

# SELF-INTERACTING DM AND THE $H_0$ TENSION

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based on:

**AH, K. Jodłowski** 2006.16139

(see also poster by Krzysztof!)

# OUTLINE

## 1. Motivation

- issues with the  $\Lambda$ CDM (large and small)
- significance of the beyond CDM component

## 2. Idea: self-interacting DM from late decays

- a.k.a. how to have viable long range force with stable light mediator

## 3. Example model

- with natural mechanism of transferring few % of energy to radiation

## 4. Phenomenology

- impact on the  $H_0$  tension
- candidate for ultra-SIDM

## 5. Conclusions

# $\Lambda$ CDM PROBLEMS

## Small scale:

### I. Diversity

in  $\Lambda$ CDM essentially one parameter specifying a halo, while **reality much more diverse**

### II. Too-big-to-fail

most massive sub-haloes are **expected to host luminous counterparts**, but seem not to

### III. Core-cusp

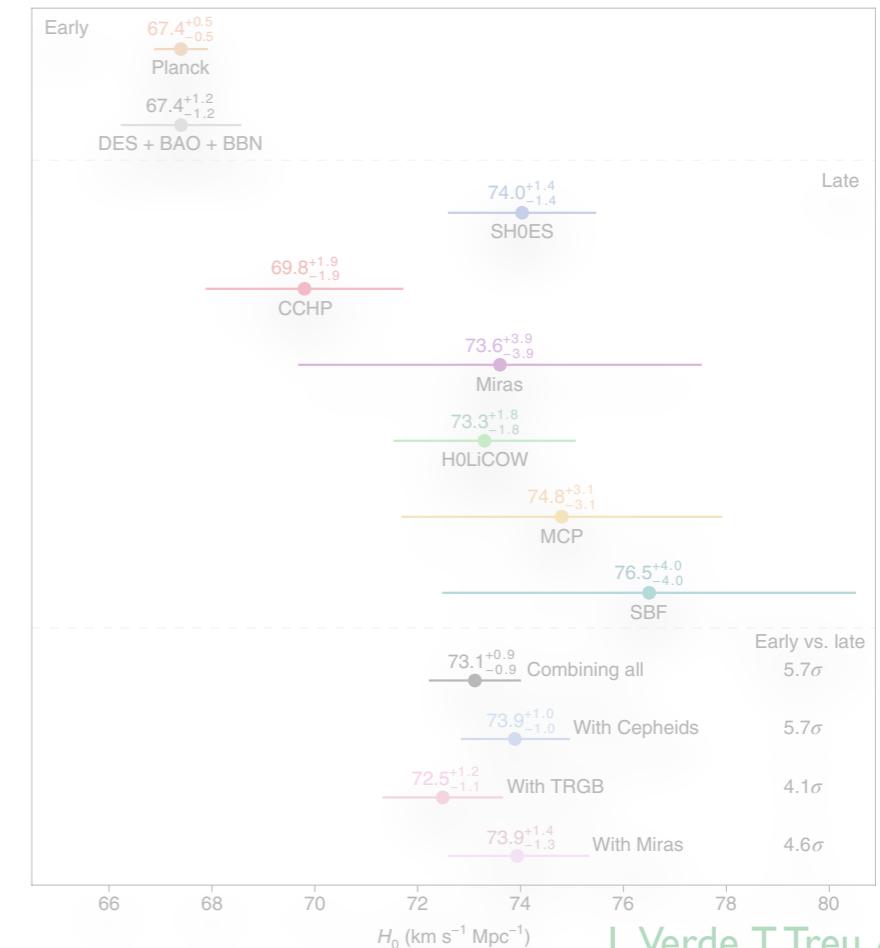
simulations predict **more cuspy profiles** than typically observed

### IV. Missing satellites

simulations predict more **more sub-haloes** and hence we'd expect more MW satellites

## Early vs late:

### I. $H_0$ tension



### II. $\sigma_8 - \Omega_m$

### III. BAO $z < 1$ vs. Ly- $\alpha$

(recently shrunk to below  $2\sigma$ ...)

# WHAT IS THE ROLE FOR DM?

## Small scale:

going **beyond** the collisionless CDM  
(e.g. having warm component or **including self-interactions**) can address  
(at least some of the) cosmological problems

quite rich literature on the subject...

...generically **velocity-dependent self-interactions** are preferred

see e.g. review by Tulin,Yu '17



DM self-interactions due to exchange of a **light mediator**

## Early vs late:

in  $\Lambda$ CDM the DM component is **extremely simple**  
non-interacting, cold, with **constant equation of state throughout whole evolution**

