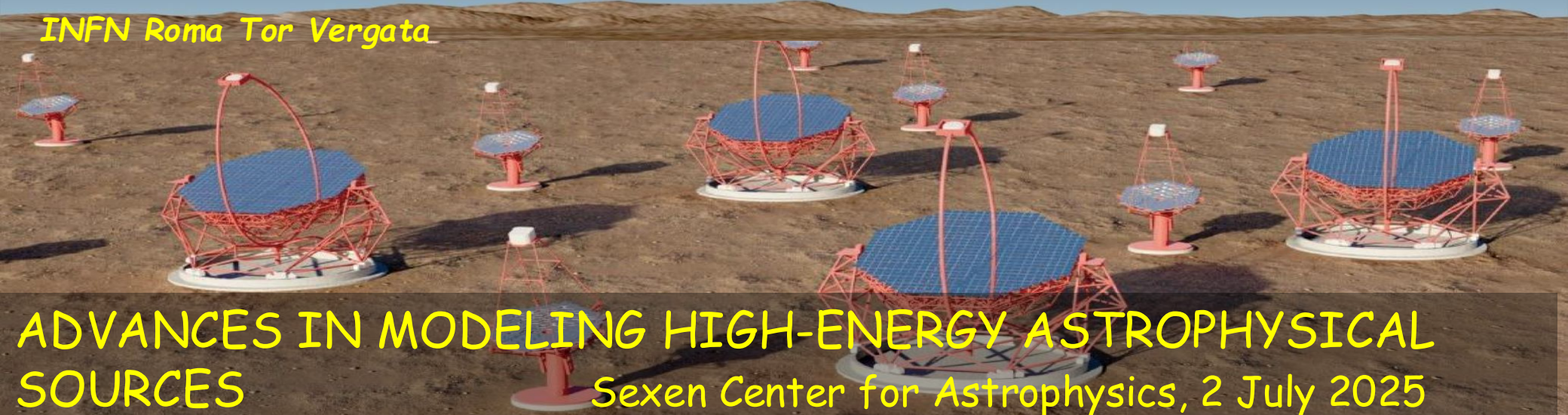


Multimessenger searches for Dark Matter



Aldo Morselli

INFN Roma Tor Vergata



ADVANCES IN MODELING HIGH-ENERGY ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCES

Sexen Center for Astrophysics, 2 July 2025

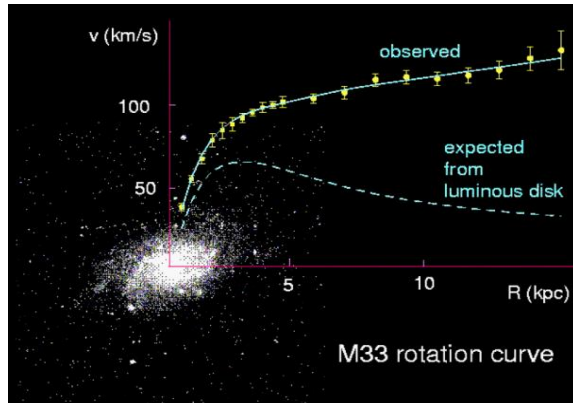
Dark Matter EVIDENCE

In 1933, the astronomer Zwicky realized that the mass of the luminous matter in the Coma cluster was much smaller than its total mass implied by the motion of cluster member galaxies.

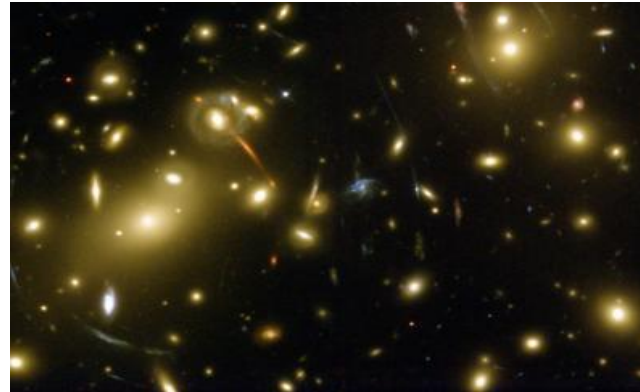
Since then, even more evidence:



Rotation curves of galaxies



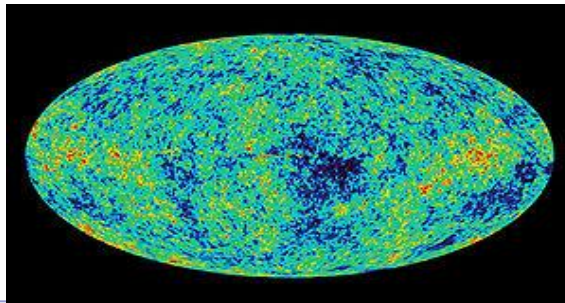
Gravitational lensing



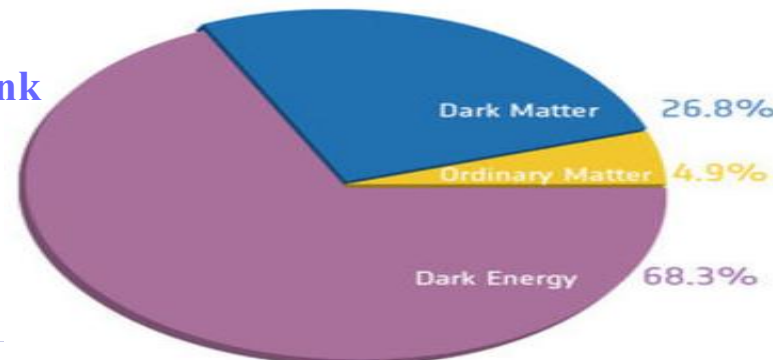
Bullet cluster



Structure formation as deduced from CMB



Data by Plank
imply:



$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \approx 26.8\%$$

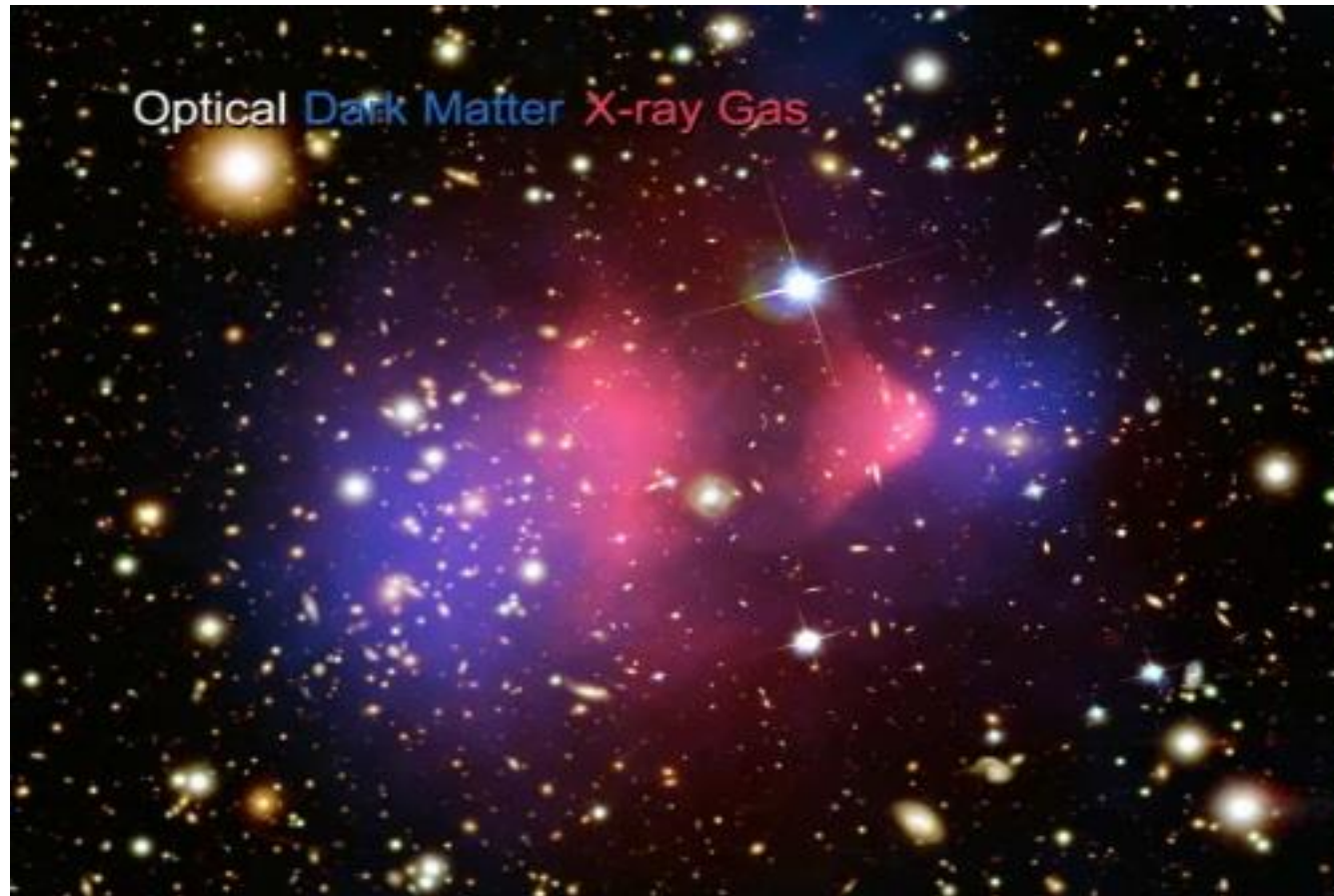
$$\Omega_{\text{M}} \approx 4.9\%$$

Dark Matter really exist ?

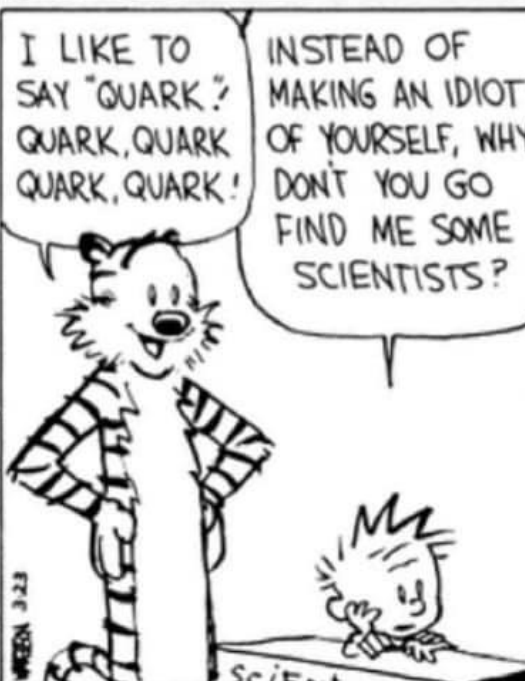
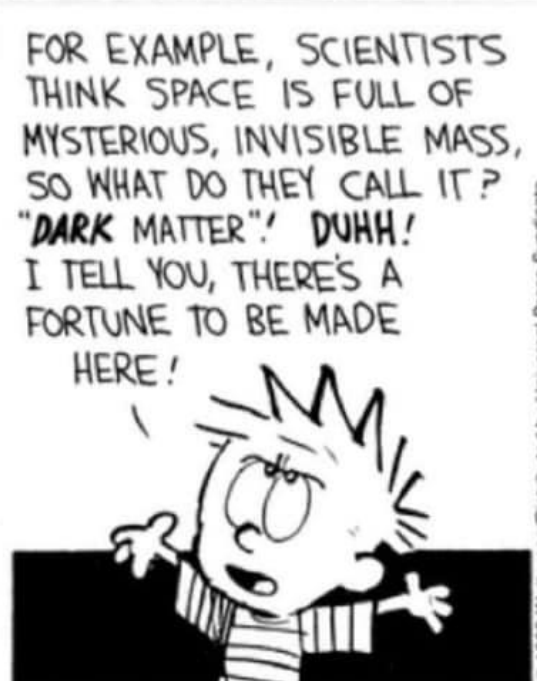
astro:ph/0608407

color image from the Magellan images
of the merging cluster 1E0657-558

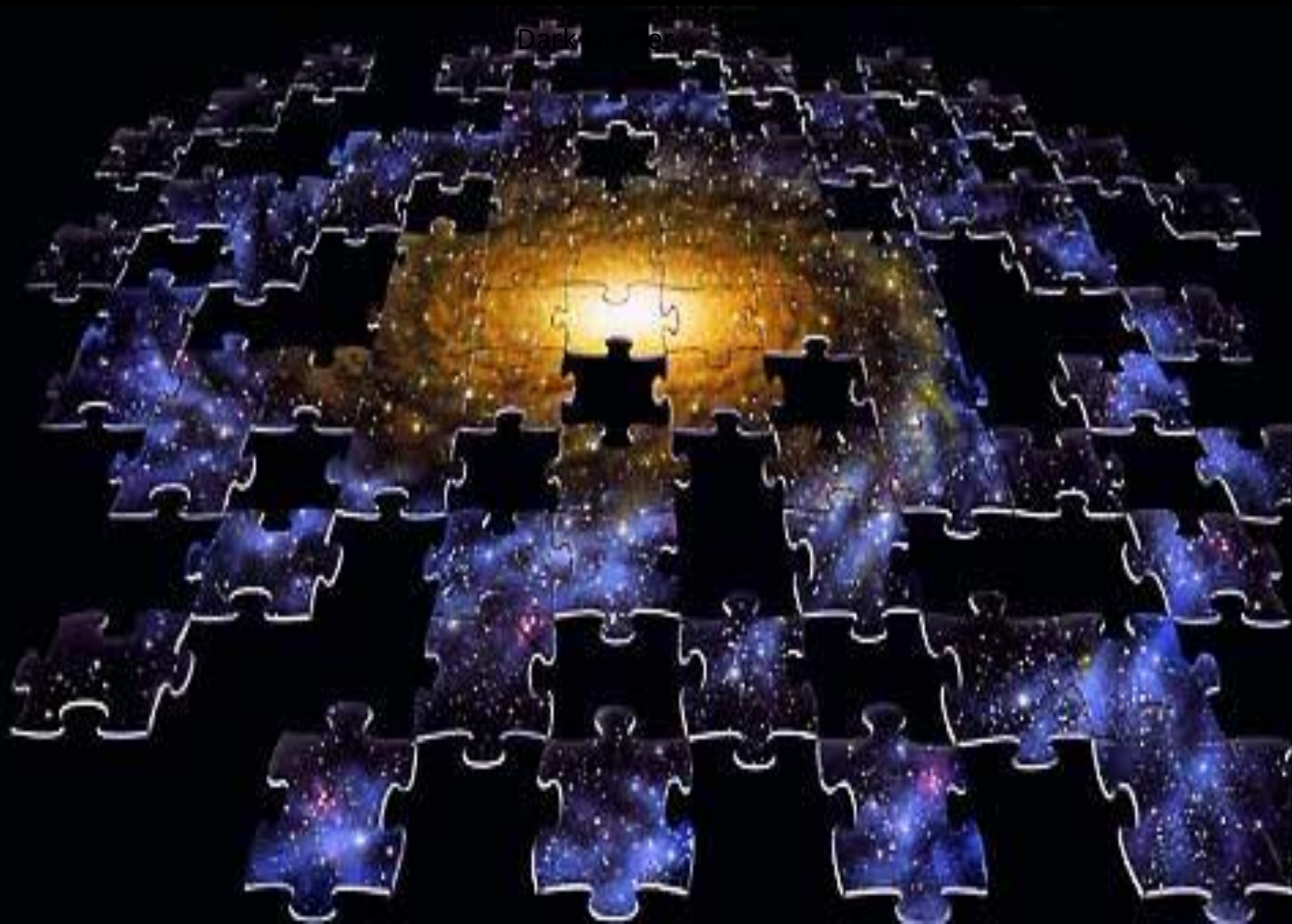
Chandra image of the cluster



Due to the collision of two clusters, the dissipationless stellar component and the fluid-like X-ray emitting plasma are spatially segregated



Dark Matter

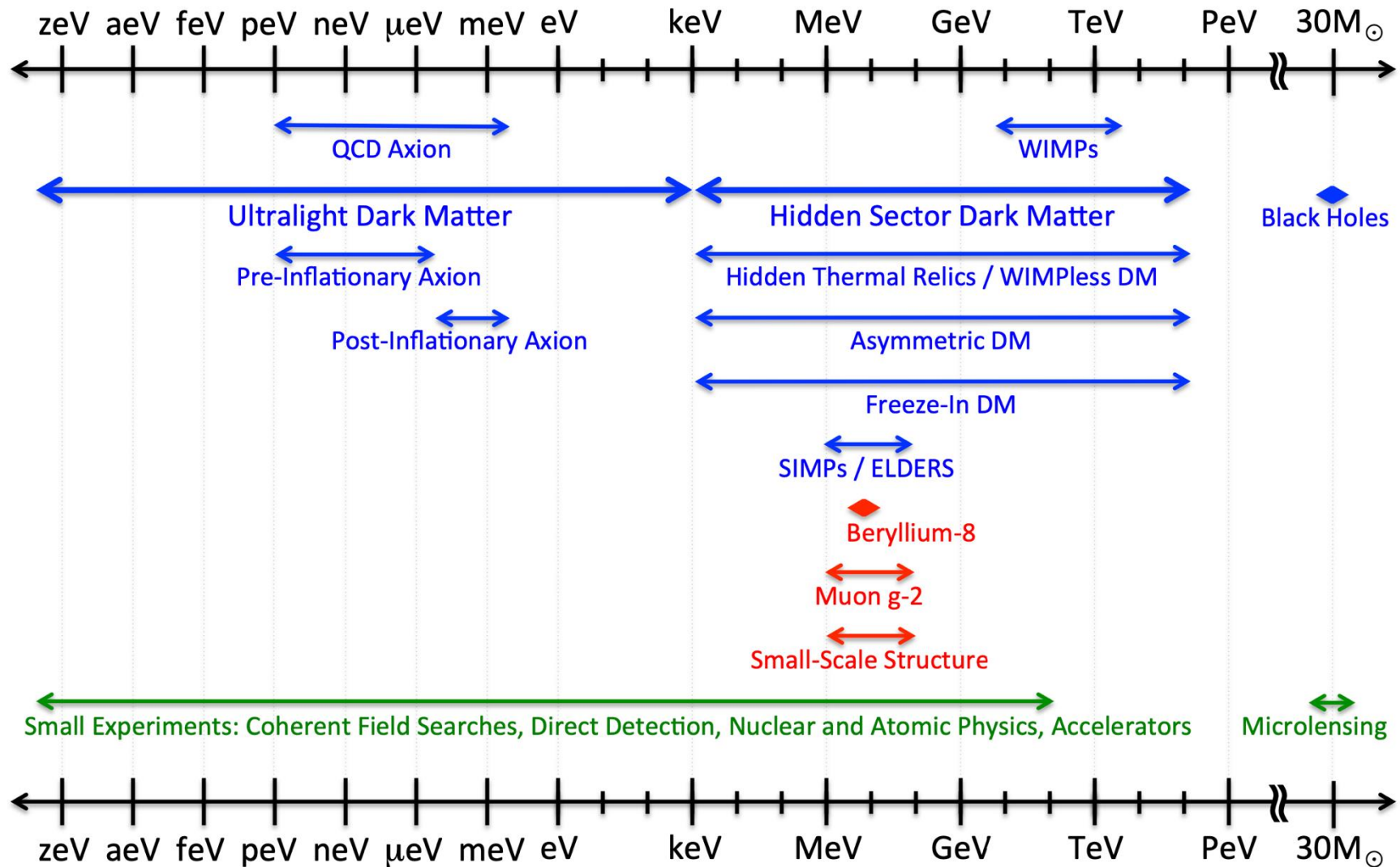


What is dark matter made of ?

