



UC SANTA CRUZ

Stefano Profumo

Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics
University of California, Santa Cruz

Dark Energy and Dark Matter

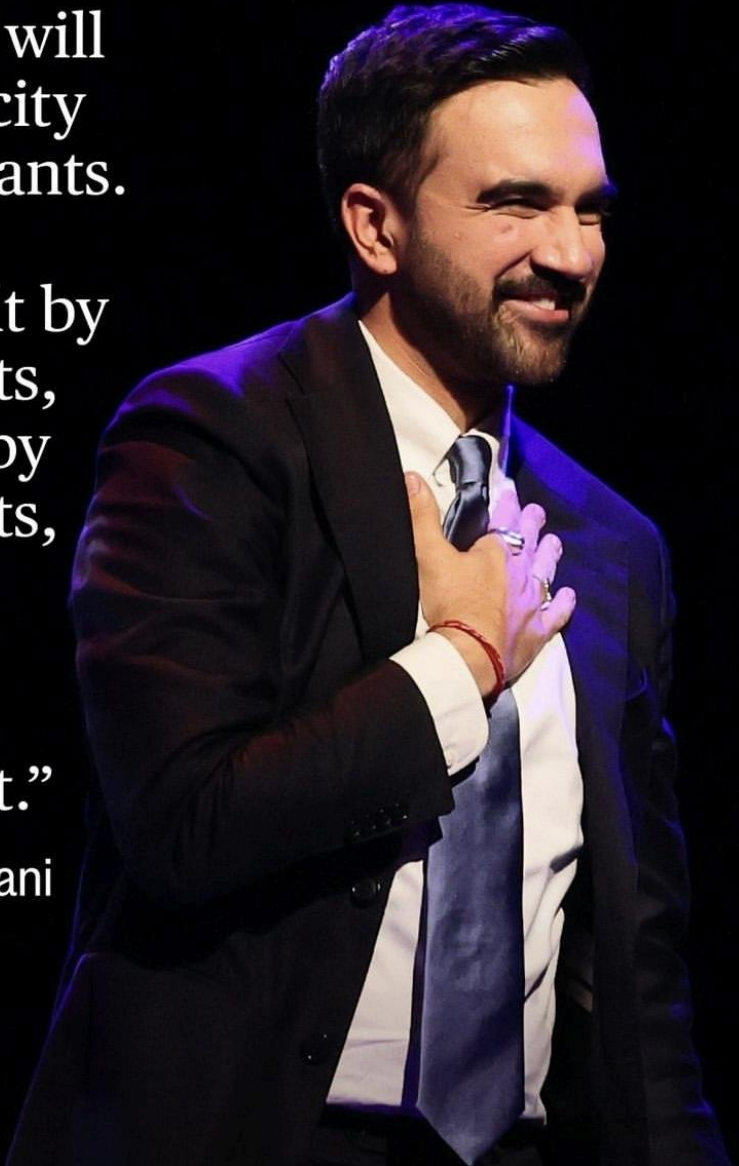
Lecture 3

XXVII Special Courses at the Observatório Nacional – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

“New York will remain a city of immigrants.

A city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants, and as of tonight - led by an immigrant.”

Zohran Mamdani



“So, if there is any way to terrify a **despot**, it is by dismantling the very **conditions** that allowed him to accumulate power. This is not only how we stop Trump, it’s how we stop the **next one**. So, Donald Trump, since I know you’re watching, I have four words for you: **Turn The Volume Up**”

*Zohran Mamdani, elected
Major of New York*

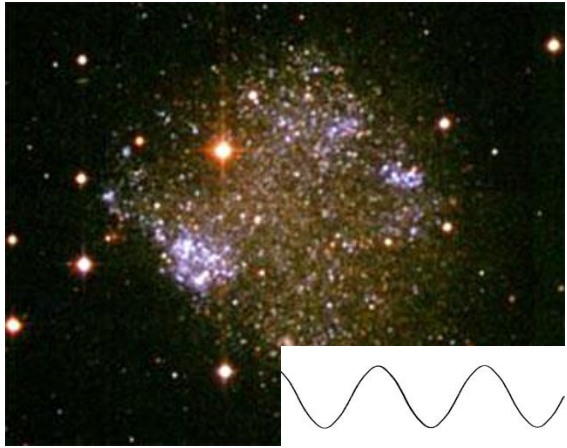
- **34 year old**
- **Muslim**

...in the last episode:

- **Cold Relics:** abundance \sim inverse cross section
- **WIMP** miracle
- **Evidences** for **Cold** Dark Matter
- Dark Matter and the **growth of structure**
- Why **modified gravity** doesn't work
- **Smallest** dark matter mass: **quantum mechanics**
- **Largest** dark matter mass: **tidal effects**

10^{-58} kg

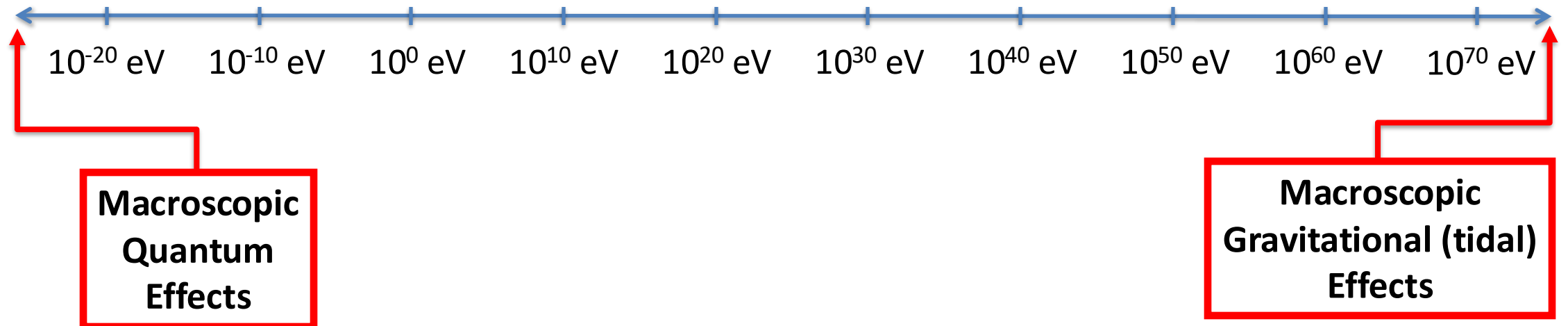
10^{30} times lighter
than a proton

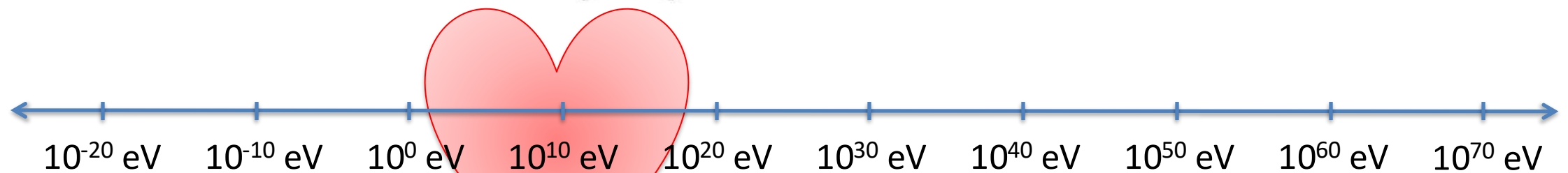
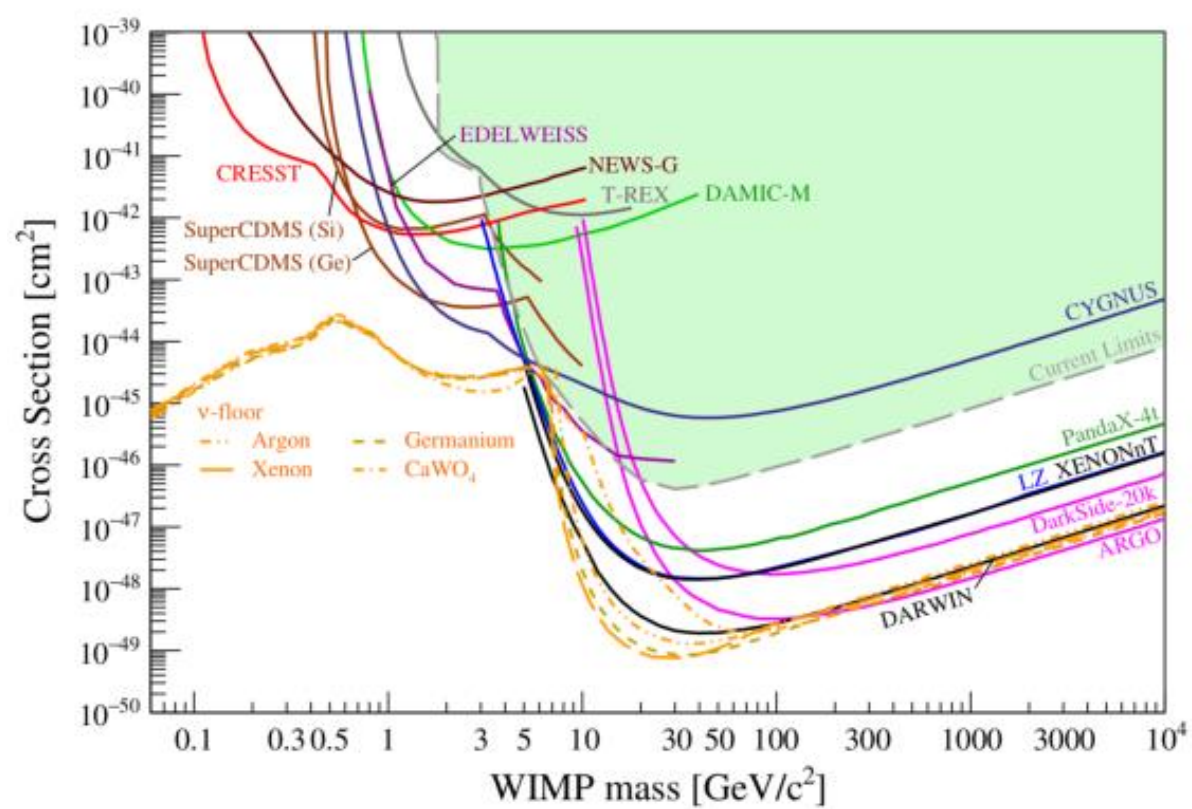