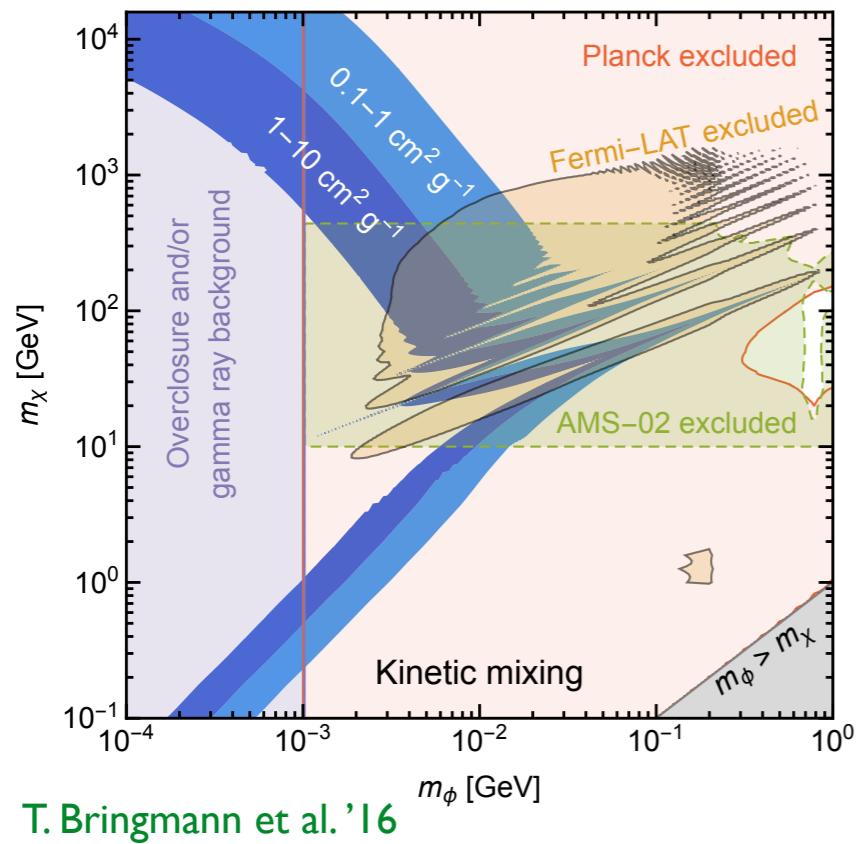


however, if at **late times** a fraction of its energy is transferred to radiation (e.g. through decay or annihilation), then this can significantly affect the evolution

... but can it address both at the same time?!

# SOME ISSUES...

Simple models with **thermally produced DM** very strongly constrained



with many of the constraints quite severe even in more general models



**light mediator** (if coupled to SM) affects CMB, indirect detection, colliders...

Energy transfer to radiation needs to happen very late (often after recombination)



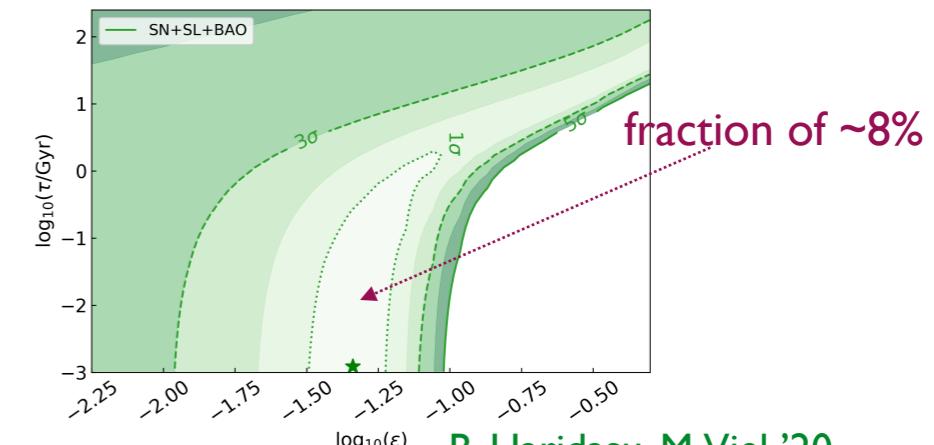
if through **annihilation** enormous rates are needed

[but see T. Bringmann et al. '18;  
T. Binder et al. '18 for models  
of this type]

the **rate of change of eq. of state** not ideal for the fit

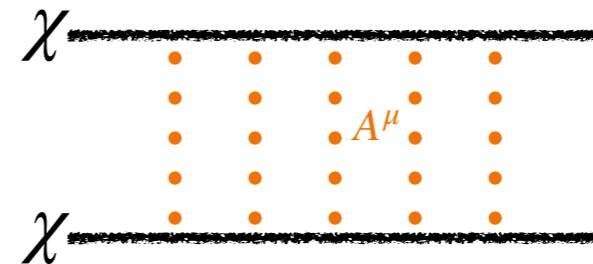
if through **decay**

one needs to ensure **only a small fraction** of DM decayed (extremely long lifetime or multi-component)



# THE IDEA

Dark matter self-interacting  
through **light mediator**



to **avoid limits** from CMB  
and indirect detection



make the **mediator stable**...

typically overcloses the Universe

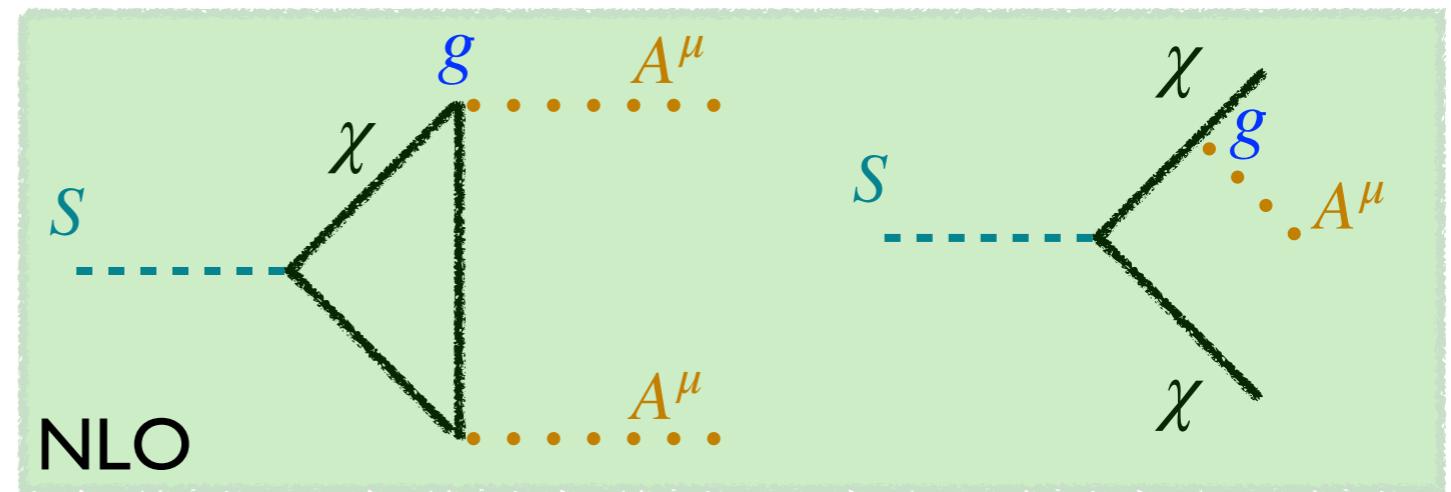
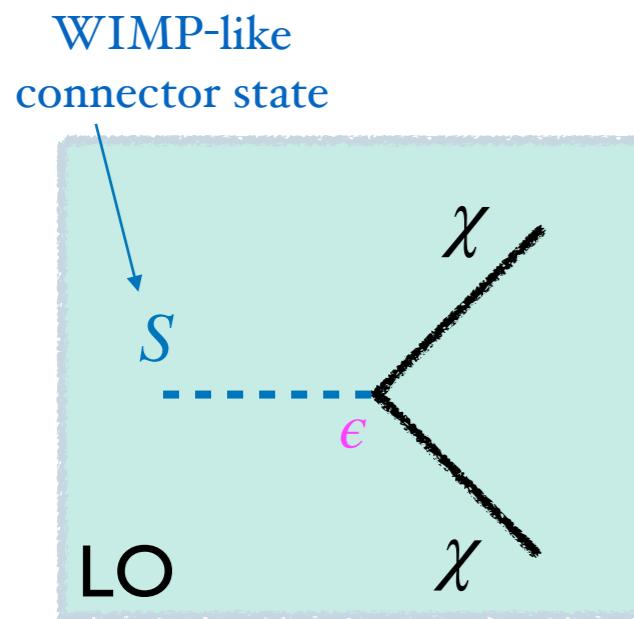
...but **never in equilibrium**  
(with negligible initial population)

