



New Materials for Dark Matter Detection



Yonit Hochberg



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THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



מכון רקה
The Racah Institute
לפיזיקה
of Physics



H I T O S H I
&
L A W R E N C E

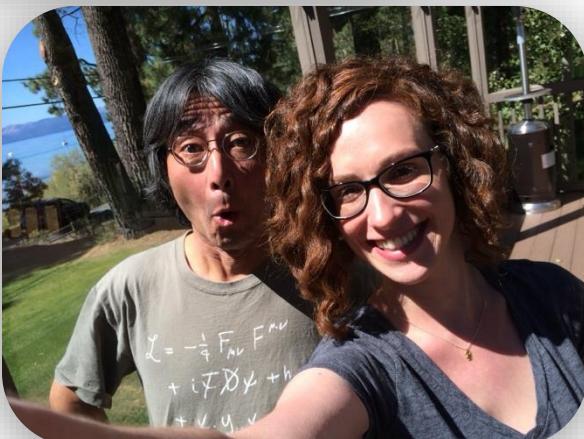
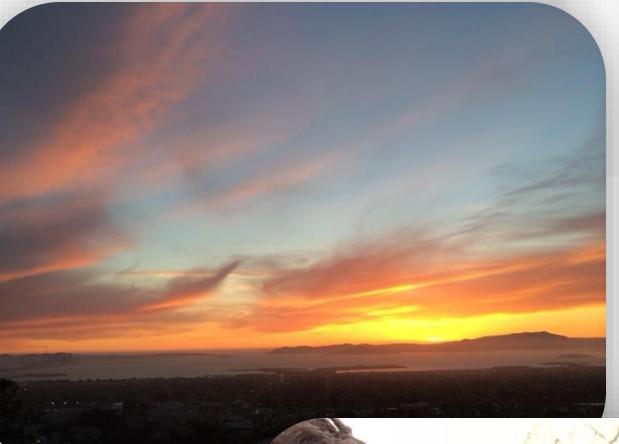


H I T O S H I



H I T O S H I

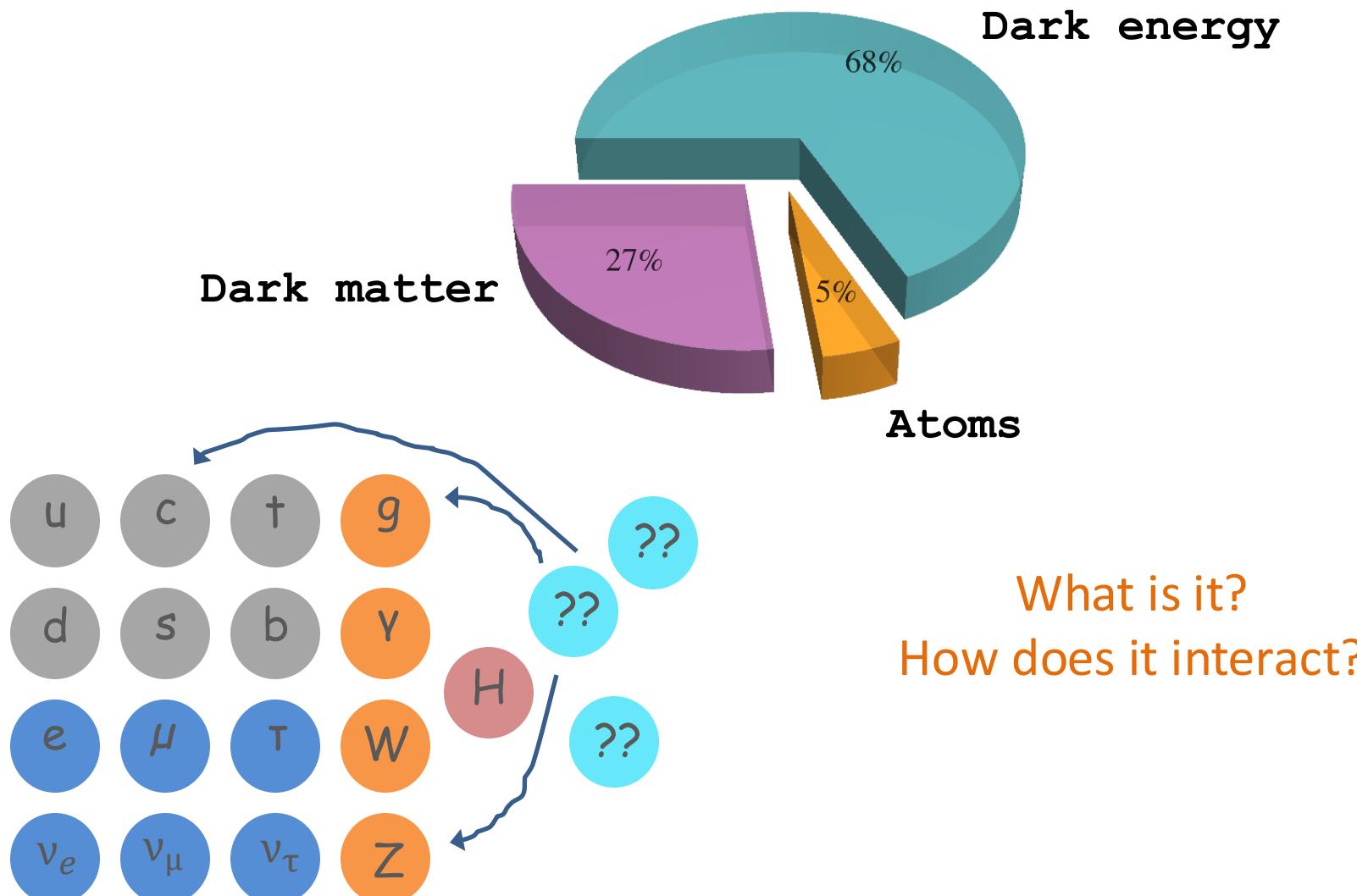
Happy



H | T O S H I

Introduction

The Universe is Dark



Past 40 years

WIMP, glorious WIMP^{*}

{ *Also axions, of course
also axions :-) }

The WIMP Miracle

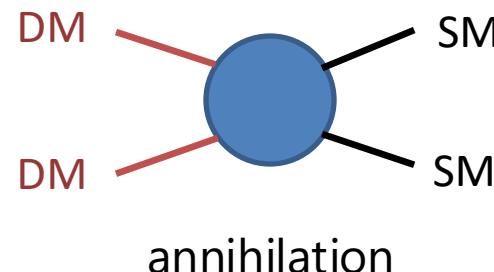
Correct thermal relic abundance:

$$m_{\text{DM}} \sim \alpha \times 30 \text{ TeV}$$

For weak coupling, weak scale emerges.

Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)

The dominant paradigm for 40+ years.



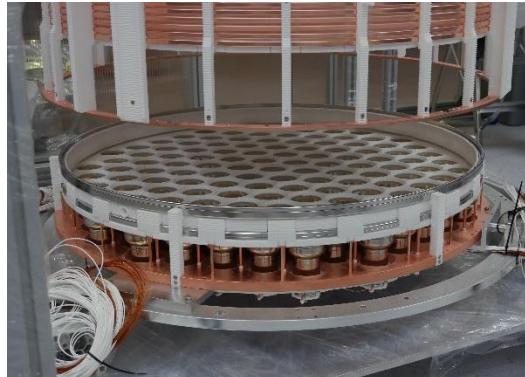
$$\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v \rangle = \frac{\alpha^2}{m_{\text{DM}}^2}$$

Searching for WIMPs

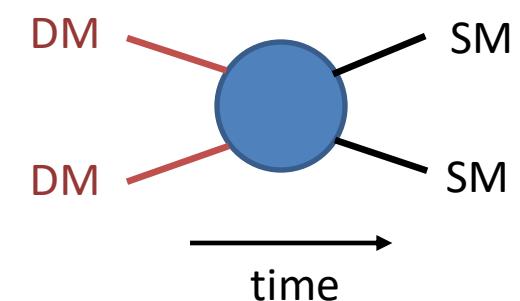
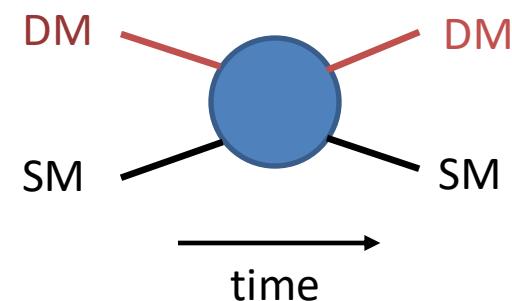
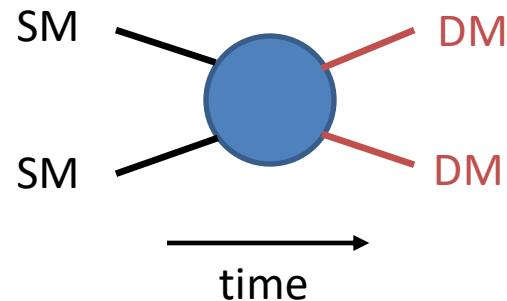
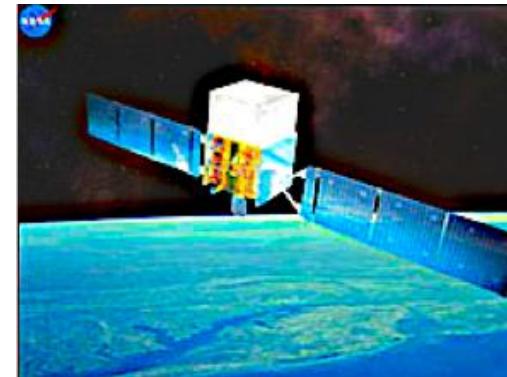
Direct production



Direct detection



Indirect detection

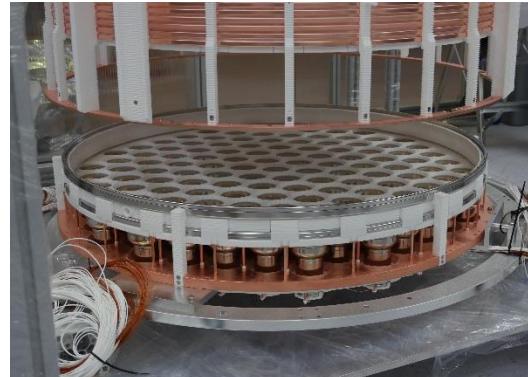


Searching for WIMPs

Direct production



Direct detection



Indirect detection



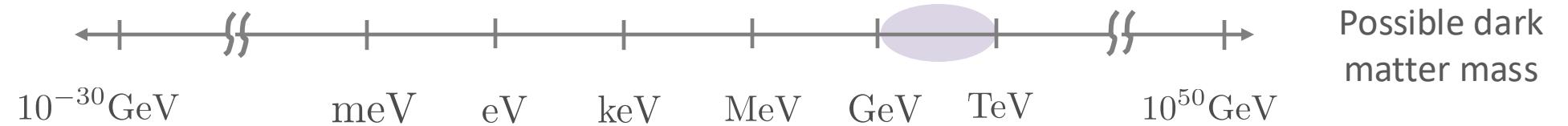
Experiments getting increasingly sensitive

Haven't yet detected dark matter

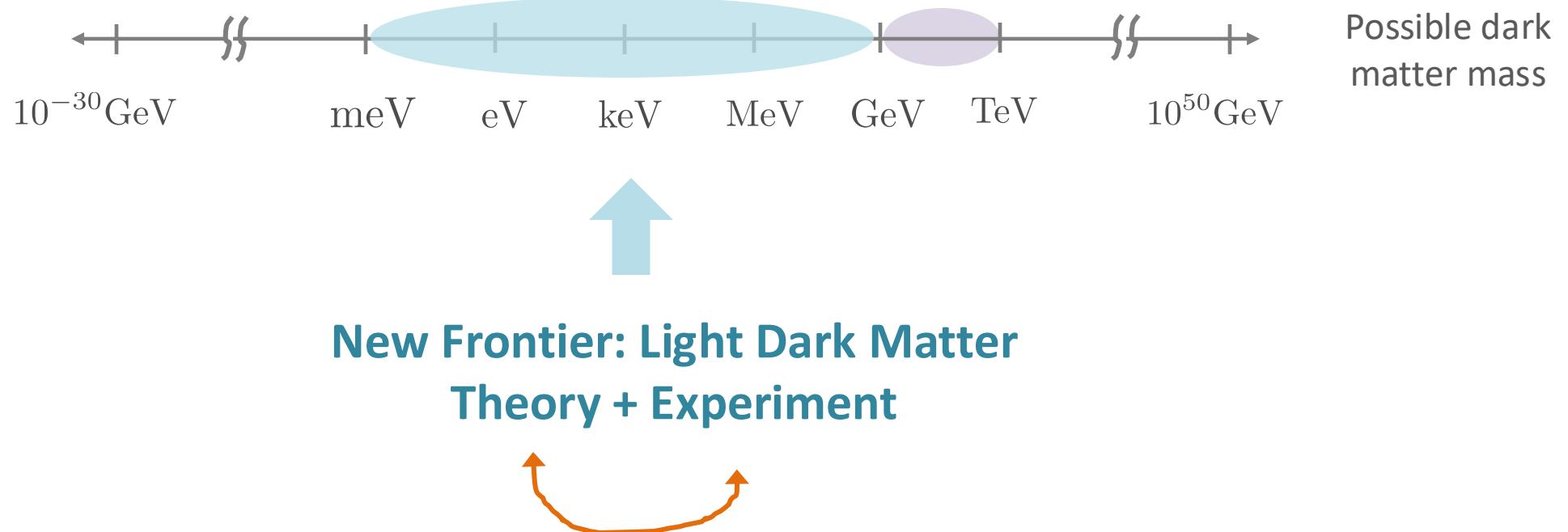


Great opportunity for new ideas.

