

Motivation for Accelerator-Based Dark Sector Searches

Natalia Toro

Accelerator-based Dark Sector Searches Agora

April 22, 2022

Goals for This Talk

- What are dark sectors, and why are they exciting?
- Why are **small and multi-purpose Intensity Frontier* accelerator-based experiments** essential to confront this landscape?

*in a broad sense – e.g. including neutrino experiments, LHCb, Belle II, forward auxiliary detector proposals at LHC, ...

What is a Dark Sector?

Simply:

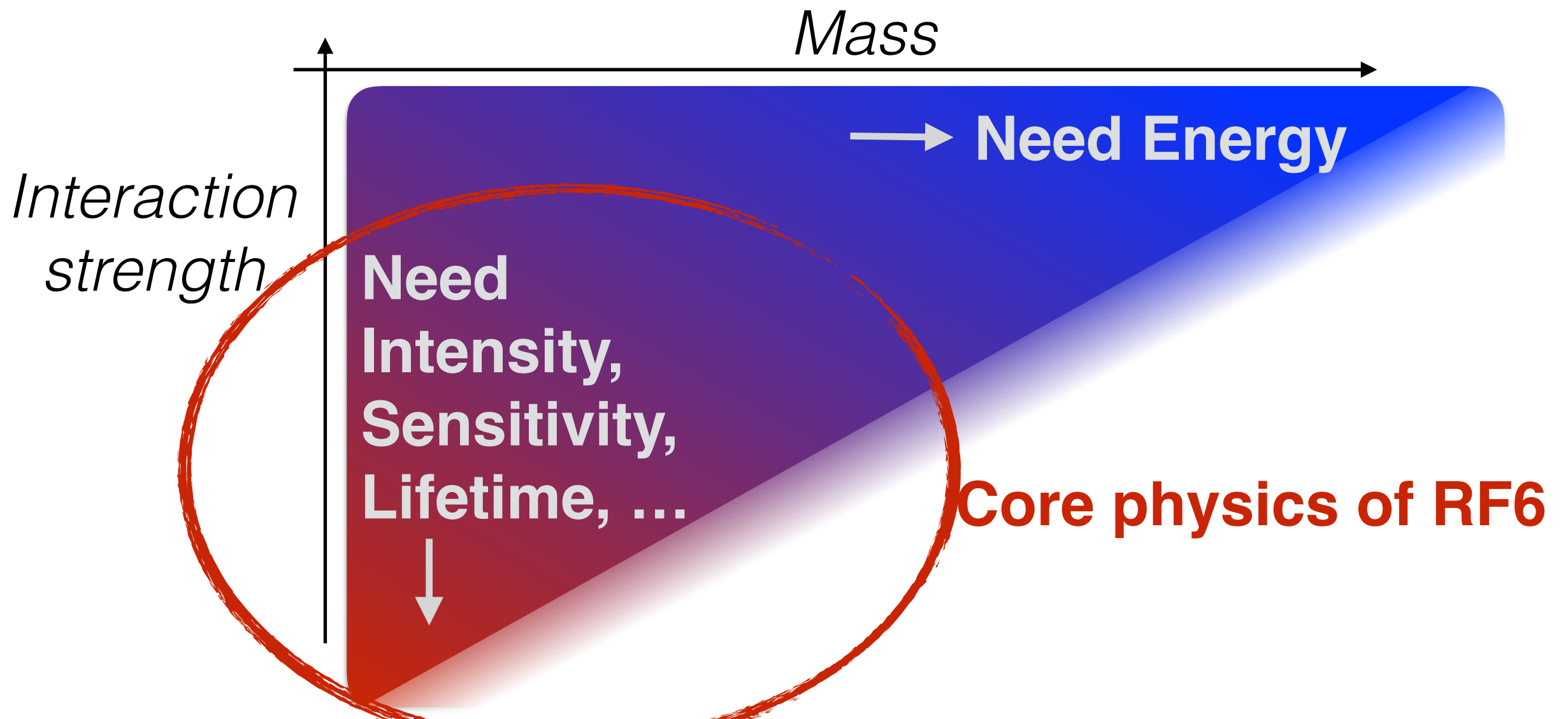
New physics neutral under Standard Model forces (EM, weak, strong)

Typically focus on **low mass scales** (\lesssim GeV) where any new physics must be SM-neutral – hence a dark sector

What is a Dark Sector?

Simply:

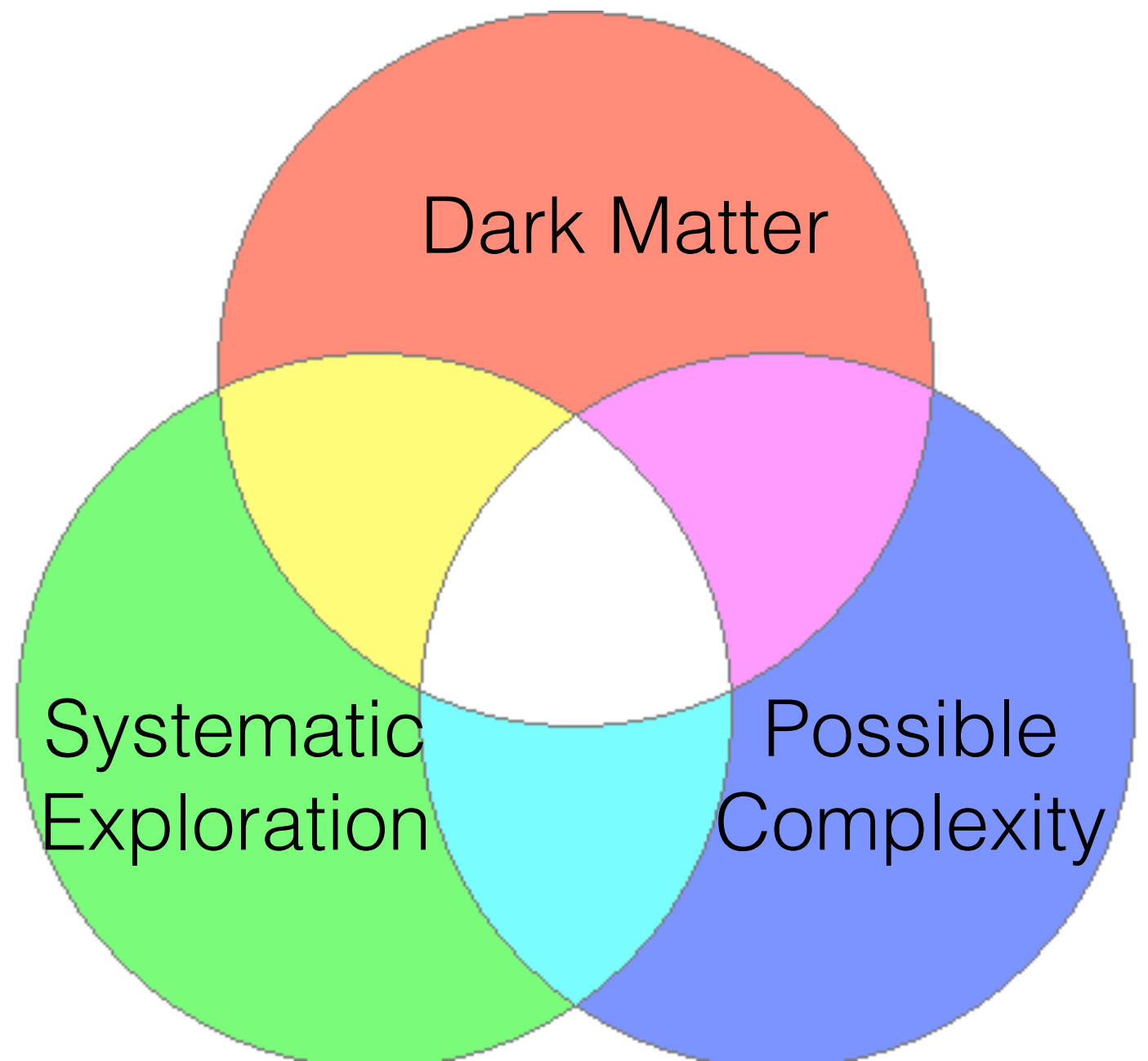
New physics neutral under Standard Model forces (EM, weak, strong)



Why Dark Sectors?

A **rich new window** for physics beyond the Standard Model and **dark matter** in particular

Three intertwined motivations – each shedding different light on searches and possible signals



Why Dark Sectors?

A **rich new window** for physics beyond the Standard Model, including **dark matter**

Three intertwined motivations:

- ❖ Viable, predictive, and discoverable models of light **dark matter** are a key motivation and anchor
- ❖ Symmetries of Standard Model provide a framework for **systematic exploration** of weakly-coupled new physics
- ❖ These arguments motivate possibility of **complexity in dark sector**, which we could discover experimentally

Dark Sectors <2020

- Many grassroots workshops since ~2009:
 - Dark Forces and Dark Sectors @ SLAC,
Dark Interactions @ BNL, DM at Accelerators in Italy
- Significant momentum in last few years on community-wide planning in small experiments relevant to dark matter, including accelerator searches for dark sectors

US Cosmic Visions: New Ideas in Dark Matter 2017 : Community Report

Marco Battaglieri (SAC co-chair),¹ Alberto Belloni (Coordinator),² Aaron Chou (WG2 Convener),³ Priscilla Cushman (Coordinator),⁴ Bertrand Echenard (WG3 Convener),⁵ Rouven Essig (WG1 Convener),⁶ Juan Estrada (WG1 Convener),³ Jonathan L. Feng (WG4 Convener),⁷ Brenna Flaugher (Coordinator),³ Patrick J. Fox (WG4 Convener),³ Peter Graham (WG2 Convener),⁸ Carter Hall (Coordinator),² Roni Harnik (SAC member),³ JoAnne Hewett (Coordinator),^{9,8} Joseph Incandela (Coordinator),¹⁰ Eder Izaguirre (WG3 Convener),¹¹ Daniel McKinsey (WG1 Convener),¹² Matthew Pyle (SAC member),¹² Natalie Roe (Coordinator),¹³ Gray Rybka (SAC member),¹⁴ Pierre Sikivie (SAC member),¹⁵ Tim M.P. Tait (SAC member),⁷ Natalia Toro (SAC co-chair),^{9,16} Richard Van De Water (SAC member),¹⁷ Neal Weiner (SAC member),¹⁸ Kathryn Zurek (SAC member),^{13,12} Eric Adelberger,¹⁴ Andrei Afanasev,¹⁹ Derbin Alexander,²⁰ James Alexander,²¹ Vasile Cristian Antochi,²² David Mark Asner,²³ Howard Baer,²⁴ Dipanwita Banerjee,²⁵ Elisabetta Baracchini,²⁶ Phillip Barbeau,²⁷ Joshua Barrow,²⁸ Noemie Bastidon,²⁹ James Battat,³⁰ Stephen Benson,³¹ Asher Berlin,⁹ Mark Bird,³² Nikita Blinov,⁹ Kimberly K. Boddy,³³ Mariangela Bondi,³⁴ Walter M. Bonivento,³⁵ Mark Boulay,³⁶ James Boyce,^{37,31} Maxime Brodeur,³⁸ Leah Broussard,³⁹ Ranny Budnik,⁴⁰ Philip Bunting,¹² Marc Caffee,⁴¹ Sabato Stefano Caiazza,⁴² Sheldon Campbell,⁷ Tongtong Cao,⁴³ Gianpaolo Carosi,⁴⁴ Massimo Carpinelli,^{45,46} Gianluca Cavoto,²² Andrea Celentano,¹ Jae Hyeok Chang,⁶ Swapan Chattopadhyay,^{3,47} Alvaro Chavarria,⁴⁸ Chien-Yi Chen,^{49,16} Kenneth Clark,⁵⁰ John Clarke,¹² Owen Colegrove,¹⁰ Jonathon Coleman,⁵¹ David Cooke,²⁵ Robert Cooper,⁵² Michael Crisler,^{23,3} Paolo Crivelli,²⁵ Francesco D'Eramo,^{53,54} Domenico D'Urso,^{45,46} Eric Dahl,²⁹ William Dawson,⁴⁴ Marzio De Napoli,³⁴ Raffaella De Vita,¹ Patrick DeNiverville,⁵⁵ Stephen Derenzo,¹³ Antonia Di Crescenzo,^{56,57} Emanuele Di Marco,⁵⁸ Keith R. Dienes,^{59,2} Milind Diwan,¹¹ Dongwi Handiipondola Dongwi,⁴³ Alex Drlica-Wagner,³ Sebastian Ellis,⁶⁰ Anthony Chigbo Ezeribe,^{61,62} Glennys Farrar,¹⁸ Francesc Ferrer,⁶³ Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano,⁶⁴ Alessandra Filippi,⁶⁵ Giuliana Fiorillo,⁶⁶ Barbara Fradette,⁶⁷ Anna Franchetti,³¹ Claudia Frenk,⁴⁰ Cristian Gabiati,⁶⁸ Itzhak

Cosmic Visions community
workshop 2017 (~mini-Snowmass)

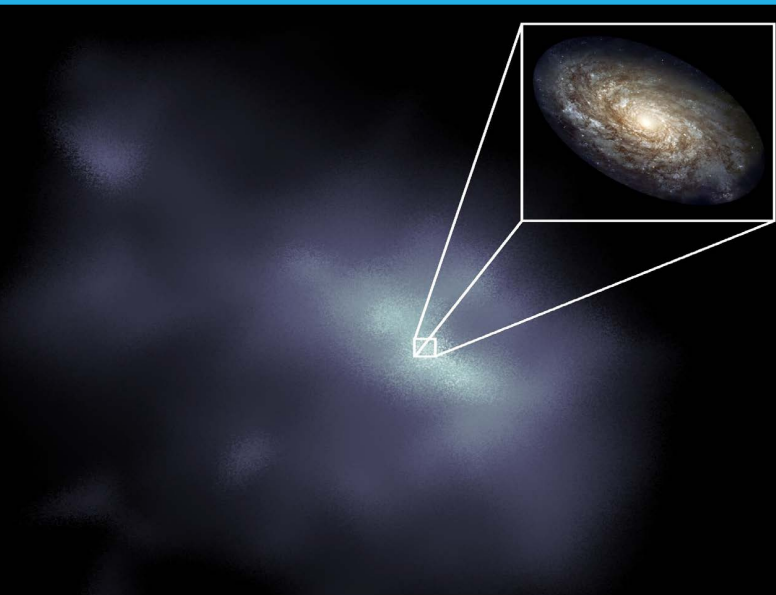
Dark Sectors <2020

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Basic Research Needs for Dark Matter Small Projects New Initiatives



Summary of the High Energy Physics Workshop on Basic Research
Needs for Dark Matter Small Projects New Initiatives
October 15 – 18, 2018

Cosmic Visions community
workshop 2017 (~mini-Snowmass)

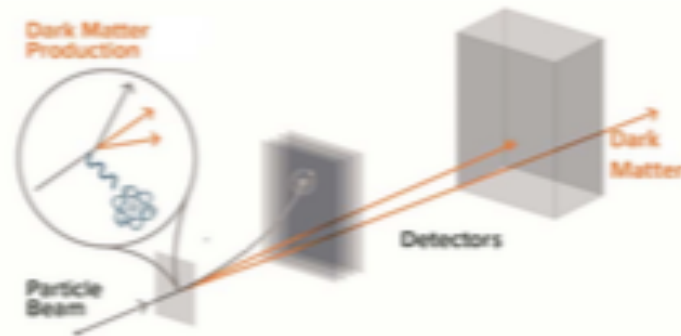
Basic Research Needs (BRN)
workshop 2018: *non-FACA* panels
charged by DOE with identifying
priority **science** in Dark Matter
scope, achievable with small US-
based experiments

BRN Priority Research Directions

*Summary of the High Energy Physics Workshop on Basic Research
Needs for Dark Matter Small Projects New Initiatives
October 15 – 18, 2018*

PRD 1

Create & Detect
Dark-Matter Particles
at Accelerators



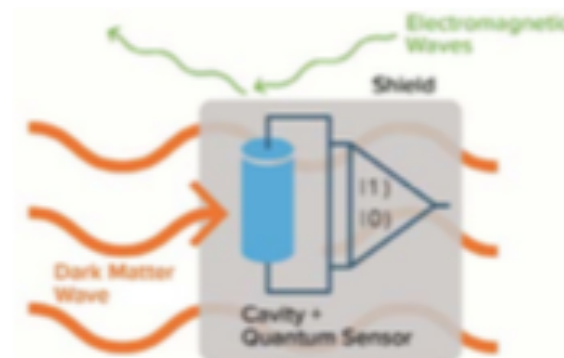
PRD 2

Detect Galactic
Particle Dark Matter
Underground



PRD 3

Detect Galactic
Wave Dark Matter
in the Laboratory



Success!

