



15th International Workshop on the Identification of Dark Matter 2024
8th - 12th of July - L'Aquila (IT)

The quest for dark matter across the photon spectrum

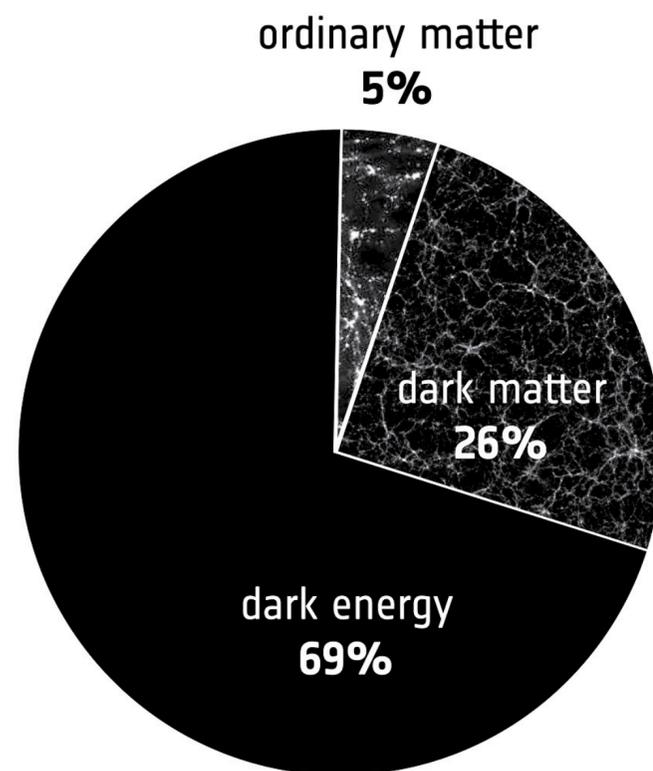
Francesca Calore (CNRS-LAPTh)



Dark matter in the universe

Mounting evidence from kpc-sized galaxies up to cosmological scales suggests that the majority of **pressure-less matter** in the universe is **not baryonic in nature**

While the dark matter gravitational impact is well measured, its **nature remains a mystery**



Credit: ESA

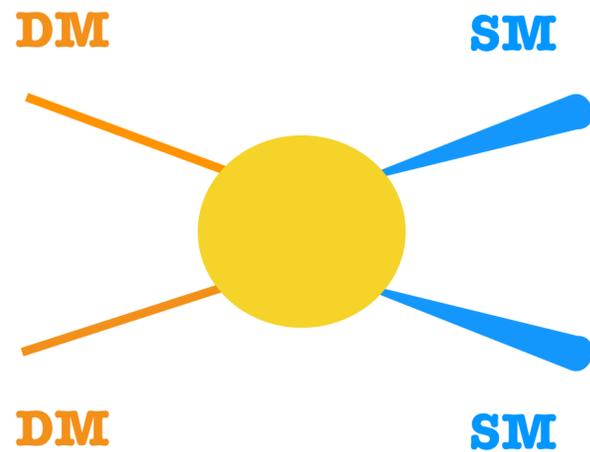
Non-exhaustive list of **open questions** in the dark matter quest:

- Is there cosmic evidence to go beyond the cold and *collisionless paradigm*?
 - How is dark matter *produced* in the early universe, and how does this connect to late universe observables?
 - Is dark matter a particle and fundamentally *wave-like or particle-like*?
 - Is there a *dark sector* containing other new particles and/or forces?
- Does dark matter have important *self-interactions*?

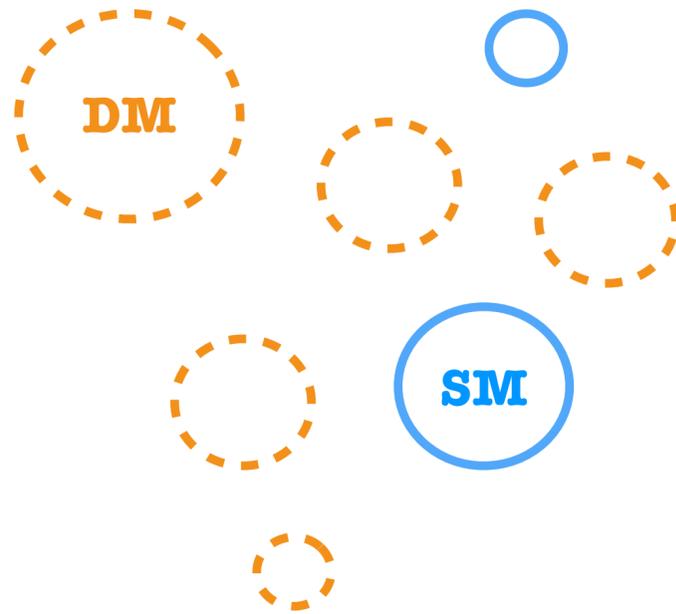
[Snowmass Cosmic Frontier](#); [Snowmass Astro&Cosmo Probes of DM](#); [EuCAPT White Paper](#)

Dark matter indirect detection

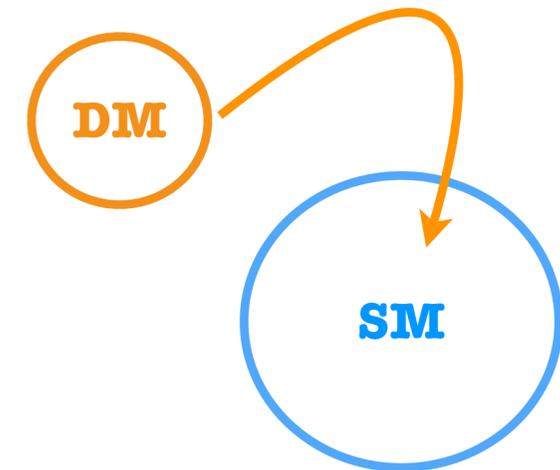
What dark matter does with/to the environment



Energy/particle injection



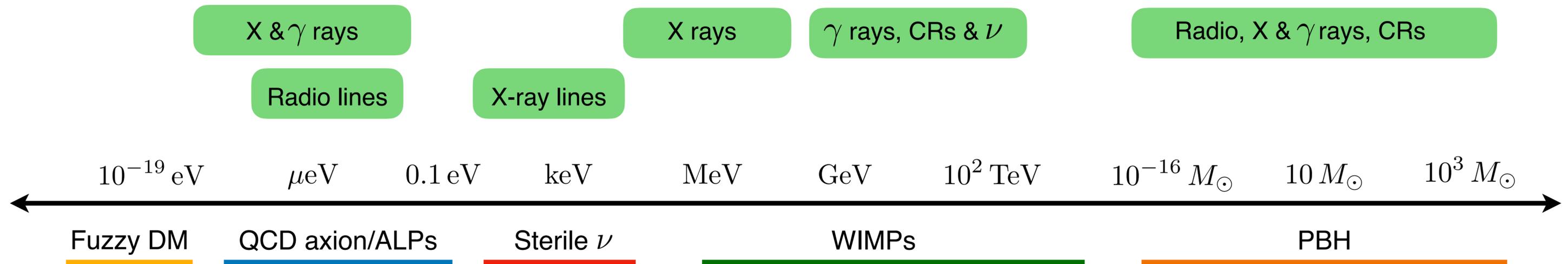
Gravitational interaction



*Capture/scattering/accretion
in/onto astrophysical objects*

A focus on multi-wavelength photons

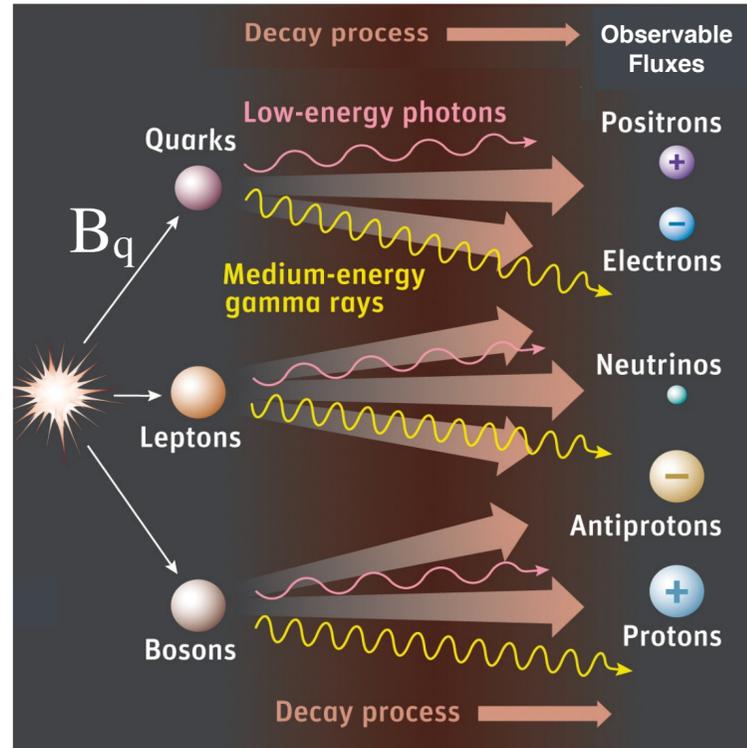
EuCAPT White Paper, arXiv:2110.10074



Indirect searches for dark matter **successfully test different dark matter models** (WIMPs, ALPs, PBHs, etc), probing a large portion of their parameter space

Particle dark matter emission

DM annihilation/decay



$$(DM) DM \rightarrow SM SM$$

$$E_{CM} = N m_{DM}, \quad N = 1 \text{ (decay), } 2 \text{ (annih)}$$

Centre of mass energy \simeq Signal energy

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

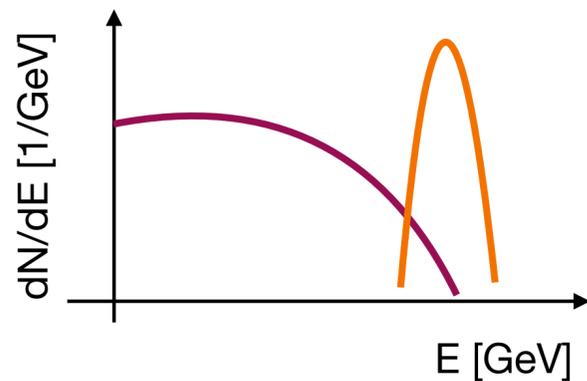
$$E_{\gamma} = \frac{N m_{DM}}{2}$$

Narrow line signal

$$\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE} = 2\delta\left(E - \frac{N m_{DM}}{2}\right)$$

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

Broader energy distribution



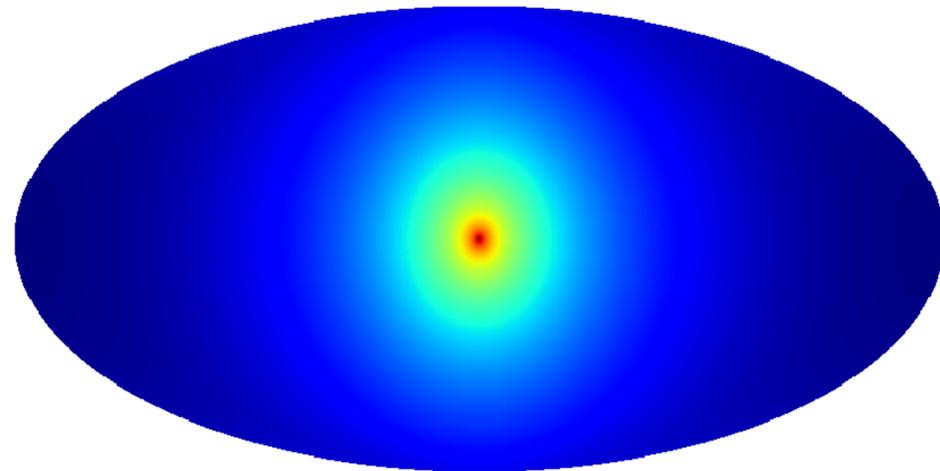
$$\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE} = \left(\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE}\right)_{\gamma\gamma} + \left(\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE}\right)_{\text{sec}} + \left(\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE}\right)_{\text{FSR}}$$

M. Di Mauro (Wed)

Particle dark matter emission

$$(DM) DM \rightarrow SM SM$$

$$E_{\text{CM}} = N m_{\text{DM}}, \quad N = 1 \text{ (decay)}, 2 \text{ (annih)} \quad \text{Centre of mass energy} \simeq \text{Signal energy}$$



$$\frac{d\Phi_\gamma}{dE}(\ell, b) = \mathcal{A}(\theta_{\text{DM}}) \times \frac{dN_\gamma}{dE} \times \int_{\text{l.o.s.}} \rho_{\text{DM}}^N(s, \ell, b) ds$$

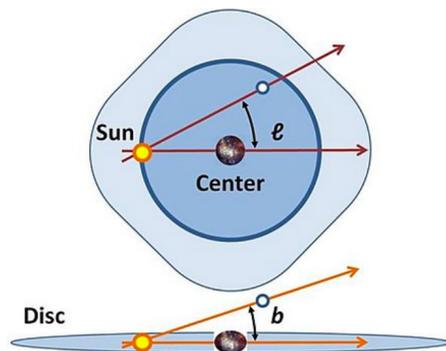
$$\theta_{\text{DM}} = \{\Gamma_\gamma, m_{\text{DM}}\}$$

Decay

$$\theta_{\text{DM}} = \{\langle\sigma v\rangle, m_{\text{DM}}^2\}$$

Annihilation

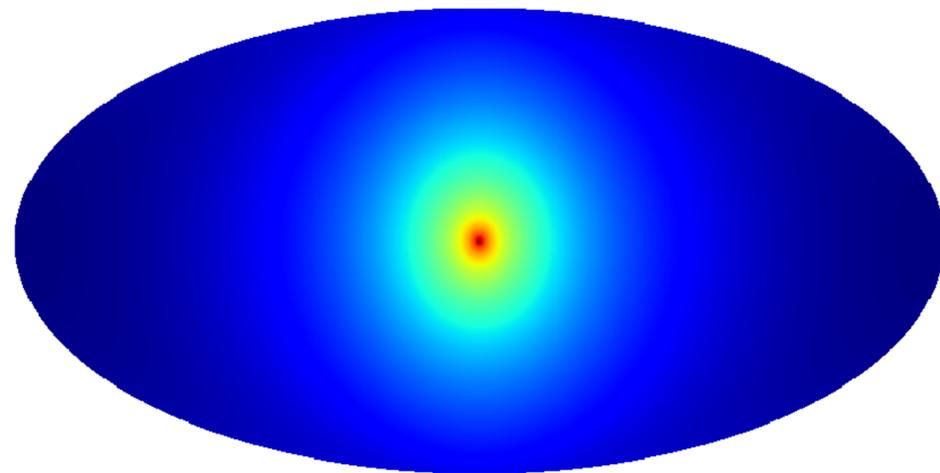
Self-conjugated dark matter annihilation
Differential **gamma-ray** flux



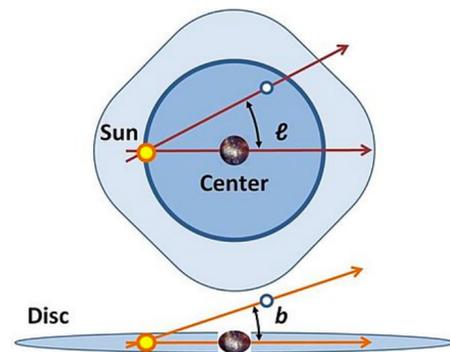
Particle dark matter emission

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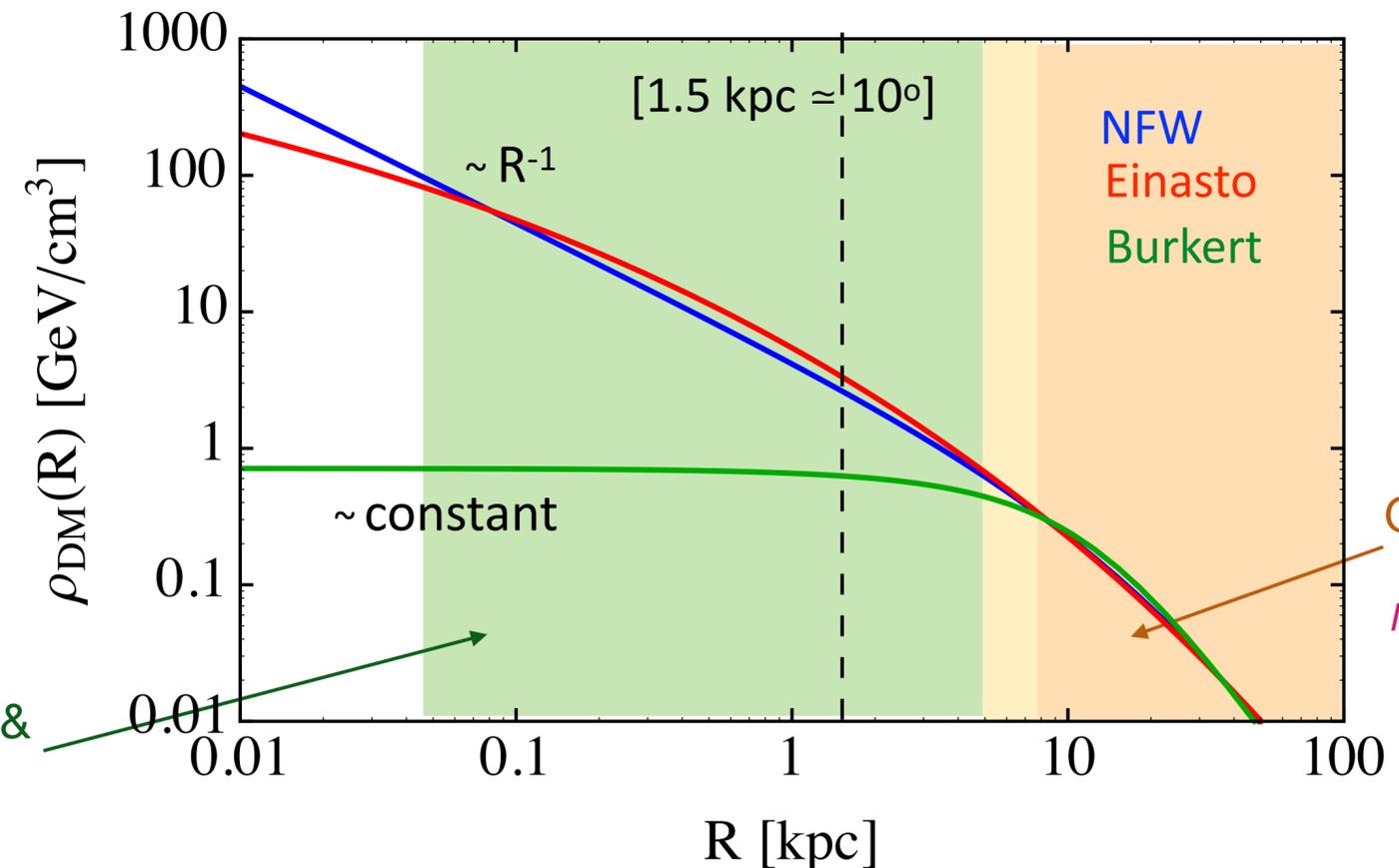
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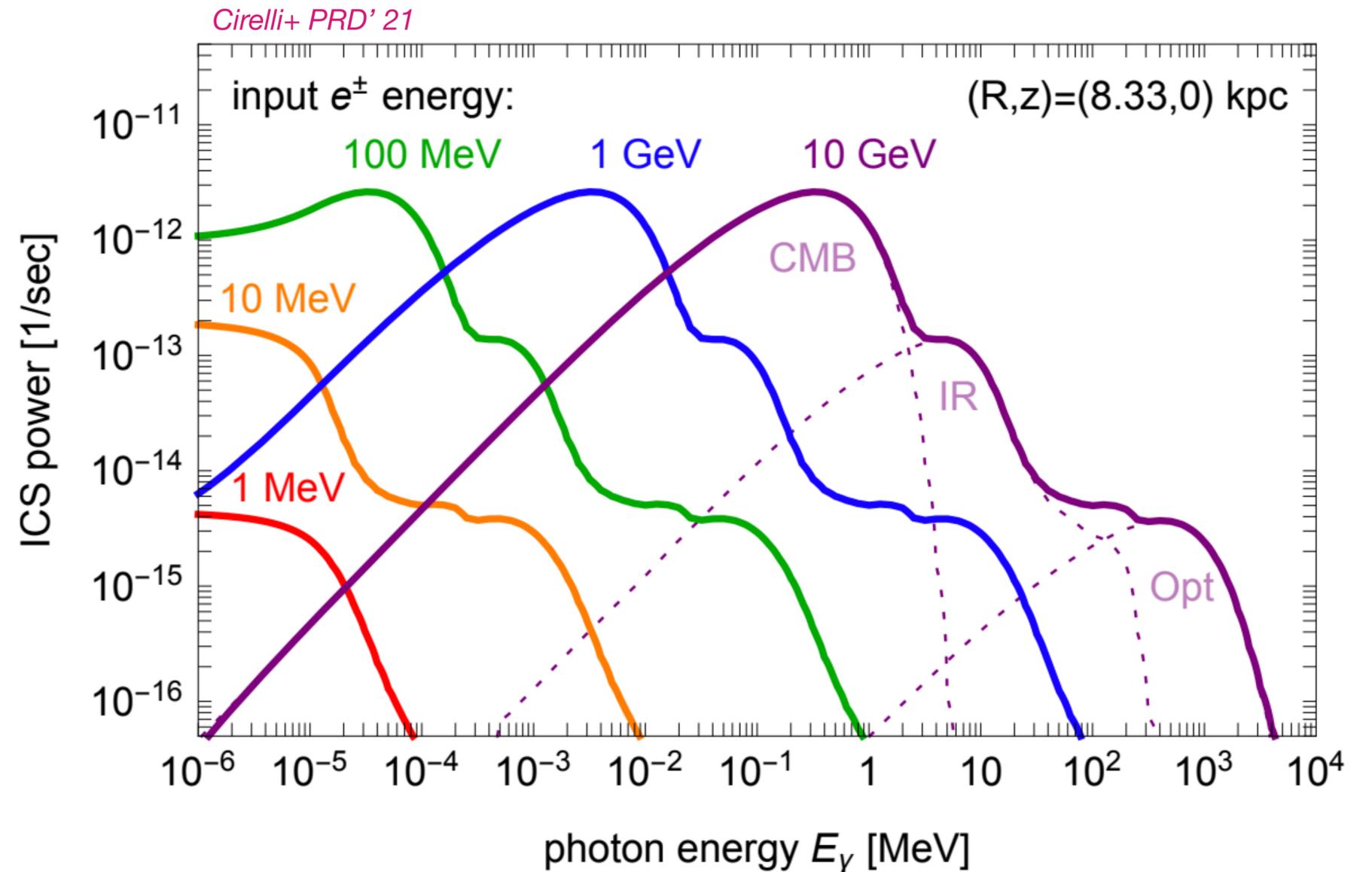
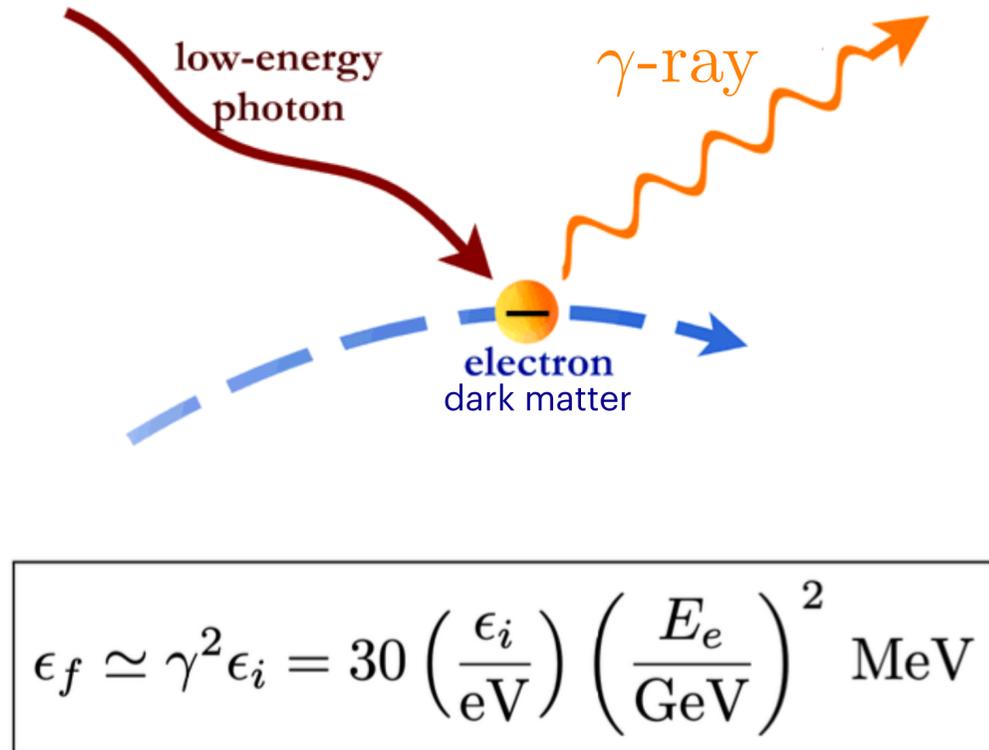


Simulations w/ baryons & semi-analytical models

Galactic rotation curve
Iocco+ Nature Phys.'15

Particle dark matter emission

Inverse Compton scattering



Secondary emission processes allow us to probe DM at much higher masses than prompt energy scales

