

# Experimental Searches for Dark Matter

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# Outline

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1. Introduction
  - a) Standard Model of particle physics
  - b) Dark matter and candidates
2. WIMP searches
3. Axion searches
4. Focus study: solar axion searches
5. Conclusions

# References

## Introductions:

- ▶ S. Profumo book: “An introduction to particle dark matter”, [[arXiv:1910.05610](#)]
- ▶ D. F. Jackson Kimball and K. Van Bibber (editors) book: “The Search for Ultralight Bosonic Dark Matter” ([Open Access Book](#))

## Some lectures:

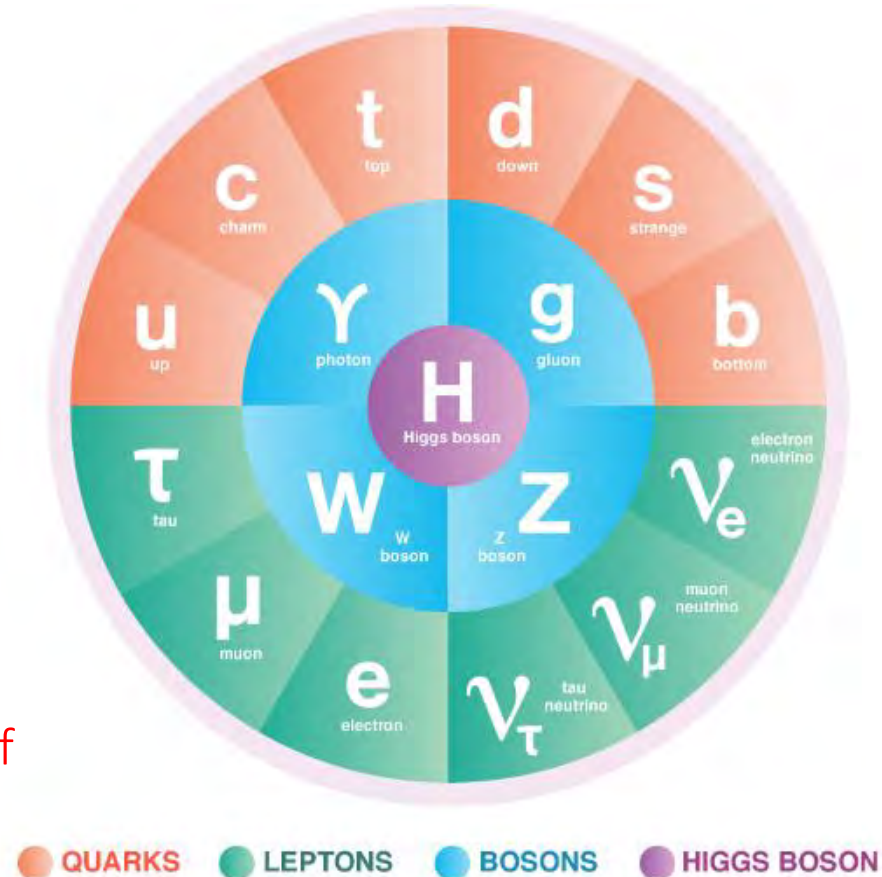
- ▶ G. Gelmini, “TASI 2014 LECTURES: The Hunt for Dark Matter”, [[arXiv:1502.01320](#)]
- ▶ T. Lin, “TASI lectures on dark matter models and direct detection” [[arXiv:1904.07915](#)]
- ▶ P.J. Fox, “TASI Lectures on WIMPs and Supersymmetry”, [PoS\(TASI2018\)005](#)
- ▶ A. Hook, “TASI Lectures on the Strong CP Problem and Axions” [[arXiv:1812.02669](#)]
- ▶ M. Reece, : “TASI Lectures: (No) Global Symmetries to Axion Physics” [[arXiv:2304.08512](#)]

## Some good reviews:

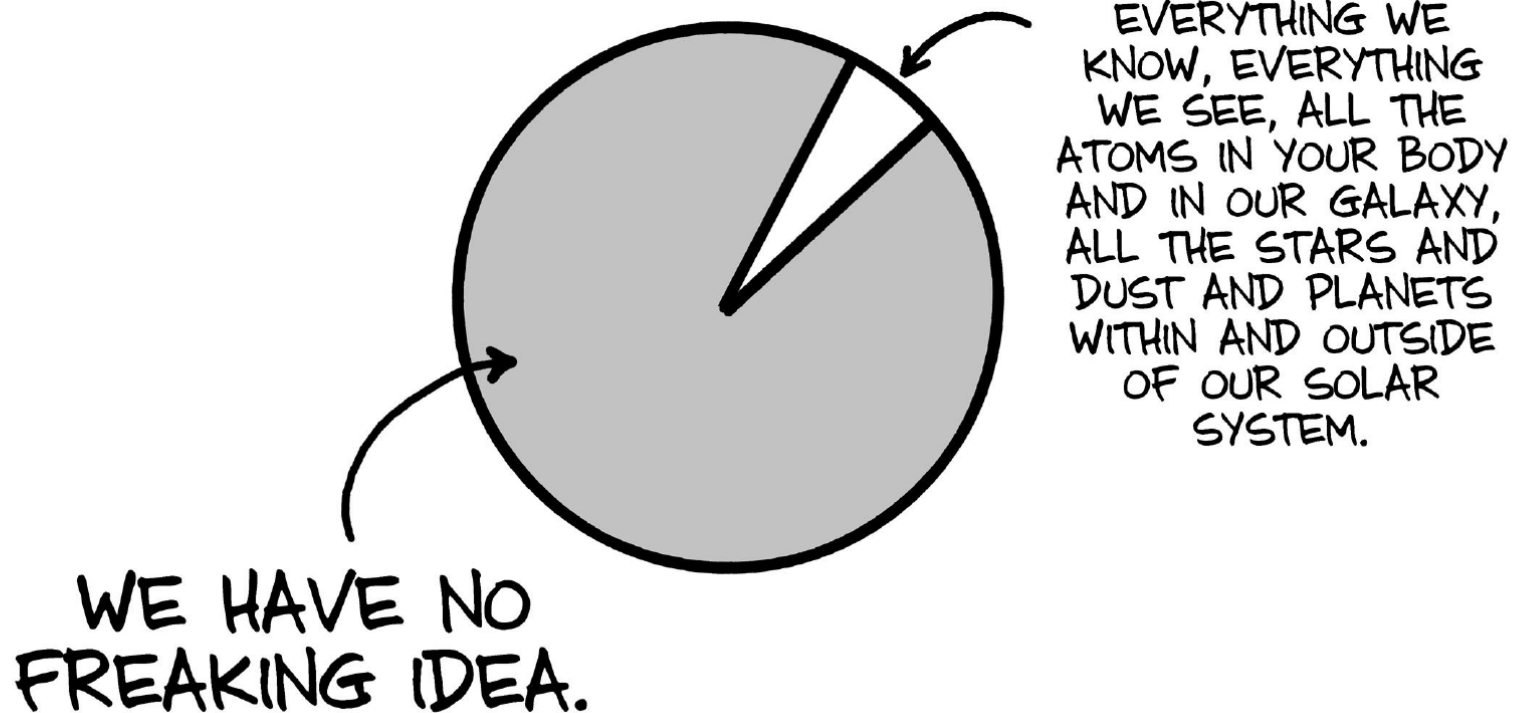
- ▶ Particle Data group (<https://pdg.lbl.gov/2024/reviews/rpp2024-rev-dark-matter.pdf> and <https://pdg.lbl.gov/2024/reviews/rpp2024-rev-axions.pdf>)
- ▶ J.L. Feng “Dark Matter Candidates from Particle Physics and Methods of Detection” Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 2010. 48:495–545
- ▶ M. Schumann, “Direct detection of WIMP dark matter: concepts and status”, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 46 103003 [1903.03026]
- ▶ I. G. Irastorza and J. Redondo, “New experimental approaches in the search for axion-like particles”, [[arXiv:1801.08127](#)]
- ▶ A. Ringwald, “Review on Axions” [[arXiv:2404.09036](#)]

## STANDARD MODEL (SM) OF PARTICLE PHYSICS

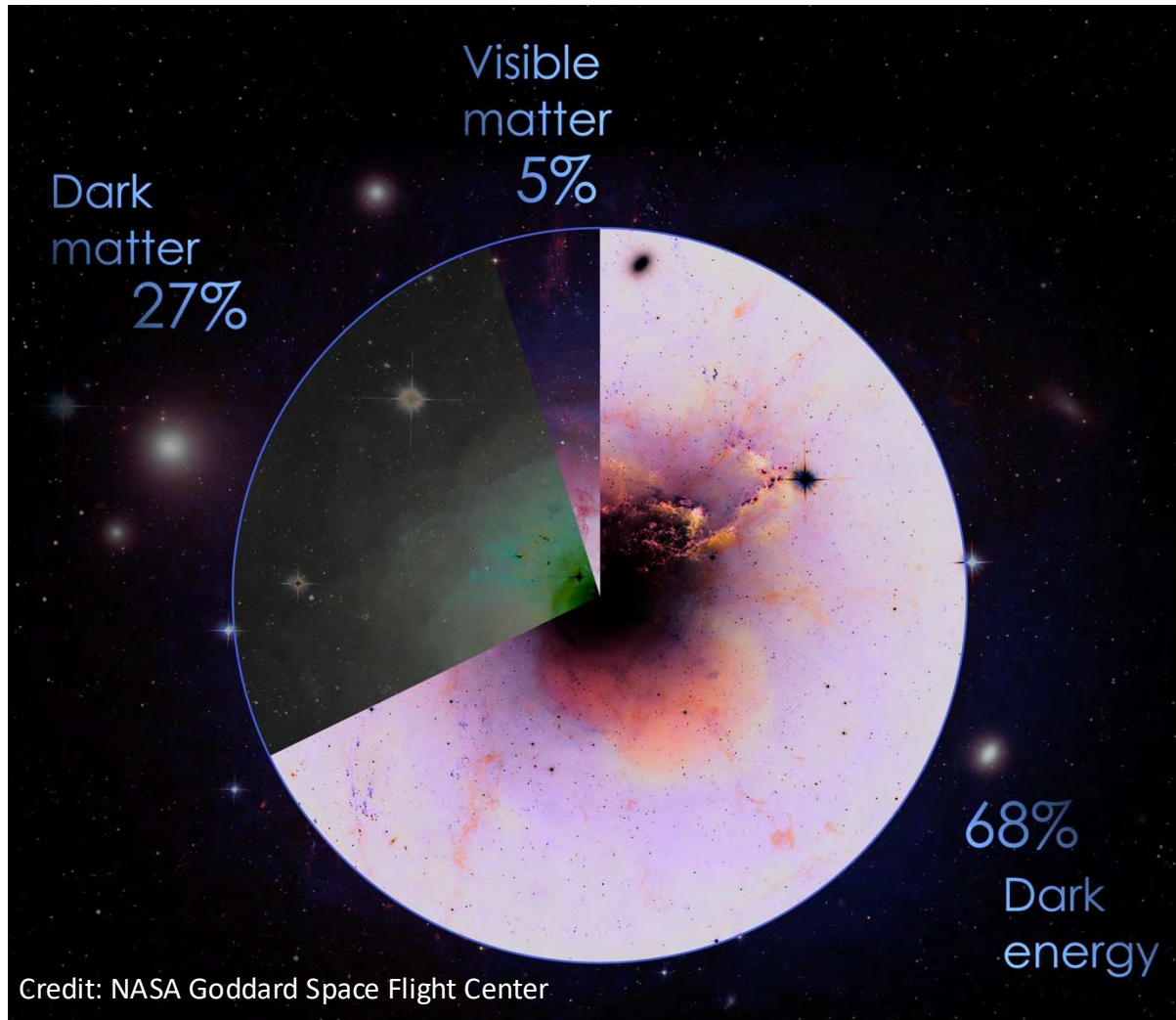
- ▶ **Extremely successful theory** describing many observations up to energies of  $\sim 1000 m_{\text{proton}}$
- ▶ Merely an effective theory that could be considered the **low energy limit** of a **Theory of Everything**
- ▶ Expect observation of new phenomena at higher energies (e.g. LHC at CERN)
- ▶ **SM cannot explain:**
  - What is the nature of dark matter?
  - Why is the electric dipole moment of the neutron so small?



## THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT:

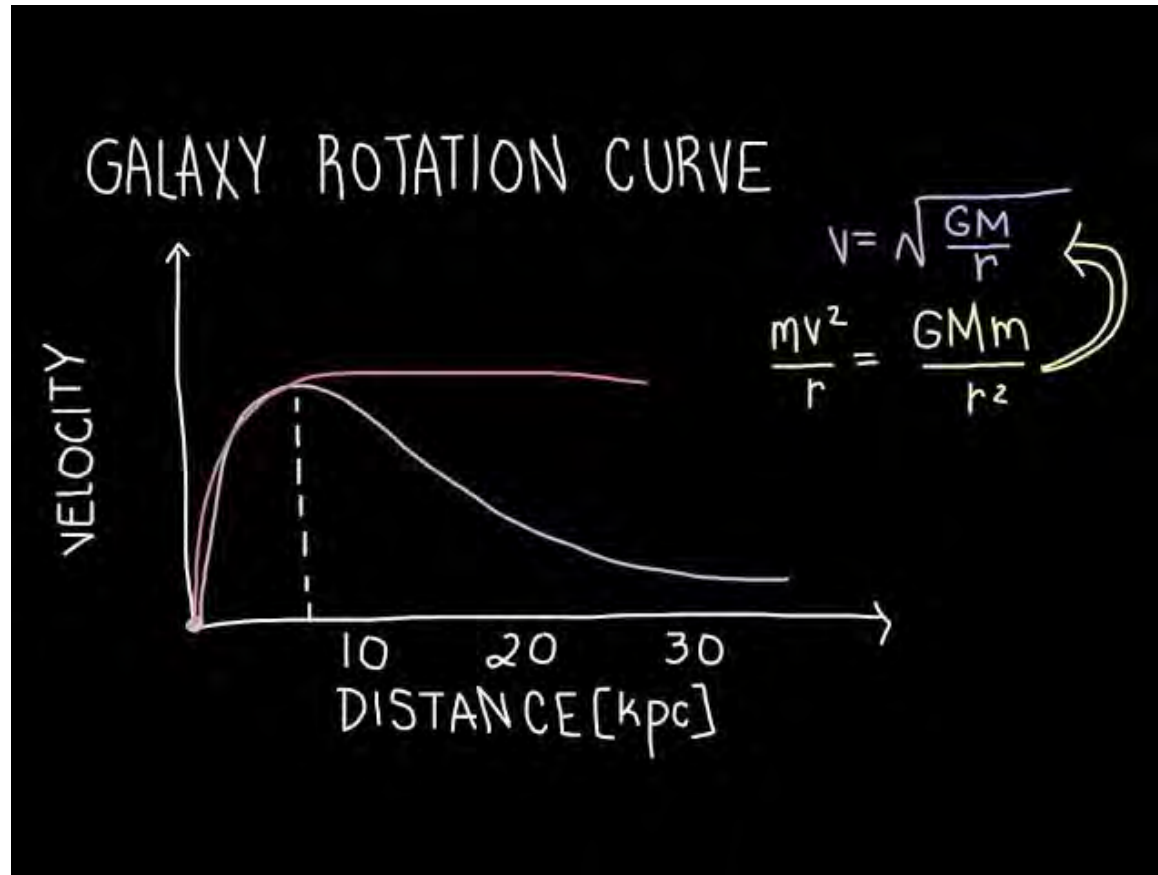


<https://phdcomics.com/noidea/>



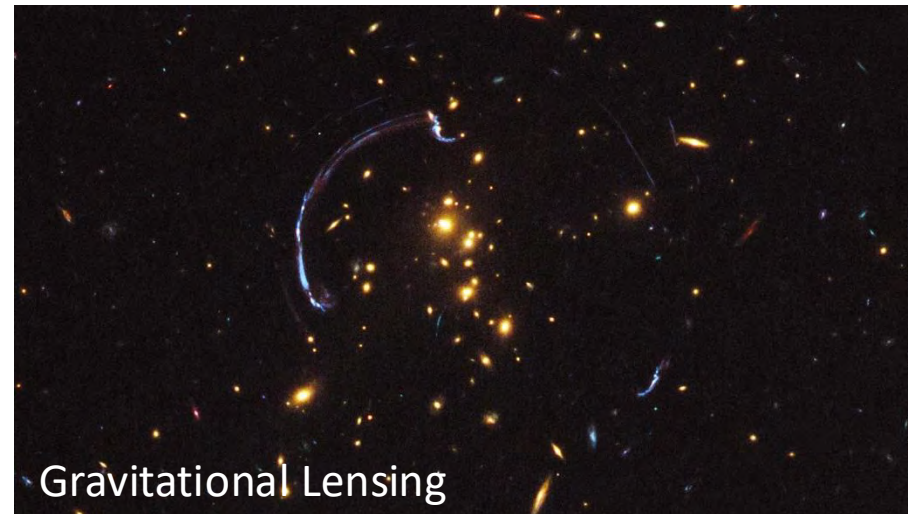
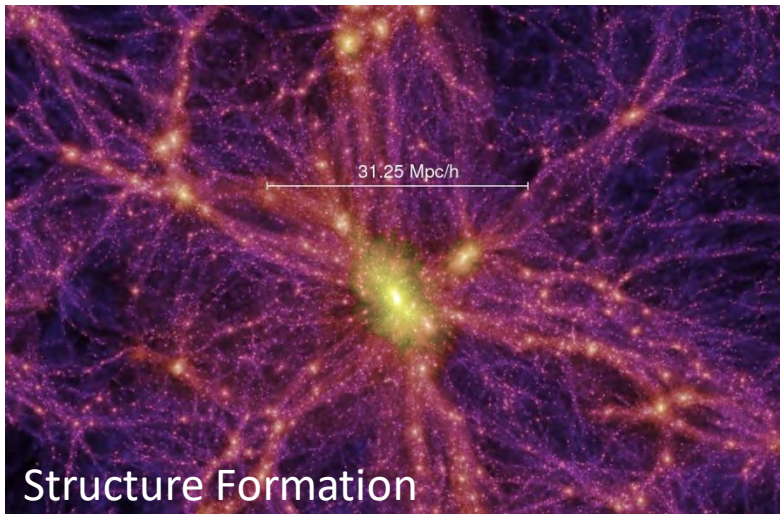
## EVIDENCE FOR DARK MATTER

- ▶ Galaxy rotation curves



## EVIDENCE FOR DARK MATTER

- ▶ Galaxy rotation curves
- ▶ Bullet Cluster
- ▶ Gravitational lensing
- ▶ Structure formation

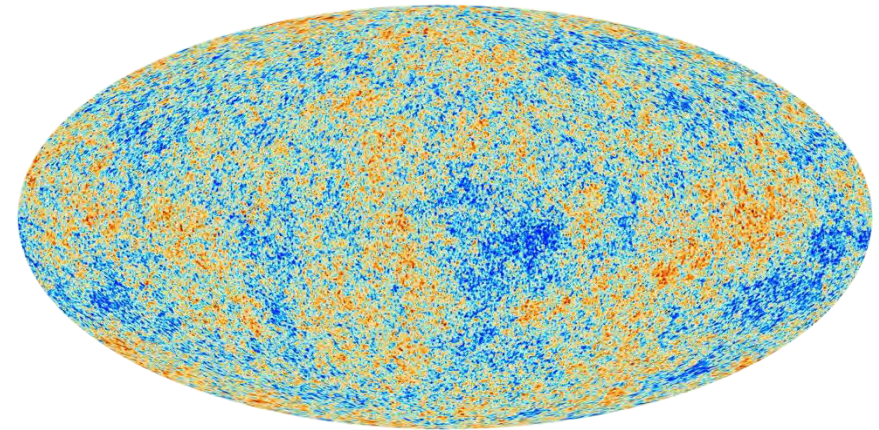


Springle et al 2005, doi:10.1038/nature03597

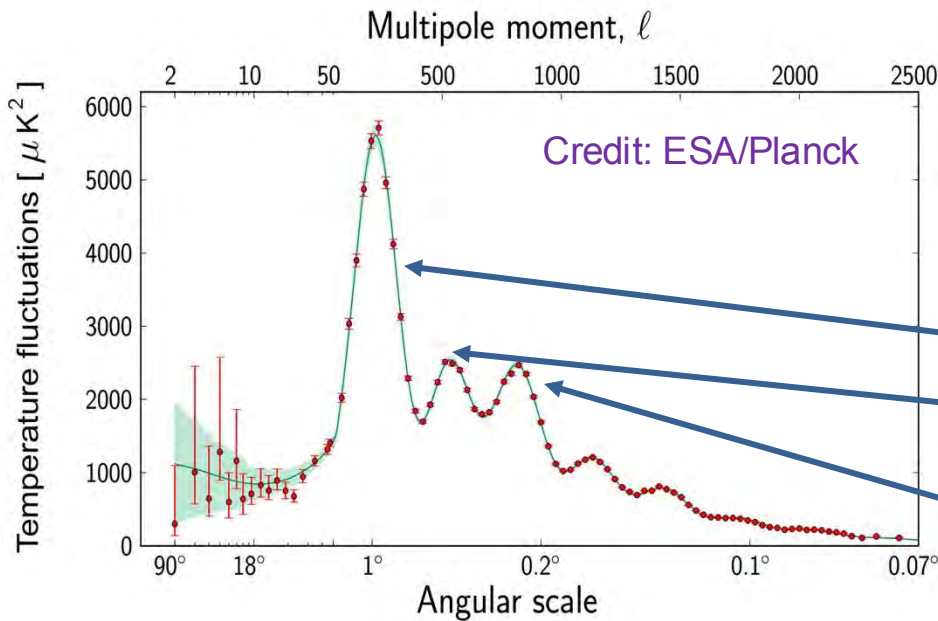


## EVIDENCE FOR DARK MATTER

- ▶ Galaxy rotation curves
- ▶ Bullet Cluster
- ▶ Gravitational lensing
- ▶ Structure formation
- ▶ Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



PLANCK power spectrum of the CMB radiation temperature anisotropy



**Location and height of peaks determines cosmological parameters**

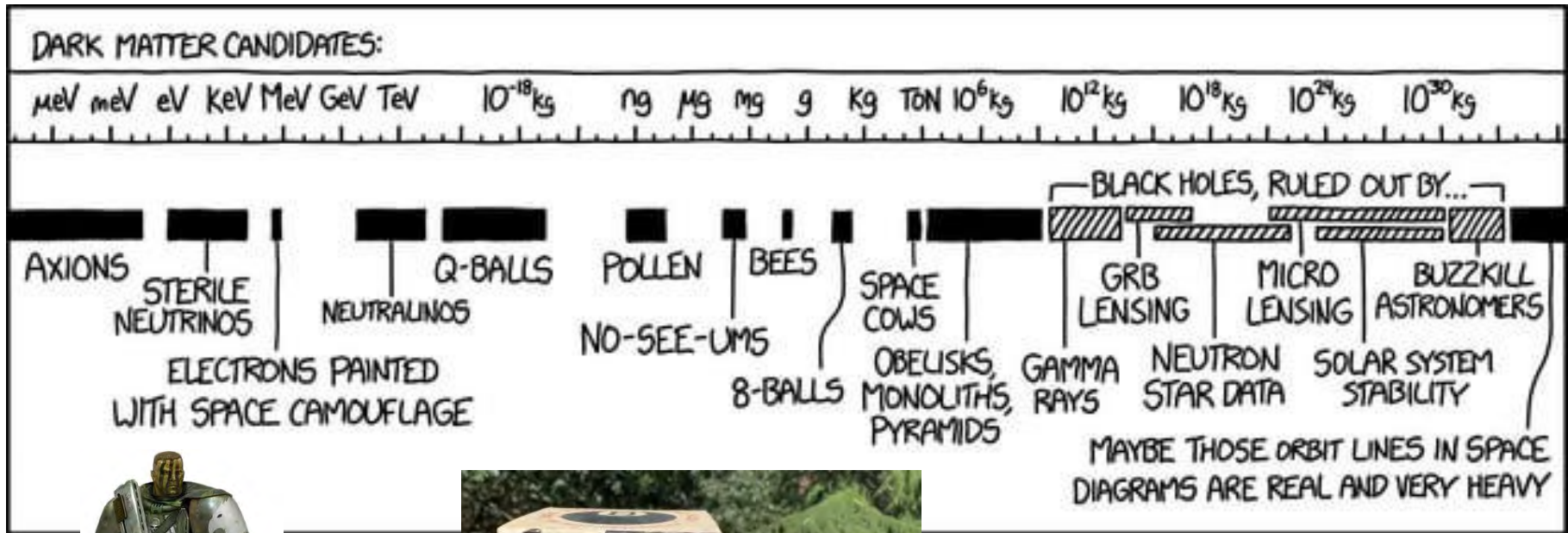
**Flat universe**

**Baryonic matter** ~5% of the total mass/energy of the universe

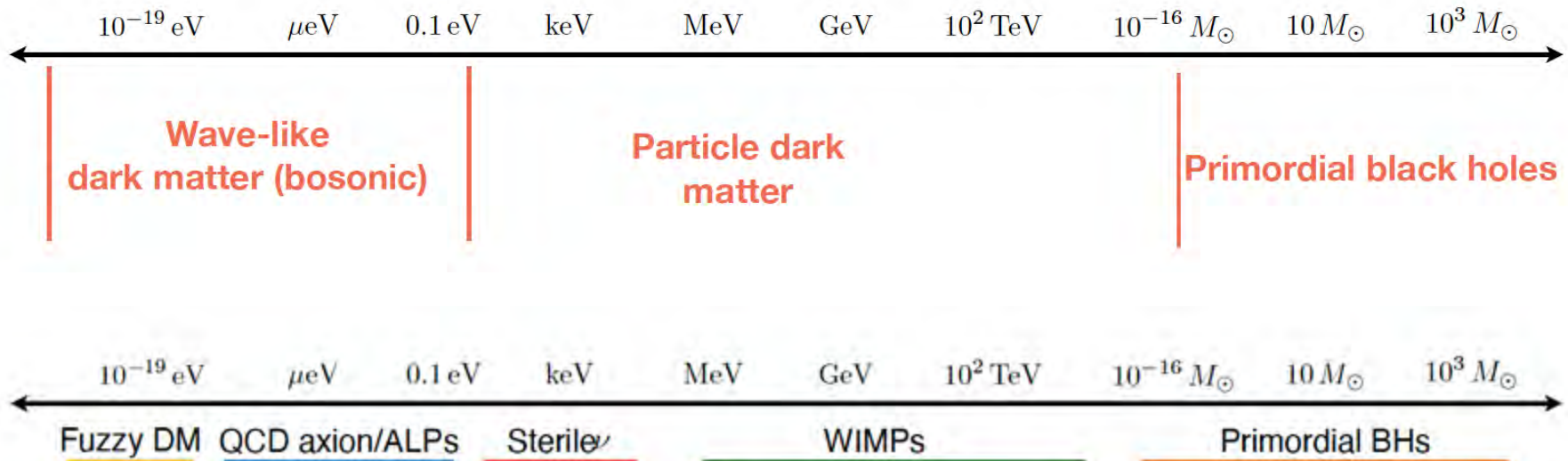
**Amount of dark matter** ~27%

**DARK MATTER PROBLEM: WE KNOW IT EXISTS BUT WHAT IS ITS NATURE?**

So, we need DM. But what is it?!?



<https://xkcd.com/2035/>



## DARK MATTER wish list in the ~~2000s~~

20s  
~~2010s~~

- ▶ Experimental detection (direct, indirect, collider searches)
- ▶ DM distribution (in the DM halo and in larger structures)
- ▶ Determination of DM parameters (mass and cross sections)
- ▶ What is the model for physics Beyond the SM (BSM)?

