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# (High Frequency) Gravitational Waves: How and Where to Find Them

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**University of Geneva**

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# GOLDBLUM TEST

Yeah, yeah, but your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could that they didn't stop to think if they should

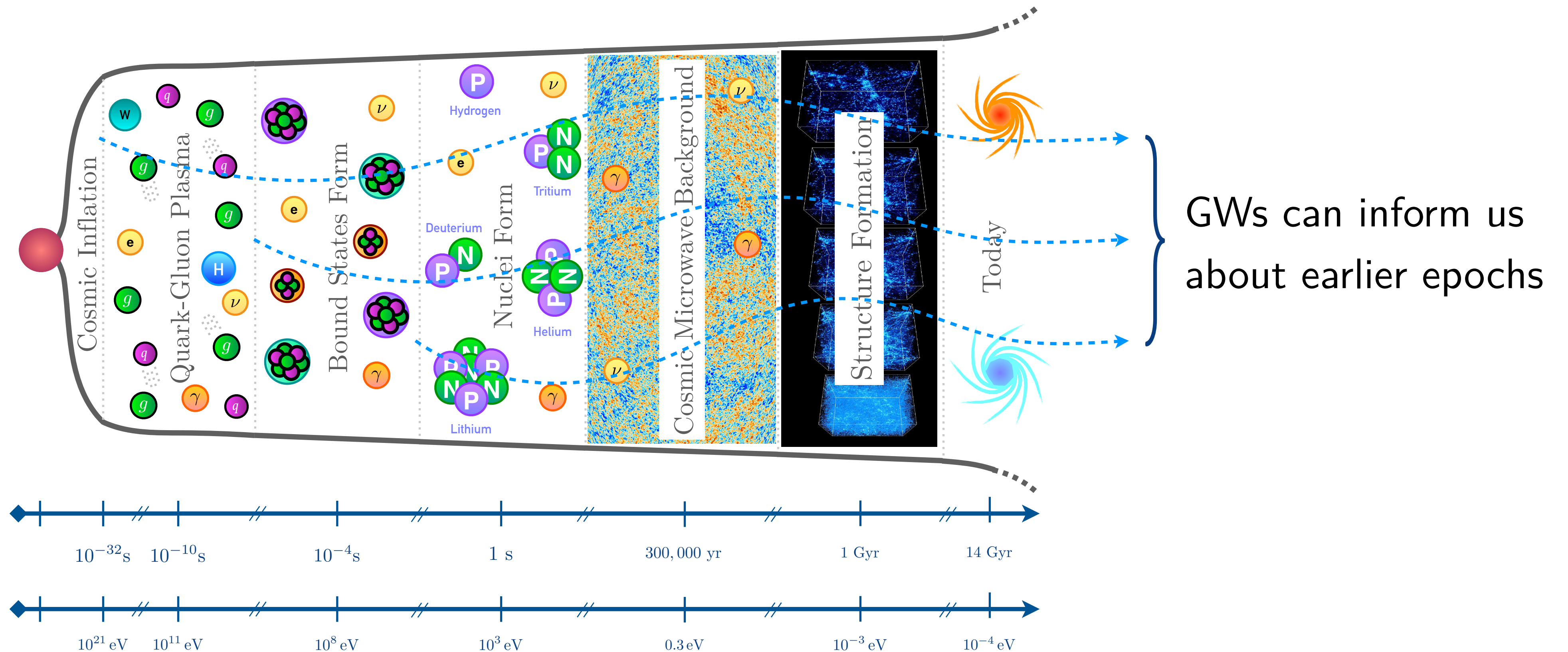
*Dr. Ian Malcolm (1993)*

**Why?**

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# Gravitational Waves

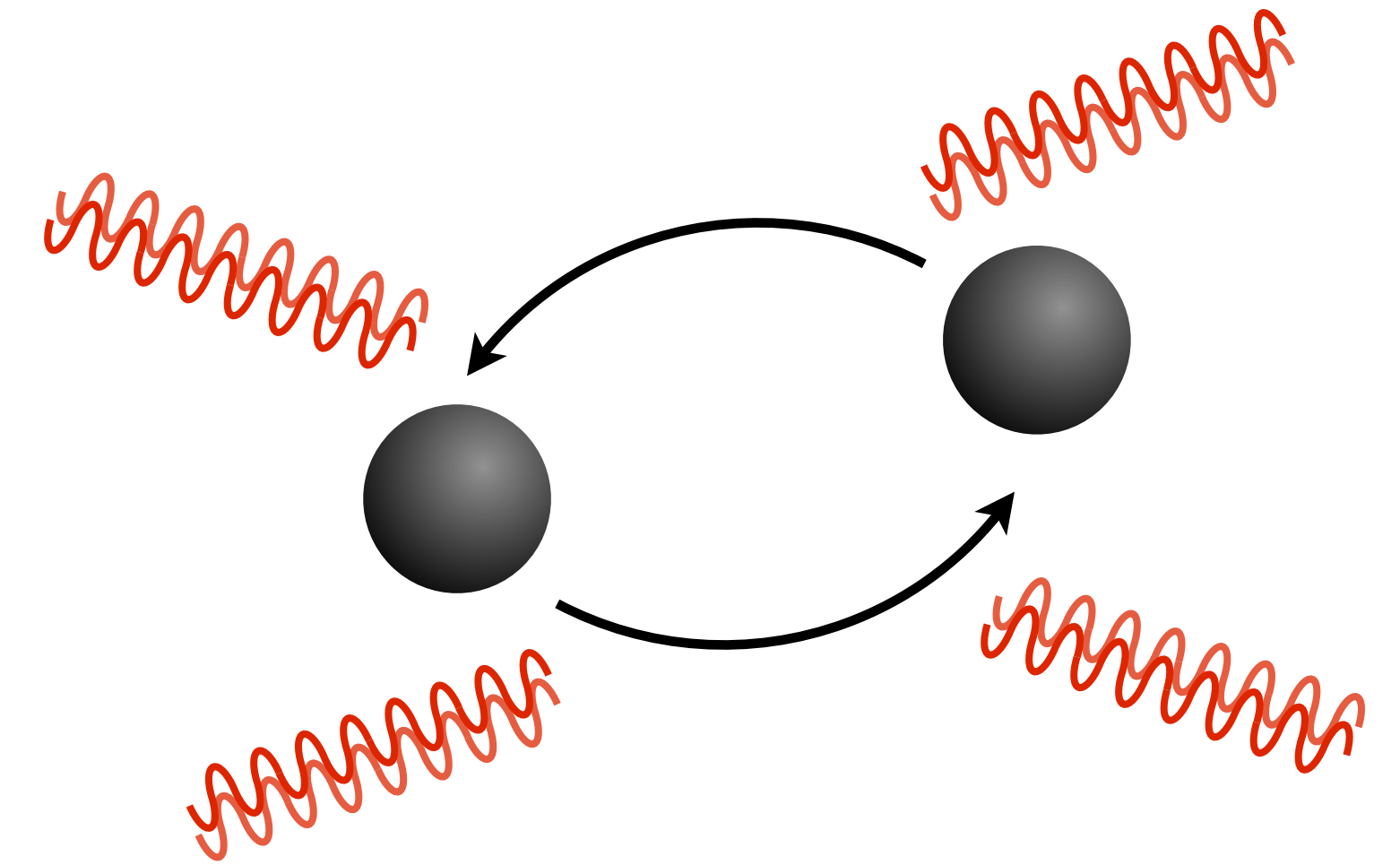
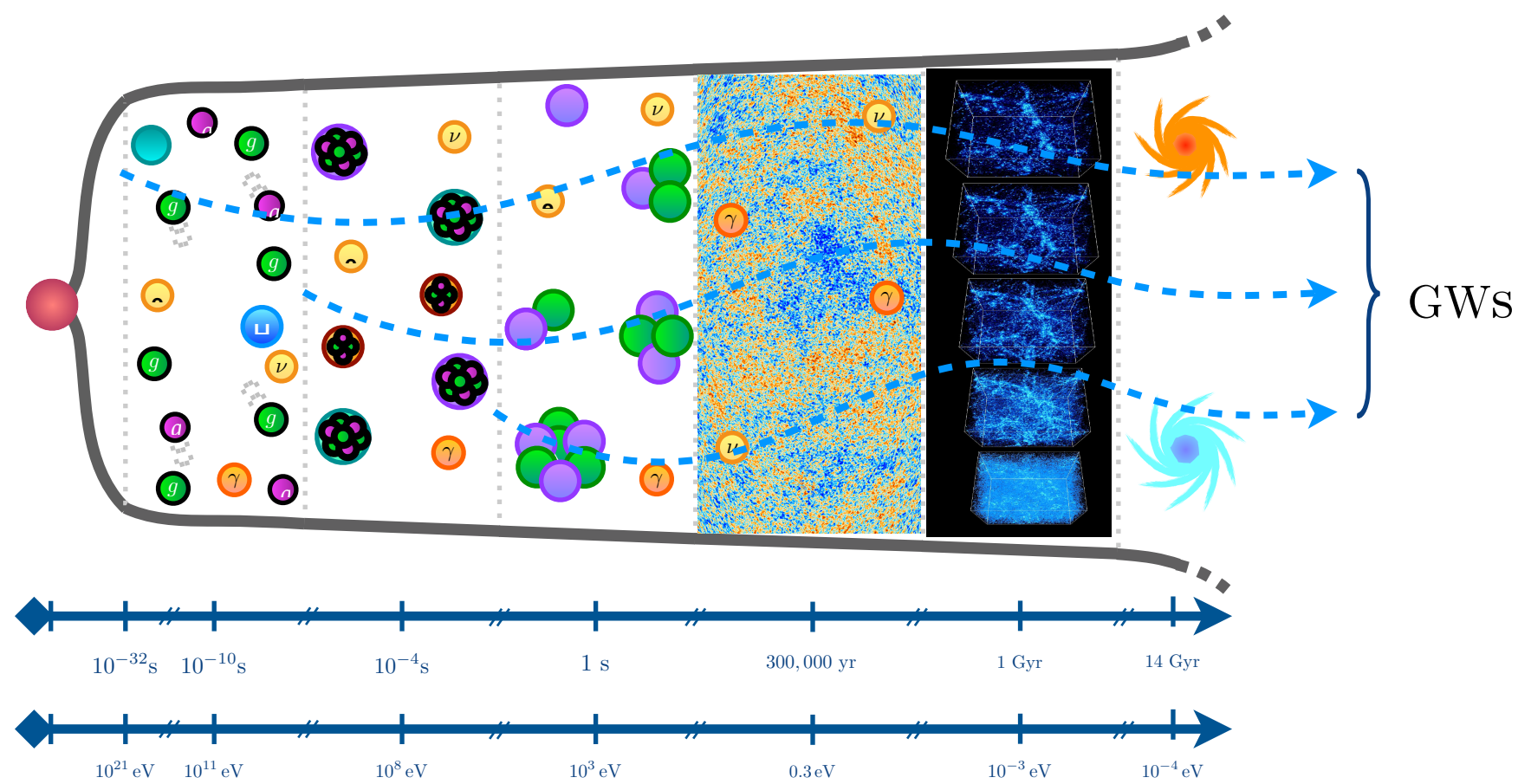
So far, GWs telling us about the recent\* universe



# High-Frequency Gravitational Waves

## Cosmological GWs

$$\omega_g \Leftrightarrow T_{\text{origin}}$$



## Astrophysical GWs

$$\omega_g \Leftrightarrow \Lambda_{\text{origin}}$$

# Stochastic Gravitational Waves

$$h \hat{h}_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$$

## Standard Model

CGravMB

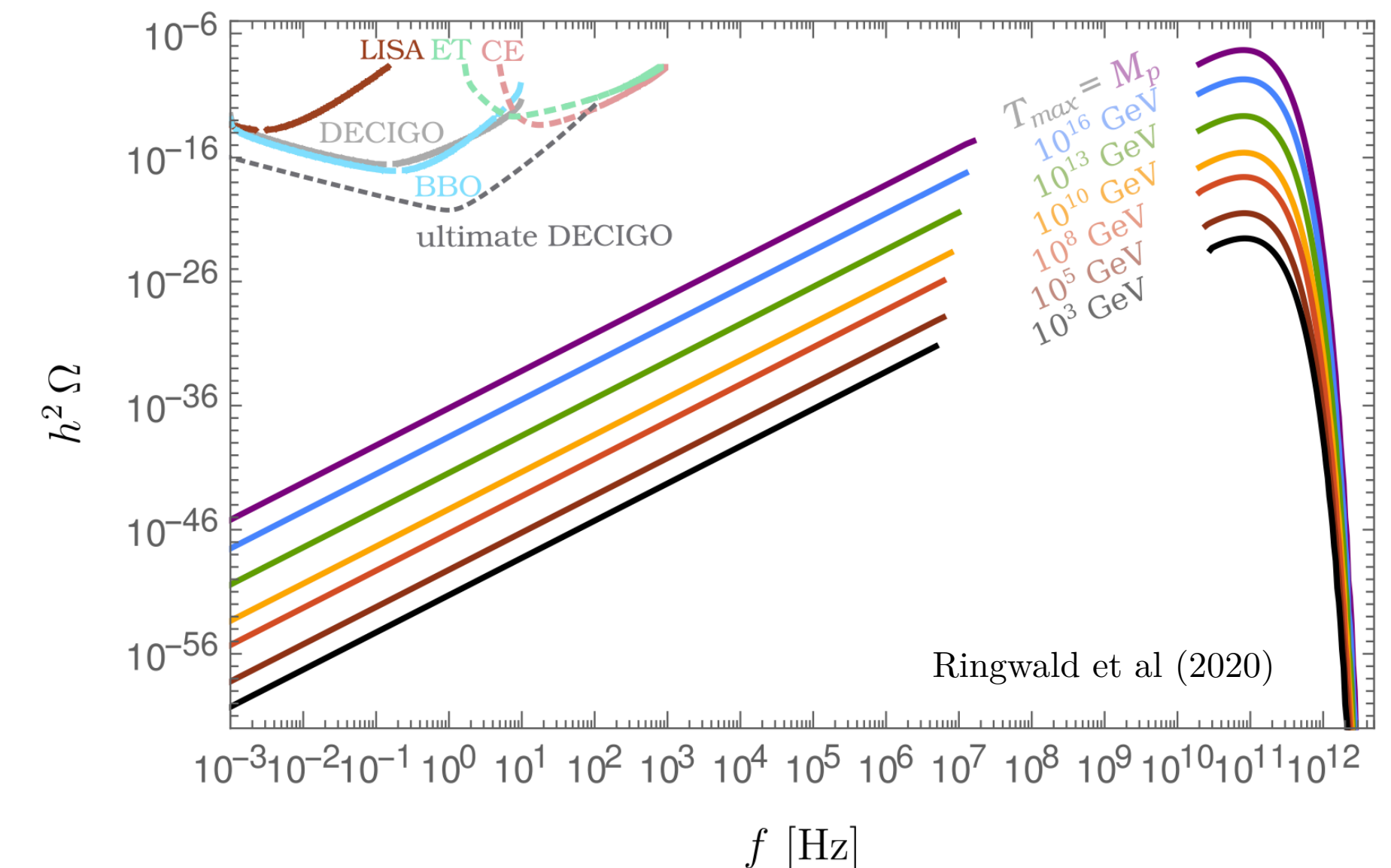
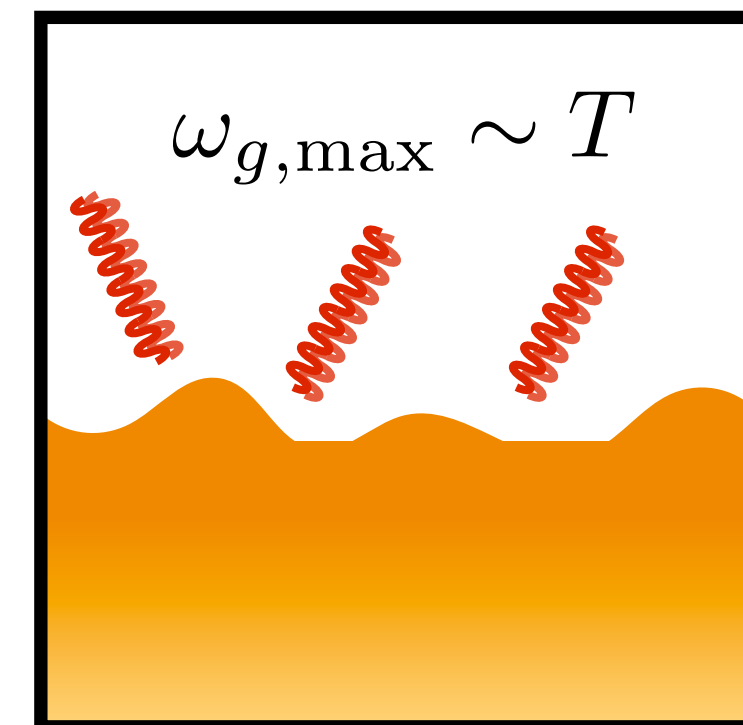
Ghiglieri & Laine (2015)

Ghiglieri et al (2020)

Ringwald et al (2020)

Solar fluctuations

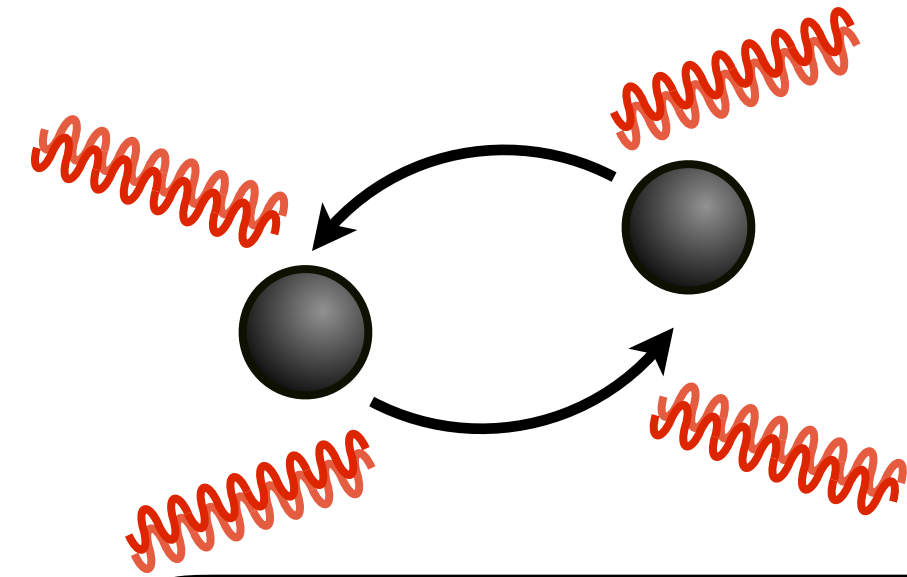
Weinberg (1972)



# HFGWs probe BSM Cosmology

# Astrophysical Gravitational Waves

Binary inspirals:

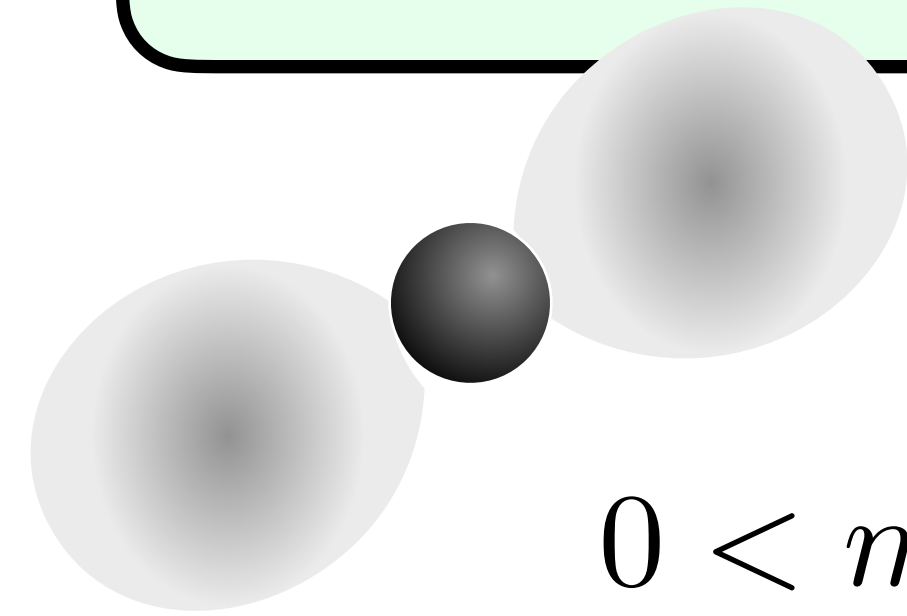


$$\omega_g \lesssim \text{kHz} \Leftrightarrow M_b \gtrsim M_\odot$$

$$\omega_g \simeq 14 \text{ GHz}$$

$$\omega_g \gtrsim \text{kHz} \Rightarrow \text{BSM}$$

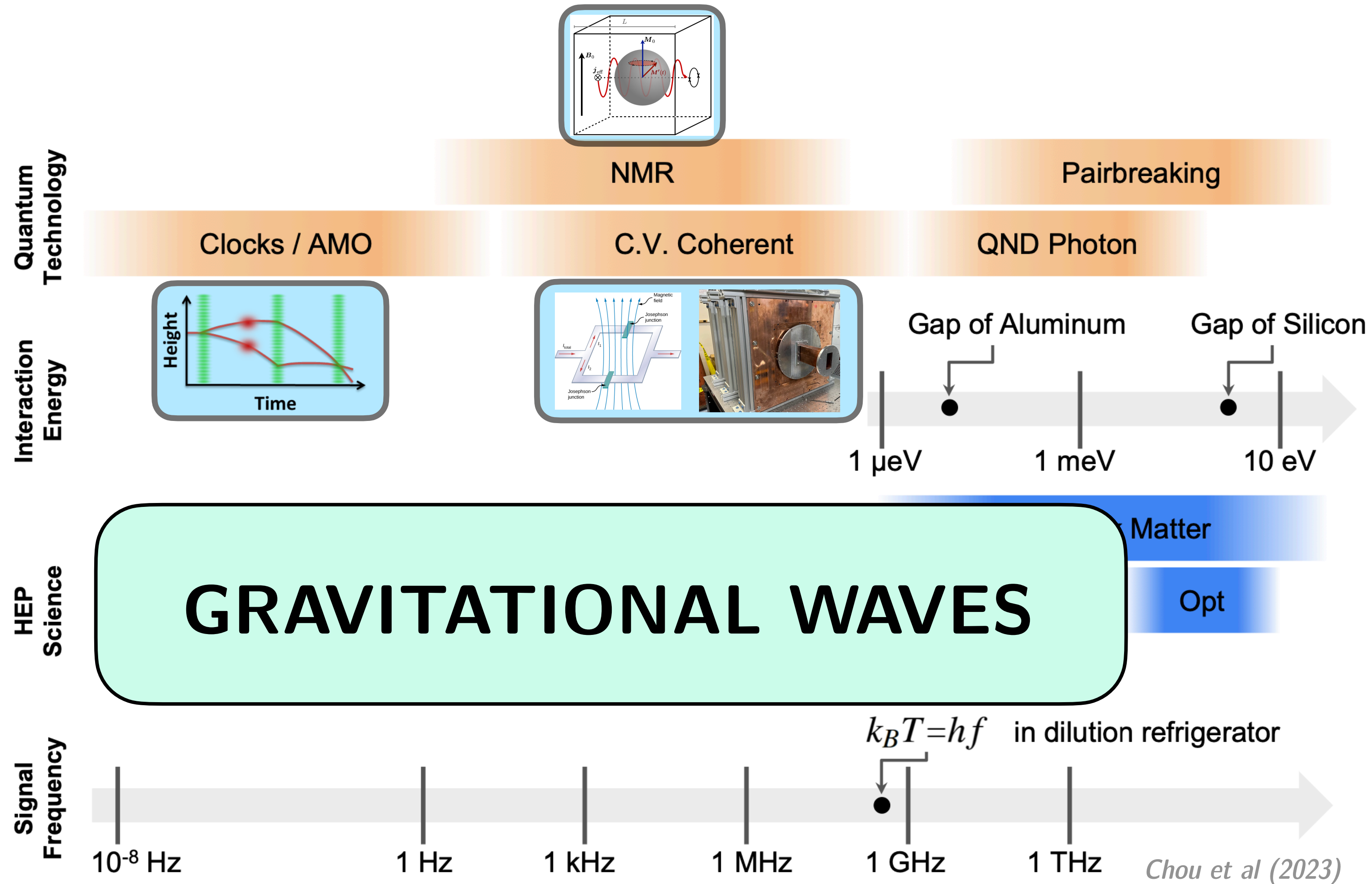
Superradiance:



$$0 < m_a \leq m\omega_+ \quad \omega_+ \sim \frac{1}{4GM_{\text{BH}}}$$

$$m_a \sim \mu\text{eV} \times (10^{-4} M_\odot / M_{\text{PBH}})$$

# Maximising Use-case Of Experiments



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# DETECTION HEURISTICS

**How do we measure GWs?**

*D'Agnolo & SARE (in prep.)*

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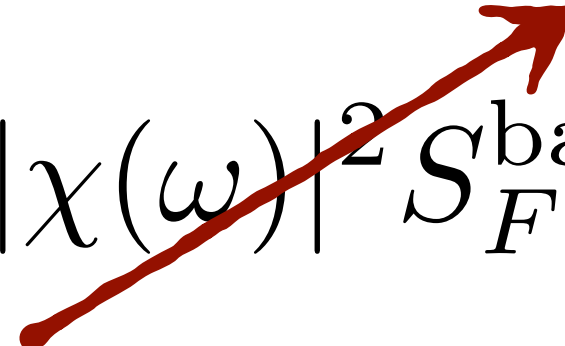
# Displacement Measurements

