

Solar Dark Photon Absorption: Strategy for Optimal Material Identification

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24.11.2025

Dark Photons



Extra $U(1)$
gauge boson

Mediator between
DM and SM

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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

Extra U(1)
gauge boson

Mediator between
DM and SM

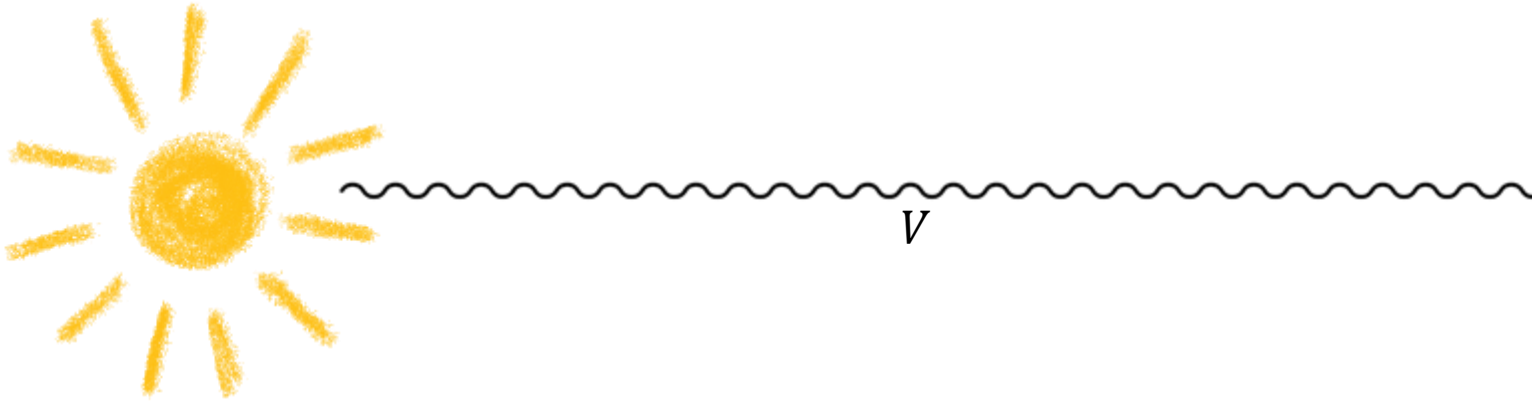
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Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

