

Pathways to Discovering DM with Cosmic Probes



Risa Wechsler

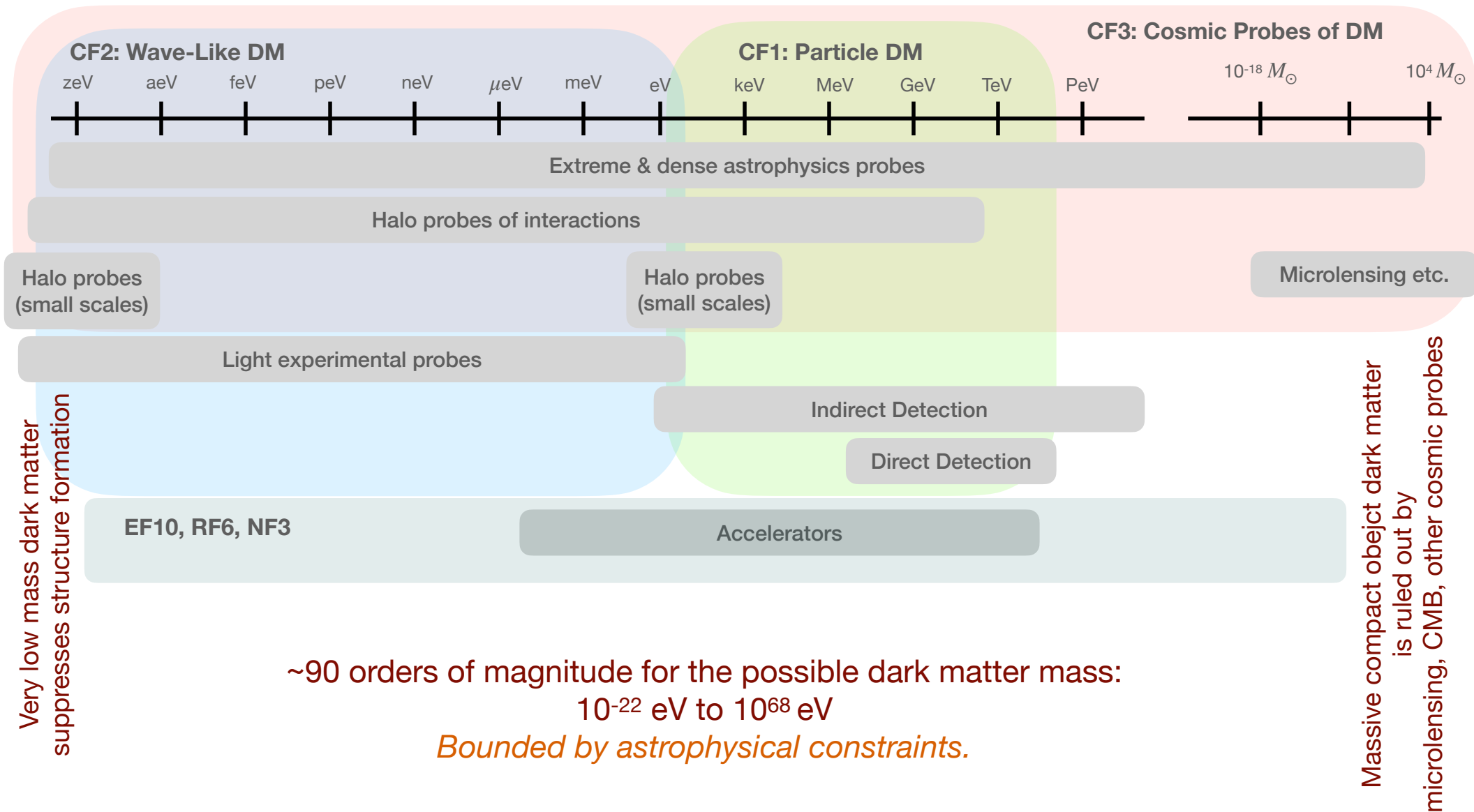
Director, Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics & Cosmology
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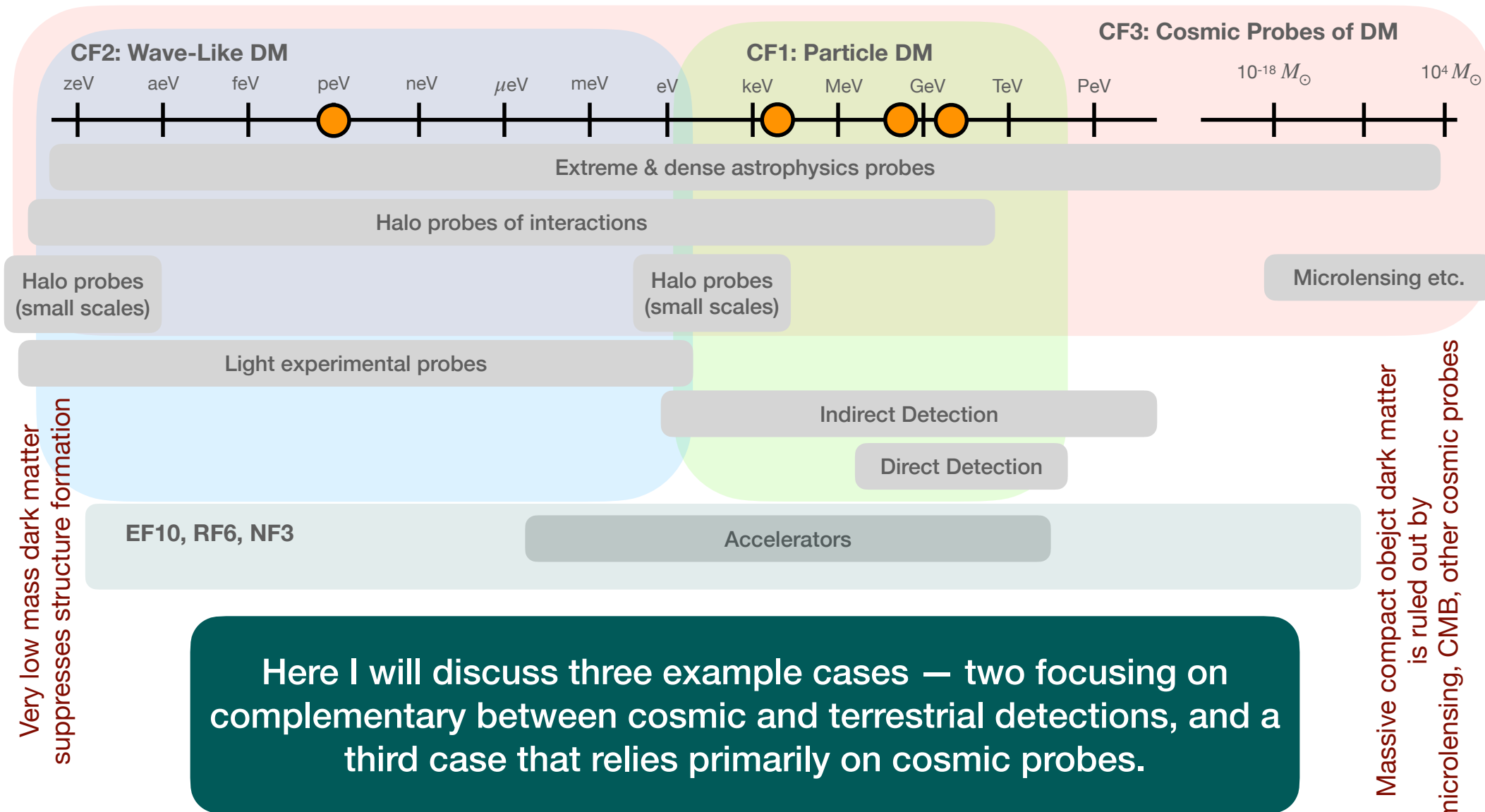
Snowmass July 19 2022

Many thanks to these folks for
helpful discussion and inspiration*:

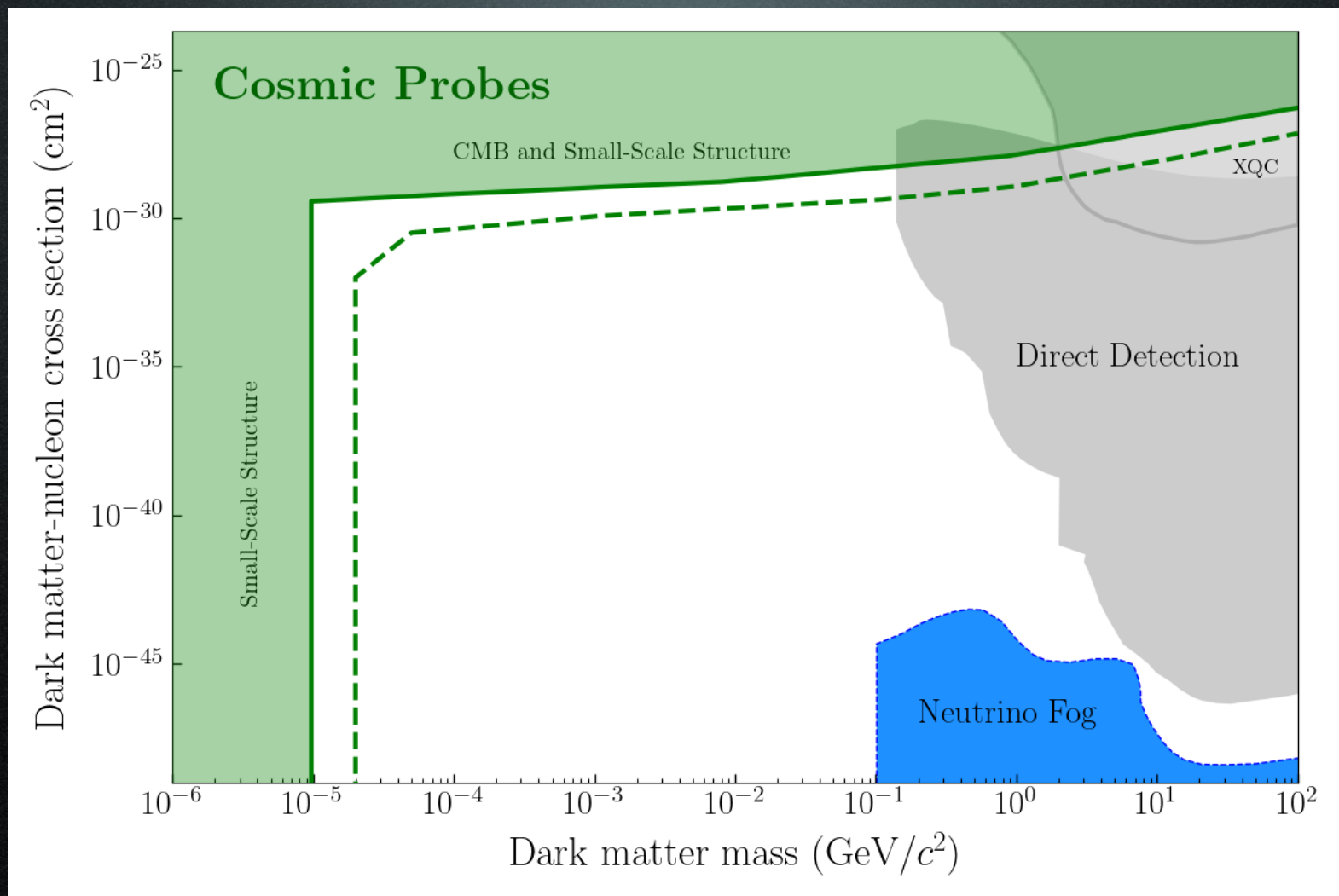
Aaron Cho, Kyle Dawson, Alex Drlica-Wagner, Marios Galanis,
Noah Kurinsky, Rebecca Leane, Natalie Palanque-Delabrouille,
Hiranya Peires, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, Ethan Nadler,
Tracy Slatyer, Tim Tait, Jed Thompson,
Natalia Toro, Lindley Winslow, Haibo Yu

