

# Neutrinos at direct detection: friend or foe?

Tarak Nath Maity  
The University of Sydney, Australia

Based on:

B Carew, A Caddell, [TNM](#), C O'Hare; 2312.04303  
[TNM](#), C Boehm; 2409.04385

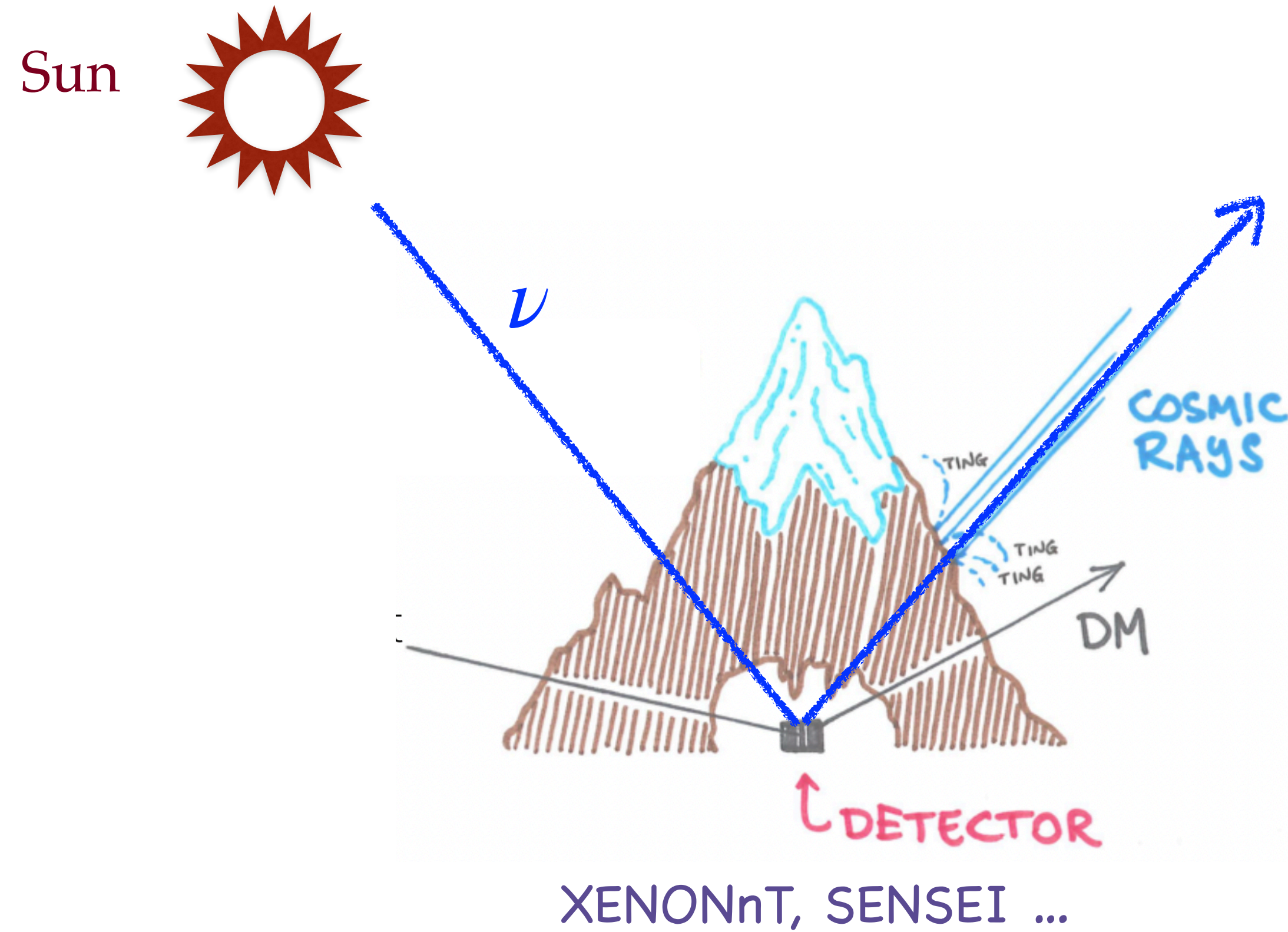


THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

**SOTU Seminar**



# Plan



## Foe

Slowed down the search of dark matter

Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

## Friend

Weak mixing angle at the lowest energy

[TNM](#), Boehm; 2409.04385

# Dark Matter exists!

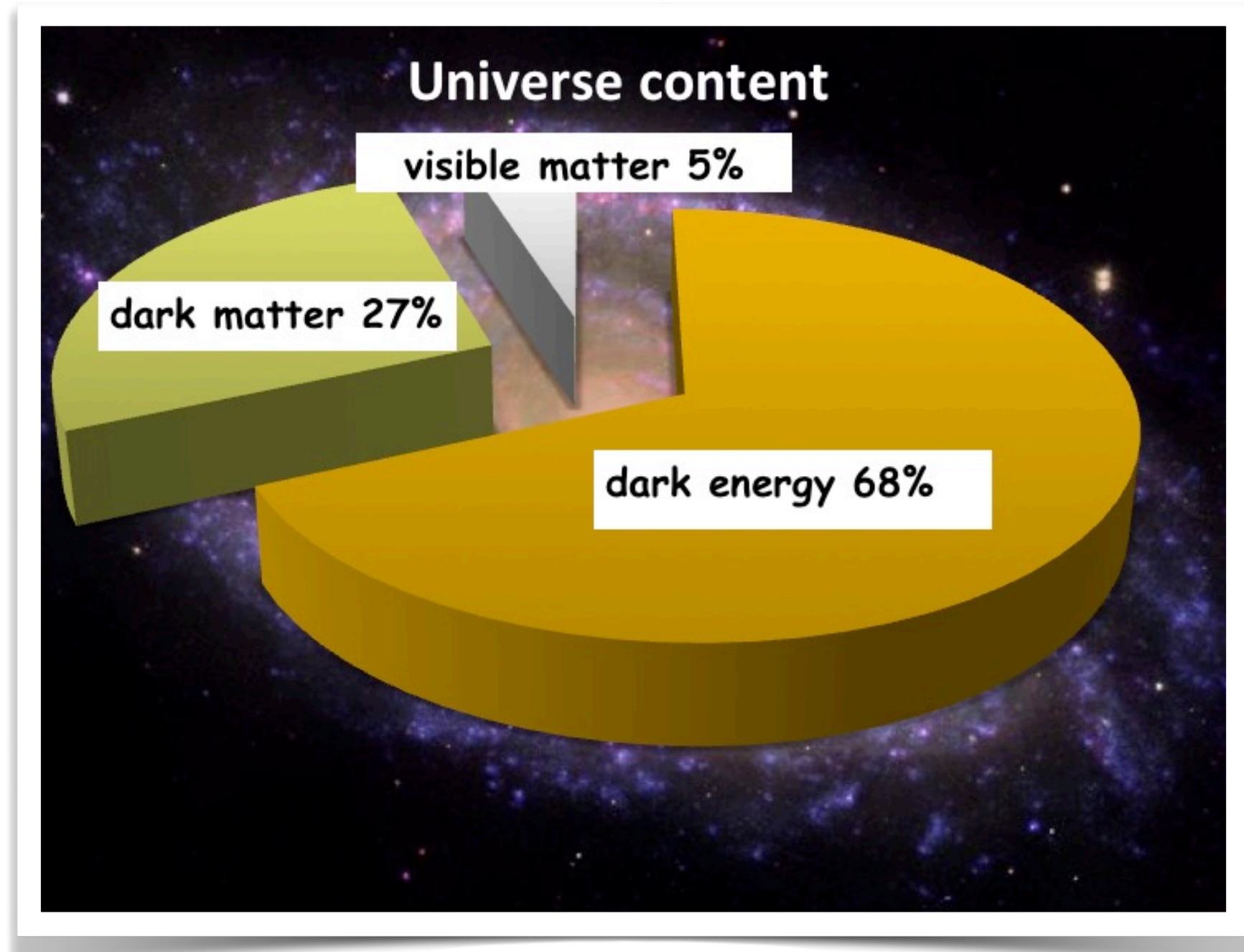


Image credit: QUANTUM DIARIES

- Stable: No decay, very long-lived
- Cold: Non-relativistic
- Massive: Wide range

# Dark Matter exists!

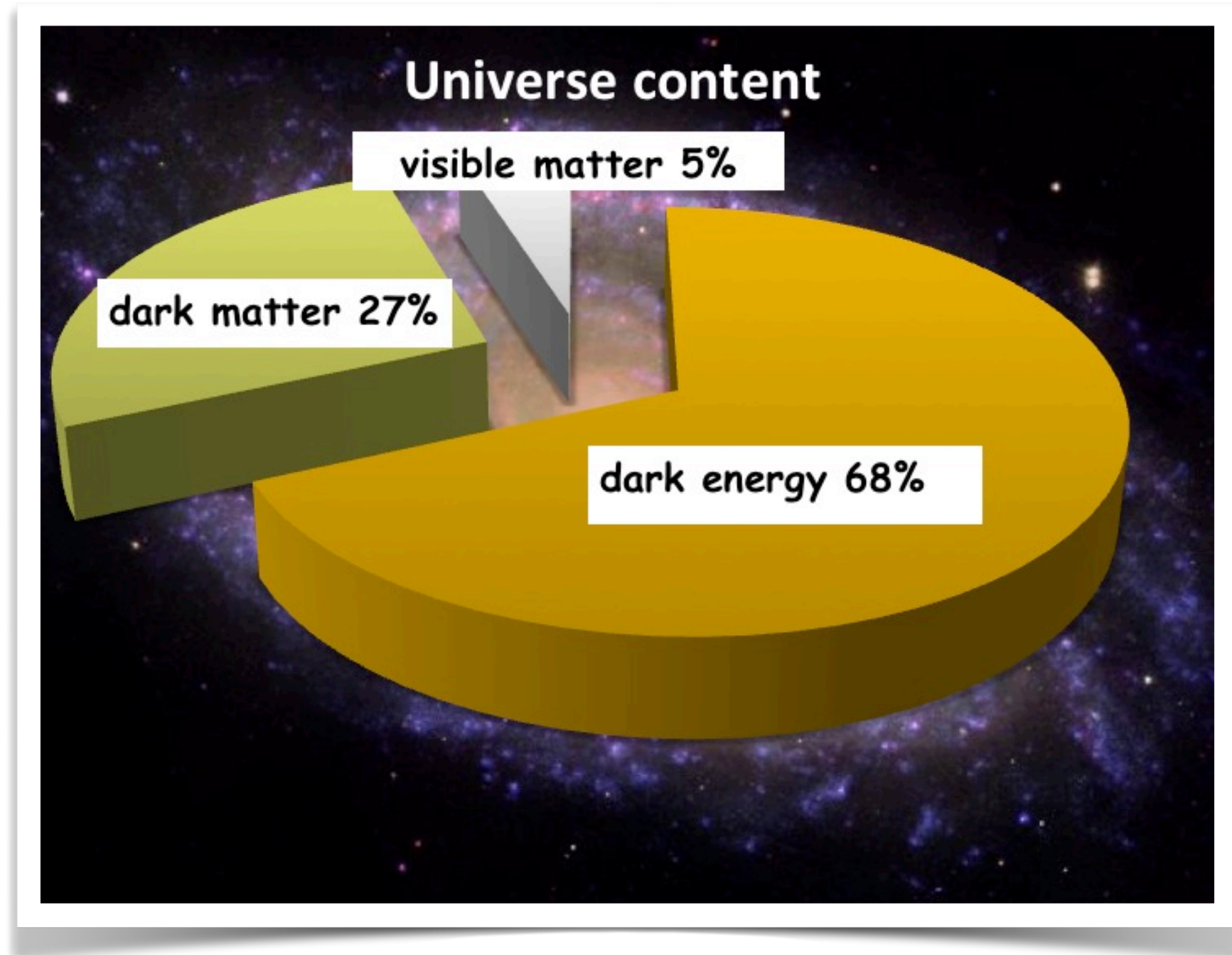
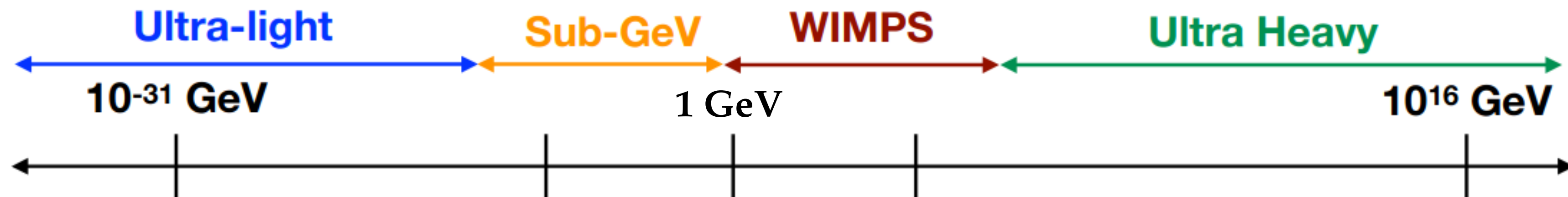
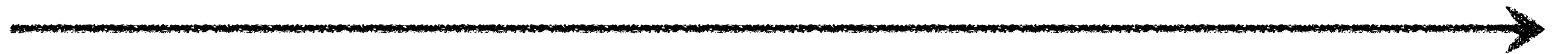


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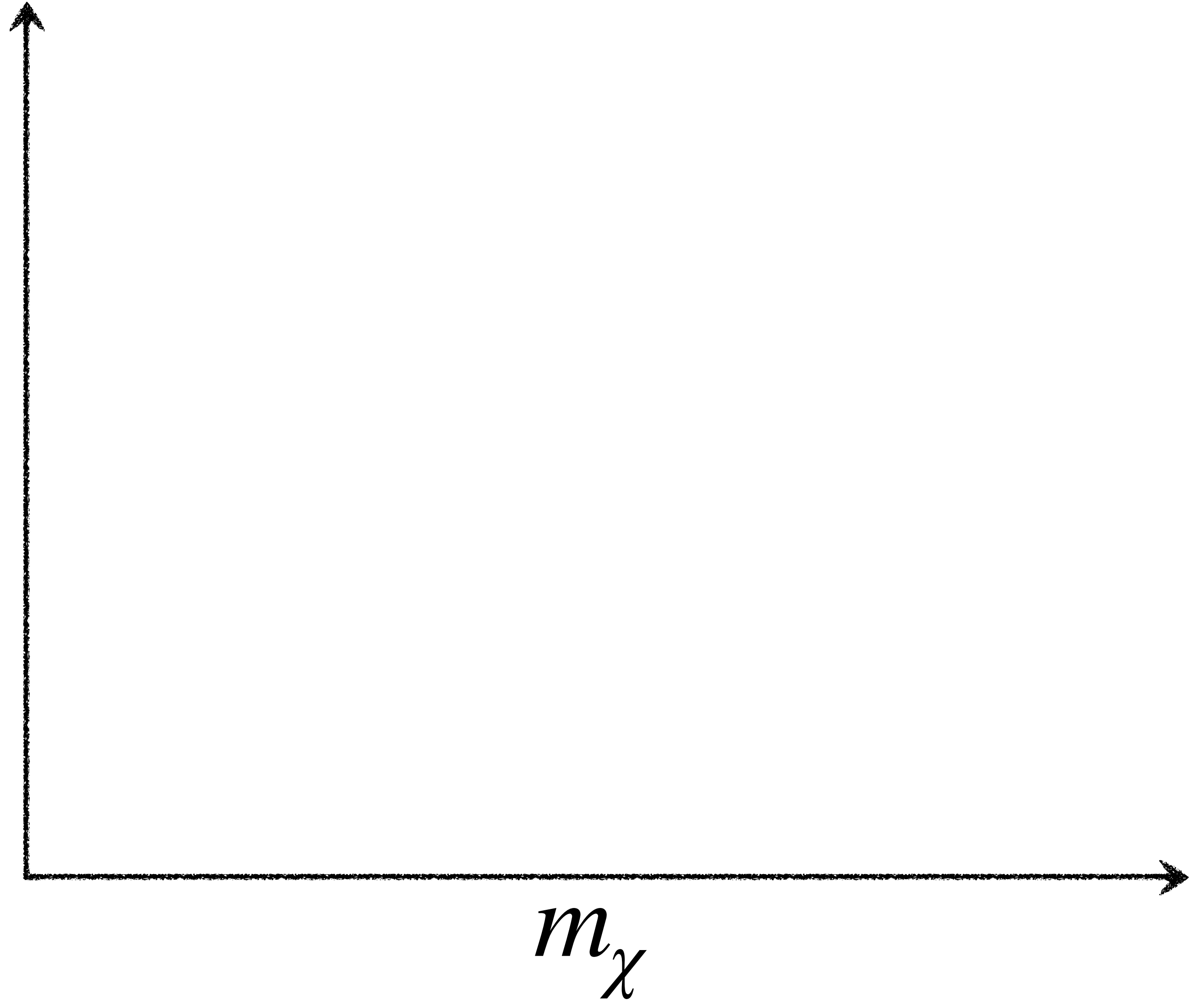


# What else!



$m_\chi$

# What else!



# What else!

Test every possible interactions

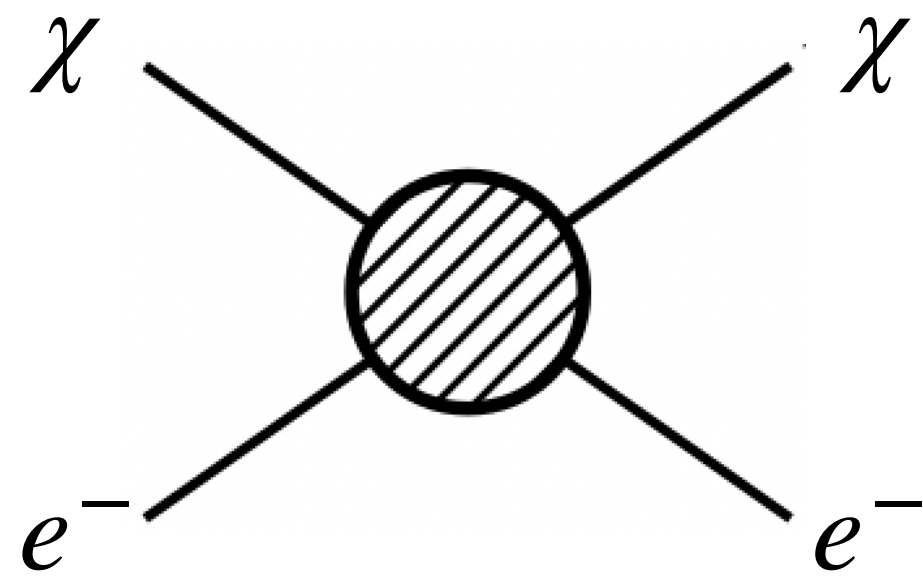
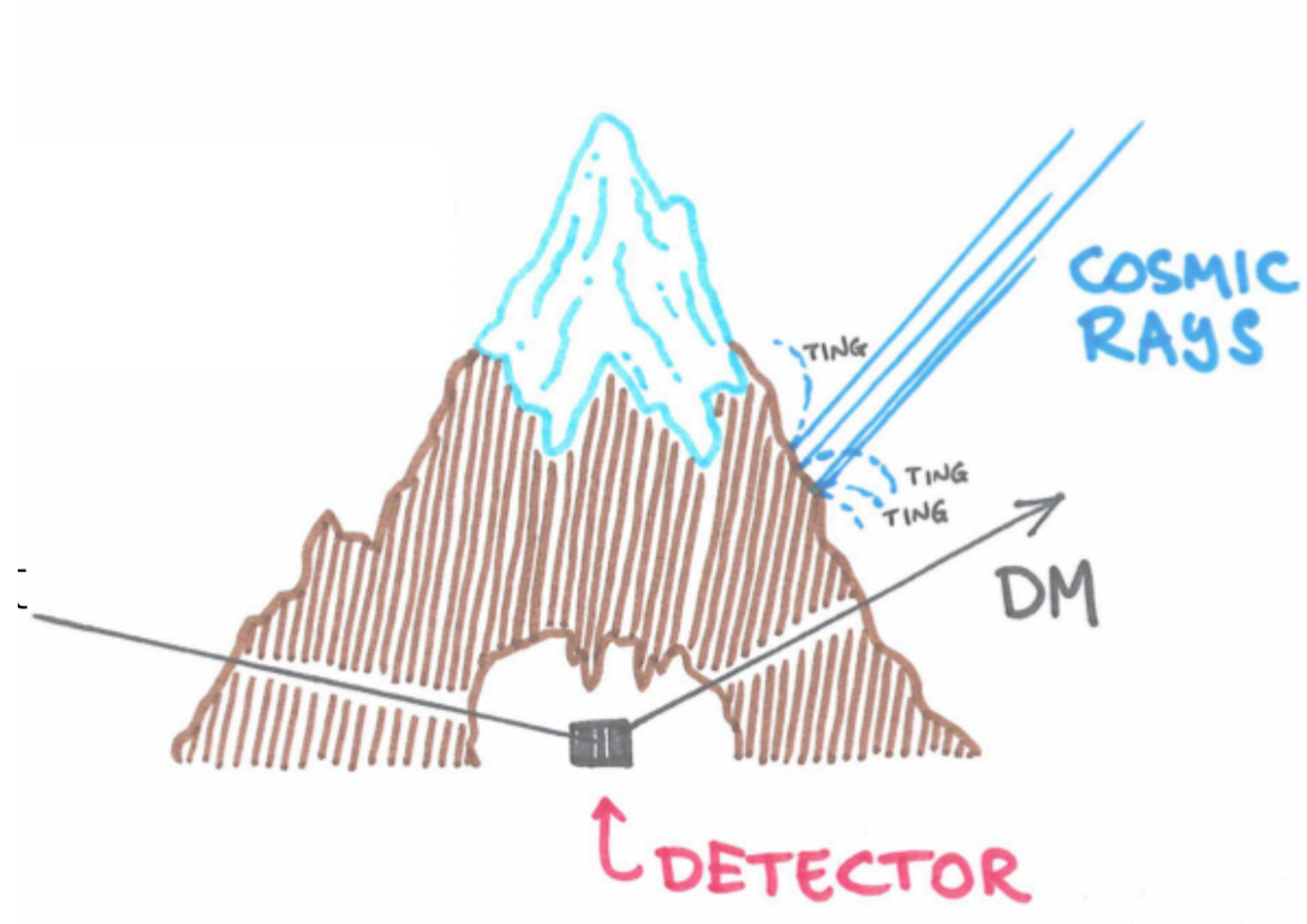
✔ Discover DM



⊖ Or set bounds


$m_\chi$

# What else!



$\chi$  : DM

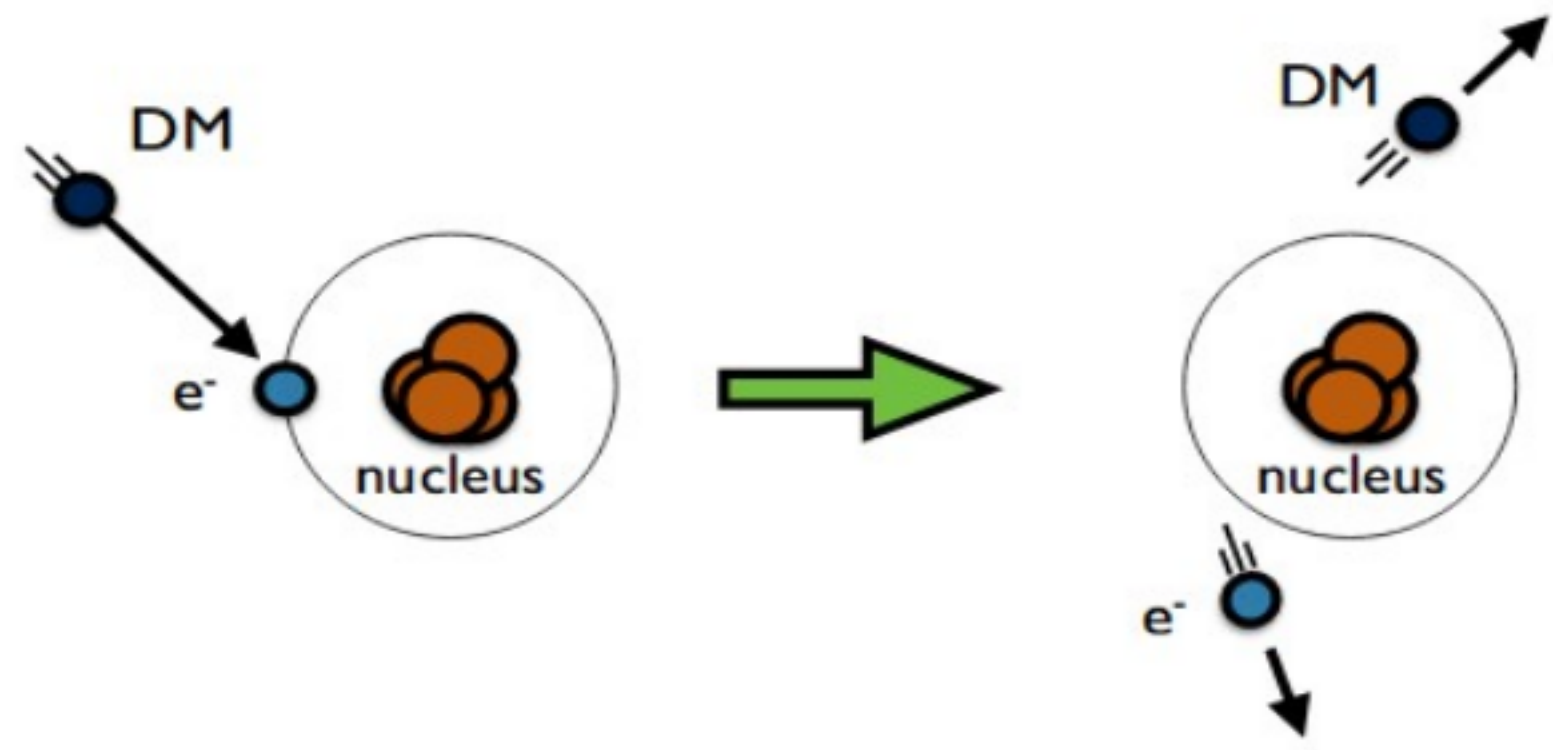
Test every possible interactions

- ✓ Discover DM 
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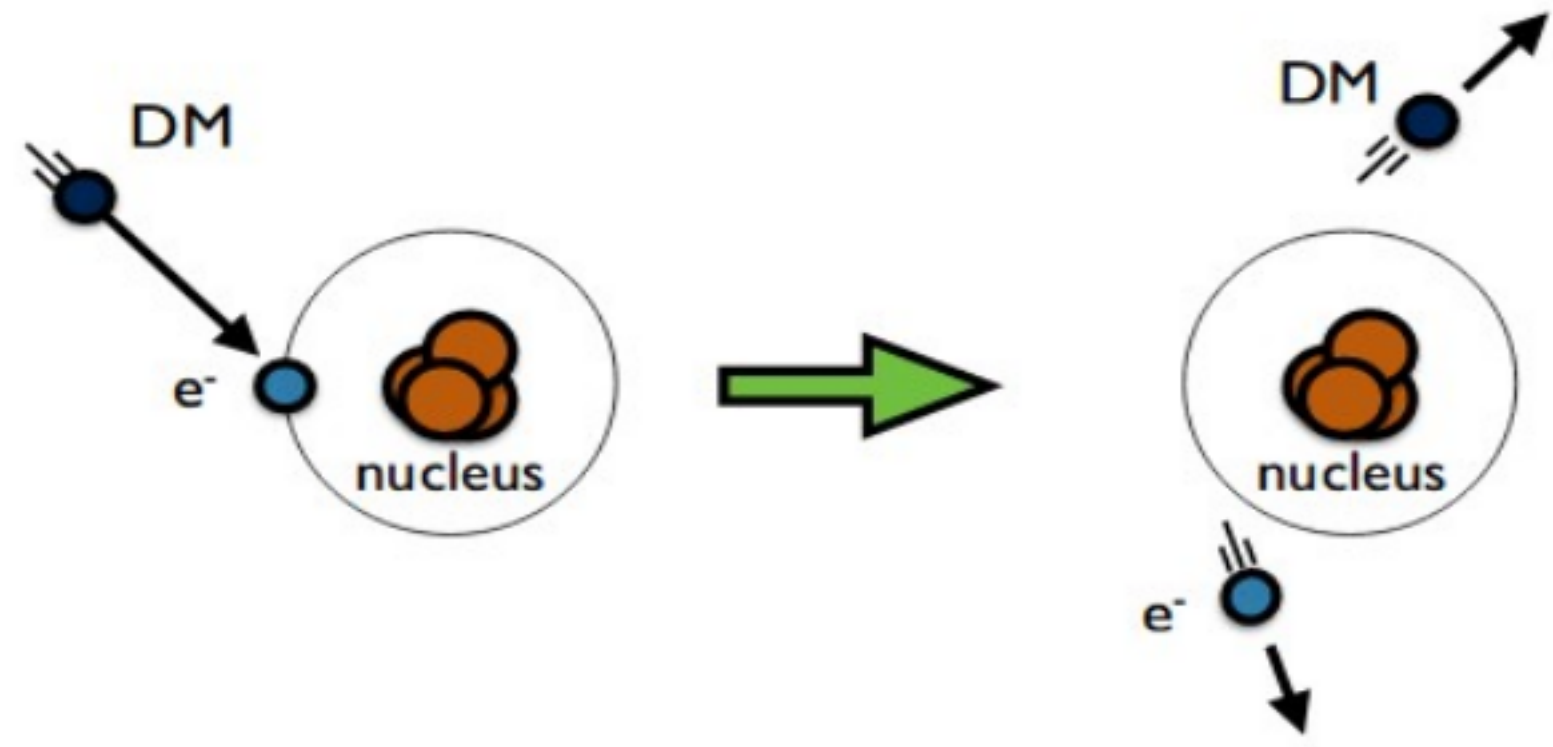
$m_\chi$



# Sub-GeV DM-electron scattering

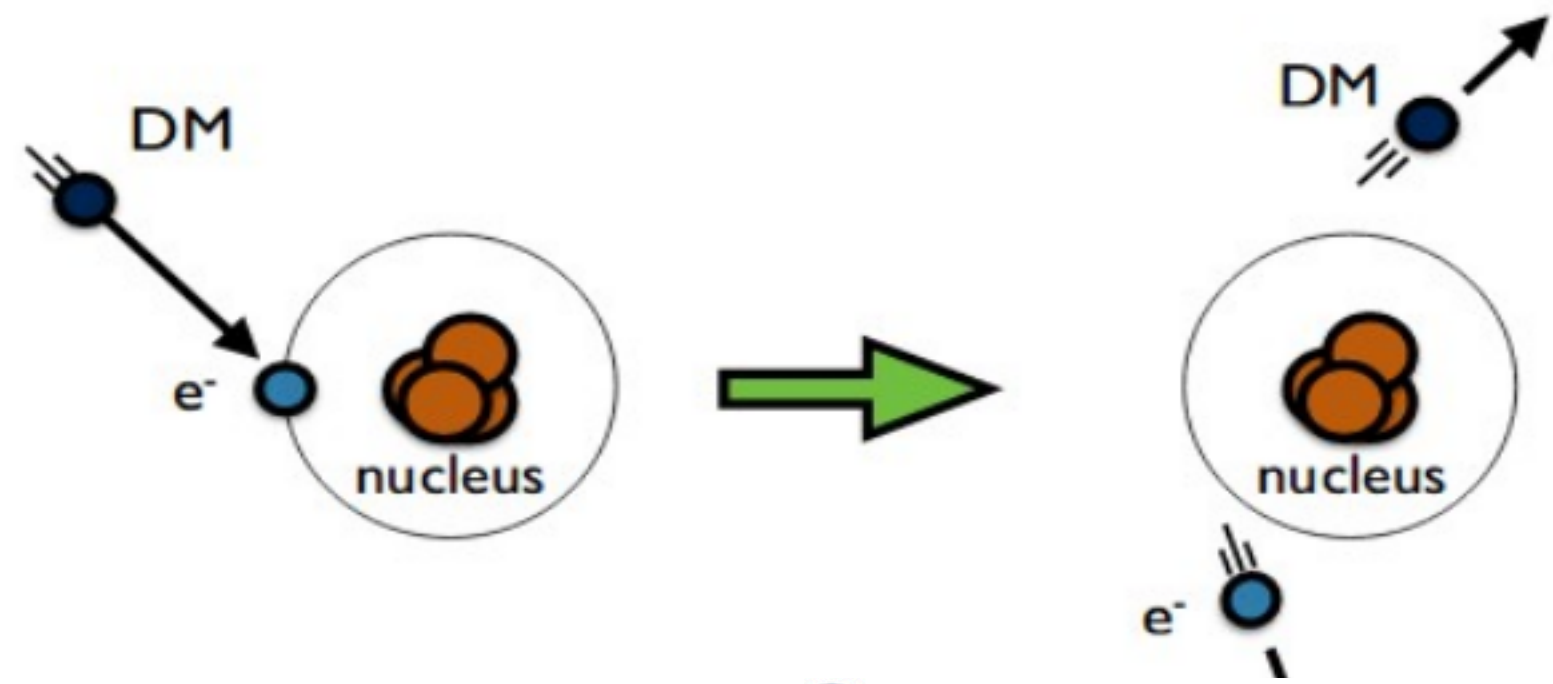


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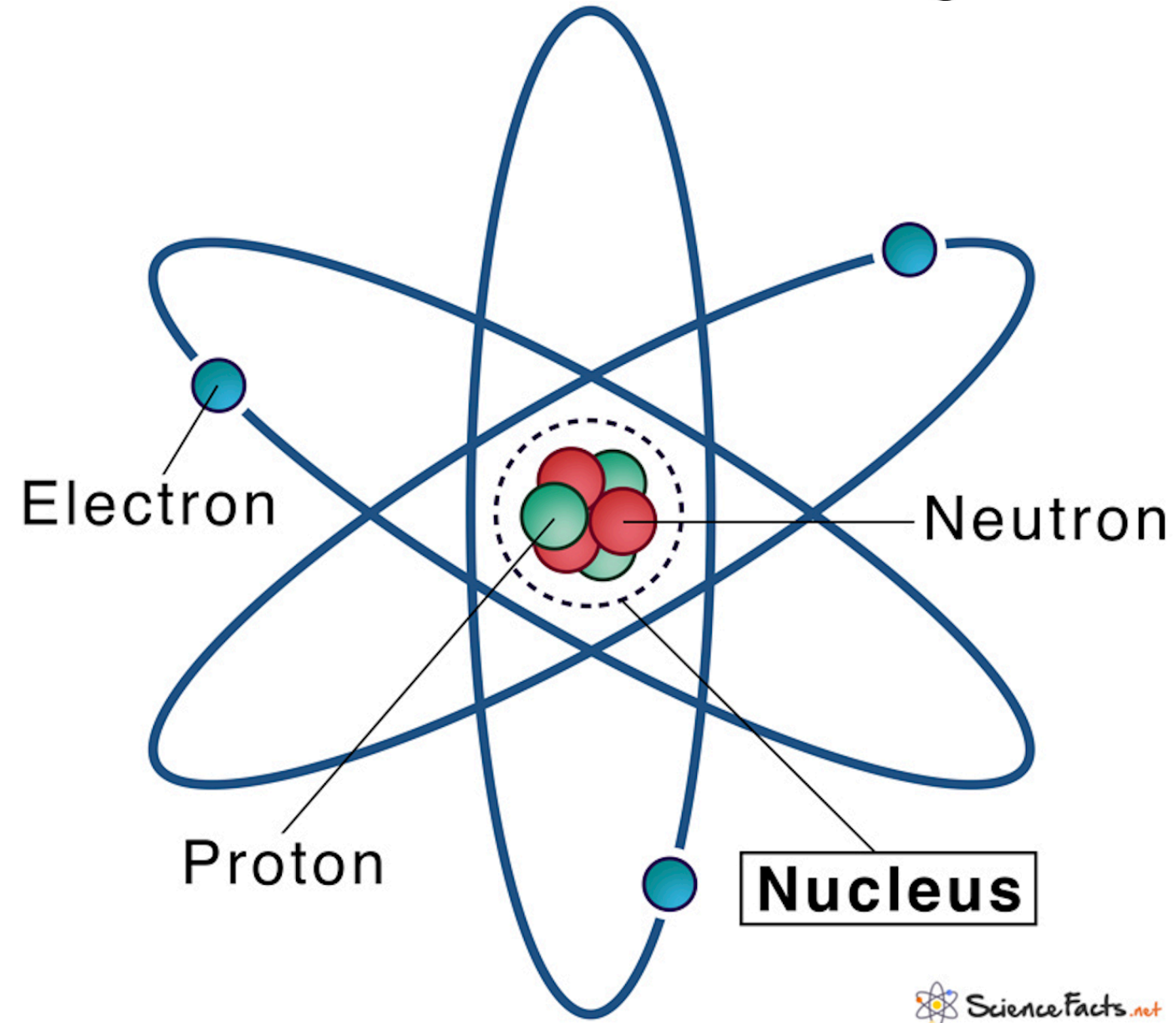


$$E_{\text{DM}} \simeq 50 \text{ eV} \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{100 \text{ MeV}} \left( \frac{v}{10^{-3}} \right)^2$$

# Sub-GeV DM-electron scattering

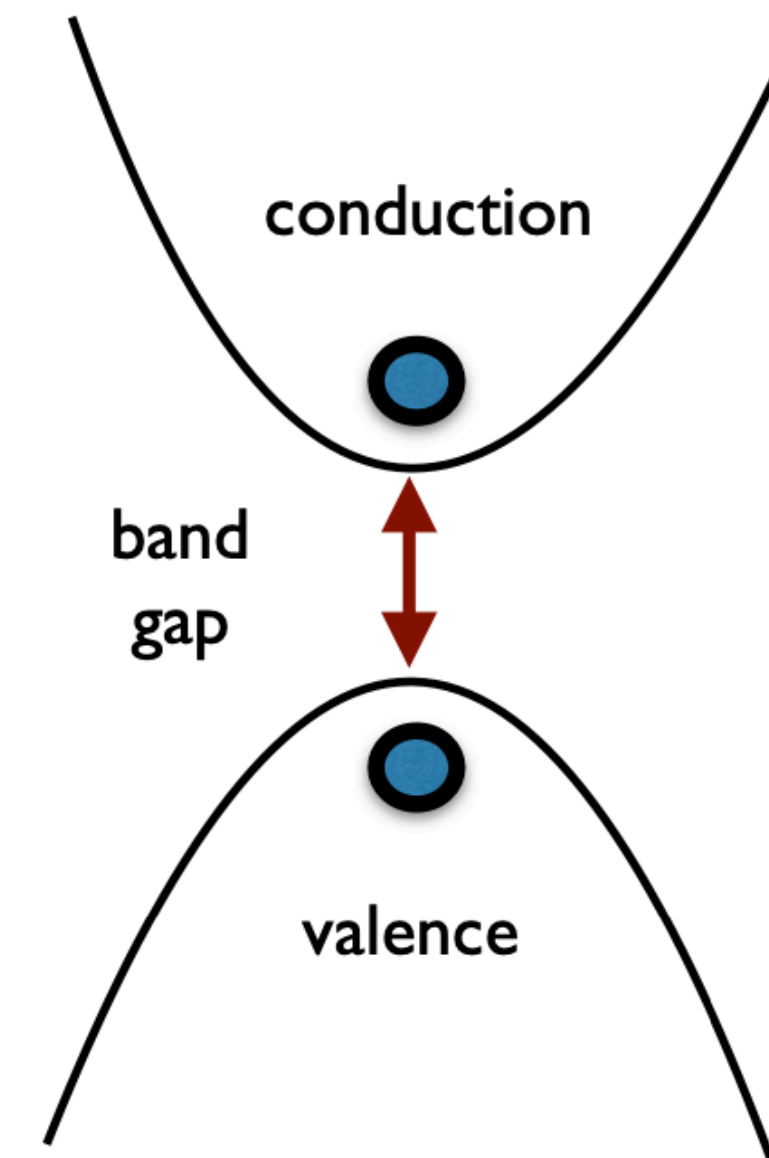


$$E_{\text{DM}} \simeq 50 \text{ eV} \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{100 \text{ MeV}} \left( \frac{v}{10^{-3}} \right)^2$$



Atomic target

Atomic ionisation energy  $\sim 10 \text{ eV}$

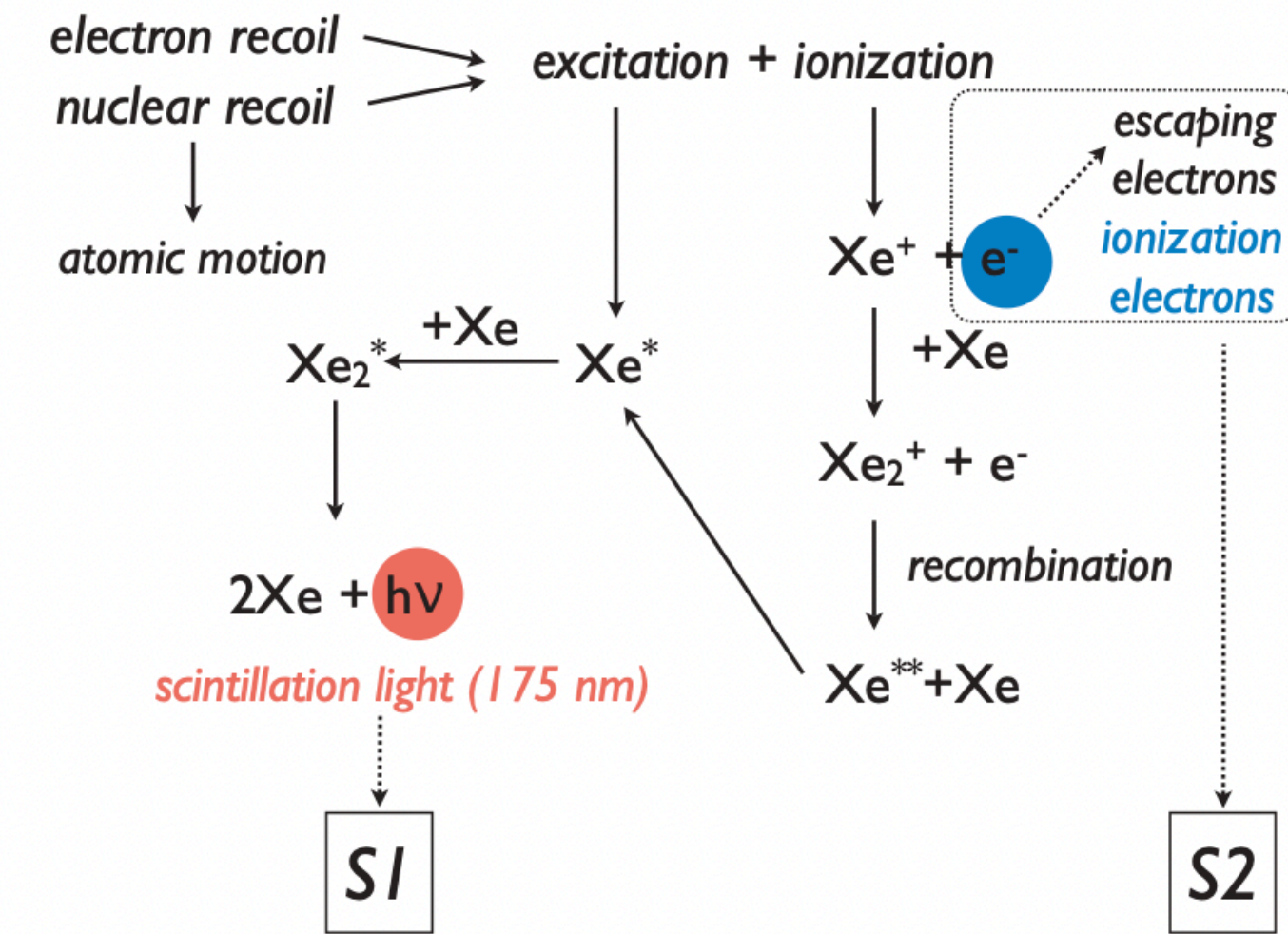
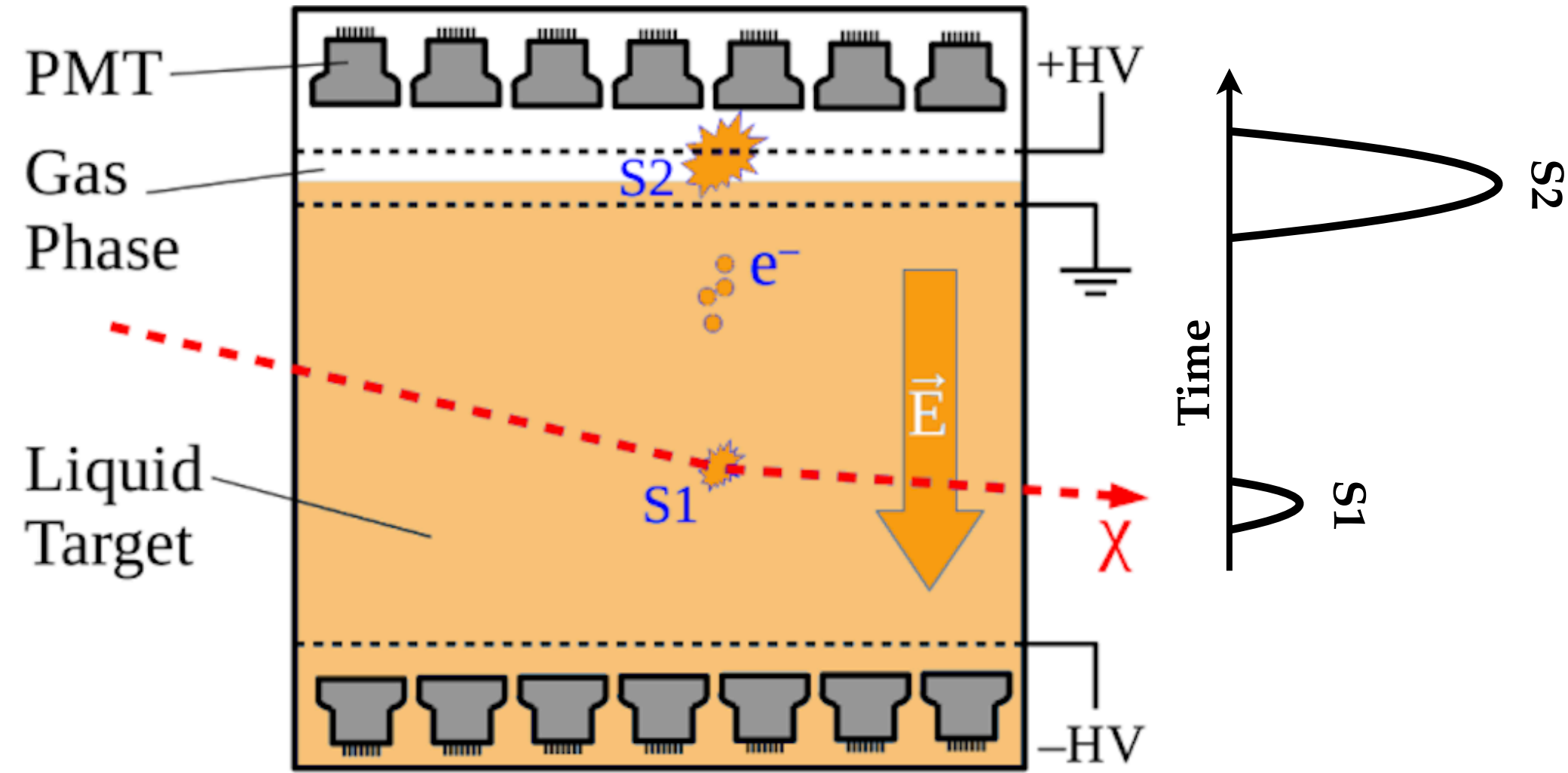


Semiconductor target

Band gap energy  $\sim 1 \text{ eV}$

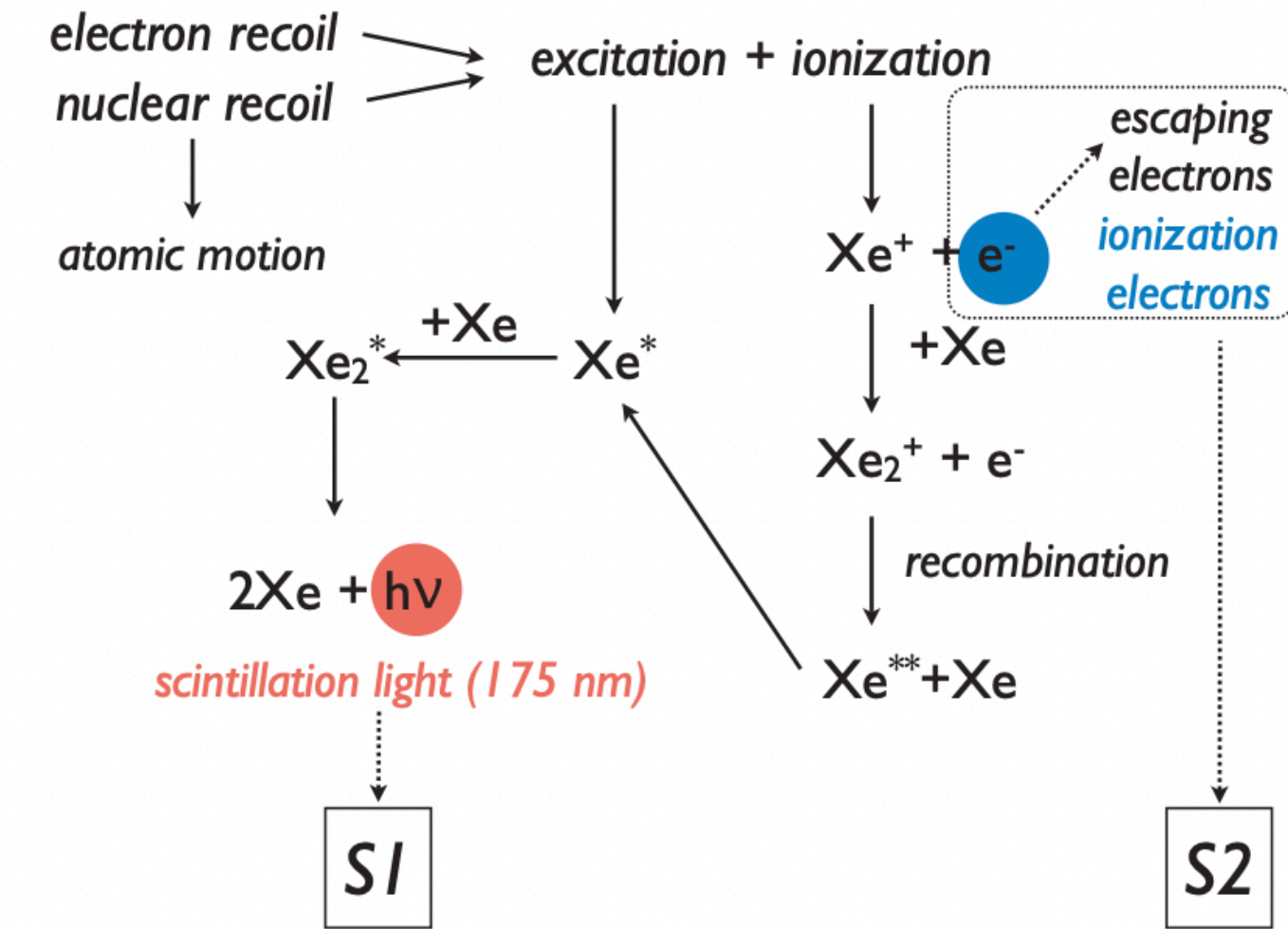
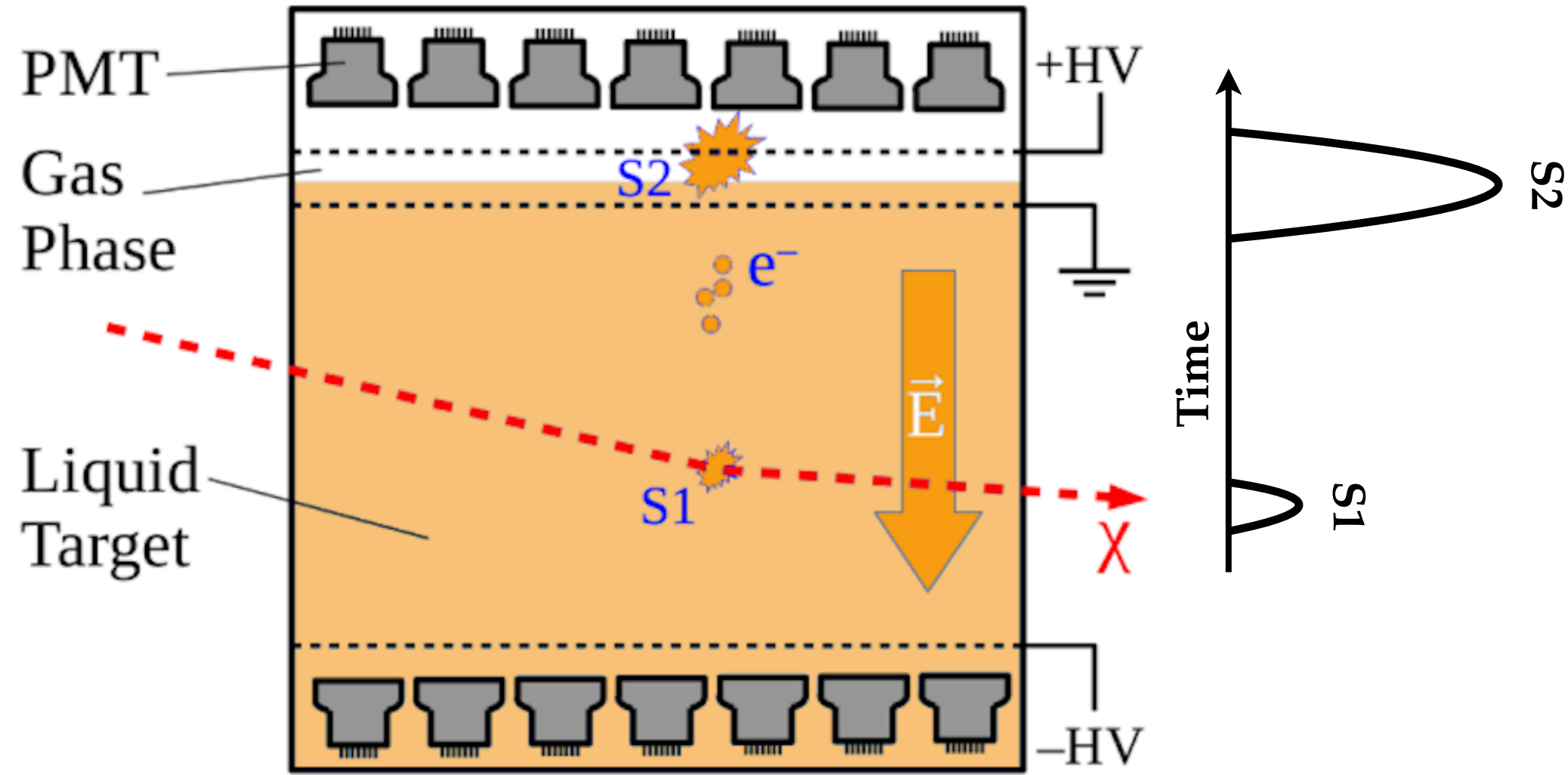
# Signatures in experiments (Xe)

XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



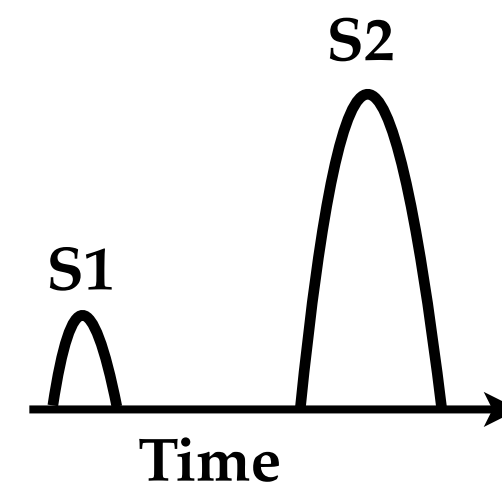
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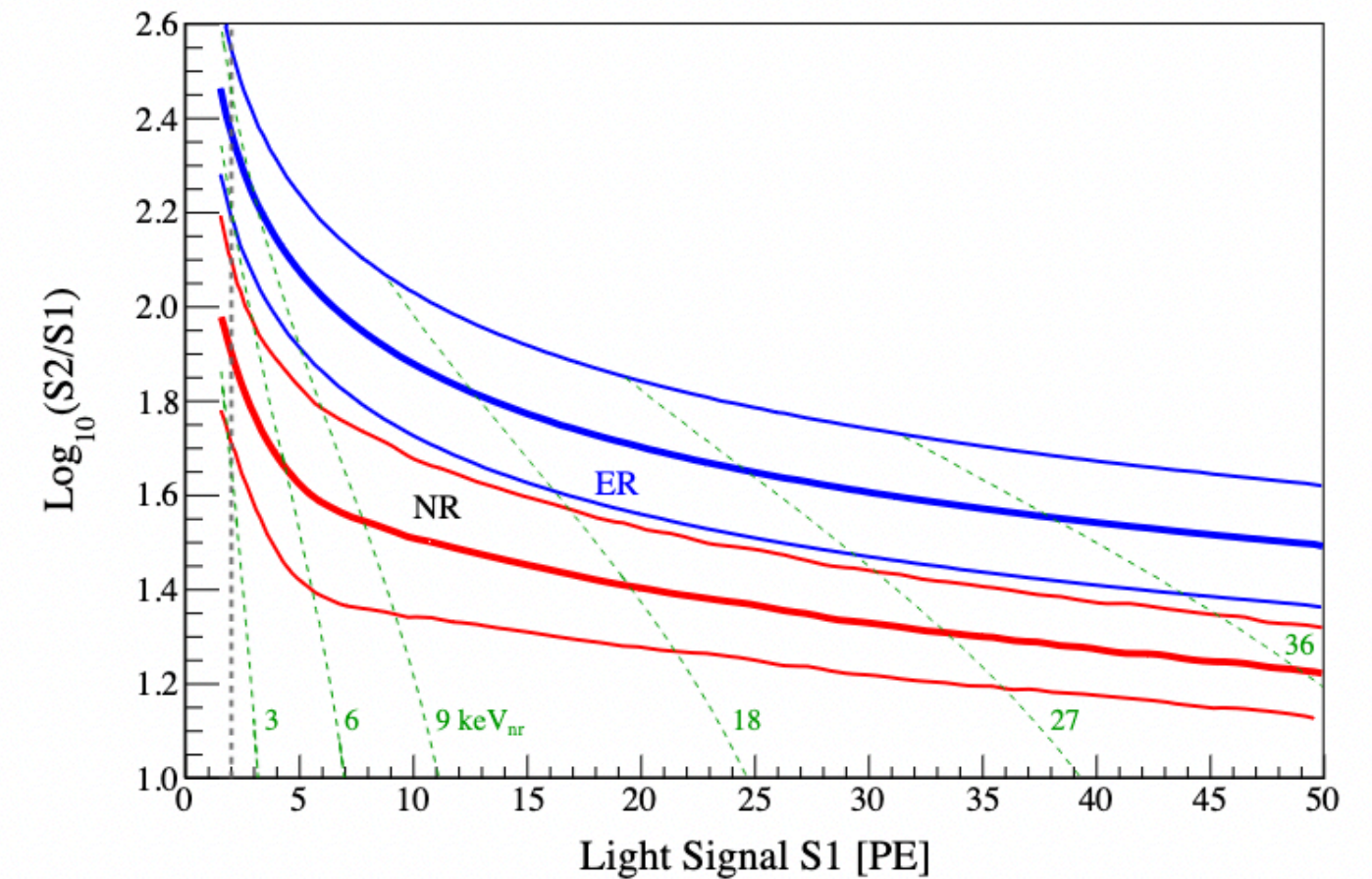
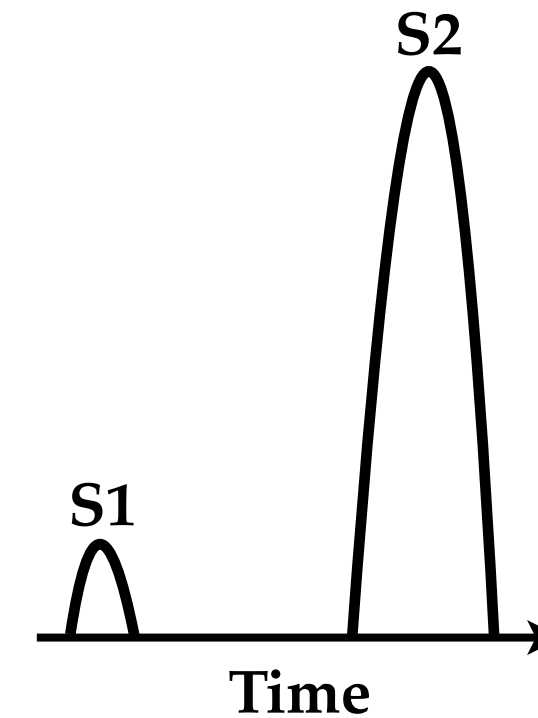


## S1-S2 only analysis

Nuclear recoil



Electron recoil

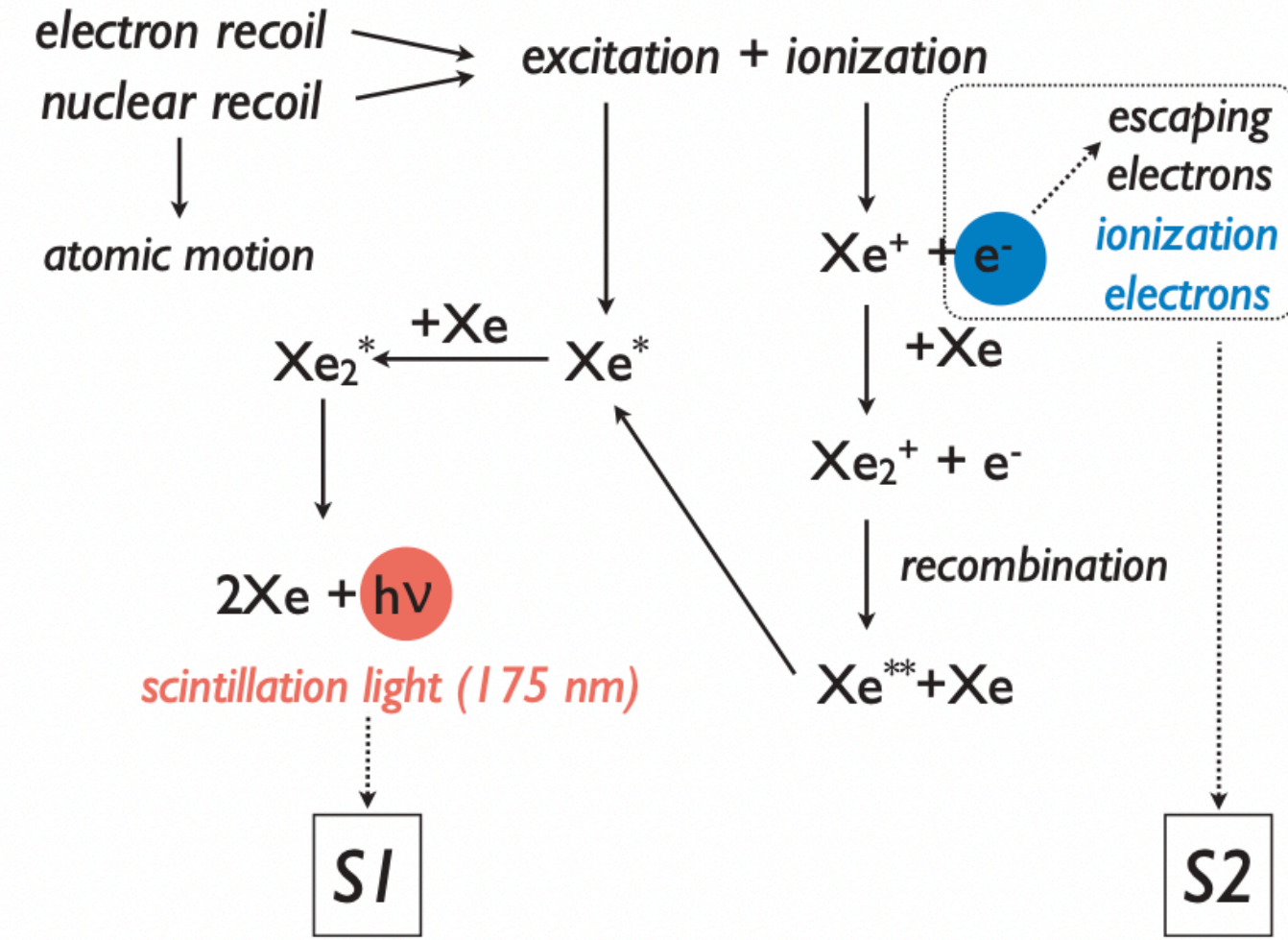
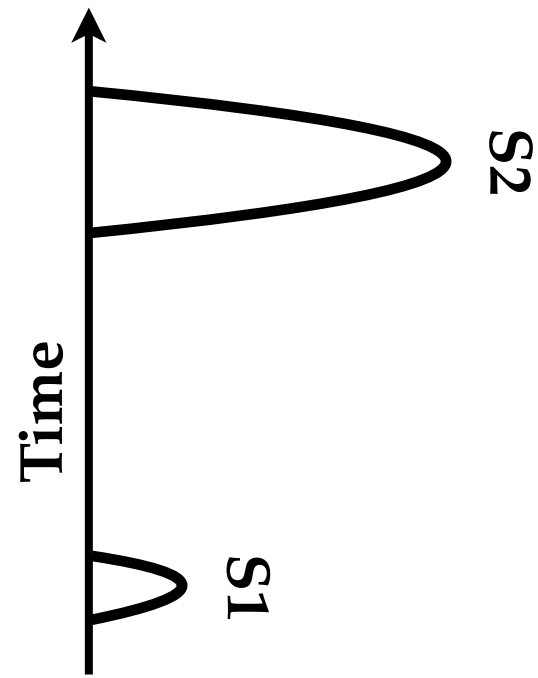
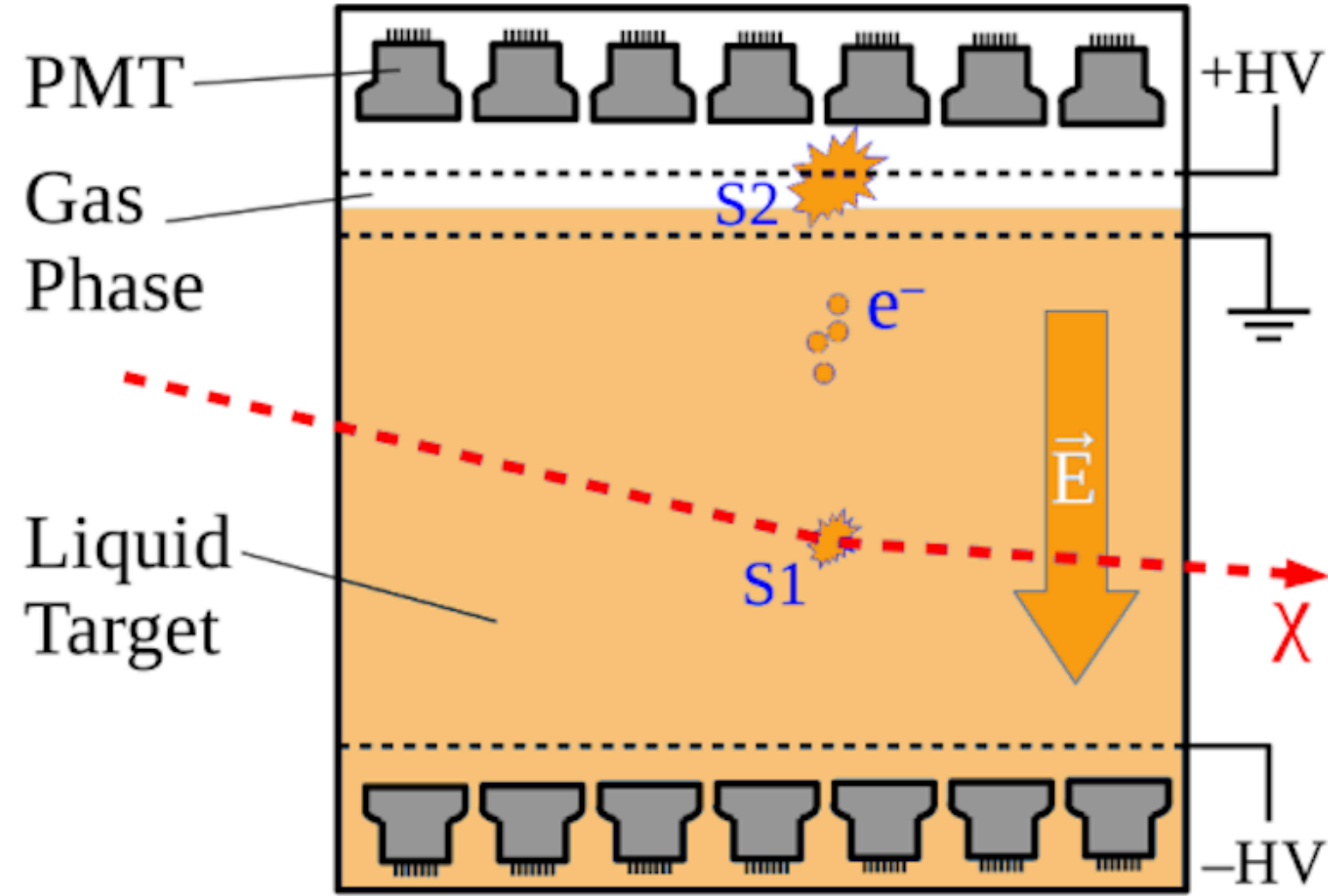


**S2/S1 ratio - can distinguish -  
nuclear and electron recoil**

$$E_{\text{recoil}} \gtrsim 0.5 \text{ keV}$$

# Signatures in experiments (Xe)

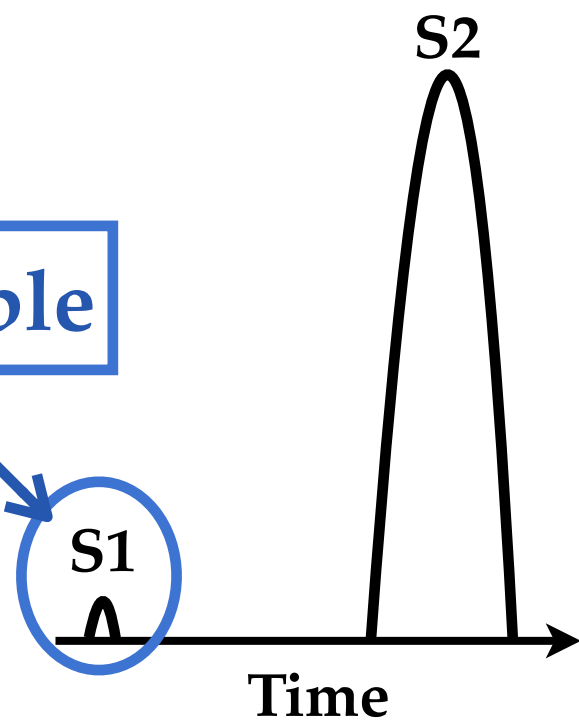
XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



## S1-S2 only analysis

### S2 only analysis

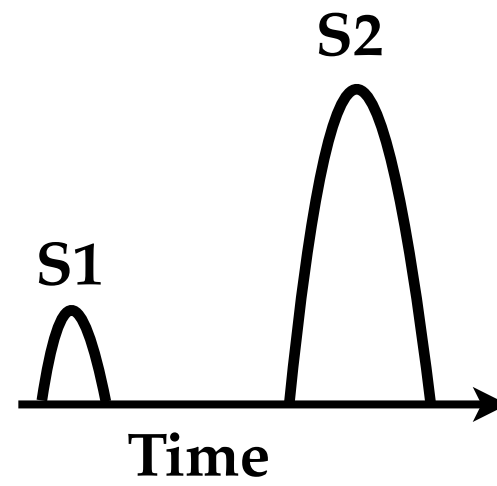
Immeasurable



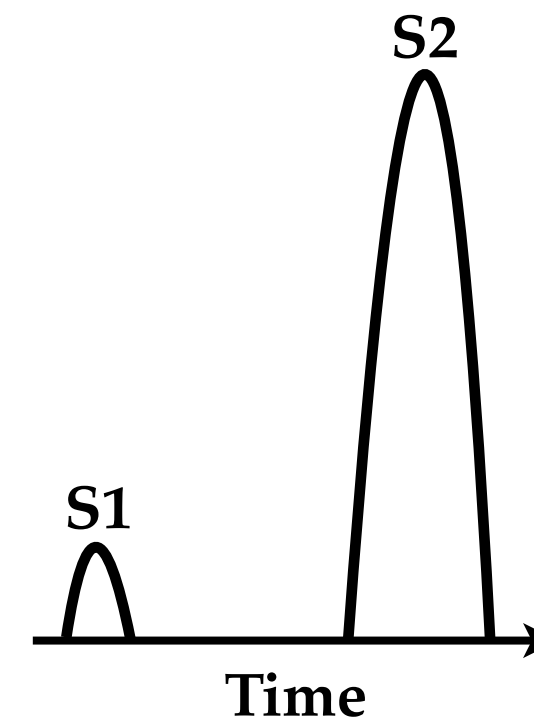
No S2/S1 ratio - can't distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

$$E_{\text{recoil}} \lesssim 0.5 \text{ keV}$$

### Nuclear recoil

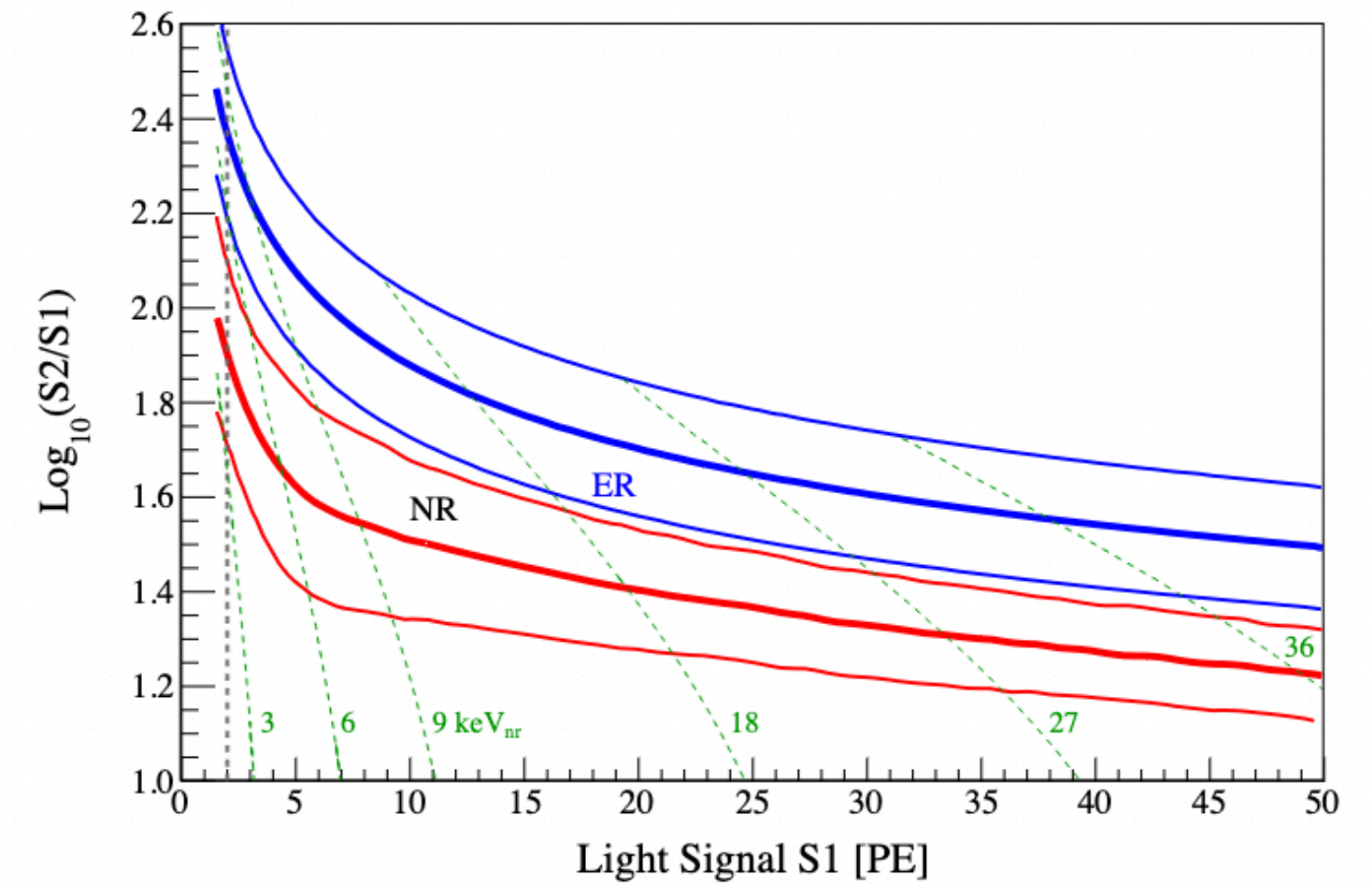


### Electron recoil



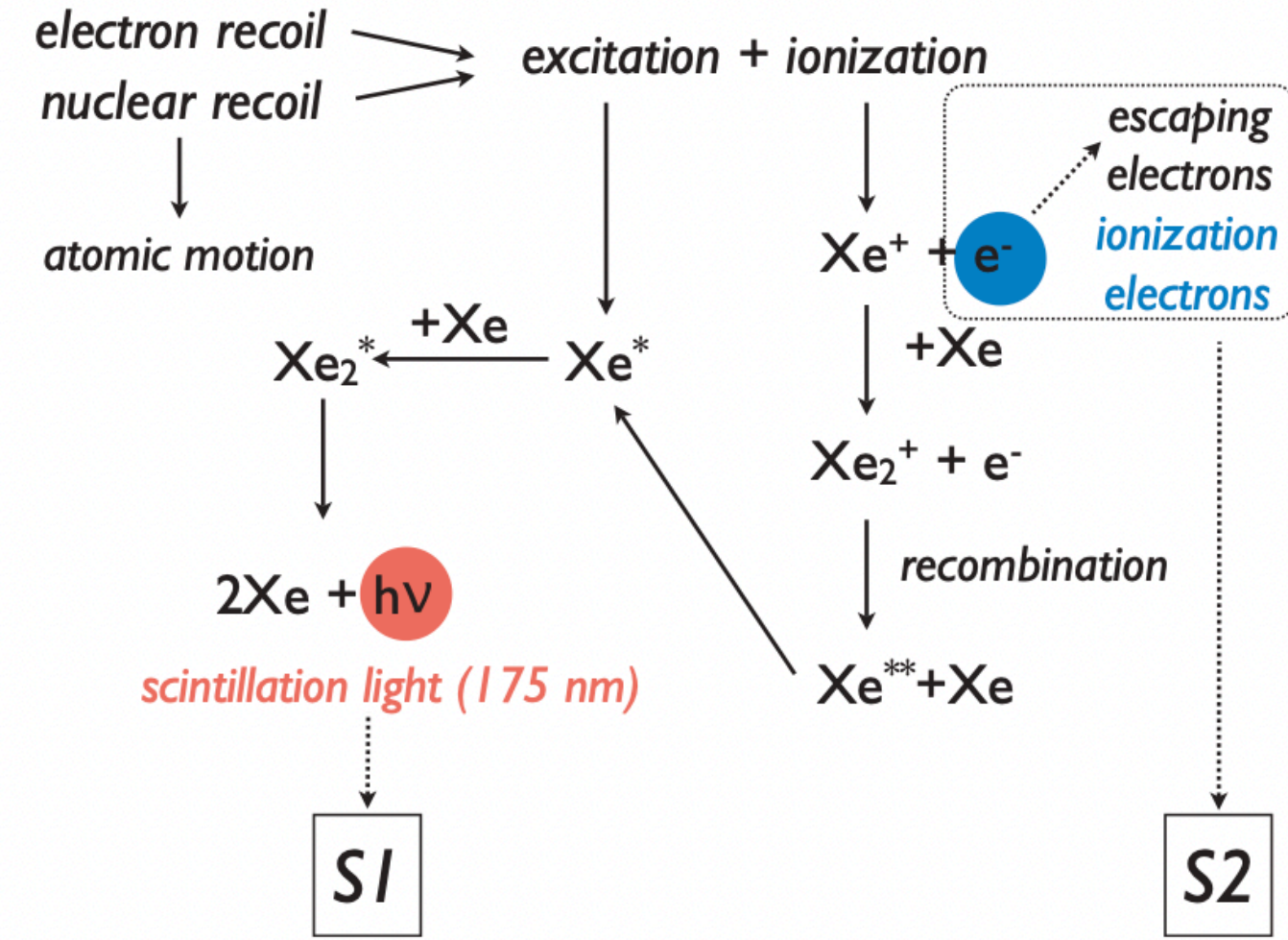
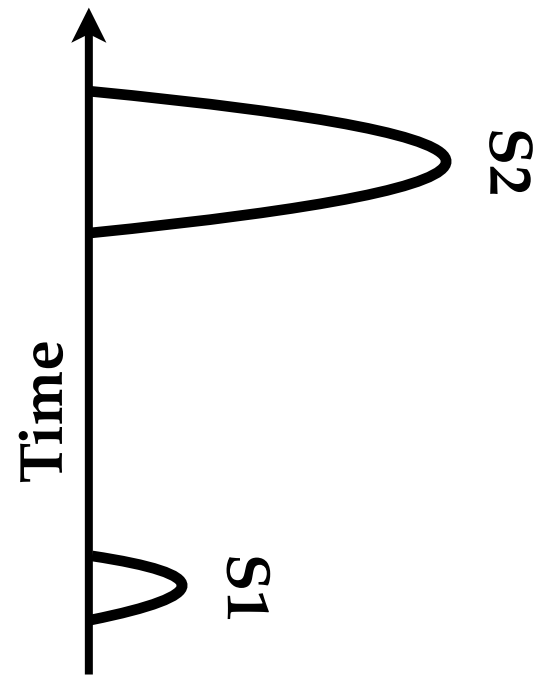
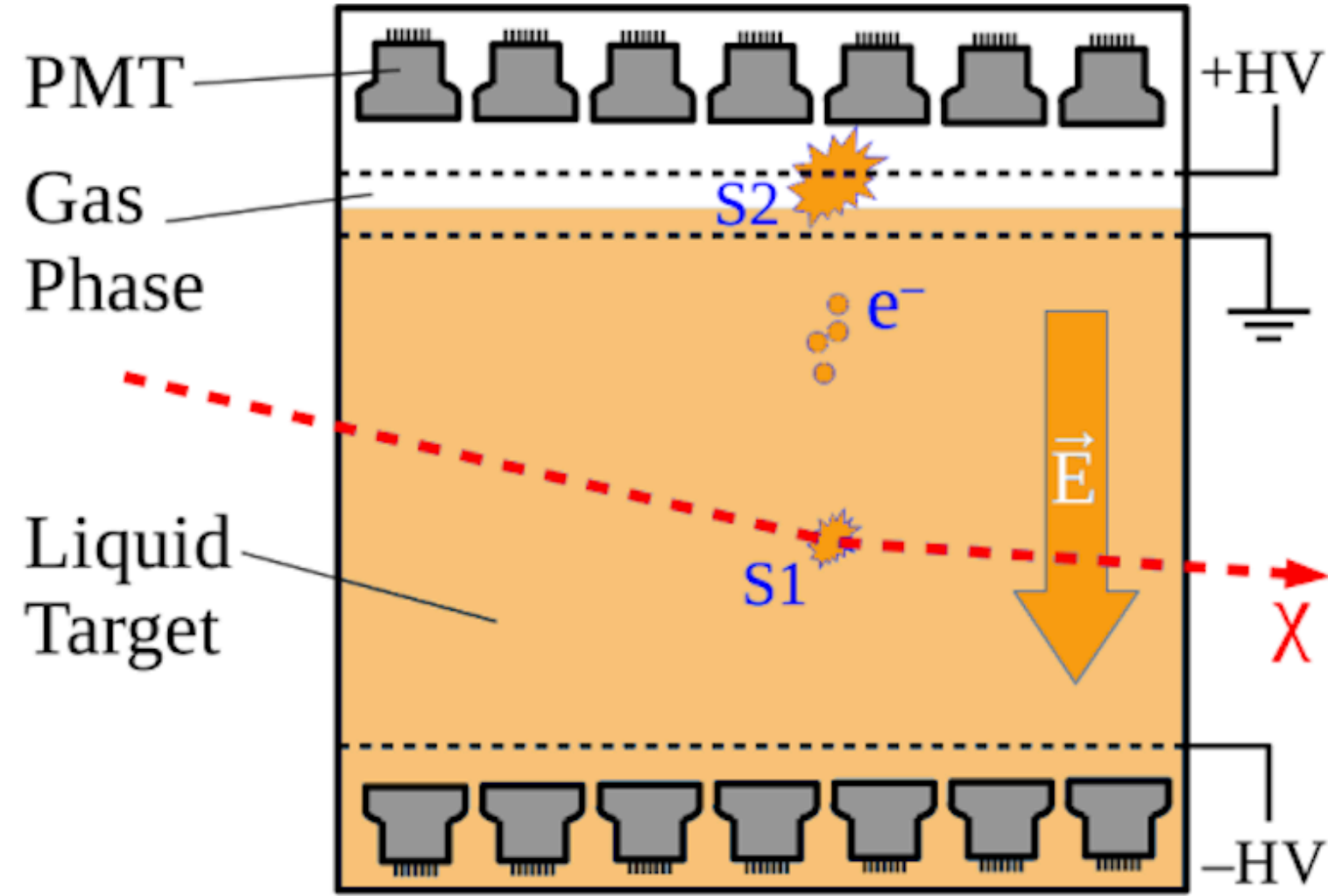
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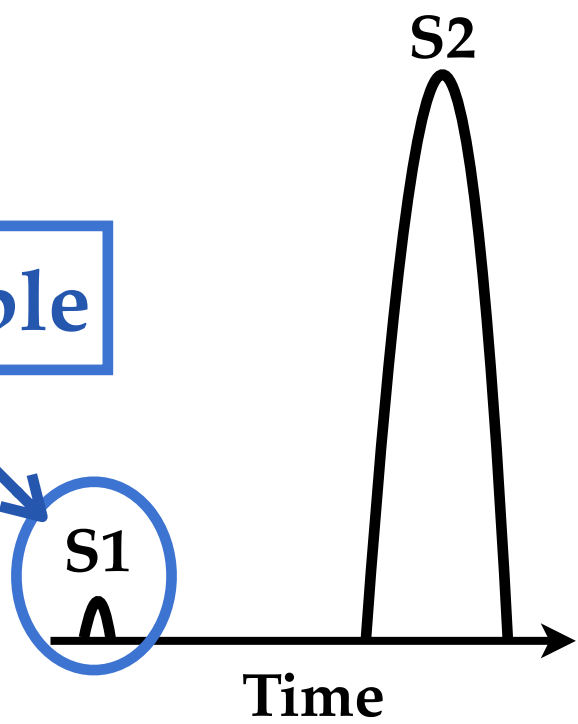
XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



sub-GeV DM search

S2 only analysis

Immeasurable

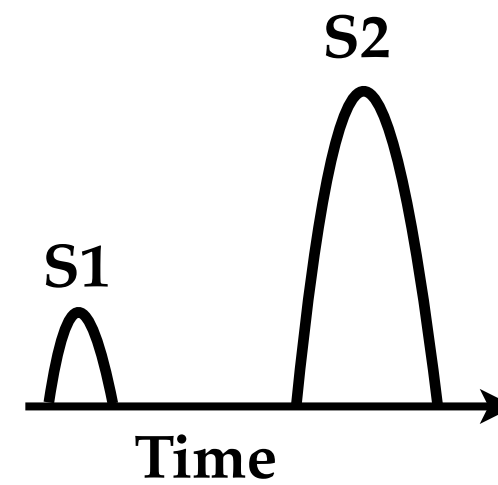


No S2/S1 ratio - can't distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

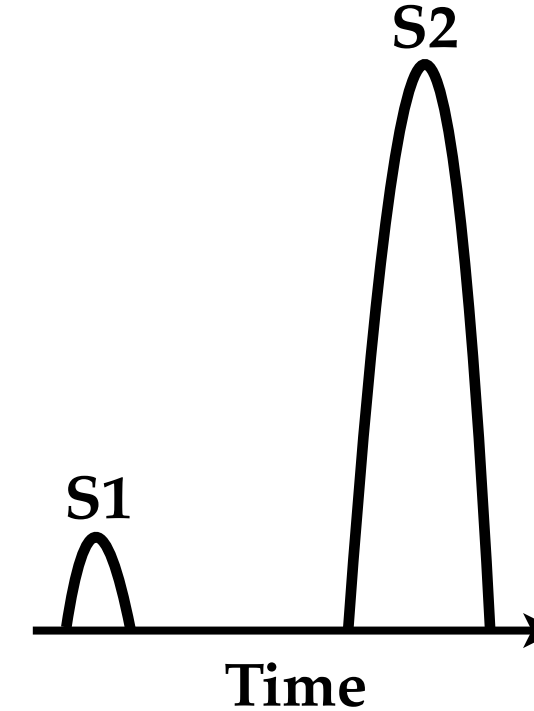
$$E_{\text{recoil}} \lesssim 0.5 \text{ keV}$$

S1-S2 only analysis

Nuclear recoil

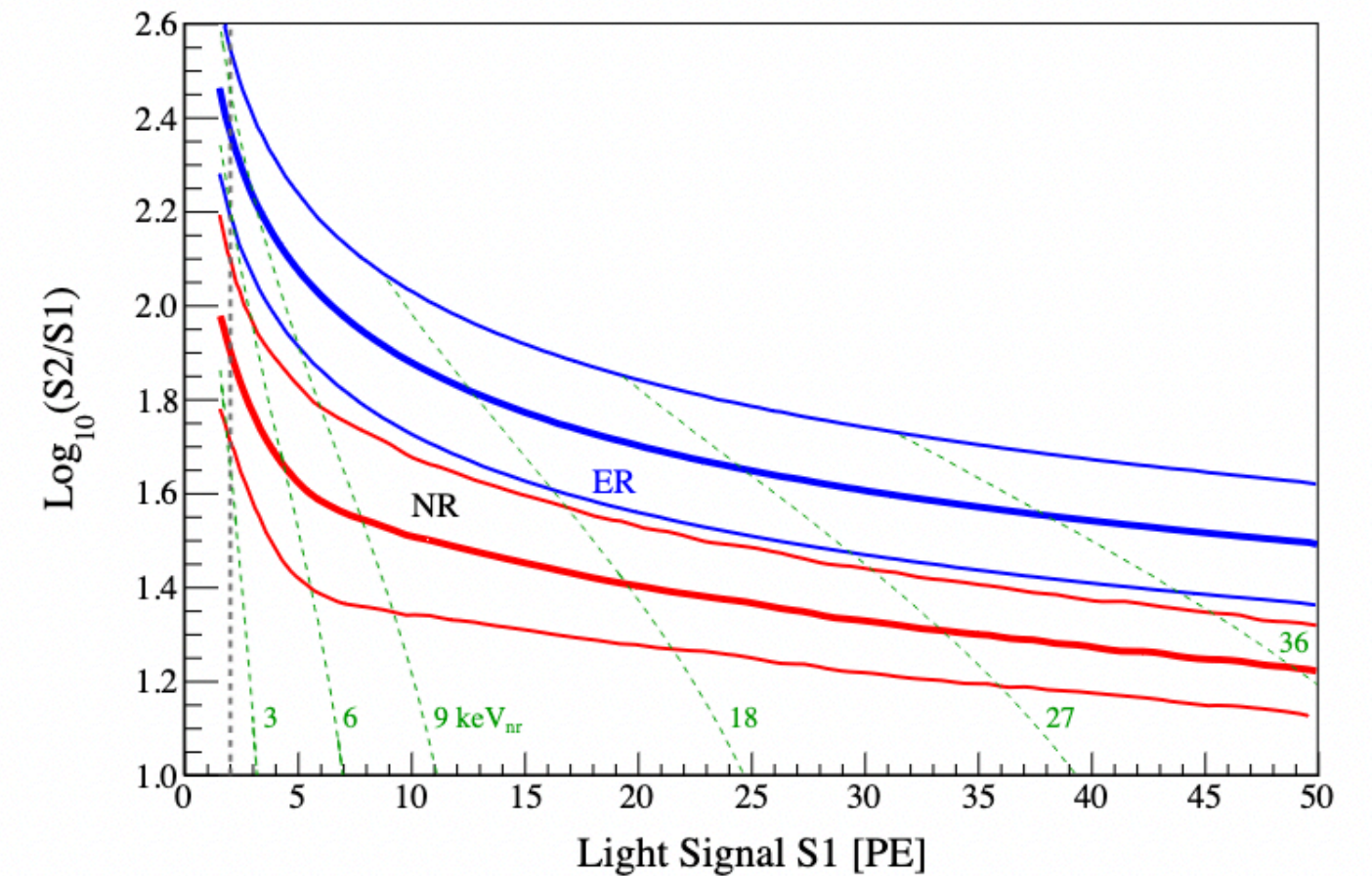


Electron recoil



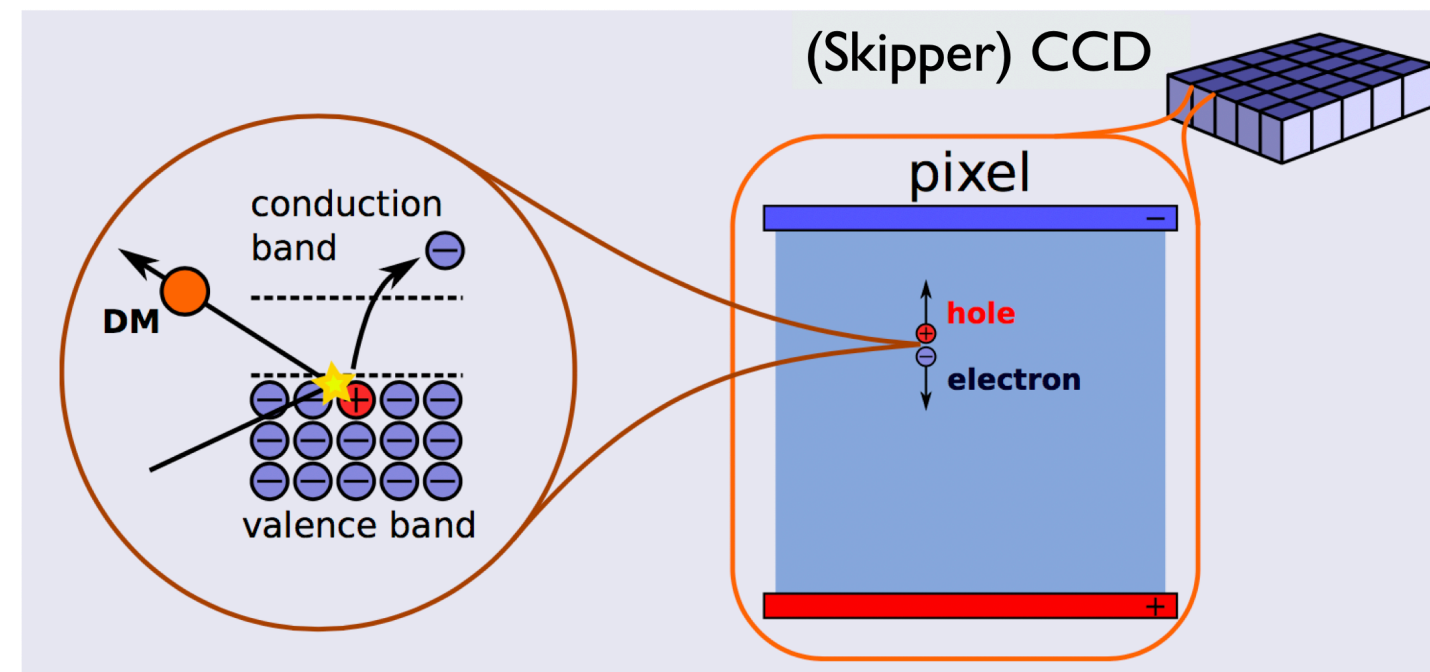
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# Signatures in experiments (Si)

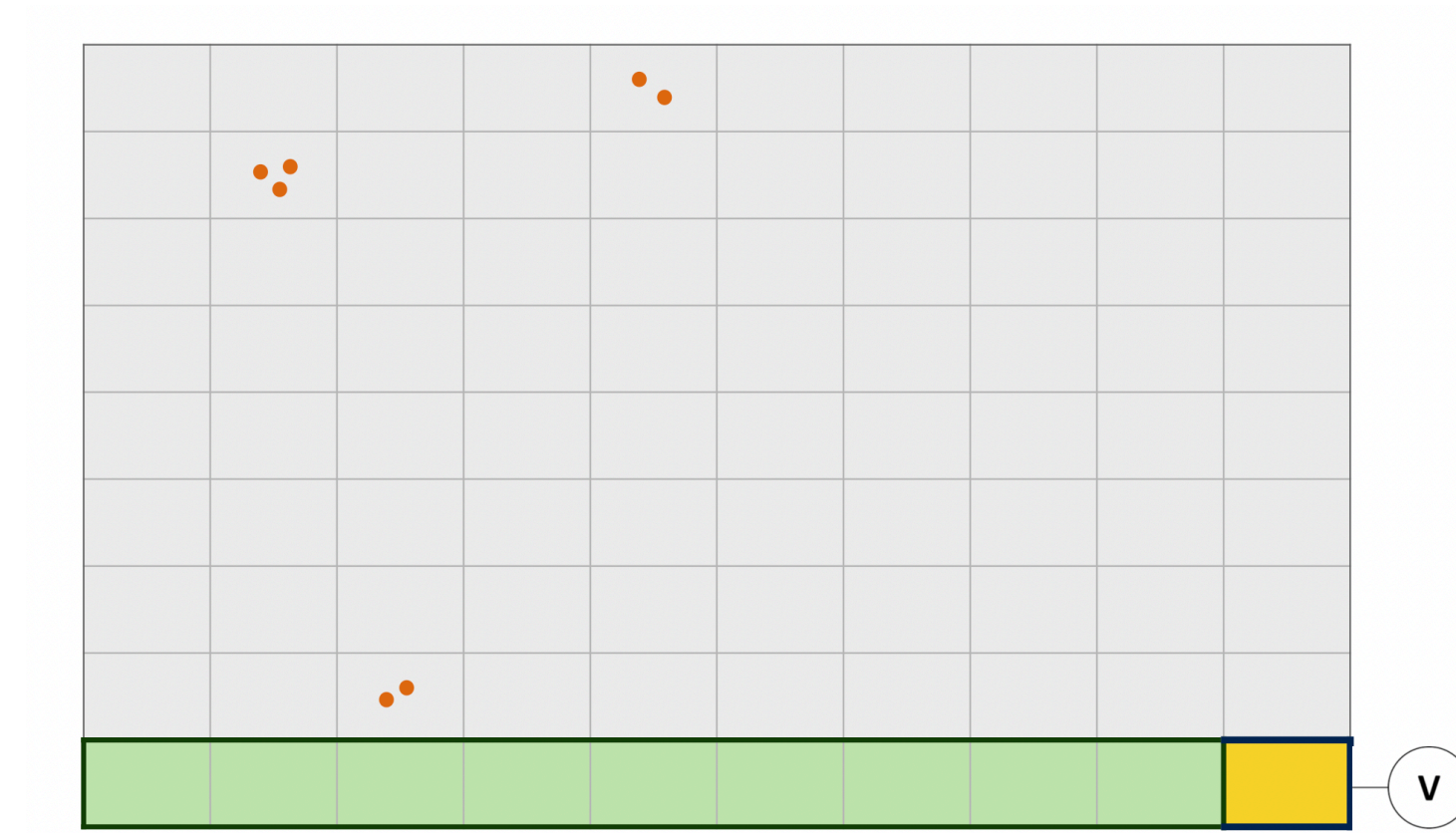
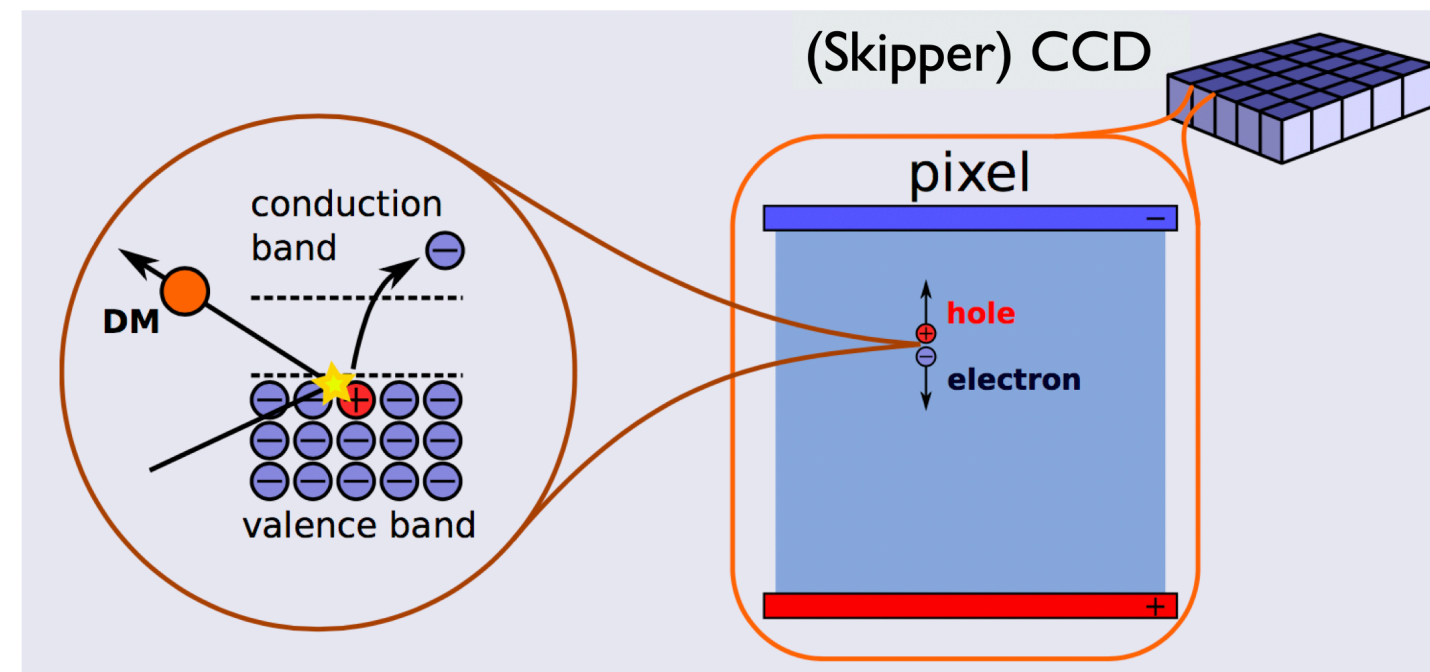
SENSEI, DAMIC-M ...





