

Cosmology of Heavy Axions: Decaying Dark Matter & Baryogenesis

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UC Berkeley and LBL

w/ Josh Foster, Ben Safdi, and Yotam Soreq [2208.10504](#)
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Strong CP Problem

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \supset \frac{\alpha_3}{8\pi} \theta G\tilde{G} + Y_u \bar{Q}_L \tilde{H} u_R + Y_d \bar{Q}_L H d_R$$

- Observed $|\bar{\theta}| = |\theta + \arg \det(Y_u Y_d)| < 10^{-10}$
- But why so small given $\delta_{\text{CKM}} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$?

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strong CP problem

- Solutions: ~~massless up quark~~, parity, CP , axions
lattice results

Axion Solution

Peccei, Quinn '77
Weinberg, Wilczek '78

- Axion solution:

$\bar{\theta}$ is a **dynamical** quantity

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM+Axion}} \supset \frac{\alpha_3}{8\pi} \left(\bar{\theta} + \frac{a}{f_a} \right) G\tilde{G} \Rightarrow V(a) \approx -m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 \cos \left(\frac{a}{f_a} + \bar{\theta} \right)$$

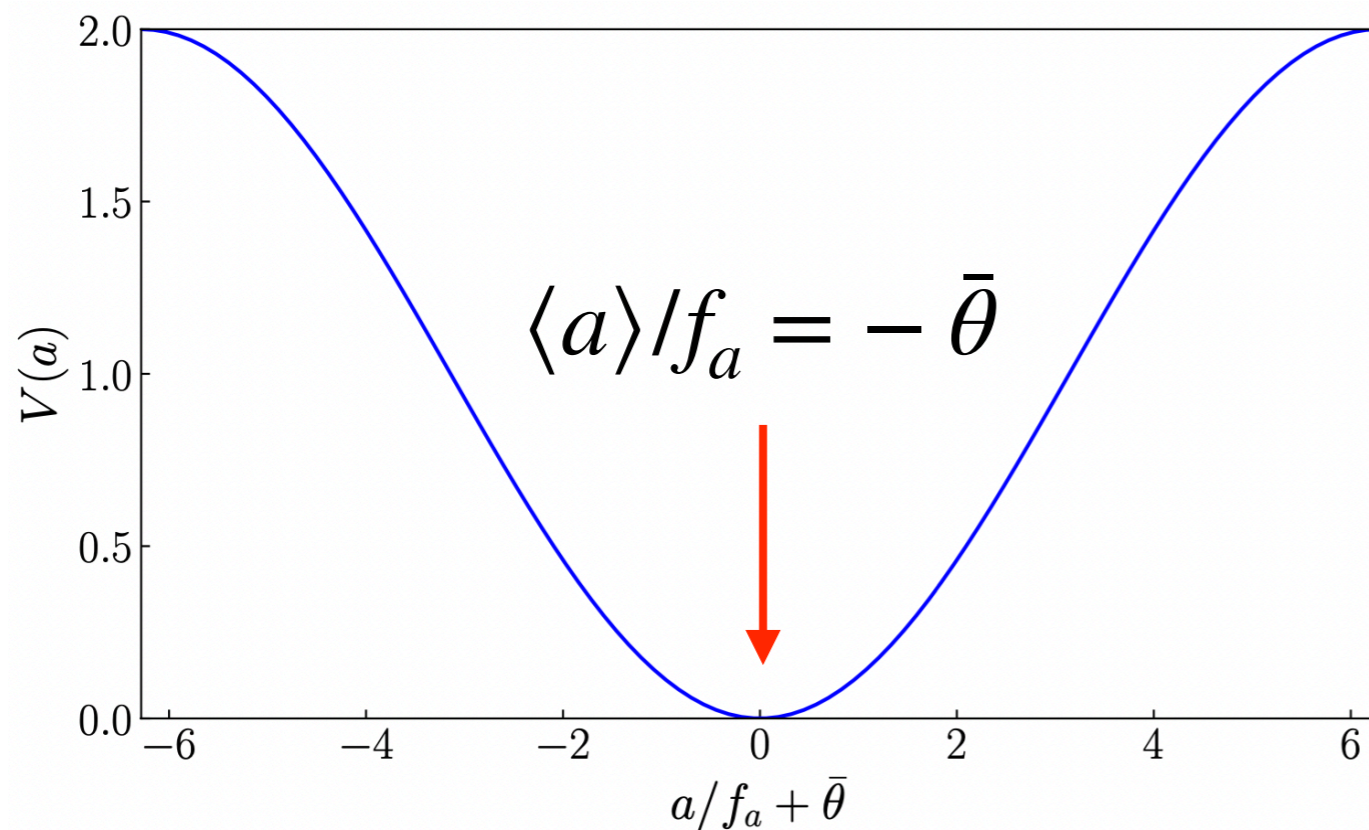
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$$\bar{\theta}_{\text{eff}} = \bar{\theta} + \langle a \rangle / f_a = 0!$$

elegant solution from
IR EFT point of view

Why Axions?

- strong CP problem [QCD Axion]
- dark matter [QCD Axion or ALPs]

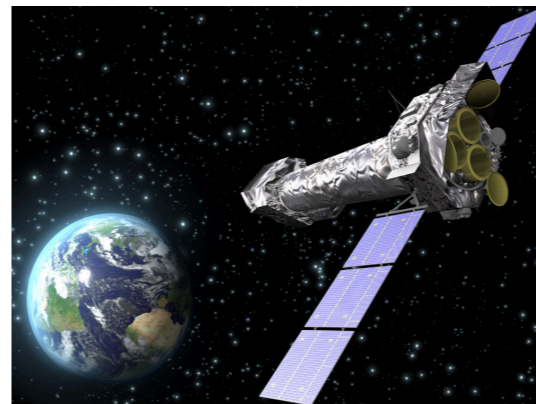
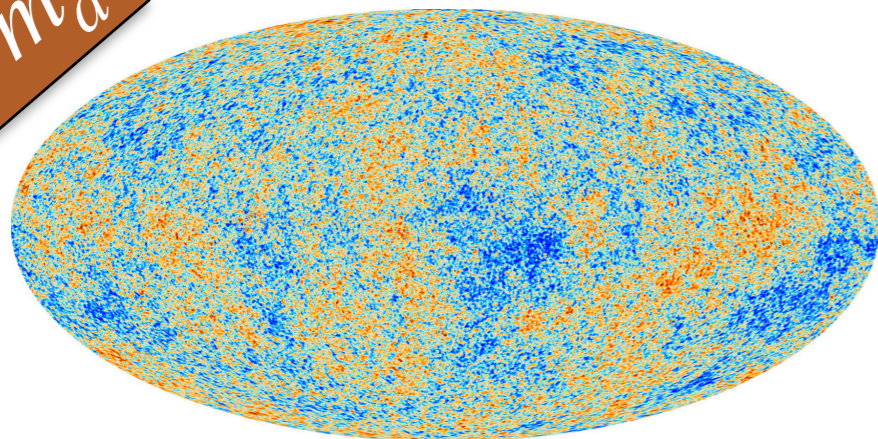
Extra-
dim.
Theories

