

# Cosmological Probes of Light Relics

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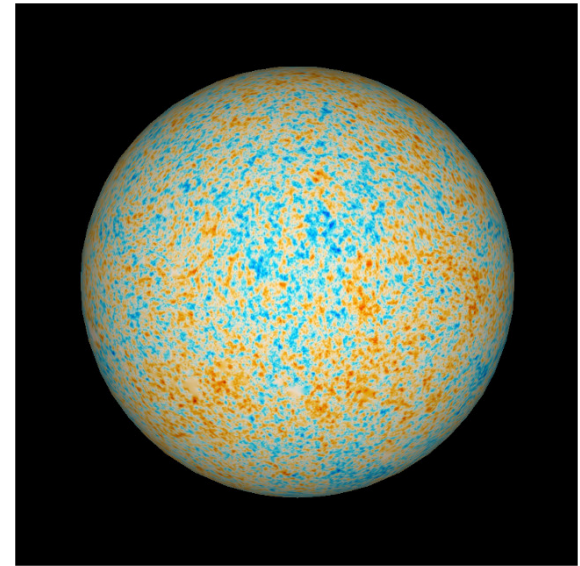
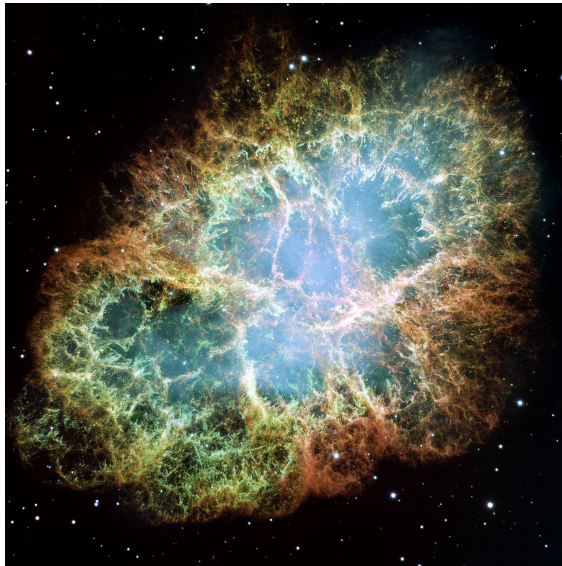
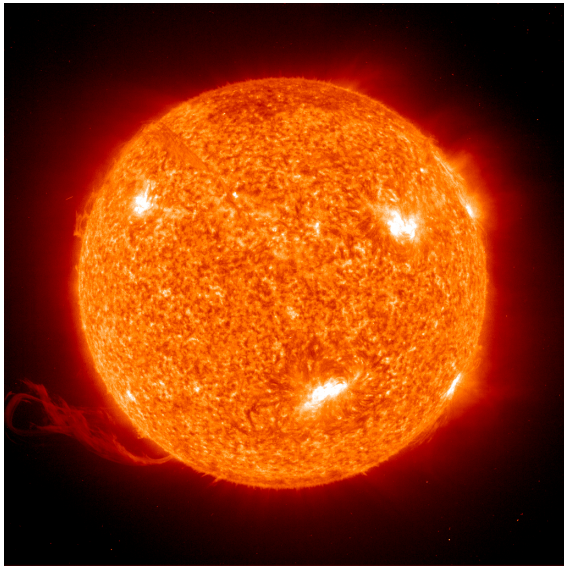
Based on work with:

Daniel Baumann, Daniel Green; Joel Meyers;  
Florian Beutler, Raphael Flauger, Anže Slosar,  
Mariana Vargas-Magaña, Christophe Yèche

Light particles can be found in many extensions of the Standard Model of particle physics.

Their weak couplings make them hard to detect in terrestrial experiments.

However, they can be efficiently produced in the extreme environments studied in astrophysics and cosmology!

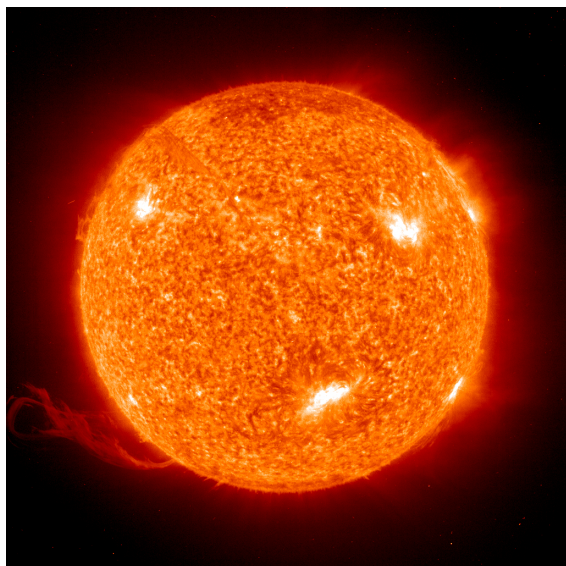


Long time scales  $\Delta t$  and high densities  $n$  can compensate small cross sections  $\sigma$ :

$$\frac{\Delta n}{n} \sim n \sigma \times \Delta t$$

interaction rate      interaction time

Stellar cooling



$$\Delta t \sim 10^{16} \text{ s}$$

$$n \sim T^3 \sim (1 \text{ keV})^3$$

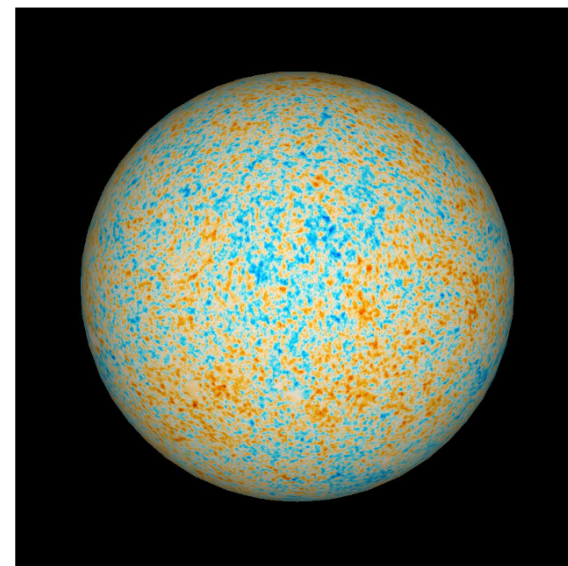
Supernovae



$$\Delta t \sim 10 \text{ s}$$

$$n \sim T^3 \sim (10 \text{ MeV})^3$$

Early universe



$$\Delta t \lesssim 1 \text{ s}$$

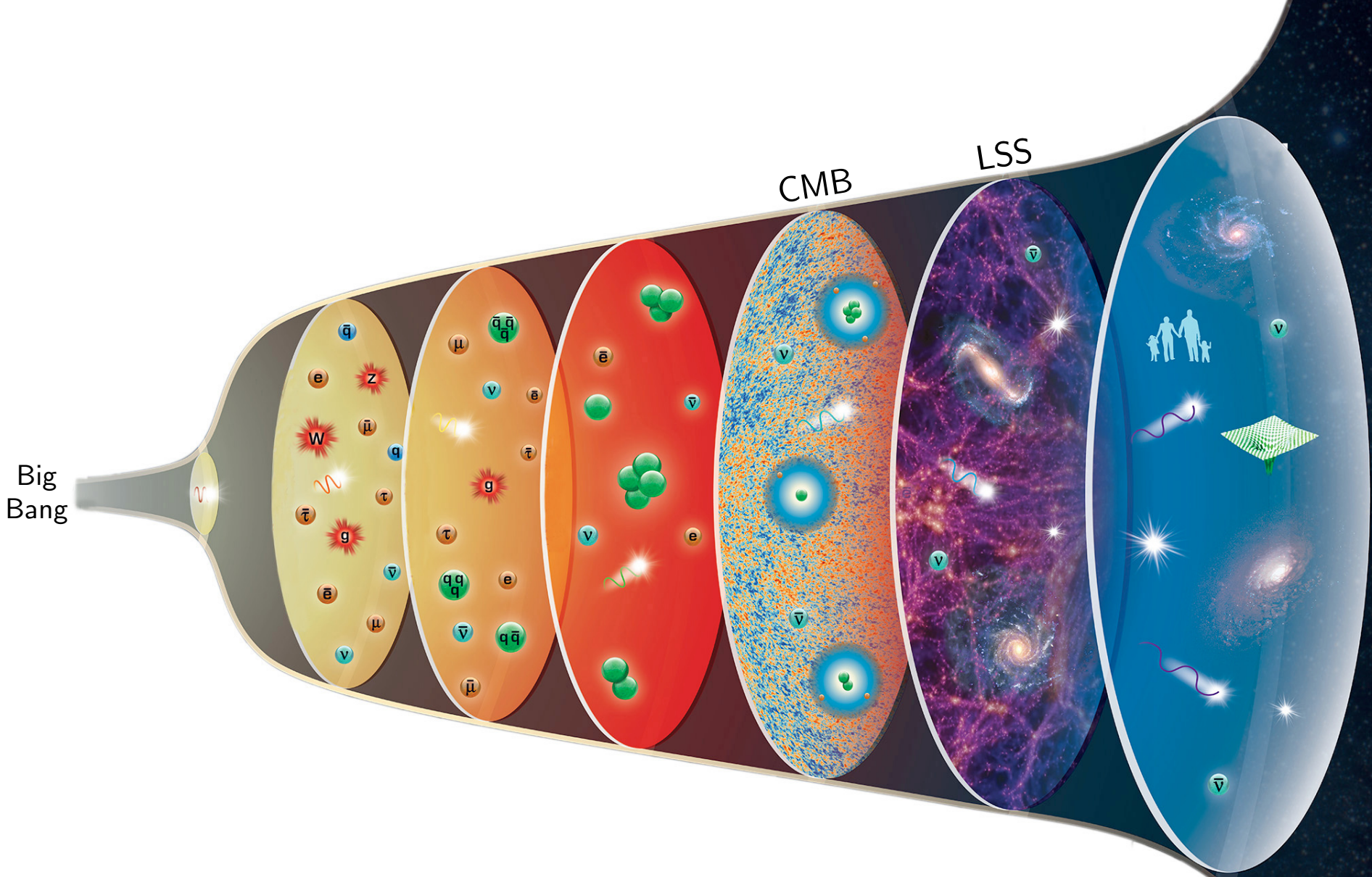
$$n \sim T^3 \gg (1 \text{ MeV})^3$$

Above  $10^4 \text{ GeV}$ , cosmology beats astrophysics.

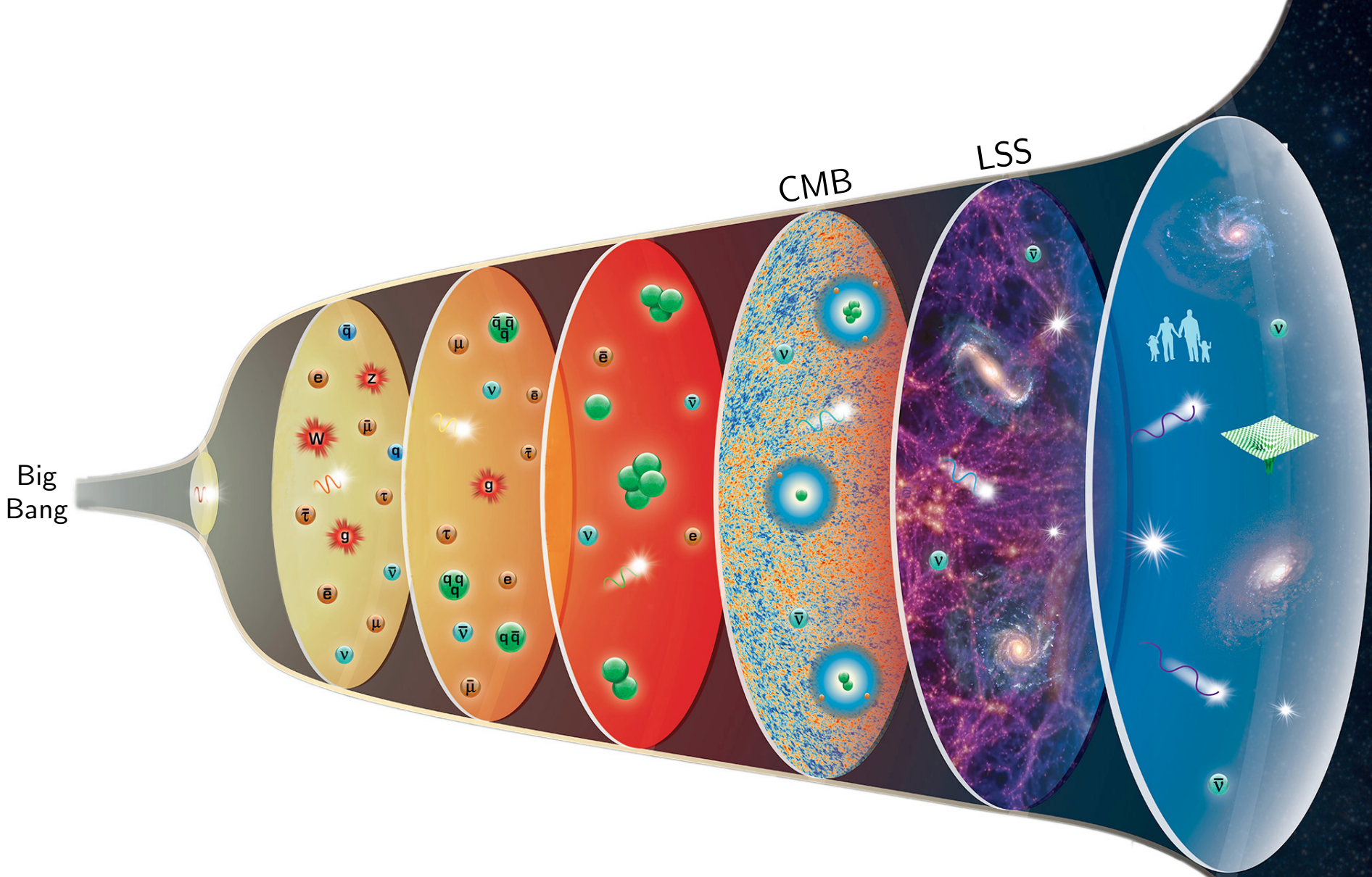
→ Probe particle physics and the history of the universe.

