Detecting Rare Species of Dark Matter with Terrestrial Detectors

i) Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 011005 (2023) [arXiv: 2303.03416]
ii) JCAP 01 029 (2024) [arXiv: 2309.10032]
iii) JHEP 07 094 (2024) [arXiv: 2402.03431]

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TeV Particle Astrophysics, 2024
08.27.2024

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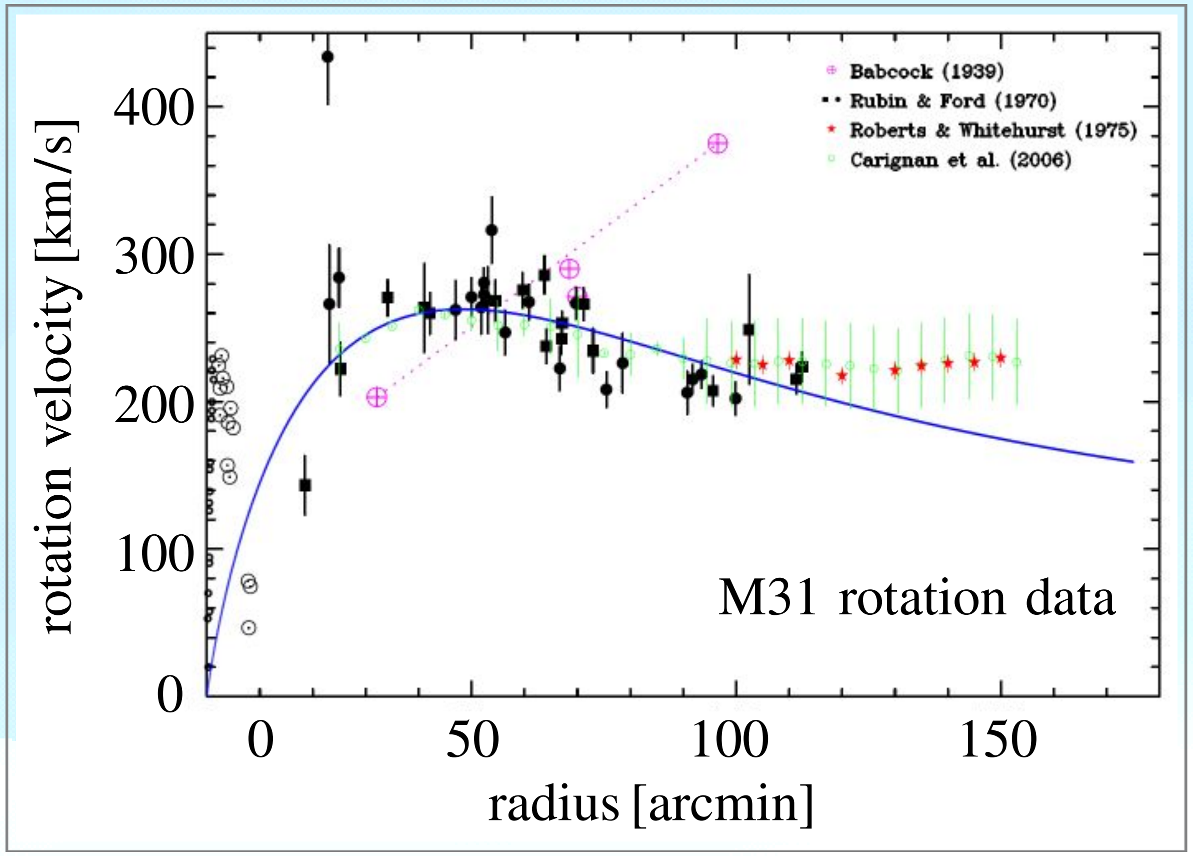
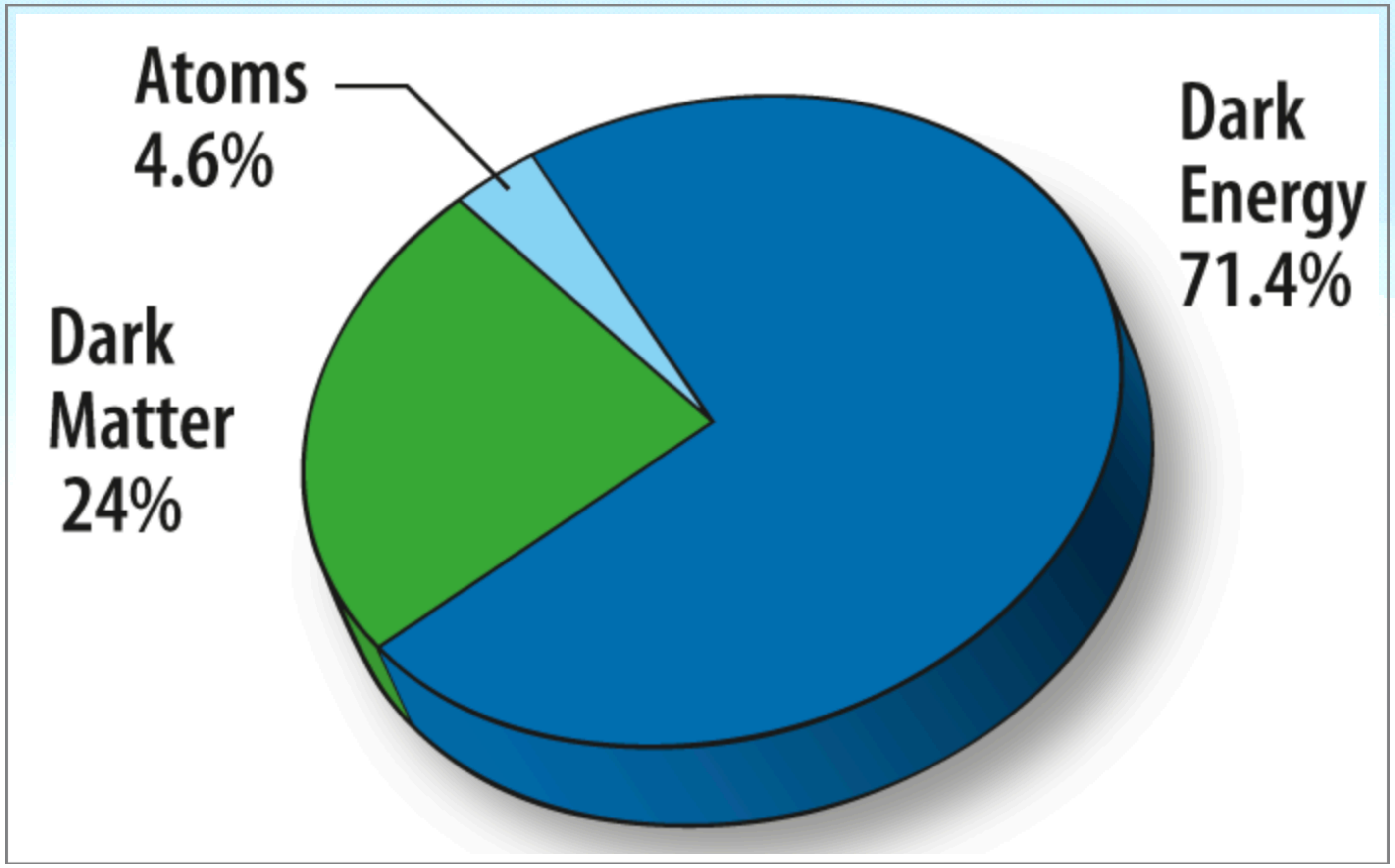
Chicago 2024
TeV Particle Astrophysics 2024

