

PANDEMICS AND CANNIBALS

SOME INTRIGUING WAYS OF PRODUCING DARK MATTER IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE

[2007.03696] [2206.10630] Torsten Bringmann, Paul Frederik Depta,
[Marco Hufnagel](#), Kai Schmidt-Hoberg, Jörn Kersten

[2212.09759] [Marco Hufnagel](#), Michel Tytgat

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Overview

- **Pandemic** DM and its application to sterile neutrinos

Minimal sterile neutrino dark matter

Torsten Bringmann,^{1,2,*} Paul Frederik Depta,^{3,†} Marco Hufnagel,^{4,‡}
Jörn Kersten,^{5,6,§} Joshua T. Ruderman,^{7,¶} and Kai Schmidt-Hoberg^{8,**}

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²*Theoretical Physics Department, CERN,*

³*Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Saupfercher*

⁴*Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bou*

⁵*Korea Institute for Advanced Study, Sec*

⁶*Department of Physics and Technology, Univers*

⁷*Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, Department of Physi*

⁸*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notk*

(Dated: April 26, :)

Dark Matter from Exponential Growth

Originally proposed as Pandemic Dark Matter

Torsten Bringmann,^{1,*} Paul Frederik Depta,^{2,†} Marco Hufnagel,^{3,‡}
Joshua T. Ruderman,^{4,2,5,6,§} and Kai Schmidt-Hoberg^{2,¶}

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²*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notkestraße 85, D-22607 Hamburg, Germany*

³*Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Boulevard du Triomphe, CP225, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium*

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⁵*Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

⁶*School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv 69978, Israel*

- The domain of **cannibal** DM

The domain of a cannibal dark matter

Marco Hufnagel^{1,✉} and Michel H.G. Tytgat^{1,⊠}

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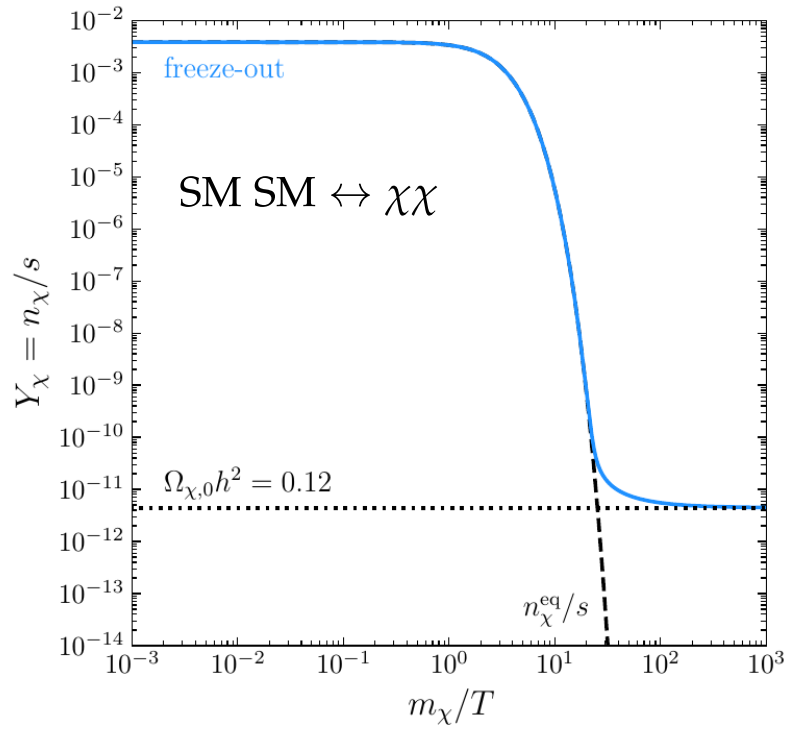
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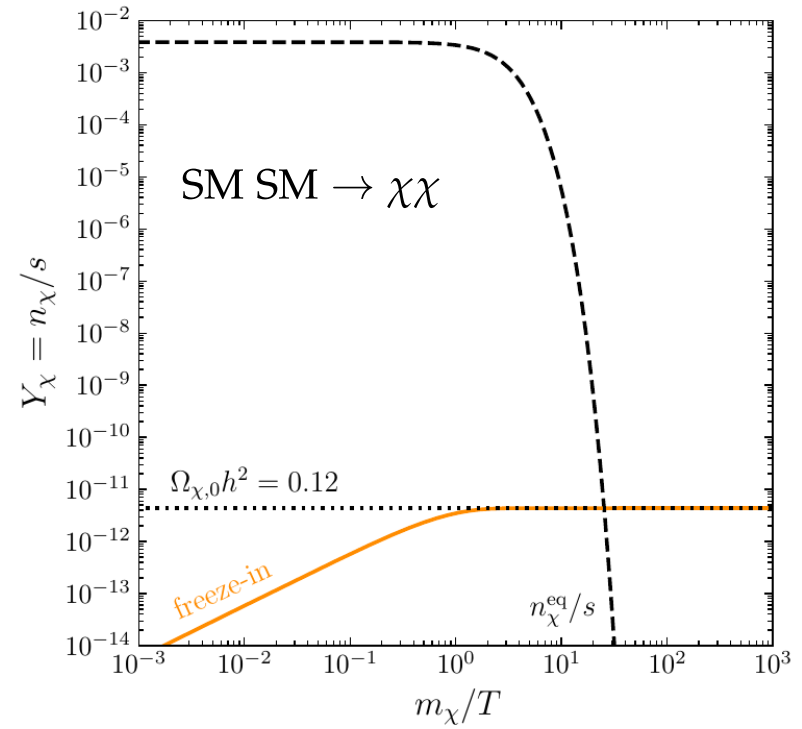
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Dark Matter production

Thermal

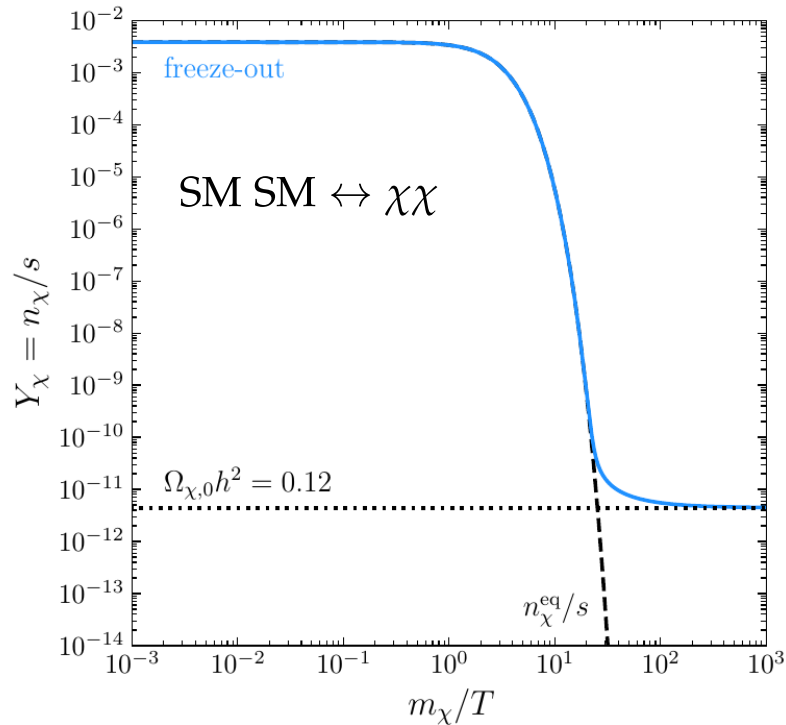


Non-thermal

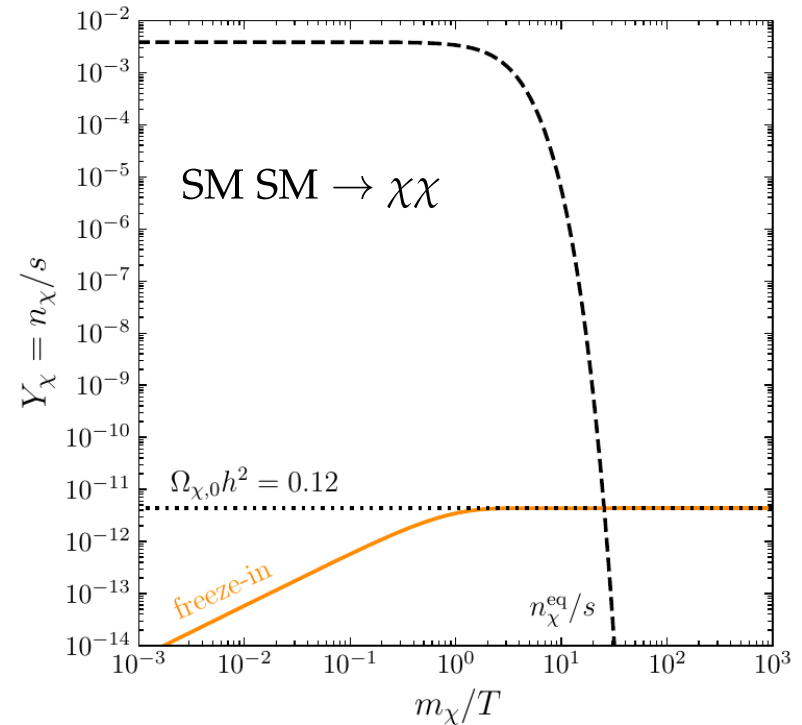


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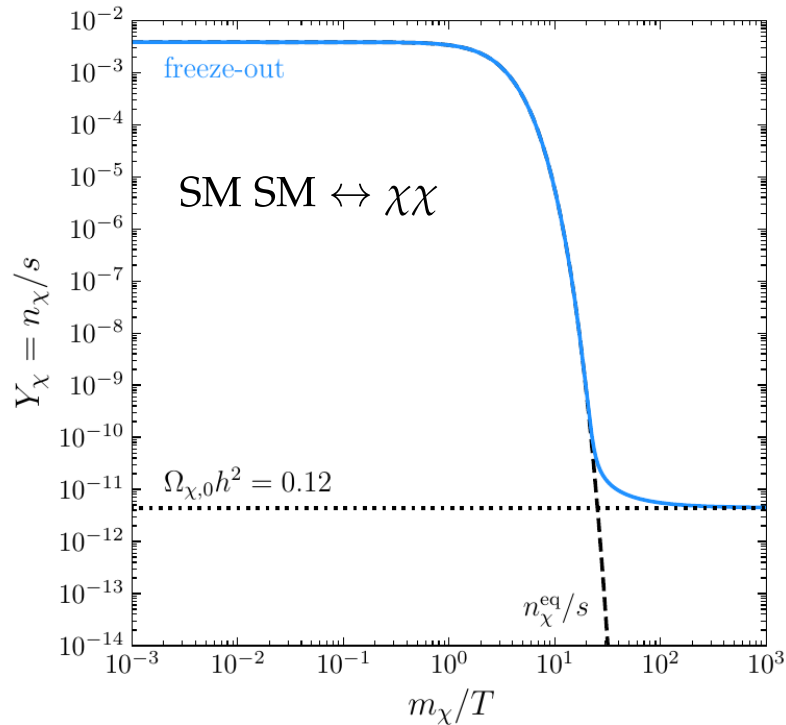


Many freeze-out variants:

- Hidden Sectors
- Cannibal DM [1607.03108]
- Zombie DM [2003.04900]

Dark Matter production

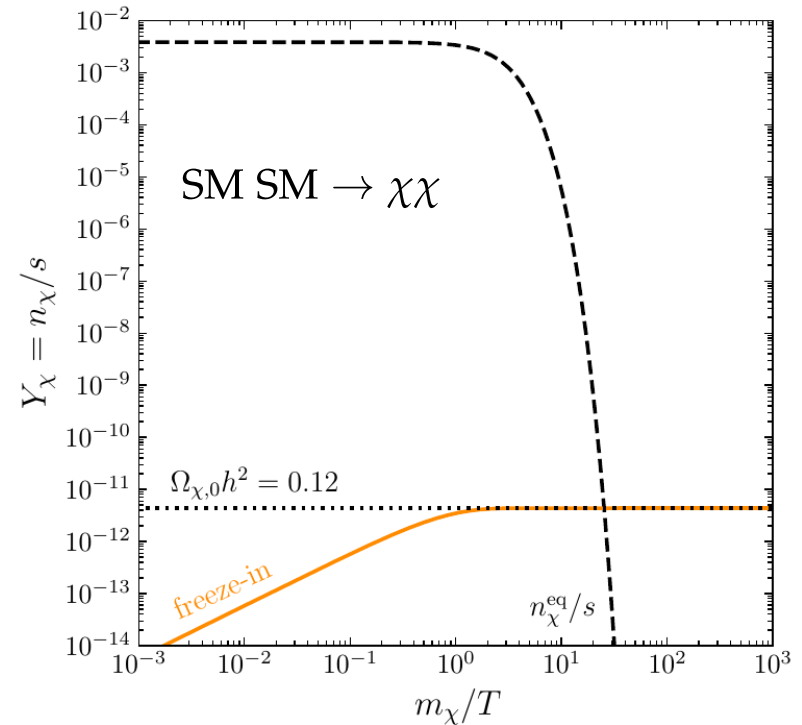
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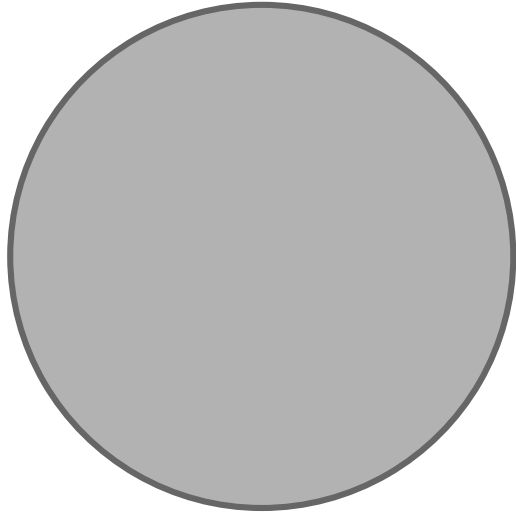
Less freeze-in variants:

Here: freeze-in with exponential instead of linear growth!

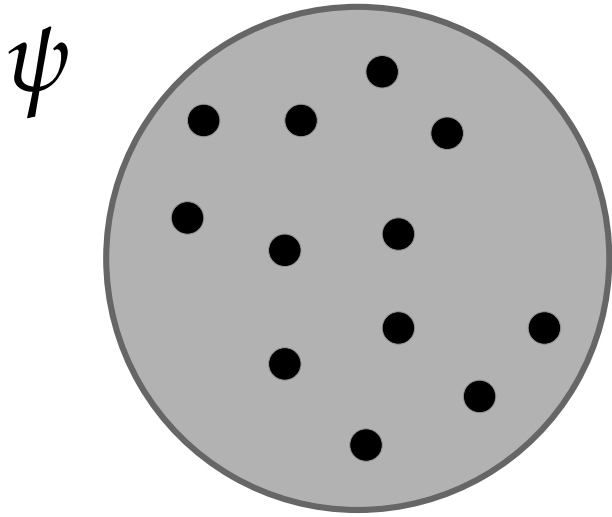
[2103.16572], [2104.05684]

Hryczuk, Laletin

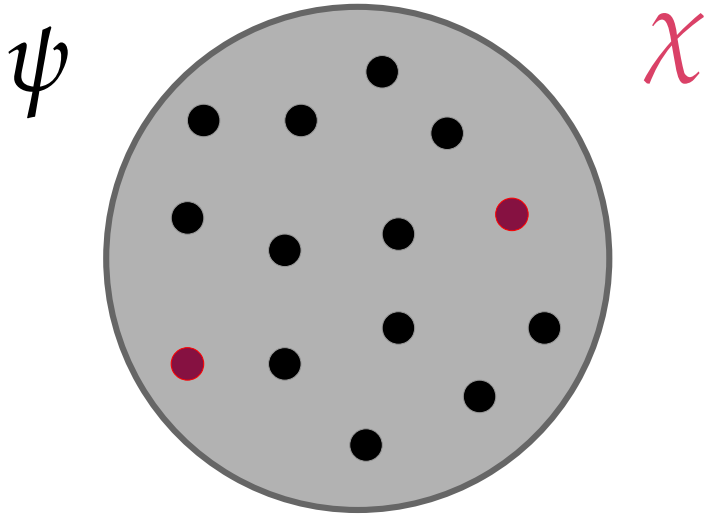
Infection of the thermal bath



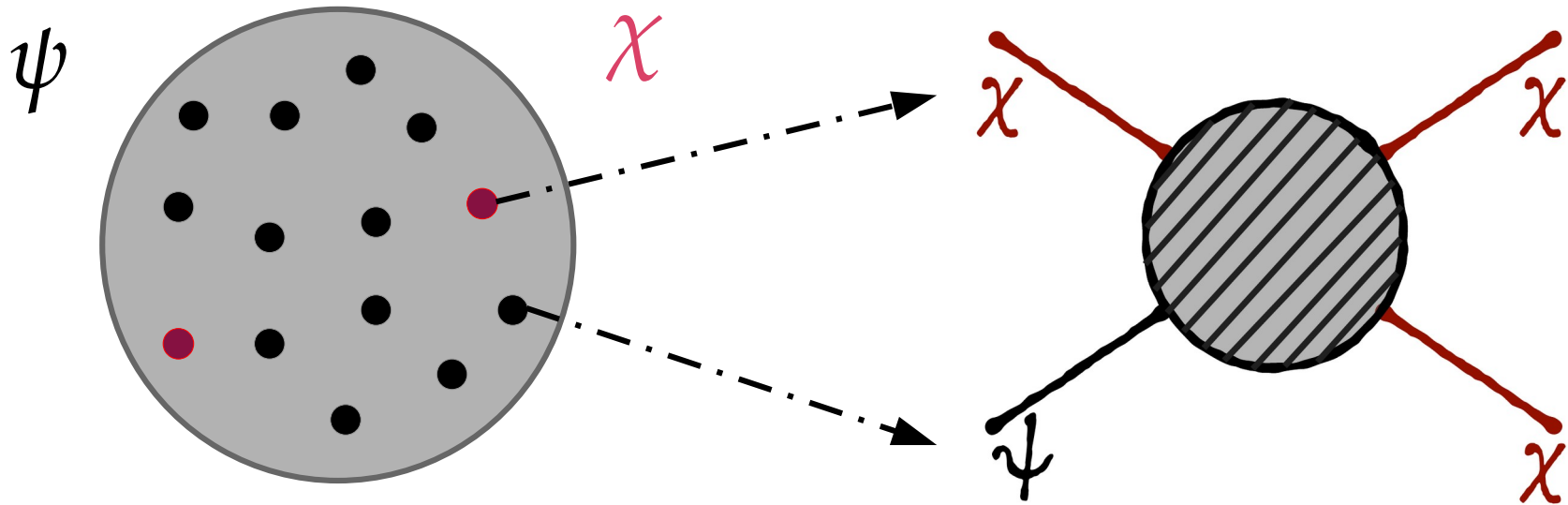
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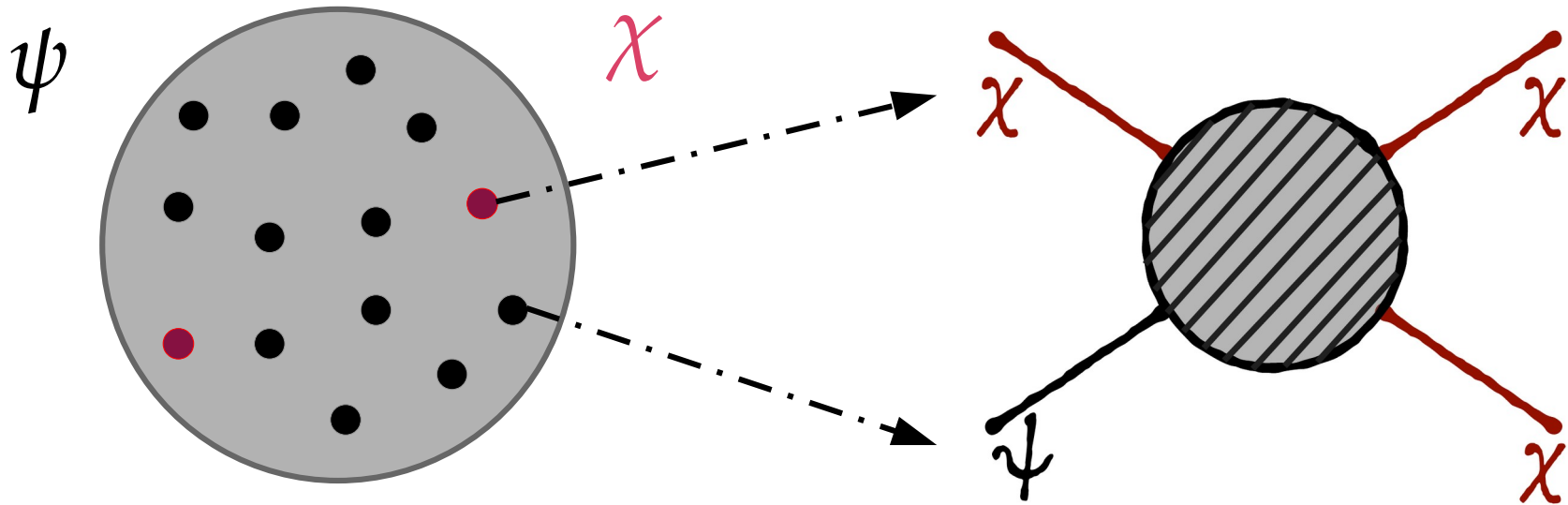
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Infection of the thermal bath

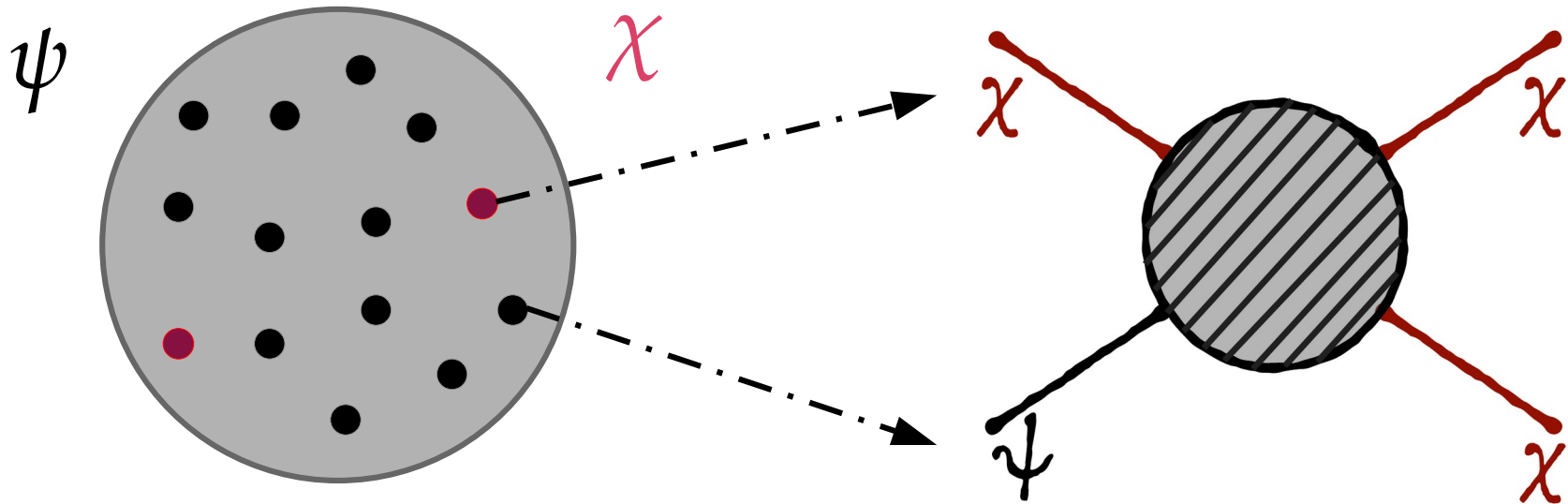


Infection of the thermal bath



Boltzmann equation:

Infection of the thermal bath

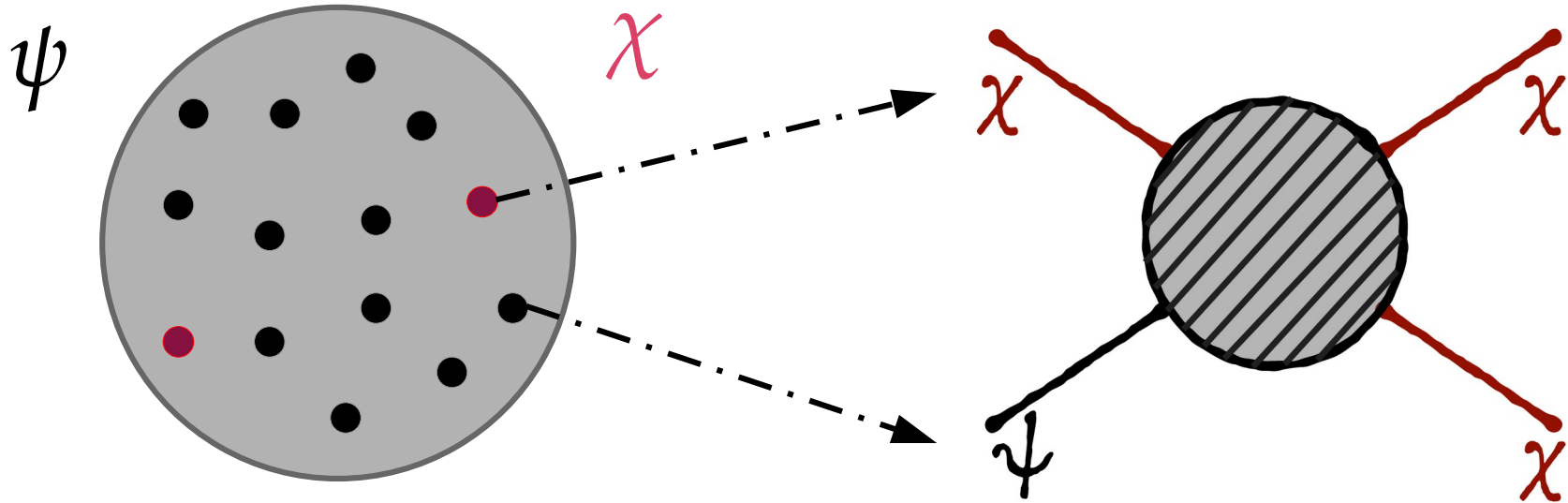


Assumptions:

- $f_\psi = \bar{f}_\psi = \exp(-E/T)$
- $f_\chi = \lambda(T) \exp(-E/T)$

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Infection of the thermal bath



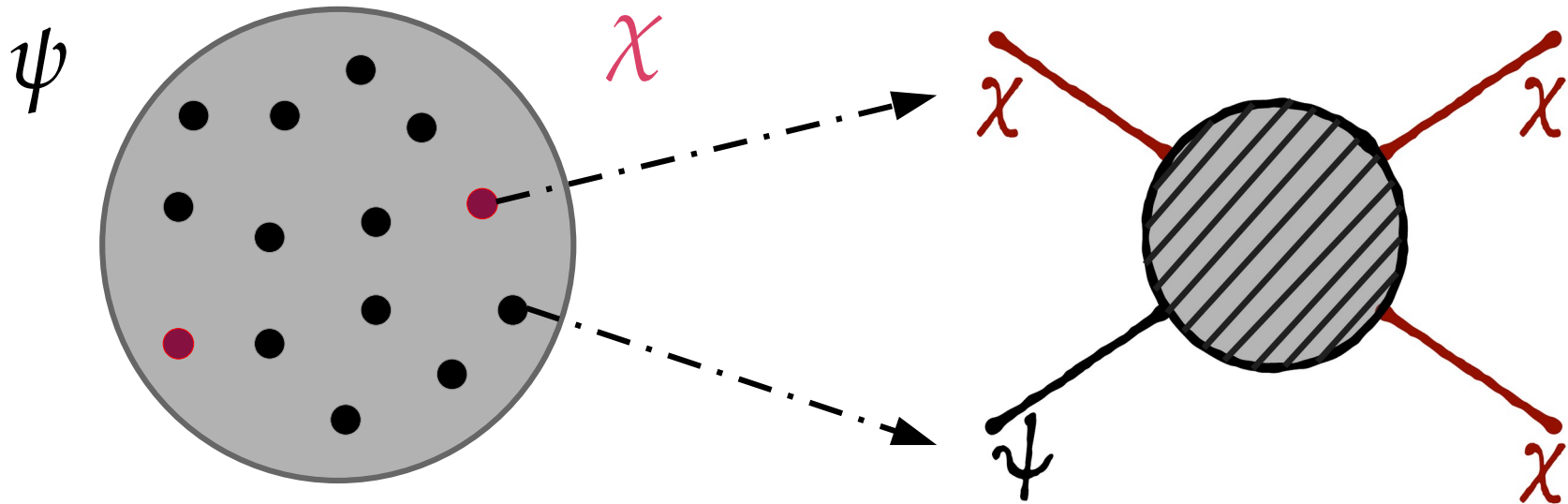
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$$\dot{n}_\chi + 3Hn_\chi = \langle \sigma_{\chi\psi \rightarrow \chi\chi} v \rangle \bar{n}_\psi n_\chi$$