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Production in the sun

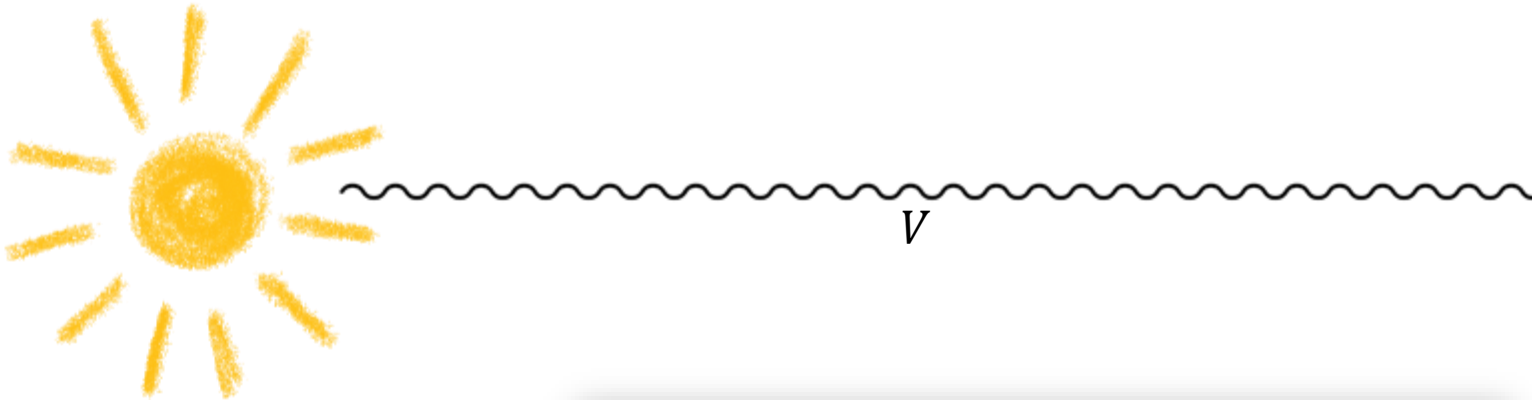


Absorption in a detector

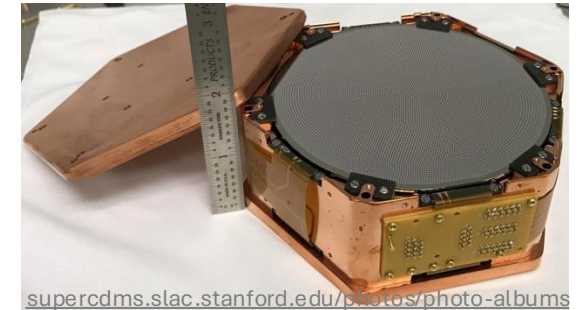


Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



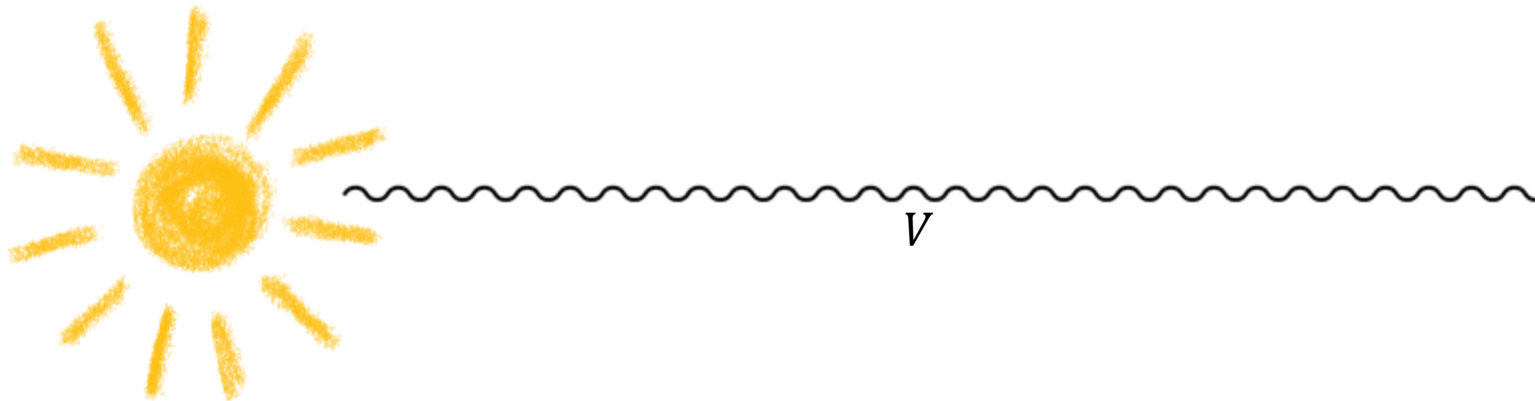
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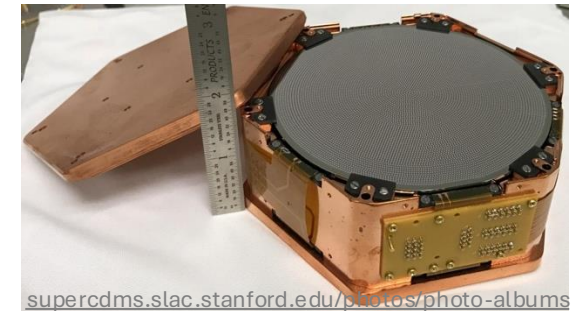
What is the best material for detecting dark photons?

Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



Absorption in a detector

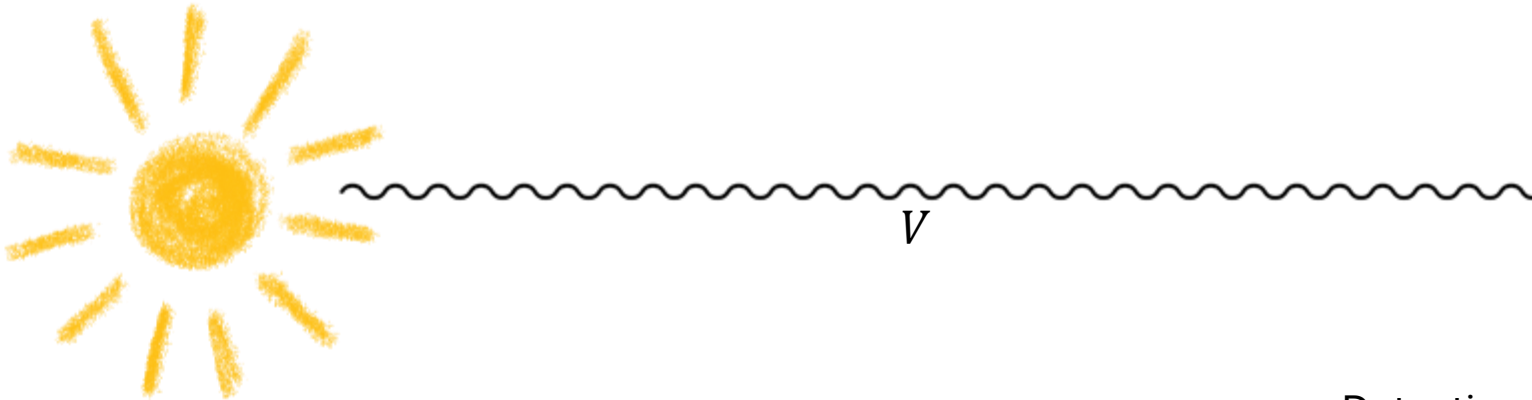


Main production mechanism:
Bremsstrahlung

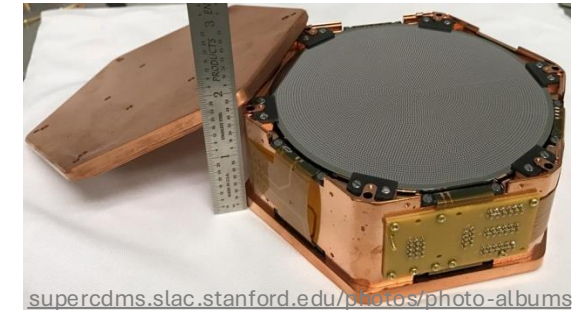
Calculated by An et al., [arxiv:1302.3884](https://arxiv.org/abs/1302.3884)
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Absorption of Solar Dark Photons

Production in the sun



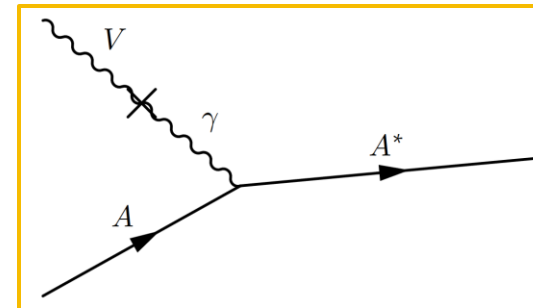
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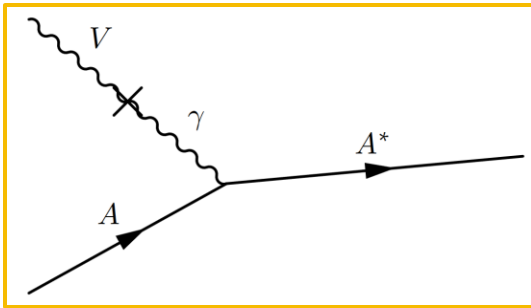
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Detection process:



Detection Rates

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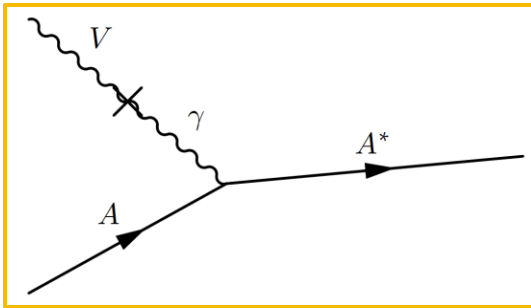
➡
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Detection rate:

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

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Transverse part:

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

How to find 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 ($\text{Im } \omega > 0$)
3. $\text{Im } \chi(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$ odd function of ω

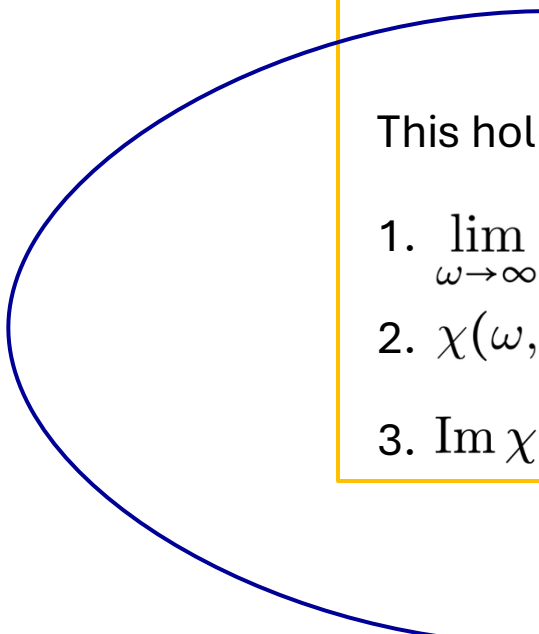
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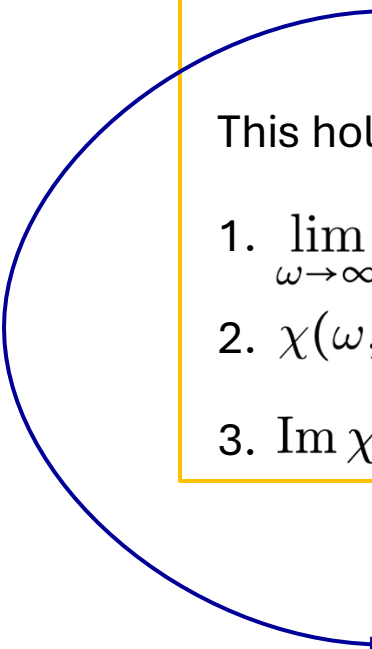
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e.g. Energy Loss Function

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

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:

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Energy loss function:
response function

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Check if this fullfills conditions

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

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Upper limit (still material-dependent):