Dark Matter (DM)



From: Bertone and Hooper, Rev. Mod. Physics (2016)

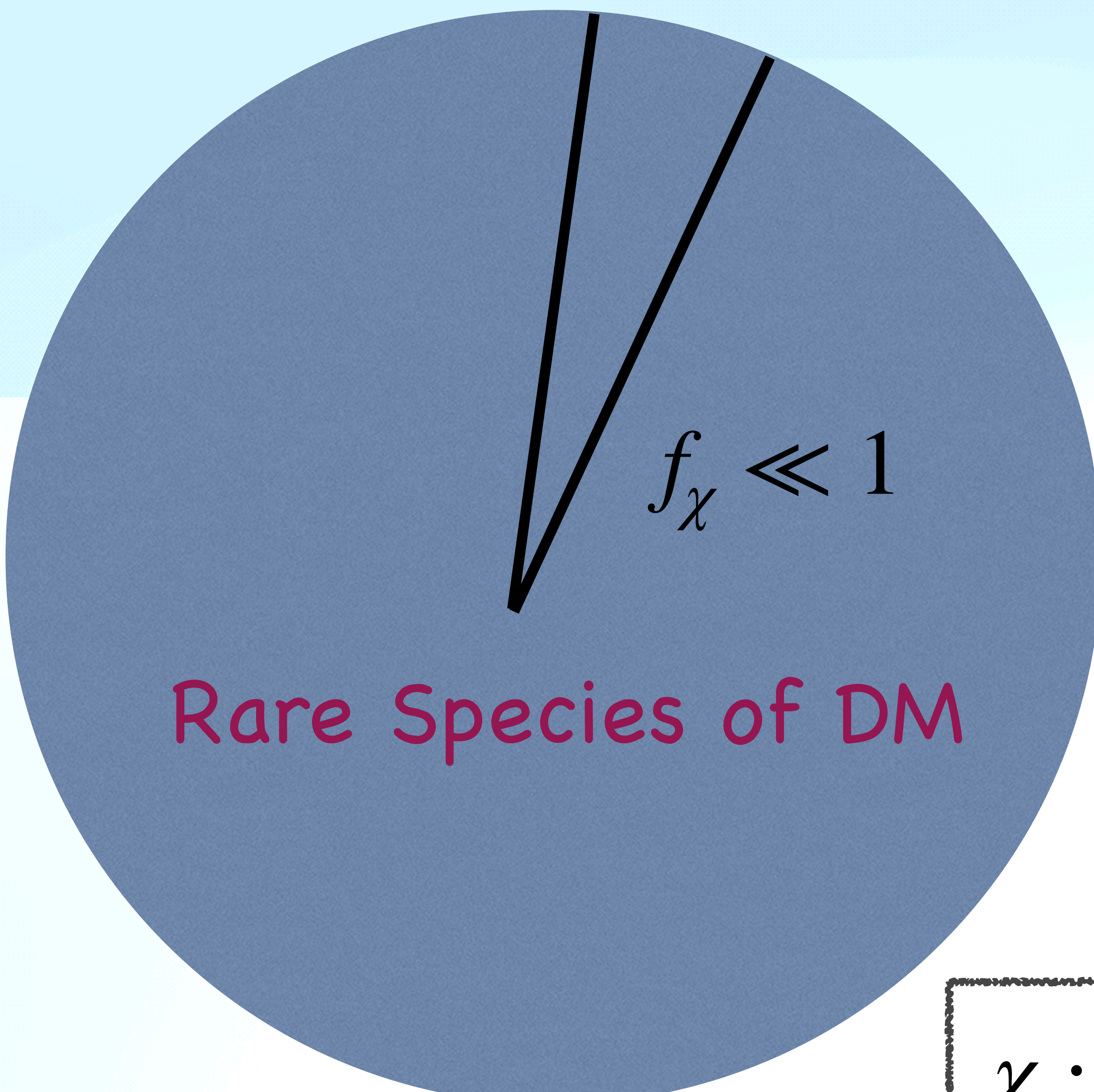


https://wmap.gsfc.nasa.gov/universe/uni_matter.html

- What is DM?

Strongly-interacting DM Component

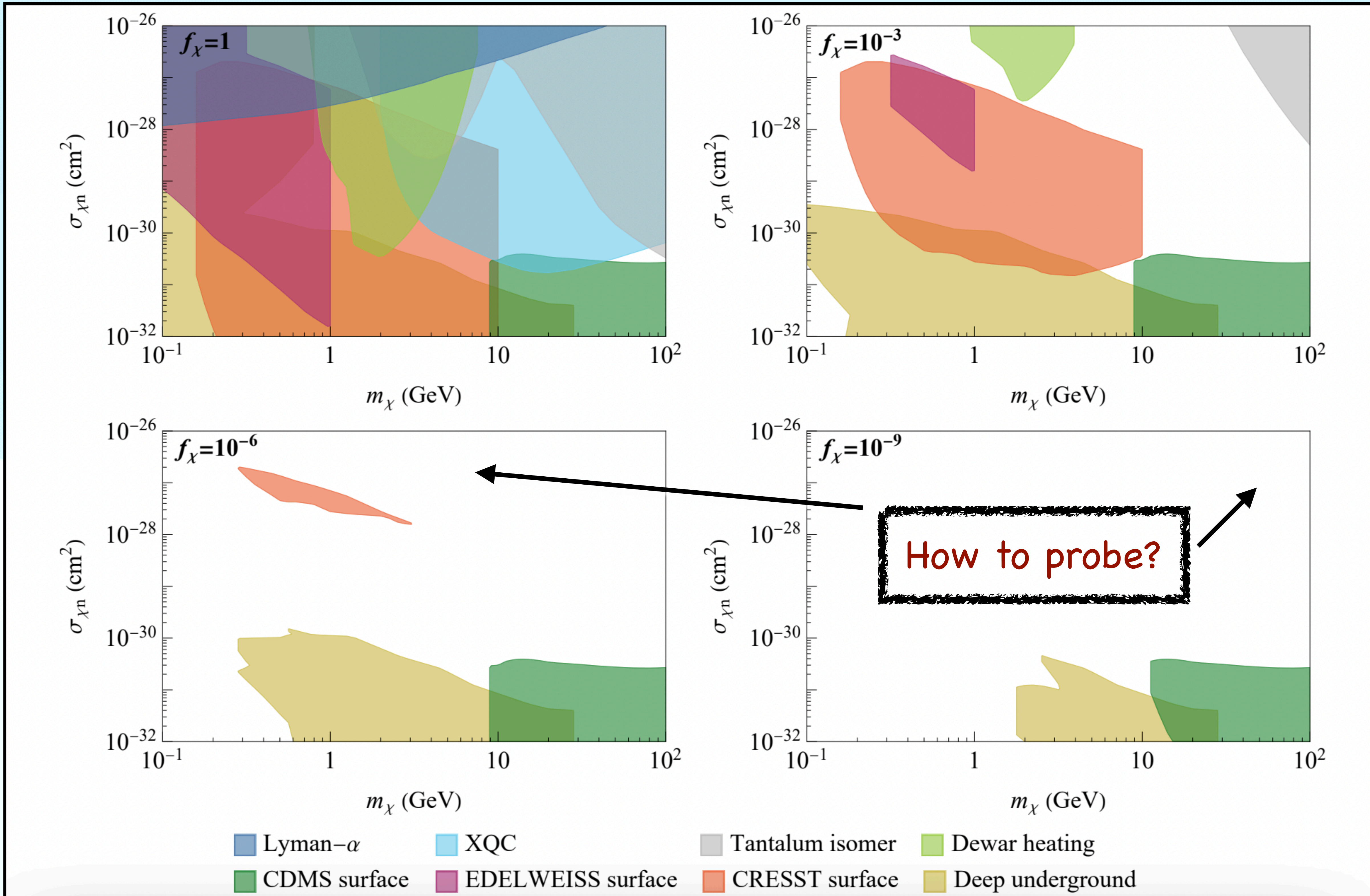
- A sub-component of DM can be strongly interacting.