Beyond the WIMP



Beyond the WIMP



H I T O S H I

SIMP

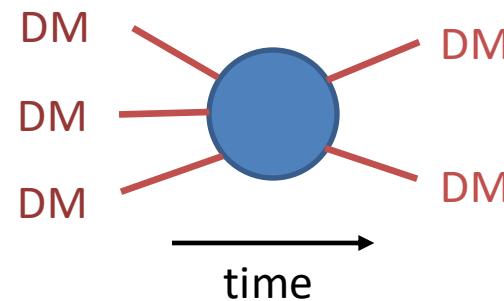
New Theory Ideas

-
- Weakly coupled WIMPs Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin 2007; Feng, Kumar 2008
- Asymmetric dark matter Kaplan, Luty, Zurek, 2009
- Freeze-in dark matter Hall, Jedamzik, March-Russell, West, 2009
- SIMPs  Kuflik, Volansky, Wacker, 2014 |  Kuflik, Murayama, Volansky, Wacker, 2015
- ELDERs Kuflik, Perelstein, Rey-Le Lorier, Tsai, 2016 & 2017
- Forbidden dark matter Griest, Seckall, 1991 | D'Agnolo, Ruderman, 2015
- Co-decaying dark matter Dror, Kuflik, Ng, 2016
- Co-scattering dark matter D'Agnolo, Pappadopulo, Ruderman, 2017
-

... Are abundant

By no means a comprehensive list

What if dark matter mostly interacted with itself?



$$\langle \sigma v^2 \rangle_{3 \rightarrow 2} \equiv \frac{\alpha^3}{m_{\text{DM}}^5}$$

$$m_{\text{DM}} \sim \alpha \times 100 \text{ MeV}$$

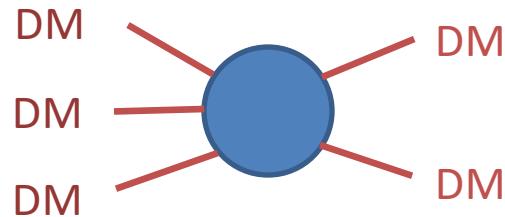
$3 \rightarrow 2$ self-annihilations

For strong coupling, the strong scale emerges.

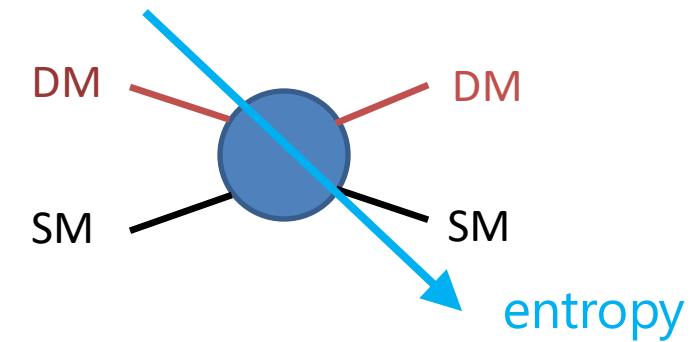
SIMP = Strongly (self) Interacting Massive Particle

Carlson, Hall, Machacek, 1992 | YH, Kuflik, Volansky, Wacker, 2014

Pumps heat into the system: need to shed the heat

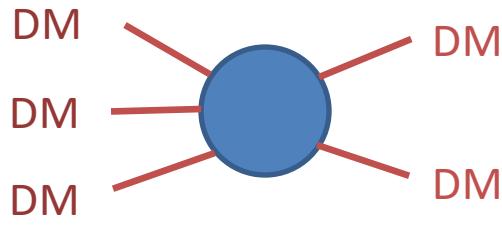


$3 \rightarrow 2$ self-annihilations



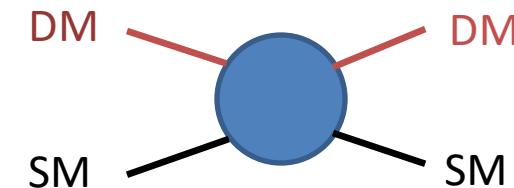
thermalize with
light SM species
(active during freeze-out)

YH, Kuflik, Volansky, Wacker, 2014



decouples 1st

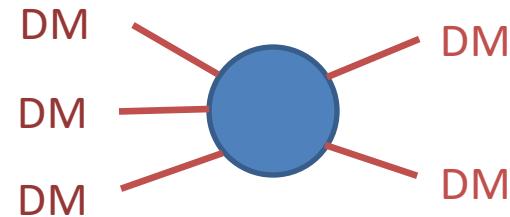
Determines
DM relic density



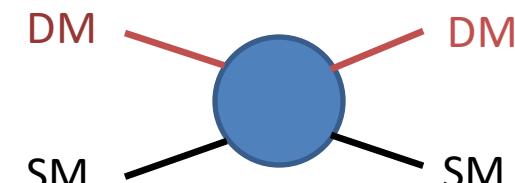
decouples 2nd

What if the order was reversed?

ELastically DEcoupling Relic (ELDER)



decouples 2nd



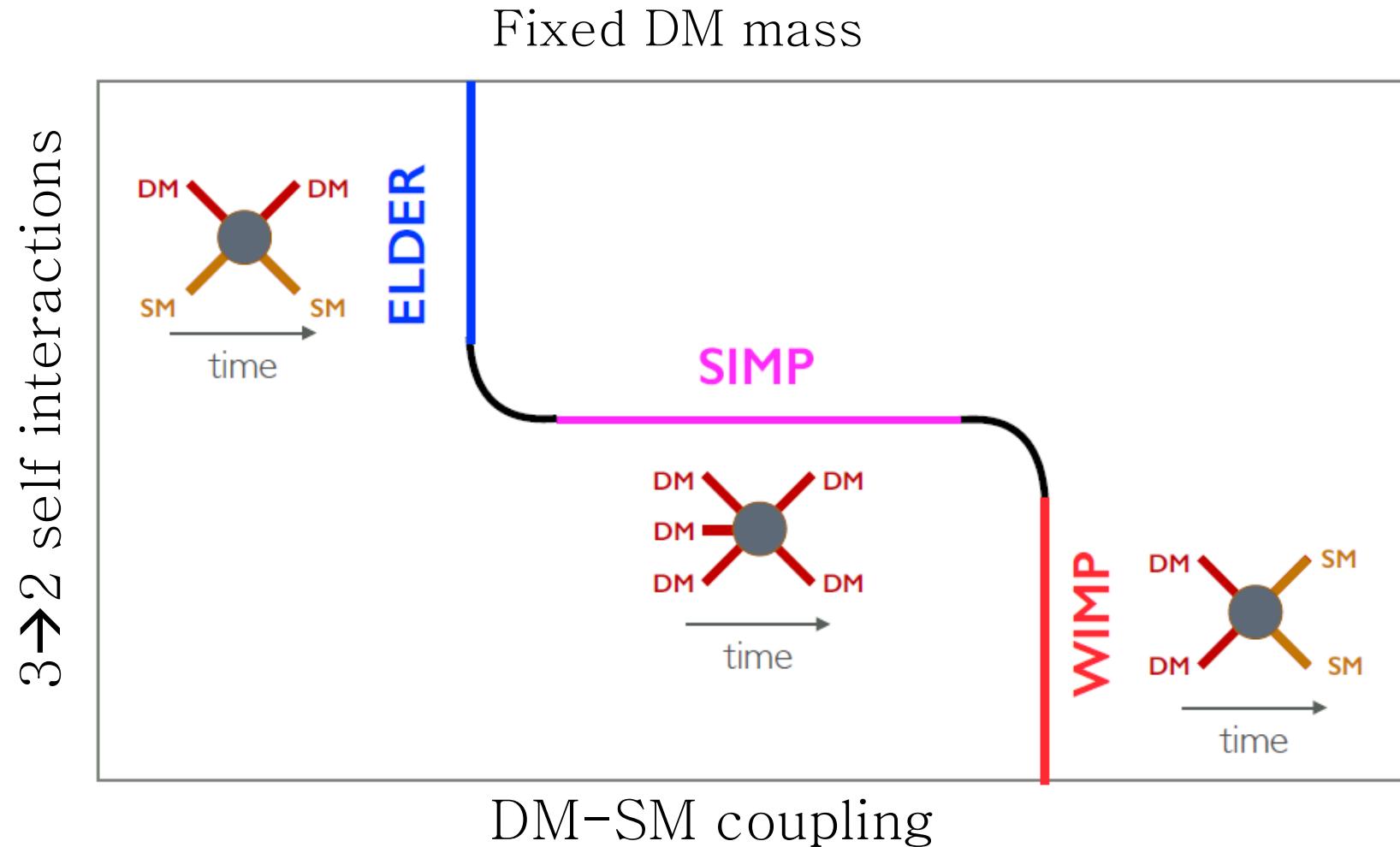
decouples 1st

Determines
DM relic density

$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \propto e^{-\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\text{el}} \#}$$

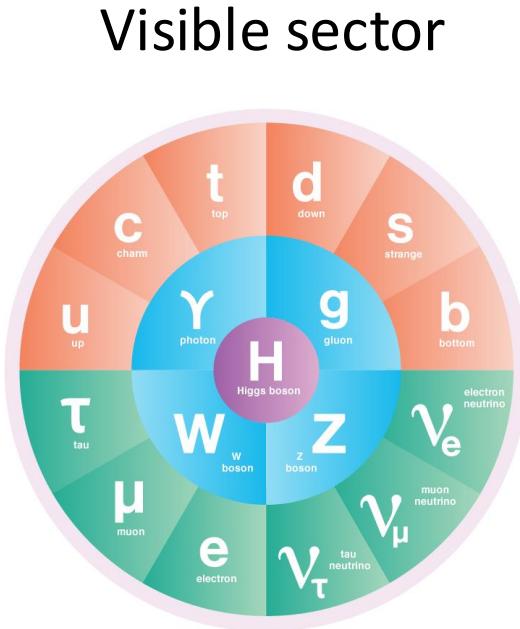
Kuflik, Perelstein, Rey-Le Lorier, Tsai, 2016 & 2017

WIMP/SIMP/ELDER



Generic.

Dark Sectors



Visible sector

Zoo of particles
w/structure
 $SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$

Dark sector

?????
?????
?????

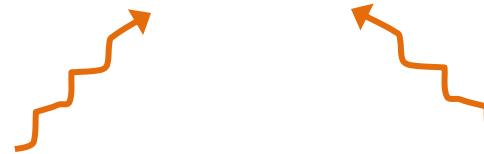
Why not in the
dark sector too?
New gauge symmetries?

Dark Sectors

Think Standard Model!

Dark matter from strongly coupled gauge theories

E.g. $SU(3)_{\text{dark}} \times U(1)_{\text{dark}}$



$Sp(N_c)$, $SU(N_c)$, $SO(N_c)$



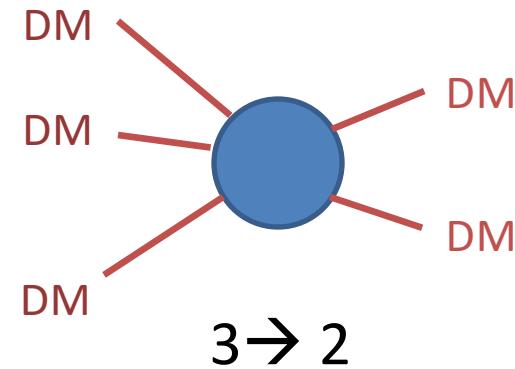
Kinetically mixed
dark photon (V)

QCD-like theories, pions = dark matter

Many processes, many dark matter mechanisms.

E.g. SIMPs

Think QCD!



QCD has 5-point interactions! $K^+K^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0\pi^-$

WZW term

If calculate the rate, find that is just right for SIMPs with
mass \sim few hundred MeV

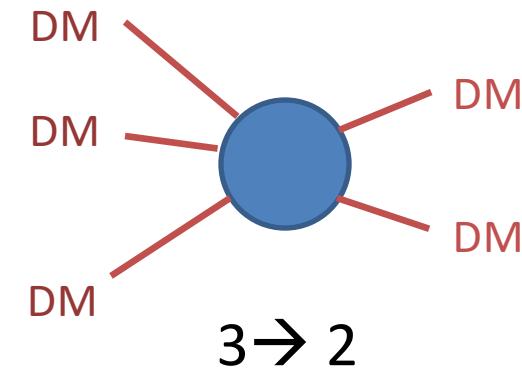
YH, Kuflik, Murayama, Volansky, Wacker, 2015

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

E.g. SIMPs

Think QCD!

$Sp(N_c), SU(N_c), SO(N_c)$



$$\mathcal{L}_{WZW} = \frac{2N_c}{15\pi^2 f_\pi^5} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}[\pi \partial_\mu \pi \partial_\nu \pi \partial_\rho \pi \partial_\sigma \pi]$$



pion decay constant

WZW term

Wess and Zumino, 1971 | Witten x 2, 1983

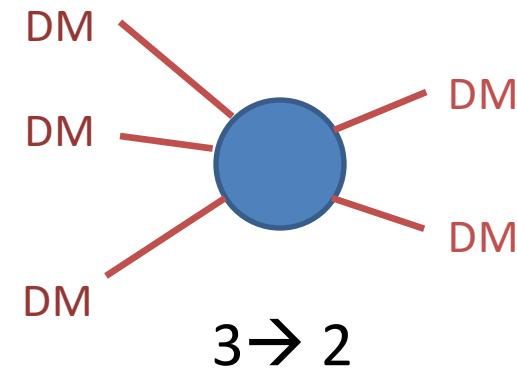
YH, Kuflik, Murayama, Volansky, Wacker, 2015

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

E.g. SIMPs

Think QCD!

