

# Dark Matter Icebergs ( $\sim$ TeV scale particles)



Joel Bissell/Kalamazoo Gazette via AP



Hugh Lippincott, UCSB  
TeVPA  
August 26, 2024

**Pinch hitter:**  
**Matthew Szydagus,**  
**UAlbany SUNY**



# Dark Matter in 2001

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2001 Snowmass report - single 3 page section on dark matter and relic particles

**Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology: Cosmic Laboratories for New Physics  
(Summary of the Snowmass 2001 P4 Working Group)**

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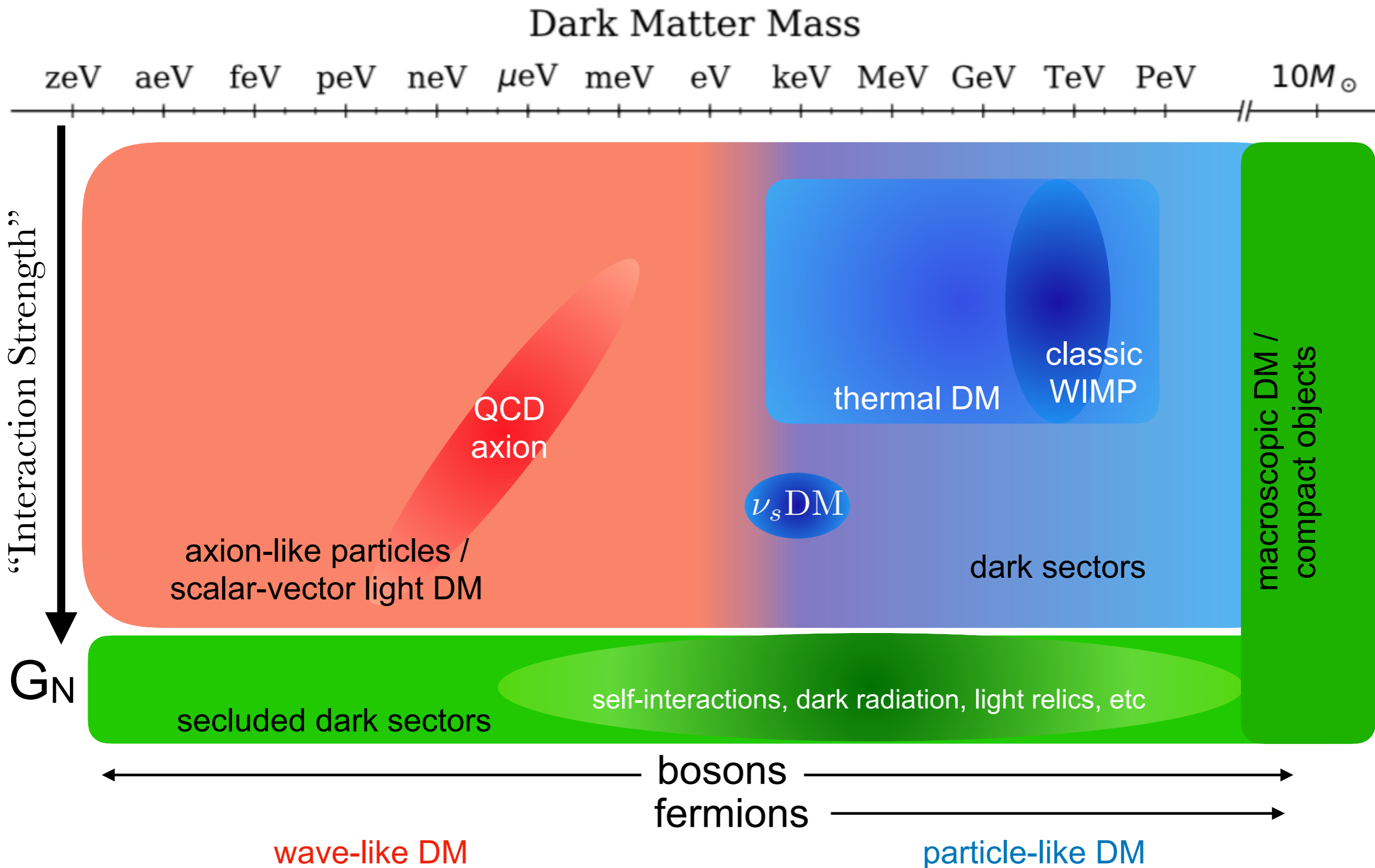
(Dated: October 30, 2018)

### III. DARK MATTER AND RELIC PARTICLES

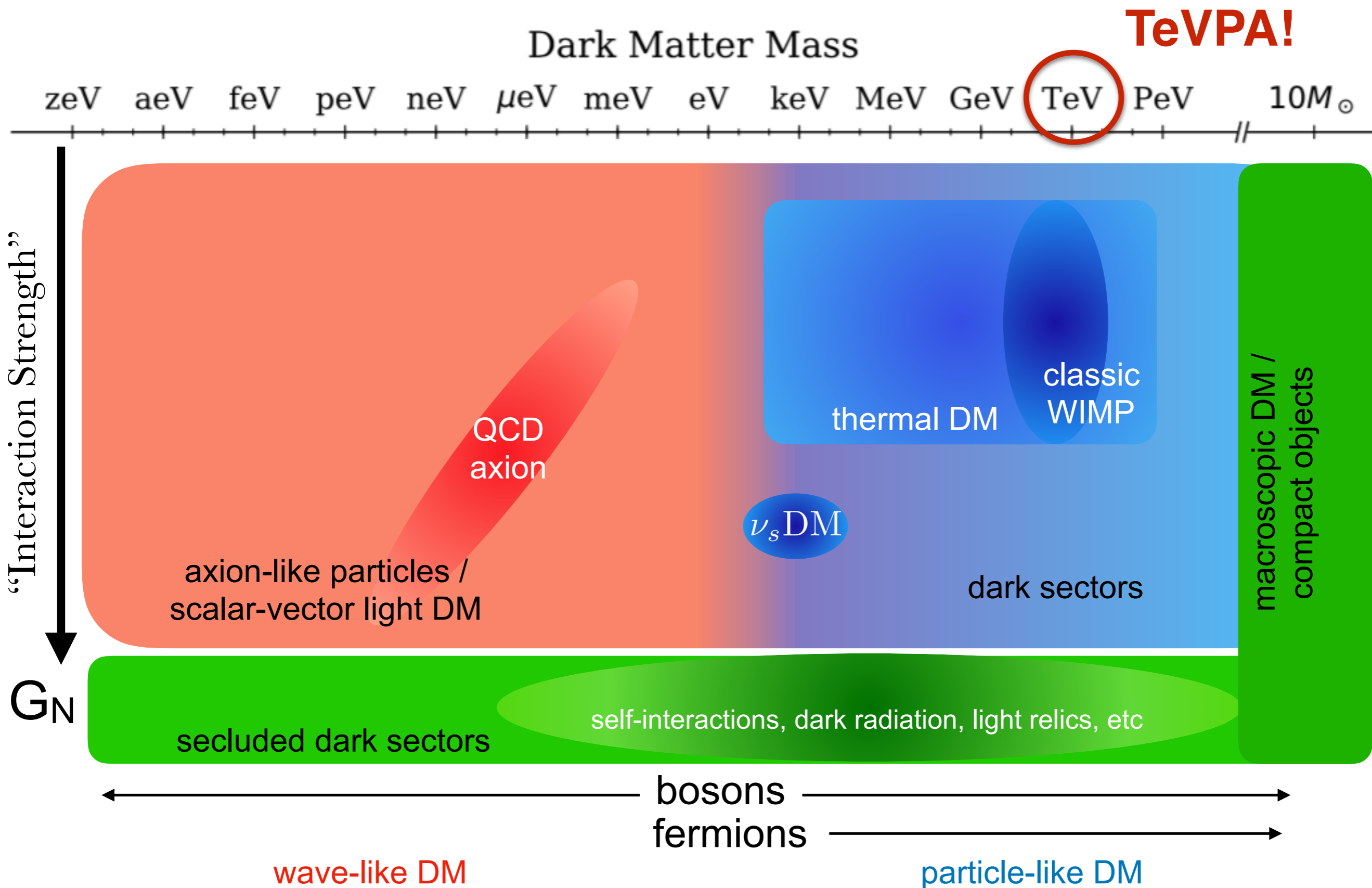
“Particle physics offers two different hypotheses for the dark matter—WIMPs and axions—either of which would constitute a major discovery of physics beyond the standard model.”



# Dark Matter Today

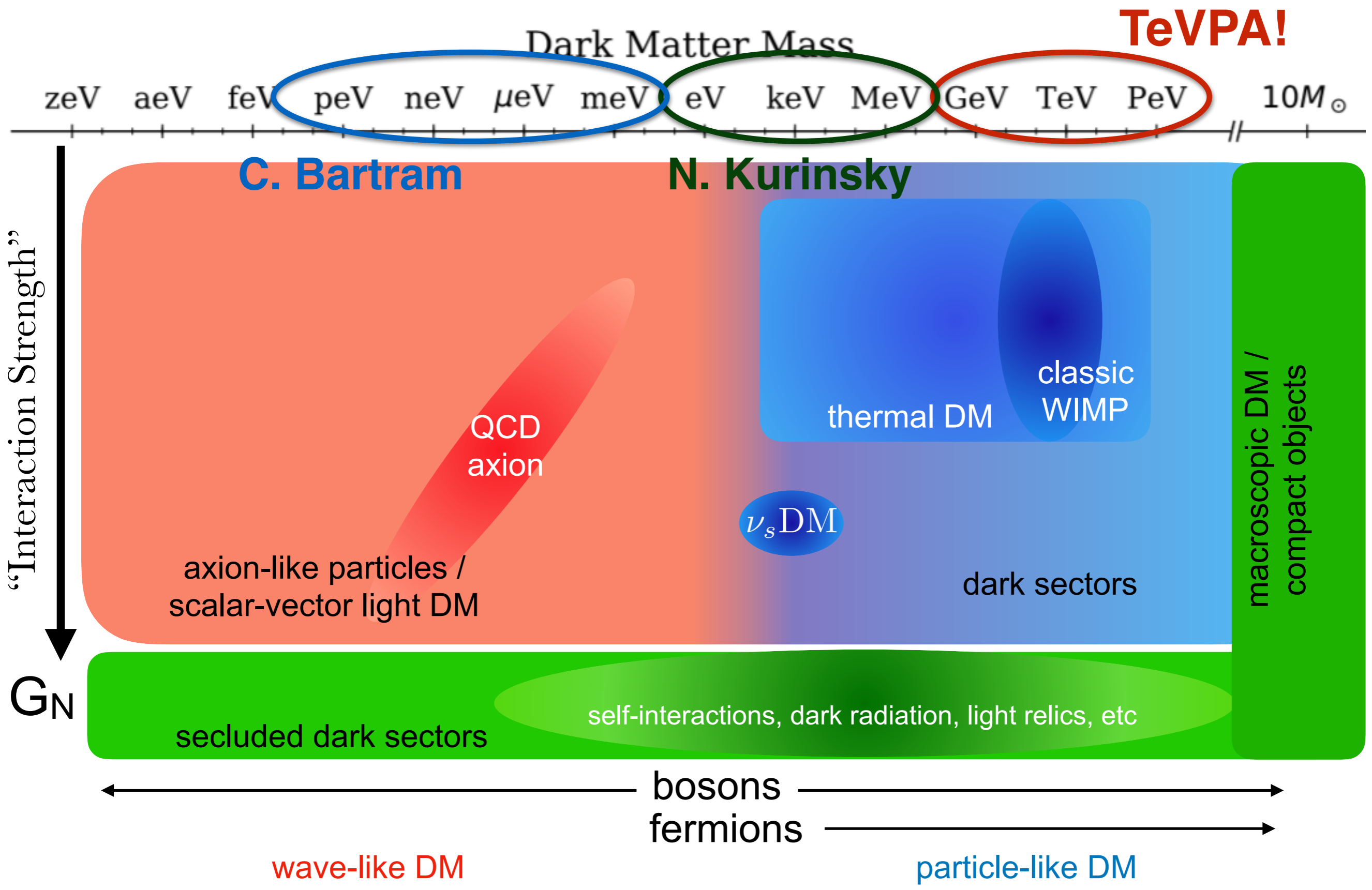


# Dark Matter Today



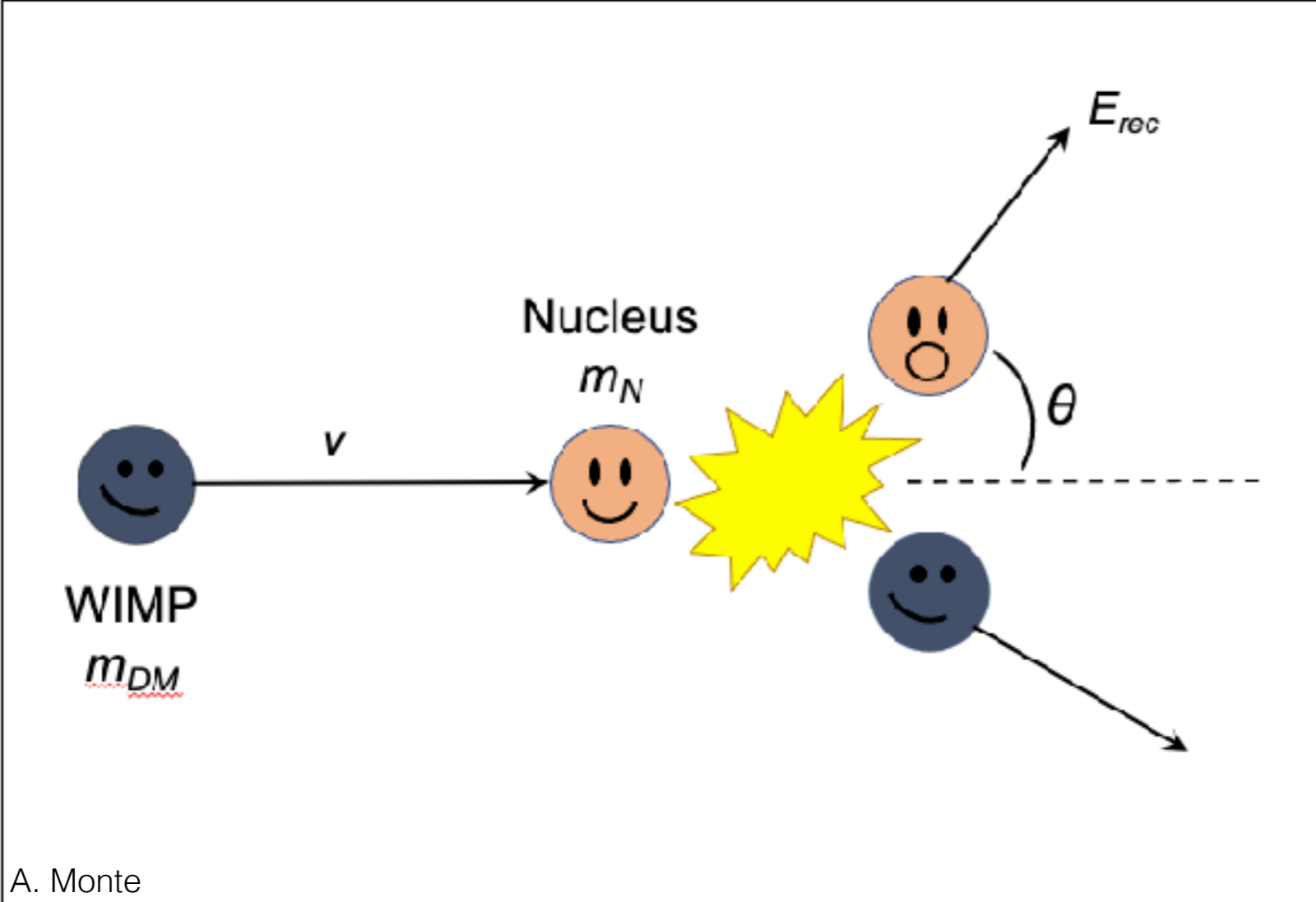


# Dark Matter Today



# “Direct Detection” of Dark Matter

Fill a detector with your favorite material and wait for WIMPs to scatter off it



**WIMP**  
 $m_{DM}$

**Nucleus**  
 $m_N$

$v$

$E_{rec}$

$\theta$

**Non-relativistic elastic scattering**

$$\mu = \frac{m_{DM}m_N}{m_{DM} + m_N}$$
$$E_{rec} = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos\theta)$$

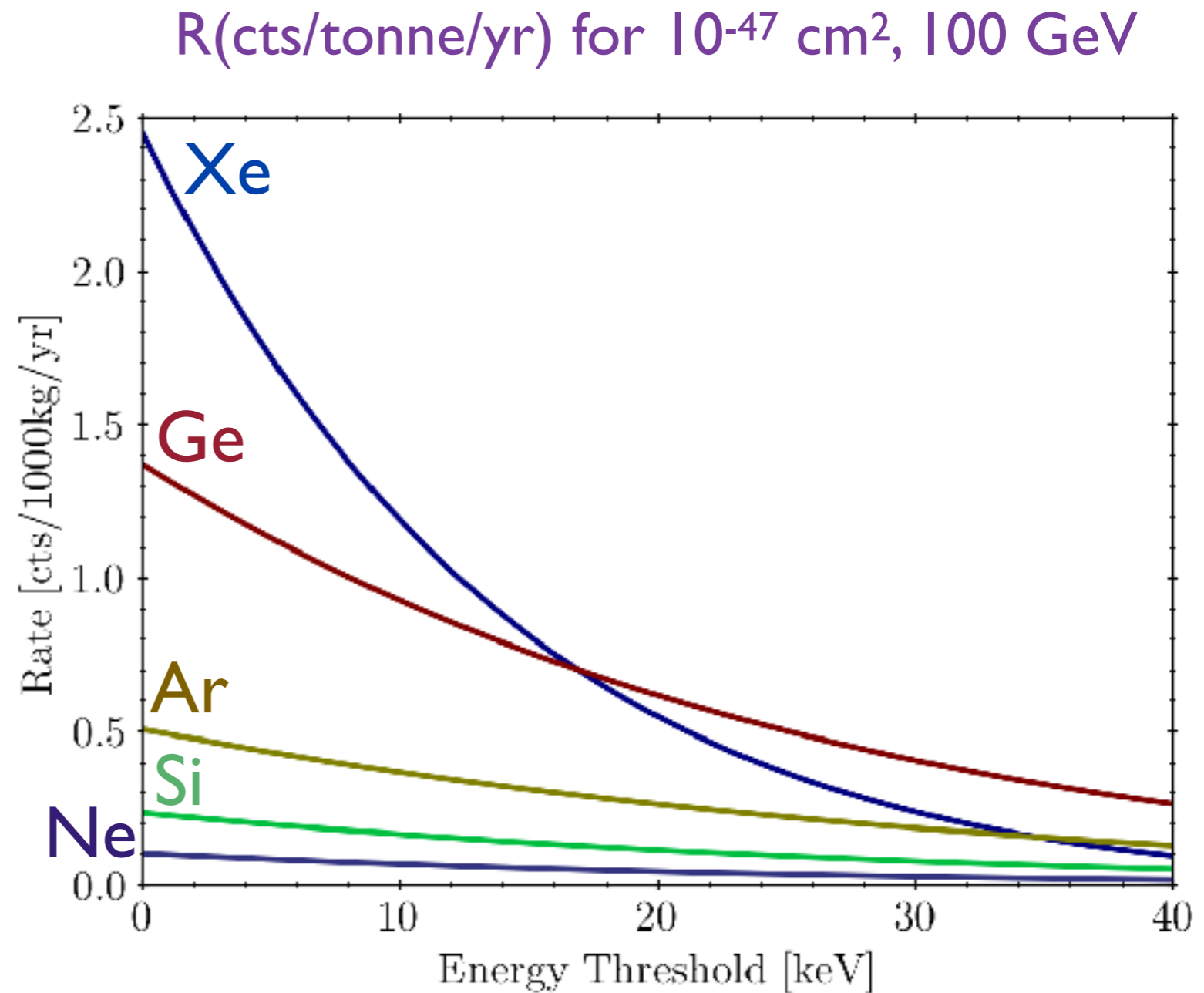
$m_{DM} = 100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   
 $m_N = 131 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   
 $v = 220 \text{ km/s}$   
 $E_{rec} = 3 \text{ keV}$

A. Monte

- Naturally sensitive to  $>\text{GeV}$  particles by kinematics and technology
- Great for WIMP hunting at the TeV scale

# Direct Detection of Dark Matter

- Very rare process
  - Current best limits  $<10^{-47}$  cm<sup>2</sup>
  - Path length in lead of  $\sim 10$  million light years
- Luckily, there are lots of particles flying around (in theory)
  - Can look for a few counts in a detector per year
- Backgrounds, backgrounds, backgrounds
  - $10^{12}$  per tonne/year on surface

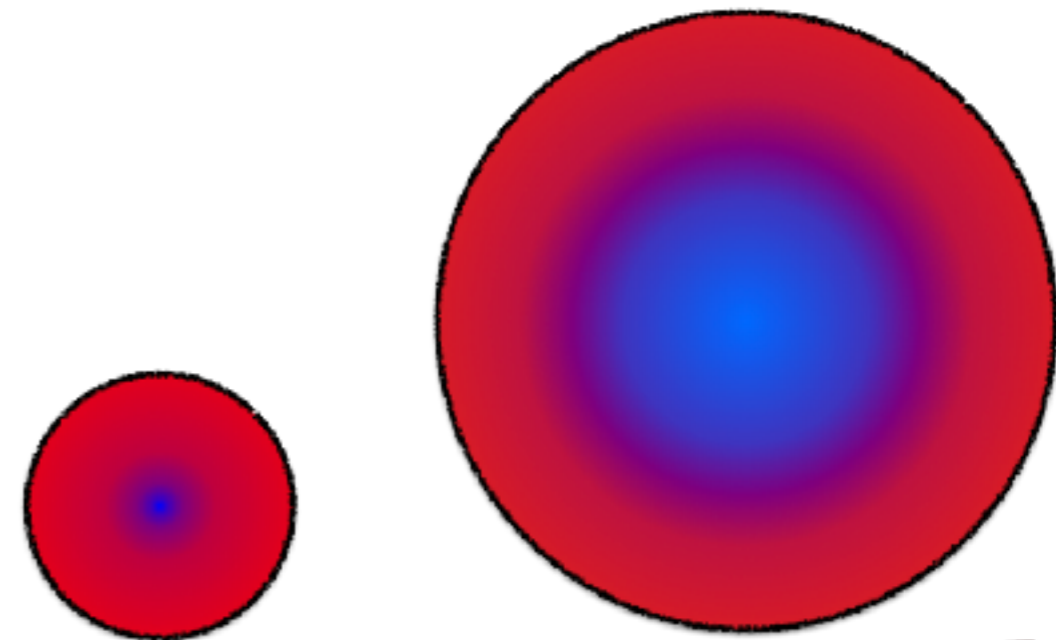
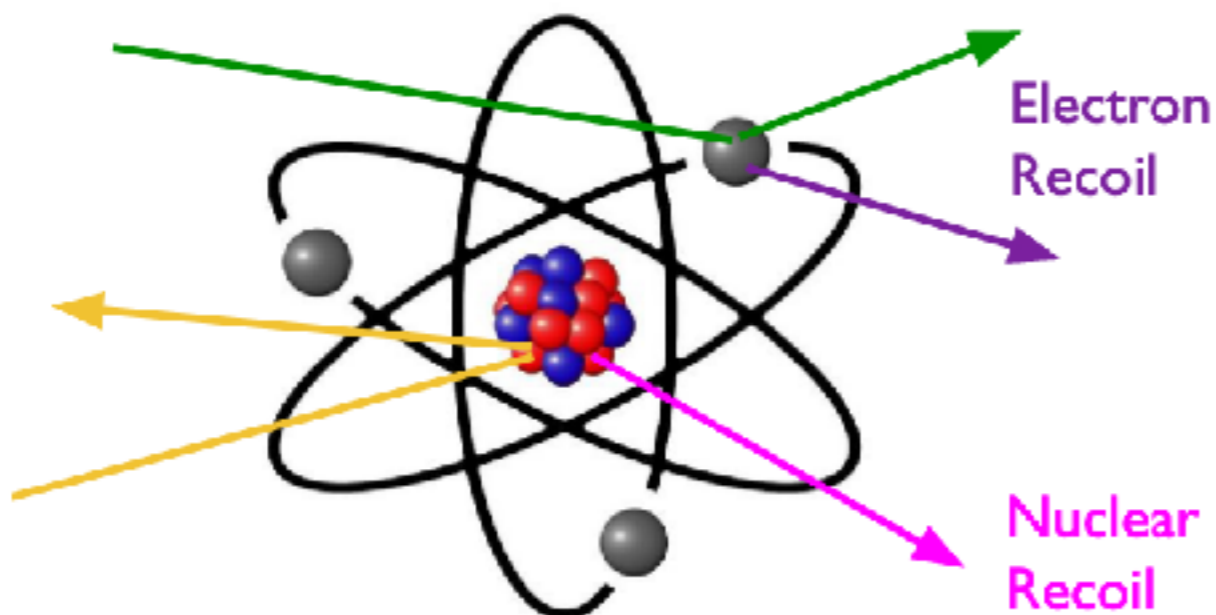
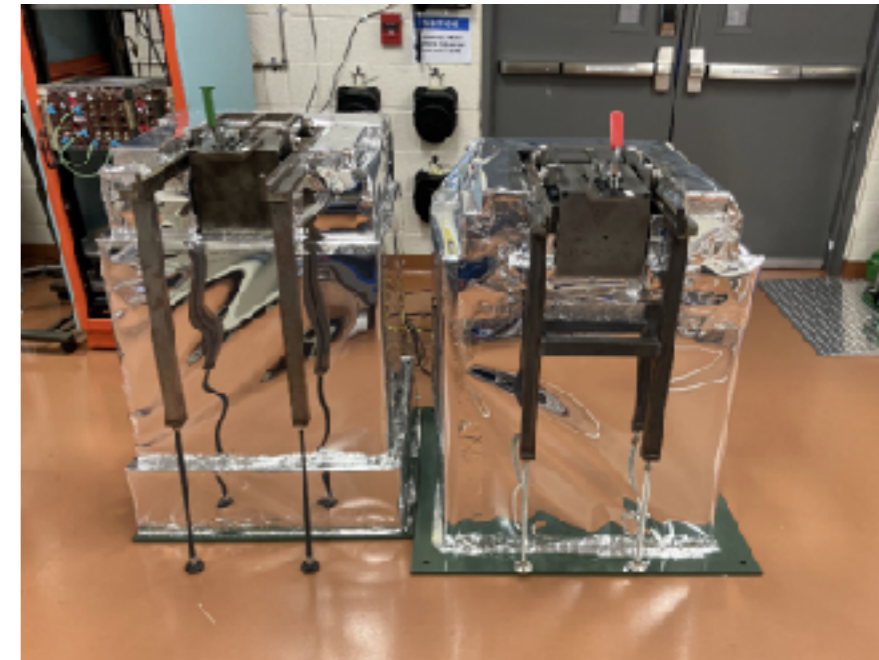


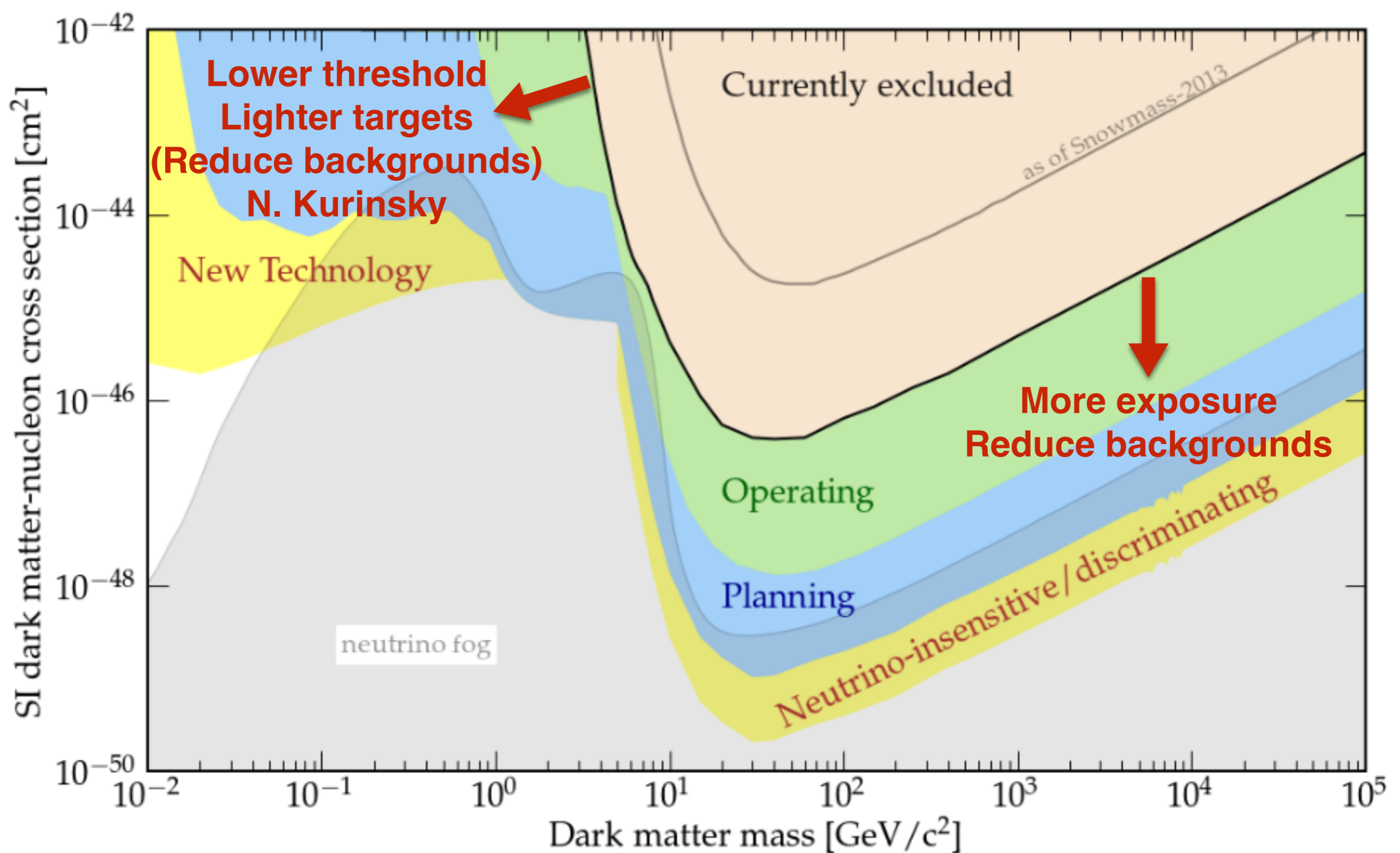
- Goal: Maximize sensitivity to DM while minimizing backgrounds