Big Bang





Direct Observations

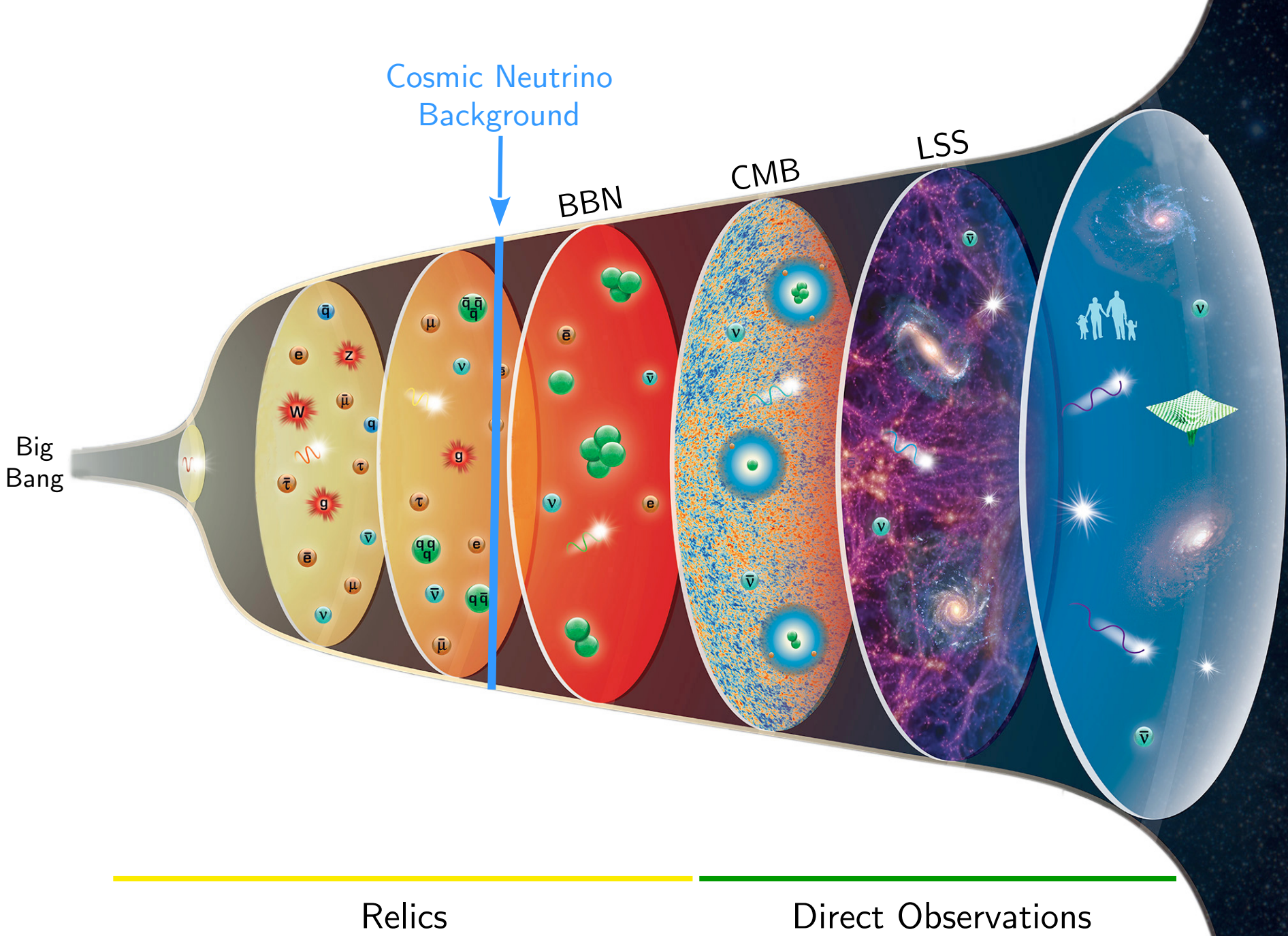


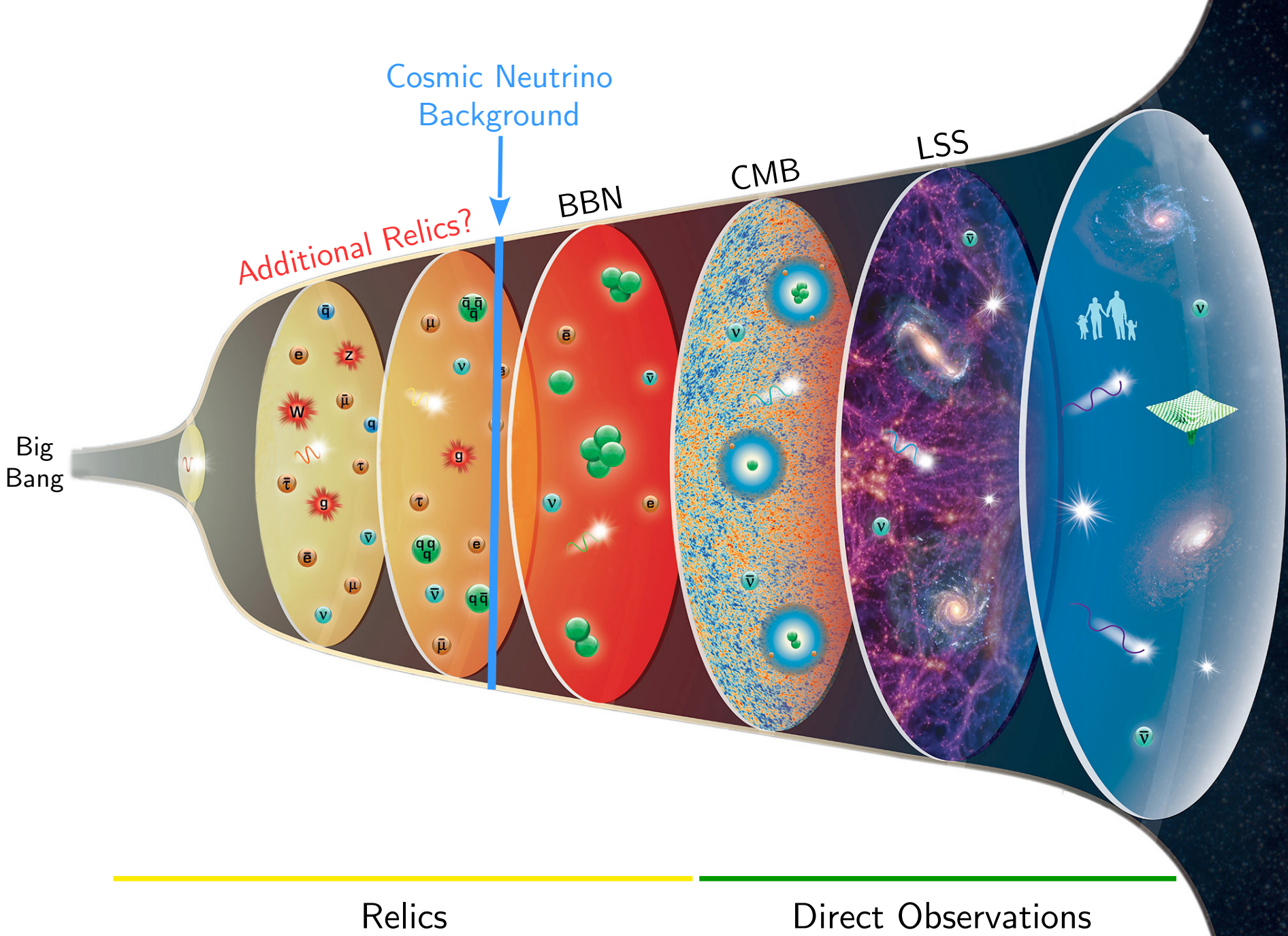
Relics

Direct Observations



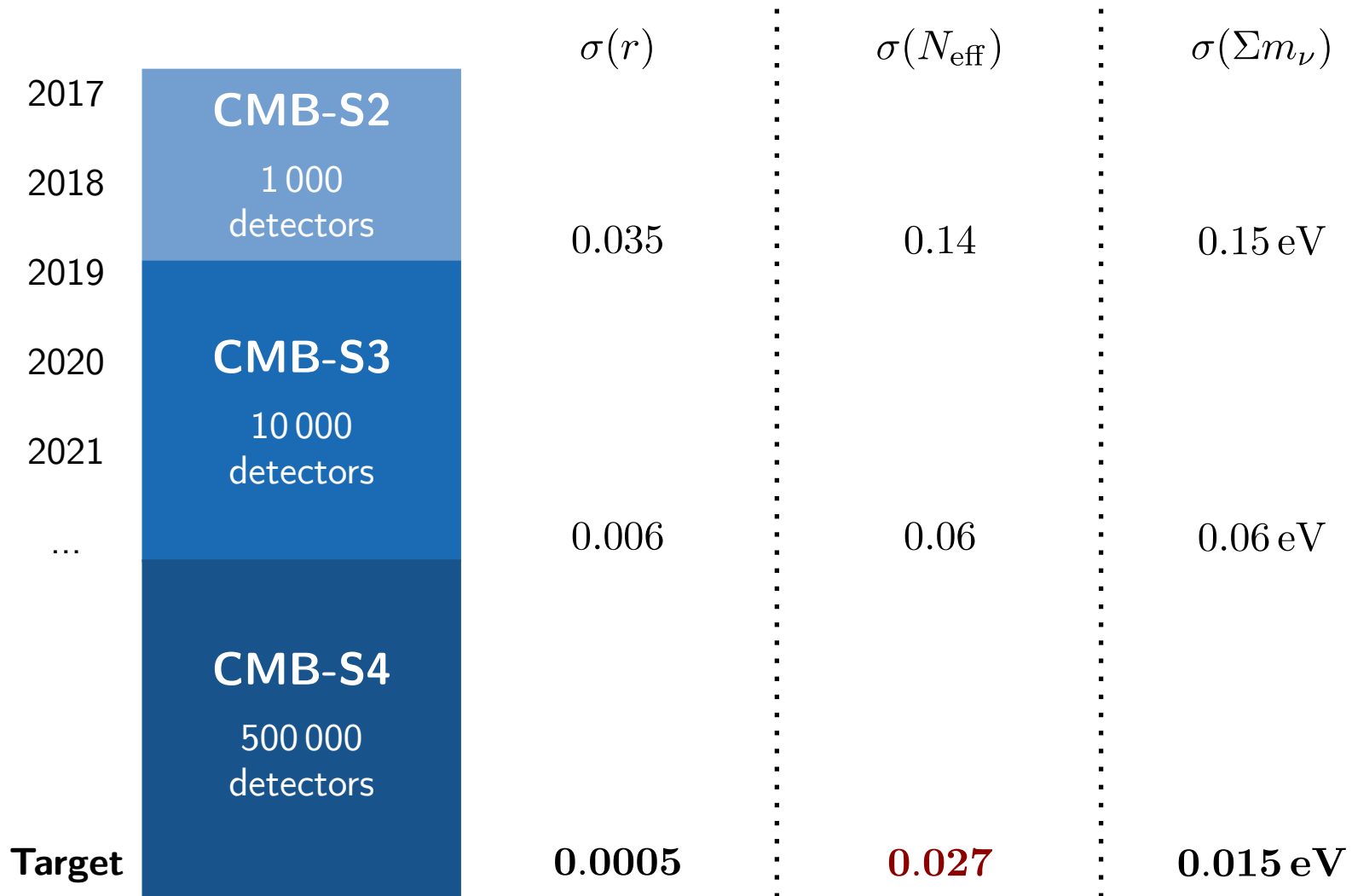






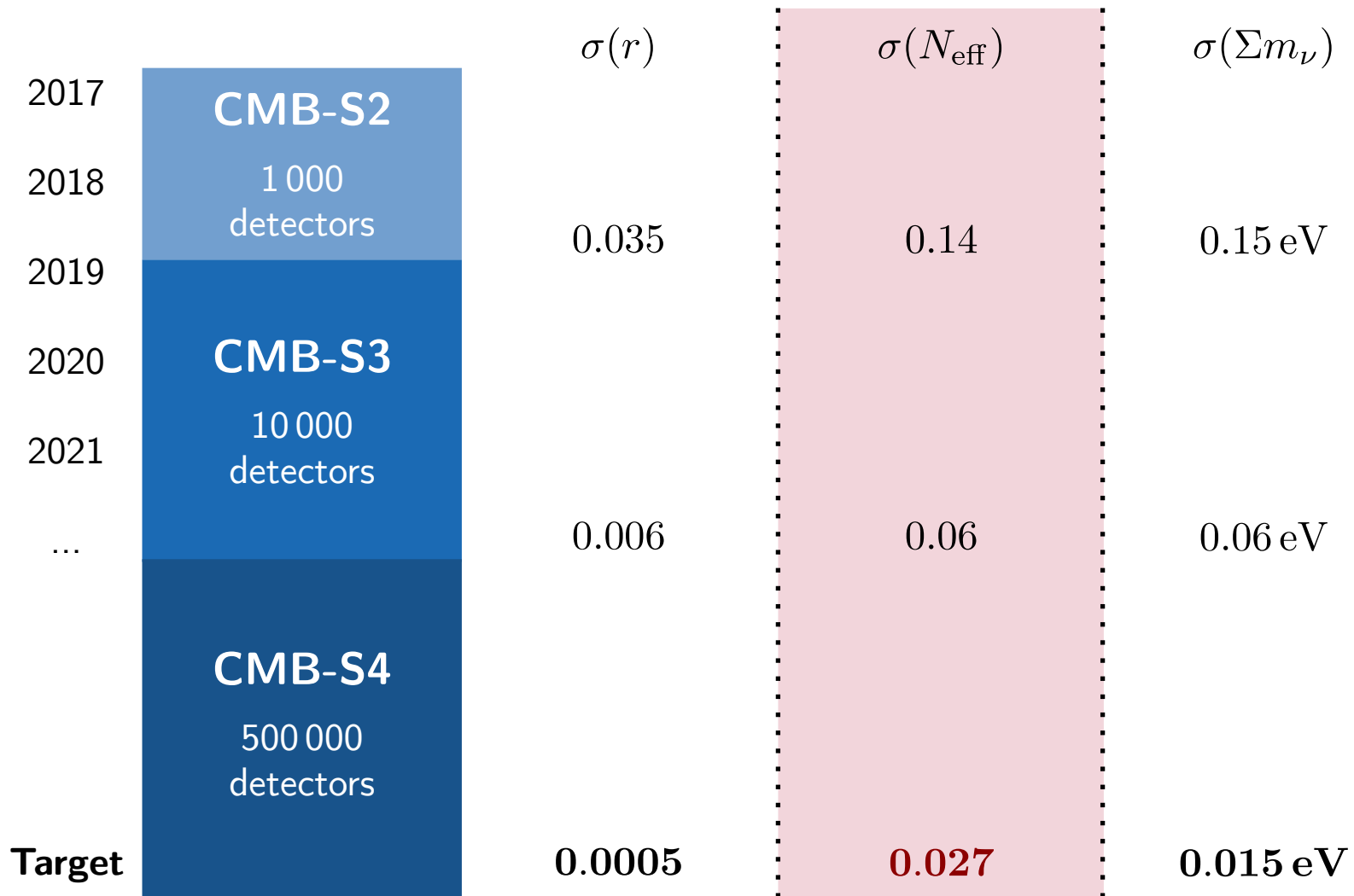
# CMB Stage-4

The main science targets of the next-generation CMB experiments:



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# Plan of the Talk

- Neutrinos and Other Light Relics
- Probing with the Cosmic Microwave Background
- Probing with the Large-Scale Structure of the Universe
- Measuring Neutrinos in the BAO Spectrum
- Conclusions

# Neutrinos and Other Light Relics (aka Dark Radiation)

D. Baumann, D. Green and BW  
arXiv:1604.08614 (PRL 2016)

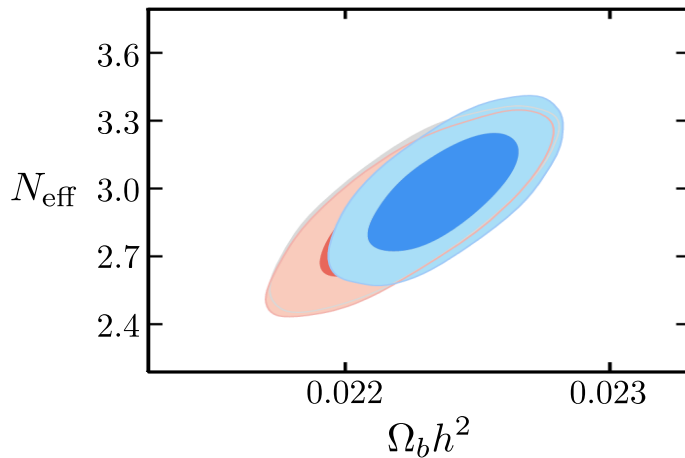
# Neutrinos

41% of radiation density in the universe:

- leave gravitational imprint,
- can detect their energy density.

$$\rho_r = \left[ 1 + \frac{7}{8} \left( \frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right] \rho_\gamma$$

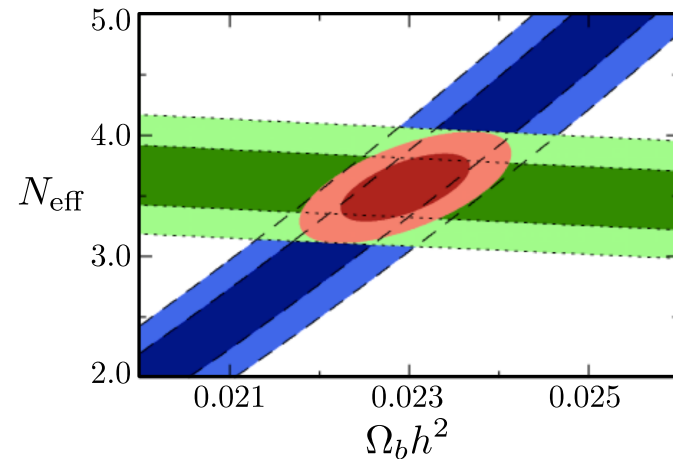
Observable: “effective number of neutrinos”  $N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} = 3.046$



CMB: anisotropy measurements

$$N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{CMB}} = 2.99 \pm 0.17$$

Planck (2018)

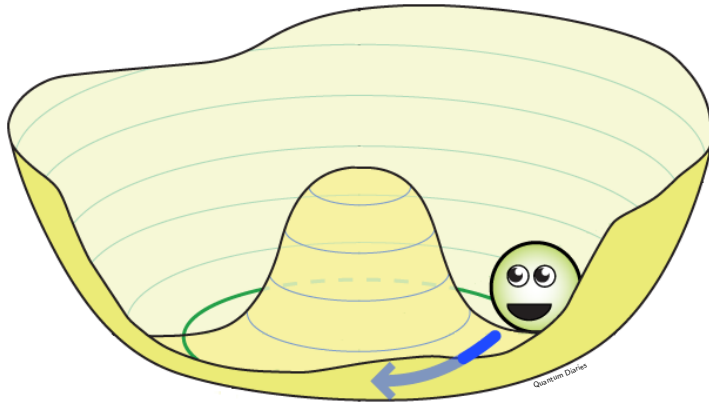


BBN: primordial abundances

$$N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{BBN}} = 3.28 \pm 0.28$$

Cooke et al. (2015)

# Extra Light Species



Light and weakly interacting particles arise in many BSM models, e.g. from spontaneously broken global symmetries.

Classification of interactions with the Standard Model in effective field theory:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum \frac{\mathcal{O}_X \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}}{\Lambda^\Delta}$$

allowed interactions constrained by symmetry  $\swarrow$

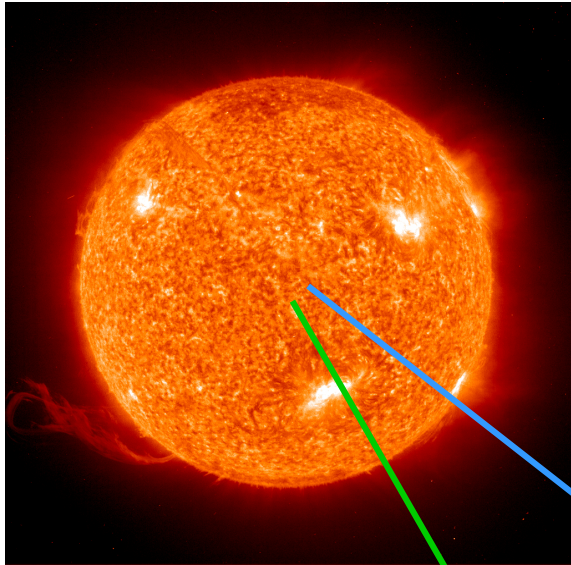
$\nwarrow$  symmetry breaking scale

Useful to classify according to spin

→ dark scalars (e.g. axions), dark fermions, dark forces, gravitinos



# Axions in Stars



$$-\frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$



$$\Gamma \sim \frac{T^3}{\Lambda_\gamma^2}$$



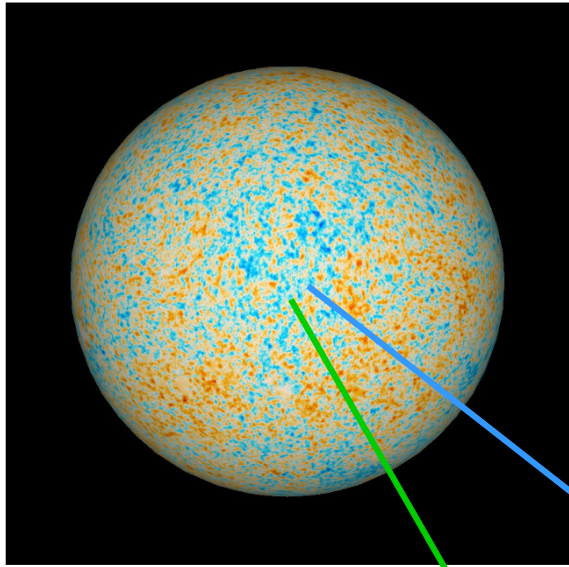
$$\Lambda_\gamma \gtrsim 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$$

axion-photon  
coupling

axion  
production rate

constraint from  
stellar cooling

# Light Thermal Relics



SM

$X$

$$\frac{\mathcal{O}_X \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}}{\Lambda^\Delta}$$

coupling to  
the SM



$$\Gamma(\Lambda, T_{\text{dec}}) \approx H(T_{\text{dec}})$$

decoupling



$$\rho_X(\Lambda)$$

relic density



$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}(T_{\text{dec}}) = \frac{\rho_X}{\rho_{\nu_i}}$$

# Light Thermal Relics

Relic density  $\rho_X(\Lambda)$  measured in terms of  $N_{\text{eff}} = N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} + \Delta N_{\text{eff}}$ :

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}(T_{\text{dec}}) = \frac{\rho_X}{\rho_{\nu_i}} = 0.027 g_{*,X} \left( \frac{g_{*,\text{SM}}}{g_*(T_{\text{dec}})} \right)^{4/3} \gamma^{-4/3}$$



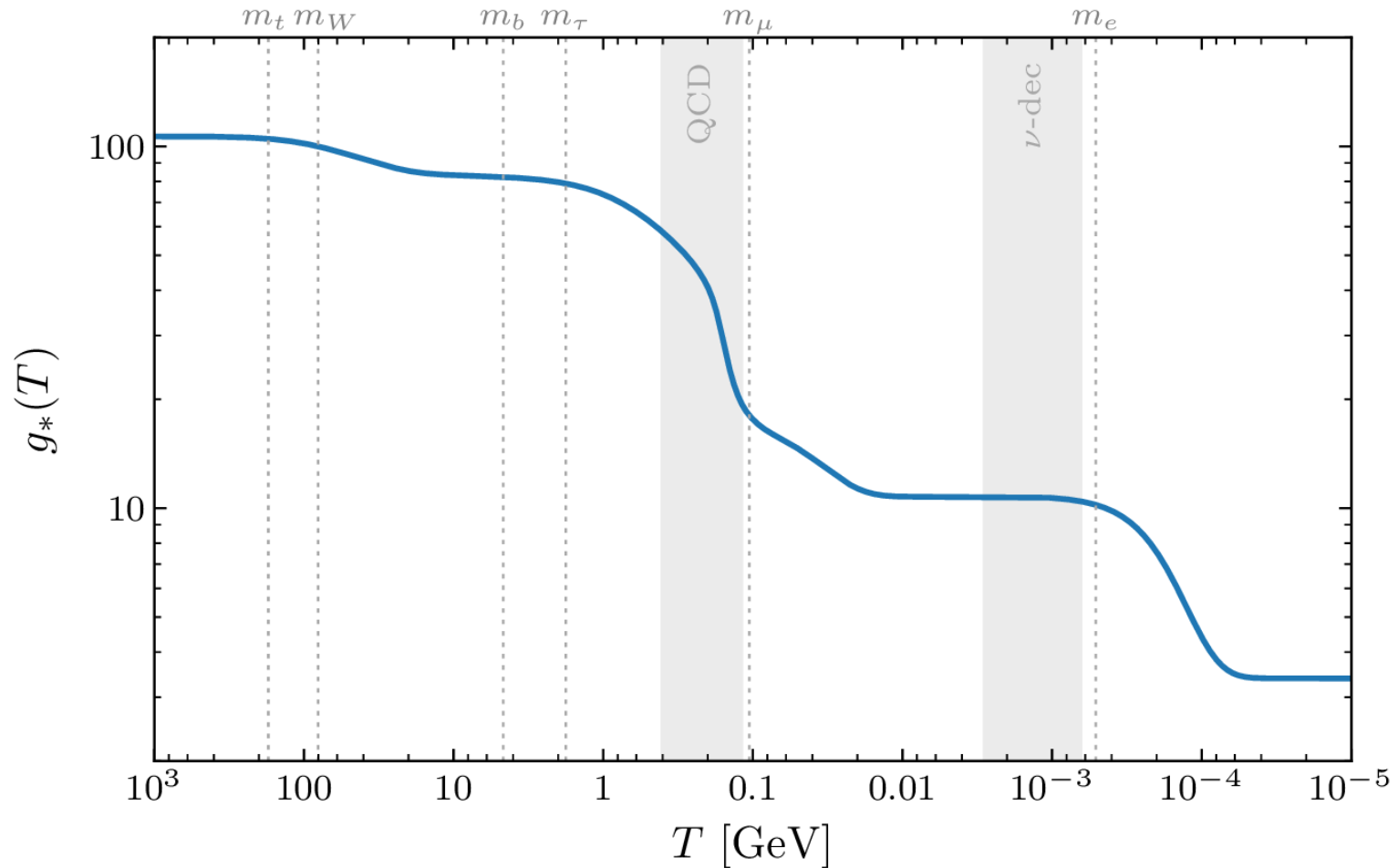
effective number of relativistic  
degrees of freedom



entropy production

$$g_{*,X} = 1, \frac{4}{7}, 2, \dots \text{ for spin-0, } \frac{1}{2}, 1, \dots \quad g_{*,\text{SM}} = 106.75$$

# Effective Number of Relativistic DoFs



$$\max_{\text{SM}}(g_*) = g_{*,\text{SM}} = 106.75$$

# Light Thermal Relics

Relic density  $\rho_X(\Lambda)$  measured in terms of  $N_{\text{eff}} = N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} + \Delta N_{\text{eff}}$ :

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}(T_{\text{dec}}) = \frac{\rho_X}{\rho_{\nu_i}} = 0.027 g_{*,X} \left( \frac{g_{*,\text{SM}}}{g_*(T_{\text{dec}})} \right)^{4/3} \gamma^{-4/3}$$

$\uparrow$  effective number of relativistic degrees of freedom       $\uparrow$  entropy production

