

# **New Insight on Neutrino Dark Matter Interactions from Small-Scale CMB Observations**

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BP-2

**Annual Reporting Seminar 2023  
Fundamental Research Department**

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# TALK BASED ON ARTICLES

1)

Monthly Notices  
of the  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MNRAS **527**, L122–L126 (2024)  
Advance Access publication 2023 October 17

<https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/slad157>



## New insights on $\nu$ -DM interactions

Philippe Brax<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Carsten van de Bruck<sup>3\*</sup>, Eleonora Di Valentino<sup>3\*</sup>, William Giaré<sup>3</sup> and Sebastian Trojanowski<sup>4,5</sup>

Physics of the Dark Universe 42 (2023) 101321

2)



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Physics of the Dark Universe

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/dark](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/dark)

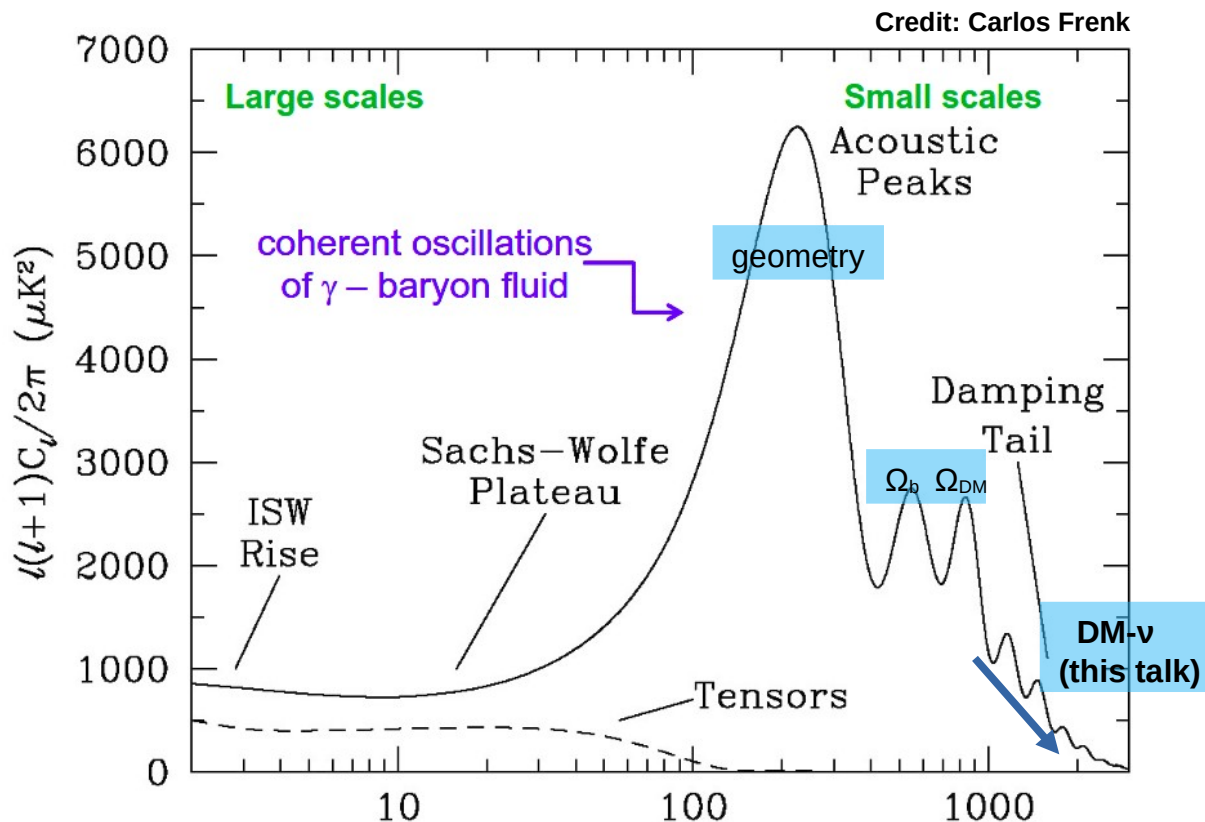


Extended analysis of neutrino-dark matter interactions with small-scale CMB experiments