$Sp(N_c)$, $SU(N_c)$, $SO(N_c)$



Stable dark matter = dark pions

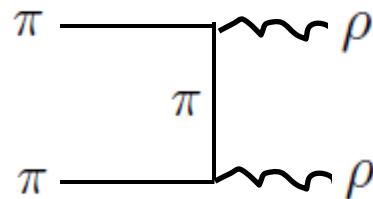
mass \sim few hundred MeV

Non-exotic!

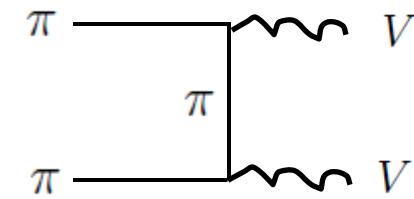
{ 3→2 dark glueballs: Carelson, Hall, Machacek, 1992 | Soni, Zhang, 2016 | Forestell, Morrissey, Sigurdson, 2017 }

YH, Kuflik, Murayama, Volansky, Wacker, 2015

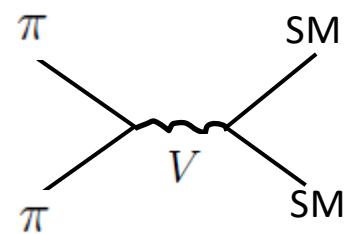
E.g. $2 \rightarrow 2$



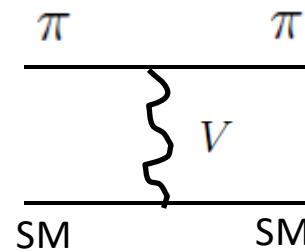
forbidden annihilations



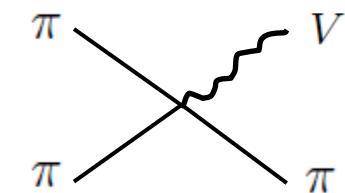
$2 \rightarrow 2$ annihilations



$2 \rightarrow 2$ annihilations



elastic scattering

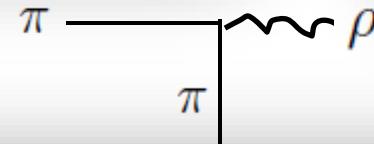


semi-annihilations

Lee, Seo, 2015 | YH, Kuflik, Murayama, 2016 | Harigaya, Nomura, 2016
Berlin, Blinov, Gori, Schuster, Toro, 2018

SIMP spectroscopy

Yonit Hochberg,^{a,b} Eric Kuflik^c and Hitoshi Murayama^{a,b,d,e}



PRL 115, 021301 (2015)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS



PHYSICAL REVIEW D 97, 055030 (2018)

Model for Thermal Relic Dark Matter of Strongly Interacting Massive Particles

Yonit Hochberg,^{1,2,*} Eric Kuflik,^{3,†} Hitoshi Murayama,^{1,2,4,‡} Tomer Volansky,^{5,§} and Jay G. Wacker^{6,7,¶}

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⁶*Quora, Mountain View, California 94041, USA*

⁷*Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA*

(Received 8 January 2015; published 10 July 2015)

week ending
10 JULY 2015

Dark spectroscopy at lepton colliders

Yonit Hochberg,^{1,2,*} Eric Kuflik,^{1,2,†} and Hitoshi Murayama^{3,4,5,‡}



Twin SIMPs

Yonit Hochberg^{1,*} Eric Kuflik^{1,†} and Hitoshi Murayama^{2,3,4,5,‡}

2 → 2 annihilations

elastic scattering

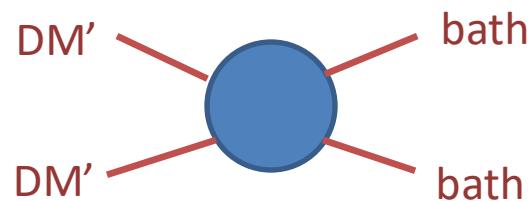
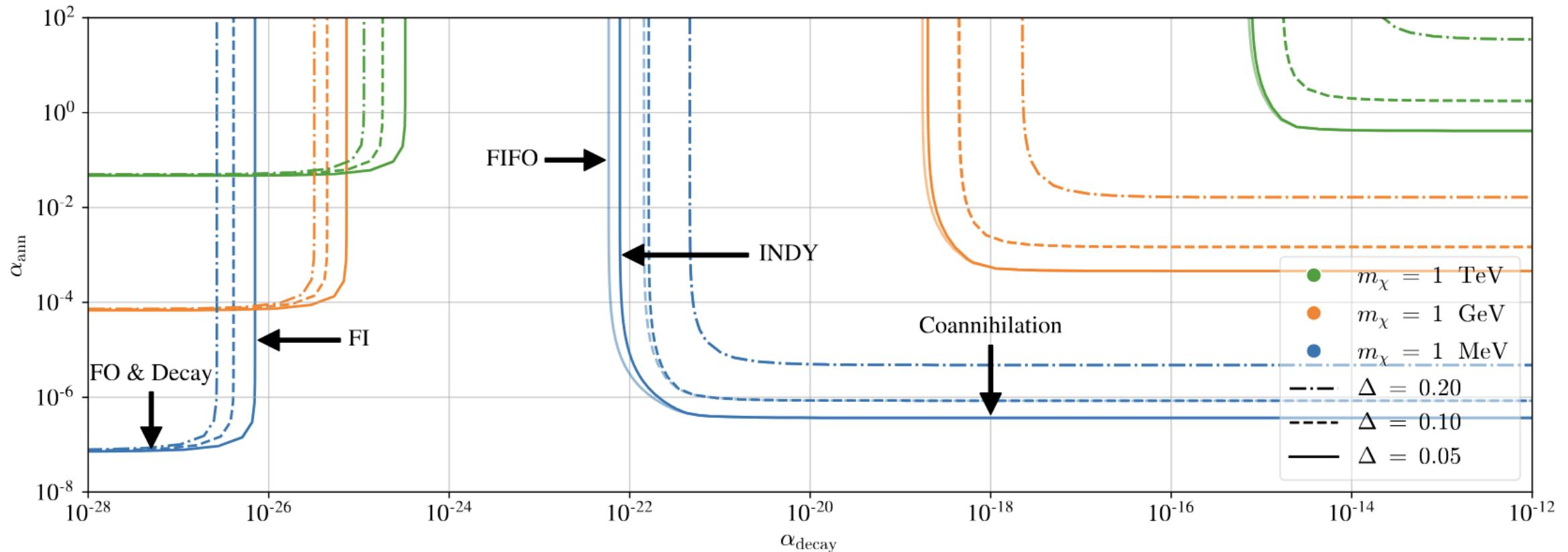
semi-annihilations

SIMPs through the axion portal

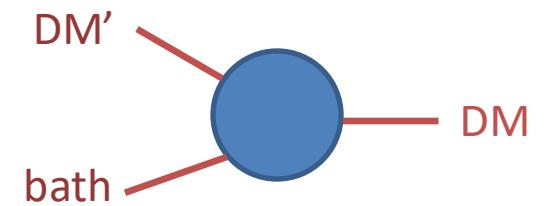
Lee, Se Yonit Hochberg,^{1,*} Eric Kuflik,^{1,†} Robert McGehee,^{2,3,‡} Hitoshi Murayama,^{2,3,4,5,§} and Katelin Schutz^{2,3,¶}

Berlin, Blinov, Gori, Schuster, Toro, 2018

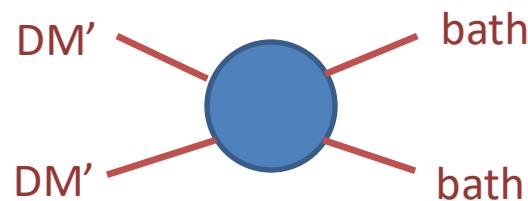
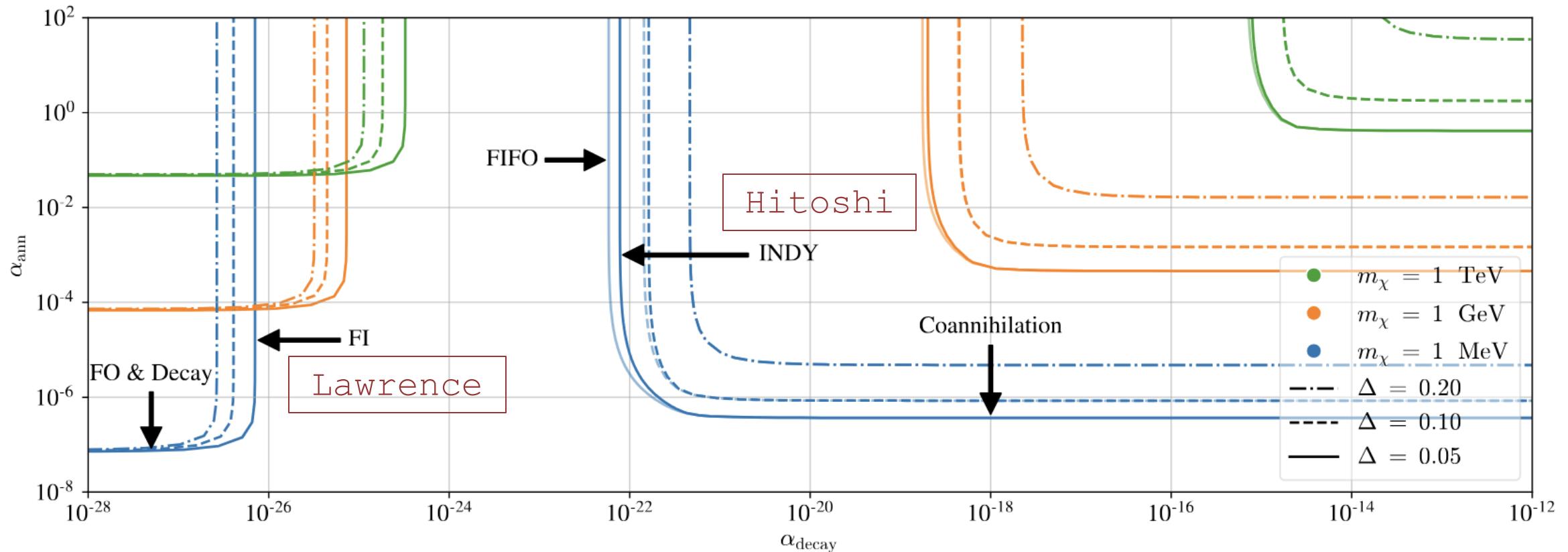
YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST



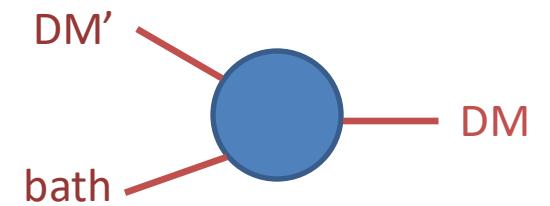
Phases of INverse DecaYs (INDY) of dark matter



INDY



Phases of INverse DecaYs (INDY)
of dark matter



H I T O S H I

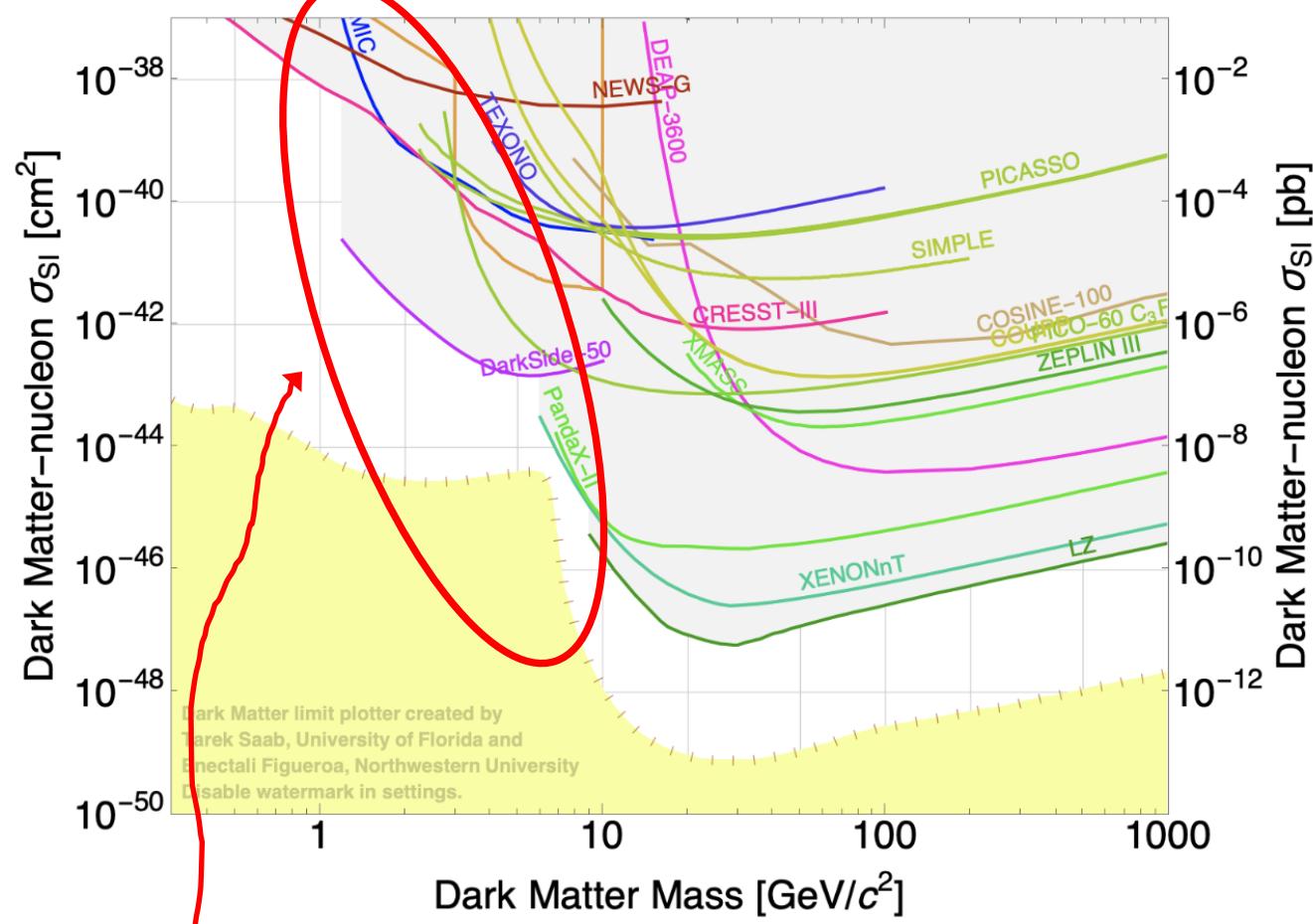
How?