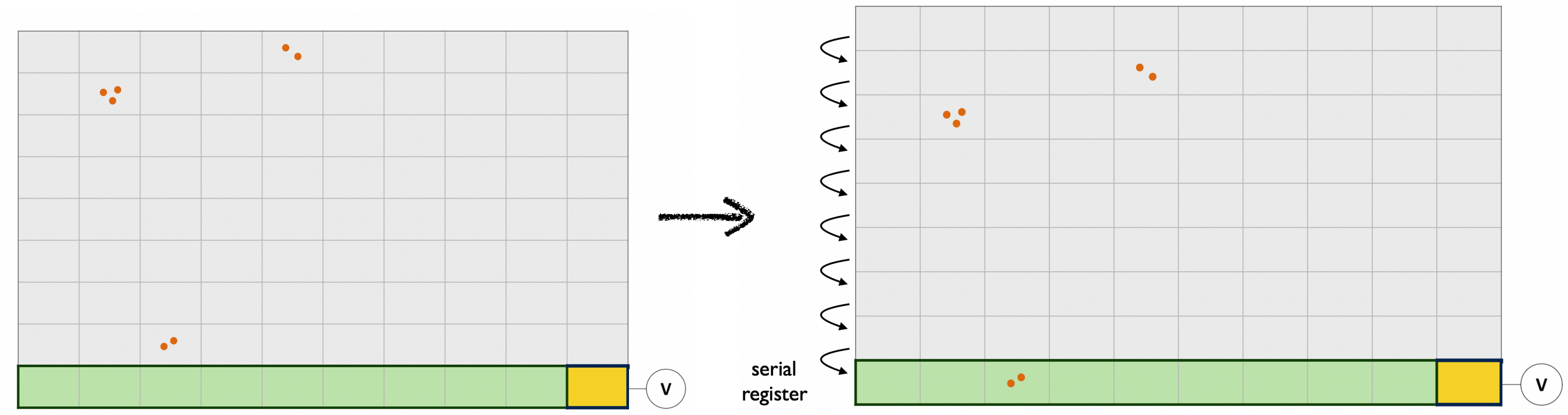
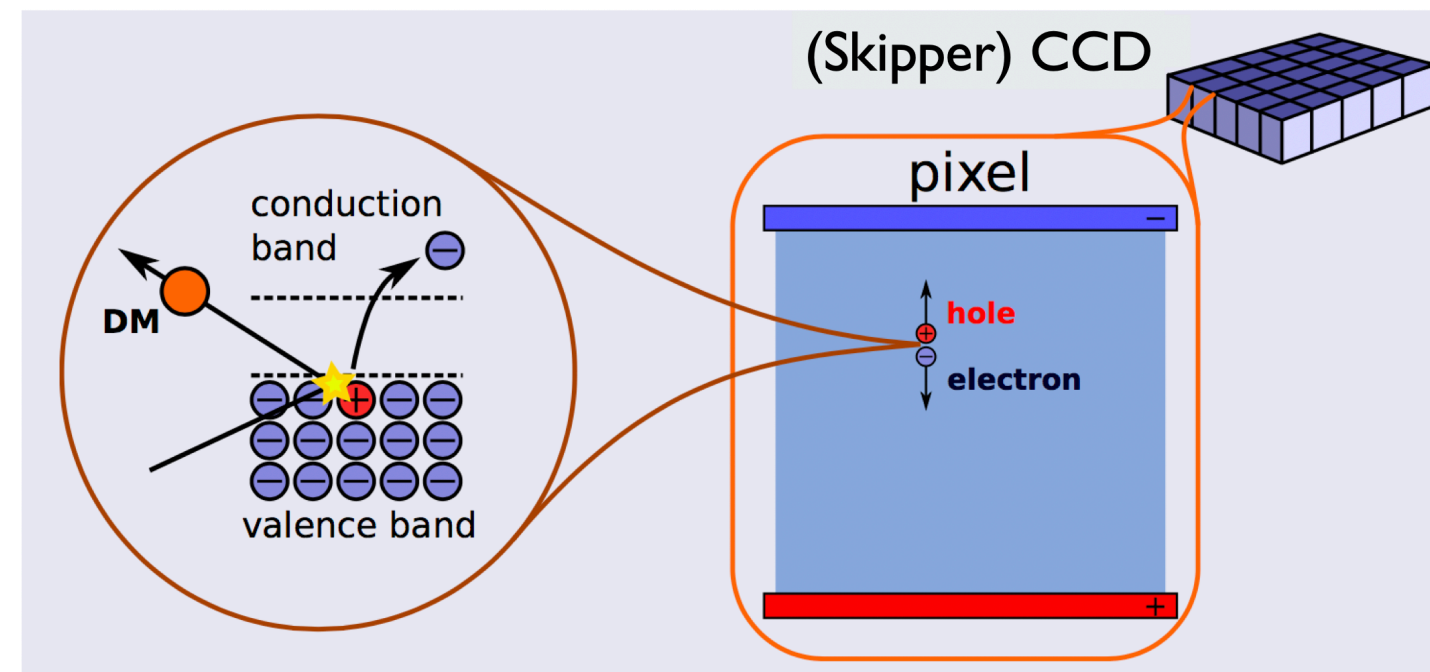
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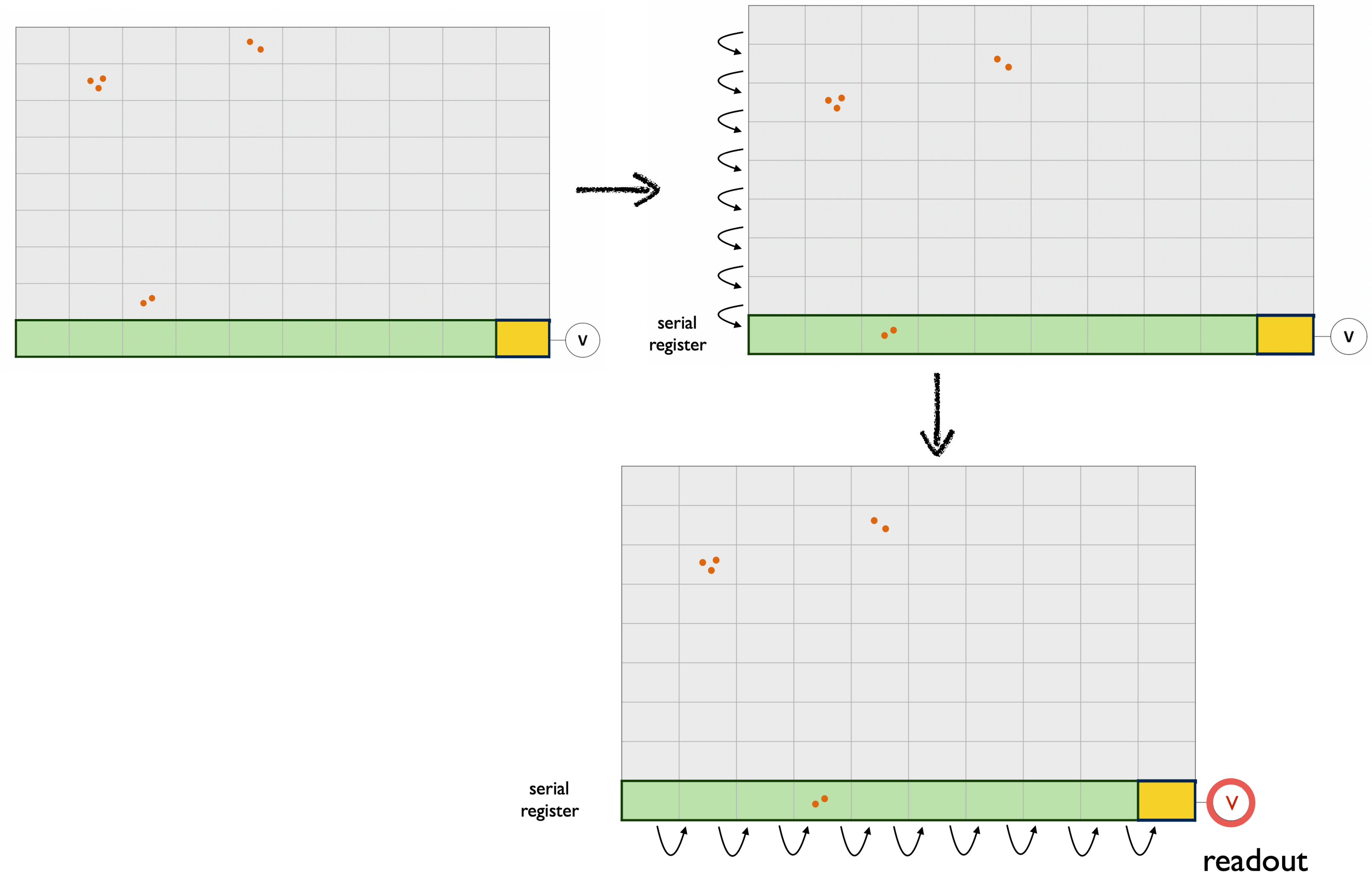
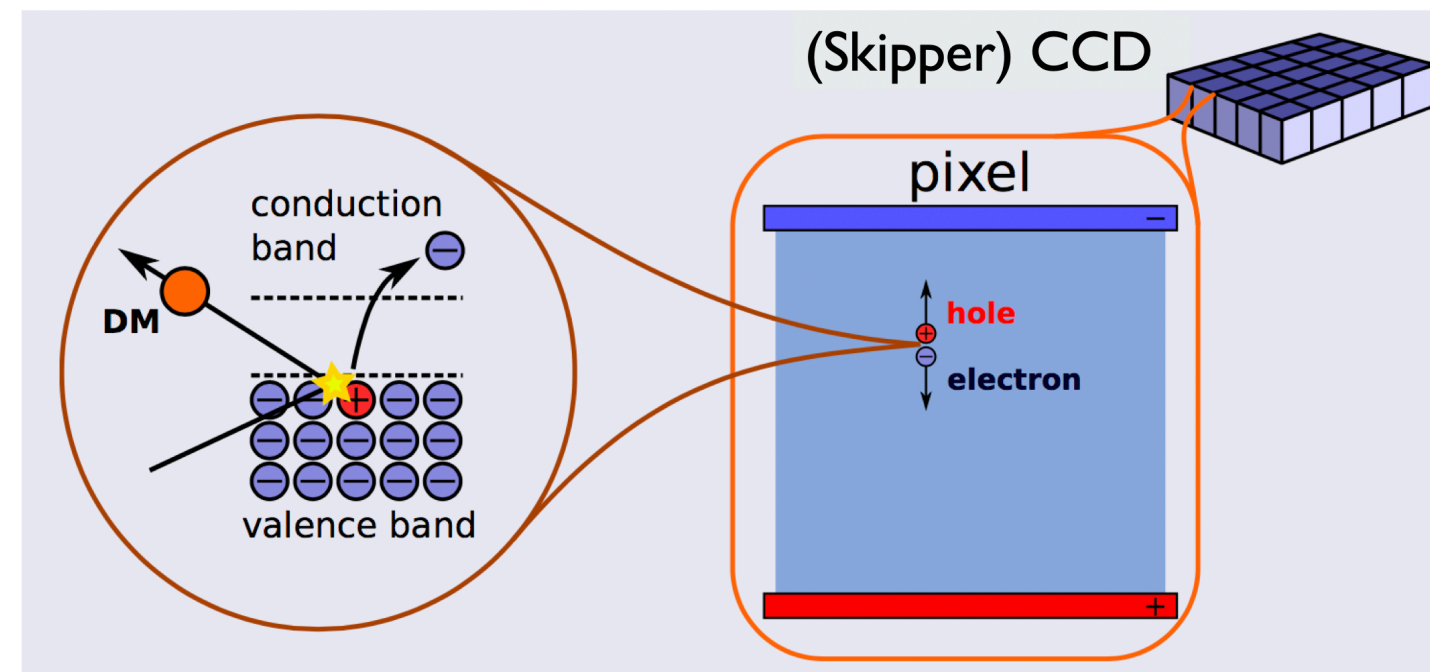
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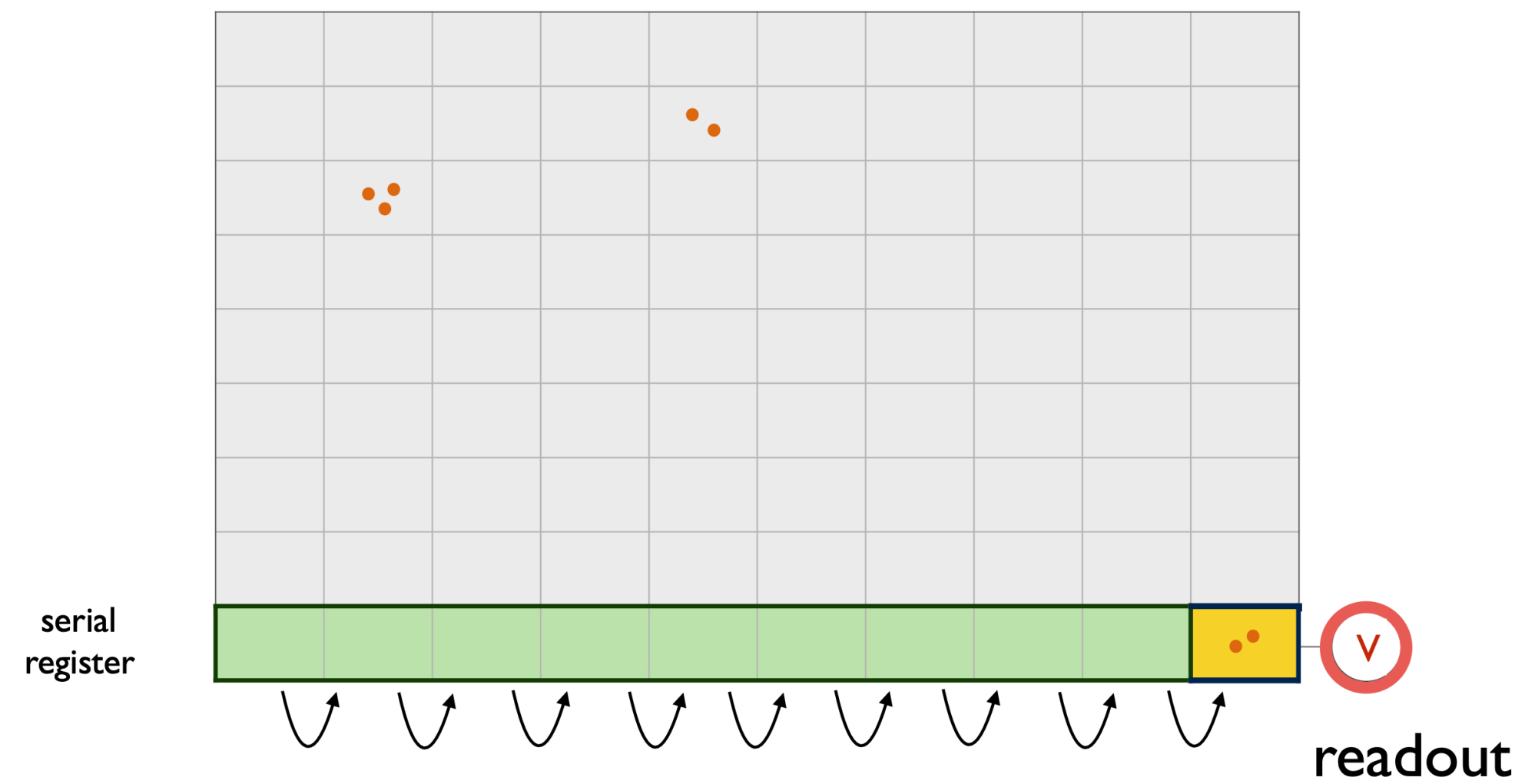
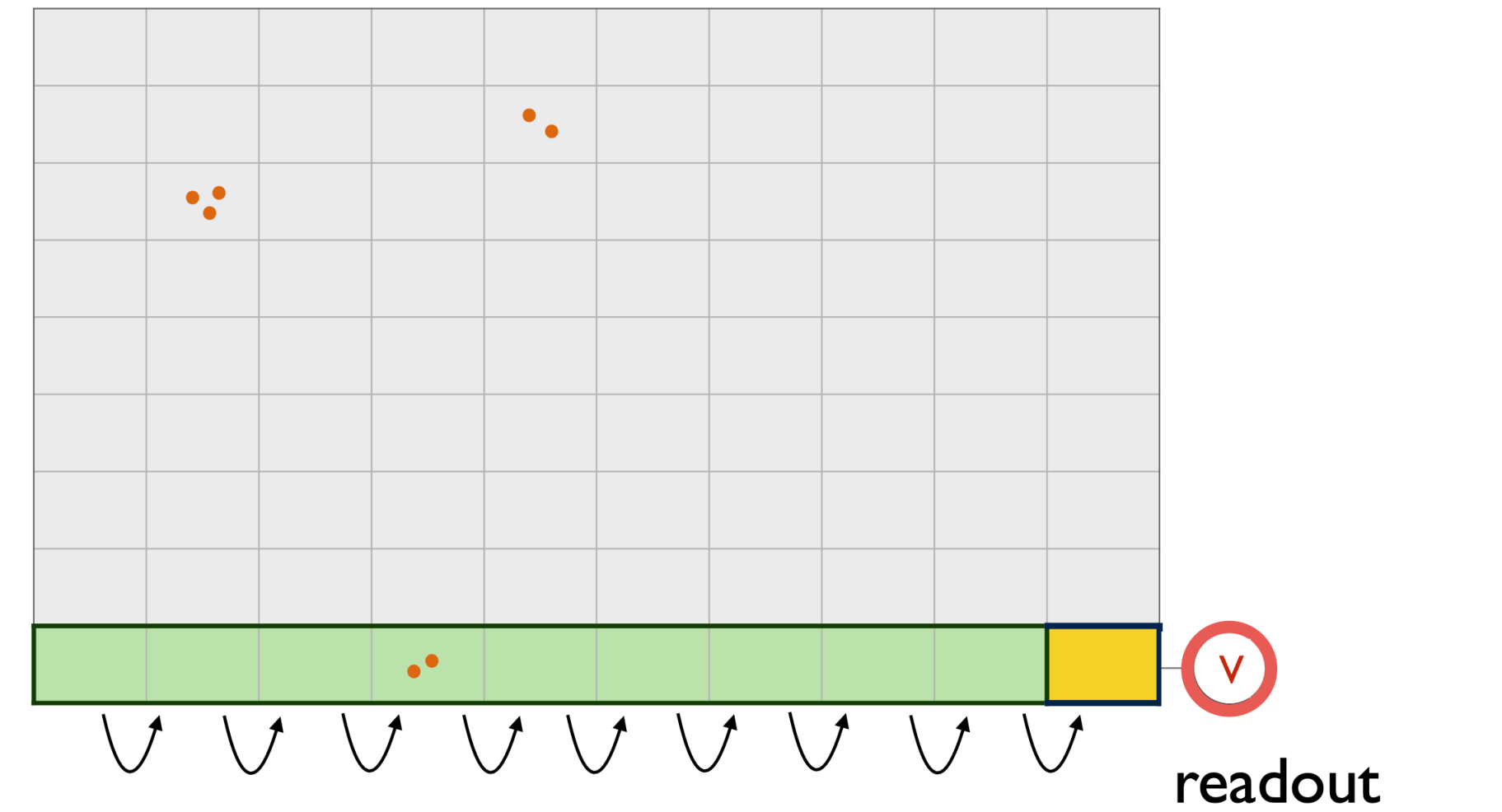
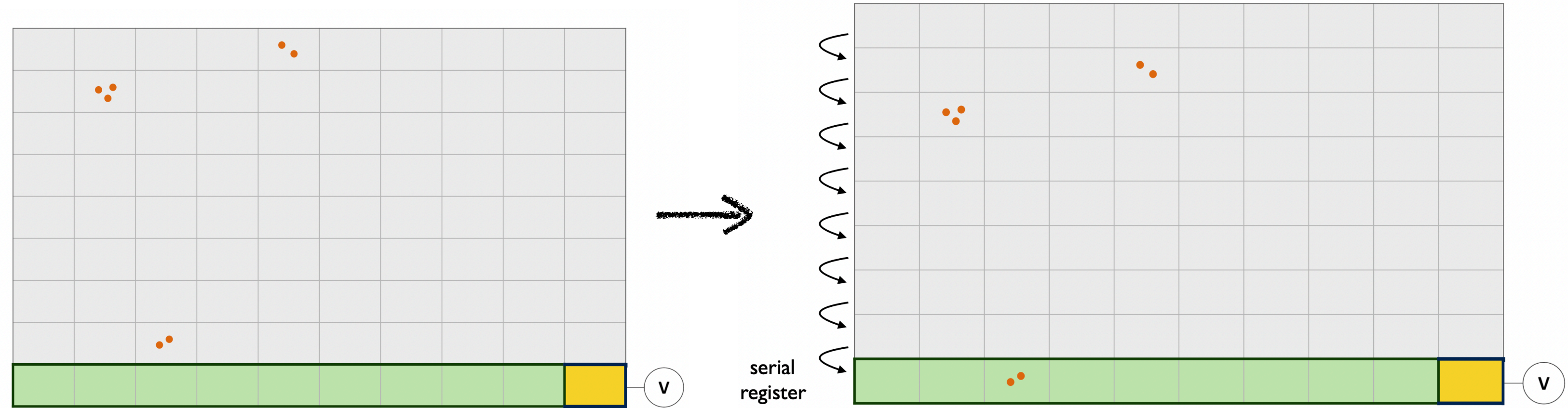
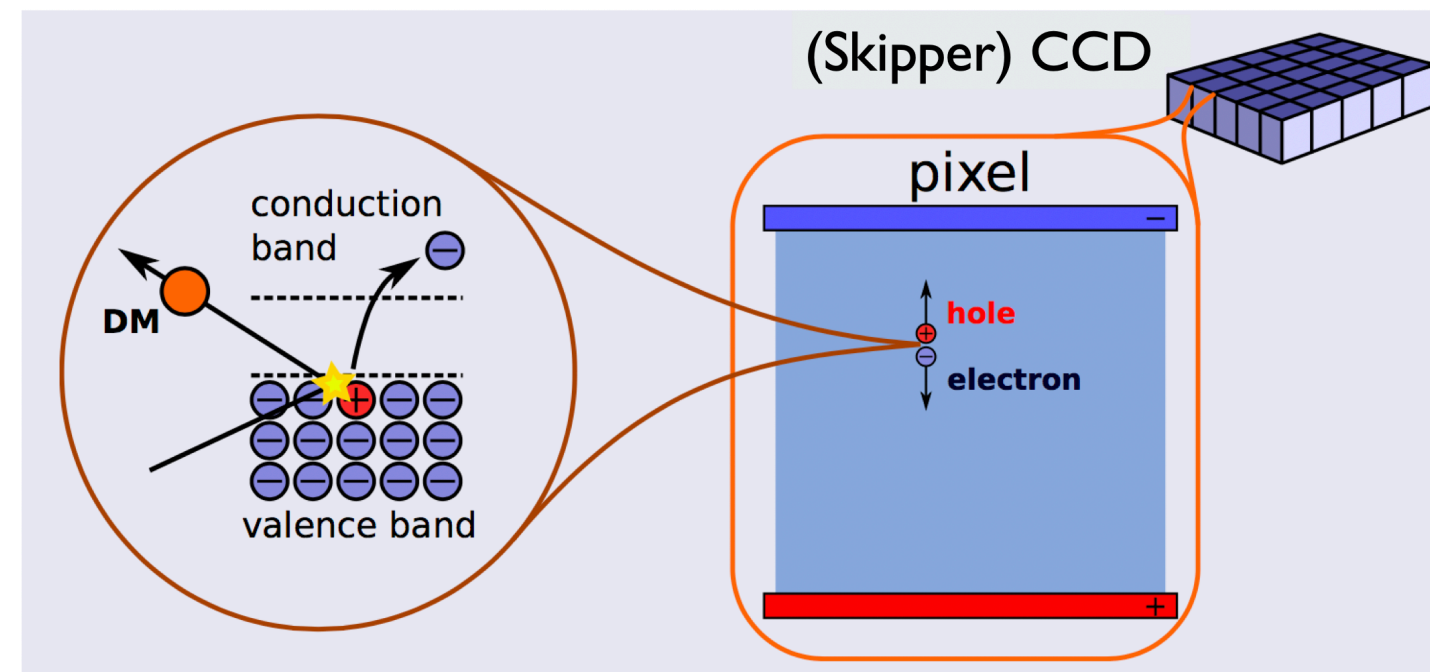
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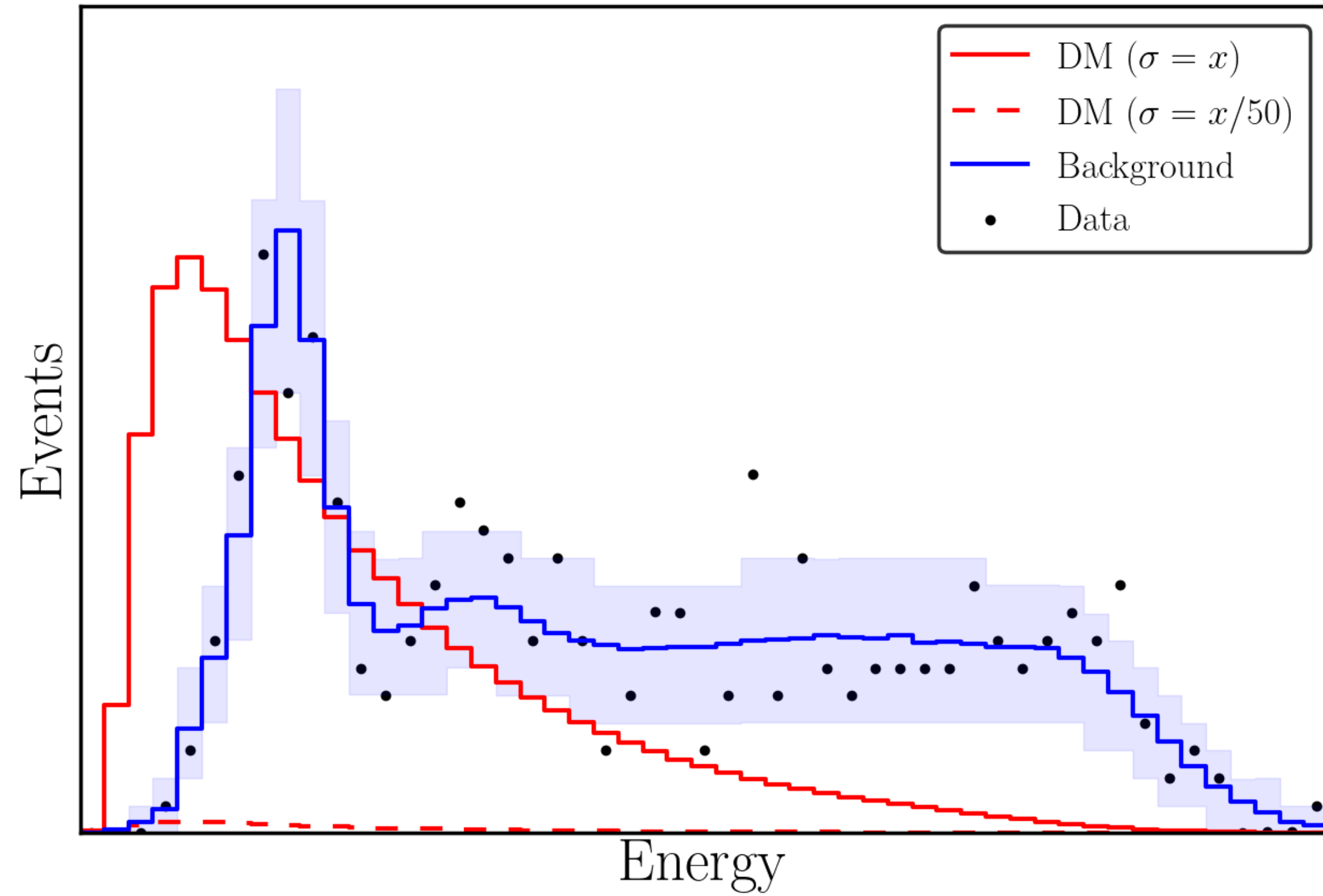
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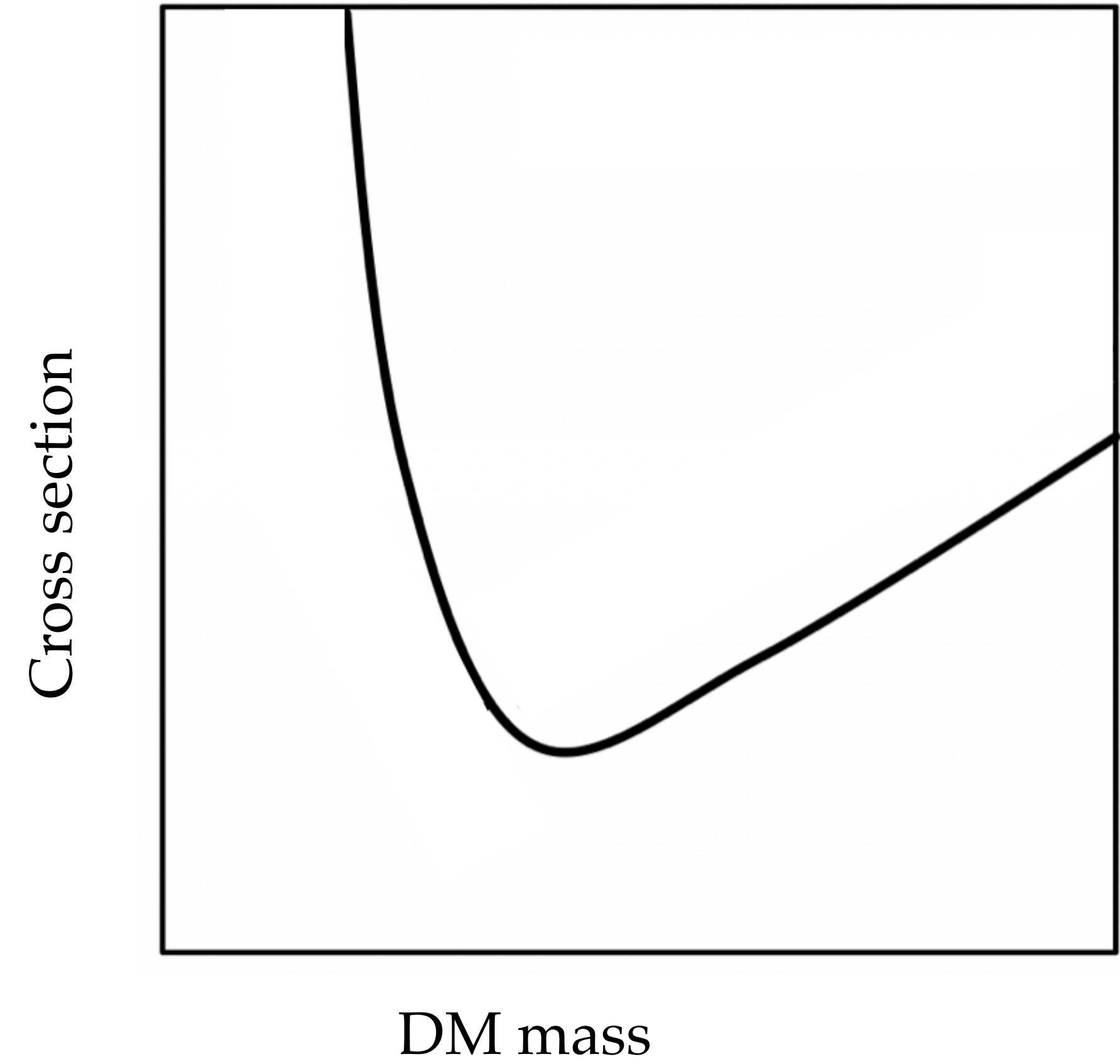
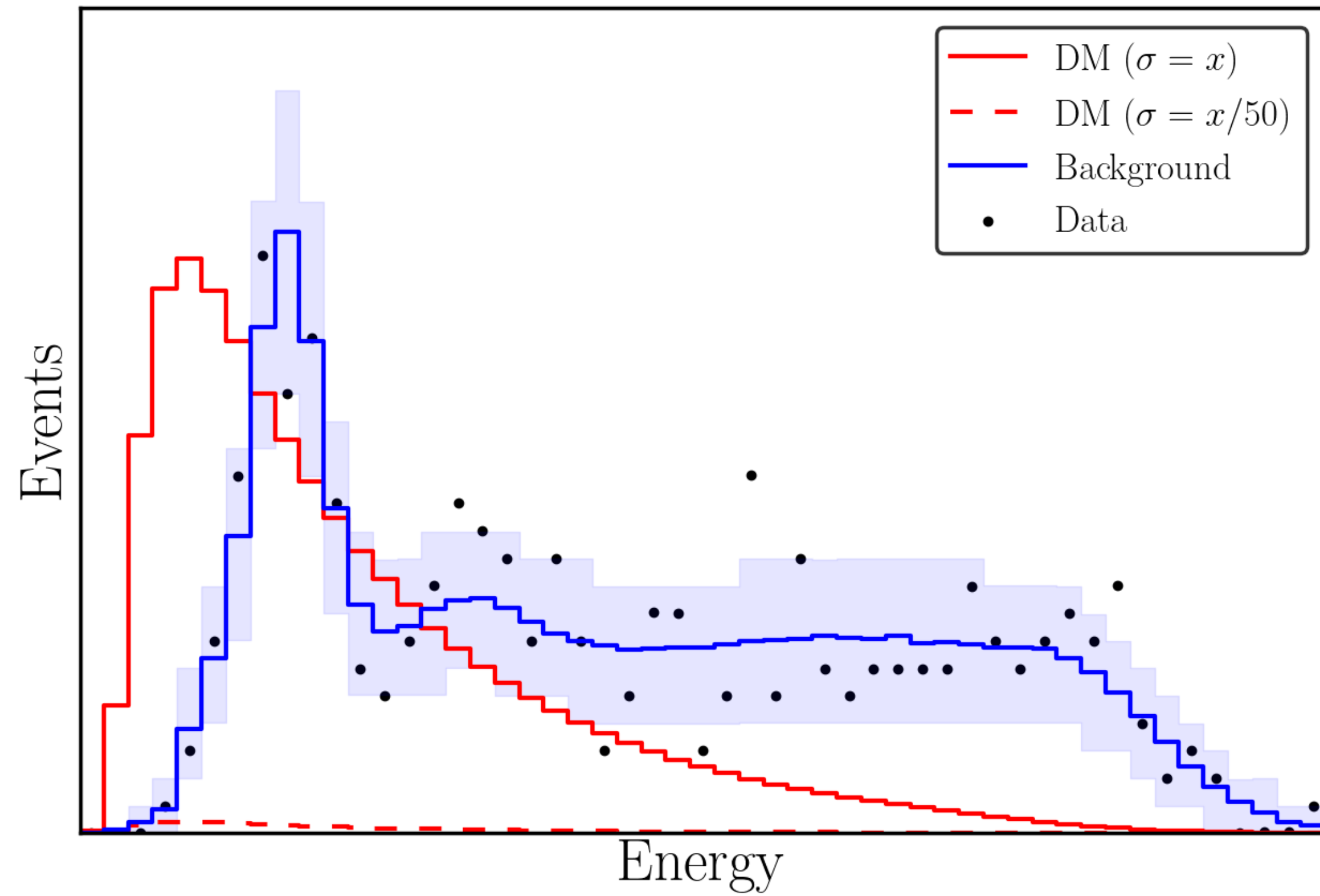
- ❖ Compared to typical CCD, in skipper-CCD one measure the charge multiple times : sub-electron readout noise

- ❖ Move the charge pixel by pixel and finally read it : typical CCD

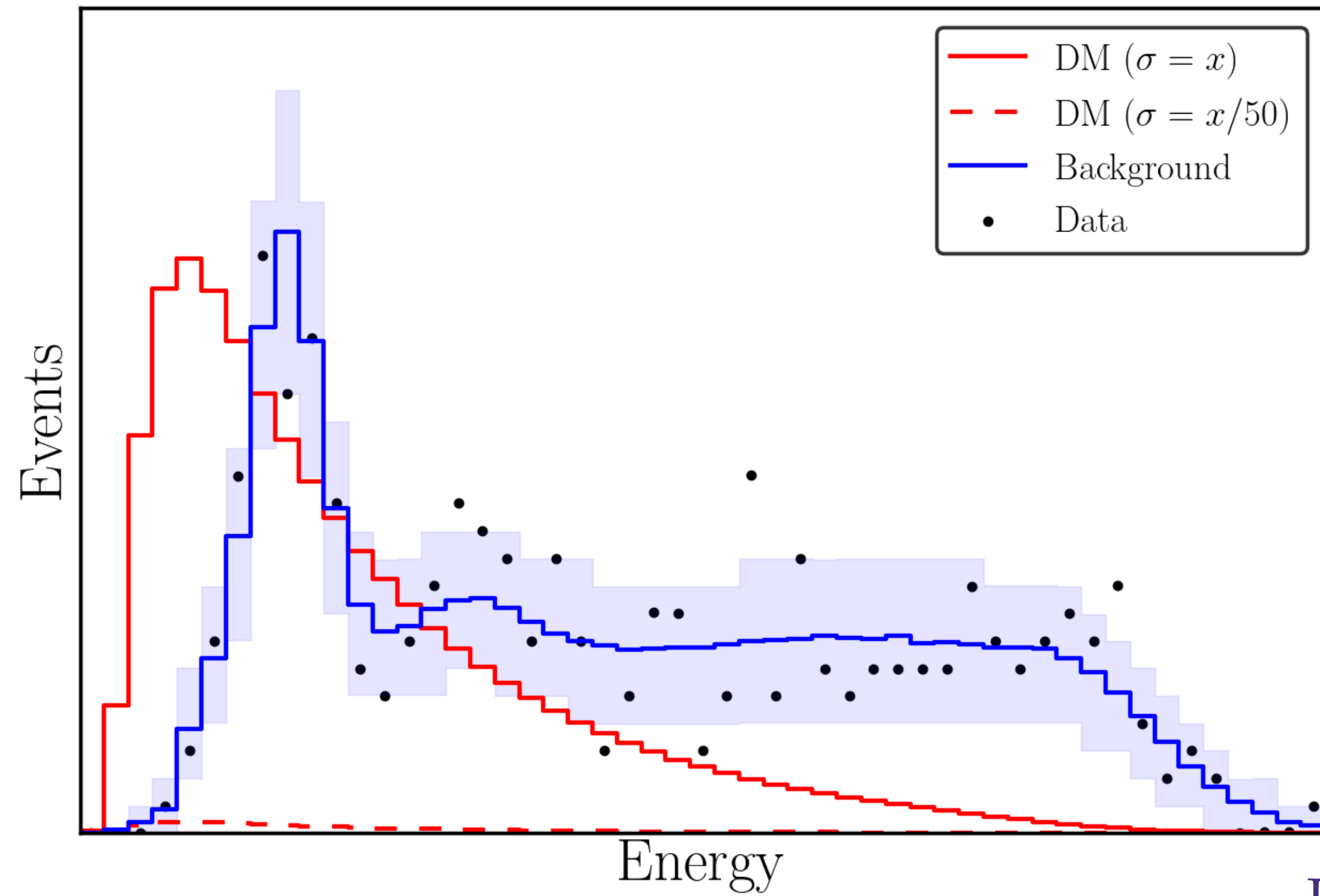
# No excess: bounds on DM



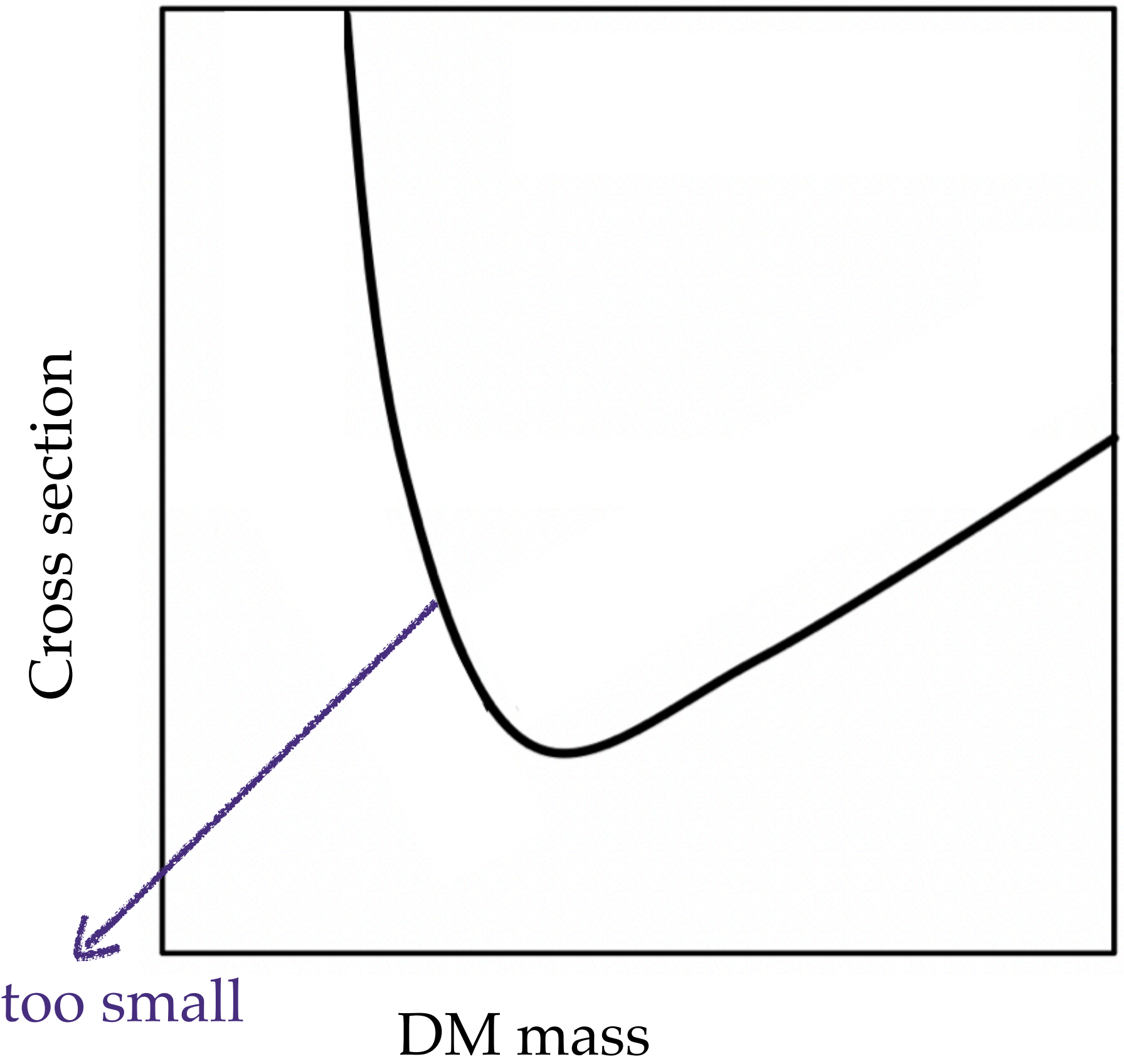
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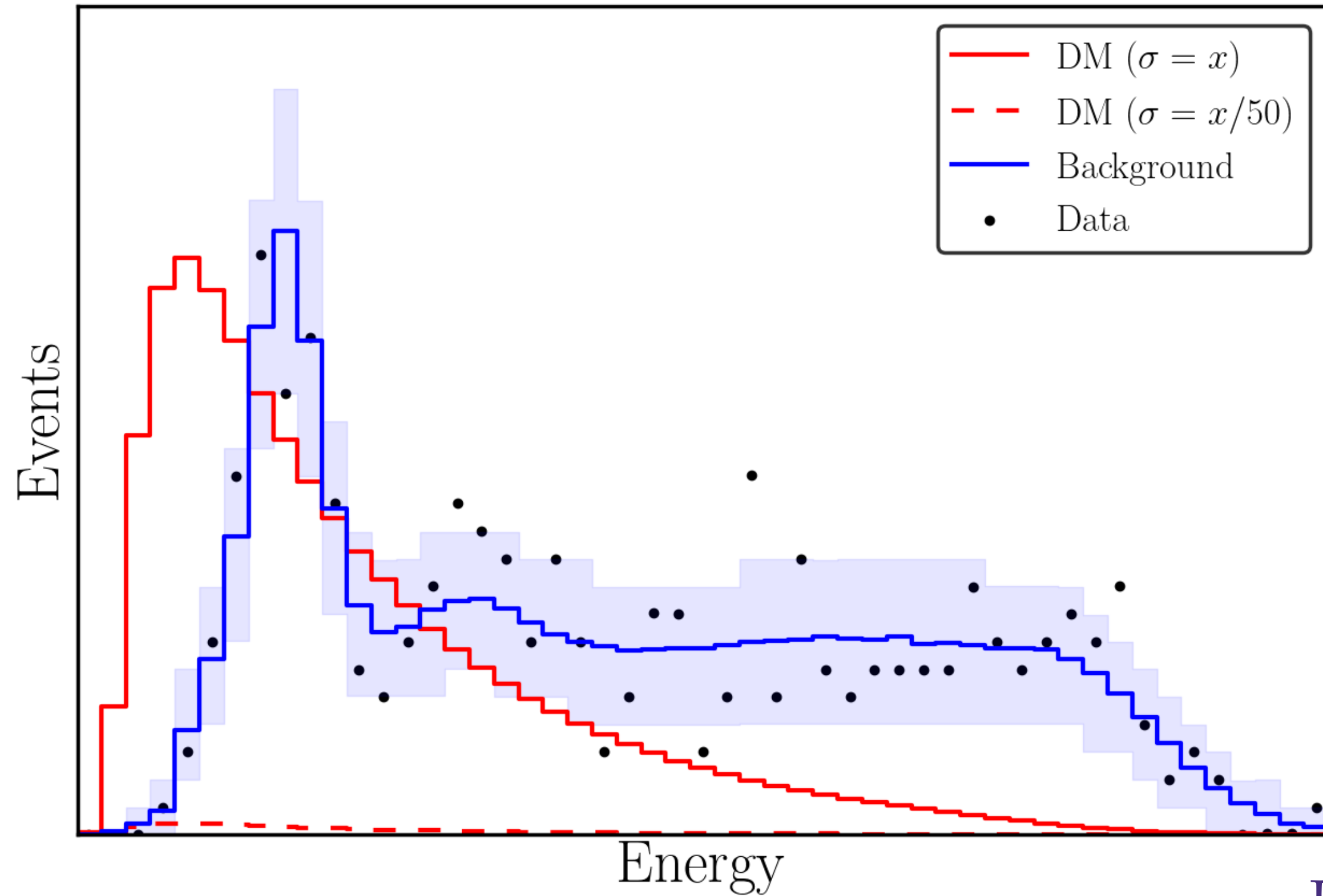
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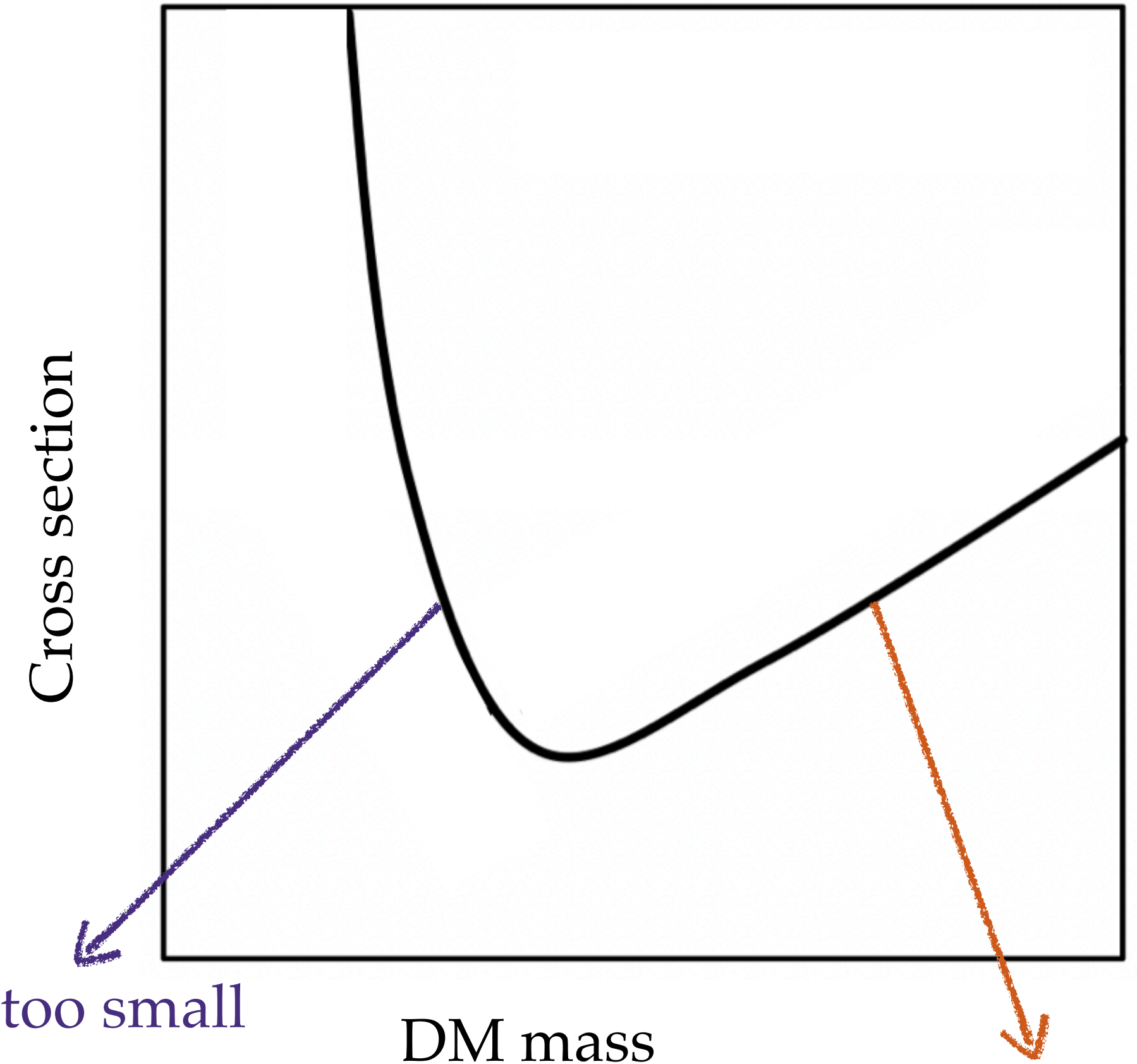
Recoil energy too small



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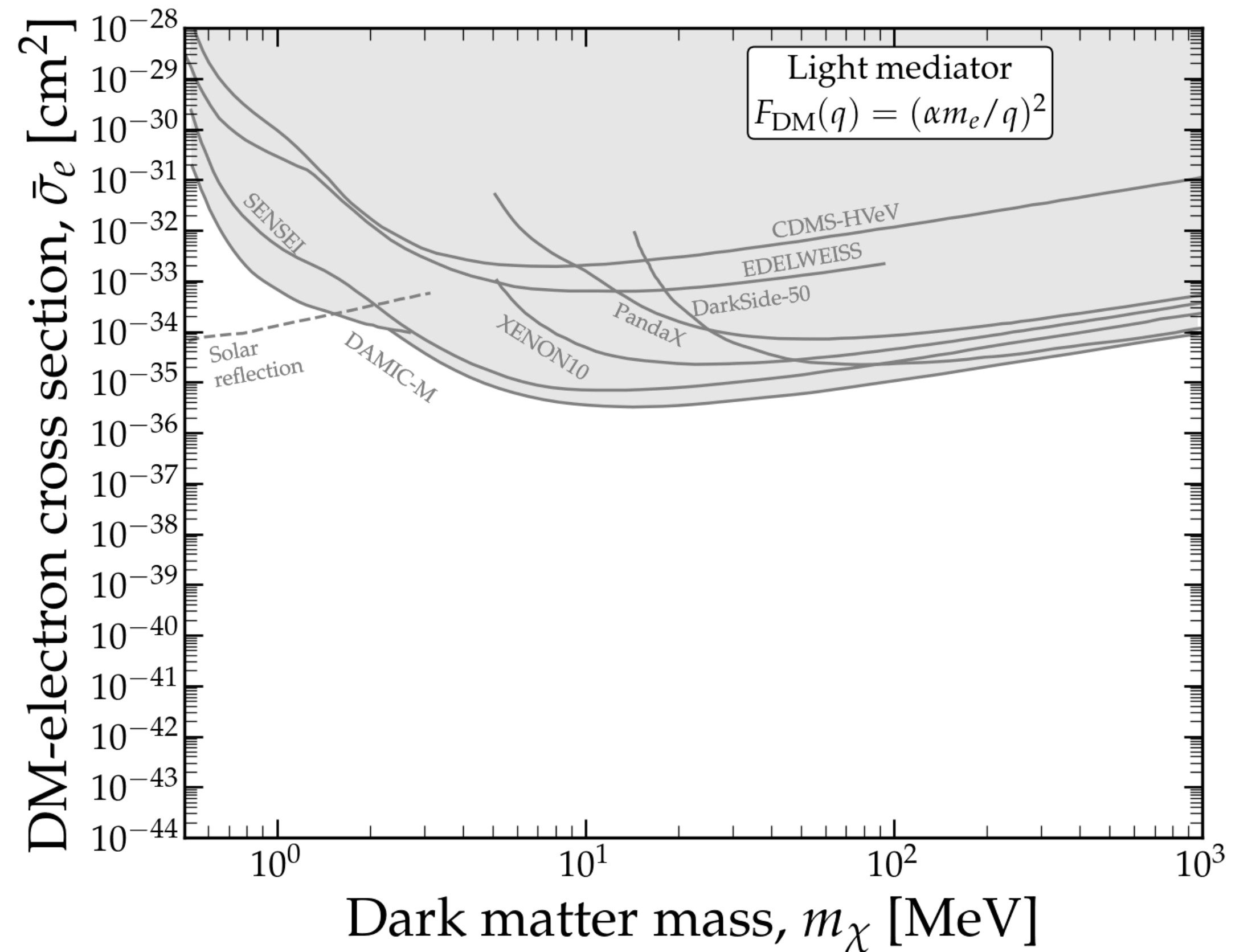
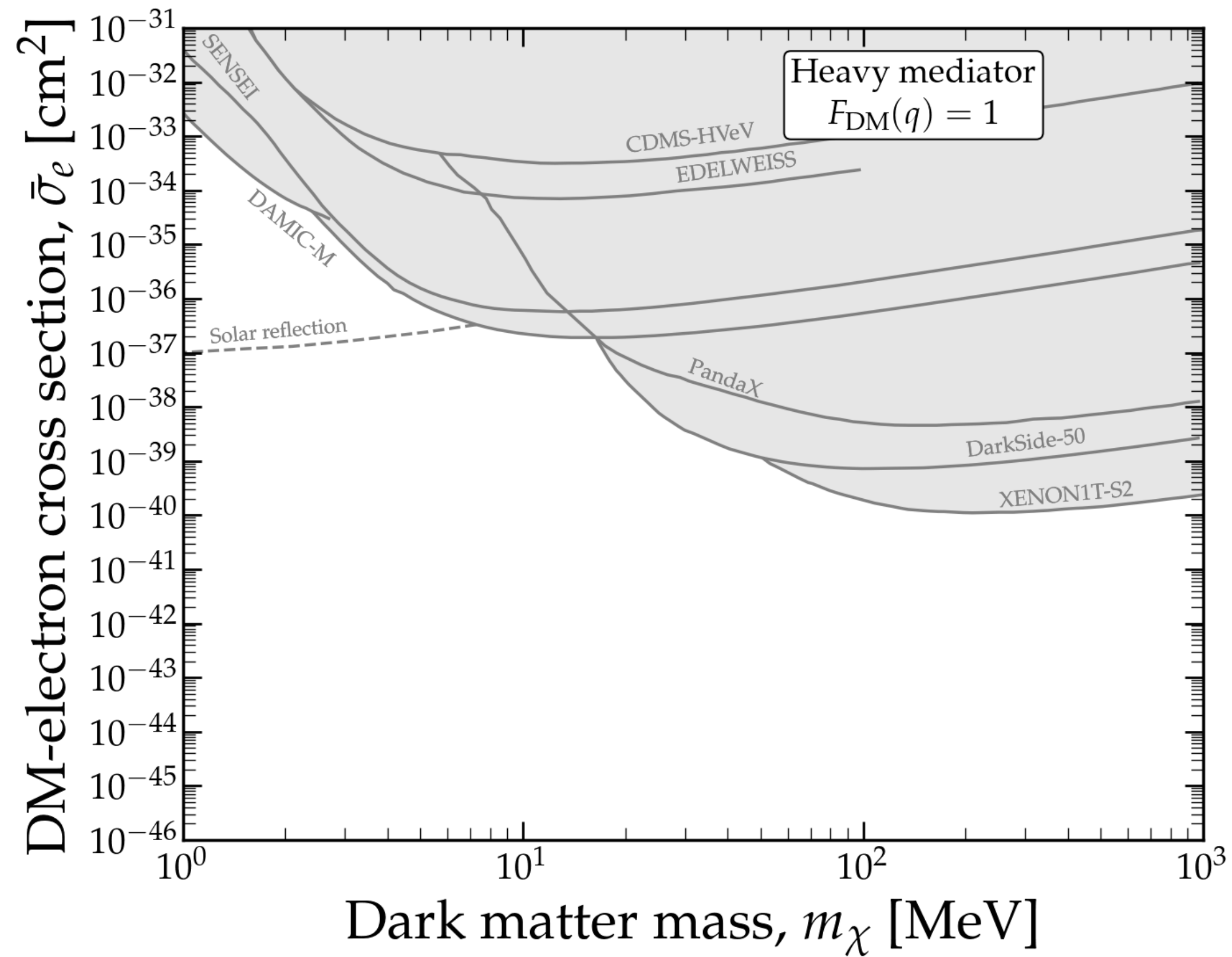


Linearly increasing, since

$$\text{Rate} \propto n_\chi \propto \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} \propto \frac{0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3}{m_\chi}$$



# DM-electron scattering: bounds



Essig+ 1108.5383, 1206.2644 ...  
SENSEI 2004.11378  
XENON1T 1907.12771, 2112.12116  
DAMIC-M 2302.02372, 2307.07251

An+ 1708.03642, 2108.10332  
Emken 2102.12483  
DarkSide-50 2207.11968

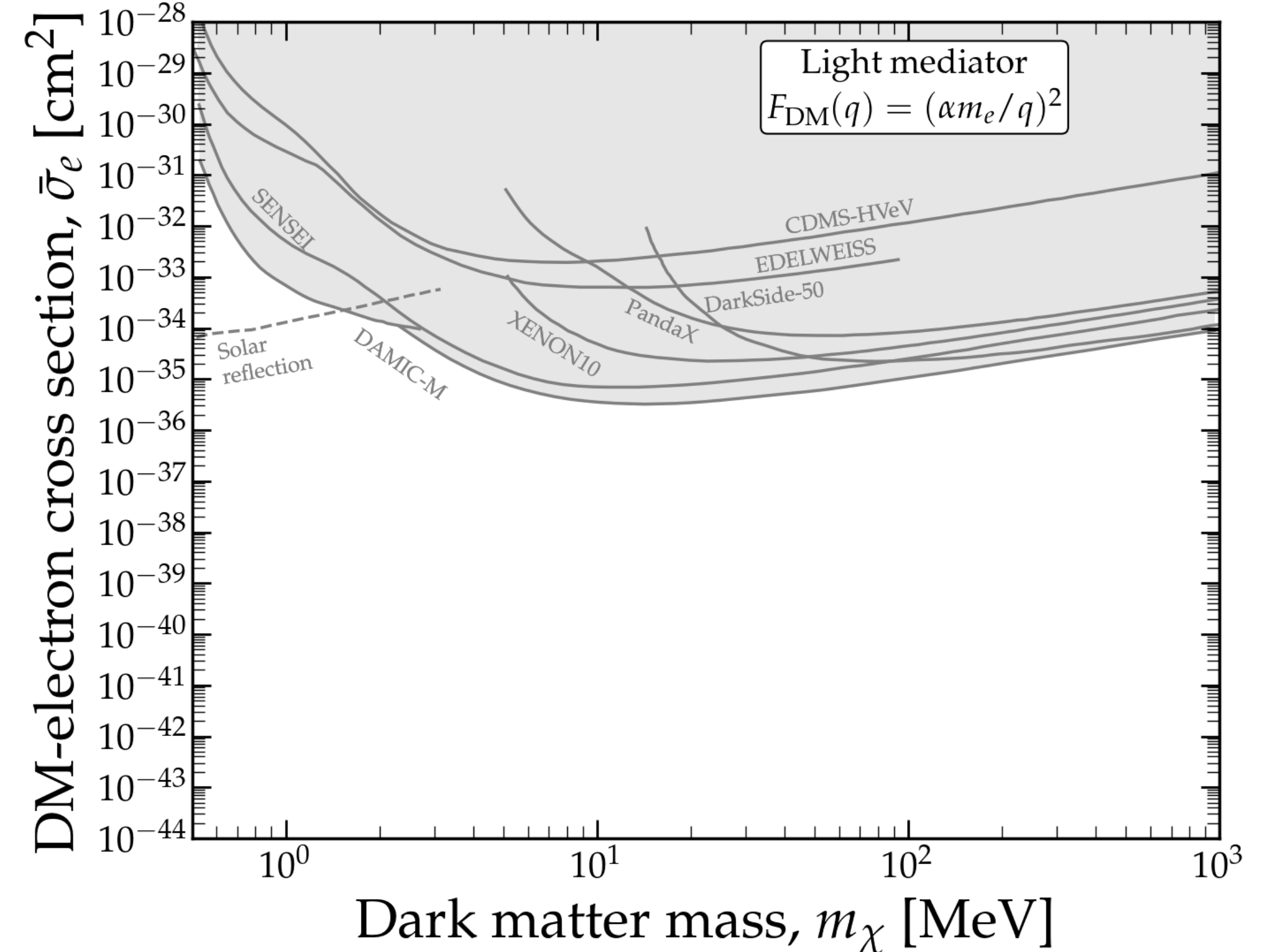
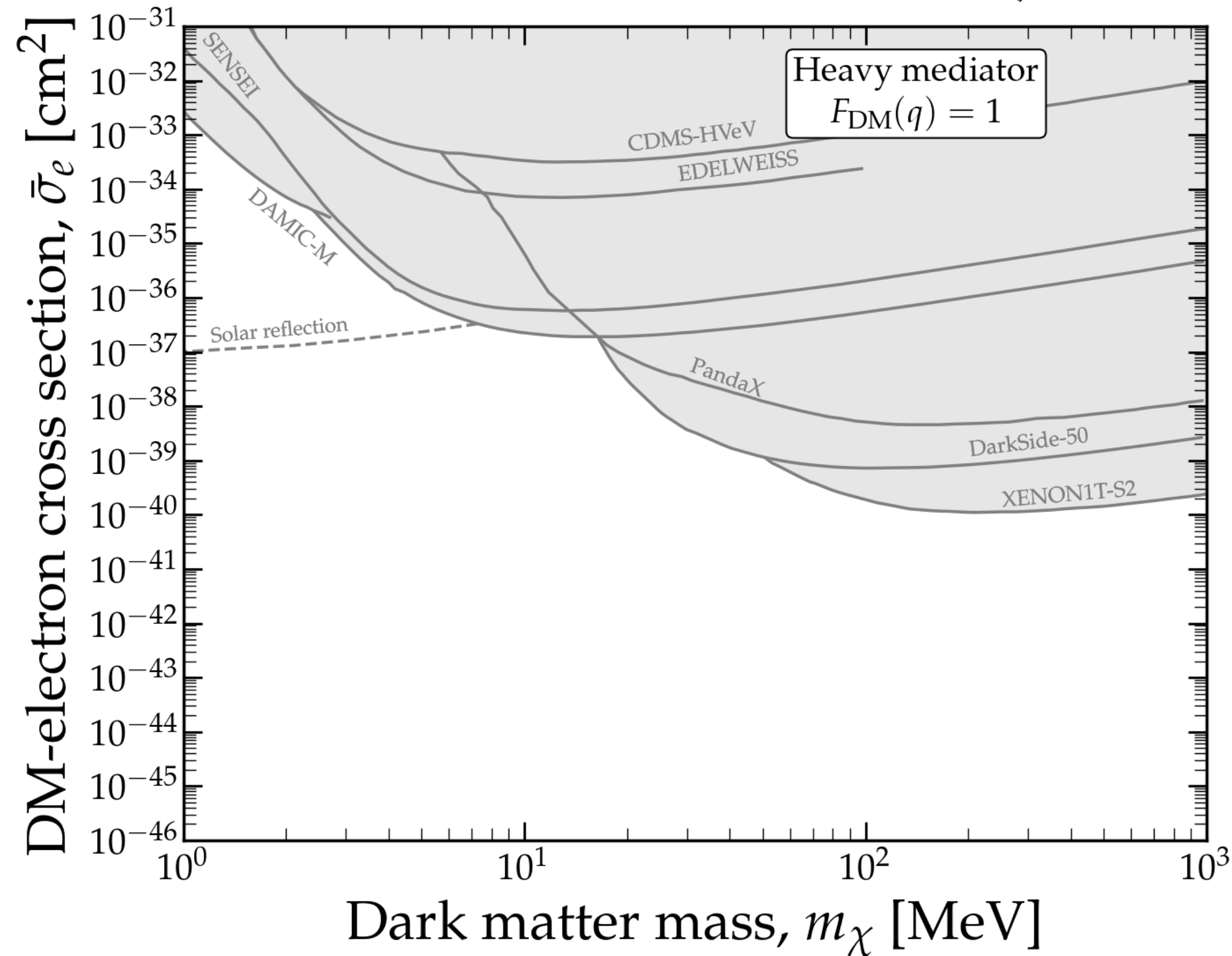
PandaX 2101.07479  
CDMS 1804.10697  
EDELWEISS 2003.01046

