



# Direct Detection “Overview”

**Hugh Lippincott, UCSB**



**March 5, 2024 – The Future of High Energy Physics**



# Dark Matter

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2001 Snowmass report - single 3 page section on dark matter and relic particles

## Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology: Cosmic Laboratories for New Physics (Summary of the Snowmass 2001 P4 Working Group)

Daniel S. Akerib\*

*Department of Physics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106*

Sean M. Carroll†

*Department of Physics and Enrico Fermi Institute,  
University of Chicago, 5640 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637*

Marc Kamionkowski‡

*California Institute of Technology, Mail Code 130-33, Pasadena, CA 91125*

Steven Ritz§

*NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Mail Code 661, Greenbelt, MD 20771*

(Dated: October 30, 2018)

### III. DARK MATTER AND RELIC PARTICLES

Since the mystery of dark matter first appeared in the thirties due to observations of galaxy clusters by Zwicky, the evidence has steadily mounted and today strongly suggests the possibility of a solution rooted in new fundamental particle physics [2]. Dark matter refers to matter that is inferred only through its gravitational effects, and which neither emits nor absorbs electromagnetic radiation. These effects are observed on a wide range of distance scales—from individual galaxies to superclusters to mass flows on the largest observable scales. Direct observation of dark matter and the determination of its nature is one of the most important challenges to be met in cosmology today. Moreover, it is likely that this determination will yield new information in particle physics, since there is strong evidence that the dark matter is not composed of baryons, but rather is in some exotic form.



# Snowmass and P5

- Today, dark matter is one of the biggest mysteries in particle physics today

## Report of the Topical Group on Wave Dark Matter for Snowmass 2021

Conveners: Joerg Jaeckel<sup>1</sup>, Gray Rybka<sup>2</sup>, and Lindley Winslow<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut für Theoretische

<sup>2</sup>Department of Phys

<sup>3</sup>Laboratory for Nuclear Science,

## Report of the Topical Group on Particle Dark Matter for Snowmass 2021

Conveners: Jodi Cooley<sup>1,2</sup>, Tongyan Lin<sup>3</sup>, W. Hugh Lippincott<sup>4</sup>, Tracy R. Slatyer<sup>5</sup>, Tien-Tien Yu<sup>6</sup>,  
Contributors: Daniel S. Akerib<sup>7</sup>, Tsuguo Aramaki<sup>8</sup>, Daniel Baxter<sup>9</sup>, Torsten Bringmann<sup>10</sup>, Ray Bunker<sup>11</sup>, Daniel  
Carney<sup>12</sup>, Susana Cebrián<sup>13</sup>, Thomas Y. Chen<sup>14</sup>, Priscilla Cushman<sup>15</sup>, C.E. Dahl<sup>16</sup>, Rouven Essig<sup>17</sup>, Alden Fan<sup>7</sup>,  
Richard Gaitskill<sup>18</sup>, Cristiano Galbiati<sup>19</sup>, Graciela B. Gelmini<sup>20</sup>, Graham K. Giovanetti<sup>21</sup>, Guillaume Giroux<sup>22</sup>,  
Luca Grandi<sup>23</sup>, J. Patrick Harding<sup>24</sup>, Scott Haselschwardt<sup>12</sup>, Lauren Hsu<sup>5</sup>, Shunsaku Horiuchi<sup>25</sup>, Yonatan Kahn<sup>26</sup>,  
Doojin Kim<sup>27</sup>, Geon-Do Kim<sup>28</sup>, Scott Kravitz<sup>12</sup>, V. A. Kudryavtsev<sup>29</sup>, Noah Kurinsky<sup>7</sup>, Rafael F. Lang<sup>30</sup>, Rebecca  
K. Leane<sup>7</sup>, Benjamin V. Lehmann<sup>31</sup>, Cecilia Levy<sup>32</sup>, Shengchao Li<sup>30</sup>,  
Marti Wolf<sup>33</sup>, Gopelang Mkhlabeng<sup>34</sup>, M.F. Munzani<sup>7,35,36</sup>, Alexander St.  
Nelson<sup>5</sup>, Ciaran A. J. O'Hare<sup>39</sup>, K.J. Pallarino<sup>40</sup>, Aditya Parikh<sup>41</sup>, Jun  
Profumo<sup>31,42</sup>, Nirupal Raj<sup>43</sup>, Brandon M. Rouch<sup>34</sup>, Tarek Saab<sup>47</sup>, Mari  
Shaw<sup>4</sup>, Seodong Shin<sup>44</sup>, Kuver Sinha<sup>50</sup>, Kelly Stifter<sup>9</sup>, Aritoldo Suzu  
Volodymyr Takhistov<sup>51,52</sup>, Yu-Dai Tsai<sup>34</sup>, S. E. Vahsen<sup>53</sup>, Edoardo  
Gensheng Wang<sup>54</sup>, Shawn Westerdale<sup>55</sup>, David A. Williams<sup>31,4</sup>

## Cosmic Probes of Dark Matter

Conveners: Alex Drlica-Wagner, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein,  
Hai-Bo Yu

Contributors: Andrea Albert, Mustafa Amin, Arka Banerjee, Masha Baryakhtar,  
Keith Bechtol, Simon Bird, Simon Birrer, Torsten Bringmann, Regina Caputo,  
Sukanya Chakrabarti, Thomas Y. Chen, Djuna Croon, Francis-Yan Cyr-Racine,  
William A. Dawson, Cora Dvorkin, Vera Gluscevic, Daniel Gilman, Daniel Grin,  
Renée Hložek, Rebecca K. Leane, Ting S. Li, Yao-Yuan Mao, Joel Meyers,  
Siddharth Mishra-Sharma, Julian B. Muñoz, Ferah Munshi, Ethan O. Nadler,  
Aditya Parikh, Kerstin Perez, Annika H. G. Peter, Stefano Profumo, Katelin Schutz,  
Neelima Sehgal, Joshua D. Simon, Kuver Sinha, Monica Valluri, Risa H. Wechsler

- Over 100 pages of dedicated Snowmass reports in CF
- High prominence in other frontiers
- Dedicated Complementarity report
- Can only give a sense here - impossible to summarize in 20 minutes!

# Dark Matter

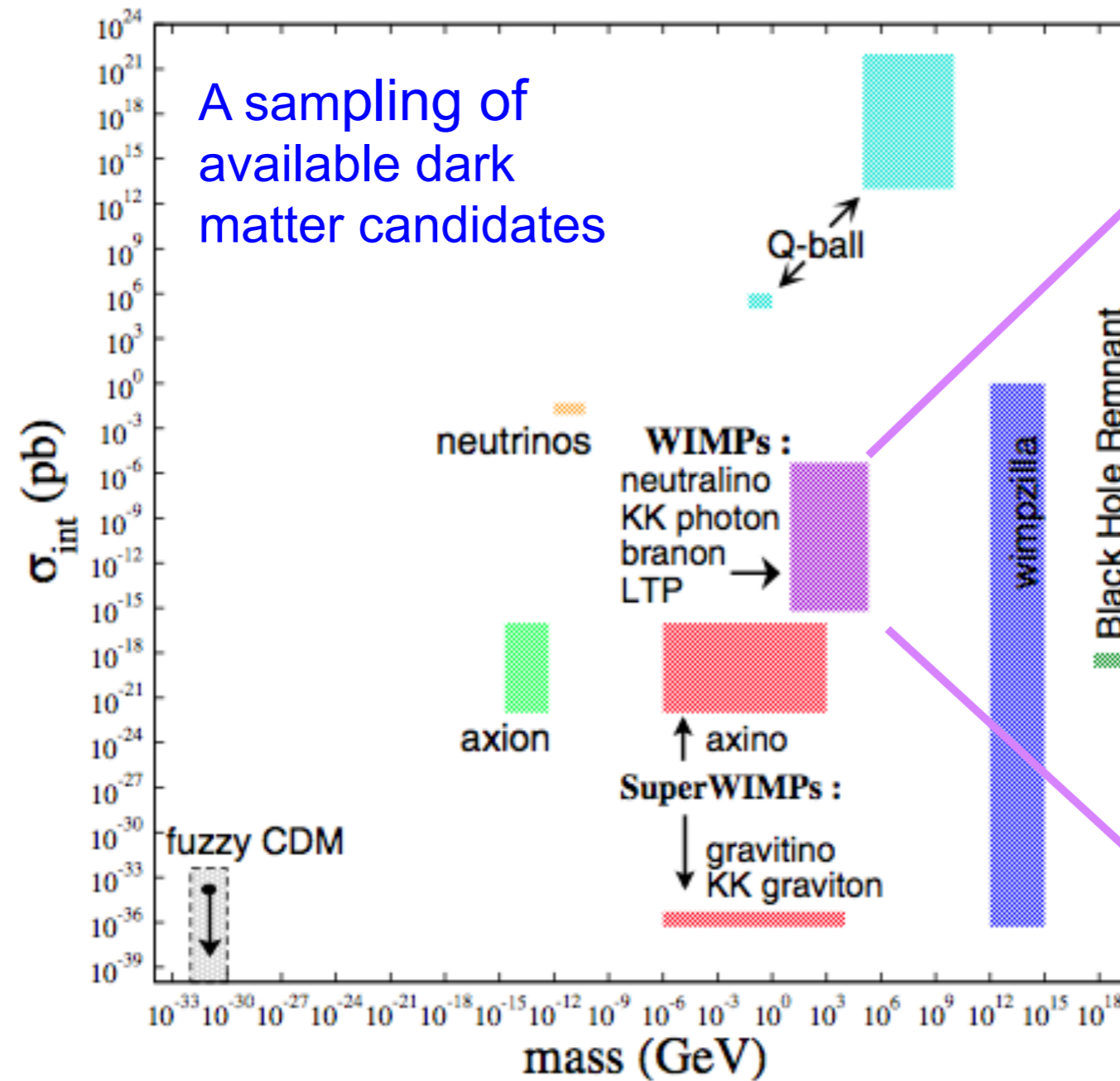
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2001 - Particle physics offers two different hypotheses for the dark matter—WIMPs and axions—either of which would constitute a major discovery of physics beyond the standard model.

2022 - Well-studied theoretical models provide a compelling scientific case to make broad and rapid inroads into unexplored dark matter parameter space via a *search wide, delve deep* strategy. With new experiments that will come online in this decade, the HEP community will search wide to efficiently probe broad, logarithmic ranges of parameter space... Concurrently the community will delve deep to comprehensively explore the high priority science targets of WIMPs and the QCD axion.

# Dark Matter

## Particle Physics



It's probably WIMPs, right?

# WIMPs

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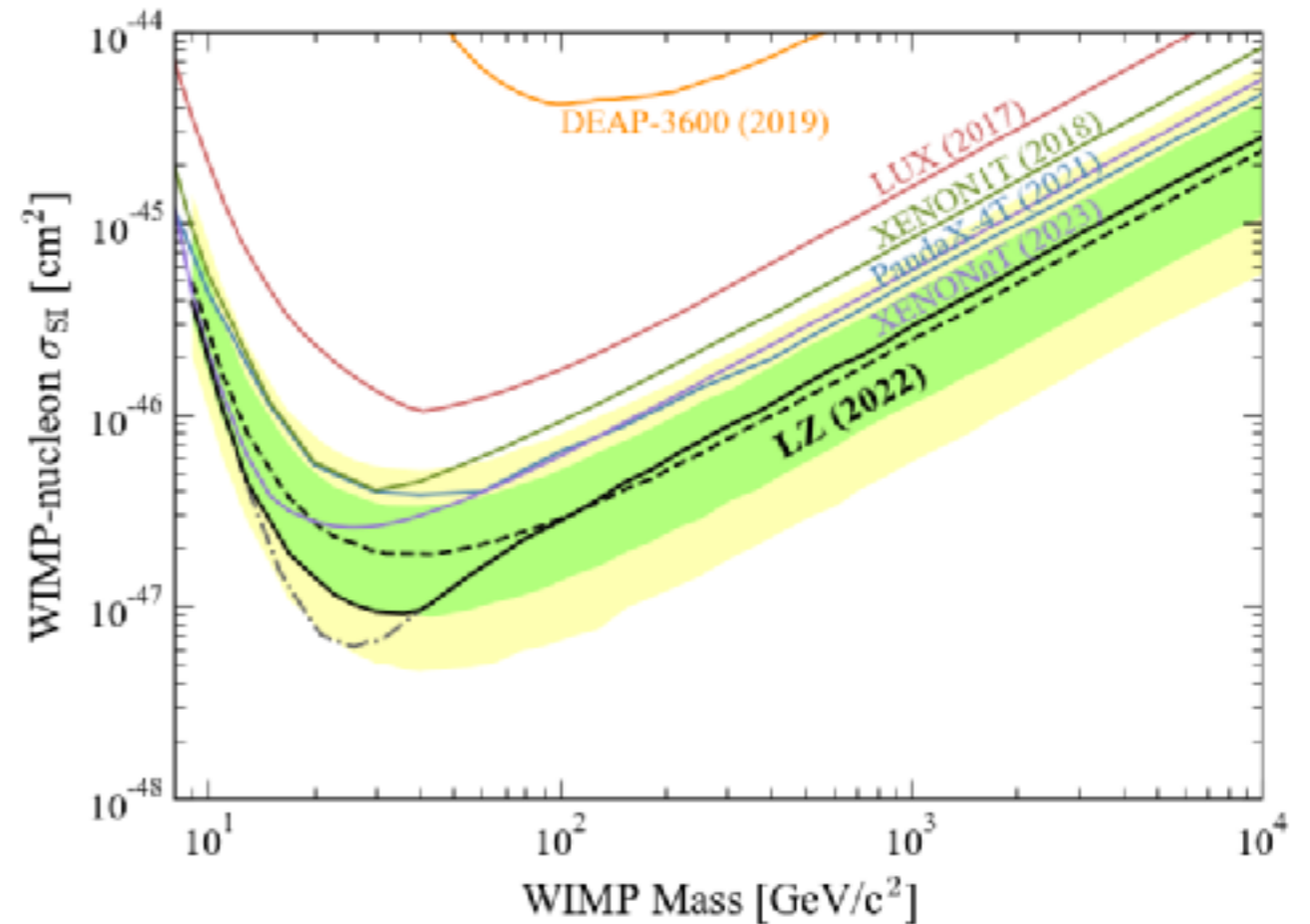
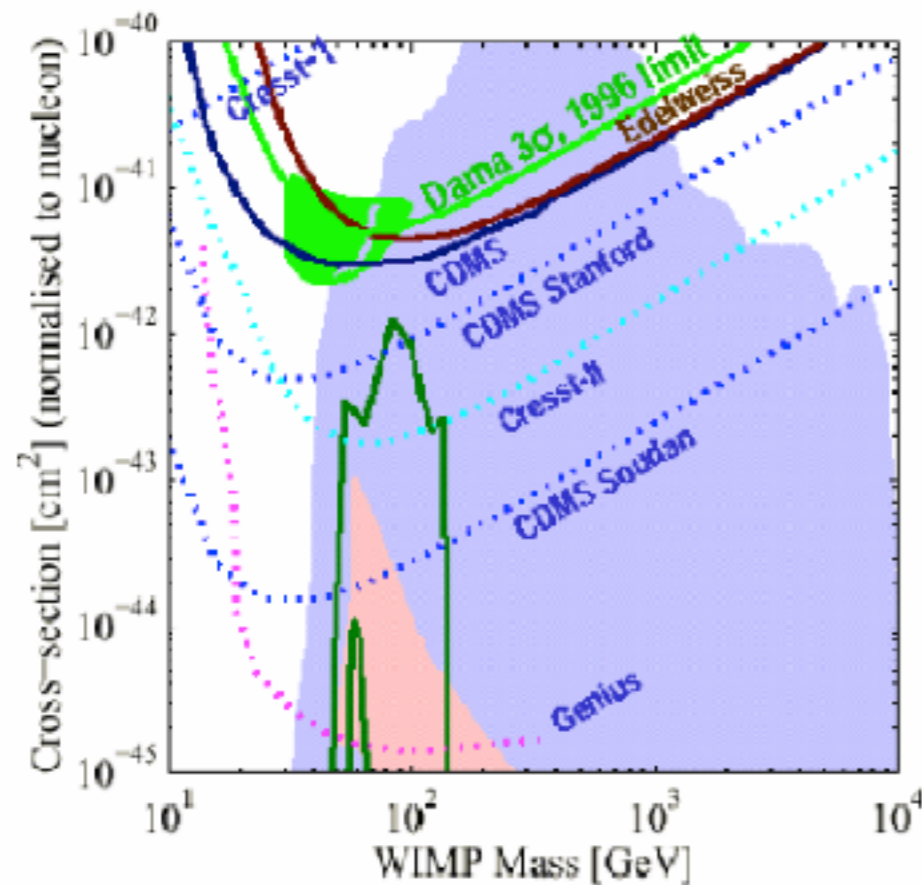
(Dated: October 30, 2018)

“Current searches are already exploring the parameter space of supersymmetric WIMPs [10-1000 GeV], with prospects for a factor of a hundred improvement in the coming years.”

# WIMPs

- CDMS PRL 84: 5699, (2000)
- Best limit at  $3 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2$

