

# Frontiers in Astrophysics

## Particle Astrophysics:

### Dark Matter 3: Indirect Detection

Ben Roberts

[b.roberts@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.roberts@uq.edu.au)

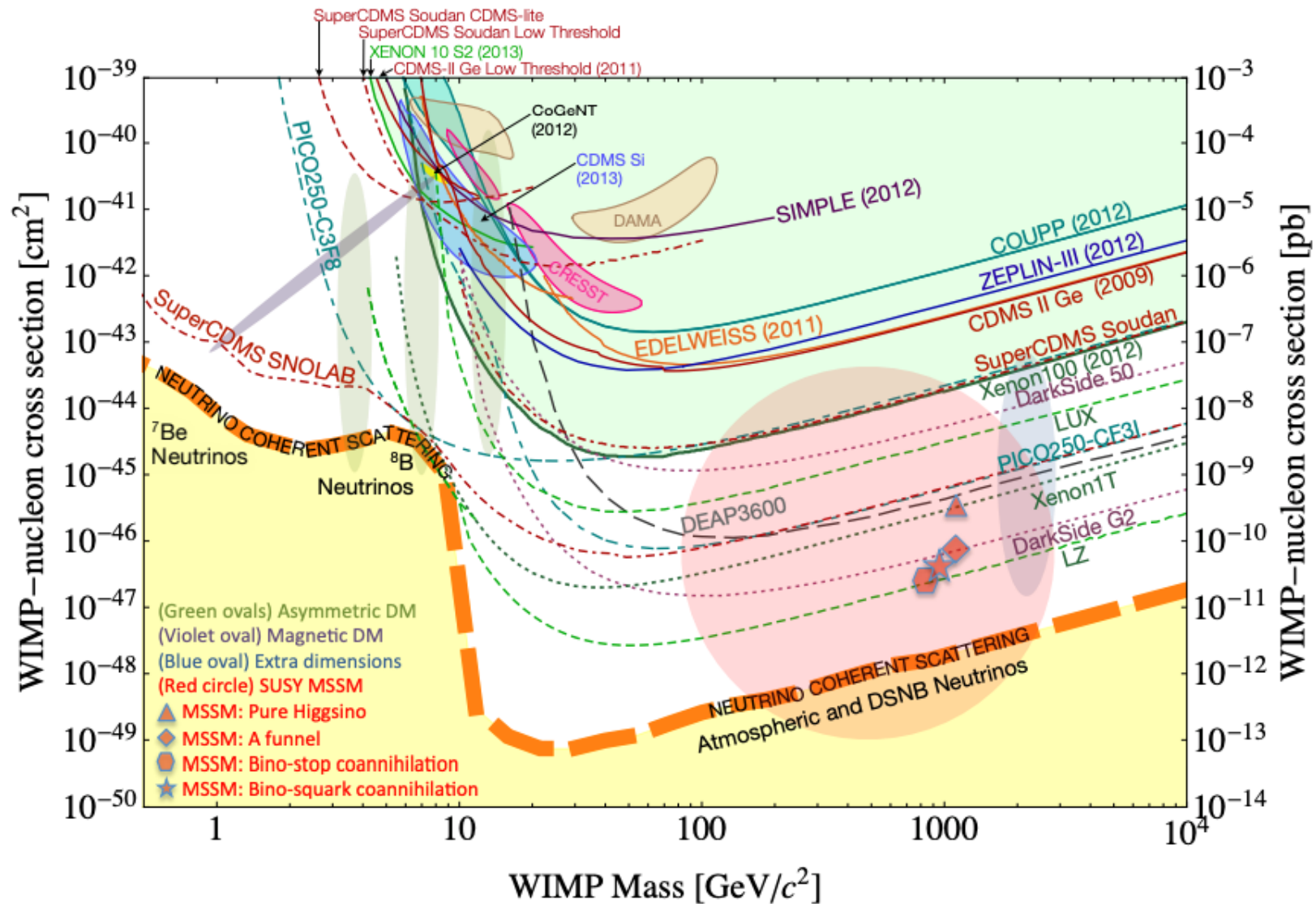
Room 6-427

# Overview

- Results of direct detection experiments
  - Hints of non-zero results?
- Survey of indirect detection
  - Uncharged, Charged messengers
  - General theory, what we probe
  - Some experiments, results
- If time: Where do colliders fit in?

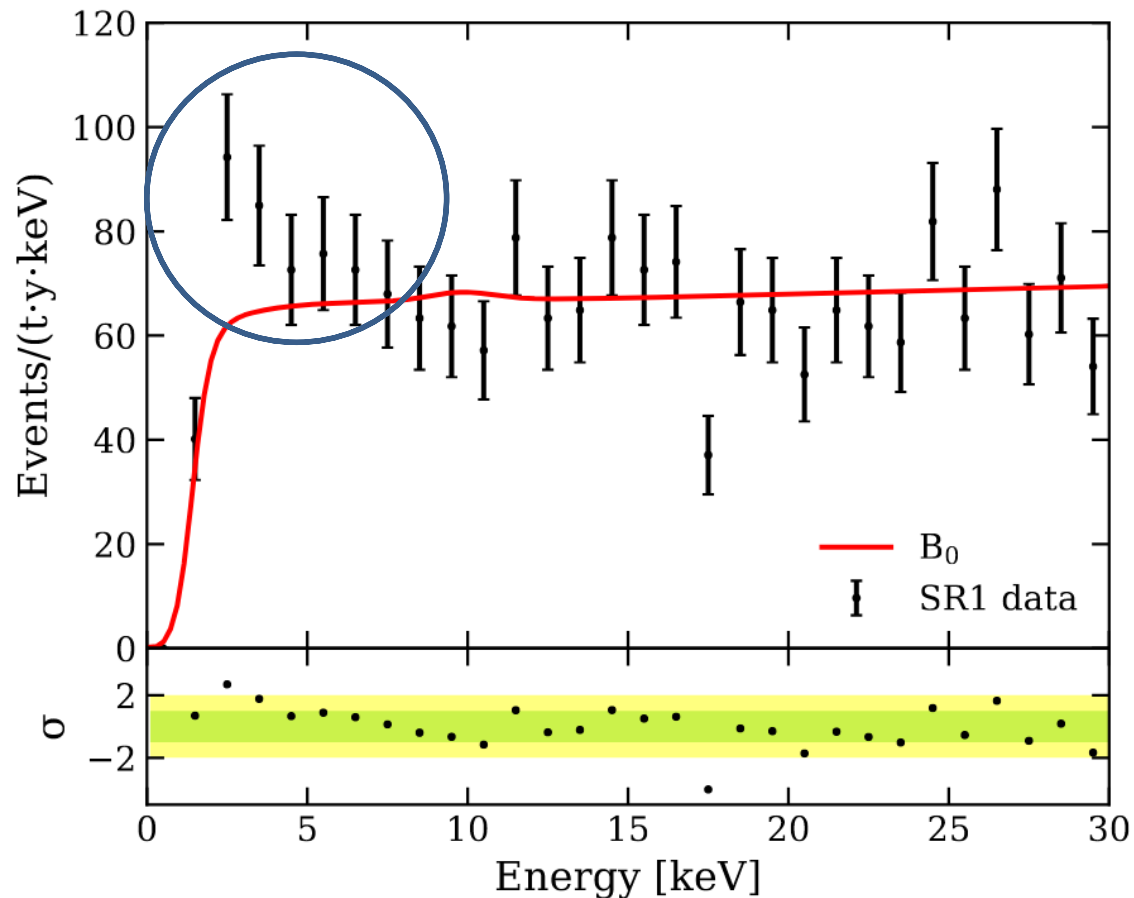
# Part 1: Direct Detection Results

## Hints of positive detections?



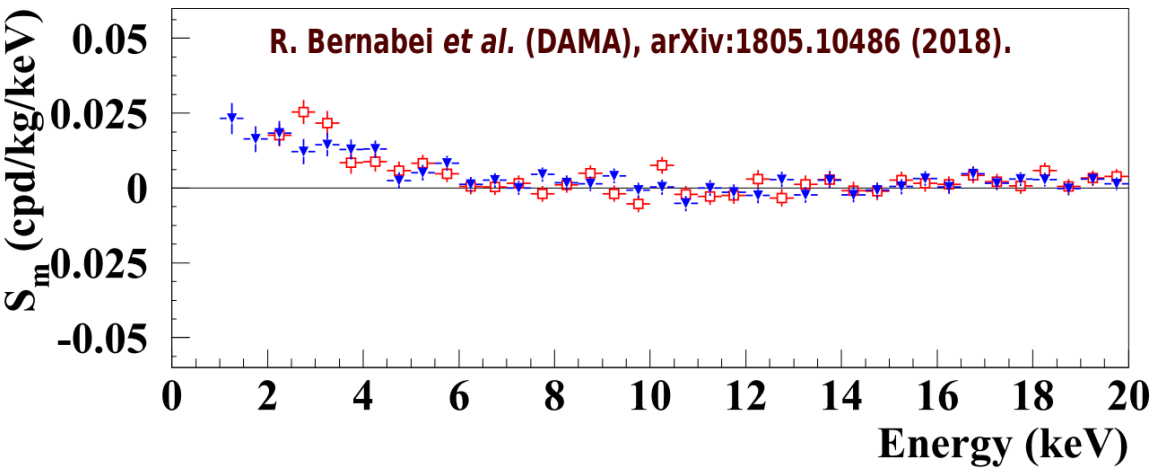
# Observation of Excess Electronic Recoil Events in XENON1T

XENON1T, Phys. Rev. D **102**, 072004 (2020).

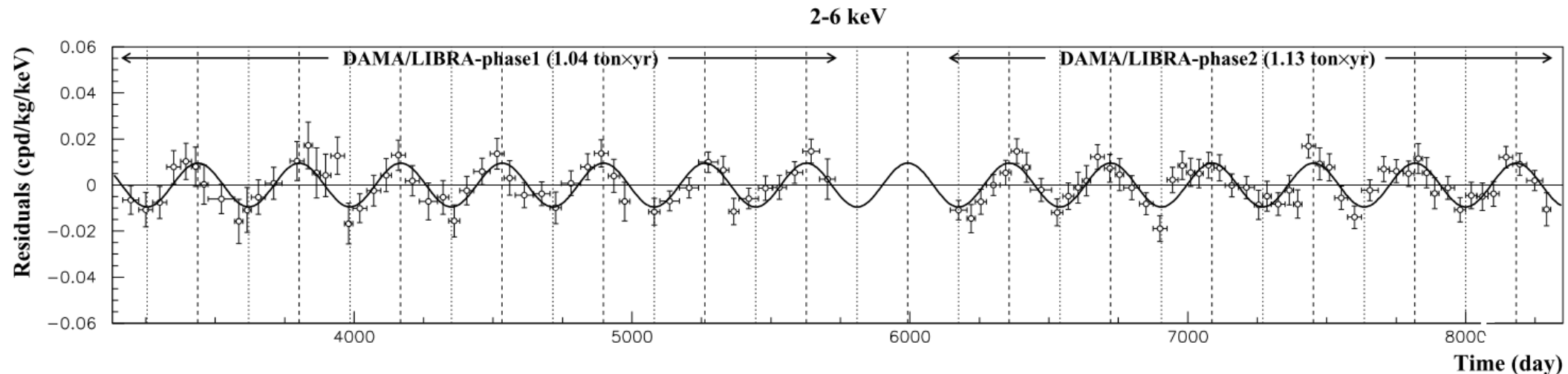


- 0.65 “tonne-years”
- Observe excess (over known background)
- Low-mass (MeV-GeV) WIMPs scattering on electrons?
- Most likely unaccounted for noise.. but interesting

