

SEARCH FOR AXION-LIKE  
PARTICLE INDUCED  $\gamma$ -RAY BURSTS  
FROM CORE COLLAPSE  
SUPERNOVAE WITH THE FERMI-LAT



[PRL, VOL. 124, 23, 231101 (2020), [ARXIV:2006.06722](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.06722)]

**MANUEL MEYER & TANJA PETRUSHEVSKA**  
**FOR THE FERMI-LAT COLLABORATION**

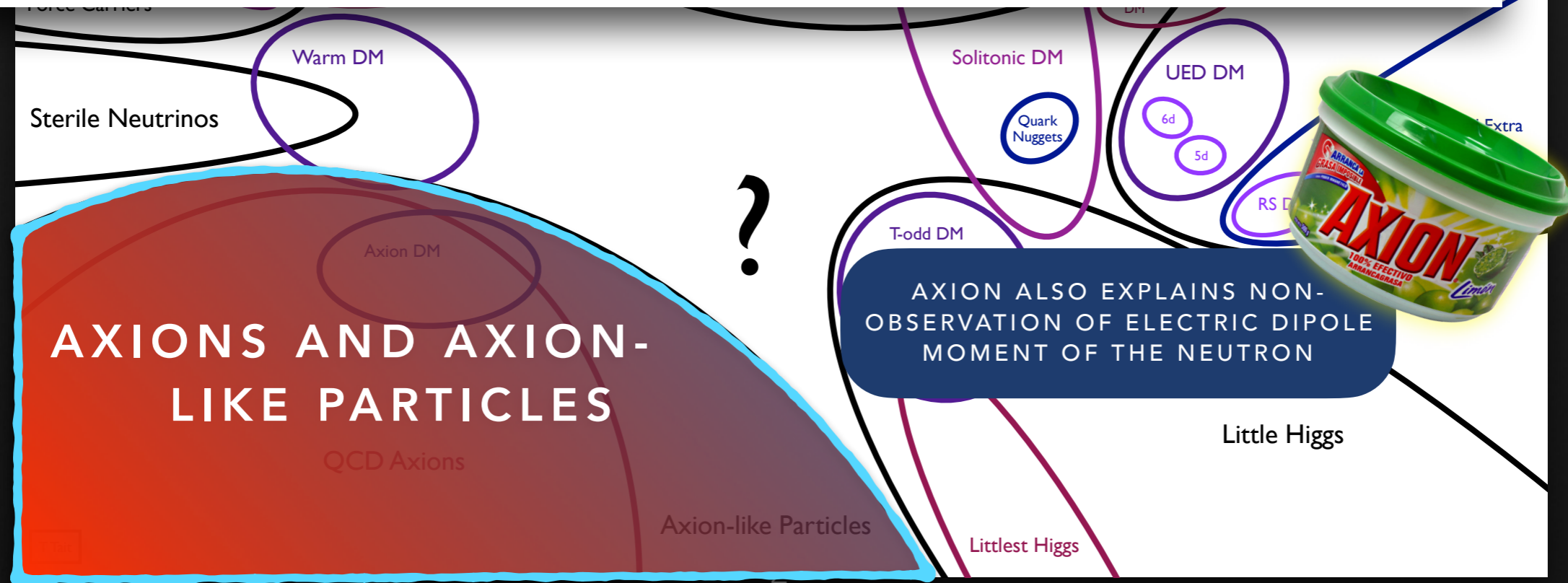
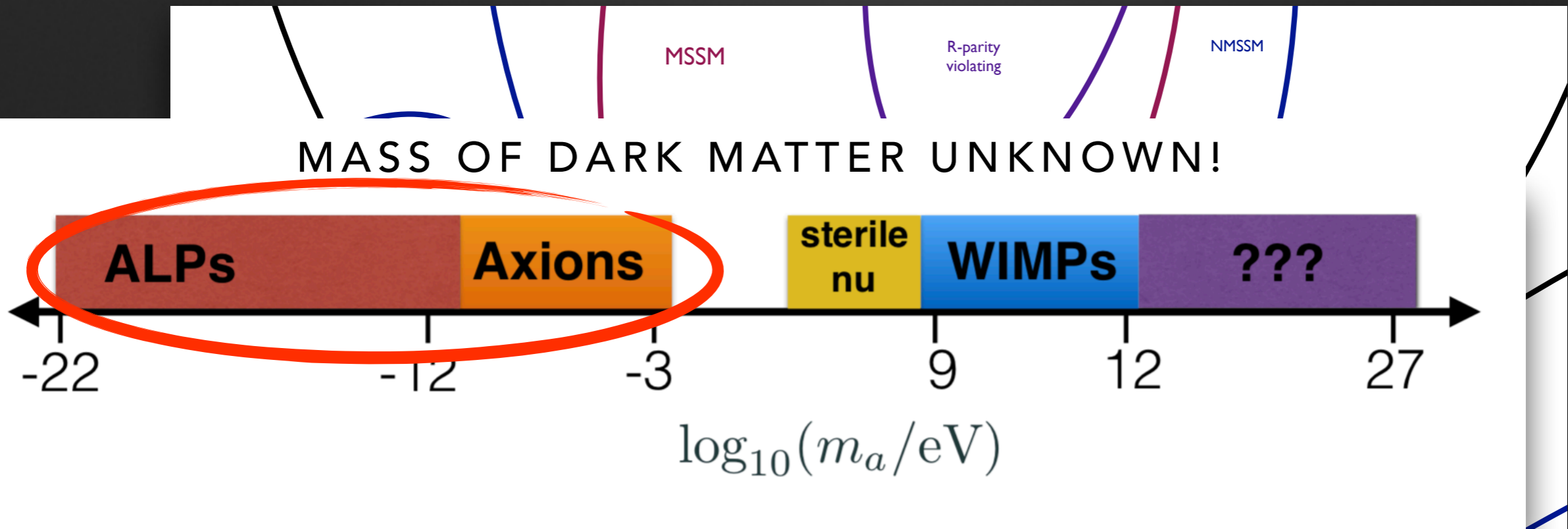
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# WHAT IS THE PARTICLE NATURE OF DARK MATTER?

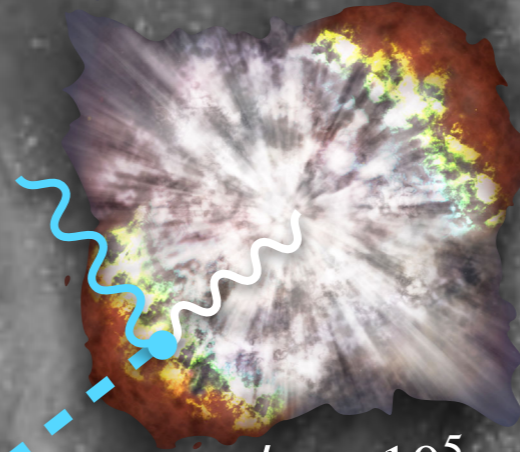


$$B \approx 1 \mu\text{G}$$

$$L = 10 \text{ kpc}$$

$$P_{a\gamma} \approx 0.1$$

$$A \approx 0.5 \text{ m}^2$$

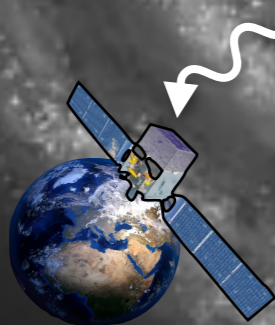


$$\phi_a \approx 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} (g_{a\gamma} / 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1})^2$$

**B**

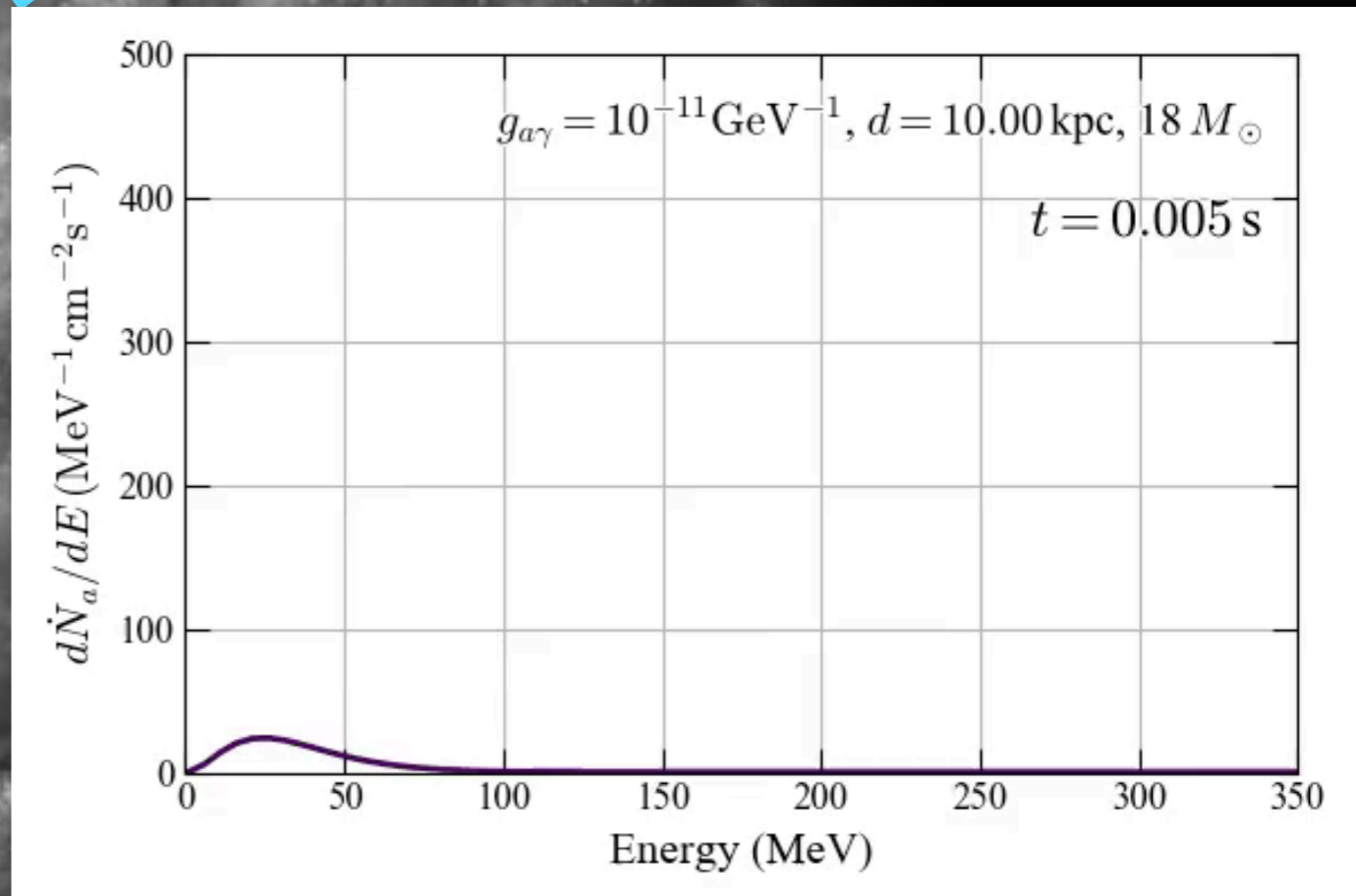
FERMI LARGE AREA TELESCOPE (LAT)