Outstanding experimental advances

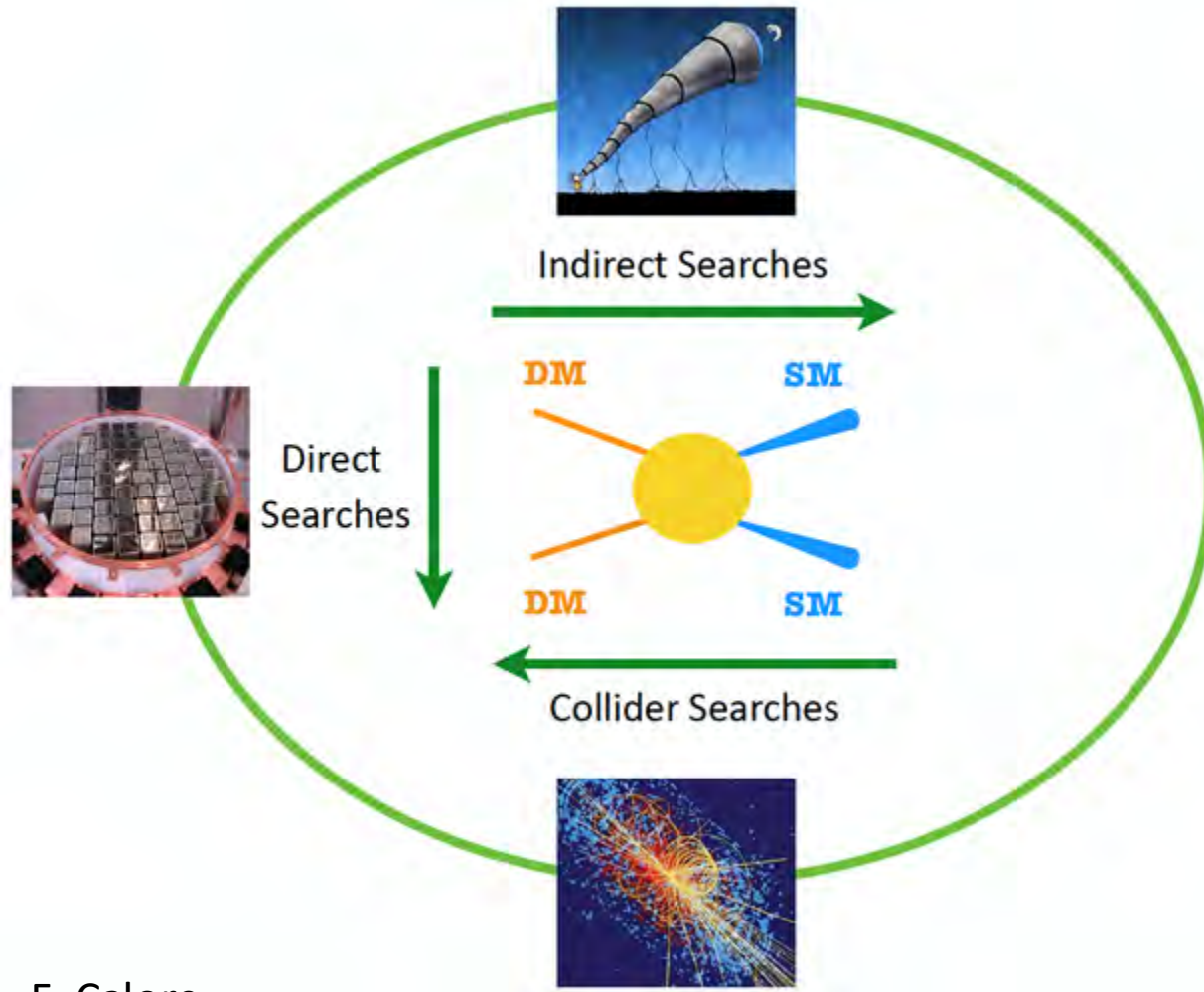
→ Can we get there in the near future?



# WIMP Searches

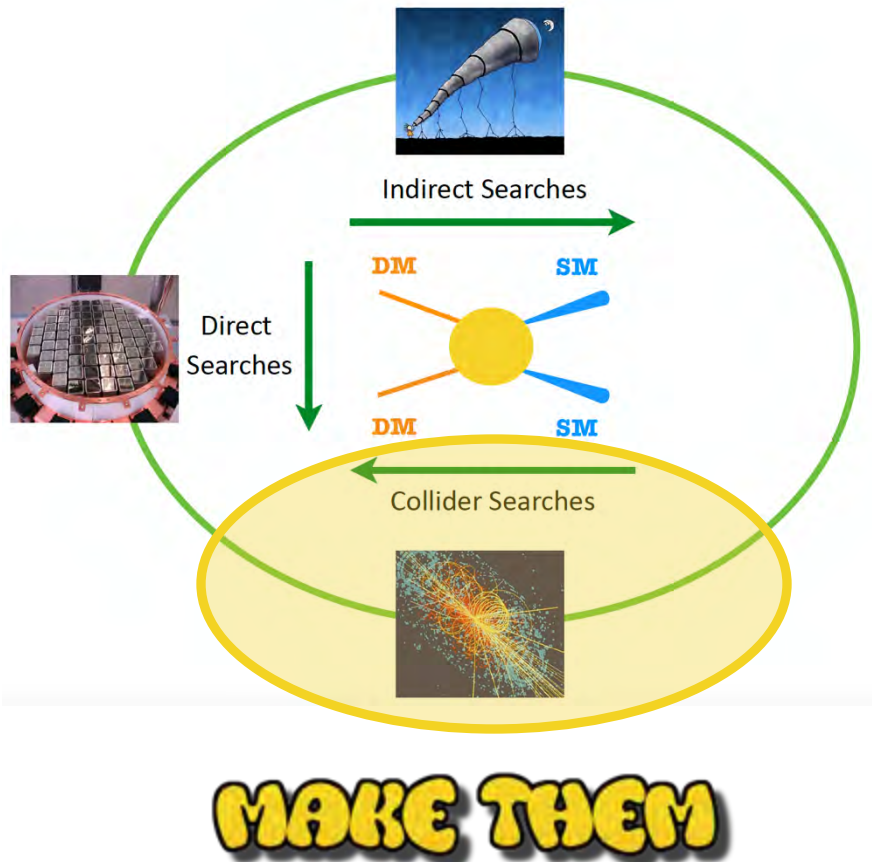
Credits “WIMP Searches”: M. Martinez, J. Monroe, F. Calore, ...

## Detection strategies for WIMPs



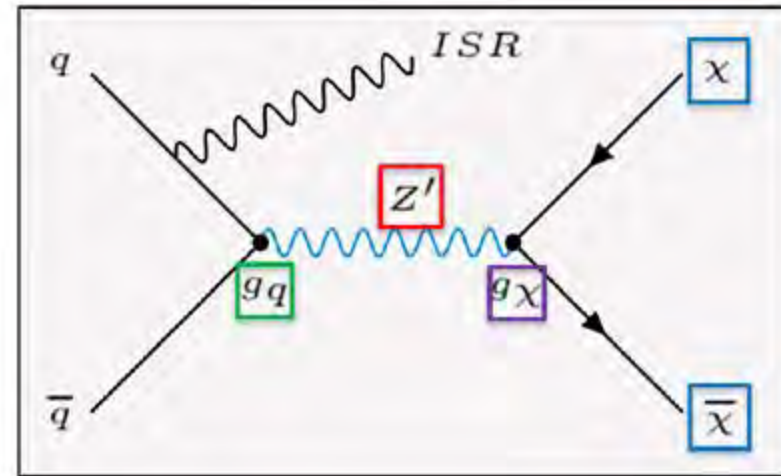
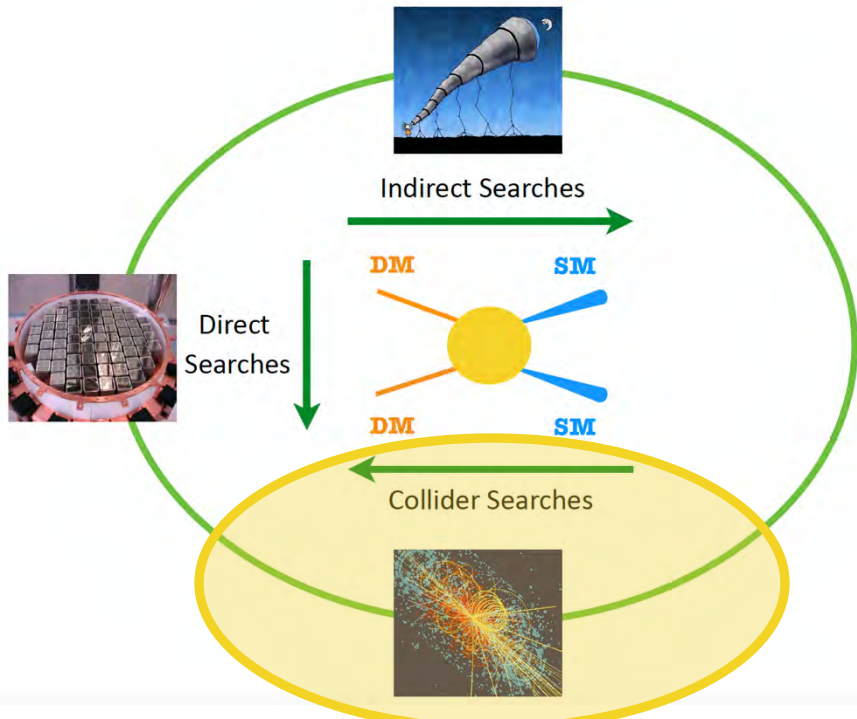
**MAKE THEM  
SHAKE THEM  
OR  
BREAK THEM**

## Detection strategies for WIMPs



- ▶ Assumption: DM couple sufficiently strongly to the SM (as freeze-out suggest)  
→ Can probe DM at colliders
- ▶ DM searches at the LHC fully underway!
- ▶ How to predict the signals and interpret the results?
  1. EFT approach
  2. Dark Matter Simplified Models (e.g. DP)
  3. Complete models (e.g. SUSY)

## Detection strategies for WIMPs

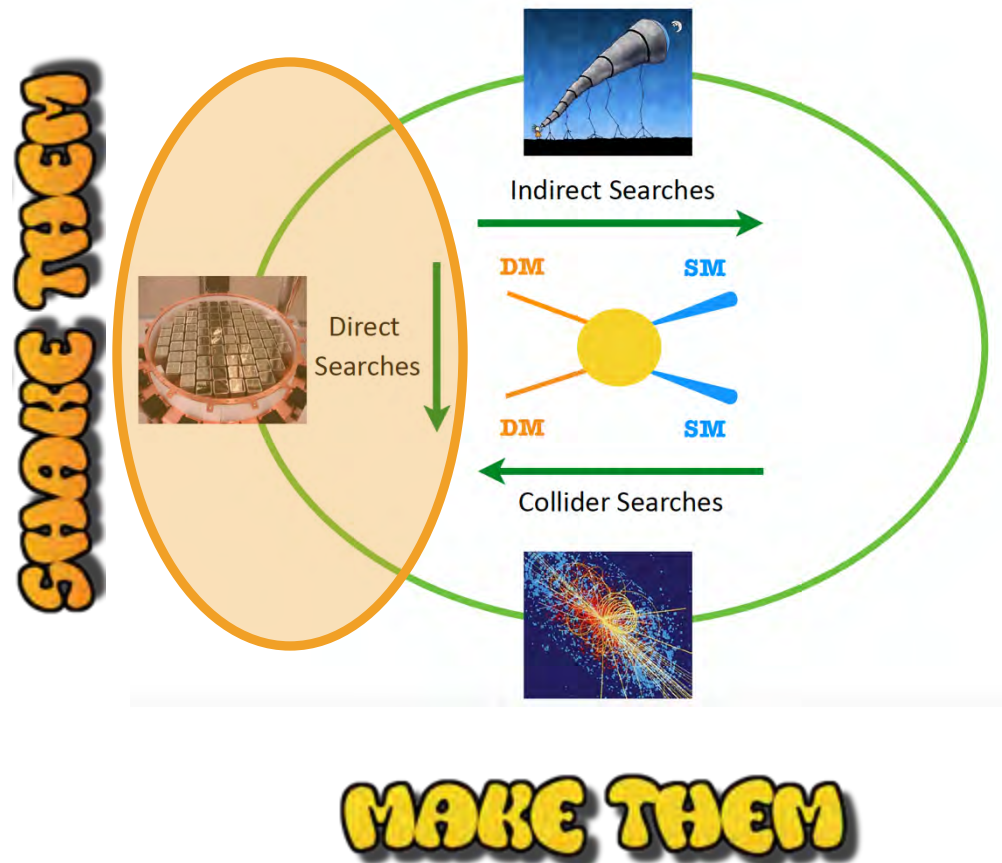


- ▶ Simple picture introducing new mediator
- ▶ 4 tunable parameters
  1.  $M_{\text{med}}$  **Mediator mass**
  2.  $M_\chi$  **Dark matter mass**
  3.  $g_q$  **Mediator's coupling to SM quarks**
  4.  $g_\chi$  **Mediator's coupling to dark matter**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{F}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} m_A^2 \mathcal{A}_\mu \mathcal{A}^\mu + \bar{\chi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_\chi) \chi - \sum_q g_q \mathcal{A}_\mu \bar{q} \gamma^\mu (\gamma^5) q - g_\chi \mathcal{A}_\mu \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu (\gamma^5) \chi$$



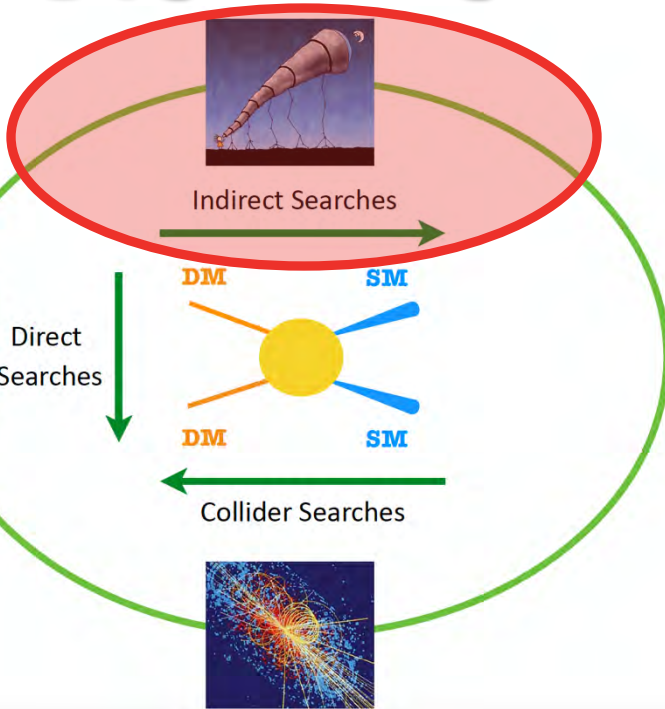
## Detection strategies for WIMPs



We will get back to this in a moment...

Detection strategies for WIMPs

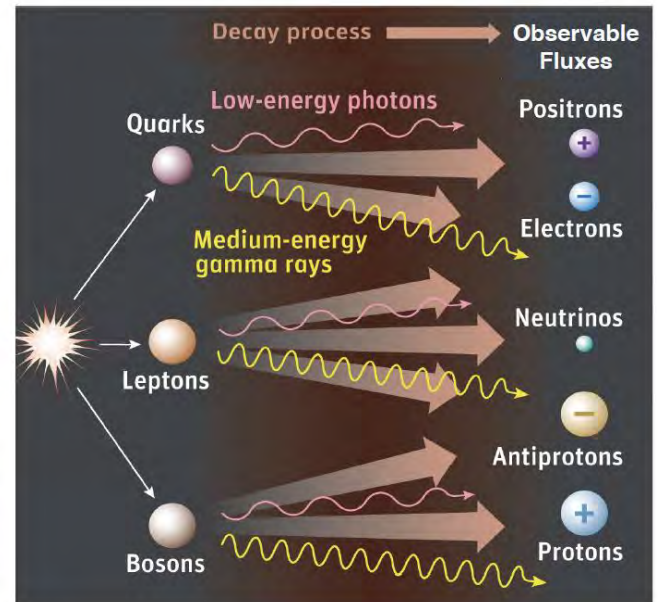
**BREAK THEM**



**MAKE THEM**

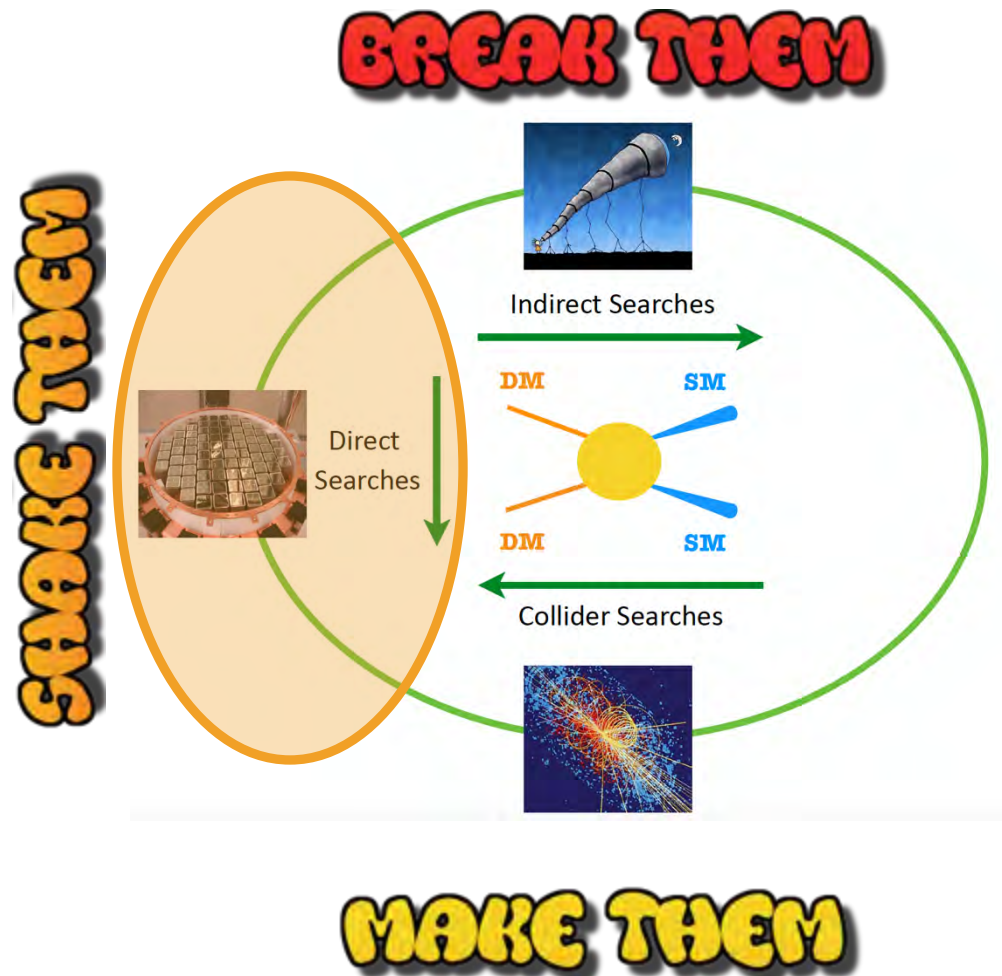


*DM annihilation/decay*



See F. Calore's talk

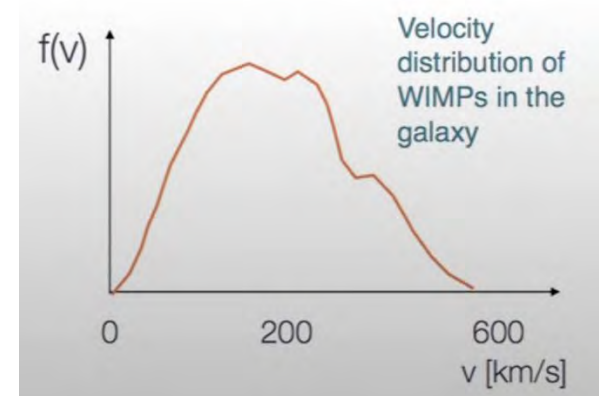
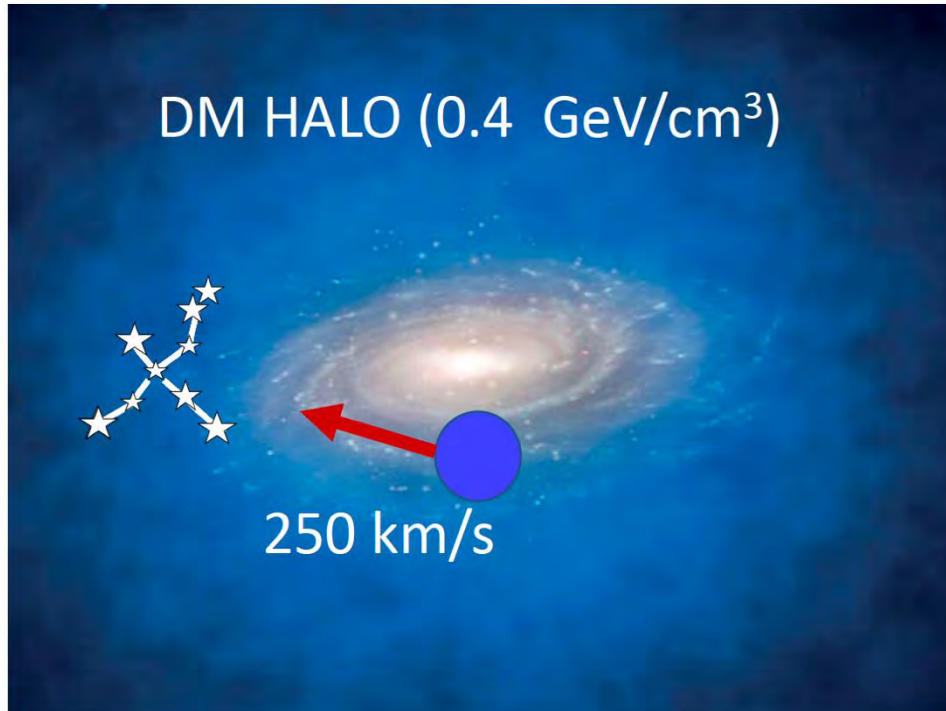
## Detection strategies for WIMPs



Here we go...

- ▶ Core idea: observe rare and faint interactions between WIMPs and atomic nuclei in a detector.
- ▶ WIMPs are expected to pass through the Earth and occasionally collide with nuclei, causing them to recoil
- ▶ Can detect this recoil using various techniques

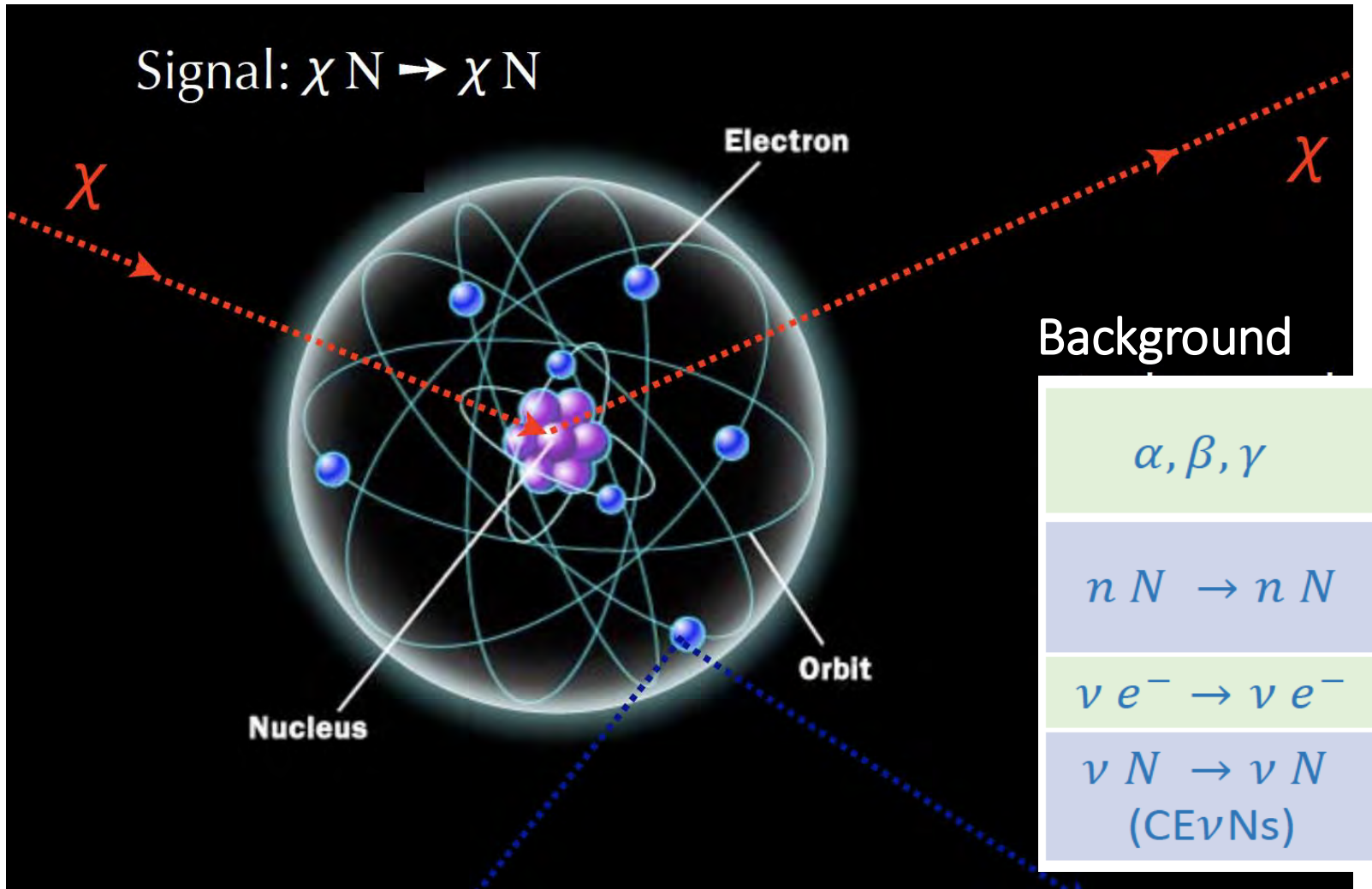
## Dark matter direct detection



$$\phi = \frac{\rho_{DM}}{m_{DM}} \langle v \rangle = 10^5 \frac{\text{part}}{\text{cm}^2 \times \text{s}} \left( \frac{100 \text{ GeV}}{m_\chi} \right) \left( \frac{\rho}{0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3} \right) \left( \frac{v}{250 \text{ km/s}} \right)$$

Compare e.g. to flux of pp neutrinos:  $6.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ particles cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$

## Dark matter direct detection



## Spin-independent (SI) and Spin-dependent (SD) searches

- ▶ Variety of well-motivated DM candidates
- ▶ How they couple to SM is **model-dependent**
- ▶ Typically, need to consider only two cases