[total number of protons in the
universe $\sim 10^{82}$ (Eddington number)]

10^{34} kg

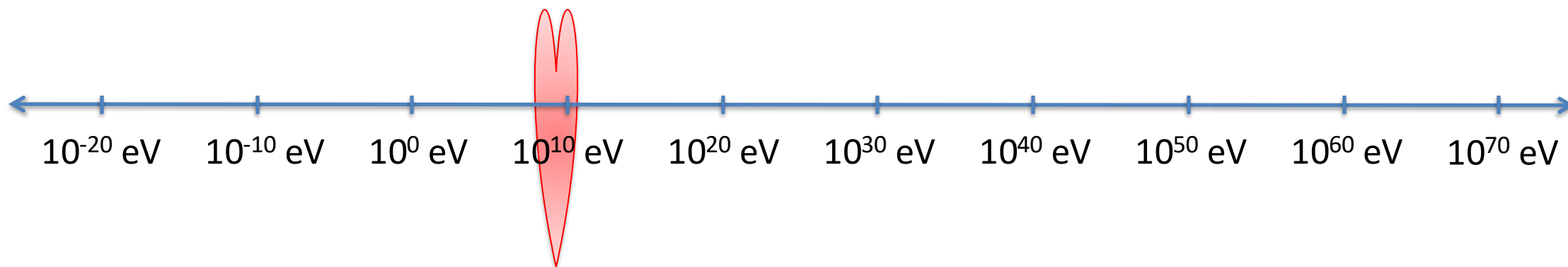
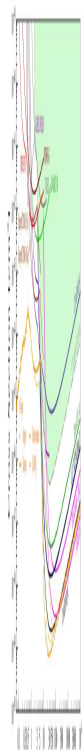
10^3 times heavier
than the Sun





Electroweak scale

Theorists must keep an open attitude, and observers / **experimentalists** must cast a very **wide net**!



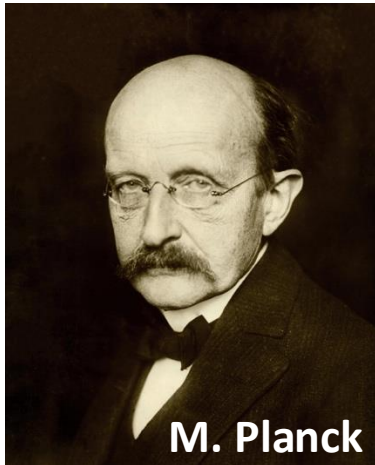
$$G = \frac{hc}{2\pi M_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$

$$R_s = \frac{2Gm}{c^2}$$

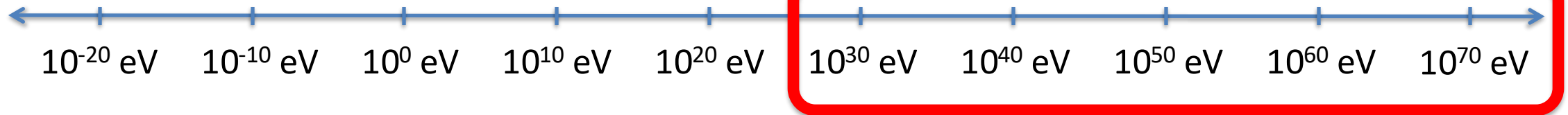
Schwarzschild radius

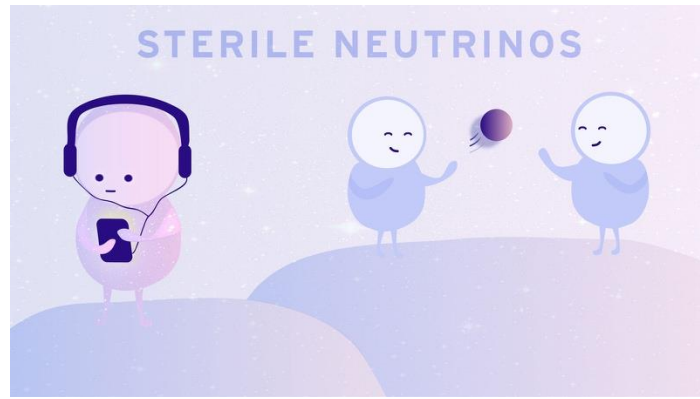
$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mc}$$

Compton wavelength



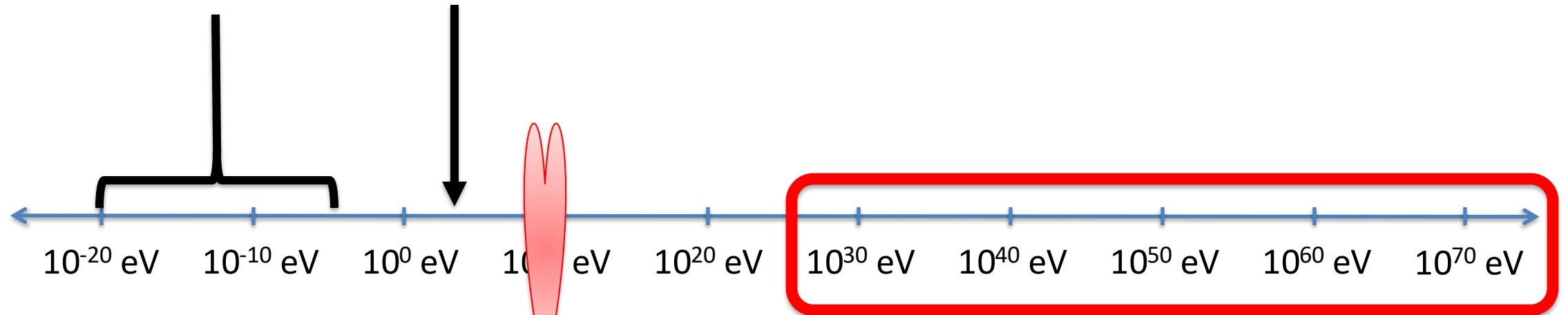
$$R_s(M_{\text{Pl}}) = \frac{2hcM_{\text{Pl}}}{2\pi c^2 M_{\text{Pl}}^2} = \frac{h}{\pi M_{\text{Pl}} c} \sim \lambda(M_{\text{Pl}})$$





