

School and Workshop on Dark Matter and Neutrino Detection  
Dark Matter — Direct Detection  
Lecture 1



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Northwestern



# Outline

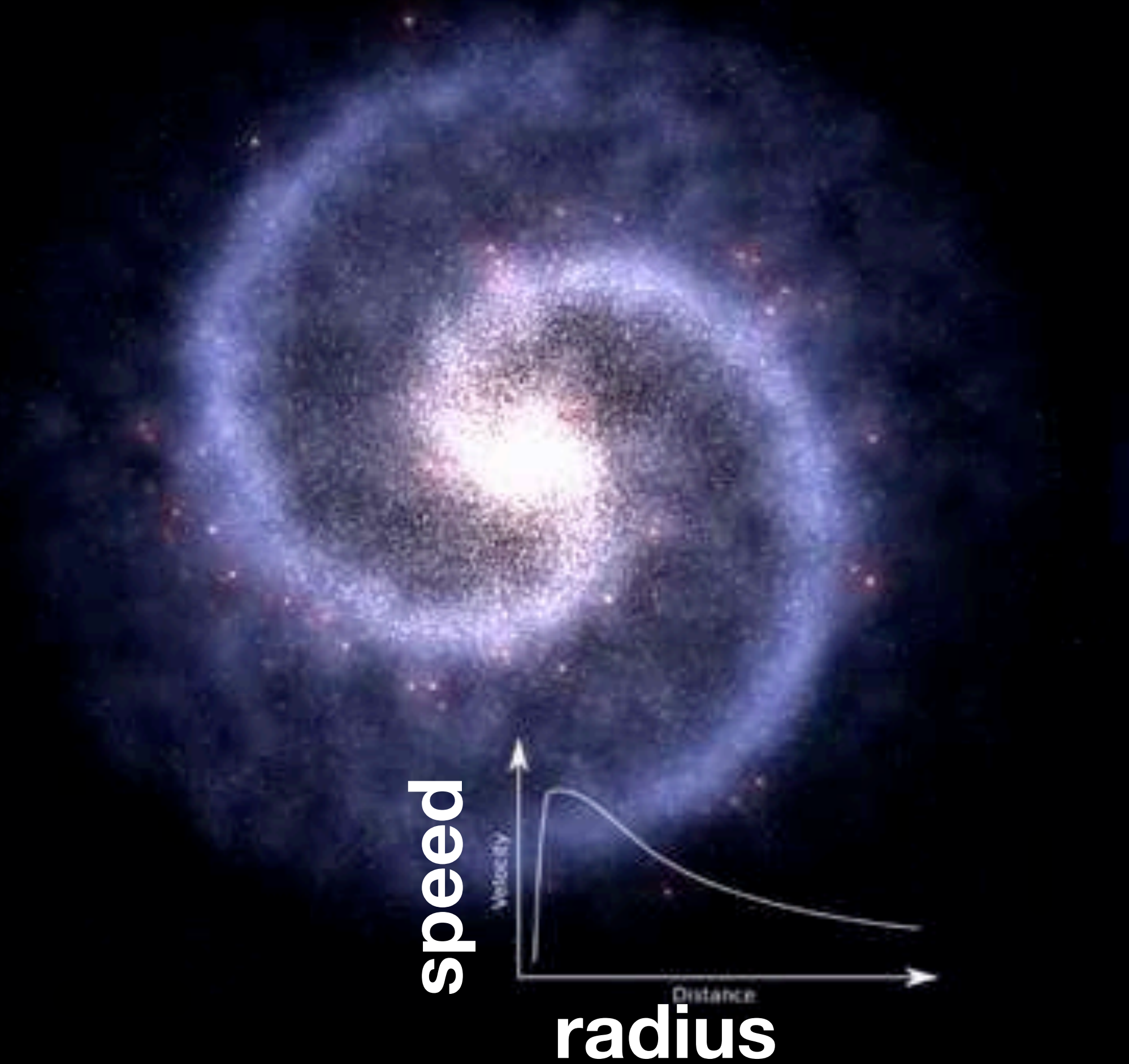
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- Lecture 1:
  - The dark matter problem
  - WIMP and WIMP-like DM detection
- Lecture 2:
  - WIMP detection technologies
  - Current and future limits
- Lecture 3:
  - More 1-10 GeV DM detection technologies
- To the Neutrino Floor, and beyond!
- Lecture 4:
  - The SuperCDMS Experiment
  - meV - 1 GeV direct detection
- Lecture 5:
  - Indirect sterile neutrino detection

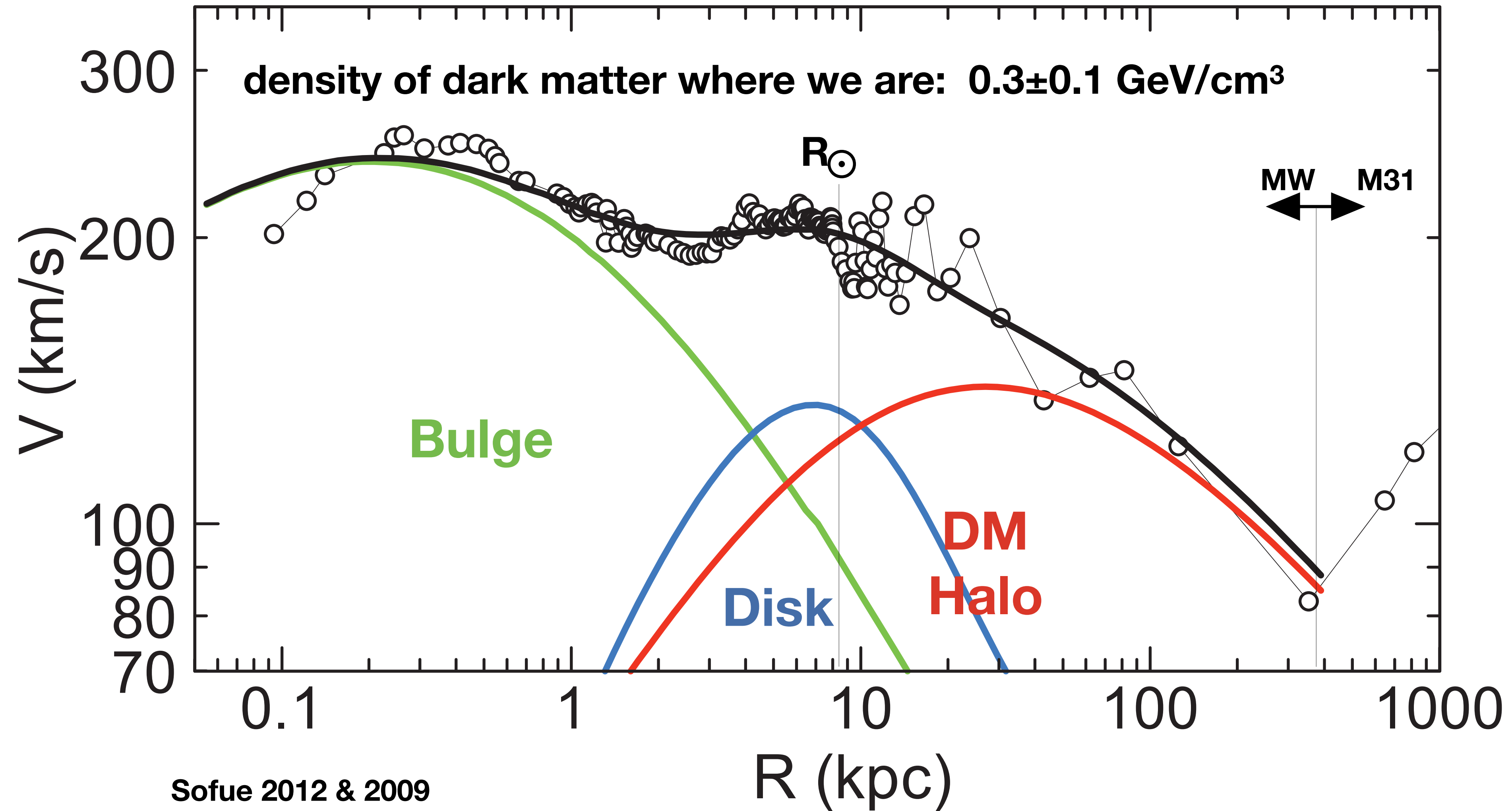
# The Dark Matter Problem

# Galaxy Rotation Curves

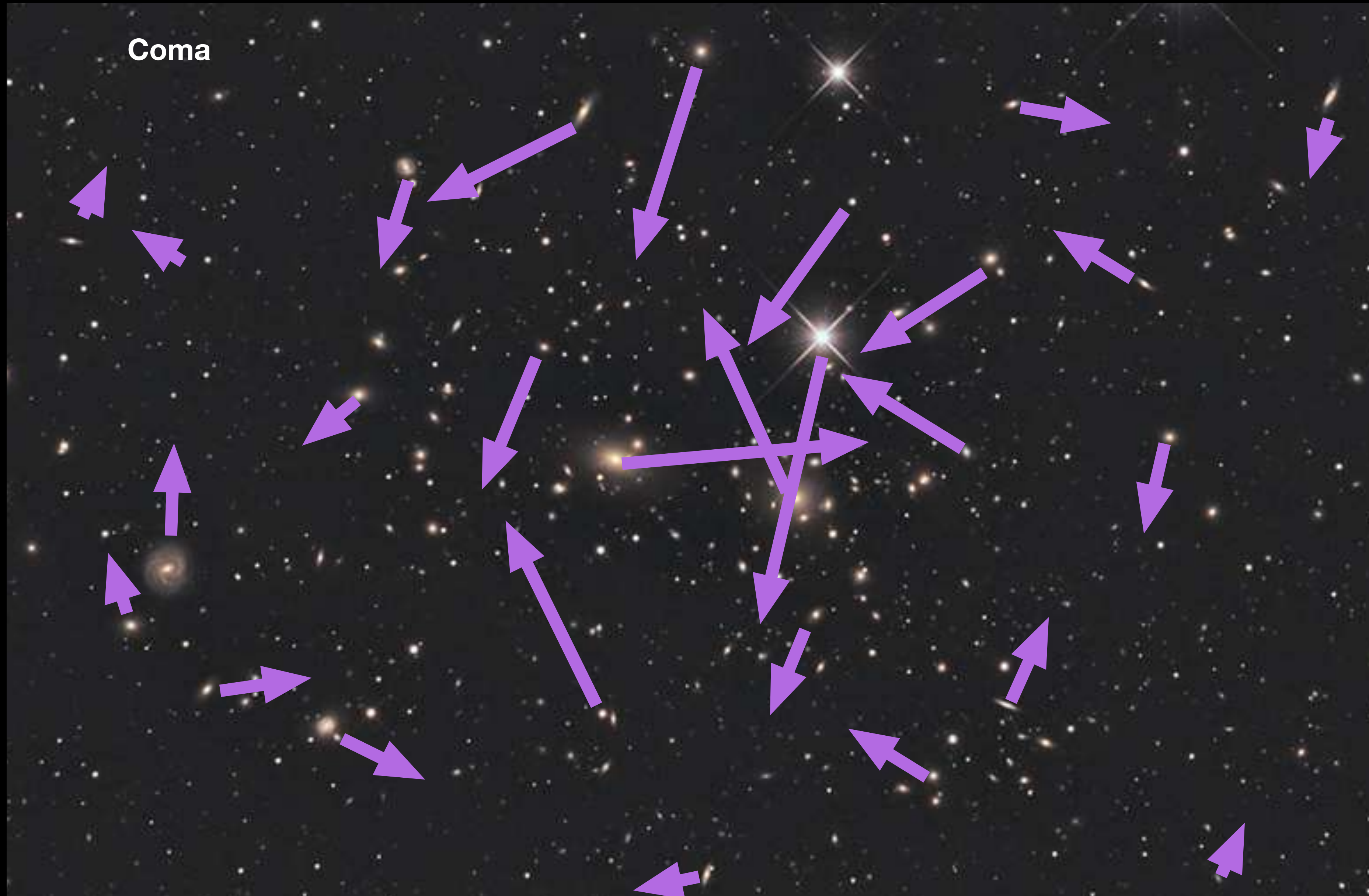
expect slow orbits at high  
radius



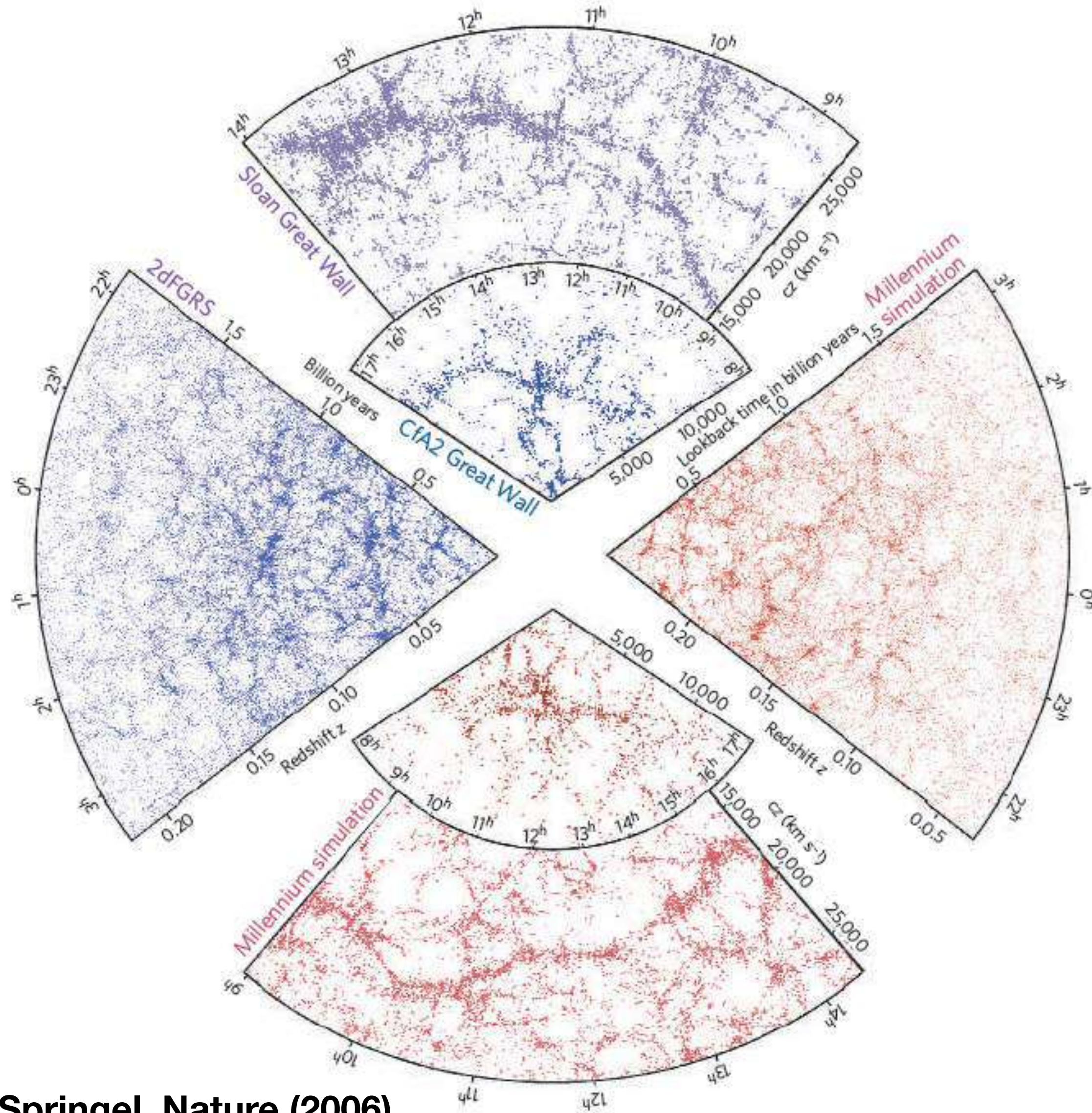
# Rotation Curve of the Milky Way



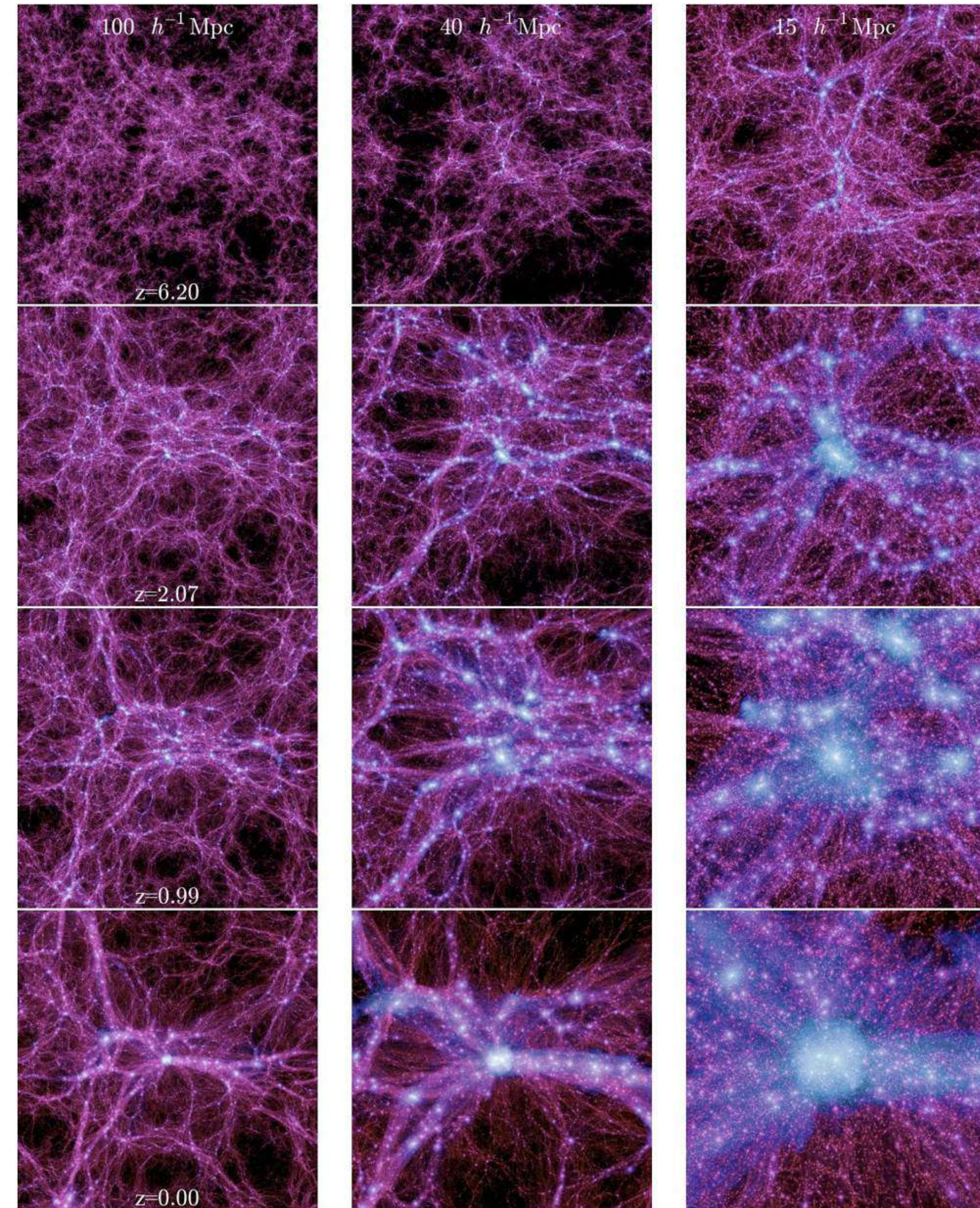
# Galaxy Velocities in Clusters



# Models of Structure Formation

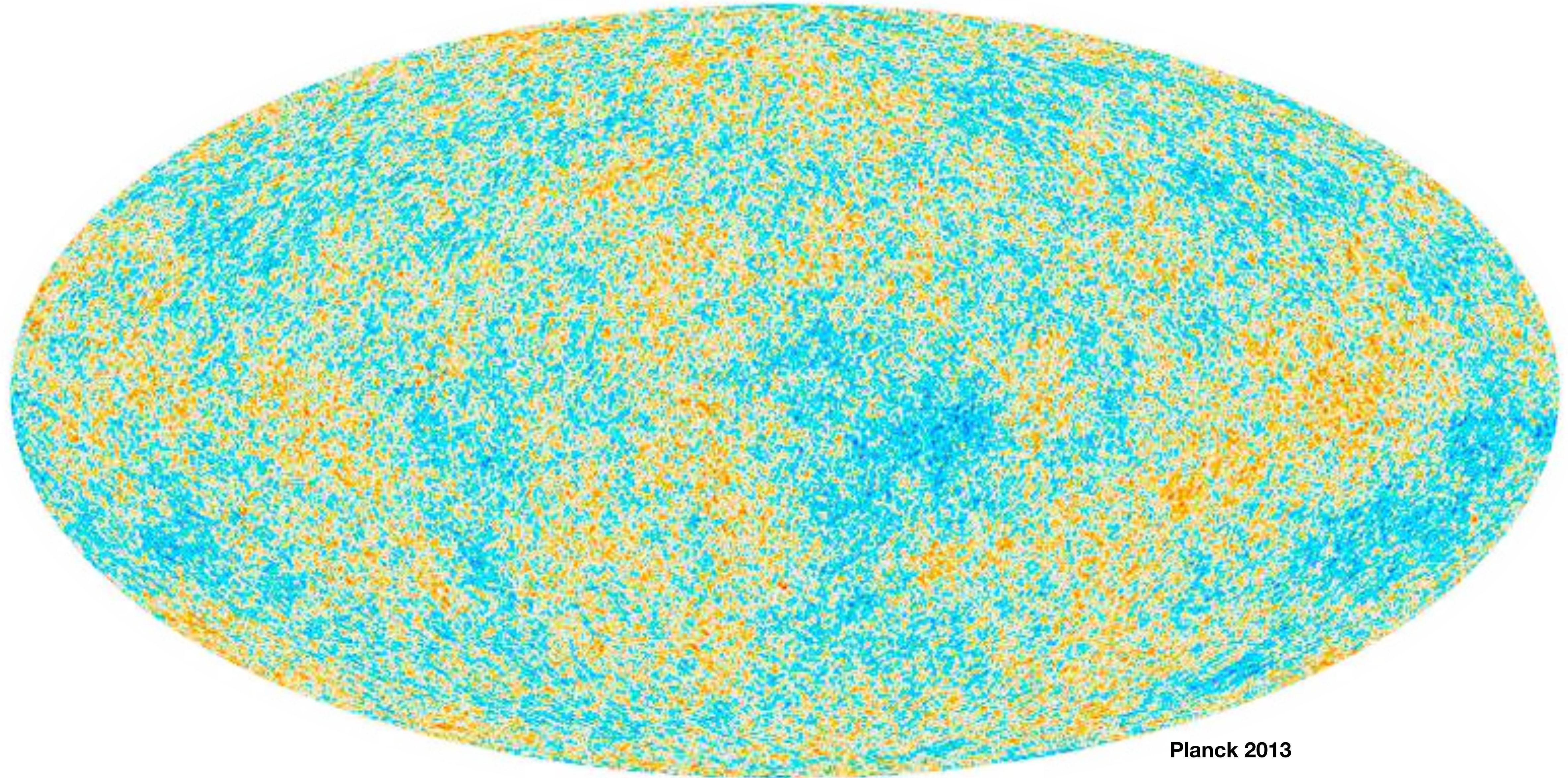


Springel, Nature (2006)



# Fits to Cosmic Microwave Background

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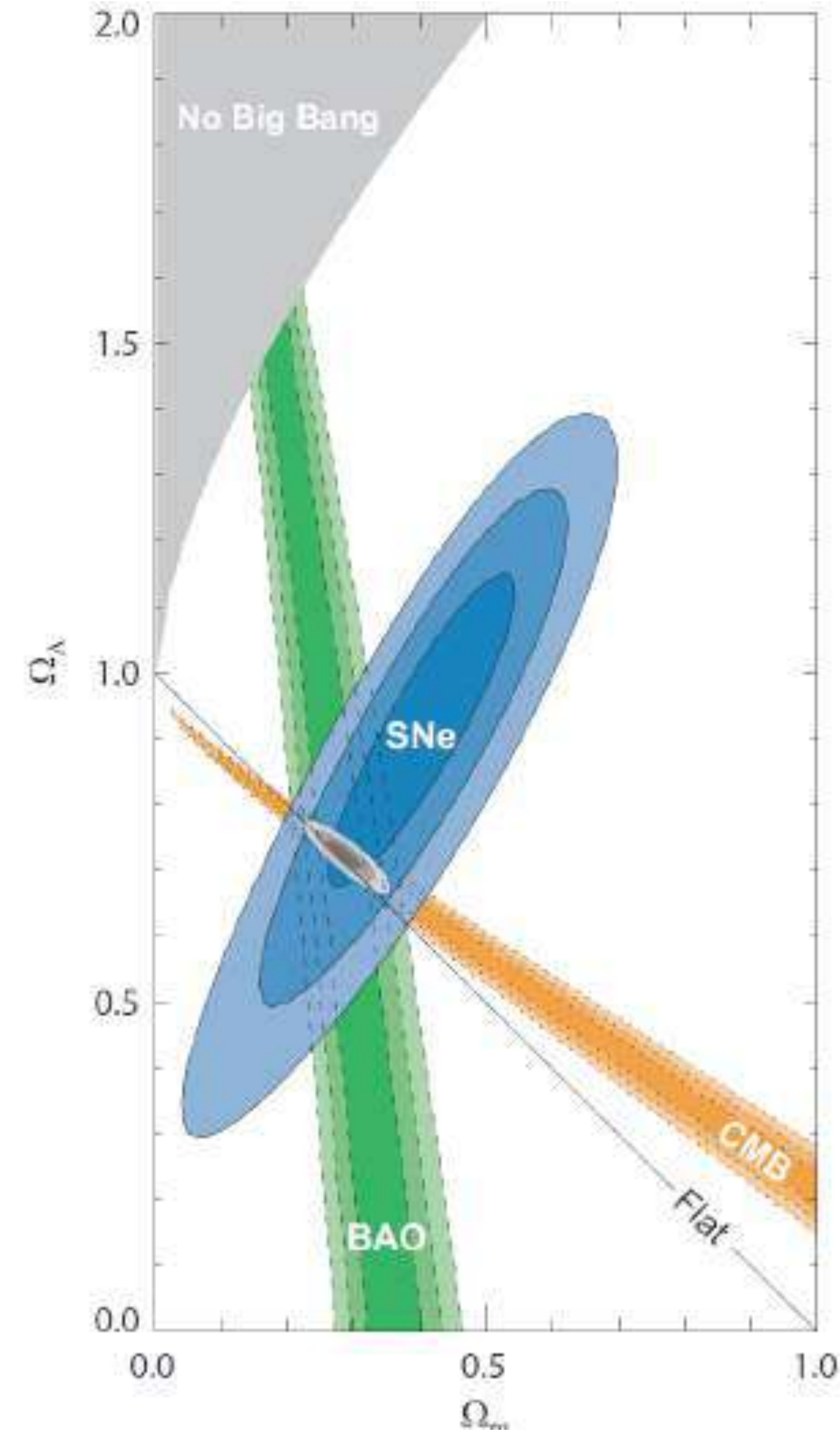
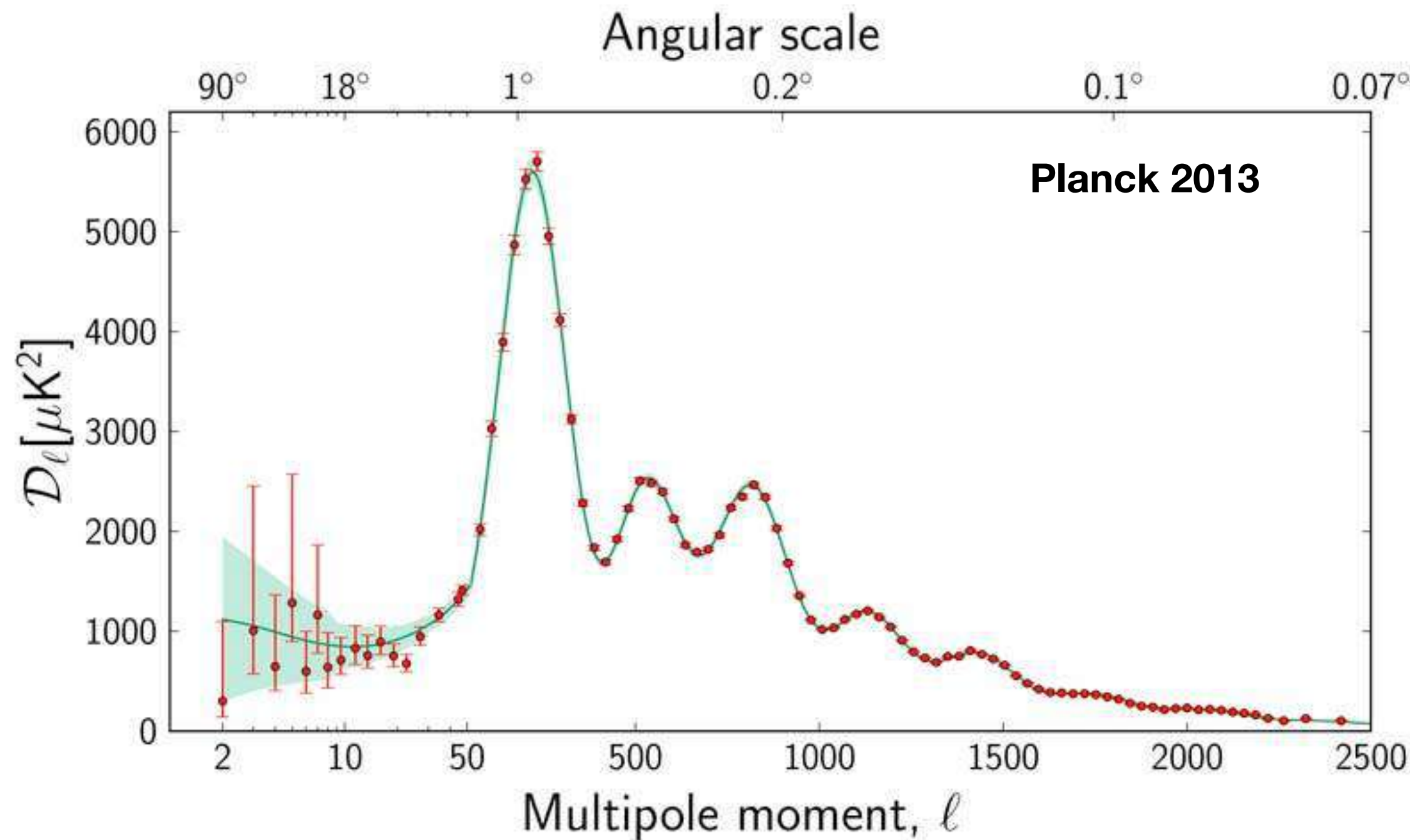
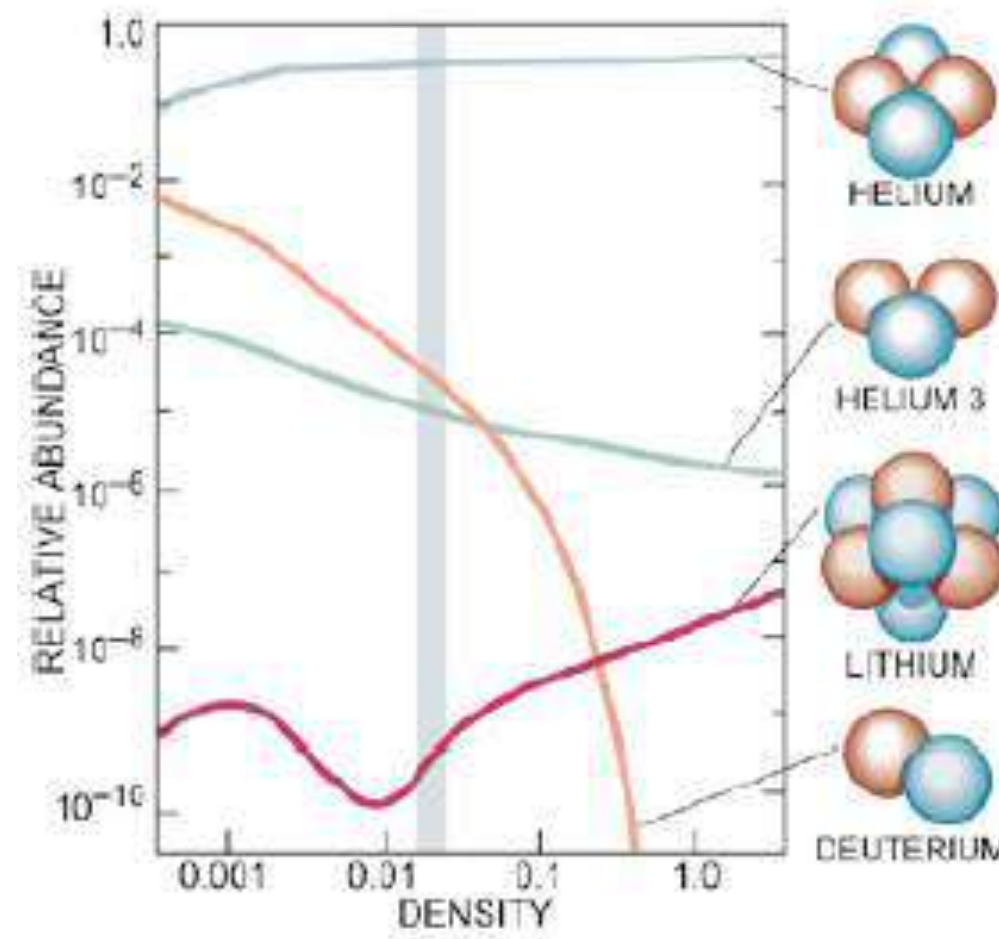