Infection of the thermal bath



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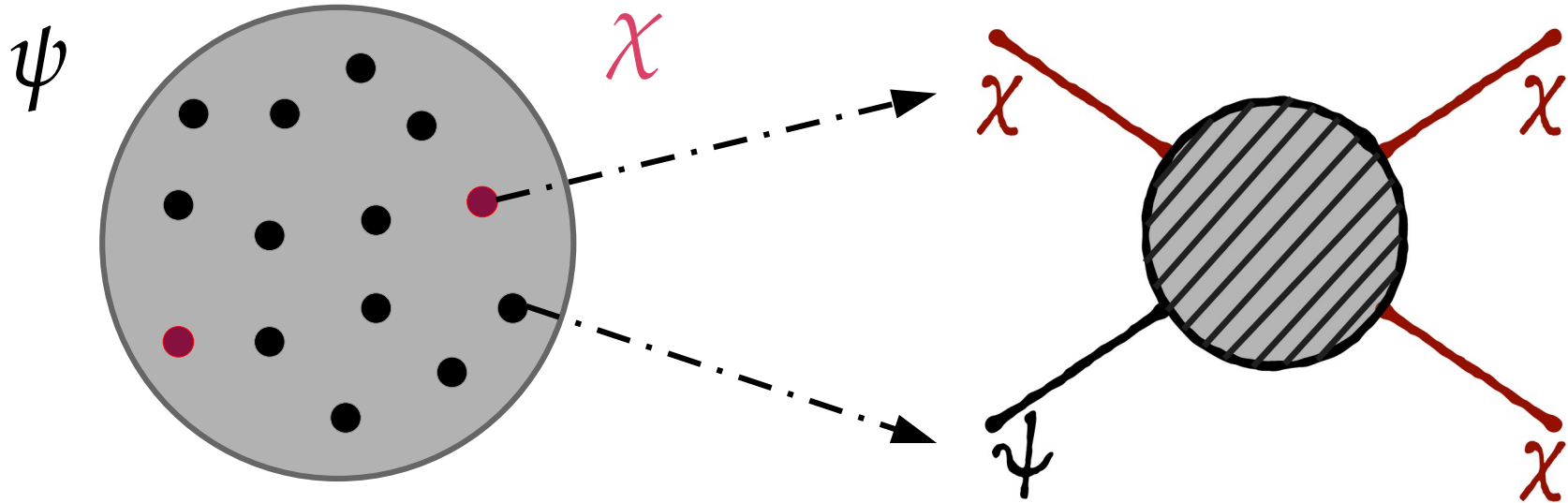
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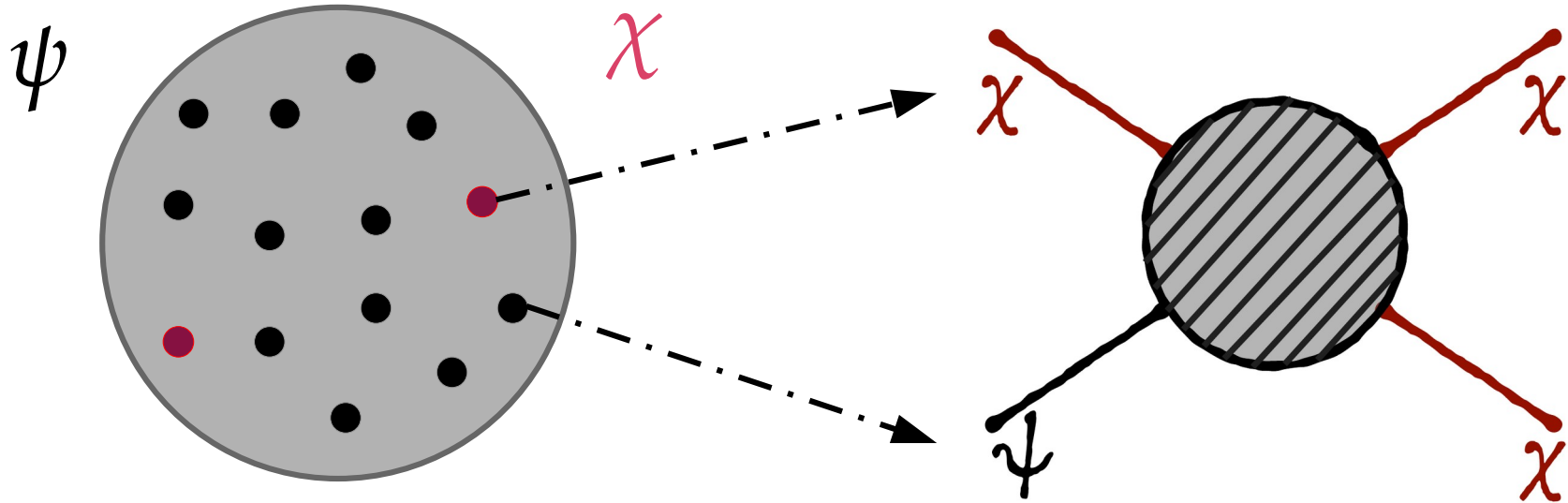
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Infection of the thermal bath



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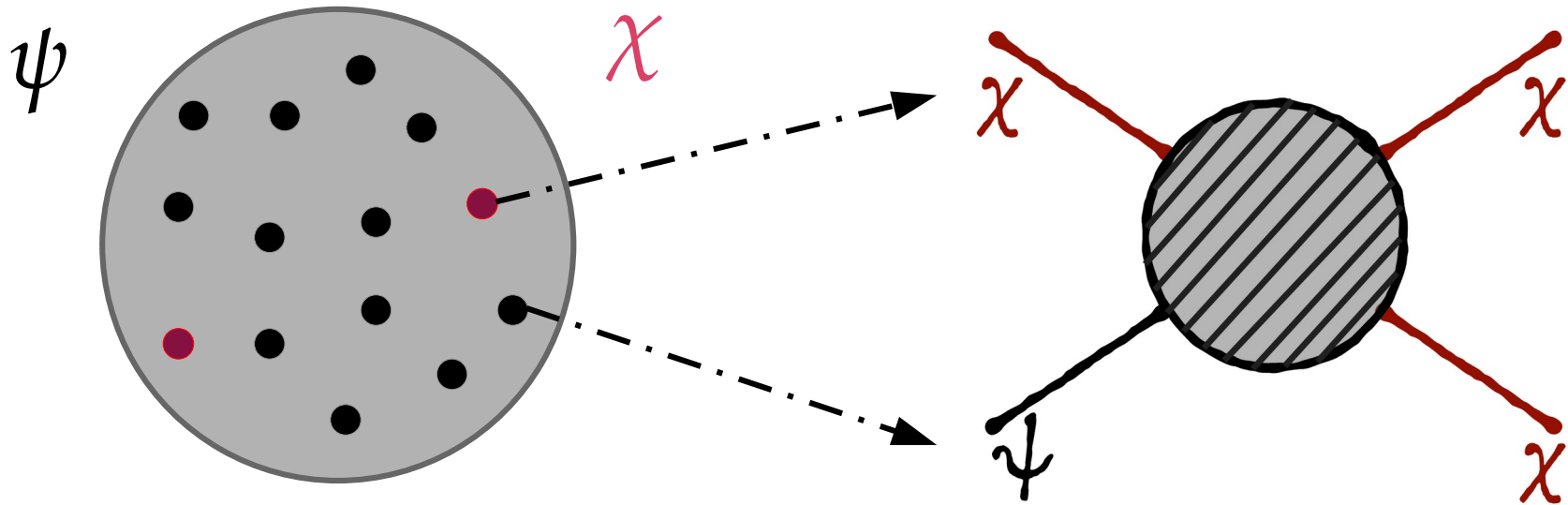
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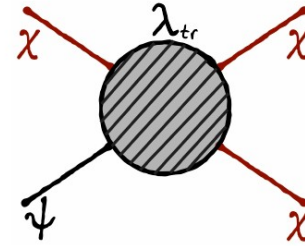
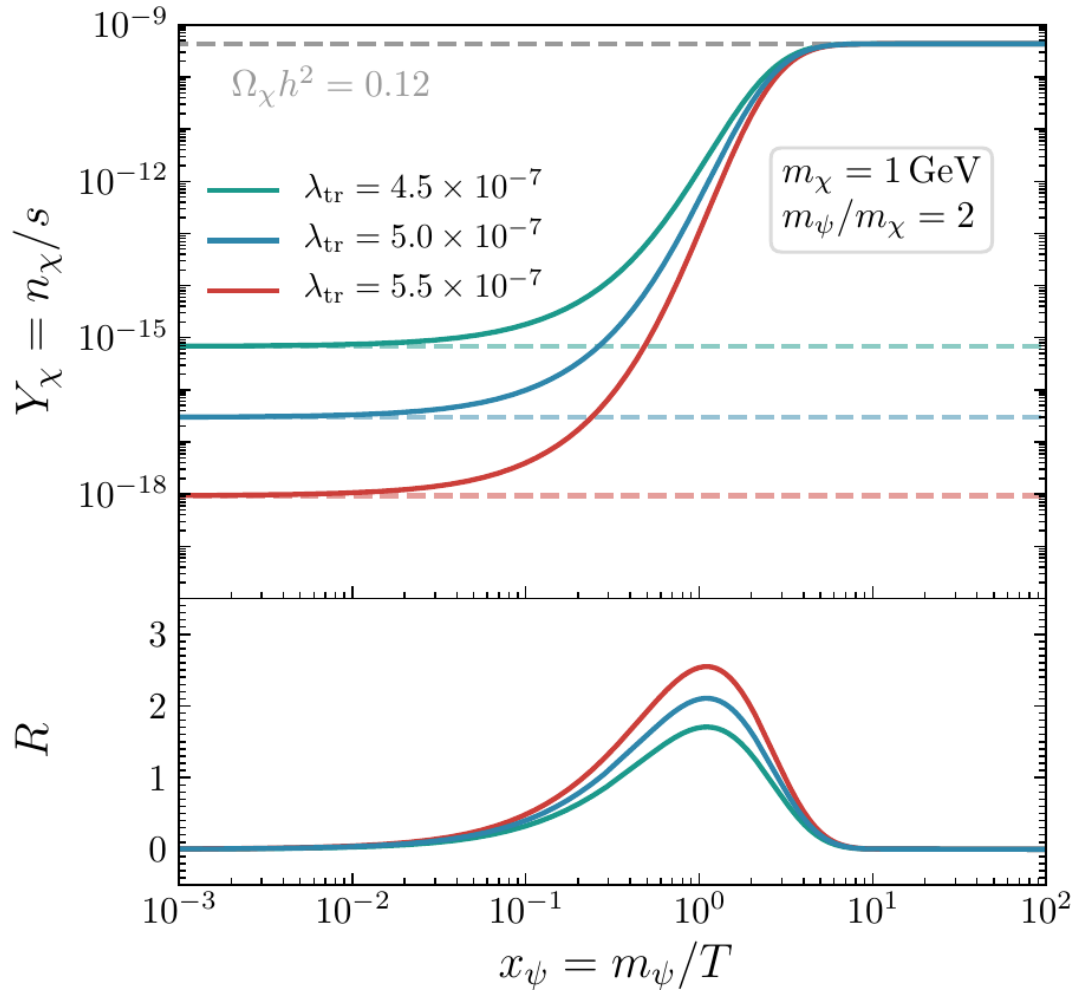
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Evolution of the Dark Matter abundance

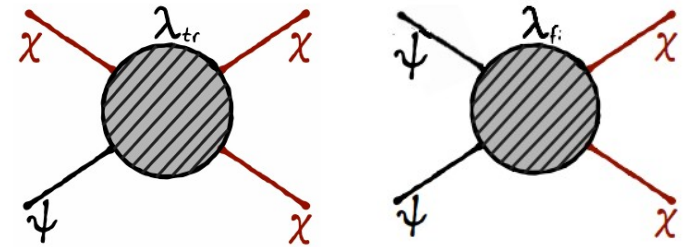
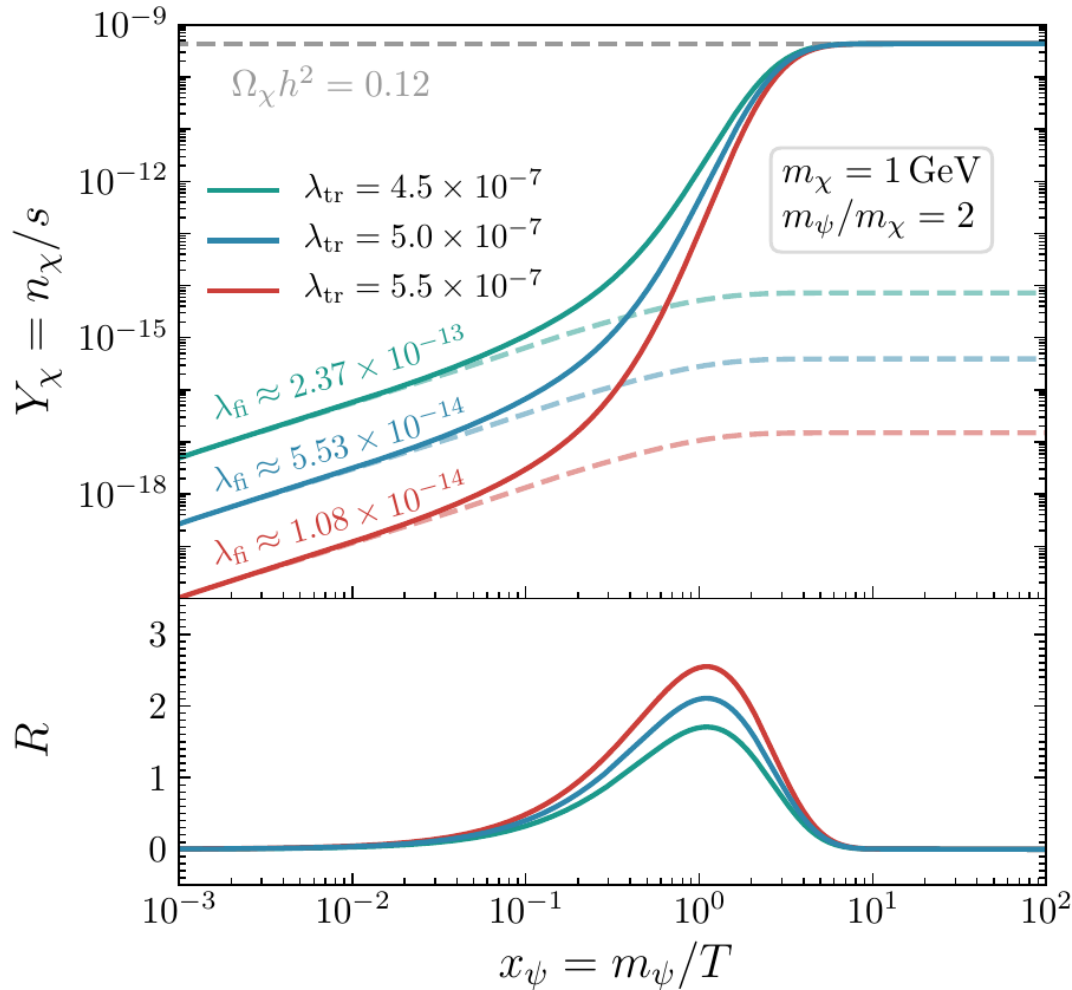
Exponential growth from an **initial seed**:



$$Y_\chi(x_\psi \ll 1) = \underbrace{Y_\chi^0}_{\text{Initial condition}} = \text{const.}$$

Evolution of the Dark Matter abundance

Exponential growth after **freeze-in phase**:



Transmission

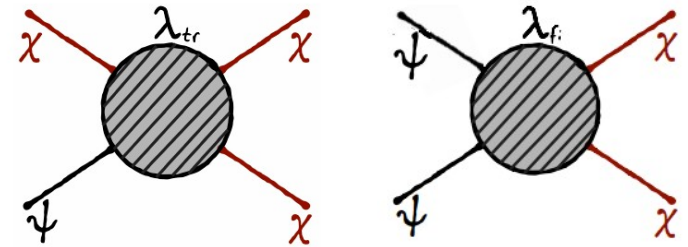
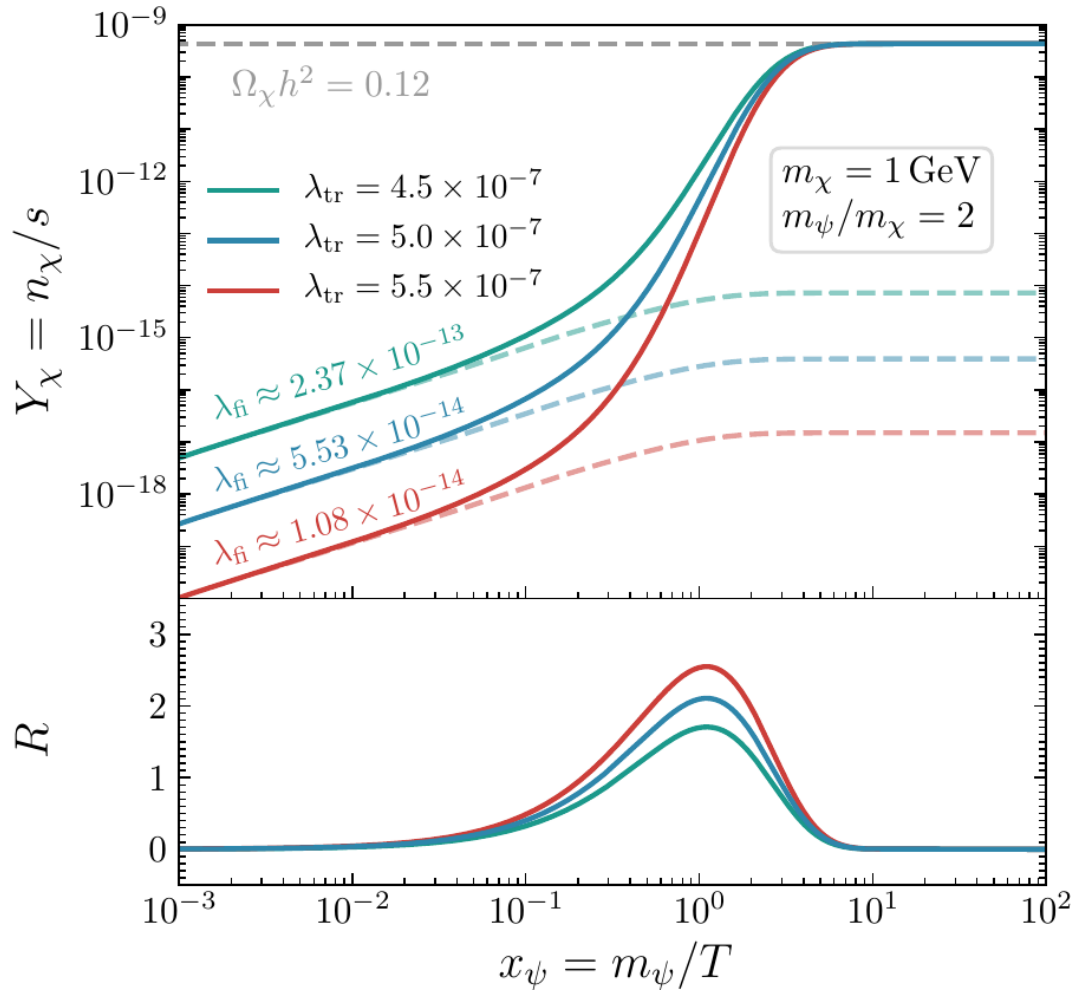
$$\dot{n}_\chi + 3Hn_\chi = \underbrace{\langle \sigma_{\chi\psi \rightarrow \chi\chi\nu} \rangle \bar{n}_\psi n_\chi}_{\text{Transmission}}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\langle \sigma_{\psi\psi \rightarrow \chi\chi\nu} \rangle \bar{n}_\psi^2}_{\text{Freeze-in}}$$

Freeze-in

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Transmission

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Prerequisite:

$$\langle \sigma_{\psi\psi \rightarrow \chi\chi\nu} \rangle \ll \langle \sigma_{\psi\chi \rightarrow \chi\chi\nu} \rangle$$

Model building?

- Natural way to realize $\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\text{fi}} \ll \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\text{tr}}$?

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$$\mathcal{L} \supset -g[\bar{\chi}\mathcal{V}\chi - \theta(\bar{\psi}\mathcal{V}\chi + \bar{\chi}\mathcal{V}\psi) + \theta^2\bar{\psi}\mathcal{V}\psi]$$

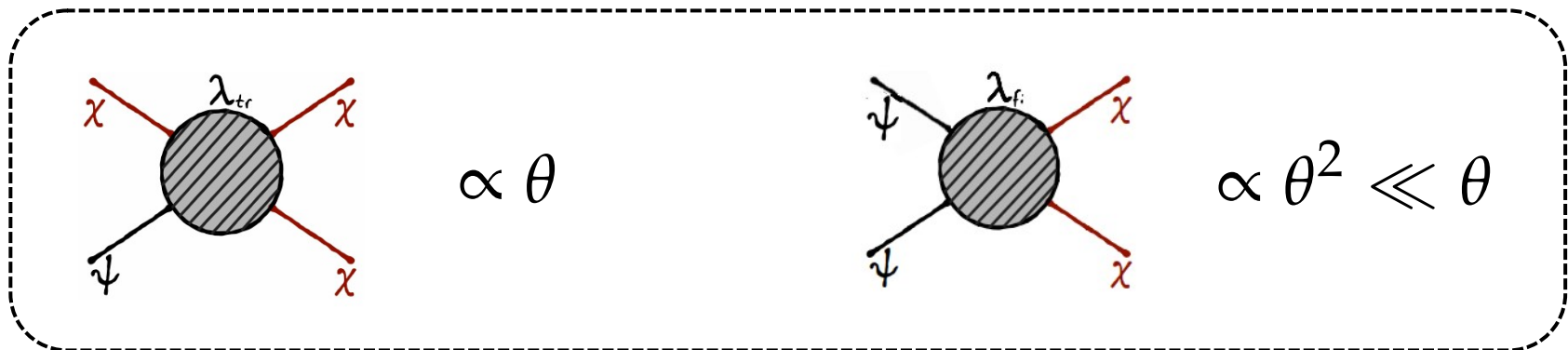
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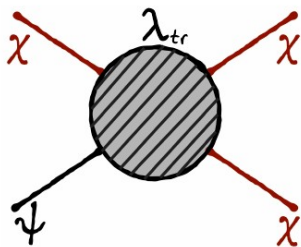
Model building?

- Natural way to realize $\langle\sigma v\rangle_{\text{fi}} \ll \langle\sigma v\rangle_{\text{tr}}$?
- Yes! Add ~~DS mediator~~ and mass mixing \longrightarrow Sterile Neutrinos

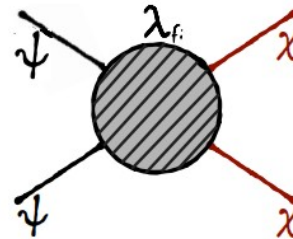
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$$\propto \theta$$



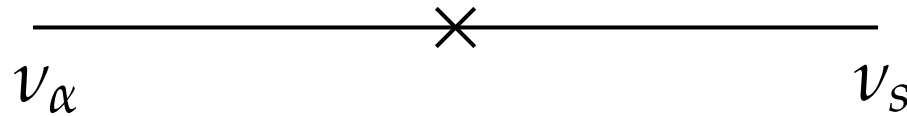
$$\propto \theta^2 \ll \theta$$

Application to sterile neutrinos

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→ Production via **Dodelson-Widrow mechanism**

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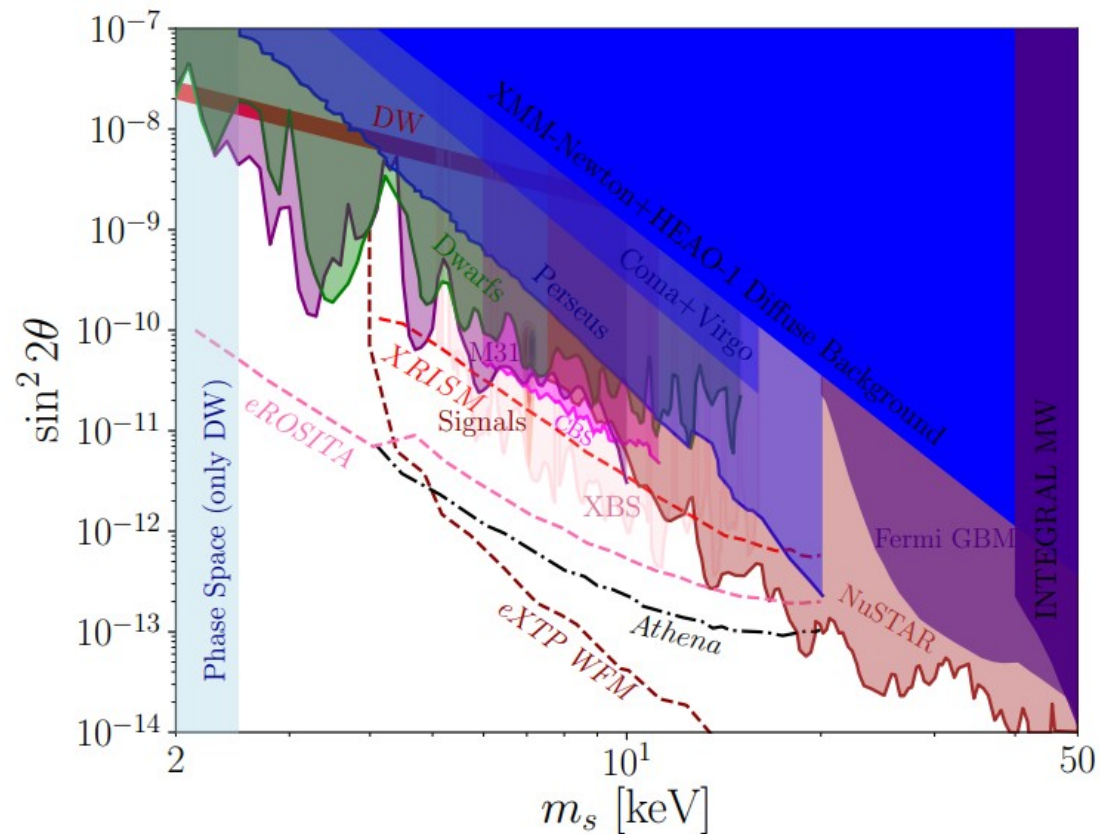


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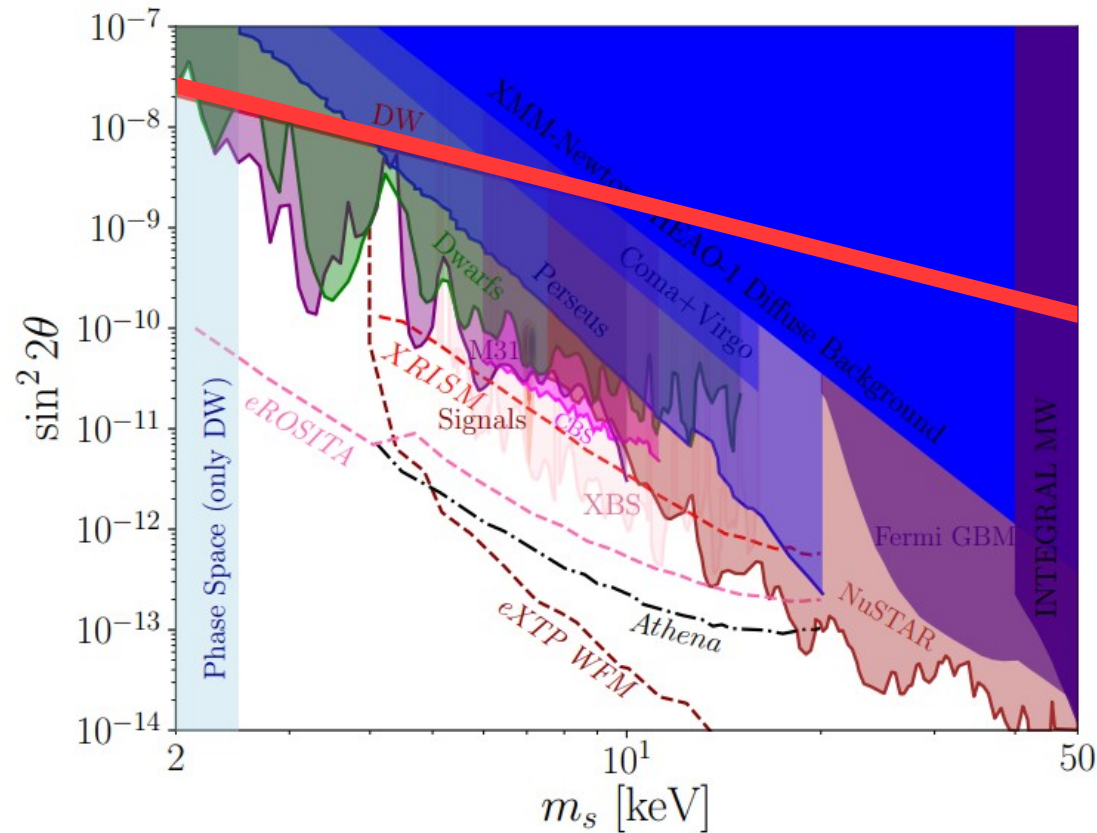
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Abazajian et al. 2203.07377

