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# Light vector mediators at direct detection experiments

COSMOLOGY, ASTROPHYSICS, THEORY AND COLLIDER HIGGS 2024  
(CATCH22+2)

Dublin (Ireland)  
1 May 2024

# DIRECT WIMP SEARCHES

If DM is made of particles that interact among themselves and with SM particles (e.g. WIMPs) we may hope to detect it.

One strategy:

## DIRECT DETECTION

Which looks for energy deposited within a detector by the scattering of DM on the target



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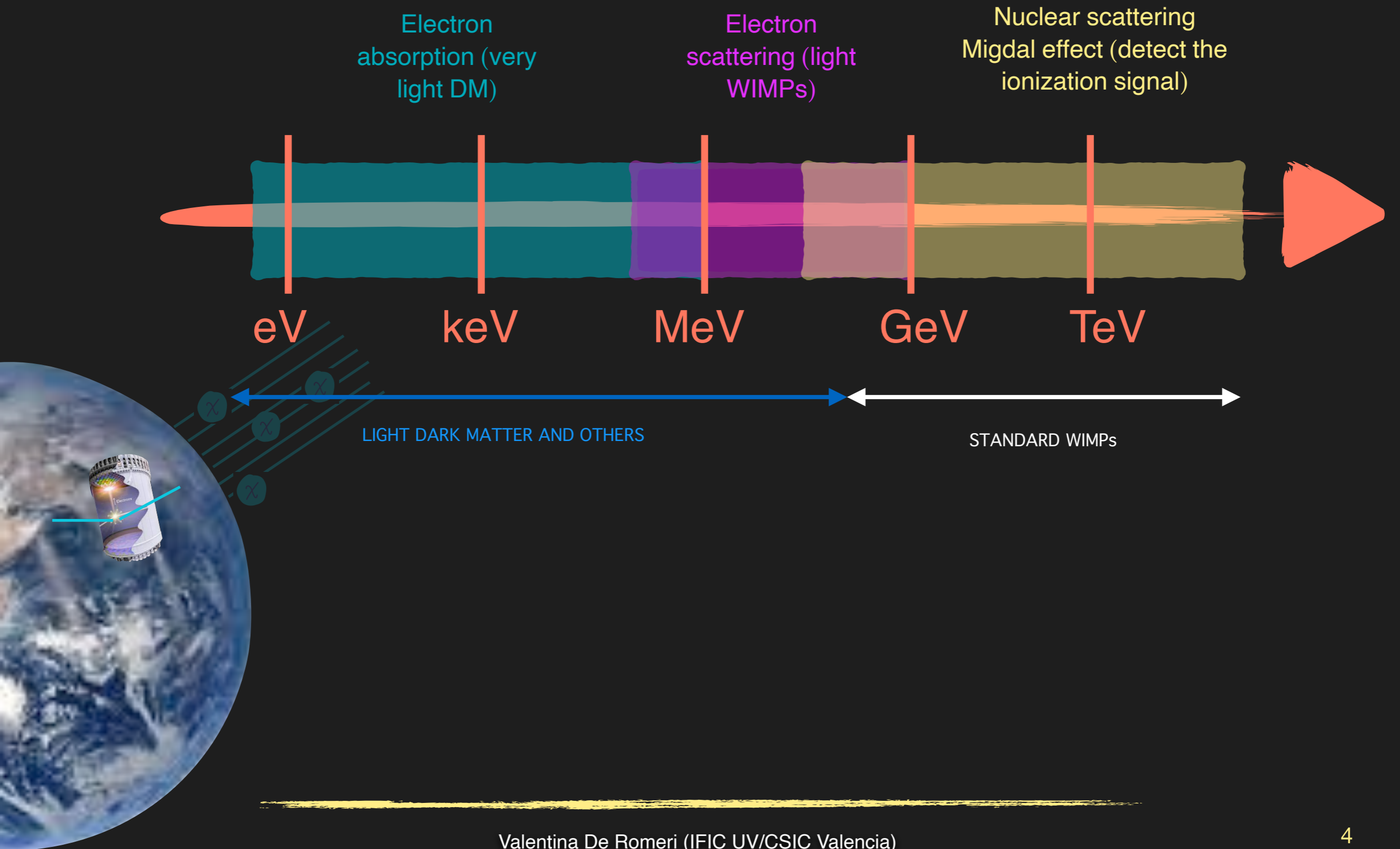
Underground detectors look for “ghostly” particles:

- **Neutral** (or millicharged)
- **Weakly-interacting**
- Cosmological or astrophysical origin
- **Long-lived** enough

**Scatterings are infrequent** (if any!). Need:

- Excellent background reduction
- Large exposure (time and volume)
- Low energy thresholds