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Many probes
for small m_a

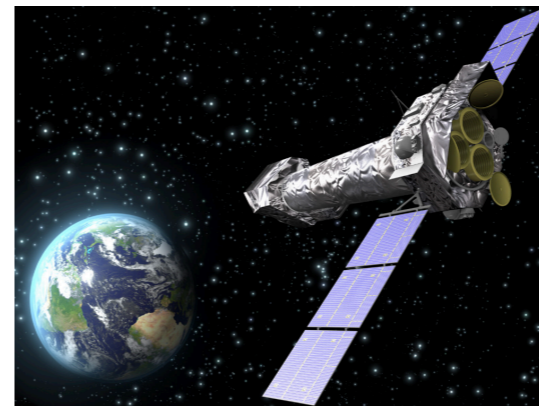
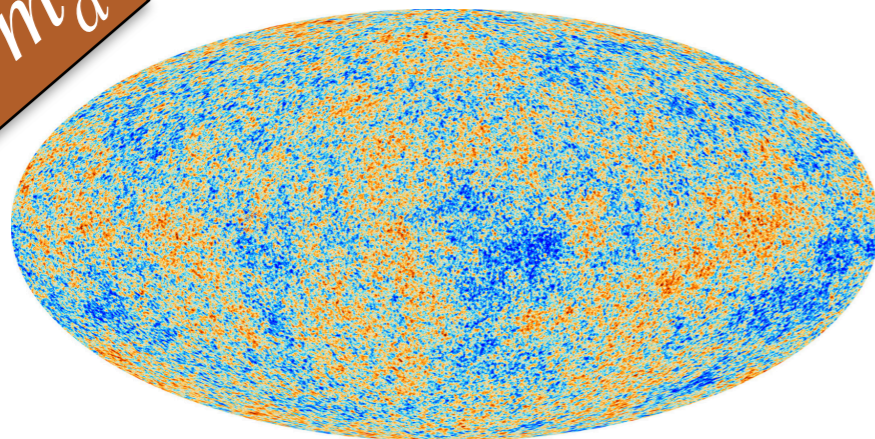


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Extra-dim. Theories

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Today: **heavy axions** with $m_a \gg eV$

- ☑ quality problem
- ☑ strong CP
- ☑ **dark matter**

Heavy Axions

A toy model
for heavy ALP[†]

$$SU(N)_D$$

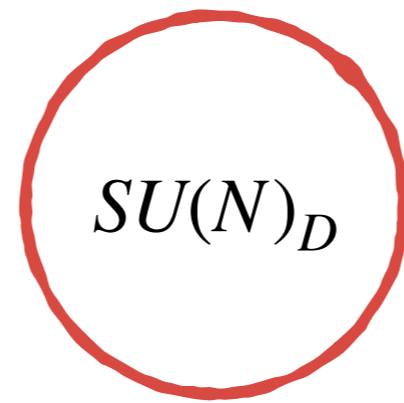
$$\frac{\alpha_D}{8\pi f_a} a G_D \tilde{G}_D$$

$$m_a f_a \approx \Lambda_D^2$$

† another axion can solve
the strong CP problem

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A toy model
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$$\frac{\alpha_D}{8\pi f_a} a G_D \tilde{G}_D$$

$$m_a f_a \approx \Lambda_D^2$$

$$\Lambda_D \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \longrightarrow \frac{m_a}{m_{a,\text{QCD}}} \approx \frac{\Lambda_D^2}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2} \gg 1$$

† another axion can solve
the strong CP problem

How Heavy?

$$m_a f_a \approx \Lambda_D^2 \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$$

$$\Lambda_D \simeq \Lambda_{\text{UV}} \exp\left(-\frac{6\pi}{11N\alpha_{\text{UV}}}\right)$$

UV Scale \nearrow UV Coupling \nearrow

Foster, **SK**, Safdi, Soreq [2208.10504](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.10504)

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↑ UV Scale ↑ UV Coupling

$$f_a \sim \Lambda_{\text{UV}} \sim 10^{16} \text{ GeV}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{UV}} \sim 1/25$$

	$SU(2)_D$	$SU(5)_D$
Λ_D	10^7 GeV	10^{12} GeV
m_a	MeV	10^8 GeV
Pheno	Dark Matter	Baryo- genesis

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Cosmology of keV-MeV axions

Foster, **SK**, Safdi, Soreq [2208.10504](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.10504)

Heavy Axion DM

Axion Overclosure!



Misalignment
Production

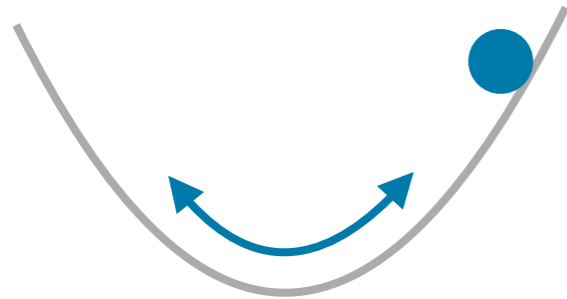
$$m_a \sim \text{MeV}$$
$$f_a \sim 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$$

θ_i = misalignment angle,
expected $\mathcal{O}(1)$

$$\Omega_a h^2|_{\text{RD}} \approx 0.12 \left(\frac{\theta_i f_a}{2 \times 10^{13} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{m_a}{1 \mu\text{eV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{90}{g^*(T_{\text{osc}})} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$\Omega_a \approx 10^{10} \cdot \theta_i^2 \cdot \Omega_{\text{DM}}! \text{ 😞}$$