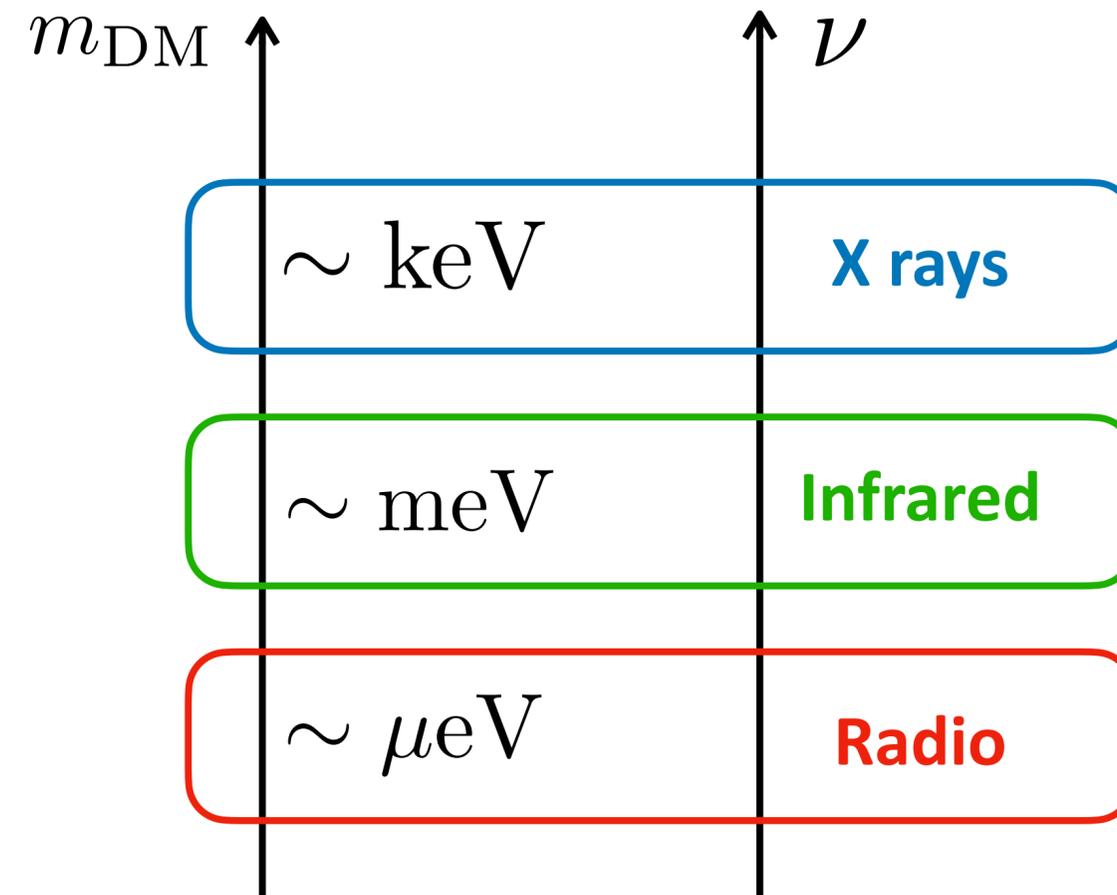
Light dark matter decay: lines

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

Only allowed final state is into photons emitted back-to-back

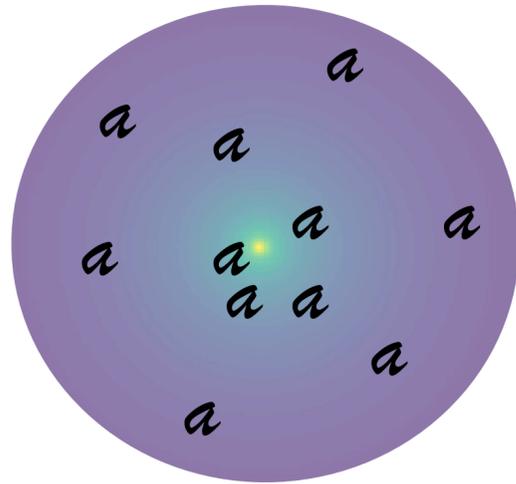
$$E_{\gamma} = \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{2}$$

Narrow line signal @ energy scale of the DM mass



[Contribution from all galaxies in the universe: redshifted line and integral over star-formation history => contribution to **extragalactic backgrounds**]

ALPs dark matter decay

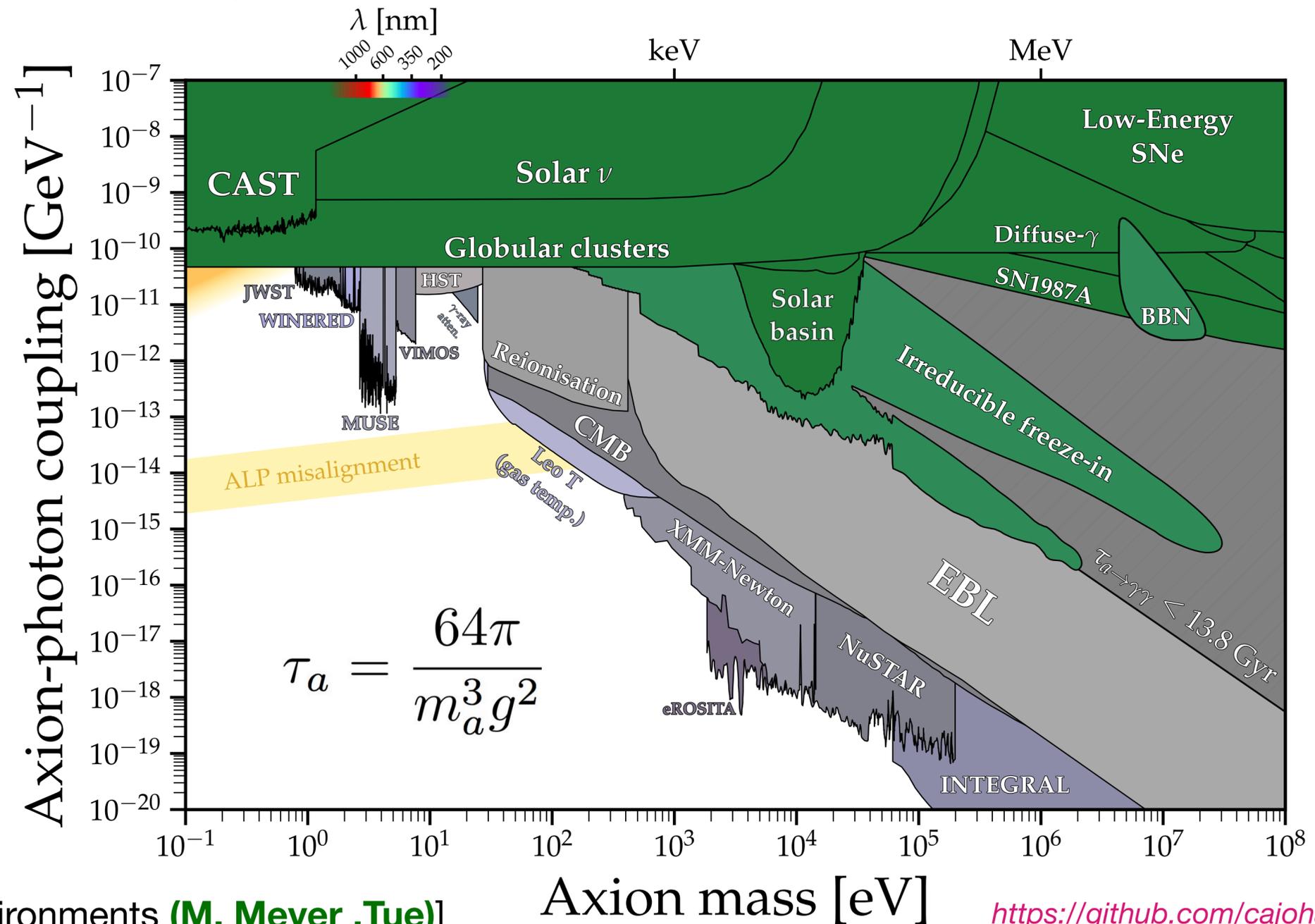


- If DM, ALPs distributed in galaxies according standard DM density distributions (e.g. NFW)
- Search for narrow lines in DM-rich environments

M. Taoso (Wed)

- ALPs can be viable DM candidates in some portions of the parameter space

Preskill+ PLB 1983; Sikivie International Journal of Modern Physics '10



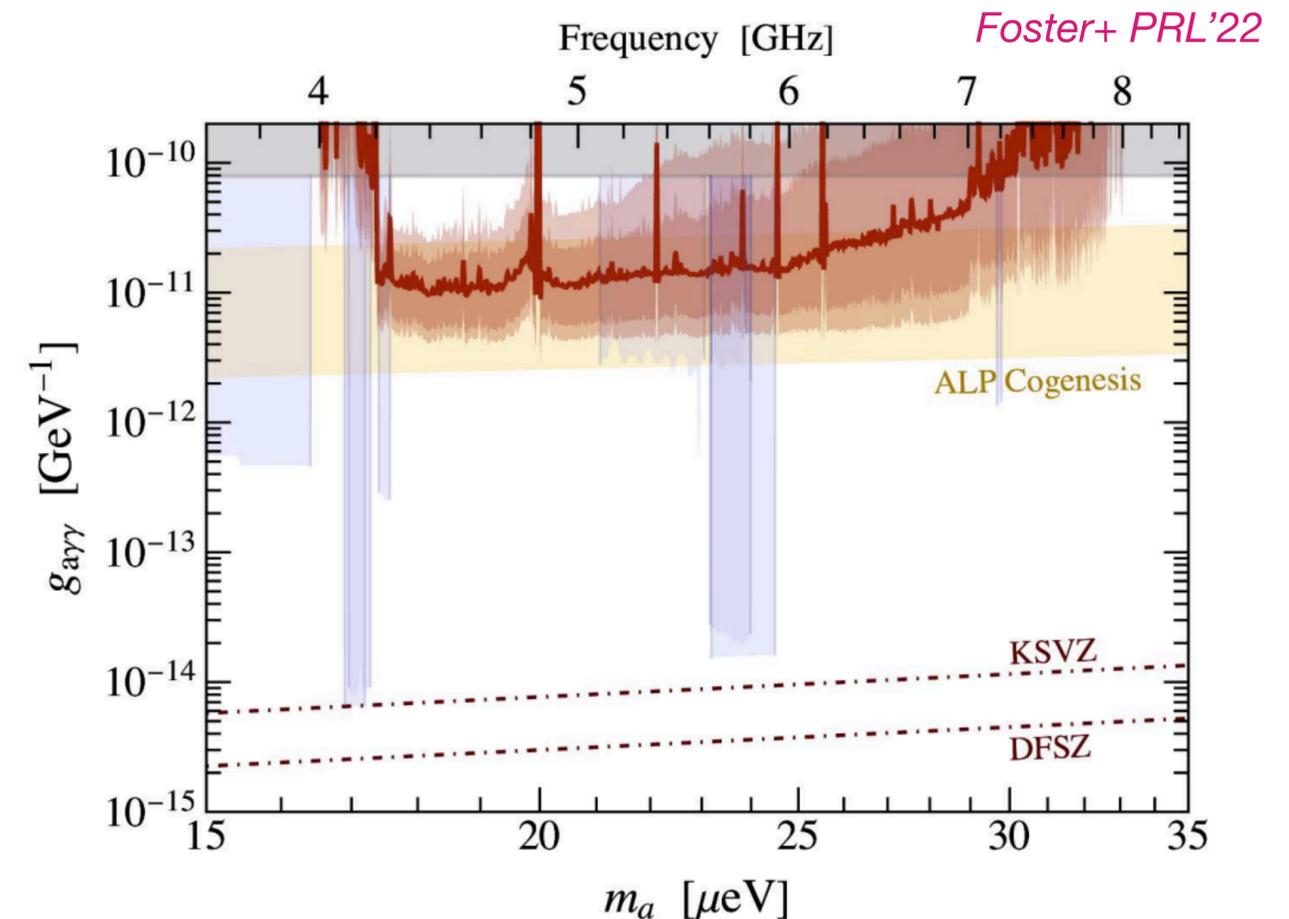
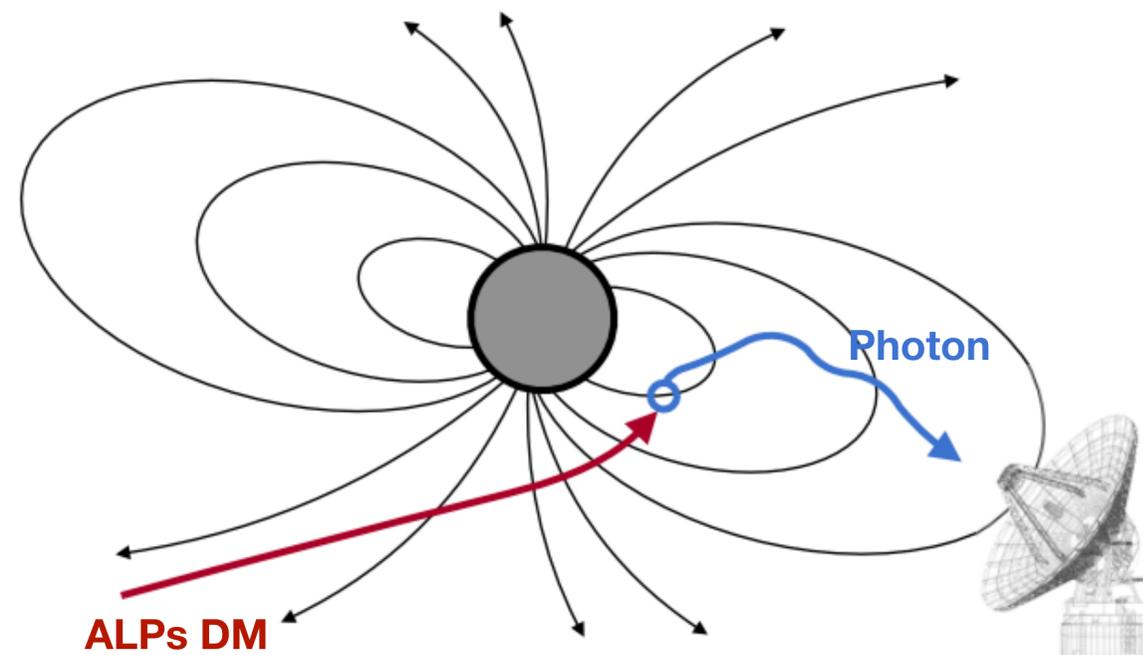
[Lighter ALPs can be probed in HE astro environments **(M. Meyer ,Tue)**

<https://github.com/cajohare/AxionLimits>

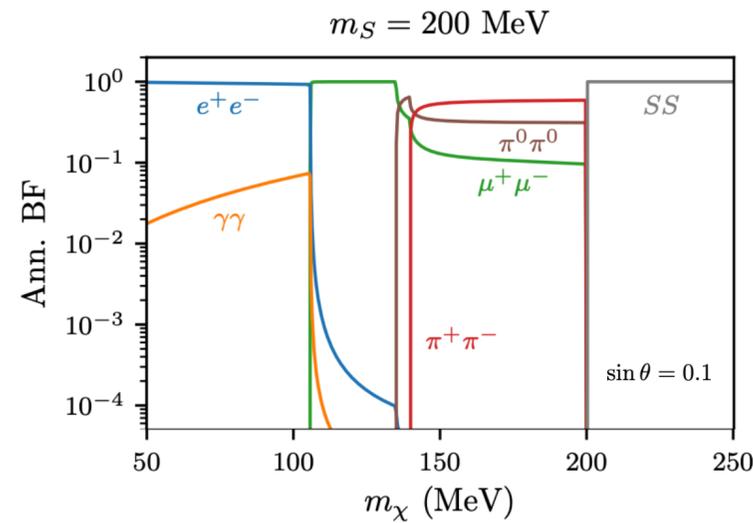
(...) ALPs dark matter resonant conversion

Monochromatic radio emission (MHz - GHz) from **DM axion/ALP-photon conversion**:

- *Resonant* conversion from highly magnetised neutron stars (NSs), or white dwarf stars
Pshirkov JETP'09; Huang+2018; Hook+PRL'18
- *Non-resonant* transitions in the Galactic center and/or of discrete astrophysical objects
Kelley&Quinn ApJ'17; Sigl PRD'17
- Still large **limitations** in **model predictions** *Leroy+ PRD'20; Witte+ PRD'21; Battye+ JHEP'21; Millar+JCAP'21*



Sub-GeV dark matter limits



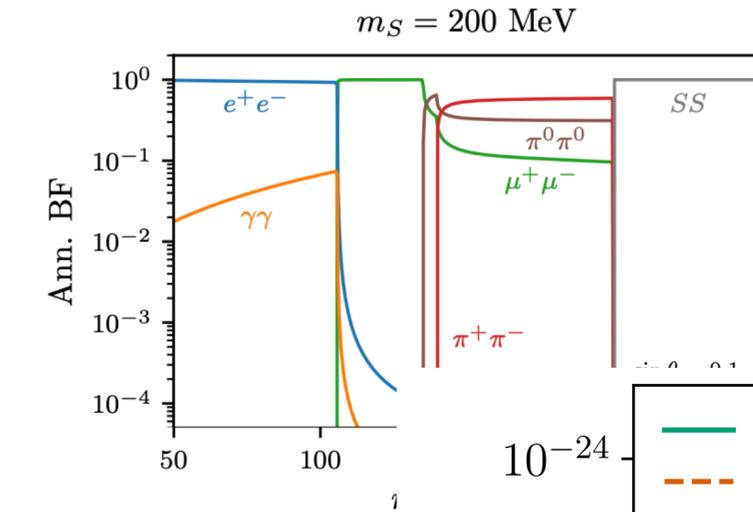
Coogan+ JCAP'20

- Simple thermal freeze-out scenario for s-wave annihilation generically ruled out
- But p-wave models (many of the portals) still viable

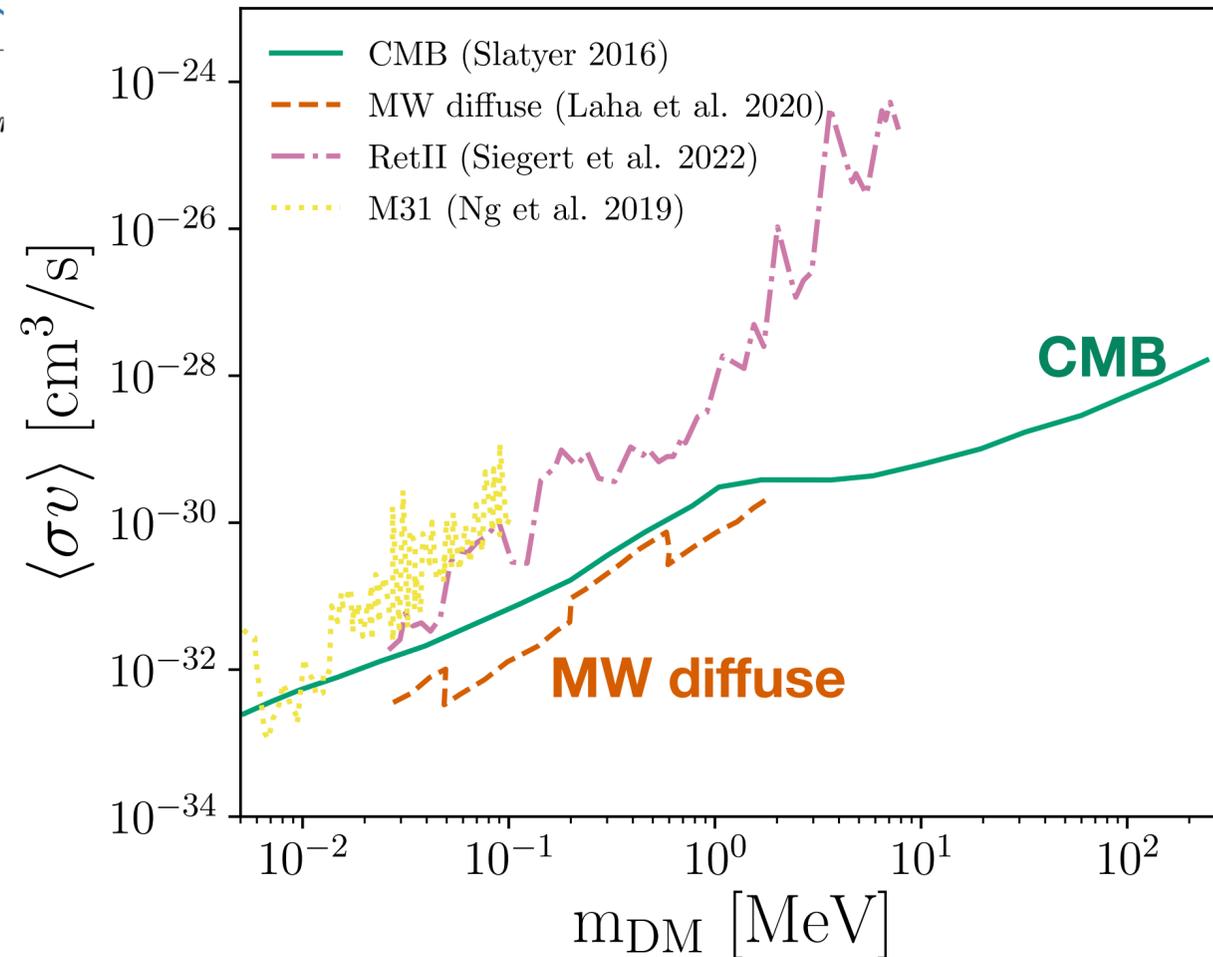
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FC FIPs2022 Proceedings