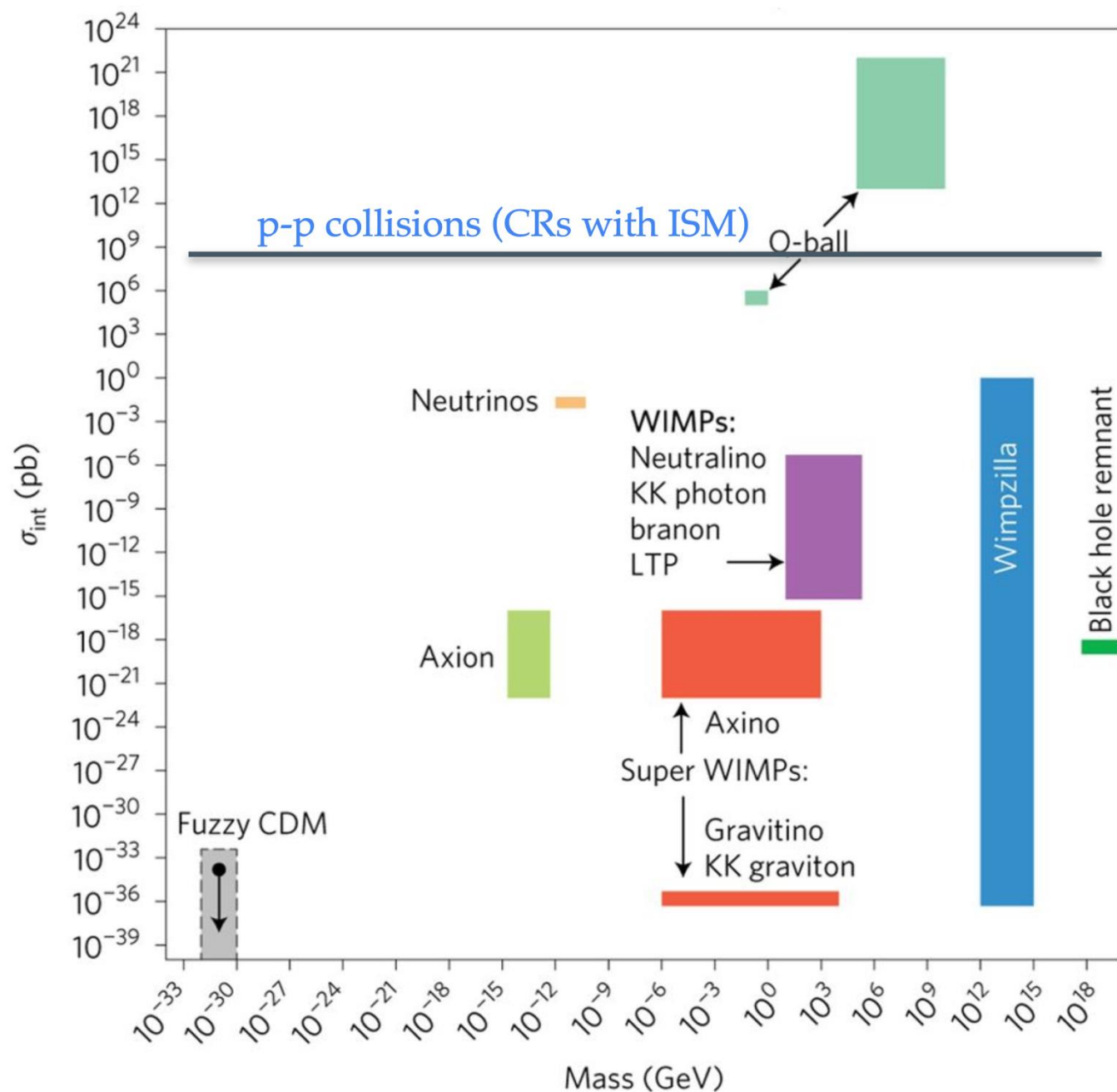


Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques

Dark Sector Candidates, **Anomalies**, and **Search Techniques**

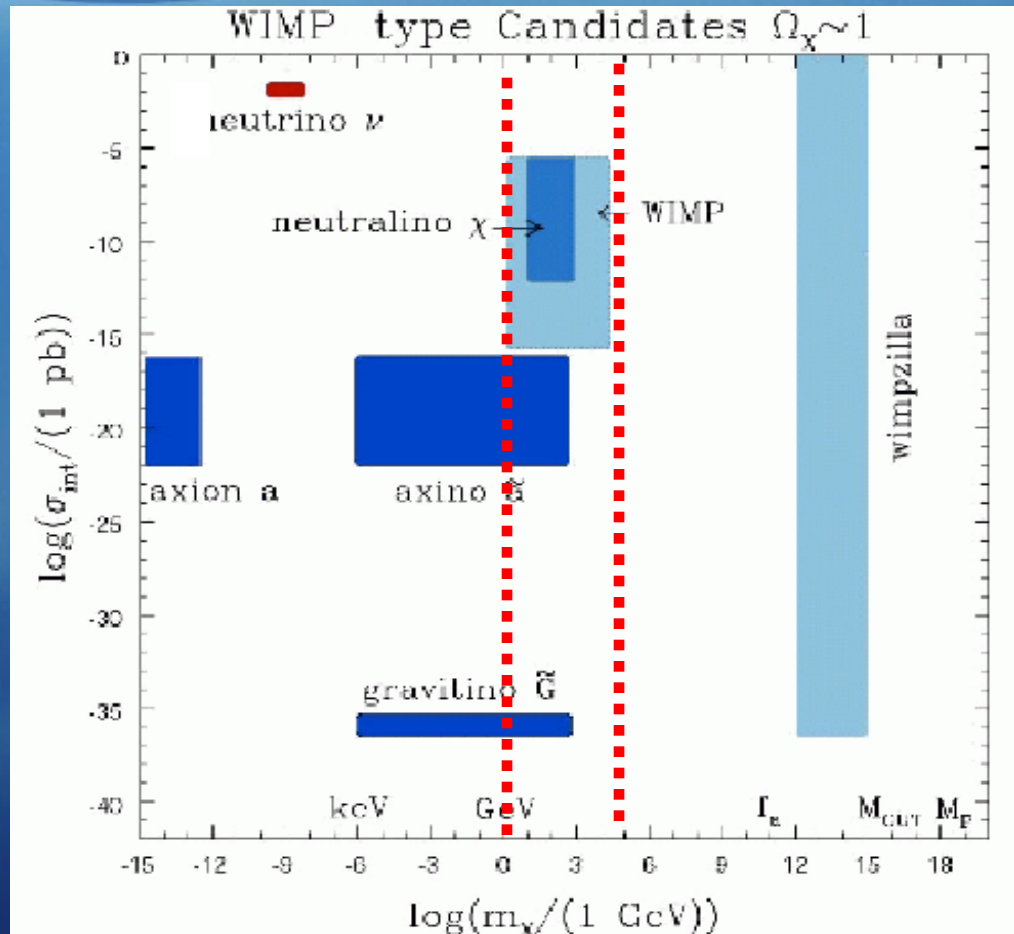


Some particle dark matter candidates



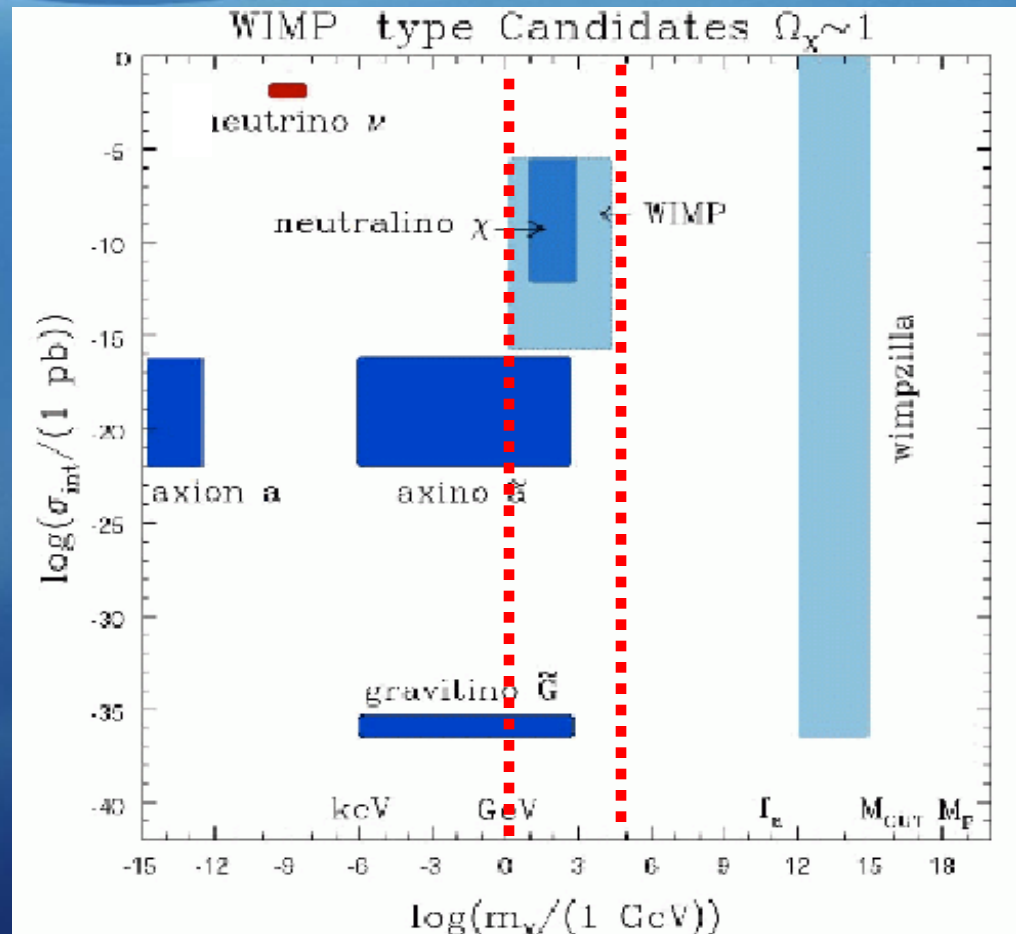
Dark Matter Candidates

- Kaluza-Klein DM in UED
- Kaluza-Klein DM in RS
- Axion
- Axino
- Gravitino
- Photino
- SM Neutrino
- Sterile Neutrino
- Sneutrino
- Light DM
- Little Higgs DM
- Wimpzillas
- Q-balls
- Mirror Matter
- Champs (charged DM)
- D-matter
- Cryptons
- Self-interacting
- Superweakly interacting
- Braneworld DM
- Heavy neutrino
- NEUTRALINO
- Messenger States in GMSB
- Branons
- Chaplygin Gas
- Split SUSY
- Primordial Black Holes



Dark Matter Candidates

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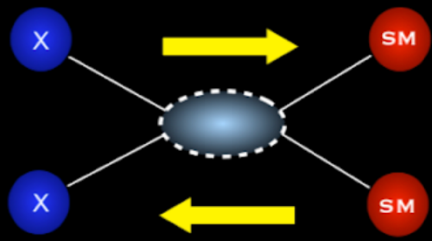




WIMPs

By far the most studied class of dark matter candidates.

The WIMP paradigm is based on a simple yet powerful idea:



The diagram illustrates the production and annihilation of WIMPs. On the left, two blue circles labeled 'X' represent incoming particles. On the right, two red circles labeled 'SM' represent Standard Model particles. A central dashed blue oval represents the interaction region. A yellow arrow points from the 'X' particles towards the interaction region, and another yellow arrow points from the 'SM' particles away from the interaction region, indicating the flow of particles.

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} - 3Hn_\chi = -\langle\sigma v\rangle [n_\chi^2 - (n_\chi^{\text{eq}})^2]$$

Weak-scale cross sections can reproduce observed relic density

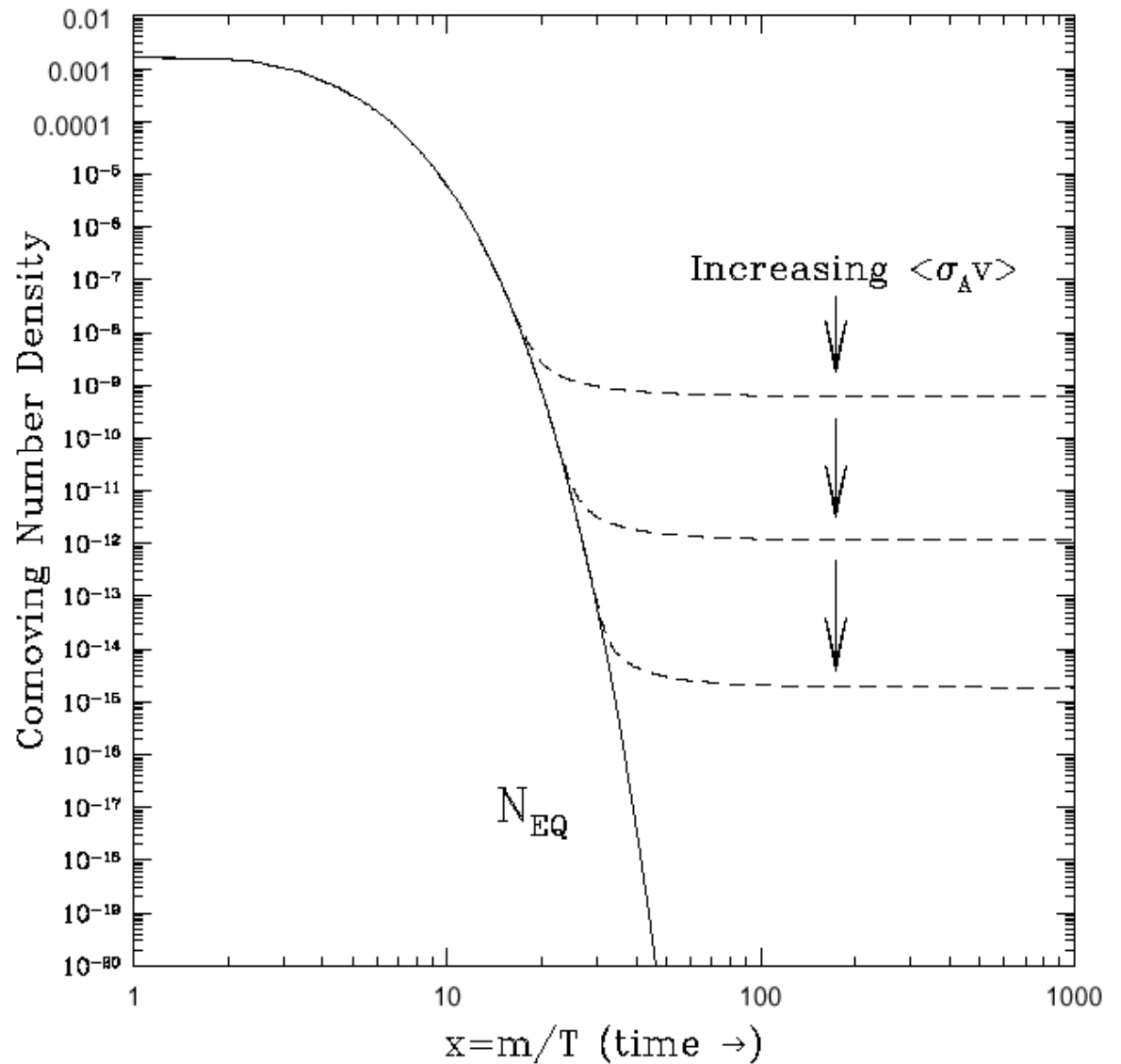
$$\Omega h^2 \approx \frac{3 \times 10^{-27} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}}{\langle\sigma v\rangle}$$

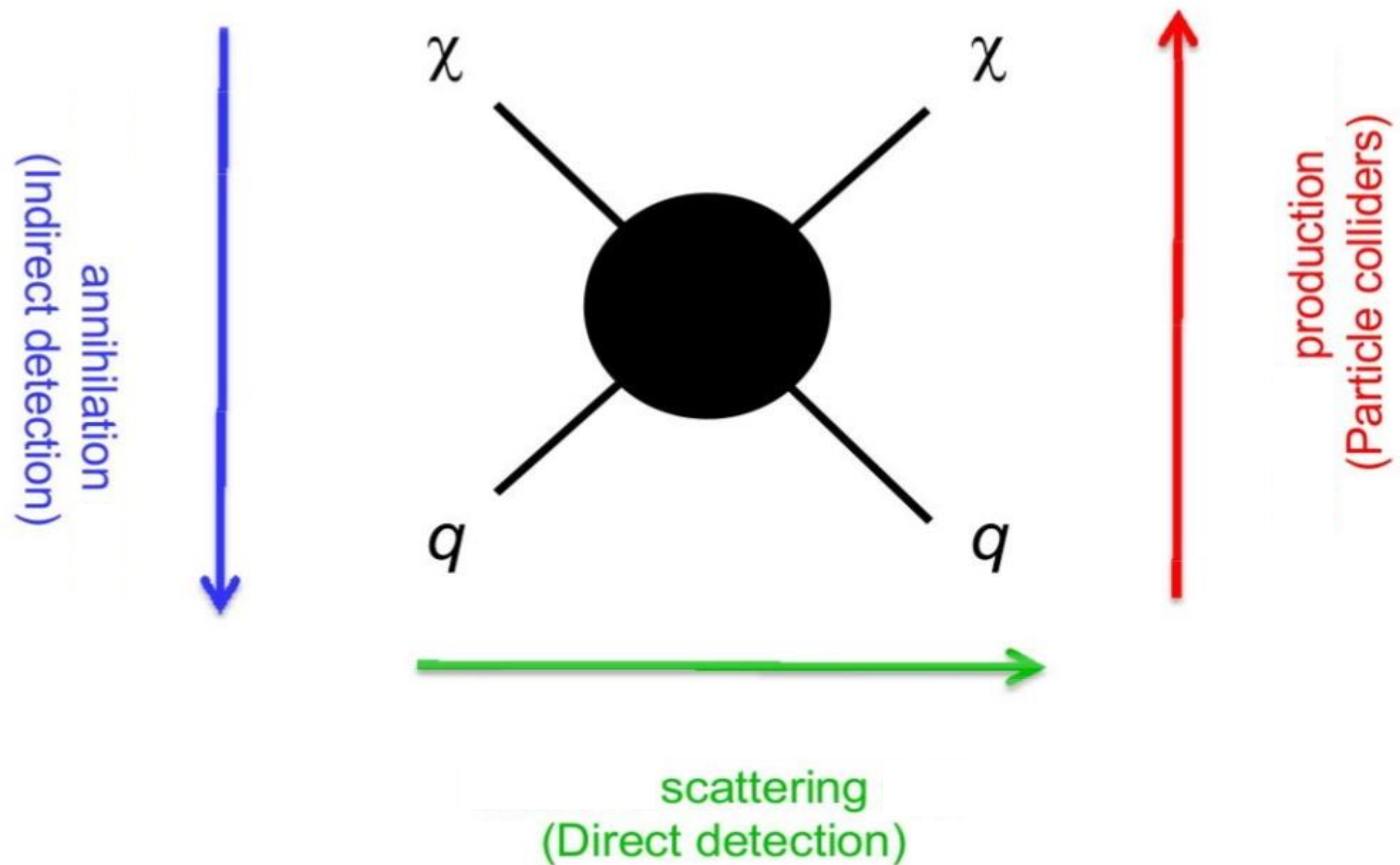
‘WIMP miracle’: new physics at ~ 1 TeV solves at same time fundamental problems of particle physics (*hierarchy problem*) AND DM

Thermal relics

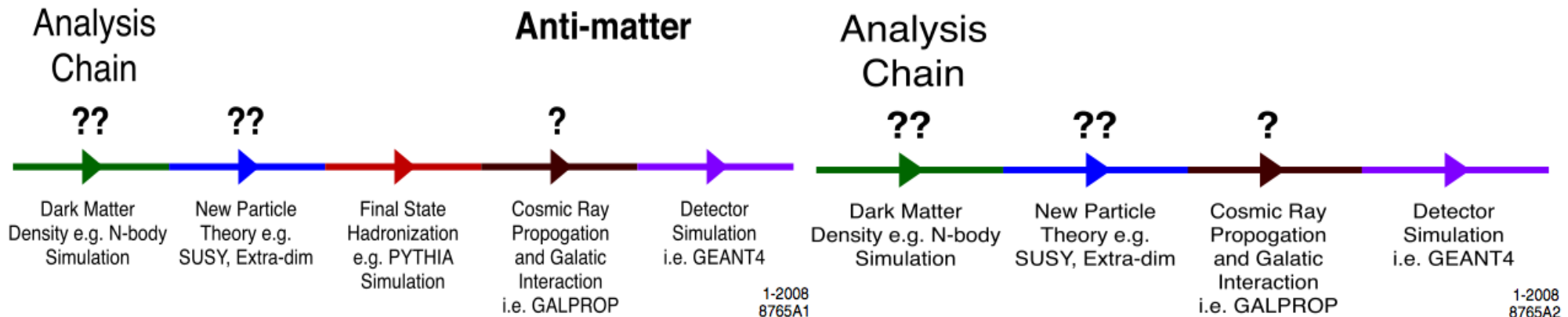
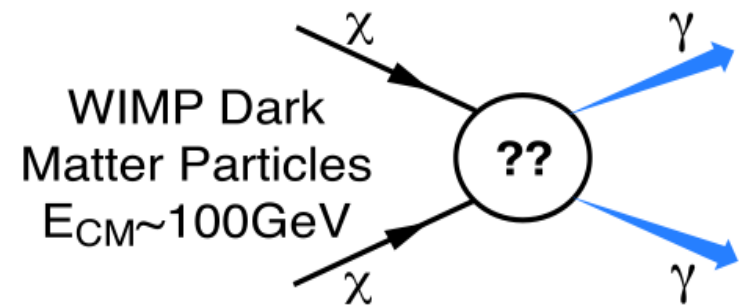
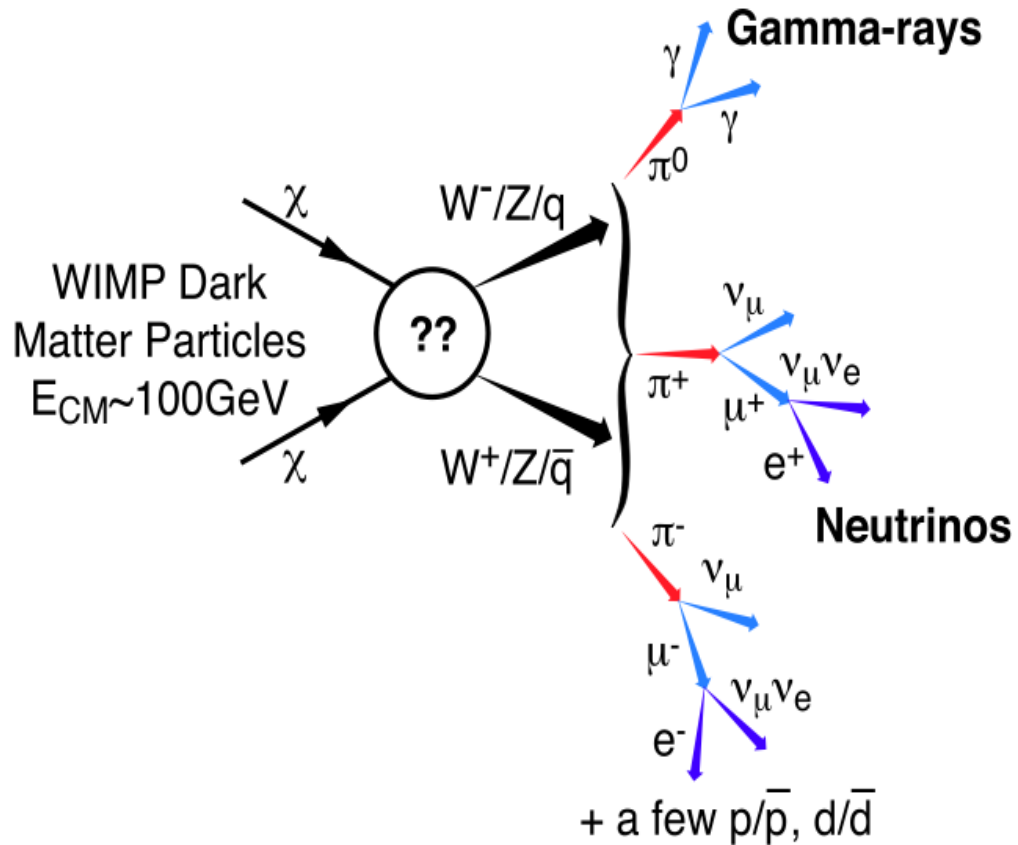
Freeze out at $\Omega_\chi h^2 = \frac{m_\chi n_\chi}{\rho_c}$

$$\approx \frac{3 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ sec}^{-1}}{\sigma_a v}$$





Annihilation channels



Signal rate from WIMP annihilation

gamma-ray flux from
WIMP annihilation

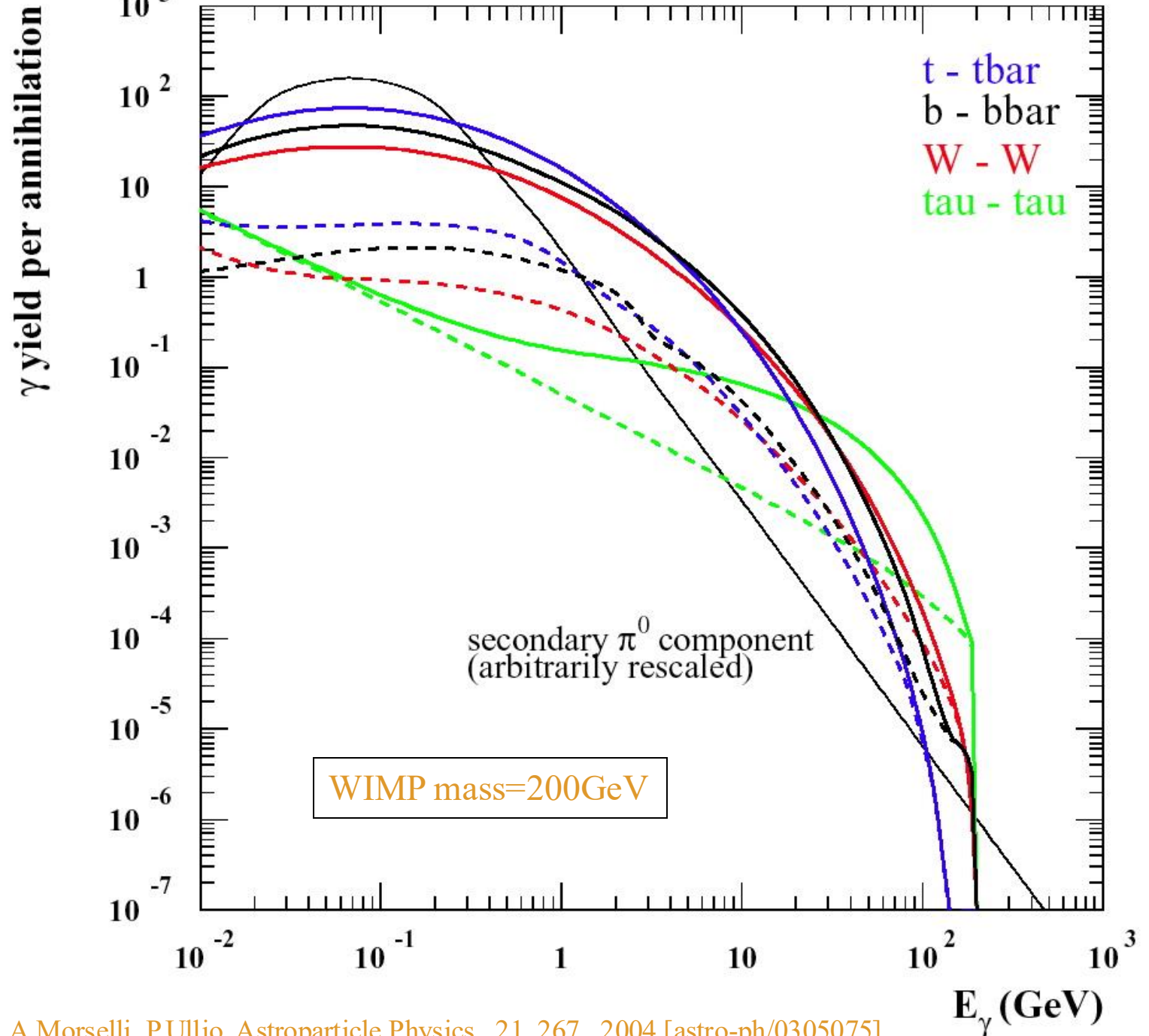
$$\phi(E, \Delta\Omega) \propto \left(\frac{\sigma v}{m_\chi^2} \right) \int_{l.o.s} \int_{\Delta\Omega} \rho^2(l) dl d\Omega$$

governed by
particle physics
(supersymmetric
parameters .. etc)

$J(\varphi)$:

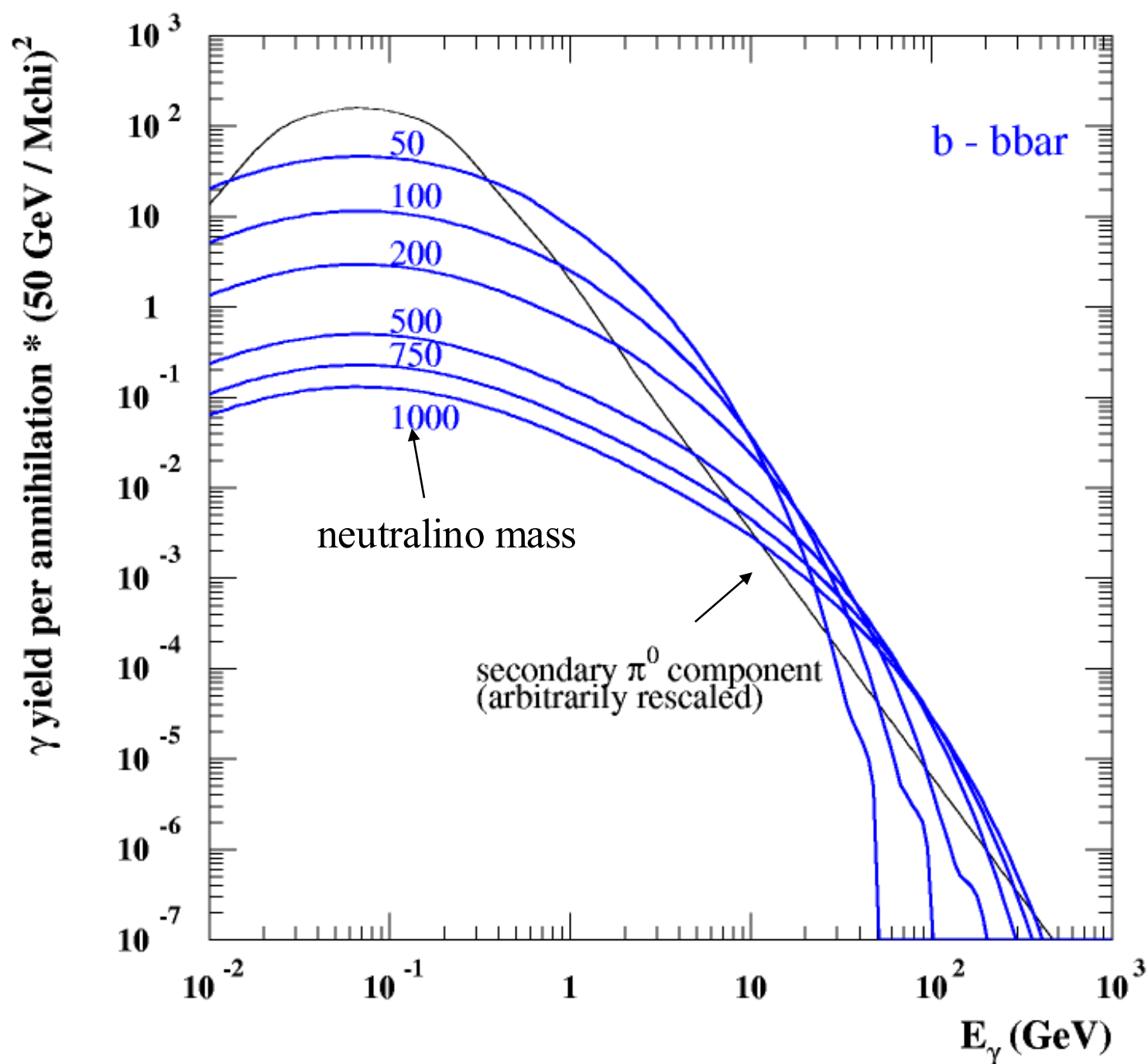
governed by
halo distribution

Differential yield
for each
annihilation
channel



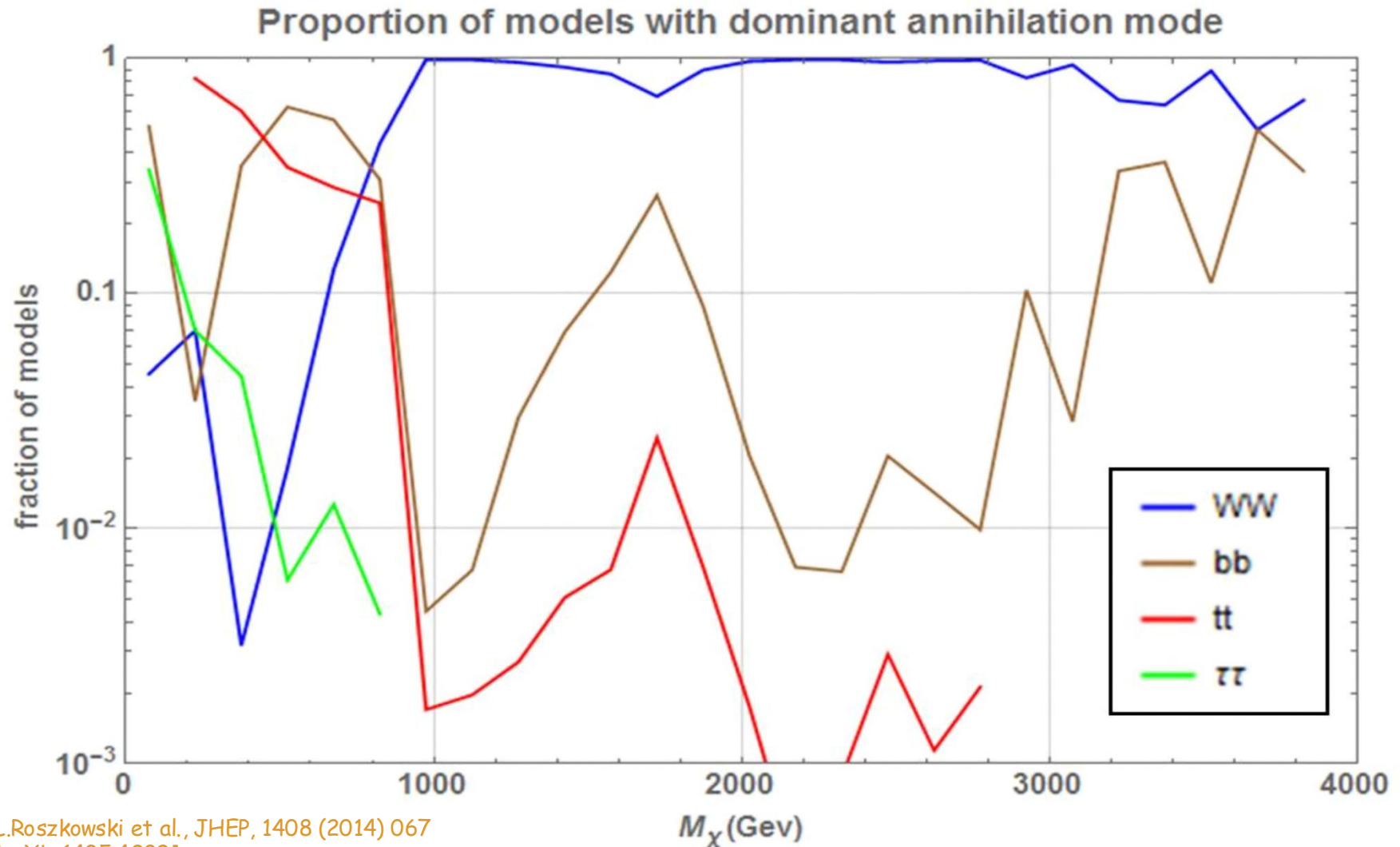
dashed lines are
components not due
to π^0 decay.

Differential yield
for b bar



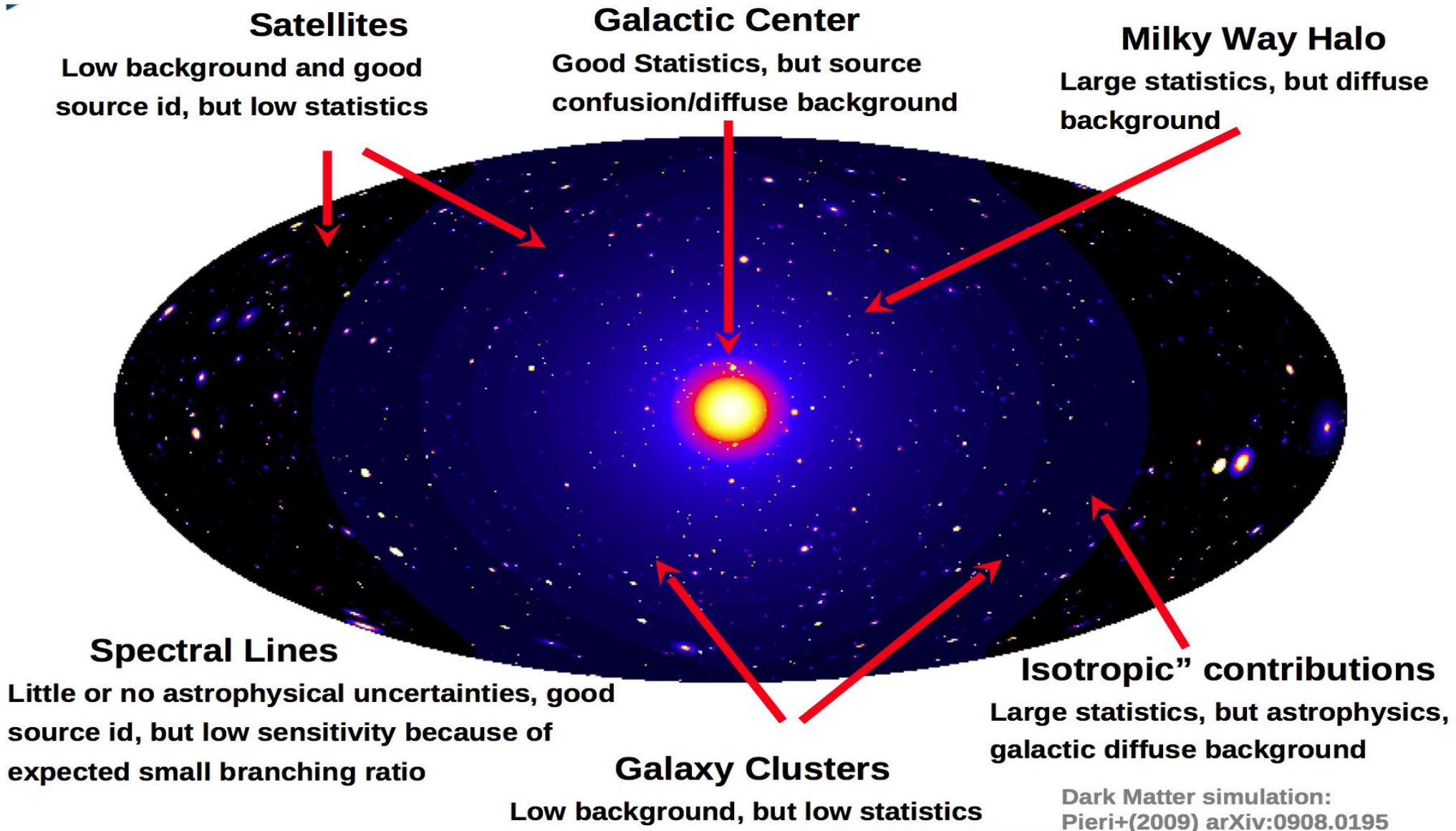
Which channel to choose?

Example: The dominant annihilation modes in the pMSSM scan



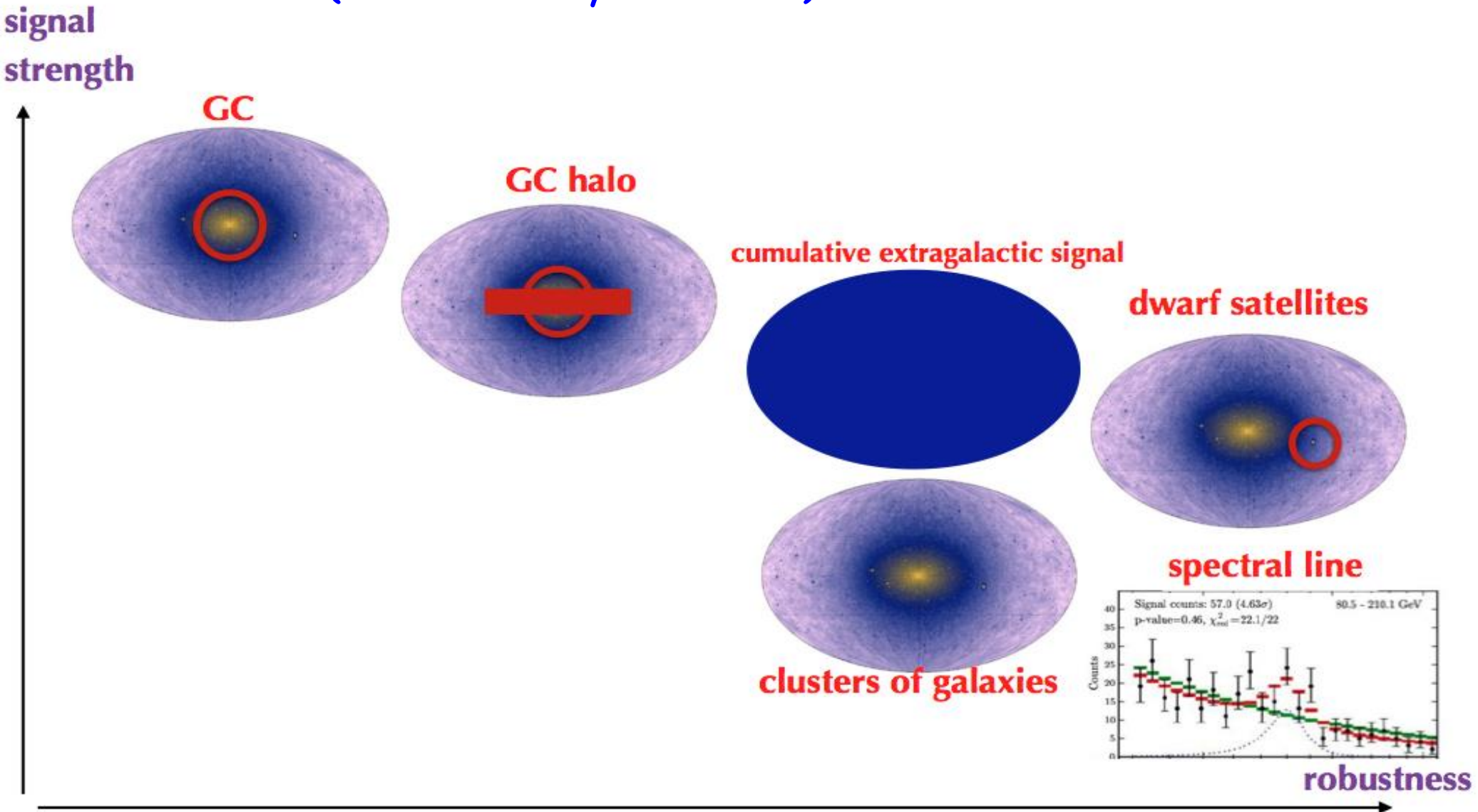
L.Roszkowski et al., JHEP, 1408 (2014) 067
[arXiv:1405.4289]

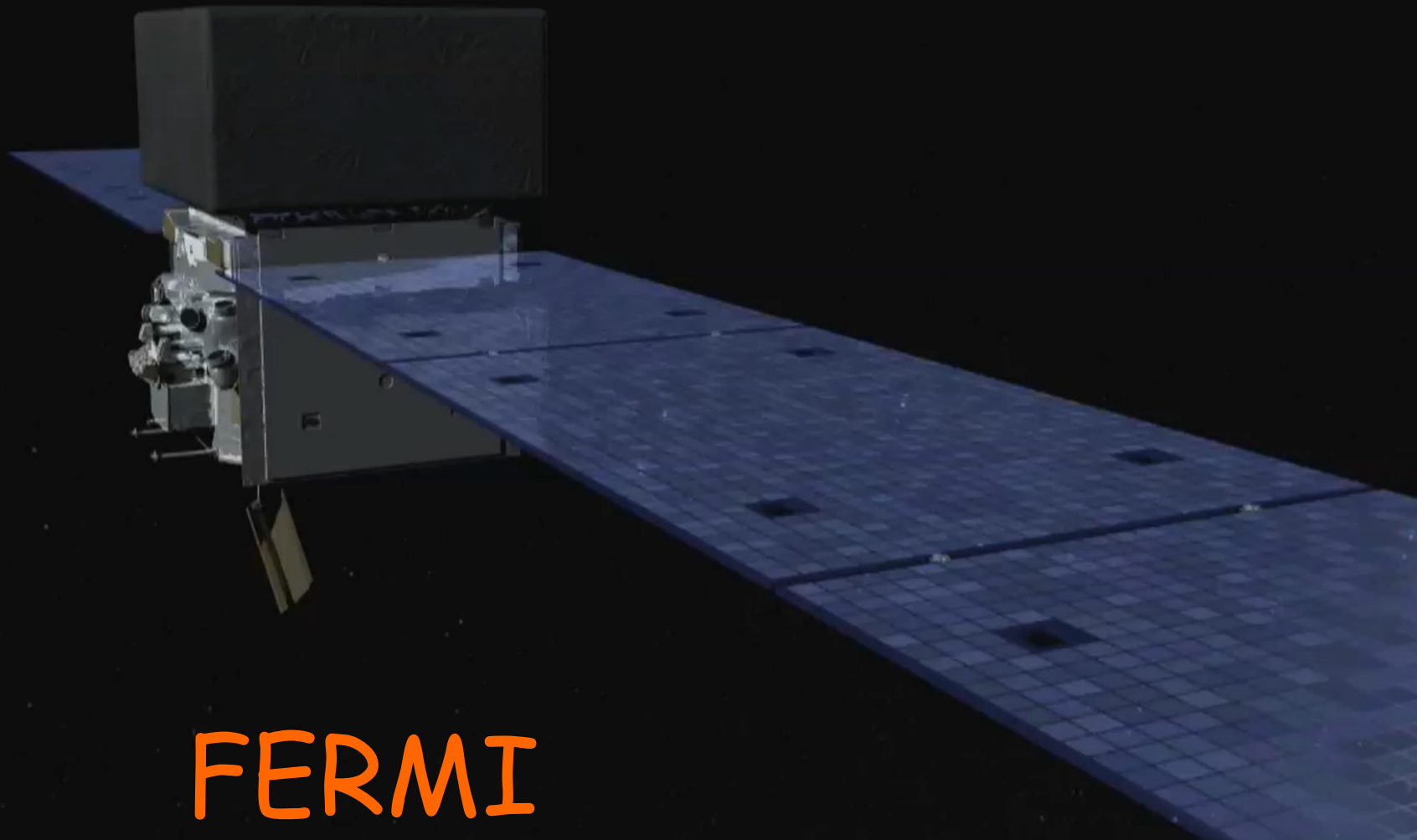
Dark Matter Search: Targets and Strategies



Dark Matter Search: Targets and Strategies

(Another way to see it)





FERMI

Large Area Telescope



11 June 2008

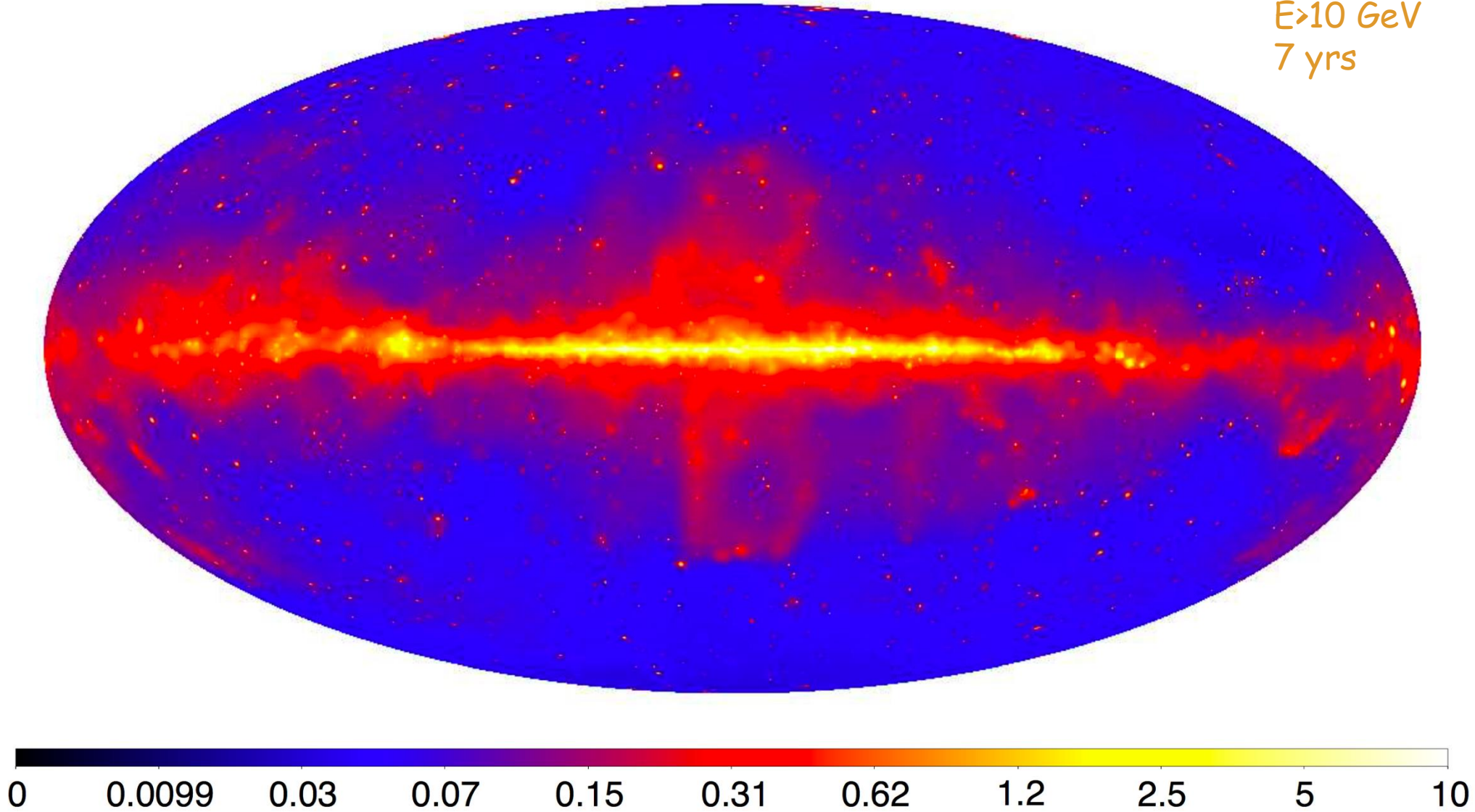


Happy 17th Birthday Fermi !!

11 June 2008

The sky in gamma-rays

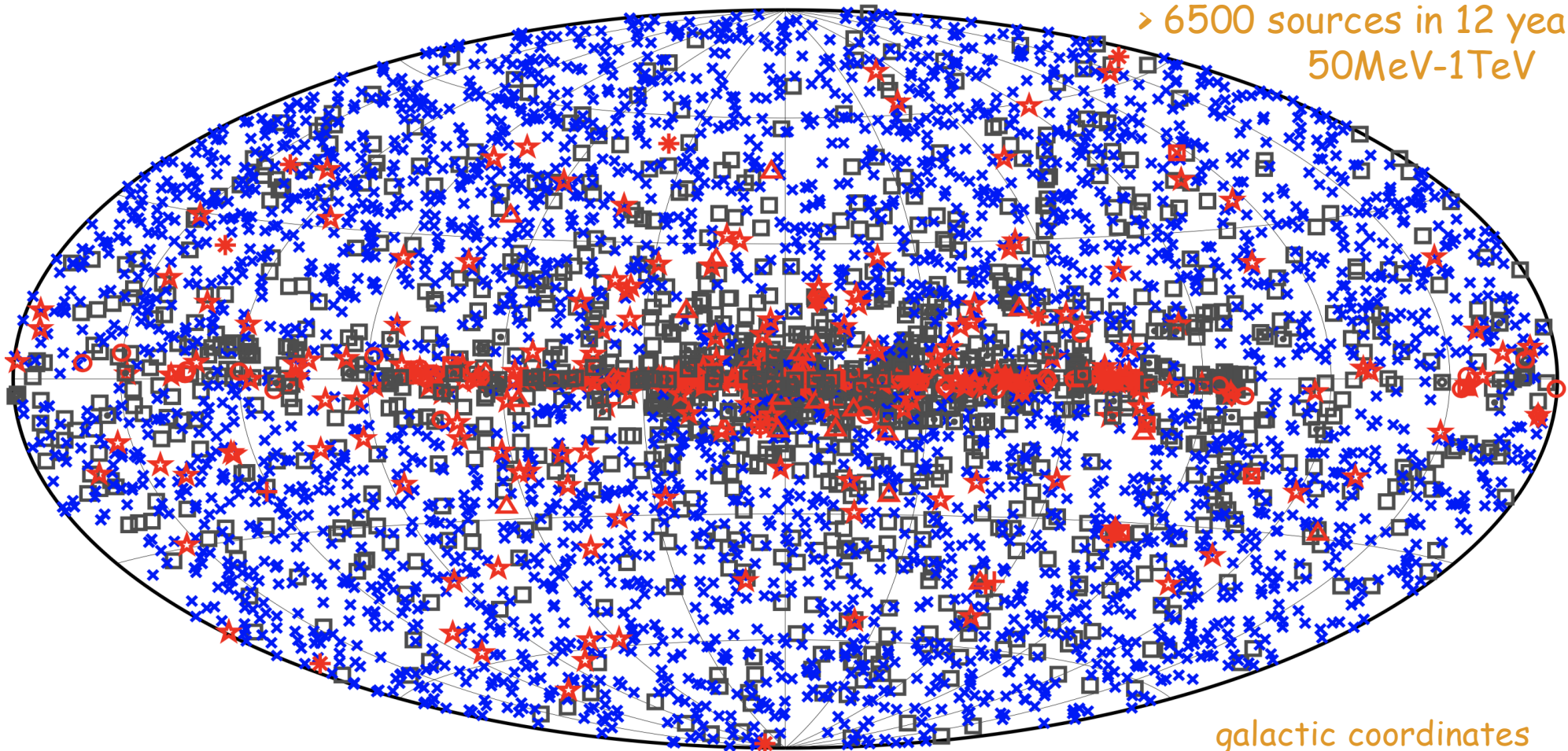
$E > 10 \text{ GeV}$
7 yrs



M. Ackermann et al. [Fermi Coll.] 3FHL: The Third Catalog of Hard Fermi-LAT Sources *ApJS* 2017 232 [arXiv:1702.00664](https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.00664)

The sky in gamma-rays 4th source catalog

> 6500 sources in 12 years
50MeV-1TeV

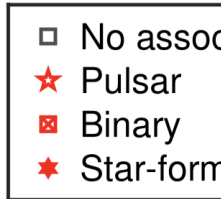
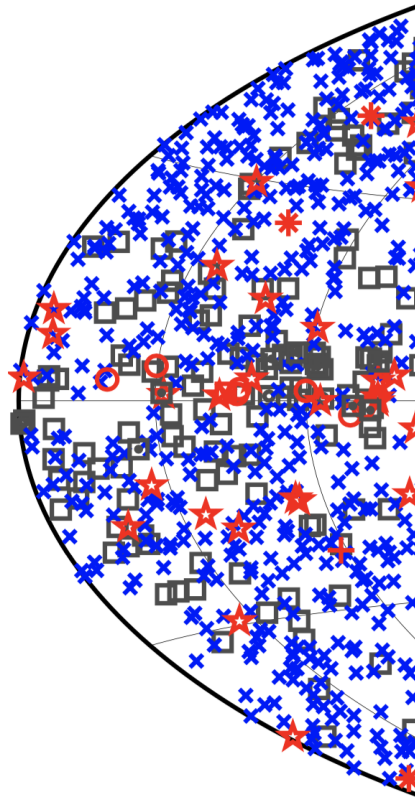


□ No association	▣ Possible association with SNR or PWN	× AGN
★ Pulsar	△ Globular cluster	◆ PWN
▣ Binary	+ Galaxy	⊙ SNR
★ Star-forming region	▣ Unclassified source	⊛ Nova



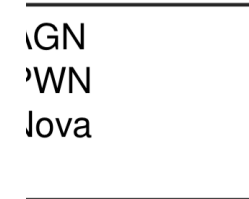
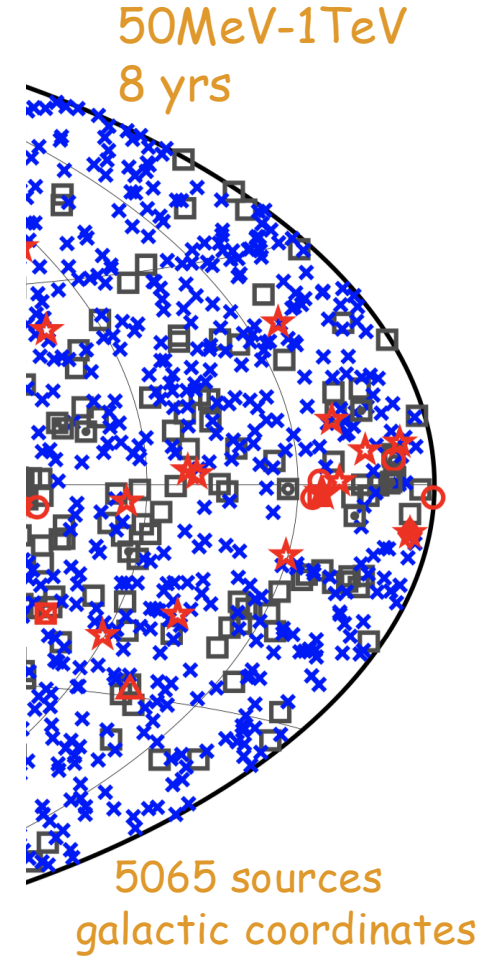
Fermi Fourth Source Catalog, *The Astrophysical Journal* ss, 247; 33 March 2020 [arXiv:1902.10045]
+ Incremental Fermi Large Area Telescope Fourth Source Catalog arXiv:2201.11184

The sky in gamma-rays 4th source catalog



Description	Identified		Associated	
	Designator	Number	Designator	Number
Pulsar, identified by pulsations	PSR	229	...	...
Pulsar, no pulsations seen in LAT yet	...	...	psr	10
Pulsar wind nebula	PWN	12	pwn	6
Supernova remnant	SNR	24	snr	16
Supernova remnant / Pulsar wind nebula	SPP	0	spp	90
Globular cluster	GLC	0	glc	30
Star-forming region	SFR	3	sfr	0
High-mass binary	HMB	5	hmb	3
Low-mass binary	LMB	1	lmb	1
Binary	BIN	1	bin	0
Nova	NOV	1	nov	0
BL Lac type of blazar	BLL	22	bll	1094
FSRQ type of blazar	FSRQ	42	fsrq	644
Radio galaxy	RDG	6	rdg	36
Non-blazar active galaxy	AGN	1	agn	17
Steep spectrum radio quasar	SSRQ	0	ssrq	2
Compact Steep Spectrum radio source	CSS	0	css	5
Blazar candidate of uncertain type	BCU	3	bcu	1327
Narrow line Seyfert 1	NLSY1	4	nlsy1	5
Seyfert galaxy	SEY	0	sey	1
Starburst galaxy	SBG	0	sbg	7
Normal galaxy (or part)	GAL	2	gal	2
Unknown	UNK	0	unk	92
Total	...	356	...	3388
Unassociated	...	...	...	1323

NOTE—The designation ‘spp’ indicates potential association with SNR or PWN. Designations shown in capital letters are firm identifications; lower case letters indicate associations.