- How to detect?

χ : Strongly-interacting DM component.

Strongly-interacting DM Component



Mckeen et al [PRD, 2022]

Take-Home Message

- "Earth-bound" DM provides a novel powerful probe.

  Strongly-interacting DM component can be trapped inside the Earth in significant quantities.

Annihilating DM

- Local annihilation inside any large-volume neutrino detectors (such as Super-Kamiokande)

  Ray, (with Mckeen, Morissey, Pospelov, Ramani) [PRL, 2023]

- Neutrinos from annihilation of Earth-bound DM.

  Pospelov & Ray [JCAP, 2024]

Non-Annihilating DM

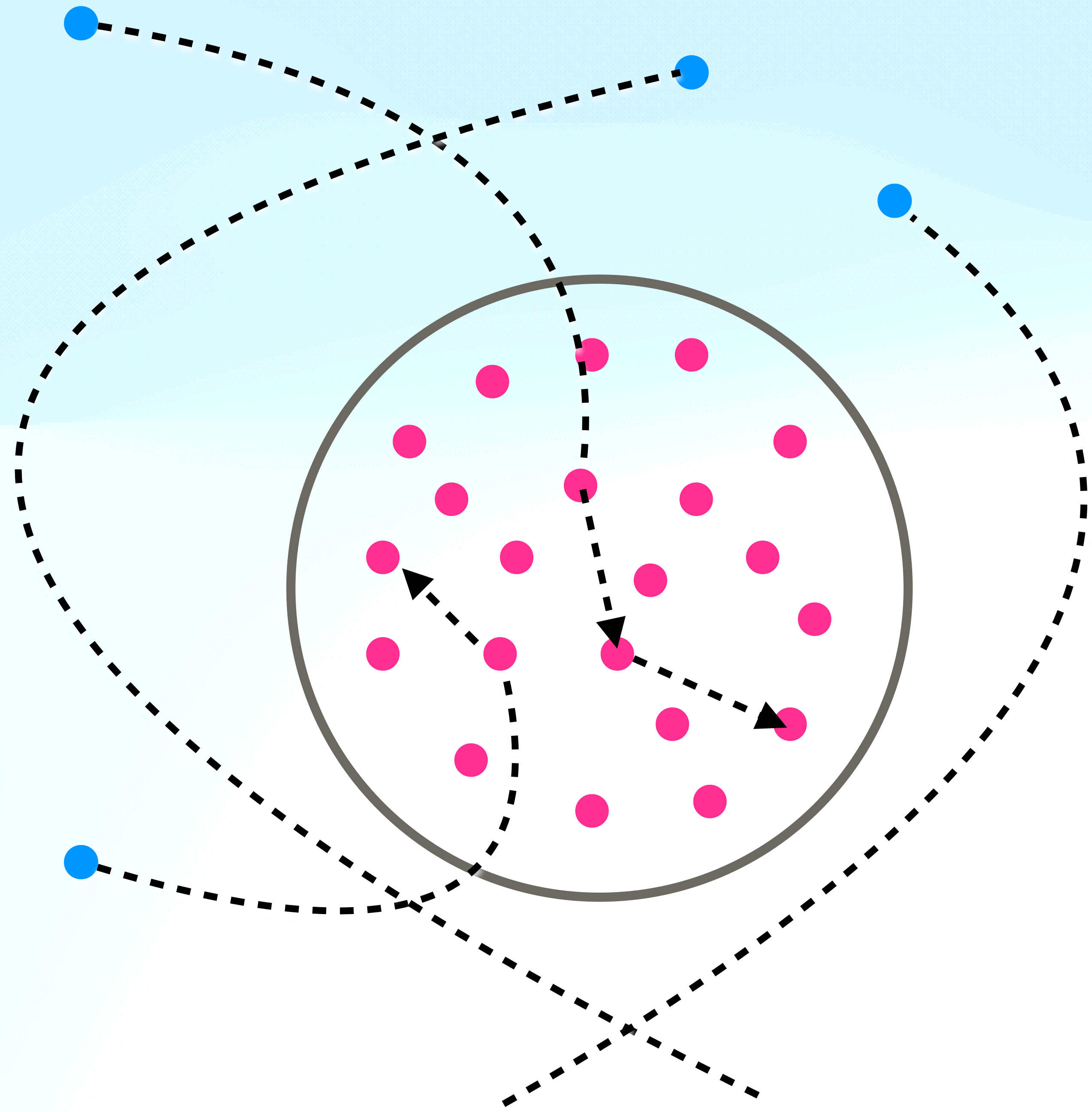
- Earth-bound DM can be up-scattered by fast neutrons inside the nuclear reactors, and subsequently detected.

