

# Searching for Dark Matter with Magnetic Resonance and Atomic Clocks

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Humboldt Fellow

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

## **Collaborators (Theory):**

Victor Flambaum group (UNSW)

Peter Wolf group (SYRTE)

## **Collaborators (Experiment):**

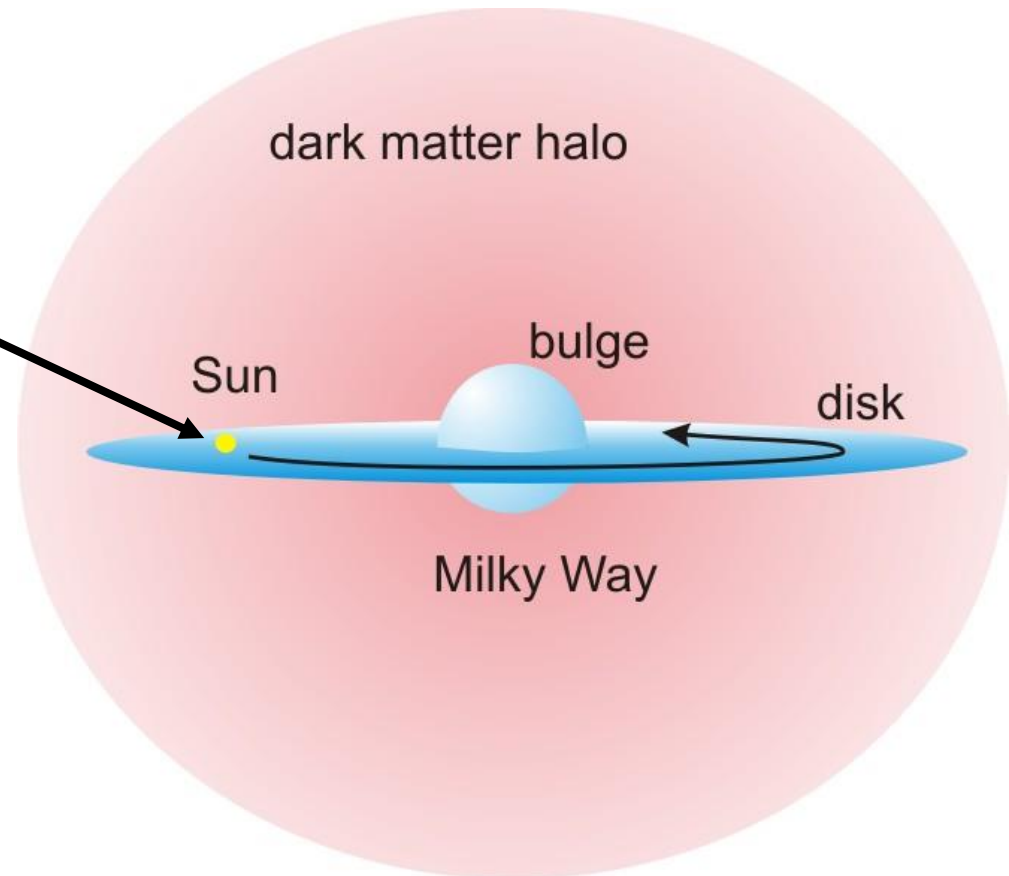
Dmitry Budker group (Mainz)

nEDM collaboration at PSI and Sussex

# Motivation

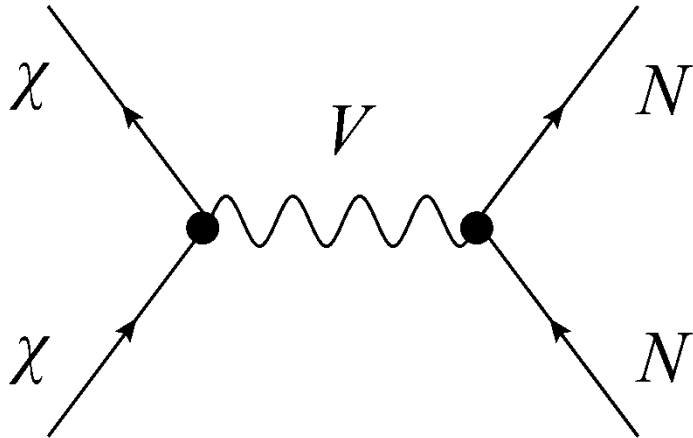
Overwhelming astrophysical evidence for existence of **dark matter** (~5 times more dark matter than ordinary matter).

$$\rho_{\text{DM}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$
$$v_{\text{DM}} \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$$



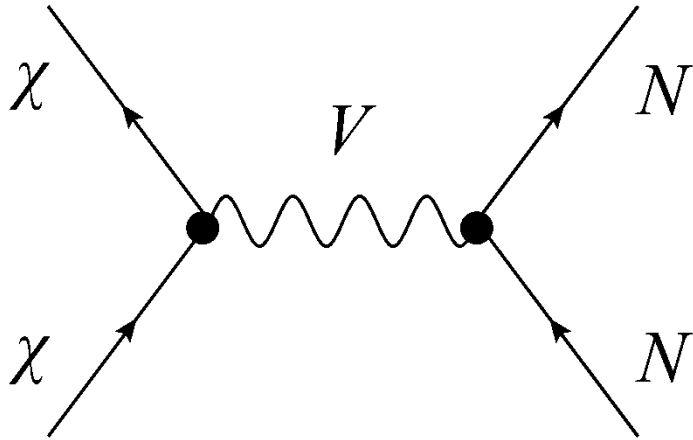
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Traditional “scattering-off-nuclei” searches for heavy WIMP dark matter particles ( $m_\chi \sim \text{GeV}$ ) have not yet produced a strong positive result.



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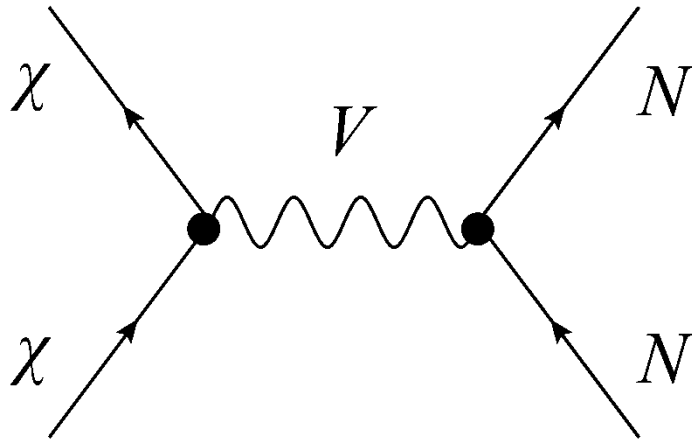
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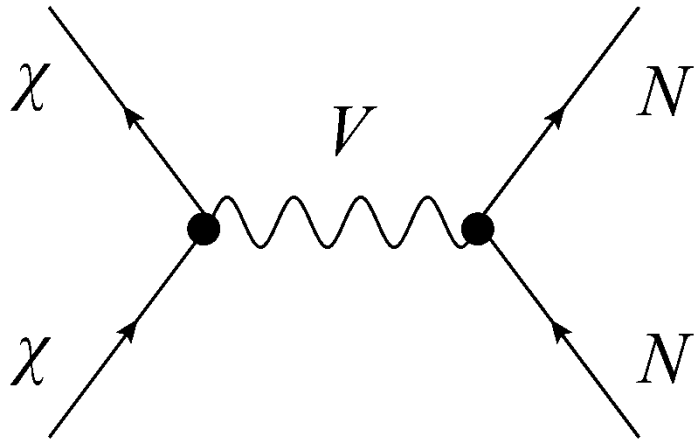
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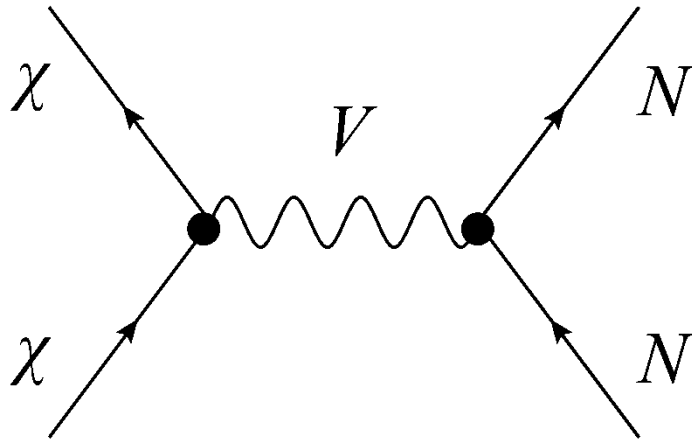


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**Challenge:** Observable is **fourth power** in a small interaction constant ( $e' \ll 1$ )!