### 1) Spin-independent interaction

$\chi$  scatters coherently off of the entire nucleus  $A$

→ Signal adds coherently  $\sigma \propto A^2$

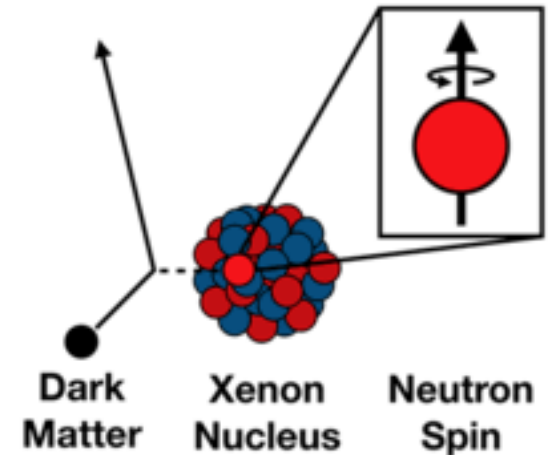
→ Typically dominant

### 2) Spin-dependent interaction

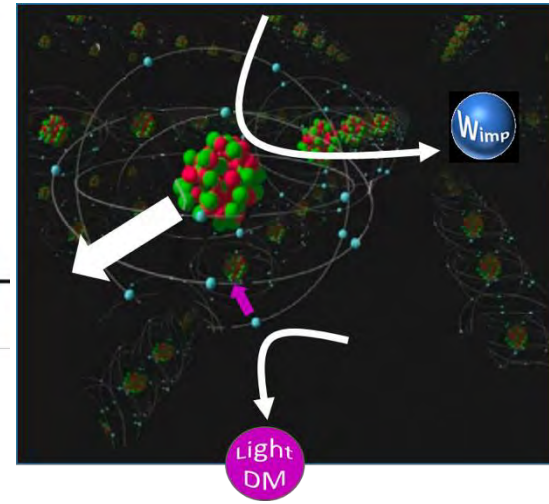
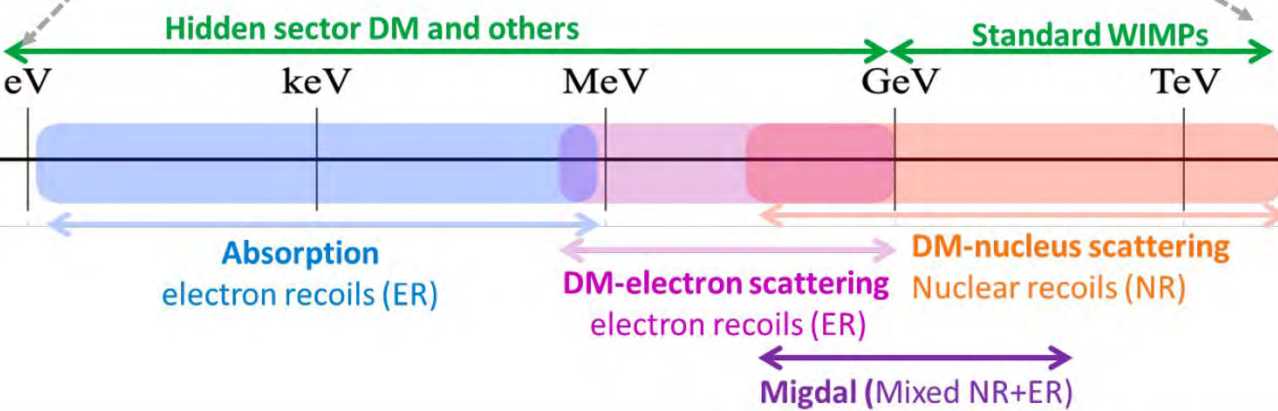
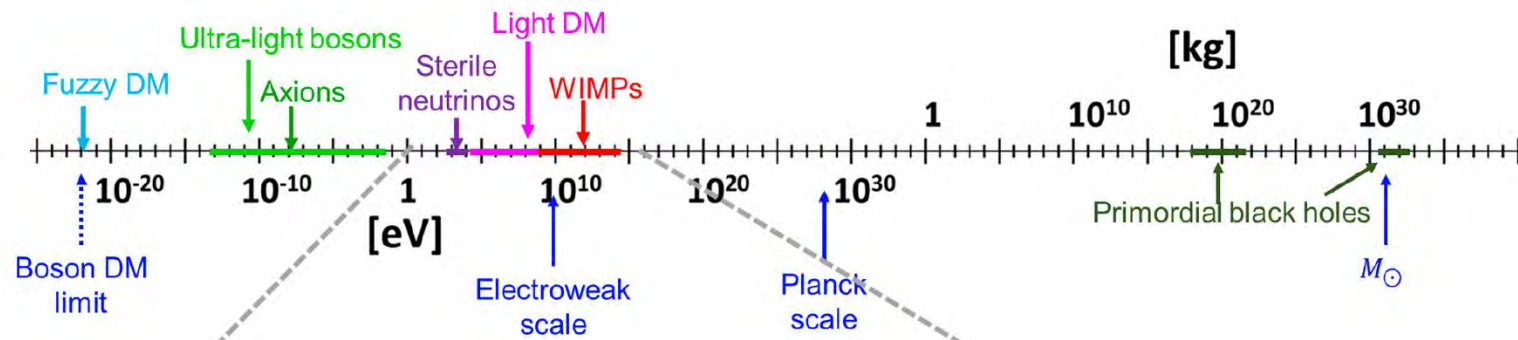
$\chi$  couples to the spin of the nucleus

→ Mainly unpaired nucleons contribute to the scattering amplitude:

$$\sigma \propto J(J+1)$$

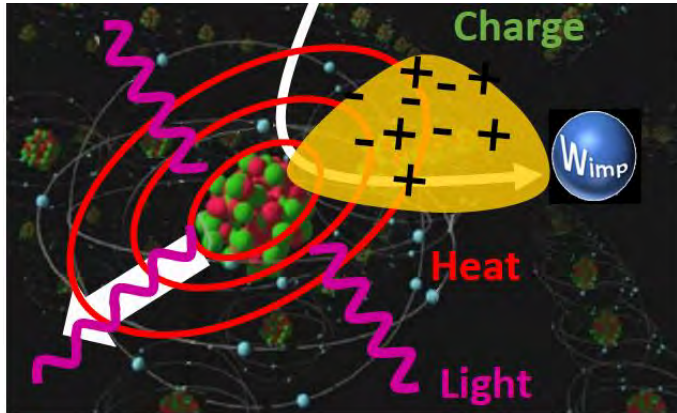


## Ranges and interactions



Adapted from M. Martinez

## Rate and cross-section



$$R \approx N_T \times \phi_{DM} \times \sigma$$

$$\phi_{DM} \sim 10^4 - 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

$$N_T \sim \frac{10^3 \times N_A}{A} \text{ nuclei/kg}$$

$$\sigma \sim \sigma_{weak} \sim 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2$$

1 c/kg/y – 1 c/ton/y

DM local density

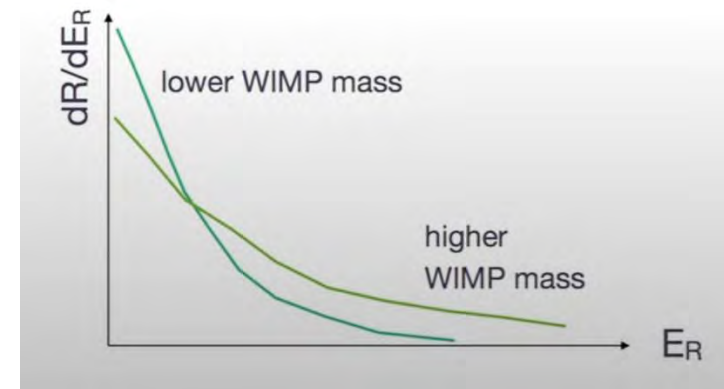
DM velocity distribution  
in detector's frame

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{M_{det} \rho_\chi}{2m_\chi \mu_{\chi N}^2} \sigma^0 F^2(q) \int_{v_{min}}^{v_{esc}} \frac{f(v, t)}{v} d^3v$$

DM mass

scattering cross section

$$\text{where } v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{E_R m_N}{2\mu_{\chi N}^2}}$$



**Few counts per kg × year!!! Energy O(10keV)  
No distinctive signatures and target dependent**



## Design of a DM direct detection(DD) experiment

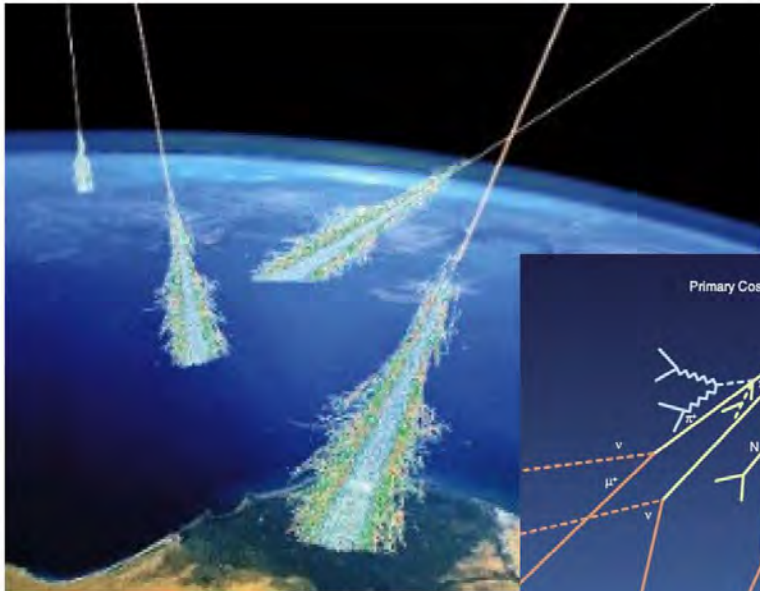
$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{M_{det} \rho_\chi}{2m_\chi \mu_{\chi N}^2} \sigma^0 F^2(q) \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} \frac{f(v, t)}{v} d^3 v$$

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{E_R m_N}{2\mu_{\chi N}^2}}$$

We need a particle detector with

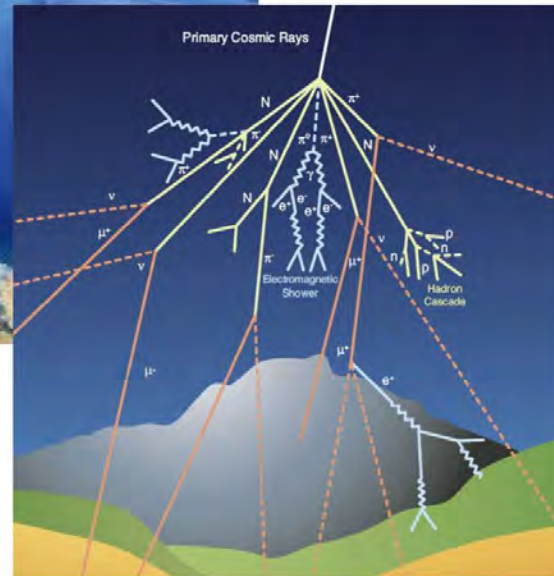
- Large exposure (mass × time)
- High A for SI coupling,  $m_\chi \sim 10 - 1000$  GeV
- Low A for light Wimps ( $O(\text{GeV})$ )
- Isotopes with  $J \neq 0$  for SD
- Low energy threshold
- Good efficiency in the low energy region
- Good knowledge of the detector response to NR (quenching factors)
- Ultra-low background at low energy for NR → particle discrimination!

## Backgrounds: Cosmic Rays



### Cosmic ray-induced muons

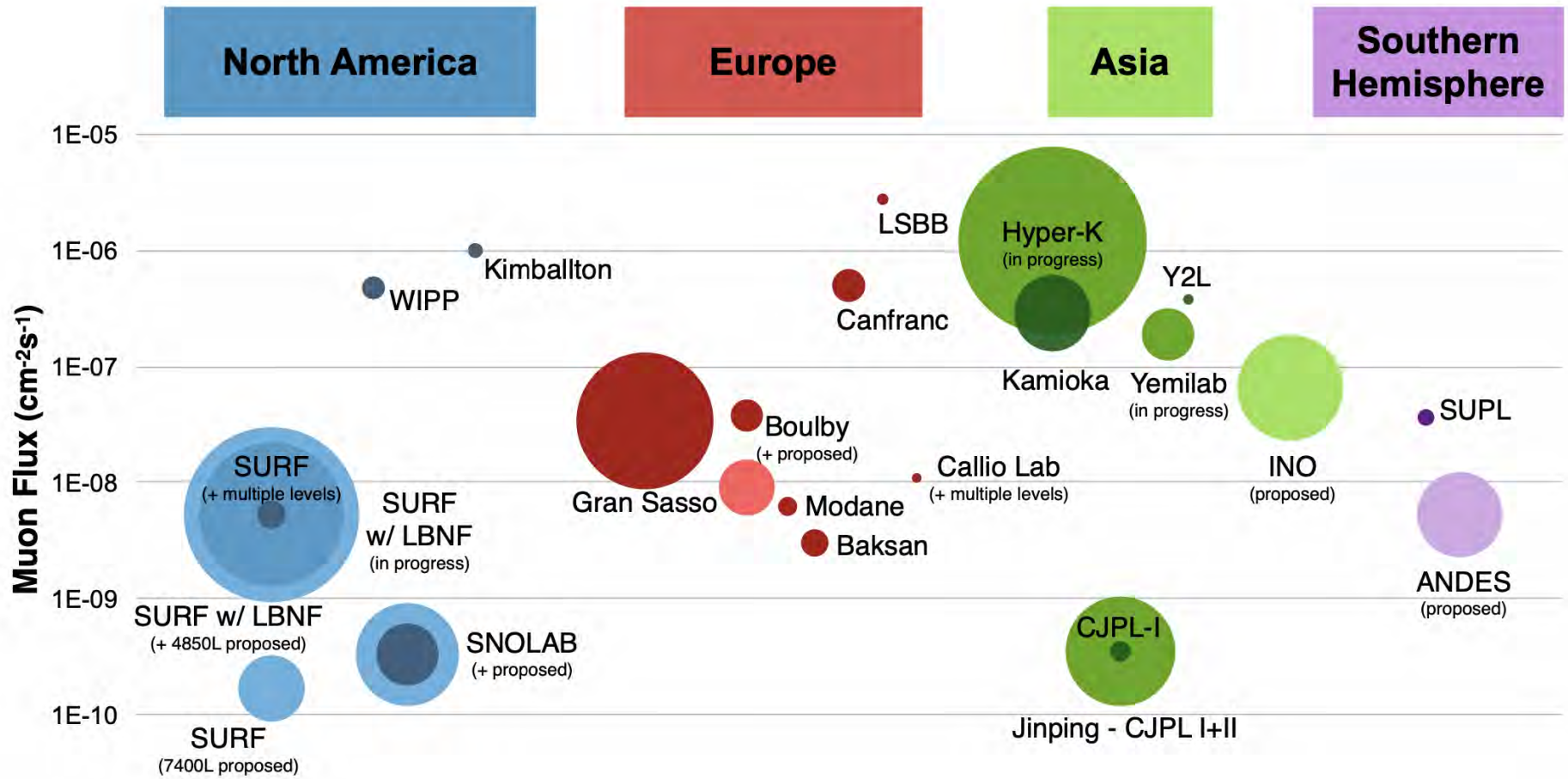
- Increase the counting rate
- cosmogenic activation of materials
- muon-induced neutrons



Go underground!

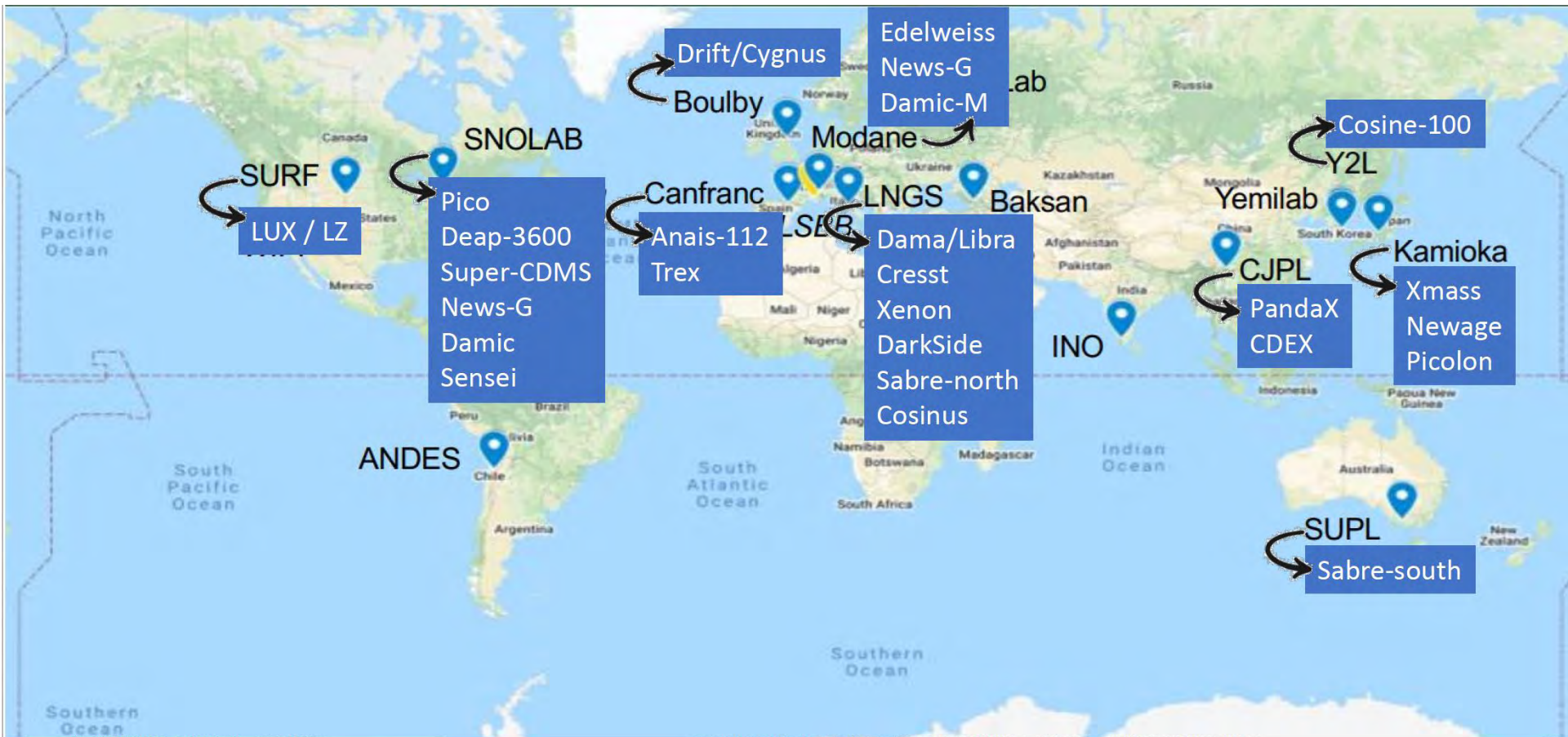
Adapted from M. Martinez

## Underground Laboratories



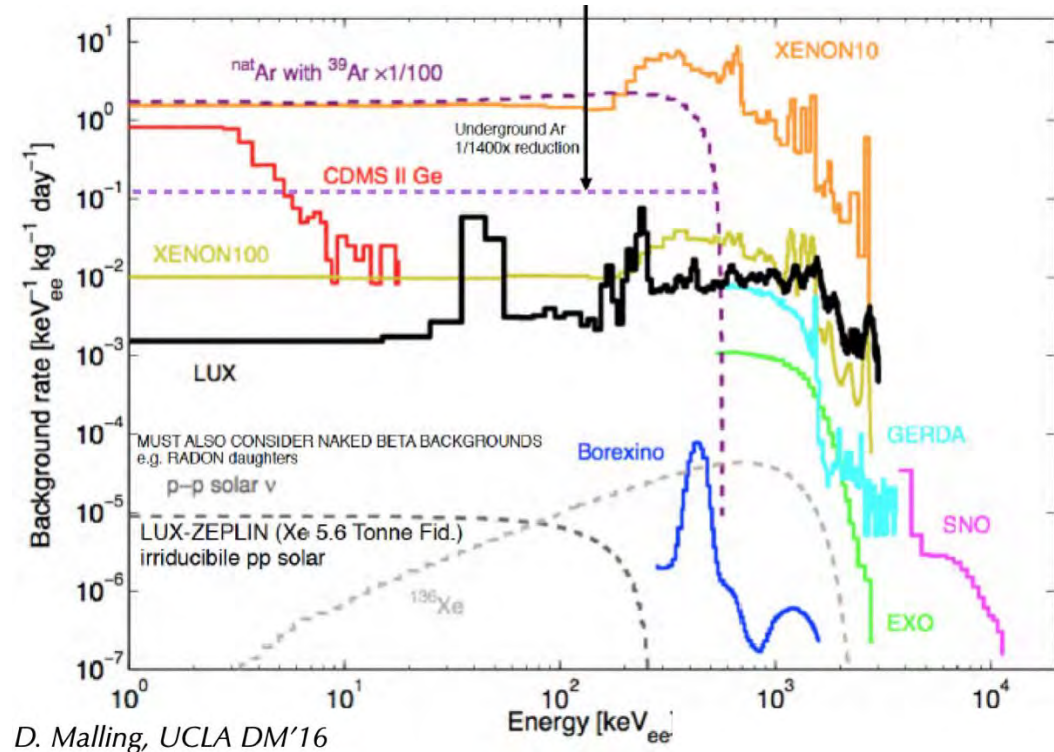
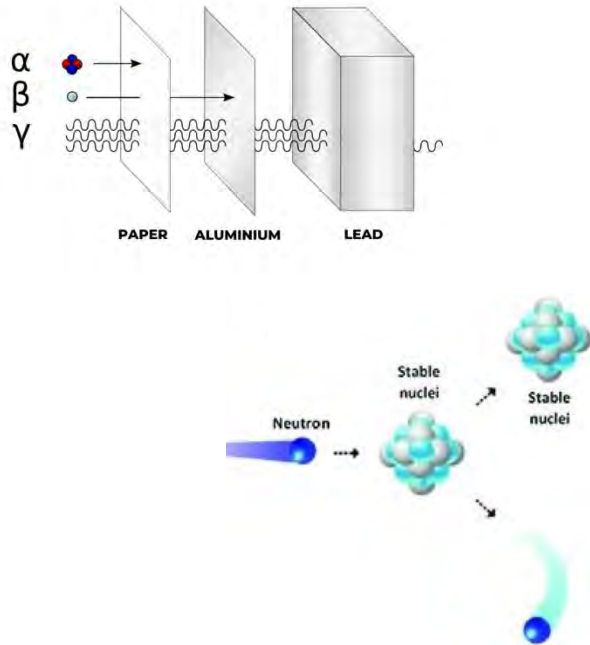
J. Heise, arXiv:2203.08293

## Experiments in Underground Laboratories



## Backgrounds in dark matter direct detection

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma$	material selection, shielding, <b>particle discrimination techniques</b>
$n N \rightarrow n N$	most critical (mimic WIMP signal). Shielding, active rejection (multiplicity)
$\nu e^- \rightarrow \nu e^-$	ultimate background for ER recoils



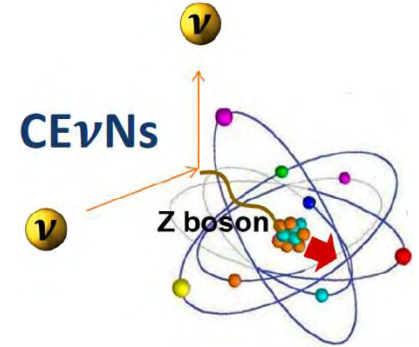
D. Malling, UCLA DM'16

Adapted from M. Martinez

## Backgrounds in dark matter direct detection

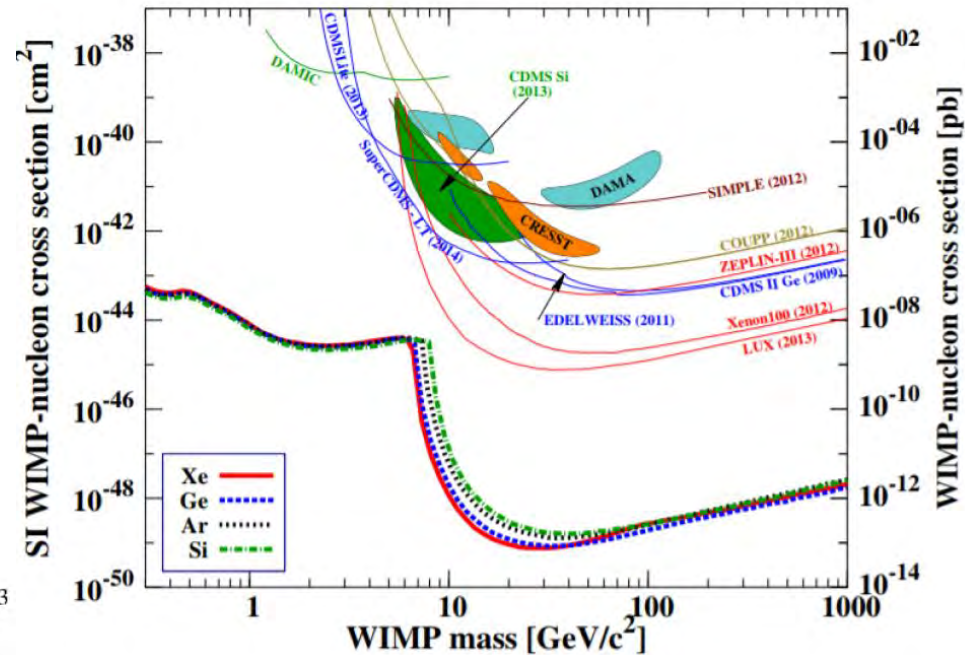
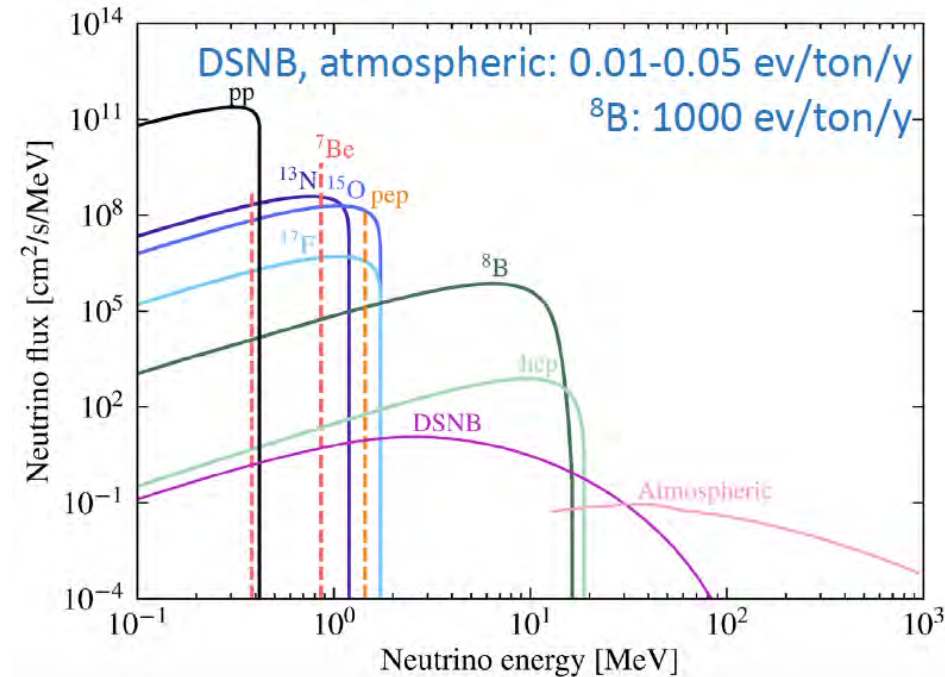
$\nu N \rightarrow \nu N$   
(CEvNs)

ultimate background for WIMP search  
(~~neutrino floor~~ → fog)



## Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering

- ▶  $^8\text{B}$ , DSNB and atmospheric neutrinos produce nuclear recoil indistinguishable from WIMP signal



Adapted from M. Martinez

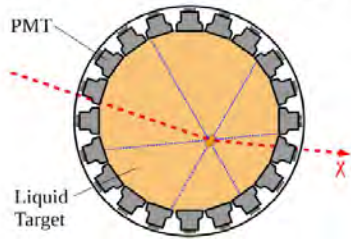
## Detection categories

- ▶ **High WIMP mass**
  - Double-phase noble TPC: Lux/LZ, PandaX, Xenon, DarkSide
  - Noble liquid (single phase): Deap, XMass
- ▶ **Low WIMP mass**
  - Cryogenic detectors: Edelweiss, CRESST, SuperCDMS
  - CCDs: Damic, Sensei
  - High-pressure gas chambers: News-G, T-Rex
- ▶ **Testing the DAMA/LIBRA signal**
  - Scintillators: DAMA, Anais, Cosine, Sabre-N, Sabre-S, Picolon
  - Bolometers: Cosinus
- ▶ **Bubble chambers**
  - PICO
- ▶ **Directionality**
  - Low-pressure Gas TPCs: Newage, Mimac, Drif, Cygno, Cygnus

## Detector working principles

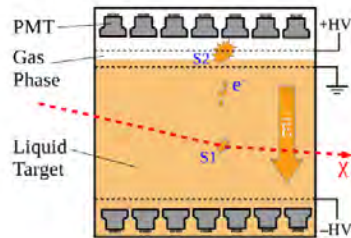
High WIMP mass, Low WIMP mass, Testing DAMA/LIBRA, Bubble chambers, Directionality

Liquid scintillators (light)



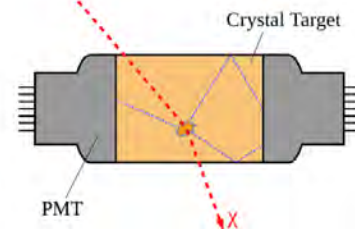
Deap, XMass

Double phase (liquid-gas) noble elements (light-charge)



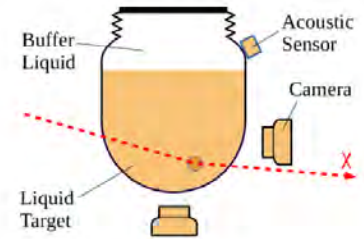
Lux/LZ, PandaX, Xenon, DarkSide

Solid state scintillators (light)



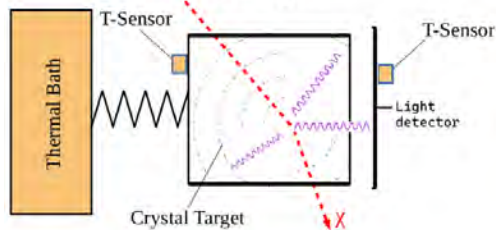
DAMA, Anais, Cosine, Sabre-N, Sabre-S, Picolon