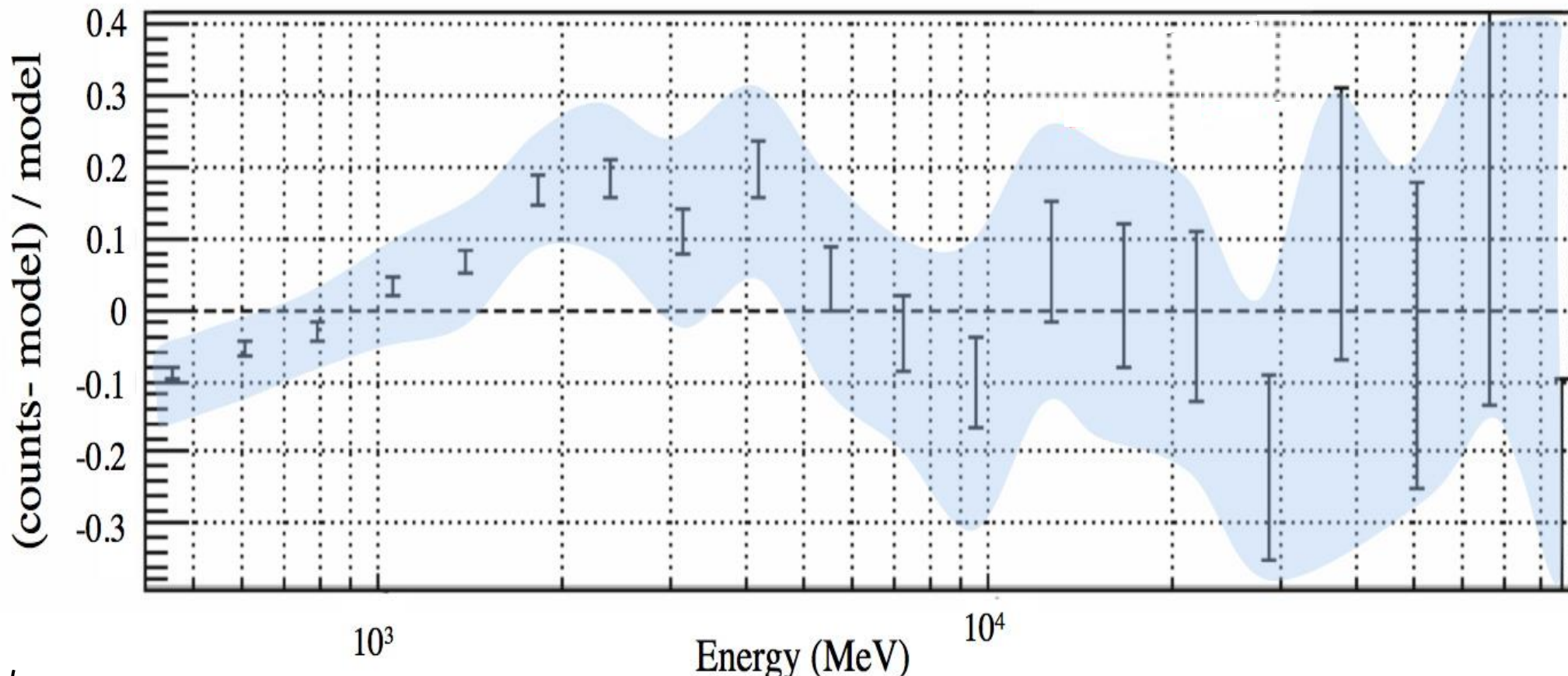


Fermi Fourth Source Catalog, *The Astrophysical Journal* ss, 247; 33 March 2020 [arXiv:1902.10045]

The GeV excess

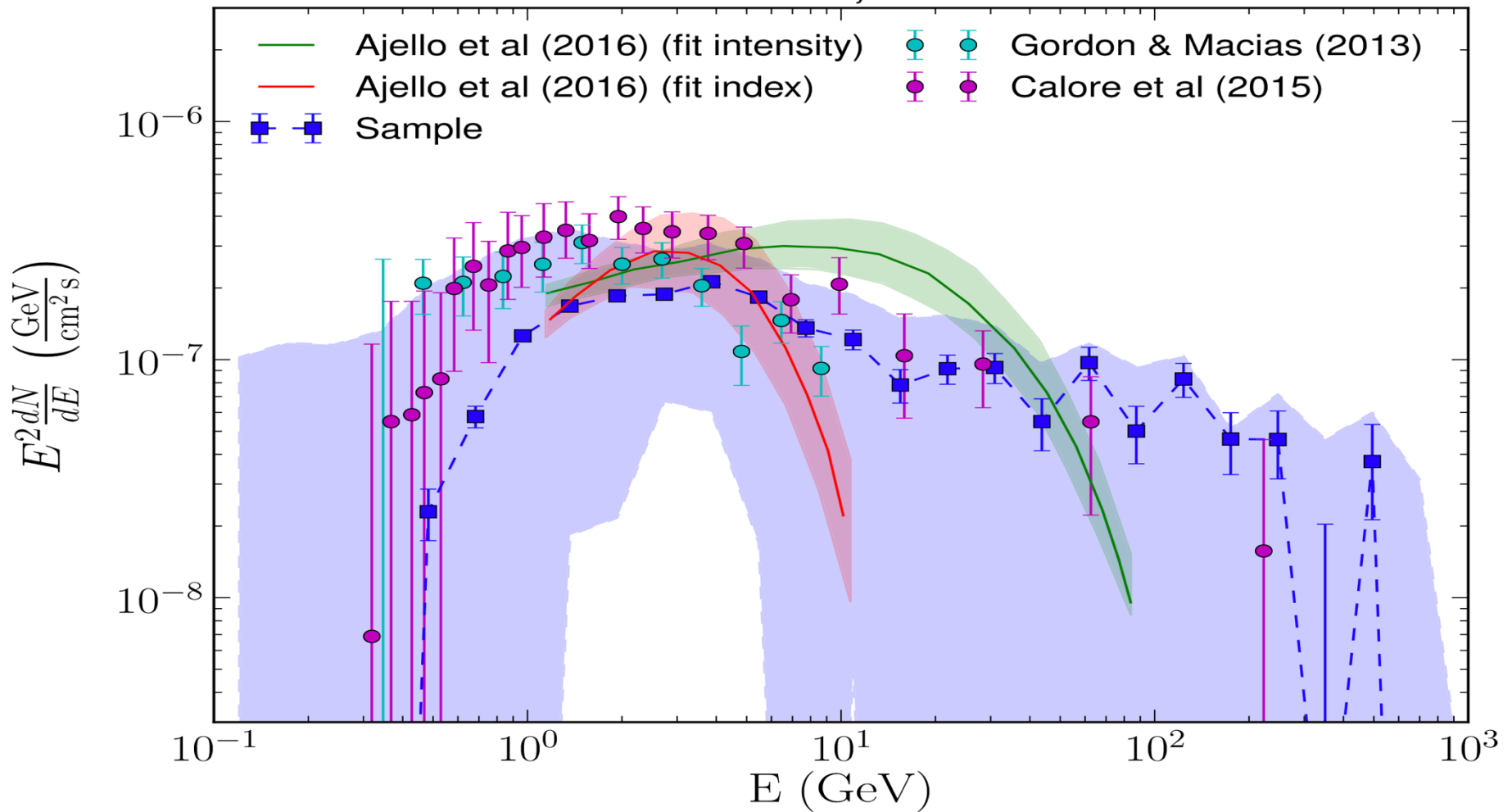
7° x 7° region centered on the Galactic Center
11 months of data, $E > 400$ MeV, front-converting events
analyzed with binned likelihood analysis)

- The systematic uncertainty of the effective area (blue area) of the LAT is $\sim 10\%$ at 100 MeV, decreasing to 5% at 560 MeV and increasing to 20% at 10 GeV



V.Vitale, A.Morselli, Fermi Coll. 2009 arXiv:0912.3828 [Fermi Symposium eConf Proceedings C091122](#)

The GeV excess (Pass8 analysis)



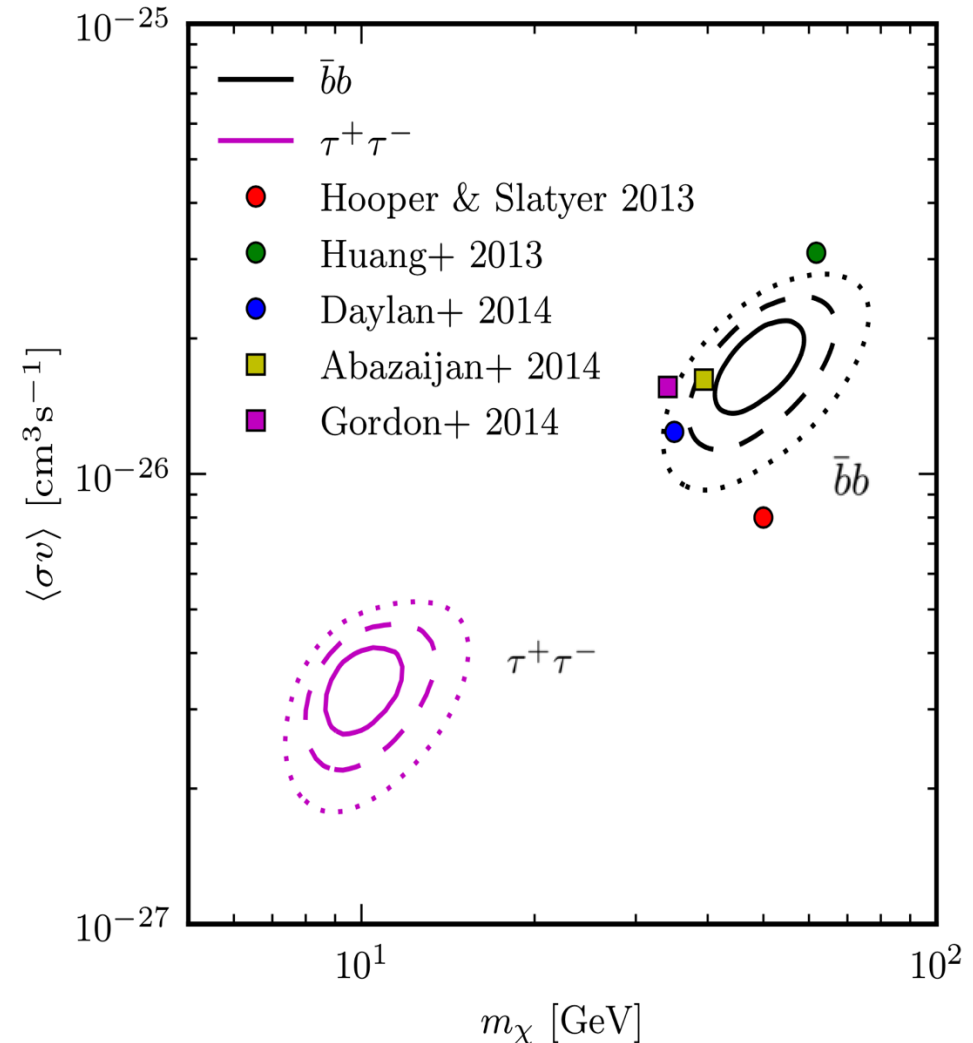
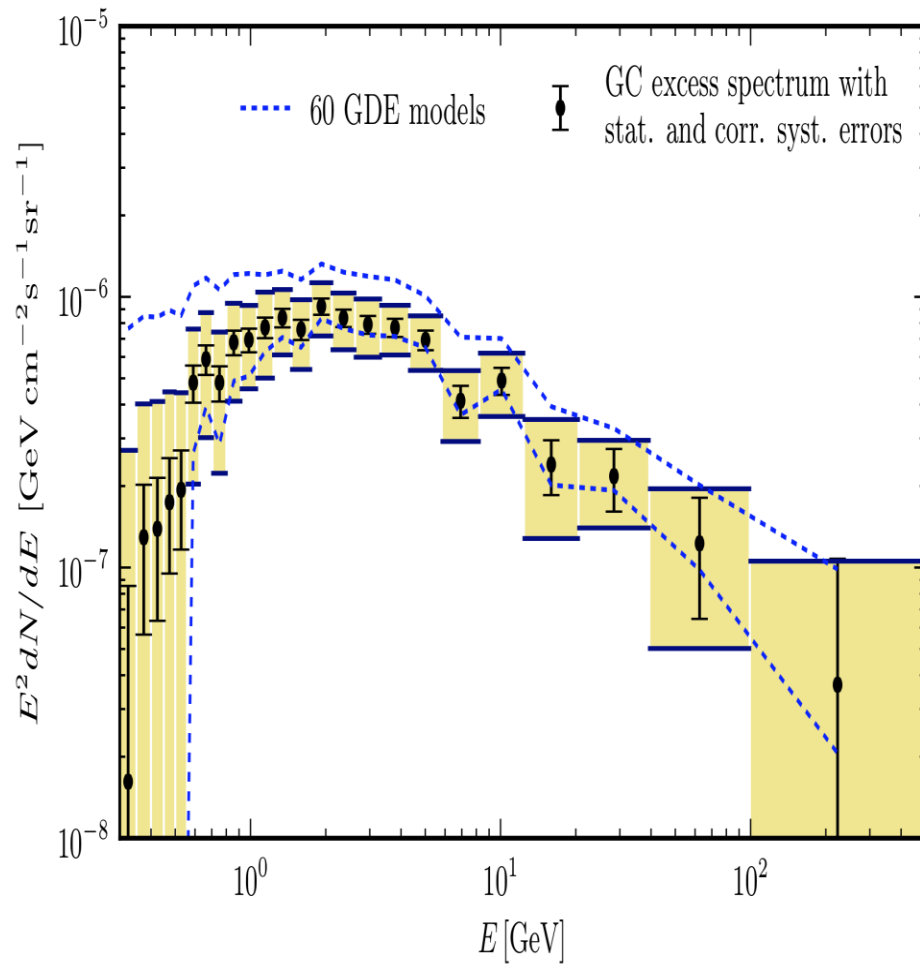
following uncertainties have relatively small effect on the excess spectrum

- Variation of GALPROP models - Distribution of gas along the line of sight

• **Most significant sources of uncertainty are:**

- Fermi bubbles morphology at low latitude - Sources of CR electrons near the GC

The GeV excess



A lot of activity outside the Fermi collaboration with claims of evidence for dark matter in the Galactic Center
 Calore et al, arXiv:1409.0042v1

se non e' vero e' ben trovato (if it's not true it's well thought out)

The GeV excess : Other explanations exist

- past activity of the Galactic center

(e.g. Petrovic et al., arXiv:1405.7928, Carlson & Profumo arXiv:1405.7685)

- Series of Leptonic Cosmic-Ray Outbursts

Cholis et al. arXiv:1506.05119

- Stellar population of the X-bulge and the nuclear bulge

Macias et al. arXiv:1611.06644

- Population of pulsars in the Galactic bulge

e.g. , Yuan and Zhang arXiv:1404.2318v1, Lee et al. arXiv:1506.05124, Bartels et.al. 1506.05104

M.Ajello et al. [Fermi-LAT Coll.] Phys. Rev. D 95, 082007 (2017) [arXiv:1704.07195]

.....

- Robustness of the Galactic Center Excess

leading explanations being annihilating dark matter or an unresolved population of millisecond pulsars Zhong & Cholis arXiv:2401.02481

How to discriminate between different hypothesis ?

How to discriminate between different hypothesis ?

eROSITA

Modeling of the Fermi bubbles

Look for correlated features near the Galactic center

HESS, MAGIC, CTA

Fermi bubbles near the GC are much brighter

Possible to see with Cherenkov telescopes?

Radio observations, MeerKAT, SKA

Search for individual pulsars in the halo around the GC

Radio surveys, Planck

Look for correlated synchrotron emission near the GC

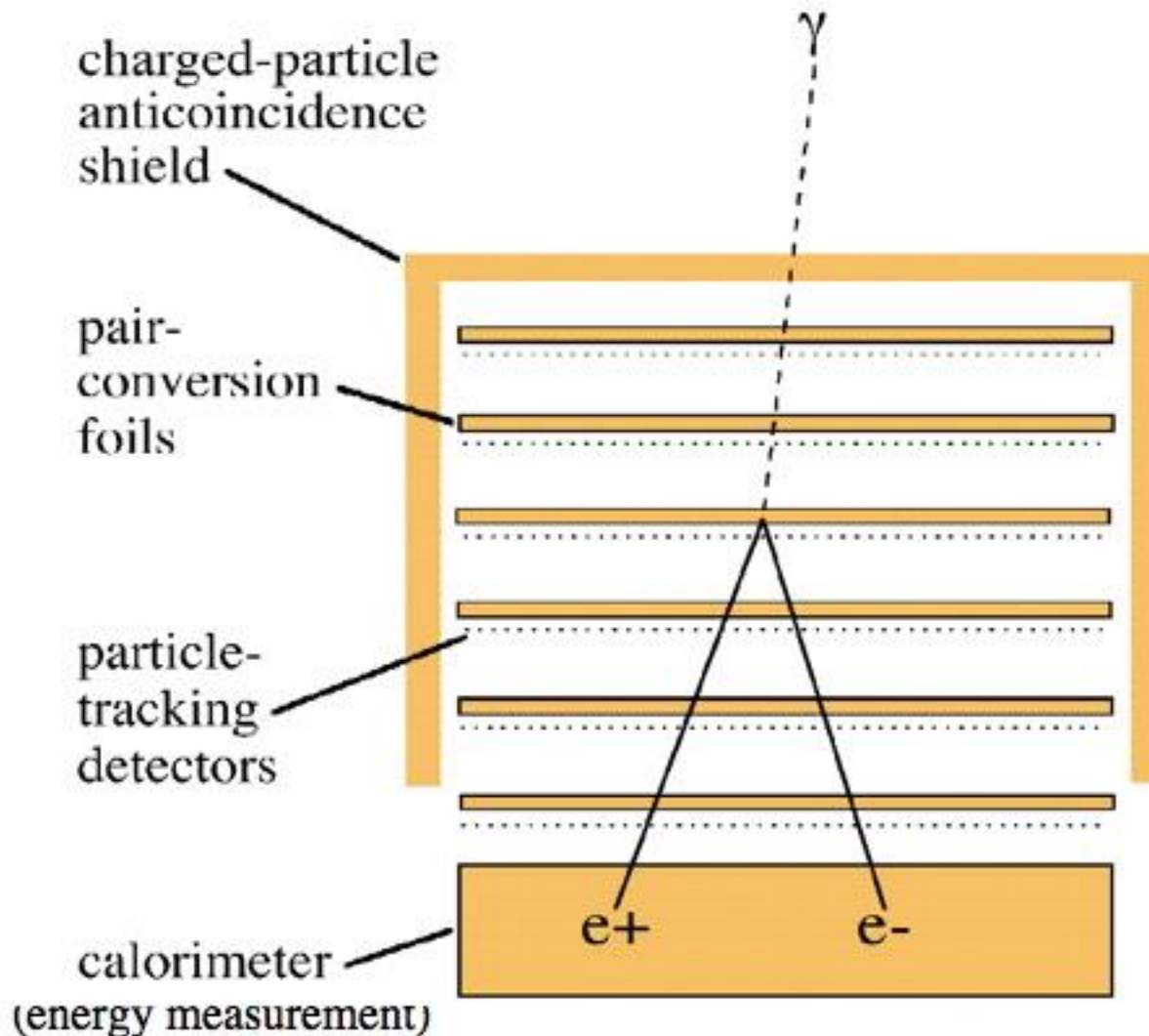
More Fermi LAT analysis

Diffuse emission modeling

Analysis of point sources near the GC

But ultimately We need a new experiment with better angular resolution below 100 MeV

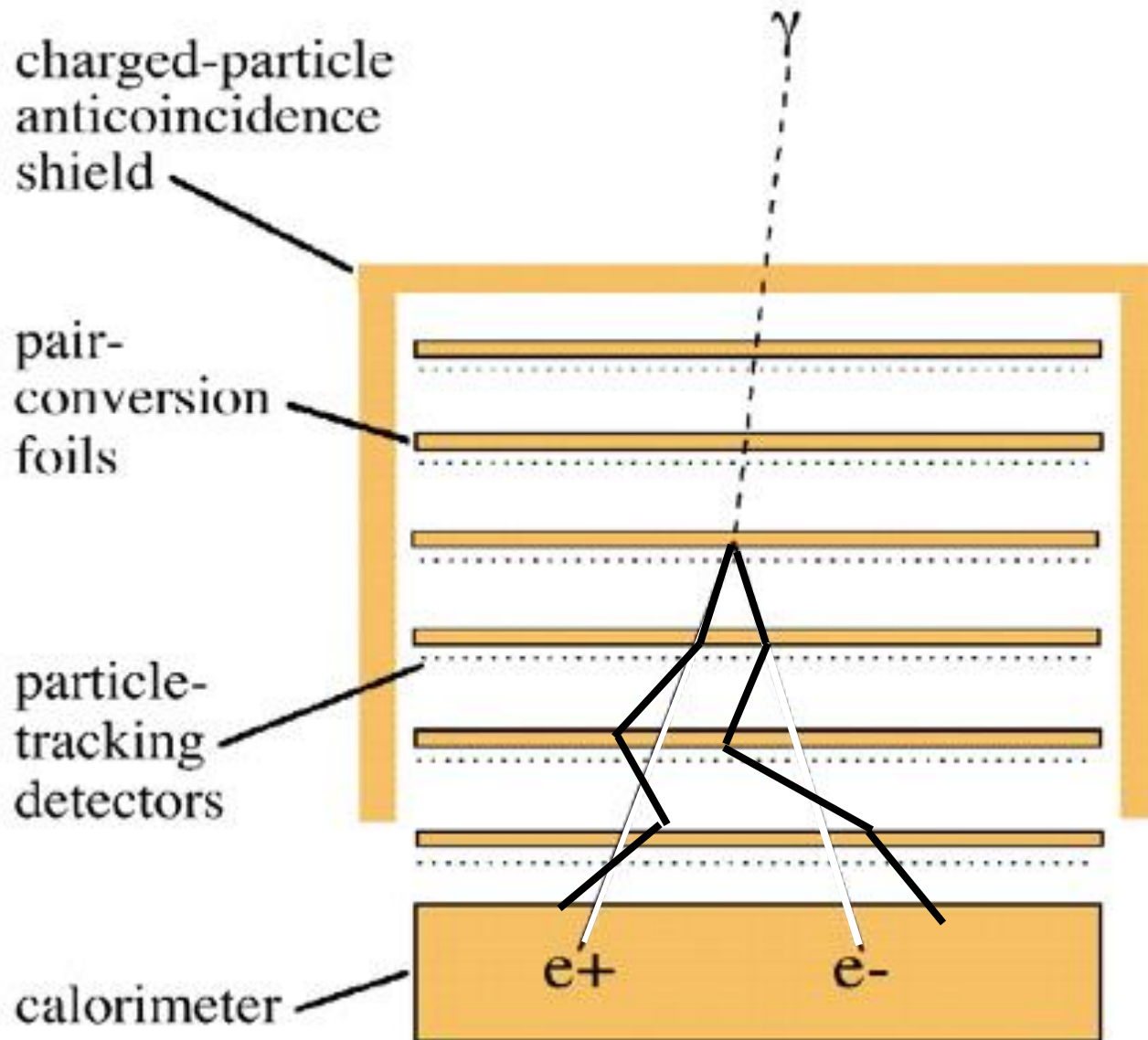
Elements of a pair-conversion telescope



- photons materialize into matter-antimatter pairs:
$$E_\gamma \rightarrow m_{e^+}c^2 + m_{e^-}c^2$$
- electron and positron carry information about the direction, energy and polarization of the γ -ray