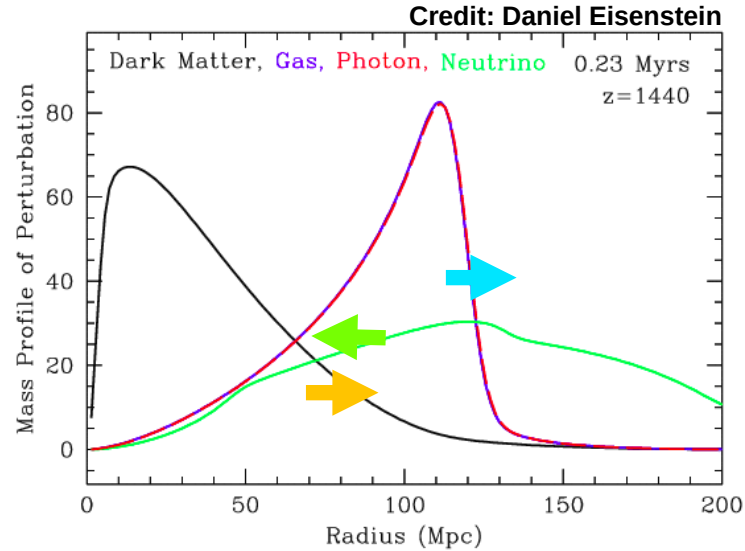
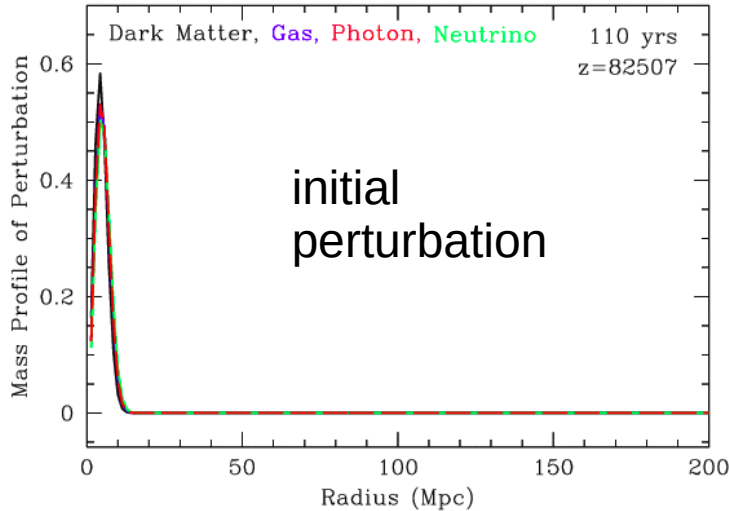
# CMB & DARK MATTER

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation plays an essential role in establishing DM role in the evolution of the Universe



CAN WE LEARN MORE FROM THE DAMPING TAIL?

# ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS & NEUTRINOS



- Standard cosmology: neutrinos free stream & can “drag” baryon photon fluid
- In the presence of DM-neutrino interactions:
  - DM can take part in oscillations → gravitational boost & enhanced CMB peaks  
[R.J. Wilkinson, etal, 1401.7597](#)
  - DM- $\nu$  interactions can affect  $\nu$  free streaming → stronger clustering & enhanced CMB peaks  $>1$   
[G. Magano, etal 0606190](#)
  - DM-neutrino fluid has a lower sound speed → drag effect, CMB peaks shifted and more...  
[P. Serra, etal, 0911.4411](#)
- **This talk:** low (but non-negligible) DM- $\nu$  interaction strength

$$\Gamma_{\text{DM}-\nu} > H > (\Gamma_{\nu} \equiv \Gamma_{\nu-e} + \Gamma_{\nu-\text{DM}}), \text{ mixed damping regime}$$

# SMALL-SCALE CMB & $\nu$ -DM INTERACTIONS

“Conventional wisdom”