*GW measurement as a displacement measurement*

SQL for displacement:

$$S_{xx}^{\text{SQL}} \sim \frac{1}{m \Gamma \omega}$$

Send mass to infinity — amazing measurement?

$$S_{xx} \sim S_{xx}^{\text{imp}} + |\chi(\omega)|^2 S_{FF}^{\text{ba}}$$


$$\chi(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{m}$$

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# Detector Energy

Detector stores EM energy:  $U_{\text{in}} \sim \langle E_0(t) E_0^*(t) \rangle V_{\text{det}}$

In frequency space, effect of GWs on the stored energy more clear

$$U_h \sim \left( \langle E_0(\omega) E_h^*(\omega) \rangle + \langle E_h(\omega) E_h^*(\omega) \rangle \right) V_{\text{det}}$$

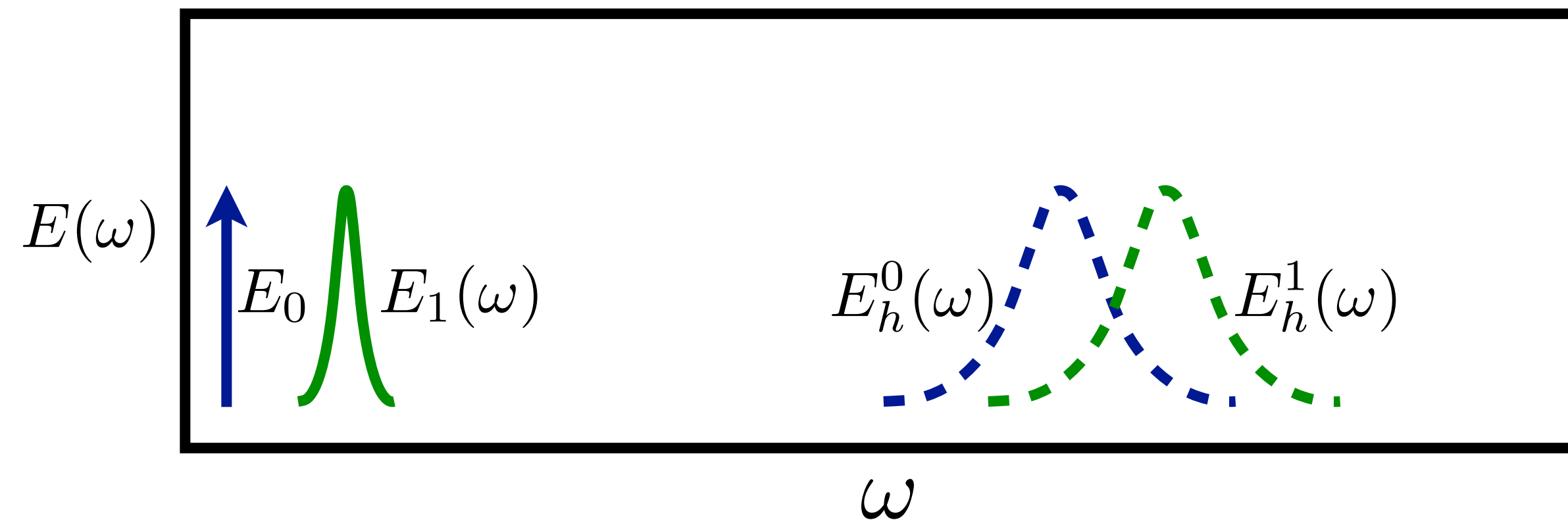
Linear signal: *e.g. interferometers*

Quadratic signal: *e.g. power measurement*

Clearly better, right?

# Detector Energy: Quadratic Detector

$$U_h^q \sim \langle E_h(\omega) E_h^*(\omega) \rangle V_{\text{det}}$$



Experiment can be performed such that background energy at detection frequency  $\sim$  zero

$$N_{\text{bg}}^\gamma = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{\text{ba}} + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{\text{opt}}$$

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# Detector Energy: Quadratic Detector

Minimum detectable power seen by detector

$$P_{\min} \sim \frac{(N_{\text{bg}}^\gamma)^{1/2} \omega}{t_{\text{int}}}$$

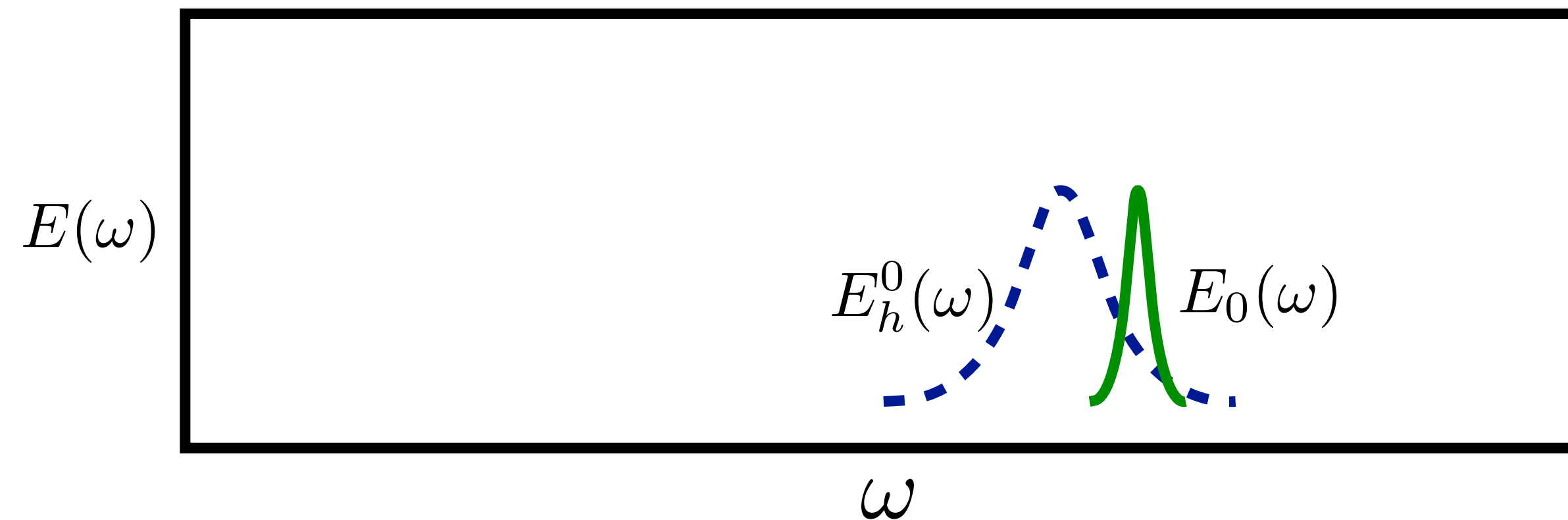
Signal power in quadratic measurement

$$P_{\text{sig}} \sim h^2 |\mathcal{T}(\omega)|^2 \omega U_{\text{in}}$$

Best possible sensitivity:  $h_{\min}^q \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{U_{\text{in}} t_{\text{int}}}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}(\omega)}$

# Detector Energy: Linear Detector

$$U_h^l \sim \langle E_0(\omega) E_h^*(\omega) \rangle V_{\text{det}}$$



Experiment is performed such that  $\langle E_0(\omega) E_0^*(\omega) \rangle \neq 0$

$$N_{\text{bg}}^\gamma \sim U_{\text{in}} t_{\text{int}}$$

# Detector Energy: Linear Detector

Noise power seen by detector

$$P_{\min} \sim \omega \left( \frac{U_{\text{in}}}{t_{\text{int}}} \right)^{1/2}$$

Signal power in linear measurement

$$P_{\text{sig}} \sim h \mathcal{T}(\omega) \omega U_{\text{in}}$$

Best possible sensitivity:  $h_{\min}^l \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{U_{\text{in}} t_{\text{int}}}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}(\omega)}$



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# Caveats and Takeaway Messages

Best possible sensitivity:  $h_{\min}^q \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{U_{\text{in}} t_{\text{int}}}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}(\omega)}$

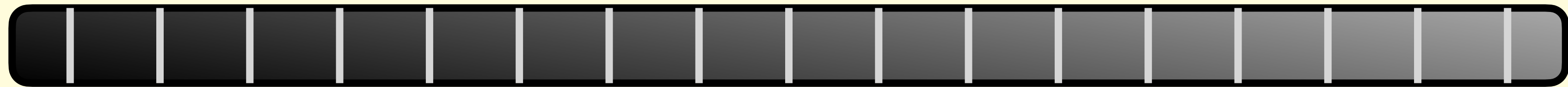
How about that  $\mathcal{T}$  Transfer function?

Bandwidth and other detector details shoved under  $\mathcal{T}$  The rug

Stochastic backgrounds (almost) always imply quadratic measurements

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# TRANSFER FUNCTIONS



**When is the ruler rigid?**

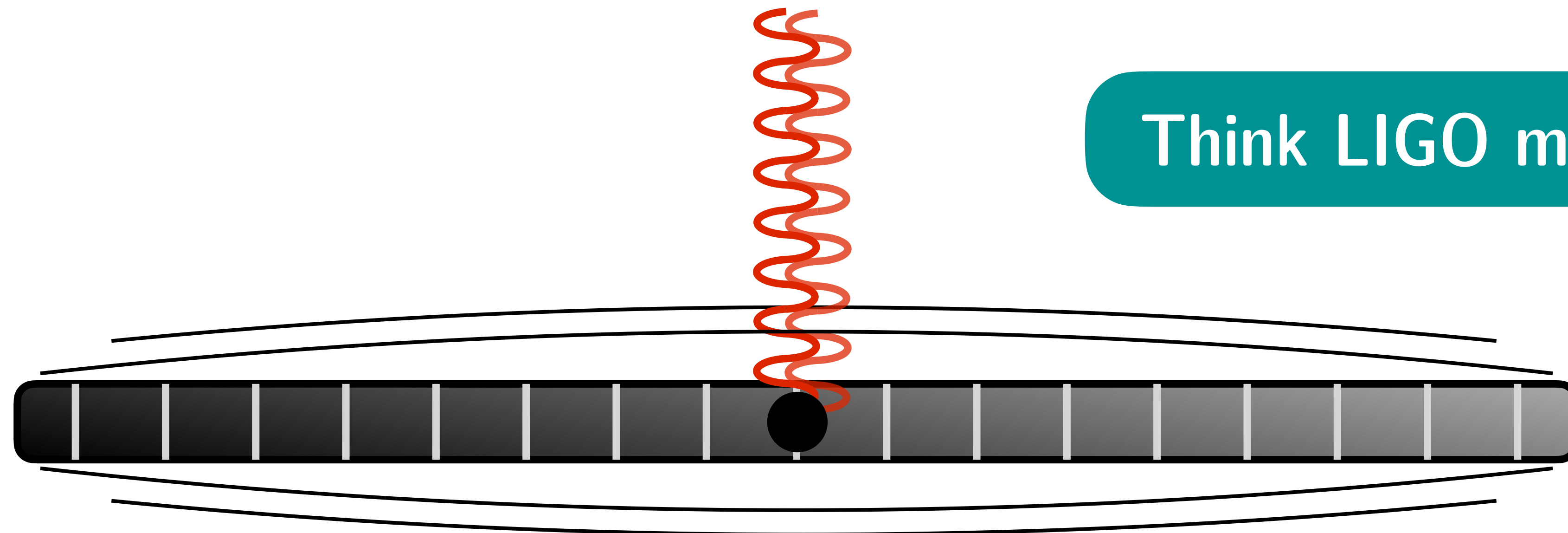
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# When is the ruler rigid?

Incoming GW: long wavelength

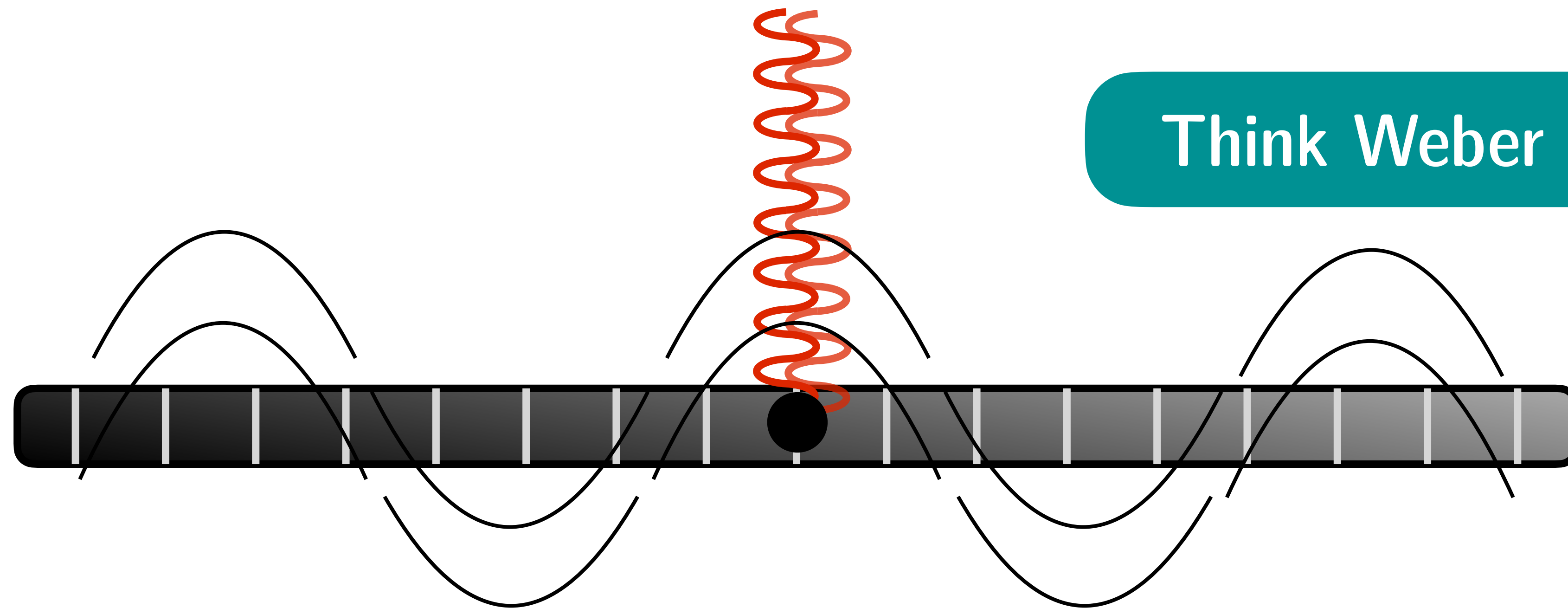


Think LIGO mirror

The whole object moves back and forth

# When is the ruler rigid?

Incoming GW: matched wavelength



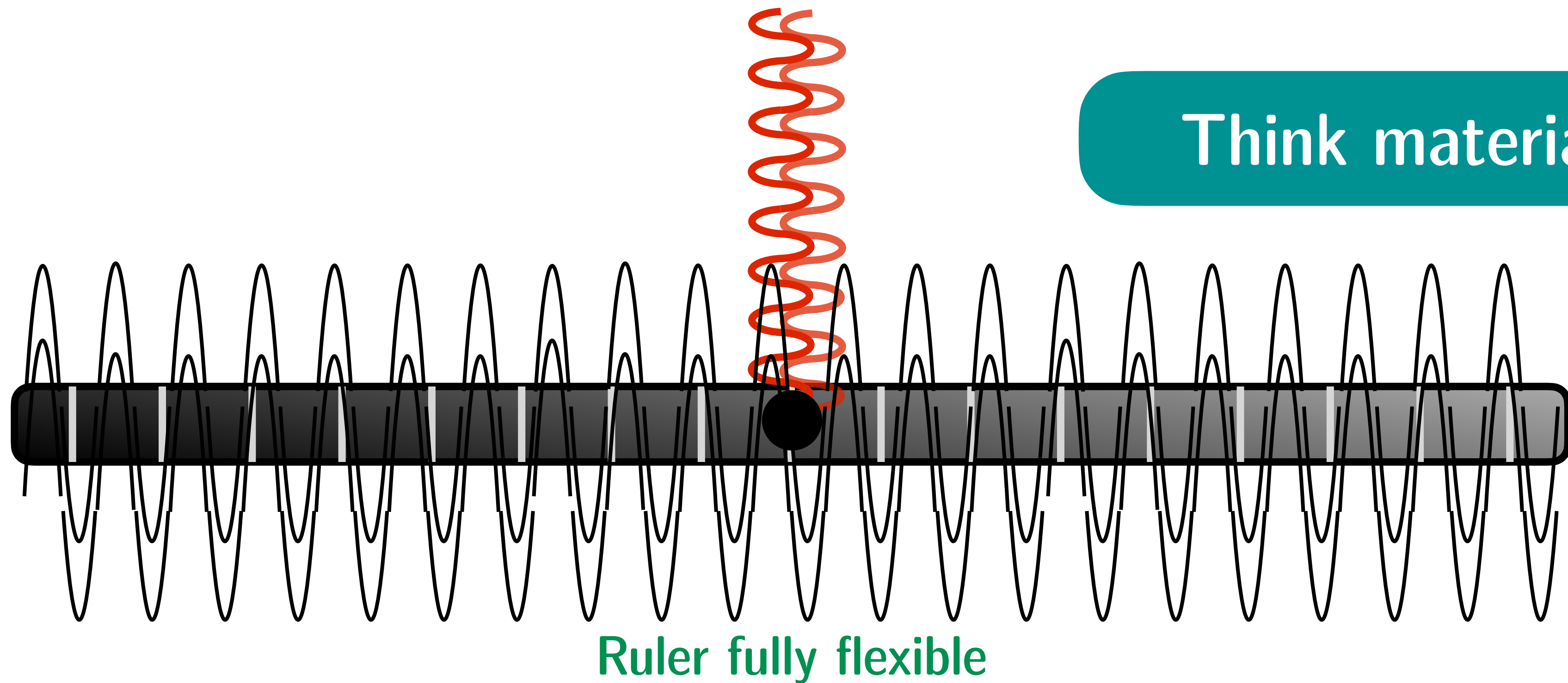
Think Weber Bar

Resolve structure of the ruler, e.g. resonances

# When is the ruler rigid?

Incoming GW: short wavelength

Think materials



# When is the ruler rigid?

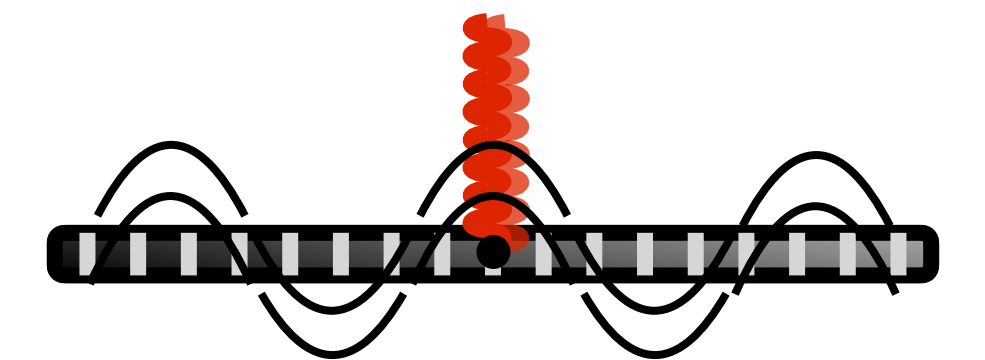
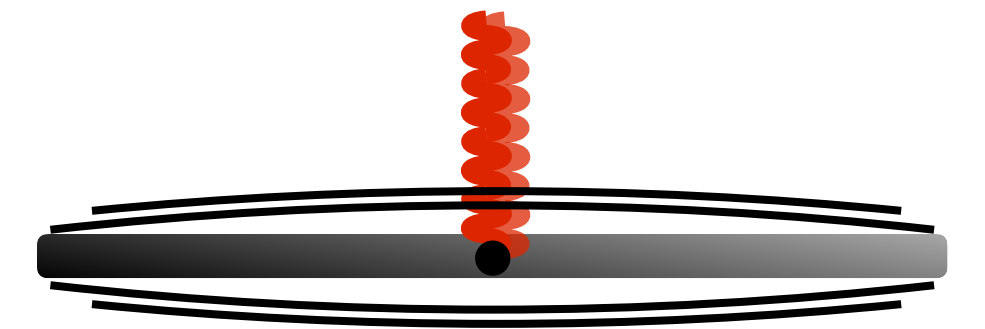
At the level of equations:

$$\partial_t^2 s_i + k^2 s_i \sim \partial_t^2 h_{ij} s_j$$

NB: don't include for LIGO mirror

$$s_i \sim \frac{\omega_g^2}{k^2} h_{ij} s_j$$

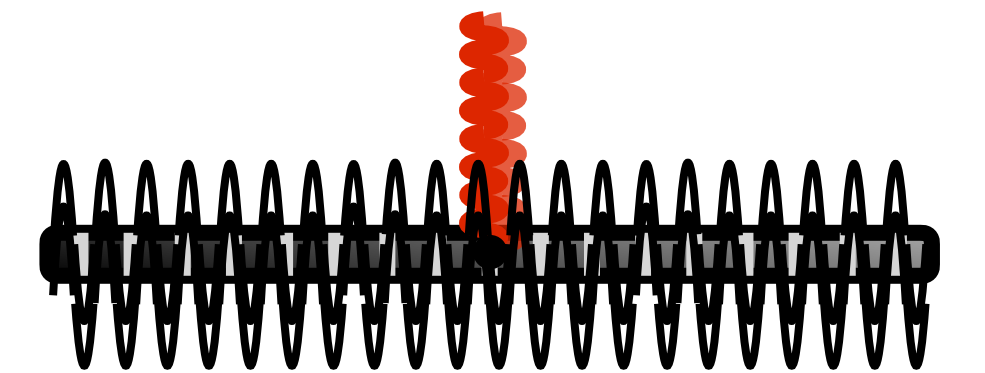
Looks like proper detector frame  $k \sim 1/L$



Case requires knowledge of detector

$$s_i \sim h_{ij} s_j$$

Frame subtleties crucial!