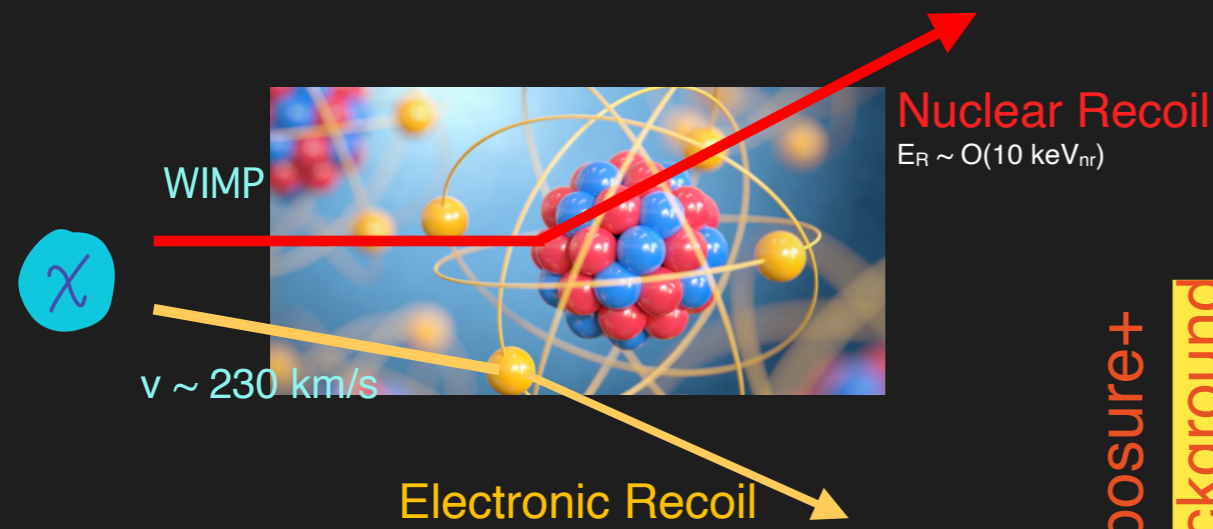
# DIRECT WIMP SEARCHES: signals



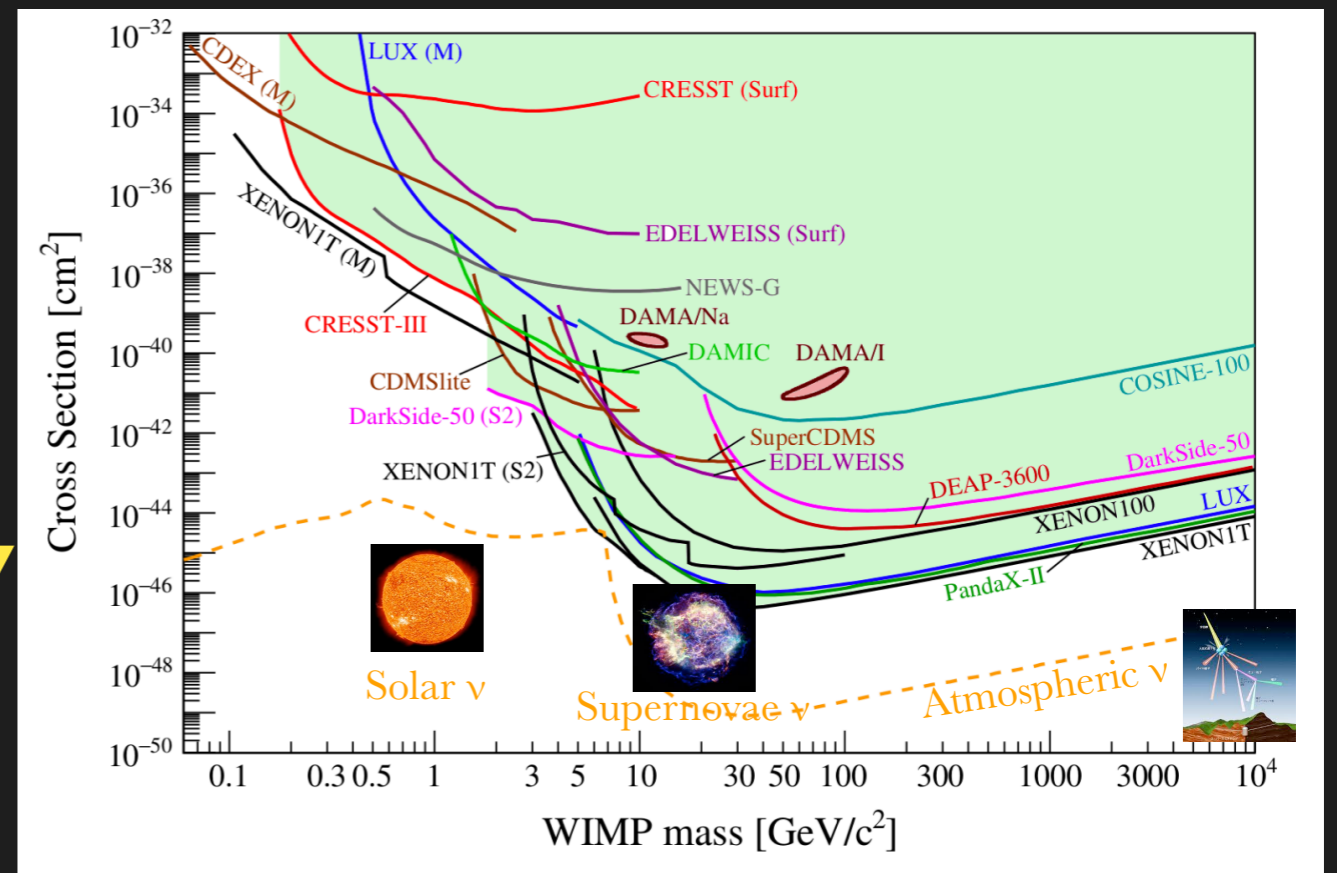
# DIRECT WIMP SEARCHES

DM-nuclei scattering:

spin-independent (strong bounds due to coherent enhancement) or spin-dependent (weaker bounds)



spin-independent WIMP-nucleon interactions



Exposure+  
Background

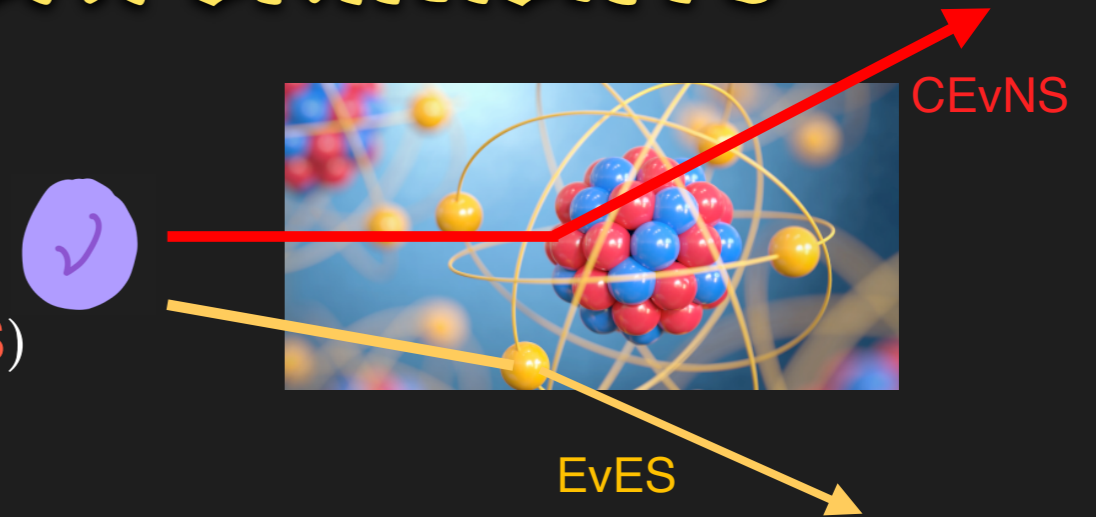
Threshold

Direct Detection of Dark Matter – APPEC Committee Report 2021

# NEUTRINOS IN DM DD EXPERIMENTS

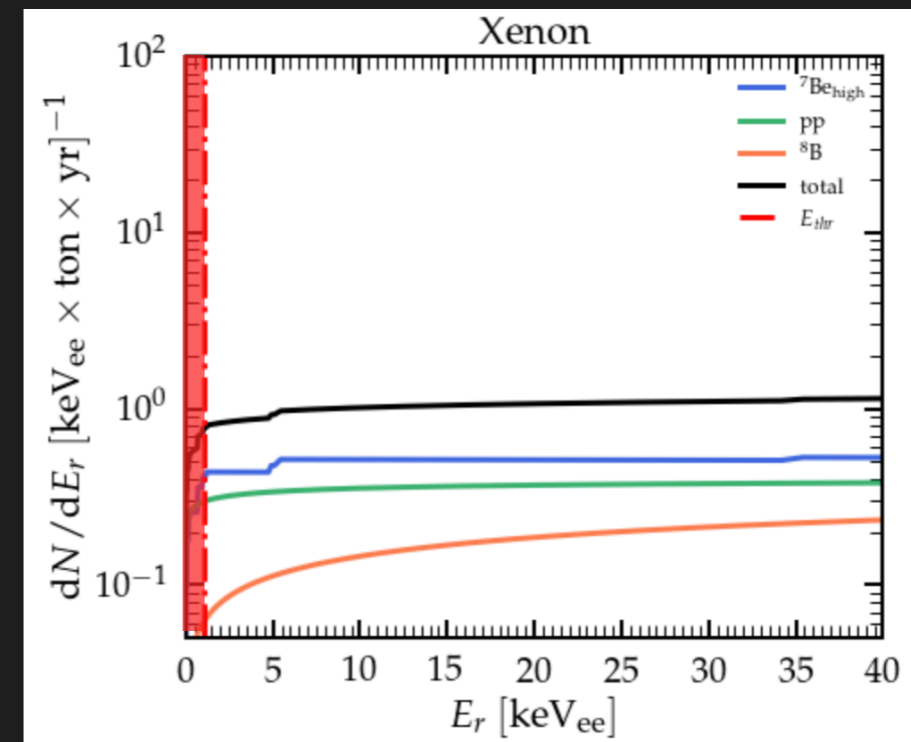
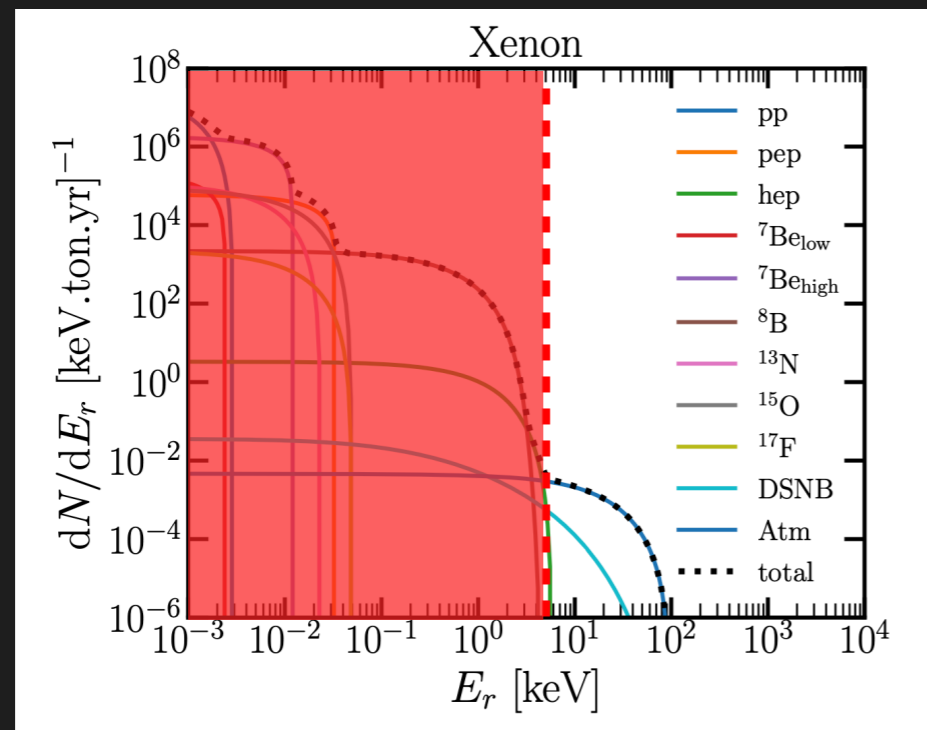
Neutrinos can induce