# Direct Detection at $\sim 1$ TeV

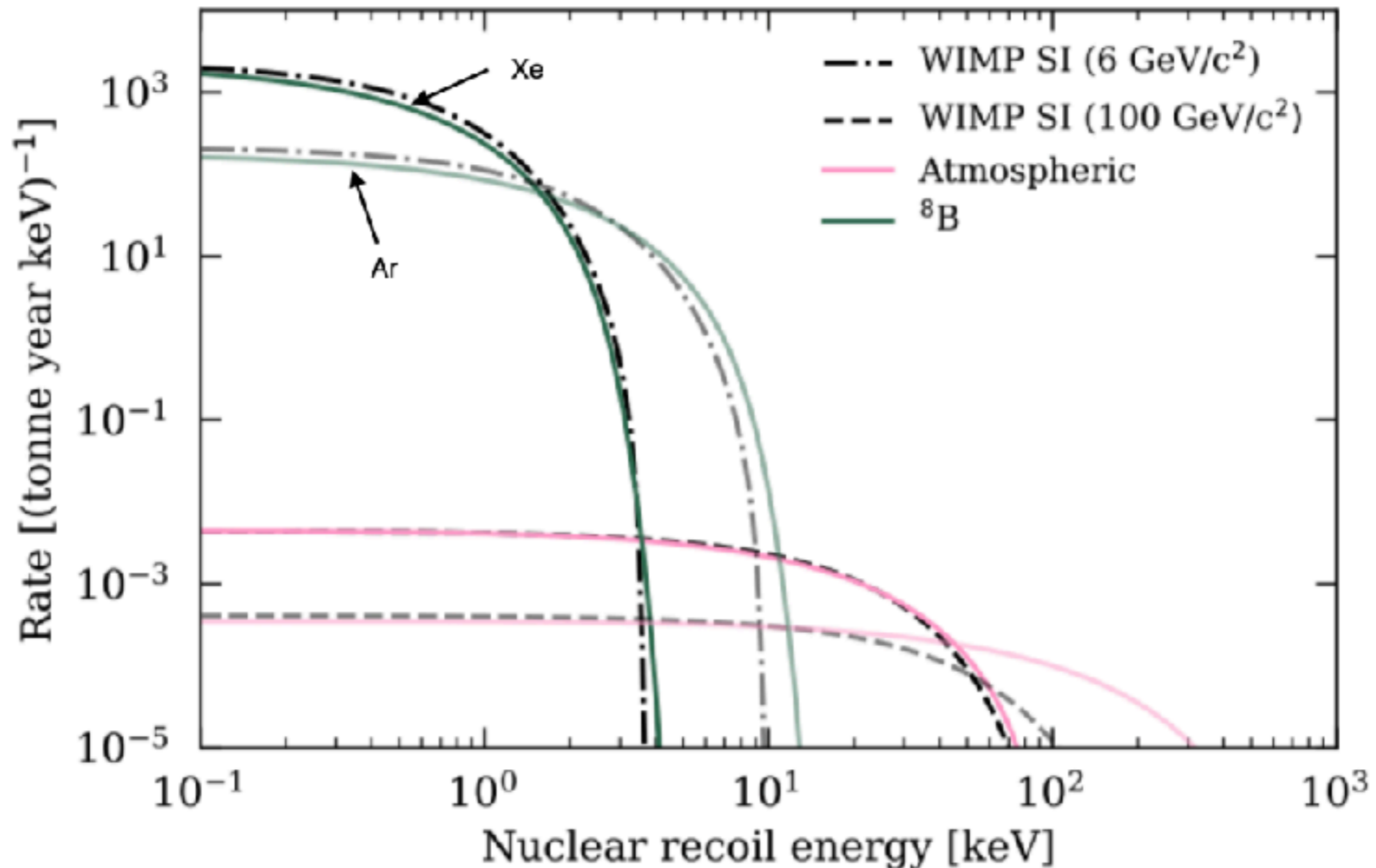
- More sensitivity  $\rightarrow$  scale up target...
  - Now into multi-tonne scales
  - ...while reducing backgrounds
  - Radiopurity
  - Self shielding (size helps!)
  - Discrimination (nuclear recoils vs. electron recoils)
- Low thresholds important but not quite as vital
- Explore as many interactions as possible (e.g. SD/SI/EFT)





- Limited at low mass by detector threshold
- Limited at high mass by density
- Eventually limited by neutrinos

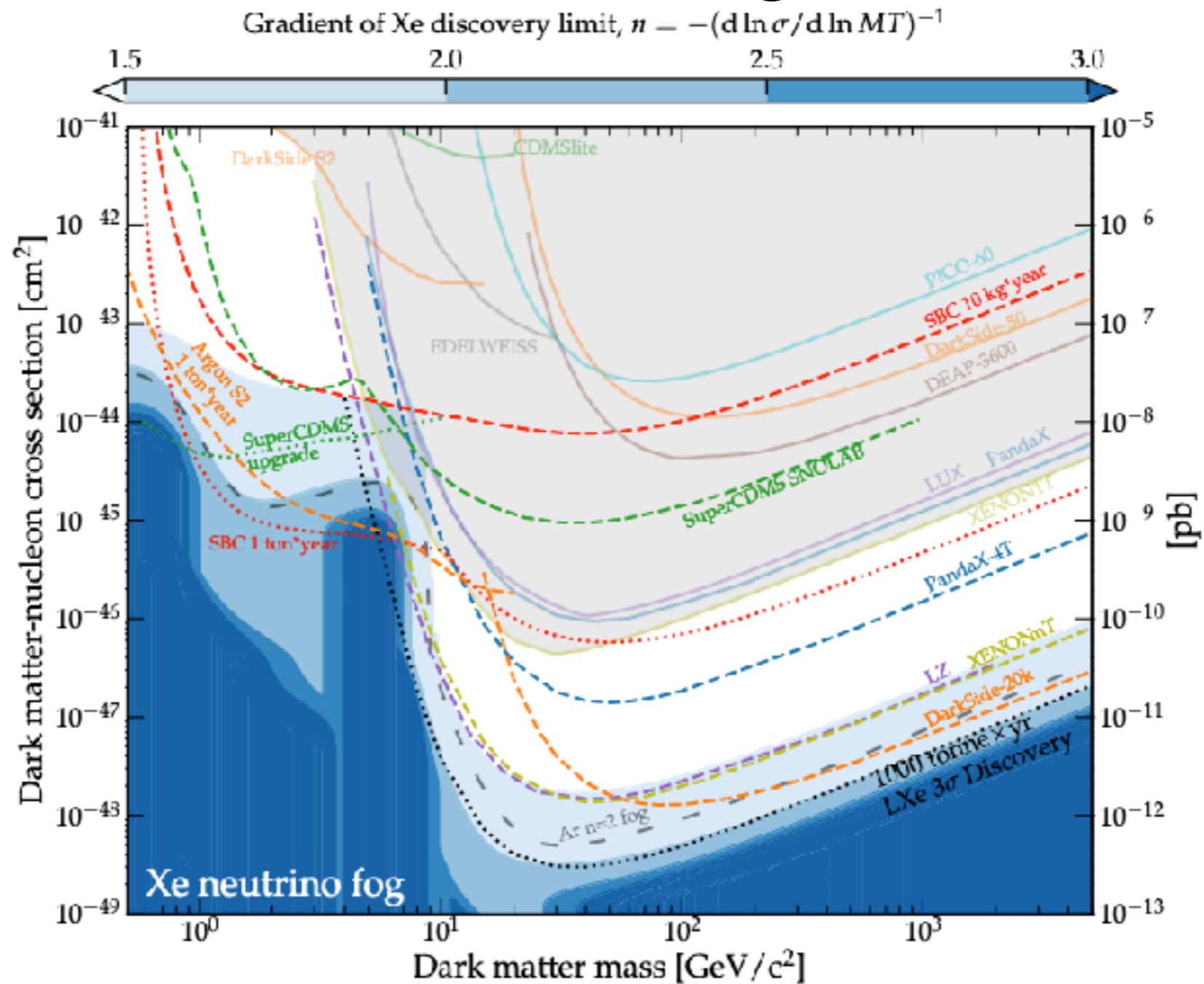
# Neutrino Fog



- O'Hare (2109.03116) supported by Snowmass (2203.08084) define “neutrino fog”
- Rebranding of neutrino floor to better capture the actual effect
  - Index n - how fast one makes progress with respect to background
  - Increase in sensitivity by x10 requires 10<sup>n</sup> more exposure



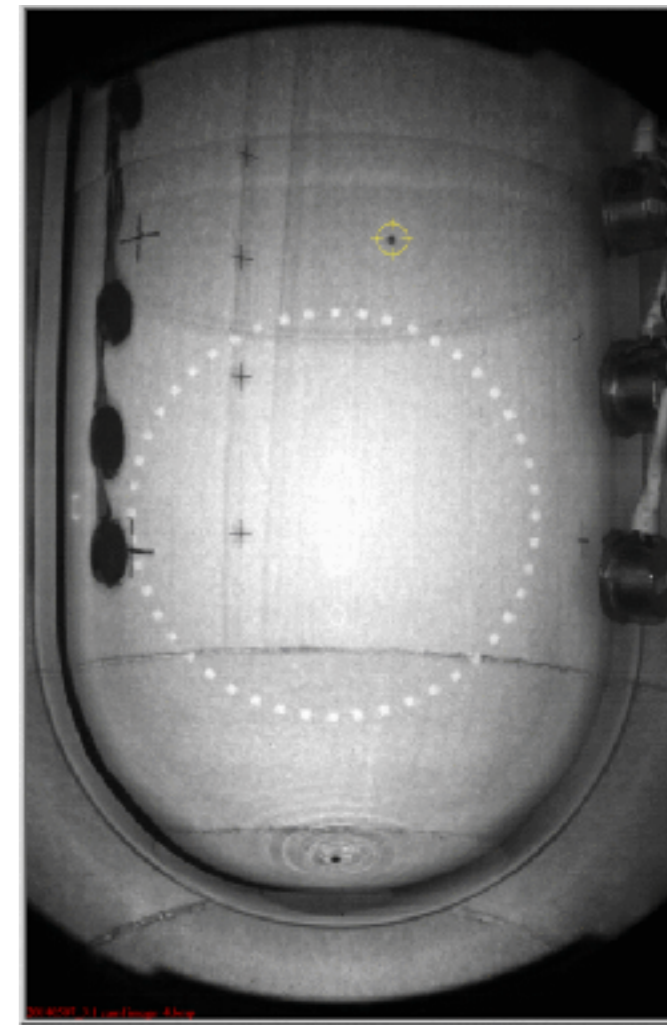
# Neutrino Fog



- O'Hare (2109.03116) supported by Snowmass (2203.08084) define “neutrino fog”
- Rebranding of neutrino floor to better capture the actual effect
  - Index  $n$  - how fast one makes progress with respect to background
  - Increase in sensitivity by  $\times 10$  requires  $10^n$  more exposure

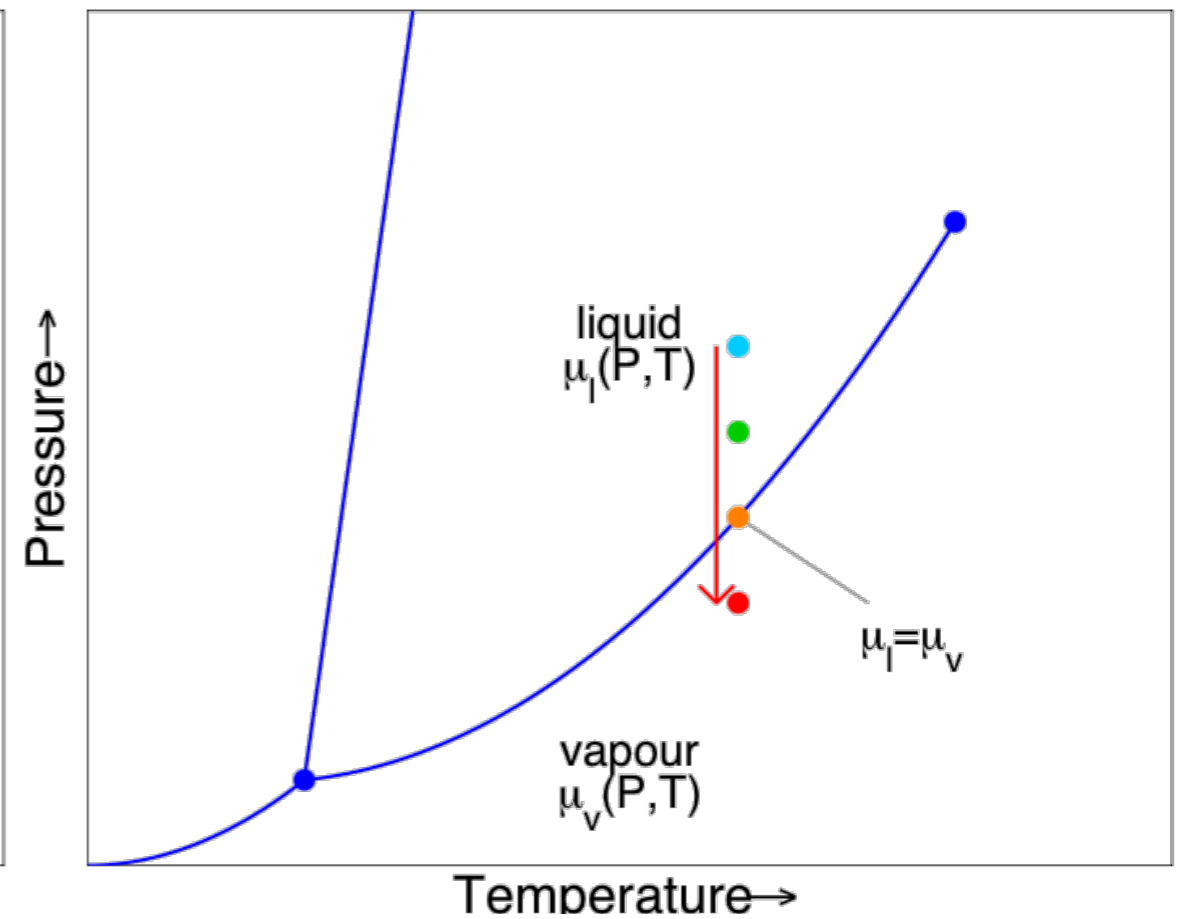
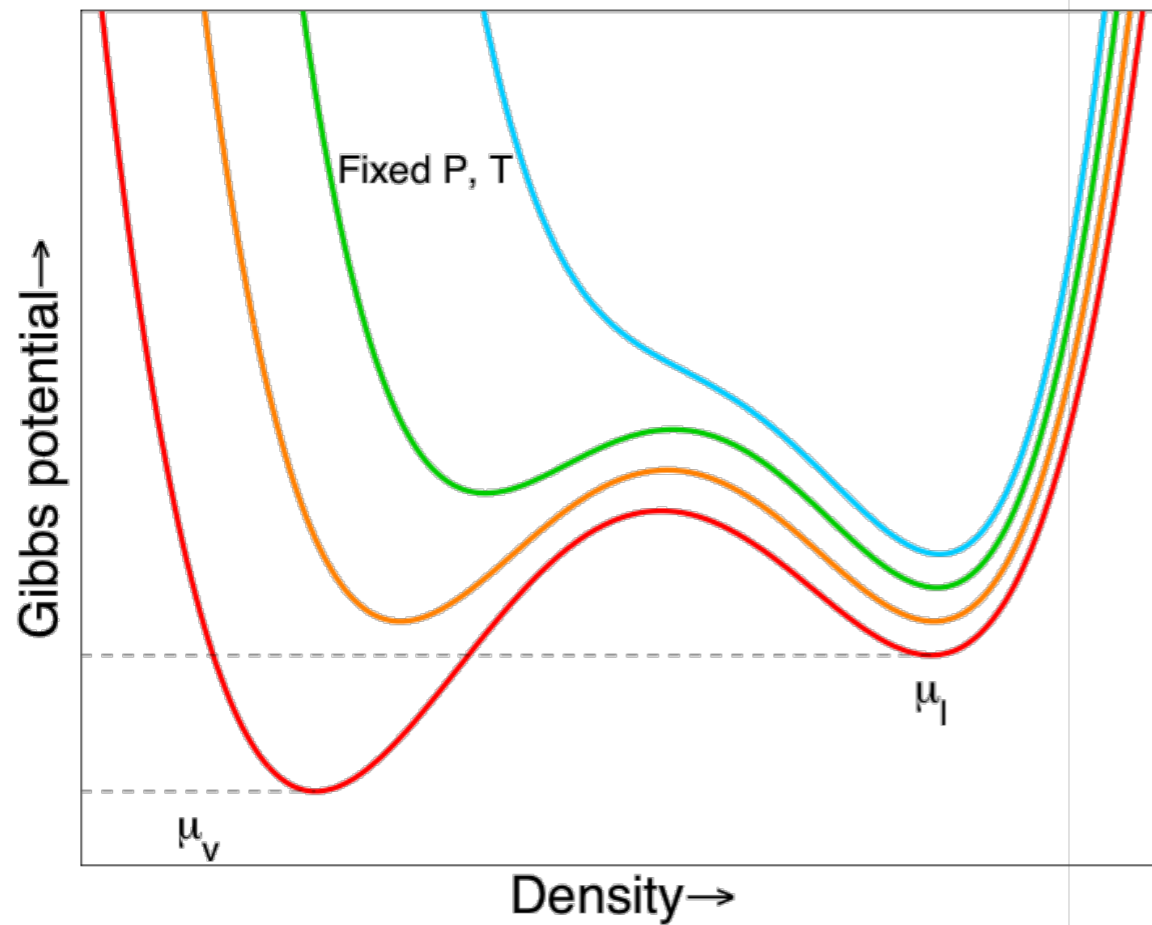
# Direct Detection at $\sim$ TeV scale

- Liquid Noble Detectors
  - Liquid Xenon (LZ, XENONnT, PandaX, XLZD)
  - Liquid Argon (DEAP, DarkSide, Argo)
- Bubble Chambers
  - PICO

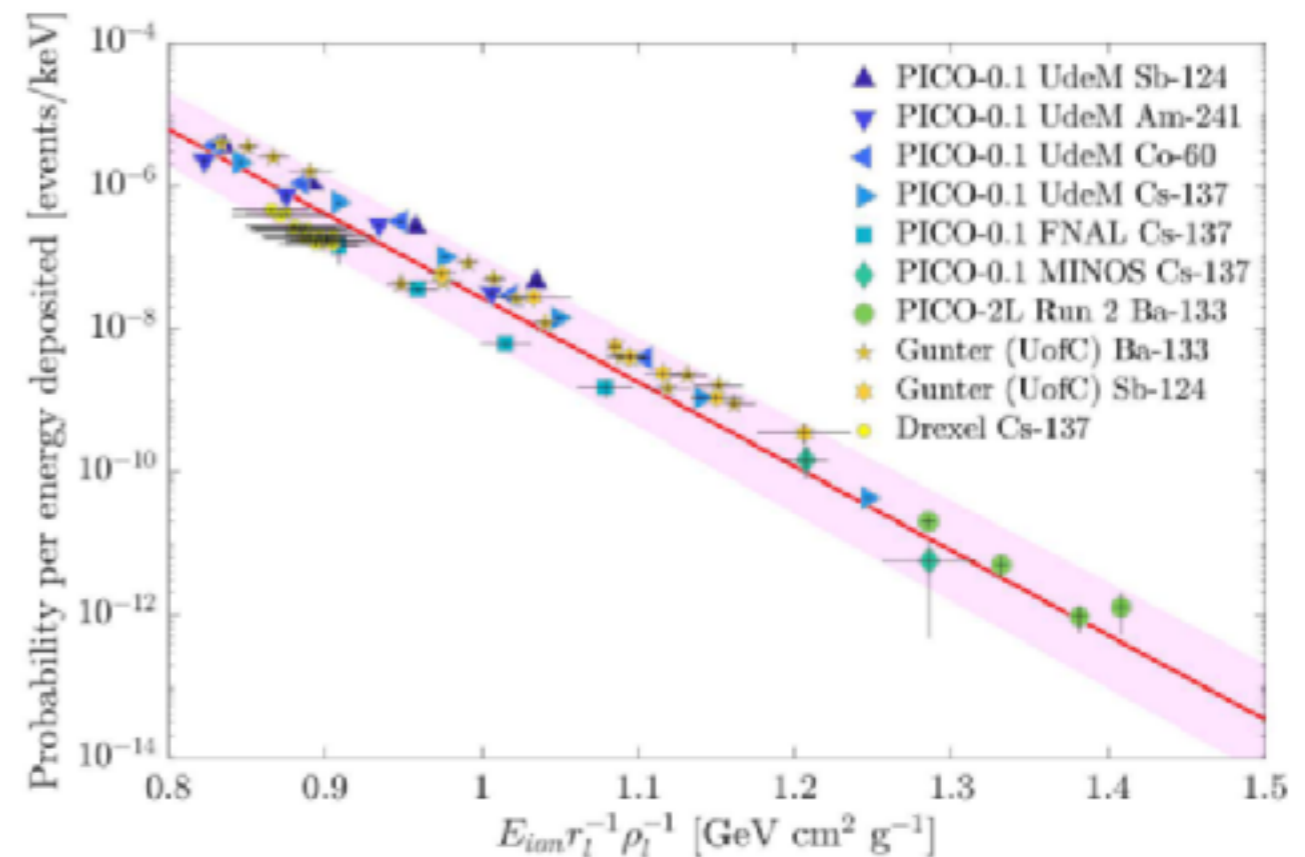


- Things they share
  - Liquids - scalable (get a bigger bucket)
  - Excellent 3D position reconstruction
    - Surfaces are the enemy
  - ER/NR discrimination

# PICO Bubble Chambers

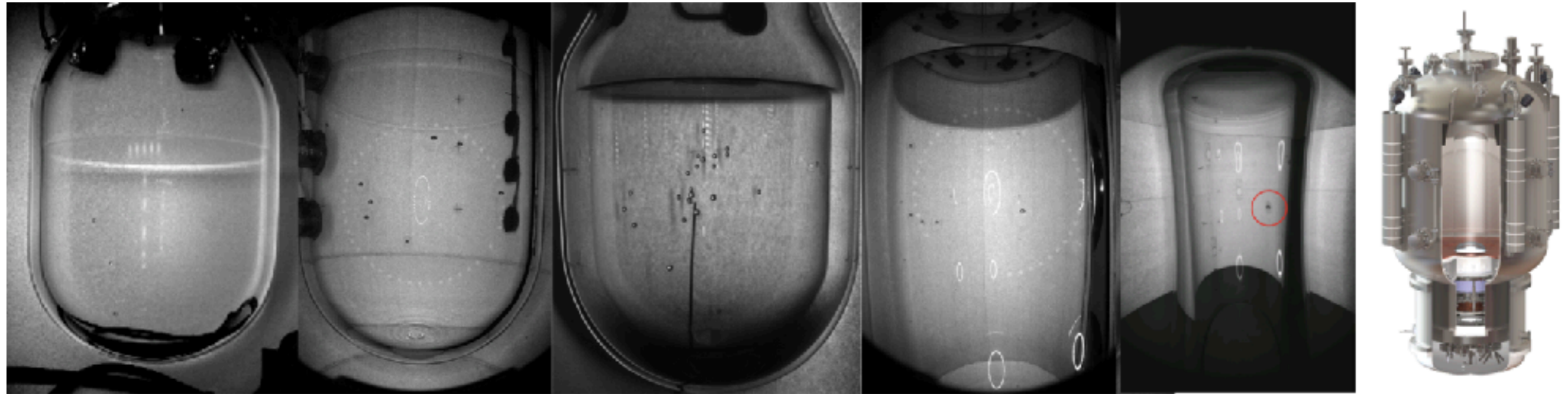


- Thermodynamics set sensitivity
- Need heat (energy) and density to make bubbles
  - ER do not cross density threshold
  - Acoustics provide further rejection
- Fluorine target with  $\sim 3$  keV threshold

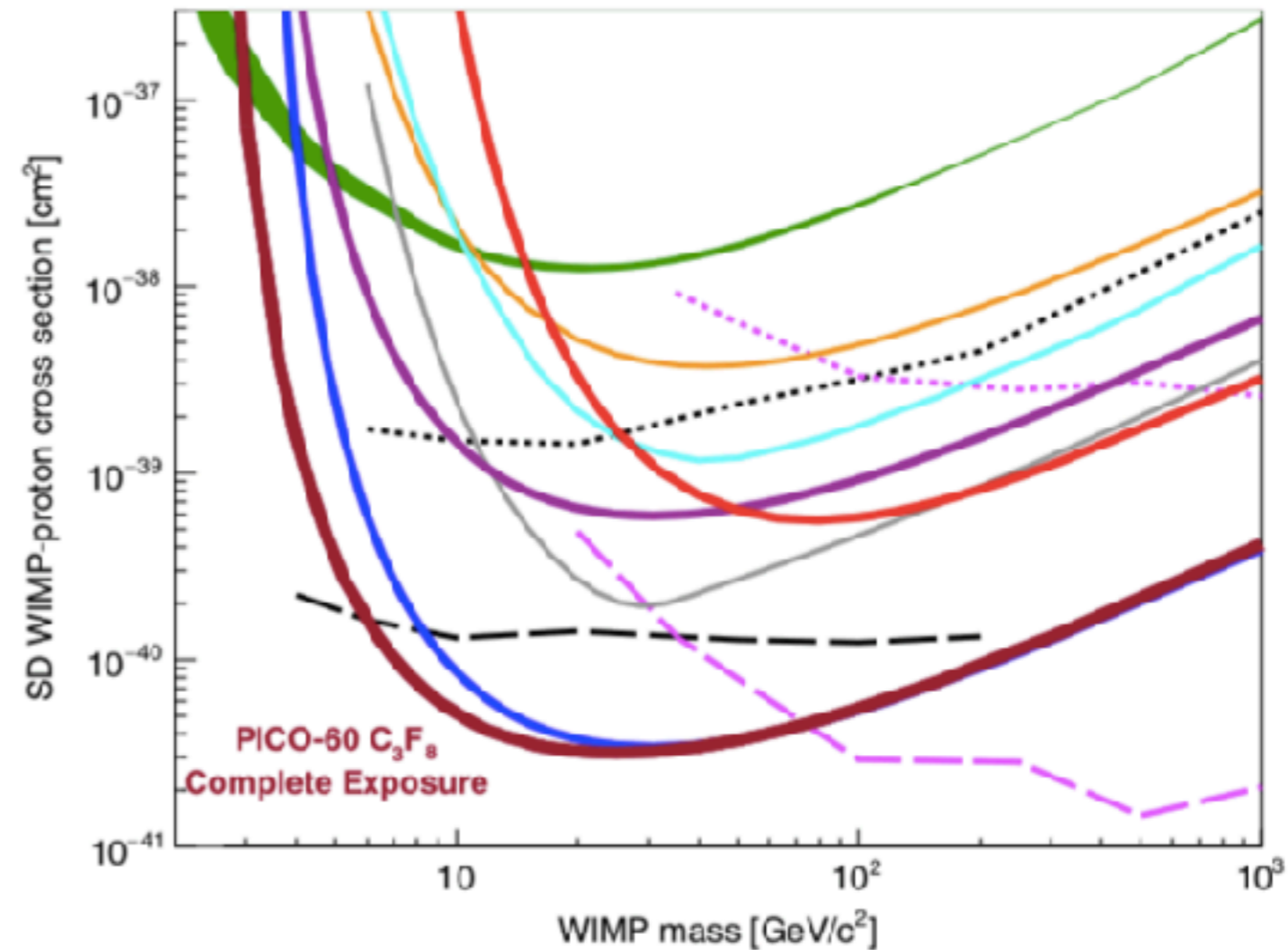




# PICO Bubble Chambers



- Family of chambers with increasing size
  - PICO-60 - world's most sensitive SD proton result
  - PICO-40L - running now
  - PICO-500 under construction
- See [O. Harris yesterday](#) in parallel





# Genealogy

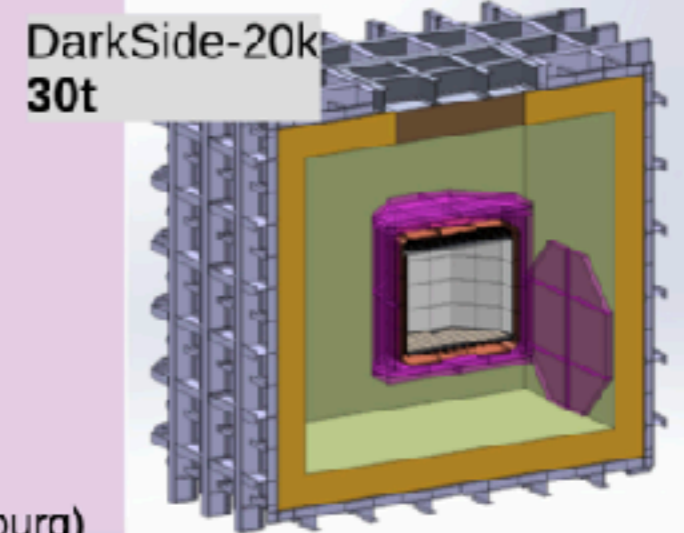
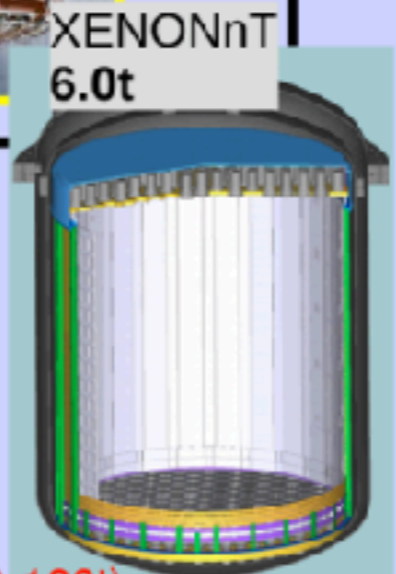
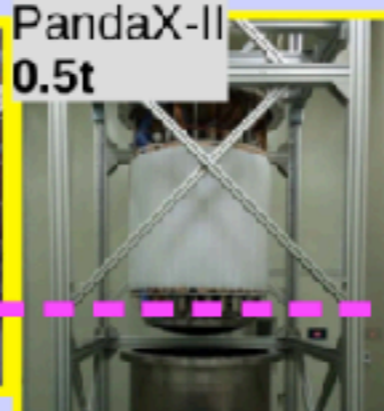
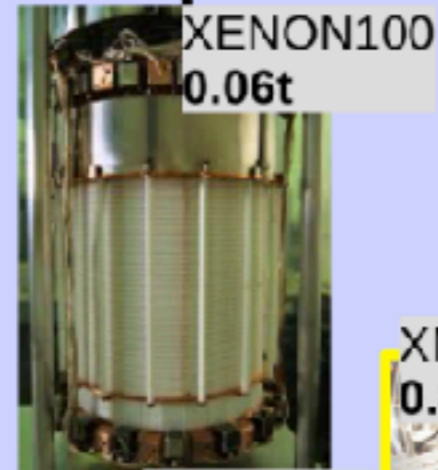
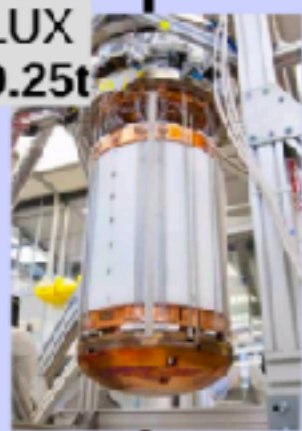
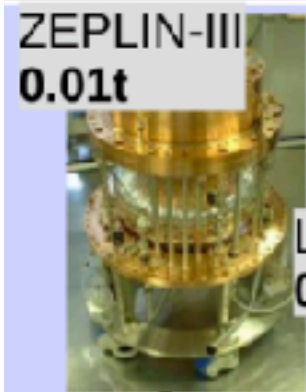
# of The Noble Target Field