Elements of a pair-conversion telescope

(more realistic scheme)



- photons materialize into matter-antimatter pairs:

$$E_{\gamma} \rightarrow m_{e^+}c^2 + m_{e^-}c^2$$

- electron and positron carry information about the direction, energy and polarization of the γ -ray

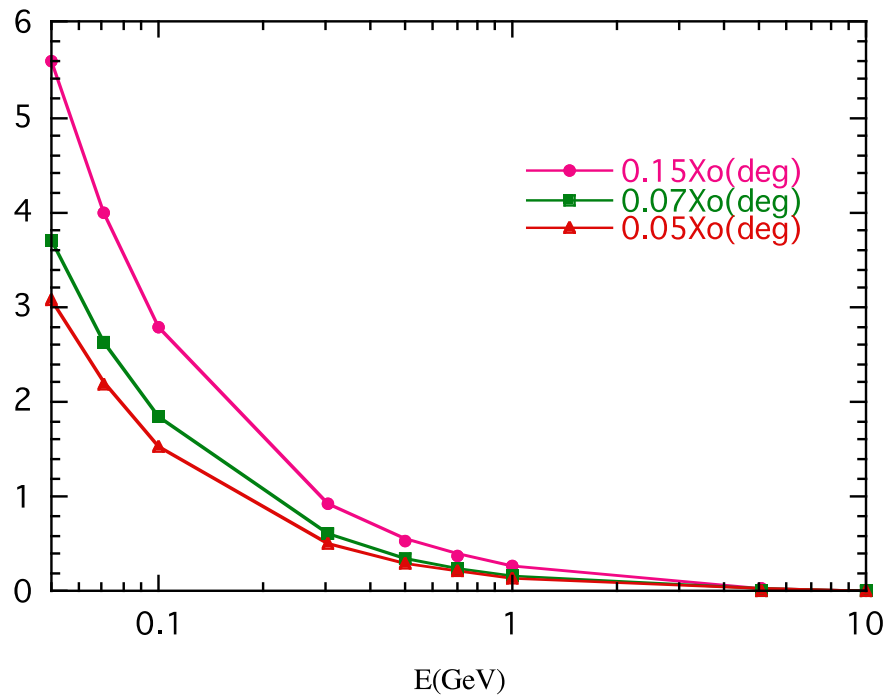
calorimeter

e^+

e^-

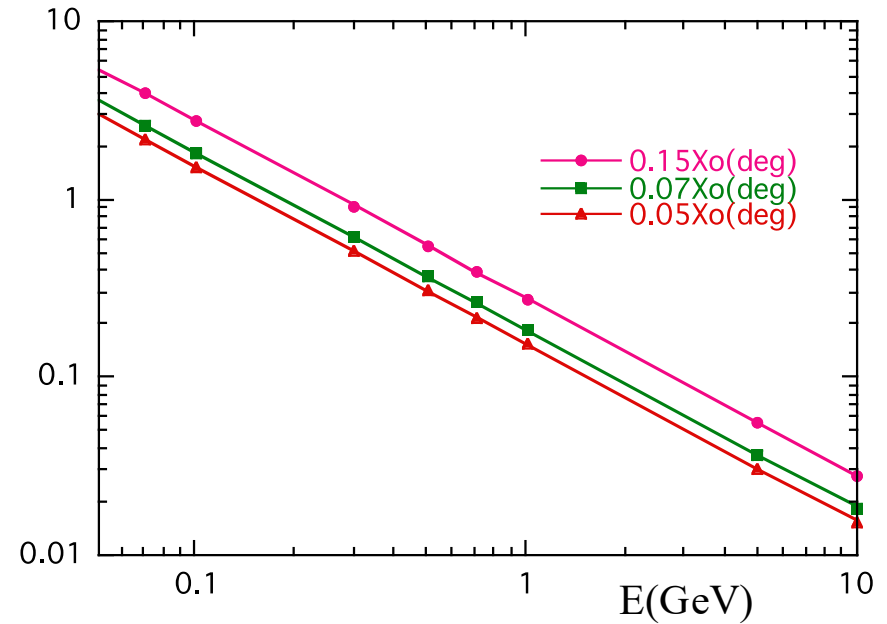
(energy measurement)

projected angular distribution (degrees)



Multiple Scattering

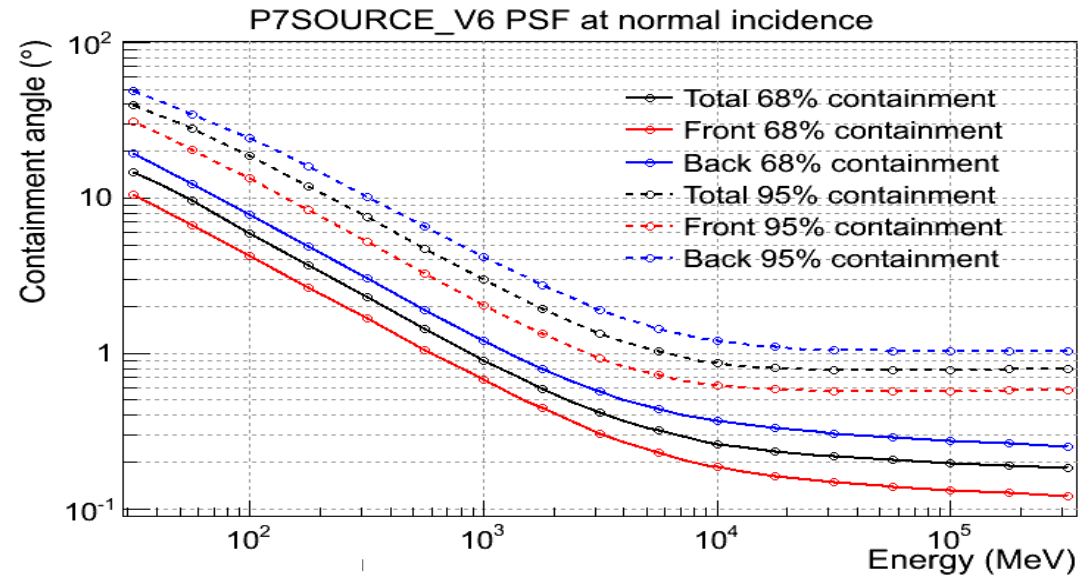
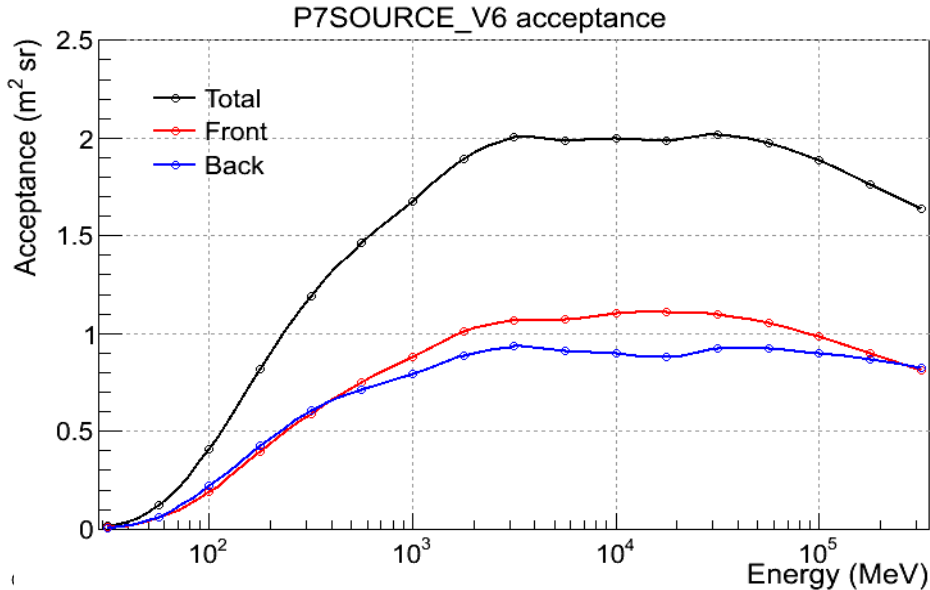
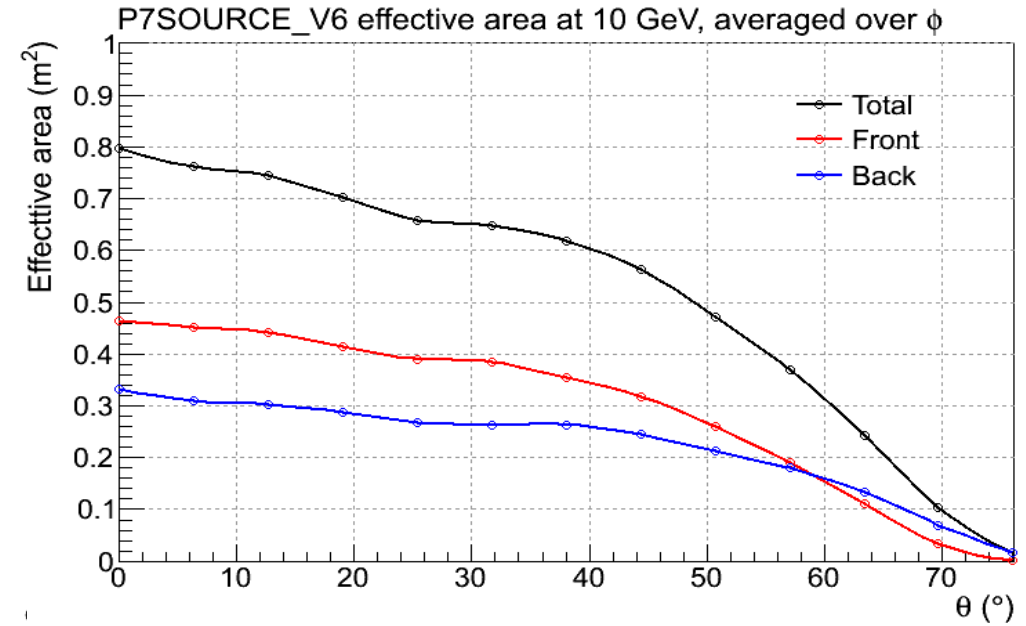
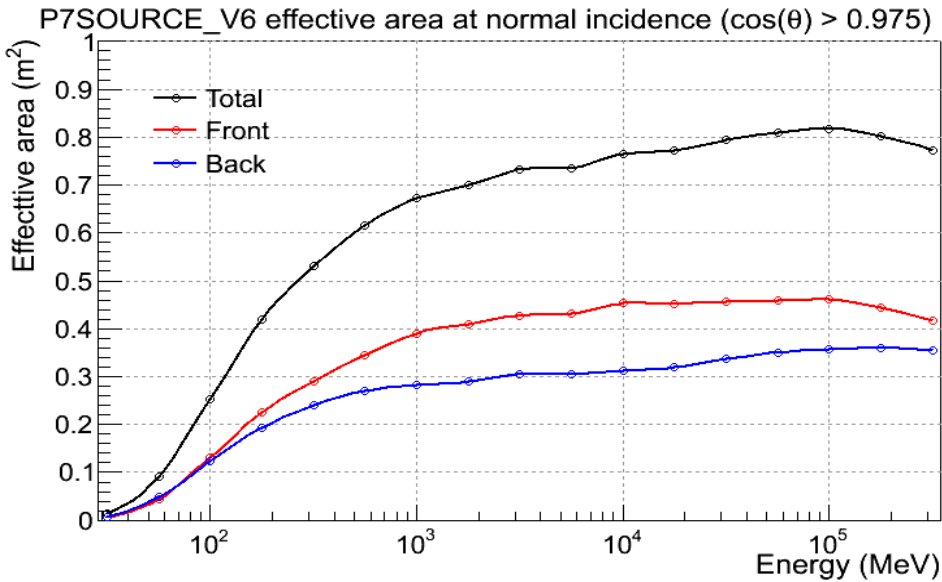
projected angular distribution (degrees)



$$\theta_0 = \theta_{plane}^{rms} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_{space}^{rms}$$

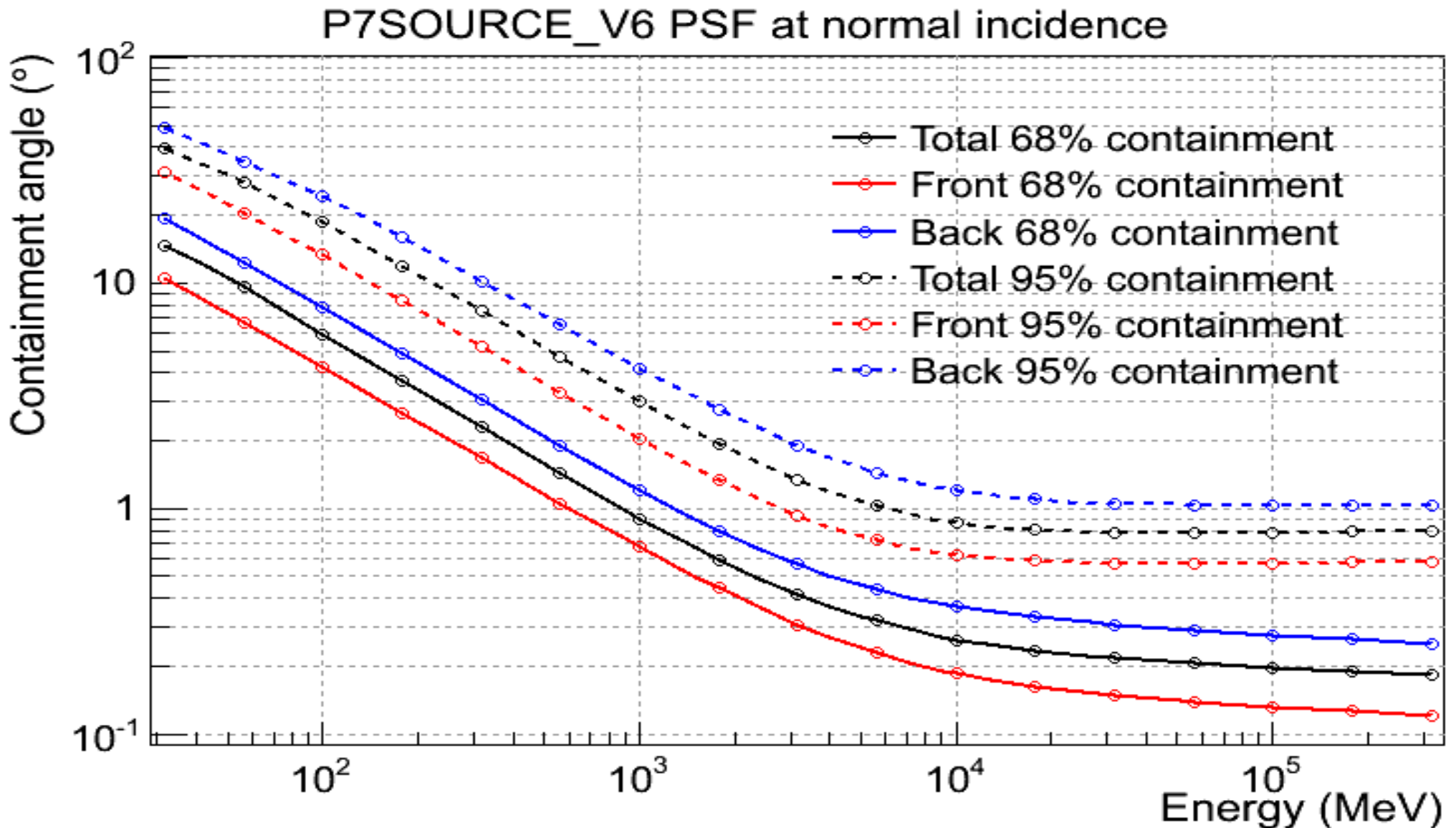
$$\theta_0 = \frac{13.6 MeV}{\beta c p} z \sqrt{x/X_0} [1 + 0.038 \ln(x/X_0)]$$

Fermi Instrument Response Function



http://www.slac.stanford.edu/exp/glast/groups/canda/lat_Performance.htm

Fermi Instrument Response Function

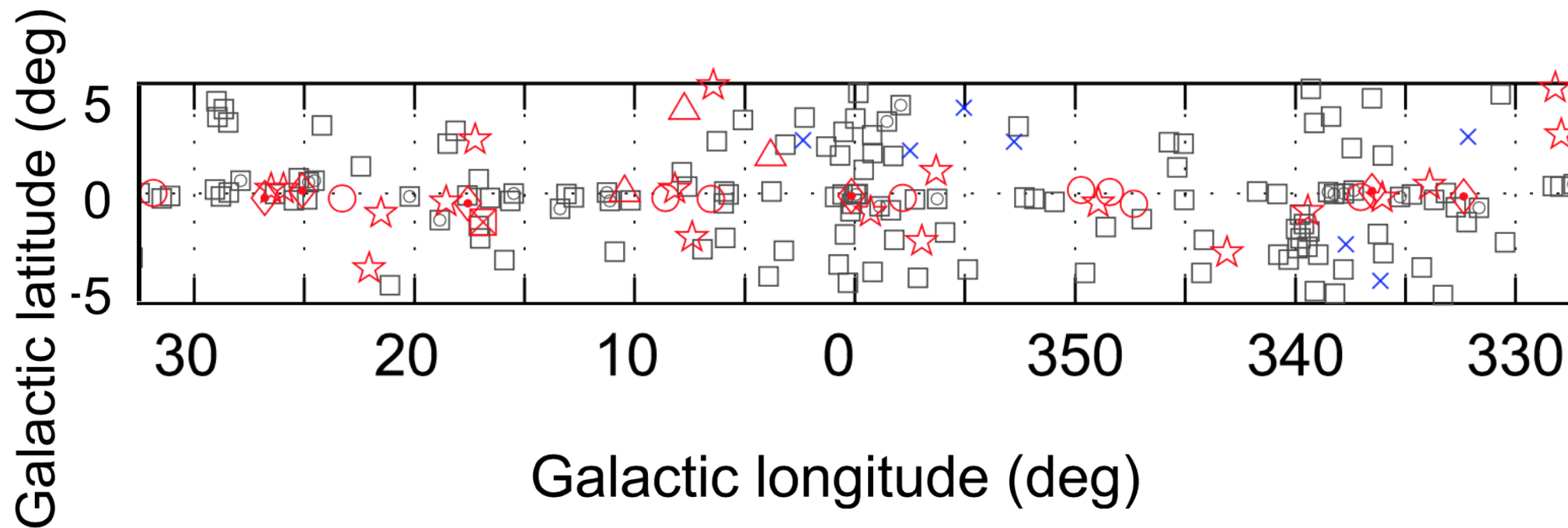


http://www.slac.stanford.edu/exp/glast/groups/canda/lat_Performance.htm

The Fermi LAT 3FGL Inner Galactic Region

August 4, 2008, to July 31, 2010

100 MeV to 300 GeV energy range

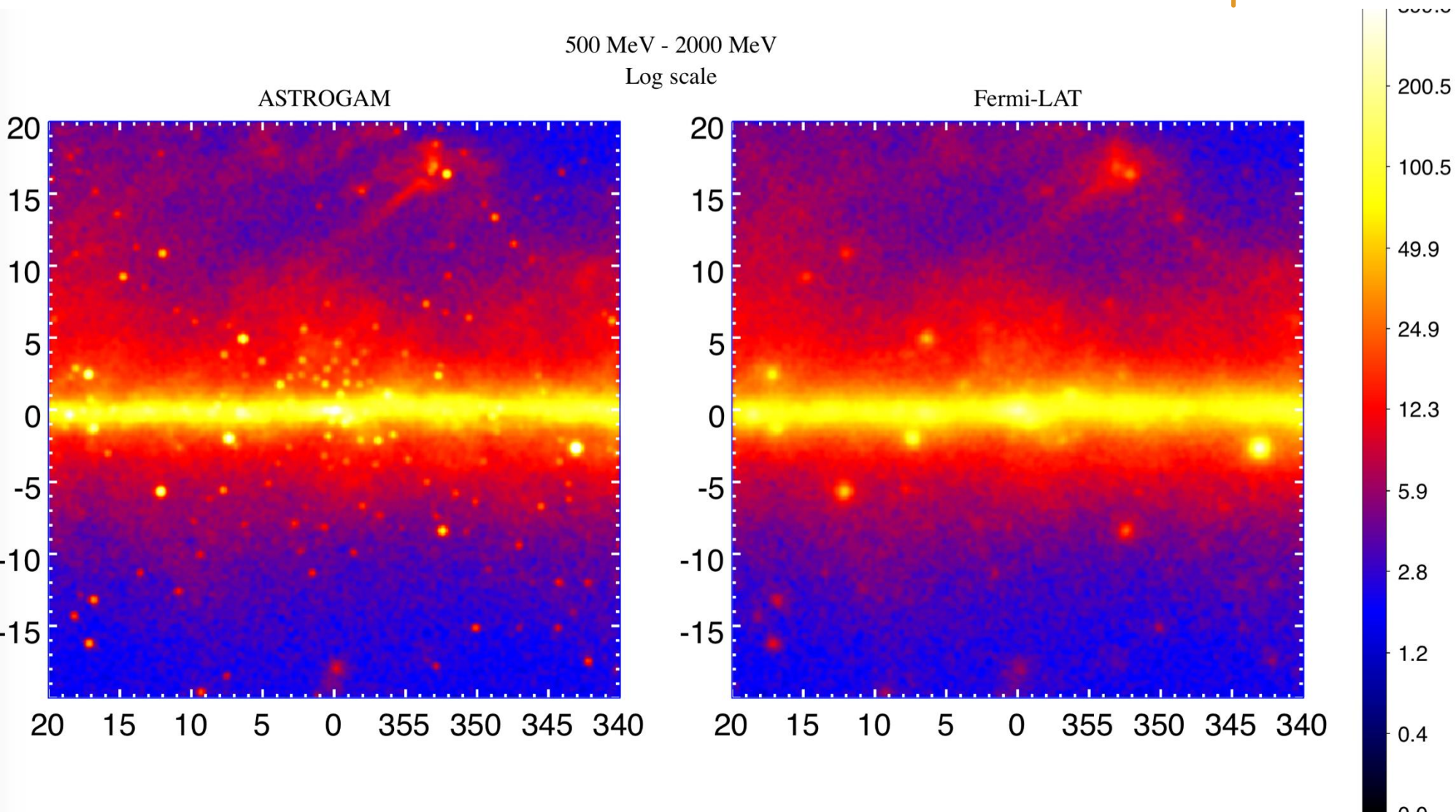


Fermi Coll. ApJS
(2015) 218 23
arXiv:1501.02003

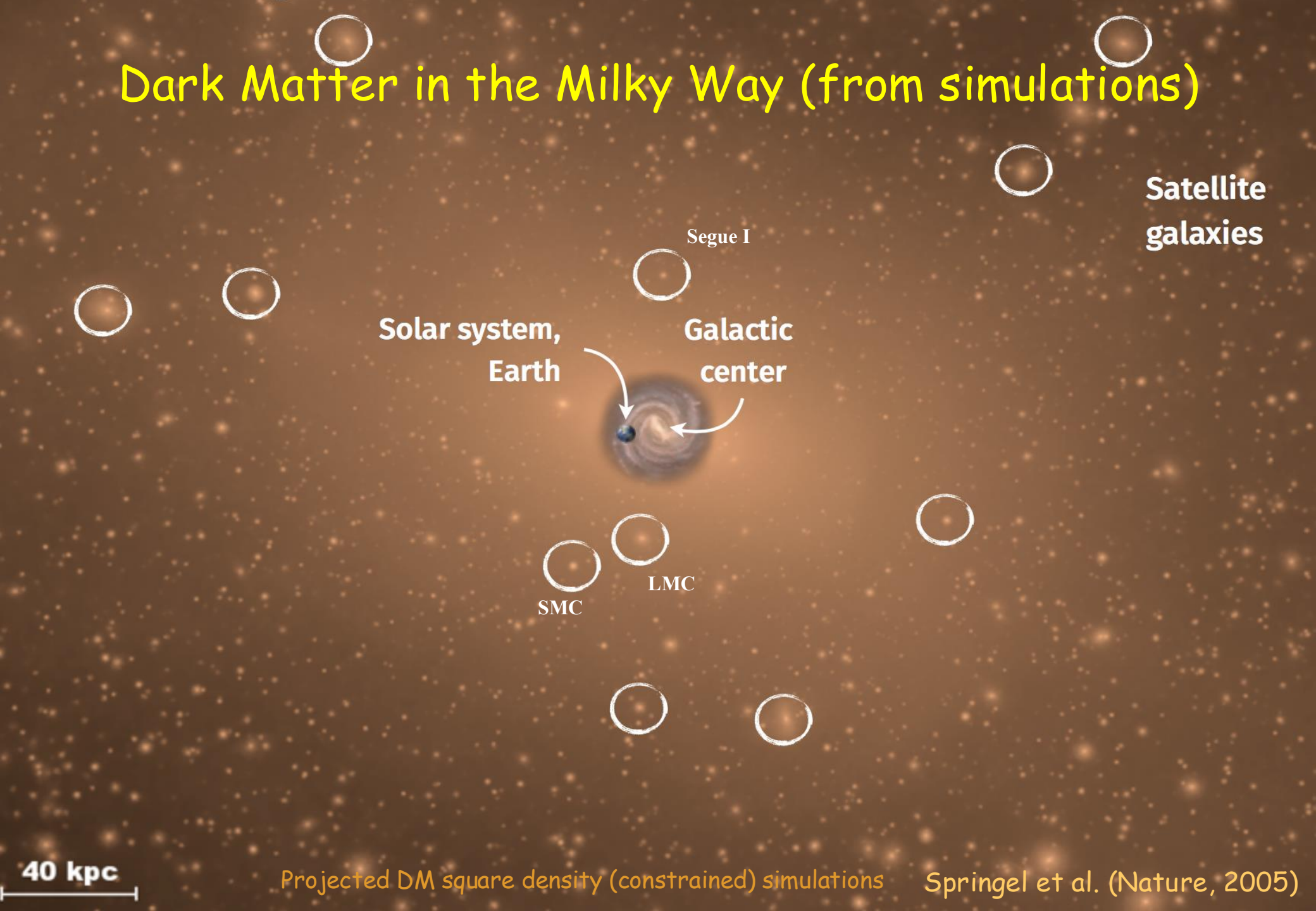
□ No association	◻ Possible association with SNR or PWN	× AGN
☆ Pulsar	△ Globular cluster	* Starburst Galaxy
⊠ Binary	+ Galaxy	◇ PWN
★ Star-forming region	○ SNR	★ Nova