- ▶ elastic neutrino-electron scattering ( $E_{\nu}ES$ )
  - ▶ coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering ( $CE_{\nu}NS$ )
- events in DM DD experiments.



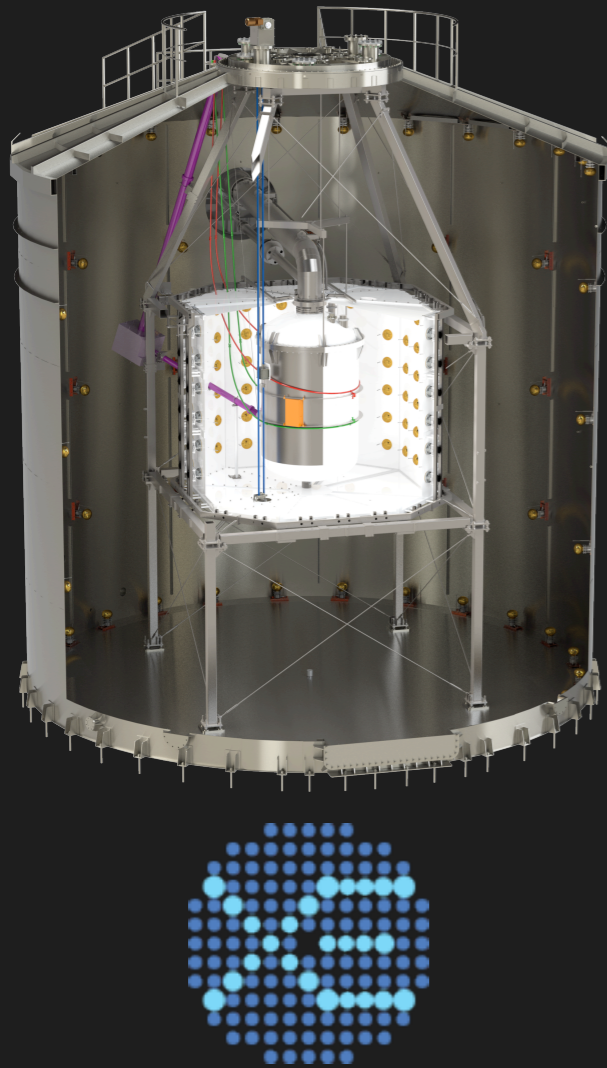
Due to threshold limitations, solar neutrinos are currently detected mainly through  $E_{\nu}ES$ .

Given the current detector technology, for  $E_{\nu}ES$  ( $CE_{\nu}NS$ ) only the pp and  ${}^7Be$  ( ${}^8B$ ) components of the total **solar neutrino flux** contribute significantly to the detectable event rates.



## DM detectors can act as neutrino detectors:

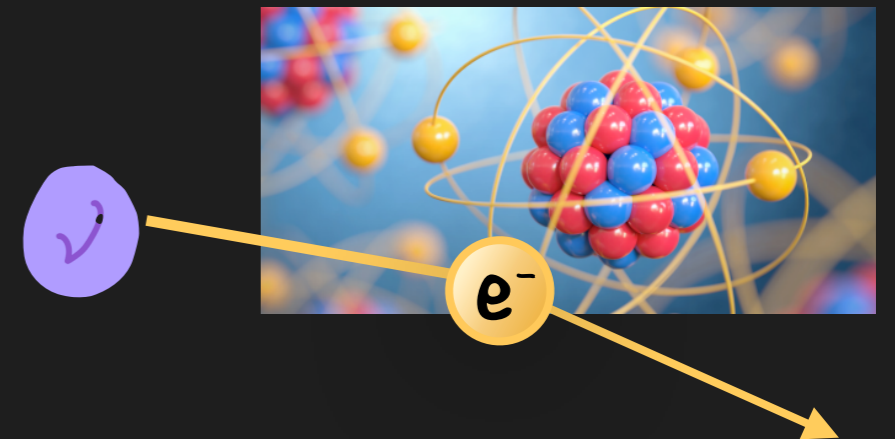
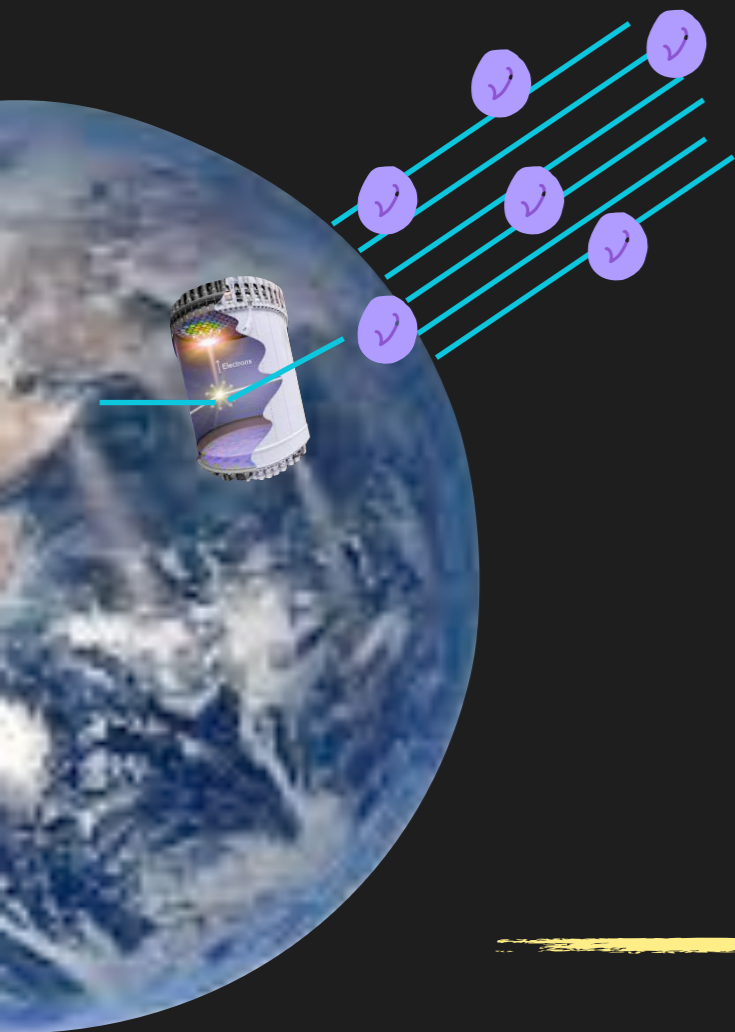
low-threshold ( $E_{\text{thr}} = 1 \text{ keV}$ ) dual-phase liquid xenon (LXe) detectors are already sensitive to non-negligible fluxes of solar neutrinos via EvES.