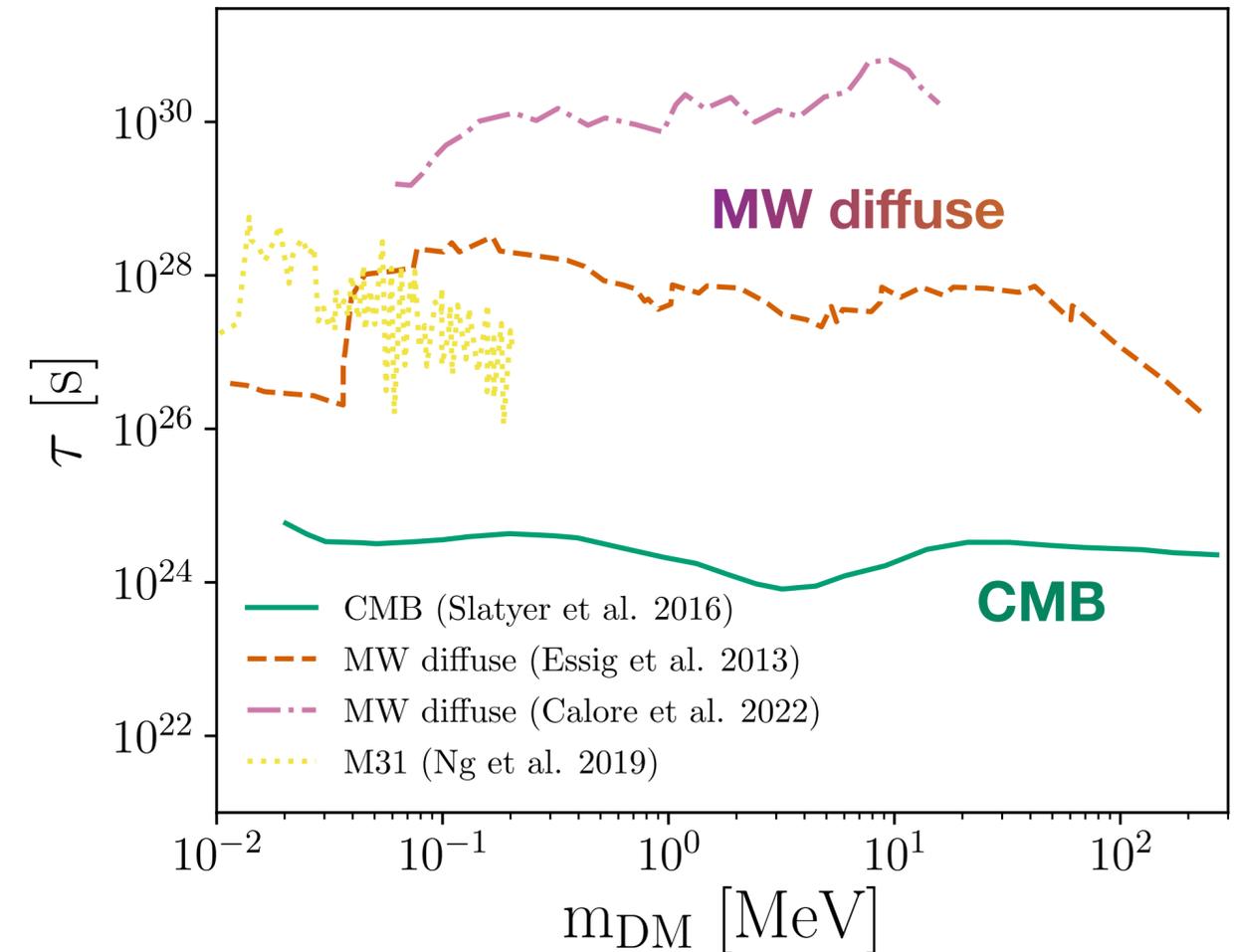


Coogan+ JCAP'20



Two-photon annihilation

Siegert, FC+ MNRAS'24



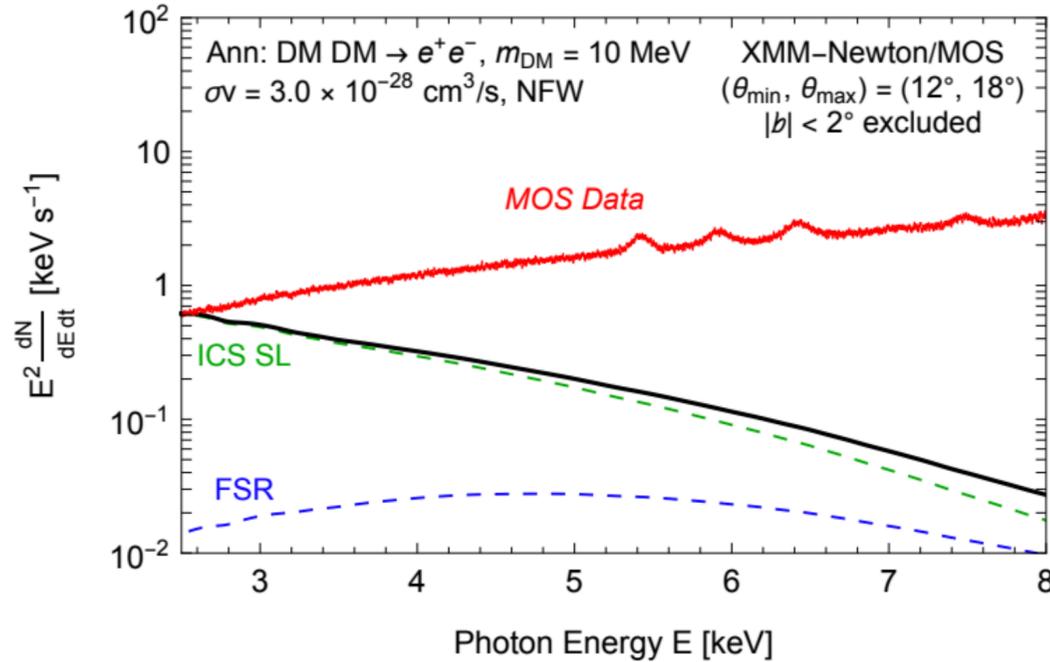
Two-photon decay

FC+ MNRAS'23

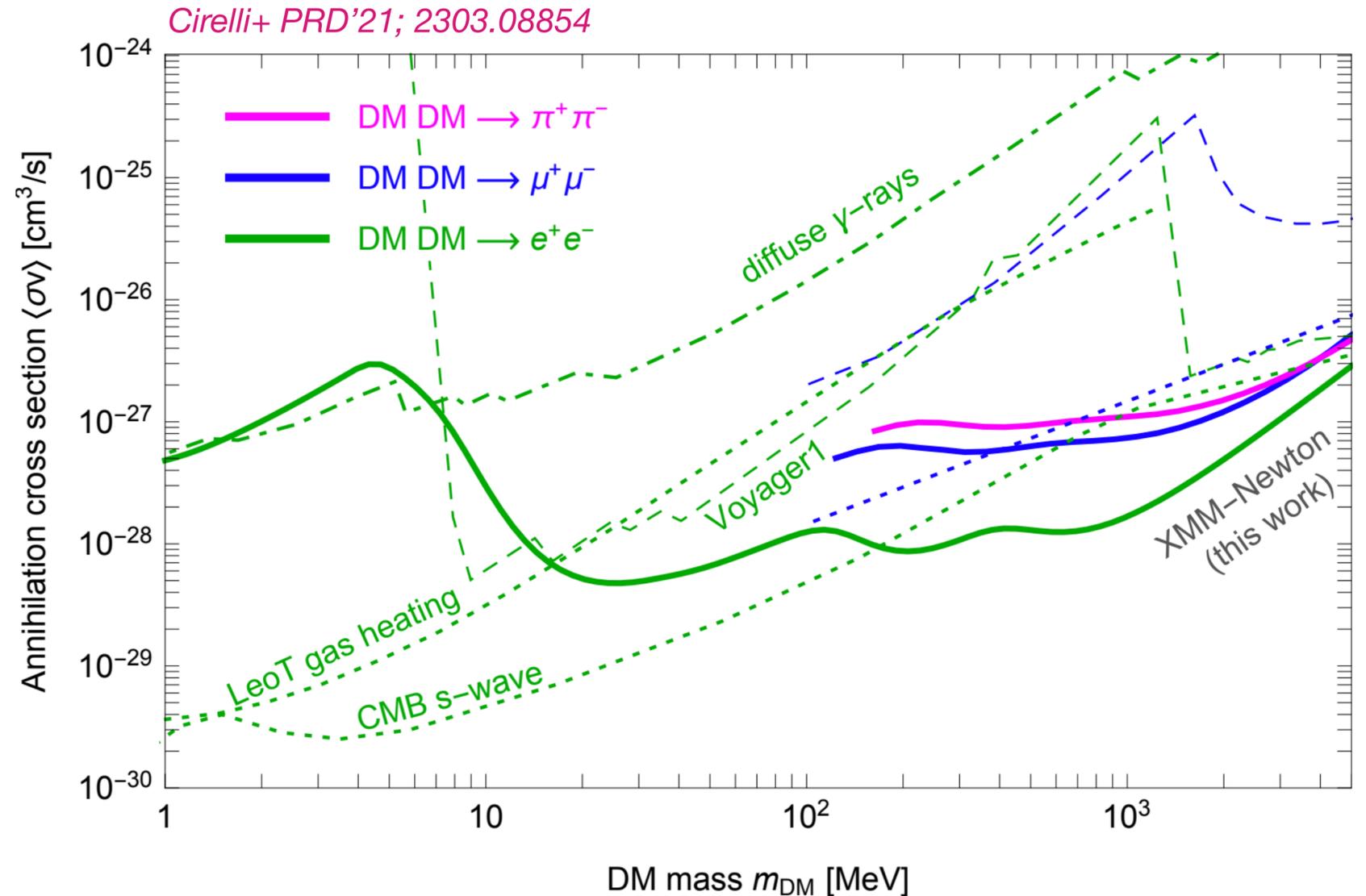
<https://zenodo.org/record/7984451>

Sub-GeV dark matter limits

The power of inverse Compton emission



Limits on inverse Compton induced gamma-ray emission from **XMM-Newton blank-sky observations**



[Strong constraints also from 511 keV line: *De La Torre Luque+ 2312.04907, 2307.13728*]

S. Balaj (Thu)

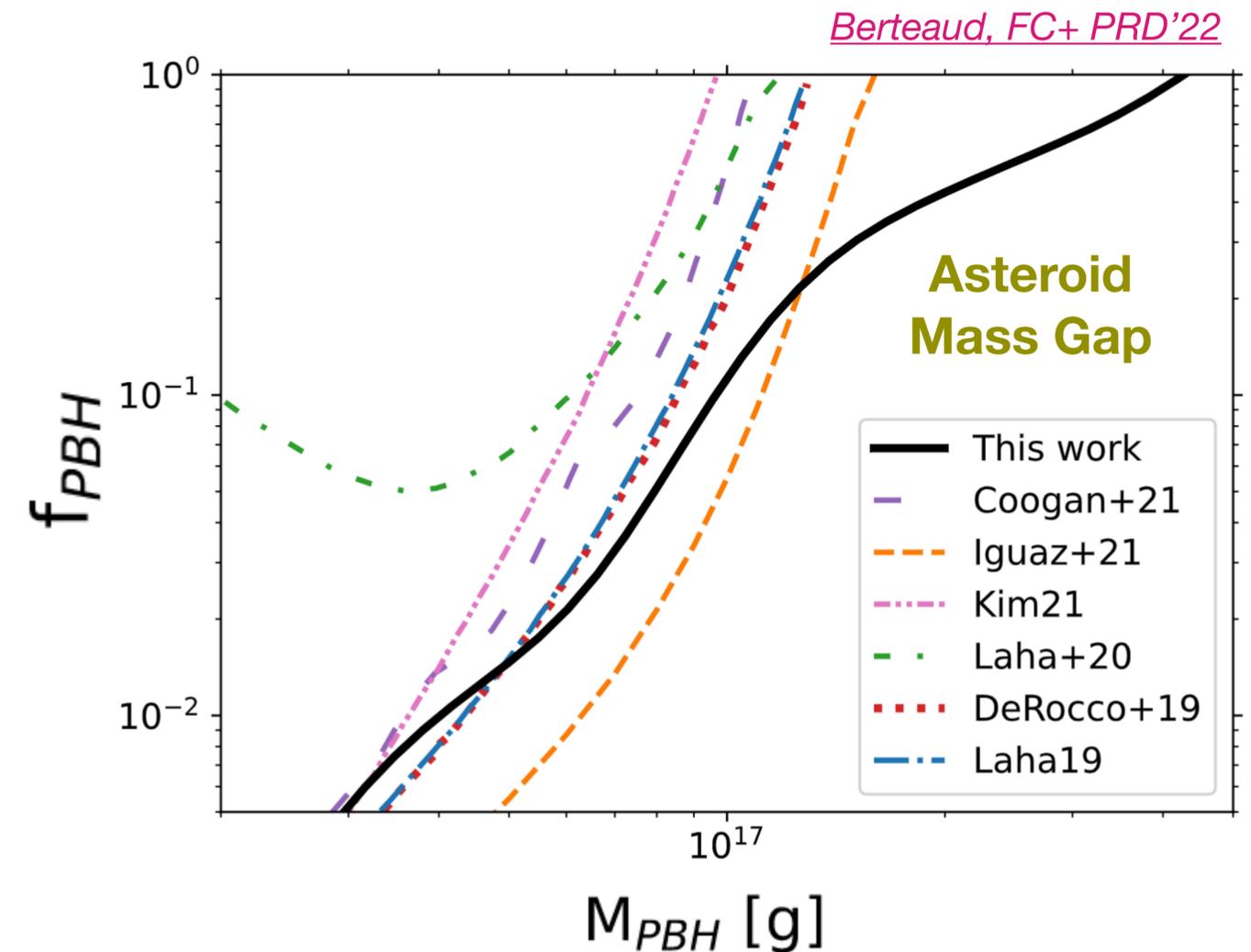
(...) Strong constraints on PBHs

- PBH can emit **charged cosmic rays** and **photons** via Hawking radiation => Almost-black (grey) body emission

$$T_{\text{PBH}} \simeq \frac{10^{13} \text{g}}{M_{\text{PBH}}} \text{GeV}$$

Page & Hawking ApJ'76; Carr & MacGibbon Phys. Rep.'98

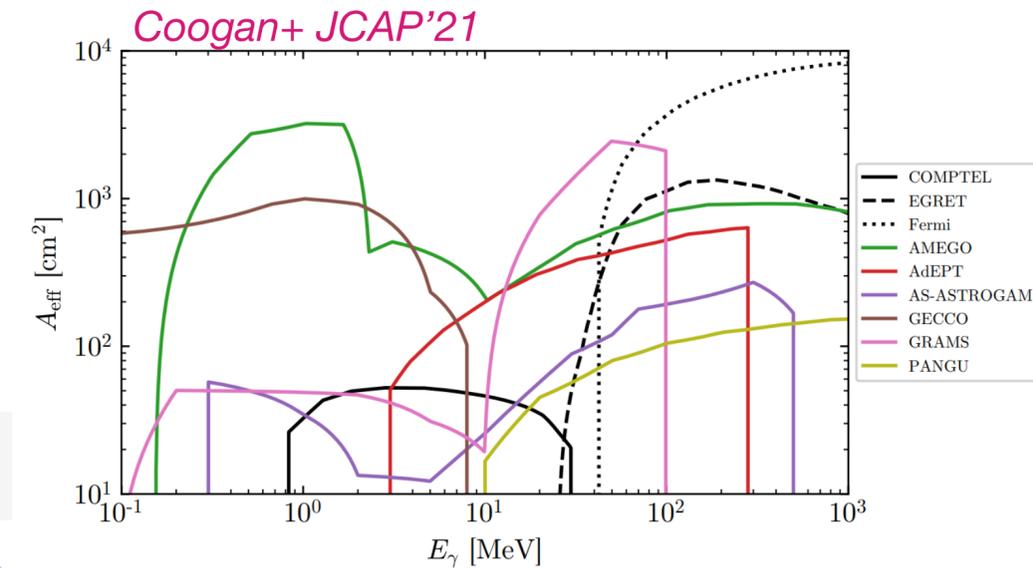
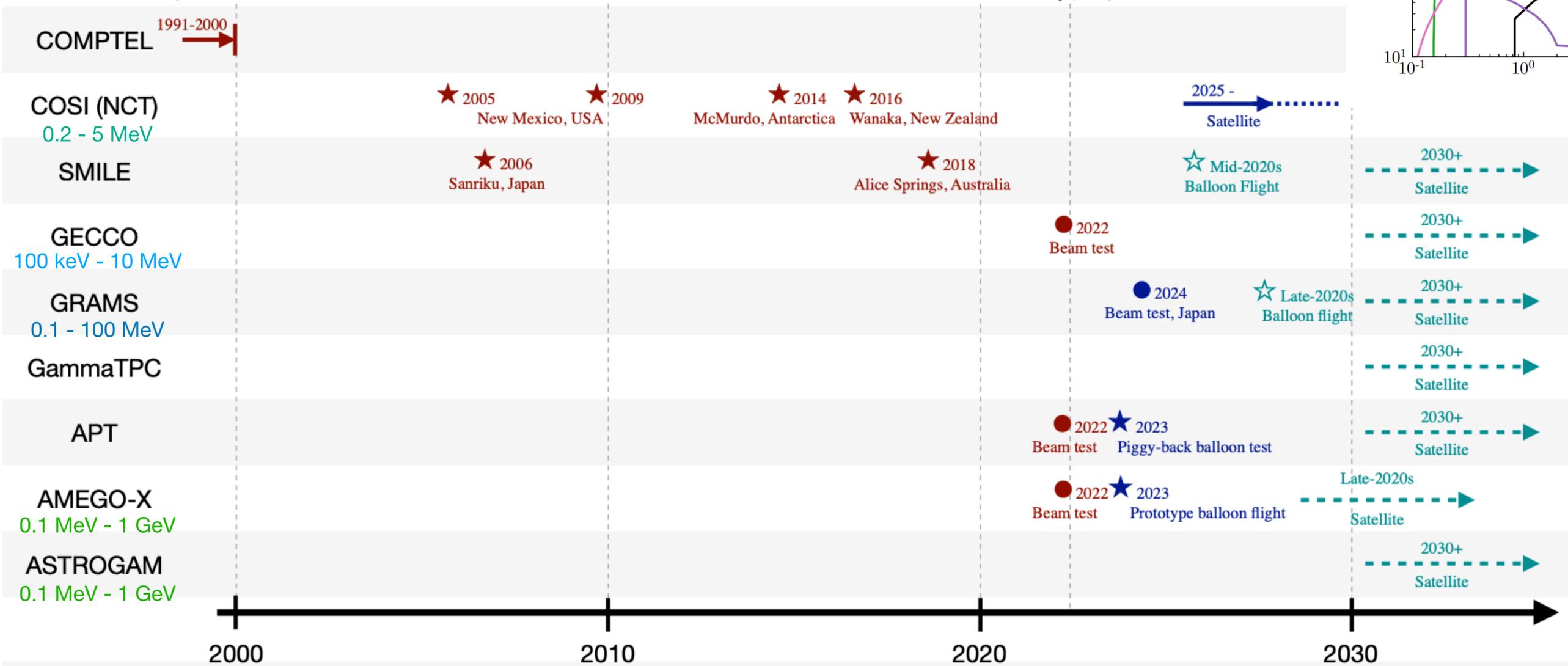
- Sufficient emission from $M_{\text{PBH}} > 10^{14} \text{g}$ to set limits on their evaporation products today
 - Photon contribution to the extragalactic gamma-ray and X-ray backgrounds
- Carr+ PRD'10; Ballesteros+ PLB'20; Iguaz+ PRD'21*
- Unconstrained mass range $\sim 10^{17} - 10^{22} \text{g}$, the so-called *asteroid mass gap* where f_{PBH} can be 1



[Strong constraints also from 511 keV line: *De La Torre Luque+ 2406.11949*]

Future: Covering the MeV sensitivity gap

MeV Gamma-ray missions

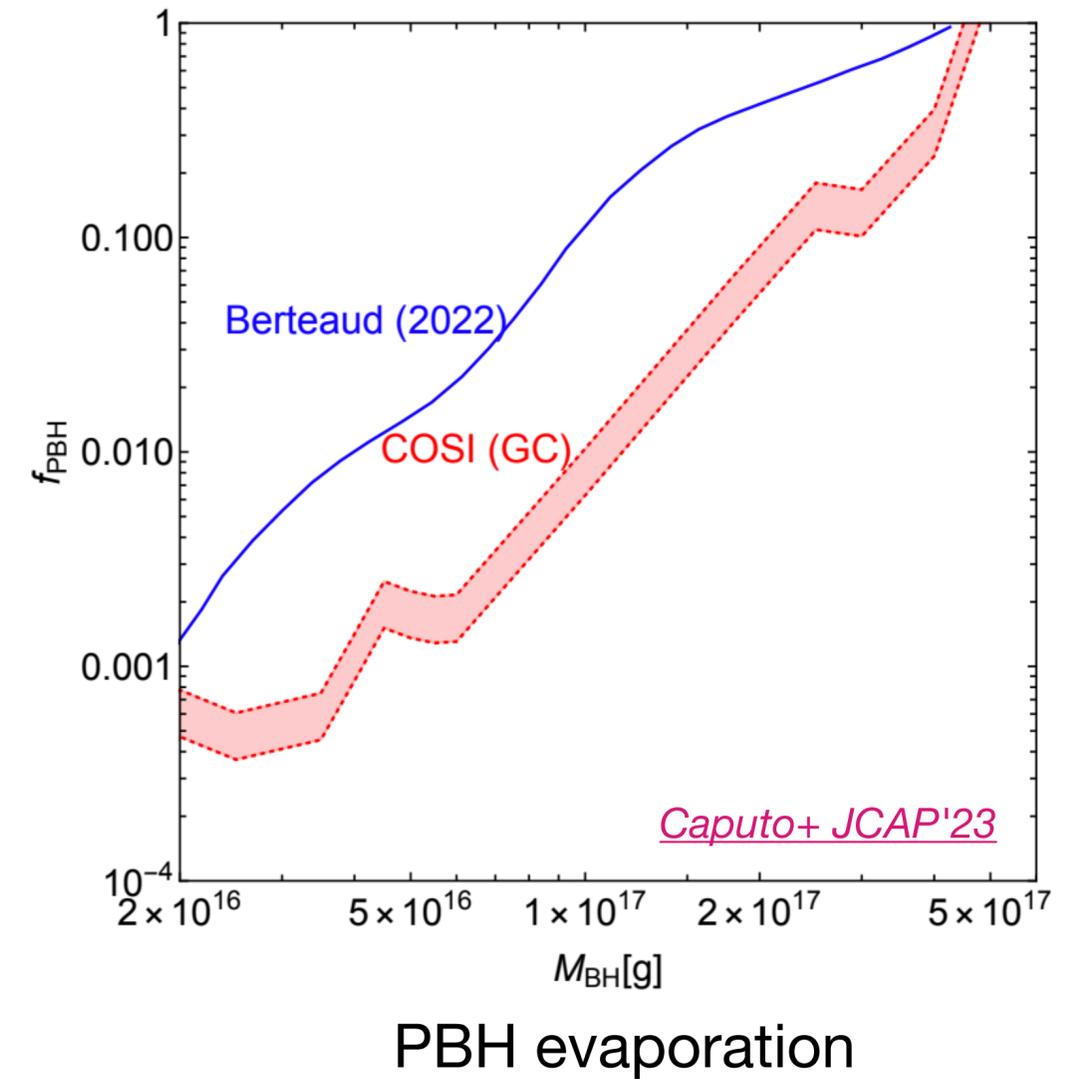
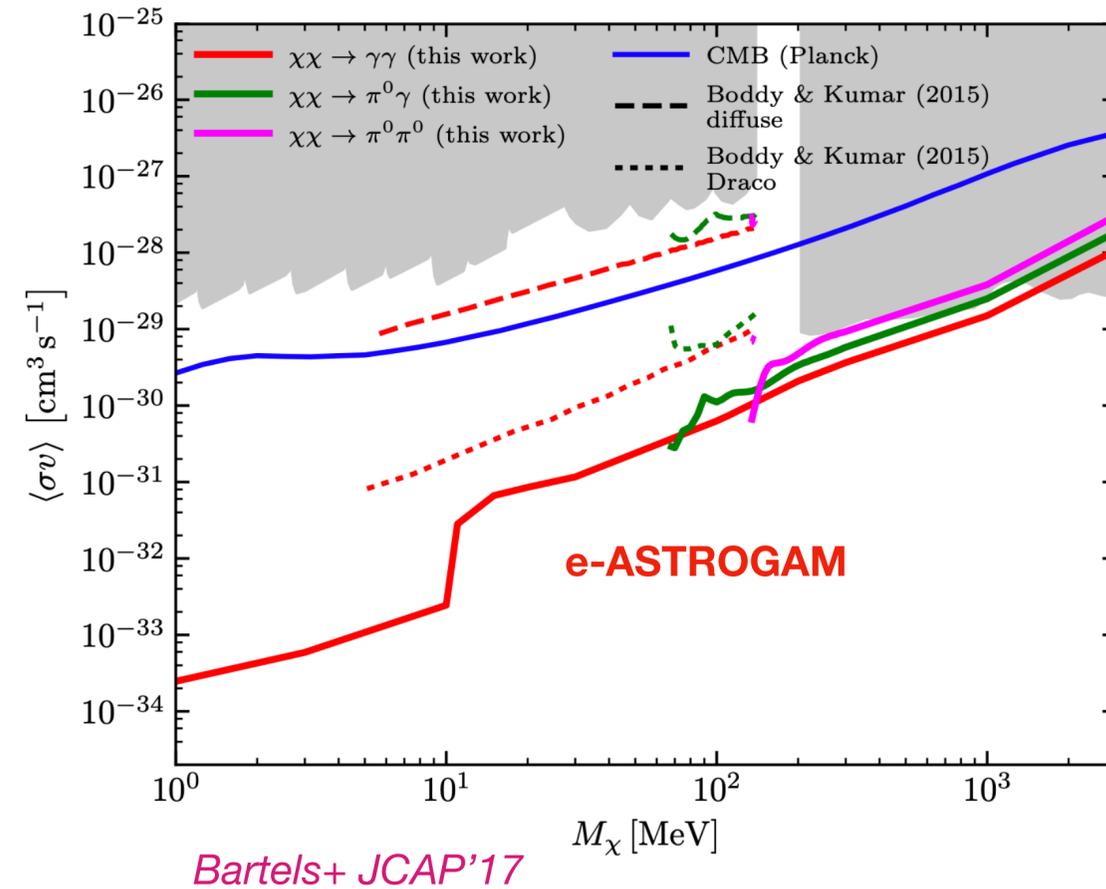
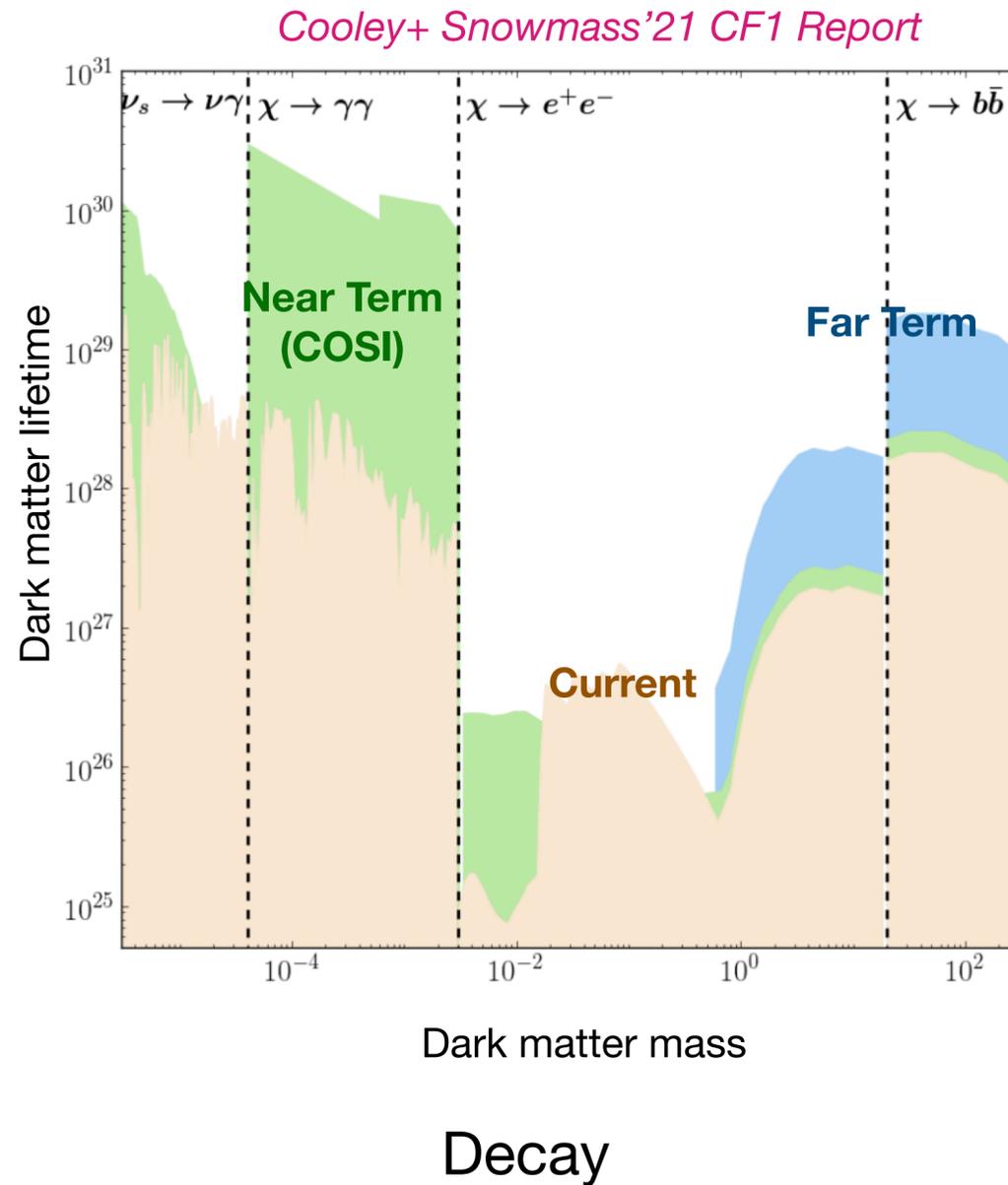


$$N_\gamma = T_{\text{obs}} \int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} dE A_{\text{eff}} \frac{d\Phi}{dE_\gamma}$$