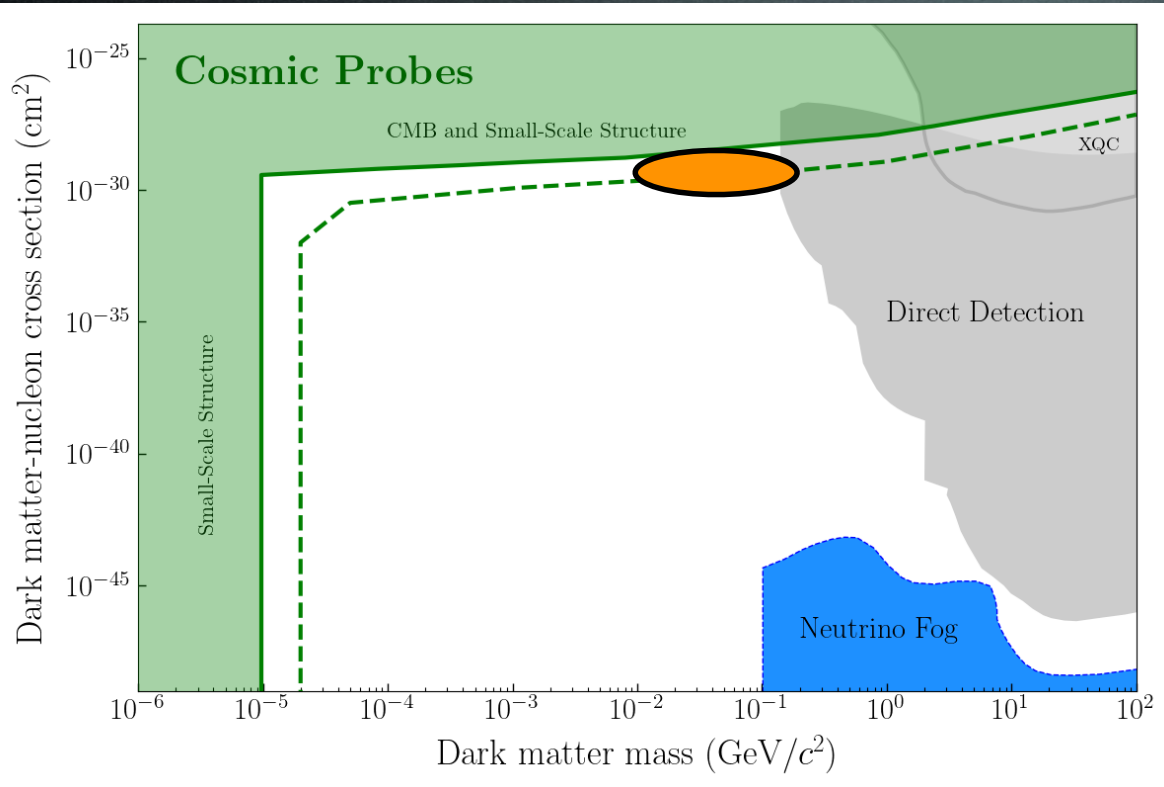
*all inaccuracies and omissions mine!





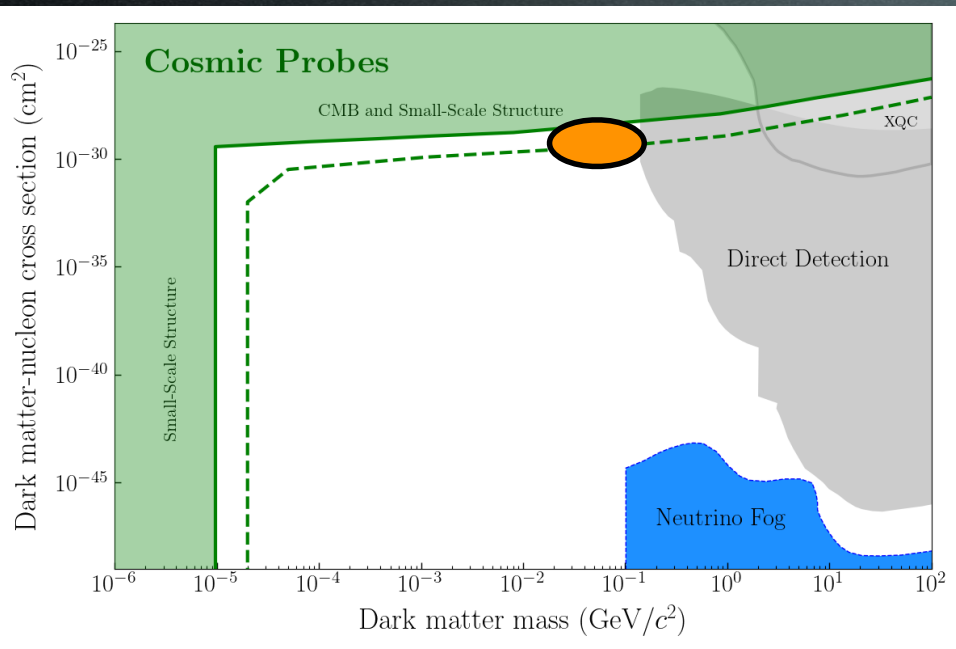
Example 1:
Light thermal DM
with DM-nucleon
interactions





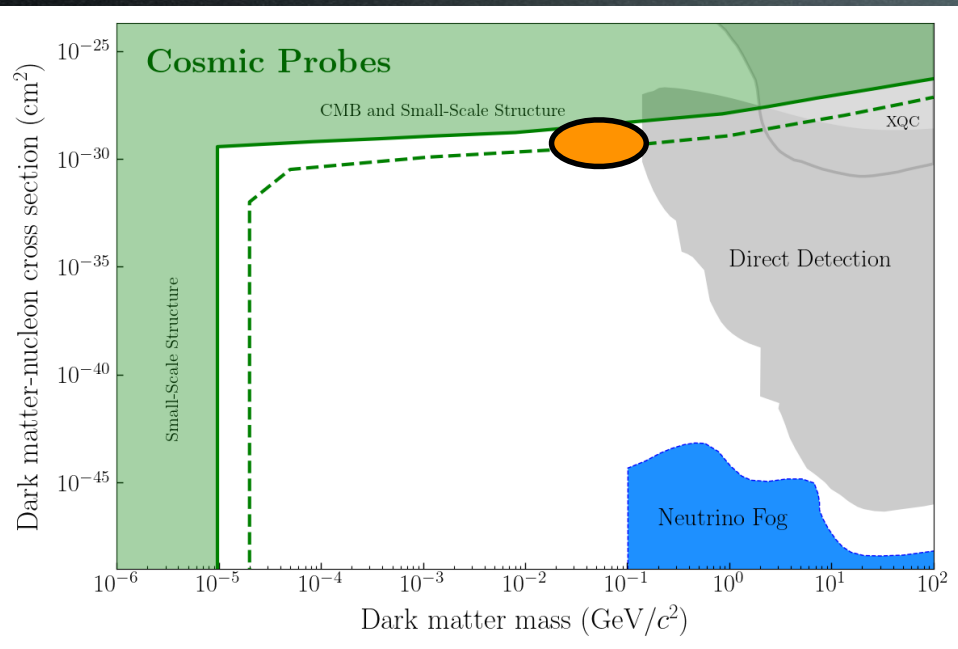
Current interesting excess in low-threshold detectors below a few hundred eV.
Could it be dark matter? How would we confirm it?