XENON Collaboration, E. Aprile et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161805  
LZ Collaboration, J. Aalbers et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 no. 4, (2023) 041002  
PandaX Collaboration, D. Zhang et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161804

# ELASTIC NEUTRINO-ELECTRON SCATTERING

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\alpha A}}{dT_e} \right|_{\text{SM}} = Z_{\text{eff}}^A(T_e) \frac{G_F^2 m_e}{2\pi} \left[ (g_V + g_A)^2 + (g_V - g_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T_e}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (g_V^2 - g_A^2) \frac{m_e T_e}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

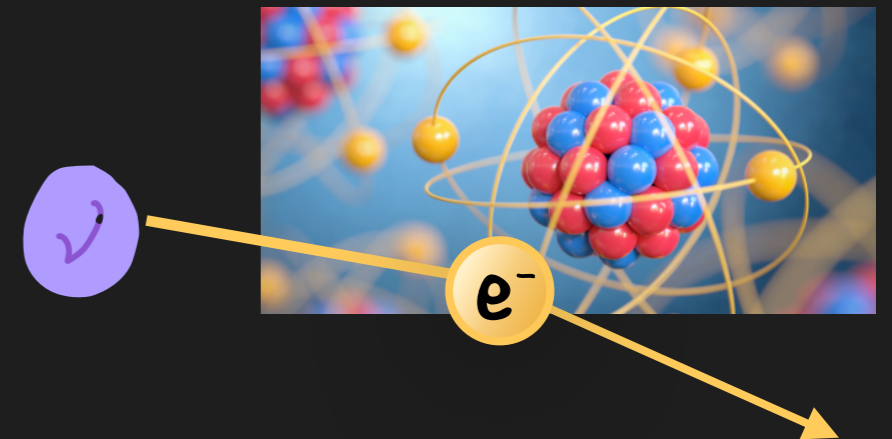
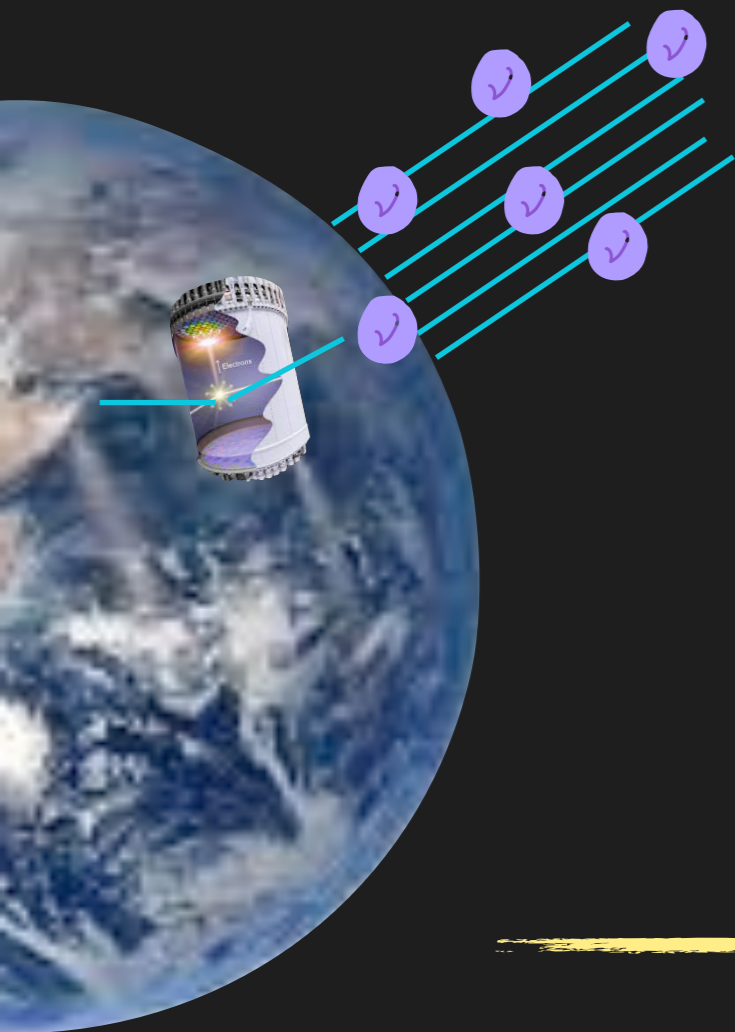




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$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\alpha A}}{dT_e} \right|^{SM} = Z_{\text{eff}}^A(T_e) \frac{G_F^2 m_e}{2\pi} \left[ (g_V + g_A)^2 + (g_V - g_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T_e}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (g_V^2 - g_A^2) \frac{m_e T_e}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

effective number of electrons that can be ionized



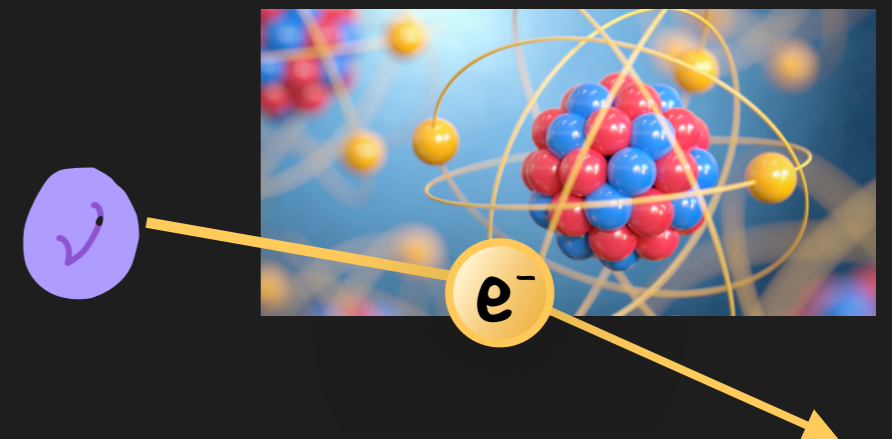
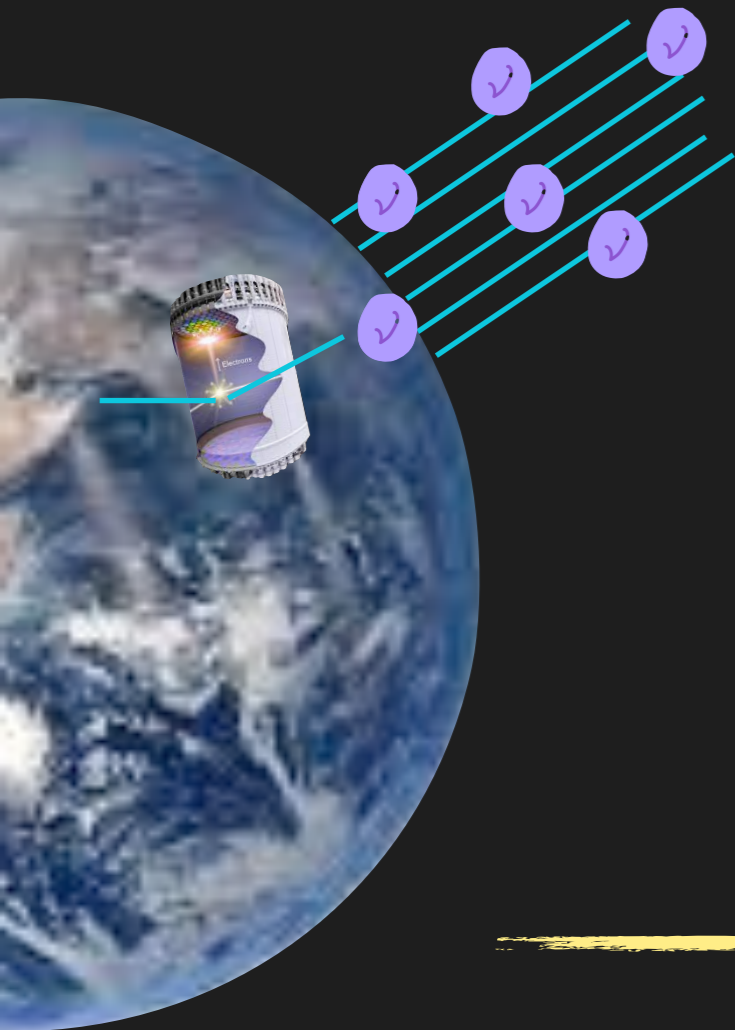
# ELASTIC NEUTRINO-ELECTRON SCATTERING