Looks like TT frame

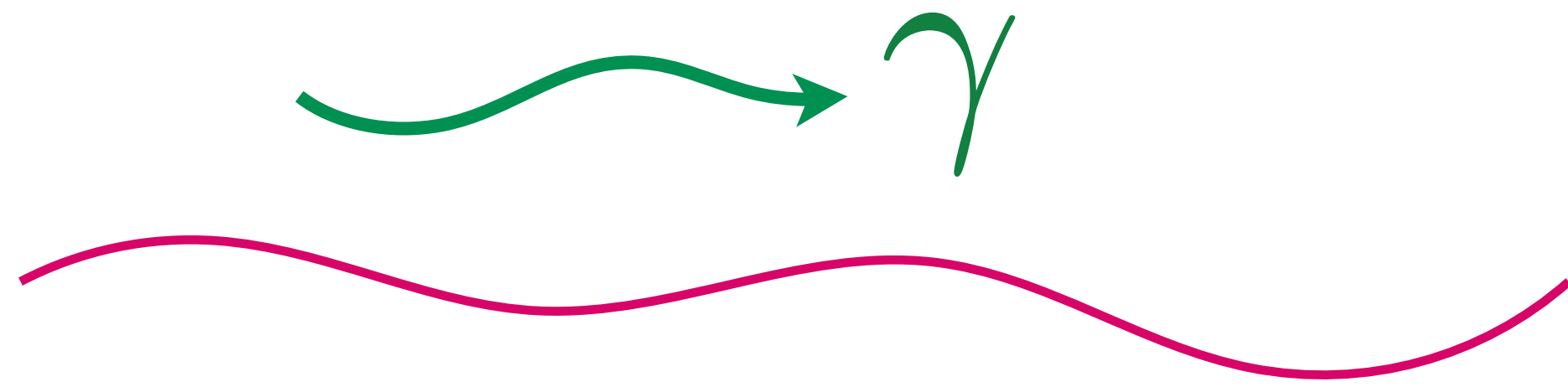
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# AXION EXPERIMENTS

**What are the prospects?**

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# Interactions of Gravitational Waves *with light*



$$S_{\text{EM}} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( -\frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\alpha\beta} + g^{\mu\nu} J_\mu A_\nu \right)$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}, \quad g^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\nu} - h^{\mu\nu} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{L} \supset \mathcal{O}(hF^2)$$

Equation of motion:  $\partial F \sim -\partial (h F)$

Effective current from spatial or temporal variations of  $h$  or  $F$

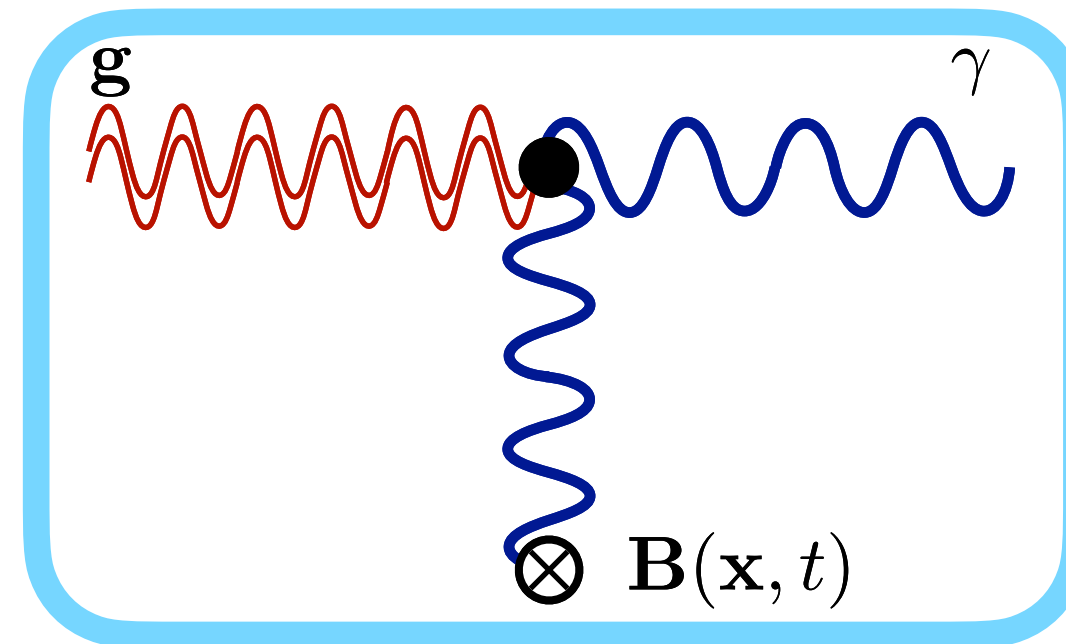
$$j_{\text{eff}}^\mu \equiv \partial_\nu \left( \frac{1}{2} h F^{\mu\nu} + h^\nu_\alpha F^{\alpha\mu} - h^\mu_\alpha F^{\alpha\nu} \right)$$

# Developing Axion $\leftrightarrow$ GW Intuition

Effective current from spatial or temporal variations of  $h$  or  $F$

$$j_{\text{eff}}^{\mu} \equiv \partial_{\nu} \left( \frac{1}{2} h F^{\mu\nu} + h^{\nu}_{\alpha} F^{\alpha\mu} - h^{\mu}_{\alpha} F^{\alpha\nu} \right)$$

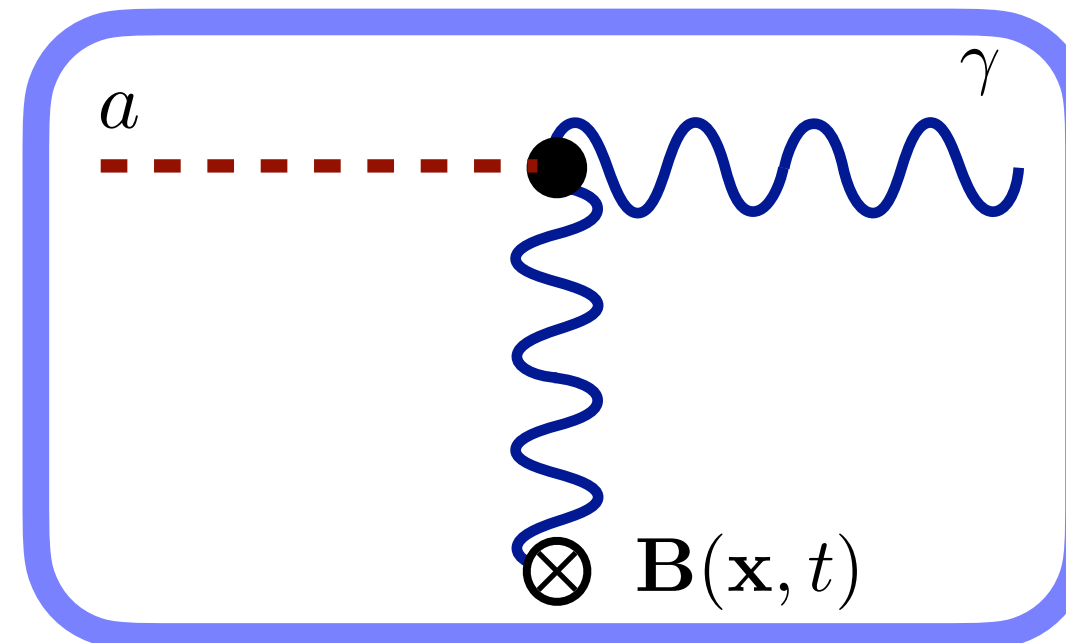
Should be reminiscent of axion physics...



Gertsenshtein effect (1962)

Zeldovich (1973)

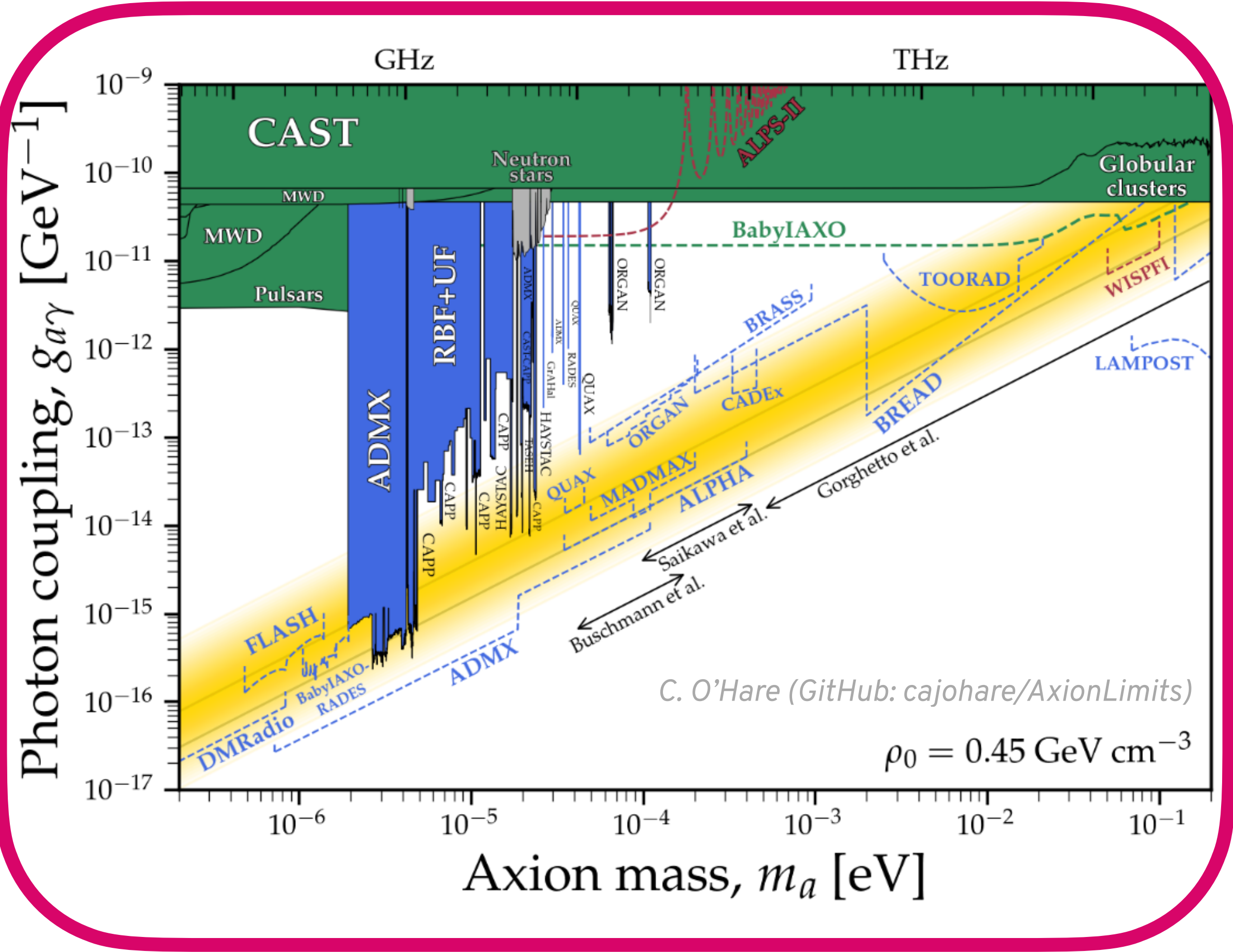
$$j_g \sim \partial (h F)$$



Raffelt & Stodolsky (1988)

$$j_a \sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} \partial (a F)$$

# Intuition for EM signal



Estimate sensitivity to GWs by comparing sizes of currents

$$\dot{j}_{\text{eff}}^{\text{axion}} \sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} \partial_t(a\mathbf{B}) + \mathcal{O}(v)$$

$$\dot{j}_{\text{eff}}^{\text{axion}} \lesssim 10^{-19} \text{ T/m}$$



$$\dot{j}_{\text{eff}}^{\text{GW}} \sim \partial_t(h\mathbf{B}) + \dots$$

$$h \lesssim 10^{-21}$$

NDA risky...



# Framing the Question

GW as sum of plane waves

$$h \propto e^{i\omega_g(t-z)} \longrightarrow \partial_i h_{jk}^{\text{TT}} \sim -\delta_{iz} \partial_t h_{jk}^{\text{TT}}$$

$$x^{k_1} \dots x^{k_r} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma, k_1 \dots k_r} = (-i\omega_g z)^r R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$$

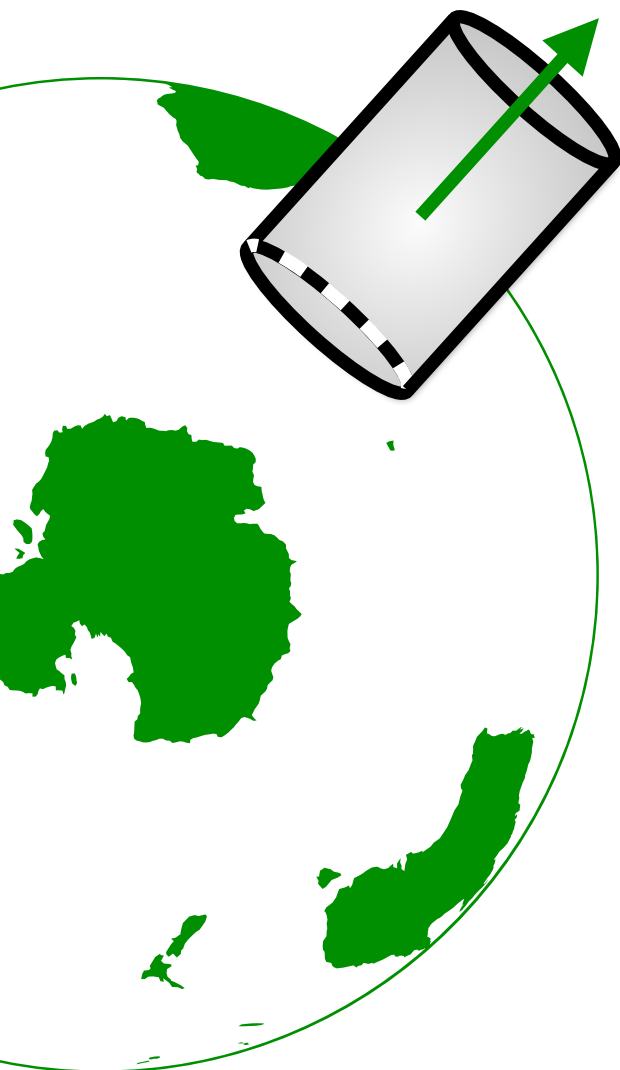
$$h_{00} = -2R_{0m0n} x^m x^n \left( -\frac{i}{\omega_g z} + \frac{1 + e^{-i\omega_g z}}{(\omega_g z)^2} \right)$$

$$h_{0i} = -2R_{0min} x^m x^n \left( -\frac{i}{2\omega_g z} - \frac{e^{-i\omega_g z}}{(\omega_g z)^2} - i \frac{1 - e^{-i\omega_g z}}{(\omega_g z)^3} \right)$$

$$h_{ij} = -2R_{imjn} x^m x^n \left( -\frac{1 + e^{-i\omega_g z}}{(\omega_g z)^2} - 2i \frac{1 - e^{-i\omega_g z}}{(\omega_g z)^3} \right)$$

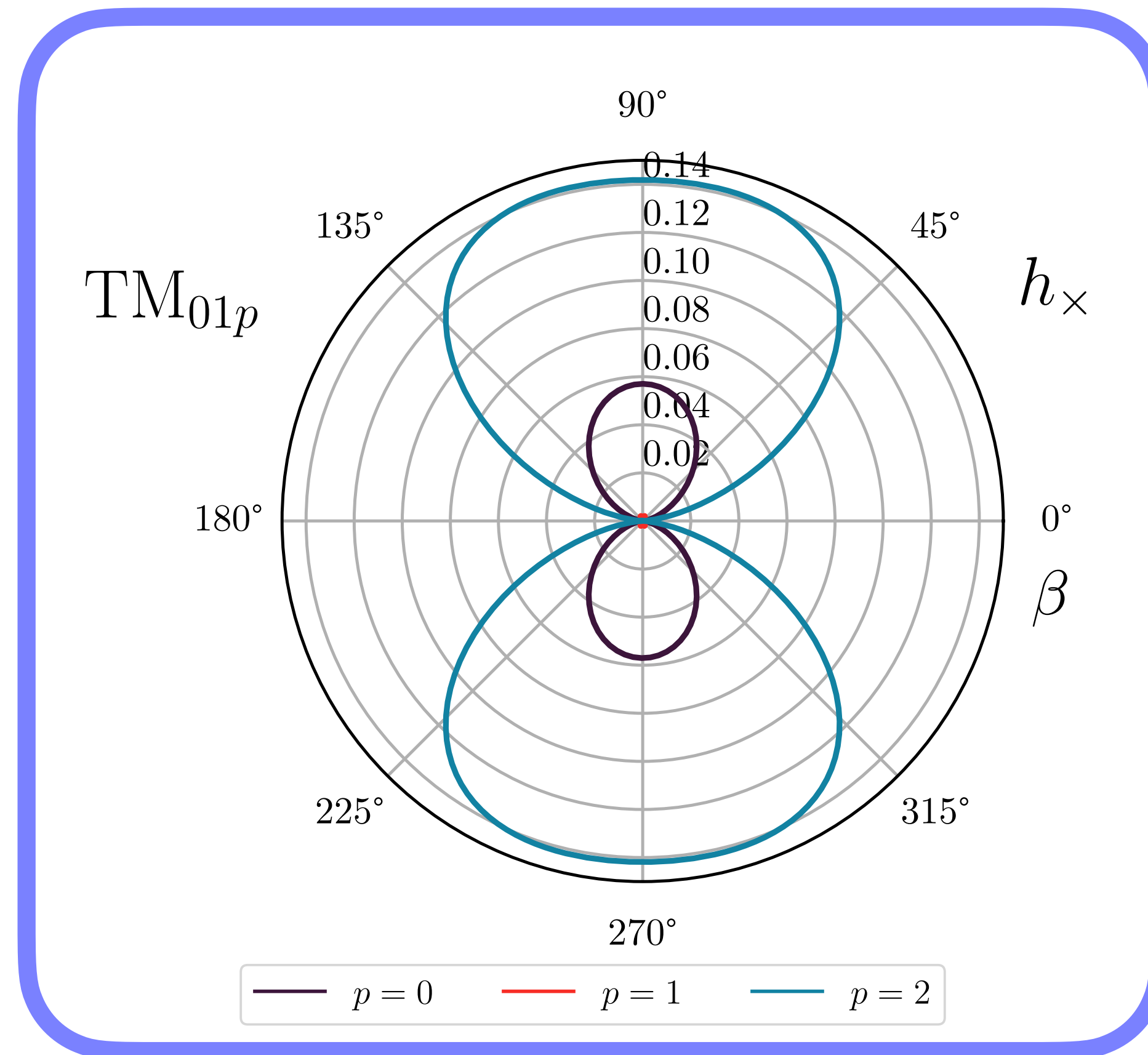
Berlin, Blas, D'Agnolo, SARE, Harnik, Kahn, Schutte-Engel (PRD 2022)

Märzlin (1994)  
Rakhmanov (2014)



