

# Direct searches for dark matter particles

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**Eric Armengaud - CEA Saclay**

OHP - 28/11/2019

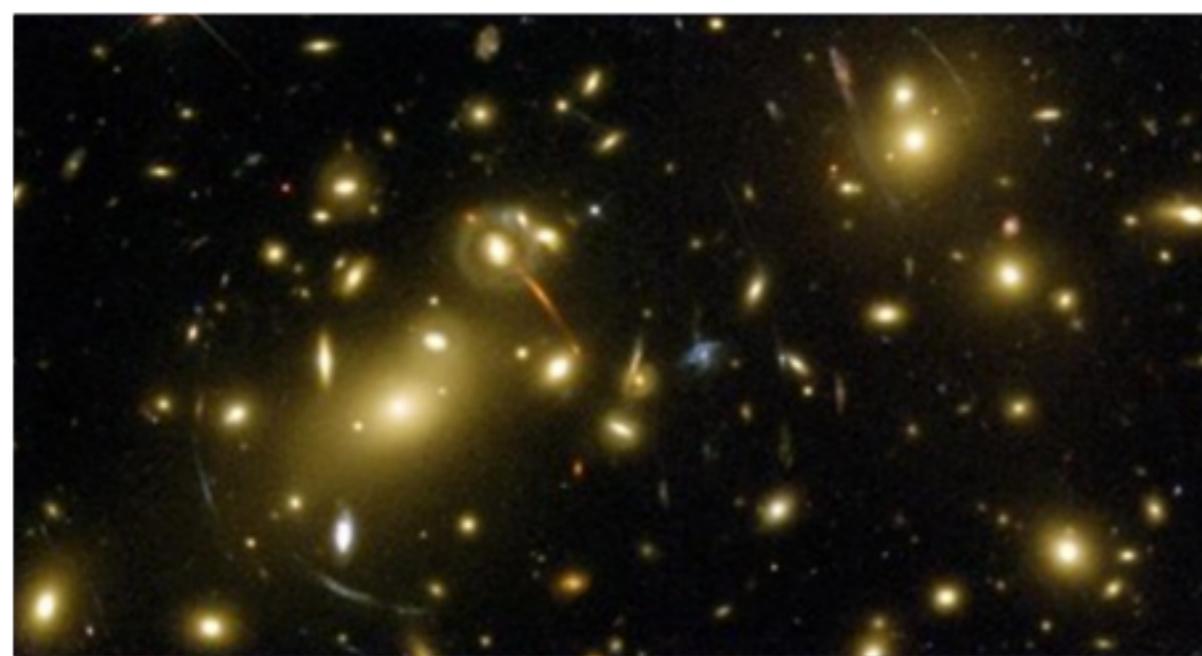
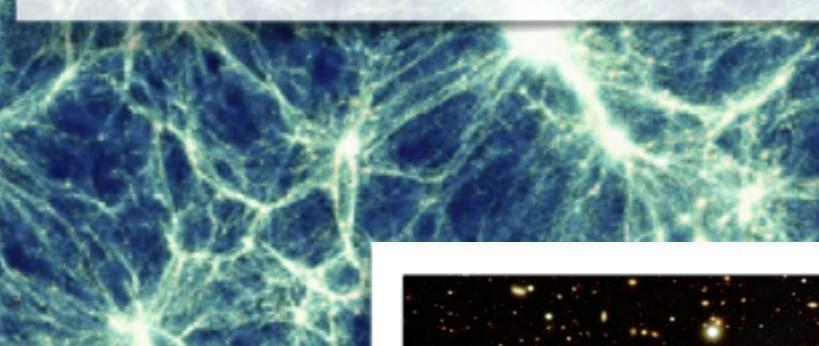
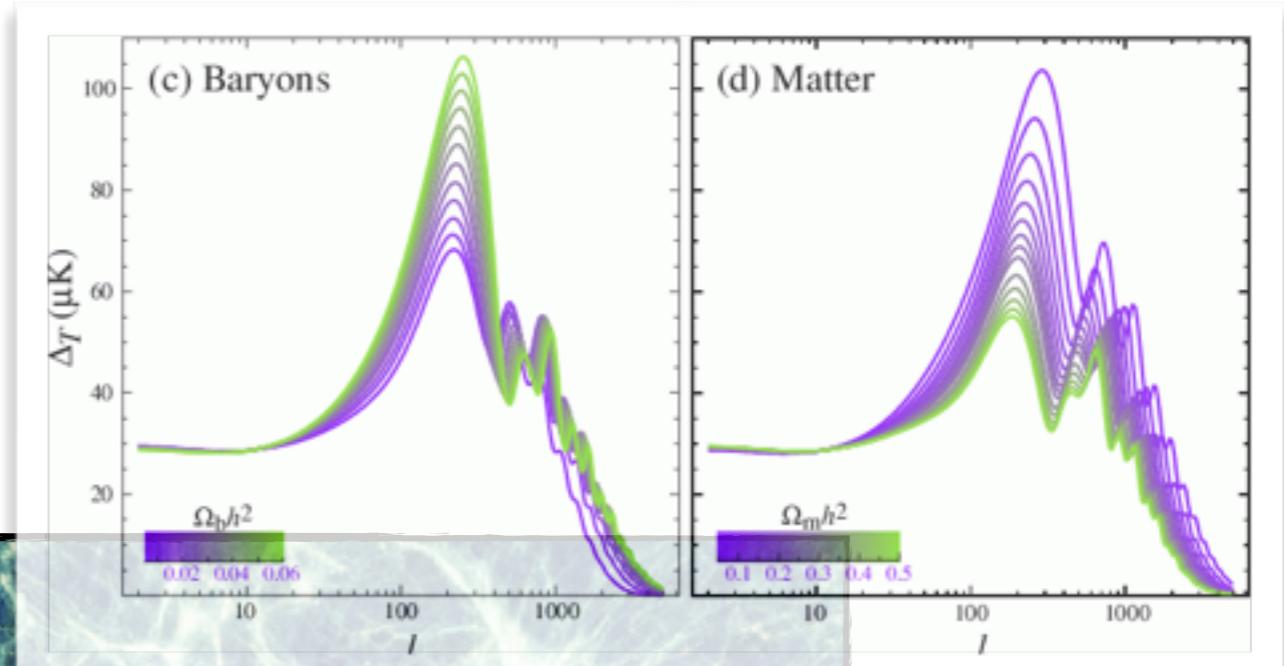
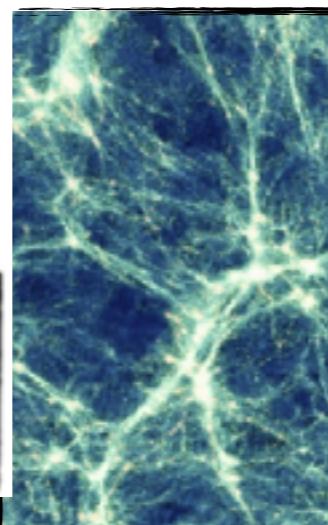


## References

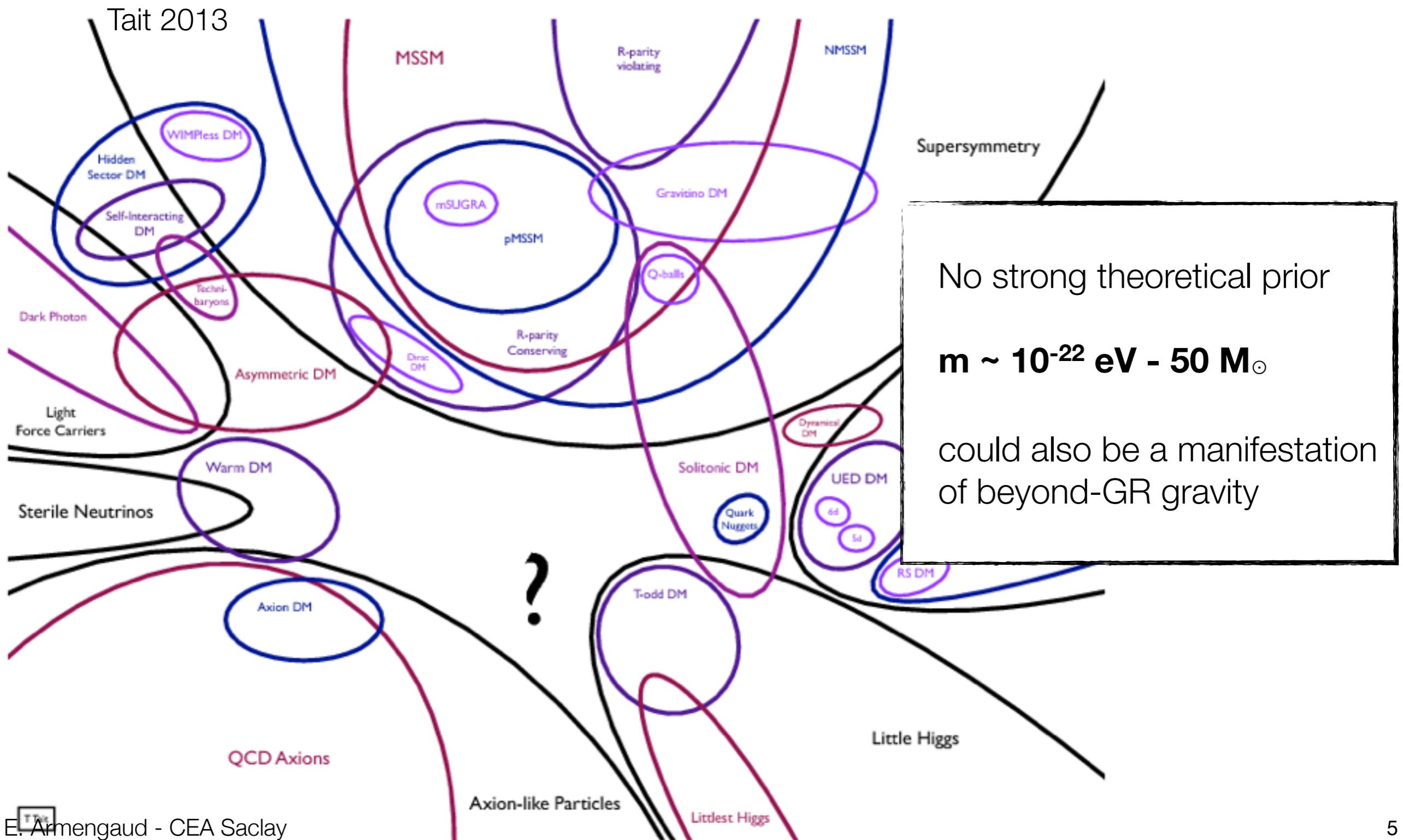
- Reviews on WIMPs (phenomenology, a bit old)
  - "Particle Dark Matter: Evidence, Candidates and Constraints", Gianfranco Bertone, Dan Hooper, Joseph Silk, Phys. Rept., 405 :279–390, (2005):[arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0404175](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0404175)
  - "Dark Matter Candidates from Particle Physics and Methods of Detection", Jonathan L. Feng, Ann.Rev.Astron.Astrophys., 48, 495-545.5(2010):<https://arxiv.org/abs/1003.0904>
- Experimental review
  - "Dark matter direct-detection experiments", Teresa Marrodan Undagoitia, Ludwig Rauch, J. Phys., J. Phys. G43 (2016) :<https://arxiv.org/abs/1509.08767>
- "Seminal article" on WIMP detection
  - "Detectability of certain dark-matter candidates", Mark W. Goodman and Edward Witten, Phys. Rev. D 31, 3059 (1985) :<http://hep.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/susy/goodwit/goodwit.pdf>
- Currently the best limit on WIMPs (most standard "channel")
  - "Dark Matter Search Results from a One Ton-Year Exposure of XENON1T", E. Aprile et al. (XENON Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 111302 (2018) :<https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.12562>
- Prospects for DM search in particular other models than WIMPs
  - "US Cosmic Visions: New Ideas in Dark Matter 2017: Community Report", M Battaglieri et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 111302 (2018) :<https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.04591>

- **Dark matter and direct detection**
- WIMP direct detection
  - Principle
  - History and the example of XENON1t
  - Supplementary material
- Low mass dark matter
  - Interactions with nuclei
  - Interactions with electrons
- QCD axions
  - Axion haloscopes

SCIENTISTS  
THINK SPACE IS FULL OF  
MYSTERIOUS, INVISIBLE MASS,  
SO WHAT DO THEY CALL IT?  
**"DARK MATTER"! DUHH!**



# What is Dark Matter ??



## « Direct detection » of dark matter

- The Earth is embed in the Milky Way halo  
local properties of that dark halo not very well measured, but unless simulations / observations are terribly wrong, we know the orders of magnitudes:  
**mass density ~ 0.4 GeV / cm<sup>3</sup>**  
**velocity distribution ~ Maxwellian v ~ 200 km/s**
- Assume DM is made of some kind of particles
- In many scenarios, DM particles have **(non-gravitational) interactions with ordinary stuff**  
Ordinary stuff = nuclei, electrons, electromagnetic fields

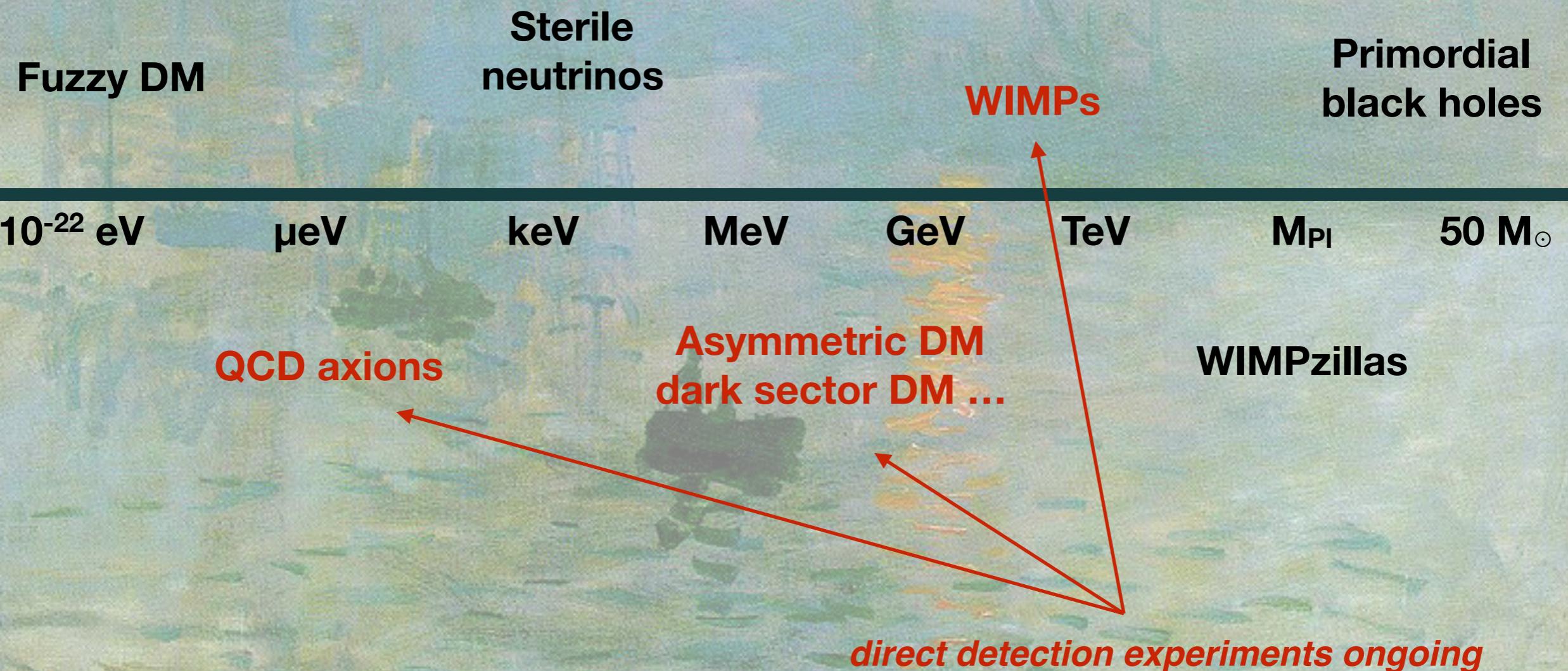
**DM beam = galactic halo**

**target = terrestrial detector**

If lucky enough, these (weak) interactions could be detected !

Highly risky endeavour, but the stake is high

- Direct detection is model-dependent :  
Terrestrial detectors are designed depending on the DM scenario to be tested



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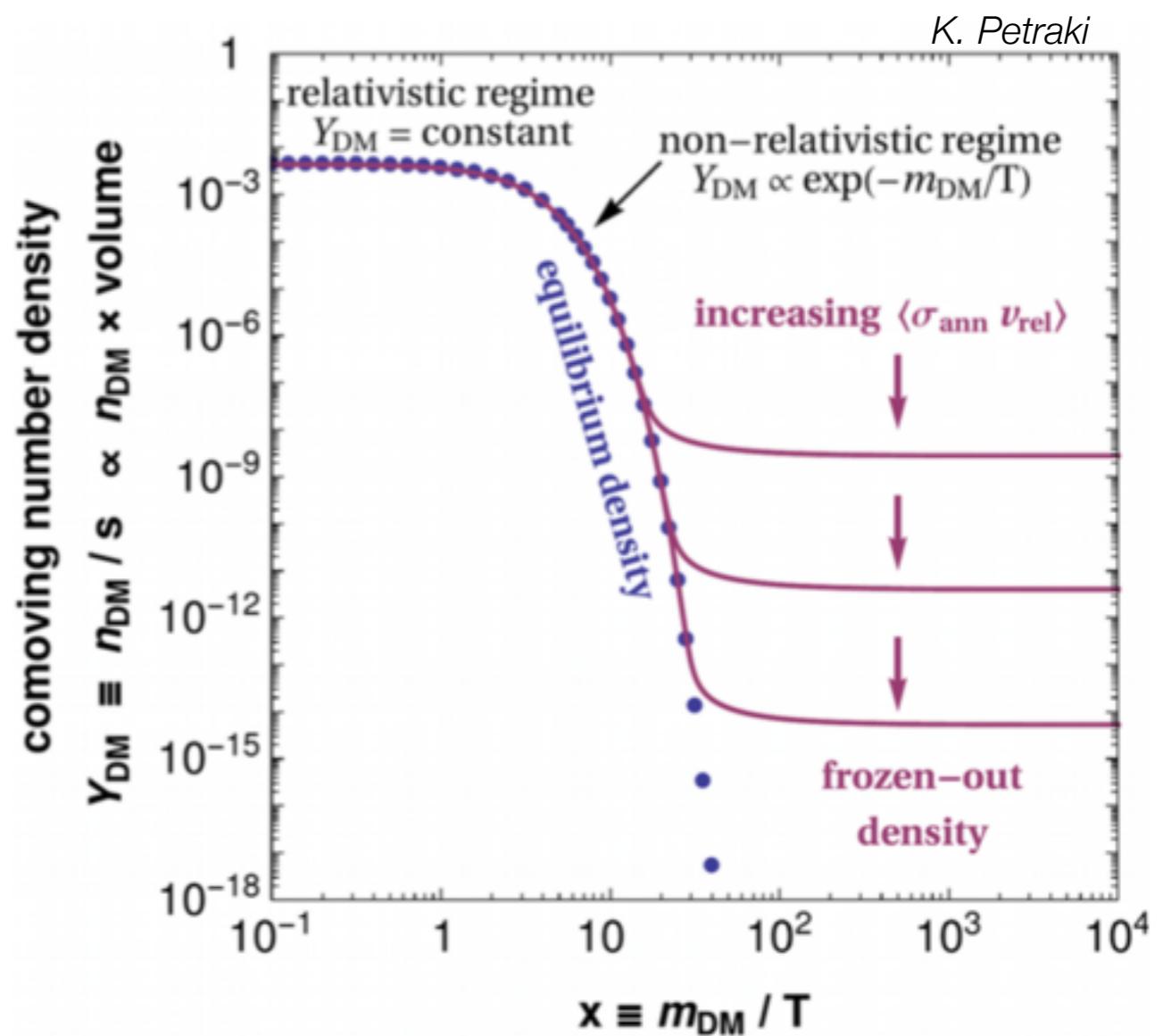
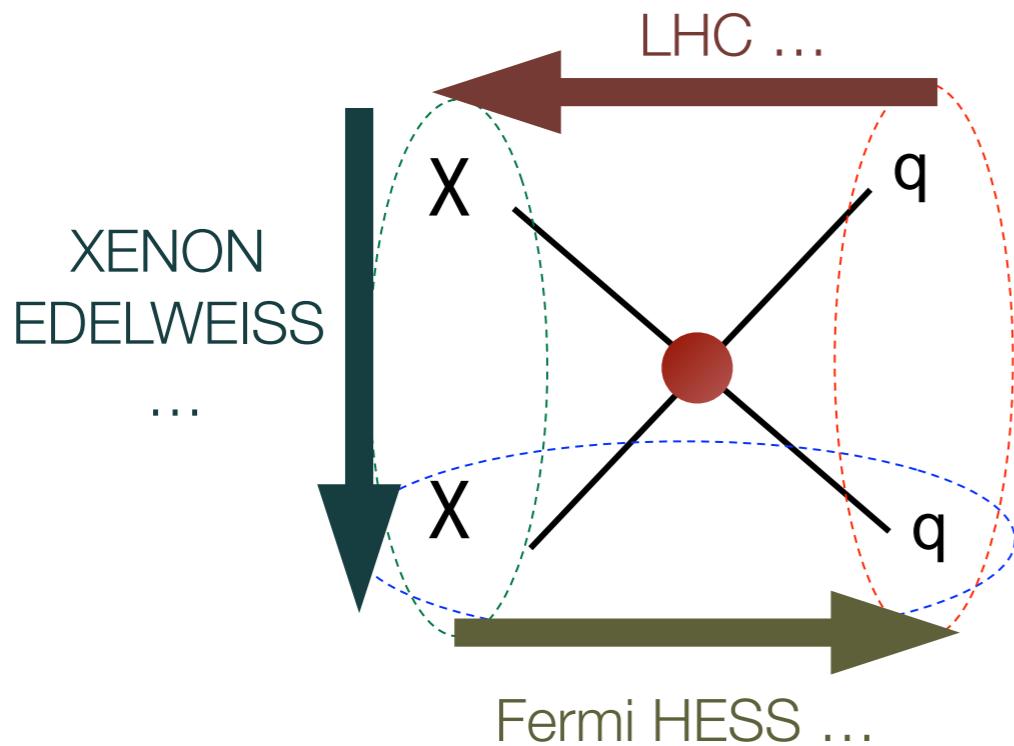
# The WIMP paradigm

**Assume new physics @ electroweak scale** (SUSY, etc...)

Simple thermal relic calculation  
« WIMP miracle »

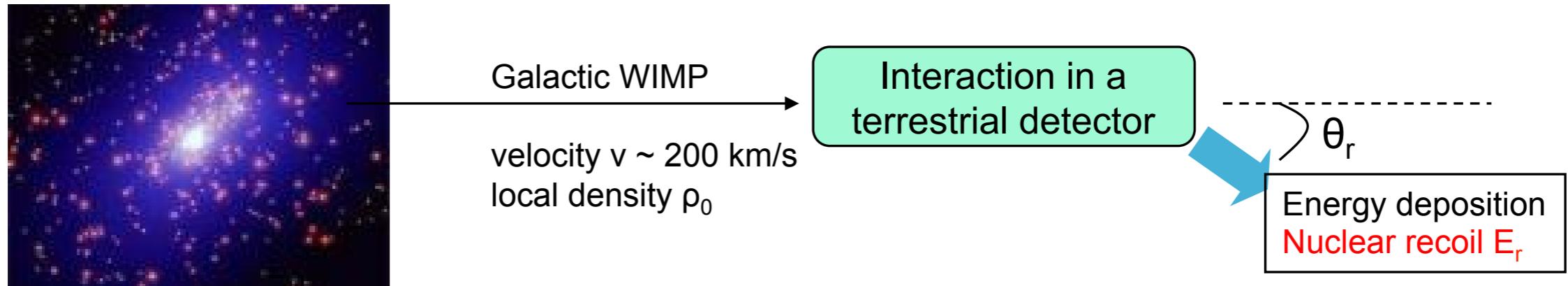
Collider / direct / indirect detection

Most explored DM scenario 90's - 2010's



$$\Omega \simeq 0.26 \times \left( \frac{1 \text{pb} \cdot c}{\sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}}} \right)$$