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\alpha A}}{dT_e} \Big|_{\text{SM}} = Z_{\text{eff}}^A(T_e) \frac{G_F^2 m_e}{2\pi} \left[ (g_V + g_A)^2 + (g_V - g_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T_e}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (g_V^2 - g_A^2) \frac{m_e T_e}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

$$g_V = 2 \sin^2 \theta_W - 1/2 + \delta_{\alpha e}$$

$$g_A = -1/2 + \delta_{\alpha e}$$

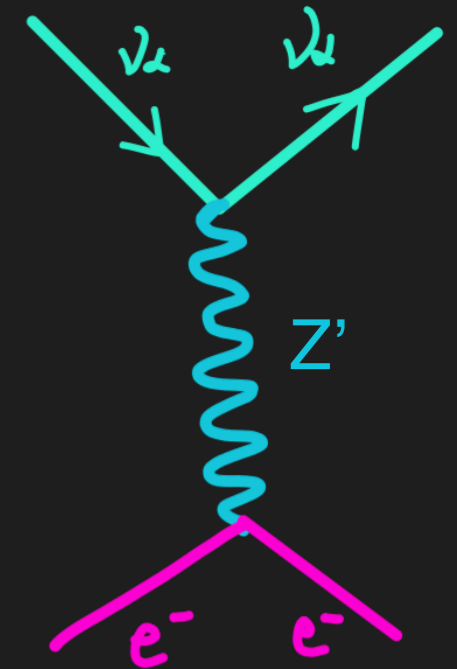
For electron neutrinos both neutral and charged currents are relevant; for muon and tau flavors, only neutral current.



# ELASTIC NEUTRINO-ELECTRON SCATTERING

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\alpha A}}{dT_e} \right|^{SM} = Z_{\text{eff}}^A(T_e) \frac{G_F^2 m_e}{2\pi} \left[ (g_V + g_A)^2 + (g_V - g_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T_e}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (g_V^2 - g_A^2) \frac{m_e T_e}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

$$g_V \rightarrow g_V^{\text{SM}} + \frac{(g_{Z'})^2 Q_{Z'}^e Q_{Z'}^{\nu_\alpha}}{\sqrt{2} G_F (2m_e T_e + m_{Z'}^2)}$$



$$\mathcal{L}_{Z'} = g_{Z'} Z'_\mu \left( Q_{Z'}^f \bar{f} \gamma^\mu f + \sum_\alpha Q_{Z'}^{\nu_\alpha} \bar{\nu}_{\alpha,L} \gamma^\mu \nu_{\alpha,L} \right) + \frac{1}{2} m_{Z'}^2 Z'^\mu Z'_\mu$$

# LIGHT VECTOR MEDIATORS

Universal  $Z'$  model in which all the standard fermions have the same charge: not anomaly-free. It can be extended with new non-standard particles to make it anomaly-free.

We consider  $U(1)'$  models that are anomaly-free.

In some cases the SM is extended with the introduction of three right-handed neutrinos  
 → Possible explanation for neutrino masses and mixings

There is an infinite set of anomaly-free  $U(1)'$  gauge groups generated by

$$c_1 B_1 + c_2 B_2 + c_3 B_3 - c_e L_e - c_\mu L_\mu - c_\tau L_\tau$$

| Model                    | $Q_{Z'}^u$ | $Q_{Z'}^d$ | $Q_{Z'}^{e/\nu_e}$ | $Q_{Z'}^{\mu/\nu_\mu}$ | $Q_{Z'}^{\tau/\nu_\tau}$ |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| $B - L$                  | 1/3        | 1/3        | -1                 | -1                     | -1                       |
| $B - 3L_e$               | 1/3        | 1/3        | -3                 | 0                      | 0                        |
| $B - 3L_\mu$             | 1/3        | 1/3        | 0                  | -3                     | 0                        |
| $B - 3L_\tau$            | 1/3        | 1/3        | 0                  | 0                      | -3                       |
| $B - 2L_e - L_\mu$       | 1/3        | 1/3        | -2                 | -1                     | 0                        |
| $B - 2L_e - L_\tau$      | 1/3        | 1/3        | -2                 | 0                      | -1                       |
| $L_e - L_\mu$            | 0          | 0          | 1                  | -1                     | 0                        |
| $L_e - L_\tau$           | 0          | 0          | 1                  | 0                      | -1                       |
| $L_\mu - L_\tau$         | 0          | 0          | 0                  | 1                      | -1                       |
| $L_e + 2L_\mu + 2L_\tau$ | 0          | 0          | 1                  | 2                      | 2                        |

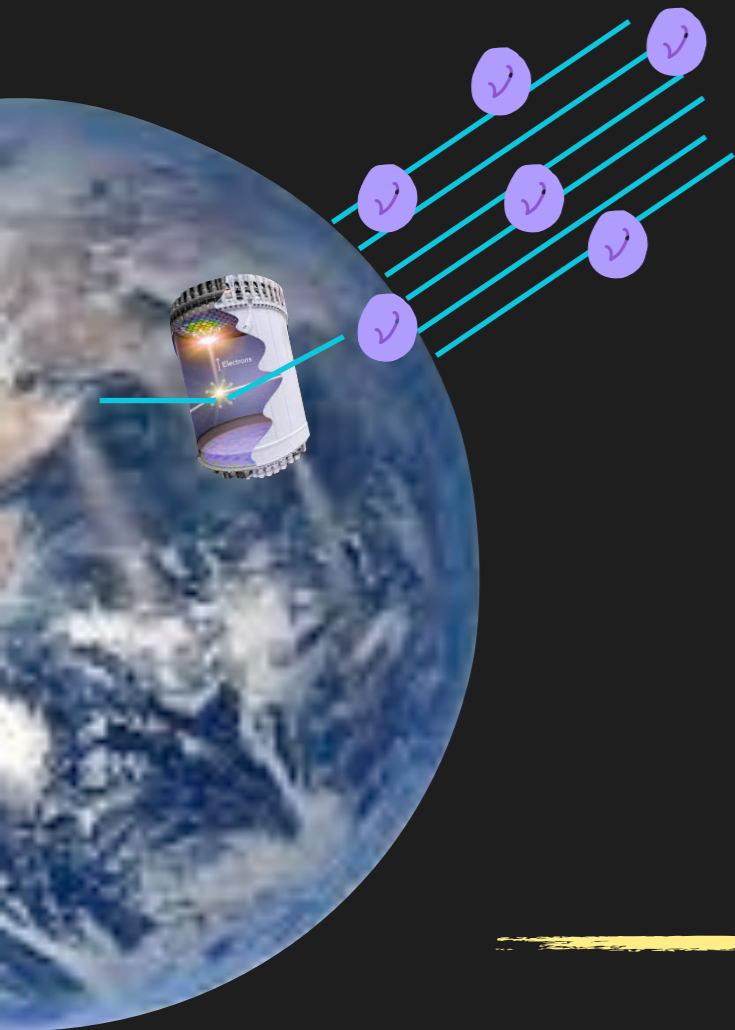
See e.g.  
 Paul Langacker Rev. Mod. Phys. 81, 1199–1228 (2009)  
 de la Vega+ JHEP 09 (2021) 146  
 Atzori Corona+ JHEP 05 (2022) 109  
 T. Han+ JHEP 11 (2019) 028  
 Coloma+ JHEP 01 (2021) 114

...