Planck 2013

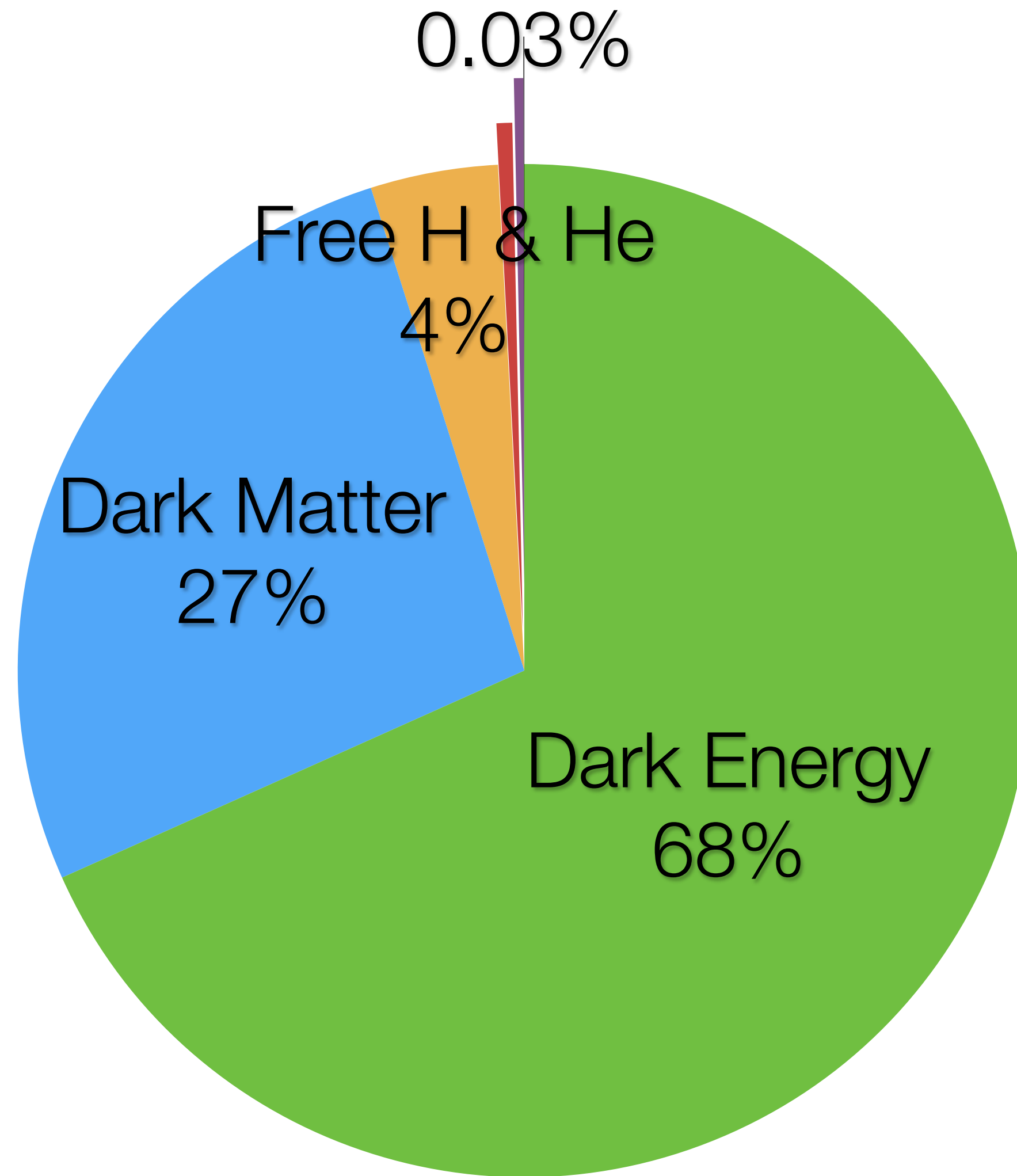


# The $\Lambda$ CDM Model of Cosmology

**One model has emerged that fits all the observations with only 6 parameters.**



# The $\Lambda$ CDM Model of Cosmology



**We don't know what 95% of the Universe is made of!**

**This model raises some truly fundamental physics questions:**

**What is Dark Matter?**

**What is Dark Energy?**

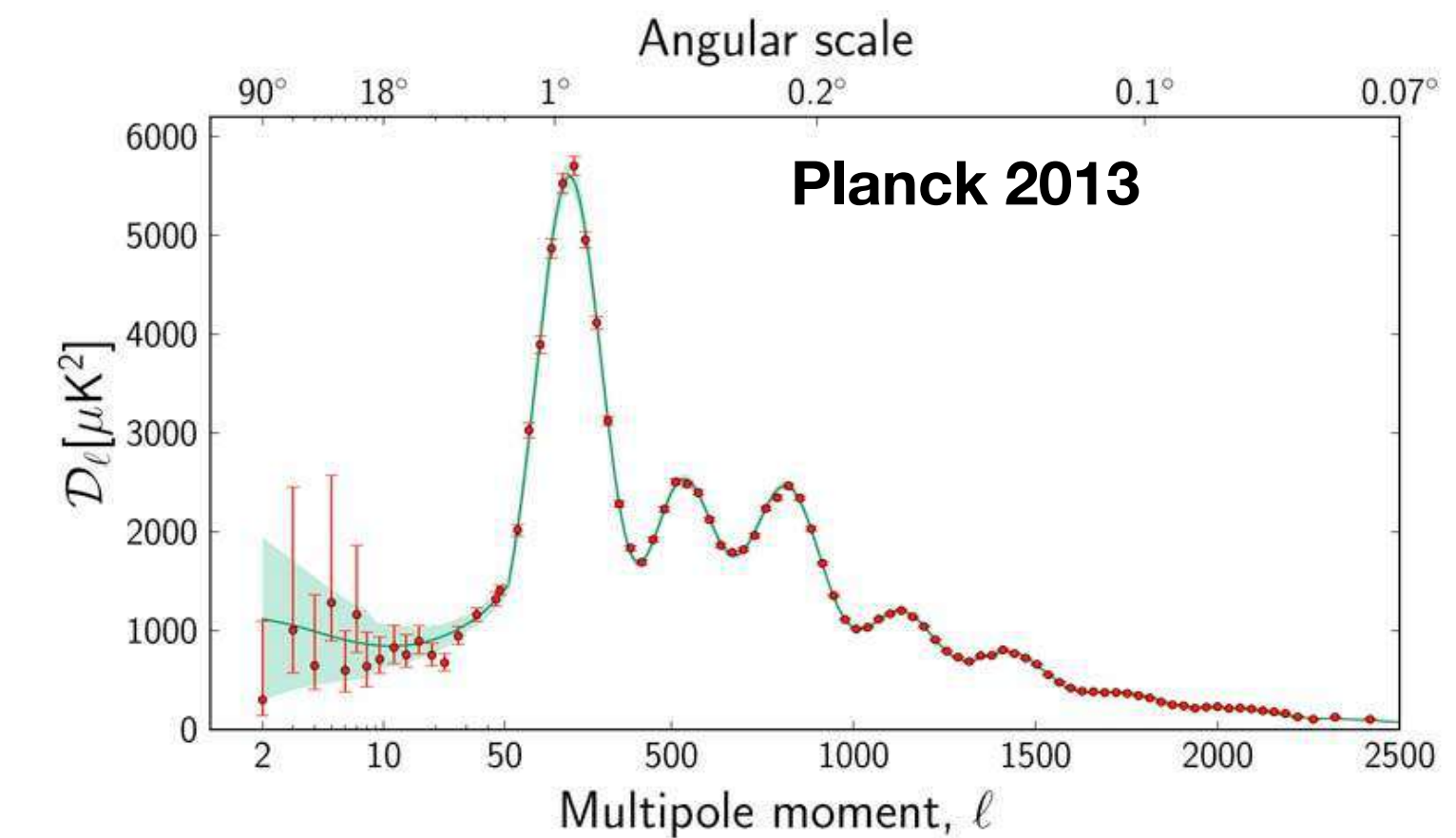
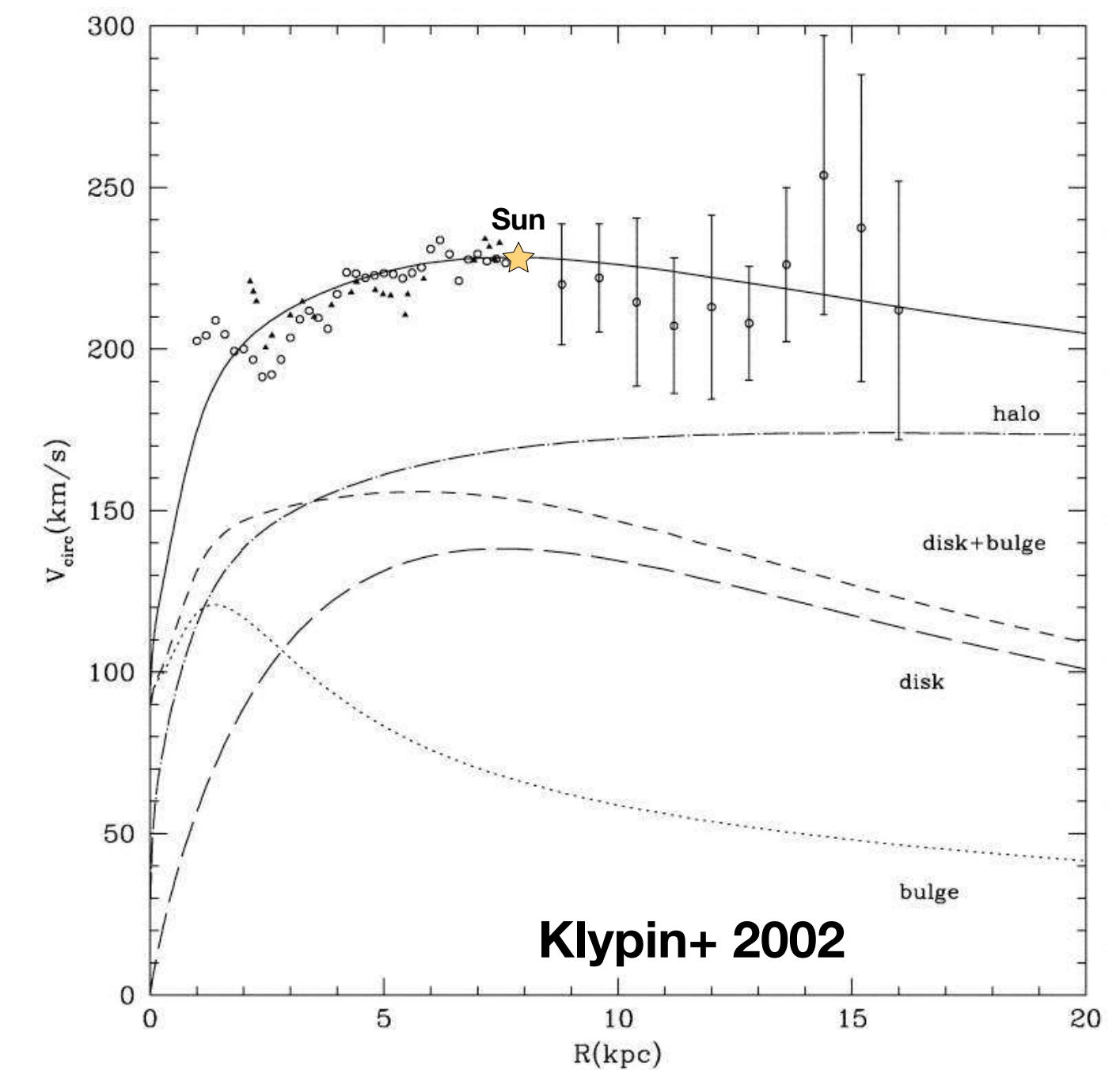
- Dark Energy
- Dark Matter
- Free H & He
- Stars and Gas
- Neutrinos
- Heavy Elements (Us)



**We did not know the  
power of the dark  
side...**

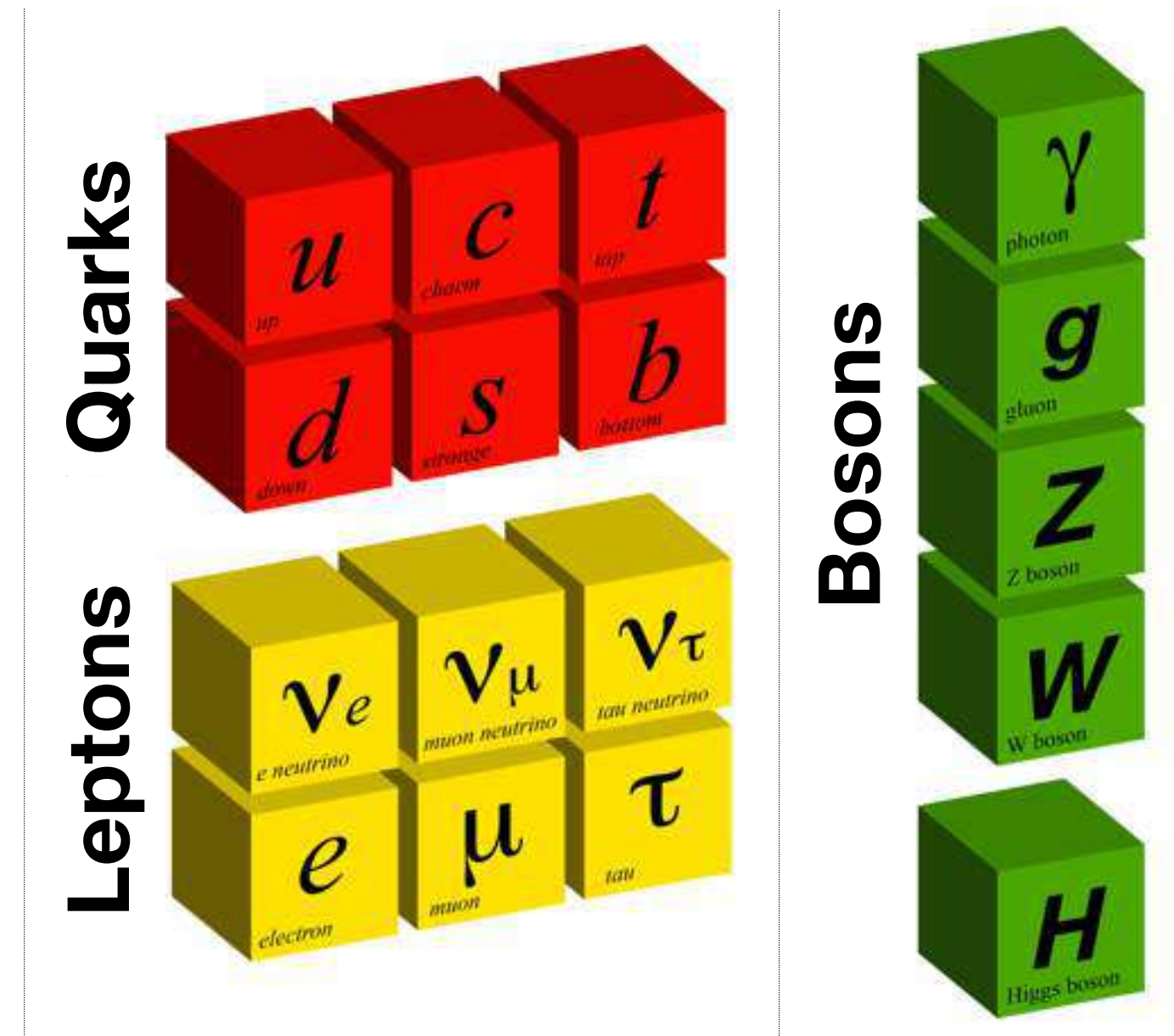
# The Nature of Dark Matter

- **The Missing Mass Problem:**
  - Dynamics of stars, galaxies, and clusters
  - Rotation curves, gas density, gravitational lensing
  - Large Scale Structure formation
- **Wealth of evidence for a particle solution**
  - MOND has problems with weak lensing and CMB
  - Microlensing (MACHOs) mostly ruled out
- **Non-baryonic**
  - Height of acoustic peaks in the CMB ( $\Omega_b$ ,  $\Omega_m$ )
  - Power spectrum of density fluctuations ( $\Omega_m$ )
  - Primordial Nucleosynthesis ( $\Omega_b$ )
- **And STILL HERE!**
  - Stable (or extremely long-lived), neutral, non-relativistic
  - Interacts via gravity and (maybe) some sub-weak scale force

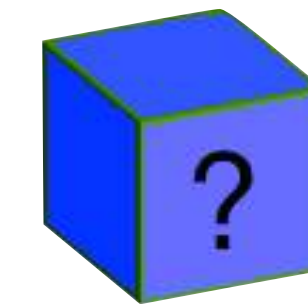


# Dark Matter may be a Rosetta Stone!

We know the Standard Model is incomplete.

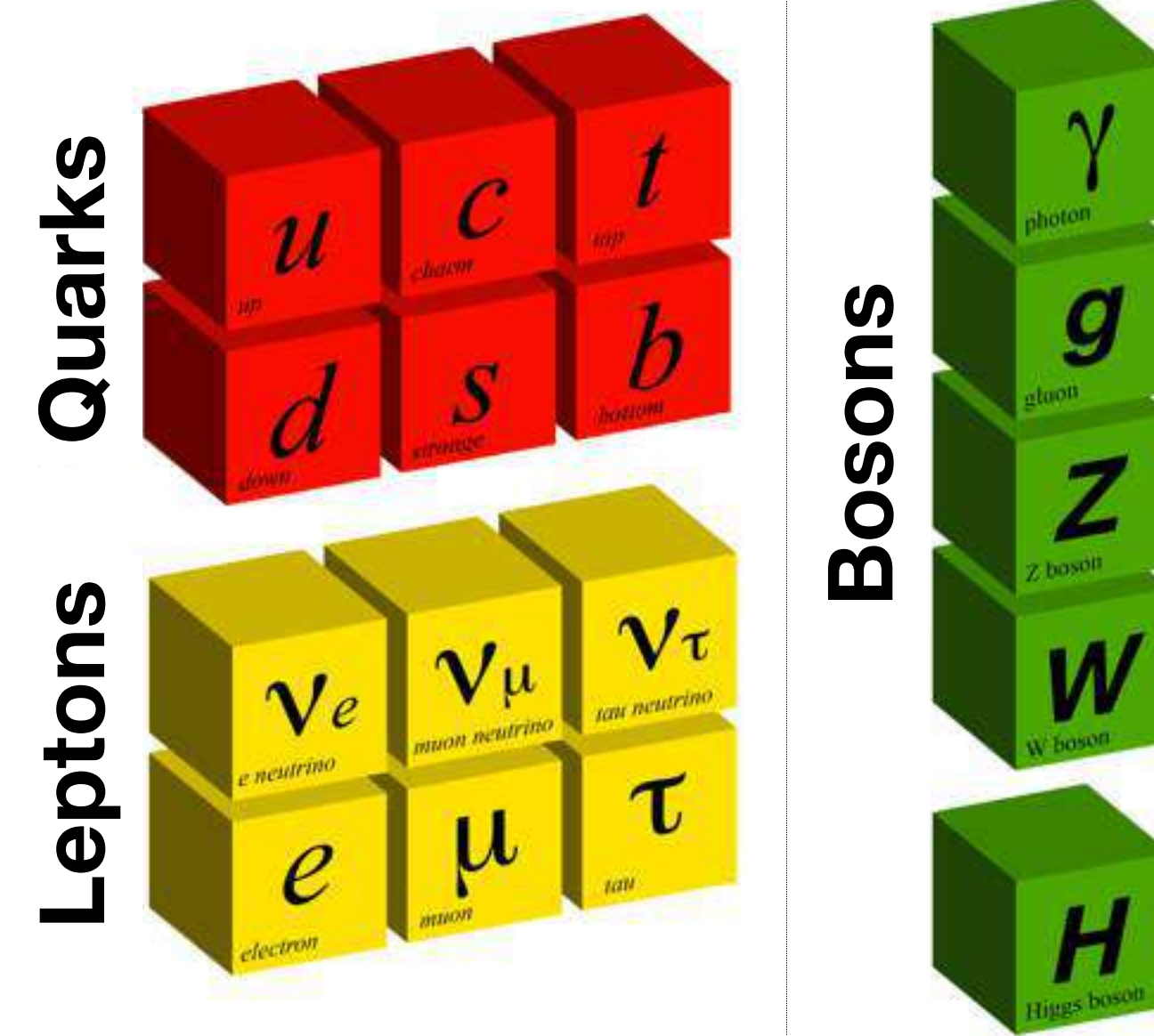


Where does dark matter fit in?

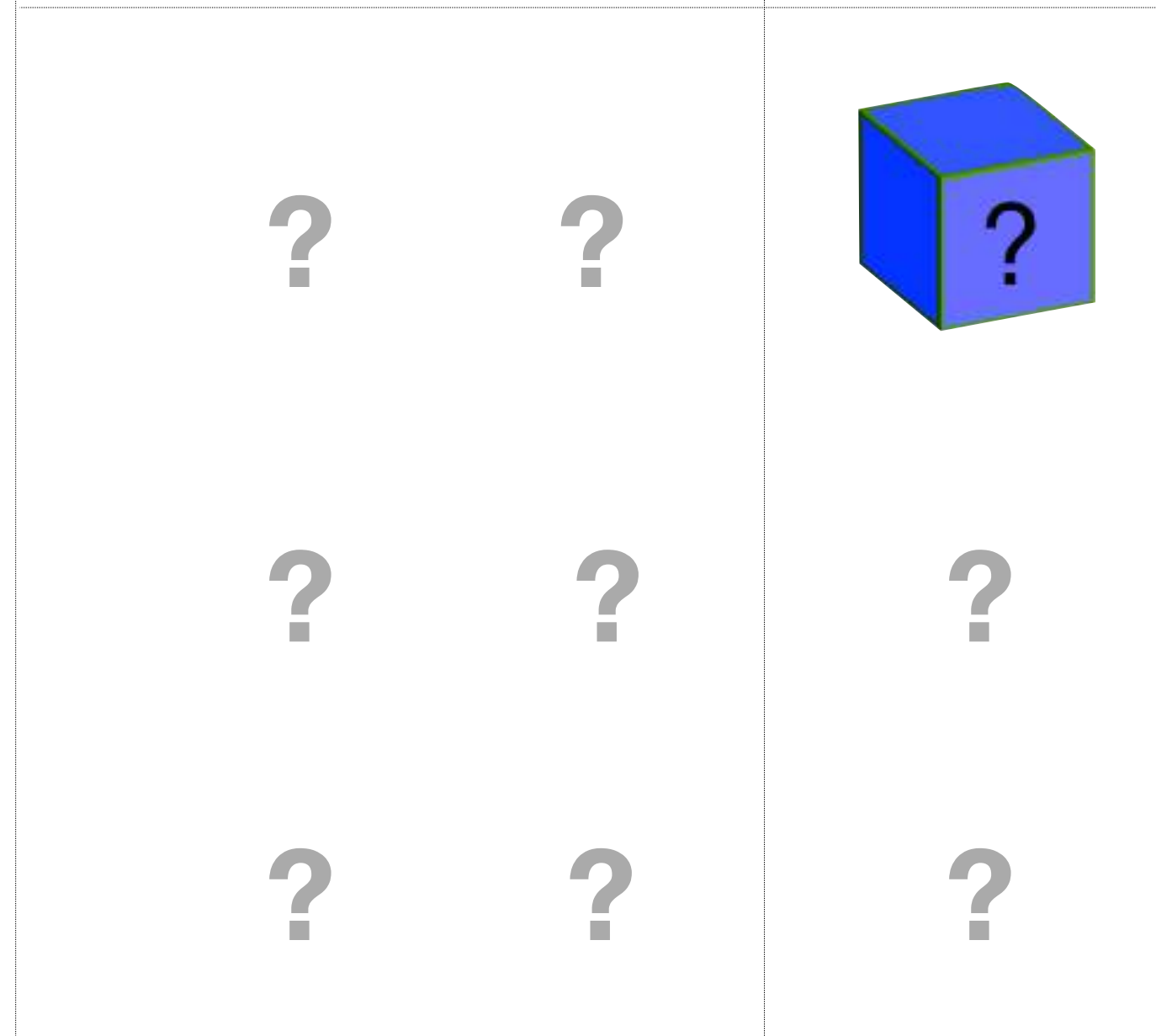


# Dark Matter may be a Rosetta Stone!

We know the Standard Model is incomplete.