**Axions
ALPs**

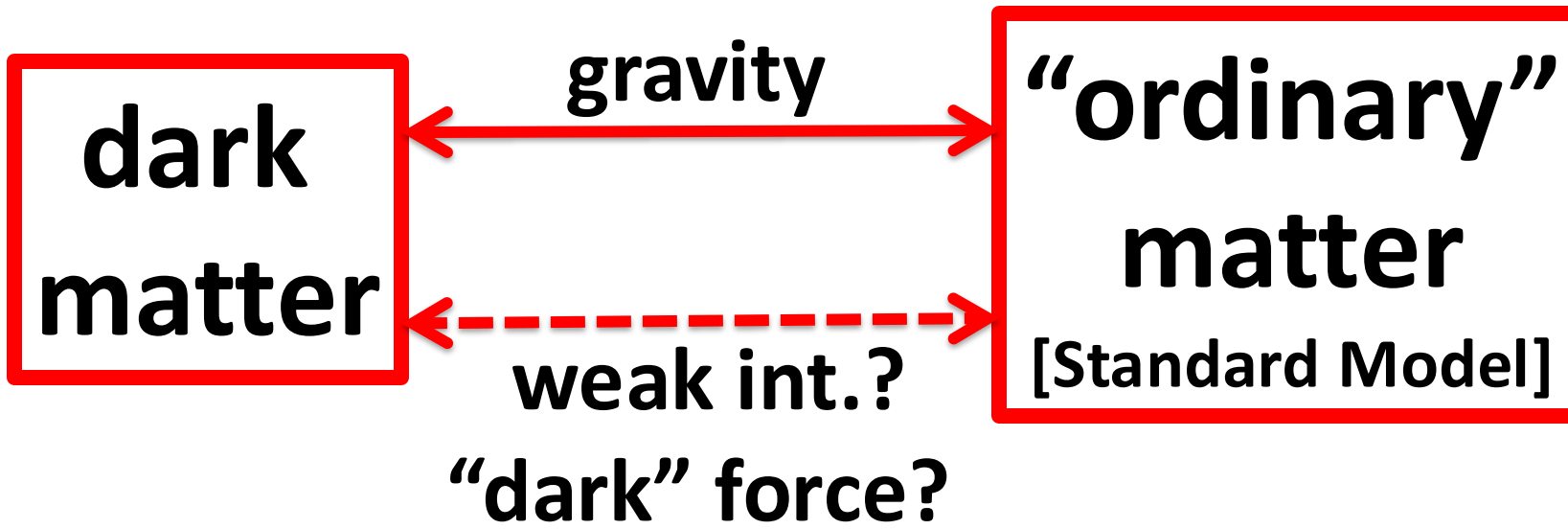
**Sterile
Neutrinos**

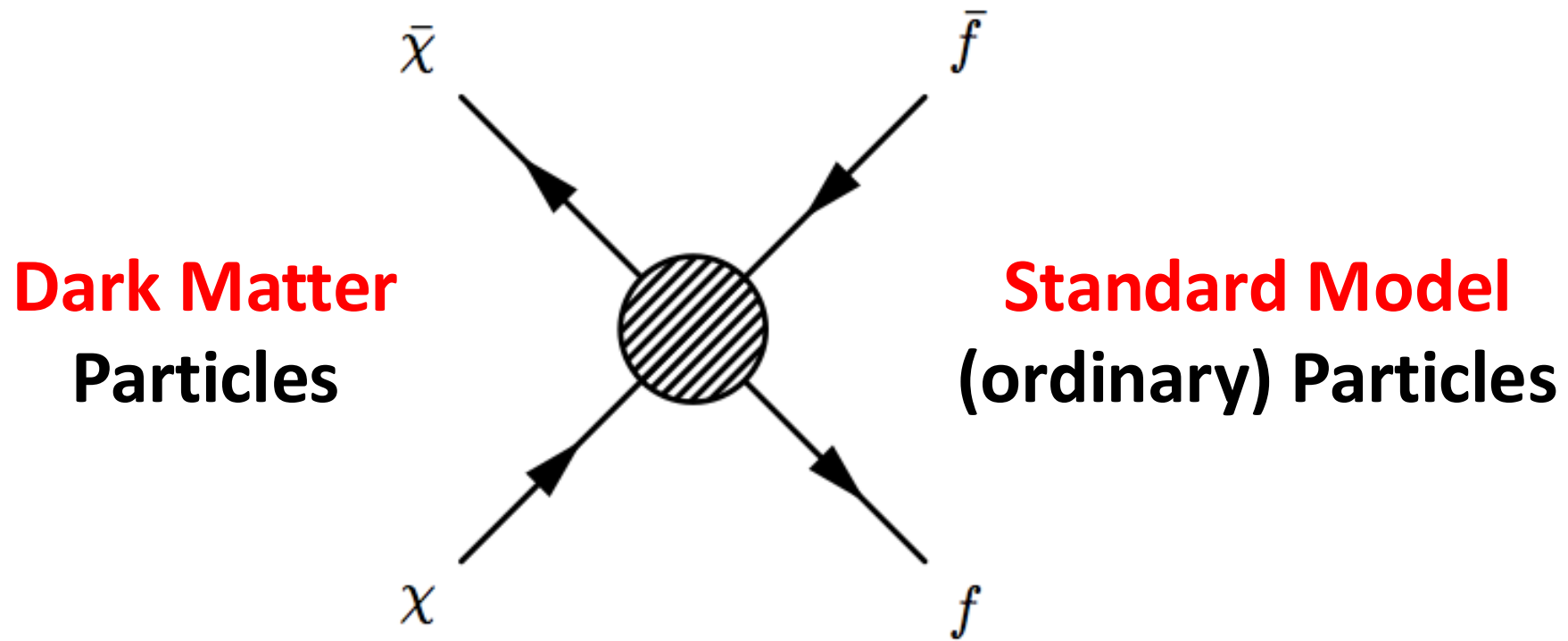


WIMPs

(primordial) black holes

WIMPs

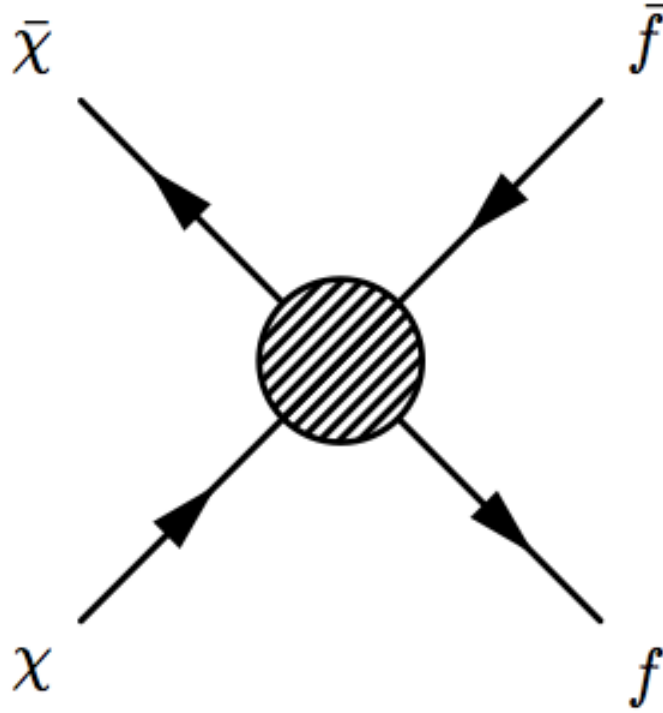




collider production

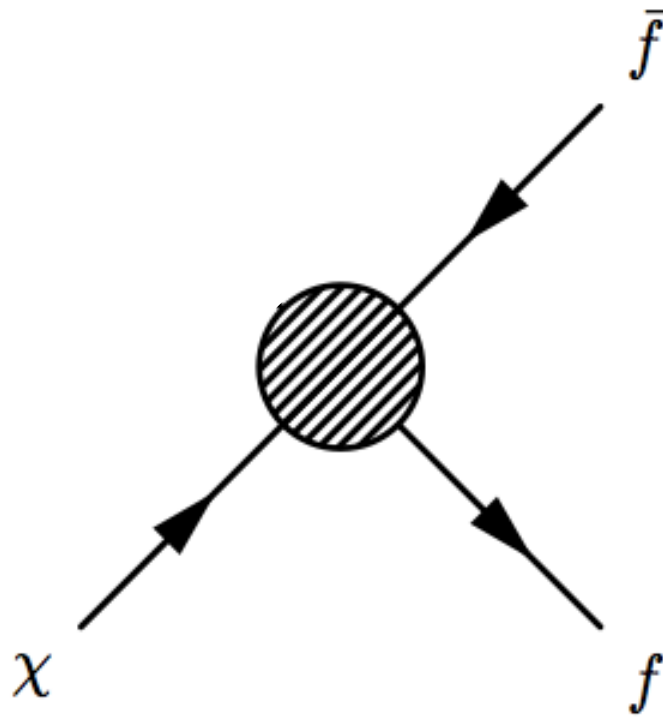


direct detection



thermal equilibrium ?
[pair annihilation]



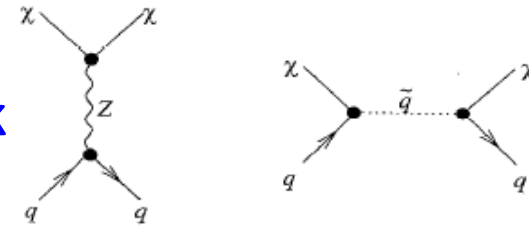


long-lived, but **metastable**

Given a **microscopic** theory of dark matter,
how does one get to the **DM-nucleus cross section**?

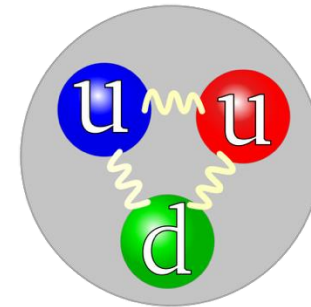
An interesting **multi-layered** problem in **effective field theory**!