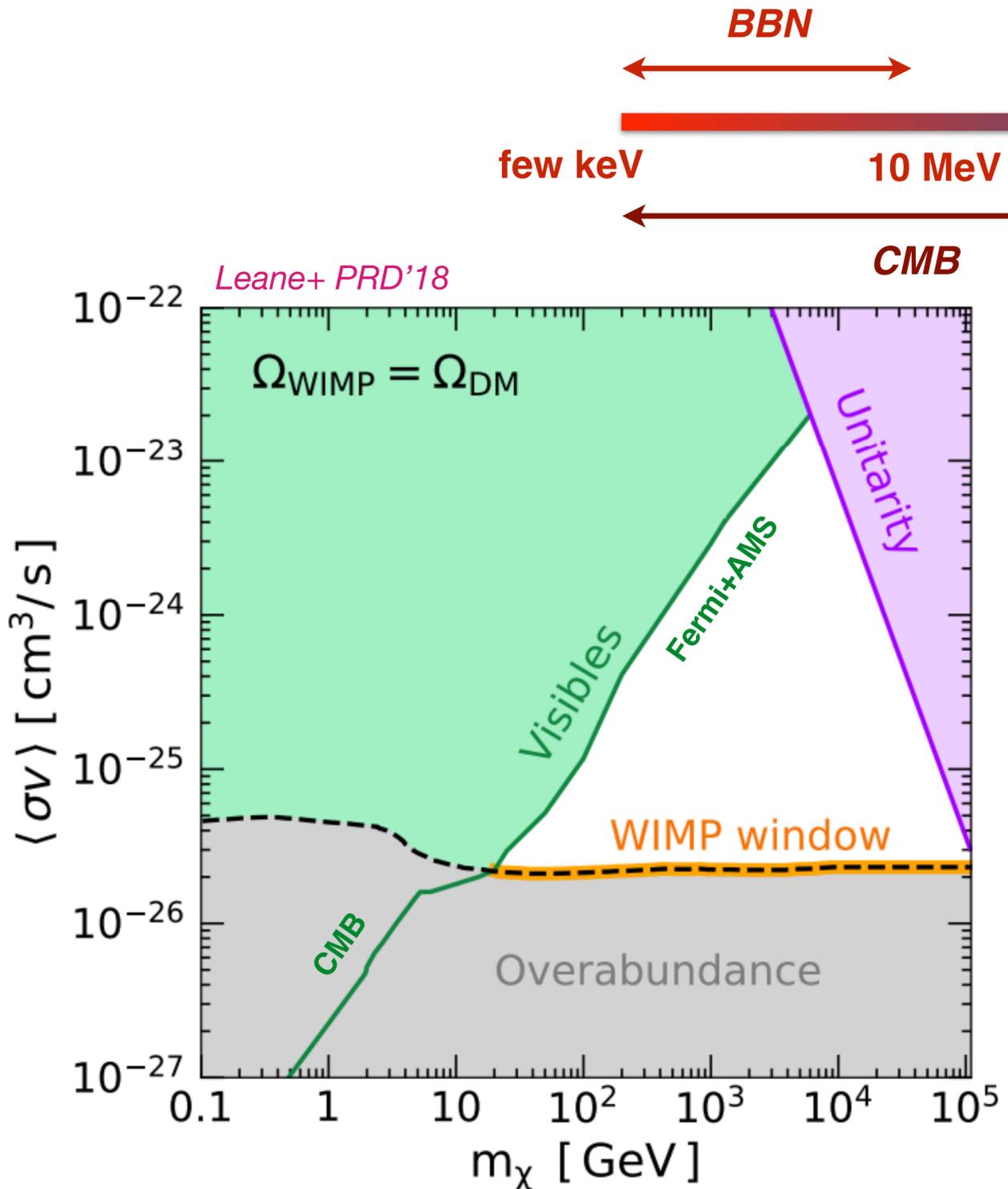
Aramaki+ Snowmass'21 CF

Future: Covering the MeV sensitivity gap

Sensitivity to dark matter



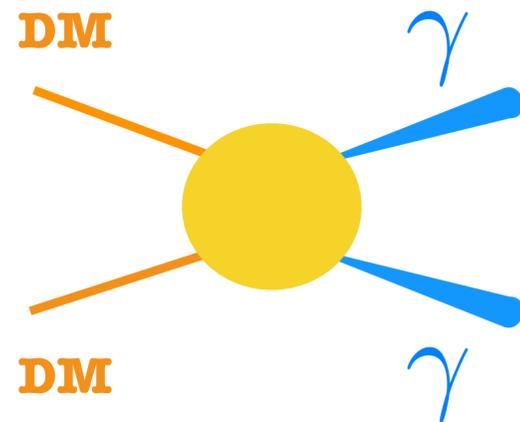
WIMP annihilation window



- **Total cross-section sets relic abundance**
 - **Indirect detection** provides model-independent UL on annihilation **cross-section for a given final state**
- Consistent and conservative interpretation of the data in the context of the generic thermal WIMP

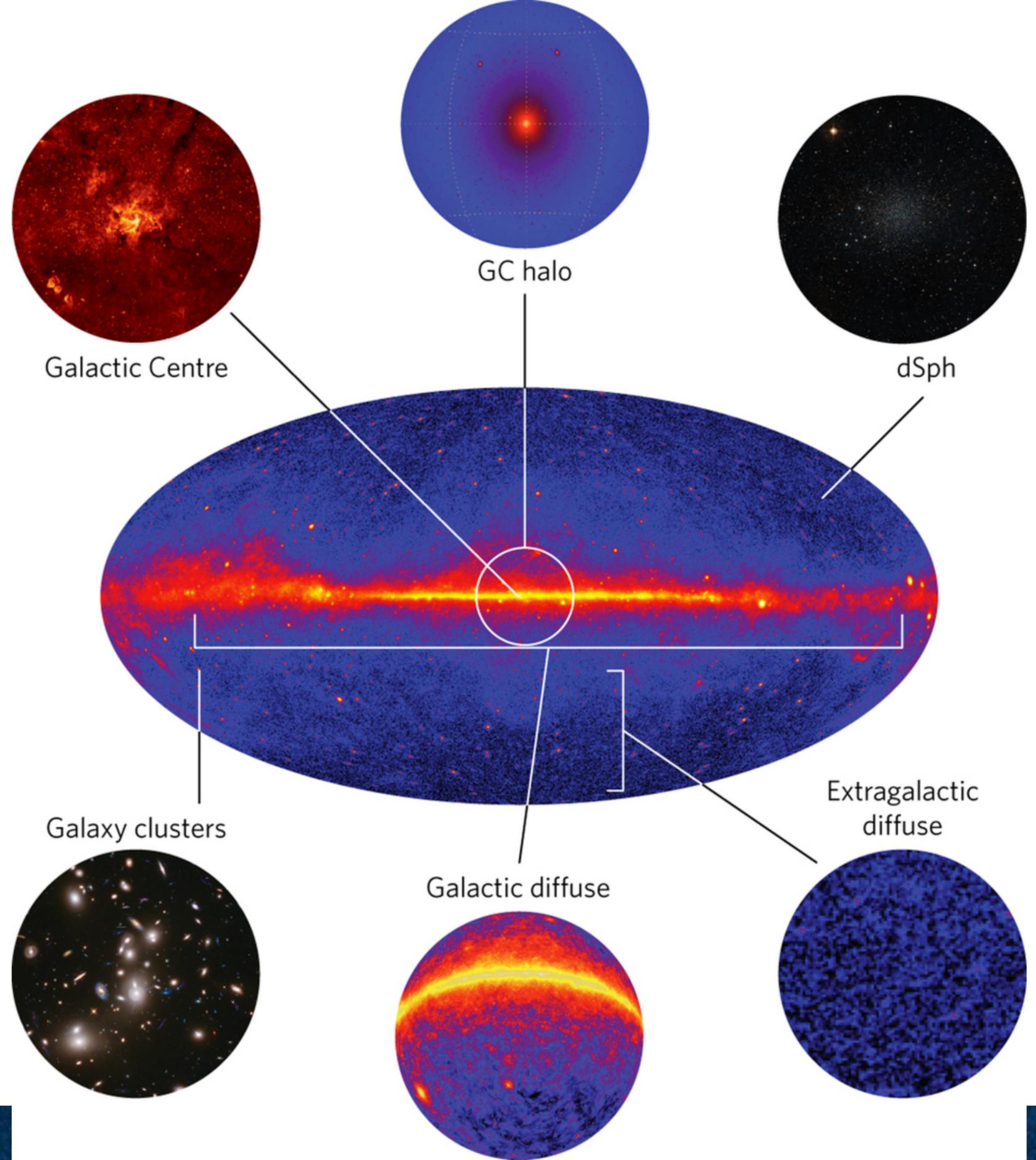
[Low DM masses constrained by energy injection at early times and CMB observations *Slatyer & Wu, PRD'17*]

Targets for WIMP gamma-ray searches



$$J \propto \int dl \rho [r(l, \psi)]^2$$

- + dedicated searches for gamma-ray lines
- + similar targets for radio searches (synchrotron)

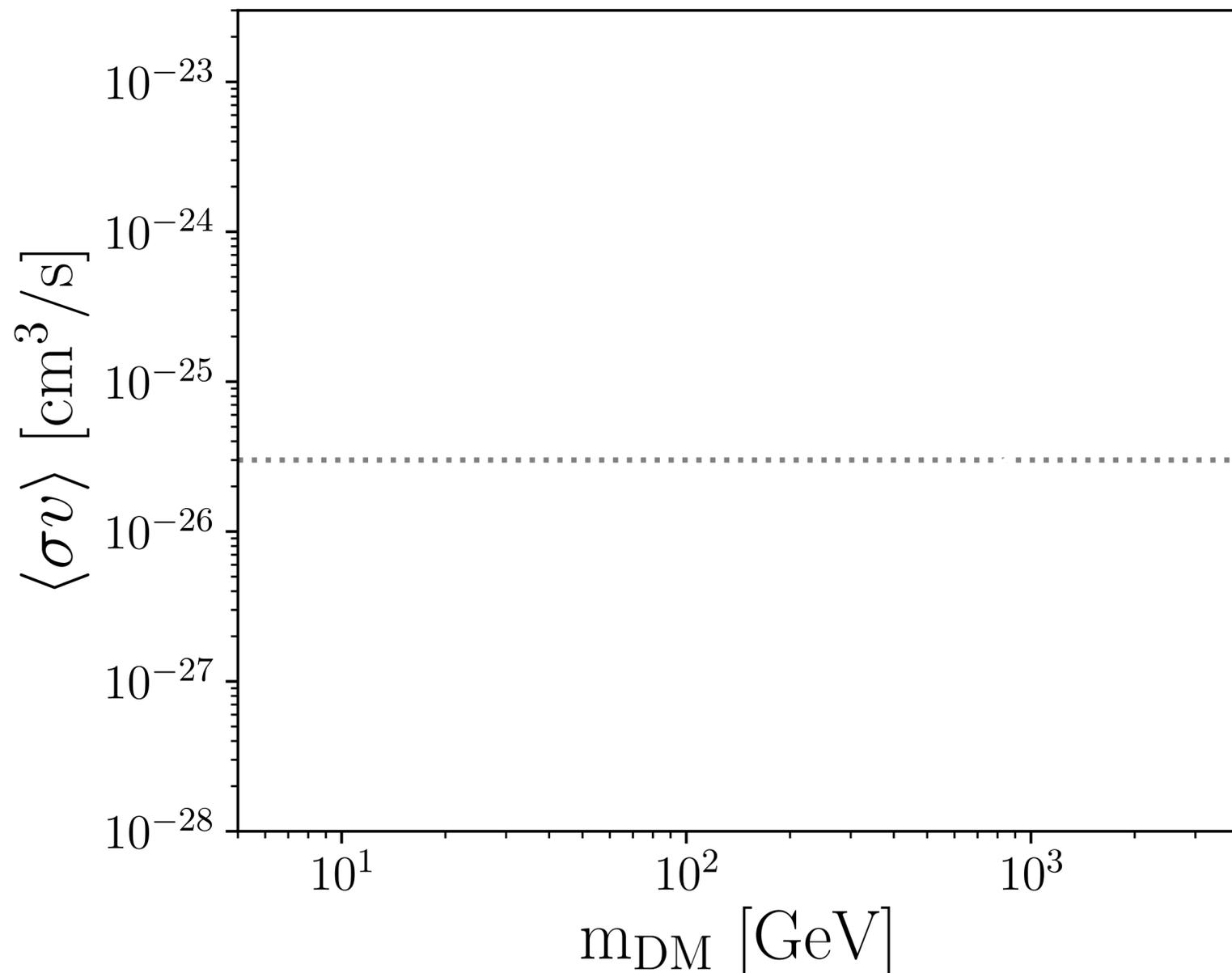


Conrad & Reimer *Nature Phys.* 13 (2017)

Limits on annihilating WIMPs

Summary of multi-targets and MW constraints

~ a few GeV — few TeV

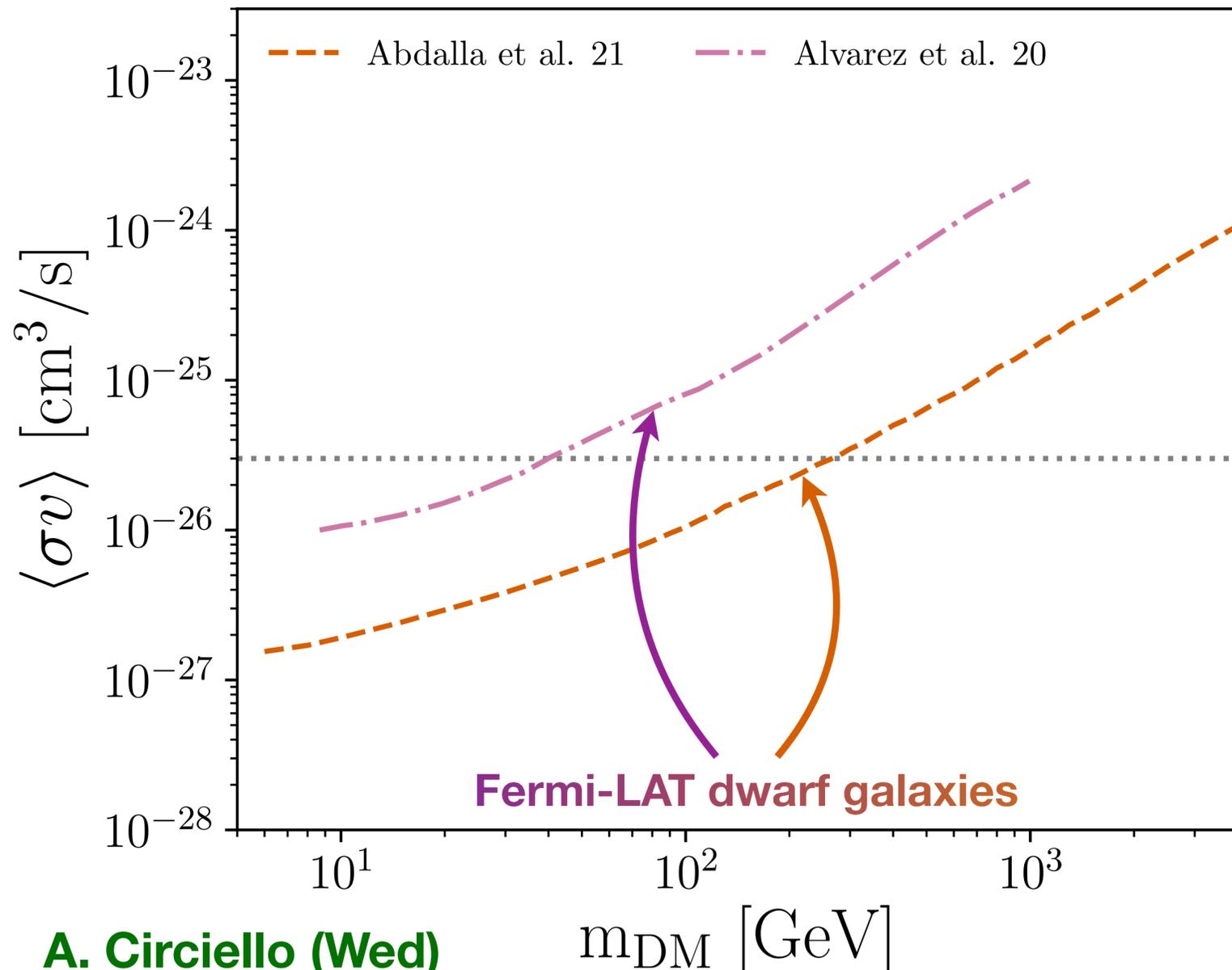


Limits on annihilating WIMPs

Gamma rays: Dwarf spheroidal galaxies



~ a few GeV — few TeV

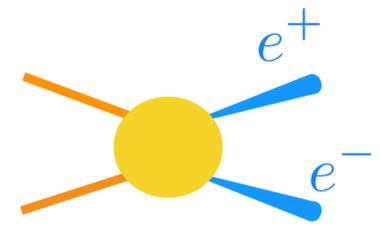


- Exclude thermal cross section below 30 - 300 GeV; multi-instrument
Kerzberg+, PoS ICRC2023 (2023)
- **Syst unc J-factor** determination for ultra-faint dSphs (tri-axiality, contamination, velocity anisotropy)
Ullio&Valli JCAP'16; Hayashi+ MNRAS'16; Klop+ PRD'17; Ando+PRD'20
- **Syst unc background mis-modelling** are important (3x weaker limits)
FC, Serpico & Zaldívar JCAP'18; Alvarez, FC+ JCAP'20

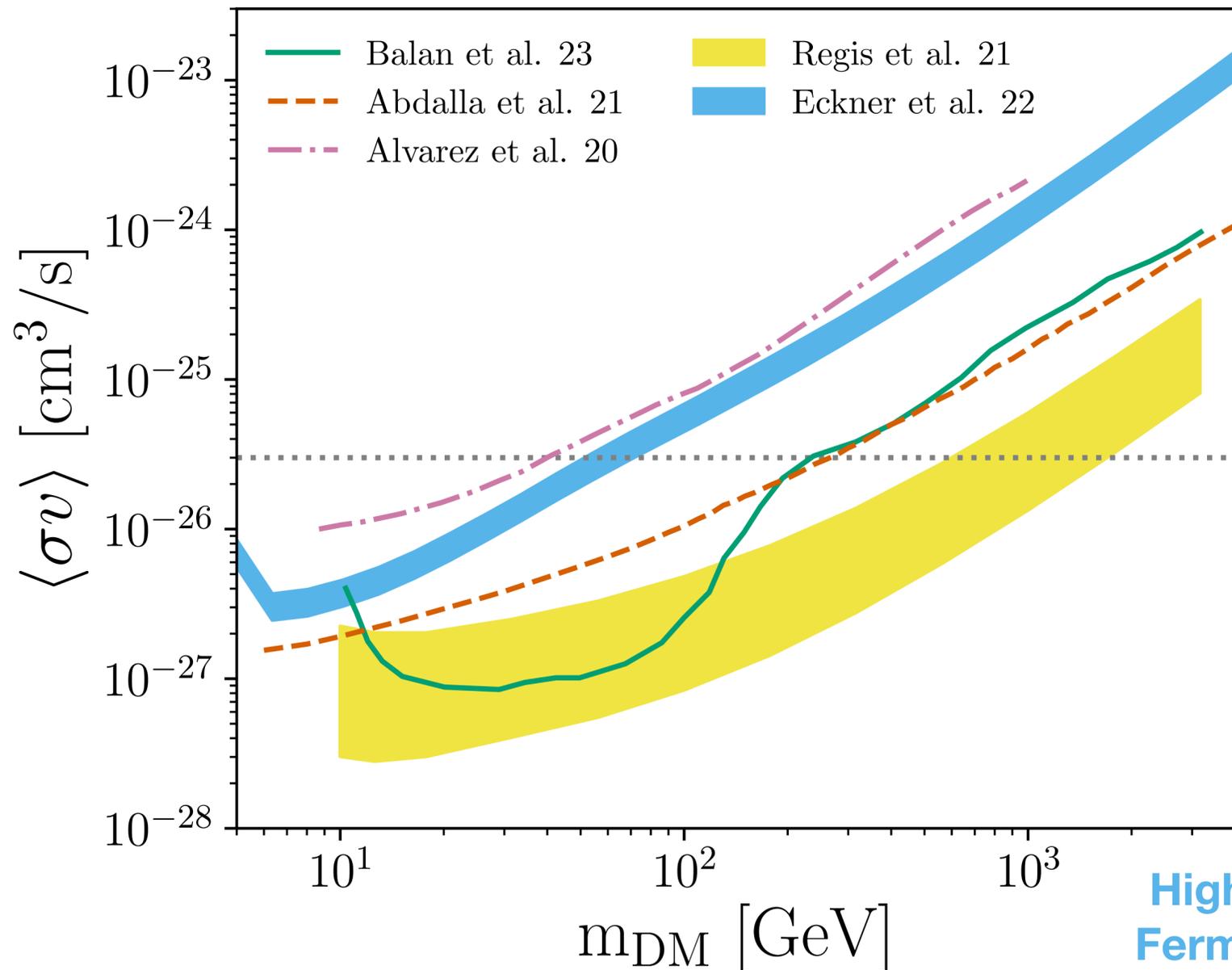
Take away: Typically strong probes but keep in mind systematics

Limits on annihilating WIMPs

Synchrotron emission in the Large Magellanic Cloud

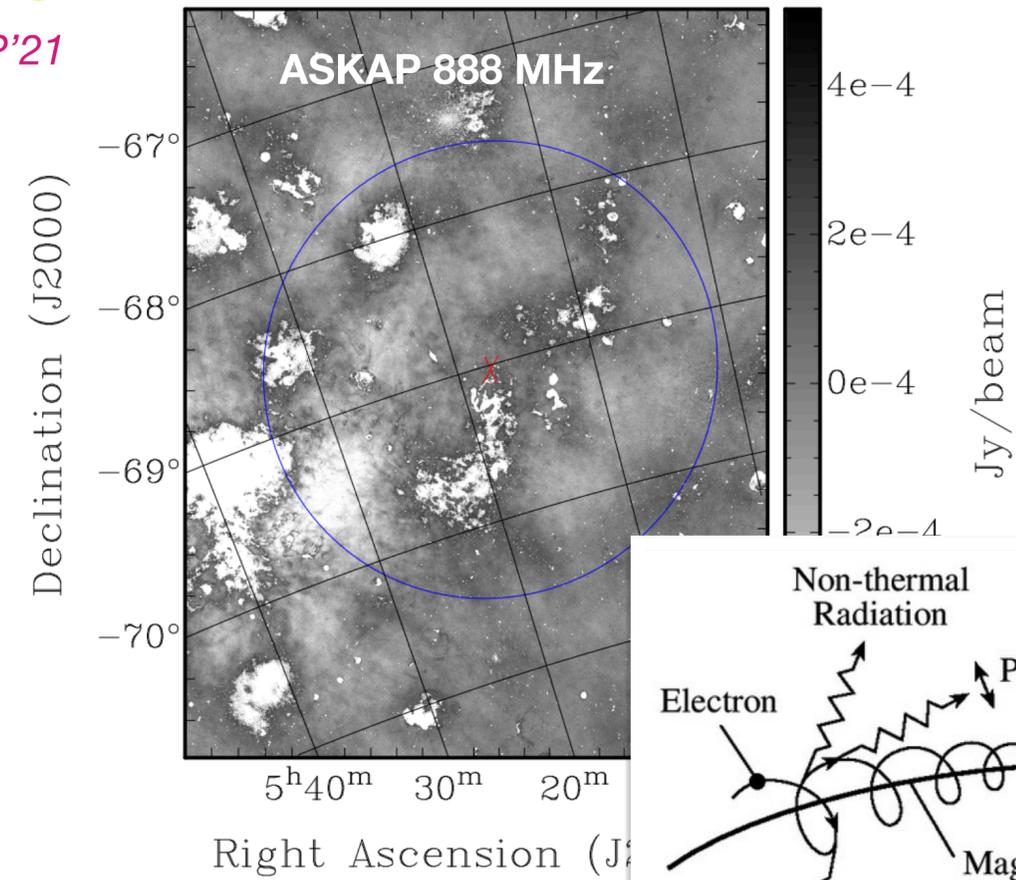
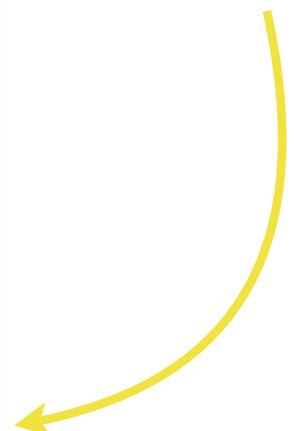