(ZEPLIN I + II)

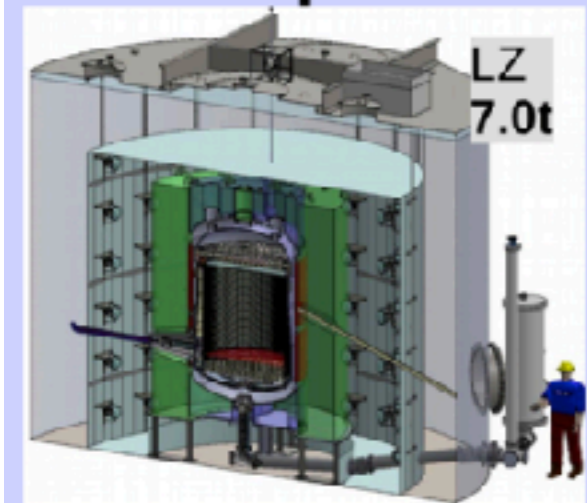


**LXe**

**LAr**



Ignore me



(followed by DARWIN 50-100t)

thanks to M. Schumann (Freiburg)

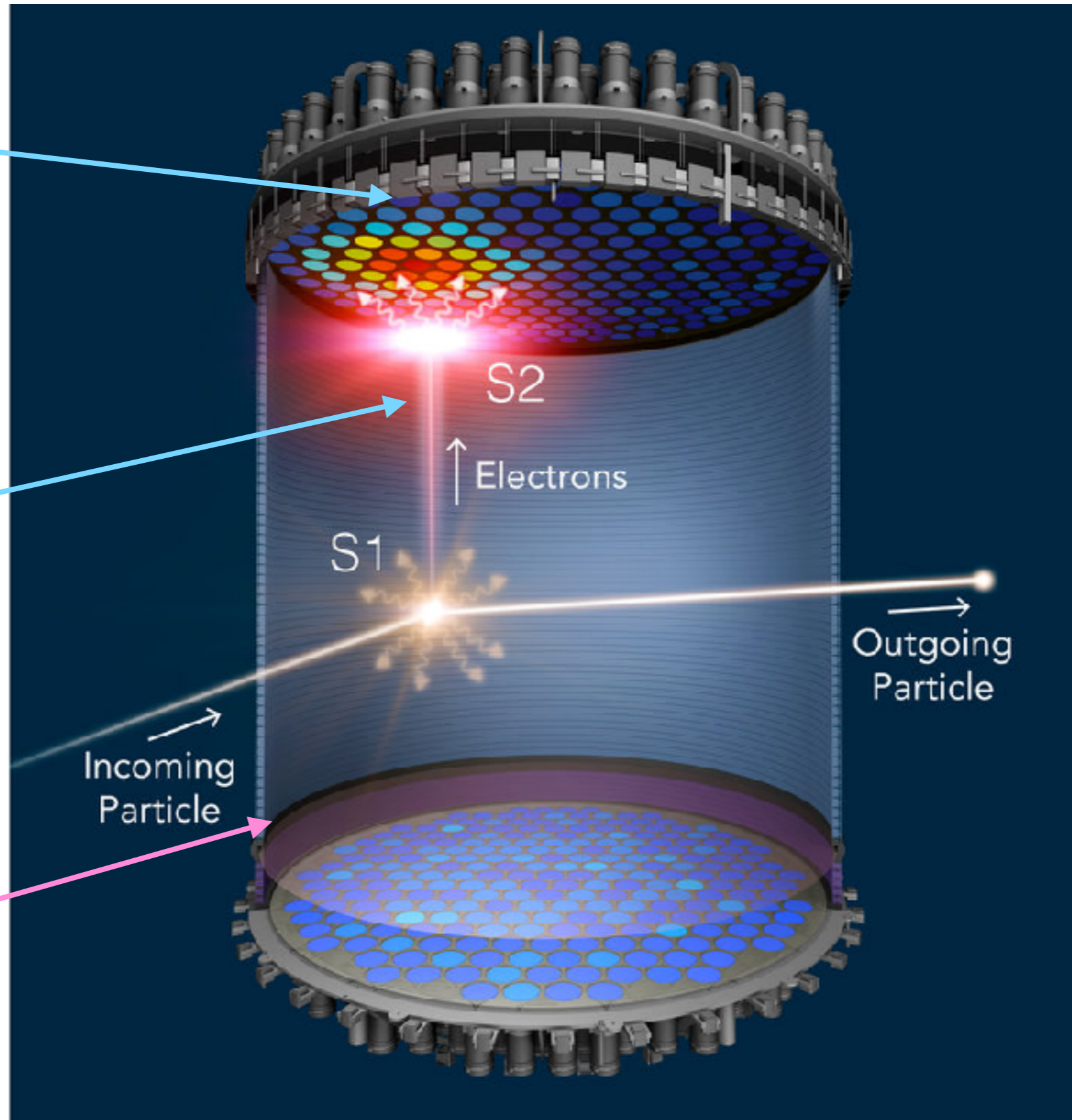


# Liquid Noble TPCs

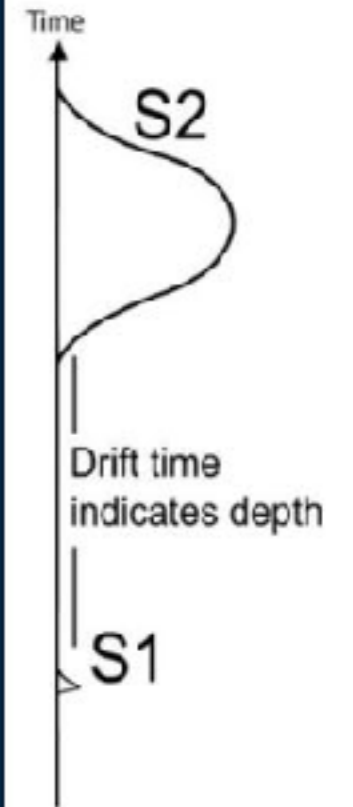
S2 light pattern gives x-y position  
(~few mm resolution)

Drift time gives z position  
(~0.5 mm resolution)

Cathode



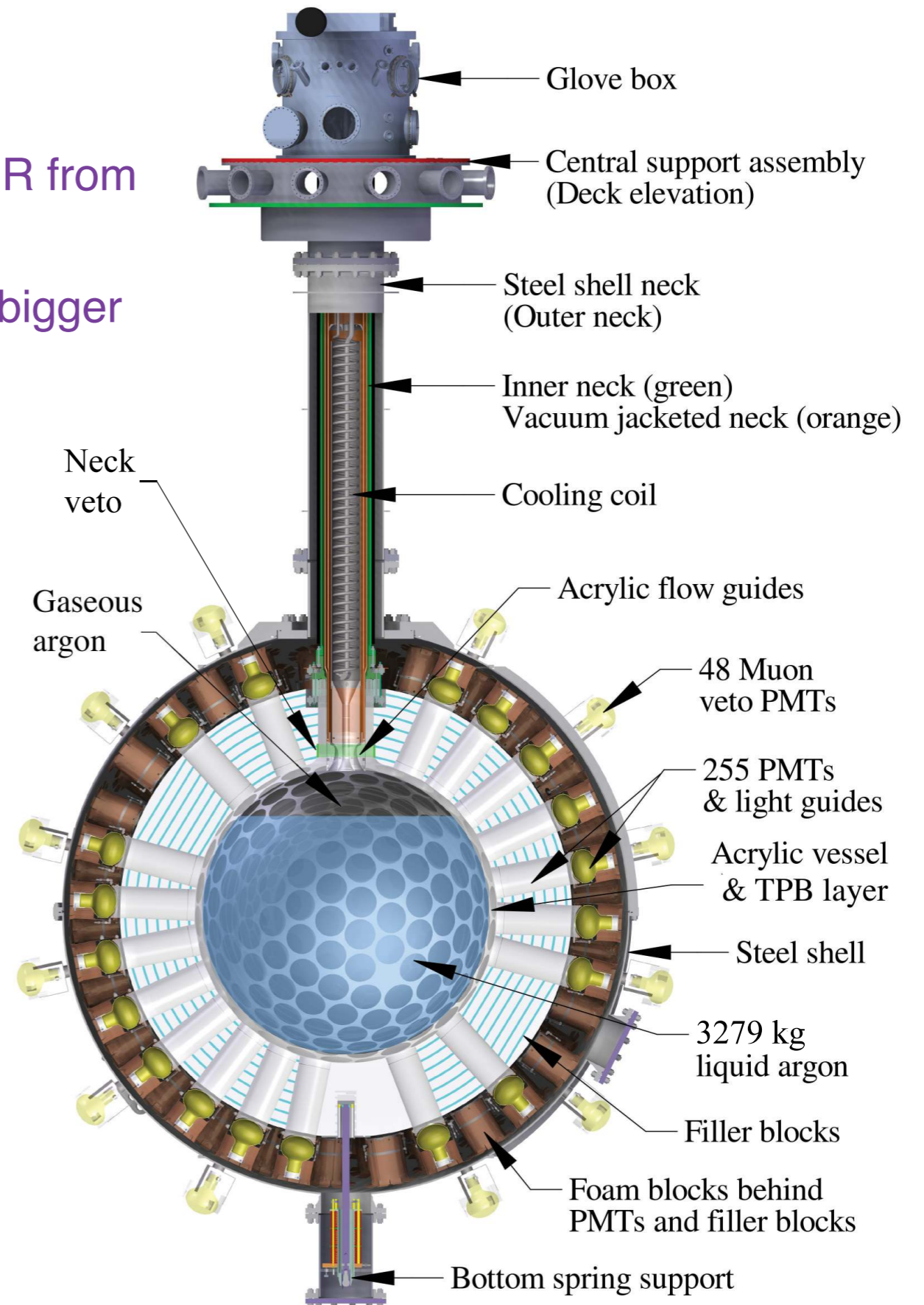
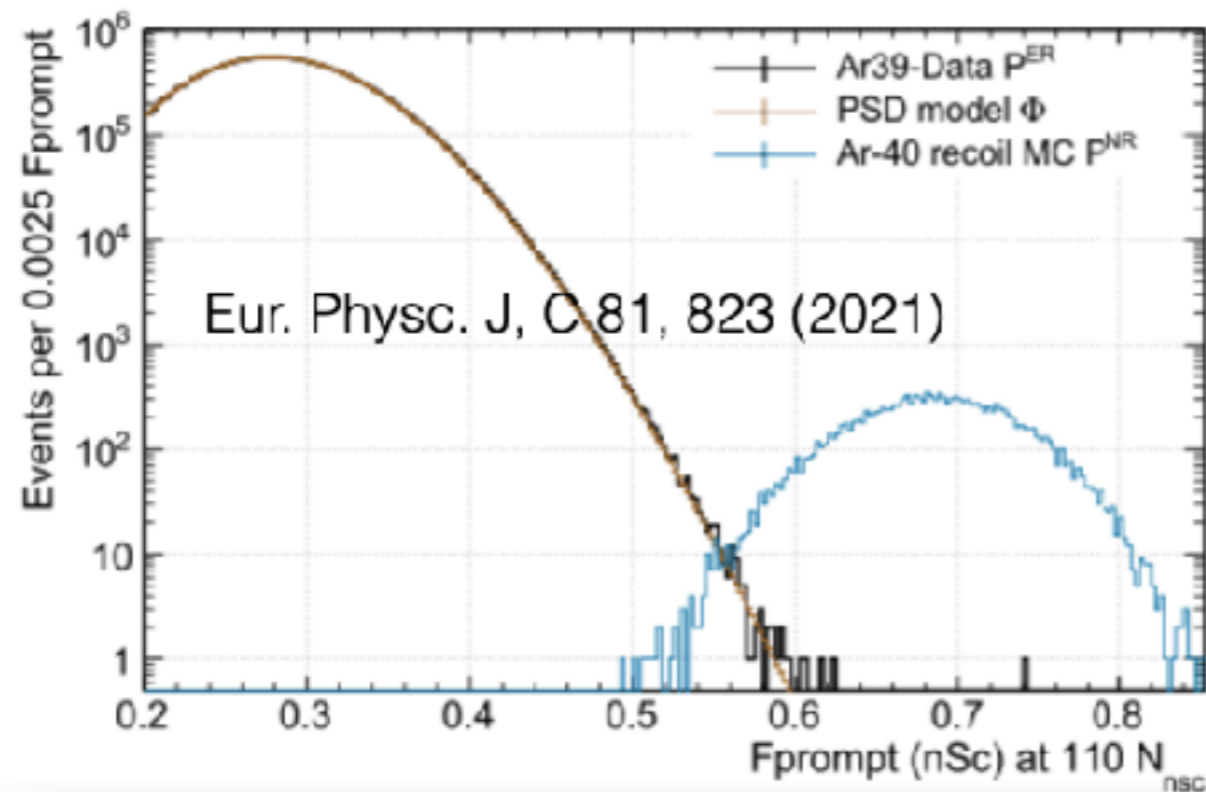
S1-S2 relative size gives event-type discrimination





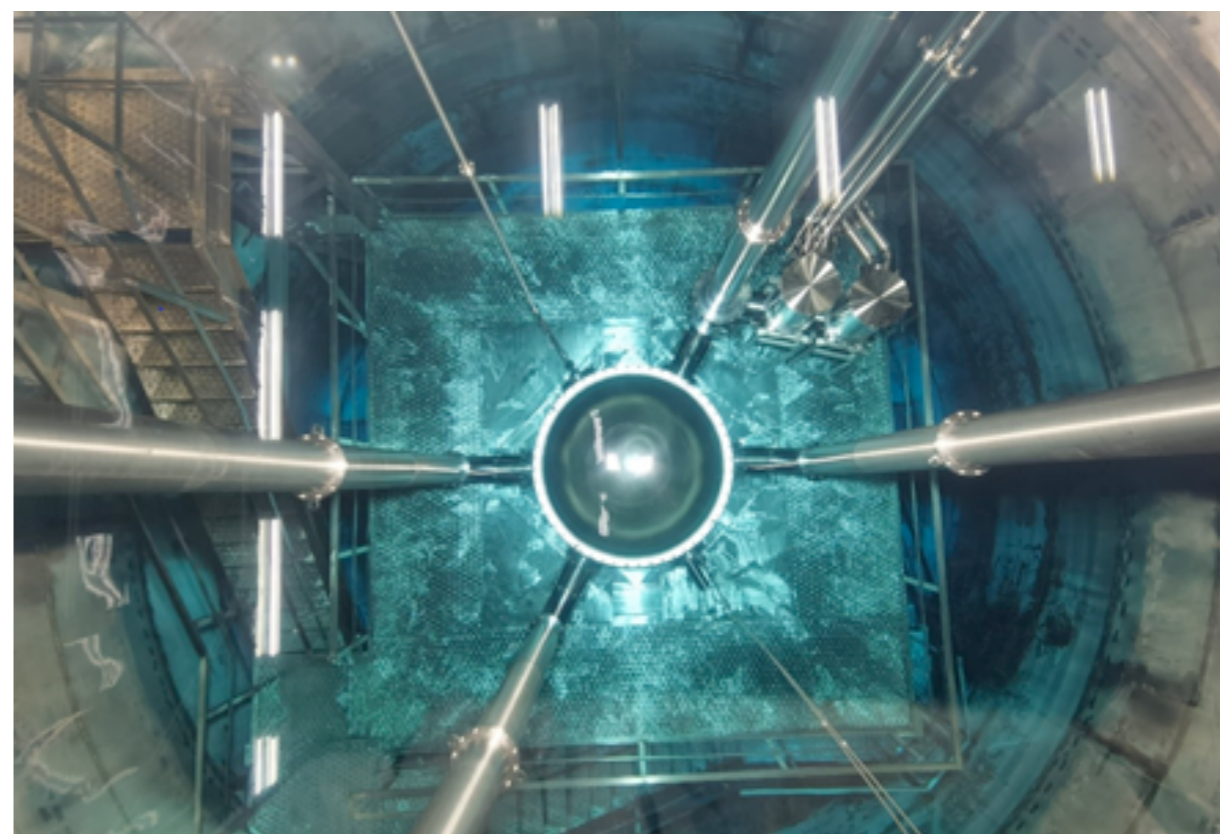
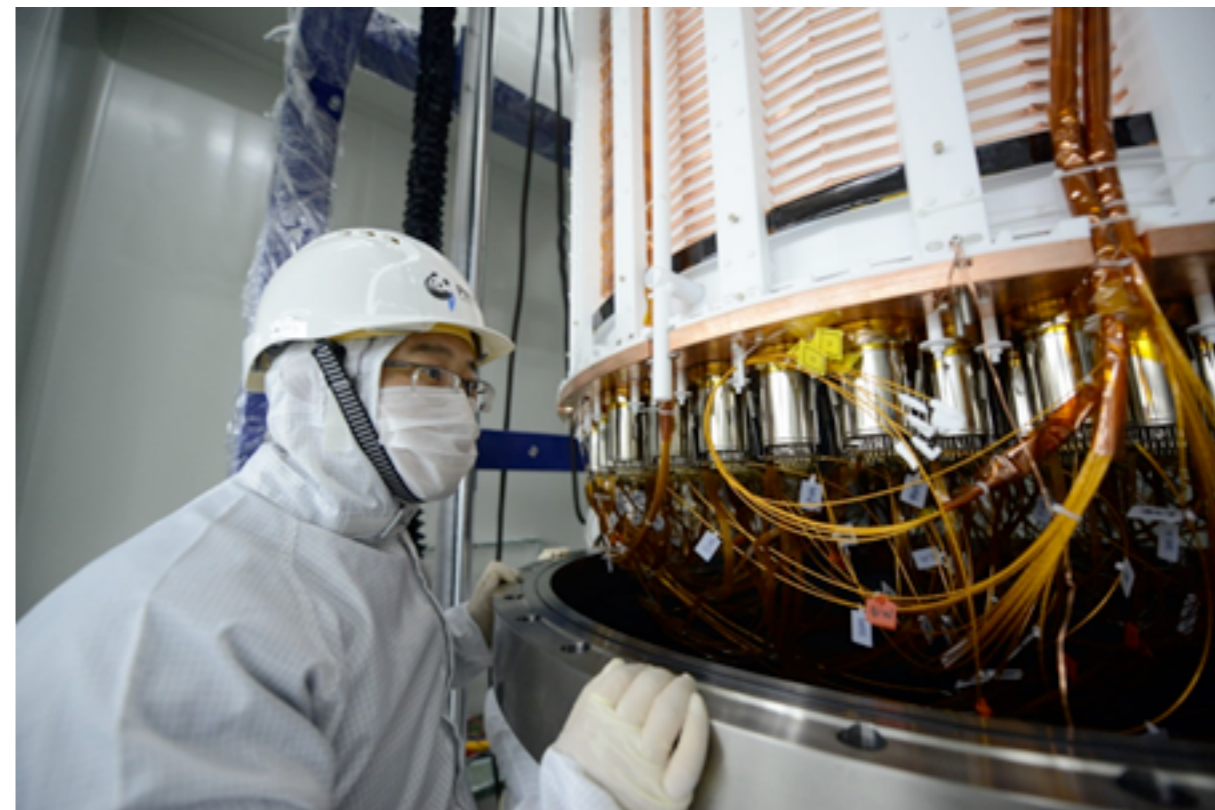
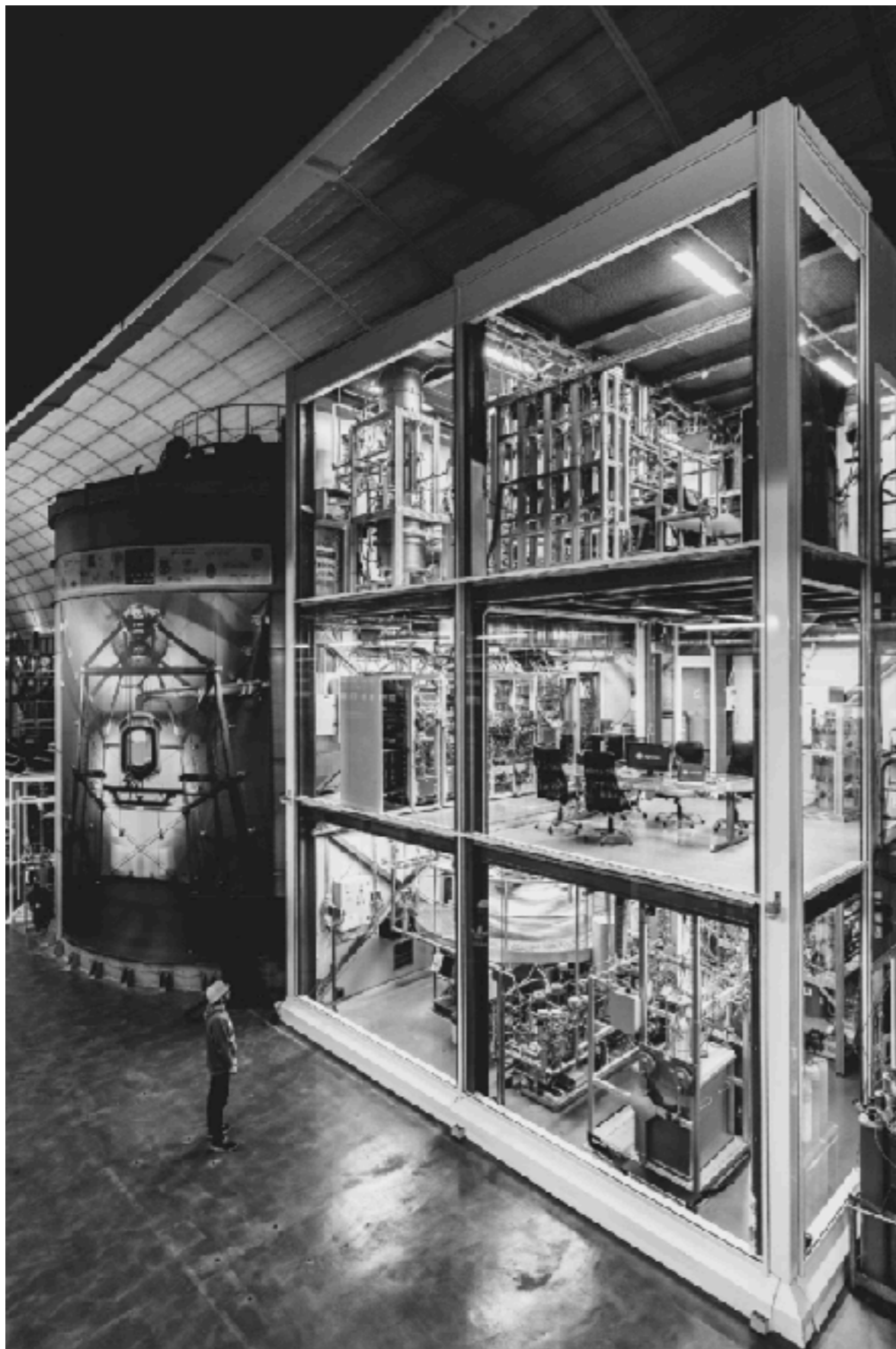
# LAr Single Phase

- Exquisite pulse shape discrimination (PSD) ER from NR using timing of light
- 3D reconstruction possible, easier as you go bigger

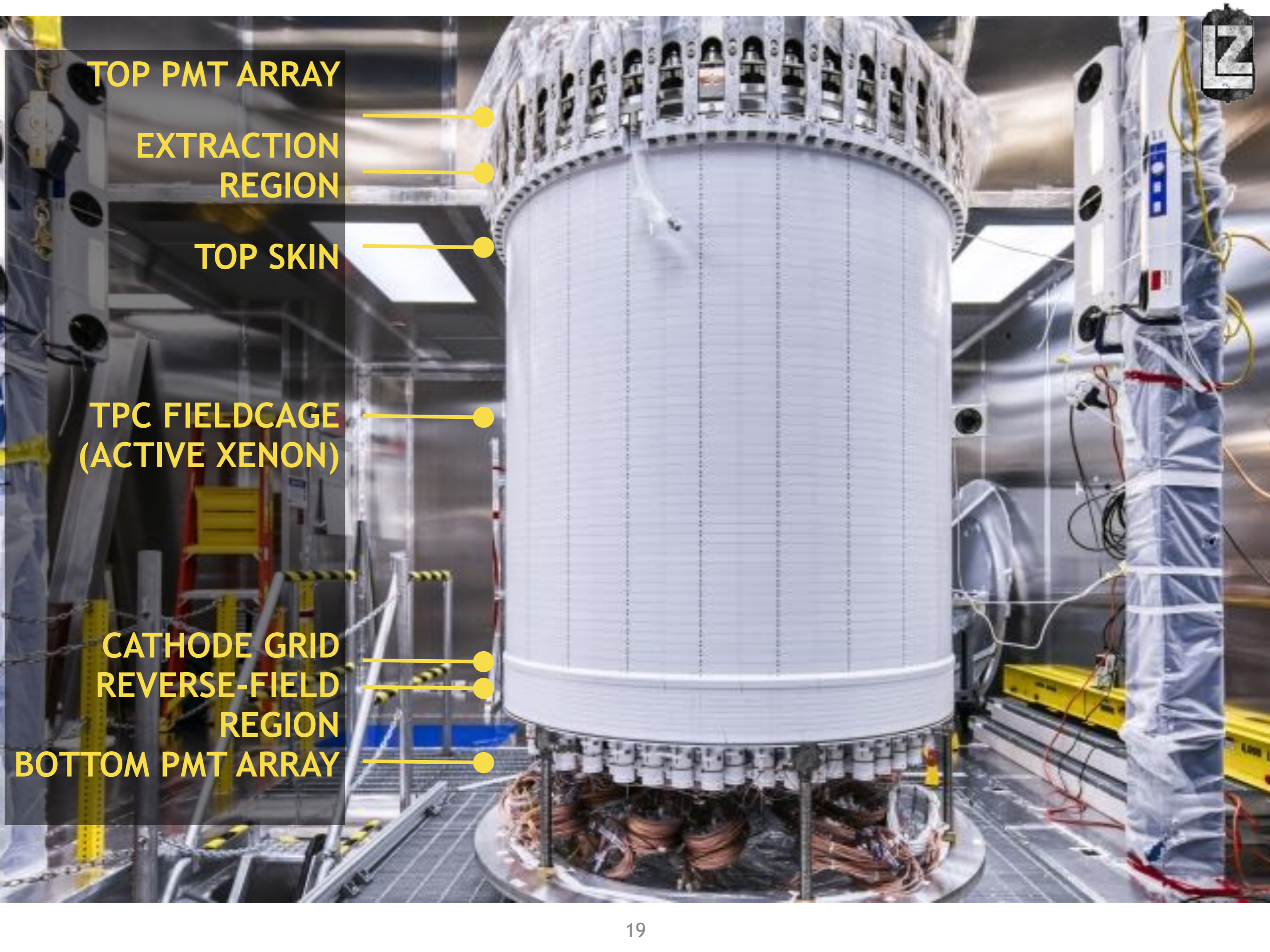




# Liquid Noble TPCs







**TOP PMT ARRAY**

**EXTRACTION  
REGION**

**TOP SKIN**

**TPC FIELD  
CAGE  
(ACTIVE XENON)**

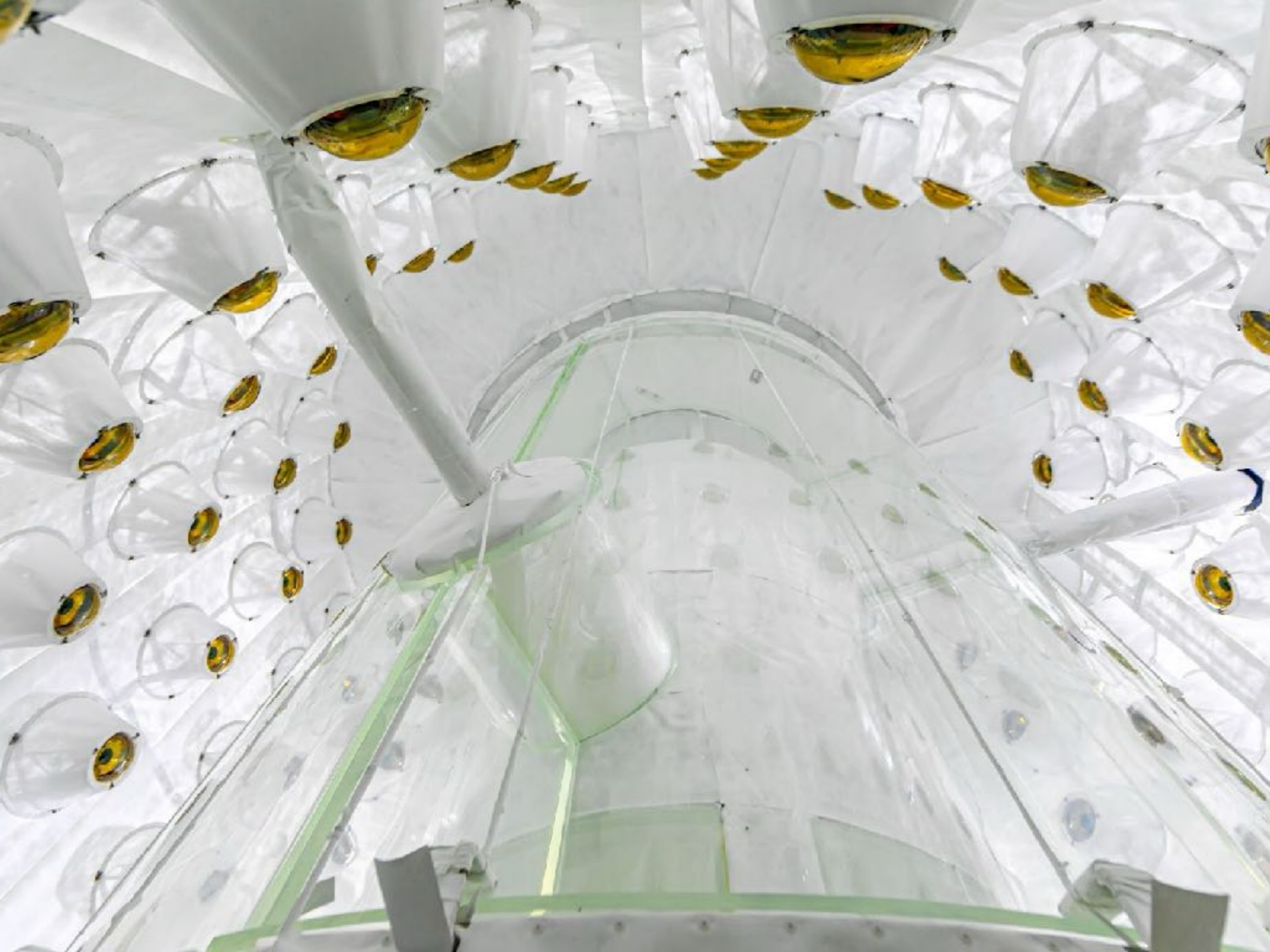
**CATHODE GRID  
REVERSE-FIELD  
REGION**

