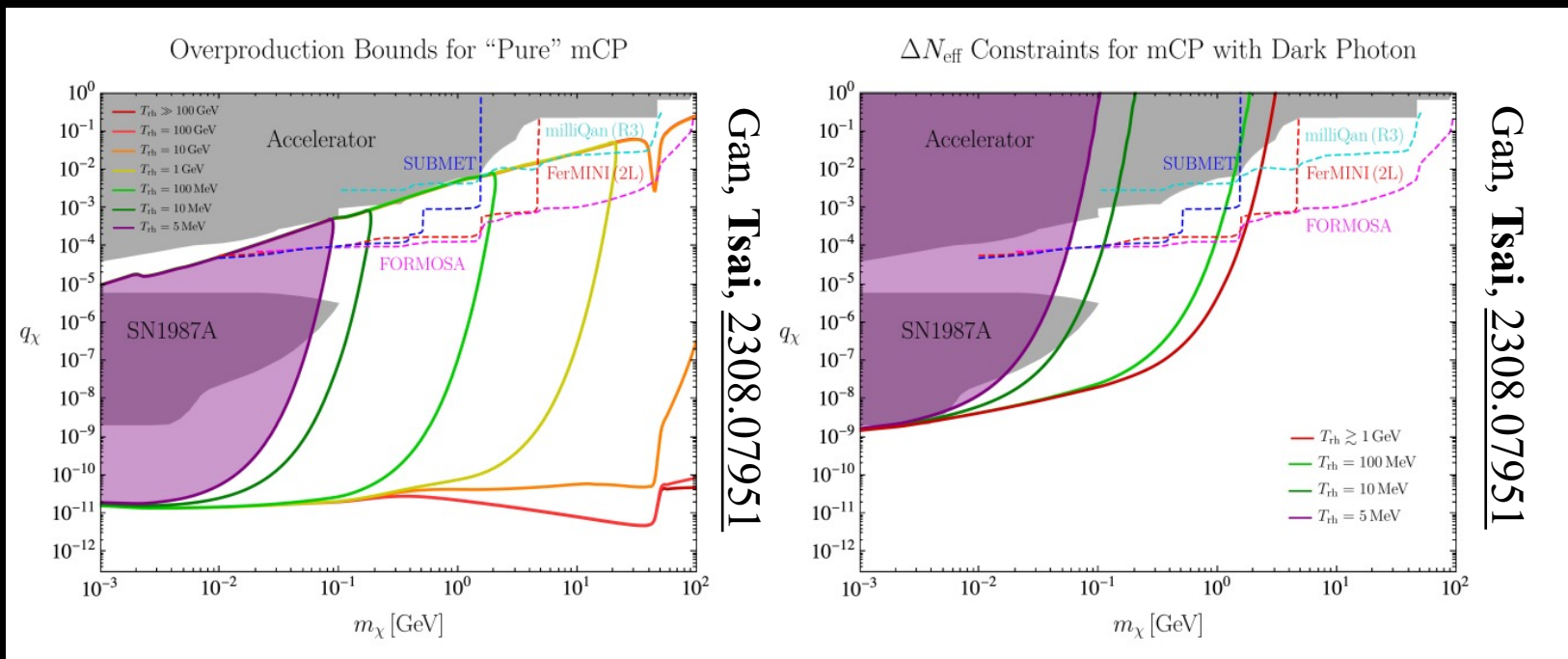


# Cosmic Millicharged Background: Testing Reheating Cosmology at FPF



Yu-Dai Tsai

w/ Xucheng Gan, NYU

University of California, Irvine ([yudait1@uci.edu](mailto:yudait1@uci.edu))

→ Director's Fellow at LANL (2024)

# Two Kinds of mCPs

## “Pure” mCP

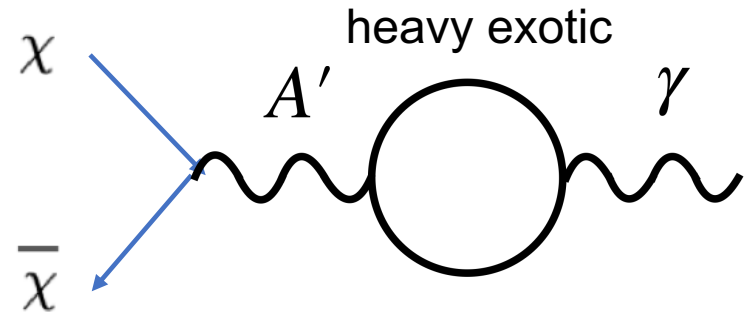
- Theoretical implication of mCP with a **small (irrational) charge without a dark photon**
- Implications on **GUTs models**
- Implications on **(string compactifications)**  
Shiu, Soler, Ye, *PRL* (2013)



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MCP}} = i\bar{\chi}(\not{\partial} - i\epsilon' e \not{B} + M_{\text{MCP}})\chi$$

## Kinetic-mixing mCP

- Compatible with GUTS.



Choose a proper basis:  
**massless dark photon  $A'$**   
**decouple from SM**



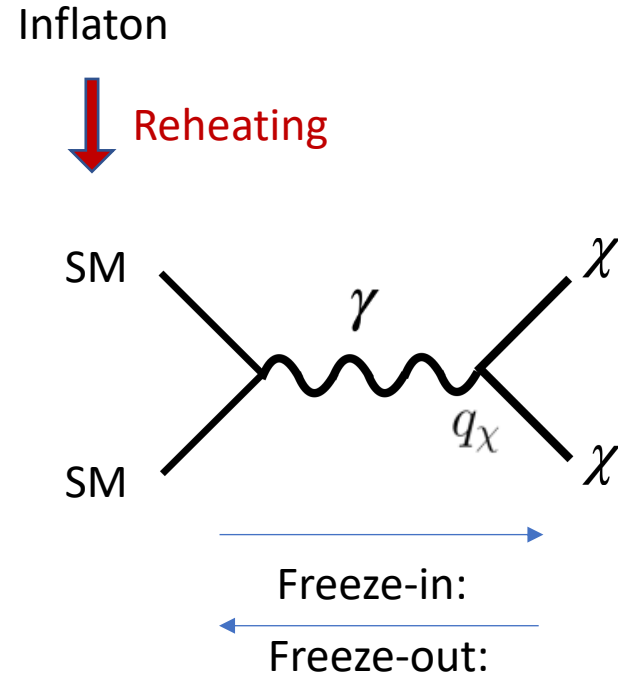
# “Pure” Cosmic Millicharge Background (CmB)

## “Pure” mCP

- Implications of mCP with a small (irrational) charge & no dark photon
  - Indirect test of GUTs models
  - Indirect test of string compactifications
- Gan, Shiu, Tsai, in progress**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MCP}} = i\bar{\chi}(\not{\partial} - i\epsilon'e\mathcal{B} + M_{\text{MCP}})\chi$$

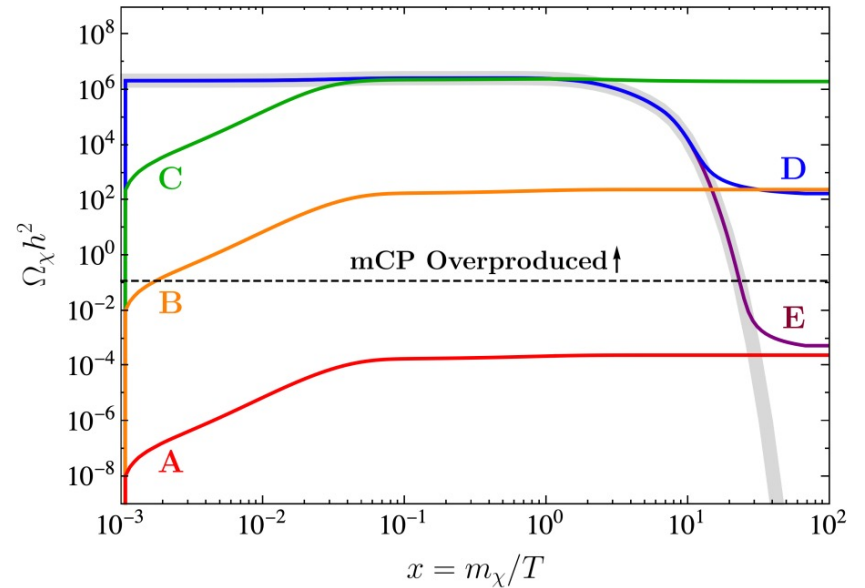
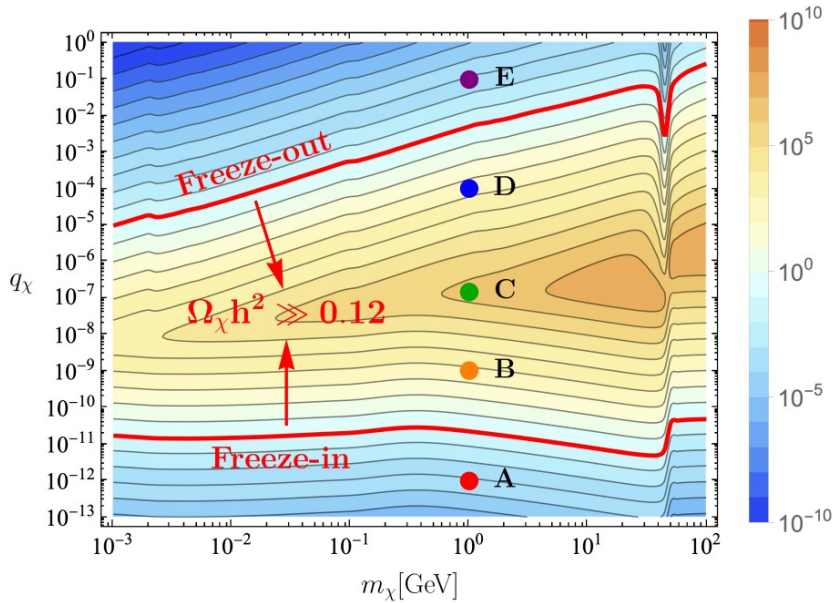
## Irreducible Production during Reheating



The discussions of  $T_{rh}$  and other relevant temperatures can be found in, e.g., Giudice+, *PRD* 2021, Co+, *JCAP* 2020

# “Pure” CMB Cosmology: Freeze-in and Freeze-out

$$\Omega_\chi h^2 : T_{\text{rh}} \gg 100 \text{ GeV} \quad (T_{\text{rh}} = 1 \text{ TeV})$$



Freeze-in:  $Y_\chi^{\text{FI}} \sim q_\chi^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 \frac{m_{\text{pl}}}{T}, \quad T \gtrsim m_\chi.$