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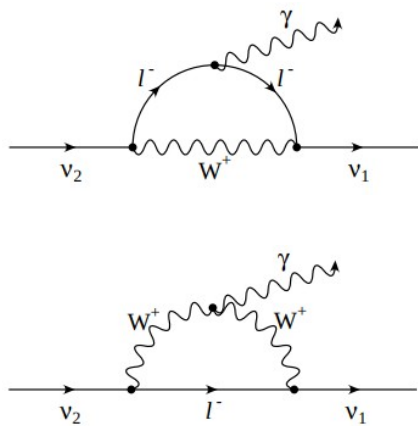
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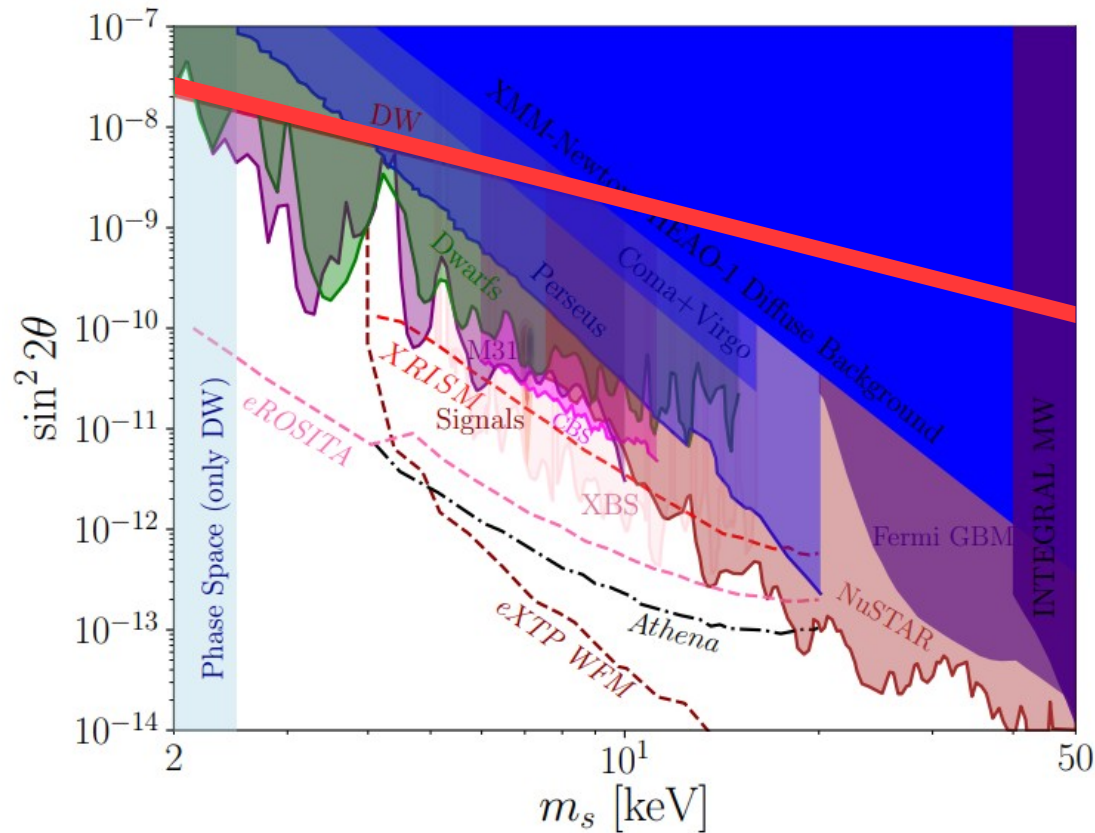
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[astro-ph/0106002]



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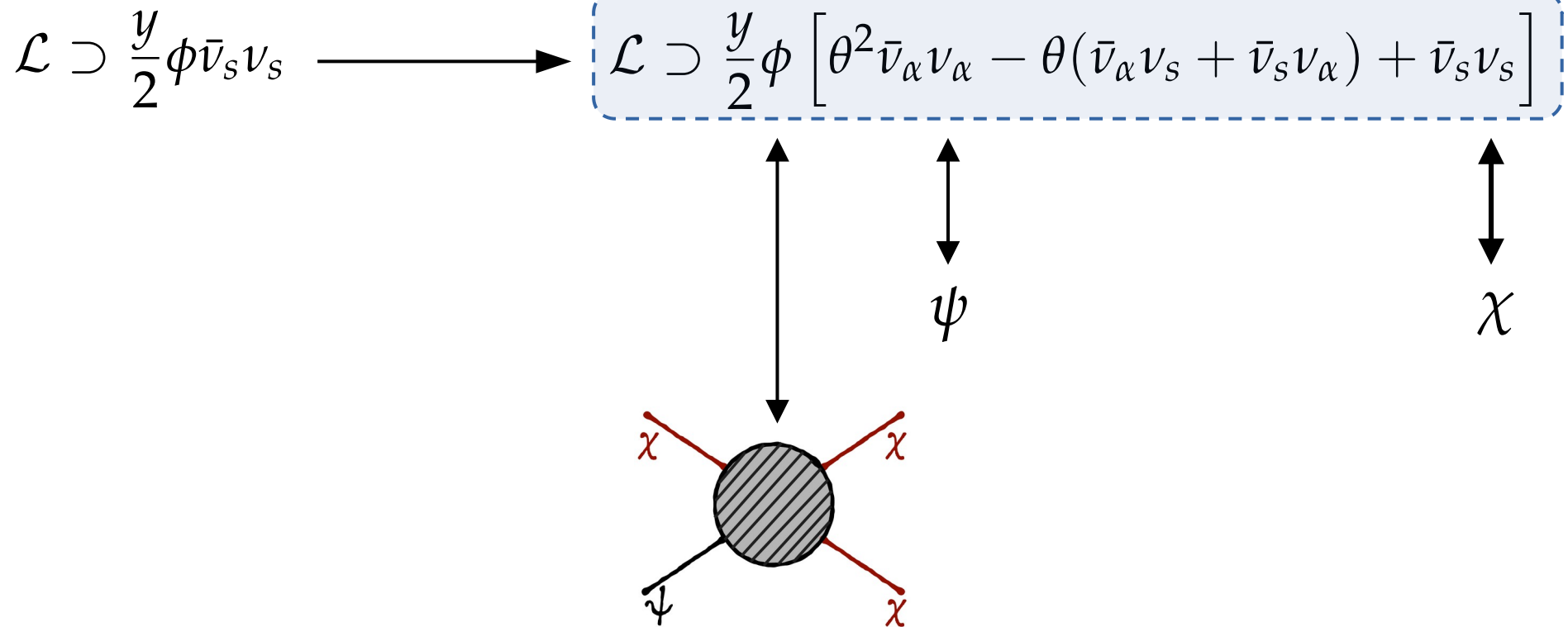
Application to sterile neutrinos

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- Loophole:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{y}{2} \phi \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s \longrightarrow \mathcal{L} \supset \frac{y}{2} \phi \left[\theta^2 \bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_\alpha - \theta (\bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_s + \bar{\nu}_s \nu_\alpha) + \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s \right]$$

Application to sterile neutrinos

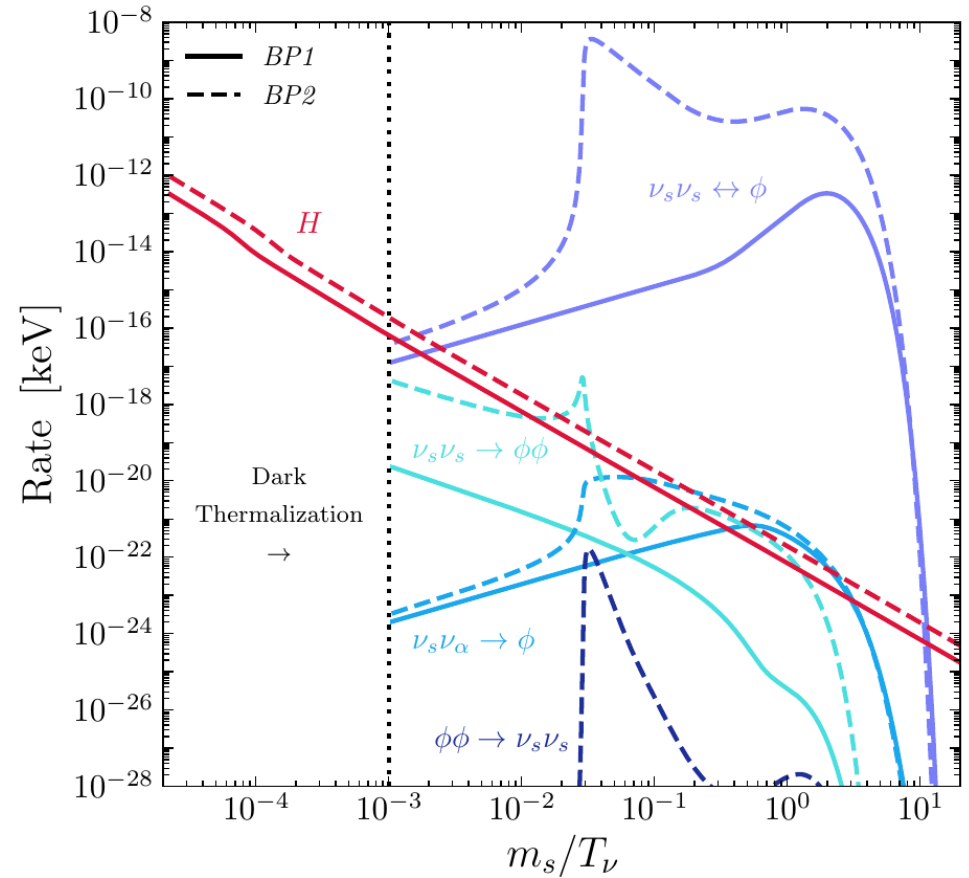
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Cosmological evolution

Rapid DS thermalisation via

$$\nu_s \nu_s \rightarrow \phi, \phi \rightarrow \nu_s \nu_s$$



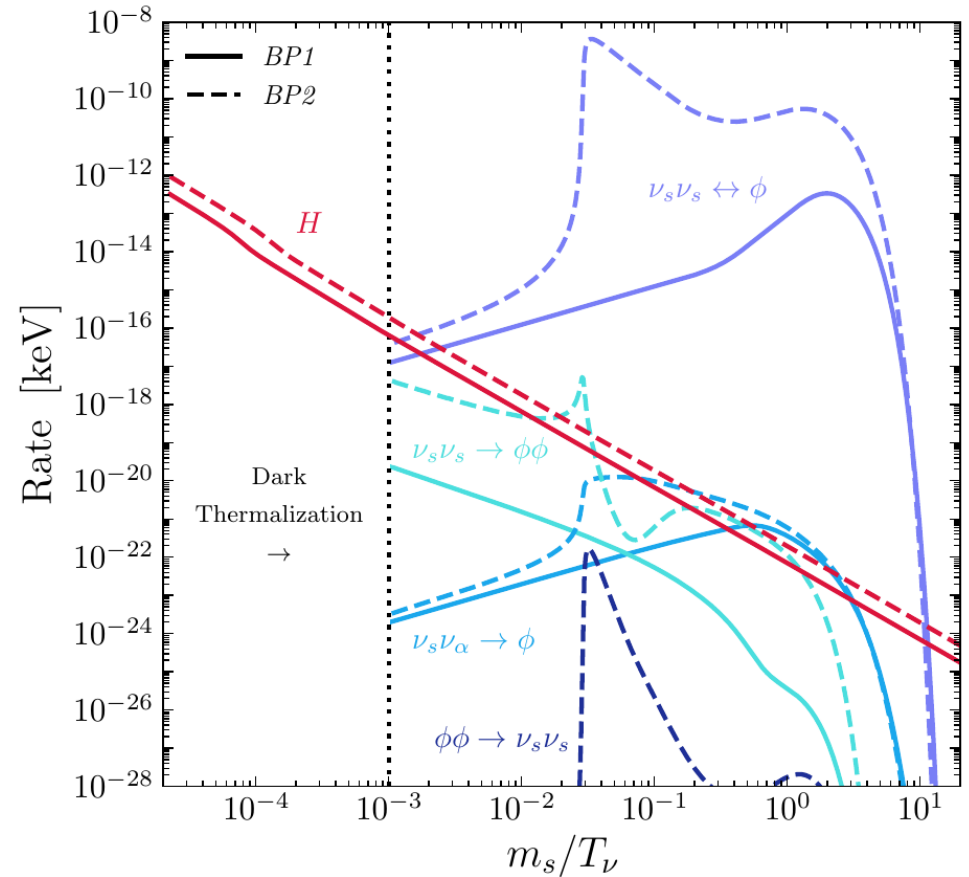
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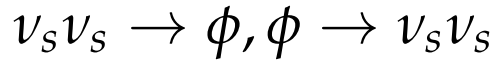


$$f_s = \frac{1}{e^{(E-\mu_s)/T_d} + 1} \quad f_\phi = \frac{1}{e^{(E-\mu_\phi)/T_d} - 1}$$

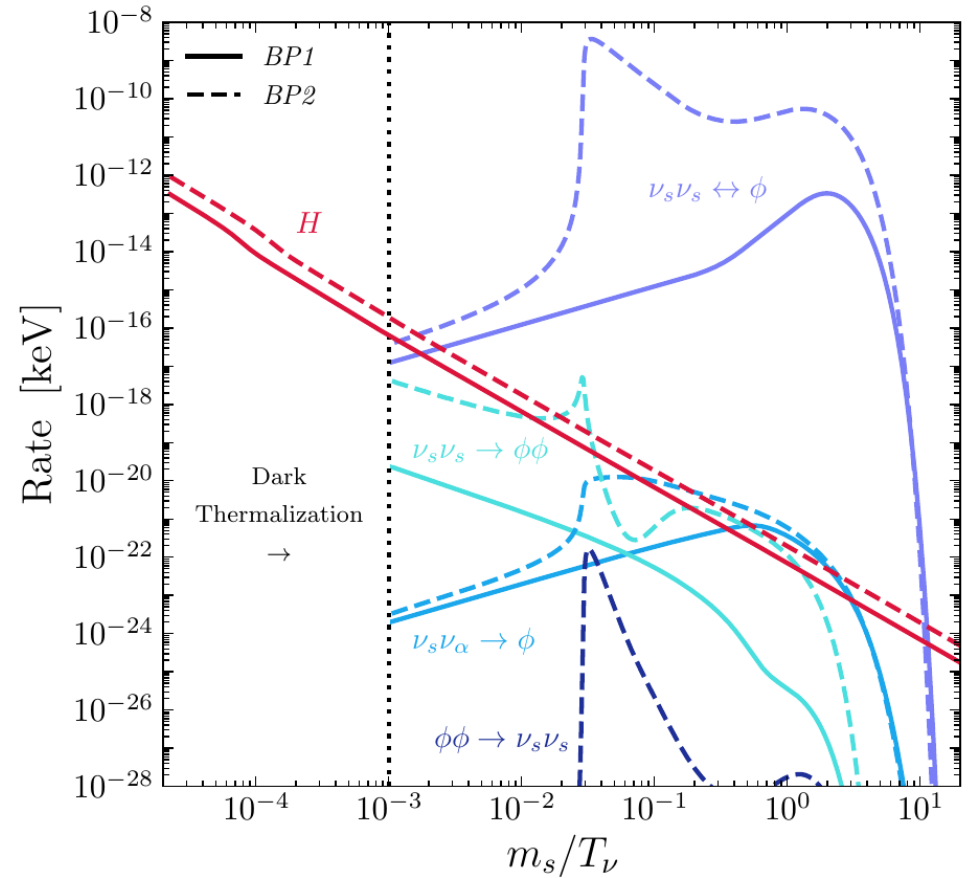


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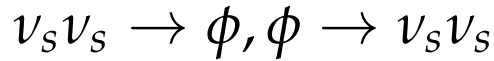


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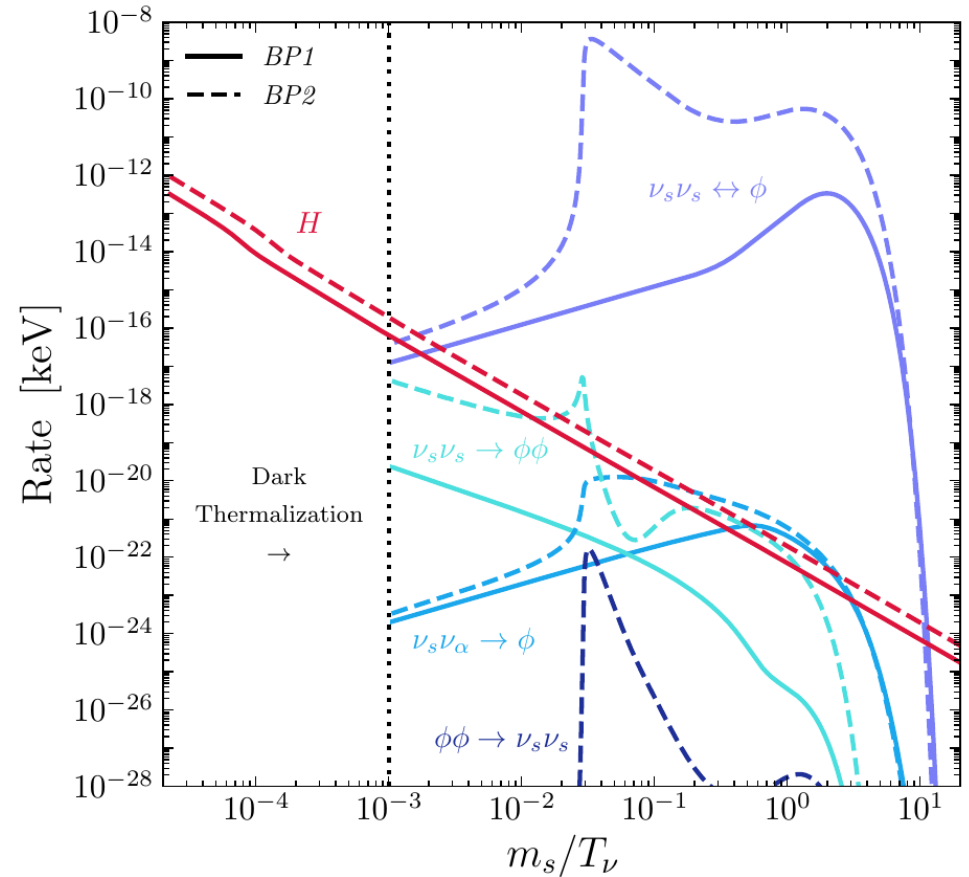
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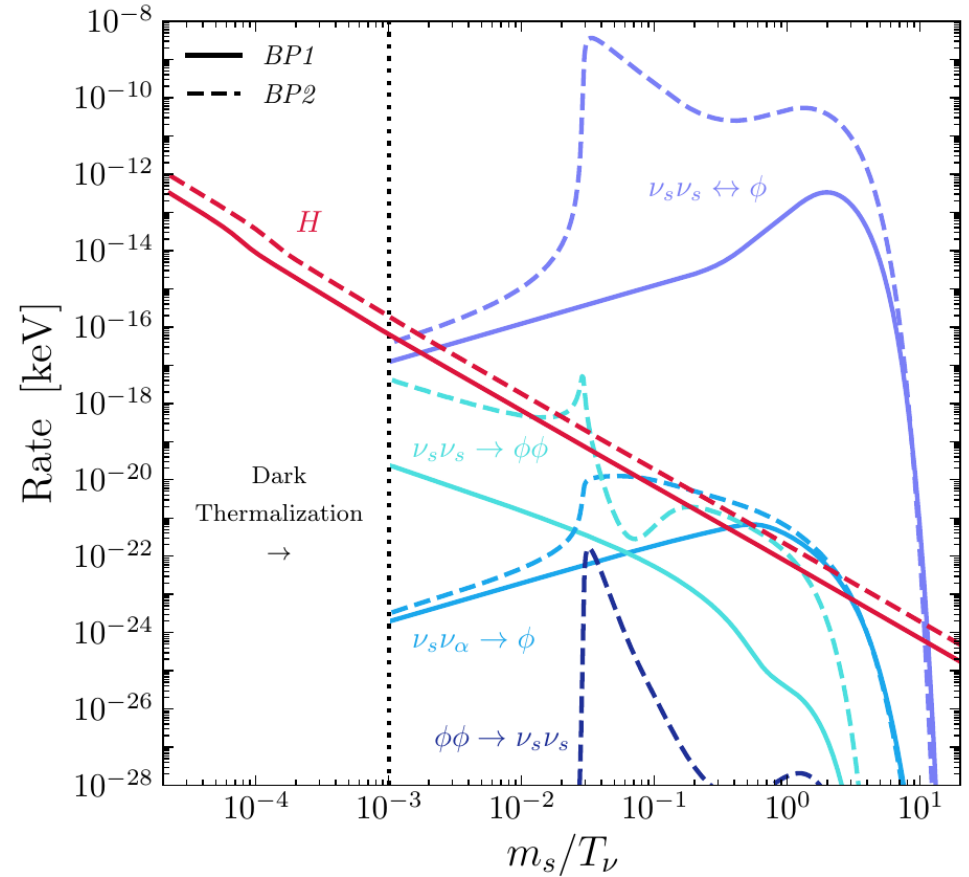
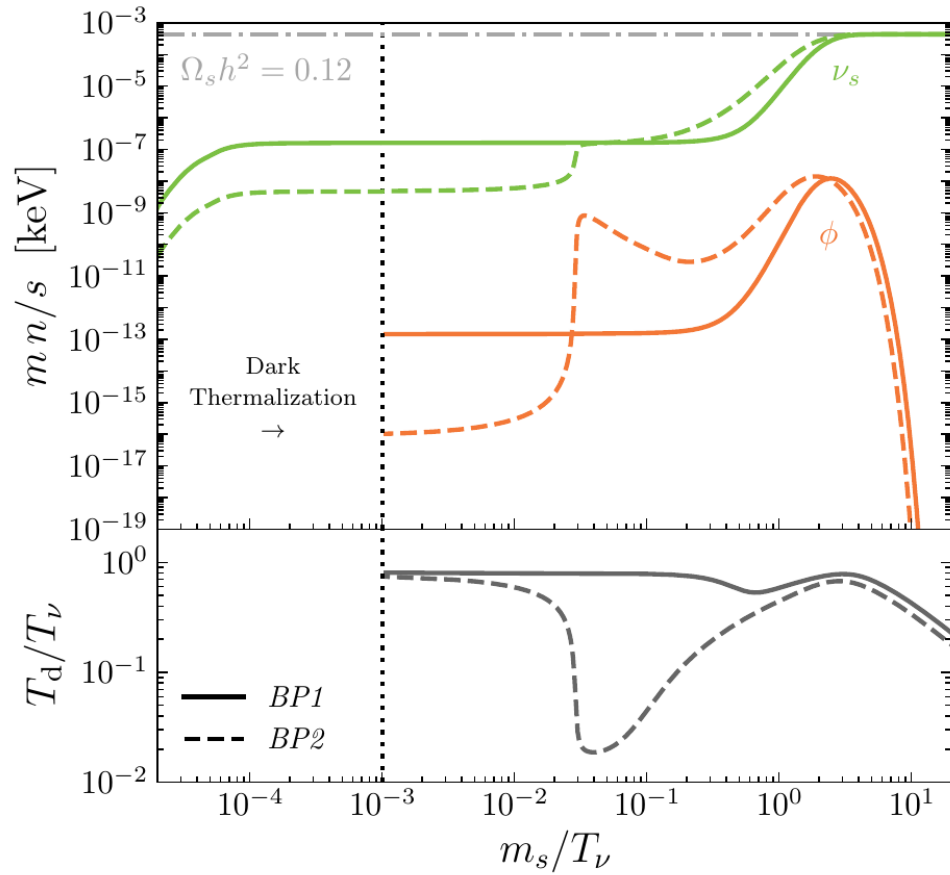
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Boltzmann equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{n}_s + 3Hn_s &= C_s \\ \dot{n}_\phi + 3Hn_\phi &= C_\phi \\ \dot{\rho} + 3H(\rho + P) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

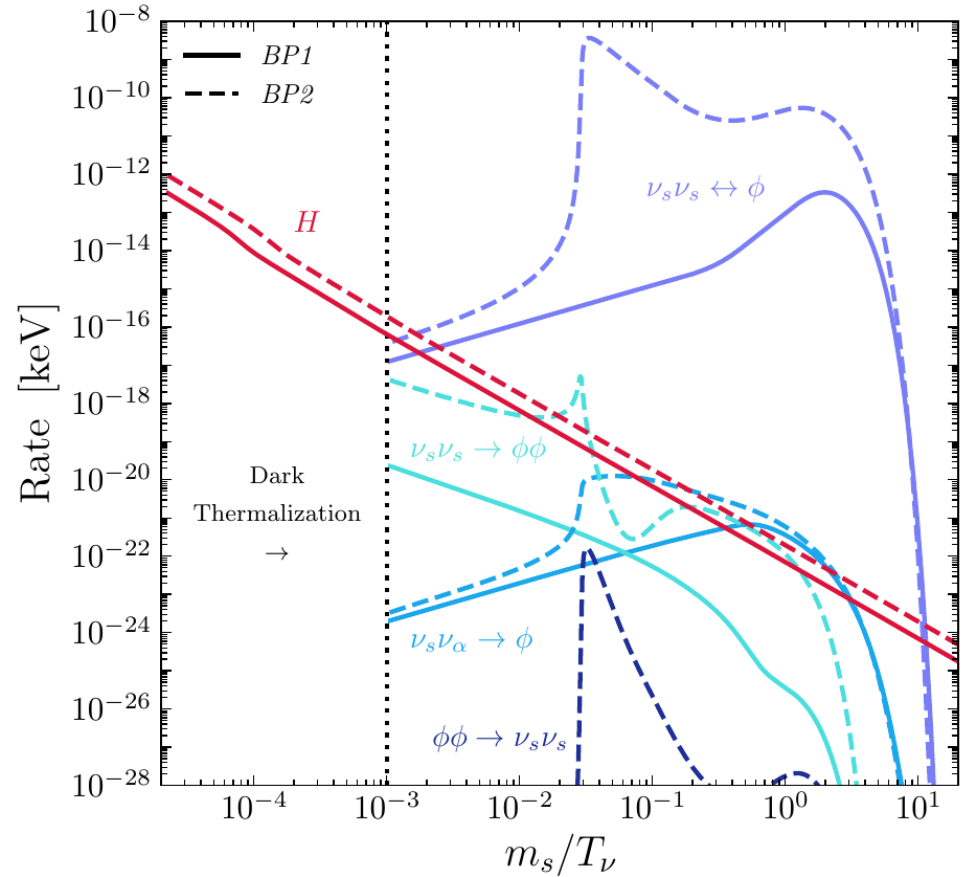
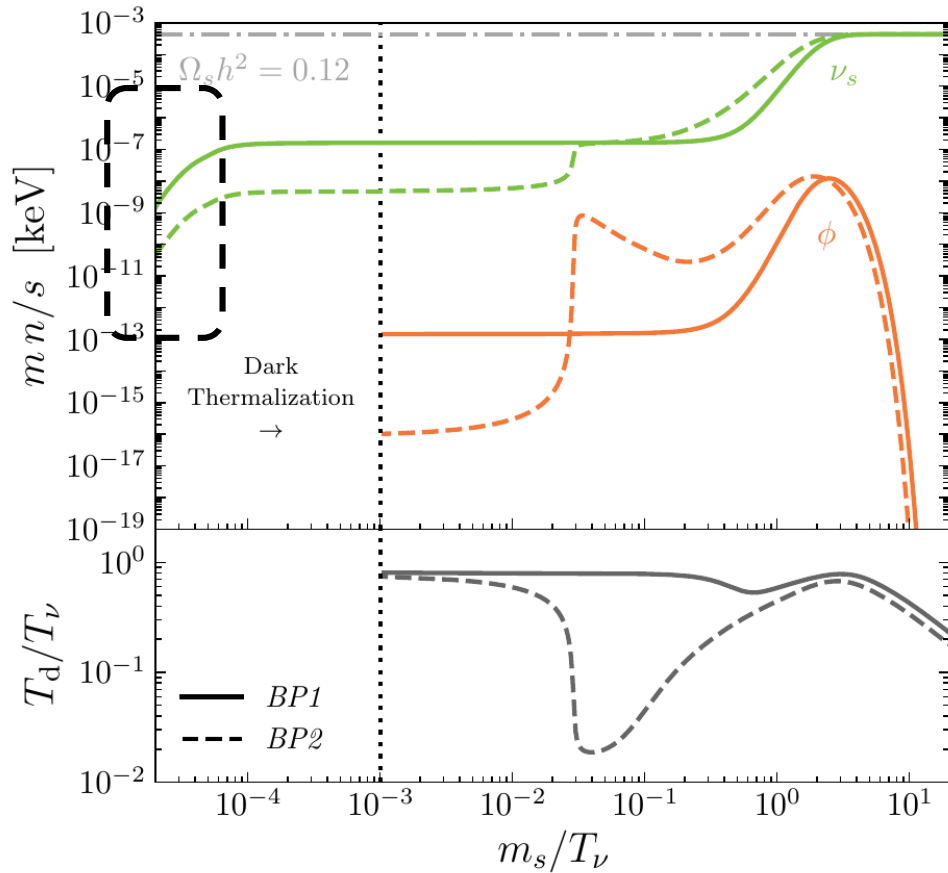


