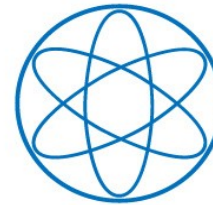


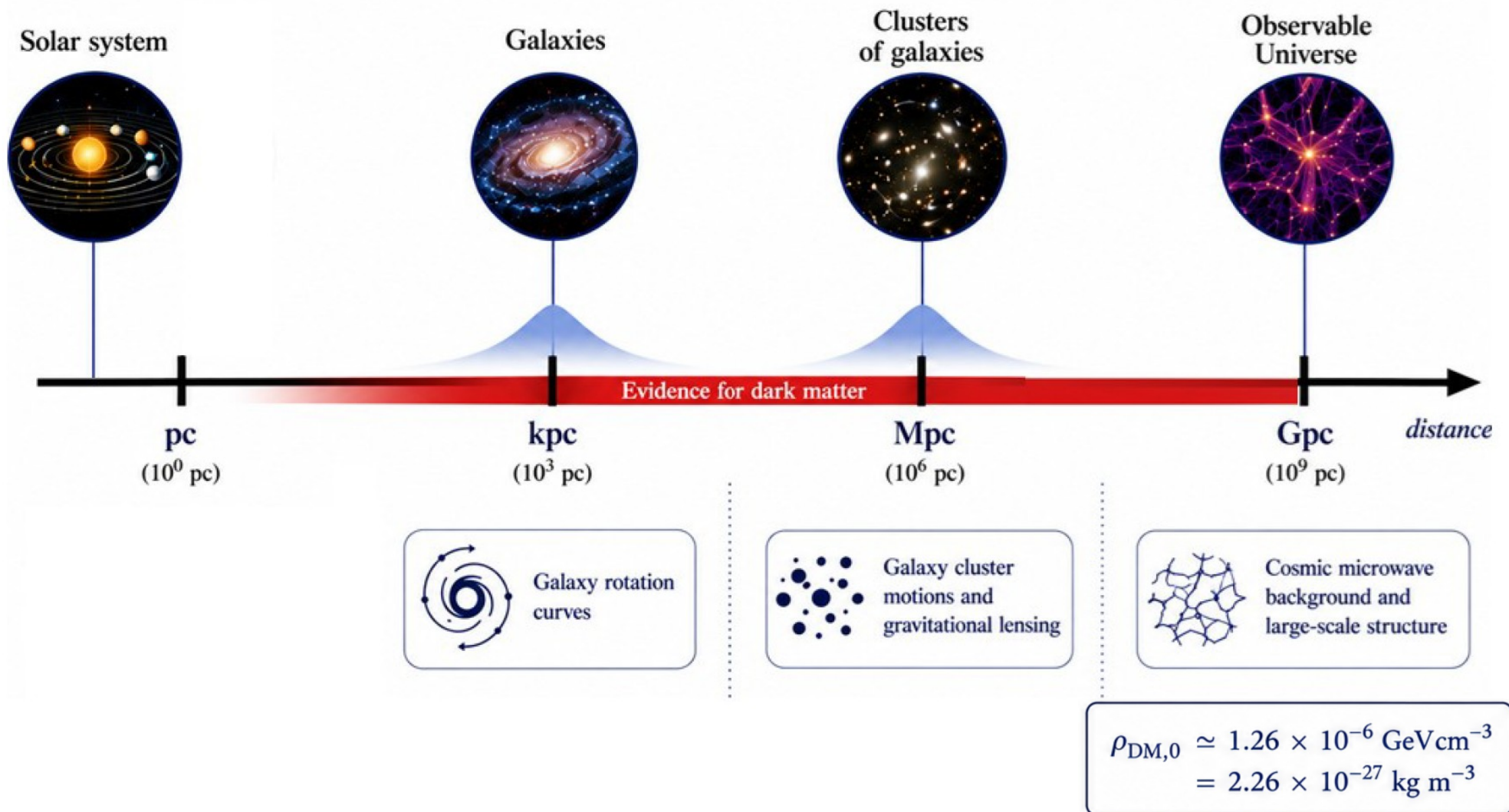
WIMP Dark Matter

Alejandro Ibarra

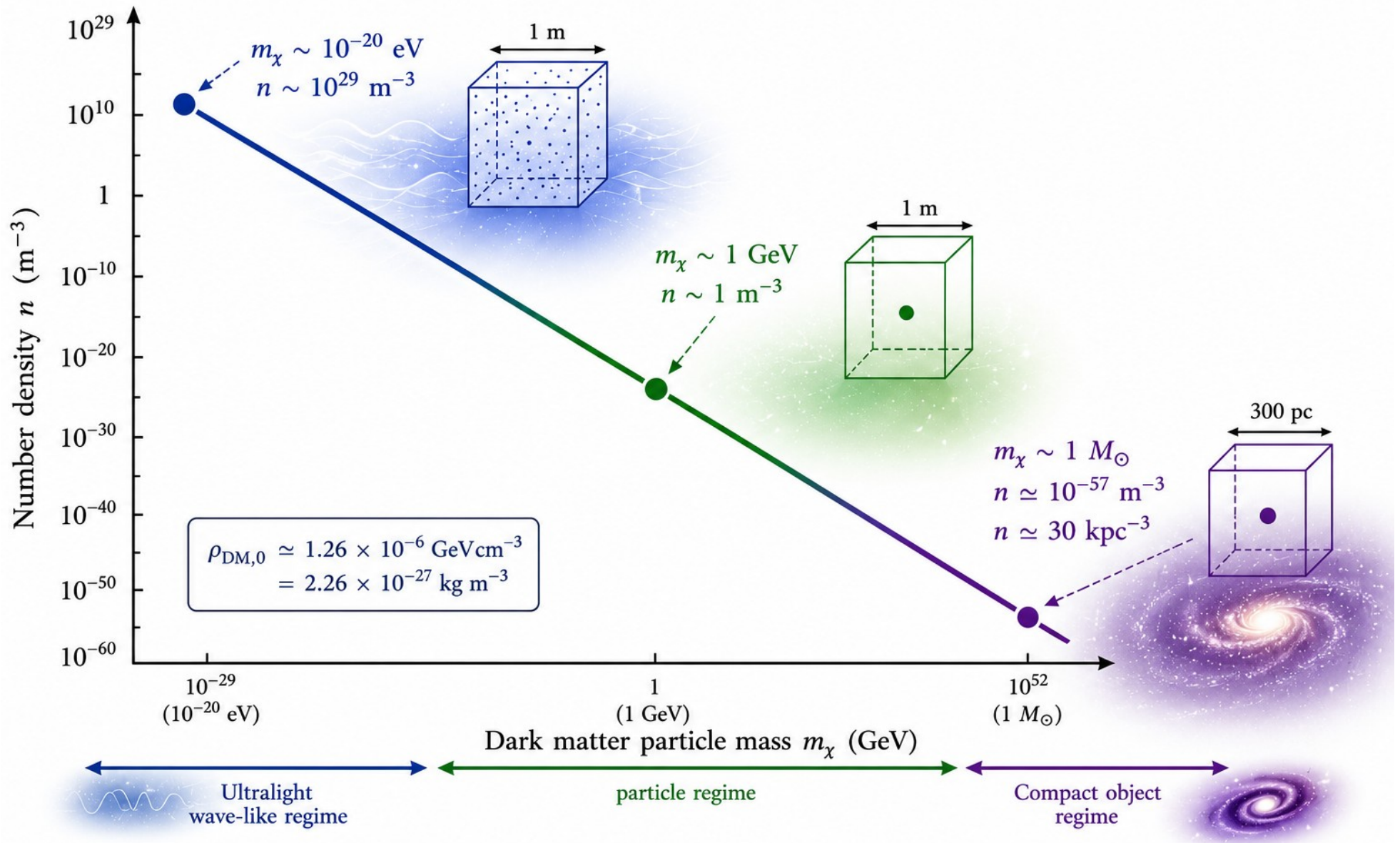


Summer Institute'26
Fujiyoshida
August 2026

Evidence for dark matter



Cosmic dark matter number density vs. particle mass



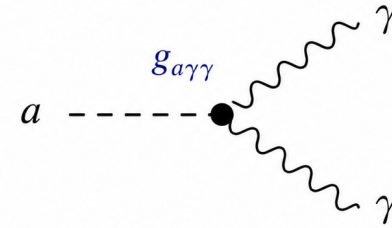
Wave-like dark matter

- Macroscopic de Broglie wavelength

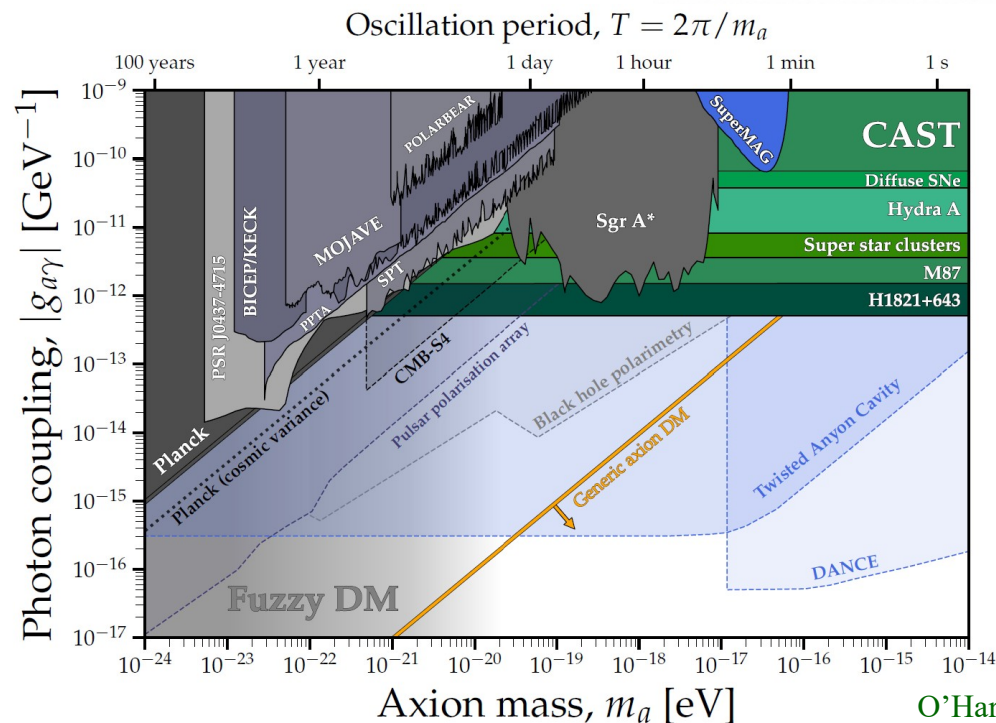
$$\lambda_{\text{dB}} = 1.24 \text{ kpc} \left(\frac{10^{-22} \text{ eV}}{m_a} \right) \left(\frac{300 \text{ km s}^{-1}}{v} \right).$$

- Dark matter could interact with the Standard Model:

$$\mathcal{L}_{a\gamma\gamma} = -\frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma\gamma} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu},$$