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.05097> EXCESS workshop

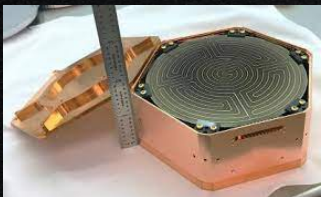


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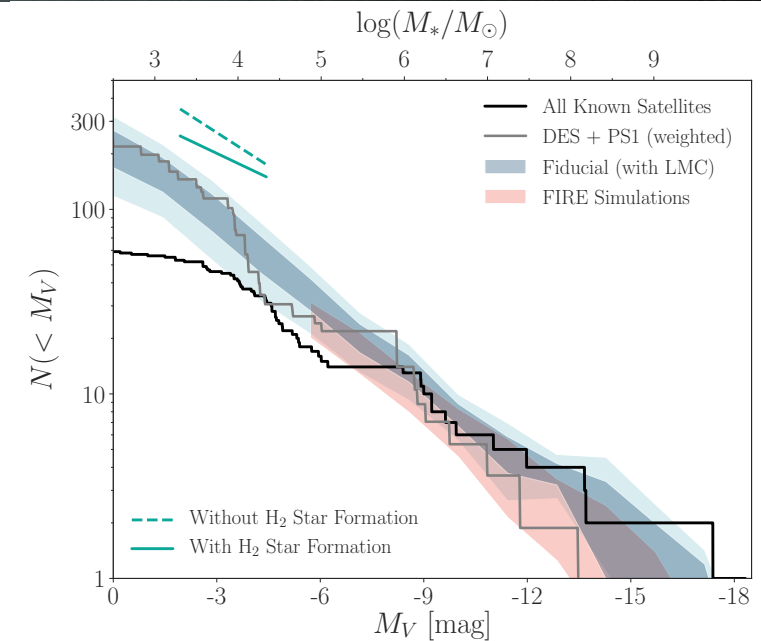
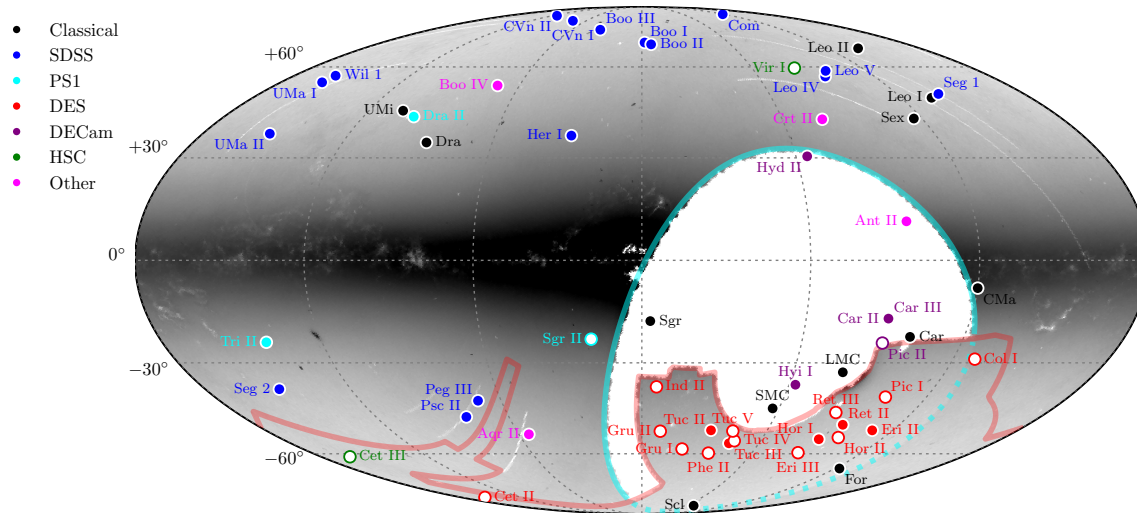
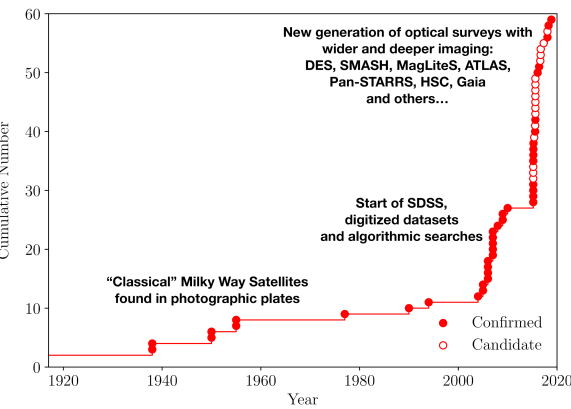
- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at $\sim 50 \text{ MeV}$.



SuperCDMS turns on low threshold detectors in 2024, continues to see some events here.

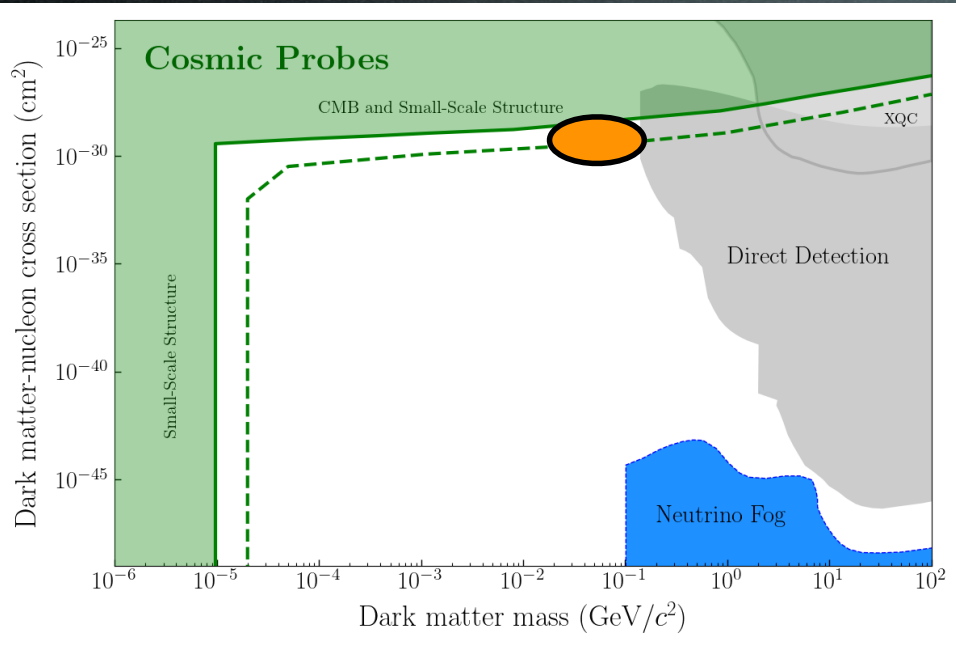
Dwarf satellites

Nadler, RW+ 2020



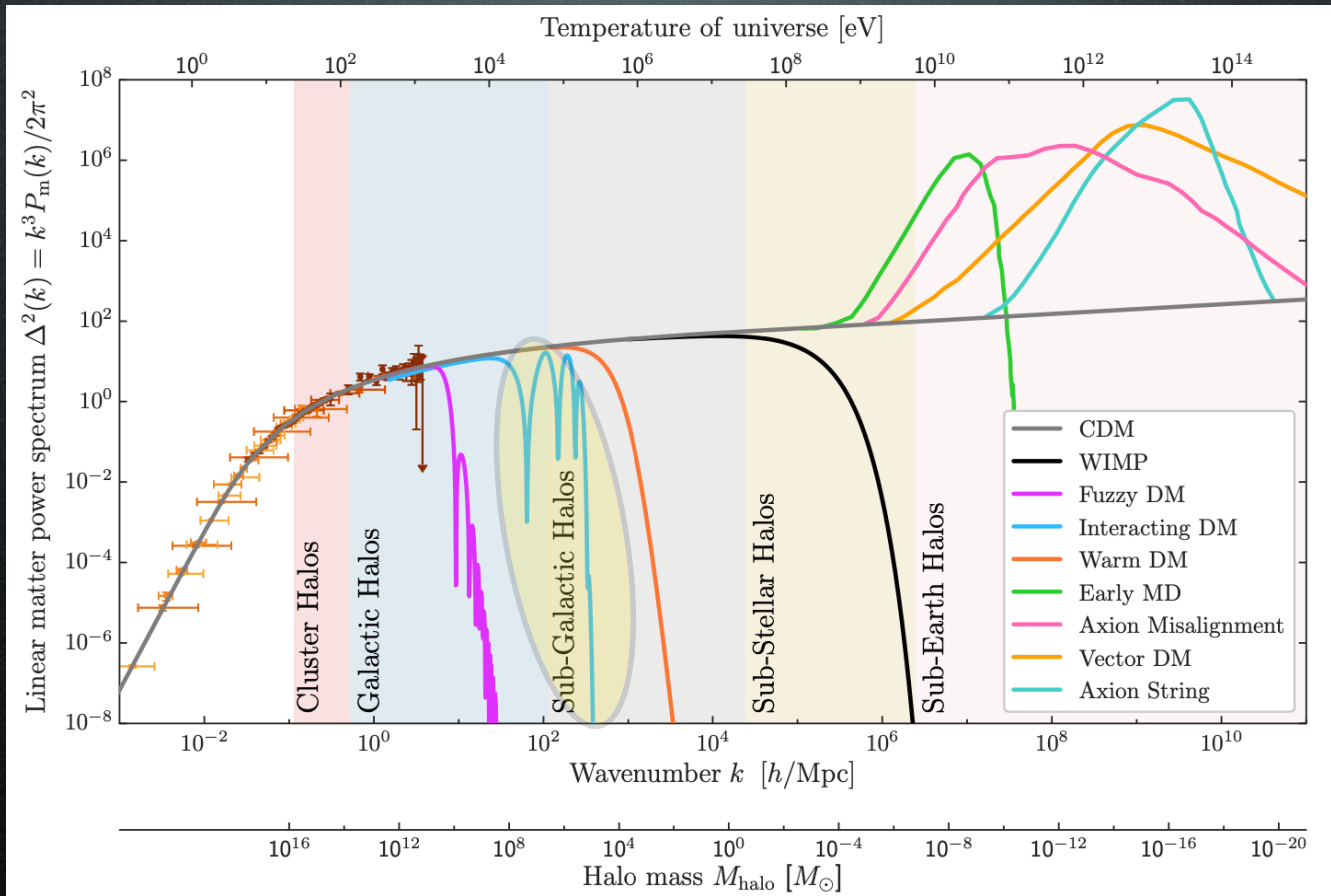
Currently ~60 known MW satellites, predict ~220 total MW satellites over full sky

Expect ~100 from Rubin LSST if DM is consistent with CDM on these scales [and if we are not yet at the galaxy formation cutoff]



- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at $\sim 50 \text{ MeV}$.
- As SuperCDMS turns on lower threshold detectors, they continue to see events in this regime.

In 2026, the first analysis of Rubin LSST data detects only 5 new MW satellites.