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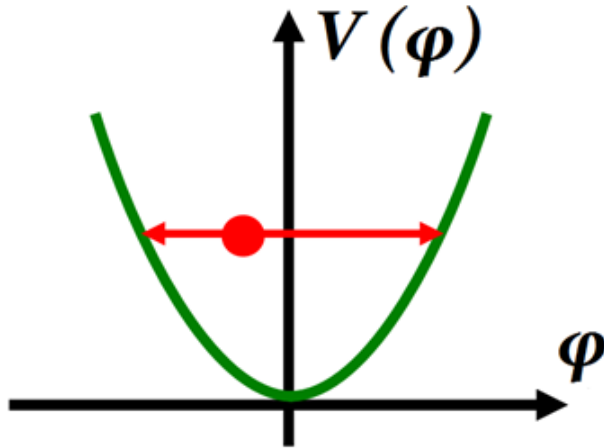


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**Question:** *Can we instead look for effects of dark matter that are **first power** in the interaction constant?*

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

- *Low-mass spin-0 particles form a coherently oscillating classical field*  $\varphi(t) = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi c^2 t/\hbar)$ , with energy density  $\langle \rho_\varphi \rangle \approx m_\varphi^2 \varphi_0^2/2$  ( $\rho_{\text{DM,local}} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$ )



$$V(\phi) = \frac{m_\phi^2 \phi^2}{2}$$

$$\tau_{\text{coh}} \sim \frac{2\pi}{m_\phi \langle v_{\text{DM}}^2 \rangle} \sim 10^6 T_{\text{osc}}$$



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- $10^{-22} \text{ eV} \lesssim m_\varphi \ll 1 \text{ eV} \iff 10^{-8} \text{ Hz} \lesssim f \ll 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$



$$\lambda_{\text{dB},\varphi} \leq L_{\text{dwarf galaxy}} \sim 1 \text{ kpc}$$



Classical field

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  - $\nwarrow$   
Classical field
- $m_\varphi \sim 10^{-22} \text{ eV} \Leftrightarrow T \sim 1 \text{ year}$

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**

**Scalars  
(Dilatons):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} +\varphi$$

→ **Time-varying  
fundamental constants**

- Atomic clocks
- Optical cavities
- Fifth-force searches
- Astrophysics (e.g., BBN)

**Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} -\varphi$$

→ **Time-varying spin-  
dependent effects**

- Co-magnetometers
- Nuclear magnetic resonance
  - Torsion pendula

# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**



**QCD axion resolves  
strong CP problem**

**Pseudoscalars  
(Axions):**


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**→ Time-varying spin-  
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# “Axion Wind” Spin-Precession Effect

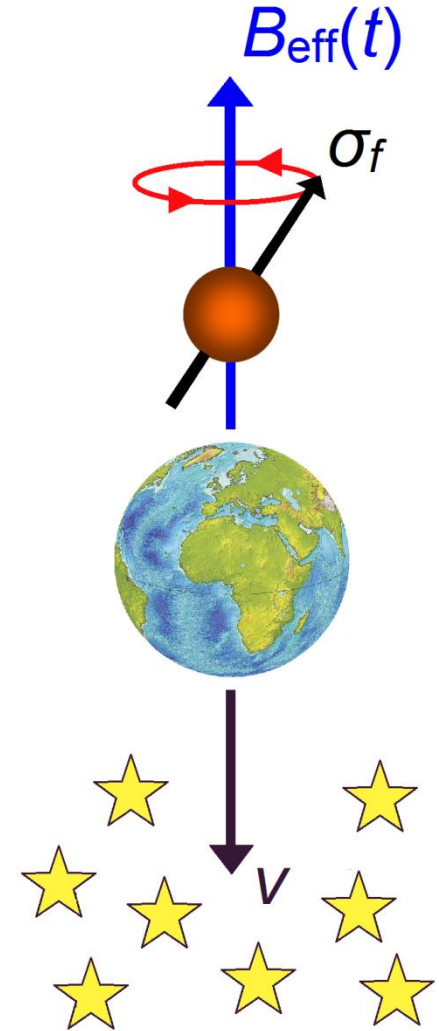
[Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013], [Graham, Rajendran, *PRD* **88**, 035023 (2013)],  
 [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

$$\mathcal{L}_{aff} = -\frac{C_f}{2f_a} \partial_i [a_0 \cos(\varepsilon_a t - \mathbf{p}_a \cdot \mathbf{x})] \bar{f} \gamma^i \gamma^5 f$$


$$\Rightarrow H_{\text{eff}}(t) \simeq \boldsymbol{\sigma}_f \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \sin(m_a t)$$

**Pseudo-magnetic field\***

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \propto \mathbf{v}$$



\* Compare with usual magnetic field:  $H = -\boldsymbol{\mu}_f \cdot \mathbf{B}$

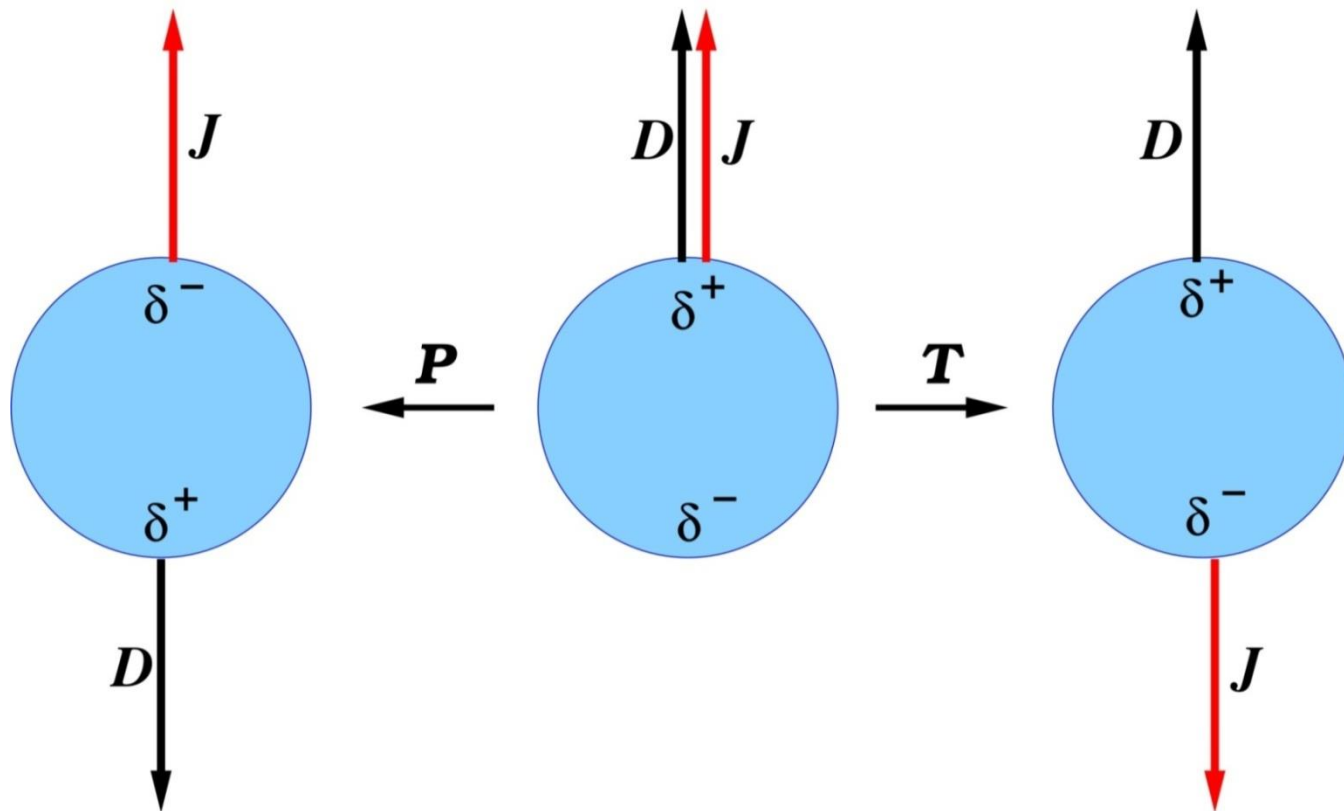


# Oscillating Electric Dipole Moments

Nucleons: [Graham, Rajendran, *PRD* **84**, 055013 (2011)]