Galactic Center Region 0.5-2 GeV

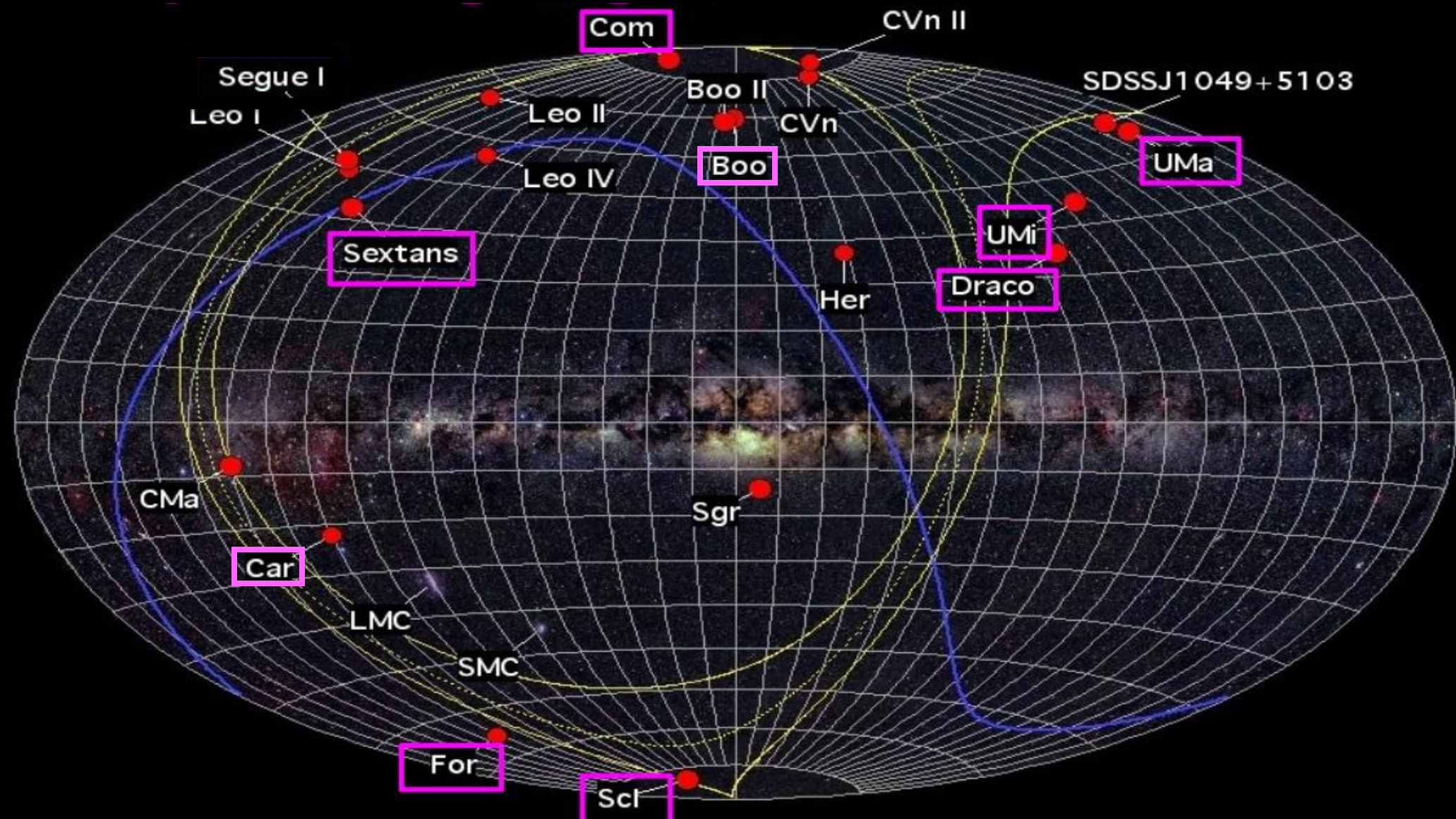
Fermi PSF Pass7 rep v15 source



Dark Matter in the Milky Way (from simulations)

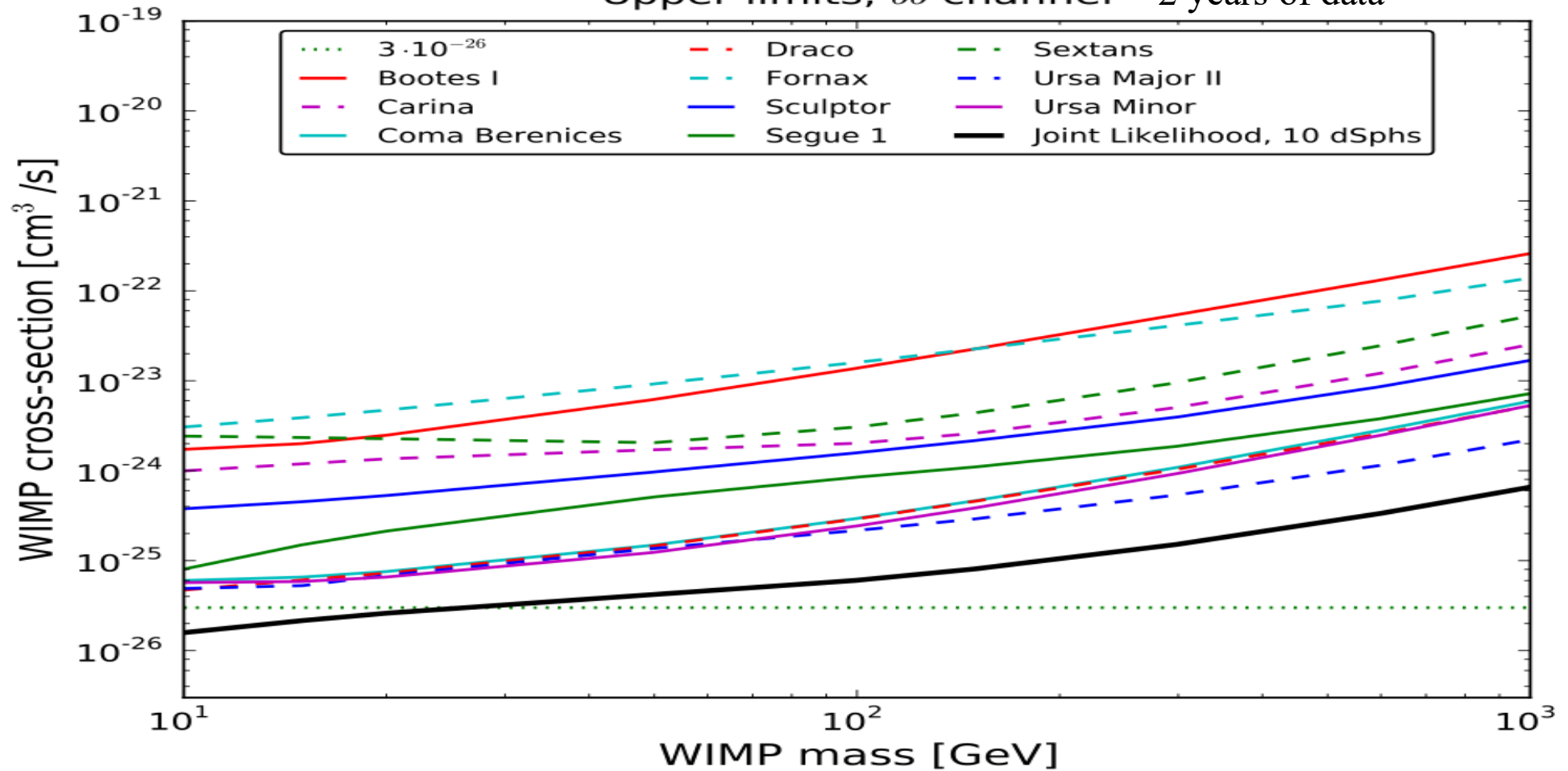


Classical Dwarf spheroidal galaxies: promising targets for DM detection



Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies combined analysis

Upper limits, $b\bar{b}$ channel 2 years of data



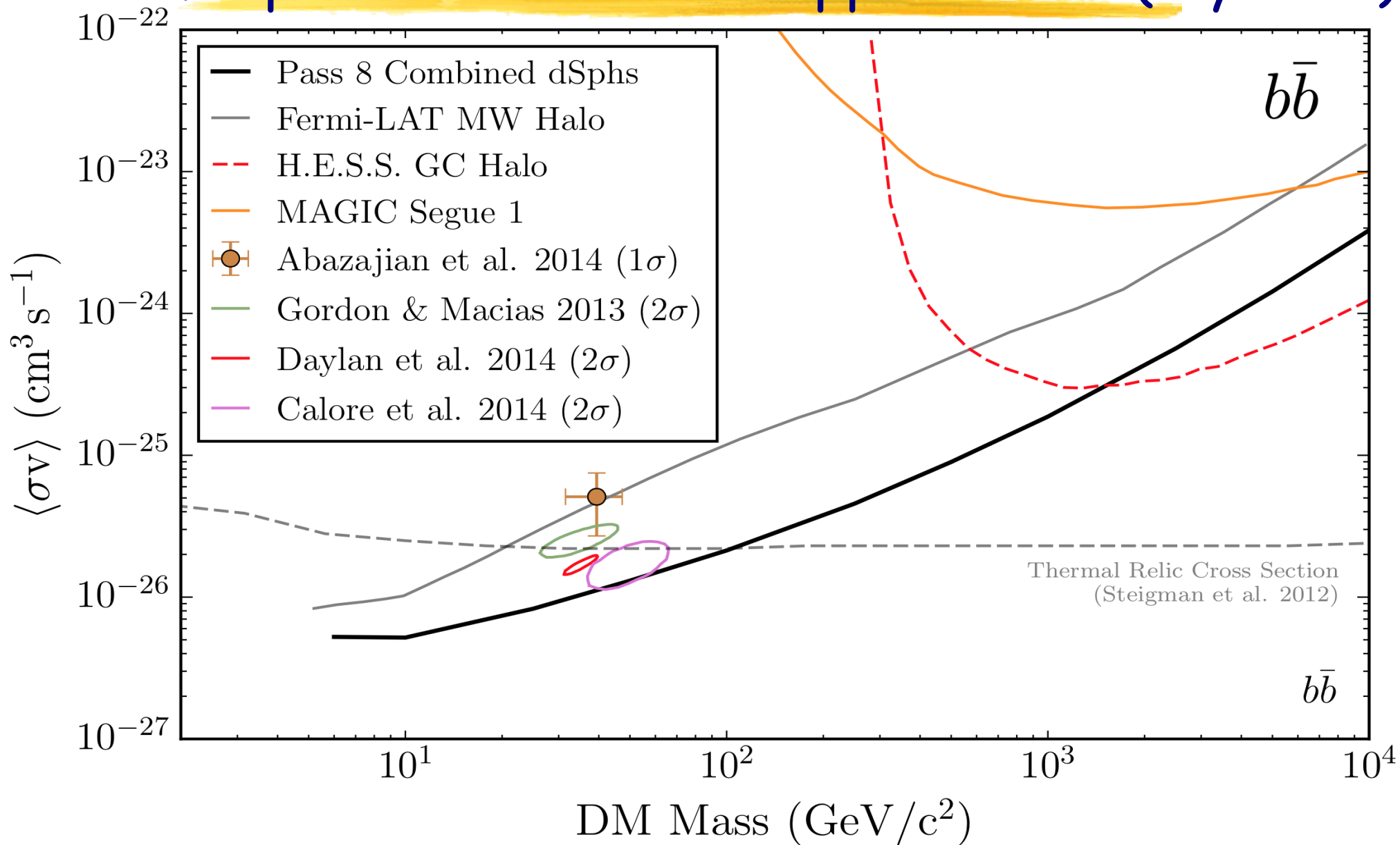
robust constraints including J-factor uncertainties from the stellar data statistical analysis

NFW. For cored dark matter profile, the J-factors for most of the dSphs would either increase or not change much

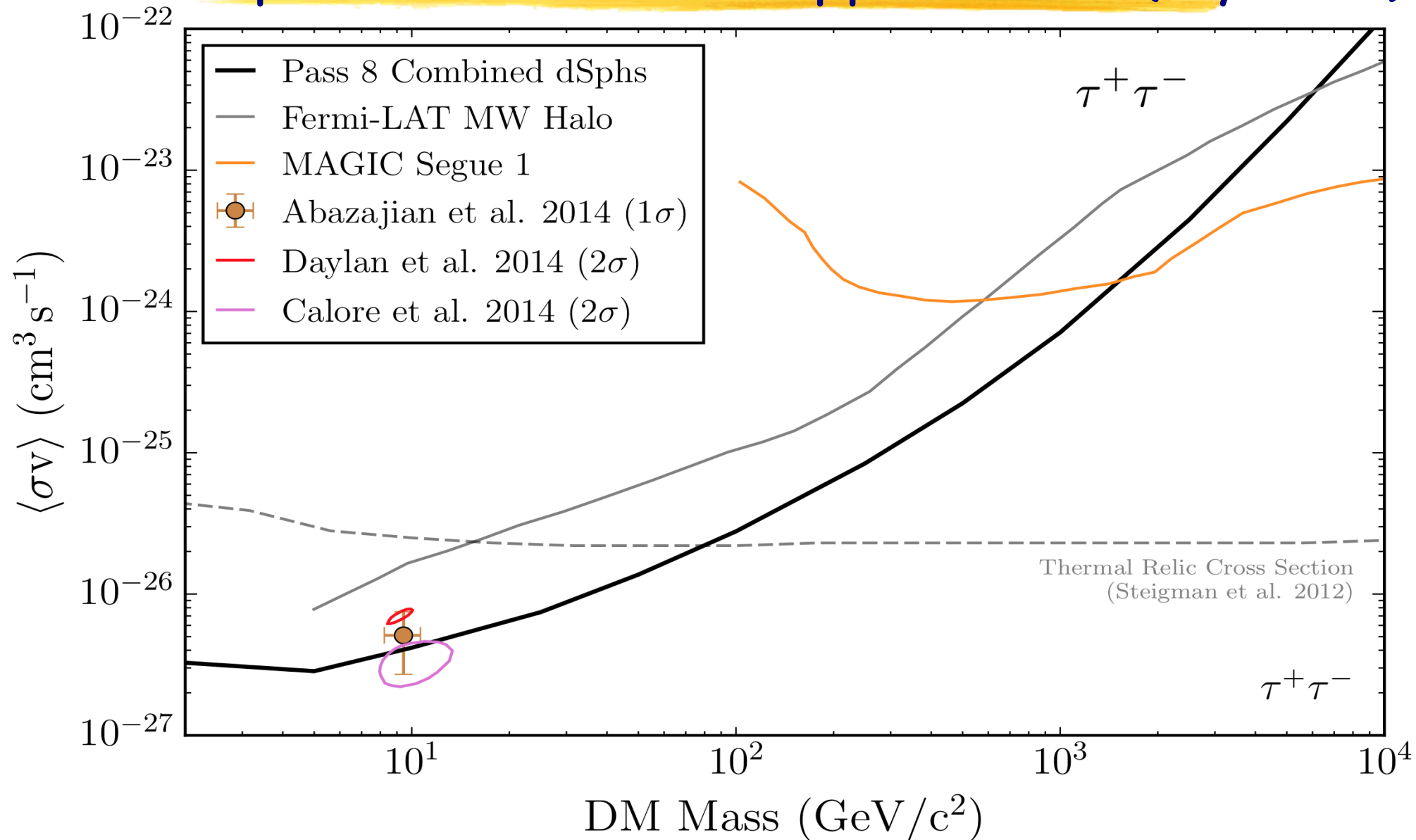


Fermi Lat Coll., PRL 107, 241302 (2011) [arXiv:1108.3546]

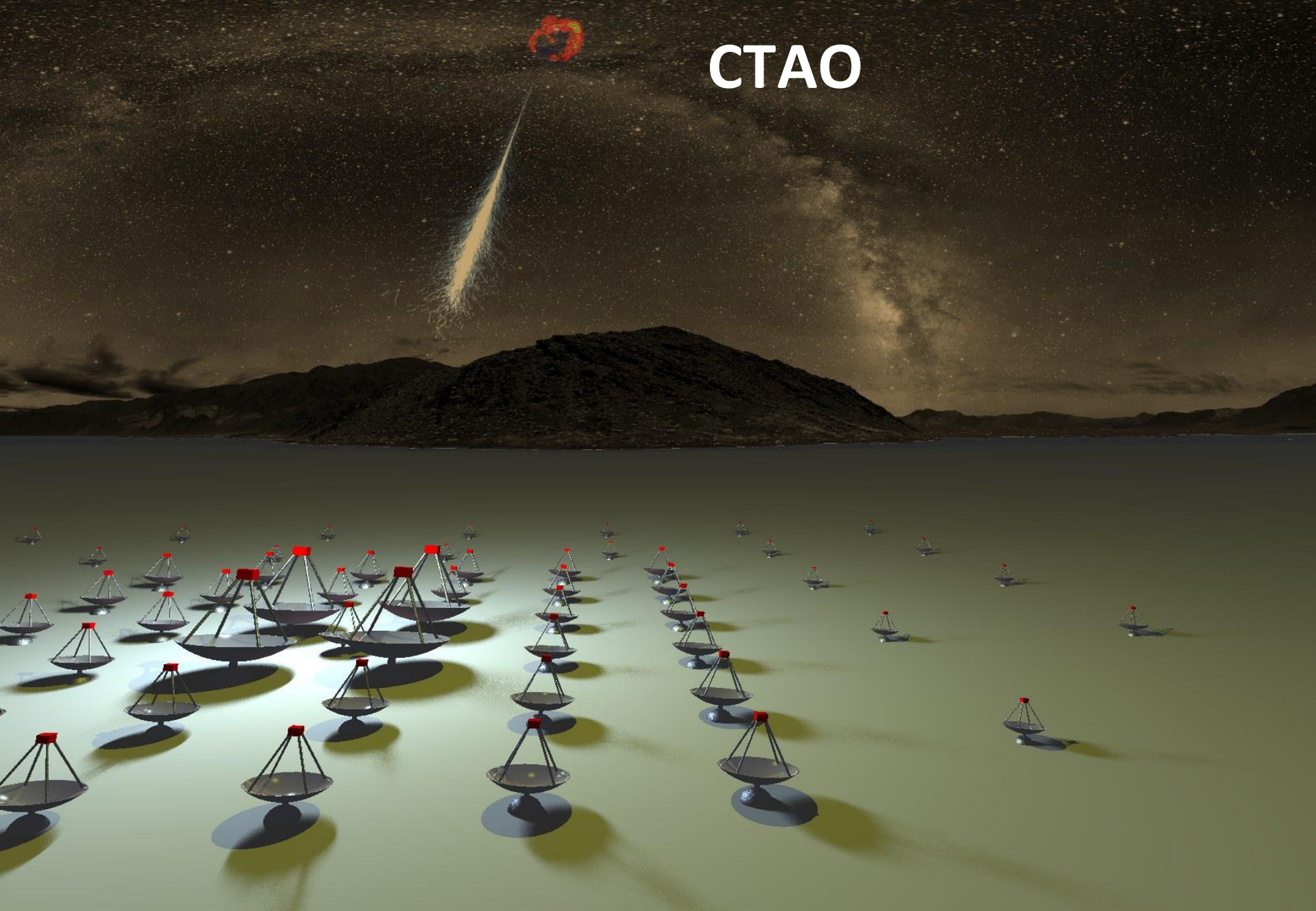
Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies upper-limits (6 years)



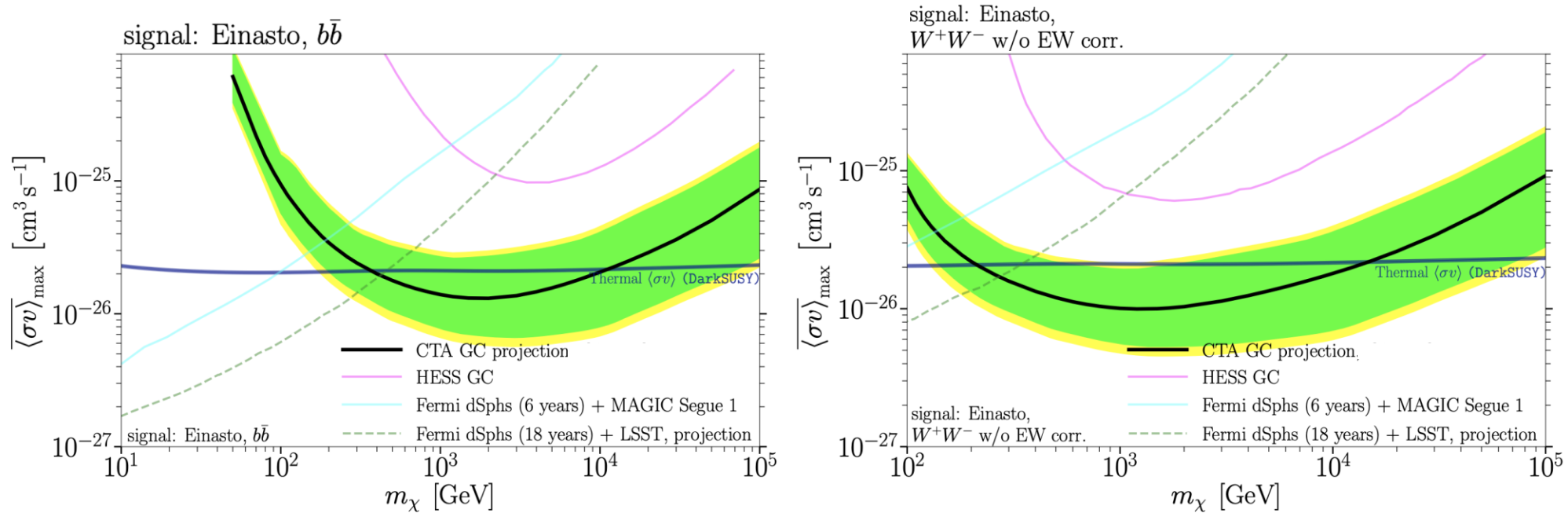
Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies upper-limits (6 years)



CTAO



Galactic center CTAO Sensitivity



- Einasto profile

520 h

$$\rho_{\text{DM}} = \rho_s \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha}{2} \left(\frac{r}{r_s} \right)^\alpha - 1 \right], \quad J \sim 7.1 \times 10^{22} \text{GeV}^2/\text{cm}^5$$

- Main source of background : sources, Fermi Bubble, interstellar γ , residual CR



The CTA Consortium JCAP01(2021) 057 January 27, 2021 [arXiv:2007.16129]

Measuring DM densities in dSph halos

Optimal dSphs selected according to:

1. Distance($d < 100\text{pc}$)
2. Culmination zenith angle ($Z_{\text{Amin}} < 30^\circ$)

Targets with no/poor brightness and/ or kinematic data excluded from the MCMC Jeans analysis.