$30 \text{ MeV} \lesssim E \lesssim 1 \text{ TeV}$



$$\phi \approx 4 \times 10^7 \text{ photons s}^{-1}$$

(for 20 seconds, scales as  $g_{a\gamma}^4$ )



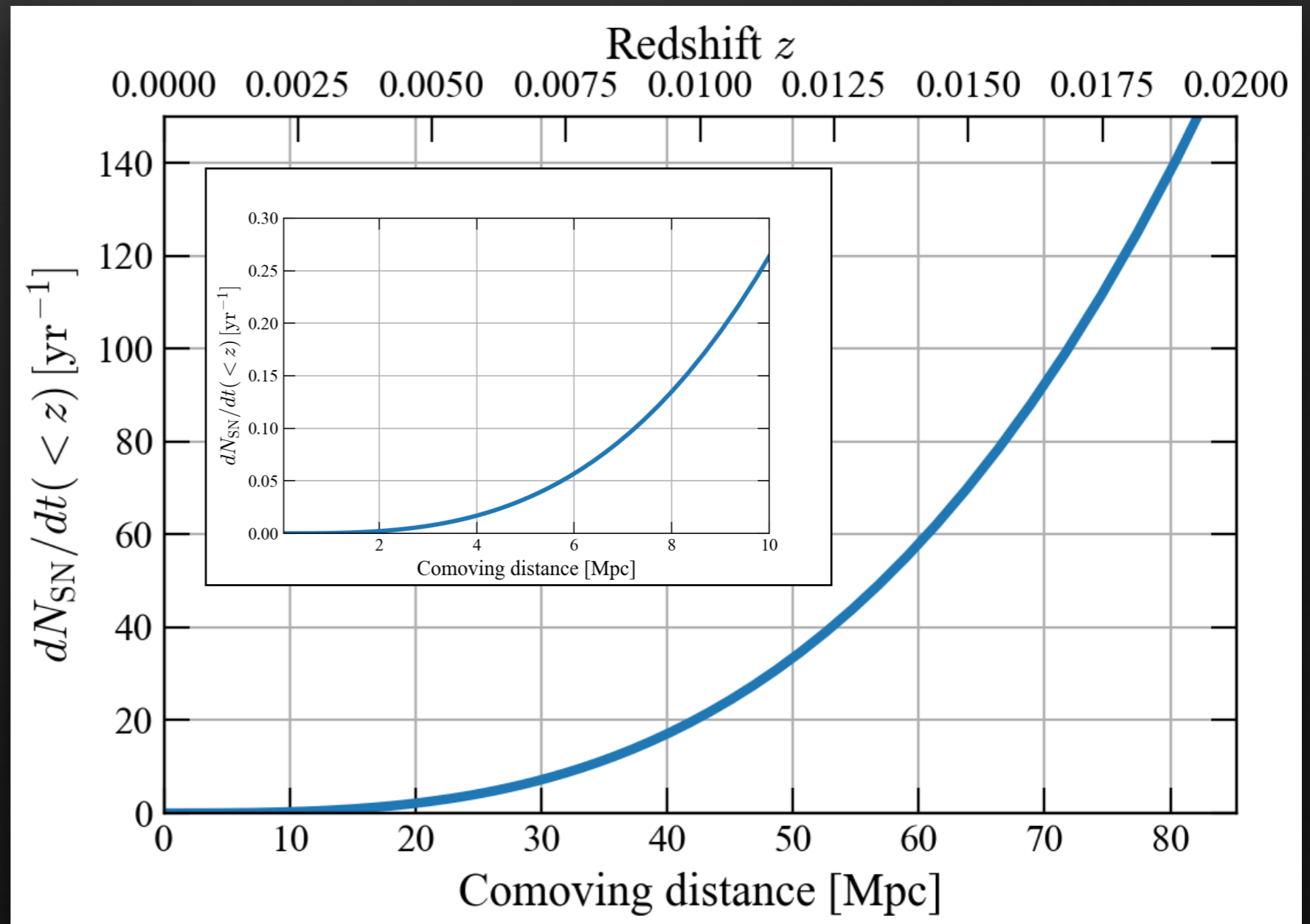
CORE COLLAPSE SN RATE IN MILKY WAY ~ 3% PER YEAR

LAT OBSERVERS ~20% OF THE SKY

→ 2% CHANCE TO CATCH AT LEAST ONE SUCH EVENT IF  
LAT OPERATES FOR 3 MORE YEARS

# LOOK FOR EXTRAGALACTIC SUPERNOVAE INSTEAD

- But **no neutrino signal!**
- Use **optical light** curves to estimate explosion times [e.g. Cowen et al. 2010]
- Possible with light curves from **surveys** such as **ASAS-SN, iPTF, ZTF, TESS Satellite, Rubin Observatory**



Lien & Fields 2009

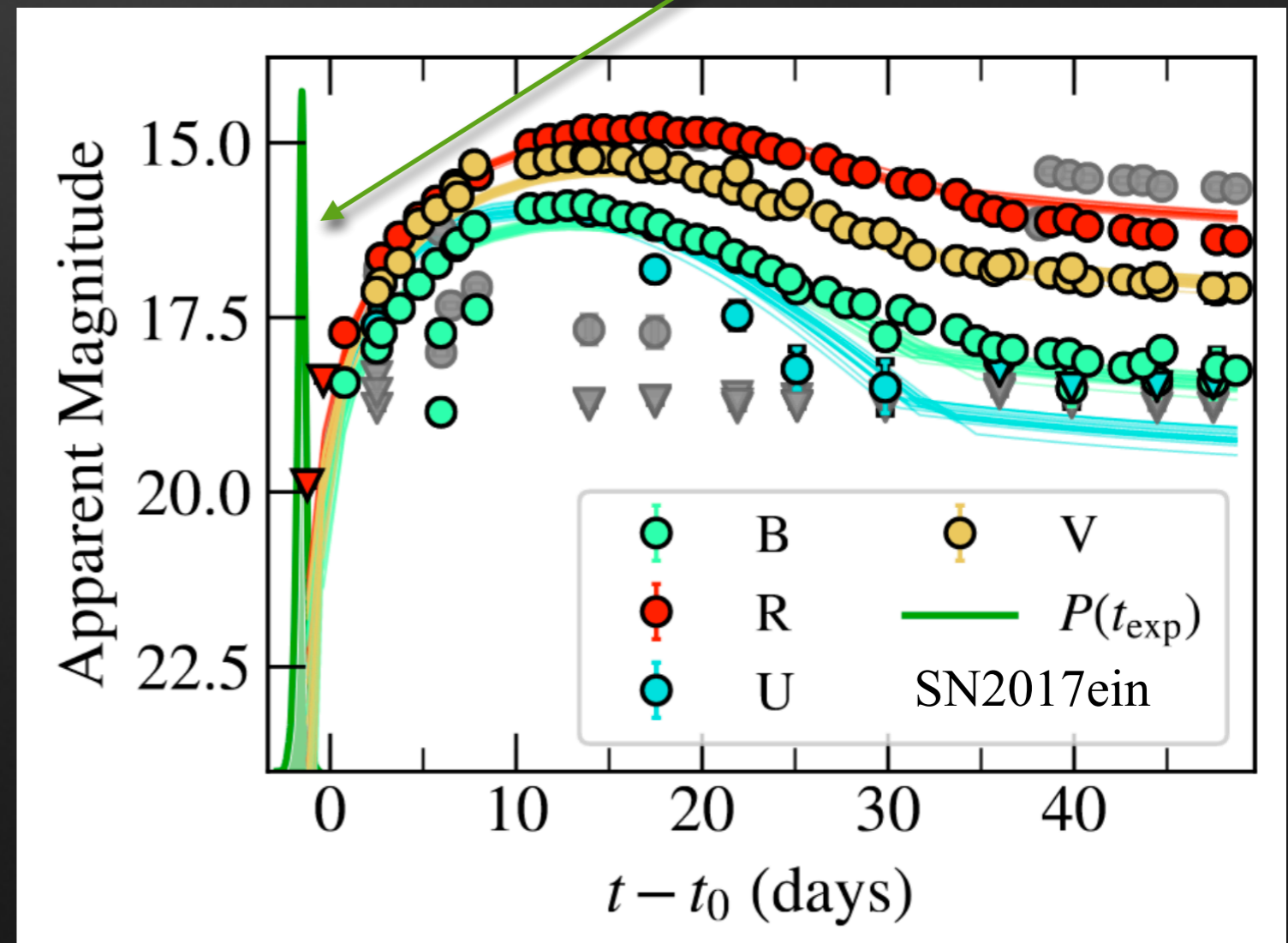
# OPTICAL SN SAMPLE

- Data from open supernova catalog [www.sne.space](http://www.sne.space) [Guillochon et al. 2018]
- Core collapse SN of type Ib/c (predicted short delay between core collapse and optical emission)
- Closer than  $z \lesssim 0.05$  with well sampled light curve
- Detected after Fermi launch
- Gives 20 SNe until 2018