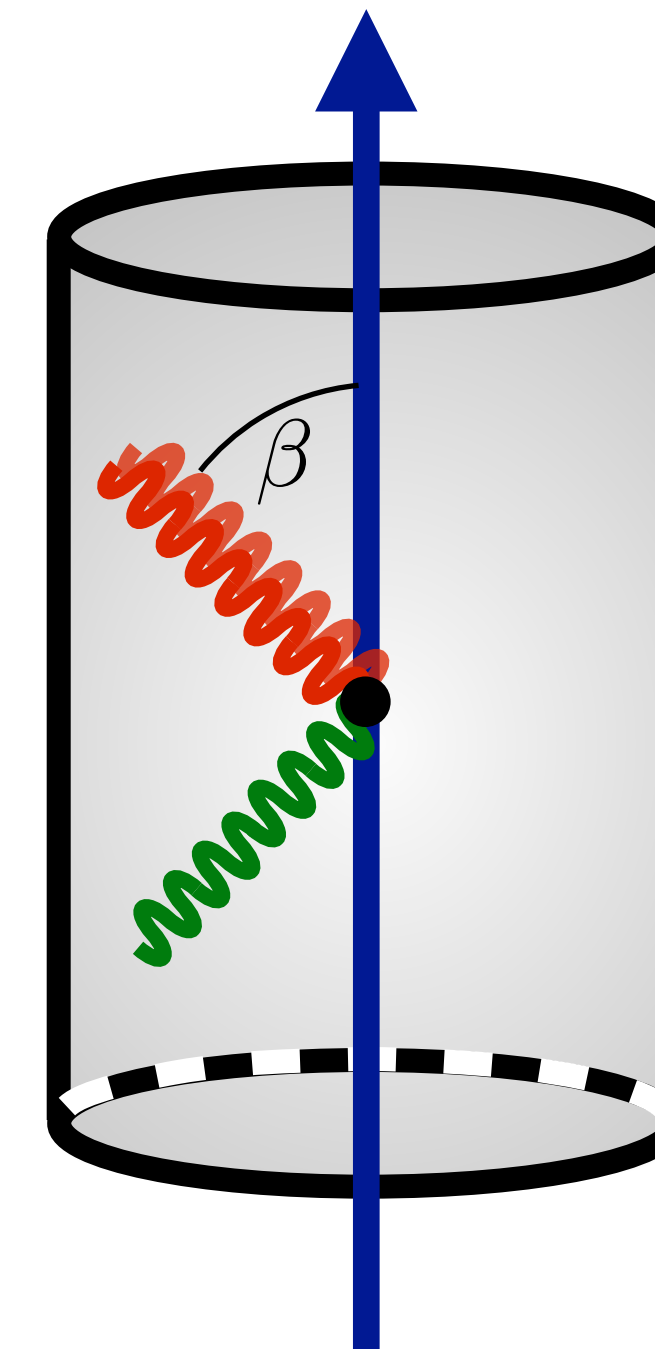
# Axion Cavity Modes Couple to GWs

$$\eta \propto \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{cav}}^* \cdot \mathbf{J}_{\text{eff}}$$



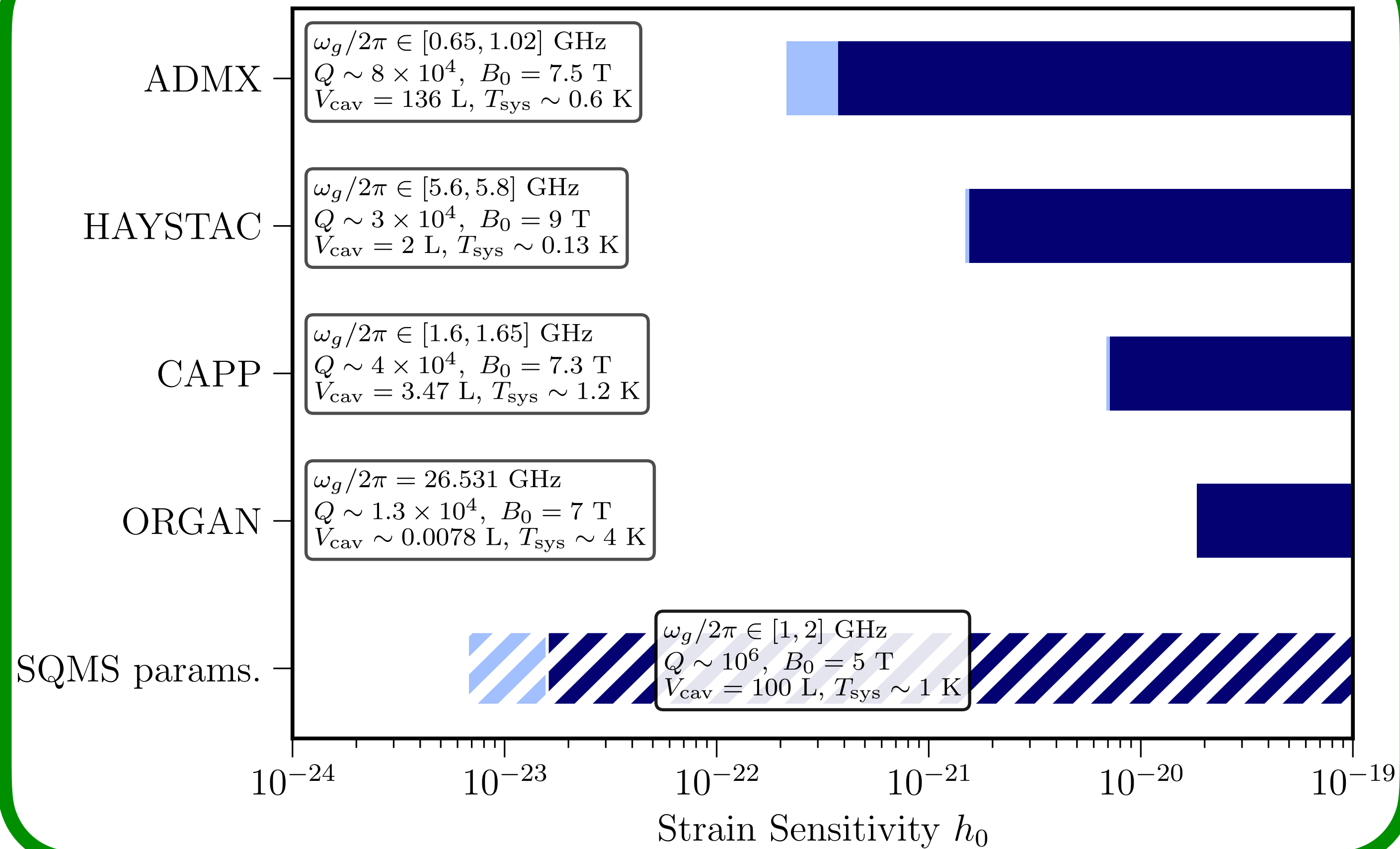
Berlin, Blas, D'Agnolo, SARE, Harnik, Kahn, Schutte-Engel (PRD 2022)

But TM modes not optimal...



# Axion Cavity Sensitivity

Projected Sensitivities of Axion Experiments



Berlin, Blas, D'Agnolo, SARE, Harnik, Kahn, Schutte-Engel (PRD 2022)

Coherent GW

$$P_{\text{sig}} = \frac{1}{2} Q \omega_g^3 V_{\text{cav}}^{5/3} (\eta_n h_0 B_0)^2$$

c.f. axion power:

$$P_{\text{sig}}^a \sim Q \omega V (\eta_a g_{a\gamma\gamma} a B_0)^2$$

$$\mathcal{T} \sim Q \eta_0 (\omega_g V_{\text{cav}}^{1/3}) \sim 10^5$$

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# Why did our NDA fail?

Axion conversion in a b.g. magnetic field:

$$\mathbf{E}_a \sim -g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{B}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$$

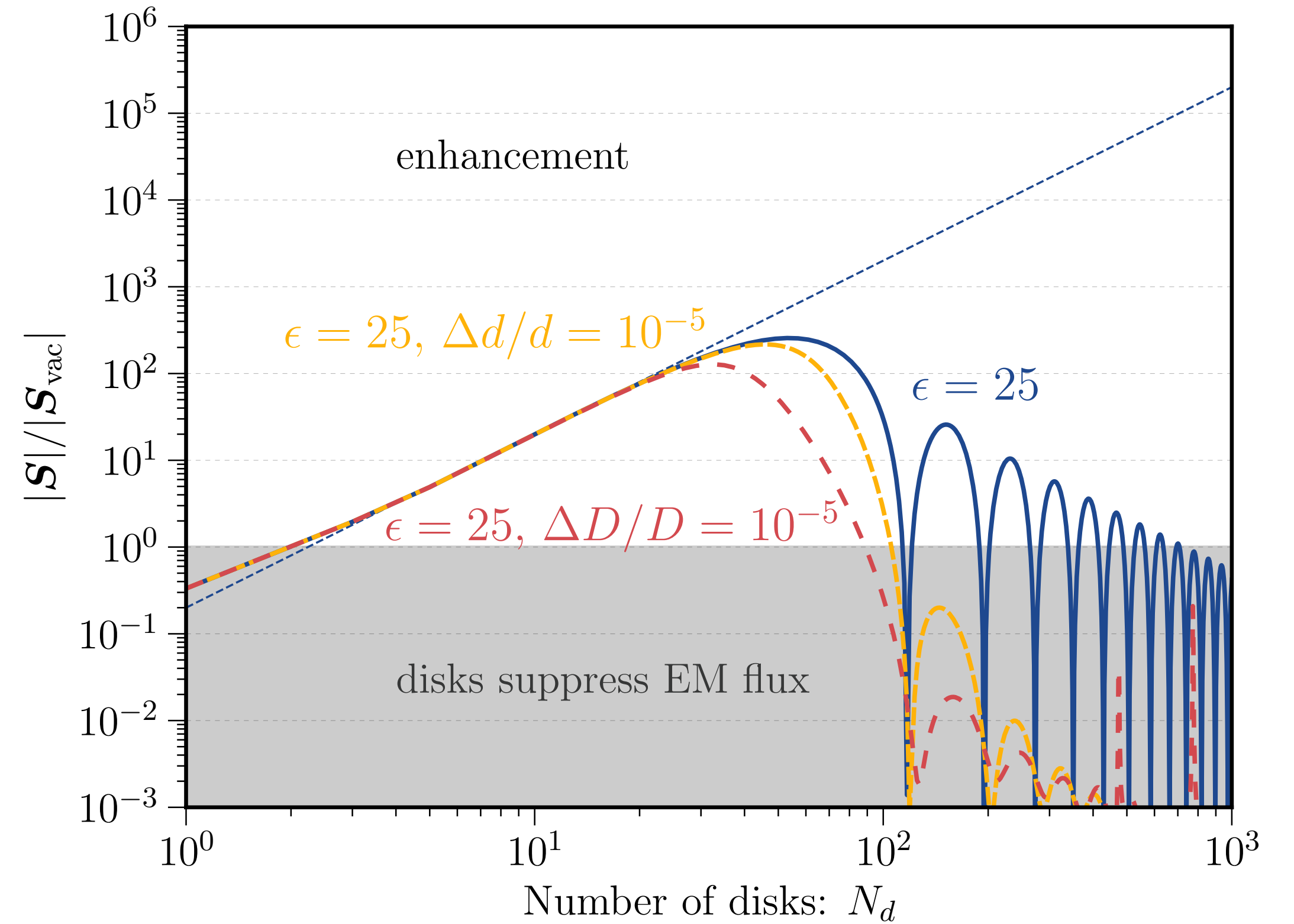
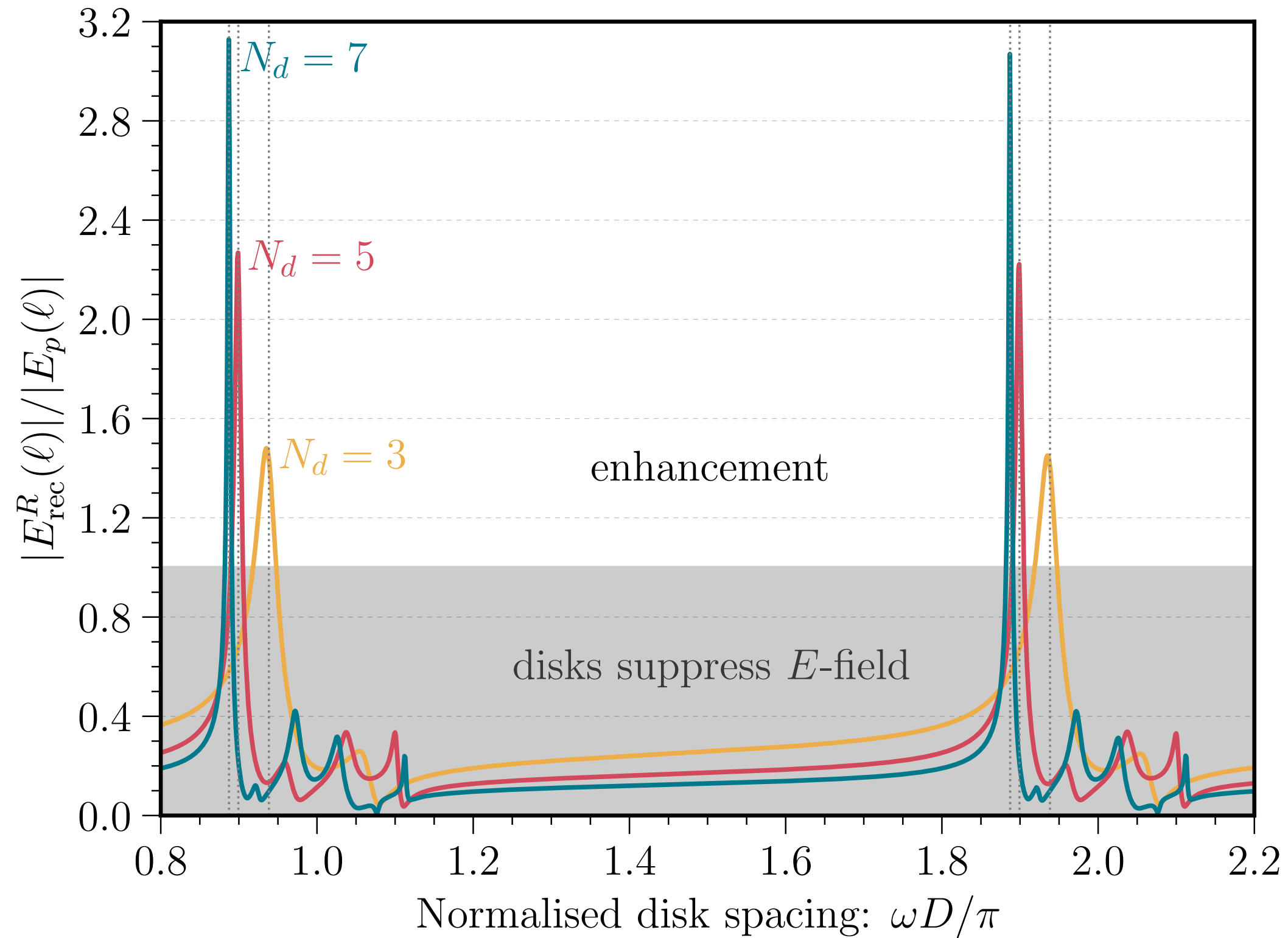
GW conversion in a b.g. magnetic field (in TT gauge):

$$\mathbf{E}_v^p = -\frac{B_0}{2} \left[ i\omega x (h_{\times} \hat{\mathbf{p}} + h_{+} \hat{\mathbf{s}}) + h_{\times} s_{\theta} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \right] e^{-i\omega(t - \hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{x})}$$

*Domcke, SARE, Kopp (2024)*

Consequence of mass degeneracy of photon and GW in vacuum

# Dielectric Haloscopes



**Disks giveth, but disks also taketh away**

**On resonance, flux density  
enhanced by  $\sim 200$**

*Domcke, SARE, Kopp (2024)*

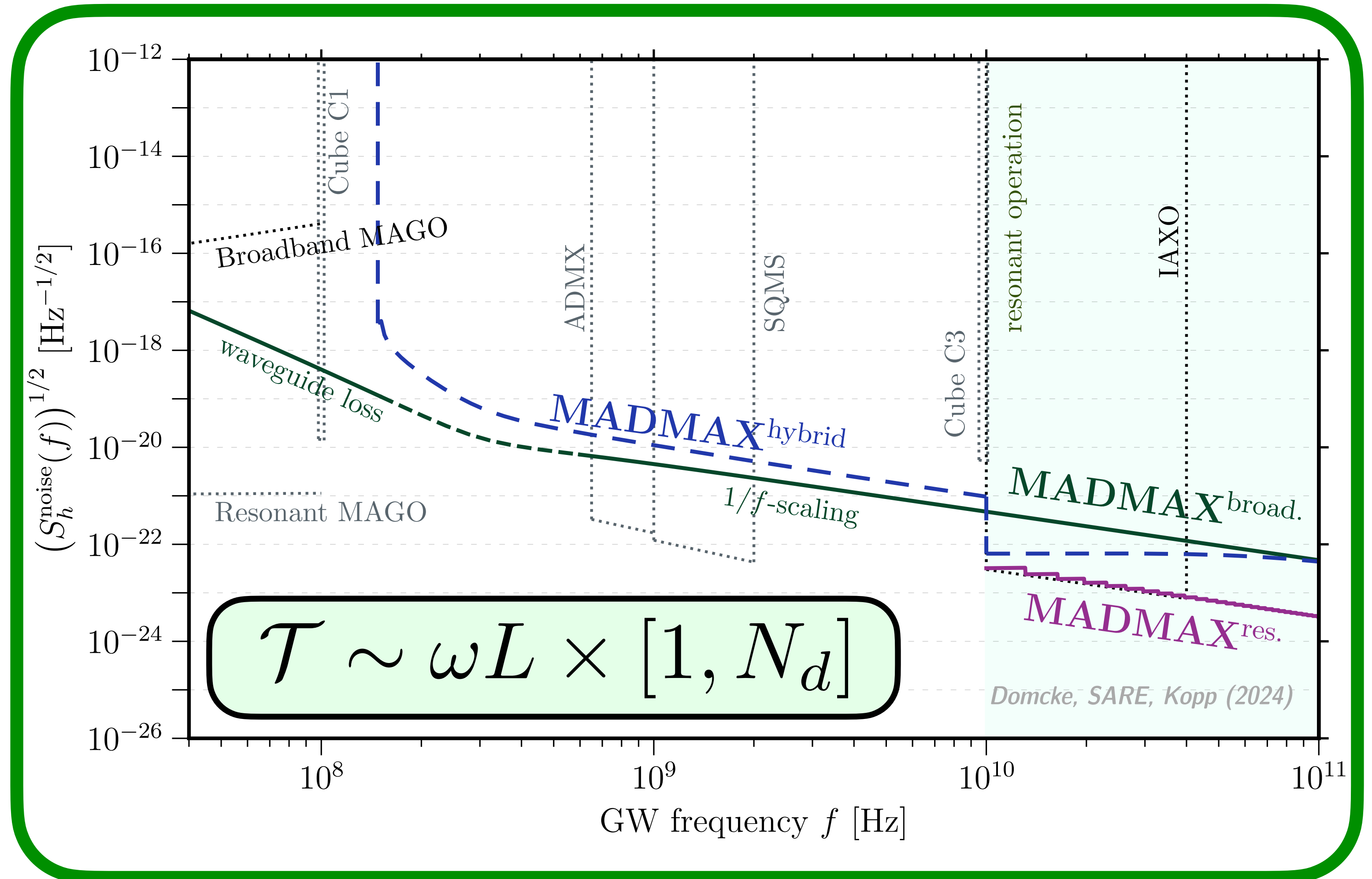
# Dielectric\* Haloscopes

Fully resonant approach  
requires scan, but improves  
sensitivity by  $\sim 10$