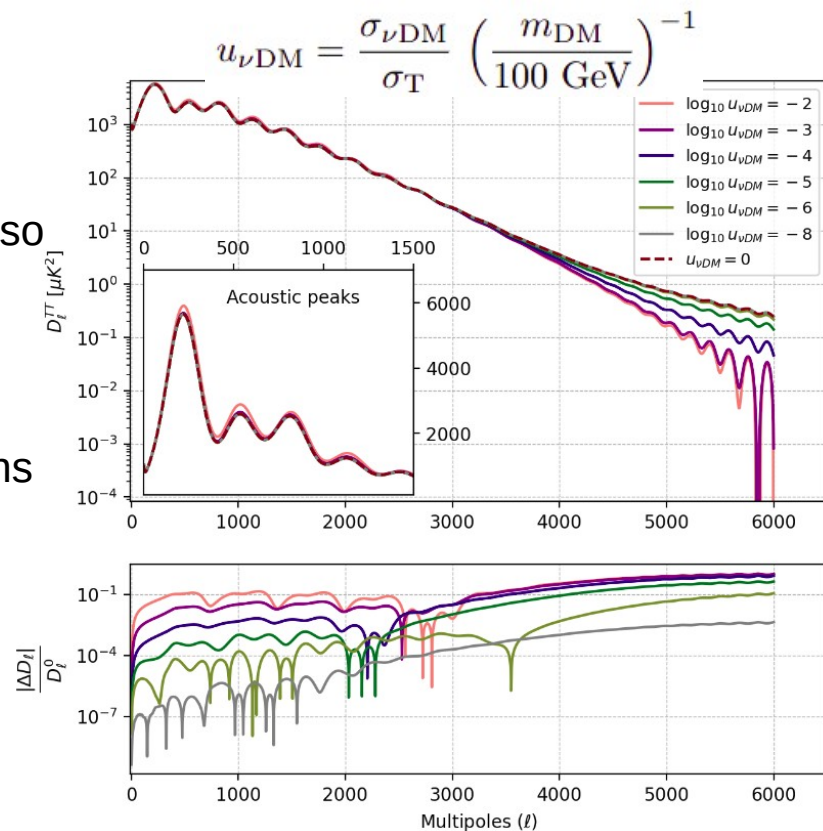
**WRONG !**

A. Paul, etal, 2104.04760

- The features of the tail of CMB PS is highly suppressed due to diffusion damping, so no visible difference due to non-standard scatterings is present at those modes. On

## Our findings

- DM- $\nu$  interactions:
  - suppression of high-multipole peaks at few % level or so
  - negligible effect at low multipoles for  $u_{\nu\text{DM}} < 10^{-5}$
- Similar effect in the temperature (TT) & polarization (EE) distributions
- Current data: Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT), South Pole Telescope (SPT)
- Future surveys can further improve: CMB-S4, ...