Atoms and molecules: [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014)]

**Electric Dipole Moment (EDM)** = parity (P) and time-reversal-invariance (T) violating electric moment



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$$\mathcal{L}_{aGG} = \frac{C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t)}{f_a} \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$$

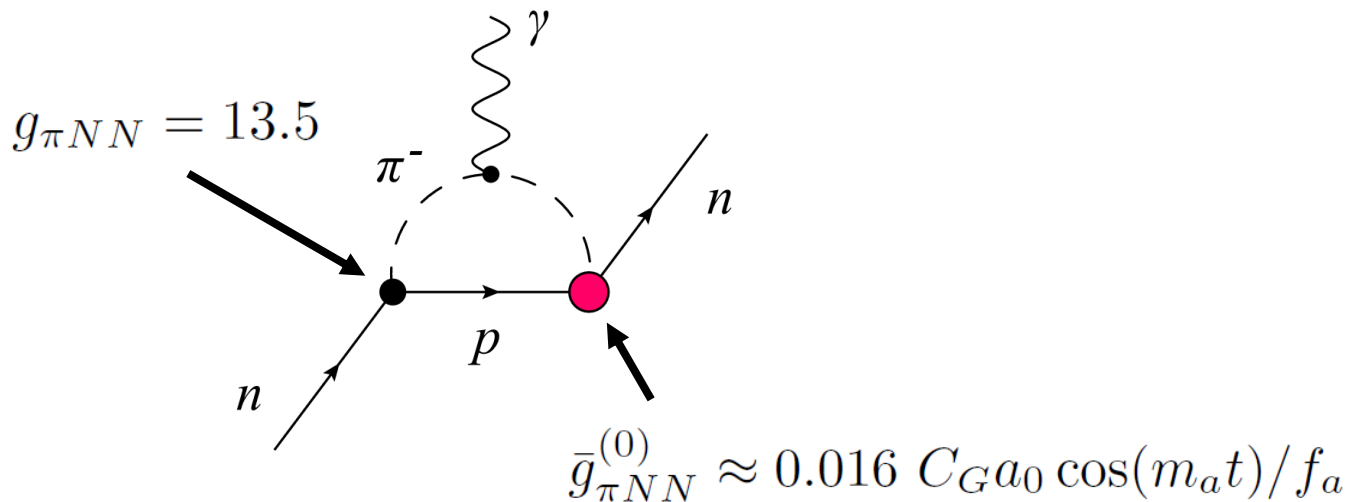
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## Nucleon EDMs



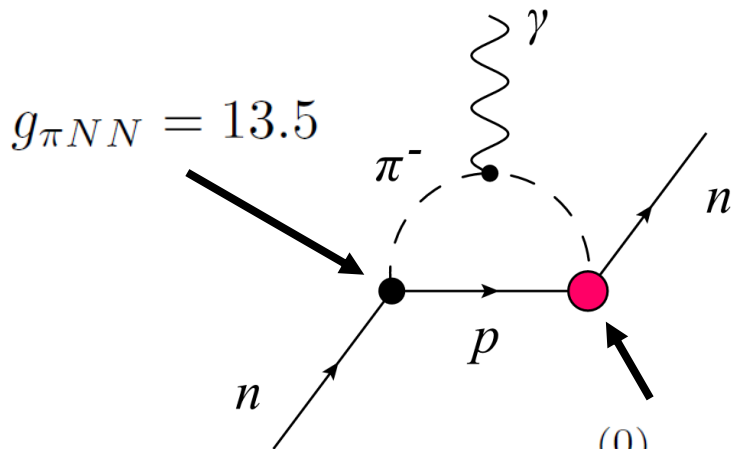
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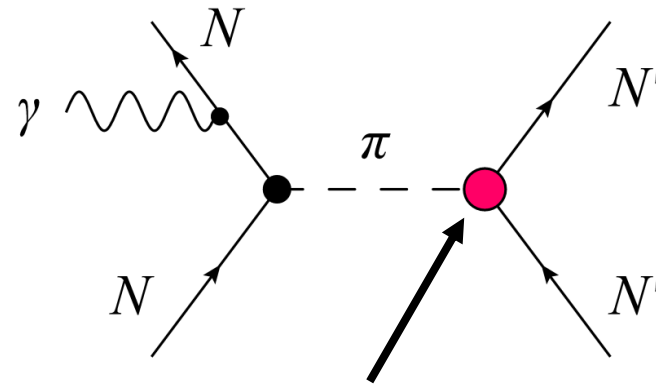
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**Nucleon EDMs**



***CP*-violating intranuclear forces**



$$\bar{g}_{\pi NN}^{(0)} \approx 0.016 C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t) / f_a$$

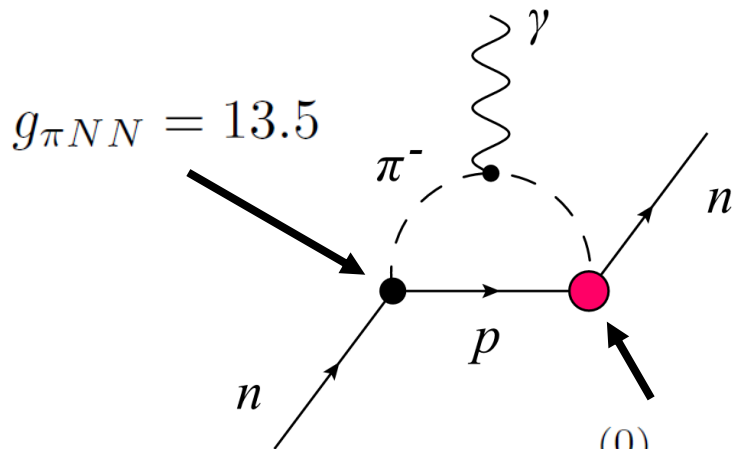
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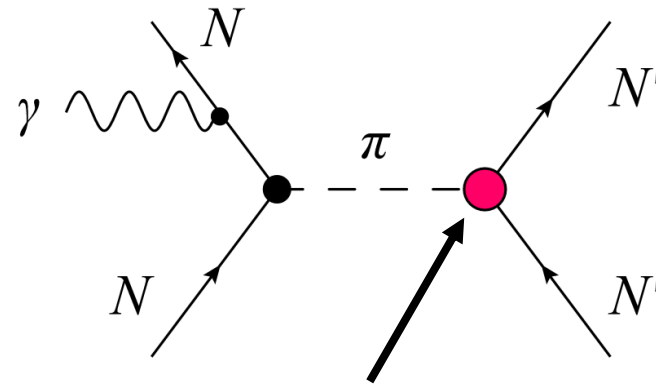
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**Nucleon EDMs**



***CP*-violating intranuclear forces**



$$\bar{g}_{\pi NN}^{(0)} \approx 0.016 C_G a_0 \cos(m_a t) / f_a$$

In nuclei, tree-level *CP*-violating intranuclear forces dominate over loop-induced nucleon EDMs (loop factor =  $1/(8\pi^2)$ ).

# Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

**Proposals:** [Flambaum, talk at *Patras Workshop*, 2013; Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRD* **89**, 043522 (2014); arXiv:1511.04098; Stadnik, PhD Thesis (2017)]

Use *spin-polarised sources*: Atomic magnetometers, ultracold neutrons, torsion pendula

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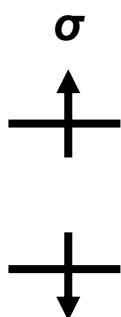
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**Experiment (n/Hg):** [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

$$\frac{\nu_n}{\nu_{\text{Hg}}} = \left| \frac{\mu_n B}{\mu_{\text{Hg}} B} \right| + R(t)$$

Energy



**B**-field  
effect

Axion DM  
effect

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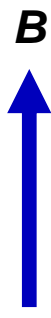
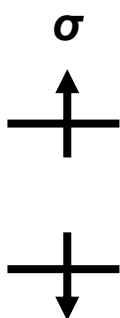
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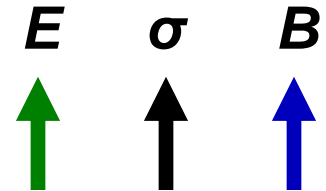
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$$R_{\text{EDM}}(t) \propto \cos(m_a t)$$



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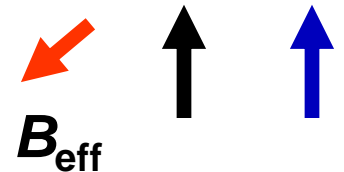
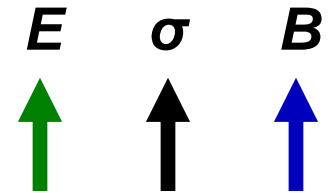
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$$R_{\text{EDM}}(t) \propto \cos(m_a t)$$

$$R_{\text{wind}}(t) \propto \sum_{i=1,2,3} A_i \sin(\omega_i t)$$



$$\omega_1 = m_a, \quad \omega_2 = m_a + \Omega_{\text{sidereal}}, \quad \omega_3 = |m_a - \Omega_{\text{sidereal}}|$$



# Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

**Proposals:** [CASPEr collaboration, *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **3**, 014008 (2018)]

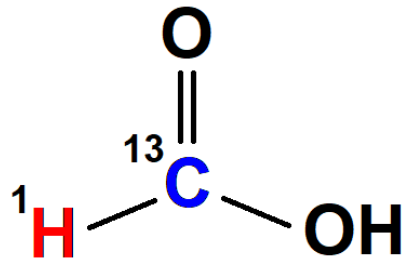
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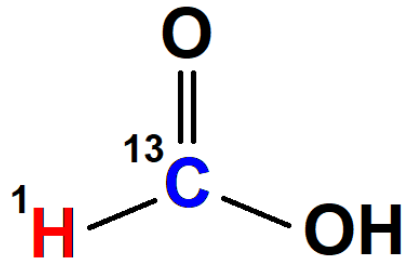
$$H_J \sim J I_{\text{H}} \cdot I_{\text{C}}$$

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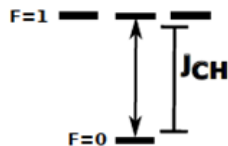
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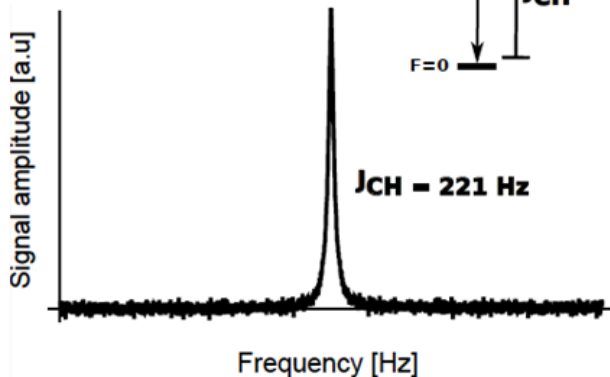


$$H_J \sim J I_H \cdot I_C$$

• J-coupling only:  $H_J$



$J_{CH} = 221 \text{ Hz}$

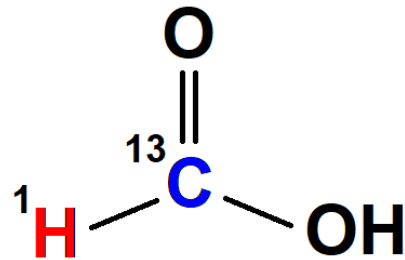


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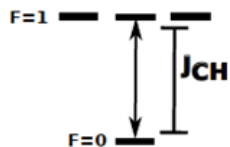
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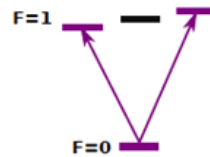
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Frequency [Hz]

• J-coupling + DC field:  $H_J + B_z$



$YB_z$

Frequency [Hz]

Signal amplitude [a.u.]

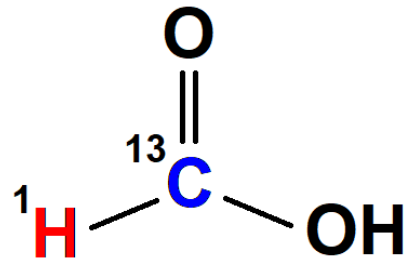
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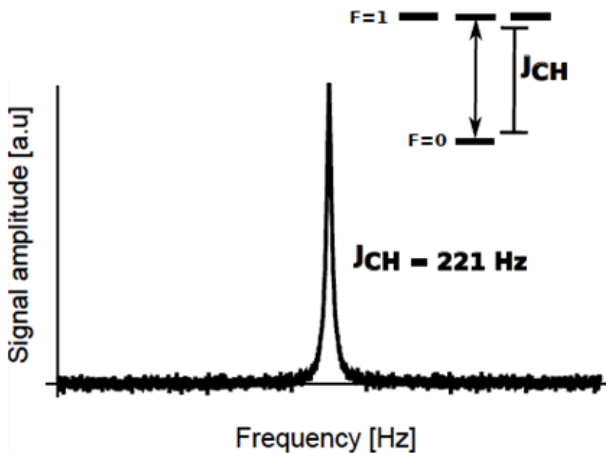
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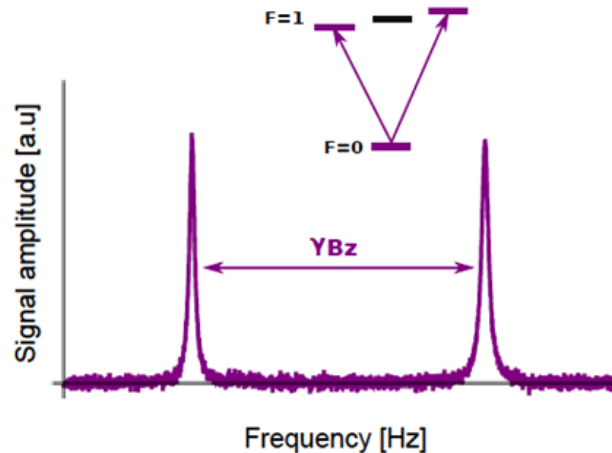


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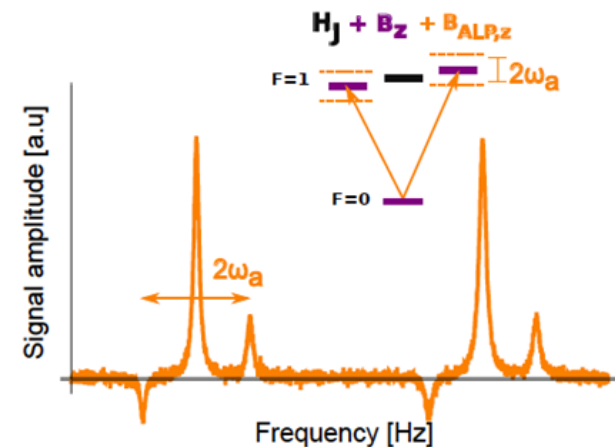
• J-coupling only:  $H_J$



• J-coupling + DC field:  $H_J + B_z$



• J-coupling + DC field + AC field



# Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

**Proposals:** [Budker, Graham, Ledbetter, Rajendran, A. O. Sushkov, *PRX* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

Use *nuclear magnetic resonance*

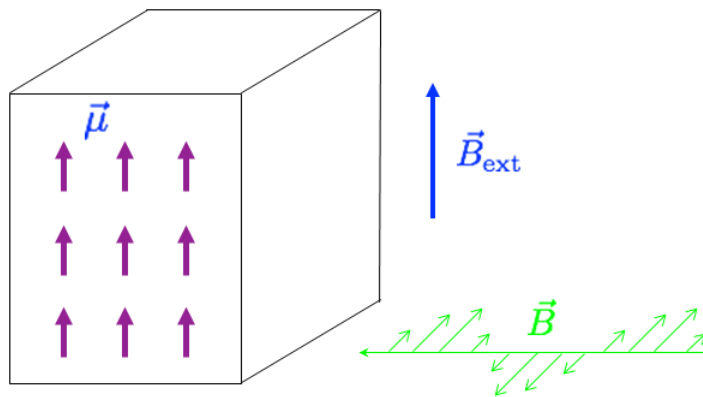


# Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

**Proposals:** [Budker, Graham, Ledbetter, Rajendran, A. O. Sushkov, *PRX* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