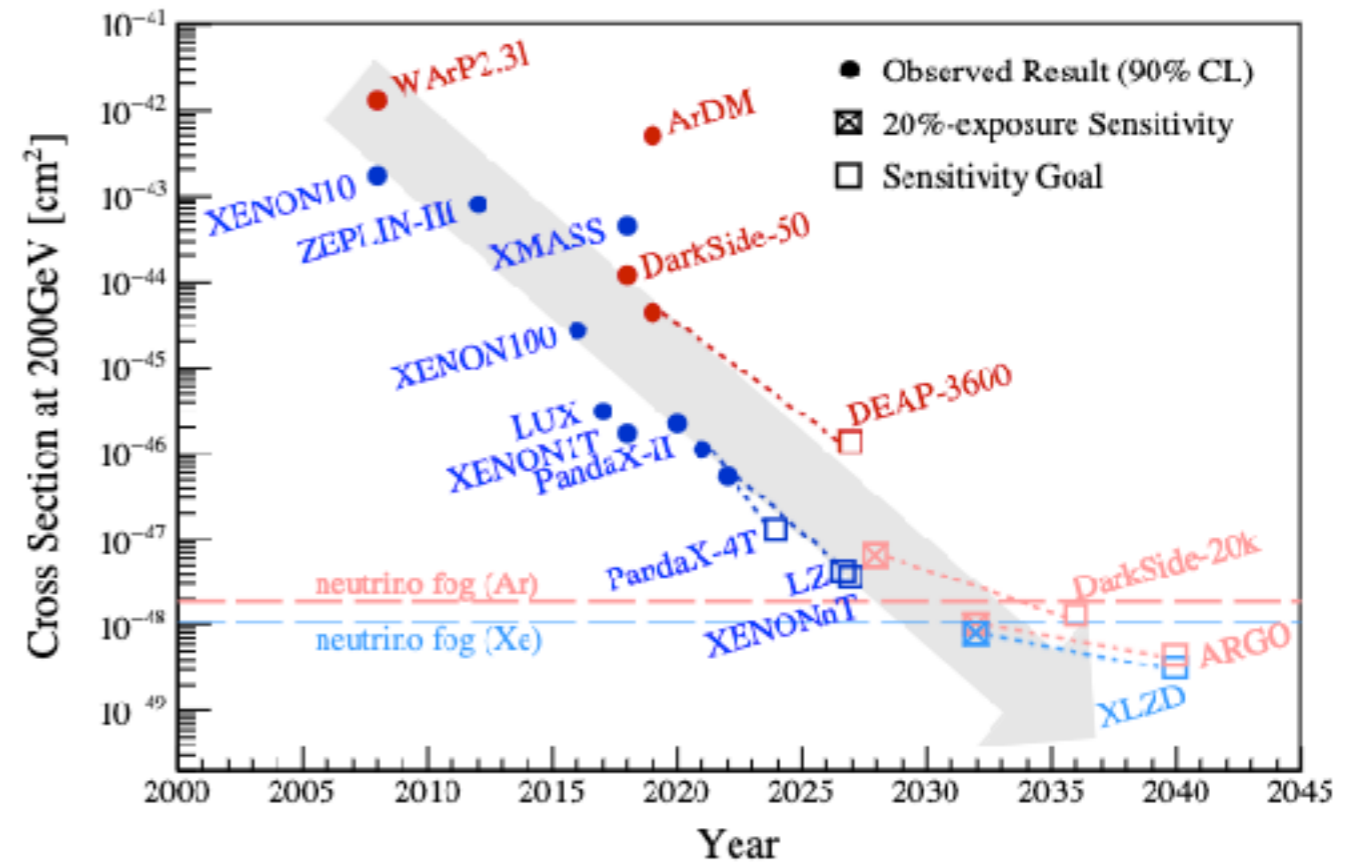
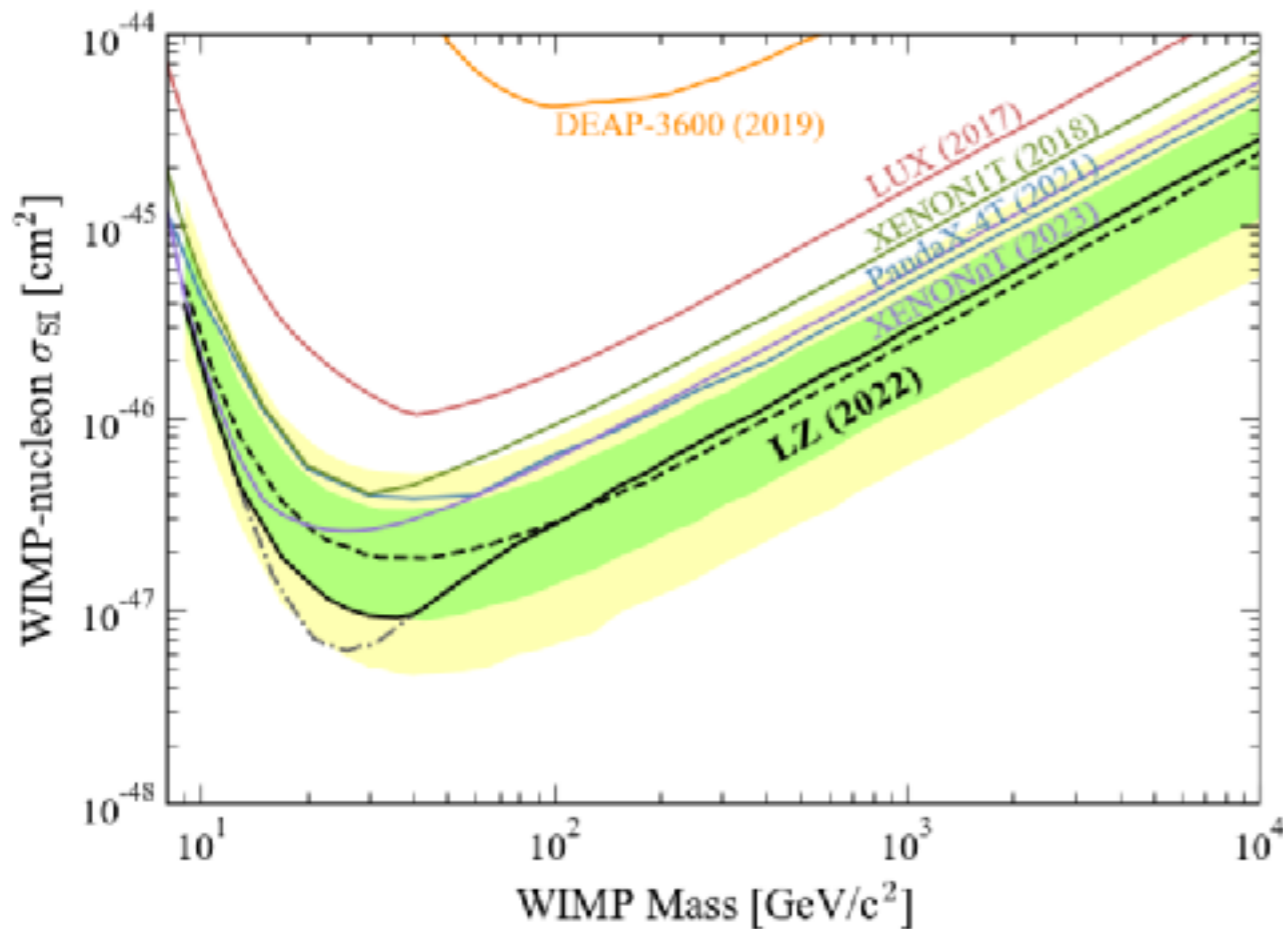
- LZ PRL 131: 041002, (2023)
- Best limit at  $9.2 \times 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$



- Factor of 320,000 improvement in 23 years! Doubling every 1.25 years!
- A triumph of human ingenuity!
- No WIMPs :(



# WIMPs

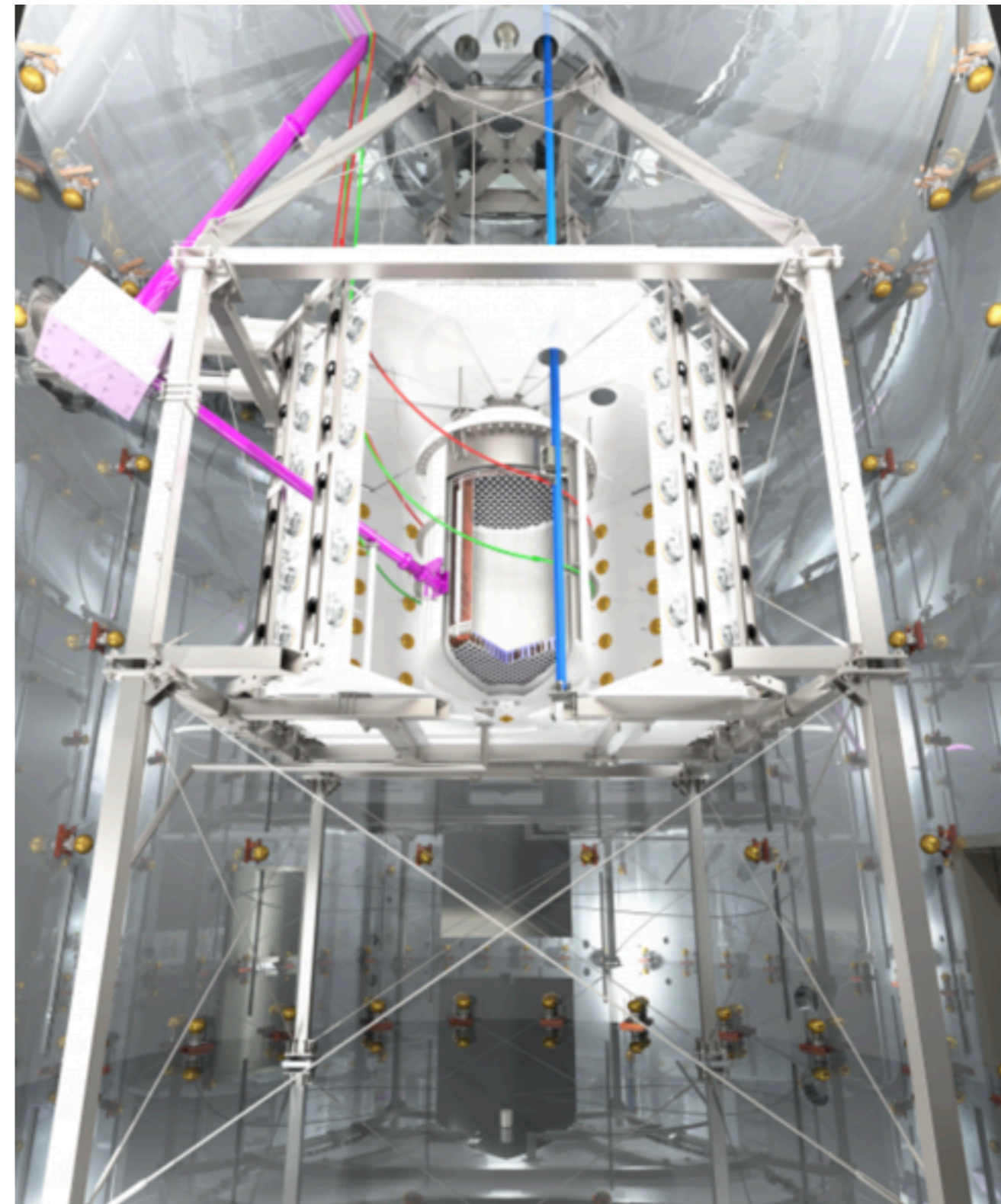
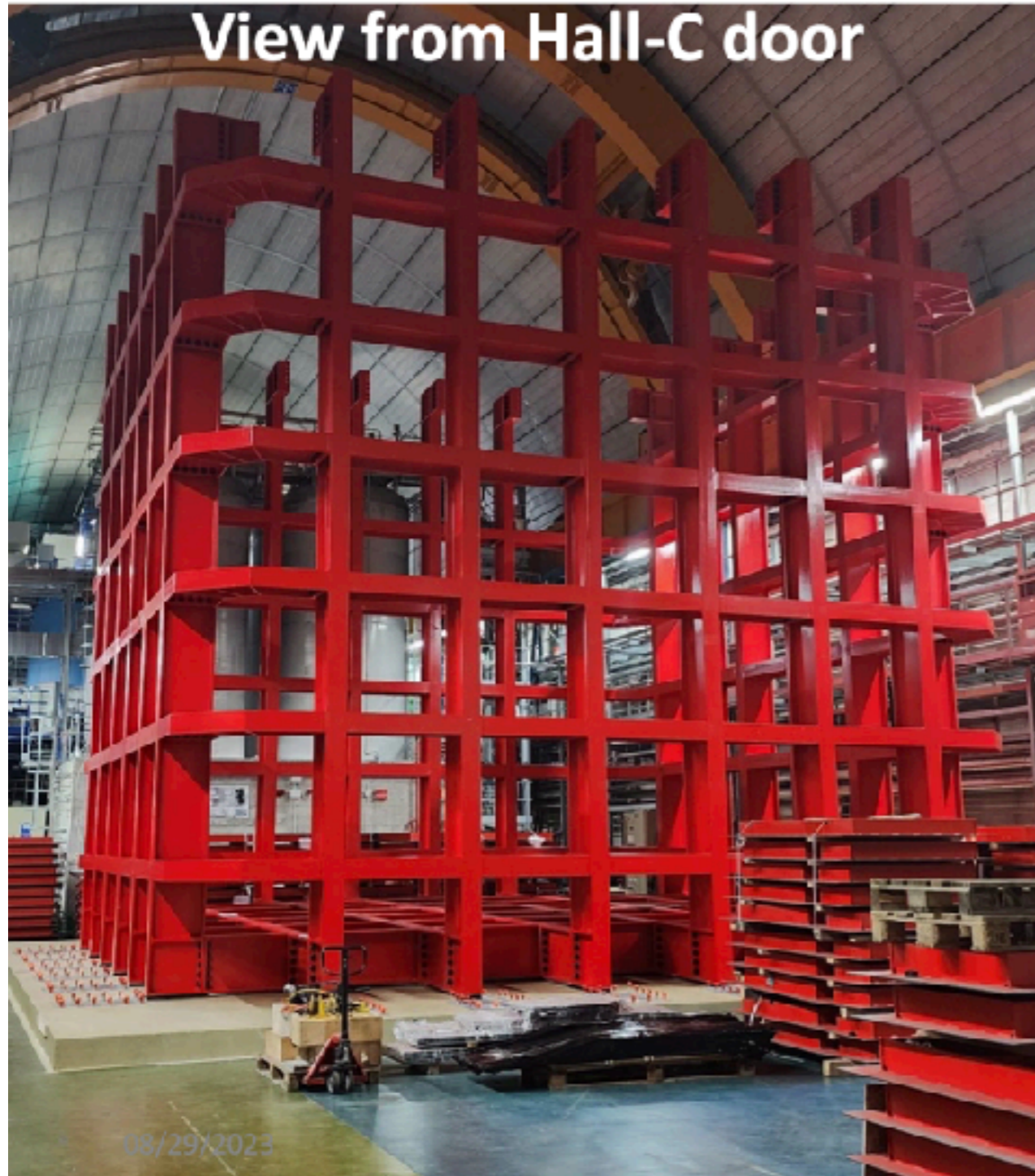


- Xenon experiments have been driving sensitivity to  $\sim 100$  GeV “classic” WIMPs for the past 15 years
  - LZ, XENONnT, and PandaX-4T - multi tonne xenon experiments now operating
- Argon experiments offer very large targets with good background discrimination
  - DarkSide-20k under construction

# WIMPs

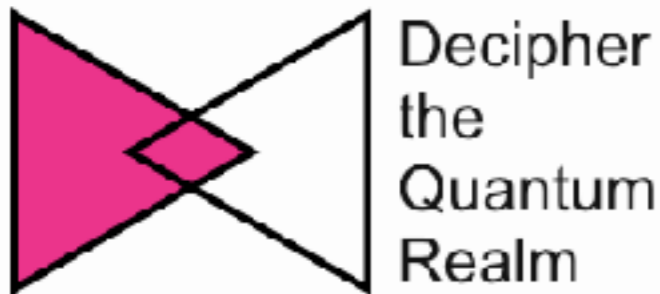


# WIMPs



# P5 Report

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- **Recommendation 1 - continued support for, including construction, operation, and research**
  - **DarkSide-20k, LZ, SuperCDMS, and XENONnT**
- **Recommendation 2d:**
  - **An ultimate Generation 3 (G3) dark matter direct detection experiment reaching the neutrino fog, in coordination with international partners and preferably sited in the US (section 4.1).**
  - **With favorable budget scenario**
    - **Do two G3 experiments**
  - **Less favorable budget scenario**
    - **Reduced participation in offshore G3**

# GADMC Collaboration

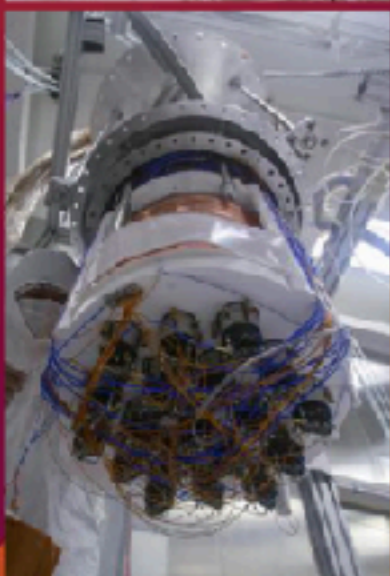
Since 2017

## The Global Argon Dark Matter Collaboration (GADMC)

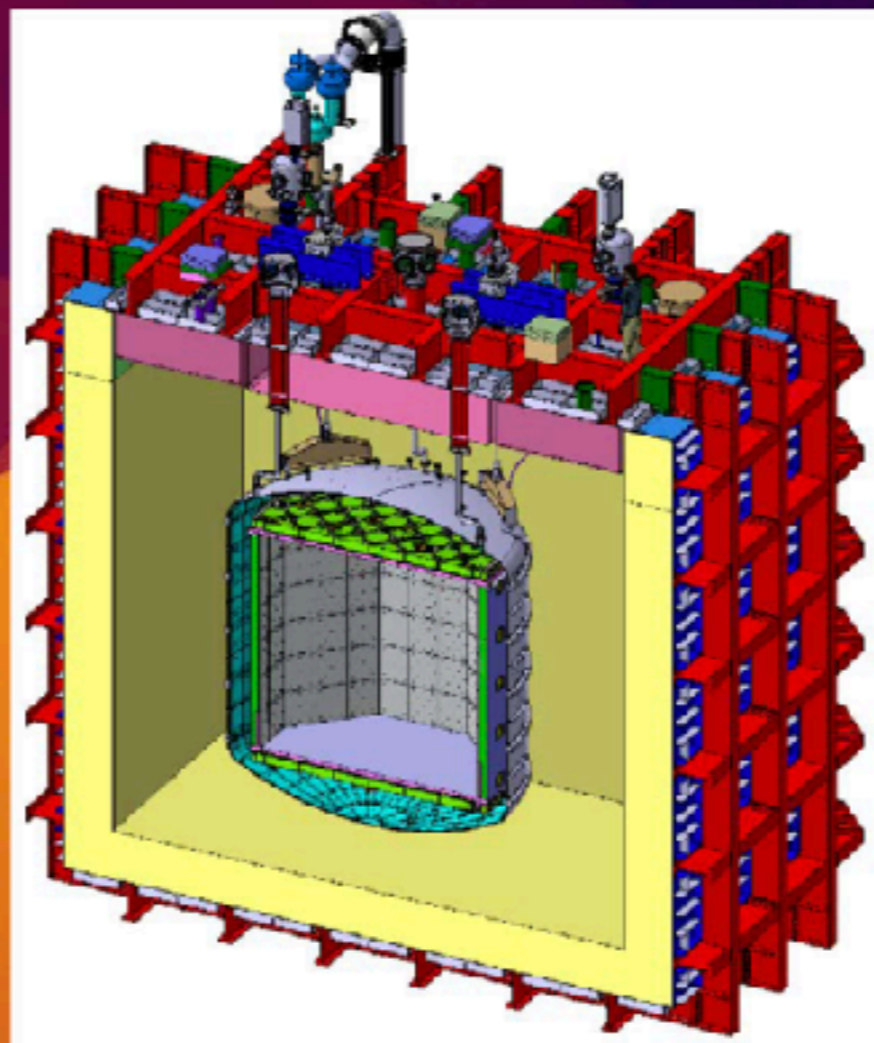
GADMC unified in a single Collaboration more than 400 scientists interested in DM searches with argon to explore heavy (and light) dark matter to the neutrino floor and beyond



DEAP-3600



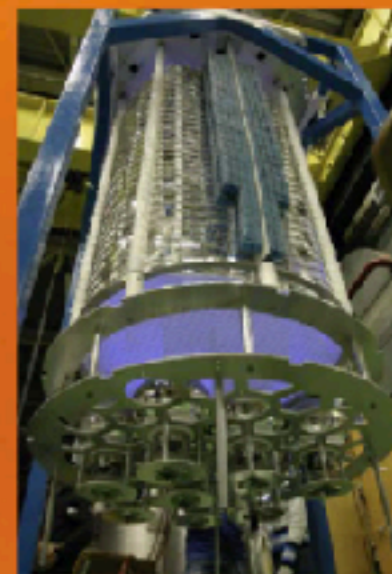
DarkSide-50



MiniCLEAN



ARDM



# XLZD Consortium

## Leading Xenon Researchers unite to build next-generation Dark Matter Detector

SURF is distributing this press release on behalf of the DARWIN and LZ collaborations

July 20, 2021

Several successful meetings

<https://xlzd.org/>

[White paper \(2203.02309\)](#)