High-multipole CMB data = new window to study DM- $\nu$  interactions

# PREFERENCE: NON-ZERO DM- $\nu$ COUPLING

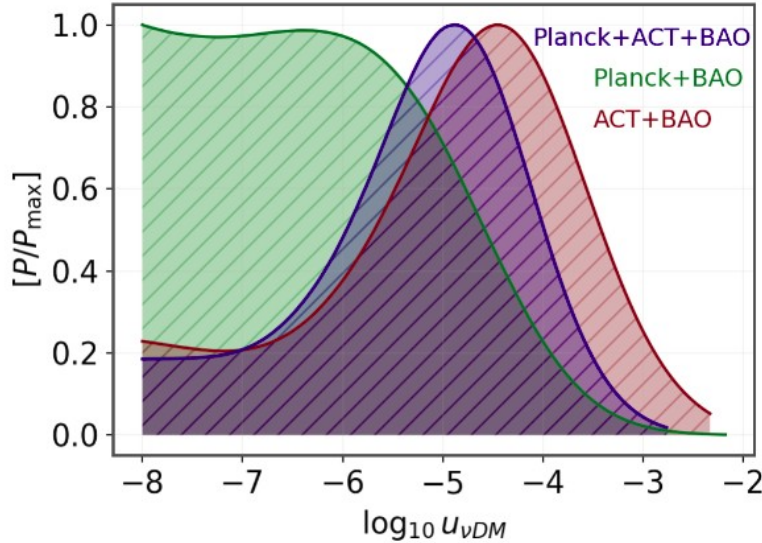
$$\sigma_{\nu\text{DM}} \sim T^0$$

**CMB** (this work)

Hints from **Lyman- $\alpha$**

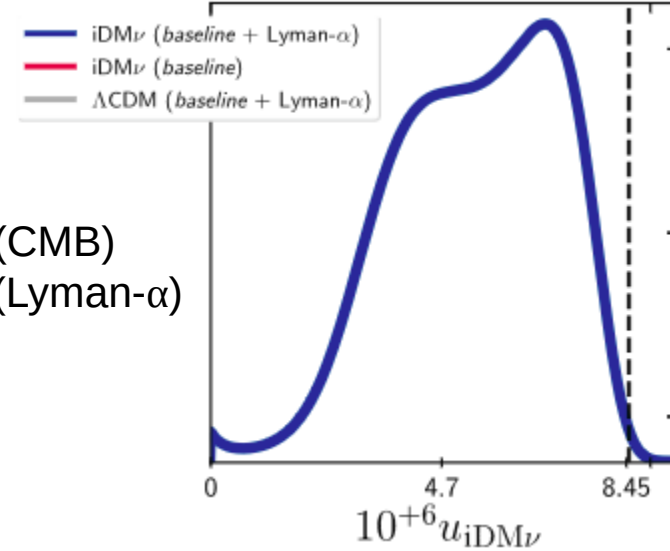
D.C. Hopper, M. Lucca, 2110.04024

Posterior



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}_{10} u_{\nu\text{DM}} &= -5.20^{+1.20}_{-0.74} \text{ (CMB)} \\ &= -5.42^{+0.17}_{-0.08} \text{ (Lyman-}\alpha\text{)} \end{aligned}$$

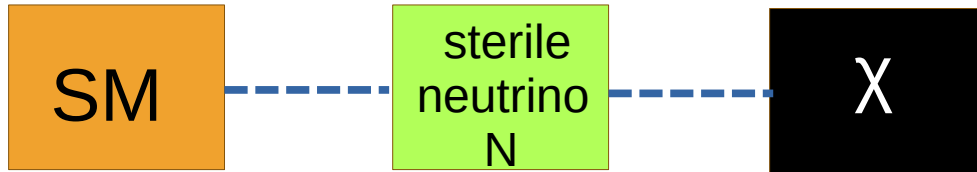
$$u_{\nu\text{DM}} = \frac{\sigma_{\nu\text{DM}}}{\sigma_T} \left( \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-1}$$