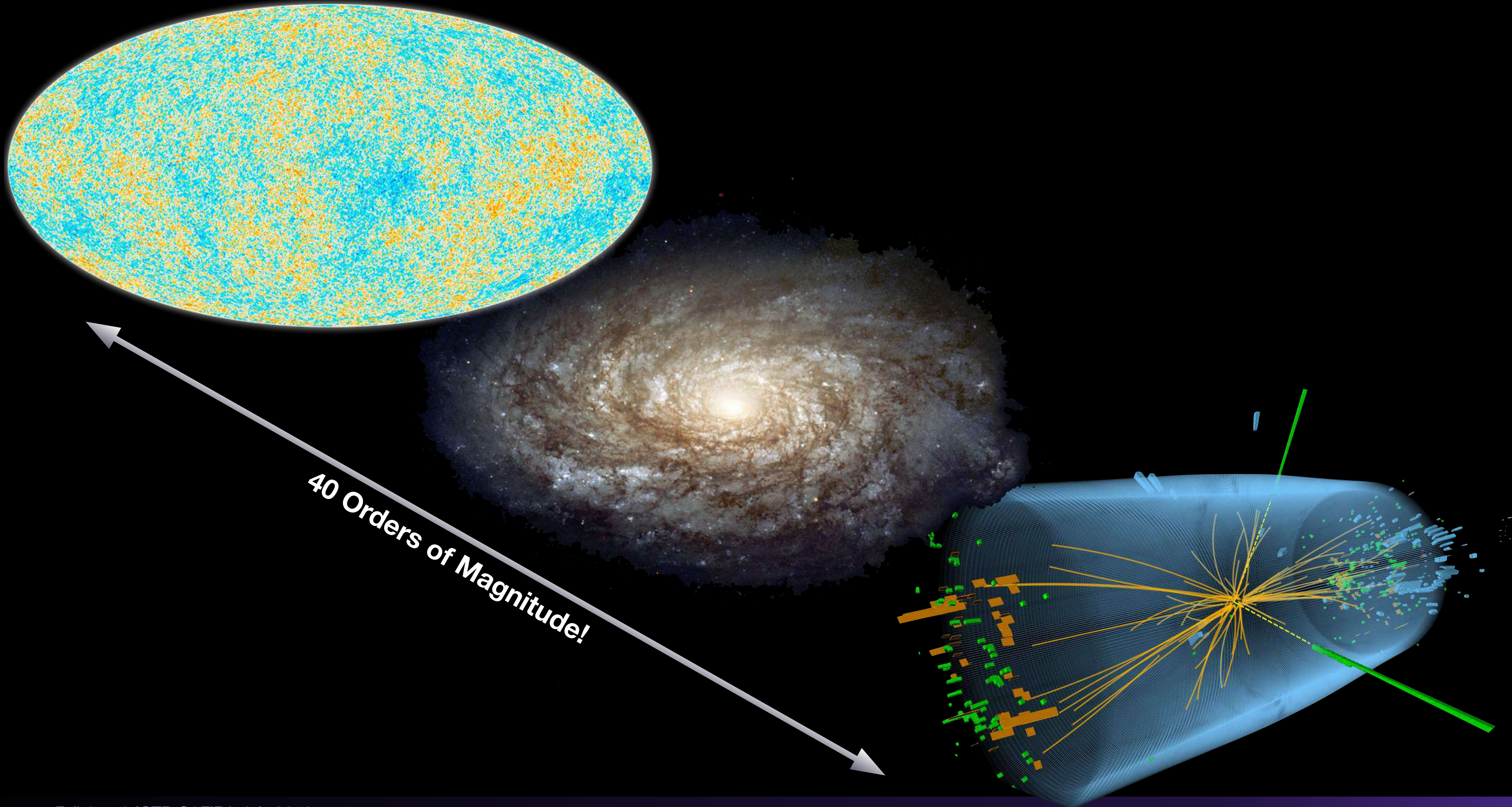


Where does dark matter fit in?



And how does it fit into a more general understanding?

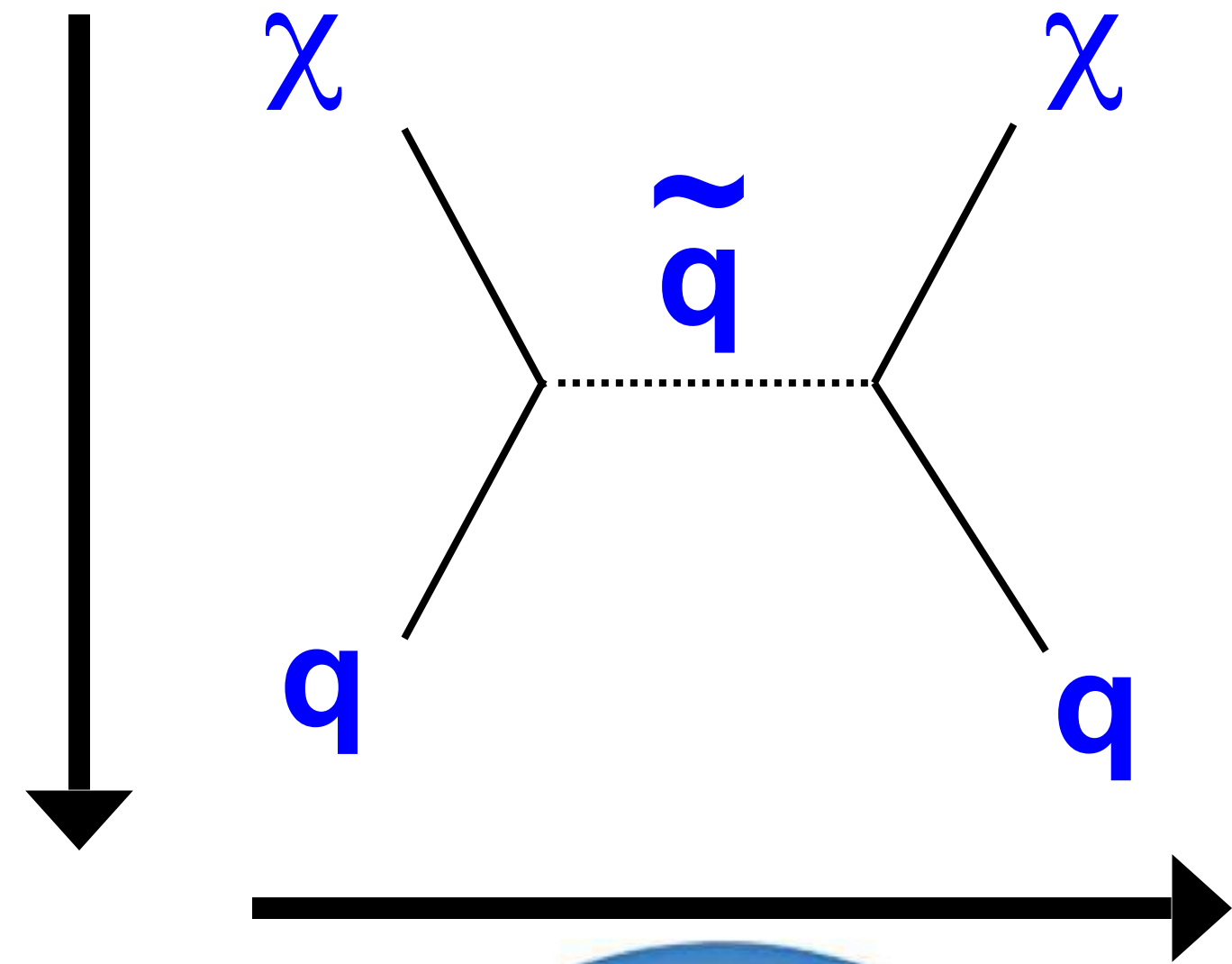
# A Beautiful Problem in Physics



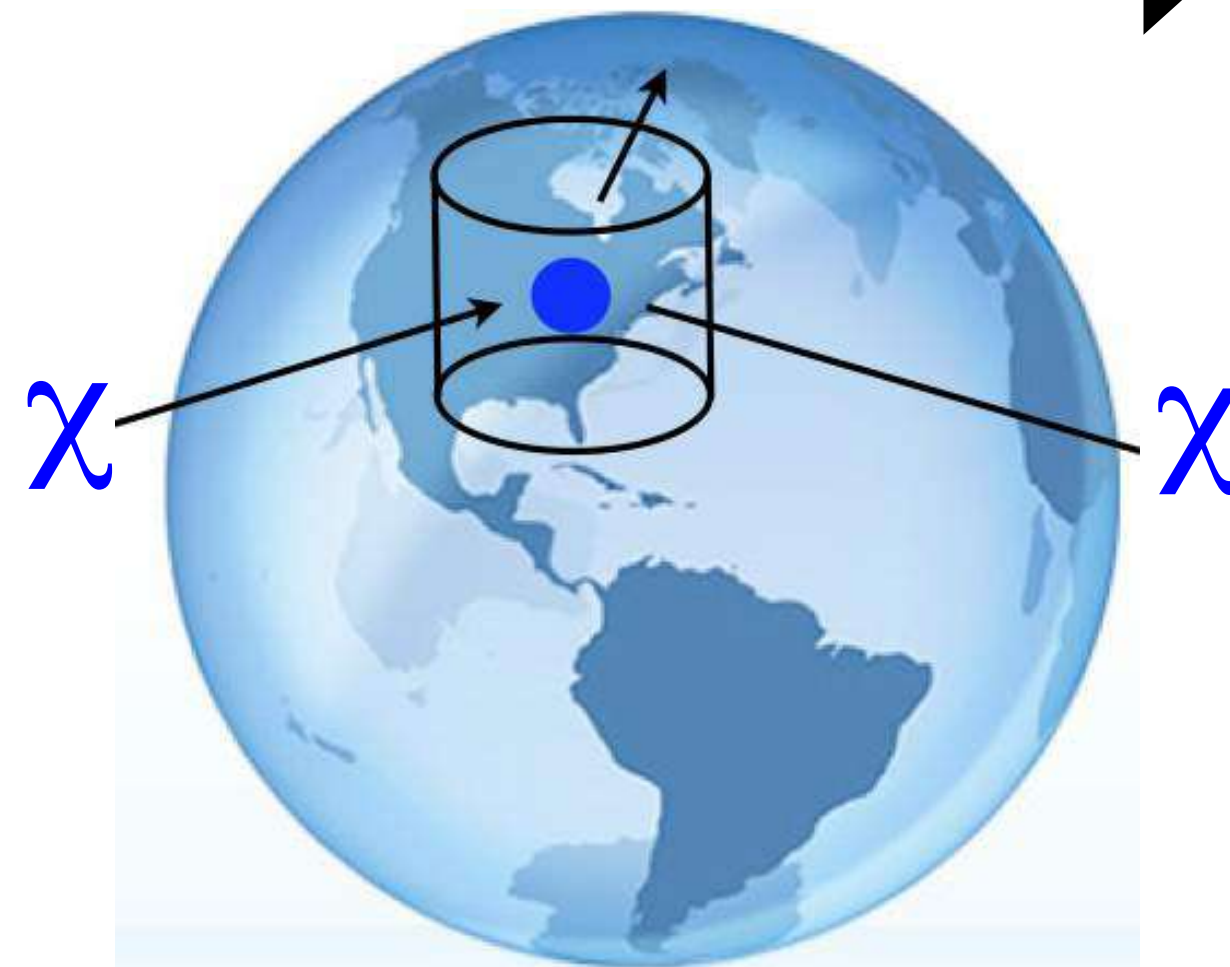
# The Hunt for Dark Matter



Relic annihilation  
or decay in the  
cosmos  
**INDIRECT  
DETECTION**

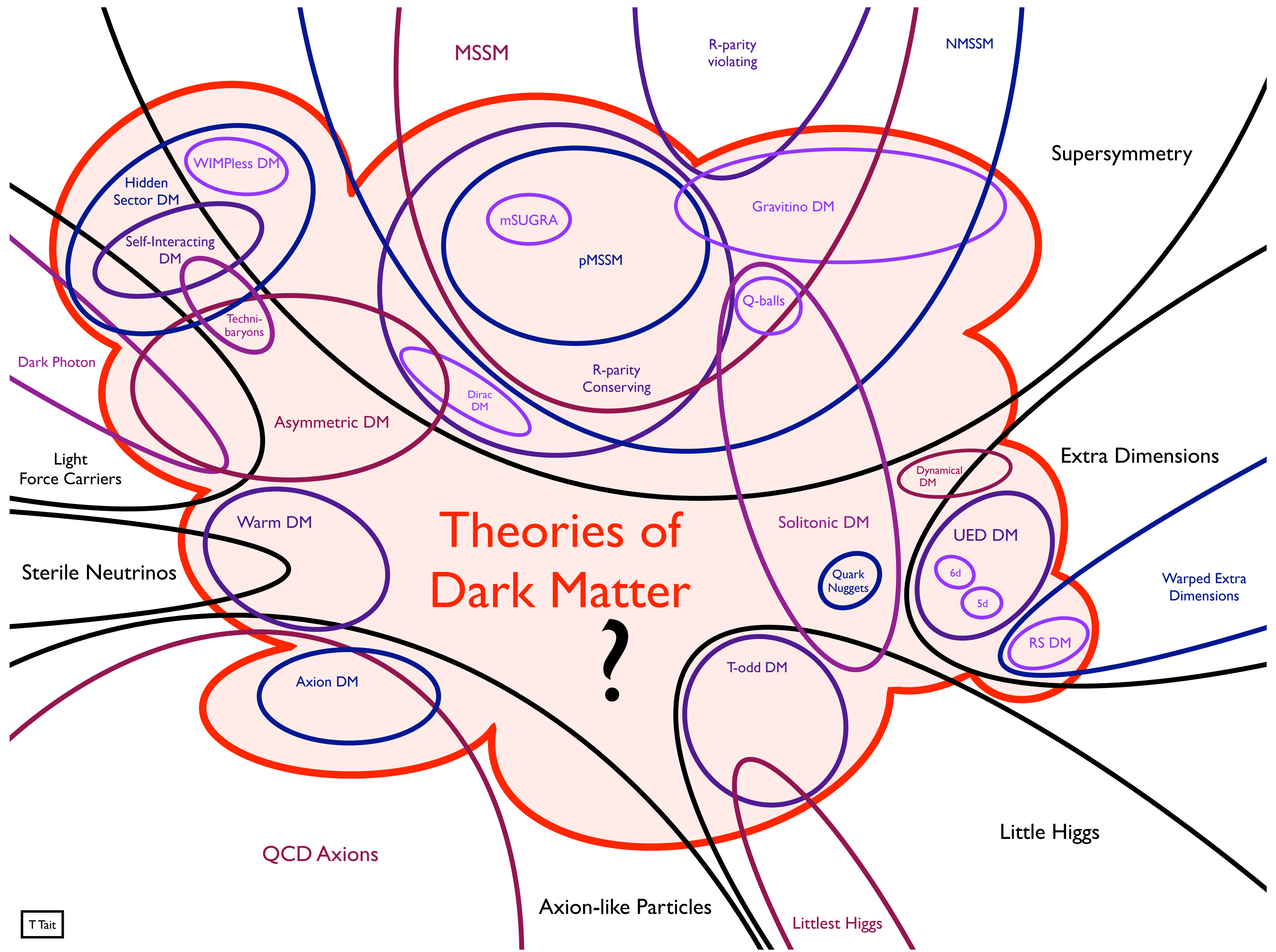


production



Relic Dark Matter  
Interacting in a  
Lab Experiment  
**DIRECT  
DETECTION**

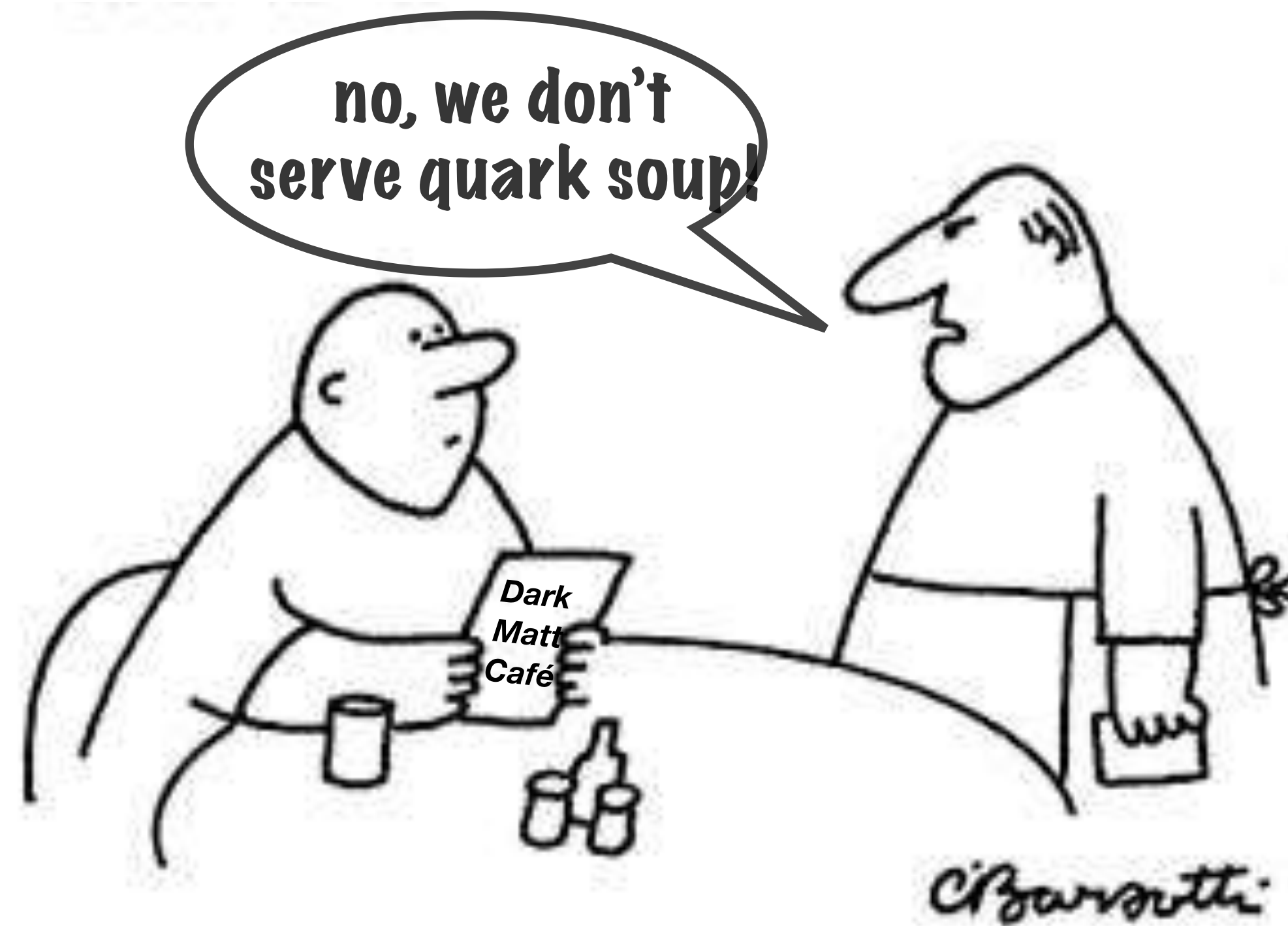




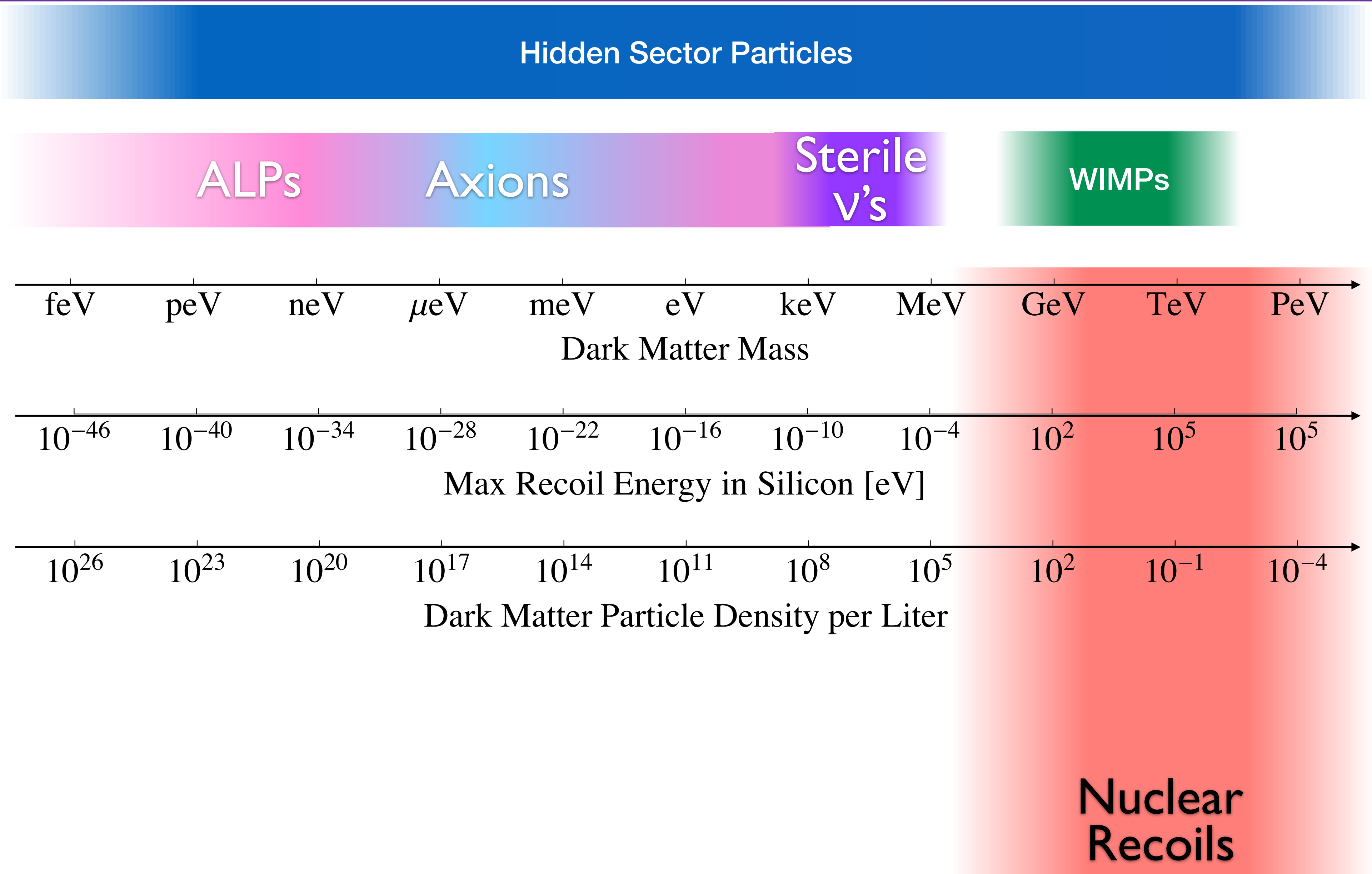
# Dark Matter Menu

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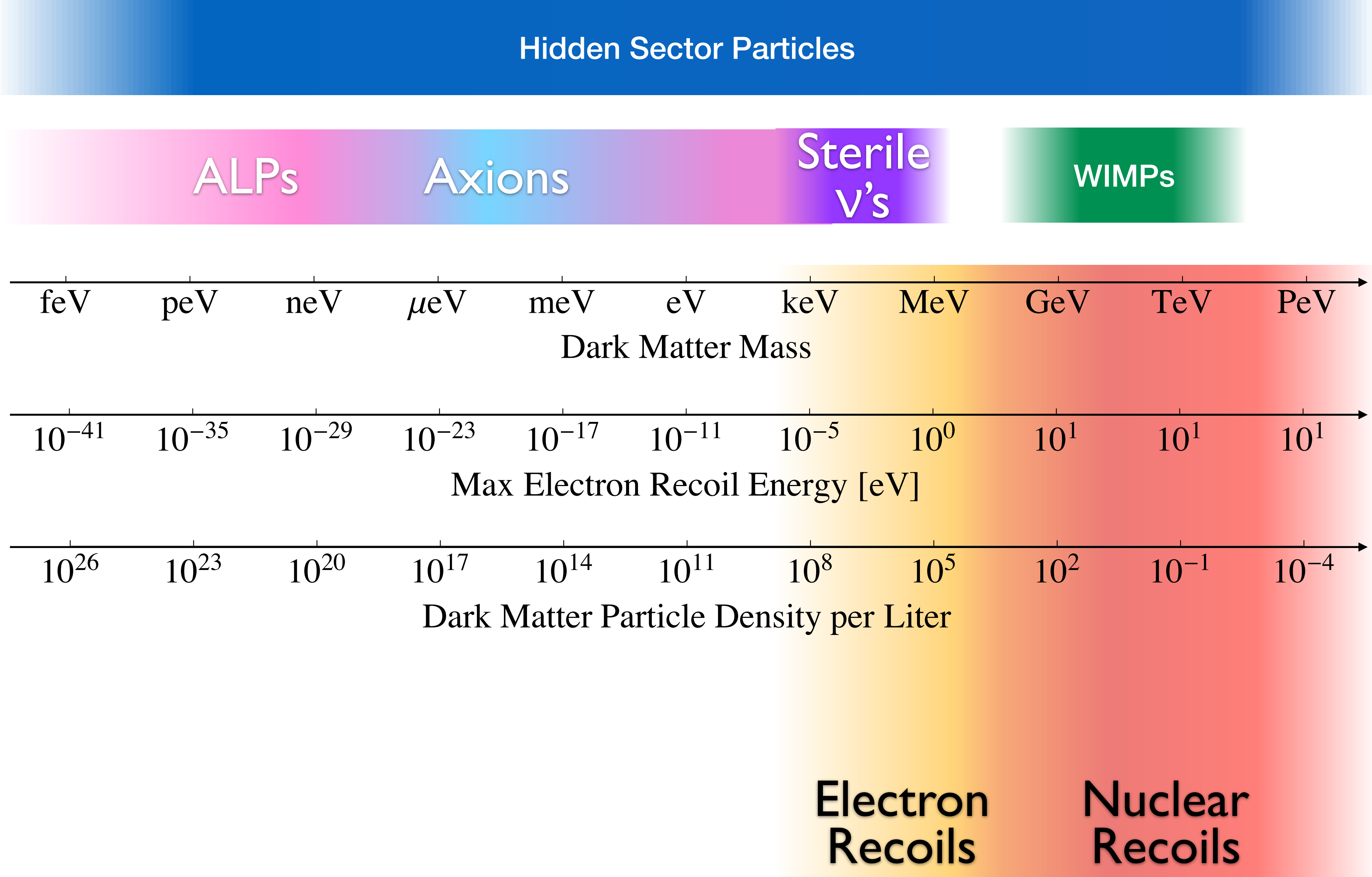
- Axions
- Axion-like Particles
- Hidden Sector Particles
- Sterile Neutrinos
- WIMPs
- SuperWIMPs
- Solitons
- KK excitations
- Gravitinos
- And many more that can fit the bill...