- The ULDM field behaves as a coherently oscillating classical field, $a(t) = a_0 \cos(m_a t)$
 $\Rightarrow$ Oscillating electromagnetic effects with frequency $\nu \simeq (1.3 \text{ years})^{-1} (m_a/10^{-22} \text{ eV})$

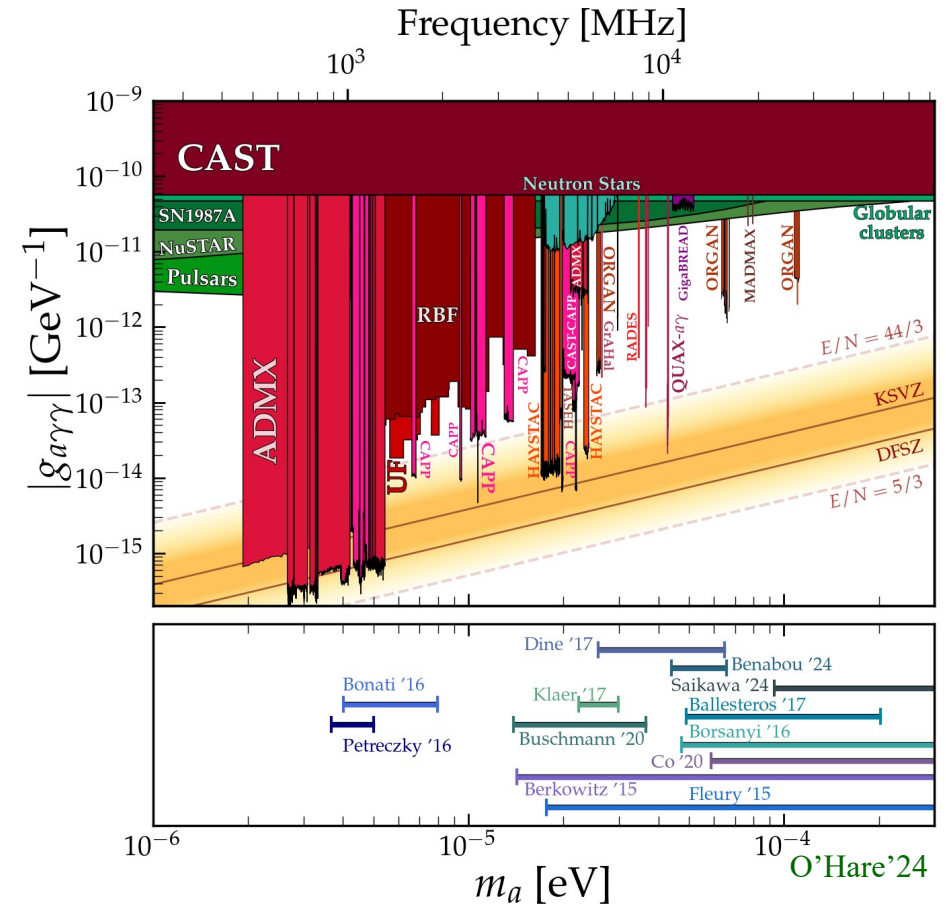


Wave-like dark matter: axions

- Models of axion dark matter suggest $m_a \sim 10 - 100 \mu\text{eV}$ (if the Peccei-Quinn symmetry is broken before inflation; larger if broken after)

$$\nu_a = 2.4 \text{ GHz} \left(\frac{m_a}{10 \mu\text{eV}} \right).$$

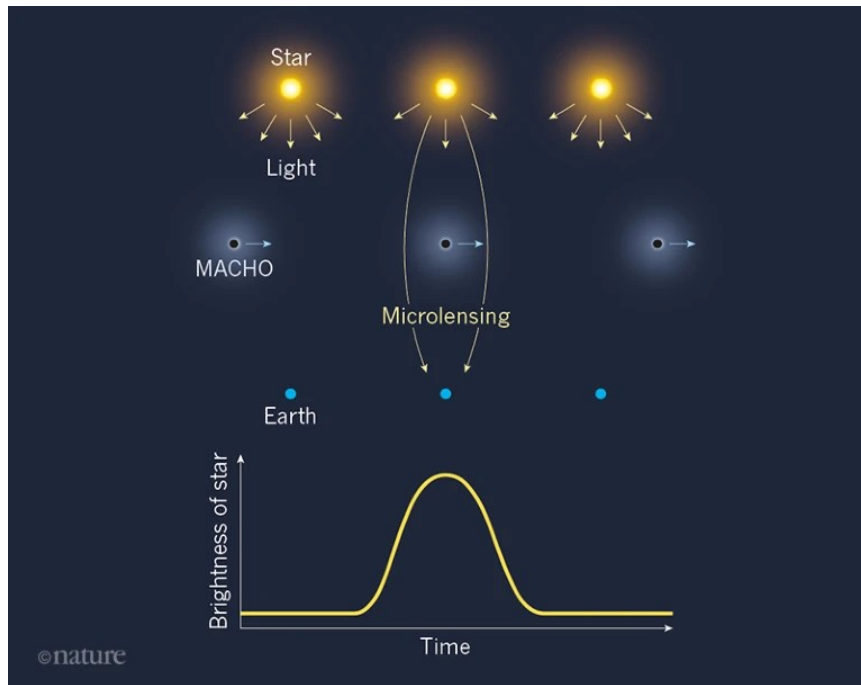
- The axion-photon coupling acts as a source in the Maxwell equations, and amplifies the energy of a cavity with frequency tuned to the axion frequency.