Parameter	Planck	Planck + BAO	ACT	ACT + BAO	ACT + Planck + BAO
$\Omega_b h^2$	$0.02239 \pm 0.00015$	$0.02239 \pm 0.00013$	$0.02153 \pm 0.00030$	$0.02154 \pm 0.00030$	$0.02236 \pm 0.00012$
$\Omega_c^{\nu\text{DM}} h^2$	$0.1196 \pm 0.0012$	$0.11958 \pm 0.00093$	$0.1185 \pm 0.0039$	$0.1198 \pm 0.0015$	$0.11975 \pm 0.00097$
$100\theta_s$	$1.04193 \pm 0.00030$	$1.04191 \pm 0.00028$	$1.04337 \pm 0.00069$	$1.04321 \pm 0.00063$	$1.04206 \pm 0.00026$
$\tau_{\text{reio}}$	$0.0528 \pm 0.0074$	$0.0524 \pm 0.0072$	$0.064 \pm 0.015$	$0.062 \pm 0.014$	$0.0563 \pm 0.0064$
$\log(10^{10} A_s)$	$3.039 \pm 0.014$	$3.038 \pm 0.014$	$3.049 \pm 0.030$	$3.047 \pm 0.030$	$3.053 \pm 0.013$
$n_s$	$0.9642 \pm 0.0044$	$0.9642 \pm 0.0038$	$1.004 \pm 0.016$	$1.001 \pm 0.014$	$0.9678 \pm 0.0036$
$\log_{10} u_{\nu\text{DM}}$	$< -4.42 (< -3.95)$	$< -4.46 (< -4.39)$	$-5.08^{+1.5}_{-0.98} (< -3.74)$	$-4.86^{+1.5}_{-0.83} (< -3.70)$	$-5.20^{+1.2}_{-0.74} (< -4.17)$
$H_0$	$68.03 \pm 0.55 (68.0^{+1.1}_{-1.1})$	$68.05 \pm 0.42 (68.05^{+0.81}_{-0.82})$	$68.2 \pm 1.6 (68.2^{+3.3}_{-3.3})$	$67.66 \pm 0.58 (67.7^{+1.1}_{-1.2})$	$68.01 \pm 0.43 (68.01^{+0.83}_{-0.85})$
$\sigma_8$	$0.806^{+0.013}_{-0.0097} (0.806^{+0.024}_{-0.028})$	$0.807^{+0.011}_{-0.0084} (0.807^{+0.020}_{-0.021})$	$0.823^{+0.025}_{-0.021} (0.823^{+0.046}_{-0.050})$	$0.821^{+0.025}_{-0.020} (0.821^{+0.044}_{-0.050})$	$0.820^{+0.011}_{-0.0093} (0.820^{+0.021}_{-0.023})$
$\ln BF$	-3.74	-2.48	-0.194	-0.156	0.525

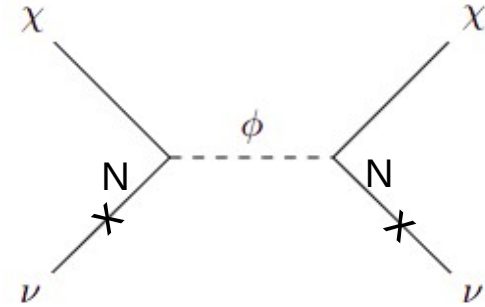


# STERILE NEUTRINO PORTAL TO DARK MATTER



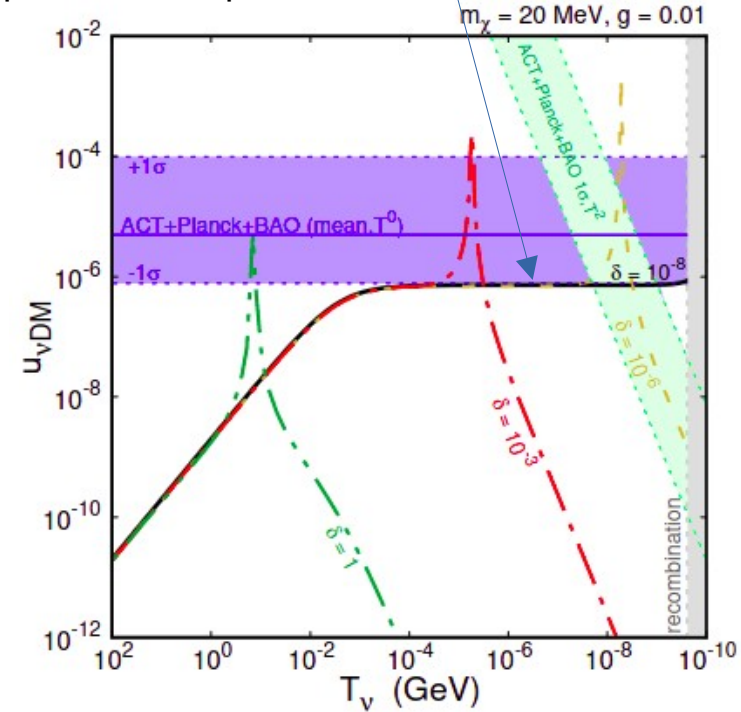
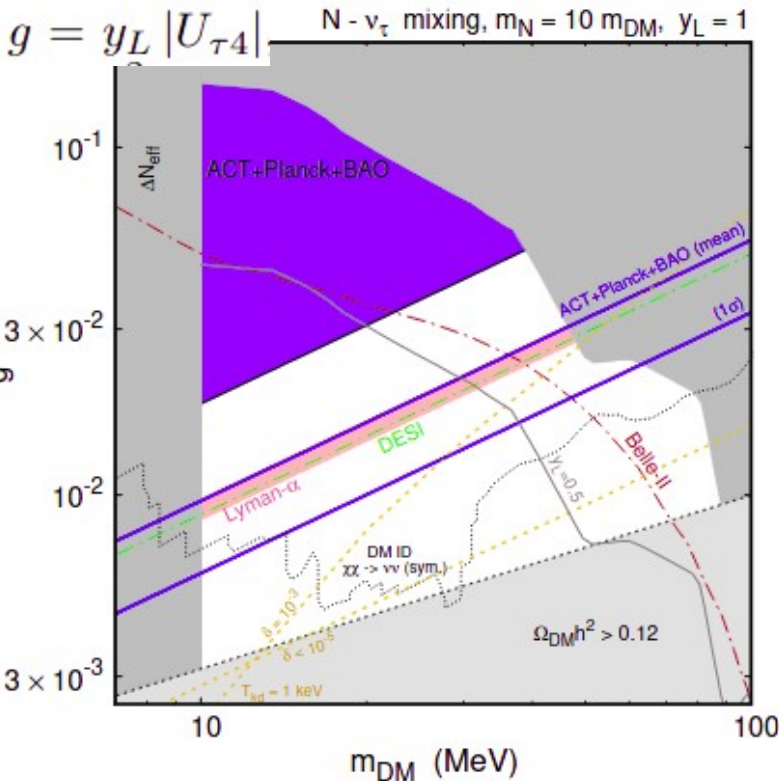
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\phi \bar{\chi} (y_L N_L + y_R N_R) + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\lambda (\bar{L} H) N_R,$$