# Direct detection of WIMP dark matter



**WIMP mass  $\sim 10\text{s} - 100\text{s GeV}$**

$$E_r = \left( \frac{m_\chi}{2} v^2 \right) \times \frac{4m_N m_\chi}{(m_N + m_\chi)^2} \times \cos^2 \theta_r \sim 1 - 100 \text{ keV}$$

$$\frac{dR}{dE_r} = \frac{\sigma_0 \rho_0}{2 m_\chi m_r} F^2(q) \int_{v_{\min}}^{\infty} dv \frac{f_1(v)}{v}$$

Annotations for the equation:

- New EW physics + hadron physics (red arrow)
- Astrophysics (WIMP velocity distribution and local density) (blue arrow)
- Nuclear physics (green arrow)

- Kinetics => search for **interactions with nuclei** (nuclear recoil NR)
- **Energy spectrum**  $\sim$  exponential
- Scales with  $\sim A^2$  for spin-independant (SI) coupling
- **Scaling with  $M_{\text{WIMP}}$** : low recoil energies at low  $M_{\text{WIMP}}$

# Direct detection of WIMP dark matter (2)

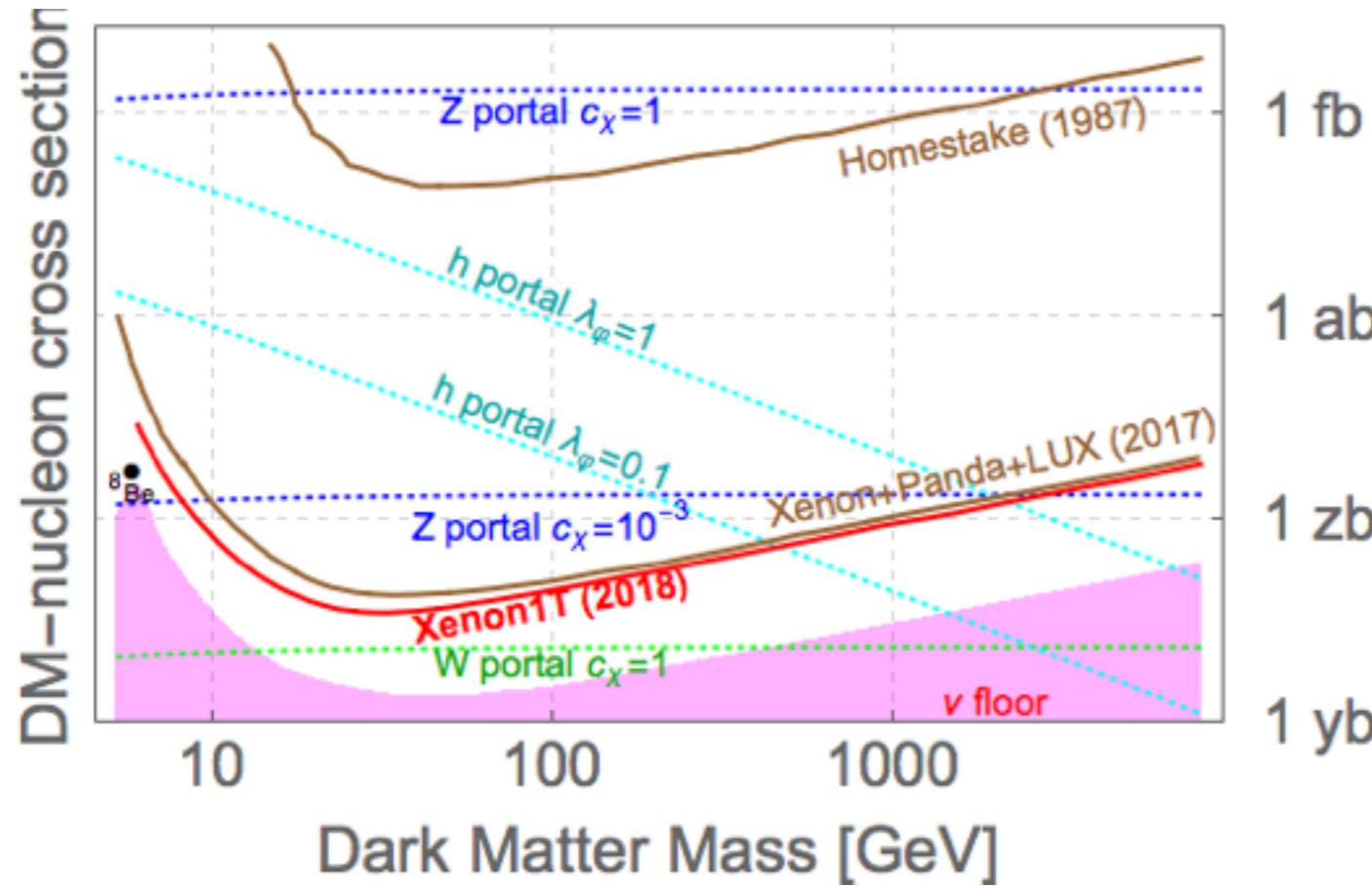
**Cross-section : Highly model-dependent** (structure of WIMP couplings, mediator mass...)

« spin-independant » (SI)  
scales with  $\sim A^2$  : use heavy targets

$$\sigma_A^{SI}(q \rightarrow 0) = \frac{4\mu_A^2}{\pi} [Zf_p + (A-Z)f_n]^2 \approx \frac{\mu_A^2}{\mu_p^2} \sigma_p A^2$$

« spin-dependant » (SD)  
use specific isotope targets

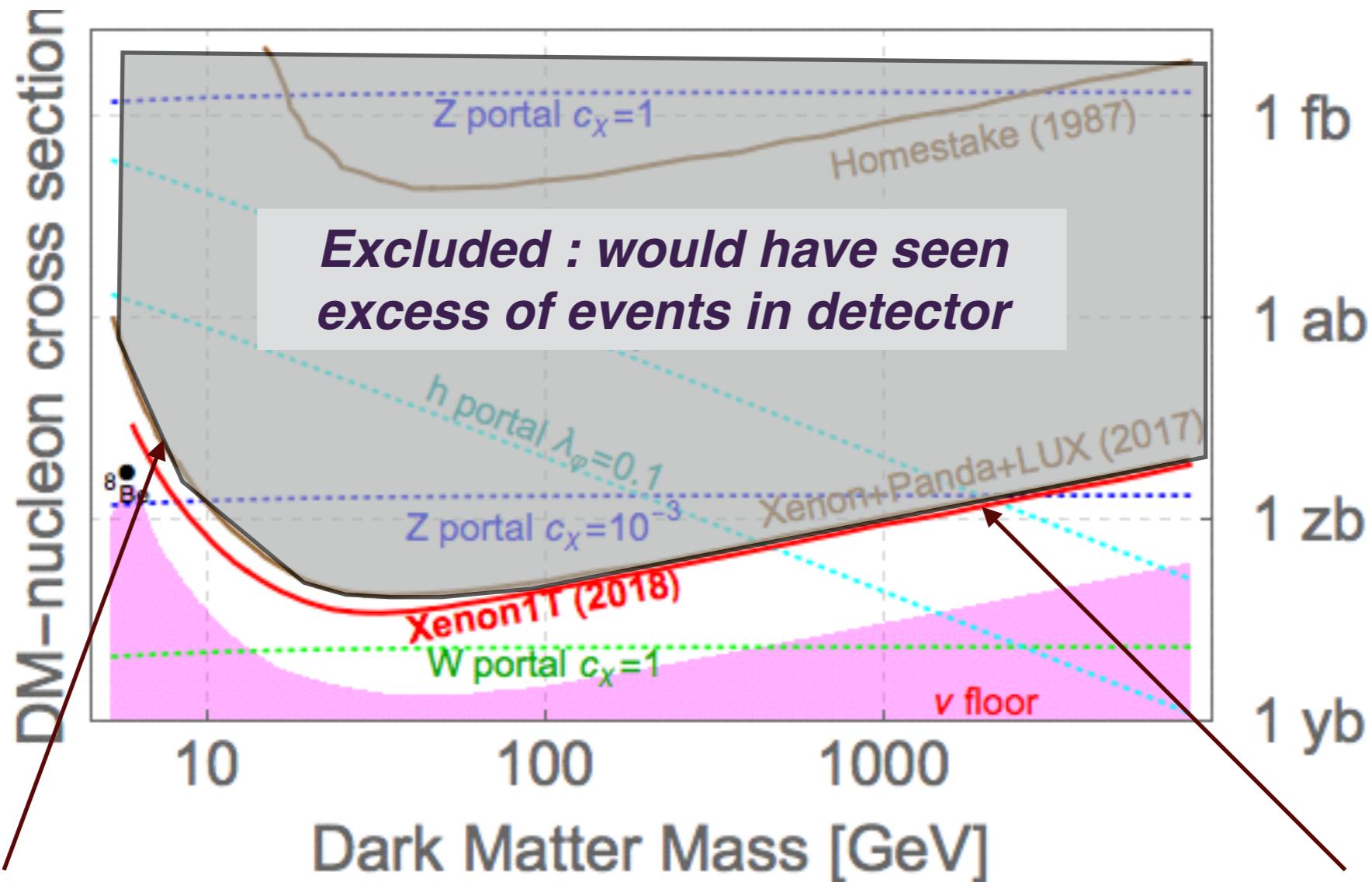
$$\sigma_A^{SD}(q \rightarrow 0) = \frac{\mu_A^2}{\mu_p^2} \sigma_{p,n}^{SD} \left[ \frac{4}{3} \frac{J+1}{J} (a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle)^2 \right]$$



Z mediator excluded long ago

Now constraining Higgs mediator

## Understanding « WIMP exclusion curves »



*Experimental  
energy threshold  
(kinematics)*

*Local number density  
decreases when DM mass  
increases*

# WIMP detection is hard : signal vs backgrounds

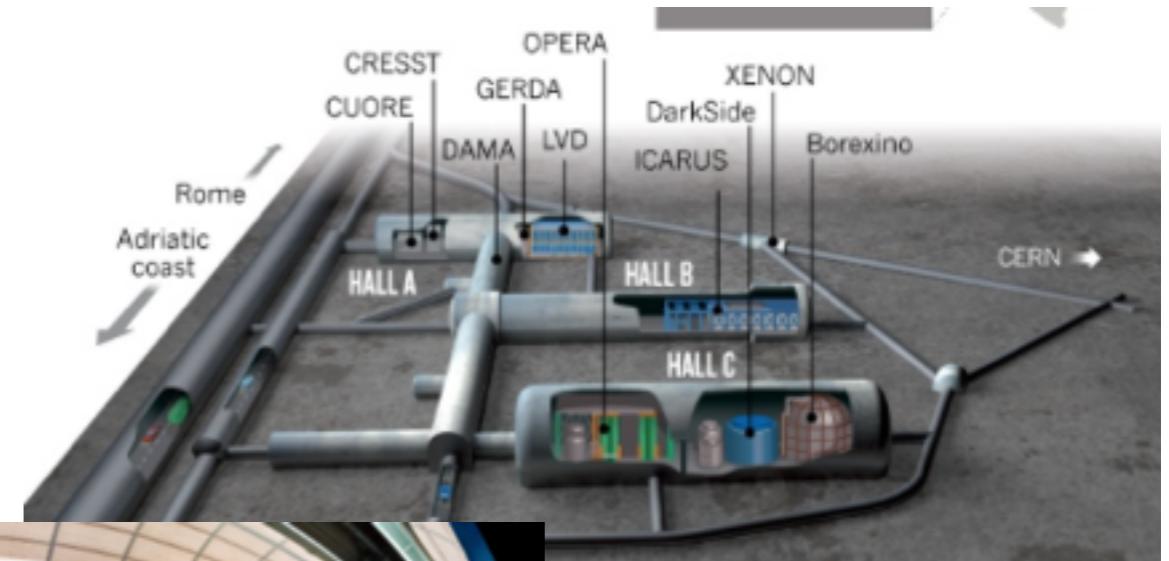
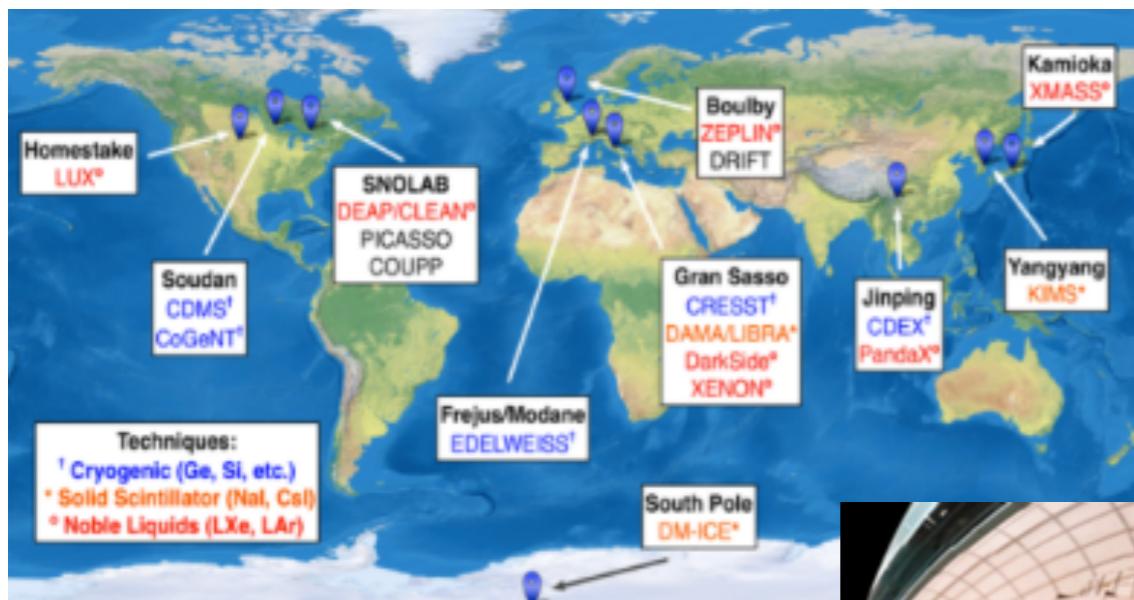
Massive target (kg ... tons )

Low detection threshold ( ~ few keV)

**Radioactive backgrounds : gamma-rays, betas, alphas, neutrons...**

passive rejection = underground detector, shields and vetos, radiopurity

active rejection = smart detector design



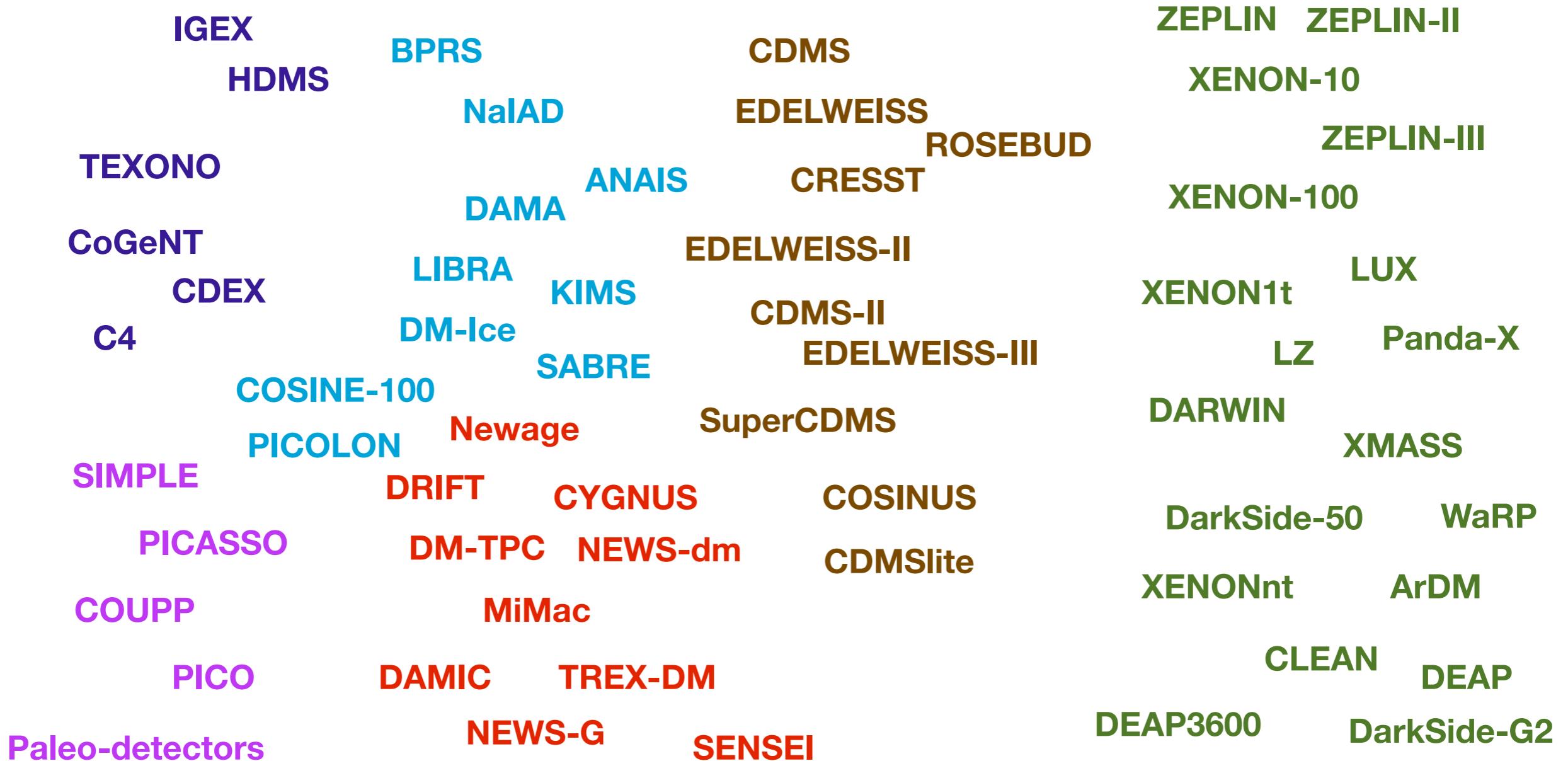
Gran Sasso



XENON1t

# A wonderful playground for detector R&D

Noble liquids, cryogenic bolometers, CCDs, gazeous chambers, solid scintillators, bubble chambers...

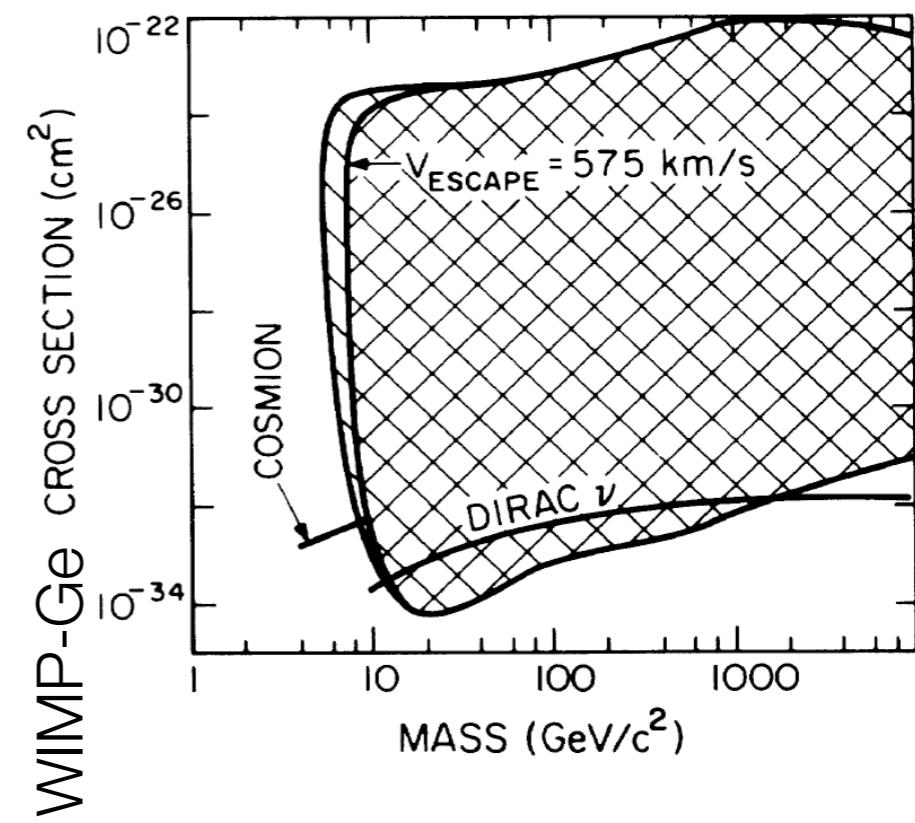
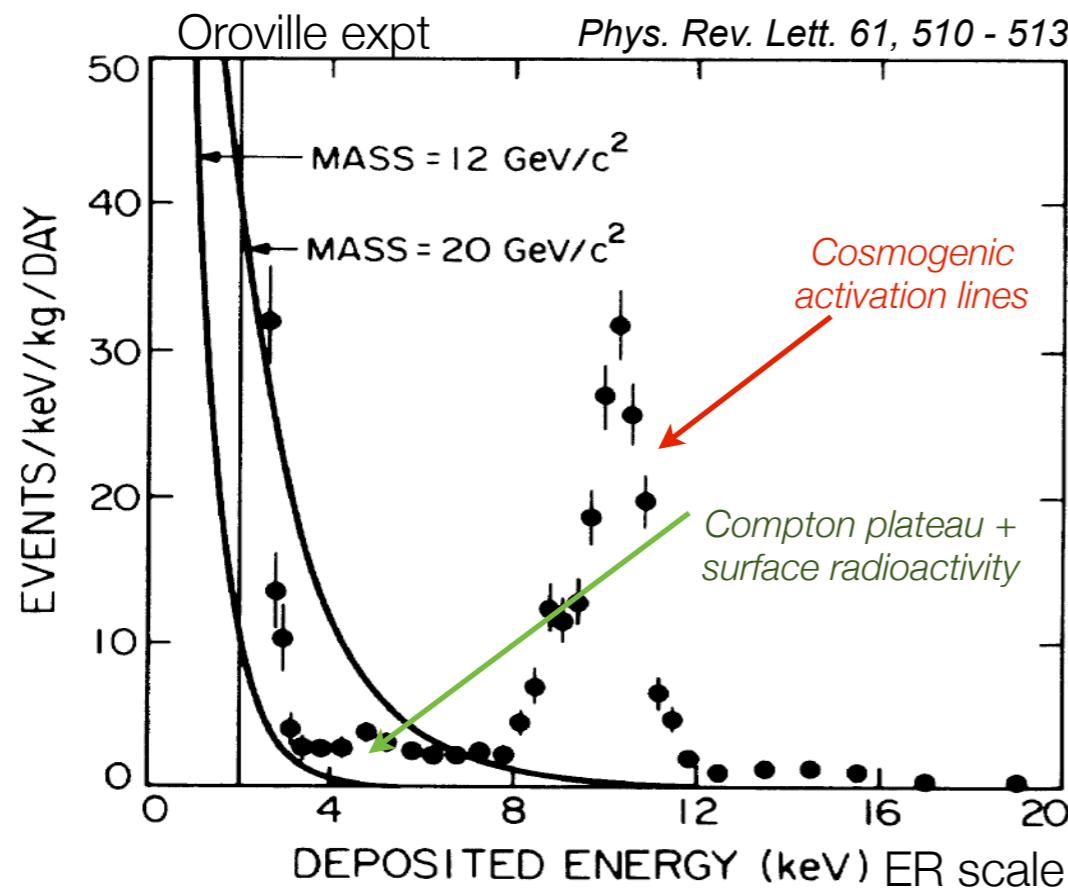
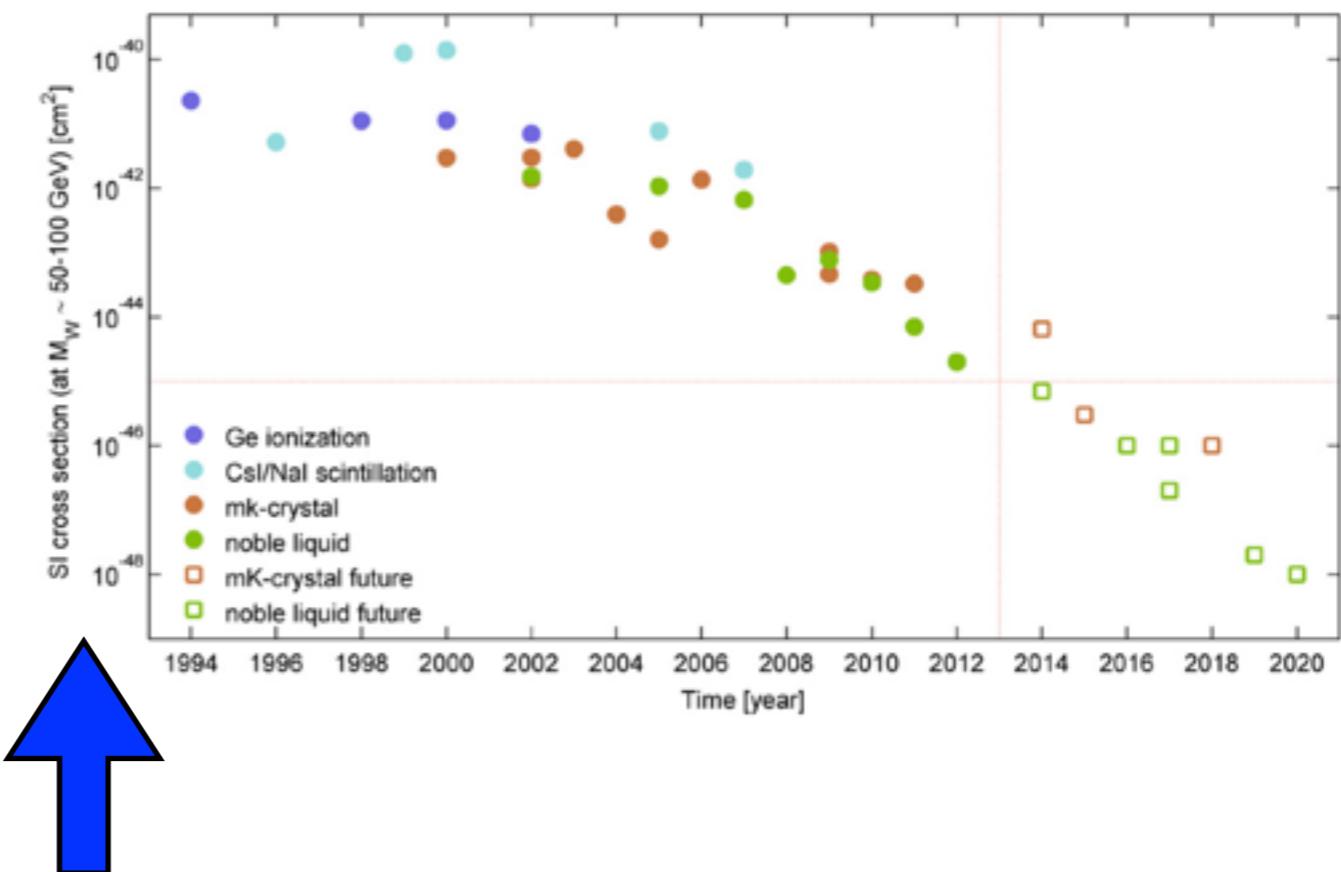