# DAMA-LIBRA

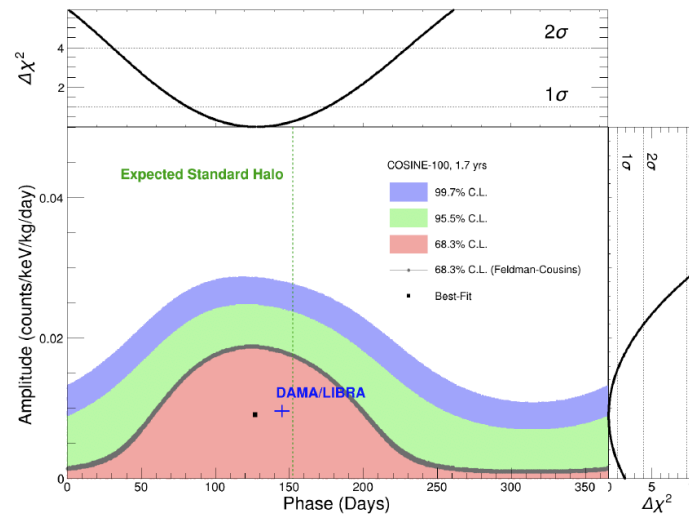
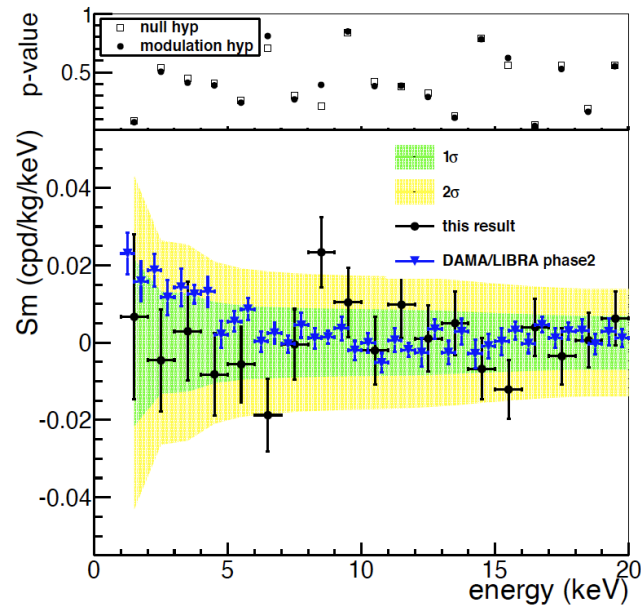


- NaI detector
- Low E, high noise: modulation
- Phase 1: 1.13 ton-year (blue)
- Phase 2: 1.33 ton-year (red)
- Low energy (1keV)
- $12 \sigma$  modulation (correct phase)



# DAMA-LIBRA

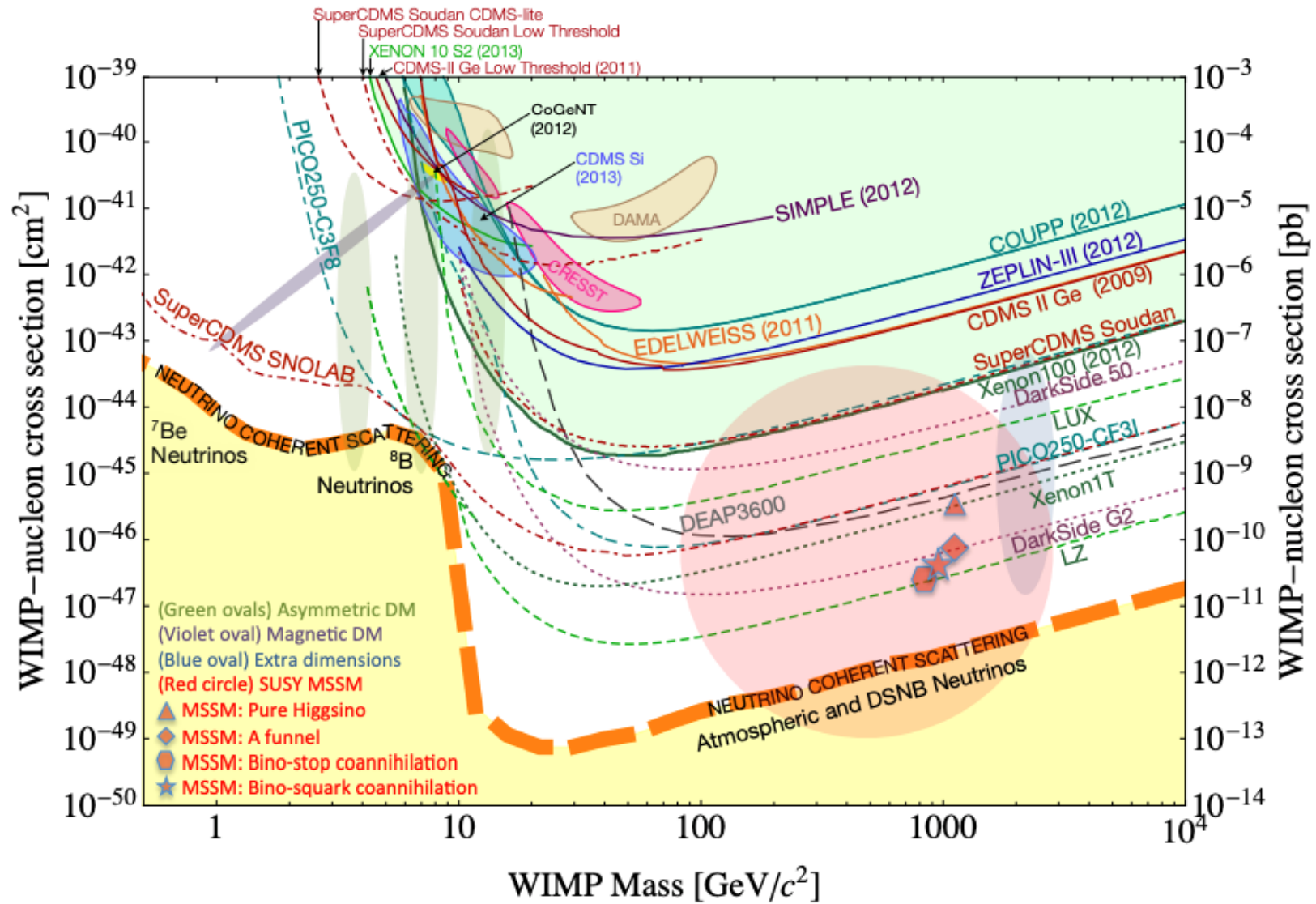
ANAIS-112 and COSINE-100 have been built to test DAMA **annual modulation** directly. . . but need more exposure



- Very hard to reconcile with other experiments (XENON, COSINE, ANAIS)
- COSINE total rate excludes DAMA for most models
- SABRE – build NaI detector in southern hemisphere (Stawell)
- BUT unlikely to help (COSINE already excludes, and has head start)
- Still: not explained

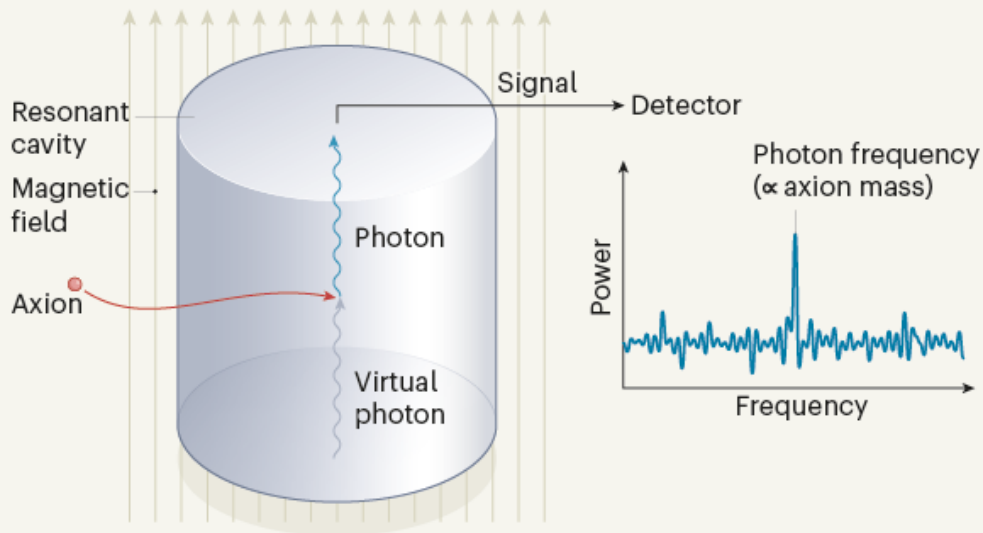
ANAIS, Phys. Rev. Lett. 2019  
 COSINE, Phys. Rev. Lett. 2019

# Future



# Bonus: Axions (reminder)

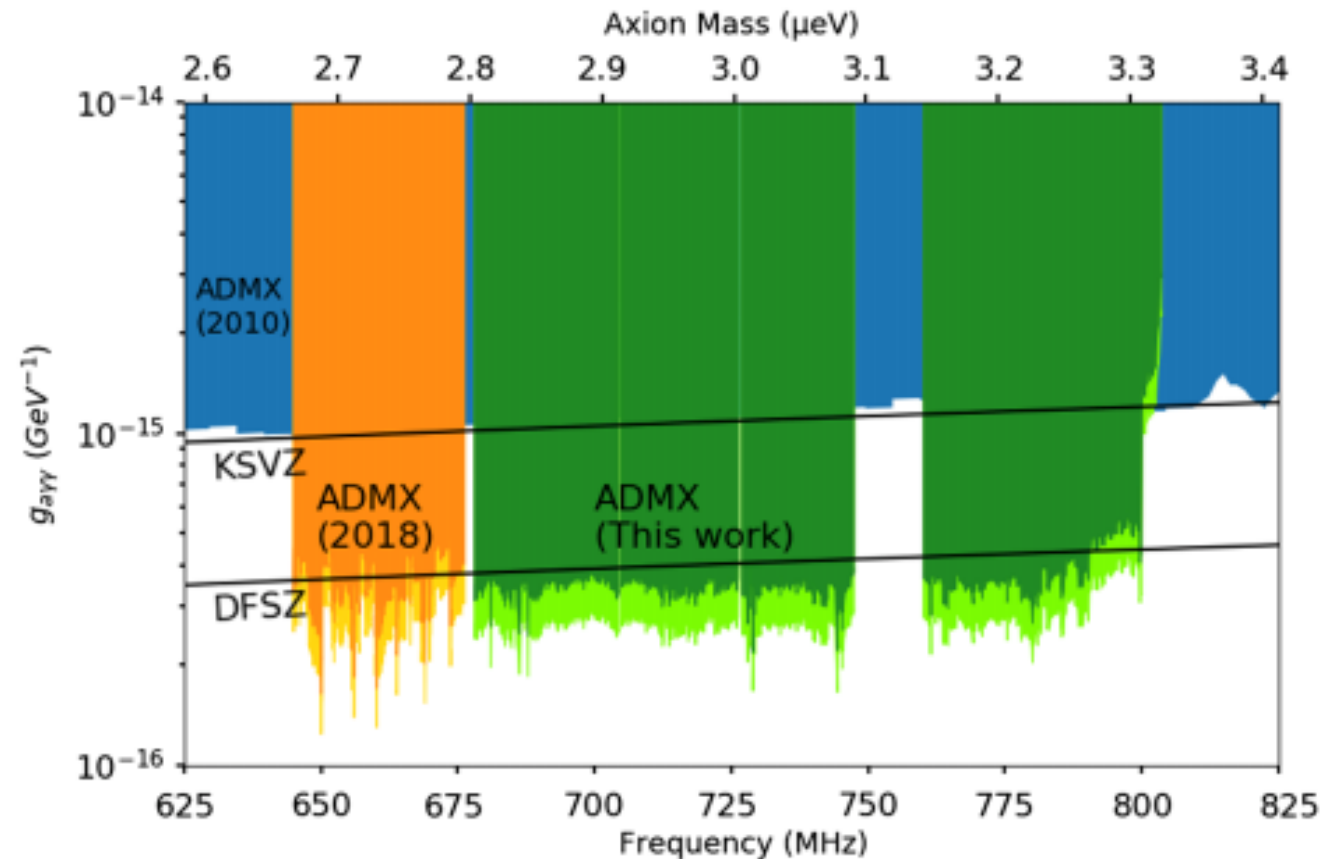
- Low-mass ( $\ll eV$ ), high number:  
Axion condensate (classical axion field)
- May be cold dark matter
- Nice candidate: solve two problems  
(strong CP + dark matter)
- Axion-photon conversion:  
detection channel