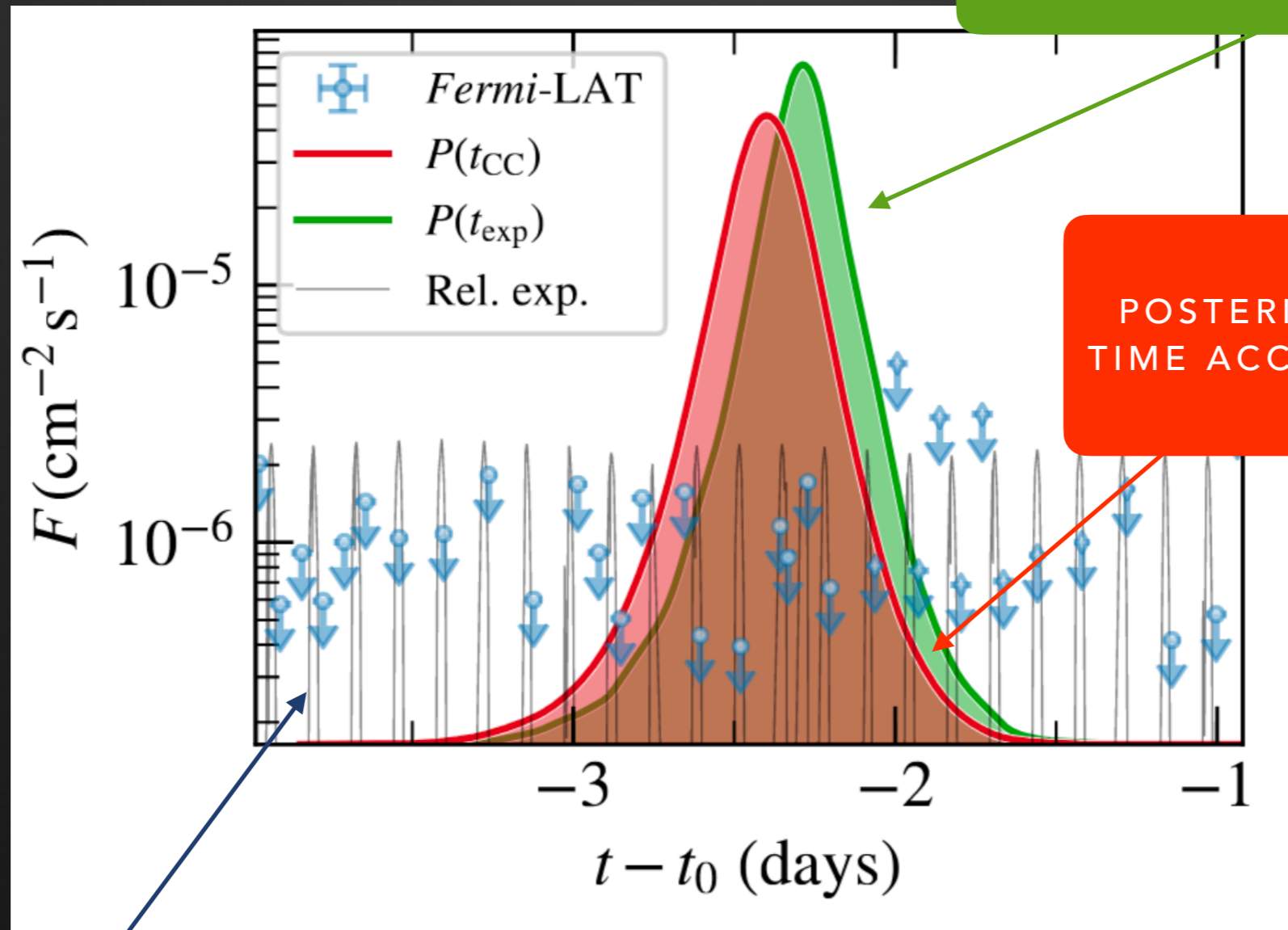
SN	R.A. (deg)	Dec. (deg)	Redshift
SN2009bb	157.891	-39.958	0.0104
SN2009iz	40.564	42.397	0.014
SN2009jf	346.221	12.333	0.0079
SN2010bh	107.632	-56.256	0.0593
SN2010et	259.225	31.564	0.023
SN2011bm	194.225	22.375	0.022
SN2012P	224.996	1.890	0.004506
SN2012ap	75.057	-3.348	0.01224
PTF12gzk	333.173	0.512	0.01377
iPTF13bvn	225.001	1.881	0.00449
SN2013ge	158.702	21.662	0.004356
SN2014L	184.703	14.412	0.008029
SN2014ad	179.435	-10.171	0.0057
SN2015ap	31.306	6.102	0.01138
PTF15dtg	37.584	37.235	0.0524
SN2016bau	170.246	53.174	0.003856
SN2016blz	235.122	0.910	0.01173
SN2016coi	329.767	18.186	0.003646
SN2017ein	178.222	44.124	0.002699
SN2017fwm	288.217	-60.383	0.015557

# DETERMINING THE OPTICAL EXPLOSION TIME

- Light curve fitted with MOSFiT package  
[Guillochon et al. 2018]



# GAMMA-RAY ANALYSIS PROCEDURE



POSTERIOR FOR EXPLOSION TIME FROM MOSFIT

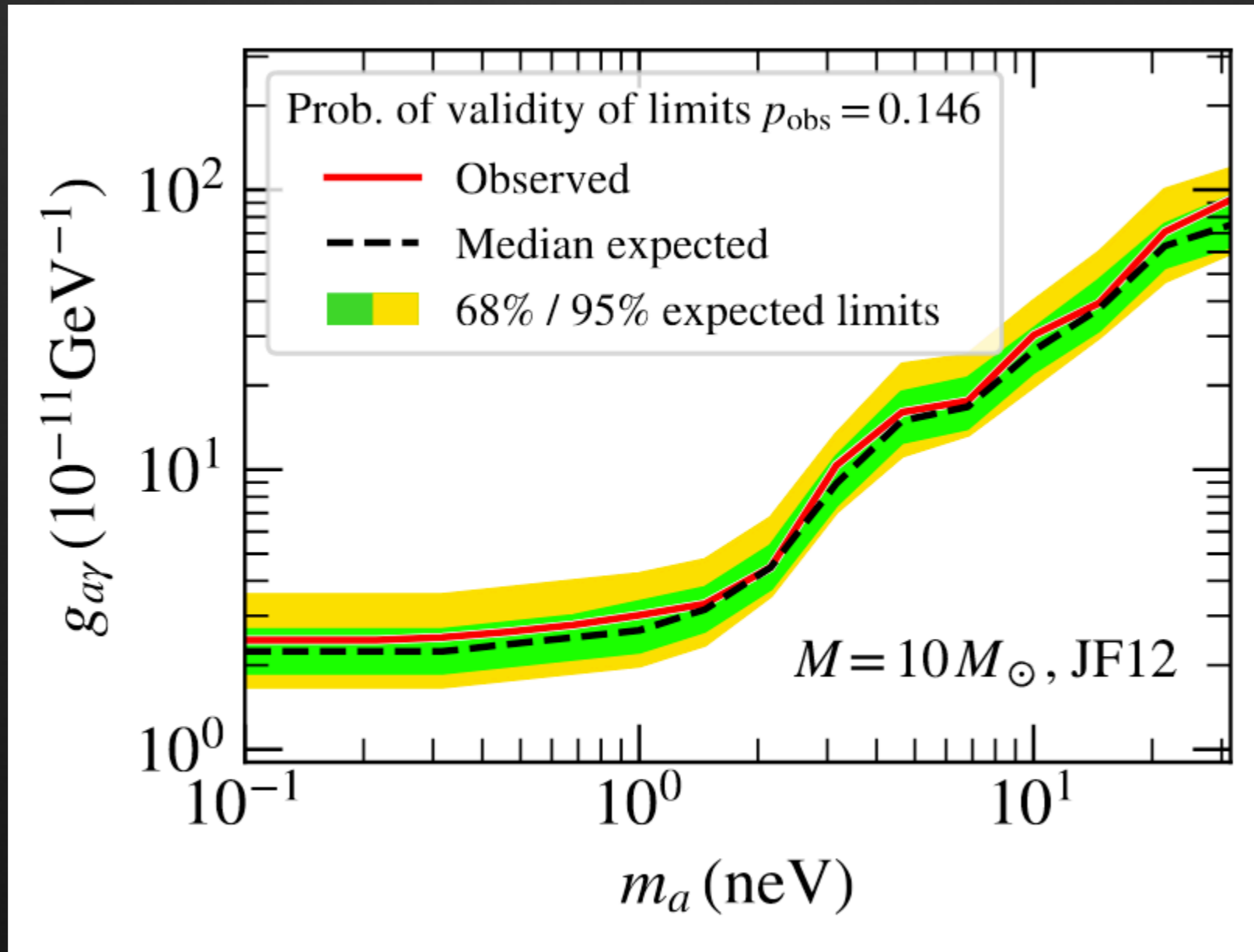
POSTERIOR FOR EXPLOSION TIME ACCOUNTING FOR DELAY