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# History of sensitivities

## Germanium detectors (ionization)

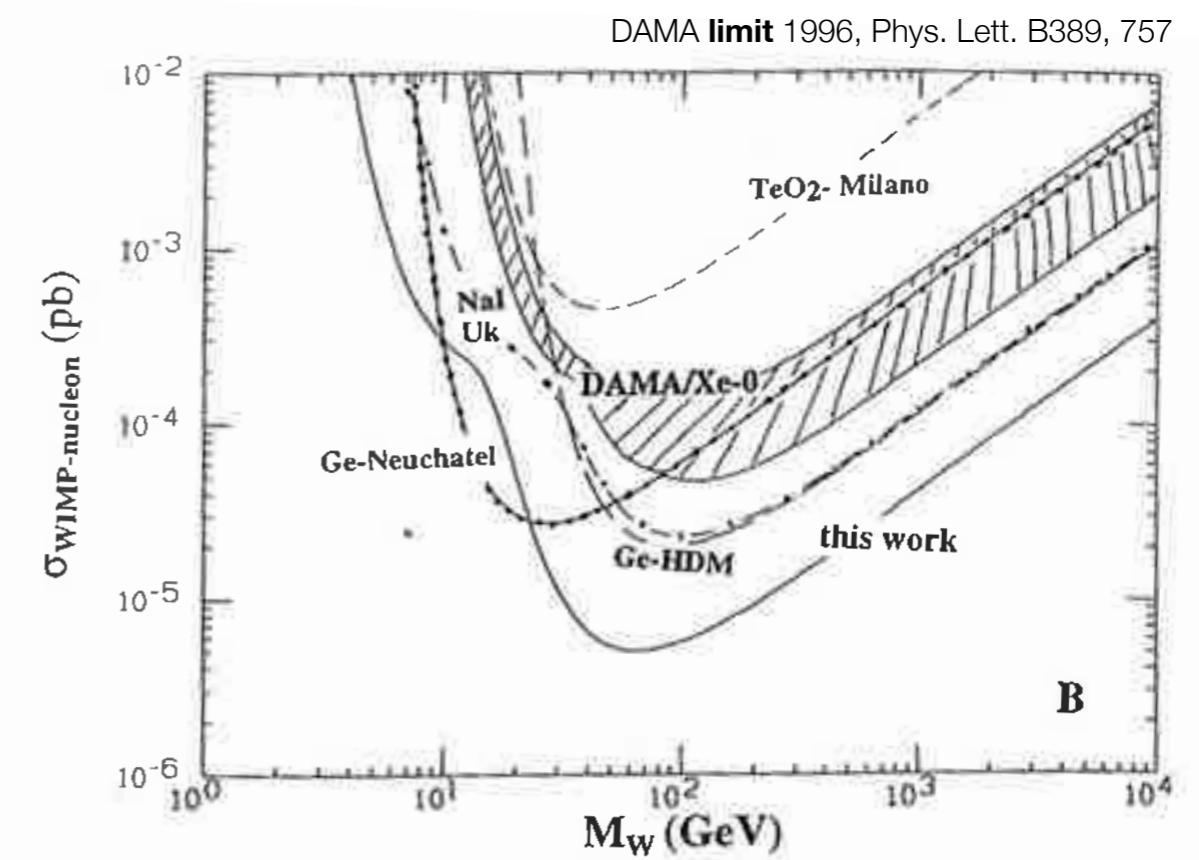
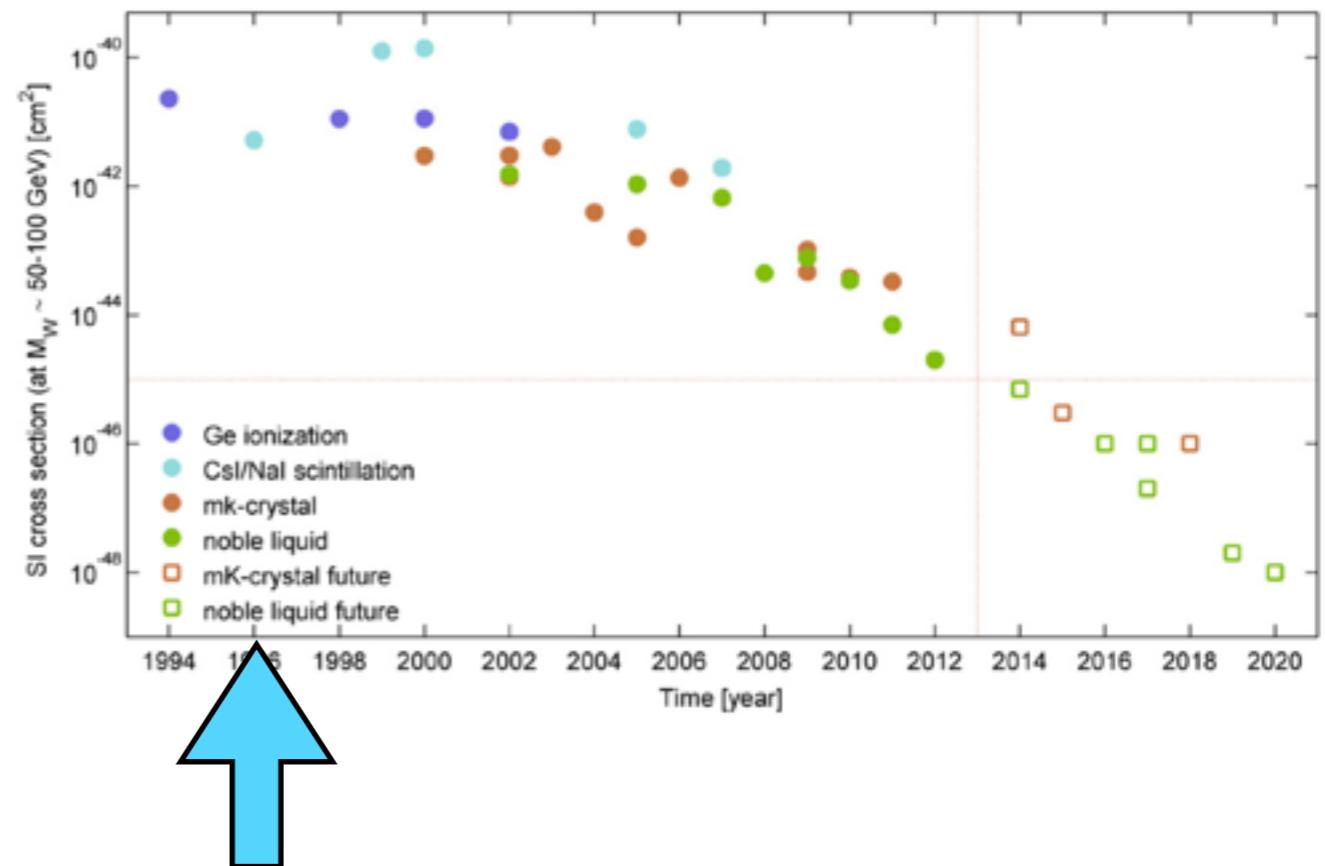
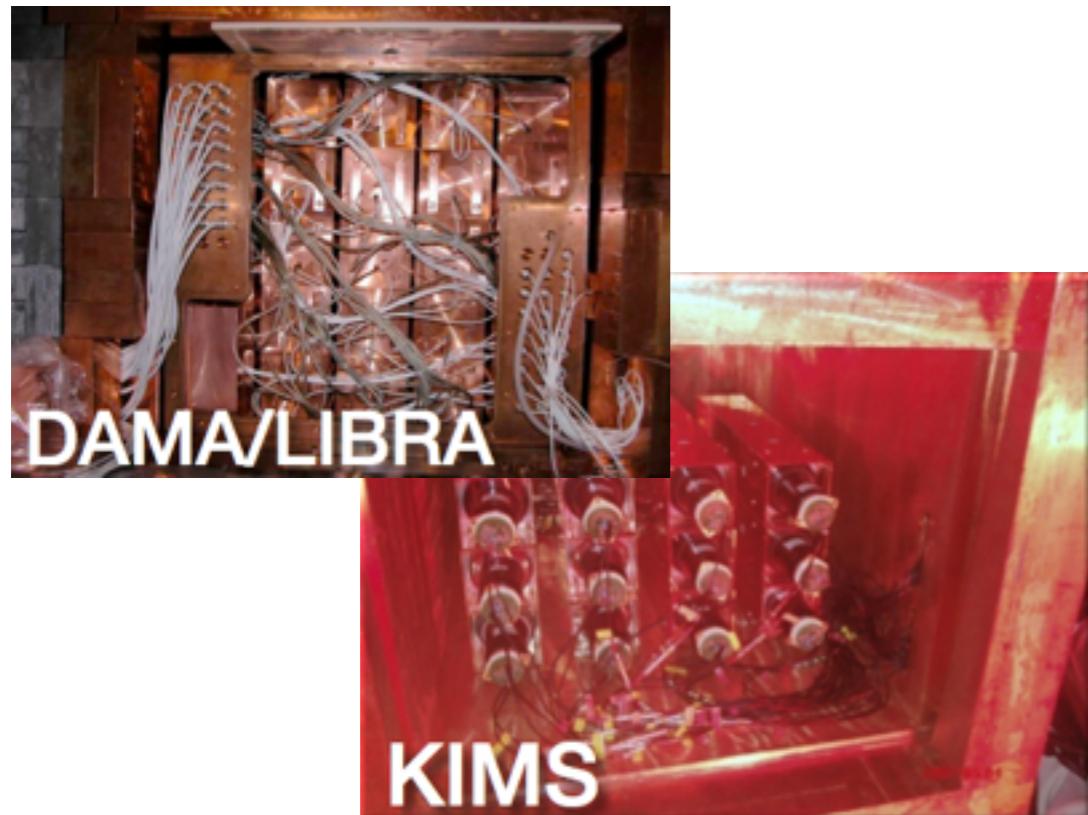
- Measure low-energy background spectrum down to  $\sim$  few keV
- **No background discrimination (electron recoils ER)**



# History of sensitivities

## Low-threshold scintillating crystals (NaI, CsI...)

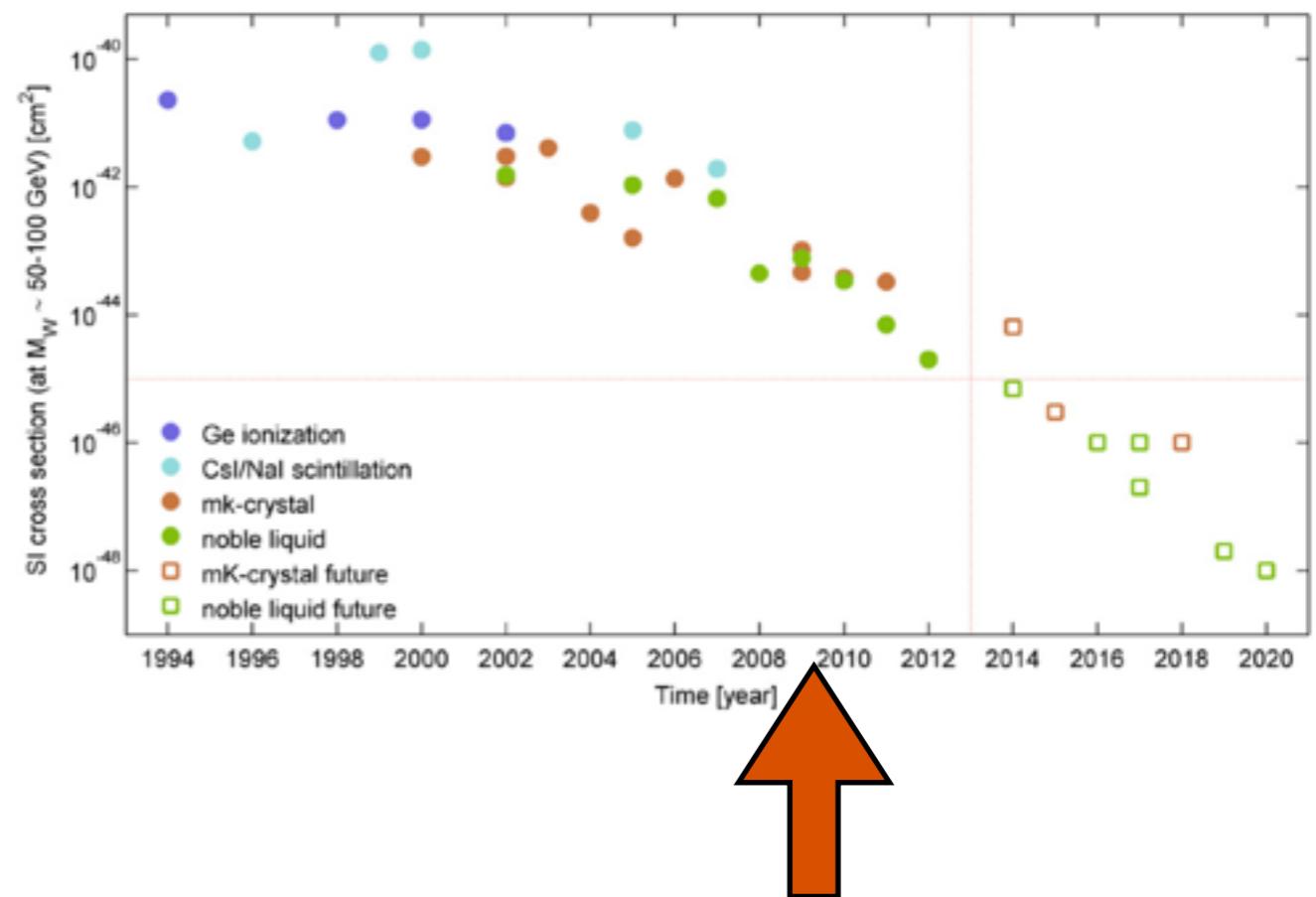
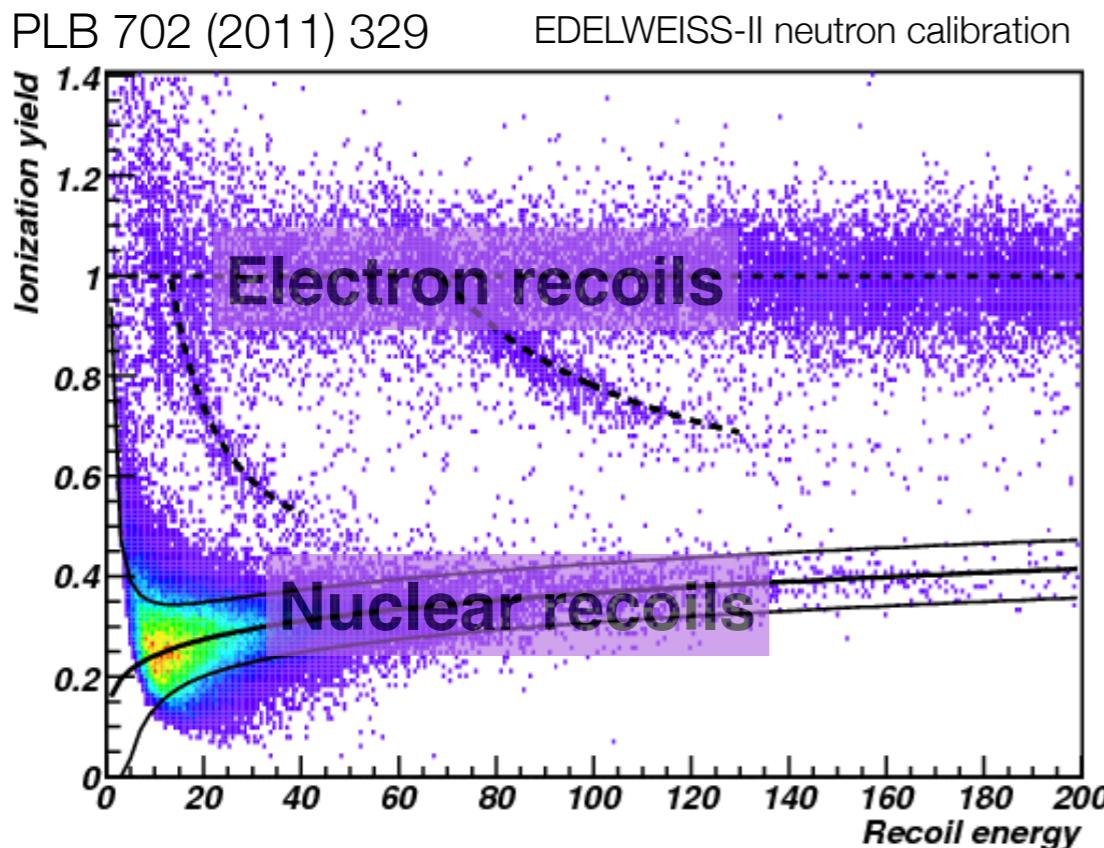
- Goal exploit pulse shape discrimination to reduce the ER background
  - Statistical discrimination only, and hard at low energy
- DAMA : then turned to annual modulation search (presented later)



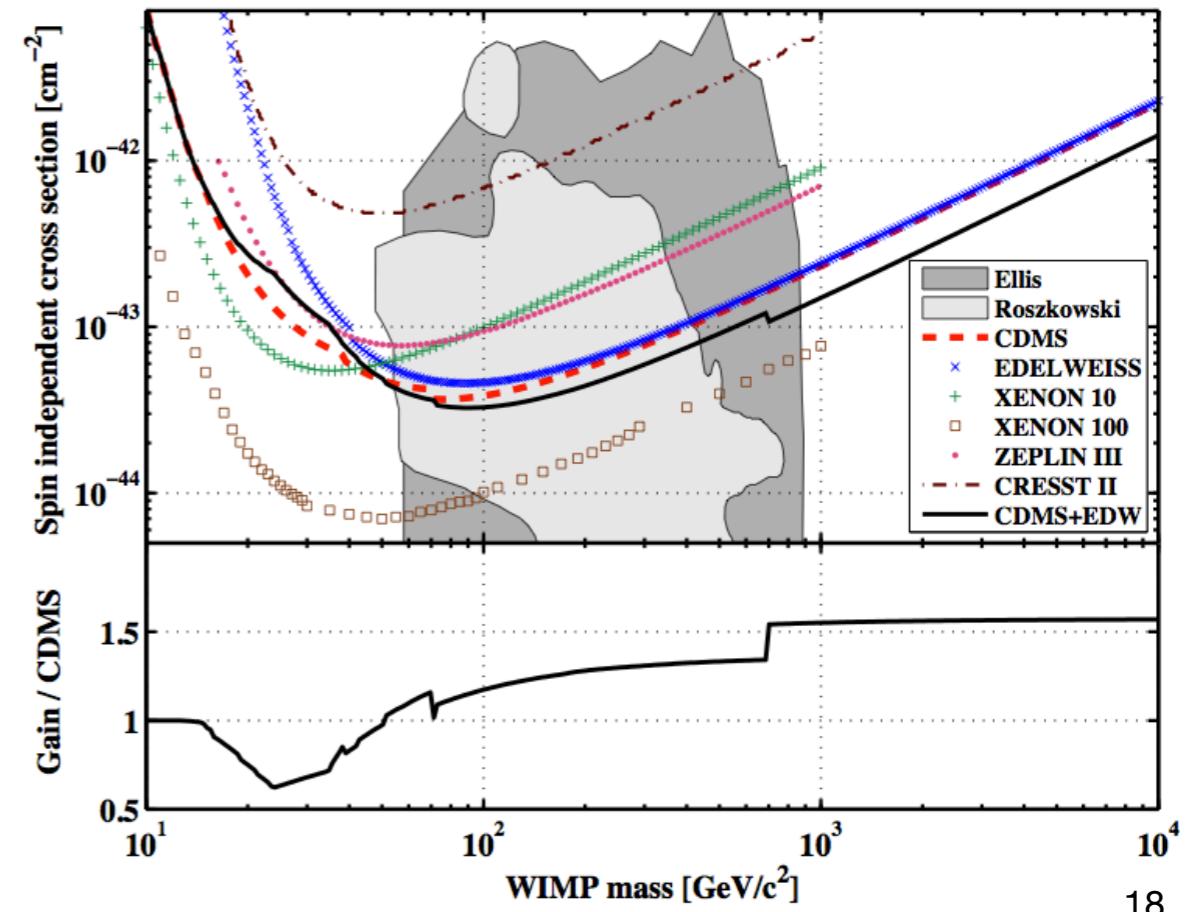
# History of sensitivities

## Low-temperature heat-ionization bolometers

- EDELWEISS - CDMS - CRESST
- Combine phonon (heat) with ionization measurement
  - **Event by event discrimination of ERs vs NRs**
- Orders of magnitude improvement in sensitivity



