

# IMPACT OF FERMI ON THE SEARCH FOR PARTICLE DARK MATTER

BEN SAFDI

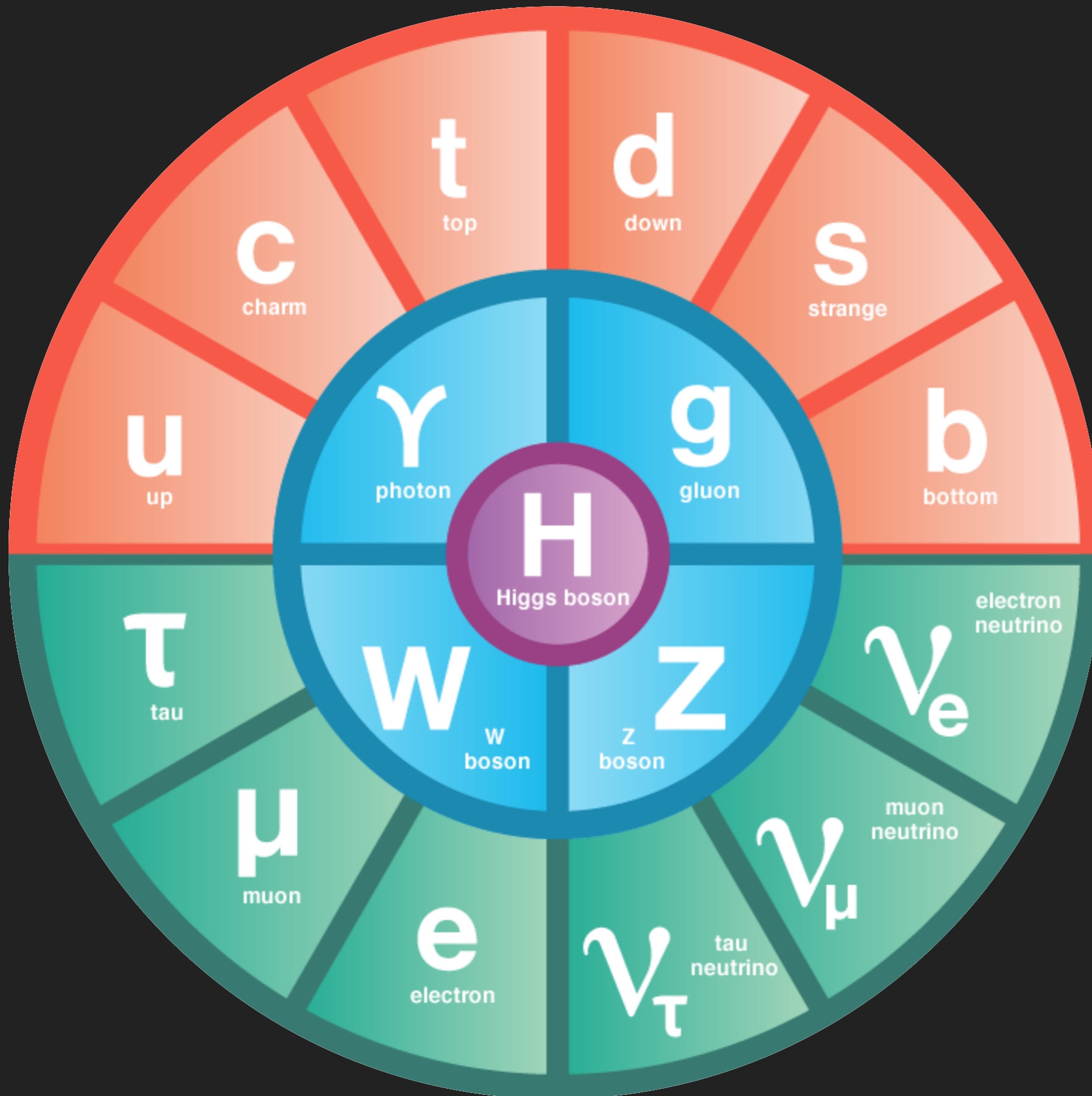
BERKELEY CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



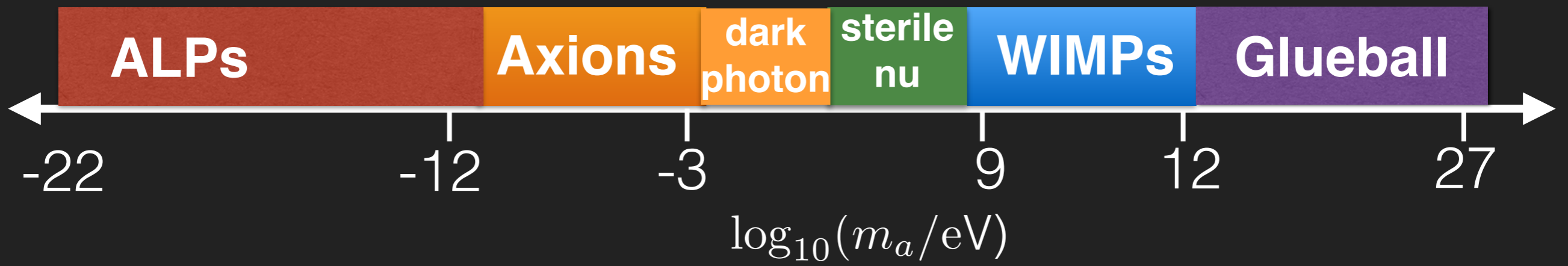
A deep space photograph showing a vast field of stars. The Milky Way galaxy is visible as a bright, hazy band of light stretching across the lower portion of the image. The stars are densely packed, with some appearing as sharp points of light and others as faint, diffuse clouds. The overall color palette is dark blue and black, with the Milky Way providing a warm, golden-brown glow.

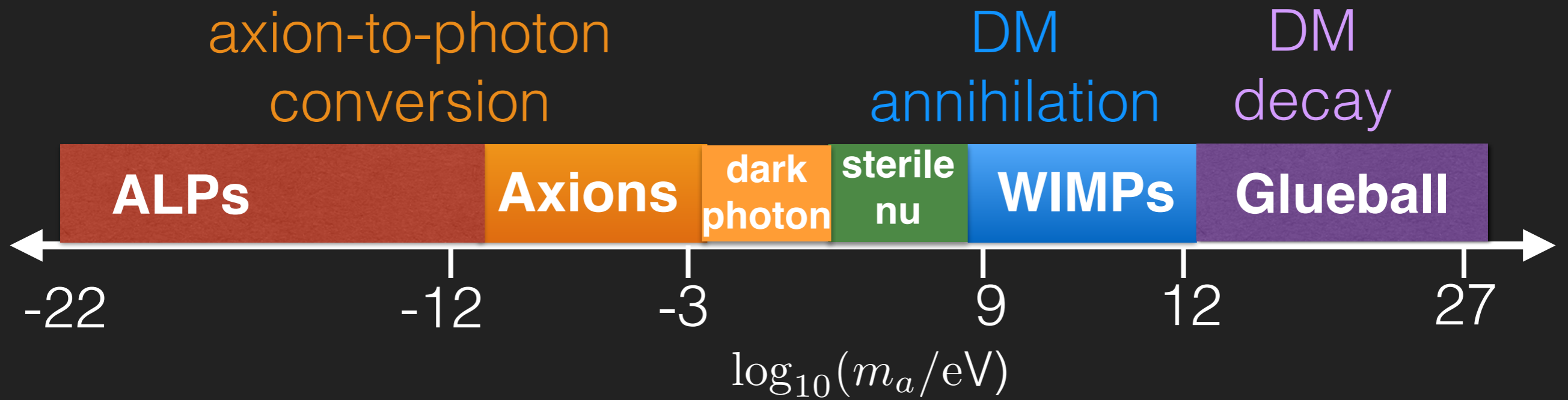
**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FERMI TEAM!**

# What is the microscopic nature of dark matter??



DM??

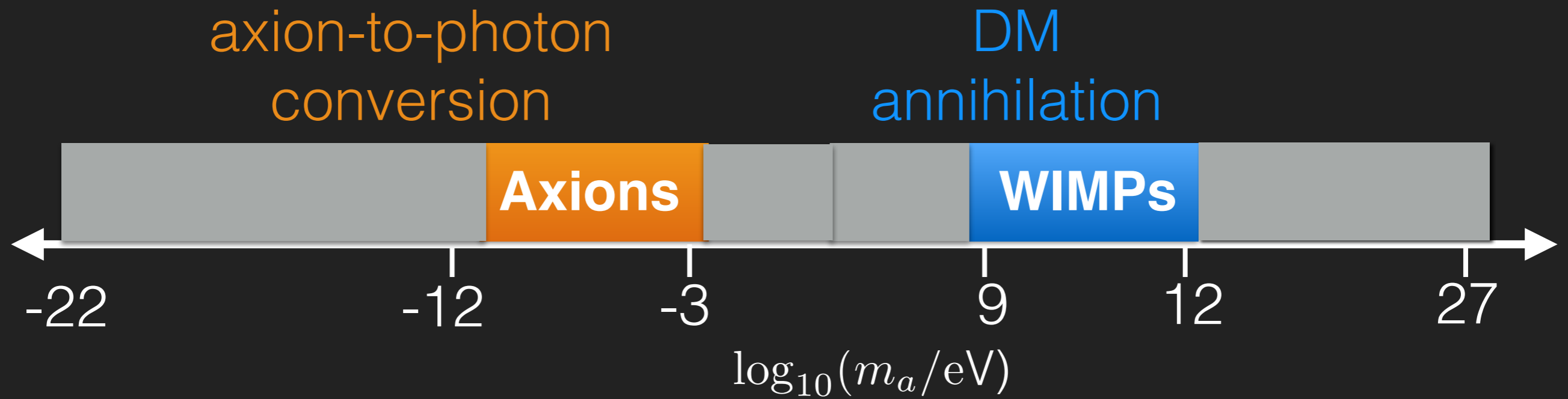




Many of these models could be first discovered in gamma-rays!