$$\delta = (m_\phi - m_\chi)/m_\chi \ll 1$$

temperature-independent  $\sigma_{\nu\text{DM}}$



# CONCLUSIONS

- CMB observations are crucial for our understanding of dark matter
- **small-scale CMB measurements with few % accuracy open a new window to study DM interactions with neutrinos**
- **preference for non-zero DM- $\nu$  coupling in the high-multipole ACT data & agreement with low-multipole Planck data + BAO & RSD**
- Similar earlier hints from Lyman- $\alpha$
- Toy model: sterile neutrino portal to DM
- Can accommodate the data but careful checking of other effects needed  
(cutoff scale, DM self-interactions...)
- Future data: ACT, CMB-S4, DESI, ... + accelerator-based bounds on sterile neutrinos

**THANK YOU !**



**BACKUP**

# CURRENT DATA & ANALYSIS

## DATA

- **Planck 2018**

temperature & polarization

1907.12875, 1807.06209, 1807.06205

lensing

1807.06210

- **Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT)**

temp. & polar. DR4 2007.07289

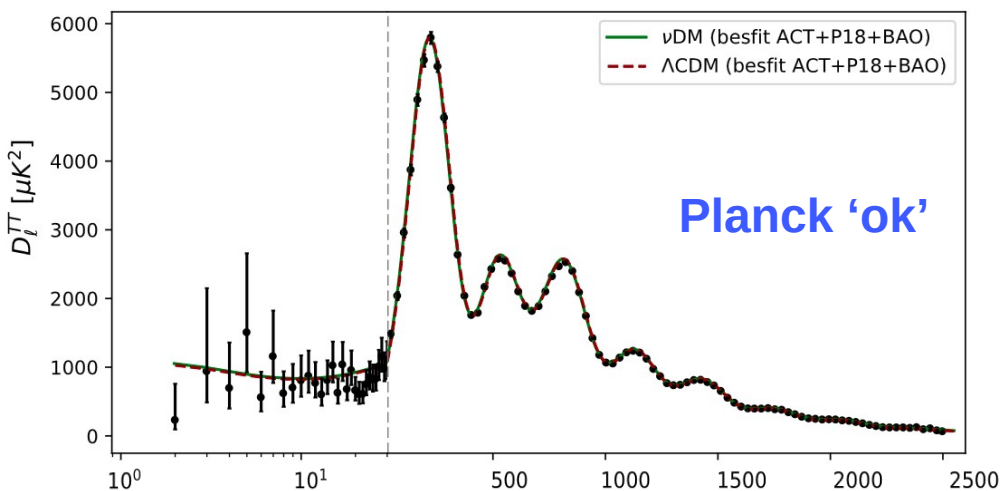
new confirmation: + ACT-DR6 & SPT [W. Giare, et al, 2311.09116](#)