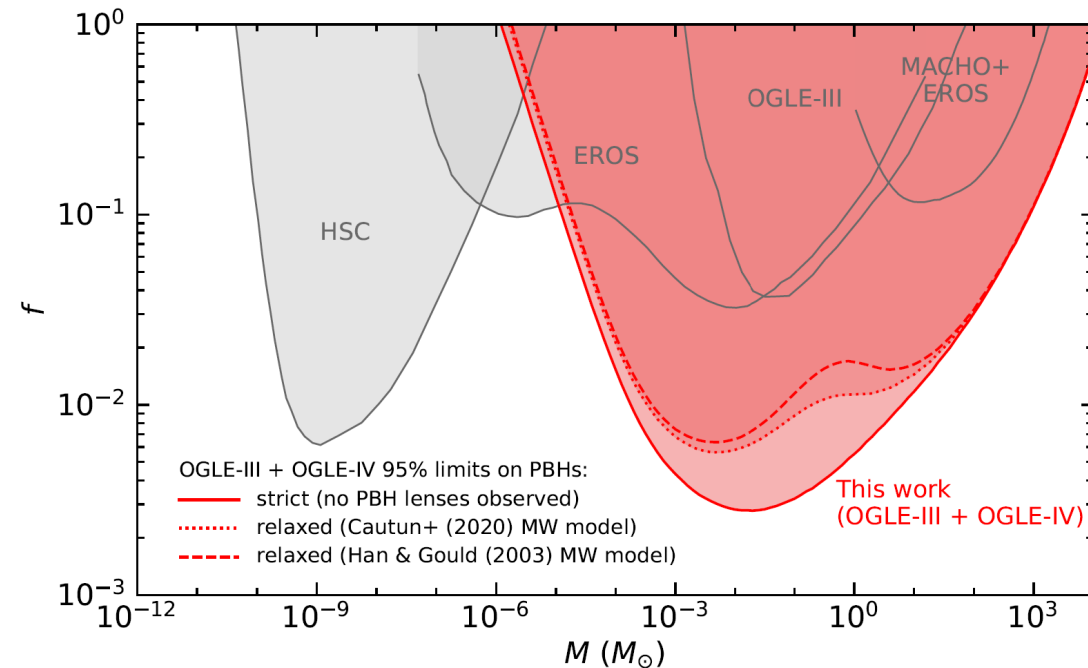
Current experiments start to cover the region favored by axion dark matter models

Macroscopic dark matter

Model independent search strategy: microlensing of the light from distant stars



Pietrzyński '18

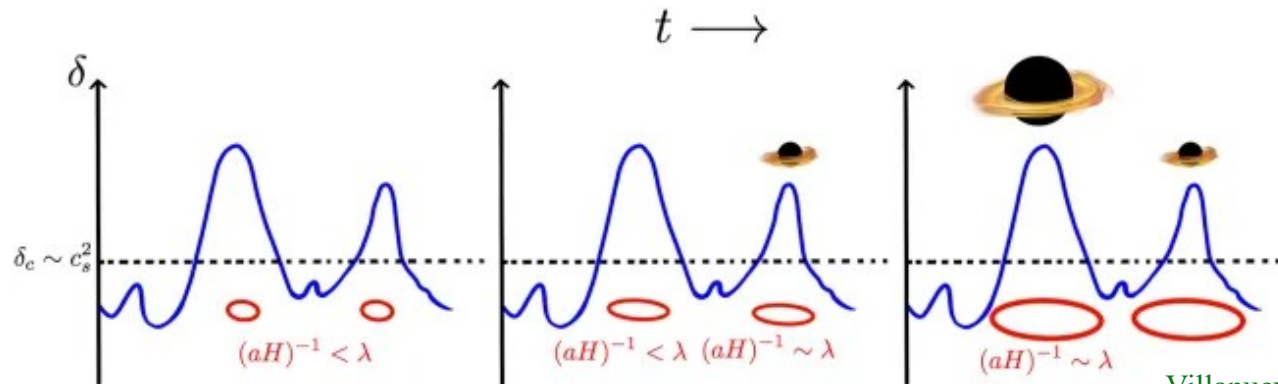


Mroz et al. '24

Macroscopic dark matter

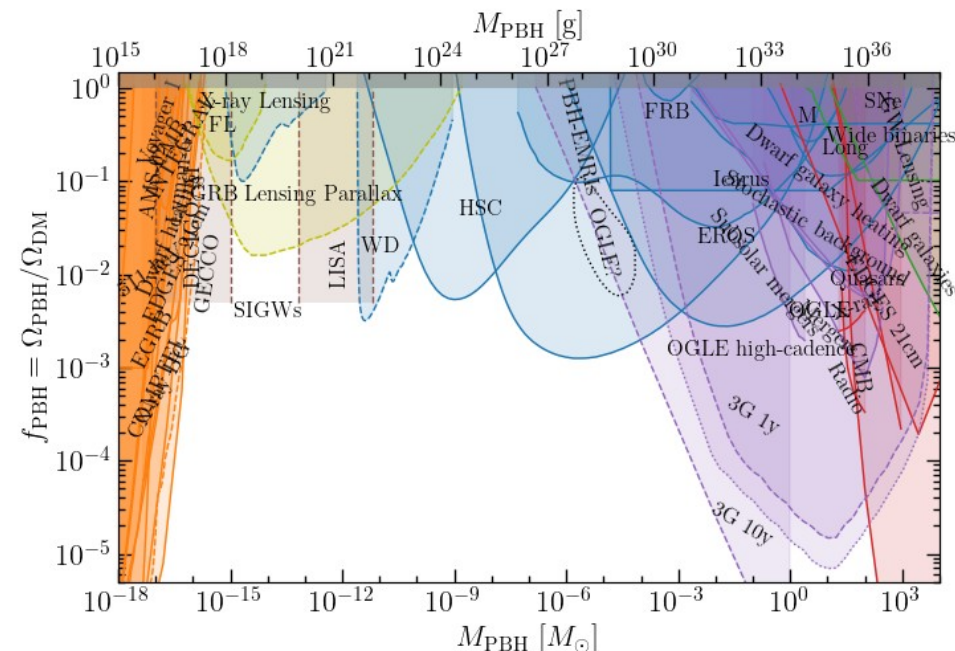
Some popular candidates (in the HEP community)

- **Primordial black holes** Zel'dovich & Novikov '66, Hawking'71, Carr, Hawking'74



Villanueva-Domingo, Mena, Palomares-Ruiz'21

- PBHs are excluded as dominant component of dark matter in large regions of the parameter space.
- The region with asteroid mass (10^{17} - 10^{22} g) still allowed *if all PBHs had the same mass*. Good prospects to close the window completely.