Surviving sample:

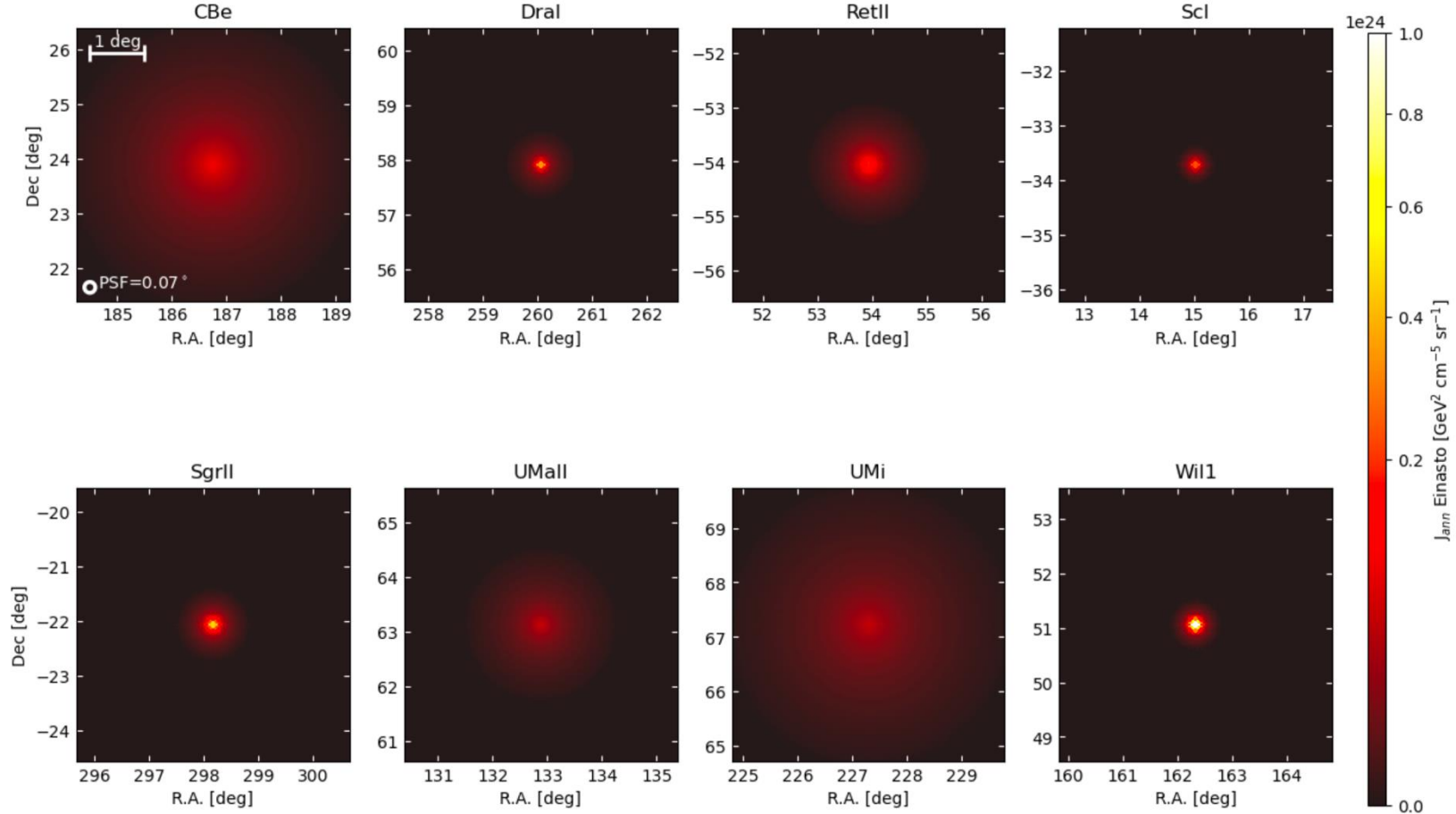
— 5 Northern dSphs (1 classical + 5 ultra-faint)

— 3 Southern dSphs (1 classical + 2 ultra-faint)

CTAO Coll. in preparation

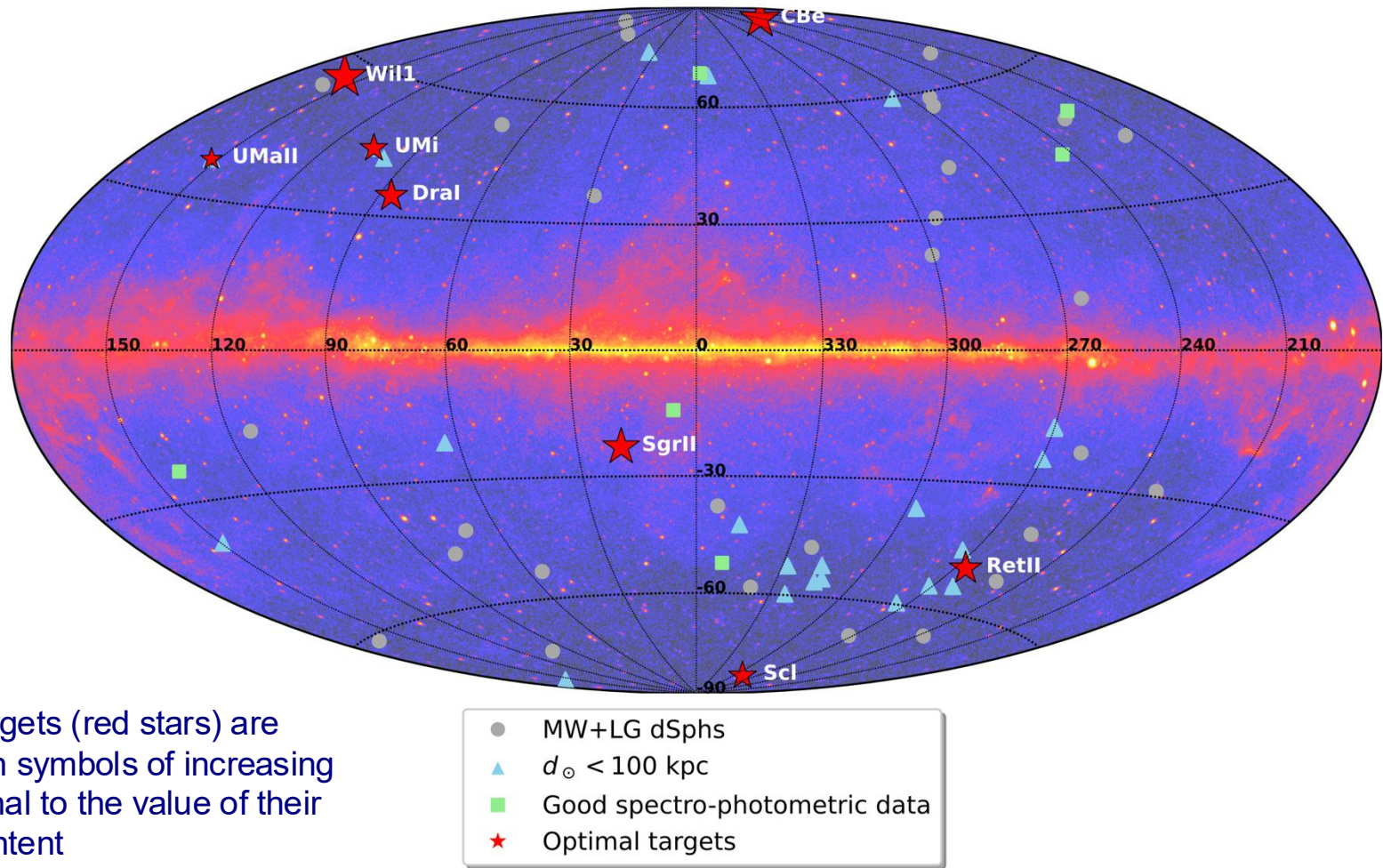
Name	Abbr.	Type	R.A. (hh mm ss)	dec. (dd mm ss)	Distance (kpc)	ZA_{culm} N (deg)	ZA_{culm} S (deg)	Month	Ref.
CTAO-N candidate dSphs									
Boötes I	BoöI	uft	14 00 06.0	+14 30 00	65 ± 3	14.3	39.1	Apr	1,2
Boötes II	BoöII	uft	13 58 00.0	+12 51 00	39 ± 2	15.9	37.5	Apr	1,3
Boötes III	BoöIII	uft	13 57 12.0	+26 48 00	46 ± 2	2.0	51.4	Apr	1,3
Coma Berenices	CBe	uft	12 26 59.0	+23 54 15	42 ± 2	4.9	48.5	Mar	1,4
Draco I	DraI	cls	17 20 12.4	+57 54 55	75 ± 4	29.2	82.5	Jun	1,5
Draco II	DraII	uft	15 52 47.6	+64 33 55	20 ± 3	35.8	89.2	May	6
Laevens 3	Lae3	uft	21 06 54.3	+14 58 48	67 ± 3	13.8	39.6	Aug	7
Segue 1	Seg1	uft	10 07 04.0	+16 04 55	23 ± 2	12.7	40.7	Feb	1,8
Segue 2	Seg2	uft	02 19 16.0	+20 10 31	36 ± 2	8.6	44.8	Oct	1,9
Triangulum II	TriII	uft	02 13 17.4	+36 10 42	30 ± 2	7.4	60.8	Oct	10
Ursa Major II	UMaII	uft	08 51 30.0	+63 07 48	35 ± 2	34.4	87.8	Feb	1,11
Ursa Minor	UMi	cls	15 09 08.5	+67 13 21	68 ± 2	38.5	—	May	1,12
Willman 1	Will	uft	10 49 21.0	+51 03 00	38 ± 7	22.3	75.7	Mar	1,8
CTAO-S candidate dSphs									
Carina II	CarII	uft	07 36 26.3	−58 00 00	36 ± 1	86.7	33.3	Jan	13
Carina III	CarIII	uft	07 38 31.2	−57 54 00	28 ± 2	86.7	33.3	Jan	13
Cetus II	CetII	uft	01 17 52.8	−17 25 12	30 ± 3	46.2	7.2	Oct	14
Eridanus III	EriIII	uft	02 22 45.5	−52 16 48	95 ± 27	81.0	27.7	Oct	15
Grus II	GruII	uft	22 04 04.8	−46 26 24	53 ± 5	75.2	21.8	Aug	14
Horologium I	HorI	uft	02 55 28.9	−54 06 36	87 ± 13	82.9	29.5	Oct	15
Horologium II	HorII	uft	03 16 26.4	−50 03 00	78 ± 8	77.5	26.7	Nov	16
Hydrus I	Hyl	uft	02 29 33.7	−79 18 36	28 ± 1	—	53.3	Oct	17
Indus I	IndI	uft	21 08 48.1	−51 09 36	69 ± 16	79.9	26.5	Aug	15
Phoenix II	PheII	uft	23 39 57.6	−54 24 36	95 ± 18	83.2	29.8	Sep	15
Pictor II	PicII	uft	06 44 43.1	−59 54 00	45 ± 5	88.3	35.8	Jan	18
Reticulum II	RetII	uft	03 35 40.9	−54 03 00	32 ± 2	82.8	29.4	Nov	15
Reticulum III	RetIII	uft	03 45 26.3	−60 27 00	92 ± 13	89.2	35.8	Nov	19
Sagittarius I	SgrI	cls	18 55 19.5	−30 32 43	31 ± 1	59.3	5.9	Jul	1,20
Sagittarius II	SgrII	uft	19 52 40.5	−22 04 05	67 ± 5	50.8	2.6	Jul	7
Sculptor	ScI	cls	01 00 09.4	−33 42 33	84 ± 2	62.5	9.1	Oct	1,21
Sextans	Sex	cls	10 13 03.0	−01 36 53	84 ± 3	30.4	23.0	Feb	1,22
Tucana II	TucII	uft	22 52 16.7	−58 33 36	58 ± 6	87.3	33.9	Sep	15
Tucana III	TucIII	uft	23 56 35.9	−59 36 00	25 ± 2	88.4	35.0	Sep	14
Tucana IV	TucIV	uft	00 02 55.3	−60 51 00	48 ± 4	89.6	36.2	Sep	14
Tucana V	TucV	uft	23 37 23.9	−63 16 12	55 ± 9	—	38.3	Sep	23
Virgo I	VirI	uft	12 00 09.1	−00 40 52	87 ± 11	40.0	24.2	Mar	24

Dark matter density of the selected dSphs



2D distributions of the astrophysical factors of the selected dSphs obtained with CLUMPY for an Einasto profile. The CTAO PSF (white circle) is indicated in the first panel

Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies: Selection of optimal candidates for CTAO



MNRAS **000**, 1–34 (2025)

Preprint 26 May 2025

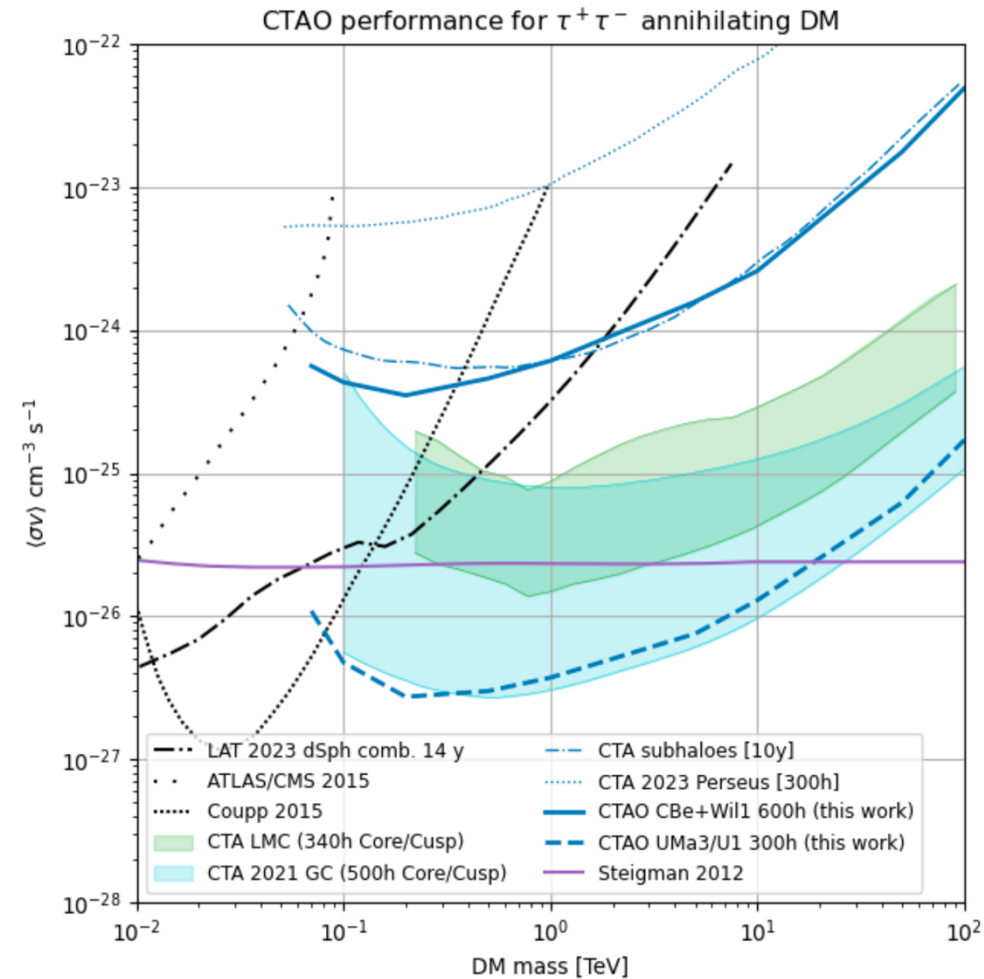
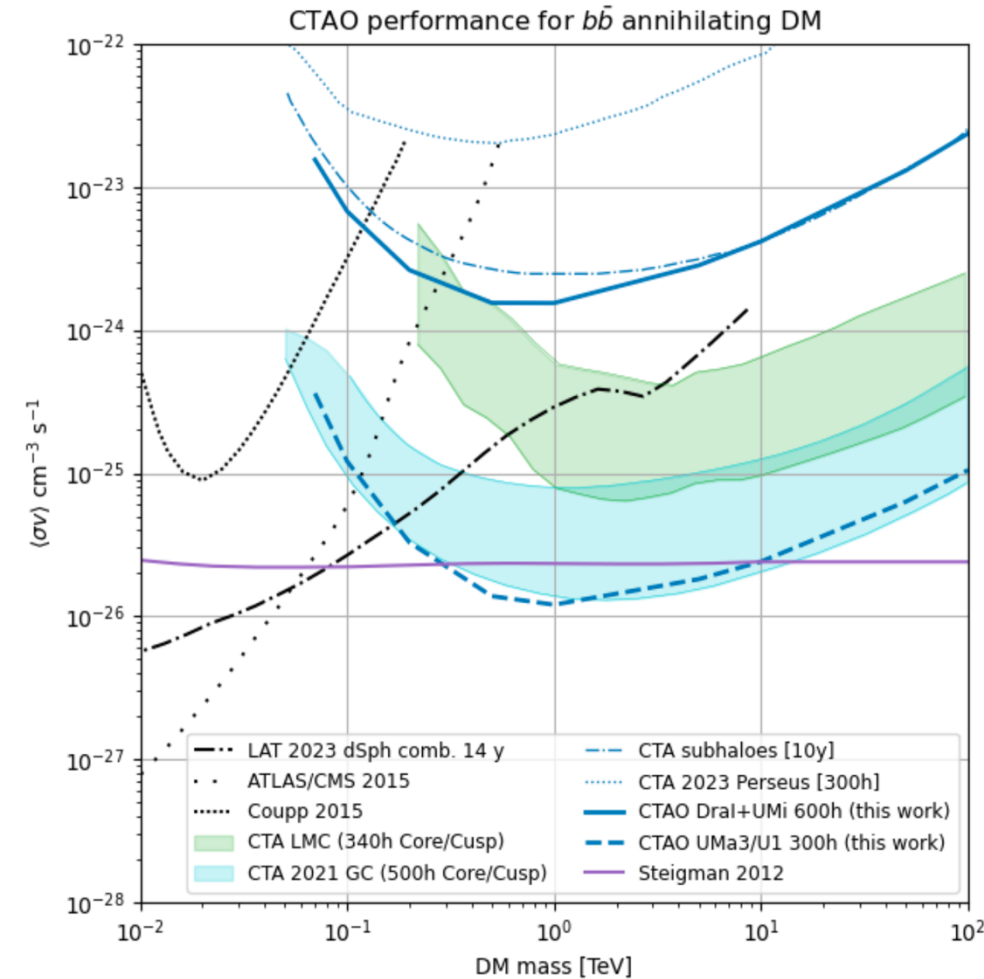
Compiled using MNRAS L^AT_EX style file v3.2



Prospects for dark matter observations in dwarf spheroidal galaxies with the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory

CTAO Consortium paper in prep. by the dSph task force M. Doro, A. Morselli, G. Rodríguez-Fernández, F. G. Saturni

Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies: CTAO Sensitivity compared with other targets and experiments



CTAO Consortium paper in prep. by the dSph task force M. Doro, A. Morselli, G. Rodríguez-Fernández, F. G. Saturni

CTAO Search for Dark Matter beyond WIMP

Axion Like Particle (ALP) search prospects

$$\gamma + B \rightarrow a + B \rightarrow \gamma' + \dots$$

conversion probability ($E > E_{\text{crit}}$)

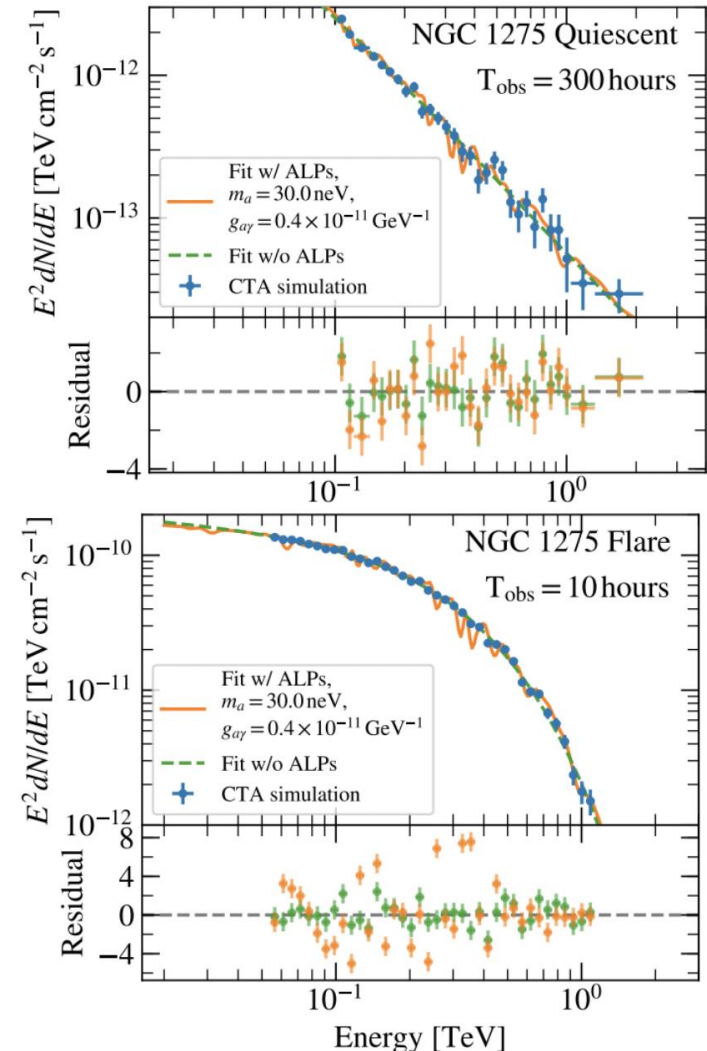
$$P_{a\gamma} \sim \sin^2 \left(\frac{g_{a\gamma} B l}{2} \right),$$

$$E_{\text{crit}} \sim 2.5 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\times \left(\frac{|m_a - \omega_{\text{pl}}|}{1 \text{ neV}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{B}{1 \mu\text{G}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{g_{a\gamma}}{10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}} \right)^{-1}$$

the observation is simulated without an ALP effect and is modeled both without ALPs and with a fixed set of magnetic-field realization and ALP parameters that are excluded at 95 % confidence level by the flaring state simulation

Simulated spectra of the radio galaxy NGC 1275

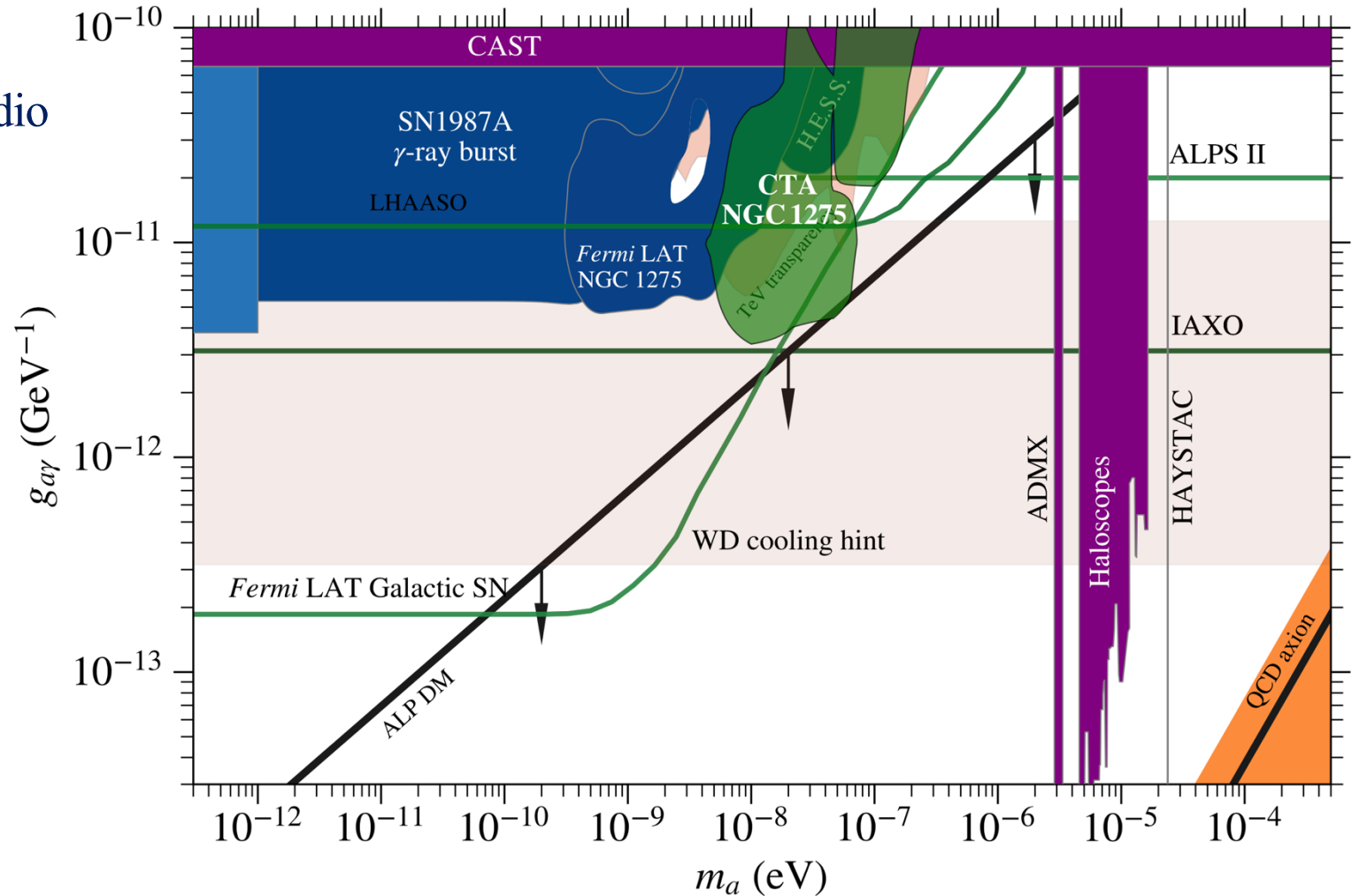


The CTA Consortium, JCAP 02 (2021) 048, 2021 [arXiv:2010.01349]

CTAO Search for Dark Matter beyond WIMP

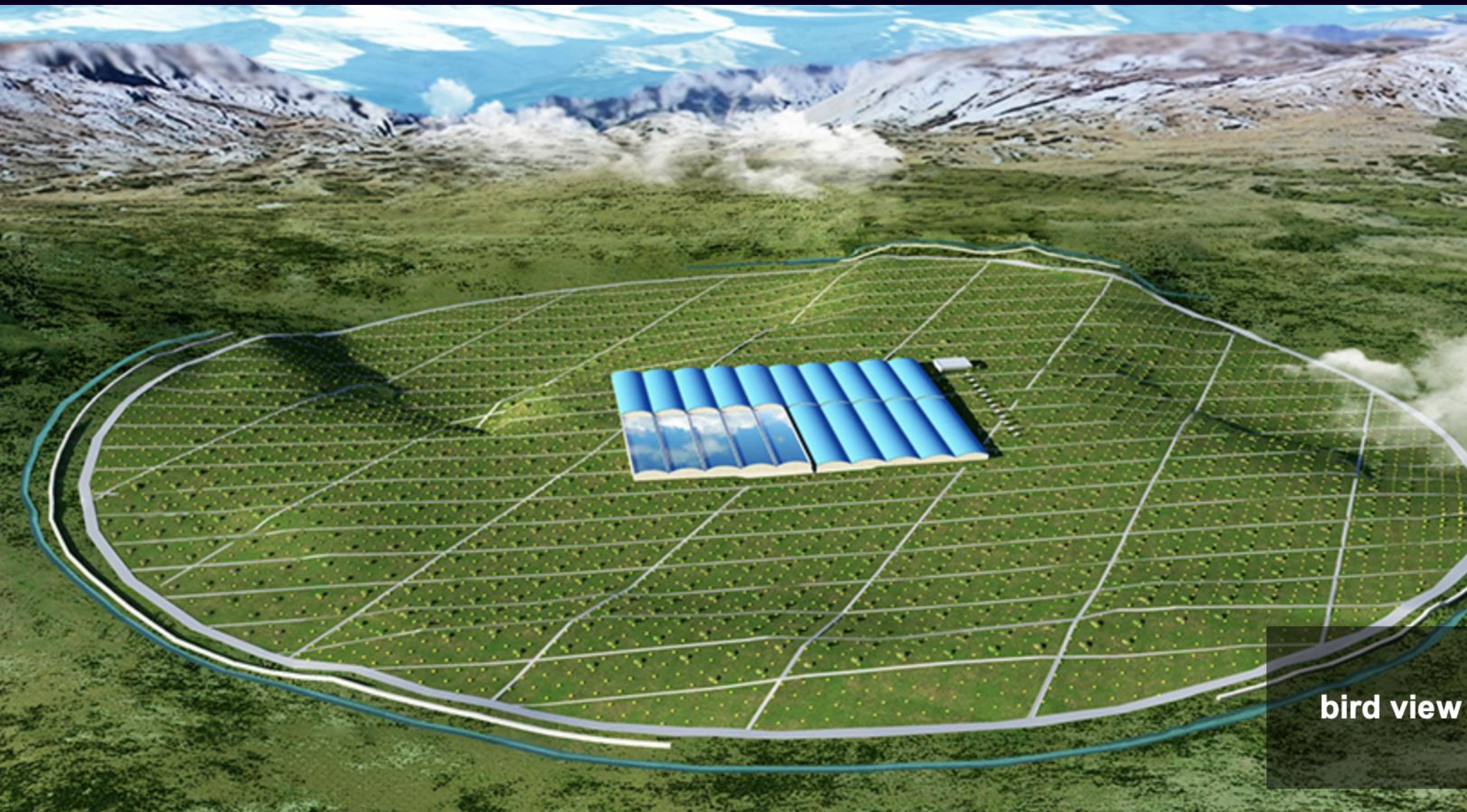
Axion Like Particle search prospects

- Observation of a flaring state of the radio galaxy NGC 1275 inside the Perseus cluster
- Observations of several AGN can be combined to further improve the CTA sensitivity.



