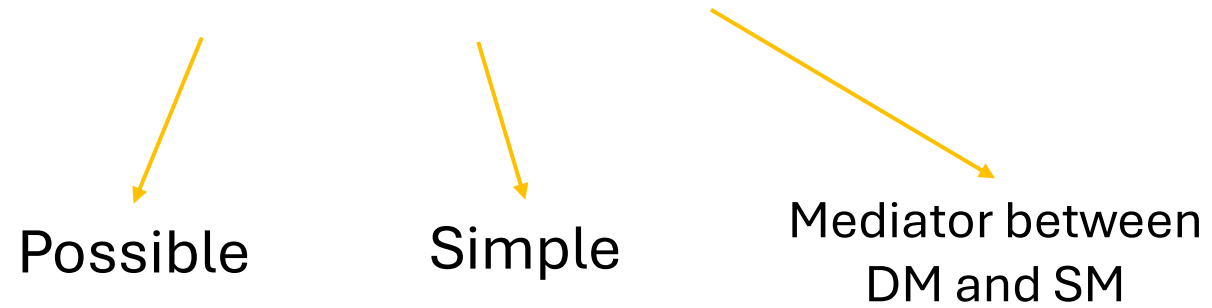


A Material-Independent Upper Bound on the Absorption Rate of Solar Dark Photons

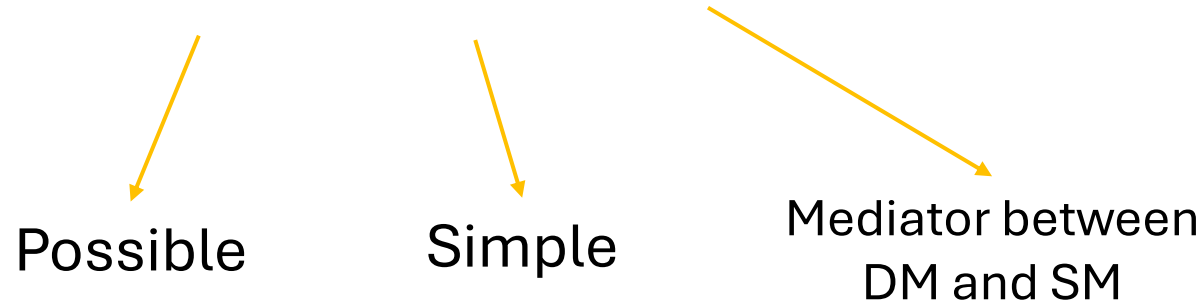
Theresa Magdalena Backes
Supervisor: Riccardo Catena

19.06.2025

Dark Photons



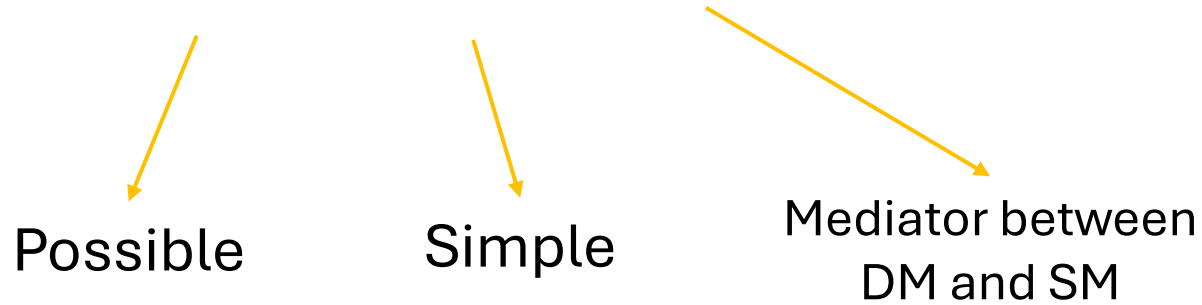
Dark Photons



The model:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{\kappa}{2}F_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_V^2}{2}V_\mu V^\mu + eJ_{\text{em}}^\mu A_\mu$$

Dark Photons



The model:

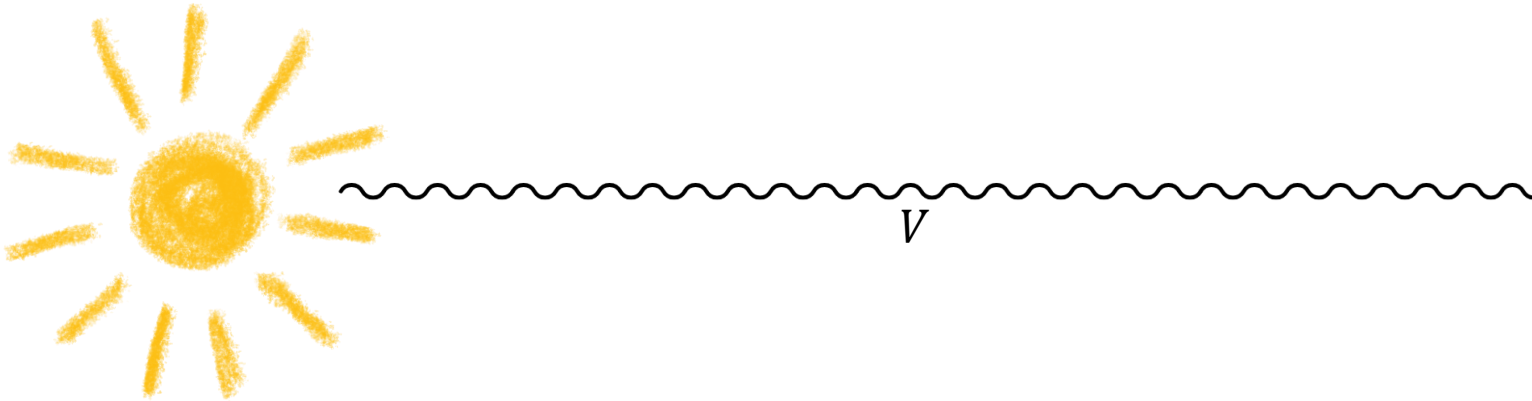
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}^2 \boxed{-\frac{\kappa}{2}F_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu}} + \frac{m_V^2}{2}V_\mu V^\mu + eJ_{\text{em}}^\mu A_\mu$$

Kinetic mixing

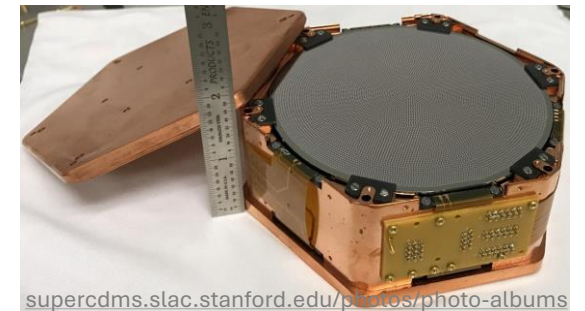
Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}^2 \boxed{\text{Kinetic mixing}} - \frac{\kappa}{2}F_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_V^2}{2}V_\mu V^\mu + eJ_{\text{em}}^\mu A_\mu$$