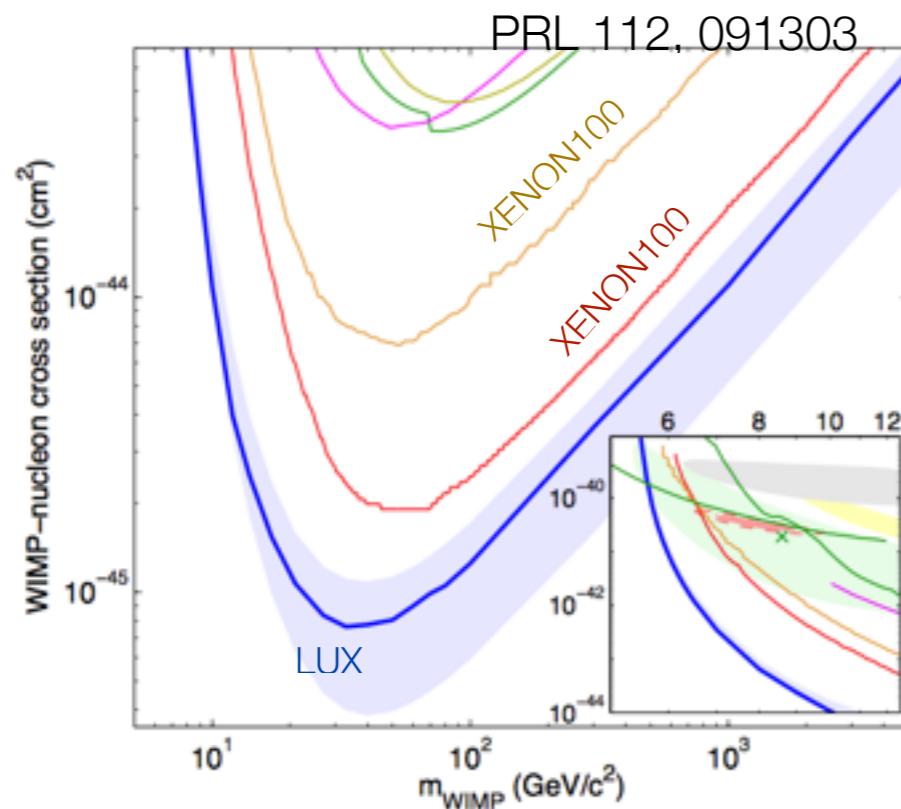
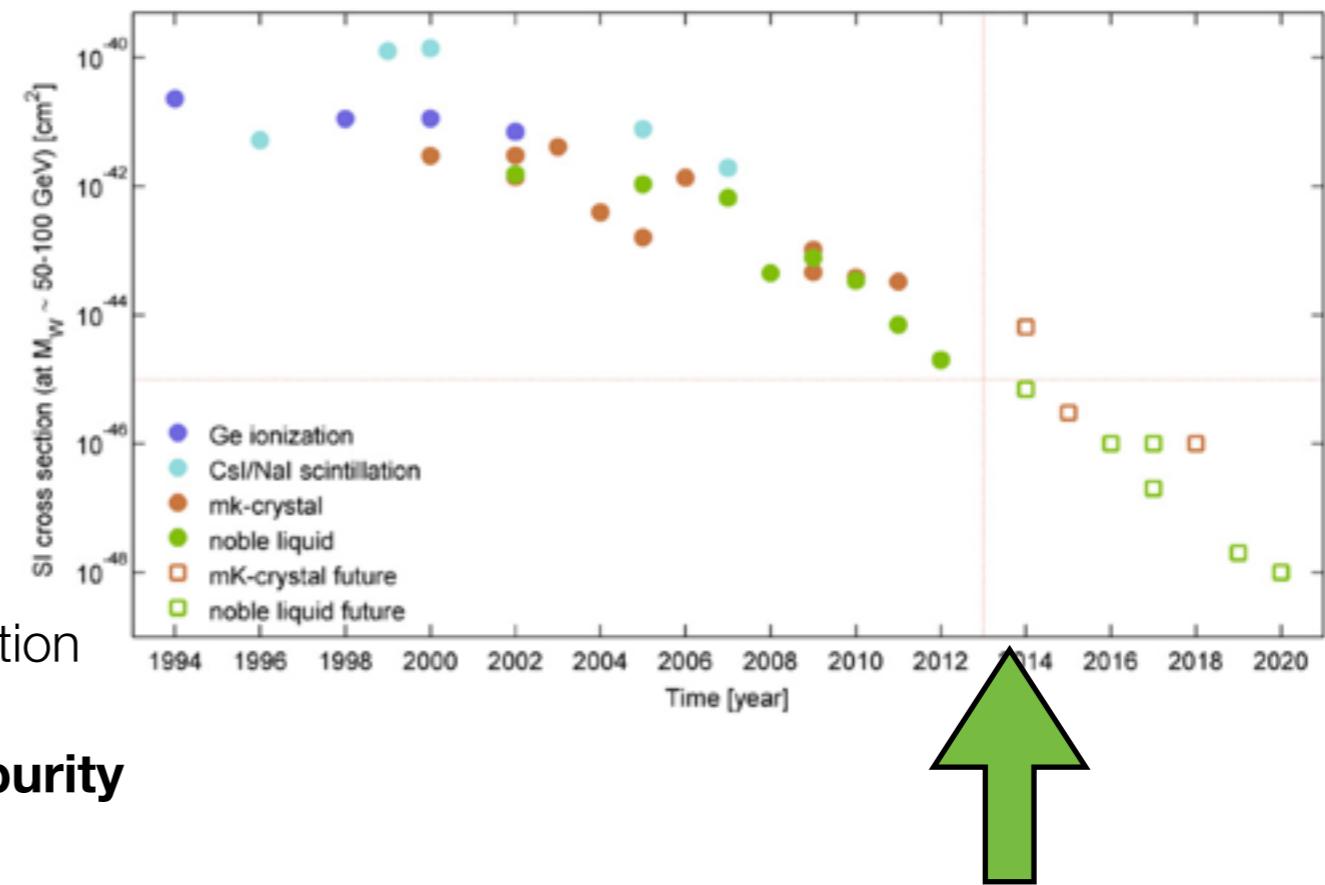
EDELWEISS-II + CDMS-II, PRD 84, 011102



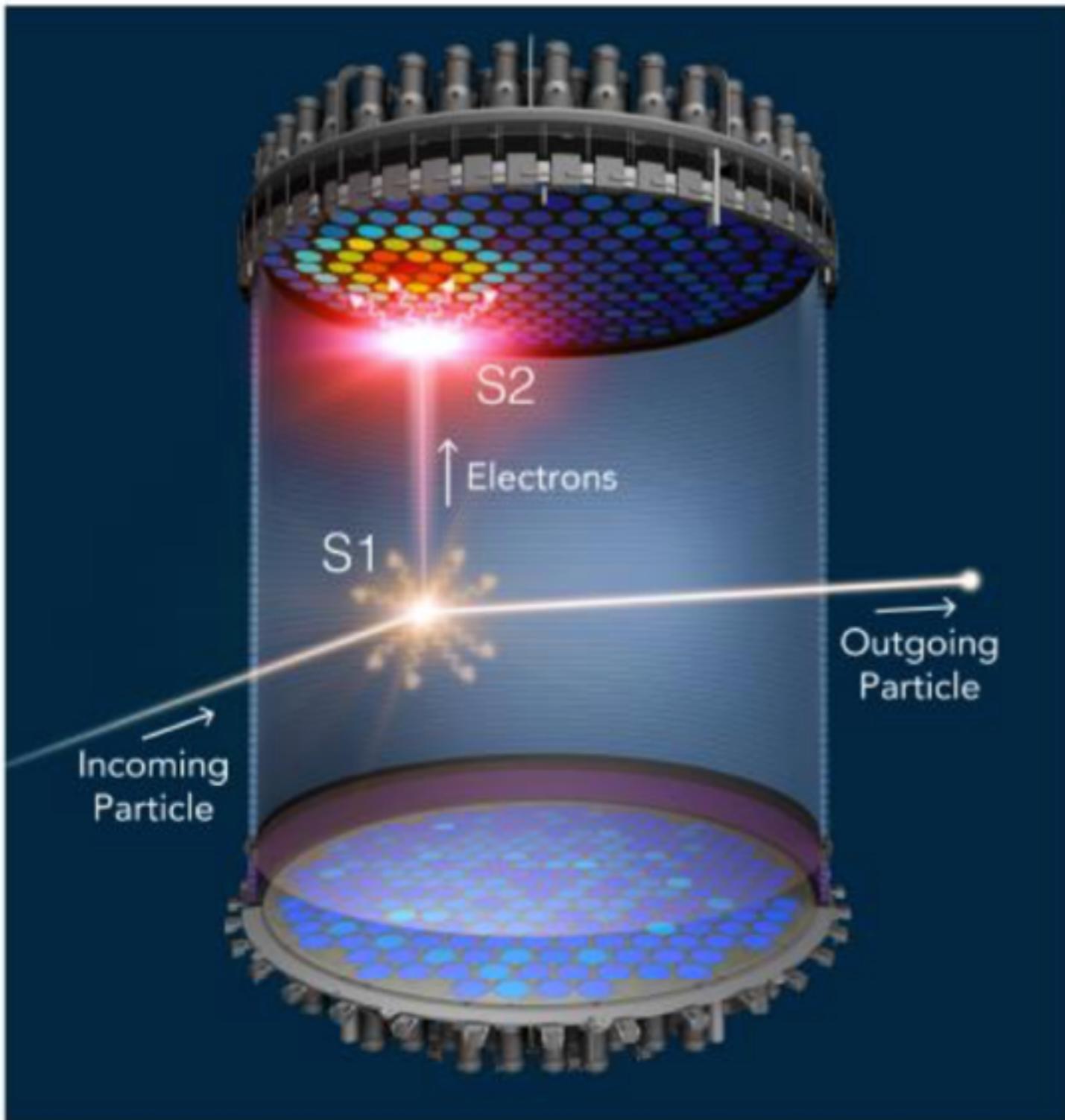
# History of sensitivities

## Dual-phase Xenon TPCs

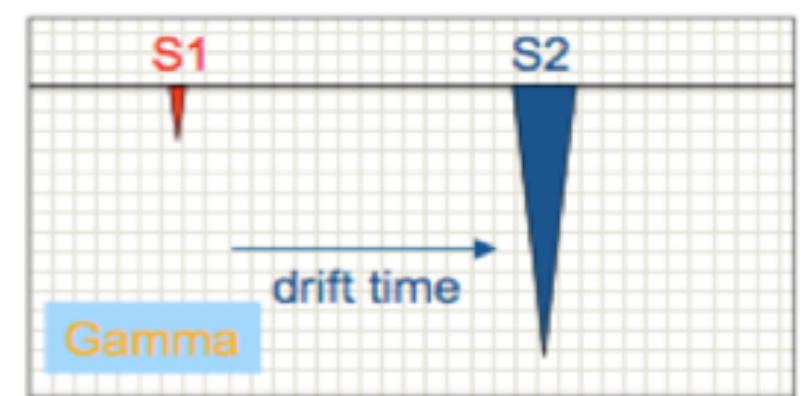
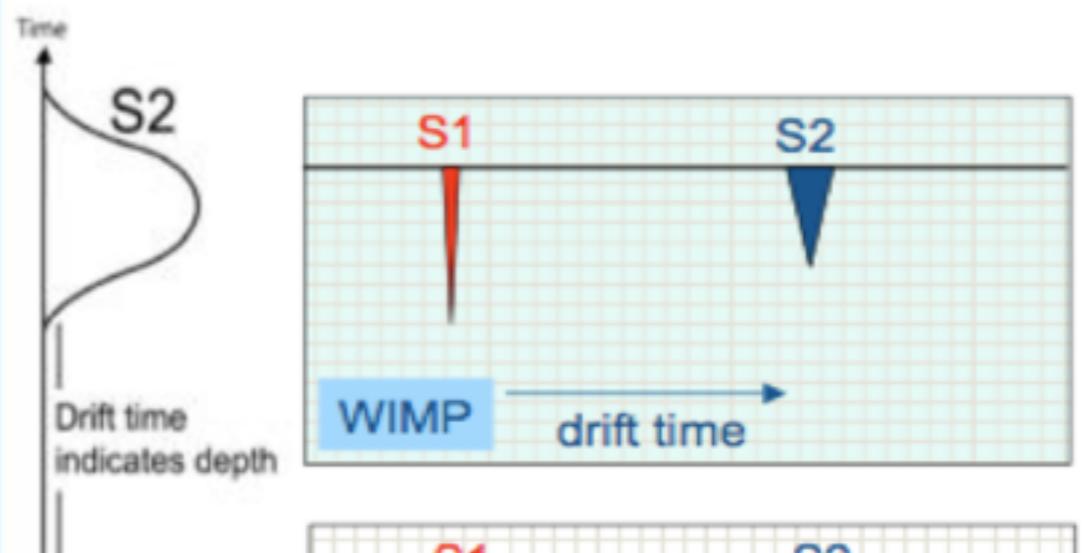
- XENON - LUX - etc
- Discriminate ERs vs NRs with scintillation + ionization measurement
- **Scale to large volume (self-shielding) + radiopurity of Xenon : very low intrinsic bg**
- *Calibration and low-threshold now quite mature*
- *Leading technology since ~ 2011*



# Example - dual-phase Xenon TPC



« S1 » = direct light, scintillation  
« S2 » = light emitted when electrons are accelerated in the gas phase, ionization



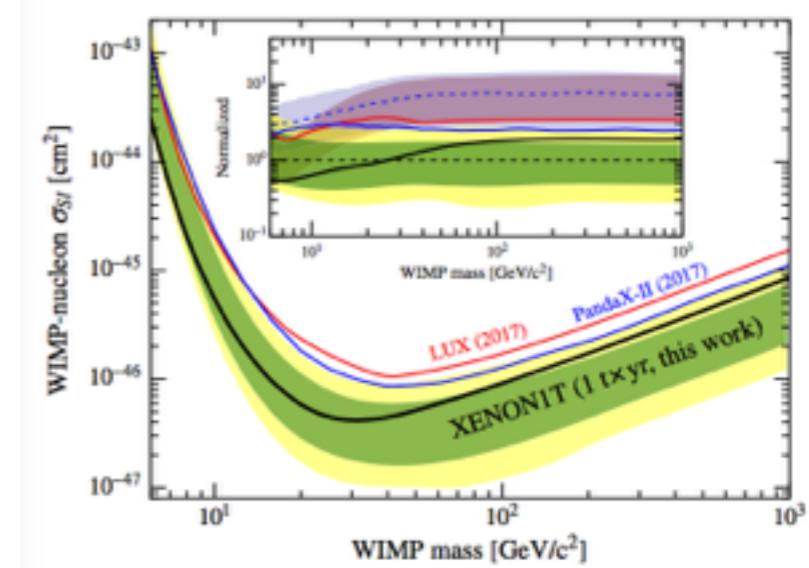
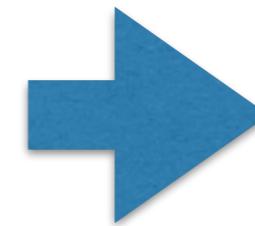
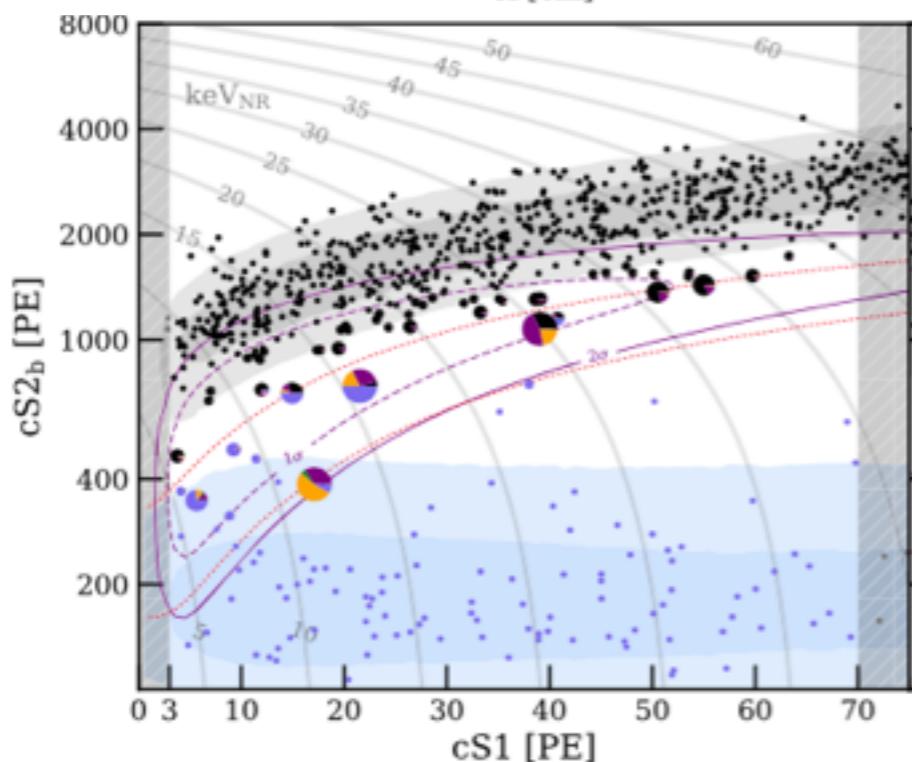
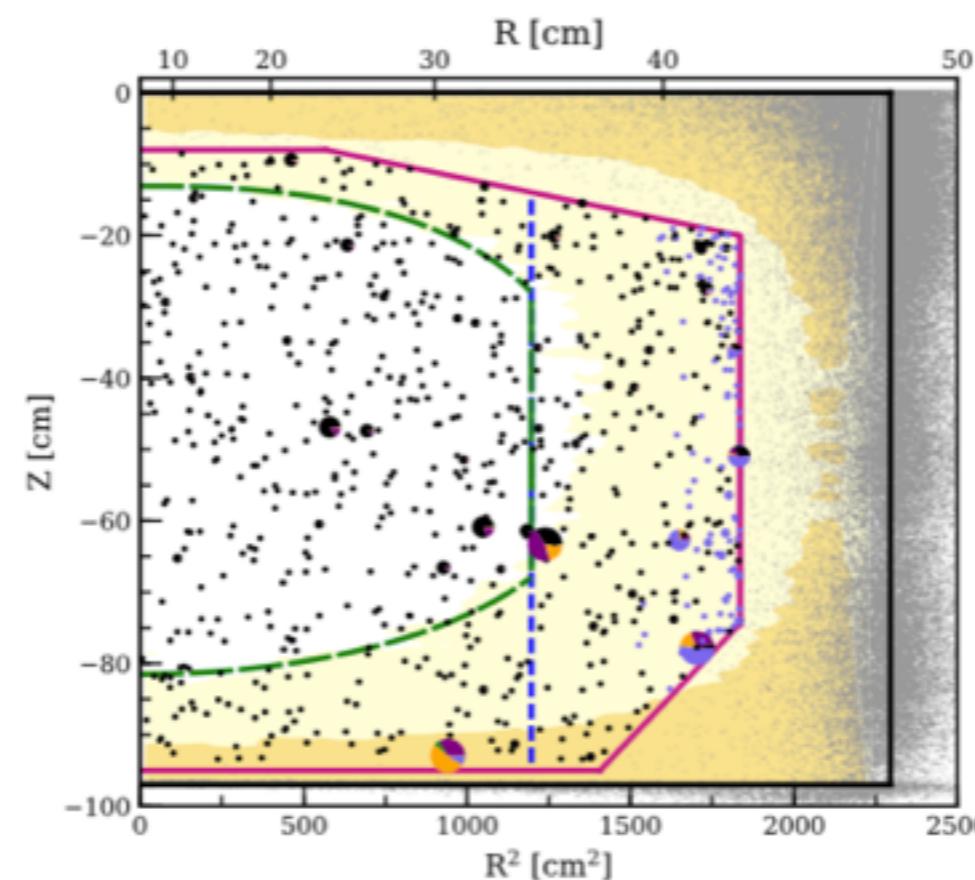
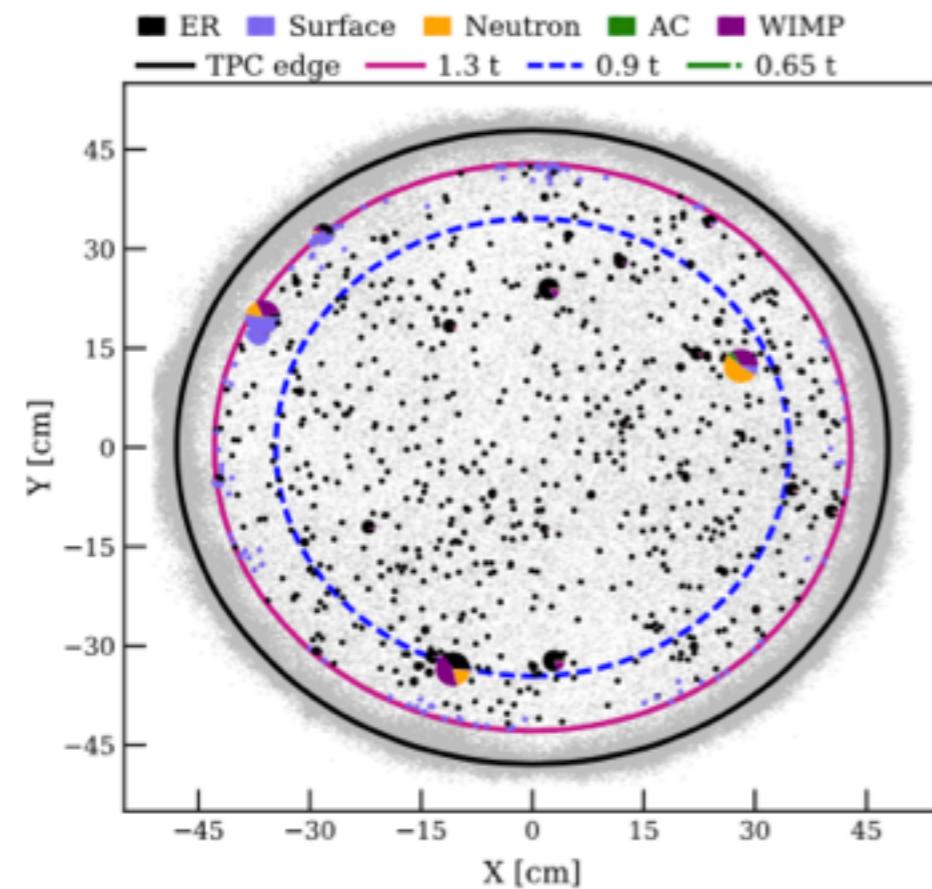
$$(S2/S1)_{\text{wimp}} \ll (S2/S1)_{\text{gamma}}$$

# XENON1t result

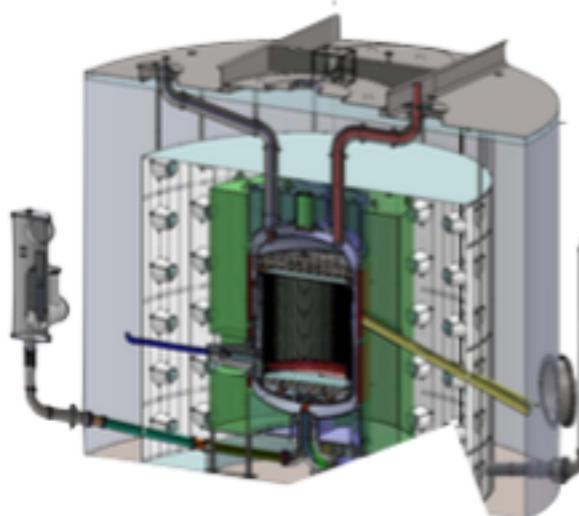
PRL121, 111302 (2018)

~1.3 ton Xe fiducial (~3ton total Xe)

HUGE effort : material and Xe radiopurity, shielding, optimal operation of TPC  
280 days exposure profile likelihood analysis



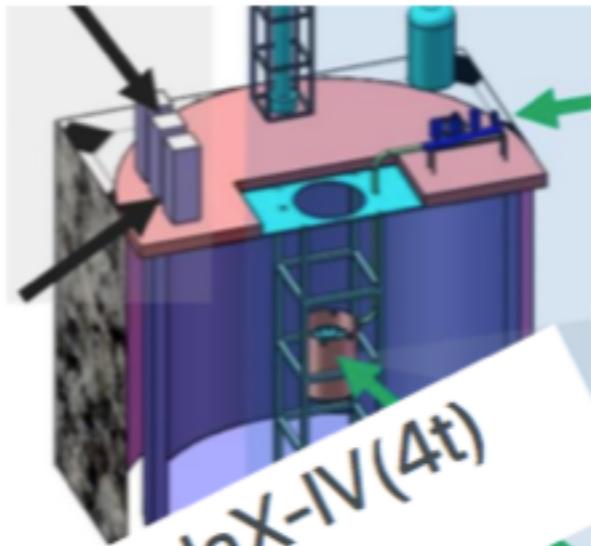
# Projects with Xenon or Argon ...