freeze-in like

superWIMP like

both give viable, though not that unexpected mechanisms for  
self-interacting DM production, but superWIMP has an **intriguing feature**...

# THE IDEA



$$\Gamma_{S \rightarrow \chi\chi} \propto \epsilon^2$$

$$\Gamma_{S \rightarrow AA} \propto \epsilon^2 g^4$$

$$\Gamma_{S \rightarrow \chi\chi A} \propto \epsilon^2 g^2$$

therefore, parametrically:

$$BR(S \rightarrow AA) \propto g^4$$

$$BR(S \rightarrow \chi\chi A) \propto g^2$$

$\sim (1 - 10)\%$

(with different phase space factors  
and energy of the mediator)

if  $\delta = 1 - \frac{2m_\chi}{m_S} \ll 1$



decays mostly to matter  $\chi$

with small fraction to radiation  $A$

Property needed to modify expansion rate here **present in an automatic way!**

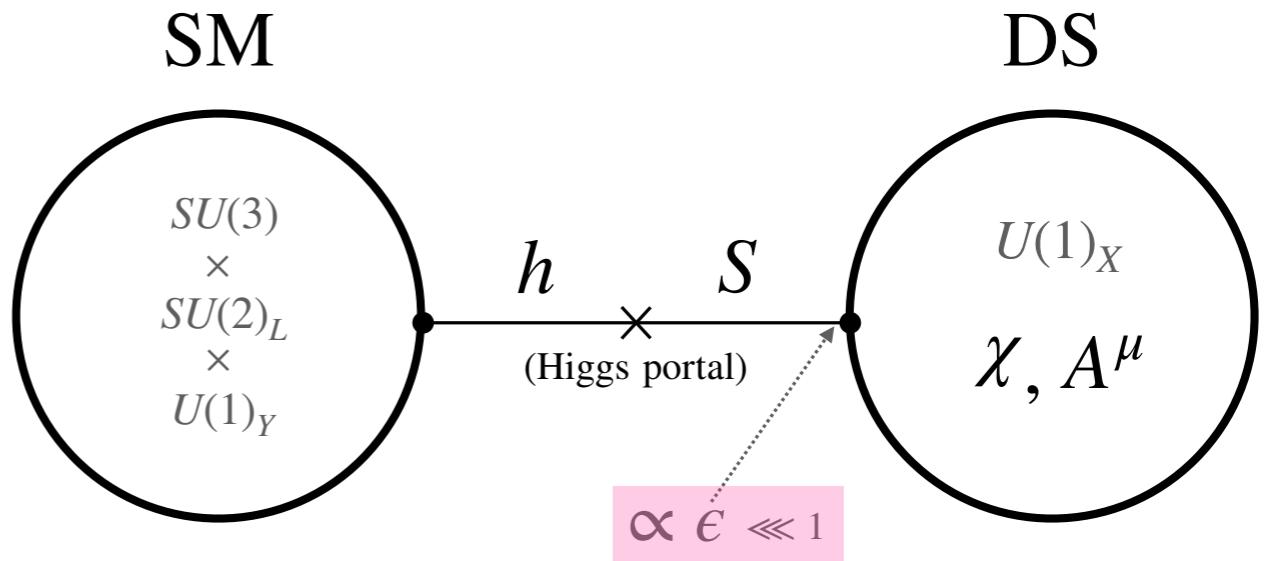
# EXAMPLE MODEL

SM and dark sector connected through a **very weak Higgs portal**:

Assume WIMP-like symmetry

$$Z_2 : S \rightarrow -S$$

that is broken\* (explicitly or spontaneously) with breaking parametrized by  $\epsilon$



Relevant interaction terms:

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{DS}} \supset \lambda_{HS} S^2 H^\dagger H + \epsilon S \bar{\chi} \chi + \epsilon \mu_{HS} S H^\dagger H + i g A^\mu \bar{\chi} \gamma_\mu \chi$$

leads to  
freeze-out  
of  $S$

decay

$$\epsilon \ll 1$$

very long  
life-time of  $S$

subdominant

self-  
interactions

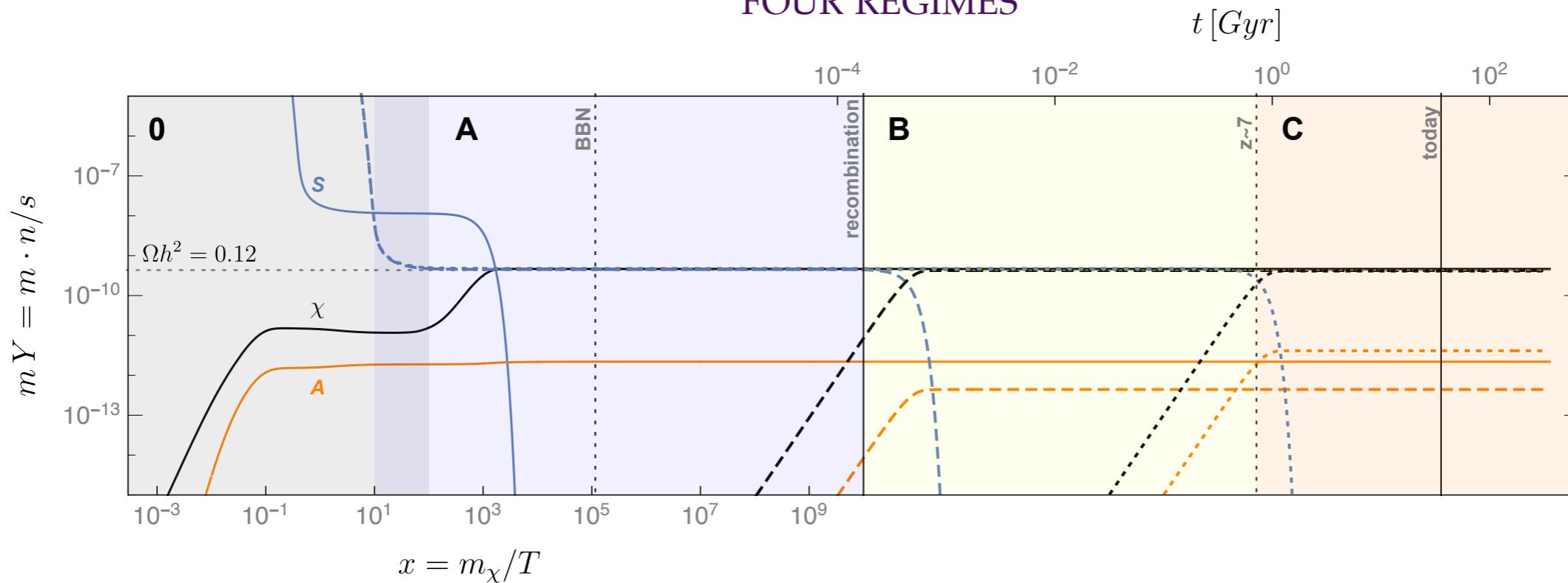
$g$  not tied  
to DM production

can be large

\* at some high scale, e.g GUT or even Planck scale

# HISTORY

## FOUR REGIMES



0) weak  $\lesssim \epsilon$

DS thermalizes, usual thermal self-interacting DM model

B) ultra weak  $\lesssim \epsilon \lesssim$  very weak

life-time on cosmological scales  
changing the expansion rate -  
chance to impact the  $H_0$  tension

A) very weak  $\lesssim \epsilon \lesssim$  weak

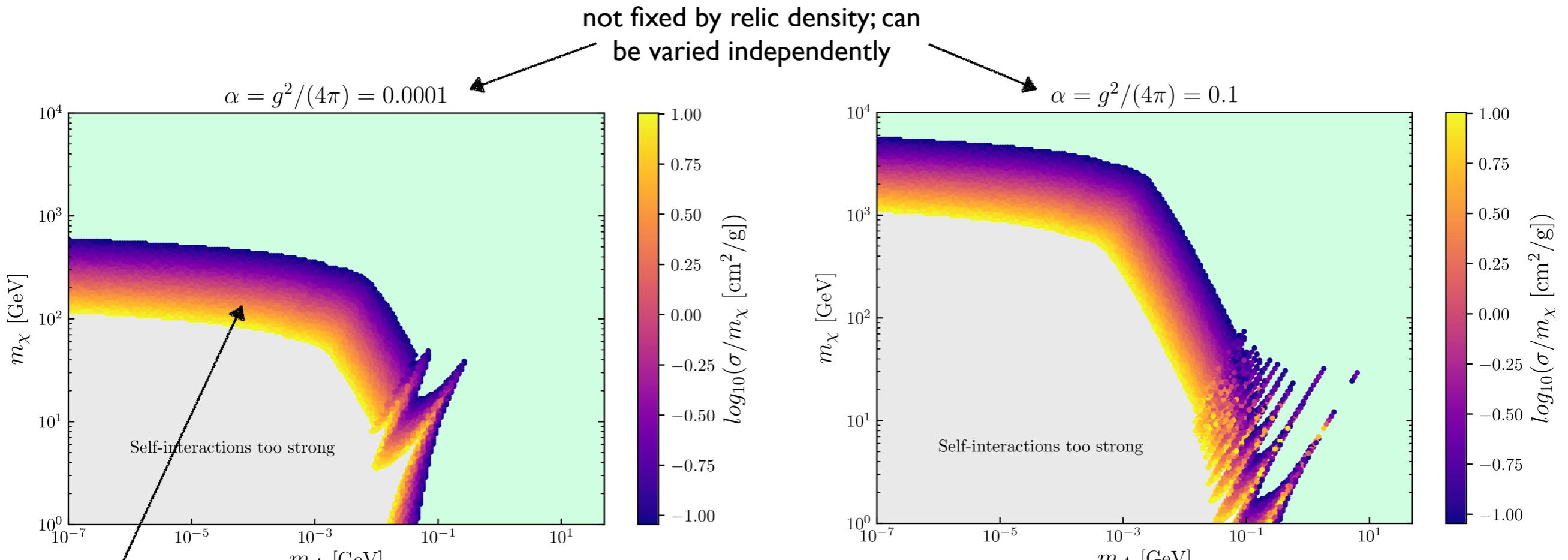
superWIMP production, viable model but no impact on  $H_0$  tension