(1) Low-energy EFT **Dark Matter-quark**



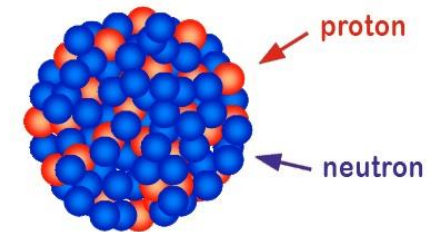
(2) Nucleon matrix elements

Dark Matter-nucleon



(3) Form factors

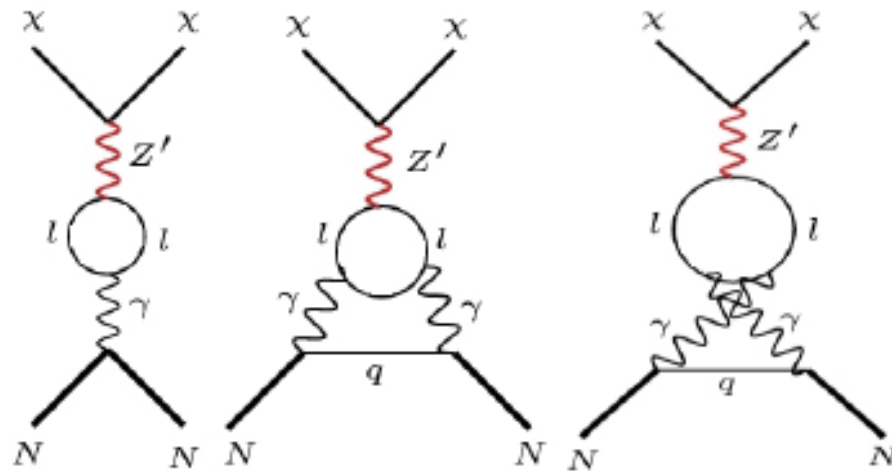
Dark Matter-nucleus

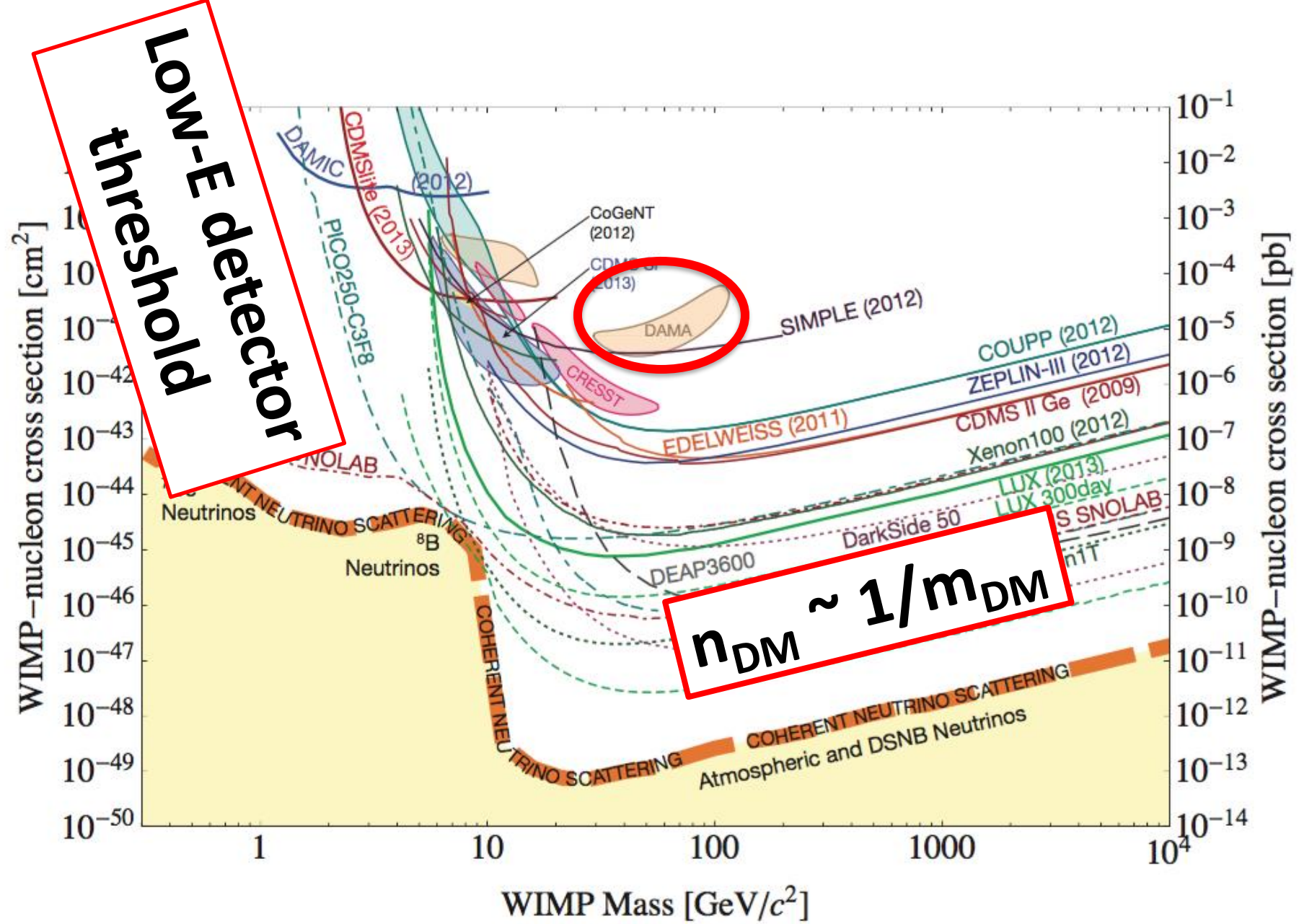


Sometimes life is simpler, e.g. if DM is (**milli-electric-**)**charged**

$$\sigma_N = \frac{16\pi\alpha^2\epsilon^2 Z^2 \mu_N^2}{q^4}$$

Sometimes life is nastier, e.g. if DM is **lepto-philic**





Now off to **indirect** dark matter detection

Idea: use the **debris** of DM **pair-annihilation**
(likely large if thermal relic) or **decay**

$$\Gamma_{\text{SM, ann}} \sim \left(\int_V \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}^2}{m_\chi^2} dV \right) \times (\sigma v) \times (N_{\text{SM, ann}}),$$

What do we know about these **rates**?

σv from **thermal production**

Annihilation (or decay) of DM can be **detected**
or **constrained** in a variety of ways

Here's one possible **classification**:

1. **Very Indirect**: effects on **astrophysical objects** or on **cosmology**
2. **Pretty Indirect**: probes that don't "trace back": **charged cosmic rays**
3. **Not-so-indirect**: **neutrinos** and **gamma rays** (travel in \sim **straight lines**)

Very indirect probes include e.g.

- **Solar Physics** (dark matter can affect the Sun's core temperature, the sound speed inside the Sun,...)
- **Neutron Star Capture**, possibly leading to the formation of black holes (notably e.g. in the context of asymmetric dark matter)
- **Supernova** and **Star** cooling
- **Protostars** (e.g. WIMP-fueled population-III stars)
- **Planets warming**
- **Big Bang Nucleosynthesis**, on the **cosmic microwave background**, on **reionization**, on **structure formation**...

Pretty Indirect Probes: **charged cosmic rays**

Good idea is to use **rare** cosmic rays, such as **anti-matter**

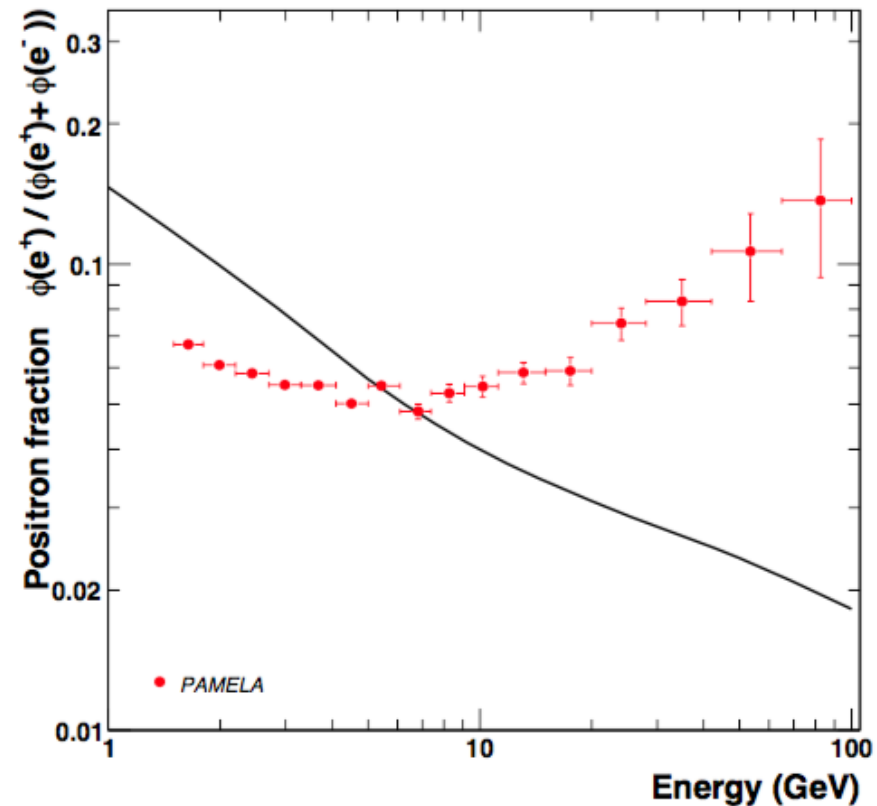
antiprotons, **positrons** relatively abundant
(mostly from inelastic processes CR p on ISM p)

Interesting probe: **antideuteron**s (or even **anti-³He** !!)

$$\bar{D} : \quad p + p \rightarrow p + p + \bar{p} + p + \bar{n} + n$$

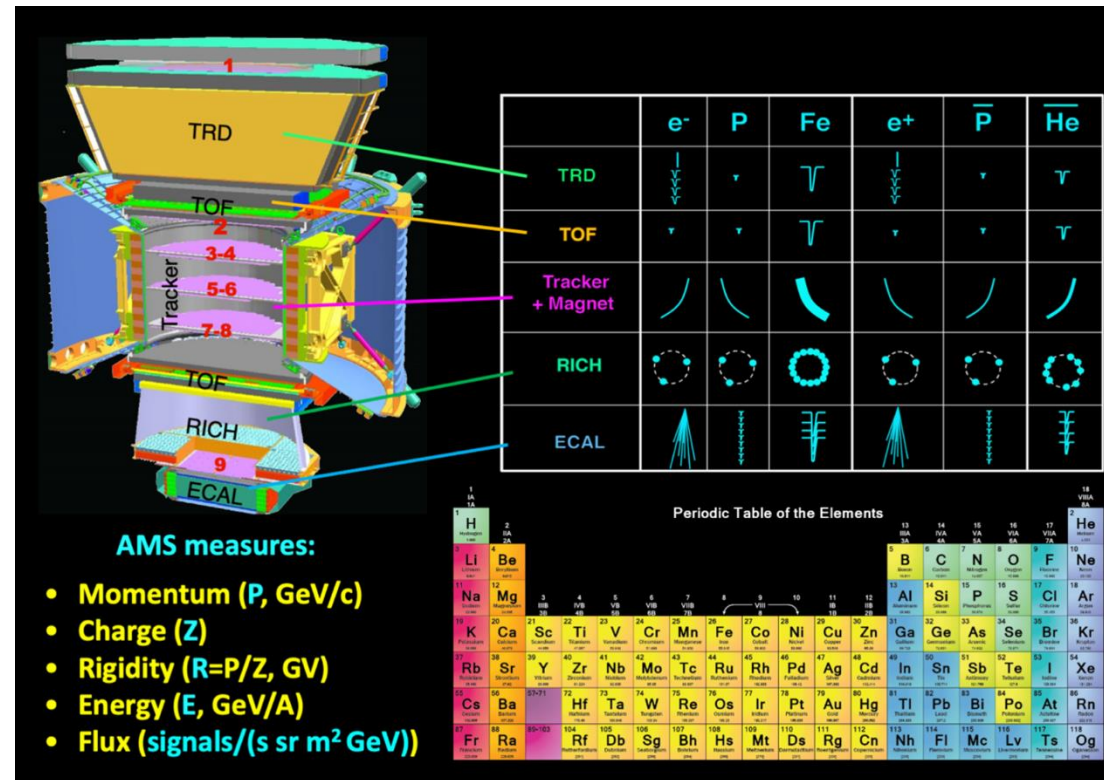
large energy **threshold** (~17 GeV), so typically large momentum, while from DM produced at very low momentum! Select **low-energy antideuteron**s

positrons (and in part antiprotons) have attracted attention because of "**anomalies**" reported by PAMELA, AMS-02, DAMPE



Very problematic to explain with **dark matter** annihilation
Local **Pulsar** magnetosphere is a natural explanation

Excess of anti- ^3He ?