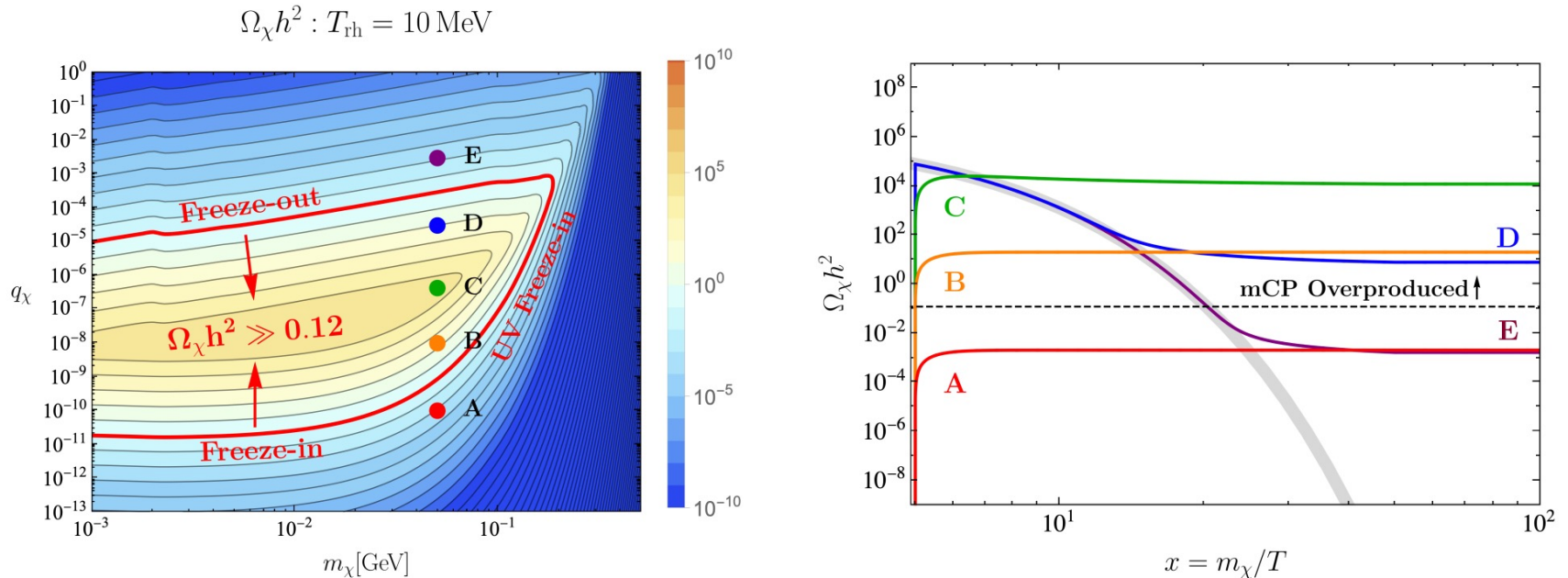
Freeze-out:  $Y_\chi^{\text{FO}} \sim \frac{1}{q_\chi^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2} \frac{m_\chi}{m_{\text{pl}}},$

$$\dot{n}_\chi + 3Hn_\chi \simeq C_n(T) \left( 1 - \frac{n_\chi^2}{n_{\chi,\text{eq}}^2} \right),$$

$$C_n(T) = 2n_Z \langle \Gamma \rangle_{Z \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}} + 2n_f n_{\bar{f}} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{f \bar{f} \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}}$$

See, e.g., Vogel, Redondo, JCAP (2014), Dvorkin+, PRD (2019)

# “Pure” CMB Cosmology: Low Reheat Temperature



For the freeze-in at low  $T_{\text{rh}}$ , mCP-SM interaction is suppressed exponentially: the coupling has to increase exponentially to compensate it

The freeze-in curve holds the approximate relation:  $q_\chi \propto \exp\left(\frac{m_\chi}{T_{\text{rh}}}\right)$

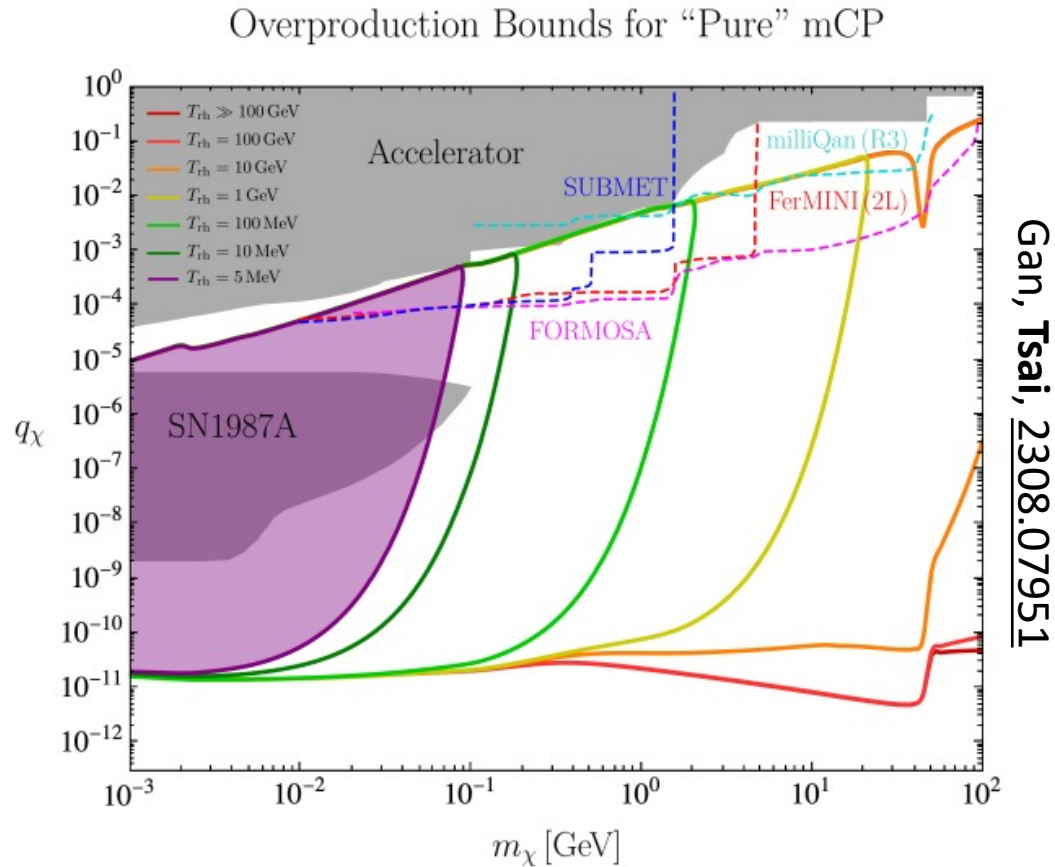
# Objectives

I. New Constraints

II. Probing Reheat Temperatures

III. Differentiate Two Types of MCPs

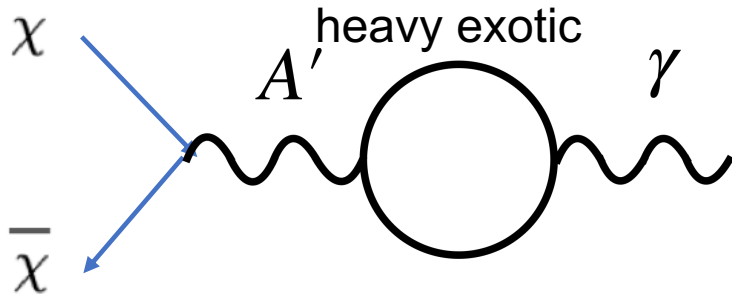
# “Pure” CmB from Irreducible Production



- Minimal reheating temperature larger than  $T_{BBN}$
- Our purple bound is covering the SN1987A constraint (gray region from Chang, JHEP 2018)

# Kinetic-Mixing Cosmic Millicharge Background (CmB)

## Kinetic-mixing mCP



$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{1}{4} B'_{\mu\nu} B'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\kappa}{2} B'_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\chi}(\not{\partial} + ie'\not{B}' + iM_{\text{MCP}})\chi$$

Choose a proper basis:  
massless dark photon  $A'$  decouple from SM

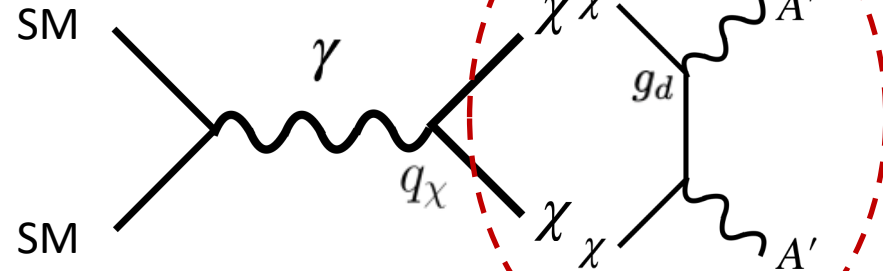
$$q_\chi = \frac{\epsilon g_d}{e}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MCP}} = i\bar{\chi}(\not{\partial} - i\epsilon'e\not{B} + M_{\text{MCP}})\chi$$

## Kinetic-mixing mCP

Inflaton

Reheating



Freeze-in:

Freeze-out:

massless dark photon  $A'$  will affect  $N_{\text{eff}}$   
See Vogel, Redondo, JCAP (2014),  
Adshead, Ralegankar, Shelton JCAP (2022)



# Kinetic-Mixing CmB Cosmology: $N_{eff}$ effects from dark photon

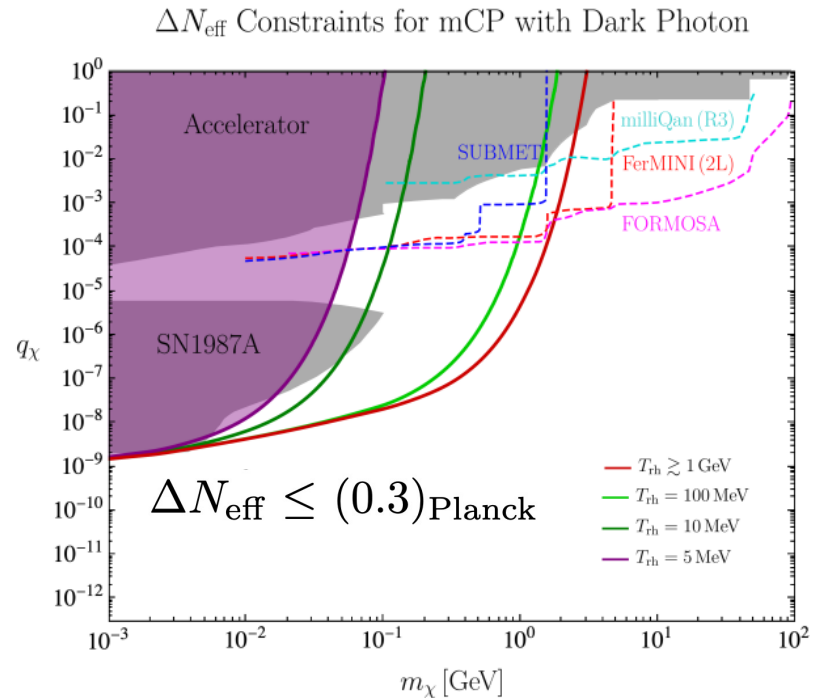
- Freeze-in from the heat bath
- $\chi$  thermalizing with dark photon:  
 Require effective transfer of  $\chi$  entropy to dark radiation  $A'$  here

$$\frac{n_{\chi}^{\text{FI}} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\text{dth}}}{H} \sim q_{\chi}^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 \alpha_d^2 \left( \frac{m_{\text{pl}}}{T} \right)^2 \gg 1.$$

$$\alpha_d \gg 10^{-4}$$

- A quick  $\Delta N_{eff}$  estimation:

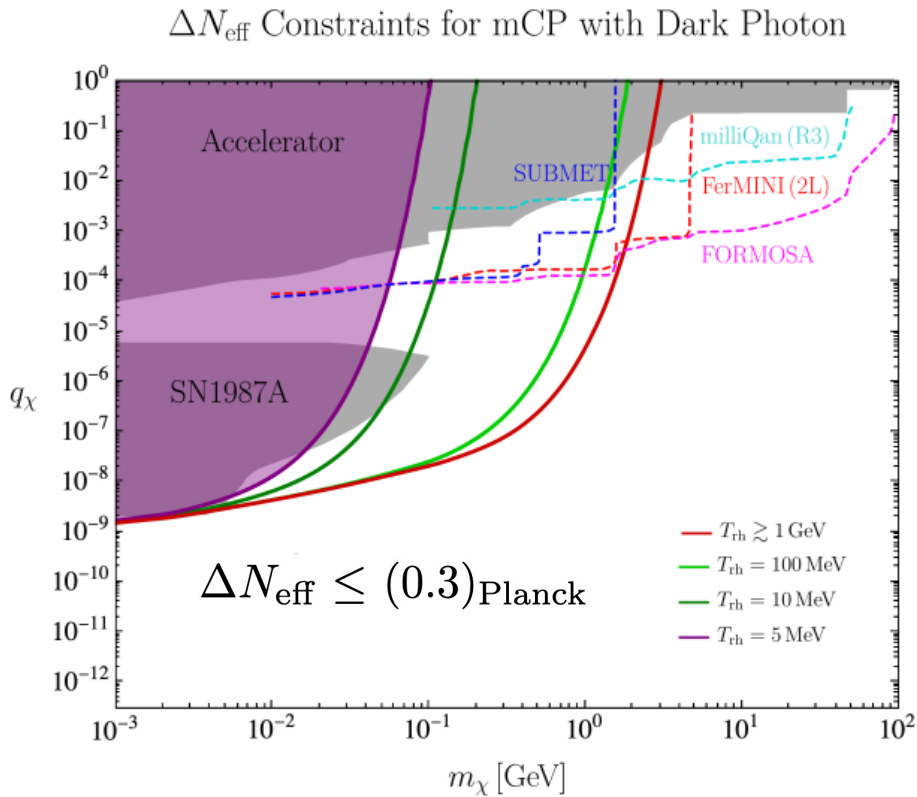
$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \sim q_{\chi}^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 \frac{m_{\text{pl}}}{m_{\chi}}$$



Gan, Tsai, 2308.07951

- Our purple bound is again covering the SN1987A constraint

# Kinetic-Mixing CmB Cosmology



$$q_\chi \sim 10^{-7} \left( \frac{m_\chi}{1 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Delta N_{\text{eff}}}{0.3} \right)^{1/2} \cdot m_\chi \leq T_{\text{rh}}$$

$$q_\chi \propto \exp\left(\frac{m_\chi}{T_{\text{rh}}}\right) \cdot m_\chi > T_{\text{rh}}$$

Considering higher reheating temperatures for region to the right of the red curve:

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim g_{A'} \frac{4}{7} \left( \frac{g_{*,S}(T \ll T_{\text{QCD}})}{g_{*,S}(T \gg T_{\text{QCD}})} \right)^{4/3} \simeq 0.1,$$

See Gan, Tsai, [2308.07951](#) for detailed discussions

Current:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \leq (0.3)_{\text{Planck}}$

Future:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \leq (0.06)_{\text{CMB-S4}}$

# Objectives

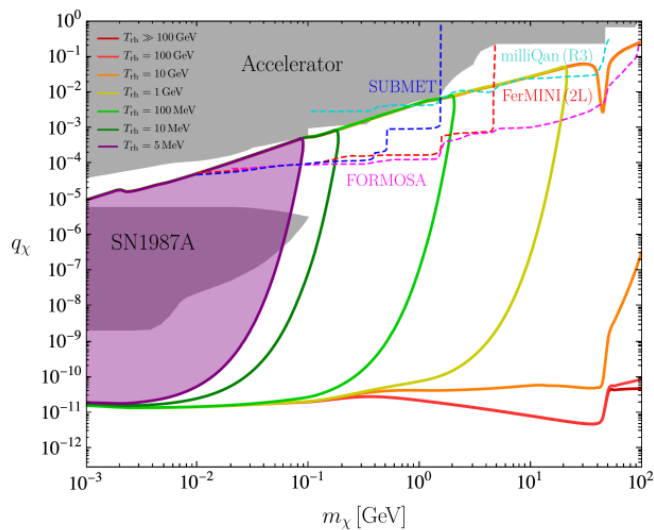
I. New Constraints

II. Probing Reheat Temperatures

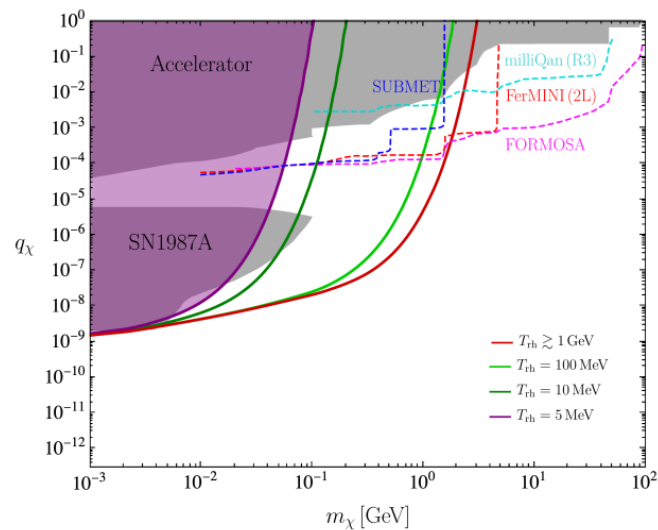
III. Differentiate Two Types of MCPs

# Testing Reheat Temperatures in Both Cases

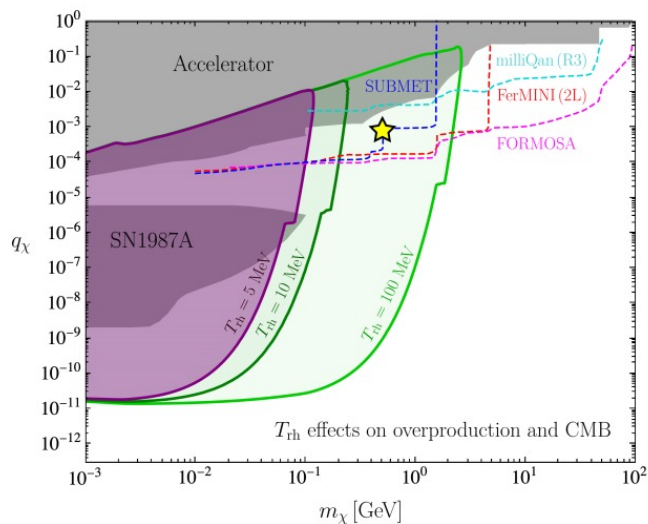
Overproduction Bounds for “Pure” mCP



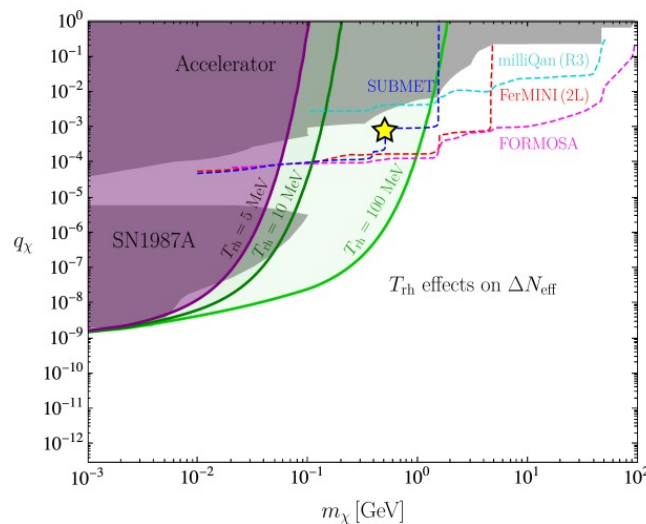
$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$  Constraints for mCP with Dark Photon



Reheating Targets for “Pure” mCP



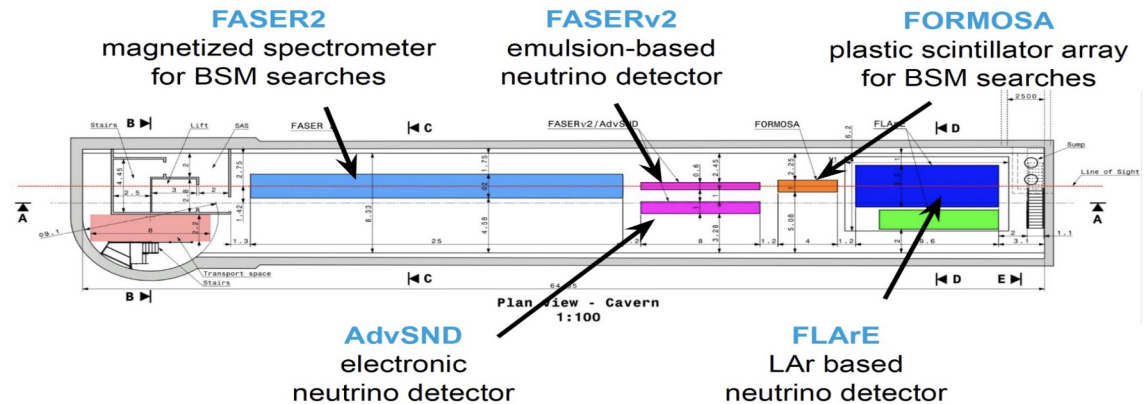
Reheating Targets for mCP with Dark Photon