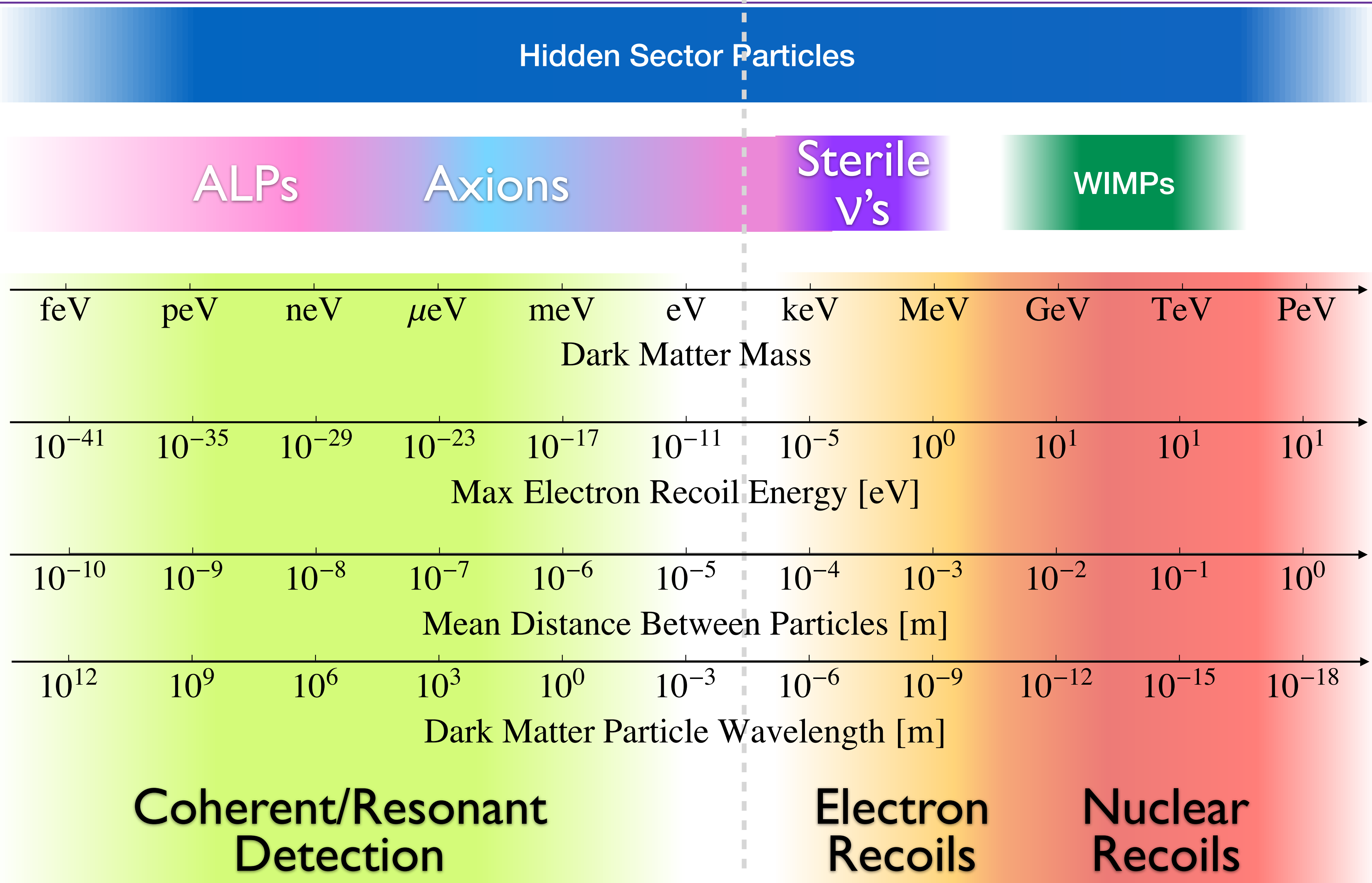
# Dark Matter Detection Channels



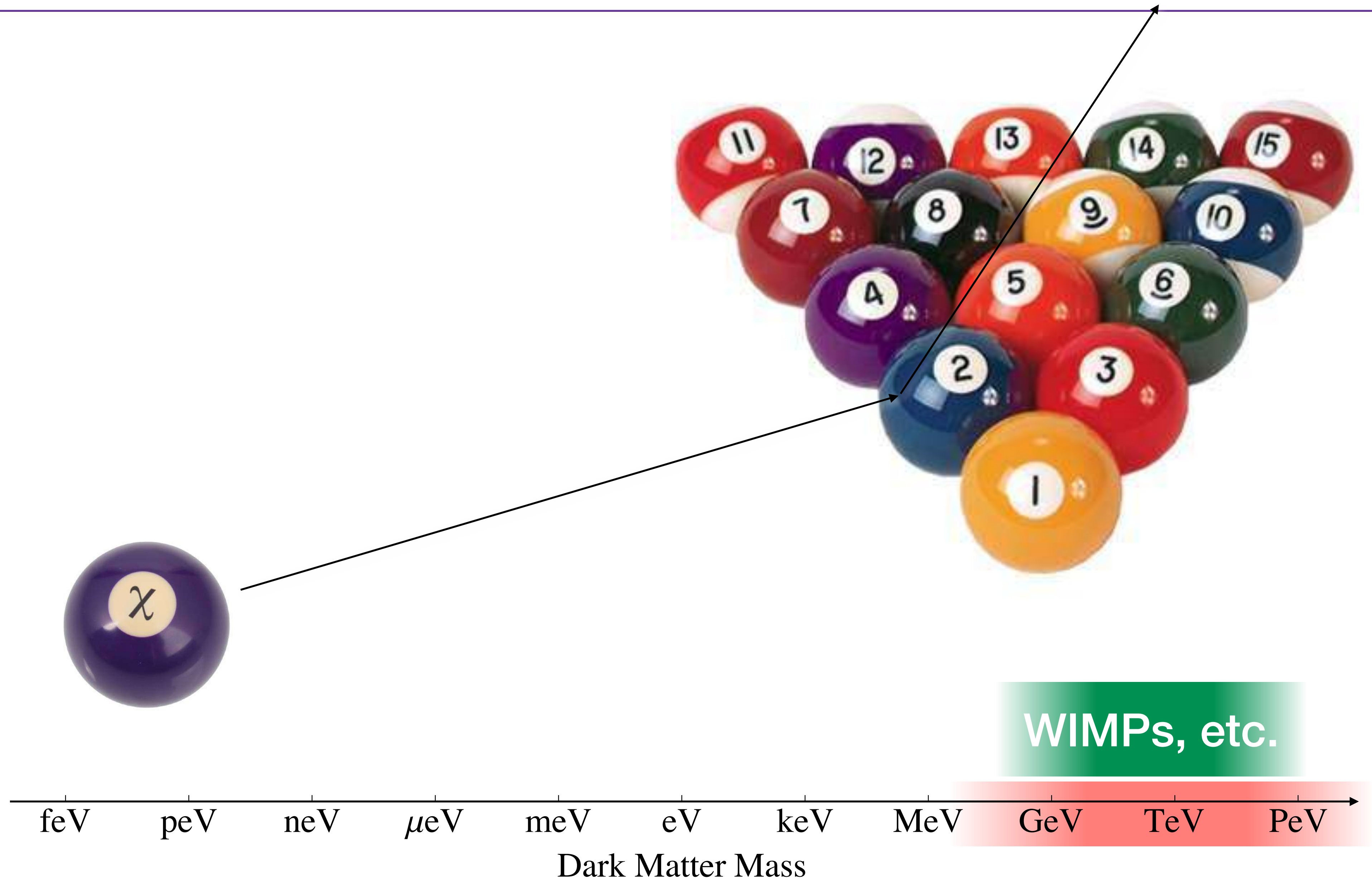
# Dark Matter Detection Channels



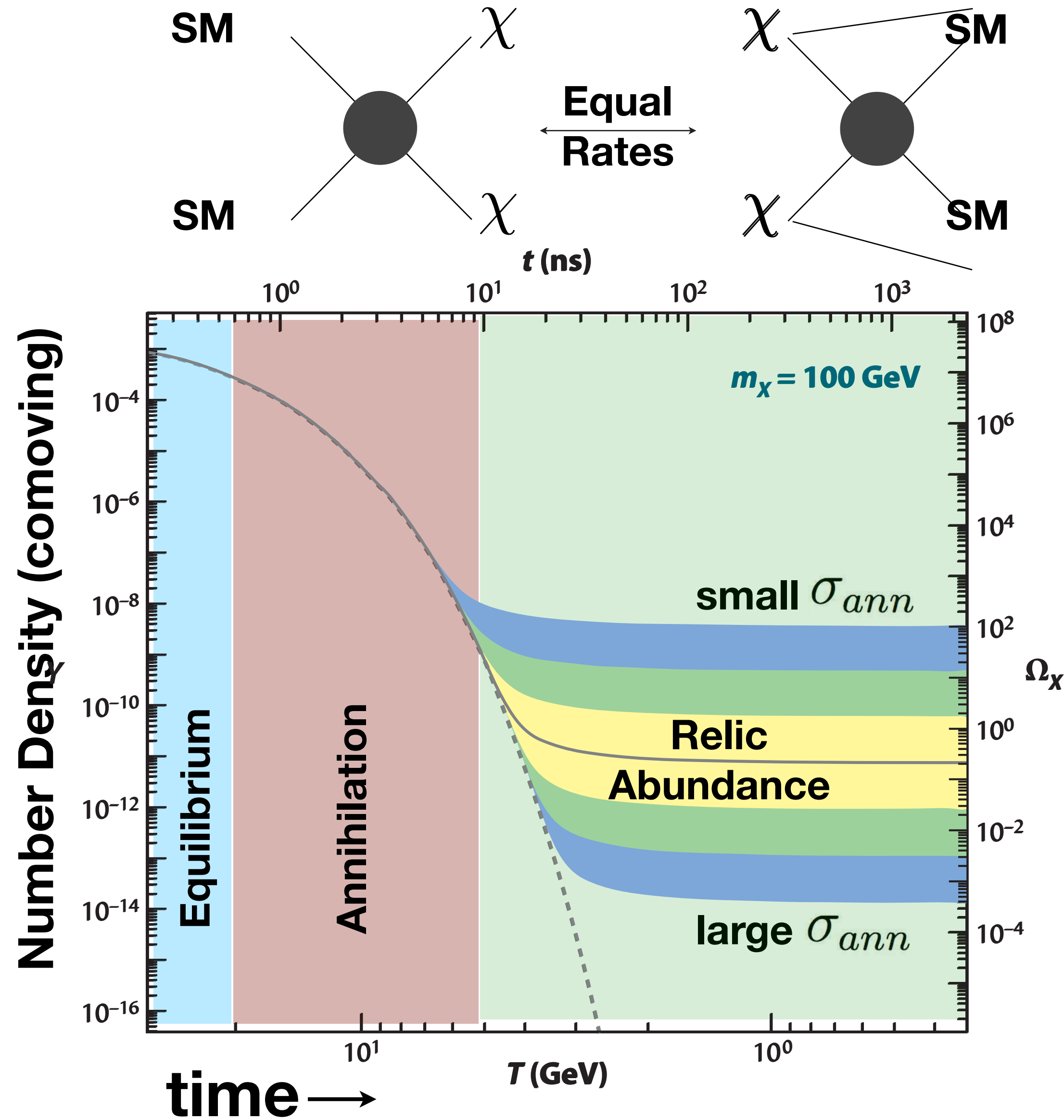
# Dark Matter Detection Channels



# Nuclear Recoils



# The WIMP “Miracle”



$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \approx \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{T_f} \frac{T_o^3}{\rho_c M_{\text{Pl}} \langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v \rangle}$$

$$m_{\text{DM}} \sim 0.1 - 1 \text{ TeV}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{ann}} = \frac{k\alpha^2}{m_{\text{DM}}^2}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{ann}} \sim 1 \text{ pb}$$

**Cosmology Predicts the Weak Scale!**

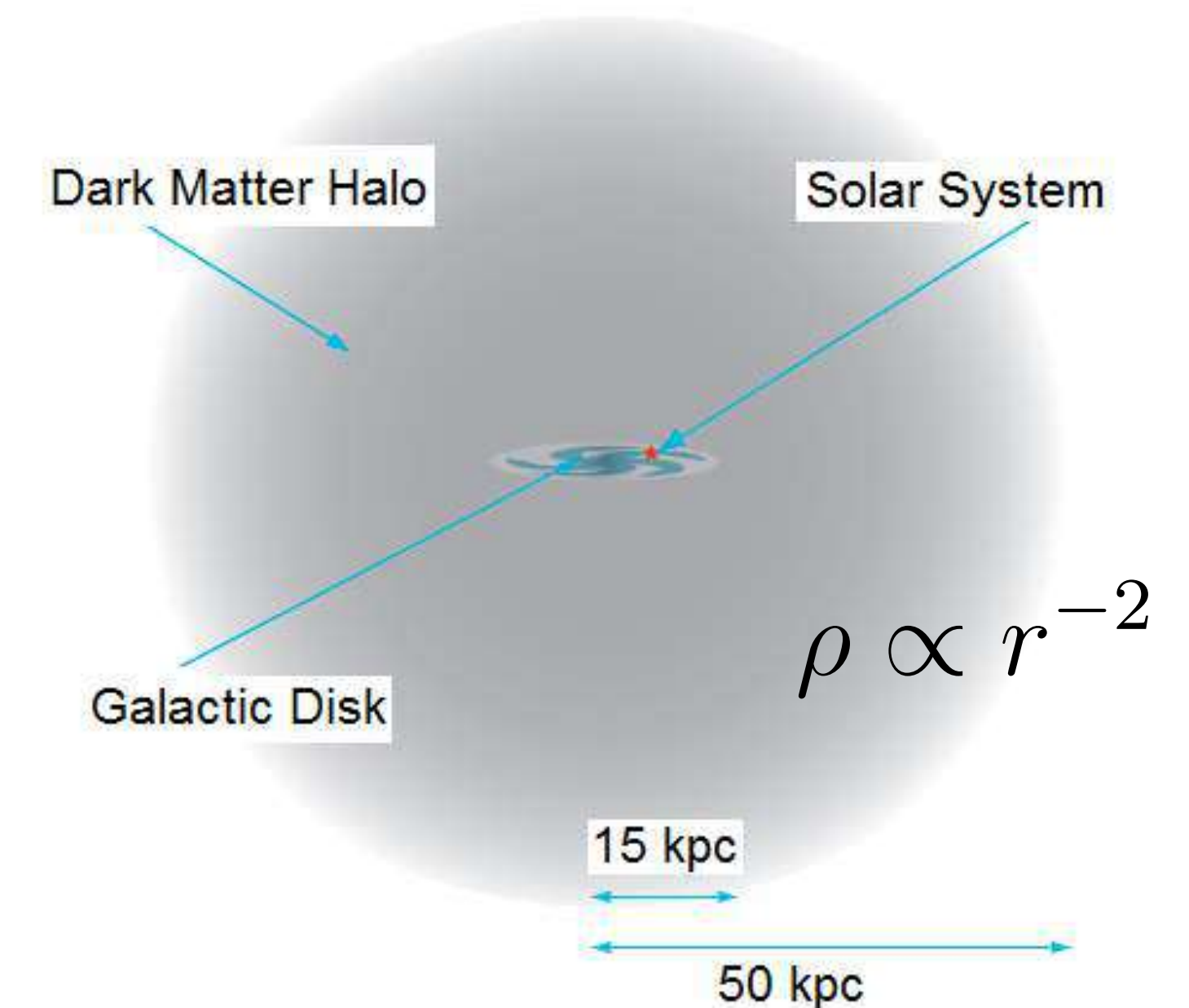
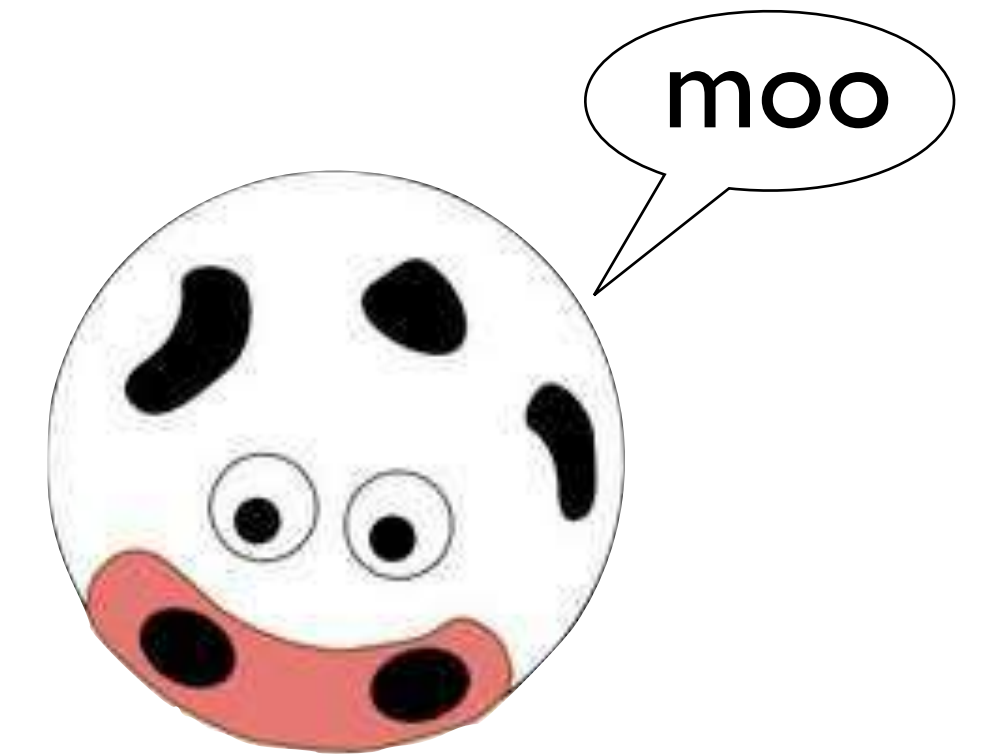
# Dark Matter Astrophysics

$$f(\vec{v}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{|\vec{v}|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} v_0 = 270 \text{ km/s}$$

and  $v_0 = 220 \text{ km/s}$

- The dark matter density falls off as  $r^{-2}$
- Particles with speed greater than the local escape velocity are not gravitationally bound. The standard halo extends out to infinite radii and thus the speed distribution in this model must be truncated “by hand”. We take  $v_{esc} = 650 \text{ km/s}$ .



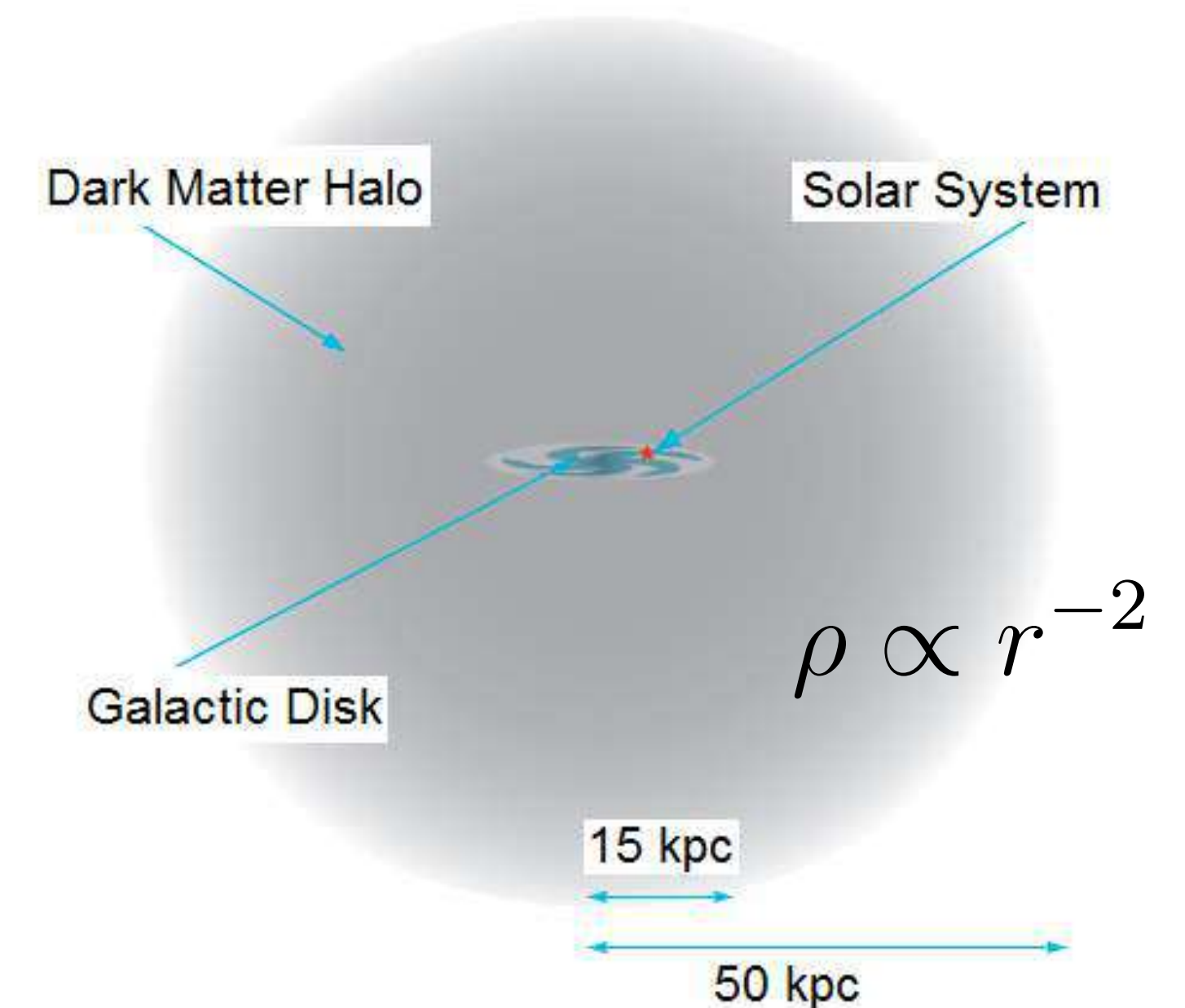
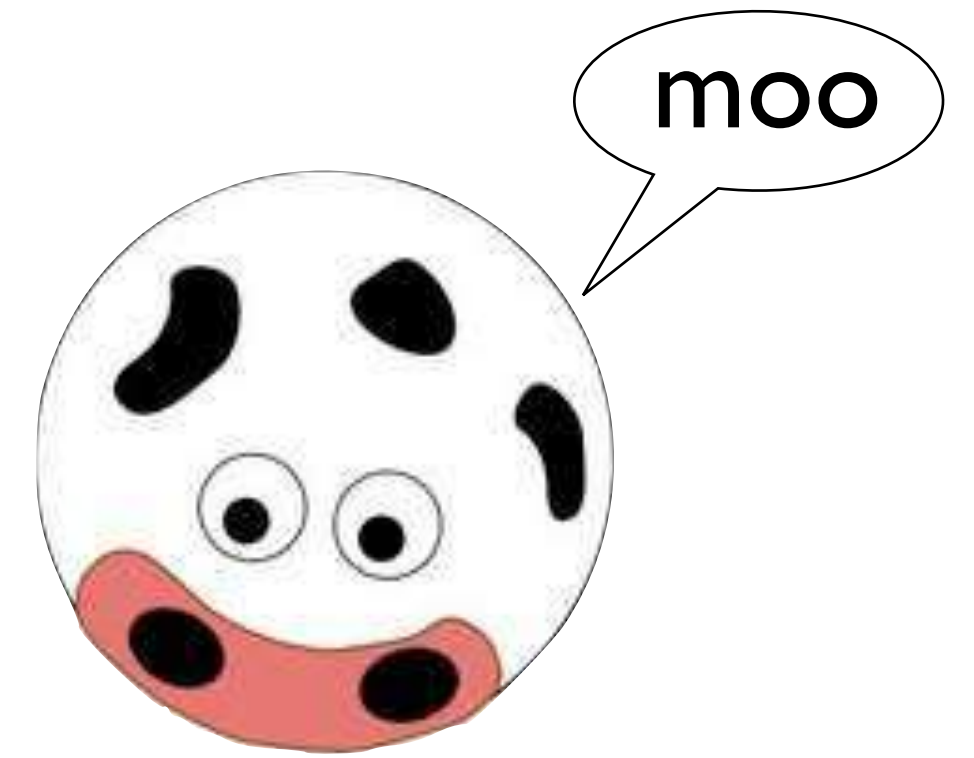


# Density of Dark Matter in this Room

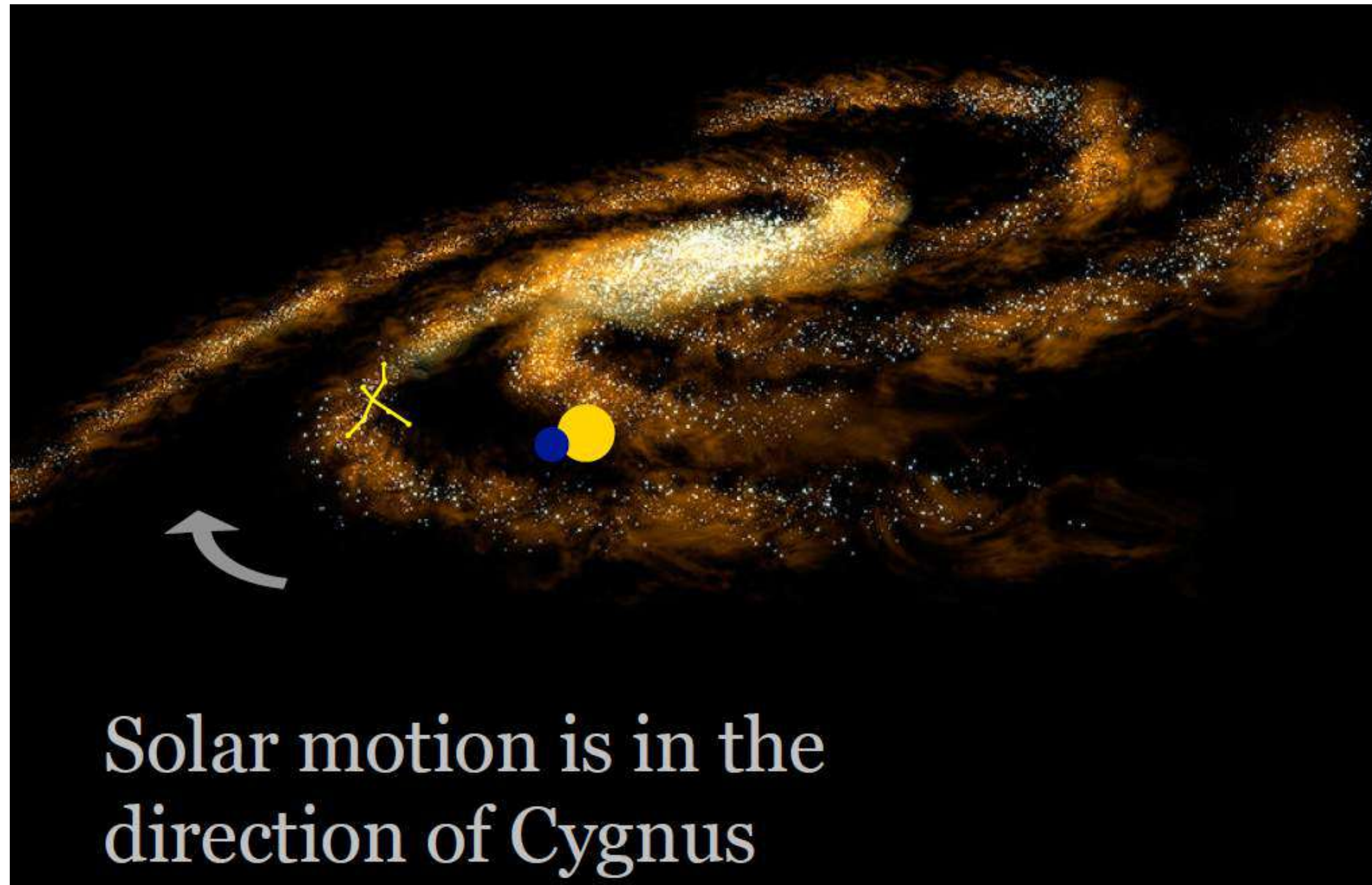
- Local dark matter density:
  - $\rho_0 = 0.3 \text{ GeV} / \text{cm}^3$
- Assume mass =  $60 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- Density =  $5000 \text{ particles}/\text{m}^3$