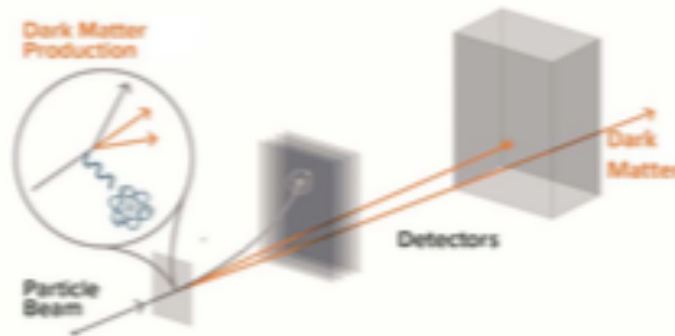
*Experiments in all 3 PRDs received
planning funds through 2019 FOA*

BRN Priority Research Directions

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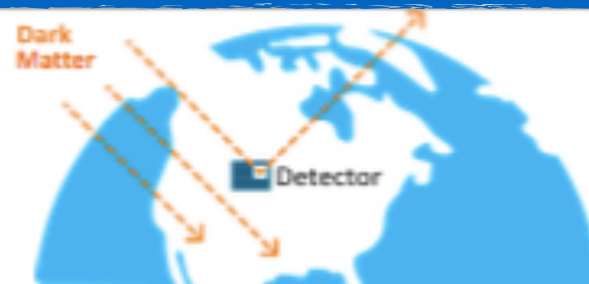
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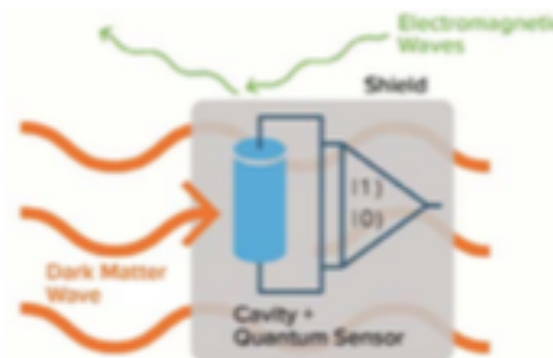
PRD 2

Detect Galactic
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Underground



PRD 3

Detect Galactic
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Success!

*Experiments in all 3 PRDs received
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Thrust 1 (near term):

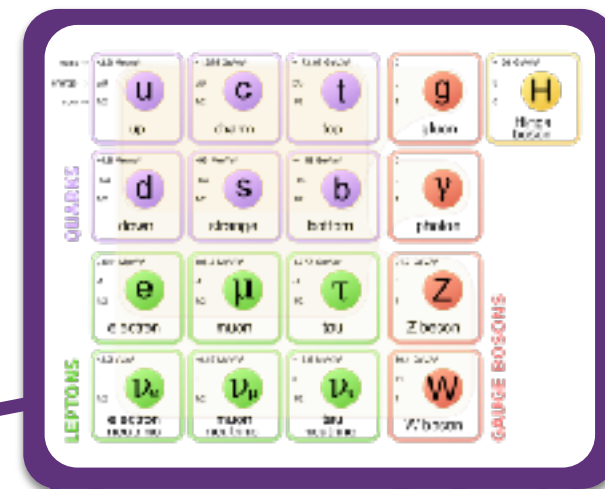
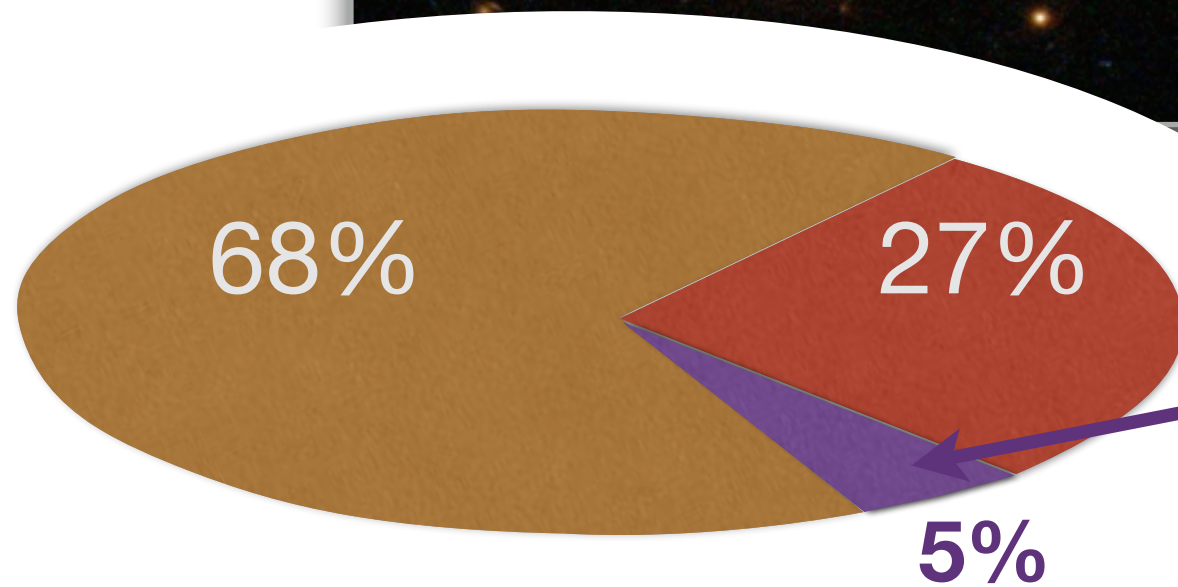
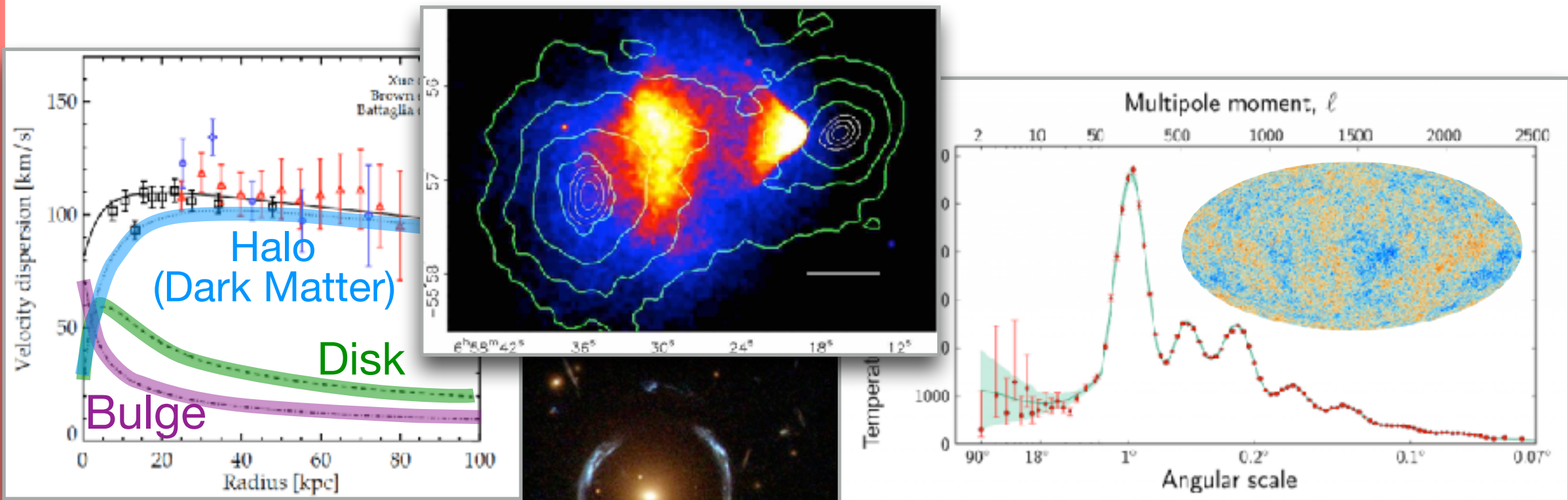
Through 10- to 1000-fold improvements in sensitivity over current searches, use particle beams to explore interaction strengths singled out by thermal dark matter across the electron-to-proton mass range.

CCM, LDMX

Thrust 2 (near and long term): Explore the structure of the dark sector by producing and detecting unstable dark particles.

non-DMNI funding

The Balance of the Universe



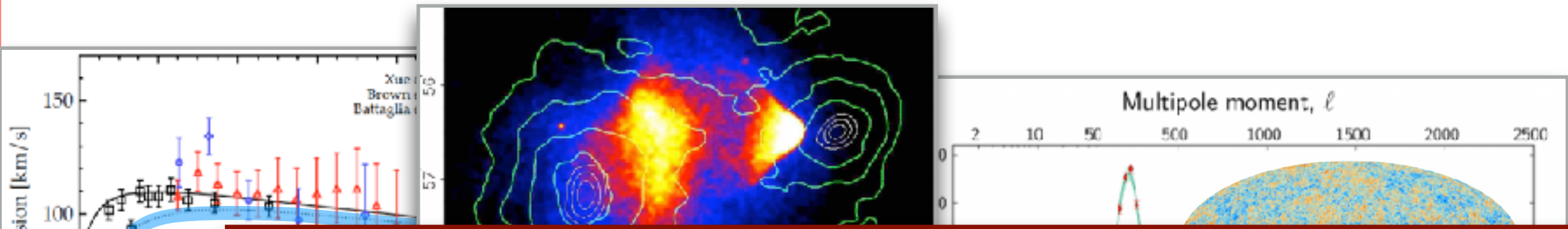
Known Matter
(the Standard Model)

Dark Matter

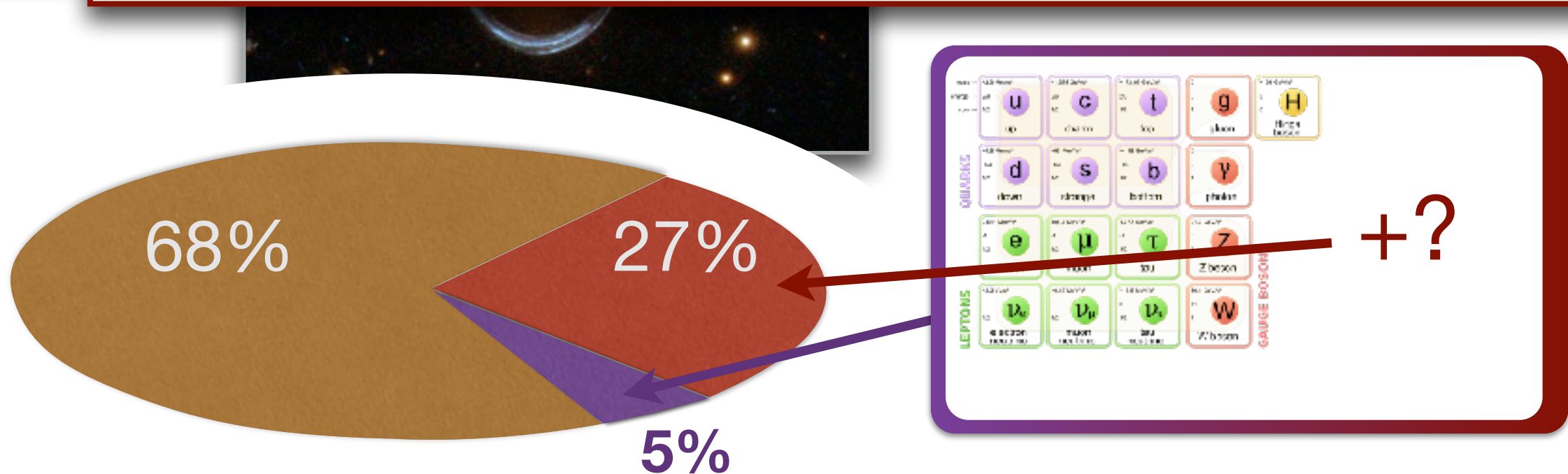
Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

The Balance of the Universe



Dark Matter is made of unfamiliar ingredient(s) – must extend the “periodic table” of the Standard Model!



Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

Dark Matter

Cosmological evidence → bulk properties of dark matter:

- mass density ρ_{DM}
- cosmological longevity $\tau_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim 10^{18} \text{ s}$
- low pressure $p_{\text{DM}} \ll \rho_{\text{DM}}$
- decoupled from baryonic plasma before recombination
- ...

These imply **bounds** on particle properties, but not **measurements**... and direct searches to date just strengthen these bounds

Dark Matter Particle Properties

Constituent Mass?

10^{-22} eV \longleftrightarrow 10^{19} eV

Boson or Fermion?

**Non-gravitational
interactions?**

Conserved charge?

Dark Matter Particle Properties

Bulk properties can inform guesses

Constituent Mass?

←————→
 10^{-22} eV 10^{19} eV

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Dark Matter Particle Properties

Bulk properties can inform guesses

Constituent Mass?