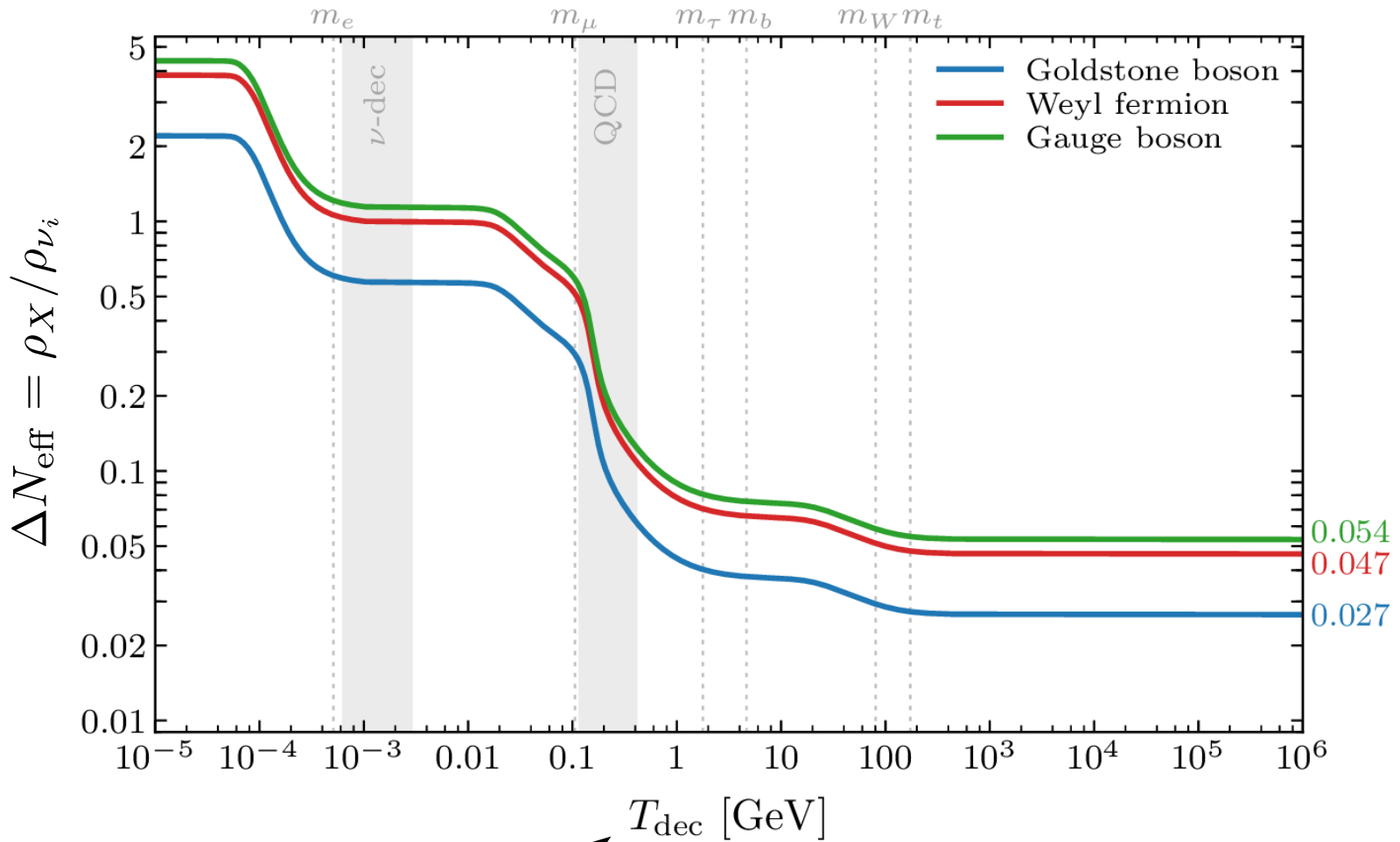
$$g_{*,X} = 1, \frac{4}{7}, 2, \dots \text{ for spin-0, } \frac{1}{2}, 1, \dots \quad g_{*,\text{SM}} = 106.75$$

Assume:

- Negligible entropy production ( $\gamma \approx 1$ ).
- Minimal extension of the Standard Model ( $g_*(T \gg m_t) \approx g_{*,\text{SM}}$ ).

$$\longrightarrow \Delta N_{\text{eff}} \geq 0.027 g_{*,X}$$

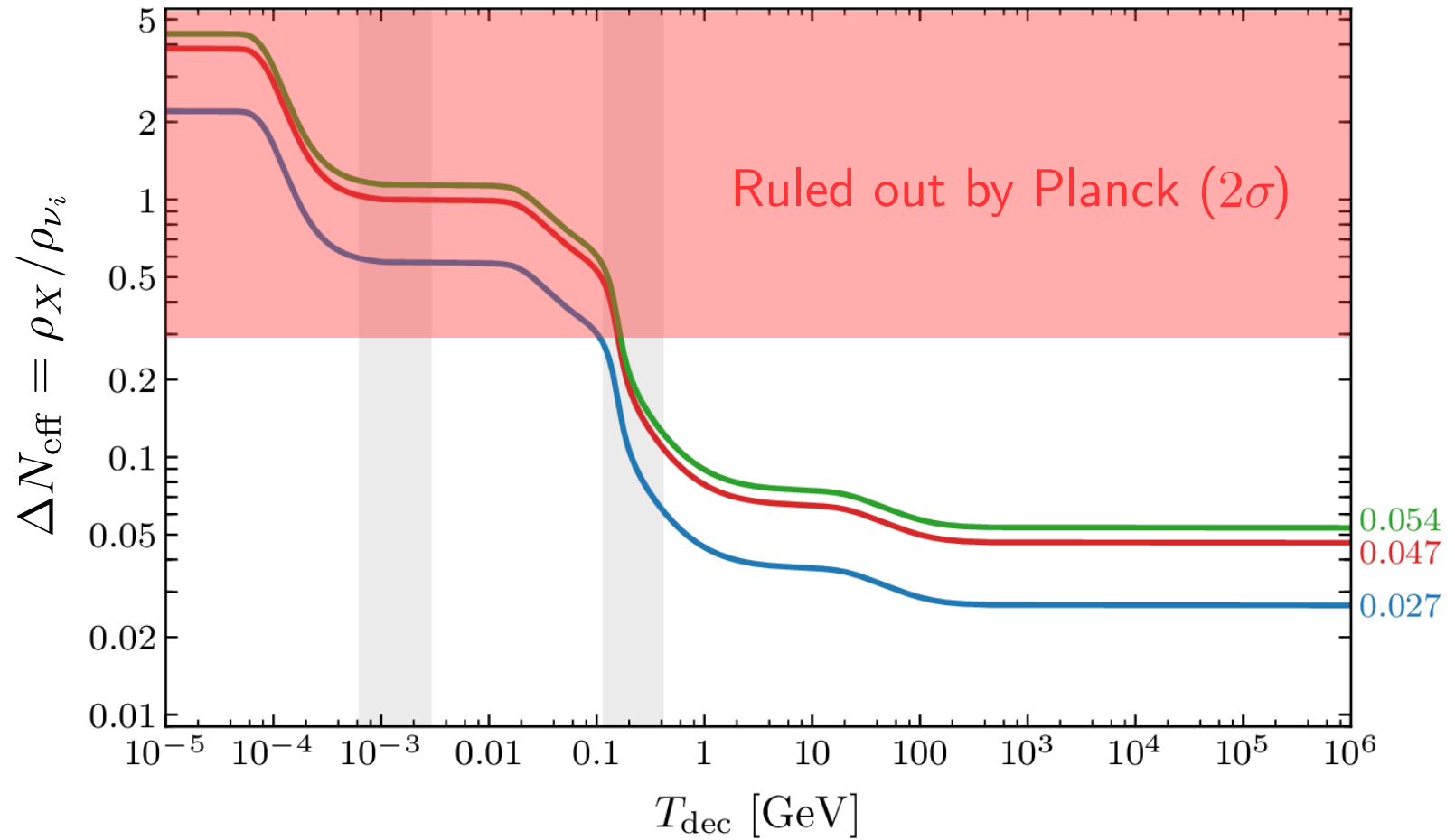
# Light Thermal Relics



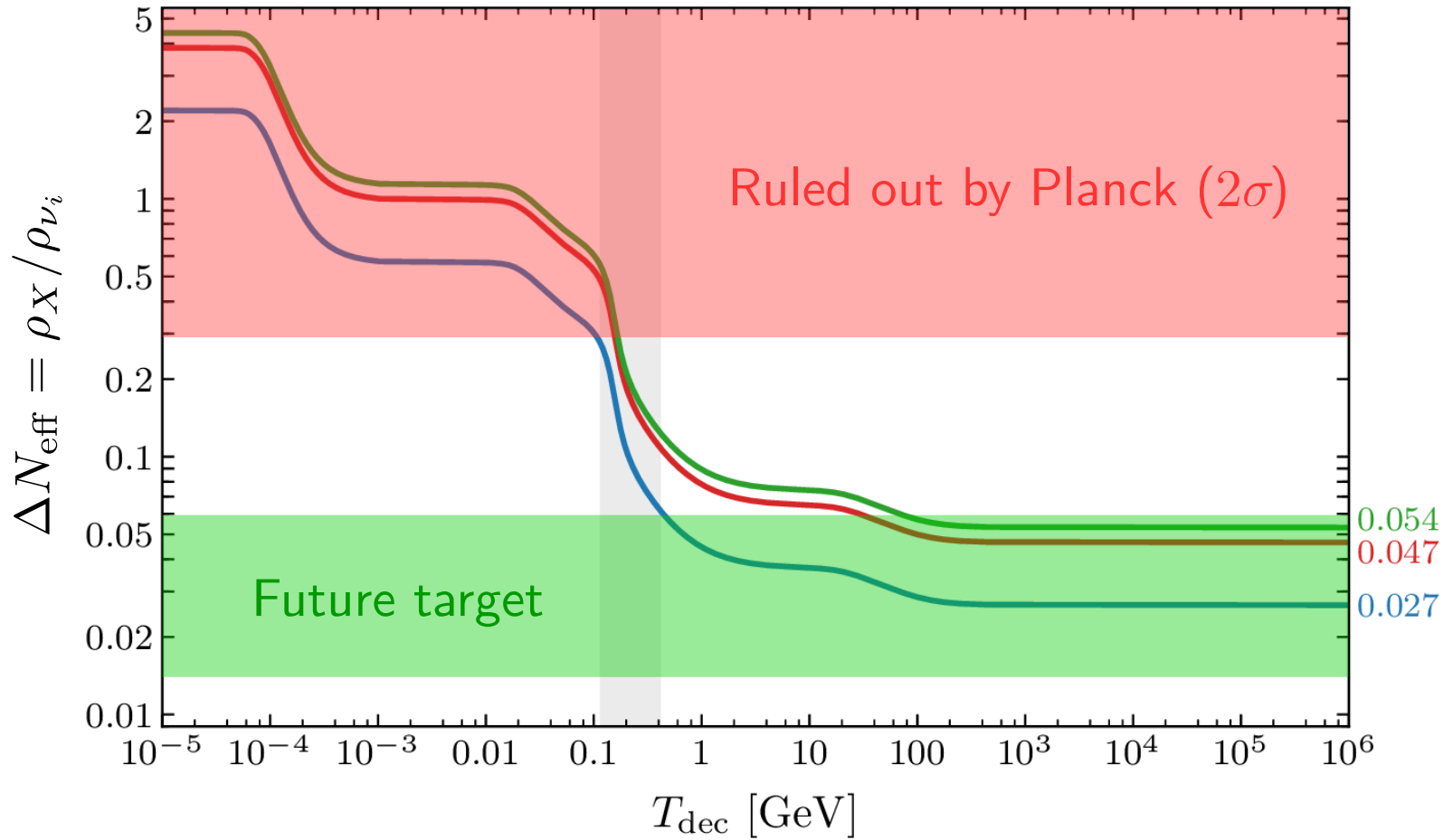
Depends on coupling  $\Lambda$   $\nearrow$   $T_{\text{dec}} [\text{GeV}]$

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}(T_{\text{dec}}) = 0.027 g_{*,X} \left( \frac{g_{*,\text{SM}}}{g_*(T_{\text{dec}})} \right)^{4/3}$$

# Light Thermal Relics



# Light Thermal Relics

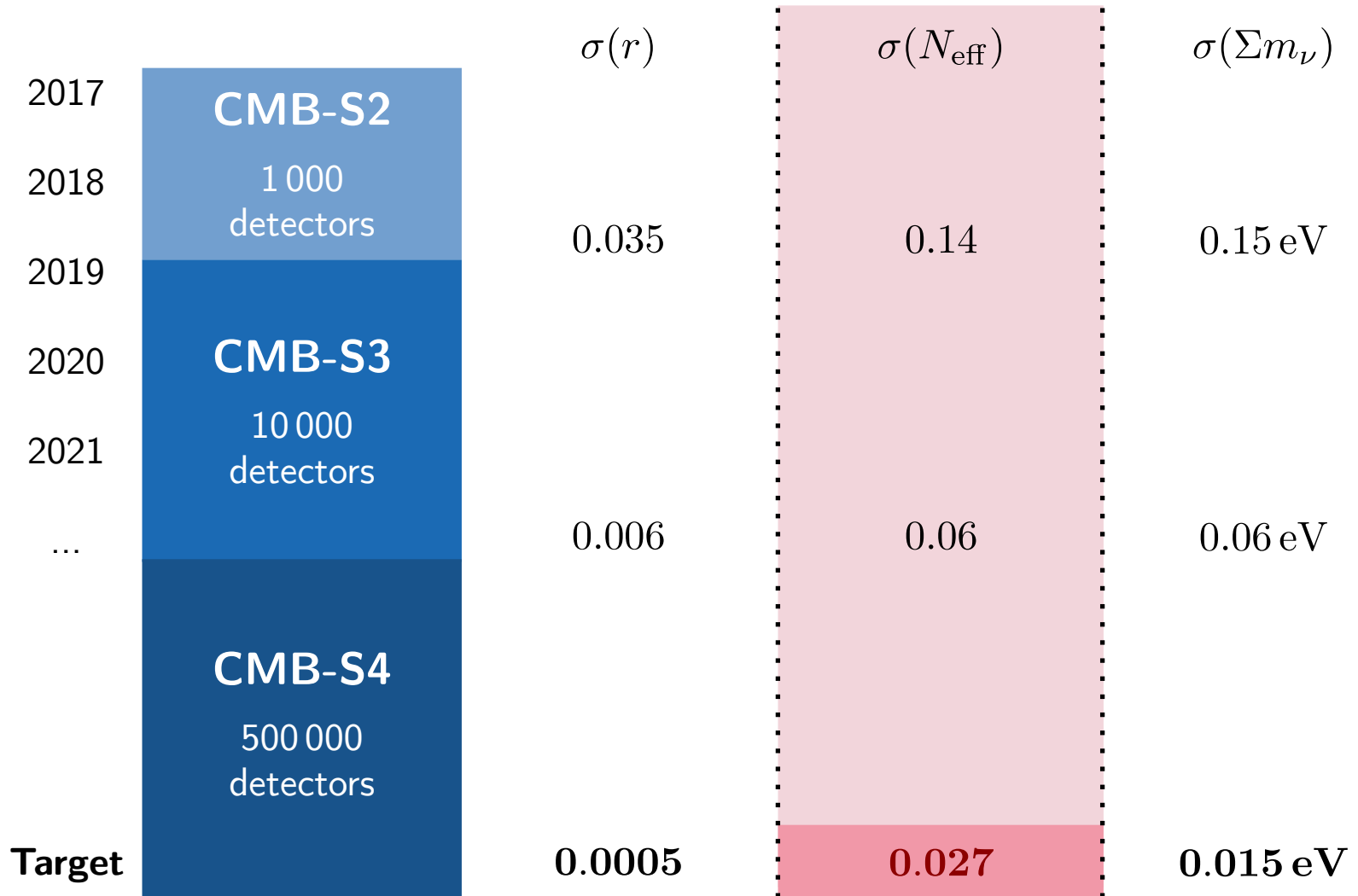


Theoretical Threshold:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$  → Detection  
→ Constraints



# CMB Stage-4

One of the main science targets of the next-generation CMB experiments:



# Example: Constraints on Axions

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_g} \text{tr}\{G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}\}$$

Assume:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$  excluded:

→ Axion was never in thermal equilibrium.

→ Production rate must be smaller than Hubble rate at reheating:

$$\Gamma(\Lambda_i, T_R) \lesssim H(T_R).$$

→ Production rate depends on couplings to the Standard Model.

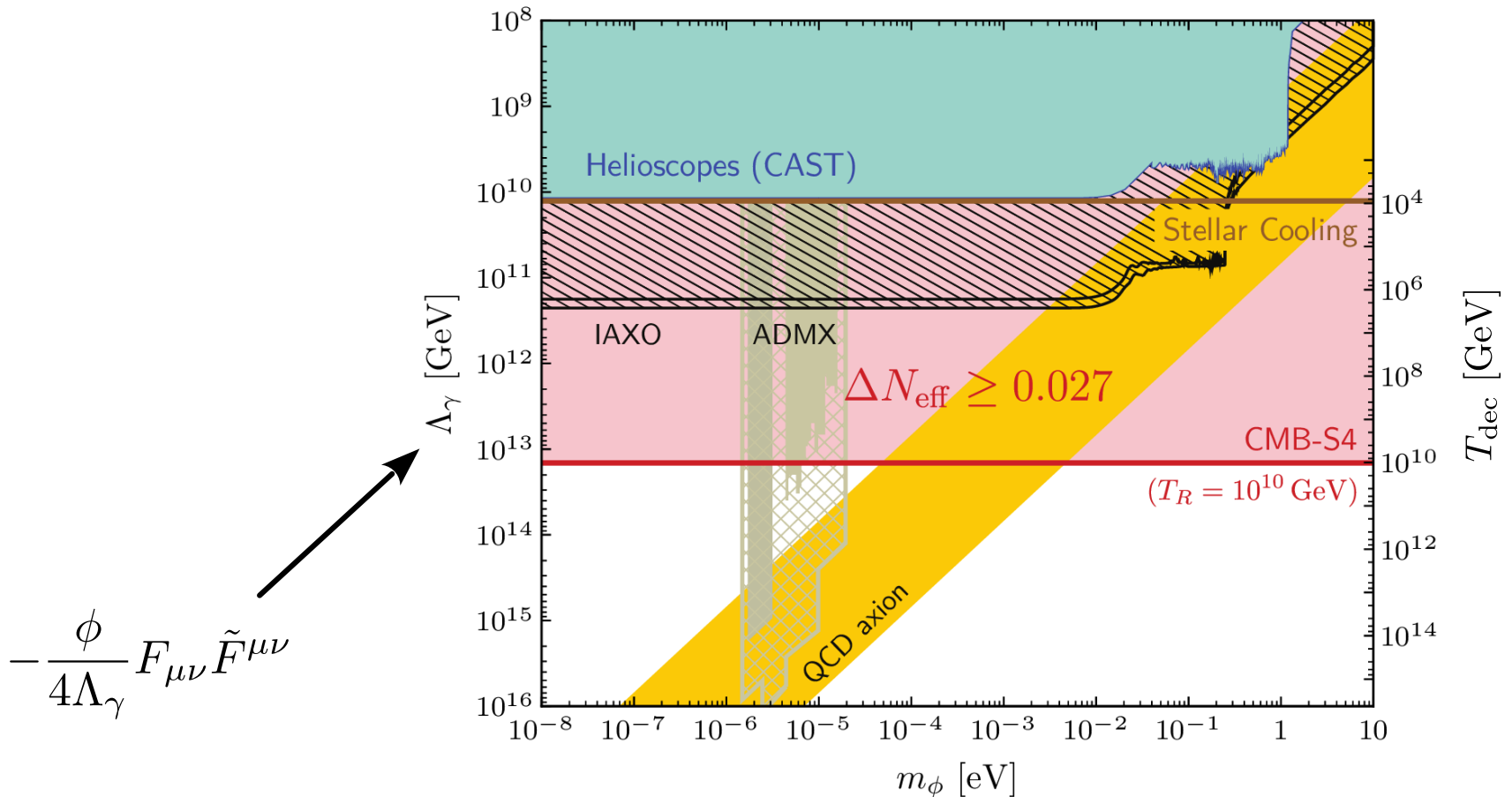
→ Strong constraints:

$$\Lambda_\gamma > 1.4 \times 10^{13} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{T_R}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1/2},$$

$$\Lambda_g > 5.4 \times 10^{13} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{T_R}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1/2}.$$