Hybrid w/ half disks, half  
vacuum

Take out disks, fully broadband

Note  $\omega L$  enhancement from  
vacuum conversion



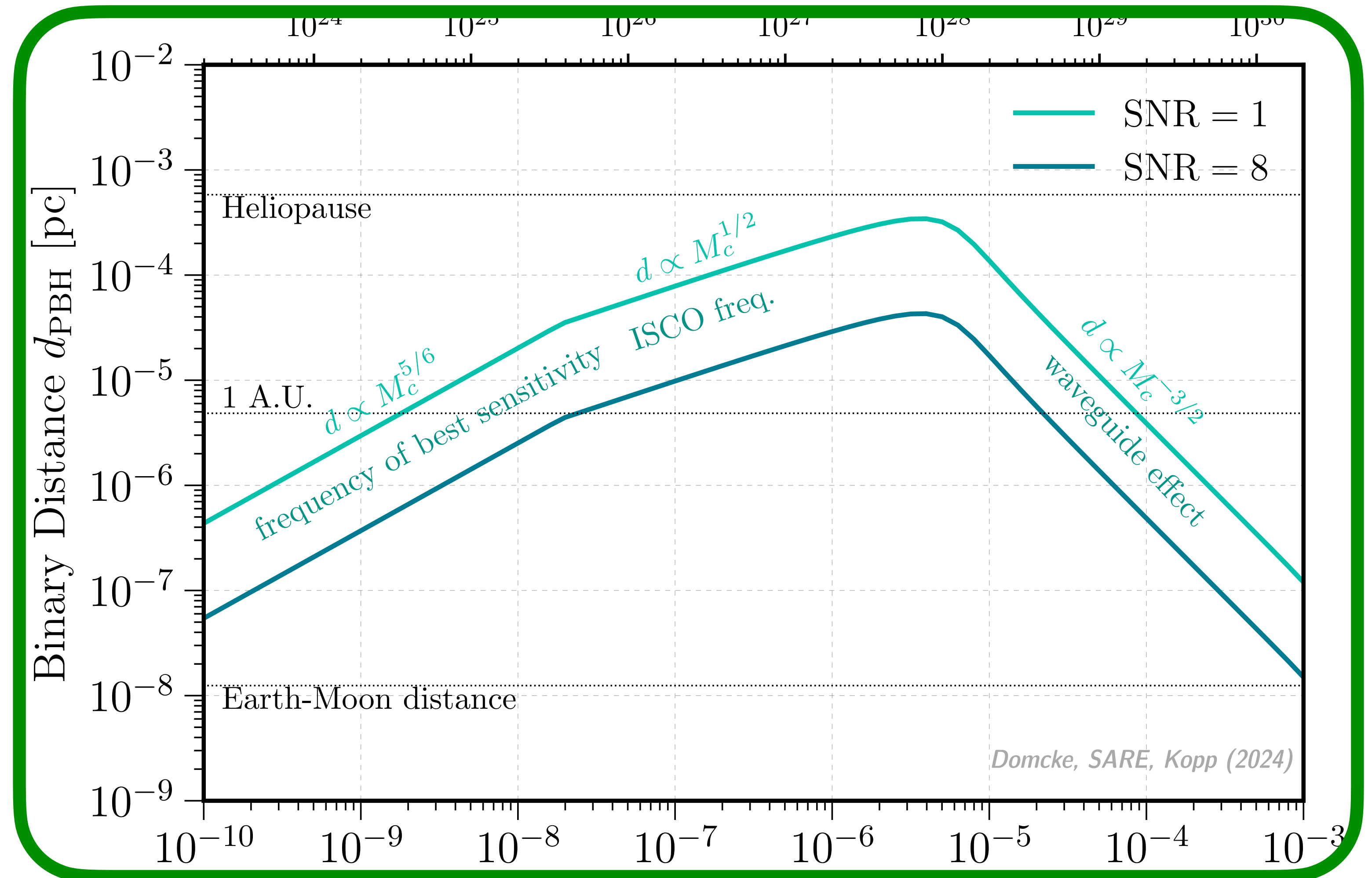
# No-Disc MADMAX for PBHs

Take out disks, fully broadband

Typical distance to binary  
 ~ 10 kpc

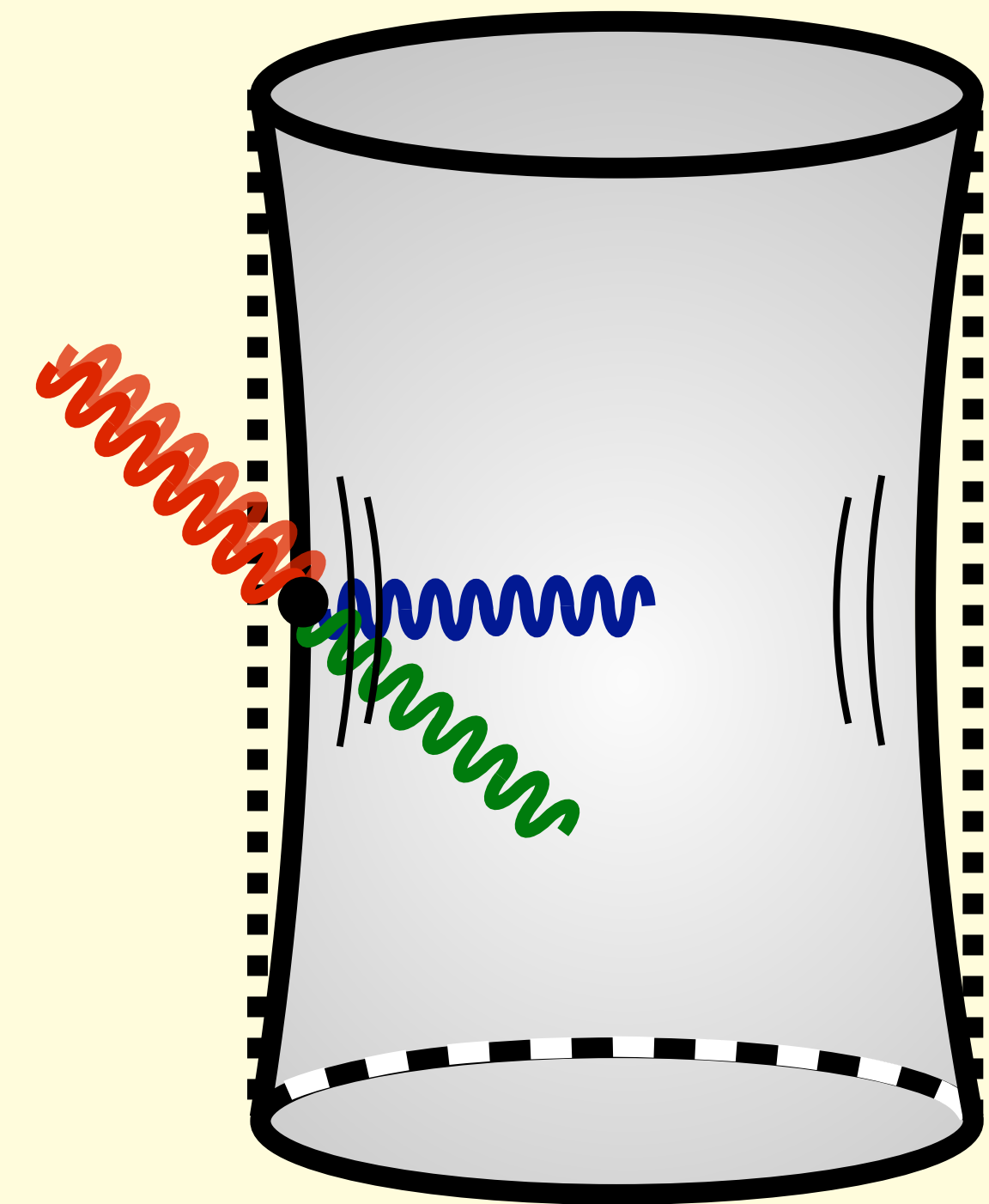
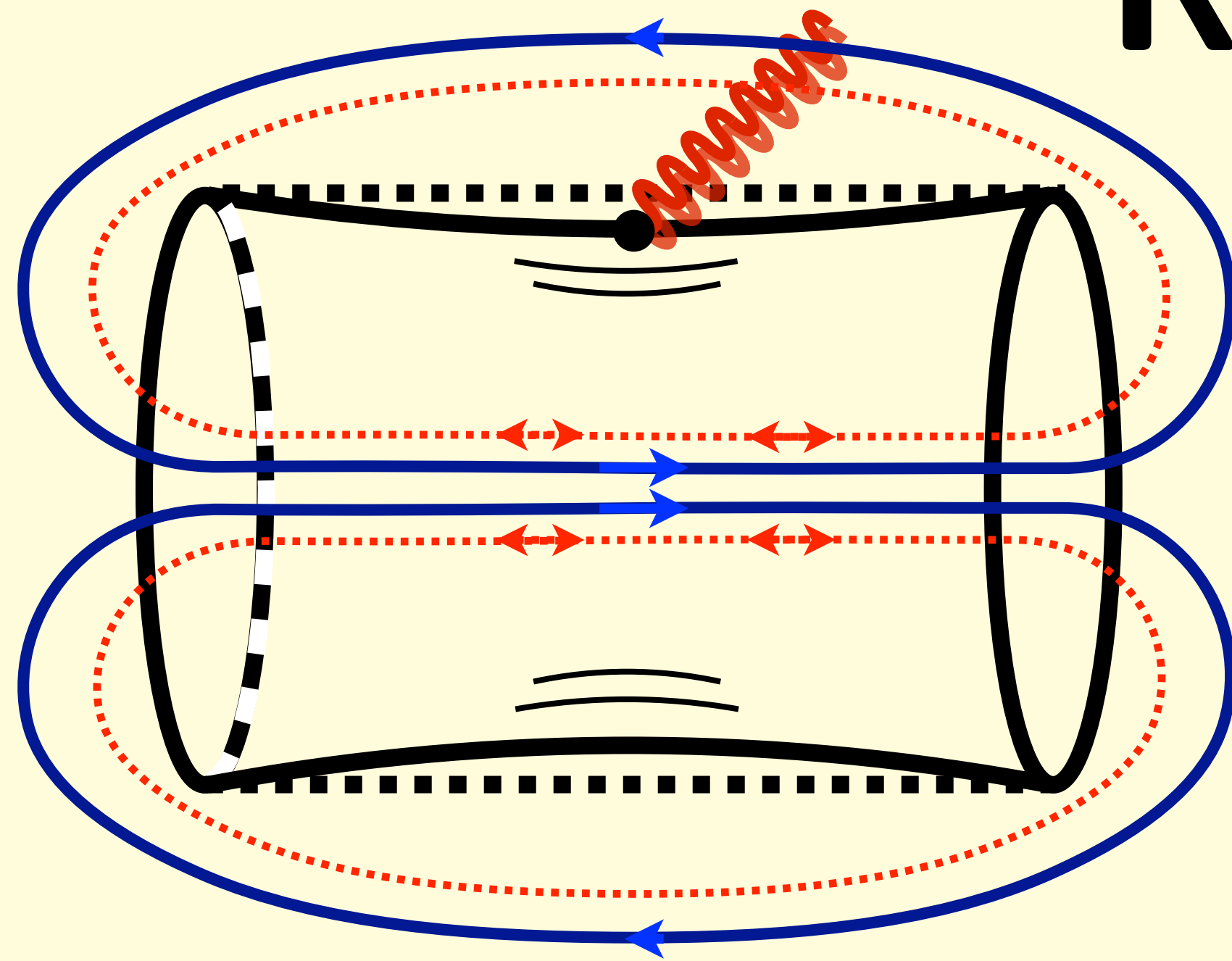
*Franciolini, Maharana, Muia (2022)*

Improves on resonant cavity



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# WHAT ABOUT MATTER RULERS?

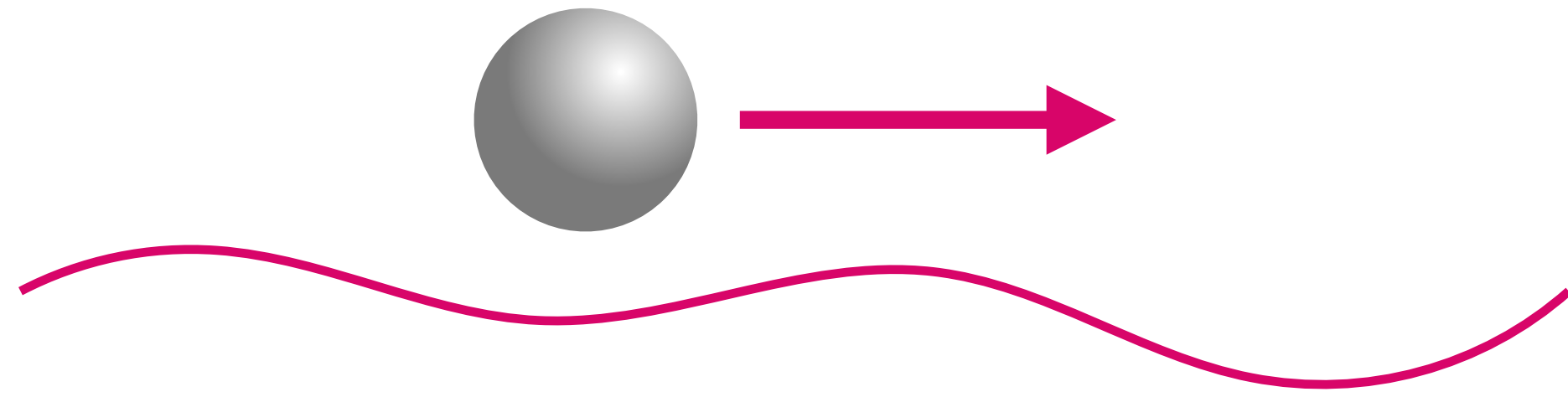


Unusual Weber Bars

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# Interactions with Matter



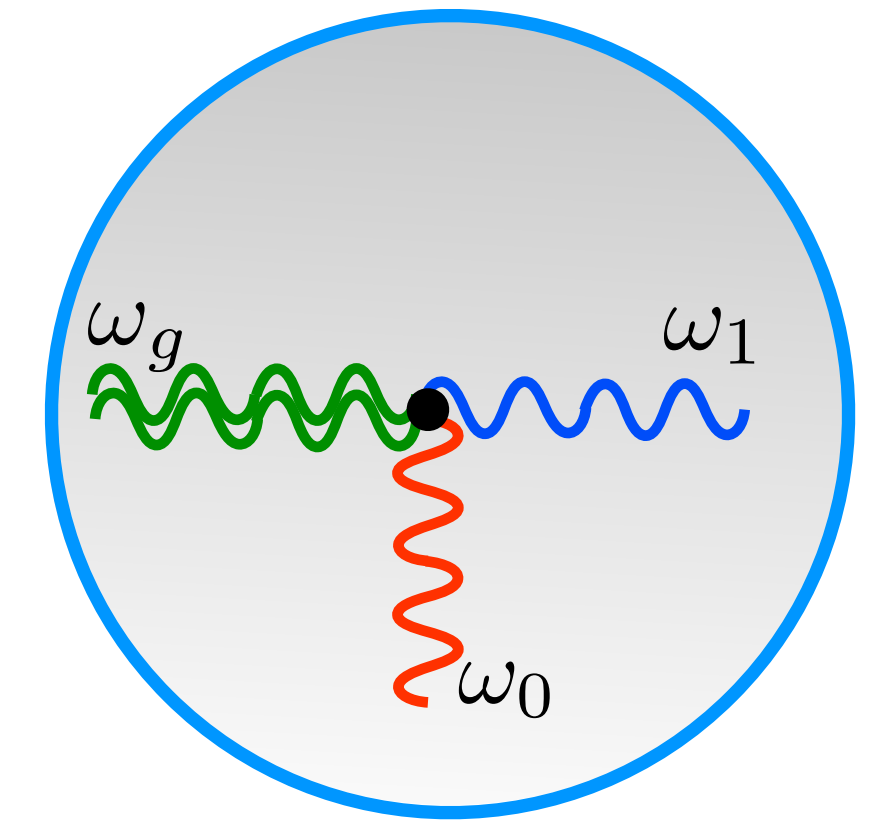
$$S = - \int dt m \sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dt} \frac{dx^\nu}{dt}}$$

Effect of GW in LIF is that of a Newtonian Force

$$\frac{d^2 x_i}{d\tau^2} \simeq -\partial_i \Gamma_{00}^j x^i \longrightarrow \frac{d^2 x_i}{d\tau^2} \simeq -\frac{F_i}{m} \longrightarrow F_i \simeq \frac{m}{2} \ddot{h}_{ij}^{\text{TT}} x^i$$

# EM and Mechanical signals

Parametrics of the EM signal:  $E_{\text{sig}}^{(\text{EM})} \sim Q_{\text{em}} (\omega_g L_{\text{cav}})^2 h^{\text{TT}} E_0$

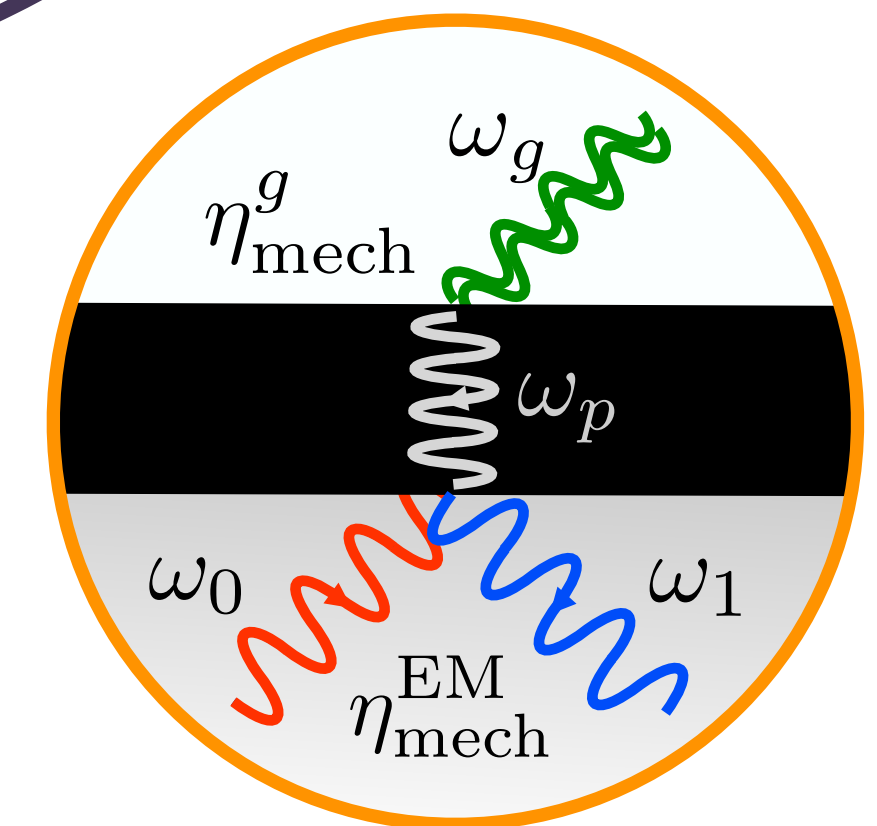


*Enhanced by  $1/c_s^2 \gg 1$  (!)*

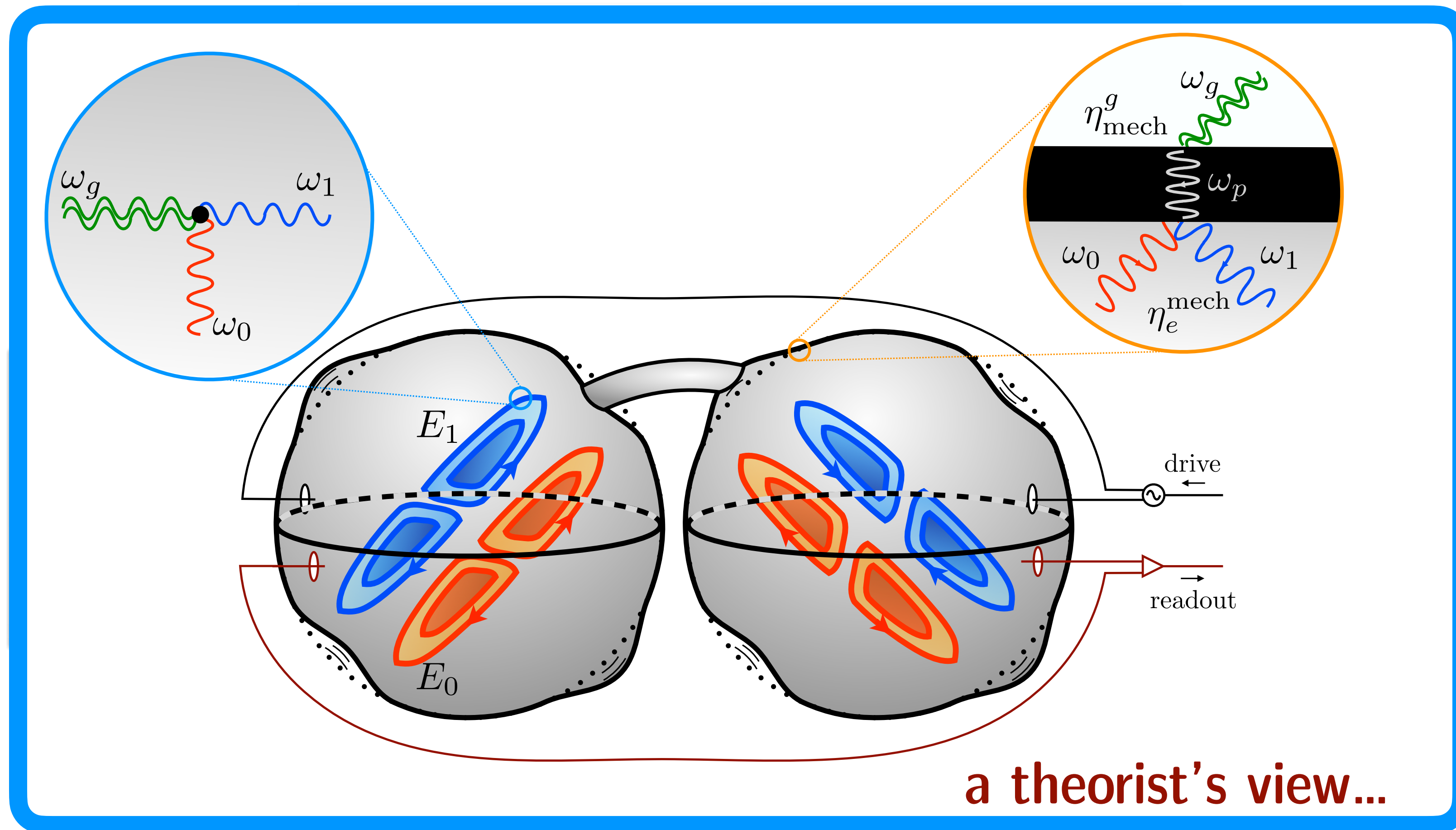
Mechanical signal:

$$E_{\text{sig}}^{(\text{mech})} \sim Q_{\text{em}} h^{\text{TT}} E_0 \min \left( 1, \frac{\omega_g L_{\text{cav}}}{c_s} \right)^2$$

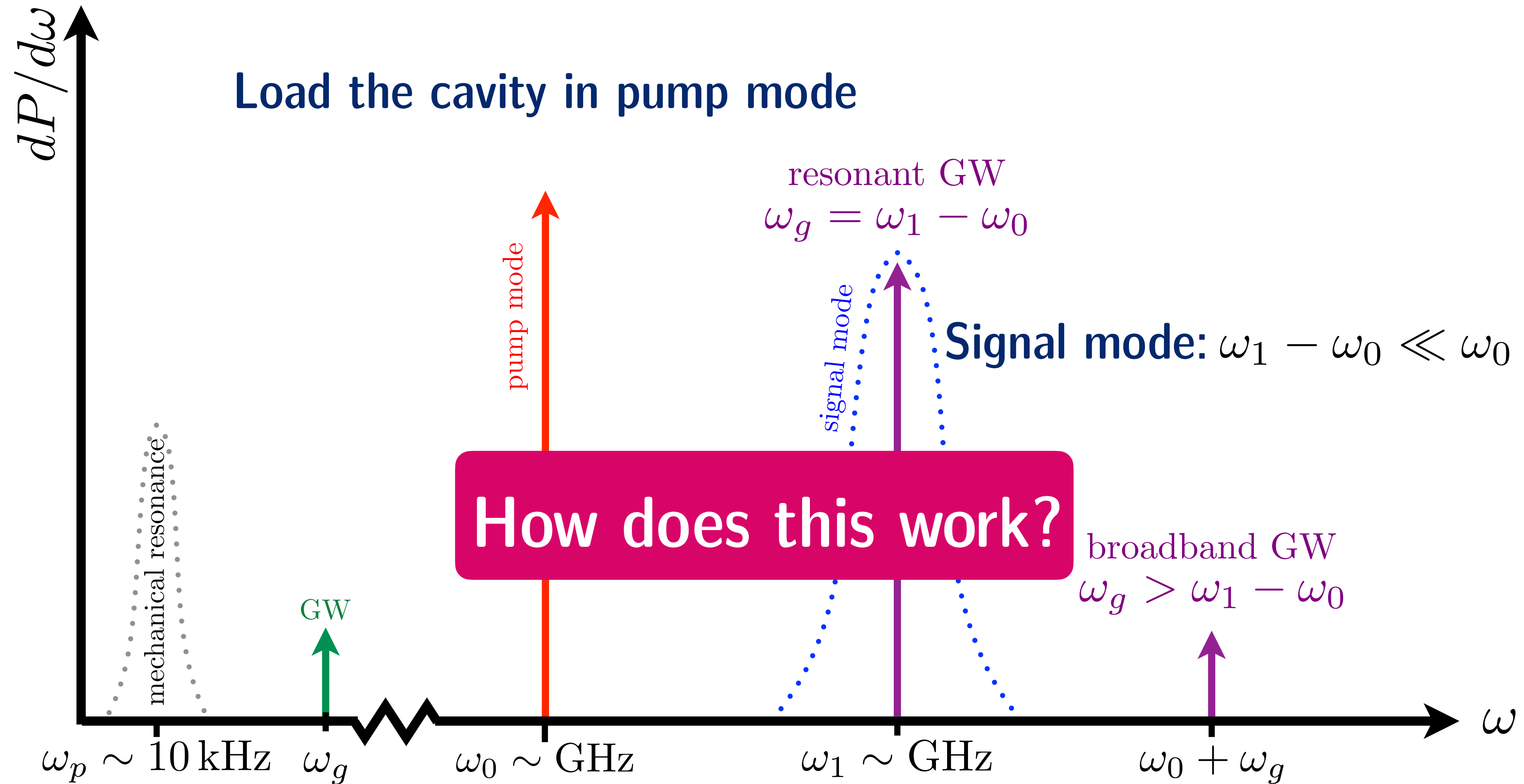
**Mechanical modes less “rigid” than EM modes**