Detection Blueprints

Dark matter particle comes in
Hits a target in the lab
System reacts
Measure the reaction



Direct Detection



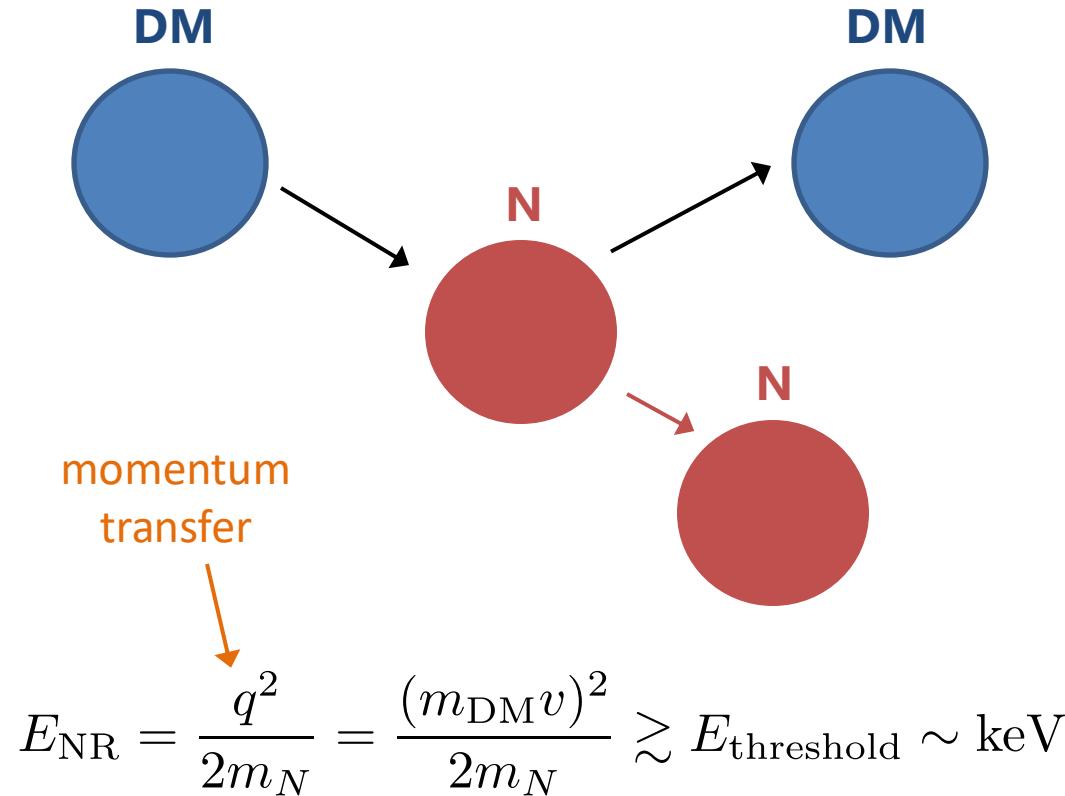
What's going on?

[website: supercdms.slac.stanford.edu/dark-matter-limit-plotter]

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

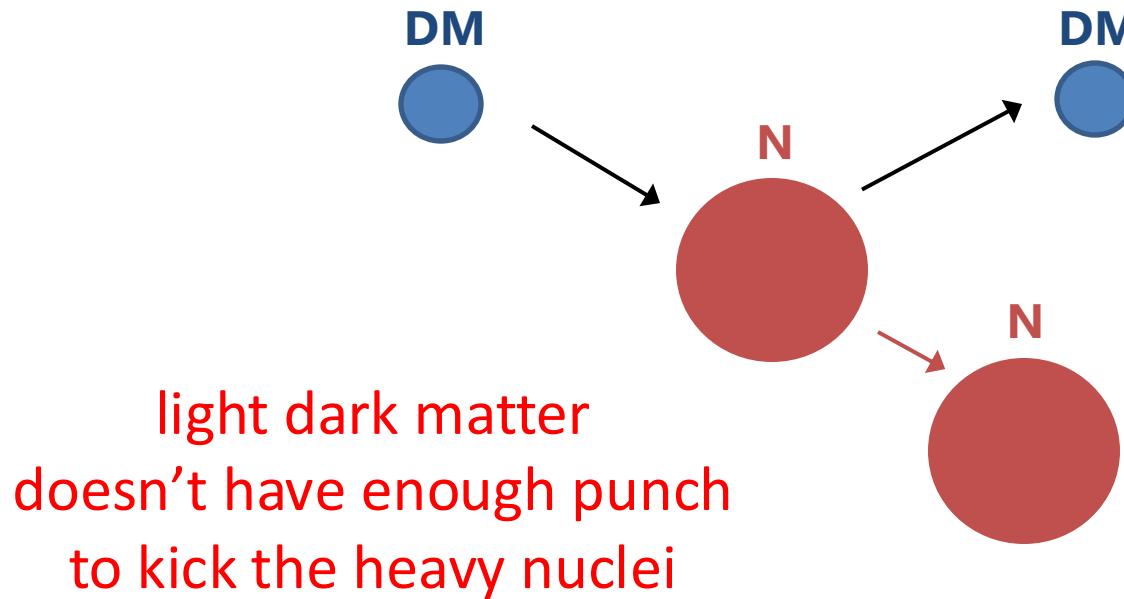
Current Experiments

Looking for nuclear recoils:
think billiard balls



Current Experiments

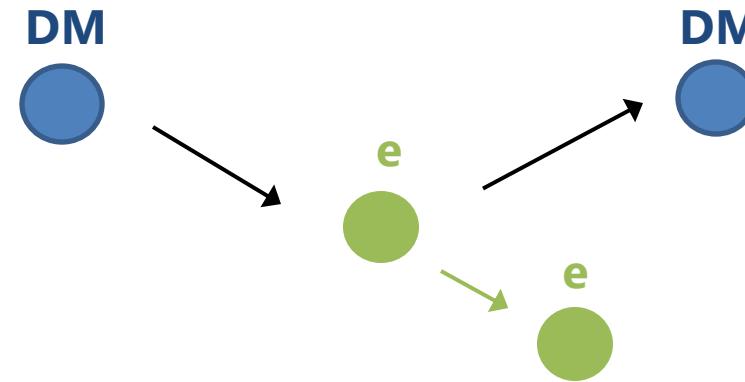
Looking for nuclear recoils:
think billiard balls



Lose sensitivity @ O(GeV) masses

New Avenues

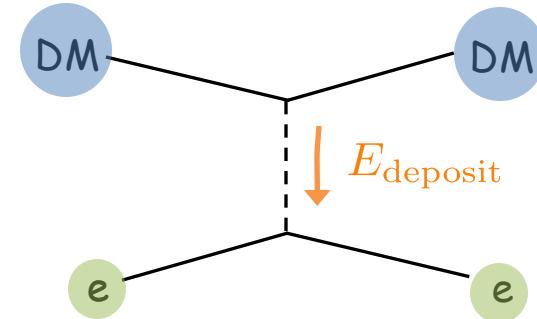
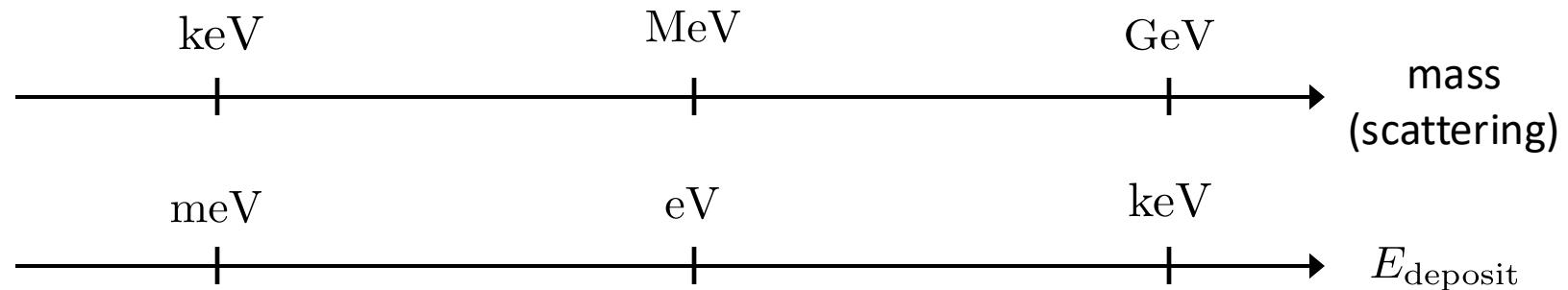
Light dark matter: scatter off electrons!



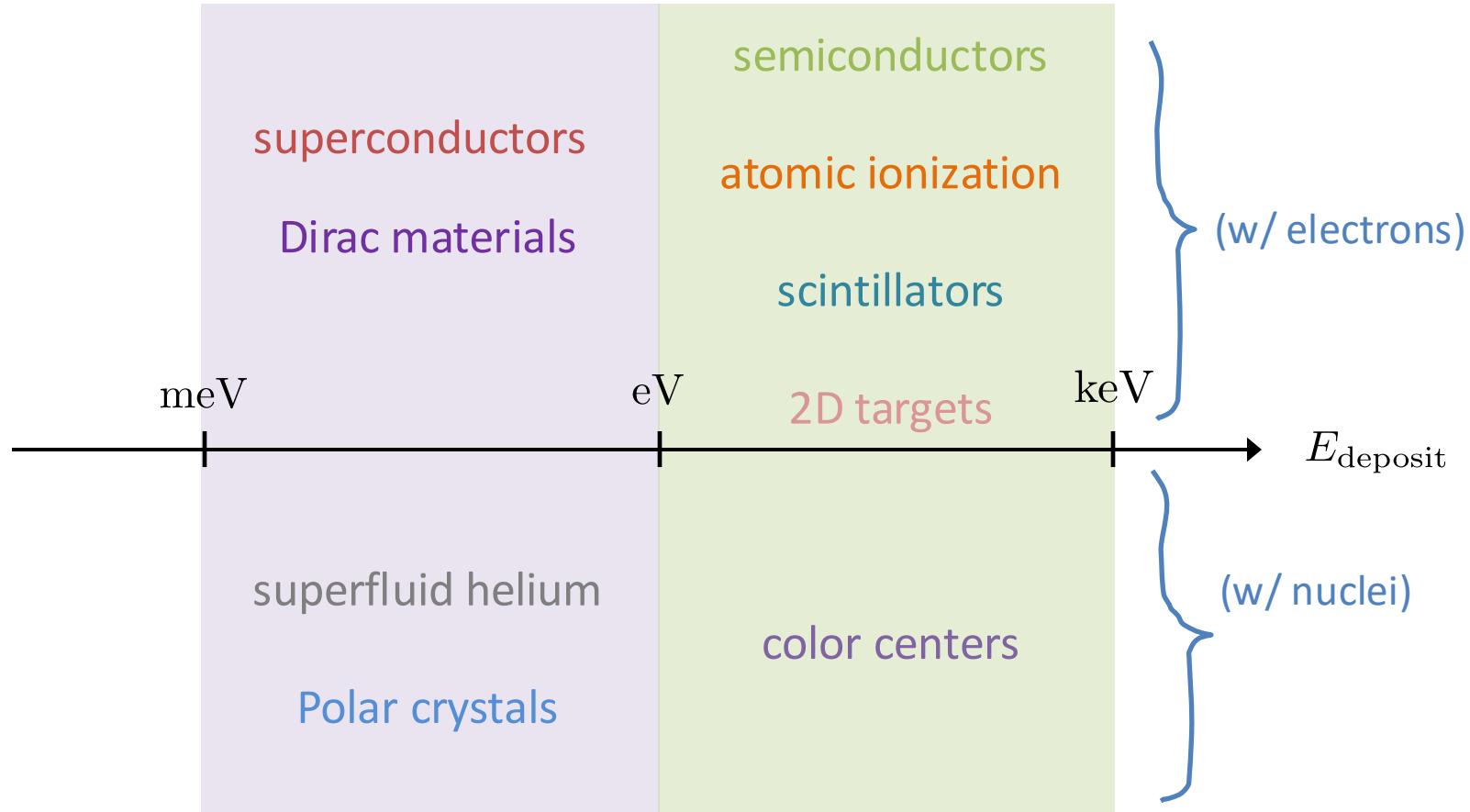
light dark matter
can give enough punch
to kick the light electrons

Energy guideline

Dark matter scattering: kinetic energy $m_{\text{DM}}v^2 \sim 10^{-6}m_{\text{DM}}$