~ a few GeV — few TeV



High-latitude
Fermi-LAT sky

Radio LMC
Regis+ JCAP'21



Eckner, FC+ MNRAS'22
Zechlin+ PRD'18
Chang+ PRD'18

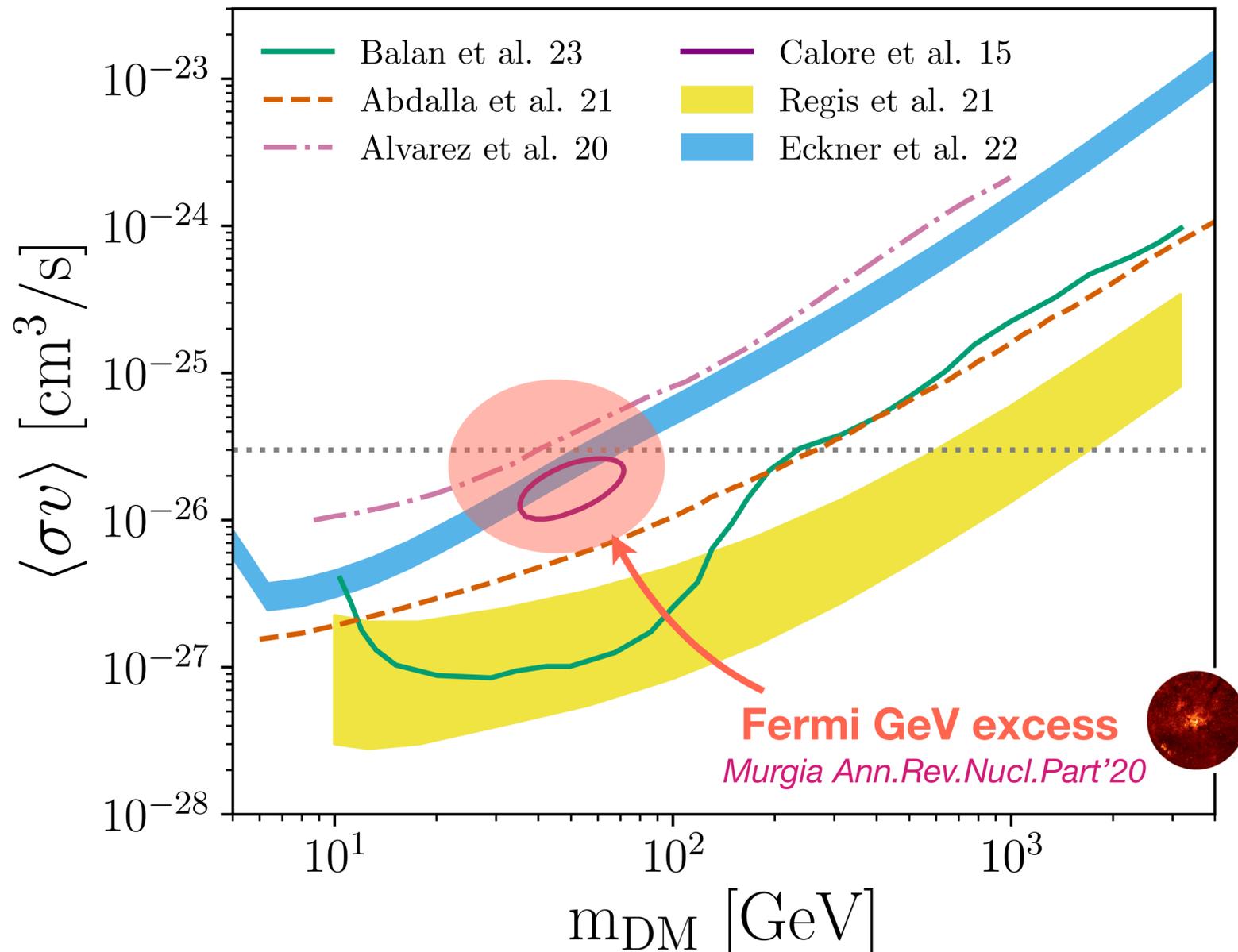
Anti-protons Balan+ arXiv:2303.07362
Di Mauro+ PRD'21,
FC+ SciPost'22

Limits on annihilating WIMPs

Summary of multi-targets and MW constraints

D. Hooper (Wed)
J. Kumar (Thu)
C. Gordon (Thu)

~ a few GeV — few TeV



- **Evidence** for excess emission is **established**
- **Advanced statistical techniques** developed to scrutinise diffuse emission properties and photon-count statistics
- An, at least, **partial stellar origin** of the excess seems confirmed

*Buschmann+PRD'20; FC+ PRL'21; List+ PRL'21
Macias+ Nat. A'18; Macias+ JCAP'19*

- Complementary and **multi-wavelength searches** to test the excess nature are on-going

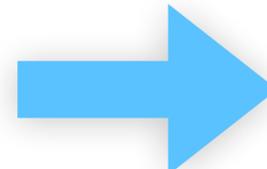
*FC+ApJ'16; FC+PRL'19; Bertheaud, FC+ PRD'21
Macias+ MNRAS'21*

Limits on annihilating WIMPs

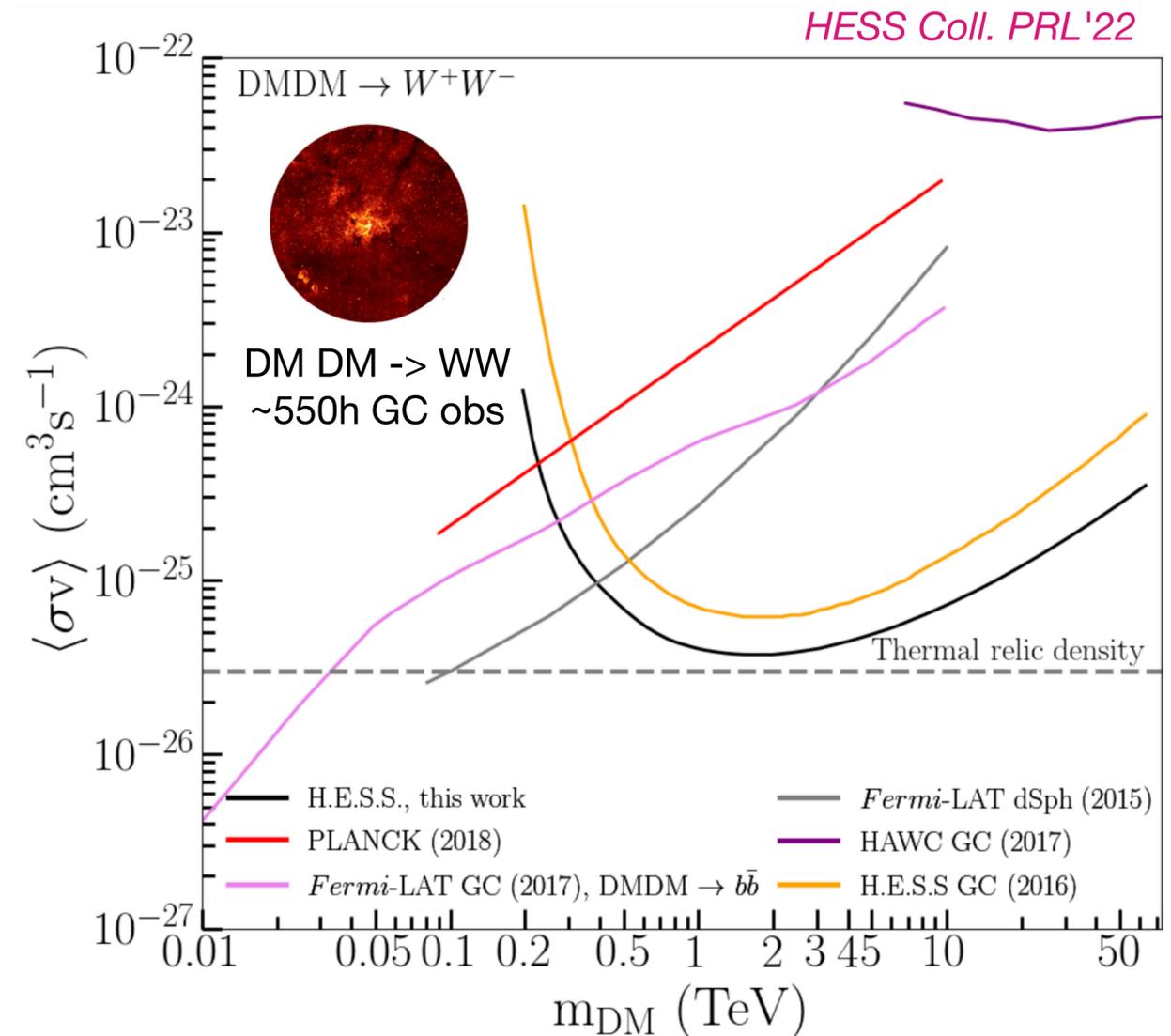
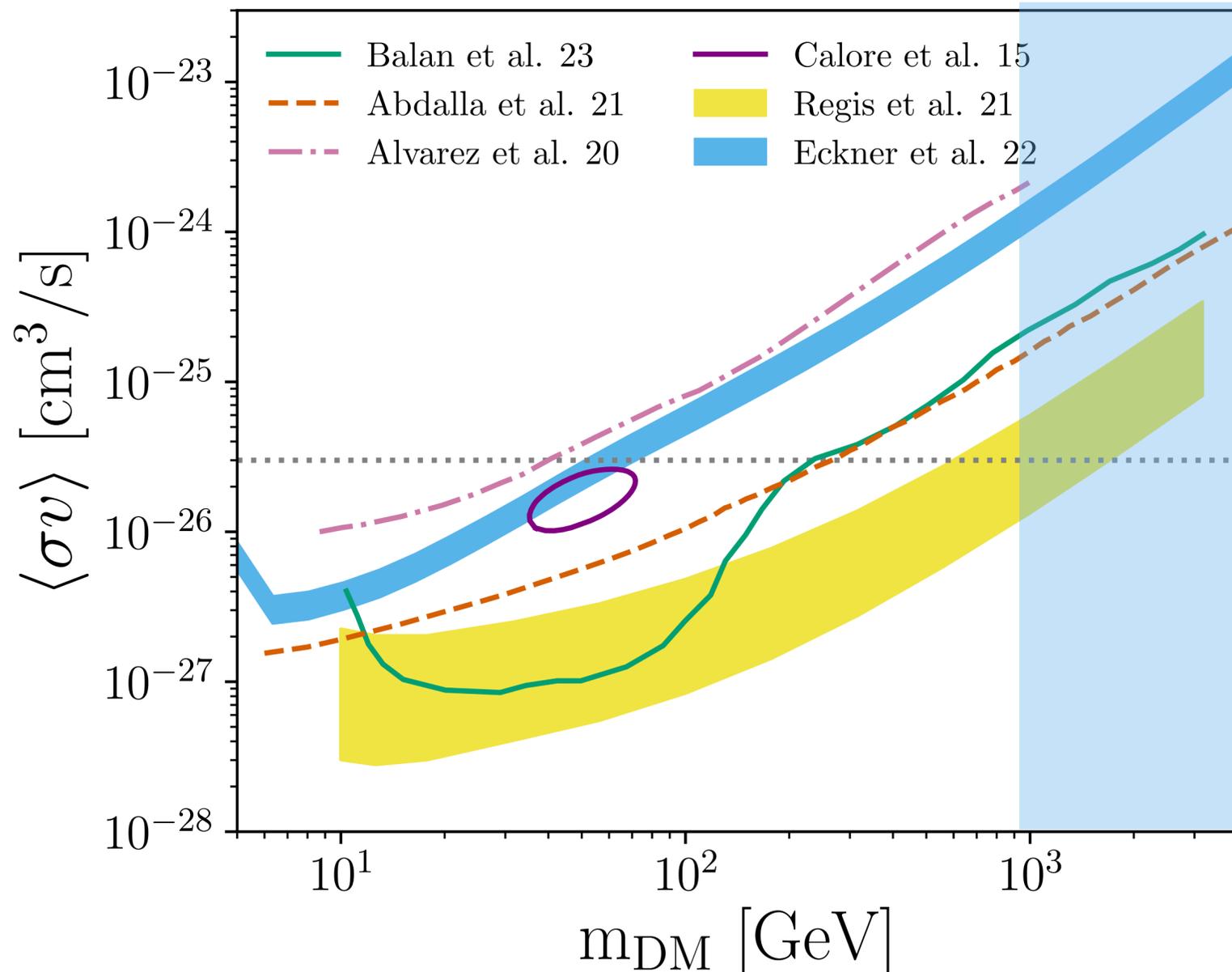
Summary of multi-targets and MW constraints



~ a few GeV — few TeV



0.2 TeV — 50 TeV

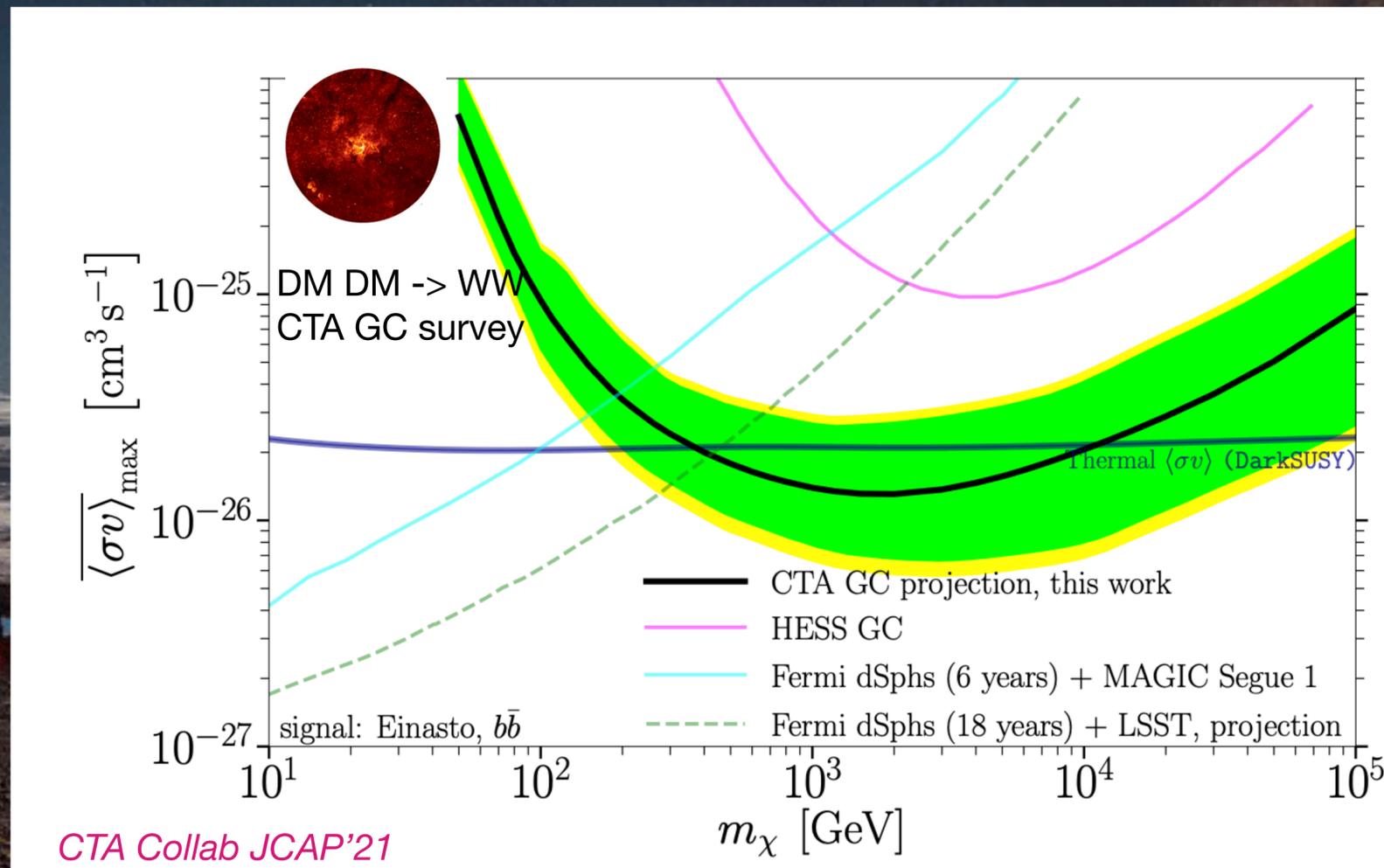


See also: [Rodd+ 2405.13104](#)

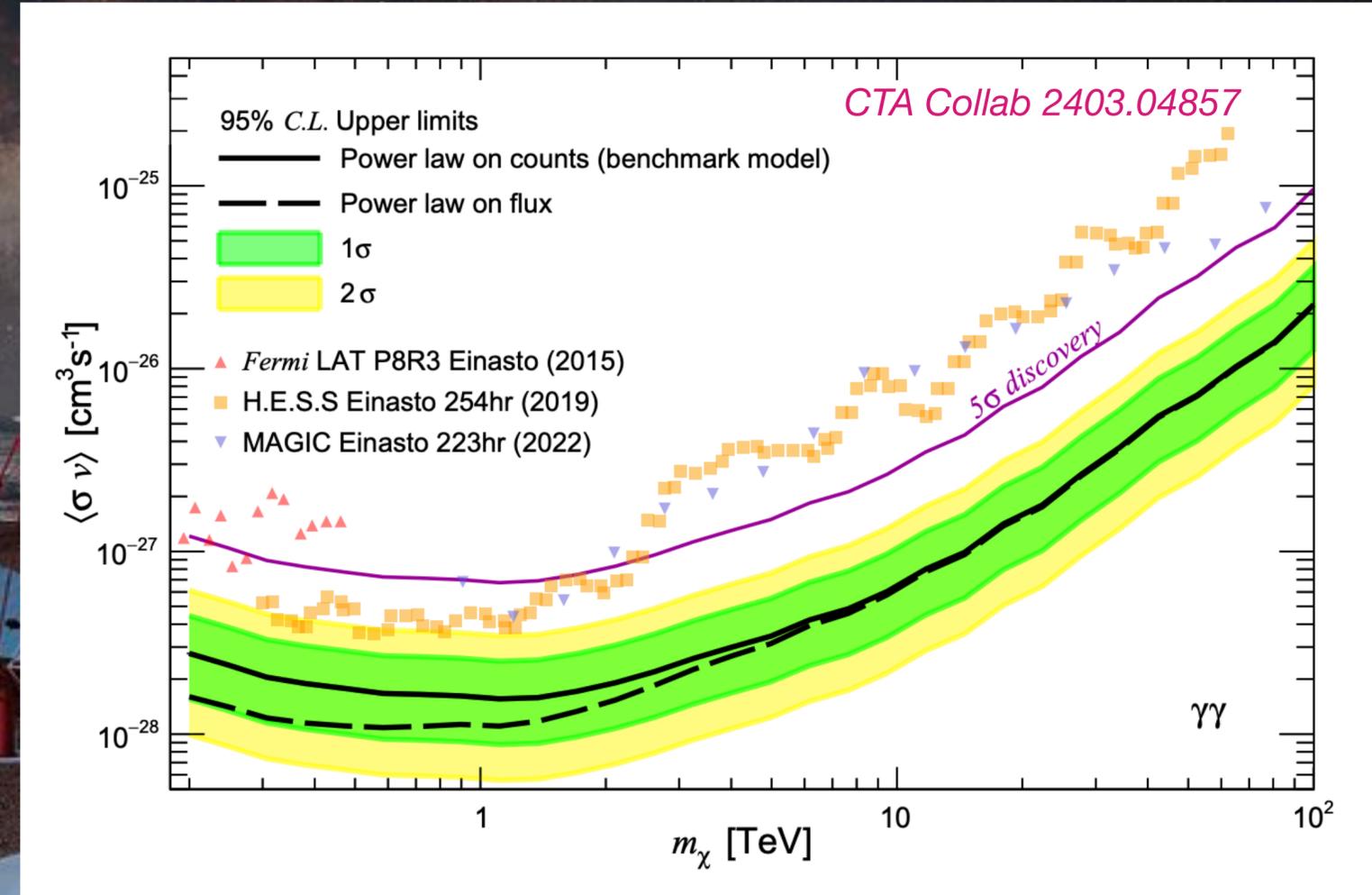
Future: The Cherenkov Telescope Array

C. Eckner (Thu)
J. Perez-Romero (Thu)

Gamma-ray continuum



Gamma-ray lines

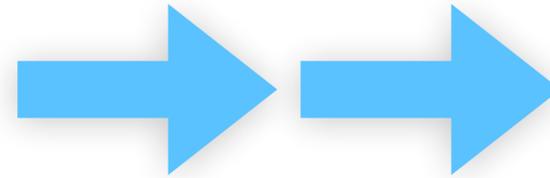


Wino and Higgsino dark matter in the reach of CTA

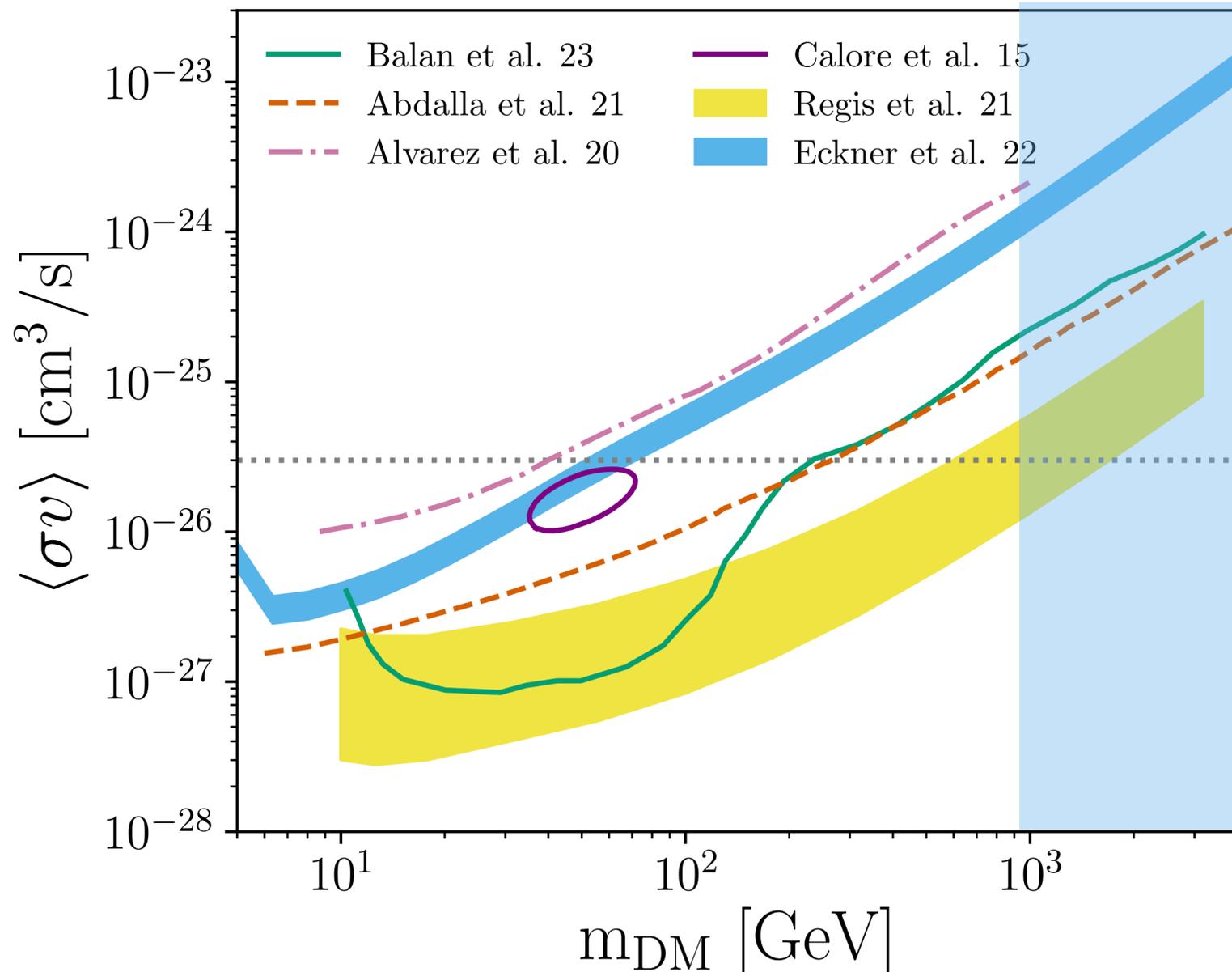
Rodd+ 2405.13104; Montanari+ PRD'22; Rinchiuso+ PRD'21

Dark matter at PeV energies

~ a few GeV — few TeV



Sub-PeV frontier
LHAASO, Tibet ASg



- Cannot be thermally produced (WIMpy) DM, since you hit the unitarity bound
Griest & Kamionkowski, PRD' 90
- Viable production mechanisms for PeV DM exist, e.g. inflation decay in low-scale reheating scenarios
Harigaya+ 1402.2846
- The signal should come through decay and should appear in neutrino fluxes even before gamma rays