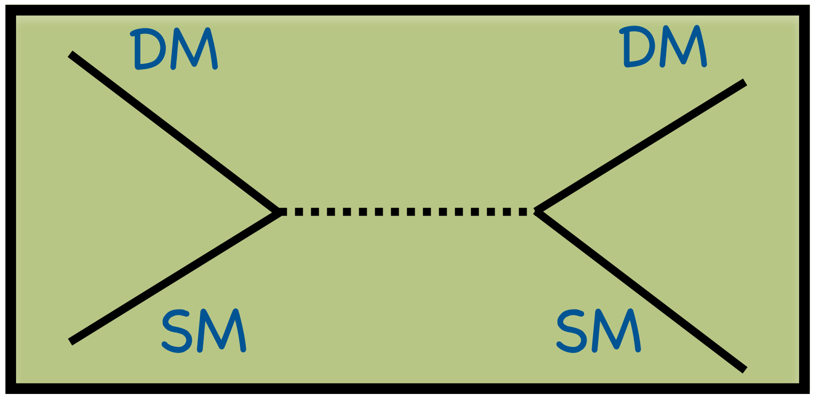
  Ray, (with Ema, Pospelov) [JHEP, 2024]

Earth-Bound DM

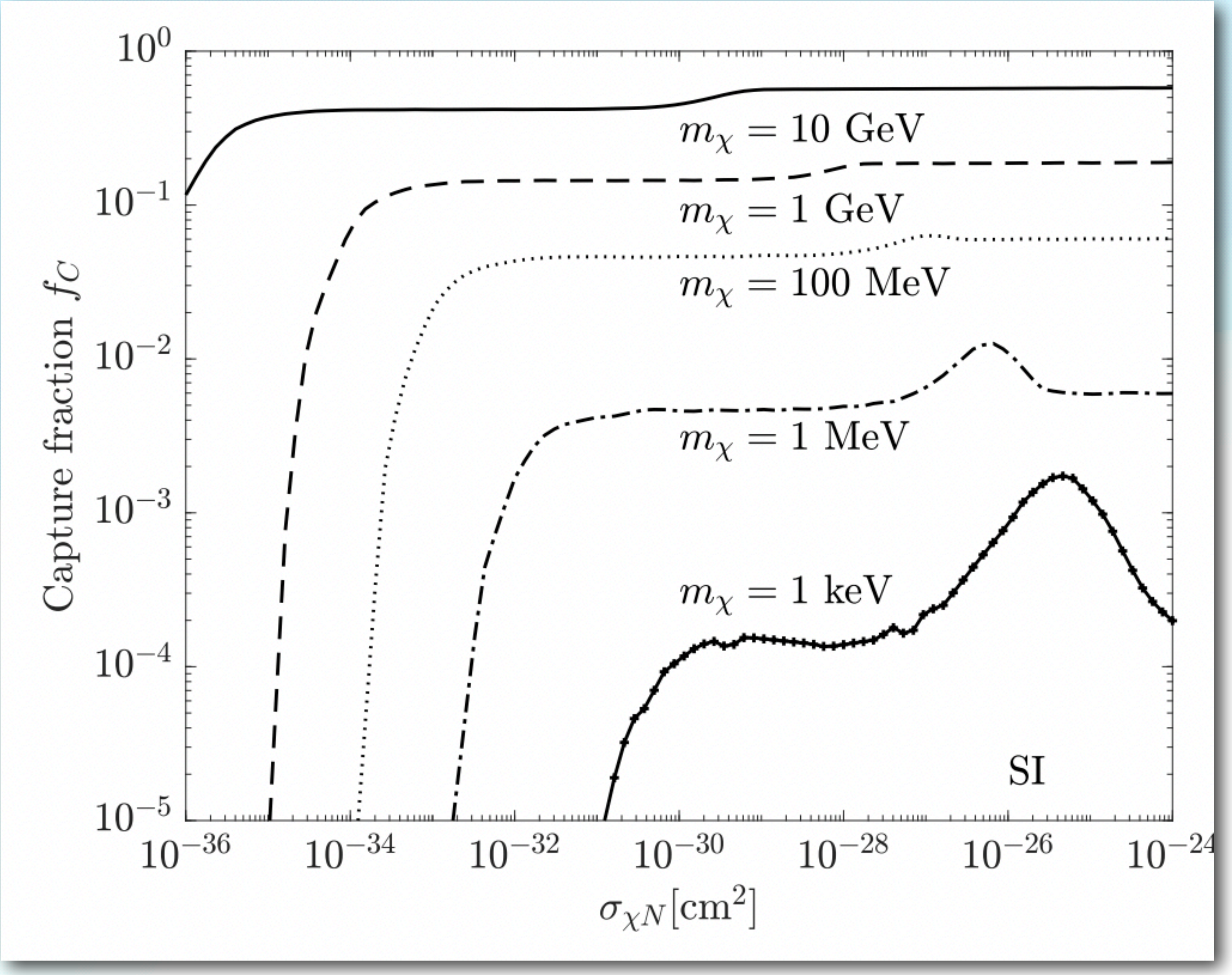
Press & Spergel (1985,ApJ), Gould (1987, ApJ),...

Small $\sigma_{\chi n} \rightarrow$ single collision, large $\sigma_{\chi n} \rightarrow$ multiple collisions.





Earth-Bound DM



$$f_c\left(\sigma_{\chi n}, m_\chi\right)$$

Bramante et al. (PRD, 2022)

Earth-Bound DM

- Lets do some quick estimate:

For DM mass of 1 GeV and $\sigma_{\chi n} = 10^{-28}\,\mathrm{cm}^2$

$$C_{\rm geo} = 1.3 \times 10^{25}\,\mathrm{s}^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad f_c \sim 0.1$$

