

# Axion Archaeology

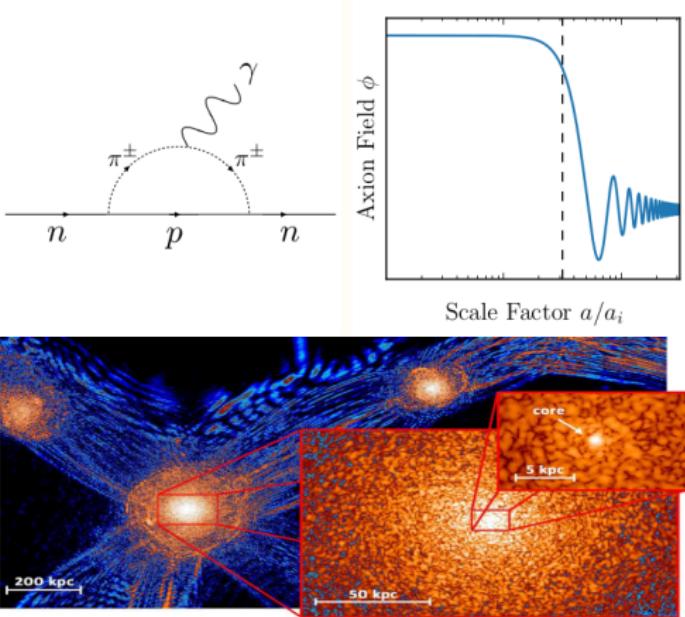
Echos from Ancient Supernova Remnants

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**Chen Sun**

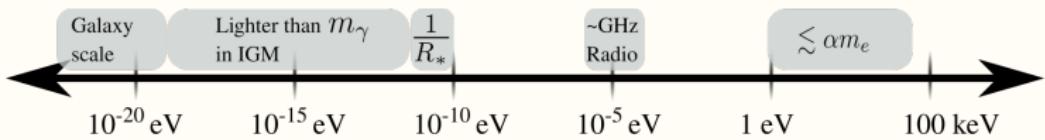
Tel Aviv University

*Manuel Buen-Abad (U. Maryland), JiJi Fan (Brown U.), CS, 2110.13916*

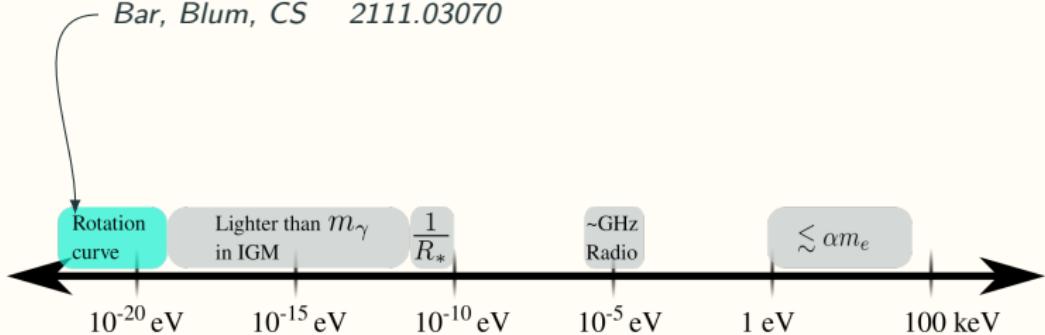


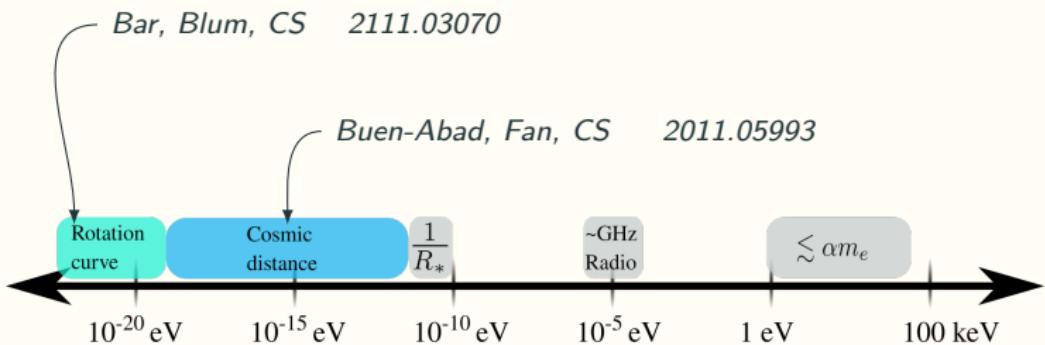
## Axions

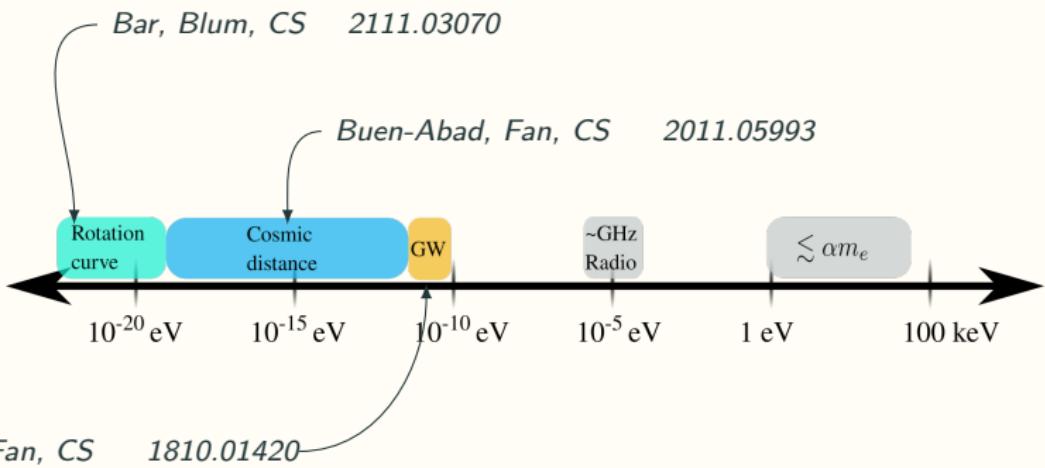
- are originally motivated by the strong CP problem;
- are natural light states that appear in many UV models;
- provide interesting non-thermal DM candidates.