Use *nuclear magnetic resonance*

## Traditional NMR



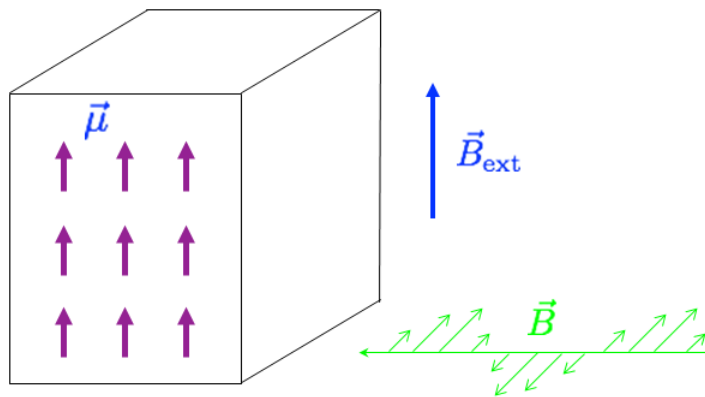
$$\text{Resonance: } 2\mu B_{\text{ext}} = \omega$$

# Searching for Spin-Dependent Effects

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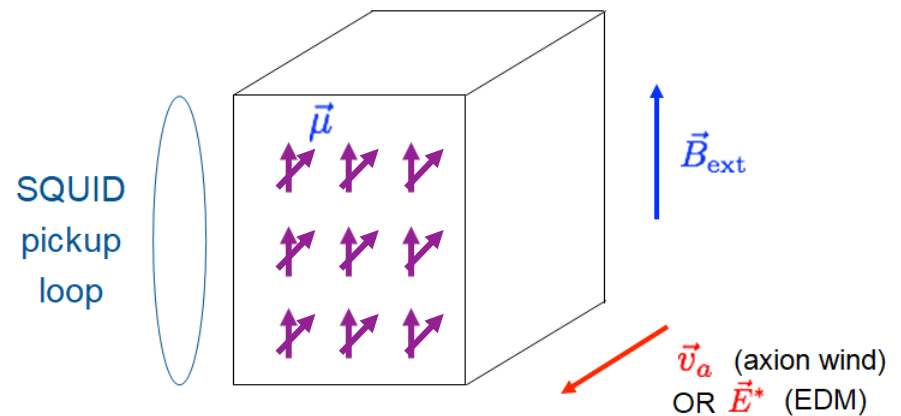
Use *nuclear magnetic resonance*

Traditional NMR



Resonance:  $2\mu B_{\text{ext}} = \omega$

Dark-matter-driven NMR



Resonance:  $2\mu B_{\text{ext}} \approx m_a$

Measure transverse magnetisation

# Experiments

**Co-magnetometry:**  $10^{-23} \text{ eV} < m_a < 10^{-17} \text{ eV}$

- n/Hg (PSI): [[nEDM collaboration, PRX 7, 041034 \(2017\)](#)]

**“Sidebands” NMR:**  $10^{-16} \text{ eV} < m_a < 10^{-13} \text{ eV}$

- Formic acid (Mainz): [[CASPEr collaboration, In preparation](#)]

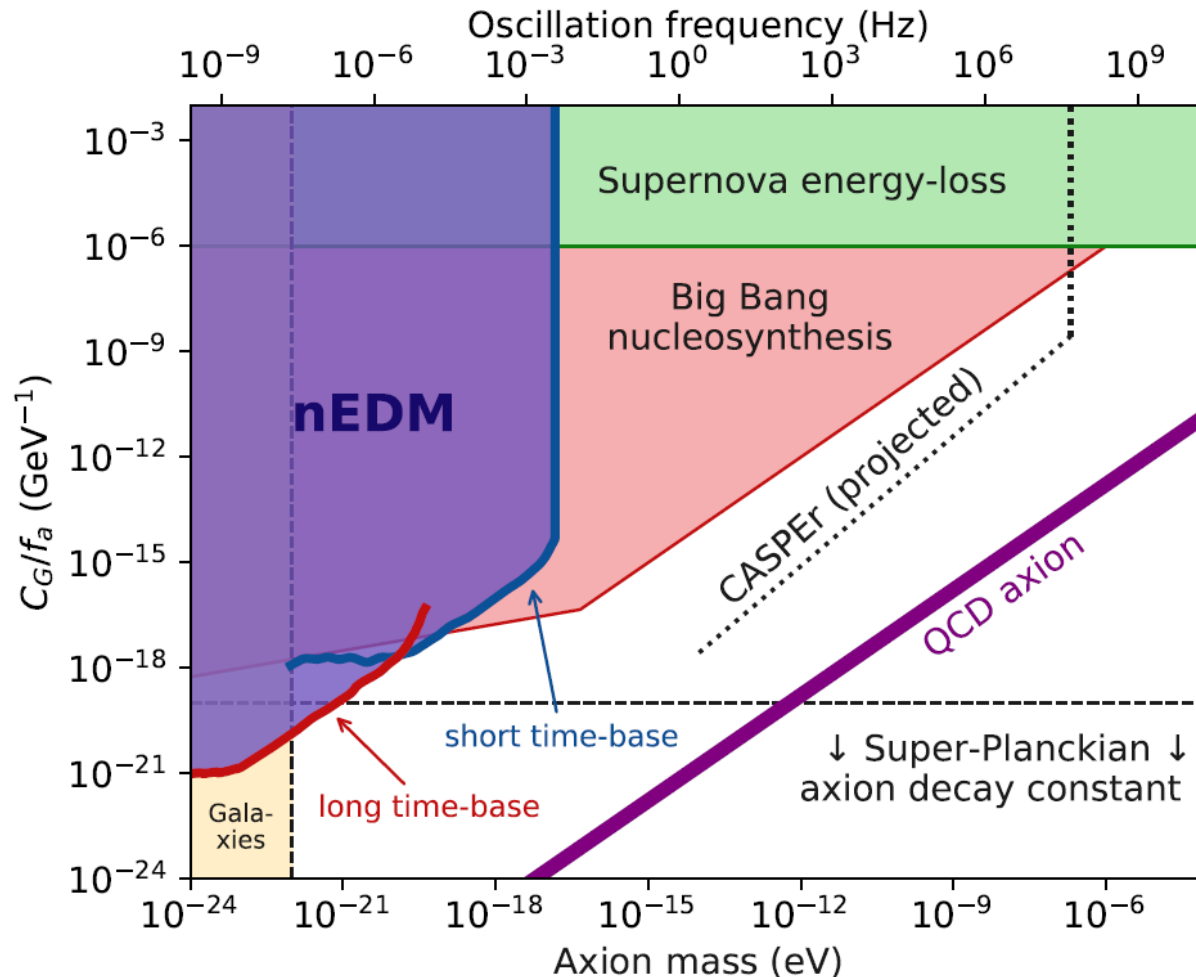
**“Normal” NMR:**  $10^{-14} \text{ eV} < m_a < 10^{-7} \text{ eV}$

- Liquid Xe (Mainz)
- Pb in ferroelectric medium (Boston)

# Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Gluons

nEDM constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* **7**, 041034 (2017)]