FERMI LAT FLUX UPPER LIMITS

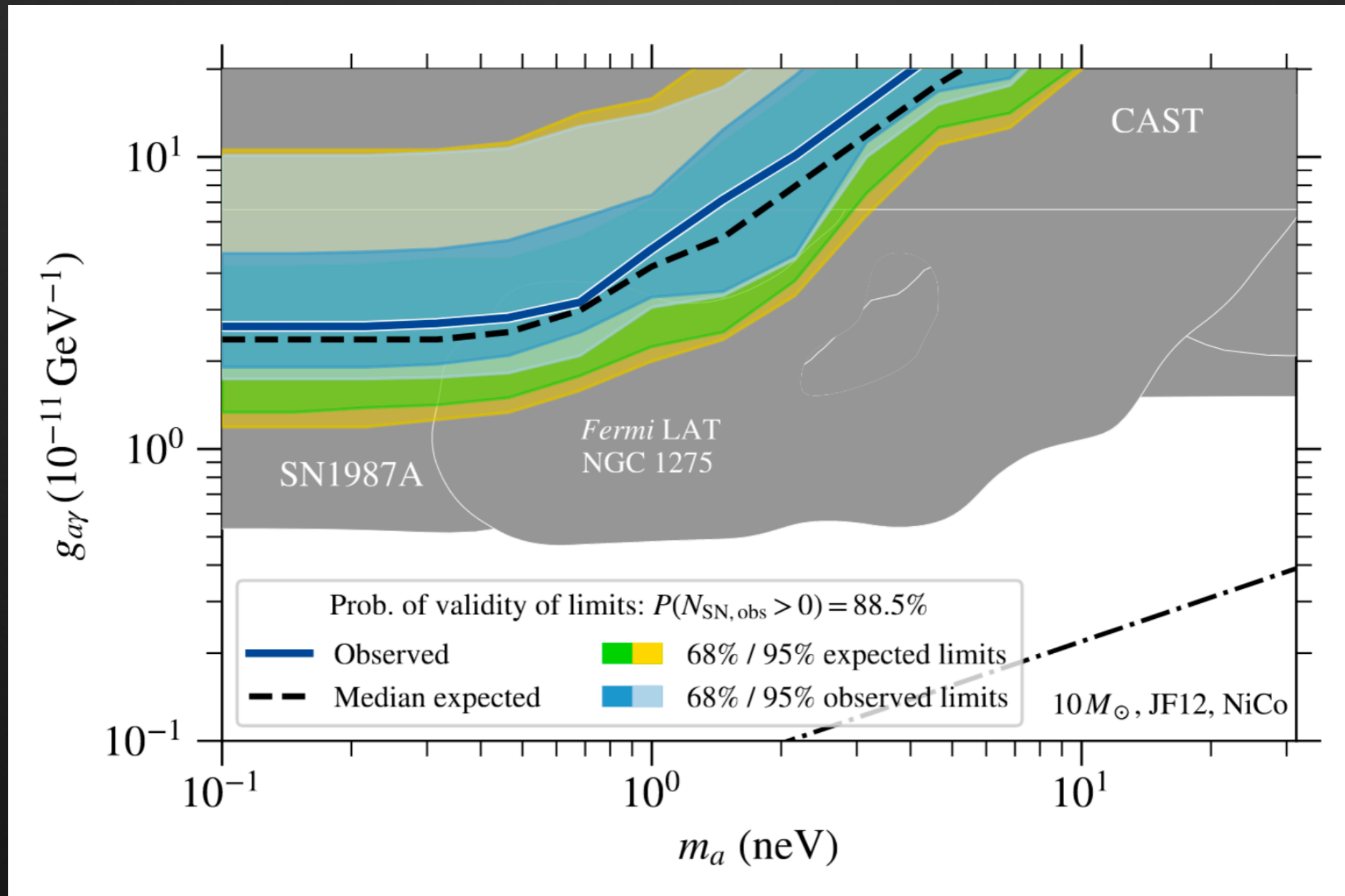
SN2017ein



# CONSTRAINTS FROM ONE SN



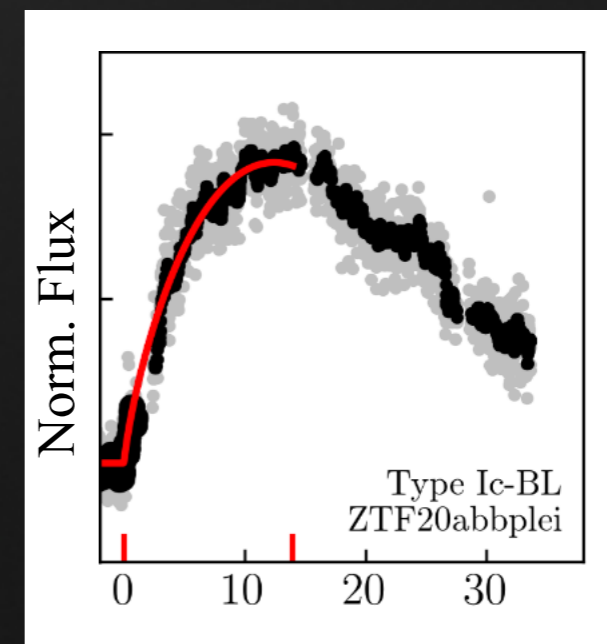
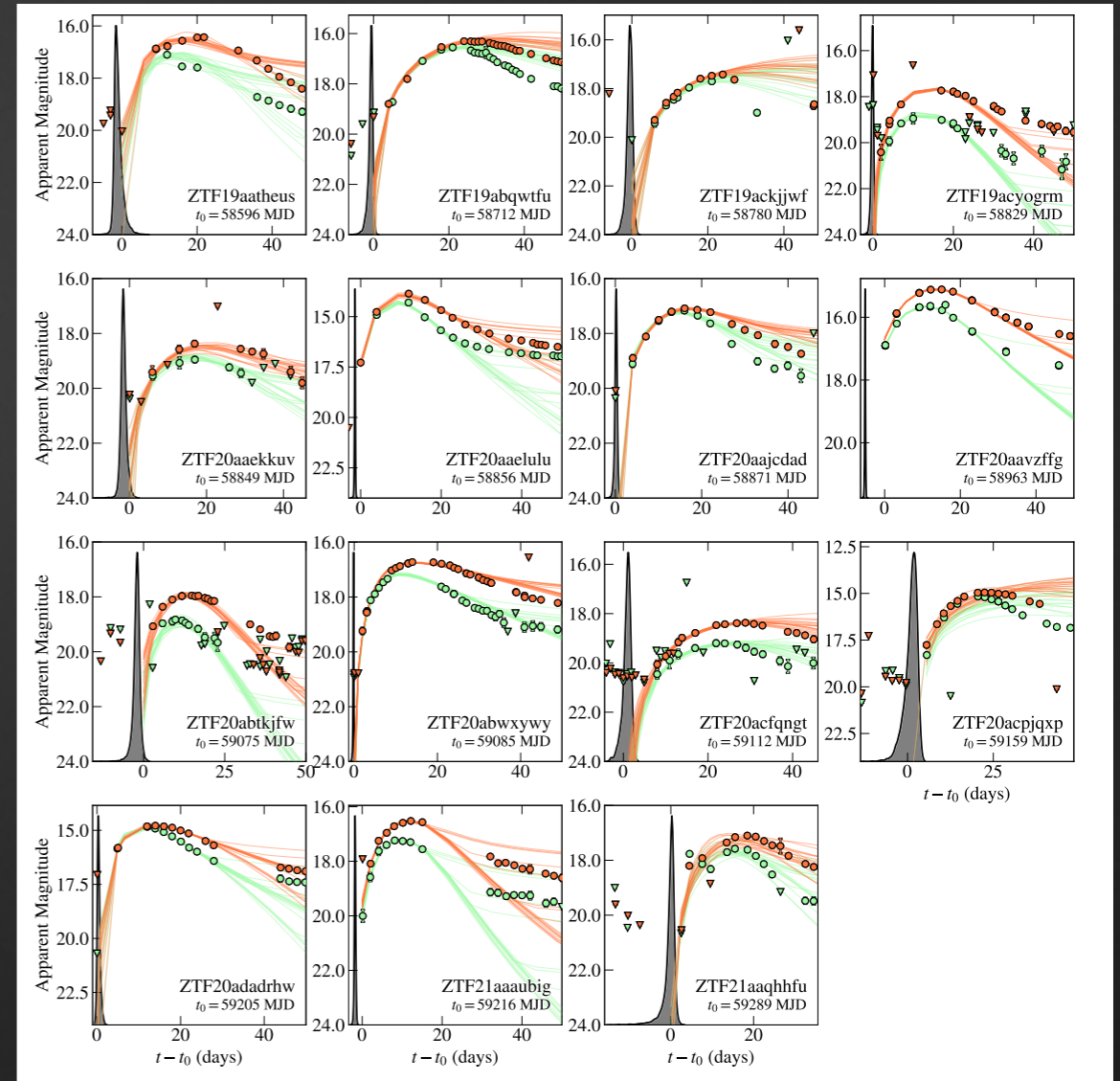
# COMBINED LIMITS FROM SAMPLE OF 20 SNe



$$P(N_{\text{obs}} \geq 1) = 1 - \prod_i (1 - p_{\text{obs},i}) \approx 89\%$$

# SNe SAMPLE IS GROWING!

- ZTF, ASAS-SN and other surveys are already observing
- Vera Rubin Observatory will see first light in 2023
- TESS satellite provides high cadence light curves for some SNe