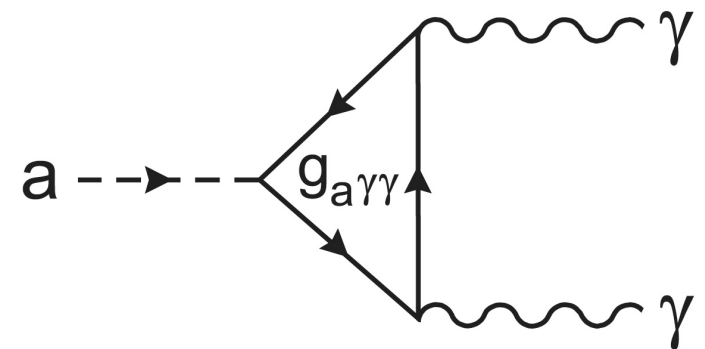
ADMX



# Bonus: Axions Constraints

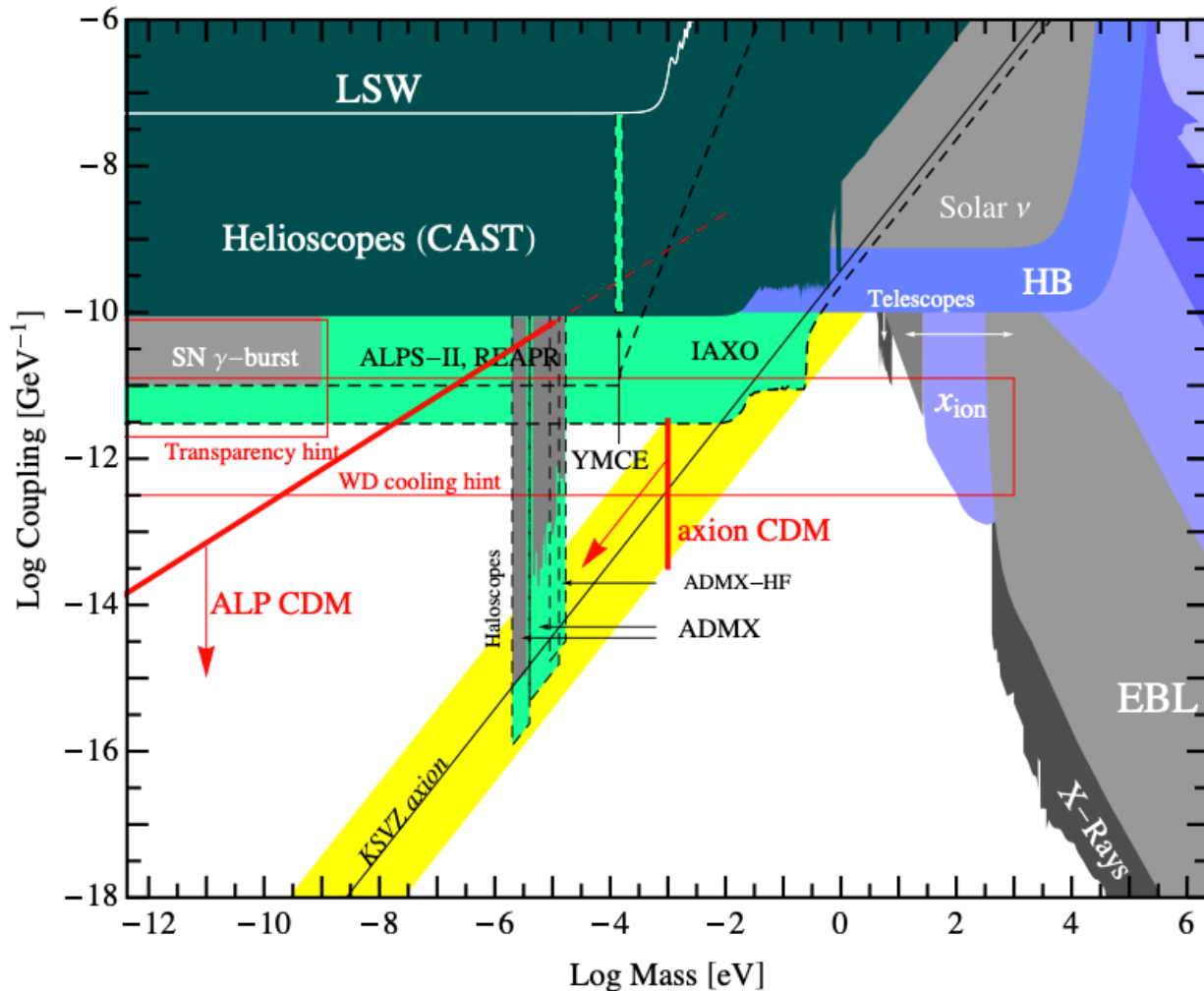


- Very narrow mass range
- Other experiments less sensitive, but cover wider range

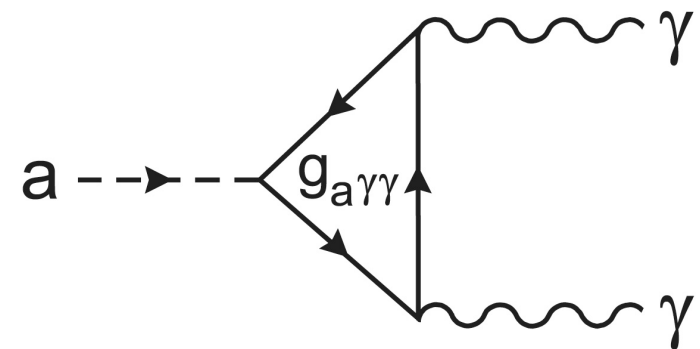


ADMX, Phys. Rev. Lett. **124**, 101303 (2020).

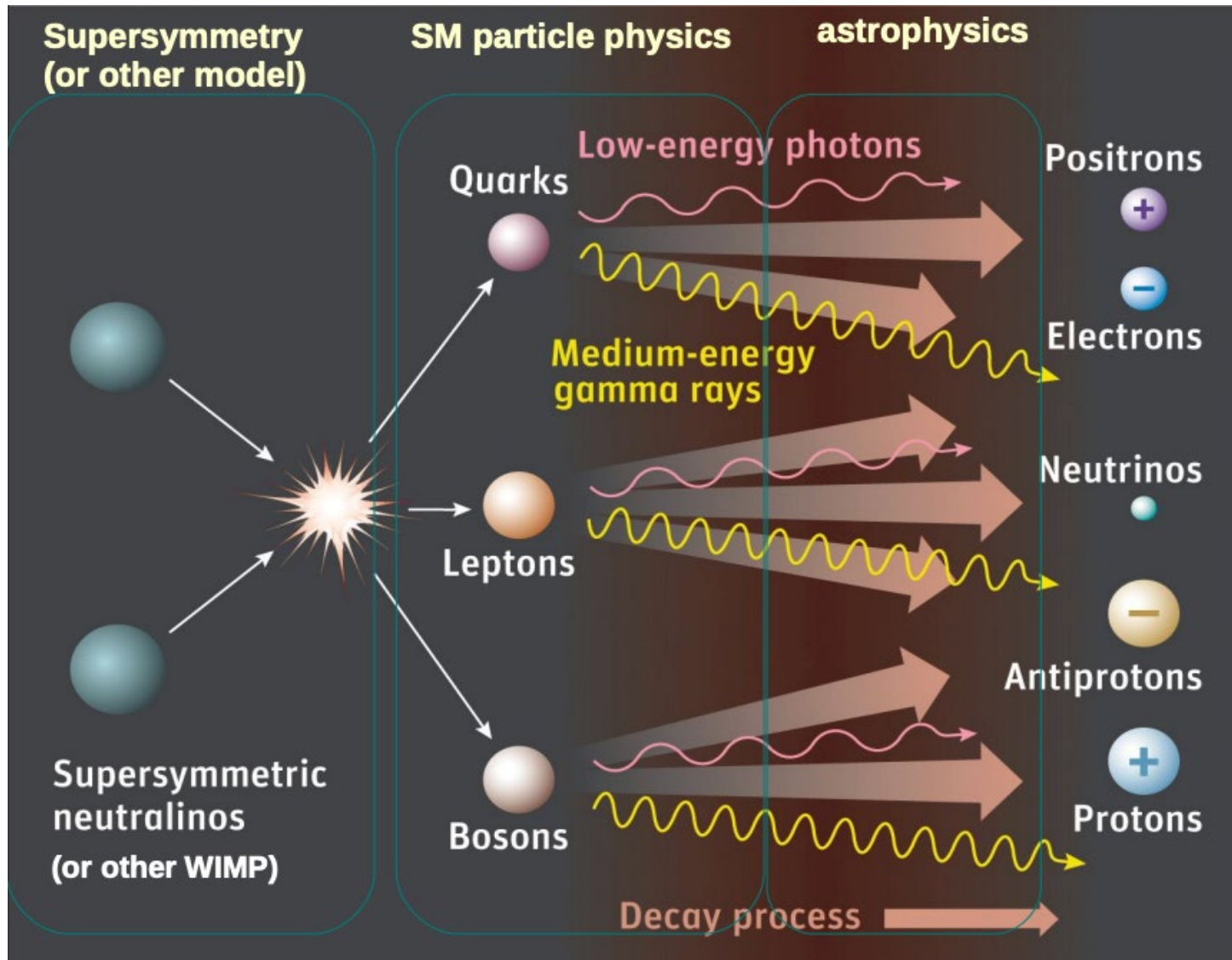
# Bonus: Axions Constraints



- Very narrow mass range
- Other experiments less sensitive, but cover wider range



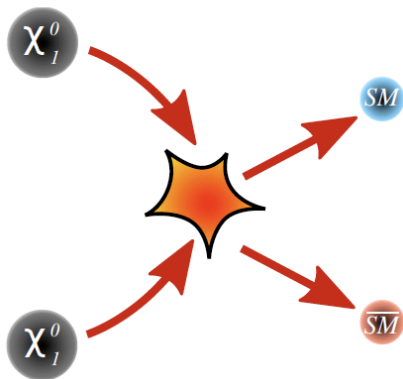
# Part 2: Indirect Detection



# What is indirect detection?

Looking for Standard Model particles produced by dark matter annihilation or decay.