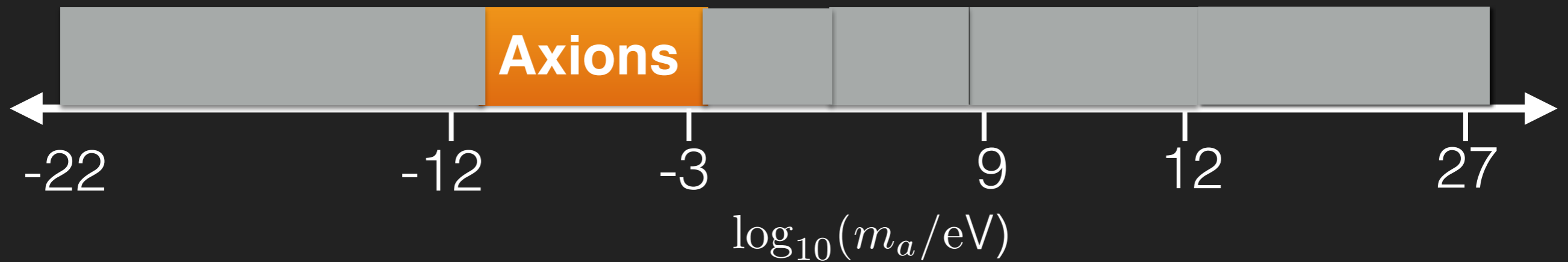


# Best-motivated particle dark matter scenarios in my opinion

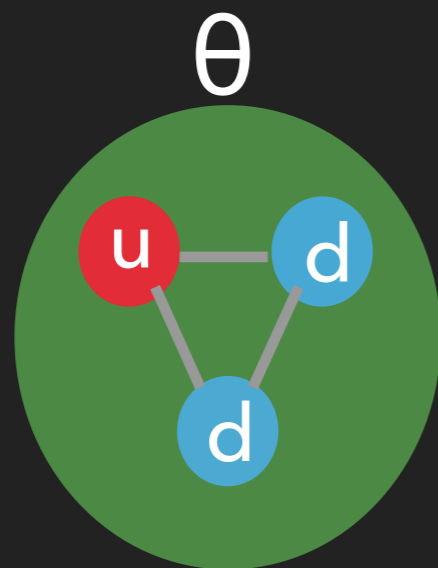


# This talk: WIMPs, but start with few words axions

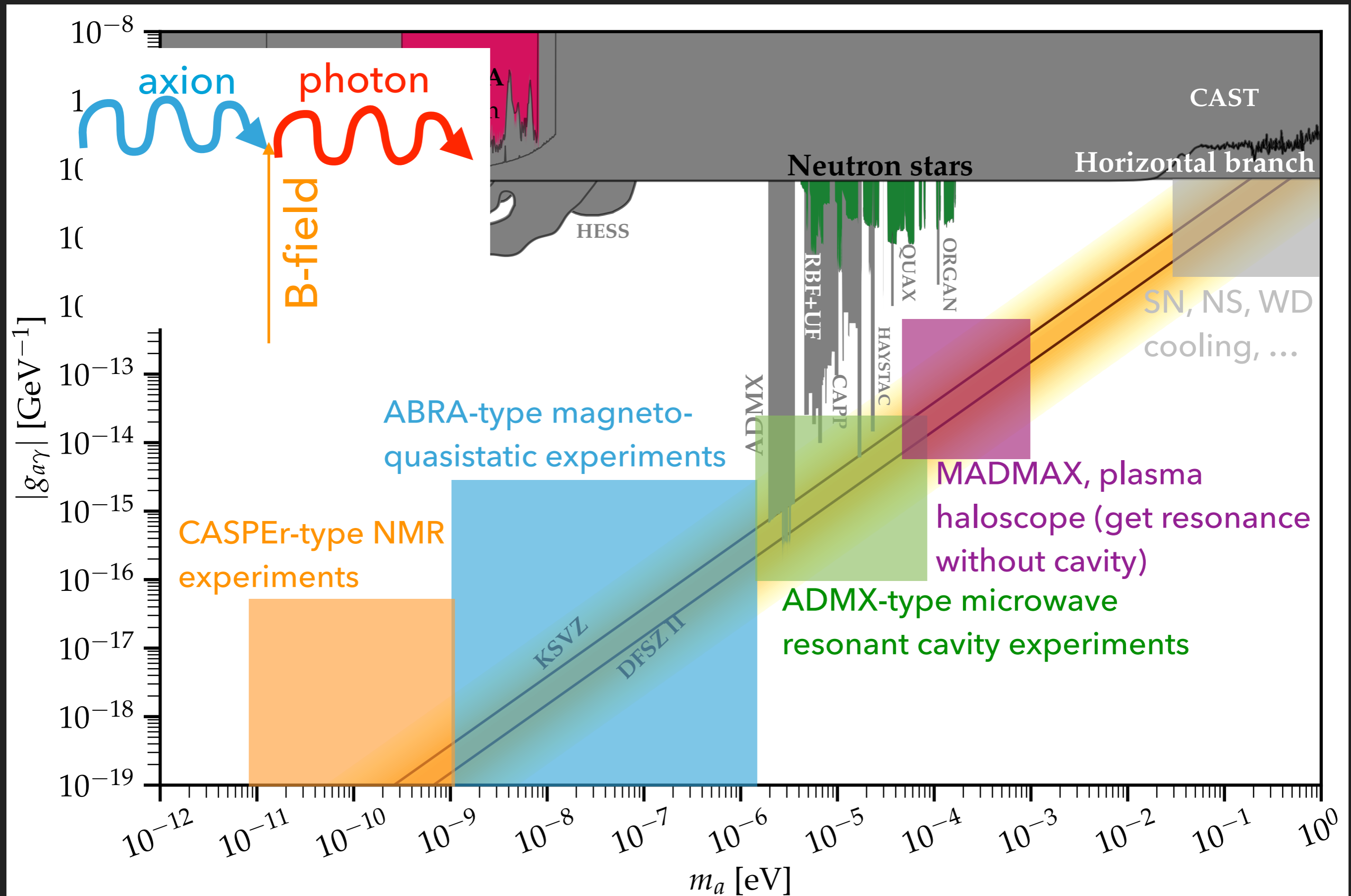
axion-to-photon  
conversion



Axions introduced to solve strong-CP, also  
can be dark matter

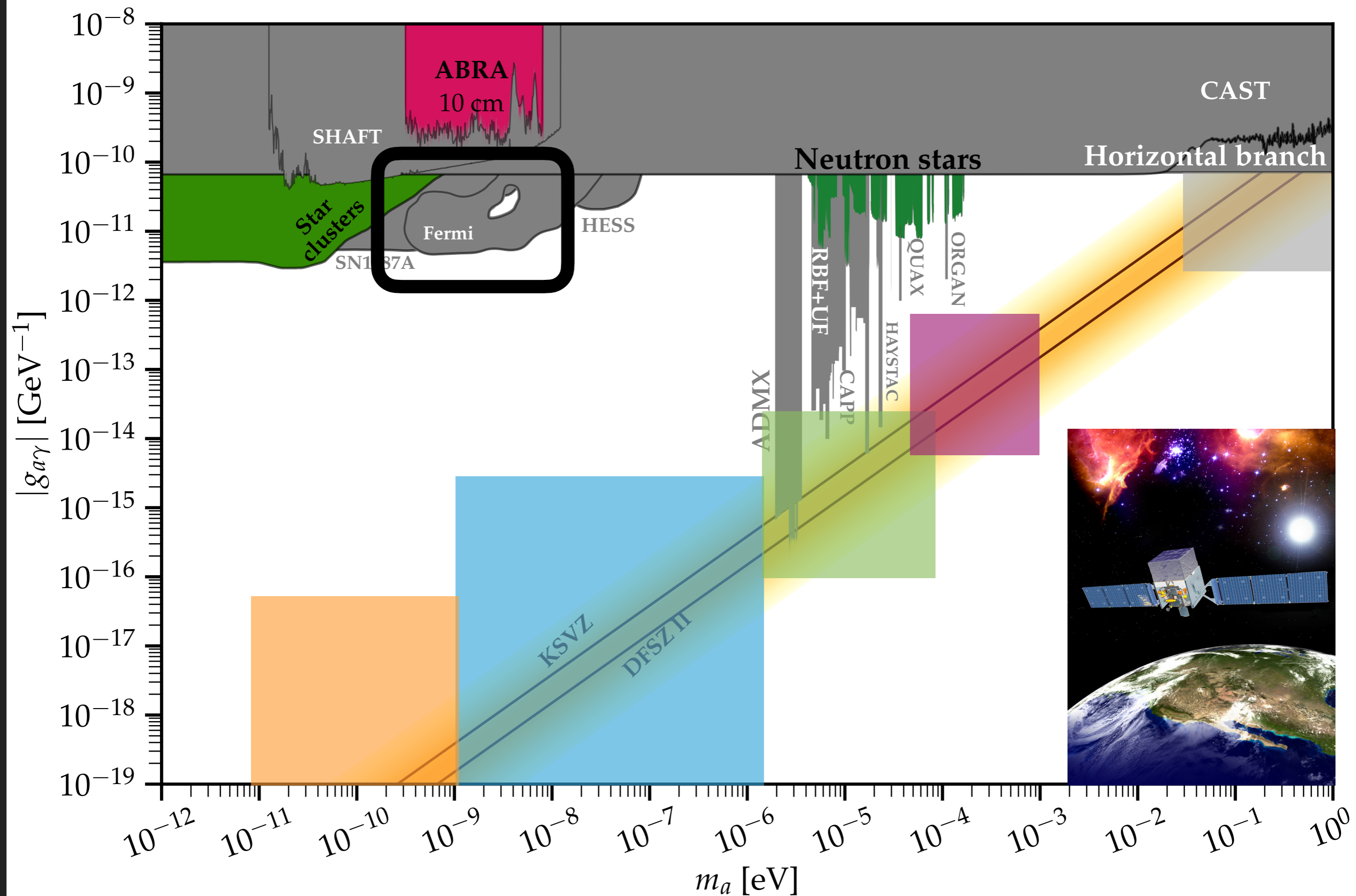


# Axion Parameter Space to be Covered in Coming Years





# Fermi has played a role in generalized ALP space



# Fermi could detect QCD axions with Galactic supernova

Supernova axions convert to gamma-rays in magnetic fields of progenitor stars

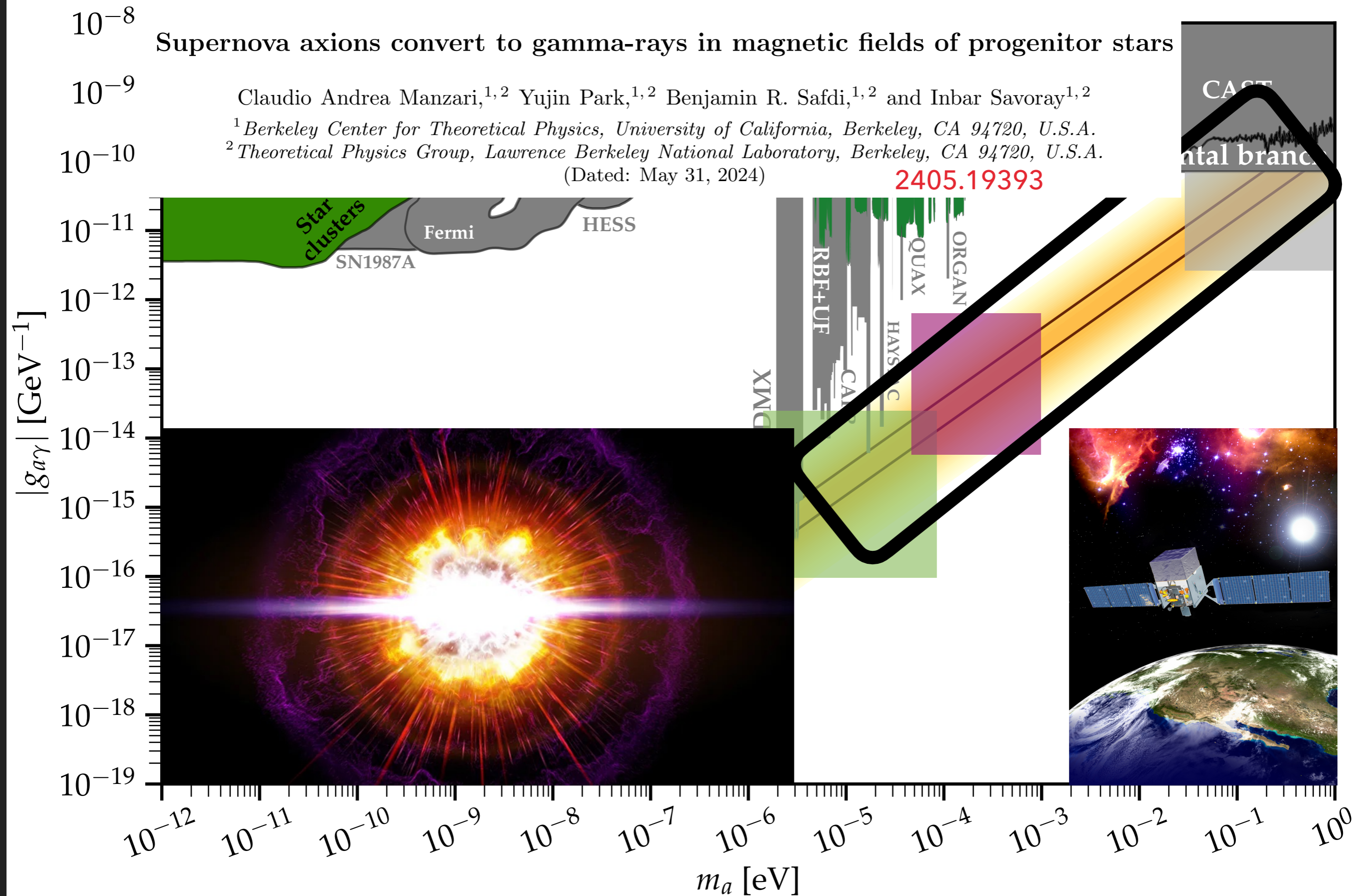
Claudio Andrea Manzari,<sup>1,2</sup> Yujin Park,<sup>1,2</sup> Benjamin R. Safdi,<sup>1,2</sup> and Inbar Savoray<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup>Theoretical Physics Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, U.S.A.

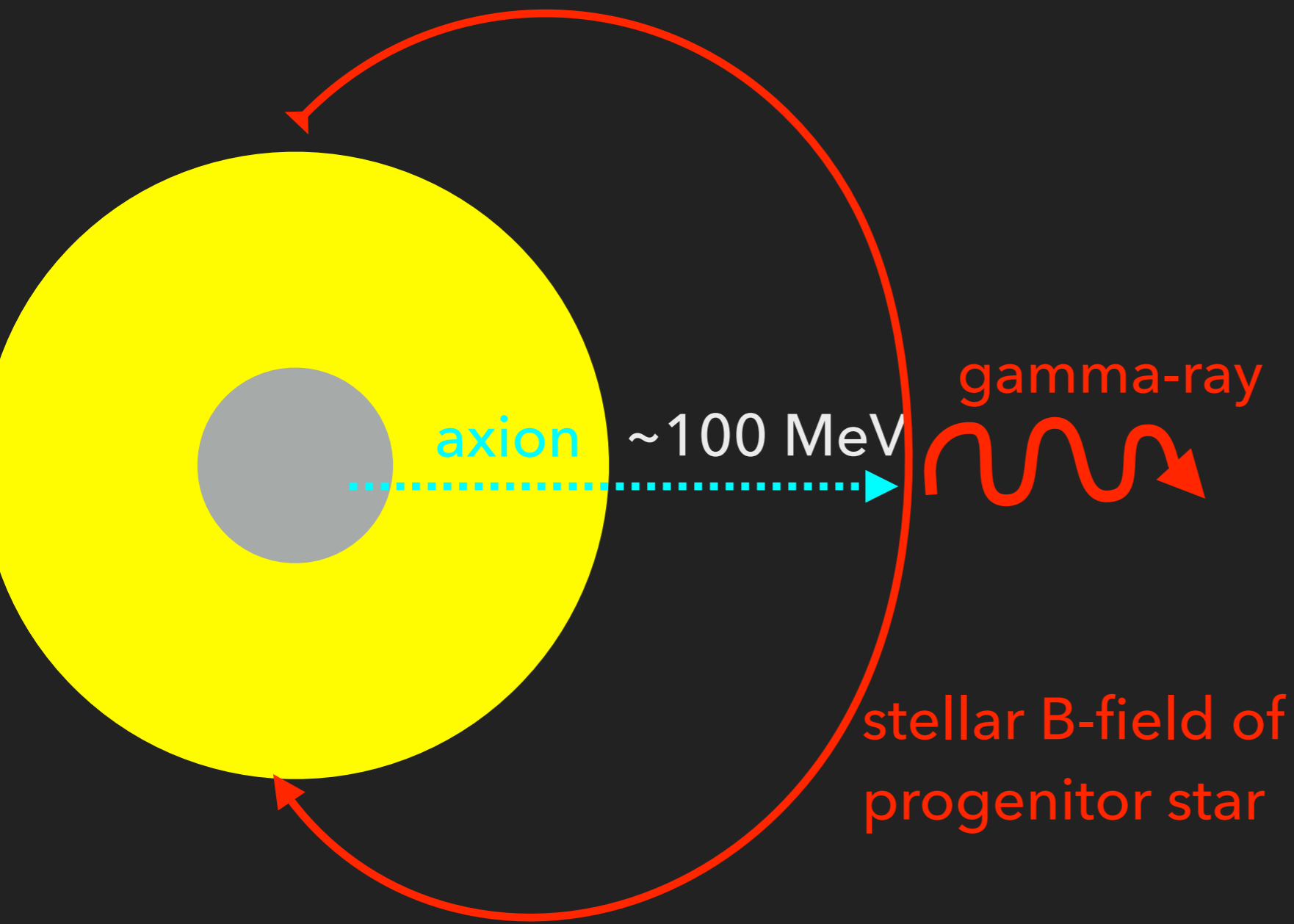
(Dated: May 31, 2024)