Snowmass2021: Dark Matter Physics from Halo Measurements Fig 1. arXiv:2203.07354

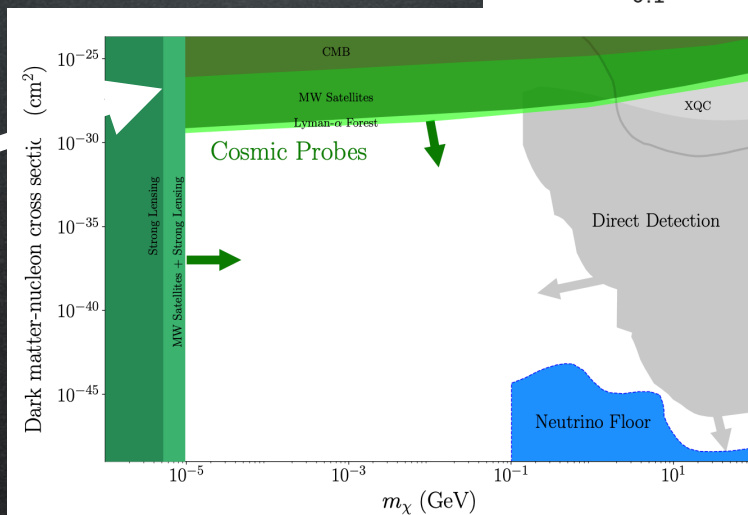
Interacting Dark Matter

- Collisional damping due to DM–baryon scattering at early times suppresses power on small scales
- Mass of the smallest halo allowed to form corresponds to the size of the horizon when

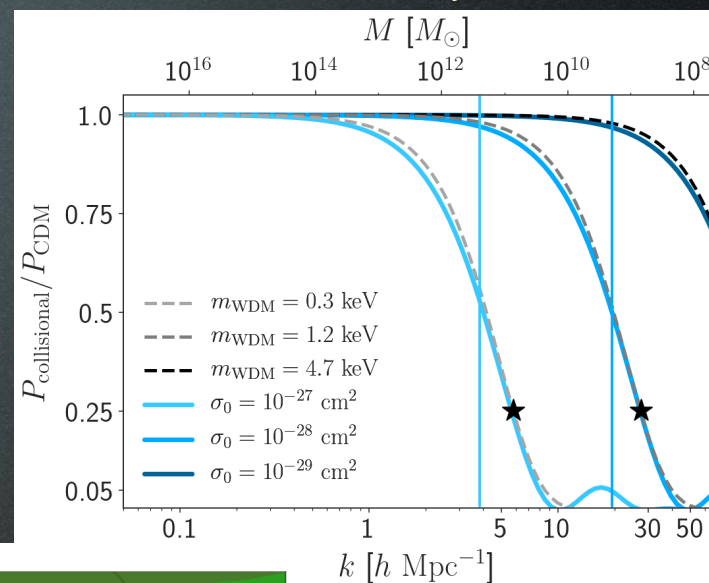
$$R_\chi \sim aH$$

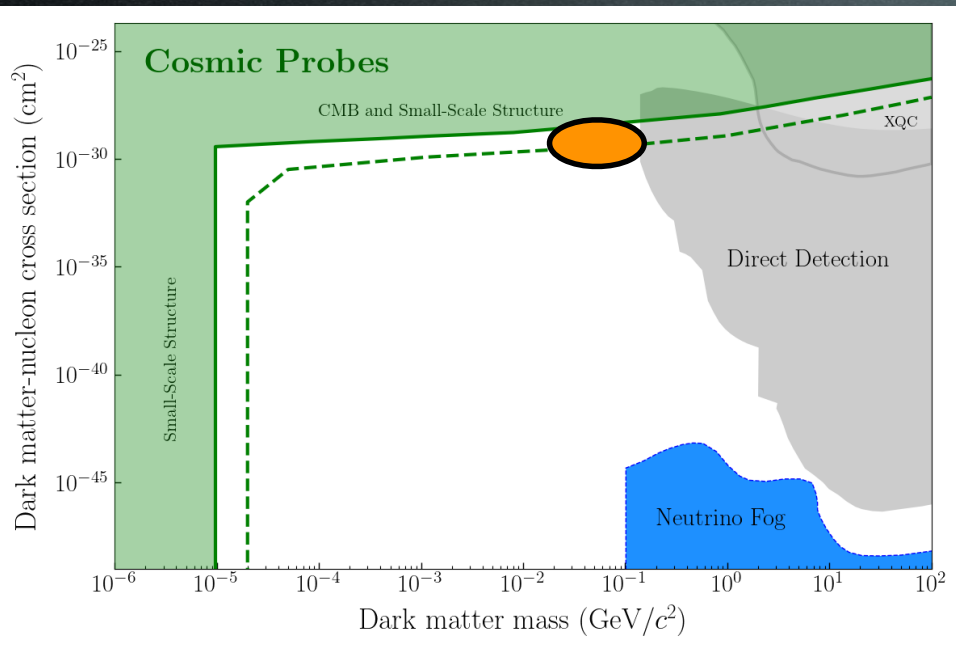
Momentum transfer rate \rightarrow Hubble rate

Constraints from Dwarf Galaxies
(Nadler+DES Collaboration 2021)
Lyman-alpha forest (Rogers, Dvorkin & Peiris 2022)



Suppression of power maps to WDM:
Nadler, Gluscevic, Boddy, RW, 2019



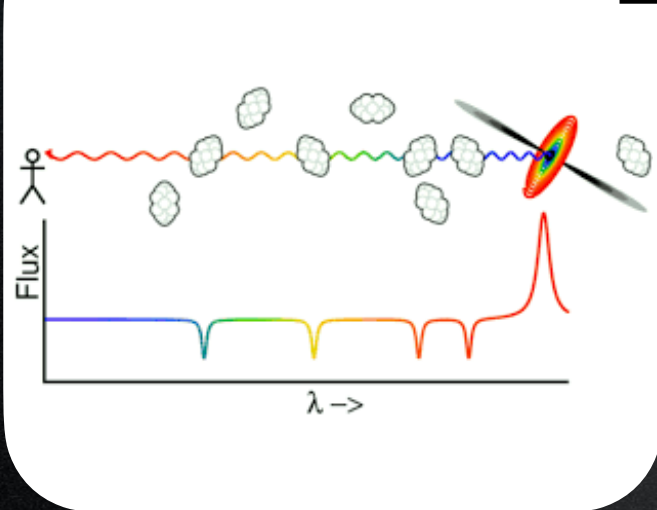
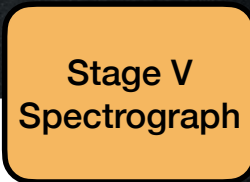
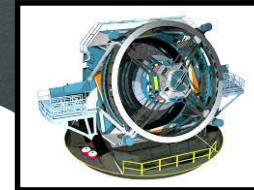
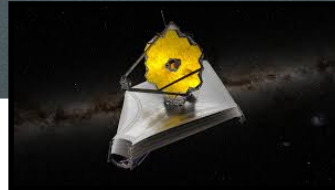
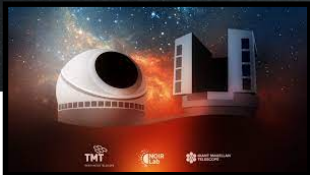
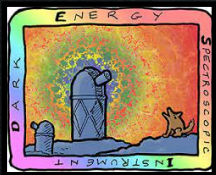


- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at ~ 50 MeV.
- As SuperCDMS turns on lower threshold detectors, they continue to see events in this regime.

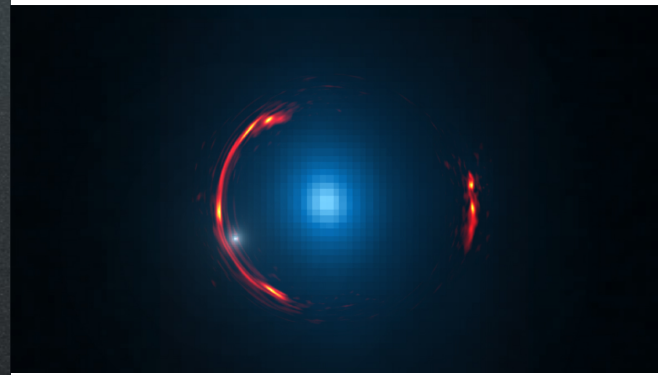
In 2026, the first analysis of Rubin LSST data detects only 5 new MW satellites.
 —> indication of either suppressed small-scale power
 or detection of the limit of galaxy formation

How do we tell the difference?