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Analytical Results

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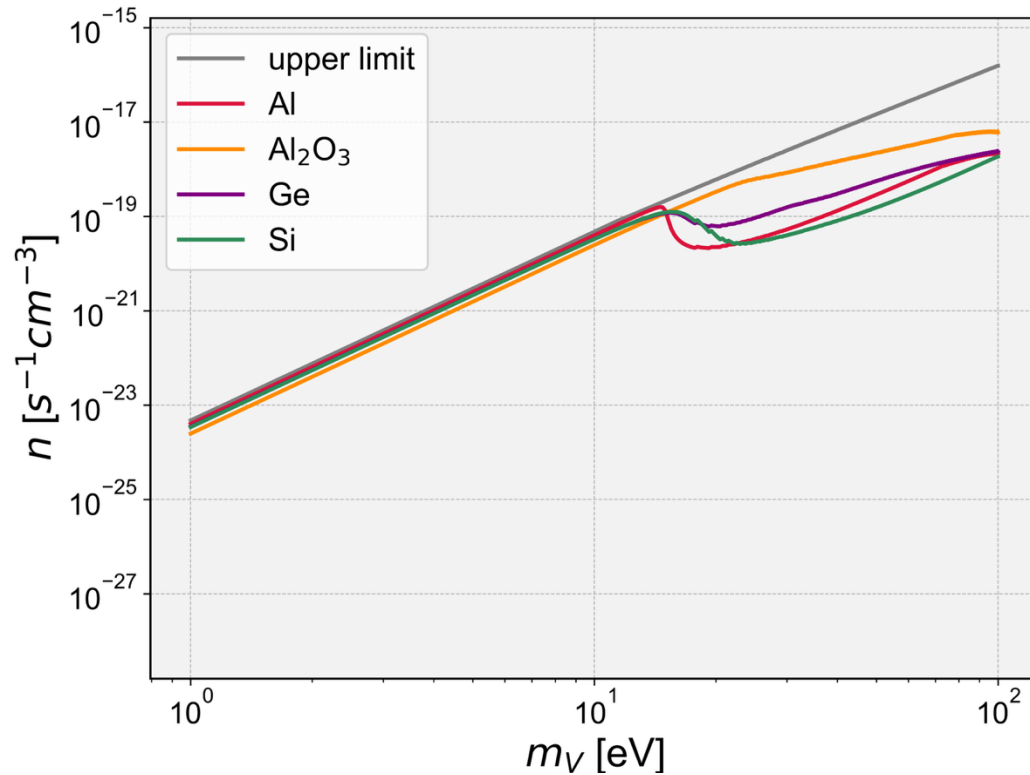
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For $m_V^2 \ll \omega_p^2$ or $m_V^2 \geq 2\omega_p^2$:

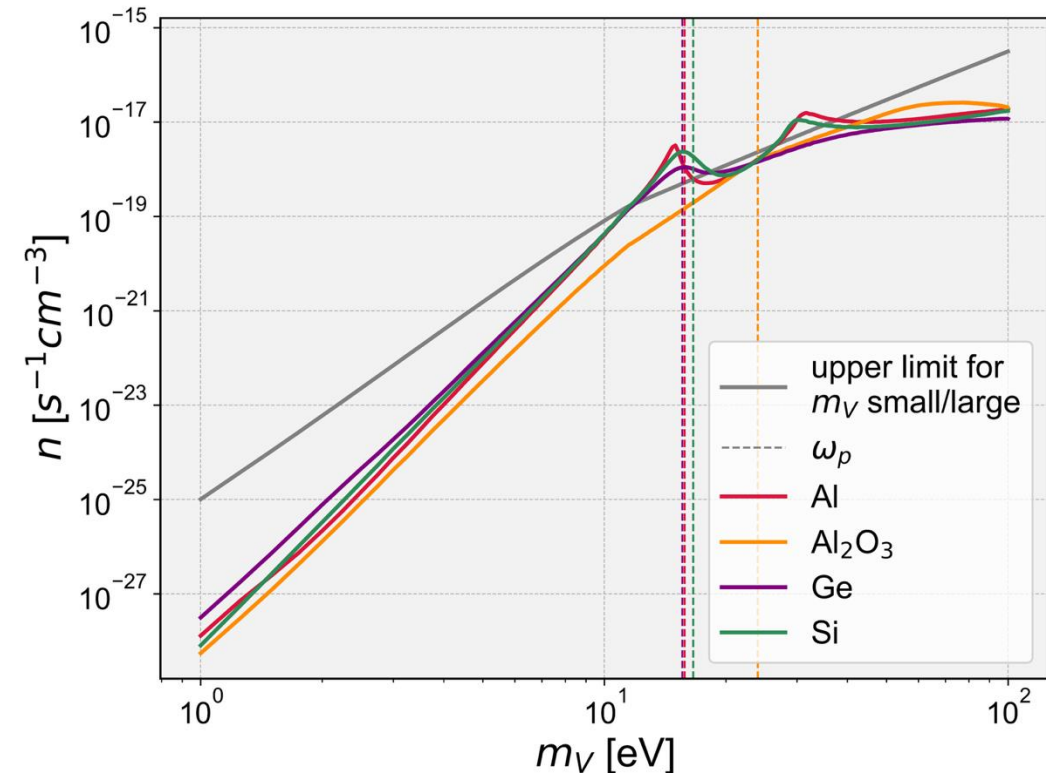
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Comparison with Real Materials