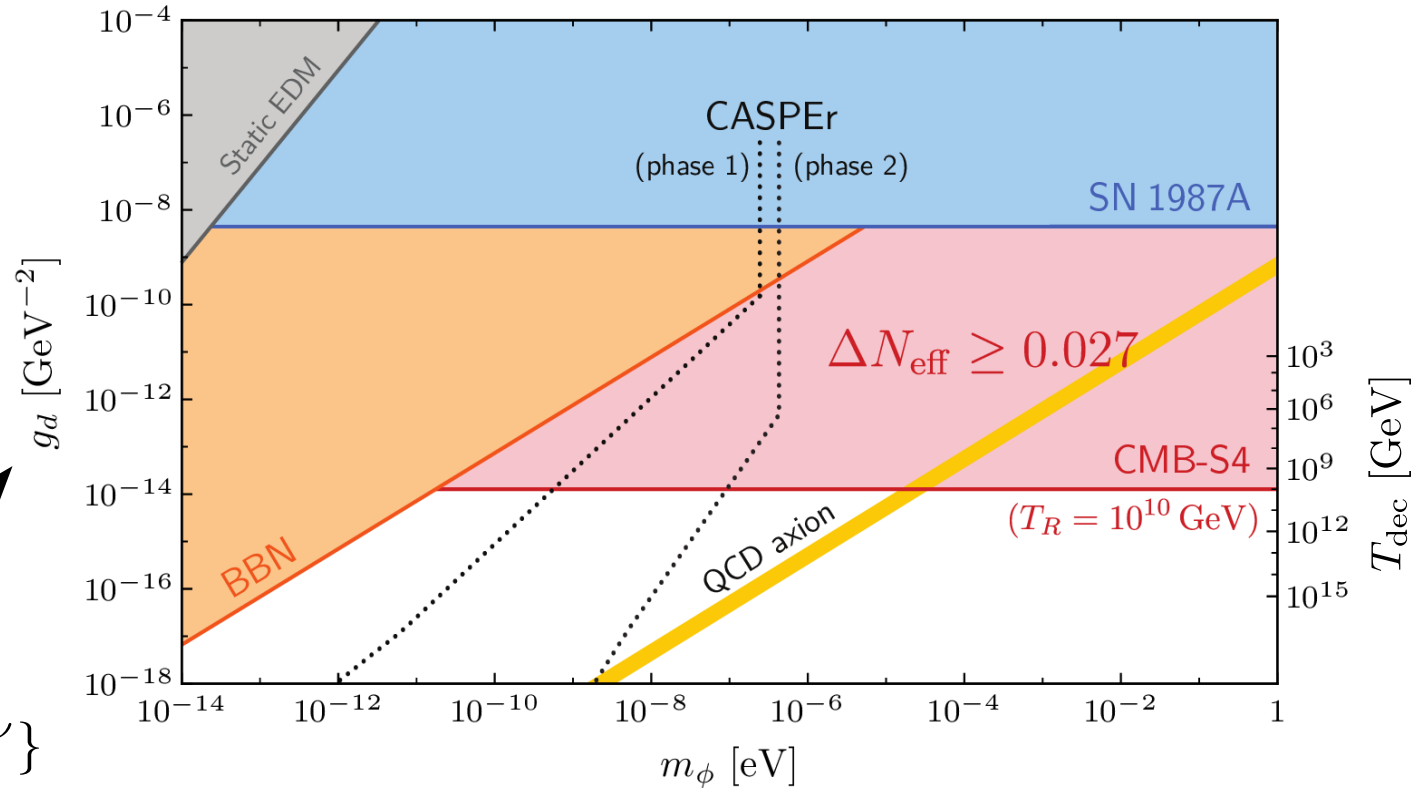
# Axion Coupling to Photons

Exclusion of  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$  implies strong constraints on couplings to the Standard Model:



# Axion Coupling to Gluons

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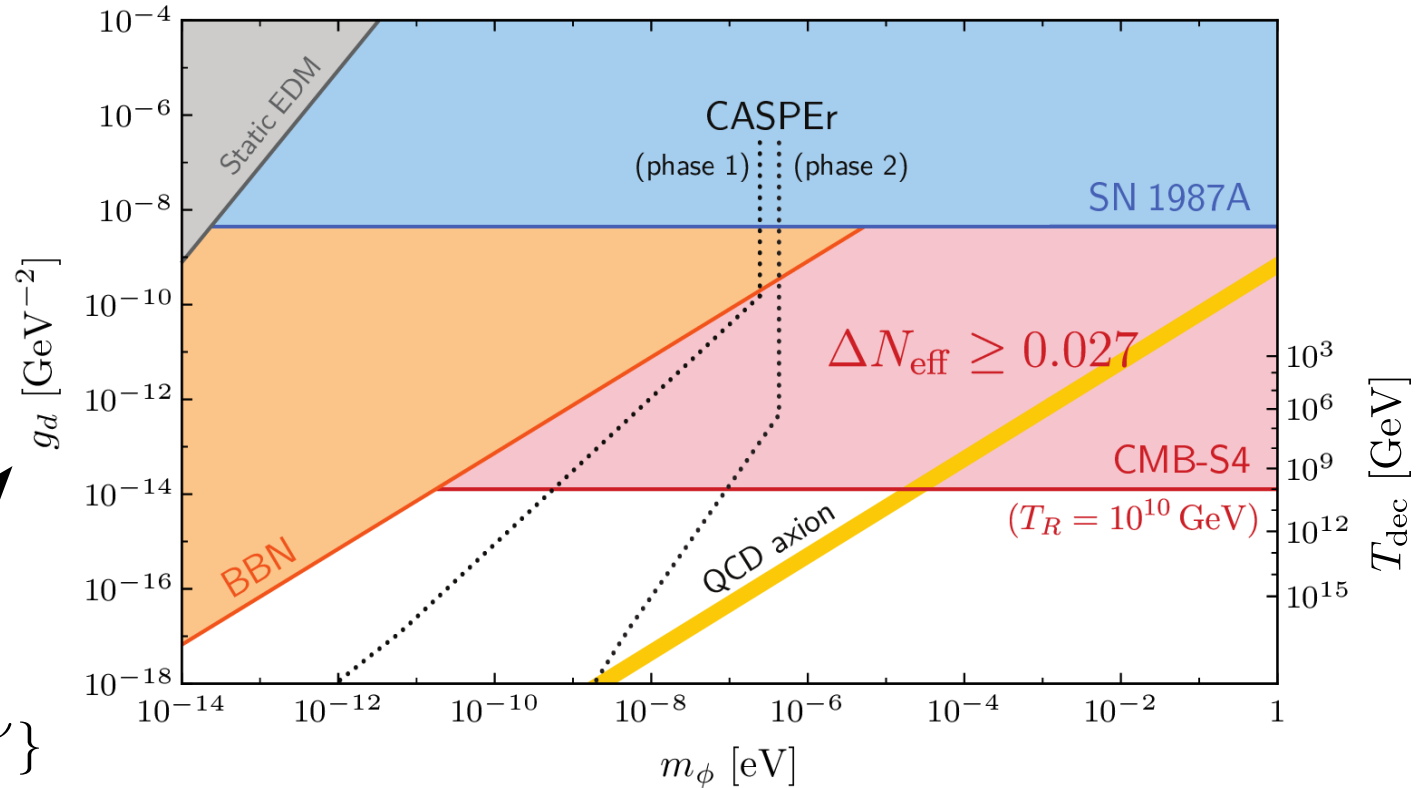


$$-\frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_g} \text{tr}\{G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}\}$$

$$g_d \approx \frac{2\pi}{\alpha_s} \times \frac{3.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}^{-1}}{\Lambda_g}$$

# Axion Coupling to Gluons

Exclusion of  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$  implies strong constraints on couplings to the Standard Model:



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$$g_d \approx \frac{2\pi}{\alpha_s} \times \frac{3.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}^{-1}}{\Lambda_g}$$

→ How can we reach  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$ ?



# Neutrinos and Other Light Relics in the CMB

D. Baumann, D. Green, J. Meyers and BW  
arXiv:1508.06342 (JCAP 2016)

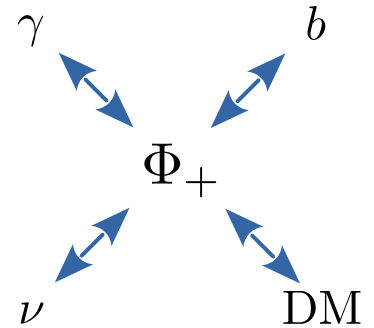
# Cosmic Sound Waves

In the early universe, photons and baryons were strongly coupled.

Perturbations excited sound waves in the photon-baryon fluid:

$$\ddot{\delta}_\gamma - c_\gamma^2 \nabla^2 \delta_\gamma = \nabla^2 \Phi_+$$

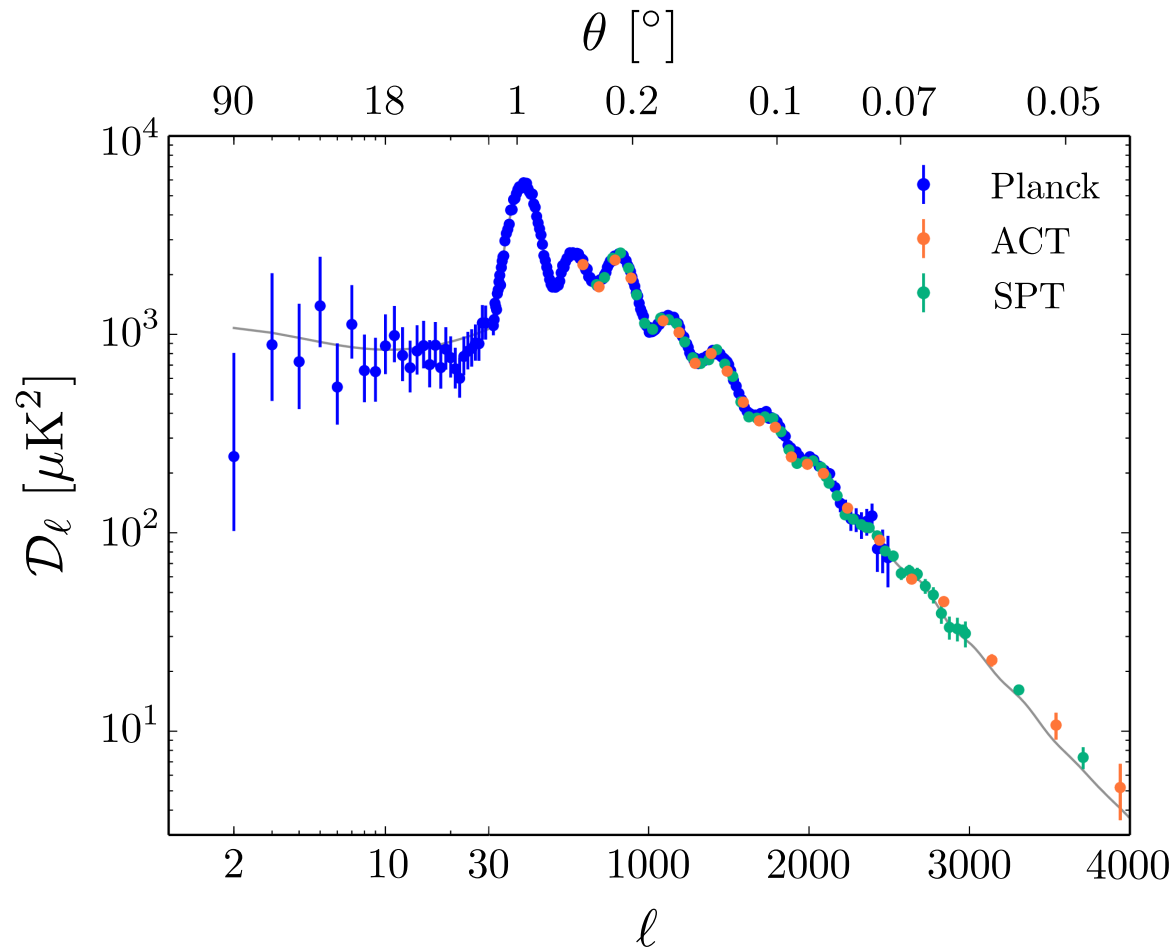
sound waves      pressure      gravity



These acoustic oscillations have been observed...

# Cosmic Sound Waves

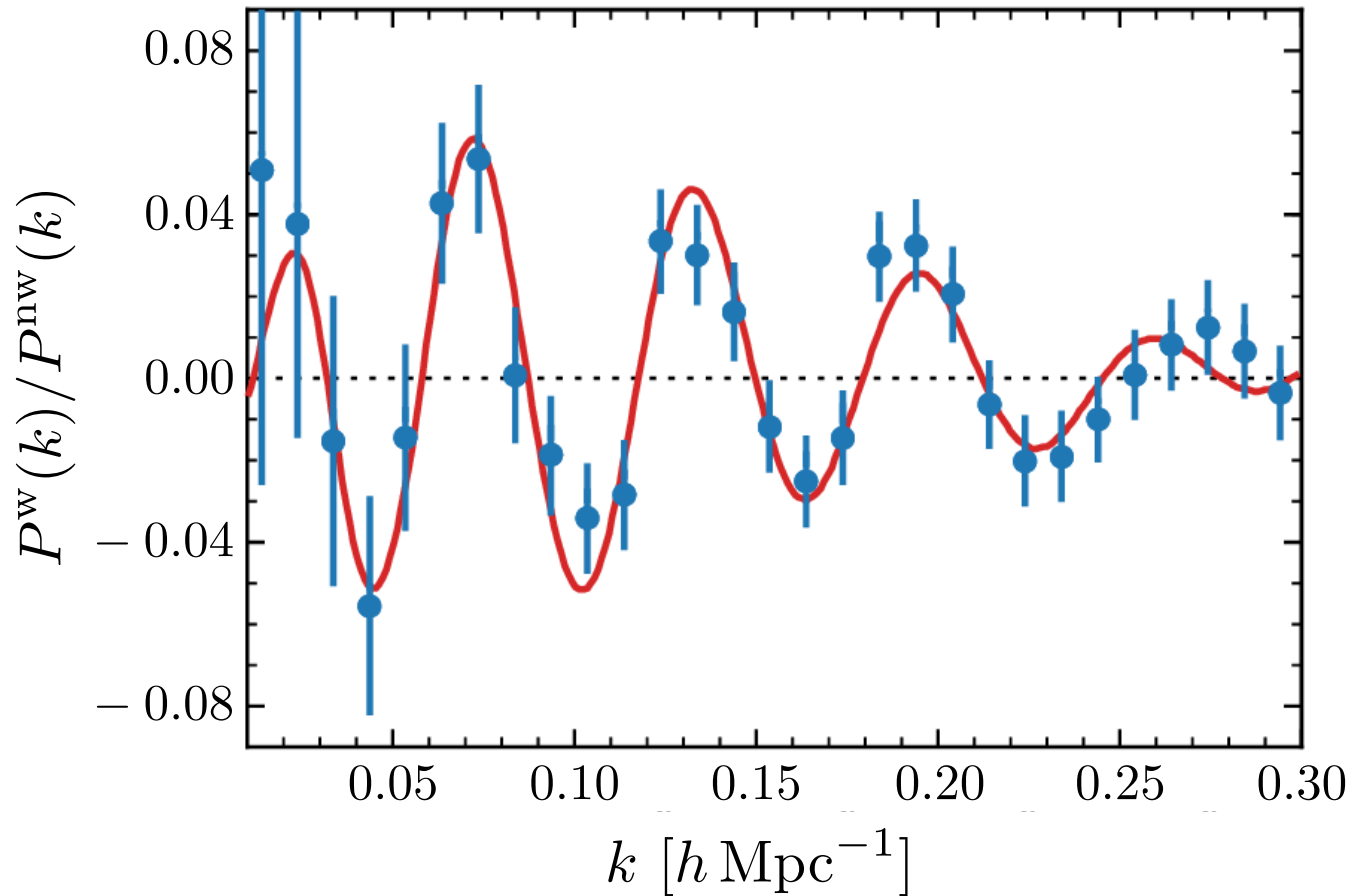
... in the correlations of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) anisotropies:





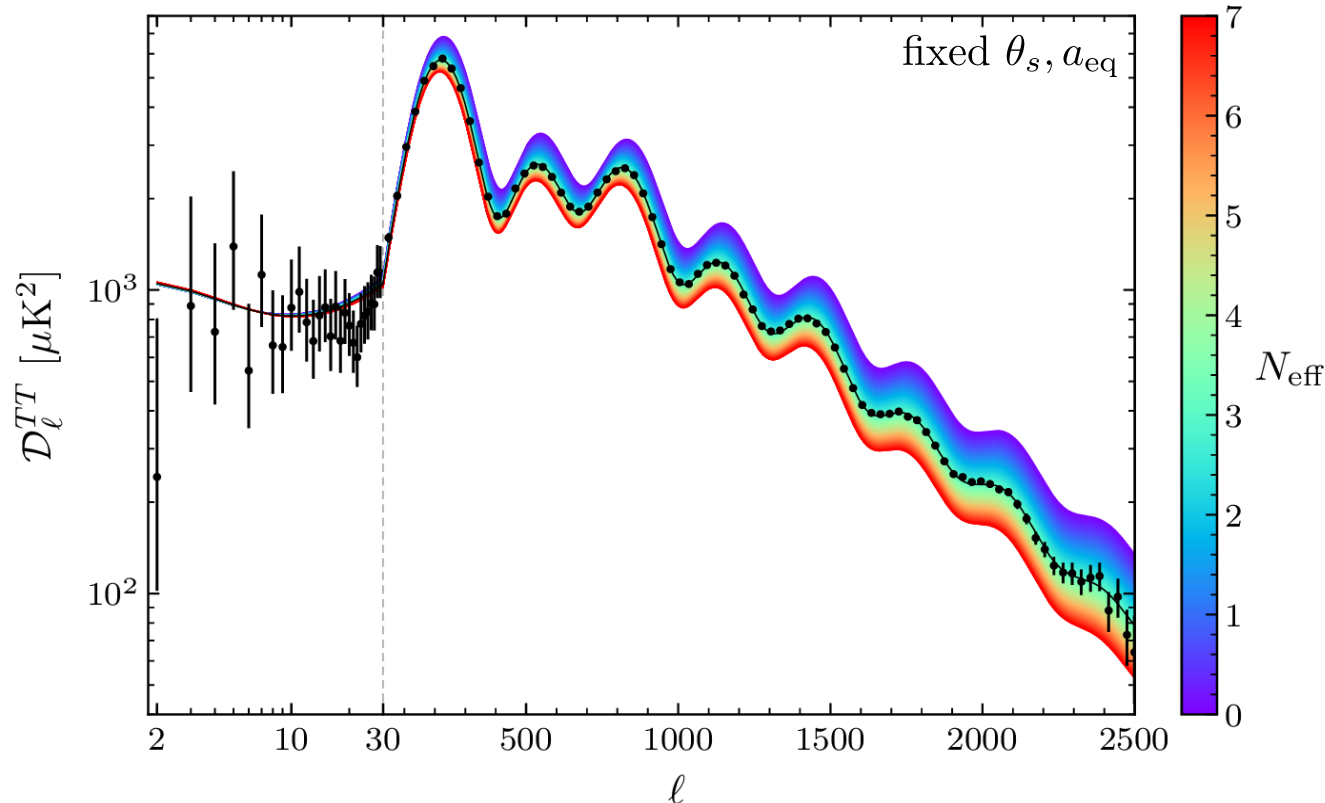
# Cosmic Sound Waves

... and in the distribution of galaxies in the universe via the spectrum of baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO):



# Cosmic Neutrinos

Main effect of neutrinos is on the CMB damping tail:

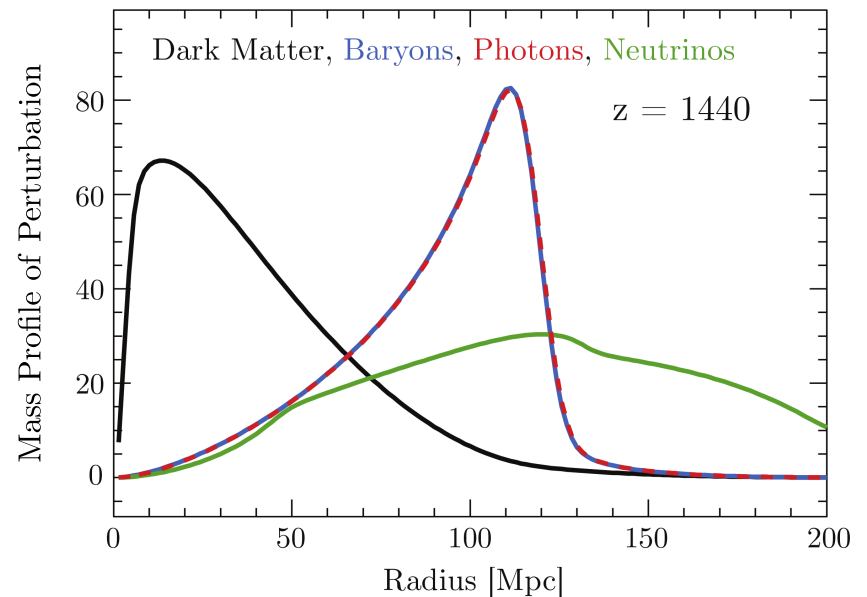
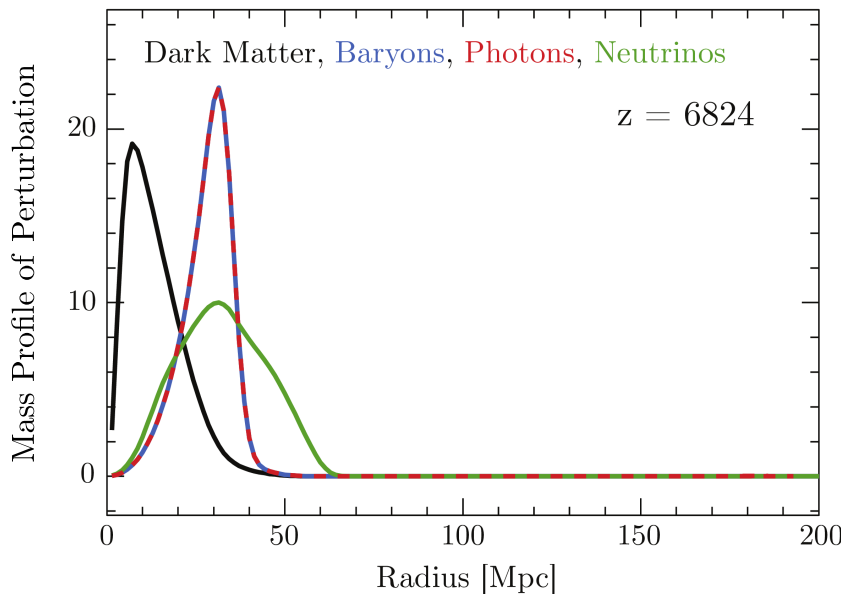


Degenerate with change in the primordial helium fraction.  
In the past, limiting factor for CMB constraints on neutrinos.