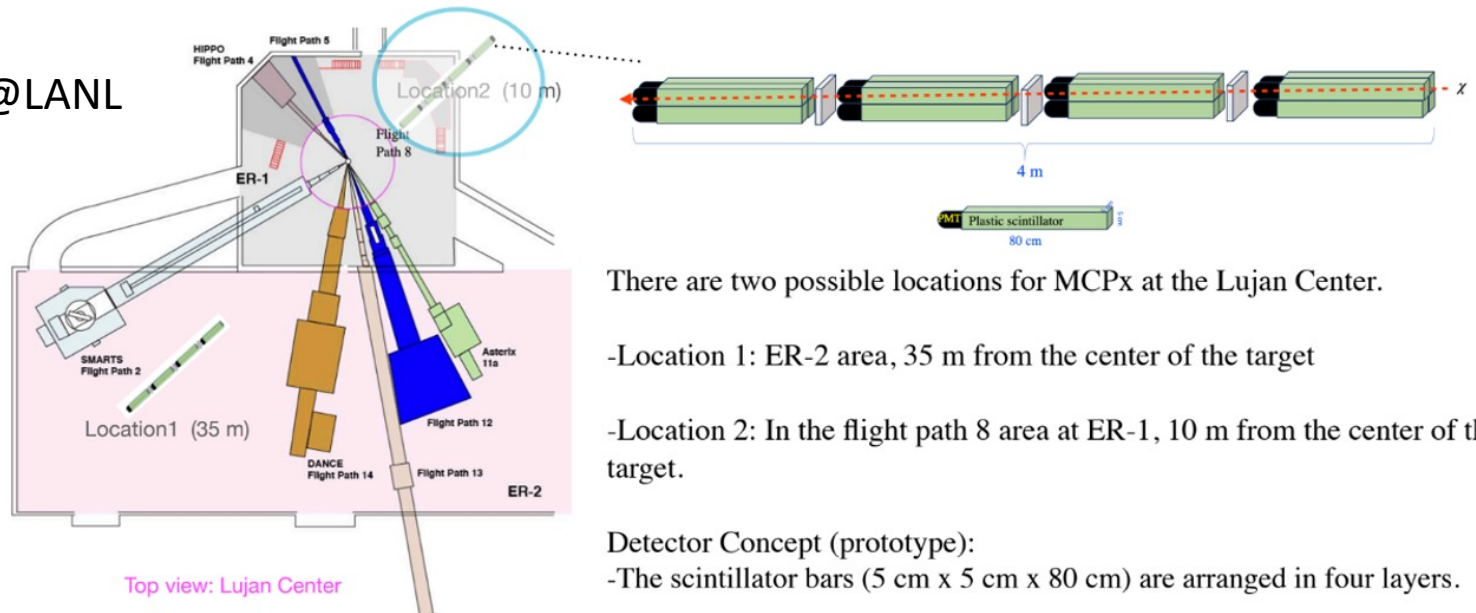
# Compilations of Dedicated mCP Searches (next 3 years)

1. **milliQan** (taking data); 2. **SUBMET**: mCP search at J-PARC, fully approved

3. **FORMOSA**  
(installing demonstrator)  
+ FLArE



4. **LuMinus@LANL**



There are two possible locations for MCPx at the Lujan Center.

-Location 1: ER-2 area, 35 m from the center of the target

-Location 2: In the flight path 8 area at ER-1, 10 m from the center of the target.

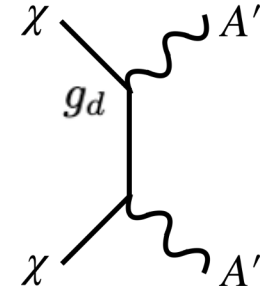
Detector Concept (prototype):

-The scintillator bars (5 cm x 5 cm x 80 cm) are arranged in four layers.

5. **FerMINI@Fermilab**: updating sensitivity projection

# Objectives:

## III. Differentiate Two Types of MCPs

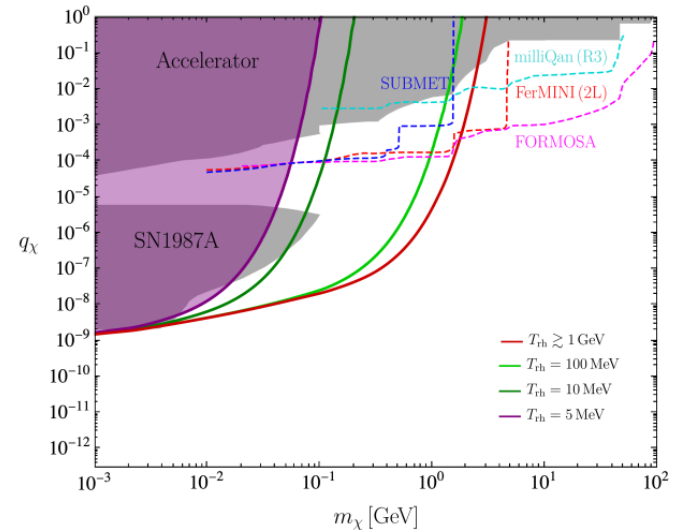
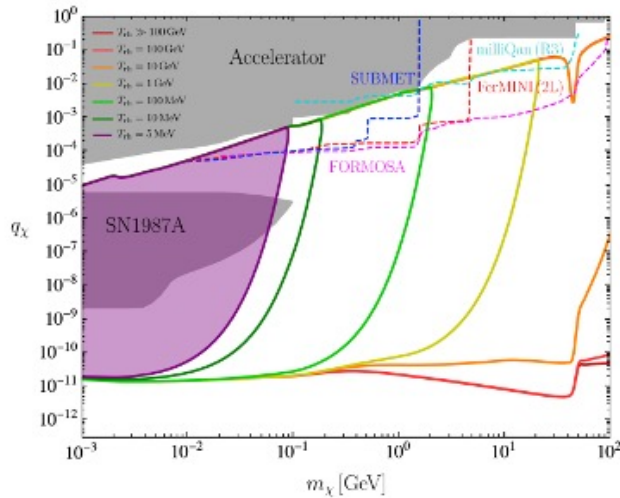


$$g_d = 0$$

Sizable  $g_d$

Overproduction Bounds for "Pure" mCP

$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$  Constraints for mCP with Dark Photon



moderate  $g_d$   
 $\longleftrightarrow$   
 Interpolate between the two

Theoretically, there is a limit on how small  $g_d$  can be, for a given  $q_\chi$

# “Distinguishability” Condition

Gan, Tsai, [2308.07951](#)

- Turning down thermalization between  $\chi - A'$ :  $g_d \lesssim (16\pi^2 m_\chi / \mathcal{F} m_{\text{pl}})^{1/4}$

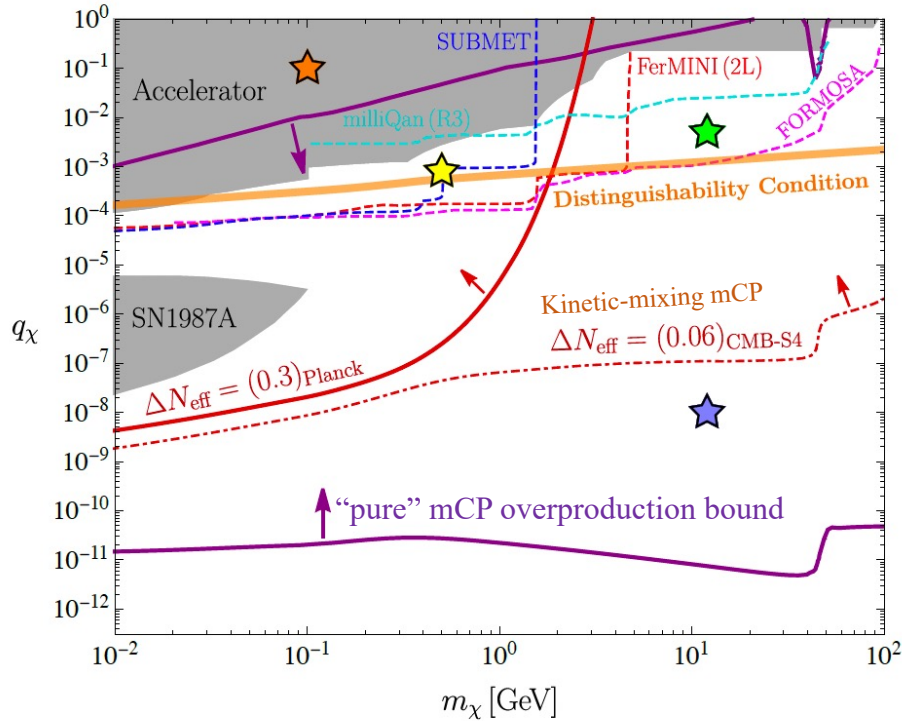
- **Requirement for kinetic mixing:**  $\epsilon < 1 \Rightarrow g_d > e q_\chi$ ,  $q_\chi = \frac{\epsilon g_d}{e}$   
Burgess *et al*, JCAP (2008)

- Considering these two inequalities for  $g_d$ , we can roughly determine that:

$$q_\chi \gtrsim \frac{1}{\alpha_{\text{em}}^{1/2}} \left( \frac{m_\chi}{\mathcal{F} m_{\text{pl}}} \right)^{1/4}$$

One CANNOT de-thermalize  $\chi - A'$  interaction rate to mimic “pure” mCP!

# Regions of Interests



- **Orange Star:** favoring “pure” mCP
- **Yellow Star:** testing reheat temperatures
- **Green Star:**
  - 1) testing reheat temperatures with CMB-S4
  - 2) currently favoring kinetic-mixing mCP
- **Purple Star:** favoring kinetic-mixing mCP (can be reached by direct-detection exps.)



# Outlook

1. Apply to more dark sector particles & searches  
(e.g., axions, dark photons, etc. See Dror+, *PRD* 2021)
2. Further develop the dedicated searches, at **milliQan**, **FORMOSA**,  
**J-PARC**, **LANL** (+ FLArE, DUNE, SHIP, OSCURA, etc.)
3. More theoretical and cosmological considerations  
(e.g., Giudice+, *PRD* 2021)  
+ connecting to dark matter & 21 cm measurements.
4. **“Probing Cosmology”** should be one of the main FPF objectives

Thank you!