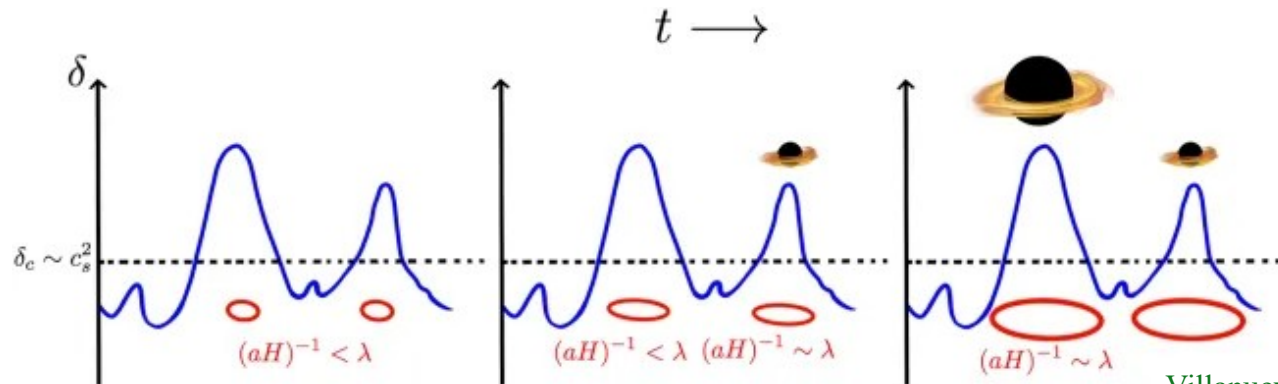


<https://github.com/bradkav/PBHbounds>

Macroscopic dark matter

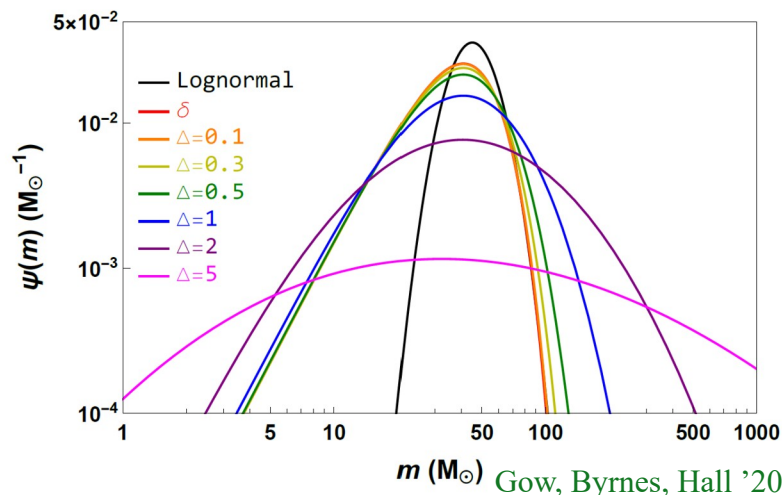
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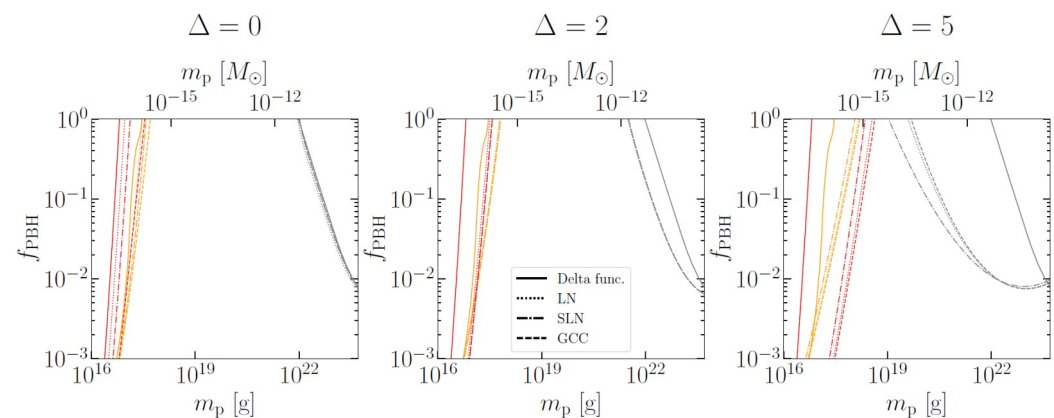


Villanueva-Domingo, Mena, Palomares-Ruiz'21

- The PBH mass function is not expected to be exactly monochromatic.



Gow, Byrnes, Hall '20



Gorton, Green '24

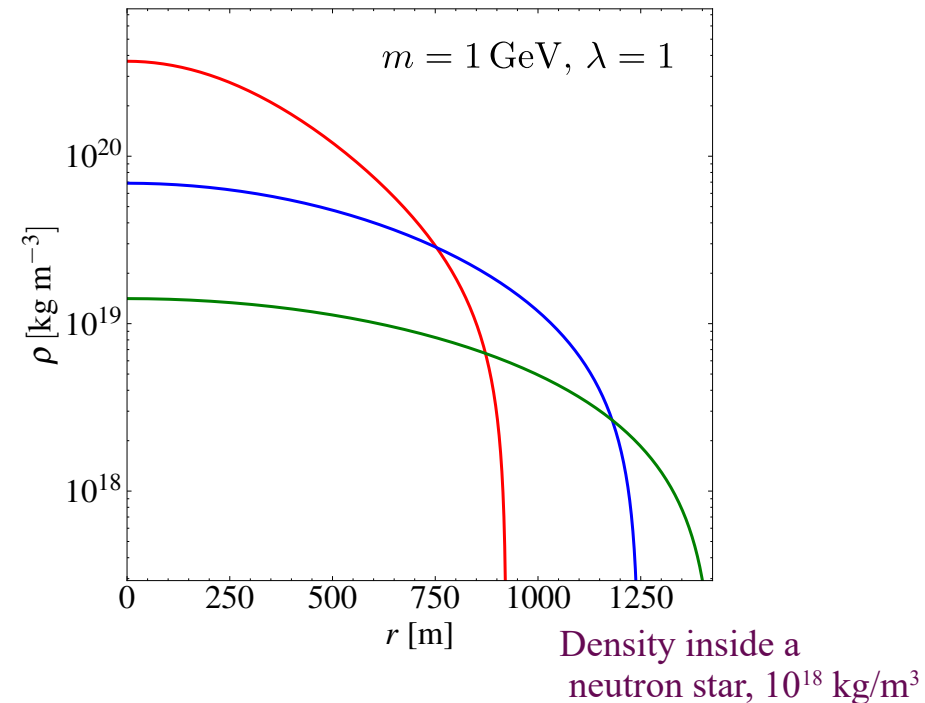
Macroscopic dark matter

- Compact dark stars Colpi et al'86

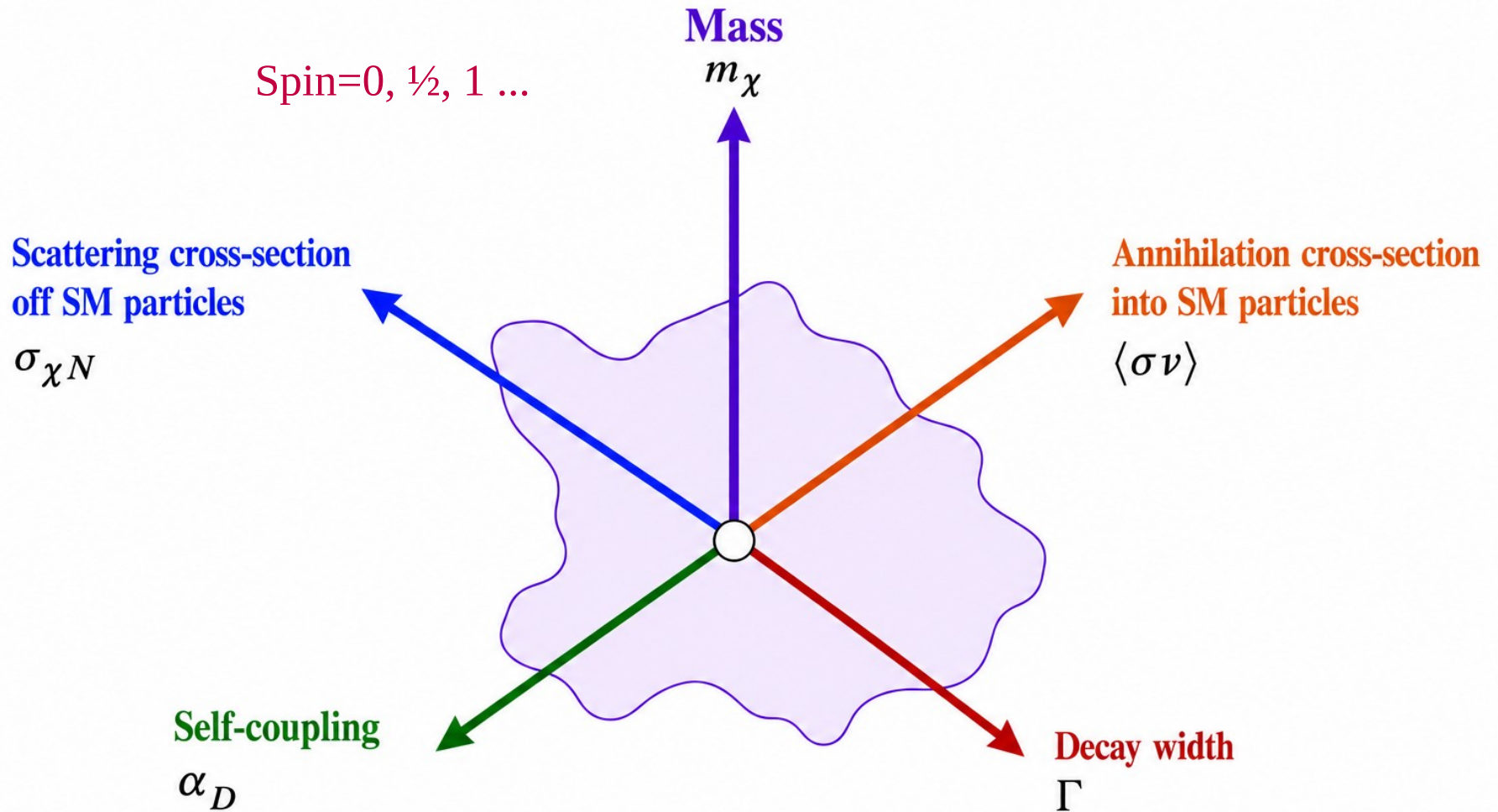
- Asymmetric dark matter with strong self-interactions (akin to protons).
- The density profile of dark stars calculable from the Klein-Gordon equation in curved spacetime (for bosonic DM) and the Einstein equations:

$$g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi - m^2 \phi - \lambda |\phi|^2 \phi = 0$$

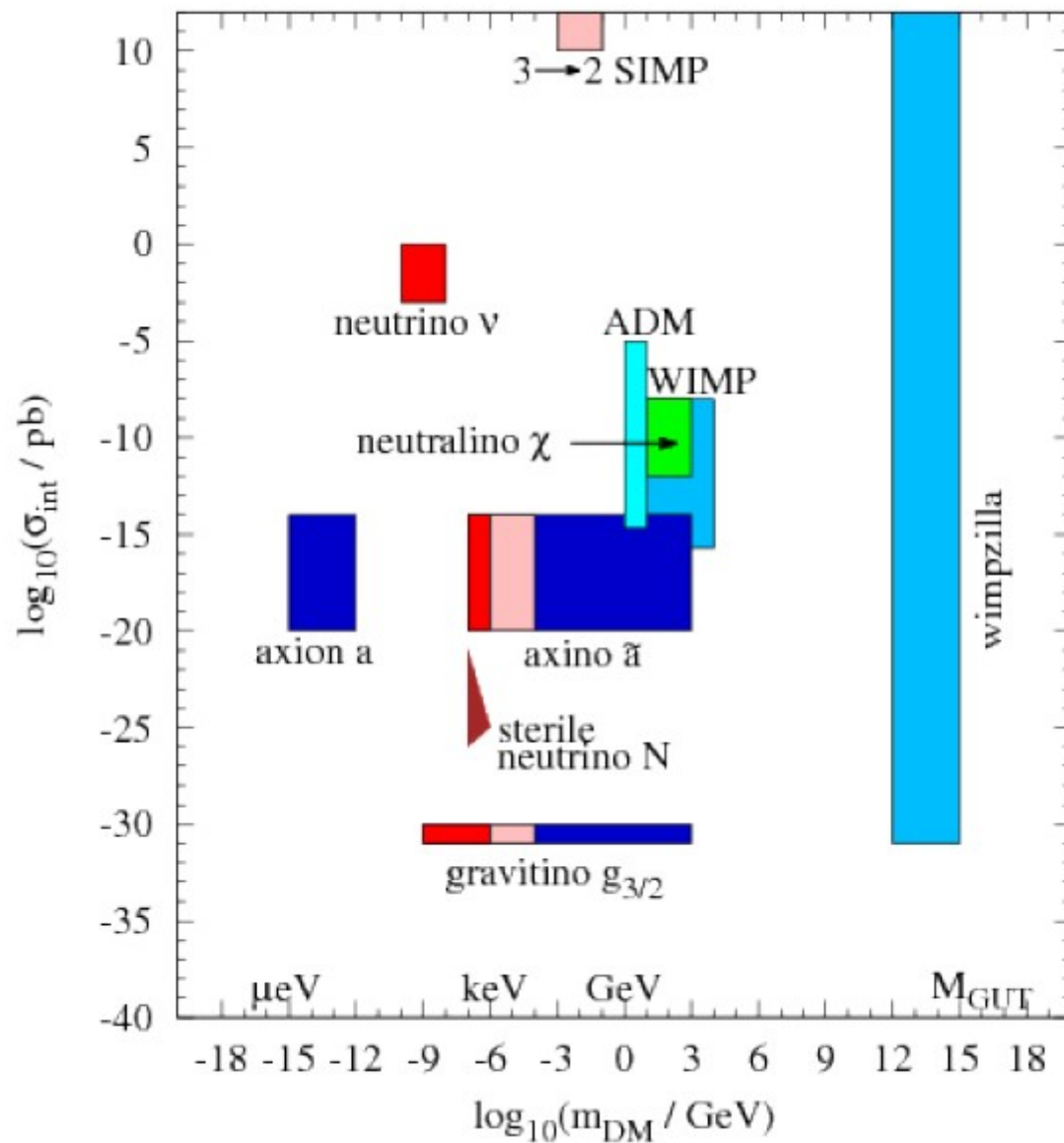
$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$



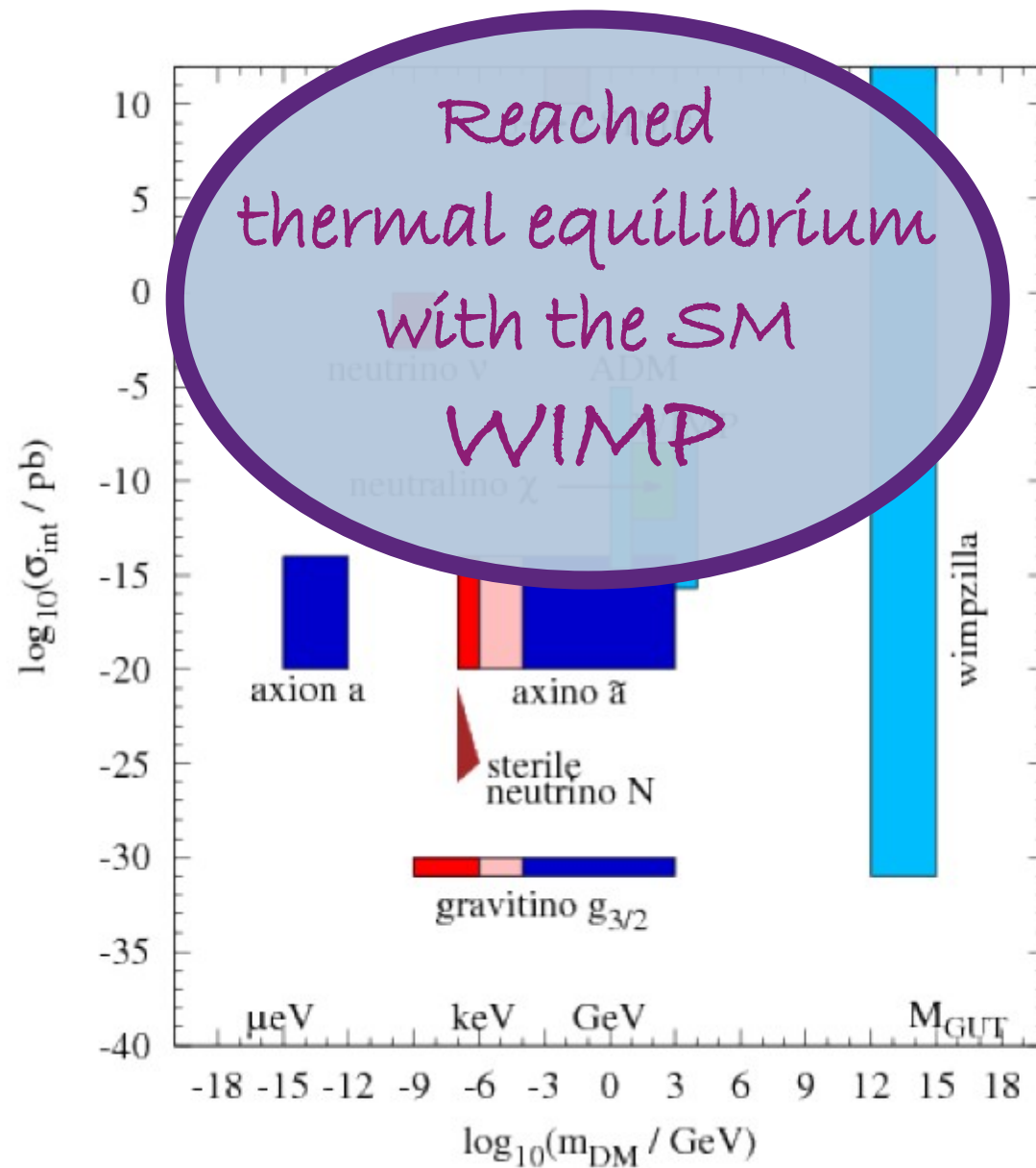
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