$f_\chi = 1$

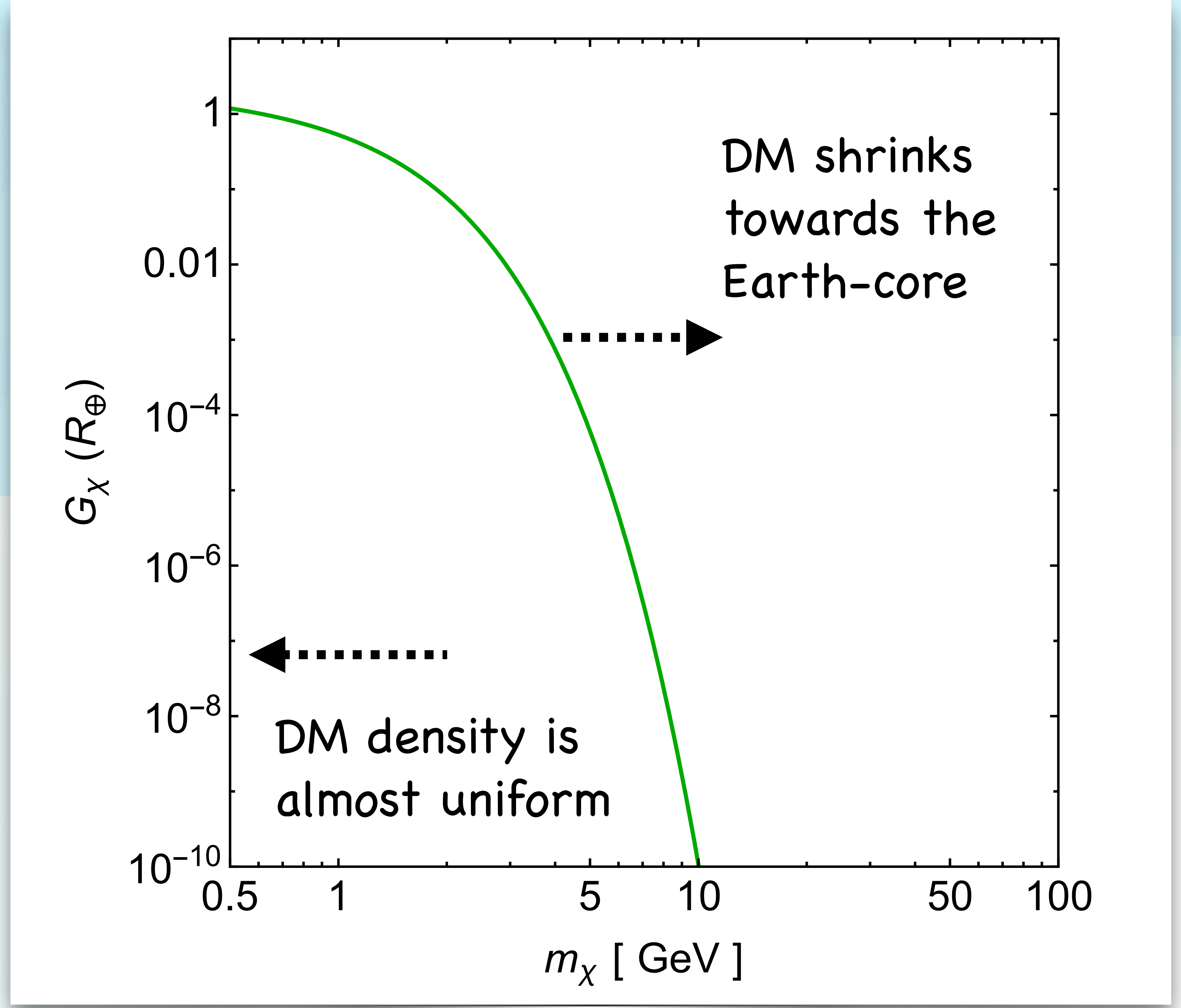
DM density (assuming they uniformly distribute over the Earth-volume)

$$\rho_\chi = m_\chi \frac{f_c \times C_{\rm geo} \times t_\oplus}{V_\oplus} \sim 3 \times 10^{14}\,\mathrm{GeV/cm^3}$$

$f_\chi = 1$

- 15 orders of magnitude larger than the Galactic DM density!

DM Distribution in Stellar Objects



- Dimensionless profile function:

$$G_\chi(R_\oplus) = \frac{n_\chi(R_\oplus)V_\oplus}{N_\chi}$$

- For uniform DM density:

$$G_\chi(R_\oplus) = 1$$

Ray, (with Mckeen, Morissey, Pospelov, Ramani) [PRL, 2023]

Signal at Super-K

- Earth-bound DM, of mass GeV scale have an enormously large surface density.

- Their detection via scattering is almost impossible as they acquire very little amount kinetic energy (0.03 eV).

- How to detect them?

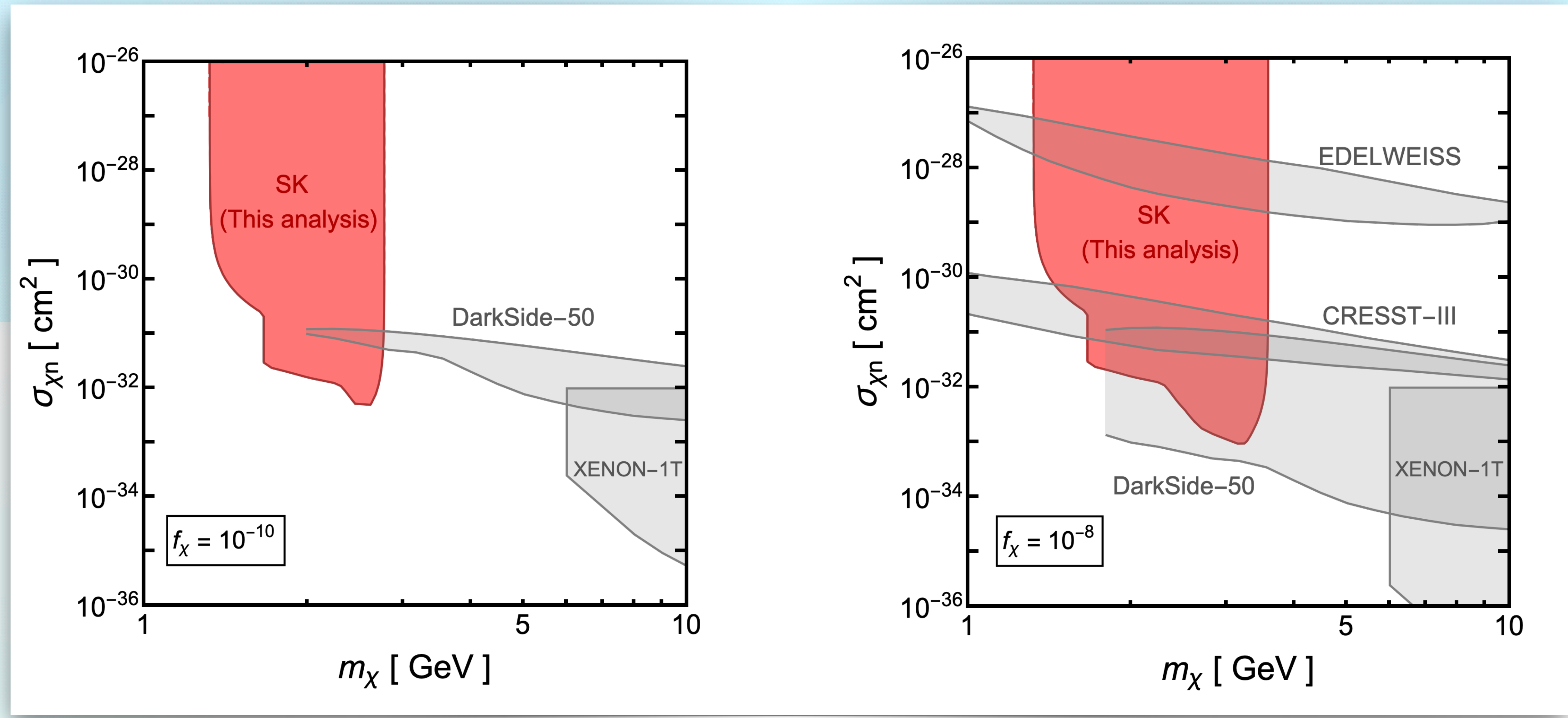
Ray, (with Mckeen, Morissey, Pospelov, Ramani) [PRL, 2023]

Our proposal: simply look at their annihilation signature inside large-volume detectors (annihilation is not limited to the tiny kinetic energy)!