Small-scale structure probes



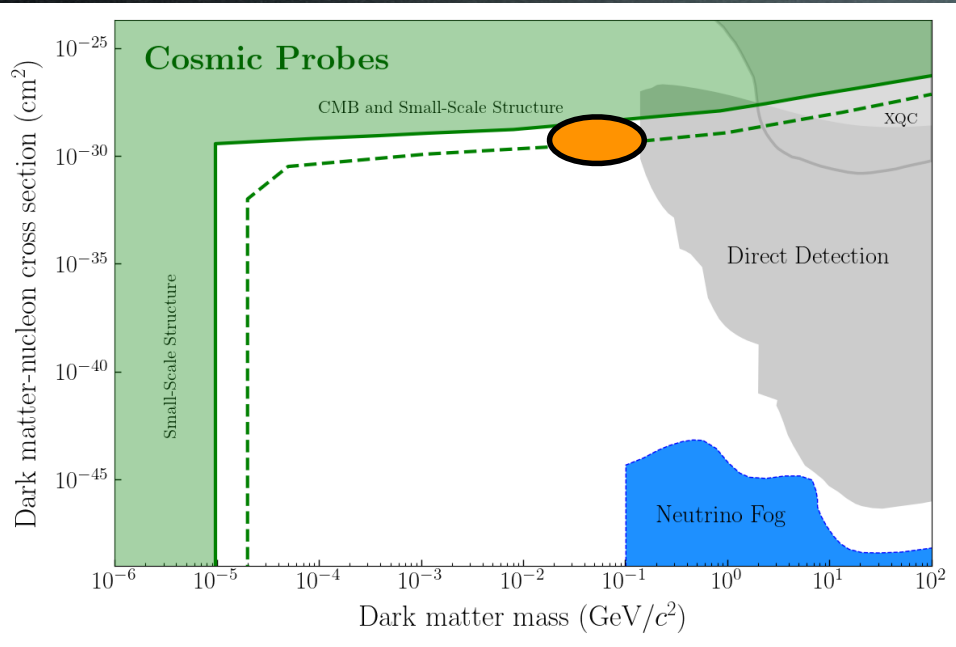
Lyman-alpha forest
power spectrum



Strong gravitational
lensing



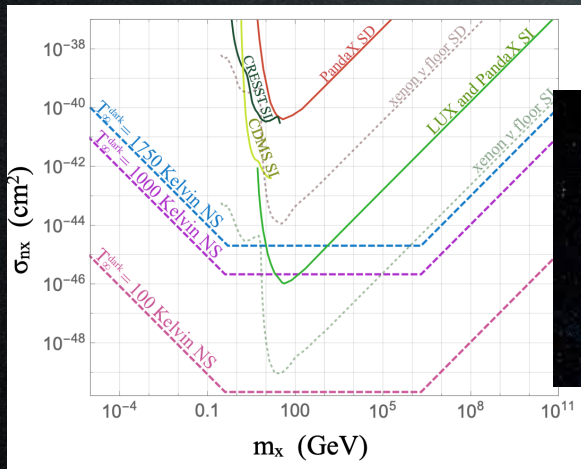
Stellar streams



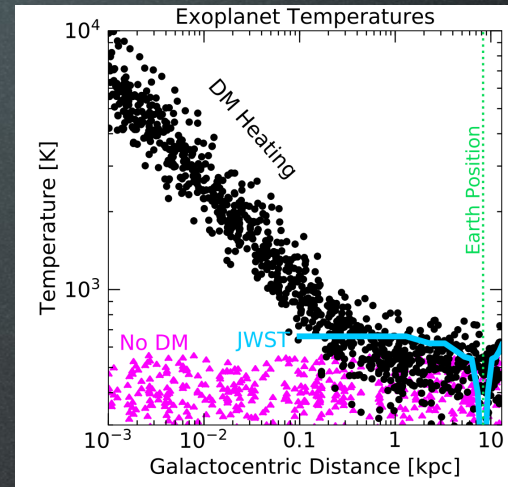
- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at ~ 50 MeV.
- As SuperCDMS turns on lower threshold detectors, they continue to see events in this regime.
- The first published analysis of Rubin LSST satellites only detects 5 satellites.

Lyman-alpha forest, strong lensing, and stellar streams all find less substructure than CDM predicts, below the threshold of galaxy formation.

DM heating



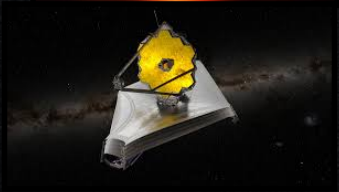
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.01577>



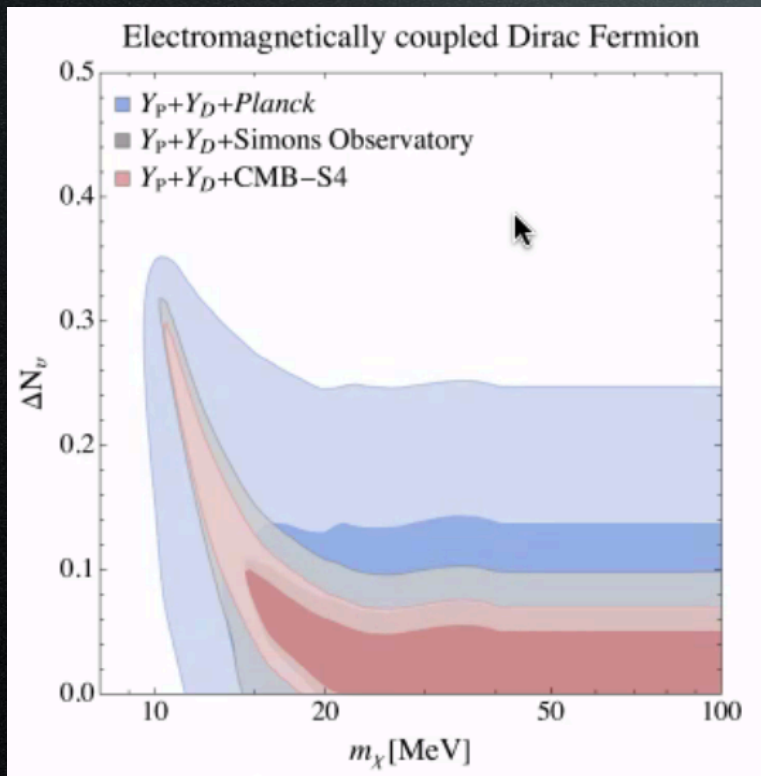
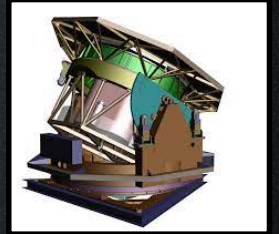
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.00015>



An analysis of neutron stars and exoplanets by JWST shows both are hotter than expected.

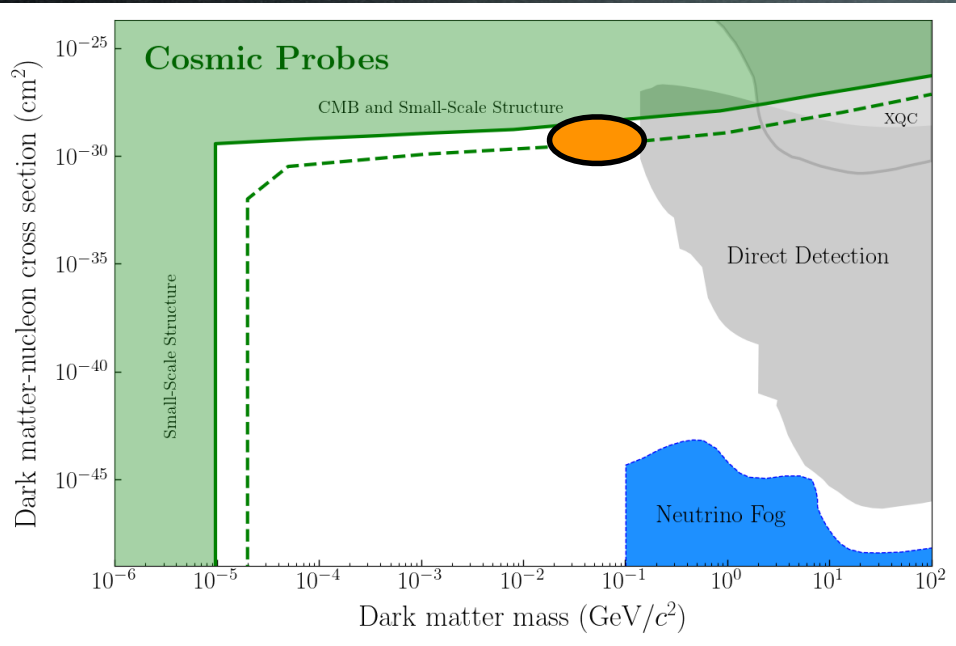


Neff is sensitive to DM-baryon interactions



CMB measurements can put a lower limit on the DM mass due to its impact on N_{eff} .

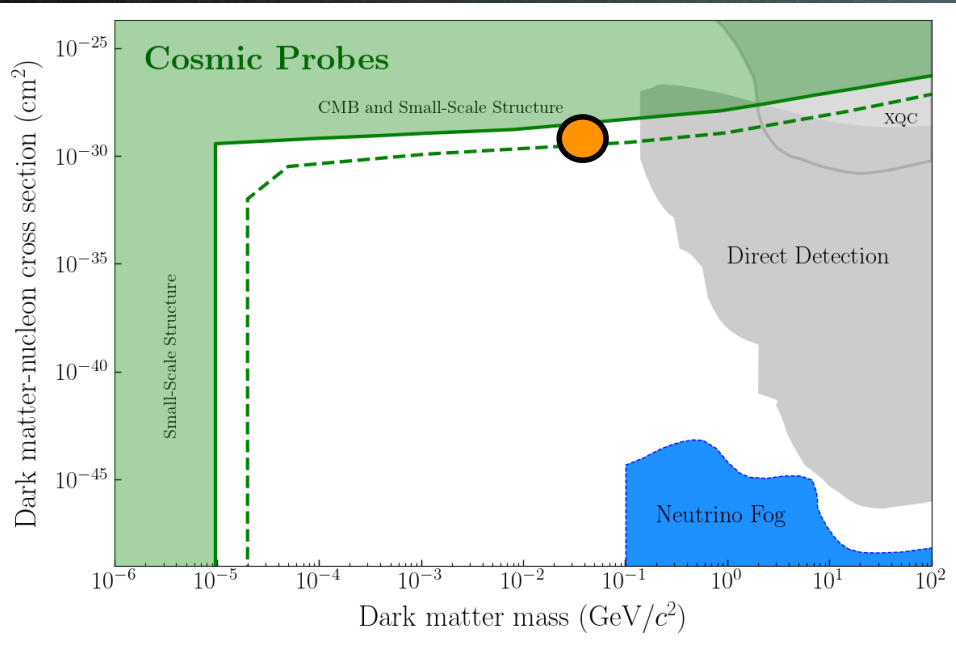
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.03515>



- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at ~ 50 MeV.
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- The first published analysis of Rubin LSST satellites only detects 5 satellites.
- Lyman-alpha forest, strong lensing, and stellar streams all find less substructure than CDM predicts
- Neutron stars and exo-Jupiters are hotter than expected.
- CMB indicates a DM particle with $M > 10\text{MeV}$

By this point, several low threshold experiments have continued to see events at 50 MeV.