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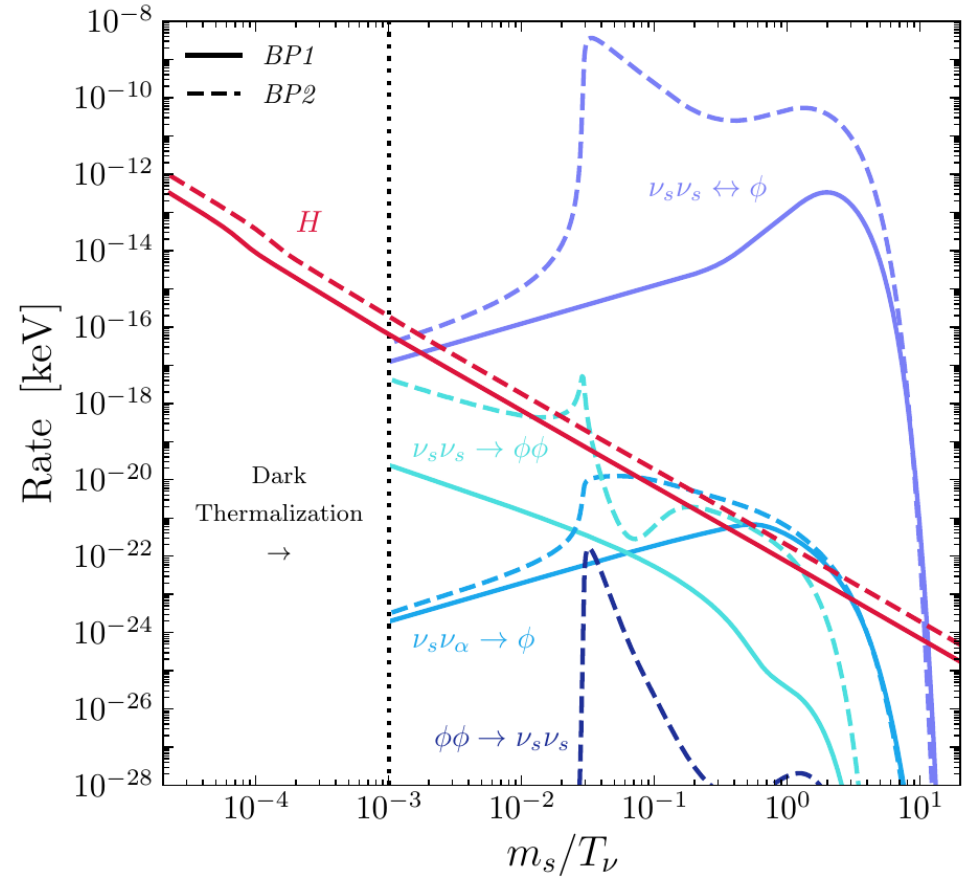
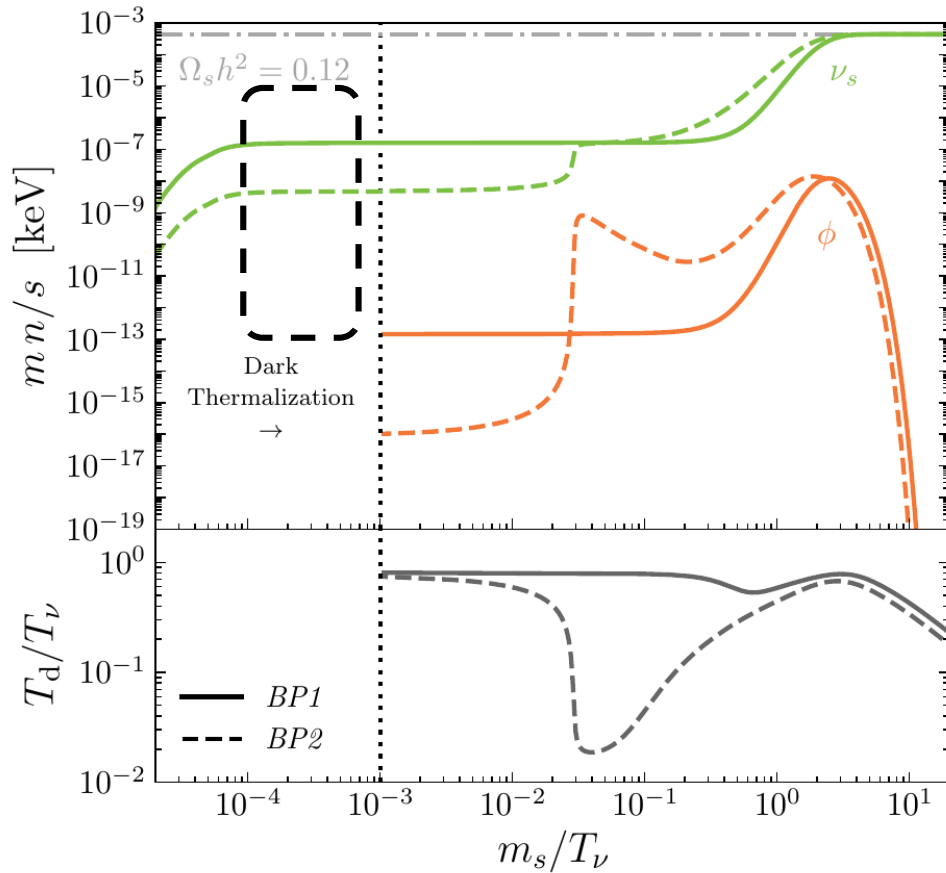
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$$\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_s$$



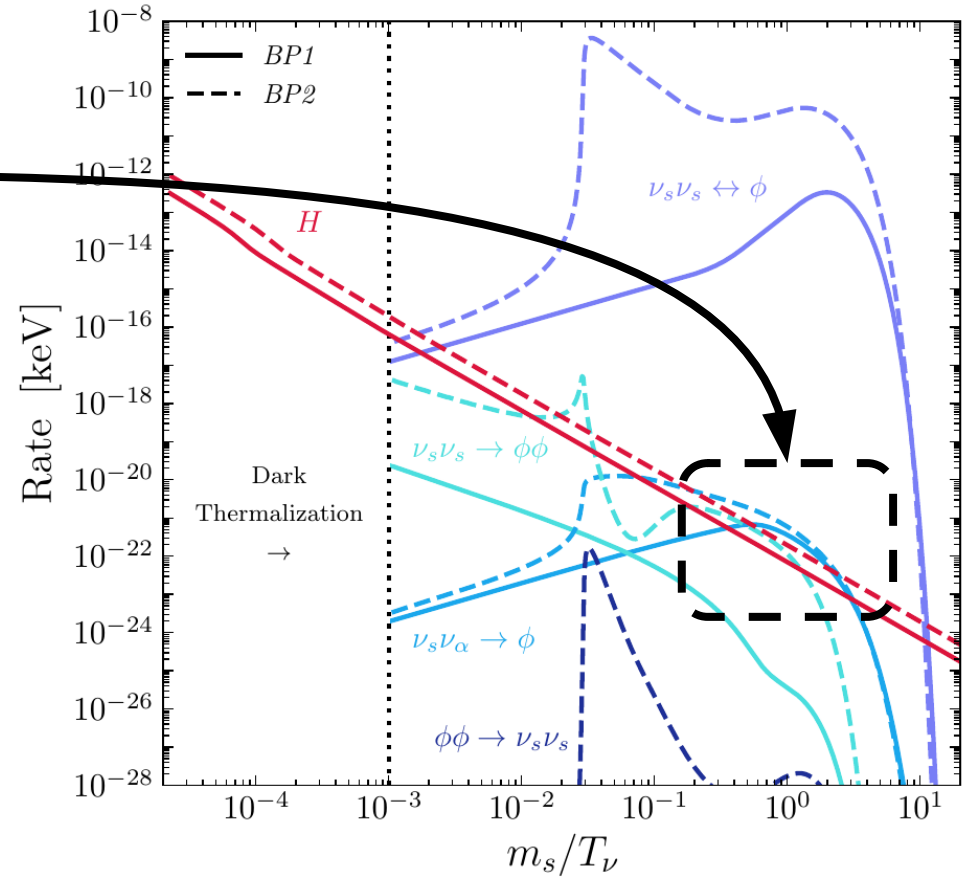
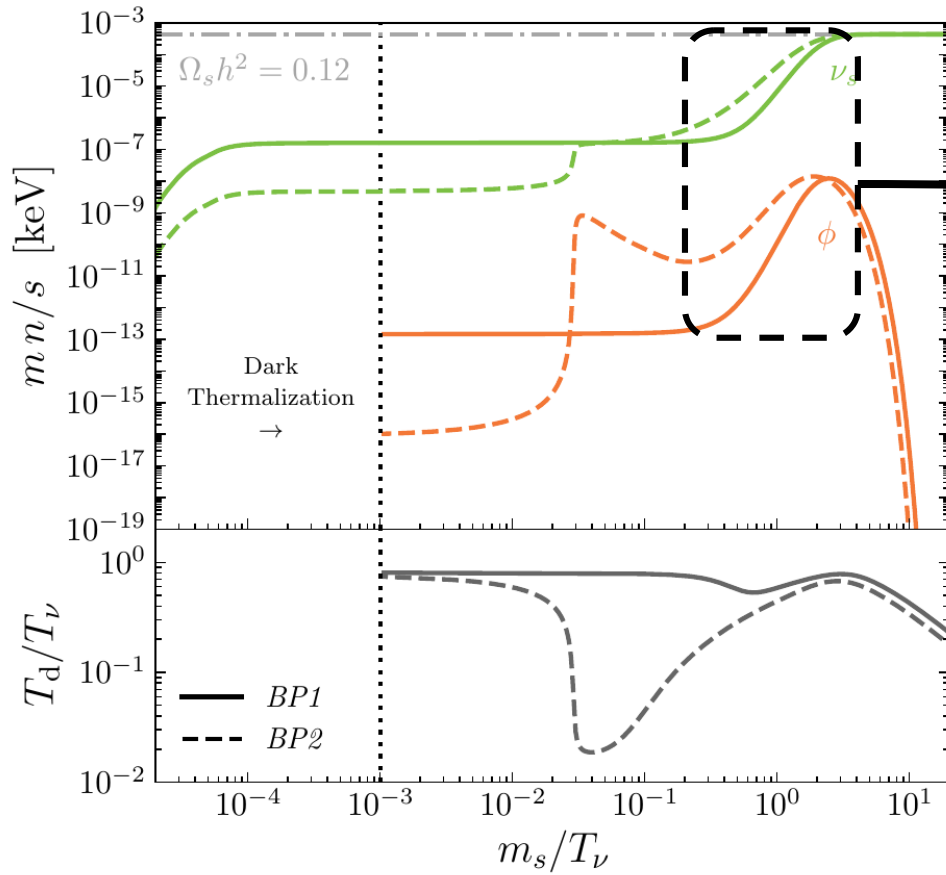
Cosmological evolution

$$\nu_s \nu_s \rightarrow \phi, \phi \rightarrow \nu_s \nu_s$$



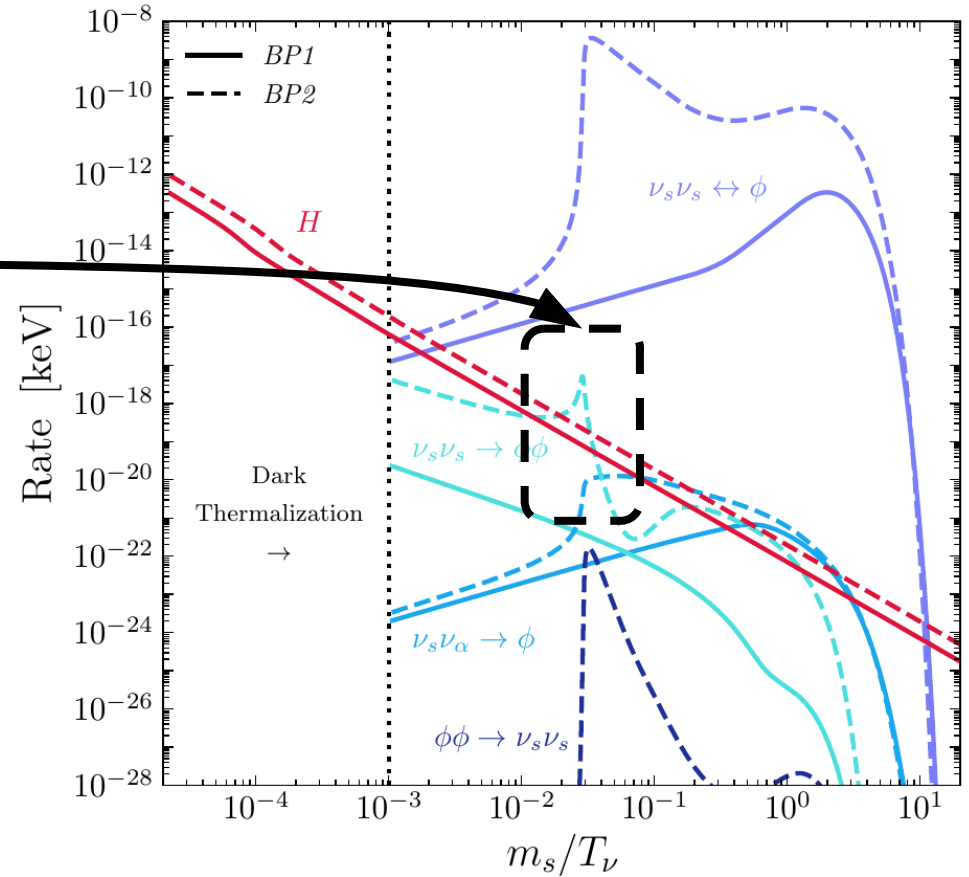
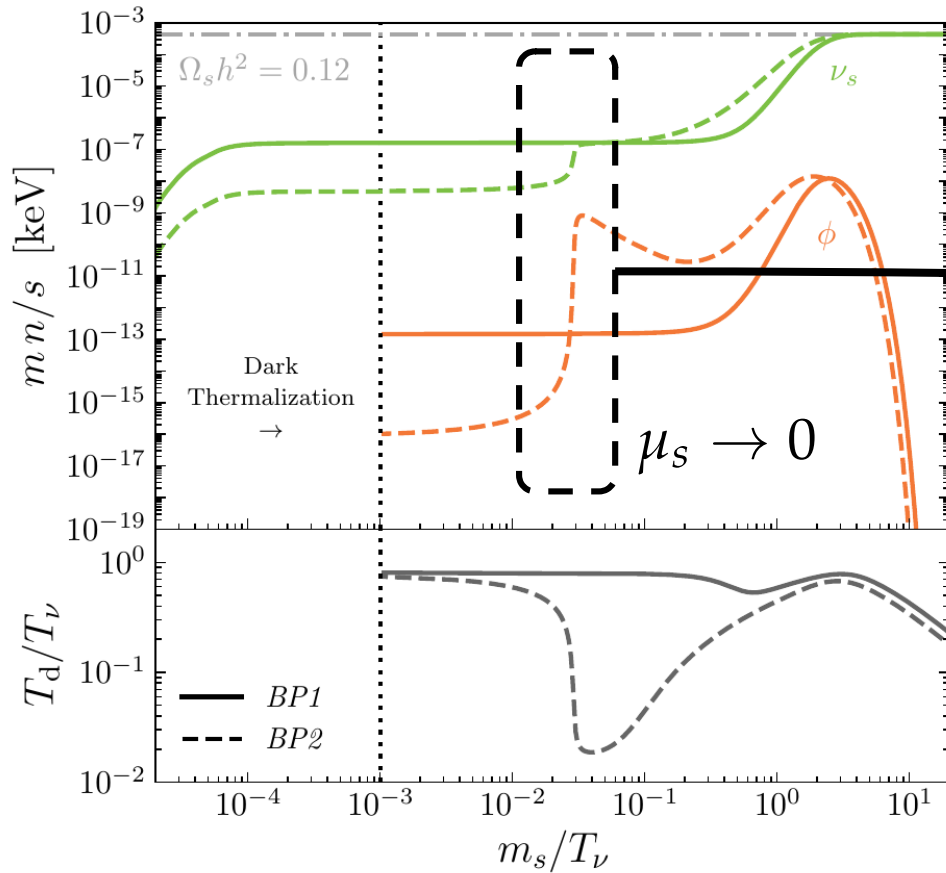
Cosmological evolution

$$\nu_s \nu_\alpha \rightarrow \phi, \phi \rightarrow \nu_s \nu_s$$

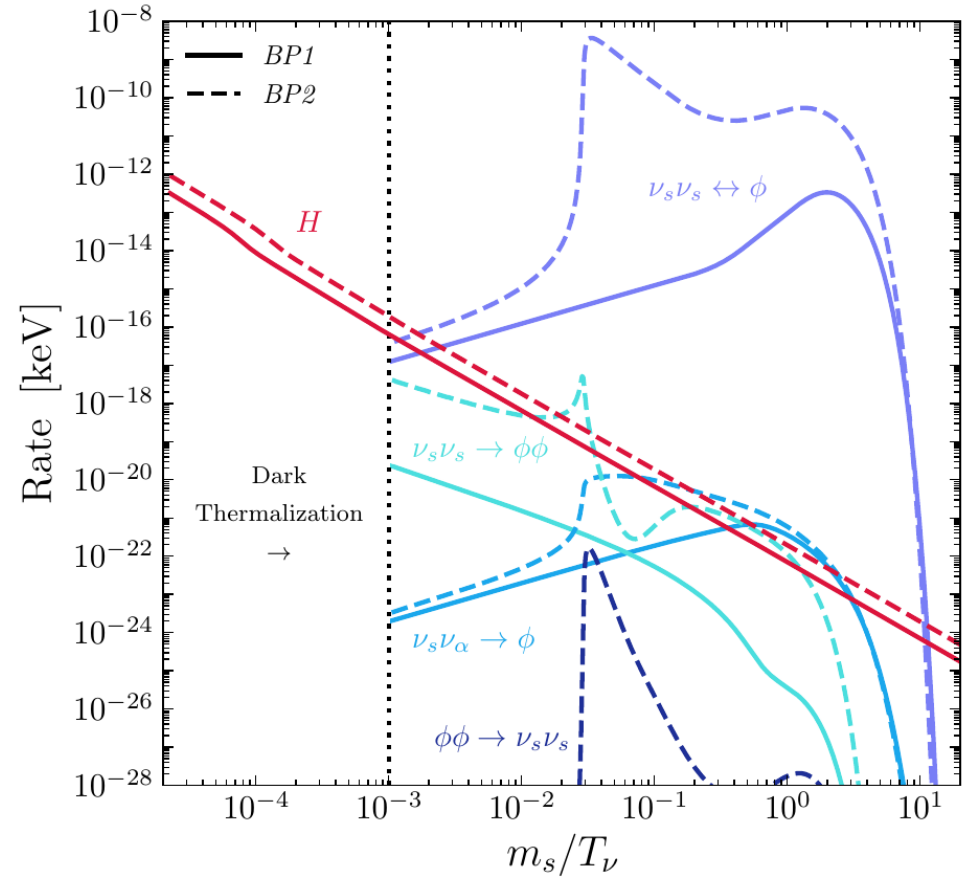
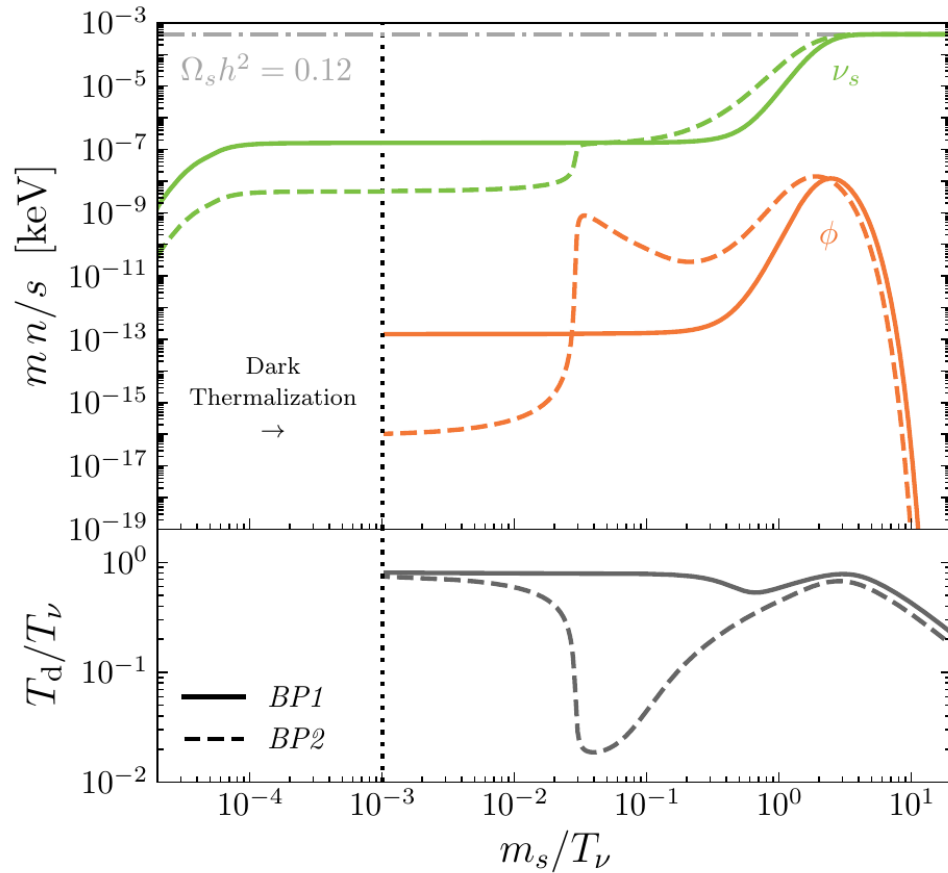


Cosmological evolution

$$\nu_s \nu_s \rightarrow \phi\phi, \phi\phi \rightarrow 4\nu_s$$

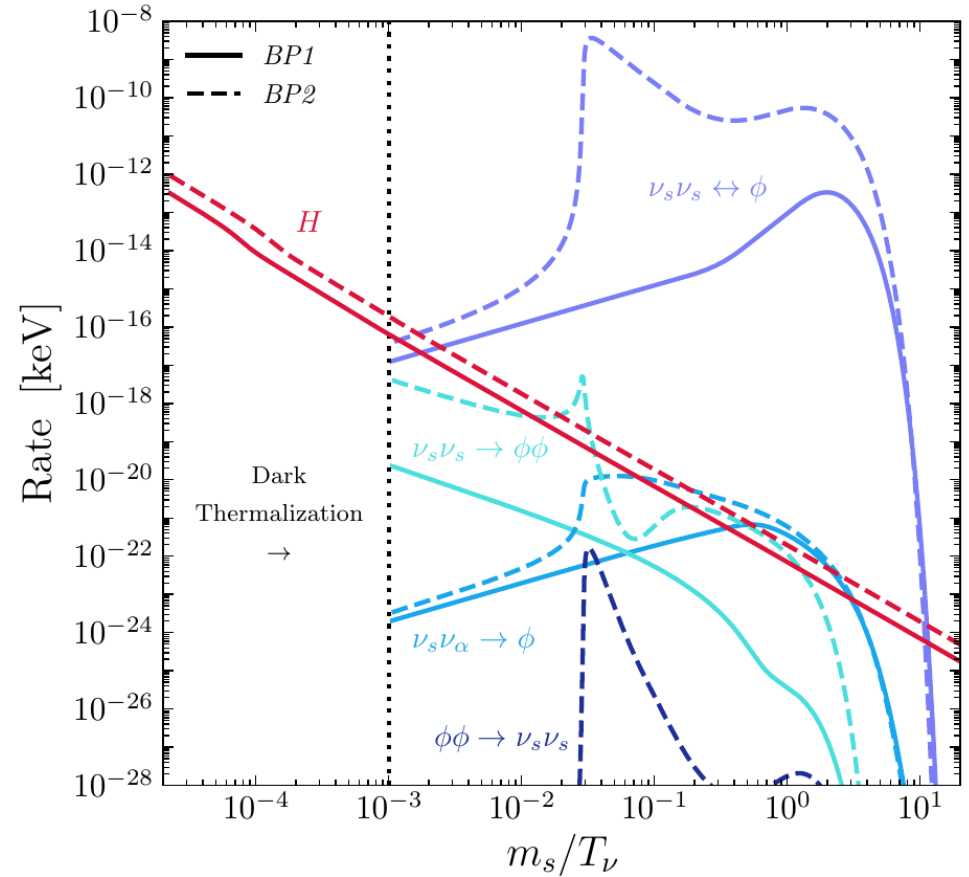
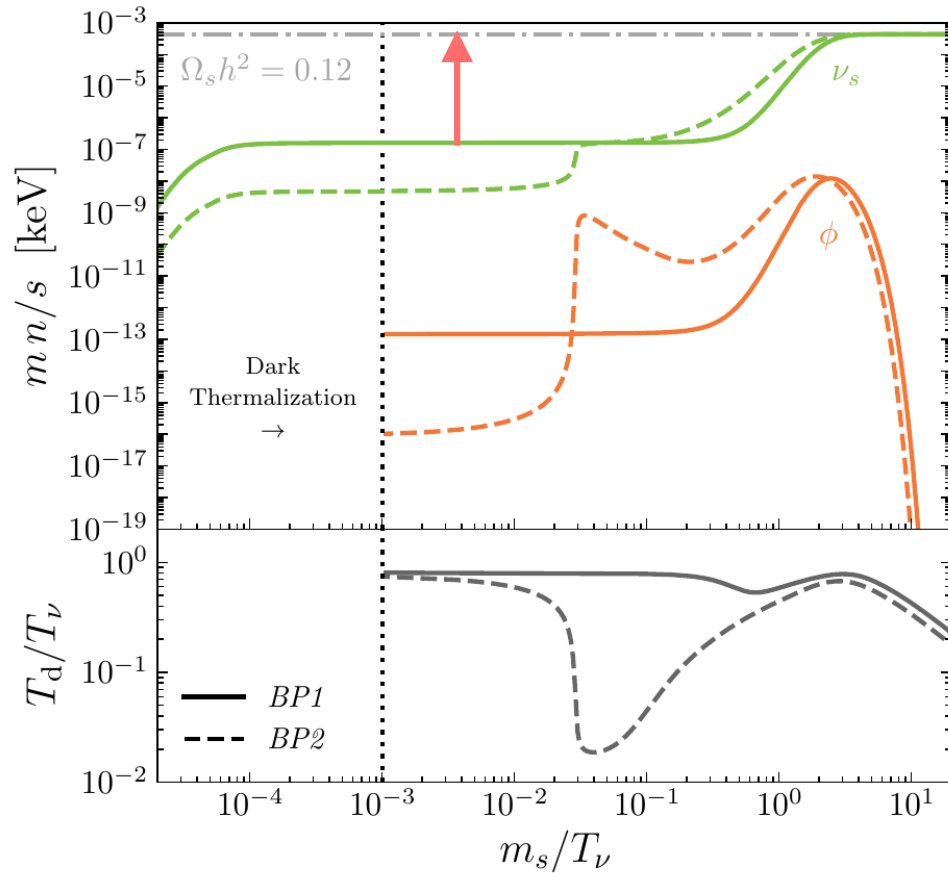