**BOTTOM PMT ARRAY**







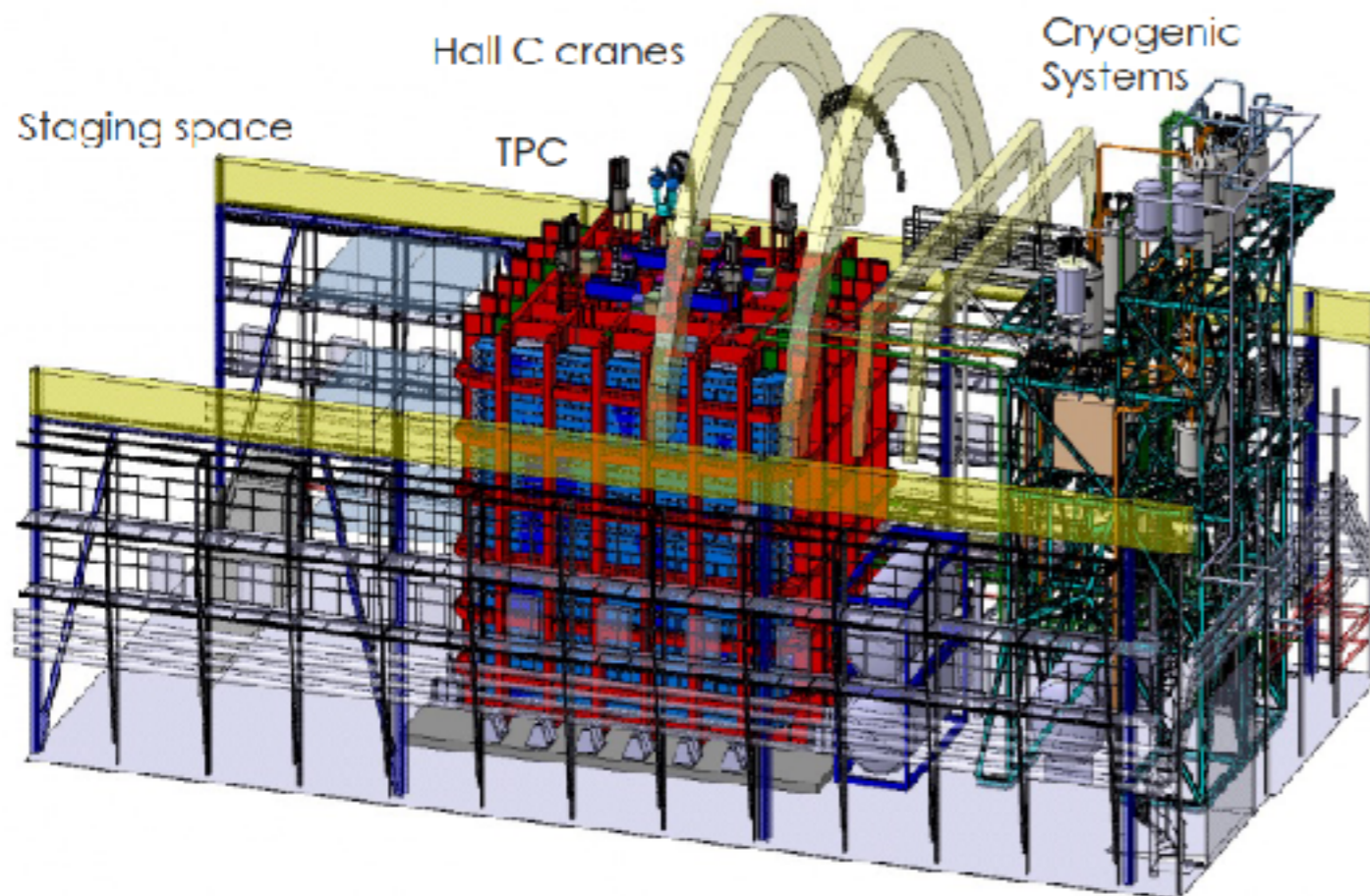




# LAr Detectors

- DEAP-3600 upgrade nearly complete - goal to understand rare neck and dust backgrounds
- DarkSide-20k detector at LNGS under construction
  - 20 tonnes underground argon fiducial, ~700t total Ar
- Installation happening now!

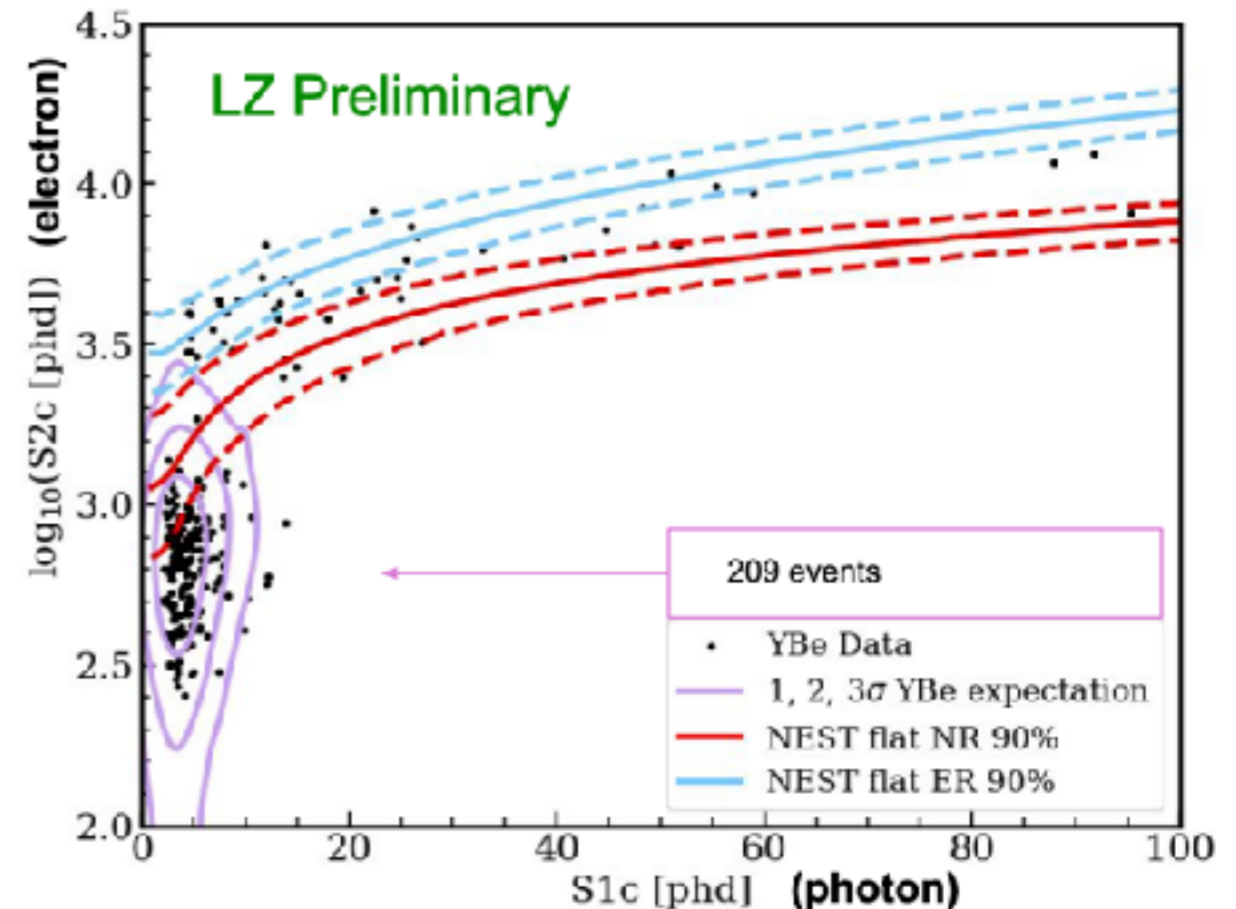
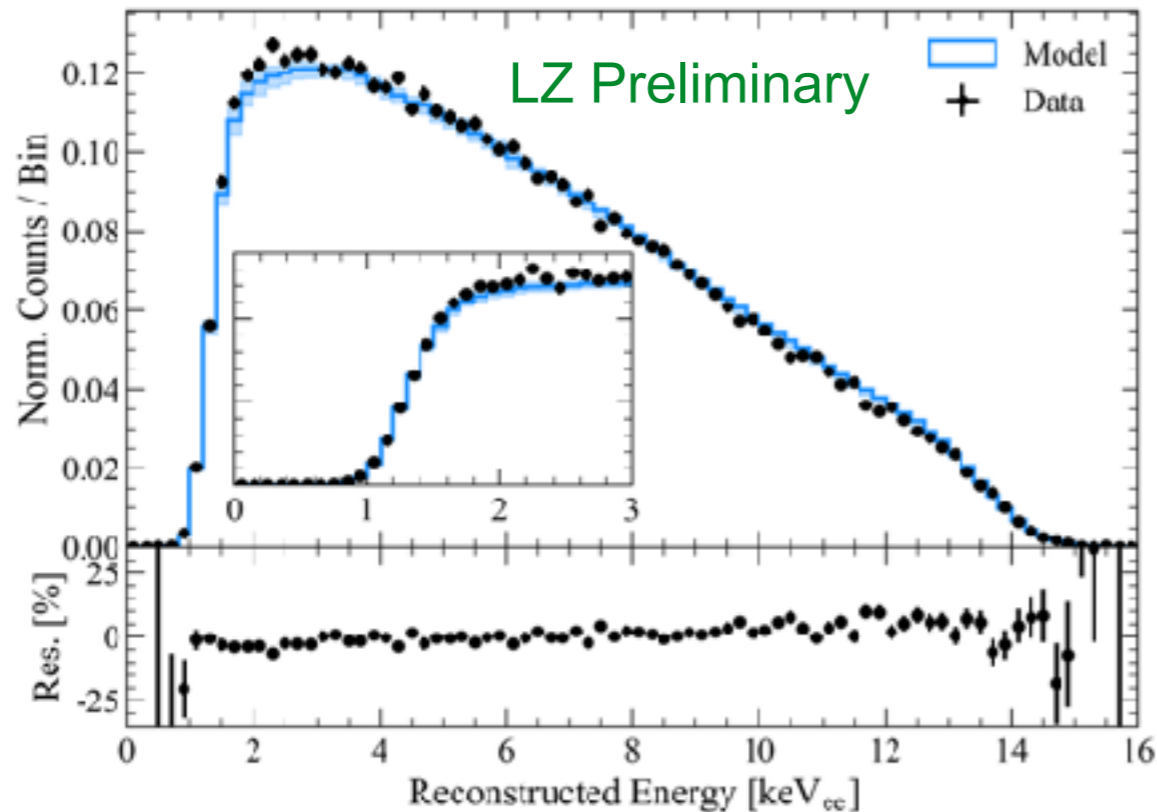
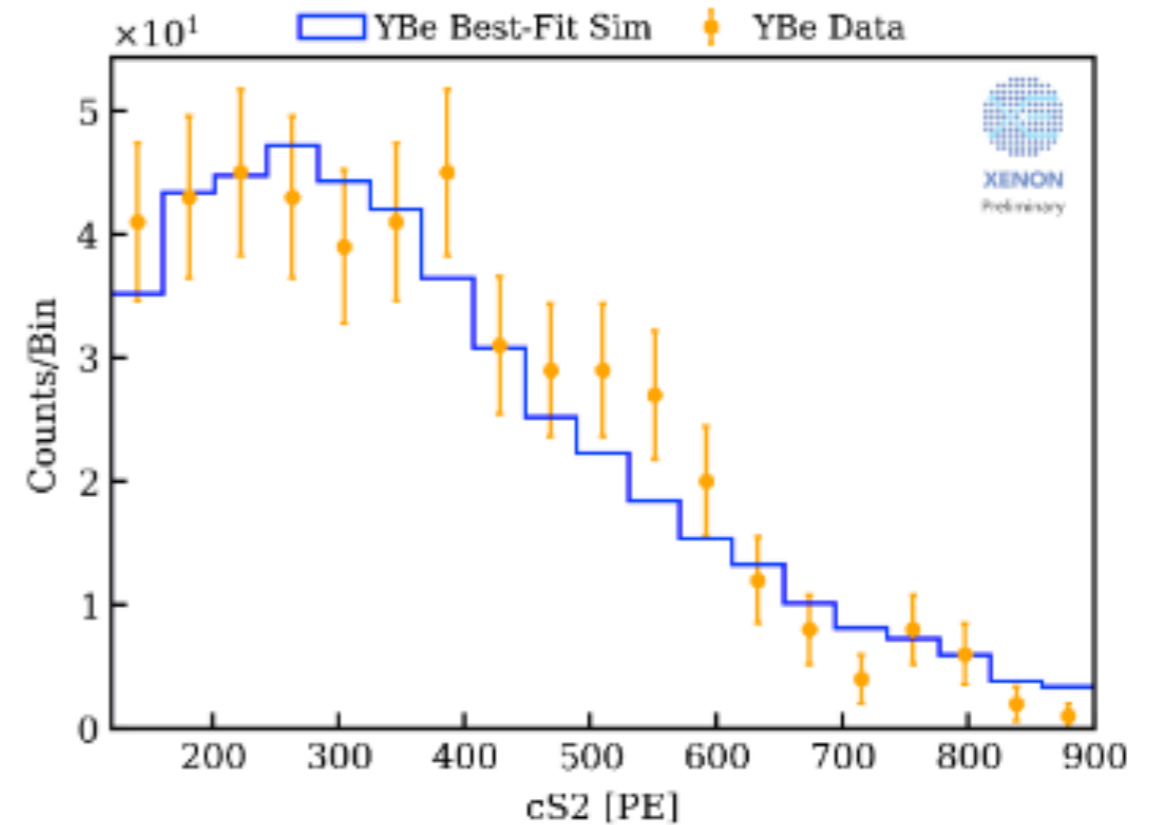
## Installation in Hall C LNGS Underground Laboratory





# Recent developments

- Calibration is key - e.g.:
  - LZ - High stats of ER (background) distribution using dispersed tritium ( $\text{CH}_3\text{T}$ ) -  $\sim 160\text{k}$  events!
  - LZ and XENON have now used YBe to calibrate low energy NR
- Allows for precise modeling in final analysis, enables discovery



# Recent developments

- Many rare event searches, e.g. (not complete):
  - $\sim$ Planck scale DM from [DEAP](#), [XENON](#), [LZ](#)
  - EFT and inelastic searches from [PICO](#), [XENON](#), [LZ](#), [DEAP](#)
  - Electron recoil searches in [XENON](#), [LZ](#), [PandaX](#)
  - Low mass results from [DarkSide](#)
  - [Lots of models in PandaX](#)

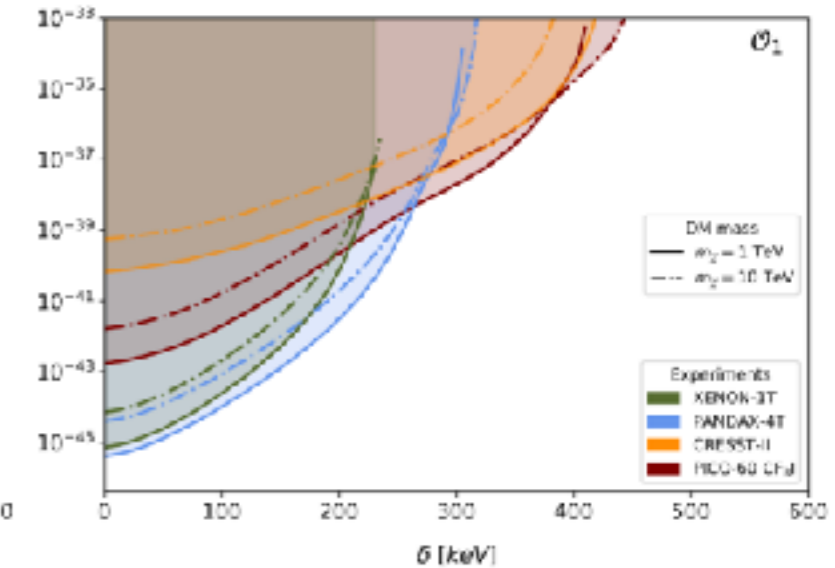
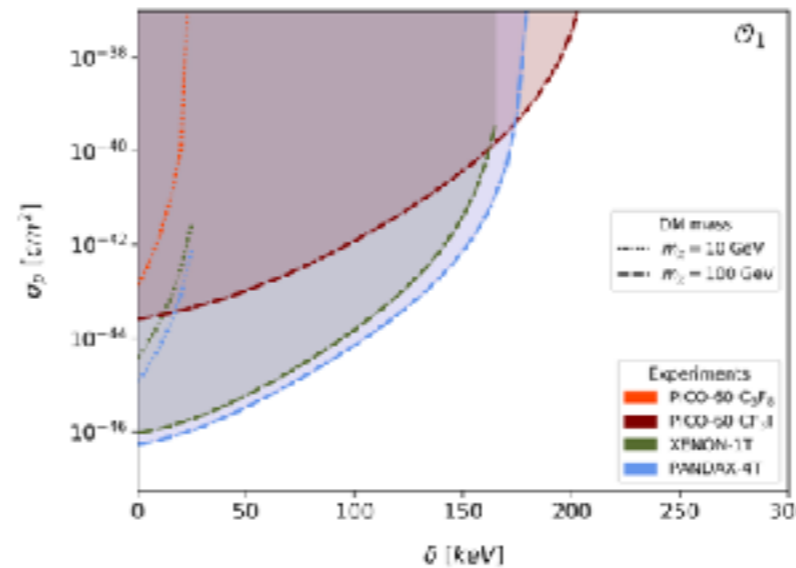
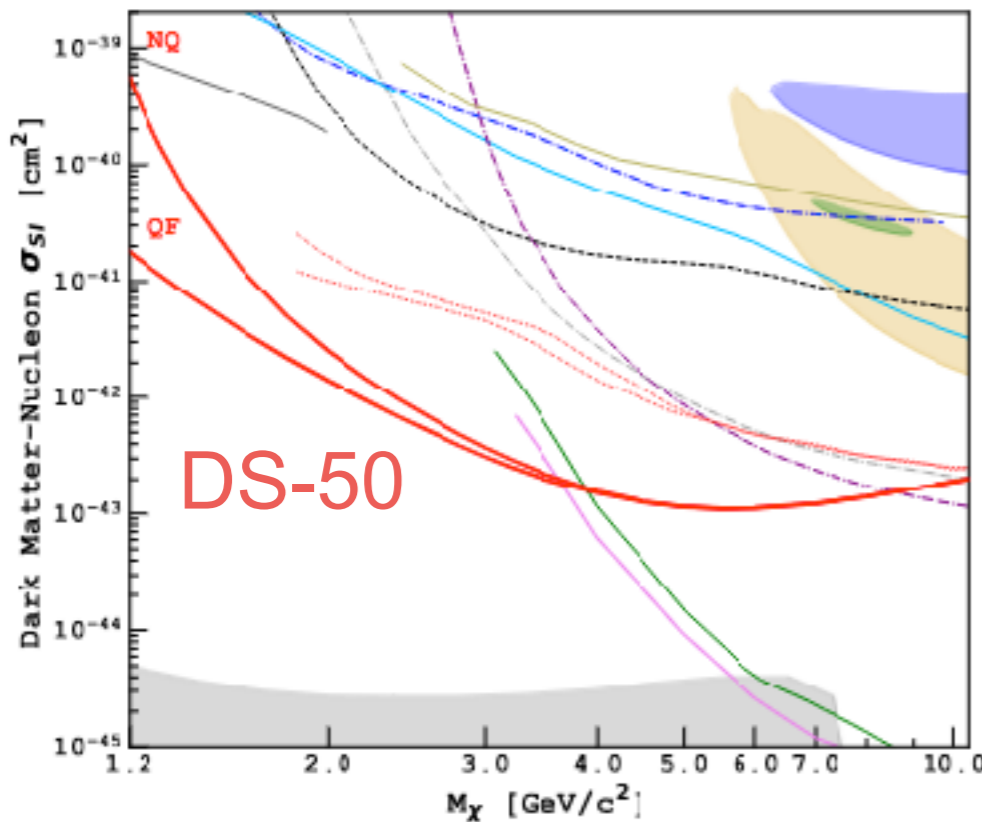
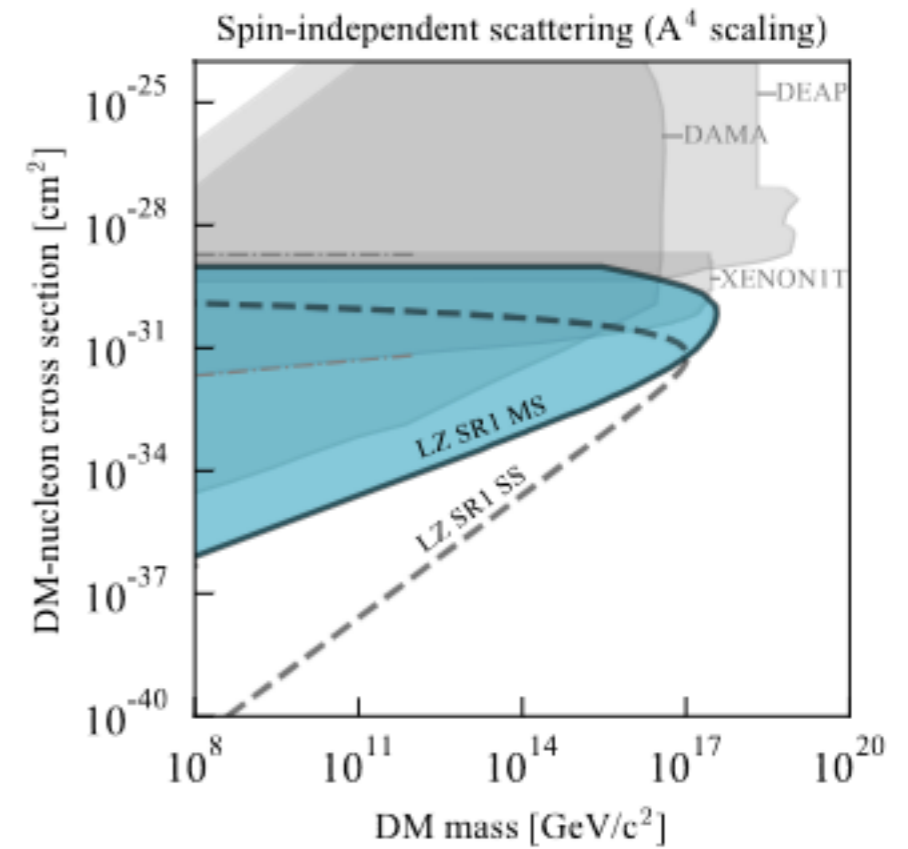
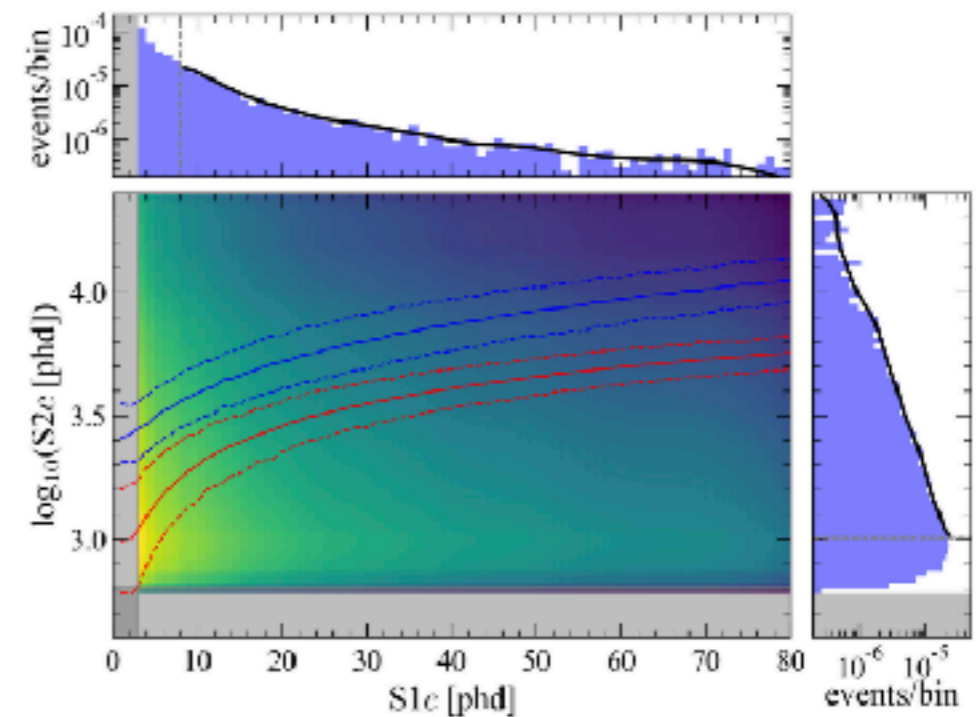
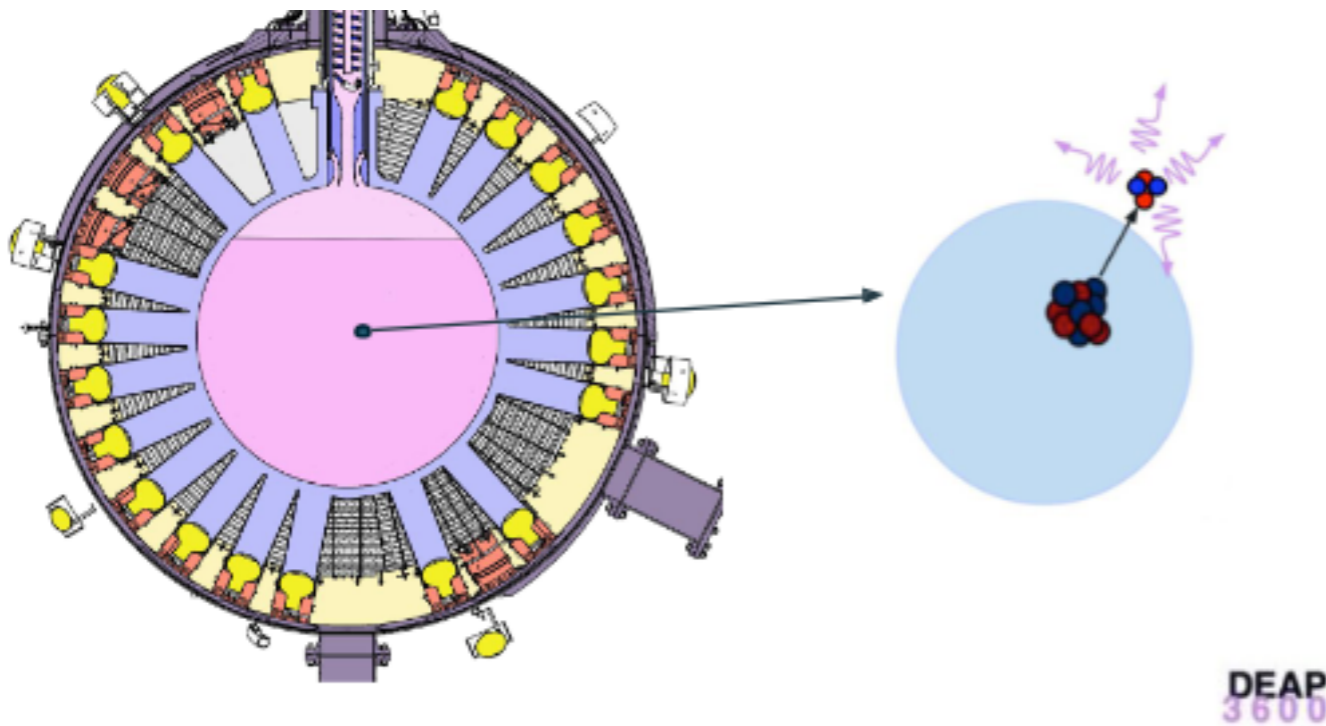
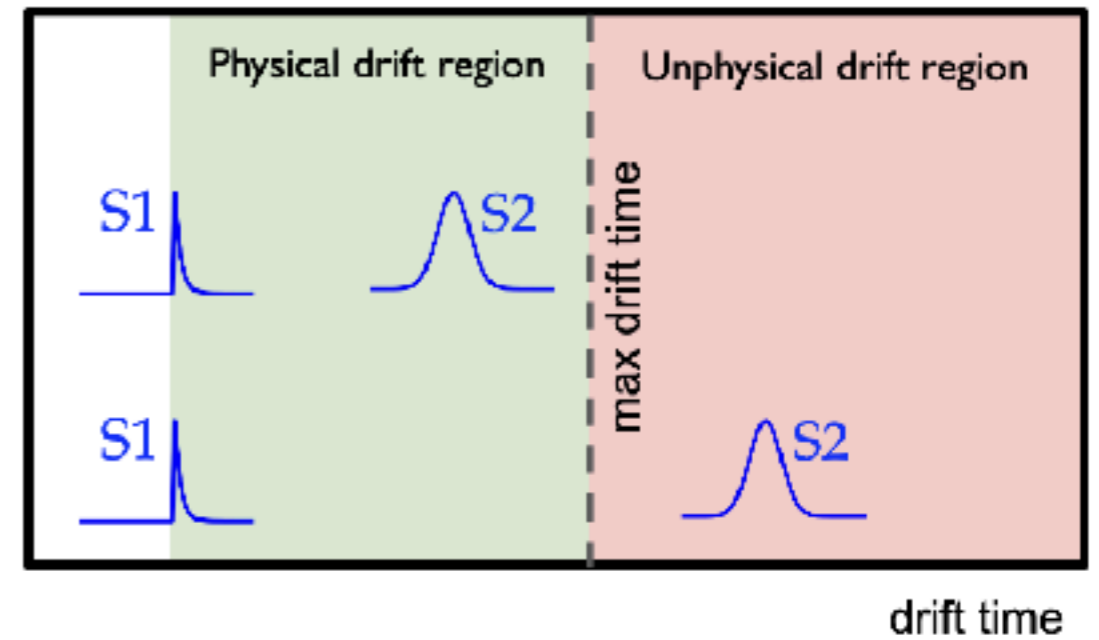


FIG. 1: Upper limits (90% C. L.) on DM-nucleon scattering cross sections as a function of the mass splitting for the effective operator  $\mathcal{O}_1$  and DM masses of 10 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> and 100 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> (left), and 1 TeV/c<sup>2</sup> and 10 TeV/c<sup>2</sup> (right), from the analysis of the PICO-50 CF<sub>3</sub>I and C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub> experiments. Limits from XENON-1T [12], PANDAX-4T [11], and CRESST-II [16] are also shown.