Results

- Using existing di-nucleon annihilation searches at Super-K

Ray, (with Mckeen, Morissey, Pospelov, Ramani) [PRL, 2023]



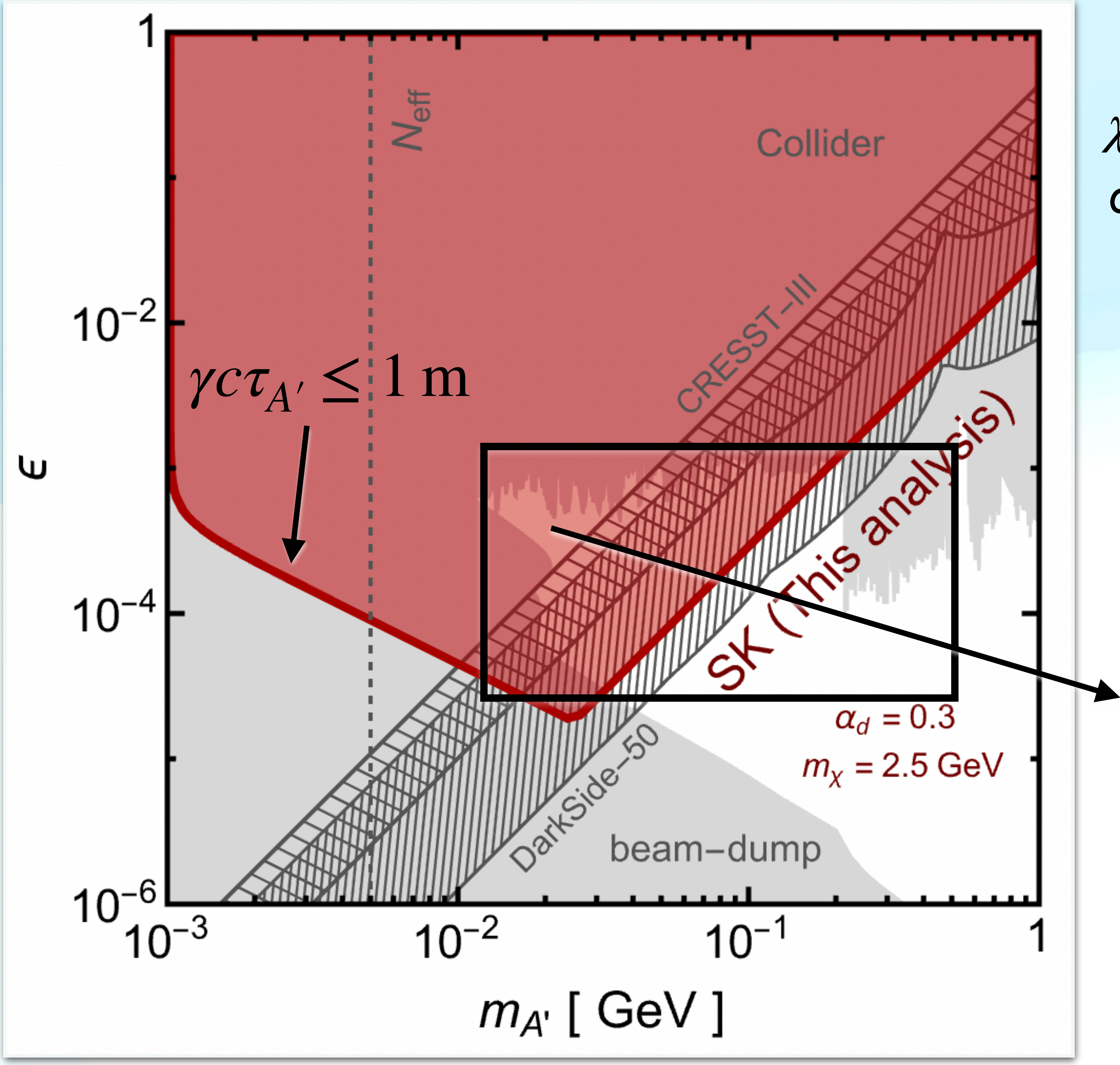
Evaporation

DM shrinks towards the Earth-core

Up to $f_\chi = 10^{-10}$

Results

Ray, (with Mckeen, Morissey, Pospelov, Ramani) [PRL, 2023]



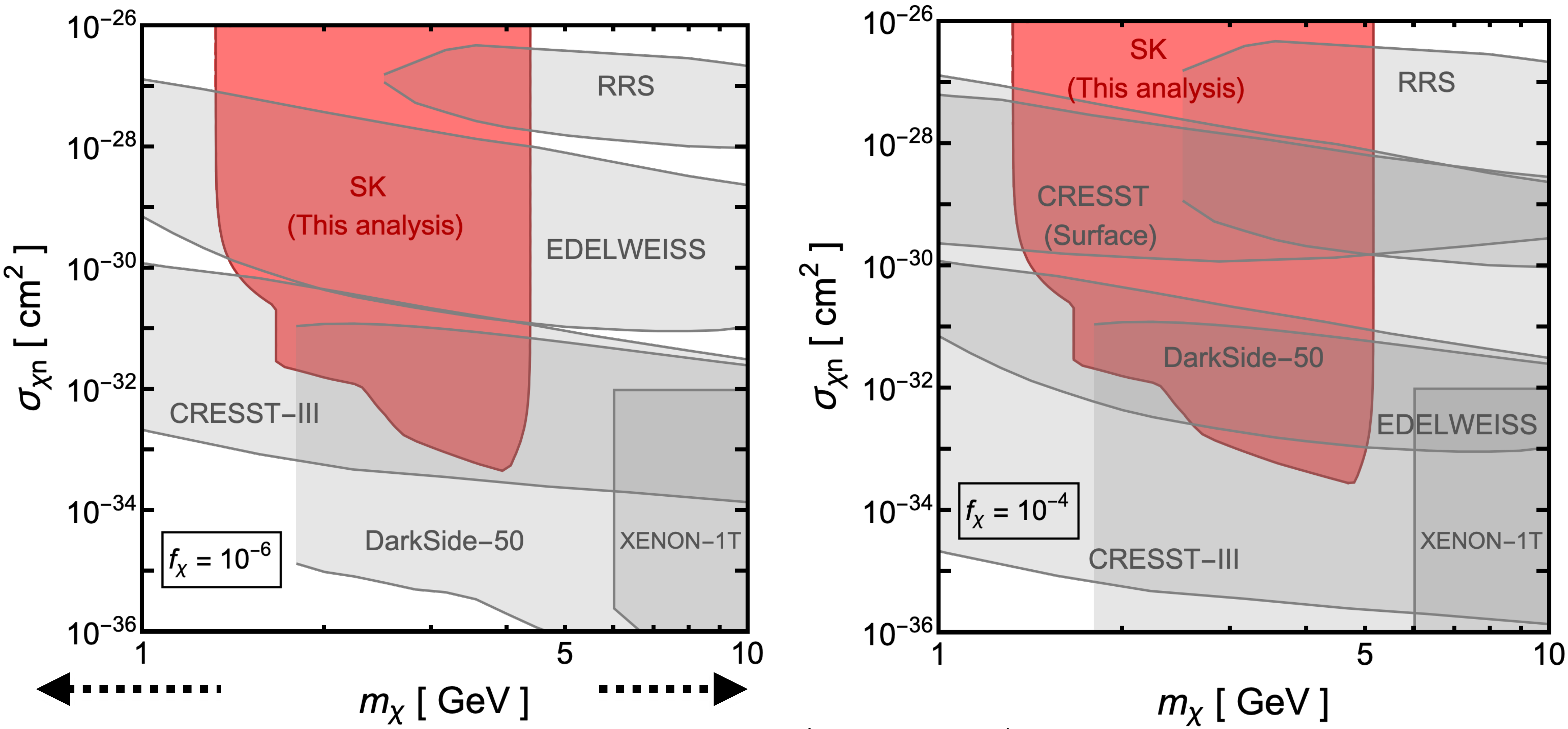
χ : Dirac fermion which can couple to a dark photon A'