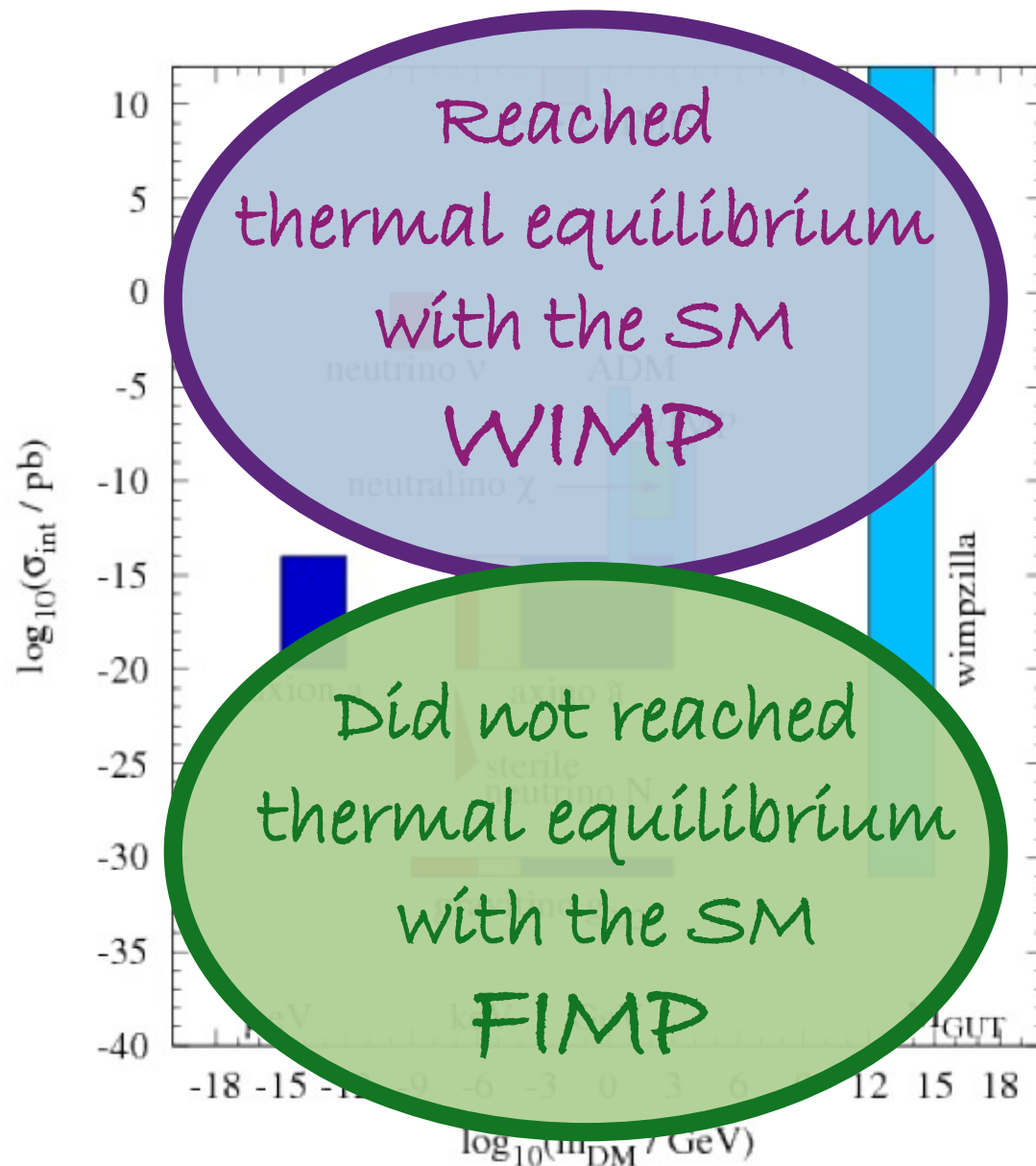
The dark particle zoo



The dark particle zoo



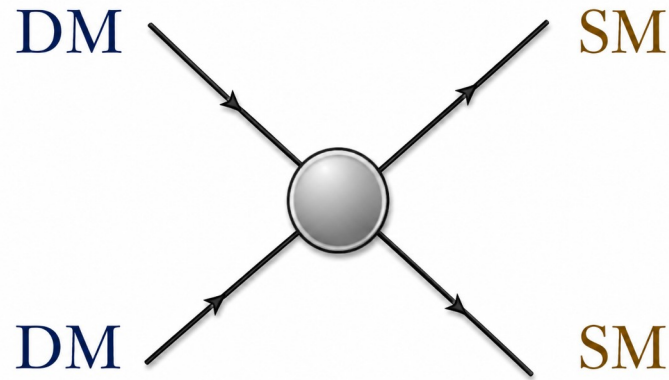
The dark particle zoo



WIMP history (in a nutshell)

Main assumptions on dark matter WIMPs:

- 1) The WIMP is stable in cosmological timescales.
- 2) WIMPs interact in pairs with the Standard Model particles



- 3) The WIMP interaction strength is *large enough* to keep the DM particles in thermal equilibrium with the SM plasma at very high temperatures.
- 4) The WIMP interaction strength is *small enough* to allow DM particles to chemically decouple from the SM plasma sufficiently early.

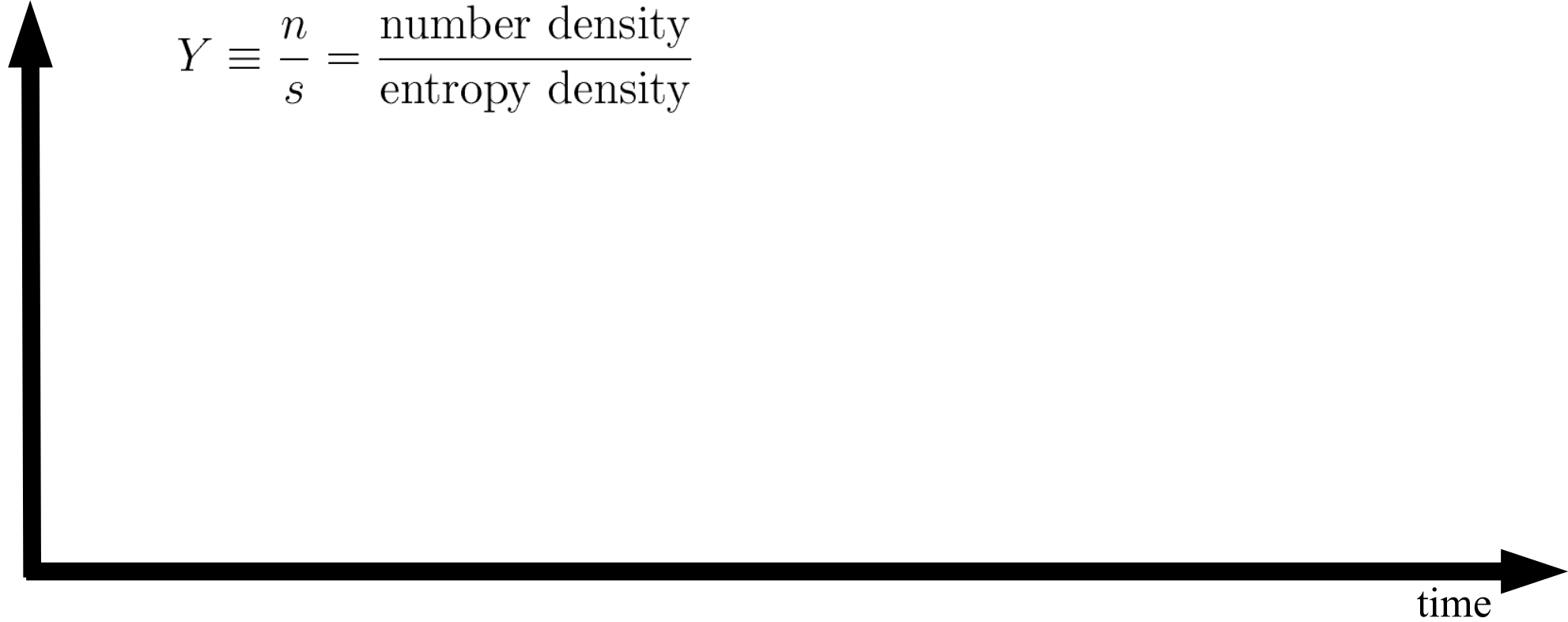
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