# Useful References

1. Giudice, Kolb, and Riotto, “Largest temperature of the radiation era and its cosmological implications,” *Phys. Rev. D* 64 (2001) 023508, arXiv: hep-ph/0005123.
2. Co, Gonzalez, and Harigaya, “Increasing Temperature toward the Completion of Reheating,” *JCAP* 11 (2020) 038, arXiv:2007.04328 [astro-ph.CO].
3. Vogel, Redondo, *JCAP* (2014), Dvorkin+, *PRD* (2019)
4. Davidson+, *PRL* (2000)

# Review of Co+ JCAP (2020)

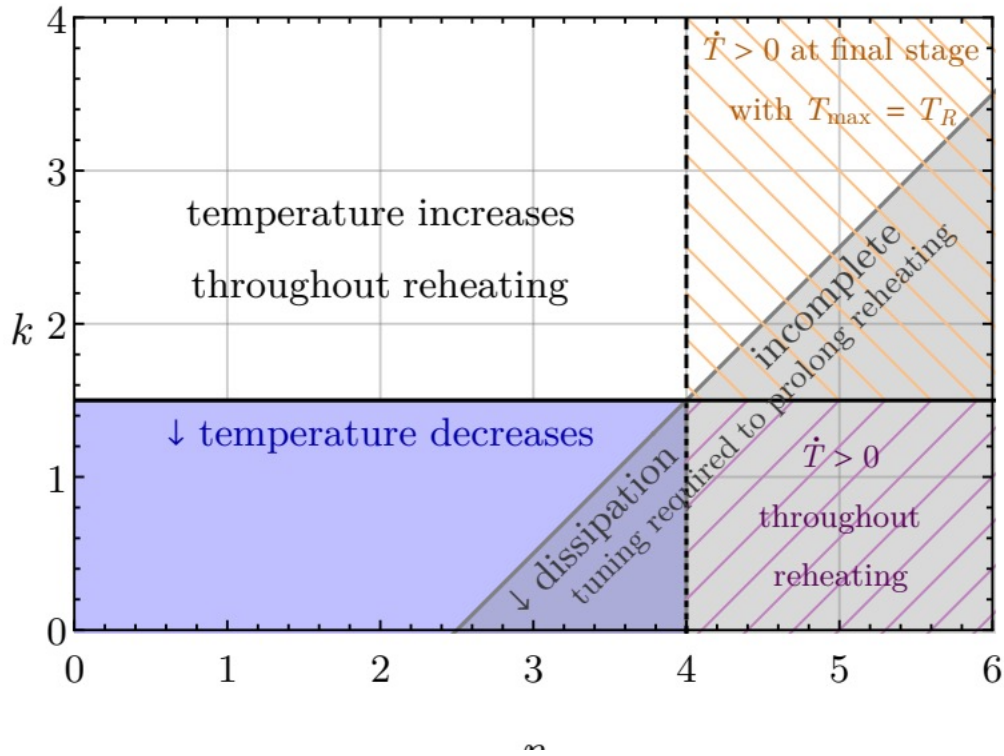
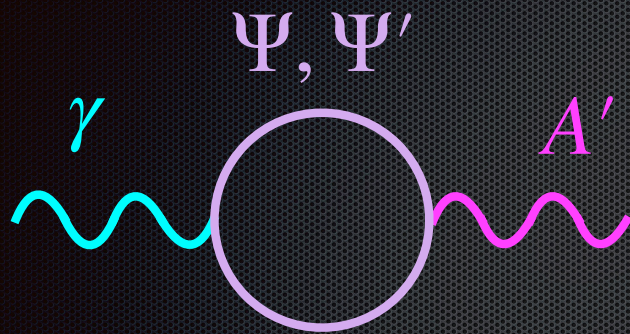


FIG. 2. Different reheating scenarios as a result of different dissipation rates. In our convention described in Sec. 2, the scenarios are distinguished according  $n$  and  $k$ , which parameterize the dependence of the rate  $\Gamma \propto T^n a^k$  on the temperature  $T$  and the scale factor  $a$ . This diagram excludes instantaneous reheating, which is possible but not of our interest in this paper.

# Constant Kinetic Mixing



Bob Holdom 1985

$$\Psi : (e, e') \quad \Psi' : (e, -e')$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{ee'}{6\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{M}{M'} \right)$$

$M = M' : \epsilon$  vanishes

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 : \Psi \leftrightarrow \Psi', A \rightarrow A, A' \rightarrow -A'$$

A slide from Xucheng Gan (NYU)



# “Distinguishability” Condition

- Turning down thermalization between  $\chi$  &  $A'$ :  $g_d \lesssim (16\pi^2 m_\chi / \mathcal{F} m_{\text{pl}})^{1/4}$   
 $\mathcal{F} \simeq 375 / (16\pi^3 e^{5/2} g_*^{1/2})$ .

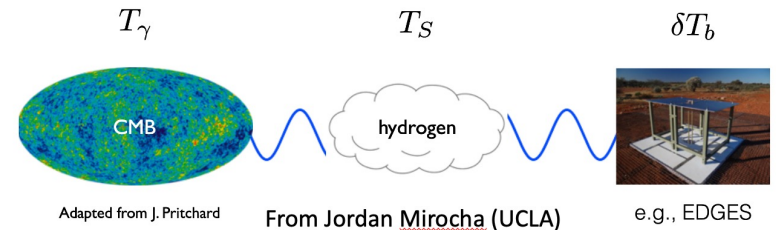
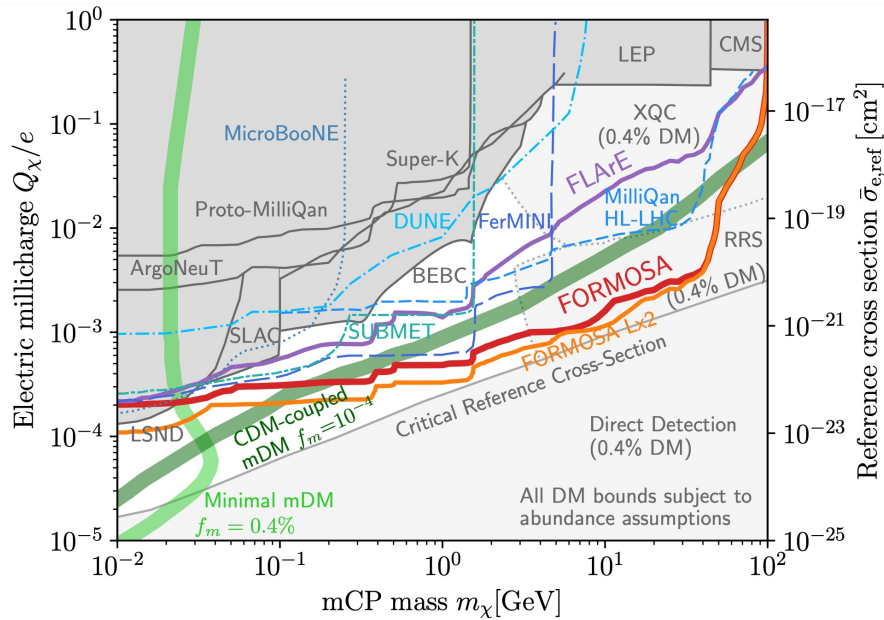
- Requirement for kinetic mixing:  $q_\chi = \frac{\epsilon g_d}{e}$   
 $\epsilon < 1 \Rightarrow g_d > e q_\chi$

- Considering these two inequalities for  $g_d$ , we can roughly determine that:

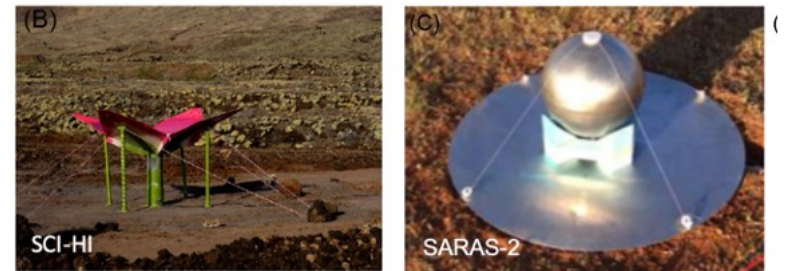
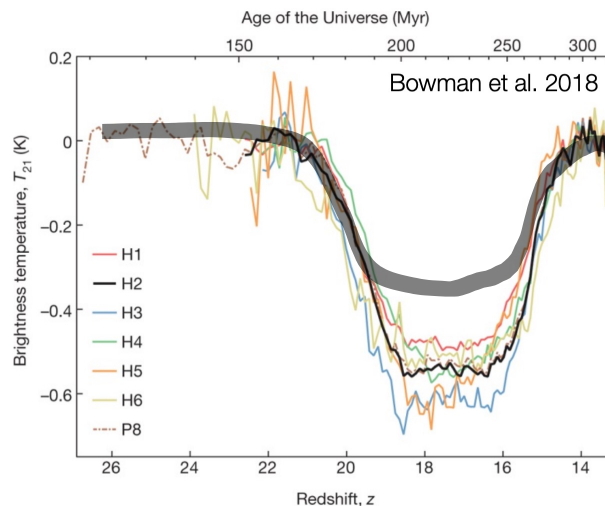
$$q_\chi \gtrsim \frac{1}{\alpha_{\text{em}}^{1/2}} \left( \frac{m_\chi}{\mathcal{F} m_{\text{pl}}} \right)^{1/4}$$

One CANNOT de-thermalize  $\chi$ - $A$  to mimic “pure” mCP!