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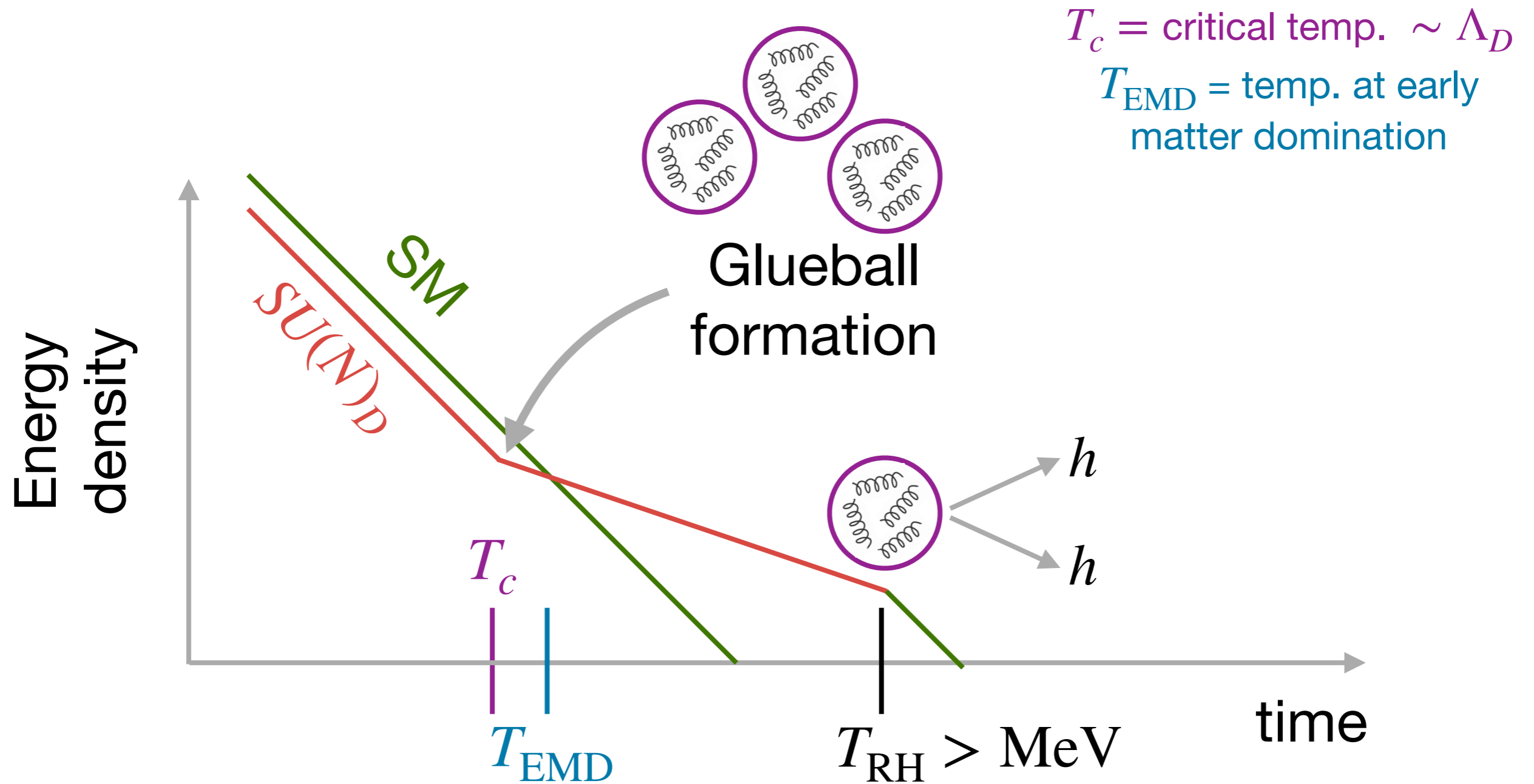
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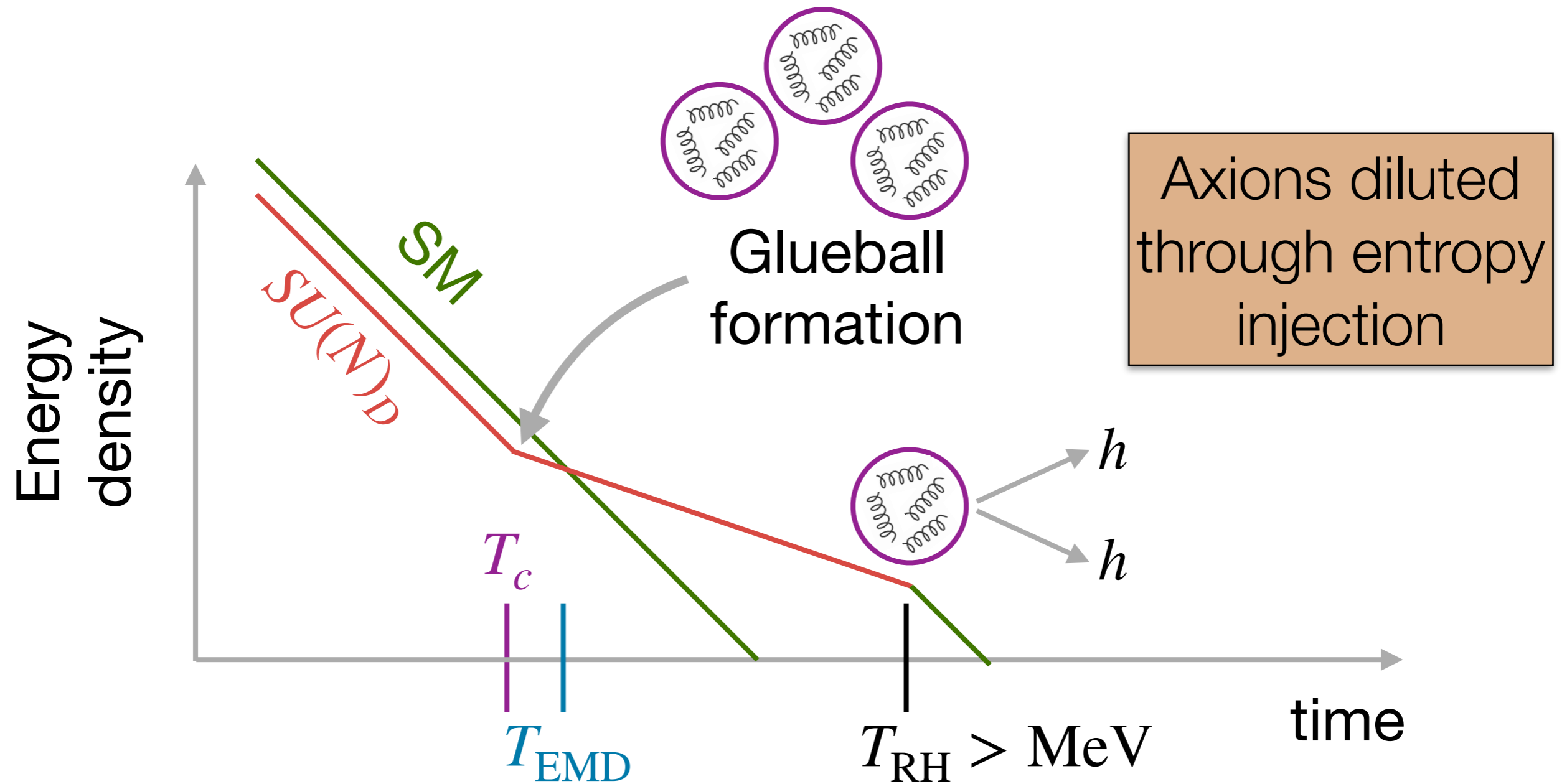
🤔 Axion heavy due to $SU(N)_D$

What is its cosmology?

Cosmology of a Confining $SU(N)_D$

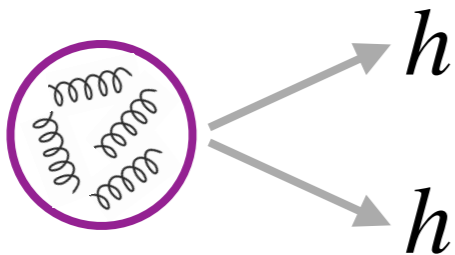


Cosmology of a Confining $SU(N)_D$



Dark Glueball Reheating and Ω_{DM}

Glueball Decay

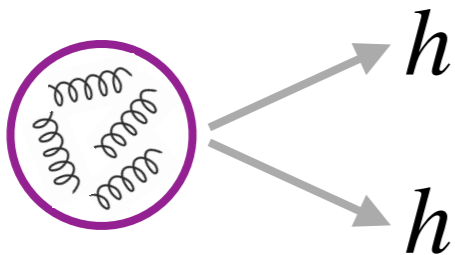


$$\frac{\alpha_D}{4\pi} G_d G_d \frac{H^\dagger H}{\Lambda^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_a &\sim \text{MeV} \\ f_a &\sim 10^{16} \text{ GeV} \\ \Lambda &\sim 10^{14} \text{ GeV} \end{aligned} \Rightarrow T_{\text{RH}} \sim 5 \text{ MeV}$$

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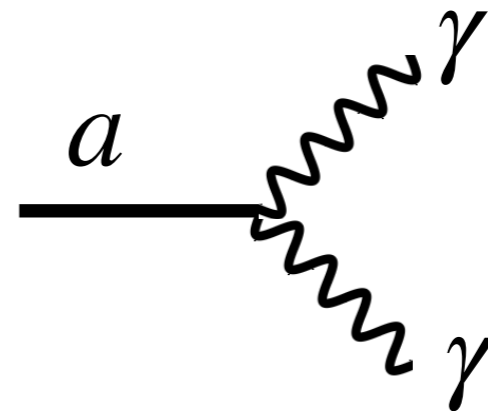
$$\Rightarrow T_{\text{RH}} \sim 5 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Omega_a \approx \Omega_{\text{DM}} \left(\frac{\theta_i f_a}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{\text{RH}}}{10 \text{ MeV}} \right) \text{ 😊}$$

correct Ω_{DM} w/o
fine-tuning of θ_i !