C)  $\epsilon \lesssim$  ultra weak

two-component DM (S and  $\chi$ ), where only one is self-interacting (in this case perhaps even ultra-strongly)

[The model can be viewed also as an extension of the usual Higgs portal DM to weaker couplings]

# REGIME A: ONLY SIDM



preferred regime for small scale problems

In this regime DM is produced from **out of equilibrium decay** and never thermalizes

more extended parameter space giving large self-interactions than in thermal models

the mediator **is not in the plasma** and therefore can be **absolutely stable**

# DCDM MODEL

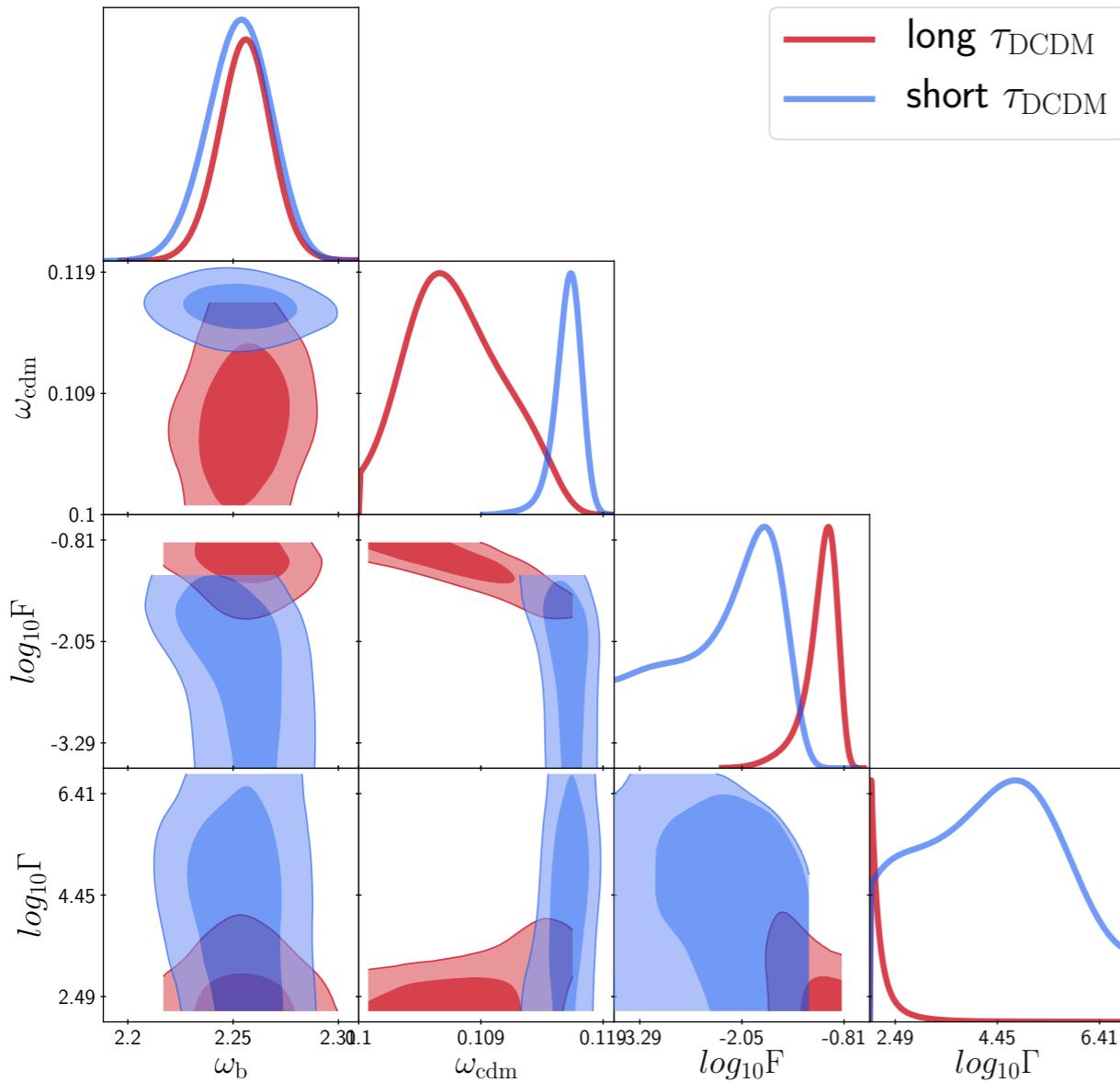
It has been noted that the Decaying DM model (DCDM) with two parameters:

$\Gamma$  — decay width

$F$  — fraction of the decaying component

can improve the fit to the Hubble parameter over the CDM

...; S.Aoyama et al. '14; V. Poulin, P. Serpico, J. Lesgourges '16; K. Enqvist et al. '15; G. Blackadder, S. Koushiappas '18; Y. Gu et al. '20; ...



We have performed our fit with MontePython using combined datasets:

- Planck 2018
- BAO data from the BOSS survey
- the galaxy cluster counts from Planck catalogue
- local measurement of the Hubble constant.