# EDGES & Millicharged Dark Matter



- EDGES gives another hint of dark matter property, just like small-scale structure
- Connecting to **cosmology & dark matter** direct-detection folks

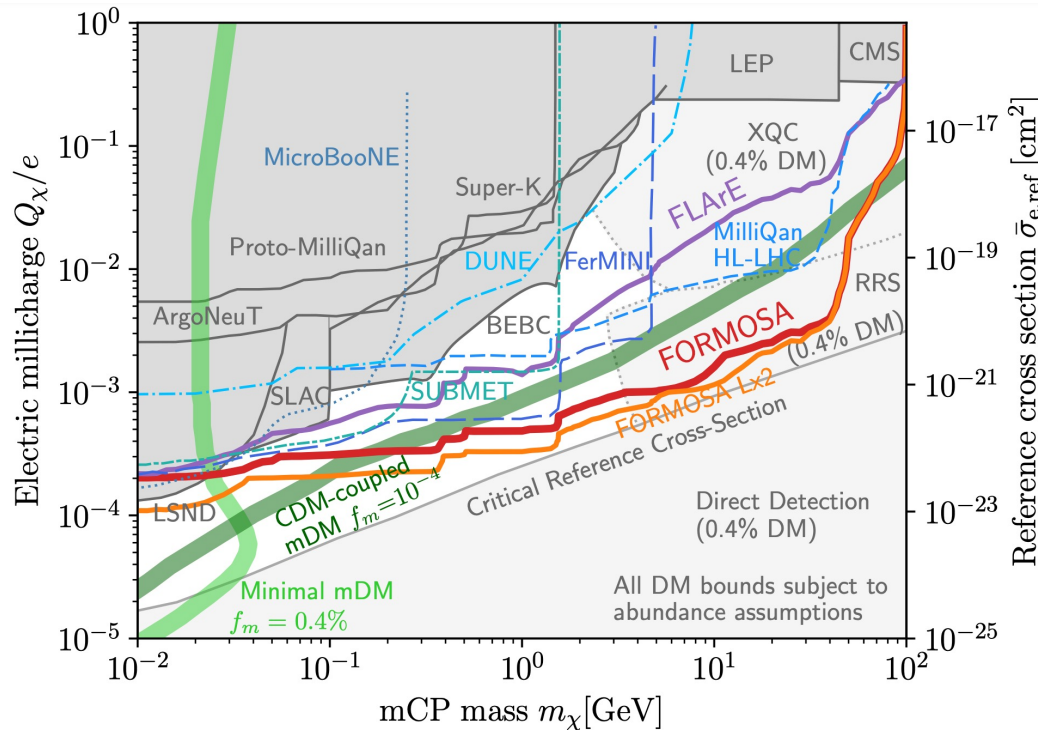


- Voytek et al, APJL (2014)
- Singh et al, [1710.01101](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.01101)

# Strongly Interacting Dark Matter

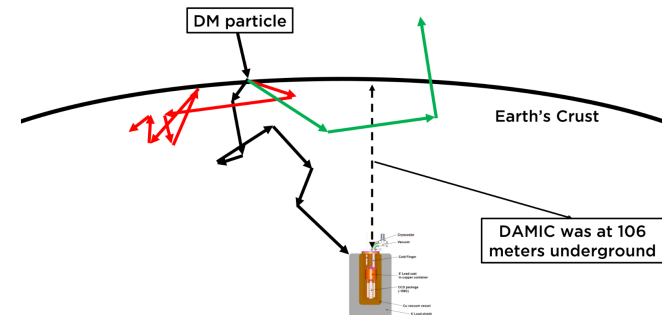
MCP / LDM with ultralight dark photon mediators

$$\bar{\sigma}_e \simeq \frac{16\pi\alpha^2\epsilon^2\mu_{\chi e}^2}{q_{ref}^2}, \quad q_{ref} = \alpha m_e$$



Saeid Foroughi, Felix Kling, Yu-Dai Tsai, [arXiv:2010.07941](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.07941)

- We will add this figure with all the projections to the Snowmass White Paper
- **Can add this to new milliQan papers**



DMATIS (Dark Matter Attenuation Importance Sampling), Mahdawi & Farrar '17

- Here we plot the **critical reference cross-section** see [1905.06348](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.06348) (Emken, Essig, Kouvaris, Sholapurkar)
- **Accelerator probes can help close the Millicharged SIDM window!**
- Cosmic-ray production & Super-K detection [2002.11732](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.11732)



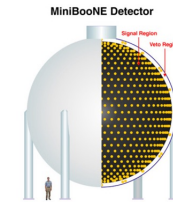
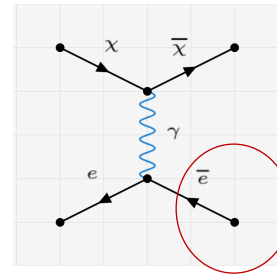
# Two Search Methods: Scattering & Scintillation

## (A) Electron Scattering

~ energy exchange set by detector threshold (~MeV)

$$\sigma_{e\chi} \simeq 2.6 \times 10^{-25} \text{cm}^2 \times \epsilon^2 \times \frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{E_e^{(\text{min})} - m_e}.$$

Expressed in recoil energy threshold,  $E_e^{(\text{min})}$



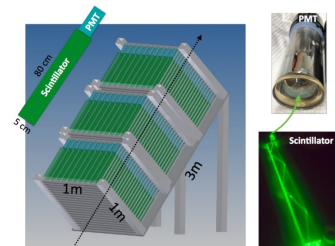
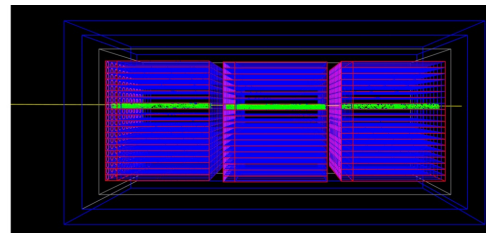
e.g. neutrino Detector  
MiniBooNE ([arXiv:0806.4201](https://arxiv.org/abs/0806.4201))

## (B) Scintillation Study for Millicharge Particles

~ eV-level energy exchange

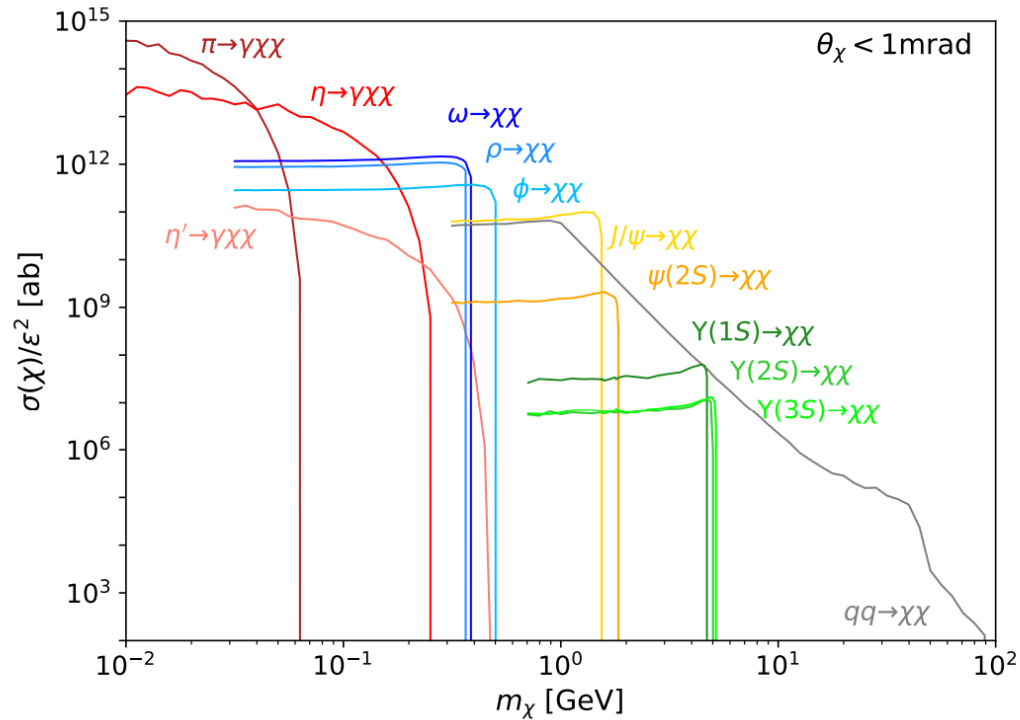
$$\left\langle -\frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \propto \epsilon^2.$$

energy deposition



e.g., Haas, Hill, Izaguirre, Yavin, 1410.6816  
milliQan design, 1607.04669 (MilliQan Collaboration)

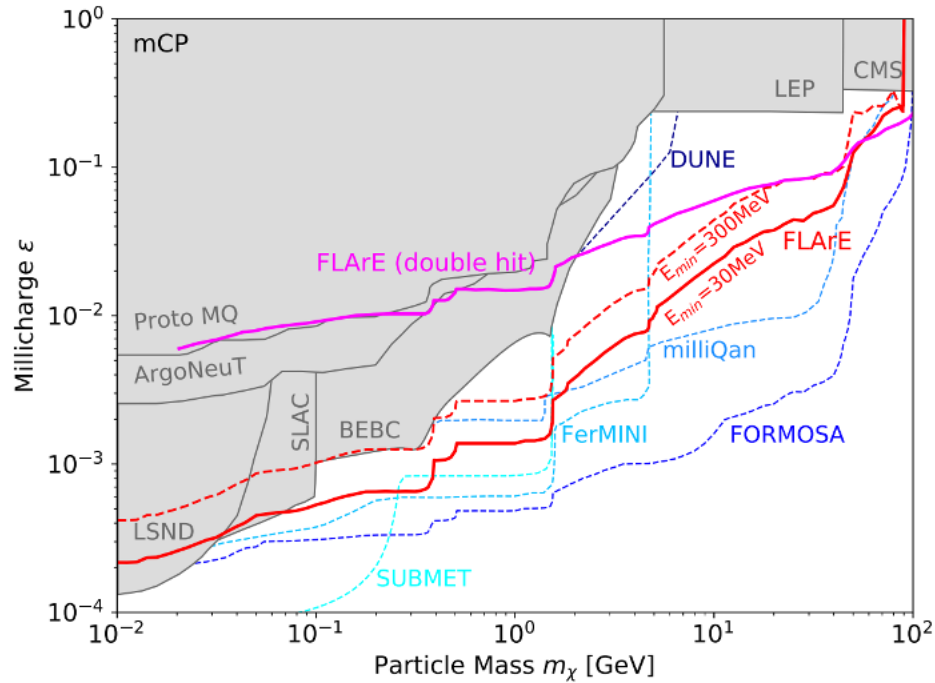
# mCP Productions @ FPF



Foroughi-Abari, Kling, and Tsai, arXiv:2010.07941, PRD 20

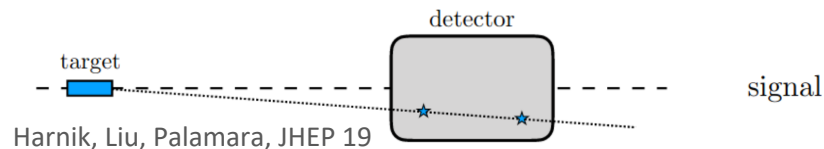
MCP production was added to FORESEE by Felix Kling