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Boson or Fermion?

**Non-gravitational
interactions?**

Conserved charge?

Yes? (it's cosmologically stable)

Dark Matter Particle Properties

Bulk properties can inform guesses

Constituent Mass?

A horizontal line with arrows at both ends, representing an energy scale. Below the left arrow is the text 10^{-22} eV and below the right arrow is the text 10^{19} eV .

Boson or Fermion?

Non-gravitational interactions?

Yes? (to explain how it got here)

Conserved charge?

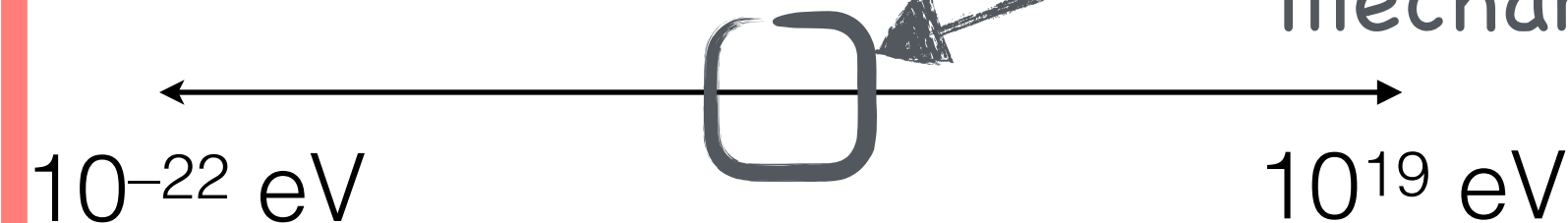
Yes? (it's cosmologically stable)

Dark Matter Particle Properties

Bulk properties can inform guesses

Constituent Mass?

Simple, familiar production mechanisms work here



Boson or Fermion?

Non-gravitational interactions?

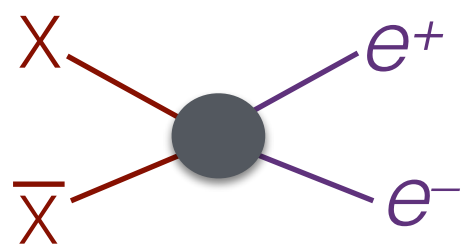
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Conserved charge?

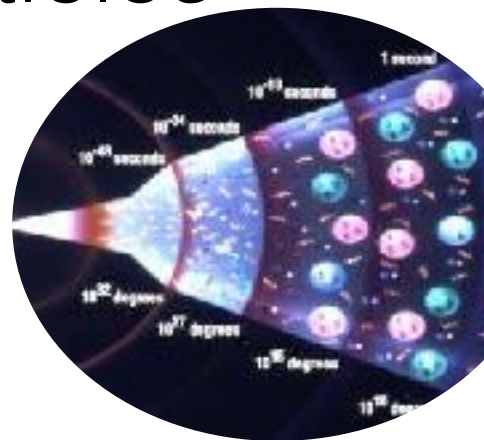
Yes? (it's cosmologically stable)

Thermal Freeze-Out

- Simple explanation of DM origin from hot bath of Standard Model particles



vs.

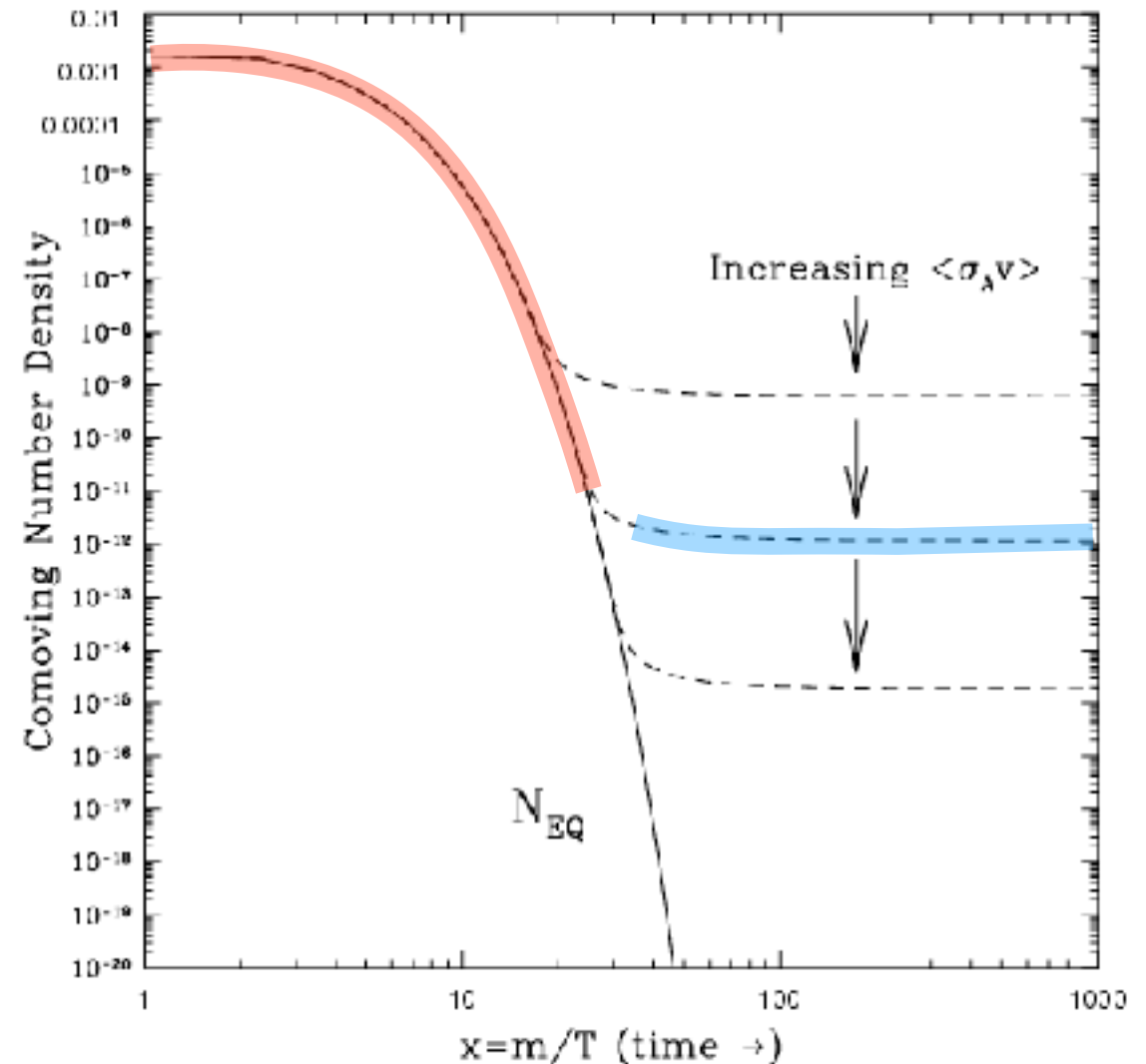


$$\Gamma_A \sim n_{\text{DM}} \sigma_A v$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \sim H$$

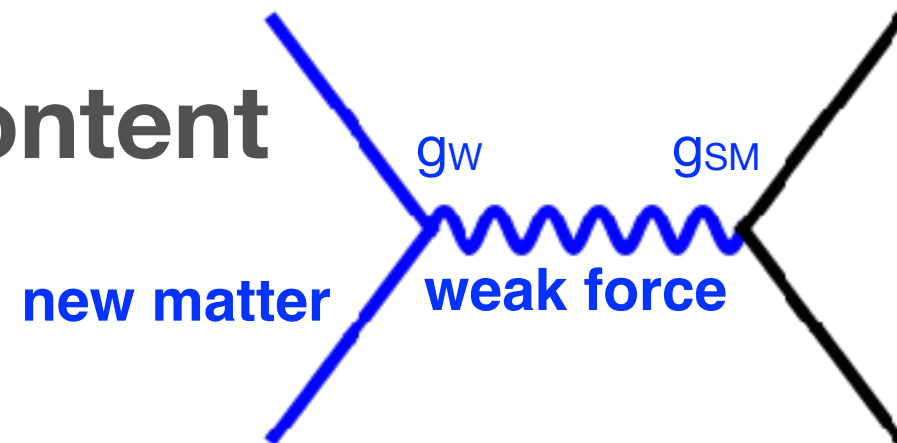
- Implies **close, direct, recent** contact between DM and SM

- Therefore, especially predictive: standard cosmology + $\rho_{\text{DM}} \Rightarrow \sigma_A$



A Strong Candidate: The WIMP

Simple, familiar particle content

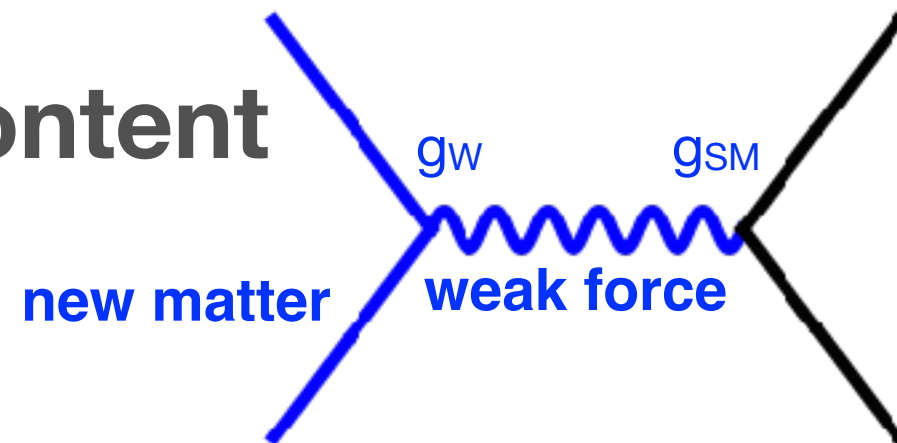


DM from a new row in Standard Model table

| | $U(1)_Y$ | $SU(2)_L$ | $SU(3)_C$ |
|-------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| L | $-1/2$ | 2 | - |
| e^c | $+1$ | - | - |
| Q | $+1/6$ | 2 | 3 |
| u^c | $-2/3$ | - | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}$ |
| d^c | $+1/3$ | - | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}$ |
| h | $-1/2$ | 2 | - |

A Strong Candidate: The WIMP

Simple, familiar particle content



DM from a new row in Standard Model table

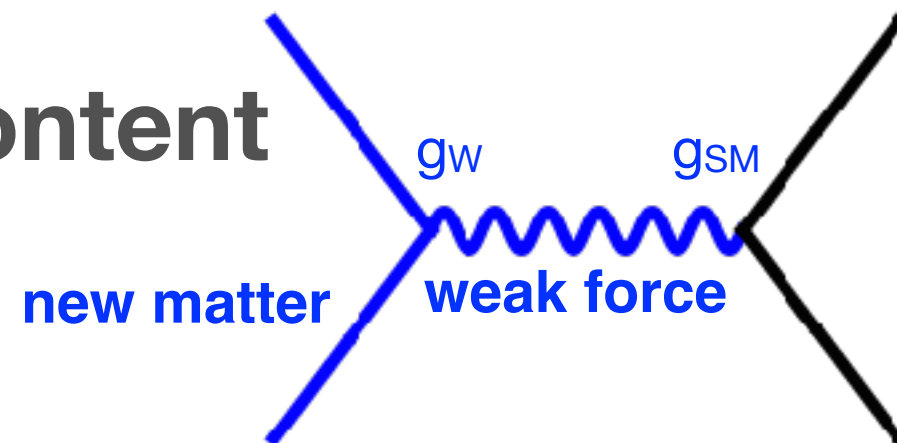
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WIMP X X

EM-neutral
component of
new weak
multiplet

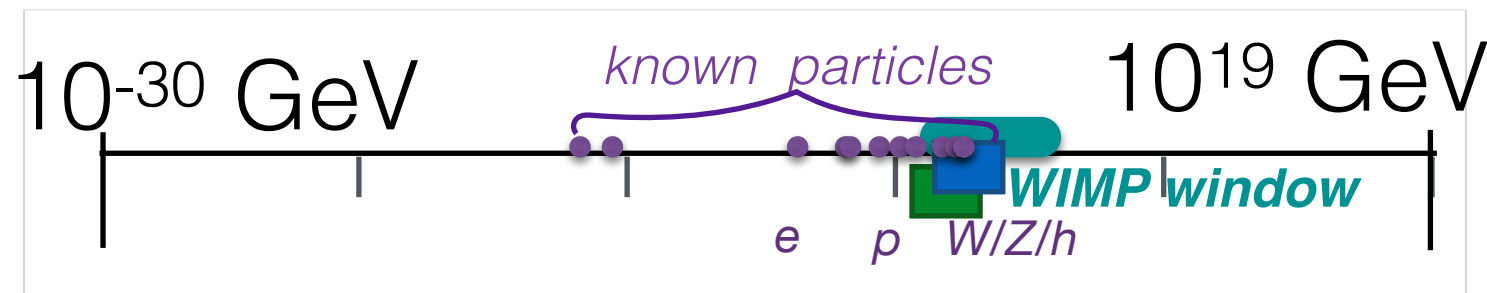
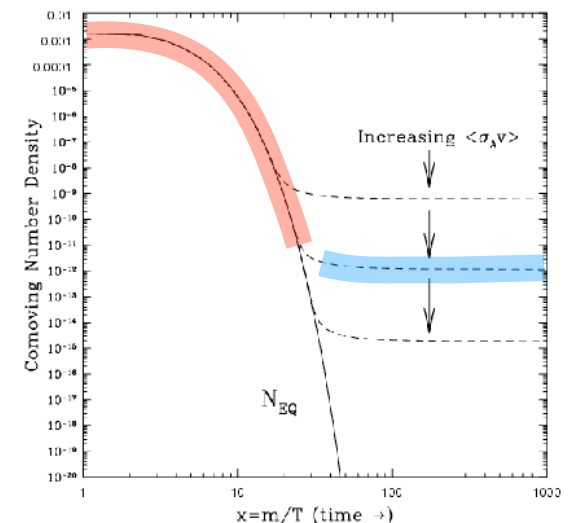
A Strong Candidate: The WIMP

Simple, familiar particle content



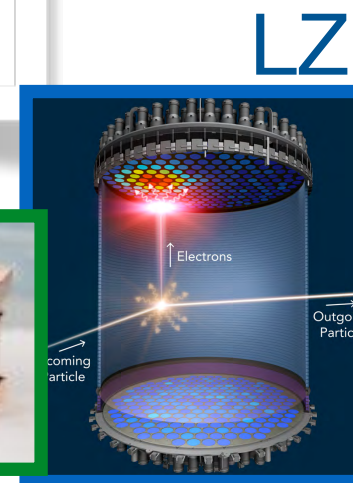
Simple, predictive cosmology

Weak-scale mass and coupling yield
ballpark $\langle\sigma_{AV}\rangle$ matching abundance