# DM-electron scattering: bounds

There are ceiling

Defined by the cross section for which DM would not produce obs. recoil

Emken+ 1905.06348



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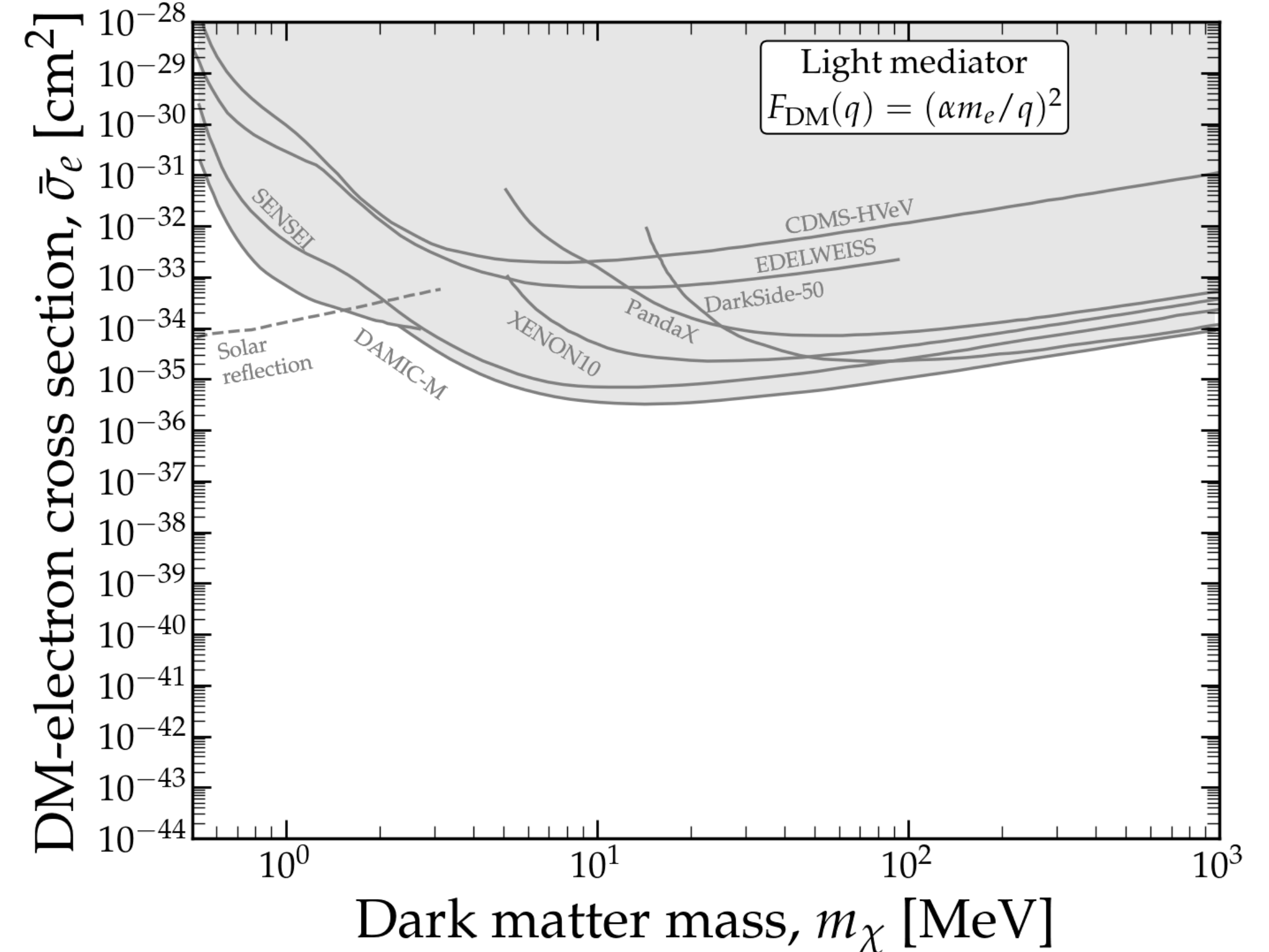
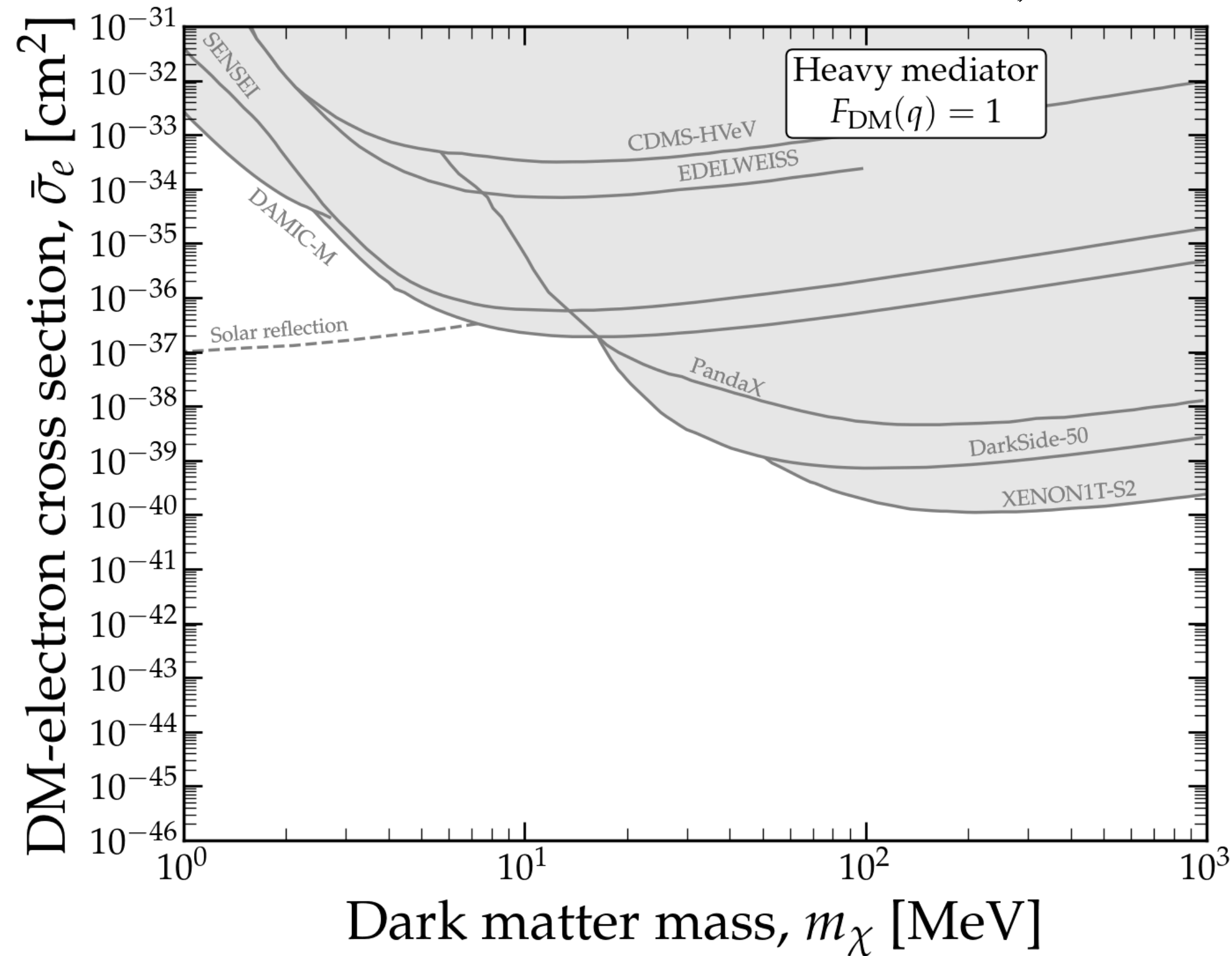
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EDELWEISS 2003.01046

For effect of non-SHM distributions

Radick+ 2011.02493  
TNM+ 2011.12896  
Buch+ 2007.13750  
TNM+ 2208.14471

# Where do neutrinos show up?

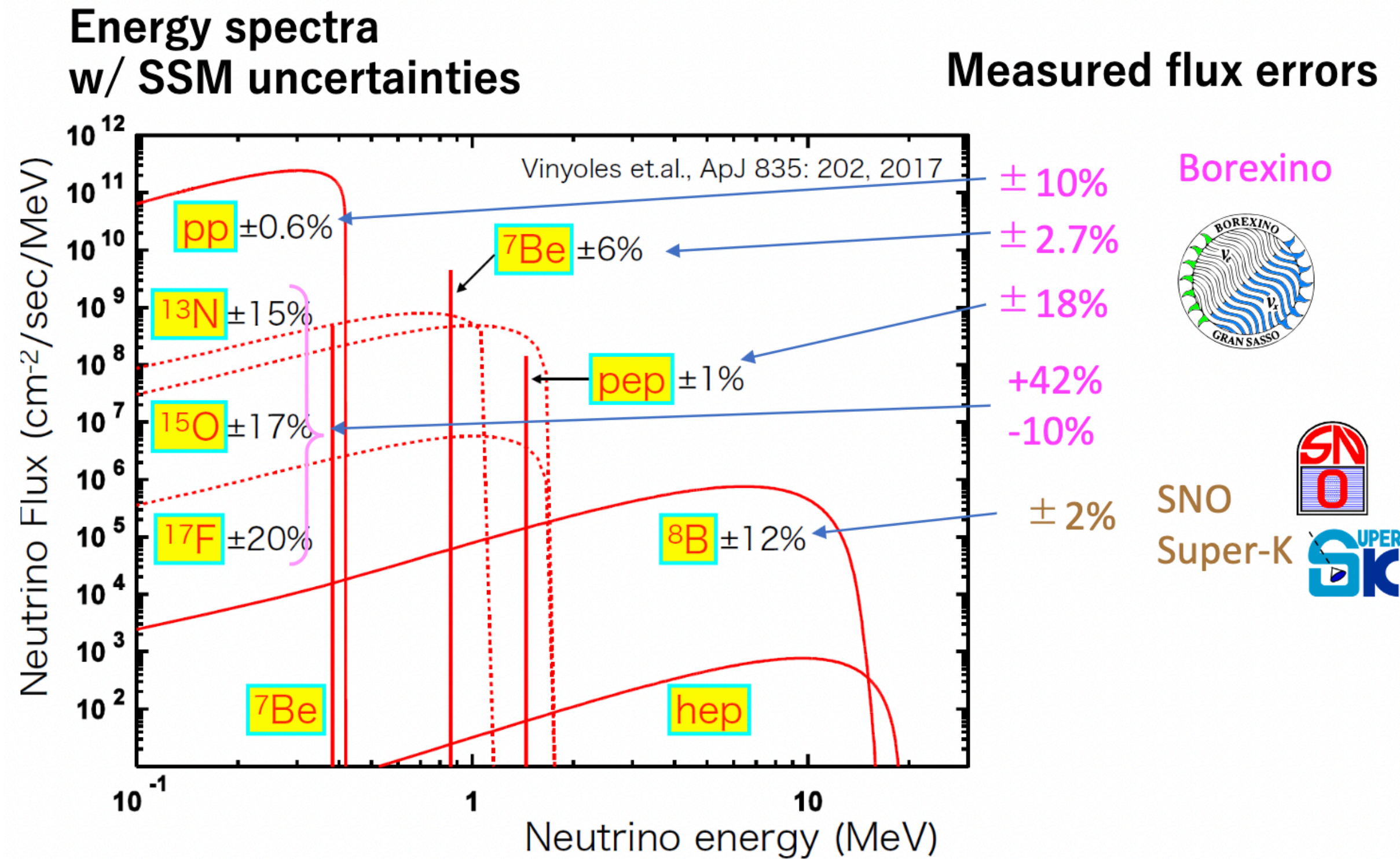
# Where do neutrinos show up?

Source of neutrinos?

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## Source of neutrinos?

Mainly the Solar neutrinos



Atmospheric and DSNB are subdominant

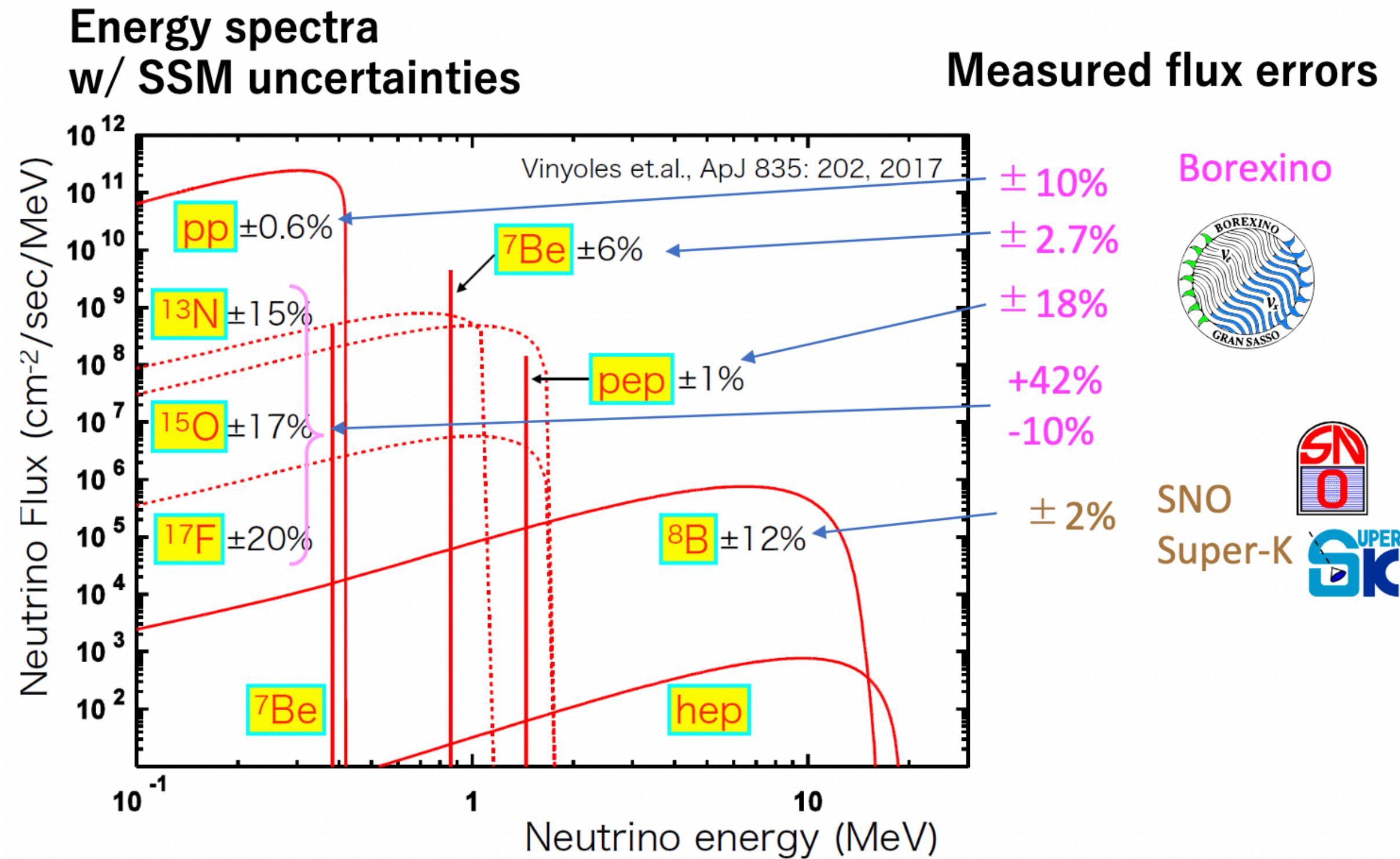
Sekiya TAUP 2023  
Borexino Nature (2018)  
SNO nucl-ex/0204008  
Bergstrom+ 1601.00972

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## Why are they problematic?



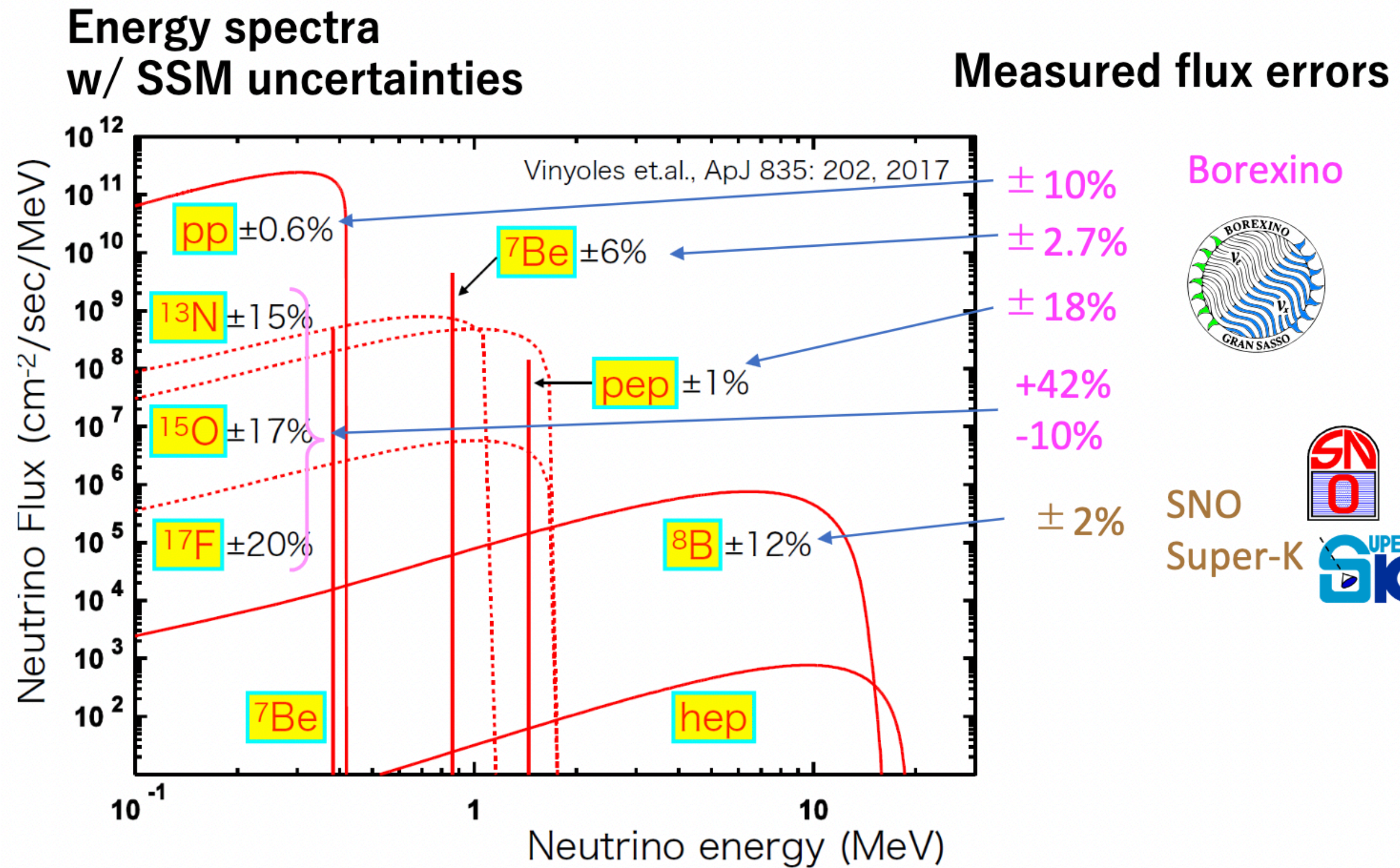
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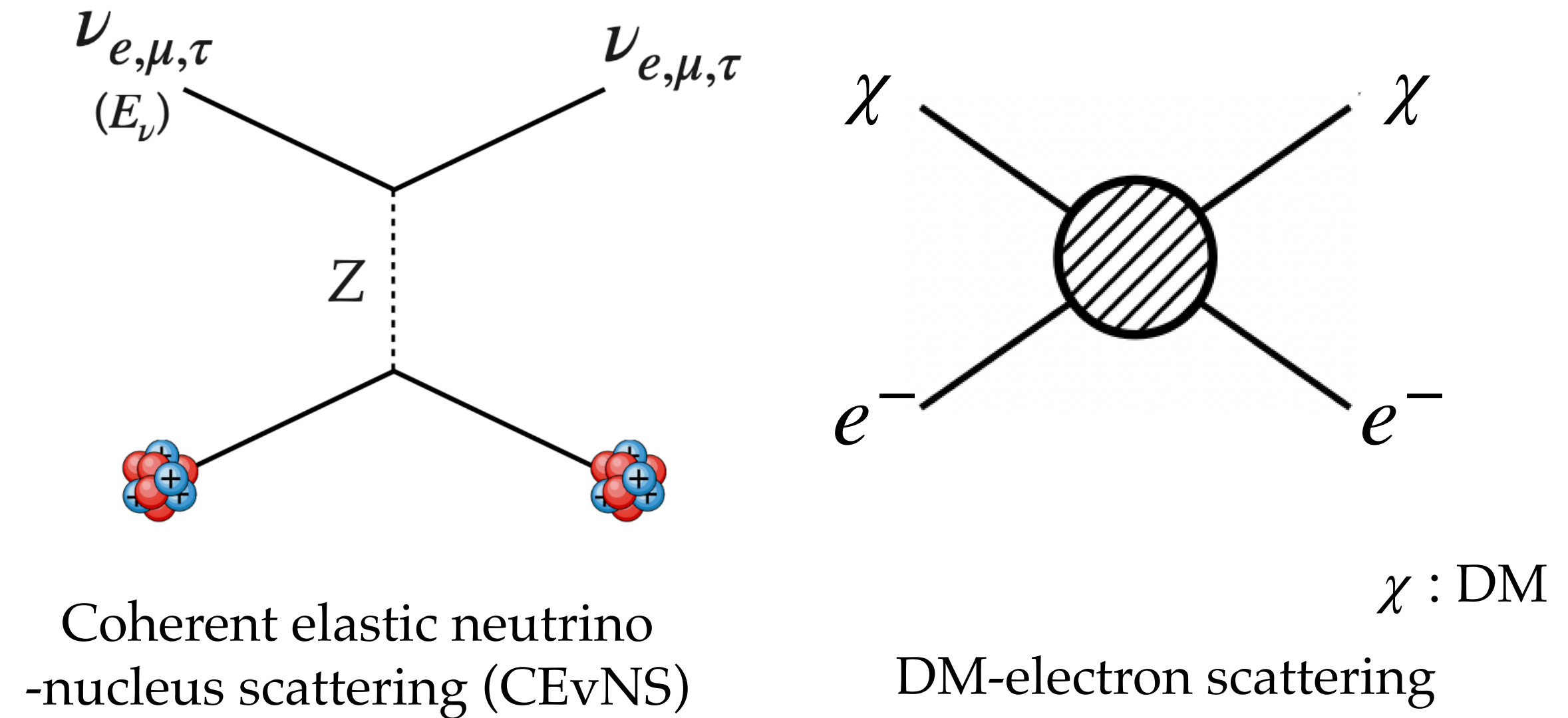
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Mainly the Solar neutrinos



## Why are they problematic?



Neutrinos may mimic DM-like signal

Atmospheric and DSNB are subdominant

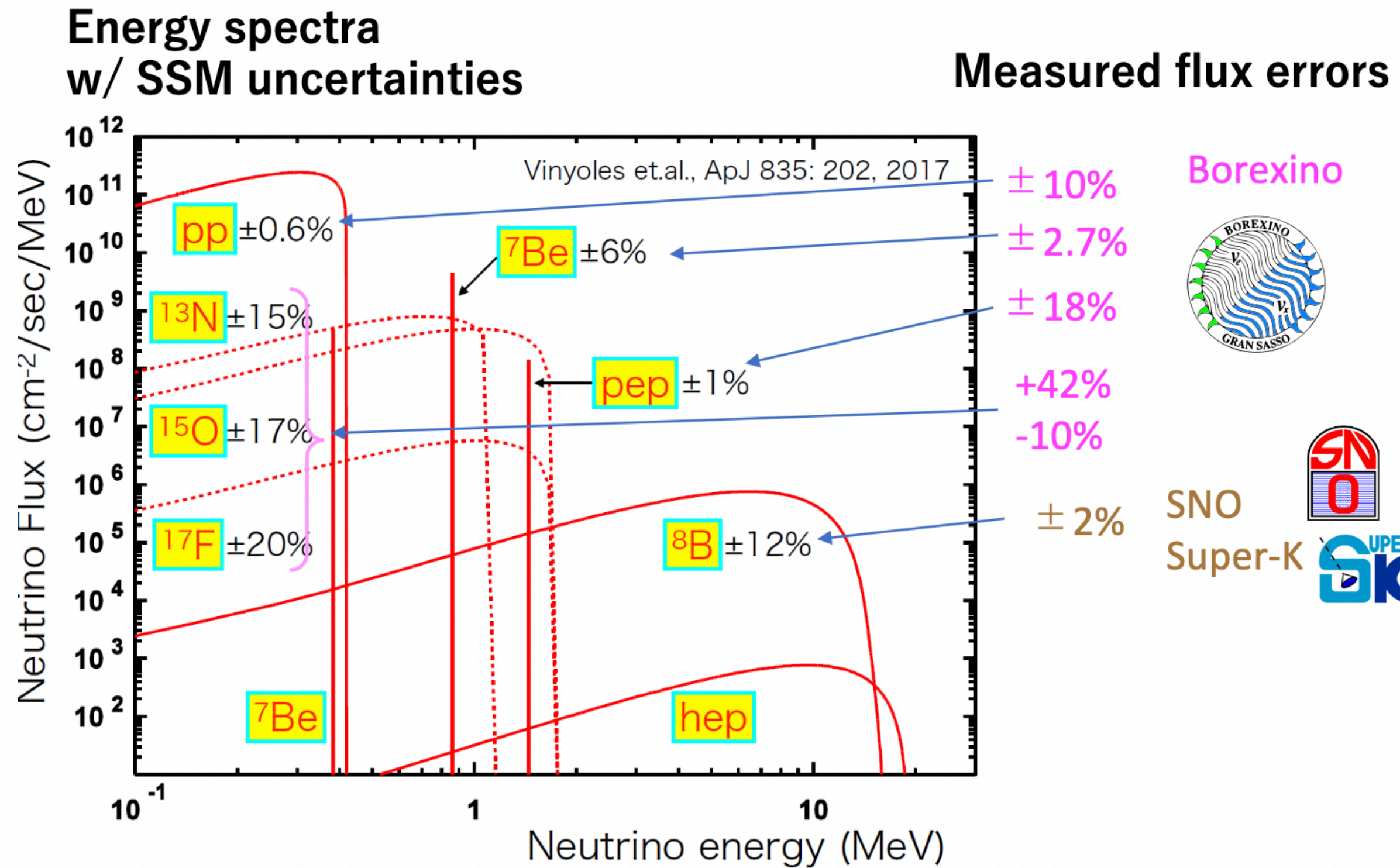
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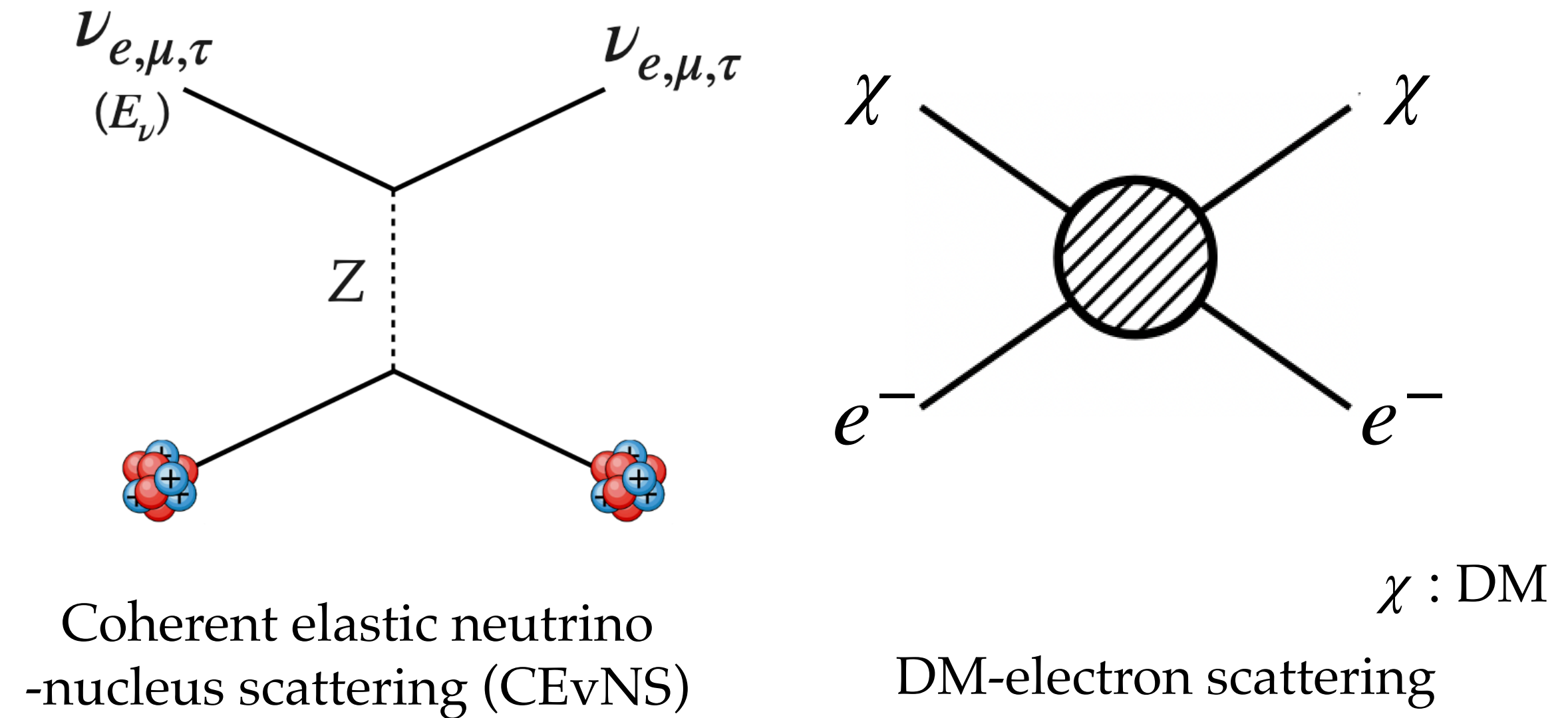
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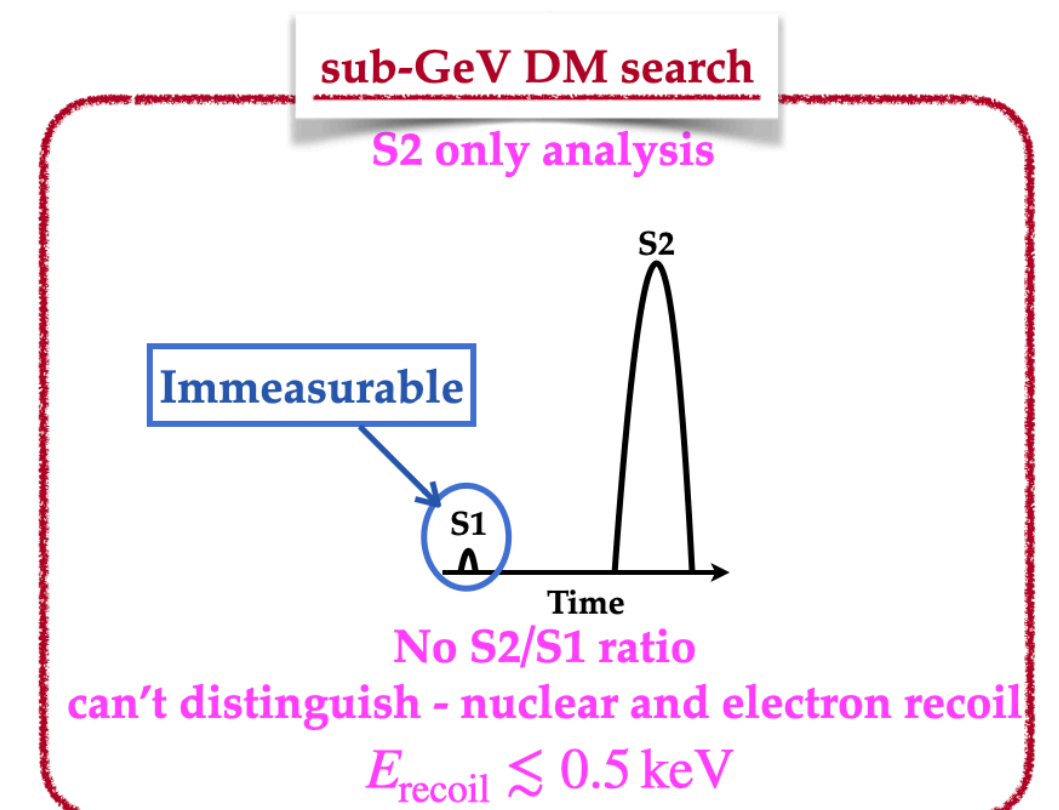
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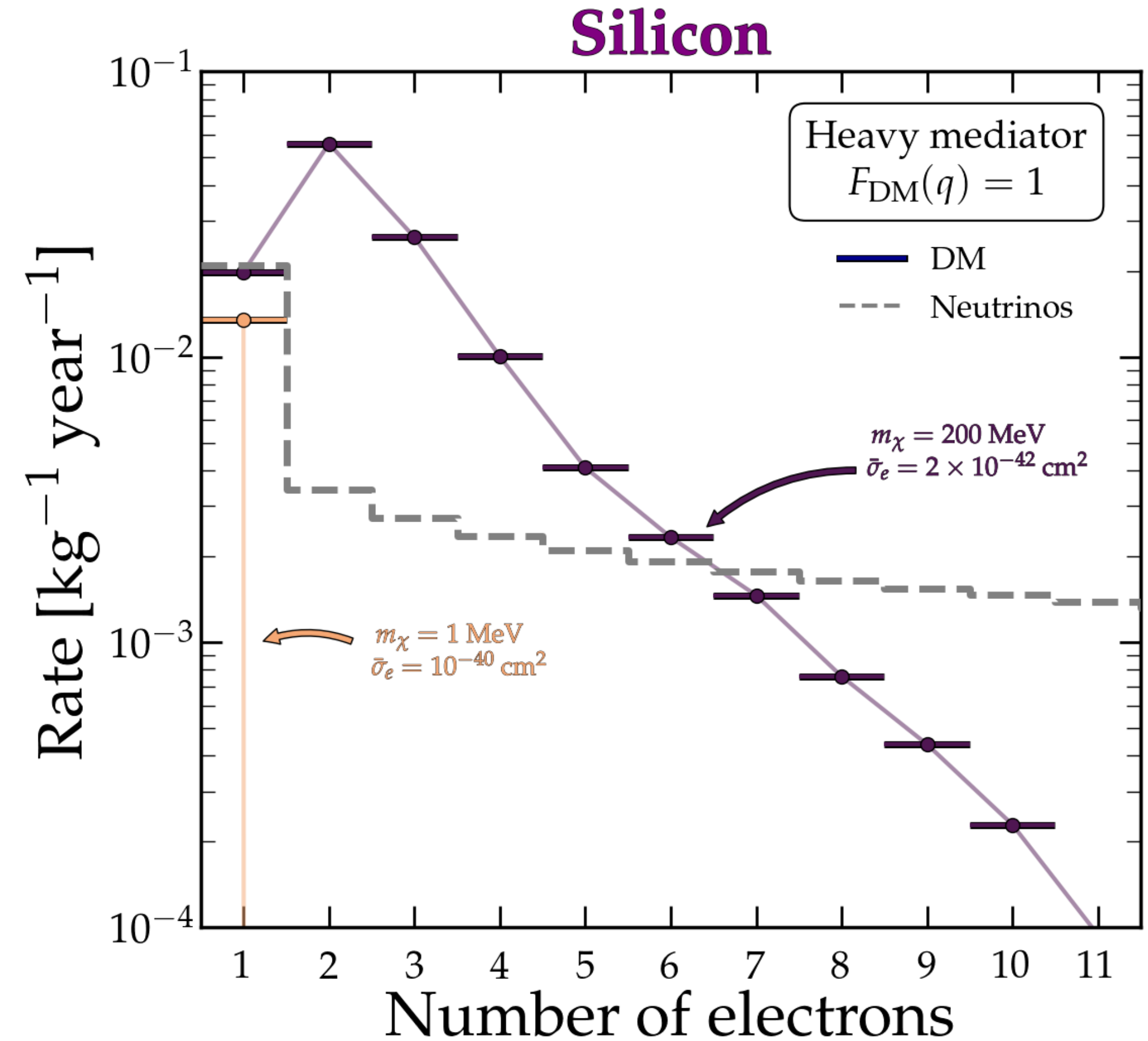
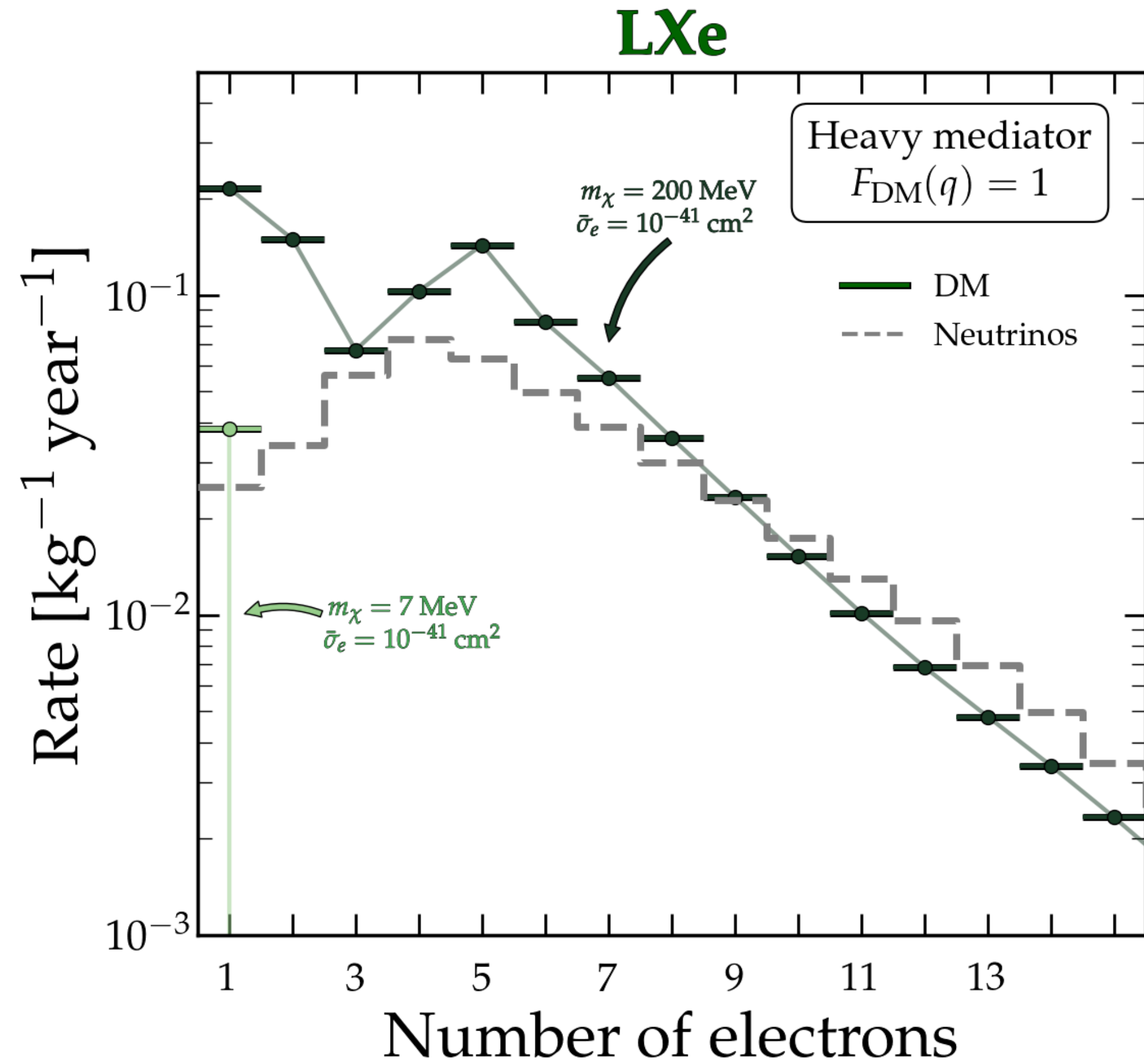
\* Ionisation produce from nuclear recoil can be misidentified as electron recoil

Sekiya TAUP 2023  
Borexino Nature (2018)  
SNO nucl-ex/0204008  
Bergstrom+ 1601.00972

Essig+ 1801.10159  
Wyenberg+ 1803.08146

# Where do neutrinos show up?

## Event rate



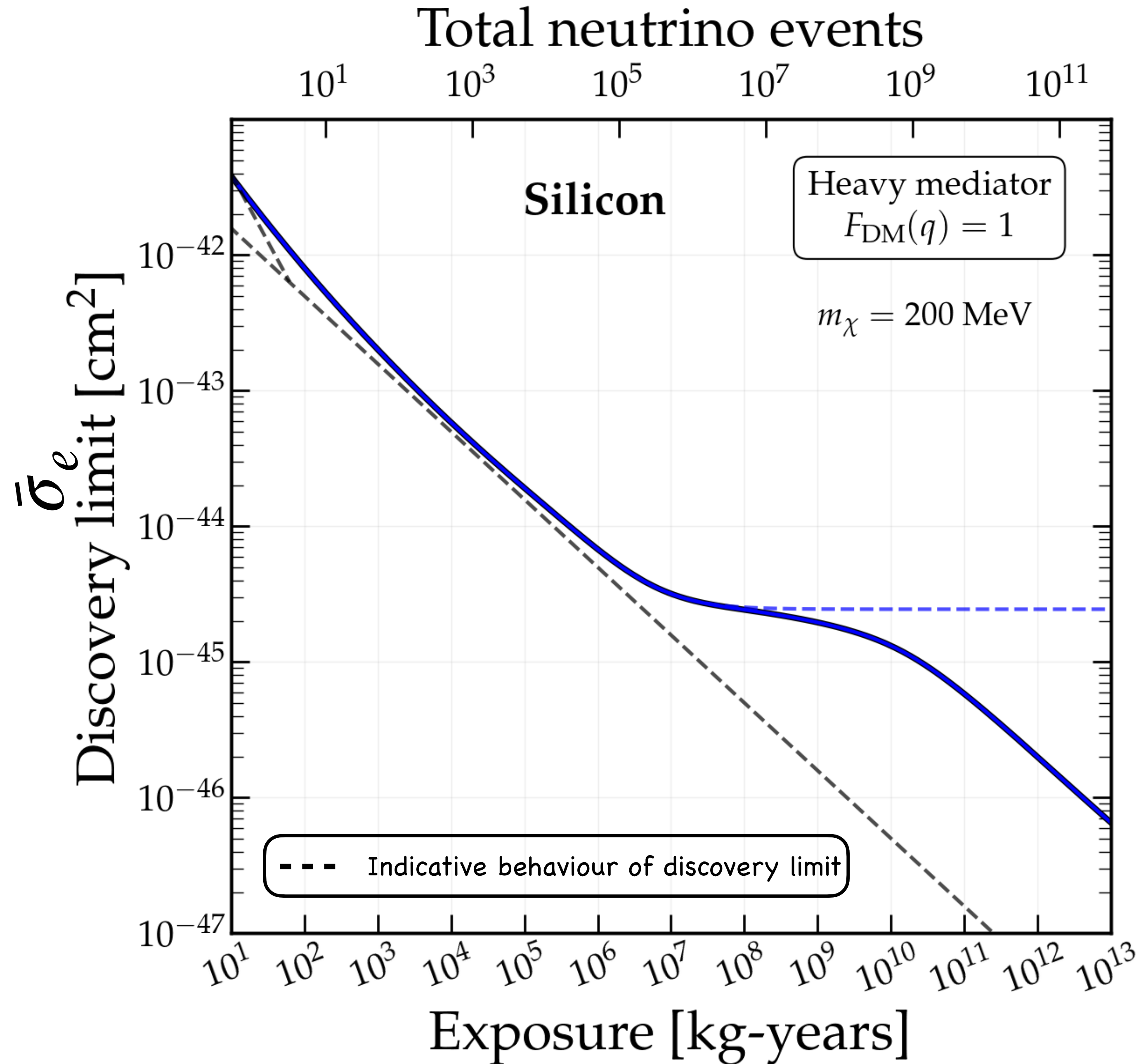
Knapen+, *DarKEFL*, 2104.12786

Essig+, *QEdark*, 1509.01598

Canddell+, 2305.05125

Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

# Where do neutrinos show up?

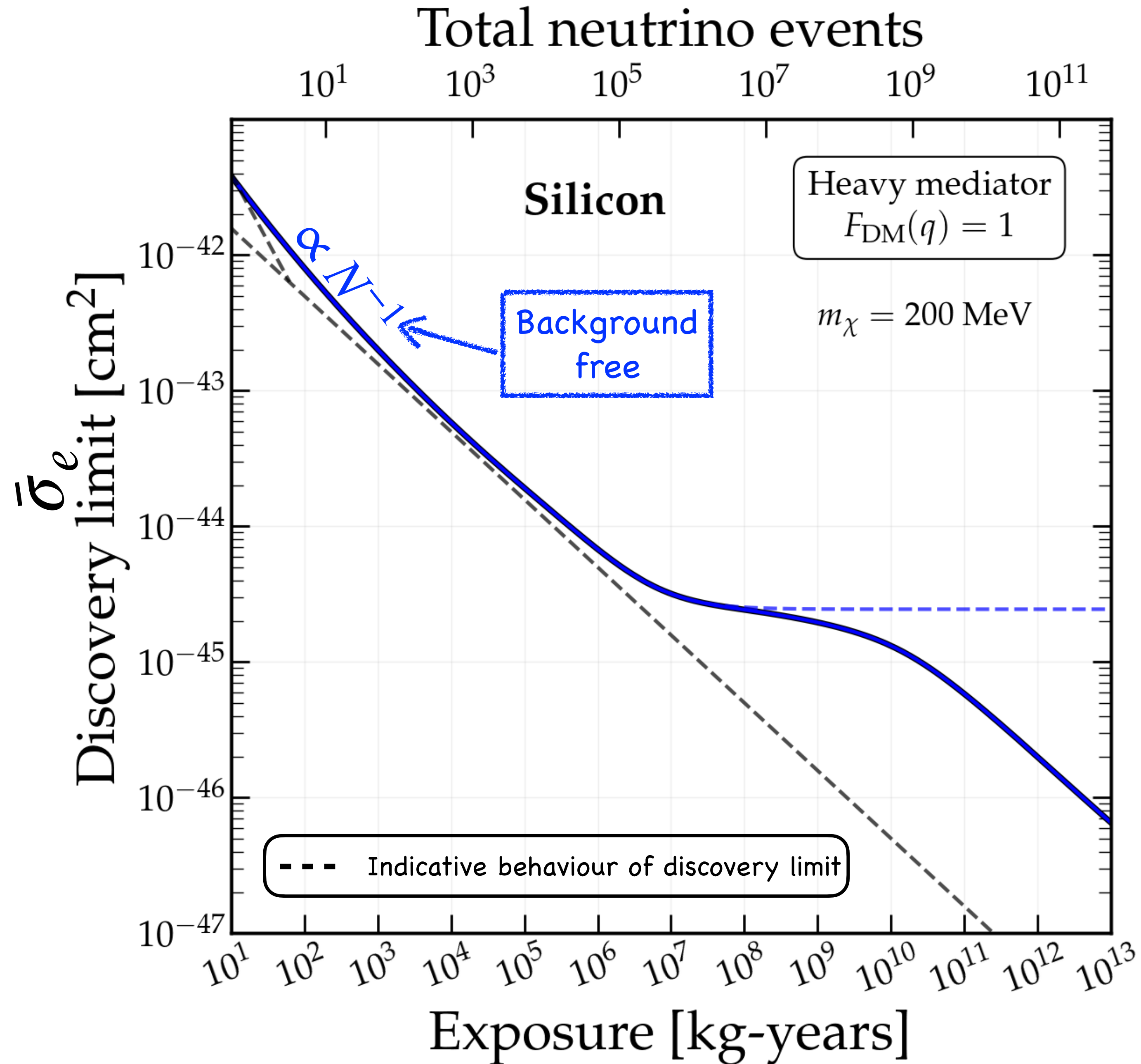


$N$ : Exposure/no of background neutrino events

$\delta\phi$ : Uncertainty in the neutrino flux

Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

# Where do neutrinos show up?

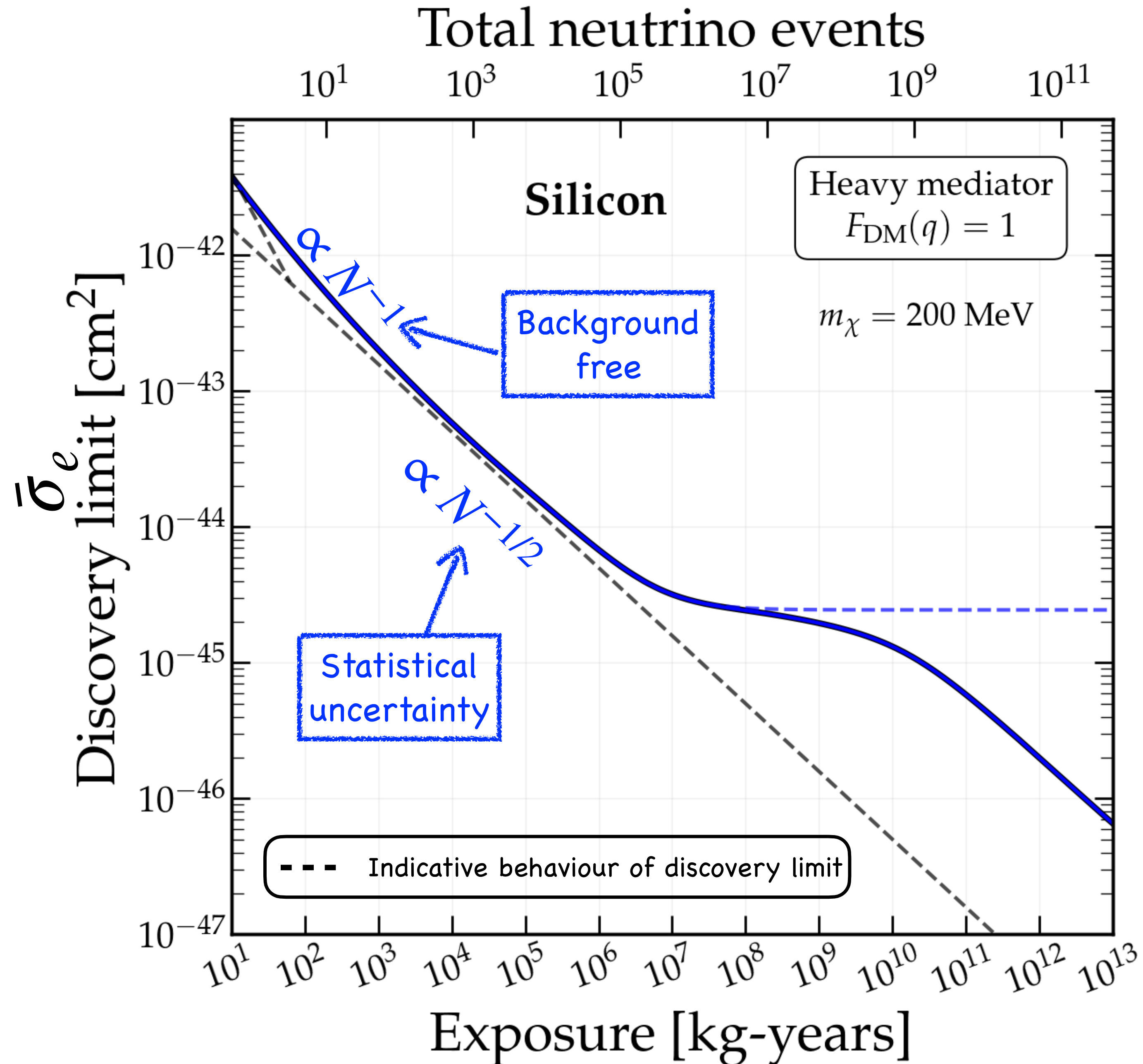


$N$ : Exposure/no of background neutrino events

$\delta\phi$ : Uncertainty in the neutrino flux

Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

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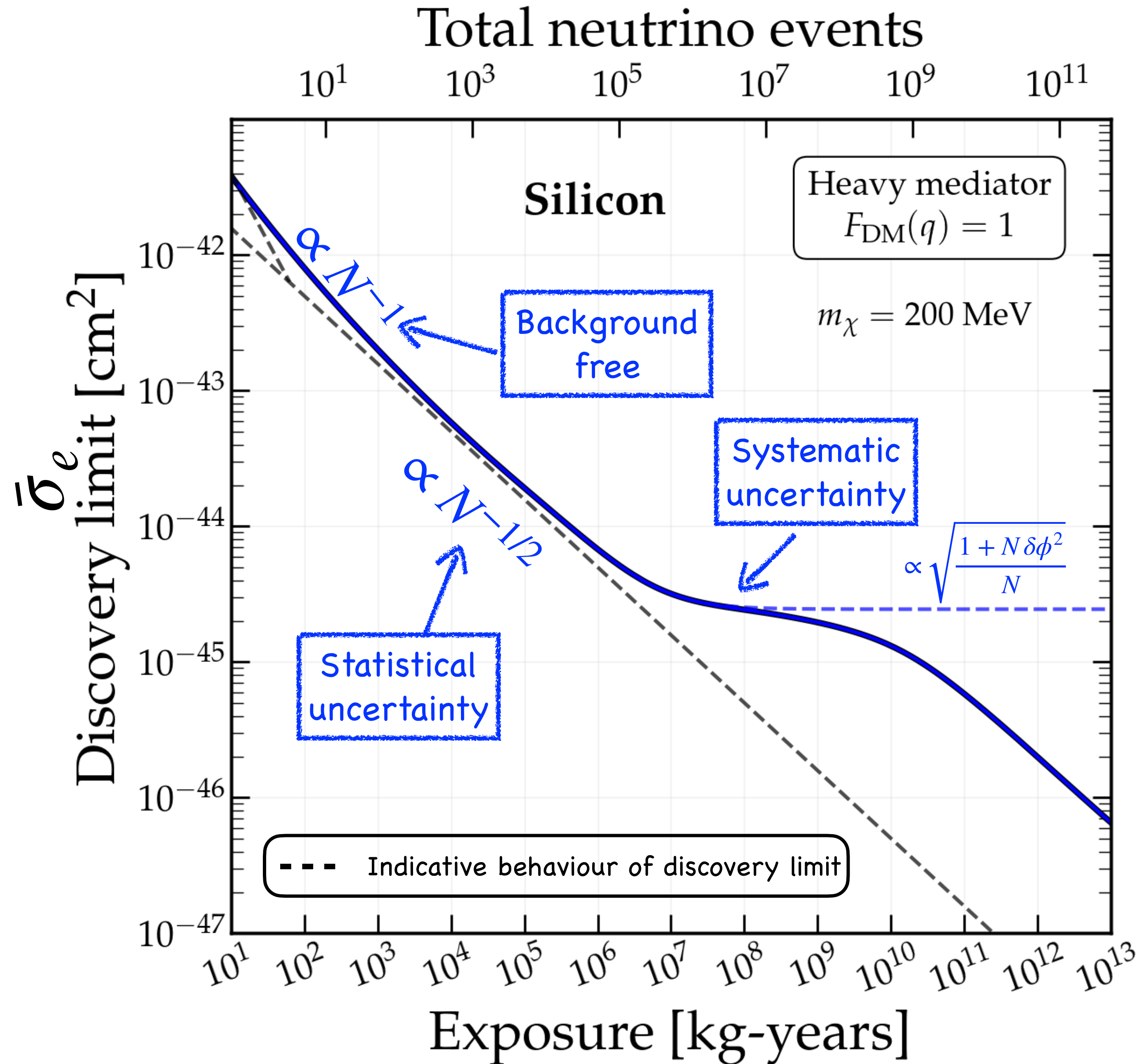


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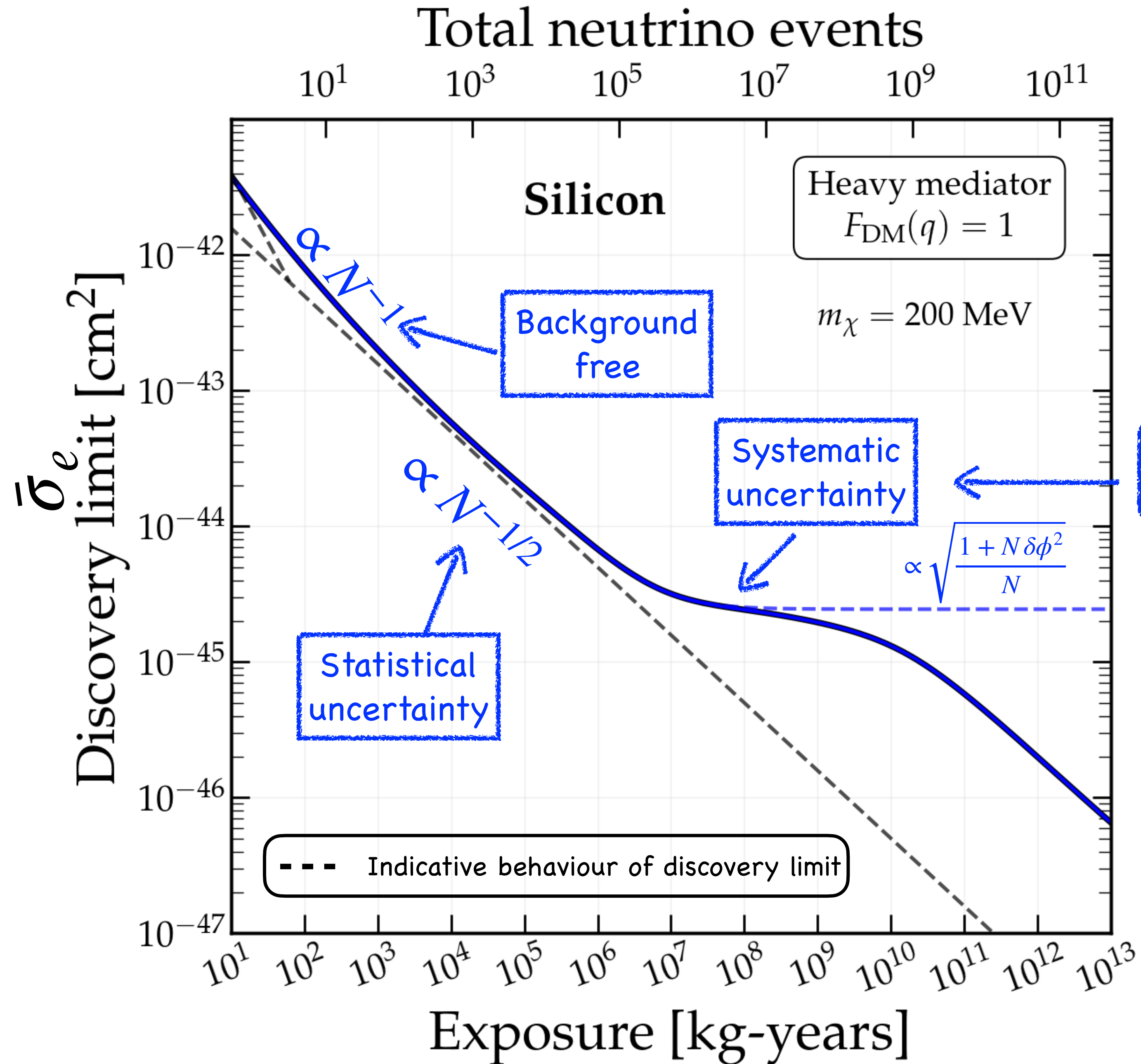