- **Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)**

& Redshift Space Distortions

BOSS DR12

1208.0022



## ANALYSIS

- (modified) CLASS + DM-v

1104.2933, 1903.00540, 2011.04206

- Sampling:

COBAYA (with CosmoMC)

2005.05290, 0205436, 1304.4473

Parameter	$\sigma_{\nu\text{DM}} \sim T^0$
$\Omega_b h^2$	[0.005, 0.1]
$\Omega_c^{\nu\text{DM}} h^2$	[0.005, 0.1]
$100 \theta_{\text{MC}}$	[0.5, 10]
$\tau$	[0.01, 0.8]
$\log(10^{10} A_S)$	[1.61, 3.91]
$n_s$	[0.8, 1.2]
$N_{\text{eff}}$	[0, 10]
<b>DM-v</b>	<b><math>\log_{10} u_{\nu\text{DM}}</math></b>
	<b>[-8, -1]</b>

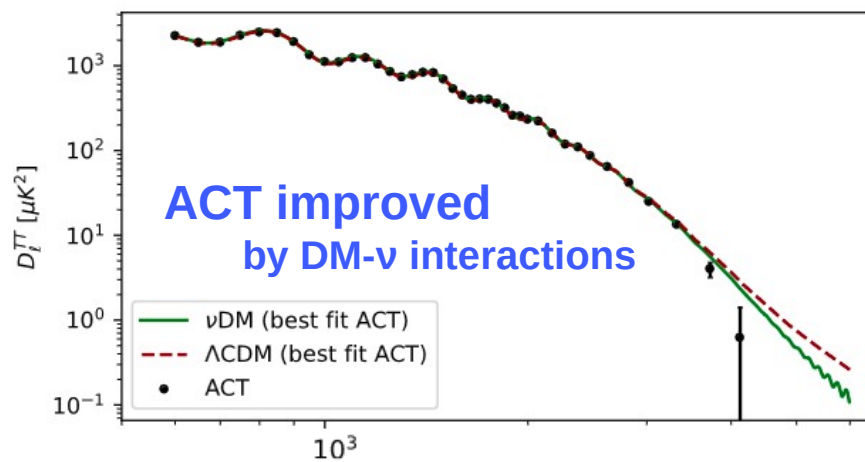
- Adding ACT:

- weaker bounds on  $u_{\nu\text{DM}}$

- non-zero coupling preferred

$$u_{\nu\text{DM}} = \frac{\sigma_{\nu\text{DM}}}{\sigma_T} \left( \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-1}$$

$\sigma_T$  – Thomson scat.



# SAMPLE MODEL – STERILE NEUTRINO PORTAL

- Fermionic  $\chi$  DM coupled to a new scalar  $\phi$  and (heavy) sterile neutrino  $N$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\phi \bar{\chi} (y_L N_L + y_R N_R) + \text{h.c.}$$

- Mixing with the active neutrino (dominant with  $\nu_\tau$ )