2405.19393



# Convert proto-NS axions to gamma-rays on stellar field

~10 s gamma-ray burst in ~100 - 500 MeV coincident neutrinos



gamma-ray  
telescope



# Fermi could detect QCD axions with Galactic supernova

Supernova axions convert to gamma-rays in magnetic fields of progenitor stars

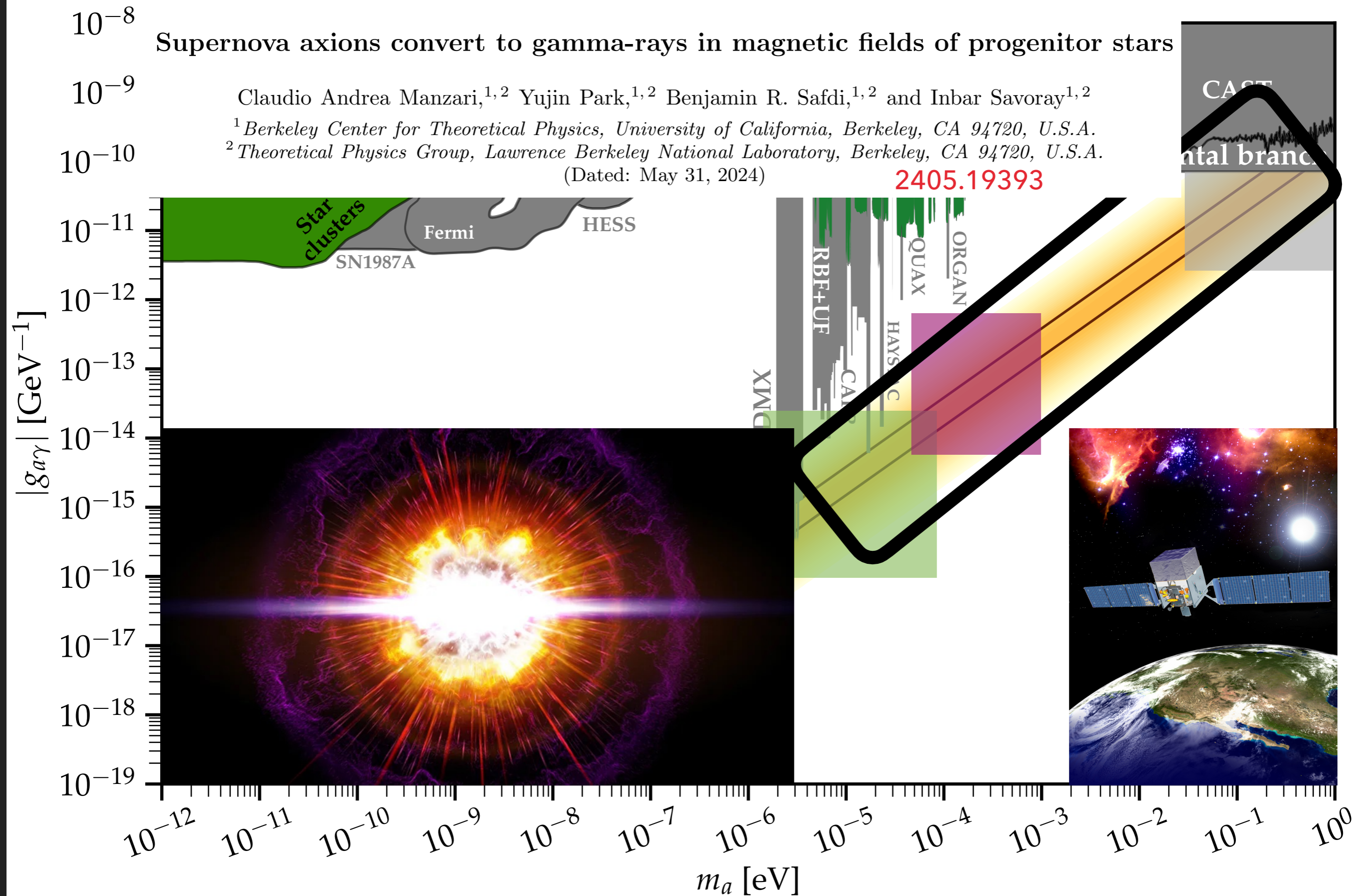
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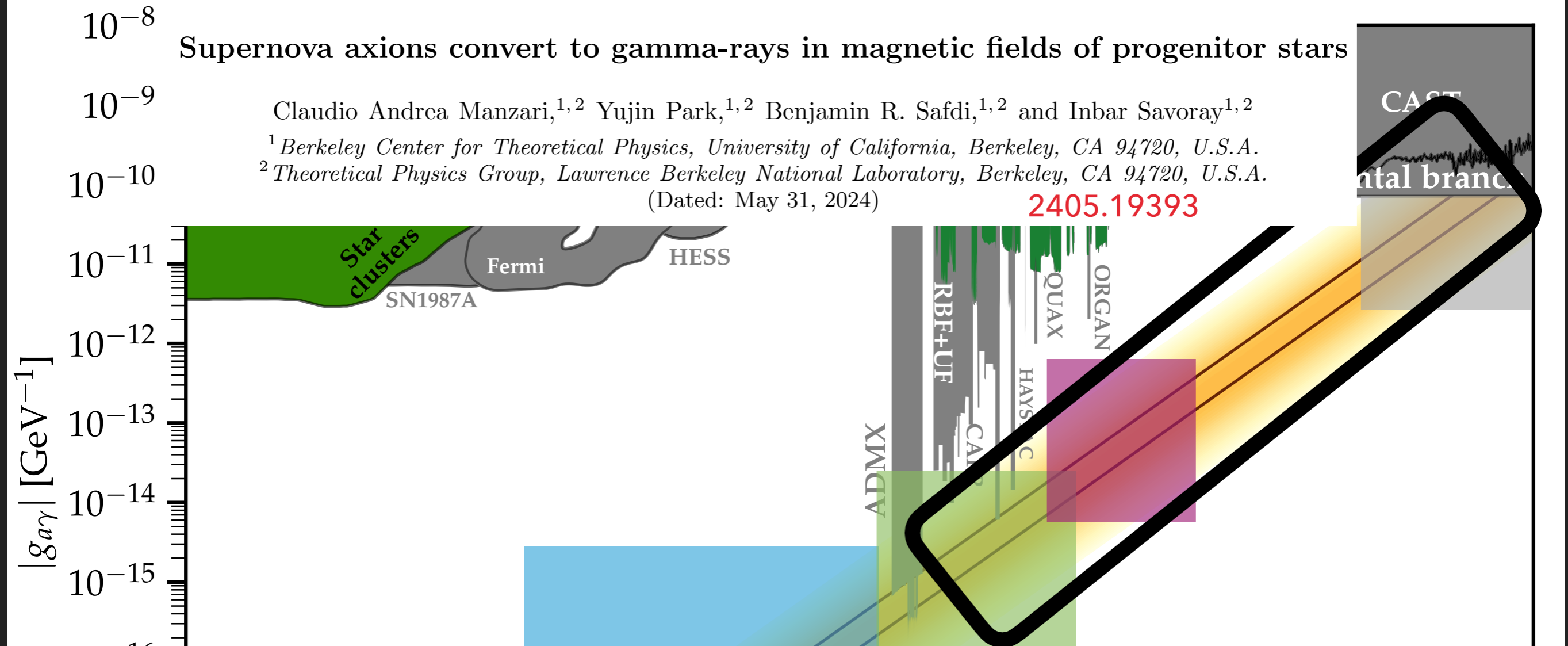
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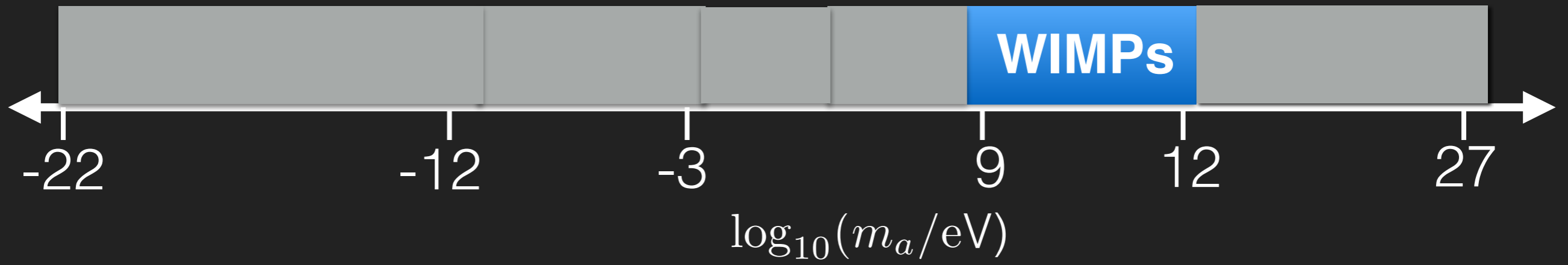
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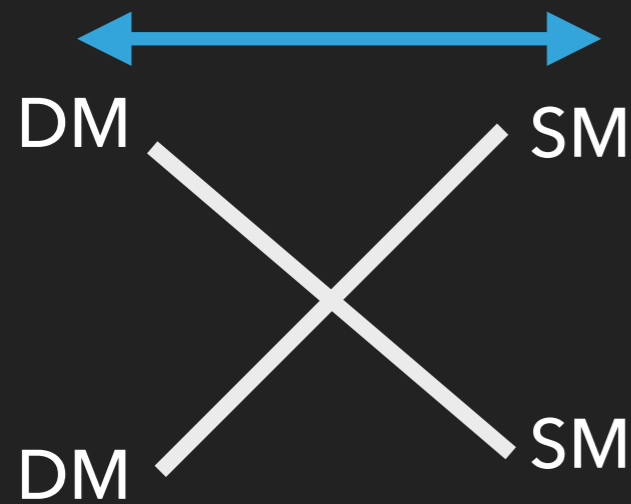
gamma-ray satellite constellation



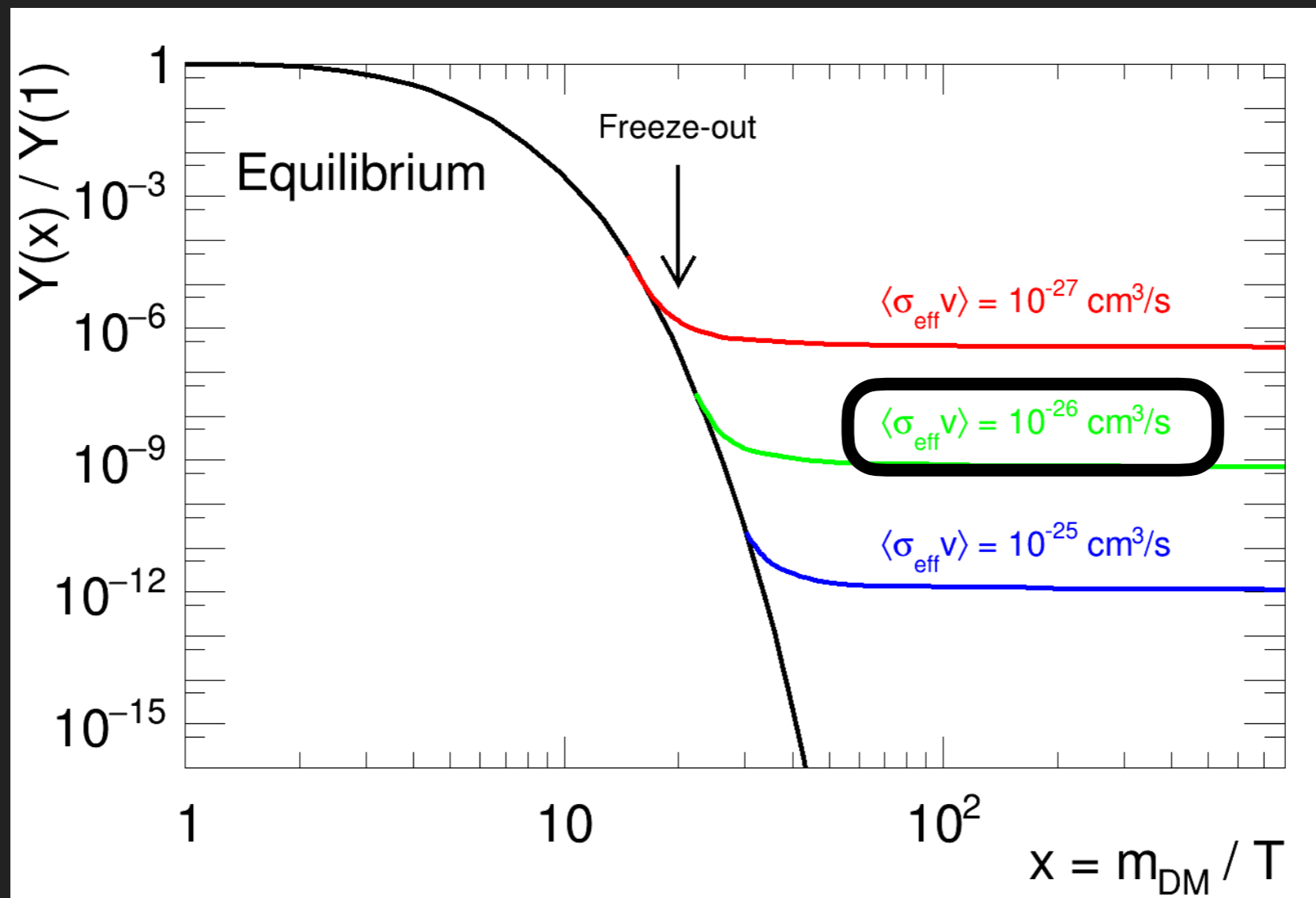
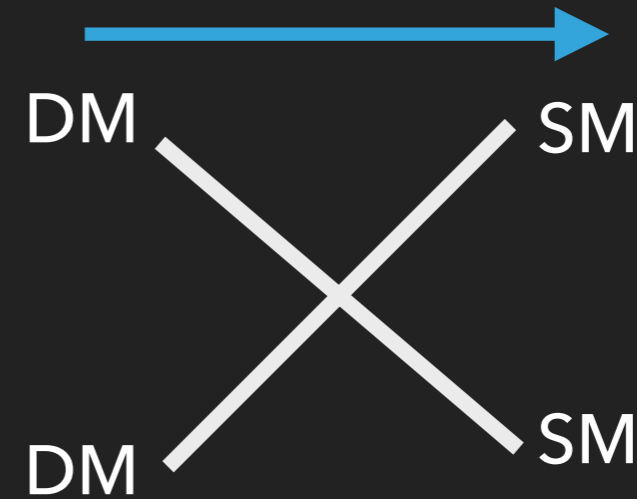


