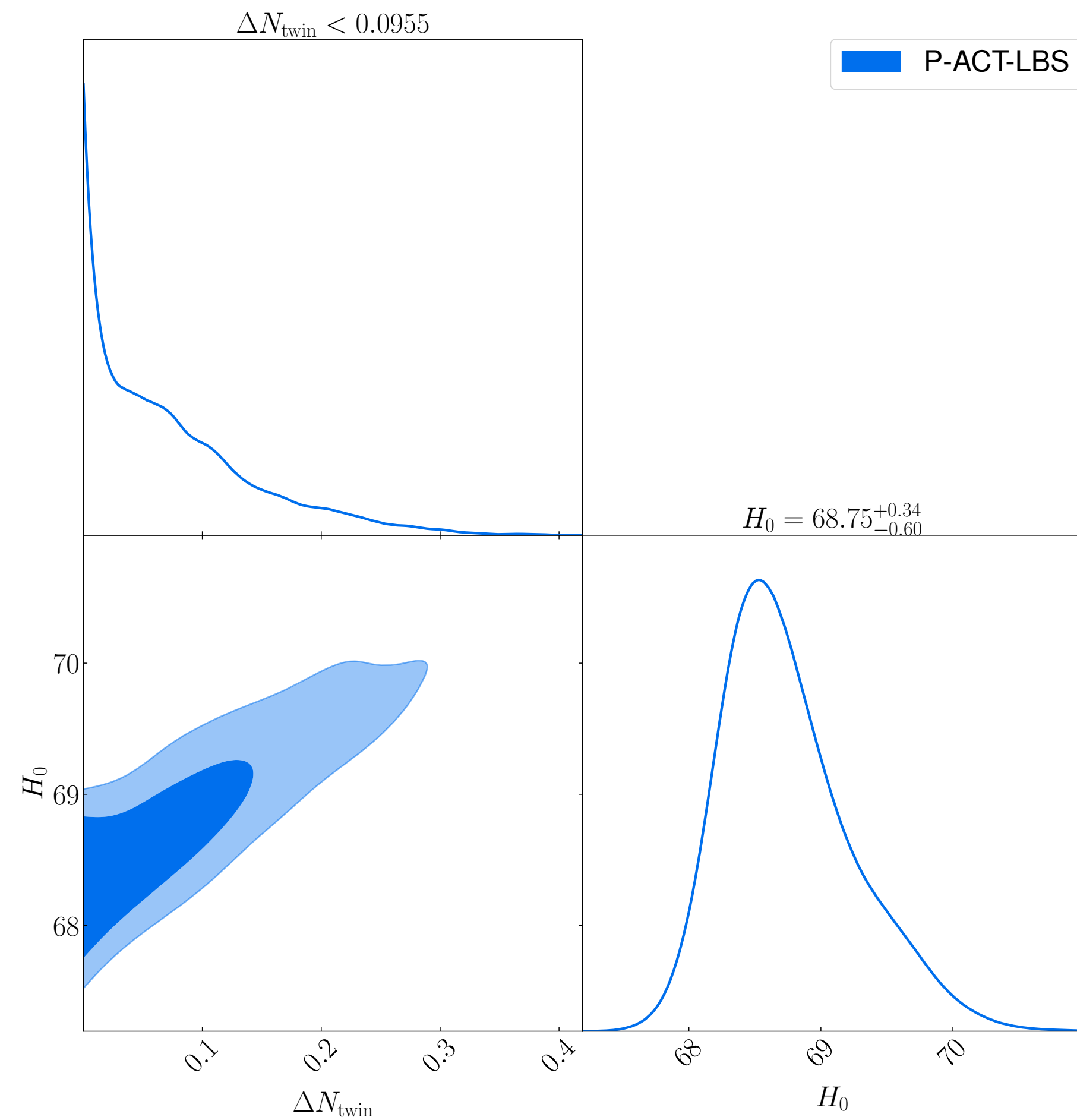