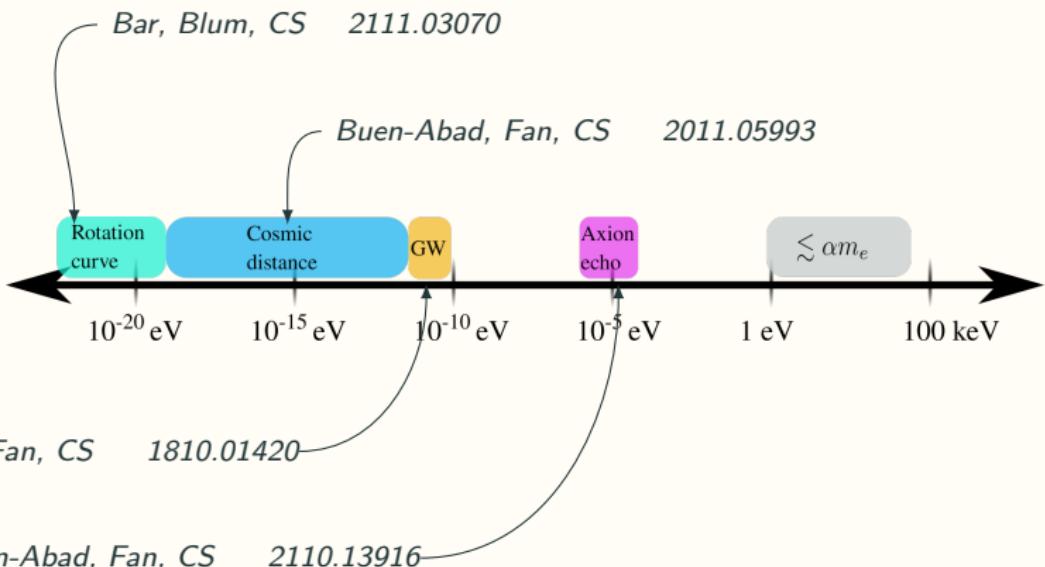


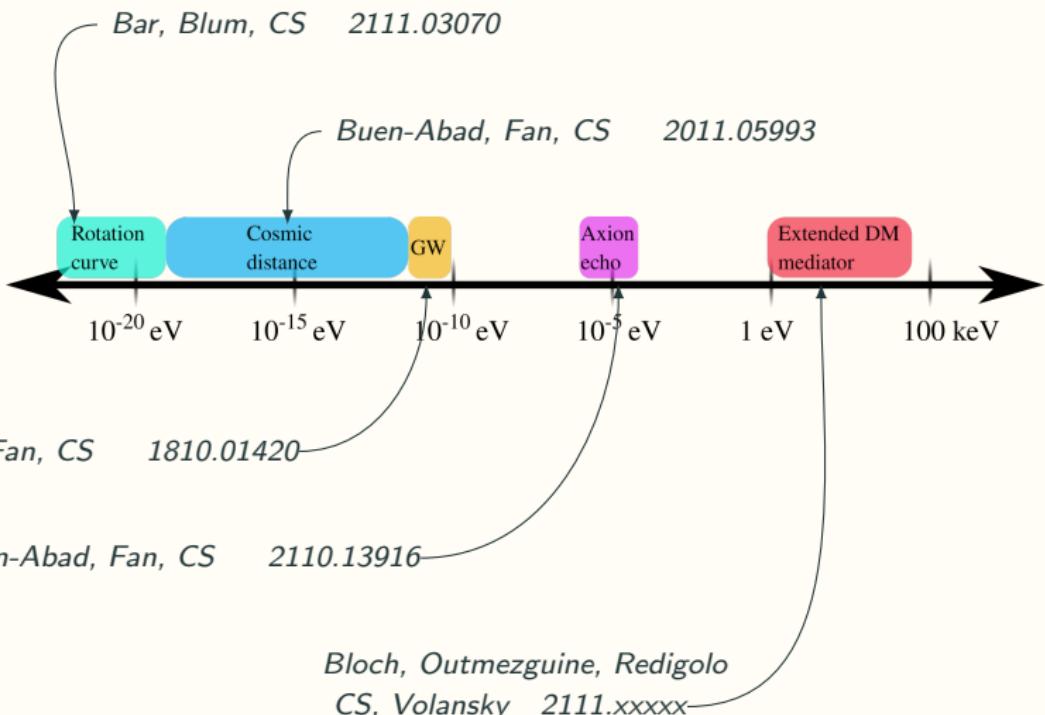
*Bar, Blum, CS* 2111.03070

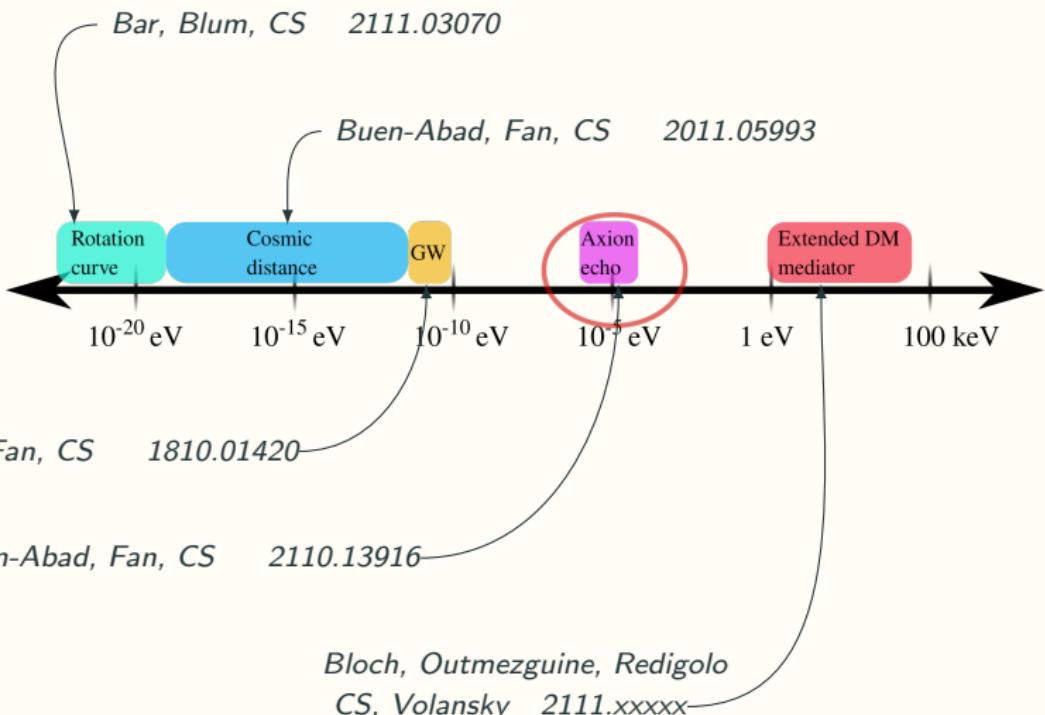












# Axion(-like particles)

$$-\frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

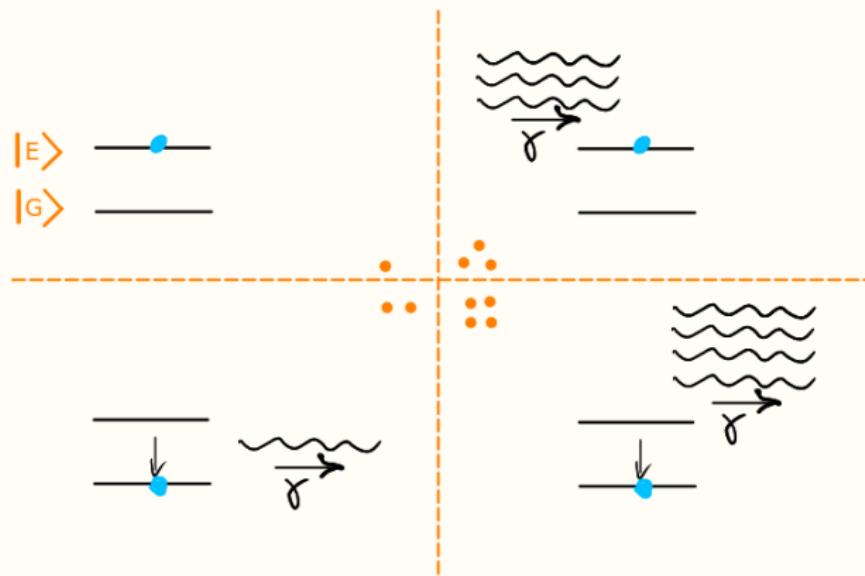
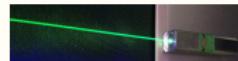
- One of the most studied axion couplings probed in lab.
- Astrophysical environments provide perfect conditions to study effects during  $\gamma$  propagation:

SNIa/GC  
dist. meas.  
(2011.05993)

- {
- magnetic field at large scale
  - long “ $\gamma$  baseline”
  - high  $\gamma$  occupation number
- }

This talk

# Spontaneous Decay v.s. Stimulated Decay



# Spontaneous Decay v.s. Stimulated Decay

$\begin{cases} |E\rangle : \text{excited atom,} \\ |G\rangle : \text{ground state atom} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{LASER } (\text{Light Amp. by Stimulated Emission of Radiation})$

$\begin{cases} |E\rangle : \text{axion,} \\ |G\rangle : \text{photon} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{"ASER" } (\text{Axion Stimulated dEcay Radiation})$

Transition: axion state decays to a single photon state by emitting another photon.

# Axion Stimulated Decay

$S_\nu$ : flux density  
[Jansky], power per  
area per frequency

Conditions:

$f$ : occupation  
number

- $E = m_a/2$  (decay, momentum conservation)
- large occupation number ( $S_\nu \propto E^3 \cdot \Omega \cdot f$ )
- reasonable background (detectable)

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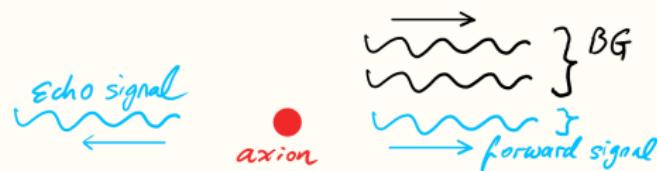
$$\Rightarrow m_a \sim 10^{-5} \text{ eV} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ GHz}$$

Signal dependence:

- stimulating source  $S_\nu$  (astro)
- axion DM density (astro)
- $g_{a\gamma}$ ,  $m_a$  (fundamental)

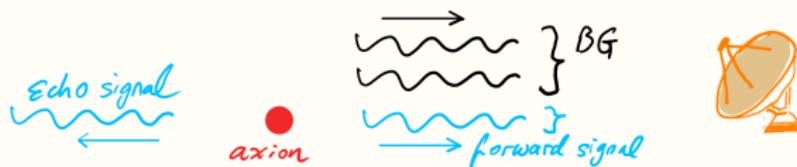
# Where to look for signals

Two photons, flying back-to-back in line of stimulating photon  
( $\mathbf{p}$  conservation)



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$\gamma$  along original

- Galaxy center
- dwarf galaxies
- M87

(Caputo et al. 1811.08436)

# Where to look for signals

Two photons, flying back-to-back in line of stimulating photon  
( $\mathbf{p}$  conservation)



$\gamma$  flying backward “echo”

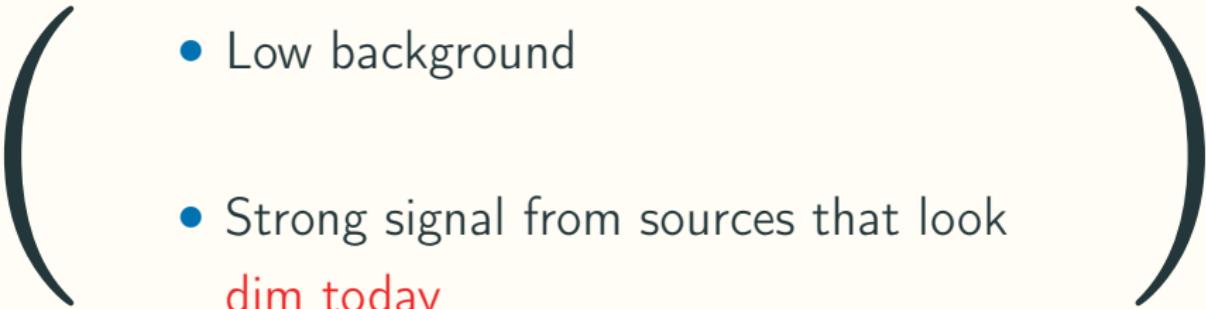
- Artificial photon beam (Arza and Sikivie, 1902.00114; Arza and Todarello 2108.00195)
- Cygnus A (Ghosh et al. 2008.02729)
- Time-varying radio sources (our work)

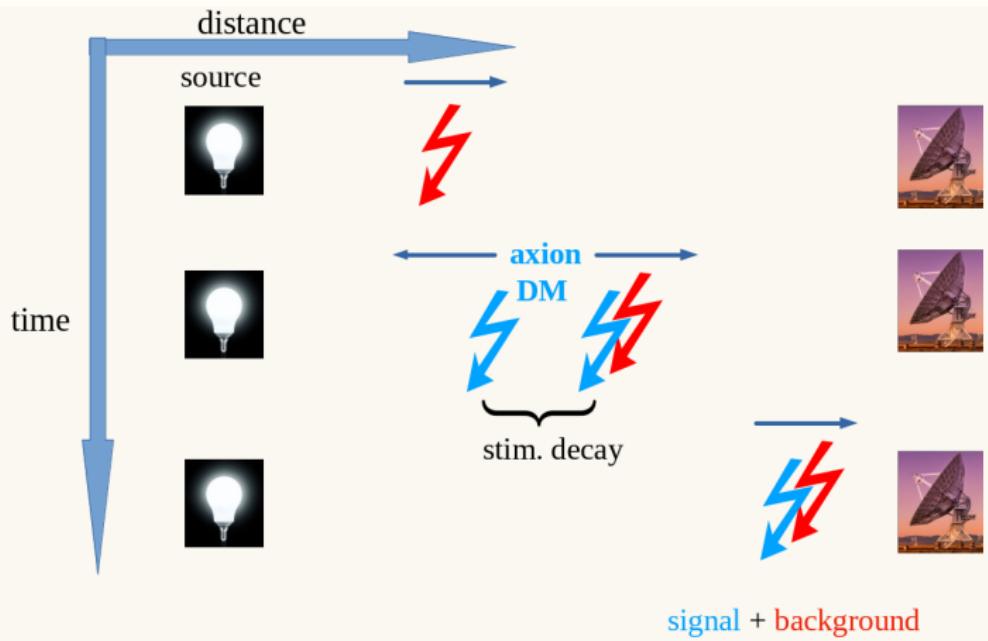
$\gamma$  along original

- Galaxy center
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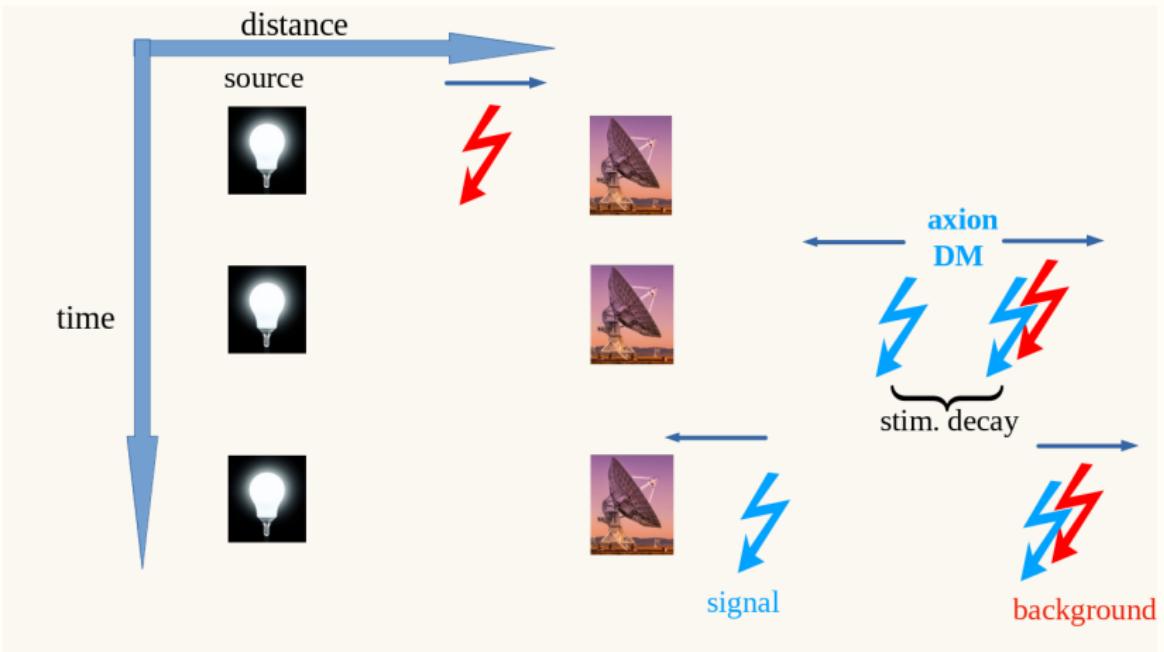
## Benefit of echo signal?