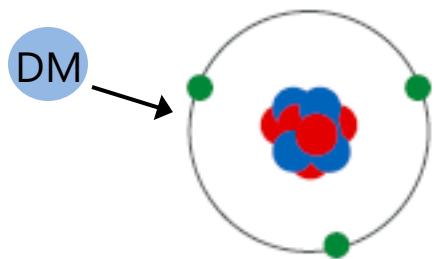
New proposals



Explosion of interest and ideas in recent times

Ex. #1: First ideas

Atomic ionization

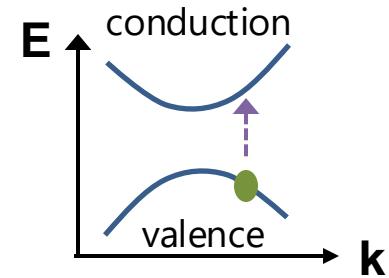


Xenon: ~ 12 eV

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Essig, Mardon, Volansky, 2012

Semiconductors



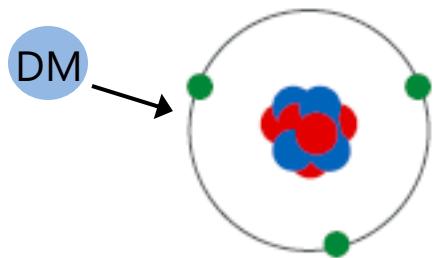
Ge, Si, Diamond, SiC: \sim eV

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim \text{MeV}$$

Essig , Mardon, Volansky, 2012
Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran, Walters, 2012
Kurinsky, Yu, **YH**, Blas, 2019
Griffin, **YH**, et al, 2020

Ex. #1: First ideas

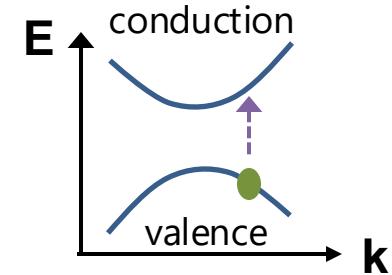
Atomic ionization



Xenon10/100/1T

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Semiconductors



SuperCDMS,
SENSEI, DAMIC-M

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim \text{MeV}$$

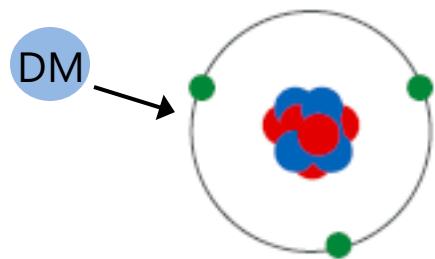
Are being experimentally realized

Essig et al 2012 | Xenon100 2016 | Xenon1T 2020

SuperCDMS 2020 | SENSEI 2023 | DAMIC-M 2023

Ex. #1: First ideas

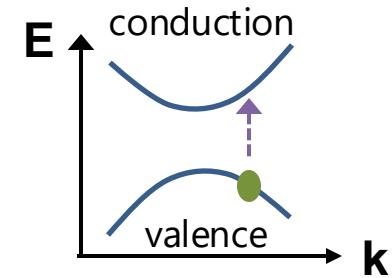
Atomic ionization



Xenon 10/100/1T

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Semiconductors



SuperCDMS,
SENSEI, DAMIC-M

$$m_{\text{DM}} \gtrsim \text{MeV}$$

Smaller masses?

Ex. #2: Superconductors

- Ground state = Cooper pairs;
- Binding energy (gap) $\sim \text{meV}$  $m_{\text{DM}} \sim \text{keV}$
- The idea:
Dark matter interacts with Cooper pairs, deposits enough energy, breaks Cooper pairs \rightarrow detect

Excitations

Excitation concentration
philosophy

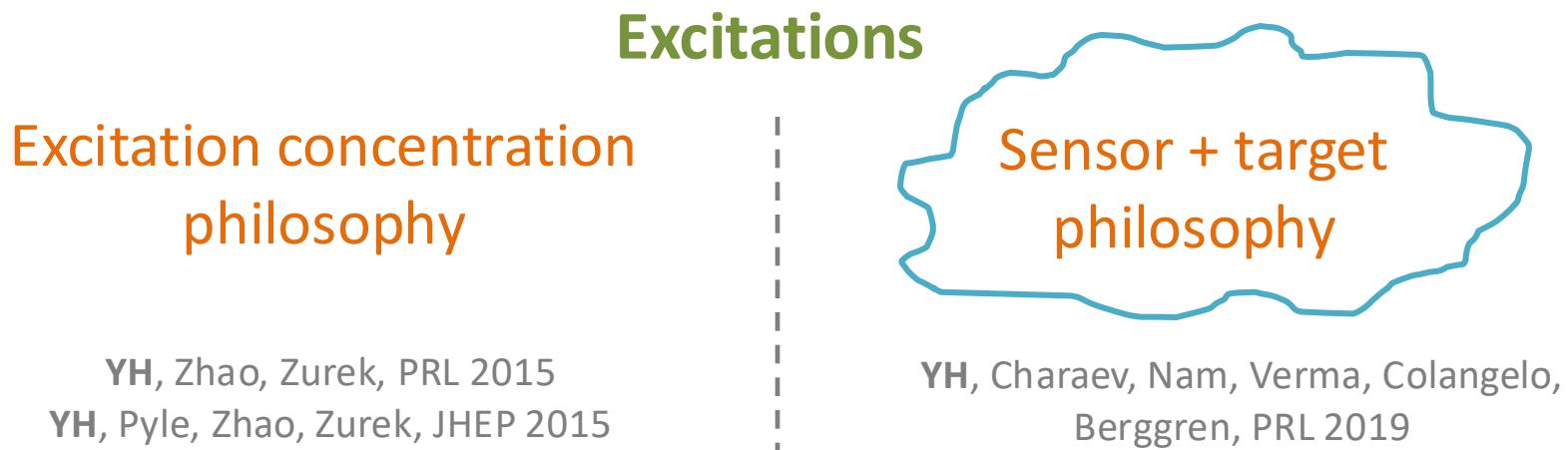
YH, Zhao, Zurek, PRL 2015
YH, Pyle, Zhao, Zurek, JHEP 2015

Sensor + target
philosophy

YH, Charaev, Nam, Verma, Colangelo,
Berggren, PRL 2019

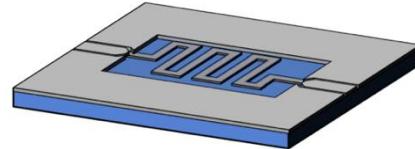
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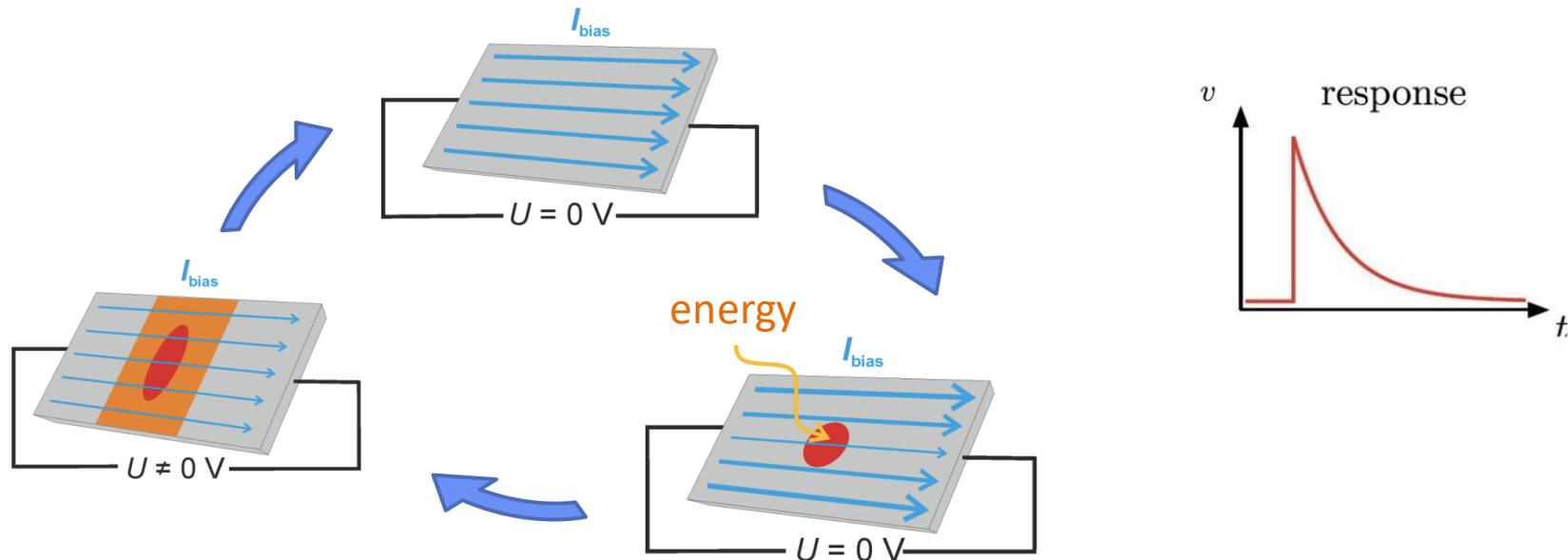
Ex. #2: Superconductors

- Superconducting Nanowire Single Photon Detectors (SNSPDs)



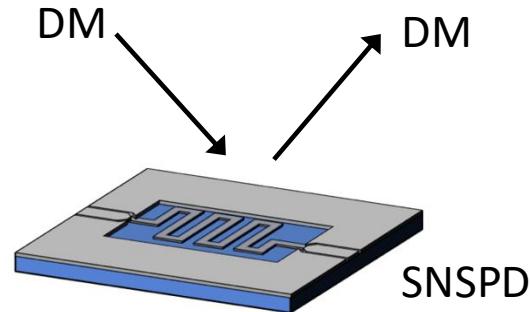
Broadly used in quantum
information science

- Ram an electron, create a hotspot, electrons diffuse away, resistive region across the nanowire → voltage pulse



Ex. #2: Superconductors

Use as simultaneous target + sensor (& multiplex)

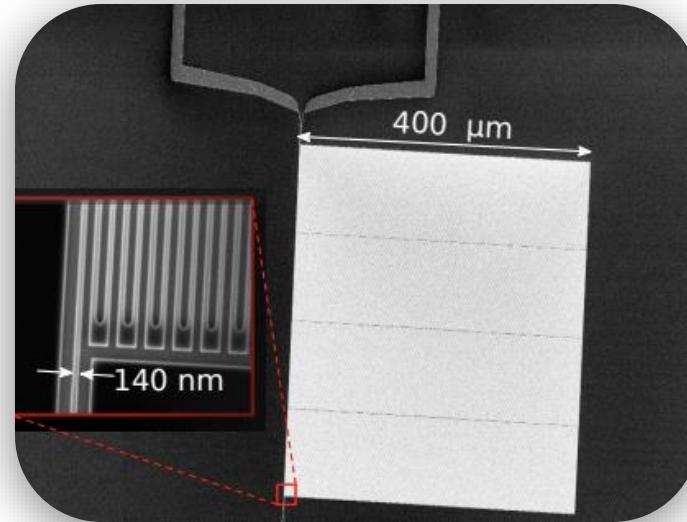


[Similarly for Kinetic Inductance Device (KID) and Transition Edge Sensor (TES)]

Gao, YH, Lehmann, Nam, Szypryt, Visser, Xu 2403.19739
+ YH et al (ALPs Collaboration), to appear

Existing Prototype Device

WSi SNSPD, 4.3 nanogram, 0.8 eV threshold,
no dark counts in 10000 seconds (~3 hours)



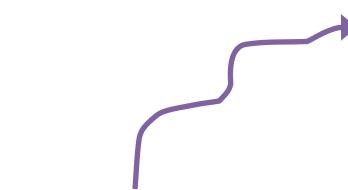
By now have 180 hours of data

YH, Charaev, Nam, Verma, Colangelo, Berggren, PRL 2019 + w/ Lehmann, PRD Editor's Choice 2022

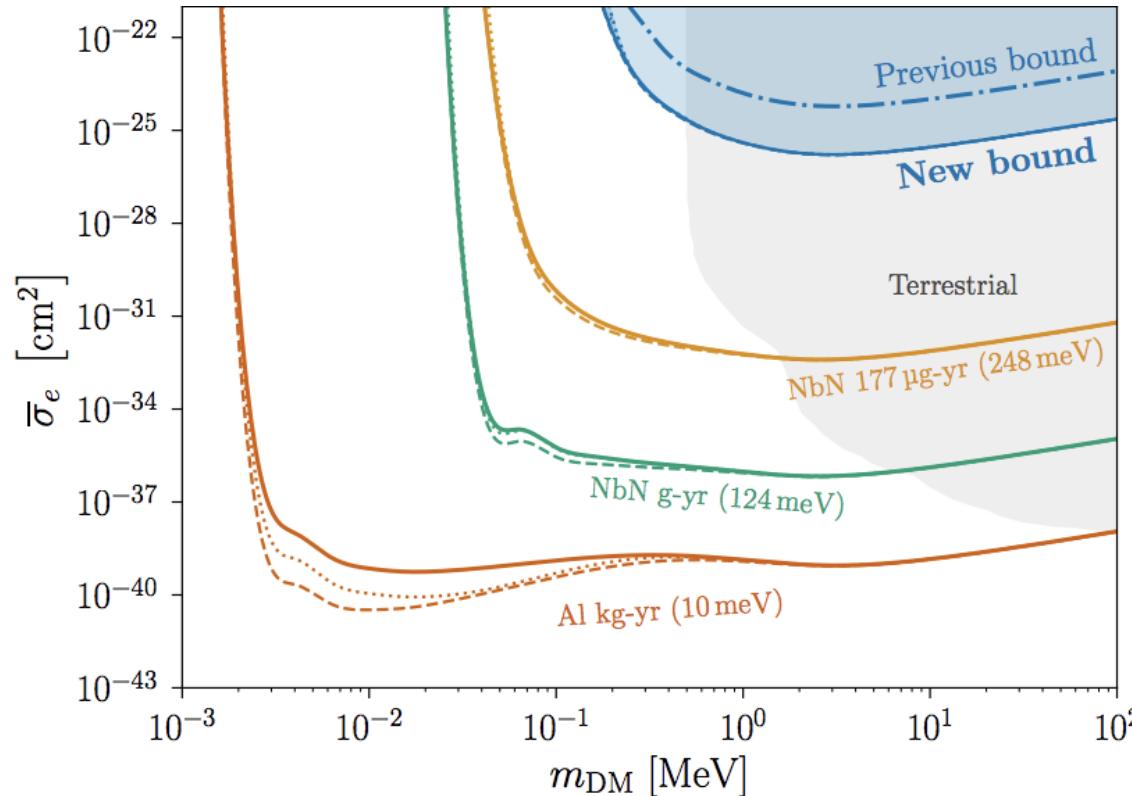
Scattering Reach

Colored curves:

Large array, low
threshold, low
dark count
SNSPDs



DM-electron
scattering
xsec @
 $q = \alpha m_e$
w/ light mediator



Non-solid
curves:
geometry
effects

Lasenby, Prabhu 2021

YH, Charaev, Nam, Verma, Colangelo, Berggren, PRL 2019 + w/ Lehmann, PRD Editor's Choice 2022

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

Pushing Thresholds Lower

Single-photon detection in the mid-infrared up to 10 micron wavelength using tungsten silicide superconducting nanowire detectors

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(Dated: 21 December 2020)

We developed superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors (SNSPDs) based on tungsten silicide (WSi) that show saturated internal detection efficiency up to a wavelength of 10 μm . These detectors are promising for applications in the mid-infrared requiring ultra-high gain stability, low dark counts, and high efficiency such as chemical sensing, LIDAR, dark matter searches and exoplanet spectroscopy.