# Recall the thermal (WIMP) DM Paradigm

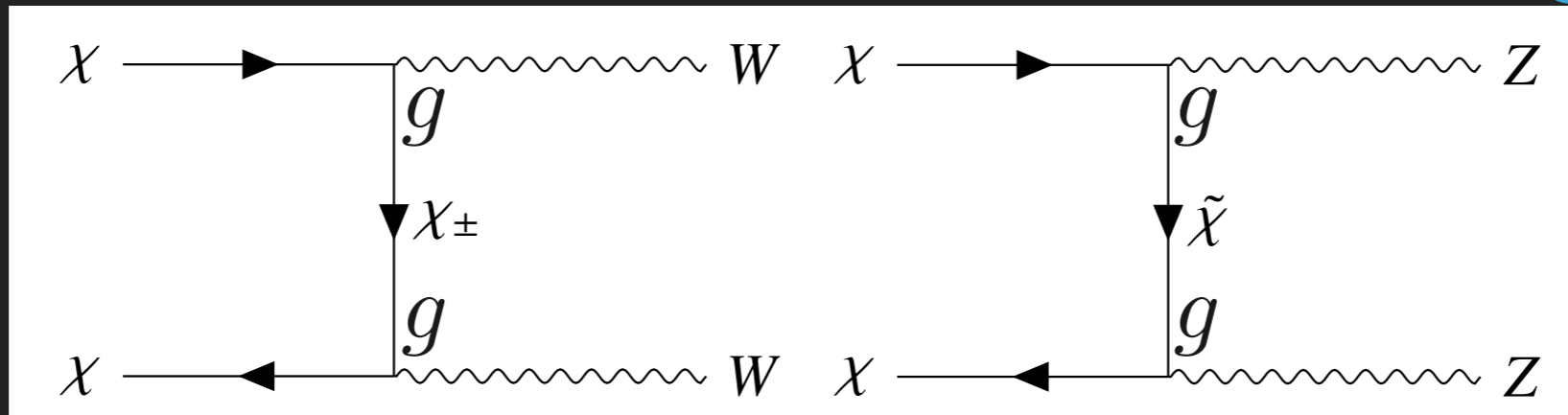
high temperature



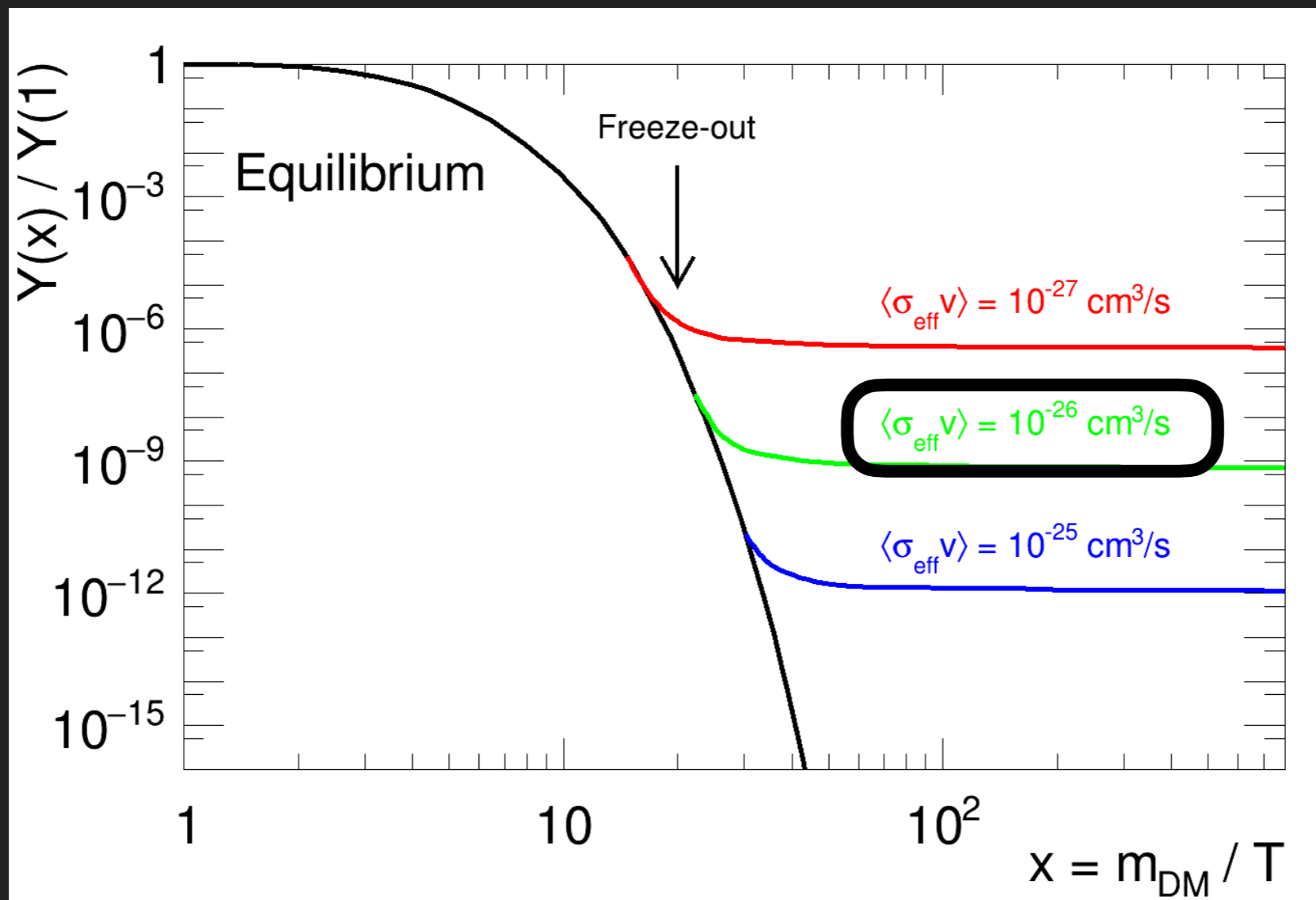
low temperature



# Recall the thermal (WIMP) DM Paradigm

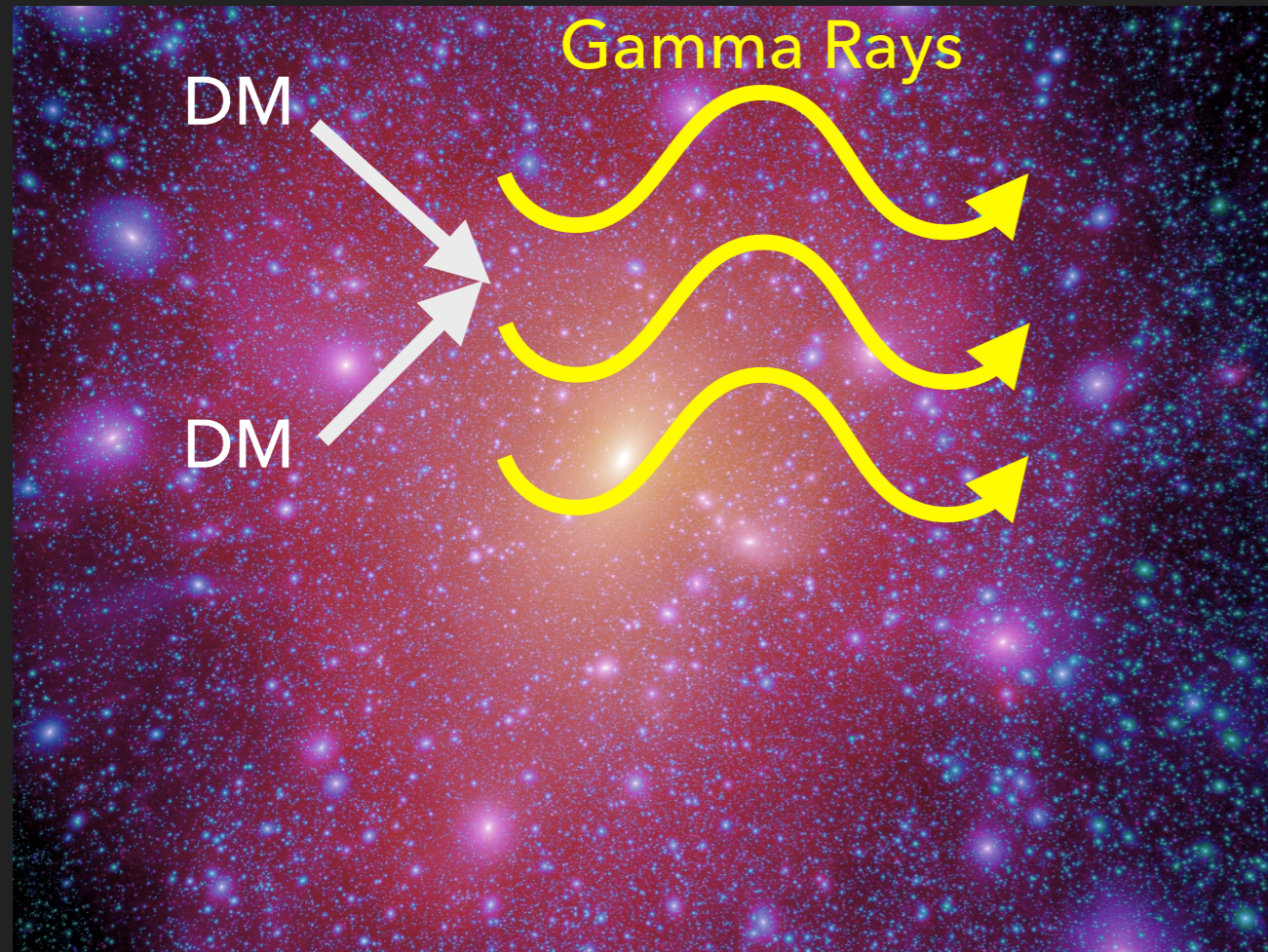


$$\sigma v \sim \frac{g^4}{4\pi m_{\chi}^2} \sim \text{few} \times 10^{-26} \frac{\text{cm}^3}{\text{s}} \left(\frac{g}{0.5}\right)^4 \left(\frac{1 \text{ TeV}}{m_{\chi}}\right)^2$$





# WIMP Indirect Detection: DM annihilation still happens today

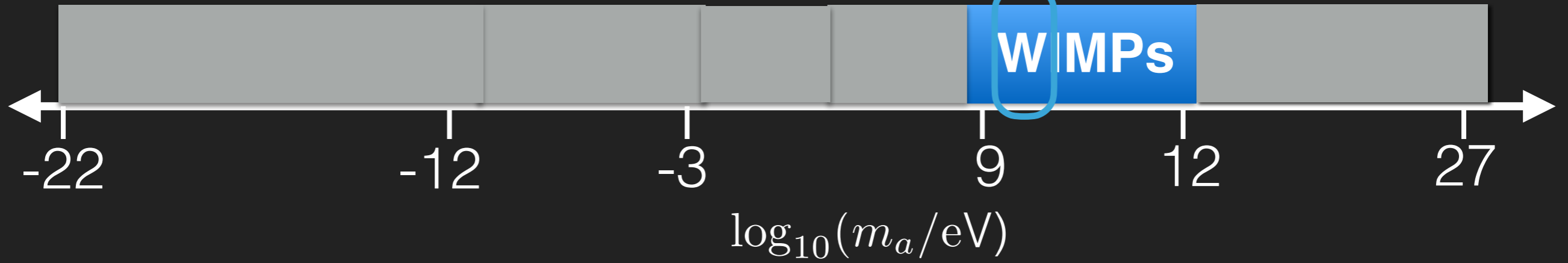


**WIMP DM annihilates to unstable particles, decaying to gamma-rays**



Search for gamma-rays towards DM-dense regions (GC and dwarfs)

“W” for weak force!



# WIMP DM in Purest Form: Minimal Dark Matter

1. Put DM in electroweak multiplet with neutral component
2. After EW symmetry breaking, charged components become heavier  $\rightarrow$  lightest component is DM

Quantum numbers			DM can decay into	DM mass in TeV	$m_{\text{DM}^\pm} - m_{\text{DM}}$ in MeV	Events at LHC $\int \mathcal{L} dt = 100/\text{fb}$	$\sigma_{\text{SI}}$ in $10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2$
$\text{SU}(2)_L$	$\text{U}(1)_Y$	Spin					
2	1/2	0	$EL$	$0.54 \pm 0.01$	350	$320 \div 510$	0.2
2	1/2	1/2	$EH$	$1.1 \pm 0.03$	341	$160 \div 330$	0.2
3	0	0	$HH^*$	$2.0 \pm 0.05$	166	$0.2 \div 1.0$	1.3
3	0	1/2	$LH$	$2.4 \pm 0.06$	166	$0.8 \div 4.0$	1.3