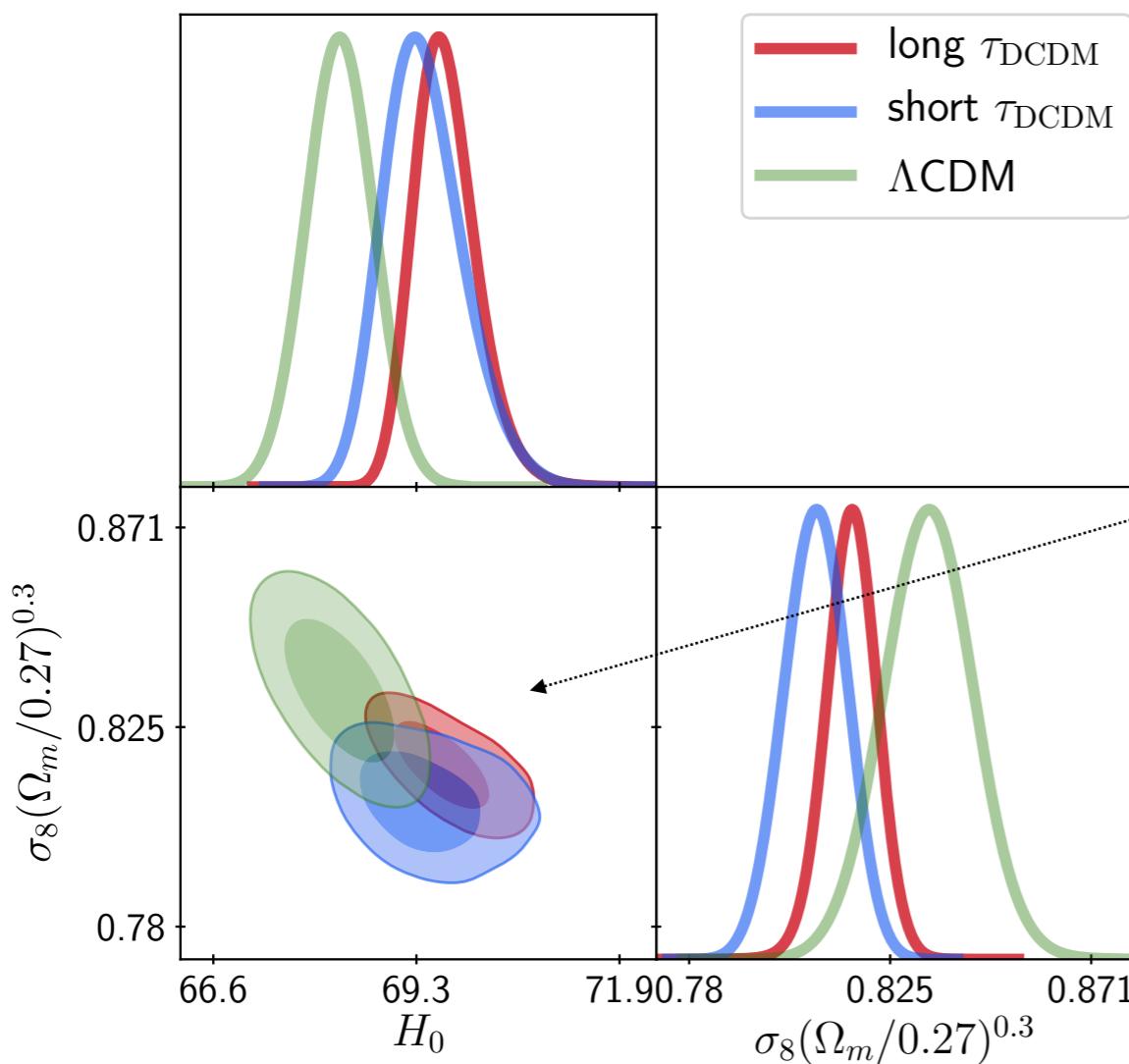
with two different life-time priors: short and long (motivated by previous results)

K.Vattis, S. Koushiappas, A. Loeb '19

# DCDM MODEL

The  $H_0$  parameter best fit:

$\log_{10} F$	$-2.41^{+0.96}_{-0.48}$	$-1.1^{+0.25}_{-0.081}$	-
$\log_{10} \Gamma$	$4.36^{+1.38}_{-1.49}$	$2.33^{+0.13}_{-0.33}$	-
$H_0$	$69.4^{+0.43}_{-0.60}$	$69.7^{+0.33}_{-0.44}$	$68.28^{+0.45}_{-0.45}$
$\sigma_8$	$0.791^{+0.0062}_{-0.0051}$	$0.80^{+0.0030}_{-0.0031}$	$0.8065^{+0.0073}_{-0.0077}$



Two preferred lifetime regimes:

- short (regime B):  $\tau \sim 4$  Myr while fraction of dark radiation is strongly constrained to be **below  $\sim 1\%$**
- long (regime C):  $\tau \sim 5$  Gyr while fraction of dark radiation is allowed to be **as big as  $\sim 10\%$** .