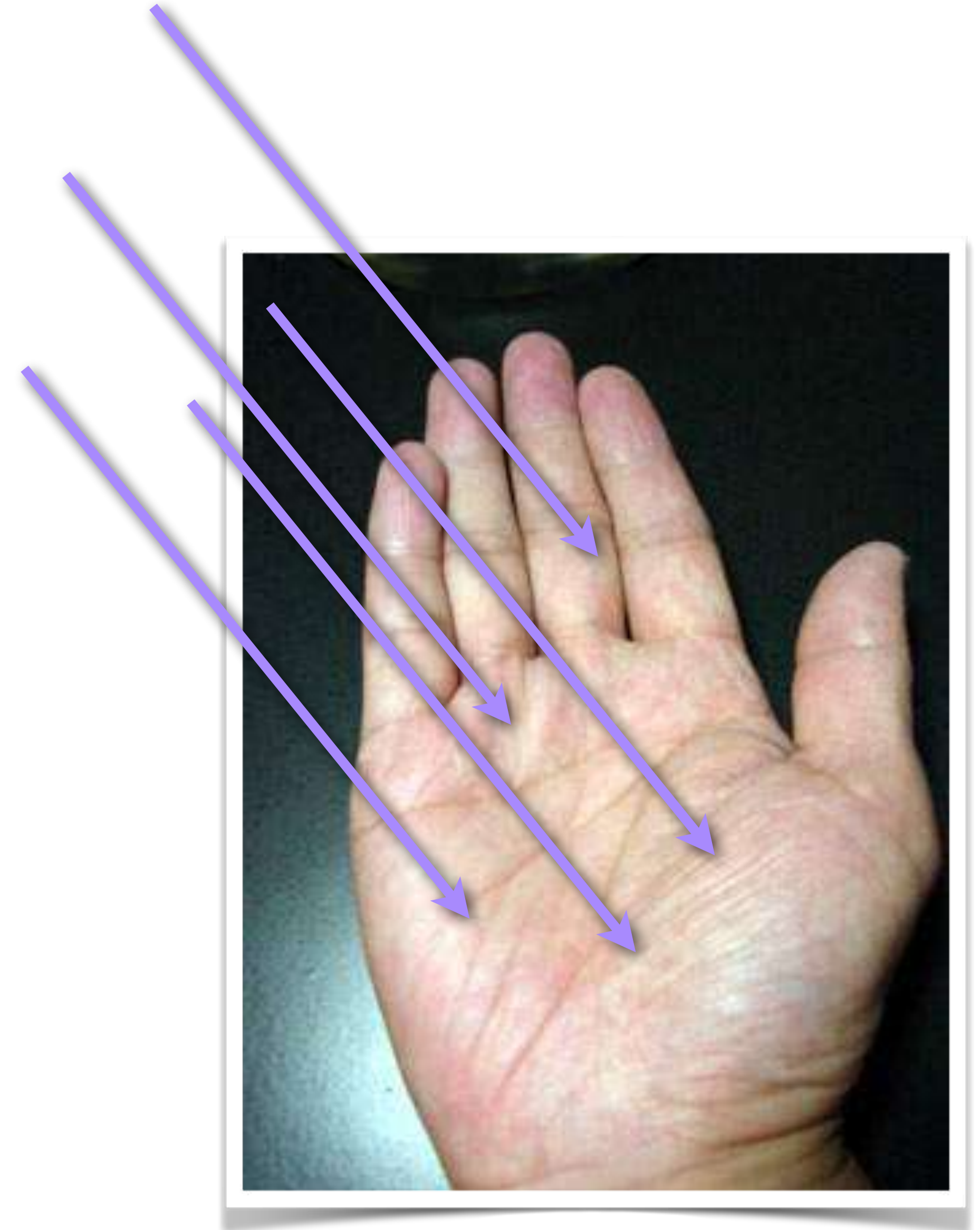
10 WIMPs  
on average, inside a 2 liter bottle  
(if mass=60 x proton)



# The Dark Matter Wind



- Dark matter apparently blows from Cygnus
- Our speed relative to the dark matter halo is  $\sim 220$  km/s
- $\sim 100,000$  particles/cm<sup>2</sup>/sec
- About 20 million/hand/sec



# Principles of Particle Detection

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Interaction} \\ \text{Rate} \\ \text{[events/keV/kg/day]} \end{array} \frac{dR}{dE_R} = \begin{array}{c} \text{particle} \\ \text{theory} \\ \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{nuclear} \\ \text{structure} \\ \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{astrophysics} \\ \text{properties} \\ \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}} \end{array}$$

$$m_r = \frac{m_\chi m_N}{m_\chi + m_N}$$

“reduced mass”

# Principles of Particle Detection

astrophysics  
properties

Interaction Rate  
[events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$T(E_R) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} v_o \int_{v_{\min}}^{\infty} \frac{f_1(v)}{v} dv$$

integral over local WIMP velocity  
distribution

$$v_{\min} = \sqrt{E_R m_N / (2m_r^2)}$$

minimum WIMP velocity for given  $E_R$

$$T(E_R) \simeq \exp(-v_{\min}^2 / v_o^2)$$

for pure Maxwellian case

# Principles of Particle Detection

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Interaction} \\ \text{Rate} \\ \text{[events/keV/kg/day]} \end{array} \quad \frac{dR}{dE_R} = \begin{array}{c} \text{particle} \\ \text{theory} \end{array} \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \begin{array}{c} \text{nuclear} \\ \text{structure} \end{array} \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

**These two depend on the interaction type.  
Let's look at the standard assumptions, that the interaction is either spin-independent or spin-dependent**

# Principles of Particle Detection: Spin Independent

Interaction Rate  
[events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \overset{\text{nuclear structure}}{\frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2}} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$F(E_R) = \left[ \frac{3J_1(qR_1)}{qR_1} \right]^2 \exp(-(qs)^2)$$

“Woods-Saxon Nuclear Form Factor”

J1 = Bessel function of the first kind, cylindrical harmonic

q = momentum transferred

s = “nuclear skin thickness”, or the distance through which the charge density of the nucleus drops to zero (it is not a step function due to quantum mechanics)

# Principles of Particle Detection: Spin Independent

Interaction Rate [events/keV/kg/day]

particle theory

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$\sigma_o = \frac{4m_r^2}{\pi} [Z f_p + (A - Z) f_n]^2$$

$$\sigma_o \simeq \frac{4m_r^2}{\pi} f A^2$$

↑ coupling constant

← atomic mass

Enormous enhancement for heavy nuclei target!

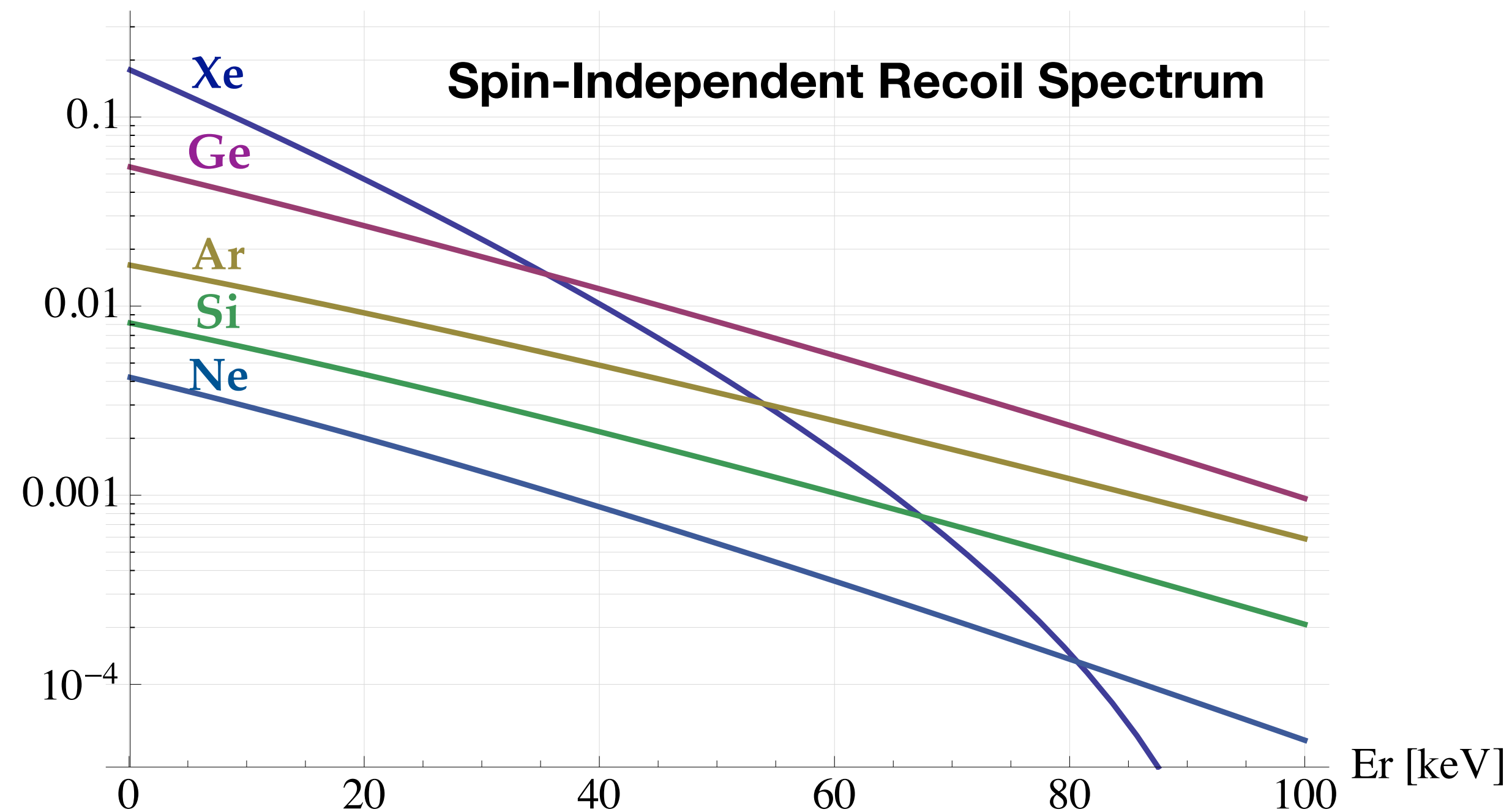
# WIMP Spin-Independent Recoil Spectrum

Interaction Rate [events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

particle theory      nuclear structure      astrophysics properties

Differential Rate [dru],  $m_\chi = 100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ,  $\sigma = 1. \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2$   
 $dR/dE_r$  [counts/10kg/keV/year]





# Principles of Particle Detection: Spin Dependent

Interaction Rate  
[events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi} \overset{\text{nuclear structure}}{\frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2}} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$F^2(E_r) = S(E_r)/S(0)$$

$$S(E_r) = a_0^2 S_{00}(E_r) + a_1^2 S_{11}(E_r) + a_0 a_1 S_{01}(E_r)$$

“Spin-dependent Form Factor”

$a_0$  = isoscalar matrix element

$a_1$  = isovector matrix element

$S_{ij}$  are obtained from detailed nuclear calculations.

# Principles of Particle Detection: Spin Dependent

Interaction Rate [events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \overset{\text{particle theory}}{\frac{\sigma_o}{m_\chi}} \frac{F^2(E_R)}{m_r^2} \frac{\rho_o T(E_R)}{v_o \sqrt{\pi}}$$

- Dominated by unpaired nucleons
- For spinless nuclides, SD cross section = 0
- For zero momentum transfer collisions (extremely soft bumps) the cross section is approximately:

$$\sigma_o = \frac{32(J+1)}{\pi J} G_F^2 m_r^2 (a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle)^2$$

↑ Nuclear Angular Momentum   
 ↑ Fermi constant   
 ↑ Coupling constant   
 ↑ Spin

# Principles of Particle Detection: Spin Dependent

$$\sigma_o = \frac{32(J + 1)}{\pi J} G_F^2 m_r^2 (a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle)^2$$

↑
↑
↑
↑  
 Nuclear Angular Momentum    Fermi constant    Coupling constant    Spin

**Tovey et al. Physics Letters B 488 (2000) 17-26**

Nucleus	Z	Odd Nucleon	J	$\langle S_p \rangle$	$\langle S_n \rangle$
$^{19}\text{F}$	9	p	1/2	0.441	-0.109
$^{23}\text{Na}$	11	p	3/2	0.248	0.020
$^{27}\text{Al}$	13	p	5/2	-0.343	0.030
$^{29}\text{Si}$	14	n	1/2	-0.002	0.130
$^{35}\text{Cl}$	17	p	3/2	-0.083	0.004
$^{39}\text{K}$	19	p	3/2	-0.180	0.050
$^{73}\text{Ge}$	32	n	9/2	0.030	0.378
$^{93}\text{Nb}$	41	p	9/2	0.460	0.080
$^{125}\text{Te}$	52	n	1/2	0.001	0.287
$^{127}\text{I}$	53	p	5/2	0.309	0.075
$^{129}\text{Xe}$	54	n	1/2	0.028	0.359
$^{131}\text{Xe}$	54	n	3/2	-0.009	-0.227

# WIMP-Nucleus Interaction: maybe not so simple?

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- Effective Field Theory contains 14 operators, which combine such that the WIMP-nucleon cross section depends on six independent nuclear response functions:
  - One “Spin independent”
  - Two “Spin Dependent”
  - Three “Velocity-Dependent”
- Two pairs of these interfere, so there are *eight independent parameters* that can be probed

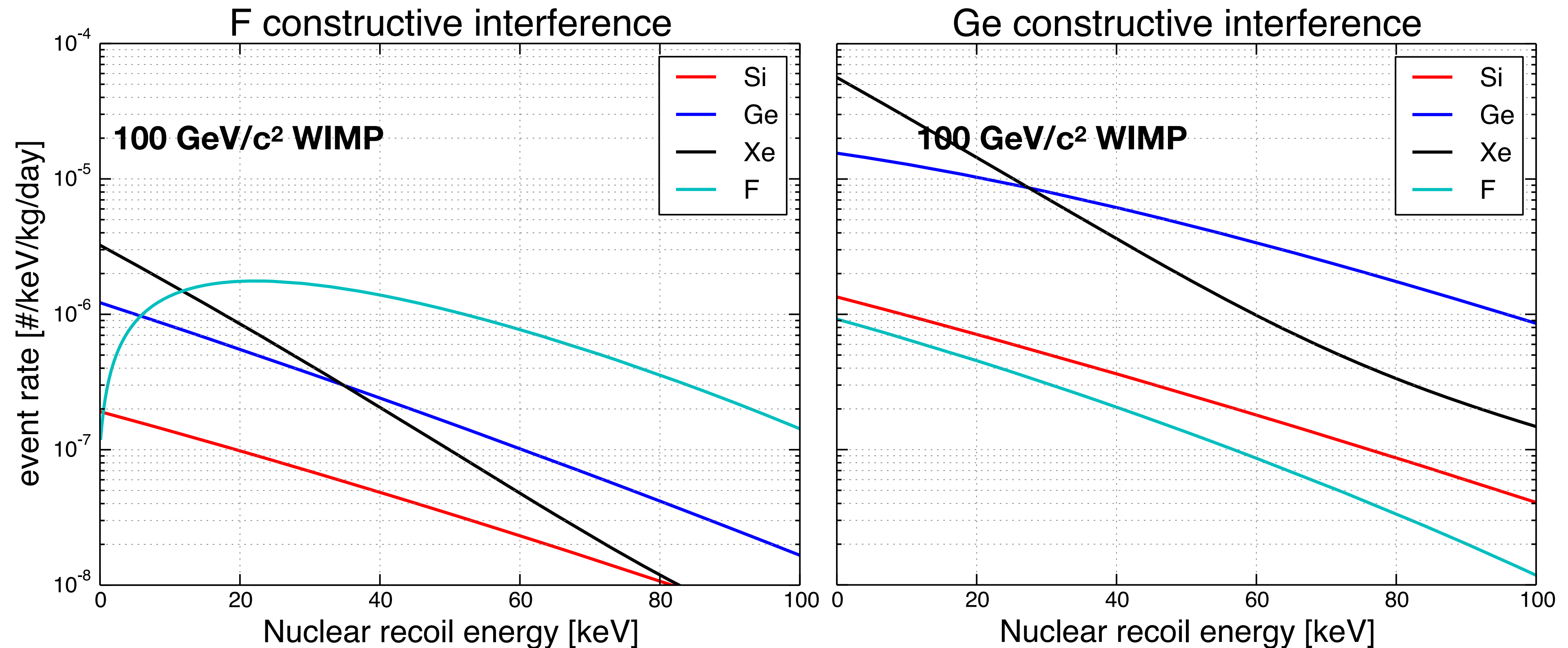
**The effective field theory of dark matter direct detection**

A. Liam Fitzpatrick,<sup>a</sup> Wick Haxton,<sup>b</sup> Emanuel Katz,<sup>a,c,d</sup>  
Nicholas Lubbers,<sup>c</sup> Yiming Xu<sup>c</sup>

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1211.2818>  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1308.6288>  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1405.6690>  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1503.03379>

# Dark Matter Could Look Different in Different Targets

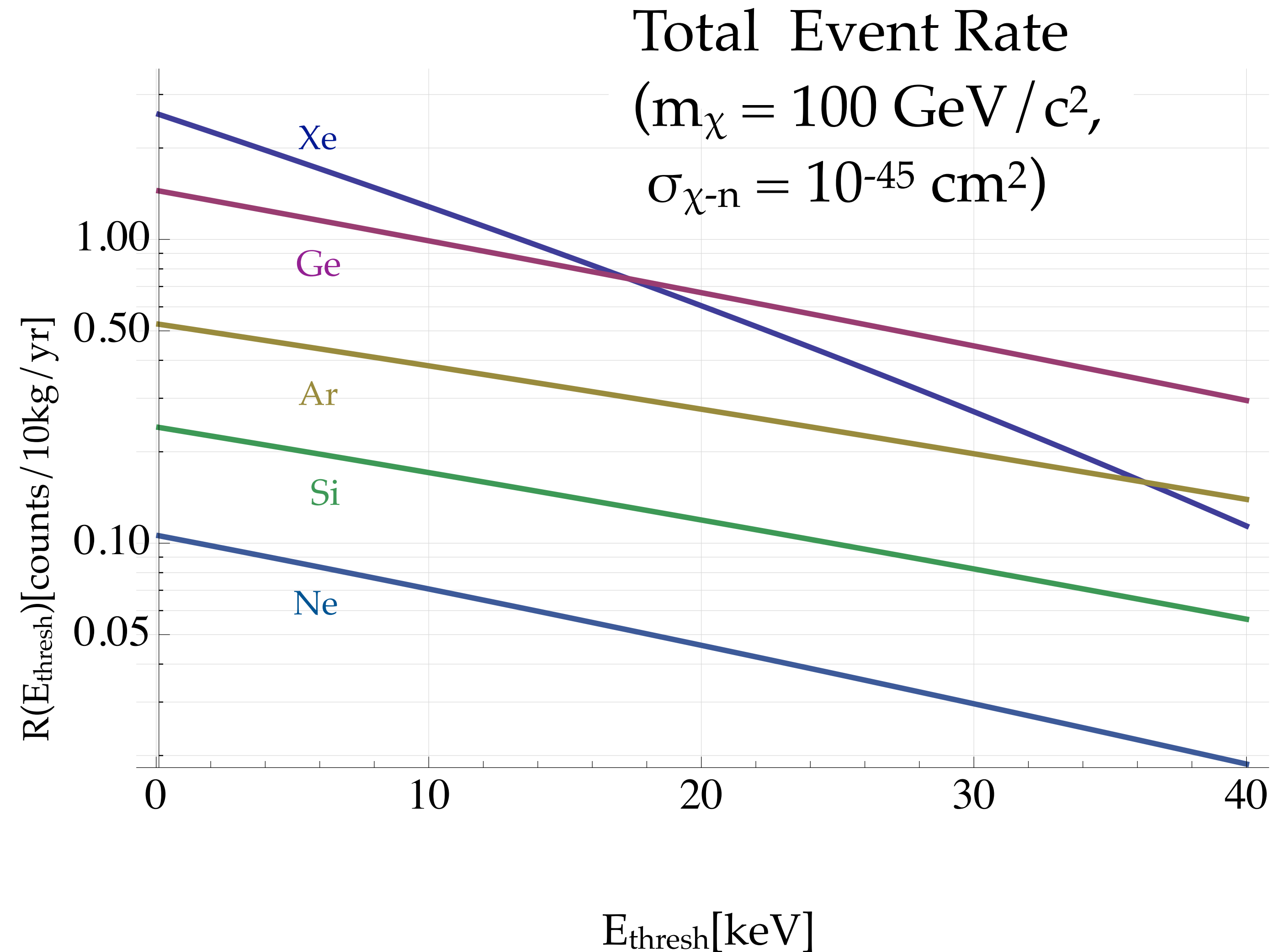
- EFT Operators can interfere, generating not only different rates between targets, but different spectral shapes
- A robust dark matter direct detection program with different target materials will be needed to nail down which operators are contributing to any detected signal
- Take home message: *We will need multiple targets to map out the physics of WIMP-nucleon interactions!*



# Designing an Ideal WIMP Detector

# The Event Rates are Extremely Low!

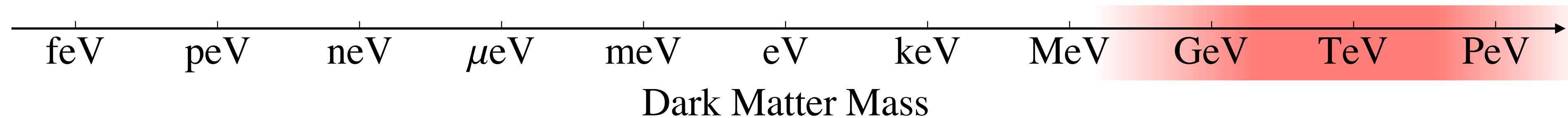
- Elastic scattering of WIMP deposits small amounts of energy into a recoiling nucleus (~few 10s of keV)
- Featureless exponential spectrum with no obvious peak, knee, break...
- Event Rate is very, very low
- Radioactive background of most materials is higher than the event rate.



# Nuclear Recoil Direct Detection Requirements

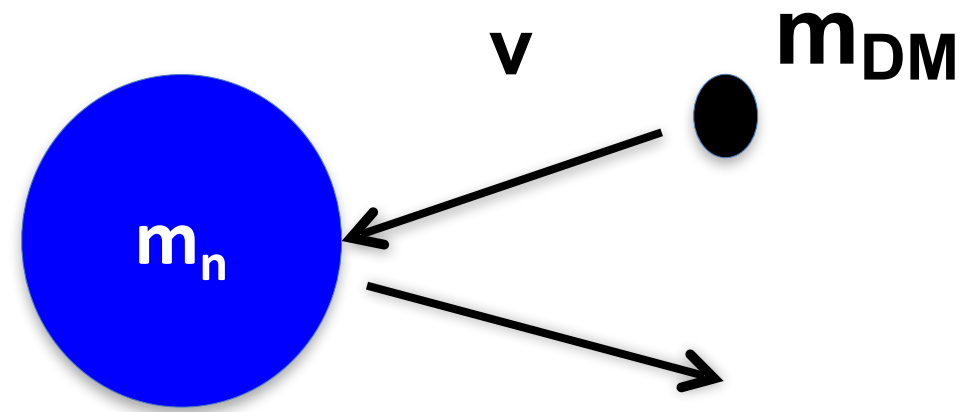
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1: Large Exposure (Mass x Time)



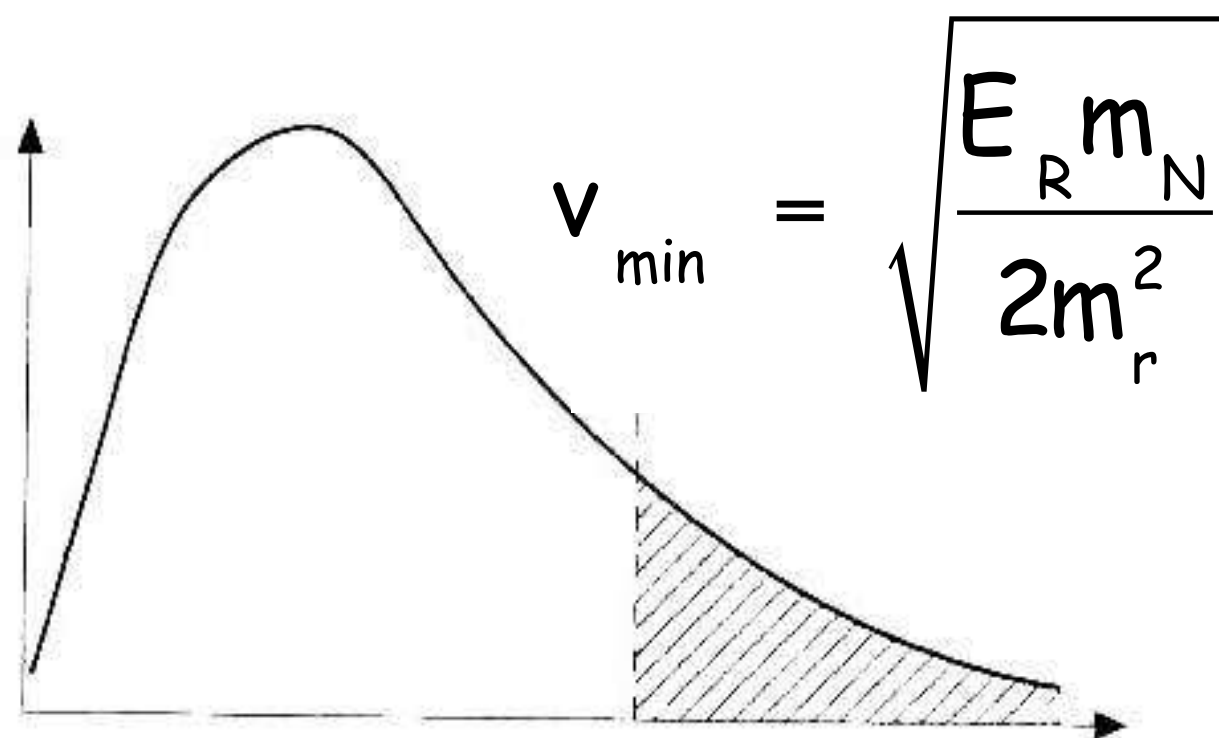


# The low-mass WIMP challenge

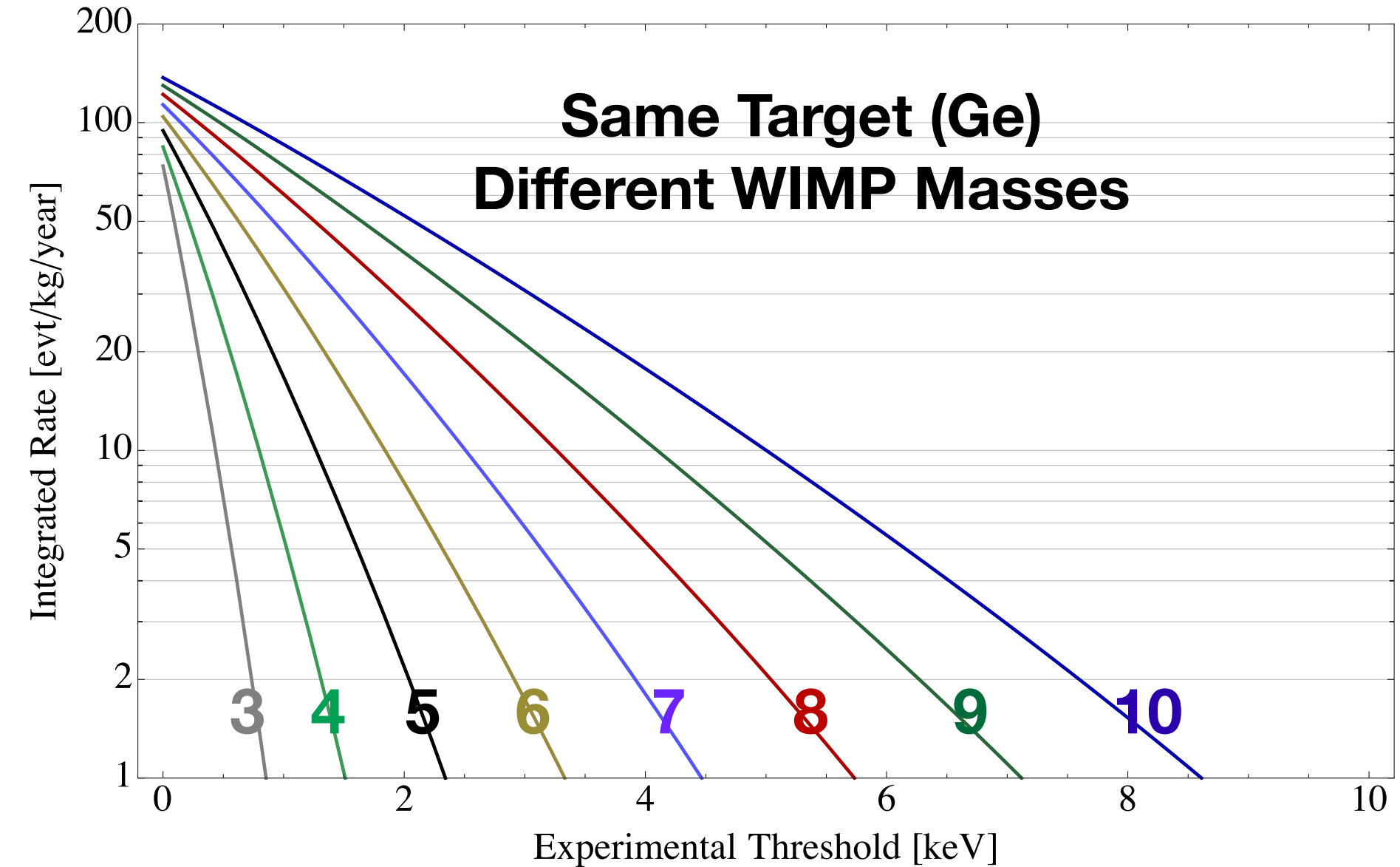


$$\Delta E = \frac{\Delta P^2}{2M_n} \lesssim \frac{2M_{DM}^2 v^2}{M_N}$$

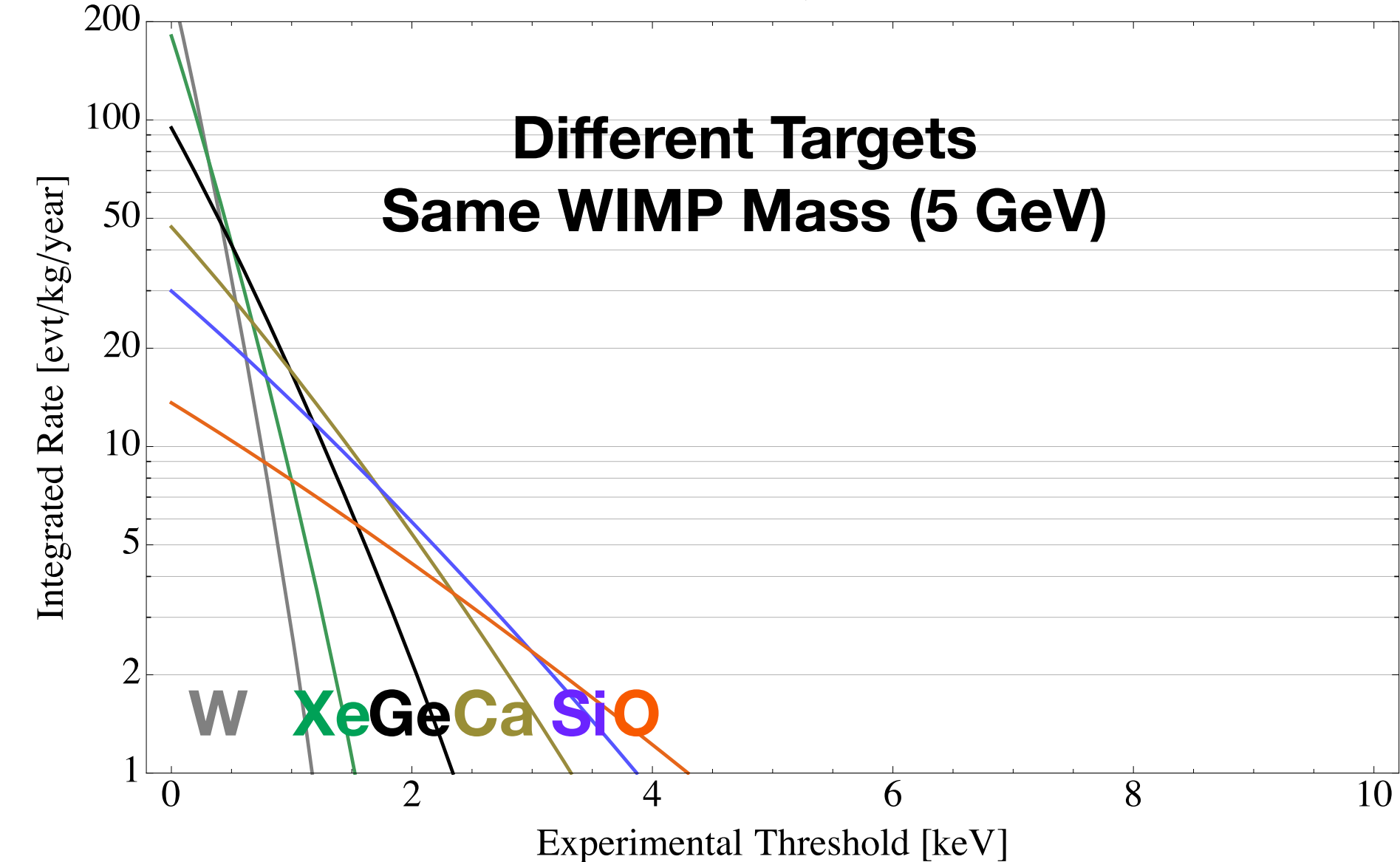
**A WIMP must have a minimum velocity to produce a recoil of a specific energy**