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Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

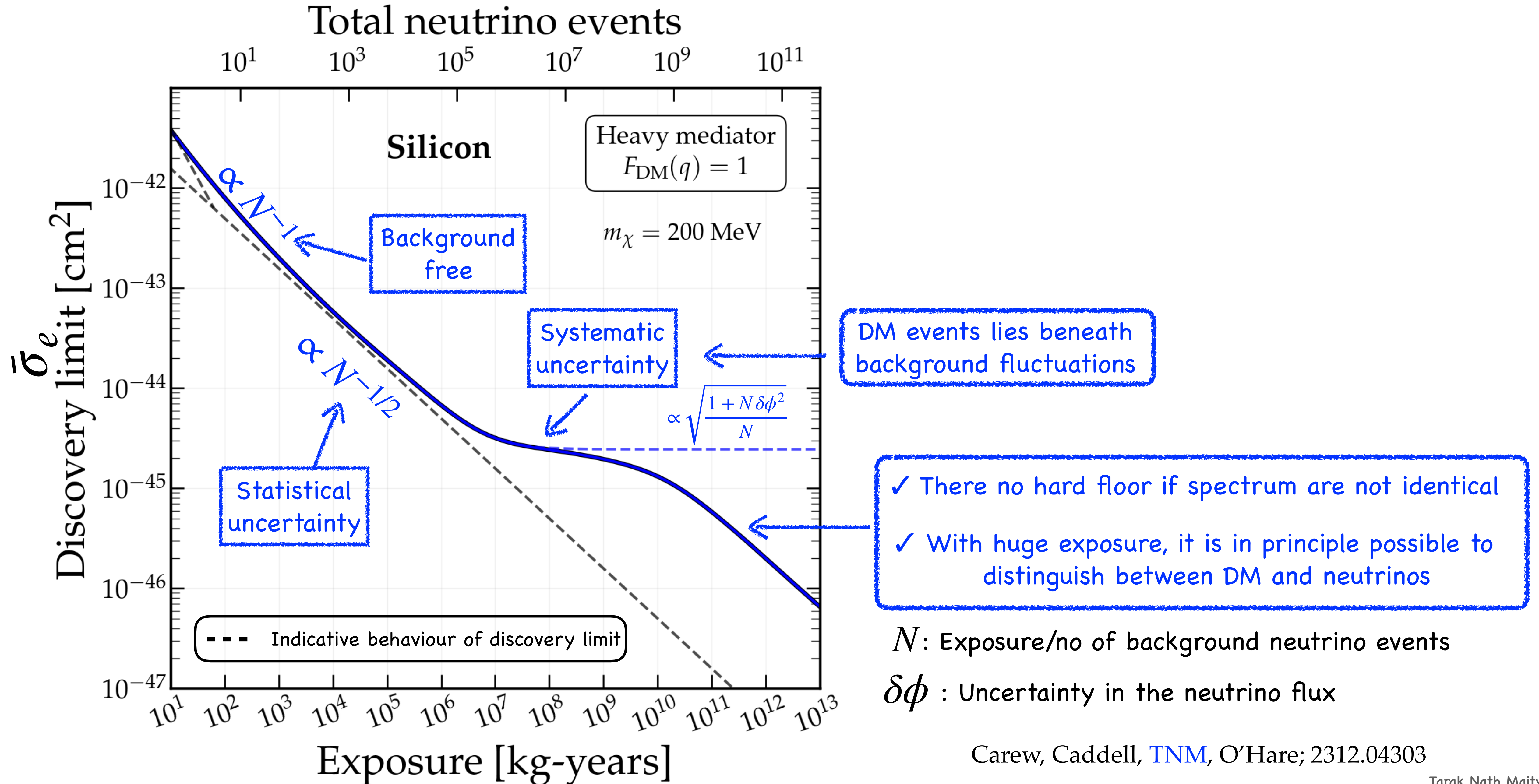
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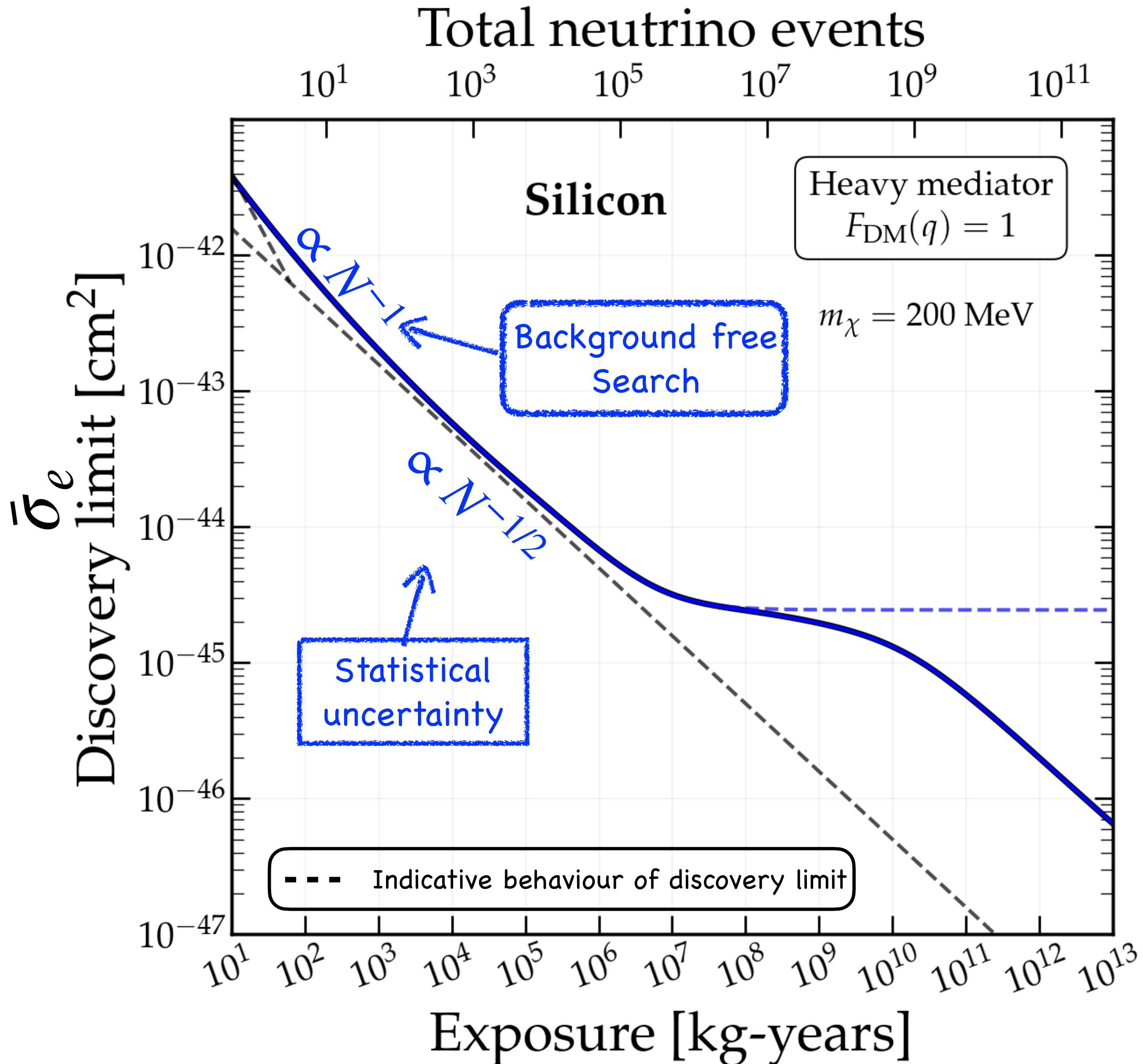
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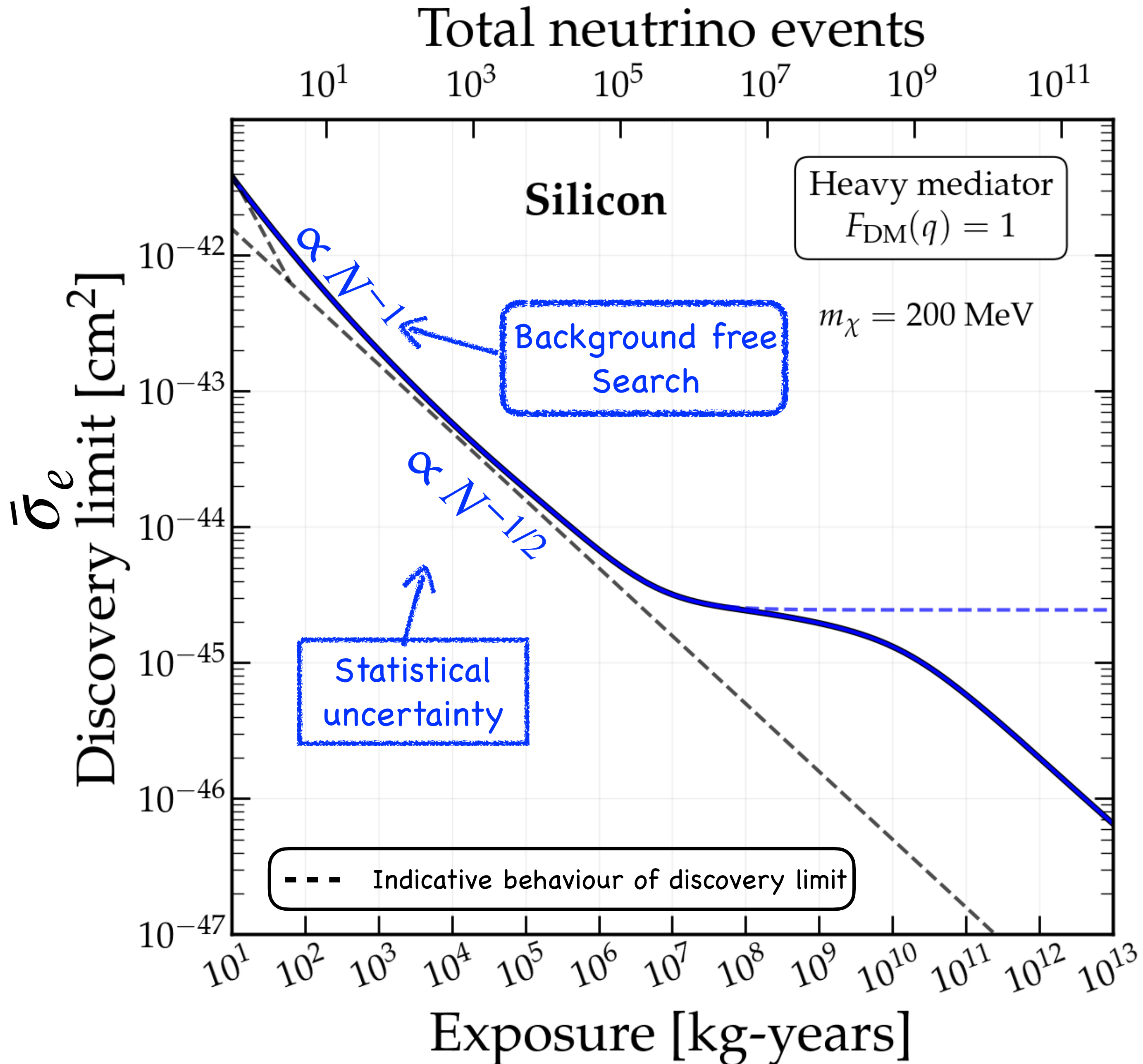
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Note: "floor" may not be hard

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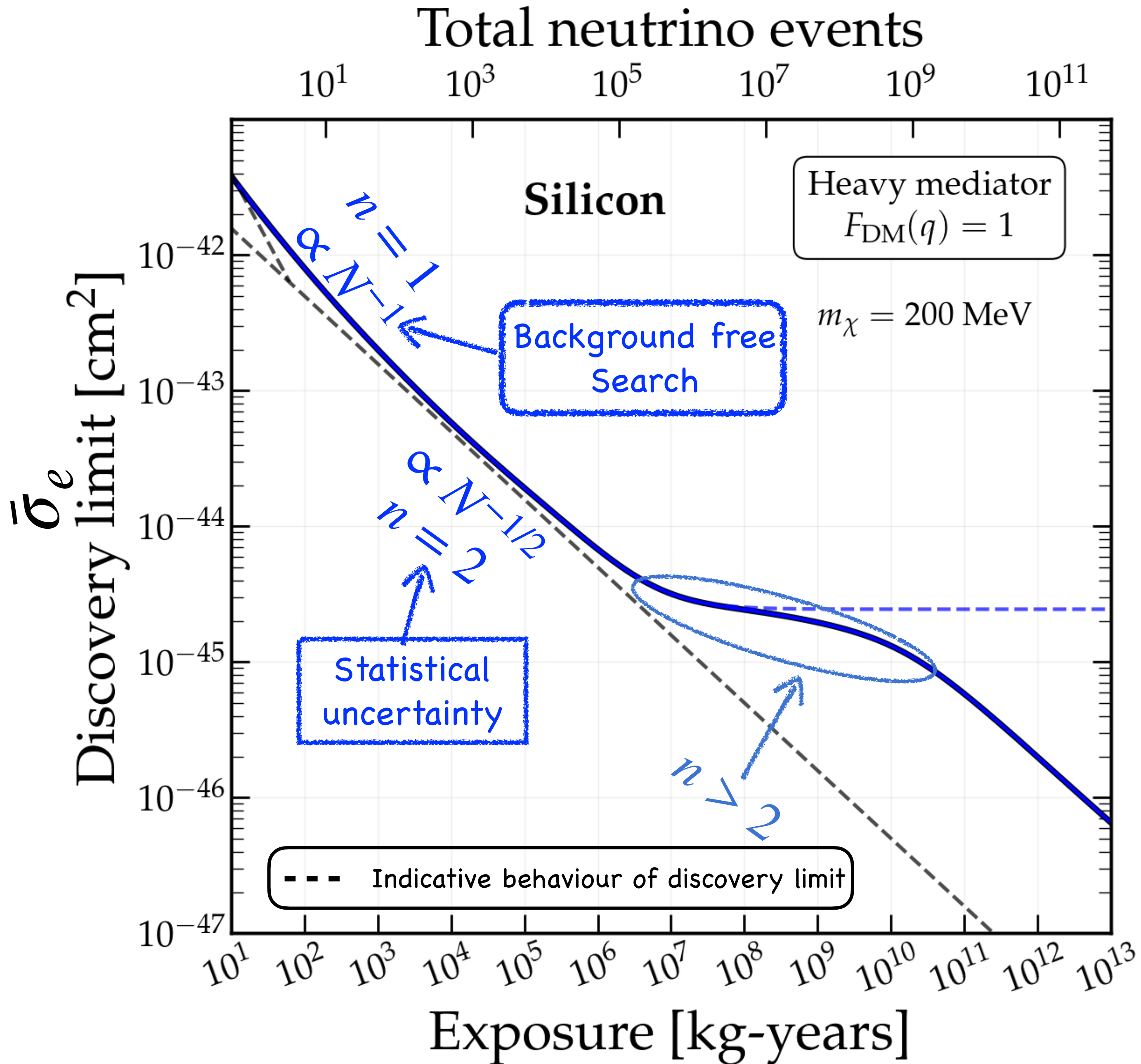
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Define: Gradient of the discovery limit

O'Hare 2109.03116

$$n = - \left( \frac{d \ln \bar{\sigma}_e}{d \ln N} \right)^{-1} \quad N: \text{Exposure}$$

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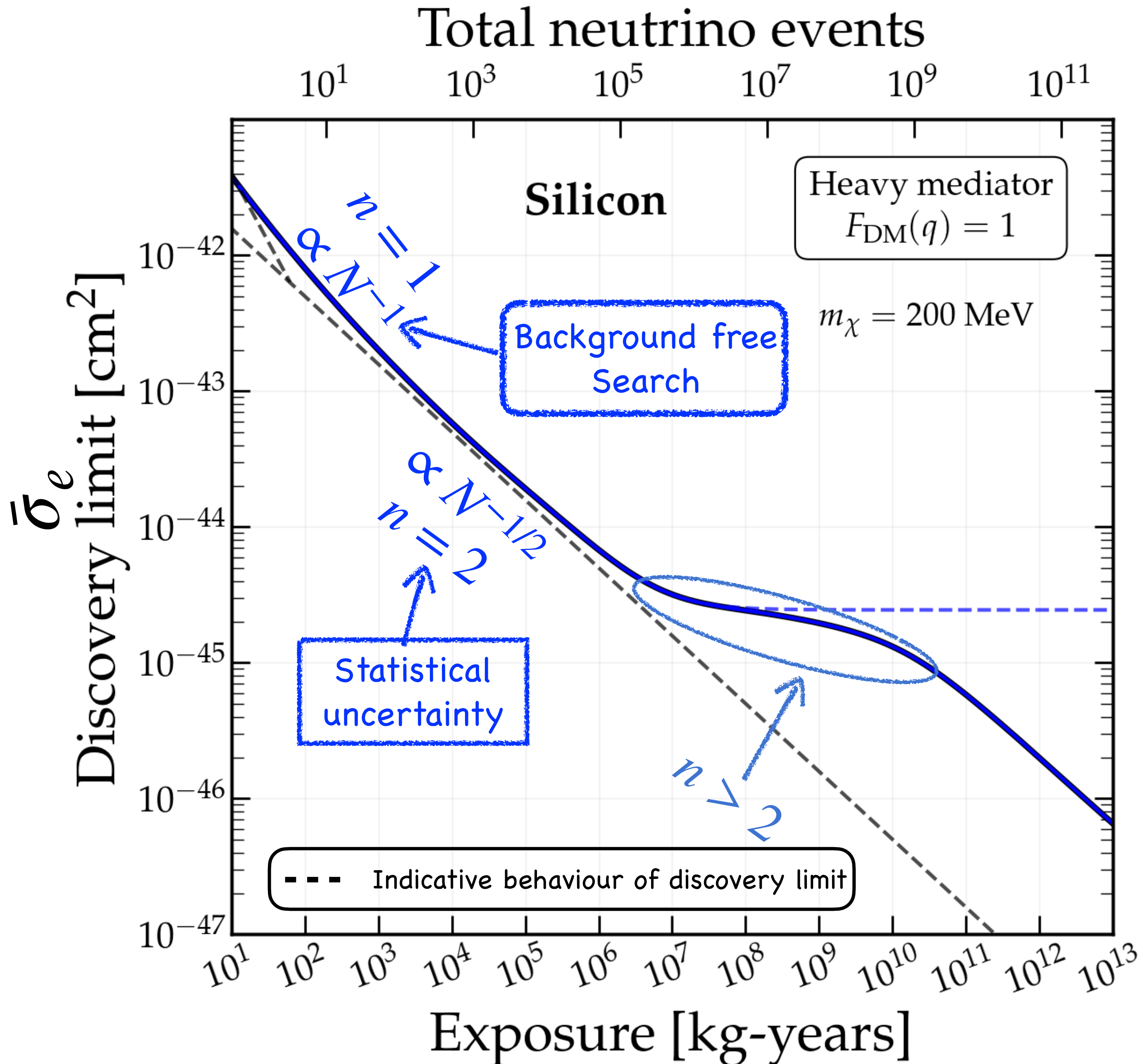
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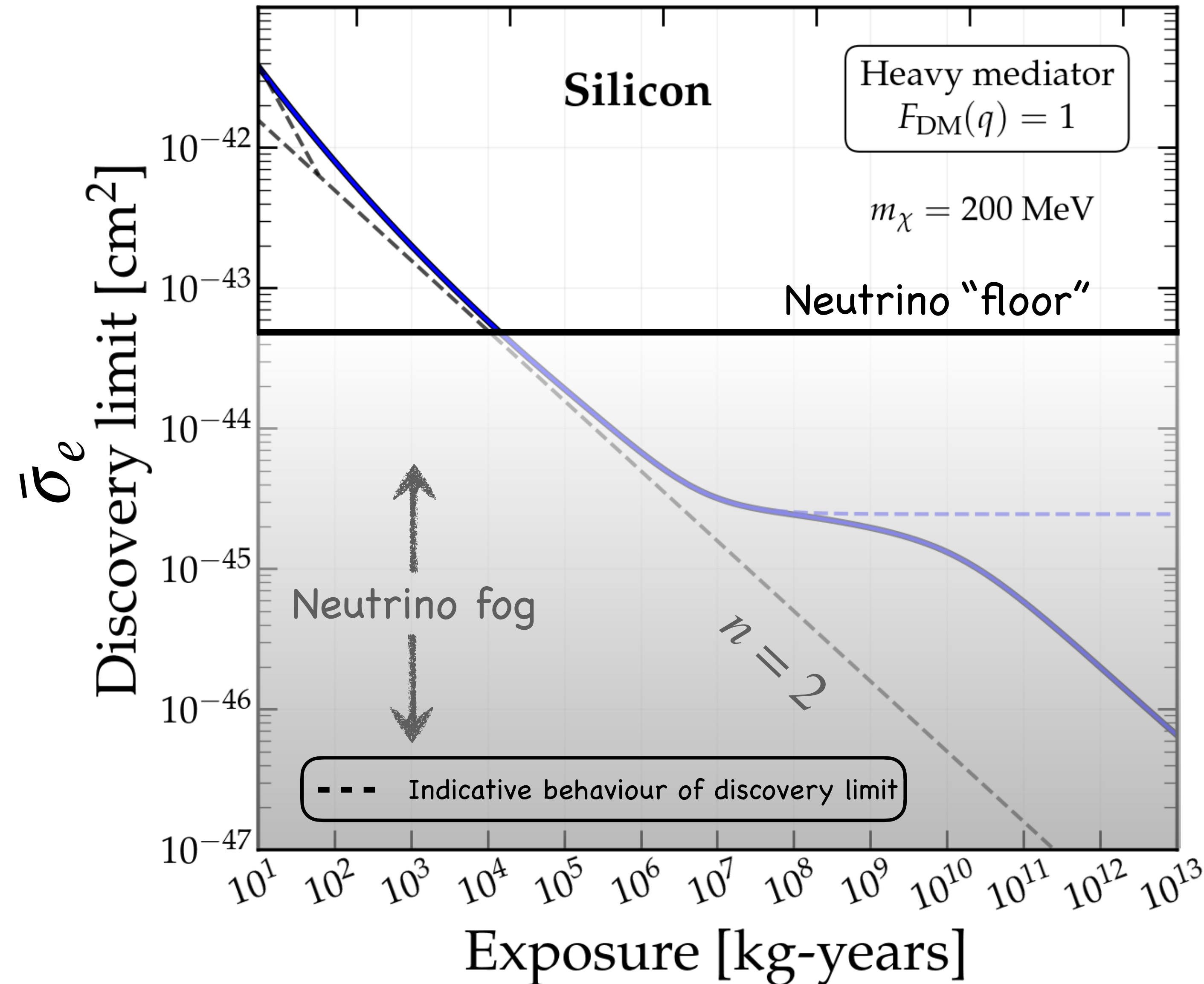


♣ As below that cross section, the discovery limit never scales better than the Poisson

# Neutrino fog for DM-electron scattering

Total neutrino events

$10^1$   $10^3$   $10^5$   $10^7$   $10^9$   $10^{11}$



How to calculate the neutrino "floor"?

Note: "floor" may not be hard

Define: Gradient of the discovery limit

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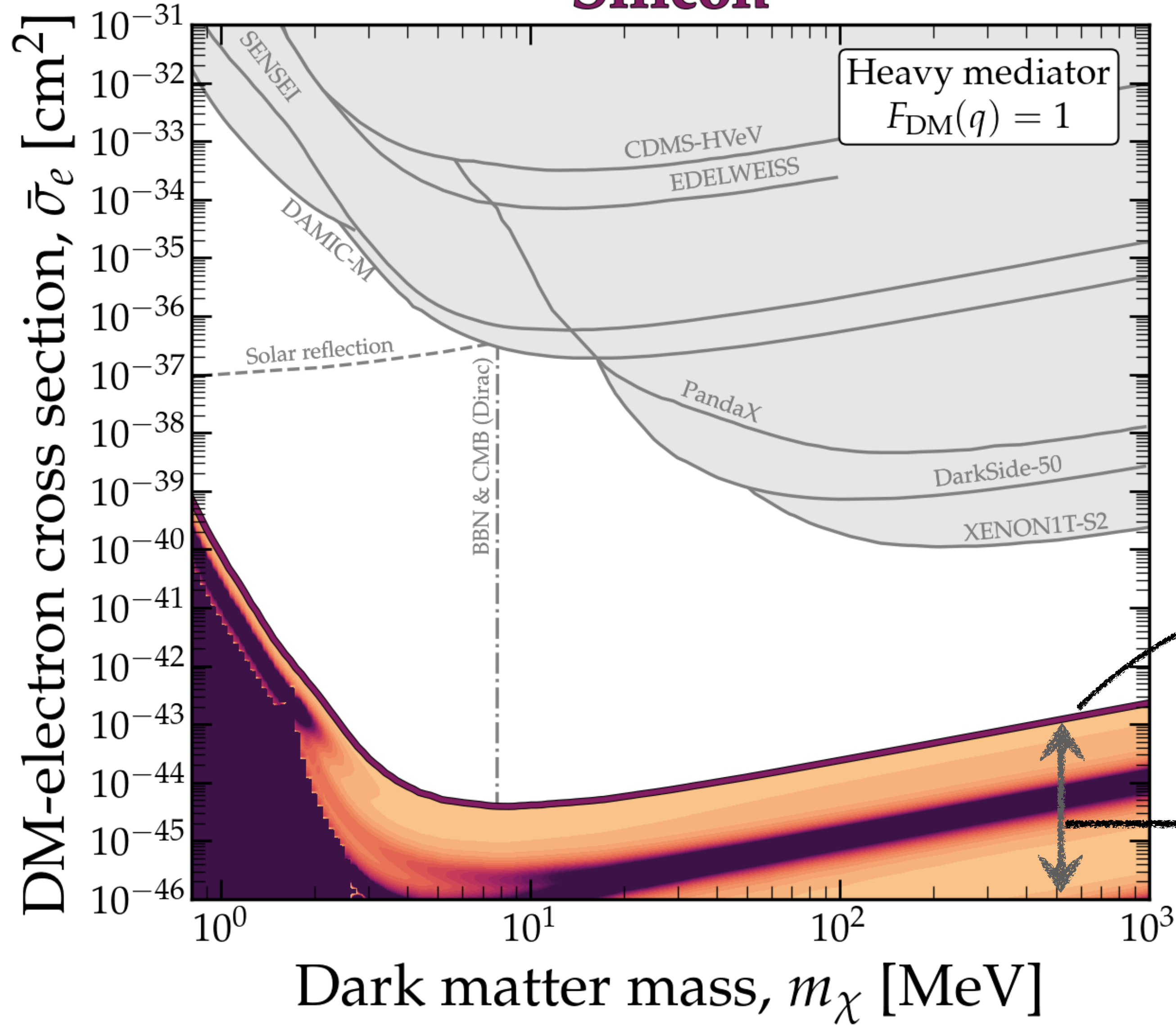
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# Neutrino fog

**Silicon**



Visual guide to neutrino "floor"

Neutrino fog

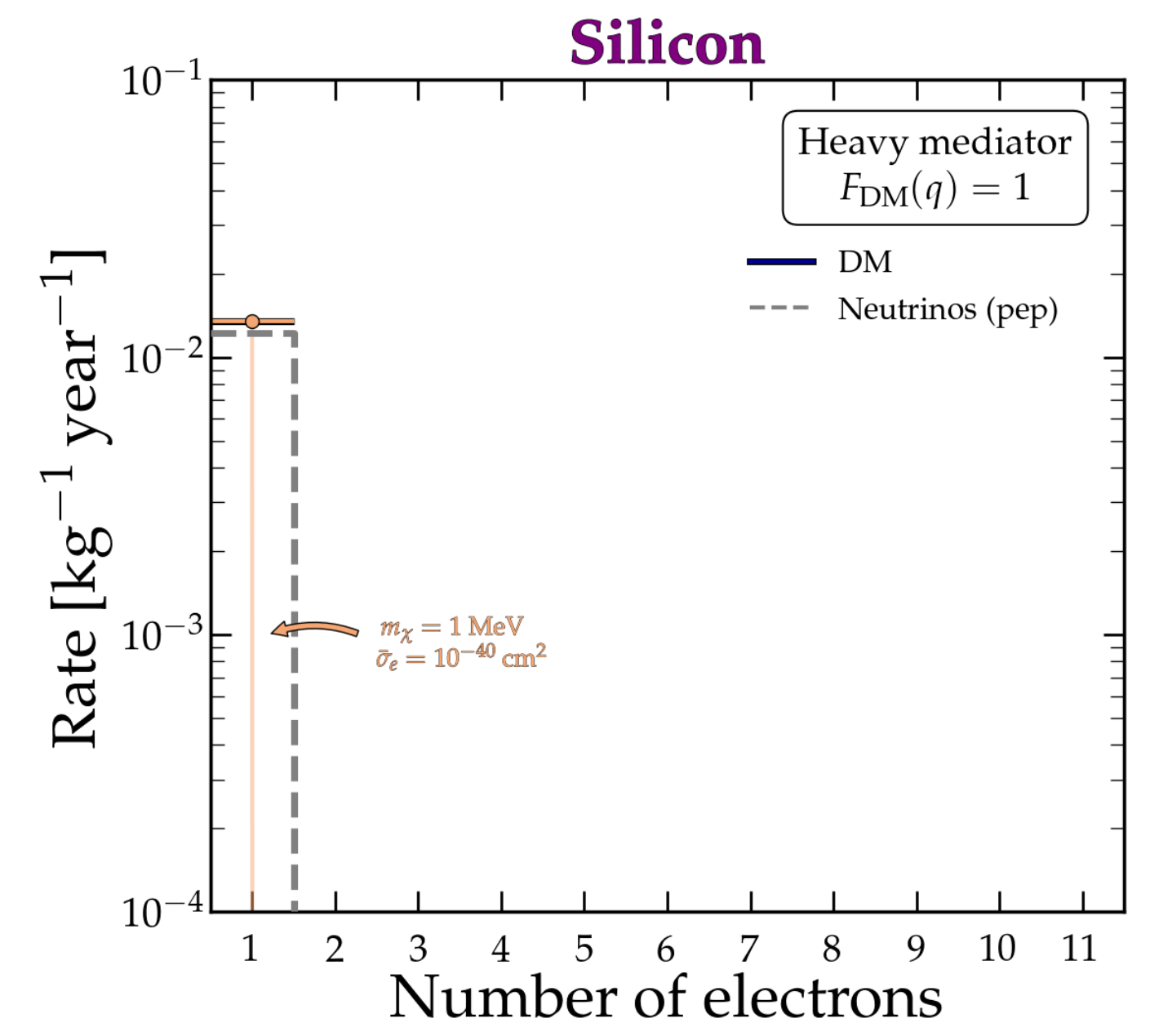
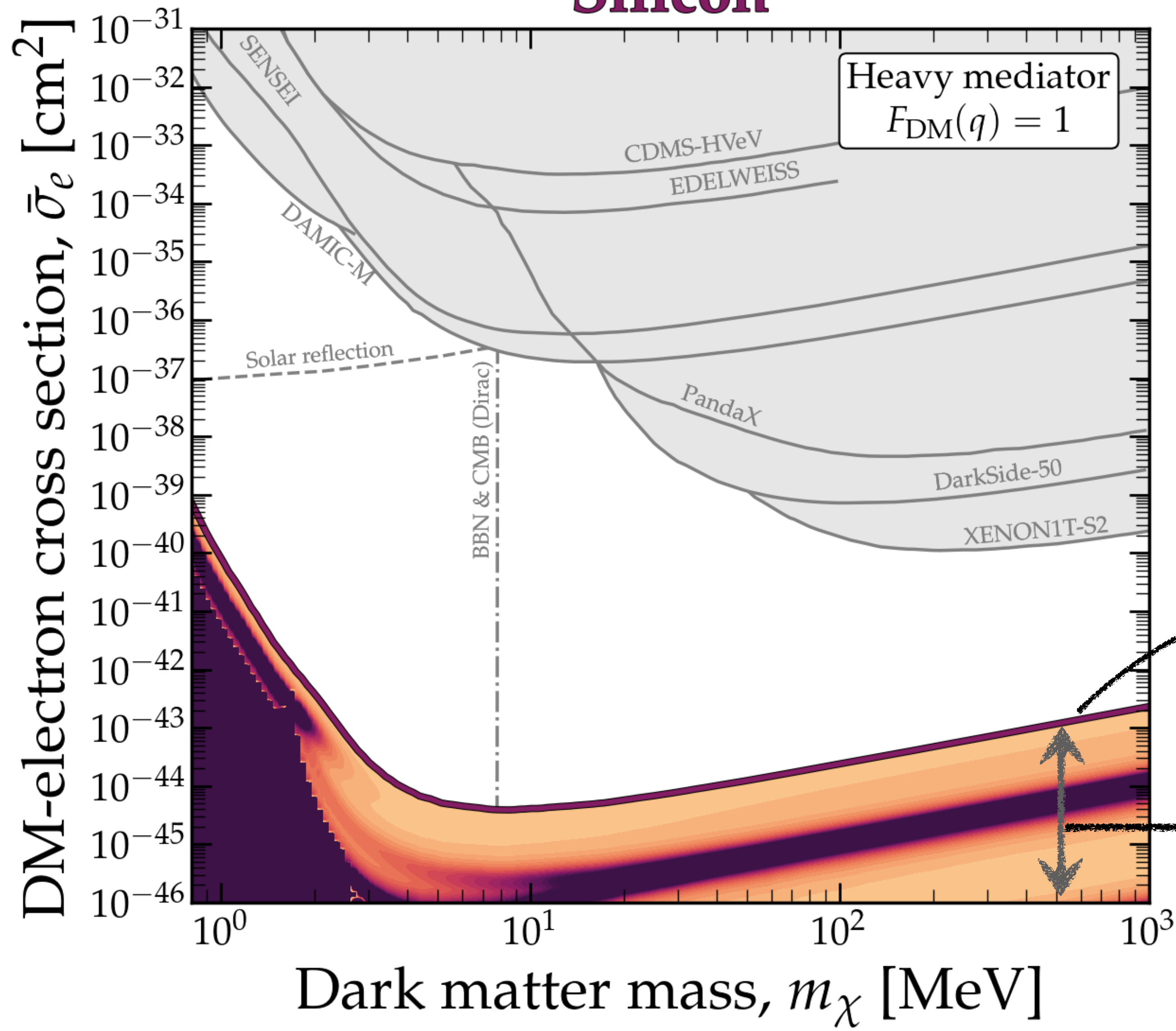
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Darker colour : more spectral degeneracy between DM and neutrinos

Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

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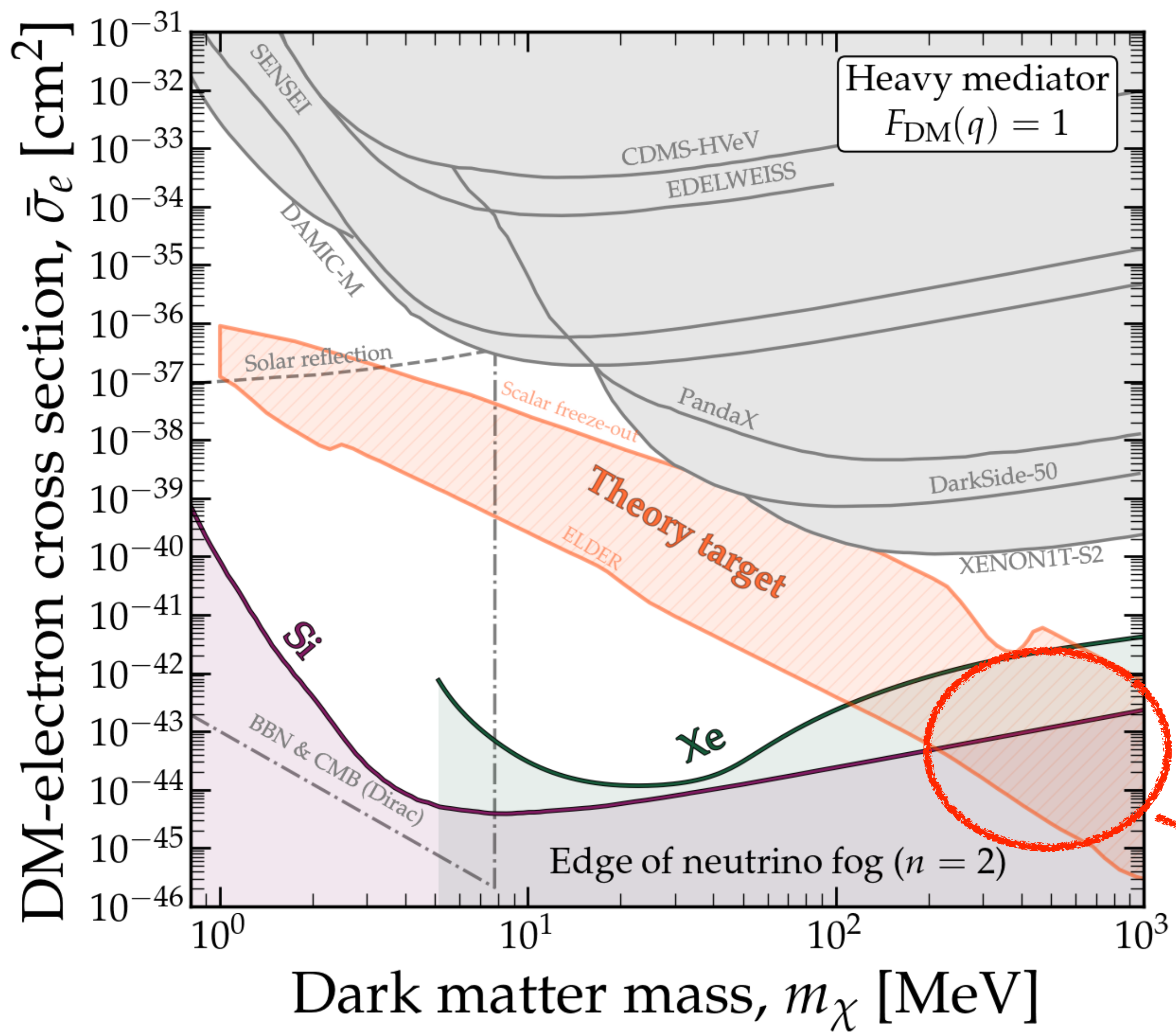
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# Neutrino "floor"



Theory target: regions where different DM freeze-out mechanism satisfy relic density

Kuflik+ 1512.04545  
 Snowmass 2203.08297  
 Essig+ 1509.01598

❖ For DM masses < 100 MeV neutrino floor is orders magnitude away from current bound

For probing this region neutrino would be an important background to tackle

Note: "floor" may not be hard



# What can we infer from these neutrinos?

Test **Standard Model** in **sub-MeV energy regime** with current neutrino events

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$$A^\mu = B_0^\mu \cos \theta_W + W_0^\mu \sin \theta_W$$

$$Z^\mu = W_0^\mu \cos \theta_W - B_0^\mu \sin \theta_W$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_W = \frac{g'^2}{g^2 + g'^2}$$

$g$  : SU(2)<sub>L</sub> gauge coupling

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Quantum correction



Running of weak mixing angle

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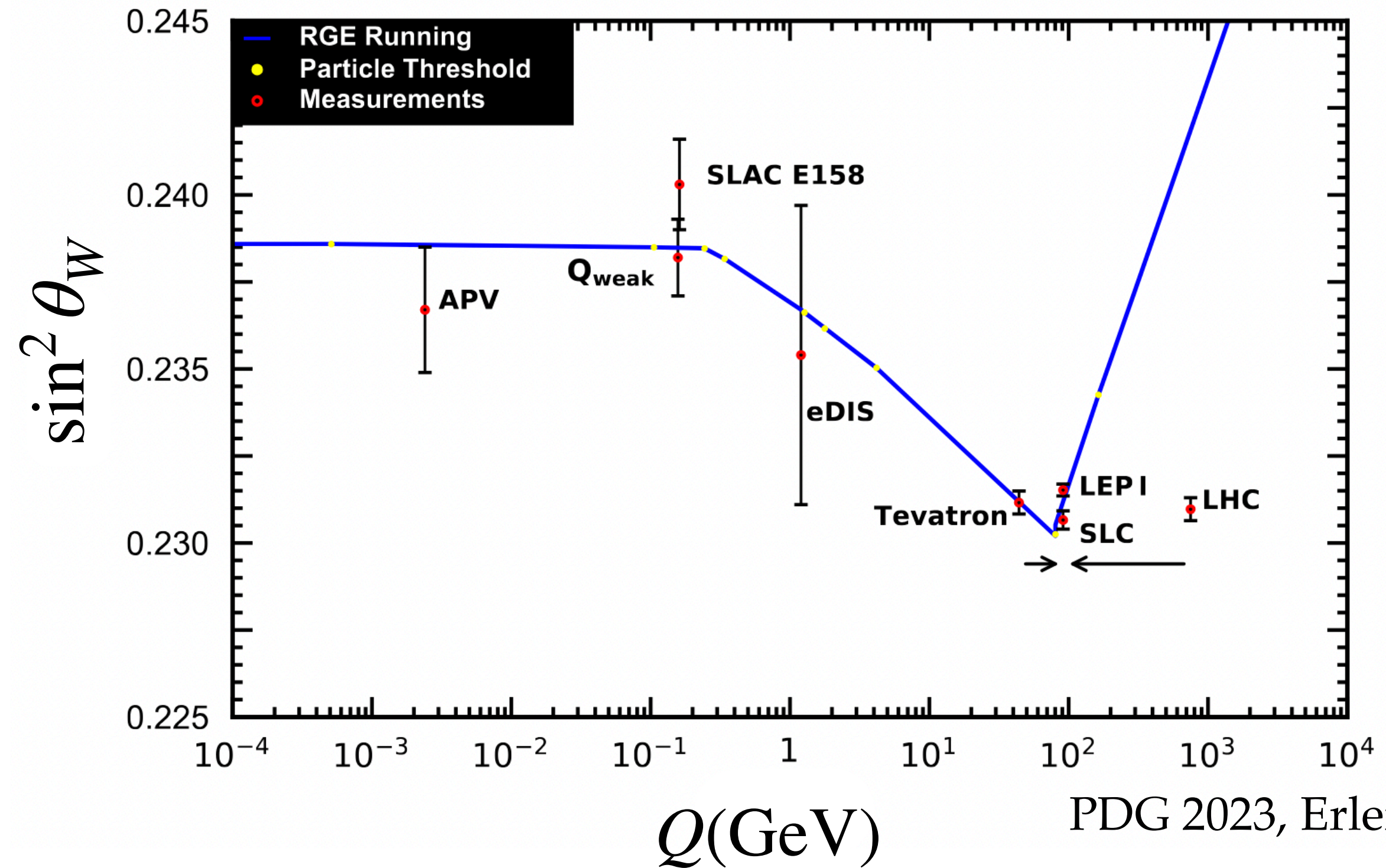
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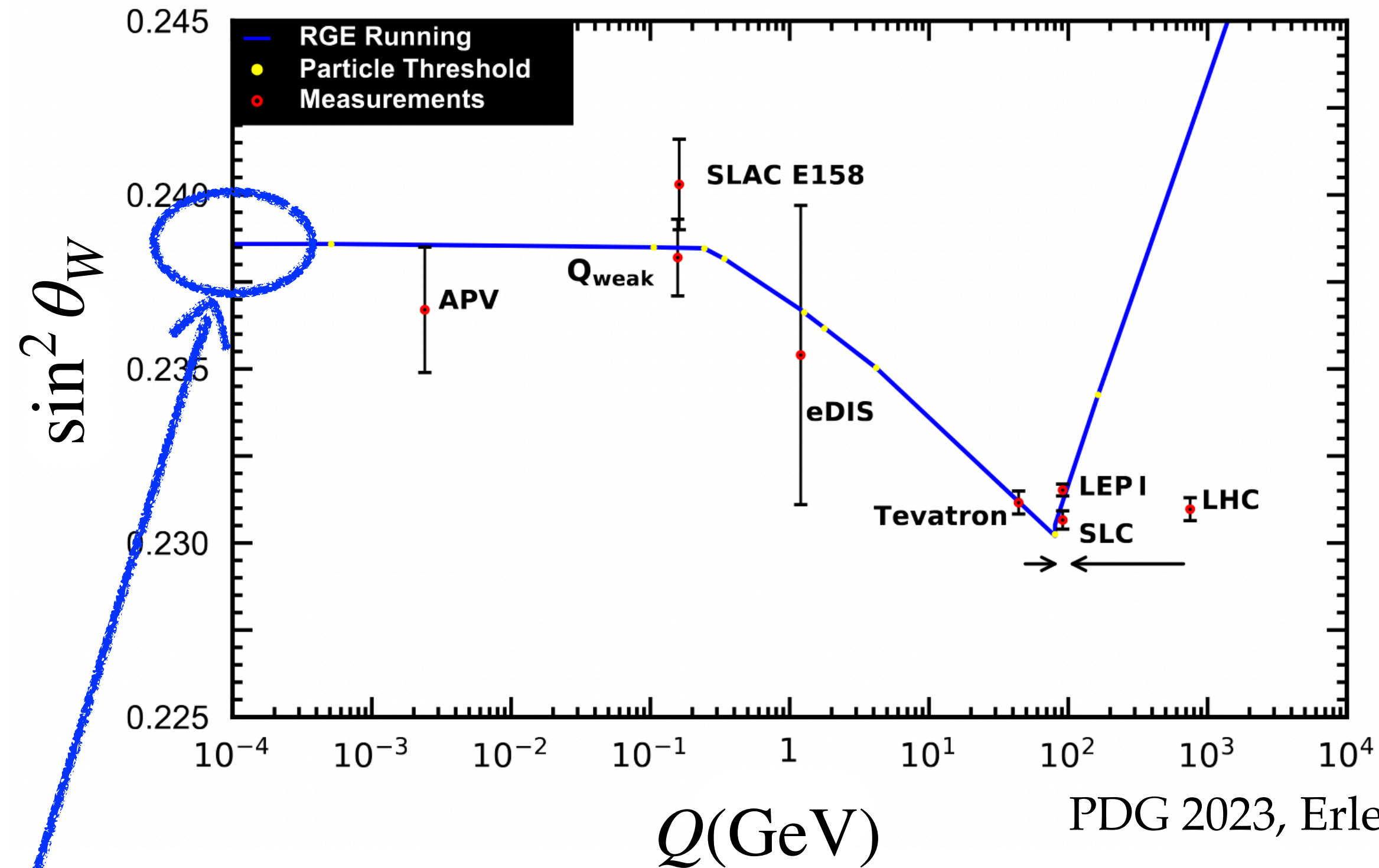
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Running of weak mixing angle



direct detection experiments  
can measure here

TNM, Boehm; 2409.04385

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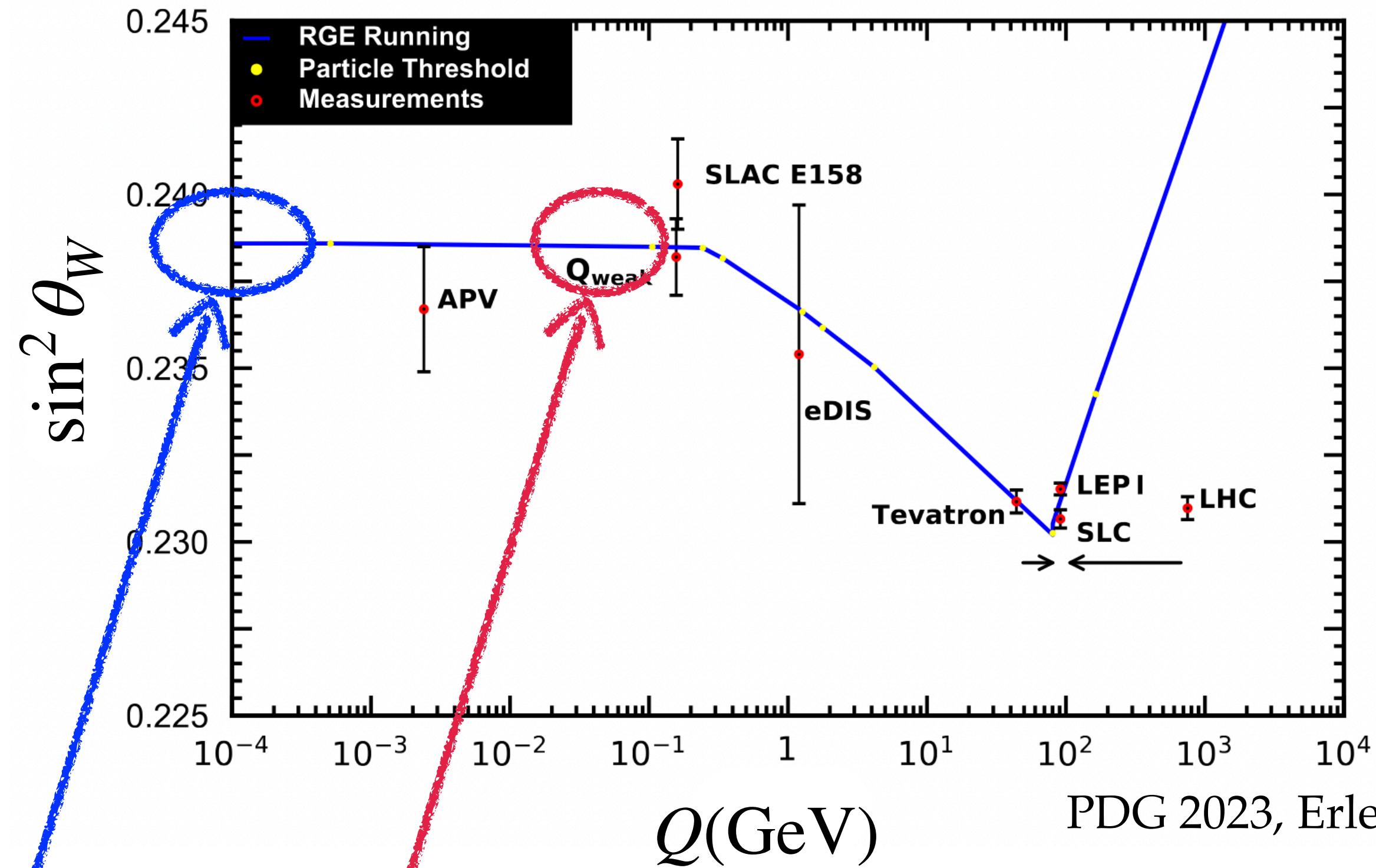
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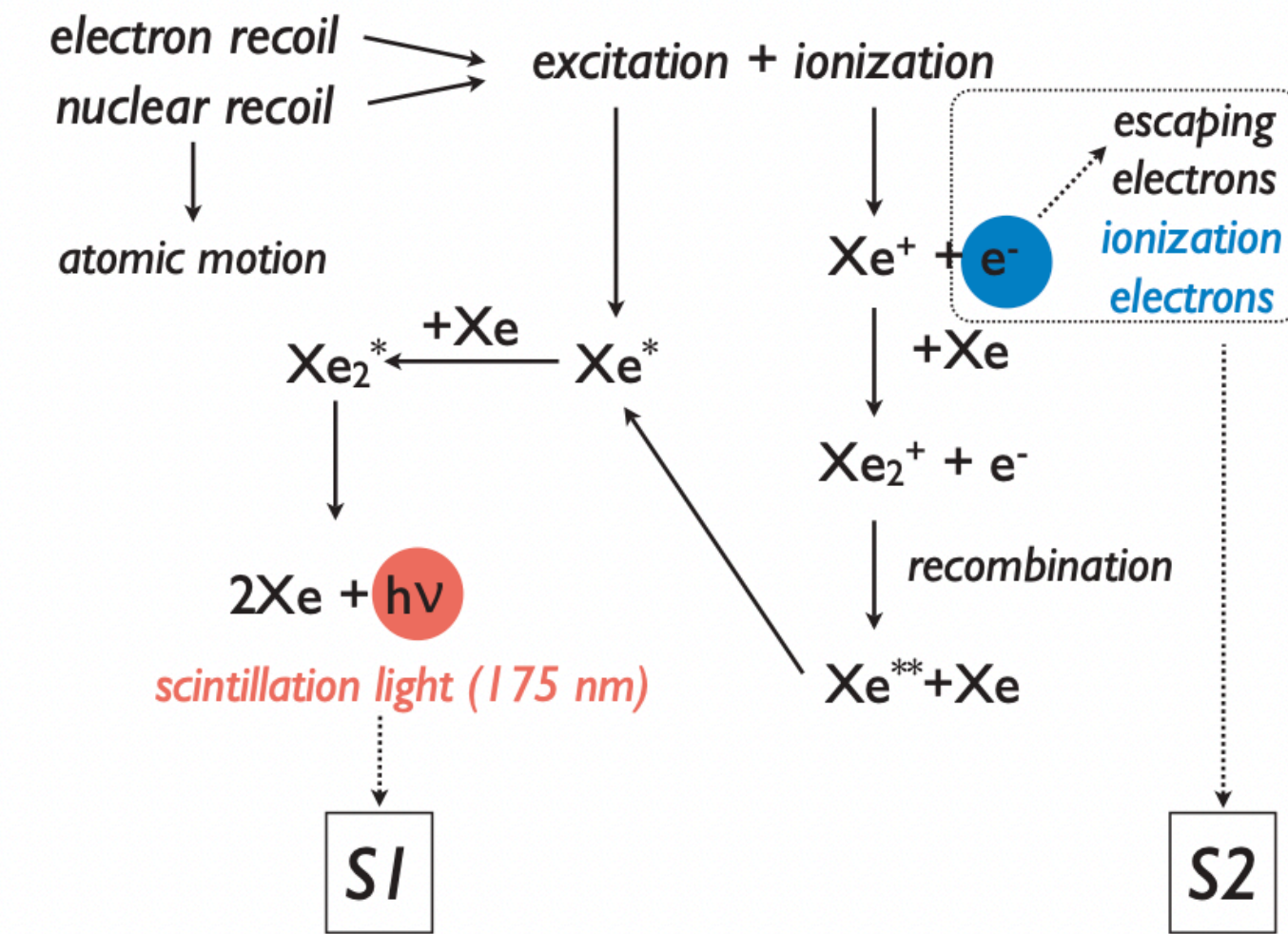
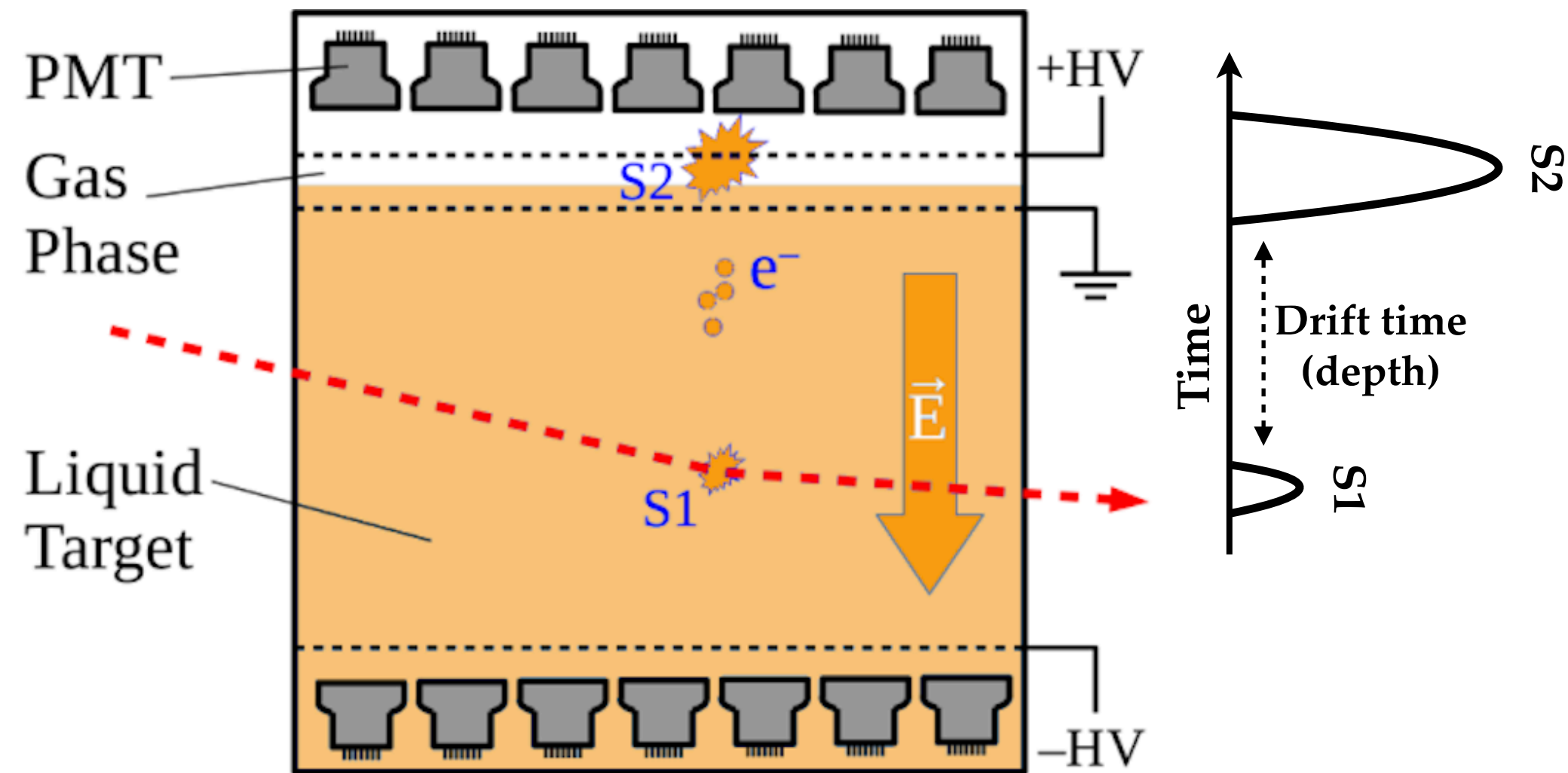