**Demonstrated WSi SNSPDs
w/ 125meV energy threshold**

arXiv:2012.09979

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

Pushing Thresholds Lower

Low-noise single-photon counting superconducting nanowire detectors at infrared wavelengths up to 29 μm

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We report on the extension of the spectral sensitivity of superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors to a wavelength of 29 μm . To our knowledge, this represents the first demonstration of a single-photon counting detector at these long infrared wavelengths. We achieve saturated internal detection efficiency from 10 to 29 μm , while maintaining dark count rates below 0.1 counts per second. Extension of superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors to this spectral range provides low-noise and high-timing-resolution photon counting detection, effectively providing a new class of single-photon sensitive detectors for these wavelengths. These detectors are important for applications such as exoplanet spectroscopy, infrared astrophysics, physical chemistry, remote sensing, and direct dark-matter detection. © 2023

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And even lower @ 29 microns

Optica, Dec. 2023

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

Pushing Areas Larger

Large active-area superconducting microwire detector array with single-photon sensitivity in the near-infrared

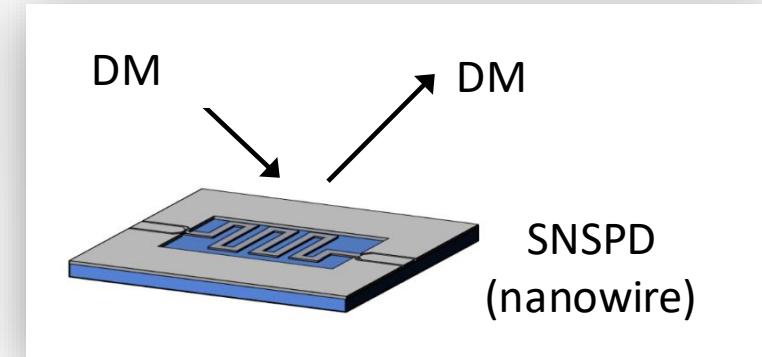
Jamie S. Luskin,^{1, 2, a)} Ekkehart Schmidt,^{1, b)} Boris Korzh,¹ Andrew D. Beyer,¹ Bruce Bumble,¹ Jason P. Allmaras,¹ Alexander B. Walter,¹ Emma E. Wollman,¹ Lautaro Narváez,³ Varun B. Verma,⁴ Sae Woo Nam,⁴ Ilya Charaev,^{5, 6} Marco Colangelo,⁵ Karl K. Berggren,⁵ Cristián Peña,⁷ Maria Spiropulu,³ Maurice Garcia-Sciveres,⁸

Superconducting nanowire single photon detectors (SNSPDs) are the highest-performing technology for time-resolved single-photon counting from the UV to the near-infrared. The recent discovery of single-photon sensitivity in micrometer-scale superconducting wires is a promising pathway to explore for large active area devices with application to dark matter searches and fundamental physics experiments. We present 8-pixel 1mm^2 superconducting microwire single photon detectors (SMSPDs) with 1\mu m -wide wires fabricated from WSi and MoSi films of various stoichiometries using electron-beam and optical lithography. Devices made from all materials and fabrication techniques show saturated internal detection efficiency at 1064 nm in at least one pixel, and the best performing device made from silicon-rich WSi shows single-photon sensitivity in all 8 pixels and saturated internal detection efficiency in 6/8 pixels. This detector is the largest reported active-area SMSPD or SNSPD with near-IR sensitivity published to date, and the first report of an SMSPD array. By further optimizing the photolithography techniques presented in this work, a viable pathway exists to realize larger devices with cm^2 - scale active area and beyond.

Demonstrated 1 mm^2 area detectors

Appl. Phys. Lett, 2023

Quantum Resolution-Optimized Cryogenic Observatory for Dark matter Incident at Low Energy



Newly forming interdisciplinary collaboration
(particle theory | condensed matter | DM experiment | quantum sensing)



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

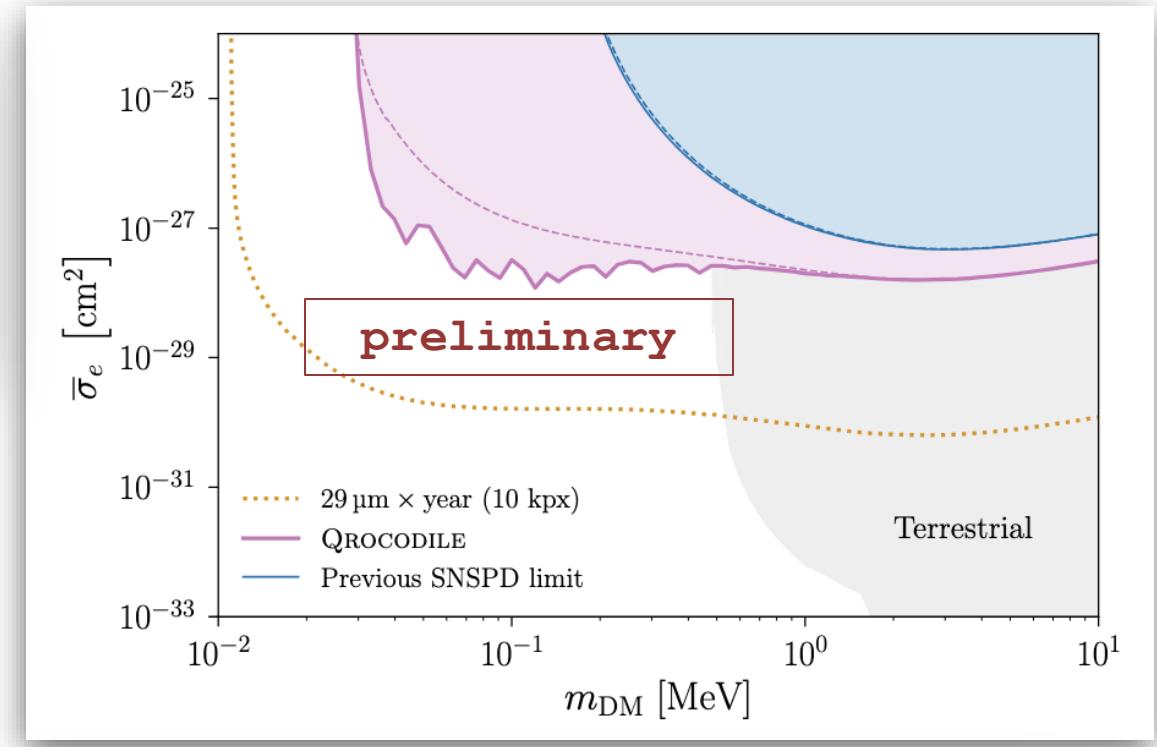
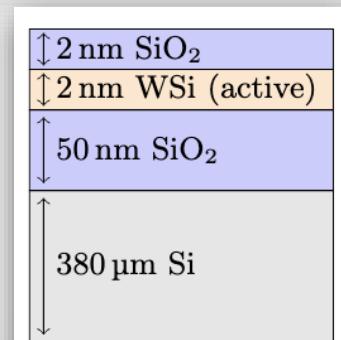


Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Quantum Resolution-Optimized Cryogenic Observatory for Dark matter Incident at Low Energy



WSi, 0.17ng,
11 micron,
415 hours



First science results shortly [arXiv:2410.0000]



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

H I T O S H I

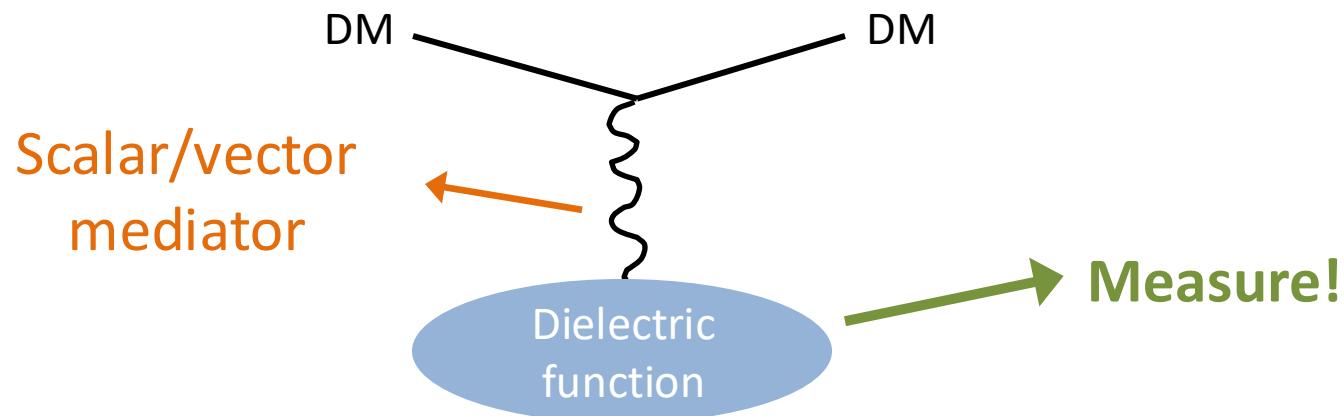
Other materials

New Formalism

DM-electron scattering in any material is determined by the dielectric function

$$\Gamma = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} |V(q)|^2 \left[2 \frac{q^2}{e^2} \text{Im} \left(-\frac{1}{\epsilon(\mathbf{q}, \omega_{\mathbf{q}})} \right) \right]$$

For any dark matter interaction that couples to electron density



YH, Kahn, Kurinsky, Lehmann, Yu, Berggren, PRL 2021

[See also arXiv: 2101.08275]

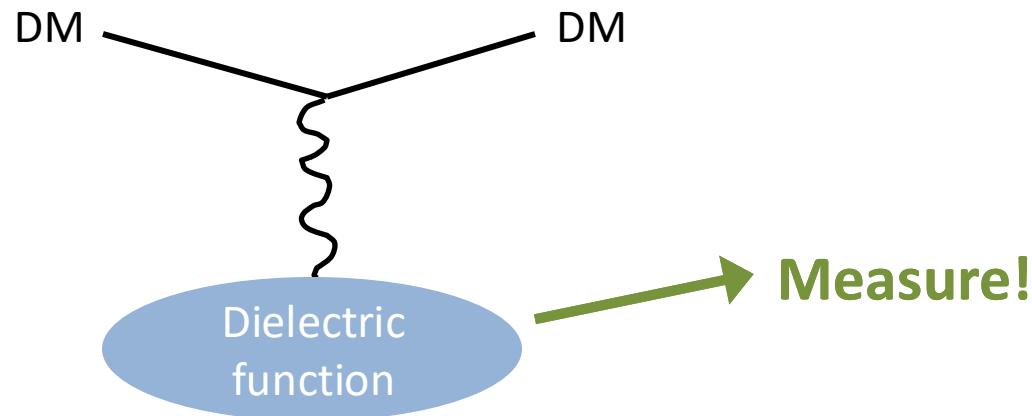
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New Formalism