# Progress is hard!

- Each detector must grapple with a new set of backgrounds e.g.
  - Accidentals in LXe-TPCs
  - Dust and geometry in DEAP-3600
  - Neutrinos...?





# We're into the fog!

- Two new papers that begin with “First measurement of Solar  $^8\text{B}$  neutrinos...”

PandaX, 2407.10892  
2.64 sigma

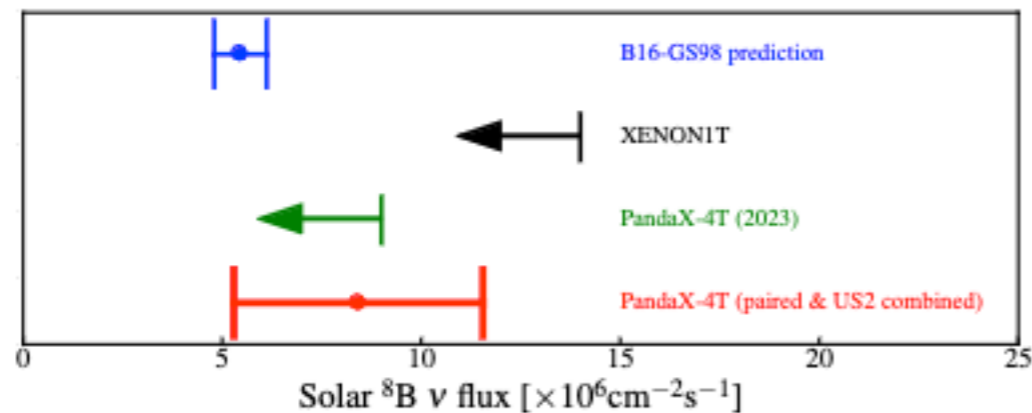


FIG. 6. The best-fit  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrino flux and  $1\sigma$  uncertainty from this work (red), together with 90% C.L. regions of the PandaX-4T previous constraint [33] (green), XENON1T constraint [31] (black), and  $1\sigma$  of the theoretical prediction from the standard solar model [45] (blue).

XENONnT, 2408.02877  
2.73 sigma

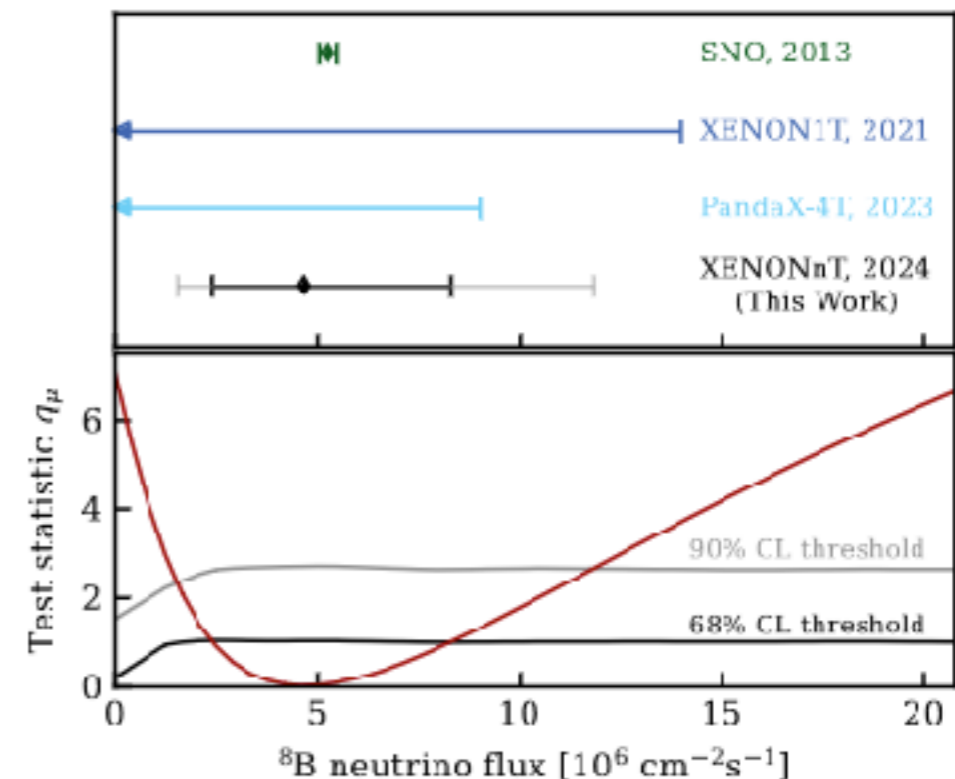
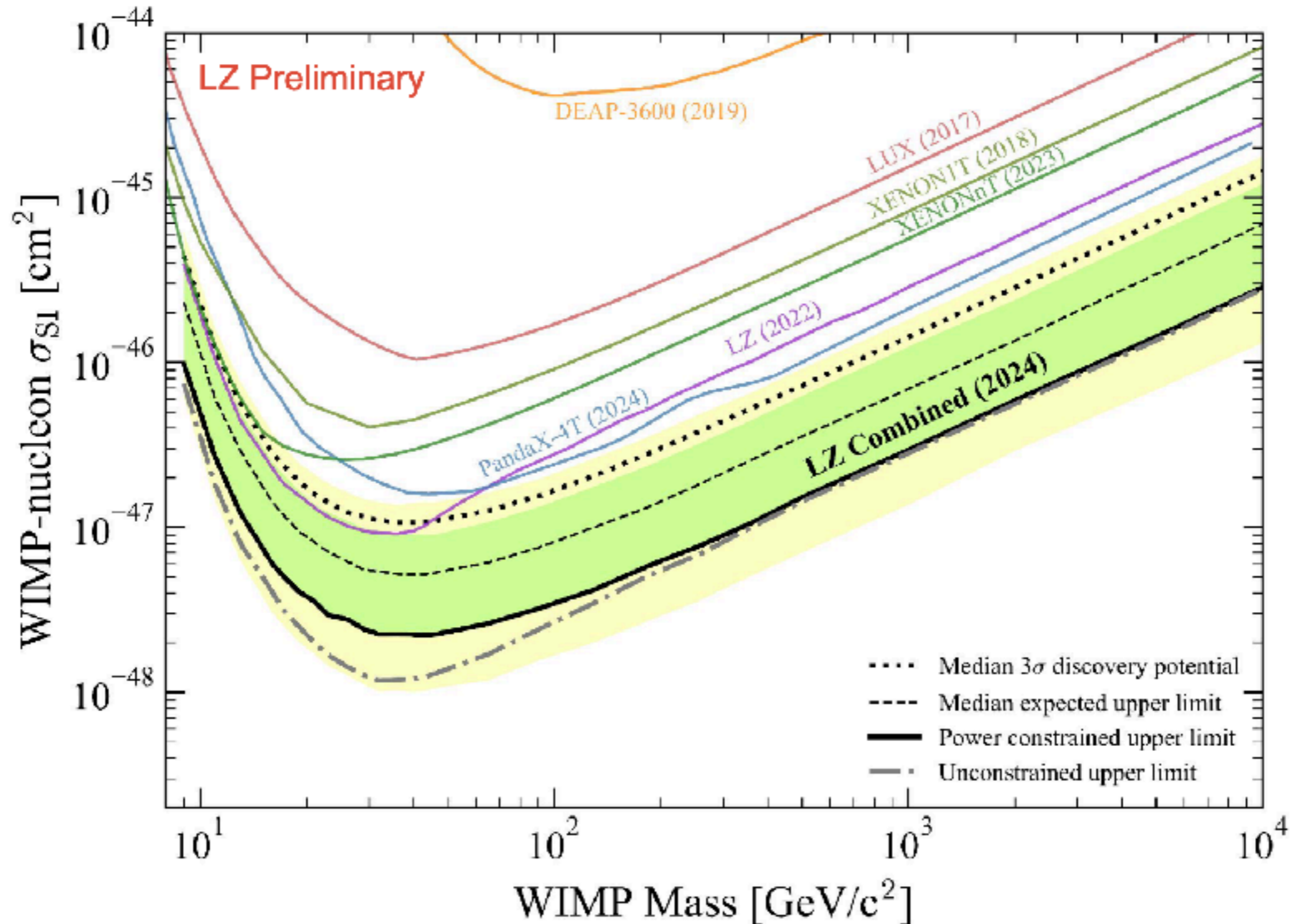


FIG. 3. Constraints on solar  $^8\text{B}$  neutrino flux. Top: the 68% (90%) measurement of solar  $^8\text{B}$  neutrino flux from this work is shown in black (gray). The 68% CL measurement from SNO [22], and 90% CL upper limits from XENON1T [6] and PandaX-4T [7] are also shown. Bottom: the solid red line shows the profile likelihood ratio test statistics  $q_\mu$  as a function of solar  $^8\text{B}$  neutrino flux. The constraints are derived with Feldman-Cousins construction at 68% (90%) CL, indicated by the black (gray) curve.

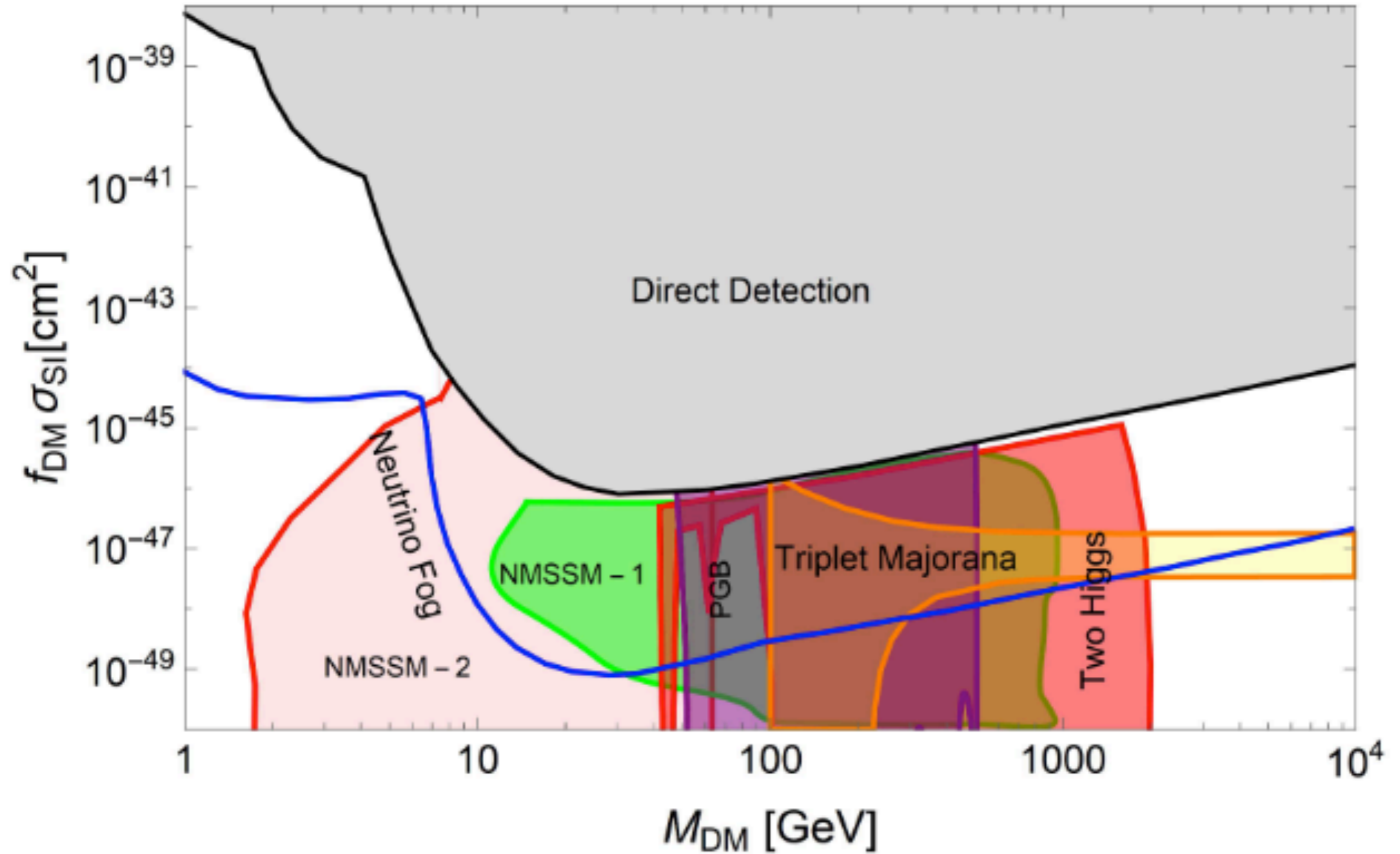
# And still pushing WIMP sensitivity!



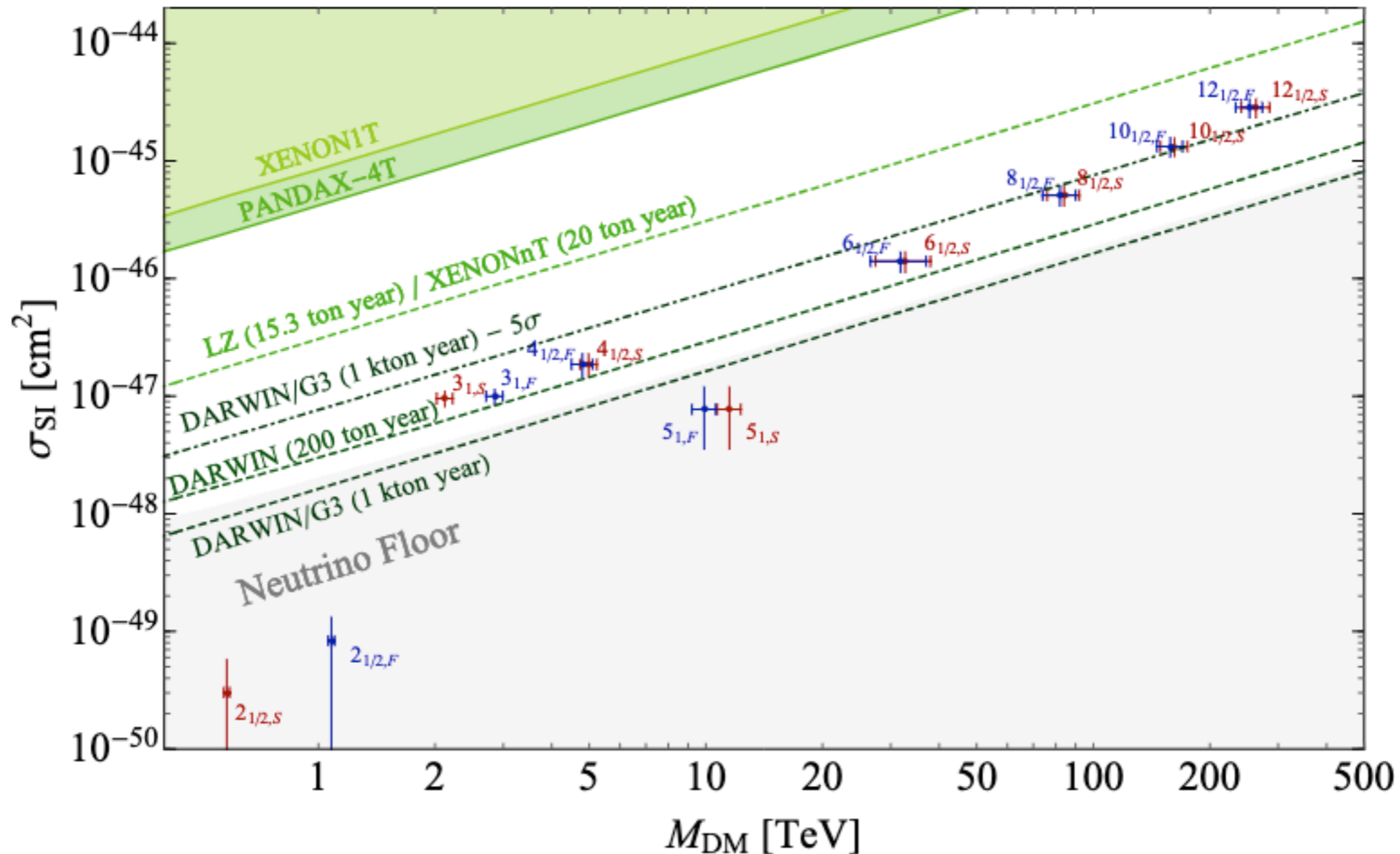
- New WIMP results from LZ (released at TeVPA!) and PandaX
- See [S. Haselschwardt](#) from Monday and [Q. Wang](#) yesterday



# What are we looking for? (Spin Independent)



# What are we looking for? (Spin Independent)

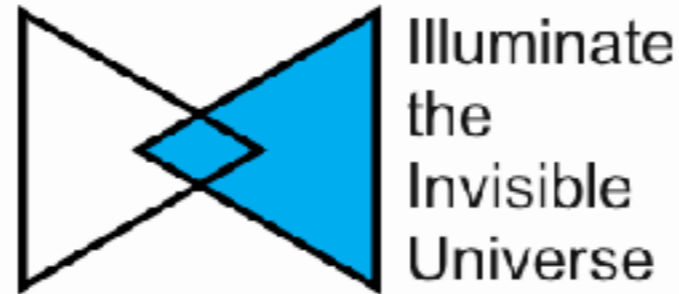
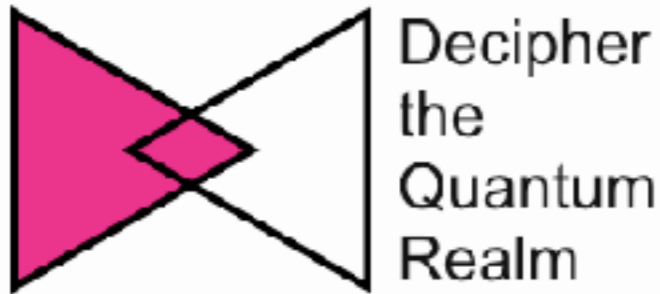


From Bottaro et al, 2205.04486 - “The Last Complex WIMPs Still Standing”  
 Pure electroweak WIMP candidates - tree-level Higgs process vanishes, so small cross sections





# P5 Report

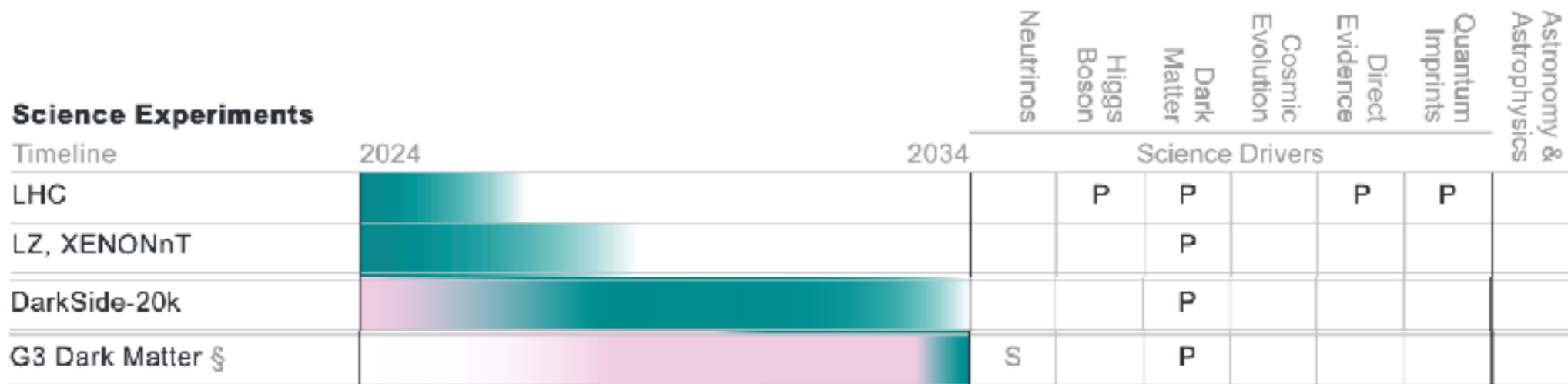


- **Recommendation 2d:**

- **An ultimate Generation 3 (G3) dark matter direct detection experiment reaching the neutrino fog, in coordination with international partners and preferably sited in the US (section 4.1).**

Figure 1 – Program and Timeline in Baseline Scenario (B)

Index: ■ Operation ■ Construction ■ R&D, Research P: Primary S: Secondary  
 § Possible acceleration/expansion for more favorable budget situations





# P5 Report

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- DOE response to P5 (M. Procaro, DPF, May 2024)

## G3 Dark Matter

- ◆ From P5 Recommendation 2, Priority 4 out of 5 :
  - An **ultimate Generation 3 (G3) dark matter** direct detection experiment reaching the neutrino fog, in coordination with international partners and **preferably sited in the US.**
- ◆ DOE response and actions:
  - At the present time, based on the Snowmass Community Summer Study, there have been two proposals for G3 Dark Matter detectors : XLZD and ARGO
  - P5 recommended a **domestic site for the experiment in the higher funding scenario** and an international site in the lower funding scenario.
  - Start with site independent R&D as we understand the funding that will be available.
    - Engage with partners who are interested in hosting.
  - DOE will entertain proposals by U.S. groups for pre-project R&D.



# XLZD Consortium

Several successful XLZD meetings already completed

White paper at 2203.02309

Official collaboration coming together

## Leading Xenon Researchers unite to build next-generation Dark Matter Detector

SURF is distributing this press release on behalf of the DARWIN and LZ collaborations

July 20, 2021





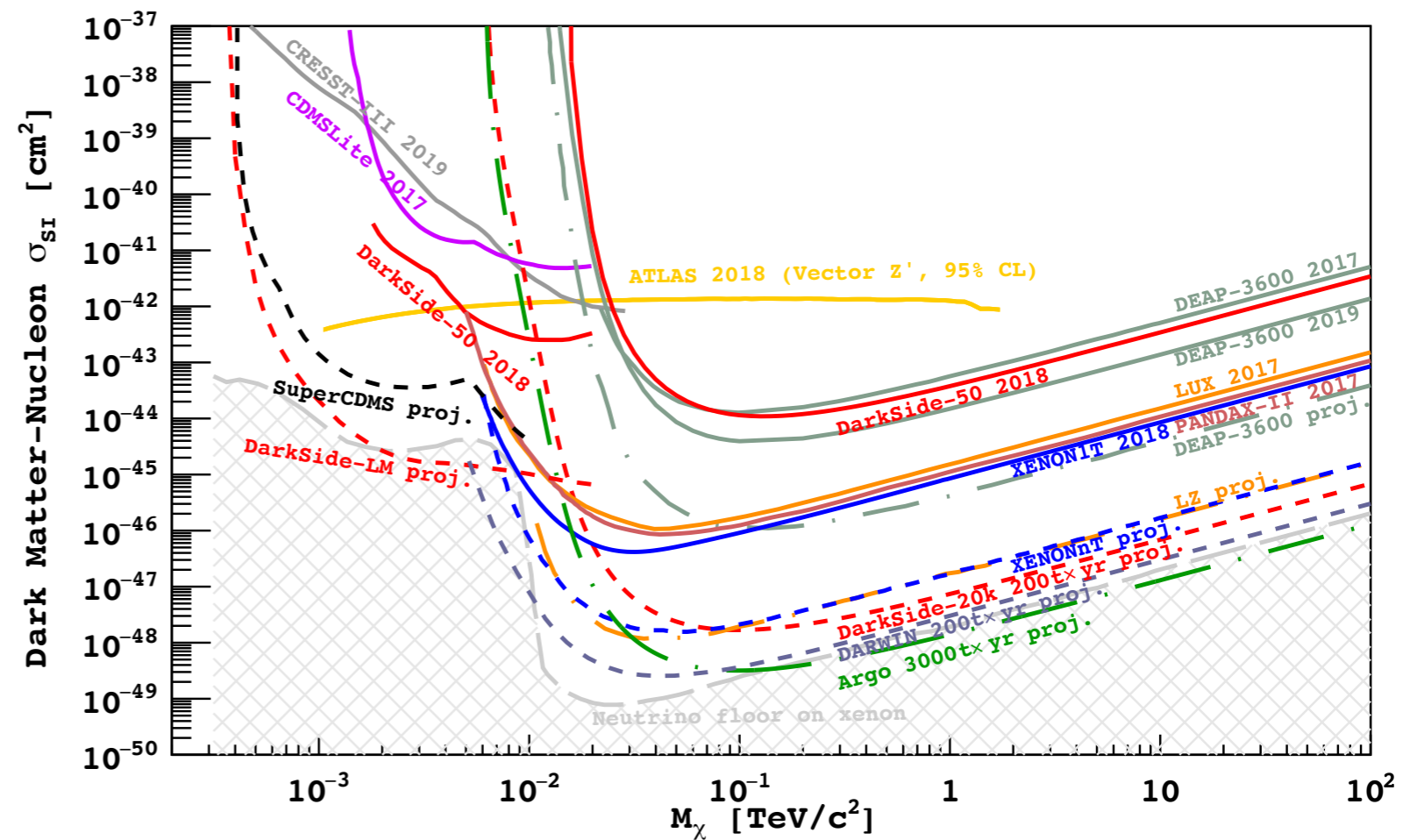
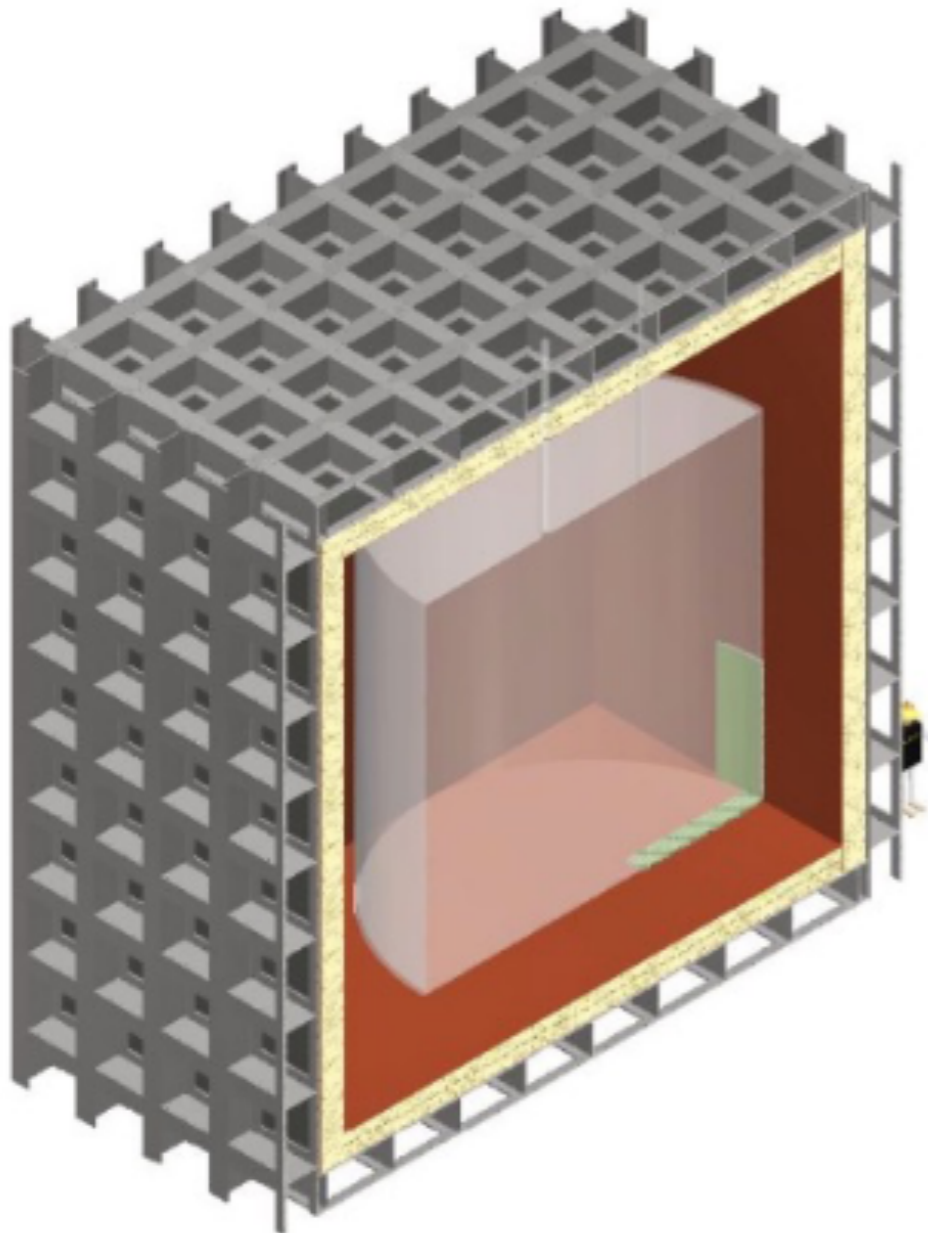
# XLZD Consortium





# ARGO

- ▶ ArDM, DS-50, DEAP-3600, and MiniCLEAN jointly formed the Global Argon Dark Matter Collaboration (GADMC)
- ▶ A 300-tonnes fiducial argon detector filled with underground argon
- ▶ 3000 tonne×year exposure to reach into the neutrino fog





# Summary

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2001 Snowmass report - single 3 page section on dark matter and relic particles

**Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology: Cosmic Laboratories for New Physics**  
(Summary of the Snowmass 2001 P4 Working Group)