# Cosmic Neutrinos

Now: Planck is sensitive to neutrino perturbations.

Free-streaming neutrinos overtake the photons and pull them ahead of the sound horizon:

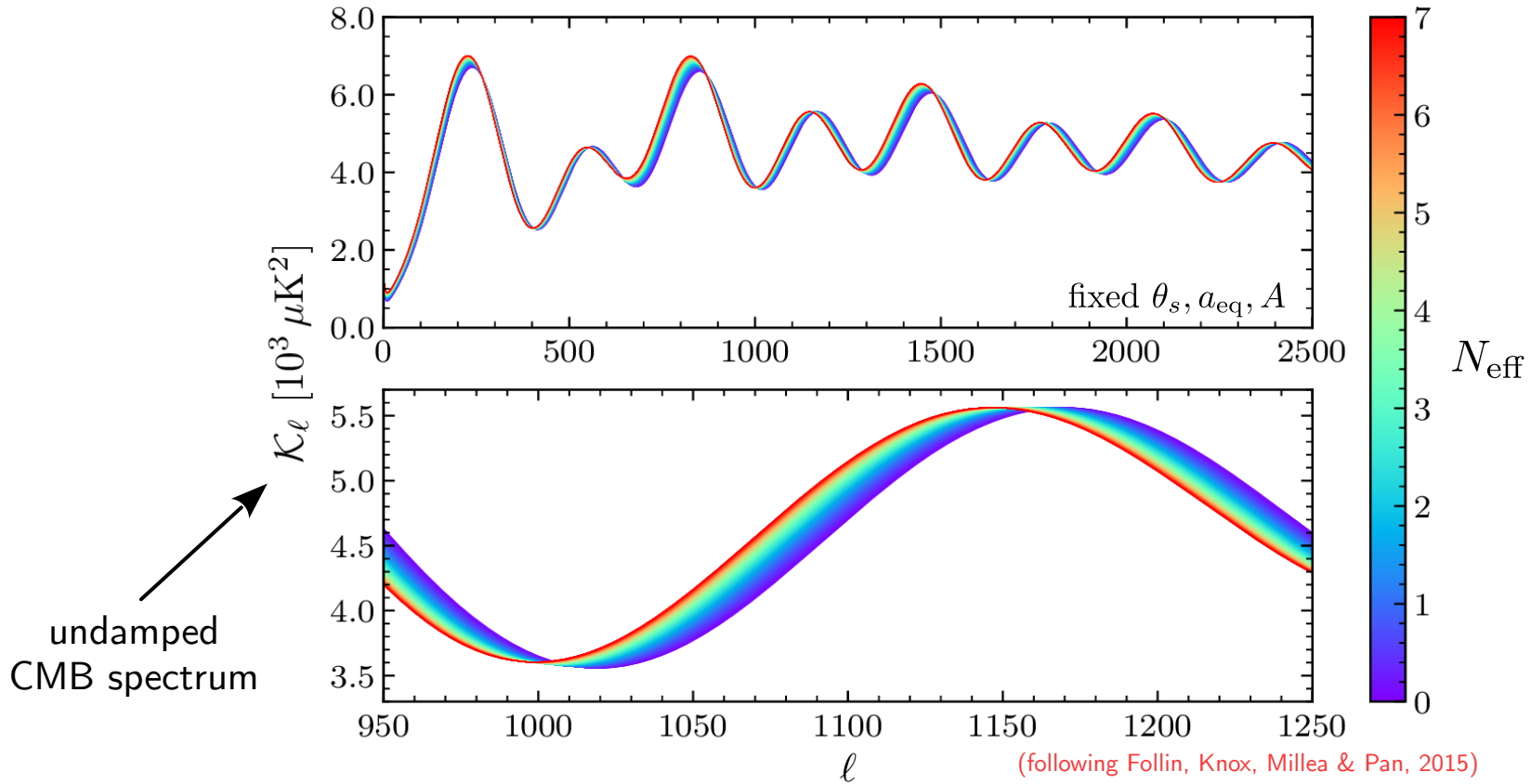


Eisenstein, Seo and White (2007)

# Phase Shift

This corresponds to a phase shift in the CMB power spectrum:

Bashinsky & Seljak (2003)



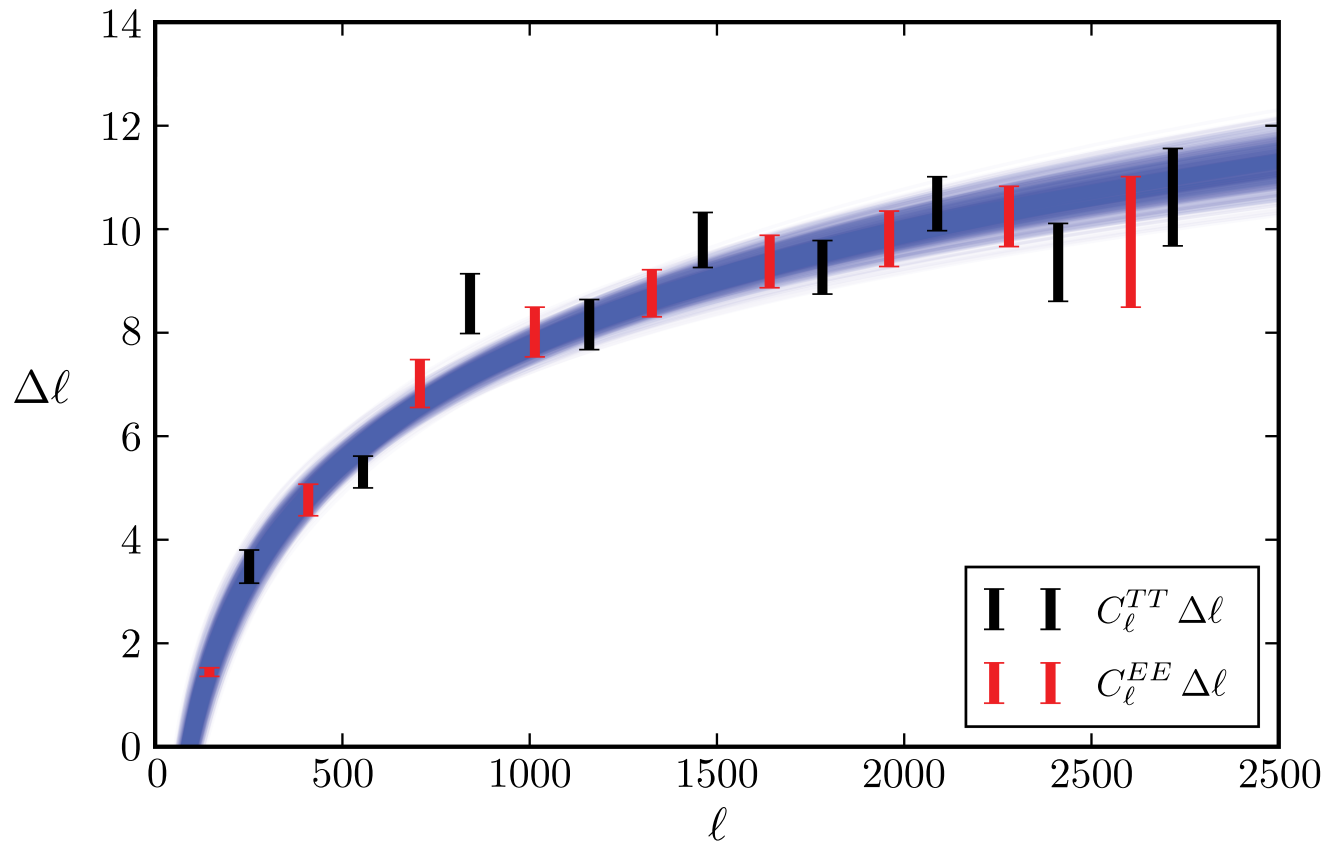
Free-streaming neutrinos are a causal way to produce such a shift.

Baumann, Green, Meyers & BW (2016)

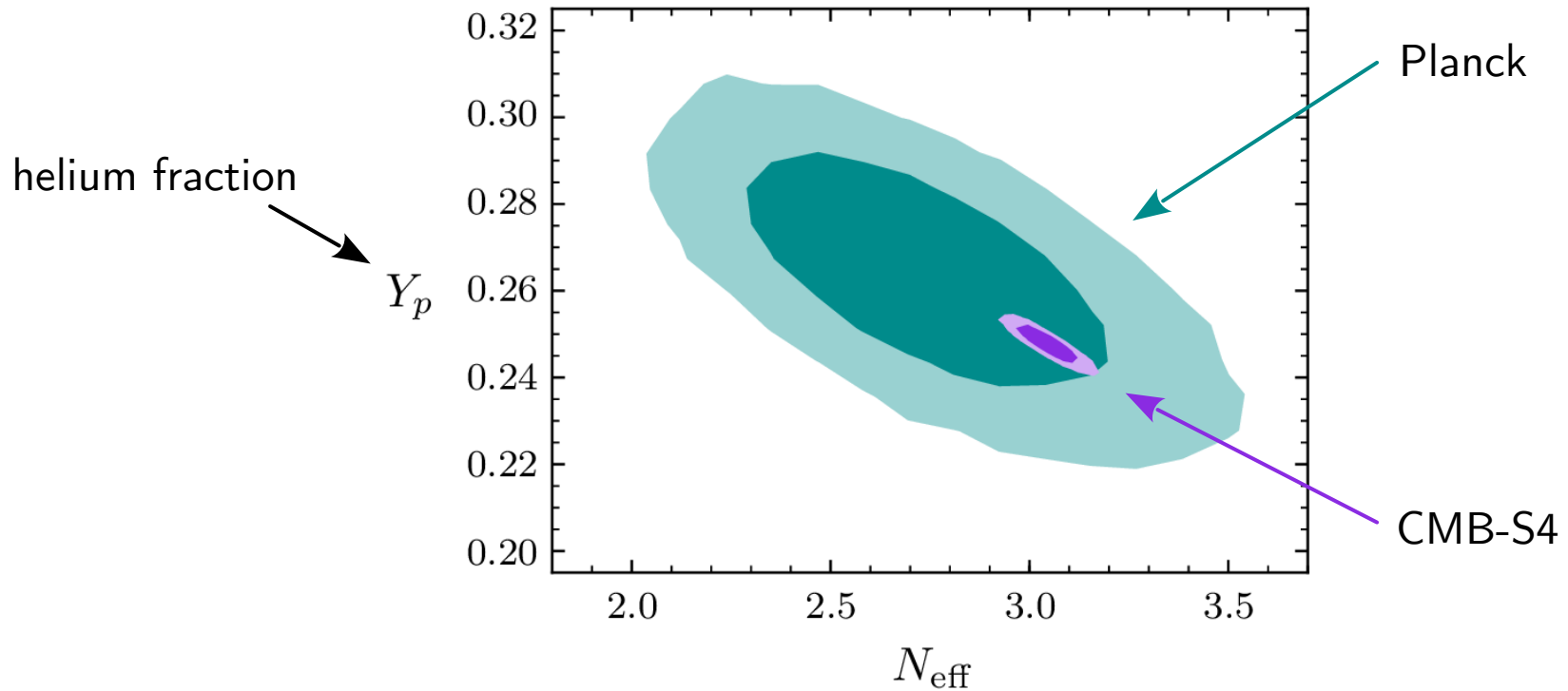
# Phase Shift

Small effect:  $\Delta\ell \approx 5.0 \times \Delta N_{\text{eff}}$ .

But neutrino imprint in phase shift has been detected in Planck data:



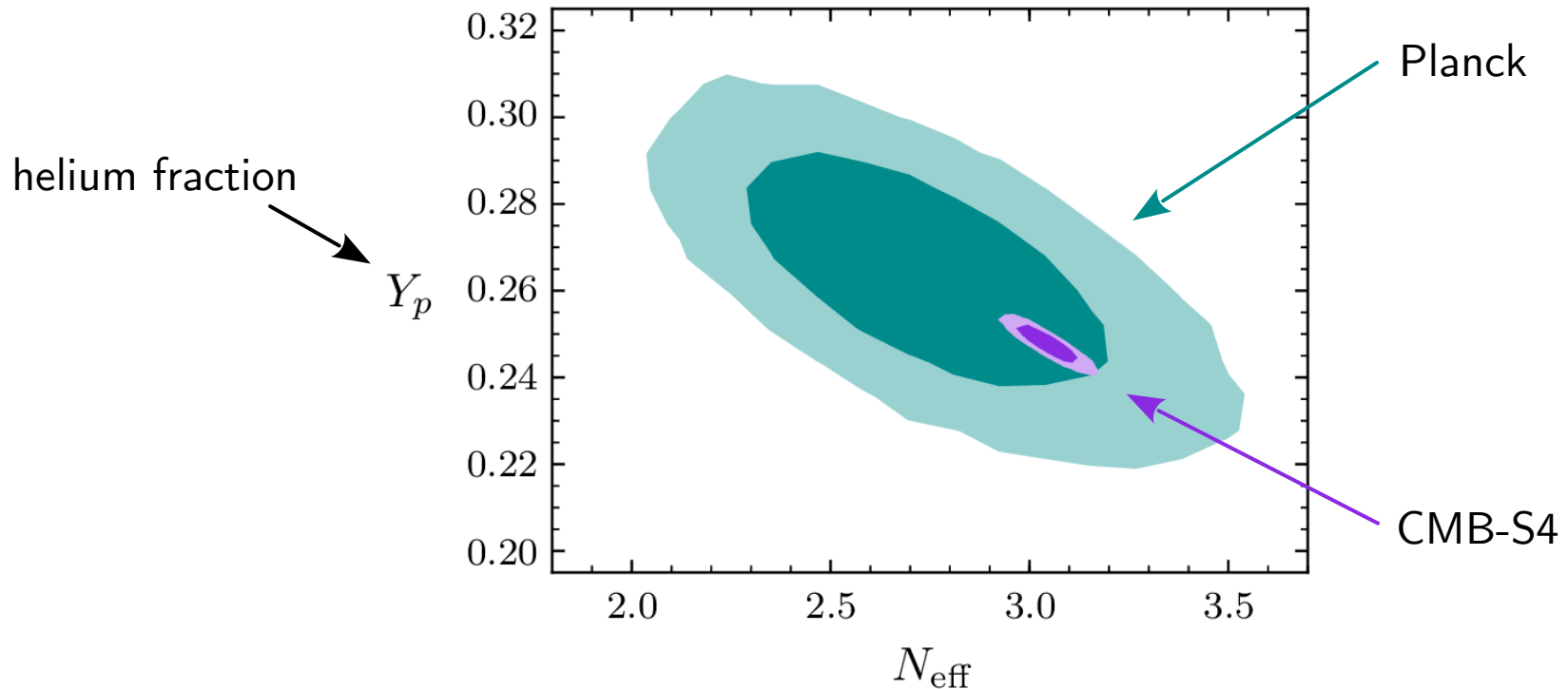
# Constraints on $N_{\text{eff}}$



→ Large improvement from Planck to CMB-S4:

$$\sigma(N_{\text{eff}}) \sim 0.030$$

# Constraints on $N_{\text{eff}}$



→ Large improvement from Planck to CMB-S4:

$$\sigma(N_{\text{eff}}) \sim 0.030 \longrightarrow \text{Can we do even better?}$$



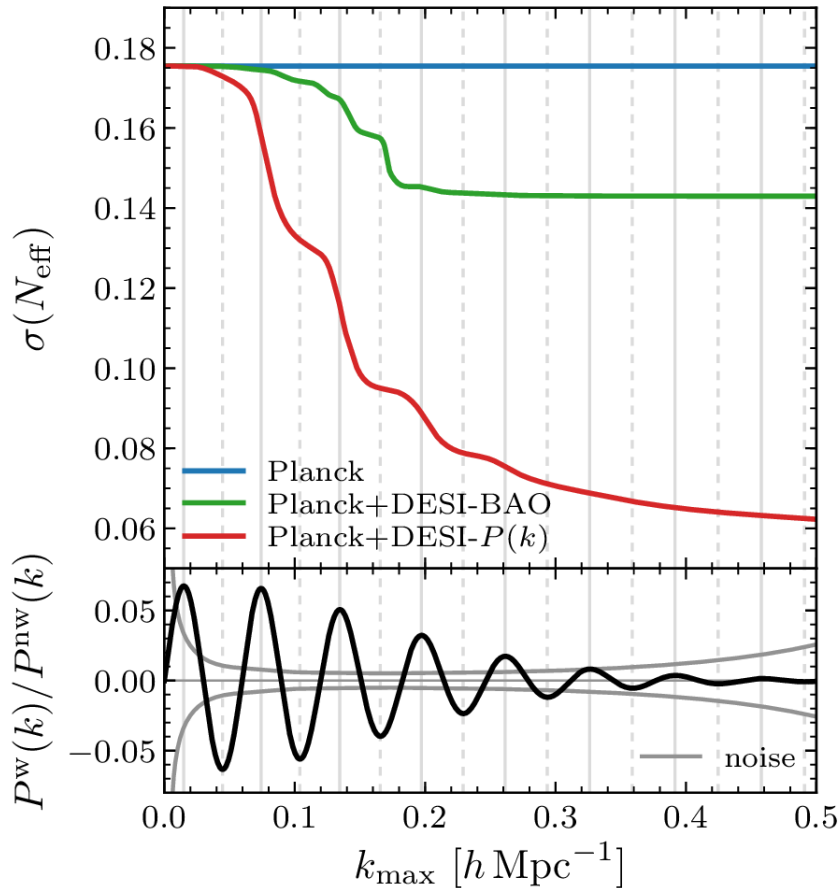
# Neutrinos and Other Light Relics in Large-Scale Structure

D. Baumann, D. Green and BW  
arXiv:1712.08067 (JCAP 2018)



# Future Constraints from CMB and LSS

Forecasts indicate that future LSS observations will be sensitive to extra relativistic species:

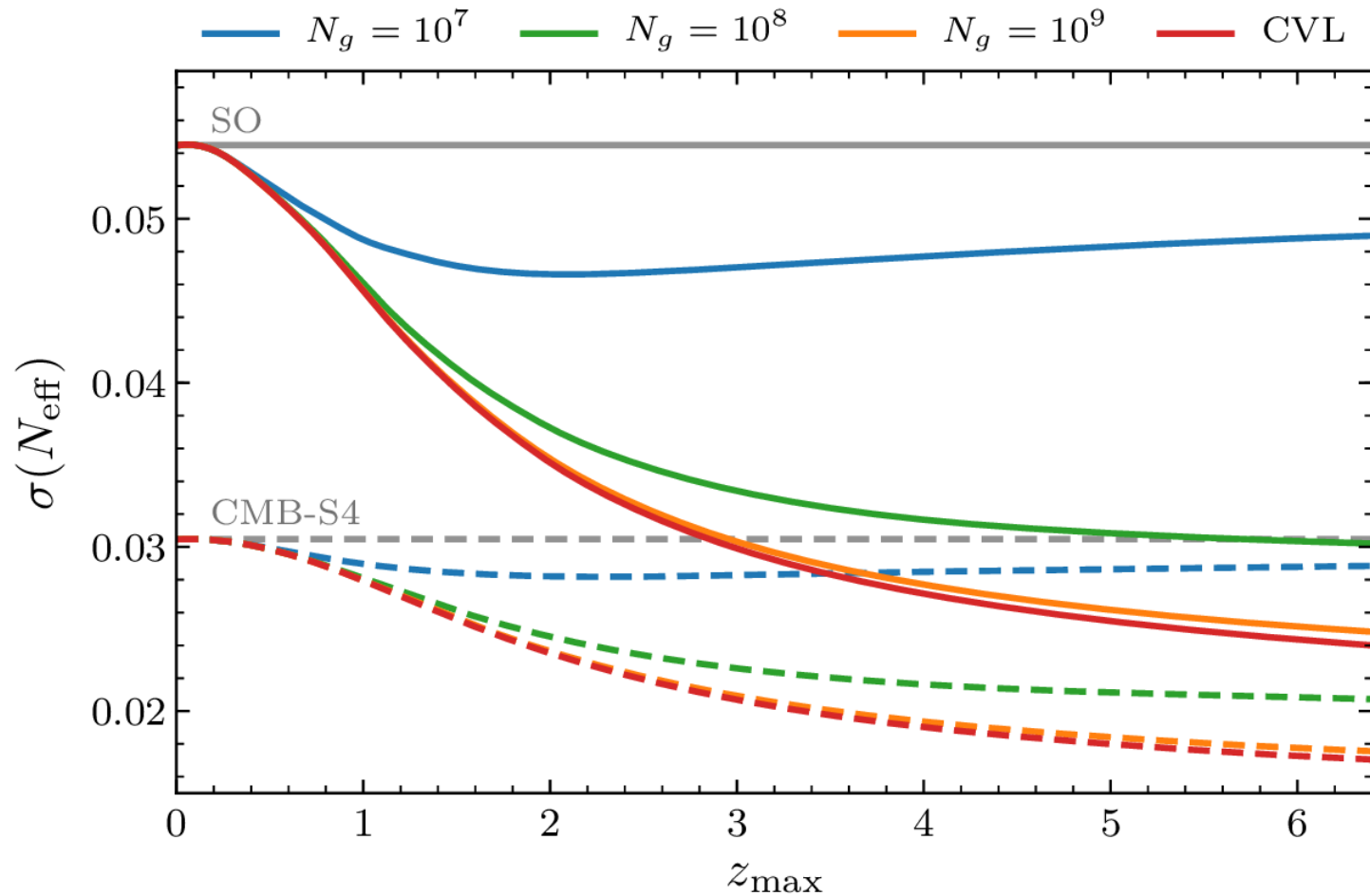


- Planned LSS surveys will provide significant improvements over Planck.
- Combining with planned CMB experiments, we get further increase of sensitivity.