WIMP history (in a nutshell)

“yield” = number density of DM particles per comoving volume

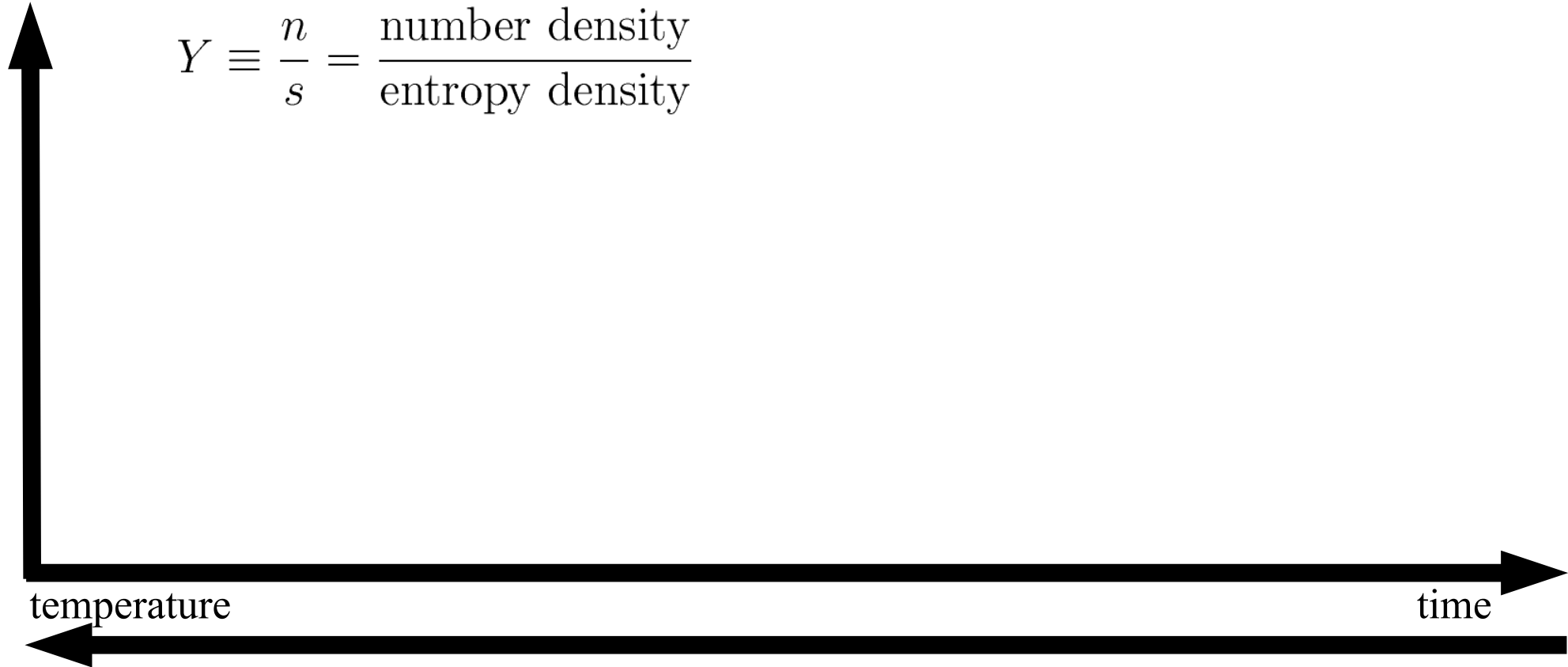
$$Y \equiv \frac{n}{s} = \frac{\text{number density}}{\text{entropy density}}$$



WIMP history (in a nutshell)

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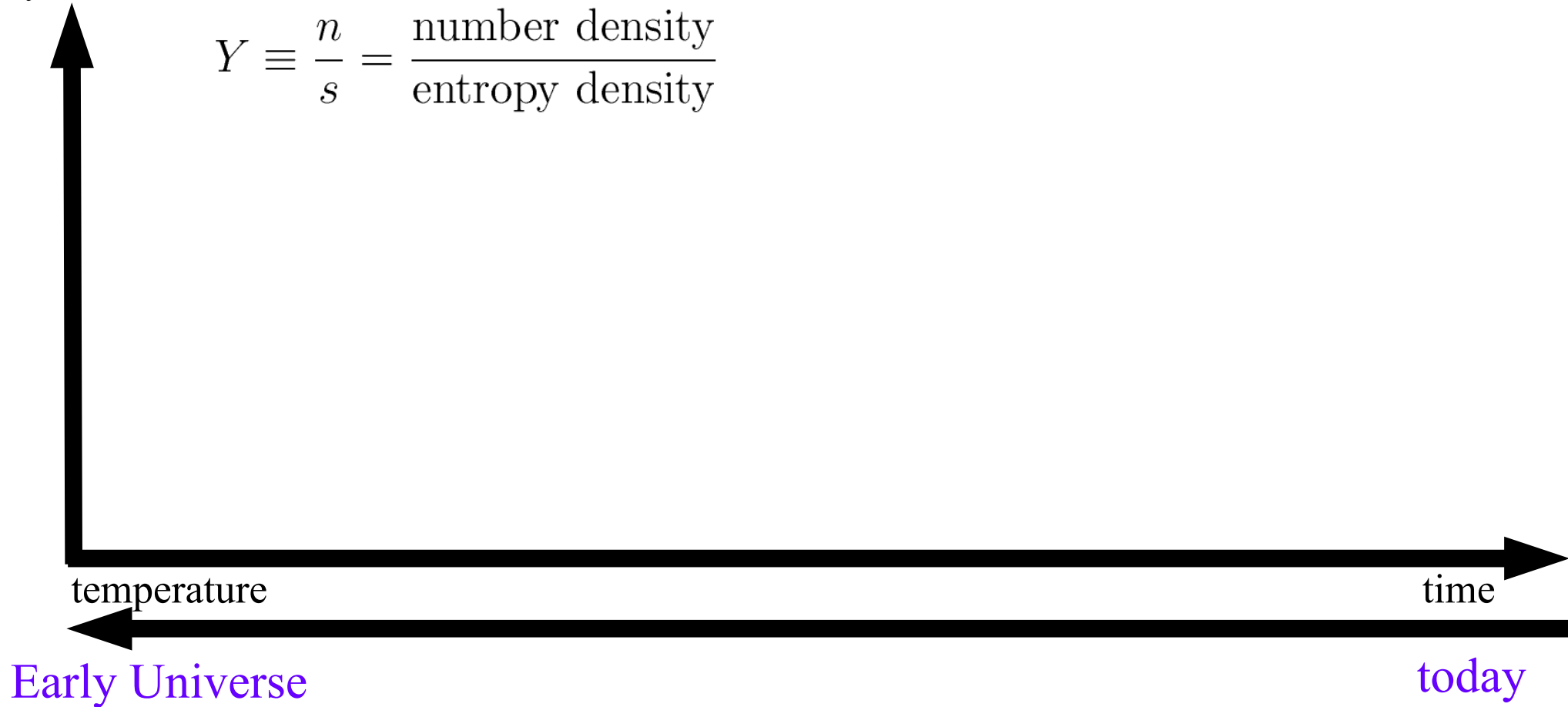
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WIMP history (in a nutshell)