Production in the sun

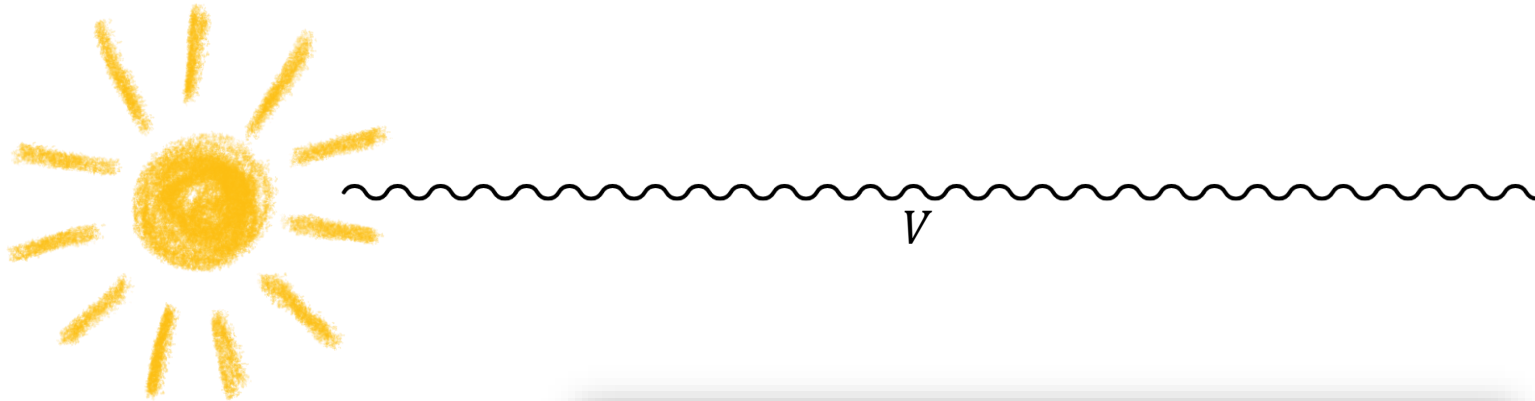


Absorption in a detector

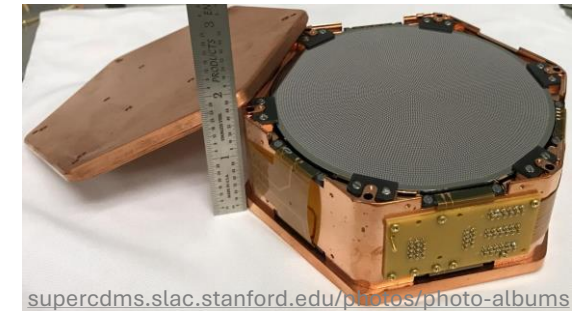


Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



Absorption in a detector



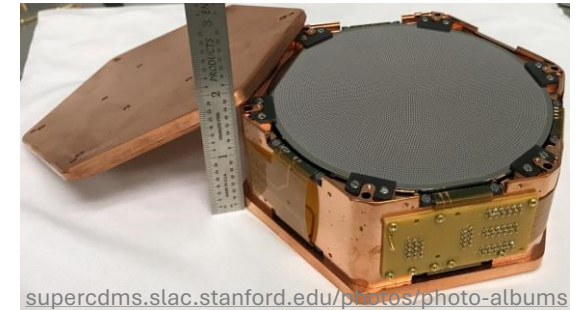
What is the best material for detecting dark photons?

Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



Absorption in a detector



Main production mechanism:
Bremsstrahlung

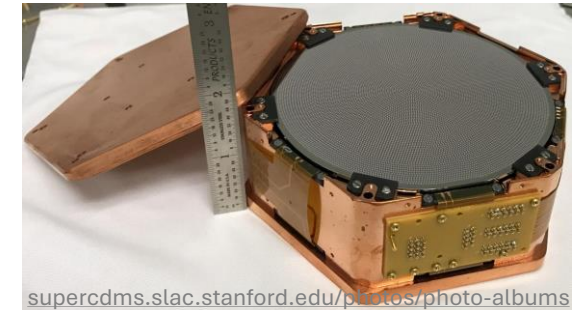
Calculated by An et al., [arxiv:1302.3884](https://arxiv.org/abs/1302.3884)
and Redondo, [arxiv:0801.1527](https://arxiv.org/abs/0801.1527)

Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



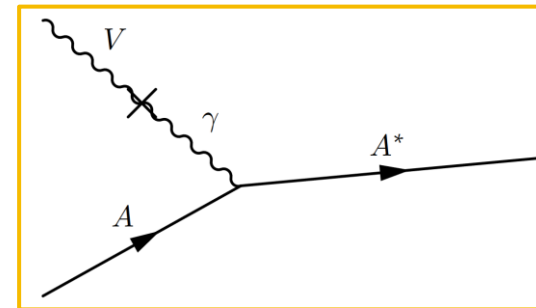
Absorption in a detector



Main production mechanism:
Bremsstrahlung

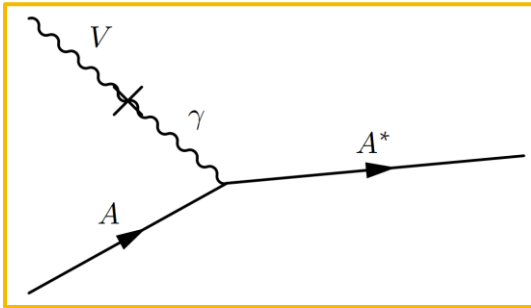
Calculated by An et al., [arxiv:1302.3884](https://arxiv.org/abs/1302.3884)
and Redondo, [arxiv:0801.1527](https://arxiv.org/abs/0801.1527)

Detection process:



Detection Rates

Detection process:



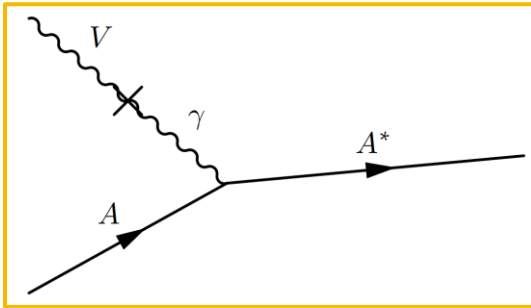
→
An et al.,
[arxiv.org:1304.3461](https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.3461)

Detection rate:

$$n = \int_{w_{min}}^{w_{max}} \frac{\omega d\omega}{|q|} \left(\frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \Gamma_L + \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega} \Gamma_T \right)$$

Detection Rates

Detection process:




 An et al.,
[arxiv.org:1304.3461](https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.3461)

Detection rate:

$$n = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{\omega d\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \left(\frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \Gamma_L + \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega} \Gamma_T \right)$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\epsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\epsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

What is the Best Material for Detecting Dark Photons?

Our Strategy to Find an Upper Limit on n_L and n_T

Kramers-Kronig relation:

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

This holds if

1. $\lim_{\omega \rightarrow \infty} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = 0$
2. $\chi(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ analytic in the upper half plane ($\text{Im } \omega > 0$)

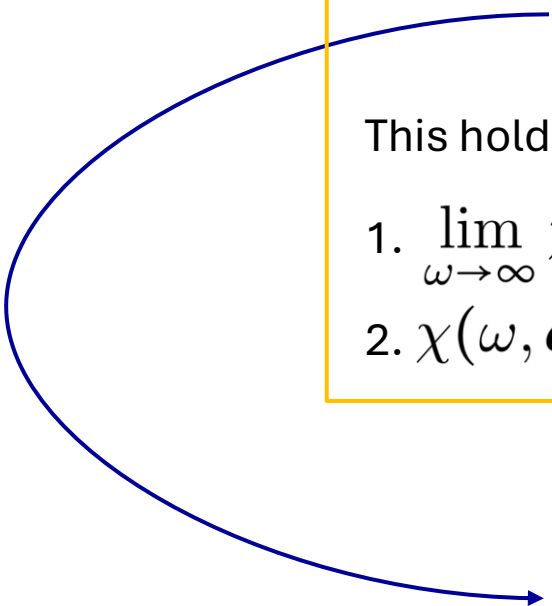
Our Strategy to Find an Upper Limit on n_L and n_T

Kramers-Kronig relation:

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

This holds if

1. $\lim_{\omega \rightarrow \infty} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = 0$
2. $\chi(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ analytic in the upper half plane ($\text{Im } \omega > 0$)


$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

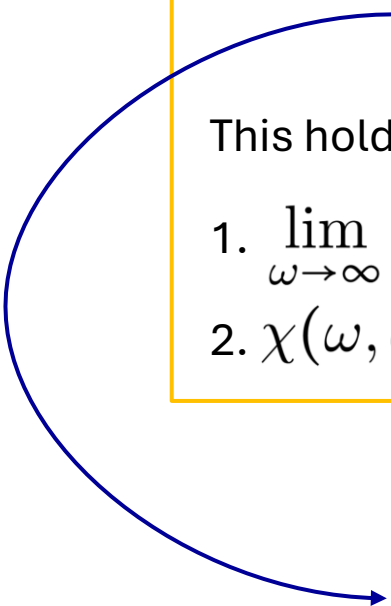
Our Strategy to Find an Upper Limit on n_L and n_T

Kramers-Kronig relation:

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

This holds if

1. $\lim_{\omega \rightarrow \infty} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = 0$
2. $\chi(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ analytic in the upper half plane ($\text{Im } \omega > 0$)


$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

e.g. Energy Loss Function

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(-\frac{1}{\varepsilon_r(\omega, q)} \right) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_r(0, q)} \right)$$

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\varepsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \underbrace{\text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r} \right)}_{\text{Energy loss function: response function}} \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\varepsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right) \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\varepsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right)}_{\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \mathbf{q} \text{ small}} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Material-independent upper limit:

$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\varepsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right)}_{\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \mathbf{q} \text{ small}} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Material-independent upper limit:

$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\varepsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Check if this fullfills conditions