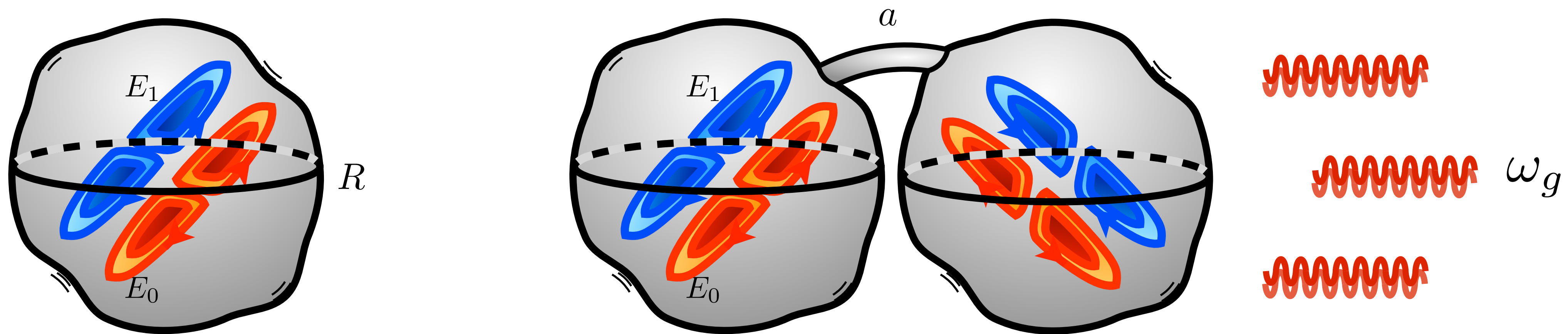
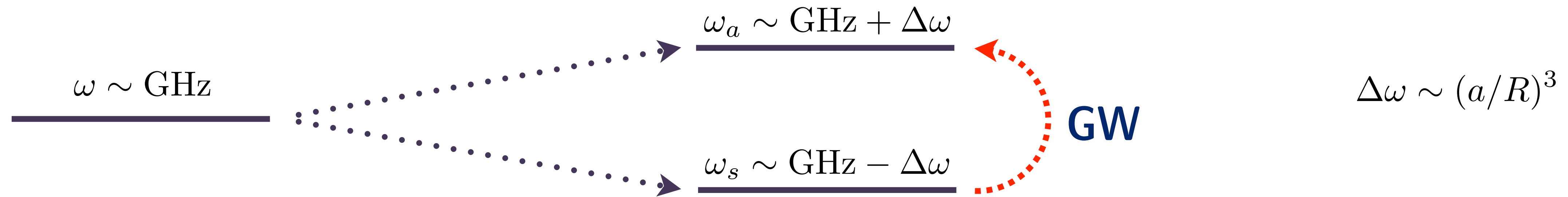
# MAGO 2.0: Mechanical and EM Signals



# MAGO 2.0

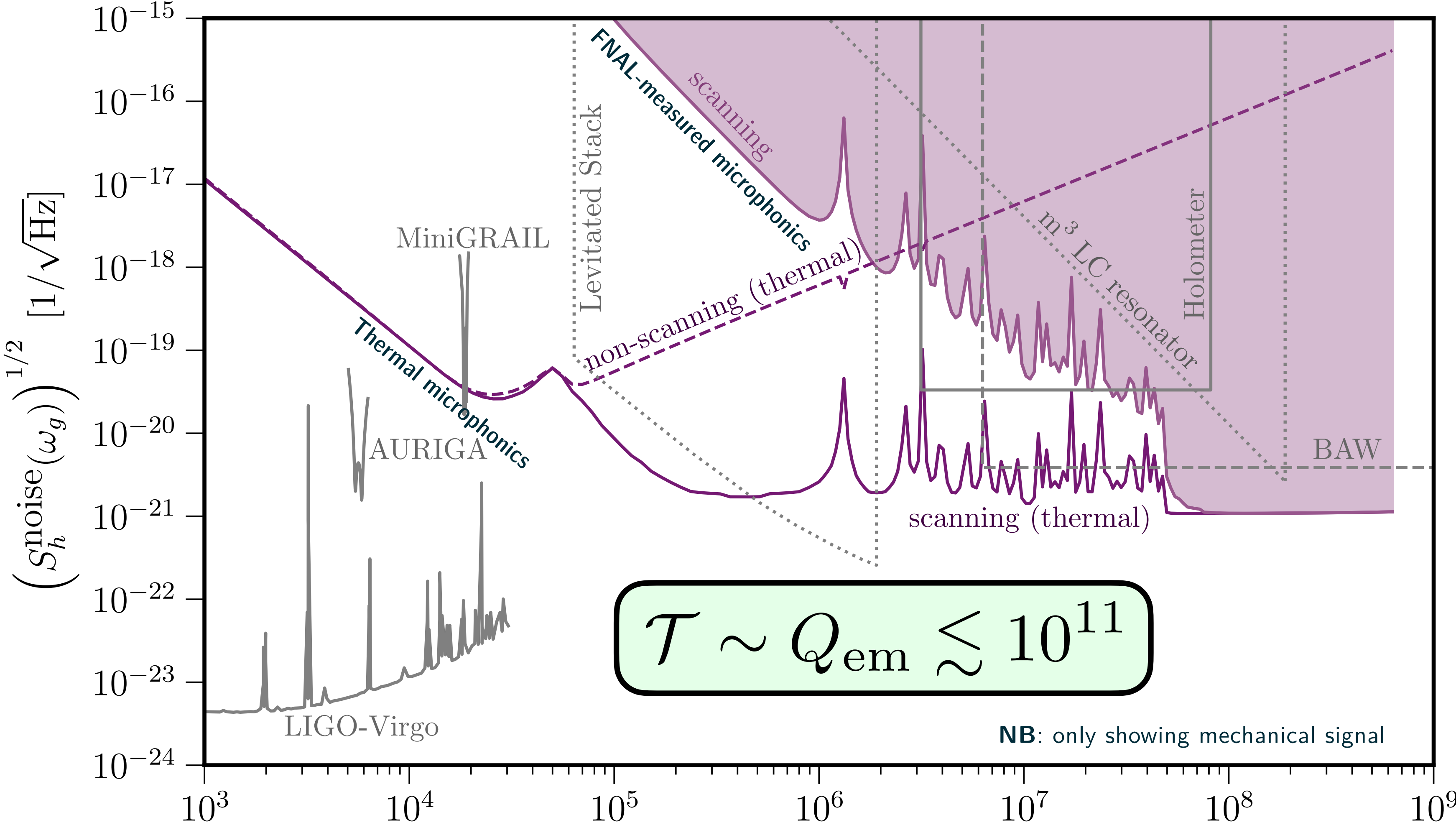
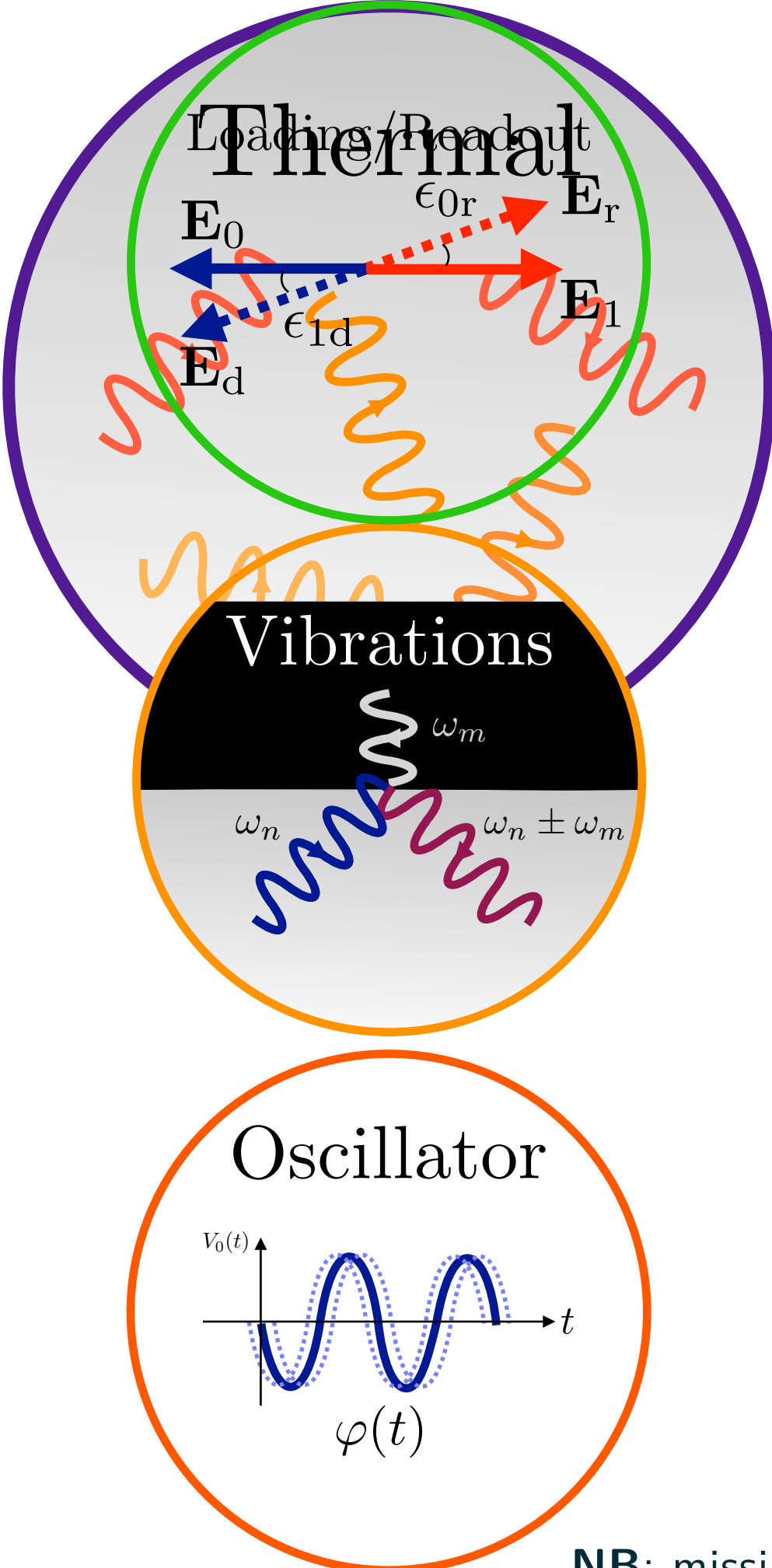


# MAGO 2.0



# Noise in MAGO 2.0

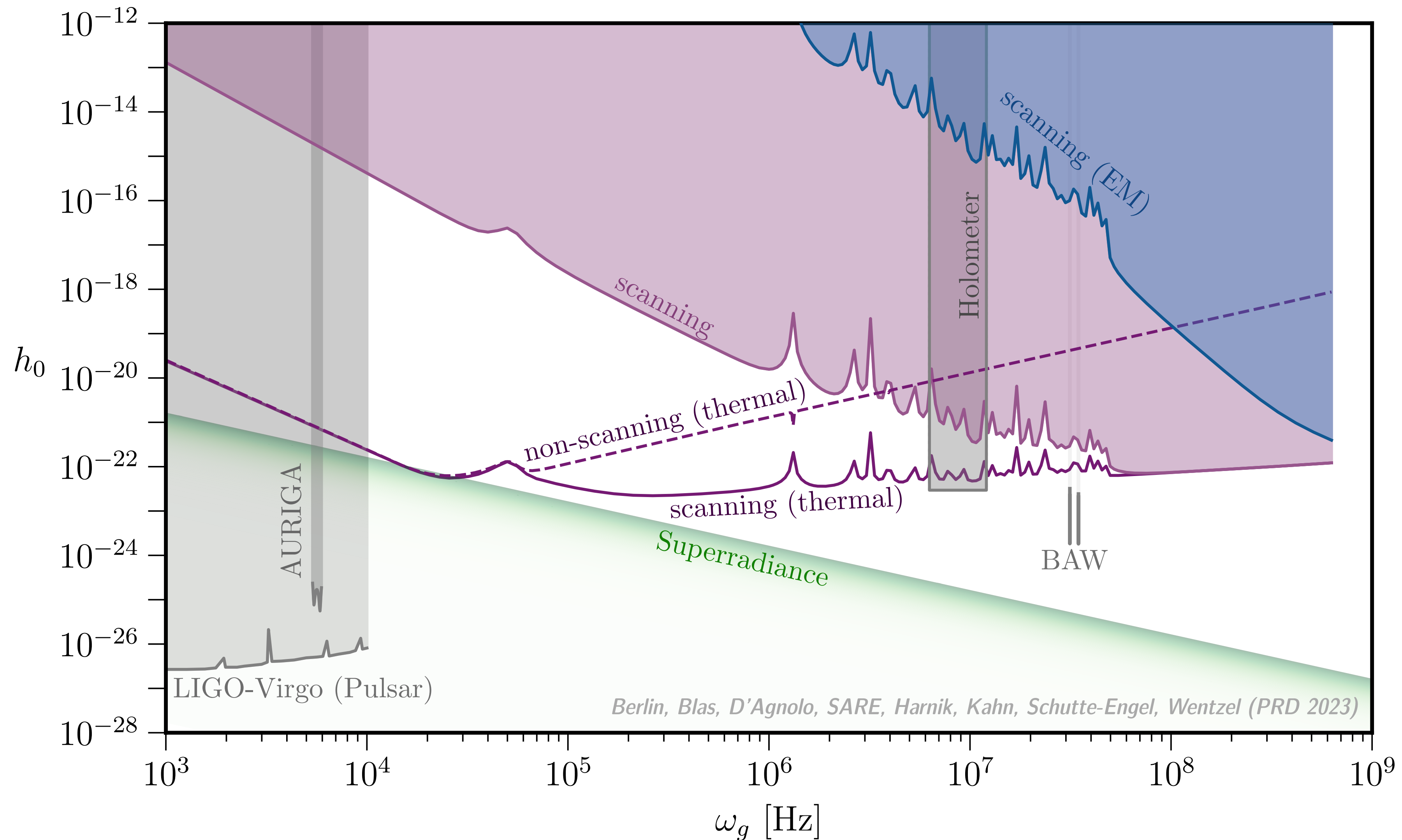
Berlin, Blas, D'Agnolo, SARE, Harnik, Kahn, Schutte-Engel, Wentzel (PRD 2023)



NB: missing radiation damping effect studied in Löwenberg, Moortgat-Pick: 2307.14379  $\omega_g$  [Hz]

NB: only showing mechanical signal

# MAGO 2.0 sensitivity to coherent GWs



# Magnetic Weber Bar

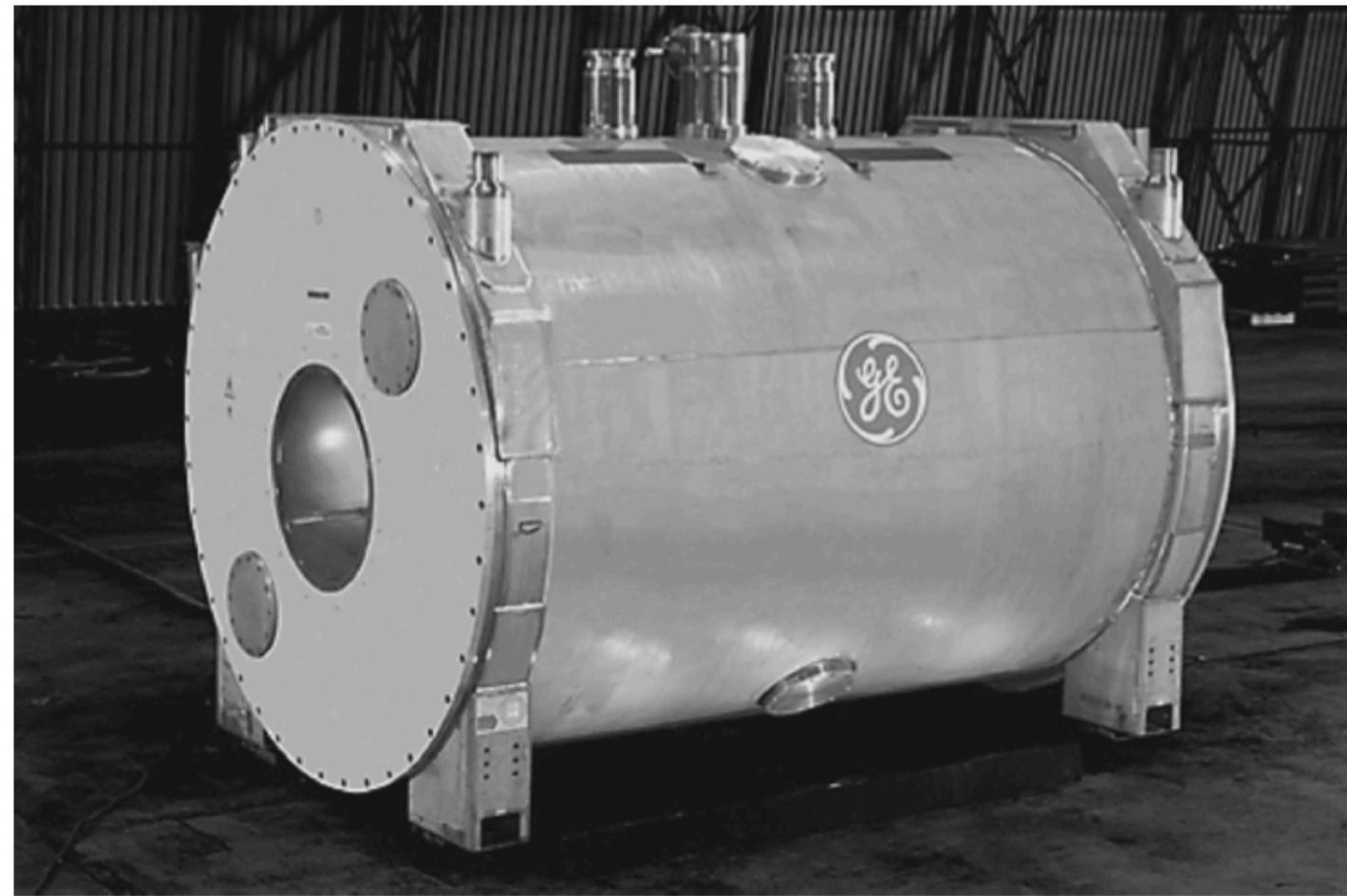
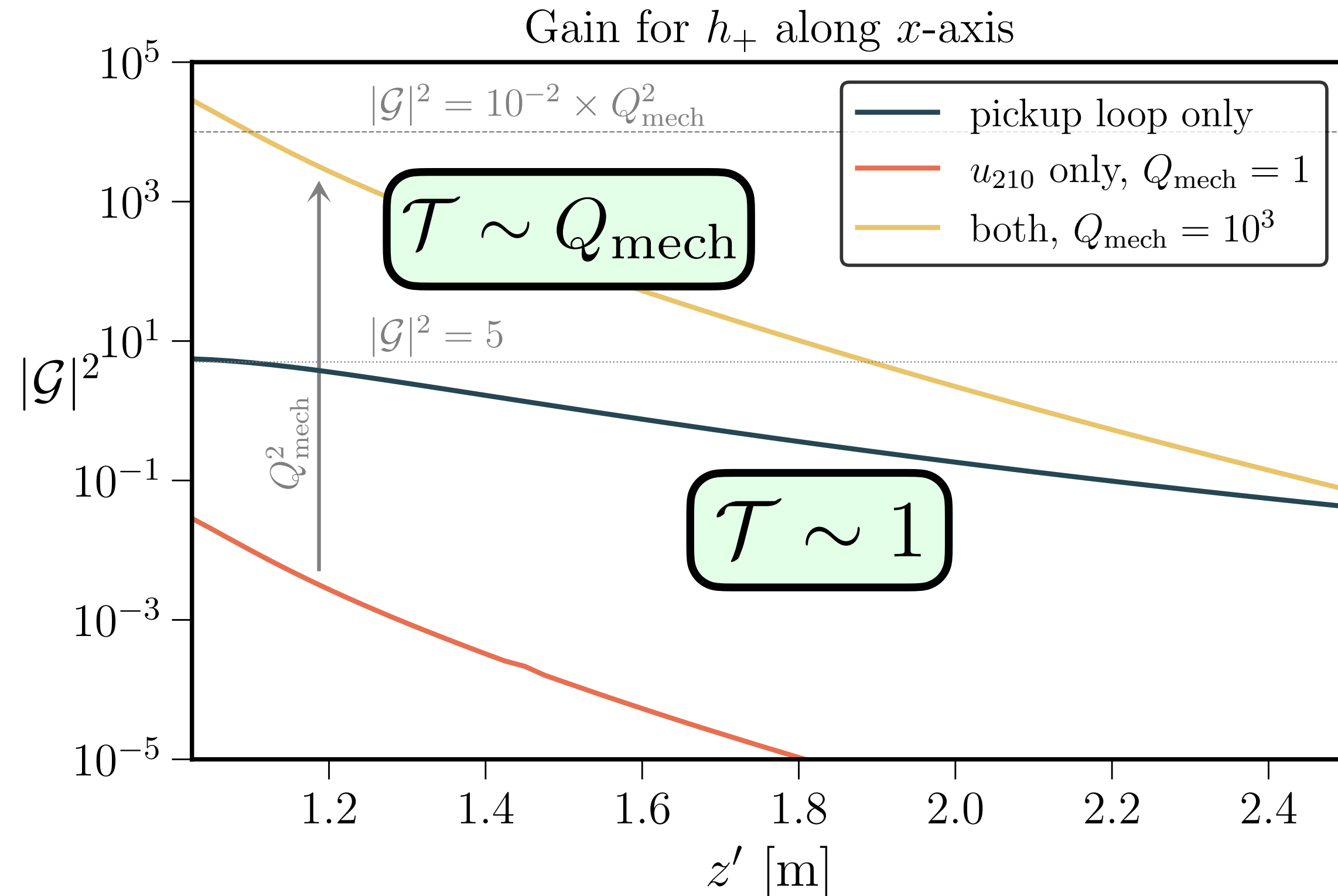


Fig. 10. GE 9.4 T MRI magnet before shipment.