Hints:

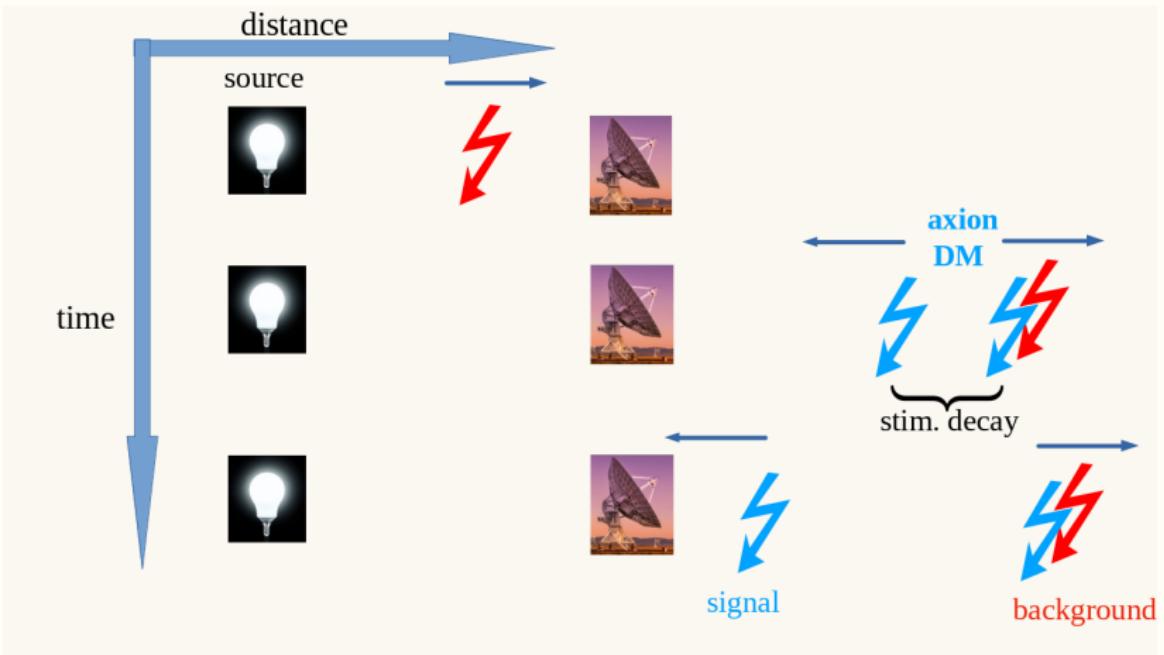
- 
- Low background
  - Strong signal from sources that look dim today



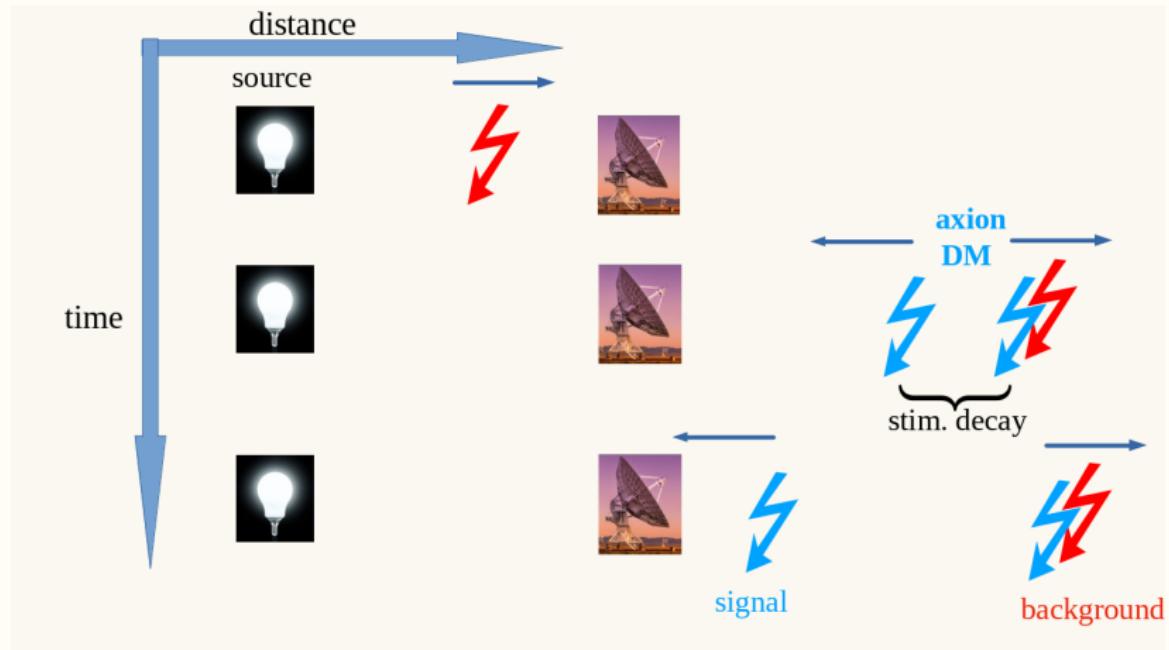
- Forward signal: arrives together with  $\gamma$  triggering the decay



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  - not directly related to the radio source brightness at detection time



- Forward signal: arrives together with  $\gamma$  triggering the decay
- Backward signal:
  - separated from  $\gamma$  that generate them
  - not directly related to the radio source brightness at detection time      good candidates: **Supernova Remnants**

$$S_{\nu, \text{echo}} = \frac{16\pi^2 \Gamma_a}{m_a^4 \sigma_a} \int_0^{t_{\text{age}}/2} dx \rho_a(x) S_\nu(t_{\text{age}} - 2x)$$

Annotations:

- Red bracket above  $\Gamma_a$ : "axion decay width"
- Blue circle under  $\rho_a(x)$ : "axion DM density"
- Green circle under  $S_\nu(t_{\text{age}} - 2x)$ : "stimulating \gamma"

## Interlude Summary

- Axion stimulated decay
- Echo: historically bright radio sources

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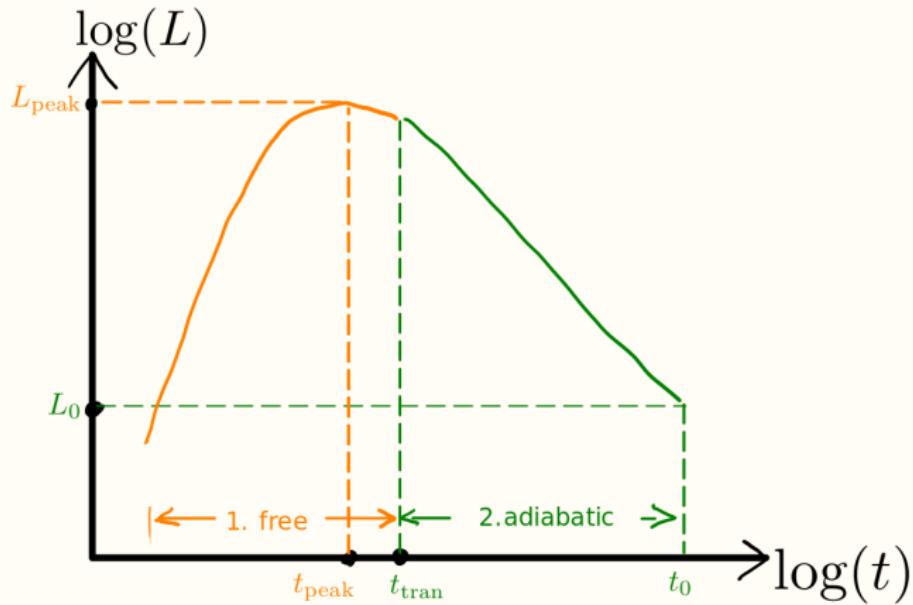
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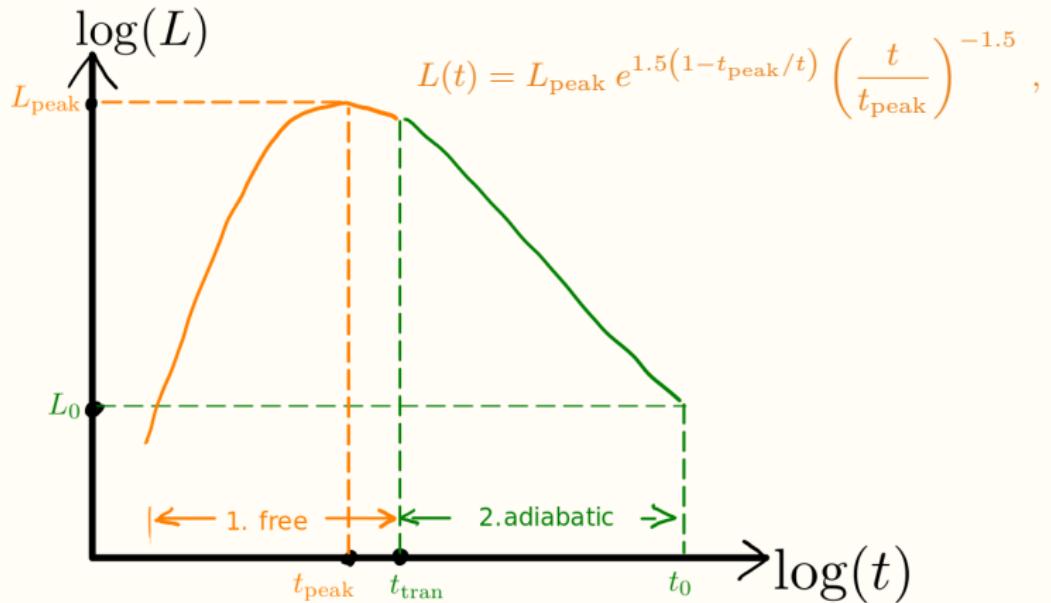
Next:

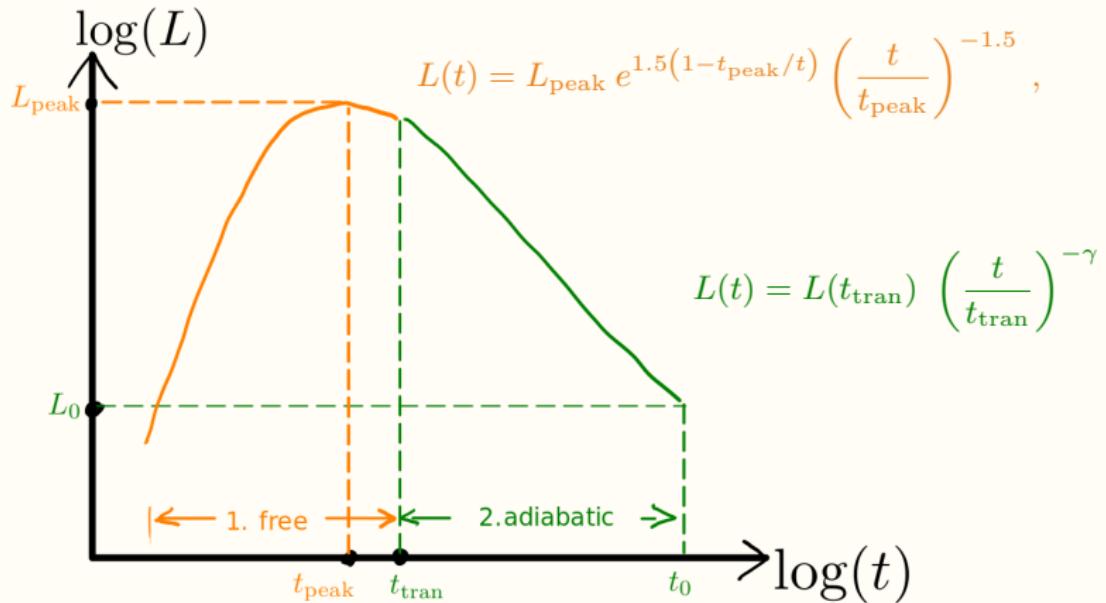
- Supernova evolution
- Signal and noise at SKA
- Results and discussions