Cosmological evolution



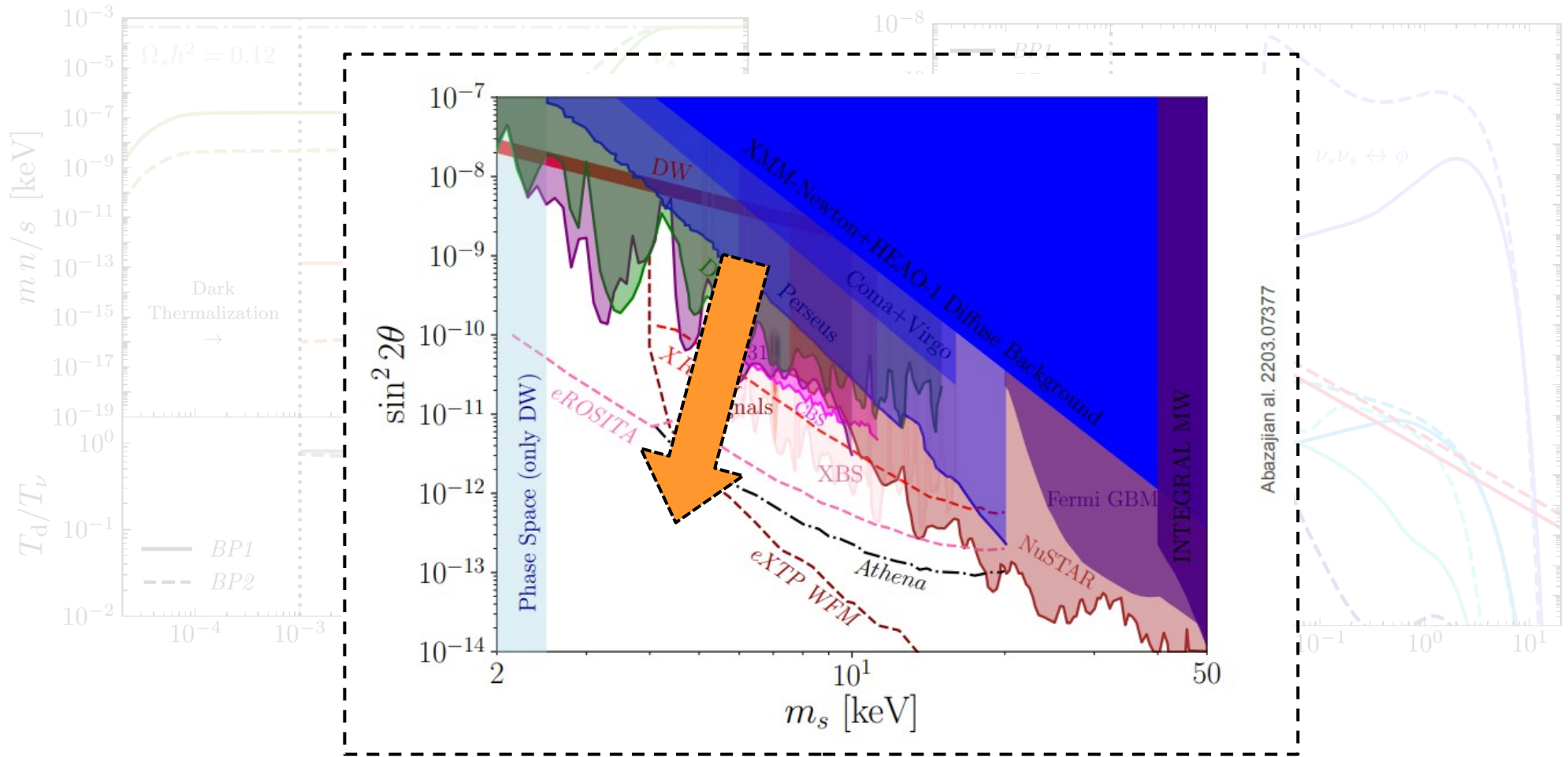
\rightarrow Correct relic abundance despite DW underproduction

Cosmological evolution



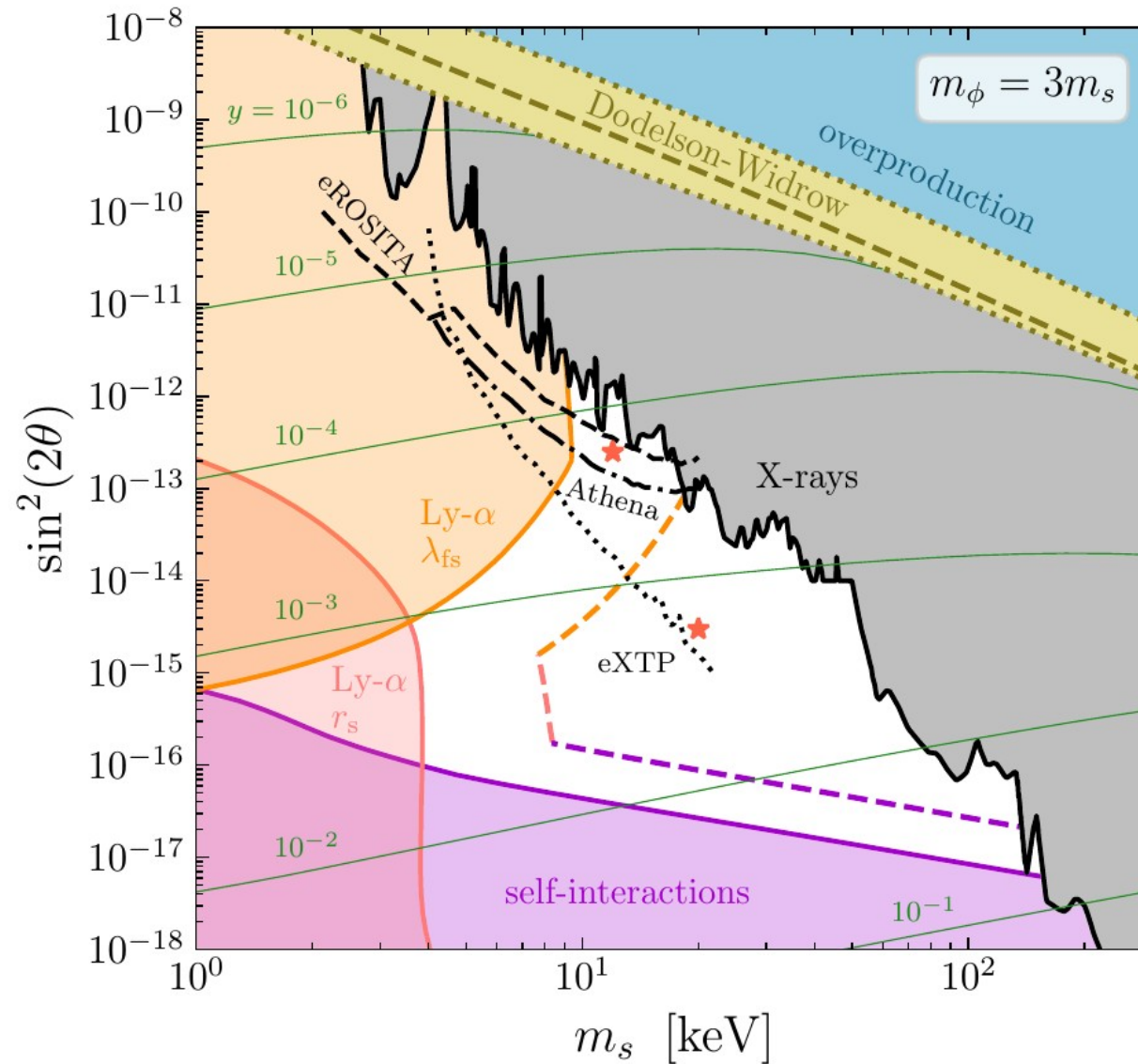
\rightarrow Correct relic abundance despite DW underproduction

Cosmological evolution



→ Correct relic abundance despite DW underproduction!

Viable parameter space



Overview

- **Pandemic** DM and its application to sterile neutrinos

Minimal sterile neutrino dark matter

Torsten Bringmann,^{1,2,*} Paul Frederik Depta,^{3,†} Marco Hufnagel,^{4,‡}
Jörn Kersten,^{5,6,§} Joshua T. Ruderman,^{7,¶} and Kai Schmidt-Hoberg^{8,**}

¹*Department of Physics, University of Oslo,*

²*Theoretical Physics Department, CERN,*

³*Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Saupfercher*

⁴*Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bou*

⁵*Korea Institute for Advanced Study, Sec*

⁶*Department of Physics and Technology, Univers*

⁷*Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, Department of Physi*

⁸*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notk*

(Dated: April 26, :)

Dark Matter from Exponential Growth

Originally proposed as Pandemic Dark Matter

Torsten Bringmann,^{1,*} Paul Frederik Depta,^{2,†} Marco Hufnagel,^{3,‡}
Joshua T. Ruderman,^{4,2,5,6,§} and Kai Schmidt-Hoberg^{2,¶}

¹*Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Box 1048, N-0316 Oslo, Norway*

²*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notkestraße 85, D-22607 Hamburg, Germany*

³*Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Boulevard du Triomphe, CP225, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium*

⁴*Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, Department of Physics, New York University, New York, NY 10003, USA*

⁵*Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

⁶*School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv 69978, Israel*

- The domain of **cannibal** DM

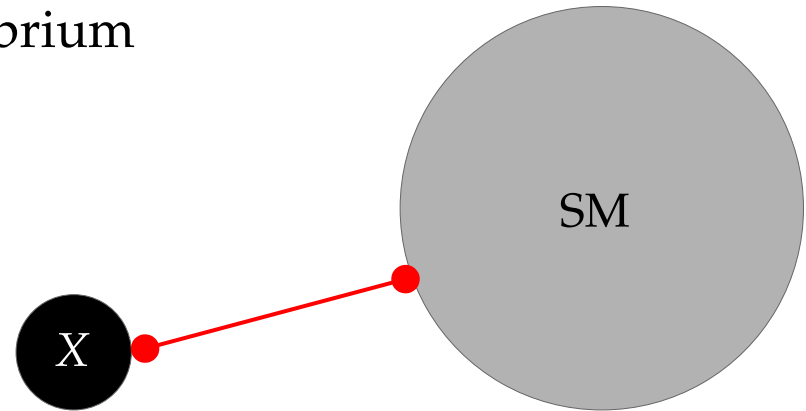
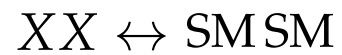
The domain of a cannibal dark matter

Marco Hufnagel^{1,✉} and Michel H.G. Tytgat^{1,Ⓜ}

¹*Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles,
Boulevard du Triomphe, CP225, 1050 Brussels, Belgium*

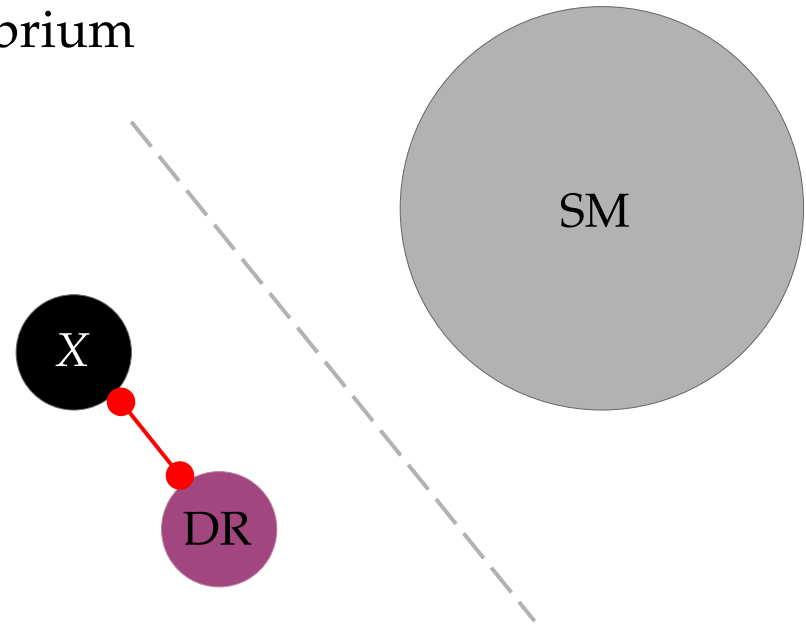
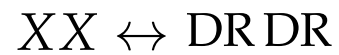
Cannibal Dark Matter

Premise: DM keeps itself in chemical equilibrium



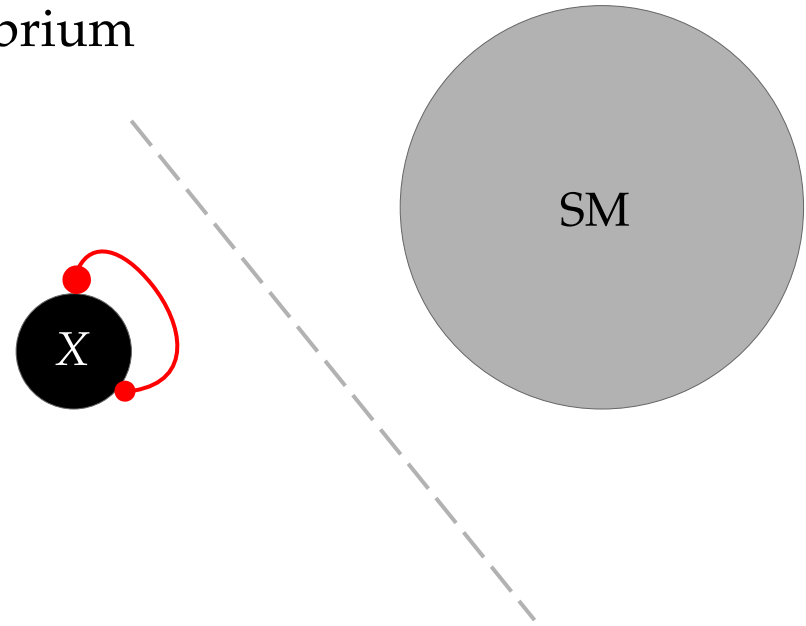
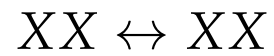
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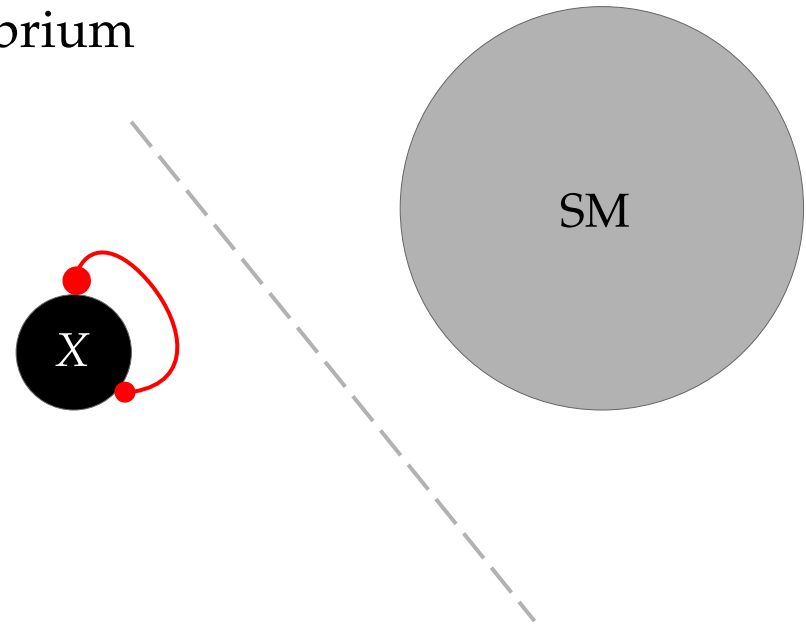
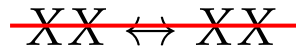
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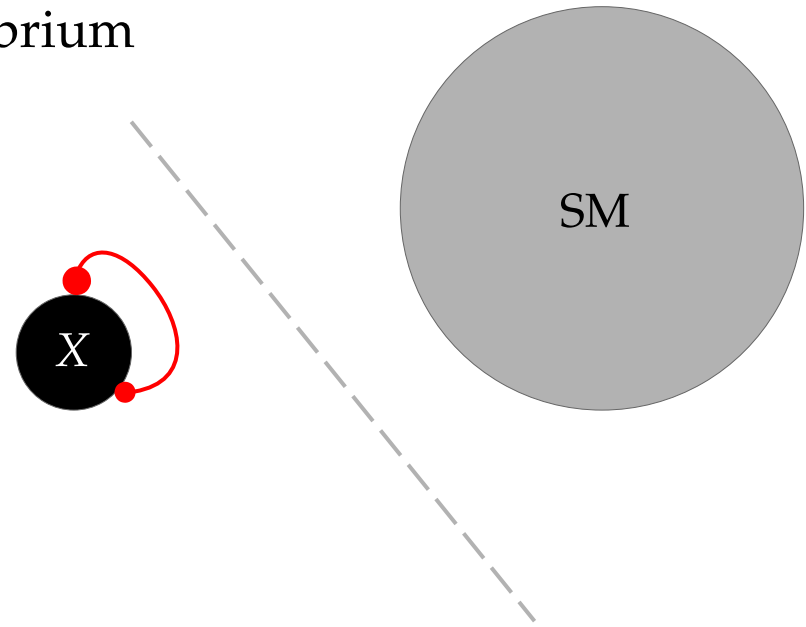
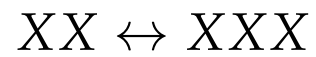
Cannibal Dark Matter

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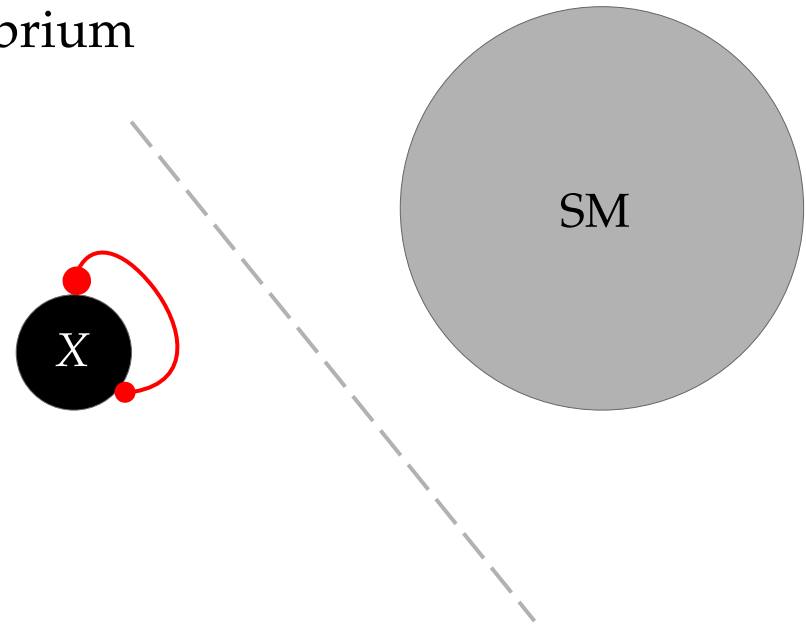
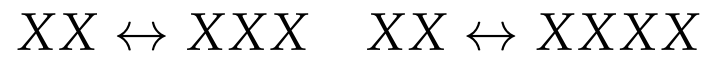
Cannibal Dark Matter

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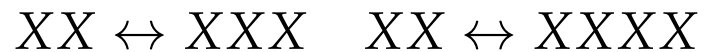
Cannibal Dark Matter

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Cannibal Dark Matter

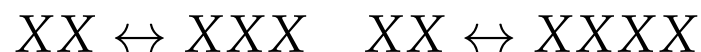
Premise: DM keeps itself in chemical equilibrium



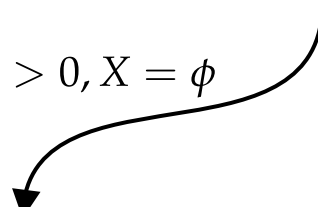
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu X)(\partial^\mu X) + \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 X^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}X^4$$

Cannibal Dark Matter

Premise: DM keeps itself in chemical equilibrium



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_{\mu}X)(\partial^{\mu}X) + \frac{1}{2}\mu^2X^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}X^4$$

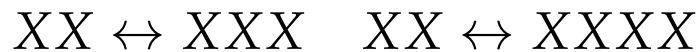
$$\mu^2 > 0, X = \phi$$


$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}}^{\text{S}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_{\mu}\phi)(\partial^{\mu}\phi) - \frac{1}{2}m_{\phi}^2\phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

[1906.07659]

Cannibal Dark Matter

Premise: DM keeps itself in chemical equilibrium



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu X)(\partial^\mu X) + \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 X^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}X^4$$

$$\mu^2 > 0, X = \phi$$

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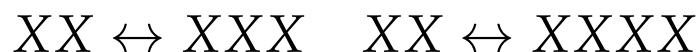
$$\mu^2 < 0, X = \phi + v$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}}^{\text{B}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)(\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda v}{3!}\phi^3 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

[1906.07659]

Cannibal Dark Matter

Premise: DM keeps itself in chemical equilibrium



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu X)(\partial^\mu X) + \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 X^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}X^4$$

$$\mu^2 > 0, X = \phi$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}}^{\text{S}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)(\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

[1906.07659]

$$\mu^2 < 0, X = \phi + v$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}}^{\text{B}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)(\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda v}{3!}\phi^3 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ds}}^{\text{G}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)(\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \frac{m_\phi g}{3!}\phi^3 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

[2206.11046]

Additional Considerations

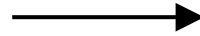
Matrix element @threshold:

$$|\mathcal{M}_{3\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi}| \propto |3\lambda - g^2|$$
$$\rightarrow 0$$

Additional Considerations

Matrix element @threshold:

$$|\mathcal{M}_{3\phi\rightarrow\phi\phi}| \propto |3\lambda - g^2| \\ \rightarrow 0$$



One-loop corrections:

$$|\mathcal{M}_{3\phi\rightarrow\phi\phi}^{1\text{-loop}}| \propto \frac{\lambda^2}{v}$$

Additional Considerations

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SSB before decoupling:

$$m_\phi \ll T'_c \simeq \frac{24|\mu^2|}{\lambda}$$

Additional Considerations

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$$\lambda < 1$$

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$$\lambda < 1$$

SSB before decoupling:

$$m_\phi \ll T'_c \simeq \frac{24|\mu^2|}{\lambda}$$

Domain wall formation:

$$\text{MeV} > \sigma_{\text{DW}} = \sqrt{\lambda} v^3$$

Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

$$\phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi, \quad \phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi\phi, \quad \dots$$

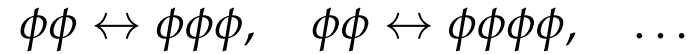
Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi + \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

$$\phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi, \quad \phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi\phi, \quad \dots$$

Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

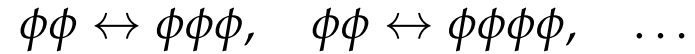


Boltzmann equation

$$(1) \quad \dot{n}_\phi + 3Hn_\phi = \mathfrak{C}$$

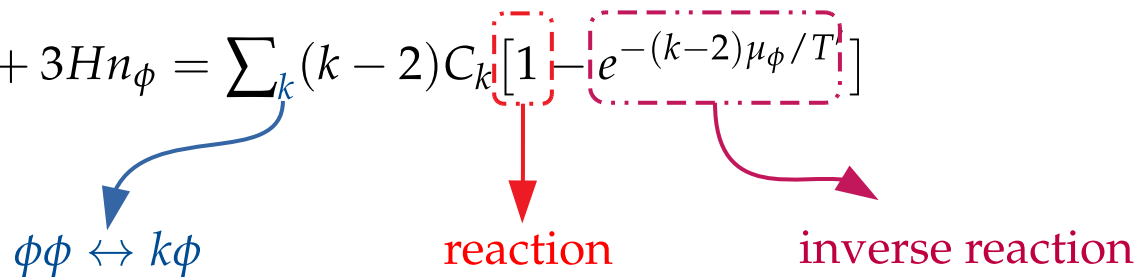
Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T}}$$



Boltzmann equation

$$(1) \quad \dot{n}_\phi + 3Hn_\phi = \sum_k (k-2) C_k [1 - e^{-(k-2)\mu_\phi/T}]$$



$\phi\phi \leftrightarrow k\phi$ reaction inverse reaction

Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

$$\phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi, \quad \phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi\phi, \quad \dots$$

Boltzmann equation

$$(1) \quad \dot{n}_\phi + 3Hn_\phi = \sum_k (k-2)C_k [1 - e^{-(k-2)\mu_\phi/T'}]$$

$$(2) \quad \dot{\rho}_\phi + 3H(\rho_\phi + P_\phi) = 0$$

Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

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Boltzmann equation

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Initial condition

$$(1) \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mu_\phi = 0$$

$$(2) \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T'}{T} \equiv \zeta_\infty$$

Thermal Evolution

$$f_\phi = \frac{1}{1 - e^{(E_\phi - \mu_\phi)/T'}}$$

$$\phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi, \quad \phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi\phi\phi, \quad \dots$$

Boltzmann equation

$$(1) \quad \dot{n}_\phi + 3Hn_\phi = \sum_k (k-2)C_k [1 - e^{-(k-2)\mu_\phi/T'}]$$

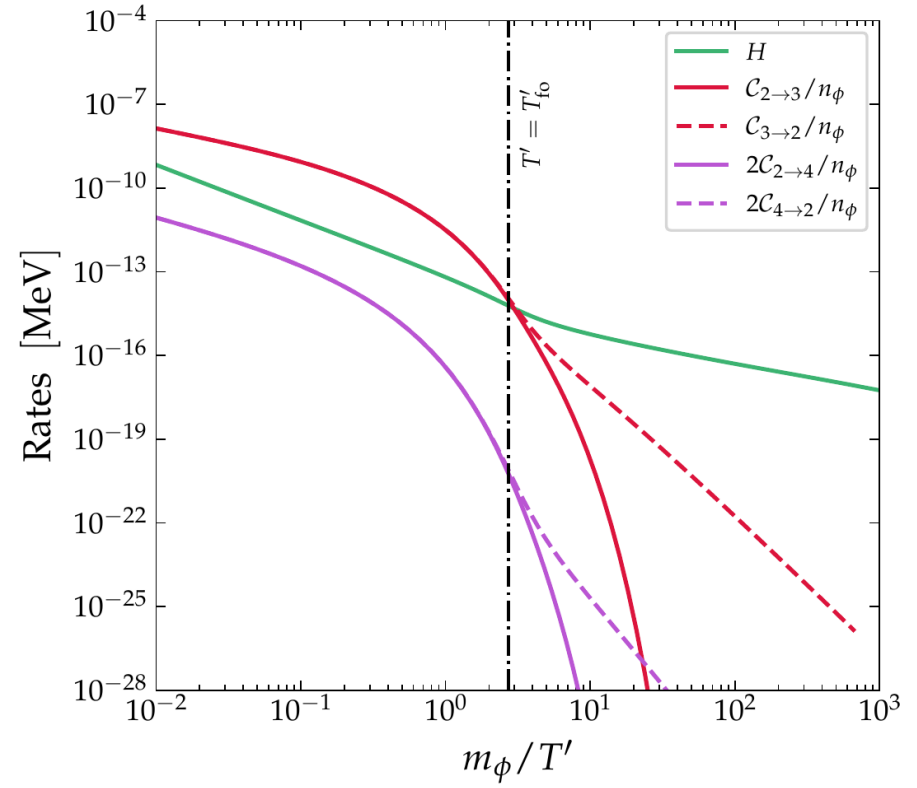
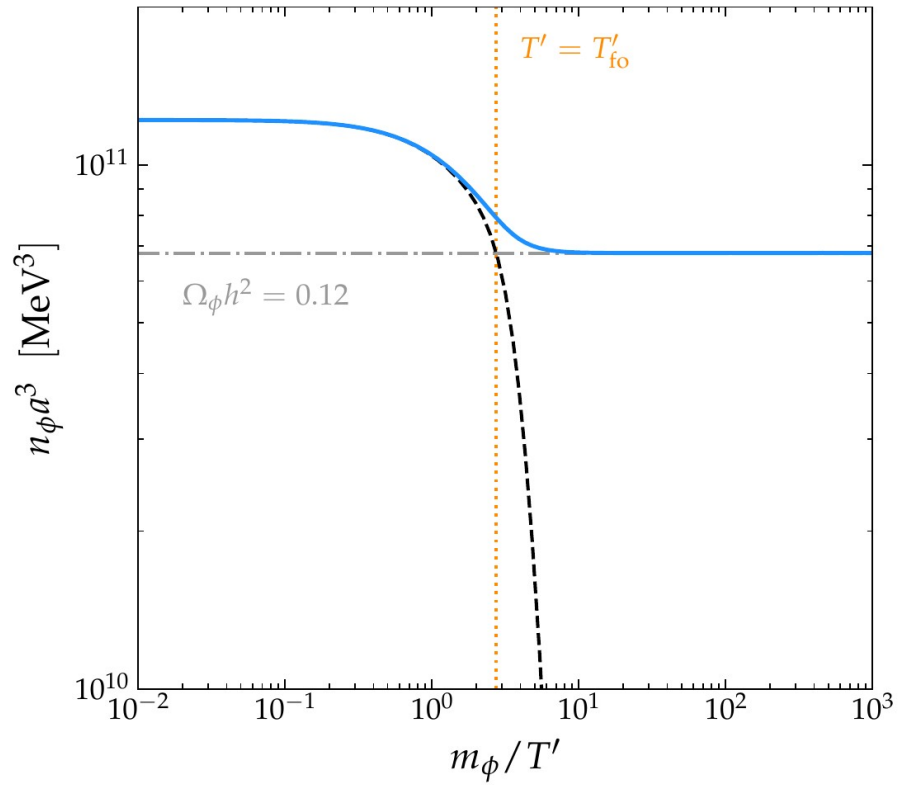
$$(2) \quad \dot{\rho}_\phi + 3H(\rho_\phi + P_\phi) = 0$$