# ELASTIC NEUTRINO-ELECTRON SCATTERING: LEPTOPHILIC MODEL $L_\mu-L_\tau$

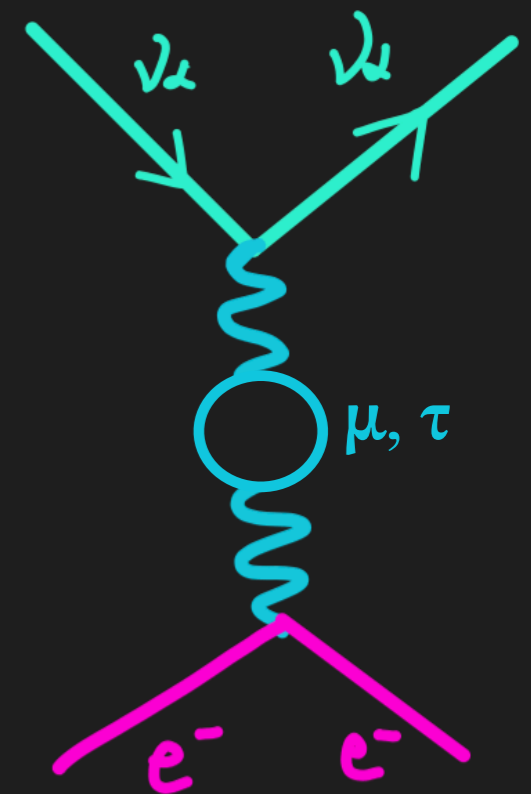
$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{\nu_\alpha A}}{dT_e} \right|^{SM} = Z_{\text{eff}}^A(T_e) \frac{G_F^2 m_e}{2\pi} \left[ (g_V + g_A)^2 + (g_V - g_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T_e}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (g_V^2 - g_A^2) \frac{m_e T_e}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

There is no direct coupling to electrons  
So the new contribution arises at the one-loop level:



$$g_V \rightarrow g_V^{SM} - \frac{\sqrt{2}\alpha_{\text{em}}g_{Z'}^2(\delta_{\alpha\mu} - \delta_{\alpha\tau})}{\pi G_F(2m_e T_e + m_V^2)} \epsilon_{\tau\mu}(|\vec{q}|)$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{6} \ln \left( \frac{m_\tau^2}{m_\mu^2} \right)$$



# DATA ANALYSIS: XENONnT, LZ & PANDAX

$$R_k^{E\nu ES} = \mathcal{N} \int_{T_e^k}^{T_e^{k+1}} dT_e \underbrace{A(T_e)}_{\text{Efficiency}} \int_0^{T_e'^{\max}} \underbrace{R(T_e, T_e')}_{\substack{\text{Reconstructed E} \\ \text{True E}}} \sum_{i=pp, {}^7\text{Be}} \int_{E_\nu^{\min}}^{E_{\nu,i}^{\max}} dE_\nu \sum_{\alpha} \underbrace{\Phi_{\nu\alpha}^i(E_\nu)}_{\text{EvES xsec}} \underbrace{\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\alpha} A}{dT_e'}}_{\text{EvES xsec}}$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{N} = \varepsilon N_T$  is a normalization constant that takes into account the exposure  
 $\varepsilon = \{1.16, 0.90, 0.63\}$  ton  $\times$  year for XENONnT, LZ and PandaX-4T
- ▶ **Main contributions** from pp and  ${}^7\text{Be}$  neutrinos. Produced as electron neutrinos, they oscillate into other flavors
- ▶ LZ and PandaX-4T: Poissonian least-squares function; XENONnT:  $\chi^2$  analysis

Total number of events include backgrounds

$$R_k^X = R_k^{E\nu ES} + \sum_i R_k^i$$

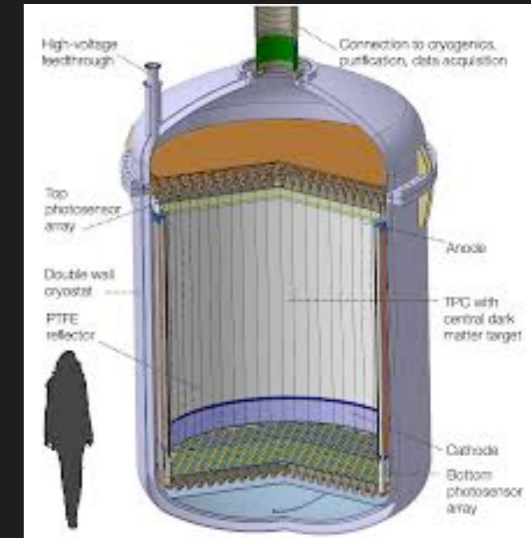
DATA:

XENON Collaboration, E. Aprile et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161805  
 LZ Collaboration, J. Aalbers et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 no. 4, (2023) 041002  
 PandaX Collaboration, D. Zhang et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161804

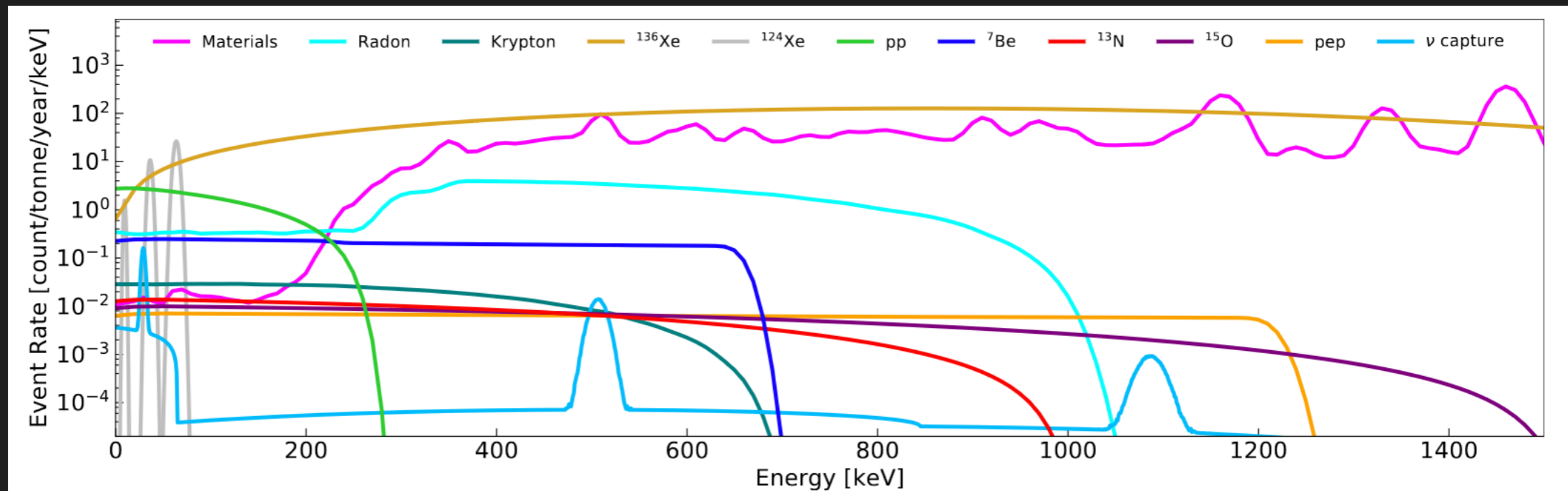
EFFICIENCIES:

XENON Collaboration, E. Aprile et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161805  
 LZ Collaboration, J. Aalbers et al., arXiv:2307.15753  
 PandaX Collaboration, D. Zhang et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161804