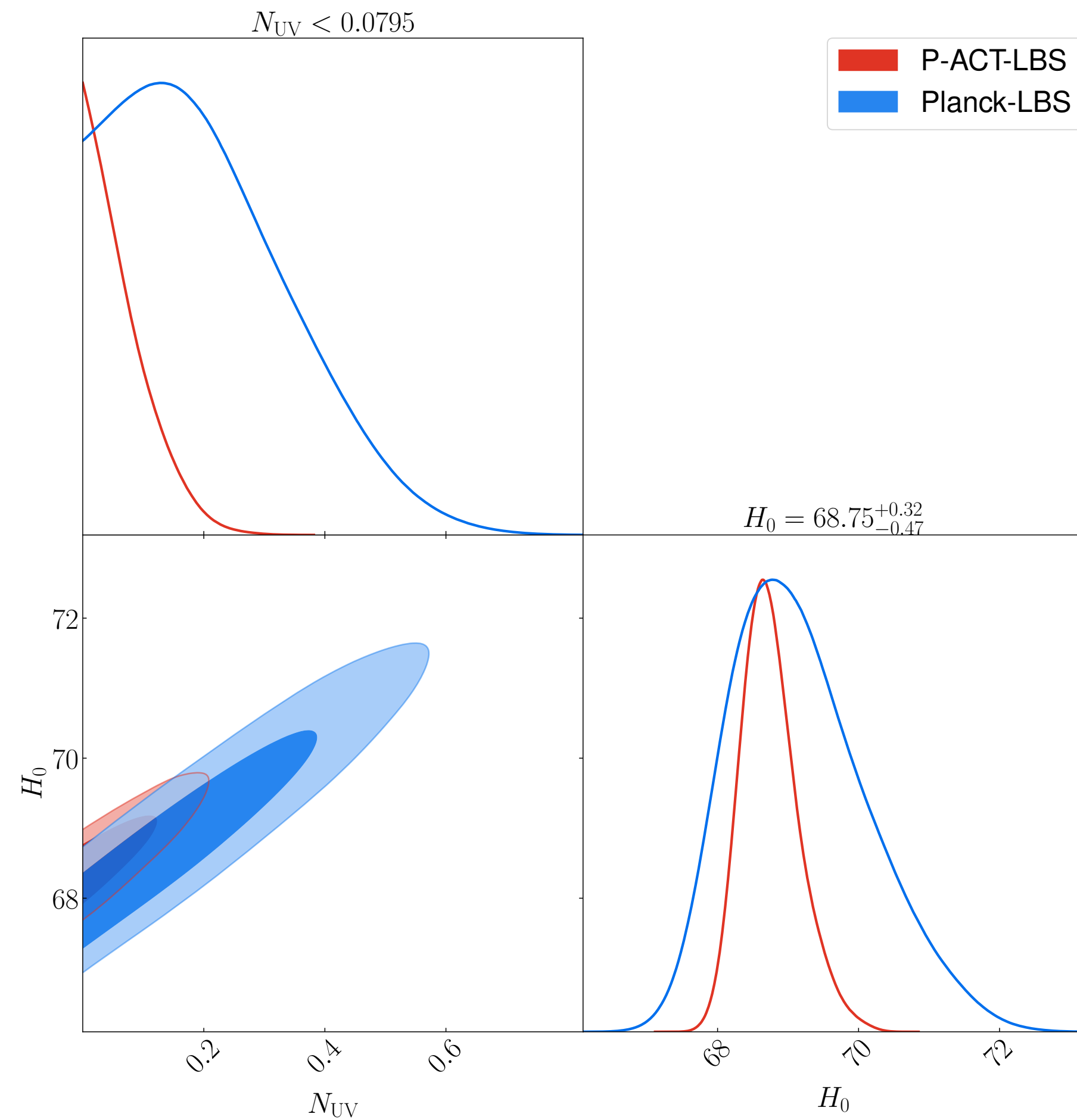