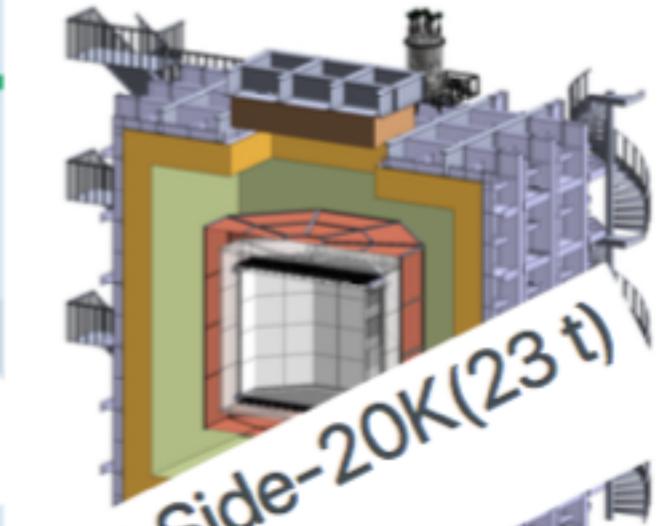
LZ(7t)  
2020-



XENONnT (5.9t)  
2019-



PandaX-IV(4t)  
2020-



DarkSide-20K(23 t)  
2022-

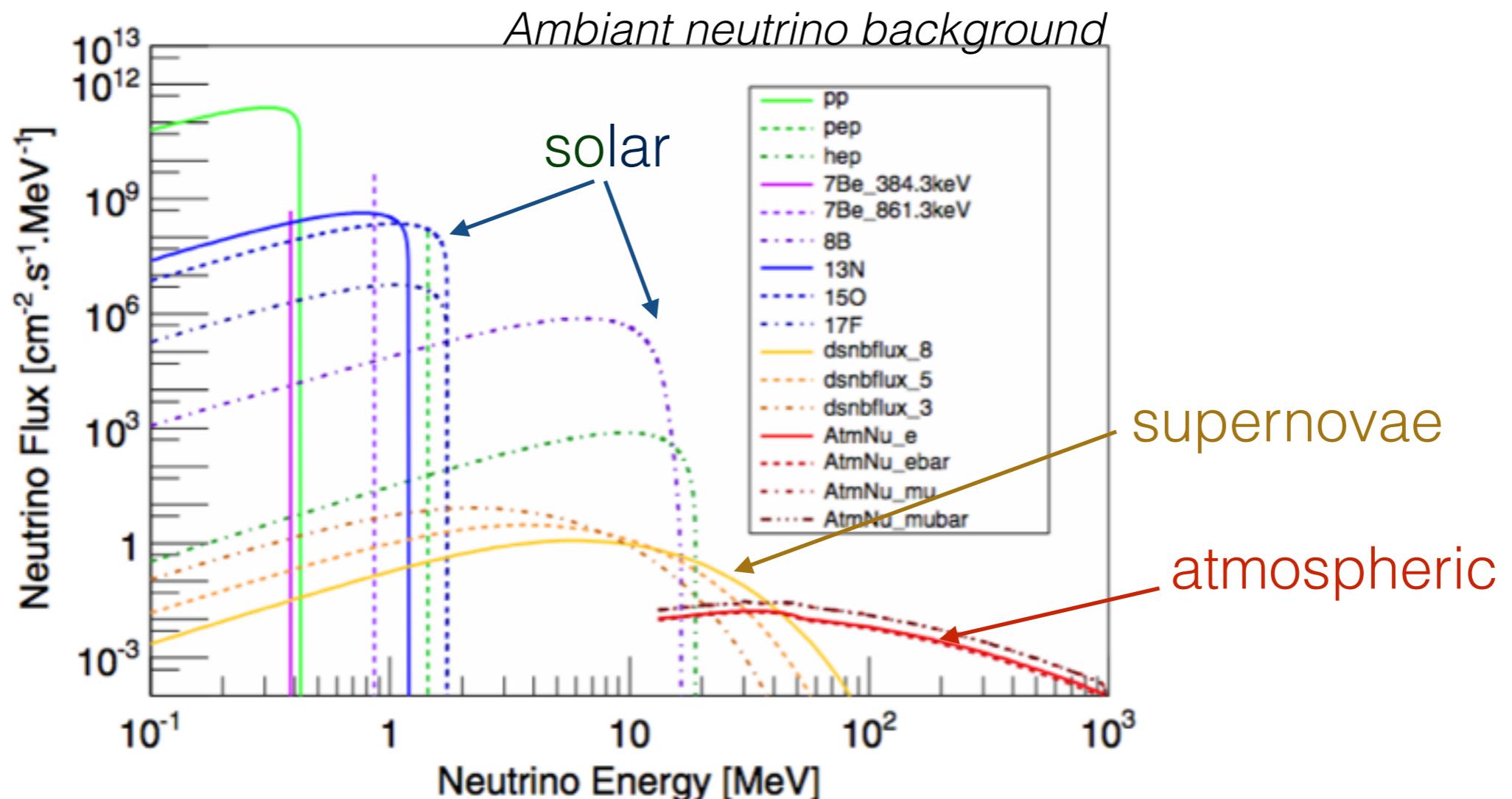
# Where we will stop : The neutrino floor

Coherent scattering of neutrinos on nuclei

Low-energy NRs : irreducible background for WIMP direct detection

Sets a natural « target » for experiments

Eventually detectors will do neutrino physics



# Where we will stop : The neutrino floor

## Coherent scattering of neutrinos on nuclei

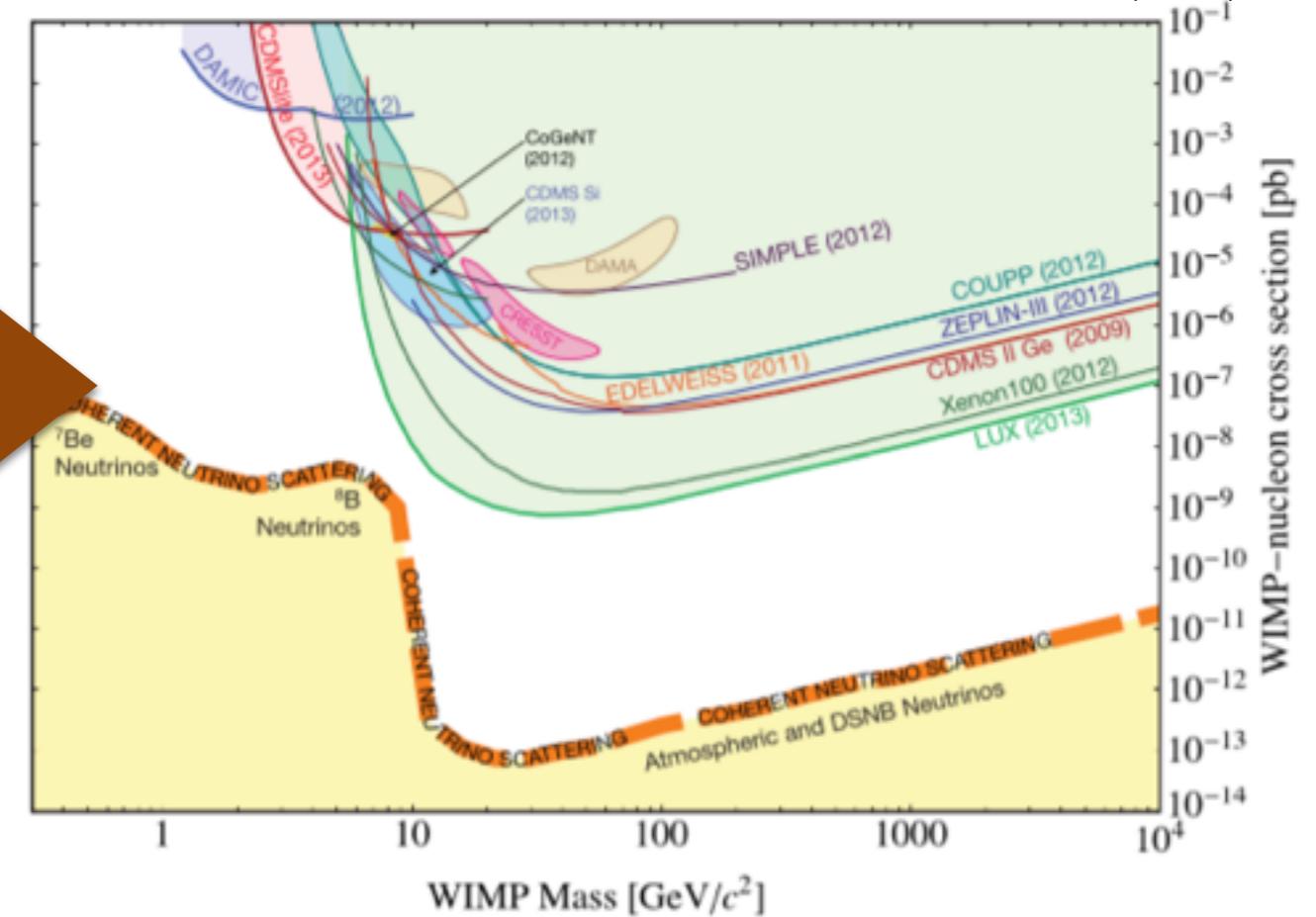
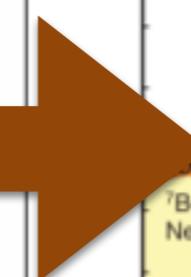
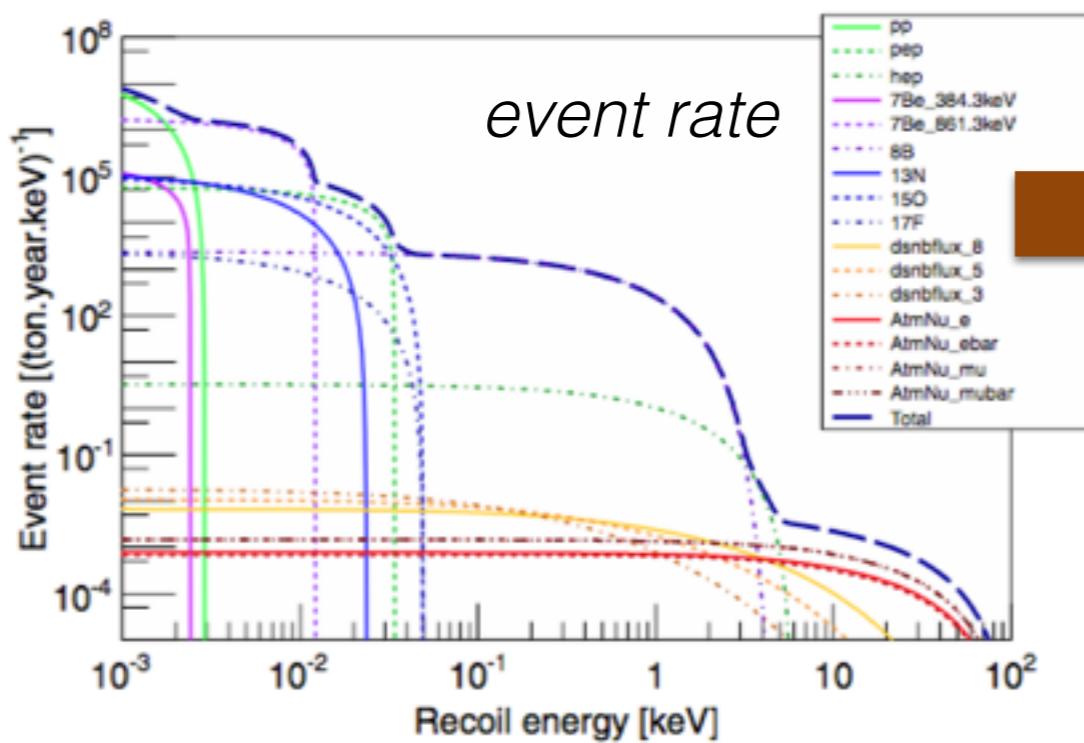
Low-energy NRs : irreducible background for WIMP direct detection

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$$\frac{d\sigma(E_\nu, E_r)}{dE_r} = \frac{G_f^2}{4\pi} Q_w^2 m_N \left(1 - \frac{m_N E_r}{2E_\nu^2}\right) F^2(E_r),$$

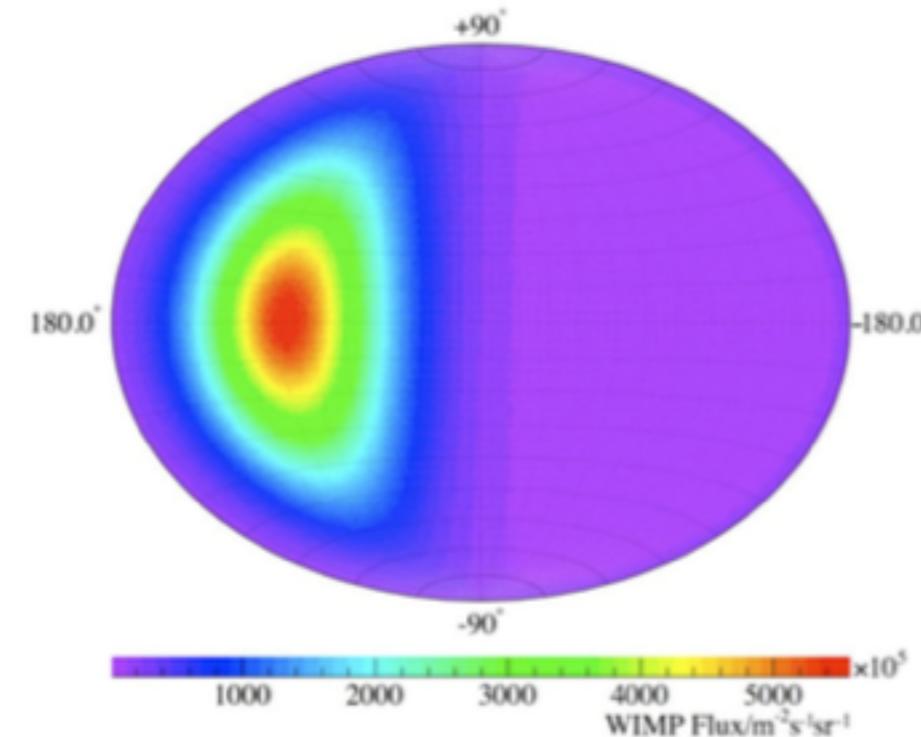
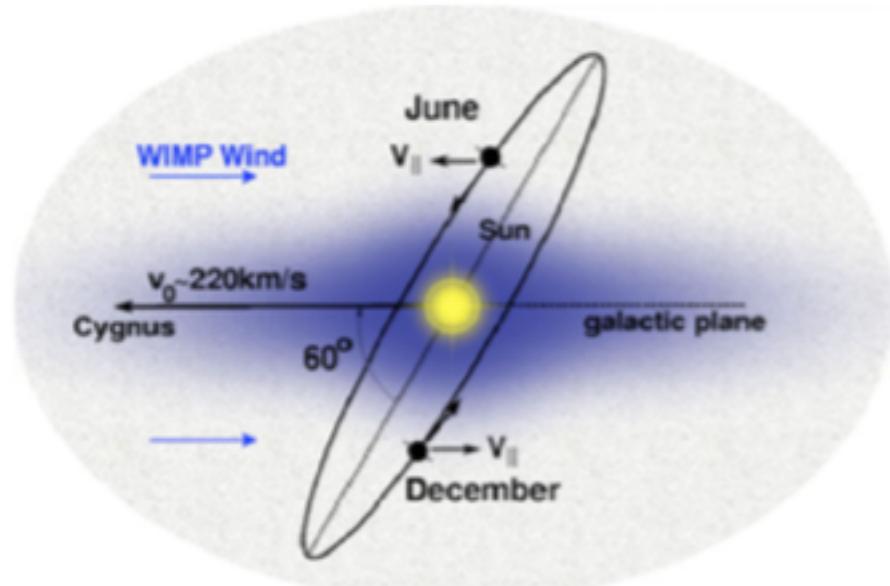
$$Q_w = N - (1 - 4\sin^2\theta_w)Z$$



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# « Astrophysical » signatures

Detector motion with respect to DM halo



- 1) **Preferred recoil direction from Sun motion wrt halo** [ Spergel+ PRD 37,1353 (1988) ]  
Large effect  $O(1)$  dipole-like  
Technical challenge : track length  $\sim 1\text{mm}$  in gaz
- 2) **Annual modulation from Earth rotation**  
 $\sim O(7\%)$  effect

# The annual modulation signal of DAMA

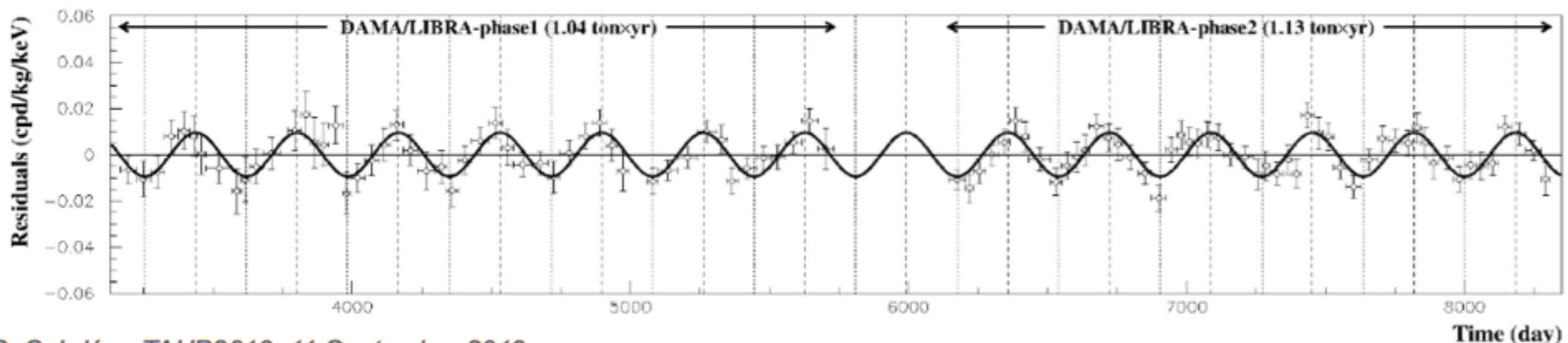
Nal scintillating crystals (no rejection of ER bckgd)

- DAMA/Nal 1995-2002 9x9.7 kg
- DAMA/LIBRA (2003-2010) 25x9.7 kg
- DAMA/LIBRA phase 2 (2011-2018) new PMTs (1 keV threshold)

Large statistical significance

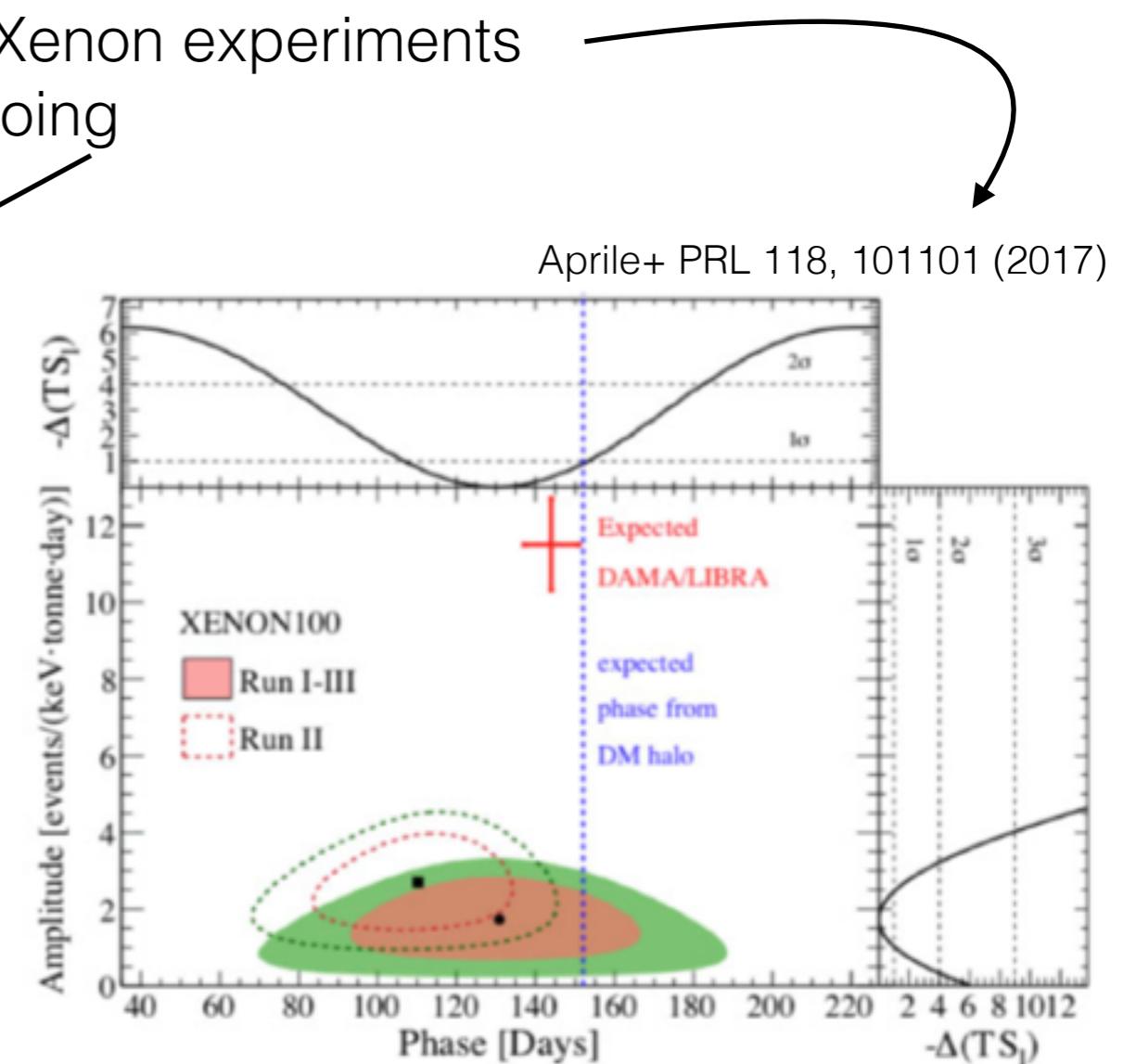
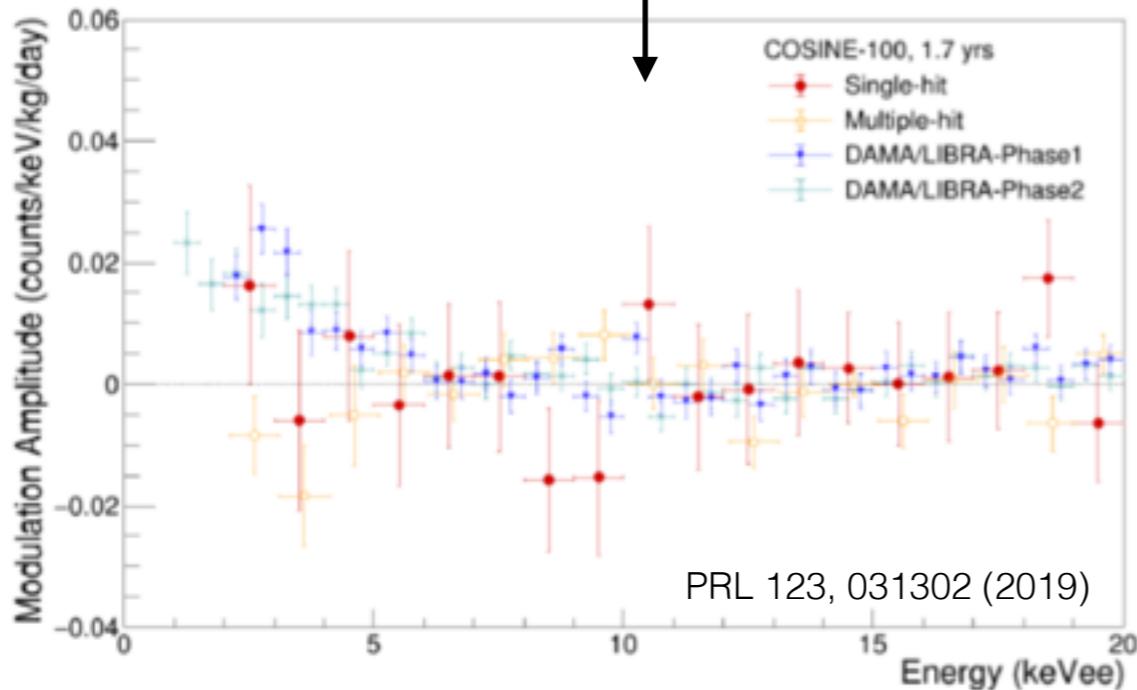
Near threshold signal, backgrounds not modeled

Still a mystery after 20 years ...