Axion Lifetime

$$\mathcal{L} \supset C_{a\gamma\gamma} \frac{\alpha_{\text{EM}}}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$$

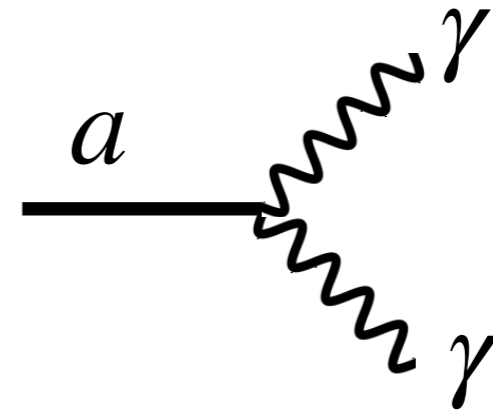


Lifetime

$$\tau_{a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} \approx 10^{28} \text{ s} \left(\frac{0.1}{C_{a\gamma\gamma}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{0.1 \text{ MeV}}{m_a} \right)^3 \left(\frac{f_a}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2$$

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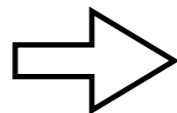


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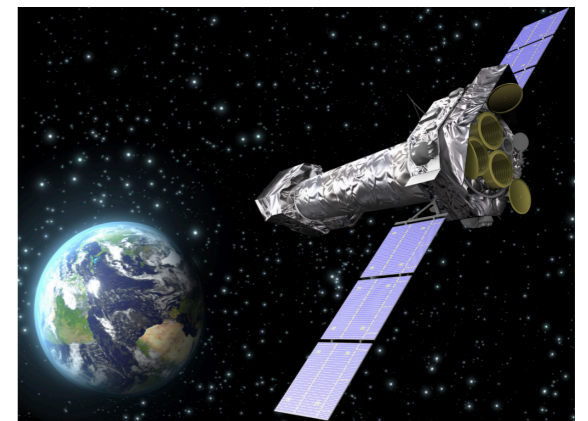
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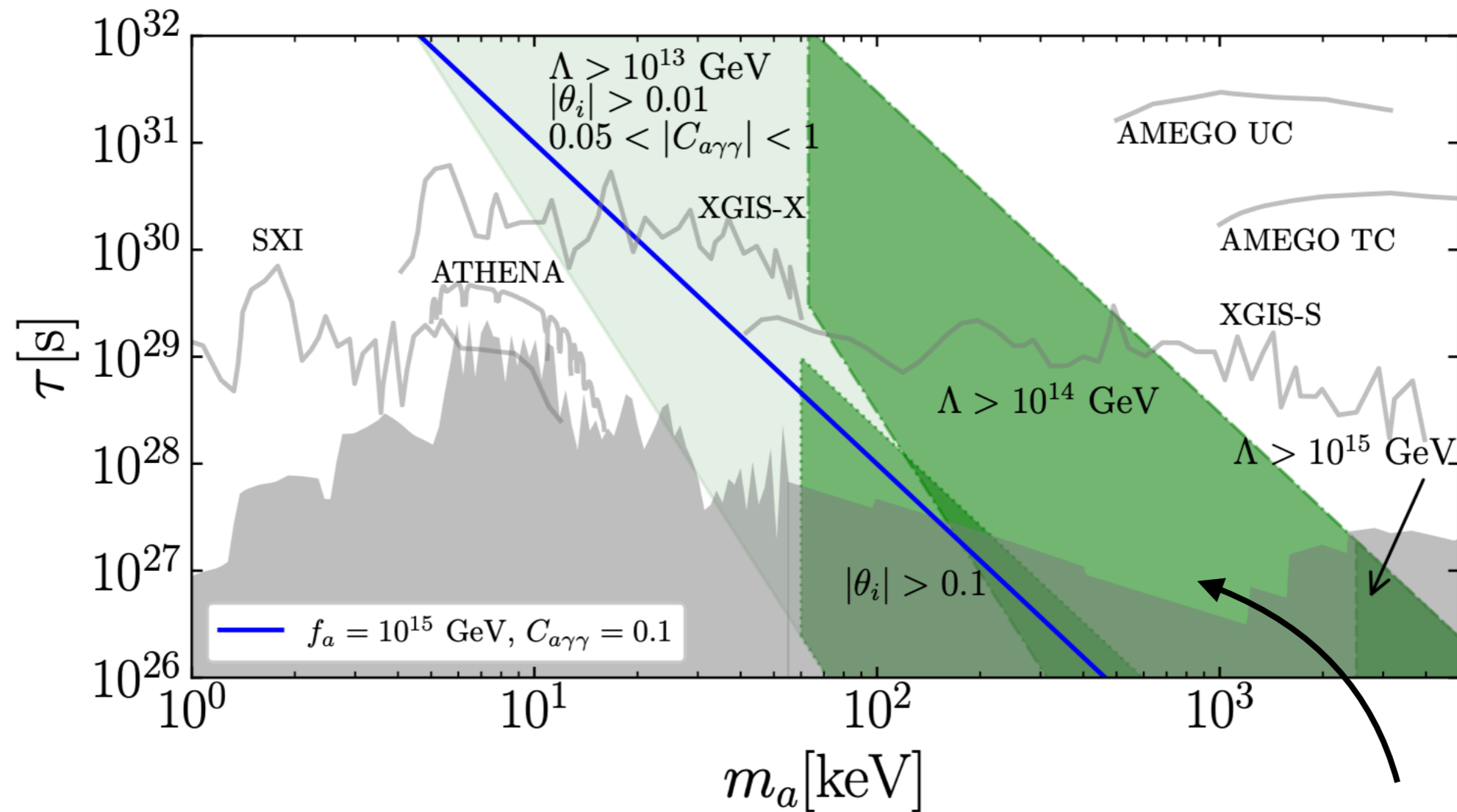
similar τ
as decaying
DM searches



Line signals
at X-ray and
 γ -ray telescopes



Decaying Heavy Axion DM



$SU(2)_D$ and $T_{RH} > 5$ MeV

Foster, **SK**, Safdi, Soreq [2208.10504](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.10504)

But can we explain baryon
asymmetry given low T_{RH} ?