Feldstein+ PRD'13; Esmaili & Serpico, JCAP'13; Chianese+ arXiv:2108.01678

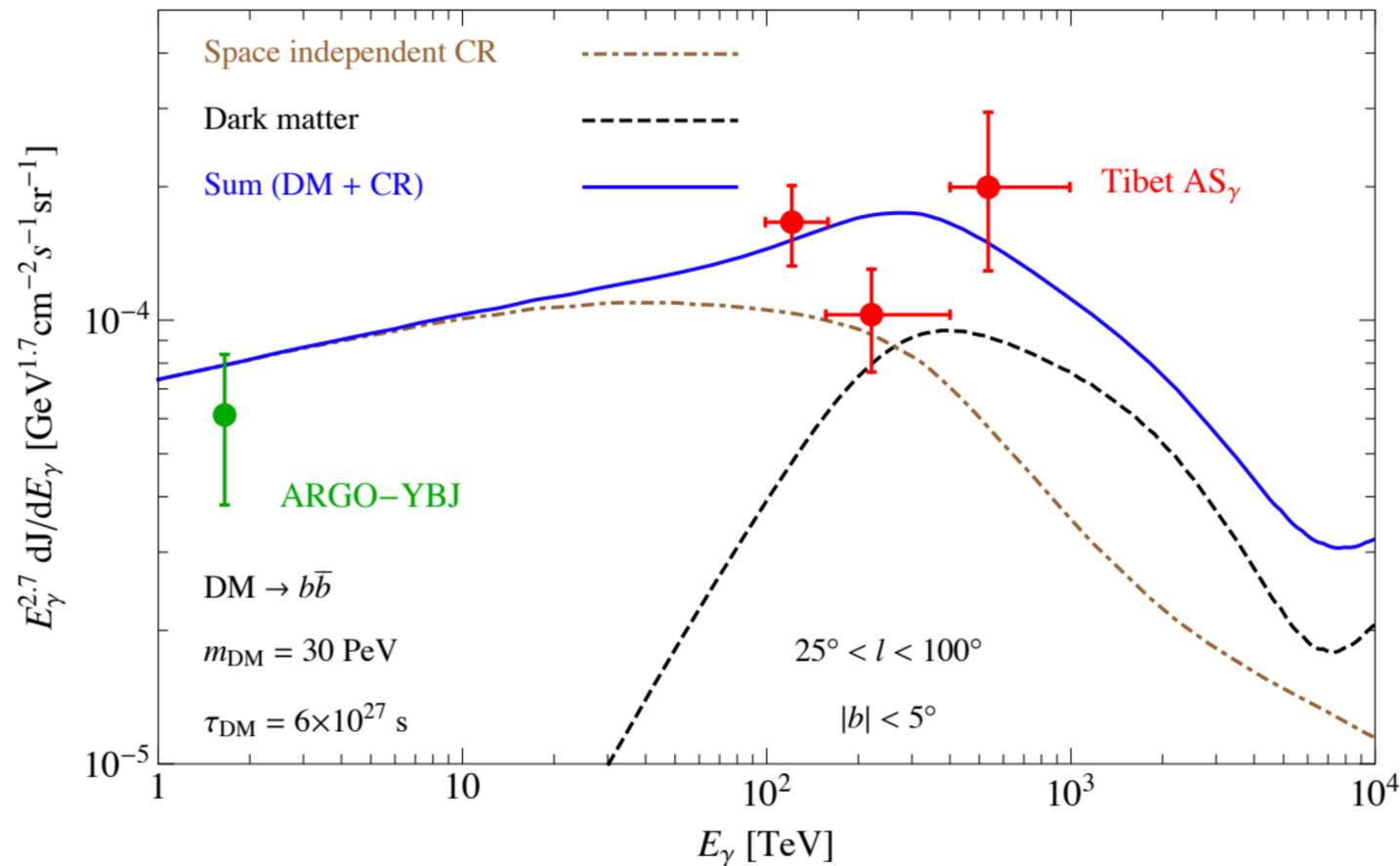
→ These data often provide *best bounds* to heavy DM lifetime

Esmaili & Serpico, PRD'21; Chianese+ arXiv:2108.01678

Dark matter at PeV energies

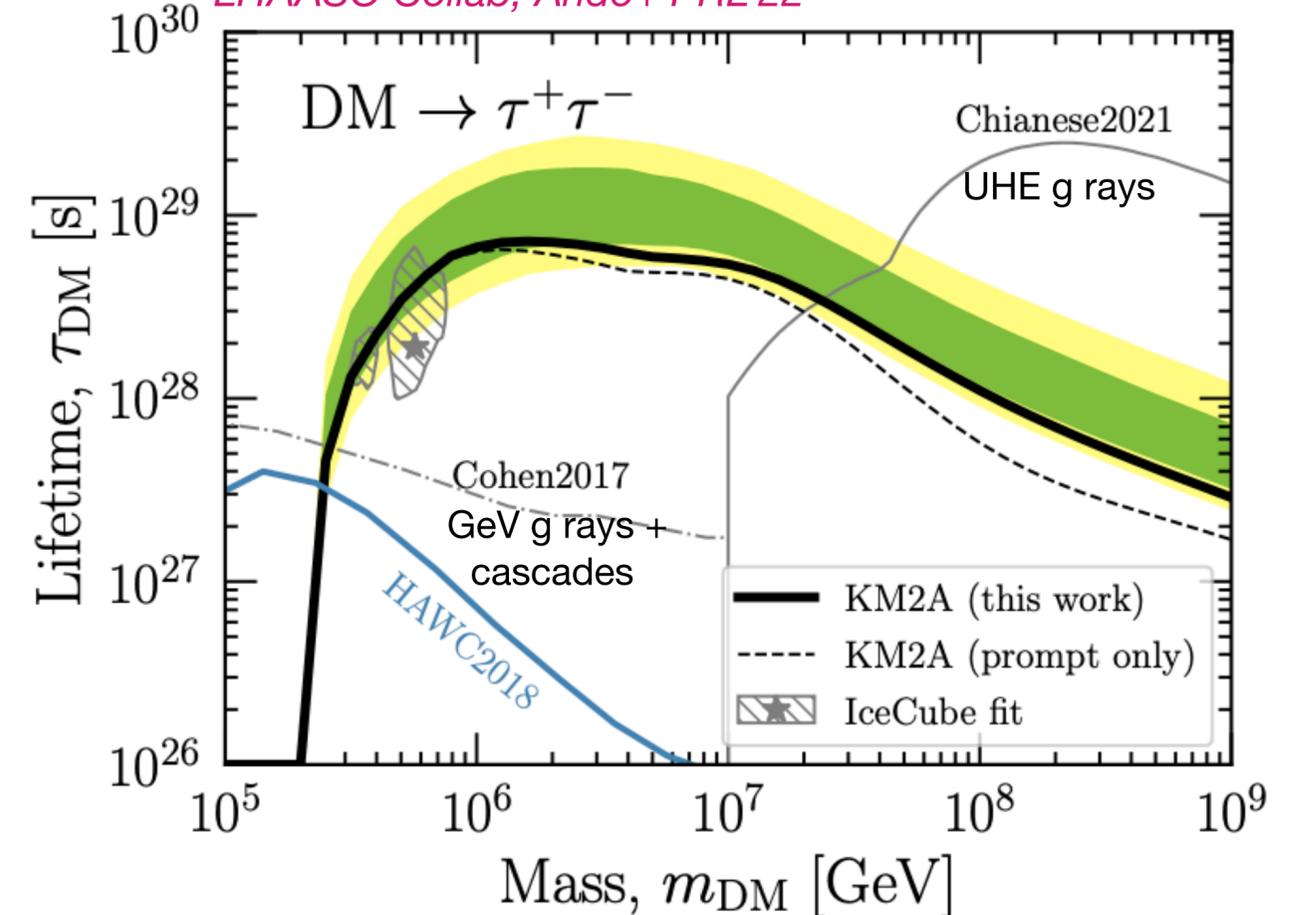
R. Aloisio (Thu)
A. Dubey (Thu)

Esmaili & Serpico, PRD Letters'21; Tarak+ PRD'21



Important degeneracies broken by **angular distribution of arrival photon directions**

LHAASO Collab, Ando+ PRL'22



Dedicated LHAASO DM search at slightly higher latitudes → Strongest constraints on PeV DM

Challenges: 1. Production and propagation of UHE gamma rays; 2. DM spectra at production for $E_{CM} \gg E_{LHC}$

Bauer+ JHEP'21

Take away: Strong potential from VHE gamma rays

Conclusions and outlook

- ✓ Dark matter evidence requires new BSM physics, however the **landscape for particle and non-particle models is broad and diverse**
- ✓ **Indirect searches** for dark matter **successfully test different dark matter models** (WIMPs, ALPs, PBHs, etc), probing a large portion of their parameter space
- ✓ Nowadays from indirect detection we can get **strong constraints but assessing their robustness is crucial** especially when cross-checking signal hints
- ✓ Great experimental progress at multiple wavelengths/messengers will provide **access to yet uncharted portions of the DM parameter space** and **new windows of opportunity for DM detection!**

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Thank you for the attention

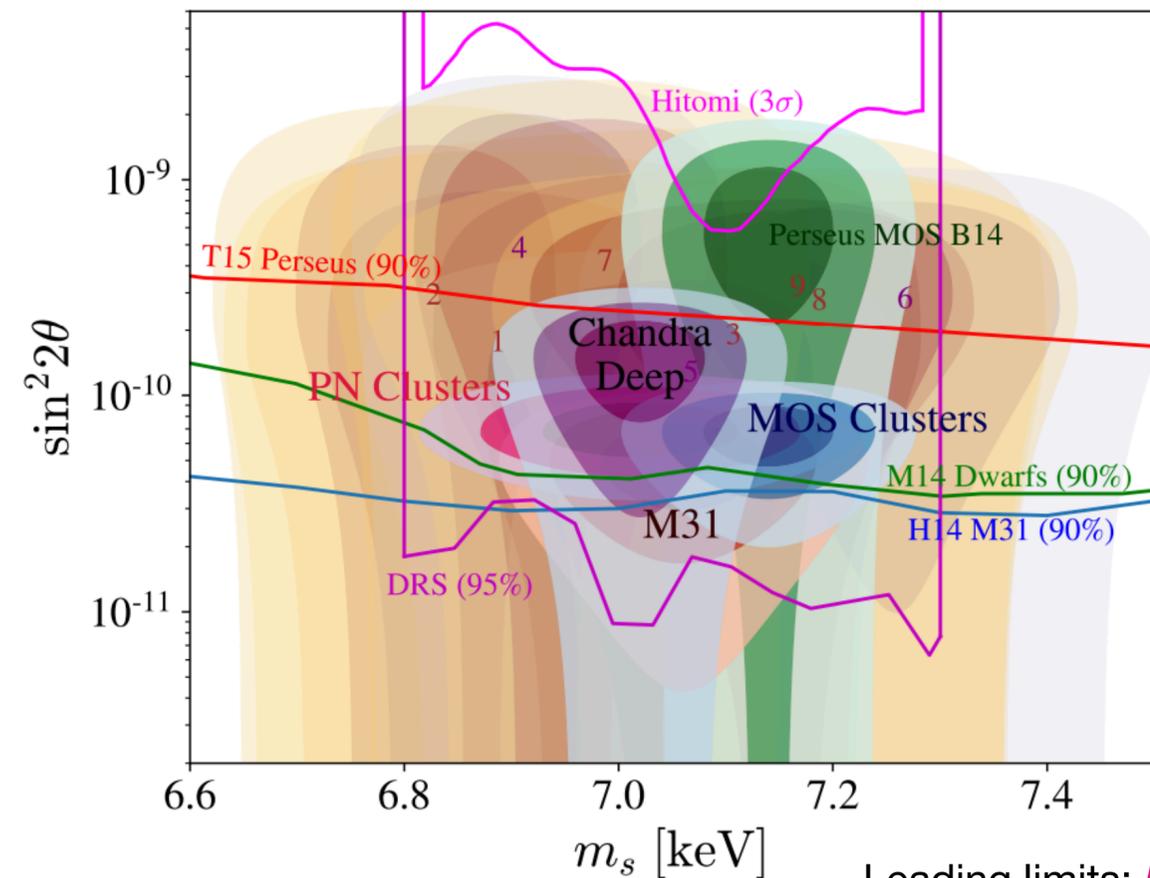
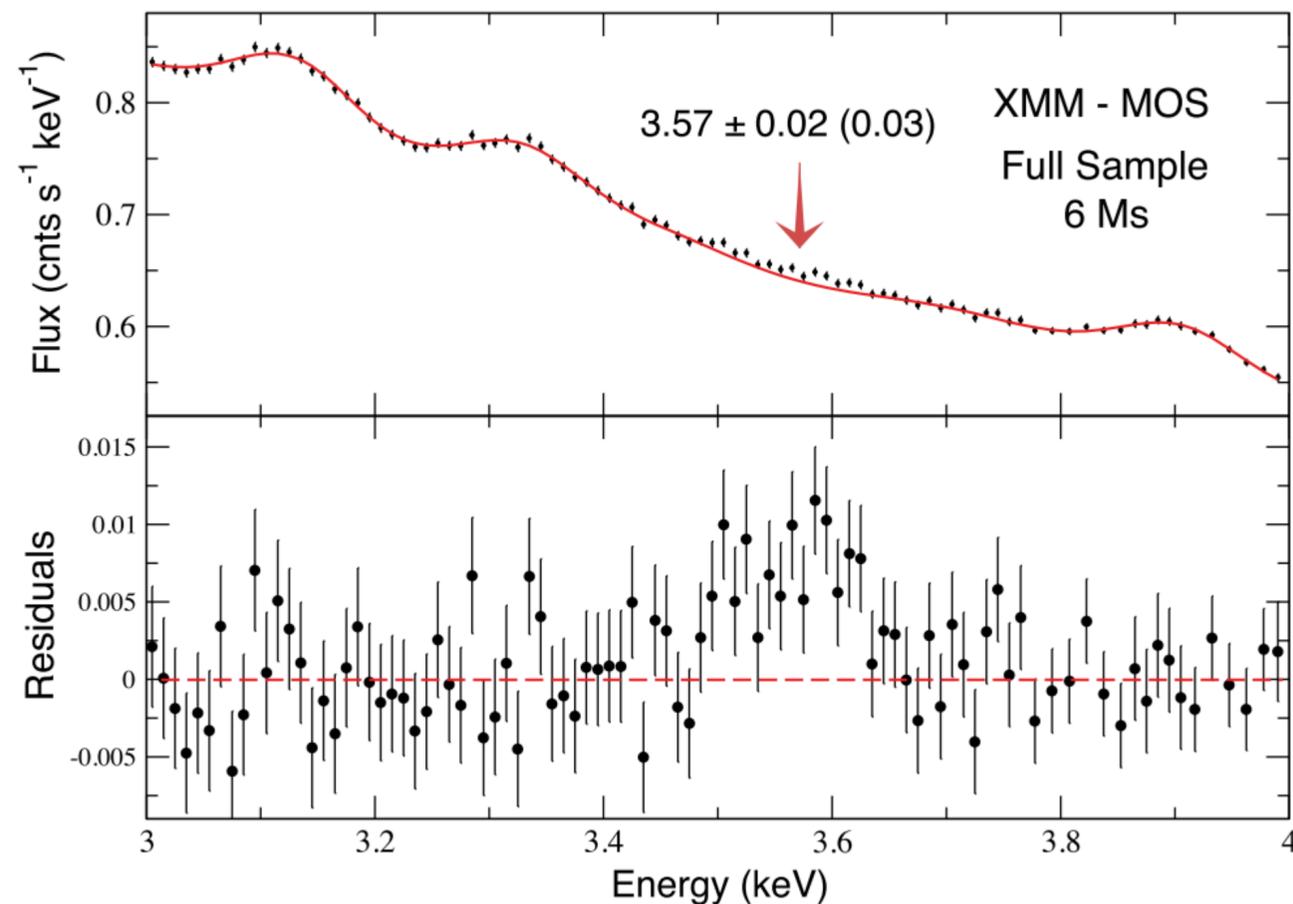
Supplemental material

Sterile neutrinos X-ray lines

X-ray telescopes and spectral analysis

Starting from early 2014:

- ▶ **Detection** of an unidentified line at **3.5 keV**: XMM-Newton (6 Ms) & *Chandra*, Perseus cluster; XMM-Newton, M31; Suzaku, Perseus; etc
- ▶ **Constraints** from *Chandra* M31; XMM-Newton/*Chandra* 80 galaxies; blank field pointings *Chandra* and XMM-Newton, etc

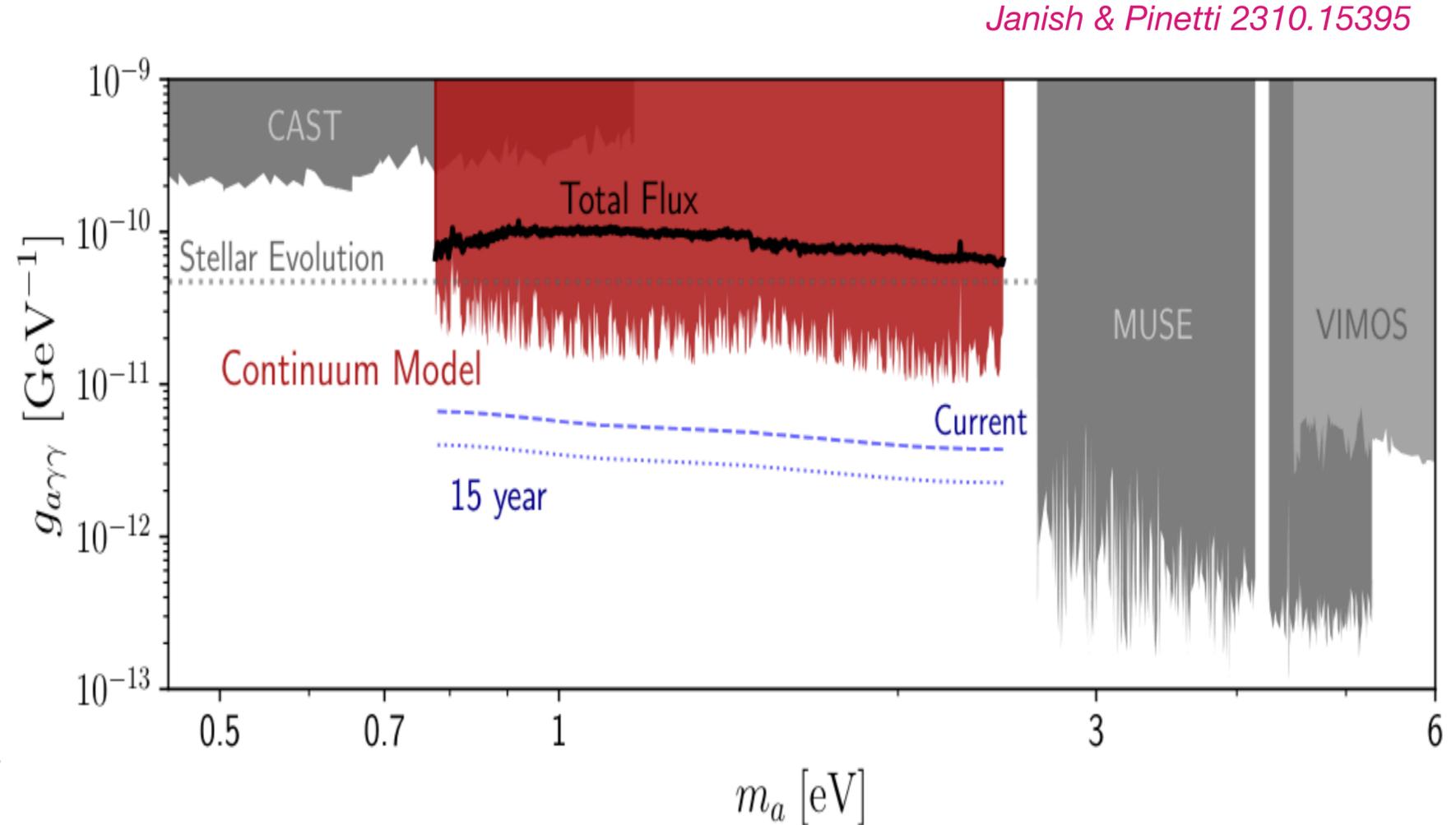


Constraints on eV ALPs

IR - optical wavelengths

Search for **narrow lines** in IR and optical data

- **MUSE**: search in the direction of 5 known dwarf galaxies
Todarello+ JCAP'24
- **VIMOS (Visible Multi-Object Spectrograph)**: galaxy clusters Abell 2667 and 2390
Grin+ PRD'06
- **JWST**: public blank sky observations from the NIRSpec IFU
Janish & Pinetti 2310.15395



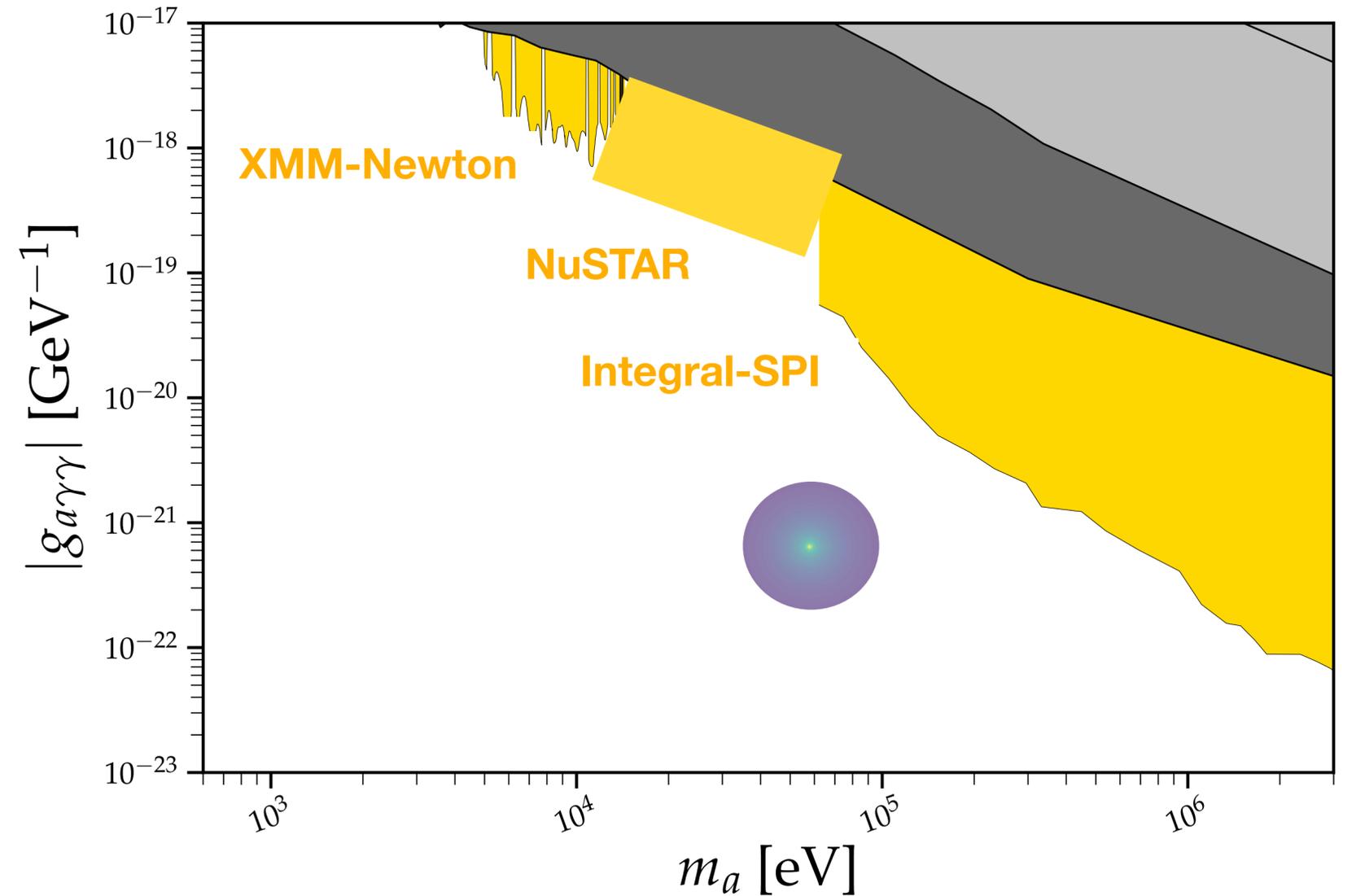
Constraints on keV - MeV ALPs

X-ray and soft gamma rays energies

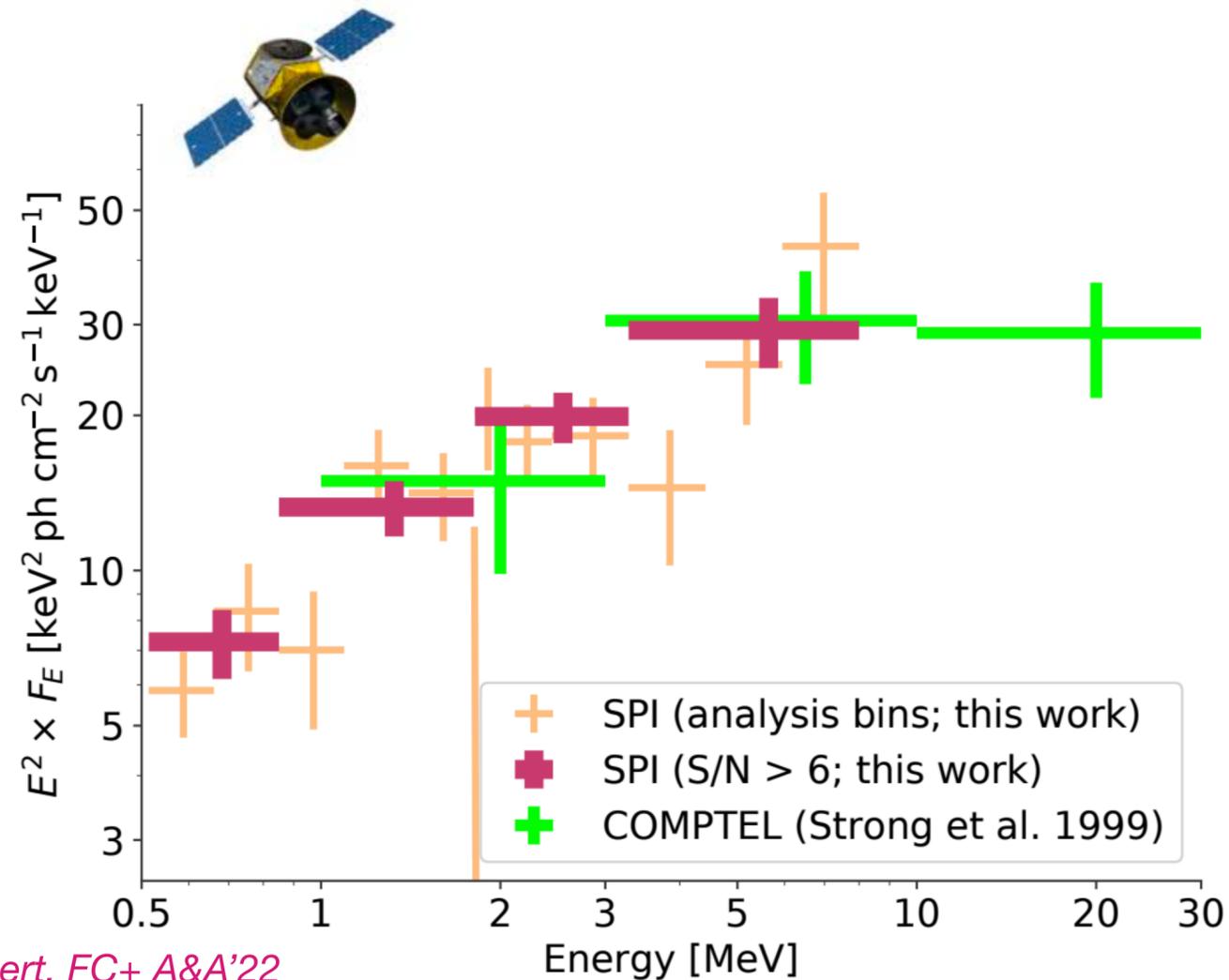
Heavy ALPs DM decay

Search for **narrow lines** in X and gamma-ray data

- **XMM-Newton**: 5-16 keV, archival data
=> No evidence found for unassociated X-ray lines
Foster+ PRL'21
- **NuSTAR**: 7-Ms/detector deep blank-sky exposures
Roach+ PRD'23
- **Integral-SPI**: new analysis of 16yr data with dedicated search for DM component in continuum Galactic emission
Berteaud, FC+PRD'22; FC+ MNRAS'23