(Uses conservative broadband marginalization.)

# Future Constraints from CMB and LSS

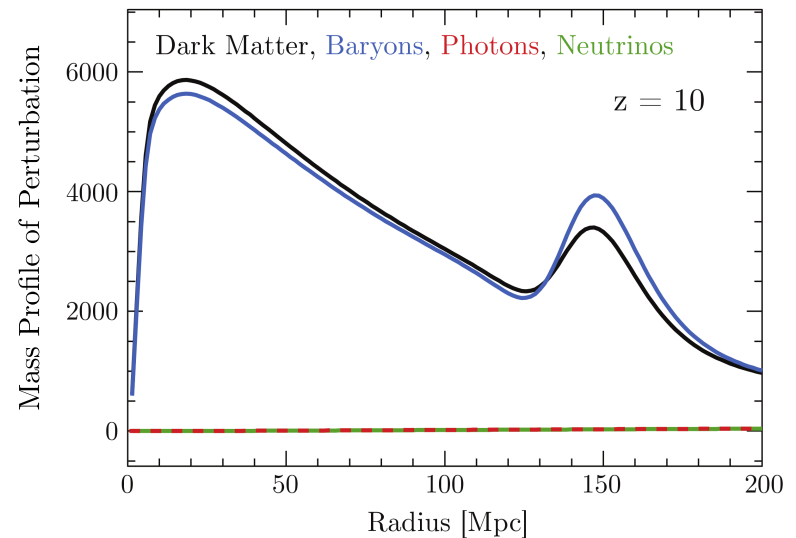
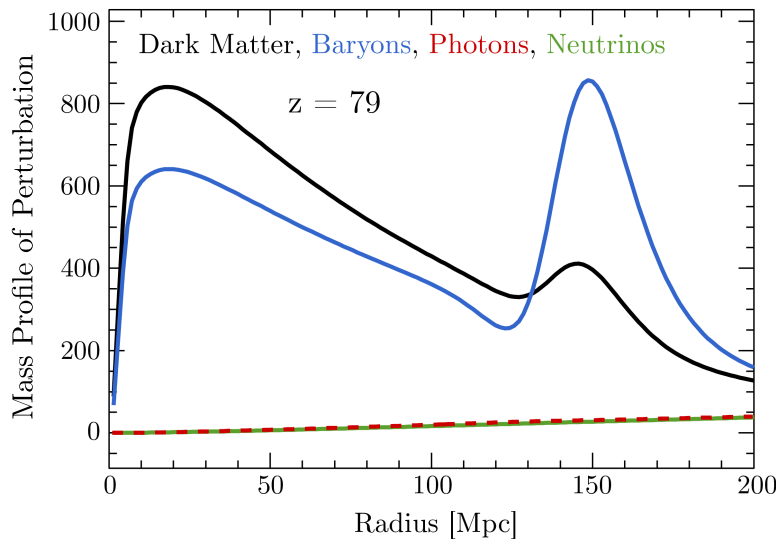
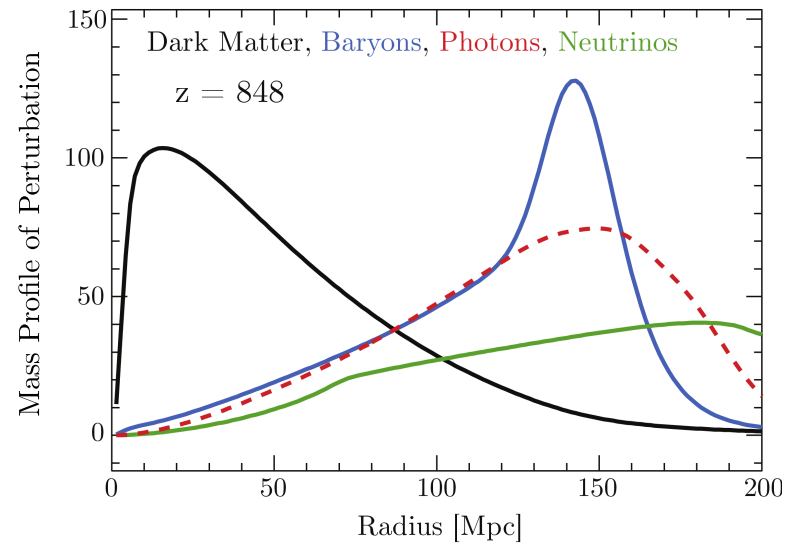
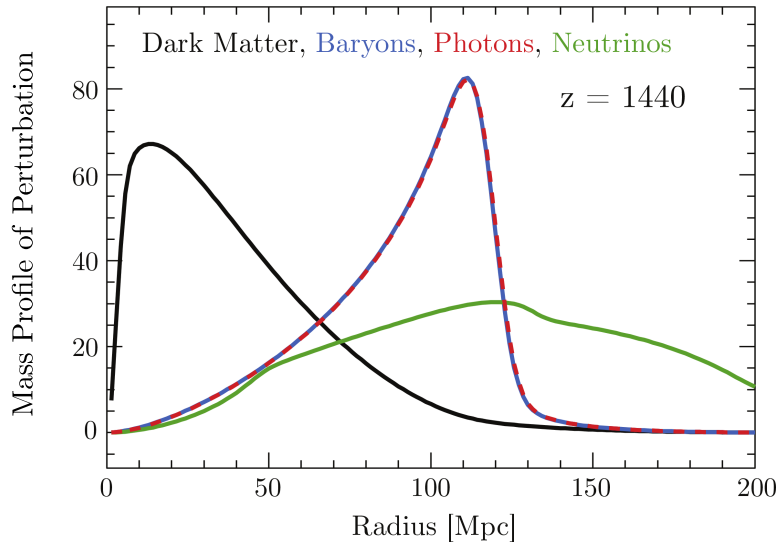
The target  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$  is within reach (at 95% c.l.) for future observations:



(Uses conservative broadband marginalization.)

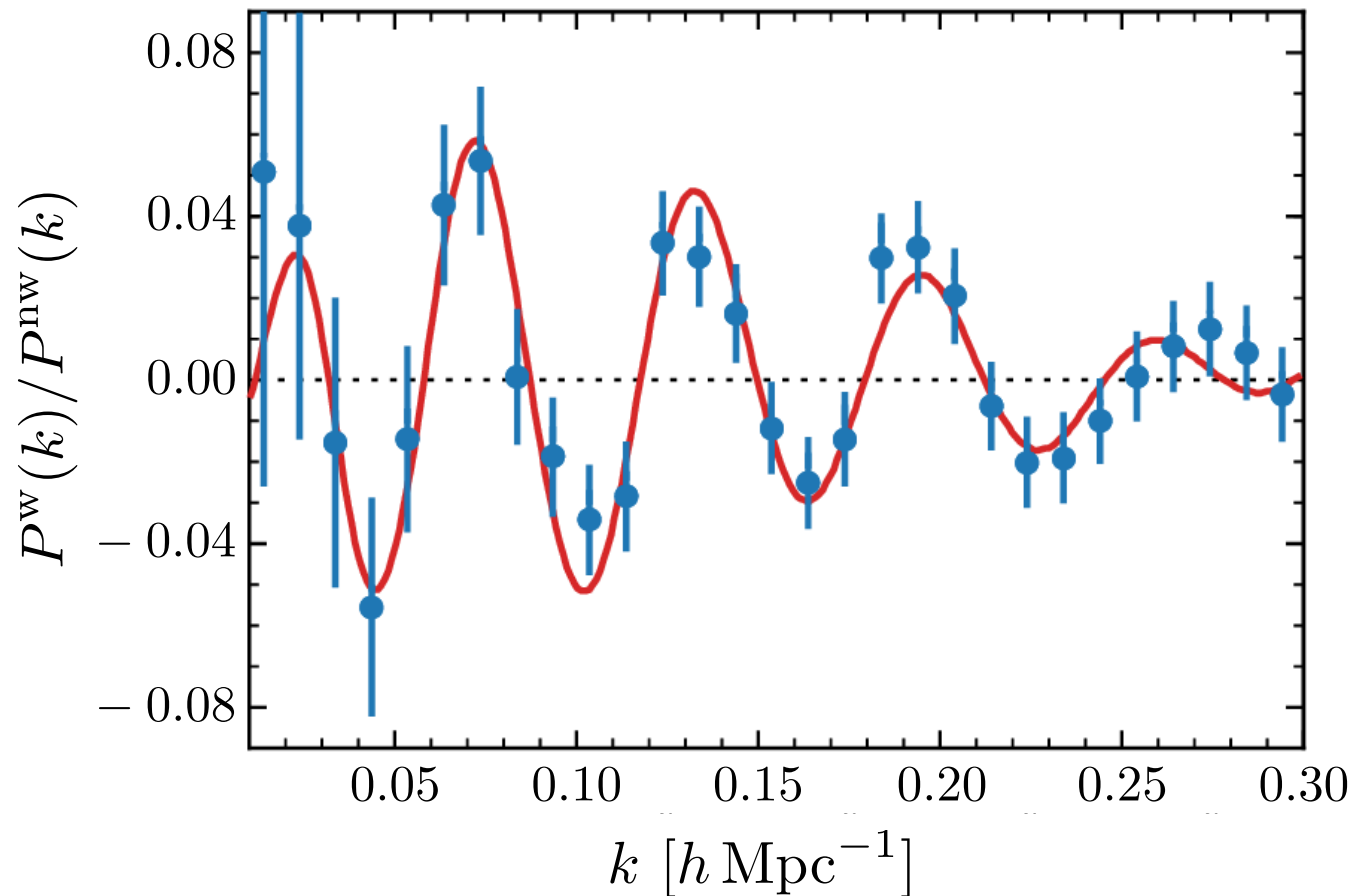
Baumann, Green & BW (2018)

# Baryon Acoustic Oscillations



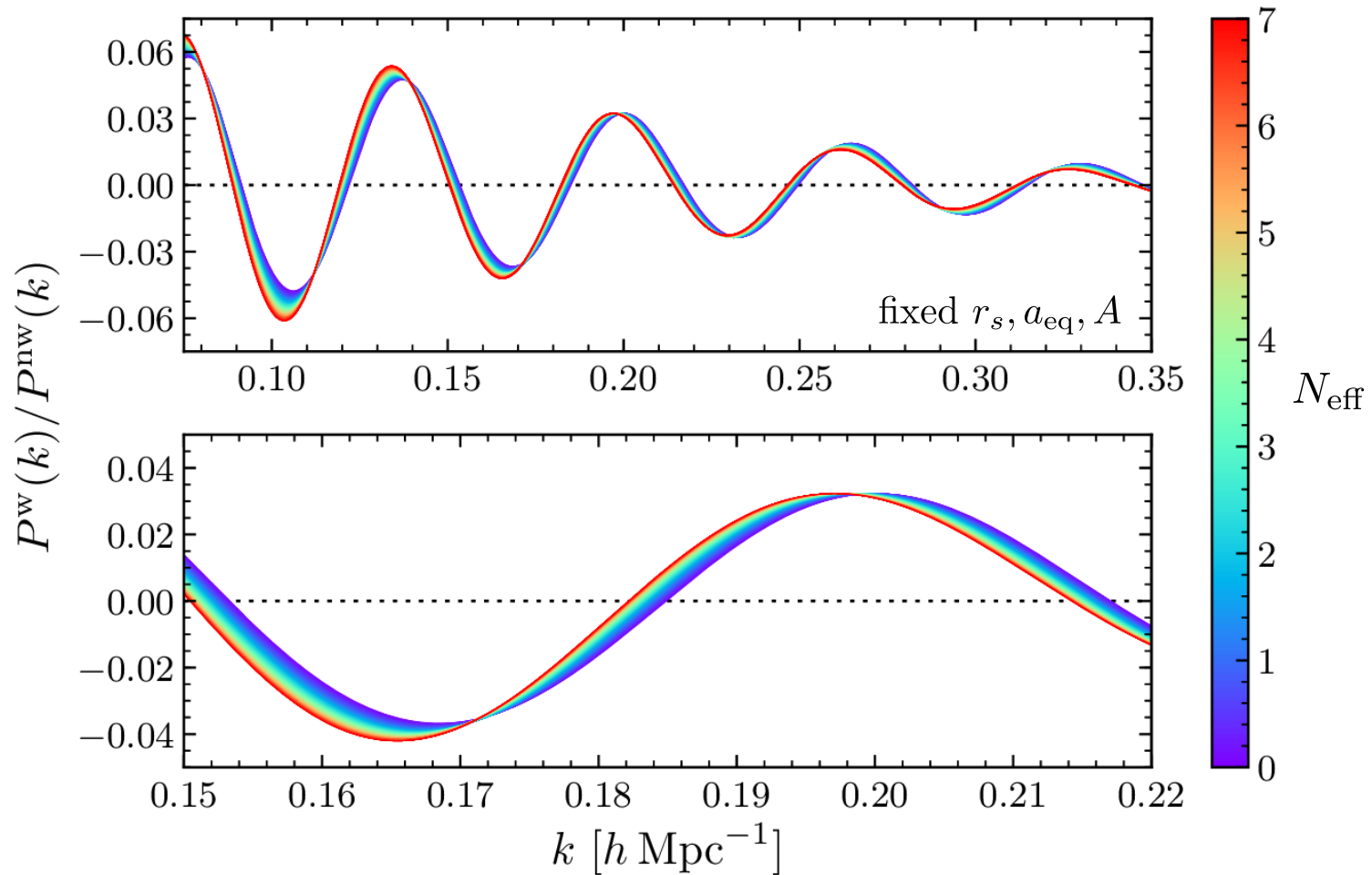
# Baryon Acoustic Oscillations

In Fourier space, this corresponds to the BAO spectrum, e.g. of the distribution of galaxies:



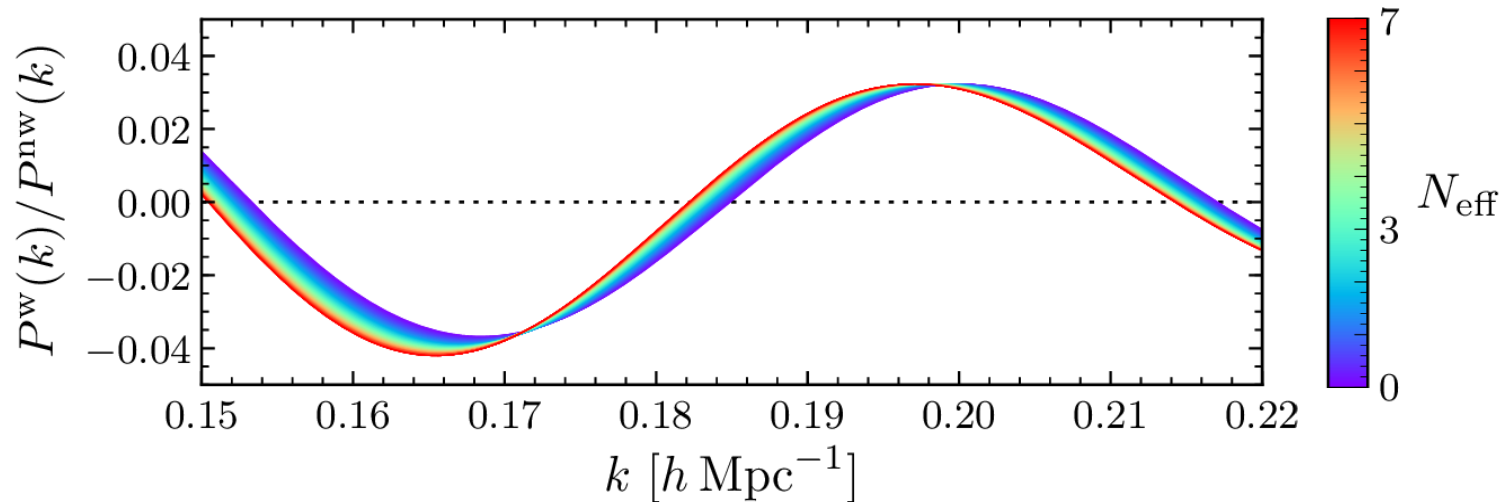
# Phase Shift in the BAO Spectrum

Extra relativistic species lead to the same phase shift as in the CMB:



# Phase Shift in the BAO Spectrum

Extra relativistic species lead to the same phase shift as in the CMB:



Phase is immune to the effects of nonlinear gravitational evolution.

Baumann, Green & Zaldarriaga (2017)

Certain information encoded in the peak locations is robust to uncertainties in the broadband spectrum.