DARWIN/XENON + LUX ZEPLIN Summer Meeting 2022



## Dark Matter

- Dark photons
- Axion-like particles
- Planck mass

## WIMPs

- Spin-independent
- Spin-dependent
- Sub-GeV

## Sun

- Solar pp neutrinos
- Solar Boron-8 neutrinos

## Big Bang

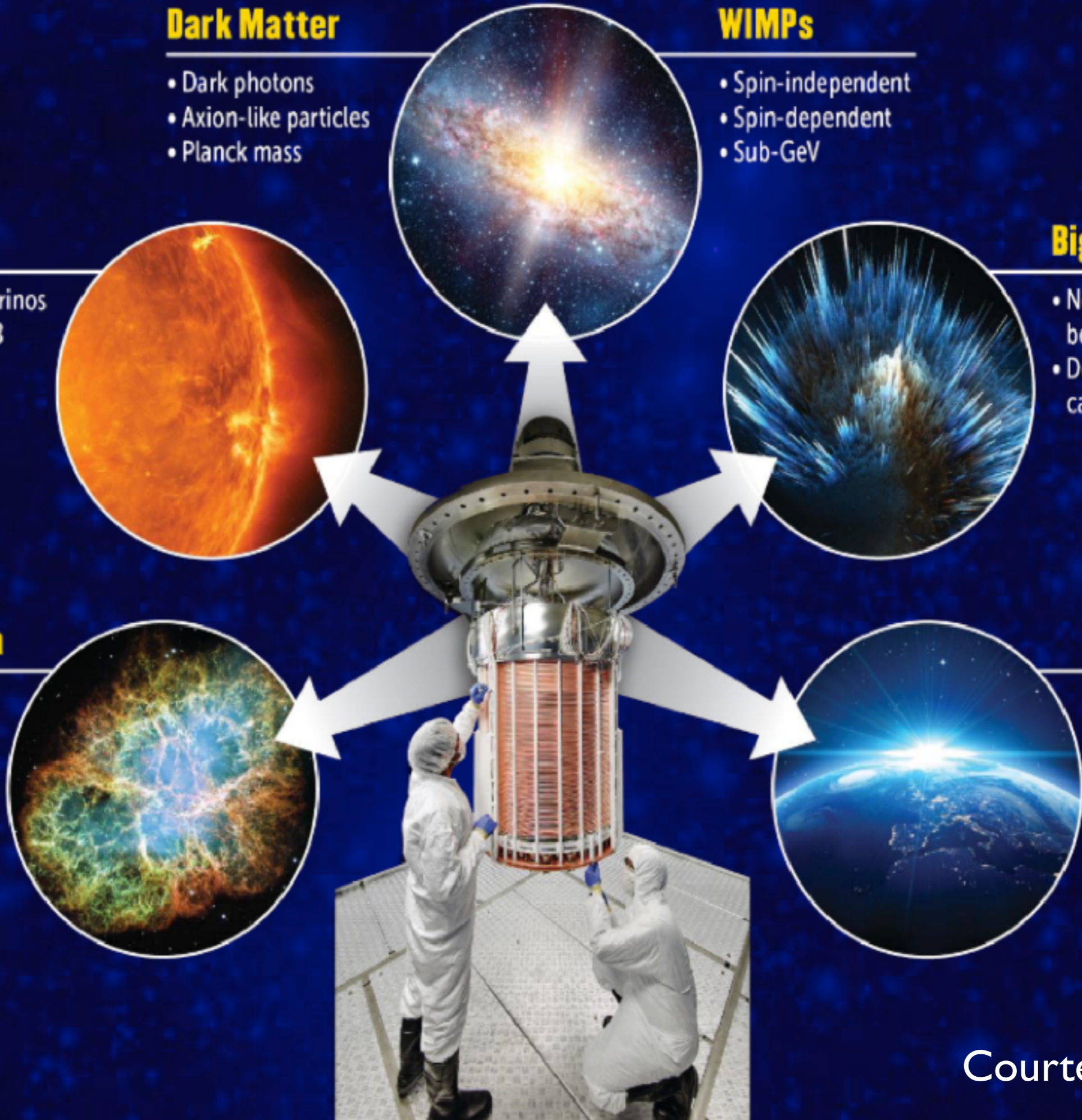
- Neutrinoless double beta decay
- Double electron capture

## Supernova

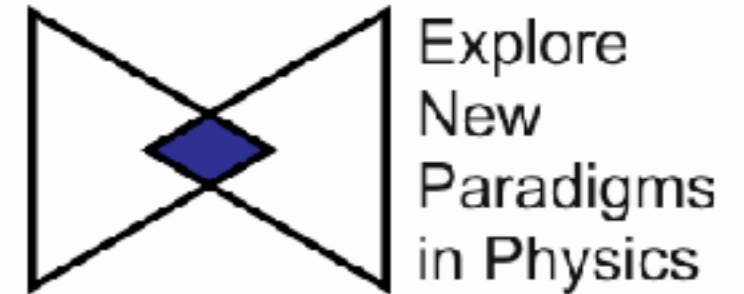
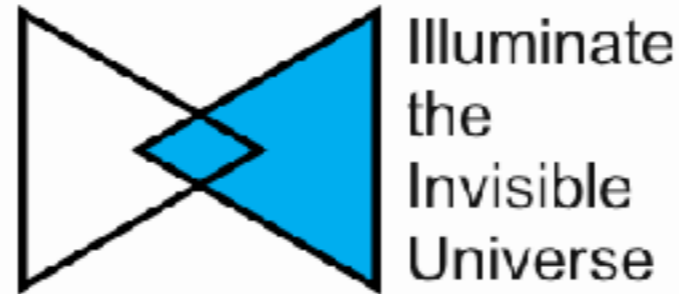
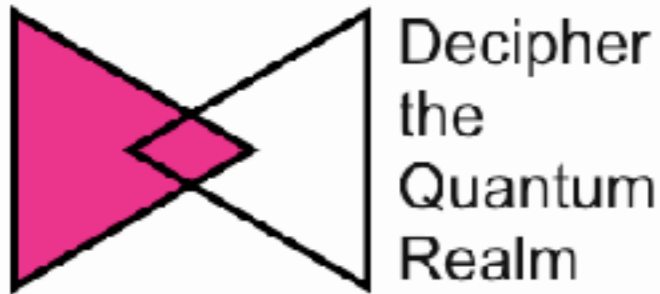
- Supernova neutrinos
- Multi-messenger

## Cosmic Rays

- Atmospheric neutrinos



# P5 Report

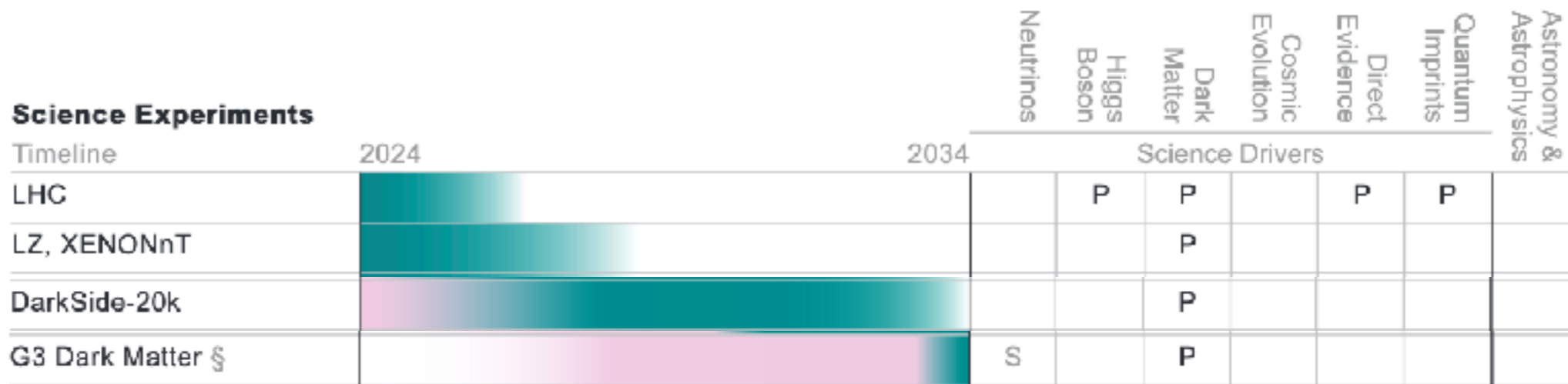


- **Recommendation 2d:**

- **An ultimate Generation 3 (G3) dark matter direct detection experiment reaching the neutrino fog, in coordination with international partners and preferably sited in the US (section 4.1).**

Figure 1 – Program and Timeline in Baseline Scenario (B)

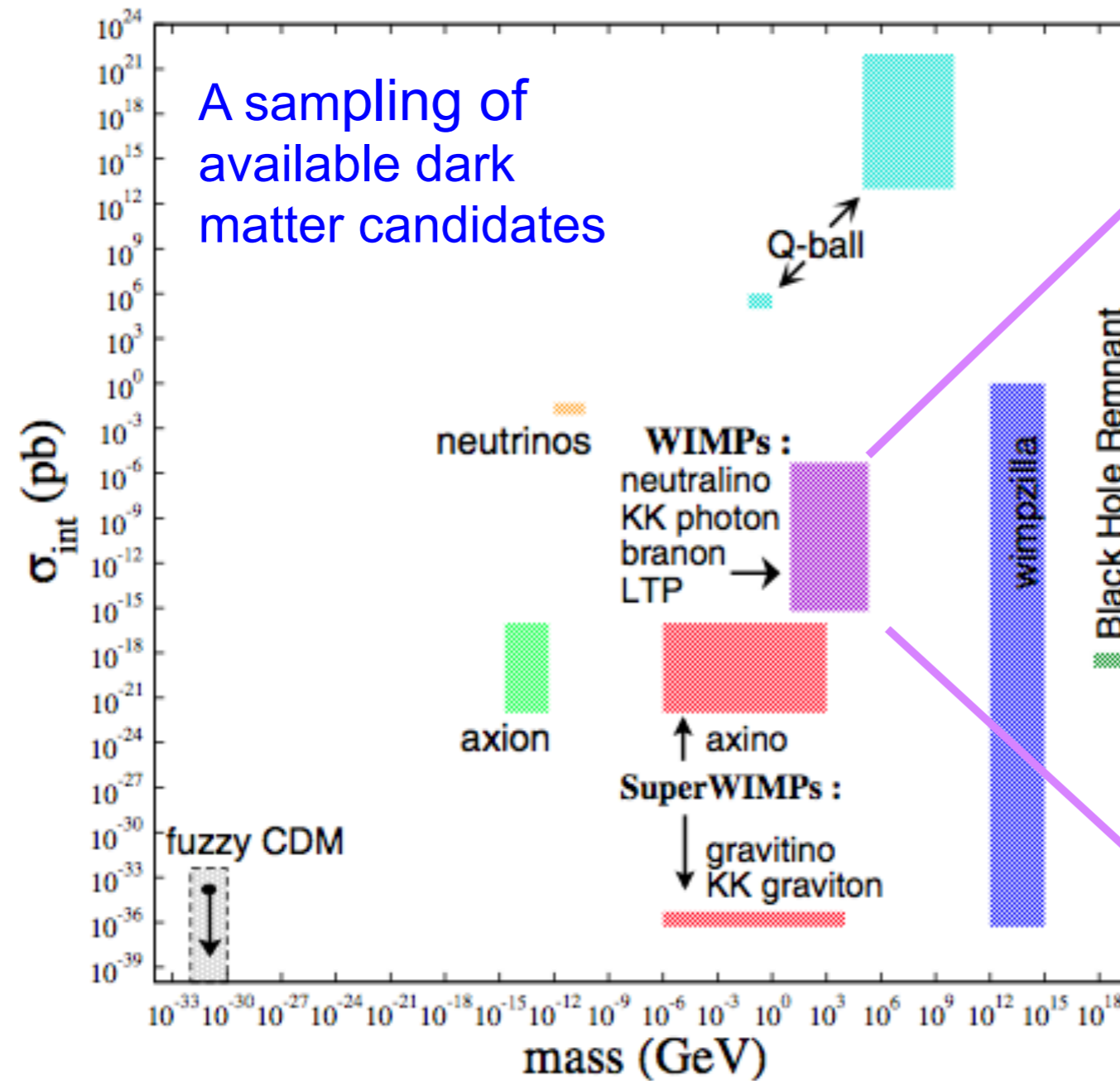
Index: ■ Operation ■ Construction ■ R&D, Research P: Primary S: Secondary  
 § Possible acceleration/expansion for more favorable budget situations





# Dark Matter

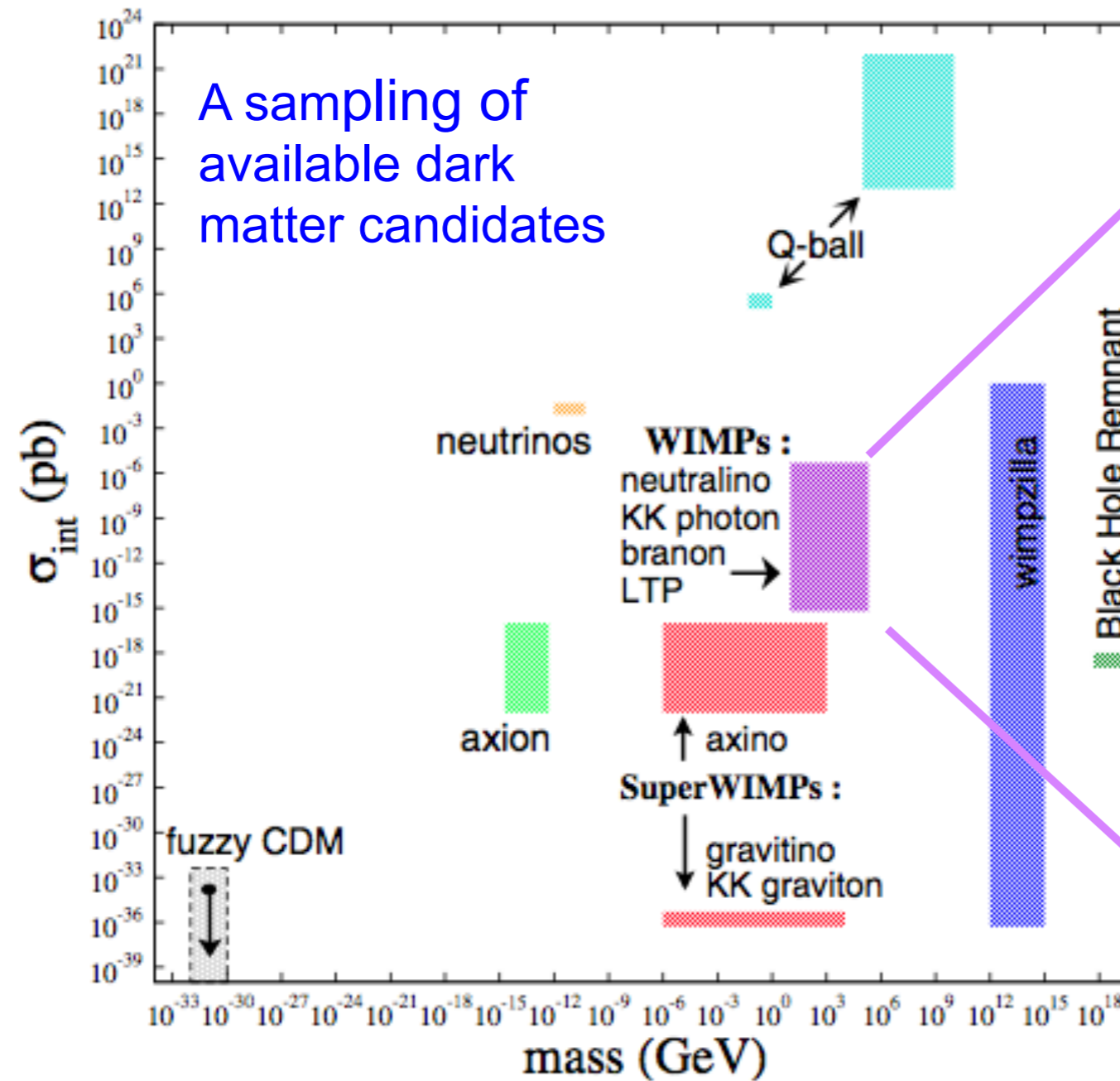
## Particle Physics



It's probably WIMPs, right?

# Dark Matter

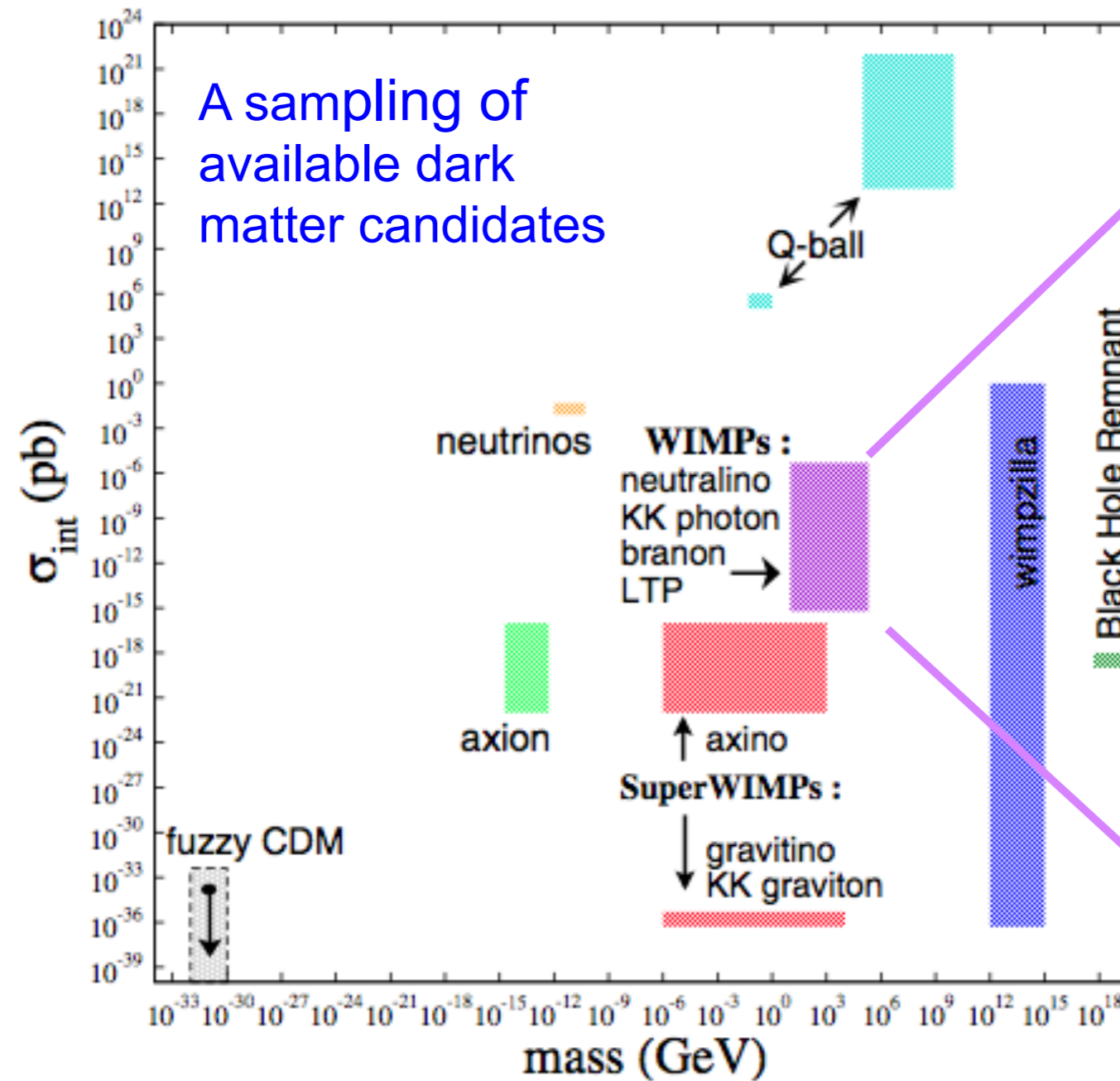
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It's  
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# Dark Matter