## **SN Remnant Evolution**

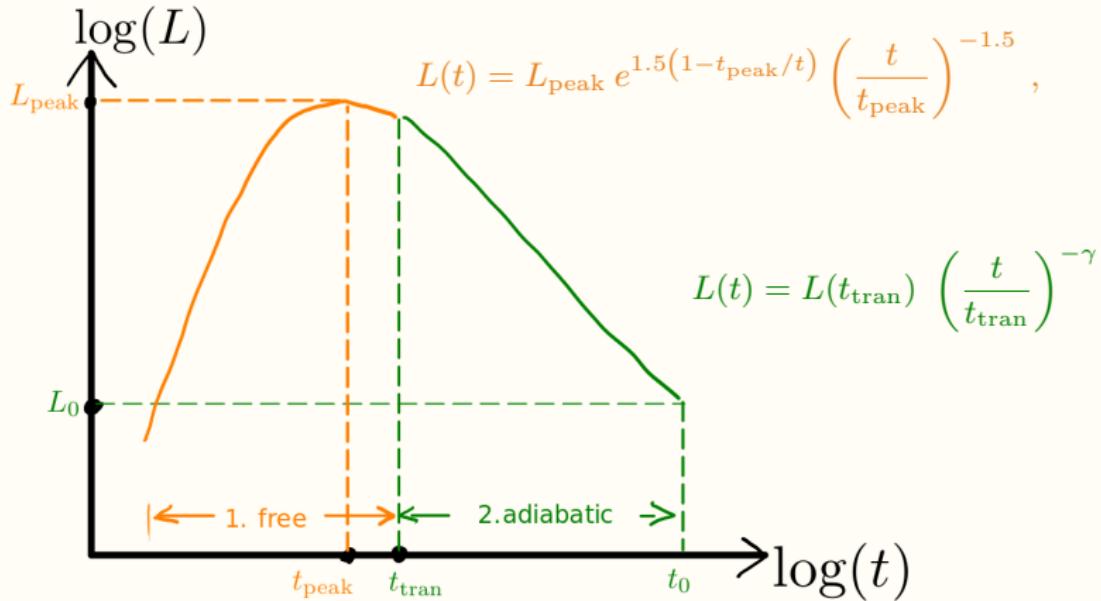
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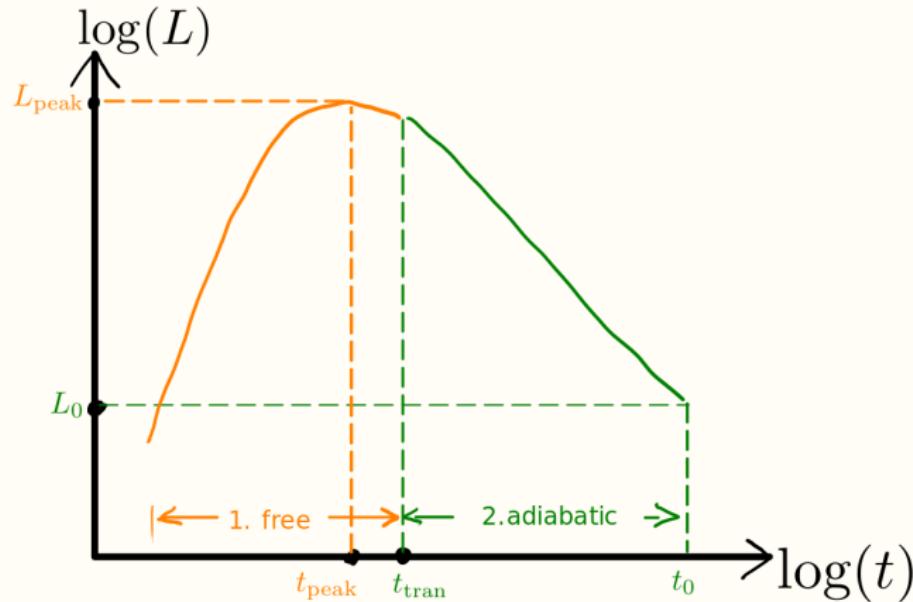


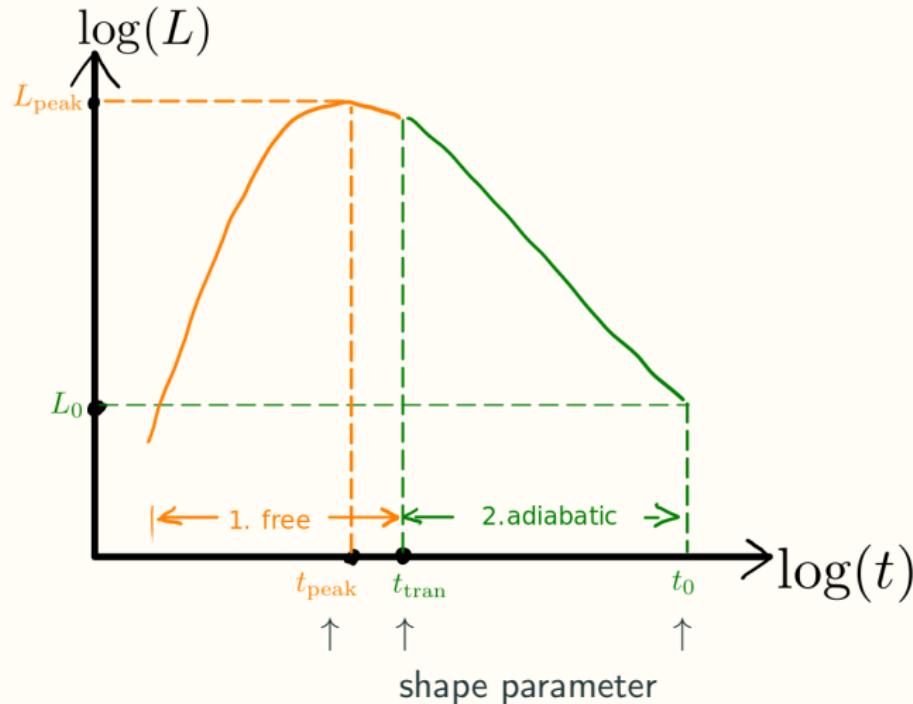


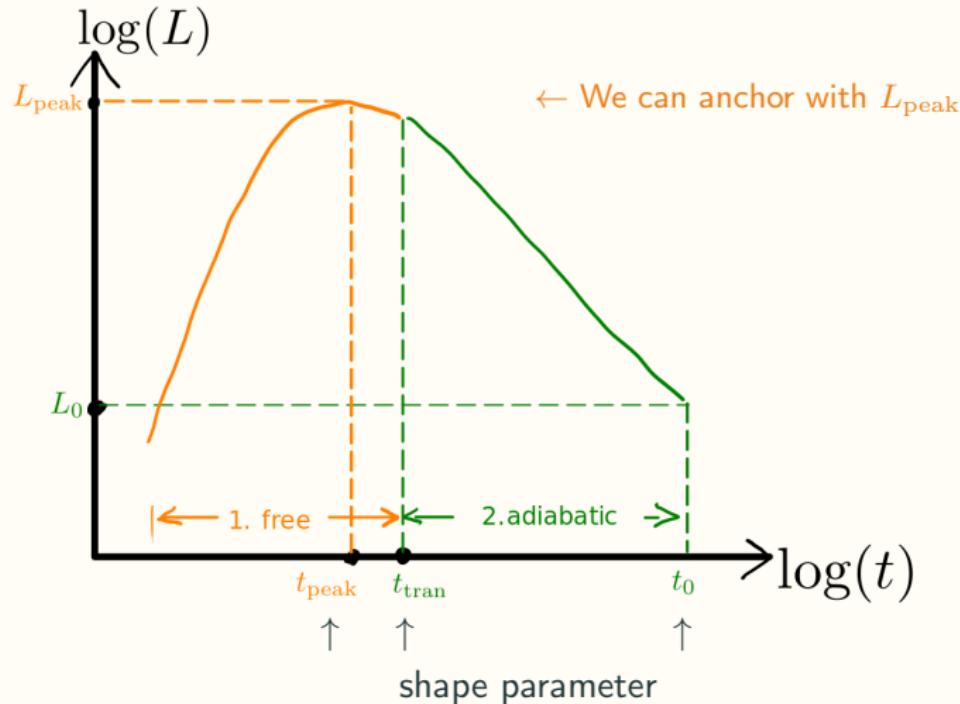
# Phases of SNR Evolution

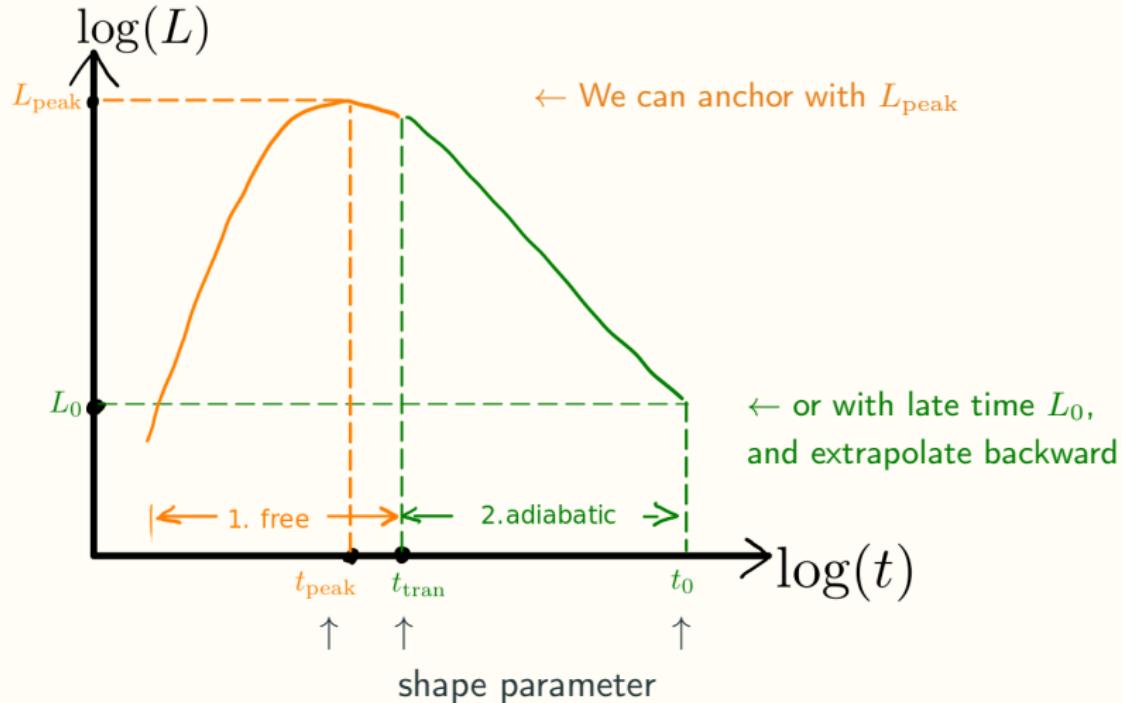


- 1. Free expansion,  $\sim \mathcal{O}(100)$  yr
- 2. Adiabatic,  $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^4)$  yr
- 3. Snow plough,  $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^5)$  yr
- 4. Dispersion phase,  $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)$  yr