**3 orders of magnitude improvement!**

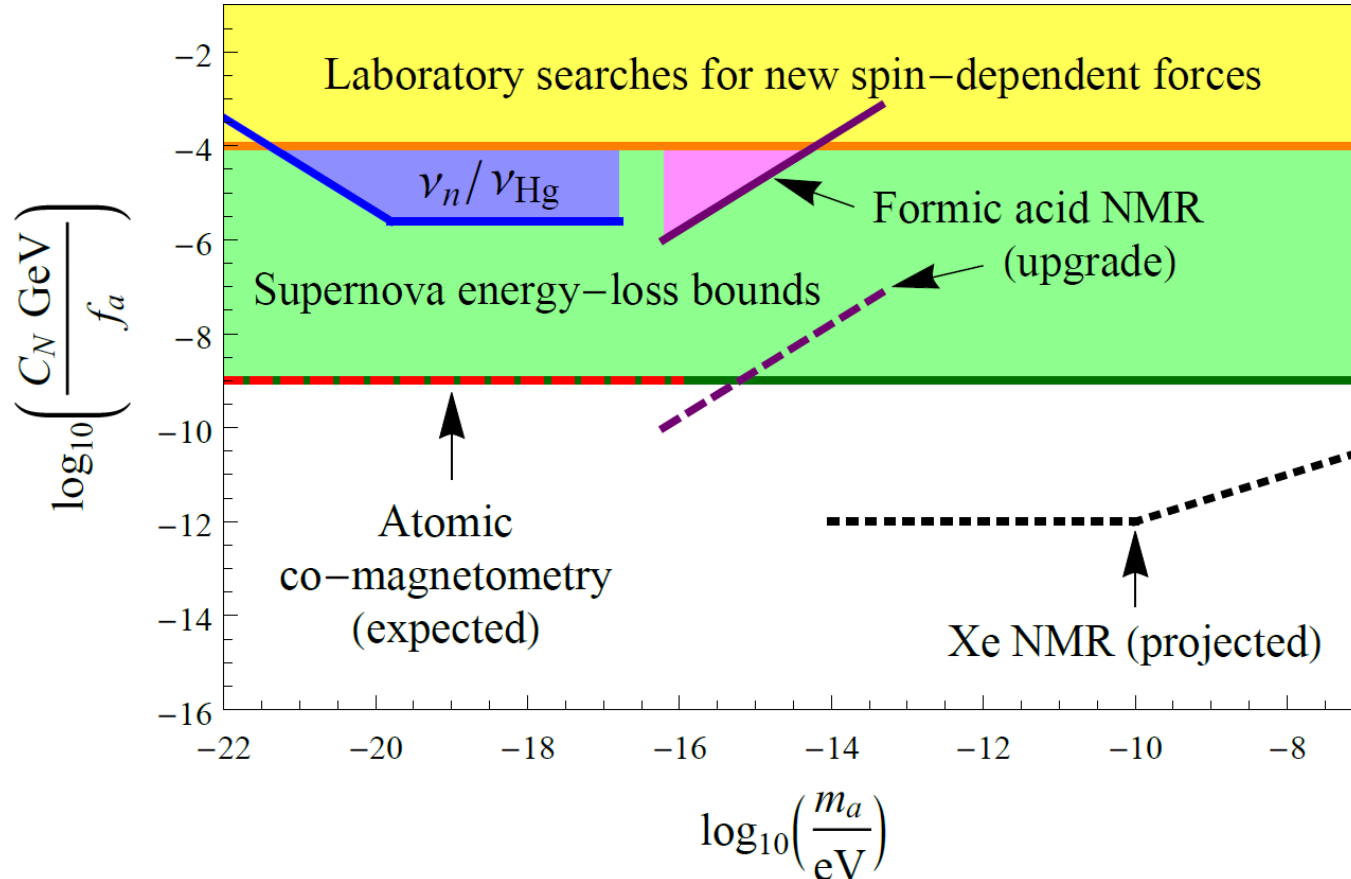


# Constraints on Interaction of Axion Dark Matter with Nucleons

$\nu_n/\nu_{\text{Hg}}$  constraints: [nEDM collaboration, *PRX* 7, 041034 (2017)]

Formic acid NMR constraints (preliminary): [CASPER collaboration, In preparation]

**2 orders of magnitude improvement (laboratory bounds)!**



# Low-mass Spin-0 Dark Matter

**Dark Matter**



**Scalars  
(Dilatons):**

$$\varphi \xrightarrow{P} +\varphi$$

→ **Time-varying  
fundamental constants**

- Atomic clocks
- Optical cavities
- Fifth-force searches
- Astrophysics (e.g., BBN)

# Dark Matter-Induced Cosmological Evolution of the Fundamental Constants

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)],

[Hees, Minazzoli, Savalle, Stadnik, Wolf, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

Consider quadratic couplings of an oscillating classical scalar field,  $\varphi(t) = \varphi_0 \cos(m_\varphi t)$ , with SM fields.

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**'Slow' drifts** [Astrophysics  
(high  $\rho_{\text{DM}}$ ): BBN, CMB]

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**+ Gradients** [Fifth-forces]

**Oscillating variations**  
[Laboratory (high precision)]



# Atomic Spectroscopy Searches for Oscillating Variations in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

[Arvanitaki, Huang, Van Tilburg, *PRD* **91**, 015015 (2015)], [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015)]

$$\frac{\delta(\omega_1/\omega_2)}{\omega_1/\omega_2} \propto \sum_{X=\alpha, m_e/m_p, \dots} (K_{X,1} - K_{X,2}) \cos(\omega t)$$

↑                      ↑  
Sensitivity coefficients

$\omega = m_\phi$  (linear coupling) or  $\omega = 2m_\phi$  (quadratic coupling)

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- Precision of optical clocks approaching  $\sim 10^{-18}$  fractional level

# Laser Interferometry Searches for Oscillating Variations in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **114**, 161301 (2015); *PRA* **93**, 063630 (2016)]



**Gravitational-wave  
detector (LIGO/Virgo),  
 $L \sim 4$  km**



**Small-scale cavity,  
 $L \sim 0.2$  m**

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- Compare  $L \sim Na_B$  with  $\lambda$

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- Compare  $L \sim Na_B$  with  $\lambda$
- For a “usual” atomic optical transition and in the non-relativistic limit:\*

$$\Phi = \frac{\omega L}{c} \propto \left( \frac{e^2}{a_B \hbar} \right) \left( \frac{Na_B}{c} \right) = N\alpha \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\delta\Phi}{\Phi} \approx \frac{\delta\alpha}{\alpha}$$

\* For numerical calculations, including (small) relativistic effects, see [Pasteka, Hao, Borschevsky, Flambaum, Schwerdtfeger, arXiv:1809.02863].

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- Multiple reflections of light beam enhance the effect ( $N_{\text{eff}} \sim 10^5$  in small-scale interferometers with highly reflective mirrors; c.f.  $N_{\text{eff}} \sim 100$  in LIGO/Virgo)

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# Experiments

**Clock/clock comparisons:**  $10^{-23}$  eV  $< m_\phi < 10^{-16}$  eV

- **Dy/Cs (Mainz):** [[Van Tilburg et al., PRL 115, 011802 \(2015\)](#)],  
[[Stadnik, Flambaum, PRL 115, 201301 \(2015\)](#)]
- **Rb/Cs (SYRTE):** [[Hees et al., PRL 117, 061301 \(2016\)](#)],  
[[Stadnik, Flambaum, PRA 94, 022111 \(2016\)](#)]
- **Rb/Cs (GPS network)\*:** [[Roberts et al., Nature Commun. 8, 1195 \(2017\)](#)]
- **Al<sup>+</sup>/Yb, Yb/Sr, Al<sup>+</sup>/Hg<sup>+</sup> (NIST):** [[Hume, Leibbrandt, Wineland et al., In prep.](#)]
- **Yb<sup>+</sup>(E3)/Sr (PTB):** [[Huntemann, Peik et al., In preparation](#)]

**Clock/cavity comparisons:**  $10^{-20}$  eV  $< m_\phi < 10^{-15}$  eV

- **Sr/ULE cavity (Torun)\*:** [[Wcislo et al., Nature Astronomy 1, 0009 \(2016\)](#)]
- **Sr/Si cavity (JILA):** [[Robinson, Ye et al., In preparation](#)]