PDG 2023, Erler+ 1712.09146

TNM, Boehm; 2409.04385

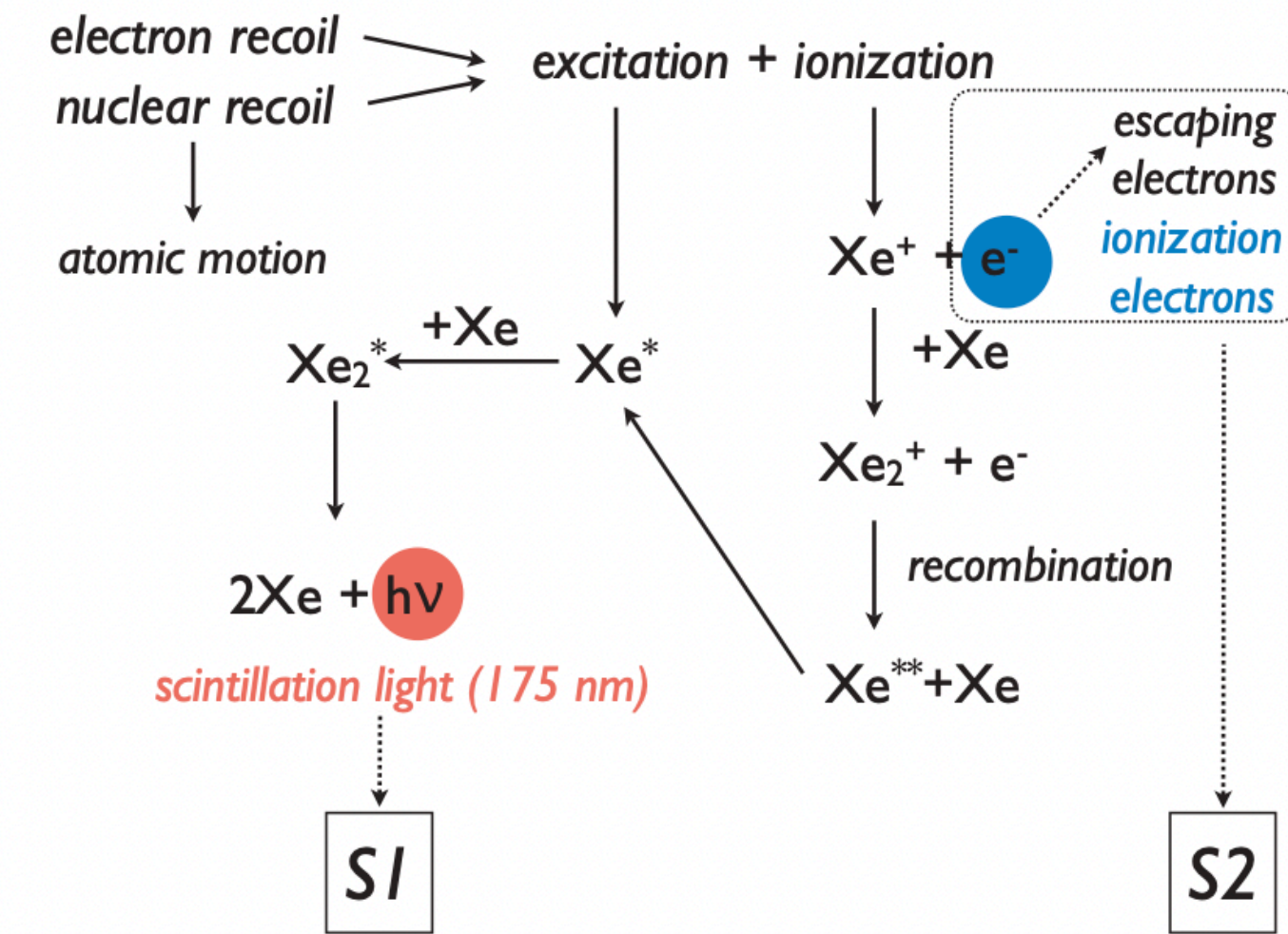
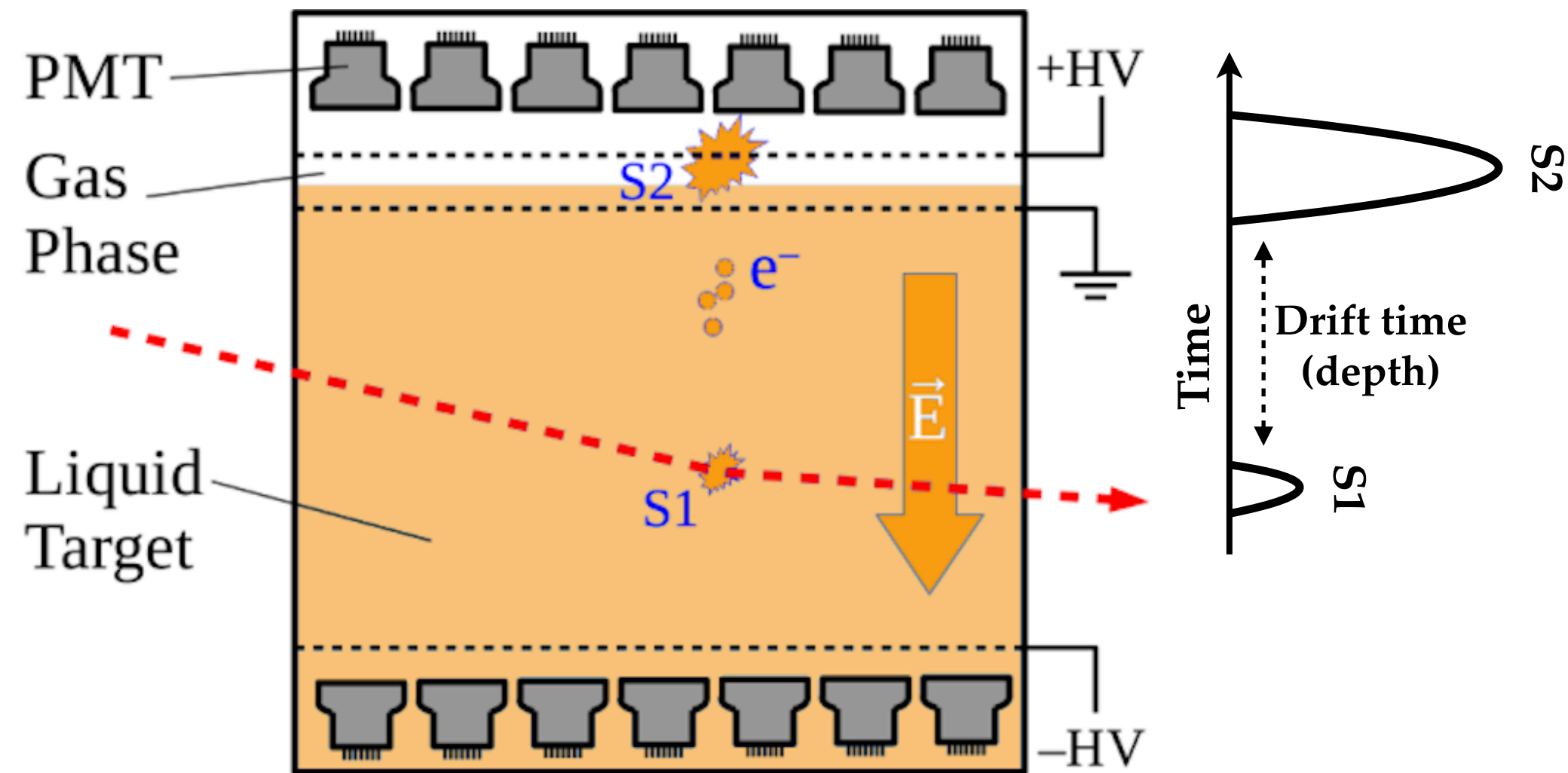
# Observing neutrinos in DD(Xe)

XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



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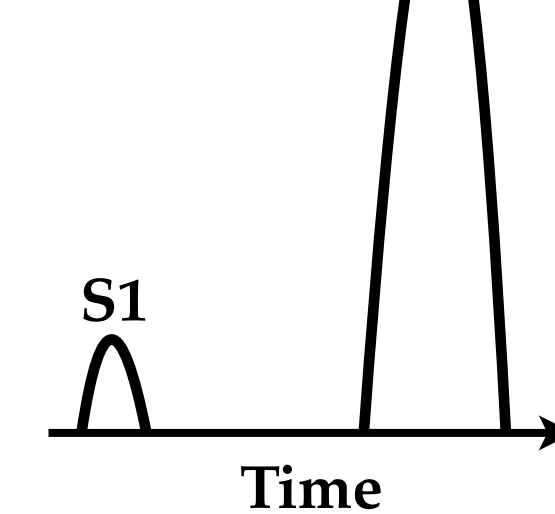
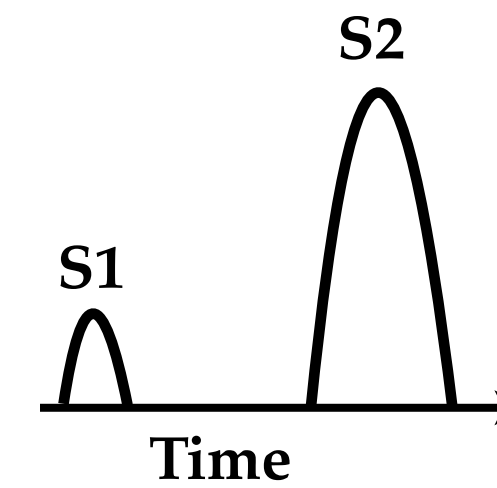
XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



## S1-S2 analysis

Nuclear recoil

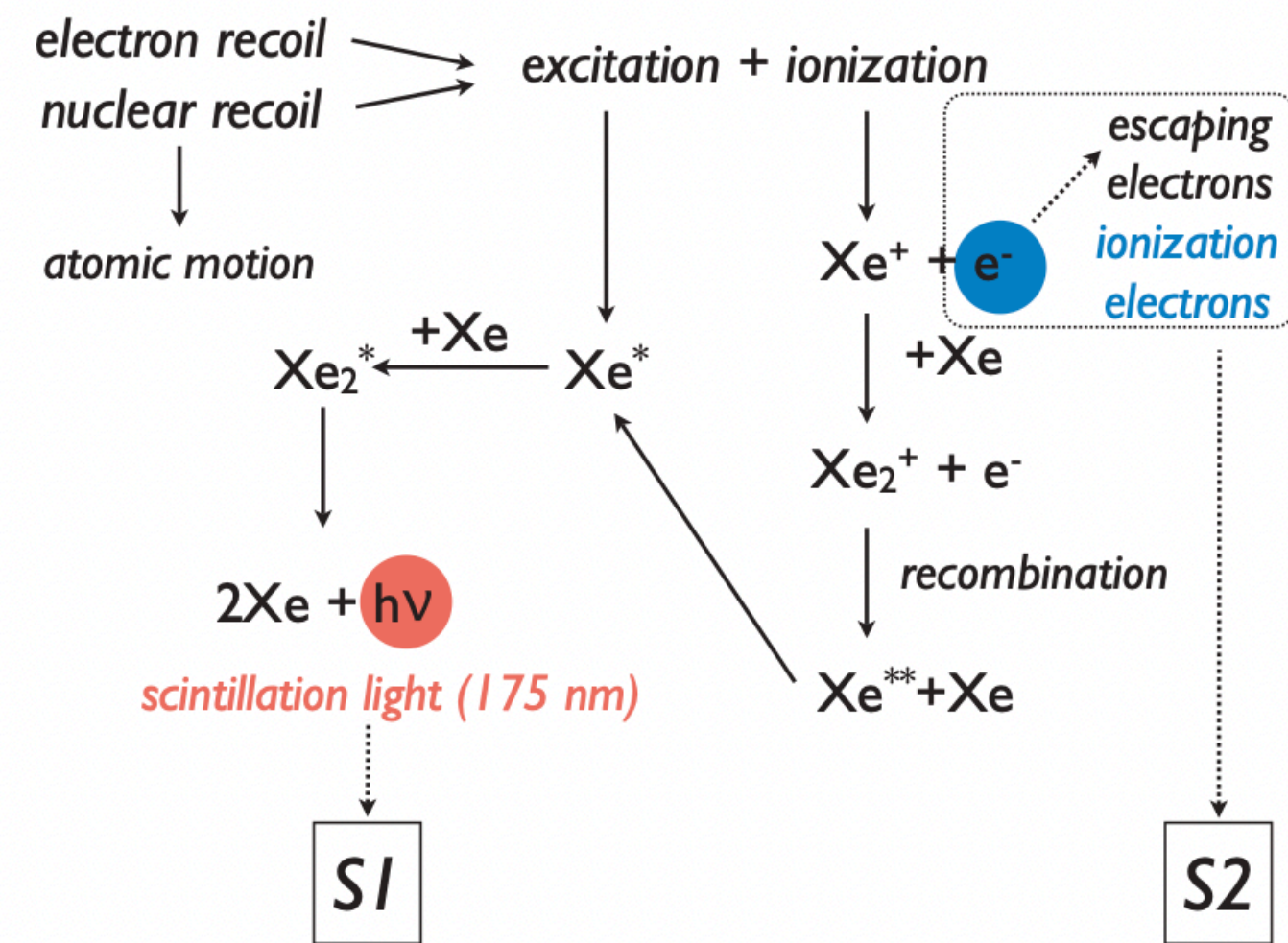
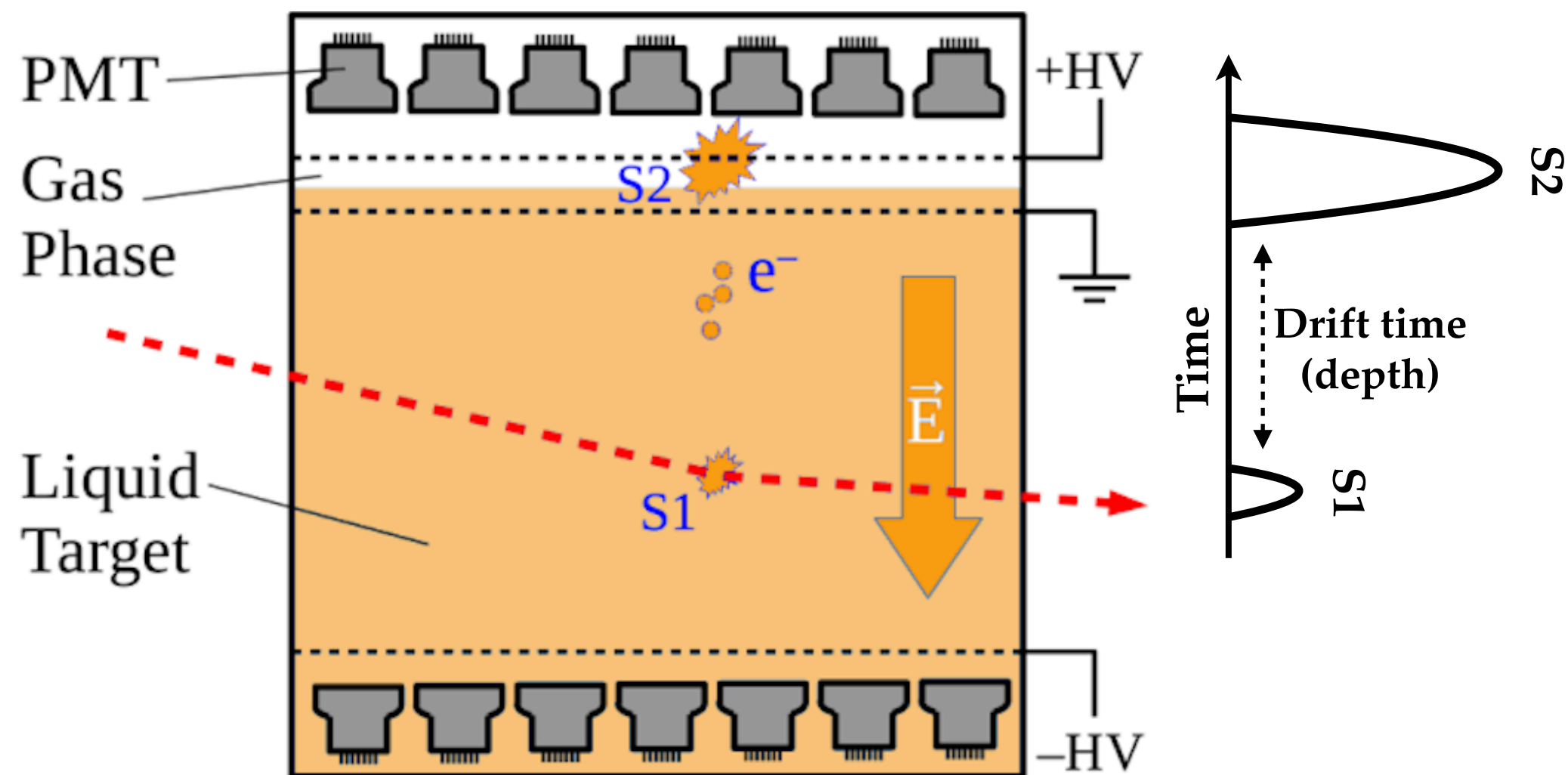
Electron recoil



$\frac{S2}{S1} \ll \frac{S2}{S1}$   
**S2/S1 ratio - can distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil**  
 $E_{\text{recoil}} \gtrsim 0.5 \text{ keV}$

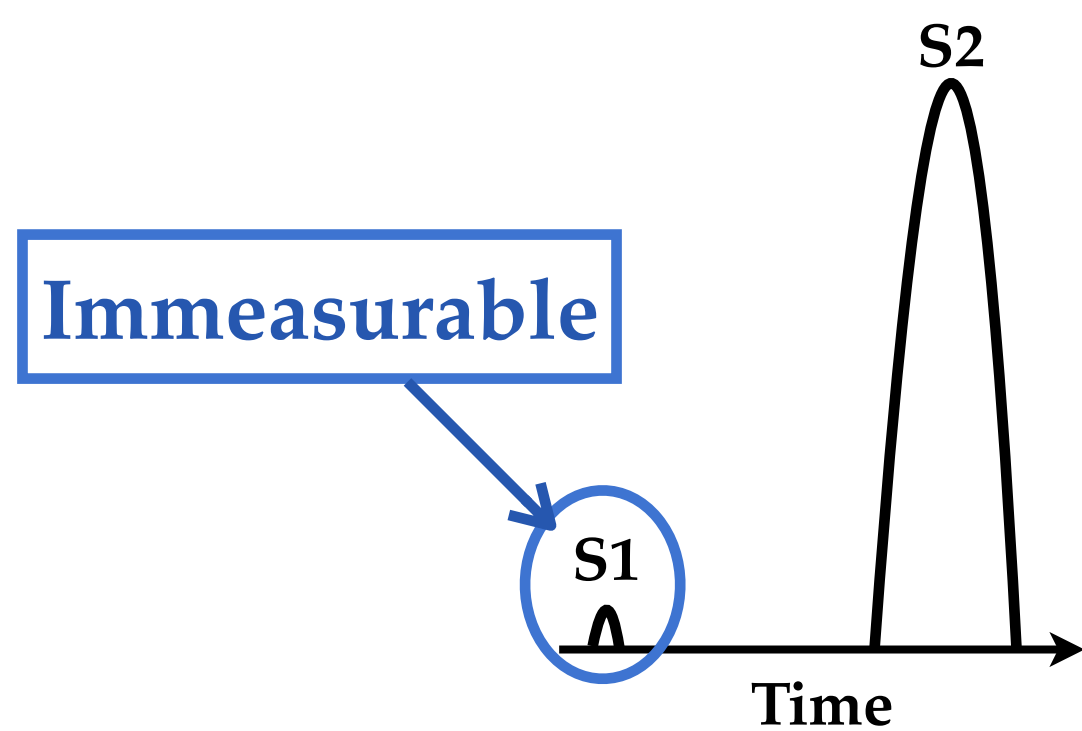
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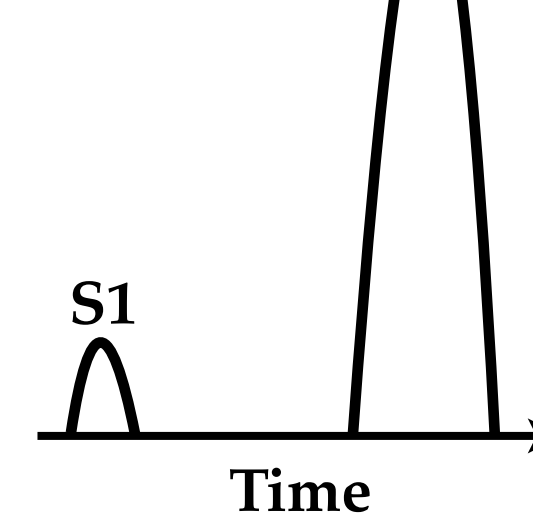
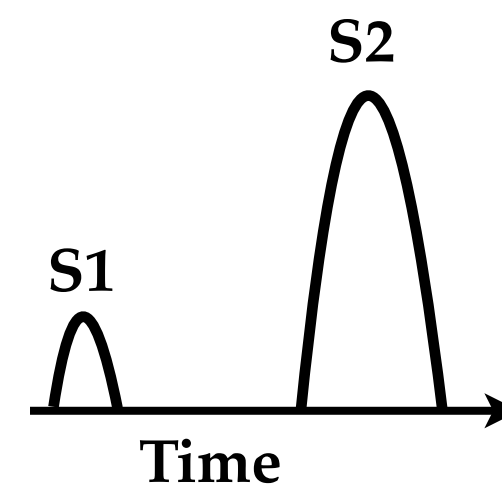
S2 only analysis

S1-S2 analysis



Nuclear recoil

Electron recoil



$S2/S1$

$\ll$

$S2/S1$

$S2/S1$  ratio - can distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

No  $S2/S1$  ratio - can't distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

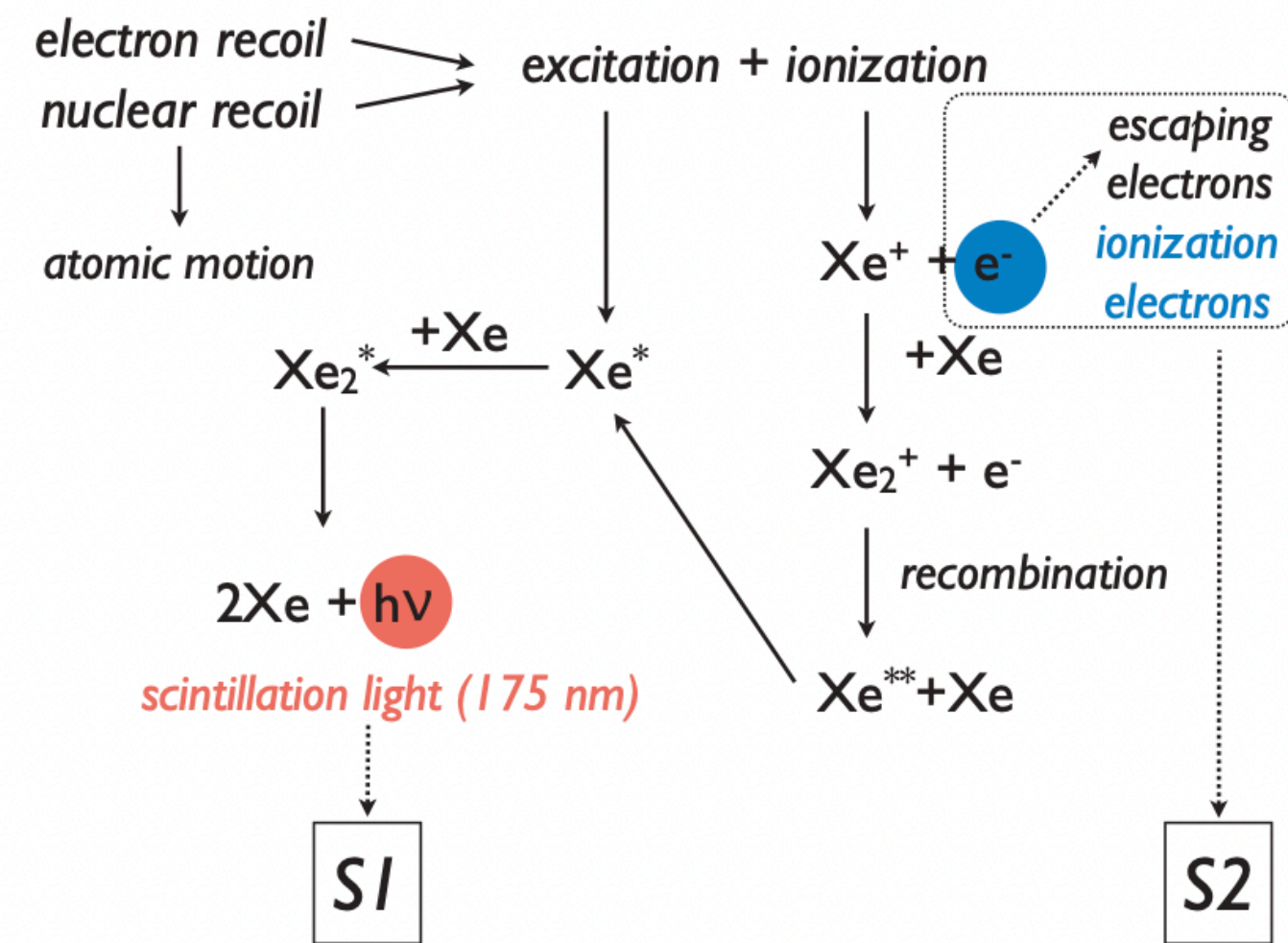
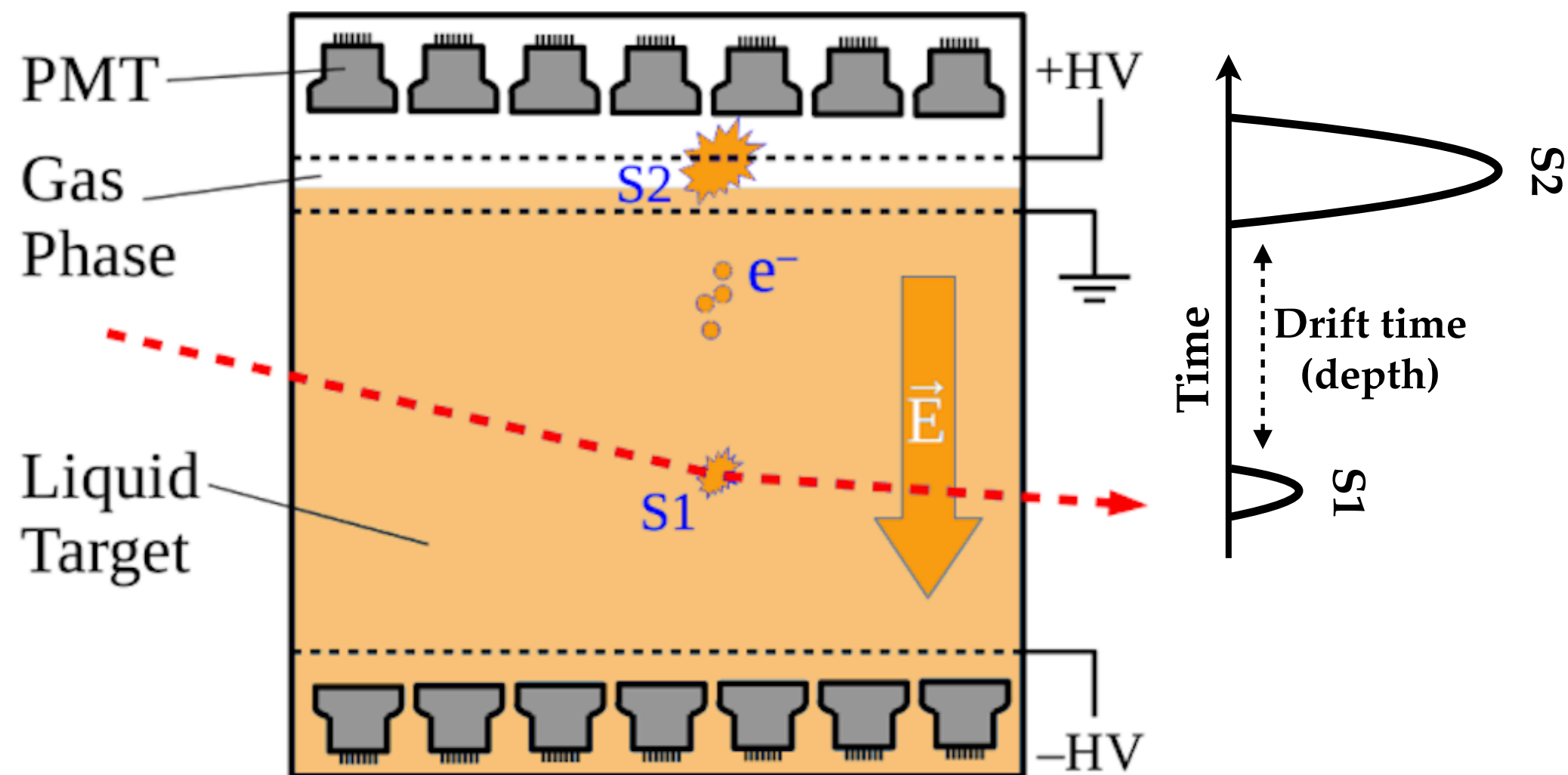
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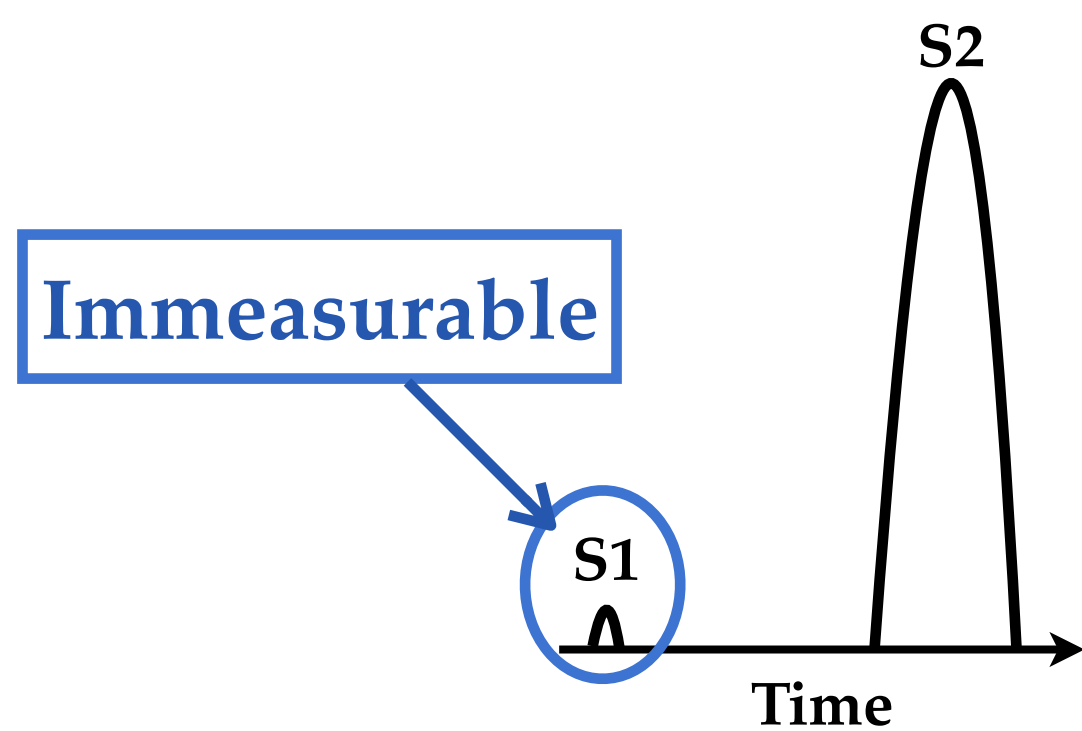


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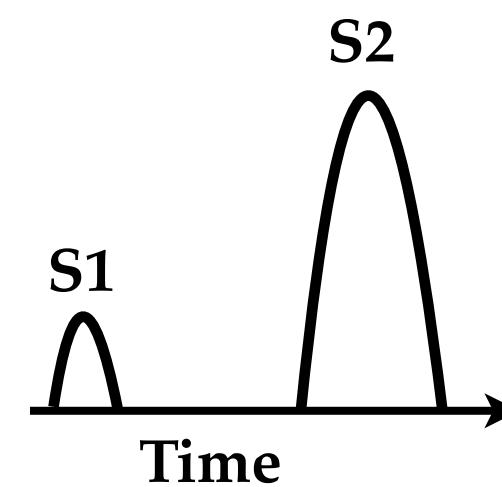


**S2 only analysis**



**S1-S2 analysis**

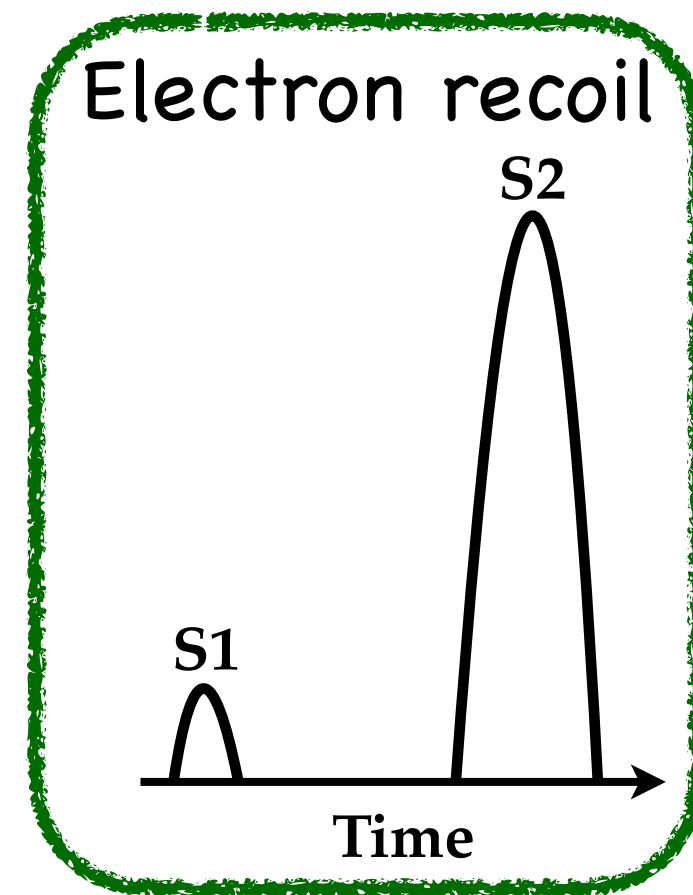
Nuclear recoil



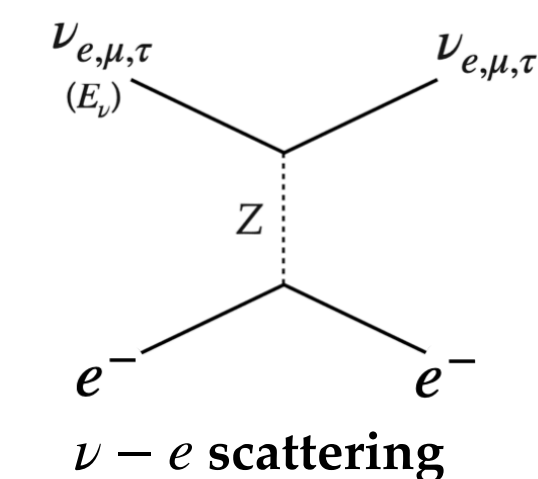
$S2/S1$

$\ll$

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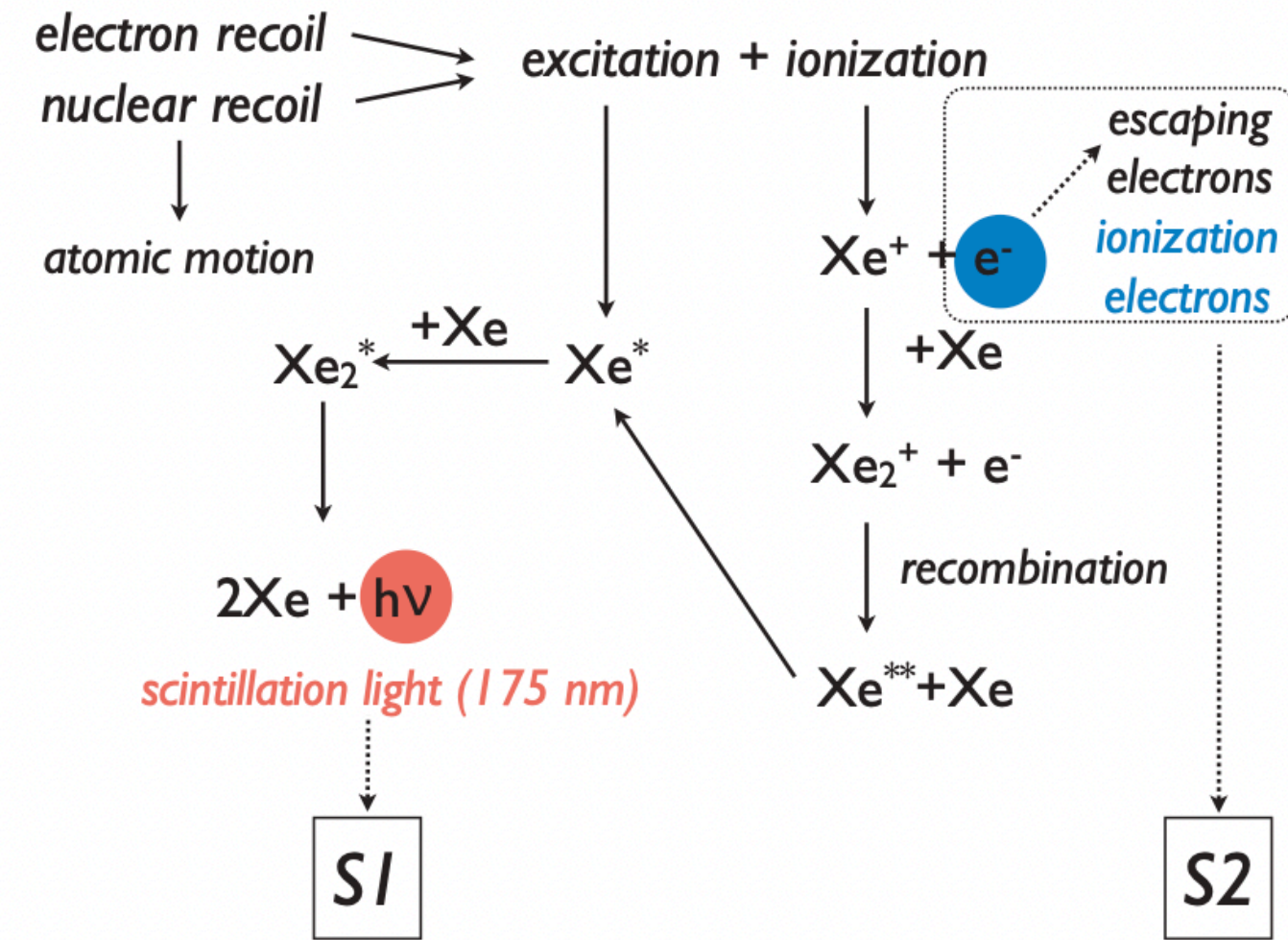
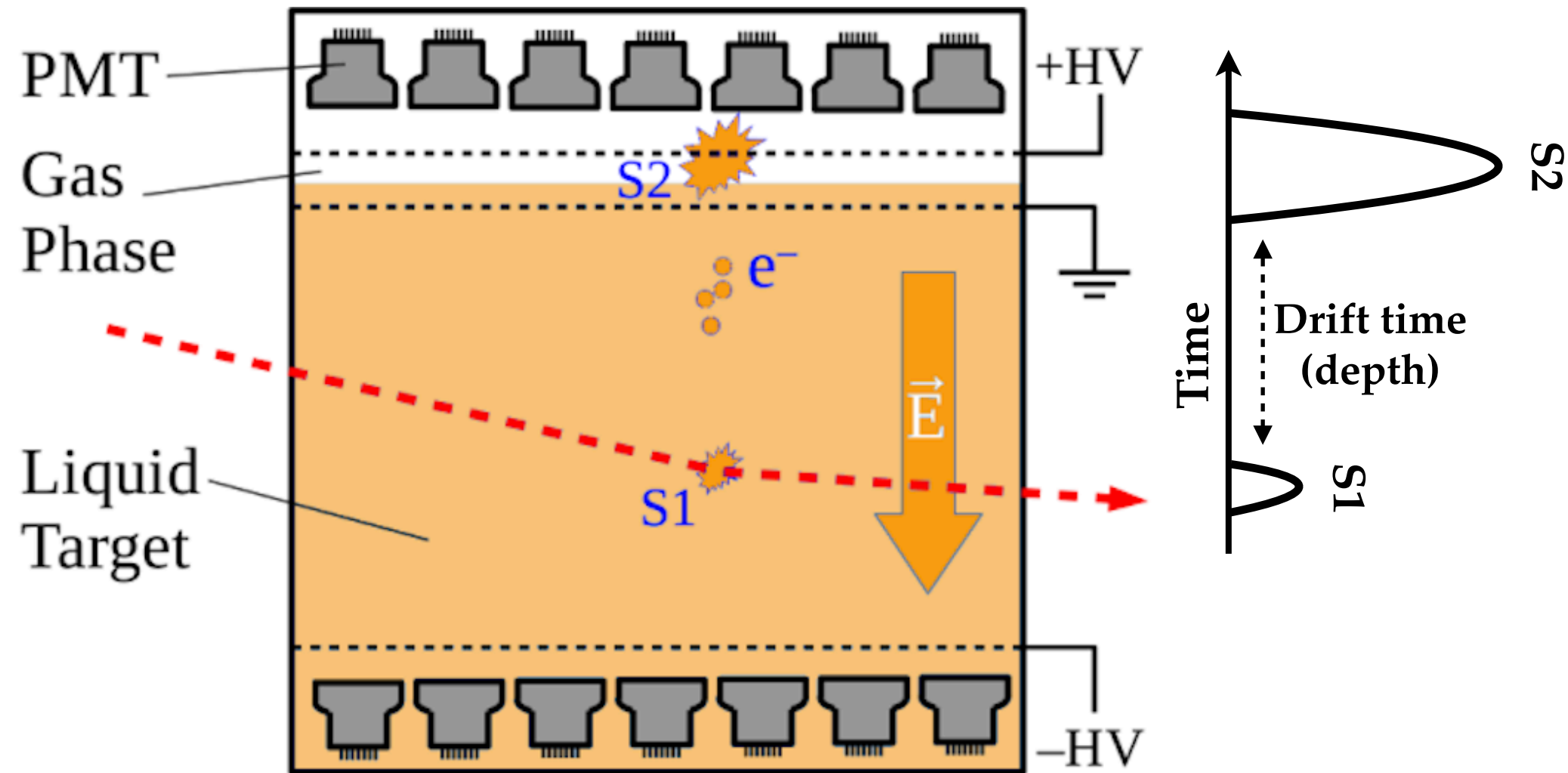
No  $S2/S1$  ratio - can't distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

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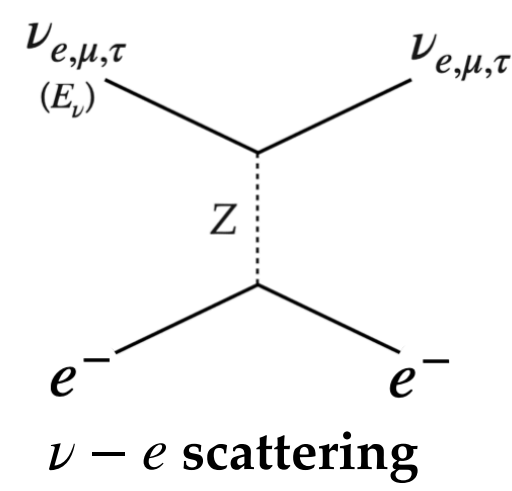
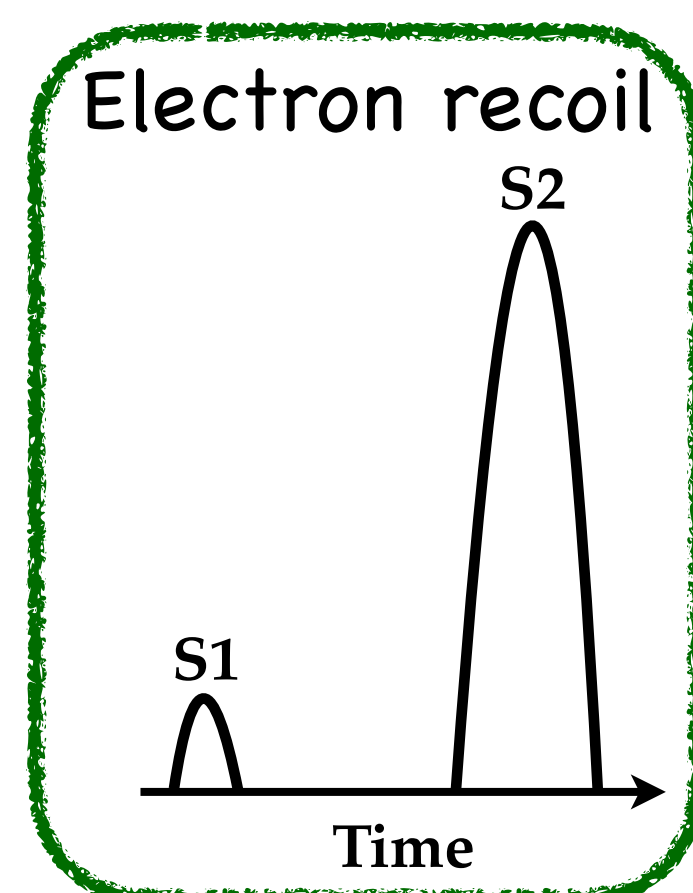
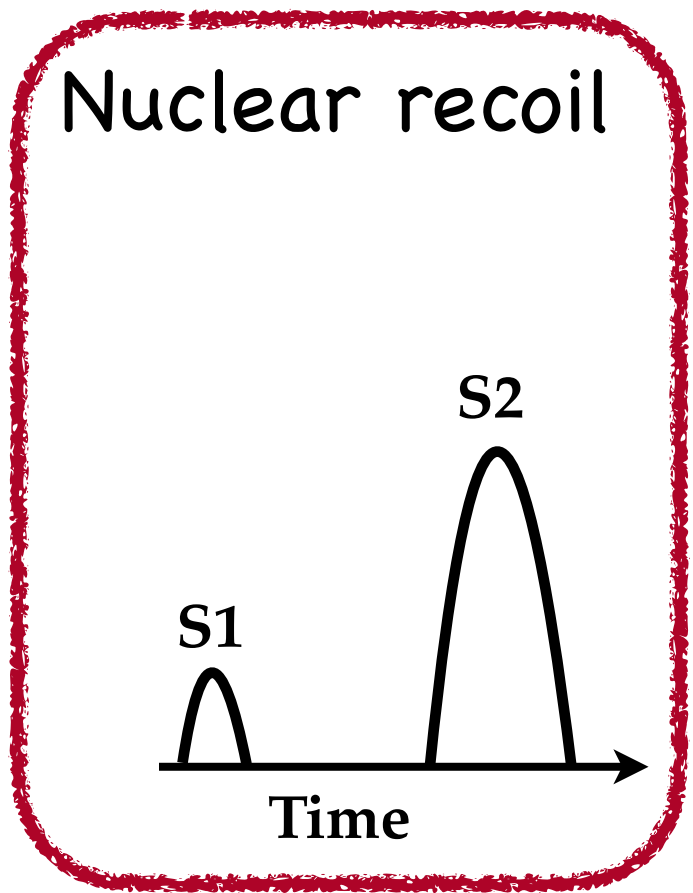
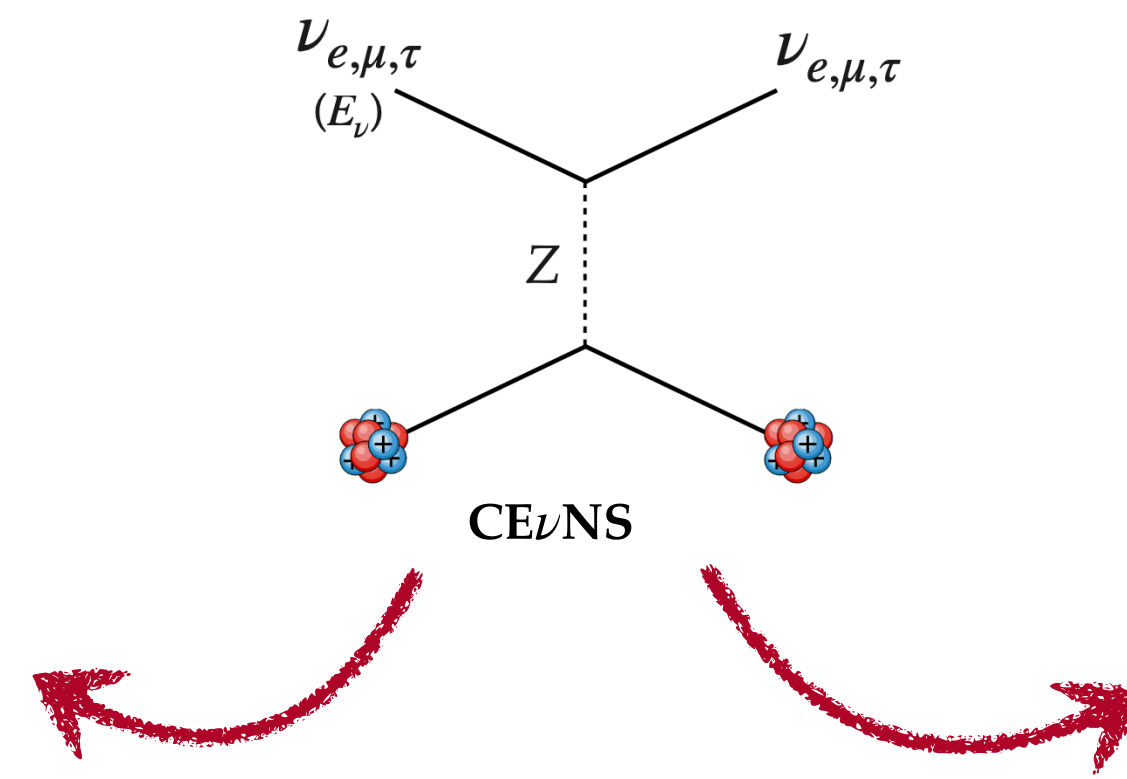
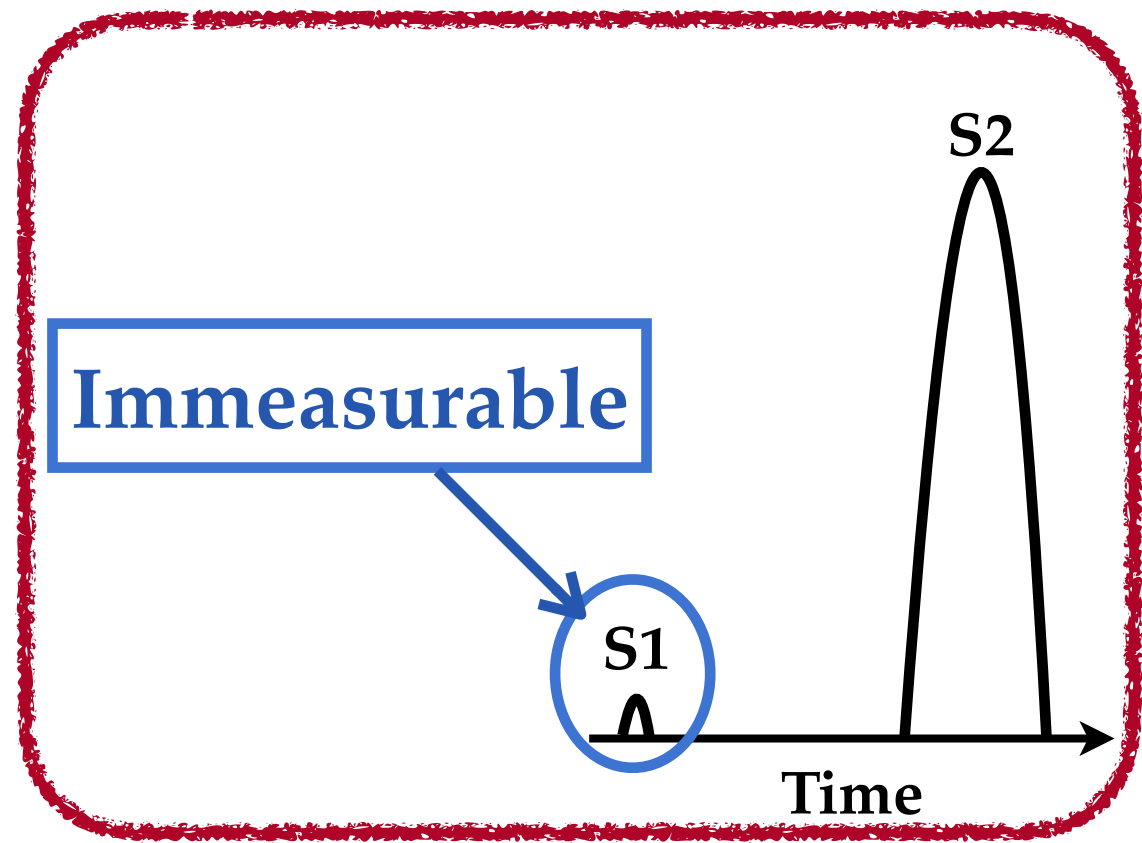
$S2/S1$  ratio - can distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

# Observing neutrinos in DD(Xe)

XENONnT, PandaX-4T, LZ ...