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Cosmology of 10^8 GeV axions

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Spontaneous Baryogenesis

- Fermion coupling as an example:

Cohen, Kaplan '87

$$\frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi \supset \frac{\dot{a}}{f_a} \psi^\dagger \psi$$

spontaneous
CPT breaking

- Effective “chemical potential”: fermions and anti-fermions have differing abundances

$$\Delta n_i = n_i - \bar{n}_i \approx g_i \mu_i T^2 / 6 \text{ with } \mu_i \sim \dot{a} / f_a$$

- Need *B* or *L* violation: asymmetry in equilibrium
- As *B* or *L* violation drops out of equilibrium, asymmetry also gets frozen out

Heavy Axion Baryogenesis

- Lepton number violation via $(HL)^2/\Lambda_W$ with scale set by neutrino mass
- Solve Boltzmann equation for the asymmetries

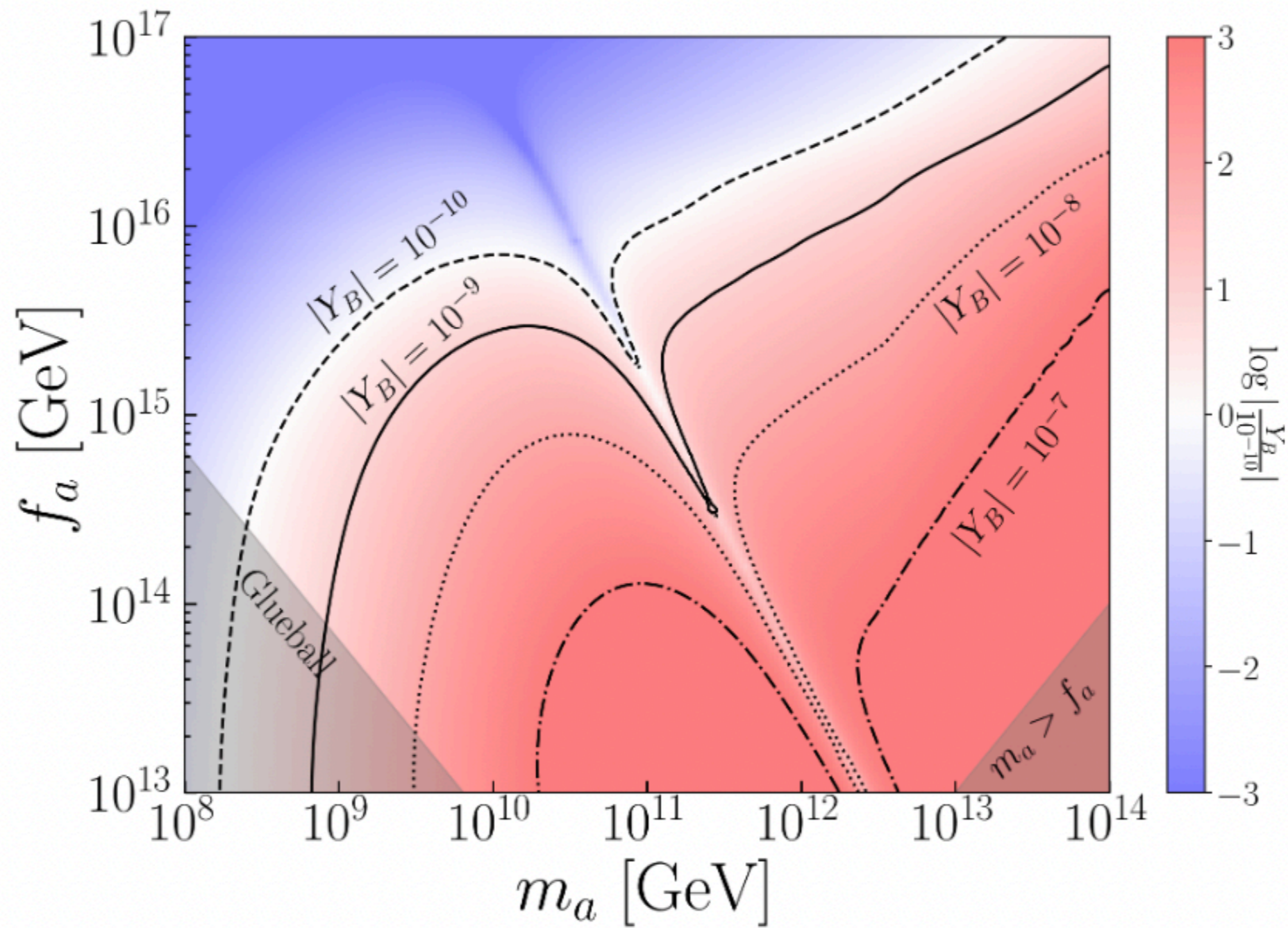
$$c_{aG} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} aG\tilde{G} + \frac{\alpha_2}{8\pi f_a} aW\tilde{W} + \frac{\alpha_1}{8\pi f_a} aB\tilde{B} \right) + c_{af} \left(\sum_i \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} J_i \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\mu_i}{T} \right) = \frac{dT}{dt} \frac{1}{g_i T} \times \sum_\alpha \mathcal{C}_{i\alpha} \frac{\Gamma_\alpha}{H} \left(\sum_j \left(\frac{\mu_j}{T} \right) \mathcal{C}_{j\alpha} - n_{S\alpha} \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{f_a T} \right) \right)$$

$$i = \tau, L_{12}, L_3, q_{12}, t, b, Q_{12}, Q_3, H$$

α runs over weak sphaleron, strong sphaleron, tau Yukawa, top Yukawa, bottom Yukawa, and the Weinberg operator