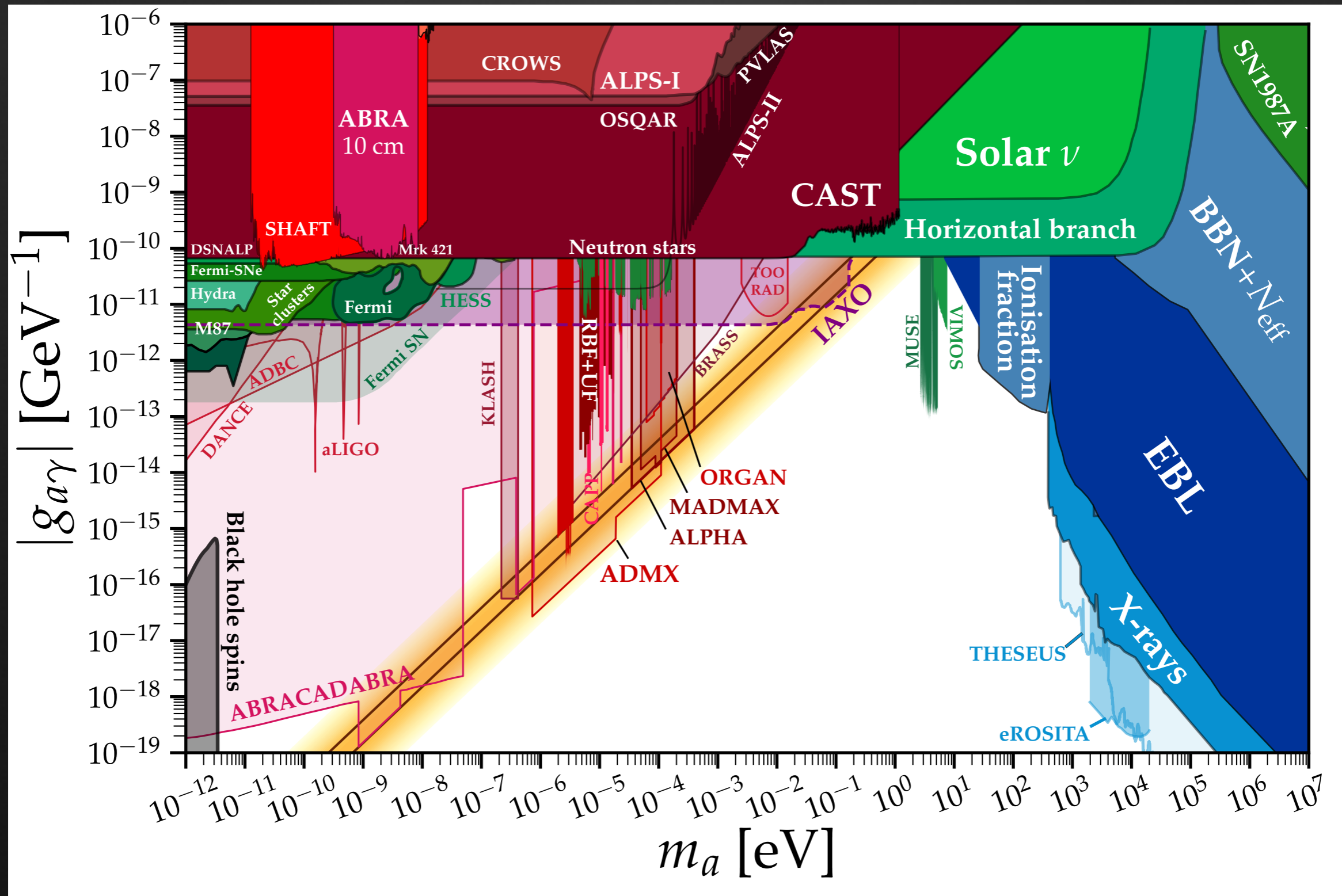
[Vallely et al. 2021]

# CONCLUSIONS

- $\gamma$ -ray burst signal at tens of MeV co-incident with neutrinos  $\rightarrow$  smoking gun for ALPs!
- For extragalactic SNe: Core-collapse time can be estimated from optical light curves
- Fermi LAT all-sky survey very well suited to search for such a signal
- Many new SNe will be detected with optical surveys in the near future

BACK UP

# PHOTON-ALP PARAMETER SPACE



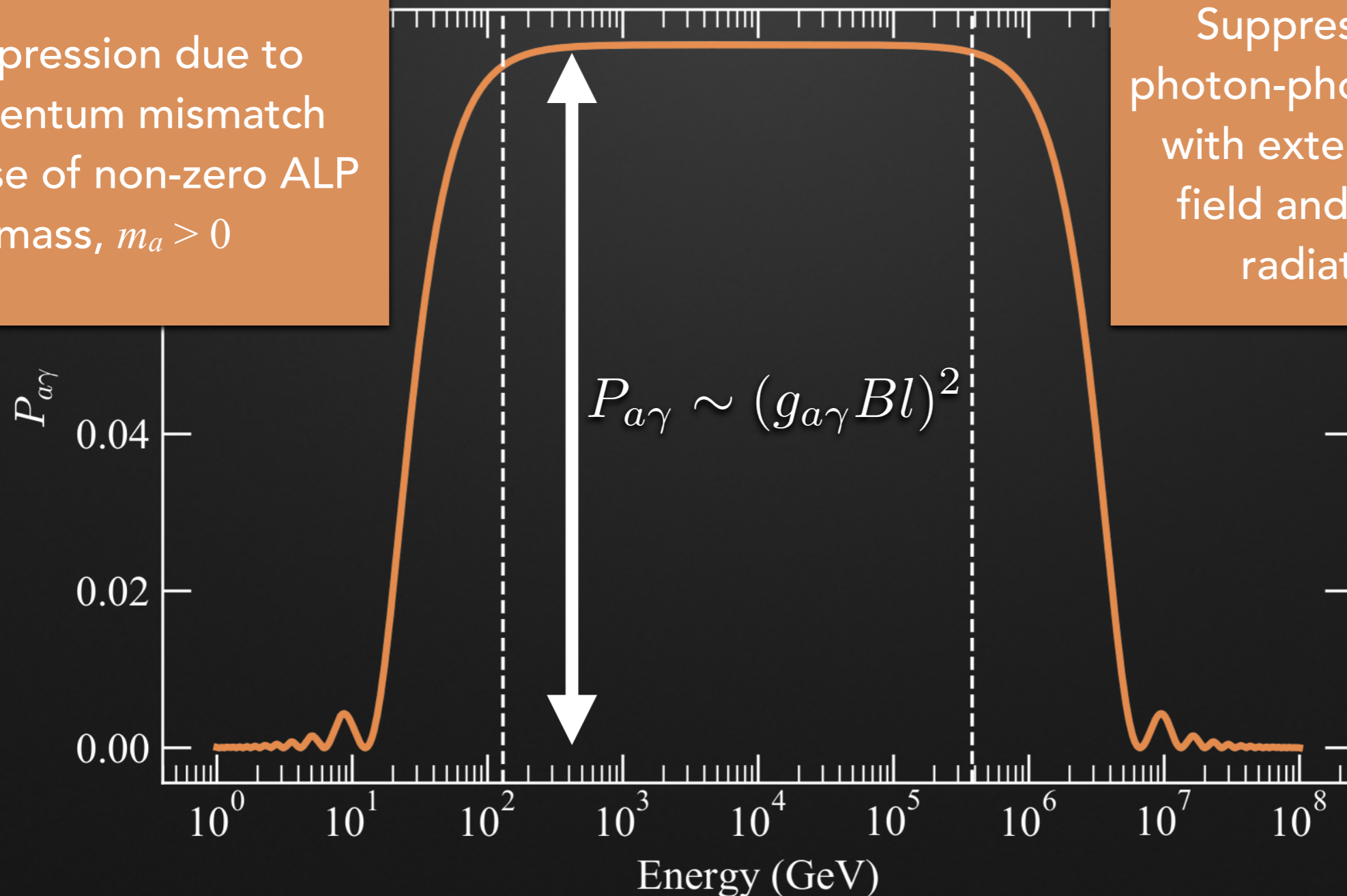
# PHOTON-AXION/ALP MIXING

## IN A COHERENT MAGNETIC FIELD

$B = 1 \mu\text{G}, L = 10 \text{ kpc}$

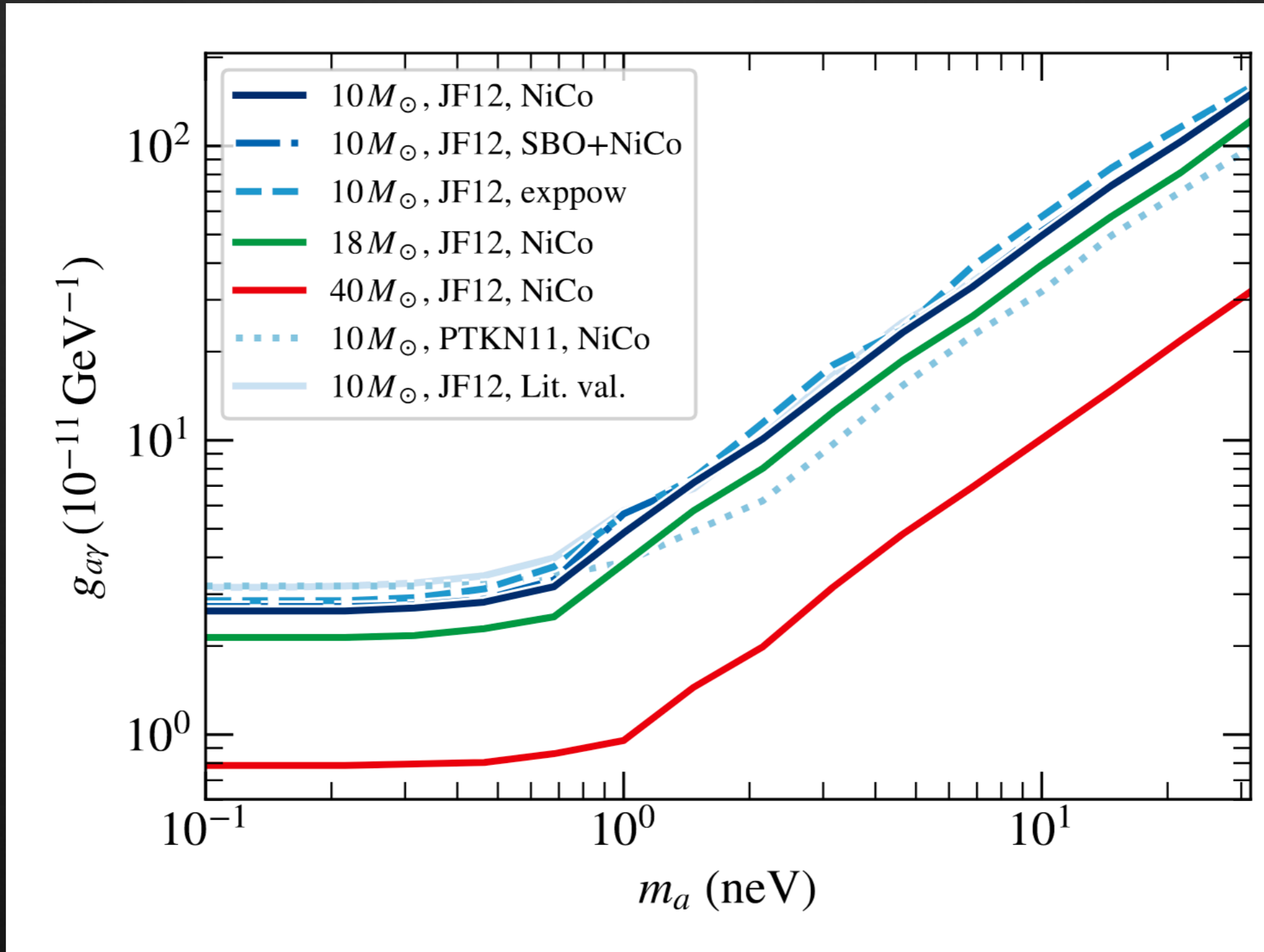
Suppression due to momentum mismatch because of non-zero ALP mass,  $m_a > 0$