# Testing the potential DAMA signal

- « Standard » WIMP events : excluded by many experiments
- Electron recoil interpretation : excluded by Xenon experiments
- Redo exactly the same experiment ... : ongoing

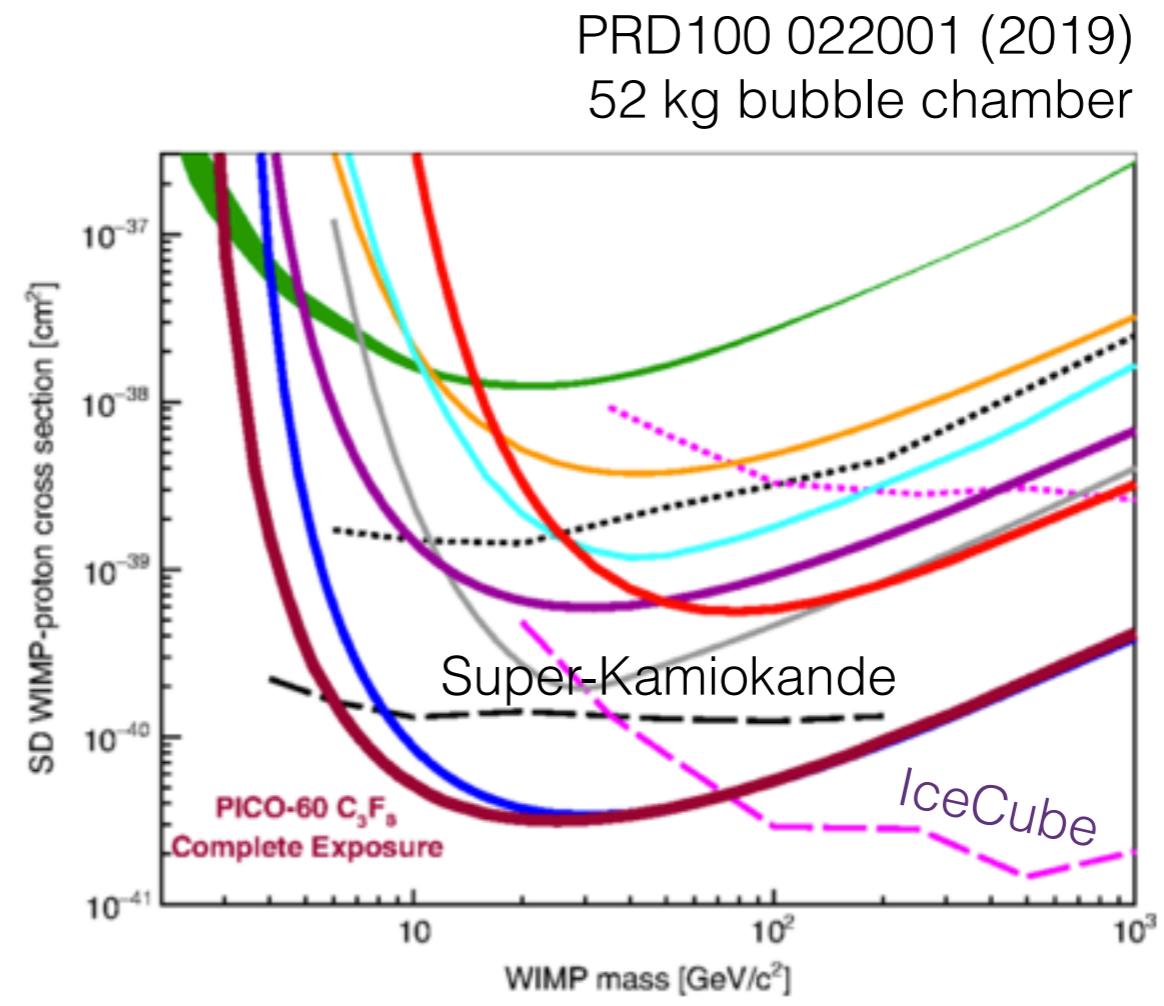
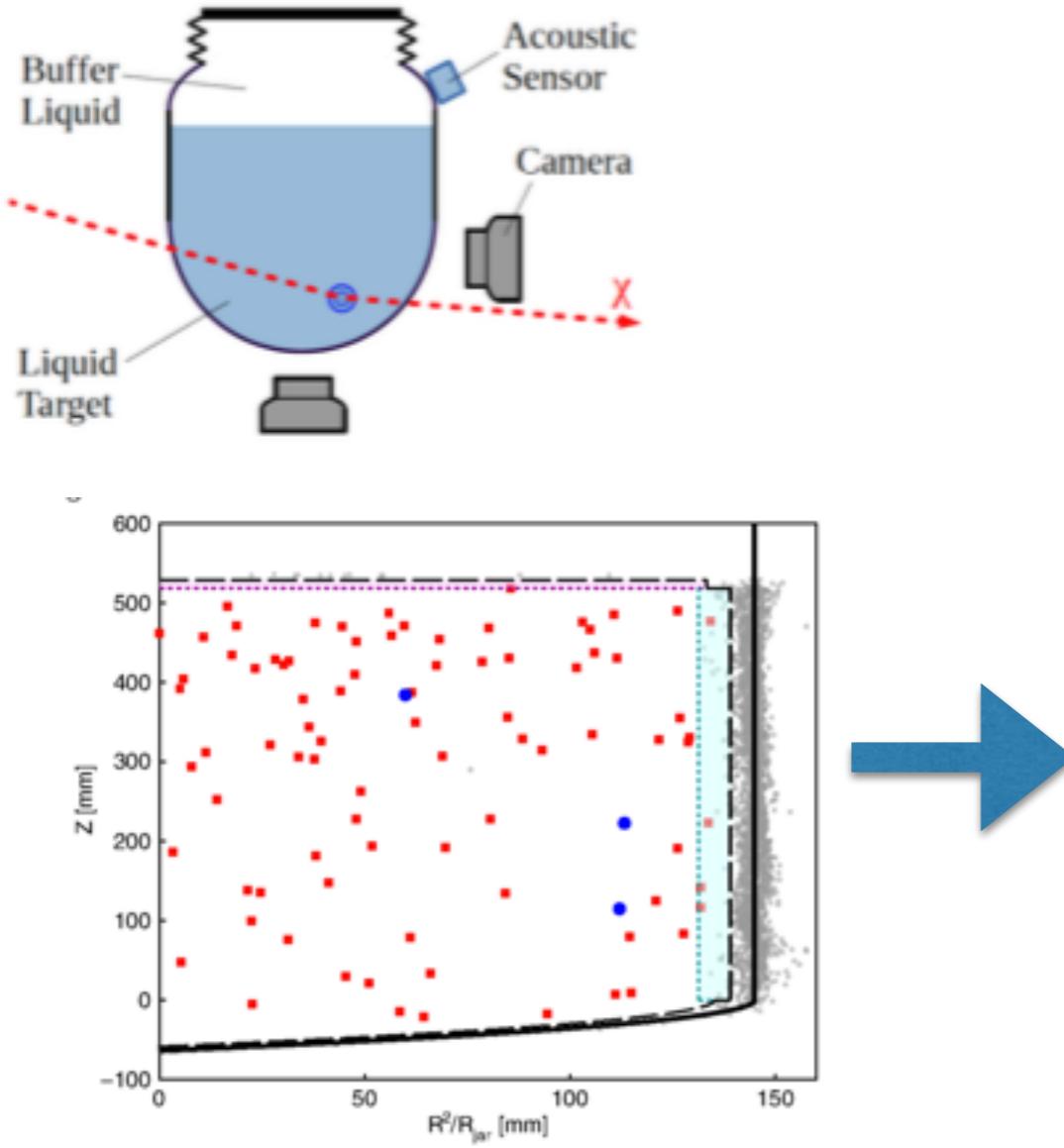


=> The final word  
should come soon...

# « Spin-dependent » WIMP scattering

Case of WIMP-proton coupling :

- *Can compare directly with searches for neutrinos from the Sun*
- Leading sensitivity : bubble chamber-like technology



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# Beyond WIMPs

---

**Many viable models exist for « light » DM with various masses and couplings to ordinary matter**

*Probably (much) less motivated than WIMPs, but still plausible*

Underlying theories often invoke « dark sectors », ie new interactions (hidden photon, hidden QCD...)

May explain some astrophysical features

eg.  $\Omega_b \sim \Omega_m$  for asymmetric DM scenarios

eg. DM « small-scale problems » for hidden-QCD-like DM scenarios

## **Kinematics :**

$M > 100$  MeV : nuclear scattering

$M < 100$  MeV : electron scattering

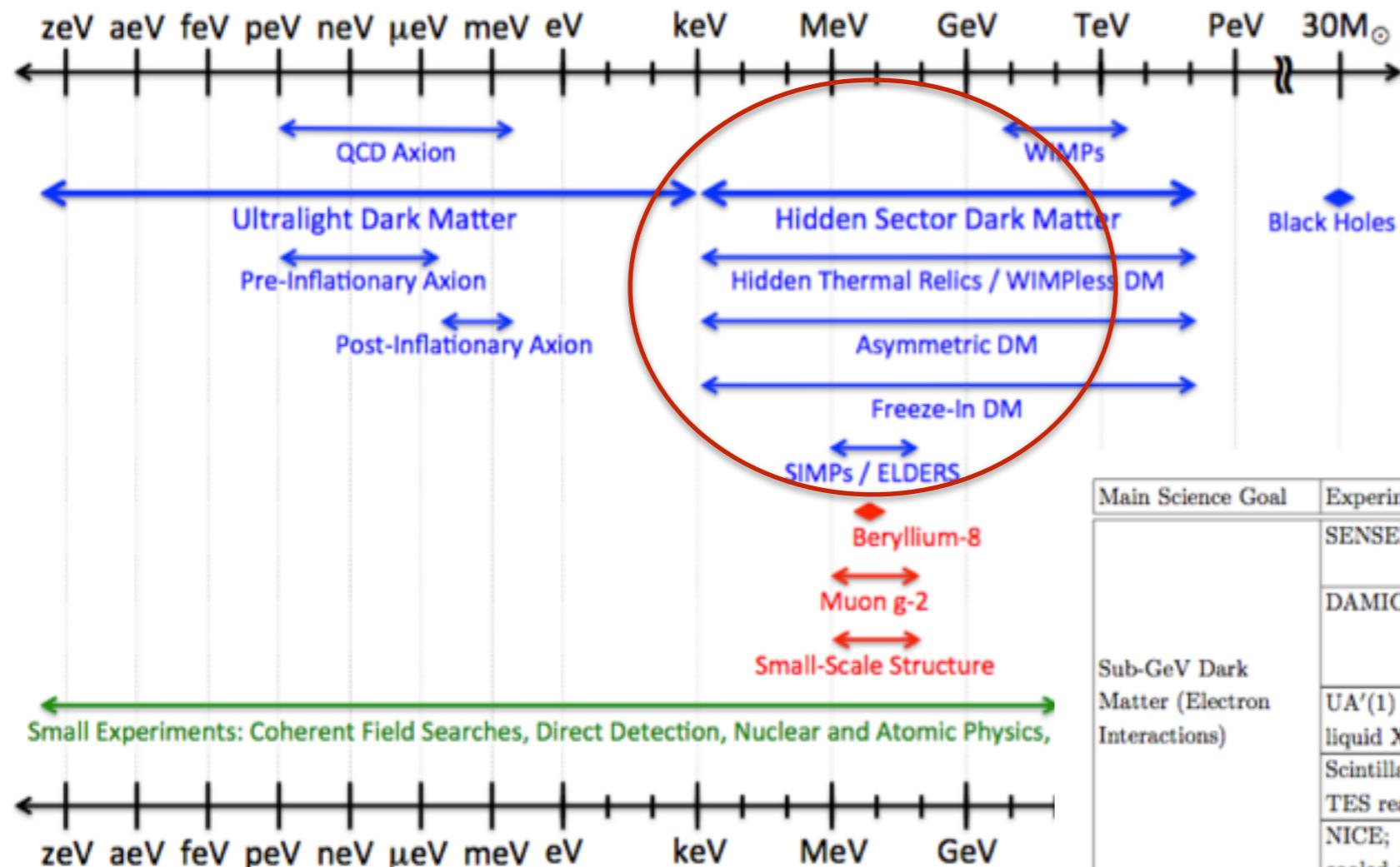
Very low energy depositions in detectors

## **Signal intensity :**

DM - ordinary matter coupling can be surprisingly strong

*Need dedicated devices, or tricks...*

## Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques

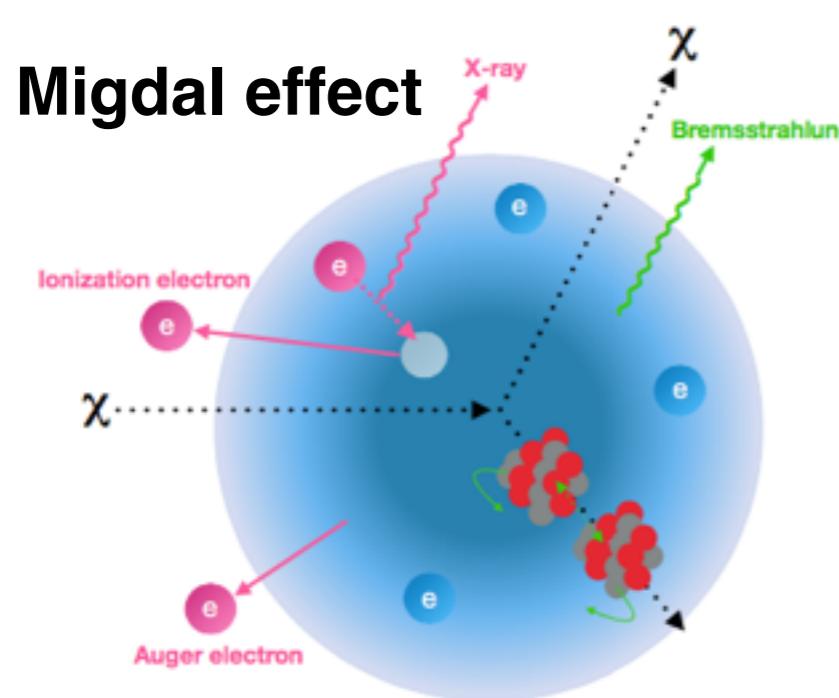


US Cosmic Visions 2017  
(1707.04591)

Main Science Goal	Experiment	Target	Readout	Estimated Timeline
Sub-GeV Dark Matter (Electron Interactions)	SENSEI	Si	charge	ready to start project (2 yr to deploy 100g)
	DAMIC-1K	Si	charge	ongoing R&D 2018 ready to start project (2 yr to deploy 1 kg)
	UA'(1) liquid Xe TPC	Xe	charge	ready to start project (2 yr to deploy 10kg)
	Scintillator w/ TES readout	GaAs(Si,B)	light	2 yr R&D 2020 in sCDMS cryostat
	NICE; NaI/CsI cooled crystals	NaI CsI	light	3 yr R&D 2020 ready to start project
	Ge Detector w/ Avalanche Ionization Amplification	Ge	charge	3 yr R&D 1 yr 10kg detector 1 yr 100kg detector
	PTOLEMY-G3, 2d graphene	graphene	charge directionality	1 yr fab prototype 1 yr data
	supercond. Al cube	Al	heat	10+ yr program
Sub-GeV Dark Matter (Nucleon Interactions)	Superfluid helium with TES readout	He	heat, light	1 yr R&D; 2018 ready to start project; 2022 run
	Evaporation & detection of He atoms by field ionization	superfluid helium, crystals with long phonon mean free path (e.g. Si, Ge)	heat	3 yr R&D; 2020 ready to start project R&D
	color centers	crystals (CaF)	light	R&D effort ongoing
	Magnetic bubble chamber	Single molecule magnet crystals	Spin-avalanche (Magnetic flux)	R&D effort ongoing

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# Trick 1 for $M > 100$ MeV : use atomic physics

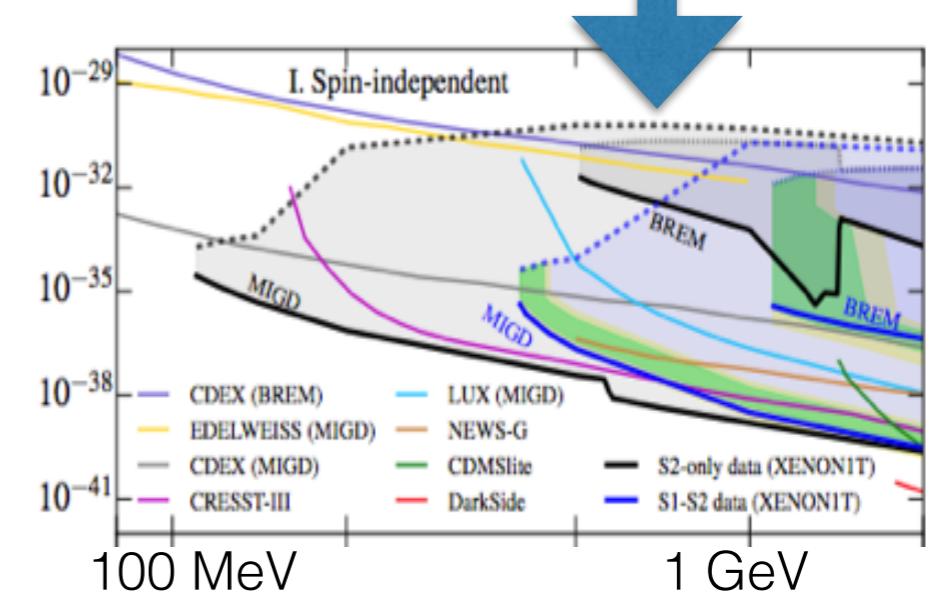
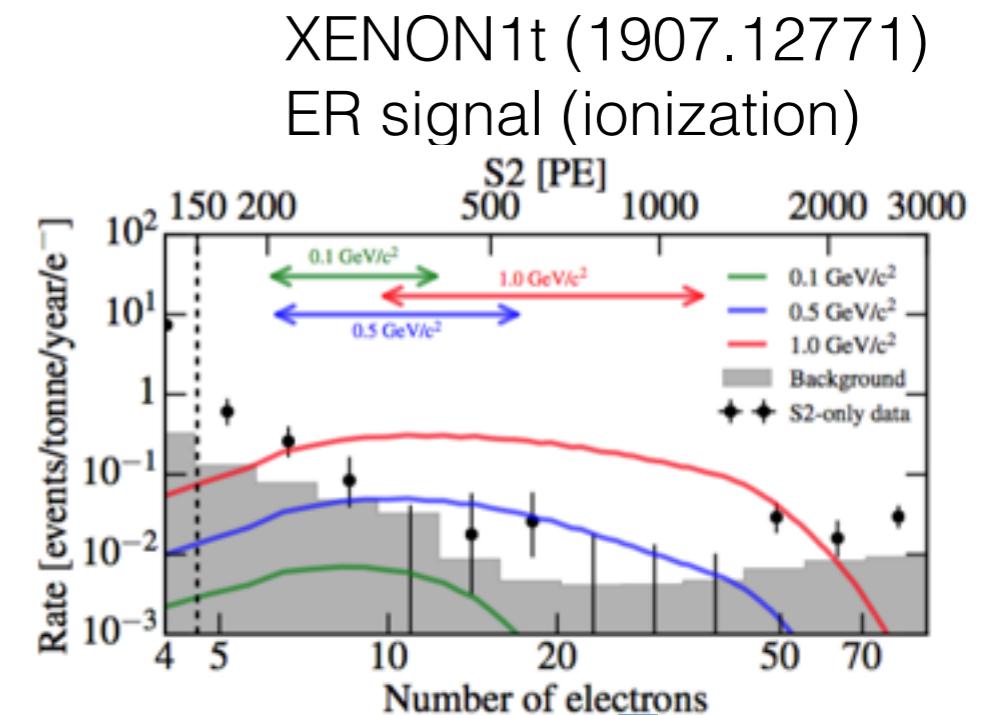


Ibe+, JHEP 03, 194 (2018)  
Excitation / ionization of recoiling atom

Still to be calibrated

$$\frac{dR}{dE_{\text{ER}}} \simeq \int dE_{\text{NR}} dv \frac{d^2 R}{dE_{\text{NR}} dv} \times \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n,l} \frac{d}{dE_{\text{ER}}} p_{qe}^c(n, l \rightarrow E_{\text{ER}} - E_{n,l})$$

atomic physics



# Trick 2 : use cosmic rays !

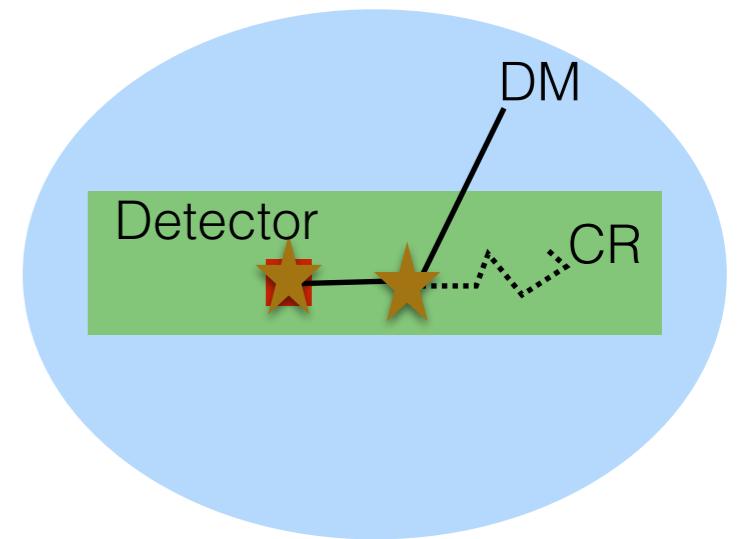
## DM - cosmic ray scattering

Rather strong interactions + large DM density (light DM)

=> changes CR flux [Cappiello+ PRD 99, 063004 (2019)]

=> secondary high energy DM flux: easier to detect !