Baumann, Green & BW (2018)

# Generalized BAO Analysis

Proposal to adapt the standard BAO analysis:

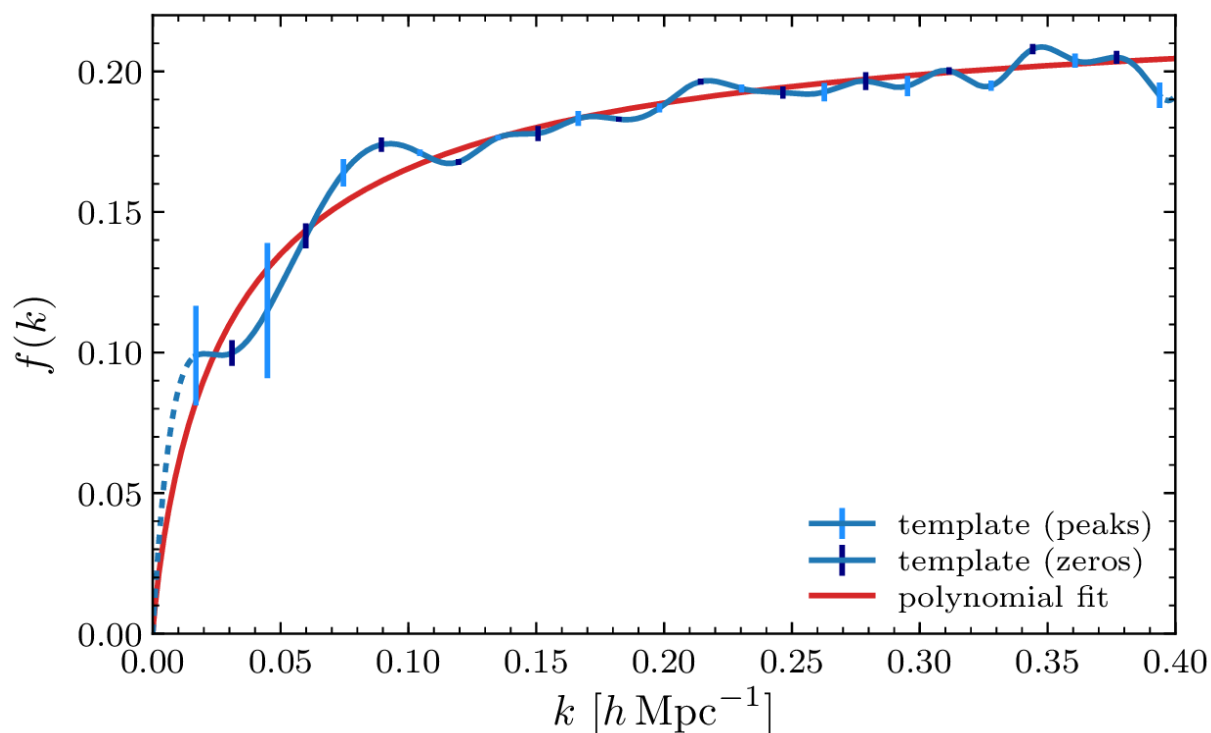
$$P^w(k) \sim A(k) \sin(kr_s/\alpha + \beta f(k))$$

standard BAO parameter

template



phase shift amplitude



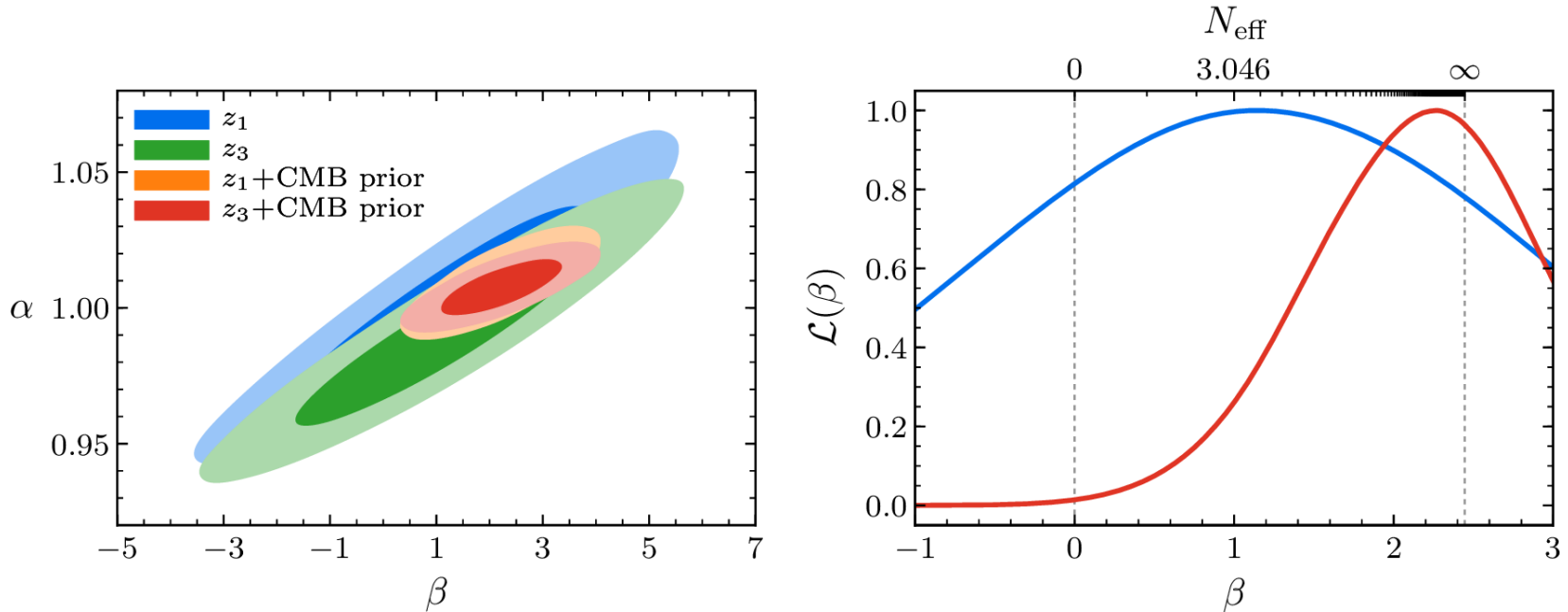
# Measuring Neutrinos in the BAO Spectrum

D. Baumann, F. Beutler, R. Flauger, D. Green,  
A. Slosar, M. Vargas-Magaña, BW and C. Yèche  
arXiv:1803.10741 (Nat. Phys. 2019)



# First Measurement

The neutrino-induced phase shift can be measured in the BOSS DR12 dataset:



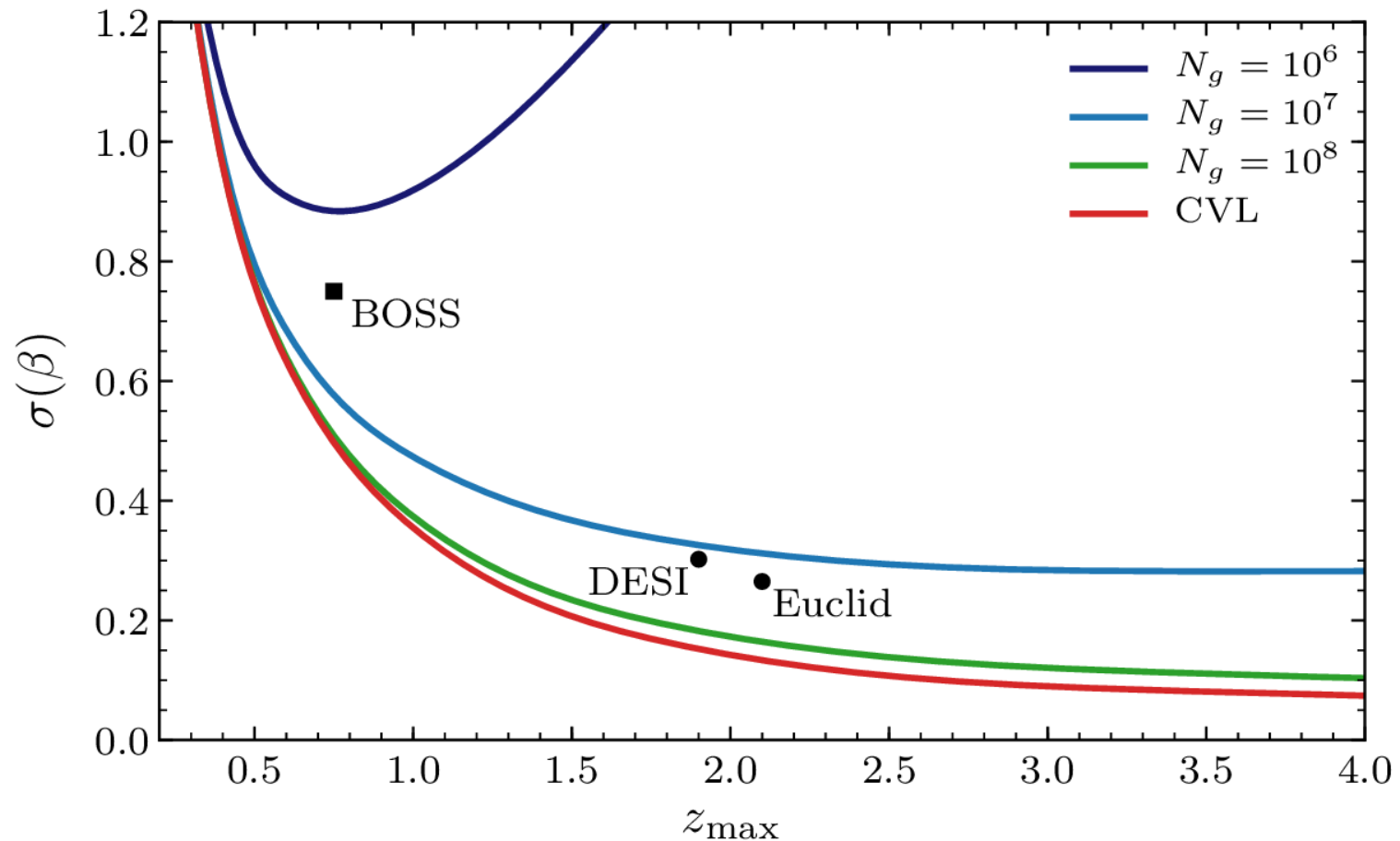
$$\beta = 2.22 \pm 0.75$$

$$\beta > 0 \text{ at } > 99\% \text{ c.l.}$$

This is a proof of principle for directly extracting information on light relics from galaxy clustering data.

# Future Prospects

Future observations will greatly improve on this first measurement:



# Conclusions

(1) BAO spectrum can be robustly employed beyond its current use.

—————→ New observable for the early universe.

(2) Future cosmological observations have the potential to measure the radiation density of the early universe at the level of

**1%**

This is an improvement of an order of magnitude over current constraints.

How to get there?



Combine future  
CMB and LSS.

What to do with this?



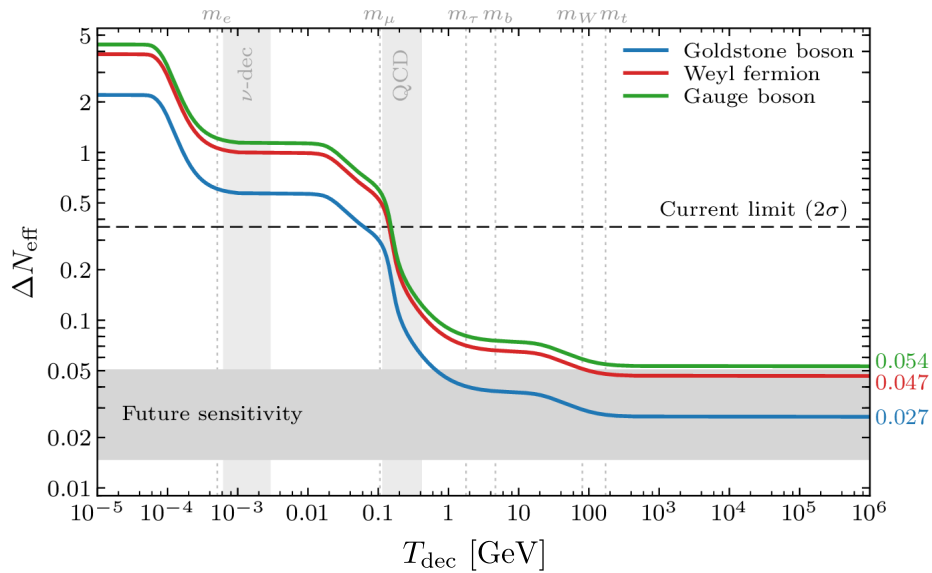
Probe cosmology  
and particle physics.

K. Abazajian et al. (CMB-S4 Collaboration),  
CMB-S4 Science Book, First Edition,  
arXiv:1610.02743 [astro-ph.CO].

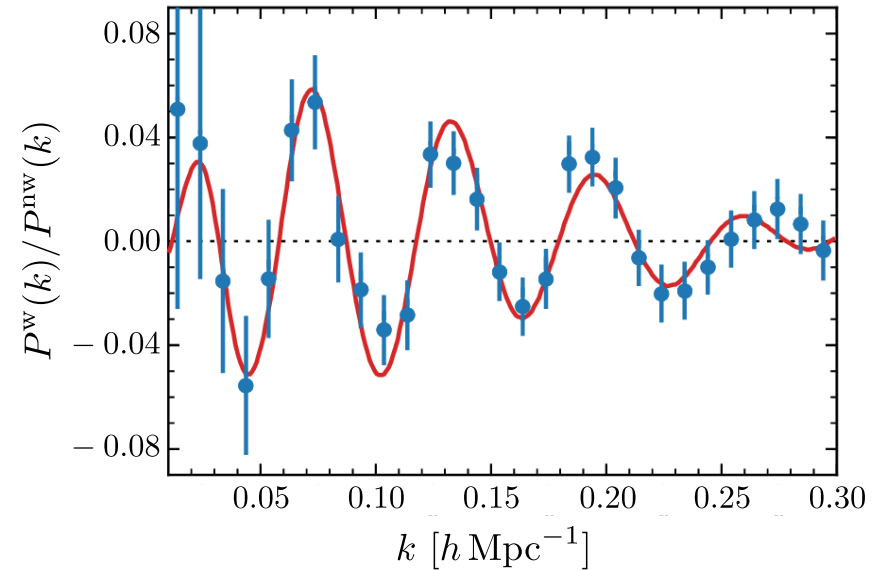
K. Abazajian et al. (CMB-S4 Collaboration),  
CMB-S4 Science Book, First Edition,  
arXiv:1610.02743 [astro-ph.CO].

# Thank you!

## Light Thermal Relics



## BAO Spectrum



Benjamin Wallisch  
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(cf. arXiv:1810.02800)

# Backup Slides



# Couplings to the Standard Model

Classification of interactions according to spin:

- spin-0: axions, ALPs, pNGBs shift symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\partial_\mu \phi}{\Lambda_\psi} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi$$

- spin-1/2: sterile neutrinos chiral symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{\Lambda_\chi^2} \chi^\dagger \bar{\sigma}^\mu \chi \partial^\nu B_{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

- spin-1: dark forces gauge symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon}{2} F'^{\mu\nu} B_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{\Lambda_{A'}^2} F'_{\mu\nu} H \bar{\psi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \psi + \dots$$

- spin-3/2: gravitino supersymmetry

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{F^2} \chi^\dagger \sigma_\mu \partial_\nu \chi T^{\mu\nu}$$

# Couplings to Matter Fields

Similar constraints apply to couplings of Goldstone bosons to charged fermions and neutrinos:

Coupling	Current Constraints		Future CMB Constraints		
	Bound [GeV]	Origin	Freeze-Out [GeV]	Freeze-In [GeV]	$\Delta\tilde{N}_{\text{eff}}$
$\Lambda_{ee}$	$1.2 \times 10^{10}$	White dwarfs	$6.0 \times 10^7$	$2.7 \times 10^6$	1.3
$\Lambda_{\mu\mu}$	$2.0 \times 10^6$	Stellar cooling	$1.2 \times 10^{10}$	$3.4 \times 10^7$	0.5
$\Lambda_{\tau\tau}$	$2.5 \times 10^4$	Stellar cooling	$2.1 \times 10^{11}$	$9.5 \times 10^7$	0.05
$\Lambda_{bb}$	$6.1 \times 10^5$	Stellar cooling	$9.5 \times 10^{11}$	–	0.04
$\Lambda_{tt}$	$1.2 \times 10^9$	Stellar cooling	$3.5 \times 10^{13}$	–	0.03
$\Lambda_{\mu e}^V$	$5.5 \times 10^9$	$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \phi$	$6.2 \times 10^9$	$4.8 \times 10^7$	0.5
$\Lambda_{\mu e}$	$3.1 \times 10^9$	$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \phi \gamma$	$6.2 \times 10^9$	$4.8 \times 10^7$	0.5
$\Lambda_{\tau e}$	$4.4 \times 10^6$	$\tau^- \rightarrow e^- \phi$	$1.0 \times 10^{11}$	$1.3 \times 10^8$	0.05
$\Lambda_{\tau\mu}$	$3.2 \times 10^6$	$\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- \phi$	$1.0 \times 10^{11}$	$1.3 \times 10^8$	0.05
$\Lambda_A$	$6.0 \times 10^5$	$n^0 \bar{n}^0$	$1.2 \times 10^{11}$	$2.0 \times 10^8$	0.05

# Free-Streaming Neutrinos

Standard Model neutrinos are free-streaming – can we detect this?

Introduce parametrisation:

$N_{\text{eff}}$



free-streaming radiation density

$N_{\text{fluid}}$



non-free-streaming radiation density

Damping tail of CMB power spectrum:

→ only sensitive to background energy density:  $N_{\text{eff}} + N_{\text{fluid}}$

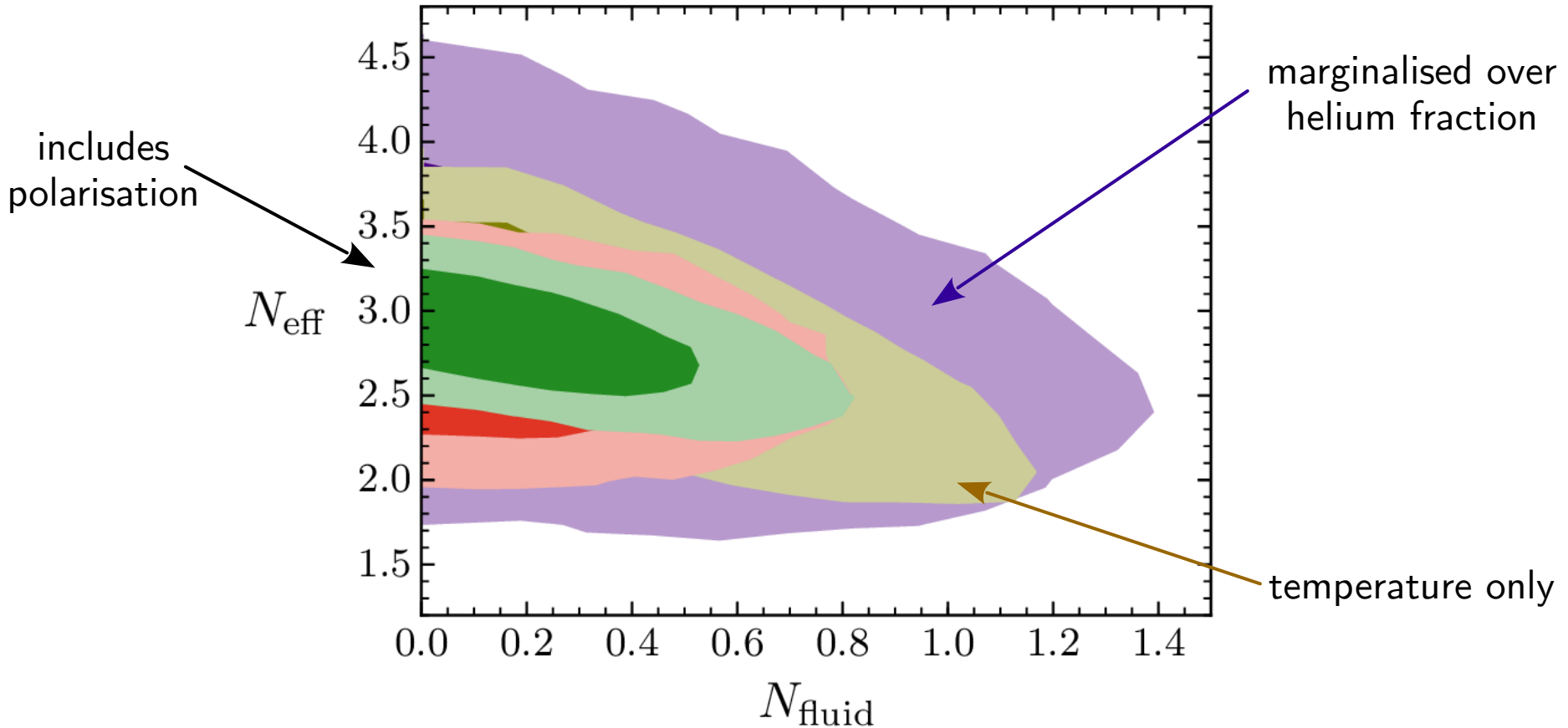
Data now precise enough to be sensitive to neutrino perturbations:

$$\ddot{\delta}_\gamma - c_\gamma^2 \nabla^2 \delta_\gamma = \nabla^2 \Phi_+$$

sound waves                       $\gamma$                        $\nu$

→ discriminating between  $N_{\text{eff}}$  and  $N_{\text{fluid}}$  possible!