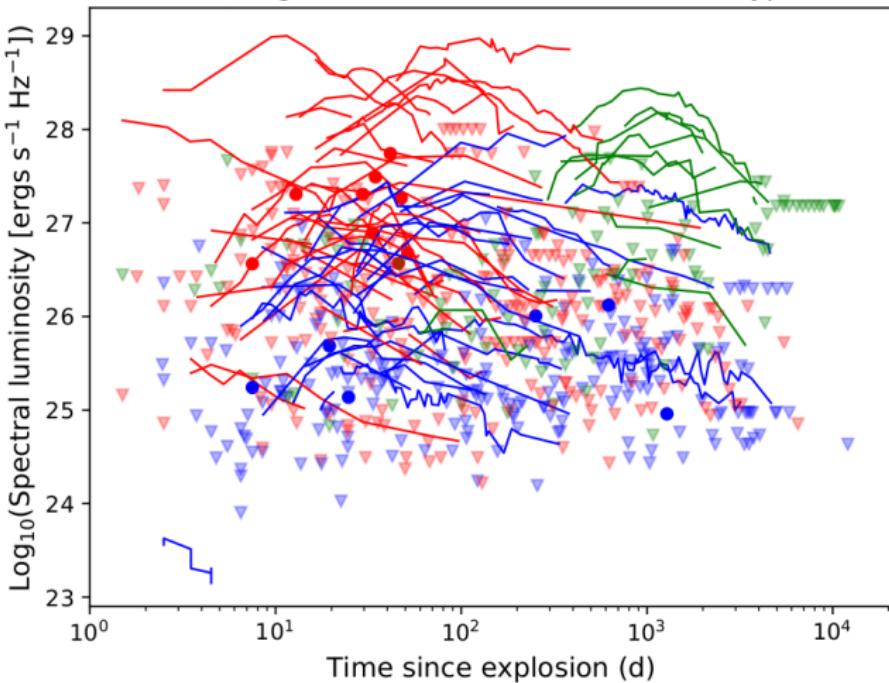


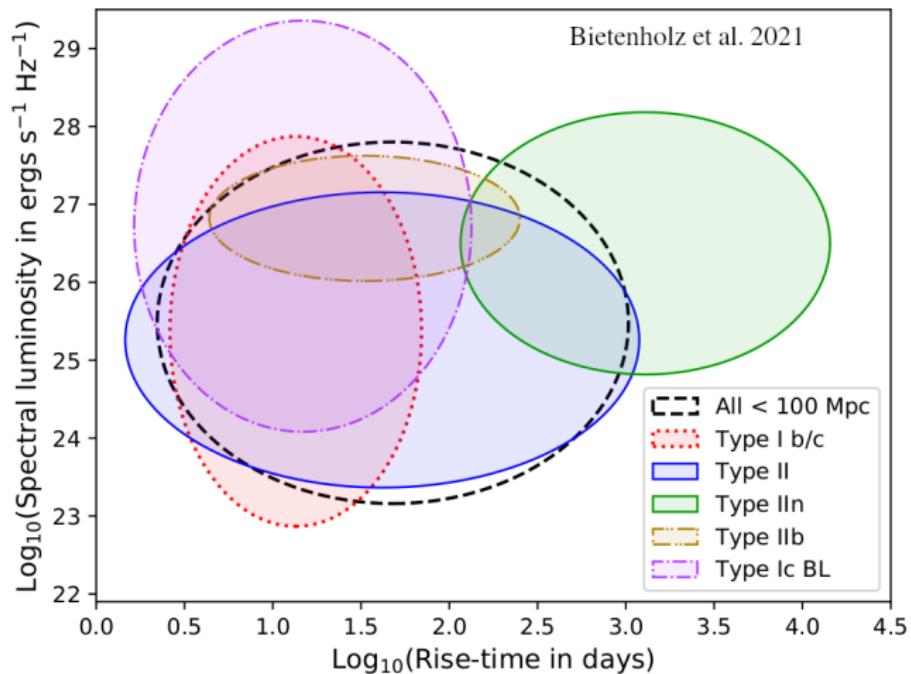
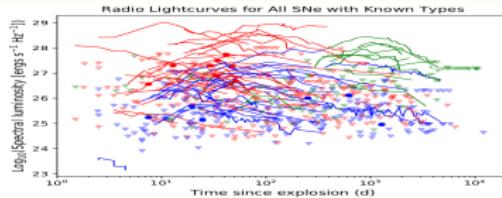


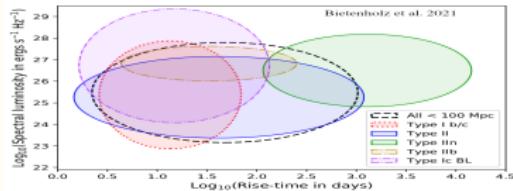
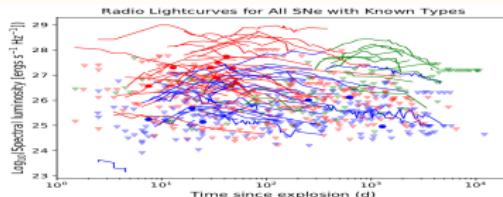




## Radio Lightcurves for All SNe with Known Types



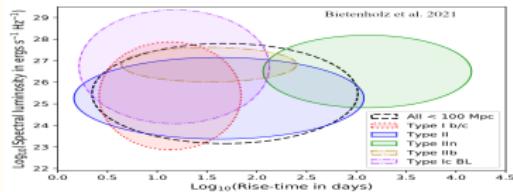
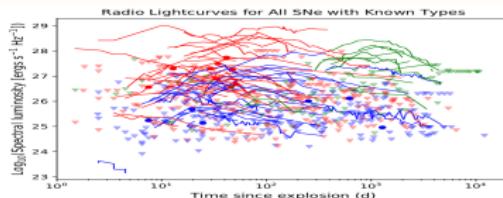




**Green 2019**

**Table 1.** 294 Galactic supernova remnants: summary data.

<i>l</i>	<i>b</i>	RA (J2000)	Dec ( $^{\circ}$ $'$ )	size /arcmin	type	Flux at 1 GHz/Jy	spectral index	other name(s)
0.0	+0.0	17 45 44	-29 00	3.5x2.5	S	100?	0.8?	Sgr A East
0.3	+0.0	17 46 15	-28 38	15x8	S	22	0.6	
0.9	+0.1	17 47 21	-28 09	8	C	18?	varies	
1.0	-0.1	17 48 30	-28 09	8	S	15	0.6?	
1.4	-0.1	17 49 39	-27 46	10	S	2?	?	
1.9	+0.3	17 48 45	-27 10	1.5	S	0.6	0.6	
3.7	-0.2	17 55 26	-25 50	14x11	S	2.3	0.65	
3.8	+0.3	17 52 55	-25 28	18	S?	3?	0.6	
4.2	-3.5	18 08 55	-27 03	28	S	3.2?	0.6?	
4.5	+6.8	17 30 42	-21 29	3	S	19	0.64	Kepler, SN1604,
4.8	+6.2	17 33 25	-21 34	18	S	3	0.6	
5.2	-2.6	18 07 30	-25 45	18	S	2.6?	0.6?	
5.4	-1.2	18 02 10	-24 54	35	C?	35?	0.2?	Milne 56
5.5	+0.3	17 57 04	-24 00	15x12	S	5.5	0.7	
5.9	+3.1	17 47 20	-22 16	20	S	3.3?	0.4?	
6.1	+0.5	17 57 29	-23 25	18x12	S	4.5	0.9	
6.1	+1.2	17 54 55	-23 05	30x26	F	4.0?	0.3?	
6.4	-0.1	18 00 30	-23 26	48	C	310	varies	W28
6.4	+4.0	17 45 10	-21 22	31	S	1.3?	0.4?	
6.5	-0.4	18 02 11	-23 34	18	S	27	0.6	
7.0	-0.1	18 01 50	-22 54	15	S	2.5?	0.5?	
7.2	+0.2	18 01 07	-22 38	12	S	2.8	0.6	
7.7	-2.7	18 17 25	-24 04	22	C	11	0.2?	1014 - 24



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		(h m s)	(° ′)	/arcmin		1 GHz/Jy	index	name(s)
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### SNRcat - High Energy Observations of Galactic Supernova Remnants

Image (GAL alignment)	ID	names	context	age (years)	distance (kpc)	type	keV	MeV	GeV	TeV	CHANDRA	XMM	all	all	all	all	all	all
	Sgr A East, CXOGC J174545.5-285829, 1FGL J1745.6-2900c, 2FGL J1745.6-2858, 1FHL J1745.6-2900, 3FGL J1745.6-2859c, 2FHL J1745.7-2900, 3FHL J1745.6-2900, HESS J1745-290, VER J1745-290	G000.0+00.0	contains CXOGC J174545.5-285829, = the Cannonball = NS candidate and possibly PWN, close to BH Sgr A*	1200 - 10000	8	thermal composite	keV		GeV	TeV	CHANDRA	XMM						
	G000.1-00.1	G0.13-0.12, 1FGL J1746.4-2849c, 2FGL J1746.6-2851c, 1FHL J1746.3-2851, 3FGL J1746.3-2851c, VER J1746-289	contains PWN G0.13-0.11	interacts with molecular cloud??		thermal & plerionic composite?	keV		GeV	TeV	CHANDRA	XMM						
	G000.3+00.0	G0.33+0.04, G0.4+0.1		≤ 500000	8.5	shell			GeV	TeV								
	G000.4-00.0	HESS J1747-007 contains PSR																

**Early phase**: statistics of 262 SNe measured in the range of 2-10 GHz  
leads to

$$L_{\text{peak}} = 10^{1.7 \pm 0.9} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1}, \quad t_{\text{peak}} = 10^{25.5 \pm 1.5} \text{ d}$$

Bietenholz et al. (2011.11737)

**Late phase**: statistics of 294 SN remnants from Green and SNRcat:

- $L_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10)$  Jy
- $\alpha \sim 0.5$  (spectral index)
- angular size  $\sim \mathcal{O}(10)$  arcmin
- galactic coordinate
- distance  $\sim \mathcal{O}(\text{kpc})$
- age (X-ray observation etc.)  
 $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^3) - \mathcal{O}(10^5)$  years

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$$S_{\nu_a} = \frac{16\pi^2 \Gamma_a}{m_a^4 \sigma_a} \int dx \rho_a S_{\nu_a, \text{stim}}$$

## Detectability at SKA

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SKA-mid

SKA-low

# “SKA is two telescopes”

## SKA1-low (Australia)

- frequency: 50 MHz – 350 MHz;
- number of stations: 512;
- effective diameter of each station: 38 m;
- longest baseline: 80 km,



## SKA1-mid (South Africa)

- frequency: 350 MHz – 15.4 GHz;
- 133 dishes  $D = 15$  m (SKA dishes),
- 64 dishes  $D = 13.5$  m (MeerKAT dishes);
- longest baseline: 150 km.



## Signal/ Noise

$$P_{\text{signal}} = S_\nu \cdot \Delta\nu \cdot A \cdot \eta$$

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line width  $\sim 10^{-3}(m_a/4\pi)$

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telescope area

$\sum$  (unit area)

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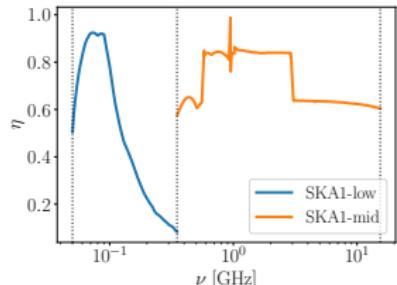
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telescope area

$\sum$  (unit area)

line width  $\sim 10^{-3}(m_a/4\pi)$

telescope efficiency



$$P_{\text{noise,inst}} = T_{\text{sys}} \Delta\nu$$

- $T_{\text{cmb}} \approx 2.73 \text{ K}$
- $T_{\text{atm}} \approx 3 \text{ K}$  at 1 GHz,  $\sim \mathcal{O}(100) \text{ K}$  at 100 MHz.
- $T_{\text{gal}} \sim \mathcal{O}(10) \text{ K}$  (inhomogeneous, Haslam 408 MHz map),
- $T_{\text{rcv}} \approx 40 \text{ K}$  for SKA-low, and  $T_{\text{r}} \sim \mathcal{O}(10) \text{ K}$  for SKA-mid
- $T_{\text{spl}} \lesssim 3 \text{ K}$

## Signal/ Noise

$$P_{\text{noise}} = \frac{\sum_{\text{units}} (T_{\text{sys}} \Delta\nu)}{(\# \text{ of meas.})^{1/2}}$$