## Particle Physics



It's definitely an axion

# Axions

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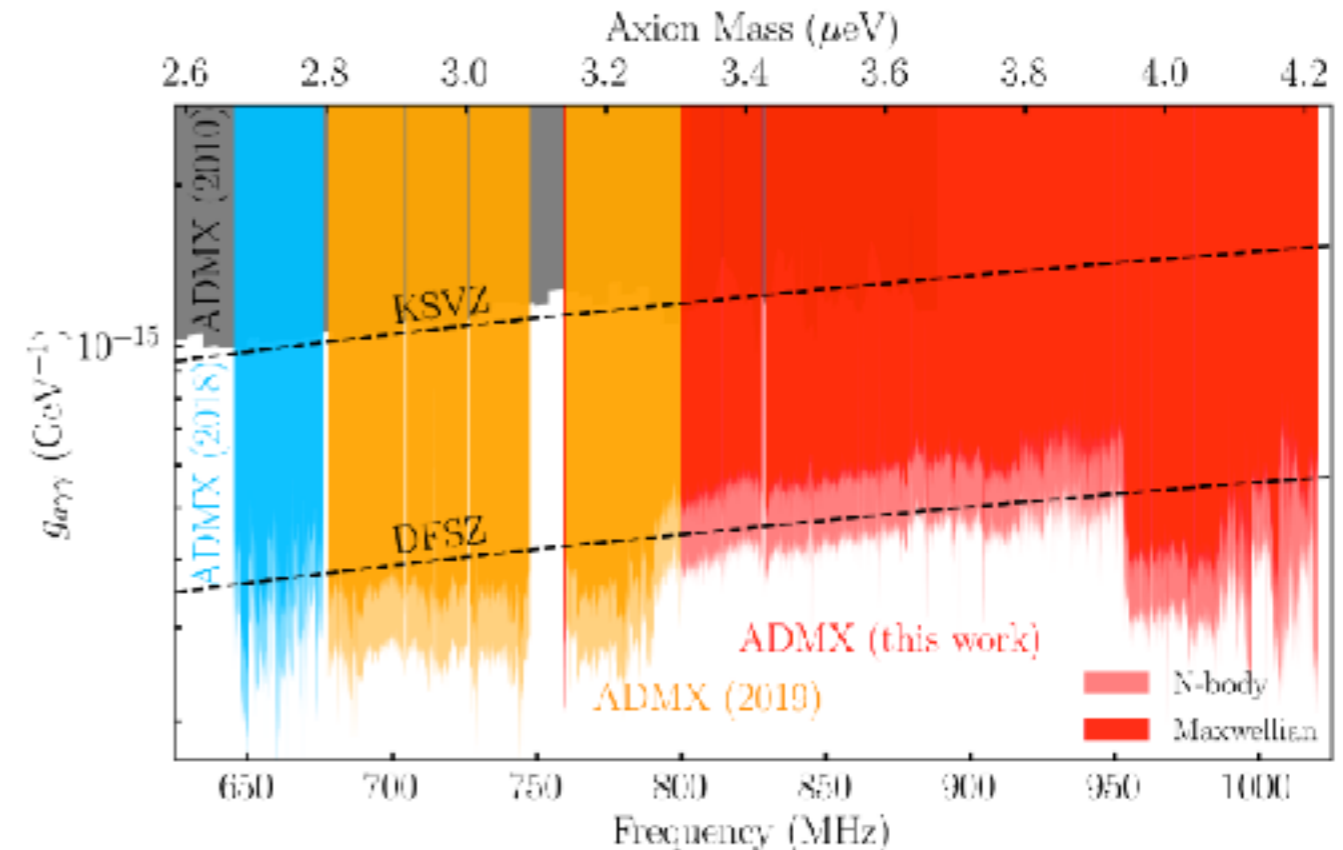
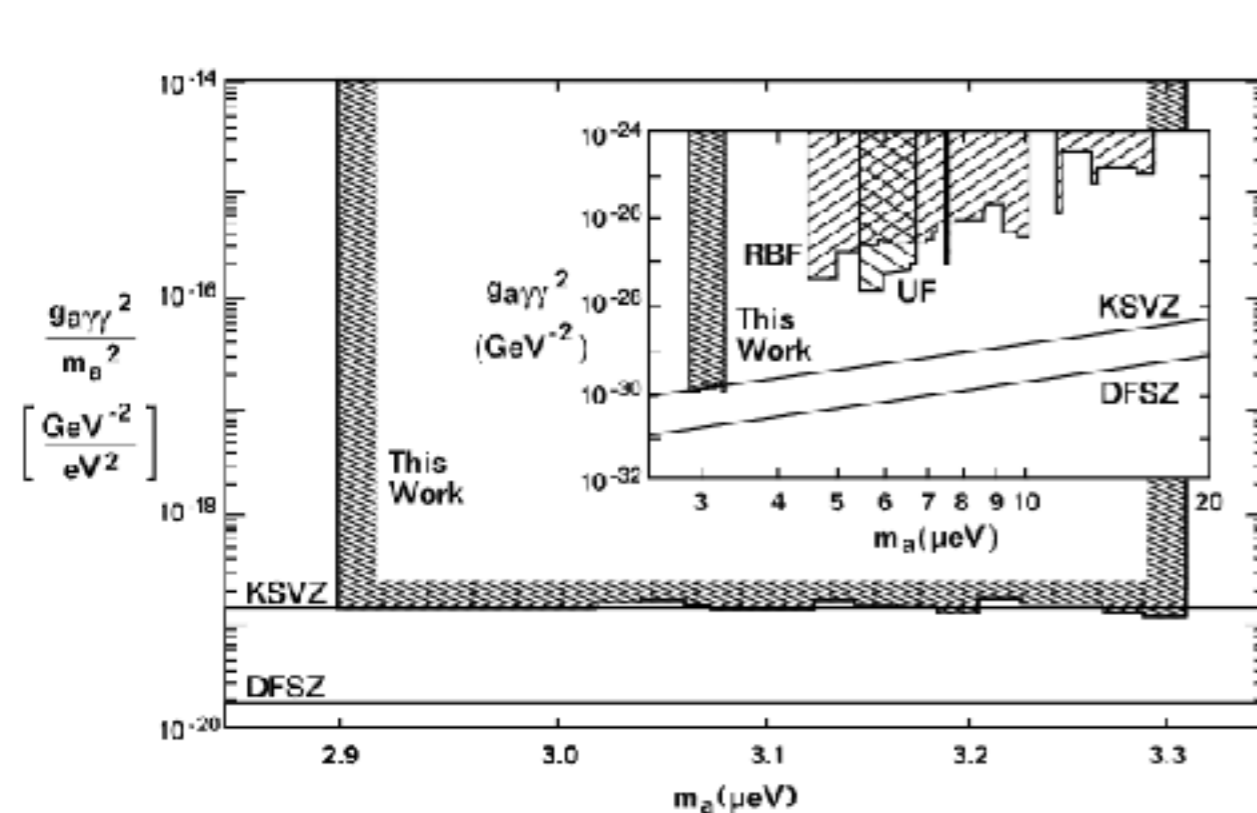
“The two decades of axion mass range that have not yet been ruled out by experiments or astrophysical observations are precisely in the range that could explain the dark matter...

It is reasonable to expect that in less than a decade, axions as dark matter could be detected or definitively ruled out.”

# Axions

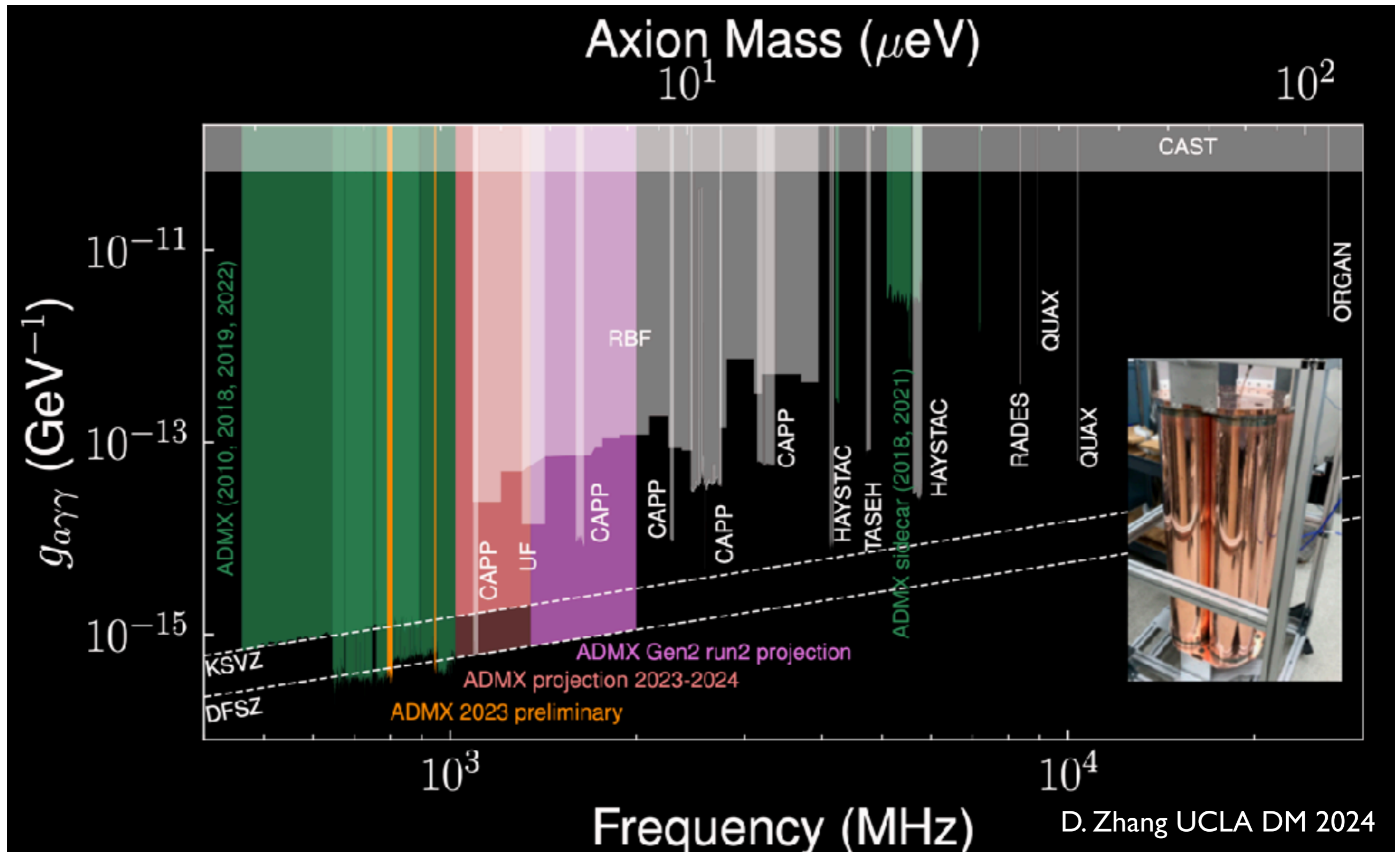
- ADMX, PRD 64: 092003 (2001)
- Touching the KSVZ line at  $3e-6$  eV

- ADMX, PRL 127:261803 (2021)
- To DFSZ line from  $2.5$  to  $4.2e-6$  eV



- Close to order of magnitude improvement in both coupling and mass
- We did not discover or rule out axion dark matter, sadly
- Many more resources now starting to move into axion physics
- Panofsky Prize in 2024 for David Tanner and Leslie Rosenberg!

# Dark Matter



D. Zhang UCLA DM 2024

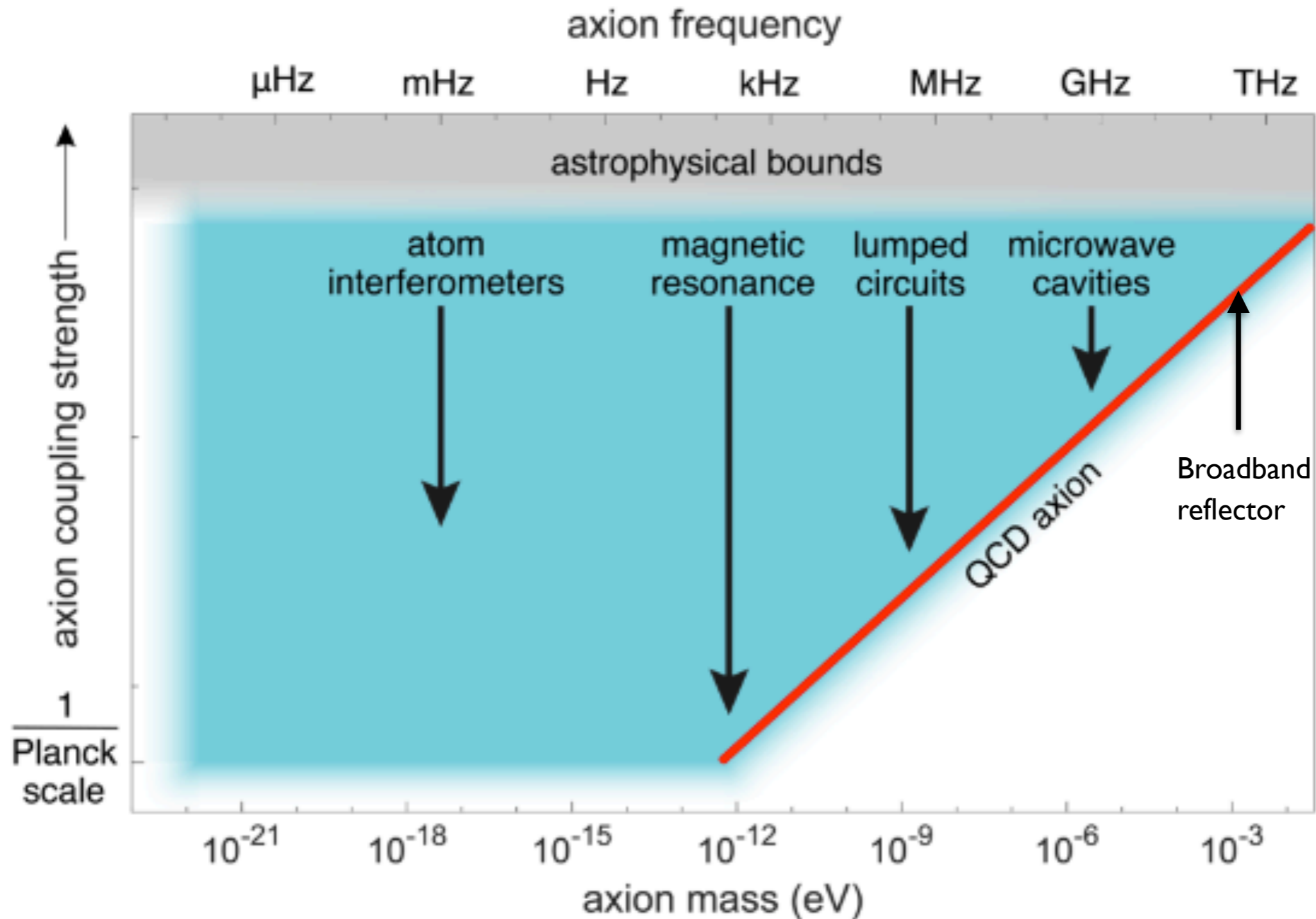
# Axions from the bottom up

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“The *two decades of axion mass range that have not yet been ruled out* by experiments or astrophysical observations are precisely in the range that could explain the dark matter... - Snowmass 2001

Recent theoretical advances have significantly expanded the phenomenology of the QCD axion, resulting in the realization that *QCD axion dark matter can exist over wide range of masses from 100 Hz to 1 THz* (roughly  $10^{-12}$  eV to  $10^{-3}$  eV). - DMNI Report, 2018

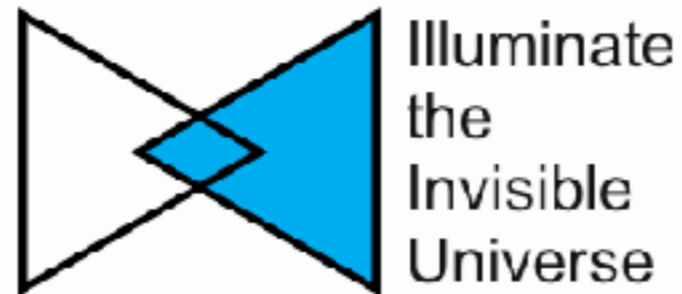
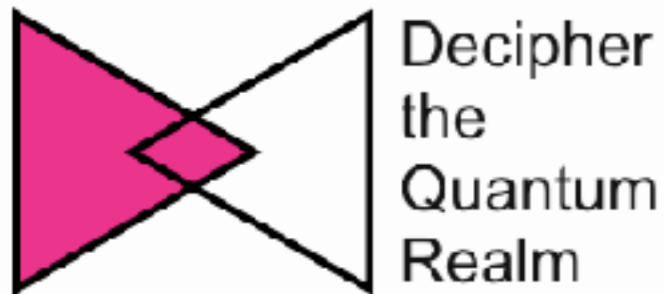
# Axions from the bottom up





# P5 Report

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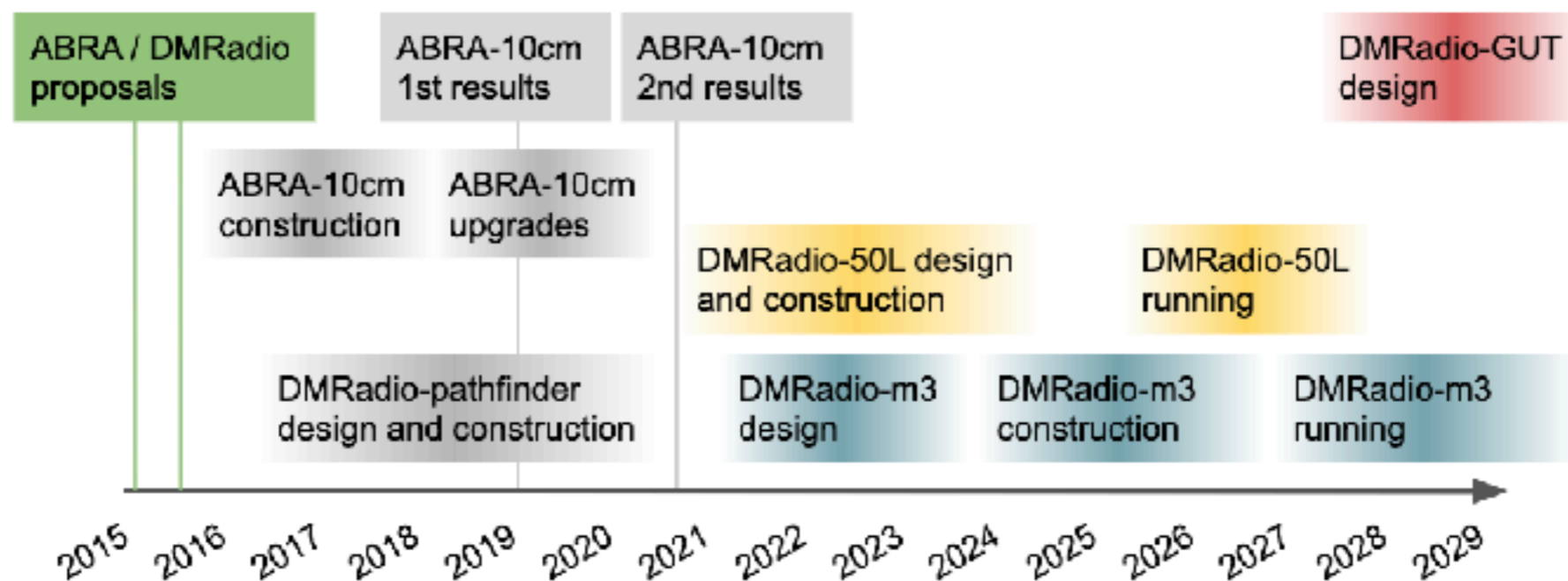


- **Recommendation 3a:**
  - Implement a new small-project portfolio at DOE, **Advancing Science and Technology through Agile Experiments (ASTAE)**...The program should start with the construction of experiments from the Dark Matter New Initiatives (DMNI) by DOE-HEP.
- **Recommendation 4d:**
  - Invest R&D in **instrumentation** to develop innovative scientific tools

# Broadening the mass reach

- **ADMX-EFR\***, HAYSTAC going to higher frequencies in cavity searches (axion converts to a photon in a cavity)
- **DMRadio\*** looks to push below 1  $\mu\text{eV}$  with lumped elements (axions convert into an effective current measured by a resonator)
- **CASPEr** pushing even lower with precision NMR (axions interact with nuclear spin creating precession)