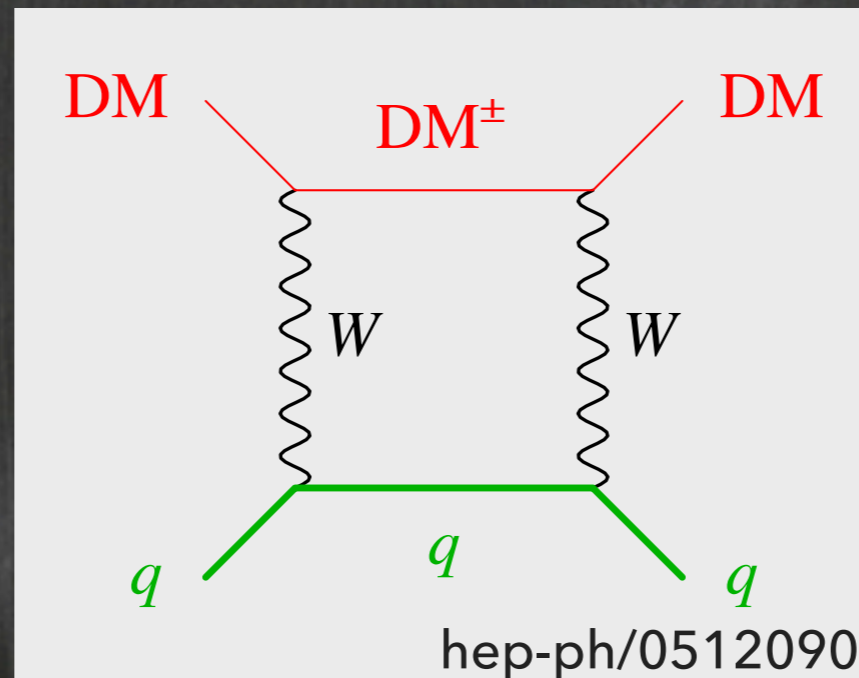
hep-ph/0512090

Higgsino

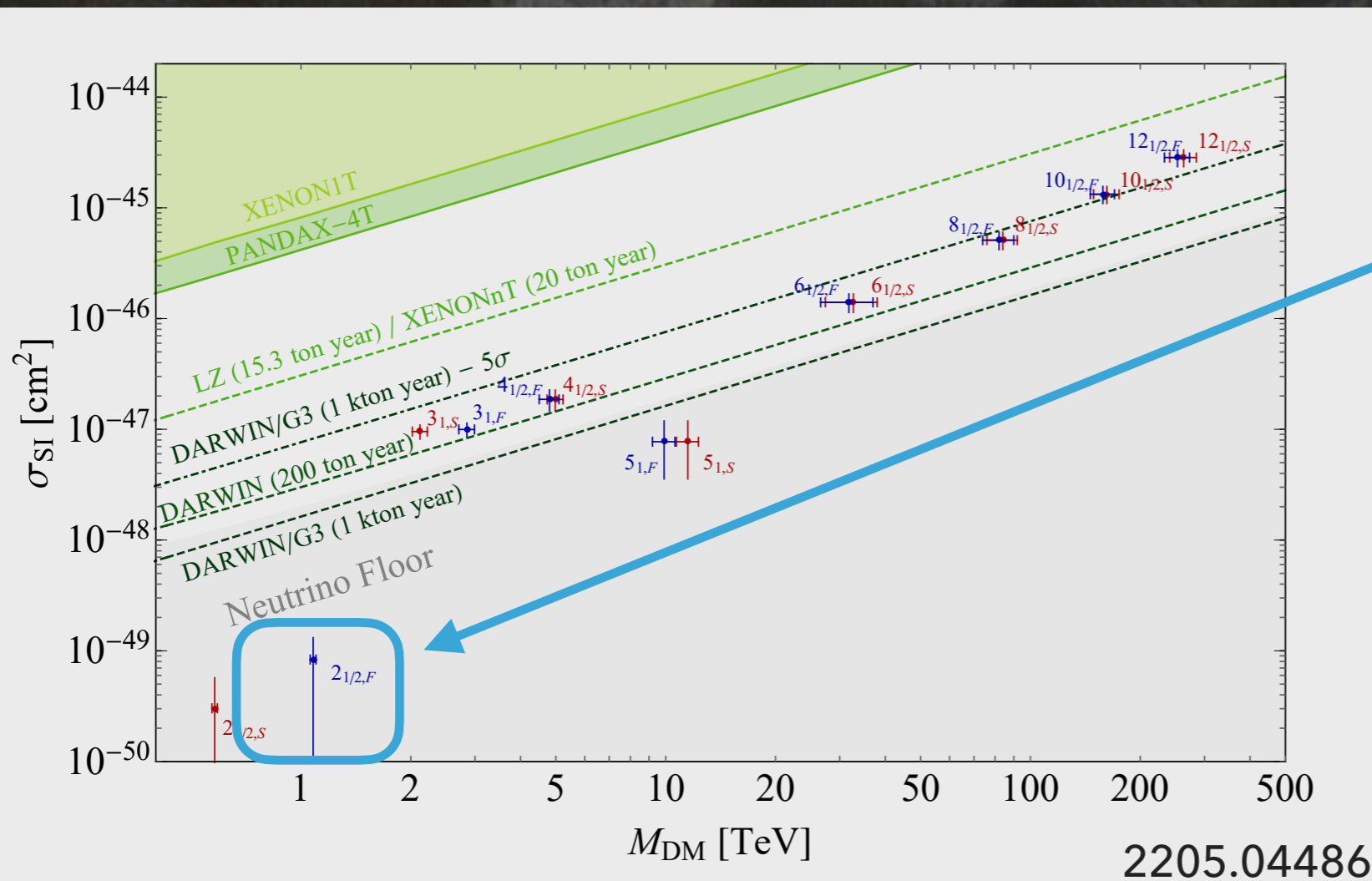
Wino

# Minimal DM direct detection: hard but not impossible

No Z-exchange,  
scatter through  
loops and higher-  
dim operators

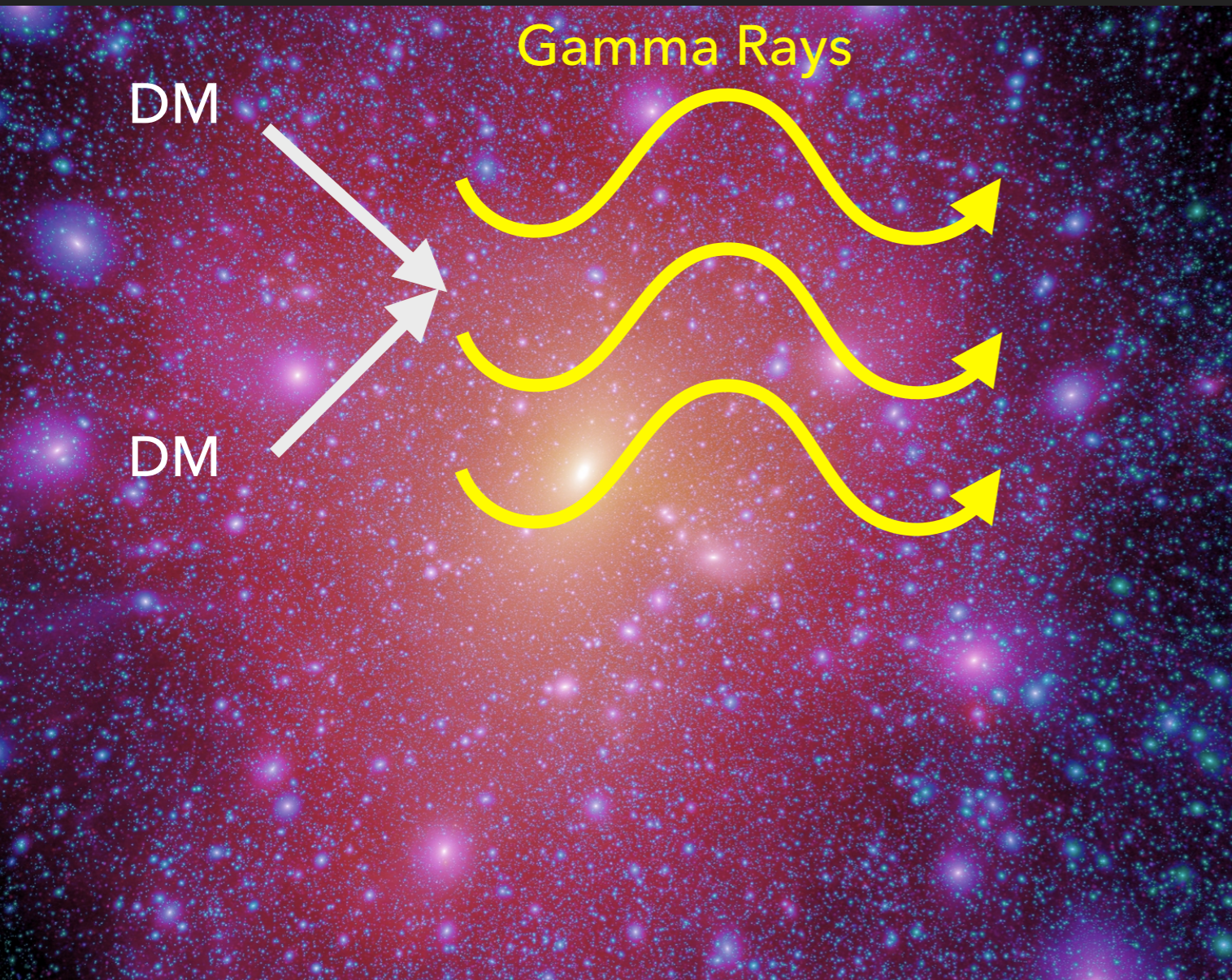


True WIMP DM  
(higgsino, wino, etc.)  
is very hard to detect  
with direct  
detection!



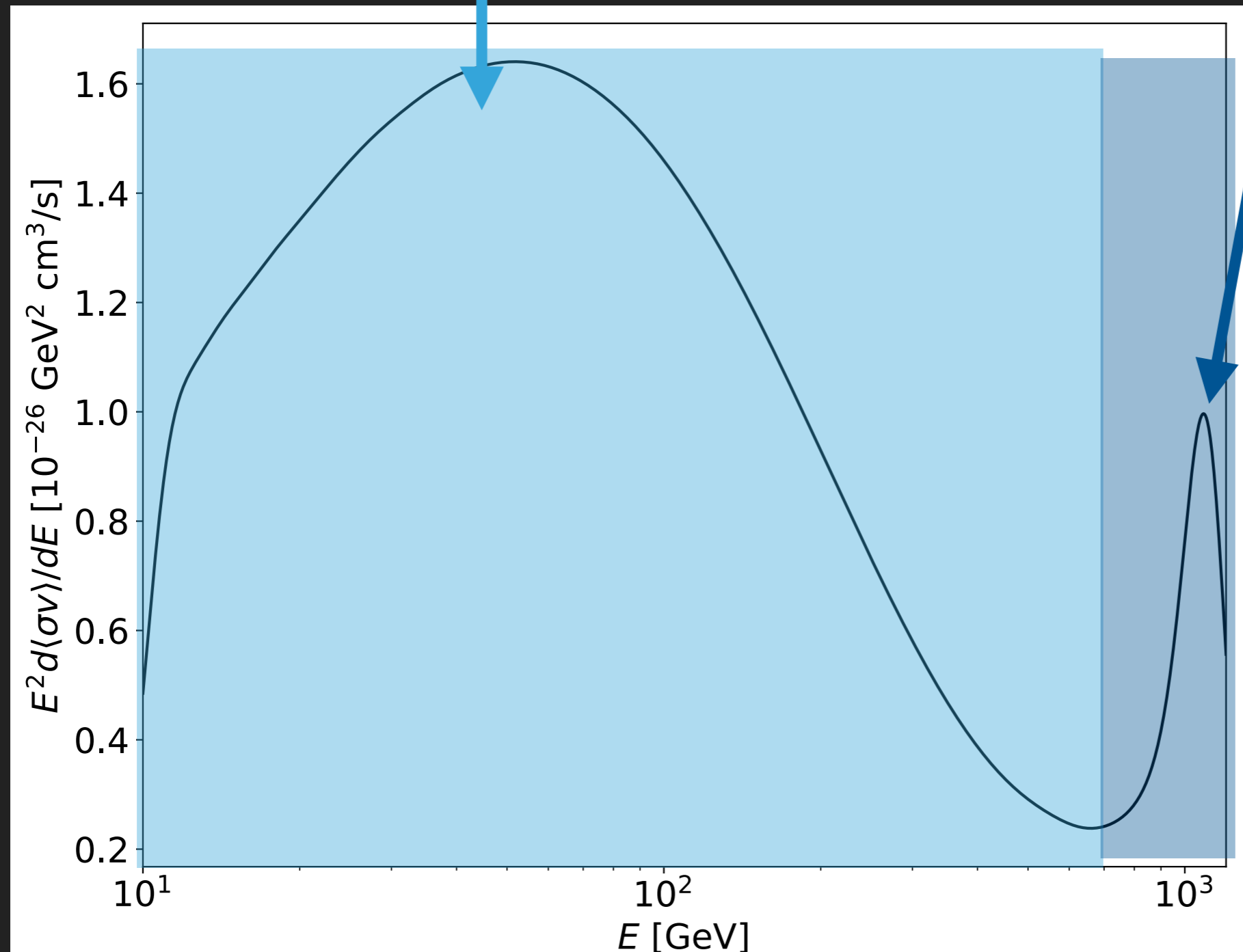
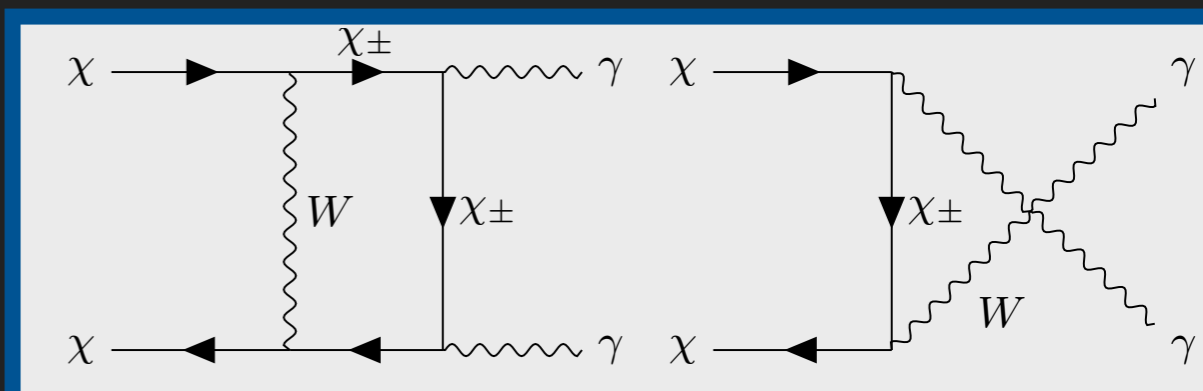
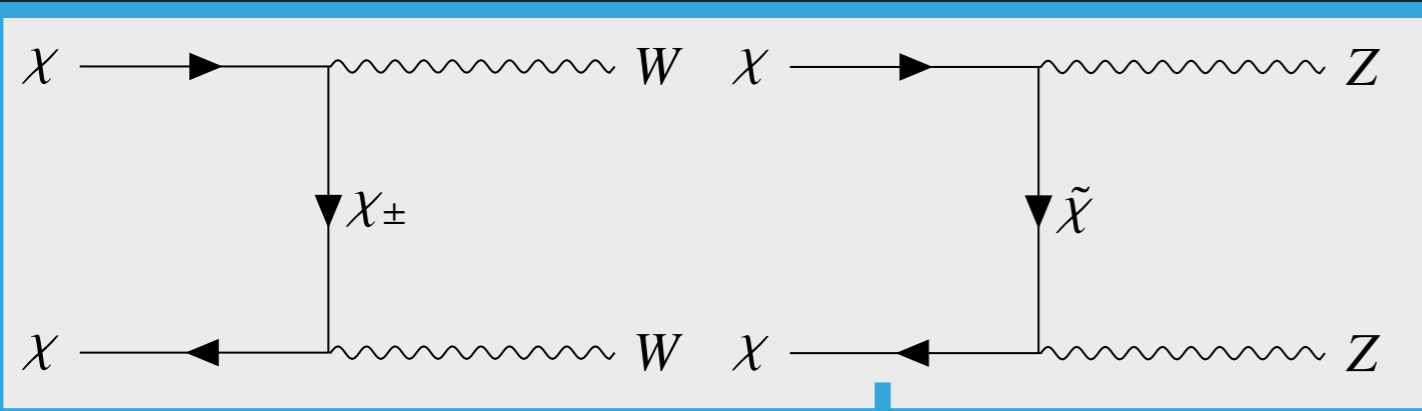
1. Below neutrino floor for minimal splittings

# Indirect detection of WIMP dark matter



Fermi Gamma Ray Space Telescope

# Higgsino gamma-ray annihilation spectrum today



Smoothed at  
 $\sim 10\%$   
(Wino is  
analogous)

# Fermi (and HESS) Excluded wino DM

## Wino Dark Matter Under Siege

2013

Timothy Cohen,<sup>1</sup> Mariangela Lisanti,<sup>2</sup> Aaron Pierce,<sup>3</sup> and Tracy R. Slatyer<sup>4,5</sup>

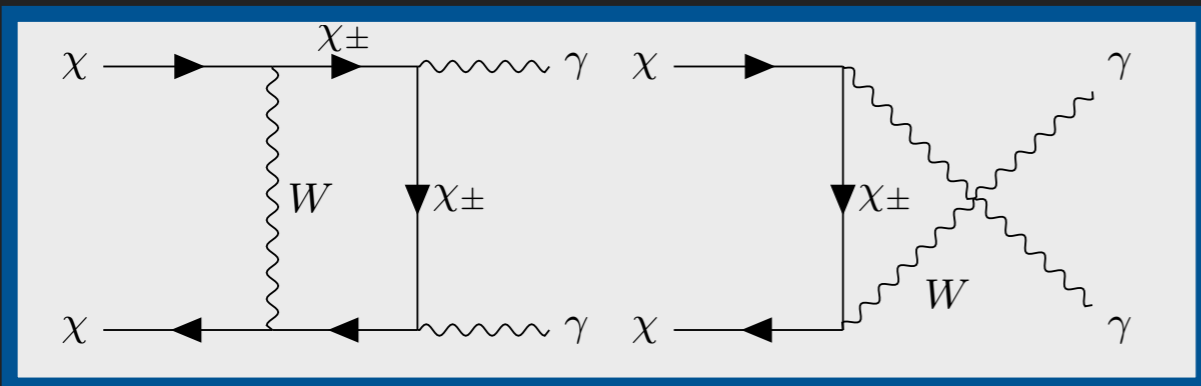
## In Wino Veritas?