- ...unclear if **antiprotons** can be confused as ^3He
- Very suspicious that **no antideuterons** have been detected
- Also very suspicious that **no clear antiproton signal** was detected

Not-so-indirect DM detection: **neutrinos!**

Hard (but not impossible) to detect particles

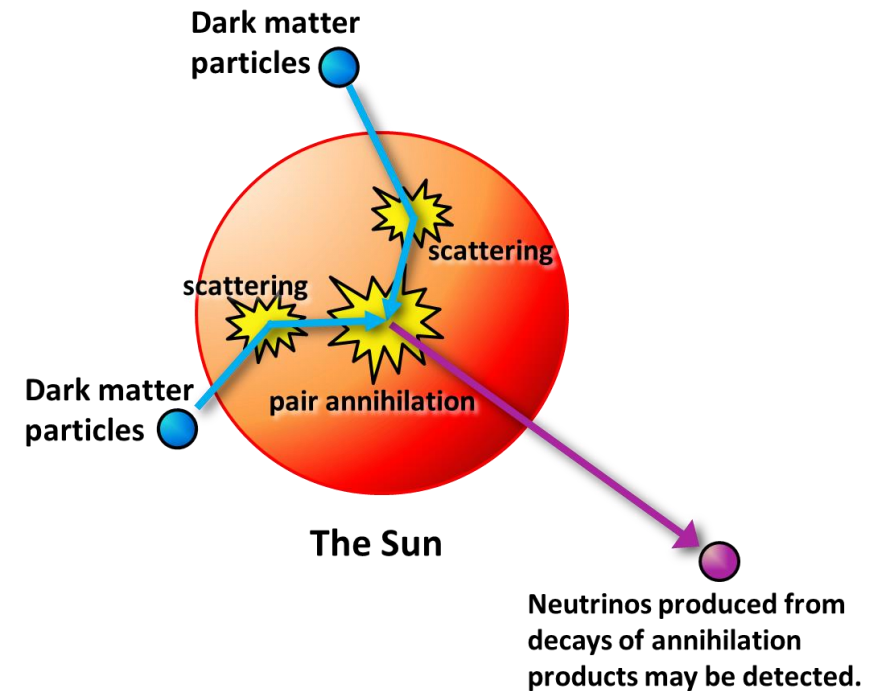
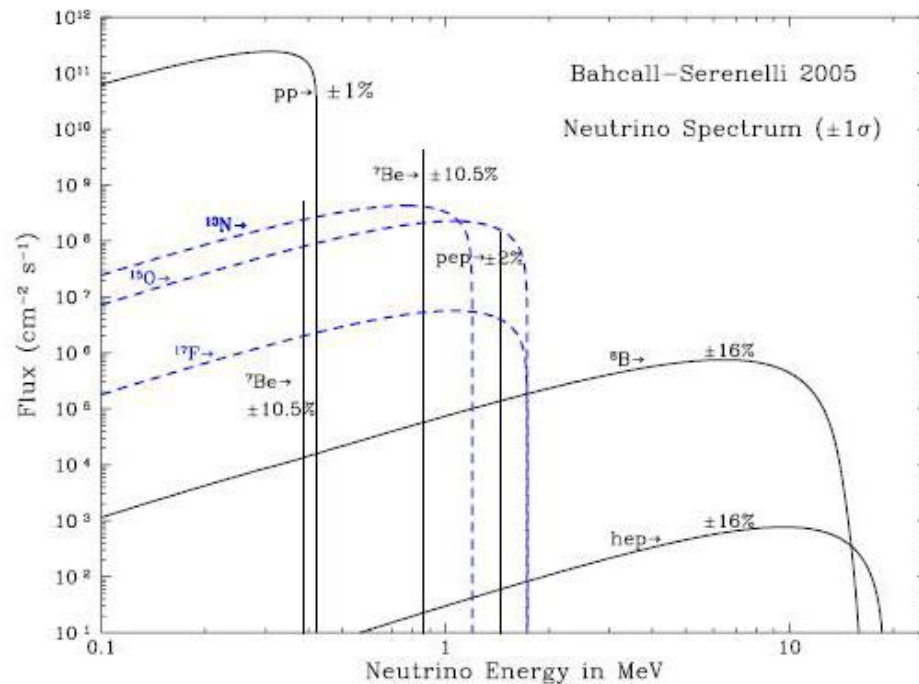
flip side: neutrinos have very **long mean free paths** in matter!

idea: DM can be **captured** in celestial bodies, **accrete** in sizable densities, start pair-annihilating

if the process of capture and annihilation is in **equilibrium**,
large **fluxes** of neutrino can escape

Not-so-indirect DM detection: **neutrinos!**

best target: **Sun!** Large, **nearby**, **low-E** neutrino emission



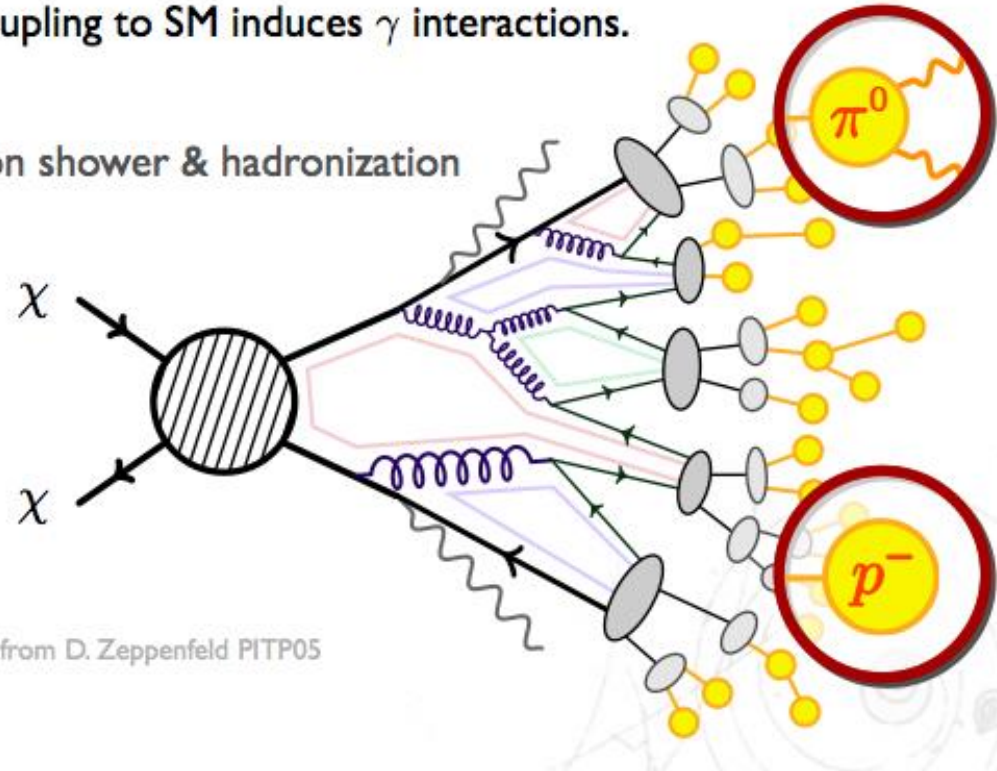
Not-so-indirect DM detection: **neutrinos!**



Light from dark matter!

DM coupling to SM induces γ interactions.