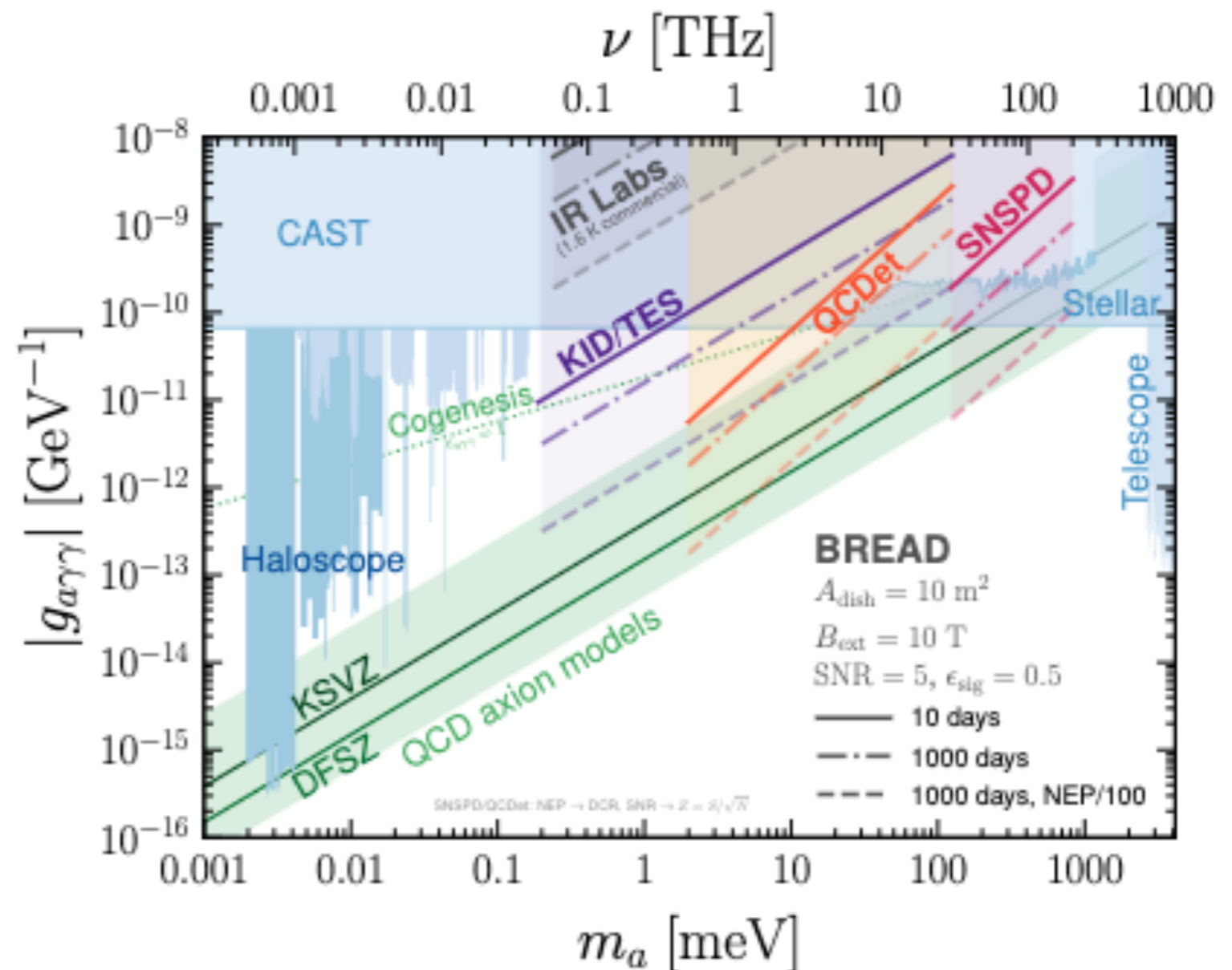
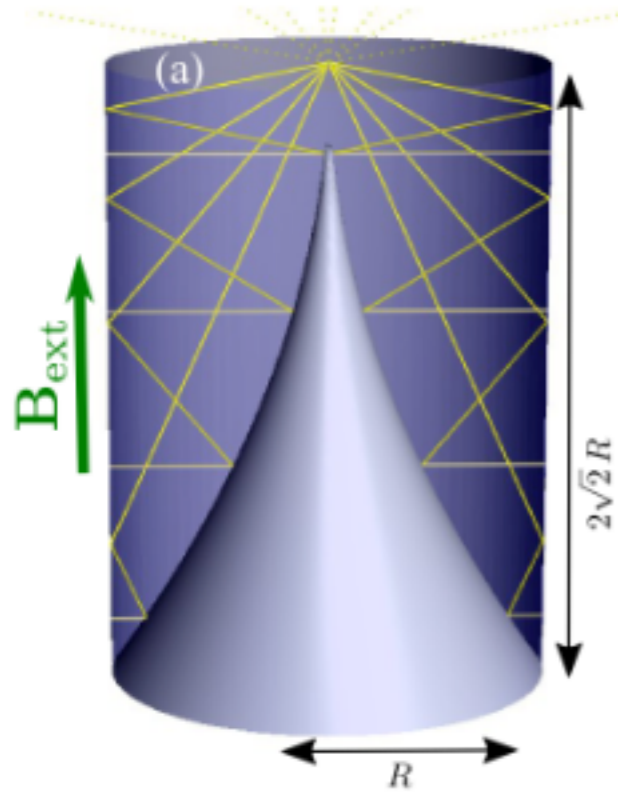
## DMRadio program schedule



\*DMNI Project

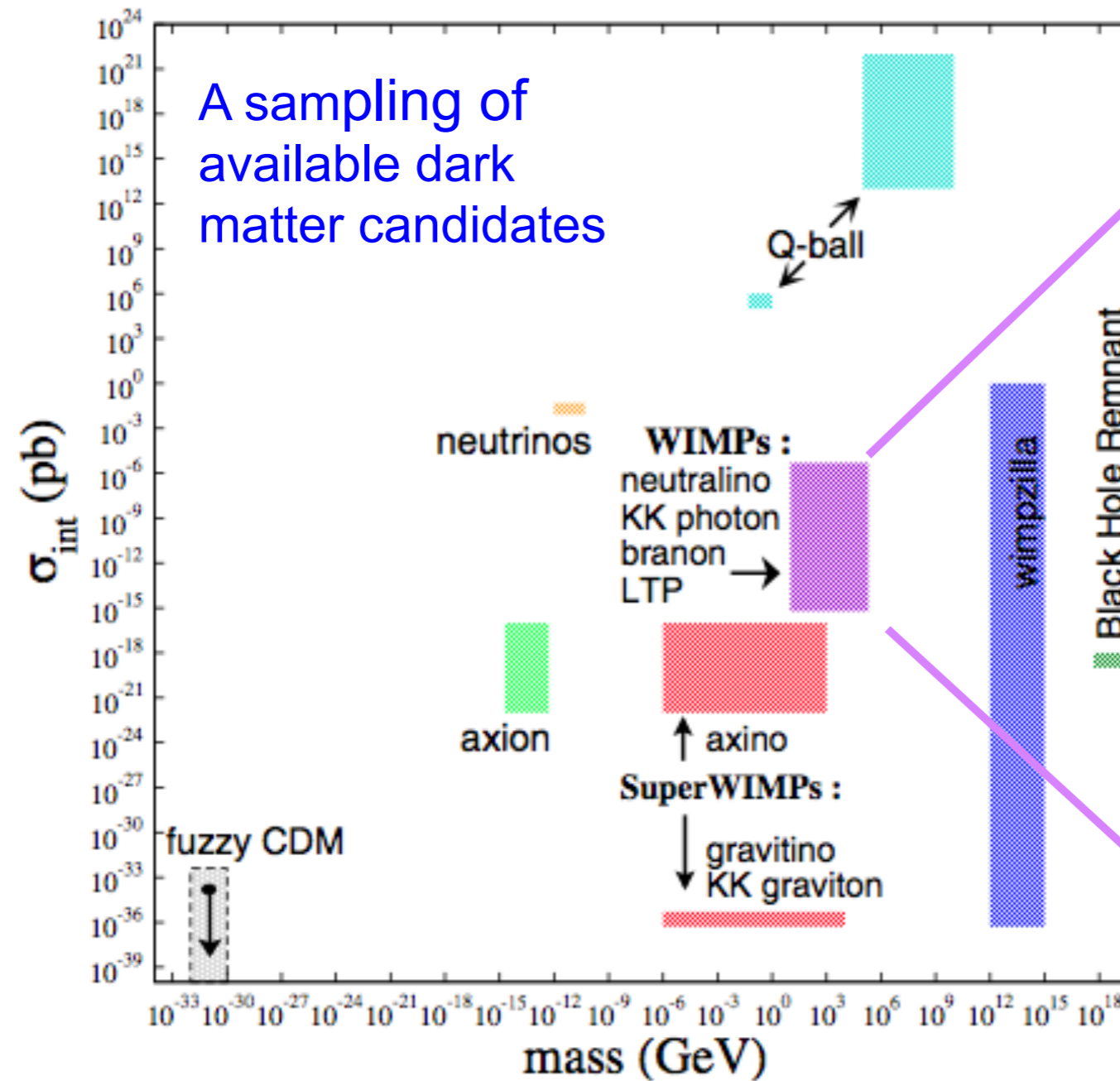
# Broadening the mass reach

- **BREAD, LAMPOST** look for conversion into photons at surfaces, count photons
  - Amplified by dielectric stack



# Dark Matter

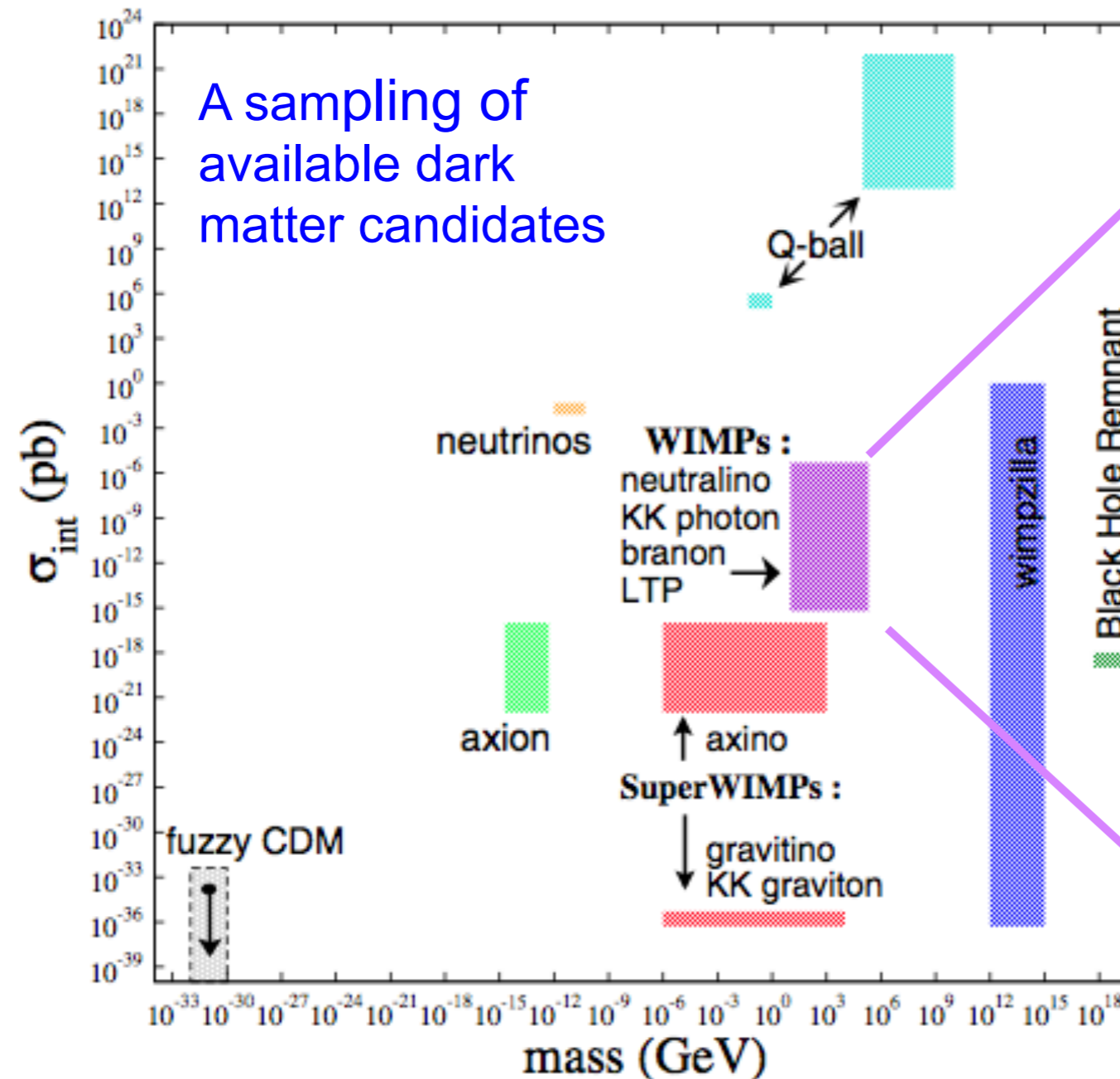
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# Dark Matter

## Particle Physics

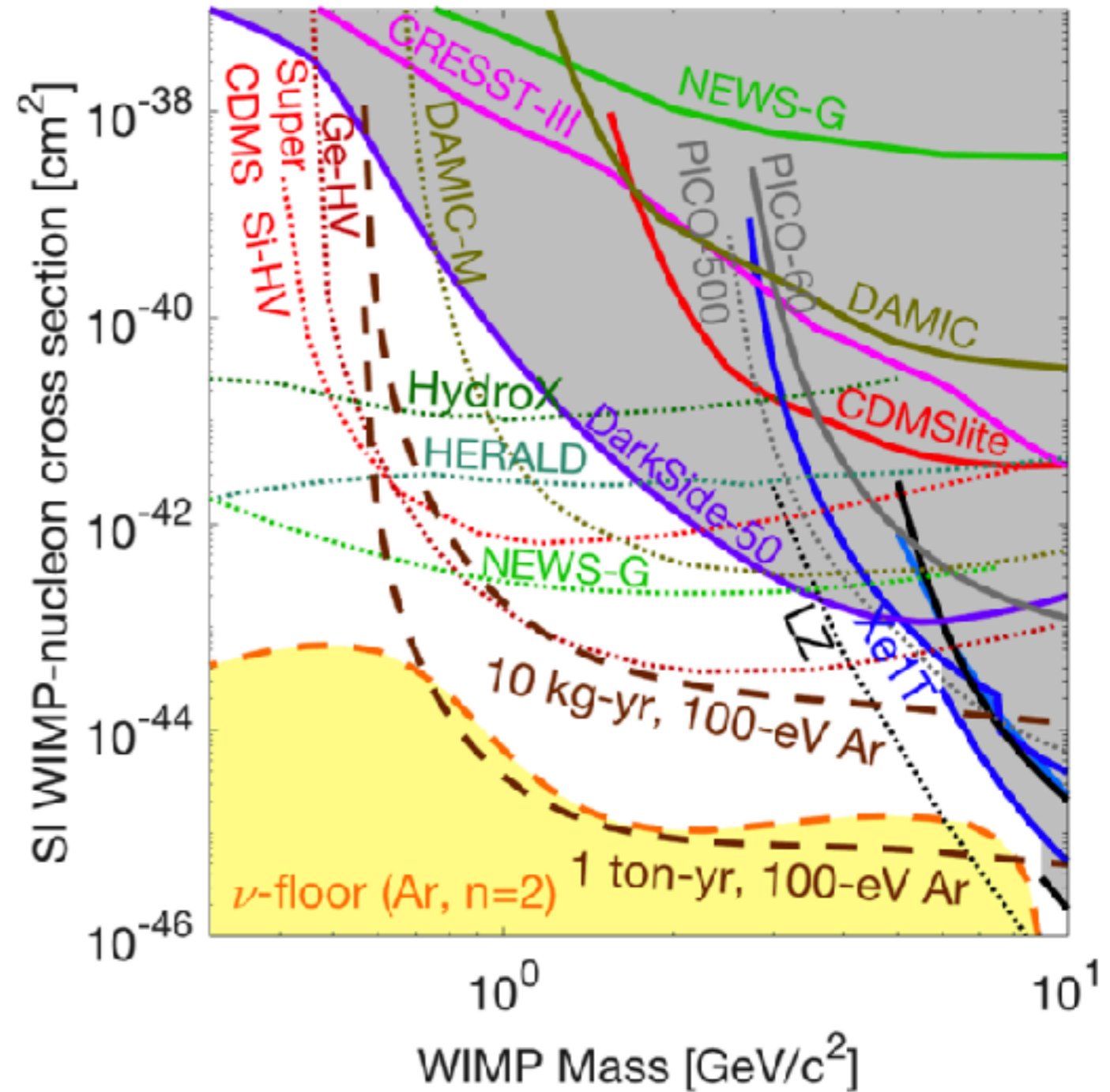


Or at least a thermal relic

Prediction is strongly correlated with discovery prospects.