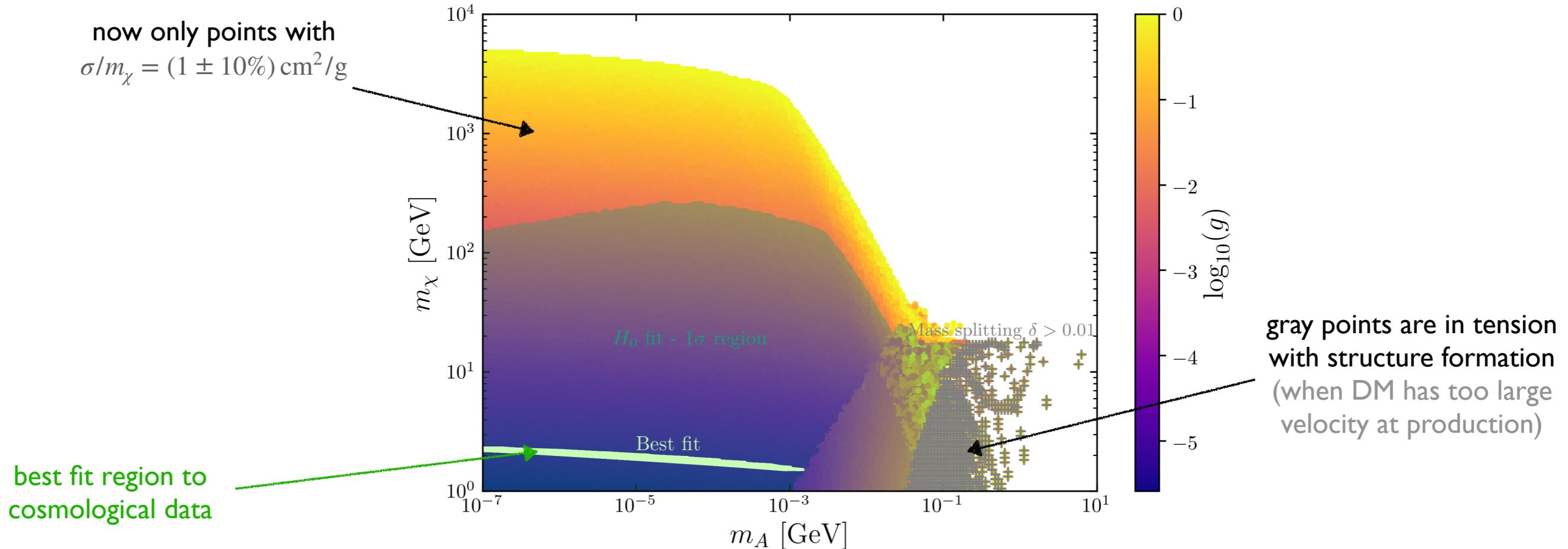
The shift of the  $H_0$  compared to  $\Lambda$ CDM is however **rather mild** in models of the type as our example

... although this could perhaps be modified with model building, **complete solution of the  $H_0$  tension is unlikely**

see also S. Clark et al. '20

but DCDM can play its part in the full solution

# REGIME B: SIDM FROM LATE DECAYS



In this regime life-time on cosmological scales changing the expansion rate - chance to impact the  $H_0$  tension

best fit spans over wide region of mediator mass  $\lesssim 1\text{MeV}$  but pretty specific  $m_\chi$

though the change of the  $H_0$  parameter is not large enough to completely solve the tension

# REGIME C: ULTRA-SIDM

For longer  $S$  life-times it won't decay completely even till today



two-component DM ( $S$  and  $\chi$ )  
combination of CDM and SIDM



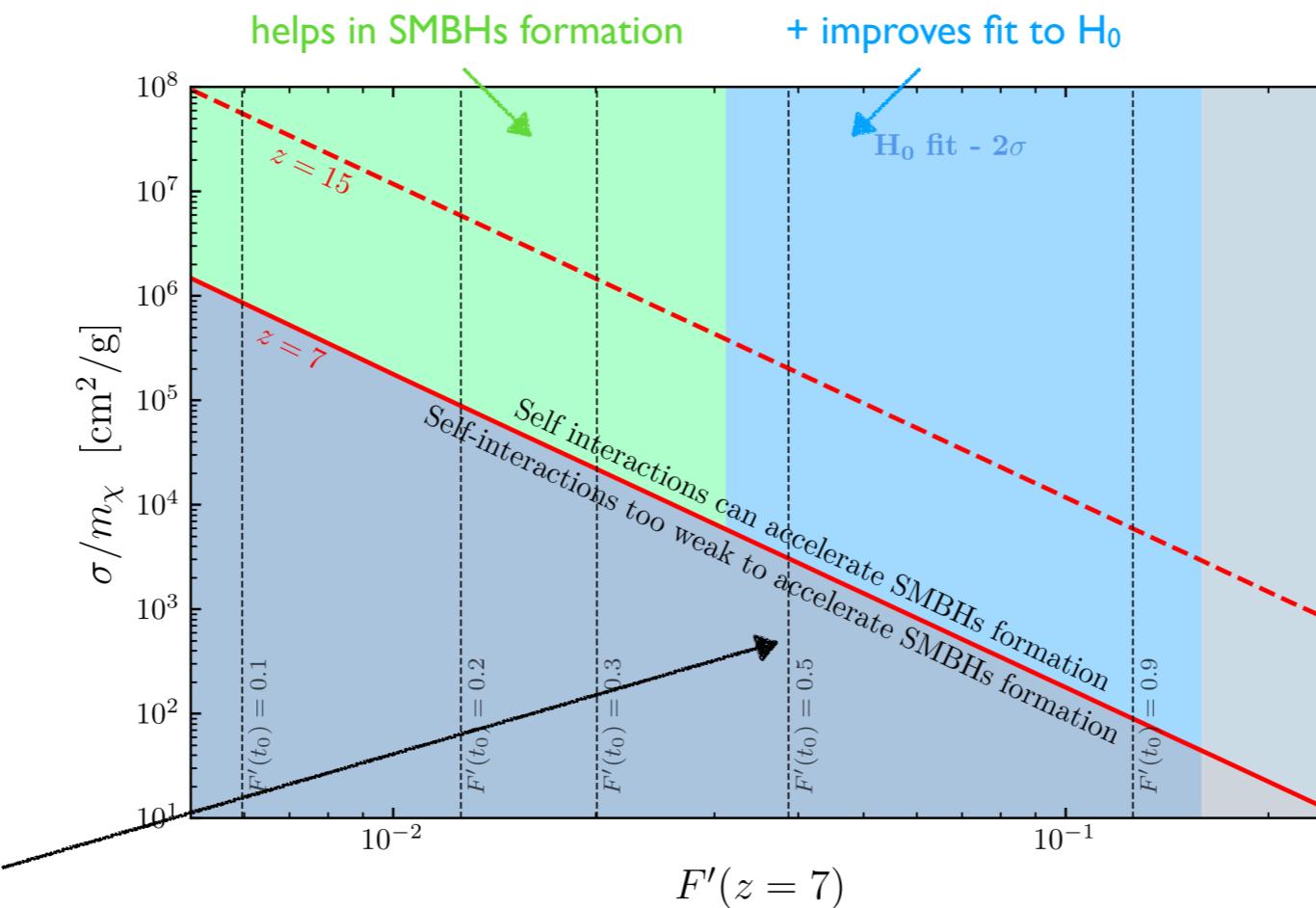
when **only fraction of DM is self-interacting** it can actually have **much larger scattering cross section**