- $\sum_{\text{units}}$  is over all stations/dishes that receives the signal
- ( $\#$  of meas.) is the number of independent measurements
  - 2 polarizations
  - $(\Delta\nu t_{\text{obs}})$  during  $t_{\text{obs}}$
  - # of dishes (single-dish mode)
  - # of baselines (interferometry mode)

## Signal of finite size, $\theta_{\text{sig}}$

Single dish mode:

$$P_{\text{signal}} \rightarrow P_{\text{signal}}$$

$$P_{\text{noise}} \rightarrow P_{\text{noise}} \left( \frac{\theta_{\text{sig}}}{\theta_{\text{res}}} \right)$$

## Signal of finite size, $\theta_{\text{sig}}$

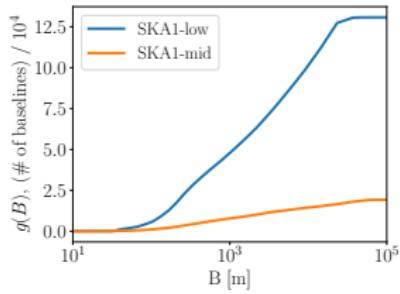
Interferometry mode:

$$P_{\text{signal}} \rightarrow P_{\text{signal}} \Theta(\lambda/B - \theta_{\text{sig}})$$

$$P_{\text{noise}} \rightarrow P_{\text{noise}} / (\# \text{ of meas.})^{1/2}$$

# Signal of finite size, $\theta_{\text{sig}}$

Interferometry mode:  
Baseline length



$$P_{\text{signal}} \rightarrow P_{\text{signal}} \Theta(\lambda/B - \theta_{\text{sig}})$$

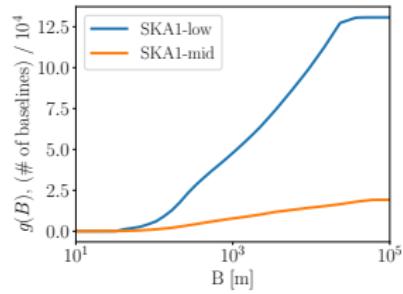
$$P_{\text{noise}} \rightarrow P_{\text{noise}} / (\# \text{ of meas.})^{1/2}$$

# Signal of finite size, $\theta_{\text{sig}}$

Interferometry mode:

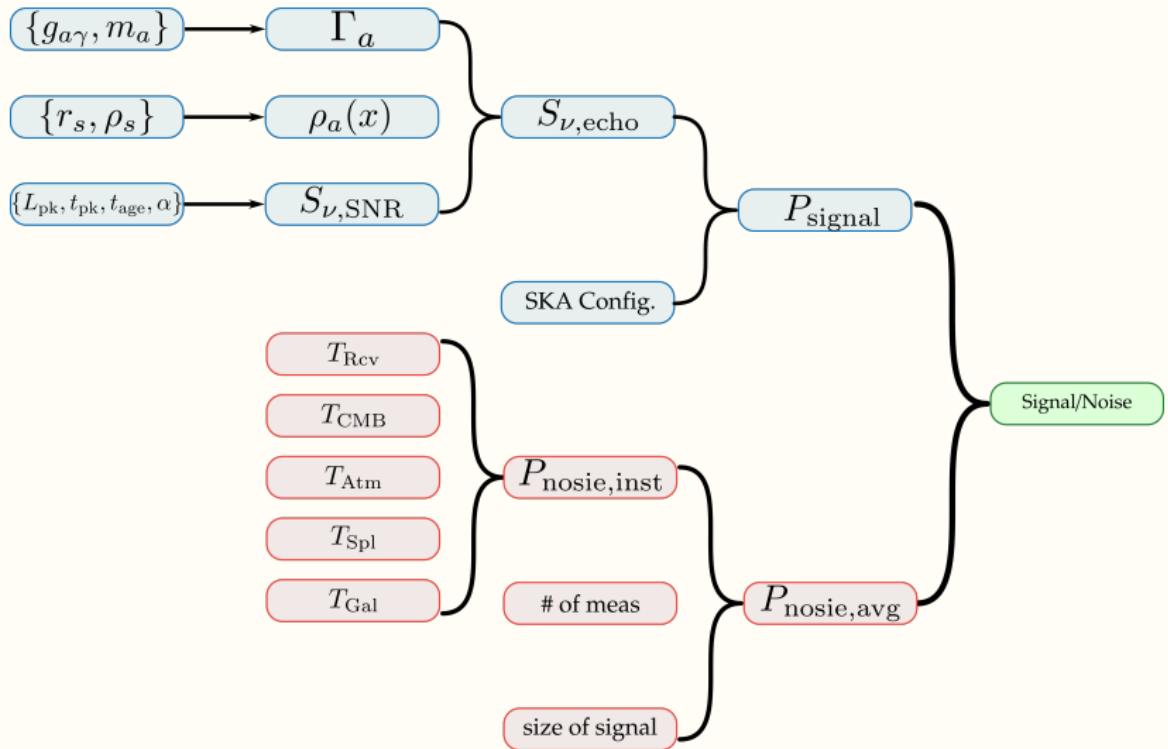
Baseline length

$$P_{\text{signal}} \rightarrow P_{\text{signal}} \Theta(\lambda/B - \theta_{\text{sig}})$$



$$P_{\text{noise}} \rightarrow P_{\text{noise}} / (\# \text{ of meas.})^{1/2}$$

“active” baselines



## Results

---

### G39.7-2.0 (W50)

$$(l, b) = (39.7^\circ, -2^\circ)$$

$$\theta_s = 85 \text{ arcmin}$$

$$S_{\text{1GHz,s}}^{(0)} = 85 \text{ Jy (*)}$$

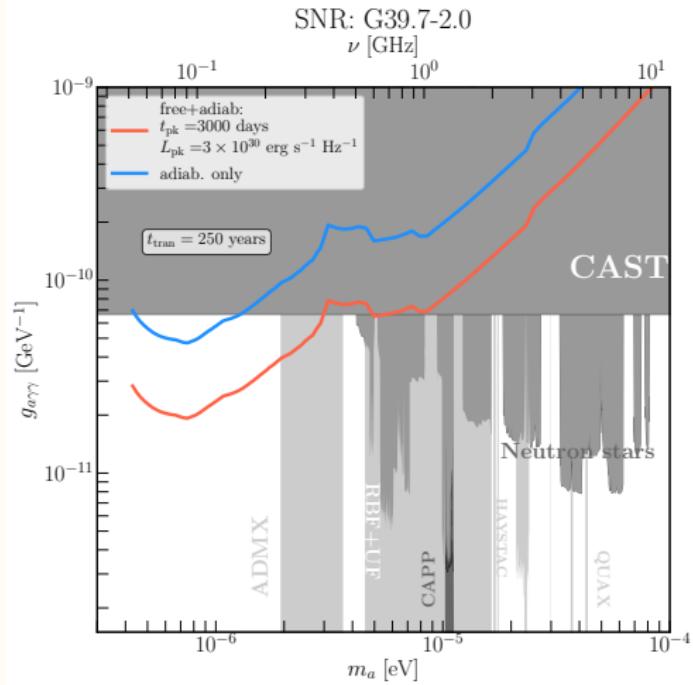
$$D = 4.9 \text{ kpc}$$

$$t_{\text{age}} = 30,000\text{--}100,000 \text{ years}$$

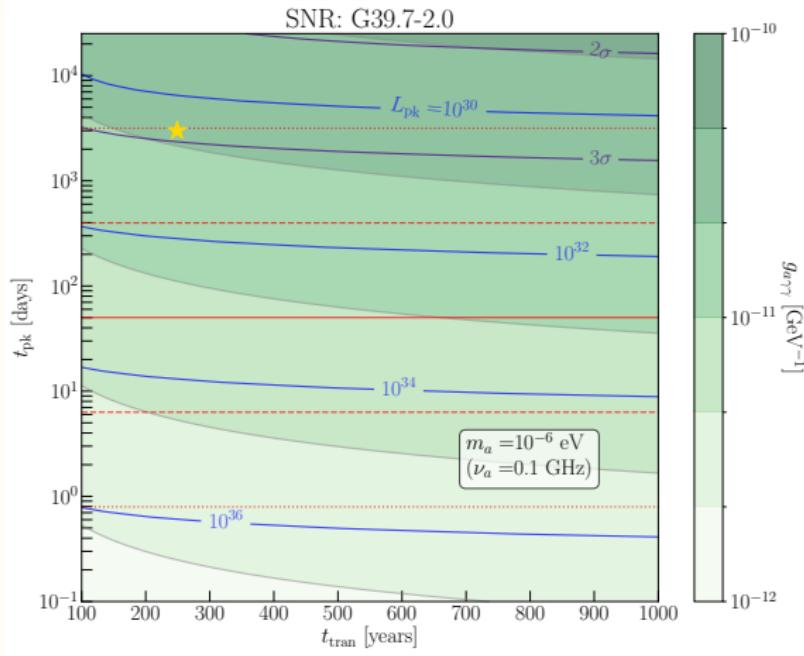
$$\alpha = 0.7 \text{ (*)}$$

$$\gamma = 1.92$$

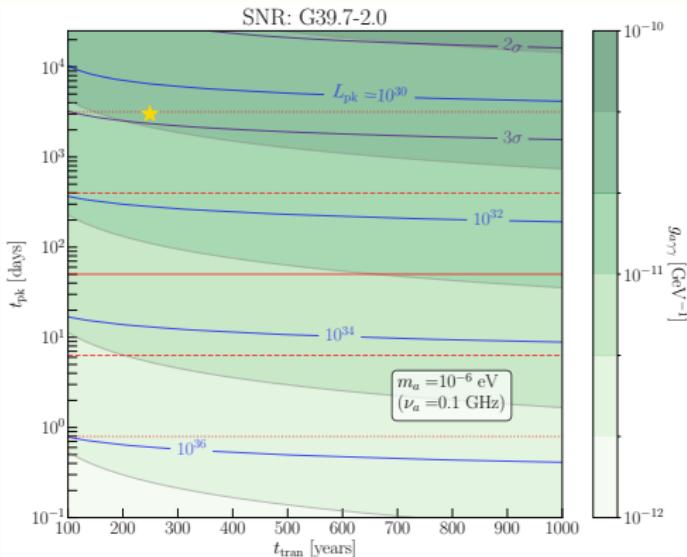
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# Dependence on Early Properties

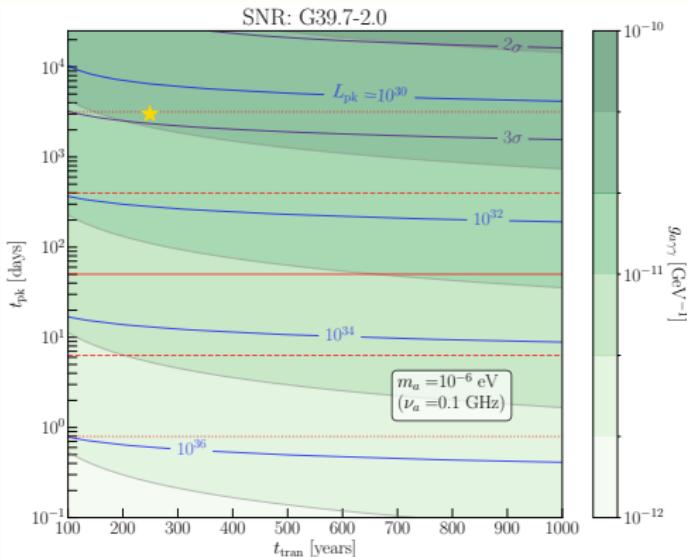


# Dependence on Early Properties



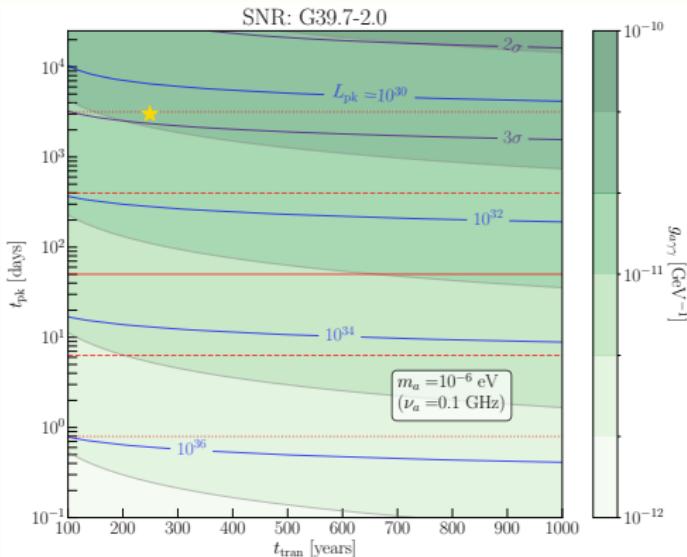
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# Dependence on Early Properties