**Strong experimental
program**

SuperCDMS



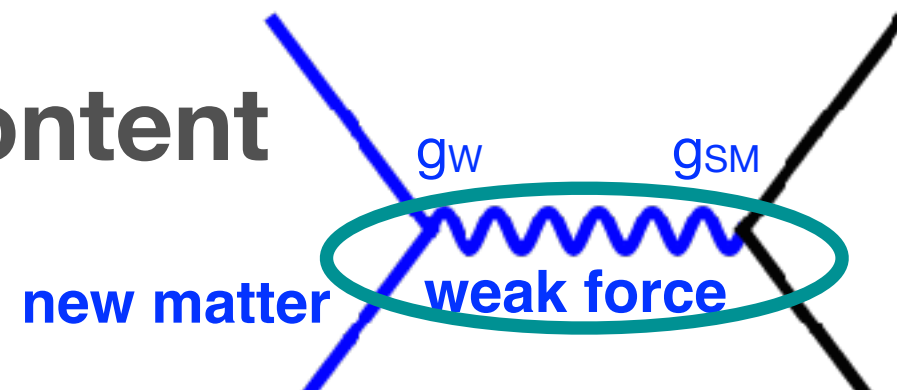
Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

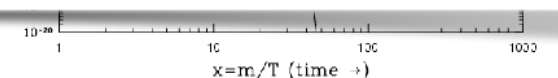
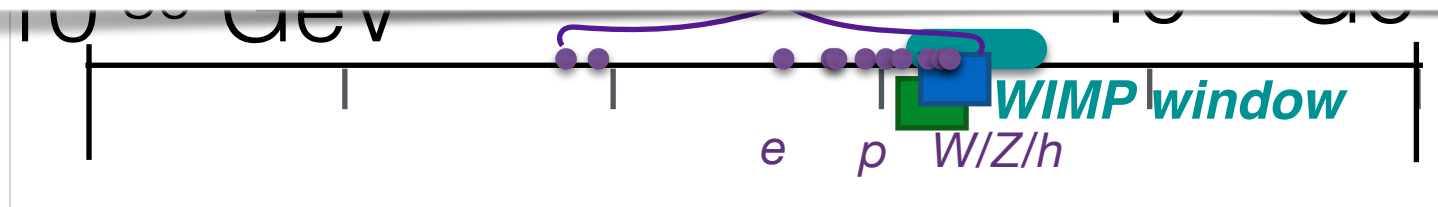
A Strong Candidate: The WIMP

Simple, familiar particle content



Weak-force assumption is under pressure from data!

Next steps in WIMP searches are important – **and** it's time to broaden the lamppost



Strong experimental program

SuperCDMS



Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

WIMPs \rightarrow Dark Sectors

Simple, familiar particle content

DM from a new **column** in SM table?

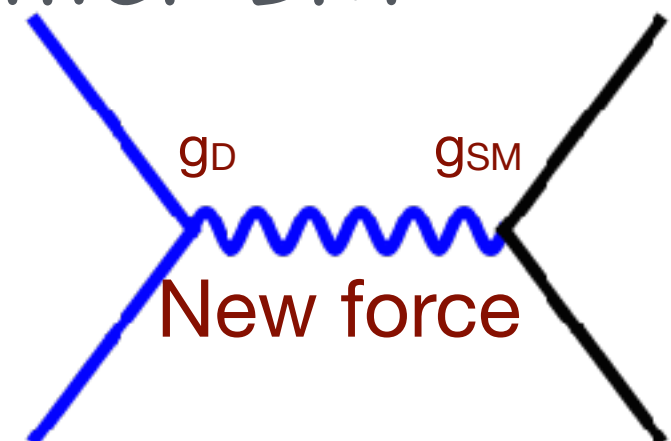
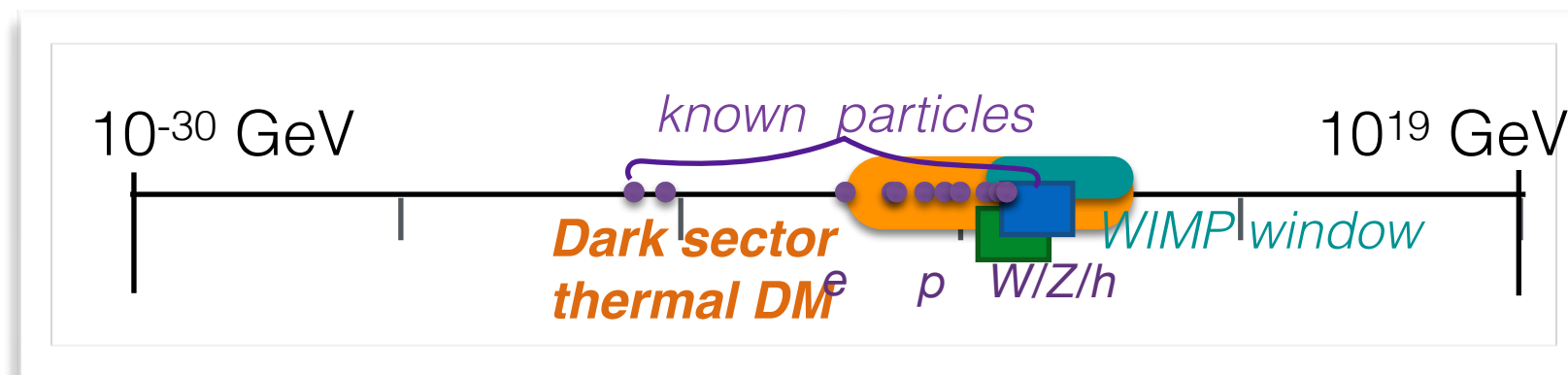
| | $U(1)_Y$ | $SU(2)_L$ | $SU(3)_C$ | Dark Force |
|-------|----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| L | $-1/2$ | 2 | - | - |
| e^c | $+1$ | - | - | - |
| Q | $+1/6$ | 2 | 3 | - |
| u^c | $-2/3$ | - | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}$ | - |
| d^c | $+1/3$ | - | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}$ | - |
| h | $-1/2$ | 2 | - | - |
| DM | | | | X |

WIMPs \rightarrow Dark Sectors

Simple, familiar particle content

Immediate rewards for DM charged under new force

- Stable due to new conserved charge
- Dark because no common charges with SM
- Nontrivial miracle: Generic, small cross-talk (“portals”) between SM and dark sector extends WIMP-like thermal freeze-out to lighter DM



Organizing Dark Sectors

with an Abundance Mindset

- Setting aside dark matter – how do you find a dark sector?
- How much does the search depend on the precise content of the dark sector (e.g. Does it have just one matter species? Is it as complex as the SM?)

Organizing Dark Sectors

with an Abundance Mindset

Standard Model Sector

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| h | $-1/2$ | 2 | - |

?

Dark Sector

| | $U(1)_X$ | $SU(N)_A$ | $SU(M)_B$ |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| a | Q_a | \square | |
| b | Q_b | | |
| c | Q_c | \square | \square |
| d | Q_d | | $\bar{\square}$ |
| ... | | | |

- Interactions relevant at low energies are those whose coupling has non-negative mass dimension (operator dimension ≤ 4)
- Interactions must be Lorentz-invariant, **SM** gauge-invariant, and **HS** gauge-invariant



Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

Organizing Dark Sectors

with an Abundance Mindset

Standard Model Sector

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Dark Sector

| | $U(1)_X$ | $SU(N)_A$ | $SU(M)_B$ |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| a | Q_a | \square | |
| b | Q_b | | |
| c | Q_c | \square | \square |
| d | Q_d | | $\bar{\square}$ |
| ... | | | |

SM gauge-invariant
dimension $d_{SM} \leq 3$

x

Same-Lorentz-structure
DS gauge-invariant
dimension $d_{HS} \leq 4 - d_{SM}$

Organizing Dark Sectors

Standard Model Sector

?

Dark Sector

$$B_{\mu\nu}$$

$$|h|^2$$

$$hL$$

$$q_i \bar{f}_i \gamma_\mu f_i$$

x

Same-Lorentz-structure
DS gauge-invariant
dimension $d_{\text{HS}} \leq 4 - d_{\text{SM}}$
(if it exists)

Organizing Dark Sectors

Standard Model Sector

?

Dark Sector

e.g.

$$B_{\mu\nu} \times \epsilon/2 F'^{\mu\nu}$$

(mixed kinetic term with dimensionless coeff ϵ)
...if dark sector has a **massive** Abelian gauge boson

Holdom, Okun 1980s

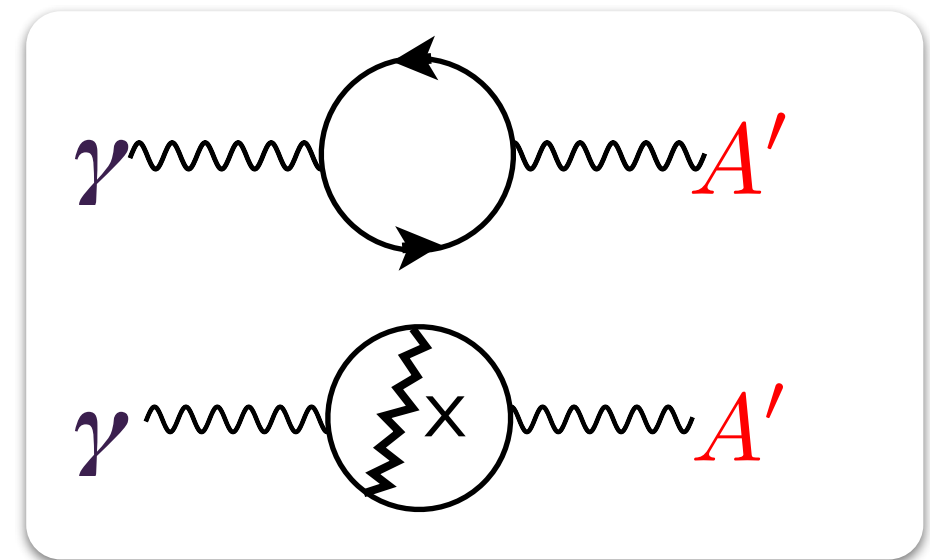
The Scale of Mixing

"Everything not forbidden is compulsory" – Gell-Mann

$$\frac{\epsilon}{2} B_{\mu\nu} F'^{\mu\nu}$$

Loops of heavy particles charged under both U(1)s generate small couplings

$$\epsilon \sim \frac{g_D e}{16\pi^2} \times \log(\dots) \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-6}$$



Non-perturbative effects can generate smaller couplings

The Portals

Standard Model Sector

?

Dark Sector

e.g.

$$B_{\mu\nu} \times \epsilon/2 F'^{\mu\nu}$$

Similarly, dark scalars and neutral fermions can mix with SM Higgs and neutrinos:

$$|h|^2 \times \mu S + \lambda |\phi|^2$$

$$hL \times y_N N$$

“portal mediators”

$$q_i \bar{f}_i \gamma_\mu f_i$$

$$g V^\mu$$

Gauge SM global symmetry
(not product structure)

Portals as Building Blocks

Just 3 interaction types dictate SM coupling to *generic* DS
→ lab and cosmological production

$$B_{\mu\nu} \quad \times \quad \epsilon/2 F'^{\mu\nu}$$

$$|h|^2 \quad \times \quad \mu S + \lambda |\phi|^2$$

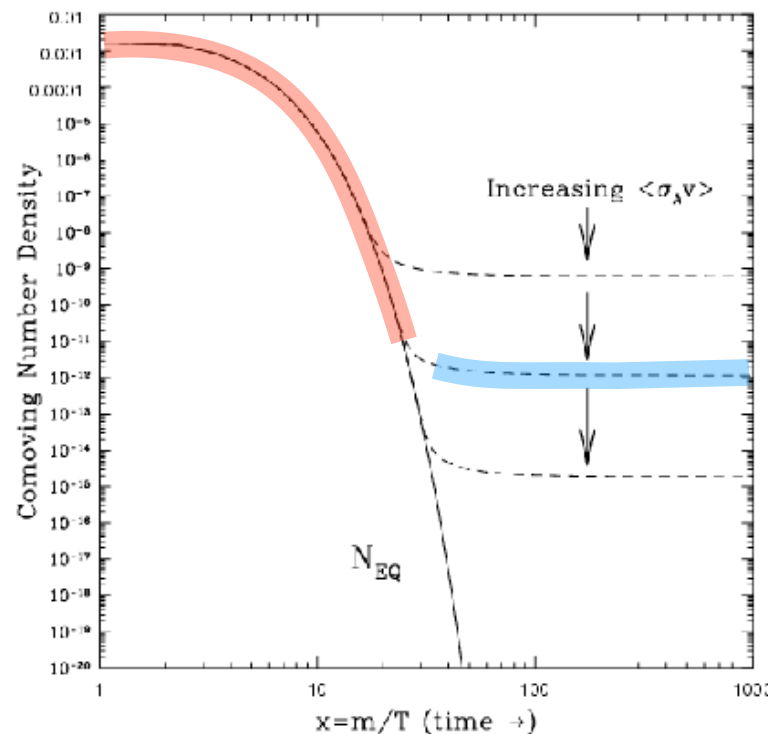
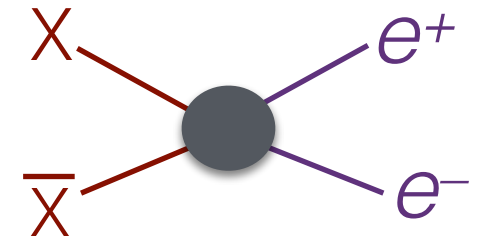
$$hL \quad \times \quad y_N N$$

Dark photon and Higgs couple weakly to SM matter, inheriting SM flavor structure (\mathbf{Q}_{EM} / $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{L,U,D}}$)

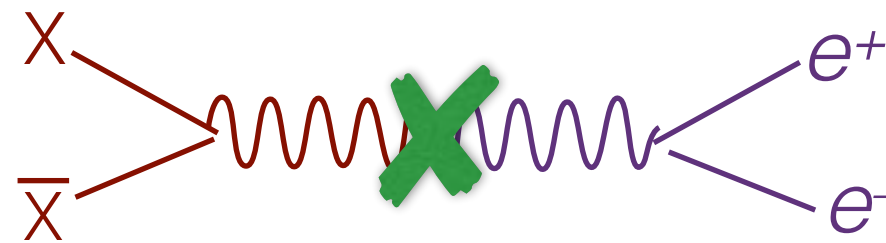
Lepton portal is like sterile neutrino, with new flavor structure

Portals to Dark Matter

Dark matter annihilation to SM matter was a core ingredient of thermal freeze-out, with cross-section fixed by DM abundance