to fit the  $H_0$  one needs larger fraction going to radiation (i.e. larger BR to mediator  $A$ )



problem: between  $z \sim 7$  and  $z \sim 0$  large fraction of  $S$  will manage to decay leading to too large present day population of uSIDM



the model can either improve the fit to  $H_0$  or help with SMBHs formation rate, but not both



uSIDM

J. Pollack, D. Spergel,  
P. Steinhardt '14

provides a candidate mechanism for seeding the formation of supermassive black holes (SMBHs)

[standard formation theory is challenged by observation of very old,  $z \sim 7$  SMBHs]

J. Choquette, J. Cline,  
J. Cornell '19

# BONUS: XENON 1T

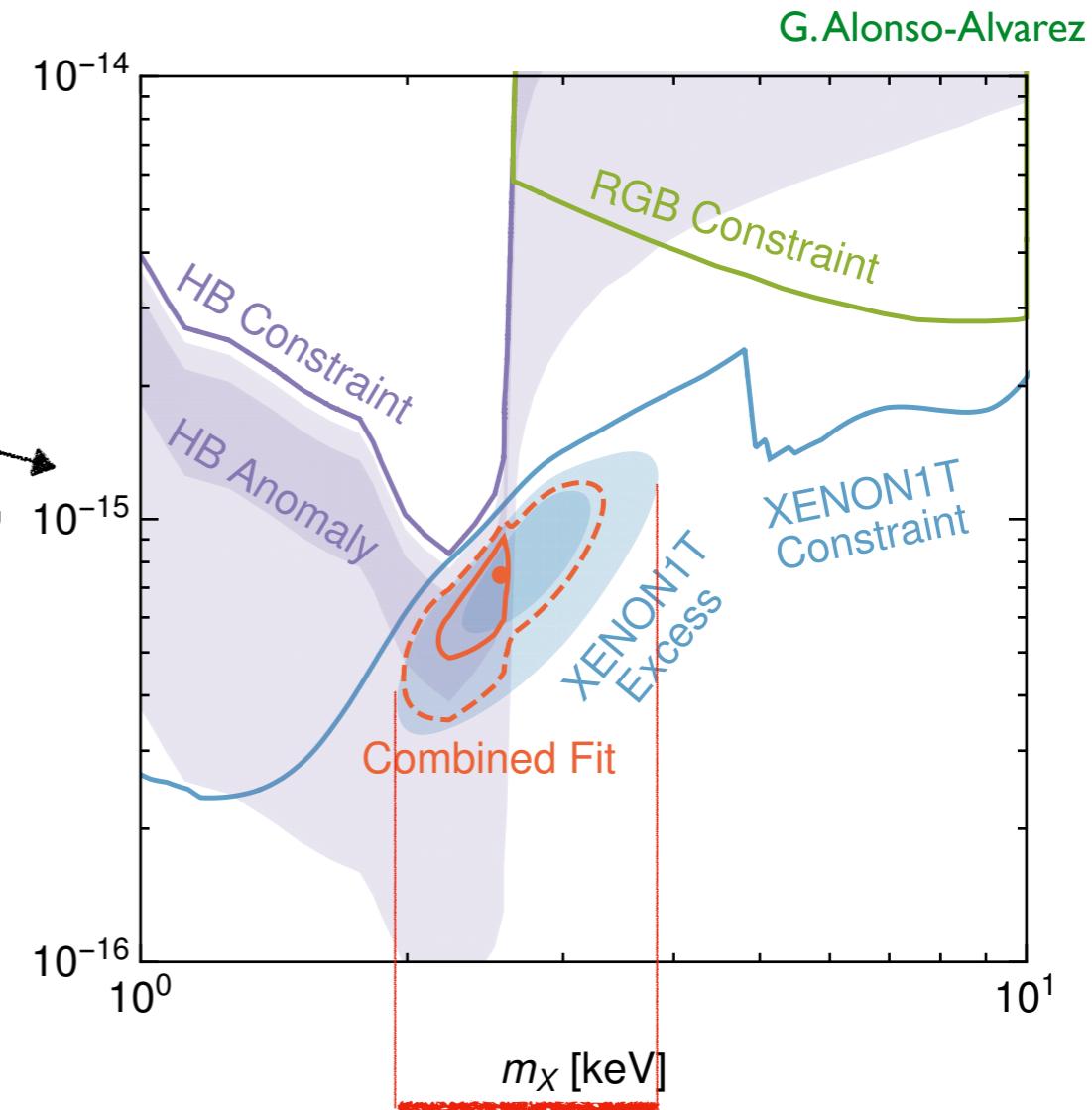
Throughout the whole discussion we assumed the mediator is completely stable...

...but it does not need to be

Allowing e.g. some small kinetic mixing with the SM photon **does not spoil any of the results above**, while can have phenomenological consequences

e.g.  
↓

Worth investigating also other potential signals, e.g. the detection of the decay products (especially in regimes B and C)



[mass range perfectly consistent with best fit to self-interaction strength +  $H_0$  in our model]

# CONCLUSIONS

1. Mechanism of self-interacting DM production from decays of an intermediate state offers a new way of constructing models satisfying the known constraints

2. It provides a natural way of transferring few % of energy density to radiation at late times allowing for moderately alleviating the  $H_0$  tension

[or from a different angle: can be a part of the solution as it's quite likely that true explanation is a combination of few effects]

3. Extensions of the simple model discussed here can offer interesting phenomenology and are worth investigating