- G39.7-2.0 not a very typical SNR (selection bias)
- Current it is only 1/30 of Cas A
- Early brightness is the key

# Projections

---

### G6.4-0.1 like

$$(l, b) = (64^\circ, -0.1^\circ)$$

$$\theta_s = 48 \text{ arcmin}$$

$$S_{\text{1GHz,s}}^{(0)} = 310 \text{ Jy (*)}$$

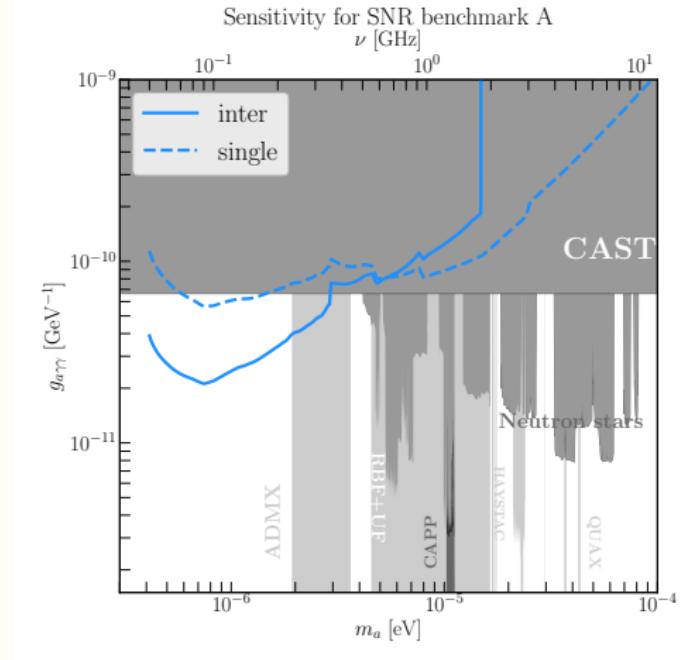
$$D = 1.9 \text{ kpc}$$

$$t_{\text{age}} \sim 35,000 \text{ years}$$

$$\alpha = 0.65 \text{ (*)}$$

$$\gamma = 1.84$$

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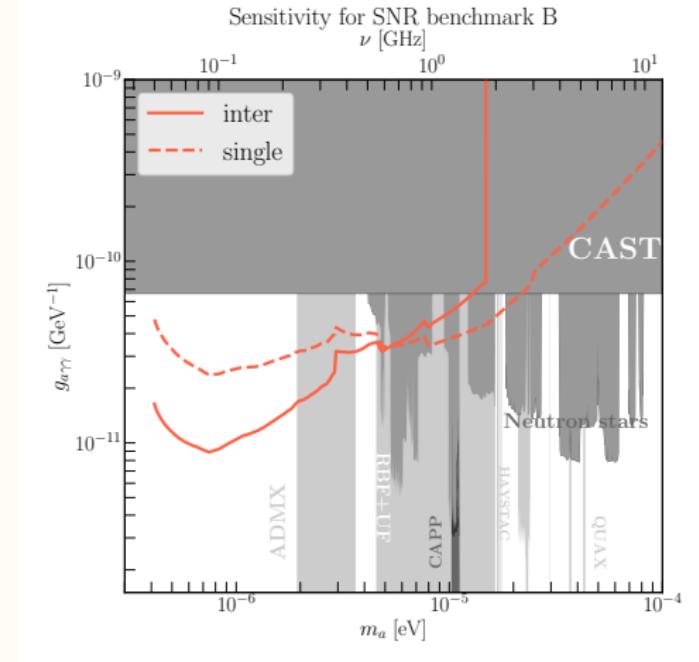
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## **Results – anchor with Early data**

---

## Undiscovered old SNR

$$(l, b) = (175^\circ, 5^\circ)$$

$$\theta_s = 16 \text{ arcmin}$$

$$L_{\text{1GHz,peak}} = 1.2 \times 10^{29} \text{ erg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1}$$

$$t_{\text{pk}} = 50 \text{ days}$$

$$S_{\text{1GHz,s}}^{(0)} = 6 \text{ Jy (derived)}$$

$$D = 0.5 \text{ kpc}$$

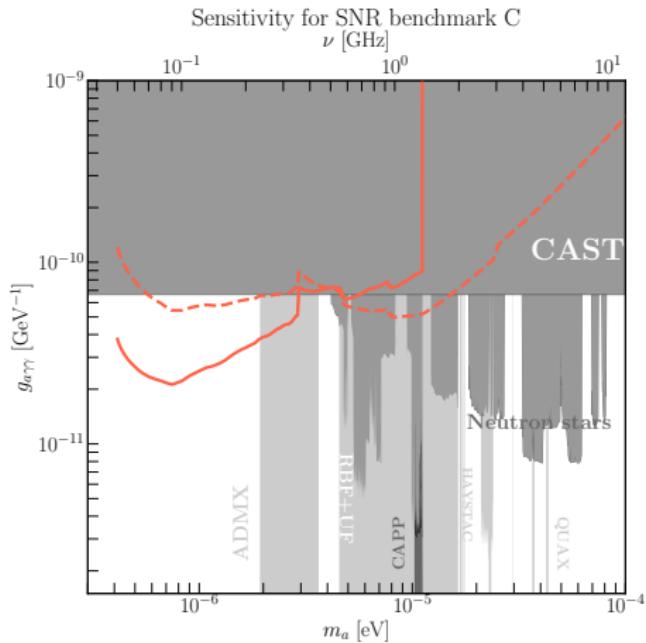
$$t_{\text{age}} \sim 55,000 \text{ years}$$

$$\alpha = 0.65 \text{ (*)}$$

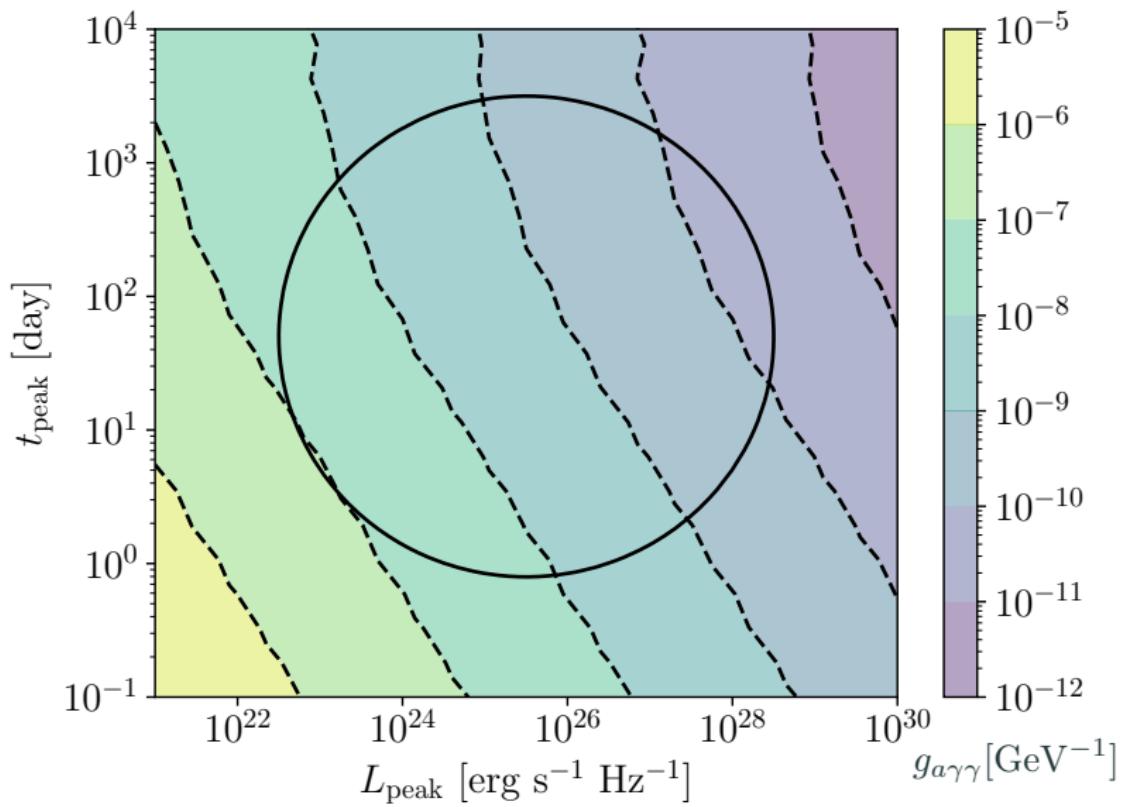
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**Undiscovered old SNR**