## S2 only analysis



## S1-S2 analysis

No S2/S1 ratio - can't distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

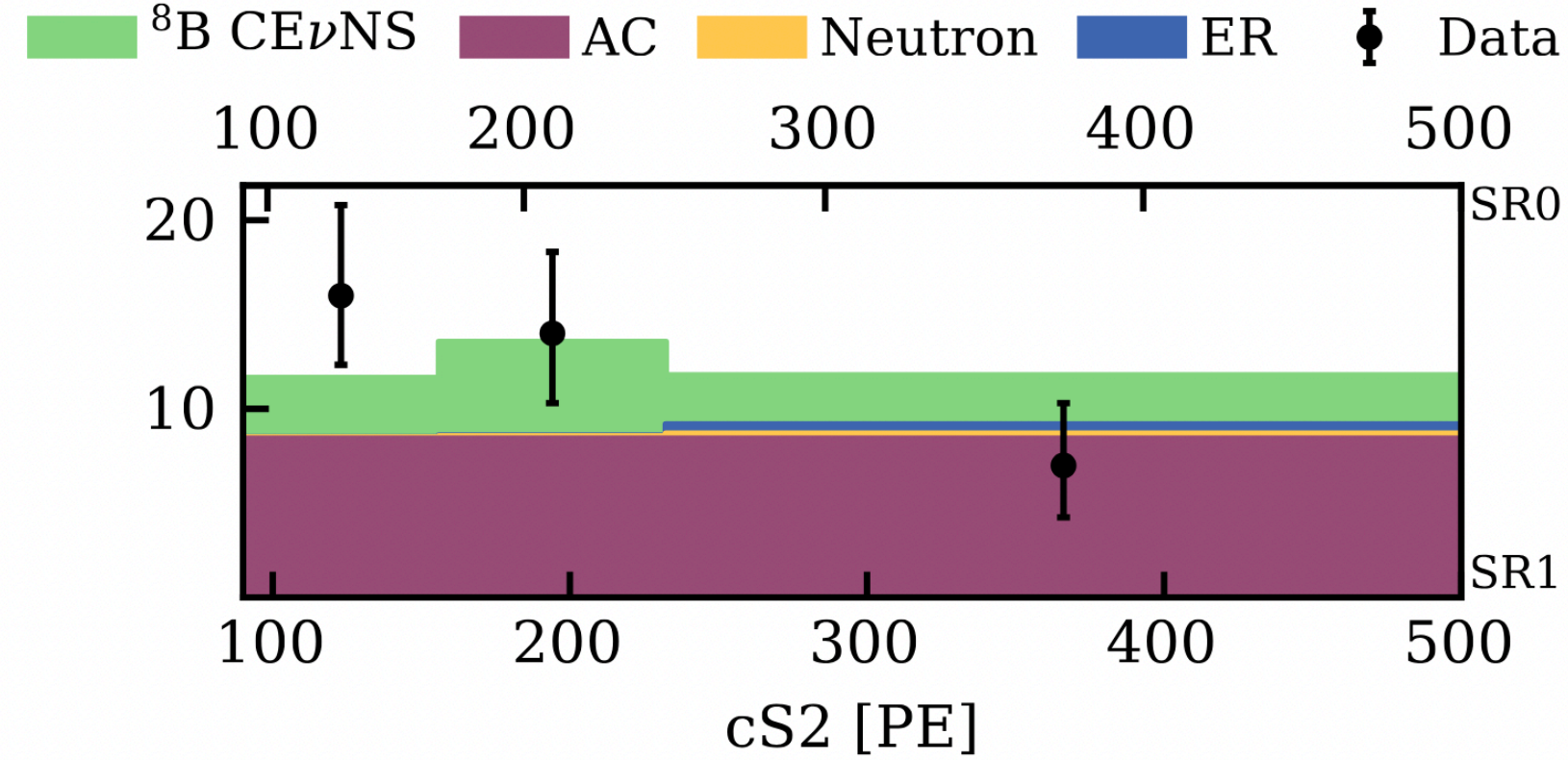
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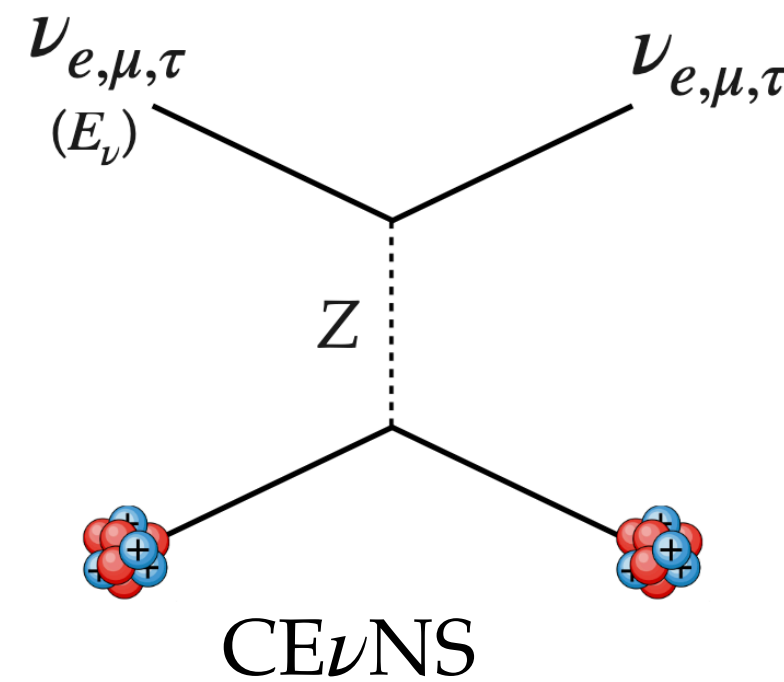
# Neutrino events at DD? nuclear recoil

## XENONnT

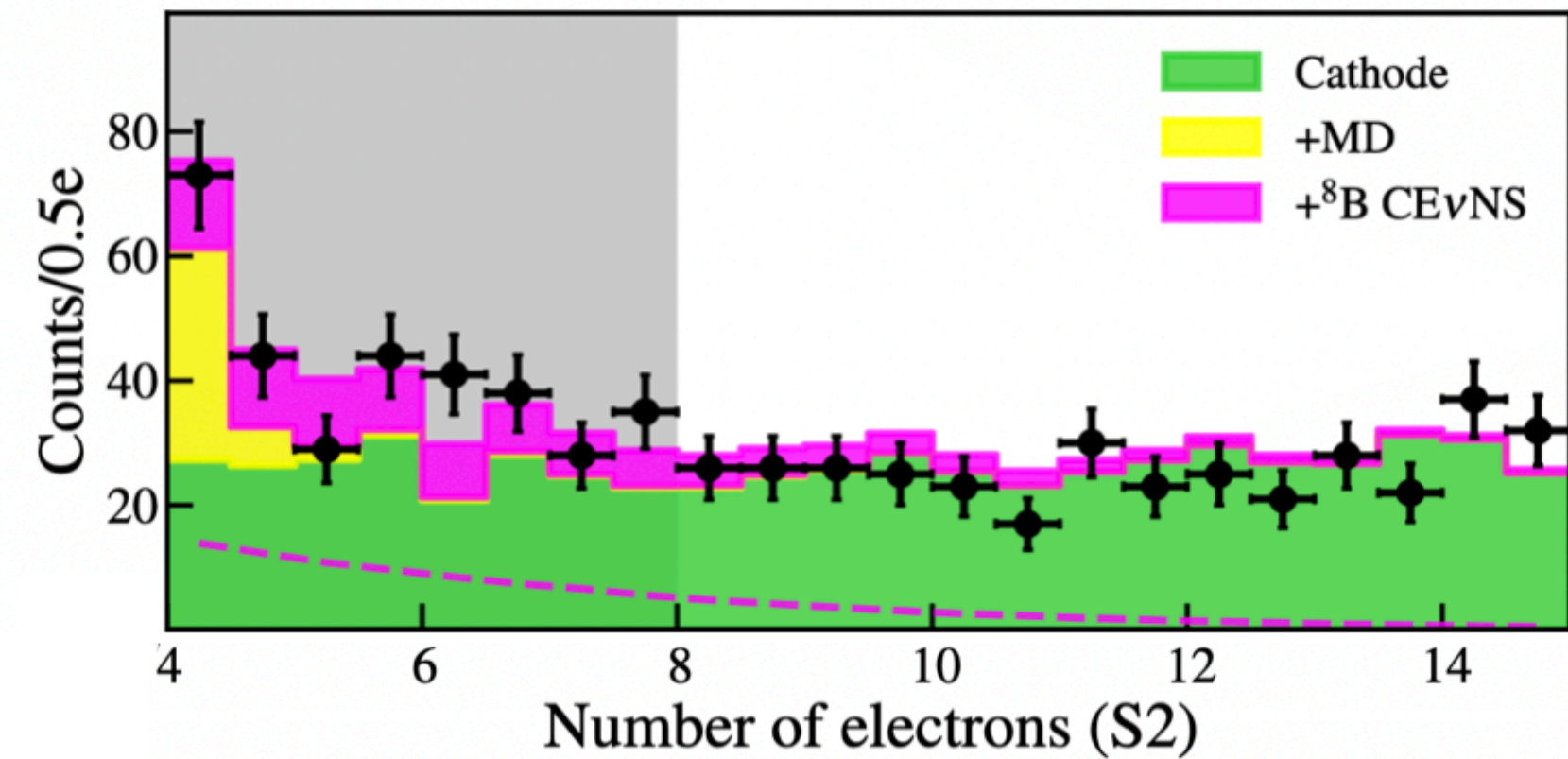


Observed events:  $10.7^{+3.7}_{-4.2}$  (S1-S2 analysis)

Statistical significance:  $2.73 \sigma$



## PandaX-4T



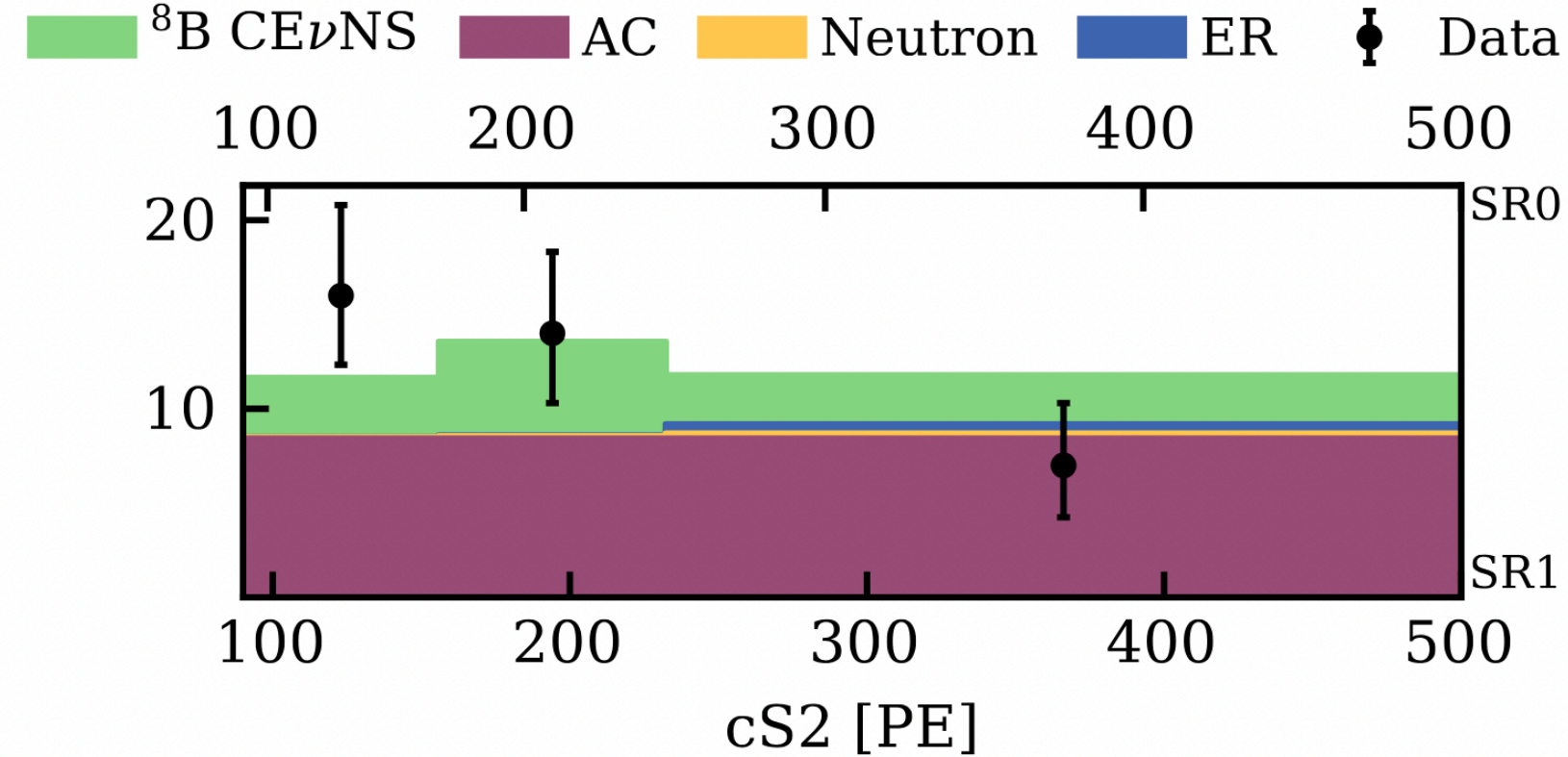
Observed events:  $3.5 \pm 1.3$  (S1-S2 analysis)

Observed events:  $78 \pm 28$  (S2-only analysis)

Statistical significance:  $2.64 \sigma$

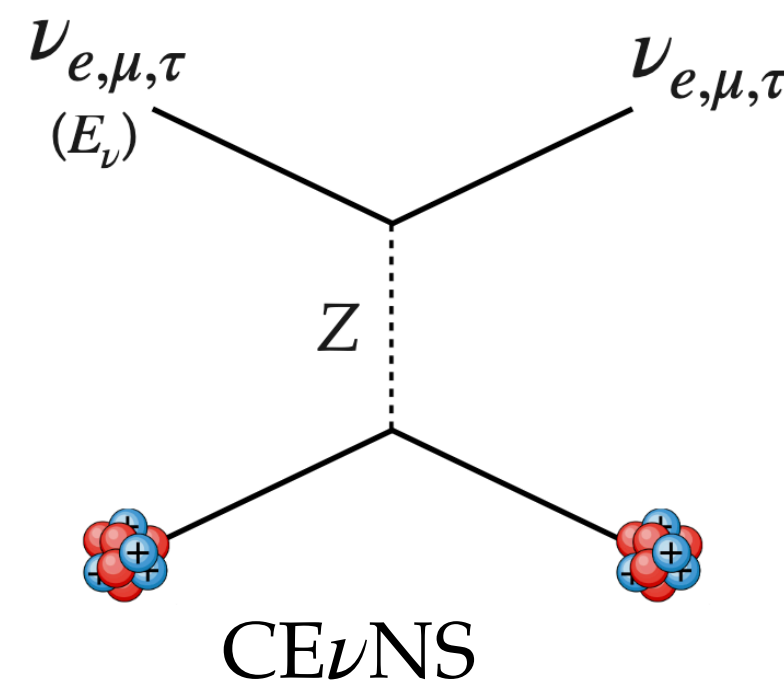
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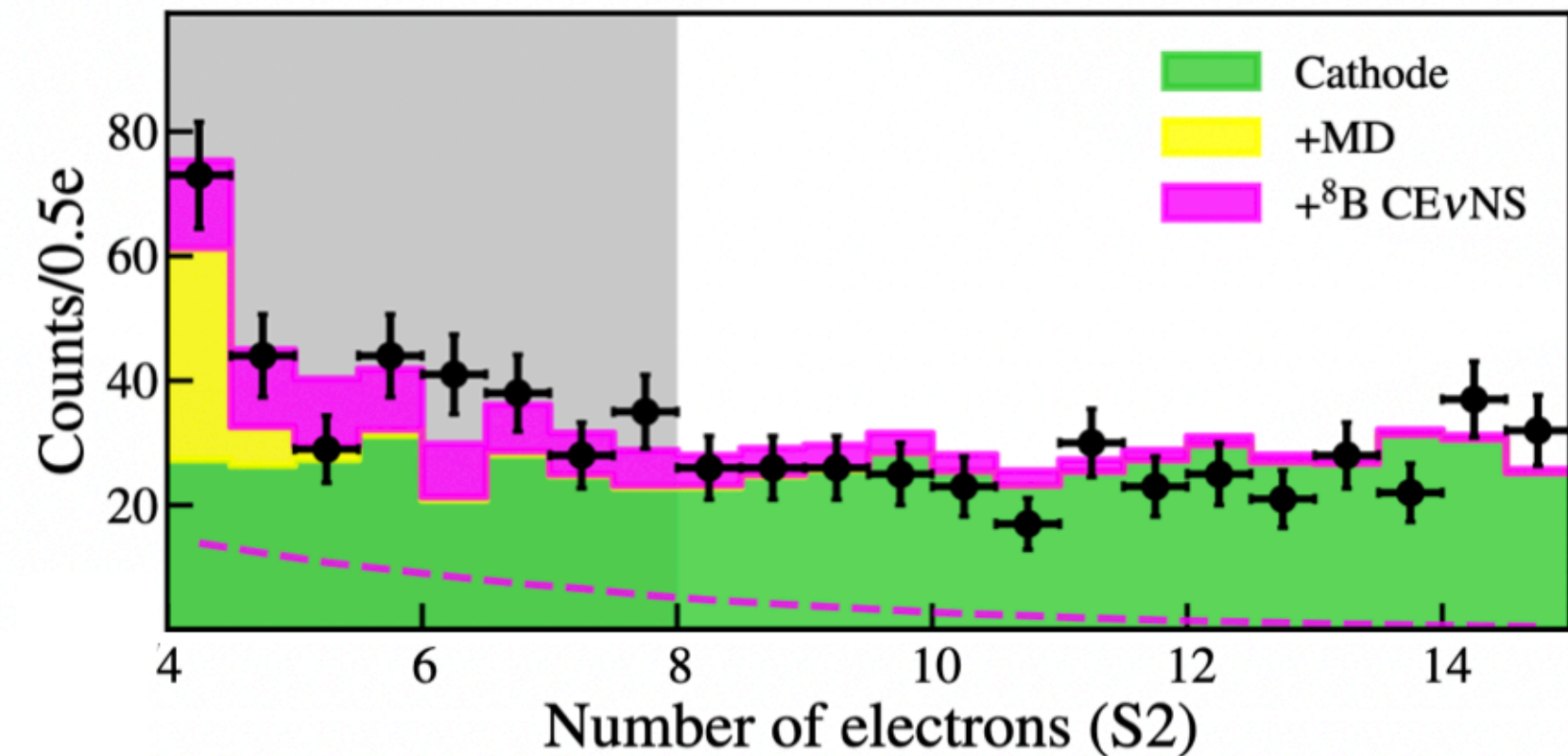


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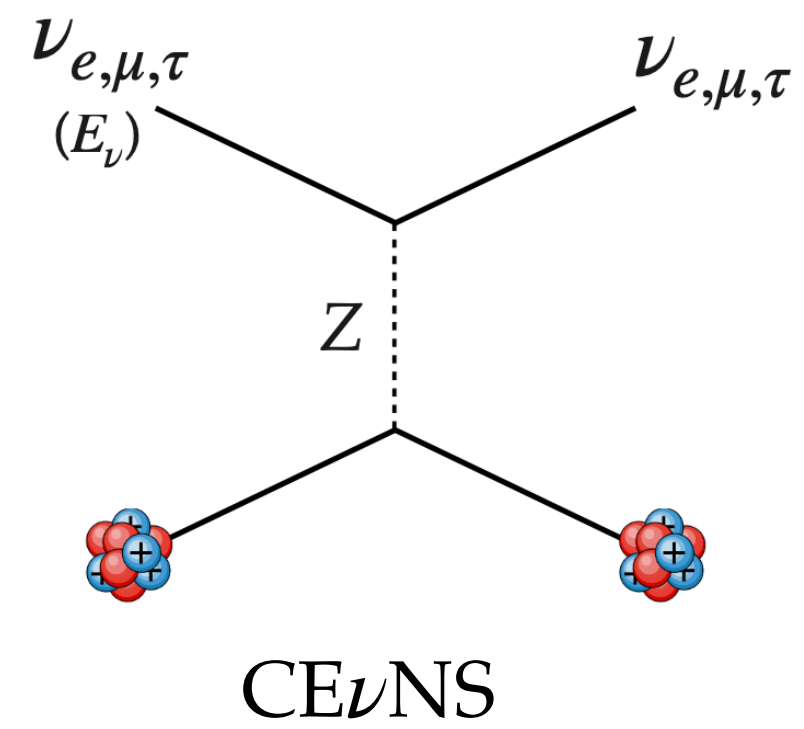
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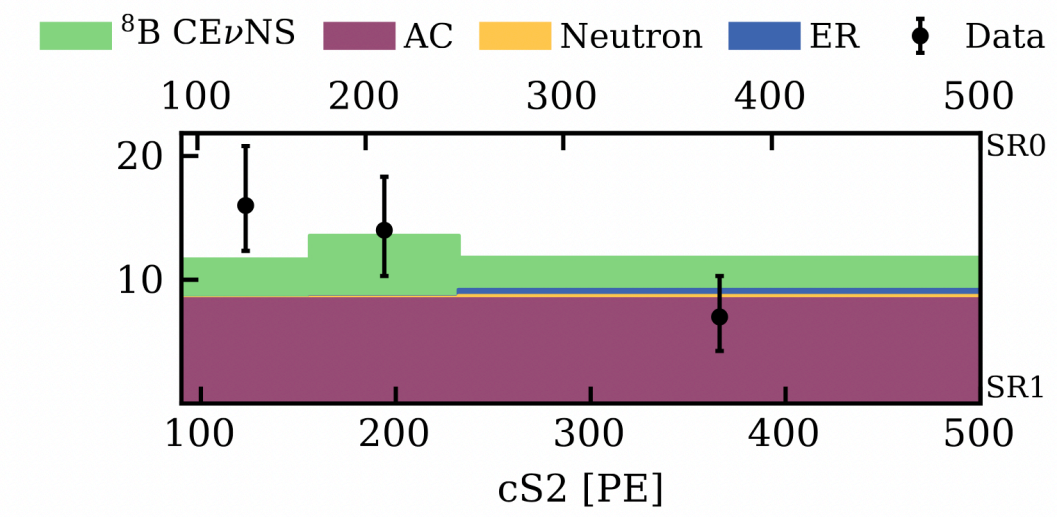
Observing essentially the Standard Model process, can we say something new?

# Our results: nuclear recoil

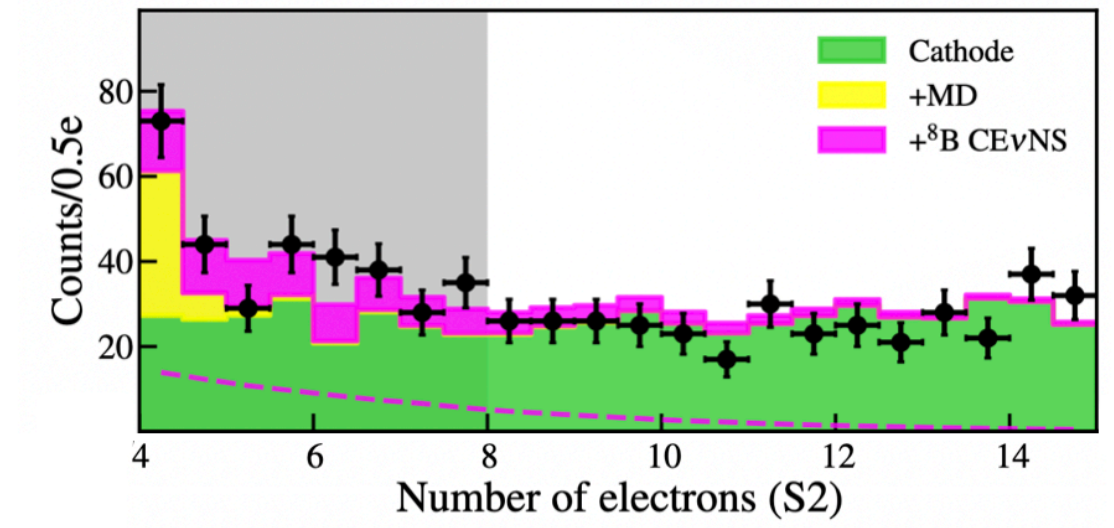


$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_N} \propto f(\sin^2 \theta_W)$$

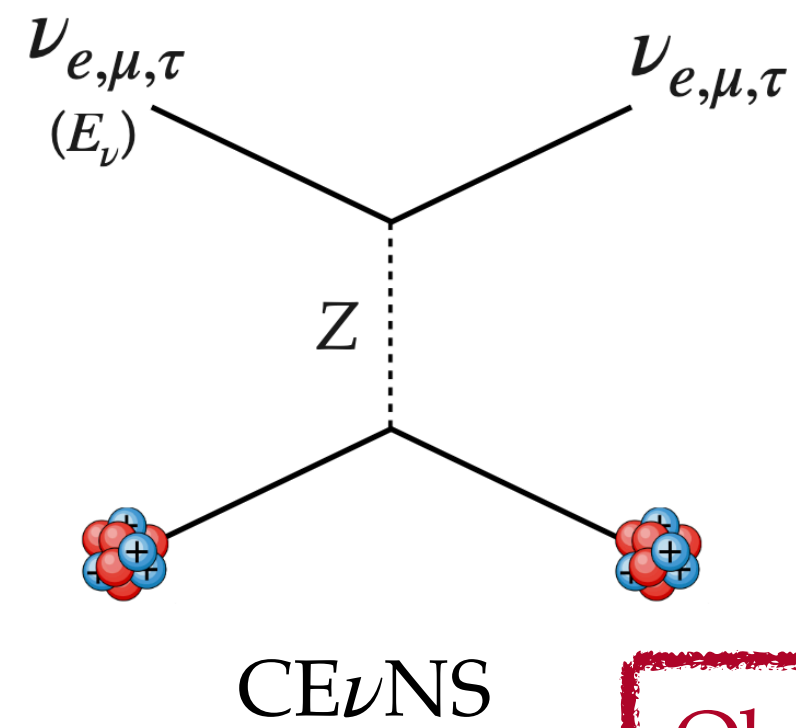
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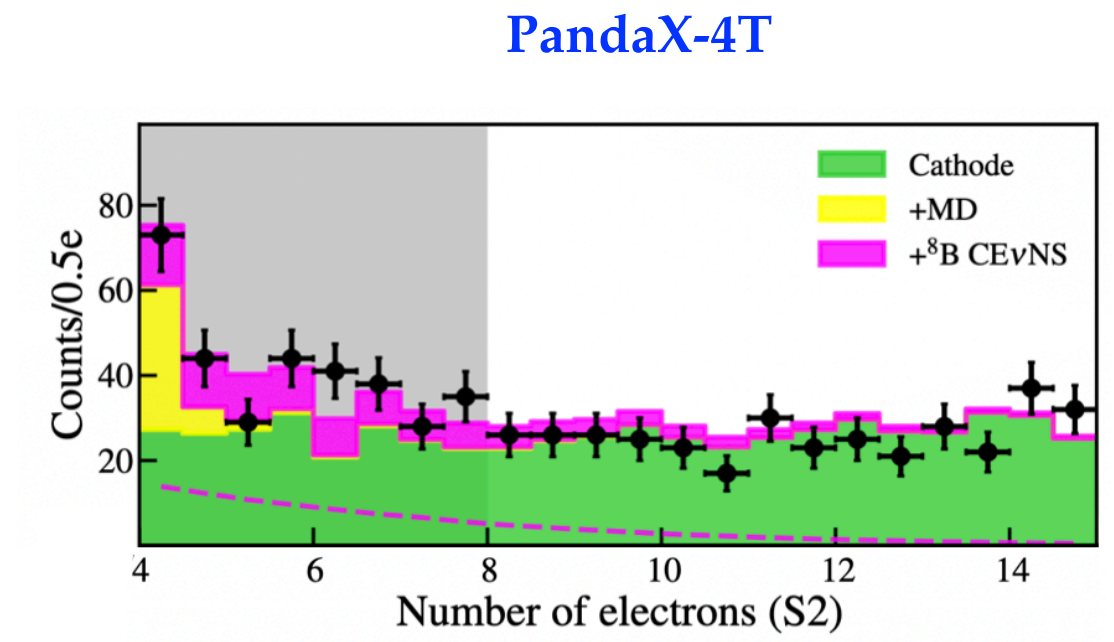
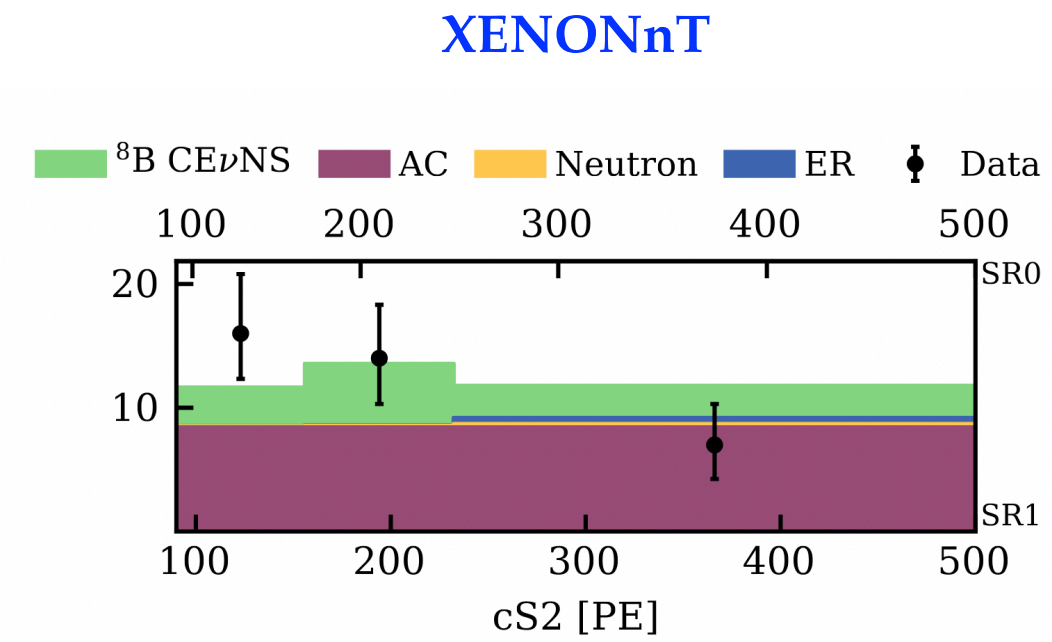


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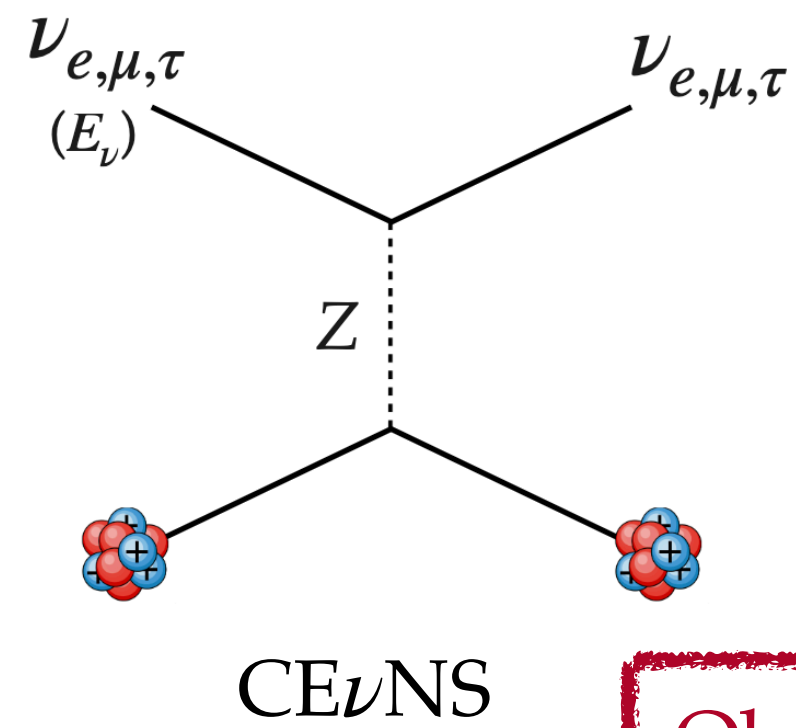
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Observed solar  $^8\text{B}$  events depends on  $\sin^2 \theta_W$



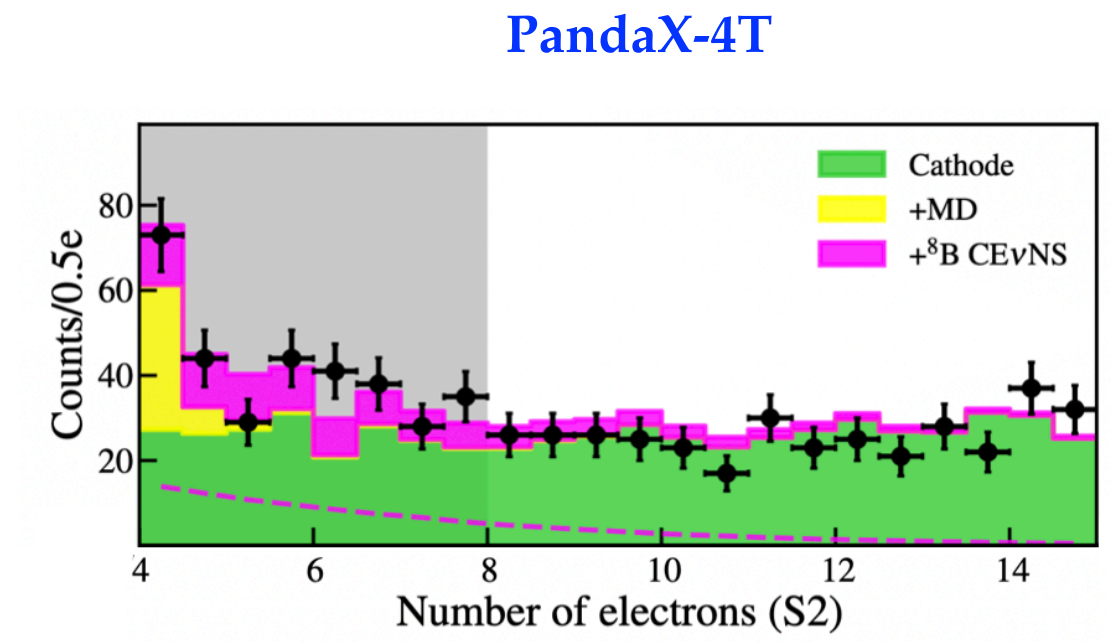
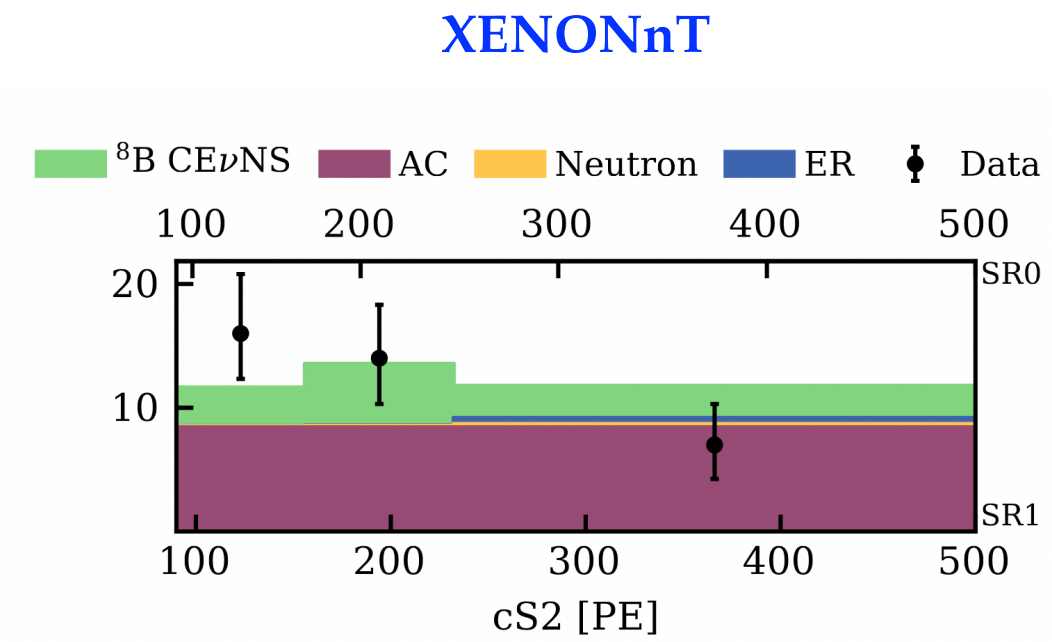
One can measure  $\sin^2 \theta_W$  using these data

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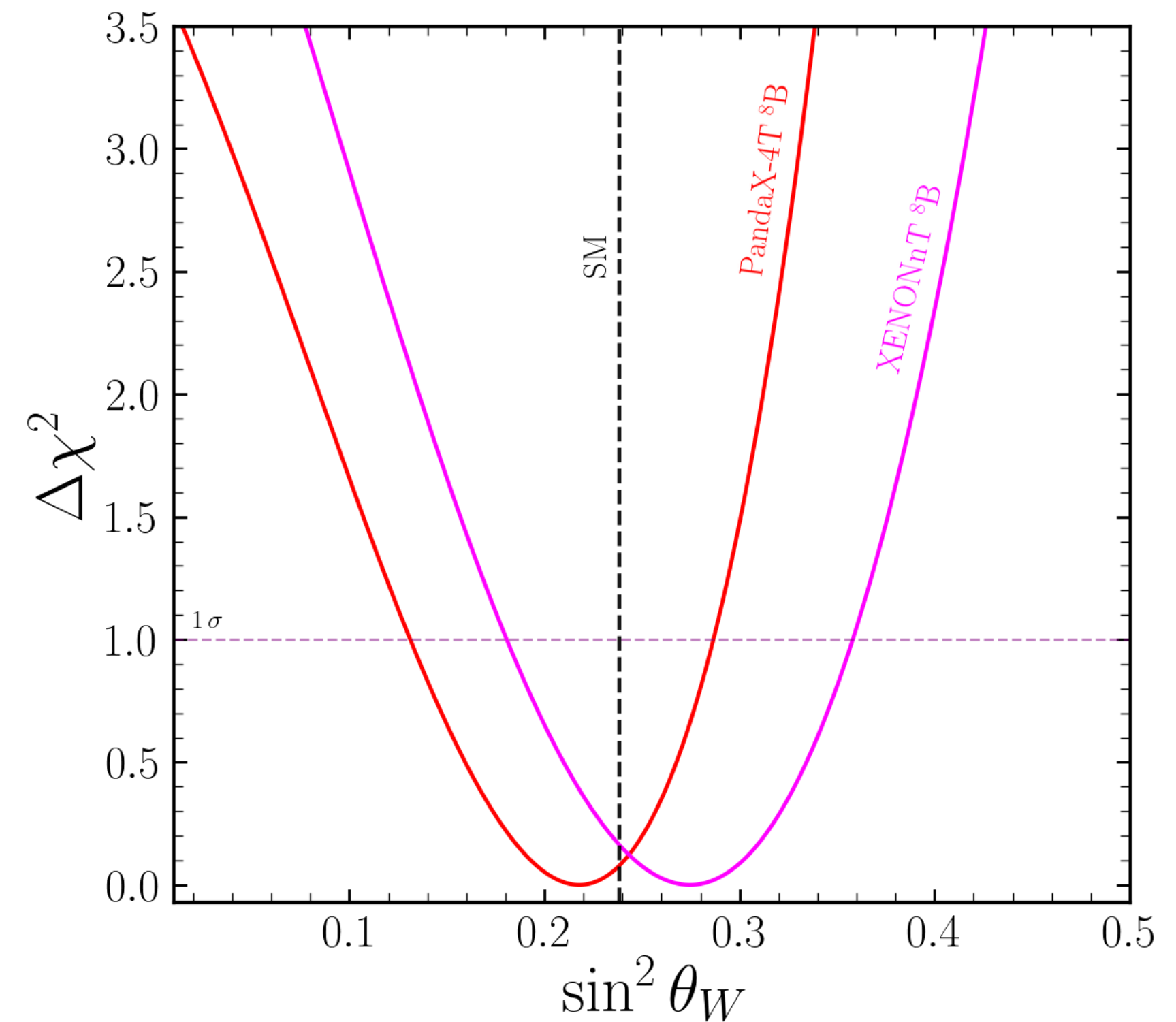


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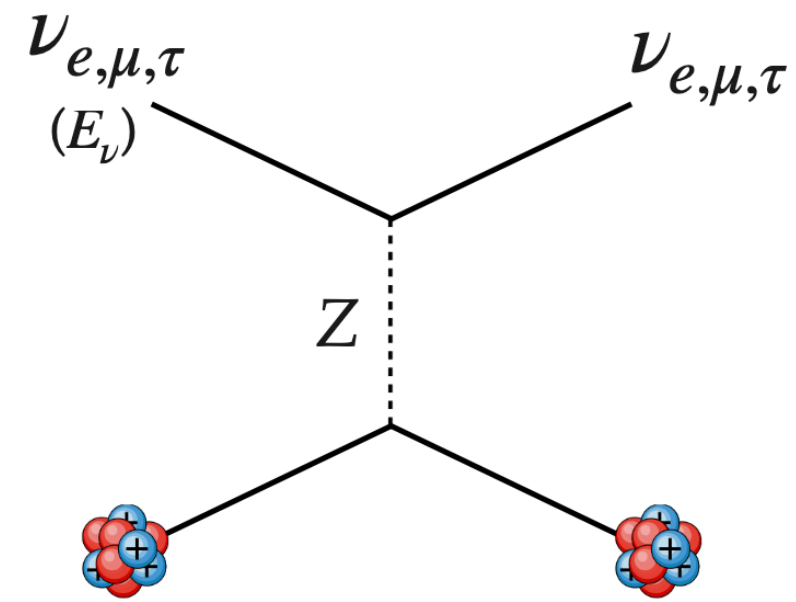
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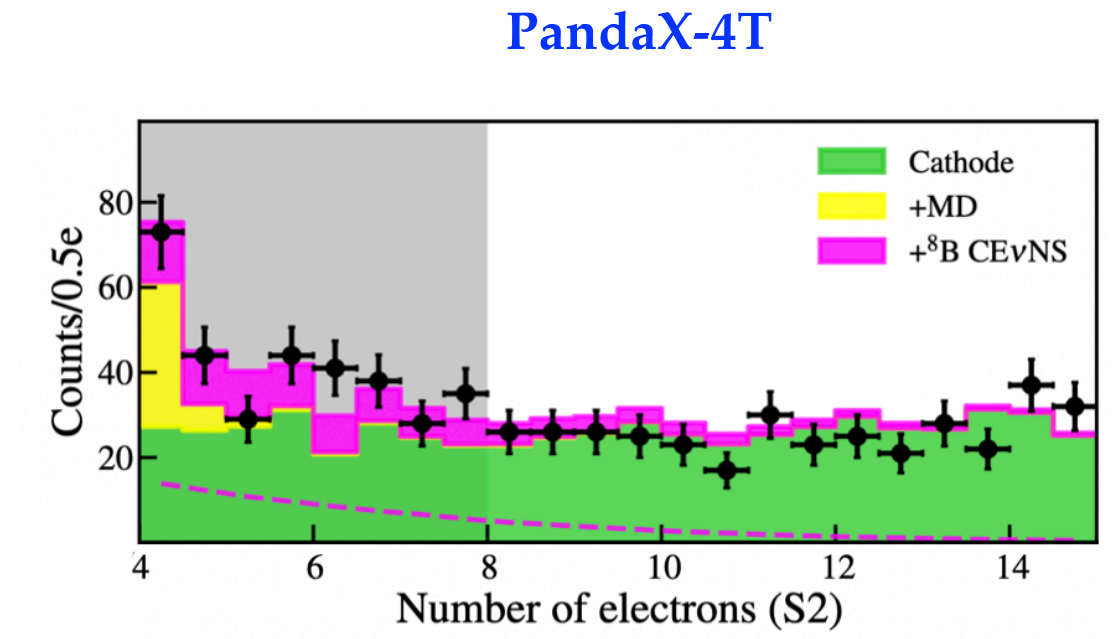
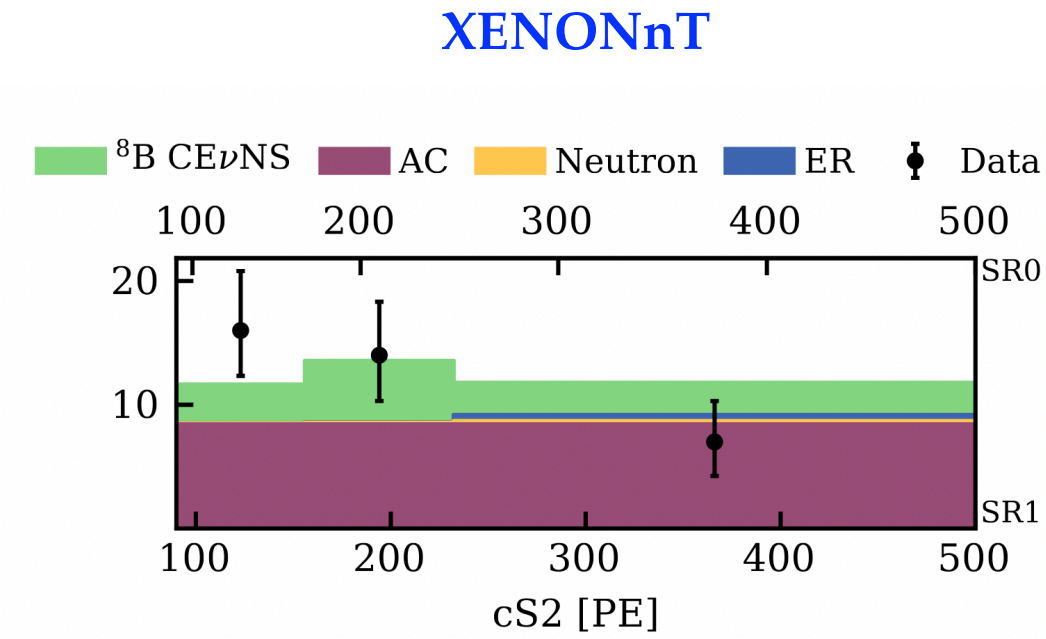
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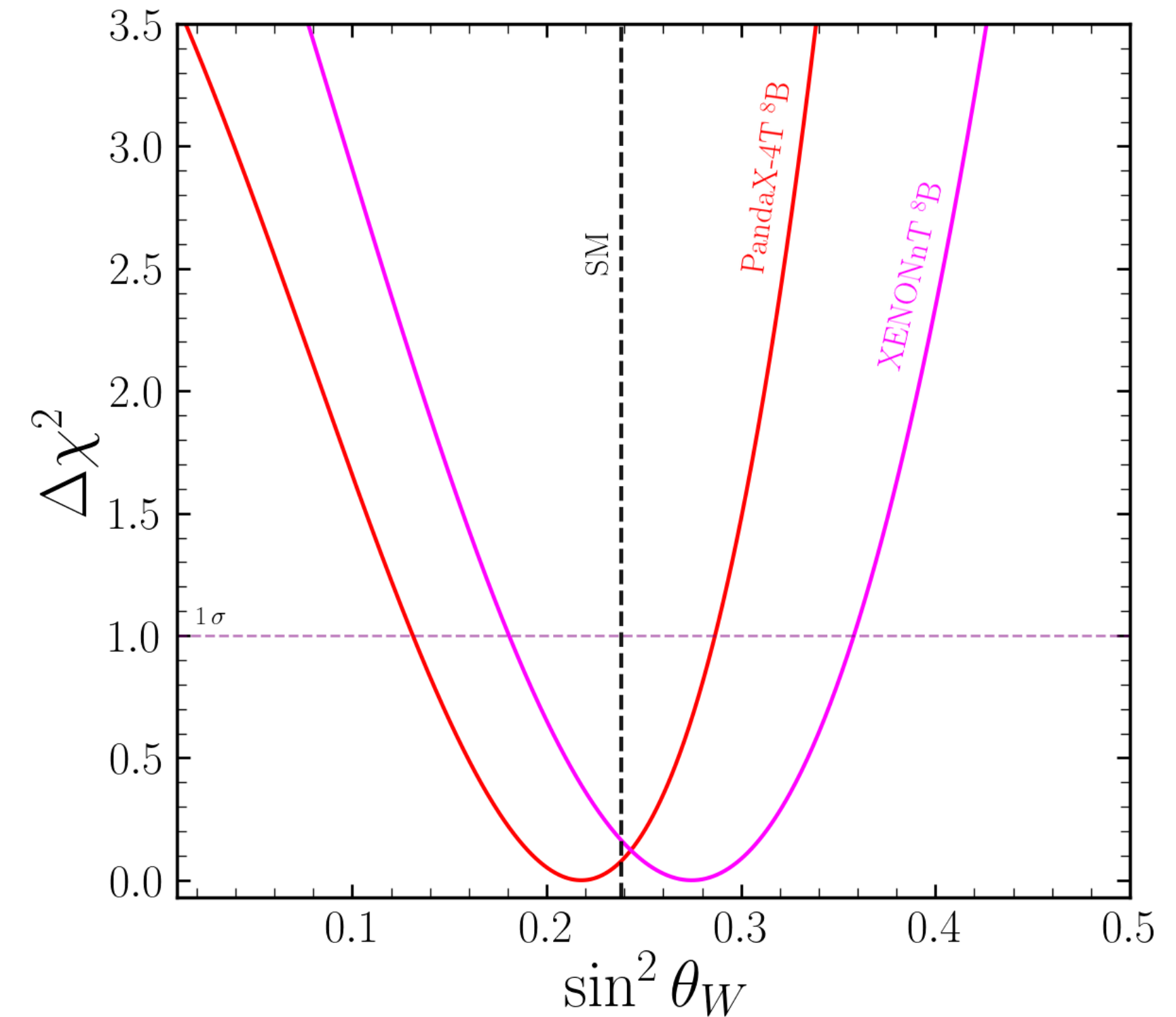
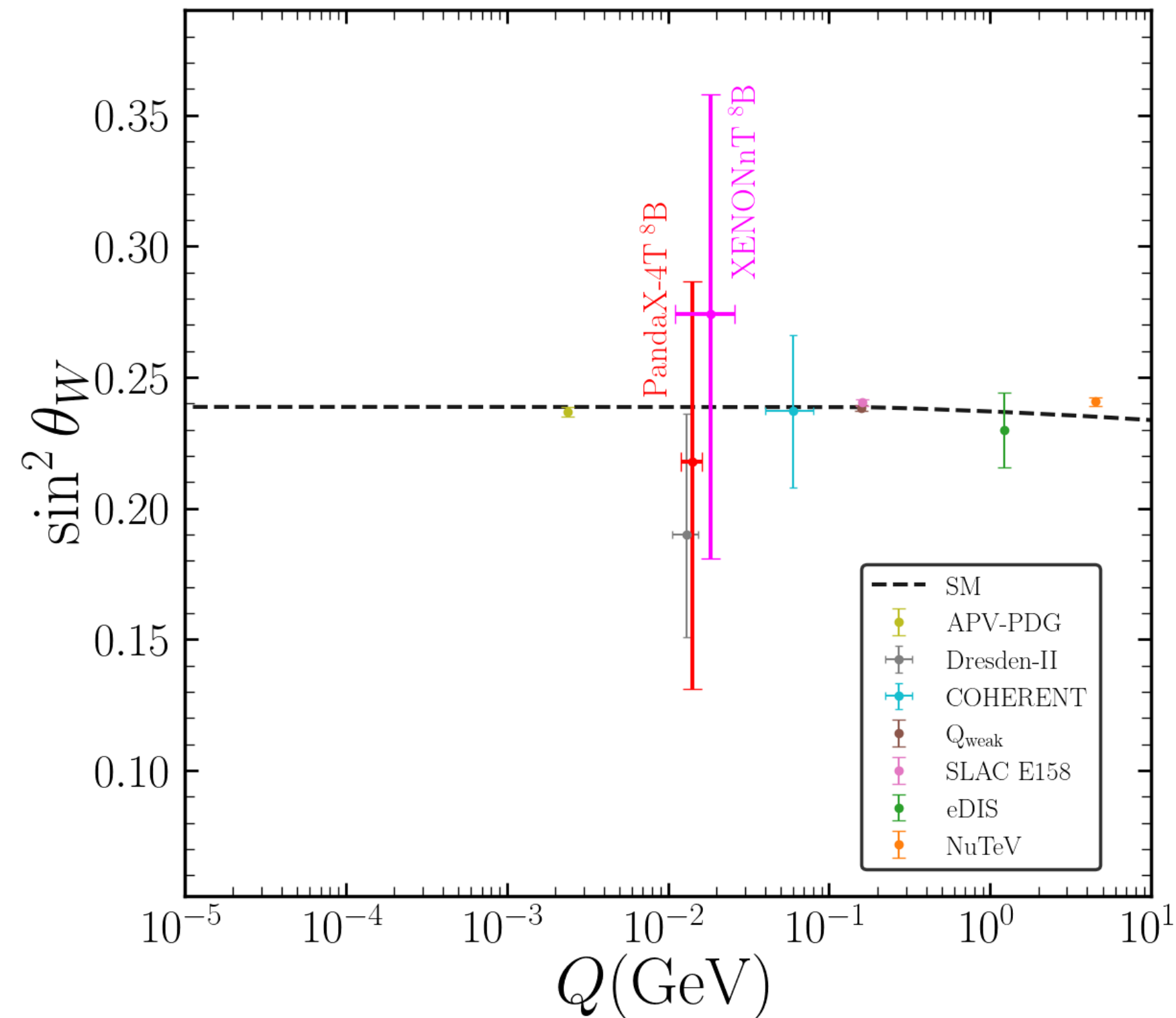
CEνNS

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Observed solar  $^8\text{B}$  events depends on  $\sin^2 \theta_W$



One can measure  $\sin^2 \theta_W$  using these data



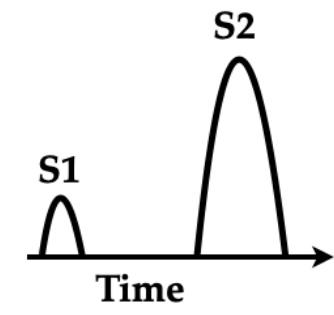
Energy scale determined from recoil energy regime



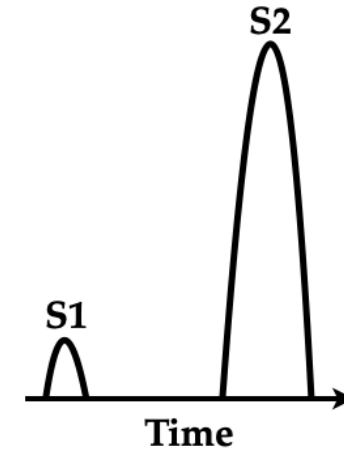
# Our results: electron recoil

S1-S2 only analysis

Nuclear recoil



Electron recoil



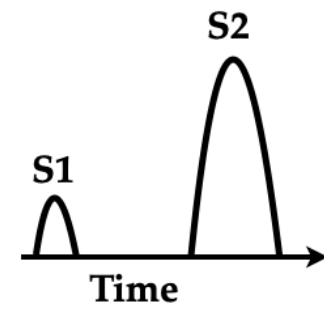
S2/S1 ratio - can distinguish - nuclear and electron recoil

$$E_{\text{recoil}} \gtrsim 0.5 \text{ keV}$$

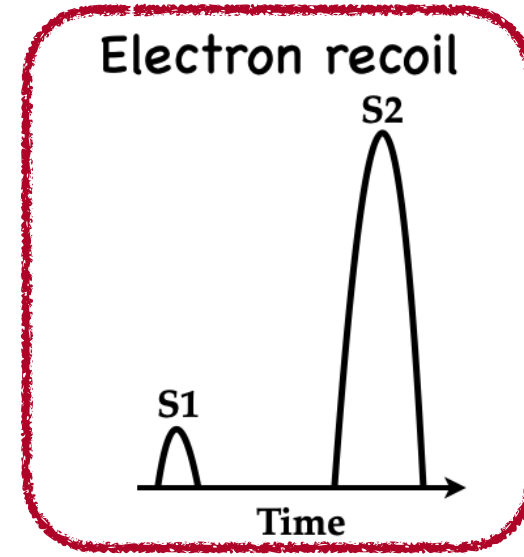
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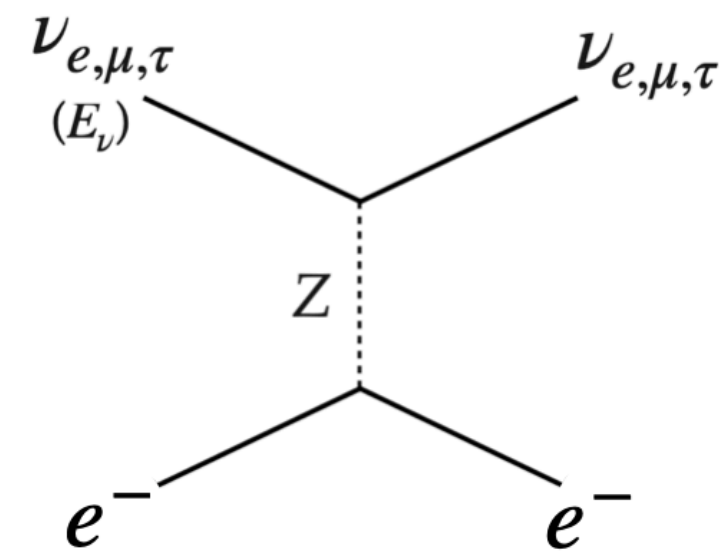


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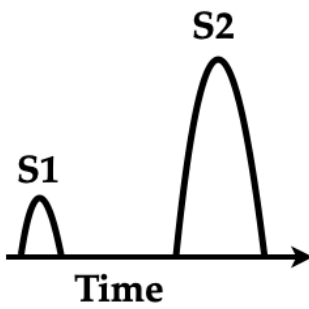


Neutrino-electron scattering

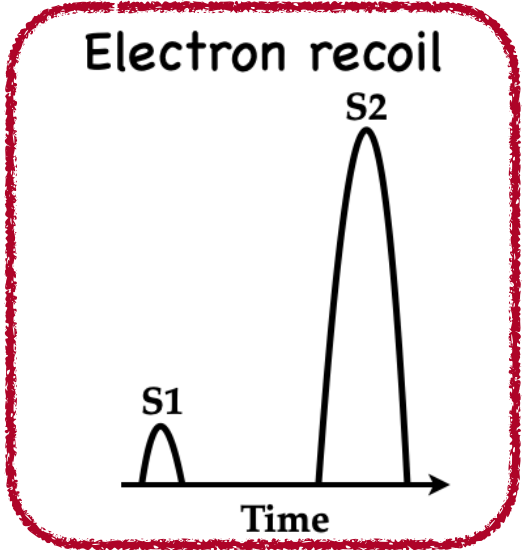
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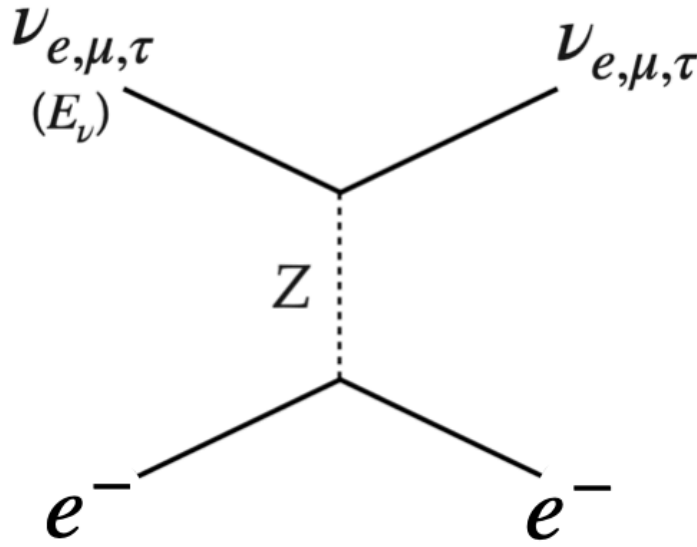