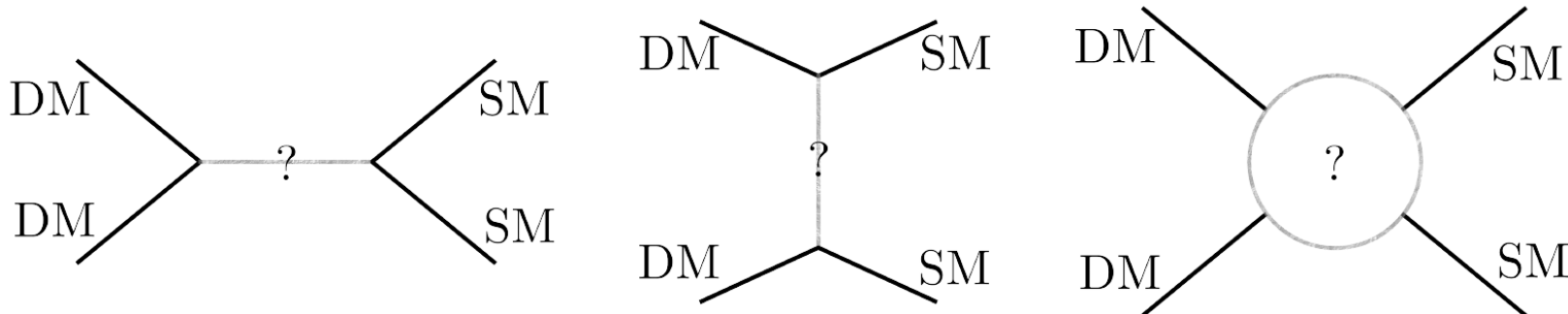
- **neutrinos** – IceCube, Super-K, KM3NET
- **gamma-rays** – Fermi-LAT, HESS, CTA
- **X-rays** – XMM-NEWTON, Chandra, NuStar
- **anti-protons** – PAMELA, AMS-02, CALET
- **anti-deuterons** – AMS-02, GAPS
- **$e^+ e^-$**  – PAMELA, Fermi, AMS-02, CALET
  - secondary radiation: inverse Compton, synchrotron, bremsstrahlung
- secondary impacts on the **CMB, reionisation**
- ‘indirect direct detection’ → impacts on **solar and stellar structure**



Neutral messengers  
Charged messengers  
Other messengers

# What we can probe

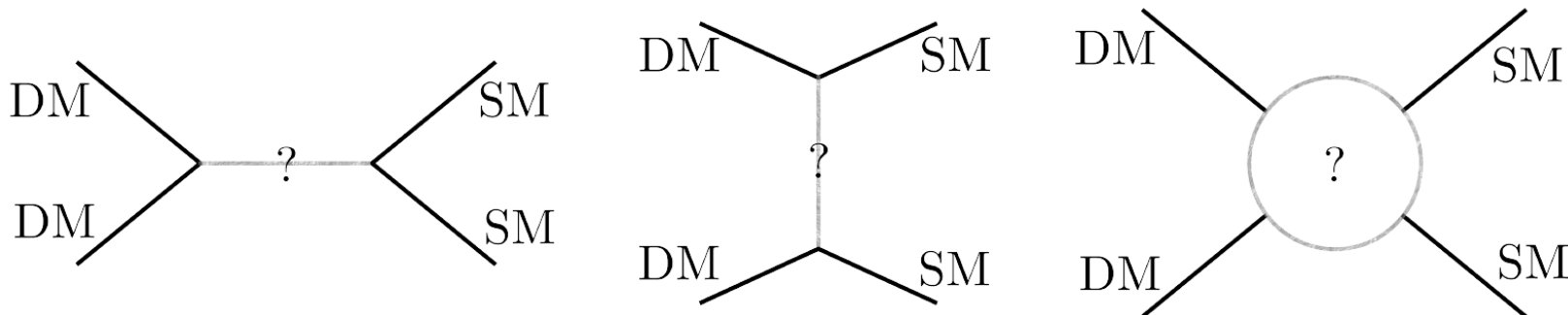
- Direct detection
  - Probes DM-SM scattering cross section
    - (Typically DM-nucleus)
- Indirect detection
  - Typically directly probes annihilation cross-section
  - cf thermal production (project 3)



# What we can probe

## Indirect detection probes:

- DM mass  $m_\chi$
- annihilation cross-section  $\langle\sigma v\rangle$  + branching fractions to different SM final states  
→ mediator mass + mediator couplings to DM and SM
- decay width  $\Gamma_\chi$  + branching fractions to different SM final states  
→ DM couplings to SM
- scattering cross-section with nuclei  
(neutrinos + stellar ‘indirect direct detection’ only)  
→ mediator mass + mediator couplings to DM and SM



# Neutral fluxes and propagation

Gamma rays, X rays and neutrinos are nice because they travel straight

⇒ they point straight back to their sources

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dEd\Omega} = \frac{1 + BF}{8\pi m_\chi^2} \sum_f \frac{dN_f^\gamma}{dE} \sigma_f v \int_{\text{l.o.s.}} \rho_\chi^2(l) dl. \quad (1)$$

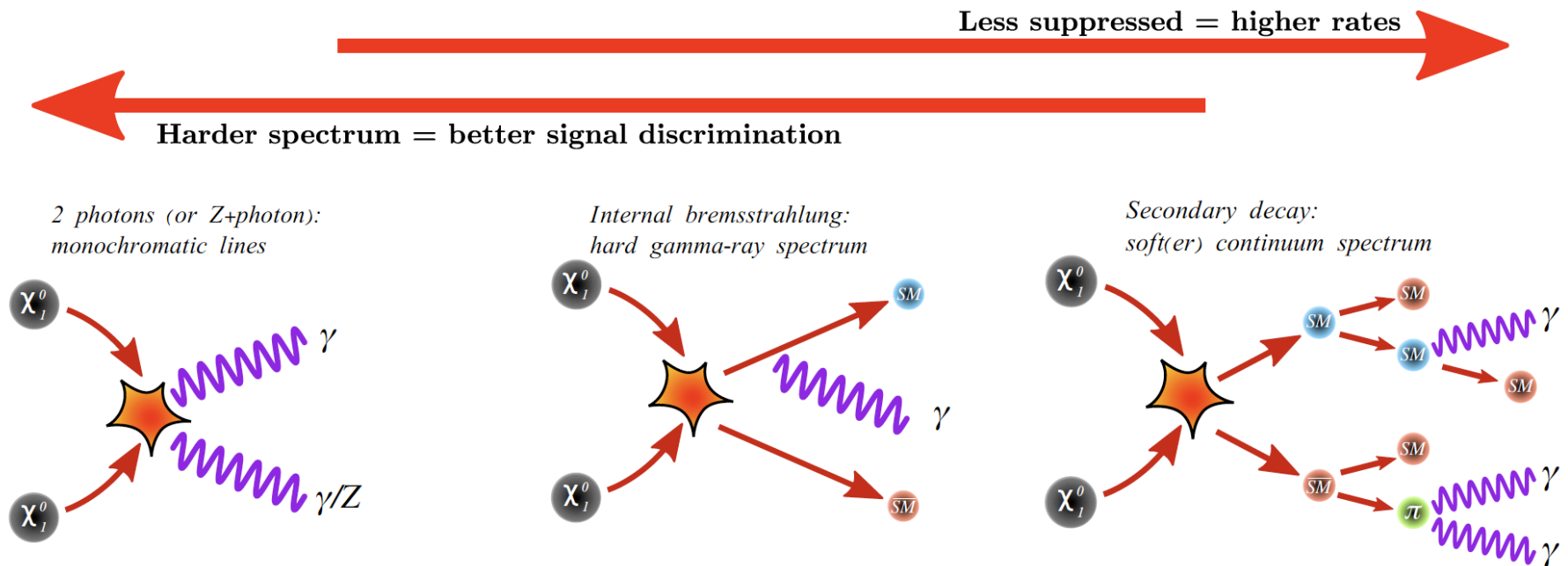
$\Phi$  =  $\gamma, \nu$  flux  
 $\frac{d\Phi}{dEd\Omega}$  = differential flux per  
= unit energy and solid angle  
 $BF$  = boost factor (substructure)  
 $f$  = final state

$dN^\gamma/dE$  = annihilation spectrum  
 $\sigma_f v$  = annihilation cross-section  
l.o.s. = line of sight  
 $\rho$  = DM density  
 $l$  = line parameter along l.o.s.

$J$  factor is the ‘astrophysical bit’ integrated over some solid angle  $\Delta\Omega$

$$J \equiv \int_{\Delta\Omega} \int_{\text{l.o.s.}} \rho_\chi^2(l) dl$$

# Gamma-ray spectra



- 3 main gamma-ray channels:

- monochromatic lines
- internal bremsstrahlung (FSR + VIB) (Final-state brem.; Virtual Internal brem.)
- continuum from secondary decay

Monochromatic (100% 'hard') ~ GeV ; Hard (peaked high energy) ; soft



# Gamma-ray spectra: Observation Targets

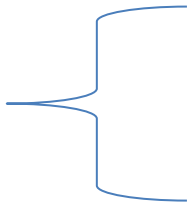
Look for targets with:

- Lots of DM
- Few other astrophysical processes that produce gamma rays
  - $\Phi \propto \text{annihilation rate} \propto \rho_{\text{DM}}^2$

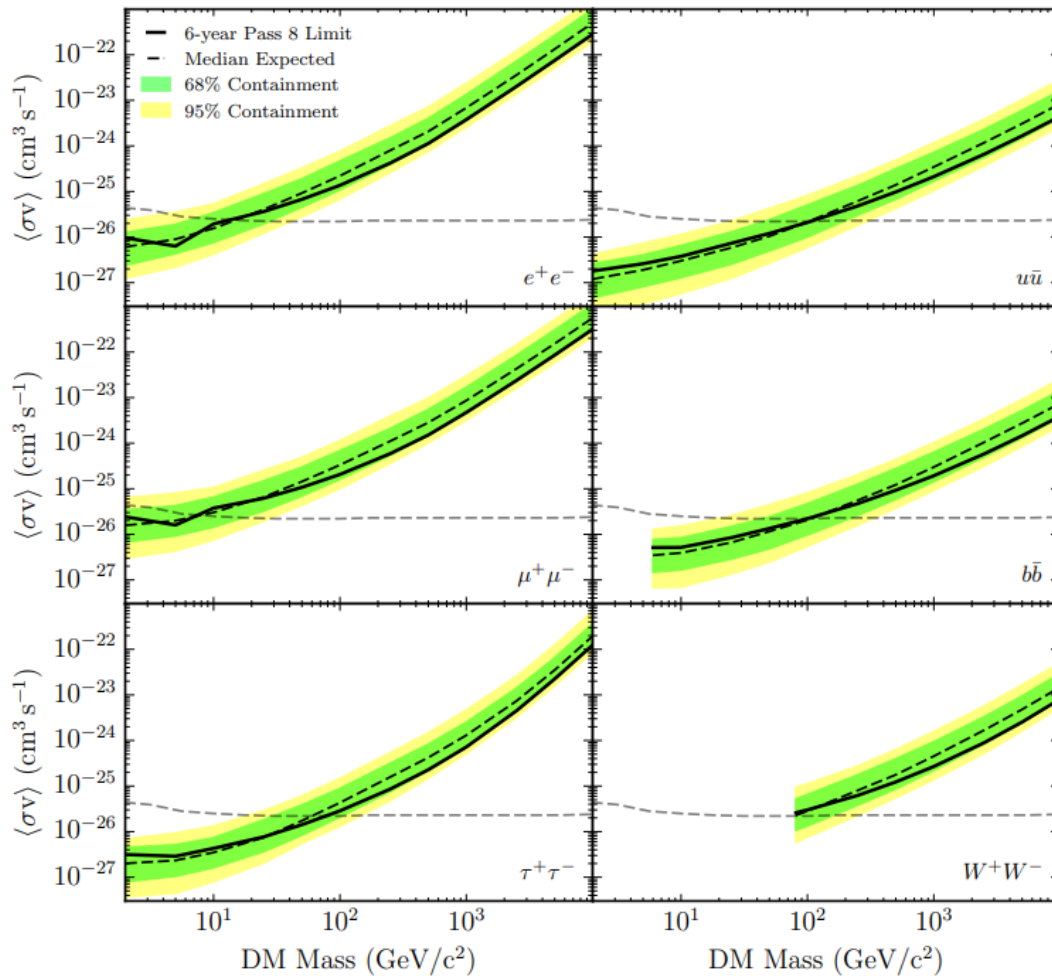
Likely targets:

- dwarf galaxies - low statistics, low BG
- Galactic centre - large signal, large BG
- Galactic halo - moderate signal, moderate BG
- clusters/extragalactic diffuse - large modelling uncertainties, low signal, low BG
- dark clumps - low statistics, low BG

Outside  
Galaxy  
(harder)