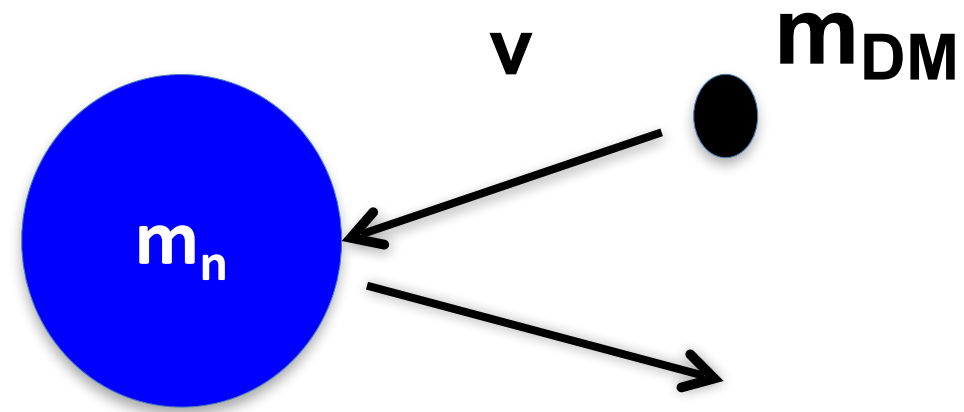
Total Rate for different thresholds in Ge,  $\sigma = 1. \times 10^{-42} \text{cm}^2$



Total Rate for different thresholds,  $m_\chi = 5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ,  $\sigma = 1. \times 10^{-42} \text{cm}^2$

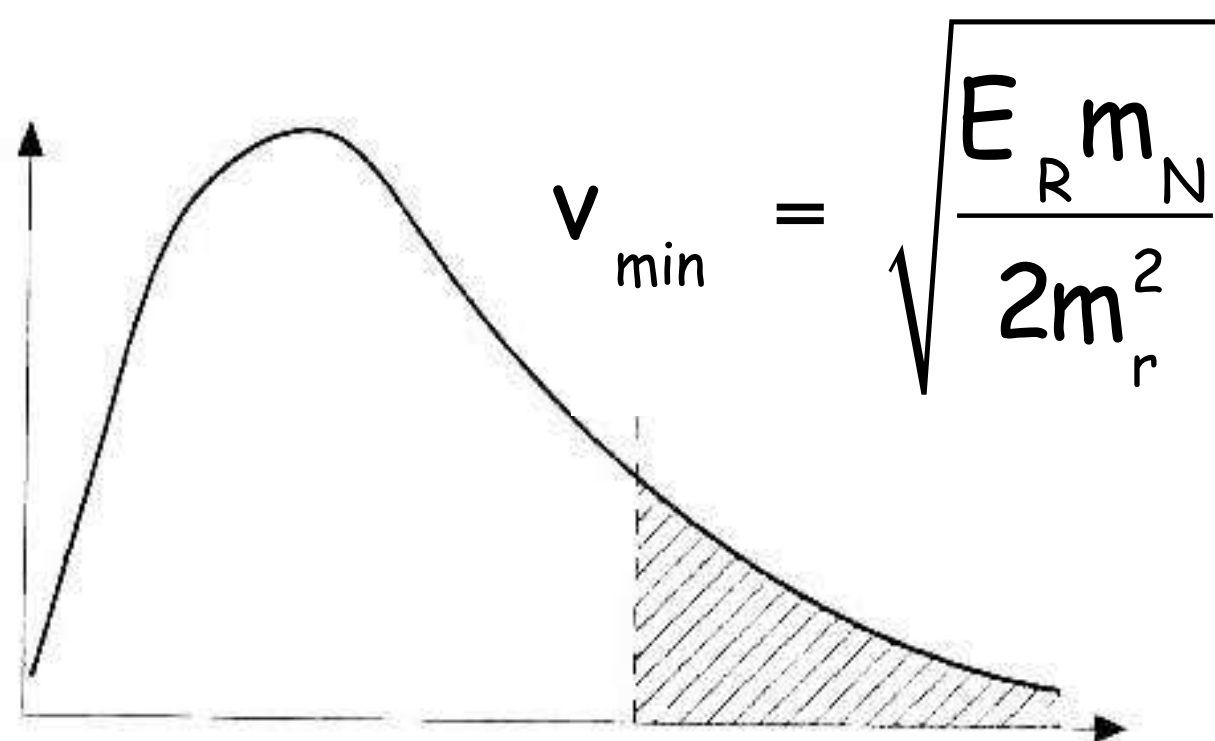


# The low-mass WIMP challenge below 5 GeV

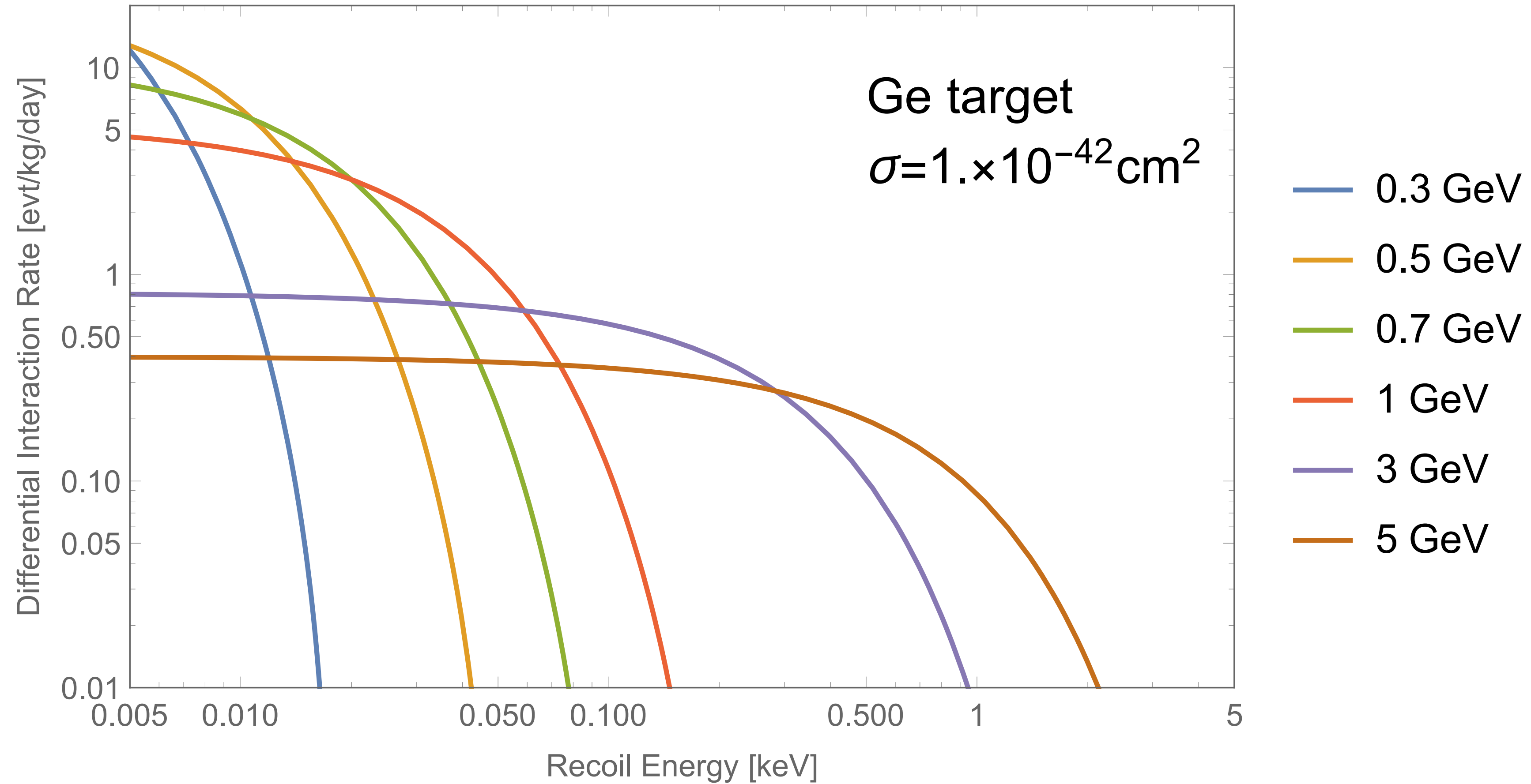


$$\Delta E = \frac{\Delta P^2}{2M_n} \lesssim \frac{2M_{DM}^2 v^2}{M_N}$$

**A WIMP must have a minimum velocity to produce a recoil of a specific energy**



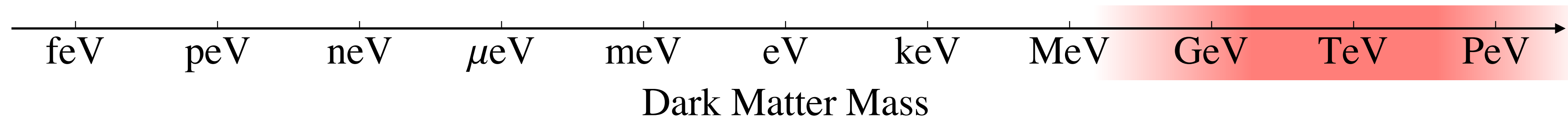
Differential Interaction Rate as a function WIMP Mass



# Nuclear Recoil Direct Detection Requirements

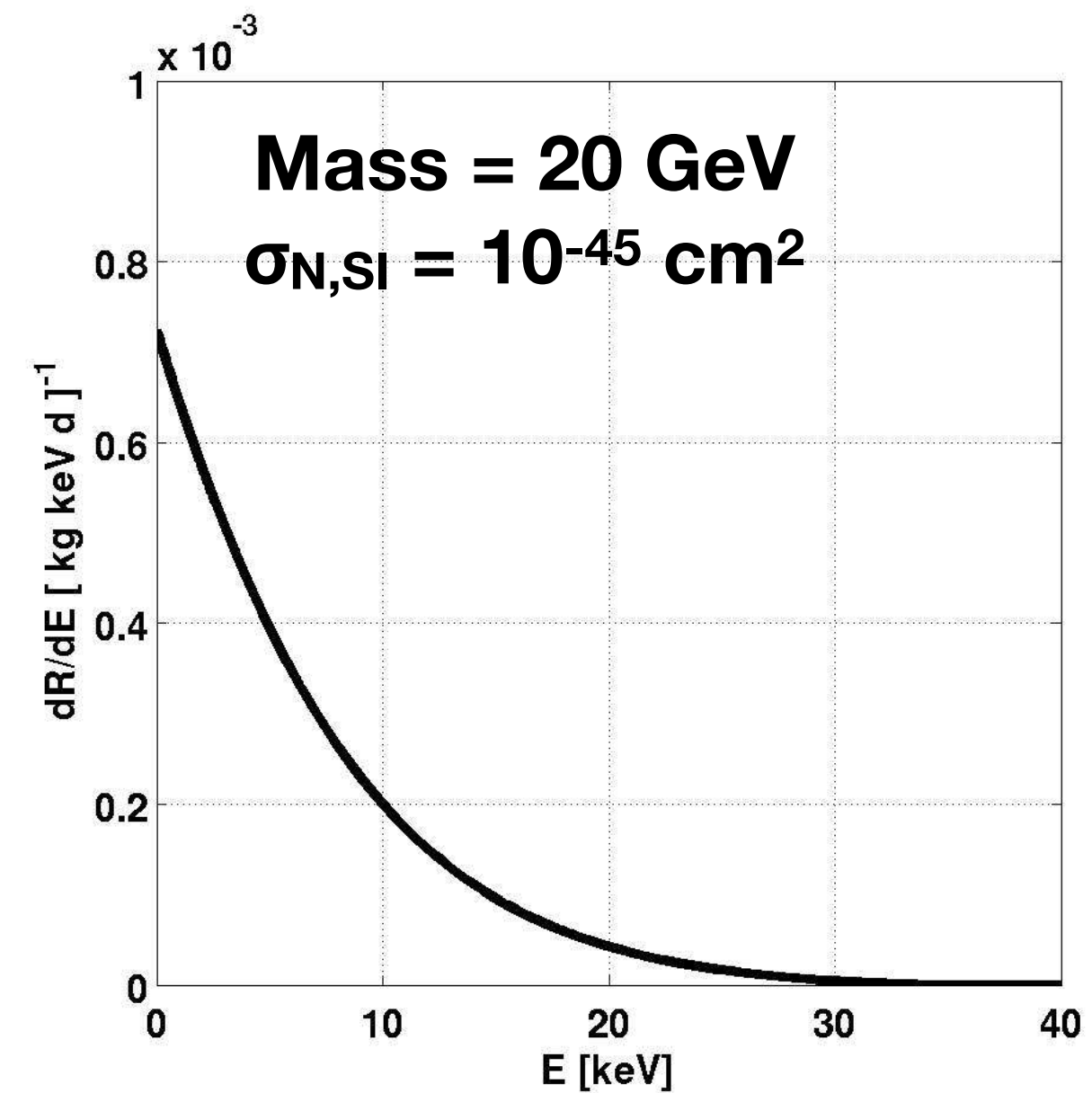
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- 1: Large Exposure (Mass x Time)
- 2: Low Energy Threshold

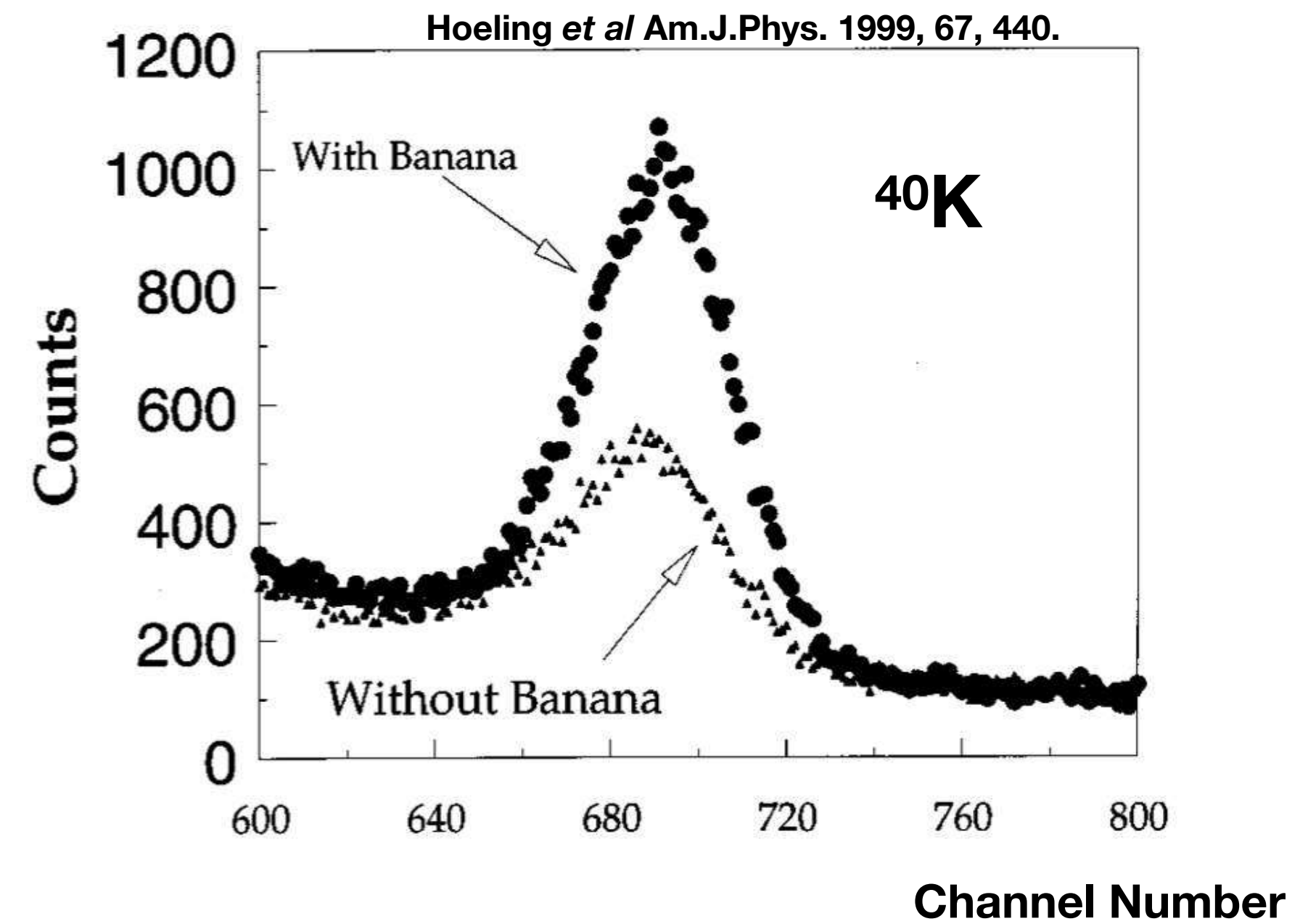


# The Event Rates are Extremely Low!

**Expected  
WIMP Spectrum**



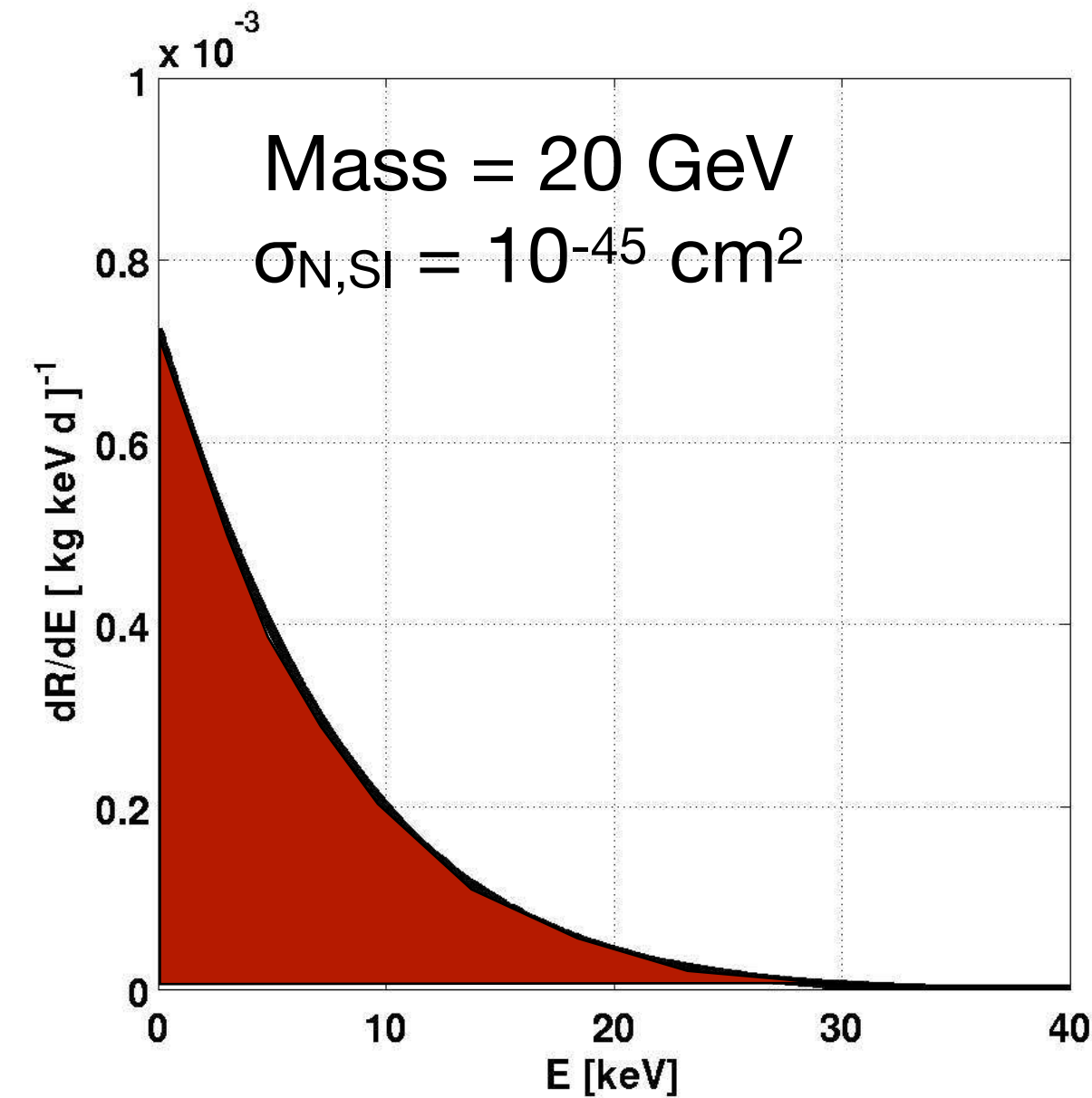
**Measured  
Banana Spectrum**



# The Event Rates are Extremely Low!

Discrimination between electron and nuclear recoils really helps!

Expected  
WIMP Spectrum



~1 event per kg per year

(Nuclear Recoils)

Measured  
Banana Spectrum



~100 events per kg per  
second

(Electron Recoils)

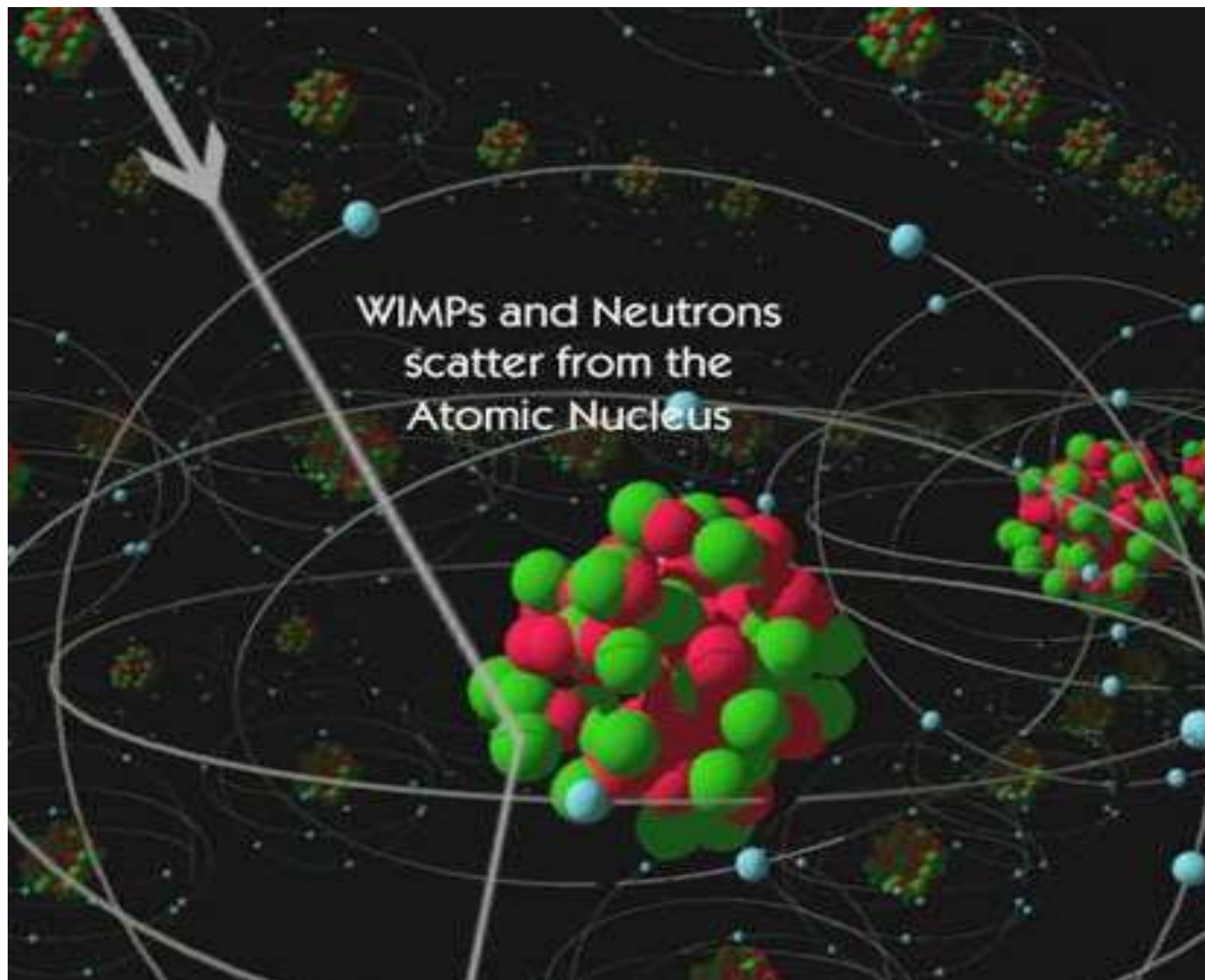
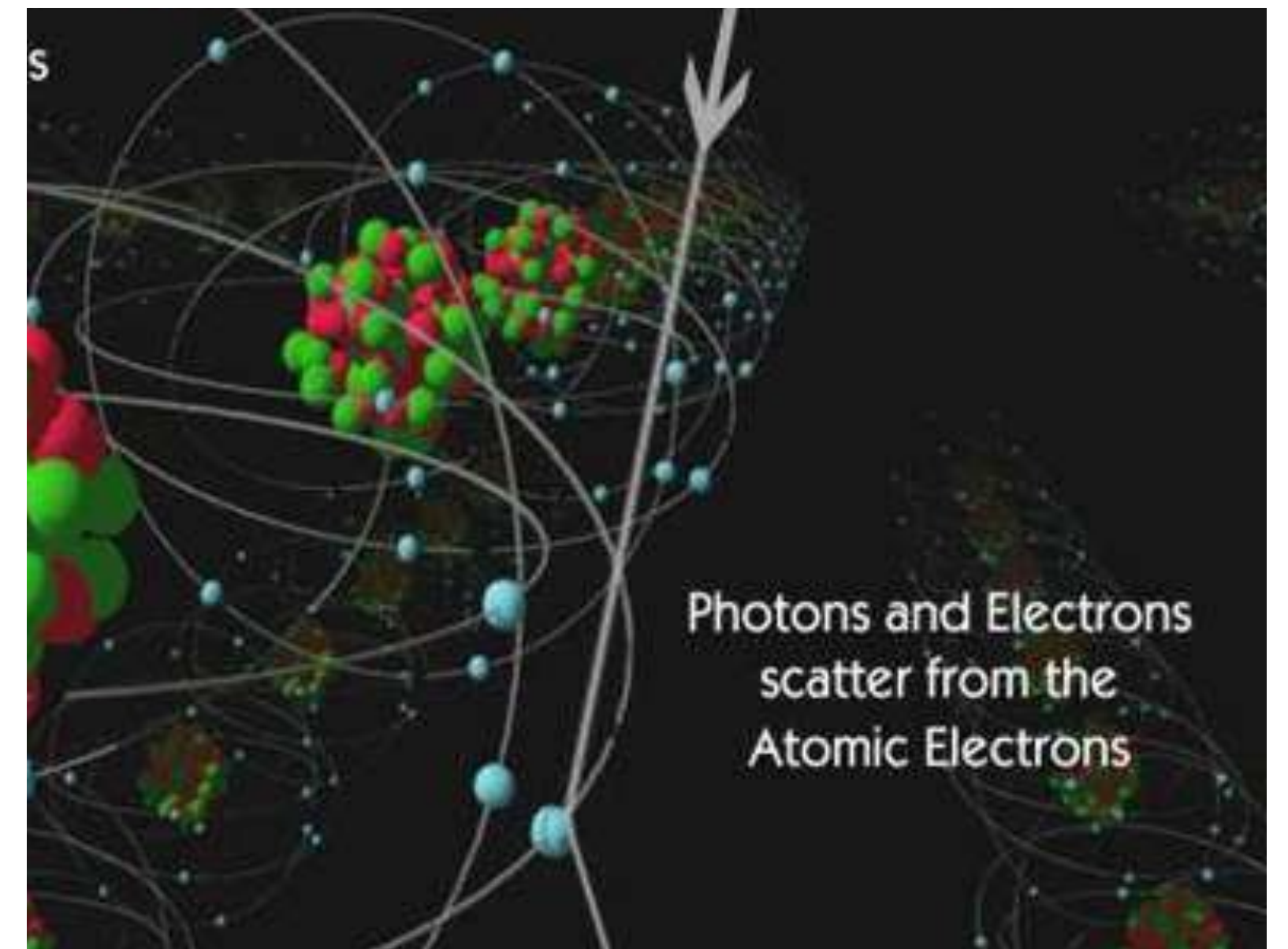
# Typical backgrounds