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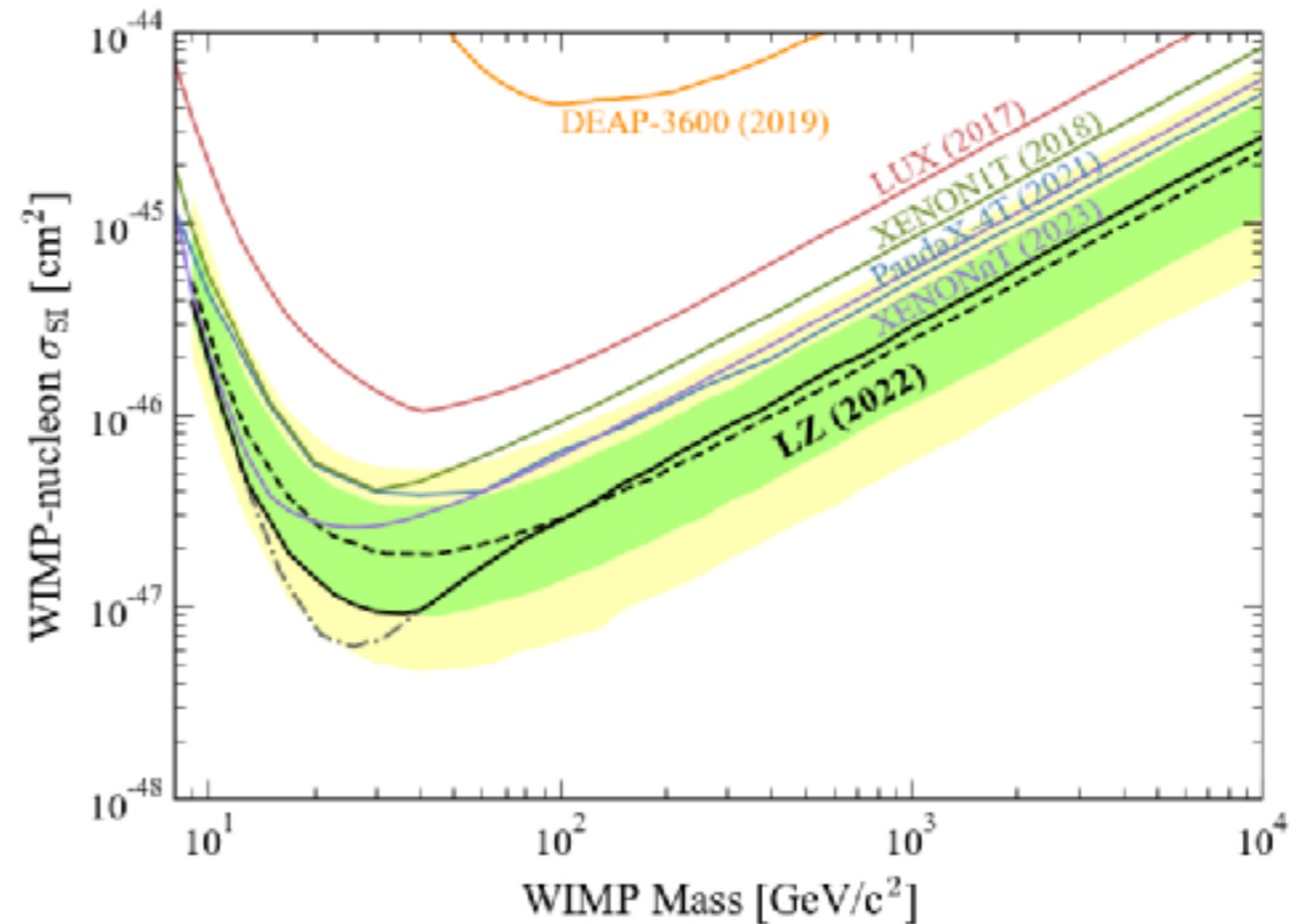
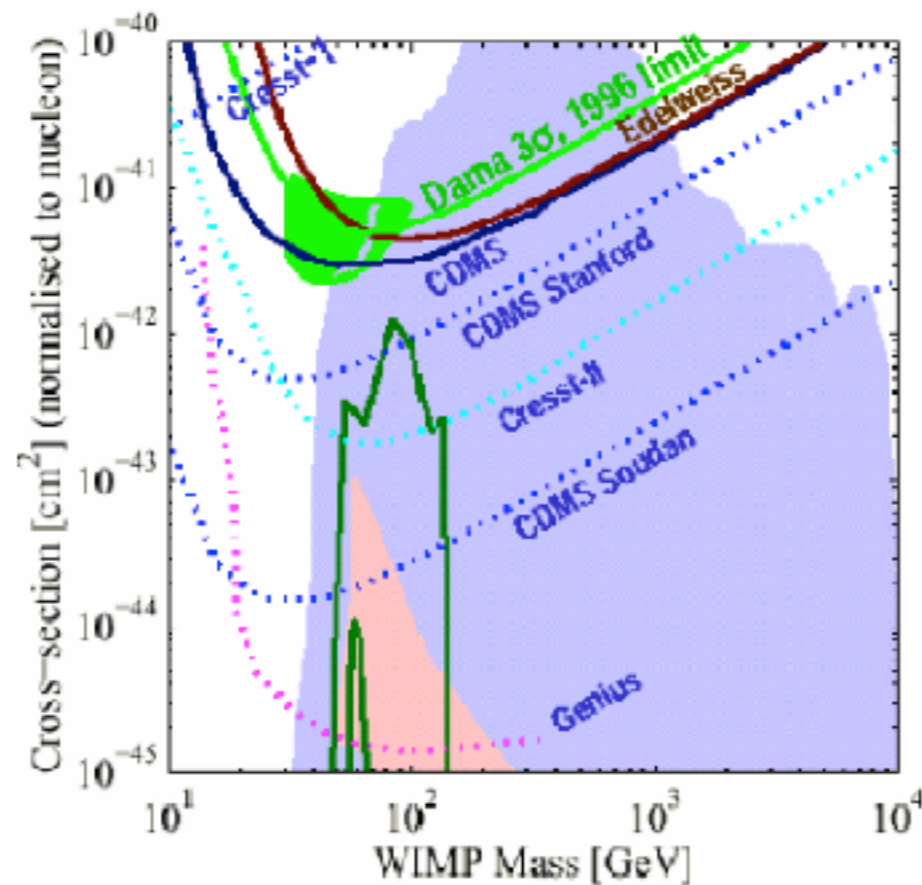
(Dated: October 30, 2018)

“Current searches are already exploring the parameter space of supersymmetric WIMPs [10-1000 GeV], with prospects for a factor of a hundred improvement in the coming years.”

# WIMPs

- CDMS PRL 84: 5699, (2000)
- Best limit at  $3 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2$

- LZ, TeVPA, S. Haselschwardt (2024)
- Best limit at  $2.2 \times 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$



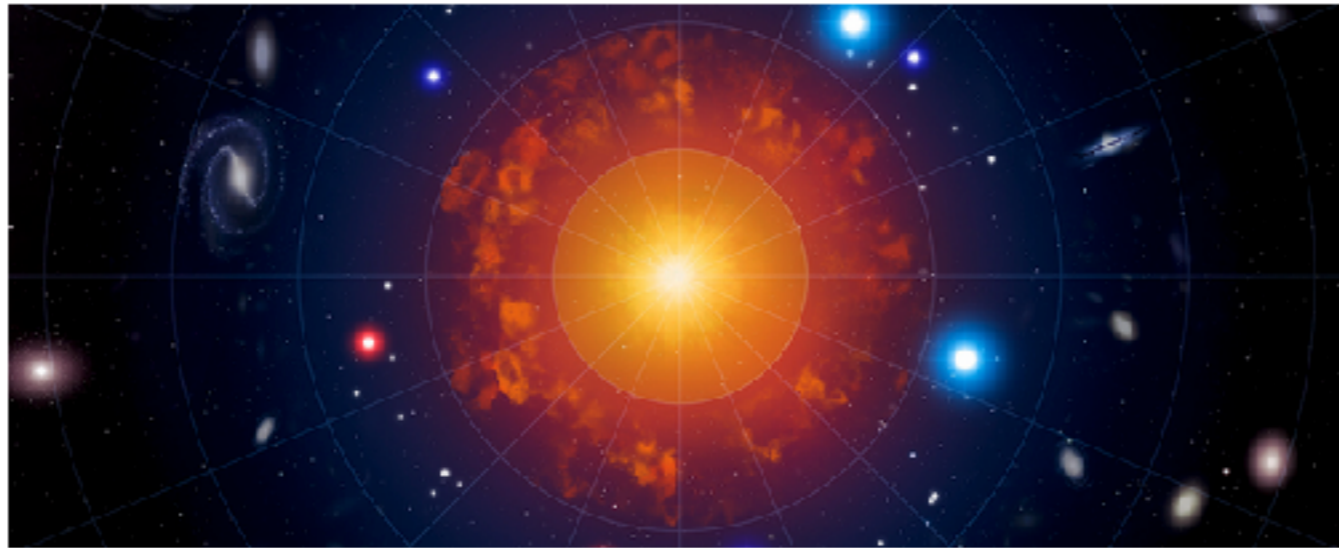
- Factor of  $> 1,000,000$  improvement in 24 years! Doubling every 1.2 years!
- Much faster than Moore's Law! A triumph of human ingenuity!
- No WIMPs :(



# Losing the narrative?

## Physicist Claims Universe Has No Dark Matter And Is 27 Billion Years Old

SPACE 18 March 2024 By MIKE MCRAE



(Mark Garlick/Science Photo Library/Getty Images)



Elon Musk    
@elonmusk

Subscribe



Possibly.

Dark matter is what seems most sketch to me.

9:02 PM · Jul 16, 2023 · 2.8M Views



# Lights in the dark

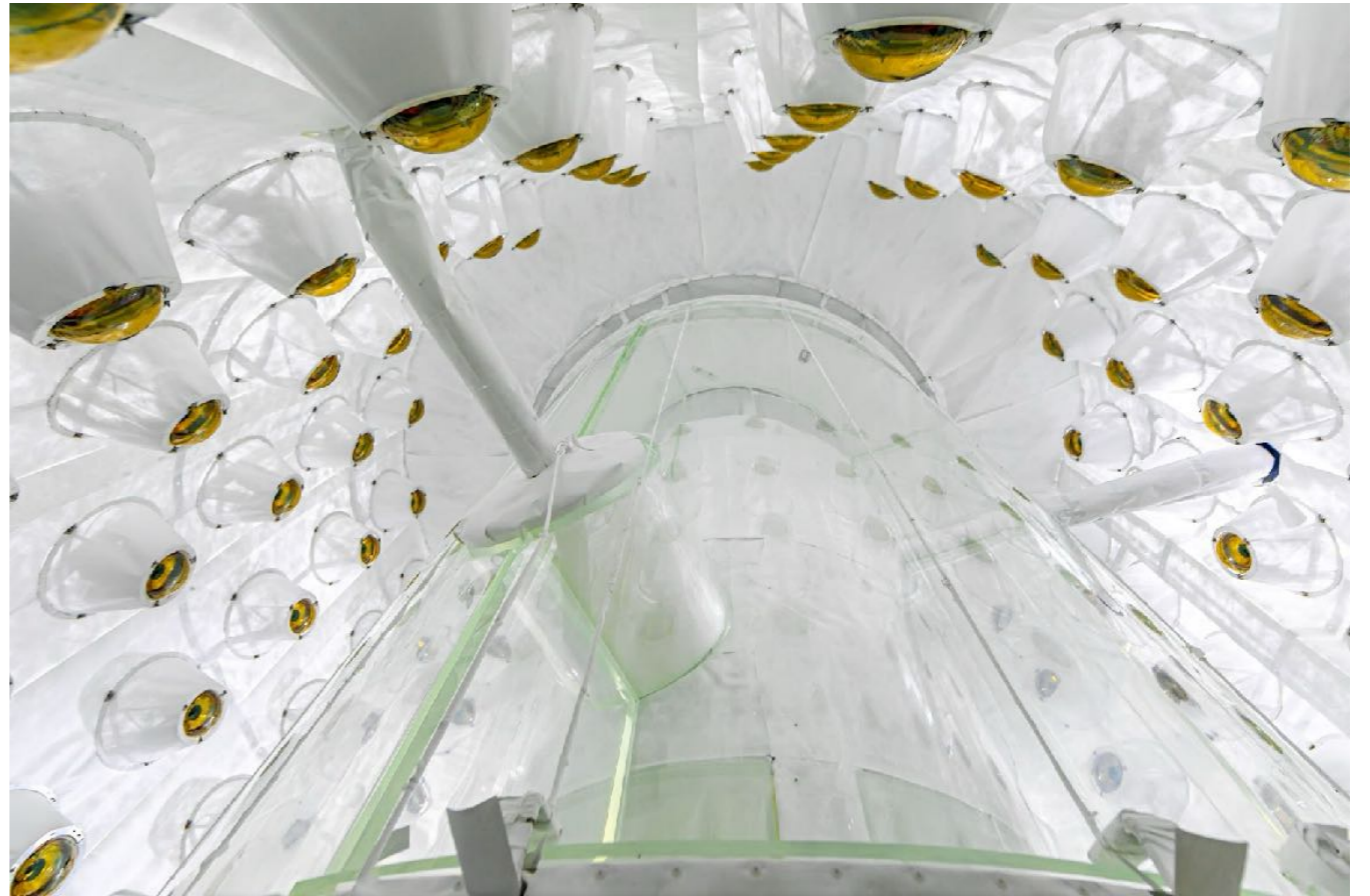
- **DarkSide operating a prototype distillation column to isotopically separate  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  from  $^{40}\text{Ar}$**





# Lights in the dark

- **XENONnT at ~15 events/tonne/year/keV**
- **LZ has zero candidate events in a 4.2 tonne-years of exposure**

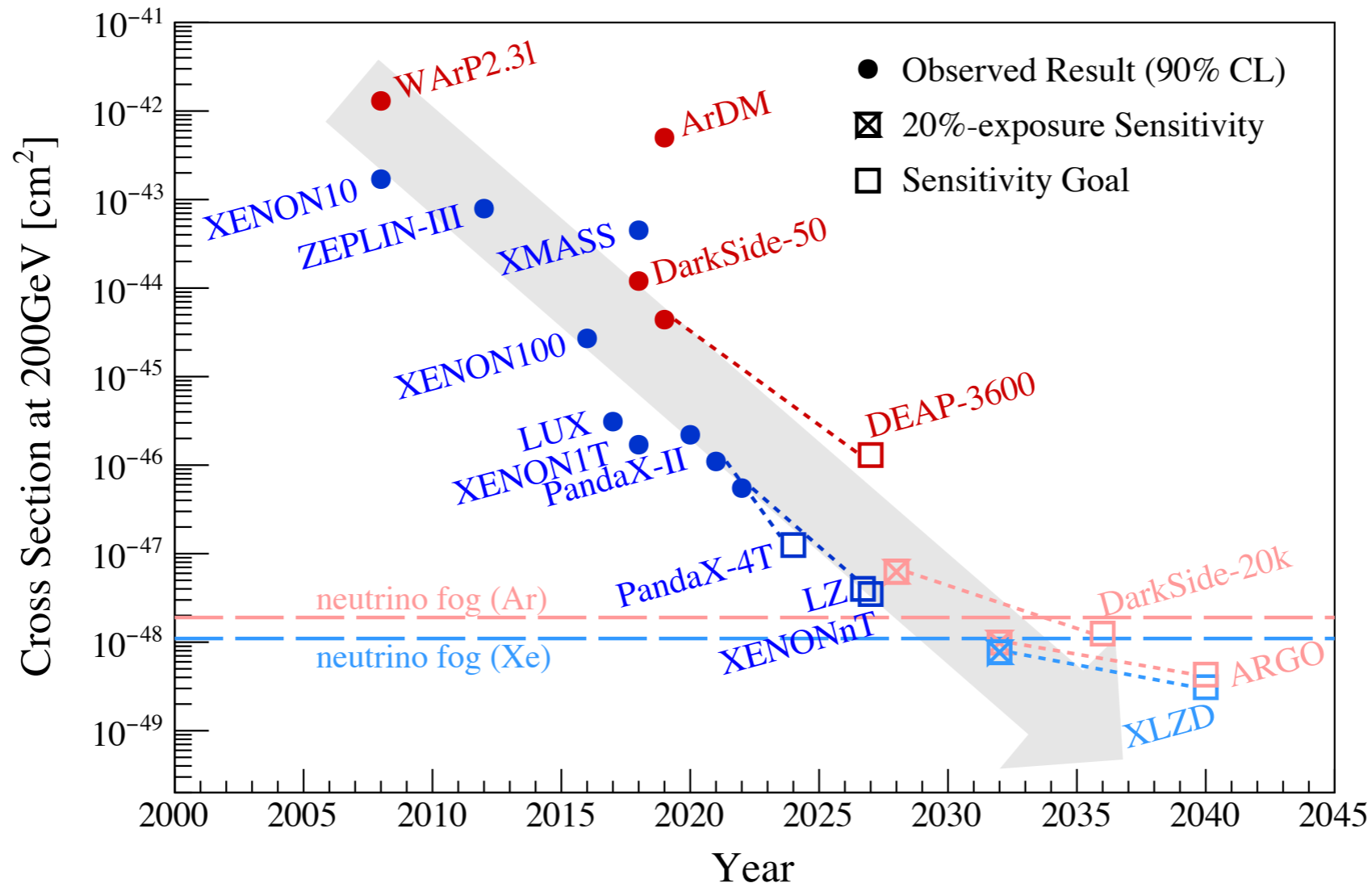


**These numbers are incredible!**  
**Suppression by a factor of a trillion!**



# Lights in the dark

- Four multi-tonne detectors operating simultaneously, with more on the way!
- Demonstration of technological maturity
  - Building these detectors is hard!
  - Every time we build one, we find something we want to do better
- Ready for one more push

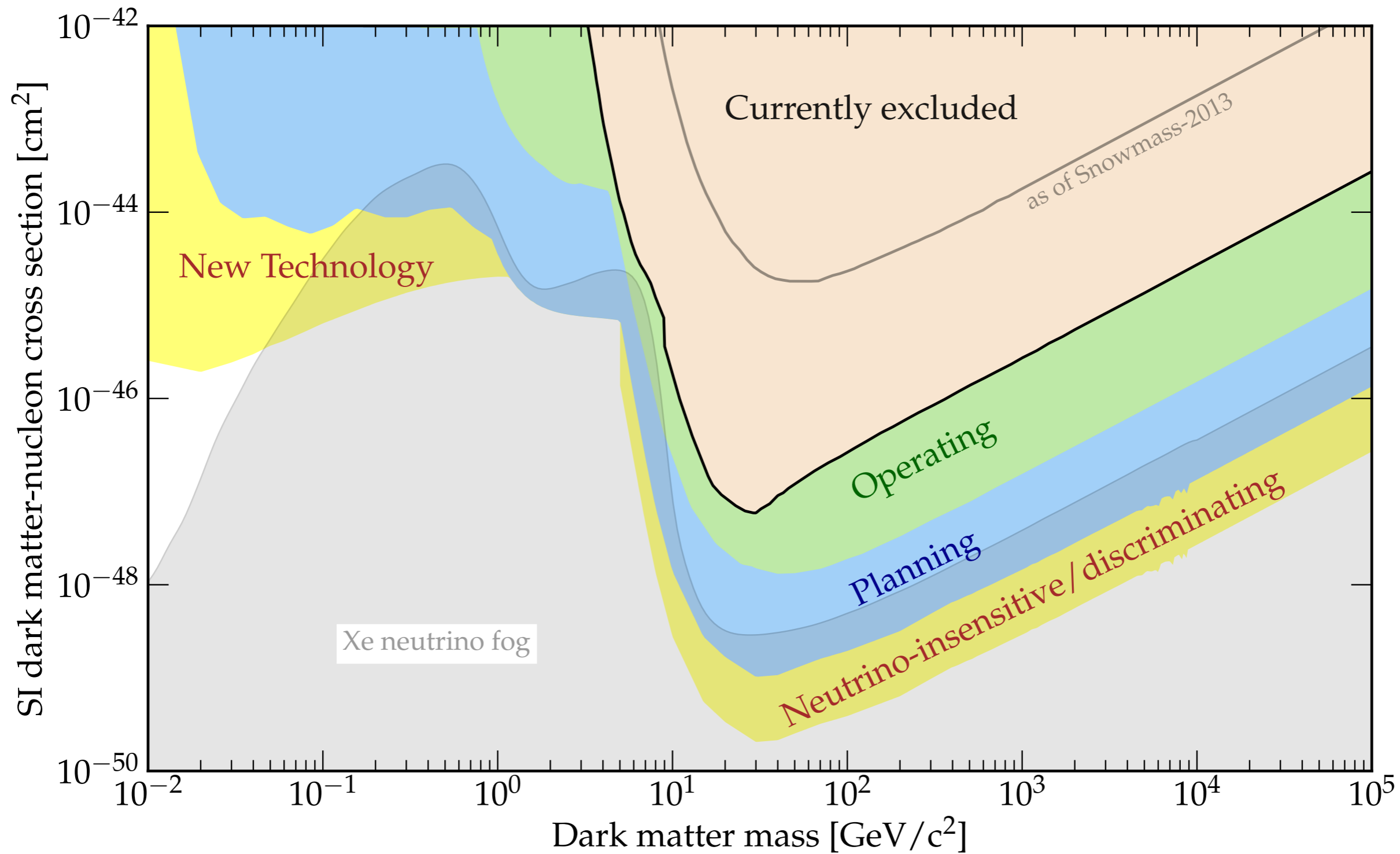




A top-down view of two individuals in white protective suits and hoods working on a large sheet with a grid pattern. A red dot is visible on the grid, and a red laser line is projected from it. The scene is dimly lit with a blueish tint.

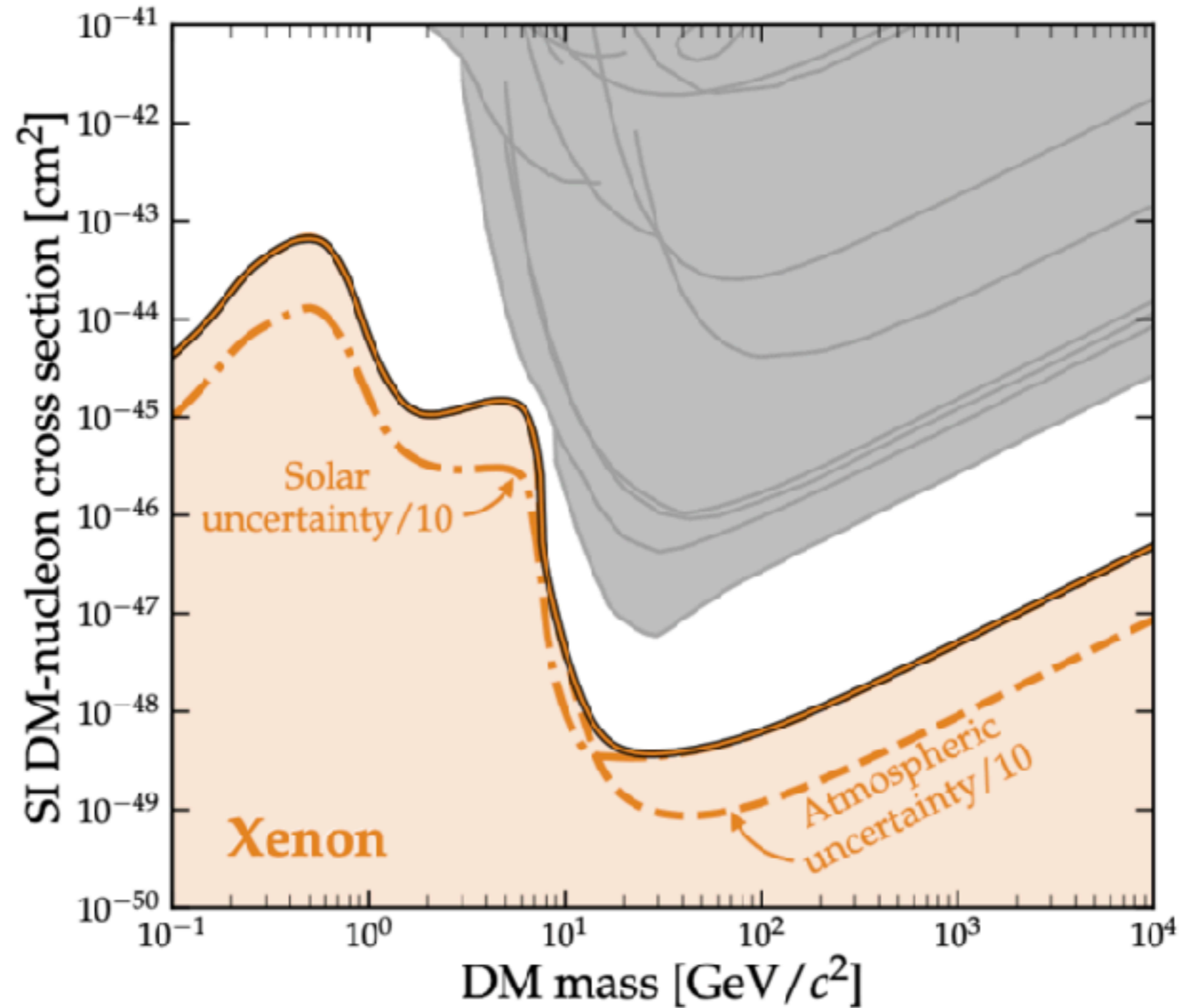
**This is a problem worth solving!**

**I'm eager to see what's next!**



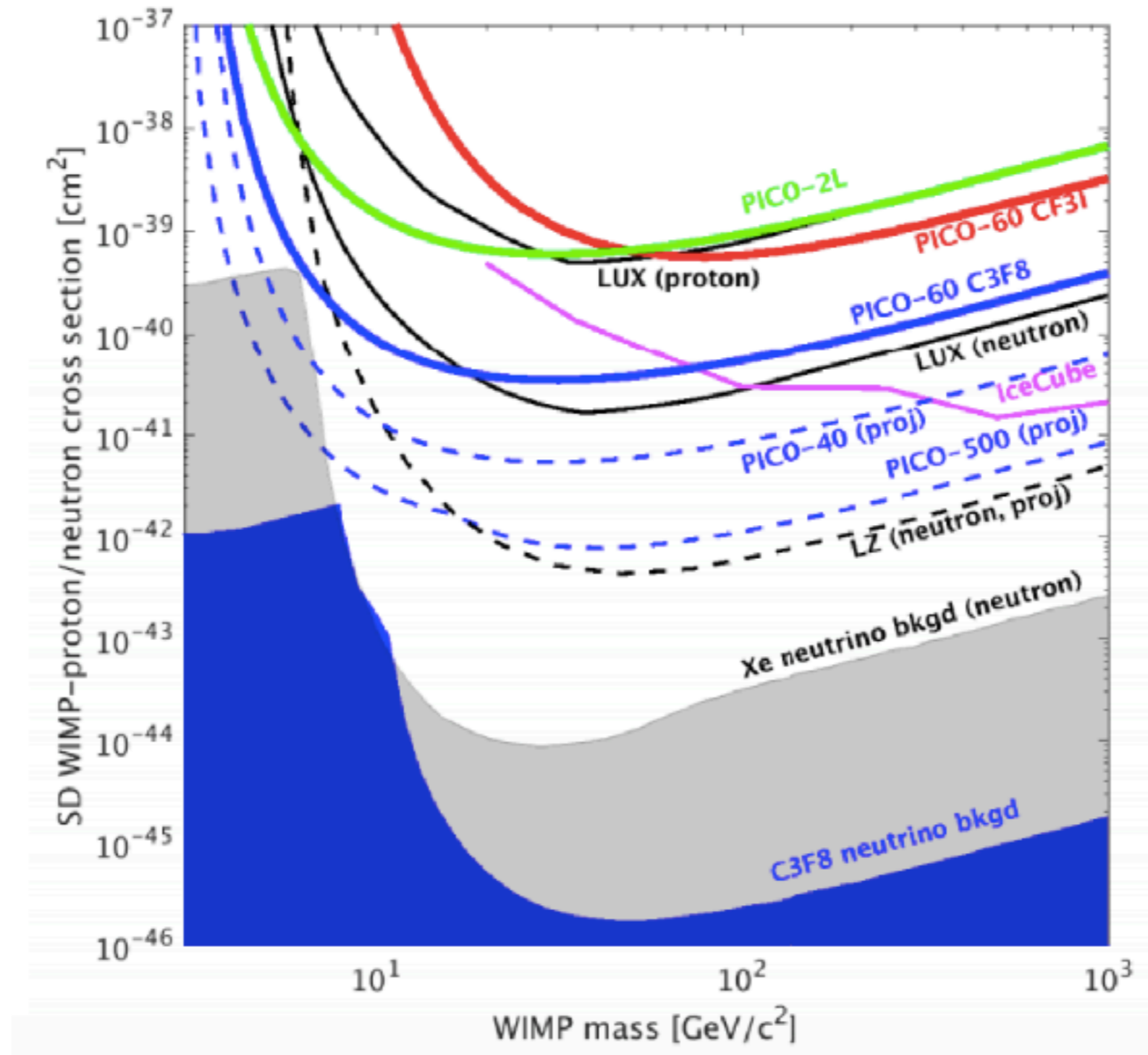


# Neutrino Fog



- Future progress can be made with better measurements of the atmospheric neutrino flux

# Neutrino Fog

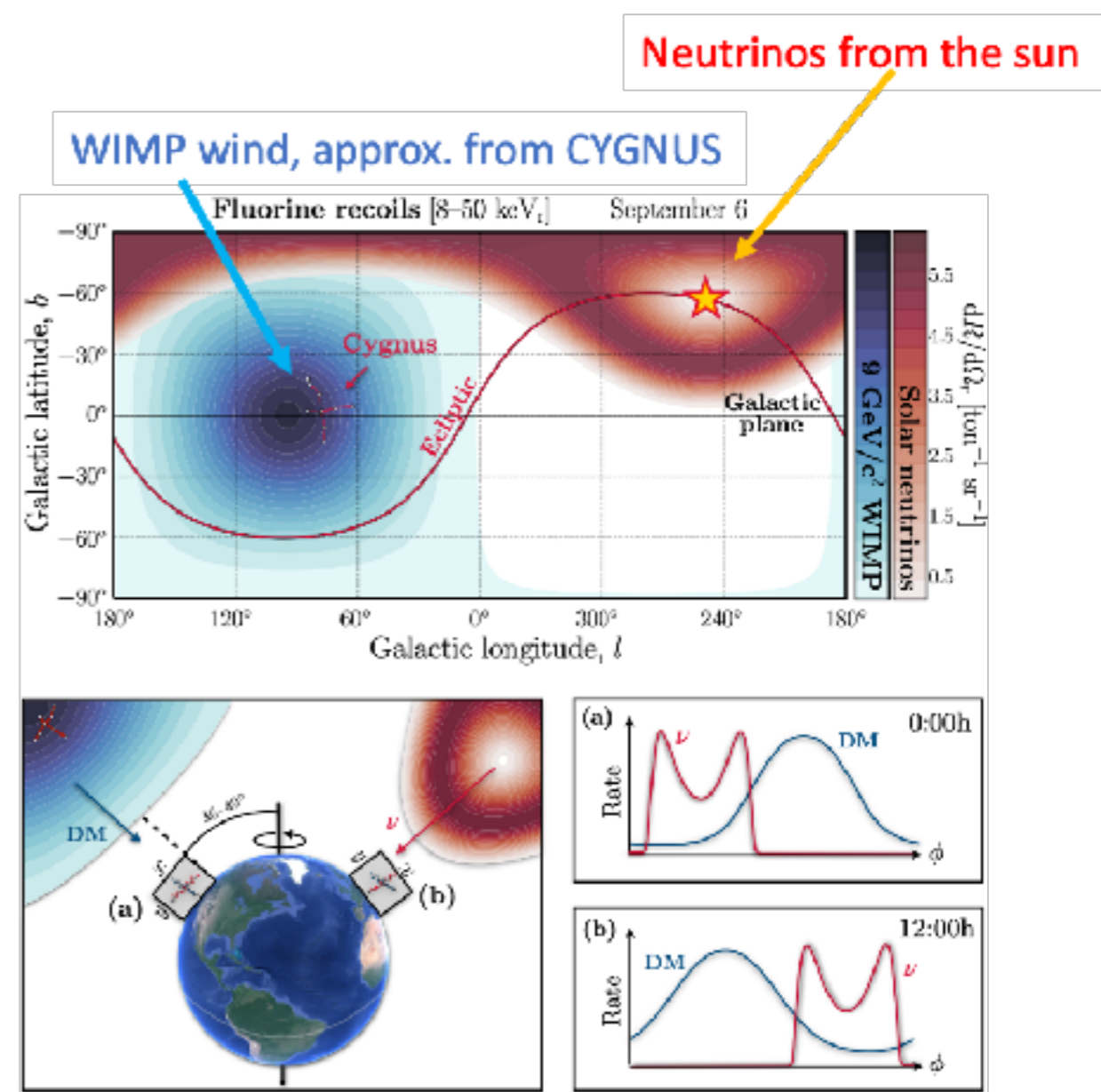


- Future progress can be made depending on target
  - Fluorine based SD detector can go deeper than xenon-based SD detector