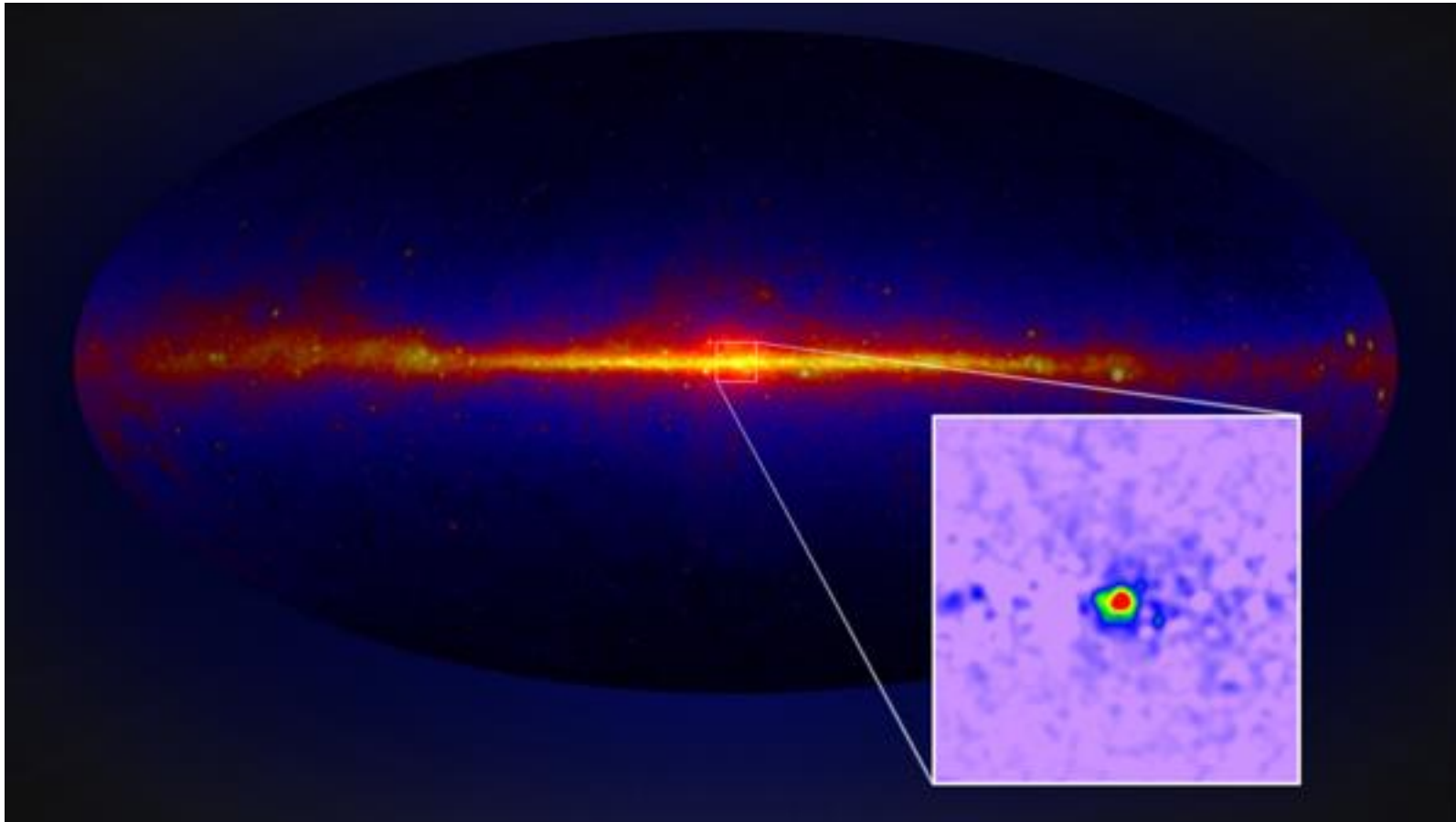
Parton shower & hadronization



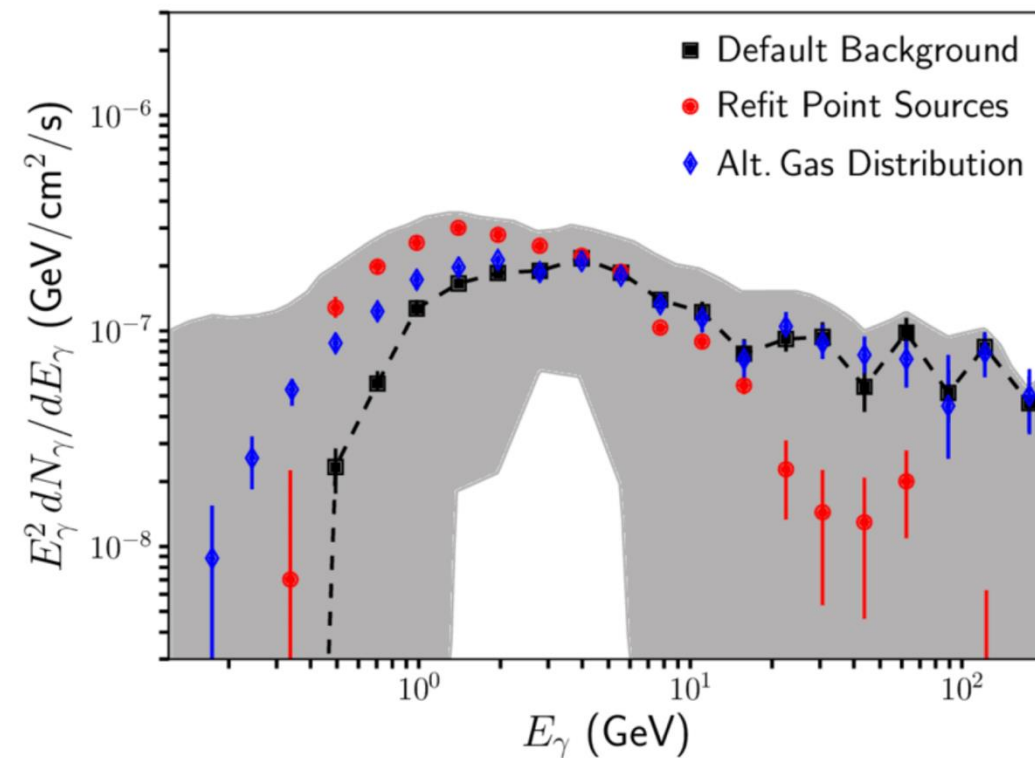
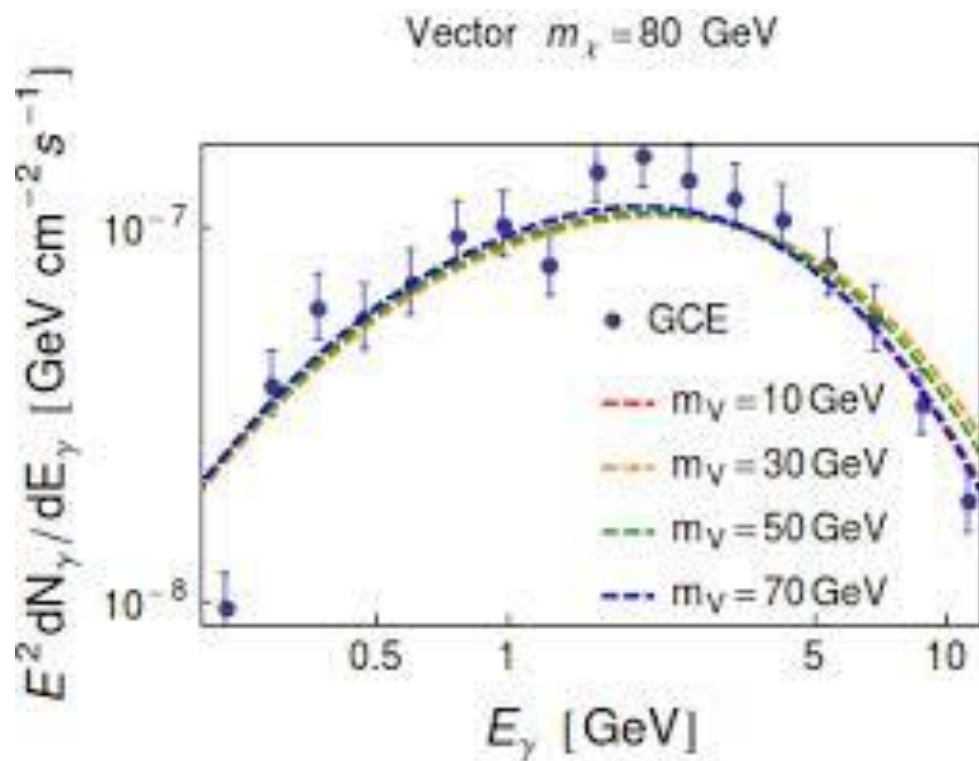
Primary photons: prompt, or internal brems; just run Pythia (if you can!)

Secondary photons: Inverse Compton, synchrotron

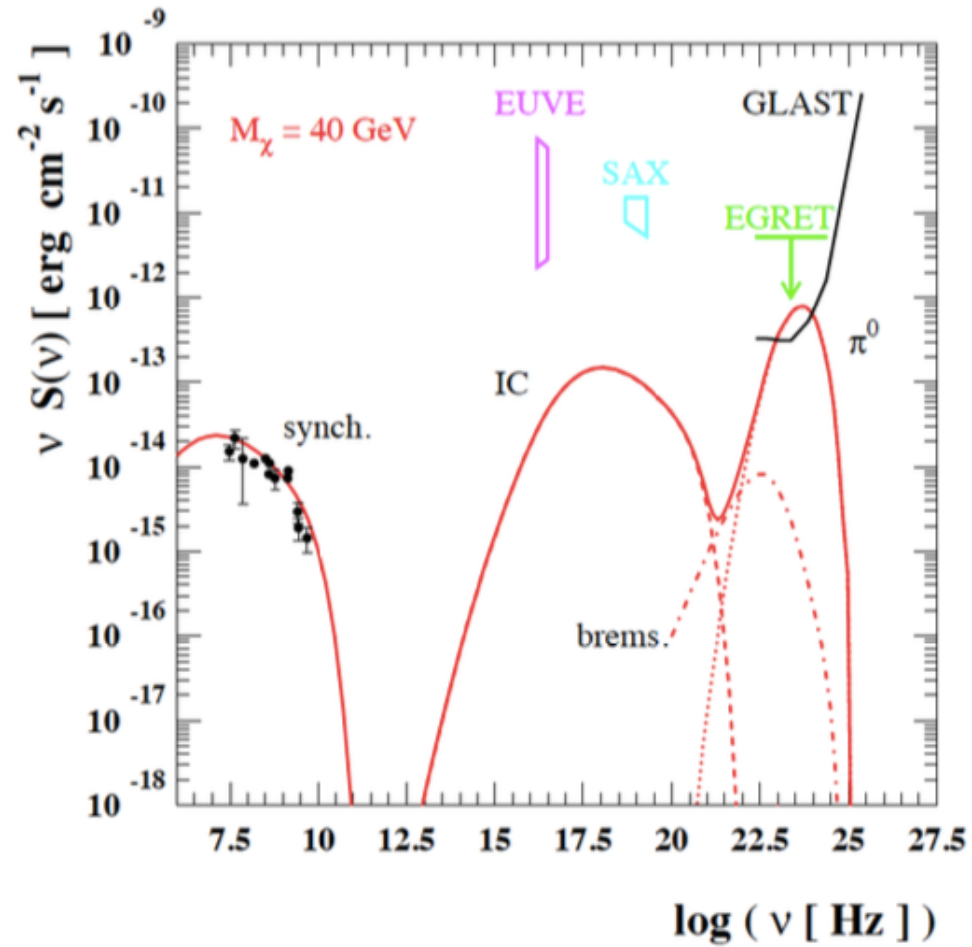
Light from dark matter!



Light from dark matter!



Light from dark matter!