### Indirect Searches Shed Light on Neutralino Dark Matter

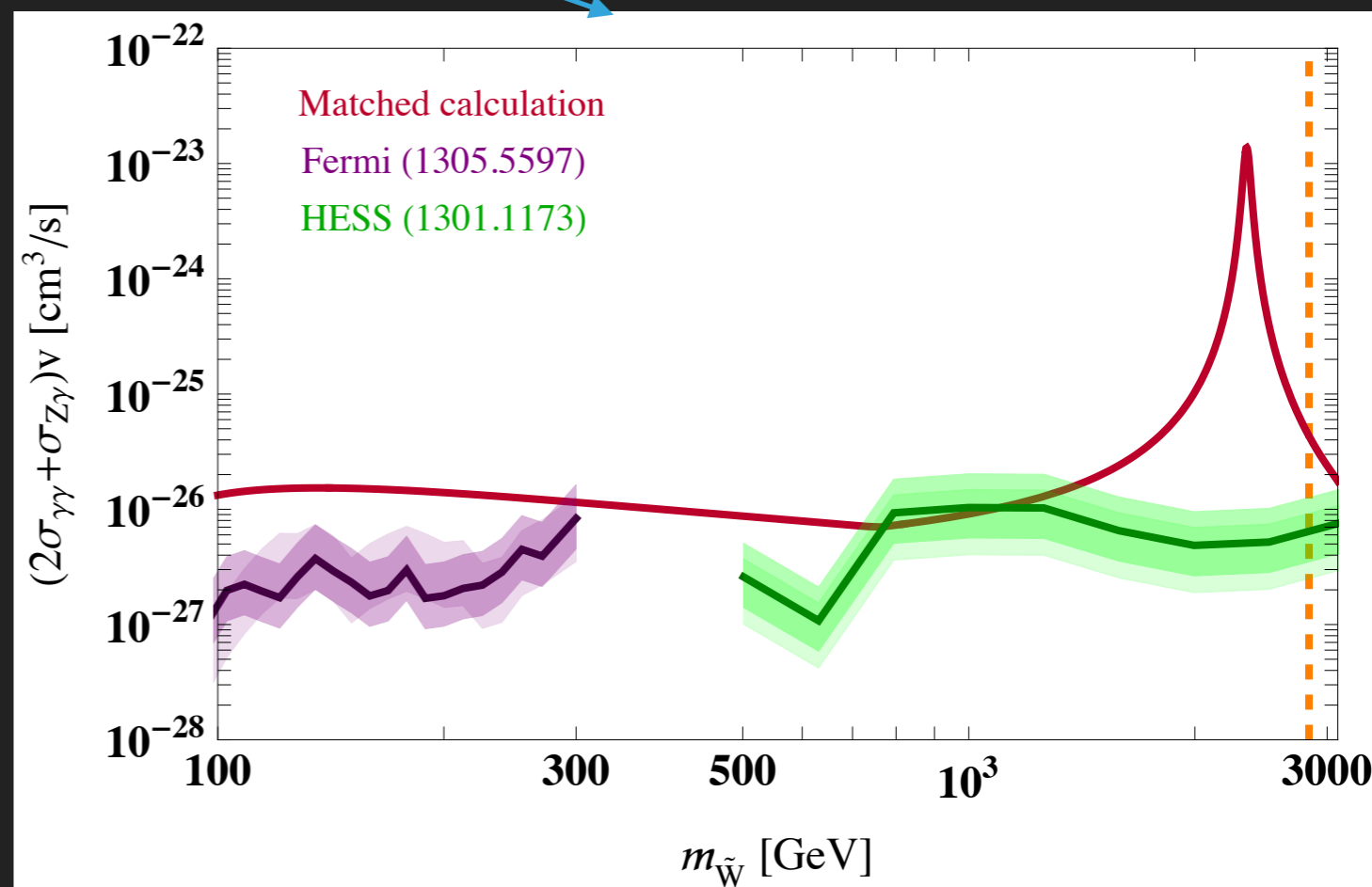
2013

Jiji Fan and Matthew Reece

*Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA*



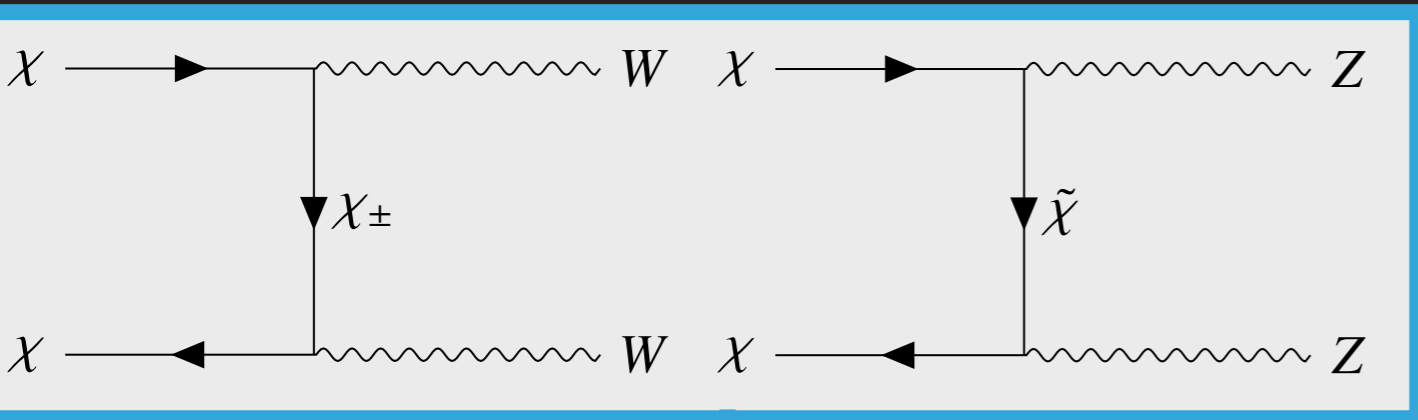
1. Used Fermi gamma-ray line search in the Inner Galaxy of Milky Way
2. Now well established for any reasonable DM profile, wino should have been discovered
3. Can exclude wino with Fermi alone using continue (in progress!)



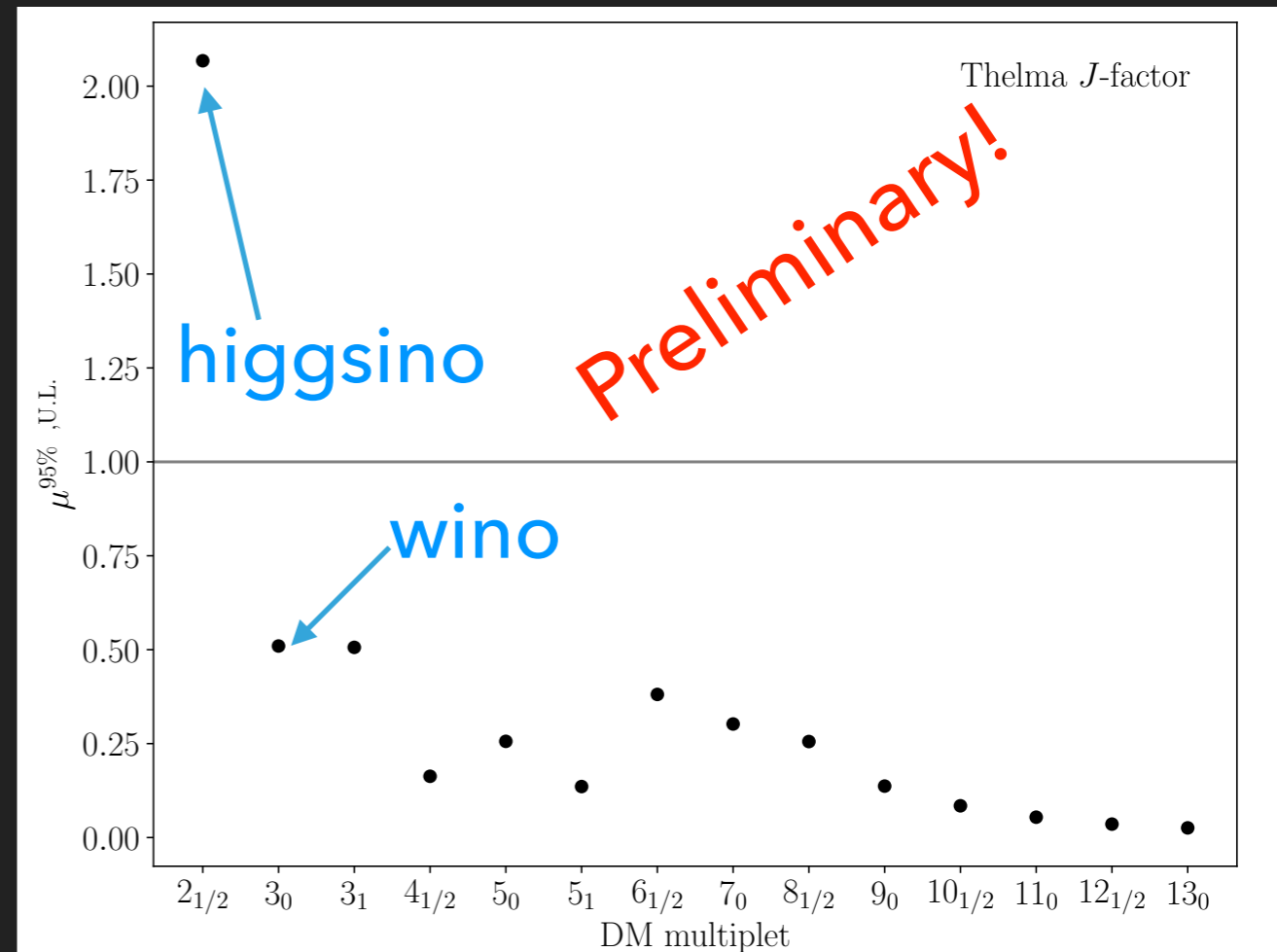
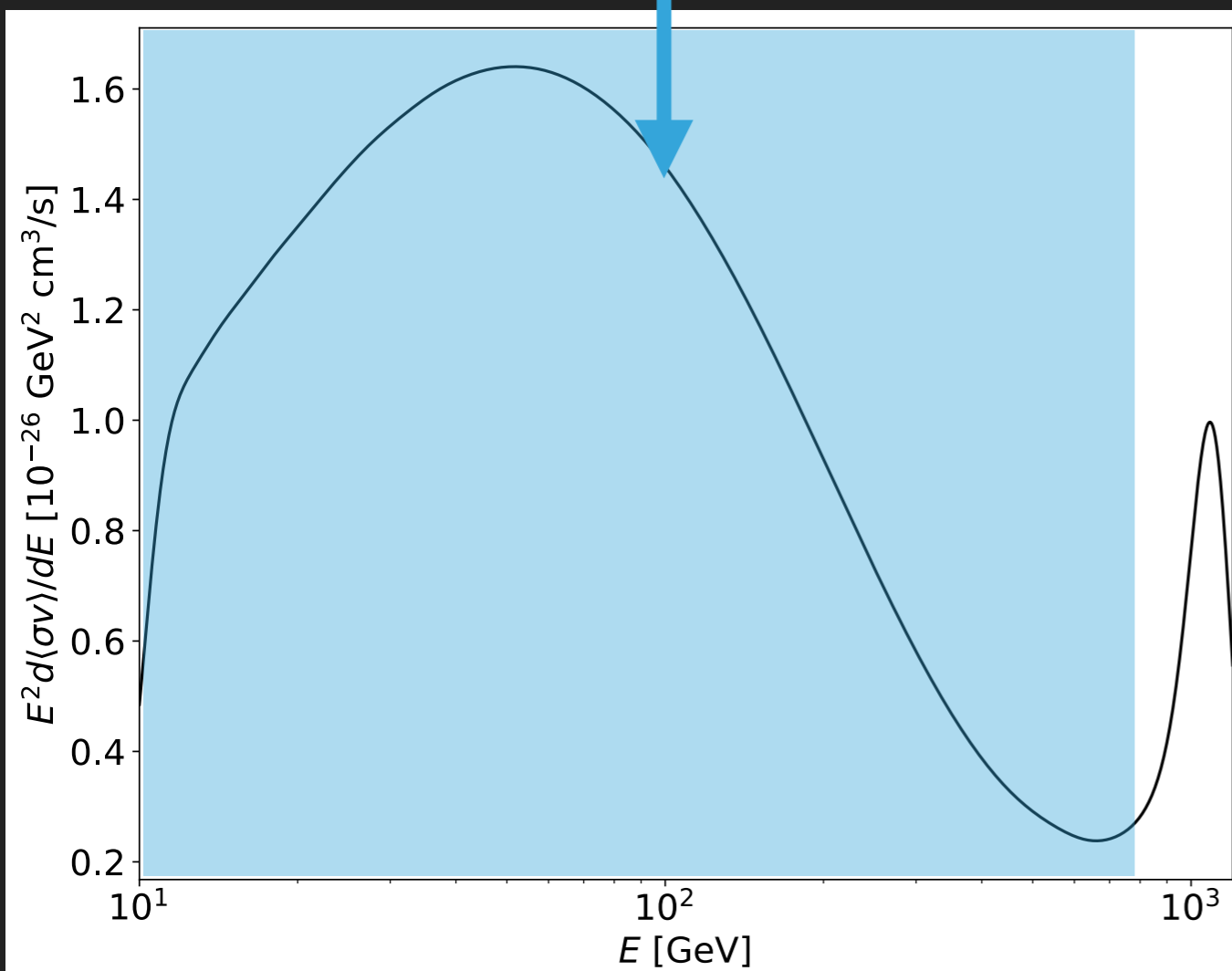
# In Progress: Fermi continuum search GC

## Excludes all minimal WIMPs but higgsino

B.S., Linda Xu (Berkeley + SLAC), Nick Rodd (LBNL)



1. Look for continuum annihilation signal in inner 20 degrees above 100 GeV
2. Use most conservative DM profile from FIRE-2 sims





## My opinion

### Higgsino DM only true WIMP model left

1. mass of 1.01 TeV
2. too heavy for LHC → maybe future collider
3. invisible to direct detection
4. not within reach of HESS
  1. within reach **CTA (line)**
5. **Marginally within reach of Fermi (continuum)**

Higgsino is the canonical DM model in modern supersymmetry models, like split-SUSY

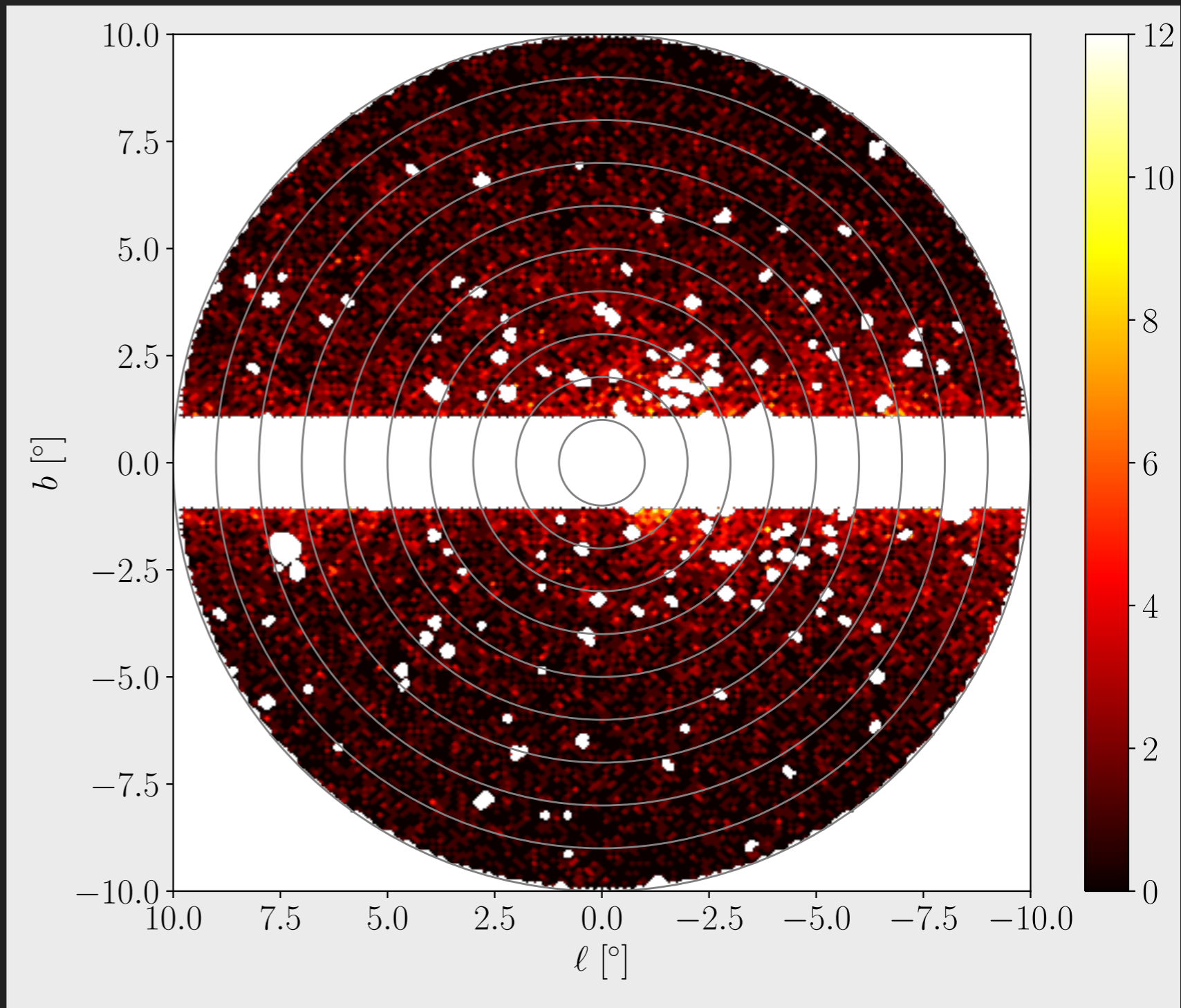
Higgsino Dark Matter Confronts 14 Years of Fermi  $\gamma$ -Ray Data