# New Fits to ACT DR6 (Preliminary)

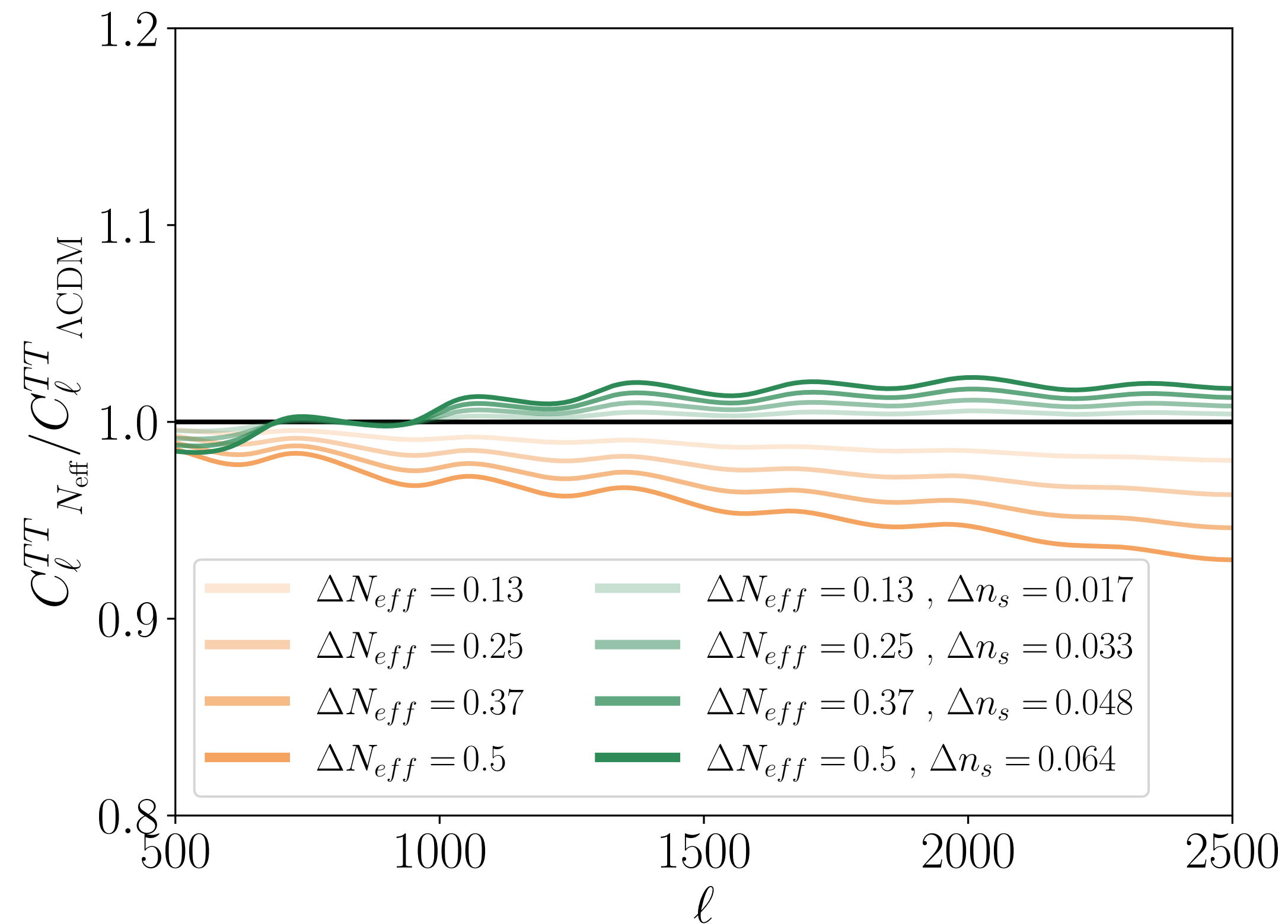


- ACT DR6 seems to disfavor most extra radiation models
- Likely due to Silk damping
  - DR6 shows enhanced power at small scales relative to  $\Lambda$ CDM in TT and EE
- CMB lensing takes over at smaller scales - modifications may be necessary for modified DM models

# New Fits to ACT DR6 (Preliminary)



# New Fits to ACT DR6 (Preliminary)



damping scale:

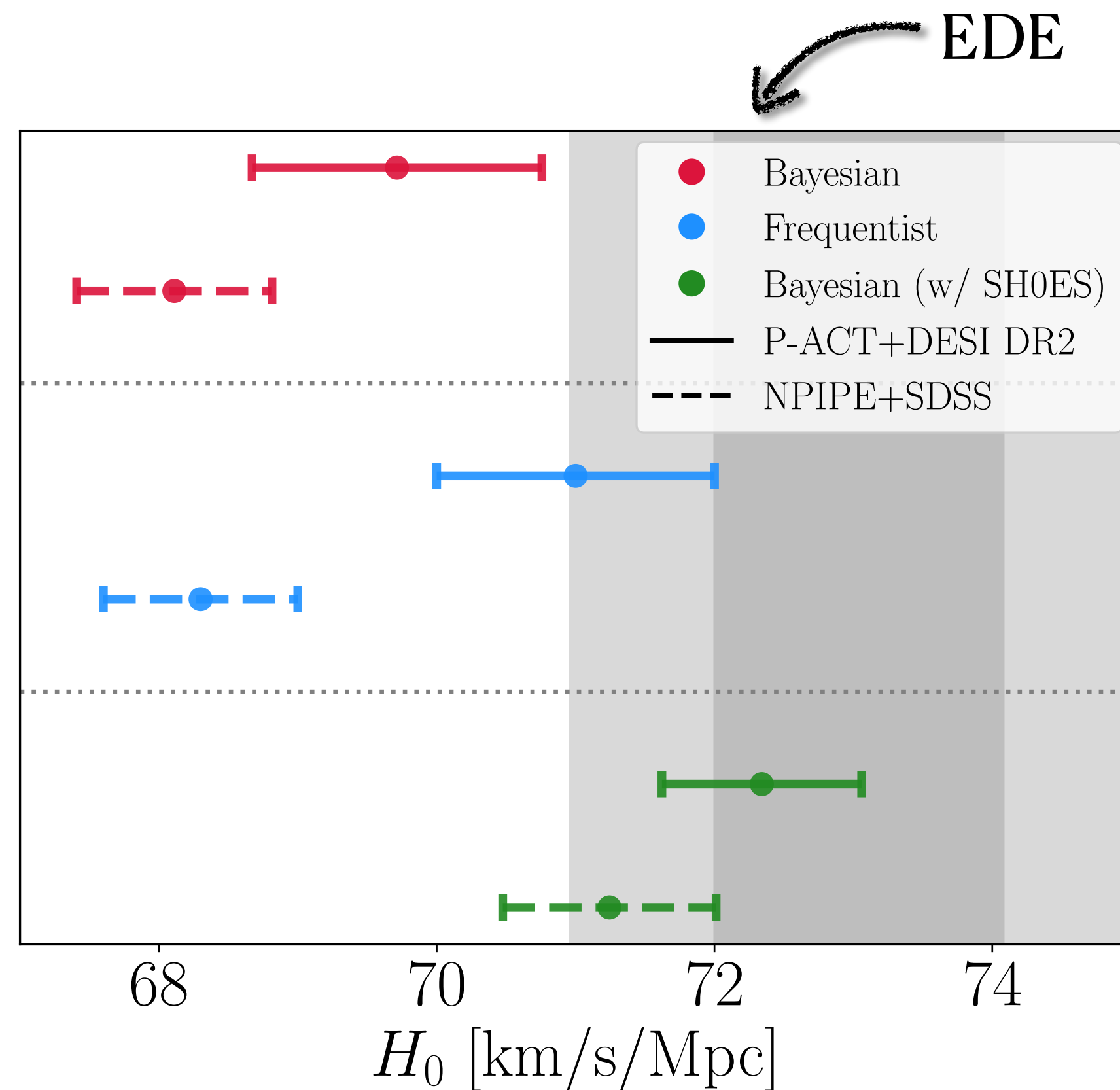
$$r_d^2 \approx \pi^2 \int_a^{a^*} \frac{da}{a^2} \frac{\lambda_{mfp}}{aH(a)}$$

$$\theta_d = \frac{r_d}{D_A} \propto \frac{r_d}{r_s} \propto \sqrt{H}$$

$\uparrow n_s$  to compensate



# Bayesian vs Frequentist Analysis



Poulin, Smith, Calderon, Simon: 2505.08051

- Models that are extensions of LCDM have issues with Bayesian analysis due to volume effects of priors
- 1D profile likelihoods can characterize results of Frequentist analysis
- Can be significant differences especially for non-Gaussian posteriors

# Summary

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- Extra radiation models disfavored by ACT DR6 data
  - Preliminary results show that this is also consistent for radiation models with dynamics
- DM-DR interactions with minimal energy density in radiation still have observable effects
  - Small fraction of DM interacting strongly - DAO
  - Weakly interacting DM-DR gives power-law suppression of MPS