Soft gamma rays with Integral/SPI



Constraints on cosmic-ray transport at MeV energy but also on exotic emission mechanisms: particle and non-particle dark matter

Berteaud, FC+ PRD'22 ; FC+ MNRAS'23

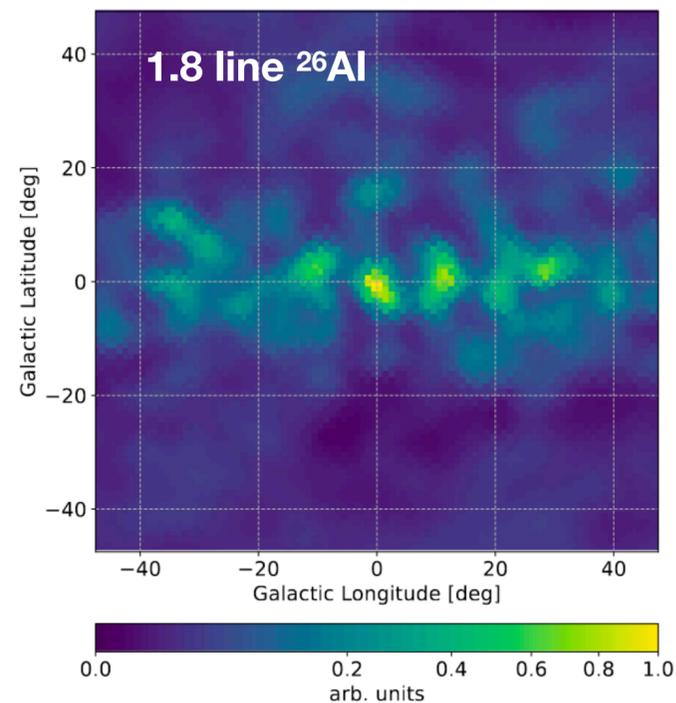
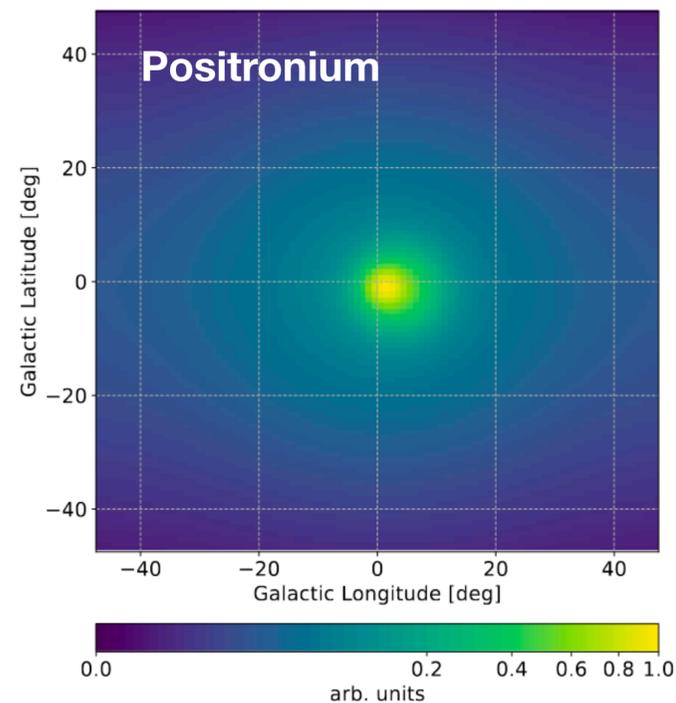
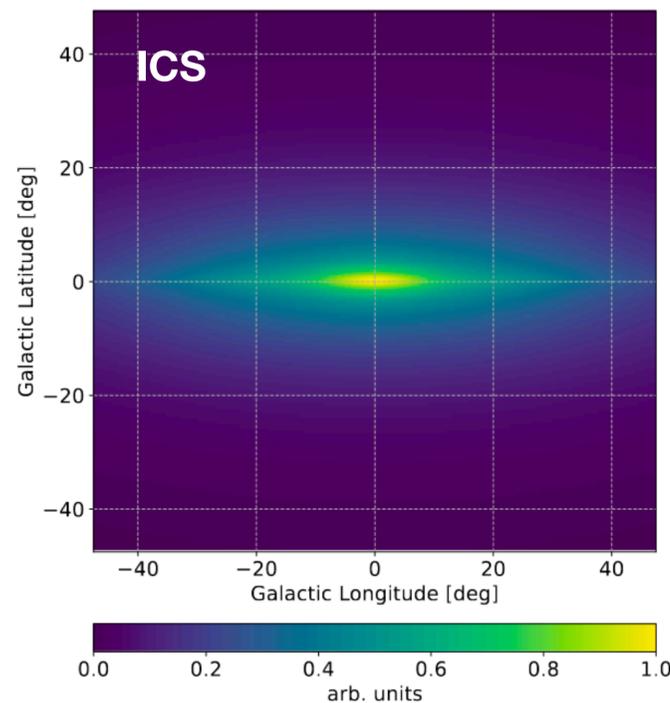
New analysis of 16yr-data from SPI
30 keV — 8 MeV

Soft gamma rays with Integral/SPI

Astrophysical contributions

Modelled **spatial templates** (30 keV – 8 MeV)

- **Inverse Compton scattering** of electrons off the interstellar radiation field $e_{\text{CR}}^{\pm} + \gamma \longrightarrow e^{\pm} + \gamma_{\text{MeV}}$
- Unresolved sources (<100 keV)
- Nuclear lines
- Positronium annihilation line+continuum



Soft gamma rays with Integral/SPI

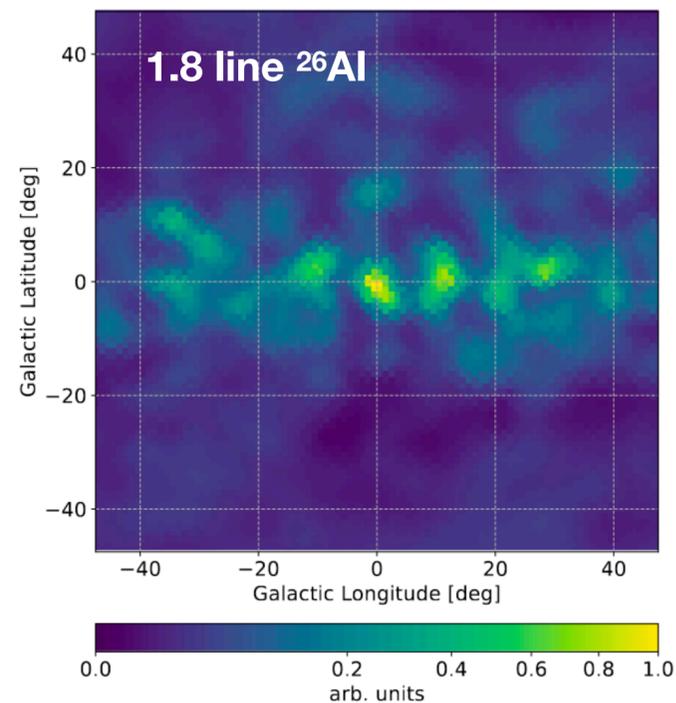
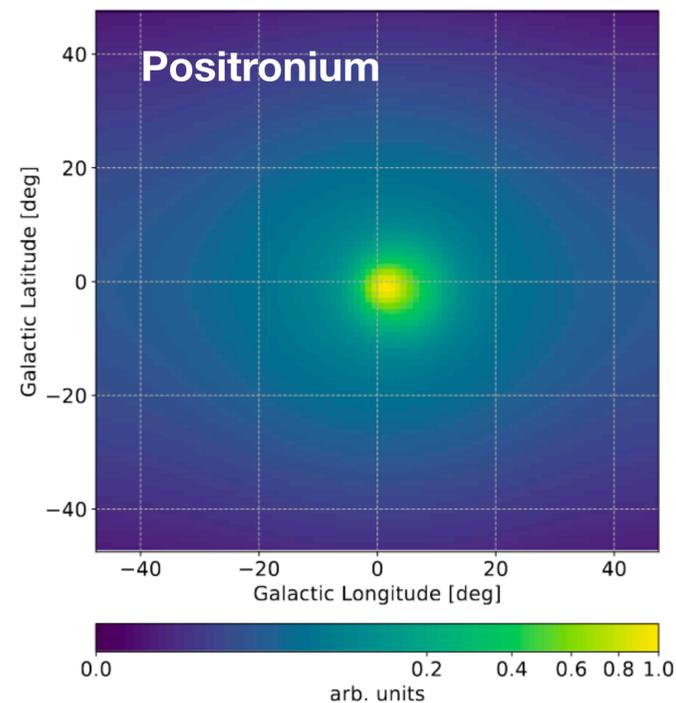
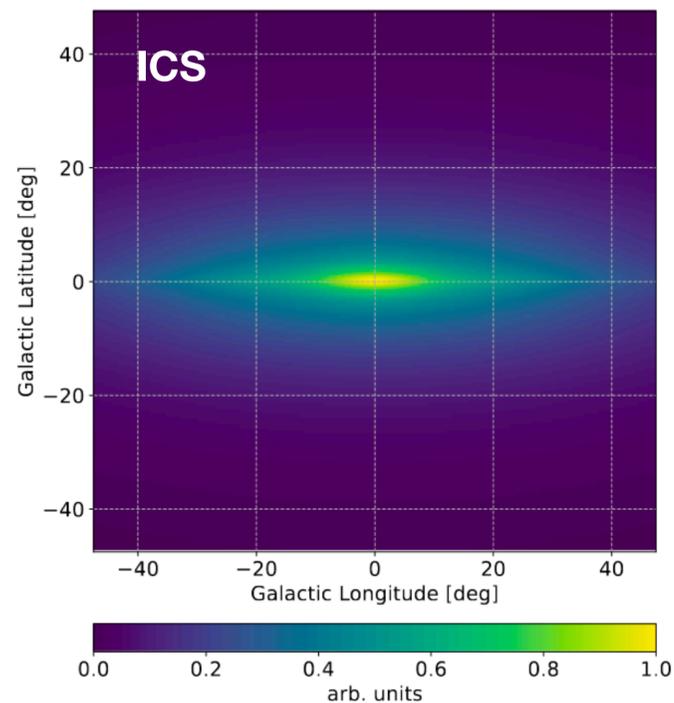
Dark matter contribution?

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- Unresolved sources (<100 keV)
- Nuclear lines
- Positronium annihilation line+continuum

- Additional **DM signal?**

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\gamma}}{dE}(\ell, b) = \mathcal{A}(\theta_{\text{DM}}) \times \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE} \times \int_{\text{l.o.s.}} \rho_{\text{DM}}^N(s, \ell, b) ds$$



Soft gamma rays with Integral/SPI

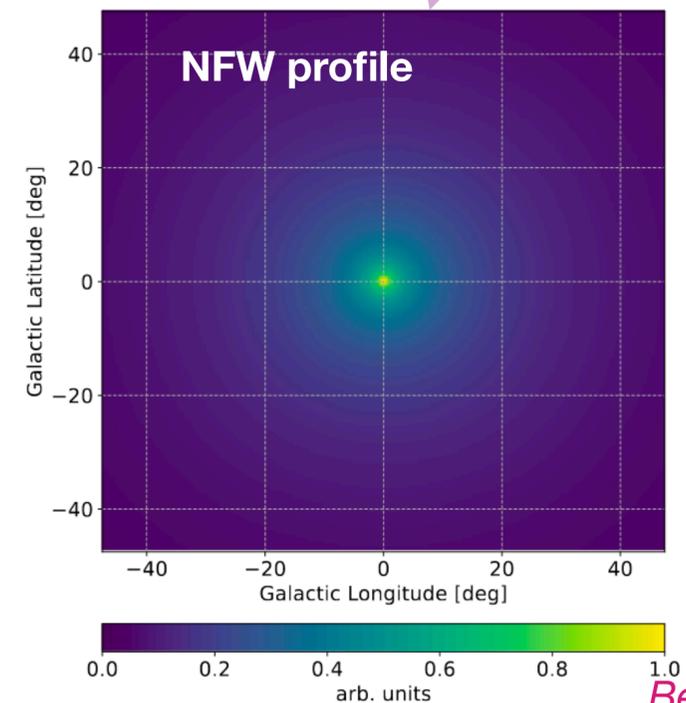
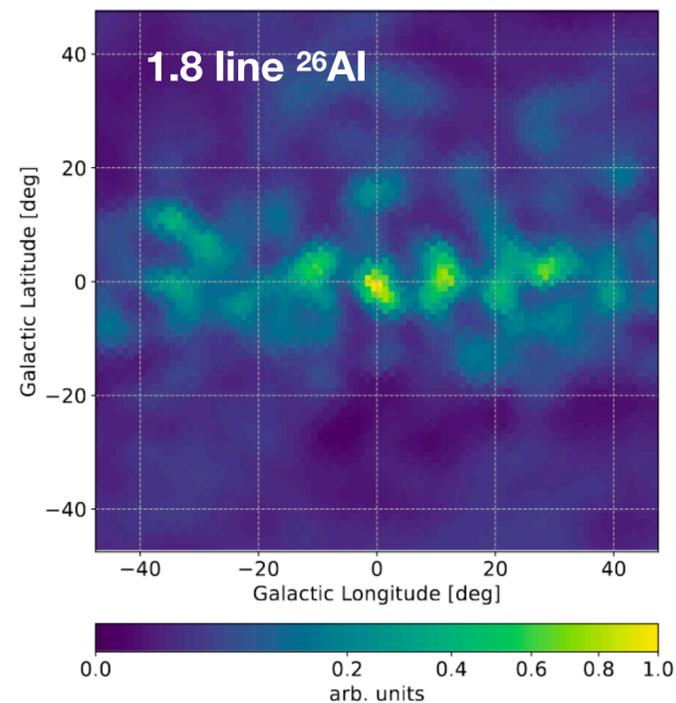
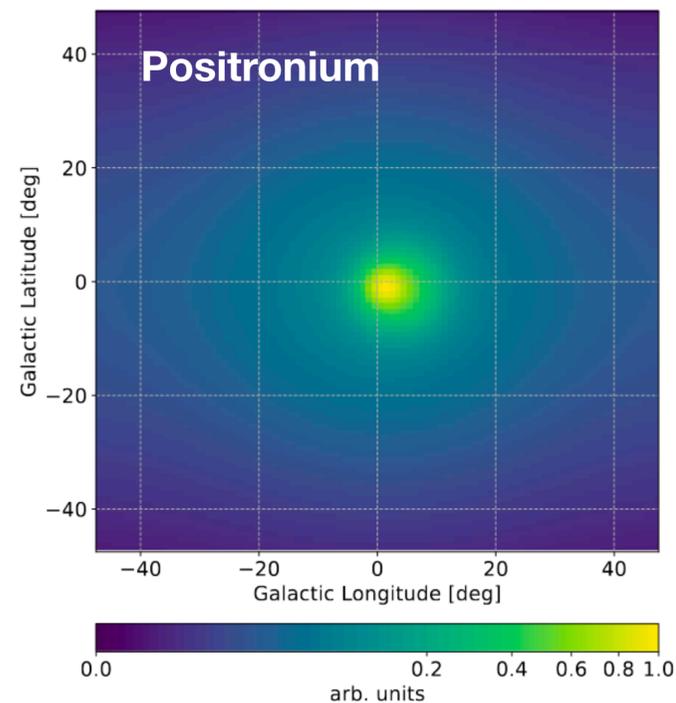
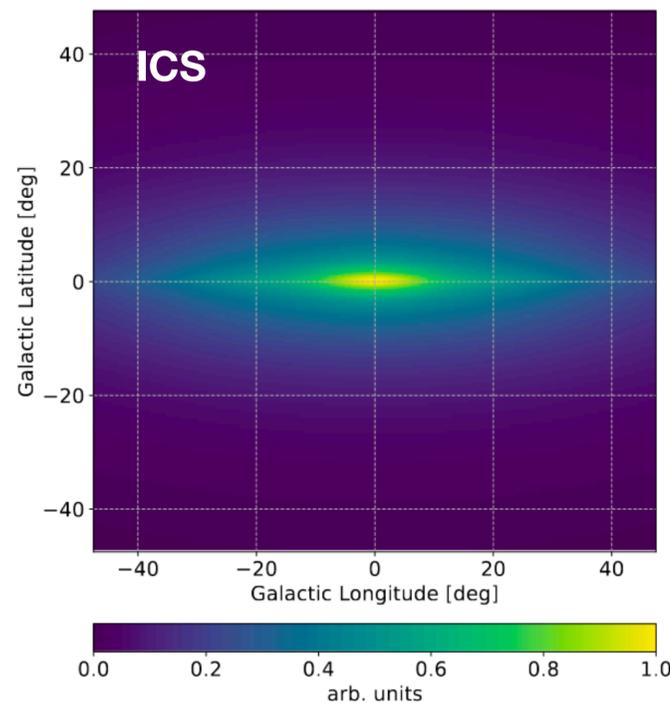
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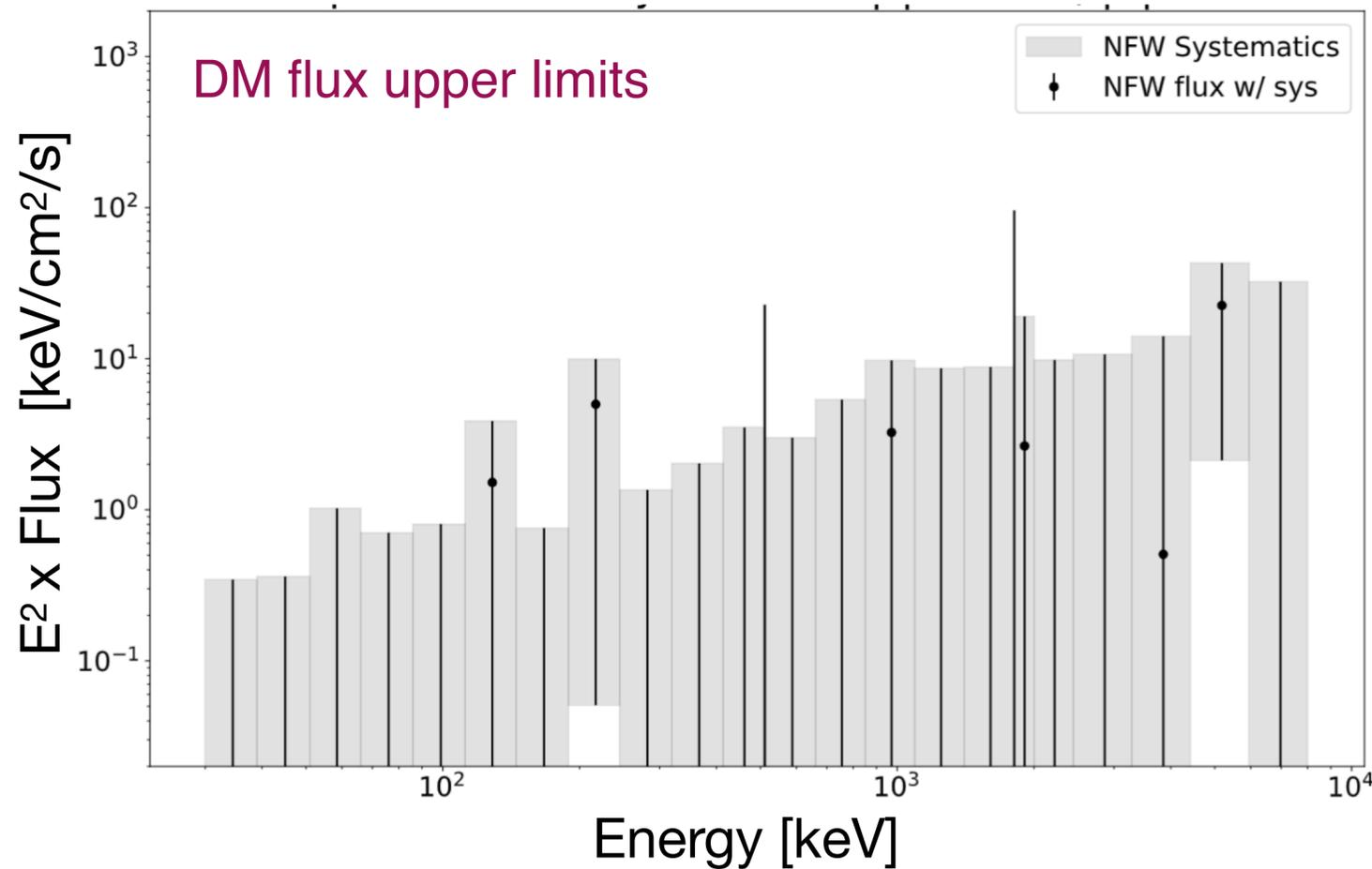