Bubble chambers



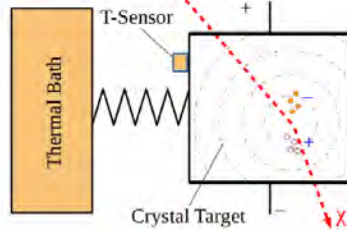
PICO

Cryogenic detectors Heat - light



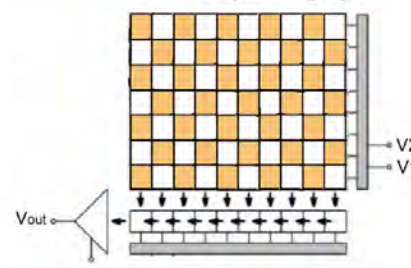
CRESST, Cosinus

Cryogenic detectors Heat - charge



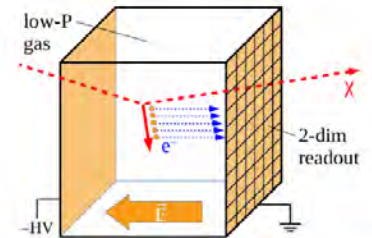
Edelweiss, SuperCDMS

CCDs (charge)



Damic, Sensei

Gaseous-TPC (charge)



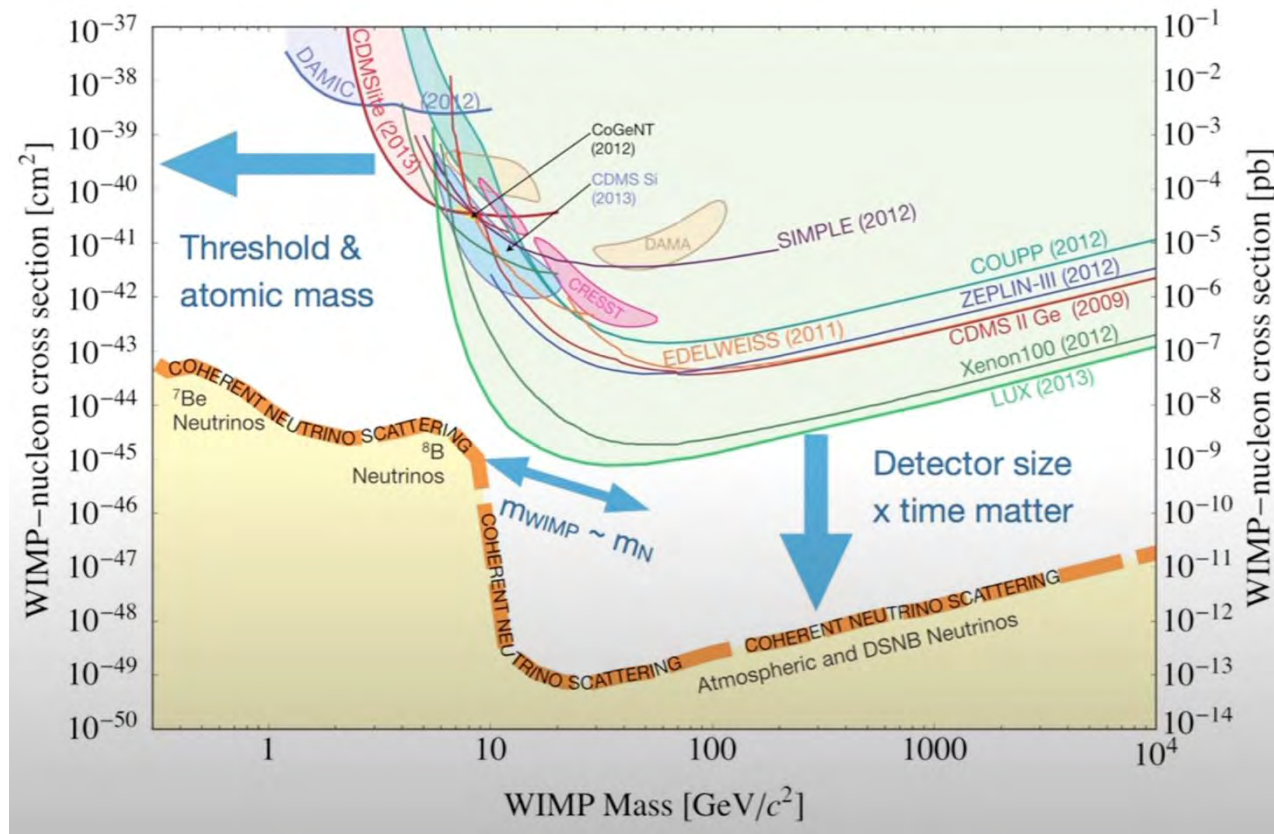
News-G, Trex, Newage, Mimac, Drif, Cygno, Cygnus

Adapted from APPEC Committee Report 2021



## Status of DM DD Experiments about 10 years ago

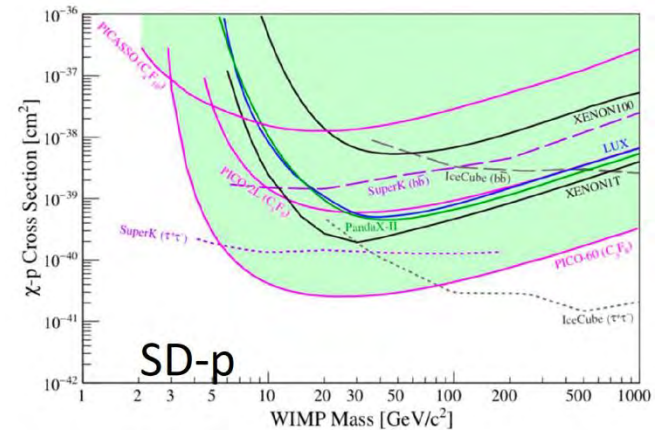
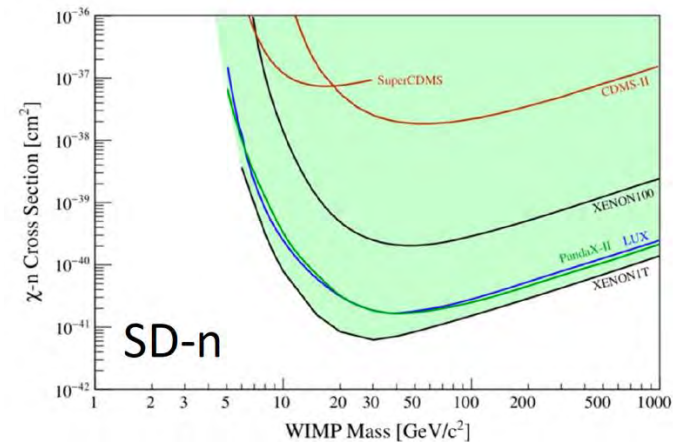
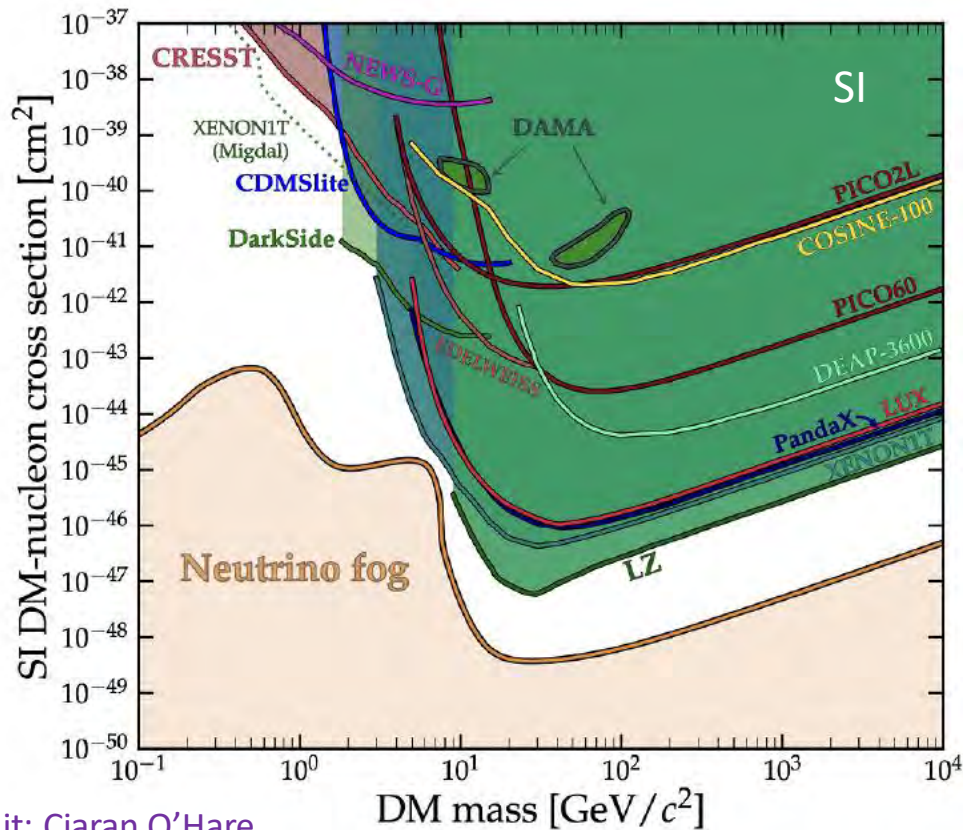
- ▶ Exclude WIMPs that would produce a measurable rate over known backgrounds



Credit: L. Baudis

## Status of DM DD Experiments today

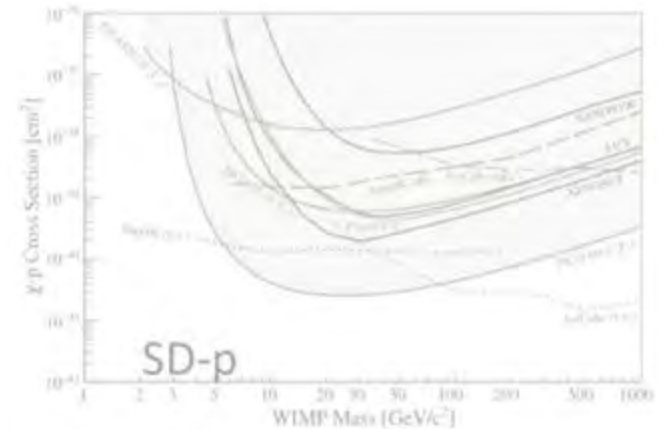
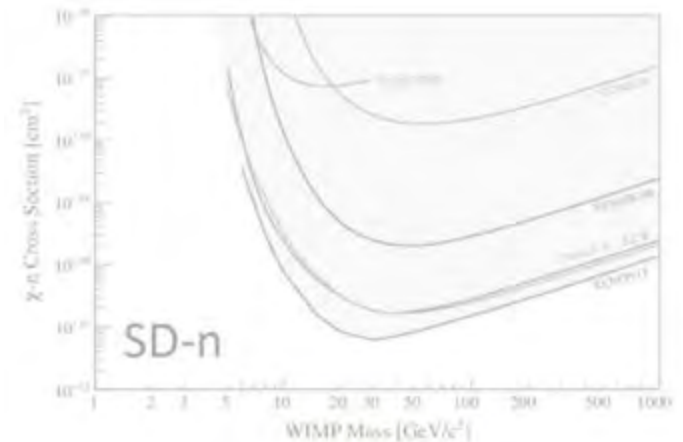
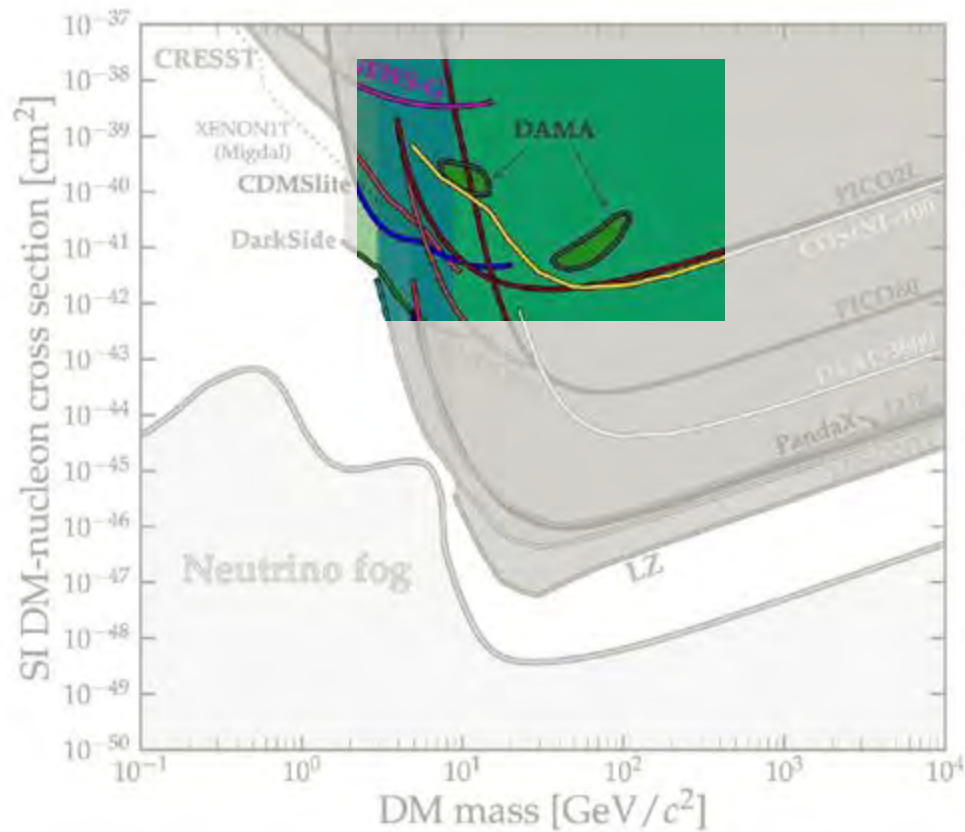
- ▶ Exclude WIMPs that would produce a measurable rate over known backgrounds
- ▶ Assuming WIMPs coupling only spin-independent (SI) or only spin-dependent to neutrons (SD-n) or protons (SD-p)



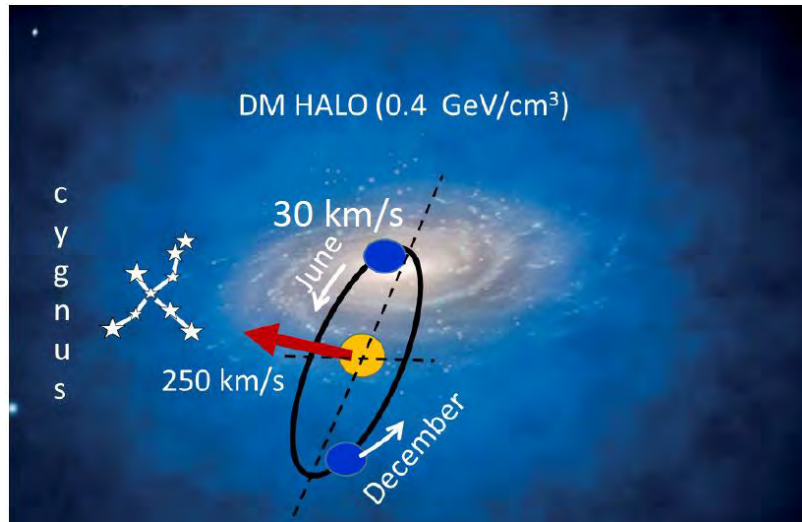
Credit: Ciaran O'Hare

## Status of DM DD Experiments

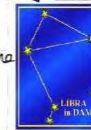
**Only one positive signal (surviving for more than 20 years...)**



## The DAMA/LIBRA annual modulation signal



LABORATORI NAZIONALI DEL GRAN SASSO



DAMA / NaI (1995-2002)

- 100 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators
- $E_{th} = 2$  keV
- 7 annual cycles

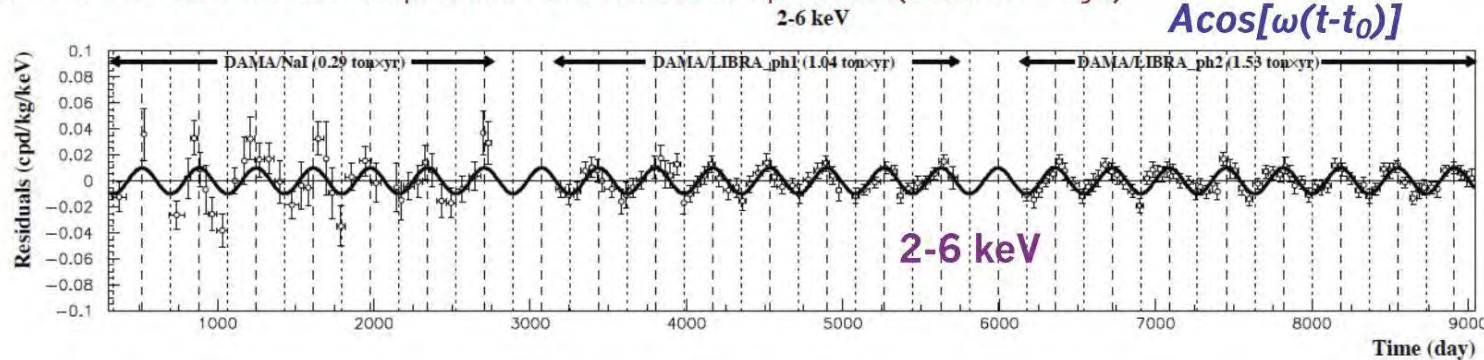
DAMA / LIBRA ph1 (2003-2010)

- 250 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators
- $E_{th} = 2$  keV
- 7 annual cycles

DAMA / LIBRA ph2 (2011-today)

- 250 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators
- $E_{th} = 1$  keV
- 10 annual cycles

DAMA/NaI+DAMA/LIBRA-phase1+DAMA/LIBRA-phase2 (2.86 ton × yr)



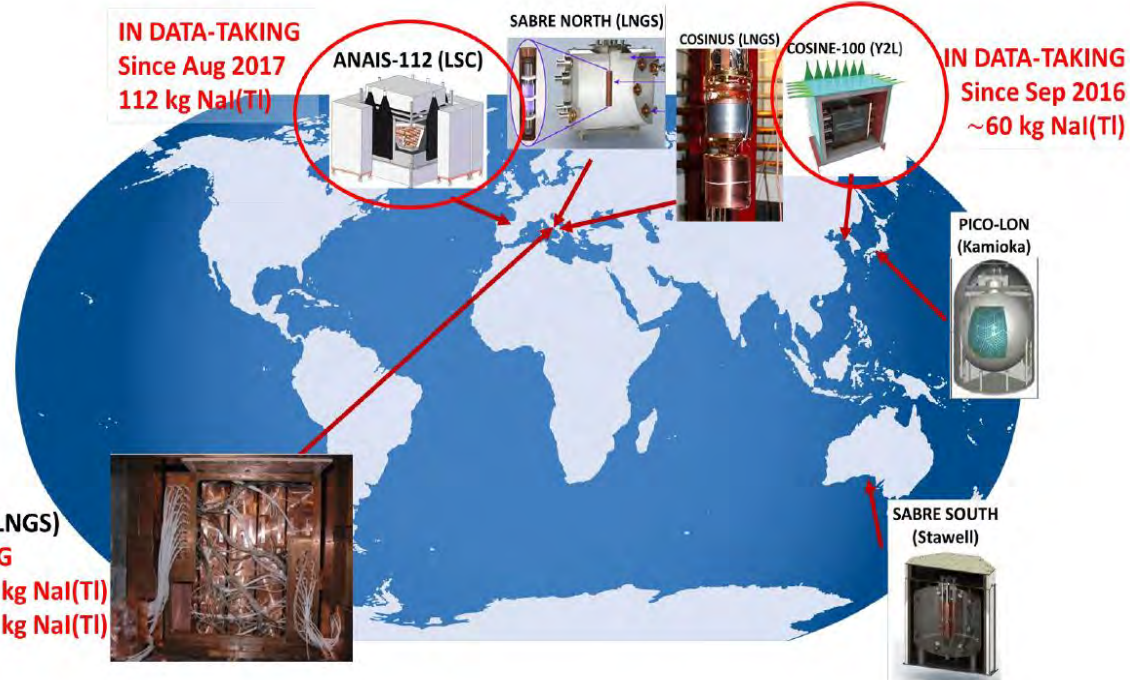
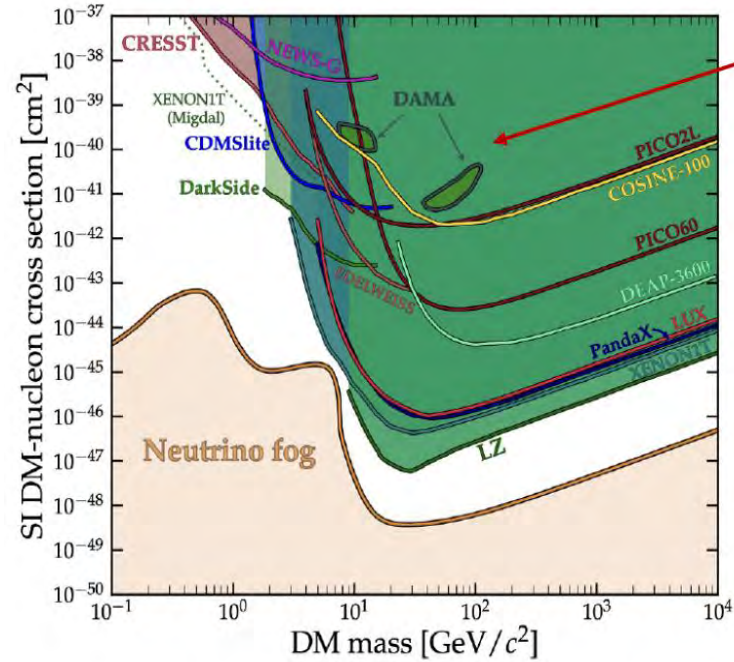
**DAMA clearly sees an annual modulation at  $13.7\sigma$  C.L.**

Adapted from M. Martinez

## Testing the DAMA/LIBRA signal

The parameter's region singled out by DAMA/LIBRA is excluded by many DM experiments, but **this comparison is model dependent.**

To avoid any model dependence: USE NaI(Tl)



Adapted from M. Martinez

## ANAIS-112 vs DAMA/LIBRA

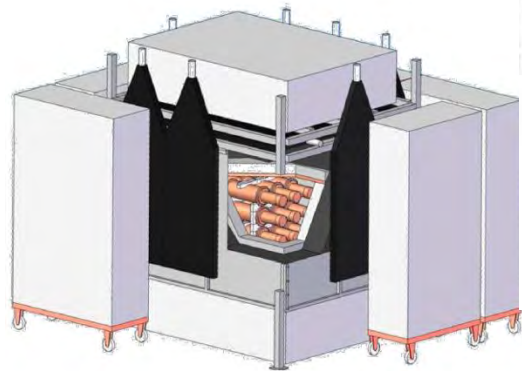
**ANAIS-112:** First model independent test of the DAMA/LIBRA signal (same target and technique)



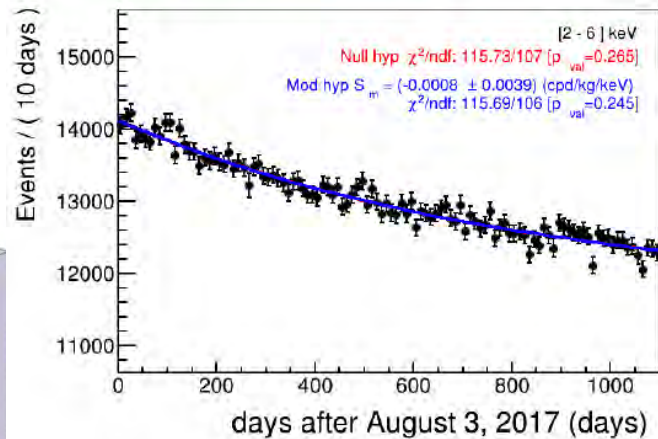
112 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators @ Canfranc Underground Lab

Data acquisition since August 2017

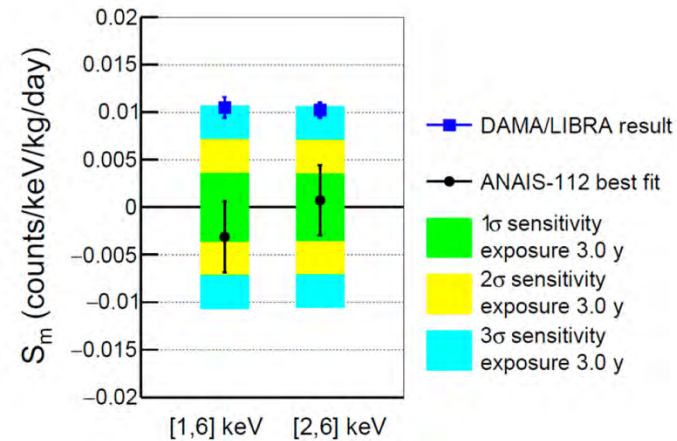
1 keVee energy threshold and Background@ ROI x3 DAMA/LIBRA



PRD 103, 102005 (2021)



3-year results



Best fit incompatible with DAMA/LIBRA at 3.3 (2.6)  $\sigma$   
 Current sensitivity: 2.5-2.7 $\sigma$

Adapted from M. Martinez

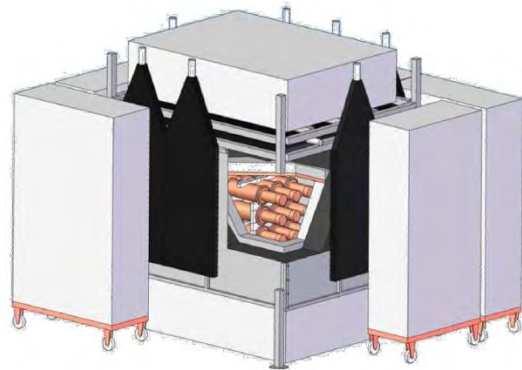
## ANAIS-112 vs DAMA/LIBRA

**ANAIS-112:** First model independent test of the DAMA/LIBRA signal (same target and technique)

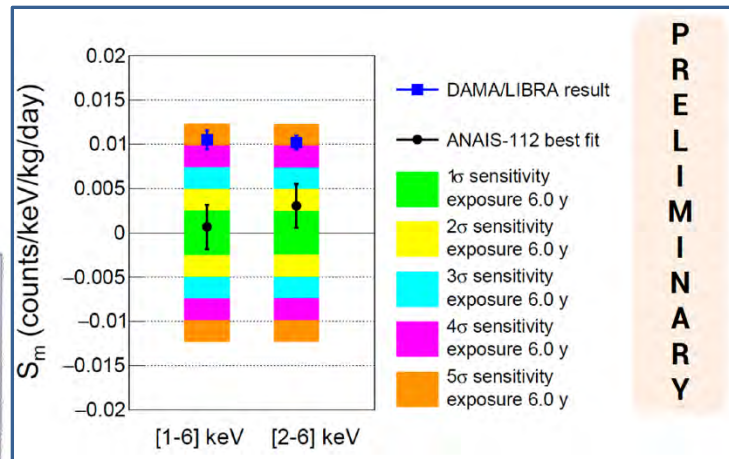


112 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators @ Canfranc Underground Lab  
Data acquisition since August 2017

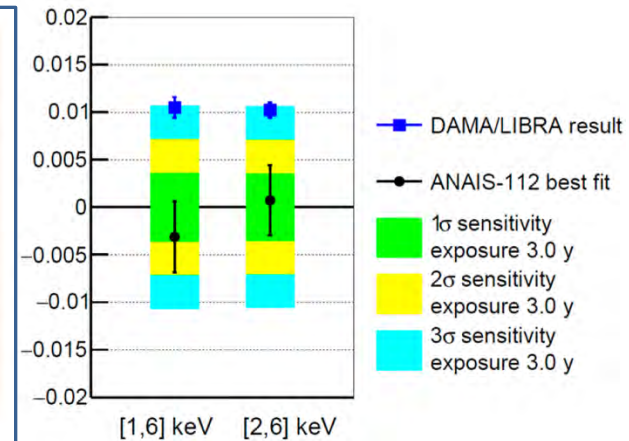
1 keVee energy threshold and Background@ ROI x3 DAMA/LIBRA



### 6-year results



### 3-year results



Best fit incompatible with DAMA/LIBRA at 3.3 (2.6)  $\sigma$  /  $\sim$ 3.9 (2.9)  $\sigma$   
Current sensitivity: 2.5-2.7 $\sigma$  / 4.2-4.1  $\sigma$