[Bringmann Pospelov PRL 122, 171801 (2019)]

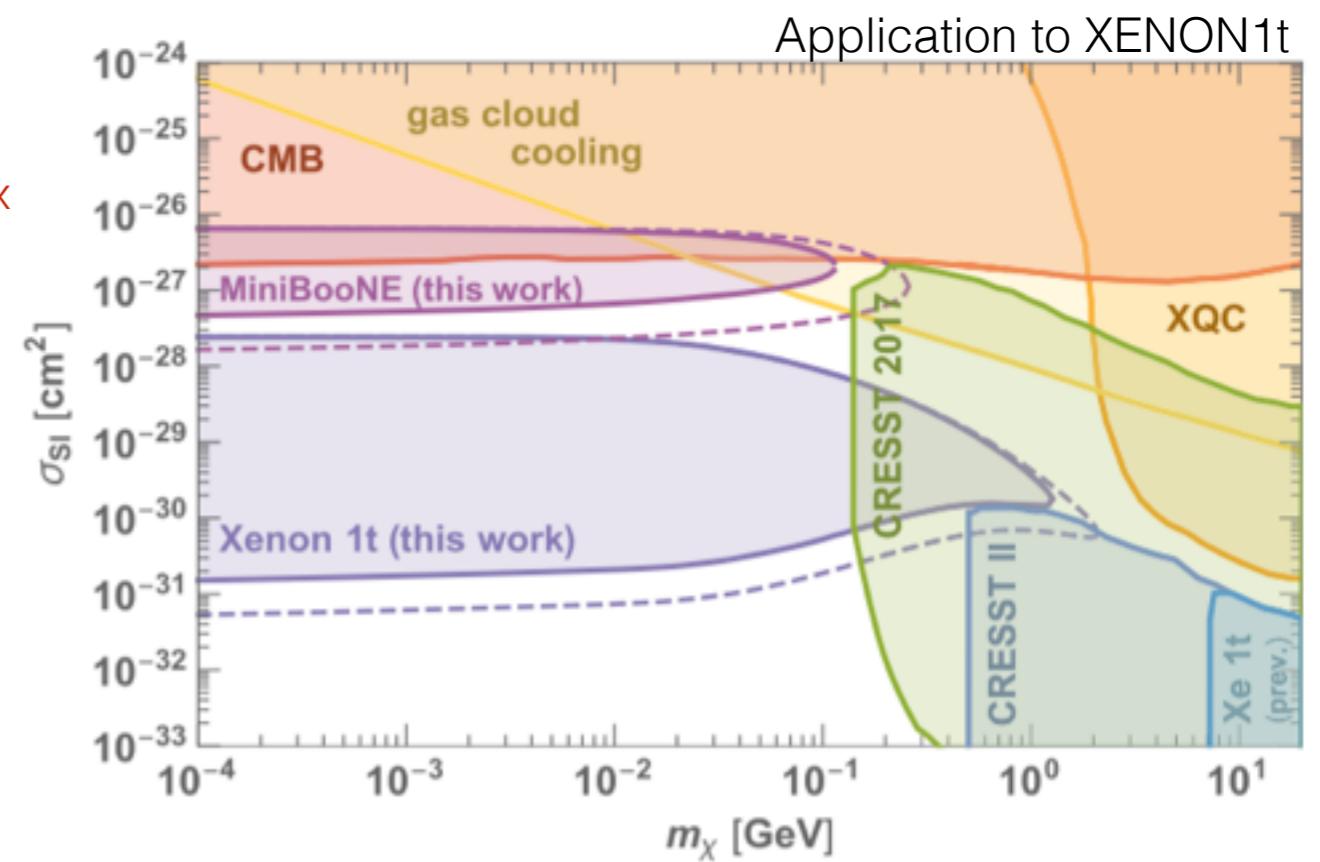


$$\frac{d\Phi_\chi}{dT_\chi} = D_{\text{eff}} \frac{\rho_\chi^{\text{local}}}{m_\chi} \times \sum_i \sigma_{\chi i}^0 G_i^2 (2m_\chi T_\chi) \int_{T_i^{\min}}^{\infty} dT_i \frac{d\Phi_i^{\text{LIS}} / dT_i}{T_\chi^{\max}(T_i)}$$

particle physics

size of CR halo

CR flux

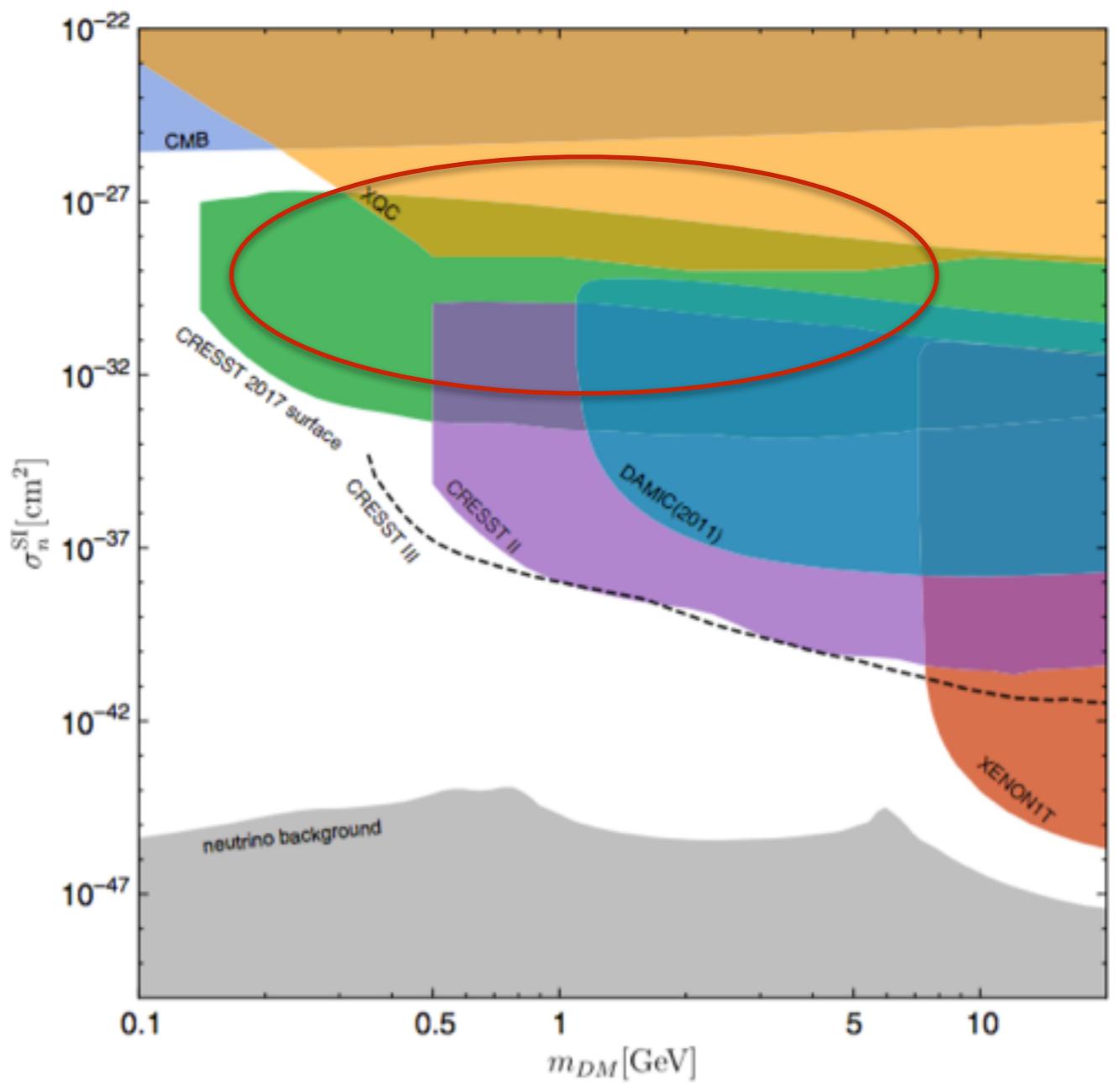


## Additional difficulty when probing light DM / large cross-sections : Earth shielding effect

eg. Emken Kouvaris PRD97 115047  
(2018)

Need involved calculations for DM propagation / energy losses in the Earth crust and/or atmosphere

*Some parameter space can only be probed with experiments above ground or above the atmosphere*



- Dark matter and direct detection
- WIMP direct detection
  - Principle
  - History and the example of XENON1t
  - Supplementary material
- Low mass dark matter
  - Interactions with nuclei
  - **Interactions with electrons**
- QCD axions
  - Axion haloscopes

# $M < 100$ MeV : search for DM - electron interactions

## Scattering

$$\frac{d\langle \sigma_{ion}^{nl} v \rangle}{d \ln E_{er}} = \frac{\bar{\sigma}_e}{8\mu_{\chi e}^2} \int q |f_{ion}^{nl}(k', q)|^2 |F_{DM}(q)|^2 \eta(v_{min}) dq$$

Detector physics  
(electron orbitals)

DM physics  
(mediator mass)

Essig et al. 2012

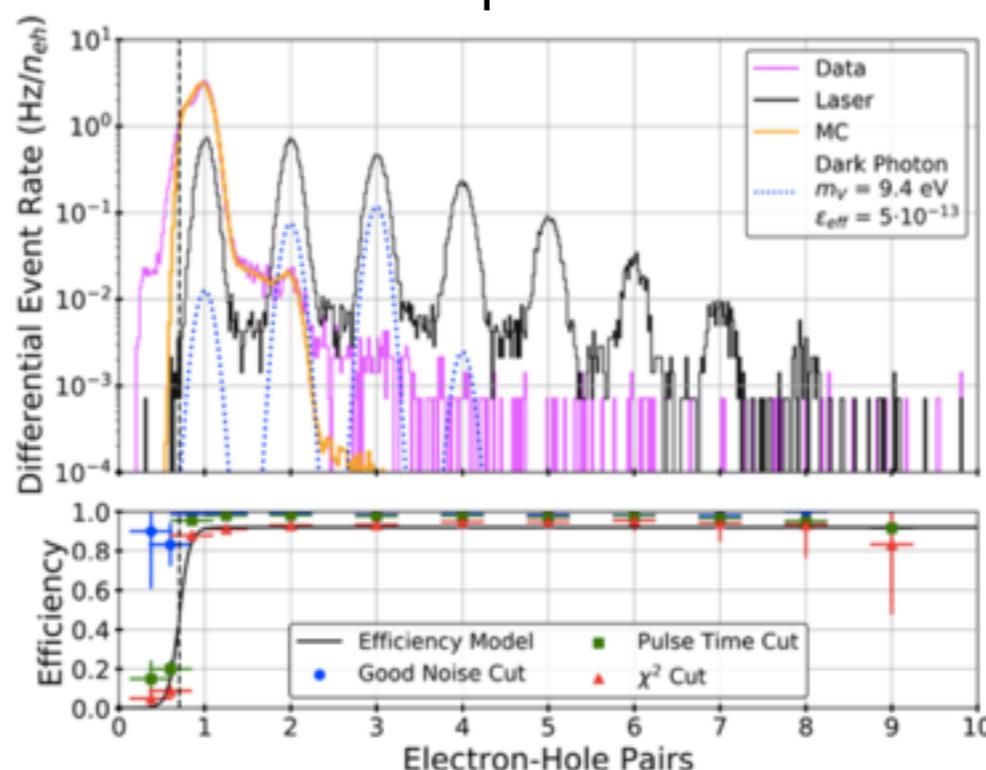
Requires to measure eV-scale energy depositions

## Absorption

Only for bosonic DM

NB DM must be bosonic for  $m < 100$  eV  
(phase-space density in halos)

Analog to photoelectric effect  
Pospelov+ 2008



CDMS 2018 : see individual electrons  
(0.5g detector)

# $M < 100$ MeV : search for DM - electron interactions

## Scattering

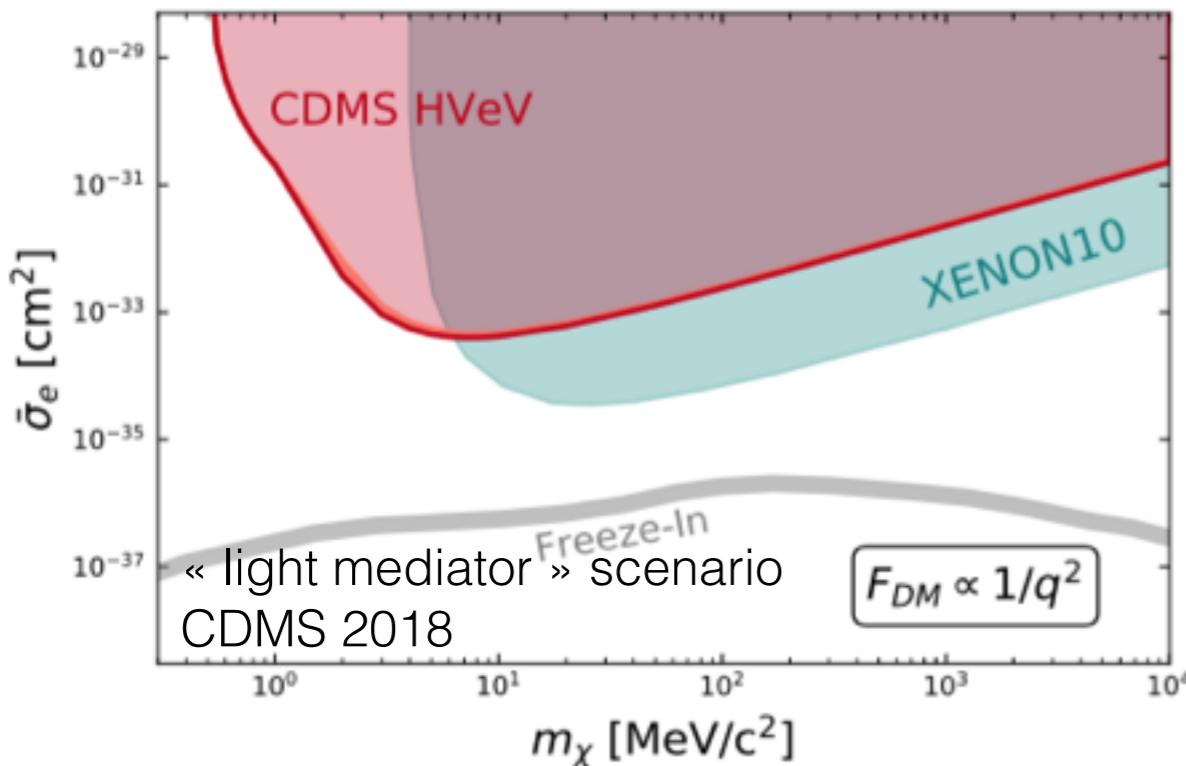
$$\frac{d\langle \sigma_{ion}^{nl} v \rangle}{d \ln E_{er}} = \frac{\bar{\sigma}_e}{8\mu_{\chi e}^2} \int q |f_{ion}^{nl}(k', q)|^2 |F_{DM}(q)|^2 \eta(v_{min}) dq$$

↑

DM physics  
(mediator mass)

Detector physics  
(electron orbitals)

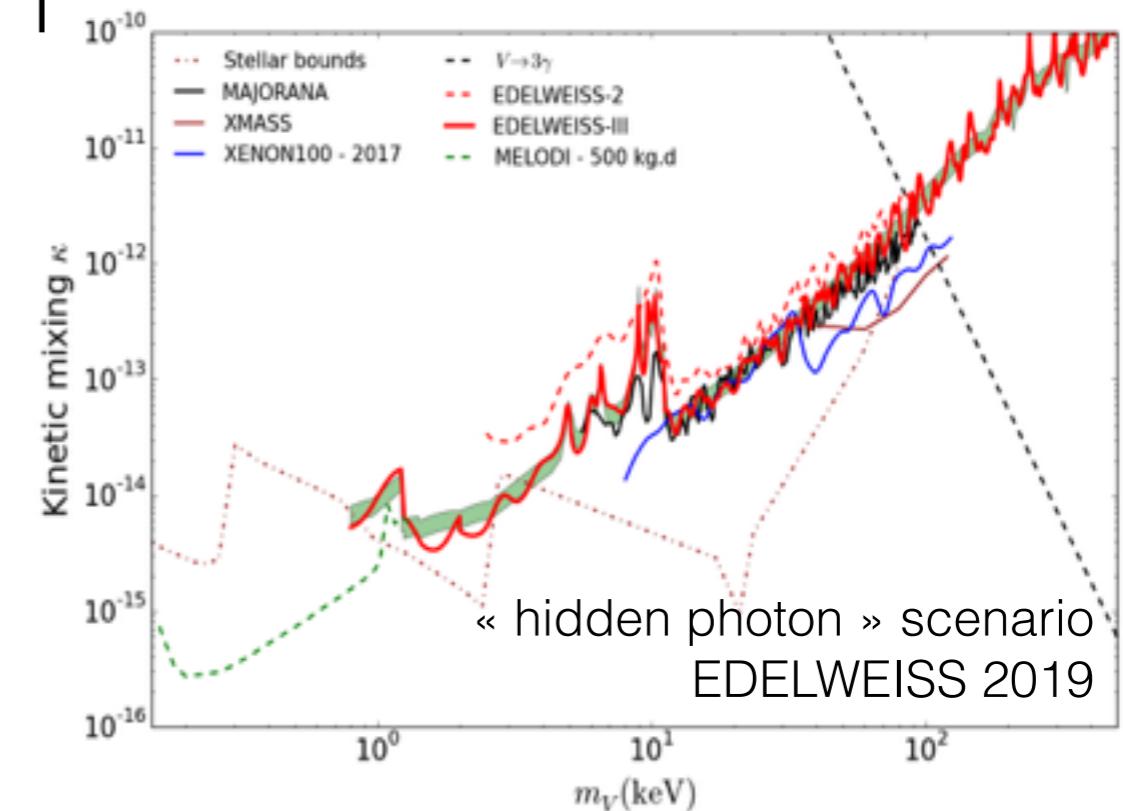
Essig et al. 2012



## Absorption

*Only for bosonic DM*  
NB DM must be bosonic for  $m <$  keV  
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Analog to photoelectric effect  
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# The QCD axion paradigm

**Assume new physics @ very high energy scale**

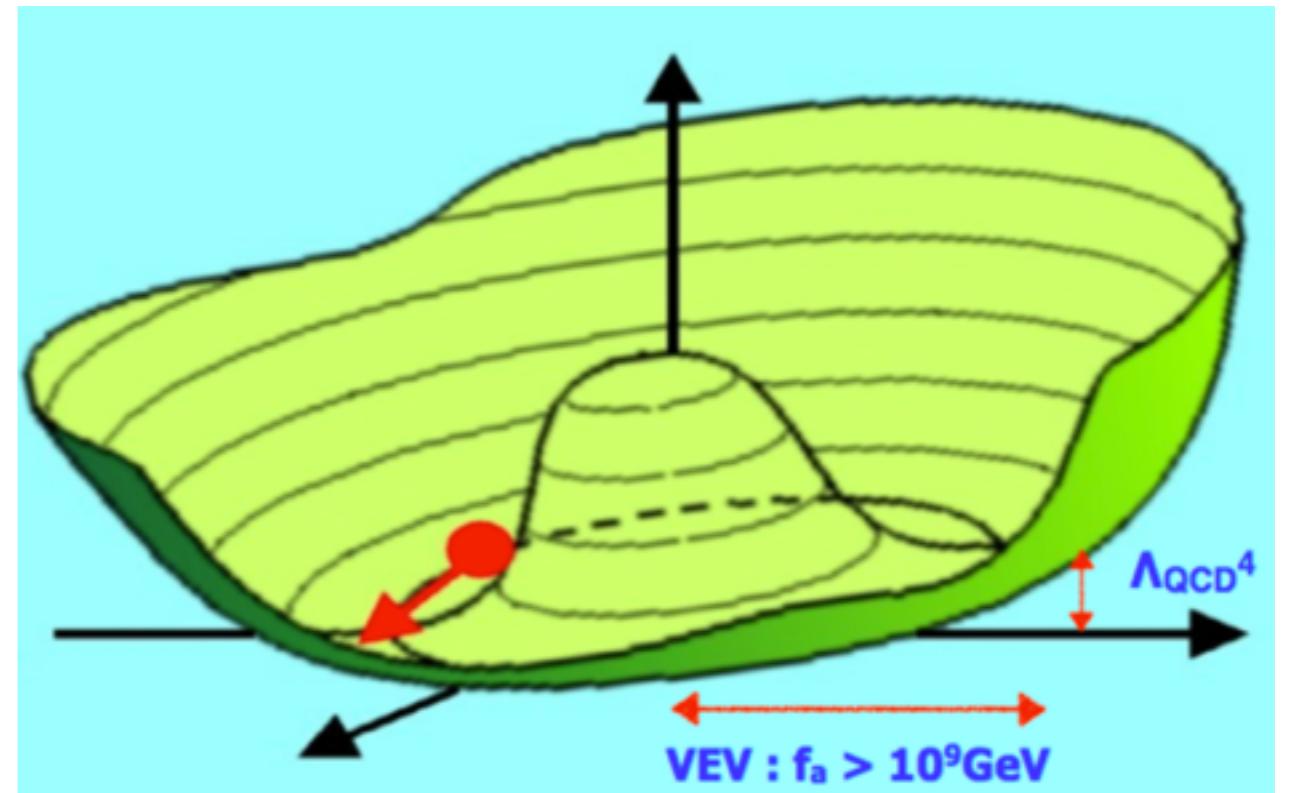
some complex field with U(1) symmetry breaking @ scale  $f_a$  (Peccei-Quinn)

Massless Goldstone boson = axion  
angle  $\theta_a = a/f_a$

Coupling to QCD

After QCD phase transition :

- axion gets a mass  $m_a \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 / f_a$
- **no CP violation in the QCD sector**



Oscillations after QCD transition :

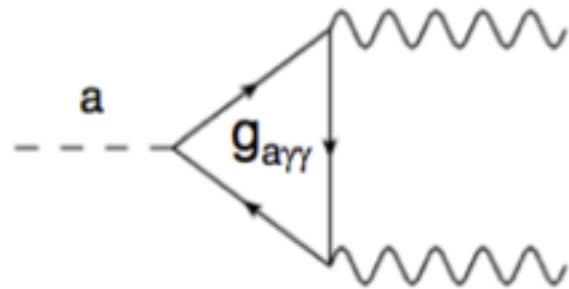
misalignment mechanism

**the axion field behaves like dark matter**

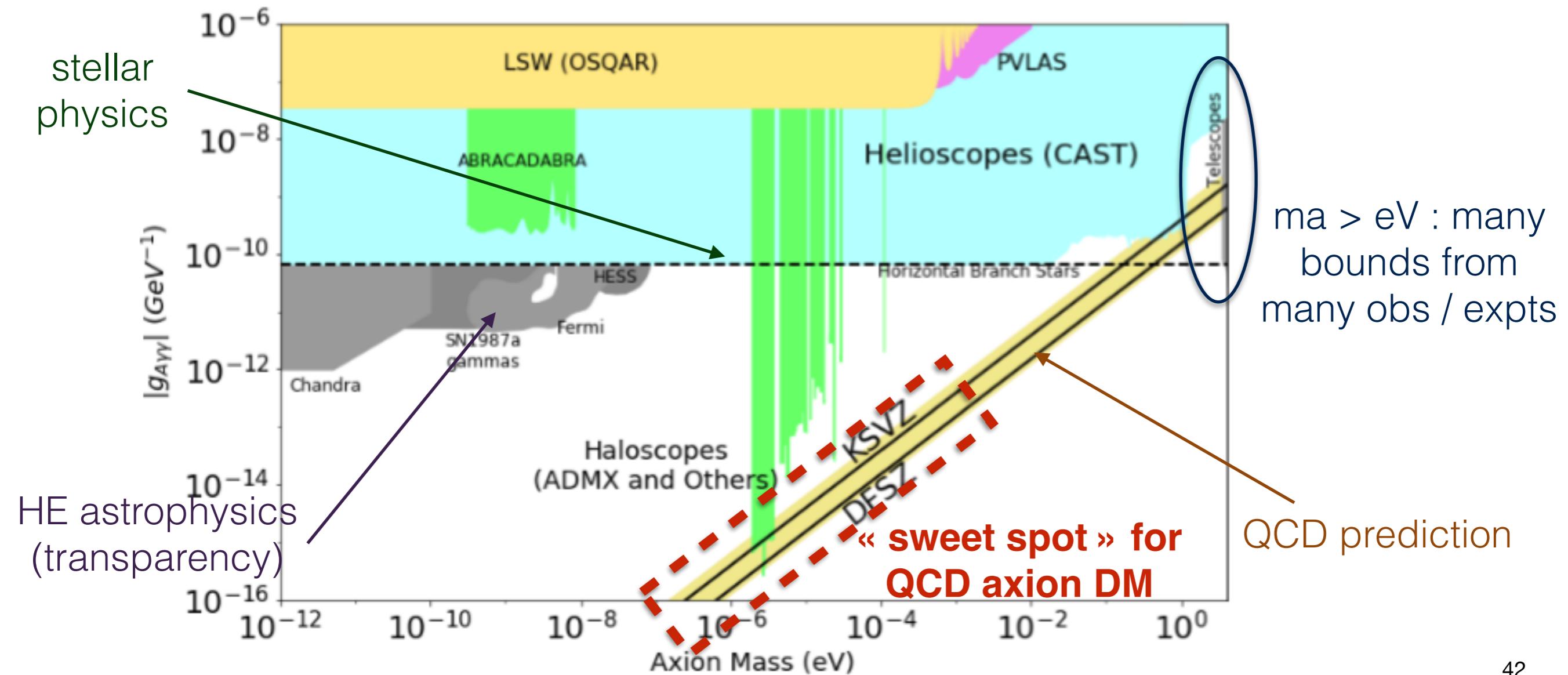
$$\Omega_a \sim 0.36 \left( \frac{10 \mu\text{eV}}{m_a} \right)^{1.184}$$