Overall **emission** looks like this, e.g. in a **cluster** of galaxies



Axion and ALPs

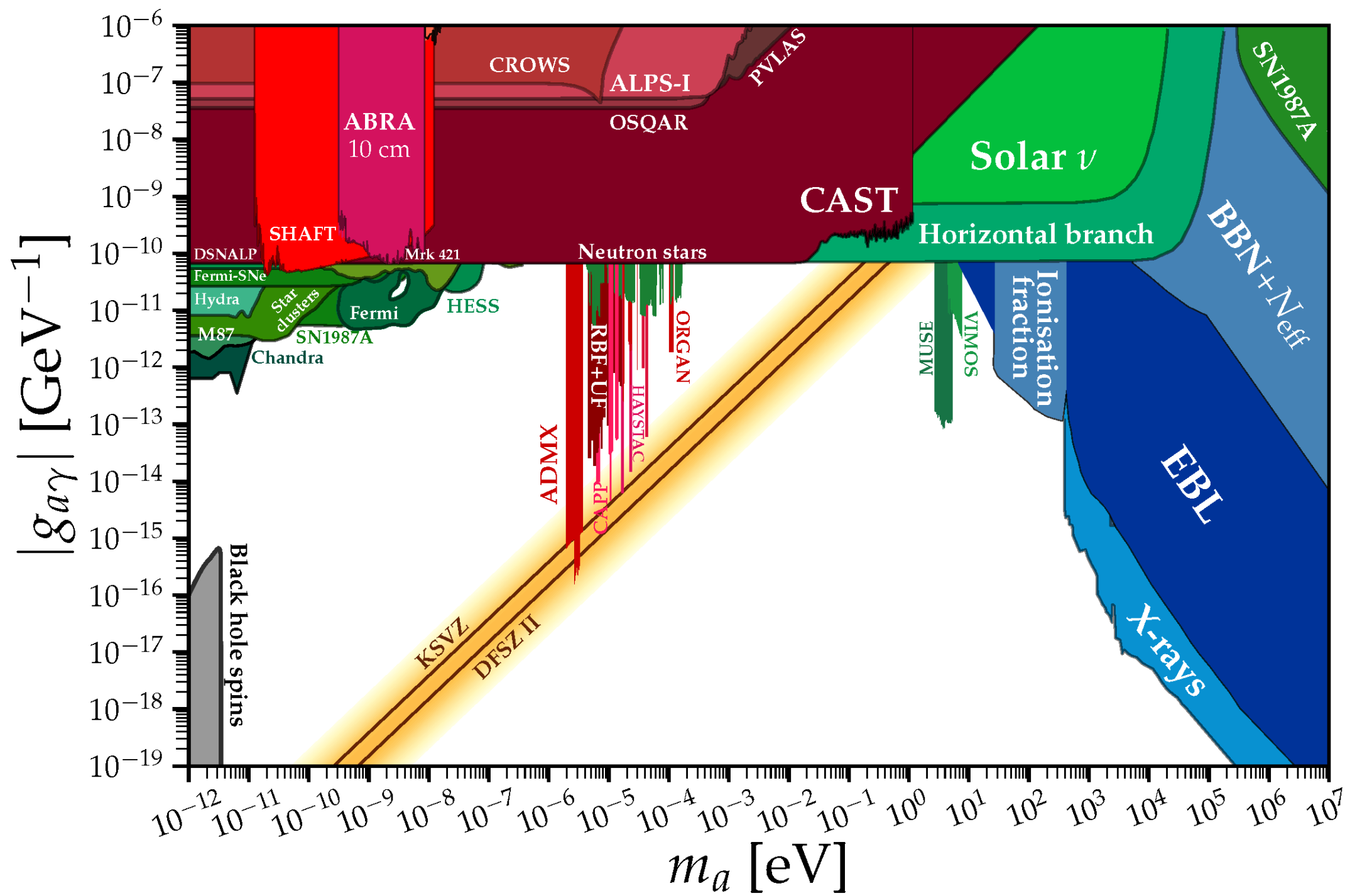
- **Axions** were originally proposed as a solution to the **strong CP problem** in QCD (why the QCD θ -angle is so small)
- They arise as **pseudo-Nambu–Goldstone bosons** of a spontaneously broken global U(1) symmetry: the **Peccei–Quinn (PQ) symmetry**
- **Axion-like particles (ALPs)** generalize the idea to other pseudo-scalars **not necessarily tied to QCD**, often arising in string theory or other extensions of the Standard Model (SM).

Production Mechanisms

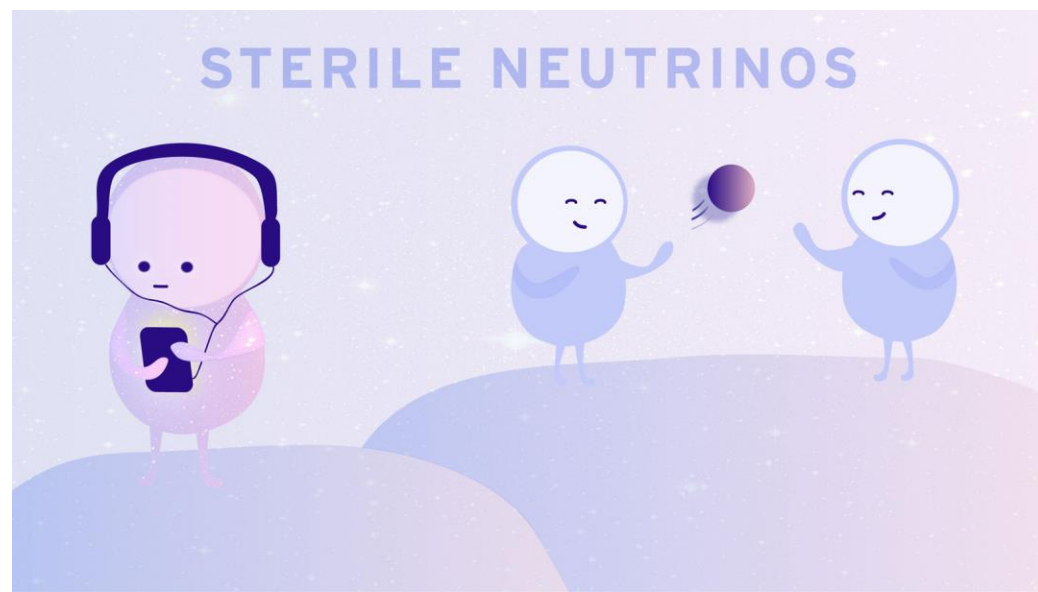
Mechanism	Description	Key Regime
Misalignment	Coherent field starts displaced from minimum; begins oscillating when $H \sim m_a$	$f_a \lesssim 10^{17}$ GeV
Topological defects	Decay of strings or domain walls	Depends on symmetry-breaking history
Thermal production	Interactions with plasma	Generally yields hot or warm DM unless decouples early

Detection Strategies

Category	Concept	Target	Sensitivity Range
Haloscopes	Axion DM converts to photons in strong magnetic field in a resonant cavity (e.g., ADMX, HAYSTAC)	Galactic axion DM	$\mu\text{eV} \sim 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$ $\sim \text{GHz}$
Broadband Haloscopes	Non-resonant or tunable systems (e.g., DMRadio, ABRACADABRA)	Lower-mass axions ($10^{-12} - 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$)	$f_a \sim 10^{13} - 10^{17} \text{ GeV}$
DM Radio	LC-circuit coupled to a pickup coil sensing oscillating axion-induced magnetic fields	Ultralight axions $m_a \sim 10^{-12} - 10^{-7} \text{ eV}$	High f_a , low $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$
ABRACADABRA	Axion-induced magnetic flux in toroidal magnets	Very low-mass ALPs	$m_a \lesssim 10^{-9} \text{ eV}$
CASPEr (NMR-based)	Axion–nucleon coupling causes time-varying spin precession	g_{aNN} , not just $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$	$10^{-22} - 10^{-7} \text{ eV}$
Helioscopes (CAST, IAXO)	Detect solar axions via conversion in magnetic field	Solar ALPs	$g_{a\gamma\gamma} \gtrsim 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
Light-Shining-Through-Walls	Laser photons convert to ALPs in B-field, traverse wall, reconvert	Purely lab-based, model-independent	$g_{a\gamma\gamma} \lesssim 10^{-7} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
Atomic Interferometry / Precision Spectroscopy	Oscillating fundamental constants or forces from ALP DM	Ultralight ALPs $m_a \lesssim 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$	Scalar/axion DM
Dielectric Haloscopes (e.g., MADMAX)	Stack of dielectric layers to enhance photon conversion	Intermediate mass axions	$m_a \sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$
Astrophysical Observations	Cooling rates, SN1987A, galaxy birefringence, pulsar timing	Stellar ALPs, ultralight ALPs	Wide mass range



STERILE NEUTRINOS



SM Neutrinos are strictly **massless**;
however, they are not observed to be!