Automatically includes many-body effects of the material

Collective modes (e.g. plasmons),
not just single particle excitations

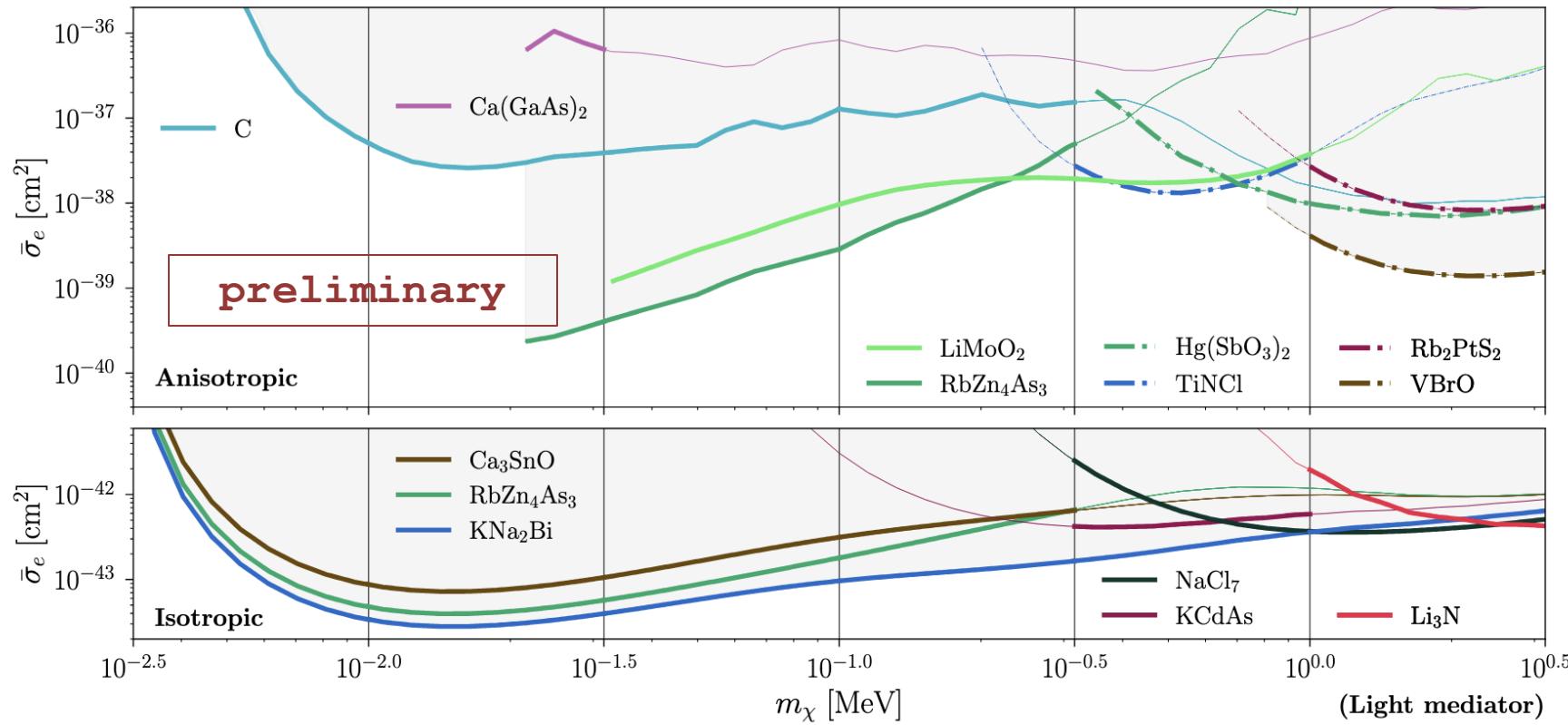
Identify promising materials for dark matter detection



YH, Kahn, Kurinsky, Lehmann, Yu, Berggren, PRL 2021

Ex. #3: Materials Project

Over 1000 materials with dielectric function data



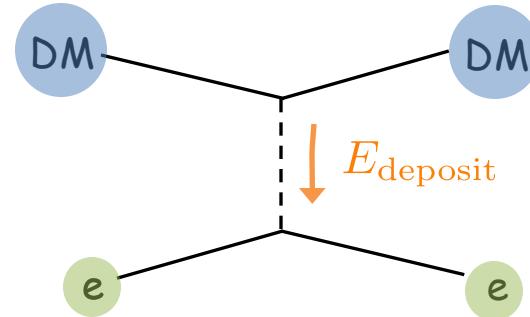
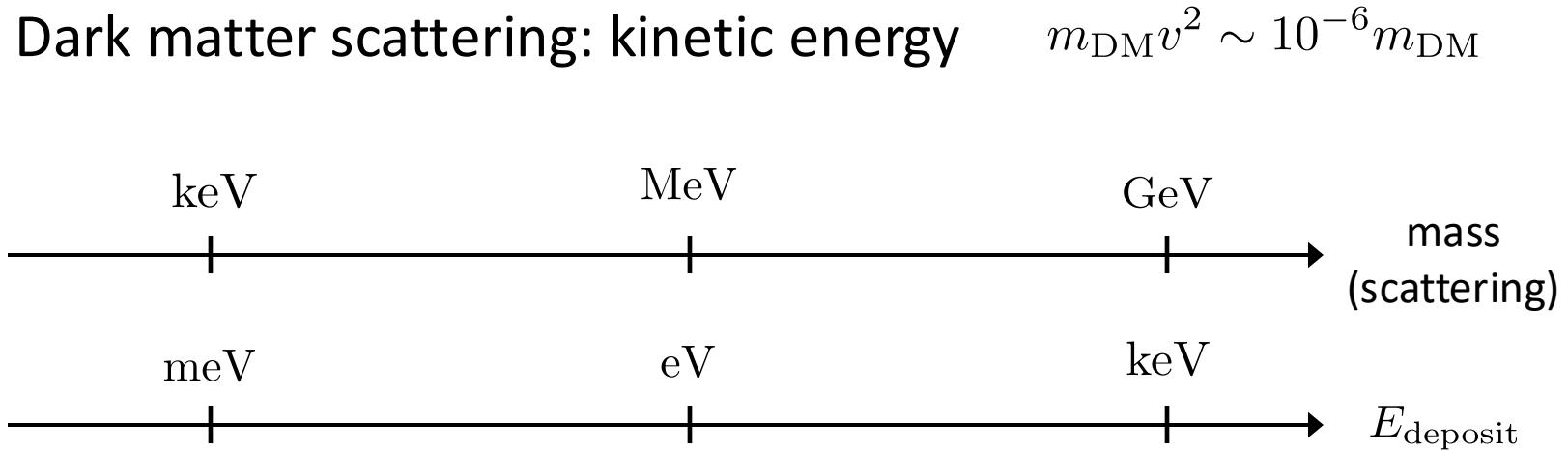
First high-throughput search for dark matter detector materials

H I T o s h i

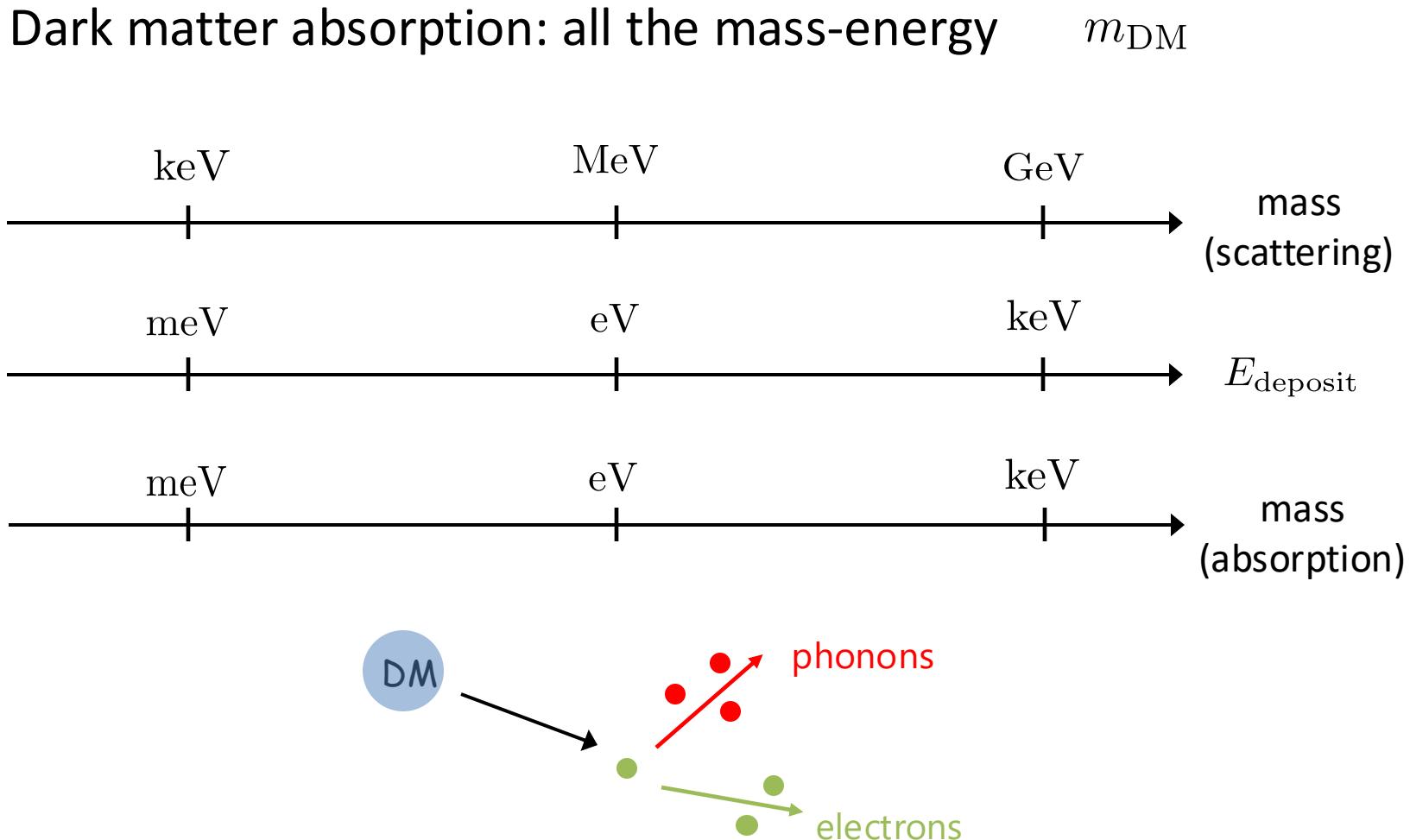
2 for the price of 1

Any given target material can go even further.