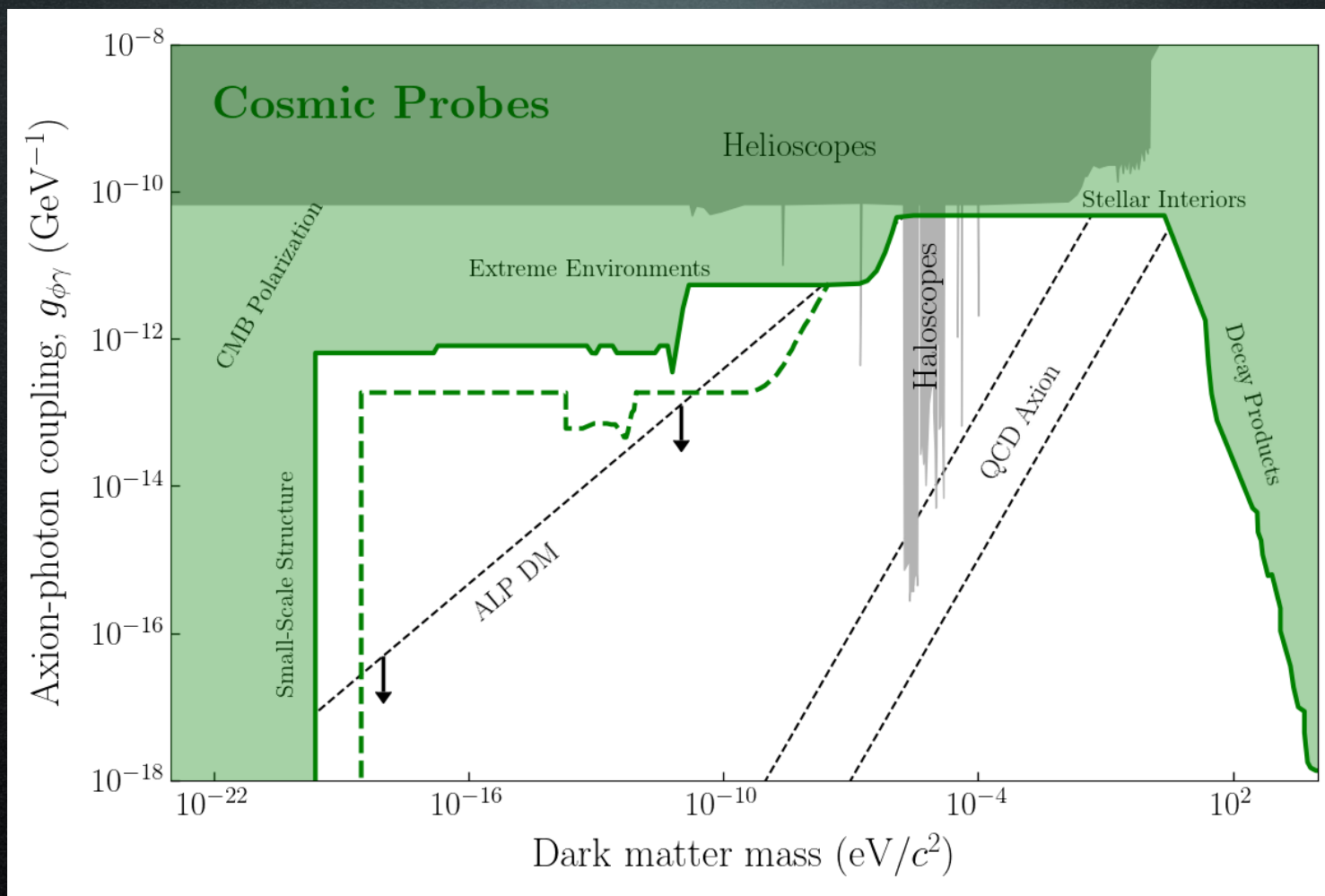
Design an experiment to see the peak in the velocity distribution function rather than just the tails.



- Interesting excess in low-threshold detectors at ~ 50 MeV.
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- Neutron stars and exo-Jupiters are hotter than expected.
- CMB indicates a DM particle with $M > 10\text{MeV}$
- Clear detection of a 50 MeV signal in SuperCDMS

Detection or absence in accelerator-based experiments (e.g. LDMX) would disentangle mass-scale from coupling of new DM-SM interaction

Example 2:
Axion-like particles
with axion-photon
interactions



Gravitational wave hints of an axion-like particle



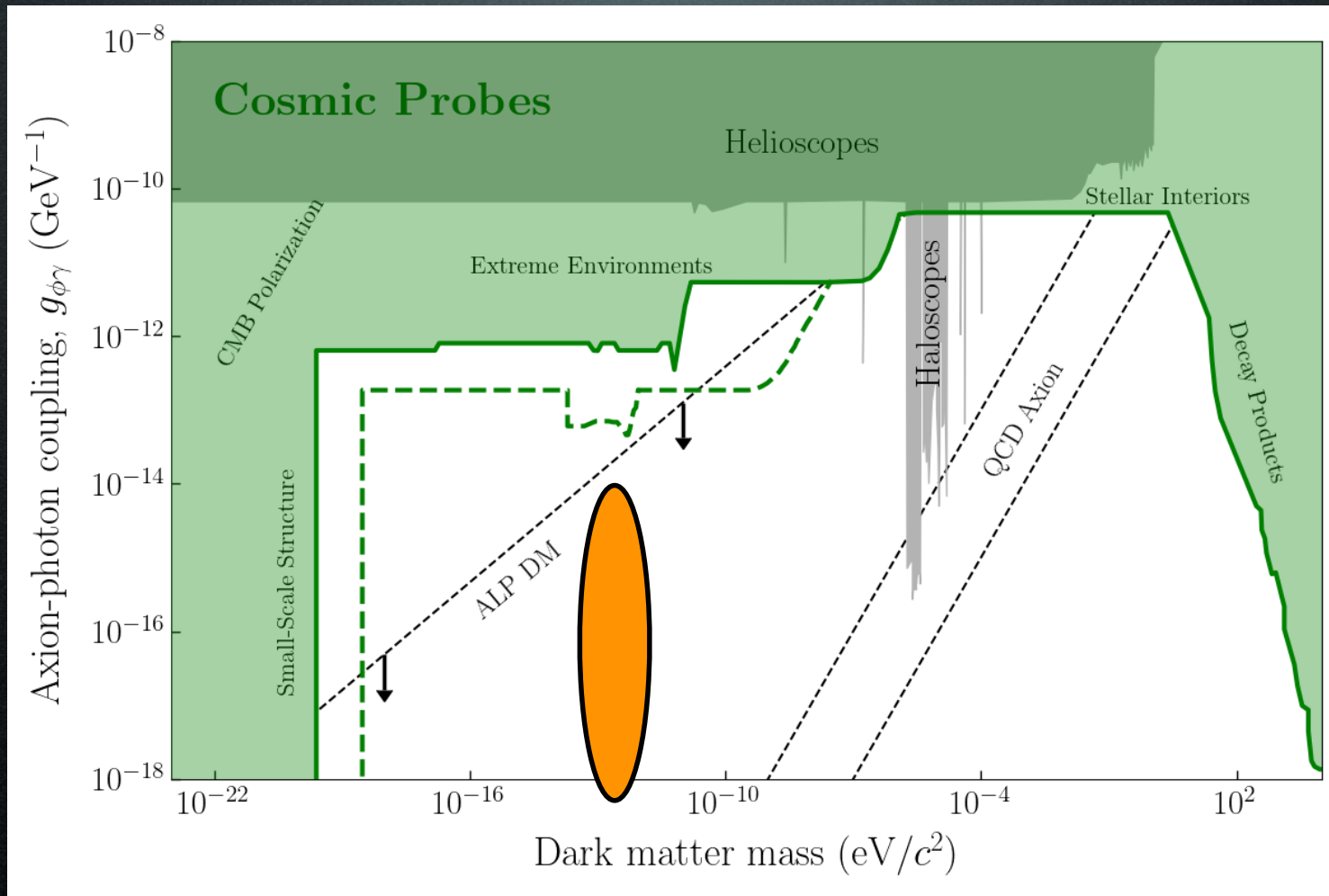
Advanced LIGO observes a continuous wave signal with a frequency 300 Hz - 15 kHz.

Indicates an axion mass of $10^{-13} - 10^{-11}$ eV due to BH super radiance — a “boson cloud” around the spinning black holes.

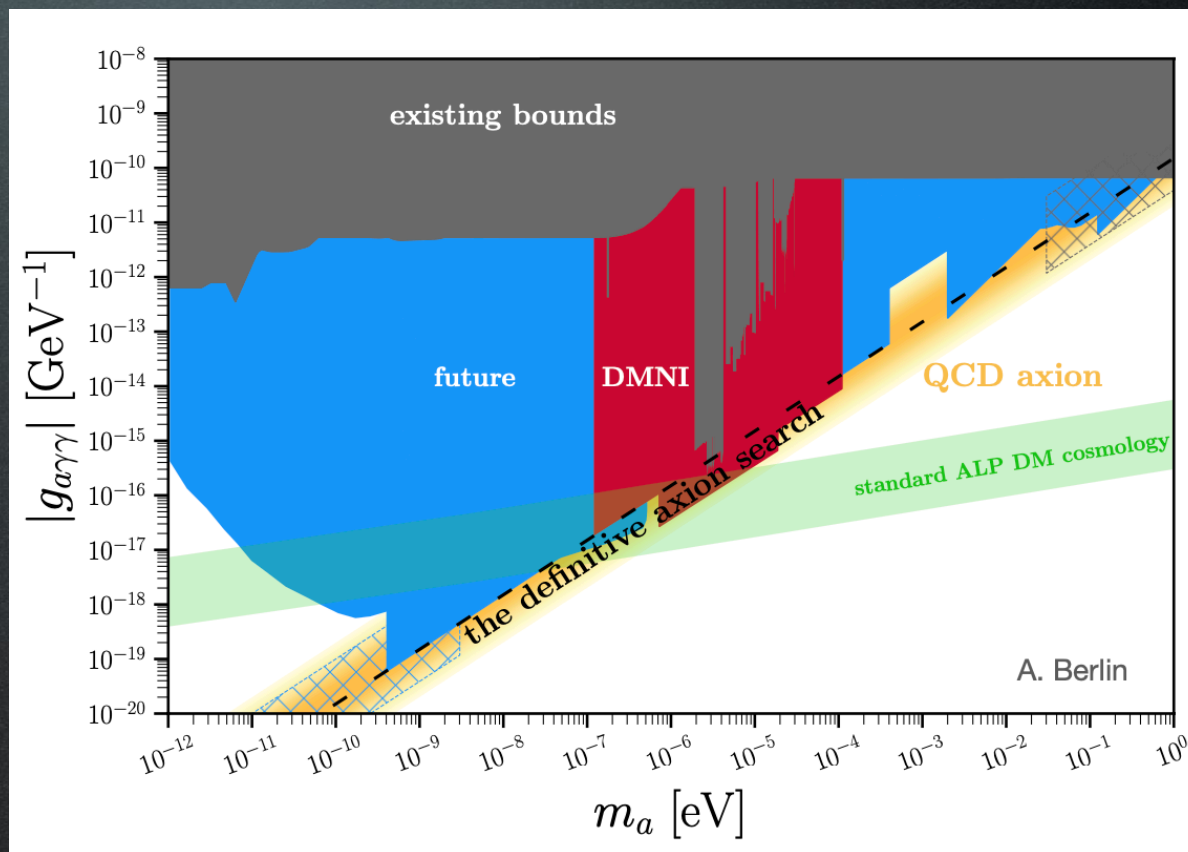
Provides a clear indication of where to look in future cavity, NMR, and lumped element experiments.