$\chi\bar{\chi} \to A'A'$

$A' \to$ SM + SM (say $e^+ + e^-$)

Unprecedented sensitivity on parts of the parameter space.

What about heavy DM?



Evaporation

(Can not be improved)

DM shrinks towards the Earth-core

(Can be improved)

Neutrino Signal

- Earth-bound DM if sufficiently heavy, shrinks towards the core, leading to a negligible surface density.

gravity dominates over the diffusion processes

- Annihilation to neutrinos can occur at the Earth-core, if Earth-bound DM if sufficiently heavy. Since the number density is huge, annihilation rate is also fairly large.

- Neutrinos, because of their feeble interactions, can reach detectors like Super-K, IceCube-DeepCore, and searching these annihilated neutrinos can provide sensitivity to DM interactions.

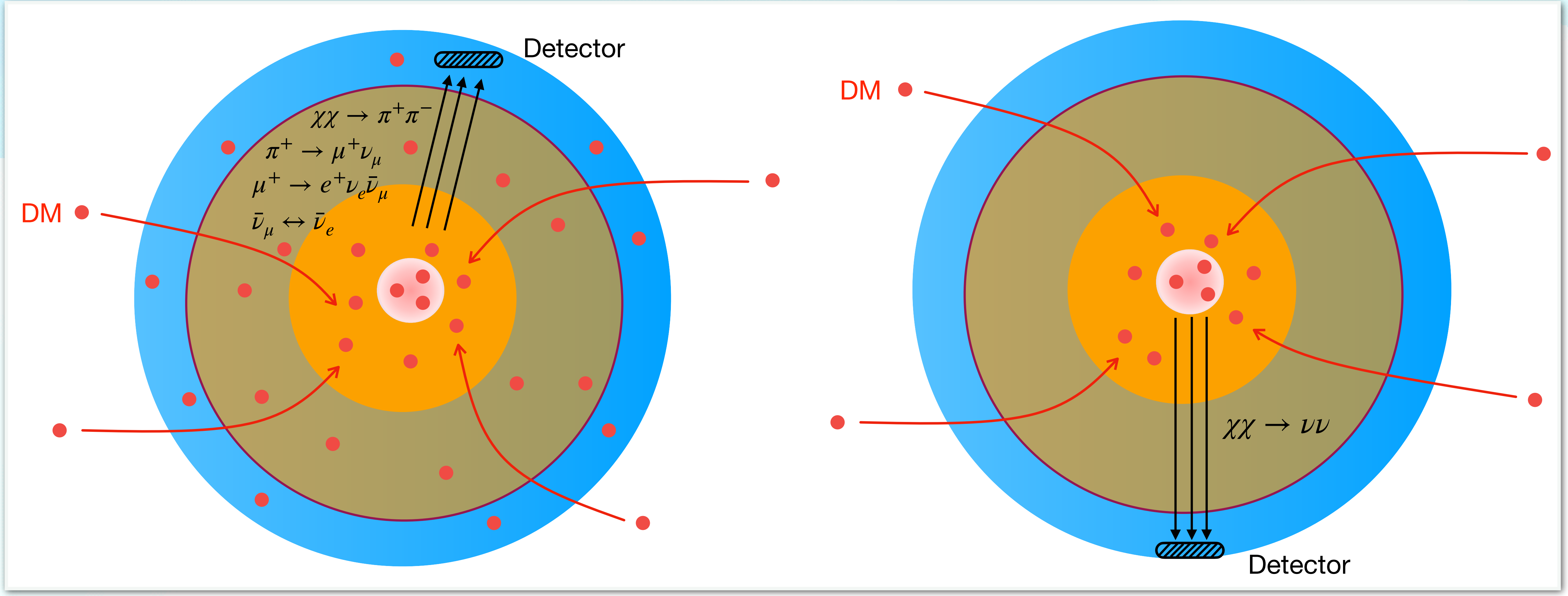
Pospelov & Ray [JCAP, 2024]

Neutrino Signal

- We consider two phenological scenarios:

Lower energy neutrinos from the stopped pion decay

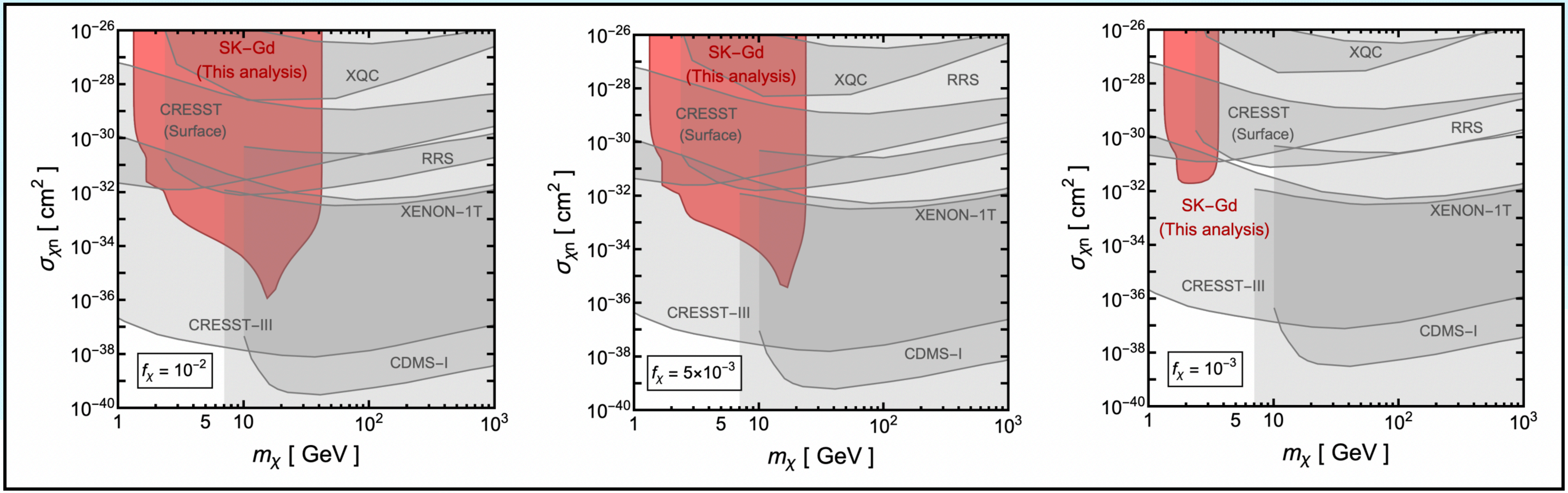
Higher energy neutrino lines from direct annihilation