Longitudinal part:

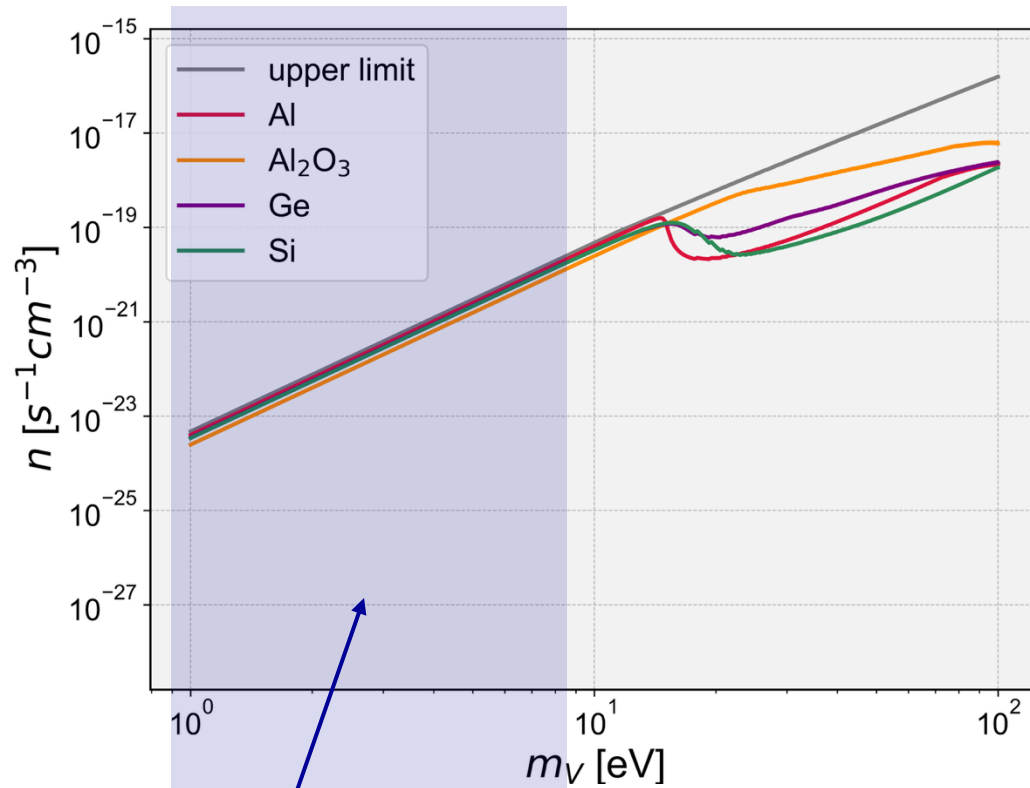


Transverse part:



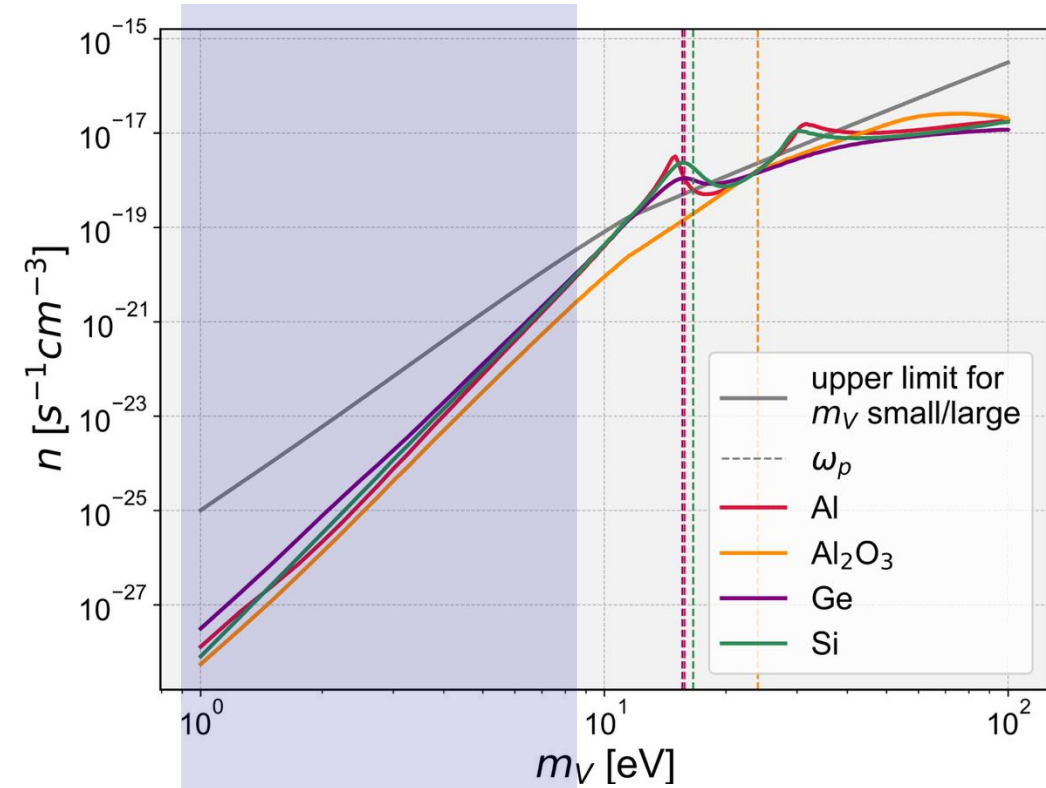
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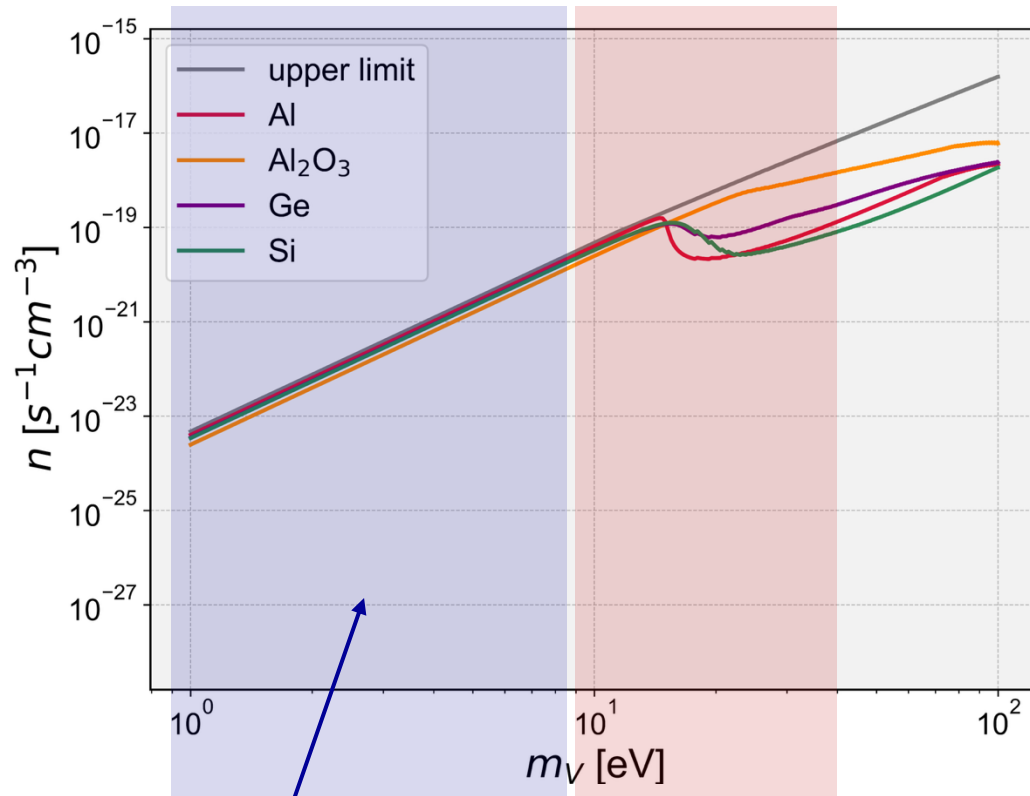
For $m_V \ll \omega_p$
longitudinal part dominates

Transverse part:



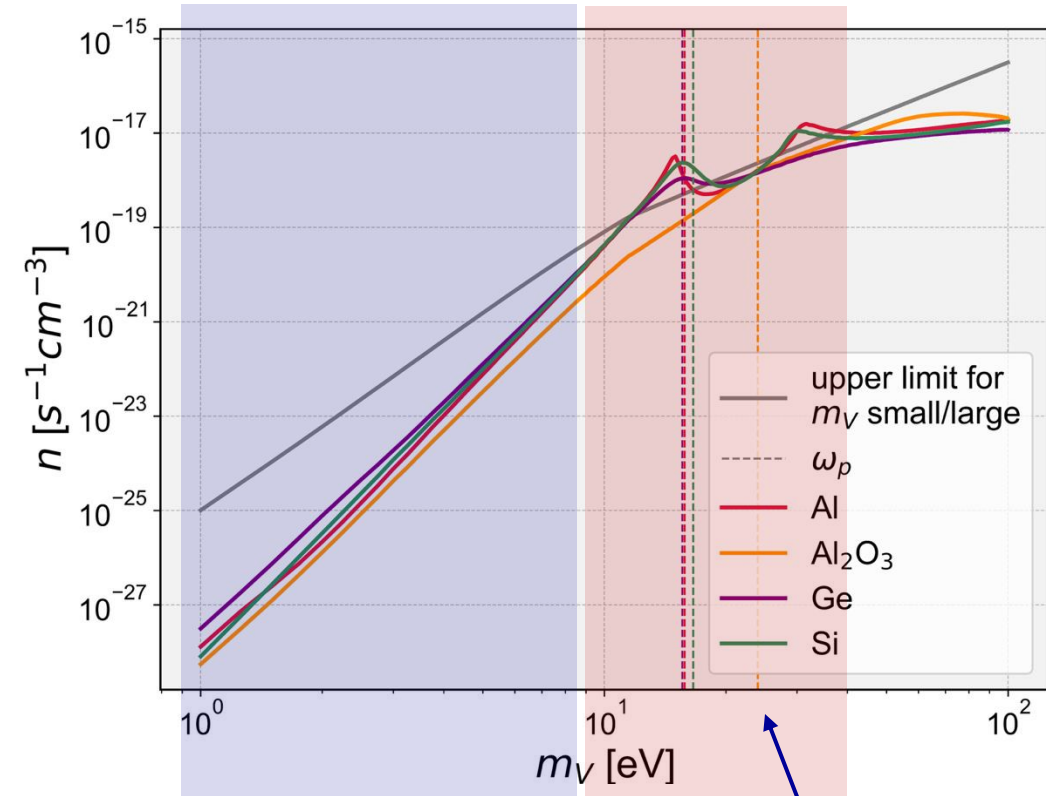
Comparison with Real Materials

Longitudinal part:



For $m_V \ll \omega_p$
longitudinal part dominates

Transverse part:



Highest detection
rates for $m_V \approx \omega_p$

Strategy

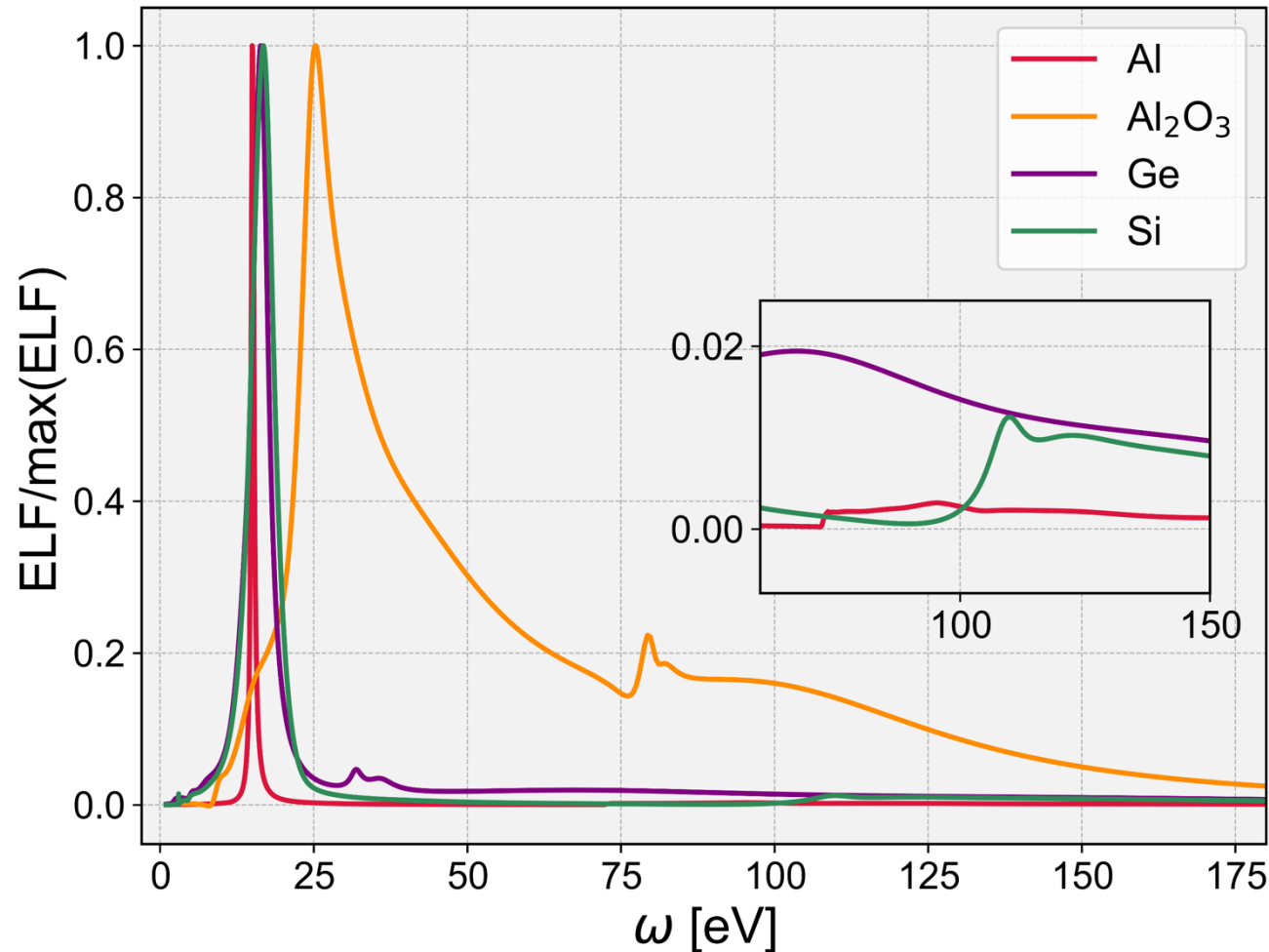
Comparison with upper limits in three regions:

- I. Longitudinal part dominates for $m_V \ll \omega_p$:
Rates high and parallel to upper limit
- II. Transverse part dominates for $m_V \approx \omega_p$:
Ideally a peak at the plasma frequency
- III. Both rates should not drop to fast for $m_V \gg \omega_p$

Thank you for your attention.

Backup

ELFs of Example Materials



Parametrizations following the Drude-Lorentz oscillator model:

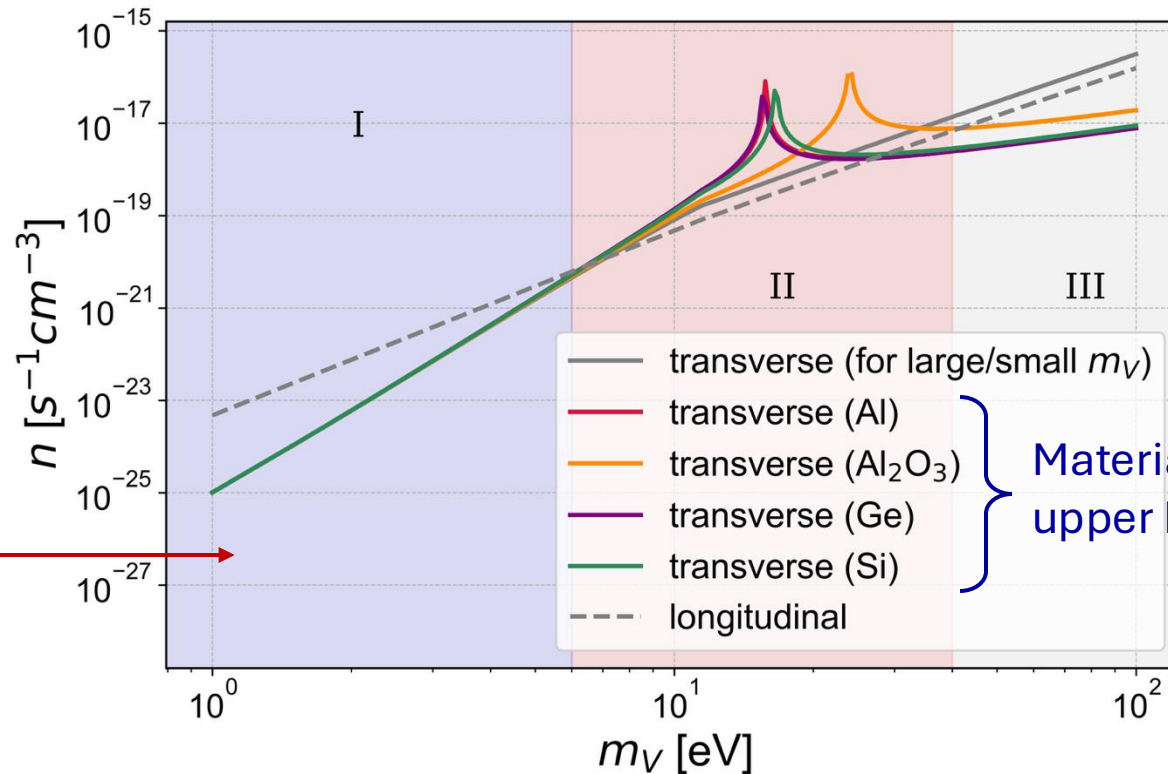
$$\text{Im} \left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon_r(\omega, 0)} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^N A_i \frac{\omega_{p,i}^2 \gamma_i \omega}{(\omega^2 - \omega_{p,i}^2)^2 + (\gamma_i \omega)^2}$$

Novak et al. (2008): [doi:10.1016/j.elspec.2007.11.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.elspec.2007.11.002)

Sun et al. (2016): [doi:10.1063/1674-0068/29/cjcp1605110](https://doi.org/10.1063/1674-0068/29/cjcp1605110)

Comparison of Upper Limits

For $m_V^2 \ll \omega_p^2$ transverse
material-dependent and
-independent limits coincide



Material-dependent
upper bounds

$$m_V^2 \approx \omega_p^2$$