# mCP @ FLArE

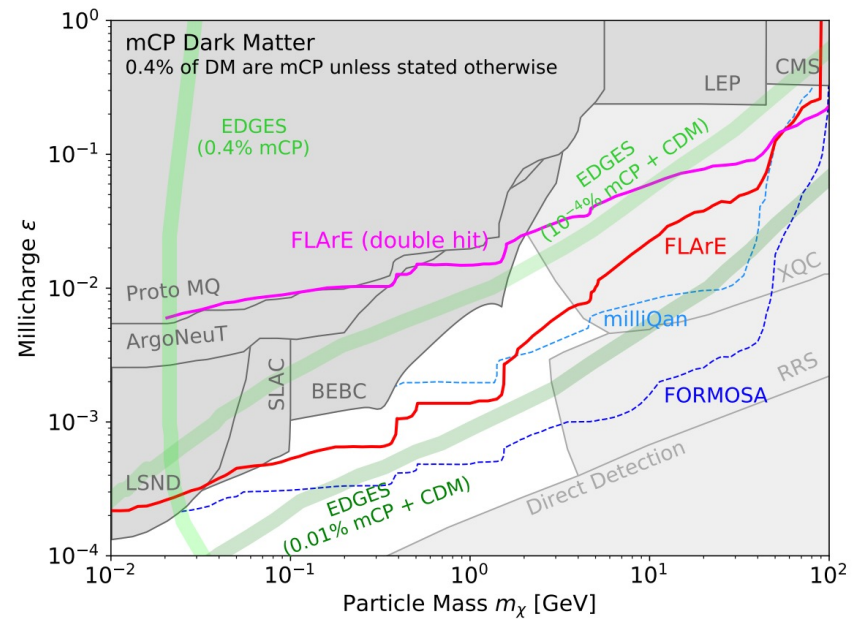
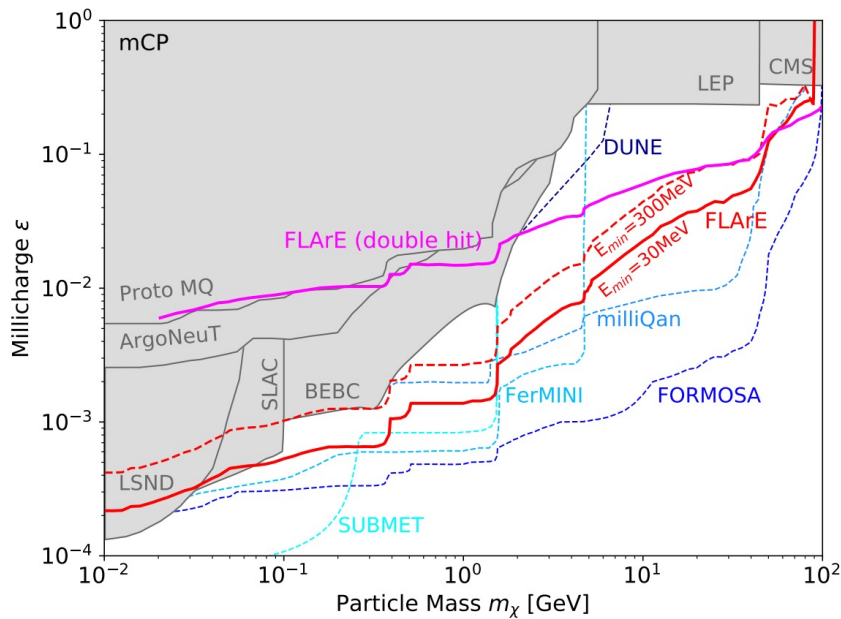


- FLArE experiment by Jianming Bian: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1110746/contributions/4701719/>
- $N_{ev} = 3$  expected new physics events in the detector

- A. Scattering a-la DM signal: consider  $\chi e \rightarrow \chi e$ ,  
and set electron recoil energy  $E_r$  within  $30 \text{ MeV} \lesssim E_r \lesssim 1 \text{ GeV}$  in FLArE
- B. Double-hit with softer recoils:  
setting  $E_{r,min} \simeq 2 \text{ MeV}$  but with double-hit point back to the target

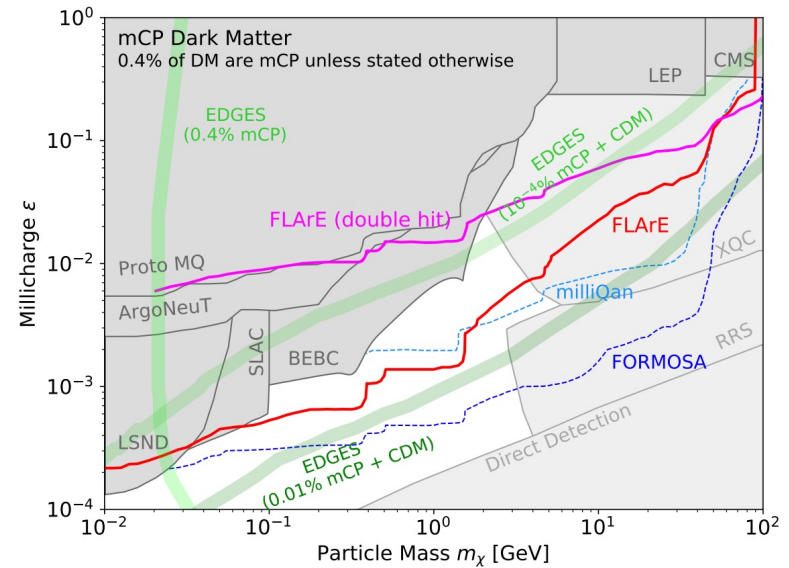
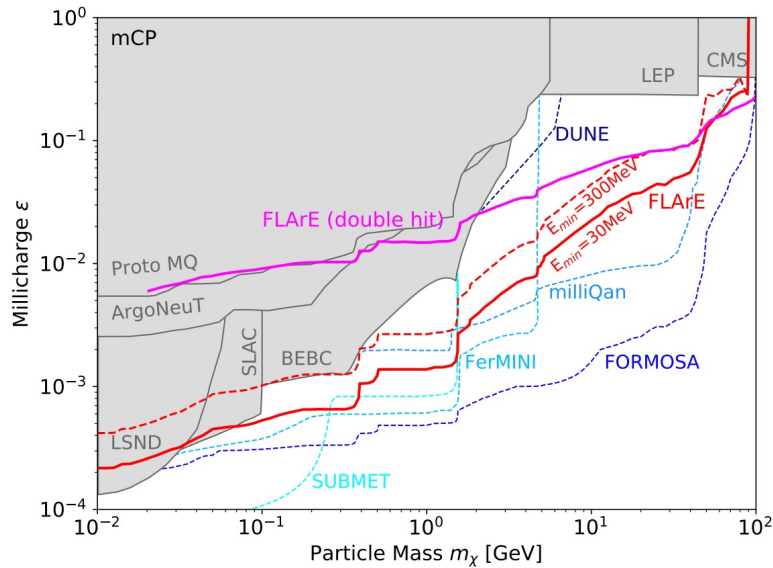


# Millicharge Particles (mCP) & Dark Matter



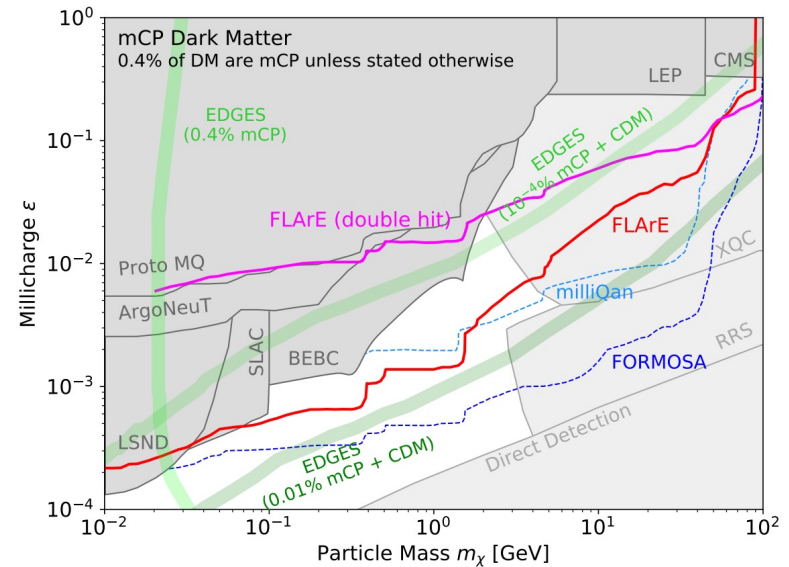
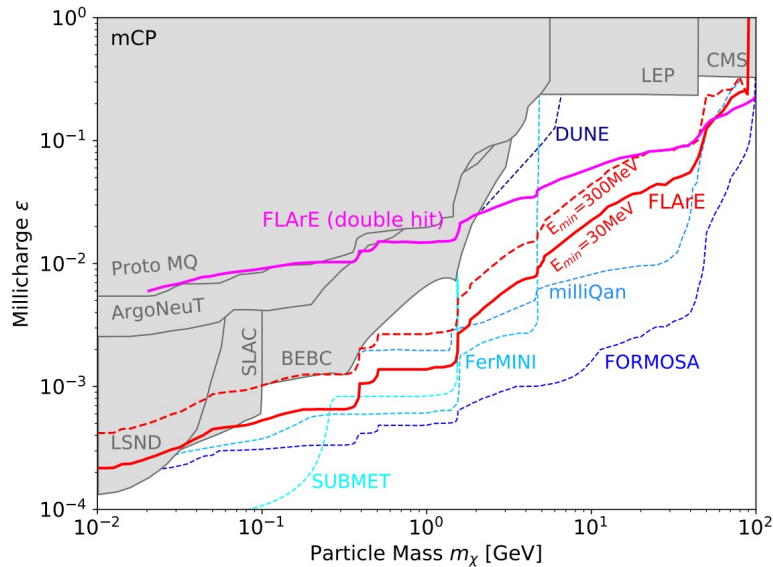
Most likely, your experiments also have interesting sensitivity on this region,  
theoretically and phenomenologically motivated.

# Millicharge Particles (mCP) & Dark Matter



- With 30 MeV to 20 GeV energy-range and additional angular cuts, the expected neutrino-induced background rate can be as low as  $O(20)$  events during the HL-LHC era in the 10-tonne, from neutrino-electron scatterings, while quasielastic and resonant nuclear scatterings of  $\nu e$  also contribute non-negligibly.
- We assume the neutrino-induced DIS events can be rejected due to the presence of additional visible tracks in the detector.