# Gamma Rays: Dwarf Galaxies



Fermi-LAT arXiv:1503.02641

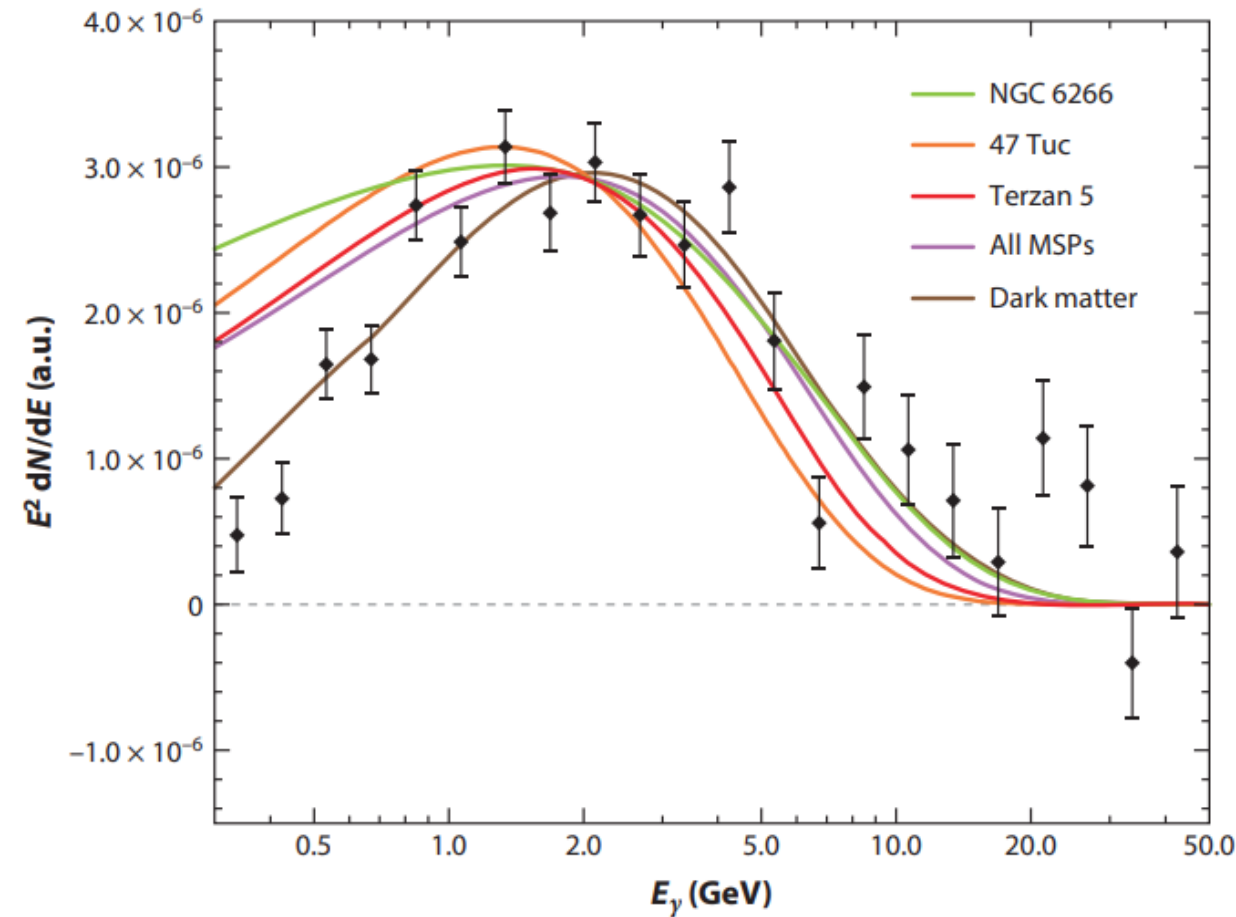
Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**, 231301 (2015)

- Pass 8 event reconstruction
- 6 years of data
- 15 dwarfs

Gold standard for indirect detection.

Excludes canonical thermal cross-section up to  $m_\chi \sim 100$  GeV.  
Note model dependence though!

# Galactic Centre Excess



- Excess of GeV gamma rays observed from GC
- (Excess = >expected)
- May be DM signal..
- Likely actually from pulsars
- DM Below 10 GeV excluded

# Galactic Centre Excess

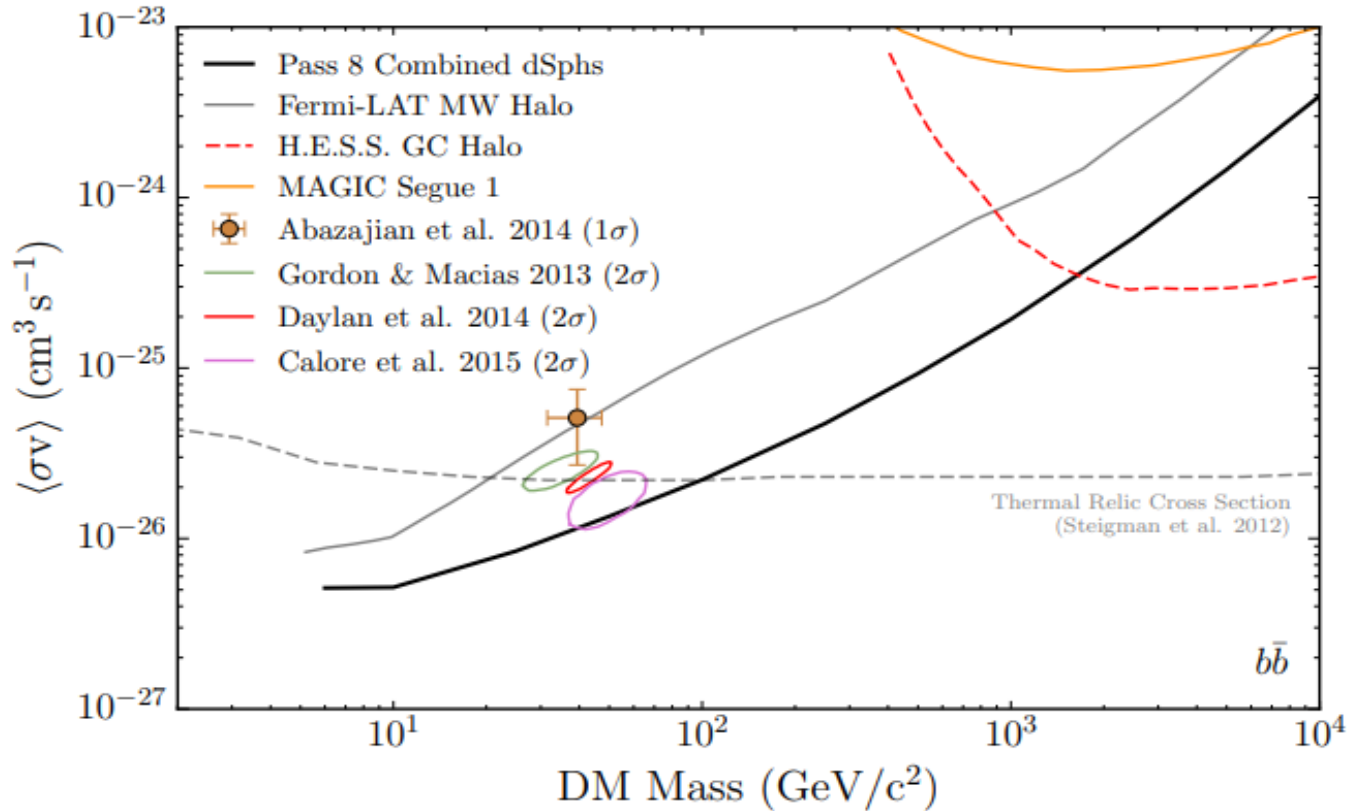
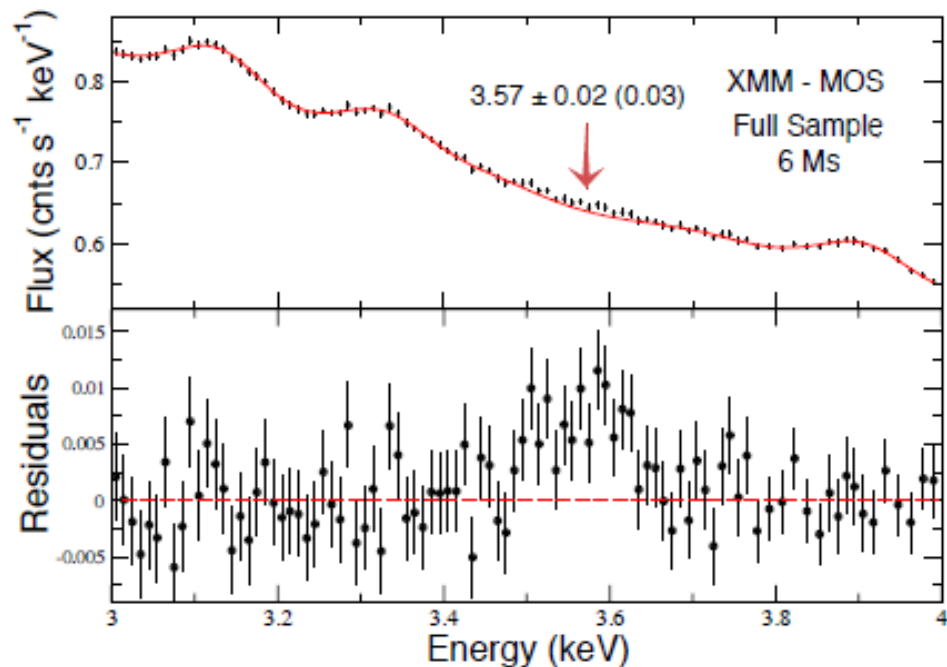


FIG. 2. Comparison of constraints on the DM annihilation cross section for the  $b\bar{b}$  (left) and  $\tau^+\tau^-$  (right) channels from this work with previously published constraints from LAT analysis of the Milky Way halo ( $3\sigma$  limit) [34], 112 hours of observations of the Galactic Center with H.E.S.S. [35], and 157.9 hours of observations of Segue 1 with MAGIC [36]. Pure annihilation channel limits for the Galactic Center H.E.S.S. observations are taken from Abazajian and Harding [37] and assume an Einasto Milky Way density profile with  $\rho_\odot = 0.389 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}$ . Closed contours and the marker with error bars show the best-fit cross section and mass from several interpretations of the Galactic center excess [16–19].

# X-rays: Sterile Neutrinos

A 3.5 keV line from sterile  $\nu$  decay?



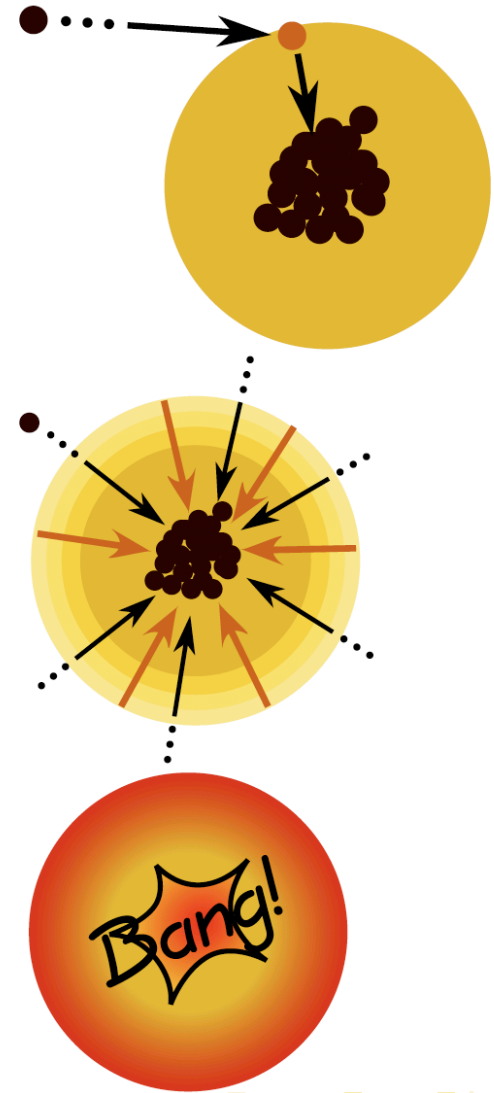
Bulbul et al *ApJ* 2014

- Blip seen in XMM-Newton observations of clusters
- Inclusion of *all* nuclear lines in background radiative transfer modelling very important (and generally not done correctly)
- Not replicated in dwarf galaxy observations