# Directionality

- Directionality can identify WIMP wind with only handful of events
  - Ideal case - 3D direction plus energy
  - Experimentally challenging
- Cygnus program doing R&D now to enable large scale directionality
  - Physics program for dark matter and neutrinos described in 2102.04596



2020 2025 2030 2035 2040

CYGNUS

1 m<sup>3</sup>  
HD demonstrator

Solar neutrinos  
via electron recoils  
& CYGNUS-HD  
at a neutrino source

10 m<sup>3</sup>  
module

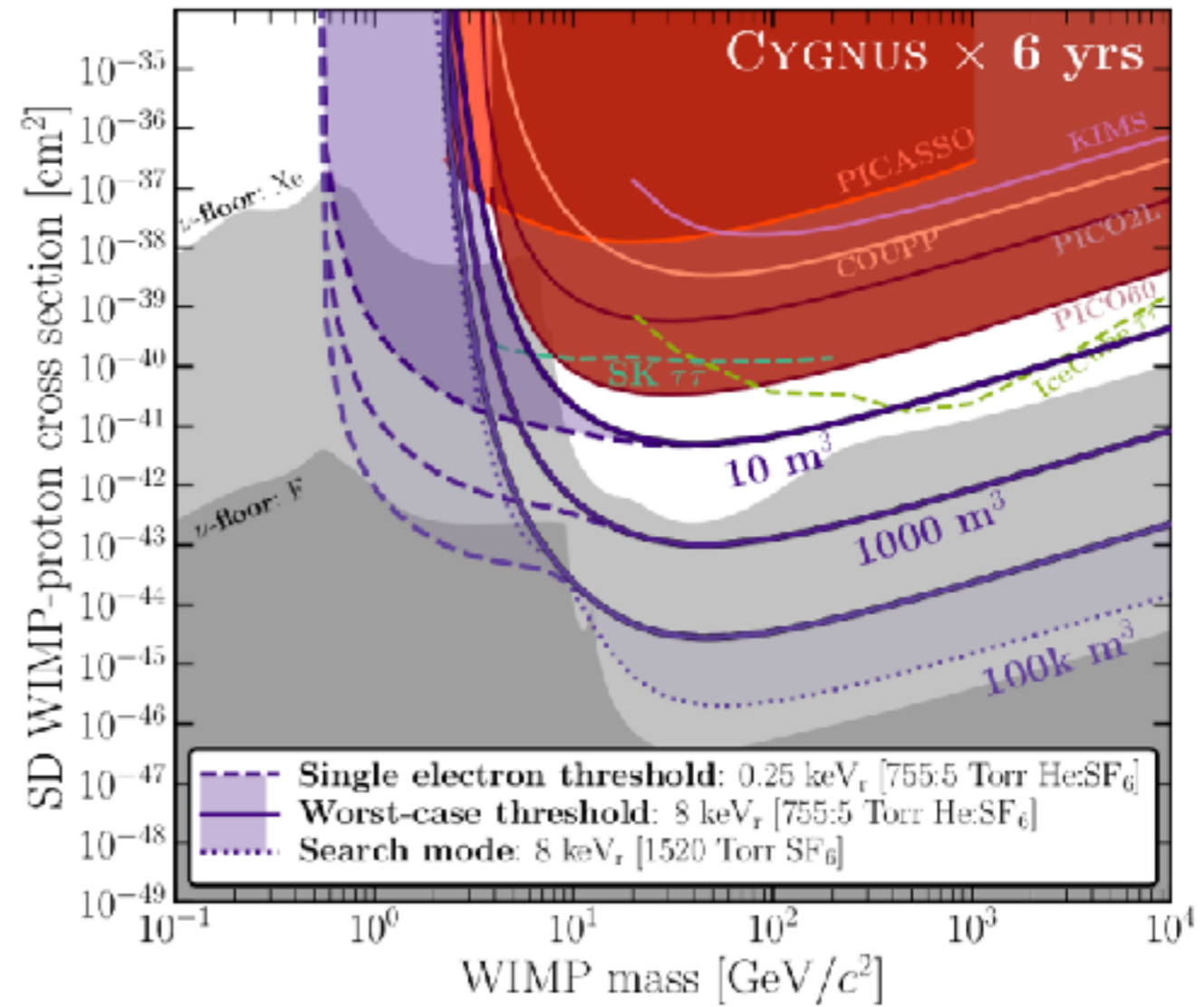
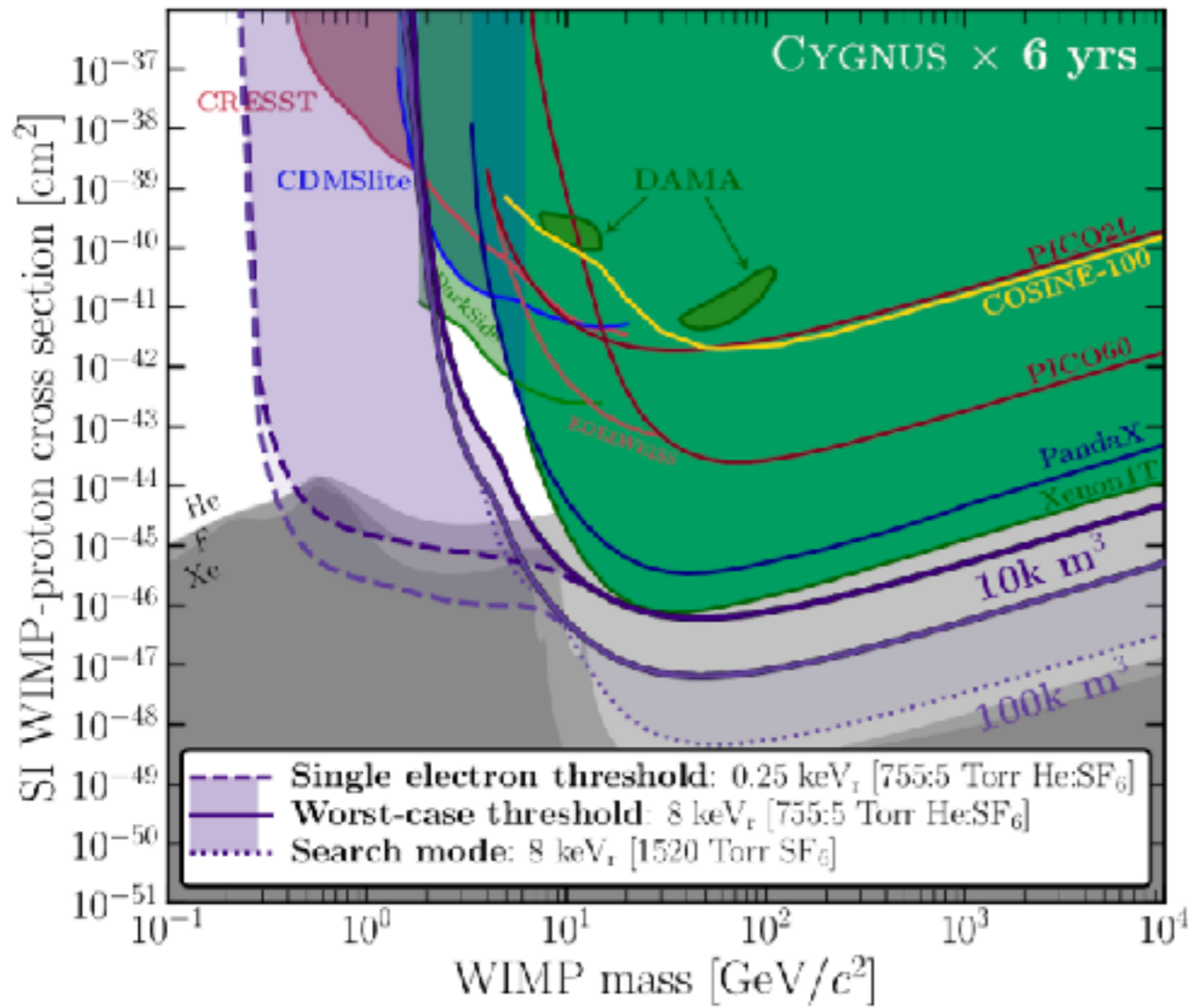
World-leading  
SD-p DM limits

Modular/multisite  
experiment: CYGNUS-1000

Reach edge of neutrino  
fog at 10 GeV

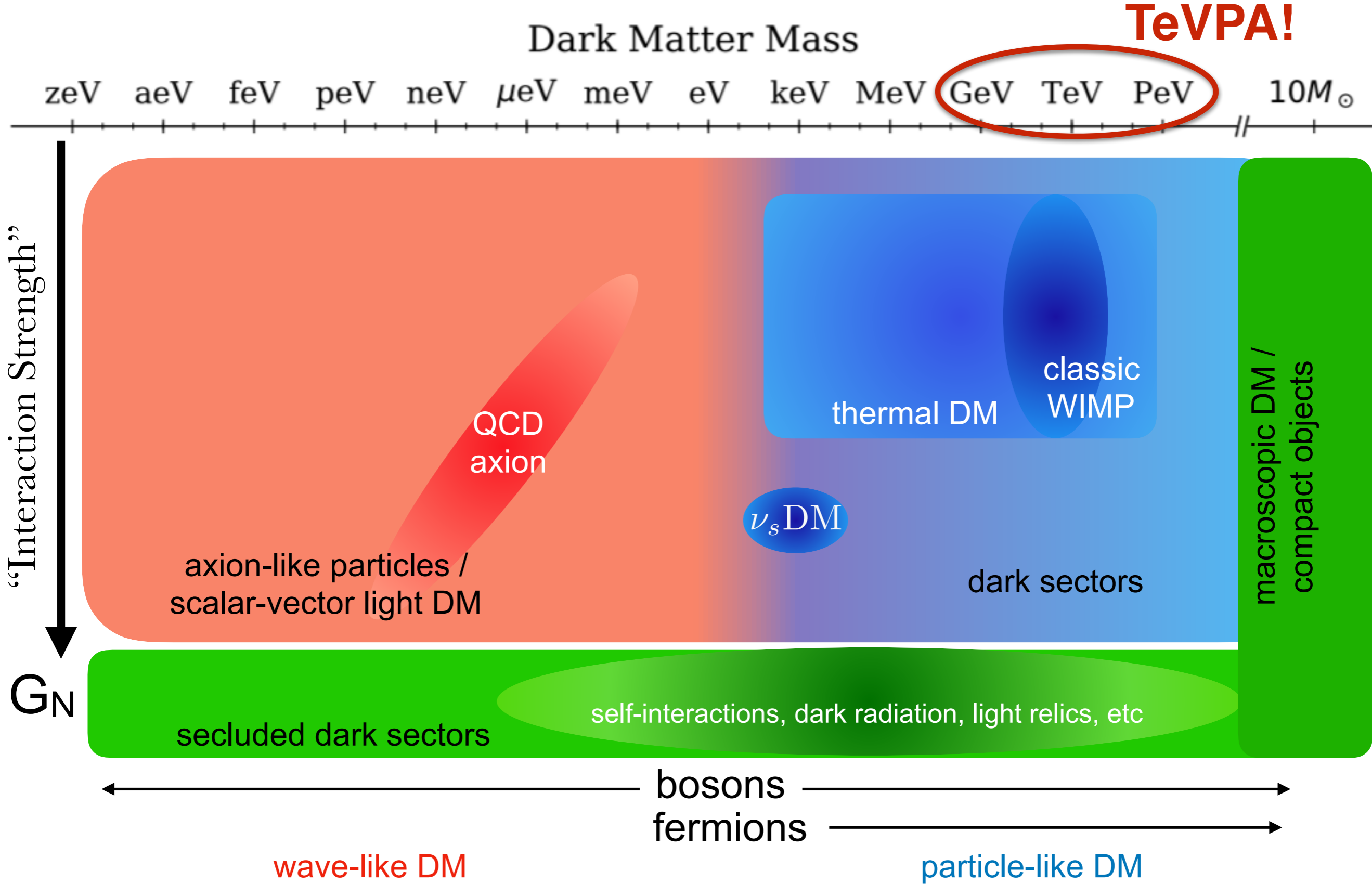
DM discovery  
*into* neutrino fog

# Directionality



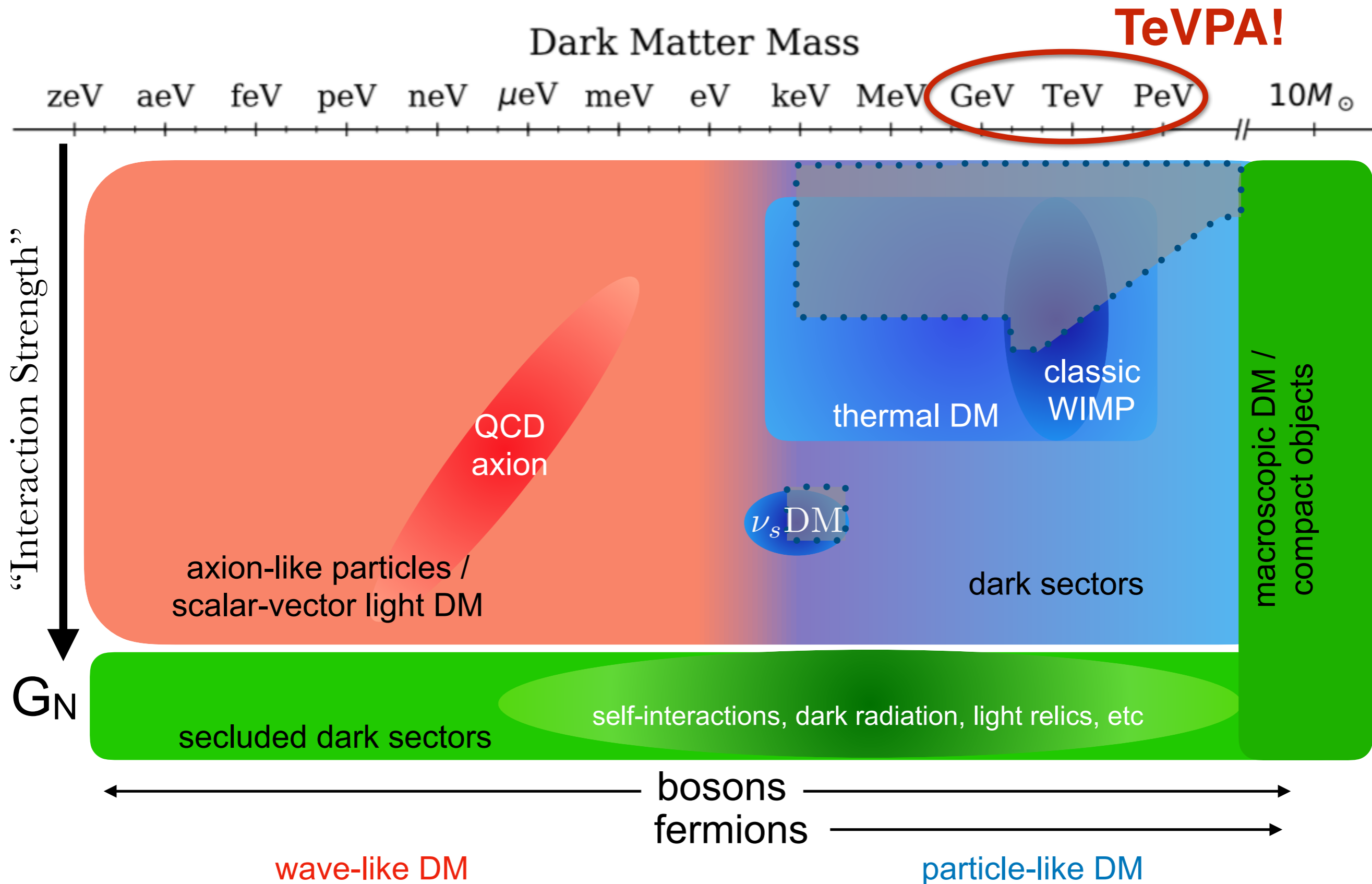


# Dark Matter at ~TeV and beyond



From A. Chou, Cosmic Frontier Plenary at Snowmass

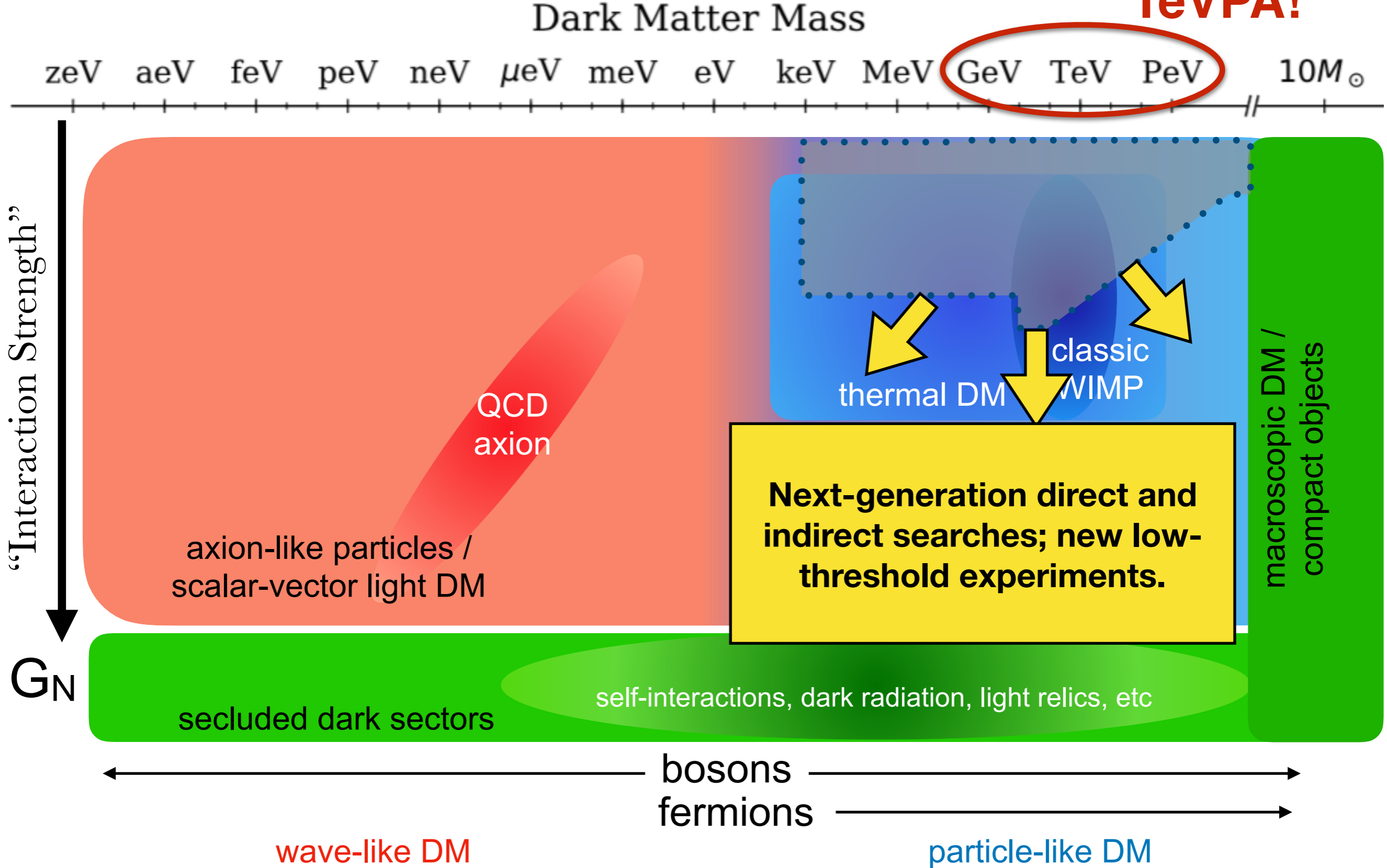
# Dark Matter at $\sim$ TeV and beyond



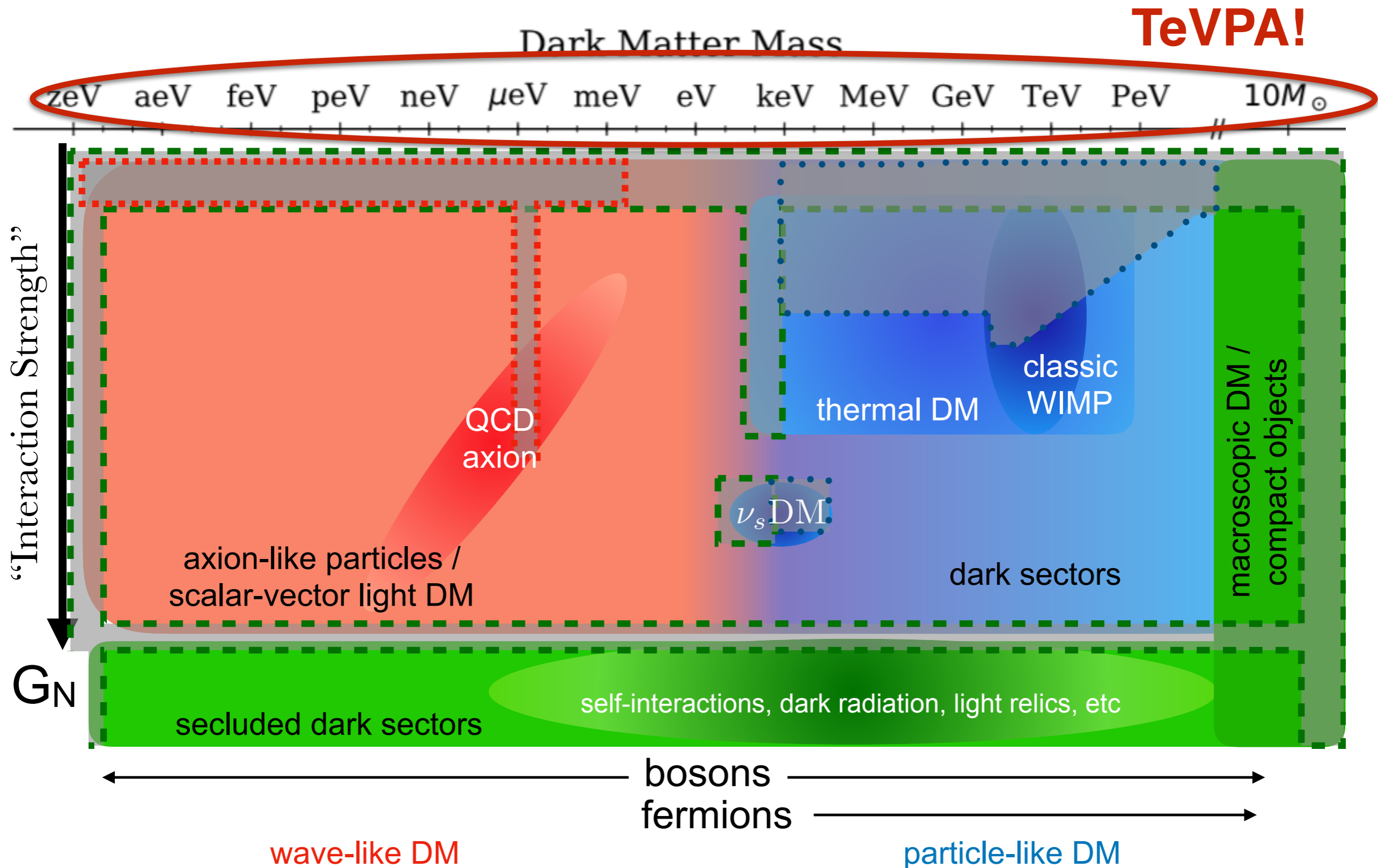


# Dark Matter at ~TeV and beyond

TeVPA!



# Dark Matter at $\sim$ TeV and beyond

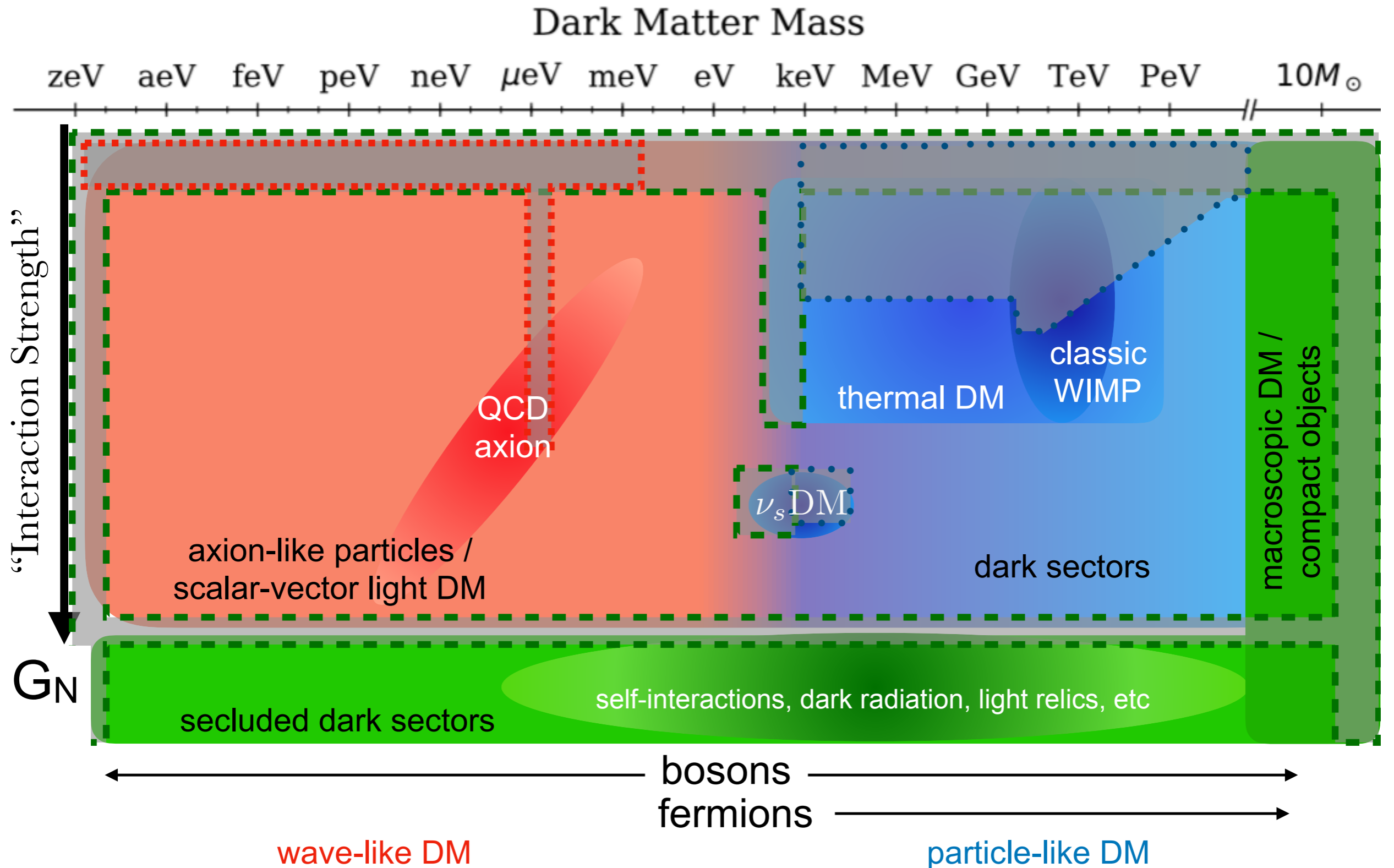




# Dark Matter at TeV scales (and beyond)

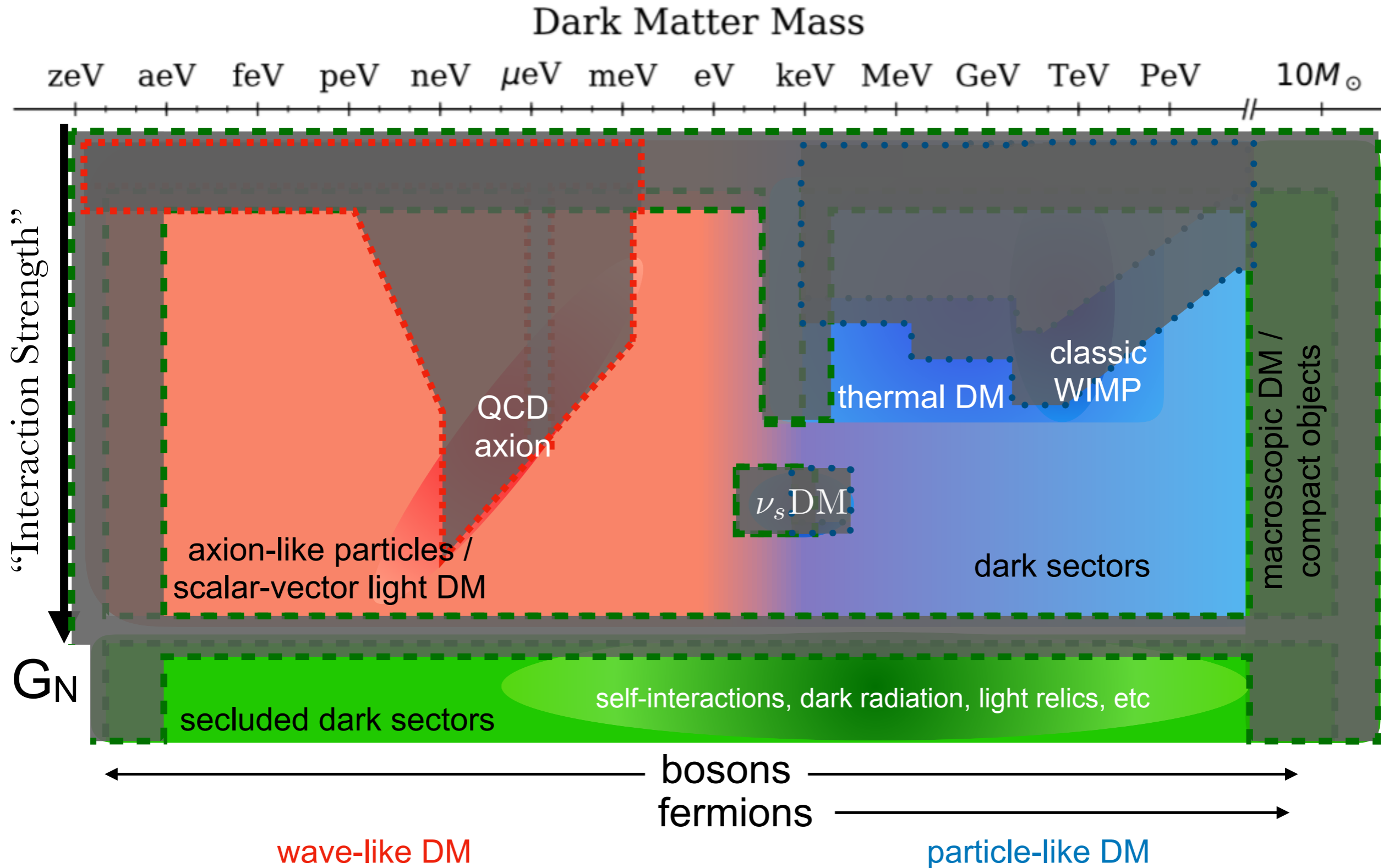
- **Dark matter poses a profound and exciting challenge to our understanding of fundamental physics.**
- **Maximize the probability of discovery**
  - **Delve Deep:** Fully explore high-priority theoretical target regions (e.g., WIMPs and QCD axions).
  - **Search Wide:** Deploy new techniques and pathfinder experiments to access unexplored dark matter scenarios and lay the groundwork to go deep on future targets.
- **Dark Matter Crosses Boundaries:** Complementarity across frontiers including a vibrant theory program is critical for the discovery and characterization of dark matter and dark sectors.