Suppression due to photon-photon dispersion with external magnetic field and background radiation fields



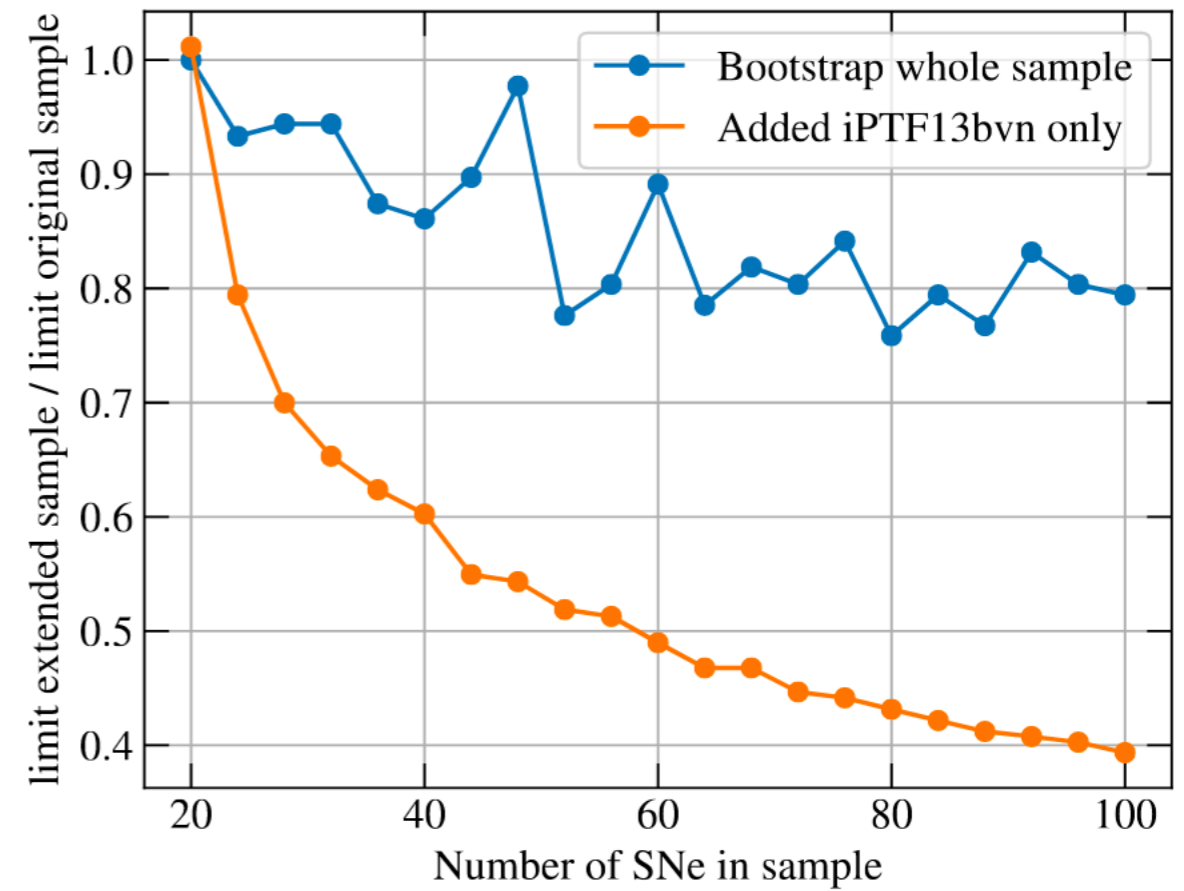
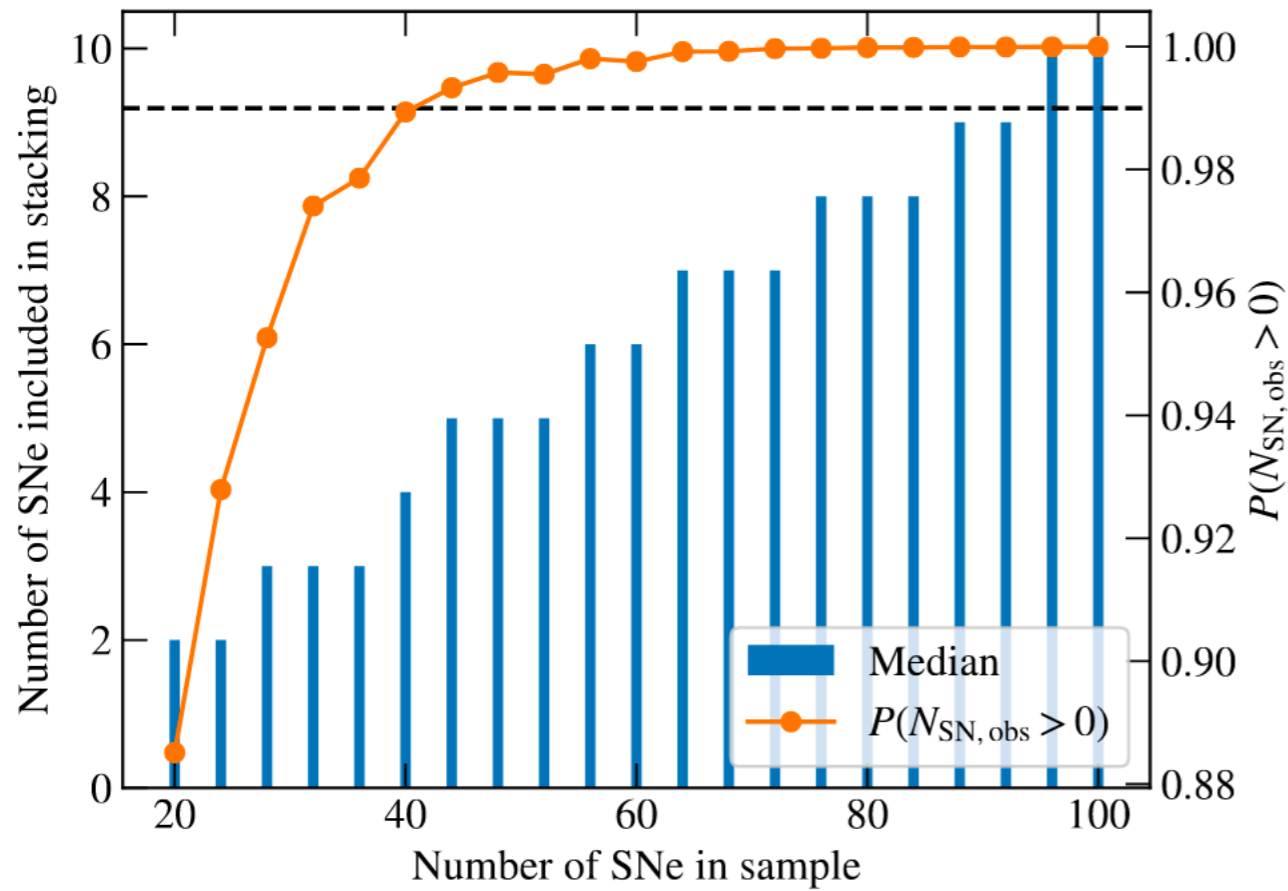
[Östman & Mörtzell 2005;  
 Hooper & Serpico 2007;  
 Mirizzi et al 2007;  
 Hochmuth & Sigl 2007;  
 De Angelis et al. 2008;  
 Wouters & Brun 2012,2013;  
 Abramowski et al.  
 (including MM) 2013;  
 Ajello et al. (including MM)  
 2016;  
 Montanino et al. 2017;  
 Liang et al. 2018;  
 Malyshev et al. 2018;  
 Majumdar et al. 2018;  
 [Raffelt & Stodolsky 1988;  
 Xia et al. 2018;  
 Dobrynin et al. 2015]