*Most backgrounds are from trace radioactivity (U, Th, K contamination) or induced by cosmic rays (cosmogenic background)*

## ELECTRON RECOILS (ER)

**Gamma: Most prevalent background**

**Beta: on the surface or in the bulk**



## NUCLEAR RECOILS (NR)

**Neutron: NOT distinguishable from WIMPS**

**Alphas: almost always a surface event**

**Recoiling parent nucleus: yet another surface event**

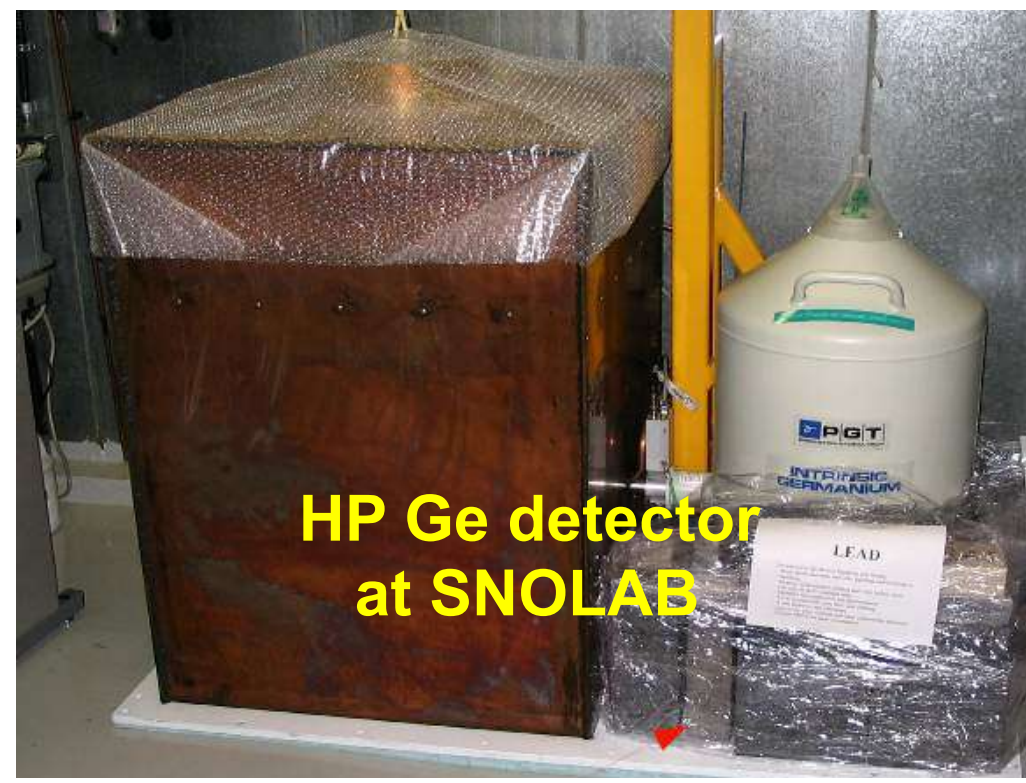
# Managing backgrounds (in 5-steps)

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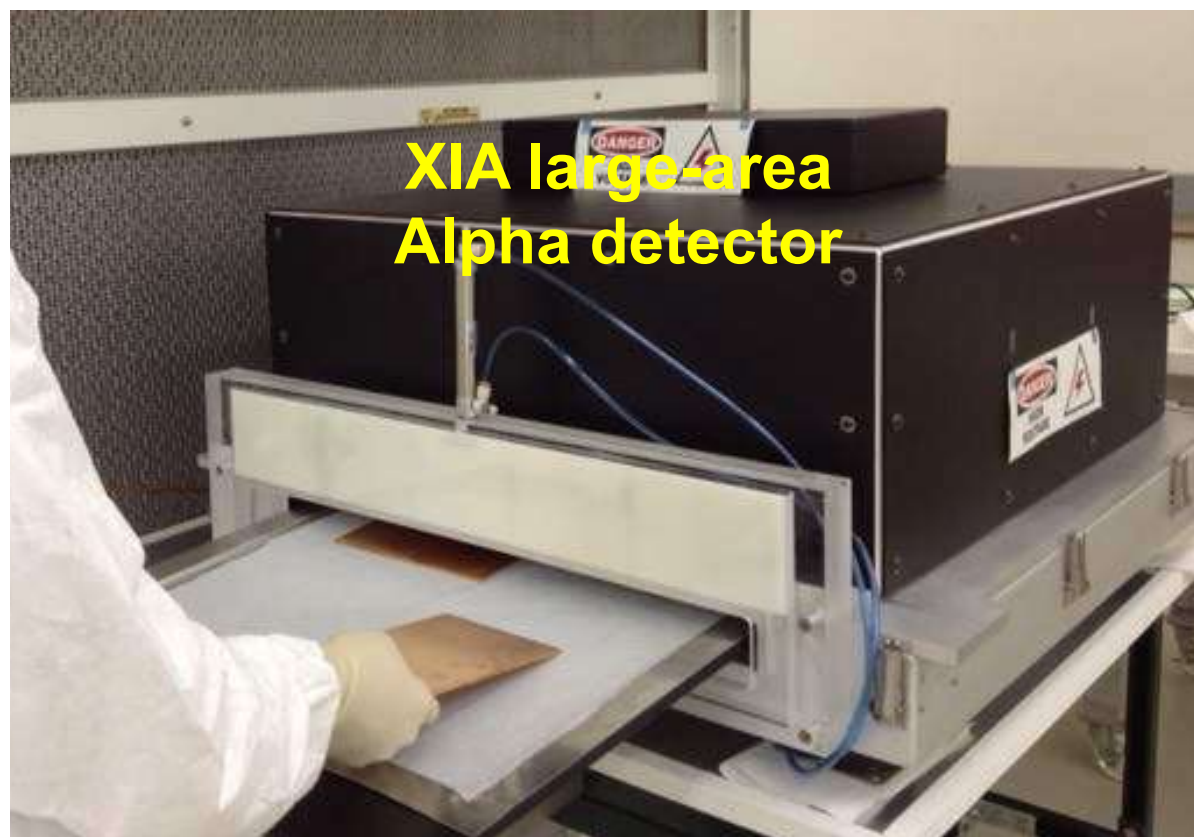
1. Choose highly radiopure materials for your detector and experimental setup. Build it in a state-of-the art clean lab (class ~1000 or better is often used).

# 1a) Screening and material assay

Materials used for dark matter (and some neutrino) experiments must be thoroughly screened for radioactivity before use.



In many cases one is looking for isotope contamination at the level of parts per billion (ppb).



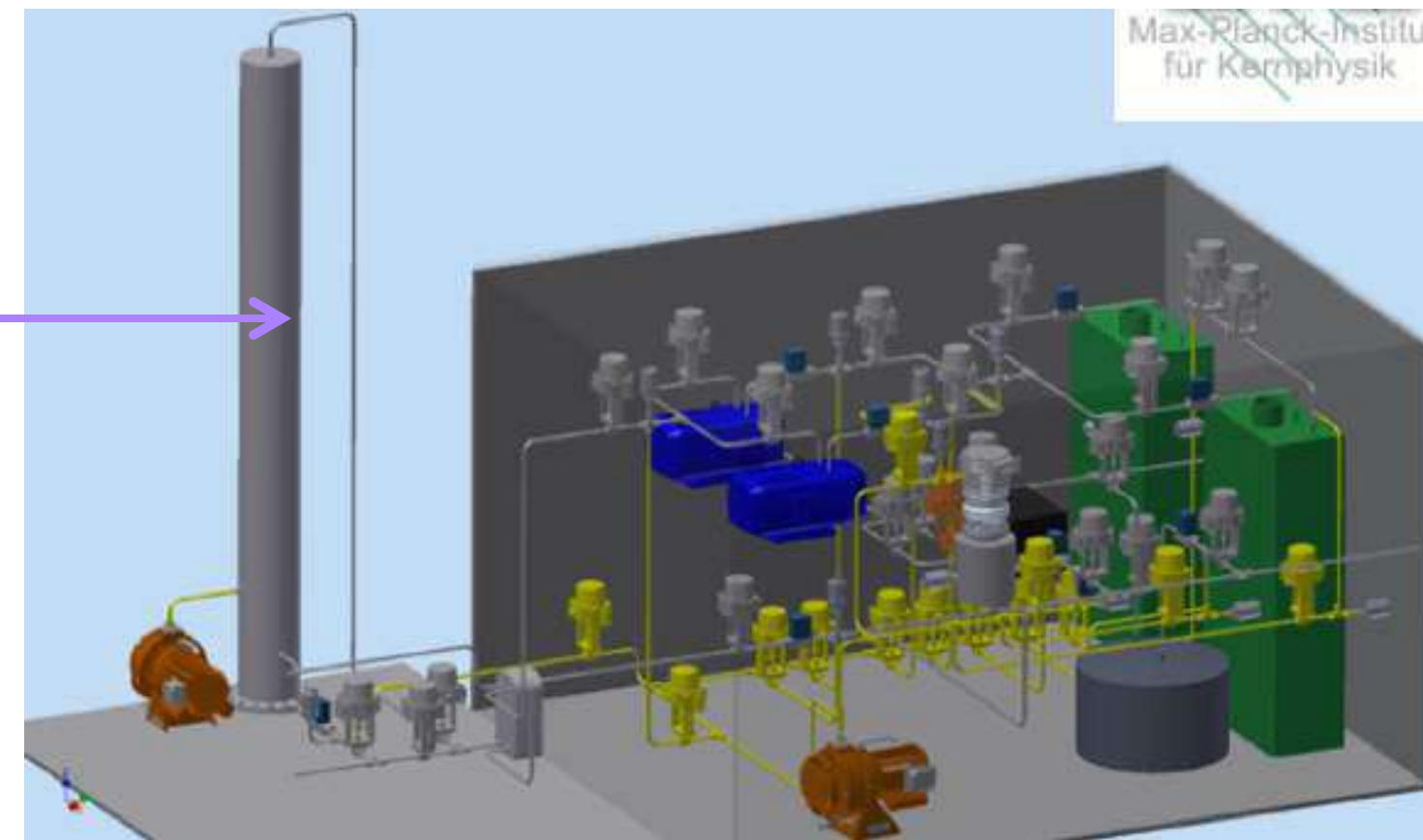
The demands on radiopurity are so high that one needs a detector that is almost as well shielded and low in background as the dark matter detector itself!



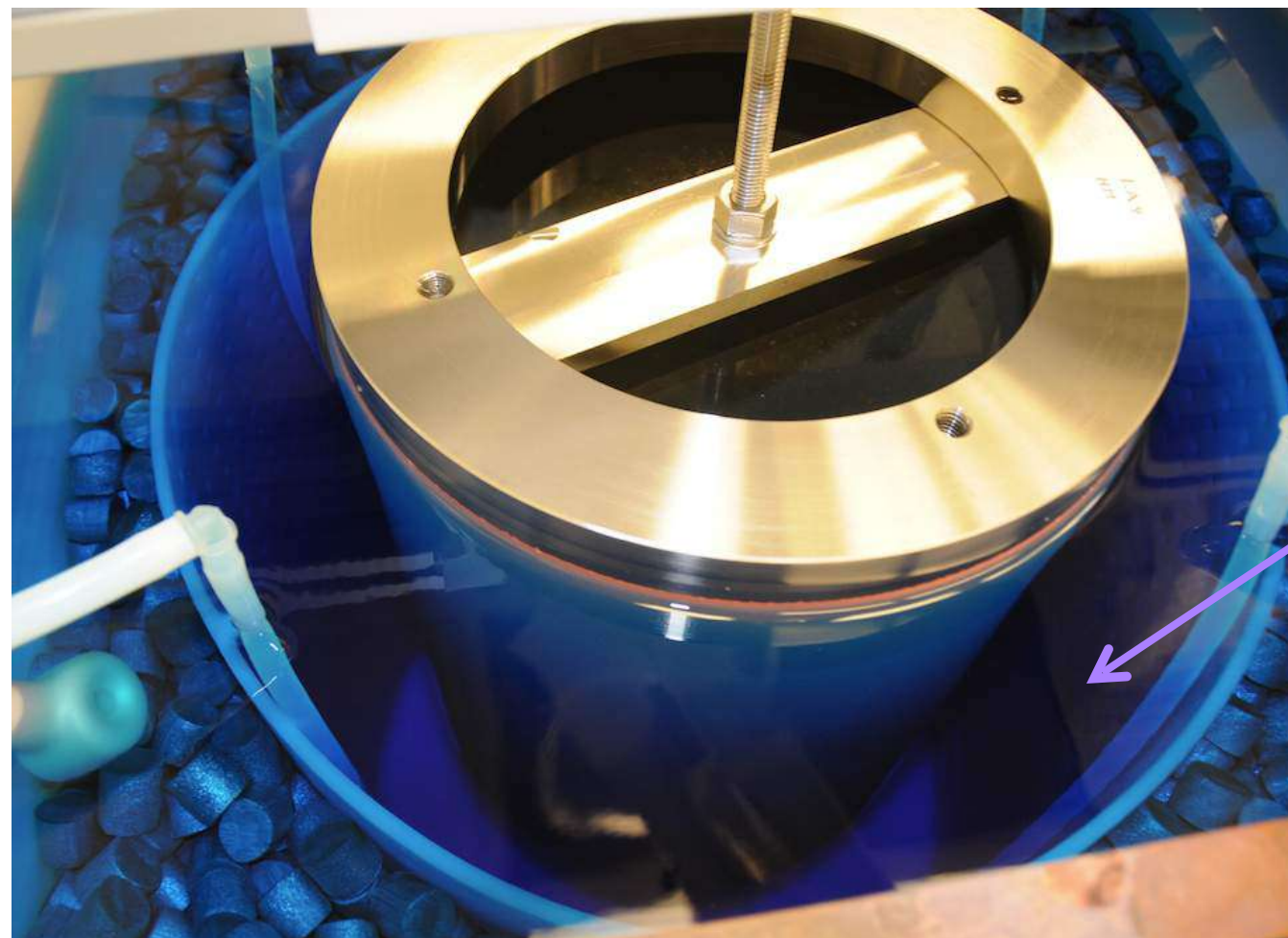
# 1b) If you can't find it build it

If the materials you come across aren't clean enough  
then build, extract or purify it yourself

Kr and Rn  
purification  
schematic for  
Xenon 1T



Distillation tower (at Fermilab)  
for extracting Ar depleted in  
 $^{39}\text{Ar}$  from natural gas wells



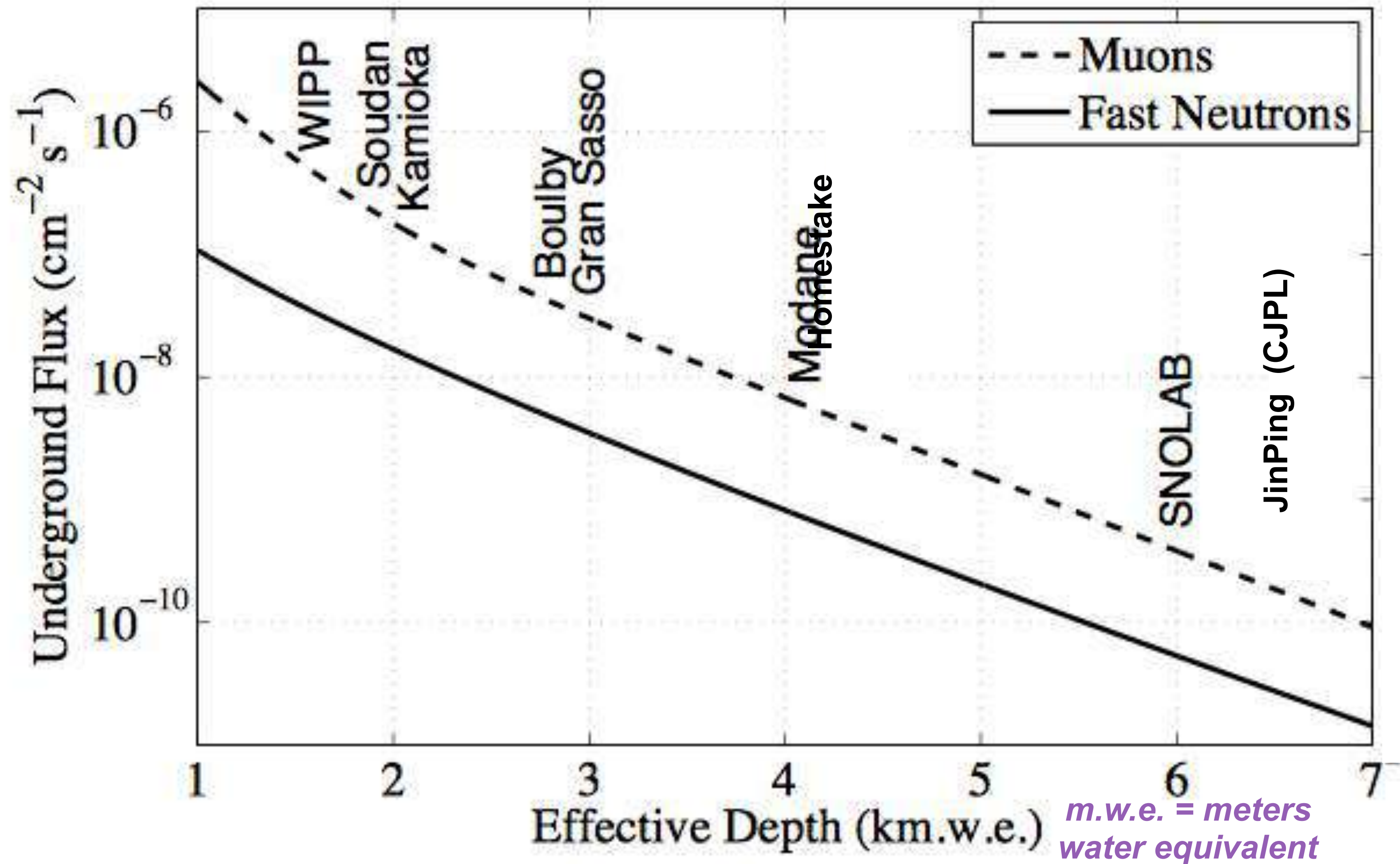
Copper  
electroforming  
setup at PNNL

# Managing backgrounds (in 5-steps)

---

1. Choose highly radiopure materials for your detector and experimental setup. Build it in a state-of-the art clean lab (class ~1000 or better is often used).
2. Cosmic muons produce fast neutrons via spallation. These are difficult to shield against and are a source of irreducible background. Go deep underground where the fast neutron flux is reduced.

## 2) Where to locate your experiment



**Most experiments use the earth as shielding from muons. The lower the muon rate, the lower the fast neutron rate.**

# Managing backgrounds (in 5-steps)

---

1. Choose highly radiopure materials for your detector and experimental setup. Build it in a state-of-the art clean lab (class ~1000 or better is often used).
2. Cosmic muons produce fast neutrons via spallation. These are difficult to shield against and are a source of irreducible background. Go deep underground where the fast neutron flux is reduced.
3. Unless you bury your detector 2 km deep in pristine glacial ice, you will have significant background from radioactivity. Surround your radiopure experiment with several tons of radiopure shielding.

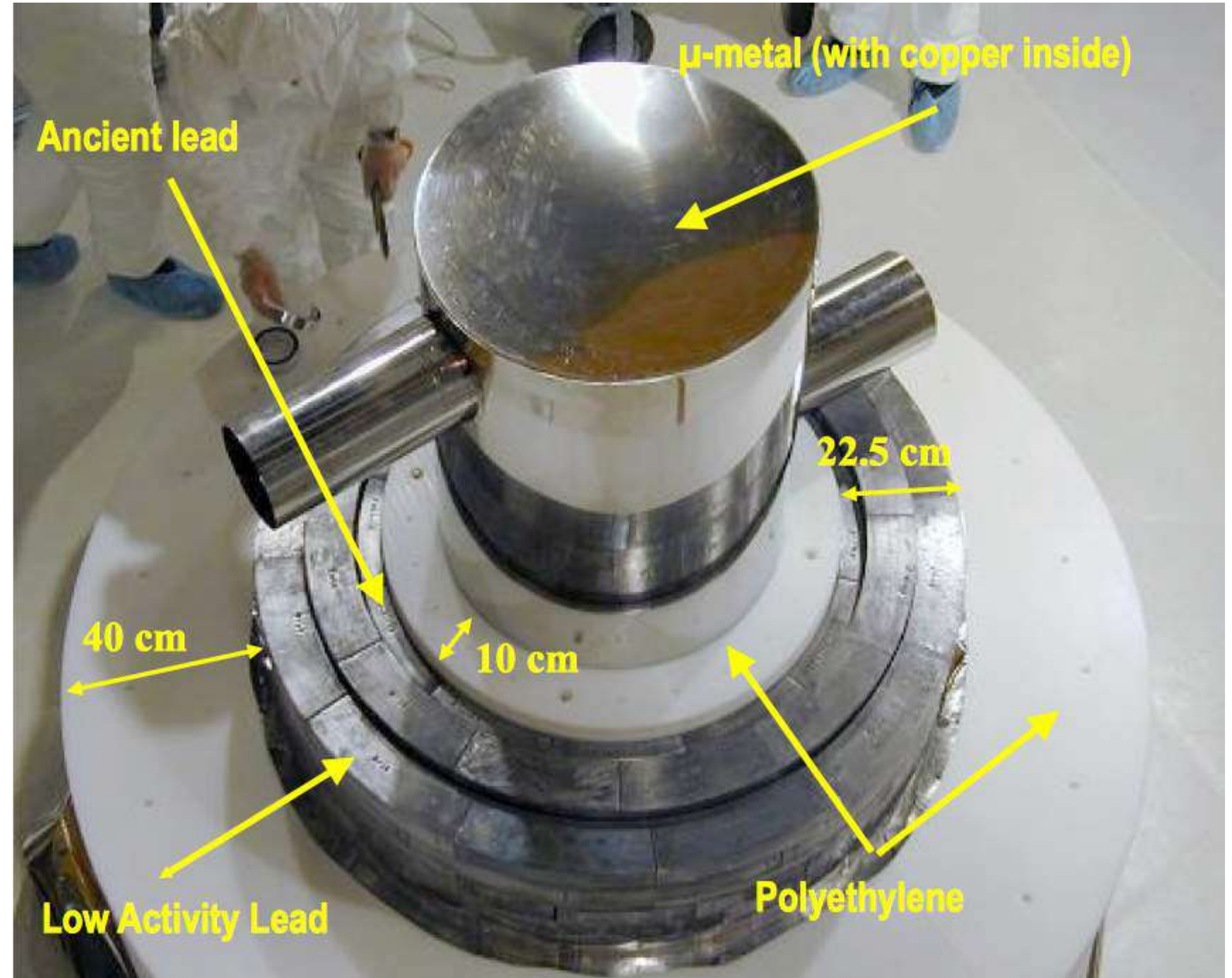
# 3a) Passive Shielding

**Trace U/Th/K and other isotopes in cavern walls and surroundings produce a constant flux of gammas and neutrons (via spontaneous fission or  $\alpha,n$ )**

**Lead shields against gammas;  $\sim 22$  cm drops the gamma rate by  $\sim 10^6$**

**Ancient lead or copper shields against  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , and its daughters, found in standard lead**

**Polyethylene or water moderates radiogenic and cosmogenic neutrons so that they produce recoils below the experimental threshold;  $0.5$  m of poly reduces the neutron scattering rate by  $\sim 10^4$**