Adapted from M. Martinez

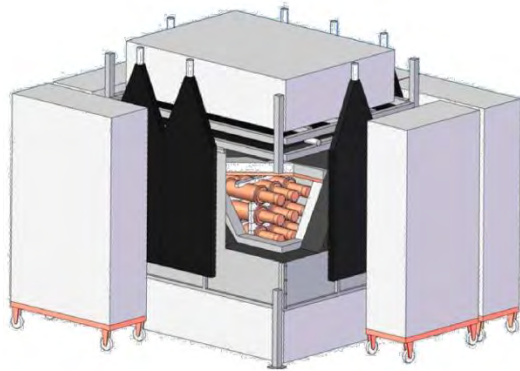
## ANAIS-112 vs DAMA/LIBRA

**ANAIS-112:** First model independent test of the DAMA/LIBRA signal (same target and technique)

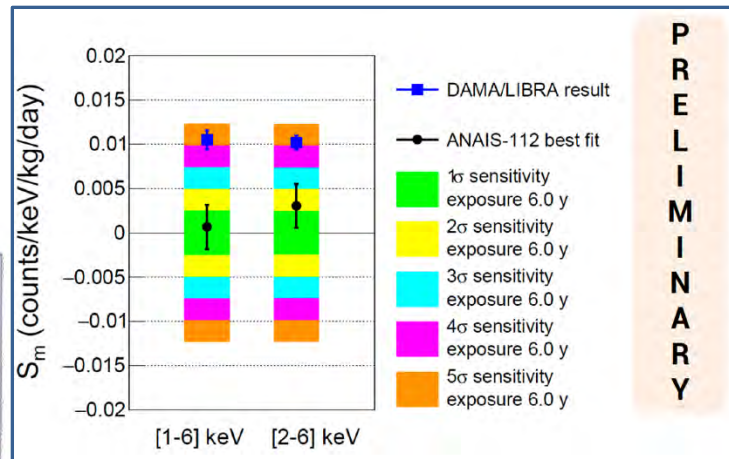


112 kg NaI(Tl) scintillators @ Canfranc Underground Lab  
Data acquisition since August 2017

1 keVee energy threshold and Background@ ROI x3 DAMA/LIBRA



### 6-year results



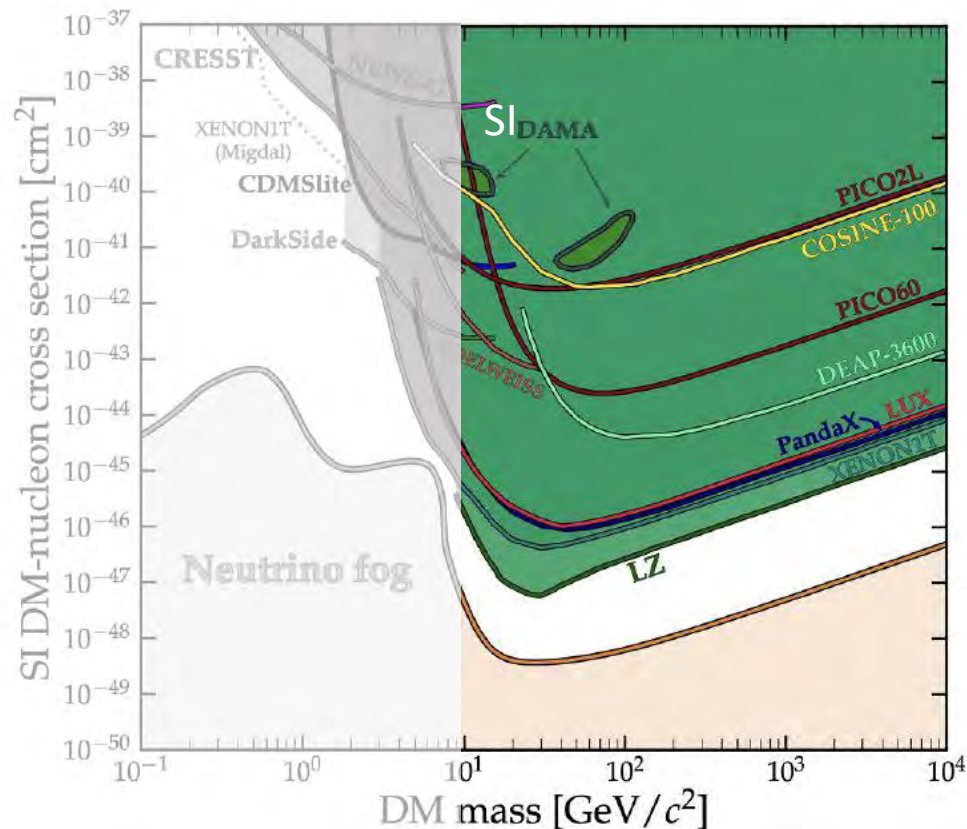
Best fit incompatible with DAMA/LIBRA at 3.3 (2.6)  $\sigma$  / ~3.9 (2.9)  $\sigma$   
Current sensitivity: 2.5-2.7 $\sigma$  / 4.2-4.1  $\sigma$

Adapted from M. Martinez

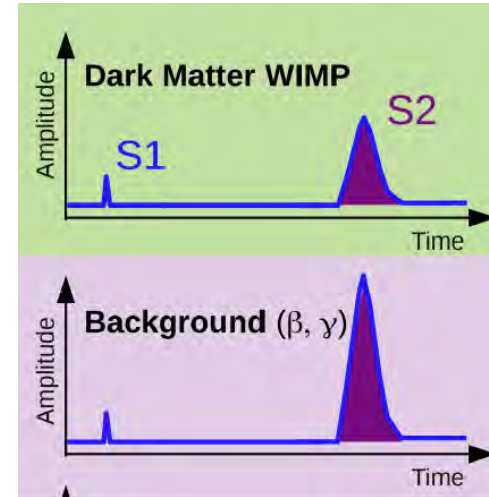
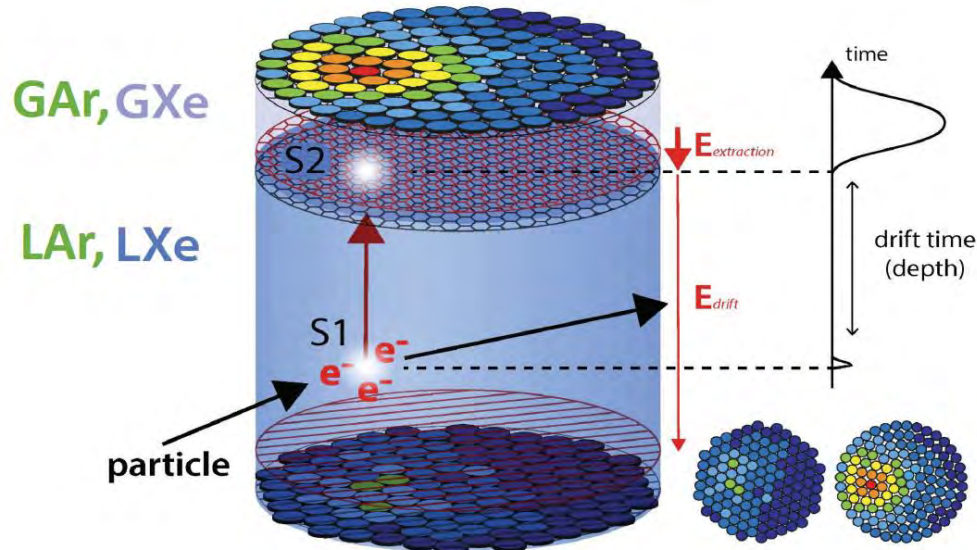


## High WIMP mass

- ▶ Double-phase noble elements TPC: Lux/LZ, PandaX, Xenon, DarkSide
- ▶ Noble liquid (single phase): Deap, XMass



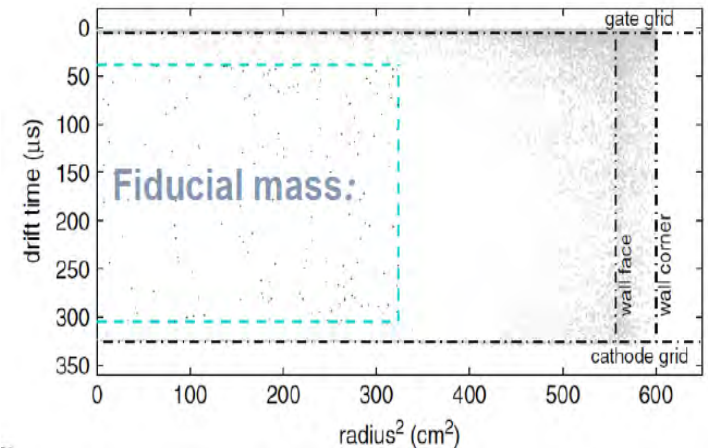
## Double-phase noble elements TPC (light + charge)



Ratio S1/S2  
different for  
nuclear recoils  
(WIMPs) and  
electron recoils  
(background)

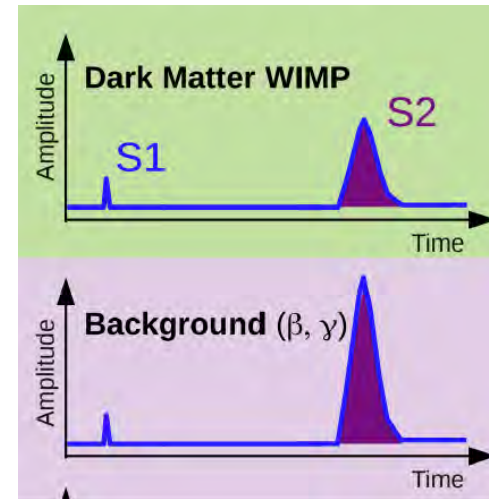
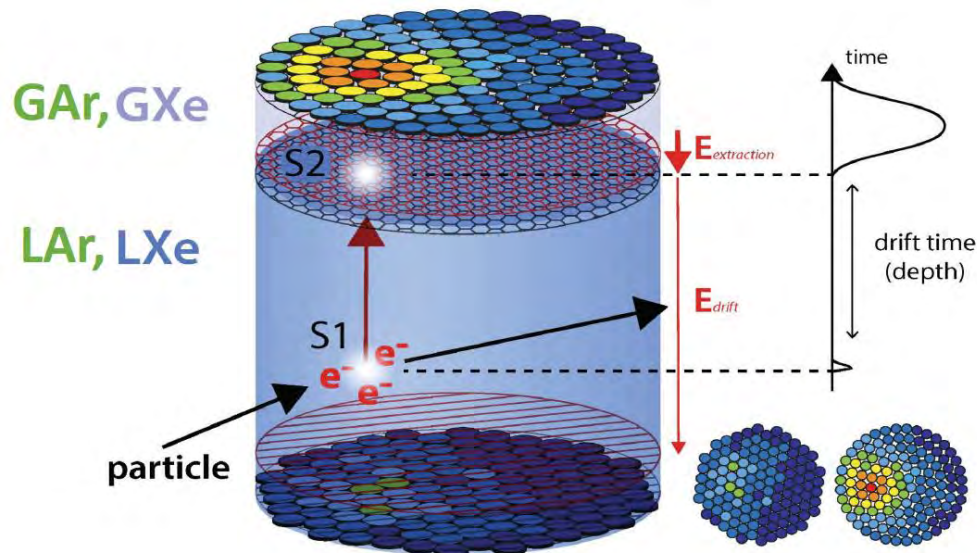
### Reconstruction of the hit position

- Top/bottom photomultipliers  $\rightarrow (x, y)$
- Drift time  $\rightarrow z$
- $\rightarrow$  Fiducialization (use only the inner (cleaner) part)



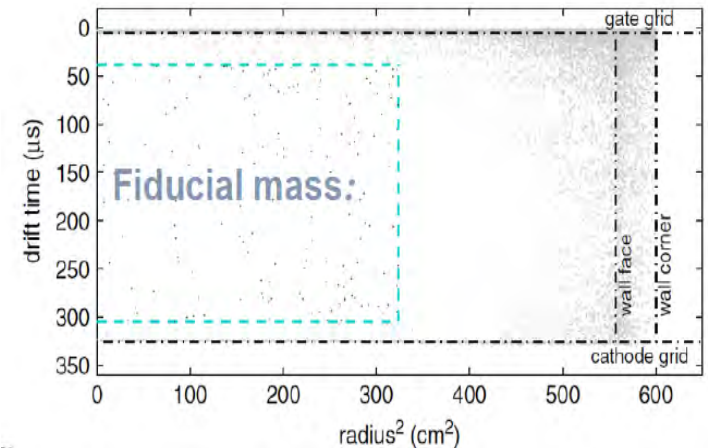
Adapted from M. Martinez

## Double-phase noble elements TPC (light + charge)



Ratio S1/S2 different for nuclear recoils (WIMPs) and electron recoils (background)

- ER Background rejection
- Fiducialization
- Possibility to reduce the threshold working only with charge readout (no bkg discrimination!)

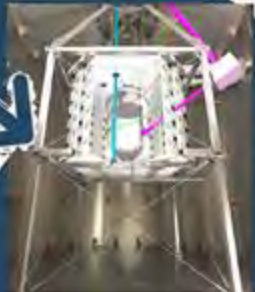


Adapted from M. Martinez

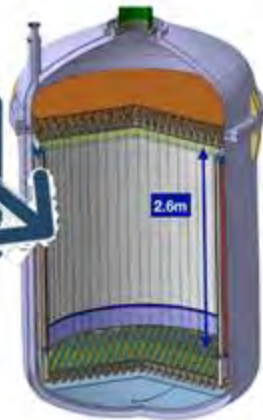
## Present and future of noble-TPCs



Xenon 1T  
(1 ton LXe)  
(decommissioned)



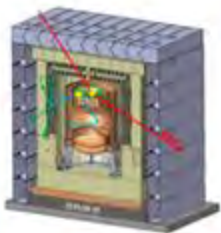
Xenon nT  
(5.9 ton LXe)  
**STARTED IN 2021**



Future: DARWIN  
(50 ton LXe)



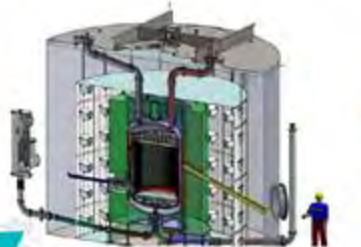
PANDAX-4T  
(4 ton LXe)  
**STARTED IN 2021**



ZEPLIN-III  
(6 kg LXe)  
(decommissioned)



LUX  
(100 kg LXe)  
(decommissioned)



LZ @ SURF  
(7 ton-fiducial LXe)  
**STARTED IN 2021**



ARGO  
300 ton



Deap-3600  
(3.6 ton LAr)

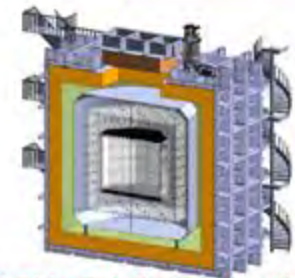


DarkSide-50  
(50 kg LAr)  
(decommissioned)



ArDM (1 ton LAr)  
(decommissioned)

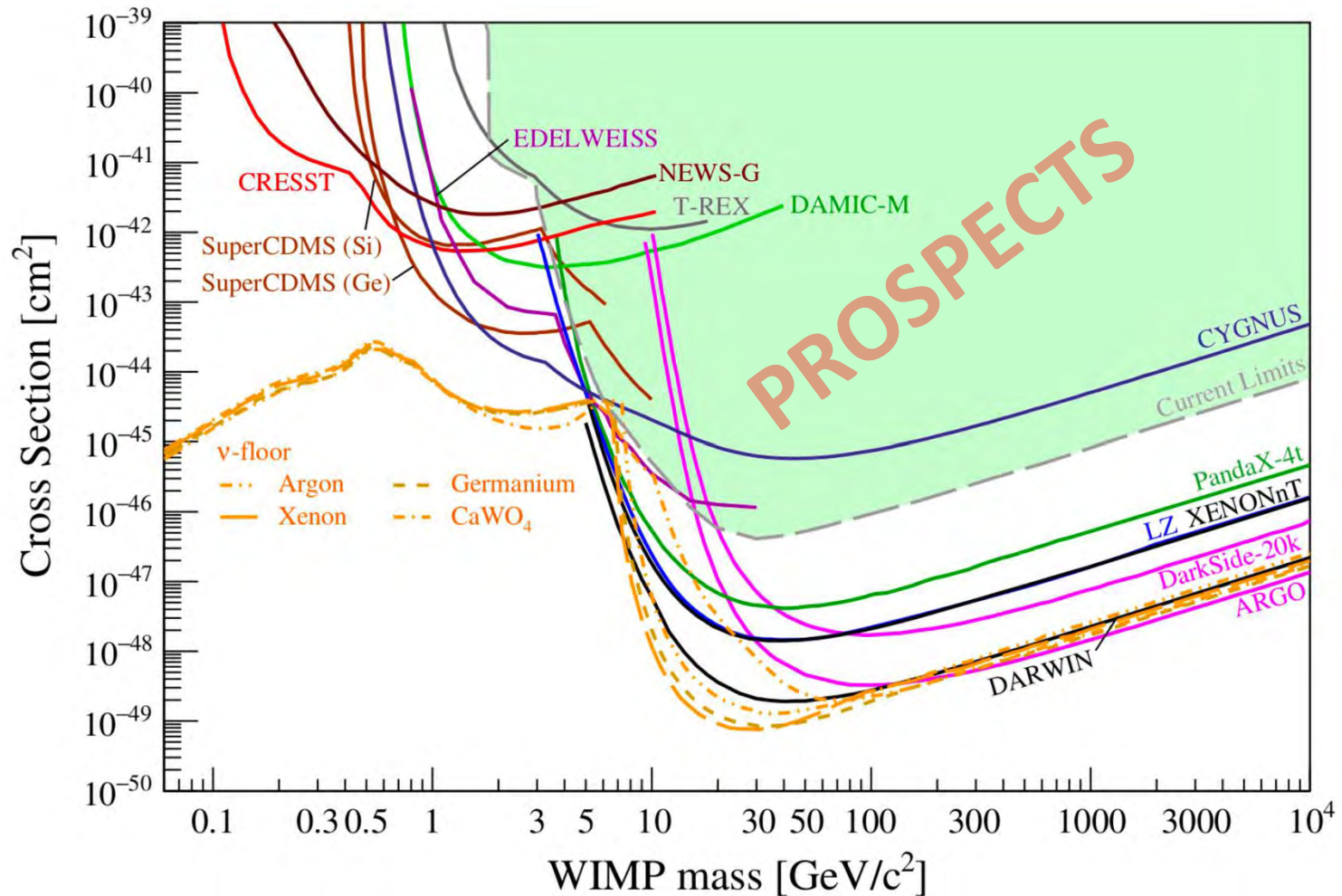
Ar



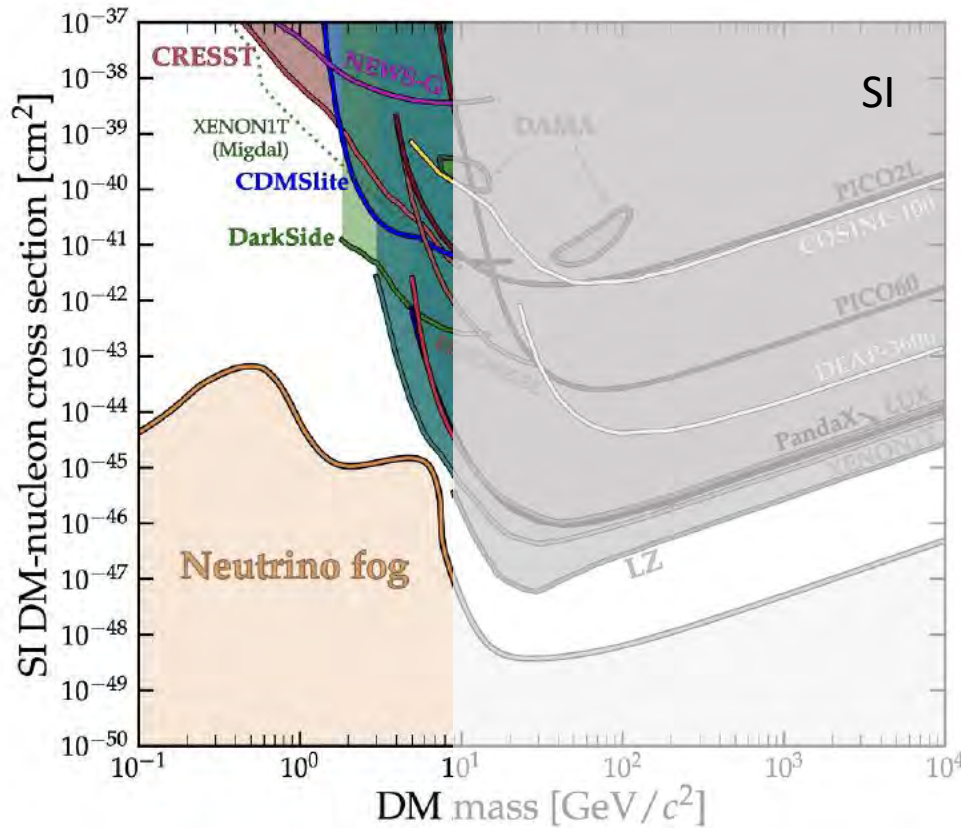
DarkSide-20k (in construction @ LNGS)  
(50 ton LAr, 20 ton fiducial)

Adapted from M. Martinez

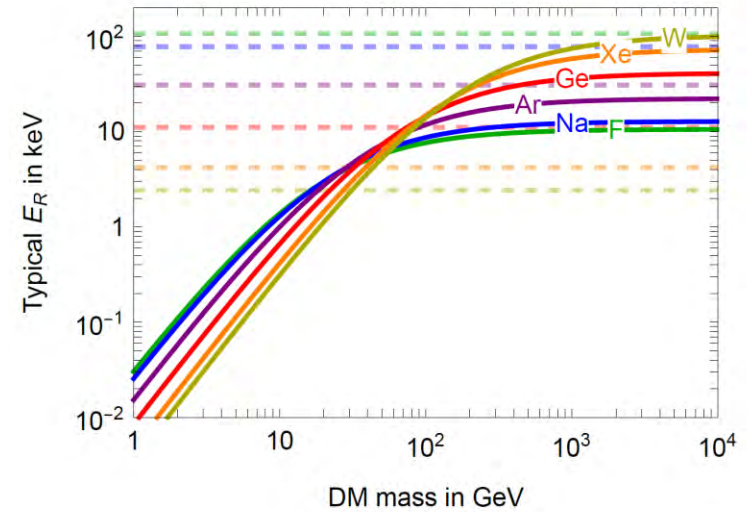
## Dark matter direct detection prospects



## Low WIMP Masses (<10 GeV)

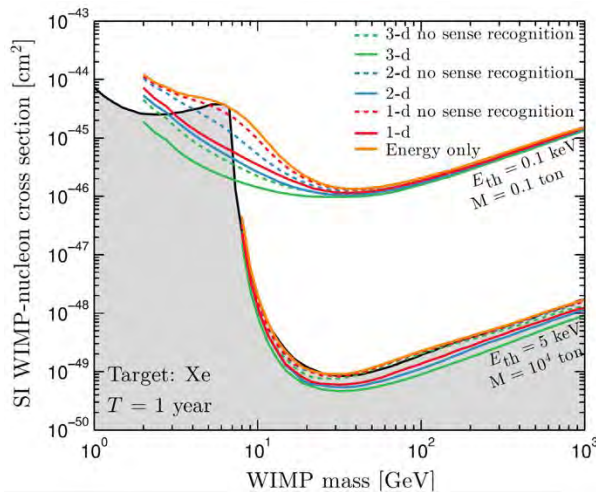
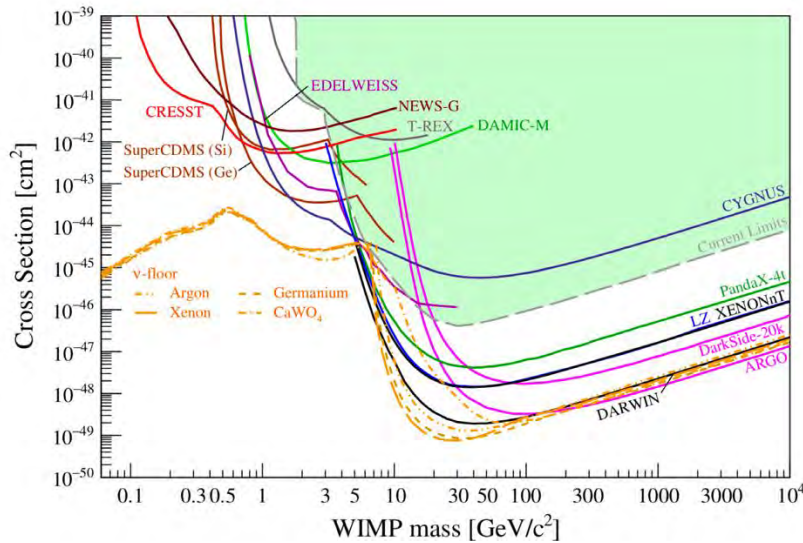


Need very low energy threshold to explore the low-mass region



- ▶ Cryogenic detectors: Edelweiss, CRESST, SuperCDMS
- ▶ CCDs: Damic, Sensei
- ▶ High-pressure gas chambers: News-G

## Dark matter direct detection



- ▶ World-wide effort to detect WIMP DM “directly”, but no signal yet
- ▶ DAMA/LIBRA positive signal not confirmed at  $3-4\sigma$  by ANAIS-112/COSINE-100 experiments
- ▶ Xe & Ar multi-ton experiments planned to reach the neutrino floor in the next decade
- ▶ Many new ideas/experiments to explore DM scenarios in the GeV (NR), MeV (ER), keV down to eV (absorption) regions
- ▶ Beyond the neutrino fog? Multiple target detectors? Directionality (i.e. using directional detectors to differentiate between isotropic neutrino bgrd and anisotropic WIMP signals)? → CYGNUS collaboration

See e.g. F.Mayet et al, “A review of the discovery reach of directional Dark Matter detection”, Phys. Rep. 627,1 (2016)

# Axion Searches

Credits “Axion Searches”: K. van Bibber, I. G. Irastorza, A. Ringwald,...