# SN CONSTRAINTS WITH DIFFERENT MODEL ASSUMPTIONS



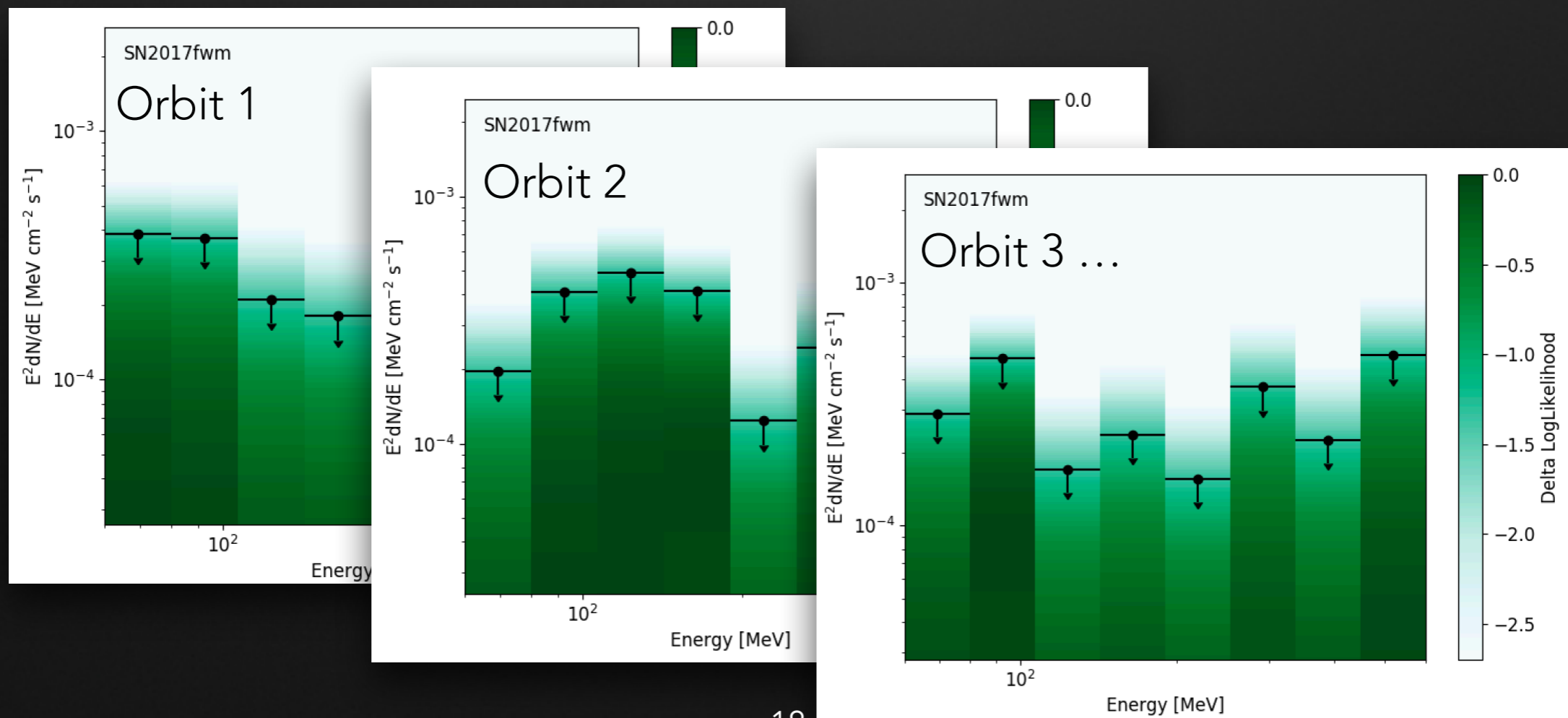


# PROJECTION OF SN CONSTRAINTS



# GAMMA-RAY ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

- Add SN to ROI model assuming ALP model
- Calculate gamma-ray light curve  $\pm 30$  days around SN discovery date with one time bin per orbit ( $\sim 2 \times 30 \times 24 / 1.5 = 960$  orbits)
- For each orbit: derive SED and log likelihood curve in each energy bin



# LIKELIHOOD FORMULATION

Gamma-ray likelihood: multiplied over energy bins, depends on ALP parameters, progenitor mass  $M$ ,  $B$  field, nuisance parameters for background sources and time  $t_{\text{exp}}$

$$\mathcal{L}(m_a, g_{a\gamma}, t_{\text{exp},j}, \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{D}_\gamma) = \left( \prod_{\Delta E_i} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma,i}(m_a, g_{a\gamma}, t_{\text{exp},j}, M, \mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_\gamma | \mathbf{D}_\gamma) \right)$$

Consider GTIs such that  $t_{\text{exp},j} \in \Delta t$  with

$$\int_{\Delta t} \pi(\mathbf{D}_{\text{optical}} | \boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{optical}}) dt = 0.95$$

Convolved marginalized posterior integrated over time

Gives trials factor equal to the number of orbits inside  $\Delta t$

# LOG LIKELIHOOD RATIO TESTS FOR SOURCE DETECTION AND SETTING LIMITS

In analogy to WIMP searches: step through mass  $m_a$

$$TS_j = -2 \ln \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}(m_a, g_{a\gamma} = 0, t_{\text{exp},j}, \widehat{\theta})}{\mathcal{L}(m_a, \widehat{g_{a\gamma}}, t_{\text{exp},j}, \widehat{\theta})} \right)$$

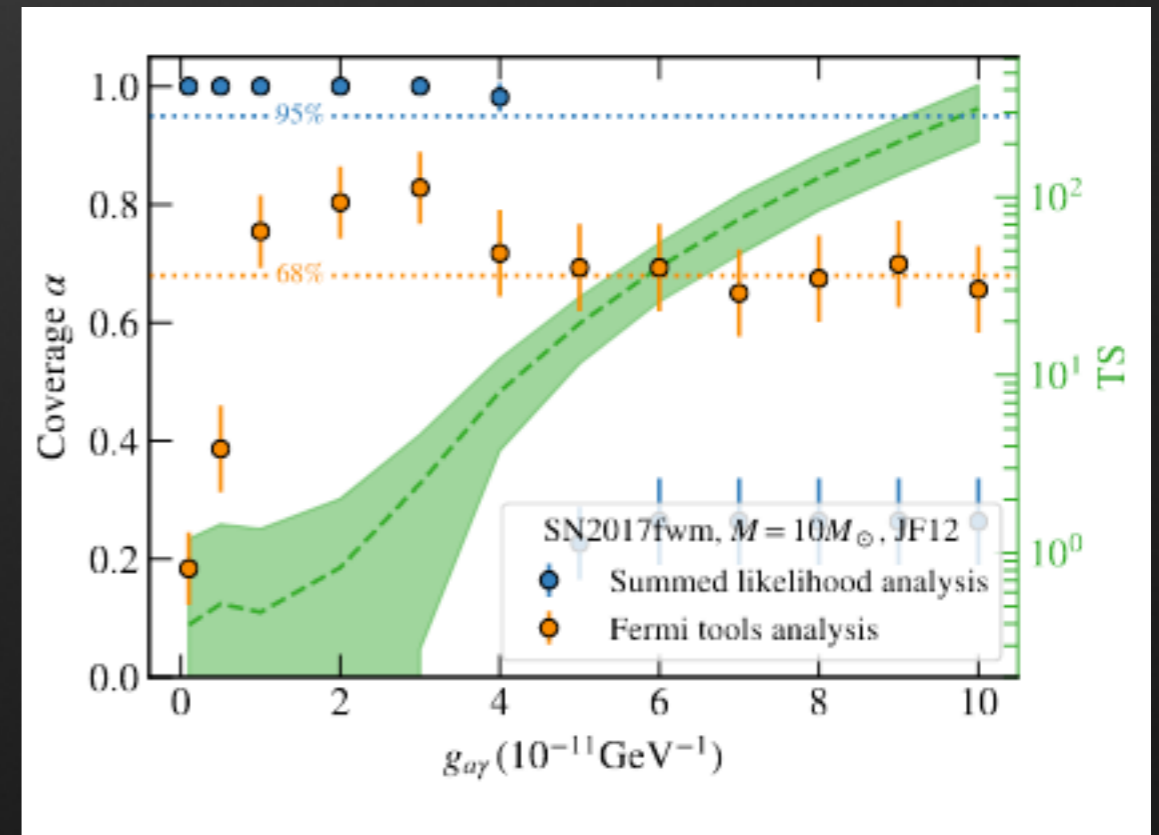
Select orbit ( $\tilde{t}_{\text{exp}}$ ) with highest TS for best fit / setting limits:

$$\lambda(m_a, g_{a\gamma}) = -2 \ln \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}(m_a, g_{a\gamma}, \tilde{t}_{\text{exp}}, \widehat{\theta})}{\mathcal{L}(m_a, \widehat{g_{a\gamma}}, \tilde{t}_{\text{exp}}, \widehat{\theta})} \right)$$