Pospelov & Ray [JCAP, 2024]

Low Energy Neutrinos

Pospelov & Ray [JCAP, 2024]



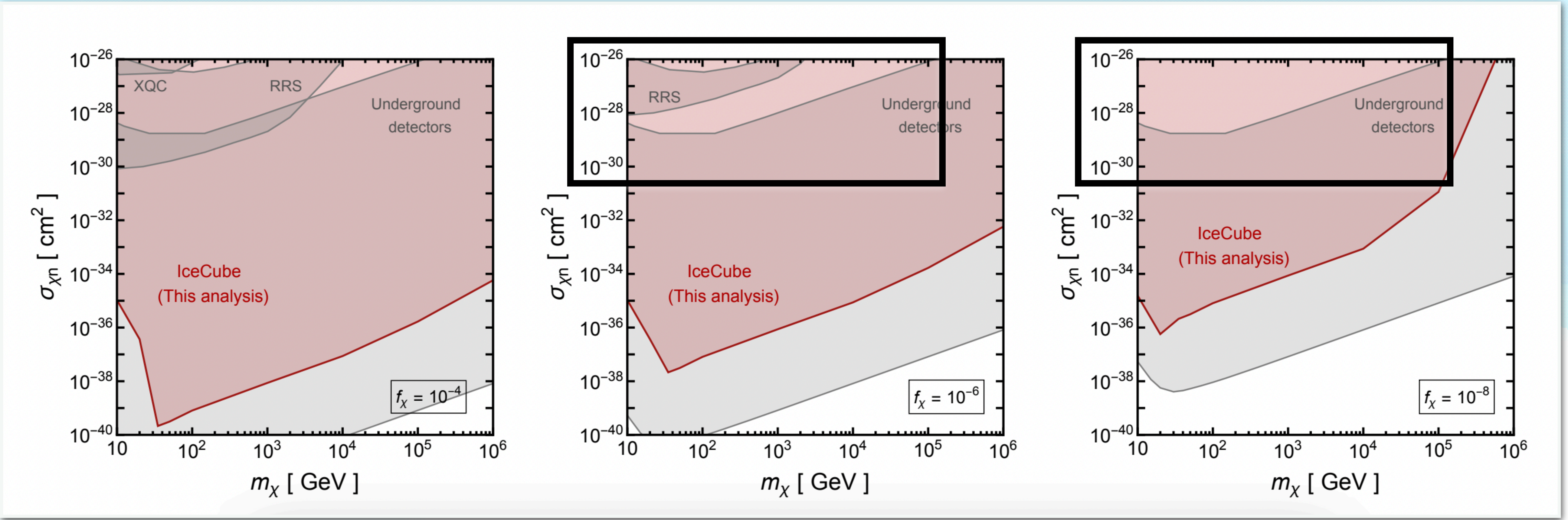
We use the Super-K DSNB search result with 0.01 wt% gadolinium loaded water (22.5 kton × 552.2 days) to derive the exclusion limits

Super-Kamiokande (APJL, 2023)

*Gd-loaded water gives competitive limit (as compared to the pure-water limits) although the data is 5 times less.

High Energy Neutrinos

Pospelov & Ray [JCAP, 2024]



We probe up to $f_\chi \geq 10^{-8}$ for sufficiently heavy Earth-bound DM.

Summary

- Earth accumulates significant number of DM particles from the Galactic halo, leading to a DM density 15 orders of magnitude larger than the Galactic DM density!

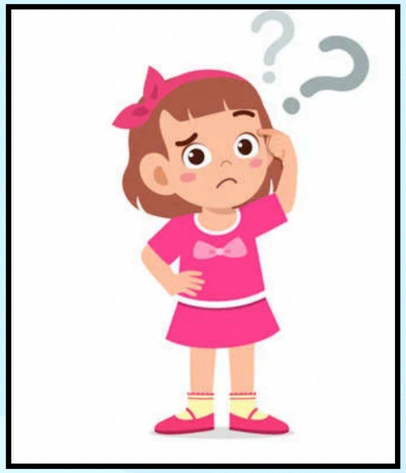
- Despite their prodigious abundance, their detection is extremely challenging as they acquire tiny amount of kinetic energy (0.03 eV).

- Annihilation of such Earth-bound DM at large-volume neutrino detectors, provides a novel way for their detection and can be used to probe strongly-interacting DM component.

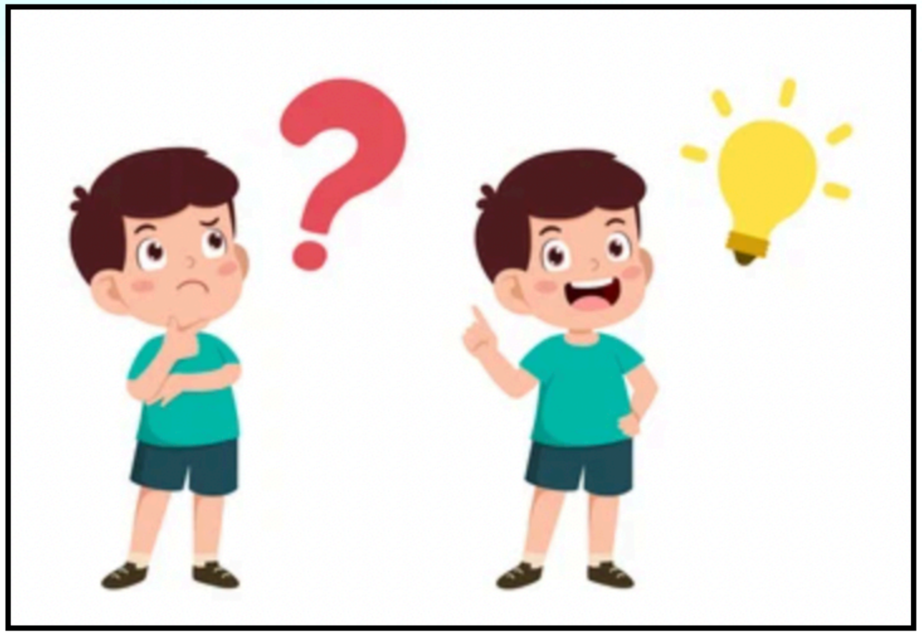
- If they do not annihilate, they can be up-scattered by colliding with the fast neutrons inside the nuclear reactors and subsequently detected.

Conclusion

★ How to detect rare species of DM?



★ Look at the Earth-bound DM!



Thanks!

Questions & Comments: anupam.ray@berkeley.edu