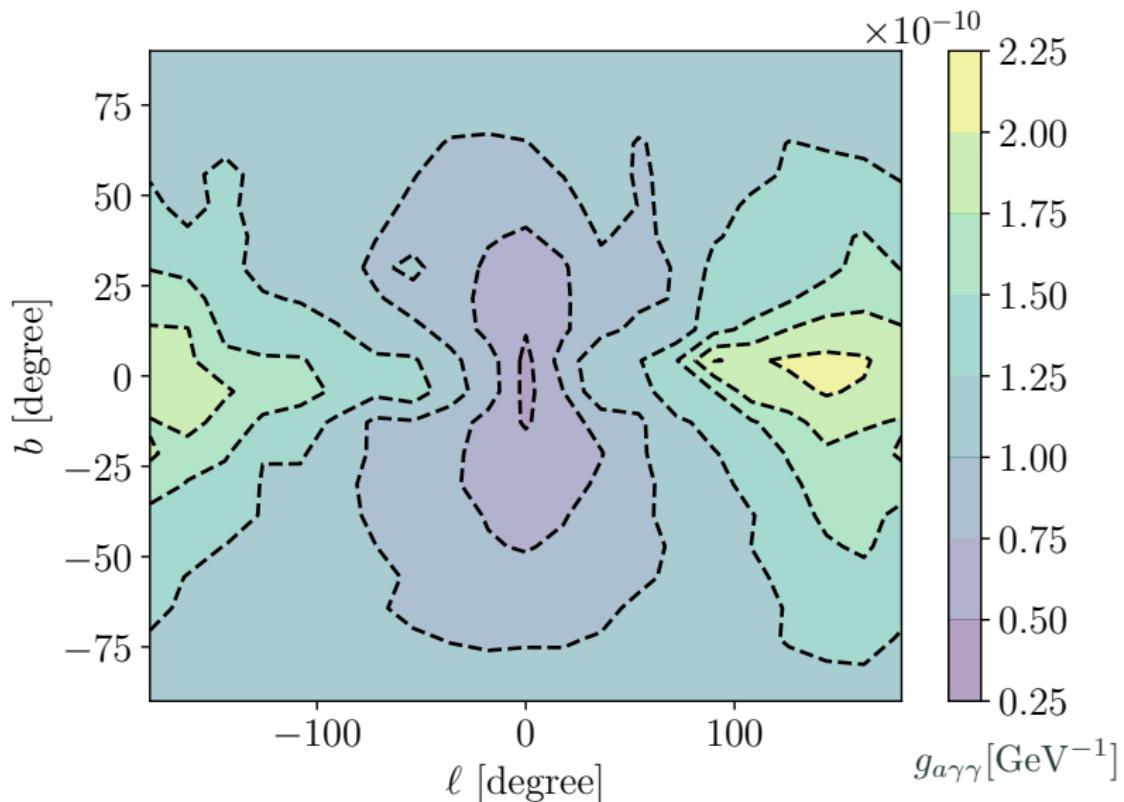
$(l, b) = (175^\circ, 5^\circ)$   
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 $S_{1\text{GHz,s}}^{(0)} = 6 \text{ Jy (derived)}$   
 $D = 0.5 \text{ kpc}$   
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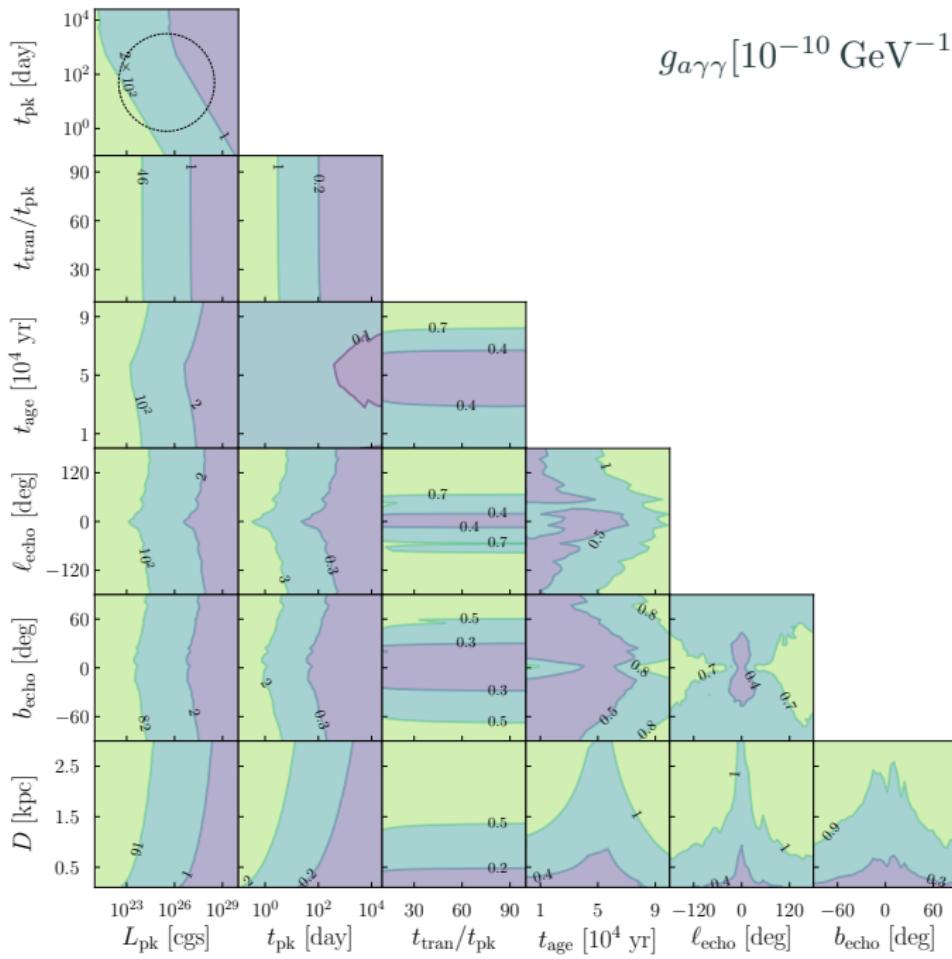
## Results – Dependence on Early Properties



## Results – Dependence on SNR Location



$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} [10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}]$$



## Bonus – if we get lucky

### Future SN explosion

$$(l, b) = (40^\circ, 0^\circ)$$

$$\theta_s = 1.0 \text{ arcmin}$$

$$L_{\text{1GHz,peak}} = 1.2 \times 10^{29} \text{ erg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1}$$

$$S_{\text{1GHz,s}}^{(0)} = 2.1 \times 10^6 \text{ Jy (derived)}$$

$$D = 0.5 \text{ kpc}$$

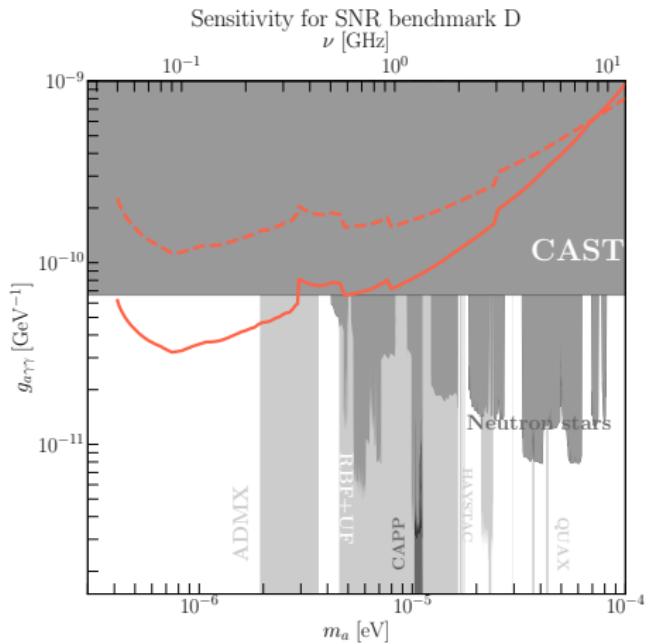
$$t_{\text{age}} \sim 10 \text{ years}$$

$$\alpha = 0.65 \text{ (*)}$$

$$\gamma = 1.84$$

# Bonus – if we get lucky

Future SN explosion	
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# Summary

- Axion stimulated decay provides an important way to examine  $g_{a\gamma}$   
Large  $\gamma$  occupation number is a must!
- $a \rightarrow \gamma_f + \gamma_b$   
 $\gamma_b$ : depends on historical source brightness; has low background.
- Supernova Remnants are bright (transient) radio sources  
Include the very old ones and those not detected yet
- Statistically normal SNR can probe axion DM parameter space beyond CAST

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🔗 [https://github.com/ChenSun-phys/snr\\_ghosts](https://github.com/ChenSun-phys/snr_ghosts)

Time varying radio sources...

... are important for echo signals from stimulated decay of axions.

# Backup slides

# Light curve model

$$L_\nu(t) = \begin{cases} L_{\nu,\text{free}}(t) & (t \leq t_{\text{tran}}) \\ L_{\nu,\text{adia}}(t) & (t > t_{\text{tran}}) \end{cases}$$

where

$$L_{\nu,\text{free}}(t) \equiv L_{\nu,\text{peak}} e^{1.5(1-t_{\text{peak}}/t)} \left(\frac{t}{t_{\text{peak}}}\right)^{-1.5}$$

$$L_{\nu,\text{adia}}(t) \equiv L_{\nu,0} \left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right)^{-\beta}$$

$$L_{\nu,\text{adia}}(t_{\text{tran}}) = L_{\nu,\text{free}}(t_{\text{tran}}) \quad (\text{matching condition})$$

# Master Formula

$$S_{\nu_a} = \frac{16\pi^2\Gamma_a}{m_a^4 \sigma_a} \int_0^{t_0/2} dx \rho_a(x, -\Omega_*) S_{\nu_a, stim}(t_0 - 2x) e^{-\tau(\nu, x, -\Omega_*)} ,$$

# Optical Depth

$$\tau(\nu) \approx 9.5 \times 10^{-7} \left( \frac{\text{EM}}{\text{cm}^{-6} \text{pc}} \right) \left( \frac{T_e}{5000 \text{ K}} \right)^{-1.38} \left( \frac{\nu}{\text{GHz}} \right)^{-2.08},$$

$\text{EM} = \int n_e^2 d\ell$  is the emission measurement

- away from the galaxy center (pulsar measurements)

$$\text{EM} \approx 0.23 \text{ cm}^{-6} \text{ pc} \left( \frac{n_{e,0}}{0.015 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\ell}{\text{kpc}} \right),$$

- at the galaxy center (Sgr A\*)

$$\tau \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ at } 300 \text{ MHz}$$

*Gregory and Seaquist 1973,  
Pedlar et al. 1989,  
Schnitzeler 2021,*  
...

# Population Estimate

SN rate in our Galaxy is

$$0.02 \sim 0.03 \text{ per year}$$

SNRs younger than  $10^5$  years are

$$2000 \sim 3000$$

Distribution inside our galaxy

$$\Sigma(R) \propto \left(\frac{R}{R_\odot}\right)^a \exp\left(-b\frac{(R - R_\odot)}{R_\odot}\right),$$

$$R_\odot = 8.5 \text{ kpc}, a = 1.09, b = 3.87 \text{ (Green 2015)}$$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(10)$  within 1 kpc of the Sun.

# Noise of radio telescopes

$$\rho_\gamma \sim \int fE d^3p \sim \int fE^3 dEd\Omega$$

$$I_\nu \equiv \frac{dP}{dAd\nu d\Omega} \sim \frac{d\rho_\gamma}{dEd\Omega} \sim fE^3 \sim TE^2$$

$$P_{\text{noise}} = I_\nu \cdot \Omega \cdot \Delta\nu \cdot (A\eta) \sim TE^2 \left( \frac{1}{\nu^2 A\eta} \right) \cdot \Delta\nu \cdot (A\eta) \sim T\Delta\nu$$

For a given telescope, the equivalent temperature is denoted as  $T_{\text{sys}}$ .

# Aberration, dispersion, and signal reduction

Three different motions:

- coherent motion of the source
- coherent motion of the observer
- dispersion of dark matter

# Aberration, dispersion, and signal reduction

Three different motions:

- coherent motion of the source

$$\theta_{ab} \approx \frac{d_s}{D} \approx 10 \text{ arcmin} \left( \frac{v_s}{10^{-3}} \right) \left( \frac{t_{\text{age}}}{10^4 \text{ years}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ kpc}}{D} \right)$$

# Aberration, dispersion, and signal reduction

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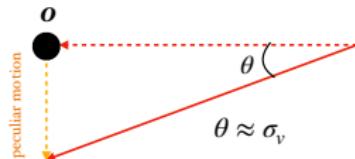
$$1 - \left( \frac{D}{d_o + D} \right)^2 \approx \frac{2d_o}{D} = 6 \times 10^{-3} \left( \frac{v_o}{10^{-3}} \right) \left( \frac{t_{\text{age}}}{10^4 \text{ years}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ kpc}}{D} \right)$$

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a) Effect of dark matter peculiar motion

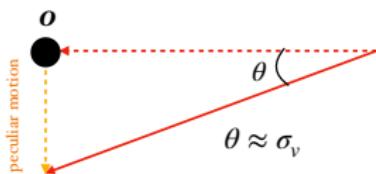


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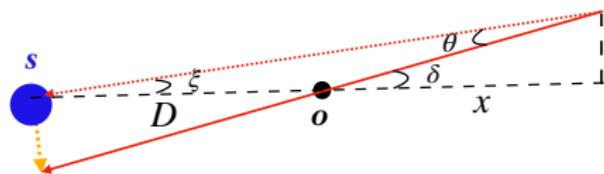
Three different motions:

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a) Effect of dark matter peculiar motion



b) Enlarging collecting solid angle



$$2\delta \approx 2\sigma_v \frac{x+D}{D} \approx 2\sigma_v \frac{t_{\text{age}}/2+D}{D} ,$$

# Shadow of the Earth

Had the Earth not been moving:

- stimulated decays of axions located within the Earth's shadow are prevented;
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*Eppur si muove!*

$$\ell_{\text{sd}} \approx \frac{2R_{\oplus}}{\theta_s} \approx 0.06 \text{ au} \left( \frac{5 \text{ arcmin}}{\theta_s} \right)$$

$$t \sim R_{\oplus}/v_{\odot} \sim 21 \text{ s}$$