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\lambda (\bar{L} H) N_R,$$

- For small mass splittings DM- $\nu$  cross section  $\sim T^0$

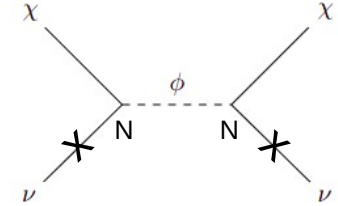
$$\delta = (m_\phi - m_\chi) / m_\chi \ll 1$$

for a range of temperatures

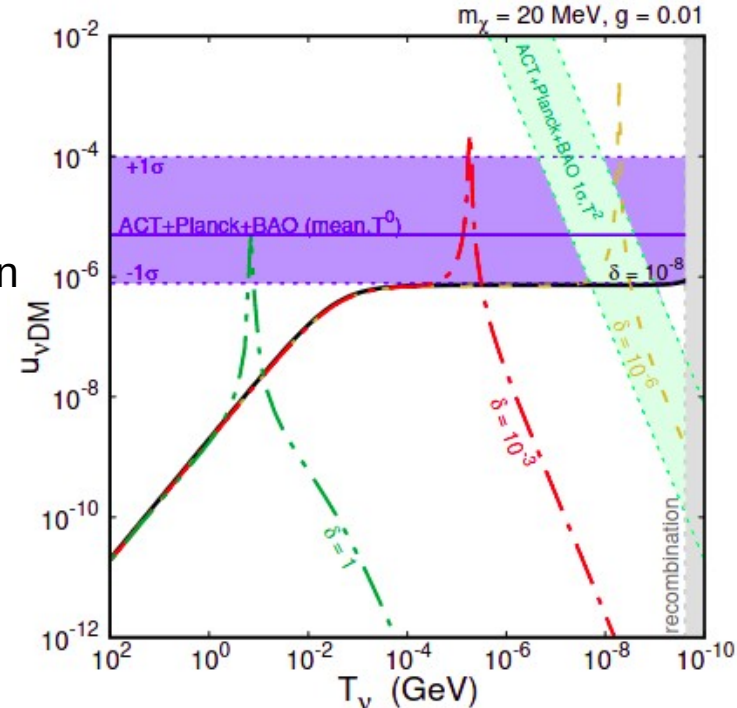
- For lower temperatures,  $\sigma$  grows, resonance  $\phi$  production
- At even lower temperatures,  $\sigma \sim T^2 / m_\chi^4$

$$\sigma_{\chi\nu} \simeq (10^{-52} \text{ cm}^2) \left(\frac{g}{0.1}\right)^4 \left(\frac{100 \text{ MeV}}{m_\phi}\right)^4 \left(\frac{T}{T_0}\right)^2$$

- At high temperatures,  $\sigma \sim 1/T^2$
- helps avoiding astrophysical bounds from blazars, etc.



$$\sigma_{\chi\nu} \simeq (10^{-34} \text{ cm}^2) \left(\frac{g}{0.01}\right)^4 \left(\frac{20 \text{ MeV}}{m_\chi}\right)^2 \times \left[ 1 + 0.075 \left(\frac{m_\chi}{20 \text{ MeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{\text{rec.}}}{T_\nu}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\delta}{10^{-8}}\right)^2 \right]$$



# FITTING THE DATA

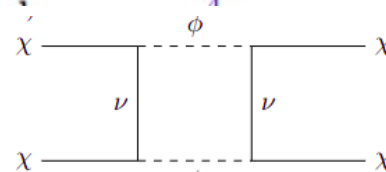
- The model can accommodate the data & avoid exclusion bounds from accelerator-based searches
- DM relic density requires, e.g., asymmetric DM component
- This also helps avoiding DM ID bounds from  $\chi\chi \rightarrow \nu\nu$
- Future probes: DESI, Belle-II ( $\tau$  decays)

## CHALLENGES OF THE TOY MODEL:

- Mass degeneracy requires fine-tuning & can be radiatively unstable via
- Low neutrino kinetic decoupling temperature

$$T_{kd} \Big|_{m_\phi \simeq m_\chi} \simeq (0.12 \text{ keV}) \left( \frac{0.01}{g} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_\chi}{20 \text{ MeV}} \right)^{3/2} \rightarrow M_{\text{cutoff}} \sim 10^{11} M_\odot (0.1 \text{ keV}/T_{kd})^3$$

- Possible DM (too) strong self-interactions



**POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:** fraction of DM interacts strongly with  $\nu$ s; increase the mass splitting  $\delta_{12}$