## Why is the electric dipole moment of the neutron (nEDM) so small?

- ▶ QCD Lagrangian contains a CP violating term (with  $\theta$ -parameter of QCD vacuum)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{CP}} = \bar{\theta} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_a^{\mu\nu}$$

- ▶ Observational Consequences: Prediction of electric dipole moments (EDM) to hadrons, most importantly, to neutrons

$$d_n \sim 10^{-16} \bar{\theta} e \text{ cm}$$

Crewther, Di Vecchia, Veneziano, Witten 1979;...;  
Pospelov, Ritz 2000

- ▶ Latest measurements of the nEDM

$$|d_n| < 1.8 \times 10^{-26} e \text{ cm}$$

Abel et al. 2020

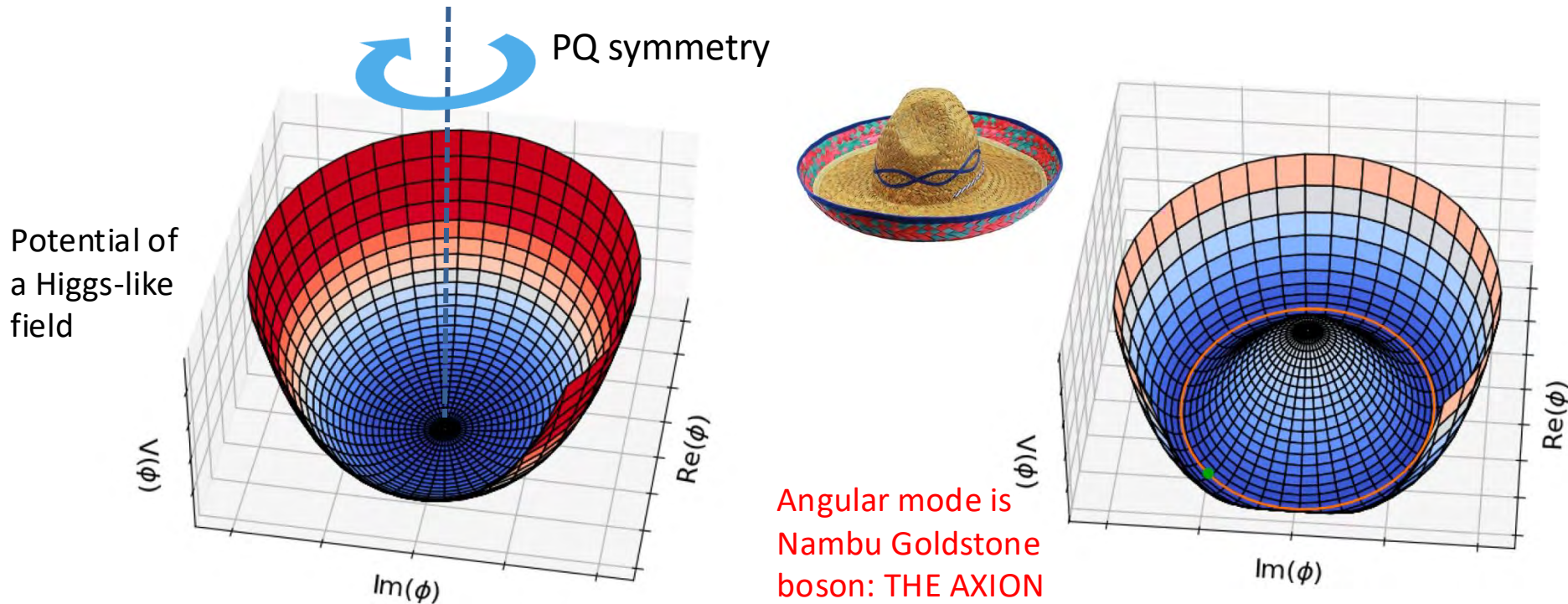
- ▶ Therefore expect  $|\bar{\theta}| \lesssim 10^{-10}$

**STRONG CP PROBLEM or WHY IS THETA SO SMALL?**

## PECCEI QUINN MECHANISM AND AXIONS

Peccei,Quinn 1977; Weinberg 1978; Wilczek 1978

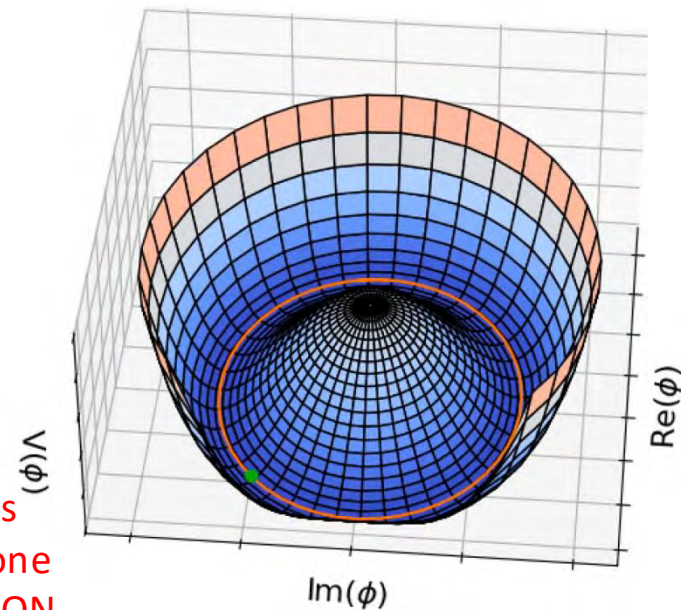
- ▶ Extension of the SM by a complex scalar field featuring a spontaneously broken global U(1) symmetry (Peccei-Quinn symmetry)
- ▶ Pseudo-Goldstone boson field  $a(x)$  arising from PQ symmetry breaking – axion field – turns theta into dynamical variable  $\theta(x) = a(x)/f_A$
- ▶ QCD dynamics leads to  $\langle \theta \rangle = 0$  and thus explains tiny neutron EDM



## PECCEI QUINN MECHANISM AND AXIONS

- ▶ At this stage, the axion is massless
- ▶ Rotational symmetry of the potential: value of  $\theta$  not yet fixed
- ▶ The axion can be seen as the massless degree of freedom.

Angular mode is  
Nambu Goldstone  
boson: THE AXION

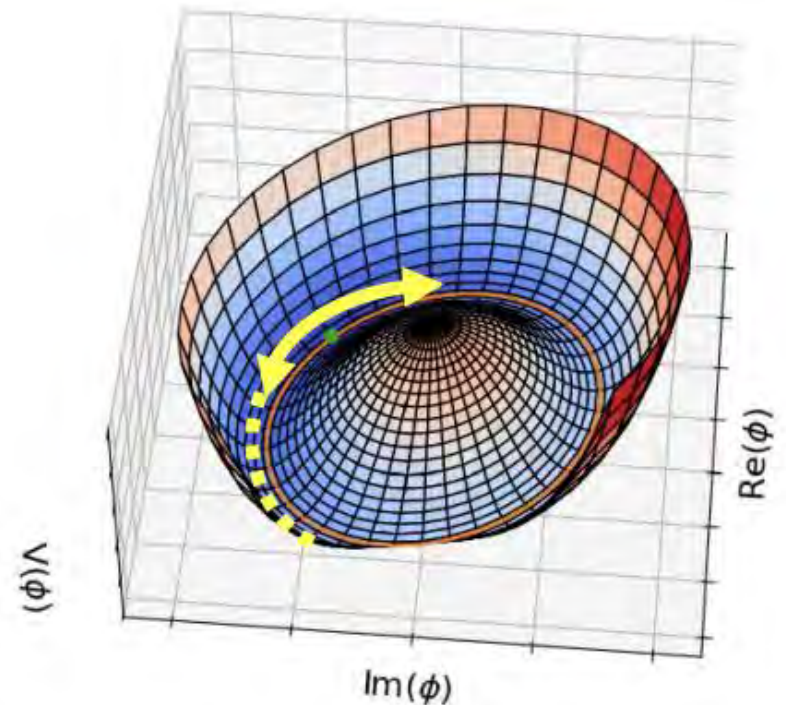


## PECCEI QUINN MECHANISM AND AXIONS

- ▶ At this stage, the axion is massless
  - ▶ Rotational symmetry of the potential: value of  $\theta$  not yet fixed
  - ▶ The axion can be seen as the massless degree of freedom.
  - ▶ Instanton effects: “tilting” of the Mexican hat potential of  $\phi$
- 
- ▶ CP conserving minimum
  - ▶ The axion field starts rolling from (random)  $\theta_{\text{initial}}$  to minimum of the potential.
  - ▶ Oscillations around minimum

## VACUUM REALIGNMENT

## AXION (with a small mass) SOLVES STRONG CP



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a - \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 a^2 + C_{a\gamma} \frac{\alpha}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

- Phenomenological properties of the axion are mainly determined by the scale  $f_a$  and closely related to those of the neutral pion.

- Axion mass

$$m_a = \frac{\sqrt{z}}{1+z} \frac{f_\pi m_\pi}{f_a} = 6 \text{ eV} \left( \frac{10^6 \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$

- $f_a$  was initially thought to be of order  $f_{EW}$  (250 GeV), but ruled out quickly, now expected to be much larger (up to  $f_{Planck} = 10^{19}$  GeV)
- Generic coupling of axions to photons (most important for experiments)
- Suppressed by axion decay constant and thus proportional to axion mass  $m_a$

$$g_{a\gamma} \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2\pi f_a} C_{a\gamma} \simeq \frac{\alpha}{2\pi f_\pi} \frac{m_a}{m_\pi} \frac{1+z}{\sqrt{z}} C_{a\gamma}$$

Note: Wilson Coefficients  
for vary for different models

$$C_{a\gamma} = \frac{E_Q}{N_Q} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{4+z}{1+z}$$

Kaplan 1985; Srednicki 1985

$z \equiv m_u/m_d \approx 1/2$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \equiv g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

$$g_{a\gamma} \simeq \frac{\alpha}{2\pi f_\pi} \frac{m_a}{m_\pi} \frac{1+z}{\sqrt{z}} \left( \frac{E_Q}{N_Q} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{4+z}{1+z} \right)$$

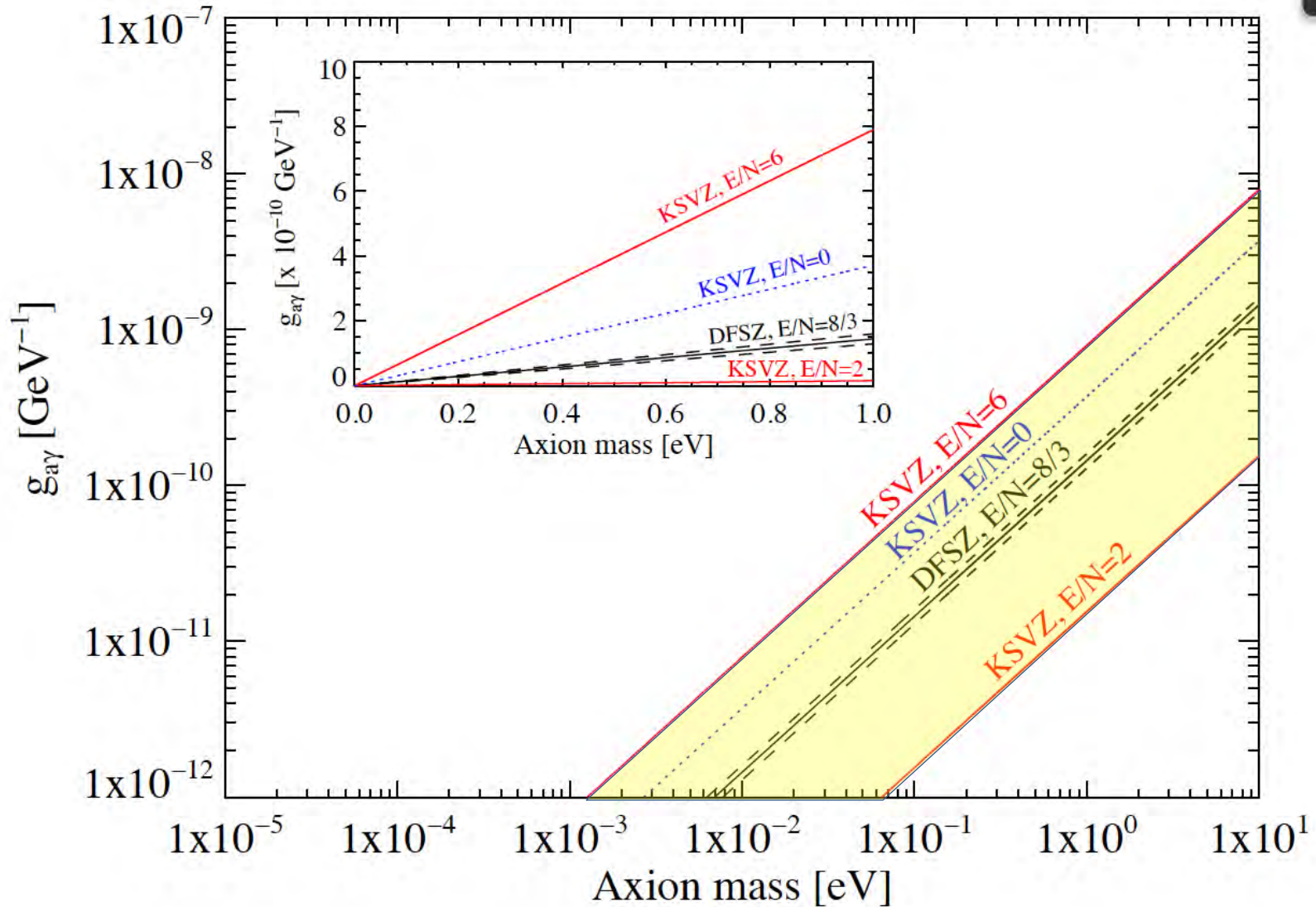
- ▶ Varying number of PQ-charged colored fermions and their electric charges results in “yellow band” of predictions for photon coupling
- ▶ Standard QCD Axion models:
  - **KSVZ (Kim-Shifman-Vainshtein-Zakharov)**
    - SM fermions don’t carry effective PQ charge
    - Generic axion-photon interaction, no interaction with SM fermions on tree-level
  - **DFSZ (Dine-Fischler-Srednicki-Zhitnitsky)**
    - No exotic heavy quark needed
    - (At least) 2 supplementary Higgs doublets introduced, such that both Higgs doublets and light quarks carry non-zero PQ-charges

Kim 1979 PRL 43 103

Shifman,Vainshtein,Zakharov 1980 Nucl. Phys.B 166 493

Zhitnitskiy, 1980 Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 31 260

Dine, Fischler, Srednicki 1981 Phys. Lett. B 104 199



## ▶ Strong CP problem

CP violation expected in QCD, but not observed experimentally ( $\theta$ ,  $n\text{EDM}$ )

## ▶ Peccei-Quinn solution

New global  $U(1)$  symmetry,  $\theta$  turn into a dynamical variable, relaxes to zero

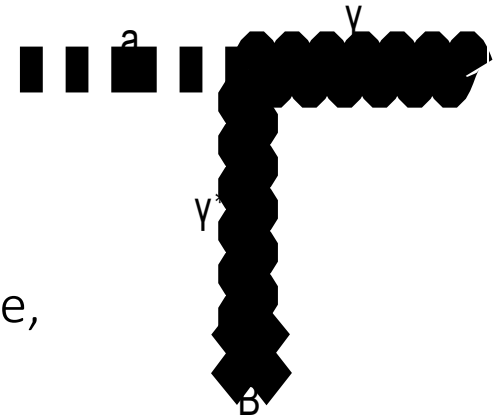
## ▶ Axion

Pseudo Goldstone-Boson of spontaneous symmetry breaking of PQ at yet unknown scale  $f_a$

## ▶ Properties of this potential DM candidate

- Extremely weakly-coupled fundamental pseudo-scalar
- Generic coupling to two photons
- Mass unknown  $m_a \cup g_{a\gamma}$ ,
- Astrophysics:  $g_{a\gamma} < 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$

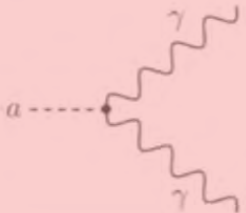
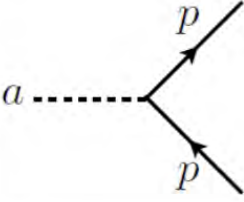
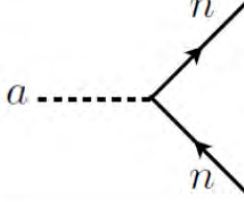
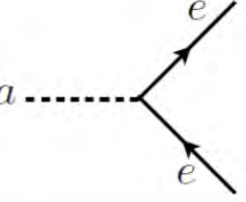
→ Dark matter candidate & solves strong CP





Coupling of axions to photons exploited by many experiments

- ▶ Relatively “simple” and generic for all axion models
- ▶ Model-dependencies exist however

2 photon	proton	neutron	electron
$\frac{\alpha C_{a\gamma}}{2\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}}{4}$	$C_{ap} m_p \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{p}\gamma_5 p]$	$C_{an} m_n \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{n}\gamma_5 n]$	$C_{ae} m_e \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{e}\gamma_5 e]$
			

$$g_{a\gamma} = \frac{C_{a\gamma}\alpha}{2\pi f_a}$$

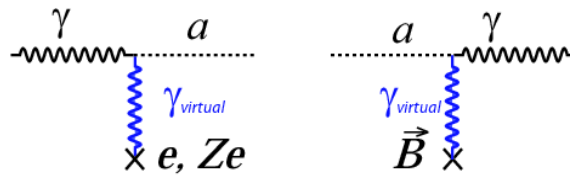
$$g_{ap} = C_{ap} \frac{m_p}{f_a}$$

$$g_{an} = C_{an} \frac{m_n}{f_a}$$




$$g_{ae} = C_{ae} \frac{m_e}{f_a}$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \equiv g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

# Axion Searches



# Axion Detection

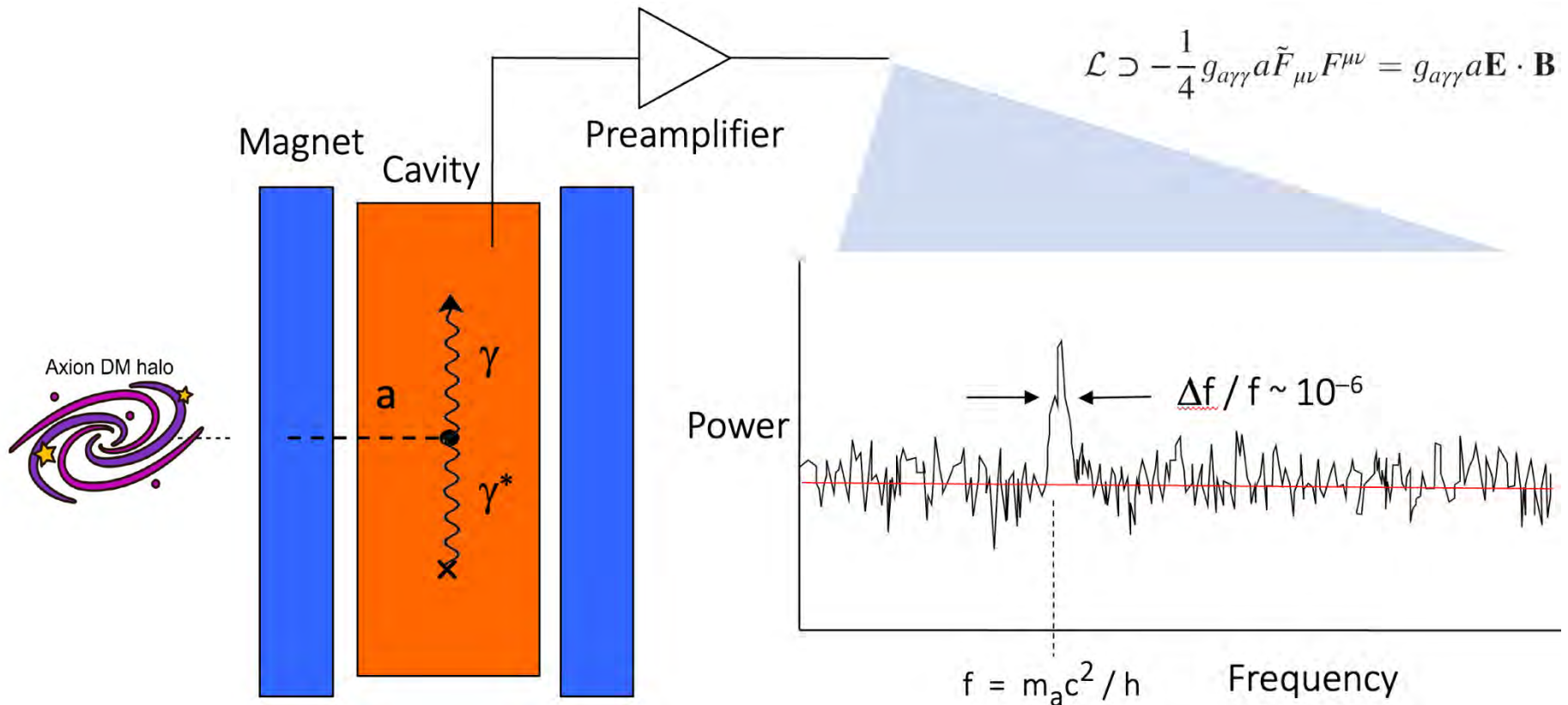
Source	Experiments	Model & cosmology dependency
Relic axions 	Haloscopes	High (assume axions are all of the DM)
Lab axions 	Light-Shining-Through-Wall Experiments	Very low
Solar axions 	Helioscopes	Low

Large complementarity between different experimental approaches!  
Some astrophysical hints favor regions outside typical haloscope range

## EXPERIMENTS RELYING ON AXIONS BEING DARK MATTER

- ▶ **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

P. Sikivie 1983 PRL 51 1415



## EXPERIMENTS RELYING ON AXIONS BEING DARK MATTER

### ▶ HALOSCOPES: Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

P. Sikivie 1983 PRL 51 1415

#### Concept:

DM axion converts into photon in microwave cavity placed inside magnetic field

- If axion mass matches resonance frequency of cavity

$$m_a = 2\pi\nu_{\text{res}} \sim 4 \mu\text{eV} \left( \frac{\nu_{\text{res}}}{\text{GHz}} \right)$$

then power output is  $P_{\text{out}} \sim g_{a\gamma}^2 \rho_a B_0^2 V Q$  ( $Q \sim 10^5$ )

- Need to tune resonance frequency to scan axion mass range

- Figure of merit:  $FOM \propto \frac{B^4 V^2 C^2 Q}{T_{\text{SYS}}}$

- ▶ **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

Microwave cavities

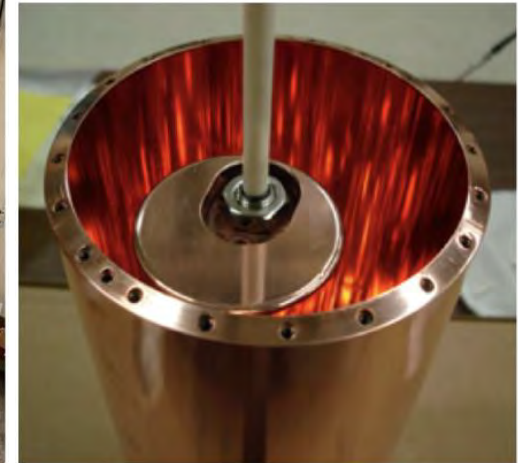
Currently active :

**ADMX, HAYSTAC,**  
CAPP, GrAHal,  
ORGAN, QUAX,  
CAST-CAPP, RADES

ADMX



HAYSTAC



- ▶ **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

Microwave cavities

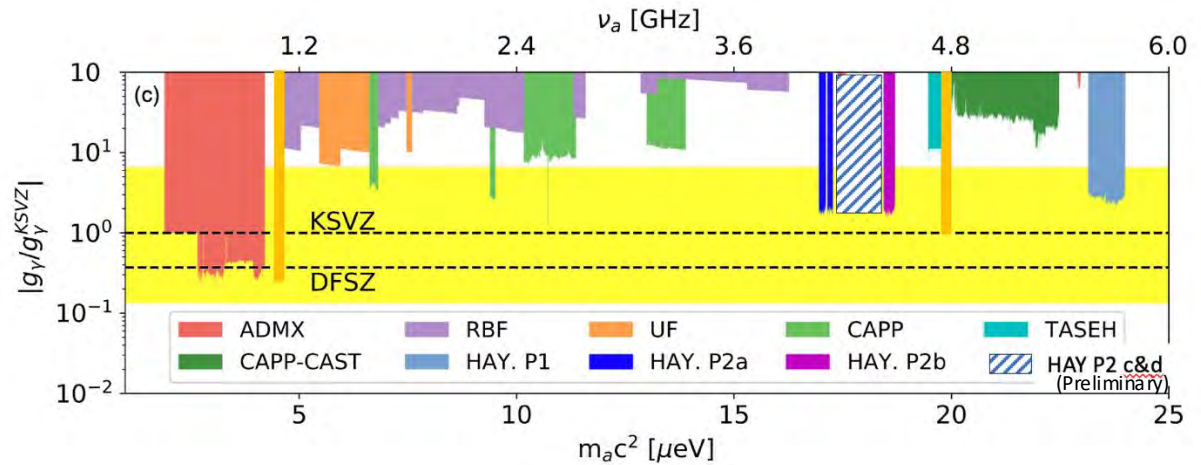
Currently active :

**ADMX, HAYSTAC,**  
CAPP, GrAHal,  
ORGAN, QUAX,  
CAST-CAPP, RADES

Vacuum Realignment

$m_a \sim O(10 \mu\text{eV})$

$\nu \sim O(\text{GHz})$



For more details: IDM 2024 talks by K. van Bibber (#174), H. Jackson (#169) & G. Carugno (#267)

- ▶ **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

Microwave cavities

Currently active :

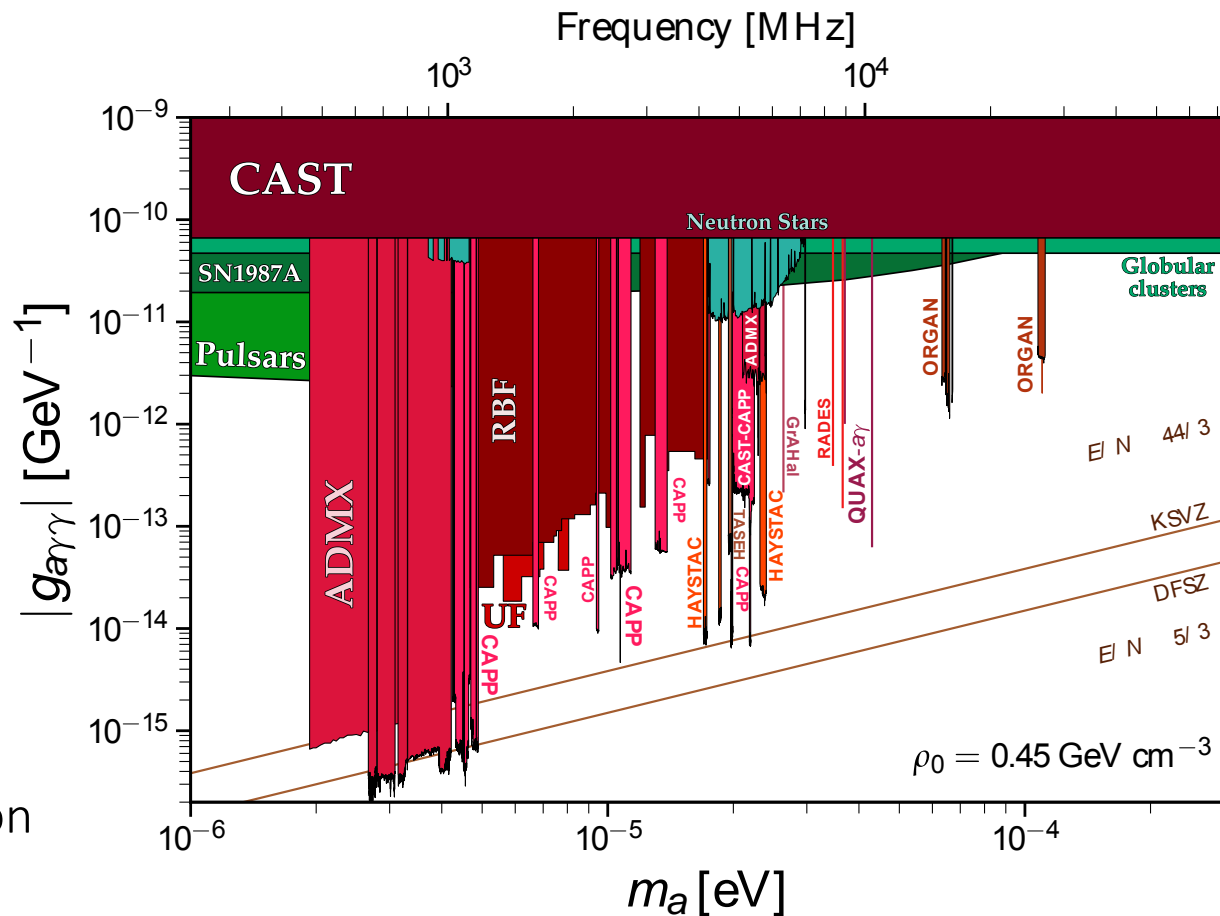
**ADMX, HAYSTAC,**  
CAPP, GrAHal,  
ORGAN, QUAX,  
CAST-CAPP, RADES

Vacuum Realignment

$m_a \sim O(10 \mu\text{eV})$

$\nu \sim O(\text{GHz})$

Future upgrades in preparation



Adapted from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

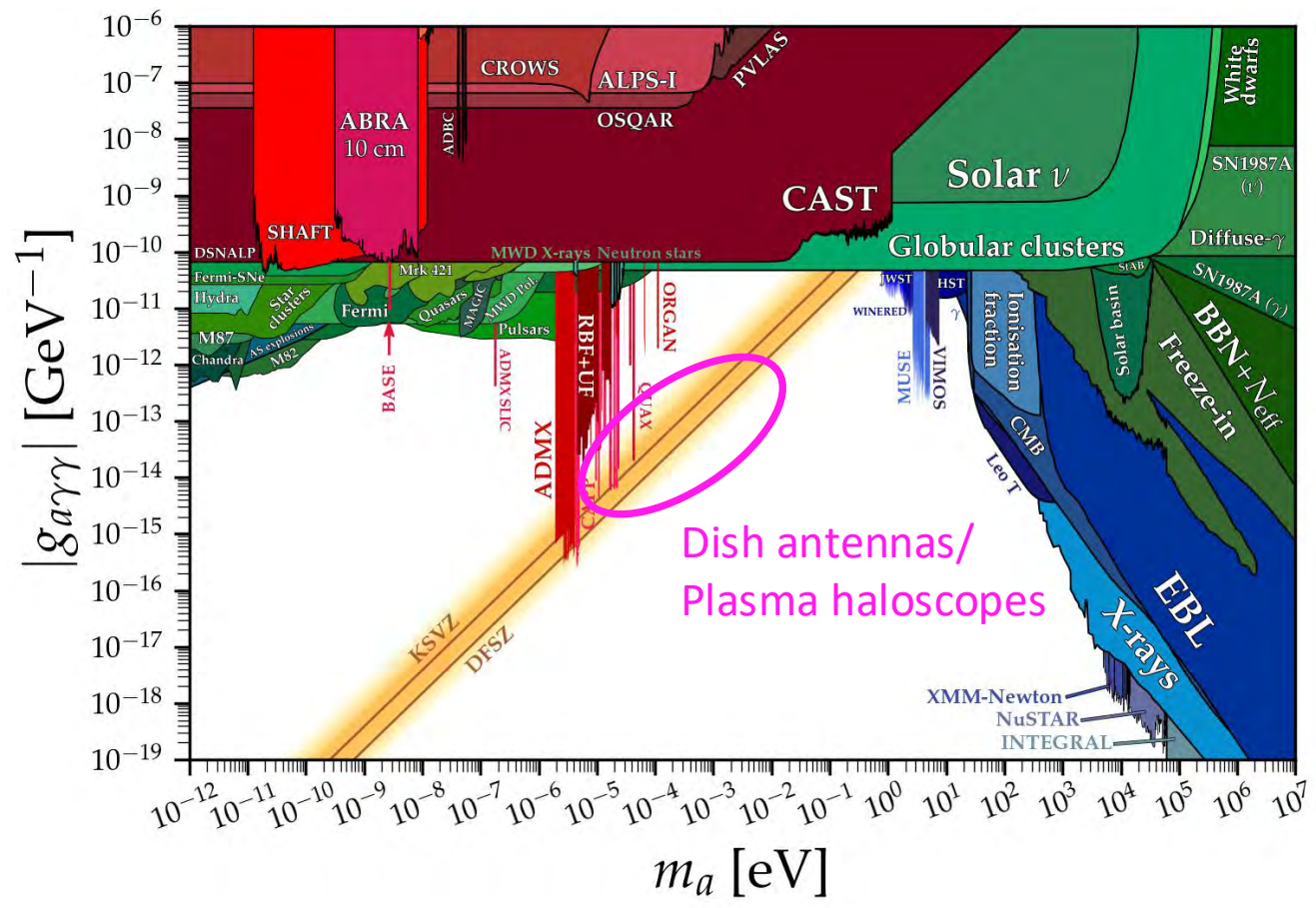
► **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

How to go to higher masses to search for **post-inflation axions?**

Higher frequencies, (i.e. higher  $m_a$ ) requires smaller cavities and scans get slower!