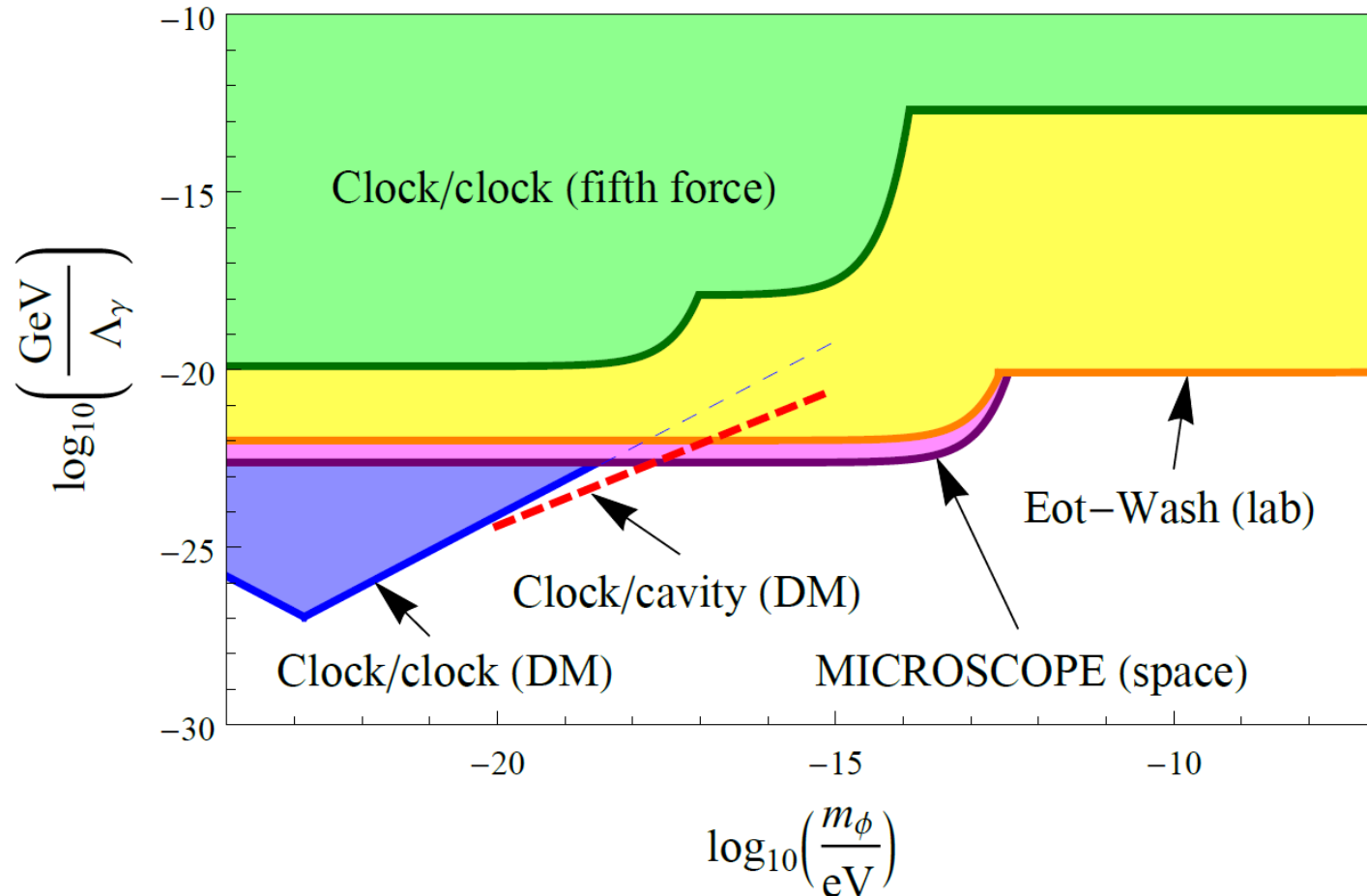
\* Searches for domain wall dark matter.



# Constraints on Linear Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Photon

**Clock/clock (DM) constraints:** [Van Tilburg *et al.*, *PRL* **115**, 011802 (2015)], [Hees *et al.*, *PRL* **117**, 061301 (2016)]; **Clock/clock (fifth force) constraints:** [Leefer *et al.*, *PRL* **117**, 271601 (2016)]

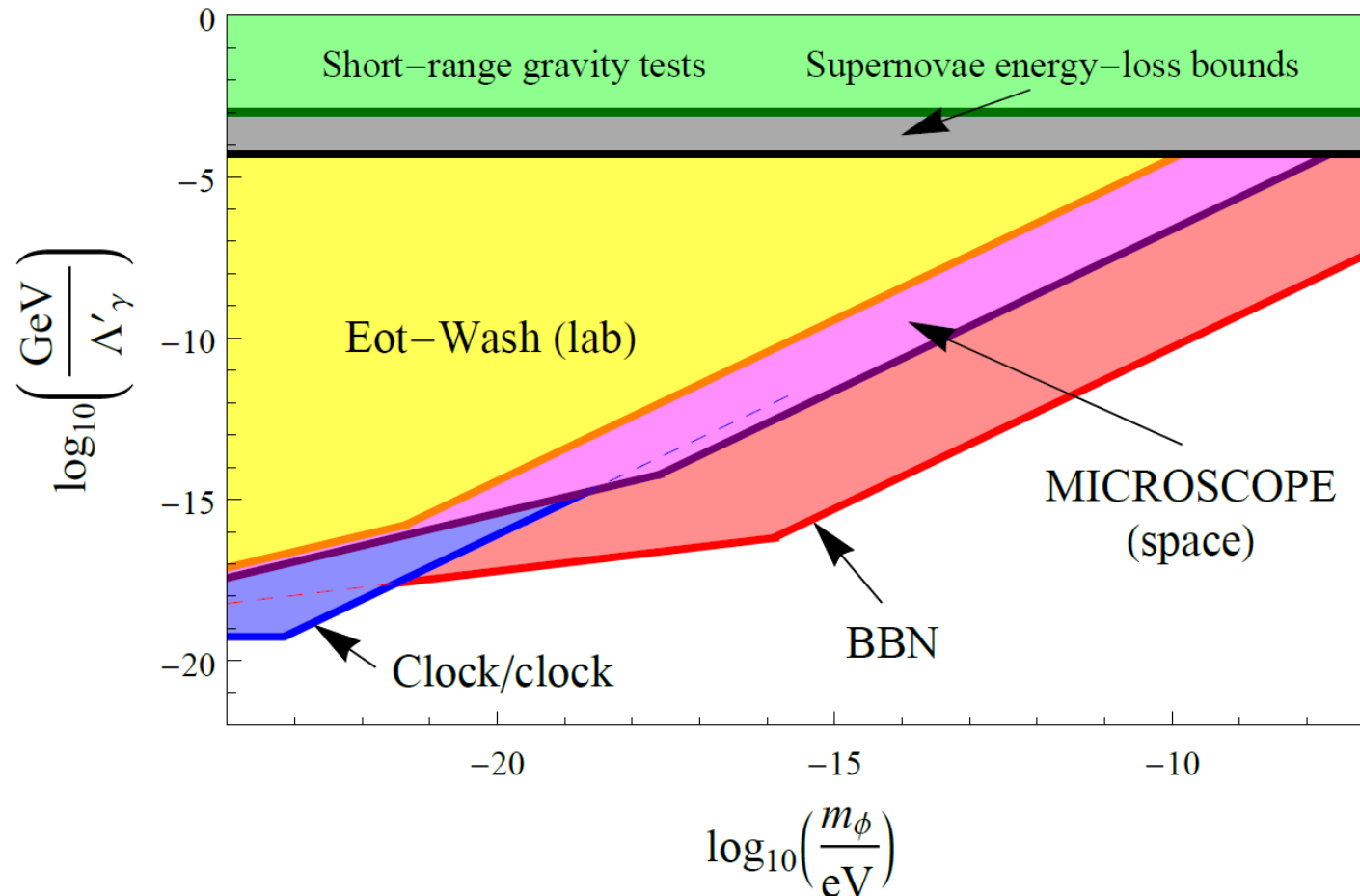
**4 orders of magnitude improvement!**



# Constraints on Quadratic Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Photon

**Clock/clock + BBN constraints:** [Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015); *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]; **MICROSCOPE + Eöt-Wash constraints:** [Hees *et al.*, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

**15 orders of magnitude improvement!**



# Summary

- New classes of dark matter effects that are **first power** in the underlying interaction constant  
=> Up to **15 orders of magnitude improvement**  
with experiments based on magnetic resonance  
and atomic clock spectroscopy

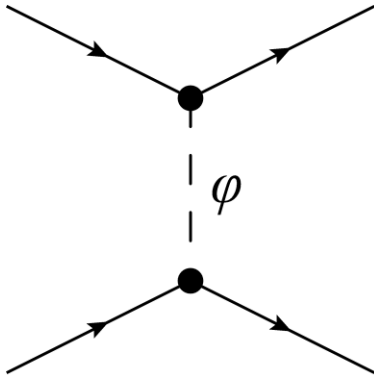
# Back-up Slides

# Linear vs Quadratic Couplings

[Hees, Minazzoli, Savalle, Stadnik, Wolf, *PRD* **98**, 064051 (2018)]