Simplest addition: set of **n** singlet fermions **N_a** , gauge singlets

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + i\bar{N}_a \not{\partial} N_a - y_{\alpha a} H^\dagger \bar{L}_\alpha N_a - \frac{M_a}{2} \bar{N}_a^c N_a$$

$$M^{(n+3)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y_{\alpha a} \langle H \rangle \\ y_{\alpha a} \langle H \rangle & \text{diag}(M_1, \dots, M_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

Sterile neutrinos mix via explicit (but possibly very small)
mixing with ordinary neutrinos

...as such, they **decay** (into 3 SM neutrinos)
...but to be the dark matter, they must be sufficiently **long-lived**

$$\Gamma \sim \theta^2 G_F^2 m^5 \sim \theta^2 \left(\frac{m}{\text{keV}} \right)^5 10^{-40} \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow \tau \sim 10^{16} \text{ s } \theta^{-2} \left(\frac{m}{\text{keV}} \right)^{-5}$$

$$\theta^{-2} \left(\frac{m}{\text{keV}} \right)^{-5} \gg 1$$

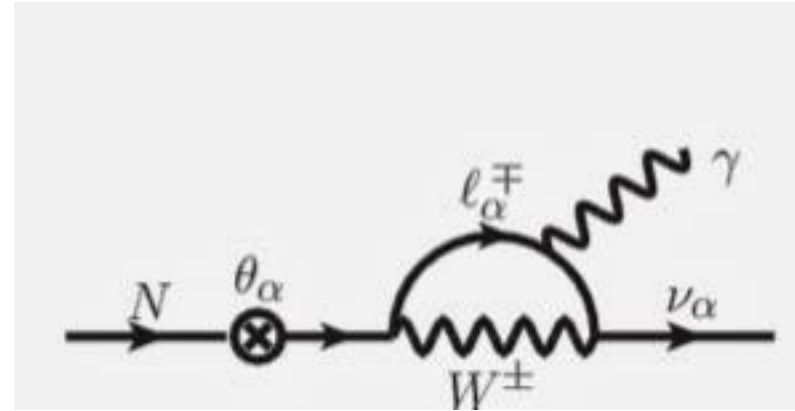
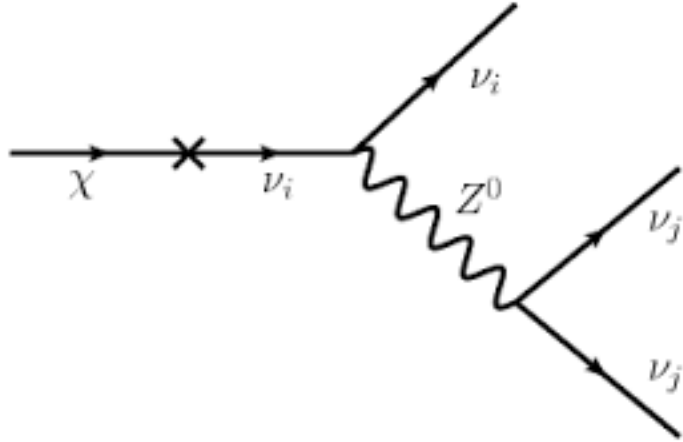
Being fermions, **$m > 30 \text{ eV}$** (e.g. Tremaine-Gunn)

How can sterile neutrinos be **produced**?

Basically, **freeze-in**: dump out-of-equilibrium sterile ν 's through the universe history

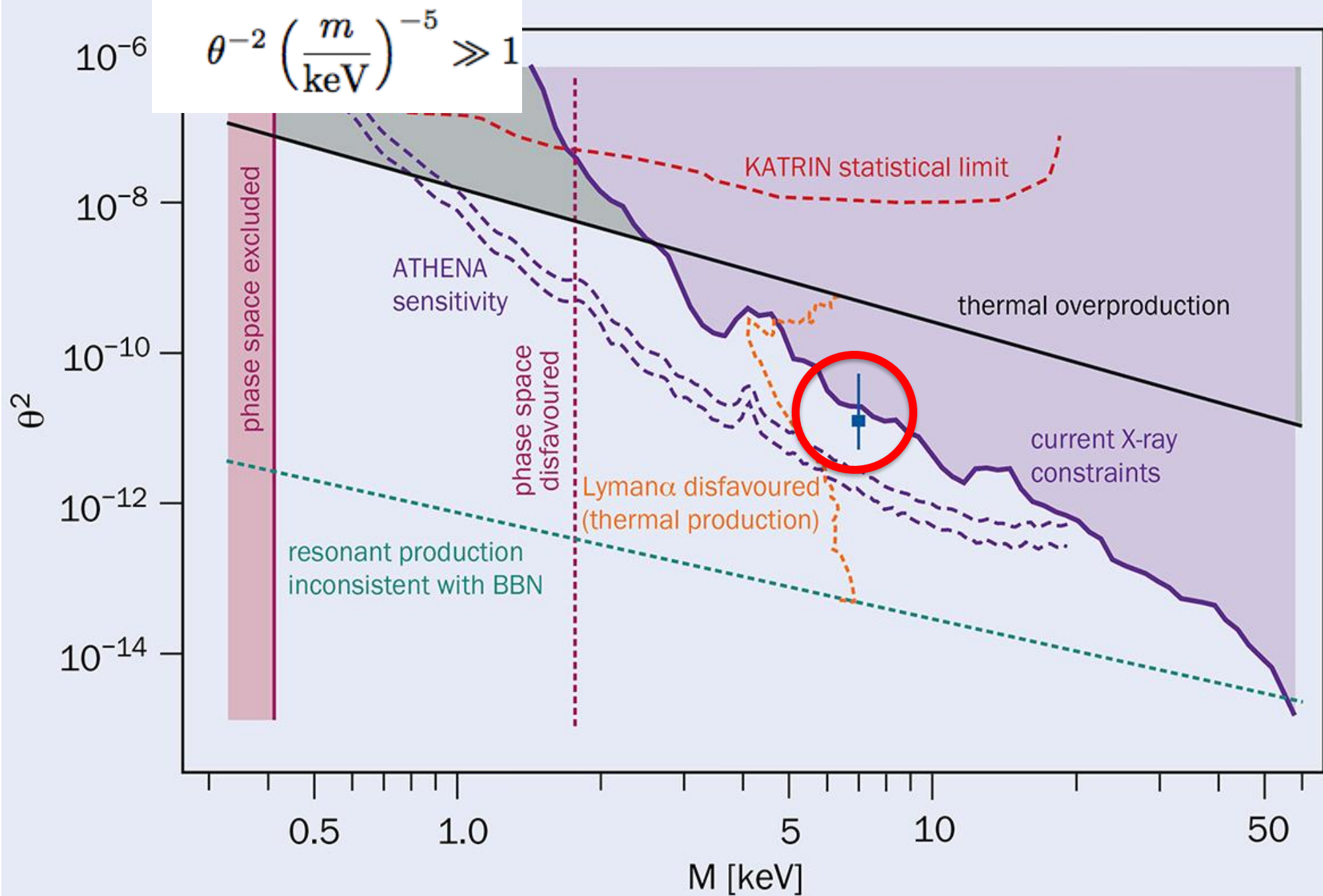
$$\Gamma_{\nu_s} \sim (G_F^2 T^5) \theta^2(T)$$

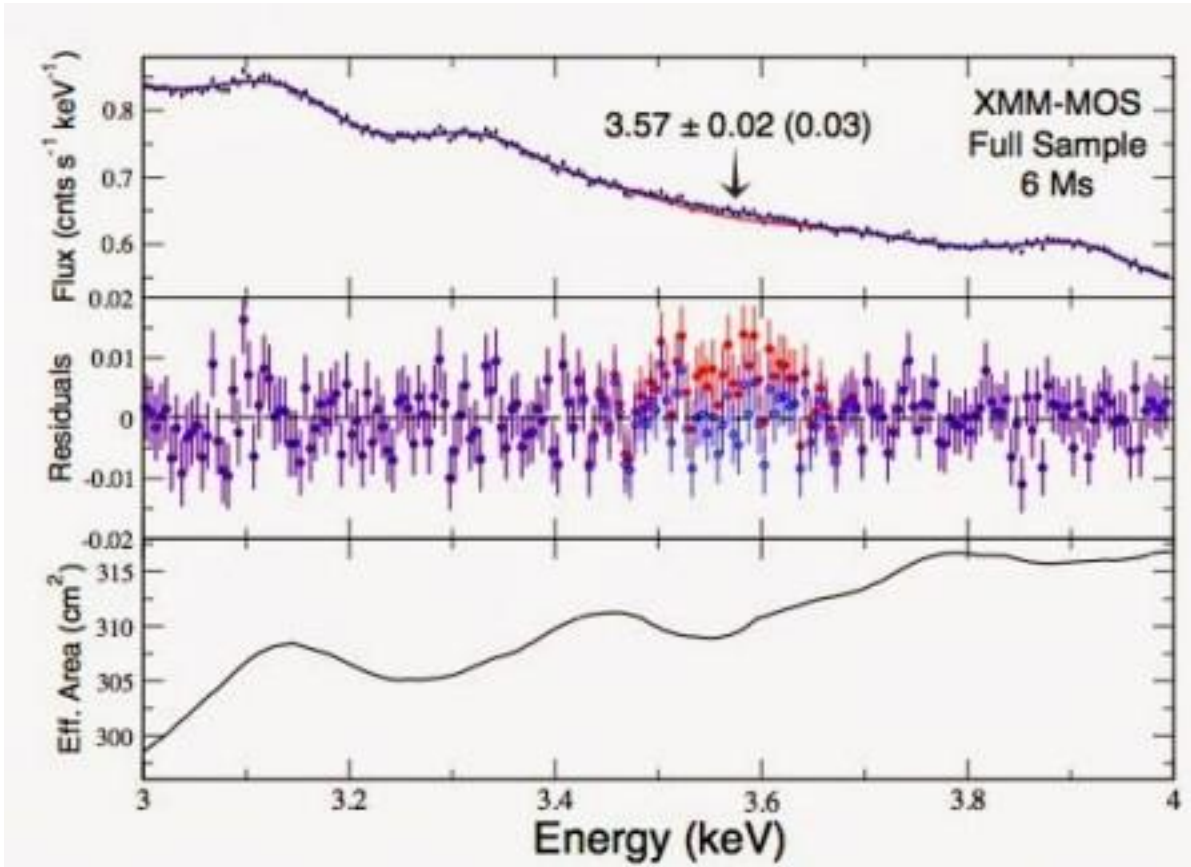
Subtlety is **matter effects**, inducing **T -dependence** in the mixing angle



...being a two-body decay of a (cold, non-relativistic) particle,
photon is **monochromatic** with energy, $E_\gamma = m_\nu/2$

$$\Gamma_{\nu_s \rightarrow \gamma \nu_a} \approx \frac{\alpha}{16\pi^2} \theta^2 G_F^2 m^5$$





- Positive **detection** claimed from galaxy clusters (2014, Bulbul+, Boyarsky+)
- **dSph observations** showed signal could not originate from sterile neutrino decay (Jeltema+Profumo, 2016)
- further **conclusive evidence** from blank sky data (Dessert+ 2019), and **XRISM**