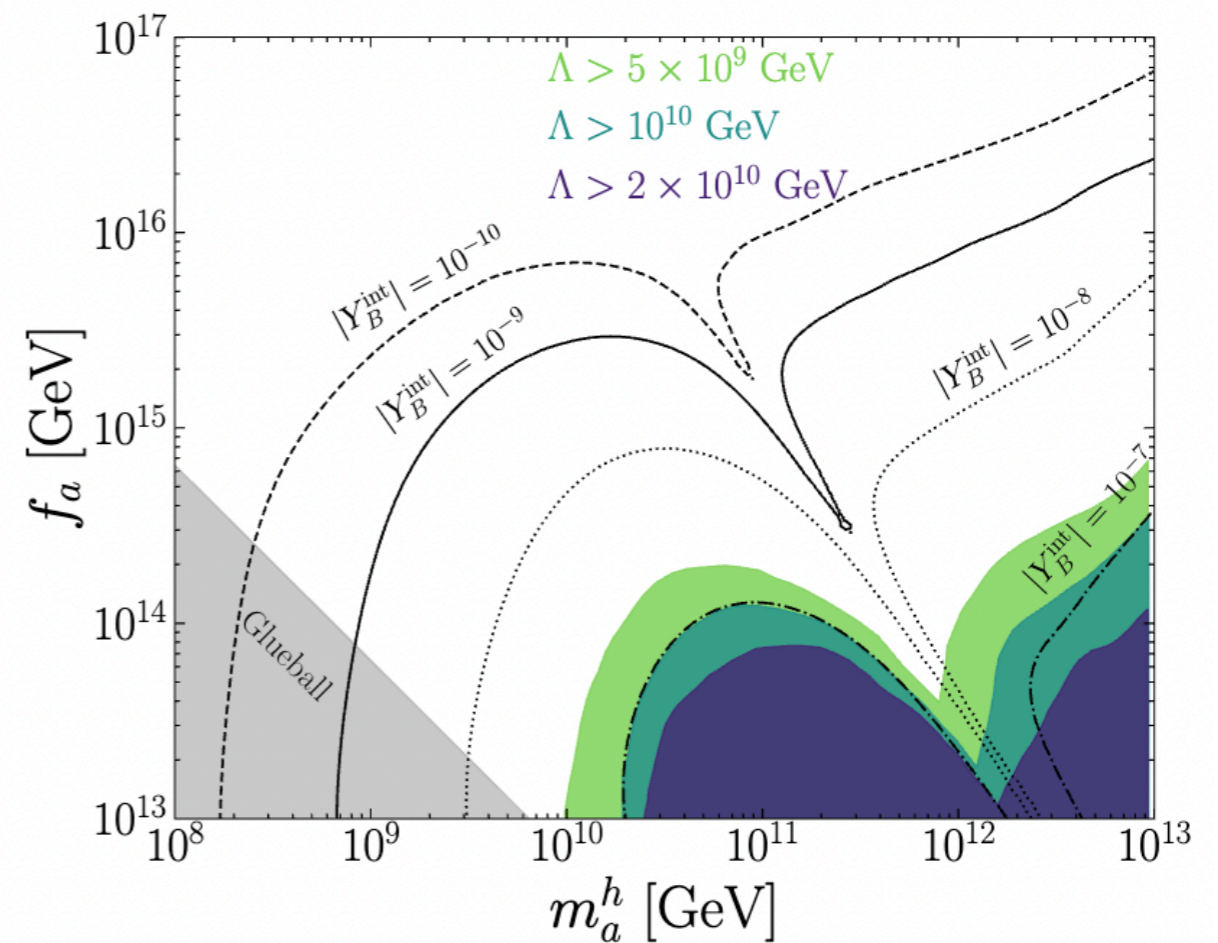
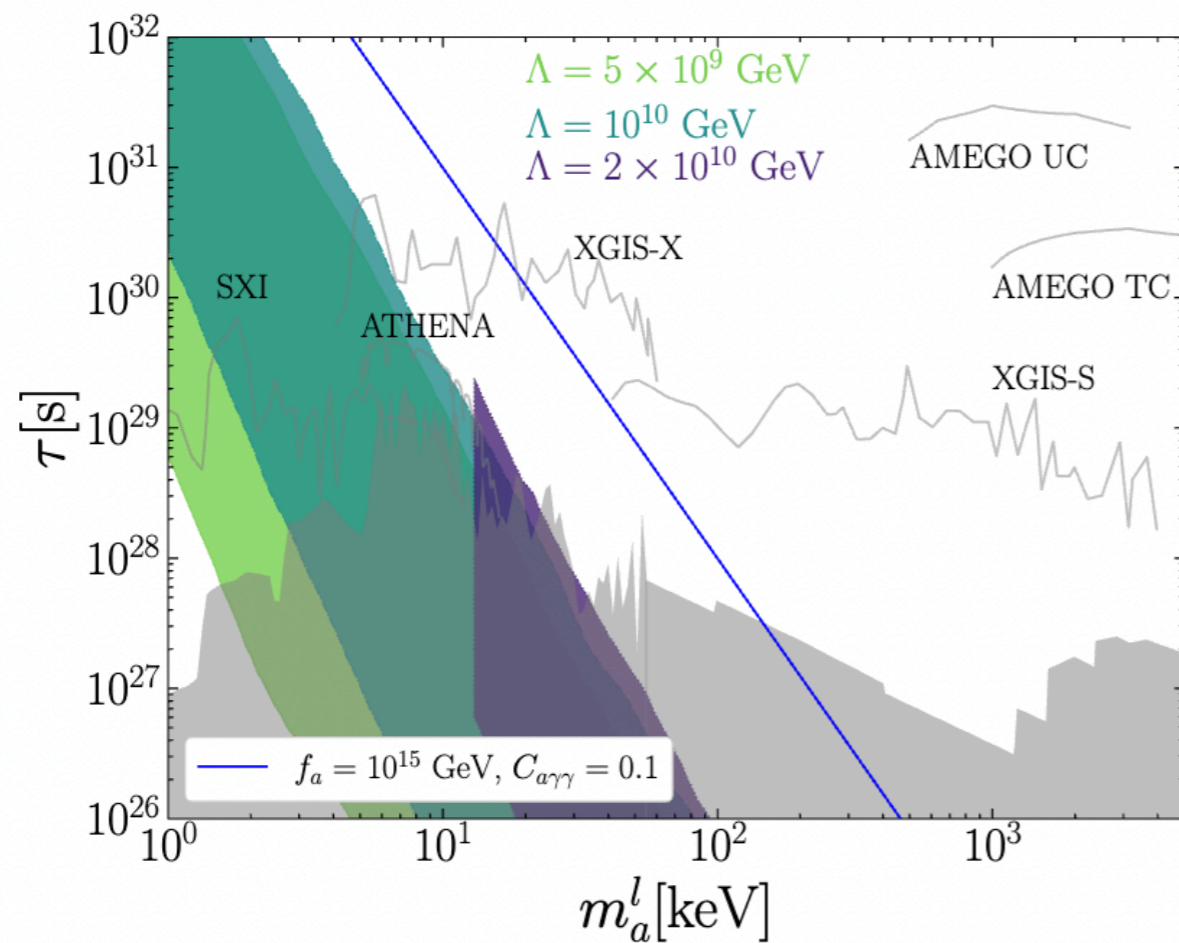
Heavy Axion Baryogenesis



Cosmological History

- **Two axions** - a_h with $SU(N_h)$ and a_l with $SU(N_l)$
- $H \sim m_h$: a_h starts to oscillate and generates initial baryon asymmetry
- Both **cold** and **thermal** a_h populations — they decay into SM
- Then a_l and **glueballs** of the light sector becomes important
- Eventually, entropy injections dilute both Ω_{DM} and Ω_b