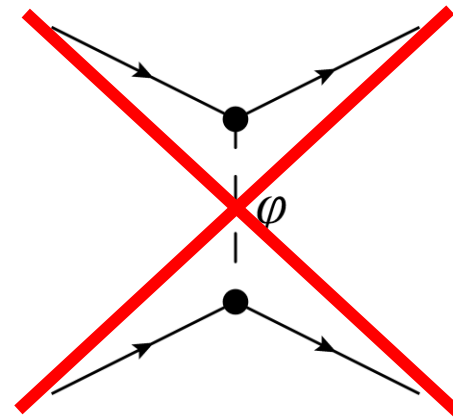
Consider the effect of a massive body (e.g., Earth) on the scalar DM field:

Linear couplings ( $\phi\bar{X}X$ )



$$\phi = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t) - A \frac{e^{-m_\phi r}}{r}$$

Quadratic couplings ( $\phi^2\bar{X}X$ )



$$\phi = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t) \left( 1 - \frac{B}{r} \right)$$



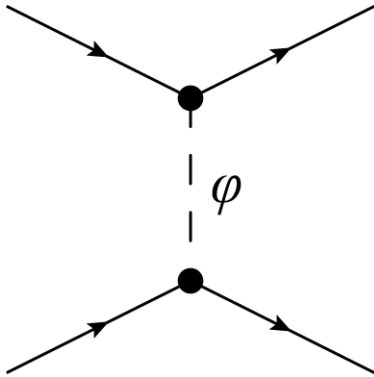
**Gradients + screening/amplification**

# Linear vs Quadratic Couplings

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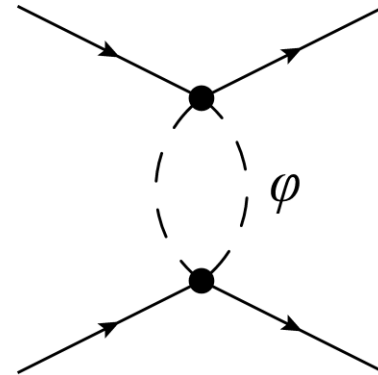
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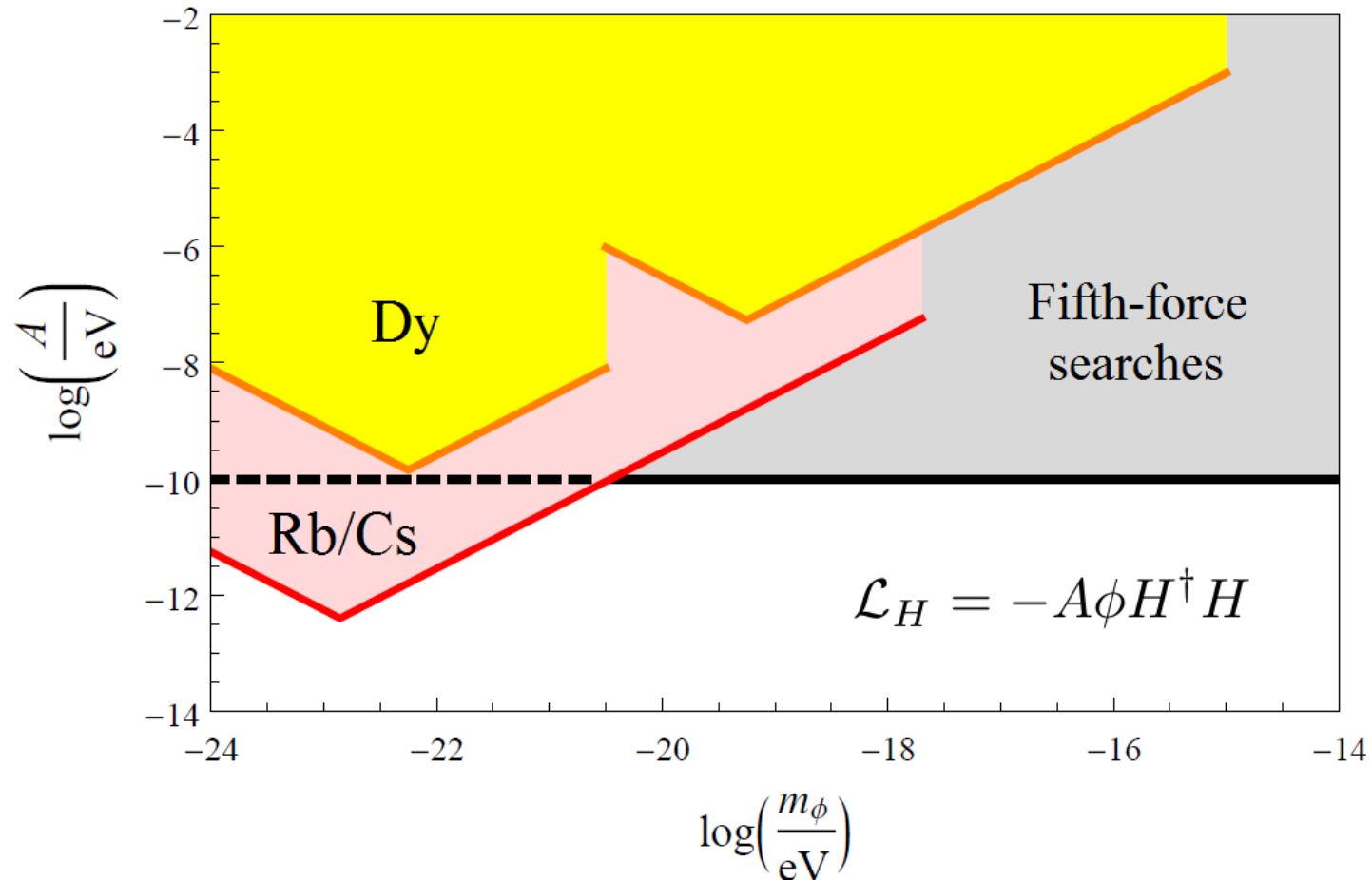
**Gradients + screening/amplification**

# Constraints on Linear Interaction of Scalar Dark Matter with the Higgs Boson

**Rb/Cs constraints:**

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRA* **94**, 022111 (2016)]

**2 – 3 orders of magnitude improvement!**

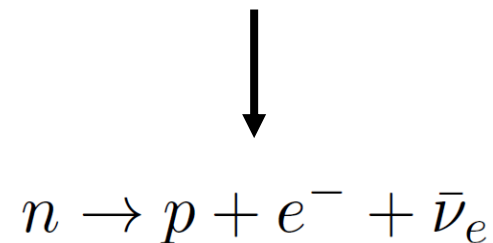
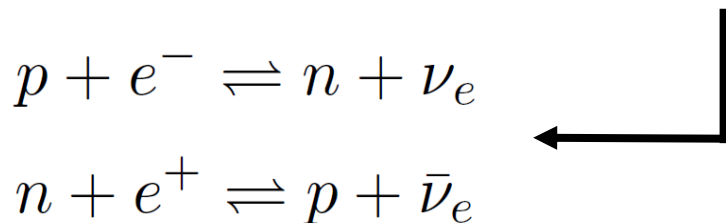


# BBN Constraints on 'Slow' Drifts in Fundamental Constants due to Dark Matter

[Stadnik, Flambaum, *PRL* **115**, 201301 (2015)]

- Largest effects of DM in early Universe (highest  $\rho_{\text{DM}}$ )
- Big Bang nucleosynthesis ( $t_{\text{weak}} \approx 1\text{s} - t_{\text{BBN}} \approx 3\text{ min}$ )
- Primordial  ${}^4\text{He}$  abundance sensitive to  $n/p$  ratio  
(almost all neutrons bound in  ${}^4\text{He}$  after BBN)

$$\frac{\Delta Y_p({}^4\text{He})}{Y_p({}^4\text{He})} \approx \frac{\Delta(n/p)_{\text{weak}}}{(n/p)_{\text{weak}}} - \Delta \left[ \int_{t_{\text{weak}}}^{t_{\text{BBN}}} \Gamma_n(t) dt \right]$$





# Back-Reaction Effects in BBN

[Sörensen, Sibiryakov, Yu, PRELIMINARY – In preparation]