First search outlined in R. Abbott *et al.* (LIGO, Virgo, KAGRA) Phys. Rev. D **105**, 102001 based on ideas outlined in [Zhu et al 2020](#) ; See also <https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.07984>

10⁻¹² eV ALP DM detection example

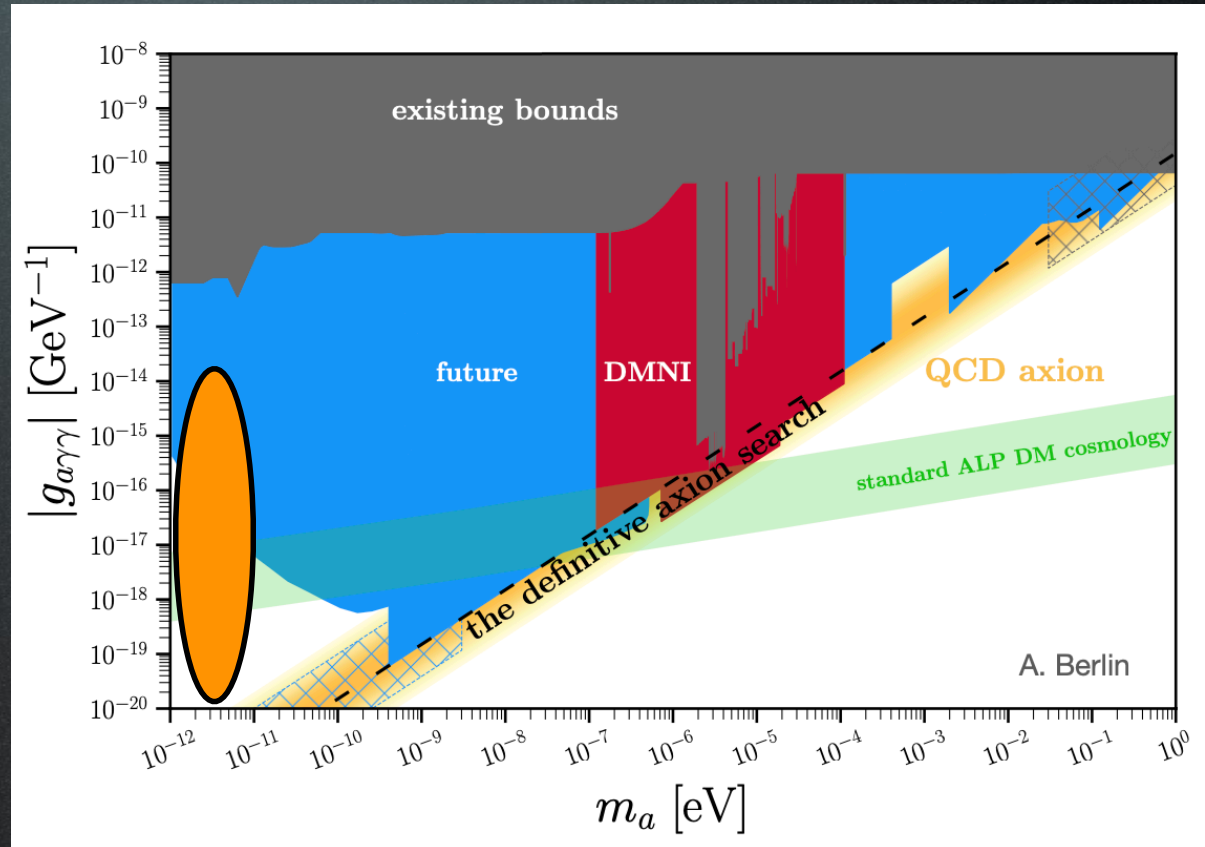


Experimental probes of wave-like DM



Experimental probes of wave-like DM

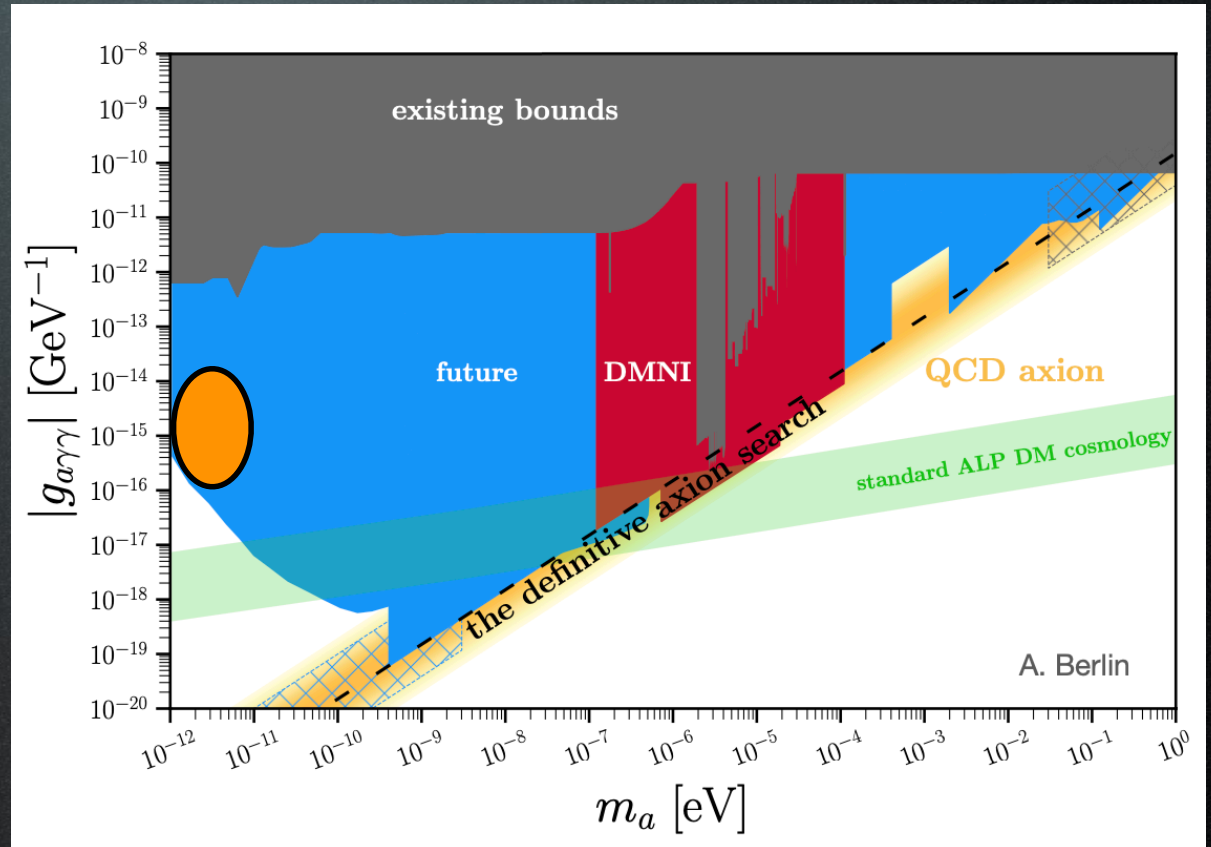
Do a targeted search in
NMR or cavity
experiments at
 $10^{-13} - 10^{-11}$ eV.



Experimental probes of wave-like DM

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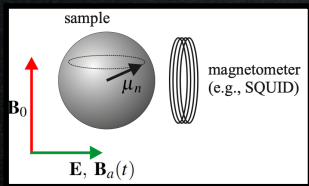
Detection made! Enables
a map of the DM density
and velocity in the DM
halo.



Towards mapping the DM halo with an ALP



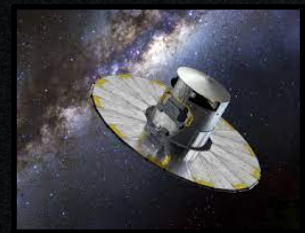
Advanced LIGO observes a continuous wave signal with a frequency 300 Hz - 15 kHz. Indicates an axion mass of 10^{-13} — 10^{-11} eV.



Targeted NMR search for a 10^{-13} — 10^{-11} eV ALP with NMR experiments and make a detection!



Expand experiments that can target this mass range, including NMR, SRF cavity, and lumped element experiments.

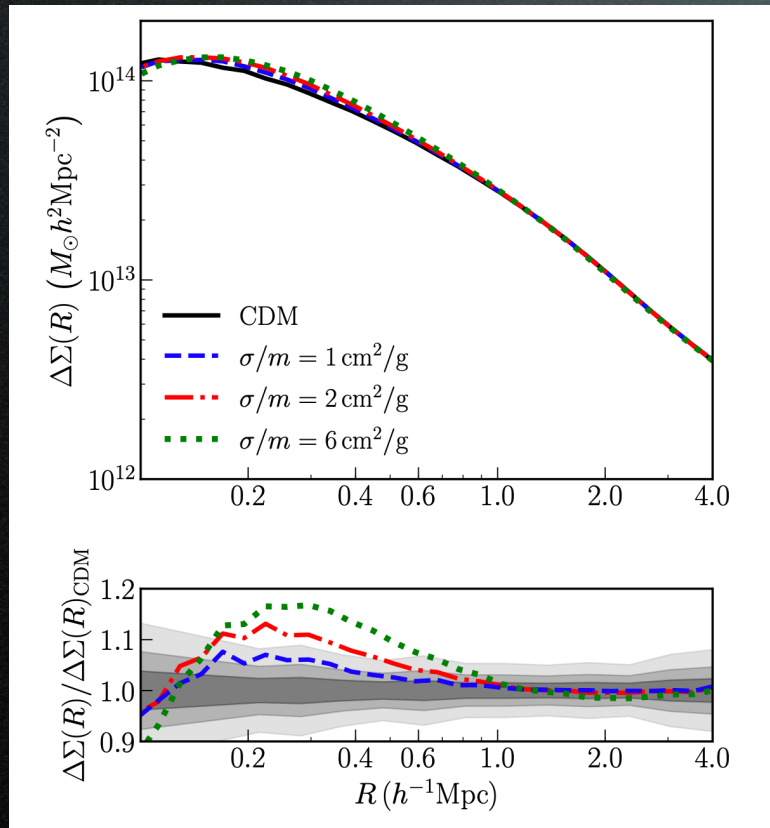


Use these to map the DM halo and its annual modulation —> future synergies with astrophysical measurements and predictions of the local DM density and velocity in the Solar circle.