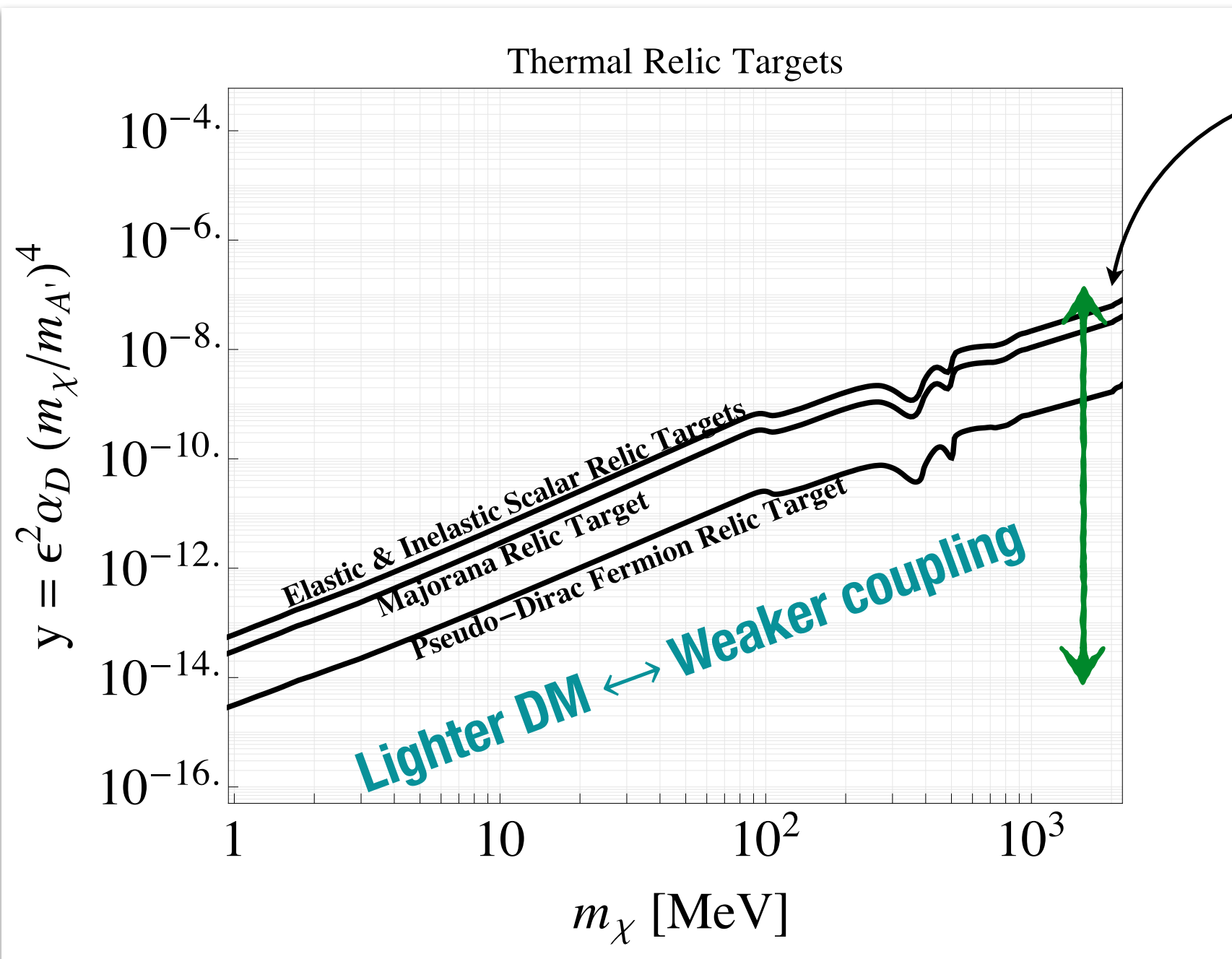


Portals mediate this annihilation!



Effectively, new force weakly coupled to SM matter

Portals to Dark Matter

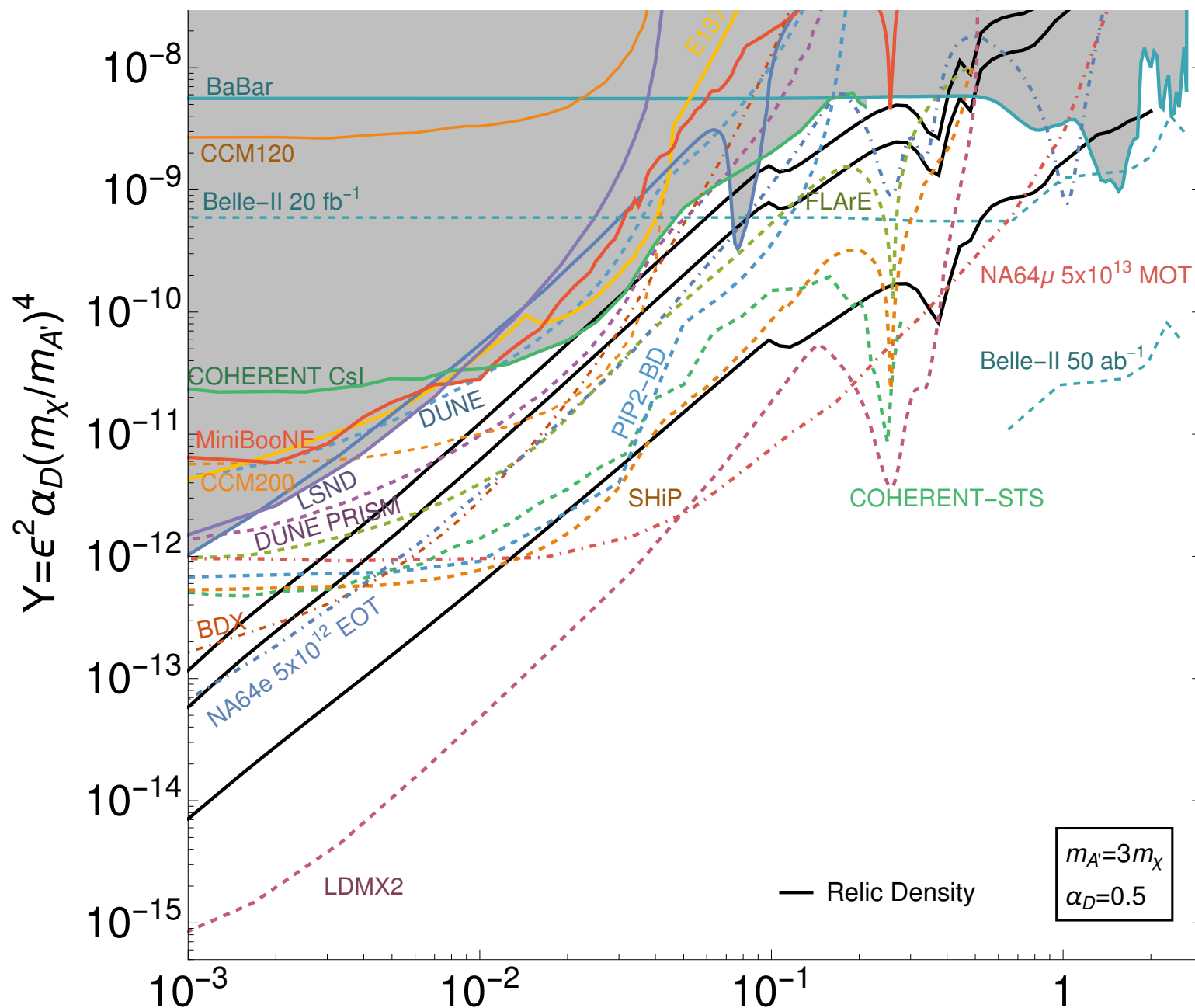


Interaction strengths needed for freeze-out are...

...consistent with expectation for perturbative kin. mixing

$\epsilon_{1-2} \text{ loop}^2 \times$ (couplings & mass ratios)

Portals to Dark Matter



Interaction strengths needed for freeze-out are...

...within a factor of 10-1000 of current experiments' sensitivity over most of the mass range

...accessible with the next generation of planned and DMNI-supported experiments! (see Stefania's talk)

Scalar portal ruled out by data

Neutrino portal also supports predictive and testable models (somewhat less explored)

Why Dark Sectors?

A **rich new window** for physics beyond the Standard Model, including **dark matter**

Three intertwined motivations:

- ❖ Viable, predictive, and discoverable models of light **dark matter** are a key motivation and anchor
- ❖ Symmetries of Standard Model provide a framework for **systematic exploration** of weakly-coupled new physics
- ❖ These arguments motivate possibility of **complexity in dark sector**, which we could discover experimentally

Portals On their Own

If mediator is lighter than any dark-sector matter (or the dark sector is minimal – i.e. just a portal mediator) then **mediator decays** also set by portal couplings.

$$B_{\mu\nu} \quad \times \quad \epsilon/2 F'^{\mu\nu}$$

$$|h|^2 \quad \times \quad \mu S + \lambda |\phi|^2$$

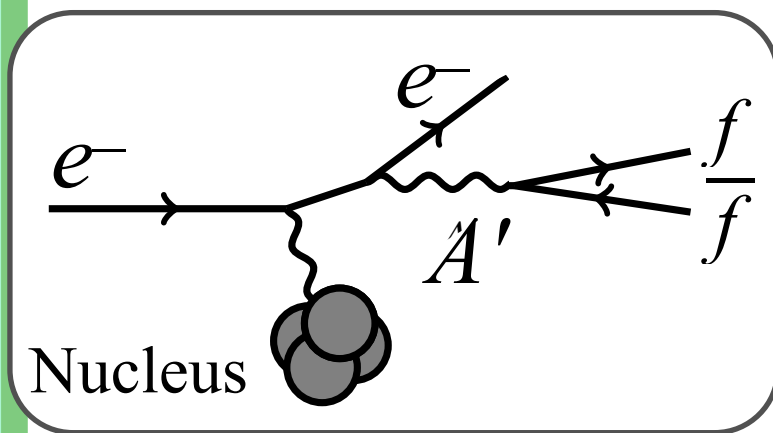
$$hL \quad \times \quad y_N N$$

Portals On their Own

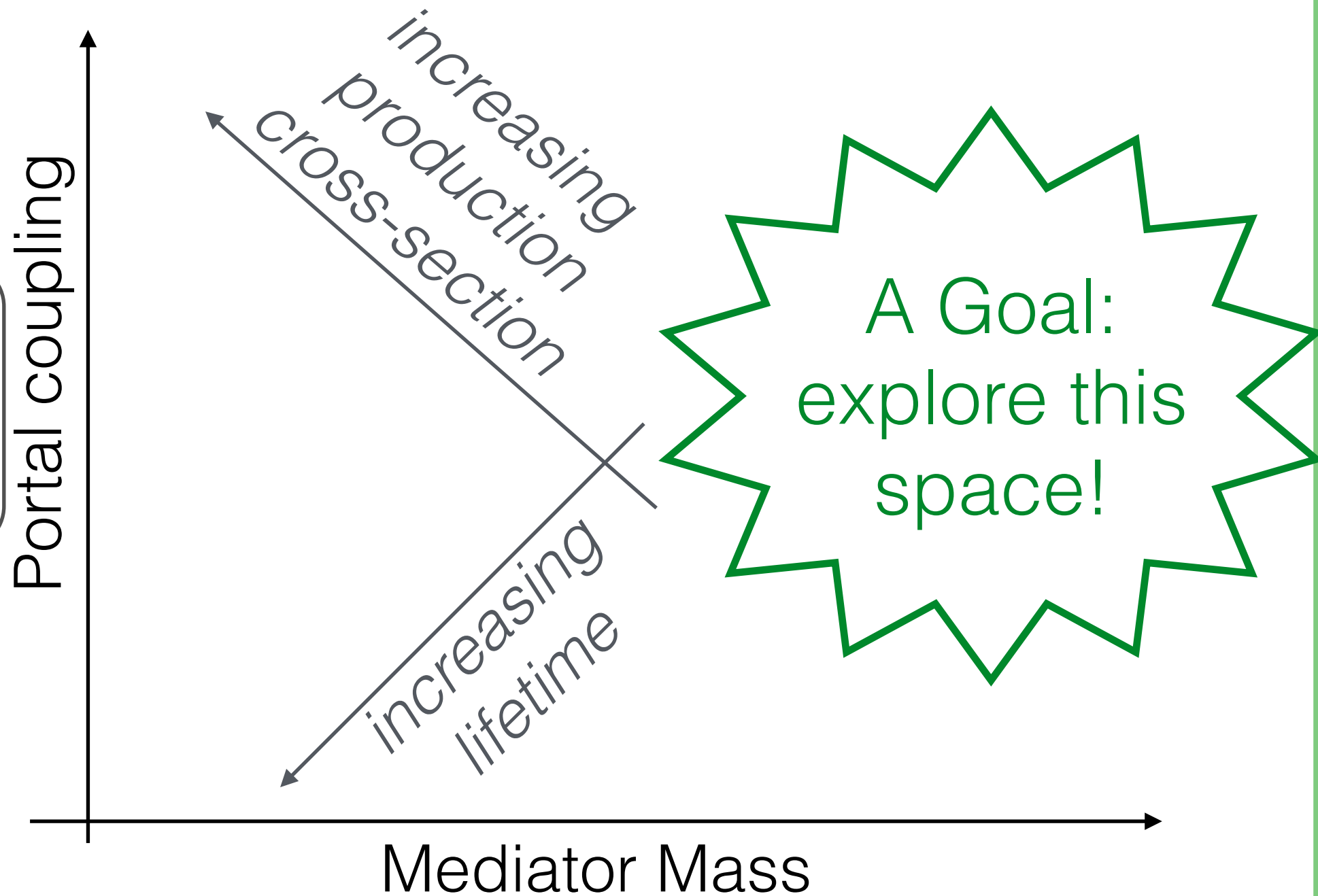
A Range of Signals

Example:

$$\frac{\epsilon}{2} B_{\mu\nu} F'^{\mu\nu}$$



+ analogues for
other portals &
production
mechanisms



Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

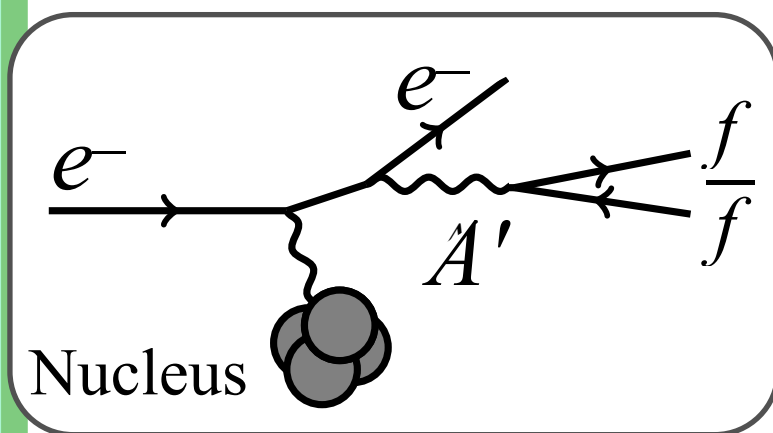
Rich Possibilities

Portals On their Own

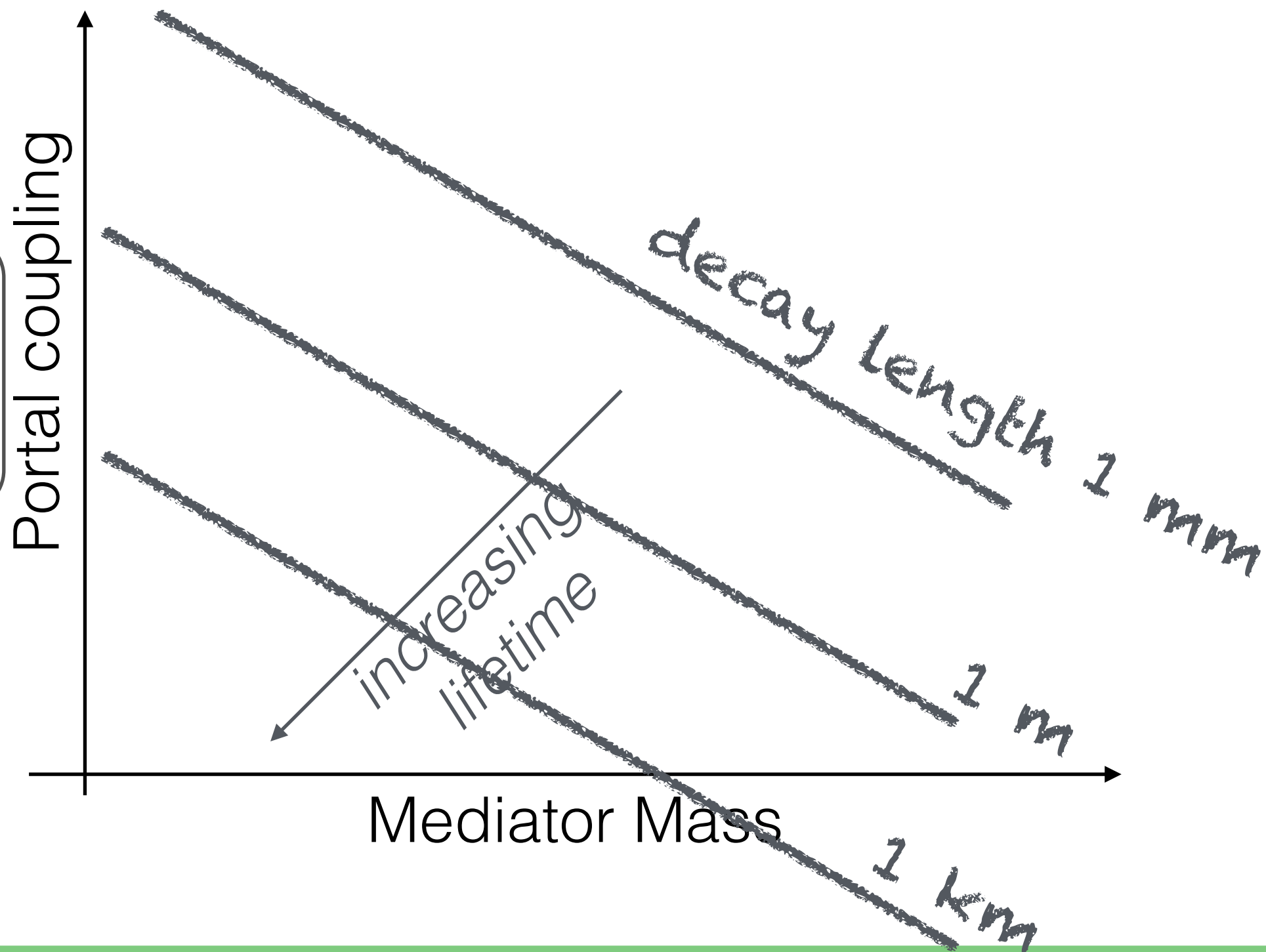
A Range of Signals

Example:

$$\frac{\epsilon}{2} B_{\mu\nu} F'^{\mu\nu}$$



+ analogues for
other portals &
production
mechanisms



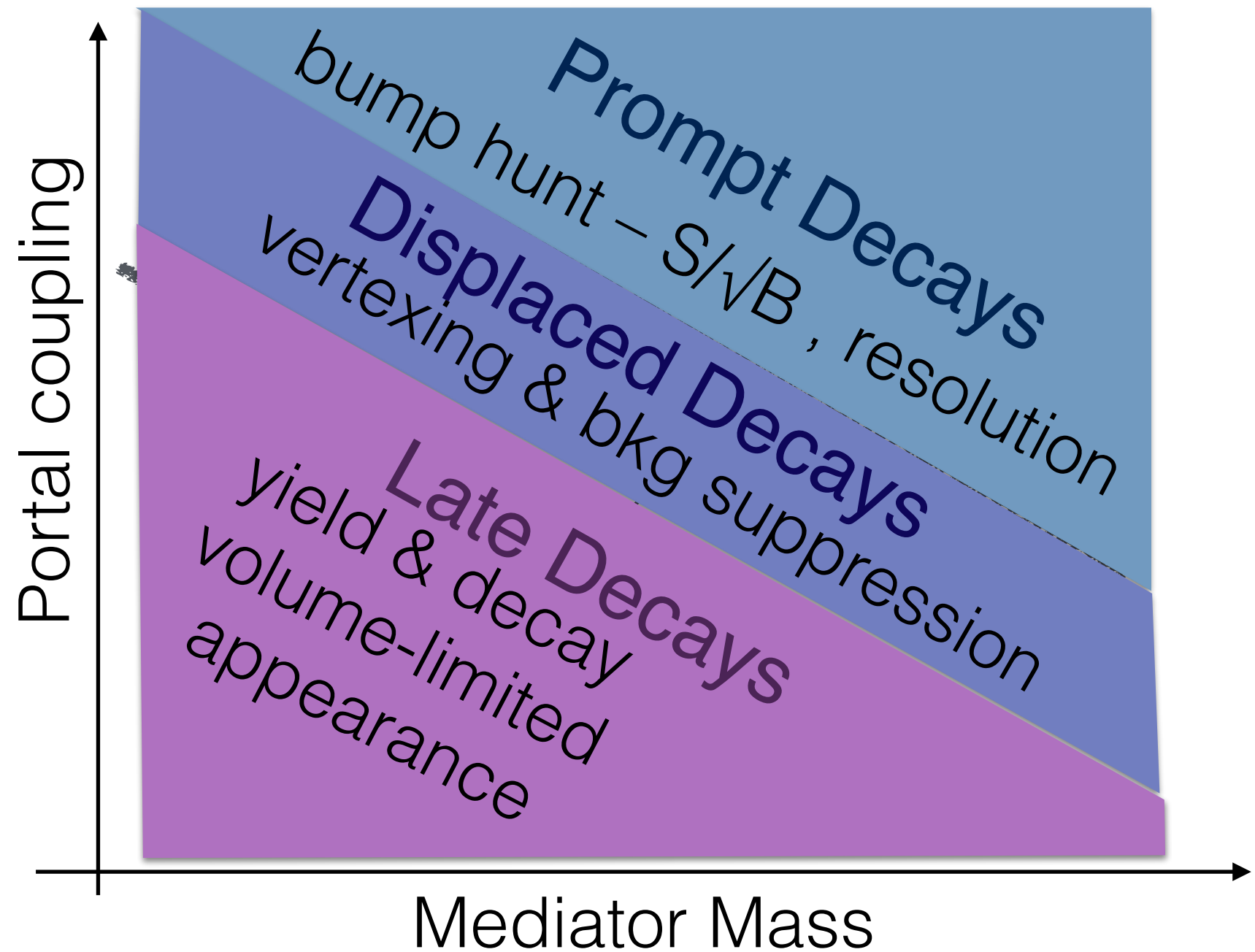
Dark Matter

Systematic Exploration

Rich Possibilities

Portals On their Own

Lifetime
→
sensitivity
drivers



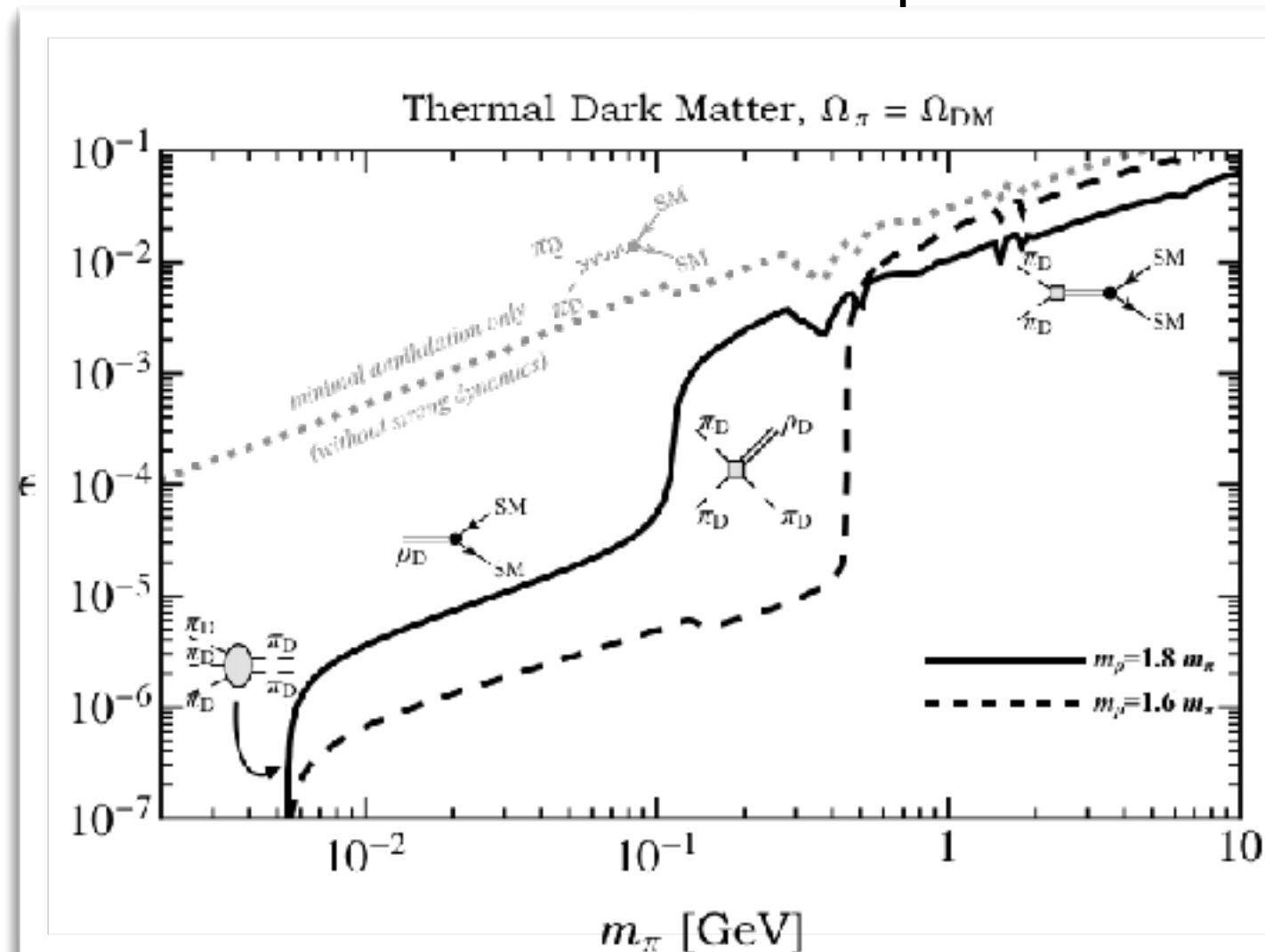
Thinking Broadly

What if There's More?

- Robustness to complicated dark sectors is important!

- In DM models, DM is stabilized by “being the lightest”. But heavier **excited states** can play important roles in DM freeze-out and searches.

(e.g. SIMP cosmology studied in 1801.05805)

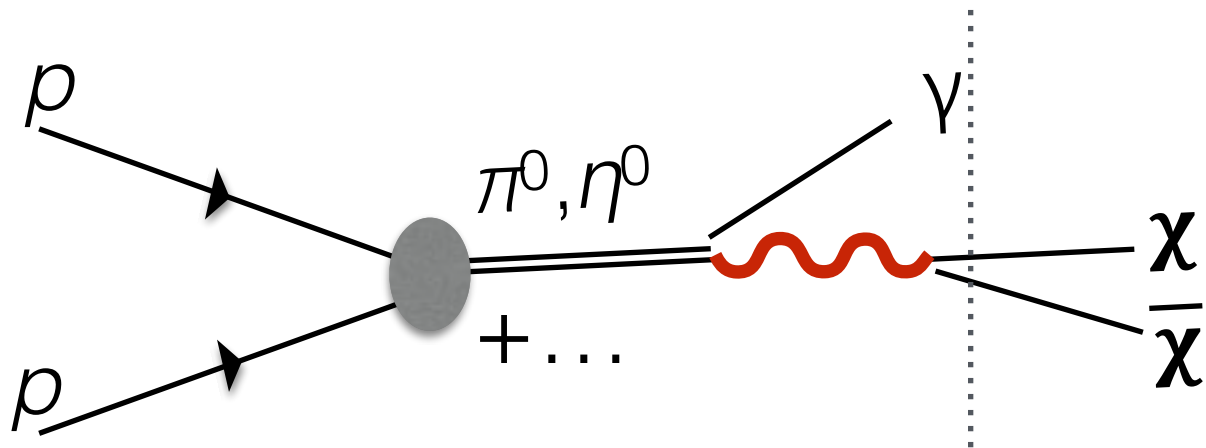


Thinking Broadly

Beyond Dark Matter

- Outside of DM motivation, multi-stage visible decays are also possible
- Finally, generalizations of the basic portals are motivated by several anomalies in data

What you Look For Depends on What You Want to Find



Facilities & portals dictate initial & intermediate states – but each motivation points towards a different type of final state

Explore **predictive DM models** (mainly) by **producing DM particles**

non-SM

Systematically study **minimal couplings** to dark sectors via **mediator decays to SM**

SM

Hunt for **complexity in the dark sector** through **mixed visible/invisible decay chains**

mixed

Goals for This Talk

- What are dark sectors, and why are they exciting?
- Why are **small and multi-purpose Intensity Frontier* accelerator-based experiments** essential to confront this landscape?

*in a broad sense – e.g. including neutrino experiments, LHCb, Belle II, forward auxiliary detector proposals at LHC, ...

Why Accelerators?