# SENSITIVITY AT DARWIN

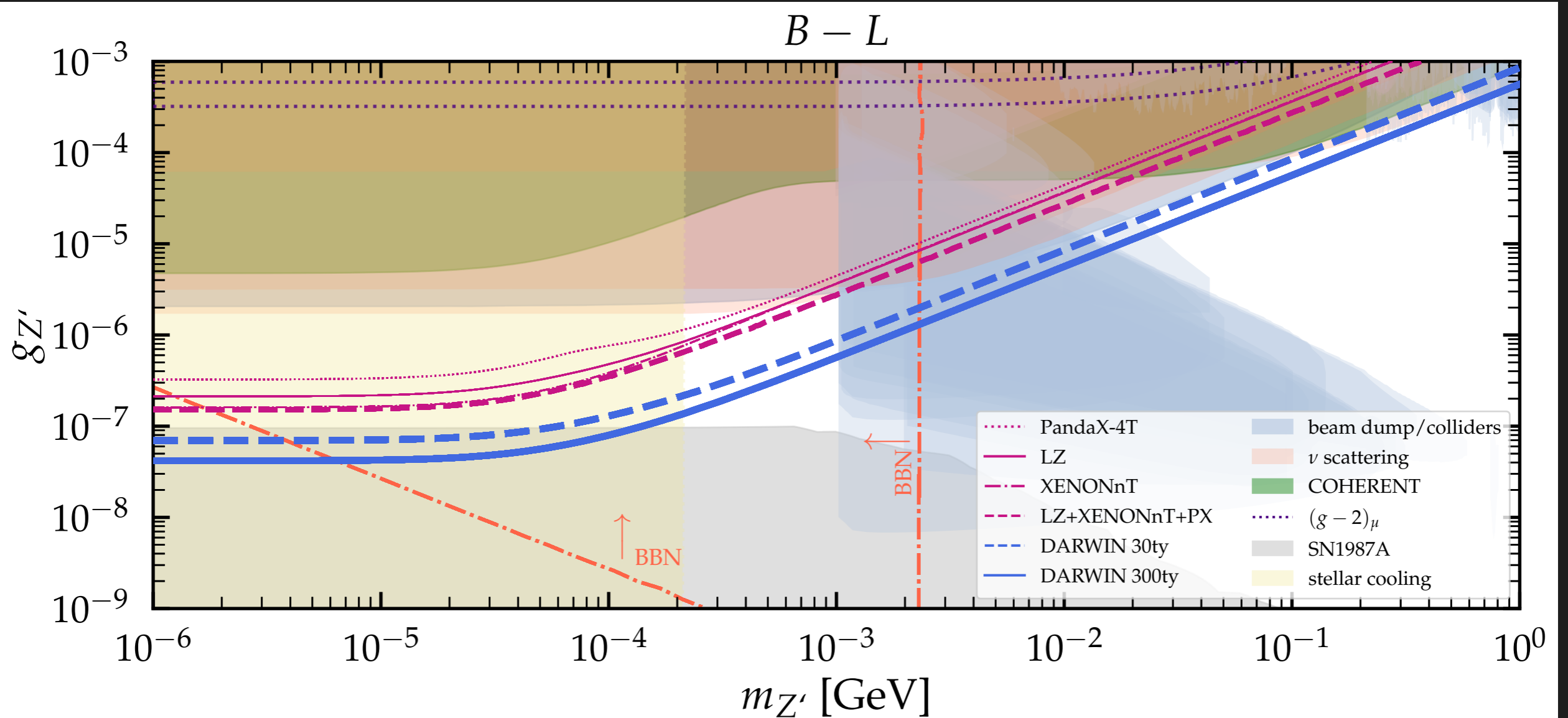


- ▶ Same analysis as for current experiments
- ▶ We also include the contributions from solar N, O and pep neutrinos
- ▶ We use the **same resolution function and detector efficiency** as for XENONnT
- ▶ We consider exposures of **30 ton × years** and **300 ton × years**.



DARWIN Collaboration, Eur. Phys. J. C 80 no. 12, (2020) 1133

# B-L MODEL

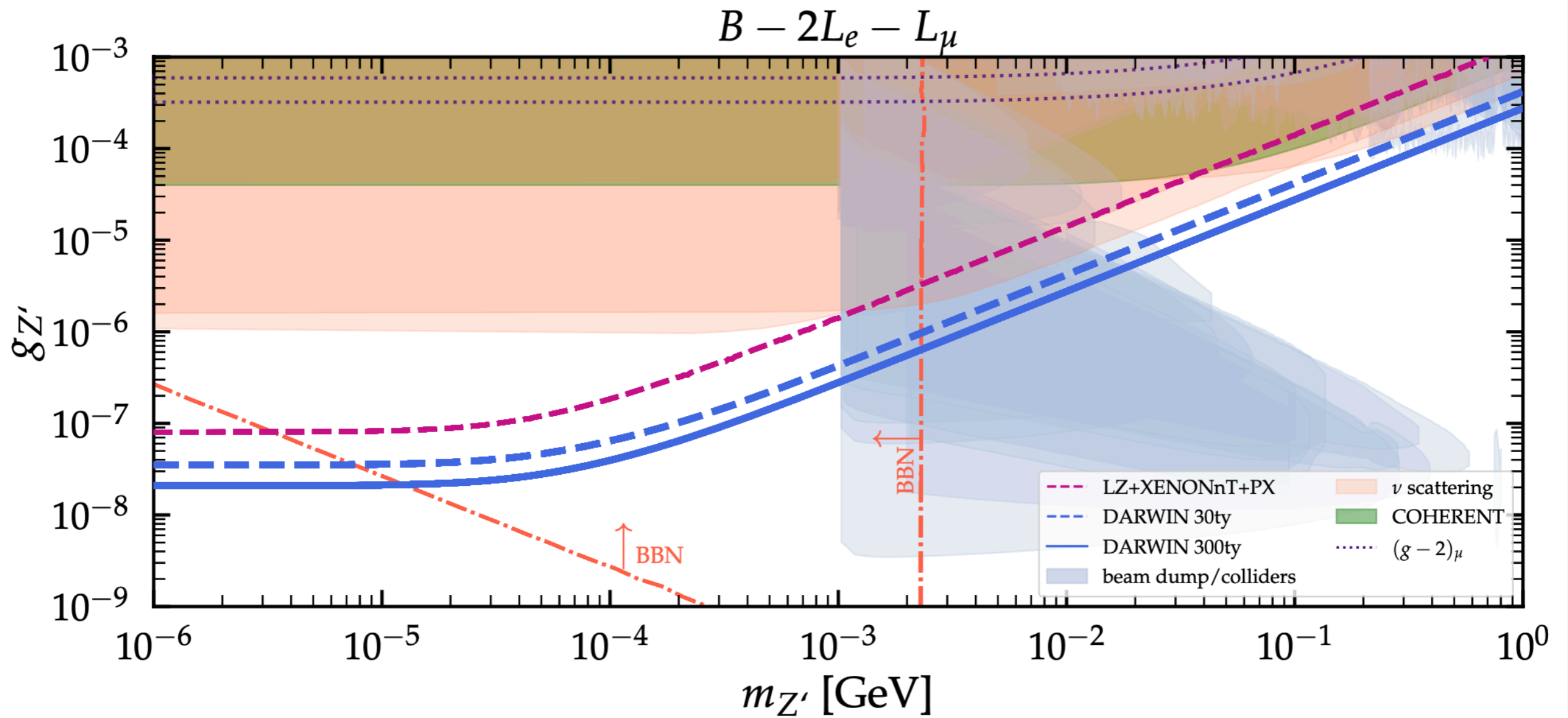


VDR, Papoulias, Ternes 2402.05506

DarkCast: Ilten+ JHEP 06 (2018) 004  
 COHERENT: M. Atzori Corona+ JHEP 05 (2022) 109, P. Melas+ JHEP 07 (2023) 190  
 NA64 Collaboration Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 no. 16, (2022) 161801  
 BBN: G.-y. Huang+ Phys. Rev. D 97 no. 7, (2018) 075009  
 Li & Xu JCAP 09 (2023) 009  
 SN: J. H. Chang+ JHEP 01 (2017) 107