Example 3:

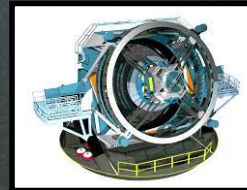
DM with self-interactions
and suppressed
small-scale power

DM halo profiles in SIDM



Snowmass2021: Dark Matter Physics
from Halo Measurements Fig 4. arXiv:2203.07354

- Measurements of cluster profiles with cores provide indication of self-interactions



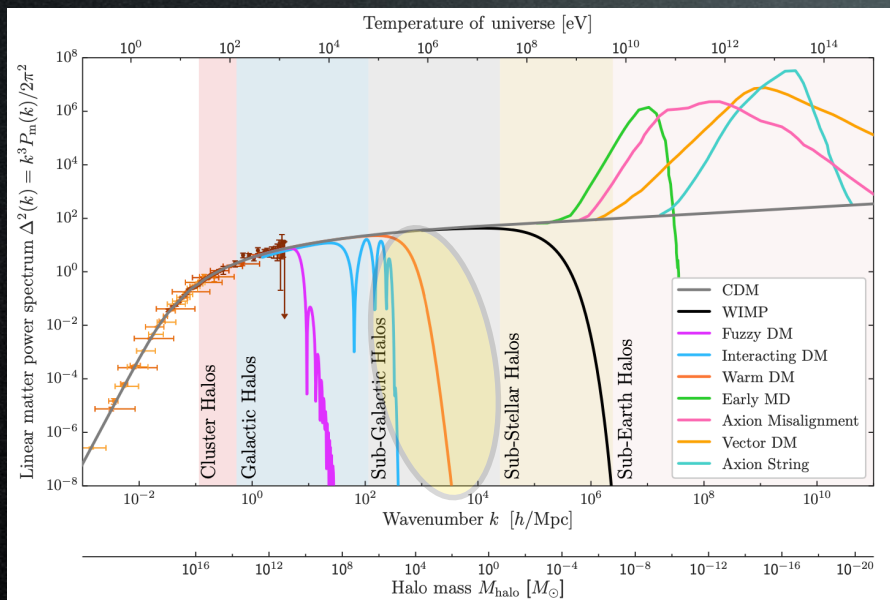
- Measurements of dwarf galaxy profiles also show cores



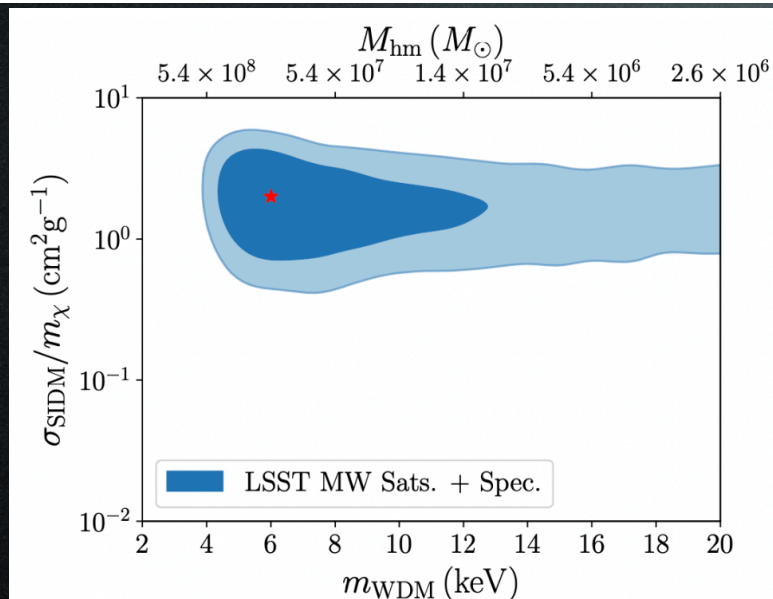
Stage V
Spectrograph



Suppressed small-scale power



- LSST detects 5 satellites, significantly fewer than expected.
- Strong lensing and streams see impact of dark substructures at $5 \times 10^8 M_\odot$.
- Missing power is observed **below the scale of galaxy formation** (e.g. $10^7 M_\odot$) by strong lensing (Rubin + JWST, ALMA), streams (Rubin+Gaia+DESI+ELTs), and Lyman-alpha forest (DESI+ELTs)

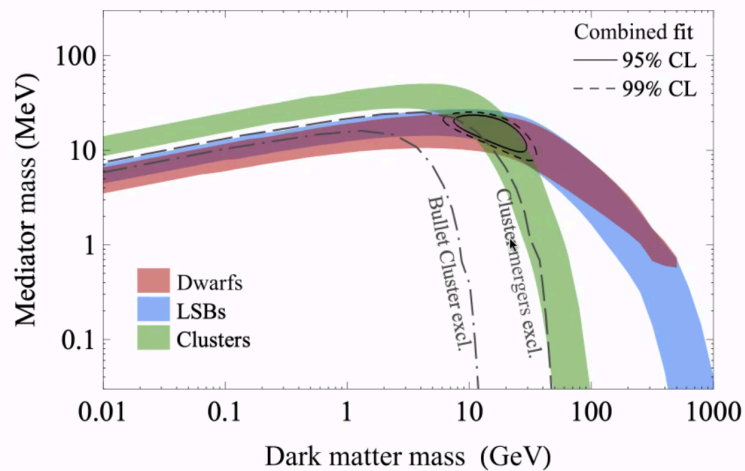
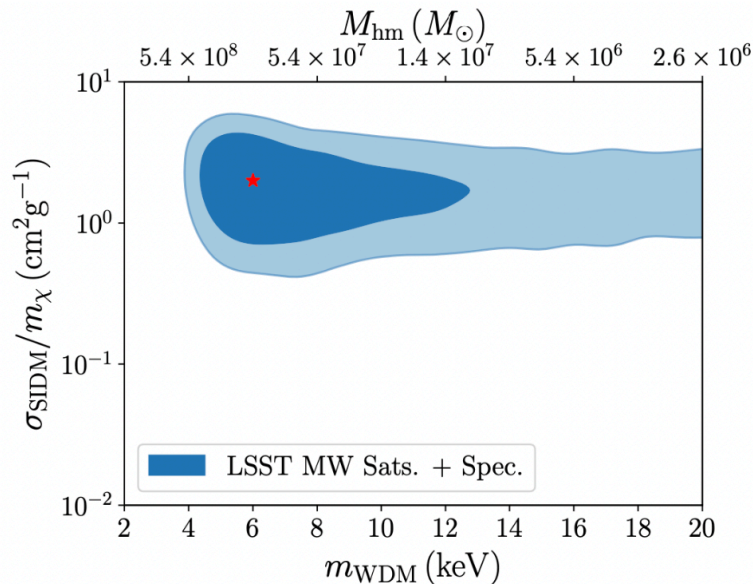


CF3 Draft Report (with Nadler, Yan et al)

Consistent with WDM+SIDM

- Could be 10 keV DM with self-interactions

Consistent with WDM+SIDM



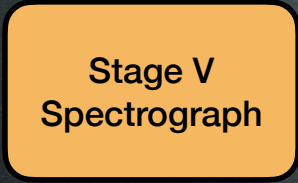
Tulin & Yu 2018

- Could be 10 keV DM with self-interactions
- Also consistent with 10 GeV DM that is coupled to a light mediator + dark radiation, which suppressed small-scale power in a similar way.
- If profiles are measured at different mass scales, this can pin down the DM mass.
- In the latter case, there will be a signal in N_{eff} as measured by the CMB (e.g. CMB-S4)

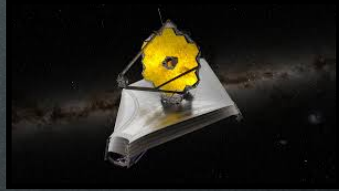
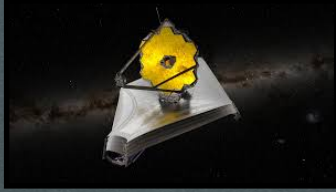
GW



X-ray Spectroscopy

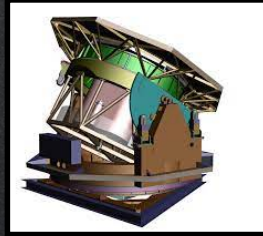


Imaging

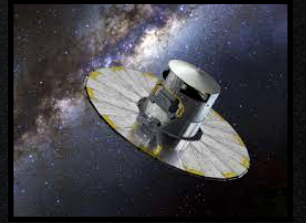


Wide range of astronomical observatories will be relevant to the next generation of DM searches!

CMB



Astrometry



Three examples of many possibilities!

Discussed 3 examples:

- Thermal DM particle at ~ 50 MeV. Signals of suppressed small-scale structure, extra heating in dense objects, and detection possible in low-threshold direct detection experiments

Cosmic probes help distinguish DM from background events, inform the mass and interaction strength, and motivate expanded direct detection and accelerator experiments.
 - Axion-like particle at $\sim 10^{-12}$ eV. Signal of BH super-radiance detectable in GW; detection possible in NMR and cavity experiments.

Cosmic probes provide a target for the search region of terrestrial experiments; which then enable mapping the DM halo.
 - Self-interacting DM combined with suppression of small-scale power.

Cosmic probes are the primary window.
- ★ Extensive complementarity across CF and across frontiers. Wide range of experiments and astronomical observations are relevant to pinning down each of these cases! Very exciting discovery potential this decade.