Absorption vs. Scattering

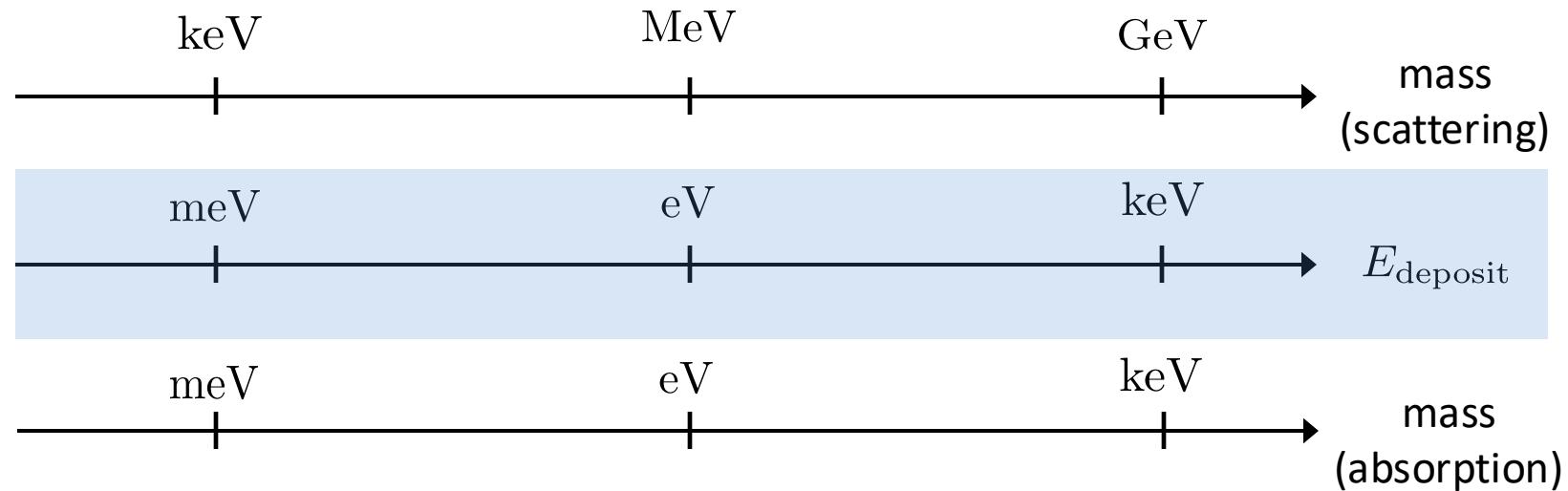


Absorption vs. Scattering

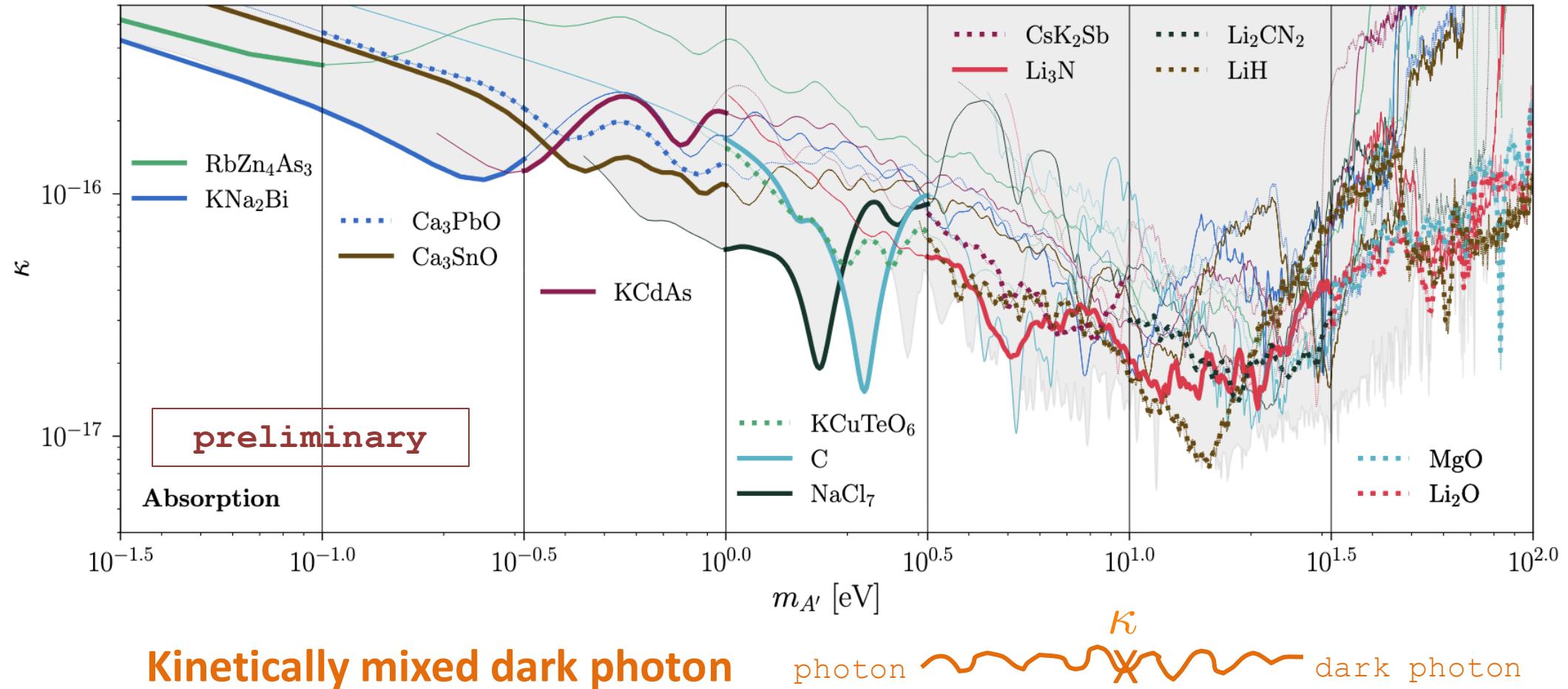


Absorption vs. Scattering

Two (mass ranges) for the price of one :-)



Absorption: Materials Project



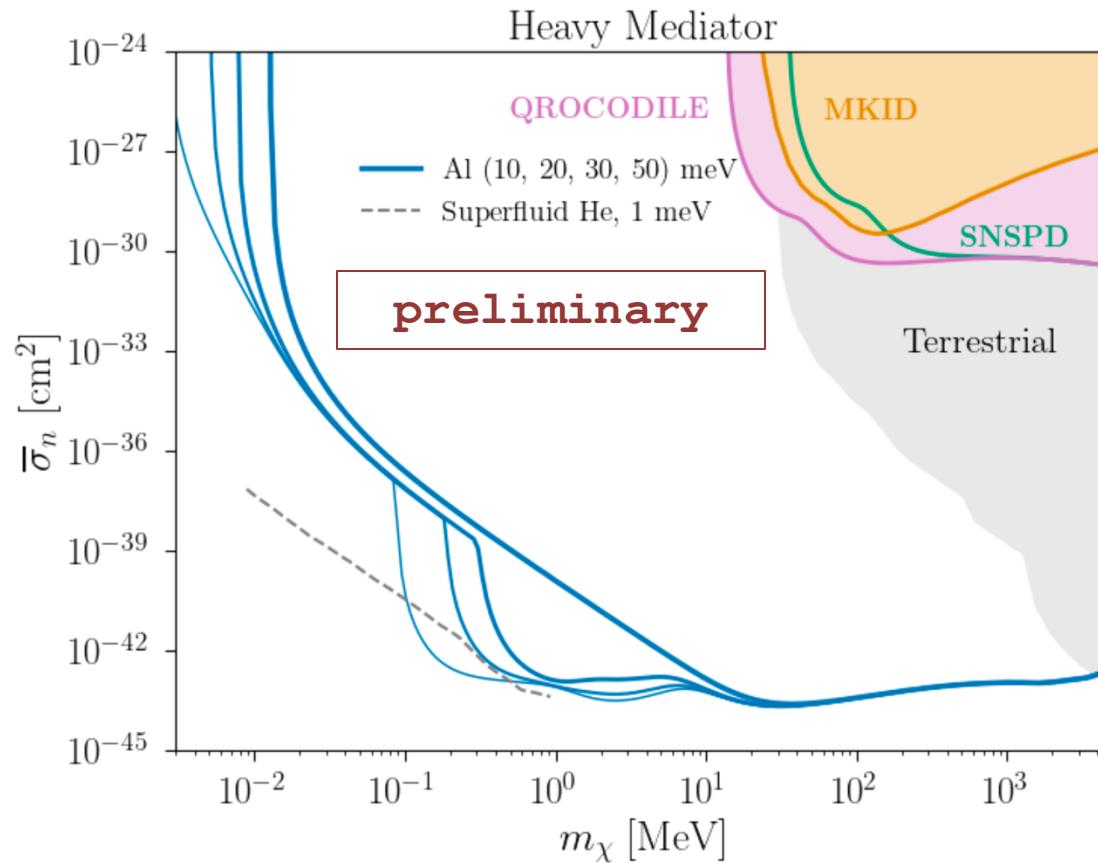
Griffin, YH, Lehmann, Ovadia, Suter, Yang 2410.sooon

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

Two (xsec) for the price of one

Electron-phonon coupling:
energy deposit into one type of dof can be transferred to the other

DM-electron
detectors for
DM-nuclear
interactions



Griffin, Hadas, YH, Inzani, Lehmann + w/ QROCODILE, 2410.soon x 2

YH @ Hitoshi/Lawrence FEST

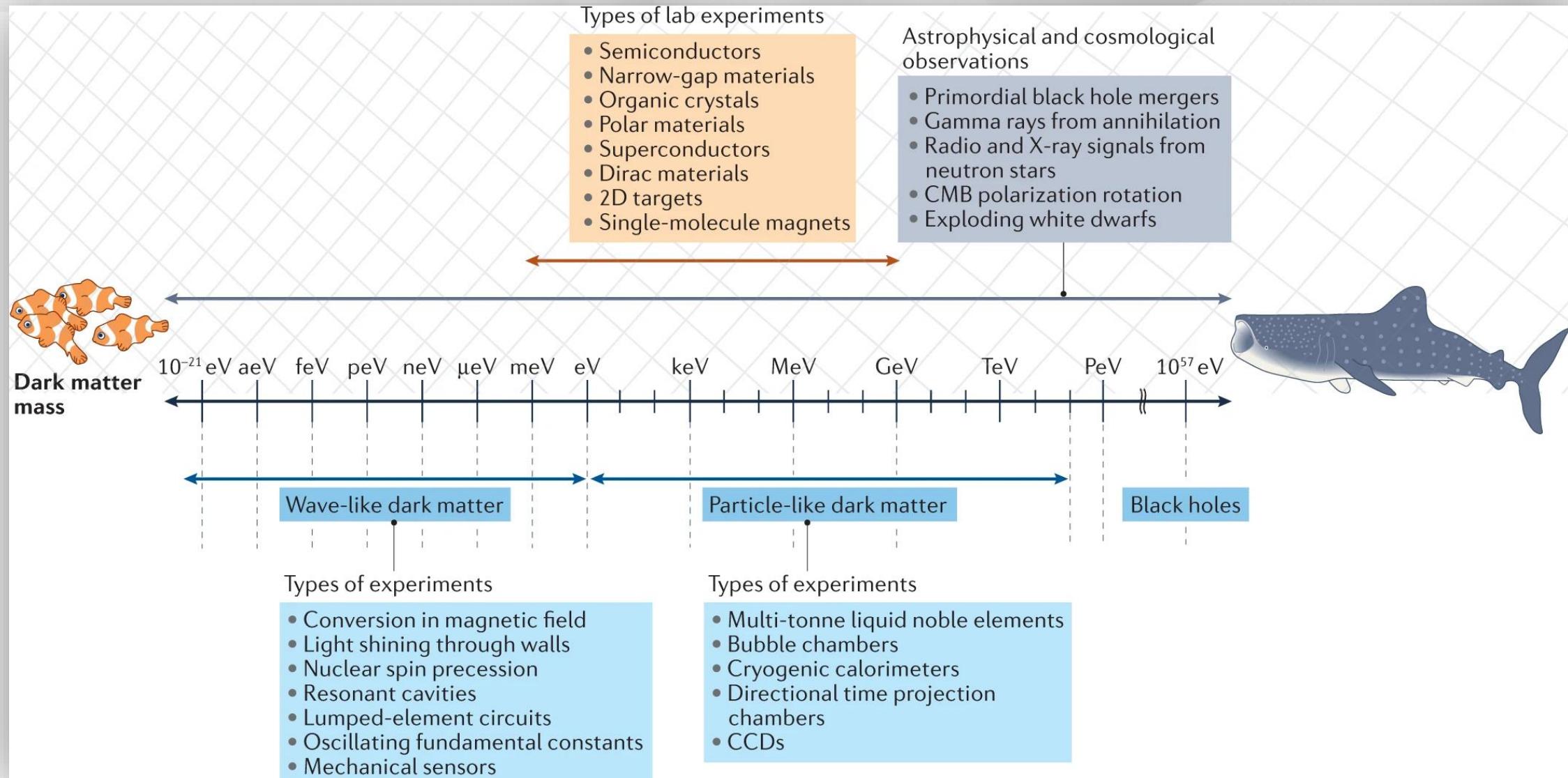
H I T O S H I

Interdisciplinary

Outlook

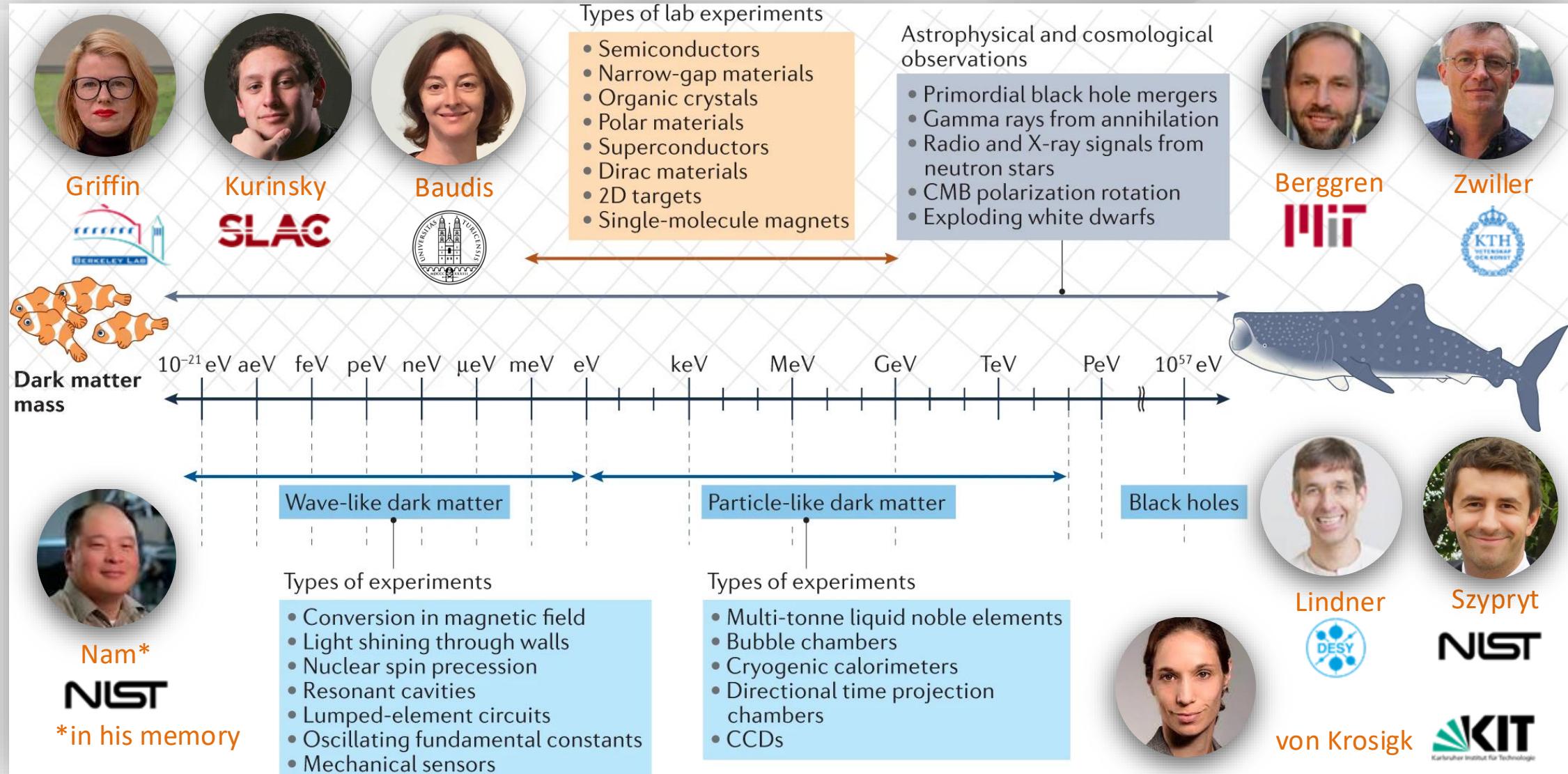
- Lots of activity for light dark matter detection
- Theory \leftrightarrow experiment
- By no means exhausted...
- It's ok for an idea to seem crazy at first
- The best ideas might still be ahead

Prospects



Prospects

Particle physics / condensed matter / material science / AMO / quantum sensing



If you have any (crazy) new ideas,
please be in touch :-)

Happy happy birthdays