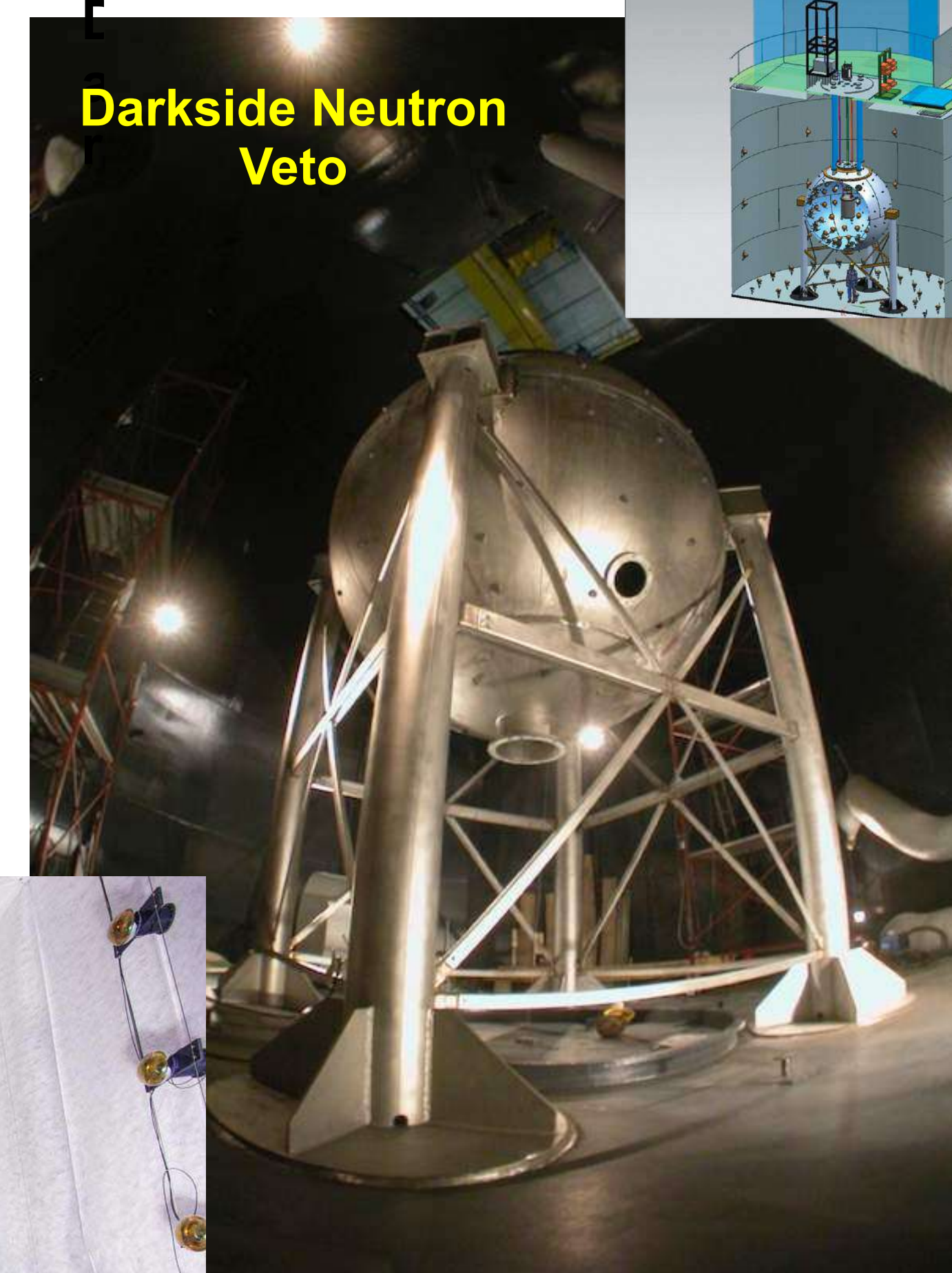
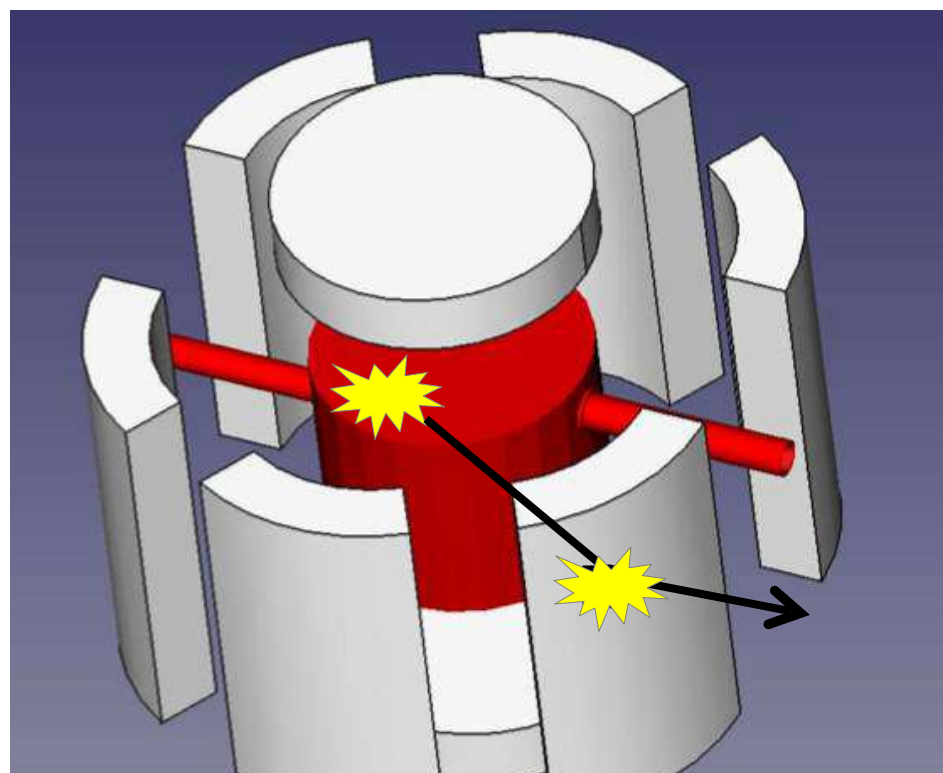
**SuperCDMS passive shielding**

# 3b) Active Shielding

**Muon Veto: water cherenkov or scintillator; rejects muons passing through or near experiment (and the fast neutrons that come with them)**

**Neutron Veto: liquid scintillator doped with isotope w/ high neutron capture cross-section; tags radiogenic neutrons that originate on contaminated material close to or within the experiment.**

*SuperCDMS neutron veto schematic*



# Managing backgrounds (in 5-steps)

---

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2. Cosmic muons produce fast neutrons via spallation. These are difficult to shield against and are a source of irreducible background. Go deep underground where the fast neutron flux is reduced.
3. Unless you bury your detector 2 km deep in pristine glacial ice, you will have significant background from radioactivity. Surround your radiopure experiment with several tons of radiopure shielding
4. You will likely still have  $O(10^6)$  more ER than expected WIMP scatters in your detector, so make sure your experiment has some ability to distinguish ER from NR - at the level of one part in  $10^6$  or  $10^7$  if you can manage it.

# Managing backgrounds (in 5-steps)

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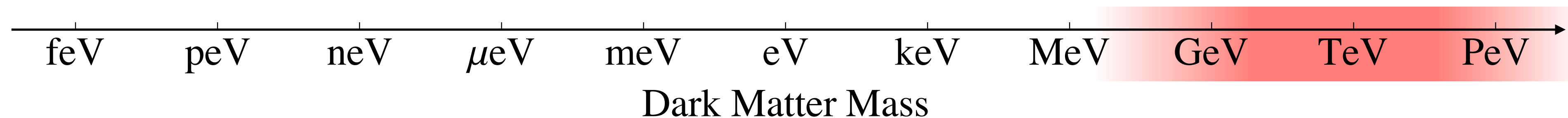
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5. A team of talented students and postdocs who fine-tune rejection of background and maximize signal acceptance will extract the most out of the data.



# Nuclear Recoil Direct Detection Requirements

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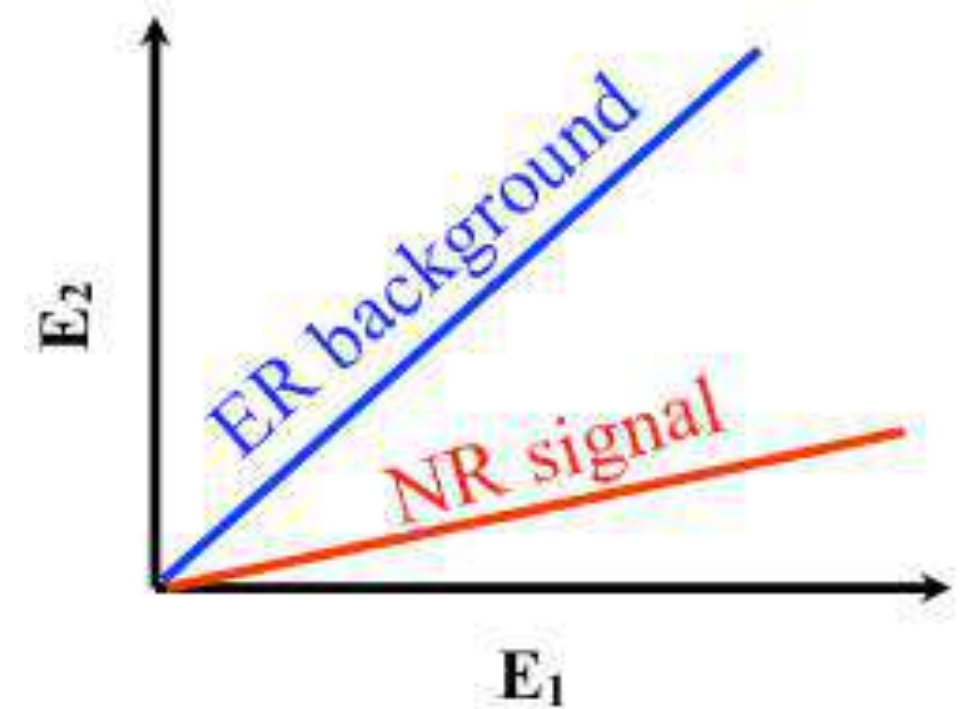
- 1: Large Exposure (Mass x Time)
- 2: Low Energy Threshold
- 3: Low Backgrounds



# Separating Signal from Background...

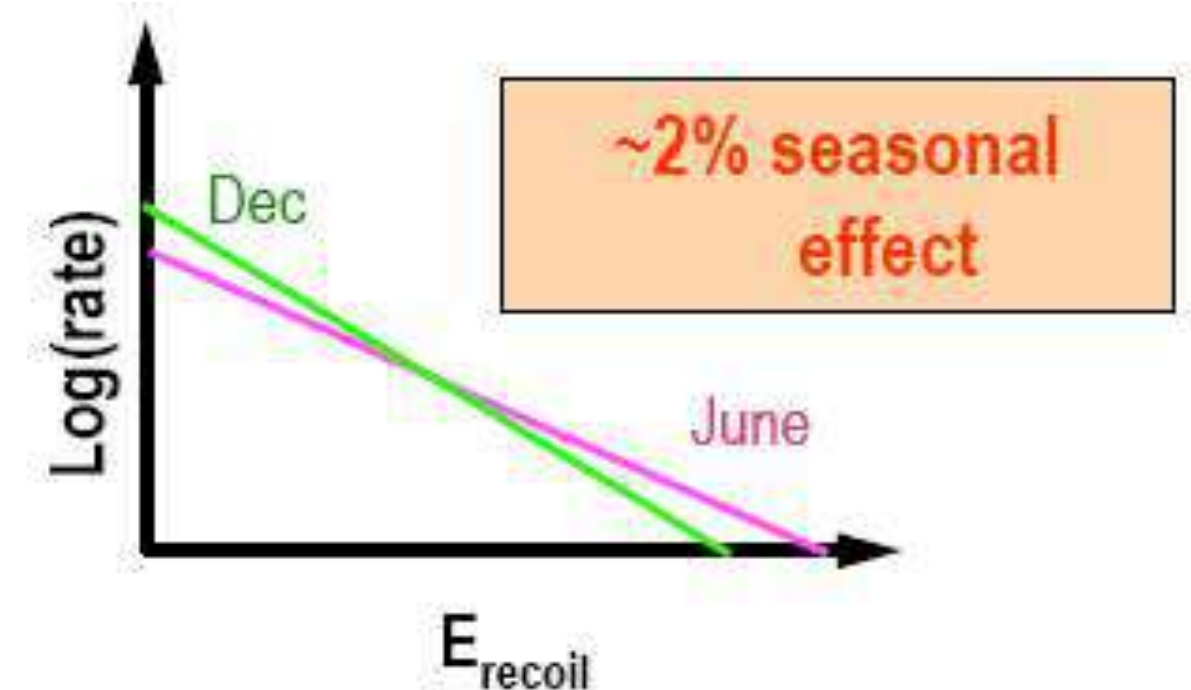
- **By Detector Response**

- Obtain particle identification from the physics of the detector response to different types of particle interactions.



- **By Astrophysical Modulation**

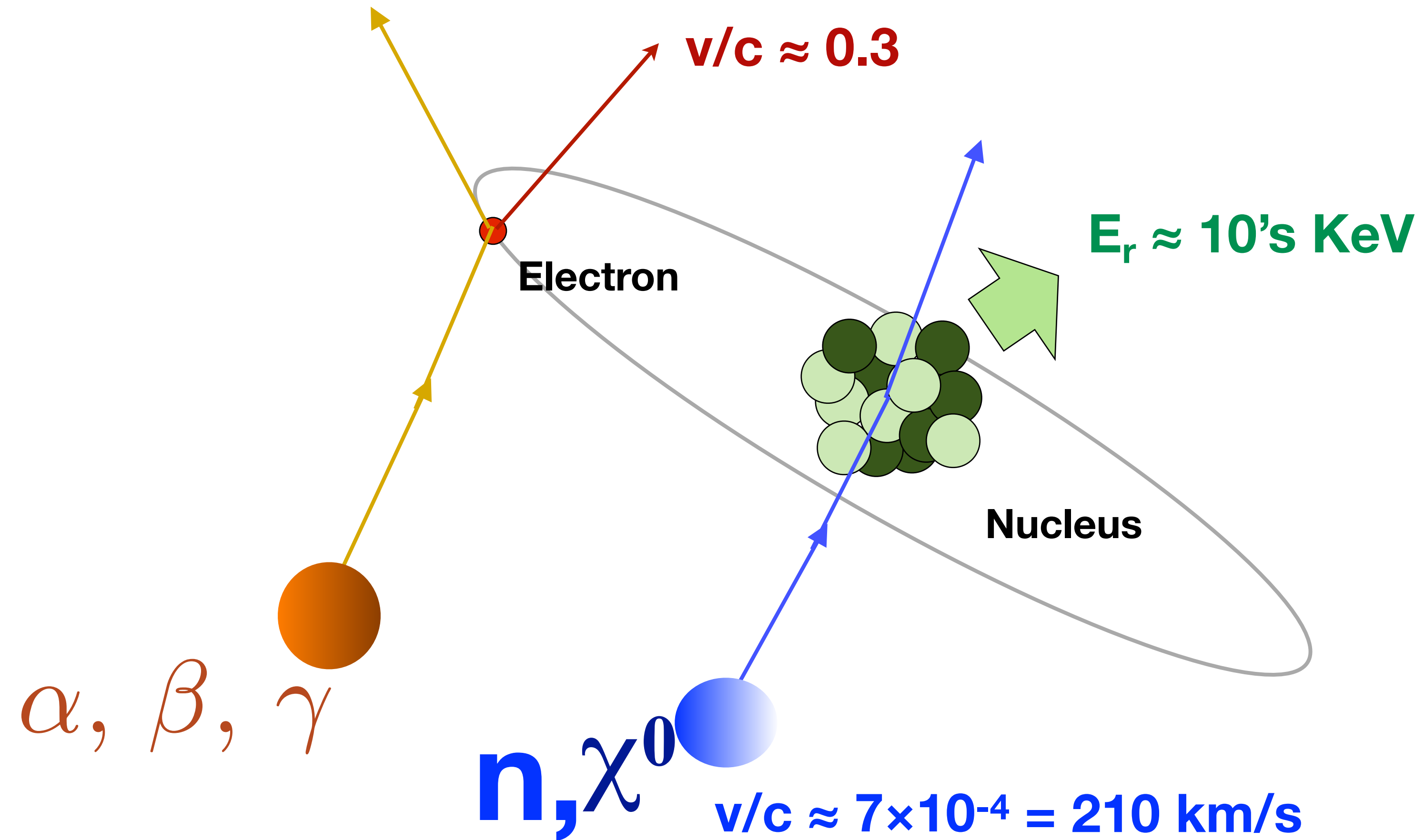
- Annual Modulation in the WIMP recoil spectrum. Earth's velocity through the galactic halo is max in June, min in December (DAMA/LIBRA).
- Daily modulation of the incident WIMP direction. Measure the direction of the short track produced by nuclear recoil. (DM-TPC)



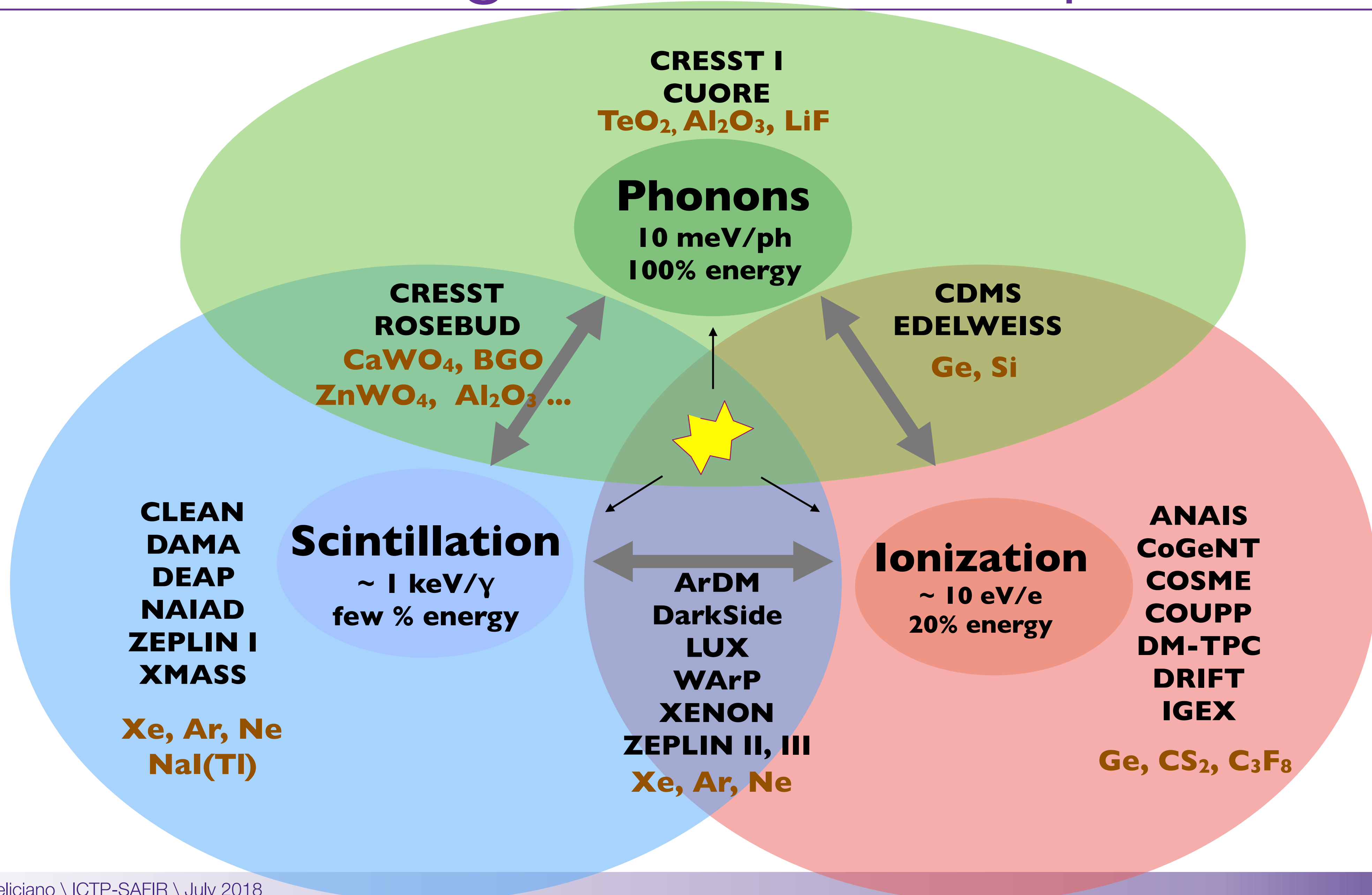
- **Can be Event-by-Event or Statistical**

# Particle ID through Detector Response

**Different  
Response to  
Electron  
Recoils and  
Nuclear Recoils  
Allows  
Discrimination**

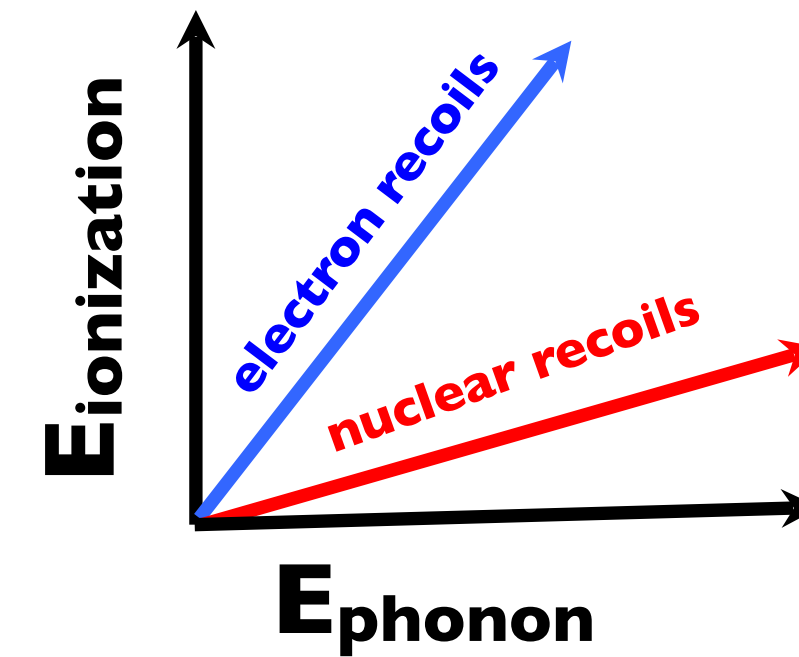
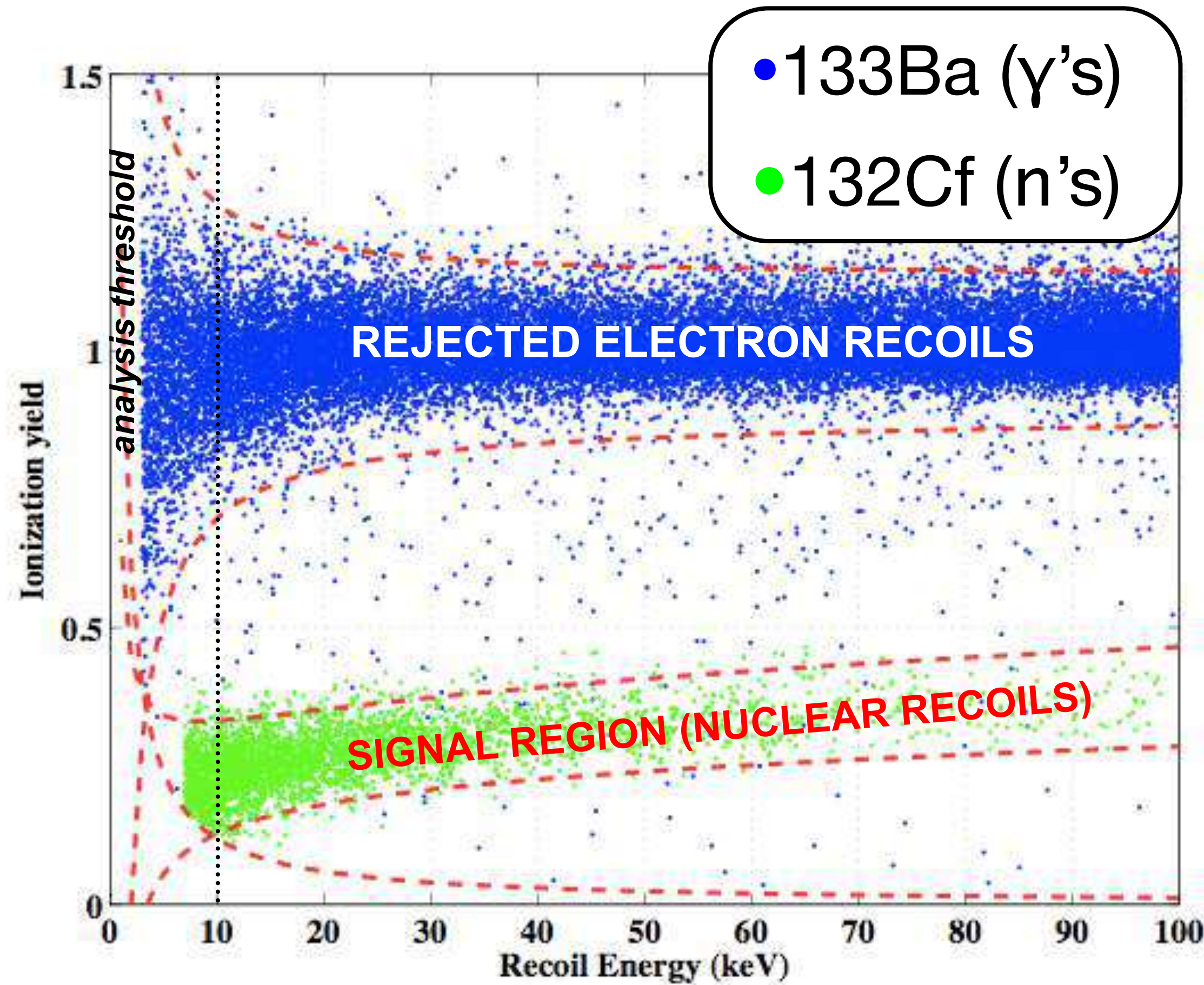


# Particle ID Through Detector Response



# Textbook example with CDMS

“Some discrimination parameter”  
(ionization yield in this case)



$$\text{ionization yield} = \frac{E_{\text{ionization}}}{E_{\text{phonon}}}$$

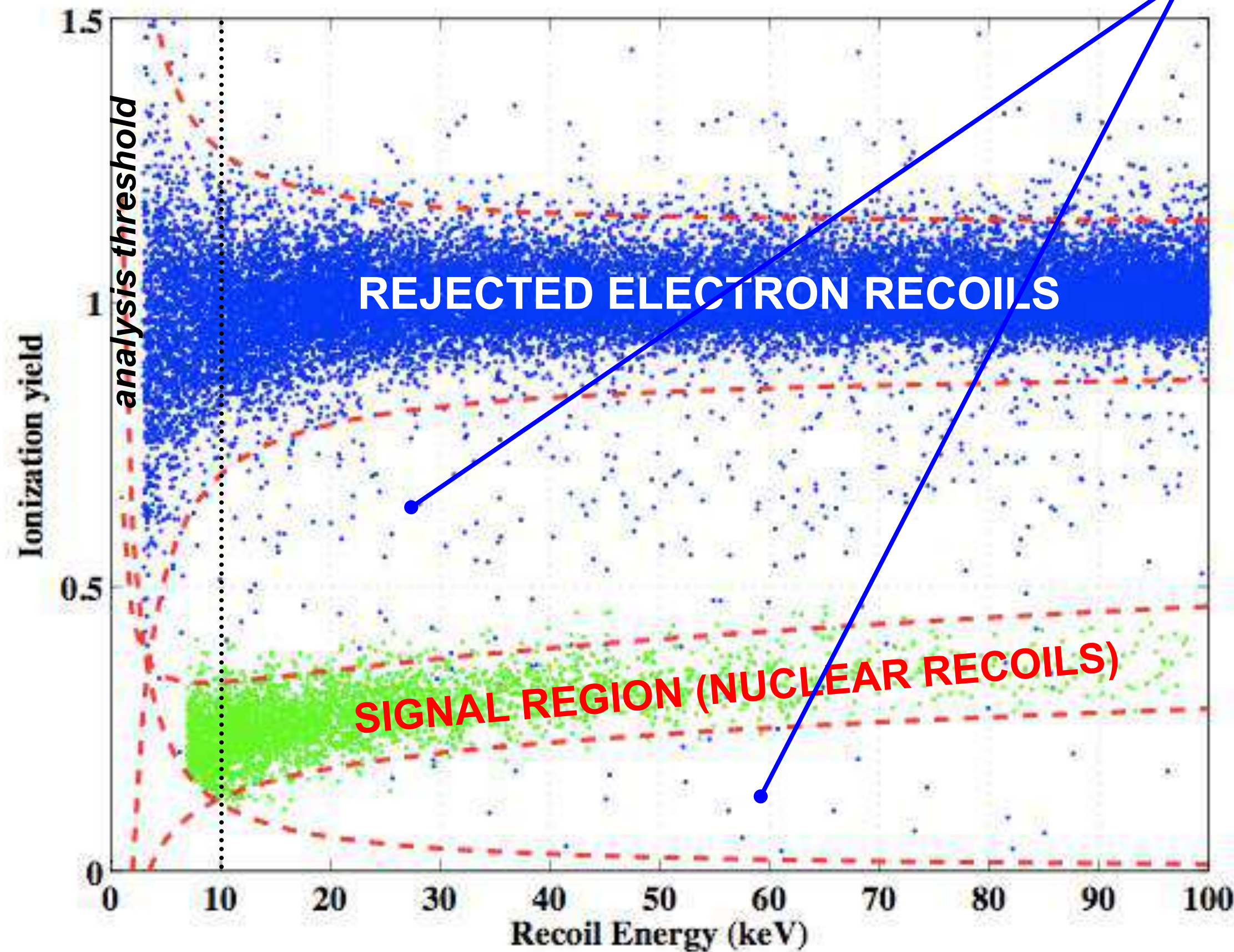
1:10<sup>4</sup> rejection of  
gammas based on  
ionization yield alone

*Experiments that measure more than one of the products of a recoil exploit the fact that ER's and NR's deposit different fractions of the recoil energy in the form of HEAT, IONIZATION and SCINTILLATION.*

# Textbook example with CDMS

“Some discrimination parameter”  
(ionization yield in this case)

1:10<sup>4</sup> sounds great, BUT wait! What are these events?



**SURFACE EVENTS** (betas, alphas, recoiling parent nuclei and x-rays) are a near-universal problem in direct detection.

FIDUCIALIZATION of the target volume is necessary to reject these events. So ideally, your detector needs to be able to determine the position of an event as well as its energy.

*Experiments that measure more than one of the products of a recoil exploit the fact that ER's and NR's deposit different fractions of the recoil energy in the form of HEAT, IONIZATION and SCINTILLATION.*

# Other ways of attaining Particle Identification

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- Pulse-Shape Discrimination
  - e.g., scintillation timing (DEAP/CLEAN, DarkSide, etc...)
- Nuclear-recoil-only trigger mechanism
  - (a la COUPP, PICASSO, PICO...)
- Self-Shielding (XMASS)
- Others...

End of Lecture 1