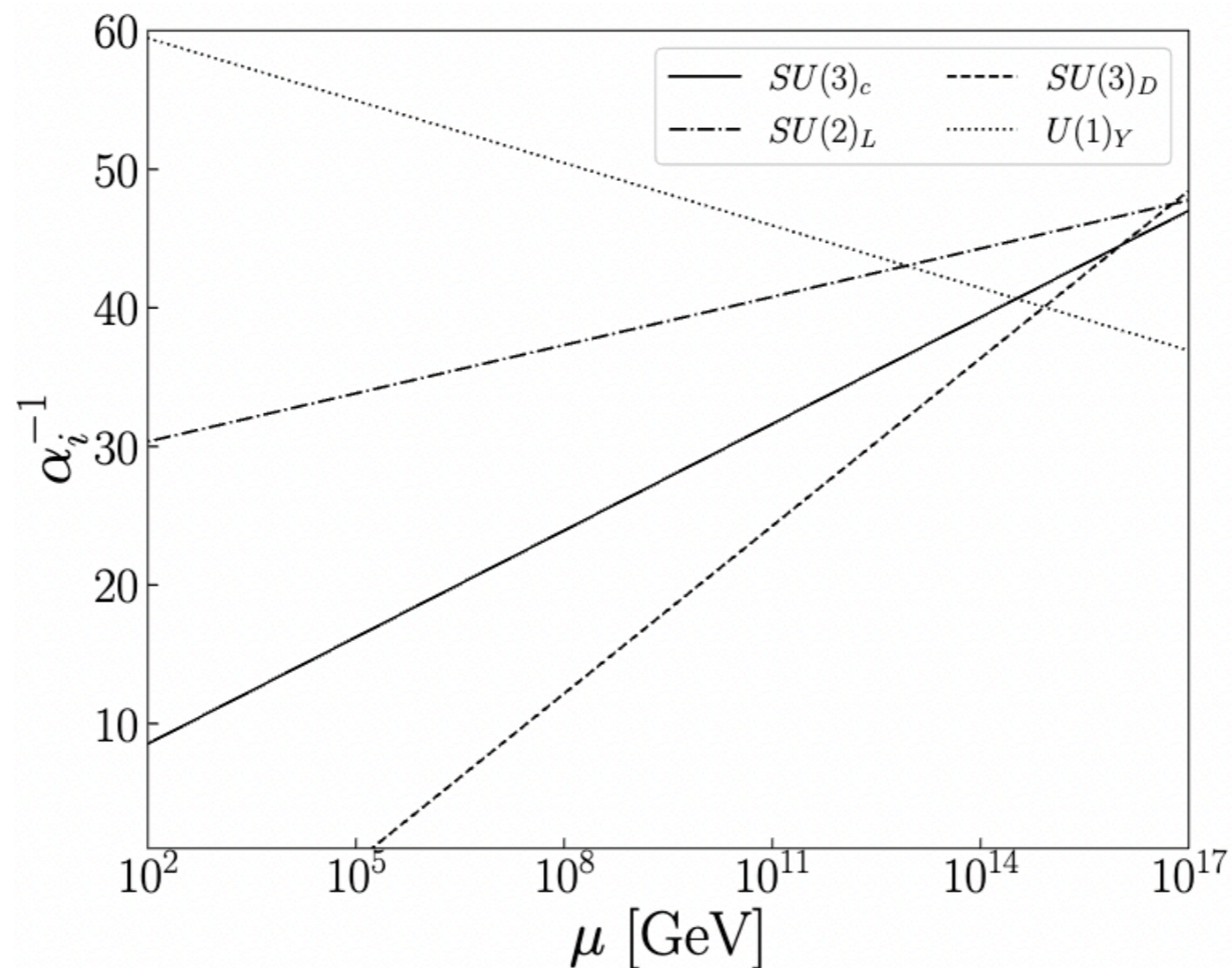
Explaining both Ω_{DM} and Ω_b



Are these $SU(N)_D$ gauge groups connected to SM in a deeper way?

Dark Grand Unification: Running

- **Small mismatch** as in **non-SUSY** theories, but indicates unification scale $\sim 10^{16}$ GeV and $\Lambda_D \sim 10^5$ GeV

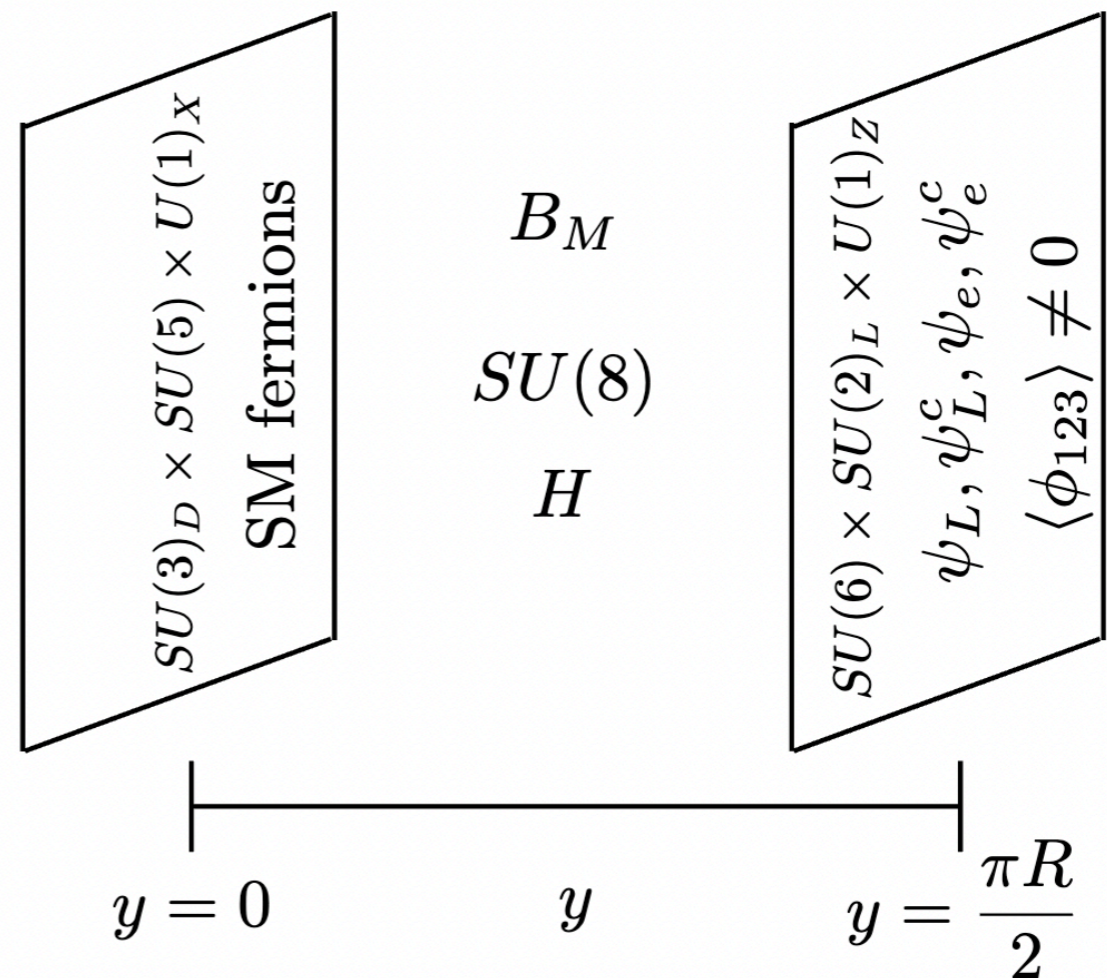


Dark Grand Unification: Construction

- Orbifold unification: extra dimensional theory with **boundary conditions breaking gauge invariance**

- Below the unification scale $\sim 1/R$:

$$G = G_{\text{SM}} \times SU(3)_D$$



Foster, **SK**, Safdi, Soreq [2208.10504](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.10504)

Axions from $U(1)$ Gauge Fields

- Chern-Simons interaction

$$\int d^4x \int_0^{\pi R} dy \left(\frac{1}{4g_{5B}^2} B_{MN} B^{MN} + \kappa_B \epsilon^{MNPQR} B_M \text{Tr}(F_{NP} F_{QR}) \right)$$

$$\frac{\pi R}{2g_{5B}^2} (\partial_\mu B_5)^2 + 2\pi R \kappa_B B_5 G\tilde{G}$$

$$\frac{a}{32\pi^2 f_a} G\tilde{G}, \quad f_a \equiv \frac{1}{64\pi^2 \sqrt{\pi R \kappa_B g_{5B}}}$$