# Neutrinos

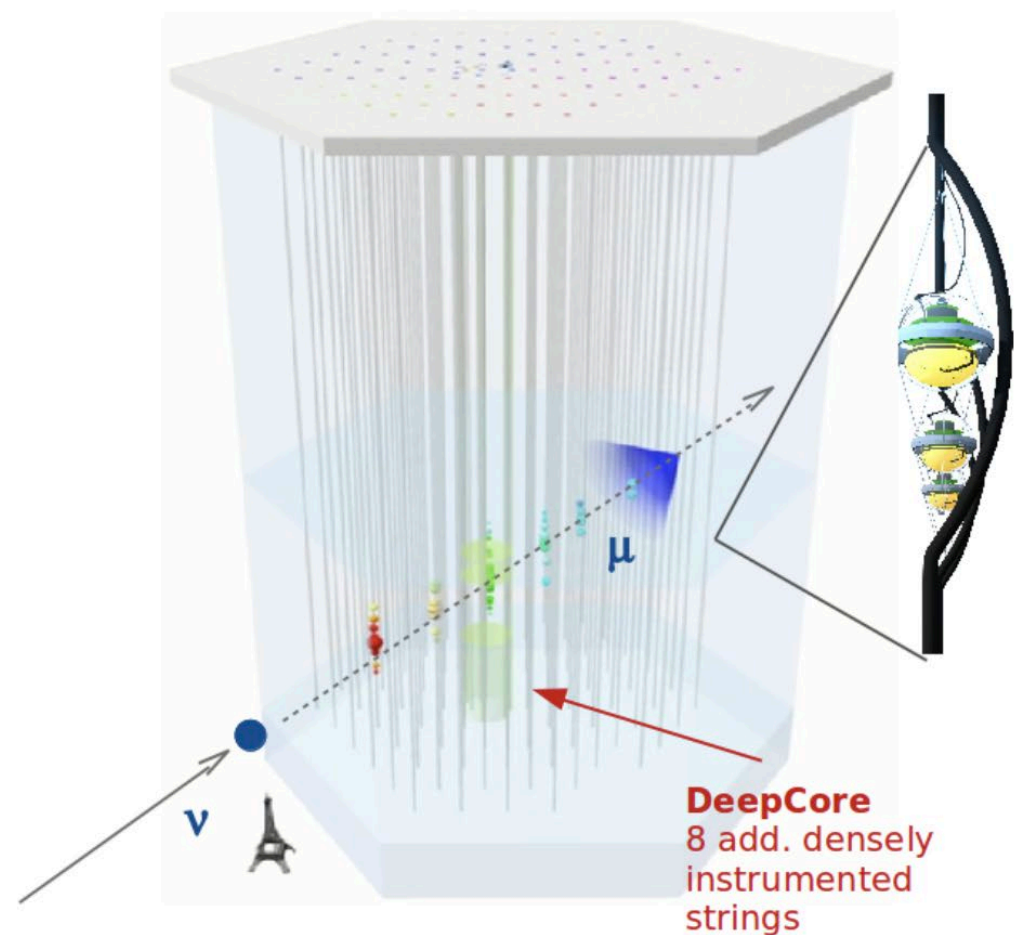
The cartoon version:

- 1 Halo WIMPs crash into the Sun
- 2 Some lose enough energy in the scatter to be gravitationally bound
- 3 Scatter some more, sink to the core
- 4 Annihilate with each other, producing neutrinos
- 5 Propagate+oscillate their way to the Earth, convert into muons in ice/water
- 6 Look for Čerenkov radiation from the muons in **IceCube**, ANTARES, etc



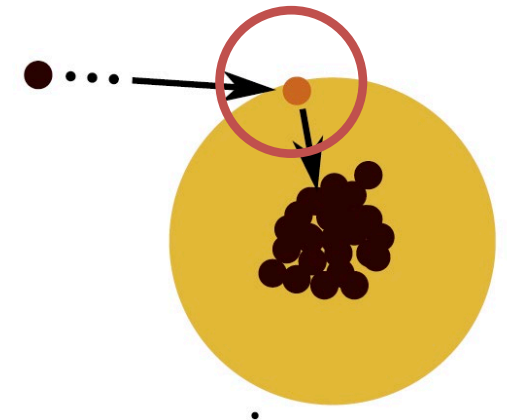
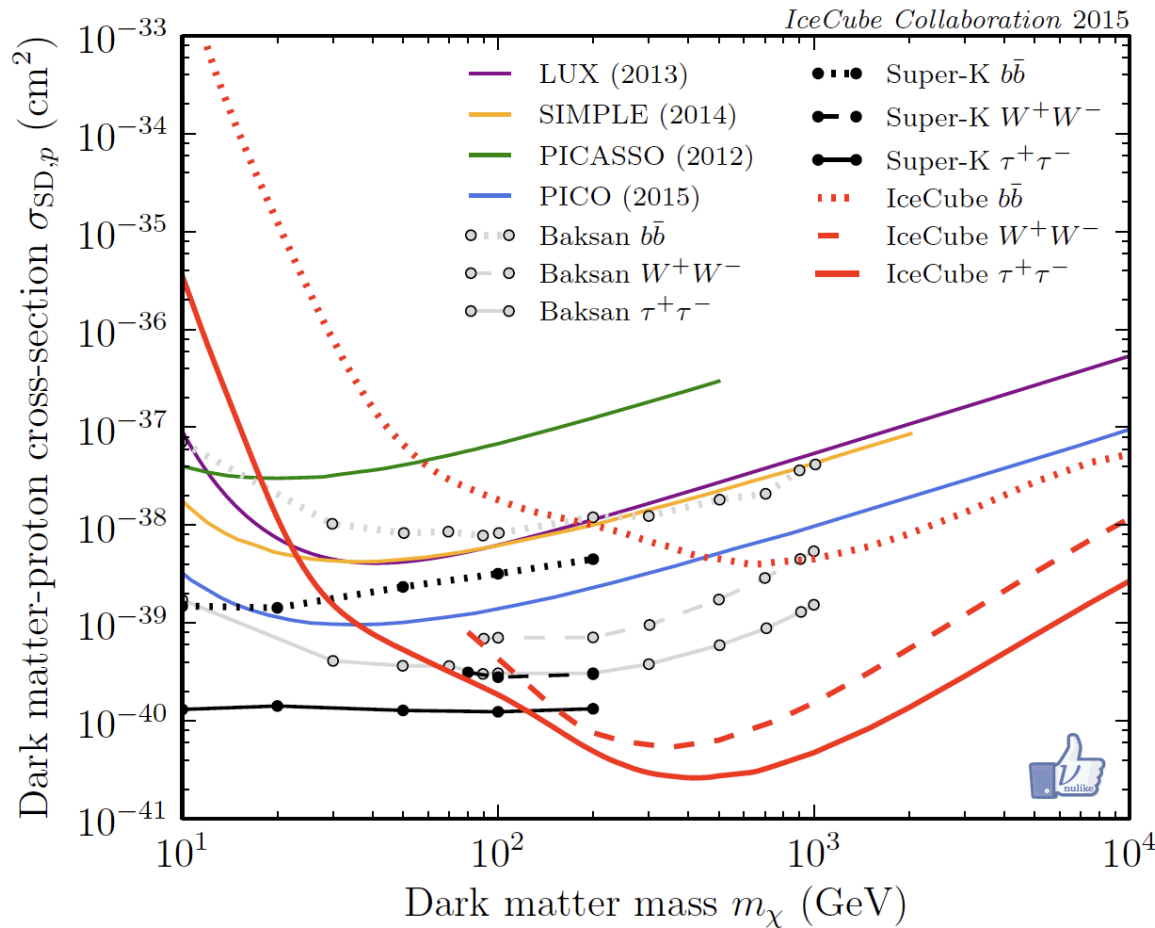
# IceCube Neutrino Observatory

- 86 strings
- 1.5–2.5 km deep in Antarctic ice sheet
- $\sim 125$  m spacing between strings
- $\sim 70$  m in DeepCore (10 $\times$  higher optical detector density)
- 1 km<sup>3</sup> instrumented volume (1 Gton)



- Directional: Path of propagating Cherenkov sites (from single  $\mu$ )

# Neutrinos – IceCube, Super-K et al



Sun: mostly H  
 $\Rightarrow$  spin-dependent dominates  
 $\Rightarrow$  Competitive w/ direct det.

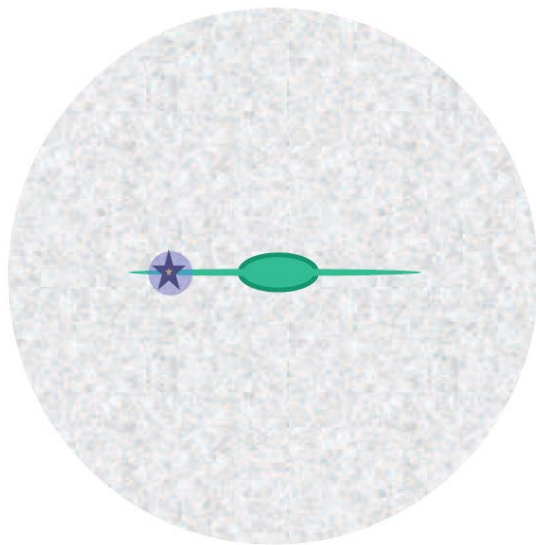
IceCube Collaboration,  
 P. Scott, Savage &  
 Edsjö, JCAP 2016

nulike: model-independent unbinned limit calculator for generic BSM models  
<https://nulike.hepforge.org>

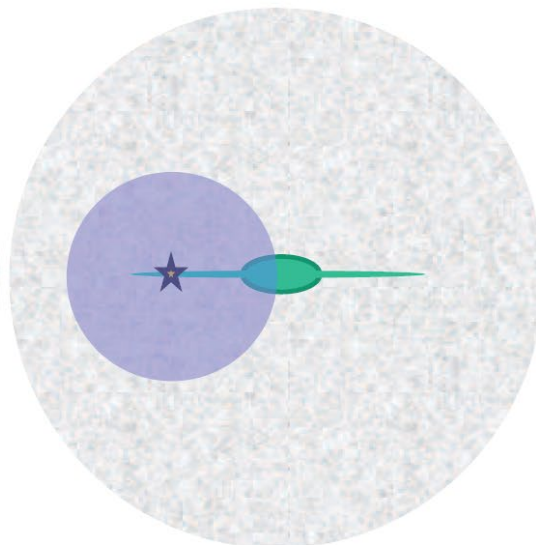


# Charged Messengers

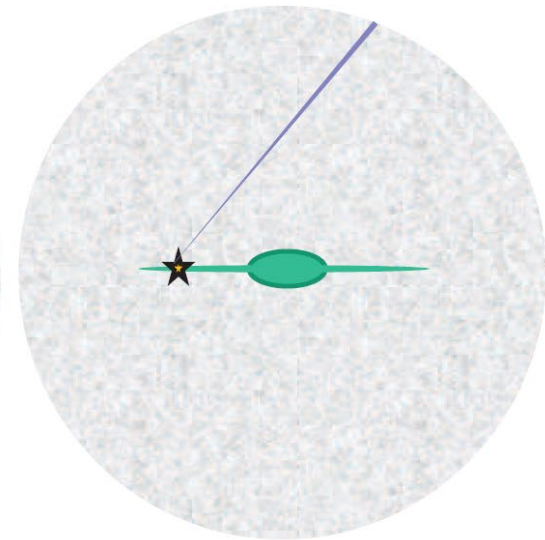
- More complex: do not follow straight path
- Probe finite volume around detector
  - Get deflected