SN	$t_{\text{CC}}$ (MJD)	$N_{\text{bins}}$	$TS_{\text{max}}$
SN2009bb	54908.965 <sup>+0.652</sup> <sub>-0.595</sub>	17	3.79
SN2009iz	55087.015 <sup>+1.662</sup> <sub>-3.035</sub>	45	-0.00
SN2009jf	55099.035 <sup>+0.481</sup> <sub>-0.559</sub>	10	6.72
SN2010bh	55266.096 <sup>+0.947</sup> <sub>-2.428</sub>	26	-0.00
SN2010et	55345.256 <sup>+2.344</sup> <sub>-1.401</sub>	56	9.44
SN2011bm	55639.702 <sup>+0.801</sup> <sub>-0.971</sub>	15	10.20
SN2012P	55929.848 <sup>+1.591</sup> <sub>-1.979</sub>	52	5.04
SN2012ap	55959.616 <sup>+1.709</sup> <sub>-4.111</sub>	53	2.46
PTF12gzk	56131.494 <sup>+0.121</sup> <sub>-0.122</sub>	3	0.53
iPTF13bvn	56457.020 <sup>+0.236</sup> <sub>-0.250</sub>	7	1.29
SN2013ge	56594.040 <sup>+2.072</sup> <sub>-3.554</sub>	90	6.14
SN2014L	56681.285 <sup>+0.311</sup> <sub>-0.334</sub>	8	3.38
SN2014AD	56723.830 <sup>+1.715</sup> <sub>-1.632</sub>	50	3.99
SN2015ap	57271.141 <sup>+0.642</sup> <sub>-0.930</sub>	17	4.25
PTF15dtg	57322.529 <sup>+2.196</sup> <sub>-3.763</sub>	53	1.21
SN2016bau	57458.858 <sup>+0.497</sup> <sub>-0.889</sub>	9	-0.00
SN2016blz	57481.087 <sup>+2.394</sup> <sub>-3.687</sub>	91	6.14
SN2016coi	57530.317 <sup>+1.190</sup> <sub>-1.174</sub>	32	3.81
SN2017ein	57896.352 <sup>+0.495</sup> <sub>-0.624</sub>	11	0.84
SN2017fwm	57965.049 <sup>+0.152</sup> <sub>-0.299</sub>	5	0.37

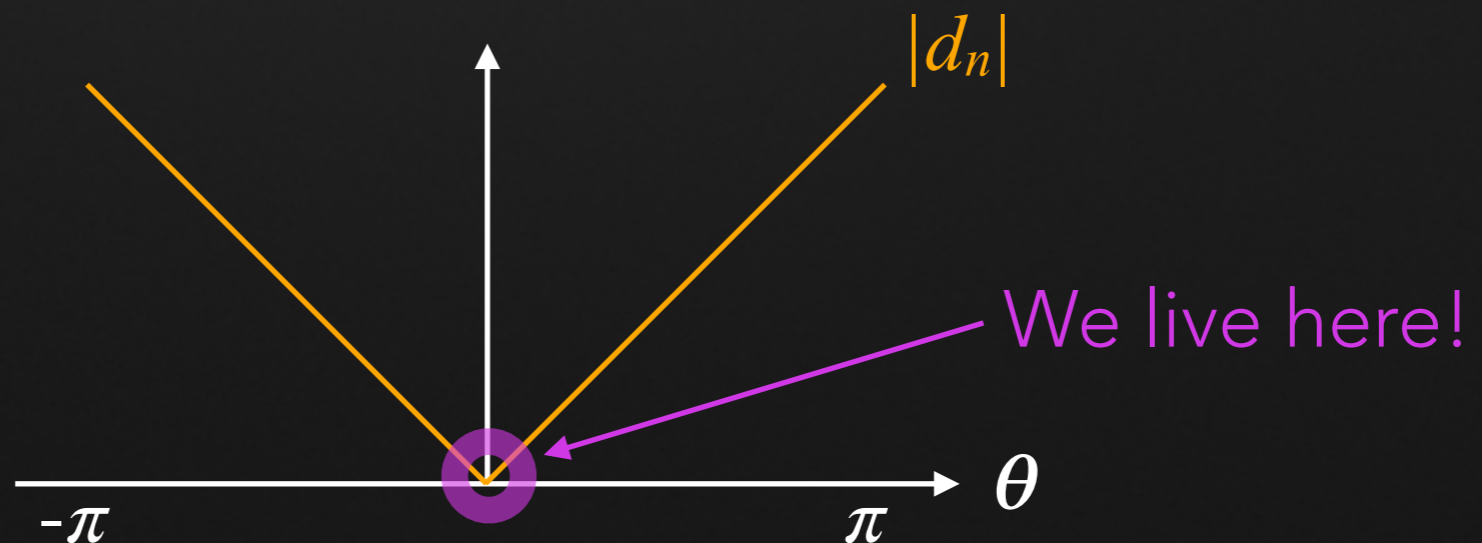
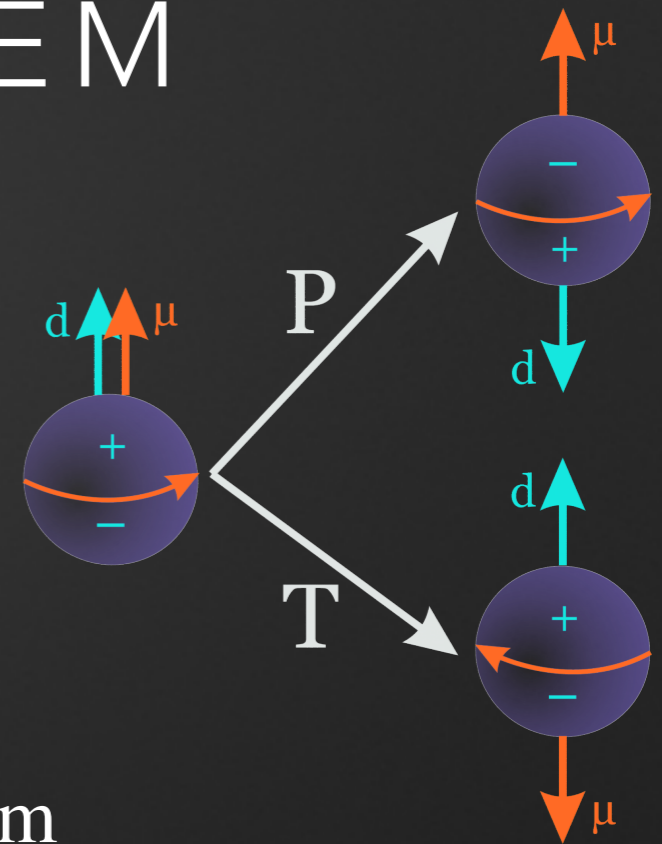
# RESULTS FOR COVERAGE TEST

- Coverage =  
(number of times true signal in confidence interval) /  
(number of simulations)
- bin-by-bin likelihood gives correct coverage for small TS values, upper limits can be trusted. For high TS values: likelihood curves become extremely steep, hard to interpolate correctly, leading to under-coverage
- Science tools analysis gives under-coverage for small TS values, i.e., fits do not recover weak signal. For high TS values, coverage as expected, injected signal recovered
- **Conclusion:** bin-by-bin method works fine, limits can be trusted, reconstructed signals close to injected ones even for high TS, but in that case we would conduct a science tools analysis anyway



# THE STRONG CP PROBLEM

- Theory of strong force (QCD) predicts electric dipole moment of the neutron with strength  $\theta \in [-\pi, \pi]$
- Calculation:  $|d_n| \approx 2.4 \times 10^{-16} \theta e \text{ cm}$
- Measurement [[Abel et al. 2020](#)]:  $|d_n| < 1.8 \times 10^{-26} e \text{ cm}$
- $\Rightarrow |\theta| < 0.8 \times 10^{-10}$

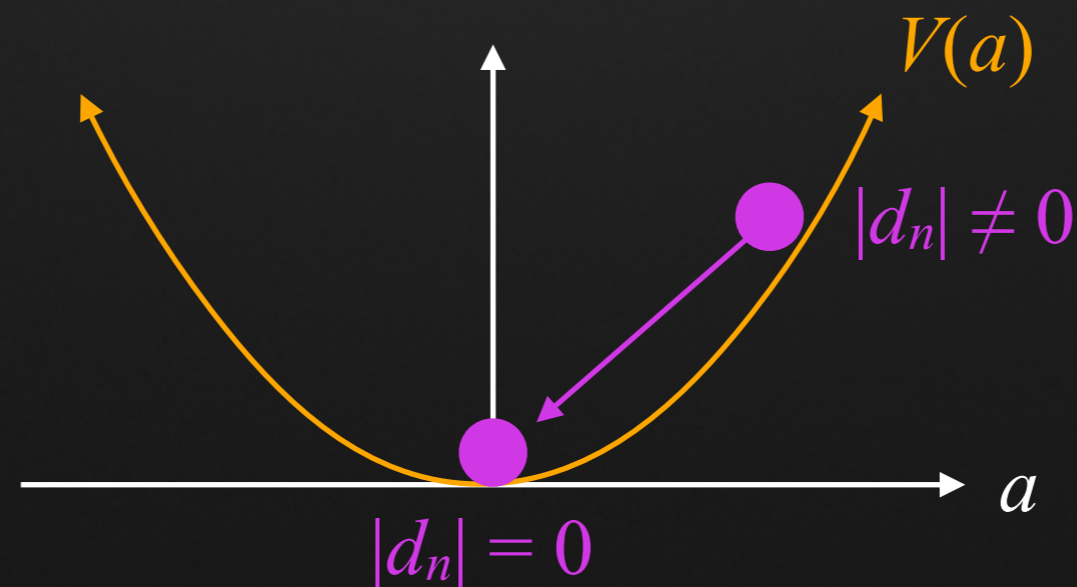


# AXION SOLVES THE STRONG CP PROBLEM



- $\theta \longrightarrow a / f_a$  with scalar field  $a$  and scale  $f_a$
- Potential  $V(a)$  generated by QCD, axion acquires mass

$$m_a \approx 10^{-9} \text{ eV} \left( \frac{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$



# AXIONLIKE PARTICLES (ALPs)

- **QCD axion:**  $m_a \sim 1 / f_a$
- Axionlike particles:  $m_a$  and  $f_a$  **independent parameters**
- Predicted in several **extensions** of the standard model (Majoron, Familon, String Theory ... )  
[Chikashige et al. 78; Langacker et al. 86; Wilczek 82, Witten 84; Conlon 06; Arvanitaki et al. 09; Acharya et al. 10; Cicoli et al. 12, see also Jaeckel & Ringwald 10, Irastorza & Redondo 18 for reviews]
- **Do not solve the strong CP problem**



# EVOLUTION OF AXION/ALP FIELD IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE

$$\ddot{a} + 3H\dot{a} + m_a^2 a = 0$$