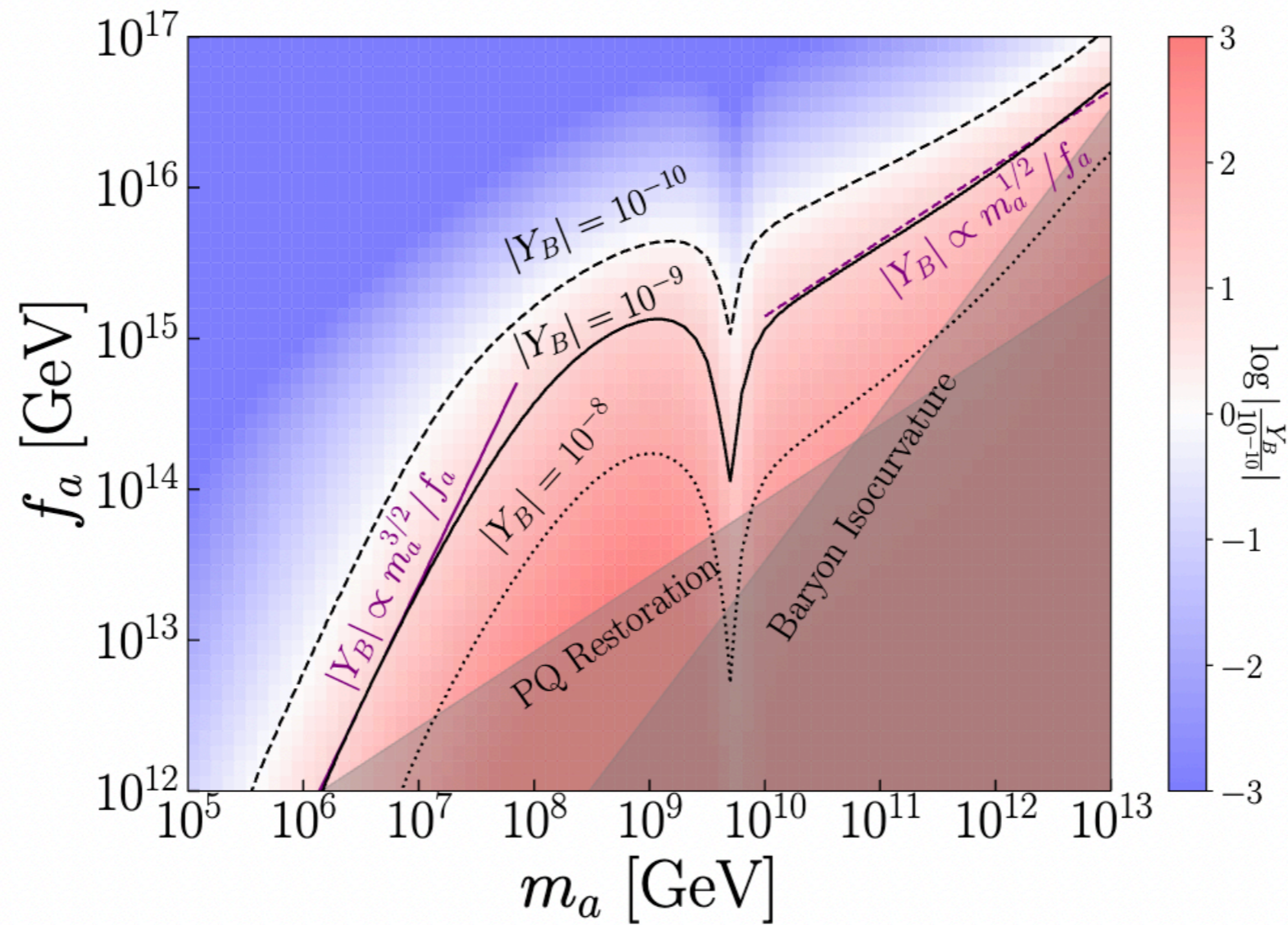
Conclusion

- Heavy axions can easily arise in **UV-motivated** constructions
- **keV-MeV scale axions** can naturally explain the **DM abundance**
- They also predict line signals at **X-ray** and **gamma-ray** telescopes
- It is also possible to explain baryon abundance with a **heavier, second axion**

Thanks for your attention!

Extra Slides

Temperature Independent Mass



Temperature Independent Mass

- $\mu_{B-L} = -(\mu_\tau + 4\mu_{L_{12}} + 2\mu_{L_3}) + (12\mu_{q_{12}} + 3\mu_t + 3\mu_b + 12\mu_{Q_{12}} + 6\mu_{Q_3})/3$
- Coupled evolution equations

$$\dot{\rho}_a + 3H\rho_a + \frac{\rho_a}{\tau_a} = 0,$$

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{th}} + 4H\Theta(T - m_a)\rho_{\text{th}} + 3H\Theta(m_a - T)\rho_{\text{th}} + \frac{\rho_{\text{th}}}{\tau_a} = 0,$$

$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{SM}} + 4H\rho_{\text{SM}} - \frac{\rho_a}{\tau_a} - \frac{\rho_{\text{th}}}{\tau_a} = 0,$$

$$3H^2 M_{\text{pl}}^2 = \rho_{\text{SM}} + \rho_a + \rho_{\text{th}},$$

$$\Delta \dot{n}_B + 3H\Delta n_B = 0.$$

Axions from the UV

- 5D Chern-Simons term:

$$\epsilon^{MNPQR} A_M \text{Tr}(F_{NP} F_{QR}) \rightarrow (a/f_a) G \tilde{G}$$

- Similar in spirit to what happens in String Theory constructions
- In fact, with **multiple extra dimensions**, many ways of compactifying \rightarrow **many axion (-like particles) (ALPs)**
- One linear combination couples to QCD \rightarrow QCD axion. Rest survive as ALPs.

Axion Coupling

- Linear combination coupling to the dark gauge group

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_i \frac{\alpha_d c_d^i a_i}{8\pi f_a} G_{d\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_{da}^{\mu\nu}$$

- Axion potential:

$$V \approx \Lambda_D^4 \left(\sum_i \frac{c_d^i a_i}{f_a} + \bar{\theta}_D \right)^2$$

- Coupling to SM gauge group:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_i \frac{\alpha d^i a_i}{8\pi f_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\alpha d_D a_D}{8\pi \tilde{f}_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

$$d_D = \frac{\sum_i c_d^i d^i}{\sum_i (c_d^i)^2}$$

Axion Lifetime and Dynamics

- Into diphotons

$$\tau_{a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = \frac{256\pi^3}{\alpha^2 C_{a\gamma\gamma}^2} \frac{f_a^2}{m_a^3} \approx 9.6 \times 10^{27} \text{ s} \left(\frac{0.1}{C_{a\gamma\gamma}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{0.1 \text{ MeV}}{m_a} \right)^3 \left(\frac{f_a}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right)^2$$

- Axion abundance

$$\Omega_a = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_a^2 f_a^2 \theta_i^2}{\rho_c} \left(\frac{R_{\text{osc}}}{R_{\text{RH}}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{T_0}{T_{\text{RH}}} \right)^3 \frac{g_{*S}(T_0)}{g_{*S}(T_{\text{RH}})}$$

- Critical temperature

$$\frac{T_c}{\sqrt{m_a f_a}} \approx 1.6 - \frac{0.8}{N_c^2}$$

Temperature Dependence

• T dependent mass: $m_a(T) \approx \begin{cases} m_a \left(\frac{T_c}{T}\right)^b, & T > T_c \\ m_a, & T \leq T_c, \end{cases}$

$$\frac{T_{\text{osc}}}{T_c} \approx \left(\frac{3\sqrt{10}}{q_T \pi \sqrt{g_*} \left(1.6 - \frac{0.8}{N_c^2}\right)^2} \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{f_a} \right)^{\frac{1}{2+b}} \approx \begin{cases} 5.5 \left(\frac{10^{15} \text{ GeV}}{f_a}\right)^{0.27}, & N_c = 2 \\ 2.6 \left(\frac{10^{15} \text{ GeV}}{f_a}\right)^{0.18}, & N_c = 3 \end{cases}$$

$$\Omega_a h^2 \approx 0.12 \theta_i^2 \begin{cases} \left(\frac{f_a}{10^{13} \text{ GeV}}\right)^{1.27} \left(\frac{T_{\text{RH}}}{10 \text{ MeV}}\right), & N_c = 2 \\ \left(\frac{f_a}{4.3 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ GeV}}\right)^{1.18} \left(\frac{T_{\text{RH}}}{10 \text{ MeV}}\right), & N_c = 3. \end{cases}$$