Berteaud, FC+ PRD'22

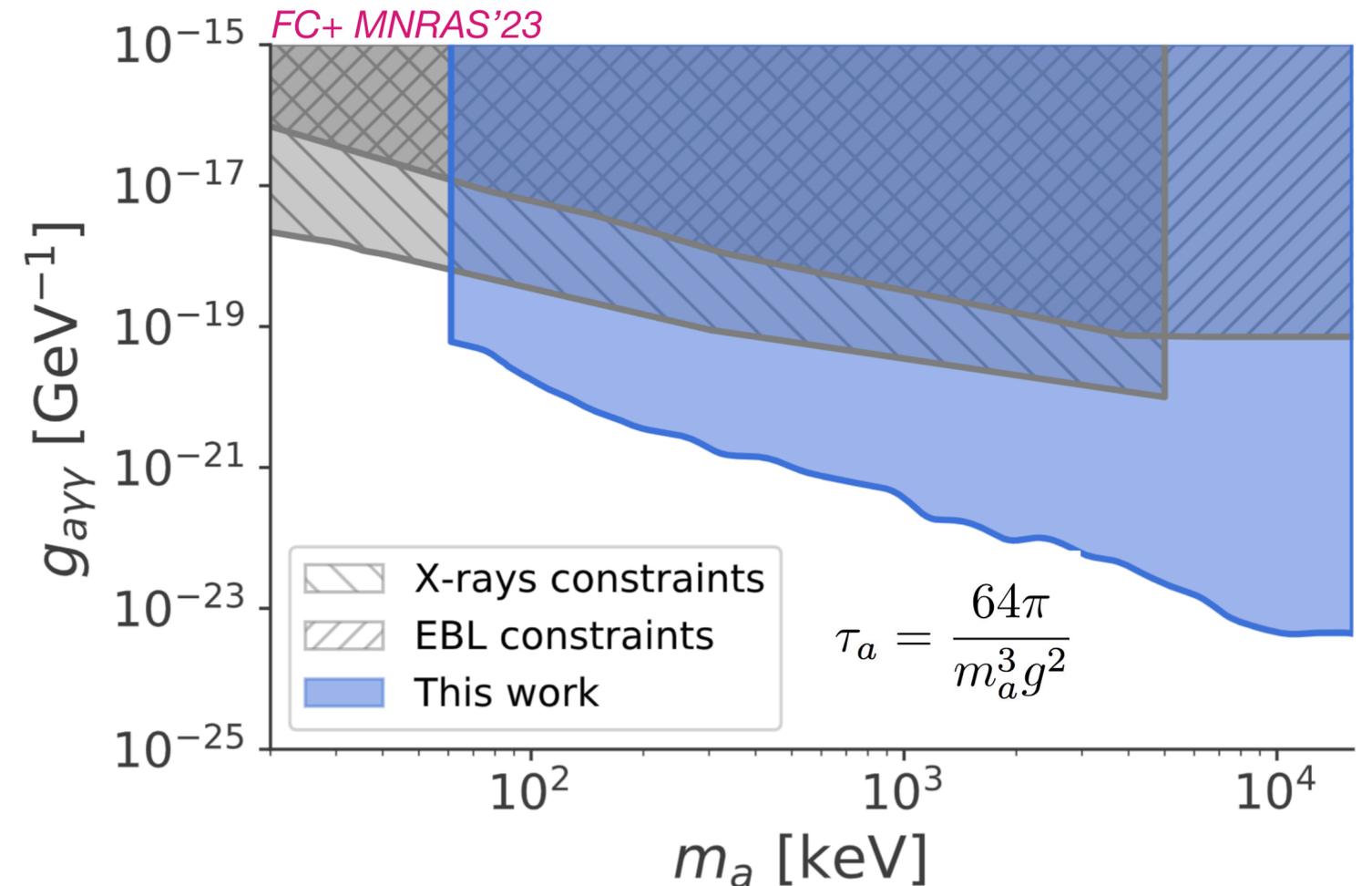
Soft gamma rays with Integral/SPI

Constraints on decaying dark matter

No signal detected



→ Upper limits on **light particle decay**



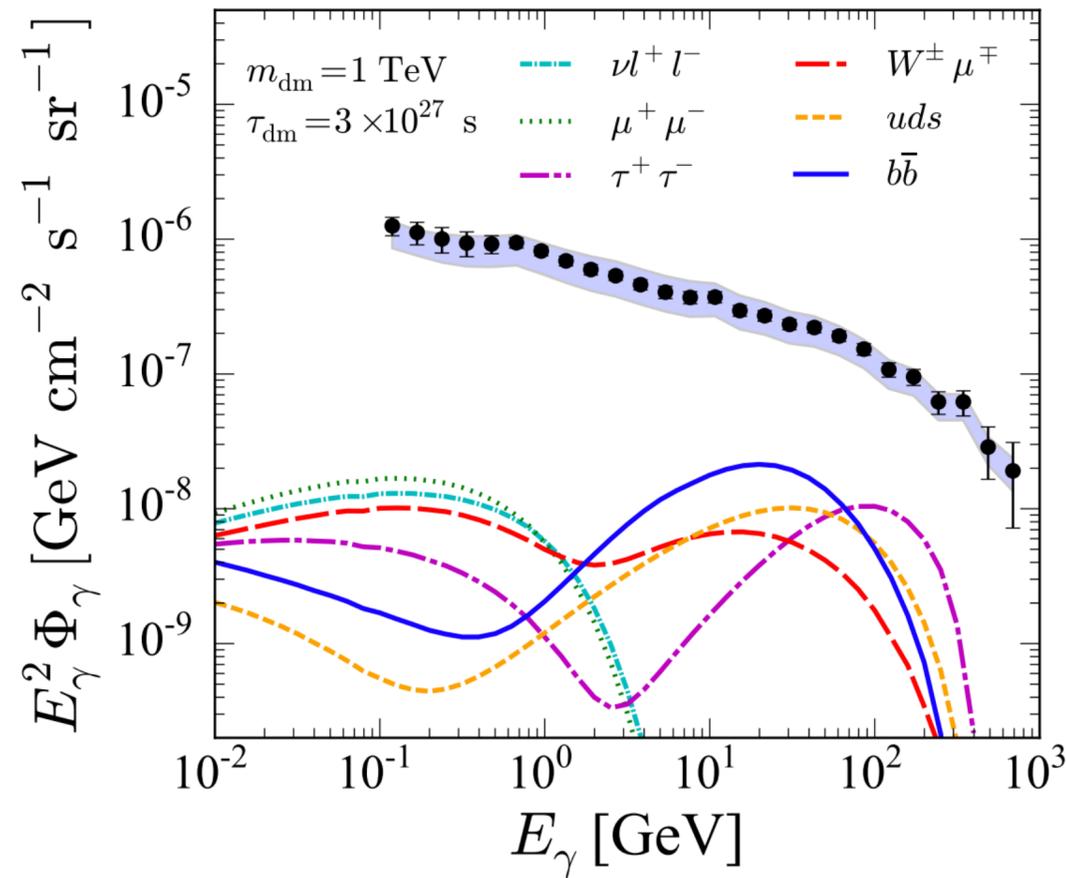
Re-analysis of Integral/SPI data provides the **strongest constraints** on (light) particle and non-particle DM PBHs

<https://zenodo.org/record/7984451>

Decaying WIMP dark matter

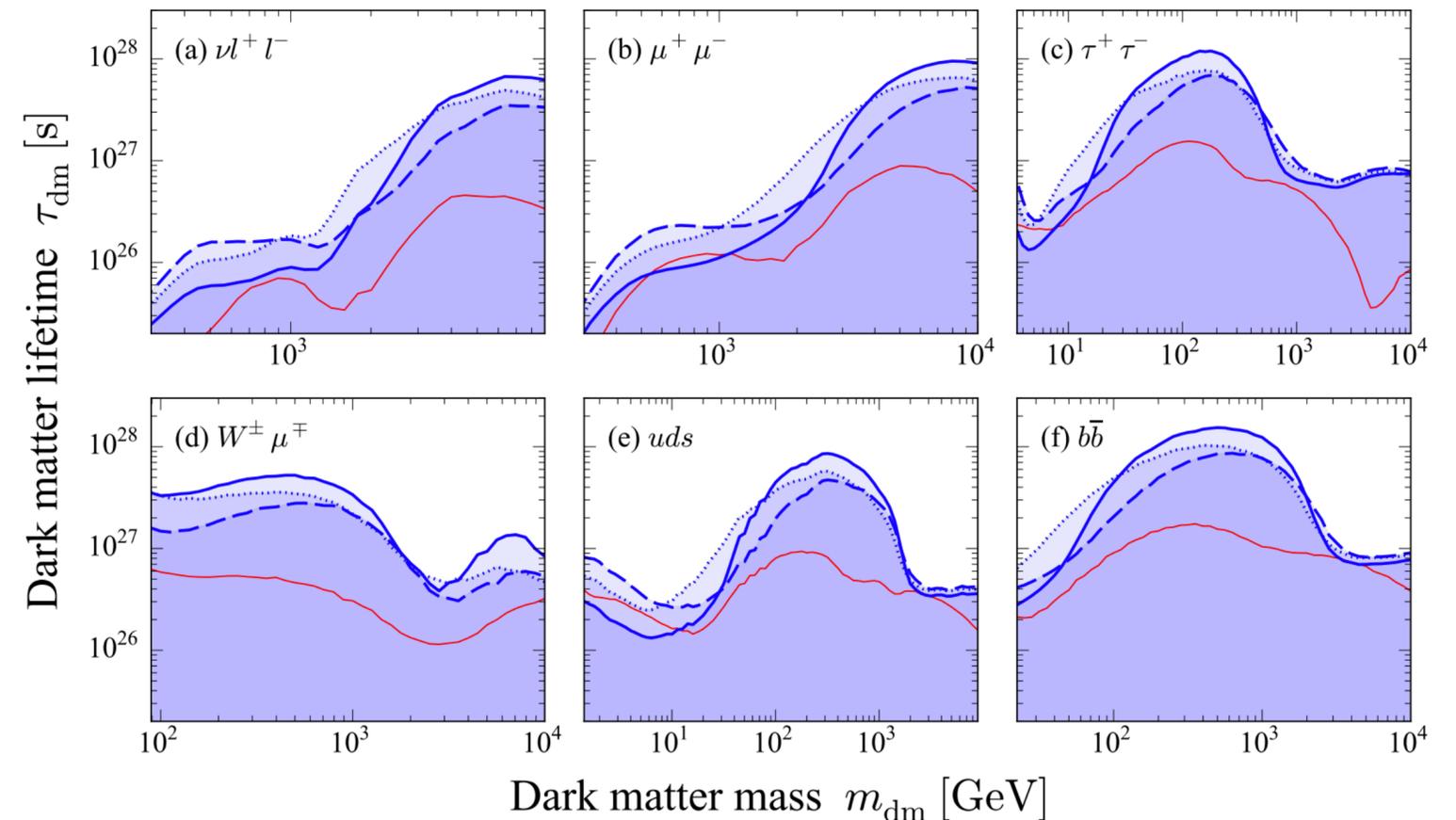
DM models: gravitino and axino in RPV models; or leptophilic models (positron fraction)

$$m_{\text{dm}}, \tau_{\text{dm}}, \frac{dN_I}{dE} \quad (I = \gamma, e^\pm, \dots)$$



Extragalactic signal
Considering prompt and IC emission
Modelling astrophysical bkg EGRB

Ando & Ishiwata, JCAP 05 (2015) 024 [1502.02007]



[For a review see *Ibarra+ Int.J.Mod.Phys. A28 (2013) 1330040*]

What is the origin of the GeV excess?

Possible interpretations

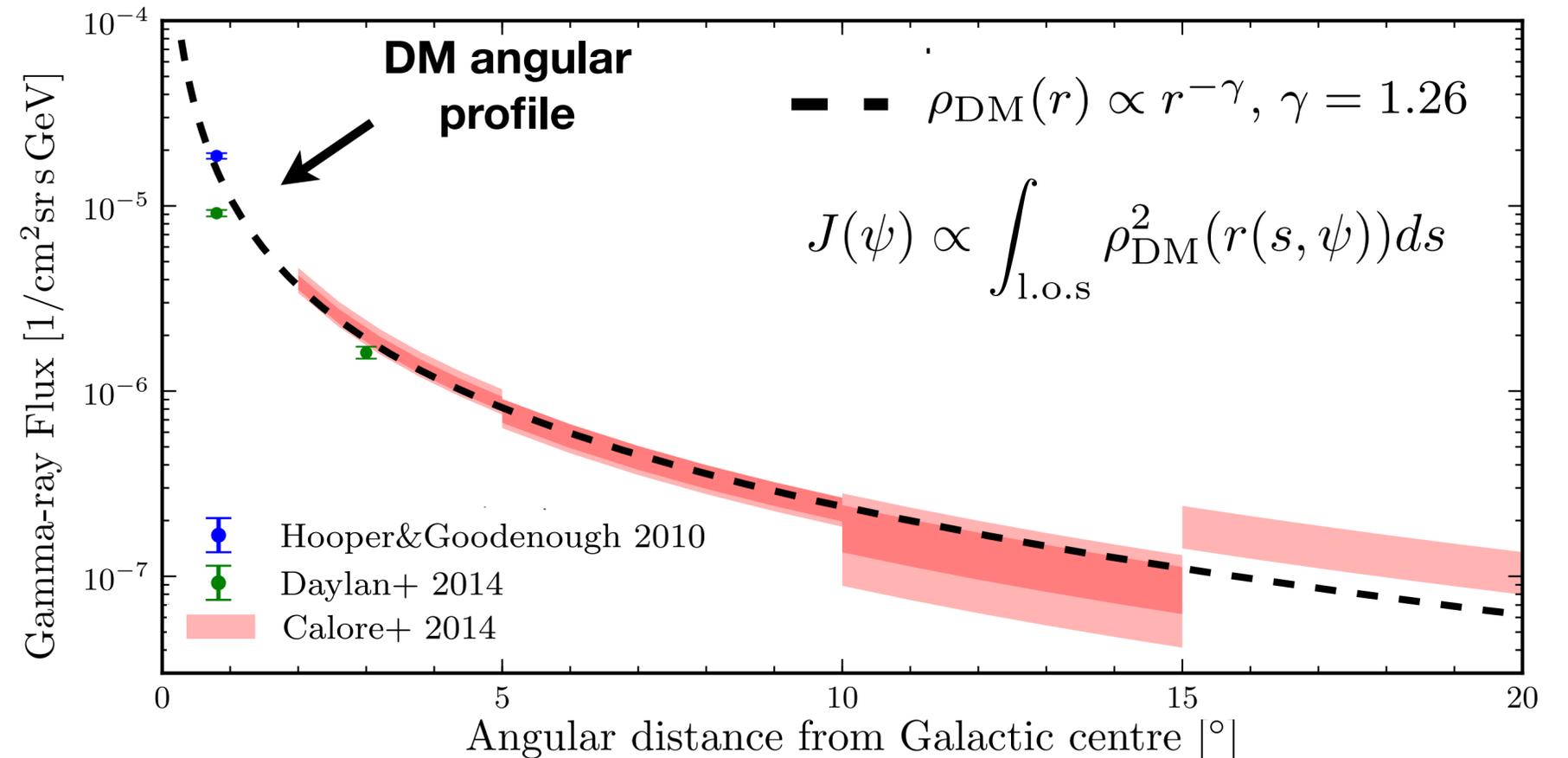
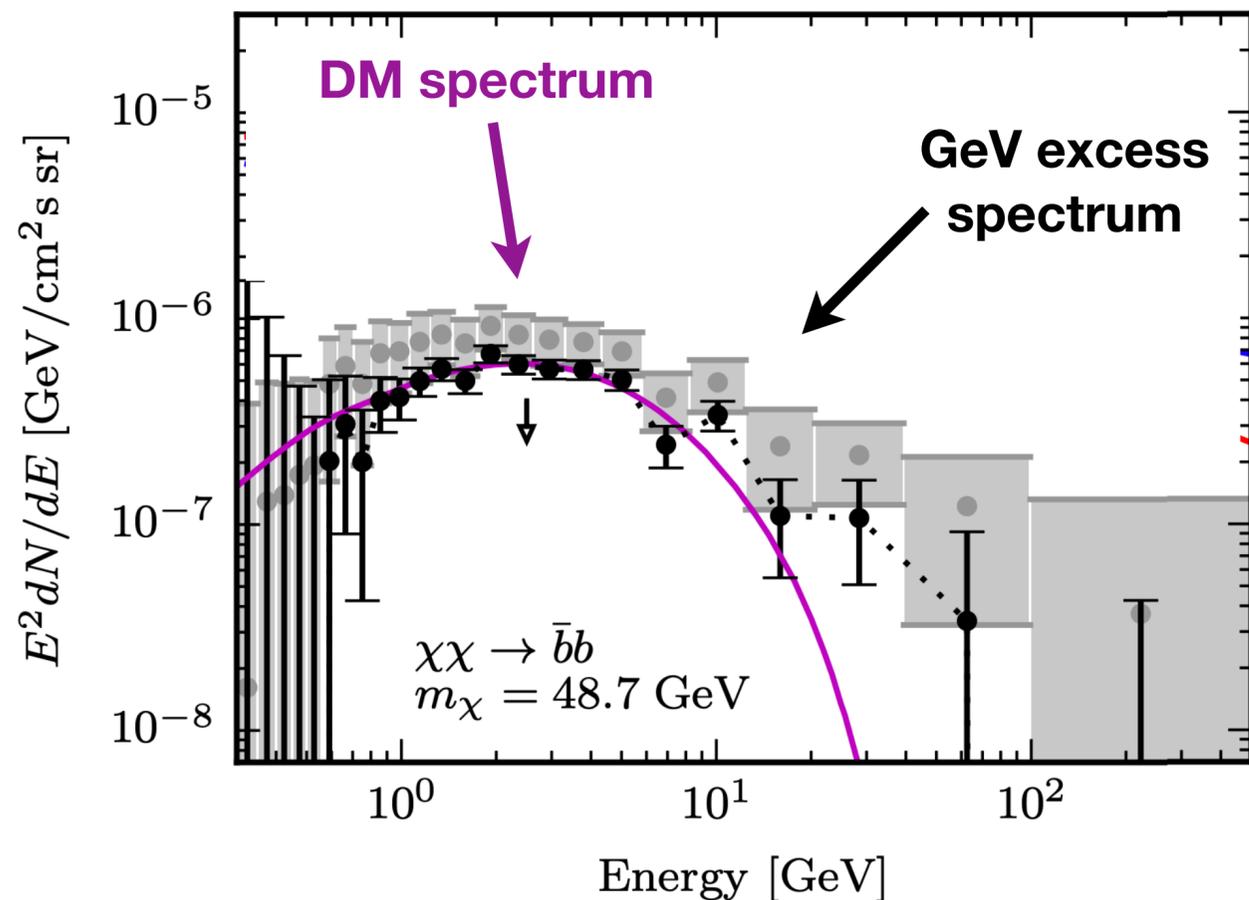
I. **Dark matter annihilation:** large freedom in channel/masses thanks to systematic uncertainties

Agrawal+JCAP'15; Achterberg+JCAP'15; Bertone, FC+ JCAP'15; Liem, FC+ JCAP'16; O(>100) papers

II. Diffuse emission from electrons/positrons at the Galactic centre (**enhanced SF or activity GC**)

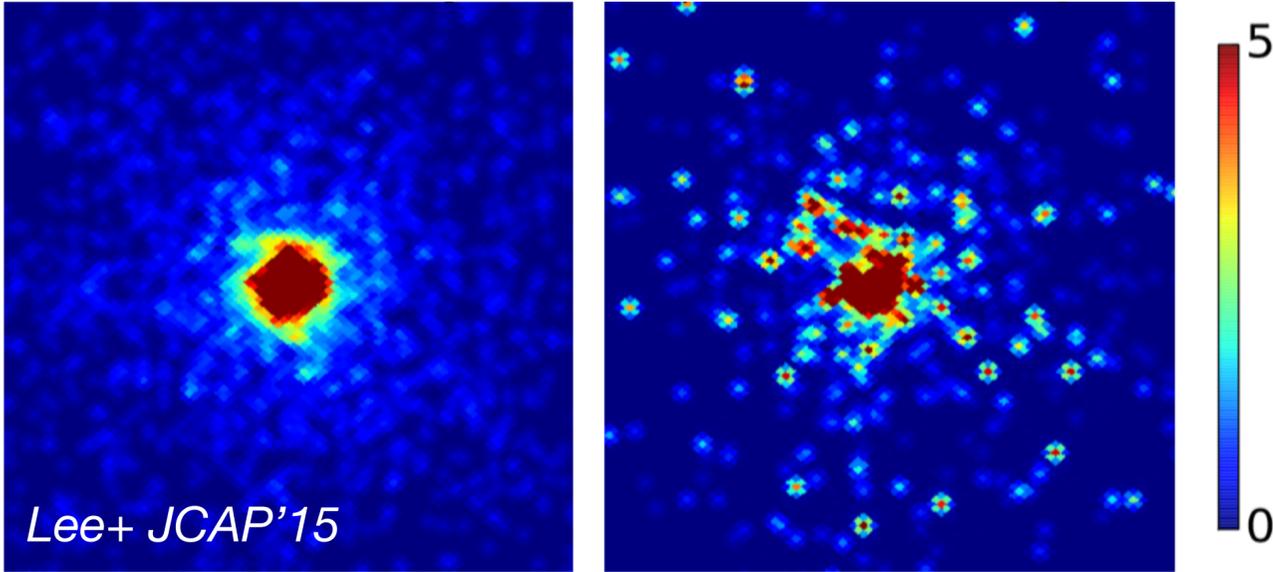
Gaggero+JCAP'15; Carlson+ PRD'16, PRL'16; Petrovic+ JCAP'14; Cholis, FC+ JCAP'15

III. **Cumulative emission from point sources** below LAT detection threshold (**unresolved sources**)



The GeV excess nature

The gamma-ray perspective



Truly diffuse

Unresolved sources

- Difference in **statistics of photon counts** can be quantified and used for model comparison

Bartels+ PRL'16; Lee+PRL'16

- **Strong bias** from mis-modelling of foreground diffuse emission and controversial results

Zhong+PRL'19; Leane&Slatyer PRL'20, PRD'20; Chang+ PRD'20, Buschmann+PRD'20

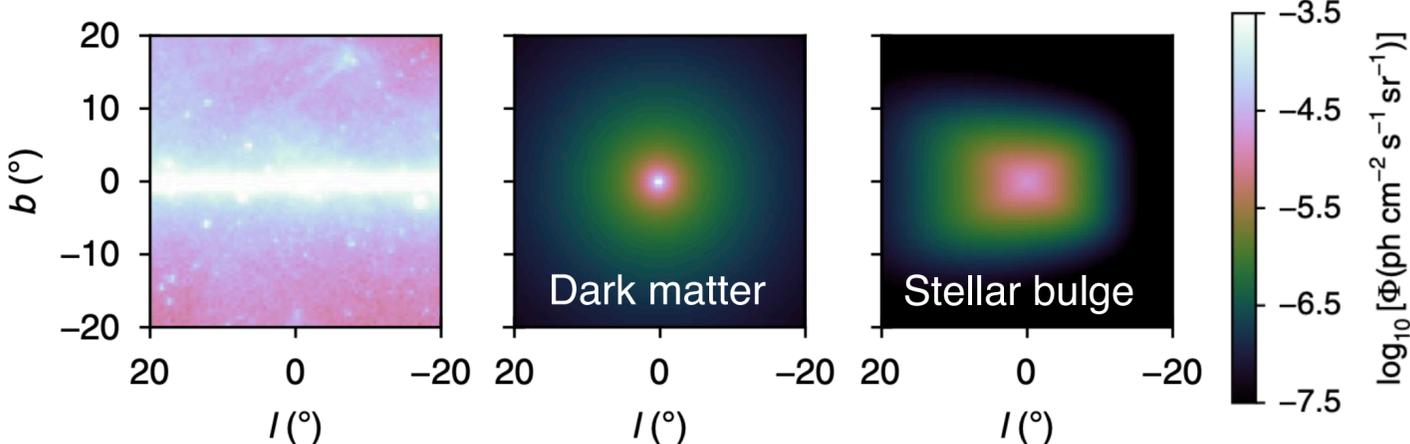
- Nonetheless: **evidence for unresolved point sources** is there with different, independent, methods

Buschmann+PRD'20; FC+ 2102.12497; List+ 2107.09070

- **Stellar bulge morphology preferred over DM** also when modelling faint point sources

FC+ PRL' 21

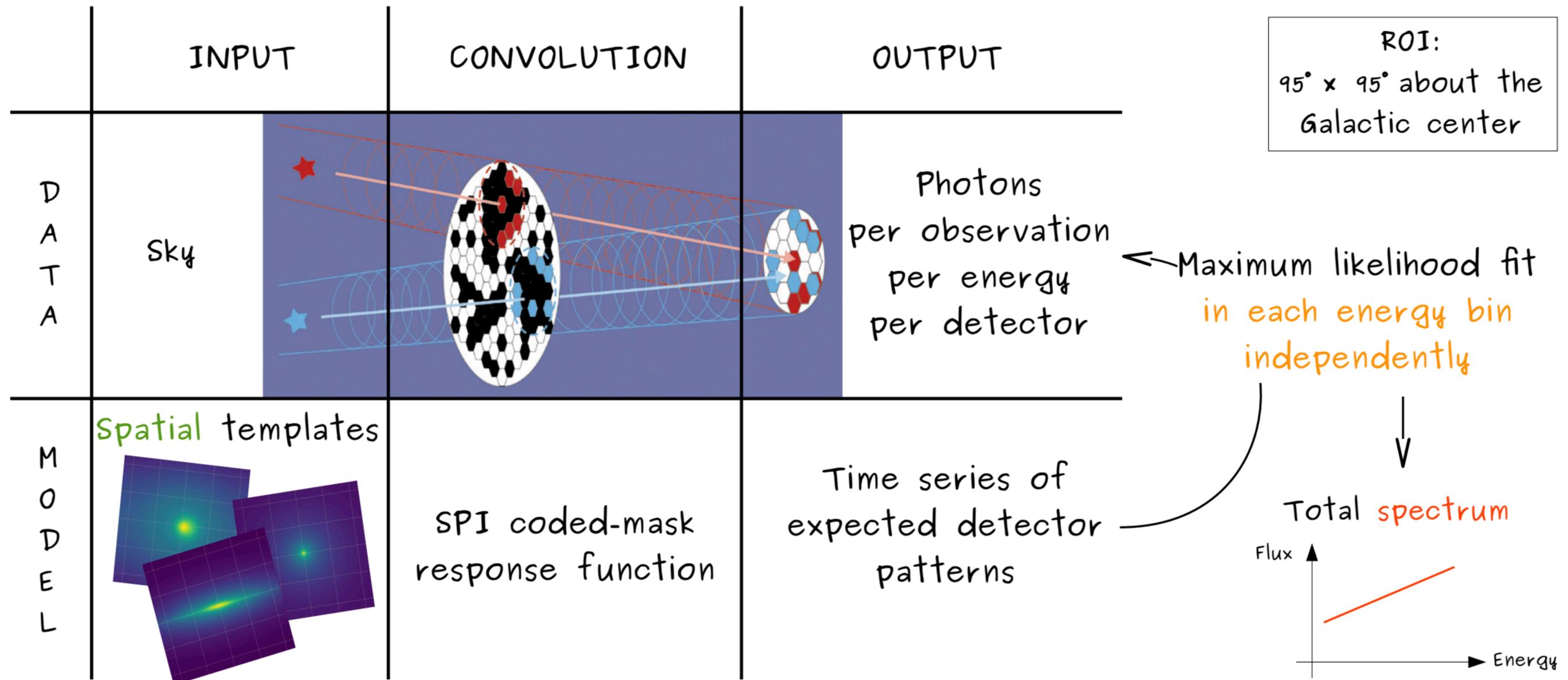
Macias+ Nature Astronomy'18; Macias+ JCAP'19



An (at least) partial **stellar origin of the GeV excess** seems to be confirmed

An old instrument, a new analysis

Diffuse Galactic emission spectrum with SPI 16yr data



Credit: J. Berteaud, RICAPP'22