(simplest case)

# The axion interacts with photons



Effective coupling  $\sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} \cdot a \cdot (E \cdot B)$   
depends on axion model  
but for QCD axion  $g_{a\gamma\gamma} \sim 1/f_a \sim m_a$



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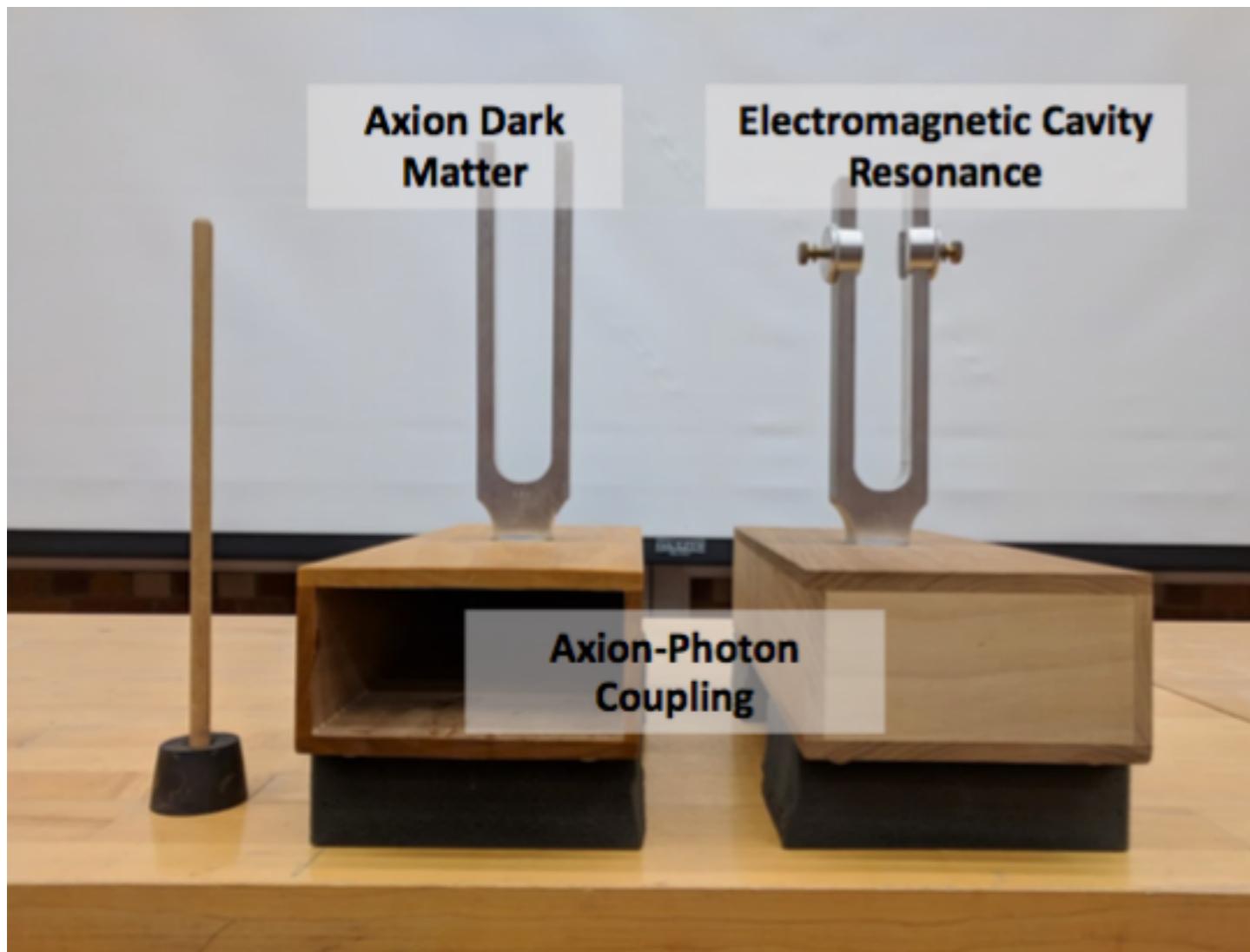
# Axion « haloscopes » : principle

P. Sikivie 80s

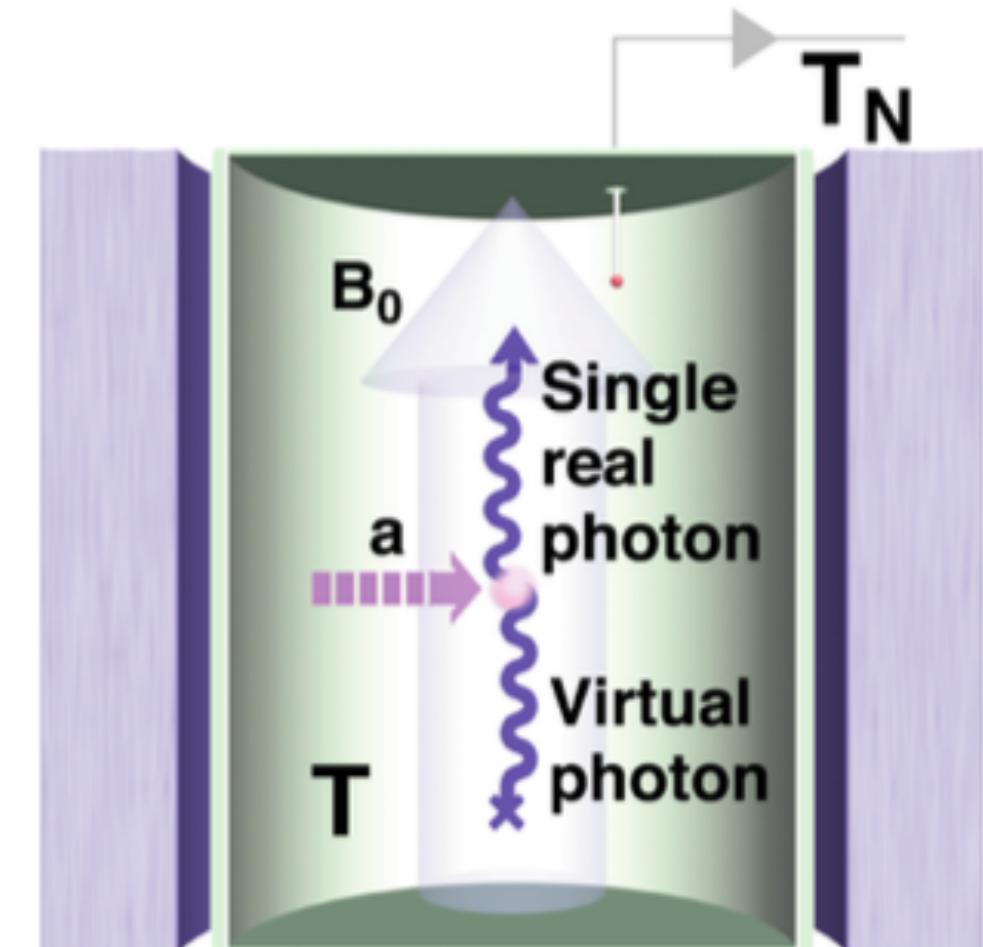
Effective coupling  $\sim g_{a\gamma\gamma} \cdot a \cdot (E \cdot B)$

a : axion from DM halo, oscillates @  $\omega = m_a$

B : magnet (static)  $\Rightarrow$  detect E @  $\omega = m_a$

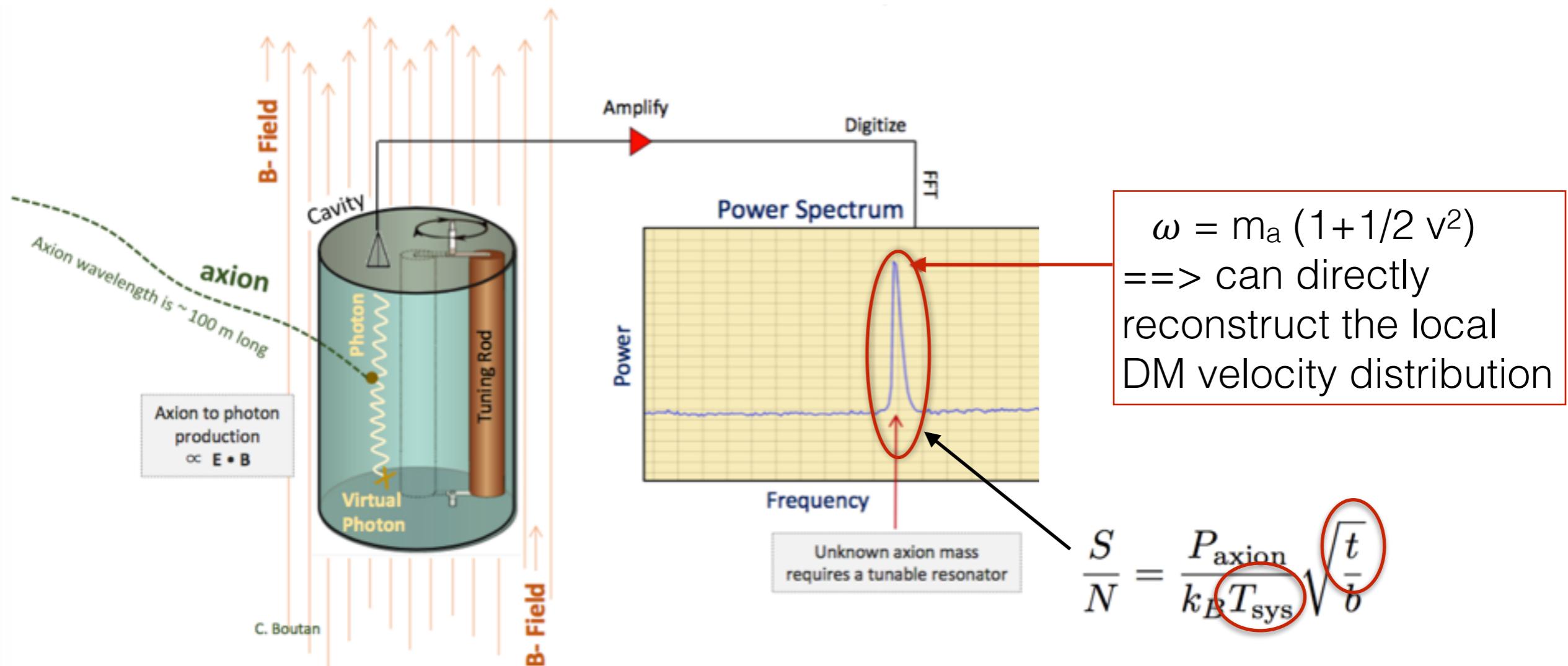


field



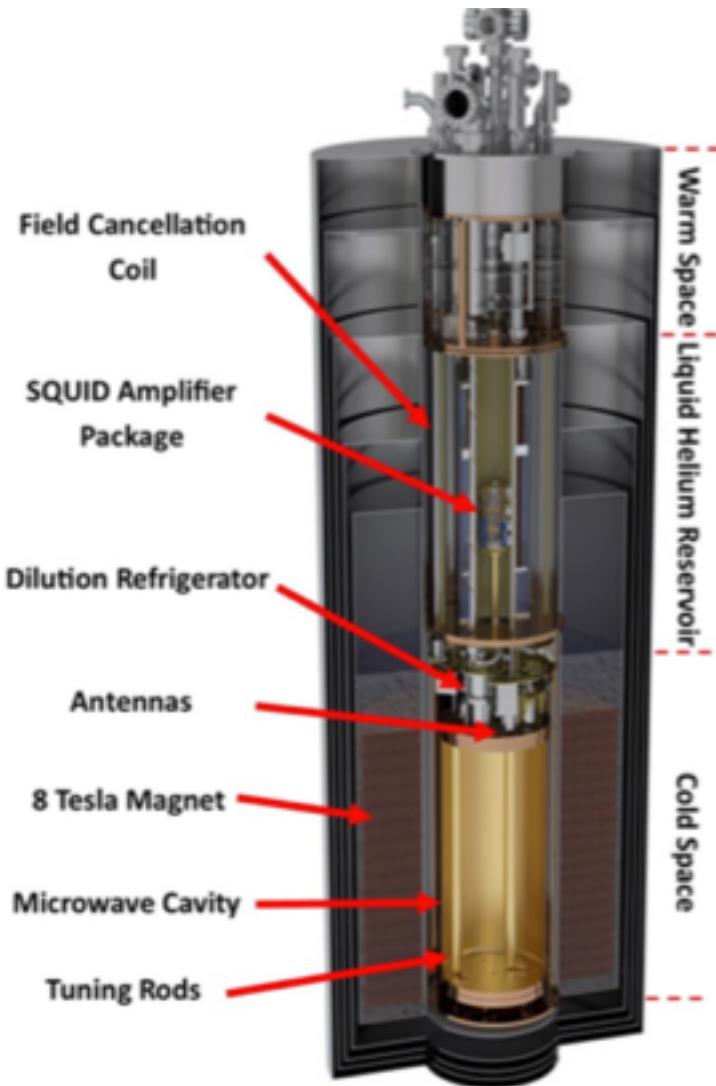
particle

# Axion haloscope (2)



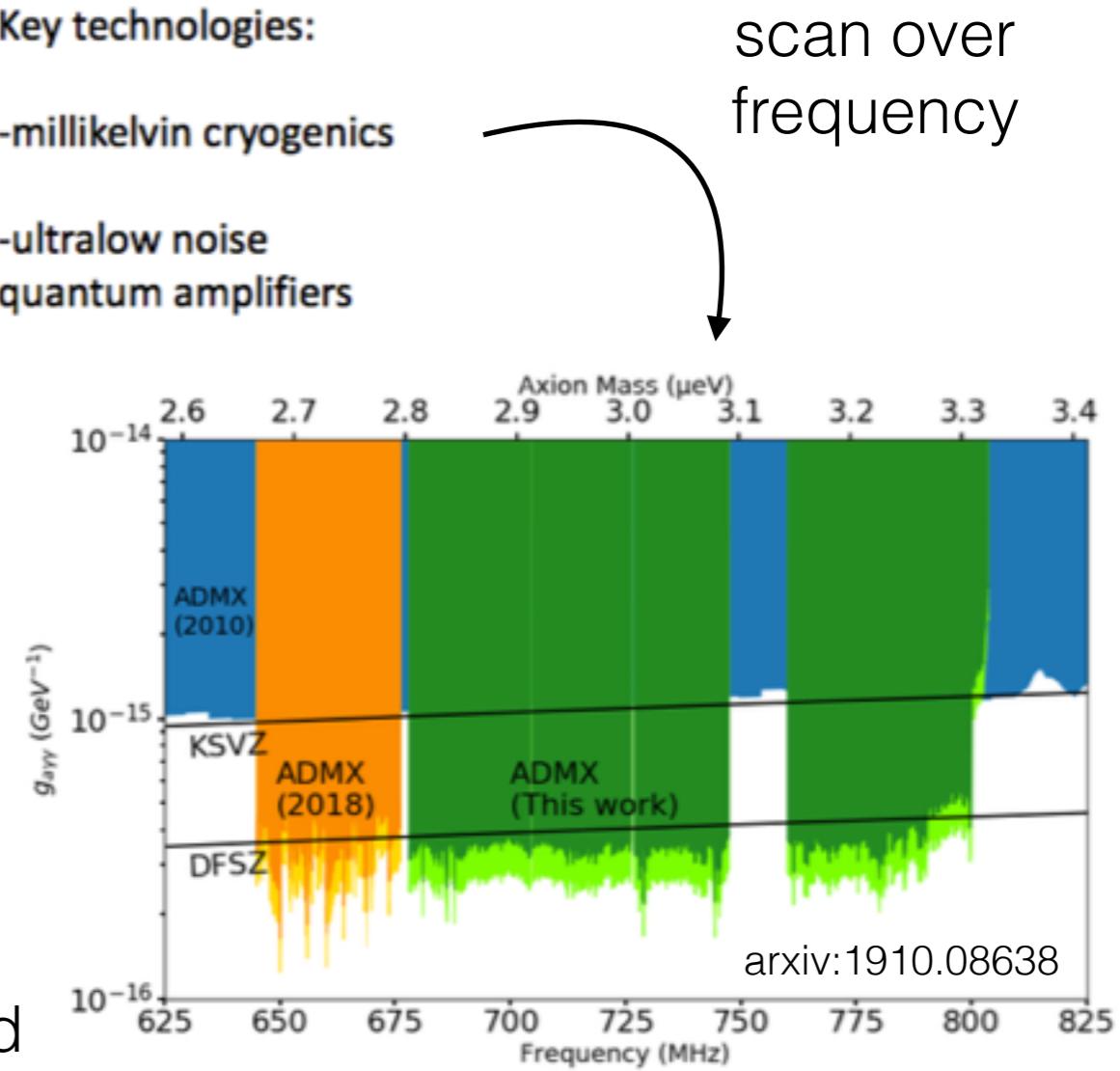
Resonator Volume	Form Factor	Dark Matter Density	Resonator Quality
$P_{a \rightarrow \gamma} = 1.52 \times 10^{-21} W \left( \frac{V}{220l} \right) \left( \frac{B}{7.6T} \right)^2 f_{nlm} \left( \frac{g_\gamma}{0.97} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\rho_a}{0.45 \text{ GeV / cc}} \right) \left( \frac{f_a}{750 \text{ MHz}} \right) \left( \frac{Q}{70,000} \right)$	Magnetic Field	Model Coupling	Frequency

# (Main) example : ADMX axion search



**Key technologies:**

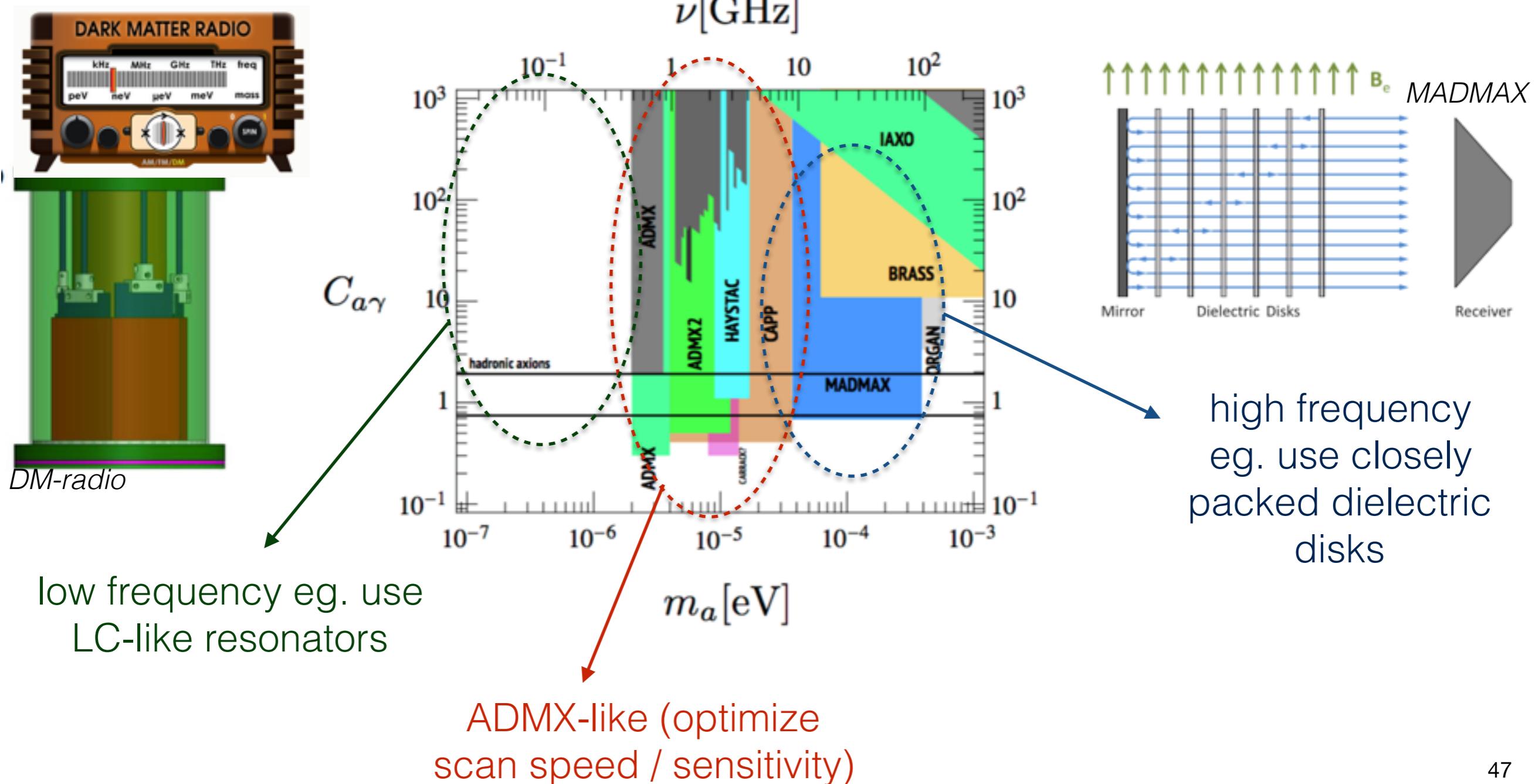
- millikelvin cryogenics
- ultralow noise quantum amplifiers



narrow QCD axion mass range excluded

# QCD axion searches : the future

Many R&D started in the past years to cover a wide range of mass  
First prototypes exist. Will take years to reach QCD sensitivity



low frequency eg. use LC-like resonators

ADMX-like (optimize scan speed / sensitivity)

# Conclusions

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## **DM direct search is a long, risky endeavour**

Only works in certain DM scenarios

Driven by technological developments, R&Ds have possible applications in other branches of science

## **The WIMP scenario**

Originally strongly motivated on phenomenological grounds

Technology : from nuclear / particle physics

Mature, large-scale experiments see no signal, in line with LHC / Fermi / ...

Experiments will continue : go down to nu floor, do neutrino physics

## **« Low-mass » DM scenarios**

Some phenomenological motivations

Technology : from material science / quantum devices

Currently small-scale experiments, progressing fast

## **QCD axions**

Strong phenomenological motivation

Technology : radiometer-like

Experiments will probably explore most interesting scenarios in coming decade(s)