# Current status

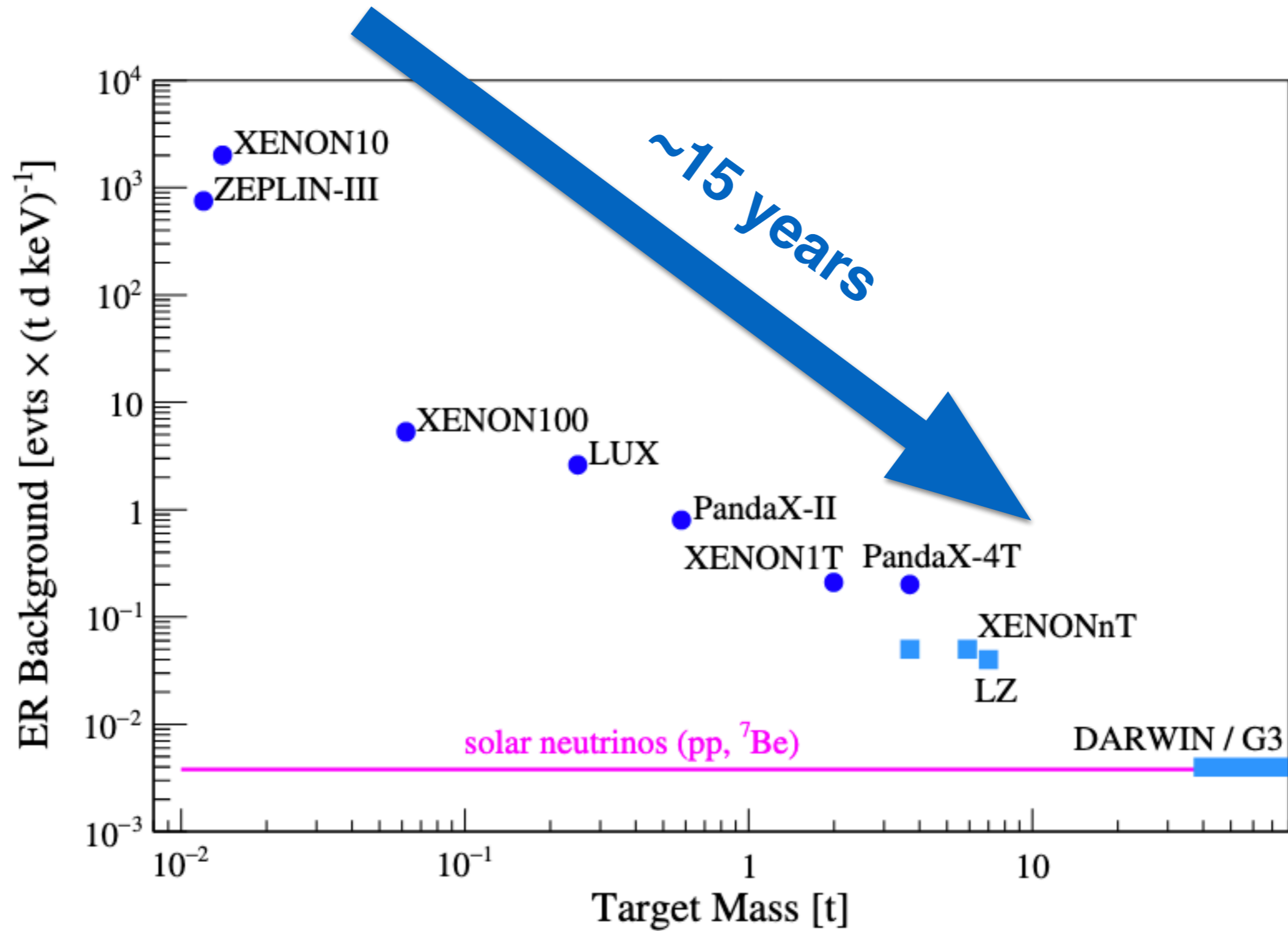




# Plan for next decade



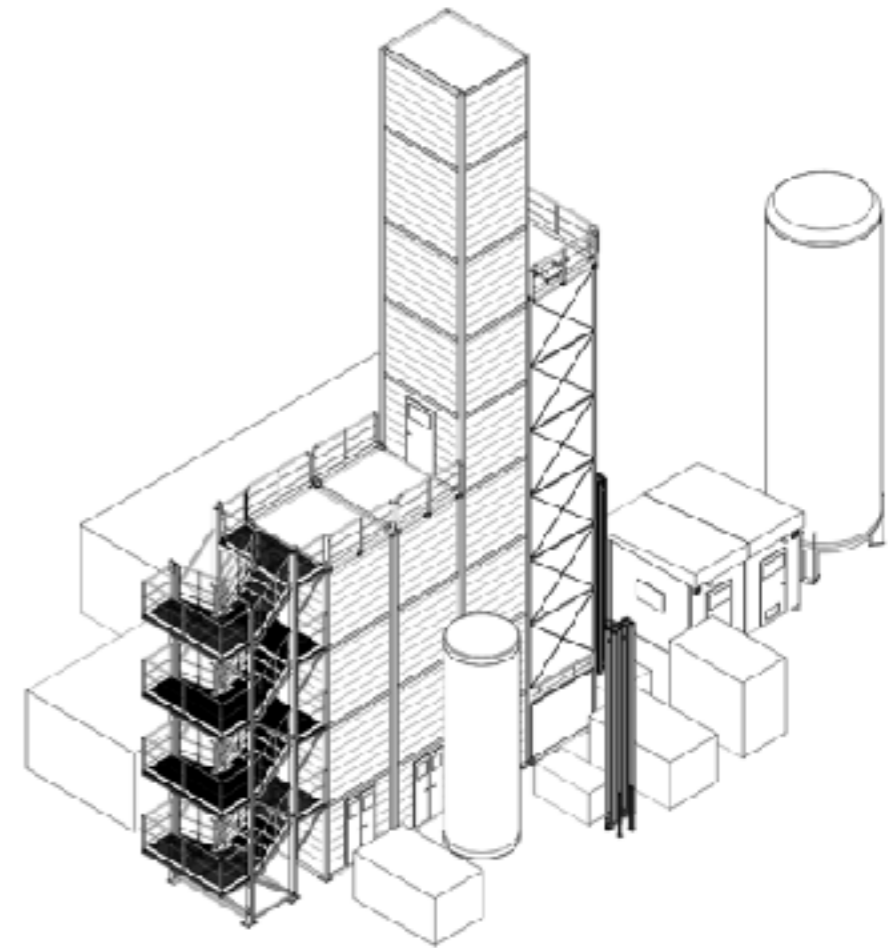
# Liquid Xenon TPCs



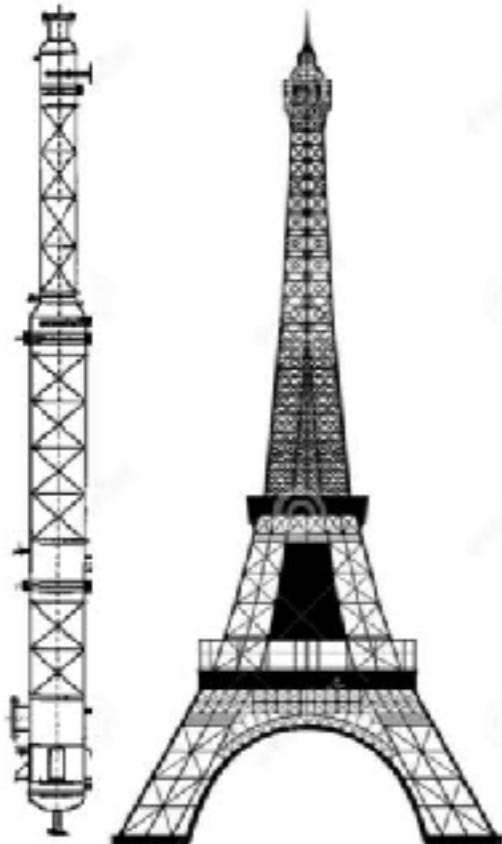
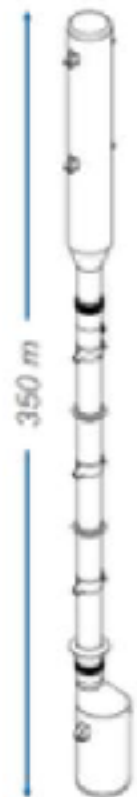


## URANIA

- ▶ Procurement of 50 tonnes of UAr from same Colorado source as for DS-50
- ▶ Extraction of 250 kg/day, with 99.9% purity
- ▶ UAr transported to Sardinia for final chemical purification at Aria



**Seruci-I**      **Seruci-II**

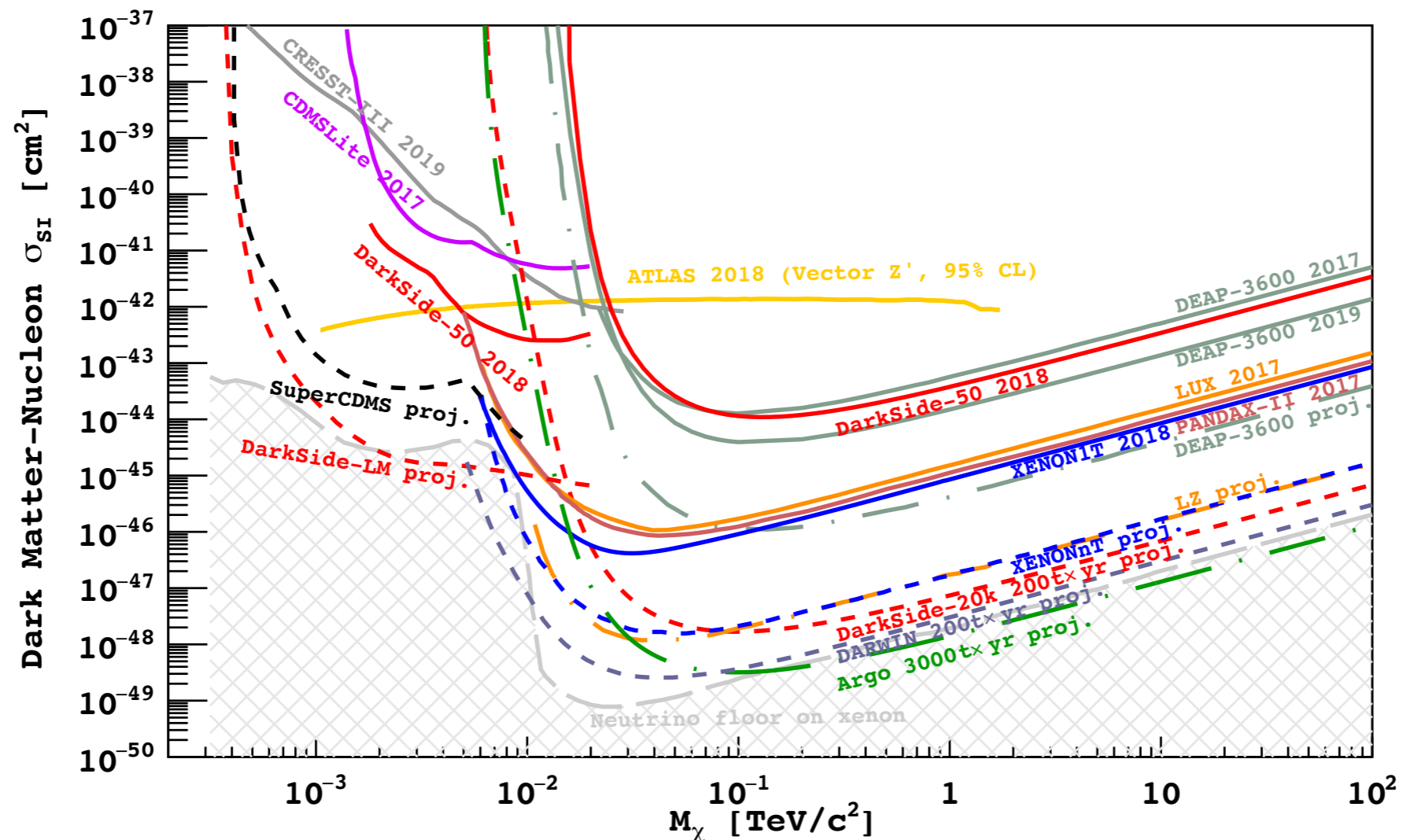


## ARIA

- ▶ Big cryogenic distillation column in Seruci, Sardinia
- ▶ Final chemical purification of the UAr
- ▶ Can process O(1 tonne/day) with  $10^3$  reduction of all chemical impurities
- ▶ Ultimate goal is to isotopically separate  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  from  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  (at the rate of 10 kg/day in Seruci-I)

## ARGO

- ▶ ArDM, DS-50, DEAP-3600, and MiniCLEAN jointly formed the Global Argon Dark Matter Collaboration (GADMC)
- ▶ A 300-tonnes fiducial argon detector filled with underground argon
- ▶ 3000 tonne $\times$ year exposure to reach the neutrino floor

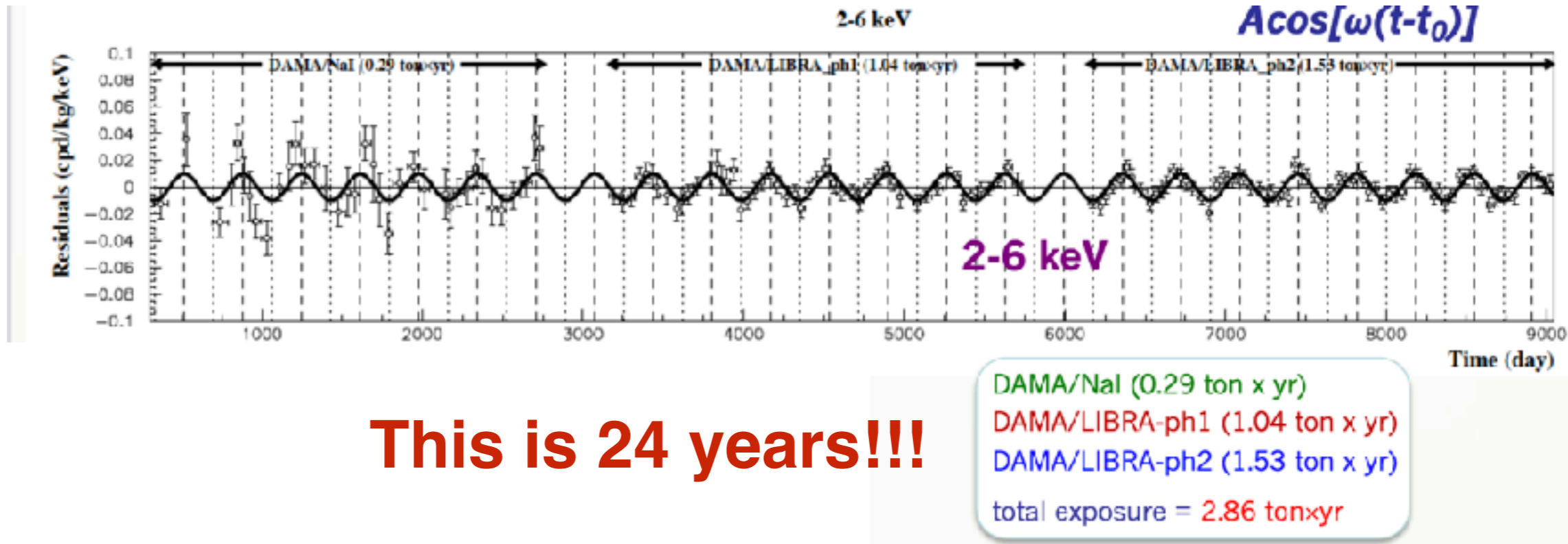


**GADMC experiments cover the WIMP hypothesis from 1 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> to several hundreds of TeV/c<sup>2</sup> masses in the search for spin-independent coupling.**

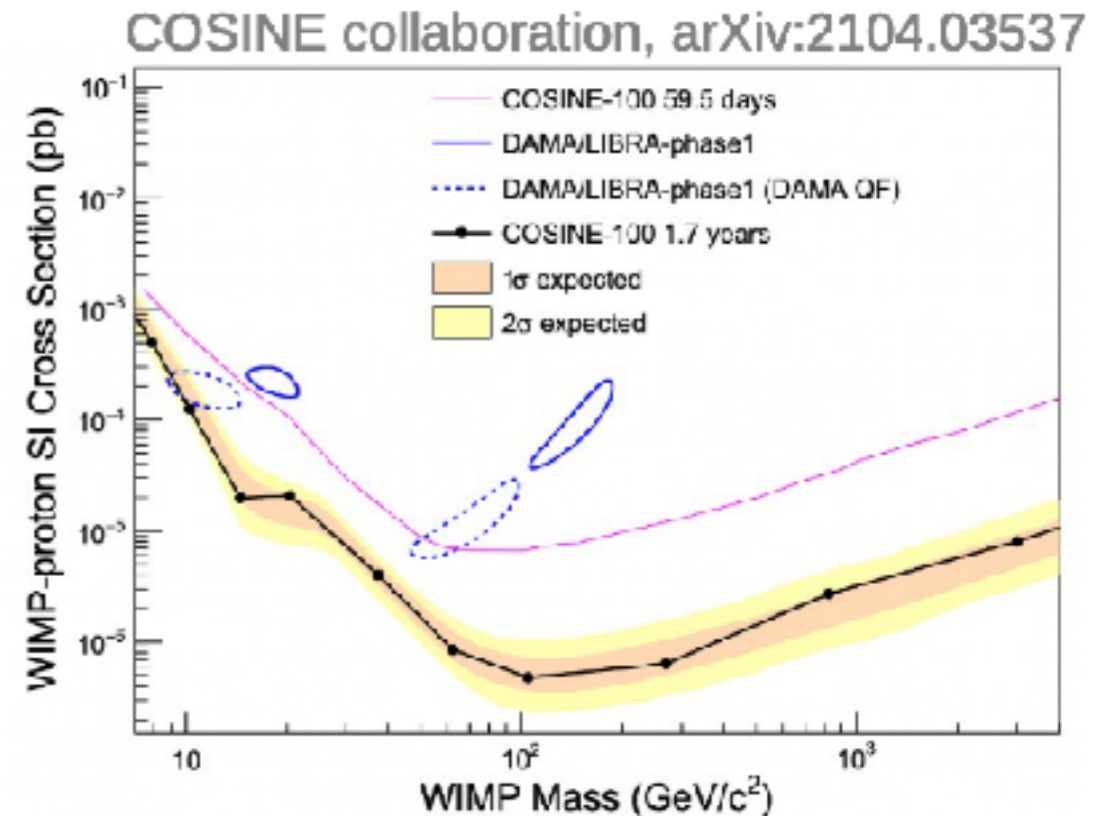
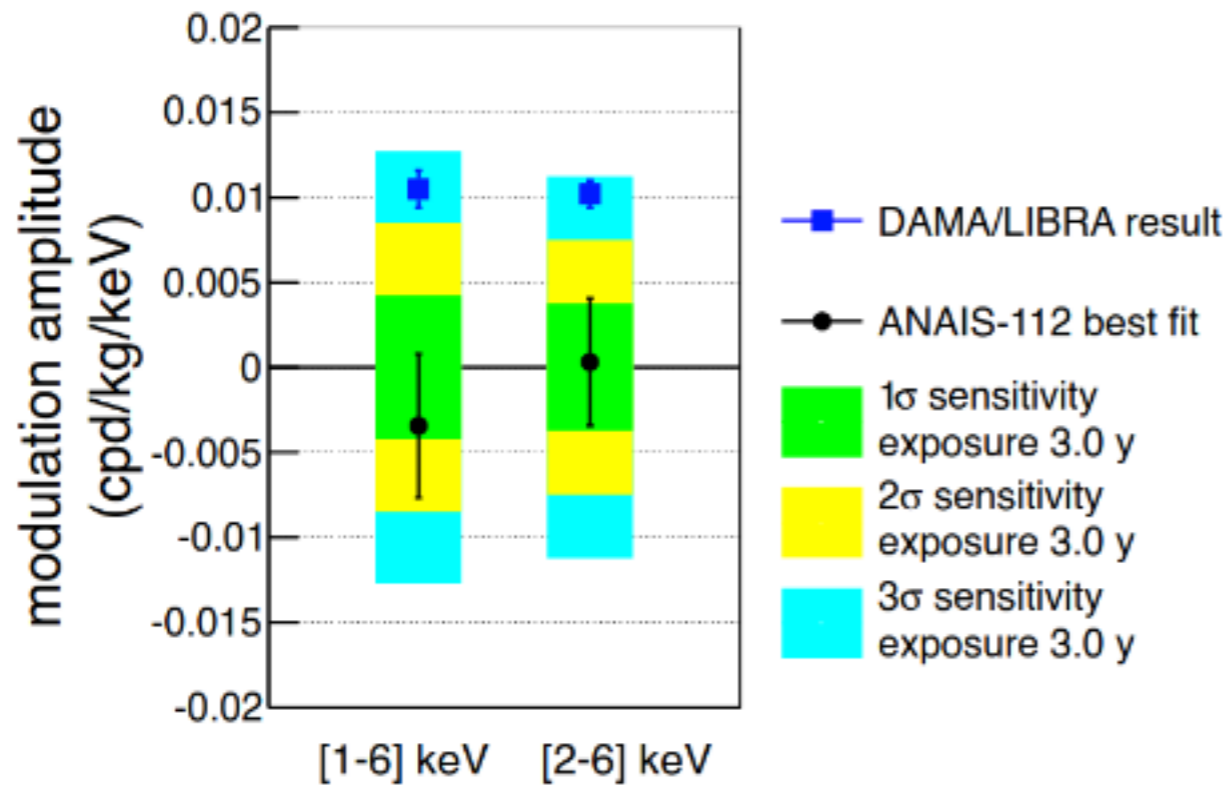


# Sodium Iodide

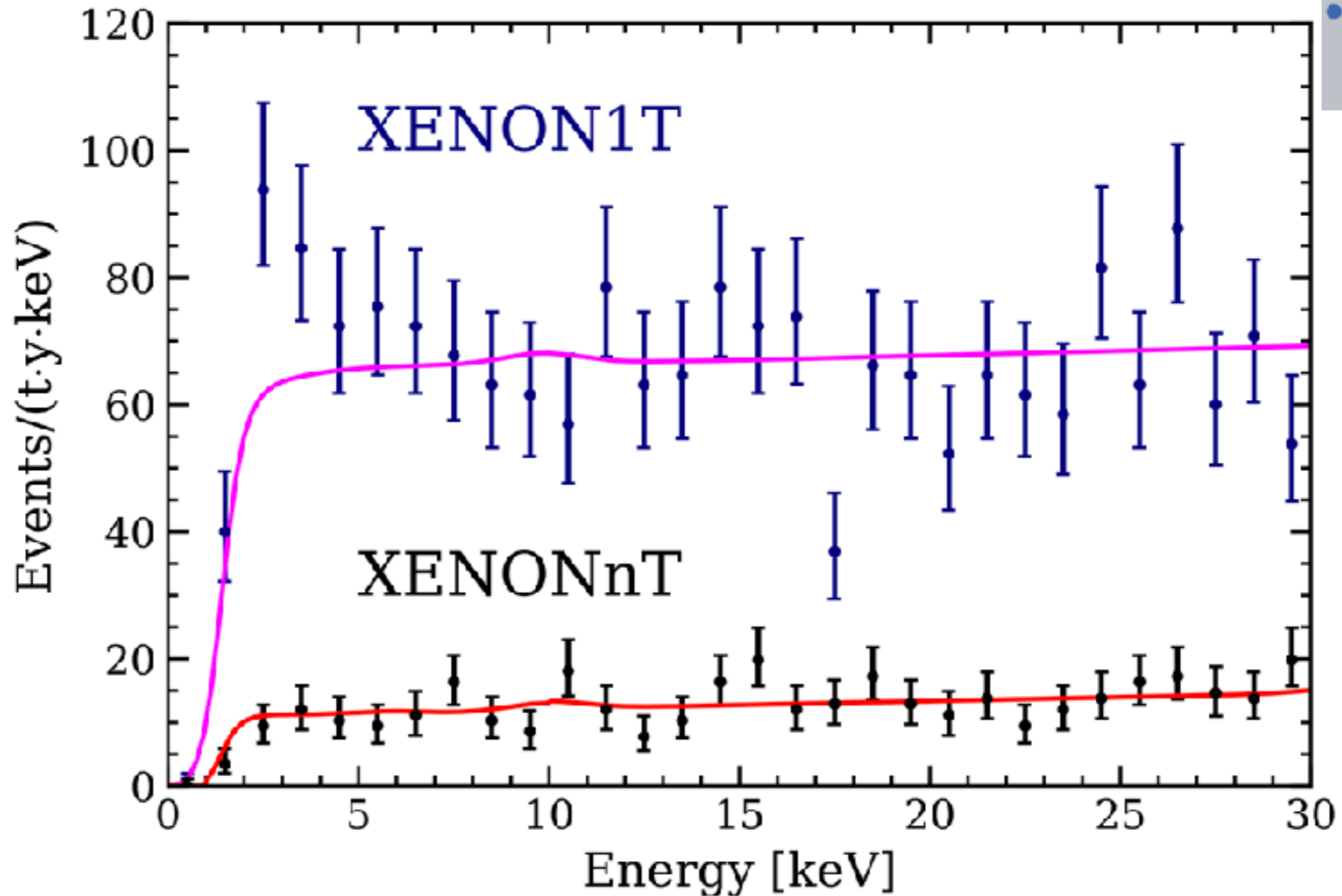
- DAMA



- ANAIS, COSINE, SABRE, PICO-LON, DM-ICE



# XENON1T Excess

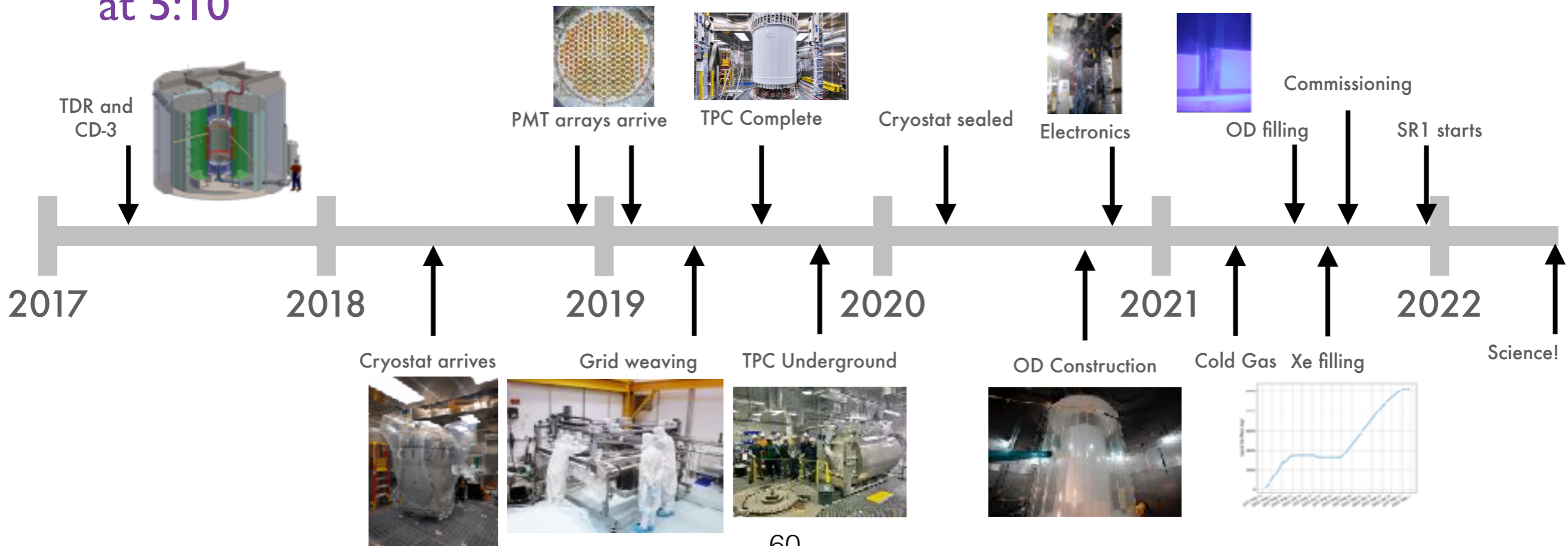
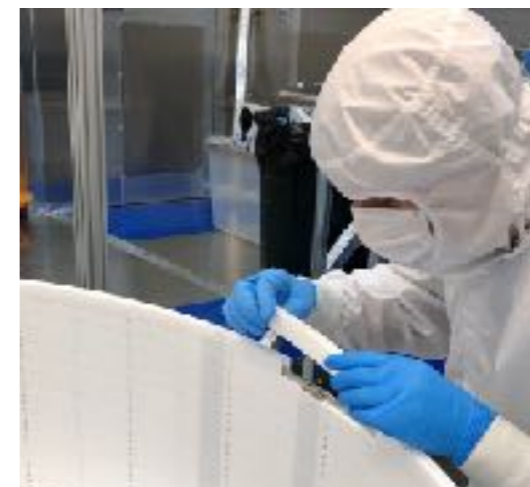


- Exquisite background control with expectation of further reductions
- New limits on ALPs, dark photons, axions, neutrino magnetic moment
- Knut Mora at [IDM2022 - 2207.11330](#)

# LZ

- LXe TPC, 7 tonnes active
- Located at SURF, SD, USA
- GdLS neutron veto
- Filled in Fall 2021
- All systems working well
- First results a month ago!
  - ~25 ER cts/keV/tonne/yr
  - See S. Eriksen tomorrow

at 5:10





# What are we looking for? (Spin Dependent)