Dish Antennas & Plasma Haloscopes!

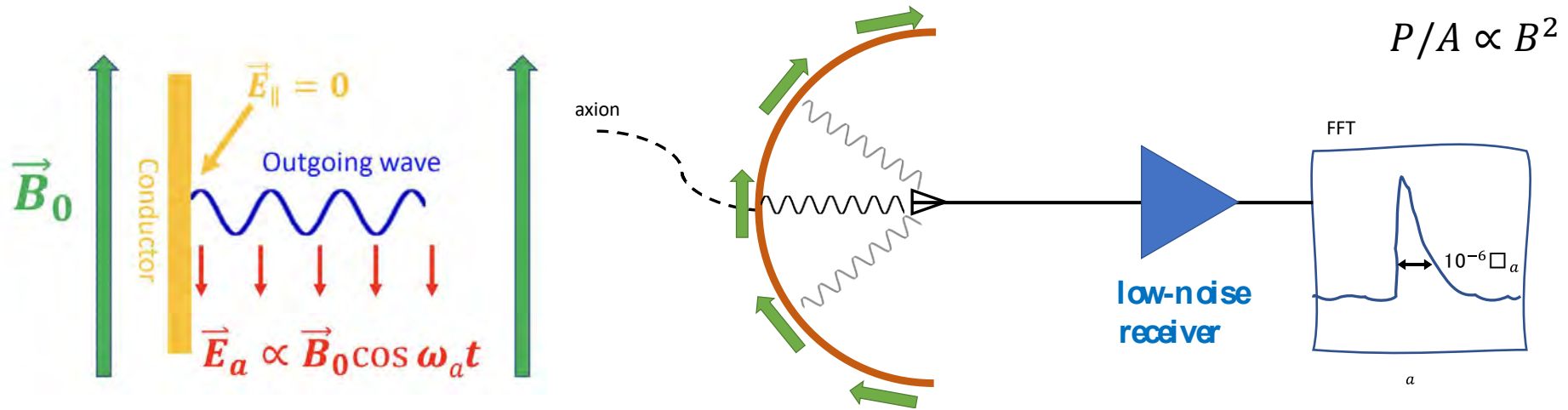
$m_a \sim O(100 \mu\text{eV})$   
 $\nu \sim O(10\text{-}100 \text{ GHz})$



Adapted from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>



## ▶ HALOSCOPES: DISH ANTENNAS



Concept: Axion induced radiation from a magnetized metal slab

- DM axions interact with a static magnetic field
  - producing oscillating parallel E-field.
- Conducting surface in this field emits plane wave  $\perp$  surface with  $v \propto m_a$
- Radiated power is low, however, no tuning required!

For more details see IDM 2024 talks by Stefan Knirck (#231)

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: DISH ANTENNAS

Horns *et al* JCAP04(2013)016

F. Bajjali *et al.*, JCAP 08 (2023), 077



$$P/A \propto B^2$$

### BRASS@ U. Hamburg

- Consists of plane permanently magnetized conversion panel

$$B = 0.8 \text{ T}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = 4.7 \text{ m}^2$$

- Spherical reflector

### Concept: Axion induced radiation from a magnetized metal slab

- DM axions interact with a static magnetic field
  - producing oscillating parallel E-field.

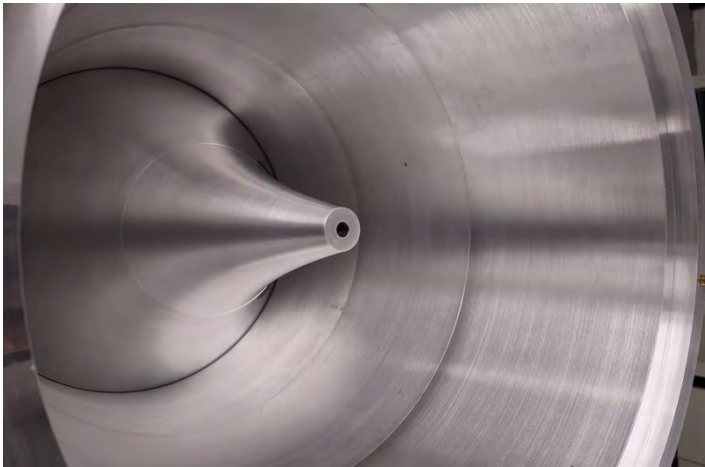
Conducting surface in this field emits plane wave  $\perp$  surface with  $v \propto m_a$

- Radiated power is low, however, no tuning required!
- BRASS@ U. Hamburg

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: DISH ANTENNAS

Horns *et al* JCAP04(2013)016  
Liu *et al.*, PRL 128 (2022) 131801

$$P/A \propto B^2$$



### **BREAD@ Fermilab**

- Cylindric parabolic conversion panel allows use of solenoidal magnetic field

$$B \sim 10 \text{ T}$$

$$A \sim 10 \text{ m}^2$$

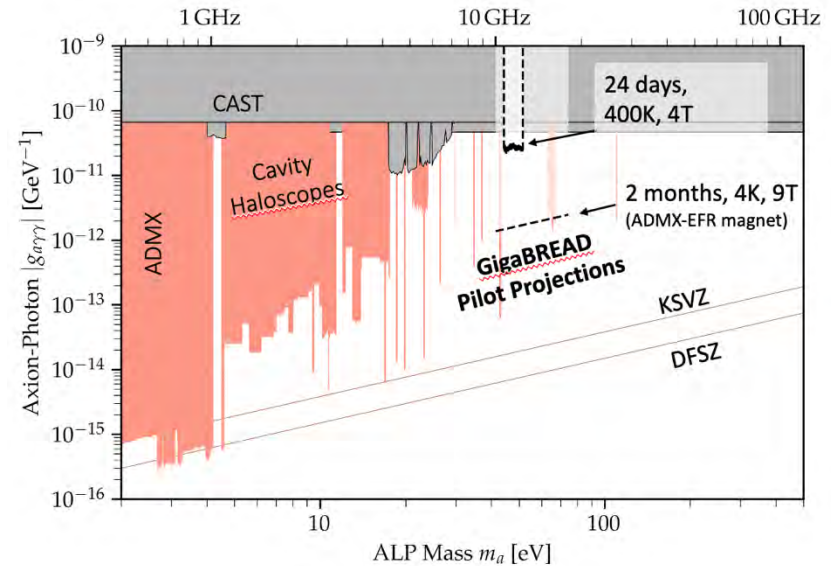
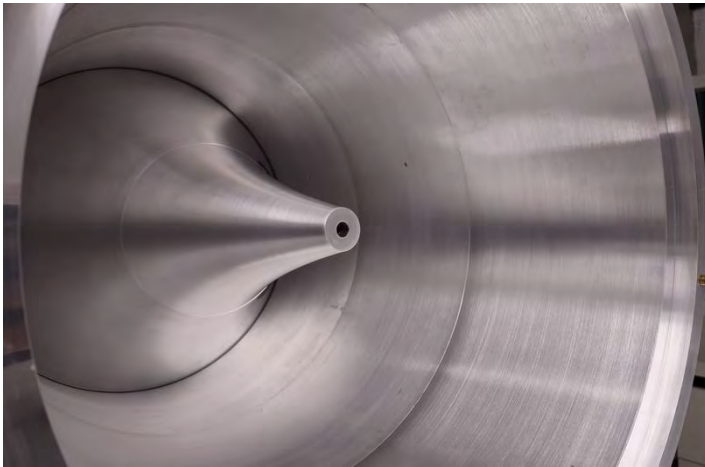
**Concept:** Axion induced radiation from a magnetized metal slab

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  - producing oscillating parallel E-field.
- Conducting surface in this field emits plane wave  $\perp$  surface with  $v \propto m_a$
- Radiated power is low, however, no tuning required!
- BRASS@ U. Hamburg, BREAD@ Fermilab

For more details see IDM 2024 talks by Stefan Knirck (#231)

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: DISH ANTENNAS

Horns *et al* JCAP04(2013)016  
Liu *et al.*, PRL 128 (2022) 131801



**Concept:** Axion induced radiation from a magnetized metal slab

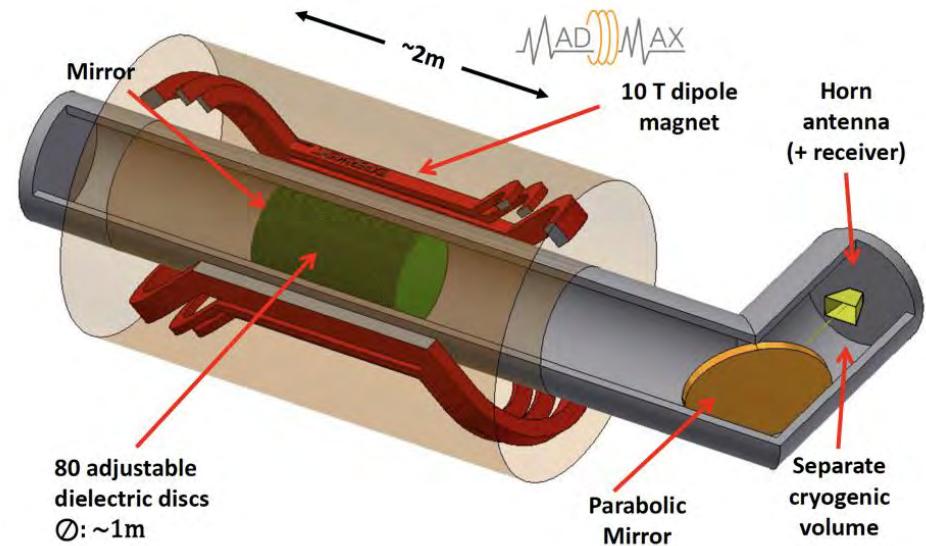
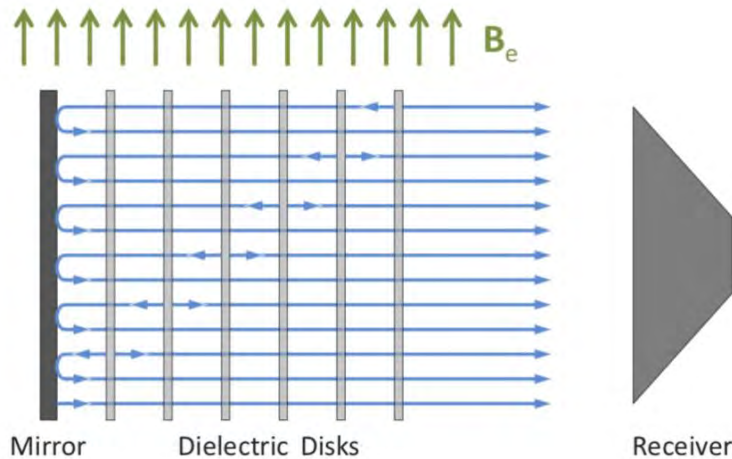
- DM axions interact with a static magnetic field  
→ producing oscillating parallel E-field.

Conducting surface in this field emits plane wave  $\perp$  surface with  $v \propto m_a$

- Radiated power is low, however, no tuning required!
- BRASS@ U. Hamburg, BREAD@ Fermilab

For more details see IDM 2024 talks by Stefan Knirck (#231)

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: DISH ANTENNAS

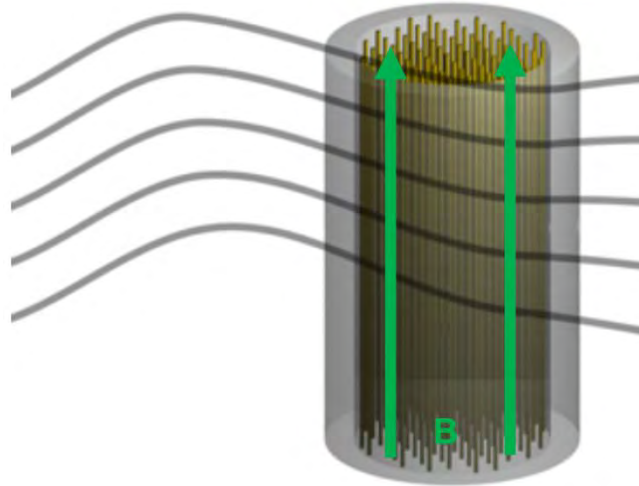
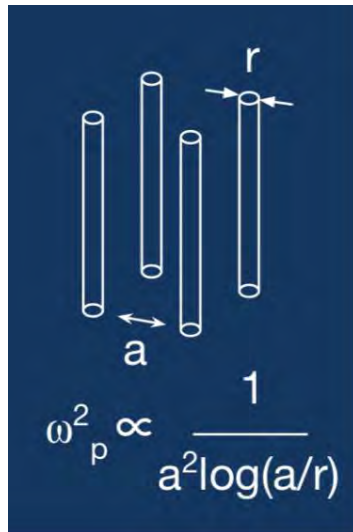


### Enhanced Concept: Boosted dish antenna aka open dielectric resonator concept

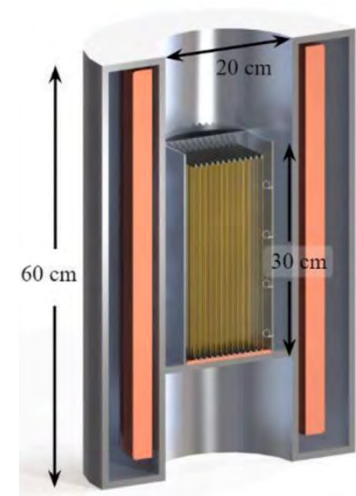
- Stack of dielectric plates as booster inside a magnetic field
- Tuned to the radiofrequencies ( $m_a$  around  $100 \mu\text{eV}$ )
- Can enhance measured power by several  $10^4$ , but tradeoff bandwidth/"boost factor"

For more details see IDM 2024 talk by Jacob Egge (#243) on MADMAX

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: PLASMA HALOSCOPES



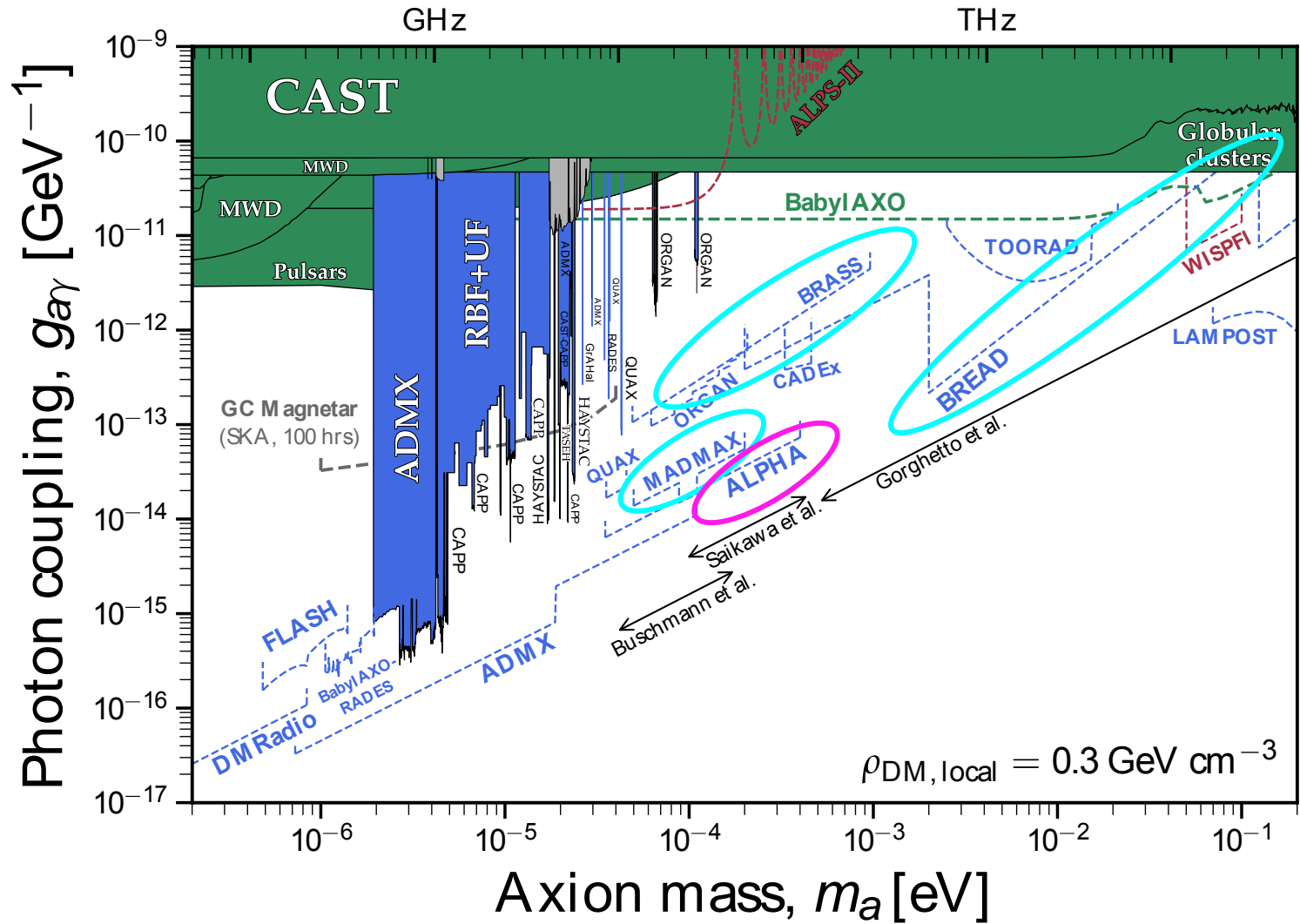
ALPHA Pathfinder



**Concept: Oscillating DM axions induce plasmon excitations in magnetized plasma**

- Resonant enhancement when plasma frequency matches axion mass:
- Can create plasma with tunable plasma frequency in GHz range using wire metamaterial (wire array with variable interwire spacing)
- Tuning then possible via geometry, limited by losses
- ALPHA@ORNL

For more details see IDM 2024 talk by Andrea Gallo Rosso (#215) on ALPHA



Adapted from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

► **HALOSCOPES:** Laboratory searches looking for galactic axions

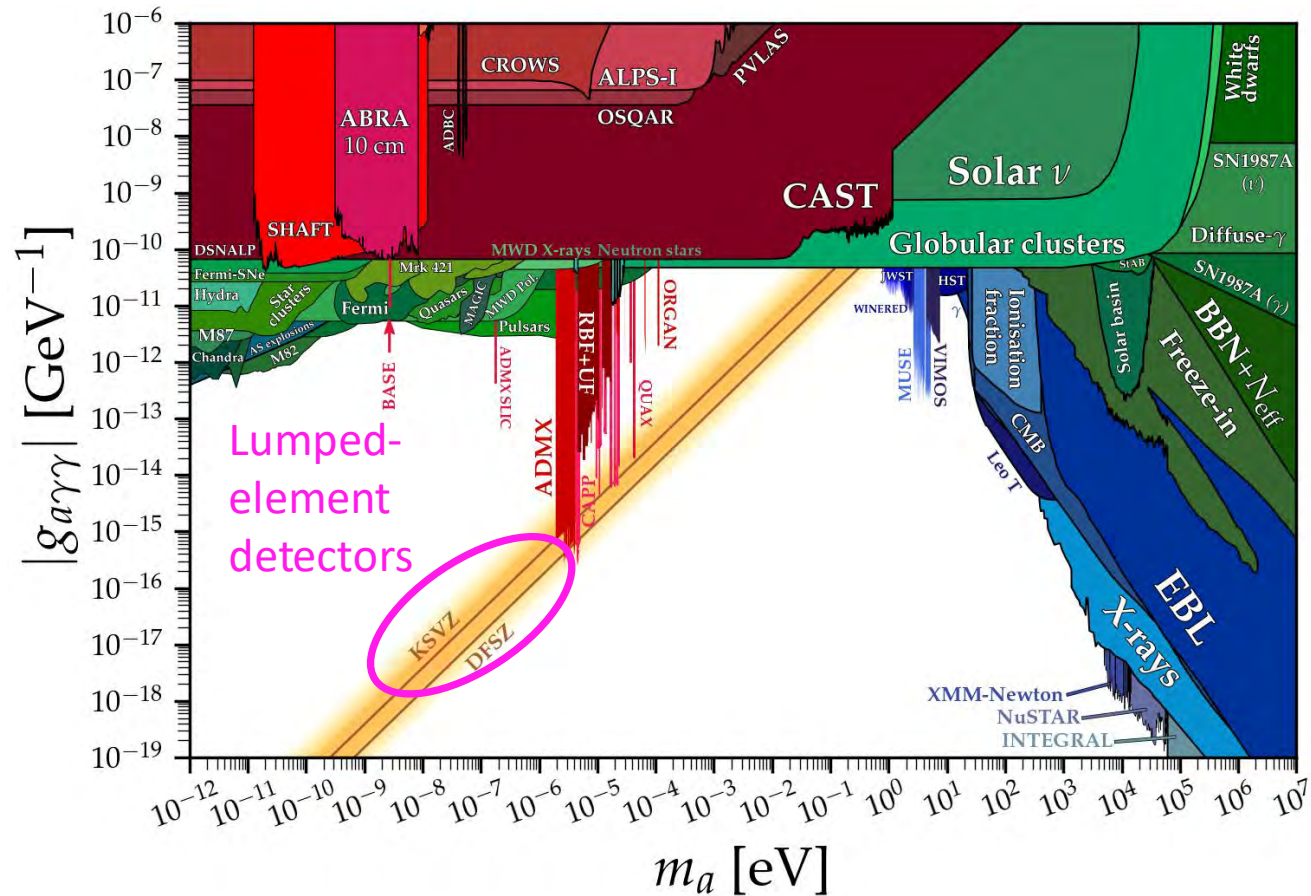
How to go to lower masses to search for GUT-scale axions?

Lower frequencies, (i.e. smaller  $m_a$ ) requires increasingly large cavities

Lumped Element Detectors!

$$m_a \sim O(\text{neV})$$

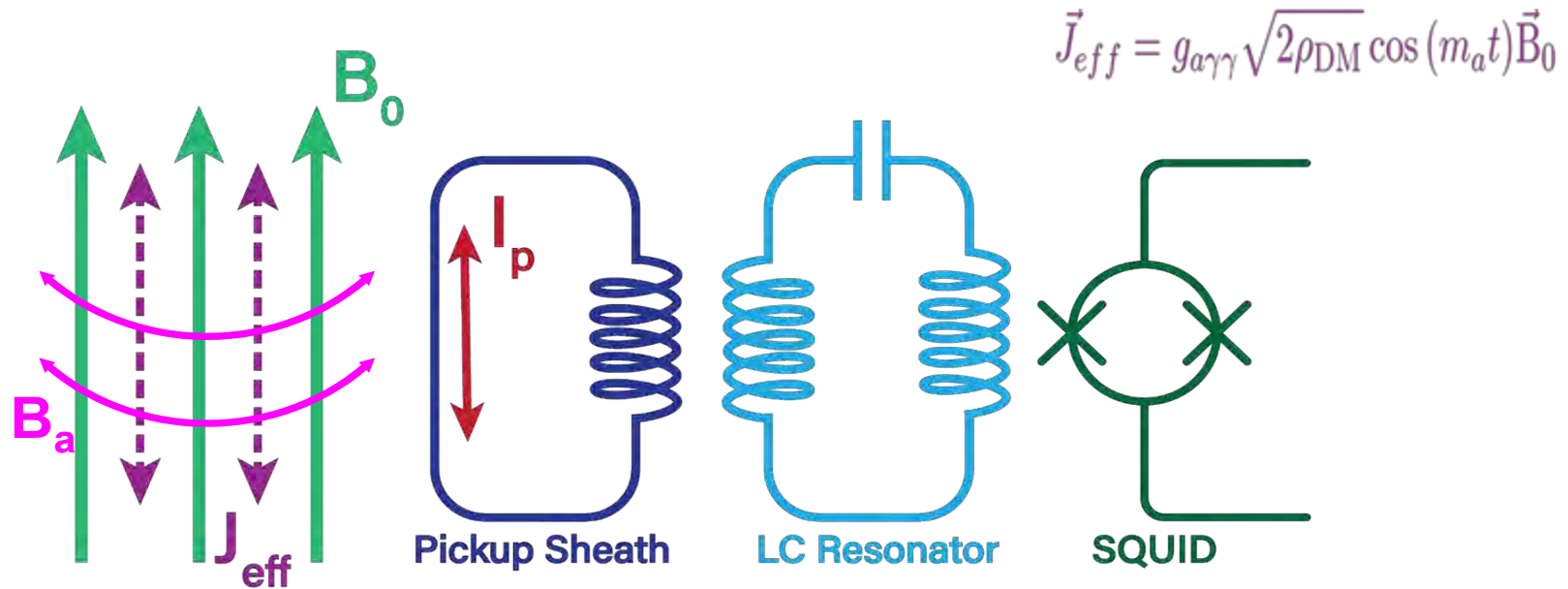
$$\nu \sim O(\text{kHz-GHz})$$



Adapted from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>



► HALOSCOPES: LUMPED-ELEMENT DETECTORS



Concept: Axion generates oscillating effective current  $J_{eff}$  parallel to  $B_0$  in toroidal or solenoidal magnet

- $J_{eff}$  in turn generates oscillating magnetic flux  $B_a$  (azimuthal)
- Can use pickup structure to read this
- Couple LC resonator inductively and use SQUID readout scheme