# Planck Constraints

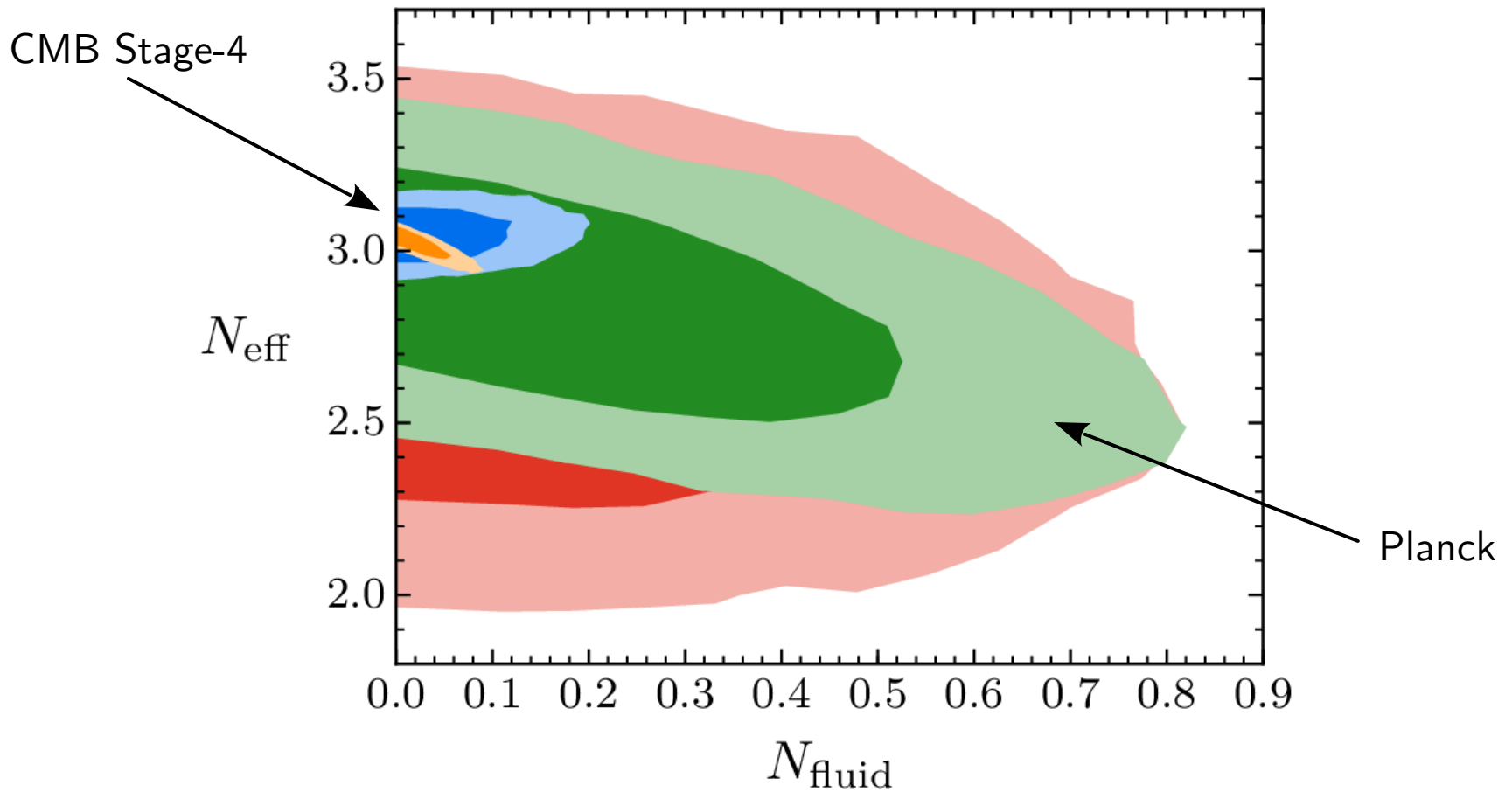


$$N_{\text{eff}} = 2.80 \pm 0.24$$

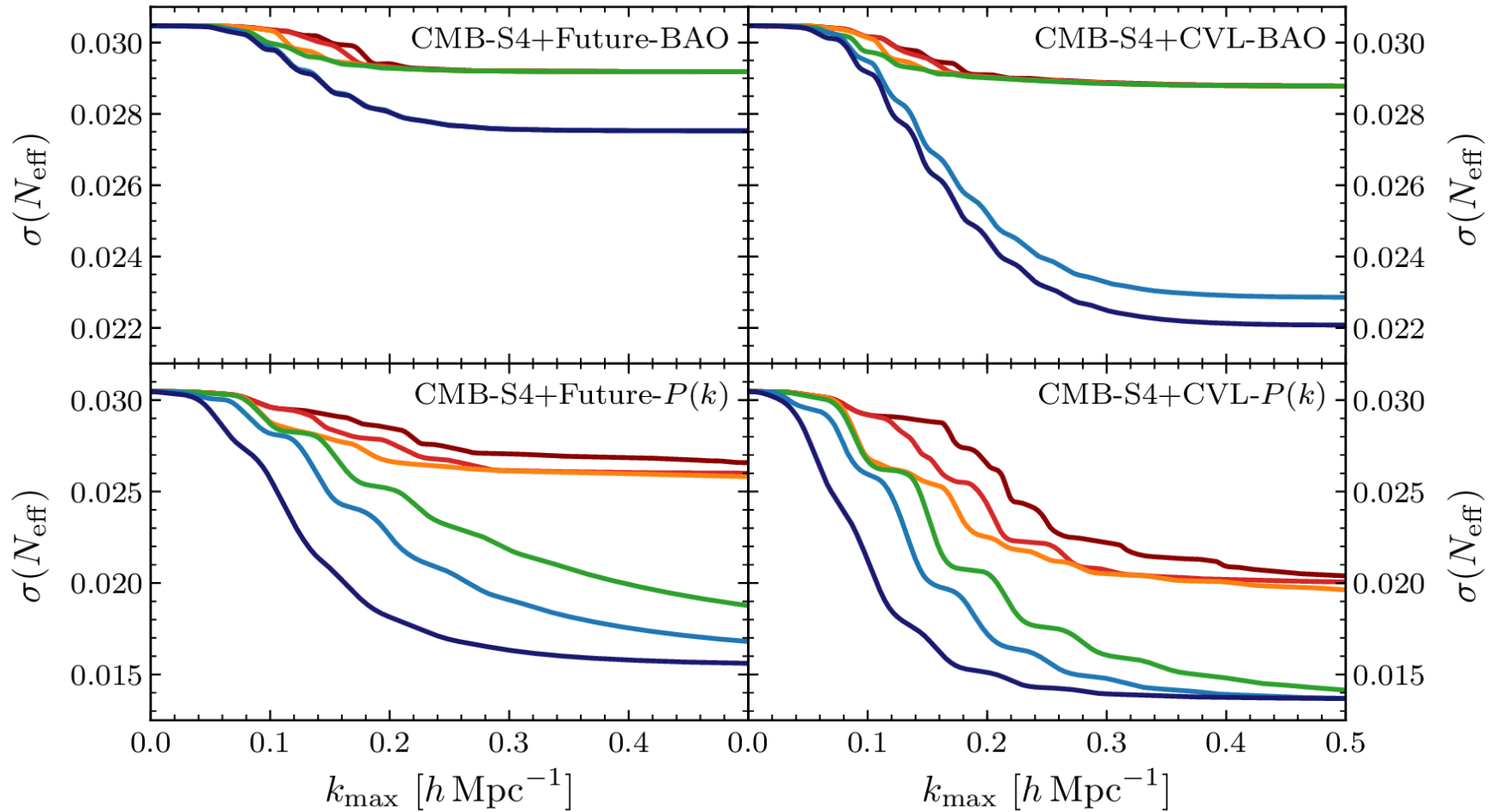
$$N_{\text{fluid}} < 0.67 \text{ (95\% c.l.)}$$

→ Standard Model neutrinos are free-streaming!

# CMB Stage-4 Forecast



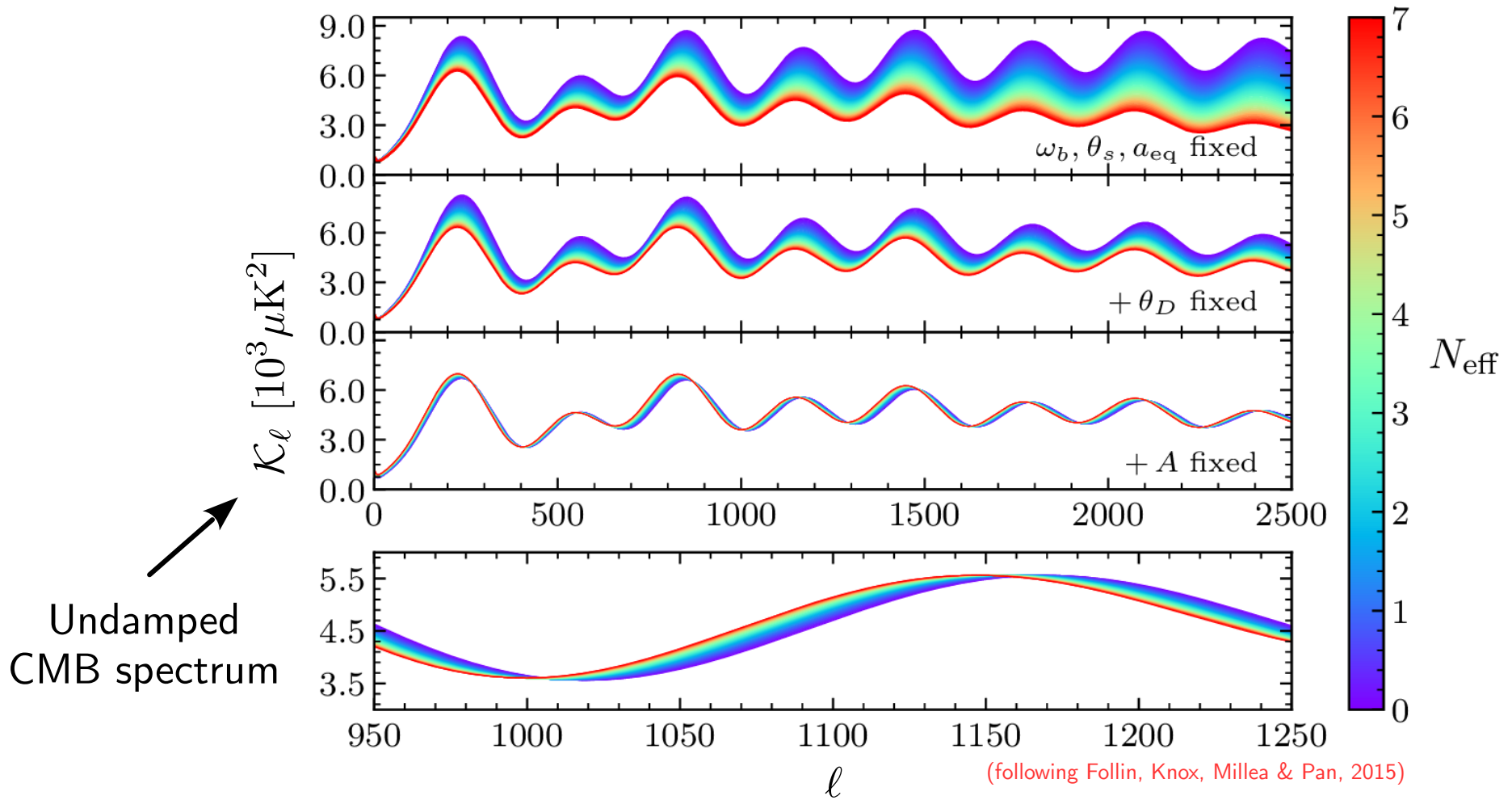
# Future LSS Constraints on $N_{\text{eff}}$



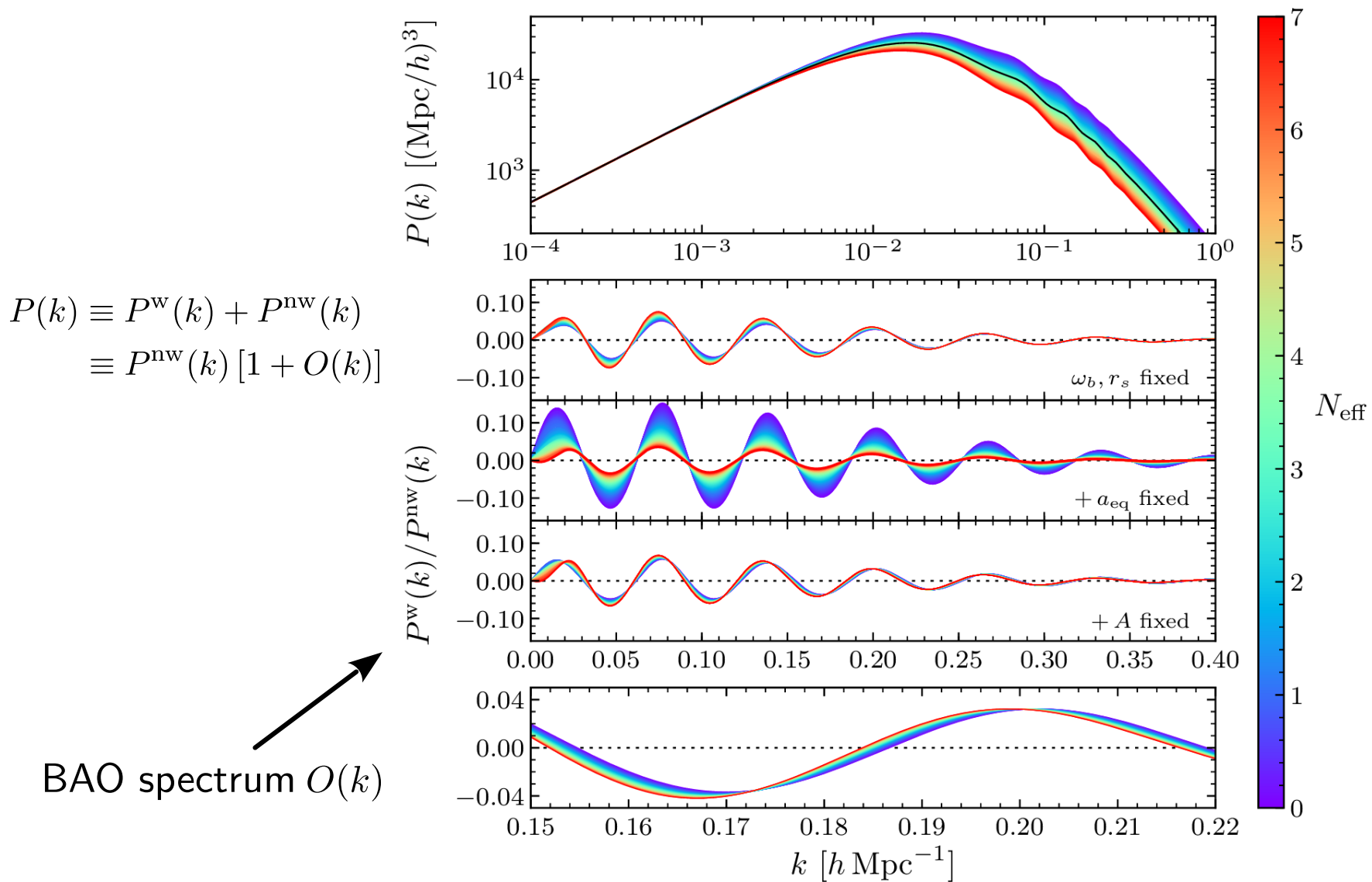
$N_g = 10^8, z_{\text{max}} = 2, f_{\text{sky}} = 0.5$

CVL,  $z_{\text{max}} = 6, f_{\text{sky}} = 0.5$

# Phase Shift in the CMB



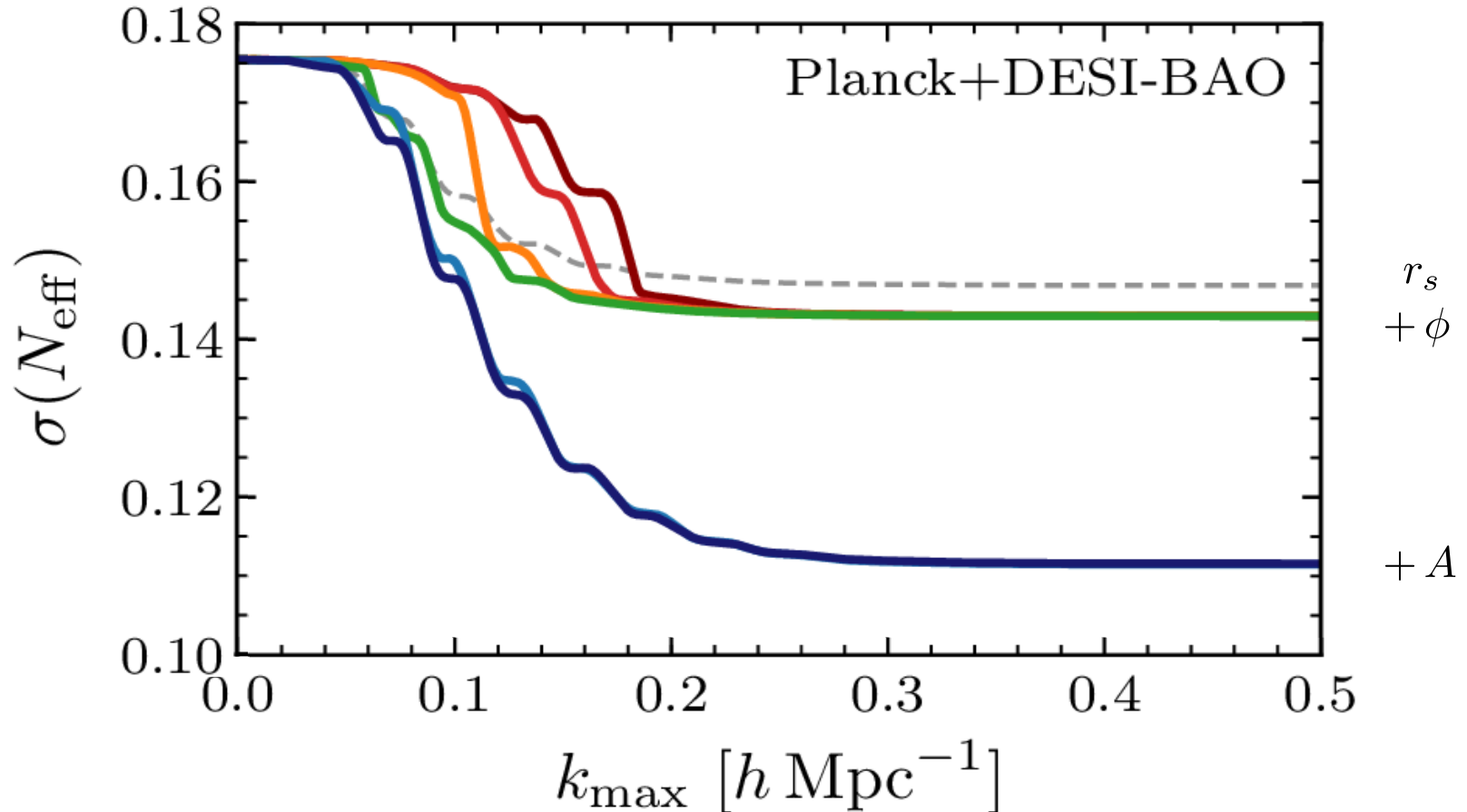
# Phase Shift in LSS





# Frequency, Amplitude and Phase Shift

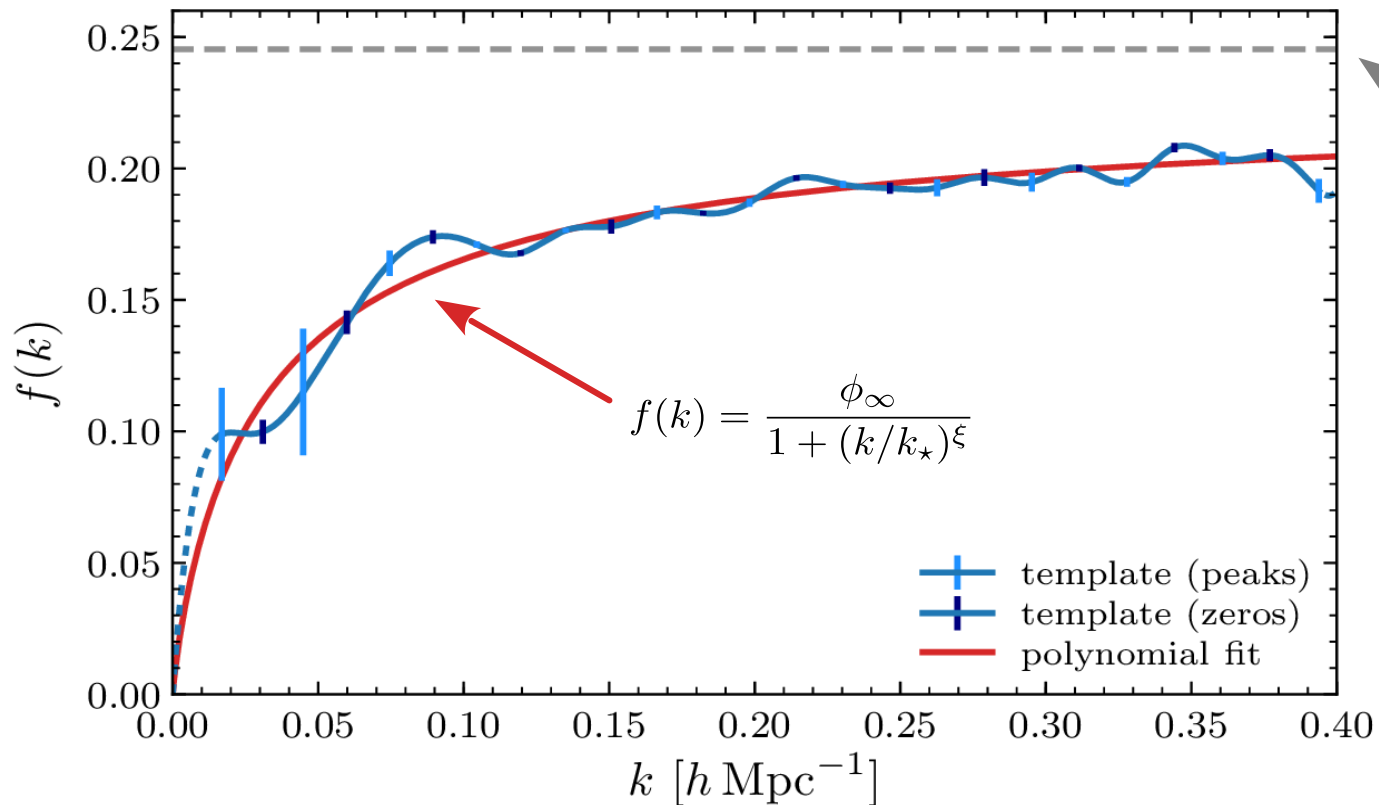
$$O(k) \sim A \sin(kr_s + \phi)$$



# Phase Shift Measurement

$$\phi(k) = \beta(N_{\text{eff}}) f(k)$$

$$\beta = \epsilon/\epsilon_{\text{fid}}, \quad \epsilon \equiv \rho_\nu/\rho_r$$



Analytic estimate  
 $0.191\pi \epsilon$

$$O(k) = O_{\text{fid}} (\alpha^{-1} k + (\beta - 1) f(k) / r_s^{\text{fid}})$$

standard BAO parameter