# Broadening the mass reach

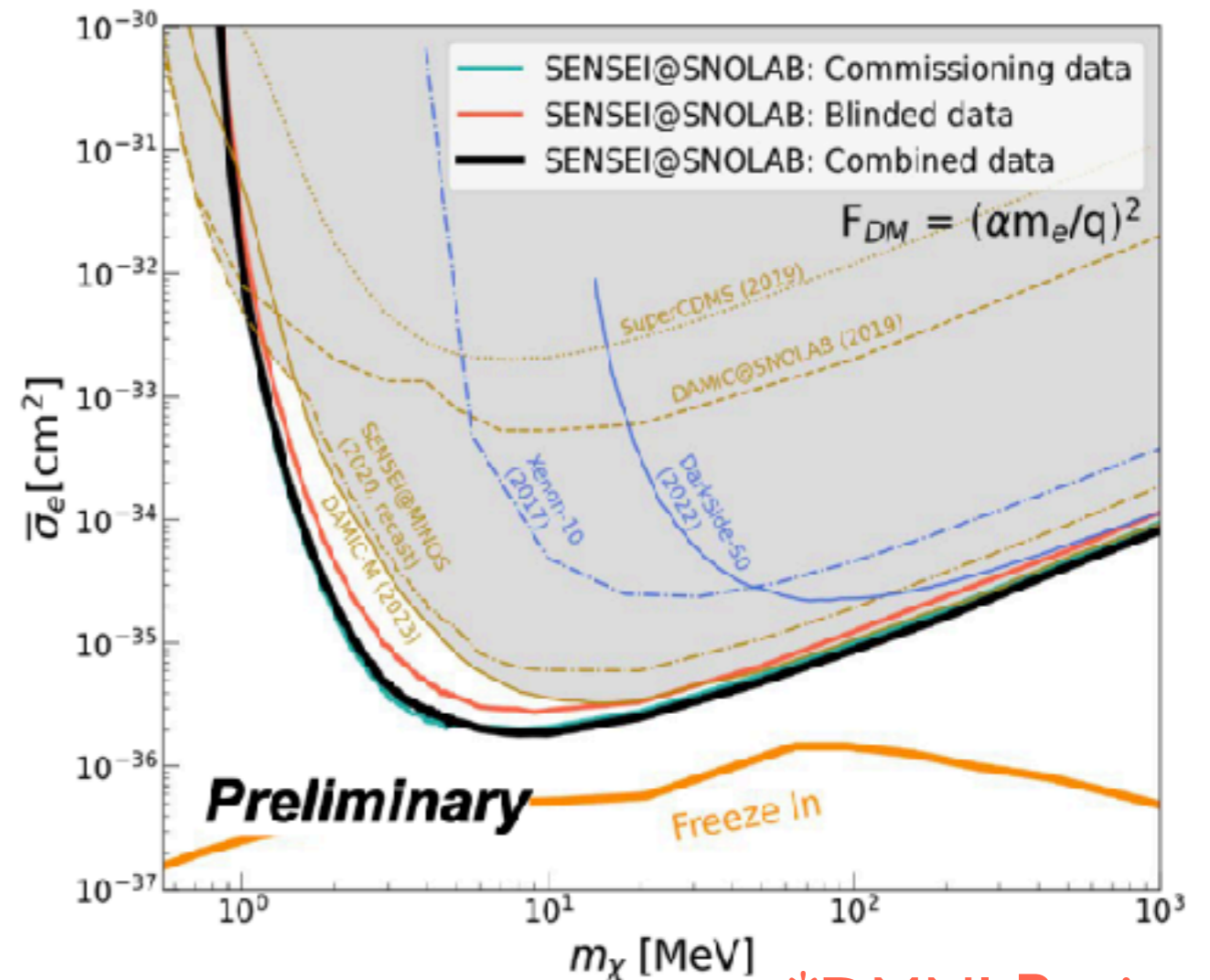
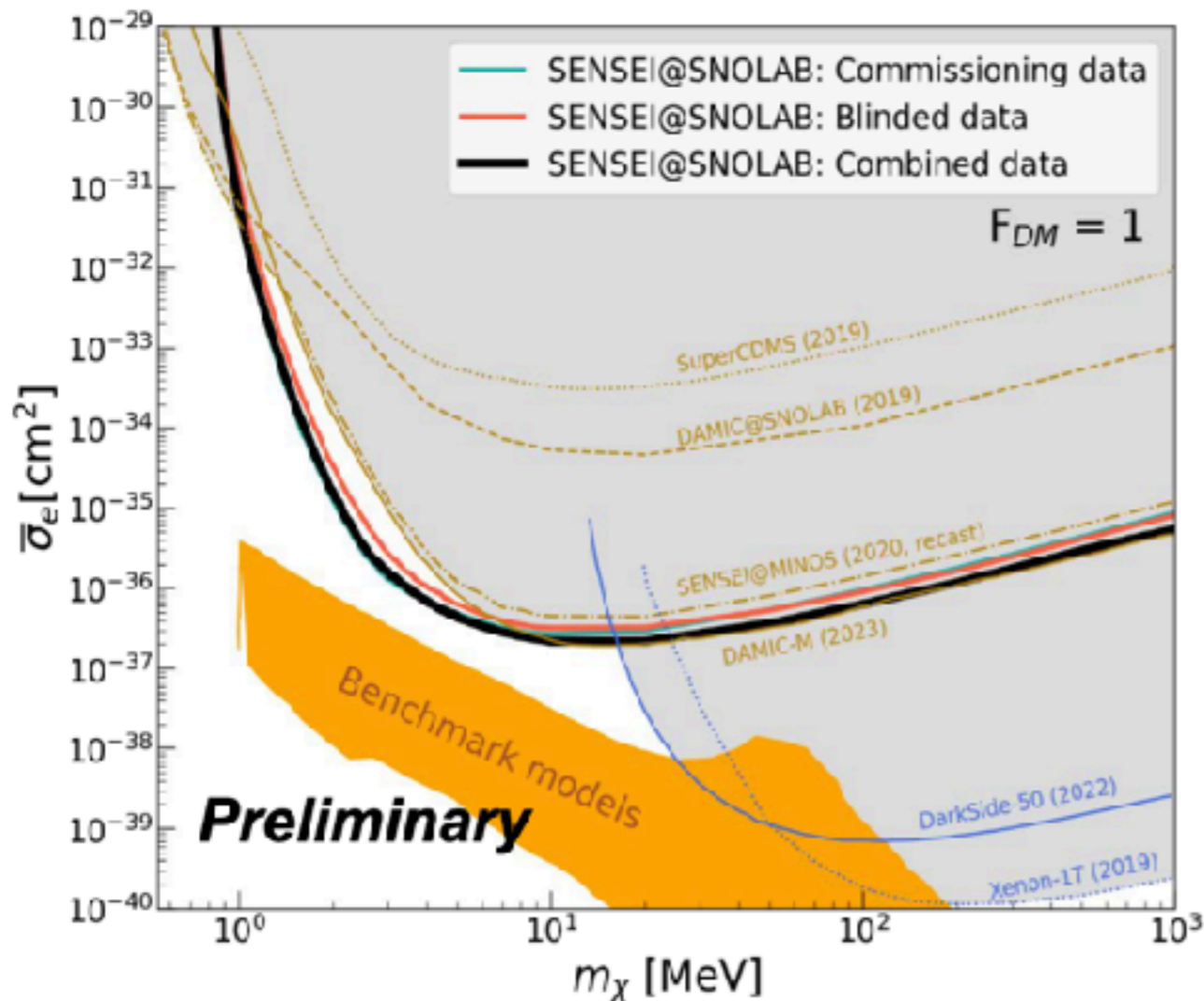
- Exploring the  $<10$  GeV range
  - SuperCDMS-SNOLAB UG tower testing underway
  - Scintillating Bubble Chamber (SBC) project operating this summer at FNAL
  - HydroX - hydrogen doped in liquid xenon
  - ...



← SBC at Fermilab

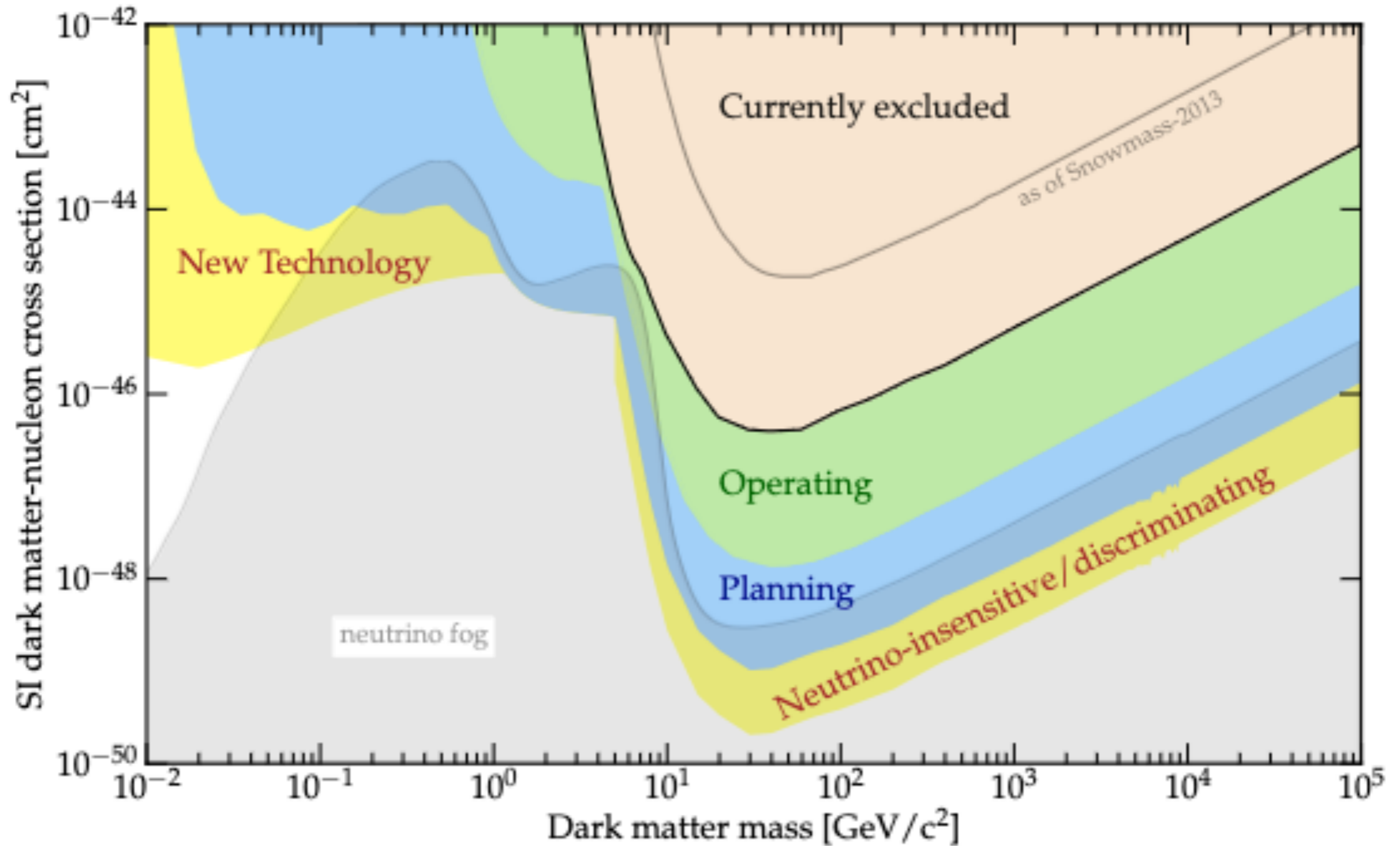
# Broadening the mass reach

- Down to the MeV region
  - Superconducting devices - SuperCDMS HVeV, **TESSERACT\***, CRESST, EDELWEISS,...
  - CCDs - DAMIC/SENSEI/**OSCURA\***, ...
  - Scintillators - **TESSERACT\***, organic crystals, ...



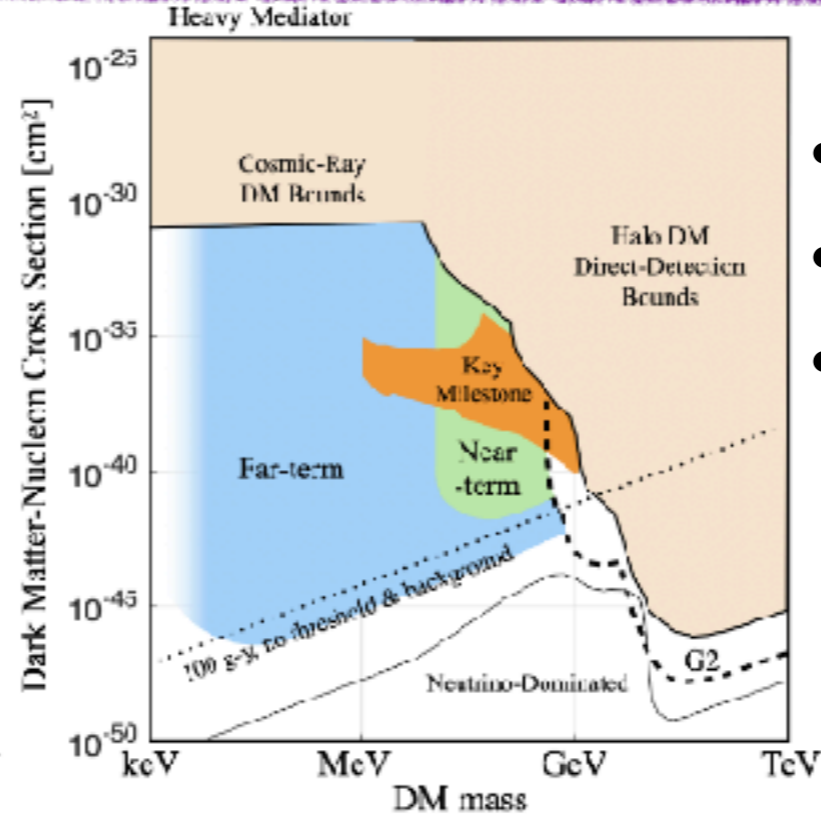
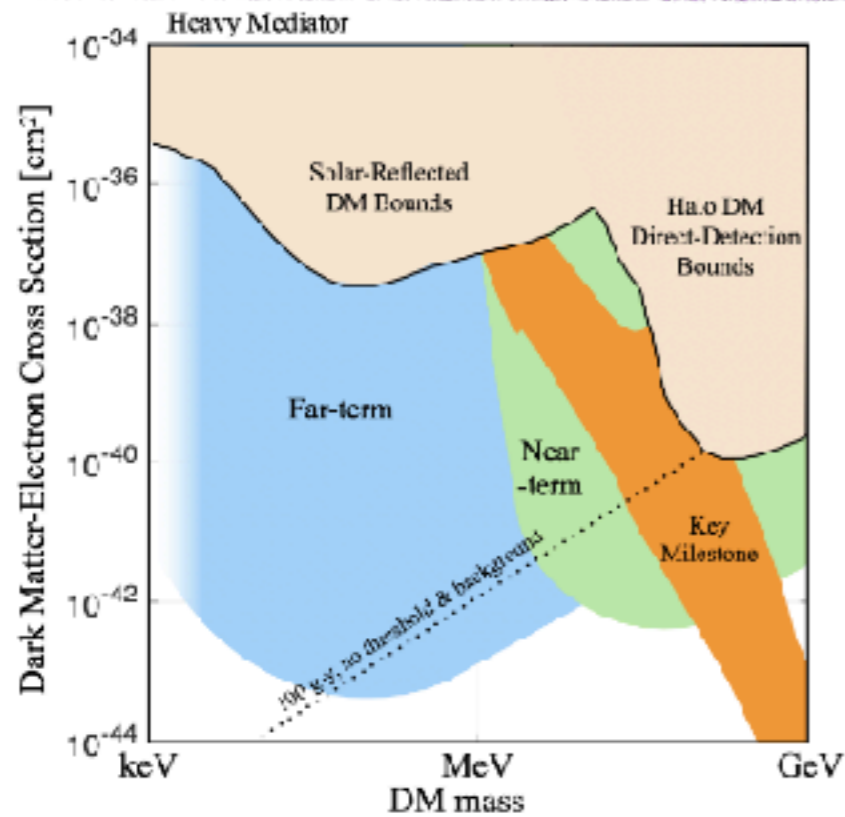
\*DMNI Project

# Broadening the mass reach

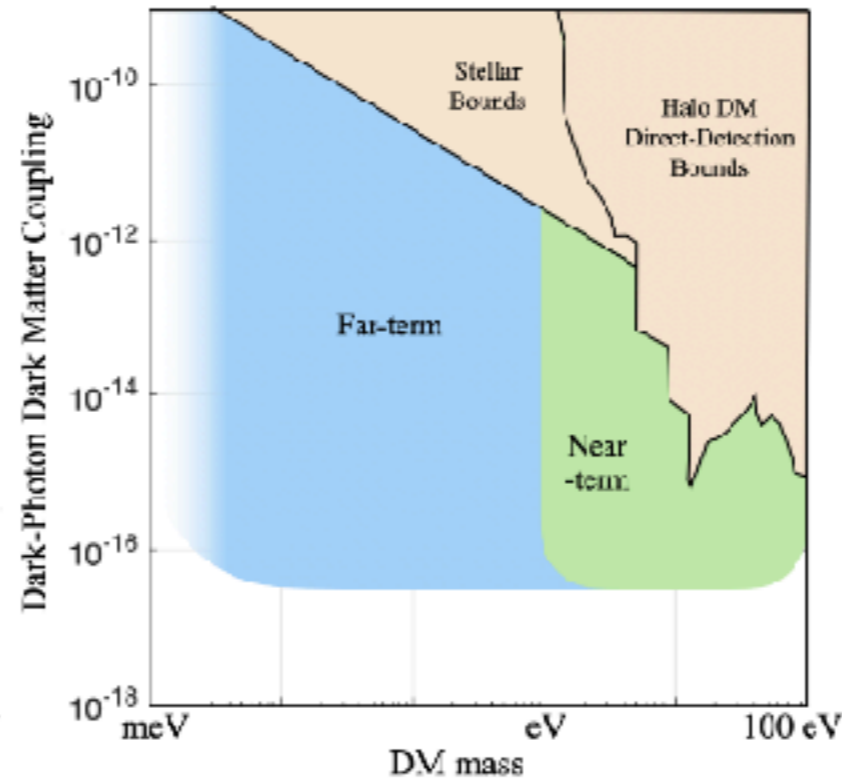
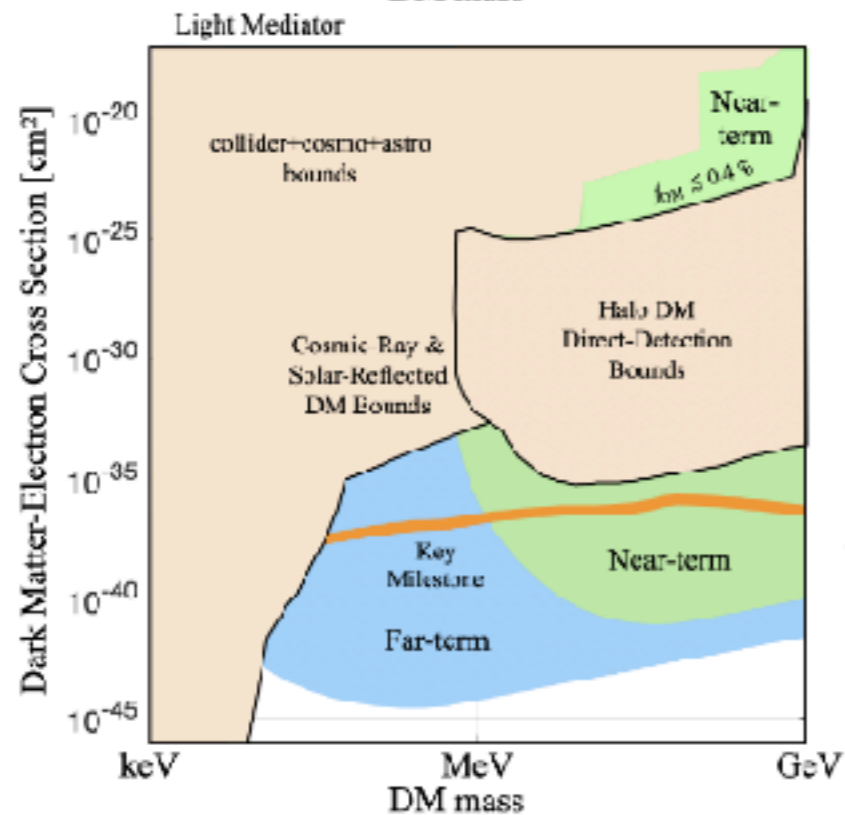




# Broadening the mass reach



- Near term - ~5 years
- Far term > 5 years
- Key milestone - benchmark models from [DMNI report](#)