2

Christopher Dessert,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Joshua W. Foster,<sup>4</sup> Yujin Park<sup>1,2</sup>, Benjamin R. Safdi<sup>1,2</sup> and Weishuang Linda Xu<sup>1,2</sup>

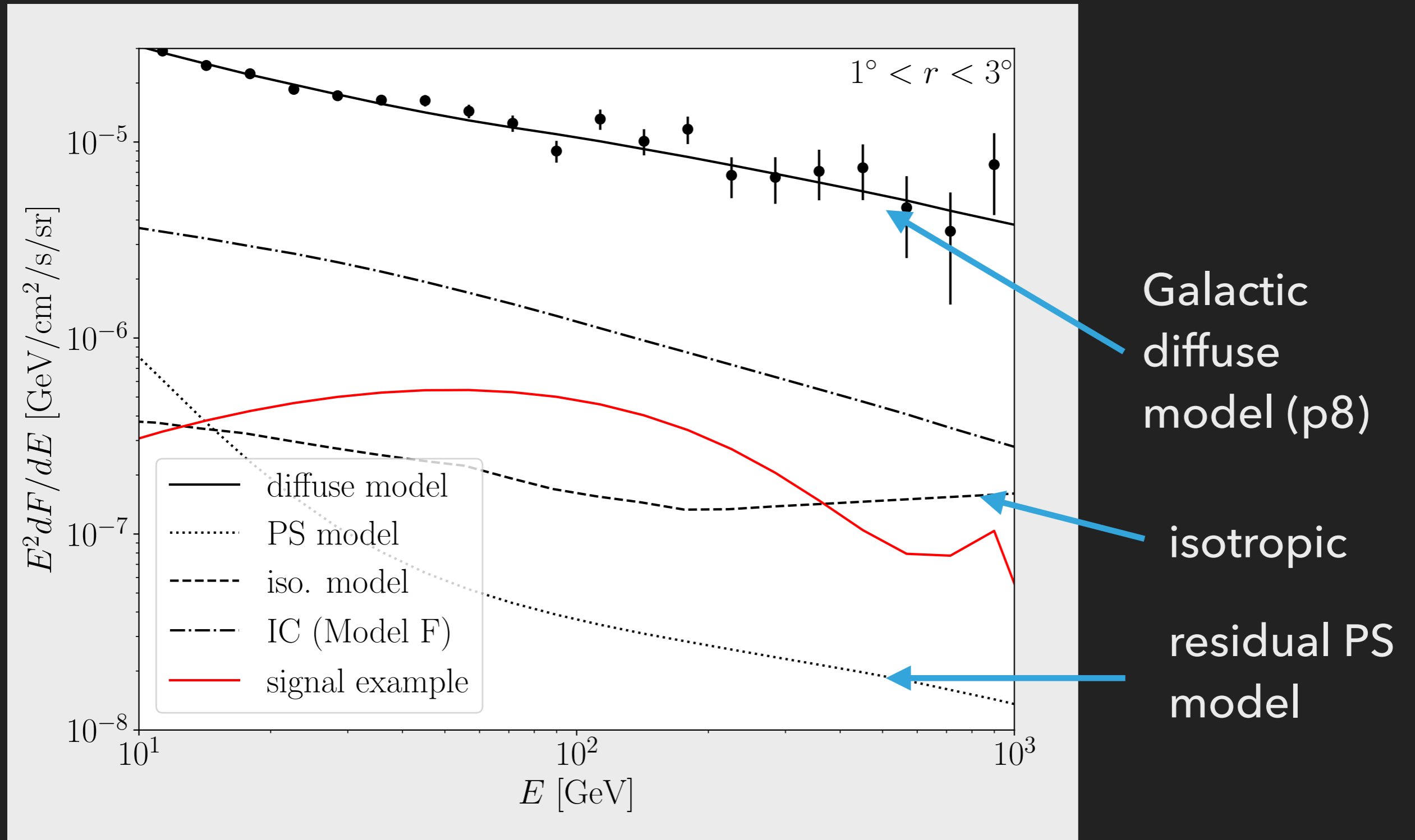
## Fermi Data Selection

1. 10 GeV - 1 TeV
2. SOURCE data from Aug. 2008 to June 2022
3. 9 concentric annuli out to 10 degrees around GC
  1. independent analysis /annulus
4. Mask plane and PSs



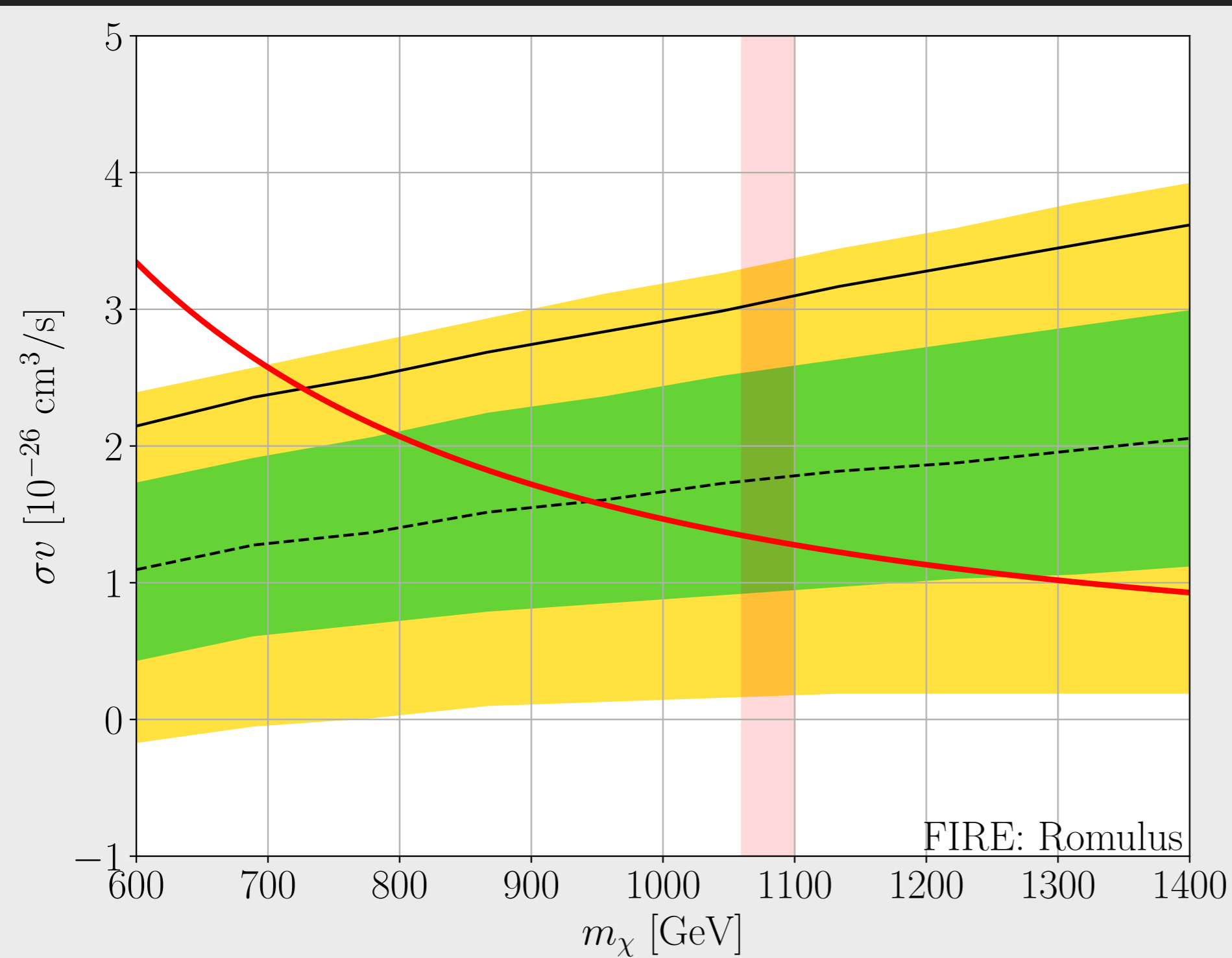
# Higgsino Dark Matter Confronts 14 Years of Fermi $\gamma$ -Ray Data

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Higgsino Dark Matter Confronts 14 Years of Fermi  $\gamma$ -Ray Data

2

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1. Roughly  $2\sigma$  in favor of higgsino model
2. Similar across halo profiles

Need more data / analyses!

CTA can provide smoking gun with line

# Beyond motivated targets, Fermi has significant impact on excluding / detecting!? WIMP DM parameter space

Searching for Dark Matter Annihilation from Milky Way Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies  
with Six Years of Fermi-LAT Data

(The Fermi-LAT Collaboration)

1503.02641

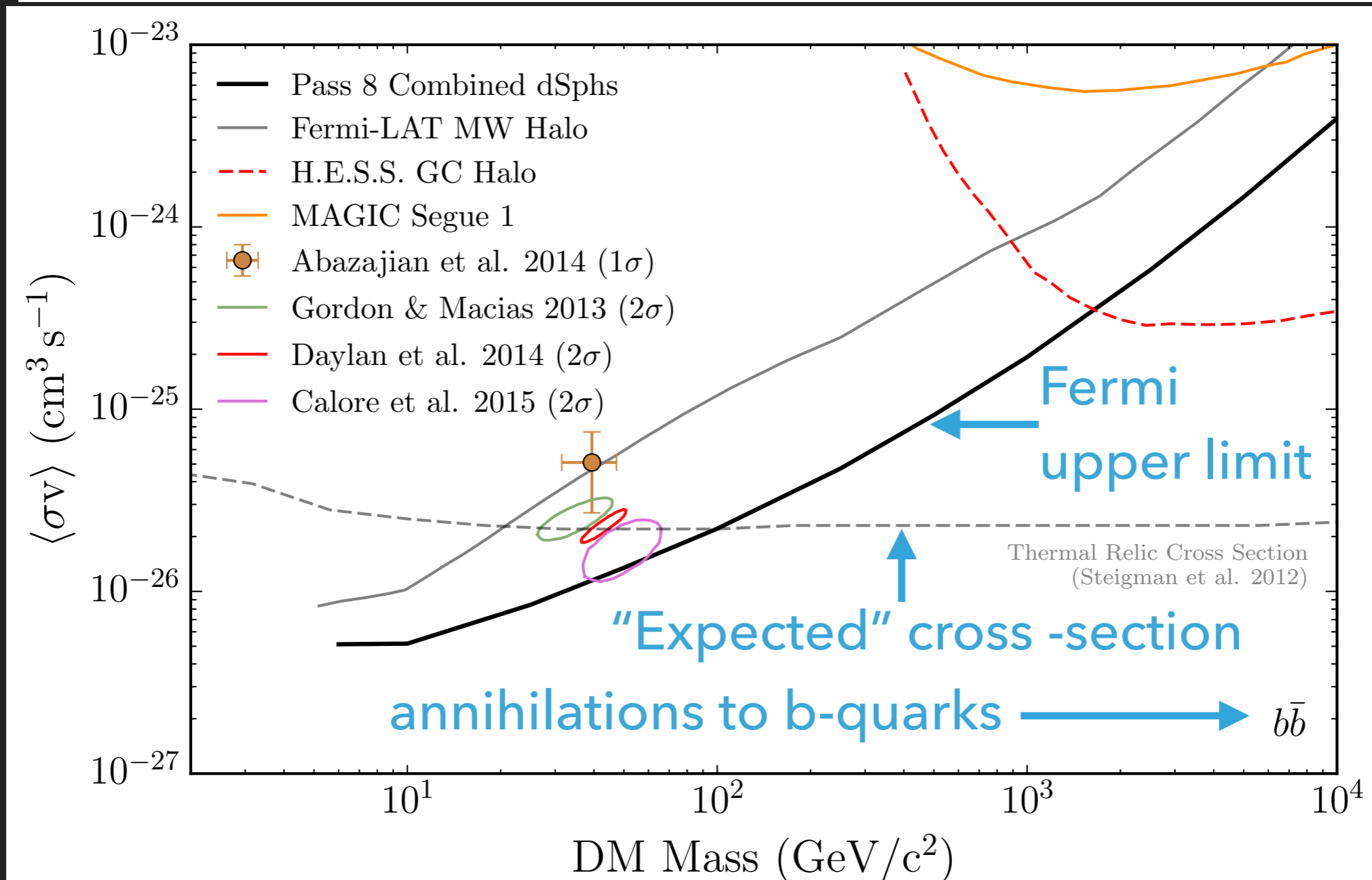
1. Most robust constraints from Milky Way ultrafaint dwarf galaxies
2. Low number of stars  $\rightarrow$  Baryon dominated  $\rightarrow$  NFW good approx



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Searching for Dark Matter Annihilation from Milky Way Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies with Six Years of Fermi-LAT Data 1503.02641