Initial condition

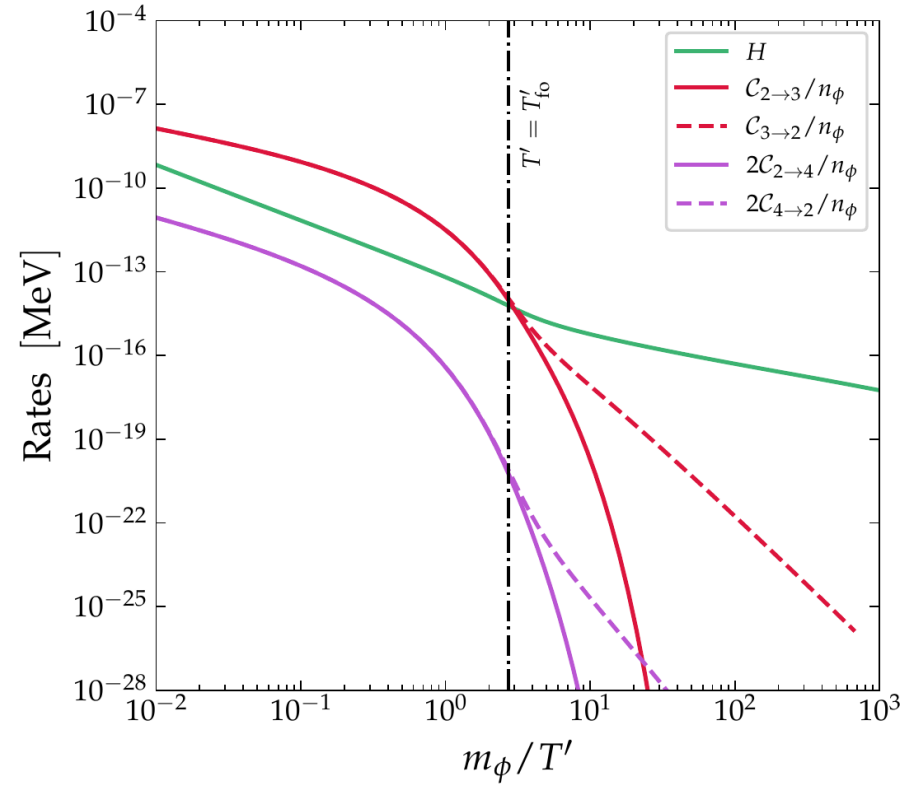
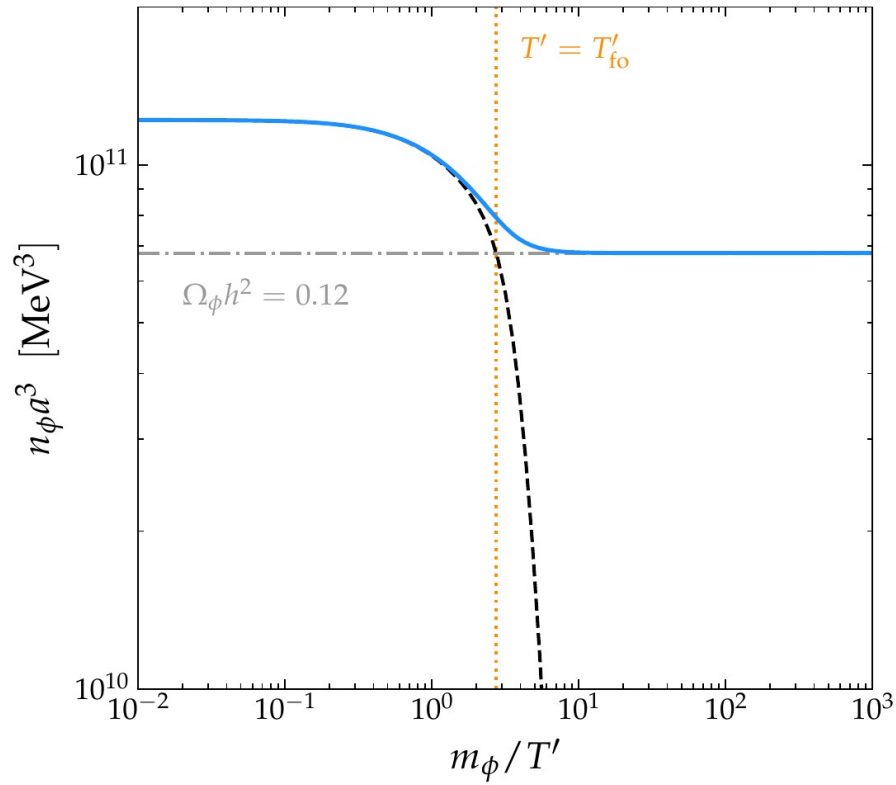
$$(1) \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mu_\phi = 0$$

$$(2) \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T'}{T} \equiv \zeta_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$$

Thermal Evolution

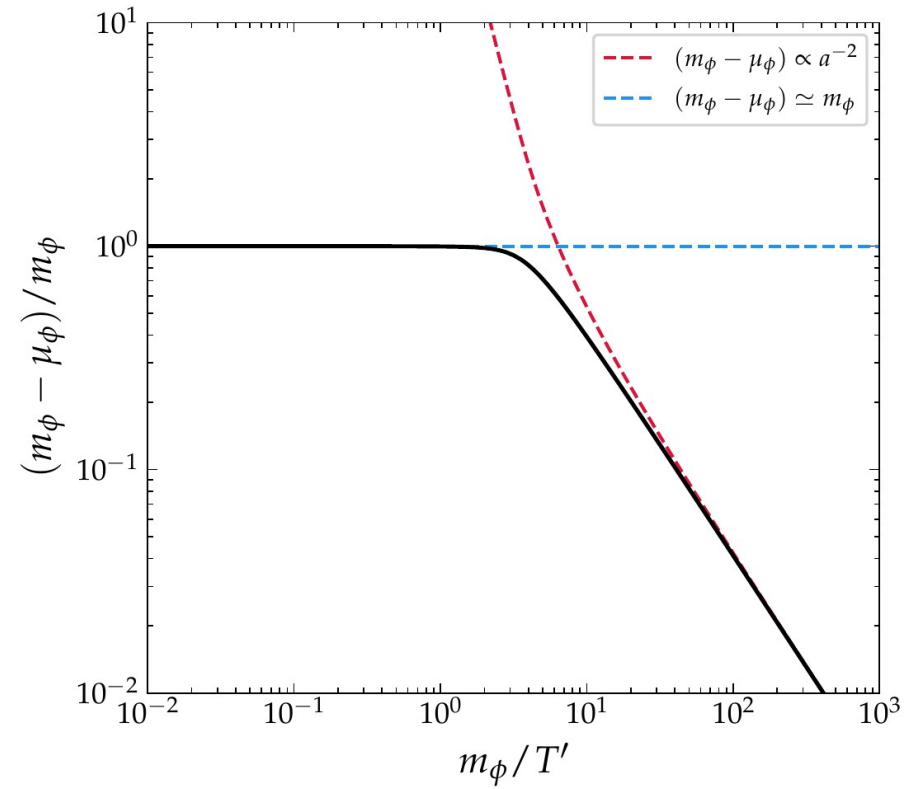
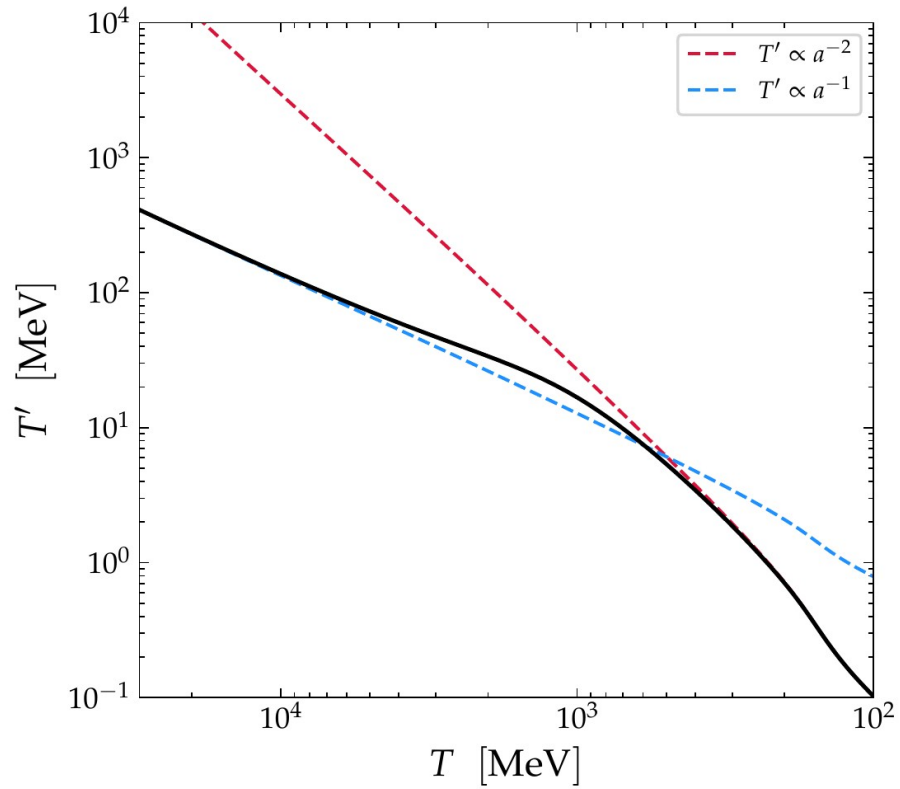


Thermal Evolution

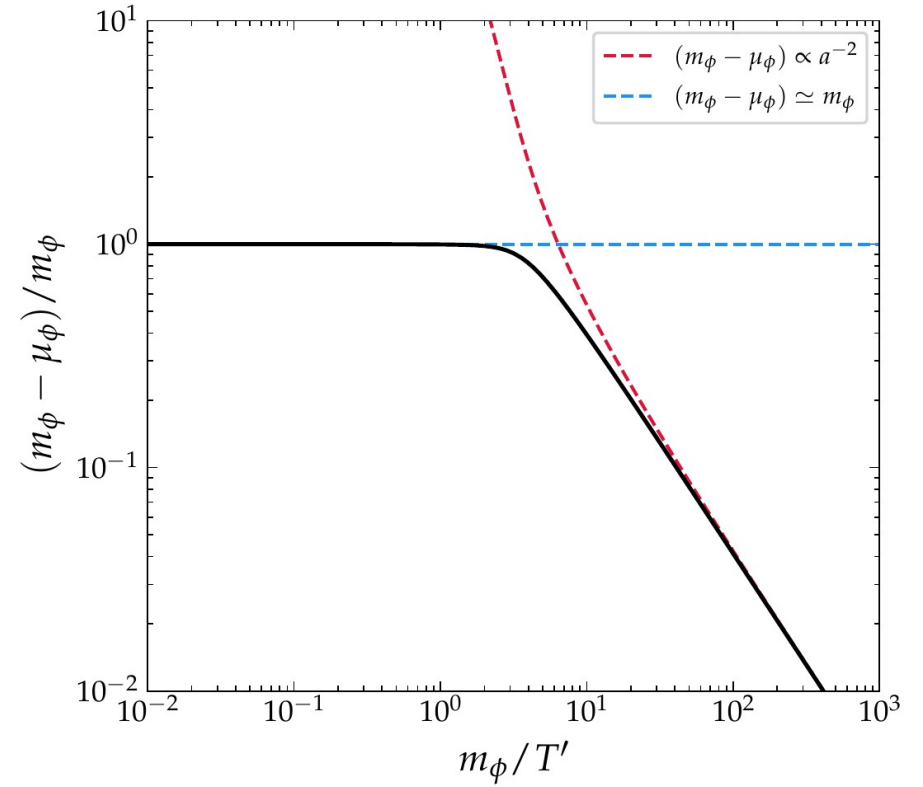
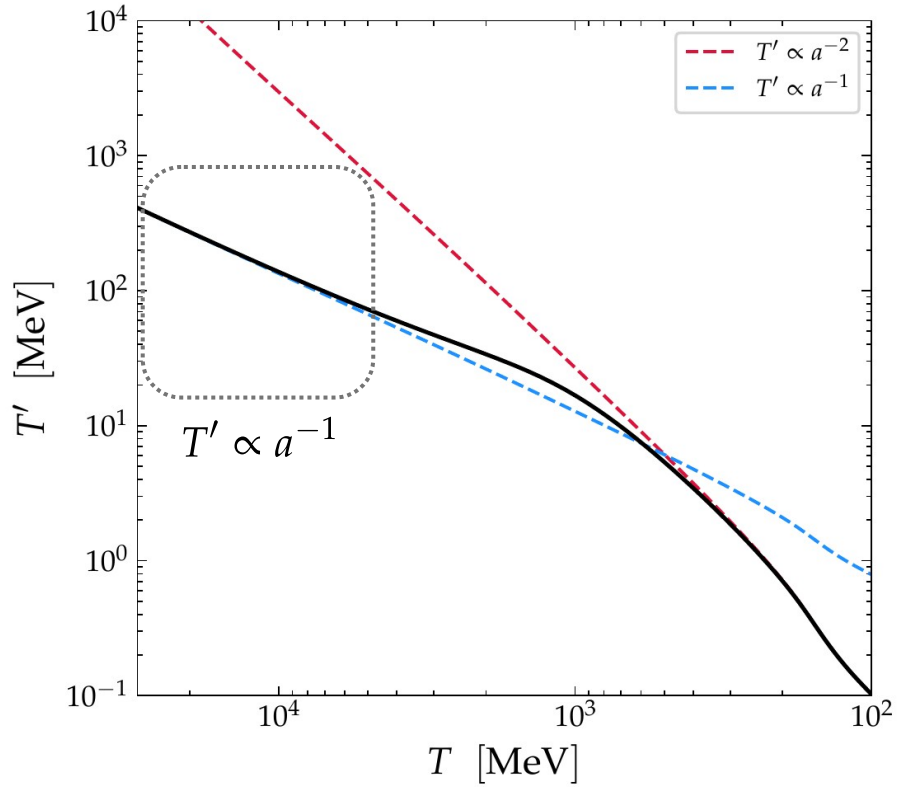


$$m_\phi/T' \sim 1$$

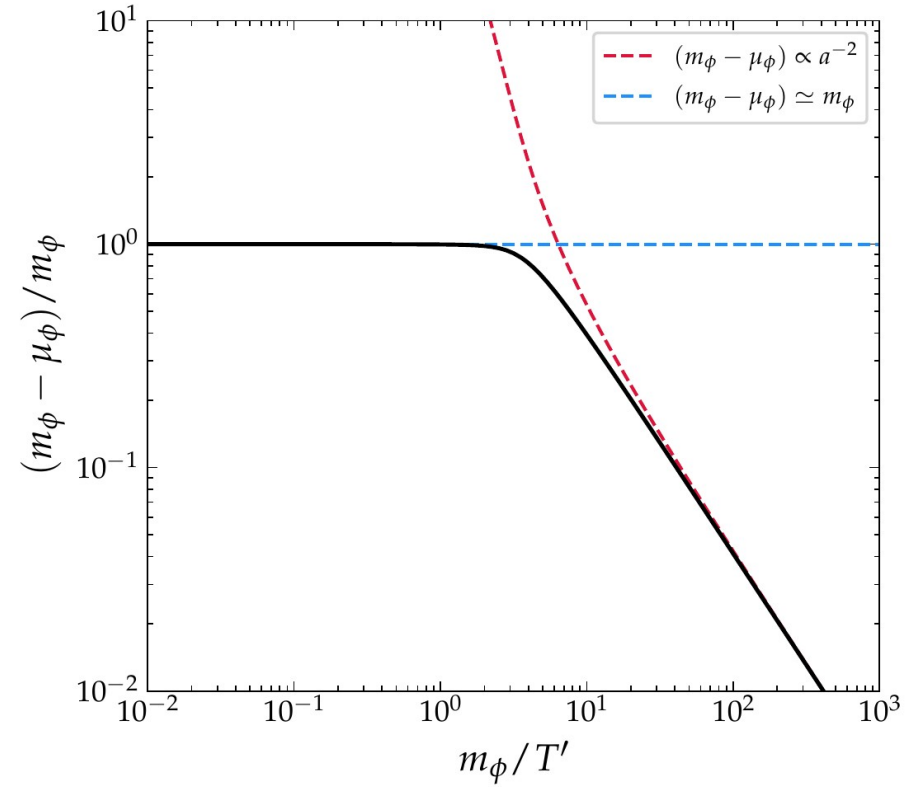
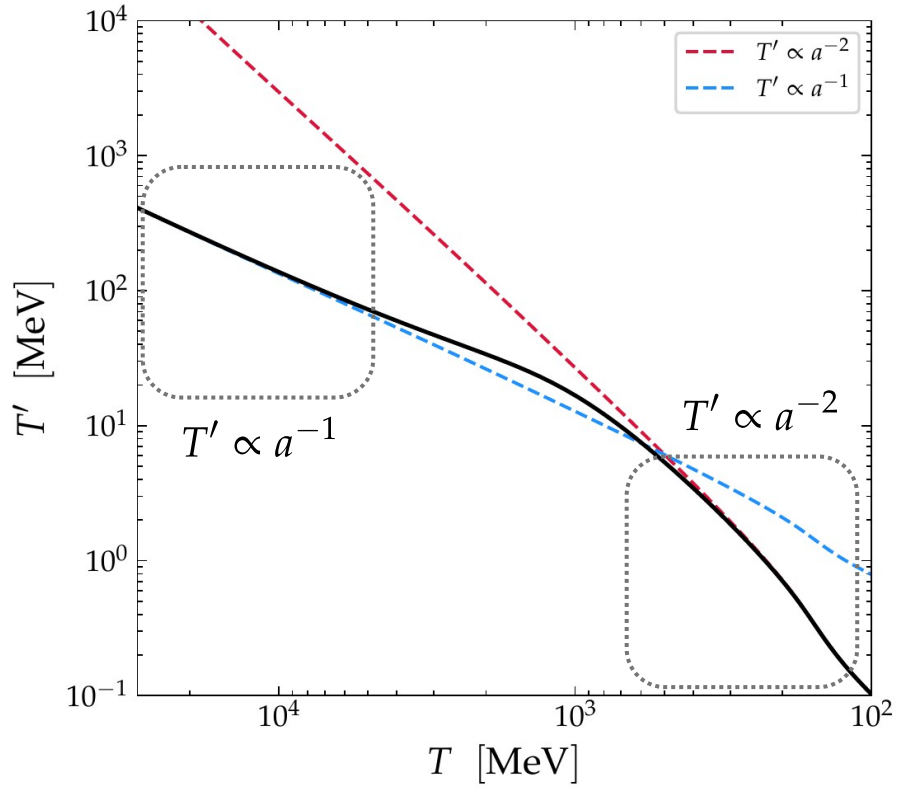
Thermal Evolution



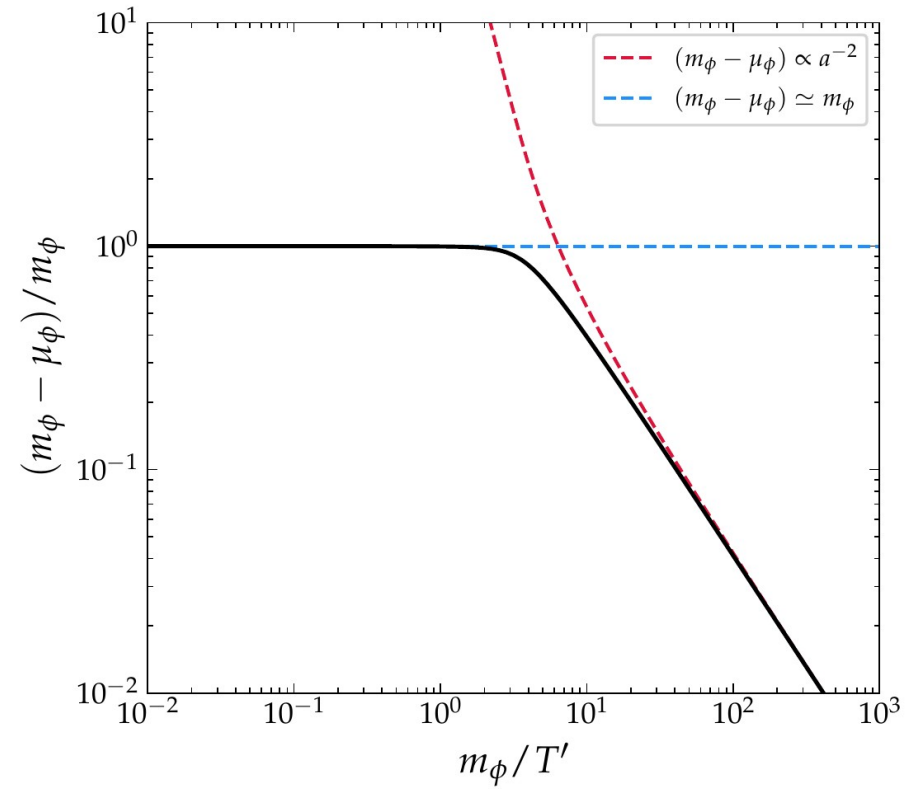
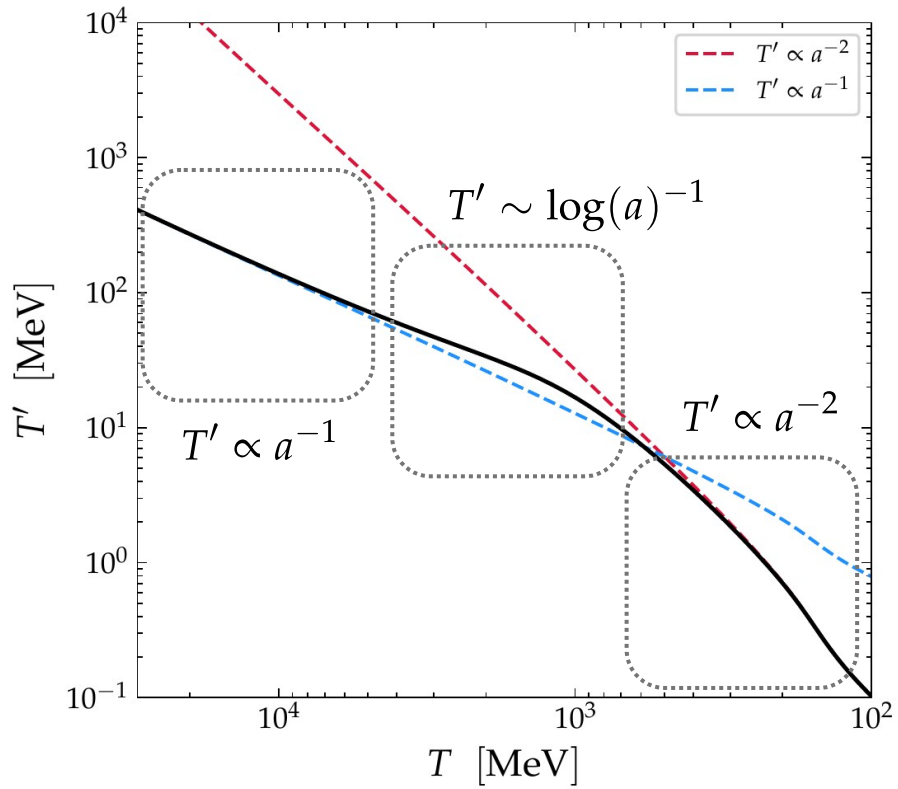
Thermal Evolution



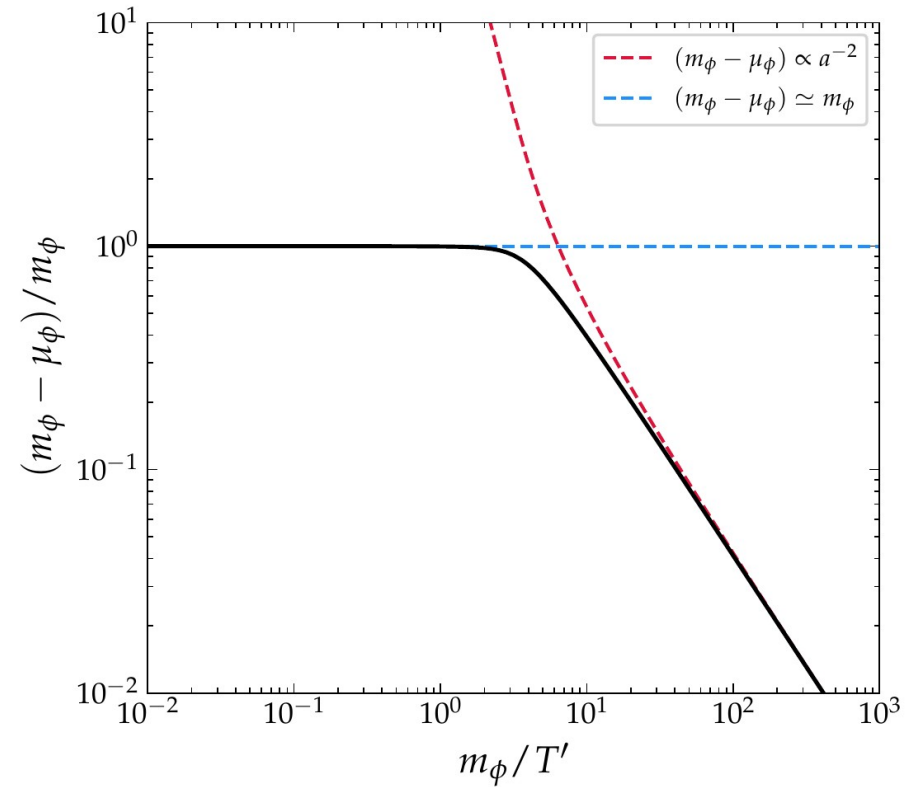
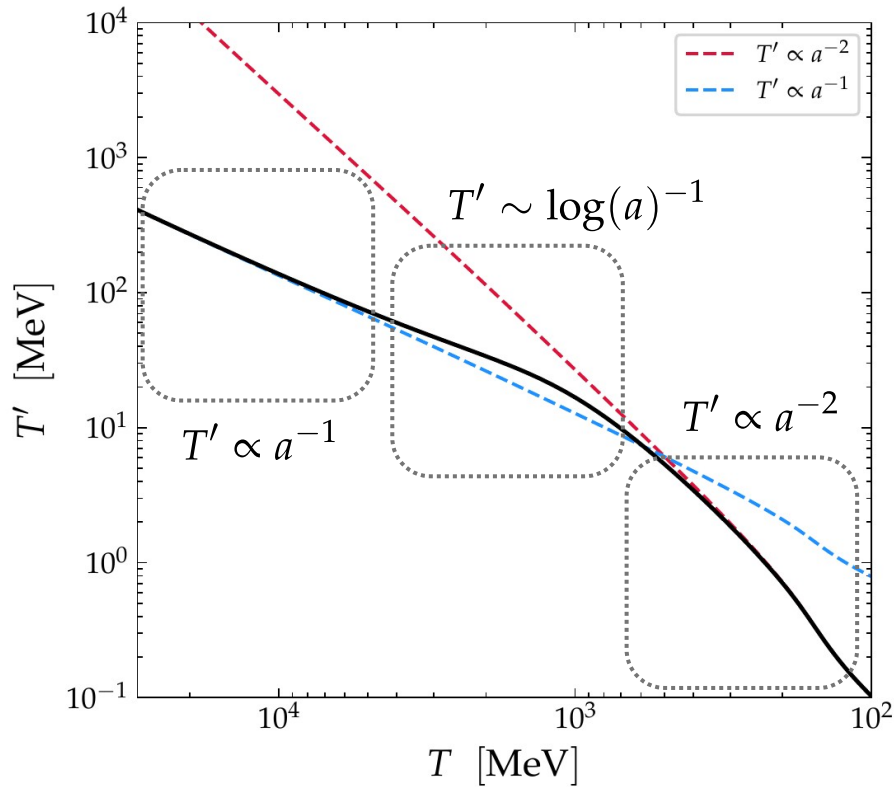
Thermal Evolution