$e^+$

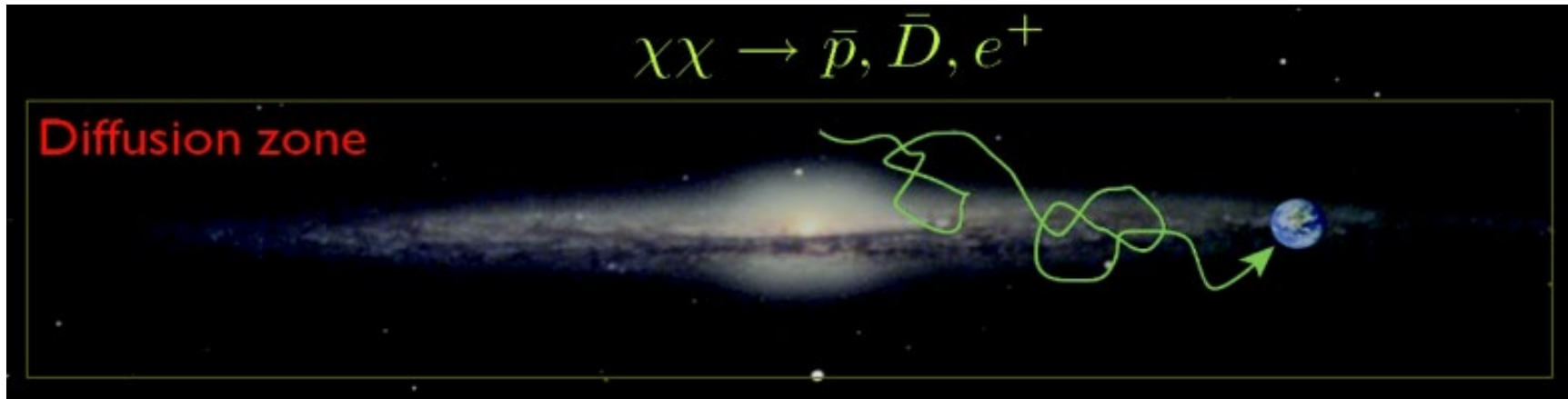


$\bar{p}$



$\gamma$

# Charged Messengers



- Solve complex diffusion eq. to find expected flux

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = & \underbrace{q}_{\text{sources}} + \underbrace{\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\hat{K}_{xx} \vec{\nabla} N - \vec{V}_c N)}_{\text{spatial diffusion \& convection}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial p} p^2 K_{pp} \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \frac{1}{p^2} N}_{\text{momentum diffusion}} \\
 & - \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left[ \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} N - \frac{p}{3} (\vec{\nabla} \vec{V}_c) N \right]}_{\text{energy losses}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\tau_s} N}_{\text{spallation}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\tau_r} N}_{\text{radioactive decay}}
 \end{aligned}$$

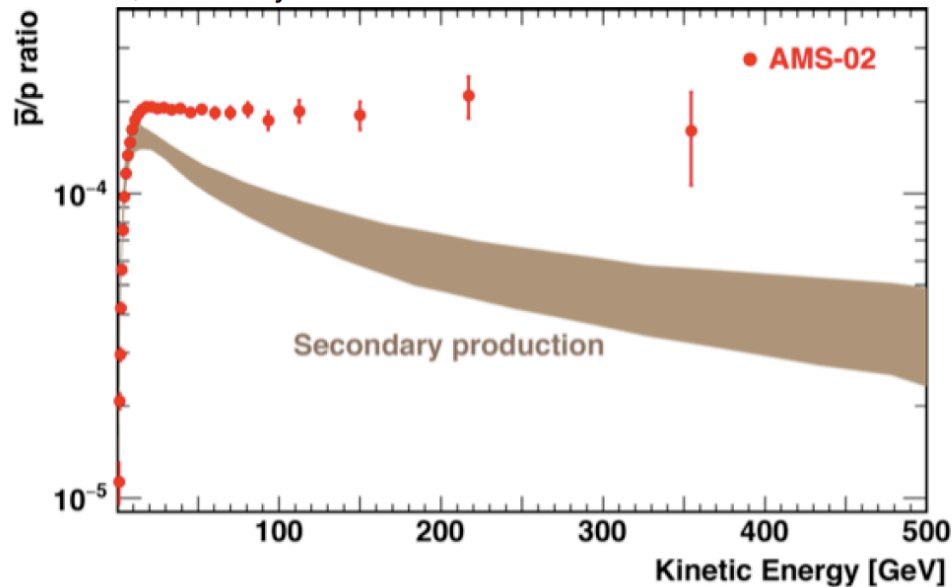
# Anti-protons – AMS-02

## Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer ( $e^+$ , $\bar{p}$ )

- On the ISS

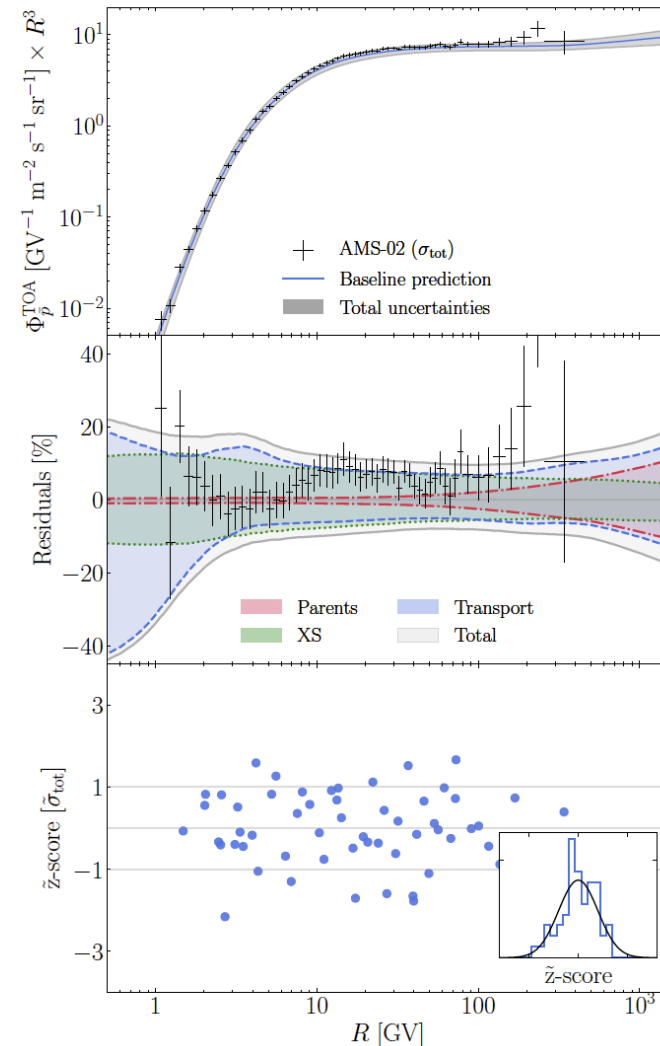
AMS-02 *claims* to have seen something DM-like in  $\bar{p}$  ...

AMS-02, AMS Days 2015



Improved fit of cosmic ray diffusion using AMS boron to carbon ratio (B/C) suggests otherwise. →

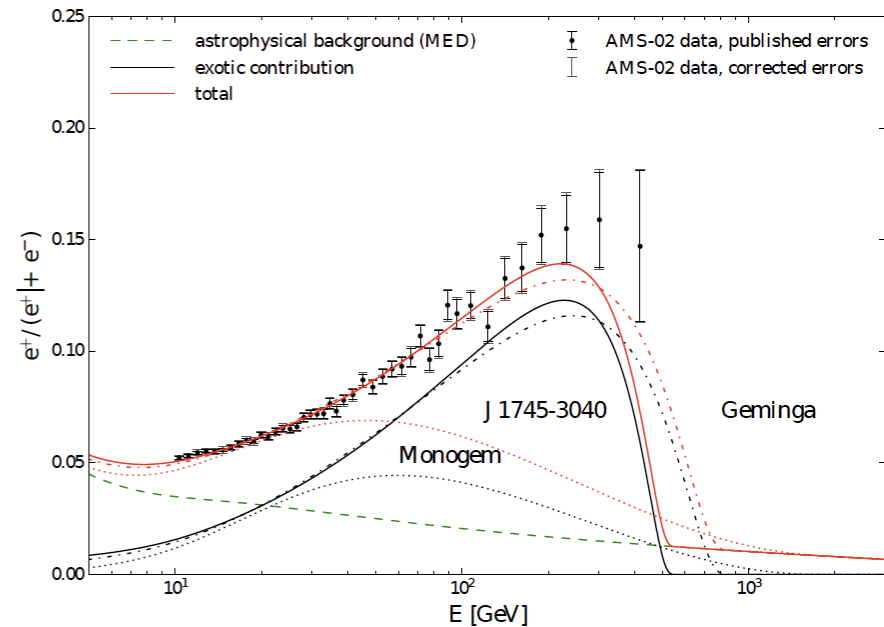
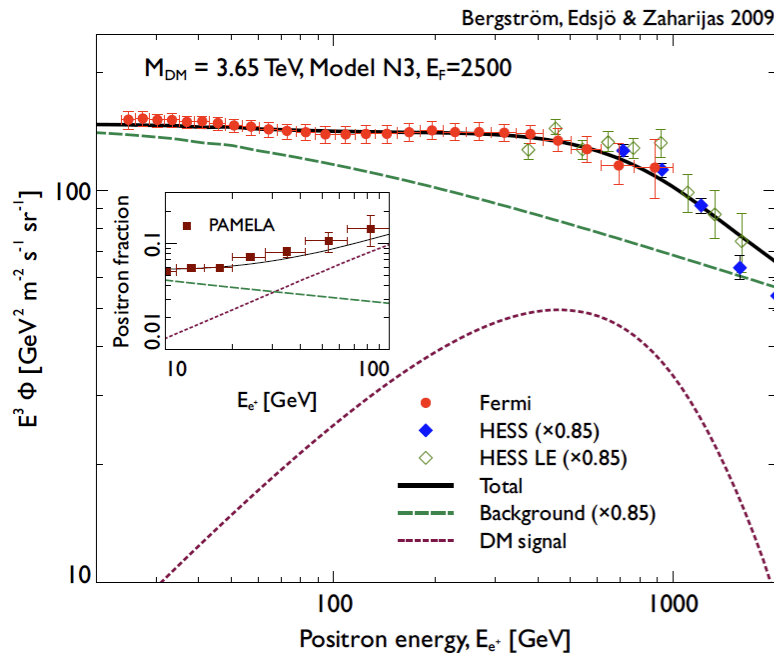
Boudaud et al, arXiv:1906.07119



# Positrons – PAMELA, AMS-02

- Excess over expected background (secondary) positron ratio observed
- First seen by PAMELA, confirmed by *Fermi* then AMS-02. Still unexplained.
- Could be evidence of dark matter, could be caused by pulsars