- Fundamentally complementary to direct detection!

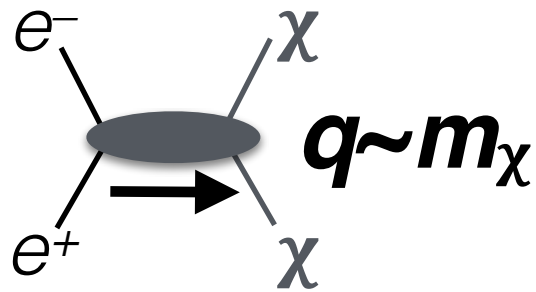
1. Address different questions

- Accelerators can explore the whole dark sector, direct detection only sees stable parts
- Direct detection probes cosmological abundance & stability, accelerators do not
- Measure different properties – and even more powerful when you can use both.

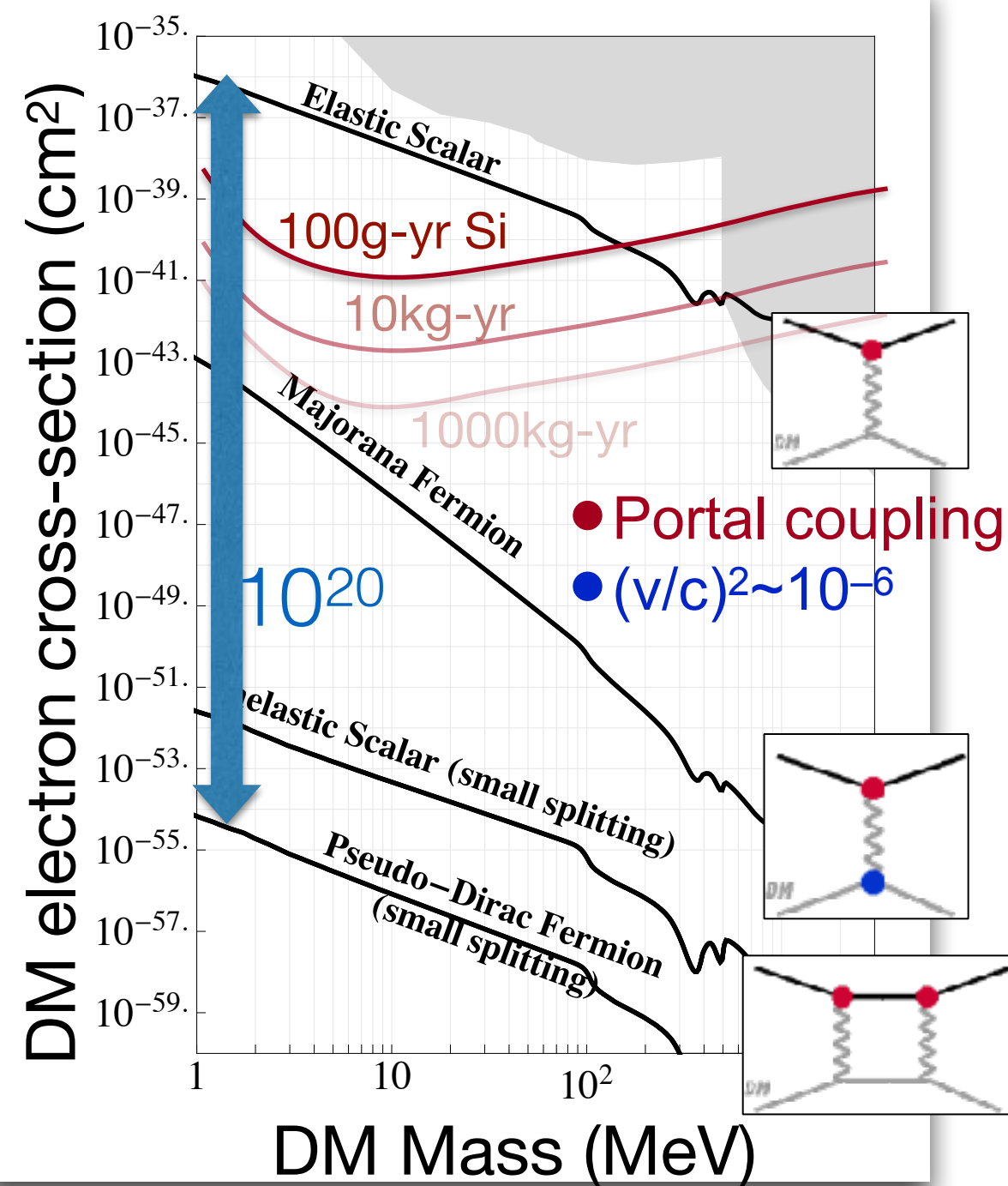
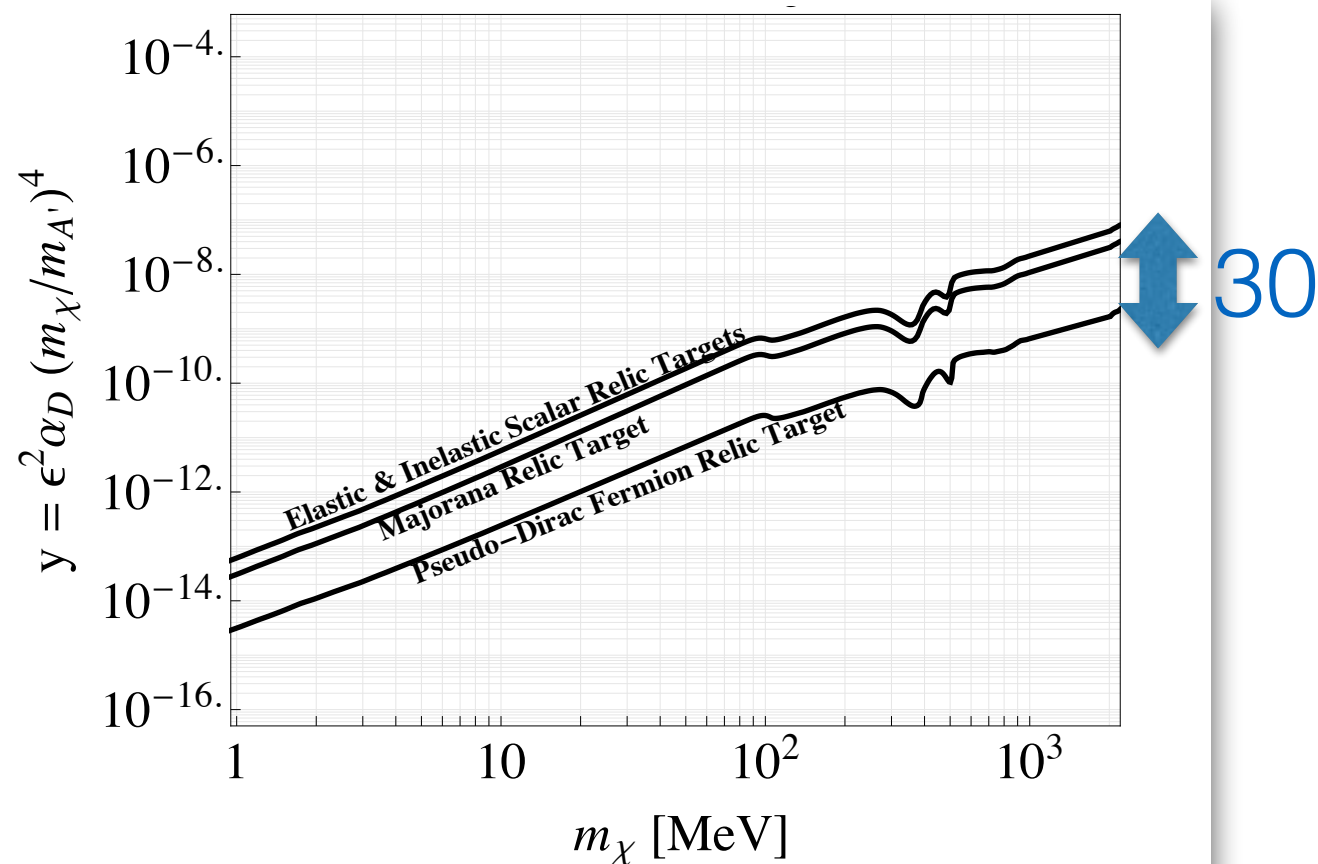
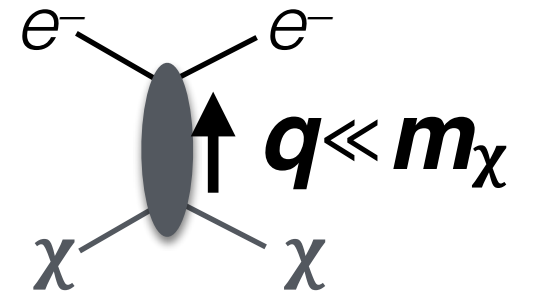
2. Different kinematics (non-relativistic halo vs. relativistic production) → Different parametric sensitivity

Kinematics Matters

Accelerator
Production



Direct
Detection



Kinematic similarity to freeze-out
temperature \Rightarrow narrow band

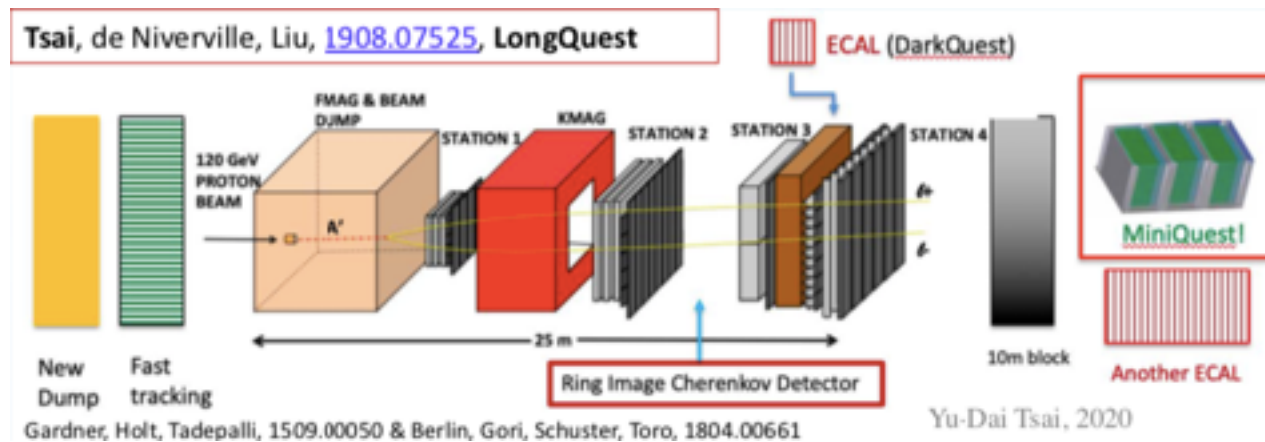
But note $q \ll m_\chi$ **enhances** other
models' signals \Rightarrow need both!

Why Intensity?

- Physics crosses frontiers, but also cares about details! **Low- and high-energy experiments**, as well as **small and multi-purpose experiments**, complement each other *because* they have different strengths.
- A few examples of enabling capabilities & configurations for dark-sector discovery experiments

Near, Forward, Specialized Detectors

p beam: DarkQuest/LongQuest/SpinQuest



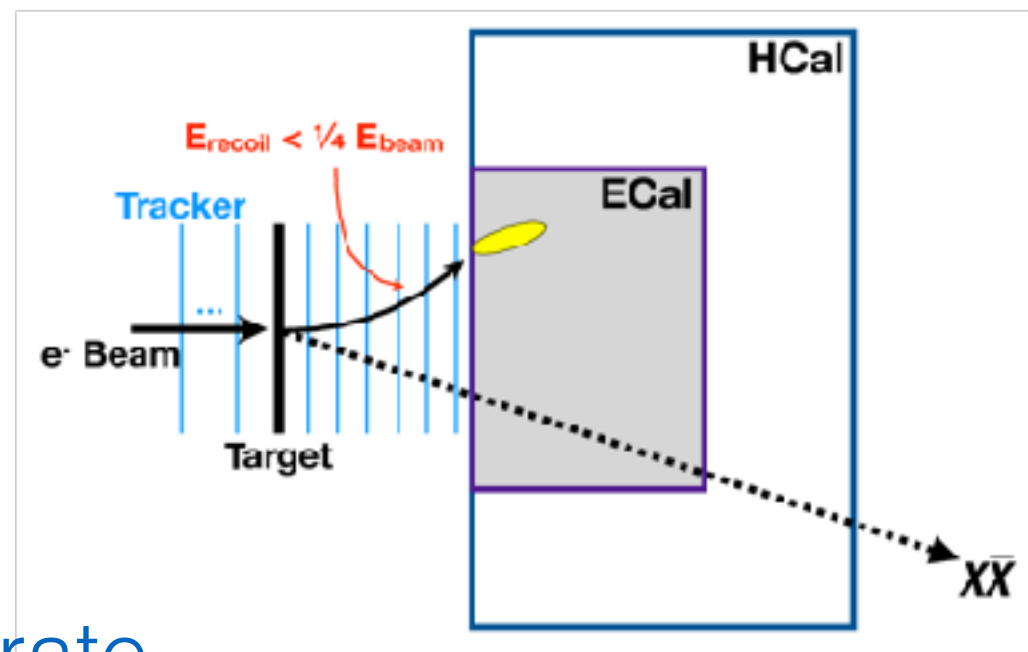
Excellent for low-mass displaced vtx sensitivity