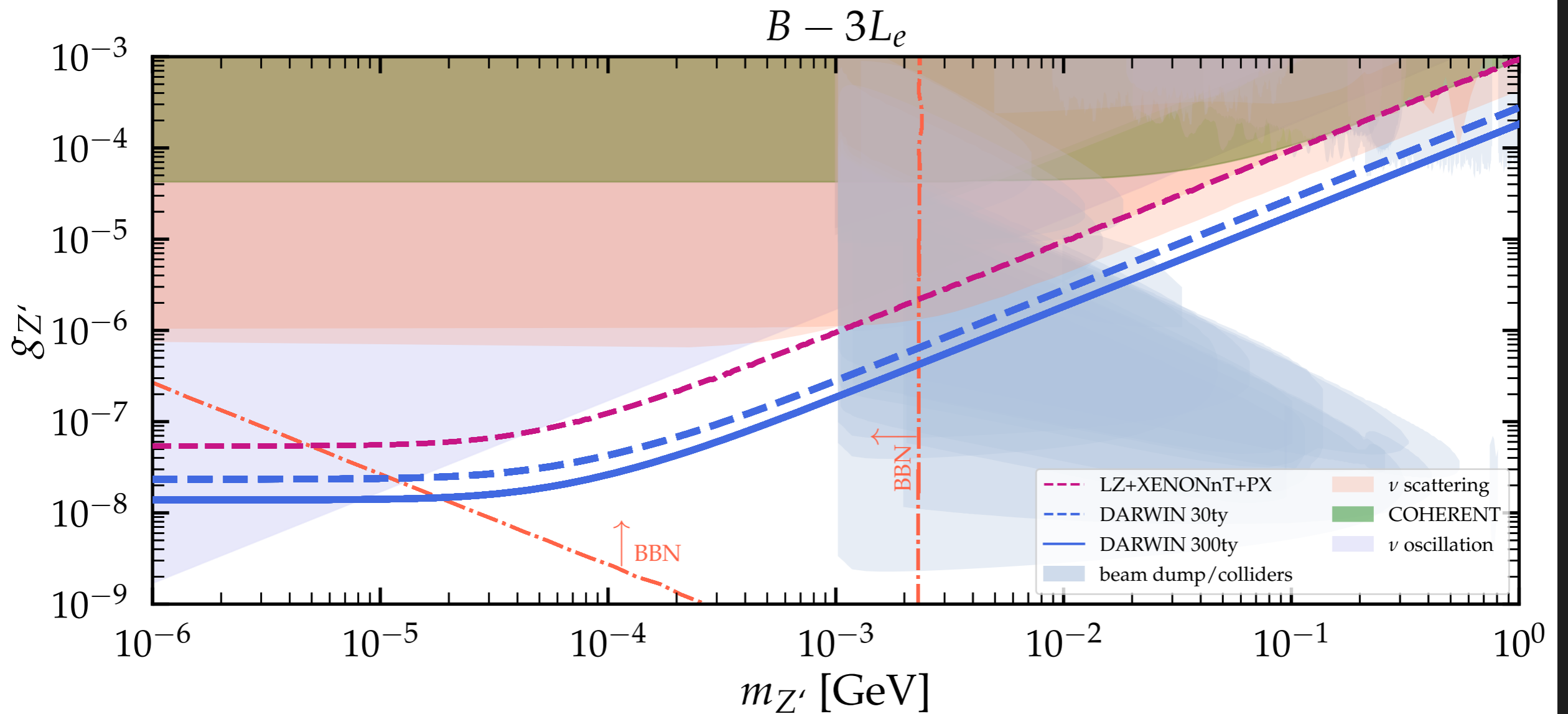


# $B - 2L_e - L_\mu$ MODEL



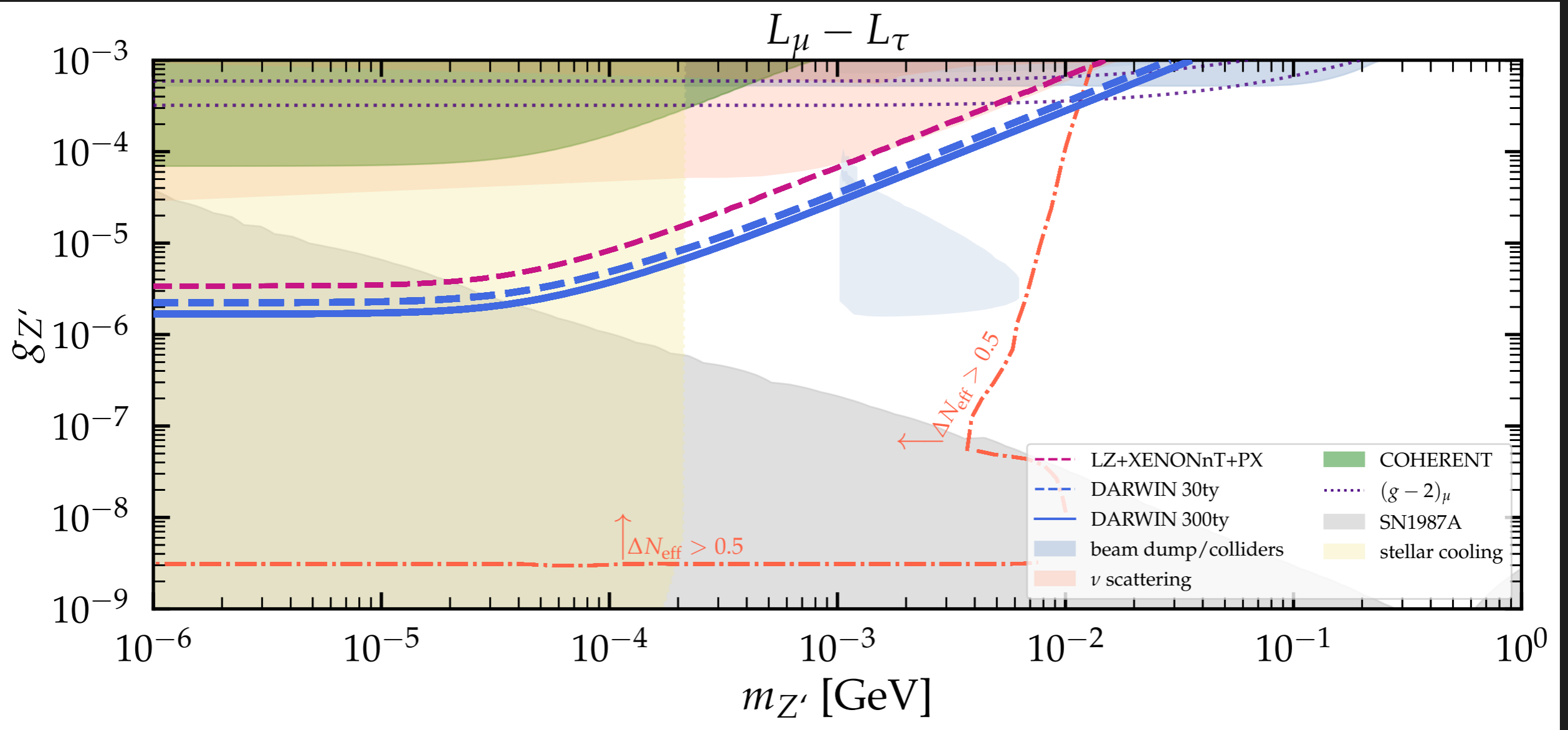
VDR, Papoulias, Ternes 2402.05506

# B - 3Le MODEL



VDR, Papoulias, Ternes 2402.05506

# $L_\mu - L_\tau$ MODEL



VDR, Papoulias, Ternes 2402.05506

$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$ : M. Escudero+ JHEP 03 (2019) 071  
 COH: Melas+ JHEP 07 (2023) 190  
 NA64: Andreev+ arXiv:2401.01708 [hep-ex]  
 Oscillations: Coloma et al., JHEP 01 (2021) 114  
 SN: Croon et al. JHEP 01 (2021) 107

# SUMMARY

- ▶ The **large exposures** achieved at recent DM DD experiments, combined with the very **low threshold** operation capabilities of recent and future detectors, mark a turning point in **solar neutrino detection**.
- ▶ We have performed a thorough analysis of compelling, **anomaly-free U(1)' models**, by analyzing current (**XENONnT, LZ and PandaX-4T**) and future (**DARWIN**) DM DD experiments via the  $E_{\nu ES}$  channel.
- ▶ We have obtained **stringent constraints** on the relevant parameter space of the new vector mediator from a combined analysis of ongoing experiments.
- ▶ Future DM DD experiments like DARWIN —given their large size— will offer further improvements.

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- ▶ We have obtained stringent constraints on the relevant parameter space of the new vector mediator from a combined analysis of existing experiments.
- ▶ Future DM DD experiments like DARWIN — given their large size — will offer further improvements.

THANK  
YOU!