TABLE II  
PARAMETERS OF GE 9.4 T MRI MAGNET

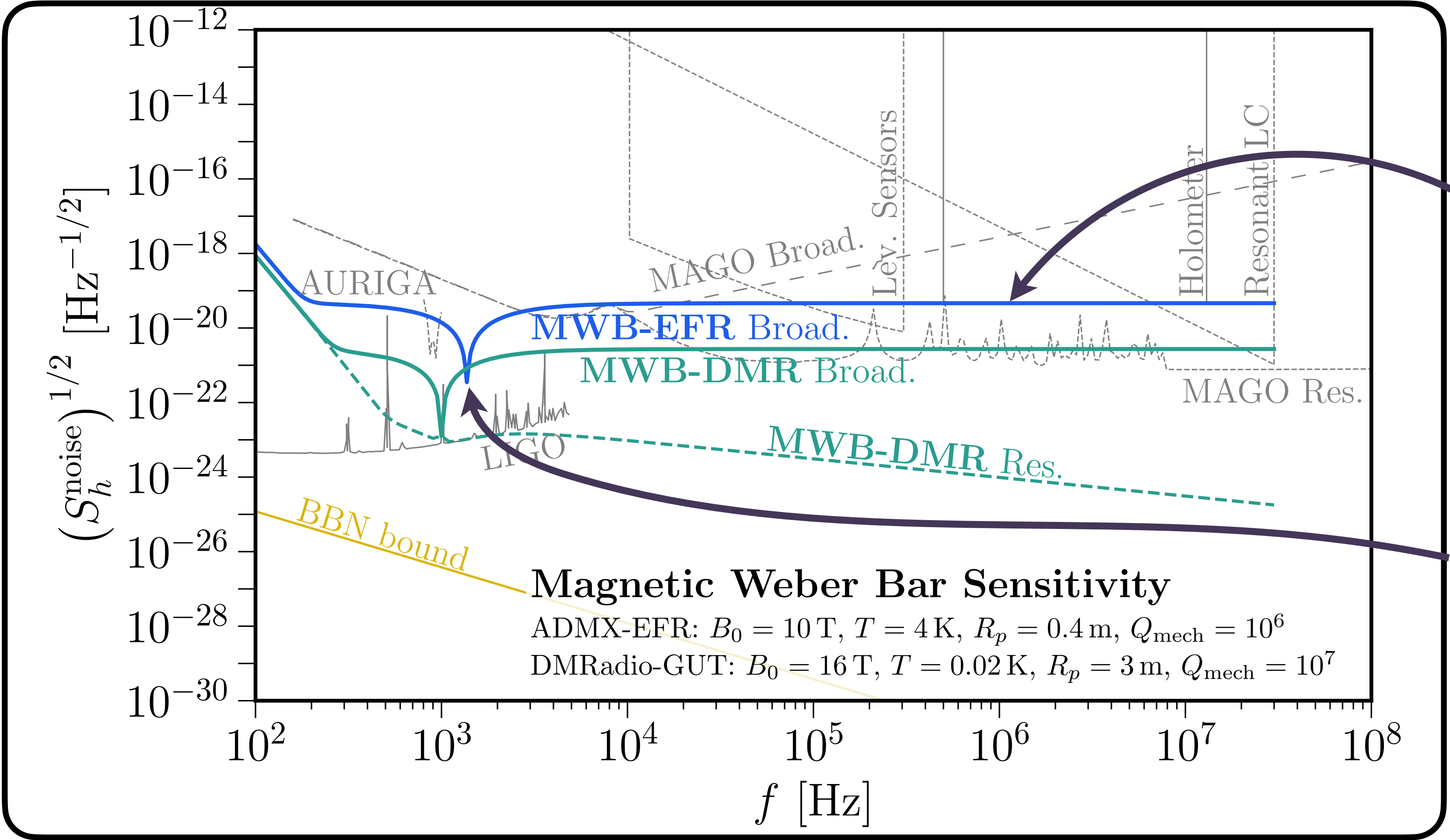
Central Field $B_0$ (T)	9.4
$B_{\text{peak}}/B_0$	1.024
Uniformity at 40cm DSV, peak-to-peak	5 ppm
Stored energy (MJ)	140
Conductor length (km)	540
Conductor weight (ton)	30
Magnet weight (ton)	45
Magnet length (m)	3.1
Room shielding weight (ton)	520

140 MJ stored energy  $\leftrightarrow S_h^{1/2} \sim 10^{-21} \text{ Hz}^{-1/2}$   
(up to transfer function)





# Magnetic Weber Bar



Intuition confirmed, with small penalty from transfer function

Enhancement from mechanical resonance transfer function

Domcke, SARE, Rodd (2024)

See also: Carney, Higgins (IQOQI), Marocco, Wentzel (2024)

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# STOCHASTIC SOURCES

**What are the prospects?**

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# Stochastic GW SNR

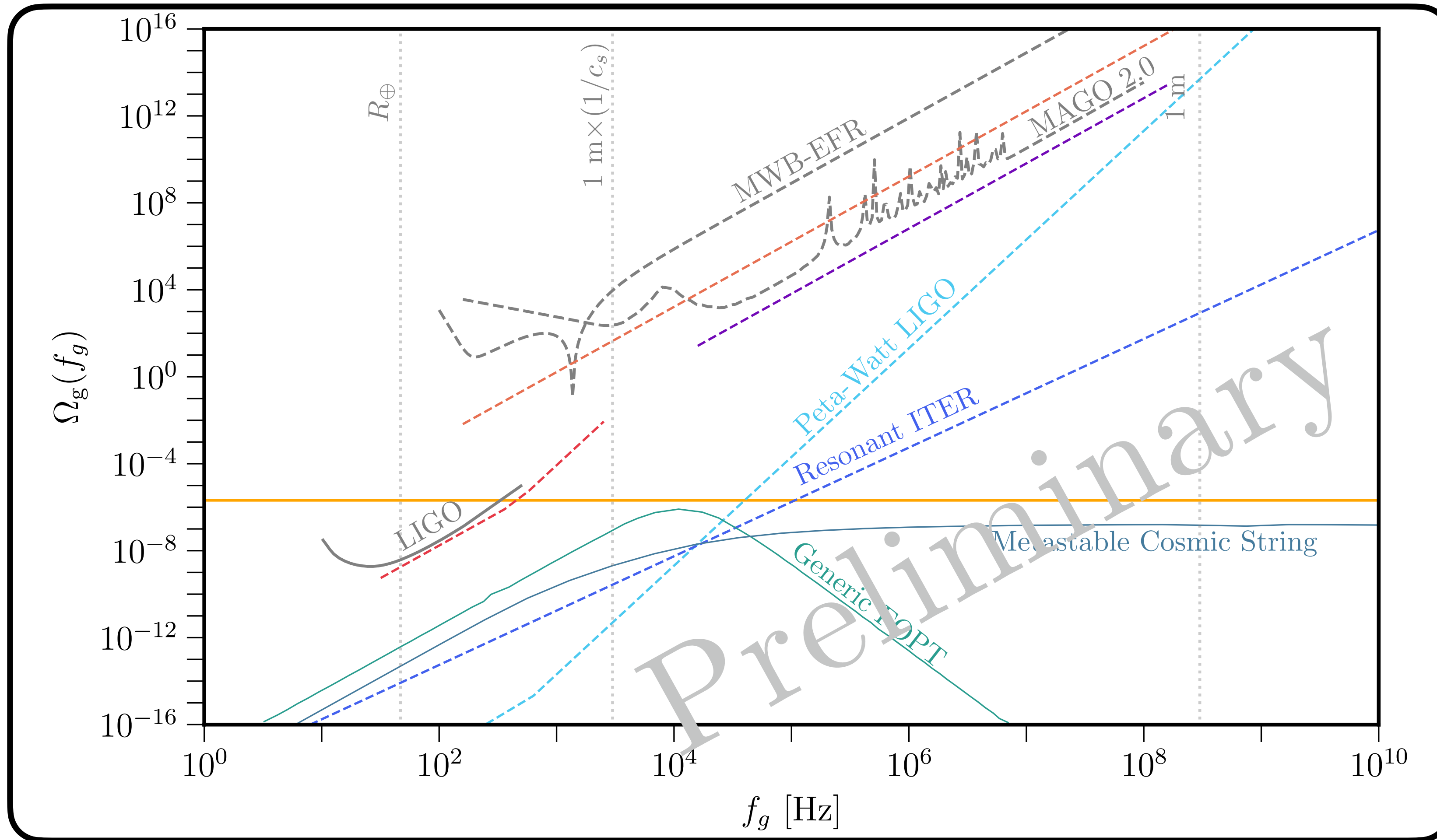
Where is the problem?

Detectors measure strain — all exquisite w/  $h \lesssim 10^{-20}$  !

Stochastic GWs depend on *energy density*

$$\rho_g \sim M_{\text{pl}}^2 f^2 h^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Omega_g \propto \frac{f^2 h^2}{H_0^2}$$

# Stochastic GWs



*D'Agnolo, SARE (in prep)*

Frequency growth of energy density hurts...

Cross-correlation of detectors

$$\Omega_g \propto N_{\text{det}}^{-1}$$

# Summary

Have we found the optimal detection approach?

— maximise stored energy and/or transfer function

Advances in readout

— networks, quantum techniques?

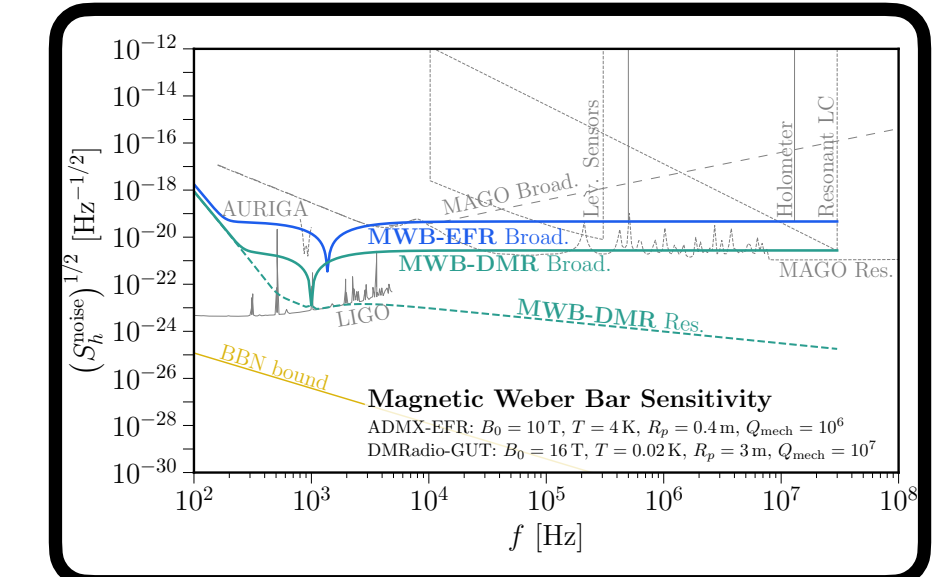
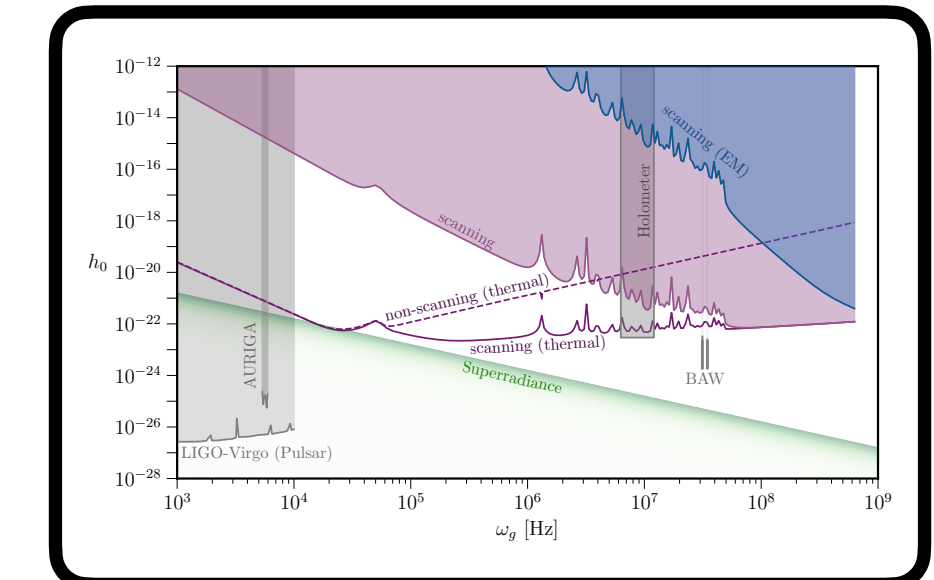
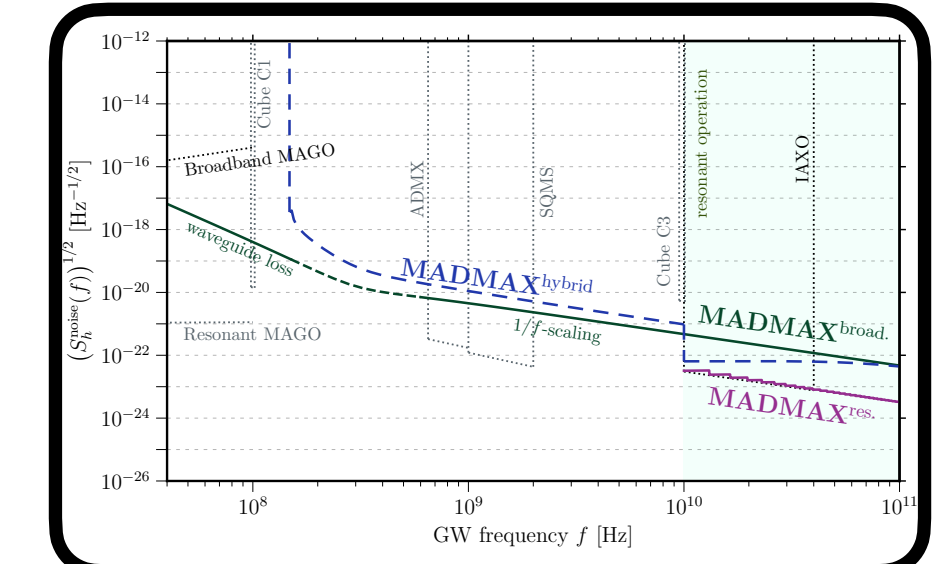
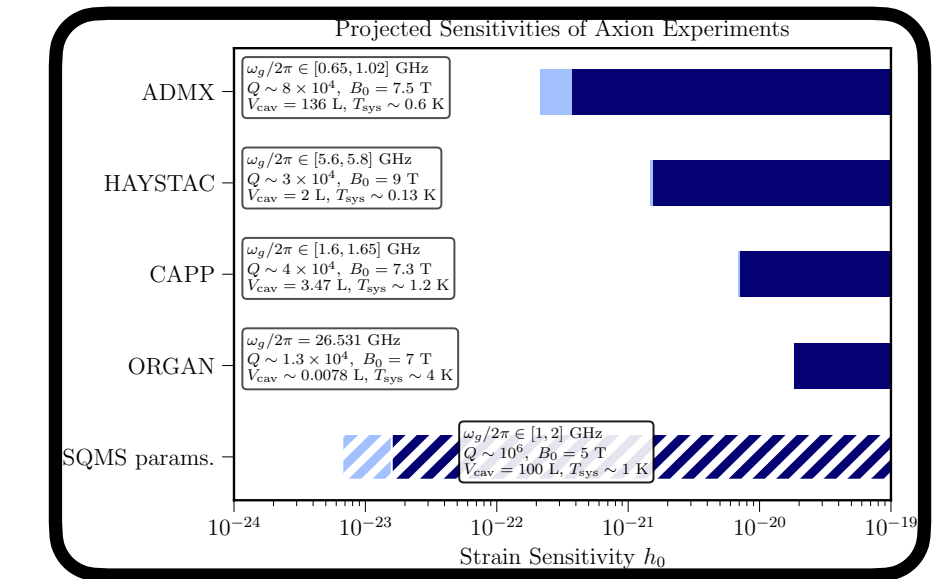
*synergies w/ Axion searches, QC(?)*

*see e.g. GravNET (<https://www.pi.uni-bonn.de/gravnet/en>)*

*PI: Matthias Schott*

Further signals above kHz?

Stochastic GWs require dramatic technology



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**BACKUP**

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# Framing the Question

A more detailed estimate requires some GR

GW in TT gauge:  $\partial_\mu h^{\mu\nu} = 0$ ,  $h_\mu{}^\mu = 0$ ,  $h_{00} = h_{0i} = 0$

Riemann tensor invariant at  $O(h)$ :

$$R_{0i0j} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_t^2 h_{ij}^{\text{TT}},$$

$$R_{0ijk} = \frac{1}{2}\partial_t (\partial_k h_{ij}^{\text{TT}} - \partial_j h_{ik}^{\text{TT}}),$$

$$R_{ikjl} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_k \partial_j h_{il}^{\text{TT}} + \partial_i \partial_l h_{jk}^{\text{TT}} - \partial_i \partial_j h_{kl}^{\text{TT}} - \partial_k \partial_l h_{ij}^{\text{TT}})$$

# MAGO 2.0

Revive an old idea from the 1970s, and a prototype from the 2000s

**On the operation of a tunable electromagnetic detector for gravitational waves**

F Pegoraro<sup>†</sup>, E Picasso<sup>‡</sup> and L A Radicati<sup>‡§</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy

<sup>‡</sup>CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

Received 6 December 1977, in final form 20 April 1978

**Microwave Apparatus for Gravitational Waves Observation**

R. Ballantini, A. Chincarini, S. Cuneo, G. Gemme, R. Parodi, A. Podestà, and R. Vaccarone  
*INFN and Università degli Studi di Genova, Genova, Italy*

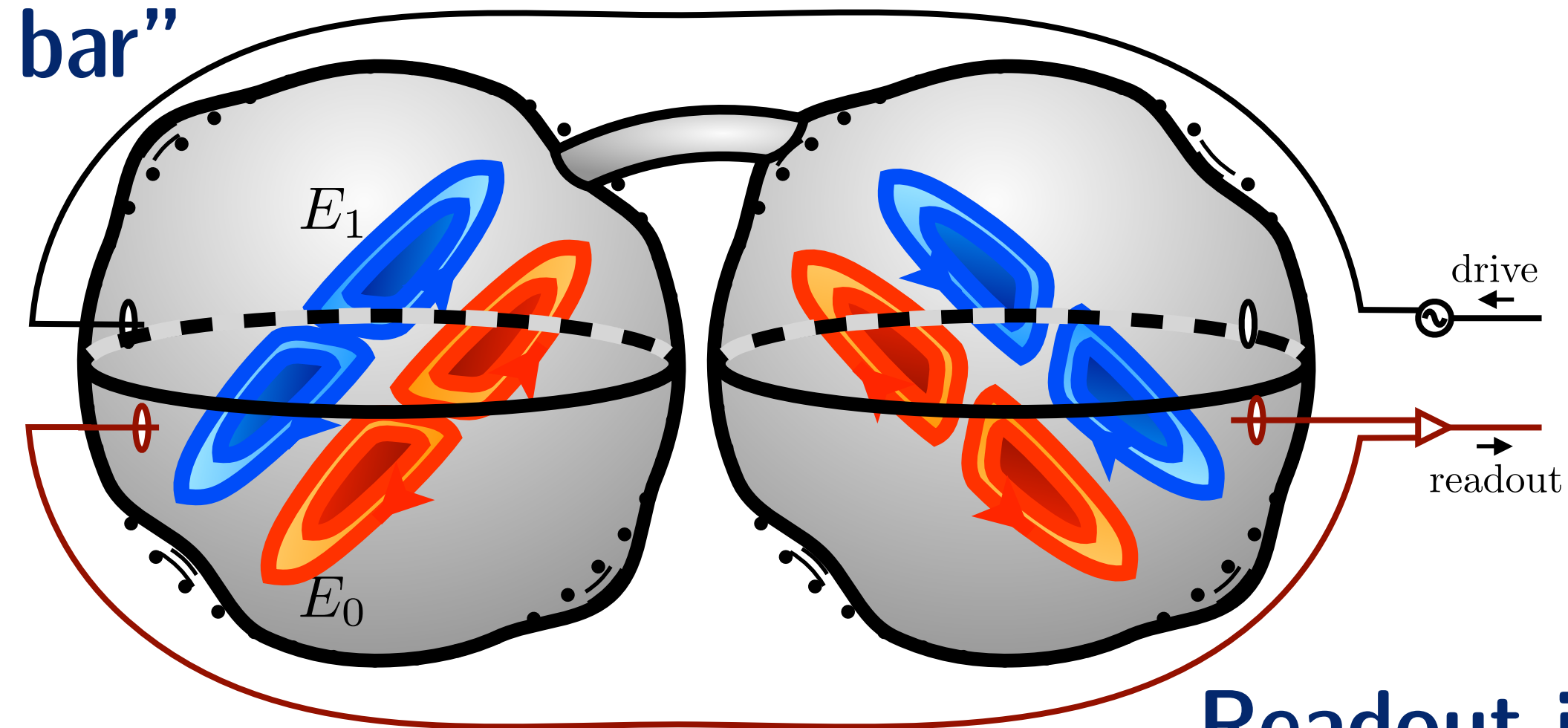
Ph. Bernard, S. Calatroni, E. Chiaveri, and R. Losito  
*CERN, Geneva, Switzerland*

R.P. Croce, V. Galdi, V. Pierro, and I.M. Pinto  
*INFN, Napoli, and Università degli Studi del Sannio, Benevento, Italy*

E. Picasso  
*INFN and Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy and  
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland*



Cavity walls are a “Weber bar”