Analytical Results

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im } \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\epsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right)}_{\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \mathbf{q} \text{ small}} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Material-independent upper limit:

$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\epsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Check if this fullfills conditions

Analytical form of
dielectric function needed: $\epsilon_r(\omega, 0) = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2}{\epsilon_g^2 - \omega^2 - i\gamma\omega}$

Analytical Results

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\epsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right)}_{\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \mathbf{q} \text{ small}} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Material-independent upper limit:

$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\epsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Check if this fullfills conditions

Analytical form of
dielectric function needed: $\epsilon_r(\omega, 0) = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2}{\epsilon_g^2 - \omega^2 - i\gamma\omega}$

Upper limit (still material-dependent):

$$n_T \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right) \frac{1}{\left| \frac{m_V^2}{\omega_p^2} - 1 \right|}$$



Analytical Results

Longitudinal part:

$$n_L = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\epsilon_r} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega}$$

Energy loss function:
response function



$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon_r(0, \mathbf{q})} \right)}_{\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \mathbf{q} \text{ small}} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

Material-independent upper limit:

$$n_L \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right)$$

$$\int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \chi(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \chi(0, \mathbf{q})$$

Transverse part:

$$n_T = \int_{\omega_{min}}^{\omega_{max}} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{(\epsilon_r - 1)\omega^2 + m_V^2} \right) \kappa^2 m_V^4 \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{q}|} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega}$$

Check if this fullfills conditions

Analytical form of
dielectric function needed: $\epsilon_r(\omega, 0) = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2}{\epsilon_g^2 - \omega^2 - i\gamma\omega}$

Upper limit (still material-dependent):

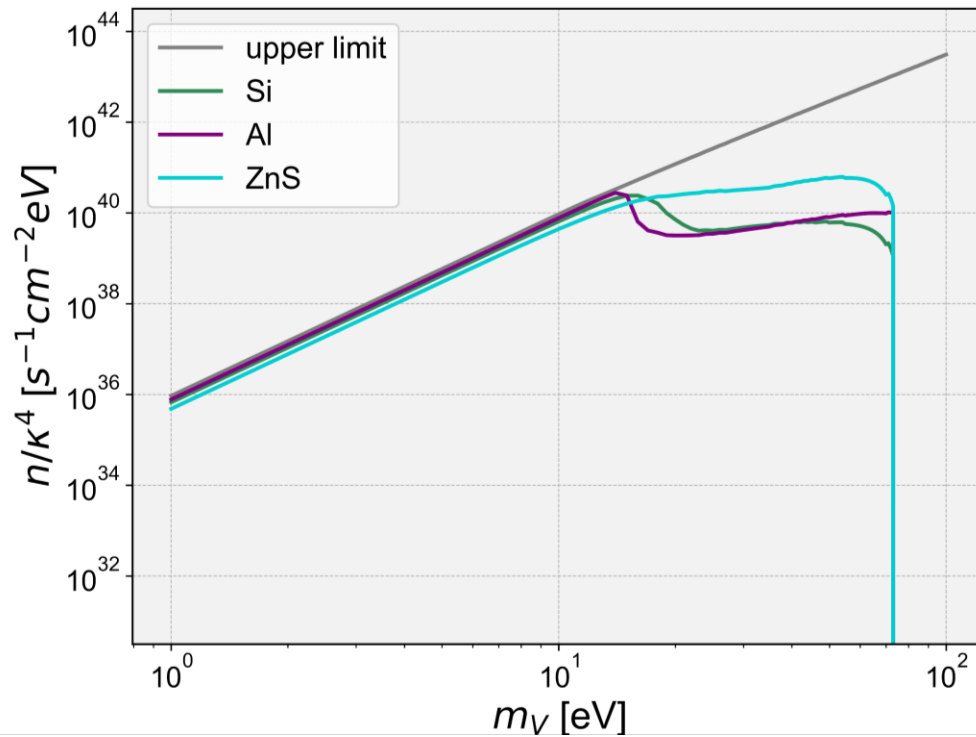
$$n_T \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_L}{d\omega} \right) \frac{1}{\left| \frac{m_V^2}{\omega_p^2} - 1 \right|}$$

For $m_V^2 \ll \omega_p^2$ or $m_V^2 \geq 2\omega_p^2$:

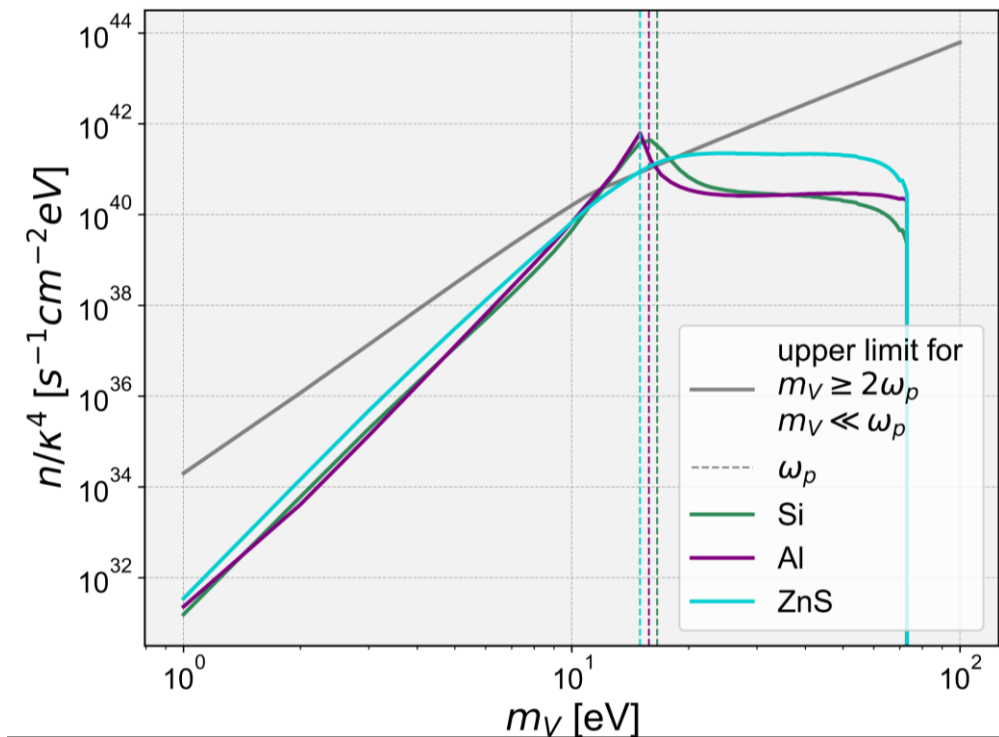
$$n_T \leq \kappa^2 m_V^2 \frac{\pi}{2} \max_{\omega \in [m_V, \infty)} \left(\frac{\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - m_V^2}} \frac{d\Phi_T}{d\omega} \right)$$

Putting everything together

Longitudinal part:

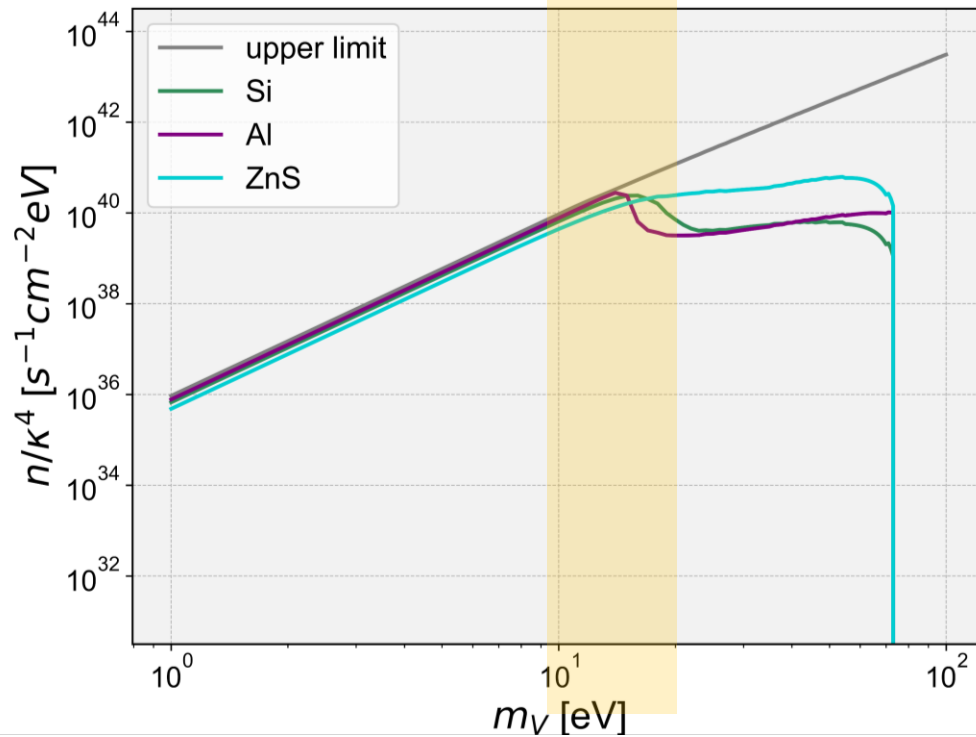


Transverse part:

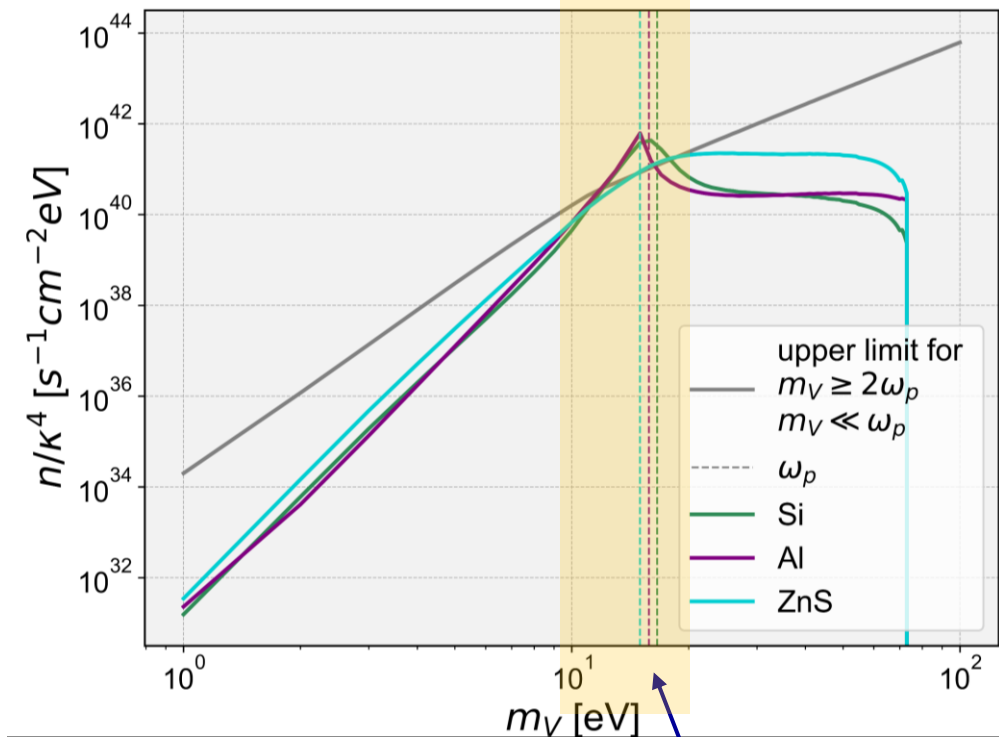


Putting everything together

Longitudinal part:

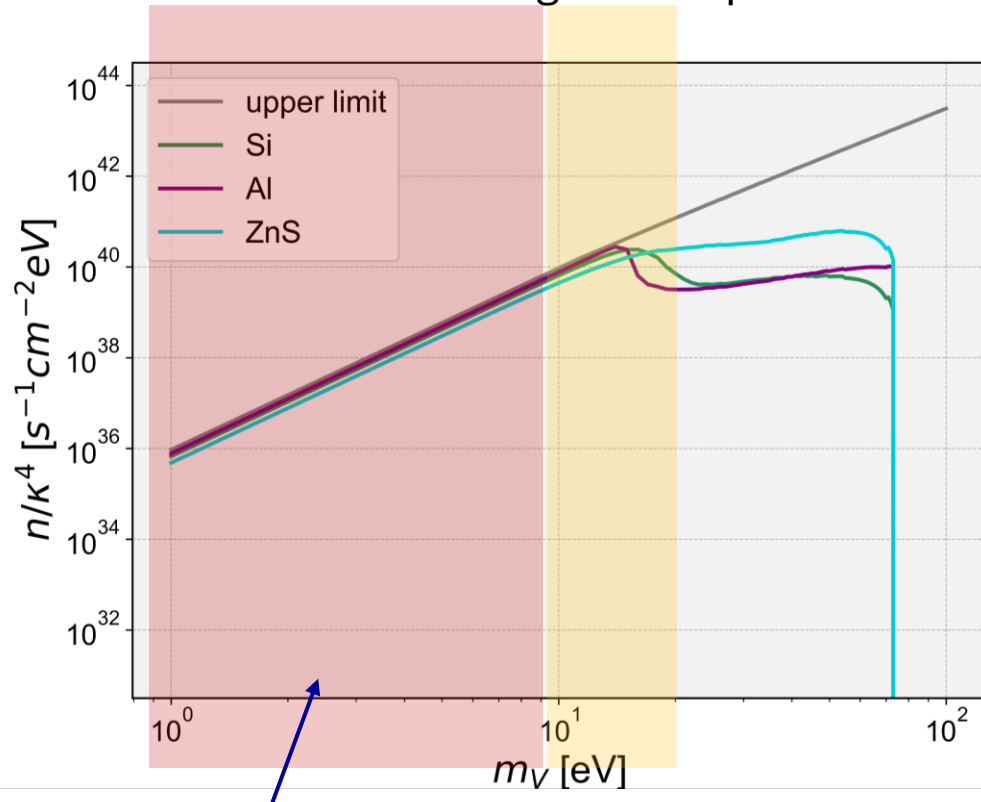


Transverse part:



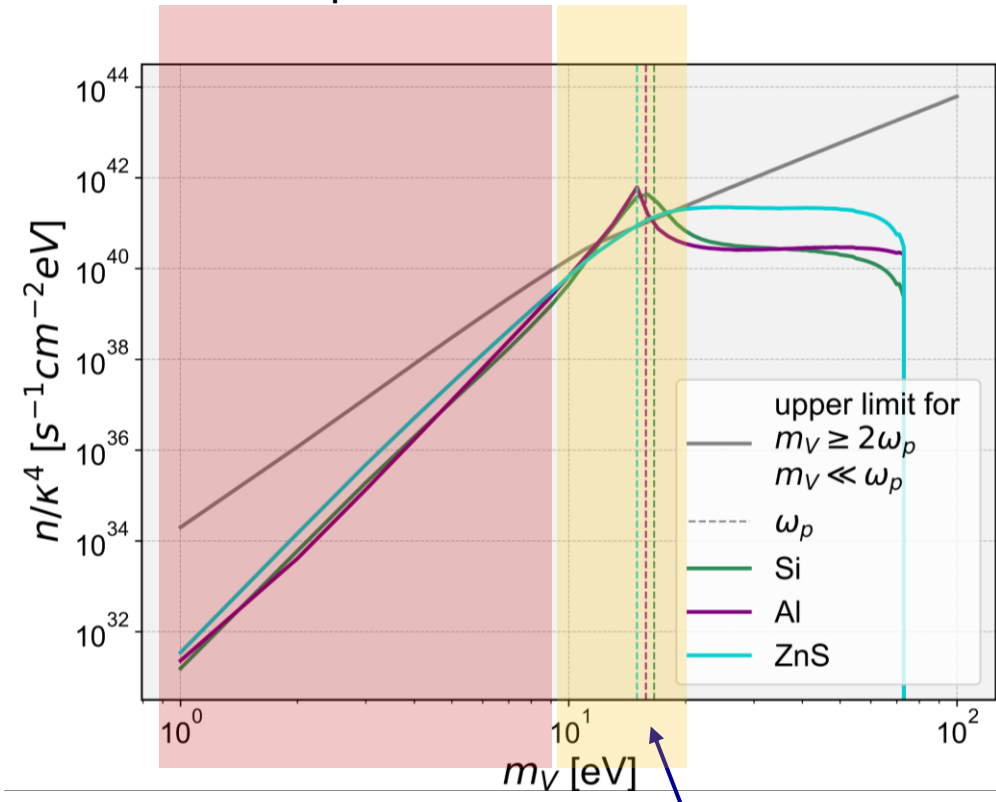
Putting everything together

Longitudinal part:



For $m_V^2 \ll \omega_p^2$ longitudinal part dominates

Transverse part:



Highest detection rates for $m_V^2 \approx \omega_p^2$

Thank you for your attention.