For more details see IDM 2024 talk by Alex Droster (#165) on DMRadio

## ▶ HALOSCOPES: LUMPED-ELEMENT DETECTORS

### Pilot experiments

ABRACADABRA

ADMX SLIC

SHAFT

### Next Generation

WISPLC

DMRadio

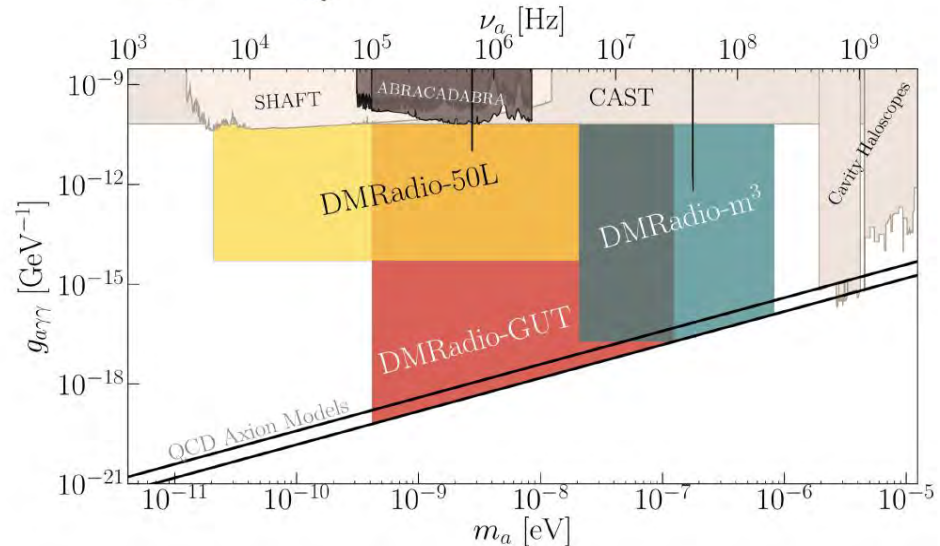
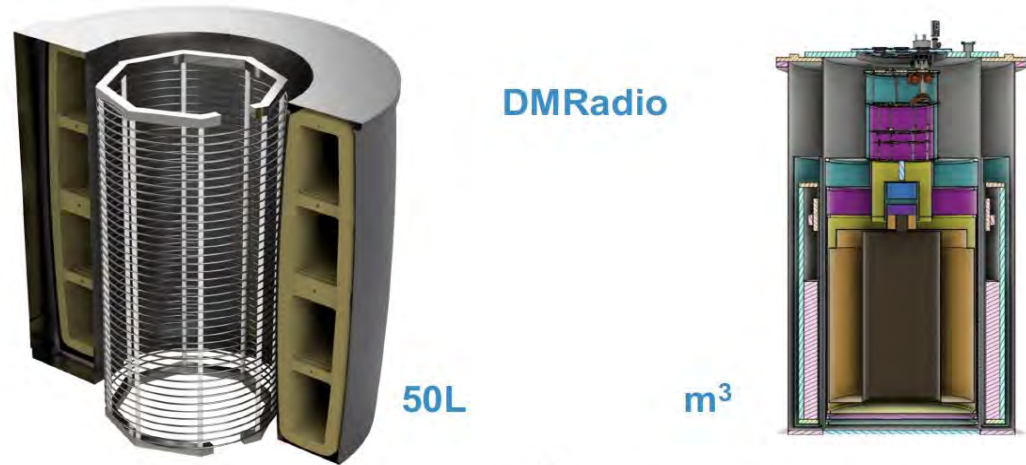
– DMRadio-50L

– DMRadio- $m^3$

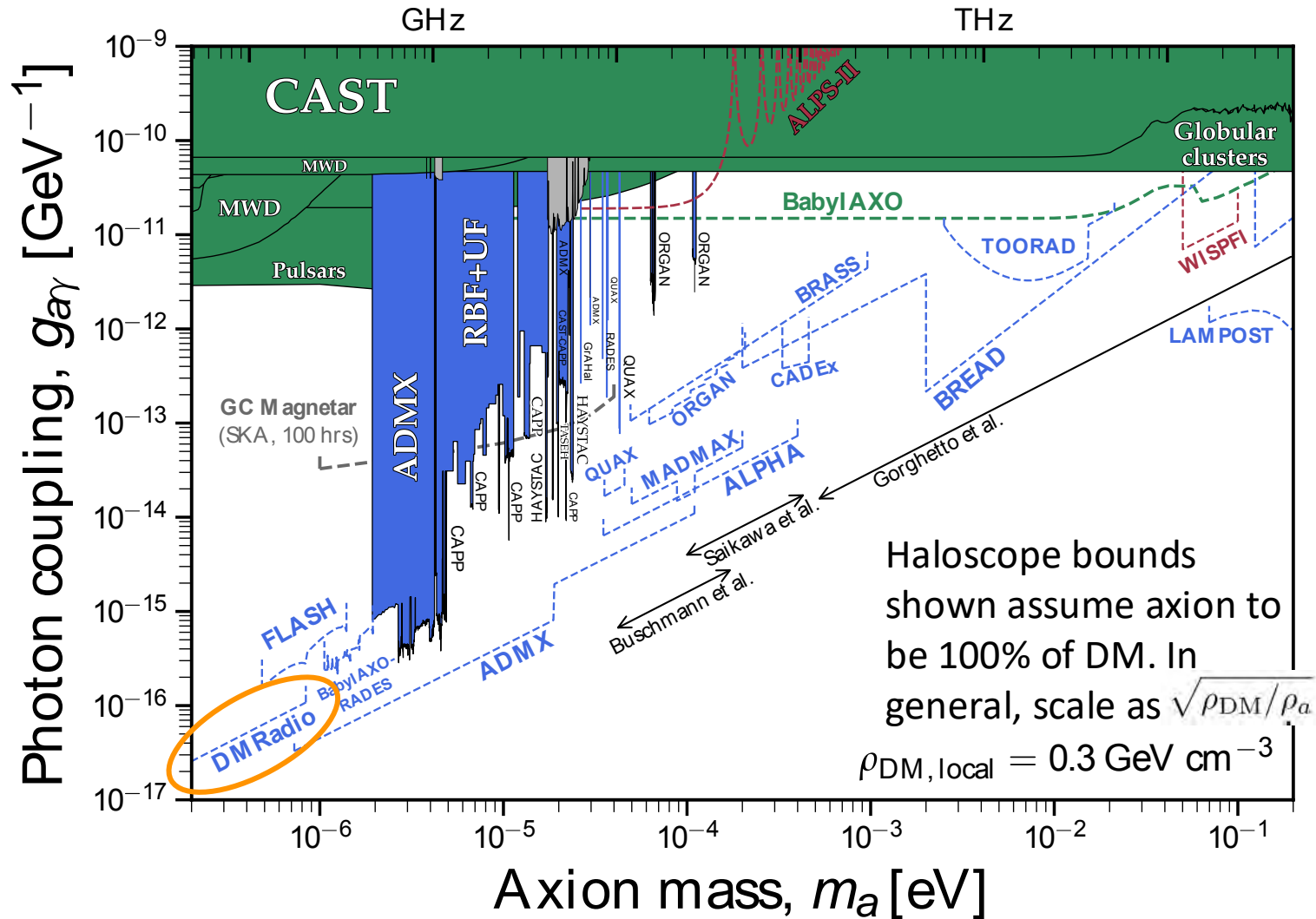
(improvements in Q, V, B)

– DMRadio-GUT

(ambitious next-next gen)



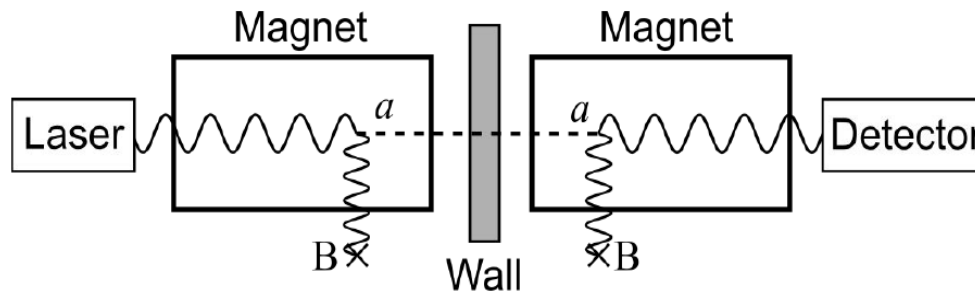
For more details see IDM 2024 talk by Alex Droster (#165) on DMRadio



Adapted from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

## EXPERIMENTS NOT RELYING ON AXIONS BEING DARK MATTER (PART I)

### ▶ LIGHT-SHINING-THROUGH-WALL EXPERIMENTS: pure laboratory searches



ALPS, OSQAR, ALPS-II

Anselm 85;  
Van Bibber *et al* 1987 PRL 59 759

Concept: Axions mixing with photons in external electromagnetic field

- Conversion probability for a photon with energy  $\omega$  converts into axion after having traversed a distance  $L_B$  in magnetic field of strength  $B$ :

$$P(\gamma \leftrightarrow a) \simeq 4 \frac{(g_{a\gamma} \omega B)^2}{m_a^4} \sin^2 \left( \frac{m_a^2}{4\omega} L_B \right)$$

- For very light axions,  $m_a \ll (2\pi\omega/L_B)^{1/2} \approx \text{meV}((\omega/\text{eV})(\text{m}/L_B))^{1/2}$ :

$$P(\gamma \rightarrow a \rightarrow \gamma) \simeq \frac{1}{16} (g_{a\gamma} B L_B)^4$$

▶ LIGHT-SHINING-THROUGH-WALL EXPERIMENTS: pure laboratory searches



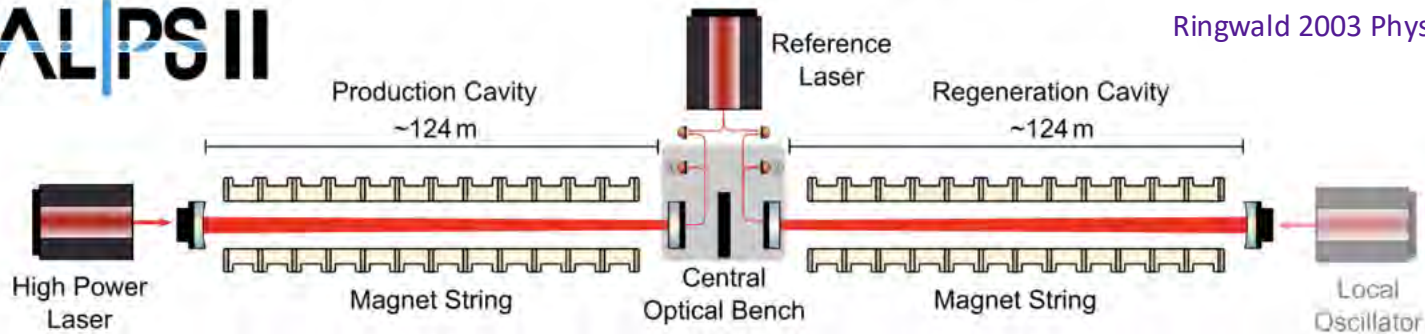
– ALPS

Most basic layout of a LSTW experiment

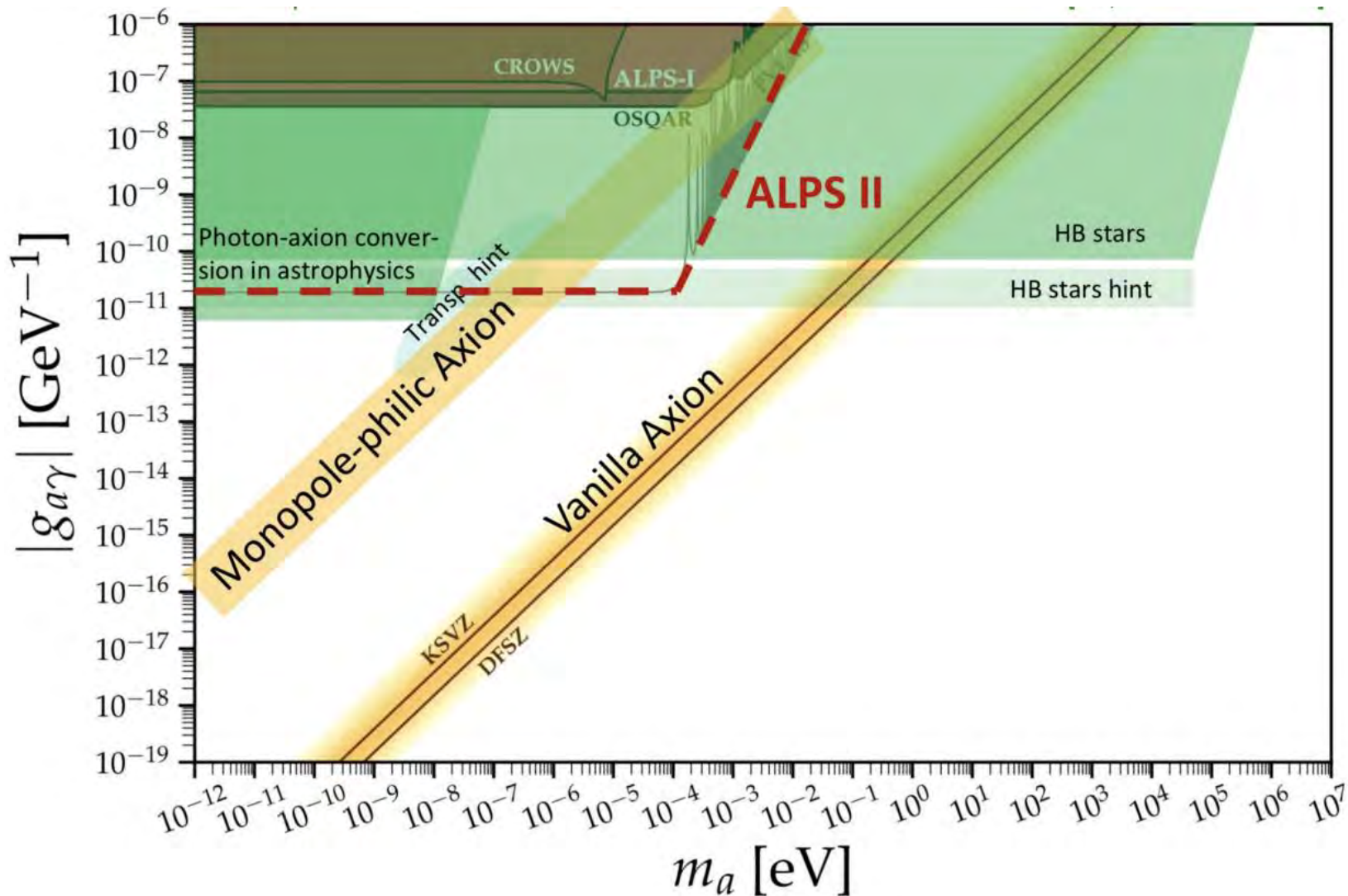


– ALPS-II

- 12 + 12 straightened HERA magnets
- Optical cavities both at production and regeneration sites
- Sensitivity 3000×ALPS



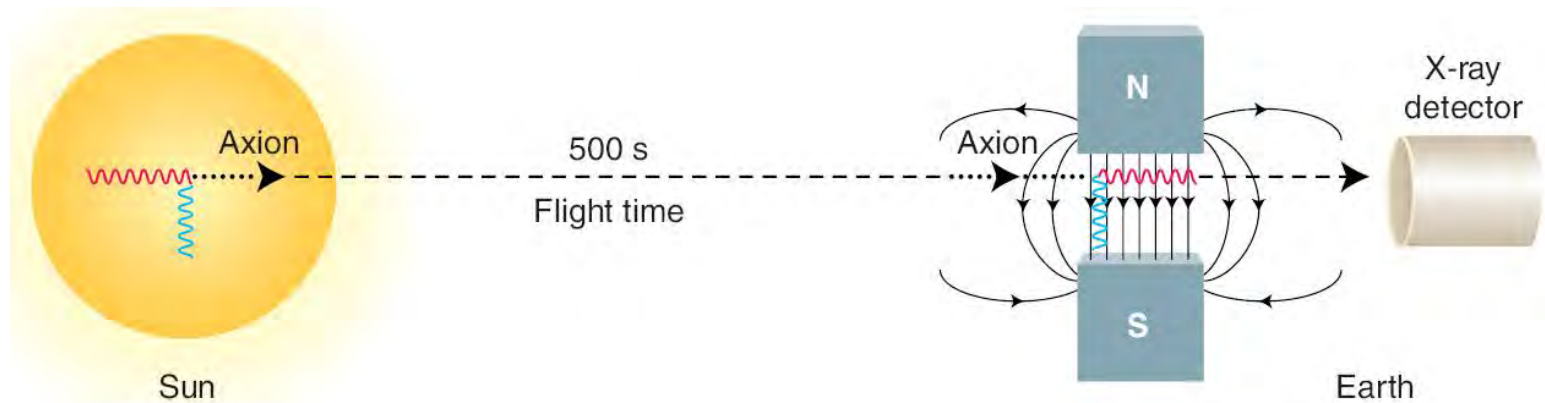
Ringwald 2003 Phys. Lett. B 569 51



Adapted from Ringwald et al [arXiv: 2306.08978]

## EXPERIMENTS NOT RELYING ON AXIONS BEING DARK MATTER (PART II)

- ▶ **AXION HELIOSCOPES:** laboratory axion searches looking for solar axions



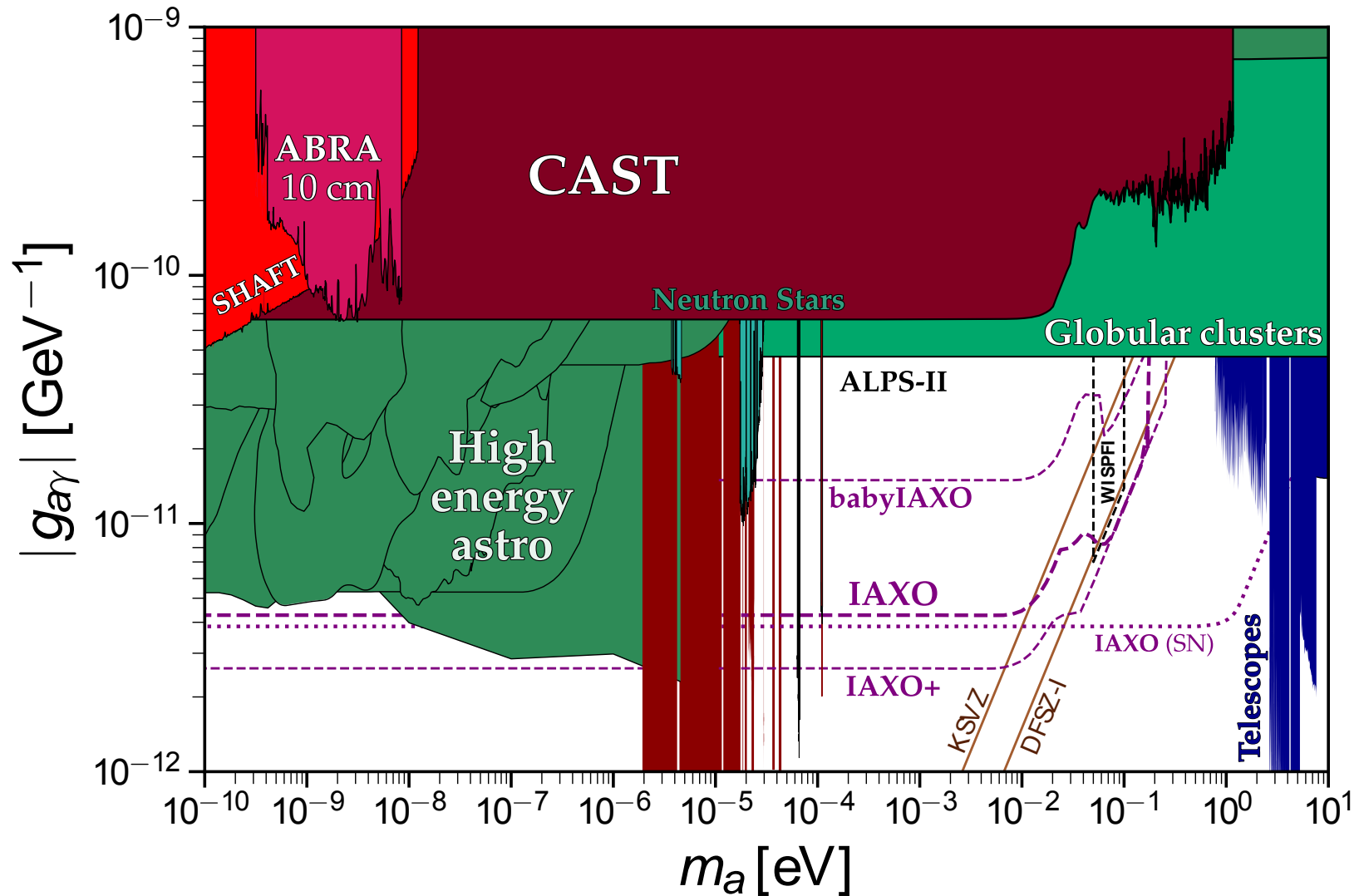
SUMICO, CAST, IAXO

P. Sikivie 1983 PRL 51 1415

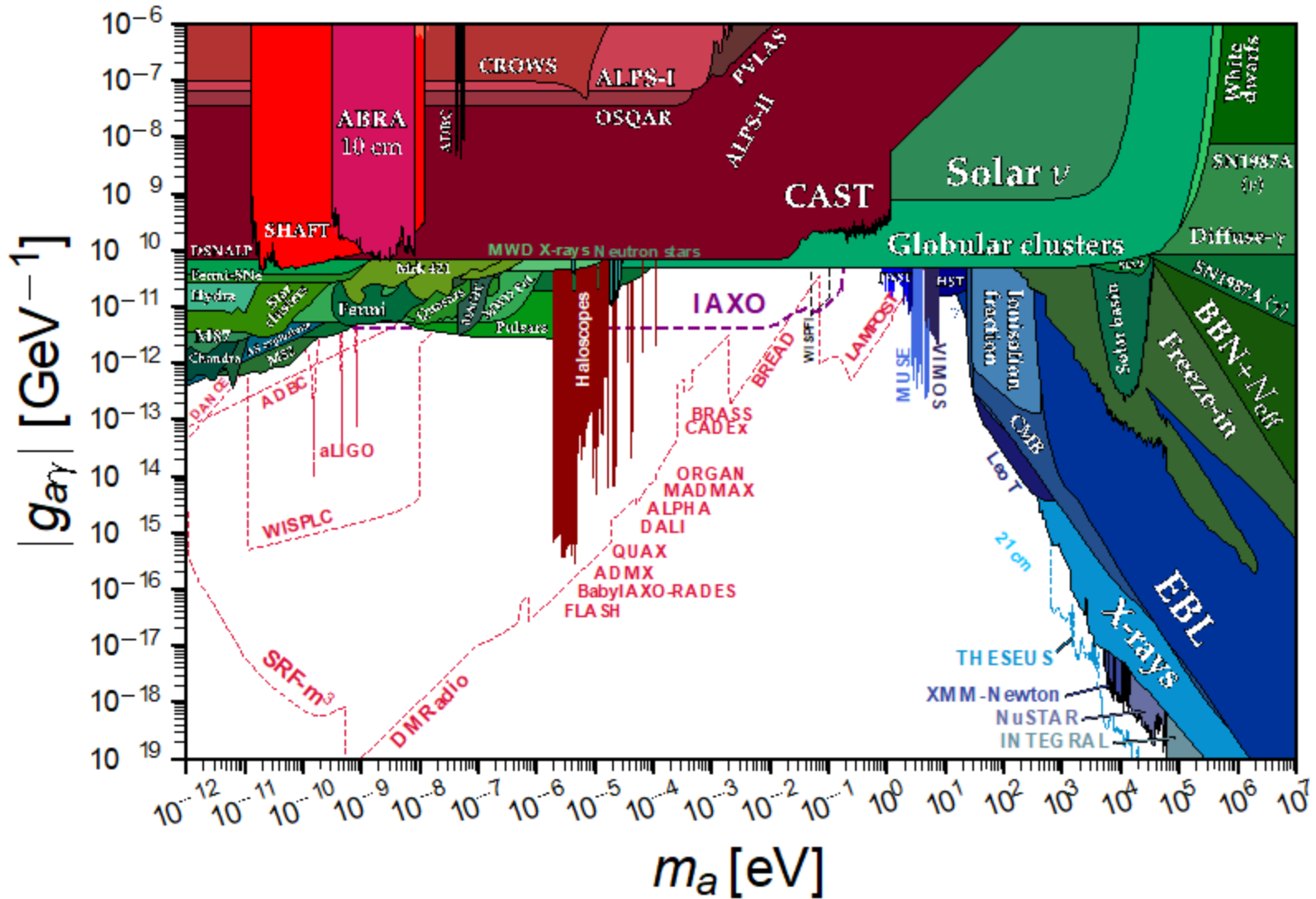
van Bibber et al 1989 PRD 39 2089

**Concept:** Axions produced in strong electromagnetic fields of the solar core. and reconversion into x-ray (keV) photons in transverse laboratory B-field

- Use gas to expand axion mass search range
- Helioscope Figure of Merit  $\propto B^2 L^2 A$



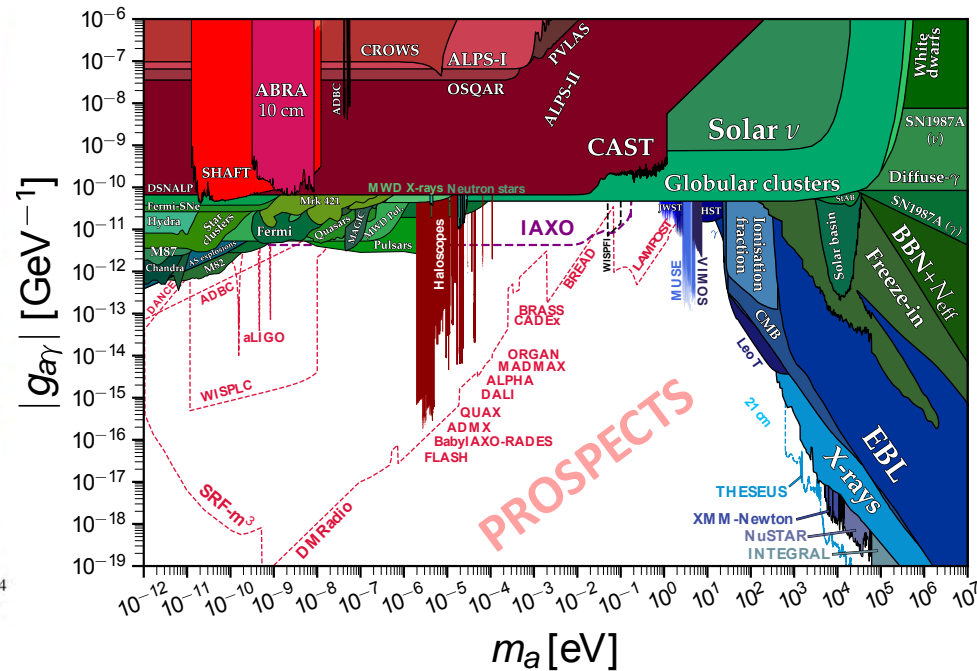
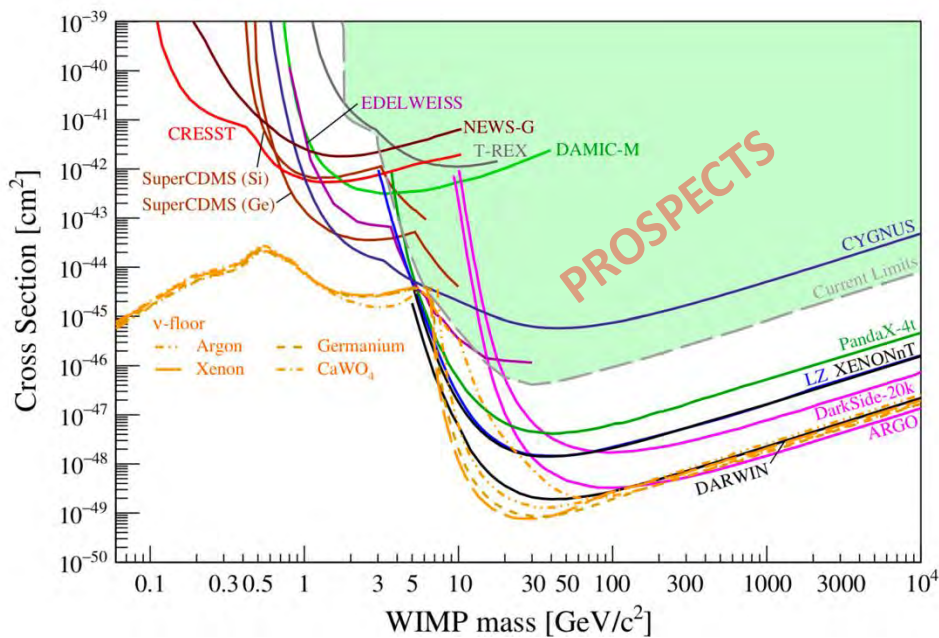




# Take-home messages

# Conclusions

- ▶ WIMPs and axions are leading DM candidates (and DM could be a mixture)
- ▶ A vast variety of experiments are looking for dark matter in different ways
- ▶ No (confirmed) DM signal yet, but huge progress in sensitivity over last decades
- ▶ Discovery could be just around the corner! Sensitivities keep getting better!
- ▶ Help us find the little buggers!





**Thanks! Questions?**

**Happy to talk more today or email me  
([Julia.Vogel@cern.ch](mailto:Julia.Vogel@cern.ch))**