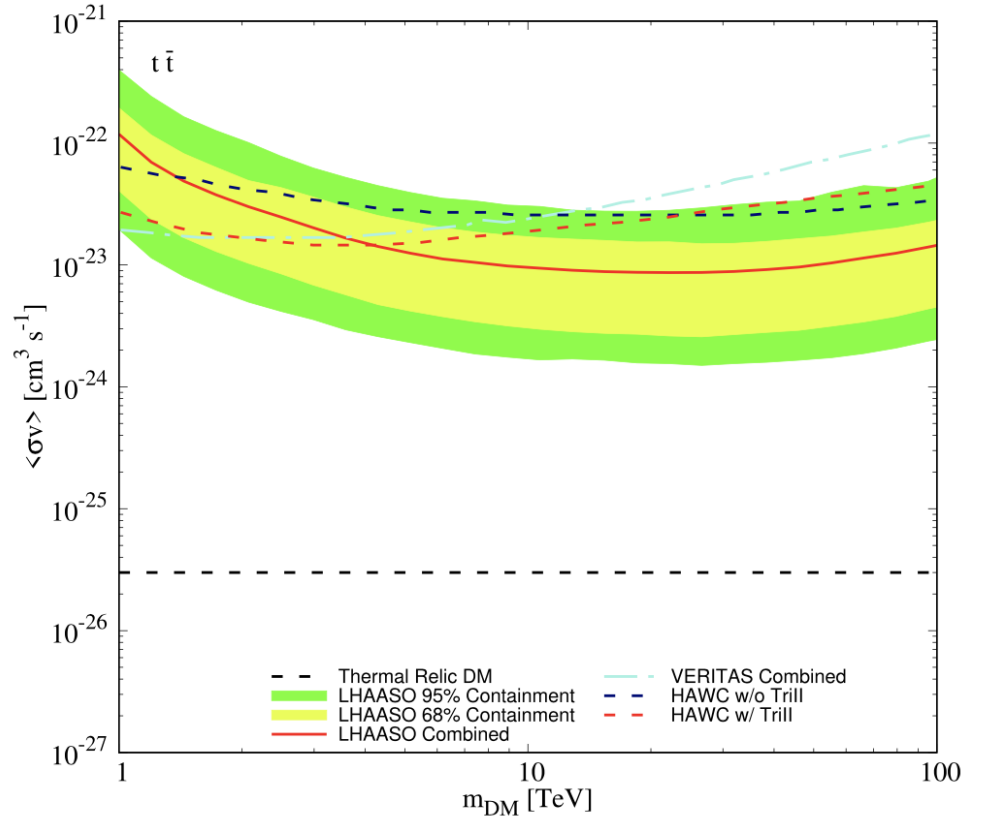
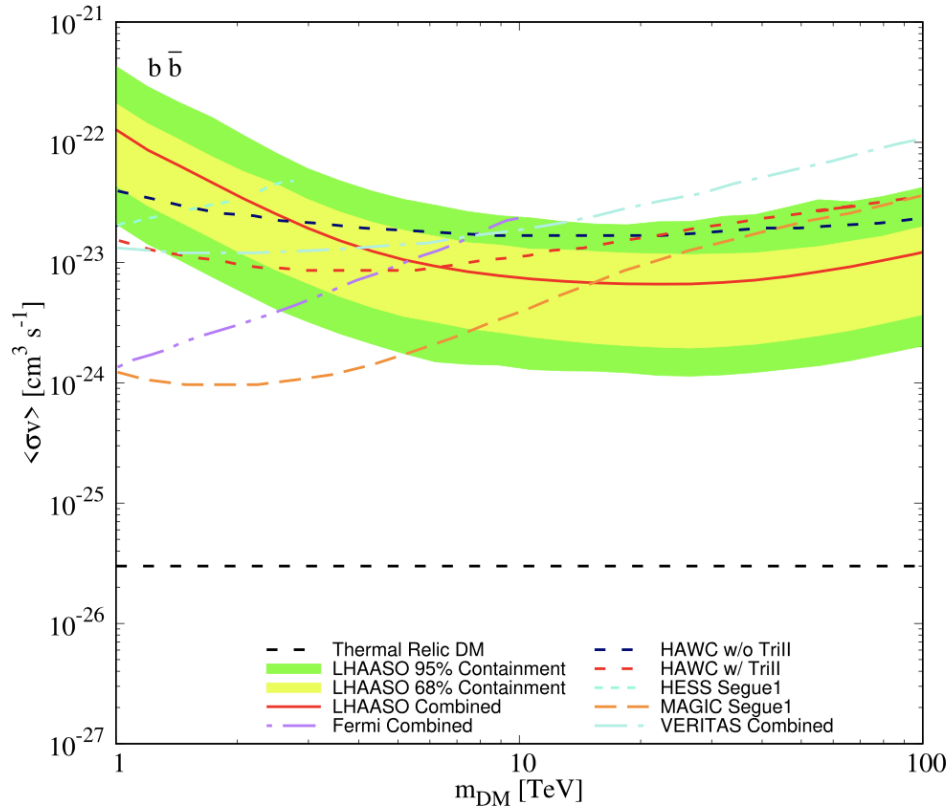
The CTA Consortium, JCAP 02 (2021) 048, 2021 [arXiv:2010.01349]

LHAASO



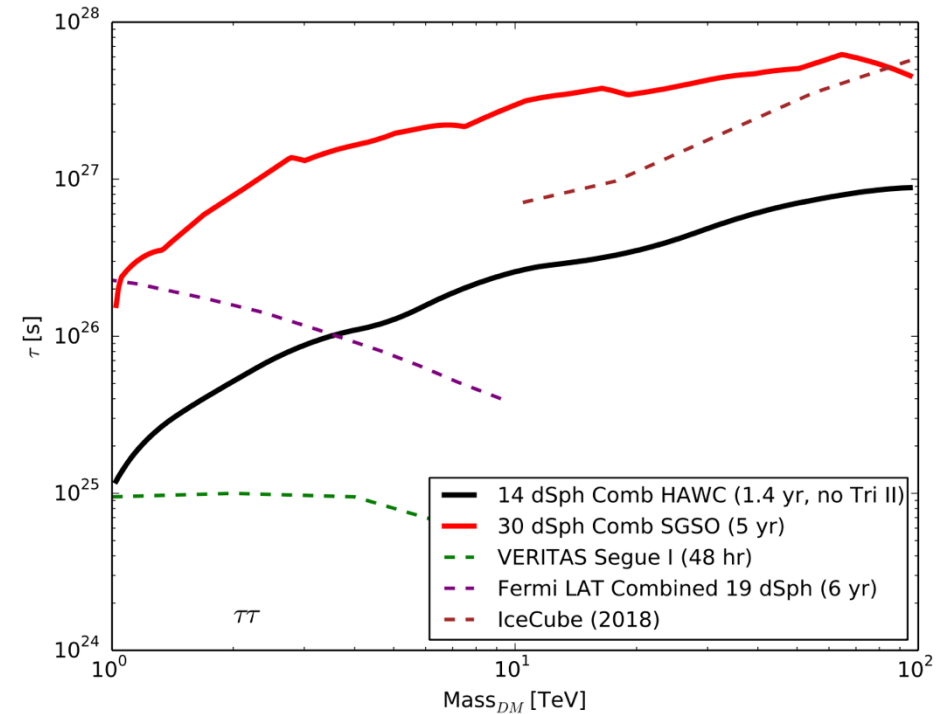
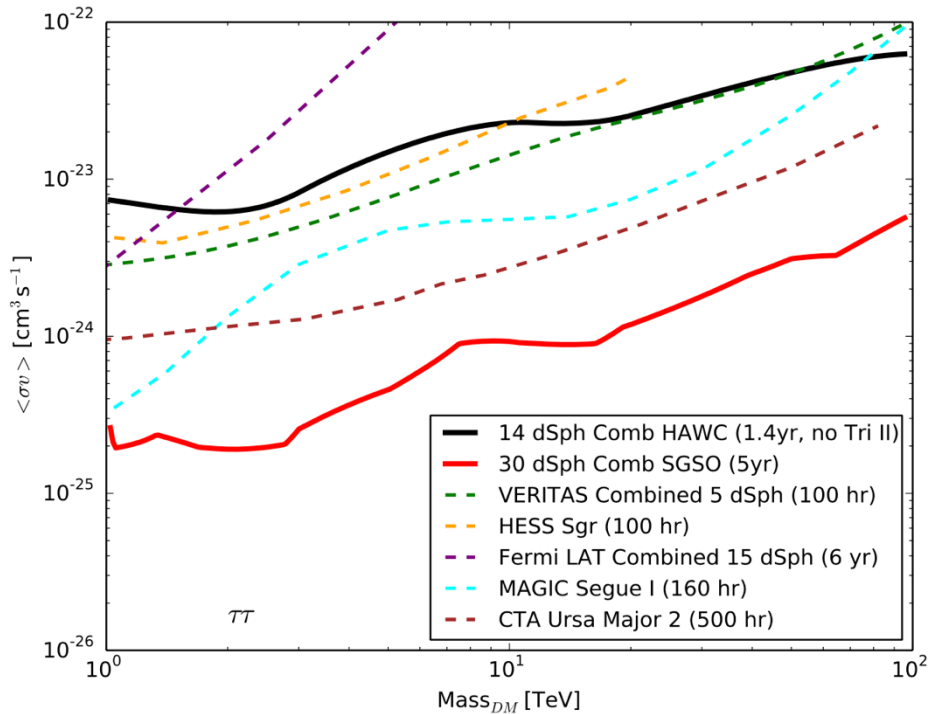
bird view

Combined one-year LHAASO sensitivities



Dong-Ze He et al., Phys. Rev. D 100, 083003 (2019)

SWGO sensitivities



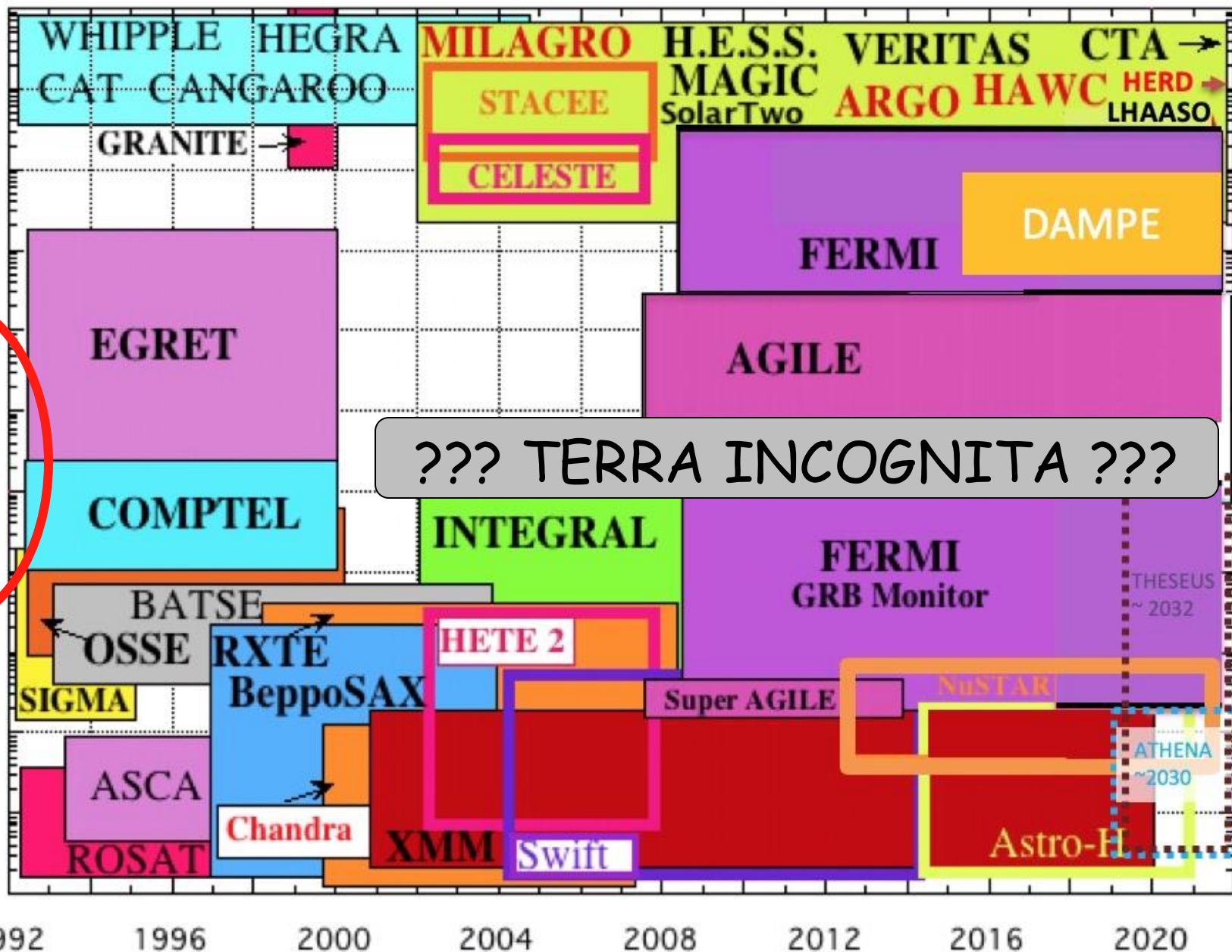
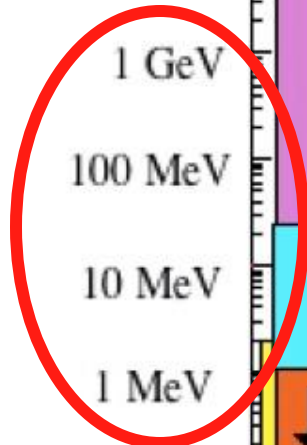
Assumed new dSph discovery and J-factor and D-factor distributions of the new dSphs matches that of the previously known dSphs

 SWGO White paper arXiv:1902.08429

The Low Energy Frontier



Energy



Year



newASTROGAM

Proposed for ESA M8 Call

Thursday Talk
(tomorrow)

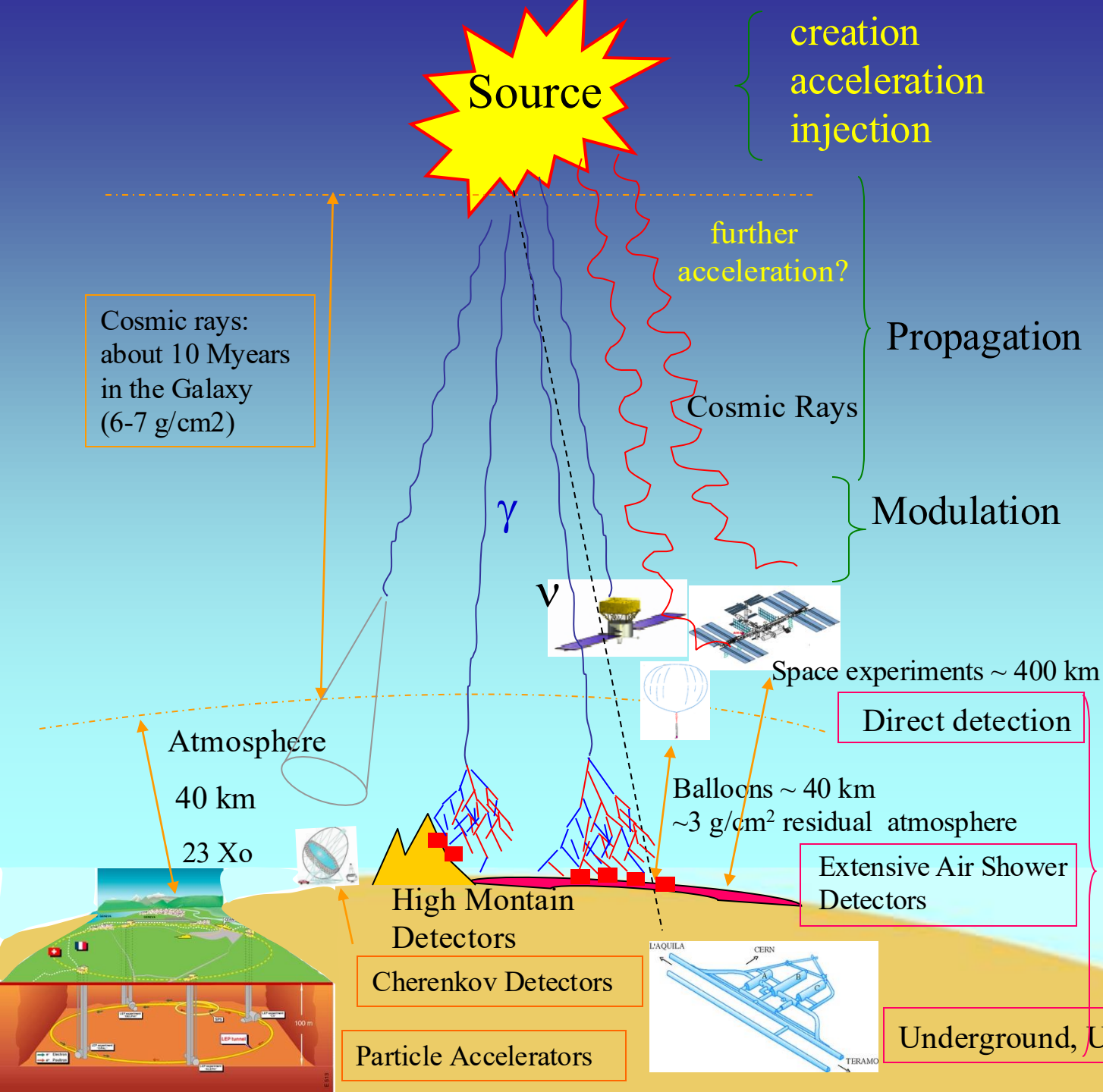
Detector paper: *Exp. Astronomy* 2017, 44, 25 [arXiv:1611.02232](#)
Science White Book: [arXiv:1711.01265](#) (213 pages)

THEY ALL ASK "WHAT IS DARK MATTER?"
AND "WHERE IS DARK MATTER?", BUT
NOBODY ASKS "HOW IS DARK MATTER?"



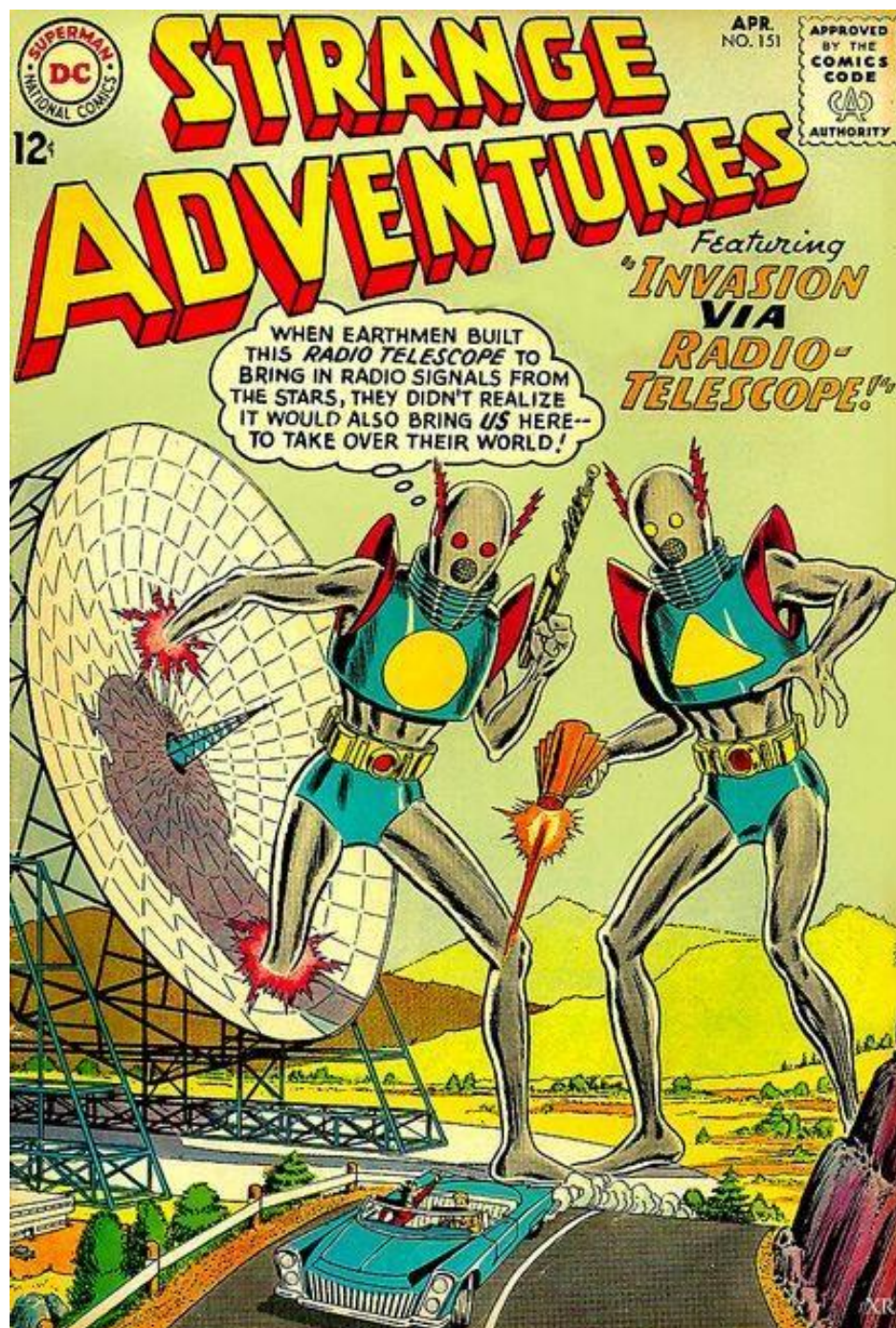
TOM GAULD for NEW SCIENTIST

Indirect, Direct and Accelerator Searches for Dark Matter



Particle Astrophysics Experiments

there is always
a risk ..



Thanks !!

but hopefully this will not happen
even with the new telescopes..