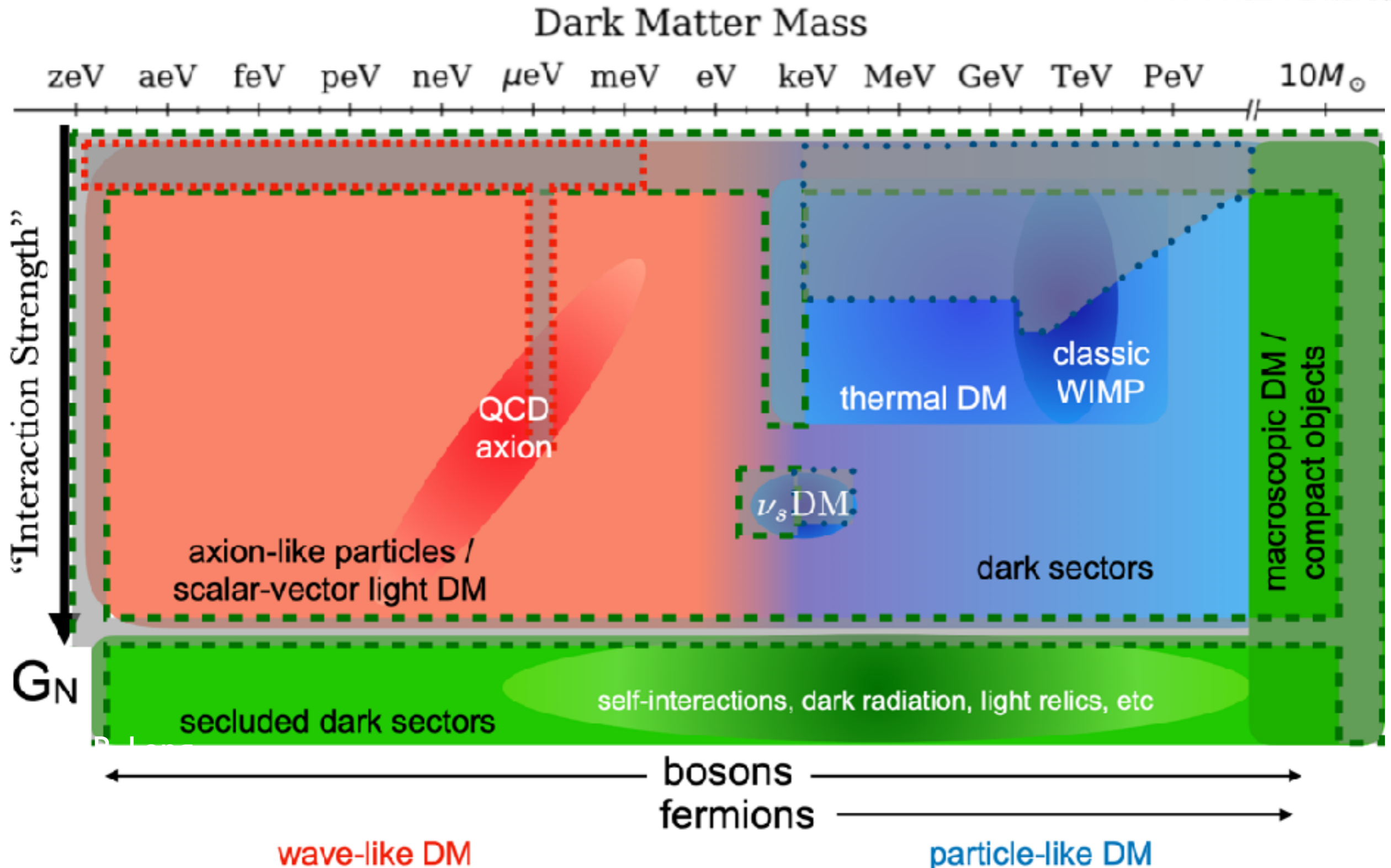
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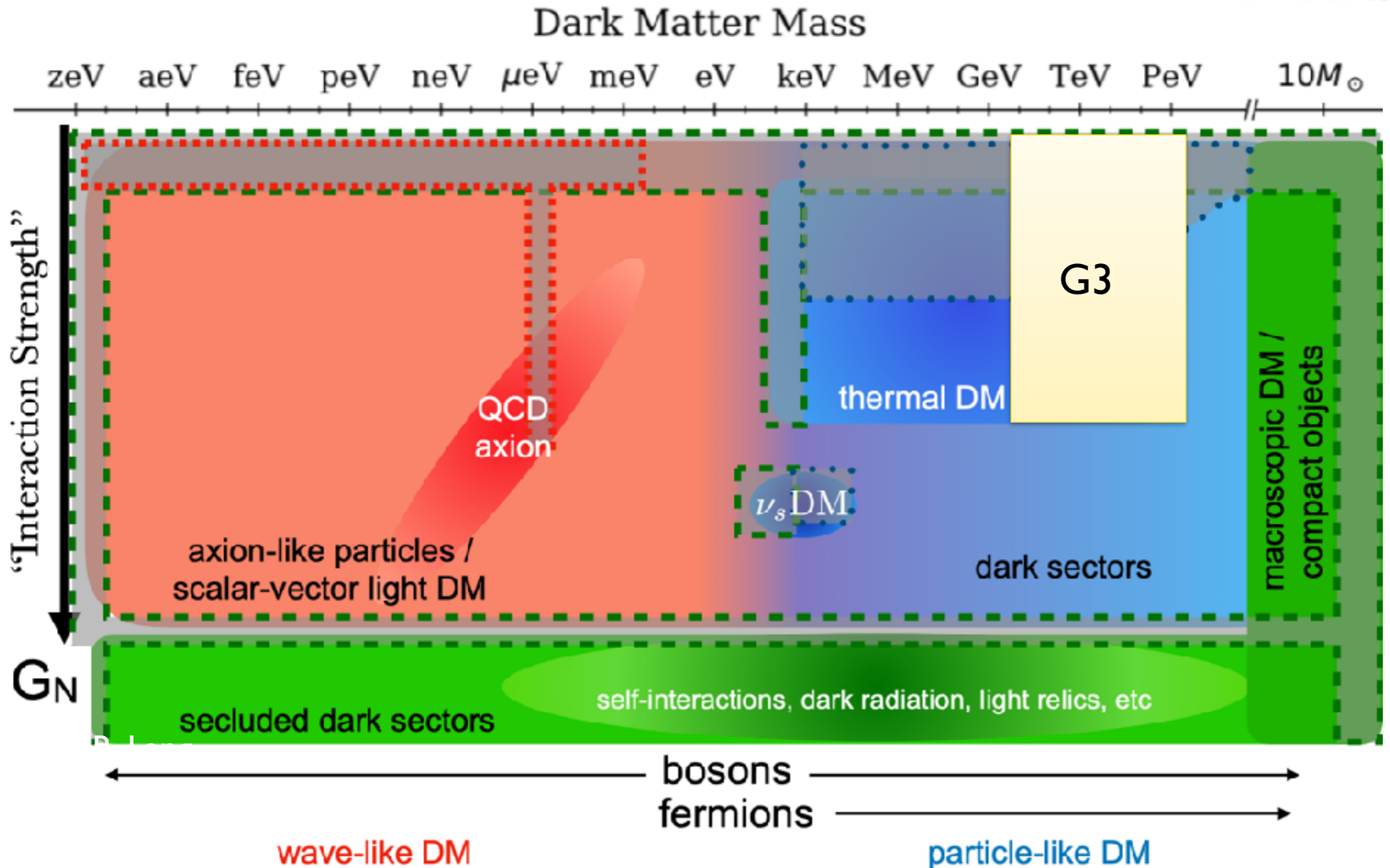
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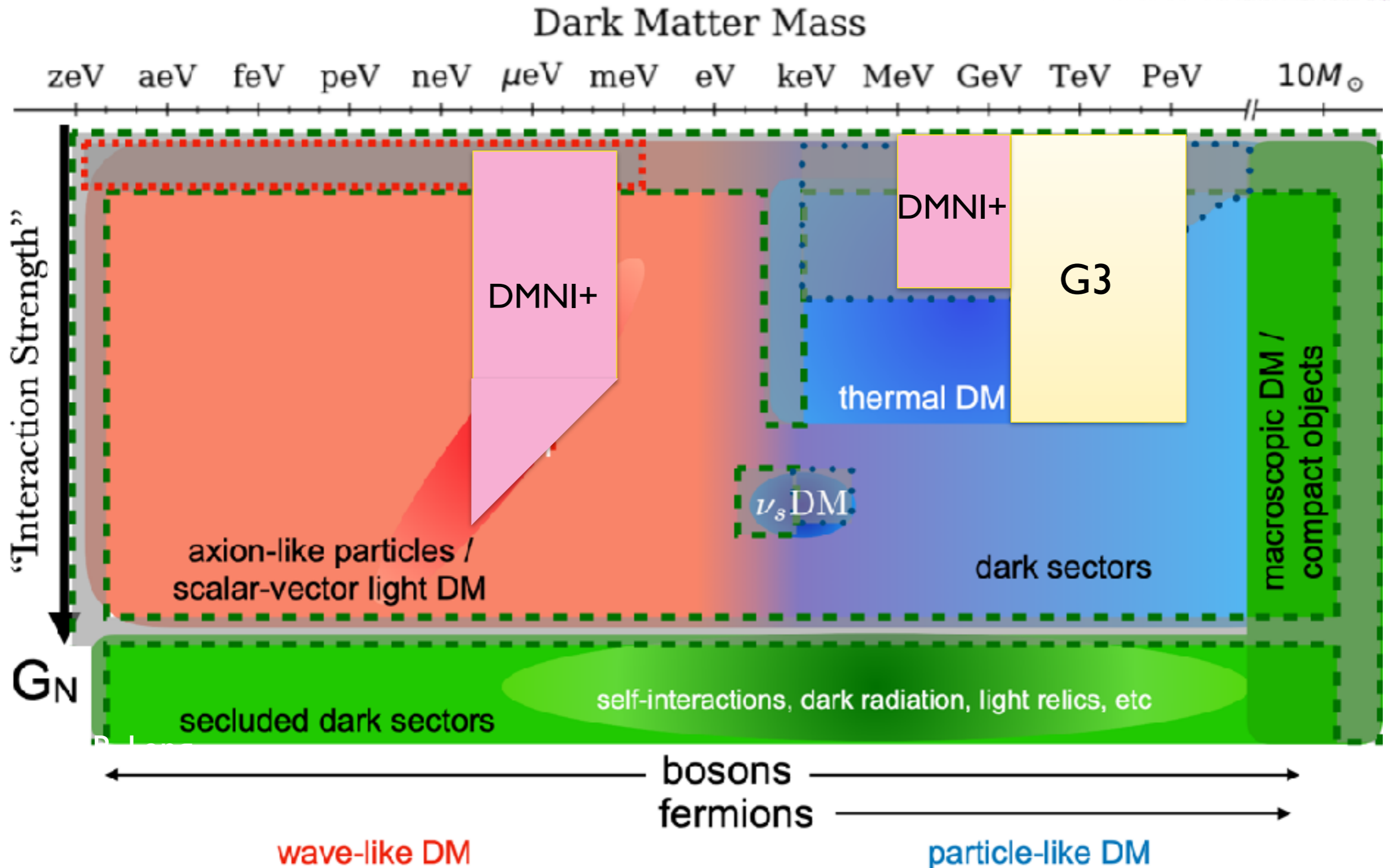
# Snowmass and P5



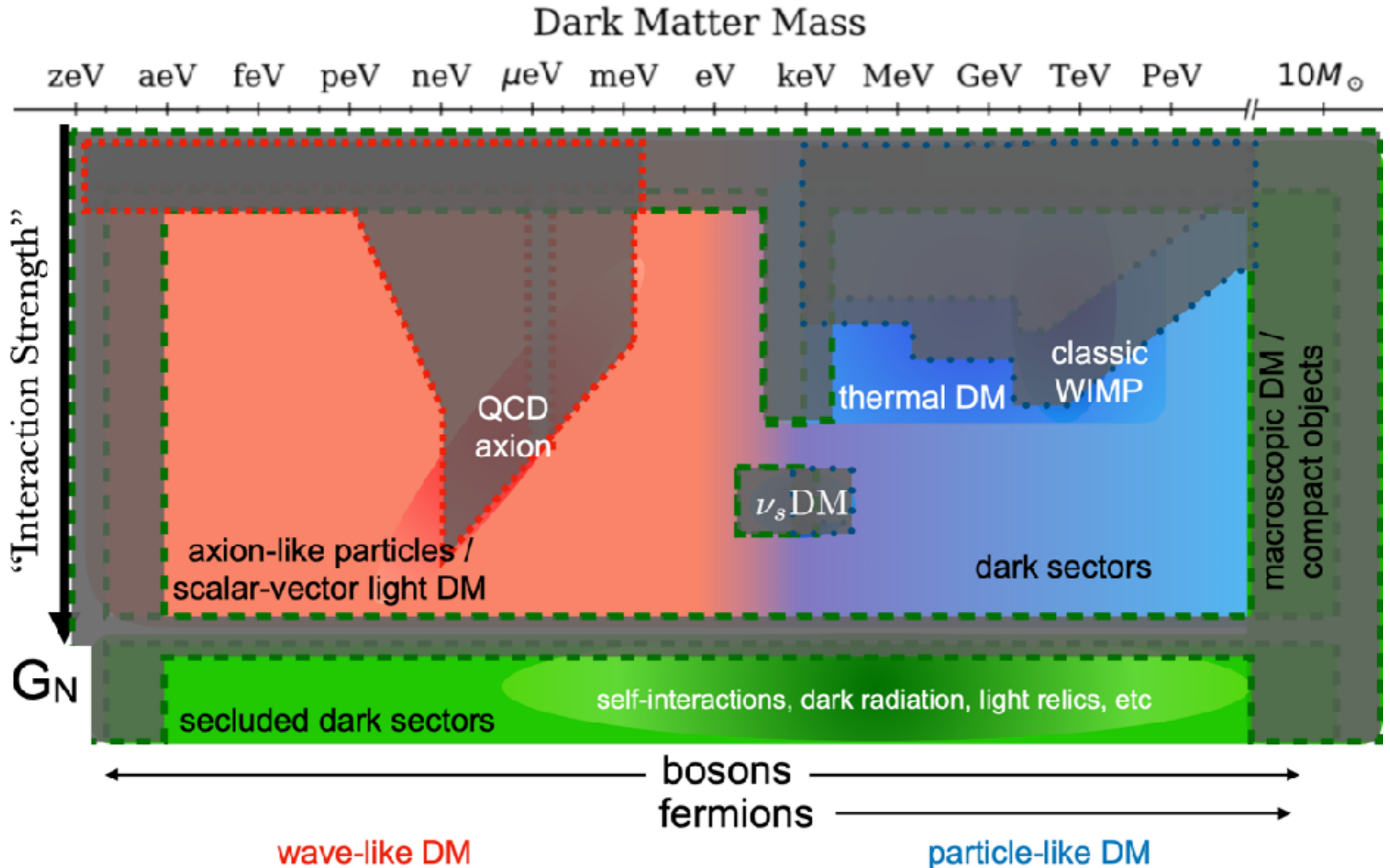
# Snowmass and P5



# Snowmass and P5



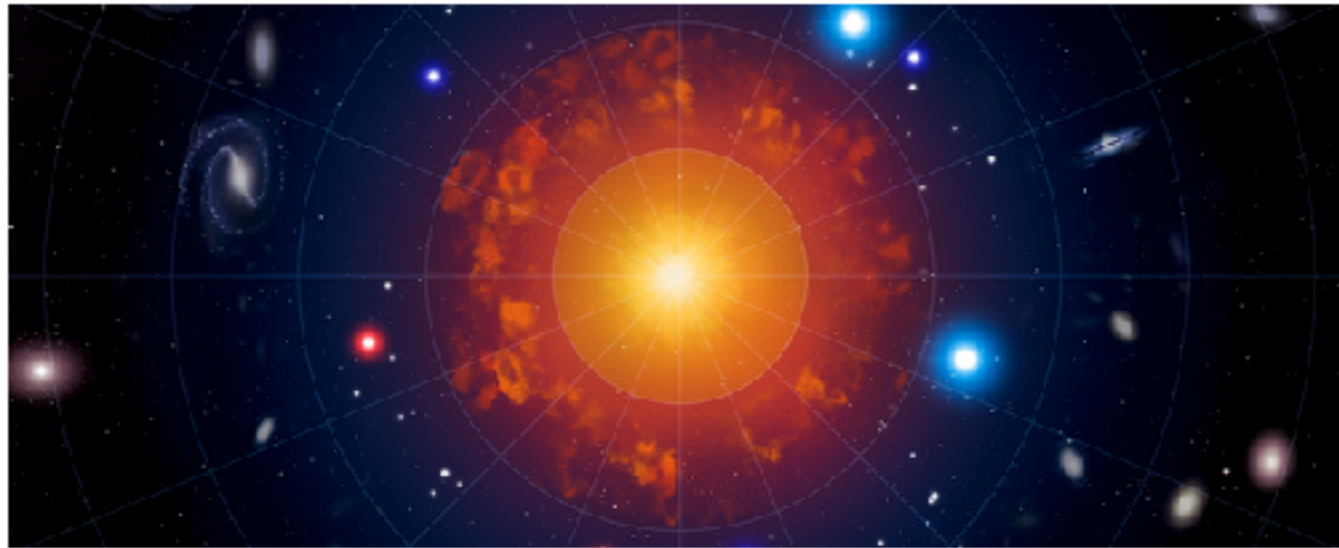
# Snowmass and P5



# Losing the narrative?

## Physicist Claims Universe Has No Dark Matter And Is 27 Billion Years Old

SPACE 18 March 2024 By MIKE MCRAE



(Mark Garlick/Science Photo Library/Getty Images)



Subscribe

Possibly.

Dark matter is what seems most sketch to me.

9:02 PM · Jul 16, 2023 · 2.8M Views

# Lights in the dark

- **XENONnT recorded ~15 events/tonne/year/keV in their first result**
- **LZ had zero candidate events in a tonne-year of exposure**



**These numbers are incredible!  
Suppression by a factor of a  
trillion!**



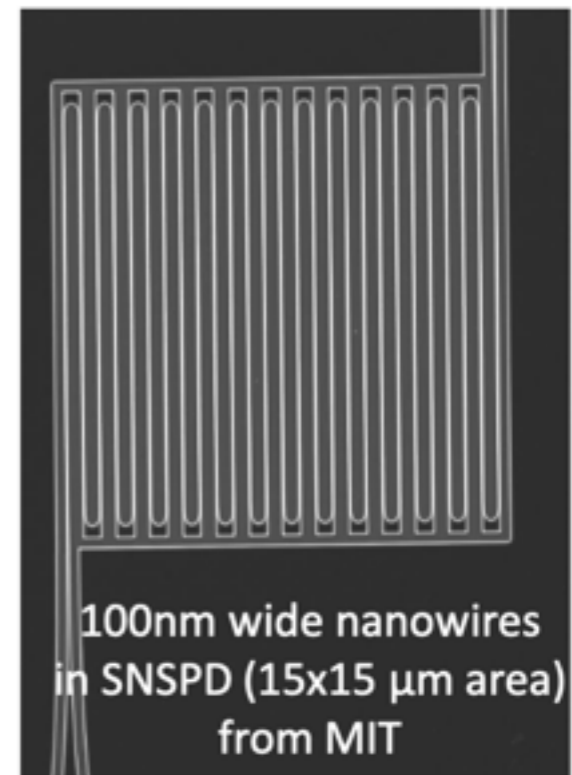
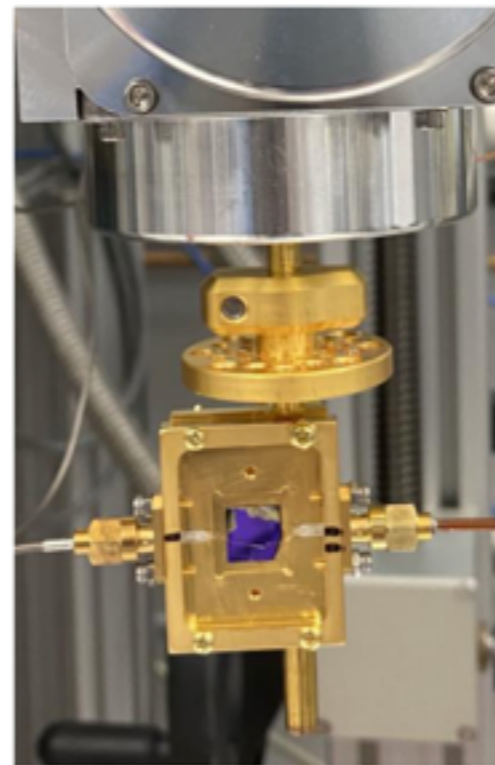
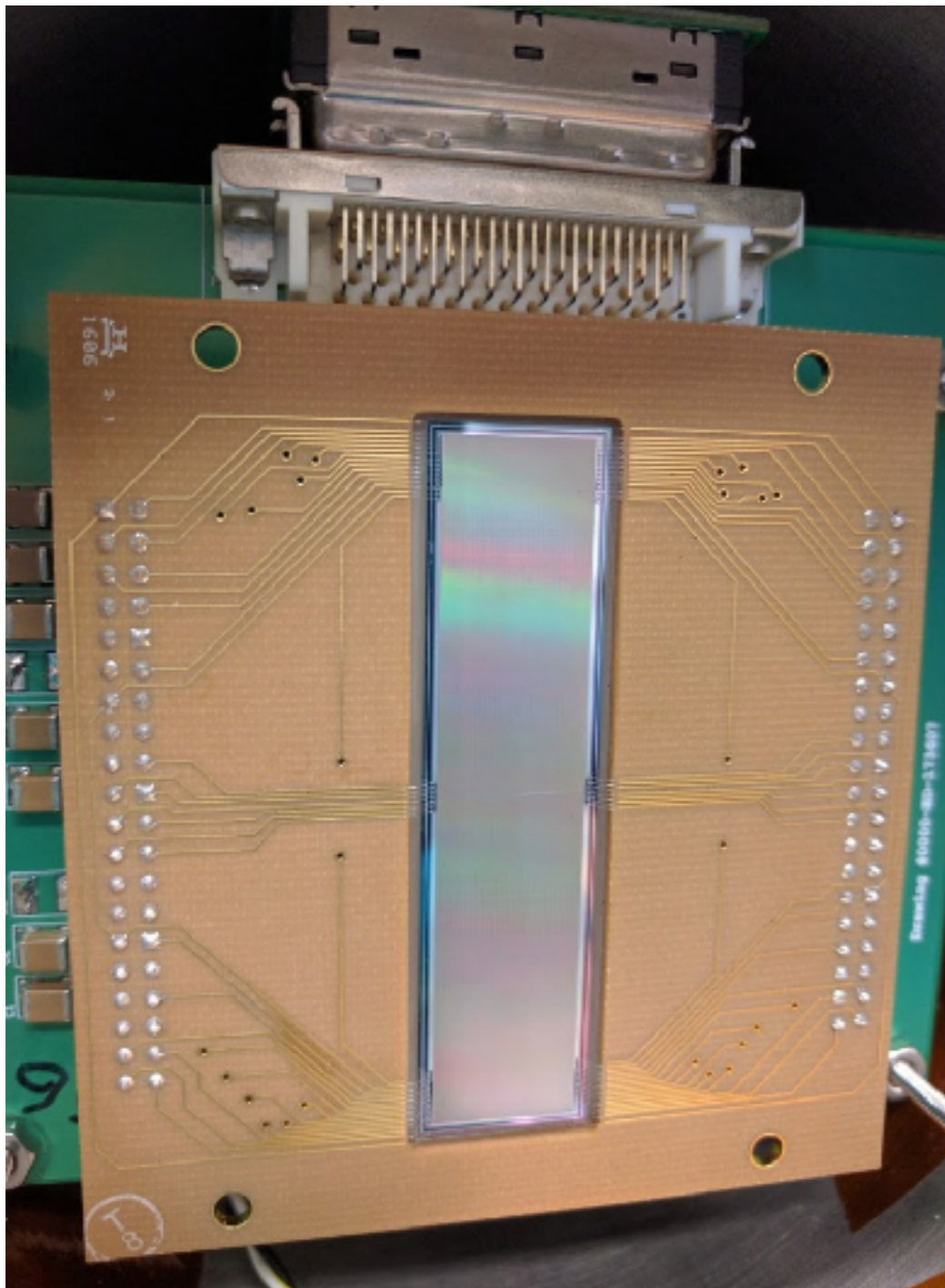