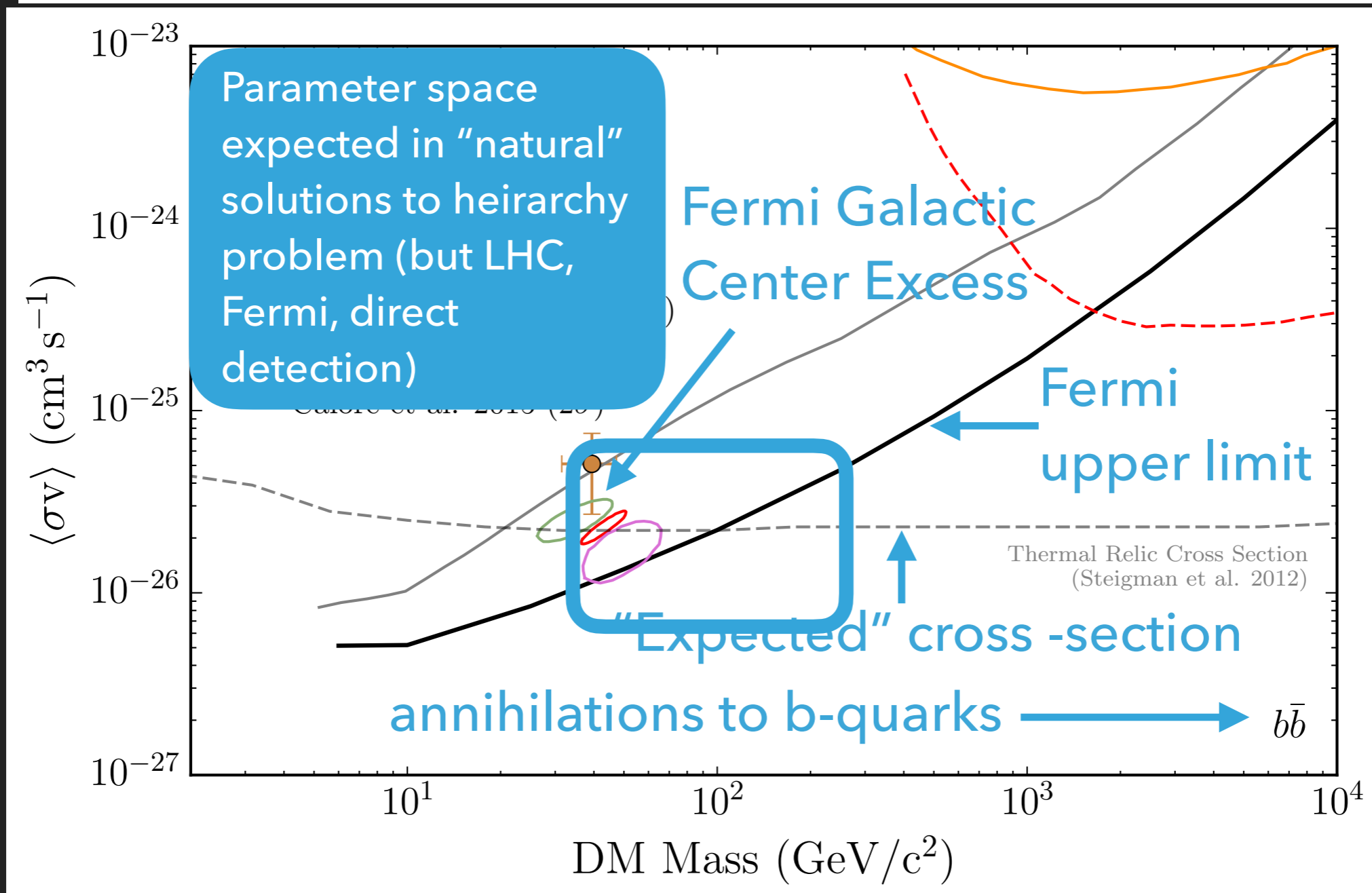
(The Fermi-LAT Collaboration)



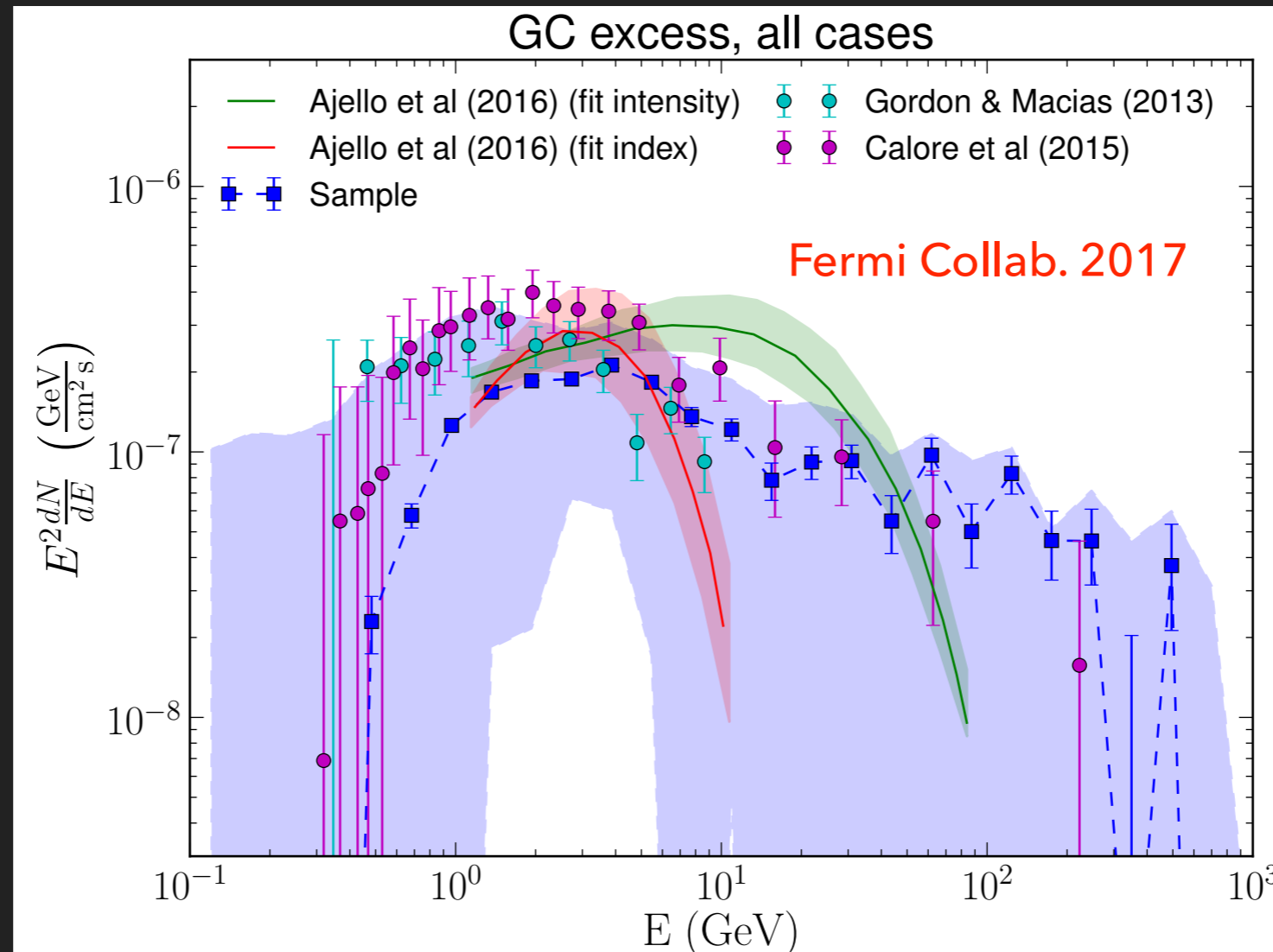
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(The Fermi-LAT Collaboration)



# What is the Fermi Galactic Center Excess?



1. Roughly spherically symmetric gamma-ray excess around GC
2. First discovered: Goodenough & Hooper 2009
3. Radial dependence from GC consistent with DM annihilation
4. Near thermal annihilation cross-section for e.g. b-quark final states



# What is responsible for Fermi GC Excess?

Outstanding question to be answered from Fermi data

## Option 1: WIMP DM!

1. Morphology and cross-section consistent with WIMP expectation! (1402.6703)
2. WIMP (e.g., neutralino) models difficult because collider + direct detection constraints (1507.07008)
  1. Hidden sectors can work (1912.08821)
  2. But also strong constraints from 1-loop line (e.g., Higgs portal) (B.S. et al. 2212.07435)

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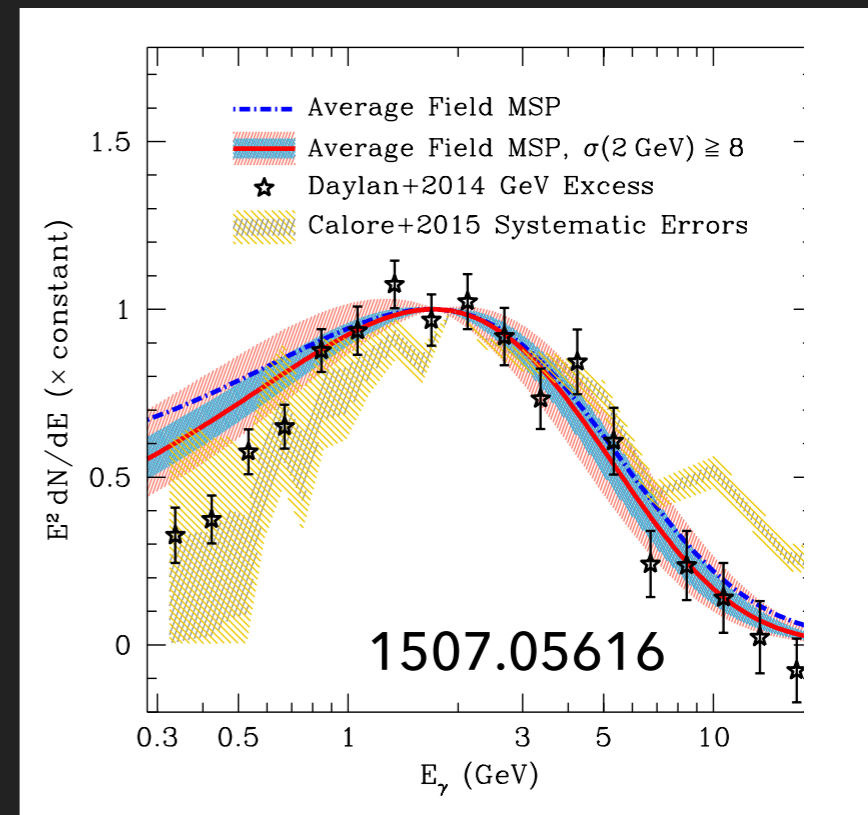
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## Option 2: Astrophysics

1. MSP energy spectrum suspiciously close to GC



2. Diffuse mismodeling could also contribute to morphology (2203.11626)

# What is responsible for Fermi GC Excess?

Outstanding question to be answered from Fermi data

## Evidence for Unresolved Gamma-Ray Point Sources in the Inner Galaxy

Ben Safdi

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2015

1. Stat. methods give some preference for PSs (e.g., pulsars)
2. Direct MSP searches with e.g. SKA will be useful

B.S., S. Lee, M. Lisanti, and B.S., S. Lee, M. Lisanti, T. Slatyer, W. Xue  
[1412.6099 and 1506.05124]

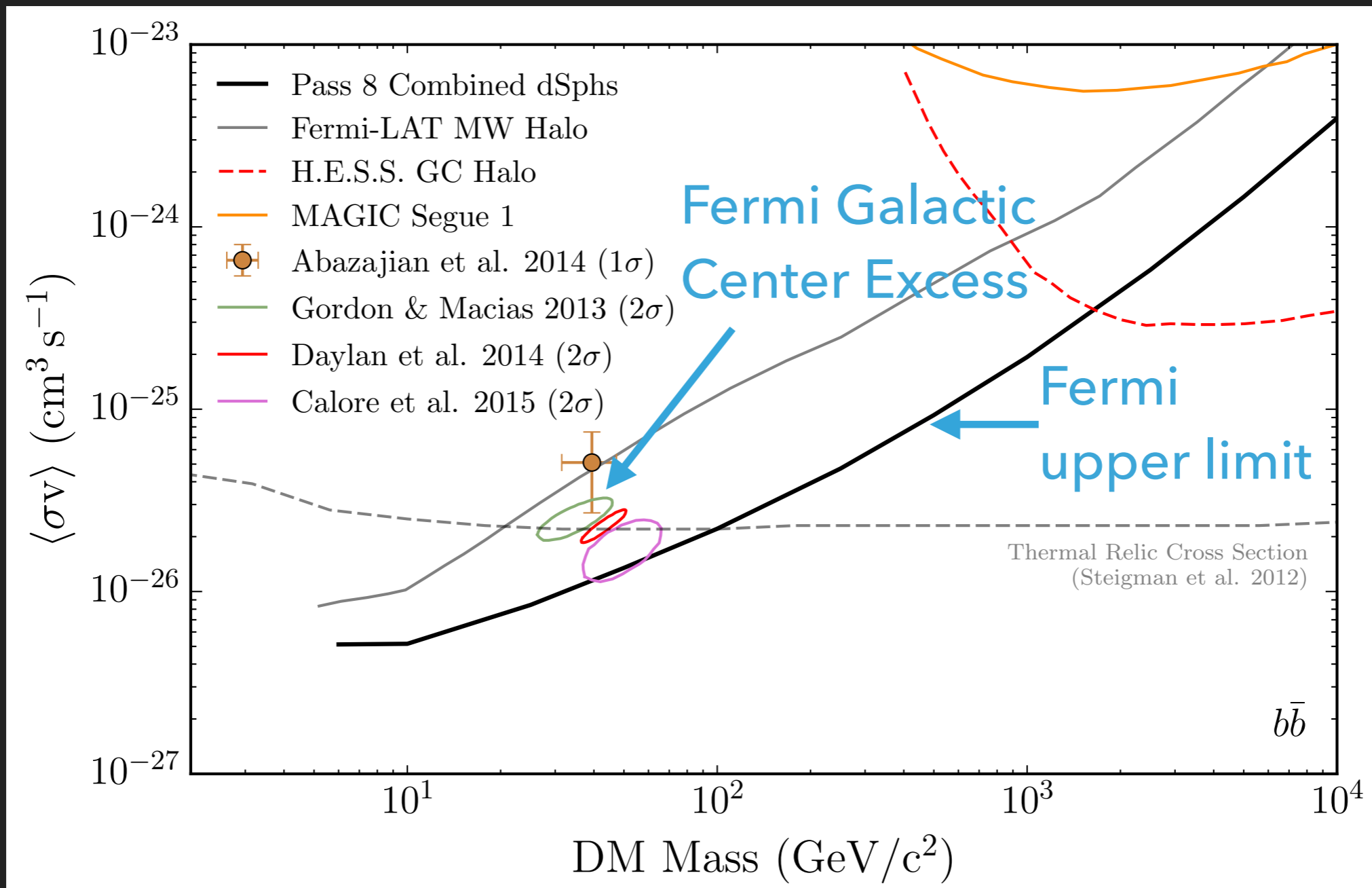
My First Fermi Symposium in 2015!

Options  
1. Model  
con  
exp  
2. WIN  
mod  
coll  
con  
1.  
2.

C  
could  
ology

# My opinion: DM question for GCE best resolved with improving dwarf constraints

1. Need more Fermi data + more dwarf targets + better J-factors
2. In progress: Folsom, Kaplinghat, Lisanti, Park, Raman, B.S. – more careful accounting of DM in dwarfs reduces limit factor  $\sim 2$



# Summary: past accomplishments and future outlooks for Fermi and WIMP DM

1. Indirect detection strong, nearly-model independent probe
2. Fermi legacy: exclude generic WIMP below ~many 10's of GeV
  1. Help (along with HESS) **exclude wino benchmark** model ← **changed BSM**
3. Fermi GCE → might be sign of ~10's of GeV WIMP (or not)
  1. **Future:** more data / dwarfs / dwarf kinematic data & studies to test DM
4. **Future:** ~1 TeV **higgsino** last minimal WIMP. Marginal for Fermi. Need more data and analyses!
  1. For definitive detection need future instrumentation (CTA or space-based telescope more effective area at 1 TeV)

**Axions:** Fermi excluded some ALP space. Future gamma-ray transients from **supernovae / NS-mergers** very promising discovery tool. **Future:** full-sky instrumentation needed.



**THANK YOU FERMI!**