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Neutrino-electron scattering

Observed  $\nu - e$  events:  $\sim 60$

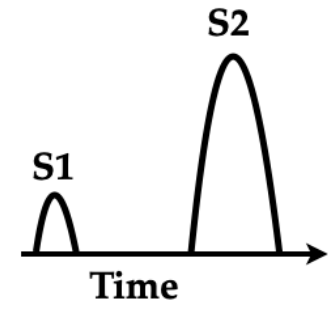
But statistically not significant due to huge background

- XENONnT 2207.11330
- LZ 2307.15753
- PandaX-4T 2408.07641

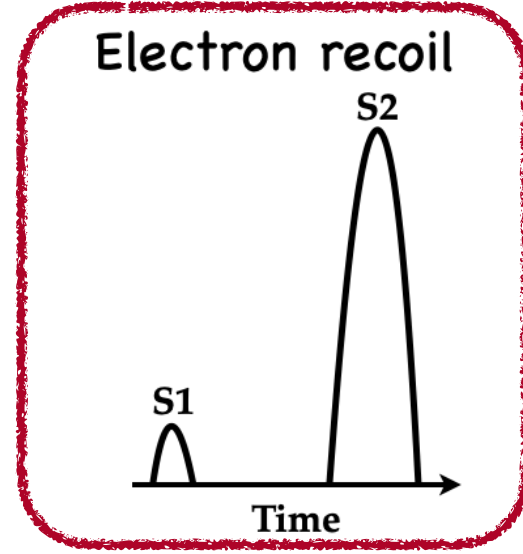
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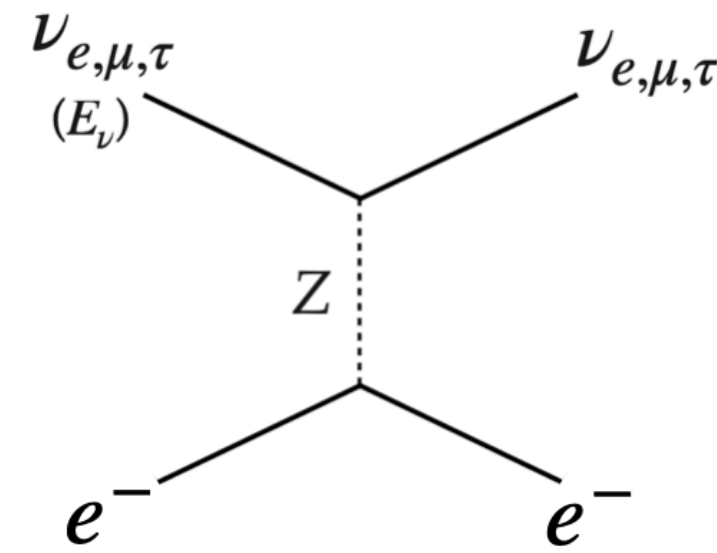


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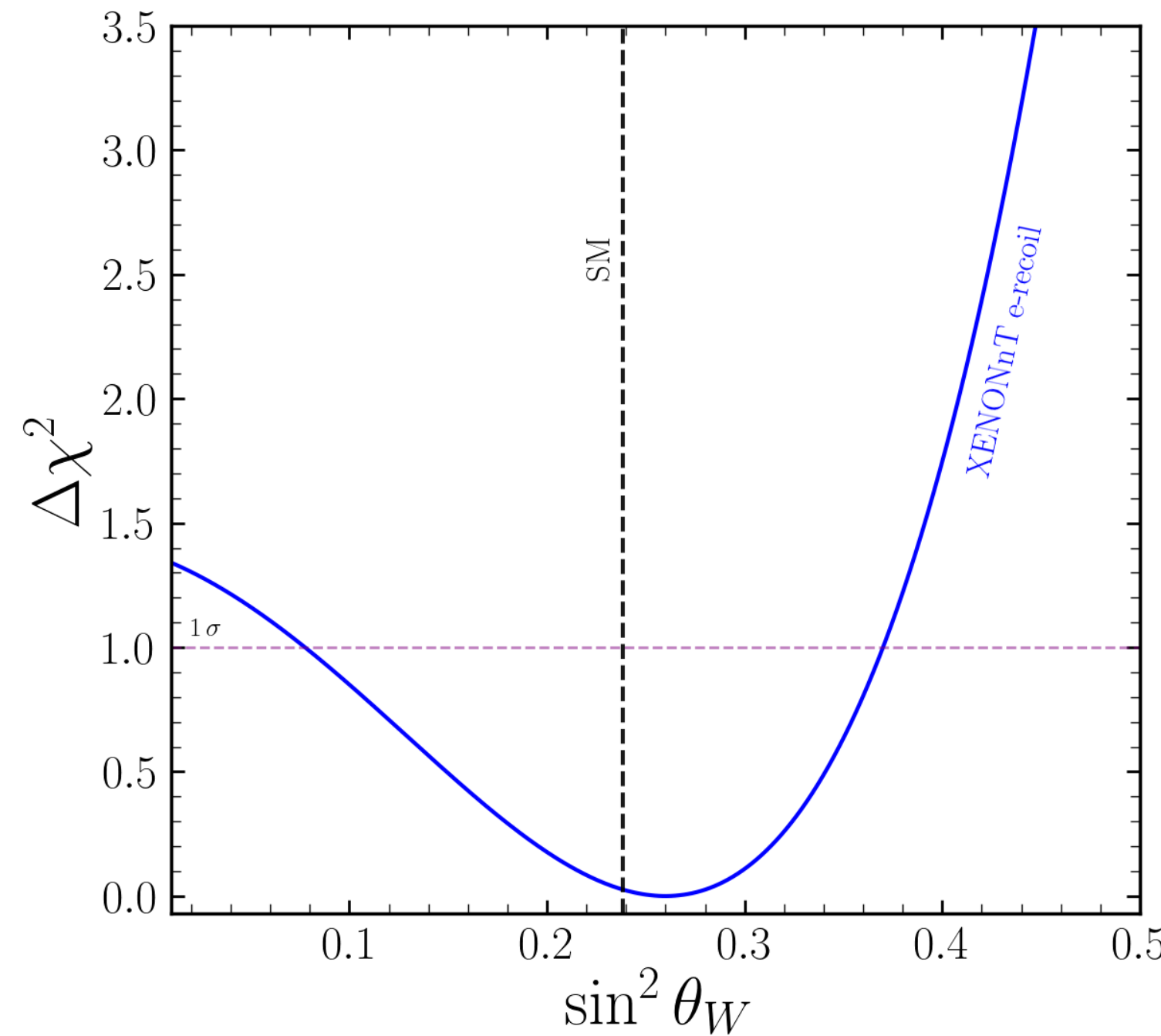
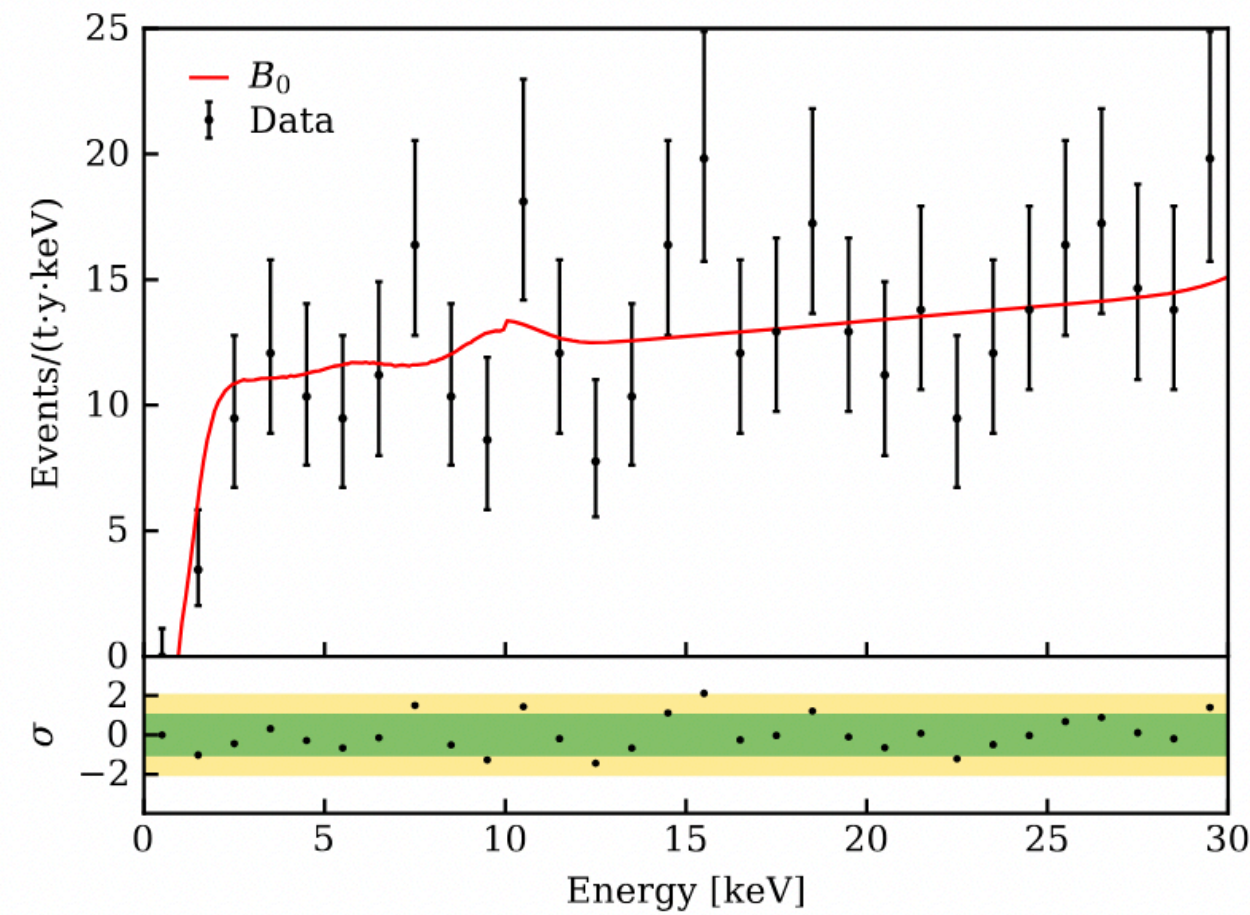
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arXiv > hep-ex > arXiv:2207.11330

High Energy Physics - Experiment

[Submitted on 22 Jul 2022 (v1), last revised 15 Nov 2022 (this version, v2)]

Search for New Physics in Electronic Recoil Data from XENONnT

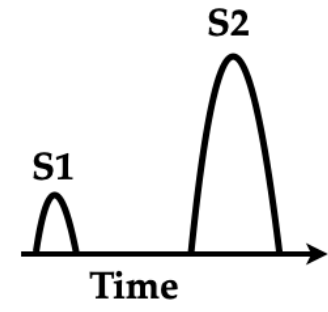


Only upper limits above  $1.16 \sigma$

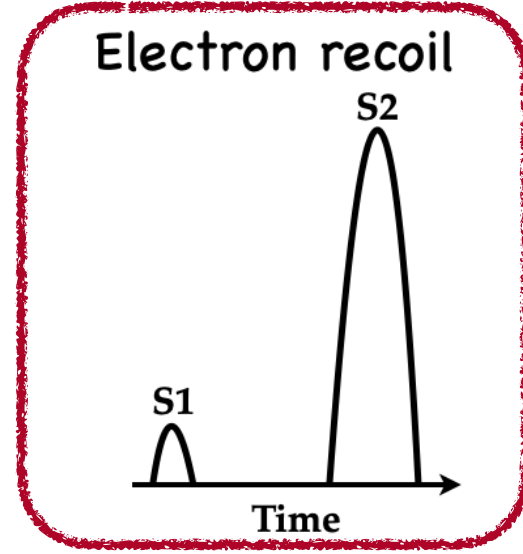
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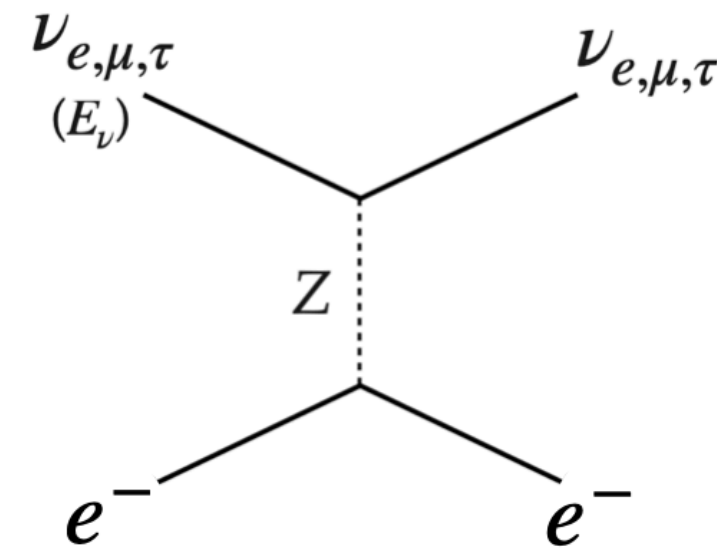


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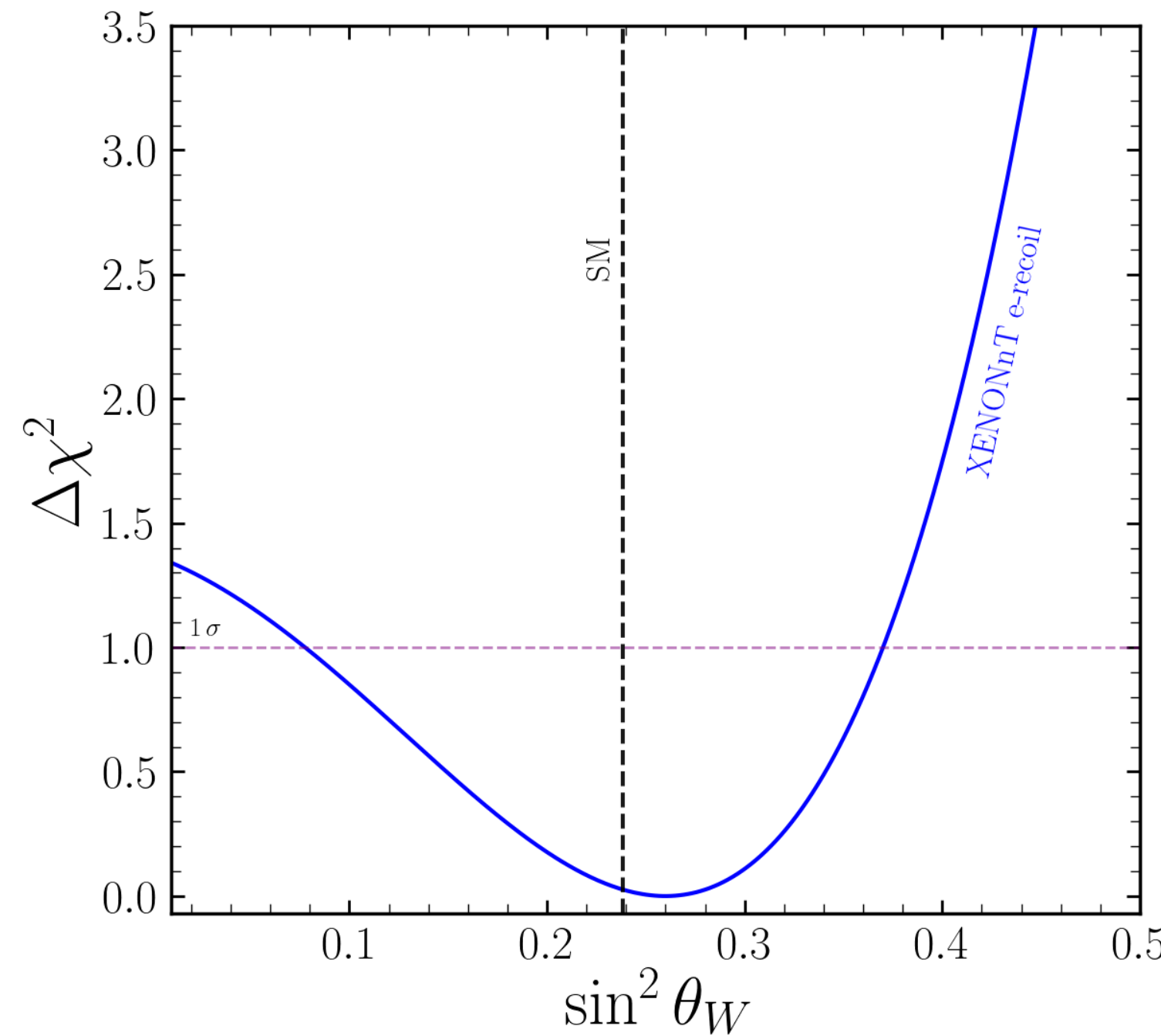
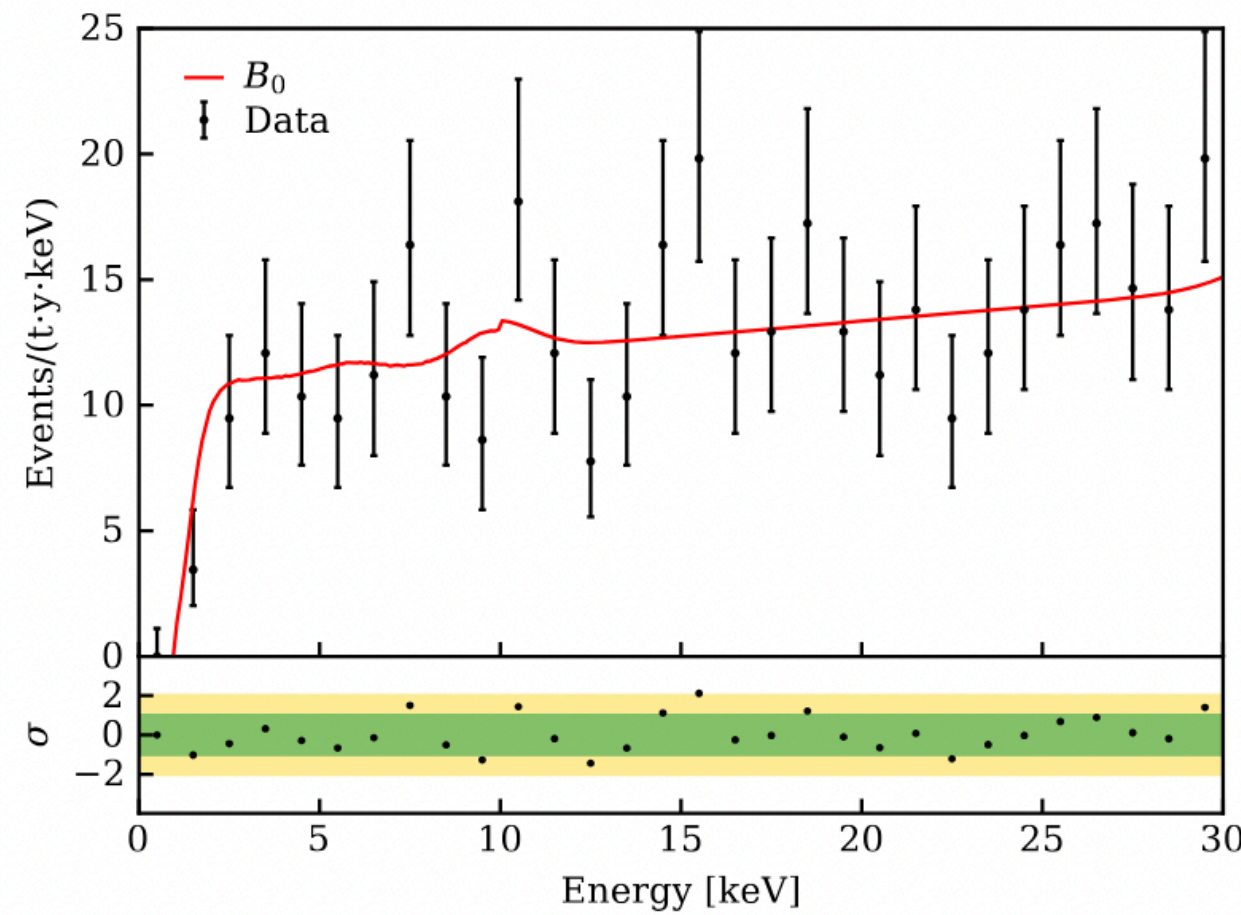
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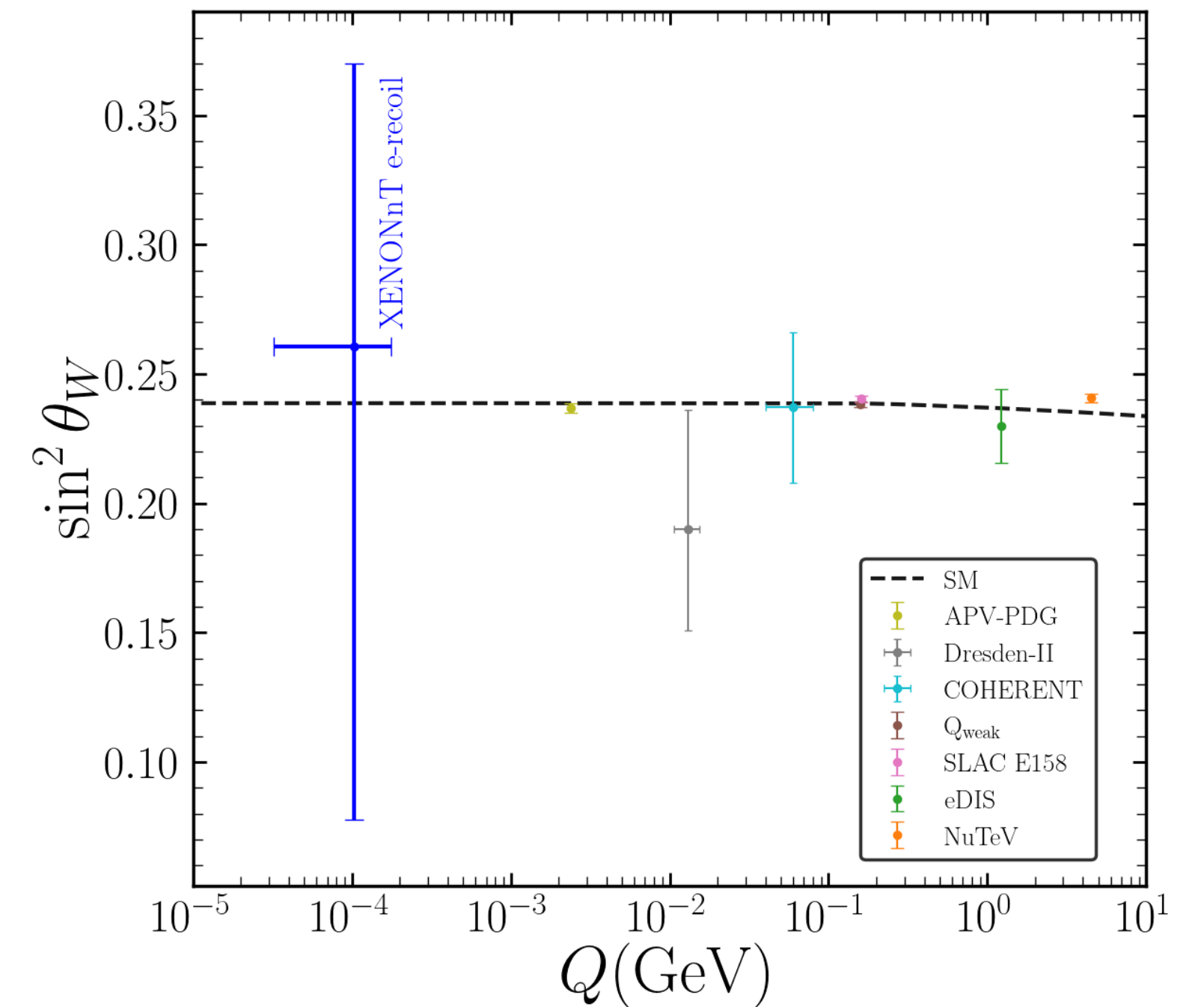
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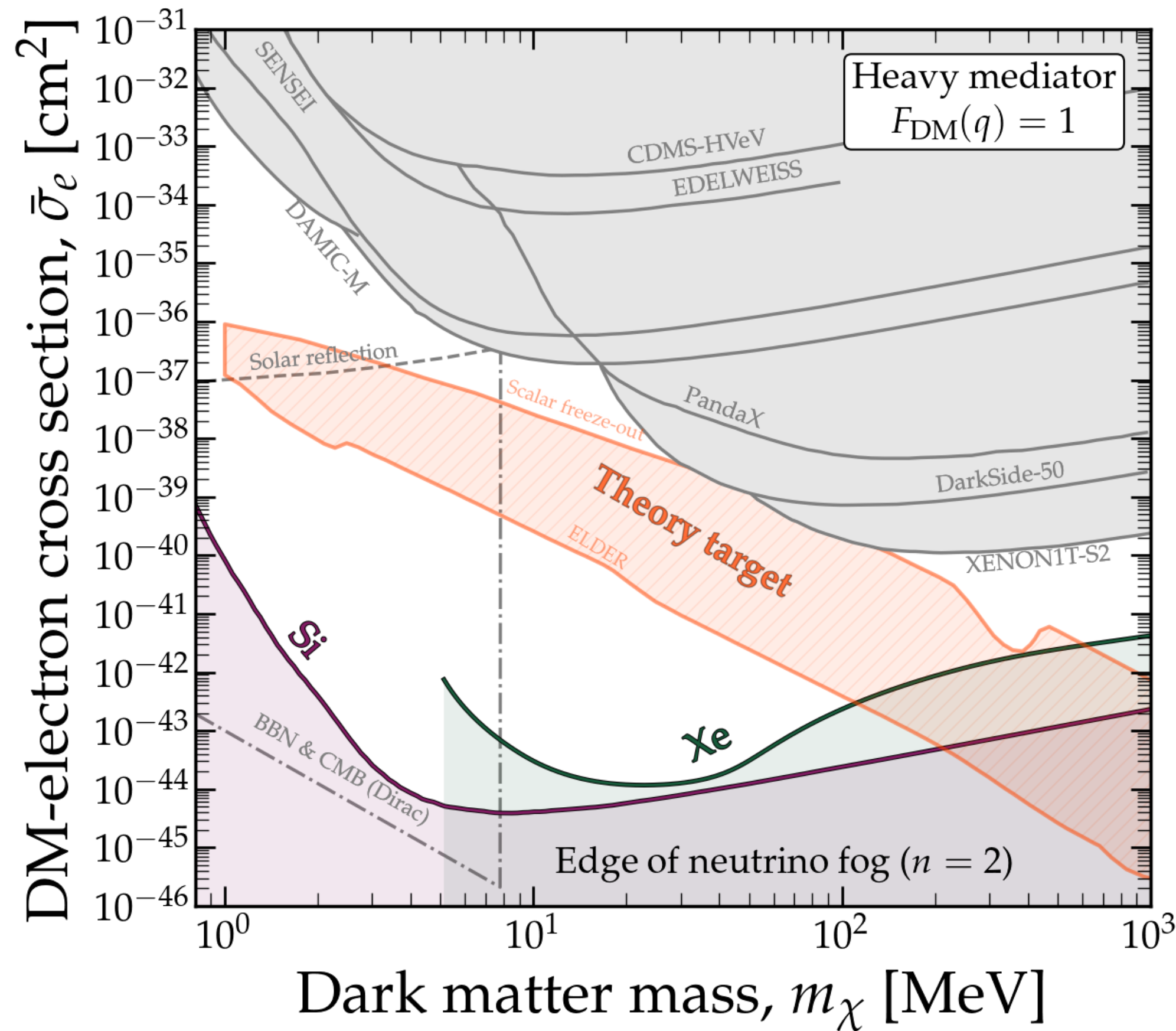


Probing a SM parameter in an entirely new regime

# Summary

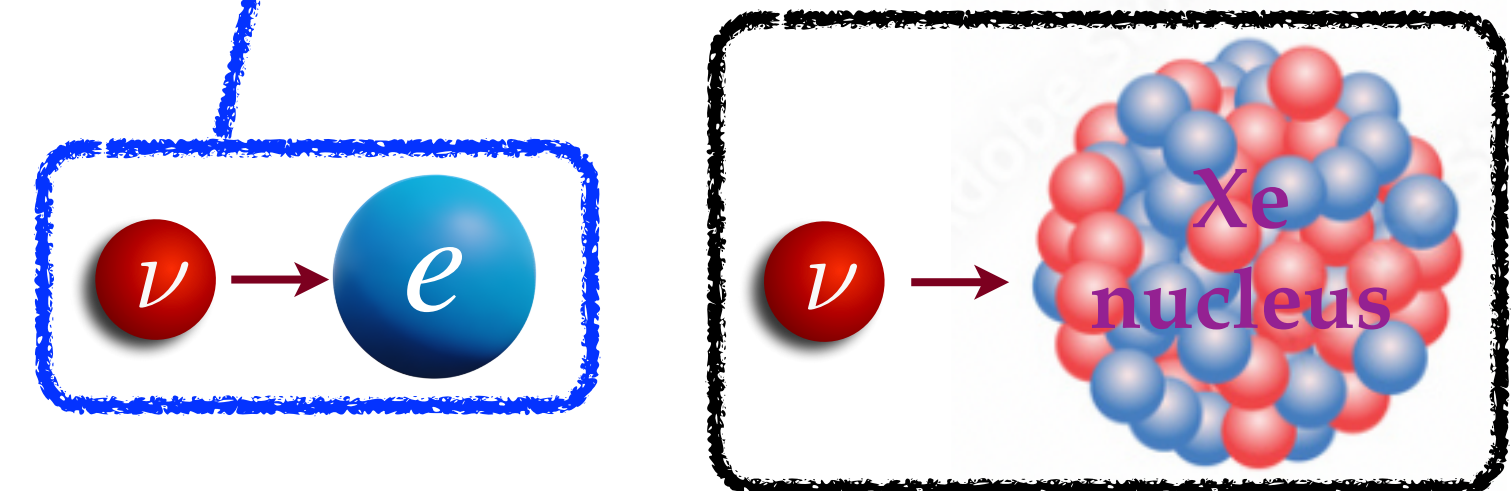
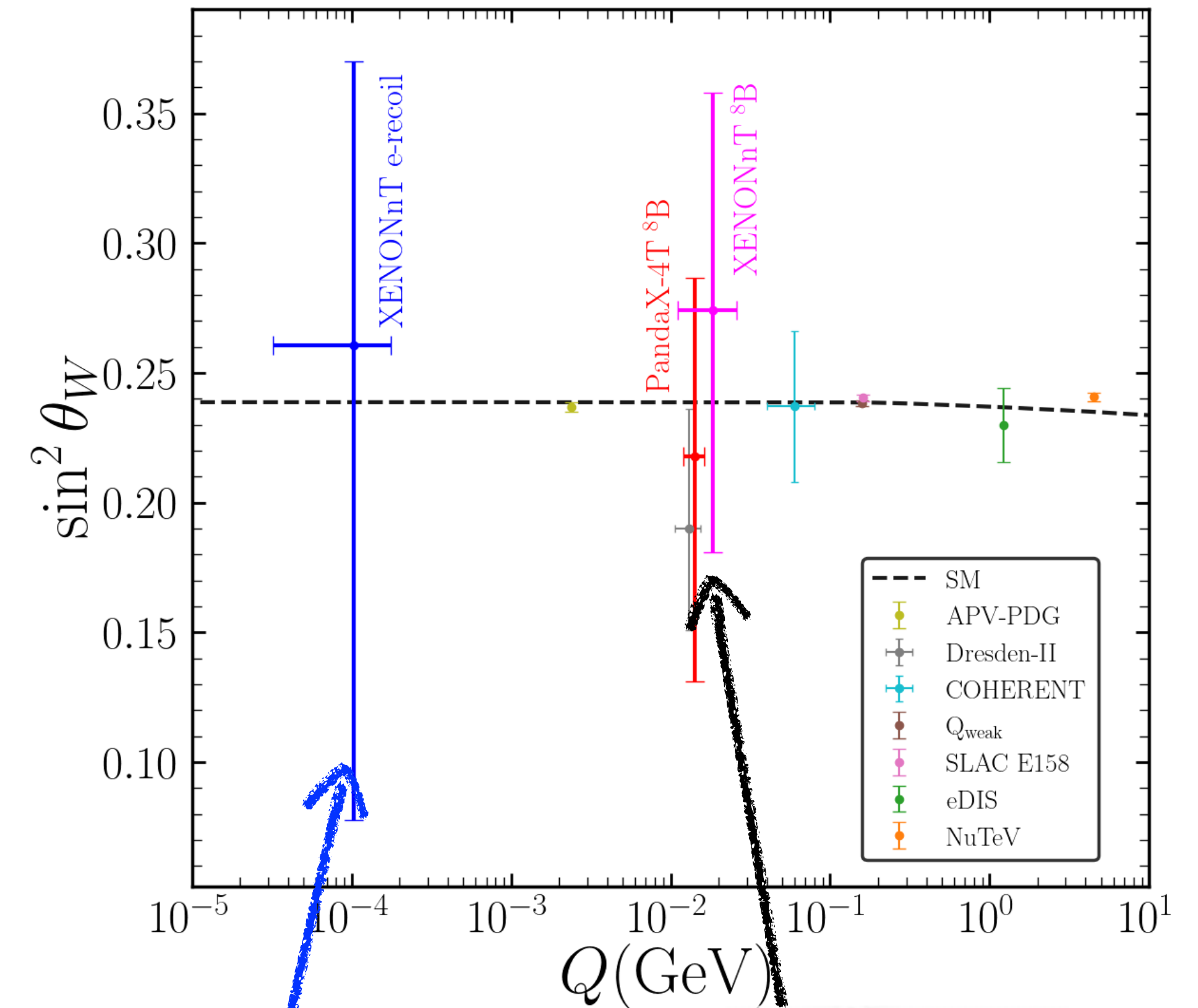
## Neutrinos at direct detection

**Foe:** Slowing down the search of DM



Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

**Friend:** probing SM in an uncharted territory



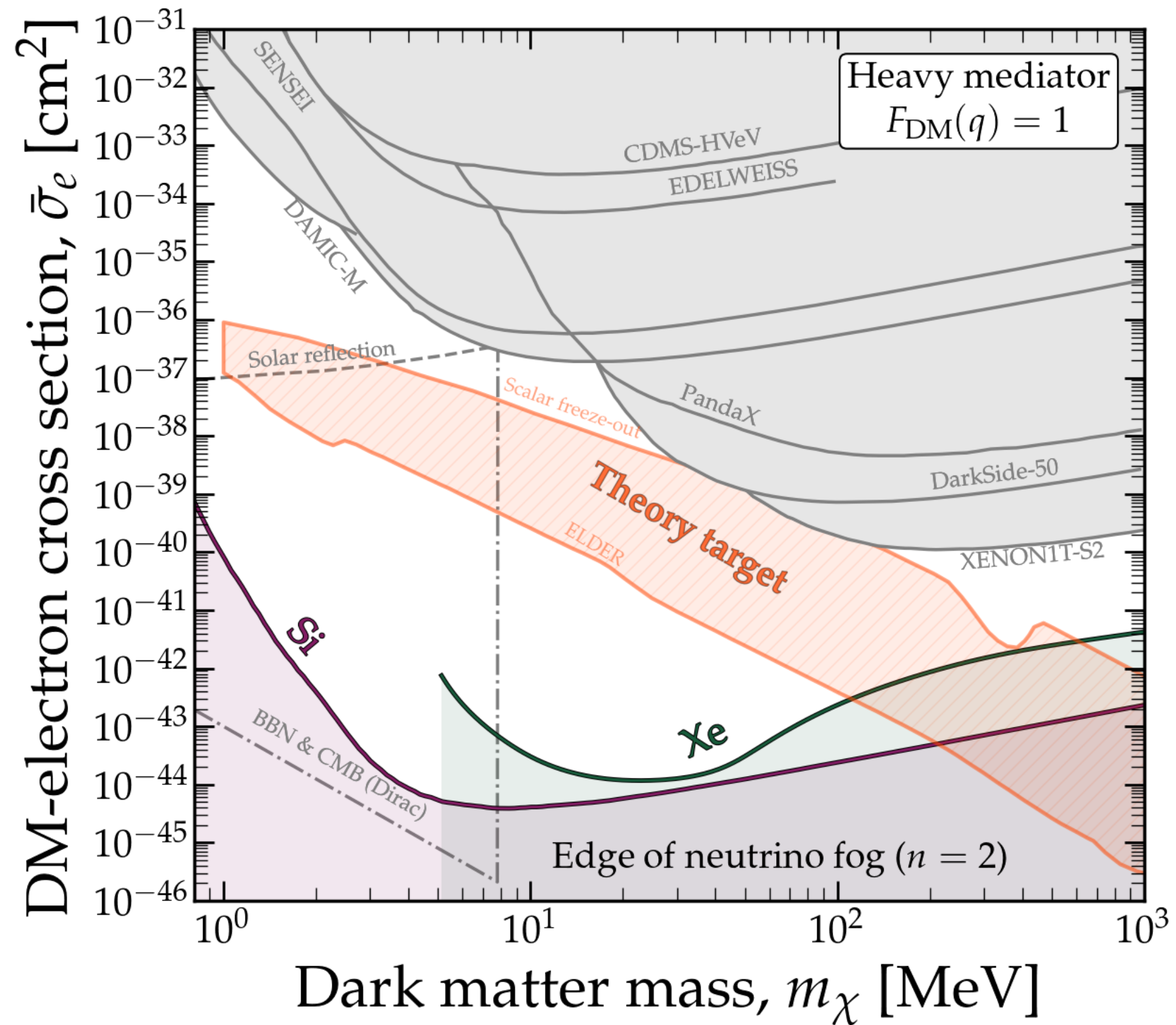
Huge scope of improvement with XLZD, DarkSide-20

[TNM](#), Boehm; 2409.04385

# Summary

## Neutrinos at direct detection

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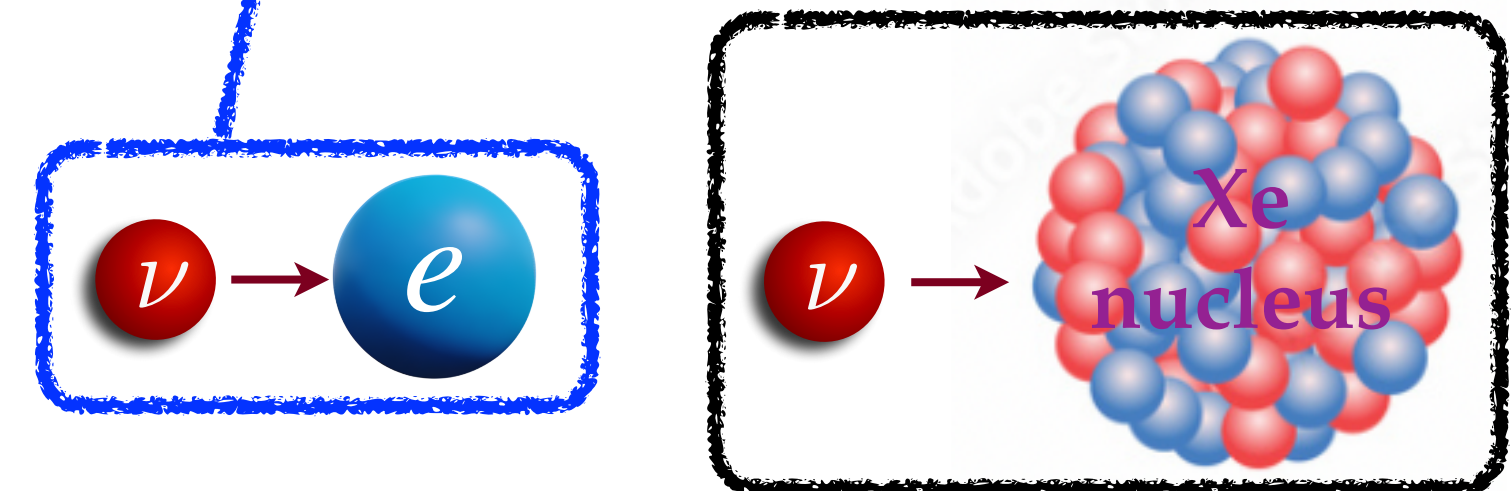
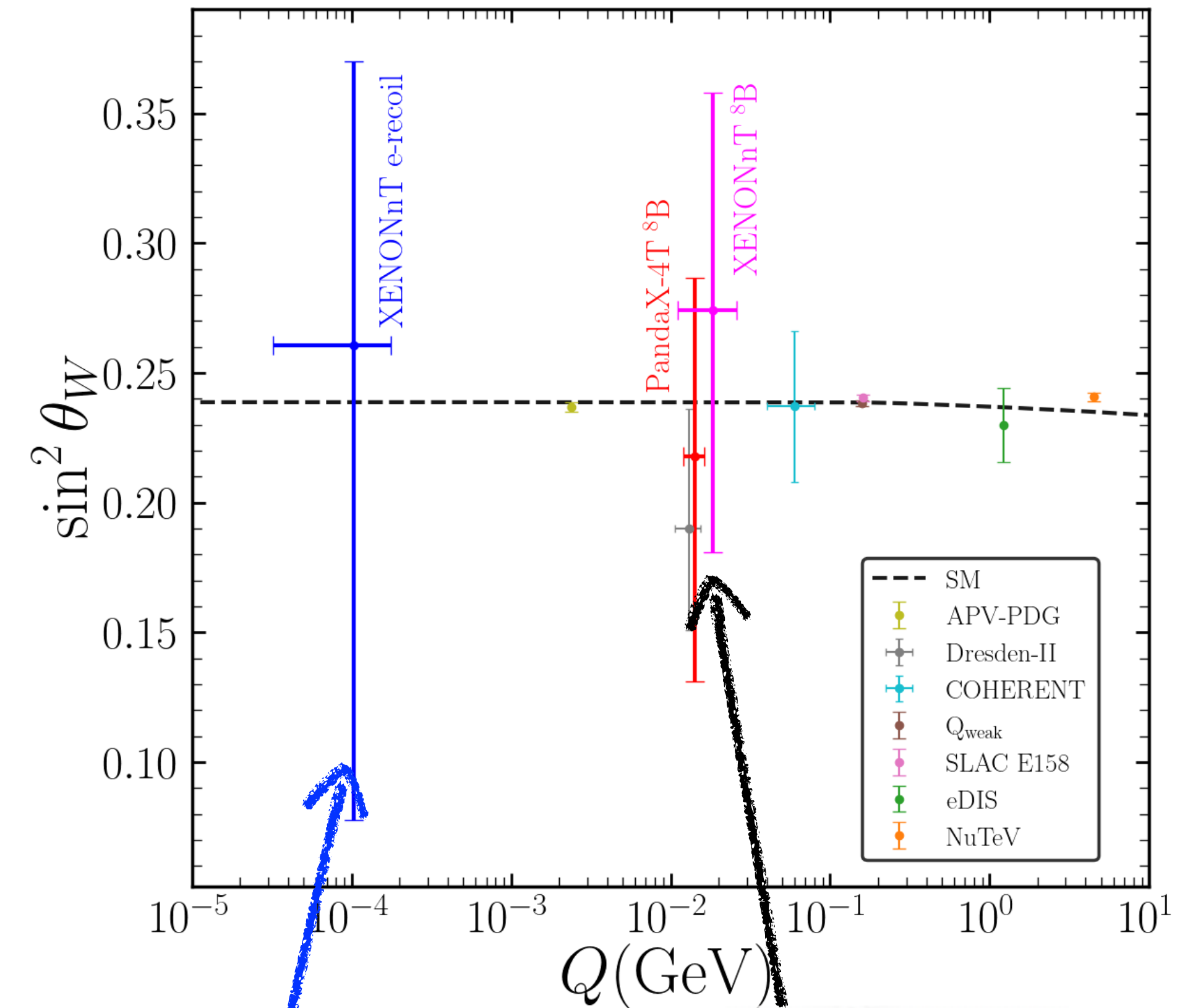


Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

email: [tarak.maity.physics@gmail.com](mailto:tarak.maity.physics@gmail.com)

Thank you

**Friend:** probing SM in an uncharted territory



Huge scope of improvement with XLZD, DarkSide-20

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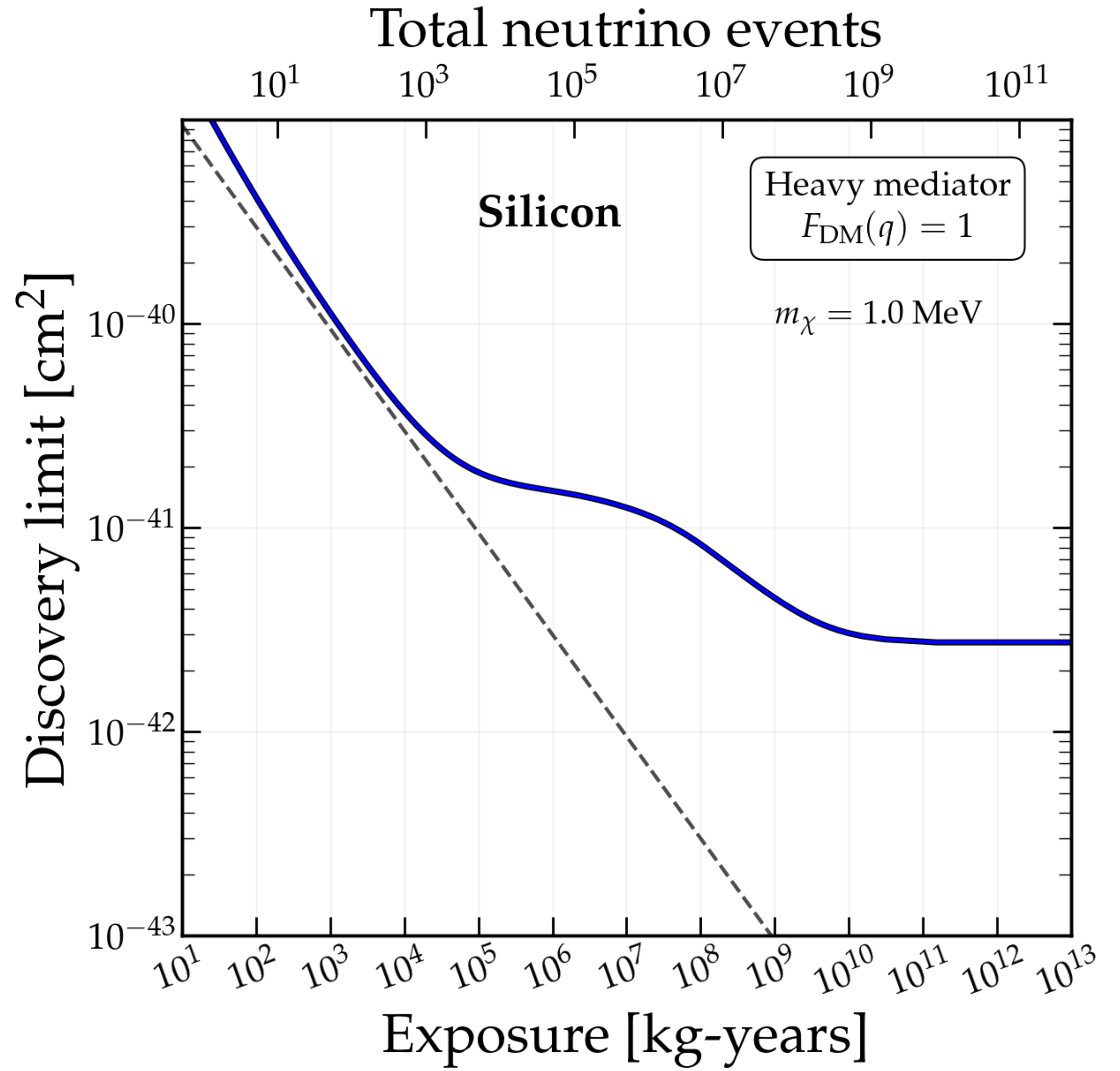
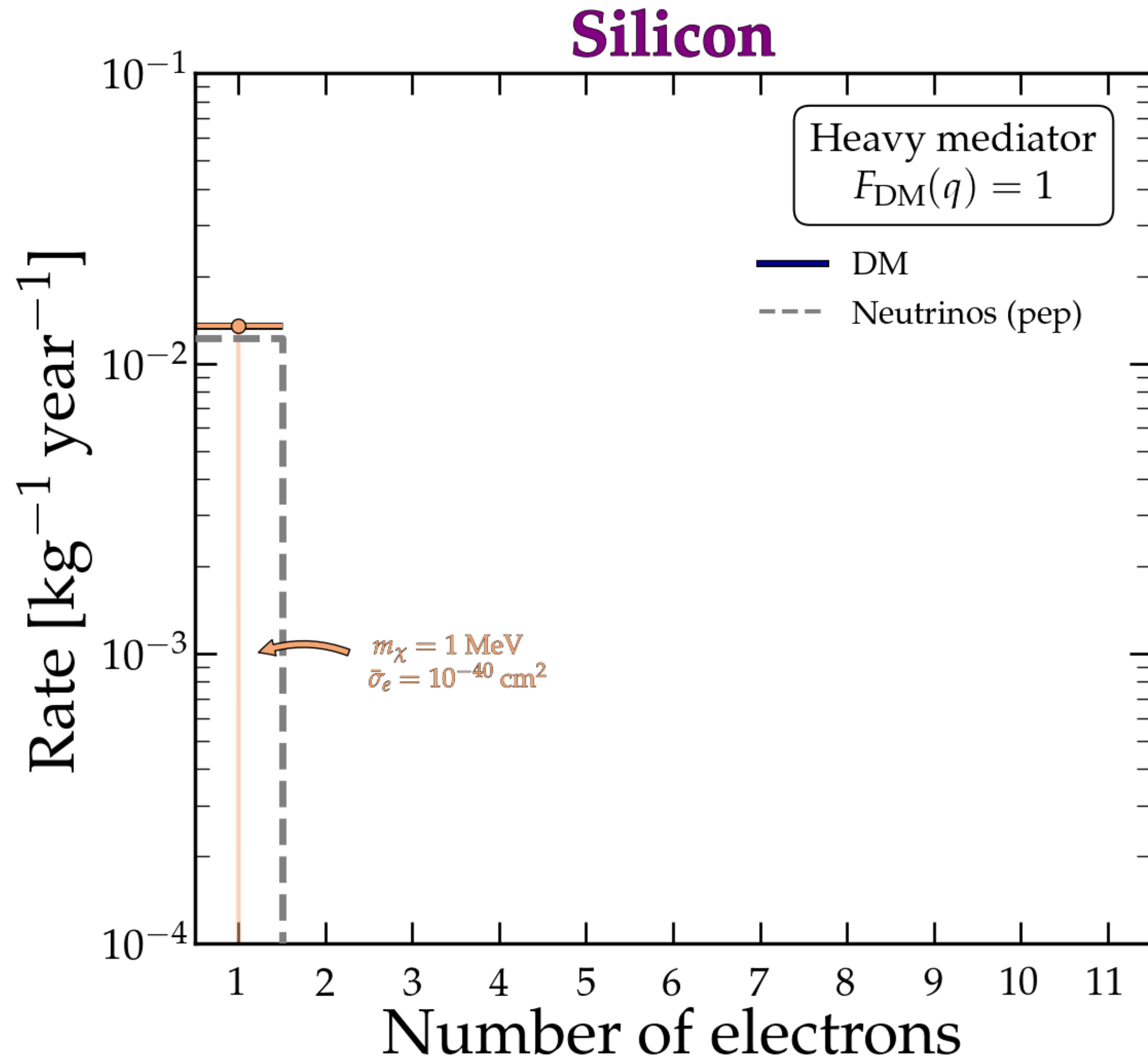
# Backup



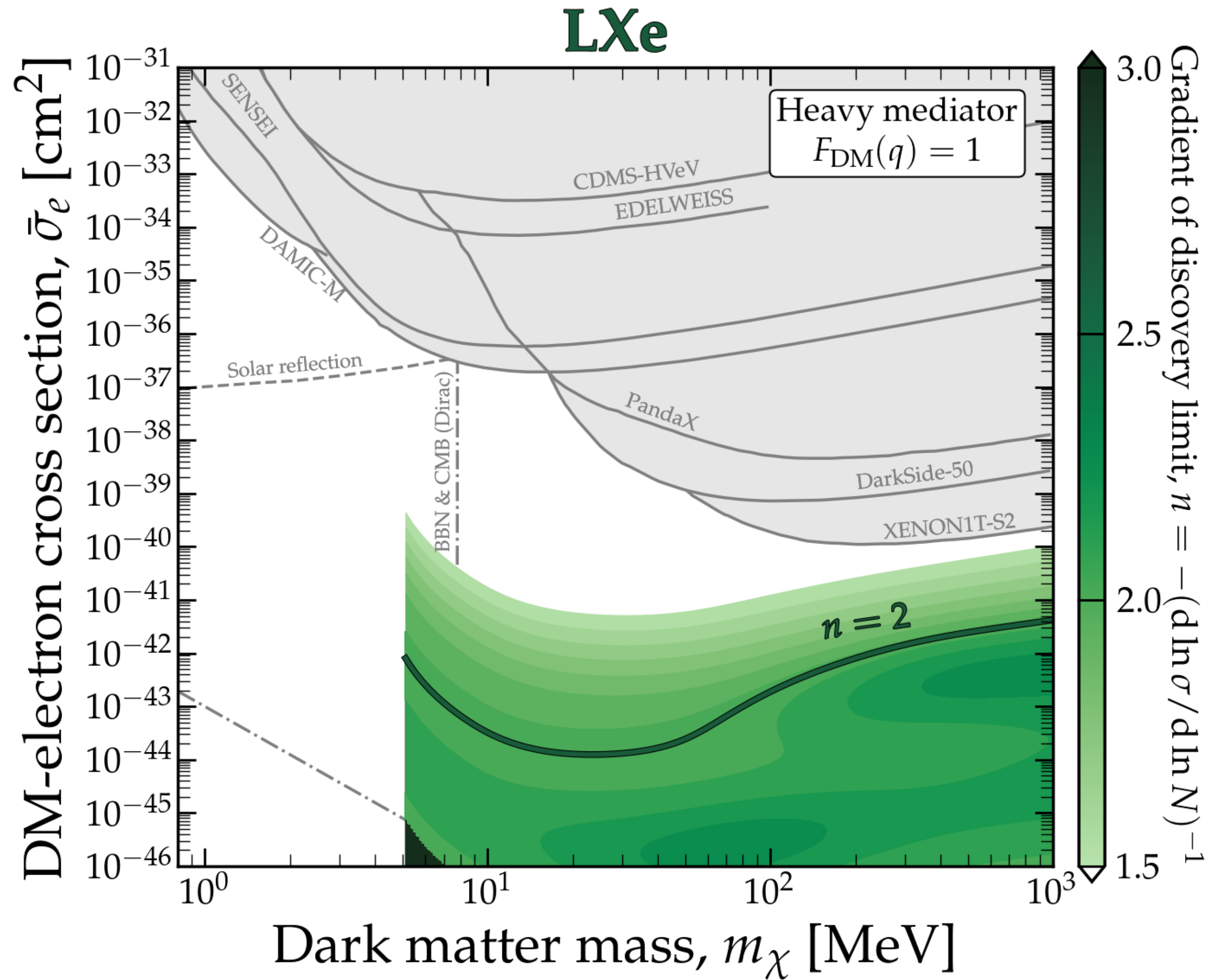
# Neutrino flux

$\nu$ Source	$\Phi(1 \pm \delta\Phi/\Phi)$ [ $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ]
pp	$5.98(1 \pm 0.006) \times 10^{10}$
pep	$1.44(1 \pm 0.01) \times 10^8$
hep	$7.98(1 \pm 0.30) \times 10^3$
${}^7\text{Be}$	$4.93(1 \pm 0.06) \times 10^8$
${}^7\text{Be}$	$4.50(1 \pm 0.06) \times 10^9$
${}^8\text{B}$	$5.16(1 \pm 0.02) \times 10^6$
${}^{13}\text{N}$	$2.78(1 \pm 0.15) \times 10^8$
${}^{15}\text{O}$	$2.05(1 \pm 0.17) \times 10^8$
${}^{17}\text{F}$	$5.28(1 \pm 0.20) \times 10^6$

# Low mass Si



# Neutrino fog Xe



Carew, Caddell, [TNM](#), O'Hare; 2312.04303

# Neutrino "floor" and future projections