# Lights in the dark

- **DarkSide operating a prototype distillation column to isotopically separate  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  from  $^{40}\text{Ar}$**

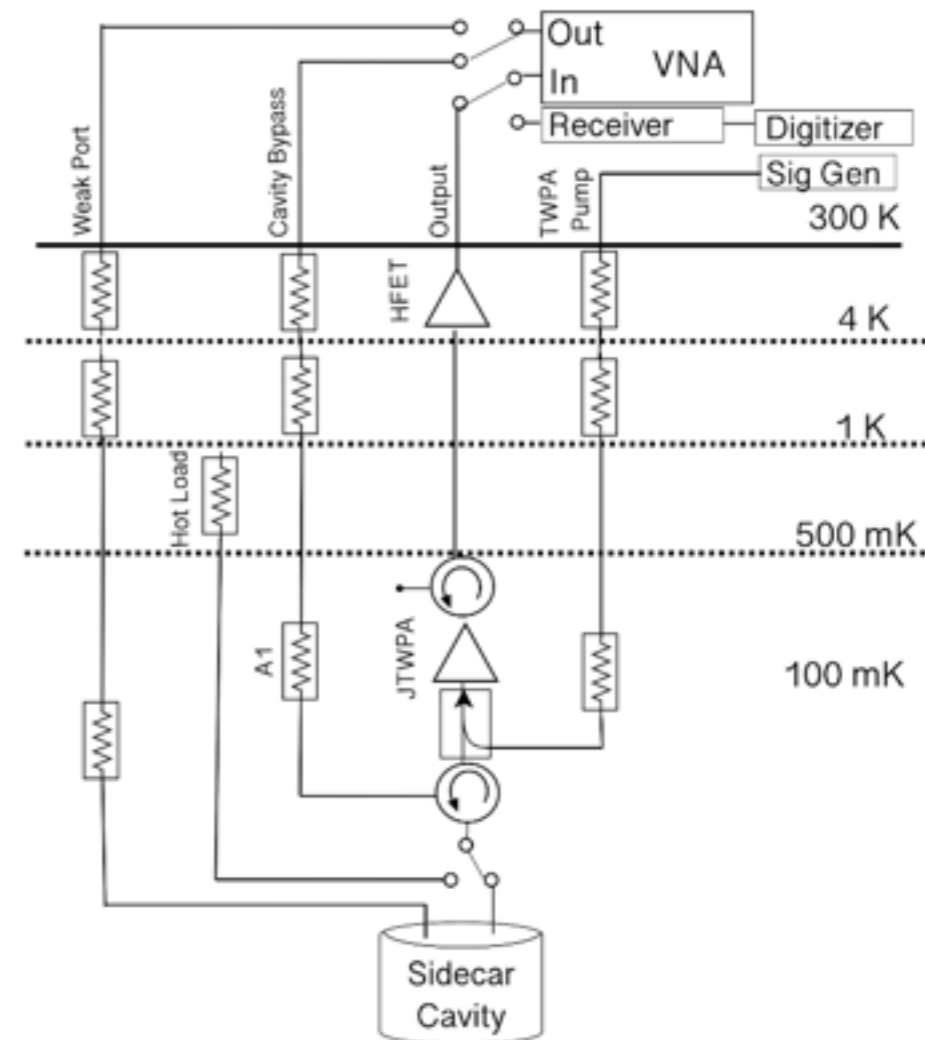
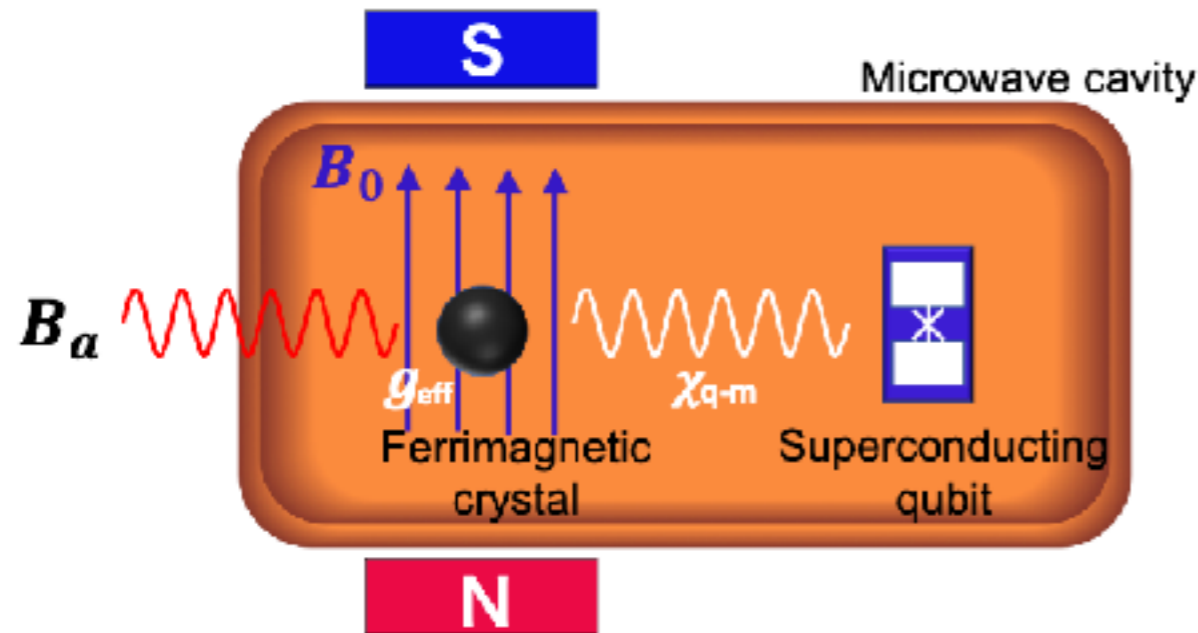


# Lights in the dark



- **Ultra low noise sensors**
- **Skipper CCDs dark rate at  $6e-4$  e-/pixel/day, with exquisite single electron resolution**
- **SNSPDs reaching  $< 1e-5$  dark counts per second**

# Lights in the dark



- Quantum non-demolition techniques to push below standard quantum noise limit
- $10^{-21}$  -  $10^{-22}$  W/Hz<sup>1/2</sup>

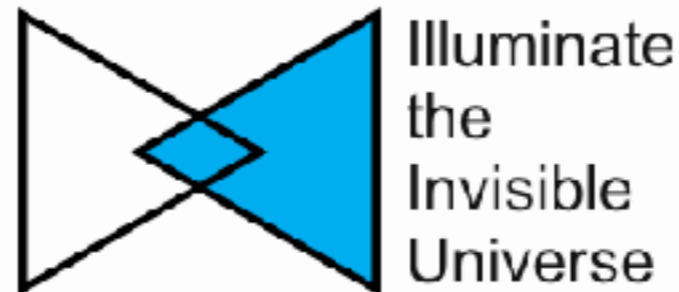
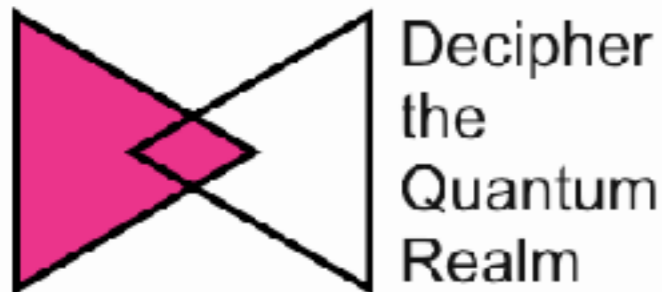
# Lights in the dark

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# Opportunities and Challenges

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- **Dark Matter is a central problem in high energy physics**
- **After 30 years of experimental progress, the theory priors have weakened**
  - **What was WIMPs and two decades of axion mass is now 30+ orders of magnitude in mass**
- **An explosion of ideas and techniques, drawing from atomic physics, quantum sensing, etc - we are inventing new lamps, and making the existing ones brighter**
- **There is risk that direct detection could become completely fragmented into many small efforts**
  - **Why do this one over another one? Why do any of them at all?**
- **Need to think carefully about how to prioritize and manage all this activity?**
  - **G3 recommended by P5 - classic DOE project**
  - **ASTAE and other sources - how to light the brightest lamps?**

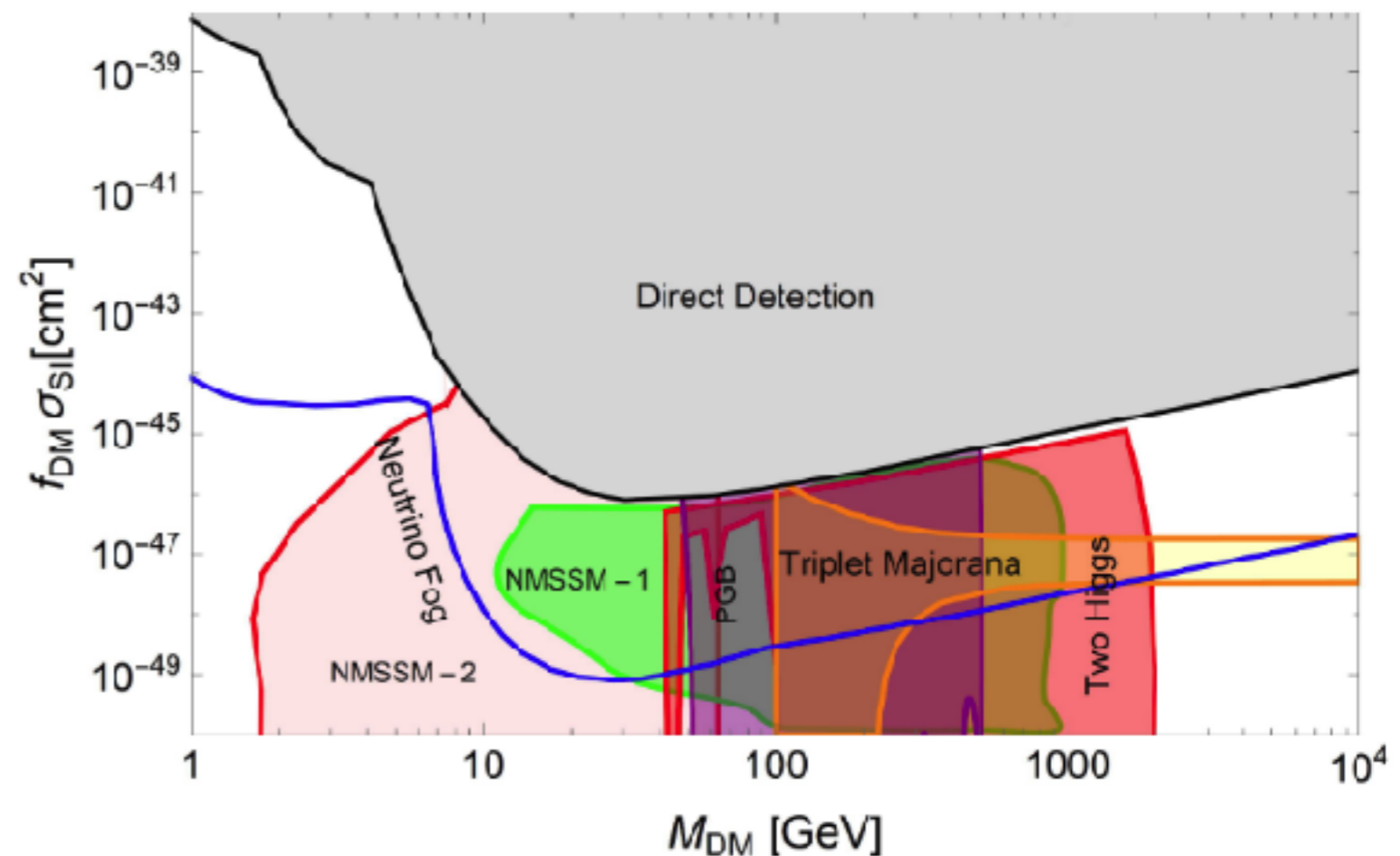
A photograph showing two individuals in white lab coats and gloves working on a large sheet of material, possibly a detector component, in a laboratory setting. The scene is dimly lit with blue and purple light. The individuals are focused on their work, with one holding a small object near the material. The material has a grid pattern and some markings.

**This is a problem worth solving!**

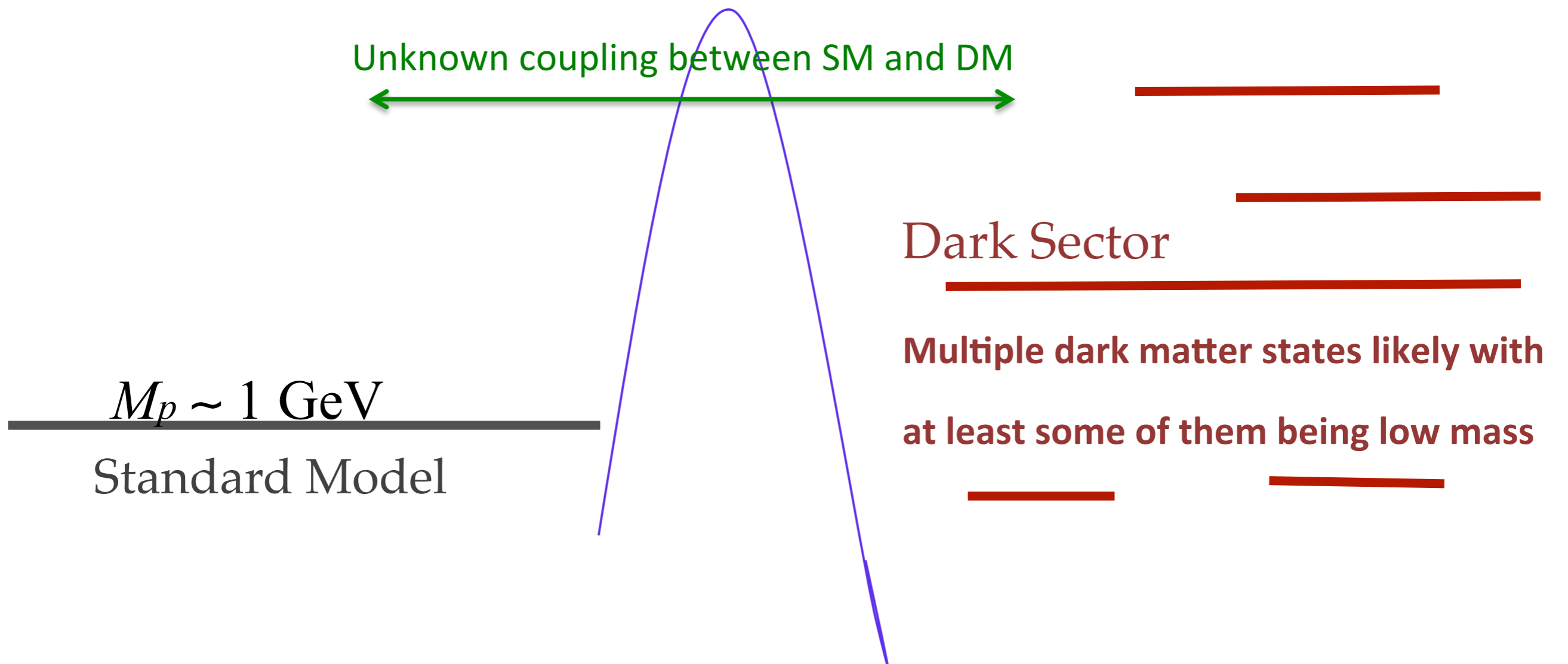
**I'm eager to see what's next!**

# Dark Matter

- One of the best motivated candidates is a “WIMPy” thermal relic
  - ◆ MeV - 100 TeV scale particle (cosmological bounds)
  - ◆ Weak scale interactions leads to correct density today
- e.g. SUSY models, twin Higgs, Triplet Majorana, Hidden Sector
- Recent summary in Snowmass CFI-WPI - 2203.08084
  - ◆ Many other references therein
- Now probing some of the most interesting models from 20 years ago



# WIMP crisis?





# Background Sources and Mitigation

- Detector materials

- ◆ Nothing went into the detector without screening

- ◆ Radio-assay campaign with 13 HPGe detectors, ICPMS, neutron activation analysis, and radon emanation

- For example, cryostat made of most radiopure titanium in the world ([Astropart. Phys. 96, 1 2017](#))

- Rn daughters and dust on surfaces

- ◆ TPC assembly in Rn-reduced cleanroom

- ◆ Dust  $< 500 \text{ ng/cm}^2$  on all LXe wetted surfaces

- ◆ Rn-daughter plate-out on TPC walls  $< 0.5 \text{ mBq/m}^2$

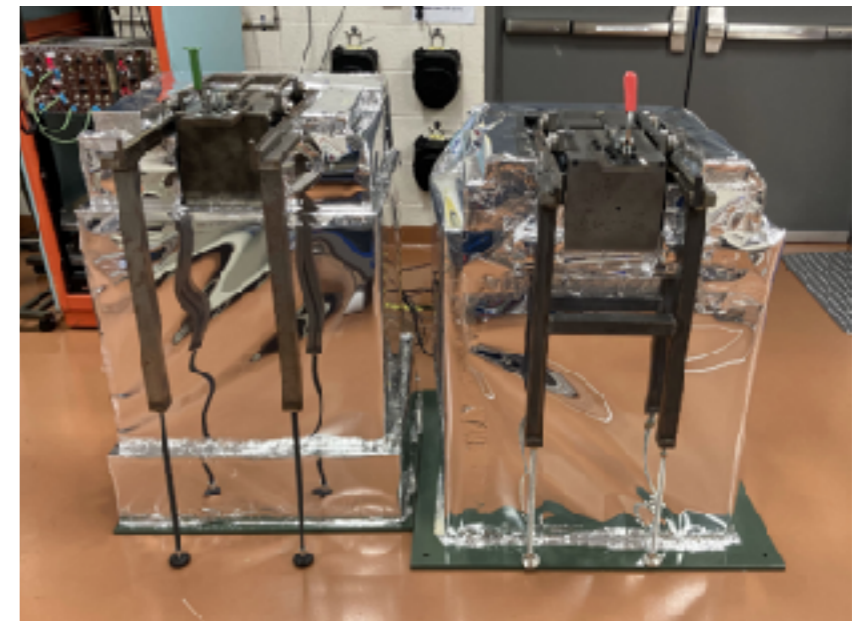
- Xenon contaminants

- ◆ Charcoal chromatography at SLAC

- ◆ Continuous purification underground

**Many sources of BG**

**Many methods for BG mitigation**



[Eur. Phys. J. C, 80: 1044 \(2020\)](#)