Readout in a quiet mode of cavity



# Gravitational Wave and a Hollow Sphere

## Mechanical modes of a sphere

$$\mathbf{U}_{lmn} = \nabla \phi_L + i \nabla \times \mathbf{L} \phi_{T_1} + i \mathbf{L} \phi_{T_2} .$$

$$\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}, t) = u_p(t) \mathbf{U}_p(\mathbf{x})$$

## Equation of motion

$$\ddot{u}_p + \frac{\omega_p}{Q_p} \dot{u}_p + \omega_p^2 u_p \simeq -\frac{1}{2} \omega_g^2 V_{\text{cav}}^{1/3} \eta_{\text{mech}}^g h_0 e^{i\omega_g t}$$

$$\eta_{\text{mech}}^g = \frac{\hat{h}_{ij}^{TT}}{V_{\text{cav}}^{1/3} V_{\text{shell}}} \int_{V_{\text{shell}}} d^3\mathbf{x} U_p^{*i} x^j$$

$$\langle \mathbf{U}_p \rangle \sim h_0 V_{\text{cav}}^{1/3} \eta_{\text{mech}}^g \times \begin{cases} \frac{\omega_g^2}{\omega_g^2 - \omega_p^2}, & |\omega_g - \omega_p| \gg \omega_p / Q_p \\ Q_p, & |\omega_g - \omega_p| \ll \omega_p / Q_p \end{cases}$$

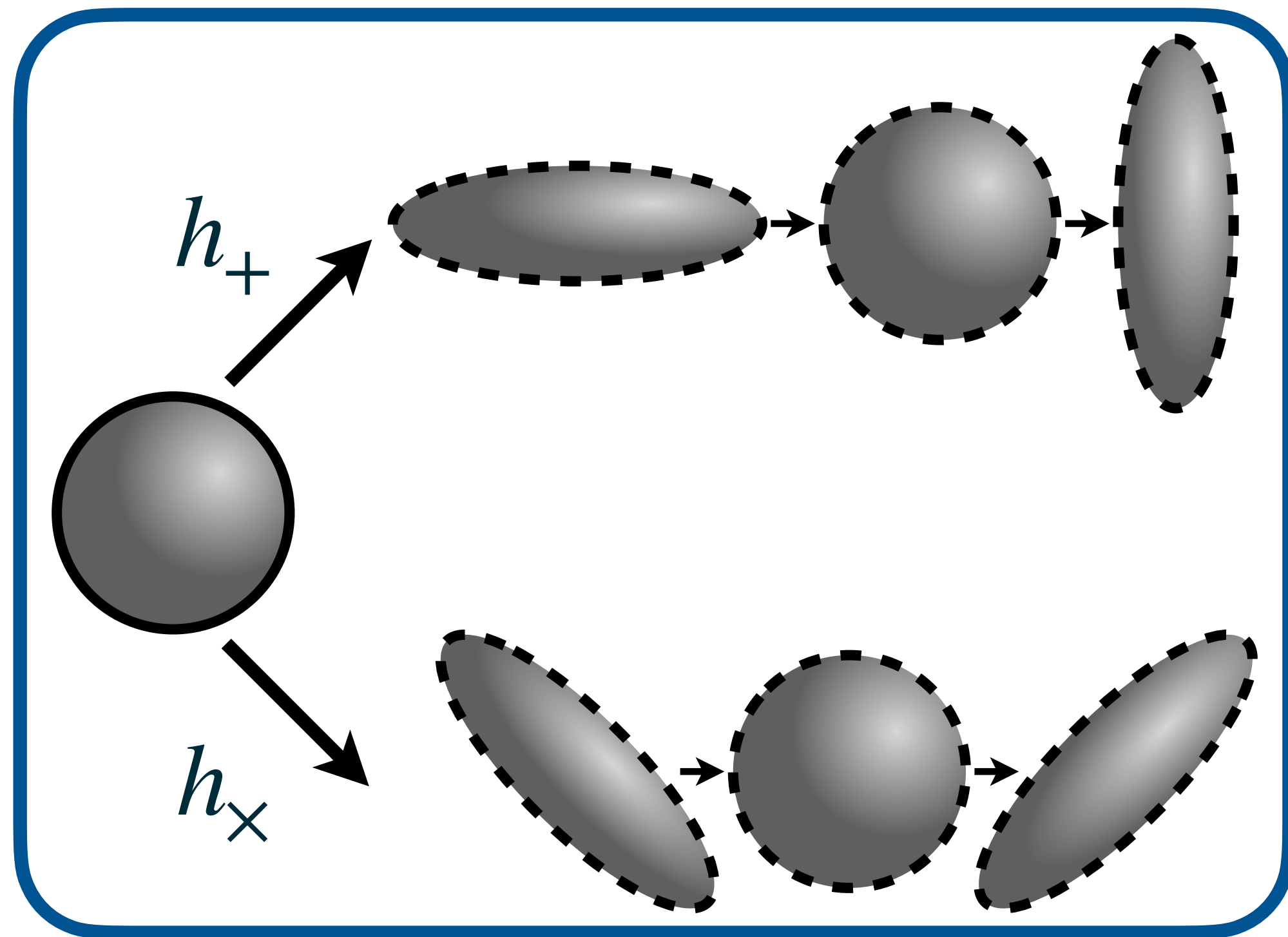
Tiny displacement  $\ll$  nm

Cur Cavis?\* pt. 2

MAGO 2.0

\* “Why Cavities?” in Latin

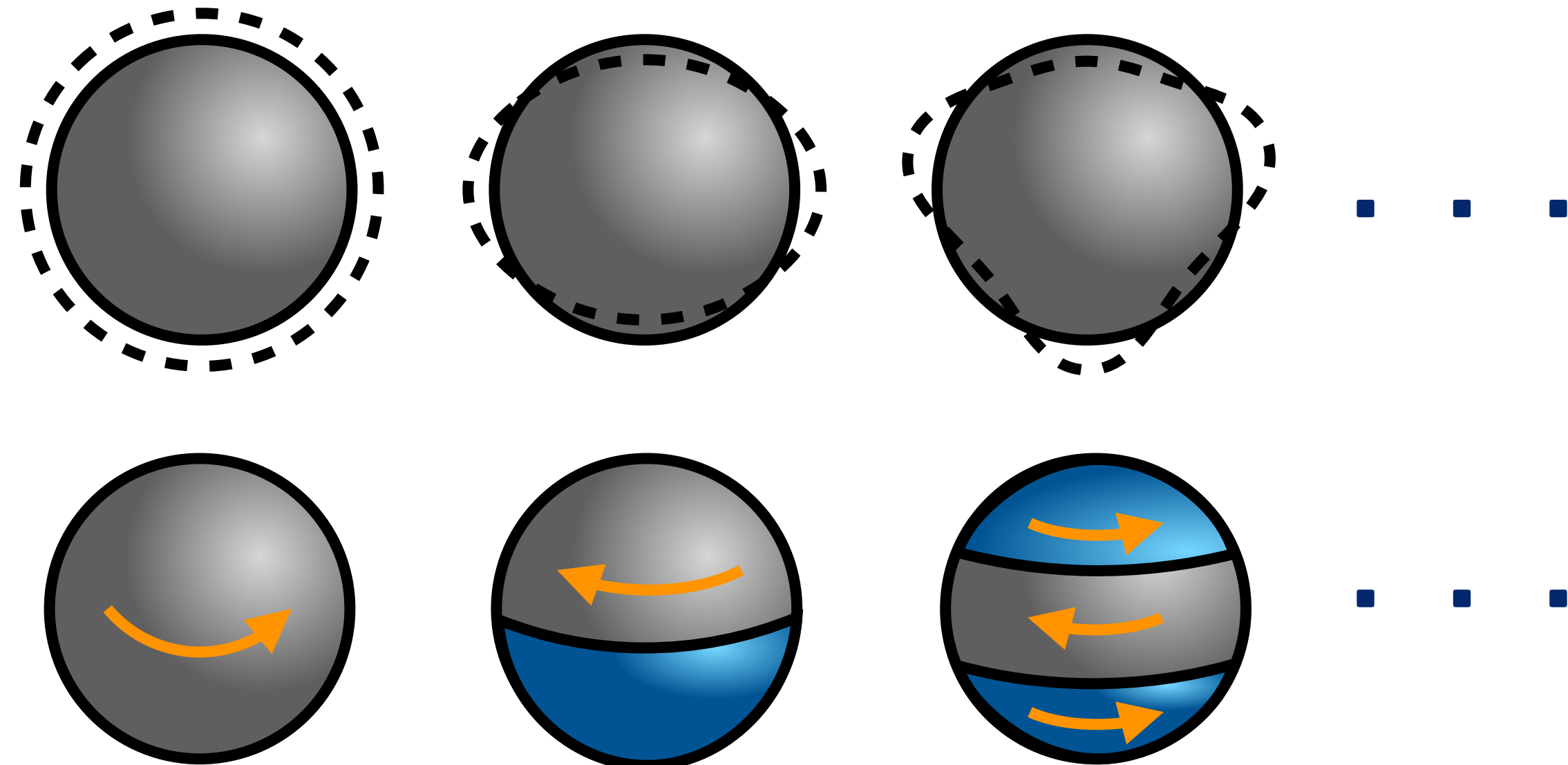
# Gravitational Wave and a Hollow Sphere



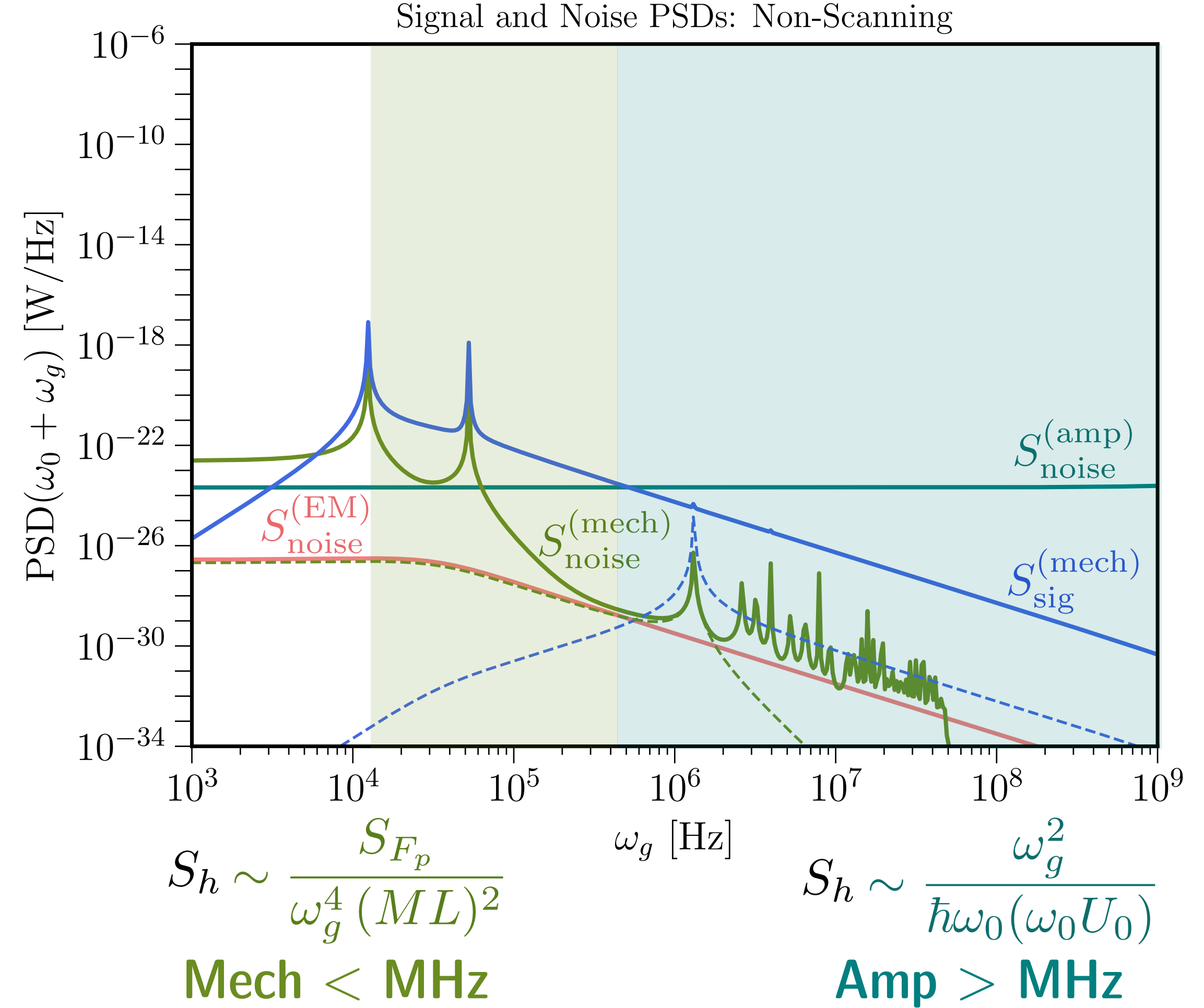
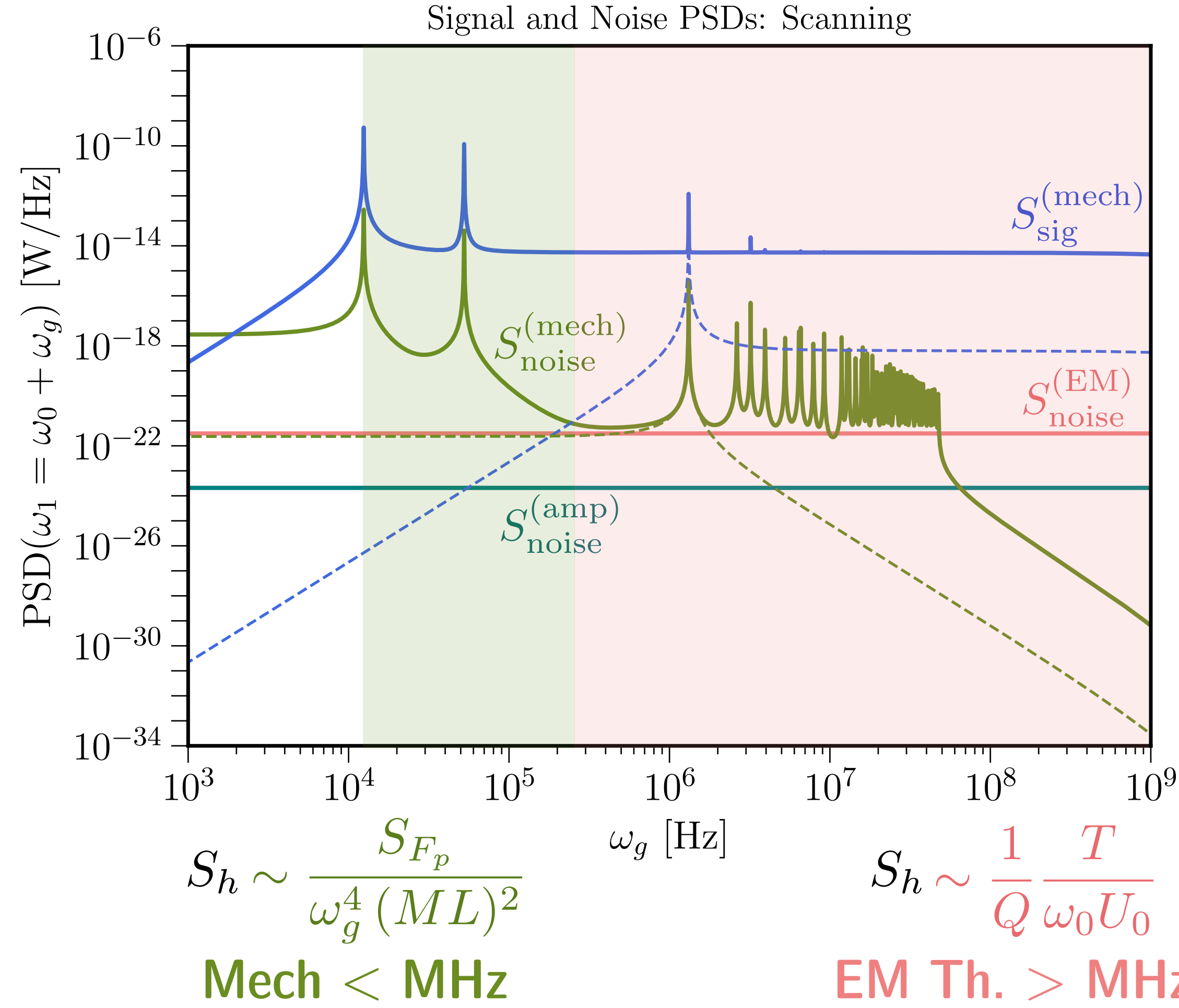
TT frame intuition

## Mechanical modes of a sphere

$$\mathbf{U}_{lmn} = \underbrace{\nabla\phi_L + i\nabla \times \mathbf{L}\phi_{T_1}}_{\text{Spheroidal}} + \underbrace{i\mathbf{L}\phi_{T_2}}_{\text{Toroidal}}.$$

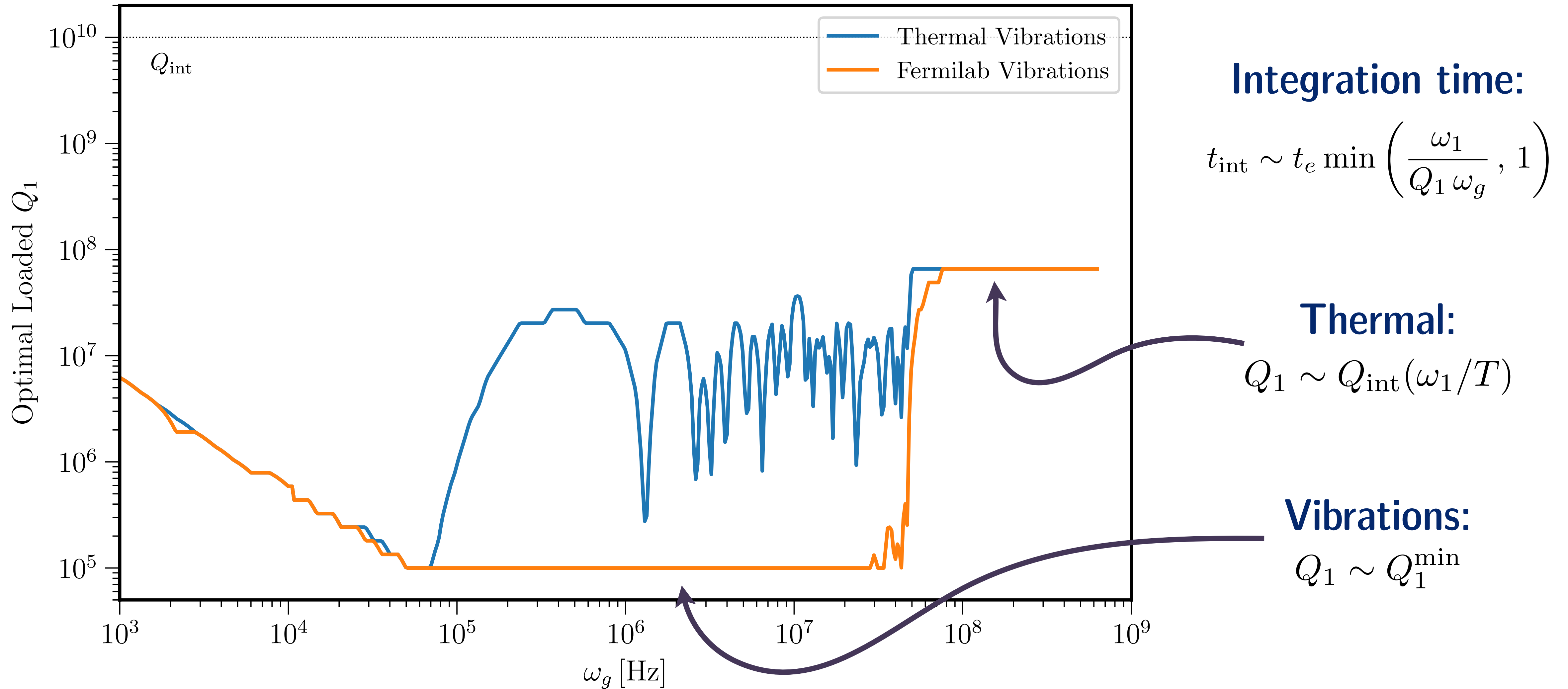


# Noise in MAGO 2.0



**NB:** missing radiation damping effect studied in Löwenberg, Moortgat-Pick: 2307.14379

# Optimal Scanning



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# HEURISTICS

**Prospects for stochastic GWs?**

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# Stochastic GW SNR

Stochastic backgrounds have zero mean — necessarily quadratic measurement

Single detector:  $\text{SNR} \sim \frac{S_{\text{sig}}(\omega)}{S_{\text{noise}}(\omega)}$

Two detectors:  $\text{SNR} \sim \left( t_{\text{int}} \int df \left( \frac{S_{\text{sig}}(\omega)}{S_{\text{noise}}(\omega)} \right)^2 \right)^{1/2}$

$$S_{\text{sig}}(\omega) \sim |\mathcal{T}(\omega)|^2 S_h(\omega)$$

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# Comparing LIGO to MAGO

LIGO in this language:

$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{LIGO}}(\omega) \sim \frac{k_L}{\omega_p} \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\omega}{\omega_p} \right)^2 \right)^{-1/2} \qquad \mathcal{T}_{\text{LIGO}}(\omega) \sim 10^{11}$$

Thermal-noise limited MAGO (on EM resonance):

$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{MAGO}}(\omega) \sim |\eta_{\text{mech}}| |\eta_{\text{mech}}^{\text{EM}}| \sqrt{Q_{\text{int}} \frac{\omega_{\text{sig}}}{T}} \left( \frac{1}{\Delta\omega_{\text{osc}} t_{\text{int}}} \right)^{1/4} \qquad \mathcal{T}_{\text{MAGO}}(\omega) \sim 10^3$$

# Comparing LIGO to MAGO

Best possible  
sensitivity:

$$h_{\min}^q \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{U_{\text{in}} t_{\text{int}}}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}(\omega)}$$

LIGO stored energy:

$$U_{\text{in}}^{\text{LIGO}} \sim 10^{-10} \text{ J}$$

$$h_{\min}^{\text{LIGO}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-23} \left( \frac{\omega}{2\pi \times 10^6 \text{ Hz}} \right)$$

MAGO 2.0 energy:

$$U_{\text{in}}^{\text{MAGO}} \sim 10^4 \text{ J}$$

$$h_{\min}^{\text{MAGO}} \sim 10^{-23}$$