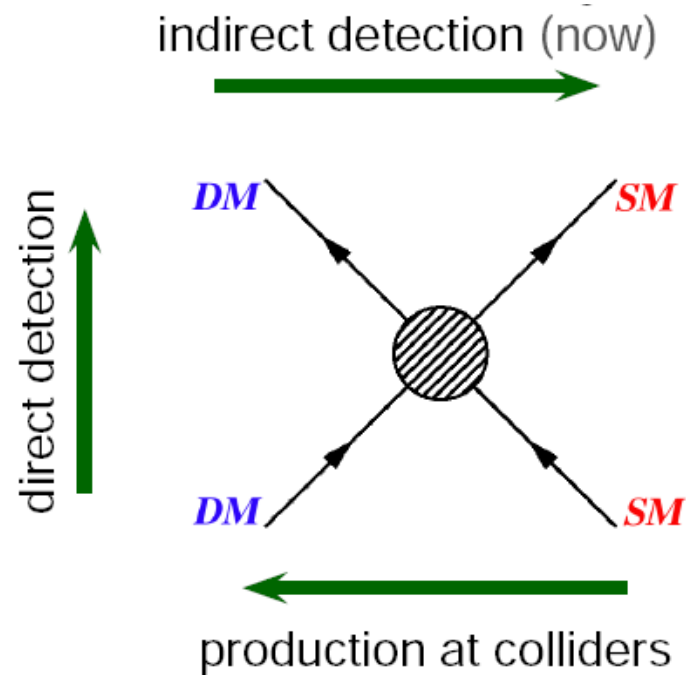
Boudaud et al *A&A* 2015



# Other probes

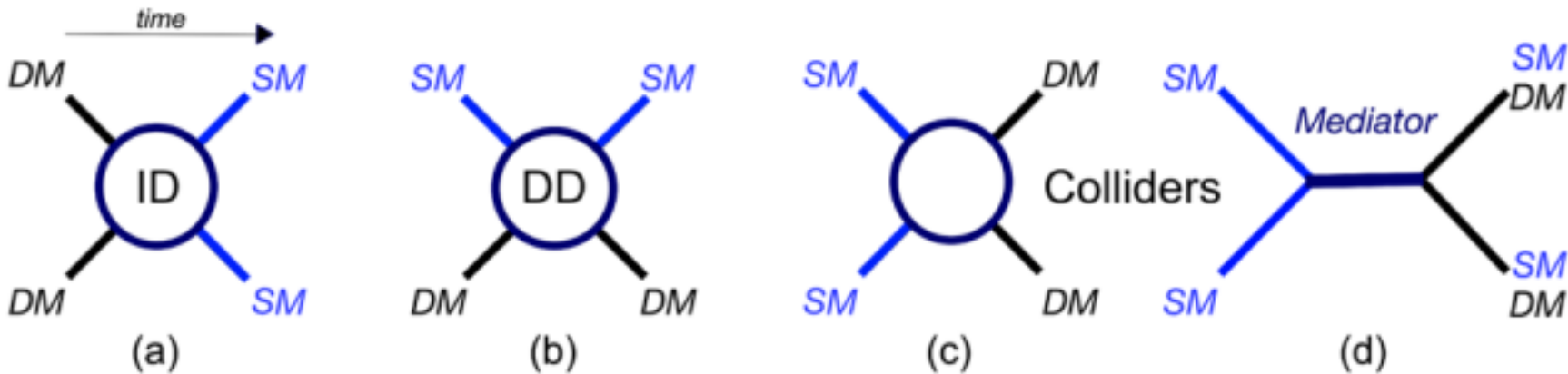
- **CMB: Impact of DM-SM energy injection**
  - Distort CMB power spectra
- **Stellar evolution: depends on models**
  - DM Collides with stars
  - DM gravitationally bound inside stars
  - Cooling, energy exchange

# Bonus: What about colliders?



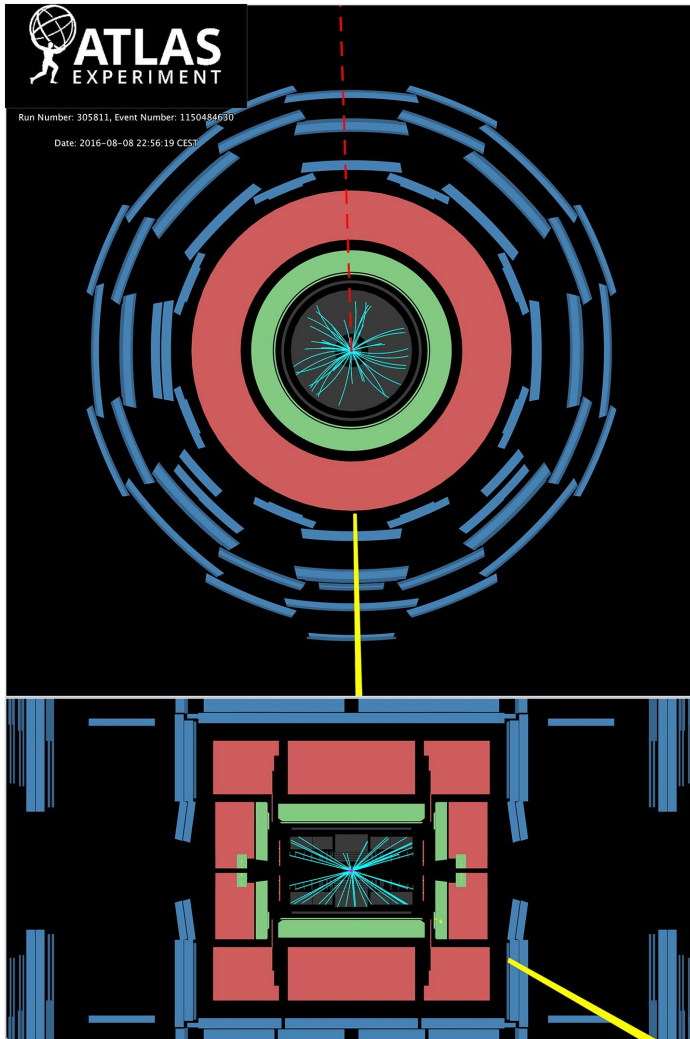
- Discussed direct + indirect detection
- Where do colliders come in?

# Bonus: Production in Colliders



- Existence of “dark interactions”
- Dark particles produced in high-energy collisions
- Final states, or intermediate

# Bonus: Production in Colliders

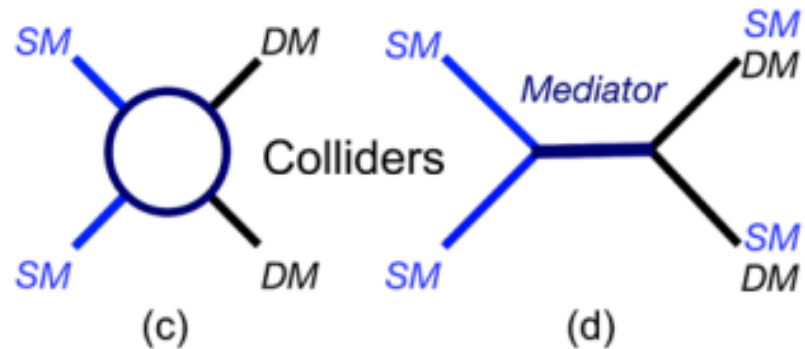
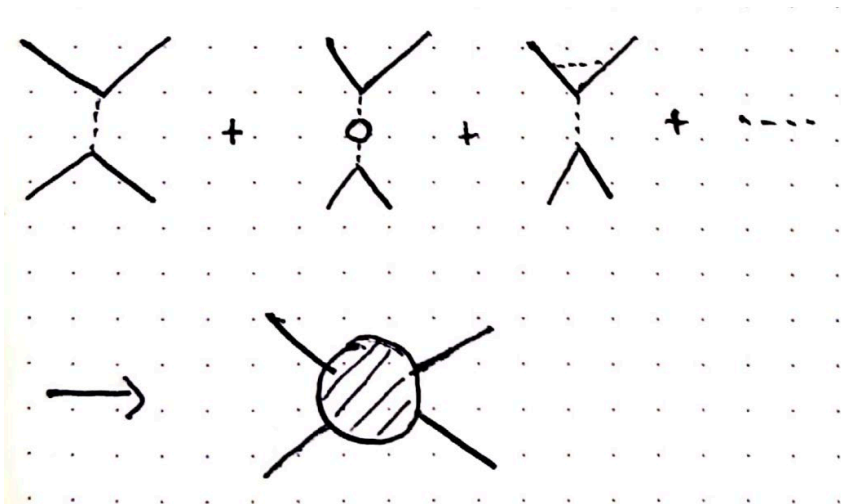


## Production:

- Dark particles produced in high-energy collisions (final states)
- Can't be directly detected: look for “missing” energy/momentum



# Bonus: Virtual Dark-Sector Particles



Also:

- Existence of “dark sector” – modify Feynman diagrams (even if not present in final state)
- Leads to deviation from Standard Model prediction
- (Not just colliders: any high-precision measurements)
- Look for resonances (mediator mass)

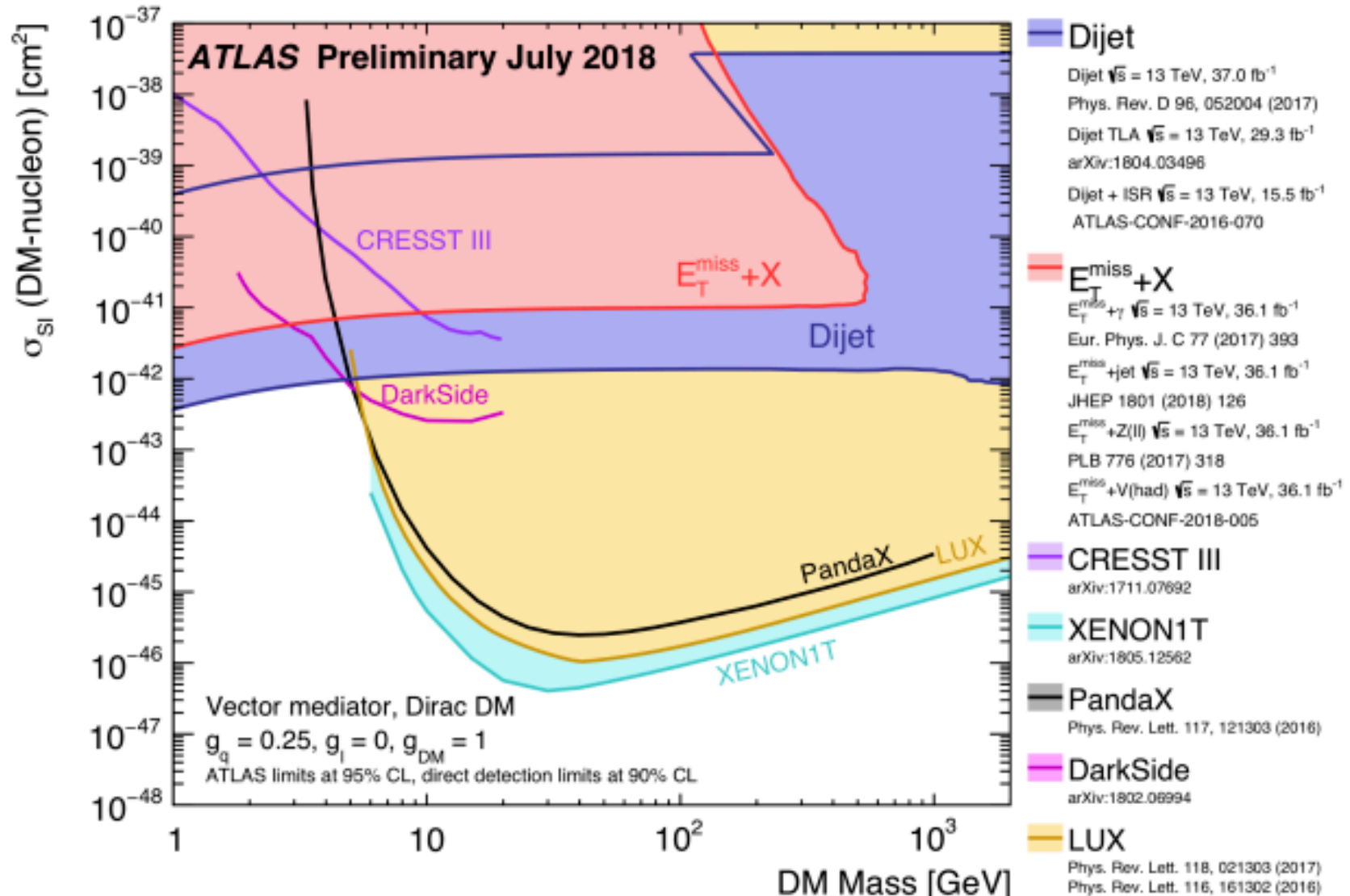
# Bonus: Collider/Precision Constraints

- Unlike other methods, do not depend at all on galactic DM density
- Not searching for galactic DM
- Positive detection: new particles, not necessarily DM
- But: can constrain properties of candidate models

If your DM model assumes:

- Coupling to SM, new force carriers, etc
- Subject to LHC (+other) constraints
- Very model-dependent
- weak couplings: only sometimes significant

# Bonus: Collider/Precision Constraints



# Summary

Indirect detection is now a mature field:  $\nu$ ,  $\gamma$ , charged cosmic rays, CMB + stars

There are anomalies:

- Positron excess persists
- Claimed anti-proton excess seems a bit of a beat up
- Galactic Centre gamma-ray excess probably exists
- Dark matter explanations looking increasingly unlikely vs pulsars

## Looking Forward:

- **Need to combine direct, indirect results**