# Millicharge Particles (mCP) & Dark Matter



- In our estimates, we use far-forward neutrino fluxes and spectra in Batell et al, PRD (2021), obtained using the fast neutrino flux simulation introduced in Kling et al, PRD (2021) and we use GENIE, Andreopoulos et al (2010), to study neutrino interactions.
- Extra background due to ambient gamma-ray activity, intrinsic radioactivity, or electronic noise, ArgoNeuT, PRD (2019), discussed for the ArgoNeuT detector, can be reduced with high threshold or double coincidence

# Neutrino Effective Electromagnetic Current

$$\langle \nu_f(p_f) | j_{\nu, \text{EM}}^\mu | \nu_i(p_i) \rangle = \bar{u}_f(p_f) \Lambda_{fi}^\mu(q) u_i(p_i), \quad (1)$$

- $\Lambda_{fi}^\mu(q)$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix in the neutrino mass eigenstates space that encodes the electromagnetic properties of neutrinos.
- In low- $q^2$ , it simplifies to,

$$\Lambda_{fi}^\mu(q) = \gamma^\mu (Q_{fi} - \frac{q^2}{6} \langle r^2 \rangle_{fi}) - i\sigma^{\mu\nu} q_\nu \mu_{fi} \quad (2)$$

- with  $f = i$  for diagonal and otherwise for transition electromagnetic properties
- With right-handed neutrinos & Dirac mass terms for the neutrinos, electric charge is de-quantized and neutrinos can be electrically charged. The charge de-quantization in this case is related to the existence of the non-anomalous symmetry (B – L), Babu et al, PRD (1990).

# Neutrino Millicharge

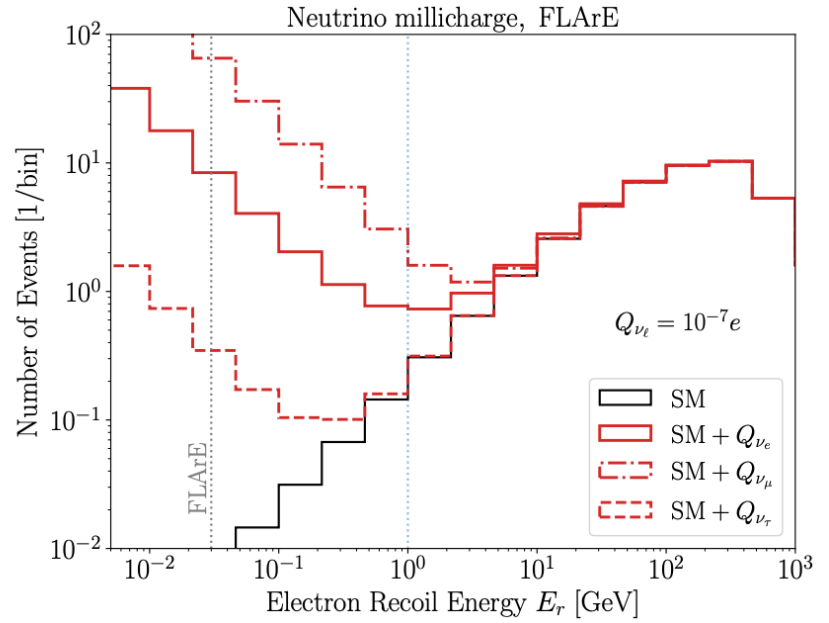
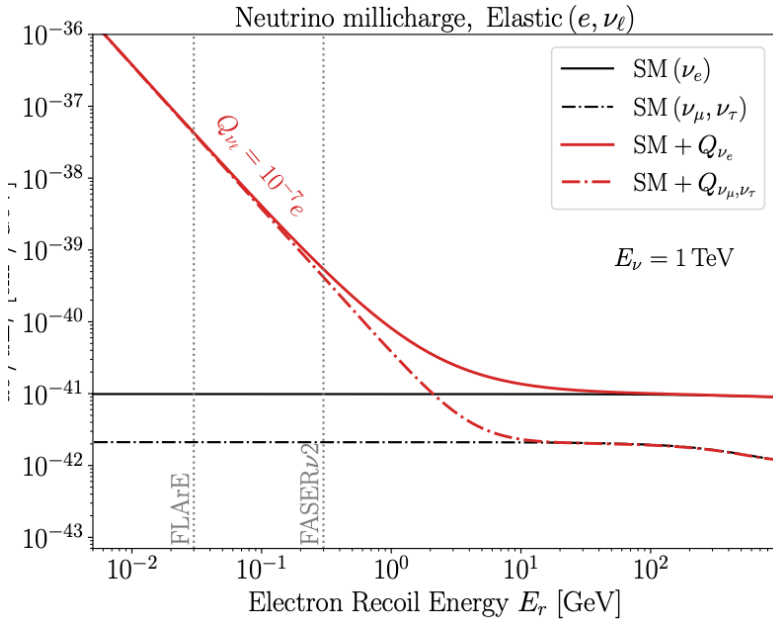
$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{NMC}} = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{SM}} + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Int}} + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Quad}}$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Int}} = \frac{\sqrt{8\pi}G_F\alpha}{E_\nu^2 E_r} \left(\frac{Q_{\nu\ell}}{e}\right) \left[ g_V^\ell (2E_\nu^2 + E_r^2 - E_r(2E_\nu + E_r)) + g_A^\ell (E_r(2E_\nu - E_r)) \right]$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Quad}} = 4(\pi\alpha)^2 \left(\frac{Q_{\nu\ell}}{e}\right)^2 \left[ \frac{2E_\nu^2 + E_r^2 - 2E_\nu E_r}{m_e E_r^2 E_\nu^2} \right],$$

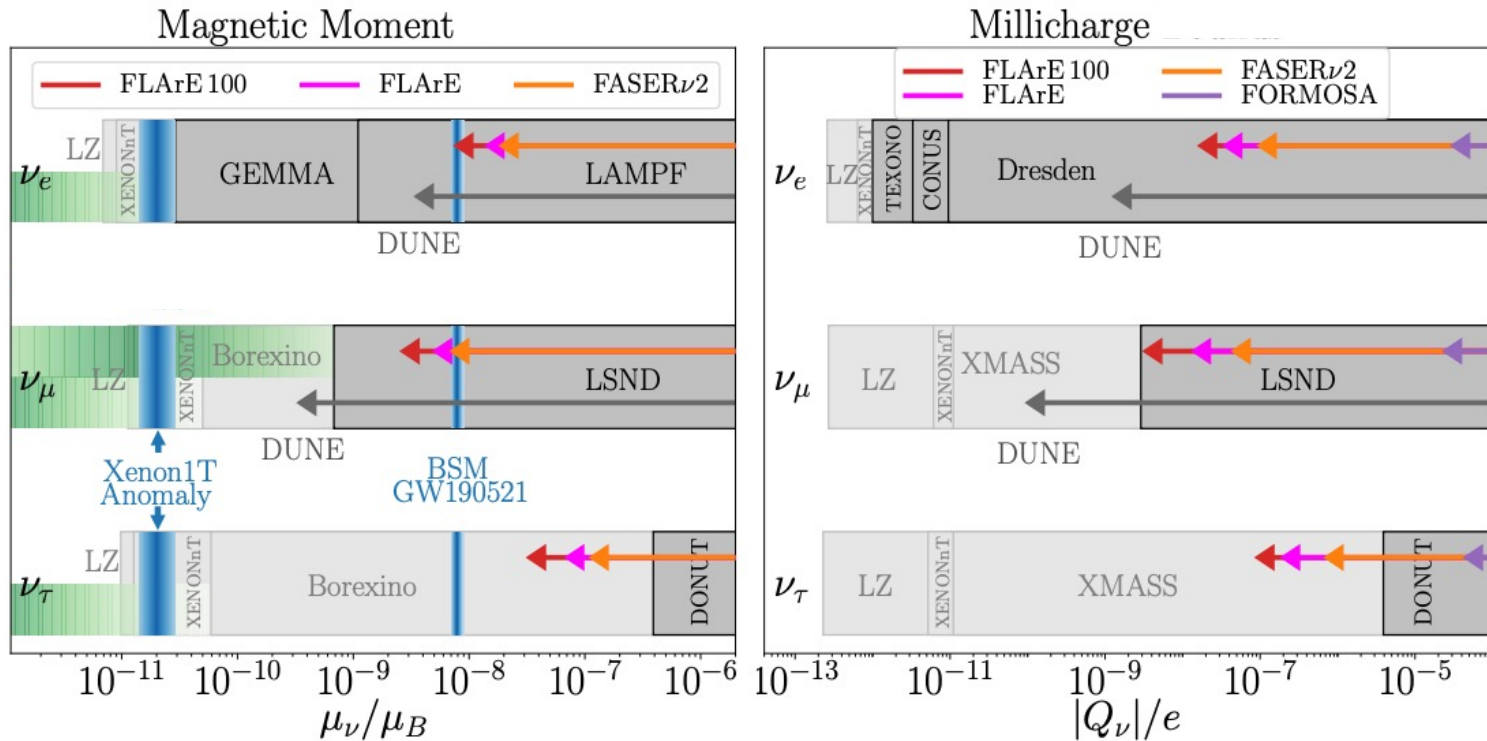


# Neutrino Millicharge



$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{NMC}} = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{SM}} + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Int}} + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\nu\ell e}}{dE_r}\right)_{\text{Quad}}$$

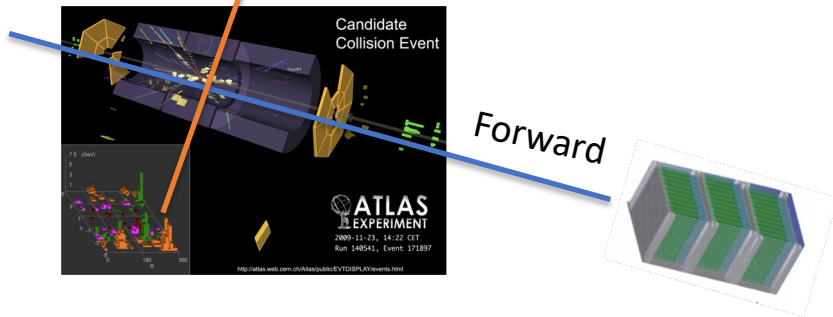
# Summary of Results



- Exploring extrapolate the **neutrino charge radius** at both **FLArE & DUNE**
- **Close to measure neutrino charge radii and radiative correction predicted by Standard Model; Interesting experimental challenges**
- **Green: BSM Targets discussed briefly in our paper**

# Neutrino Millicharge at FORMOSA, FerMINI, and Other Similar Experiments

Transverse



- milliQan Col., PRD (2021), Haas et al, PLB (2015)
- milliQan detector: **long scintillator bars to detector small ionization from mCP**
- milliQan run with great success in the transverse region of CMS
- **FORward MicroCharge SeArch (FORMOSA), Foroughi-Abari, Kling, Tsai, PRD (2021), [2010.07941](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.07941)**
- **FerMINI, Kelly, Tsai, PRD (2019), [1812.03998](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.03998)**

**FASER2**  
magnetized spectrometer  
for BSM searches

**FASERv2**  
emulsion-based  
neutrino detector

**FORMOSA**  
plastic scintillator array  
for BSM searches

**AdvSND**  
electronic  
neutrino detector

**FLArE**  
LAR based  
neutrino detector