Thermal Evolution



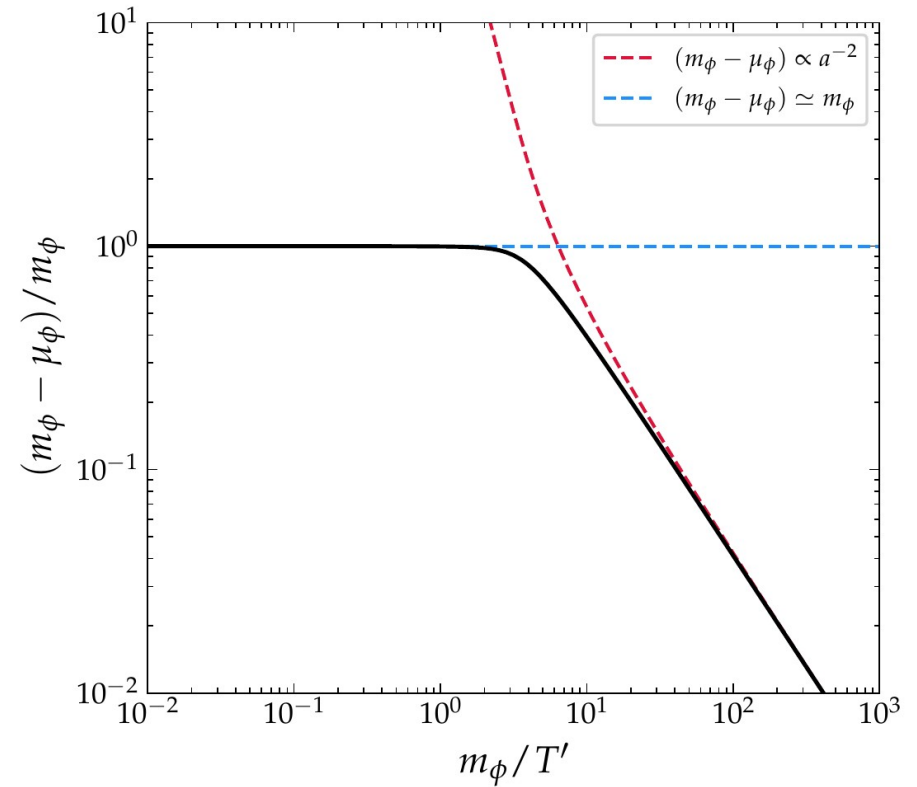
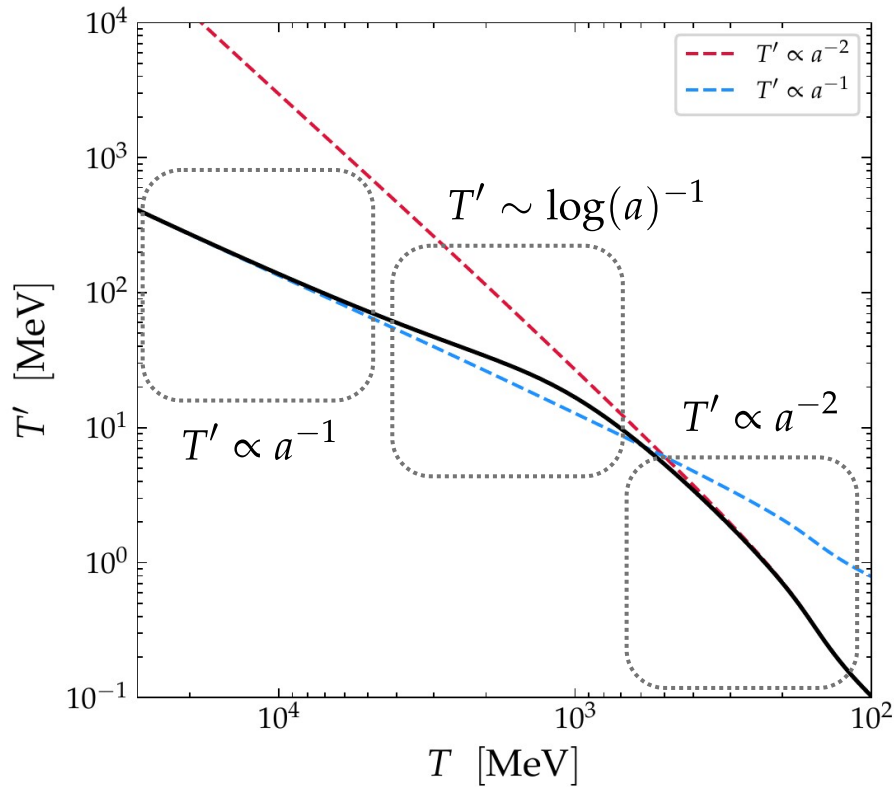
Thermal Evolution



Non-relativistic limit

$$s_\phi = \frac{\rho_\phi + P_\phi - \mu_\phi n_\phi}{T'}$$

Thermal Evolution

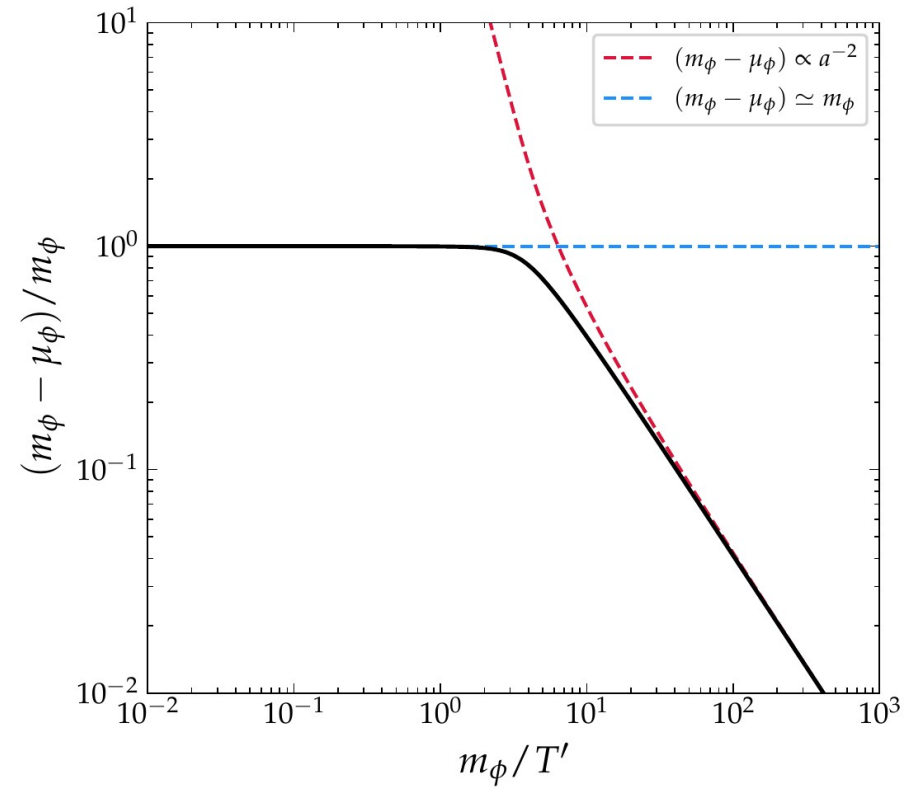
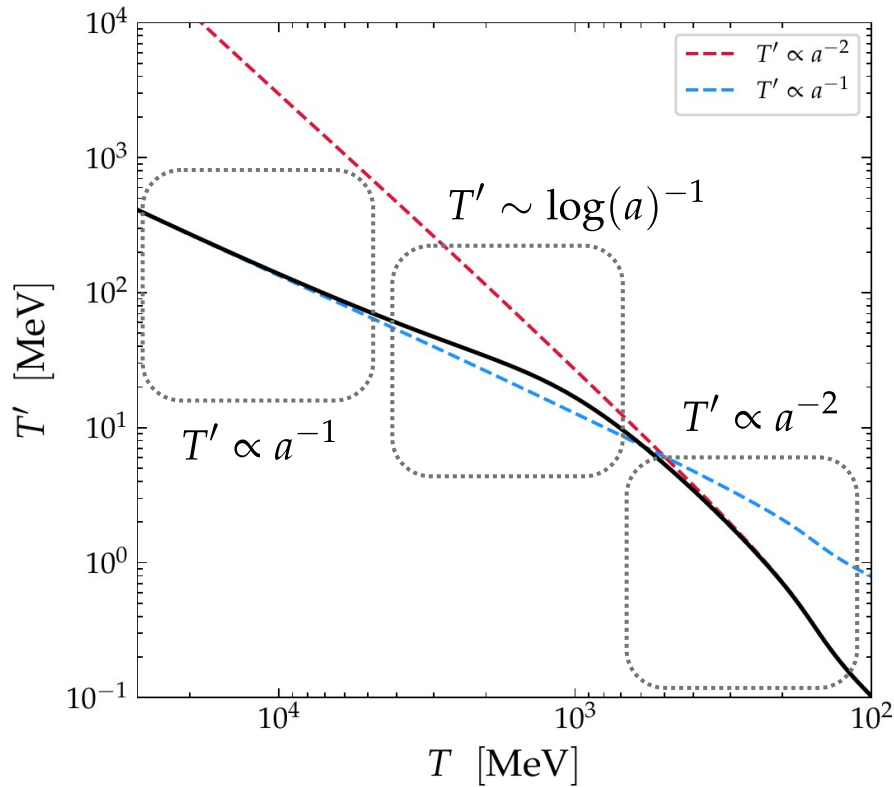


Non-relativistic limit

$$s_\phi = \frac{\rho_\phi + \cancel{P_\phi} - \cancel{\mu_\phi n_\phi}}{T'}$$

\searrow
 $\simeq m_\phi n_\phi$

Thermal Evolution

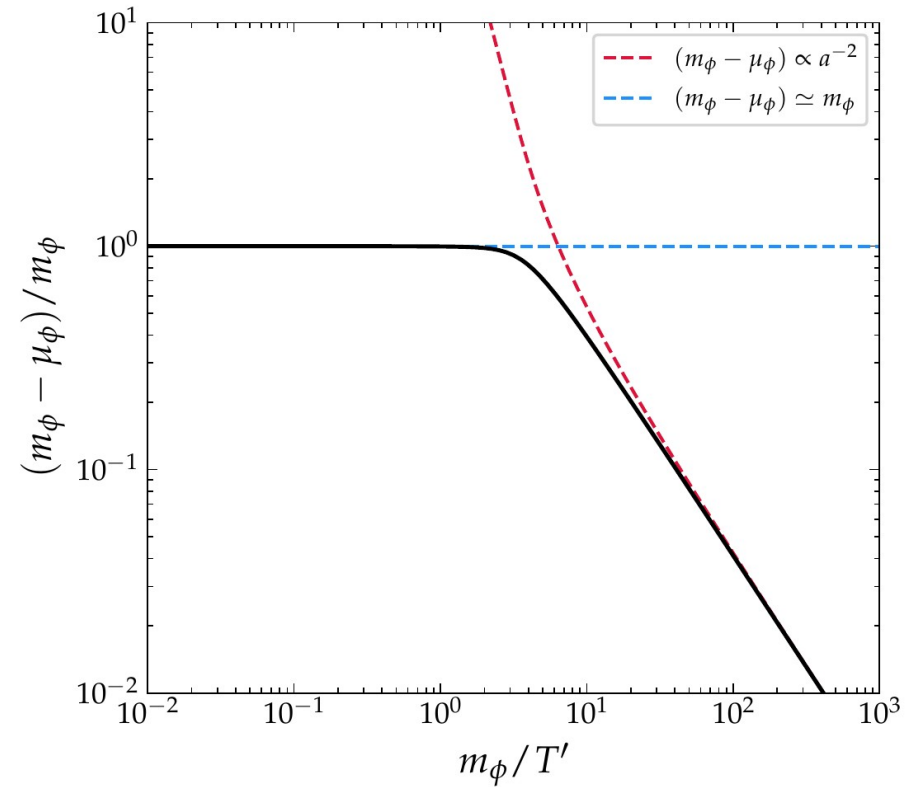
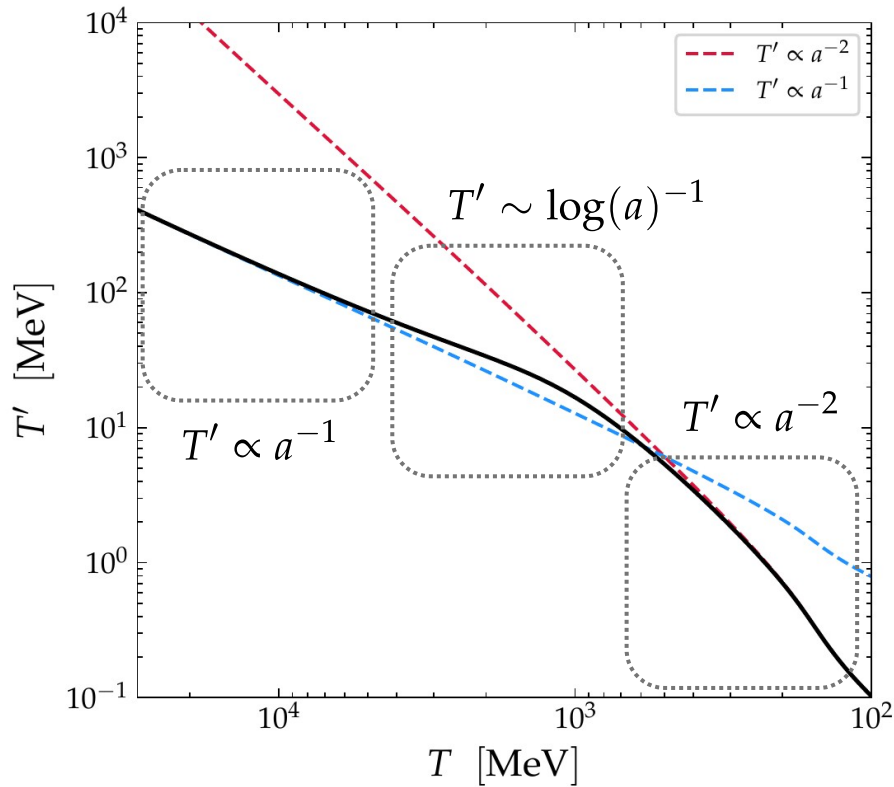


Non-relativistic limit

$$s_\phi = \frac{\rho_\phi + \cancel{P_\phi} - \cancel{\mu_\phi} n_\phi}{T'} \simeq (m_\phi / T') n_\phi$$

ρ_ϕ \rightarrow $\simeq m_\phi n_\phi$

Thermal Evolution



Non-relativistic limit

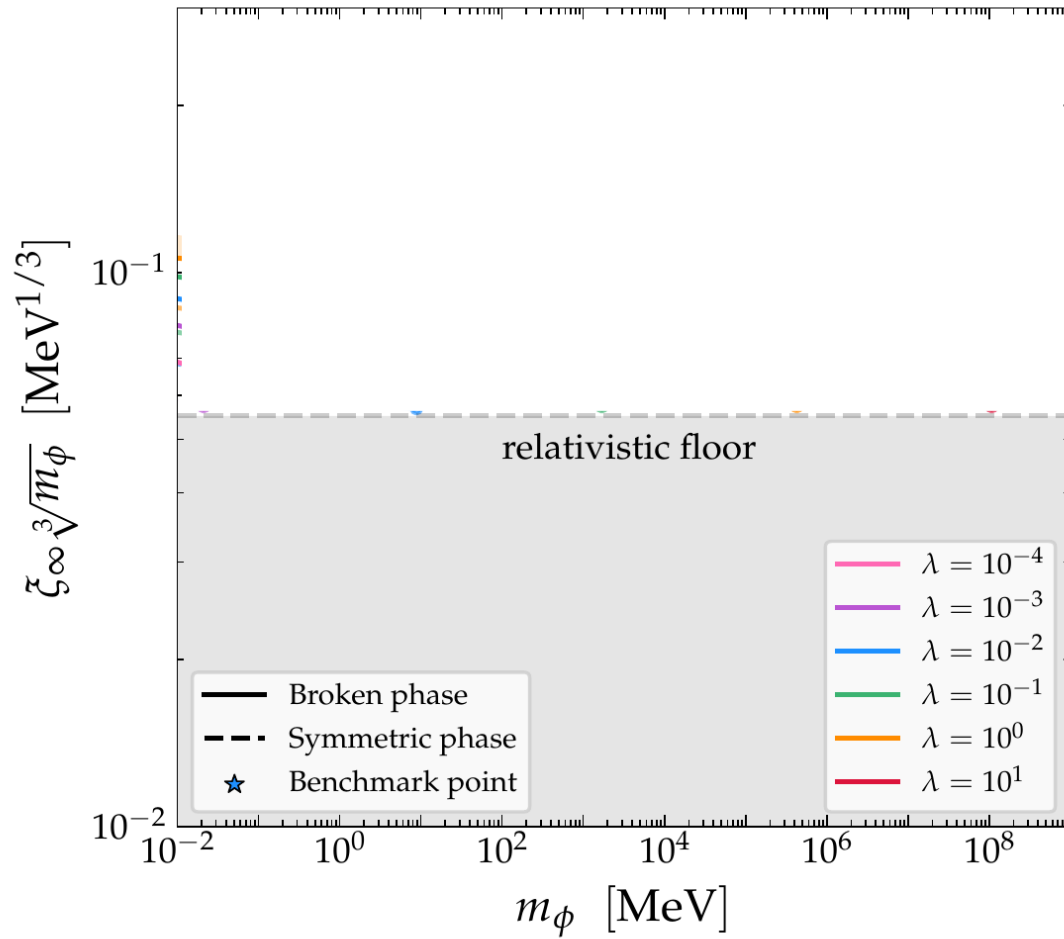
$$s_\phi = \frac{\rho_\phi + \cancel{P_\phi} - \cancel{\mu_\phi} n_\phi}{T'} \simeq (m_\phi / T') n_\phi \propto e^{-m_\phi / T'}$$

ρ_ϕ \rightarrow $\simeq m_\phi n_\phi$

$$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$$

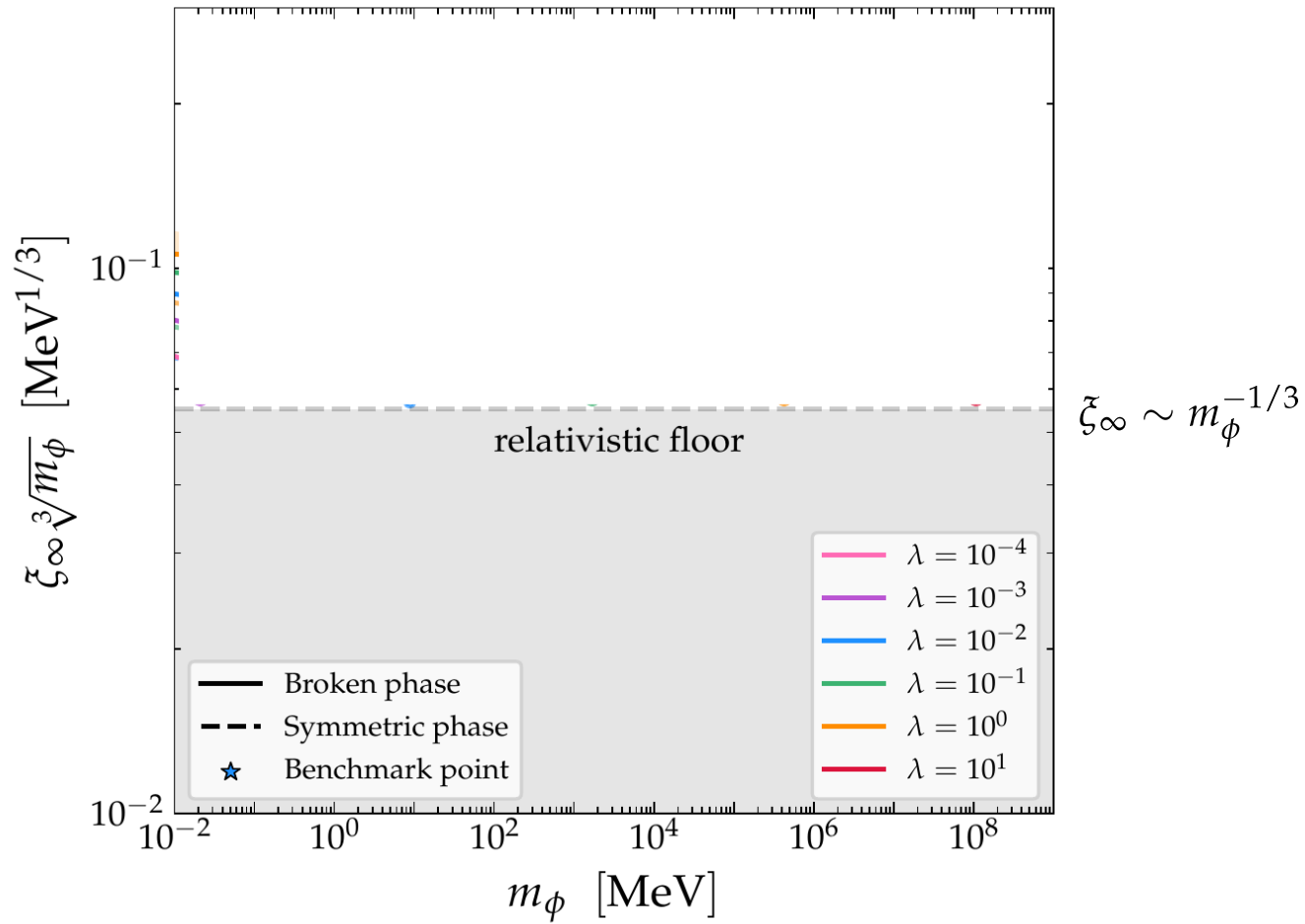
Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



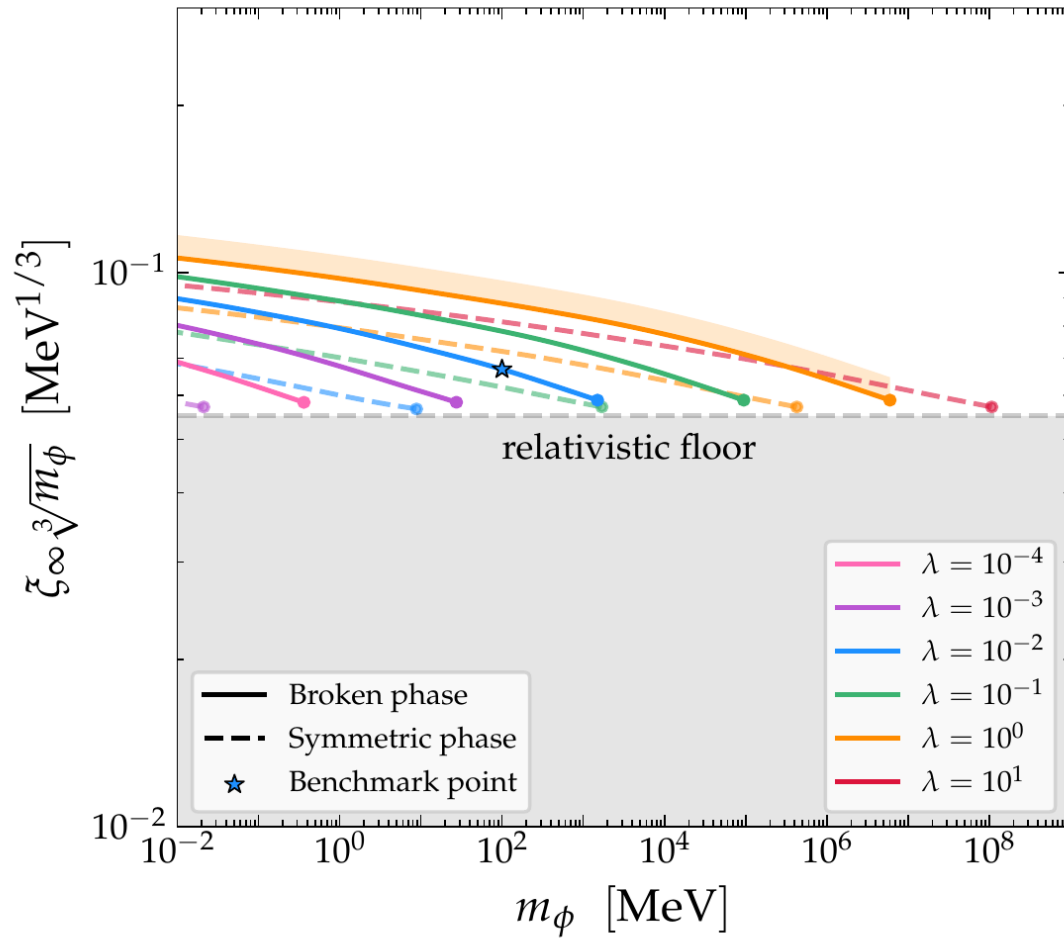
Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



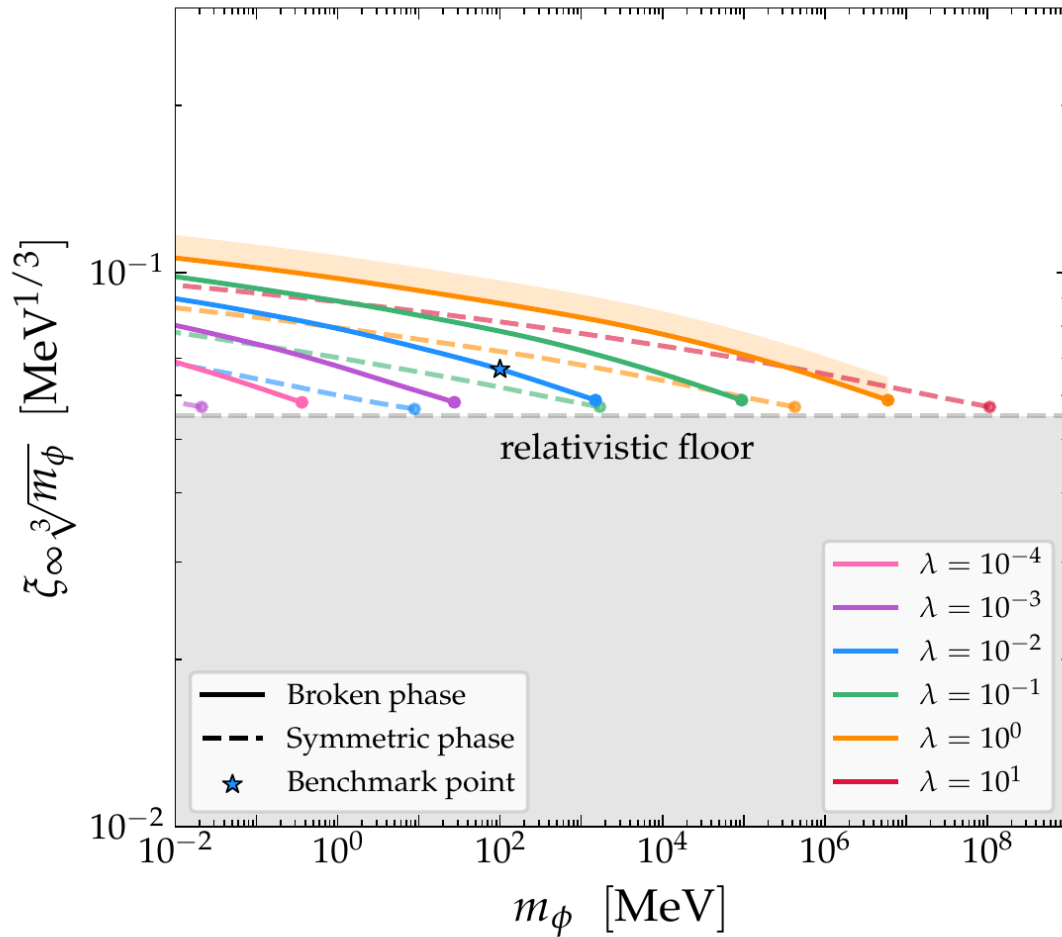
Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