HPS and LHCb VELO at LHC hug sides of beam to measure shorter decays

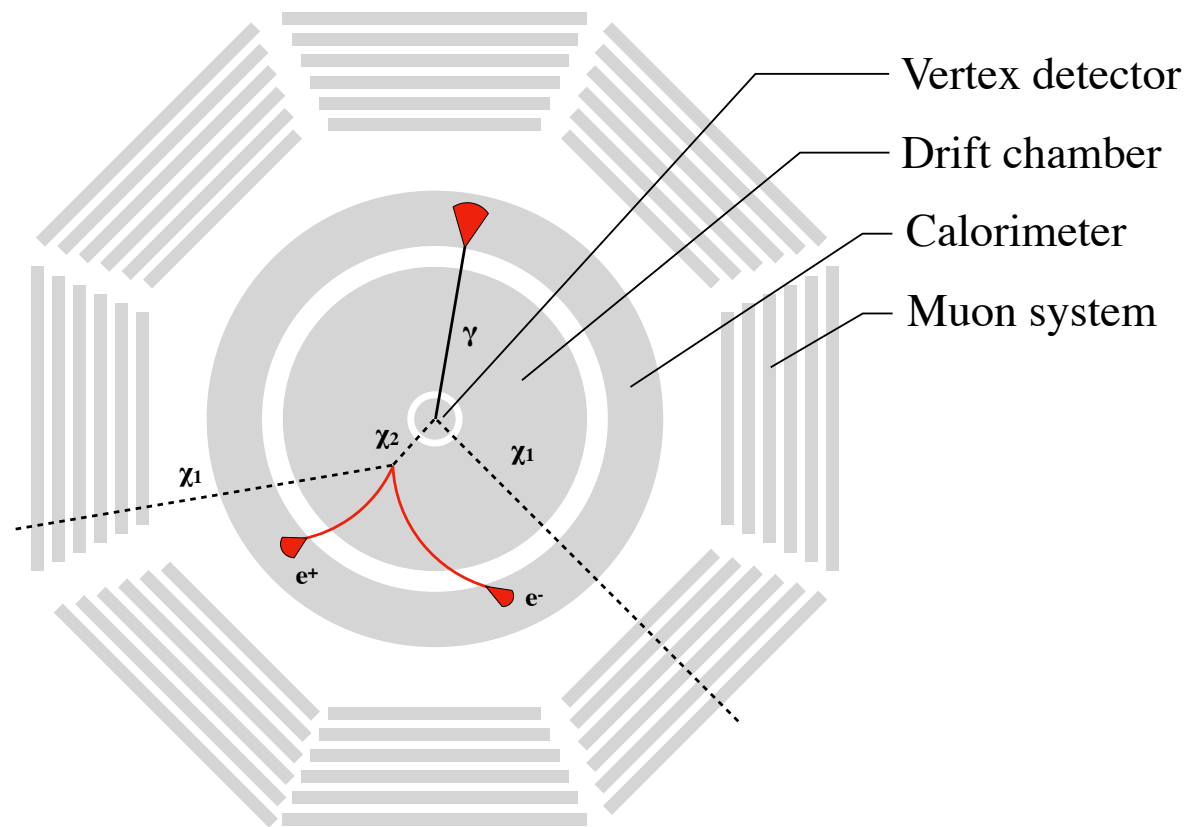
e beam: HPS

Unique capability to “image” individual beam particles for DM search *a la* NA64, LDMX

rely on low bunch charge
 \Rightarrow motivates high repetition rate



Friendlier Environment for Low-Energy Final-States

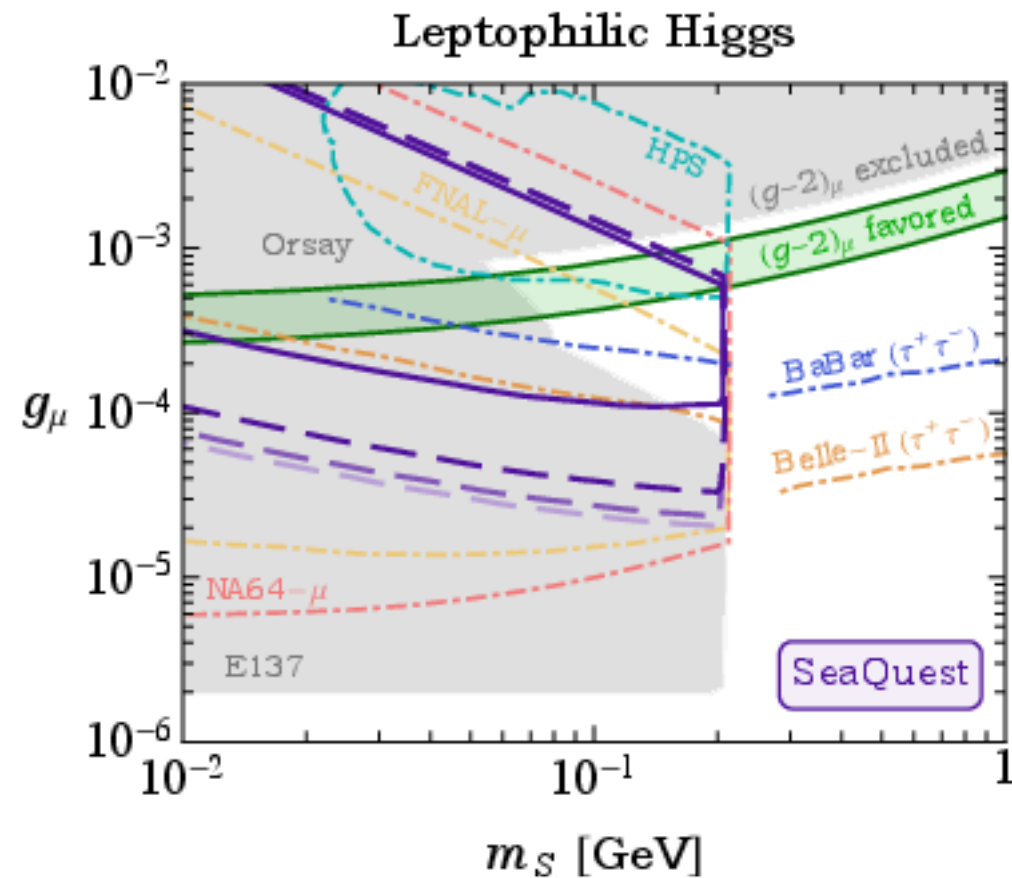


- Belle-II inelastic DM production search [1911.03176] exploits **O(50 MeV)** energy & pair-mass thresholds

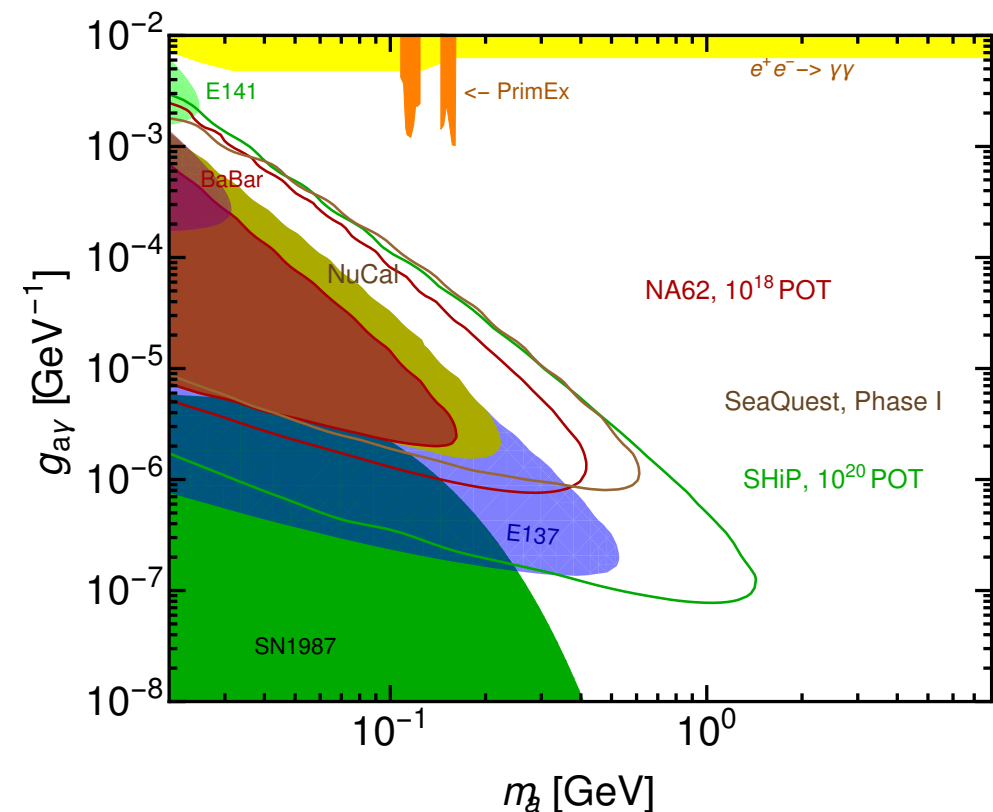
(buried in pile-up at LHC)

Secondary Beams

Collimated showers of secondary particles can seed reactions for which primary beam particle has insufficient coupling

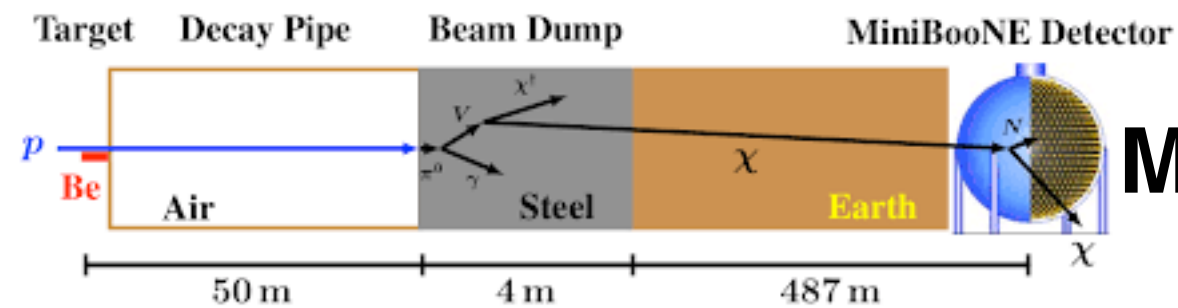
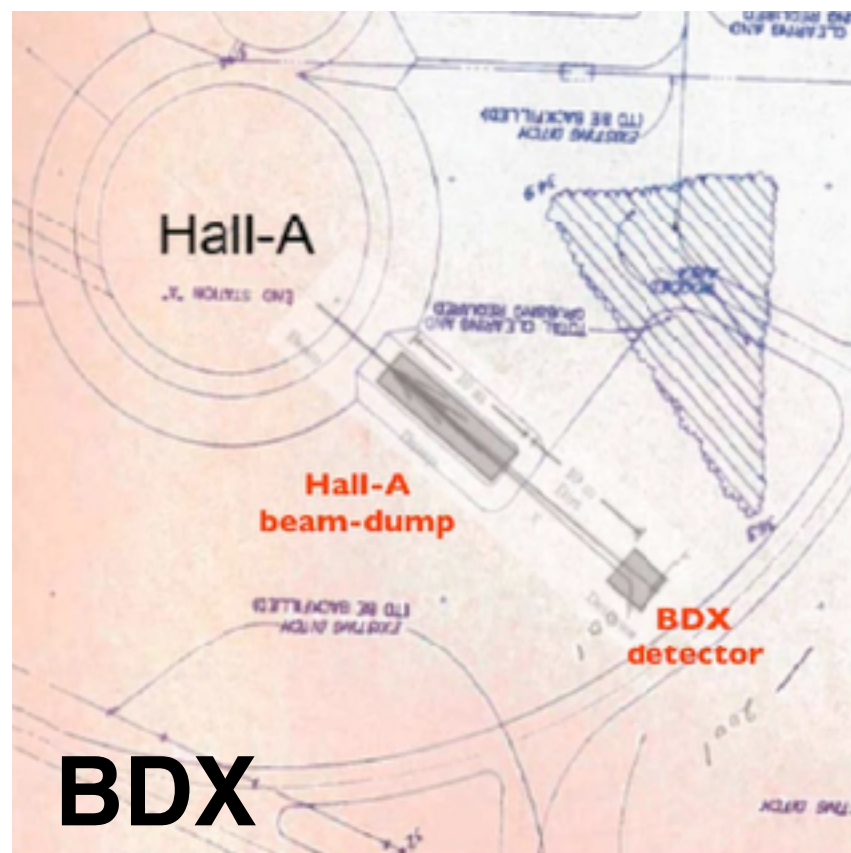


1804.00661 Berlin, Gori, Schuster, NT
leptophilic Higgs from secondary muons



1904.02091 Döbrich, Jaeckel, Spadaro
ALPs from secondary photons

Long Baselines & Large Instrumented Volumes

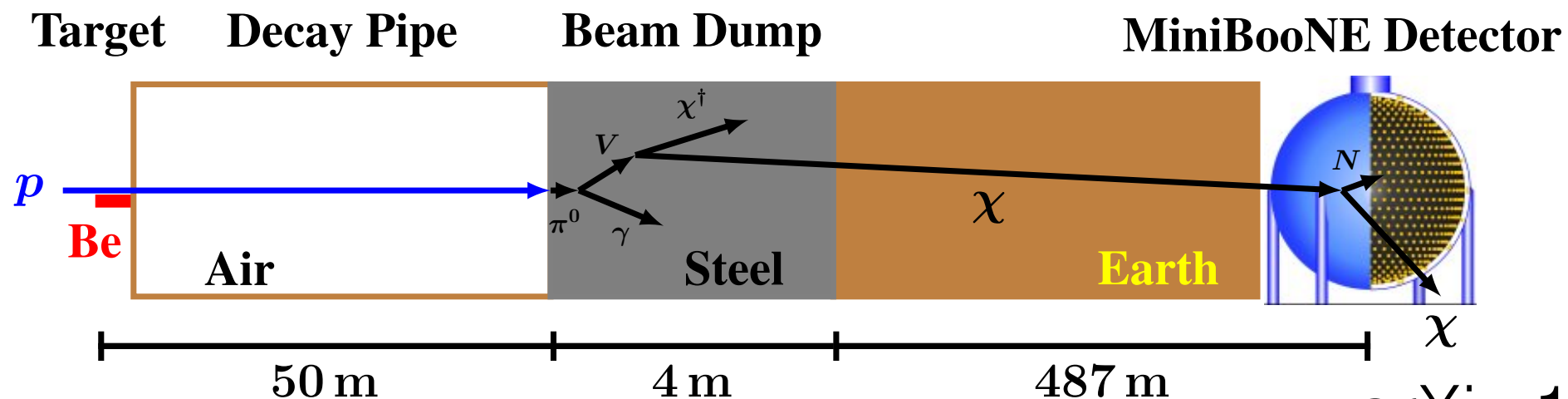


Mini-BooNE DM



Strong synergy with Energy and Neutrino Frontiers –
see Brian Battel and Jonathan Feng's talks

High Luminosities



arXiv:1807.06137

- e.g. 10^{20} (10^{23}) protons on target at MiniBooNE (COHERENT)
 - Typical proton travels 10s of cm through the dump \rightarrow luminosities at the level of $10^4\text{--}10^7 \text{ ab}^{-1}$
 - Similar story for electron beam dumps, w/ distinct shielding, background, detector size trade-offs
- This extreme luminosity **allows searches for signals with inherently tiny efficiency** like dark matter scattering in downstream detector.

Road to Discovery

- Accelerator-based experiments are needed to explore the parameter space of predictive thermal DM models; they give complementary insights into the particle physics of the dark sector
- The broad range of signals that can arise from dark sectors calls for targeted experimental designs

Conclusion

- Dark Sectors, with **dark matter** as powerful motivation, represent a **rich new window** for physics beyond the Standard Model.
- High-impact parameter-space – **including thermal dark matter milestones** – can be explored within the decade!
- **Small-scale accelerator-based experiments** and creative analyses of multi-purpose experiments are key to exploring this physics and mutually complementary