Results

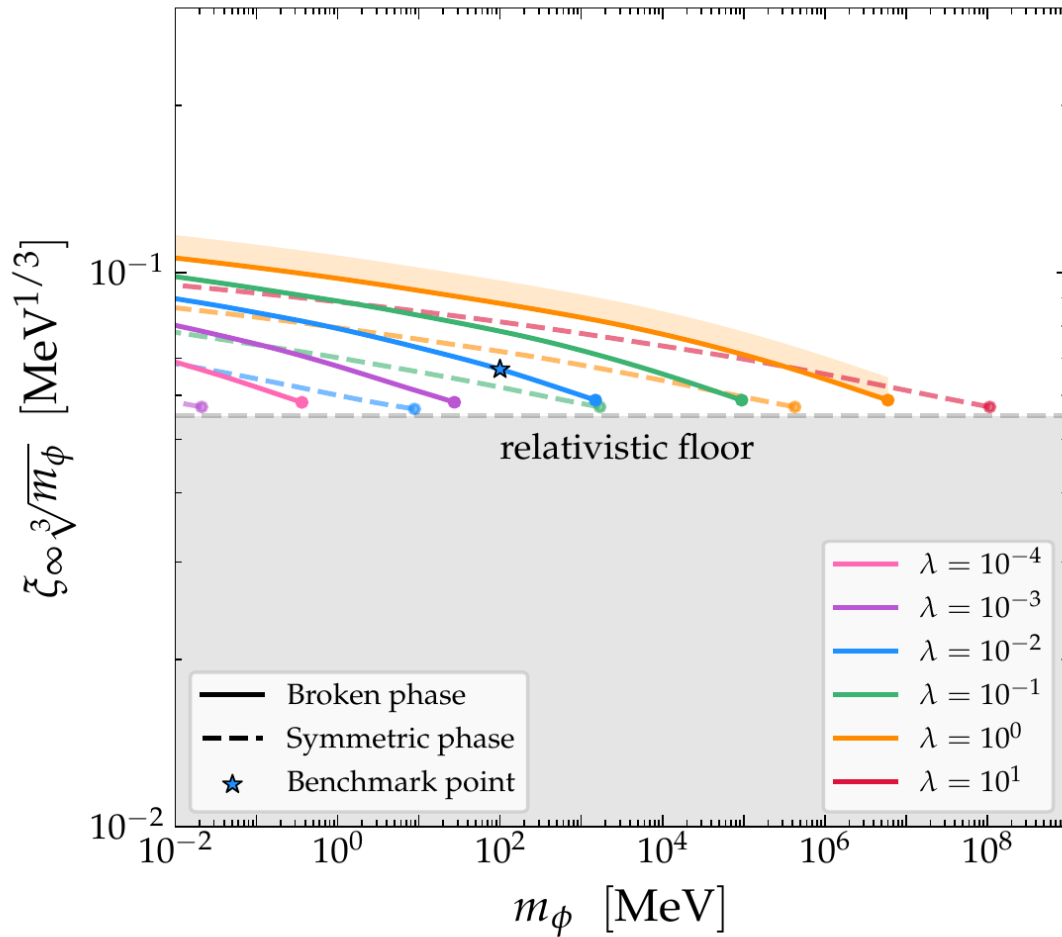
$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



$$d(m_\phi Y_\phi |_{T=T_{\text{fo}}}) = d\left(m_\phi \frac{n_\phi}{s_{\text{SM}}} \Big|_{T=T_{\text{fo}}}\right) = 0$$

Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$

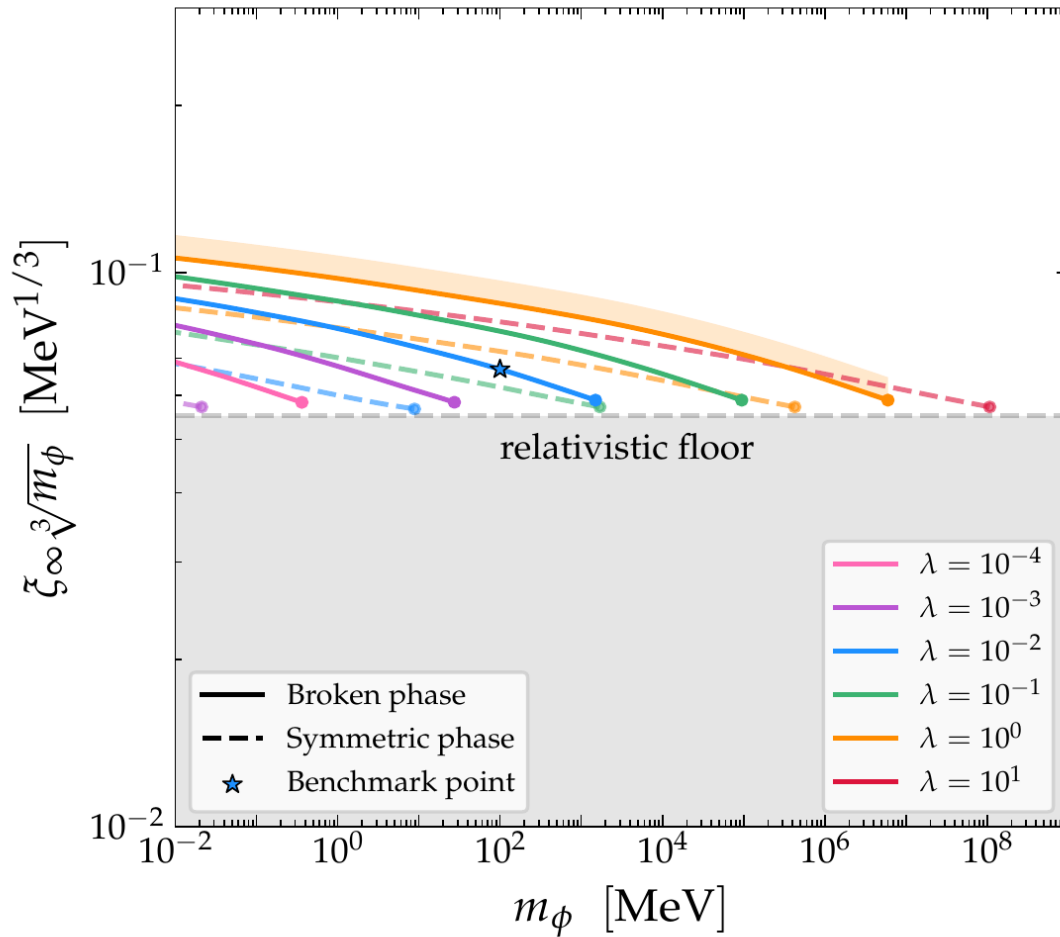


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$$s_\phi \sim x'_{\text{fo}} n_\phi$$

Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



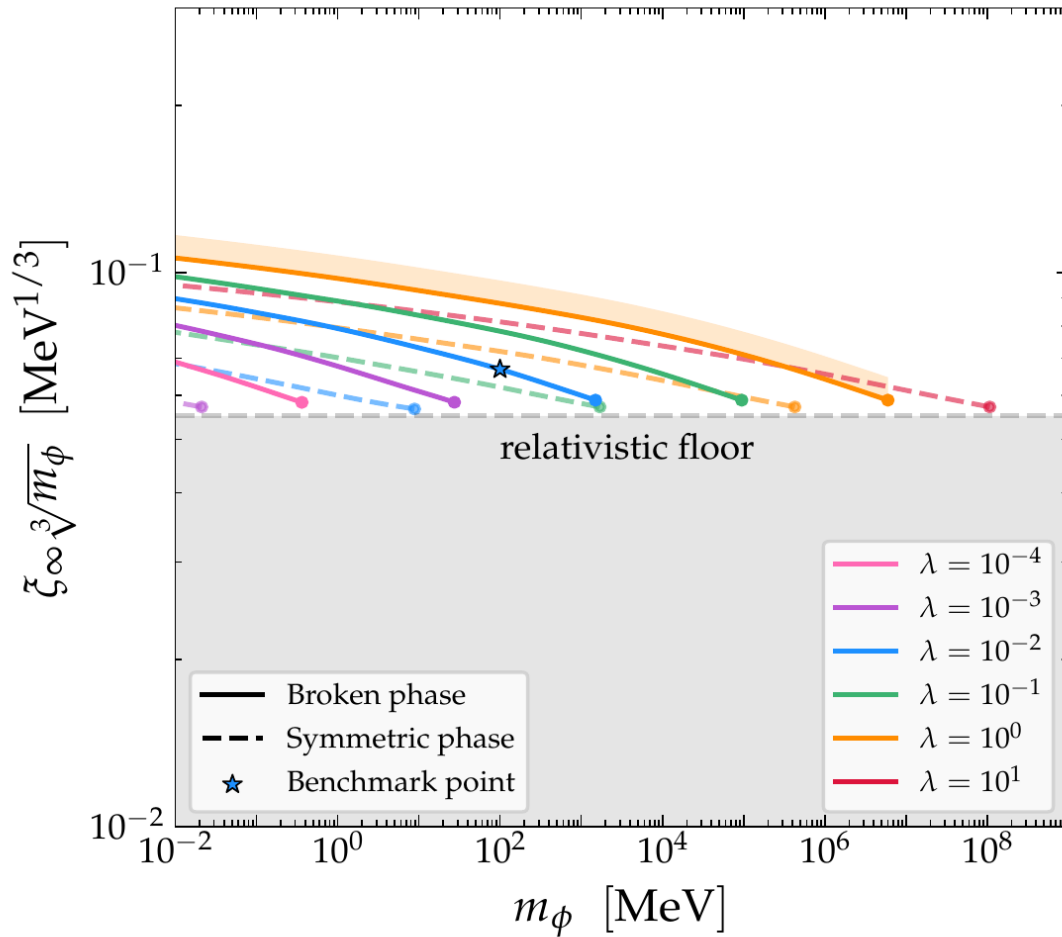
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Results

$\xi_\infty, \lambda, m_\phi$



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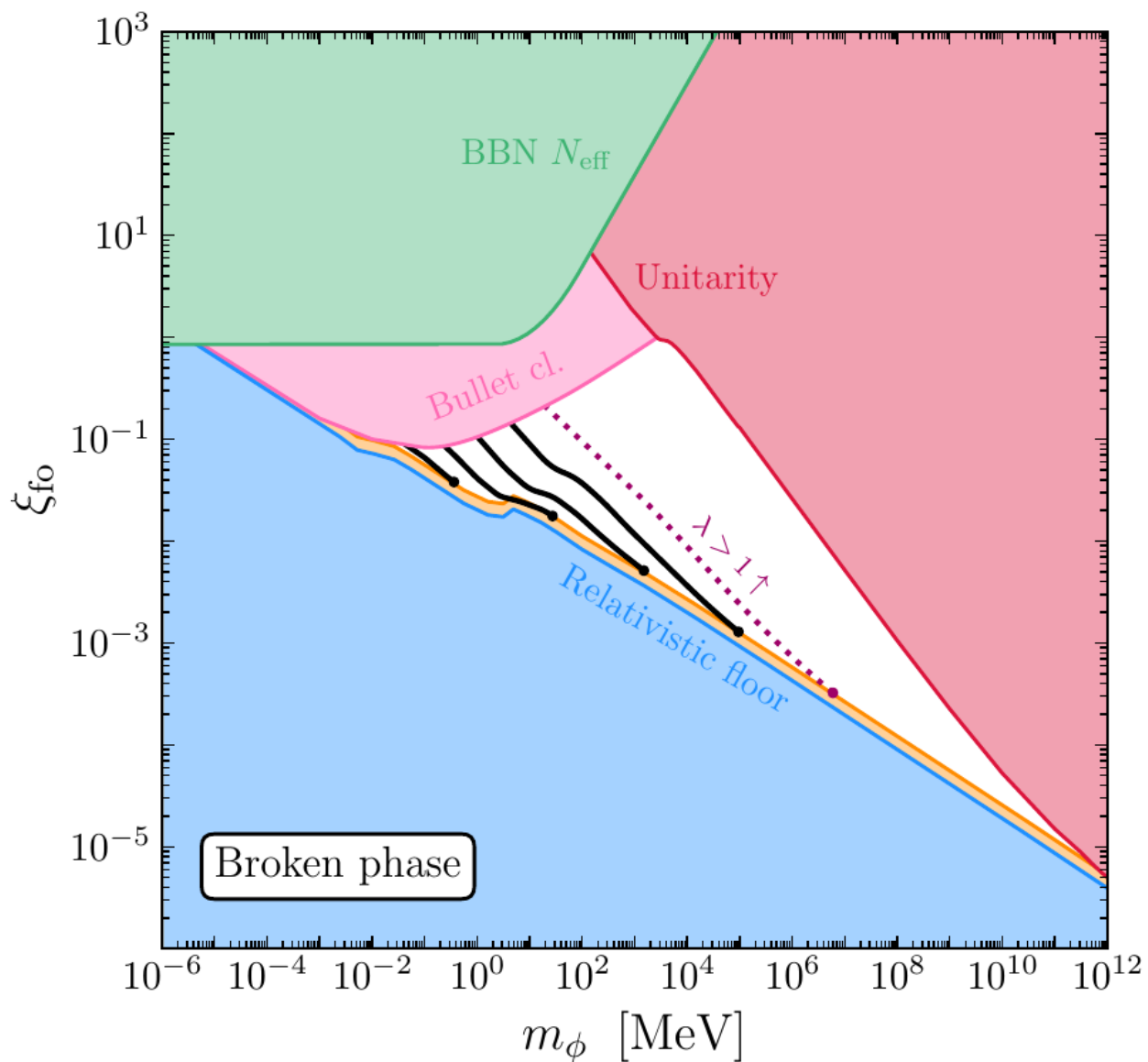
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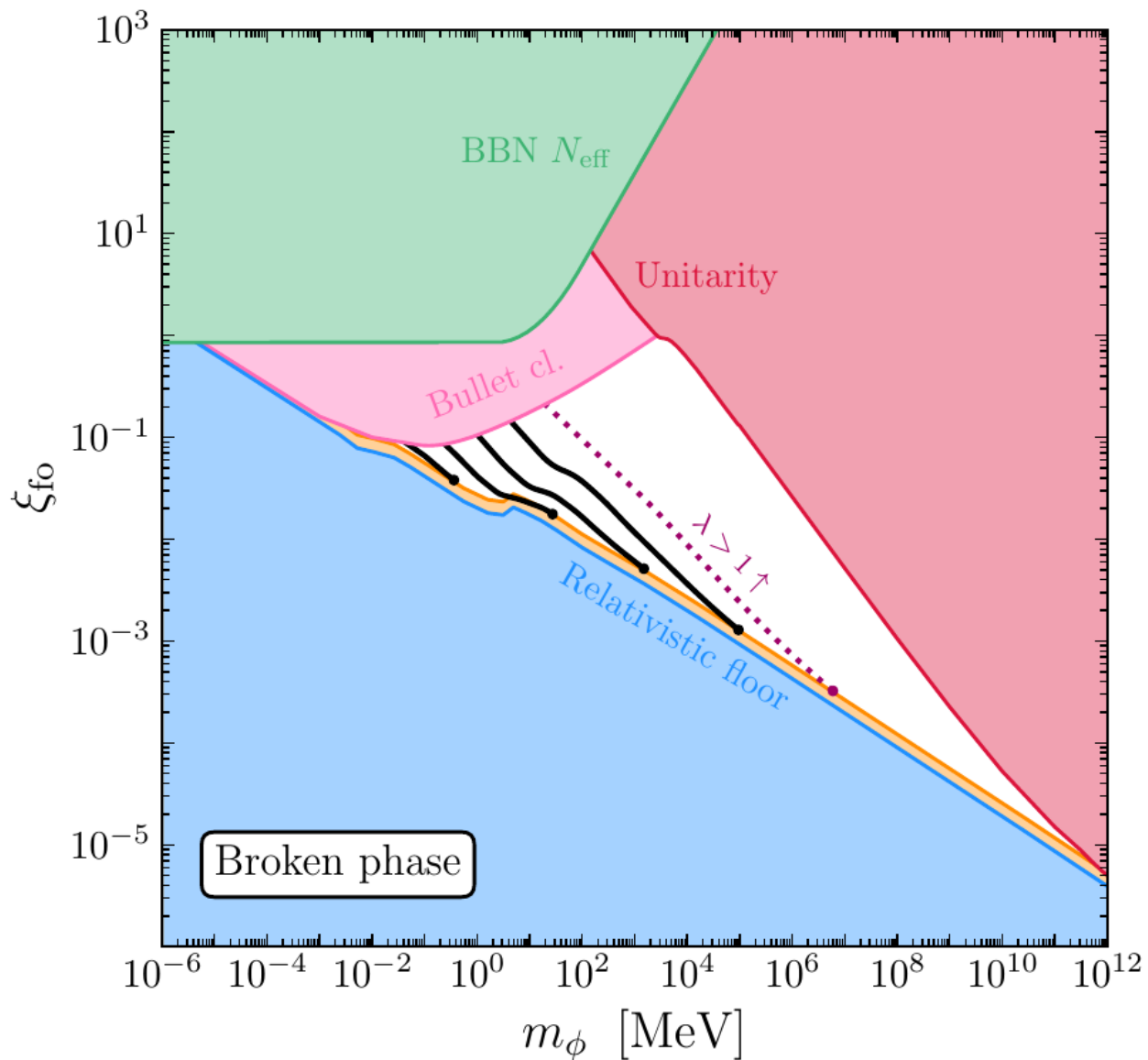
Precise scaling

$$\frac{d\xi_\infty}{dm_\phi} \simeq -\frac{1}{3} \frac{\xi_\infty}{m_\phi} \left[1 + \frac{5}{3k-5} \times \frac{1}{x'_{\text{fo}}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{x'^2_{\text{fo}}}\right) \right]$$

The domain of cannibal DM

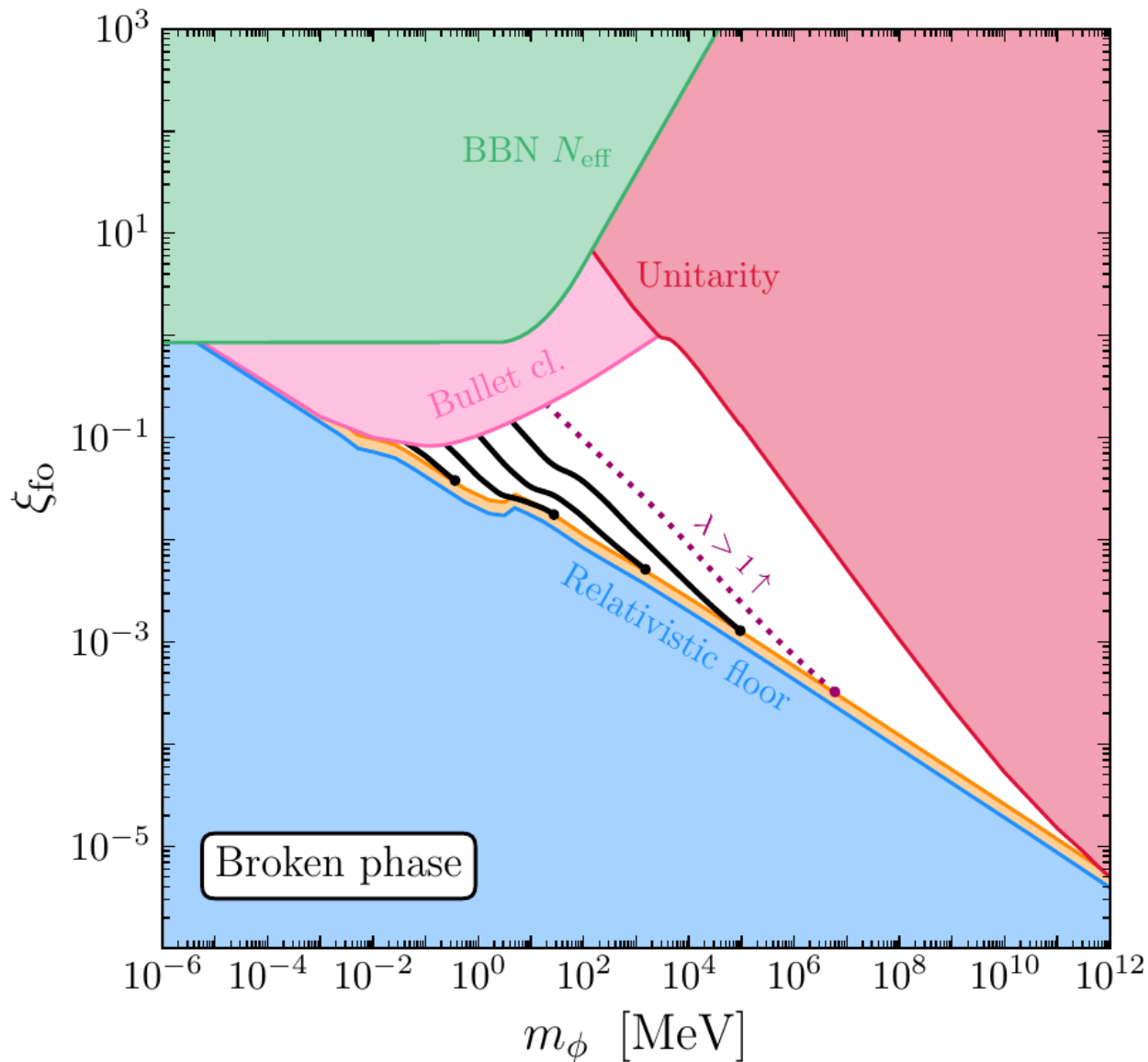


The domain of cannibal DM



$$\langle \sigma_{\phi\phi \rightarrow 3\phi} v^2 \rangle < \langle \sigma_{\phi\phi \rightarrow 3\phi} v^2 \rangle_{\text{max}}$$

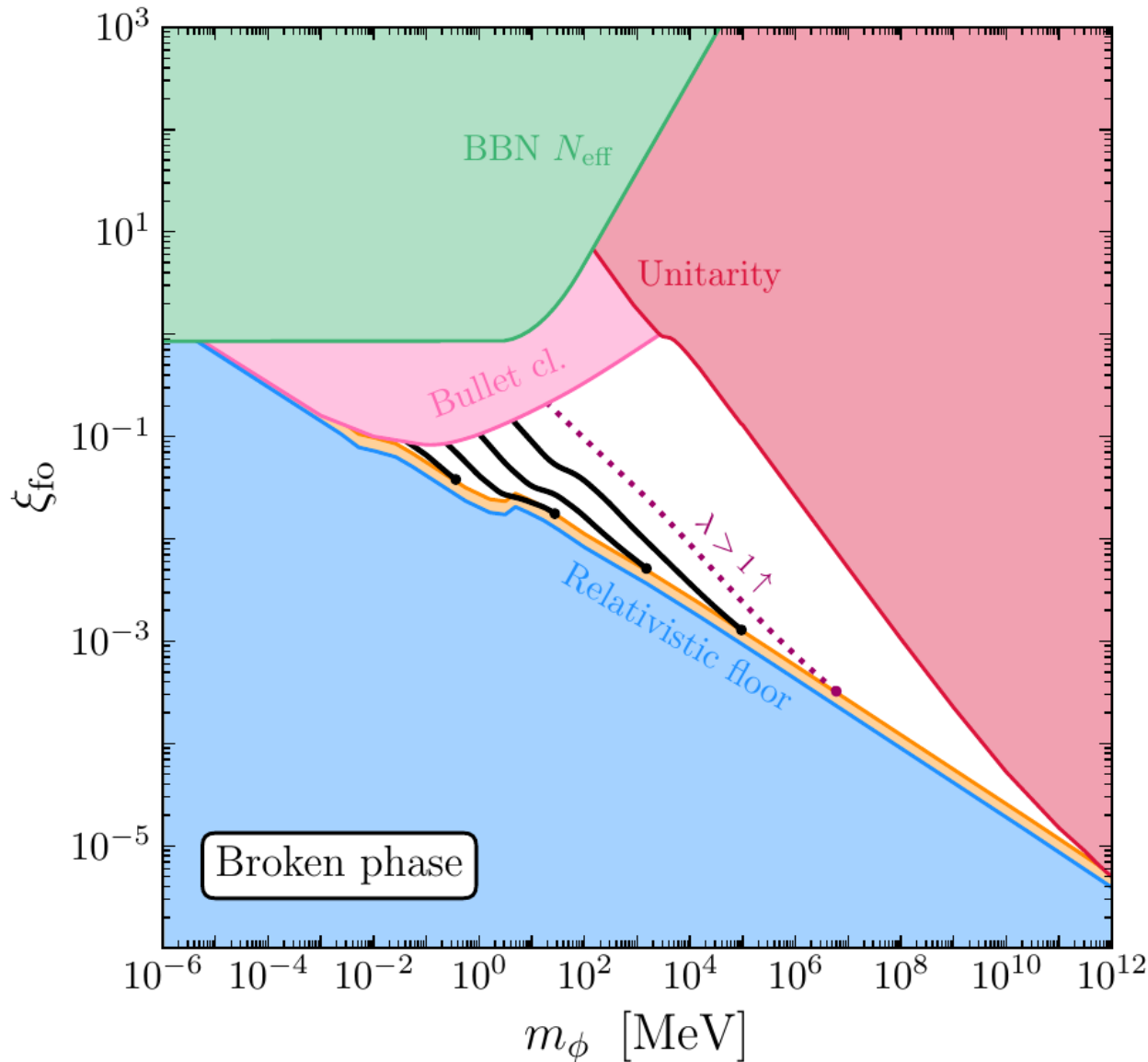
The domain of cannibal DM



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$$\sigma_{\phi\phi \leftrightarrow \phi\phi} / m_\phi < 1 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{g}$$

The domain of cannibal DM

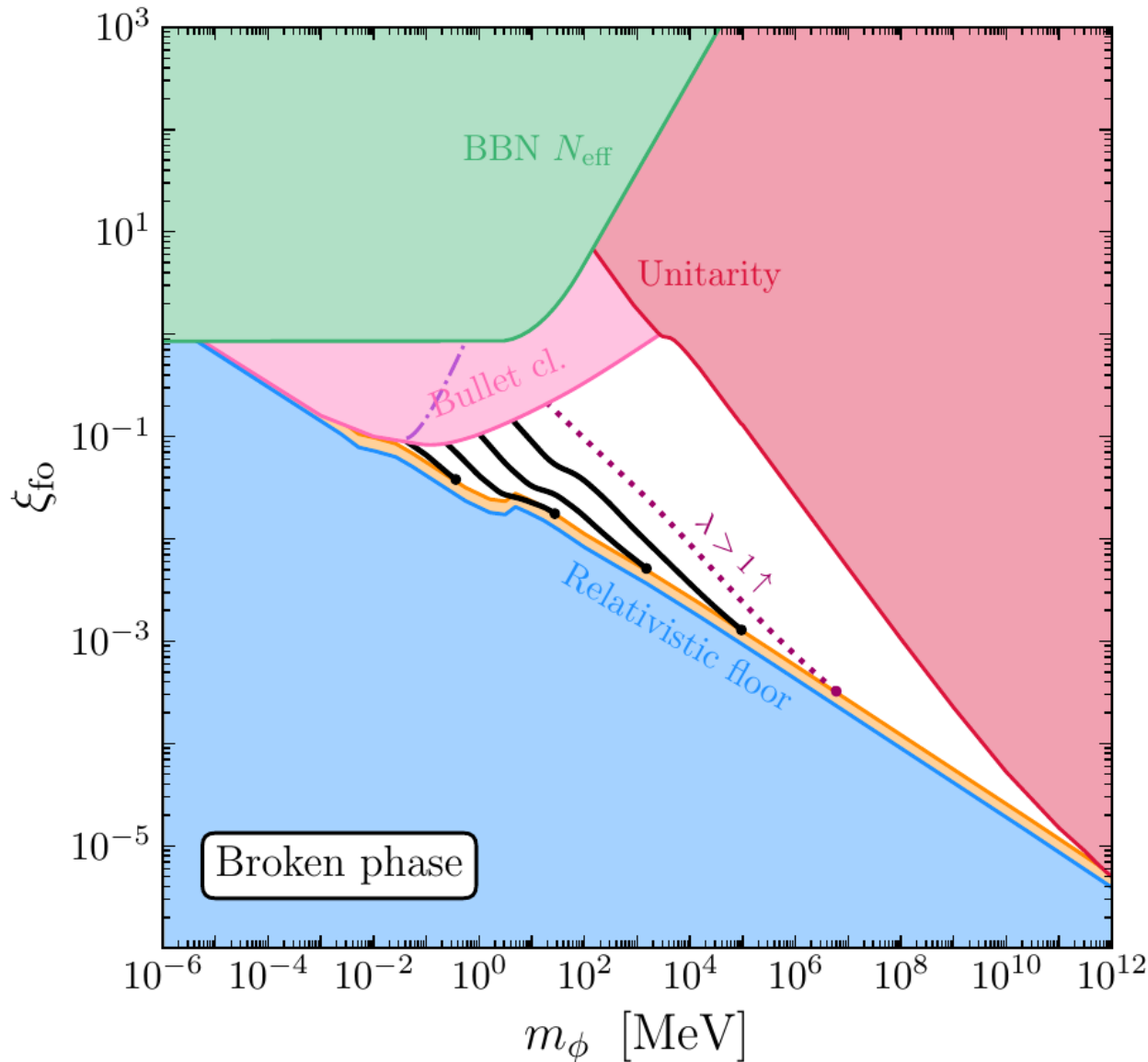


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$$T_{\text{cd}} < 1 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{DW}} < \text{MeV}$$

Conclusions

- New non-thermal production mechanism for DM involving exponential growth
 - Pandemic production can realize a *minimal model for sterile neutrino DM*
→ Potentially testable in the future
-
- Cannibal DM in the SSB phase needs special care due to vanishing *tree-level* cross-section
 - Potential candidates lie close to the relativistic floor and *follow well defined scaling relations*
→ Potentially in conflict with constraints on domain walls