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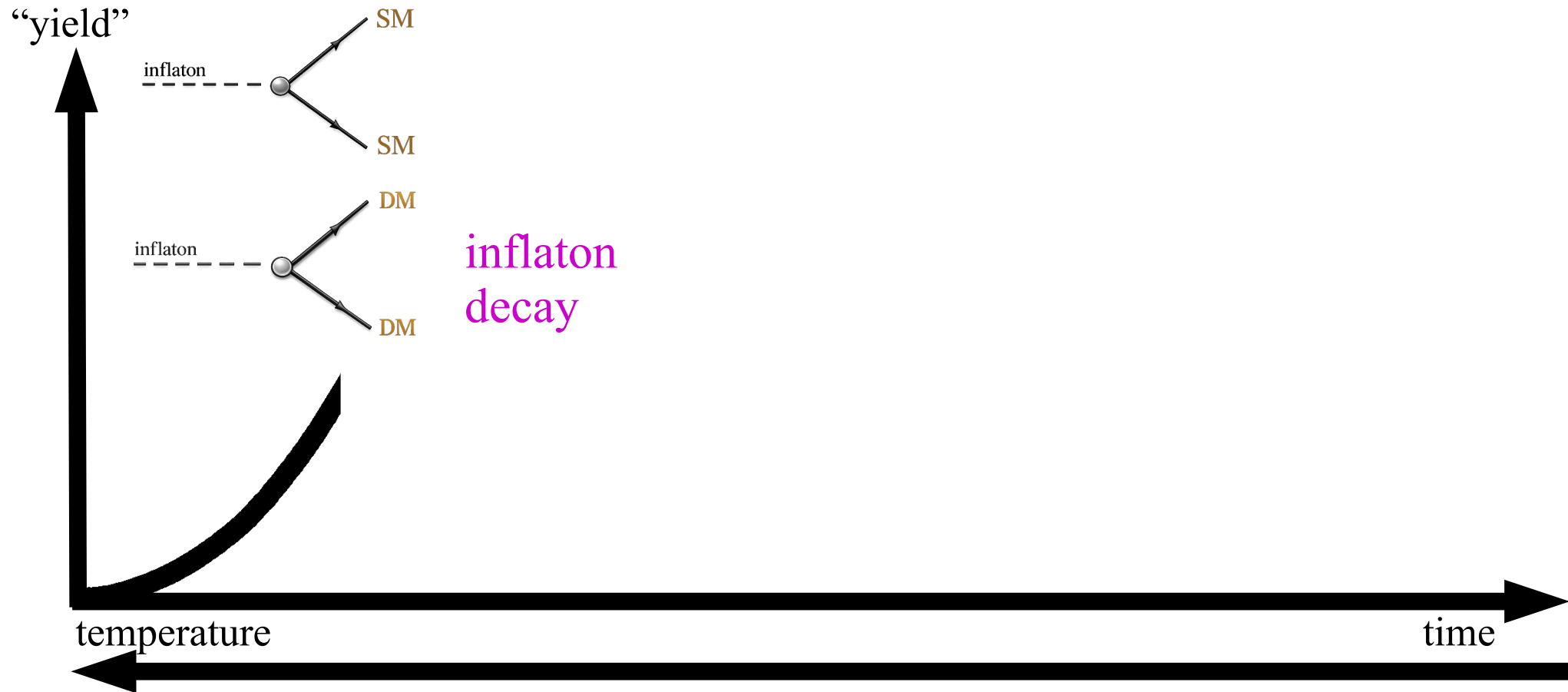
$$Y \equiv \frac{n}{s} = \frac{\text{number density}}{\text{entropy density}}$$



WIMP history (in a nutshell)



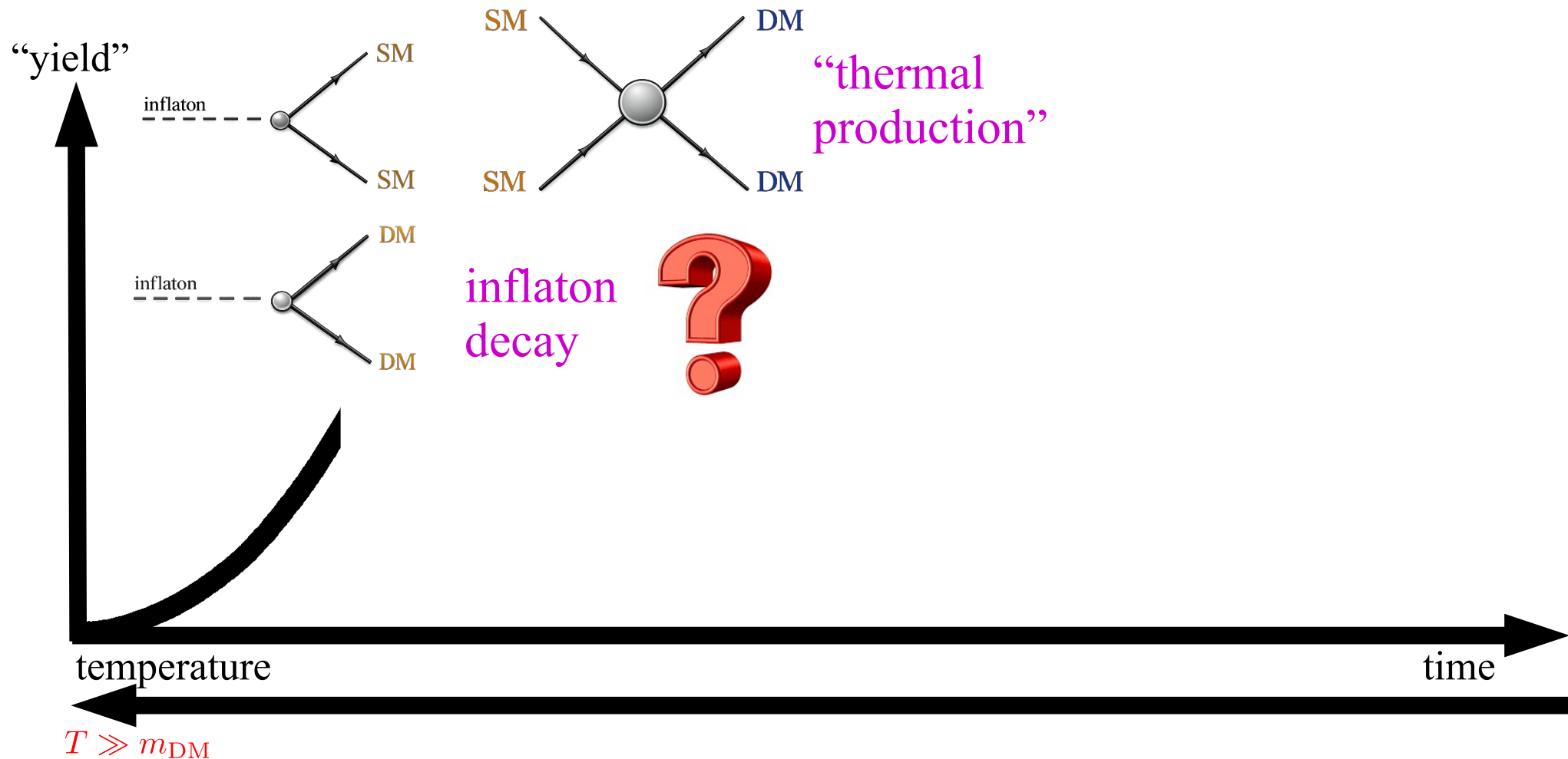
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



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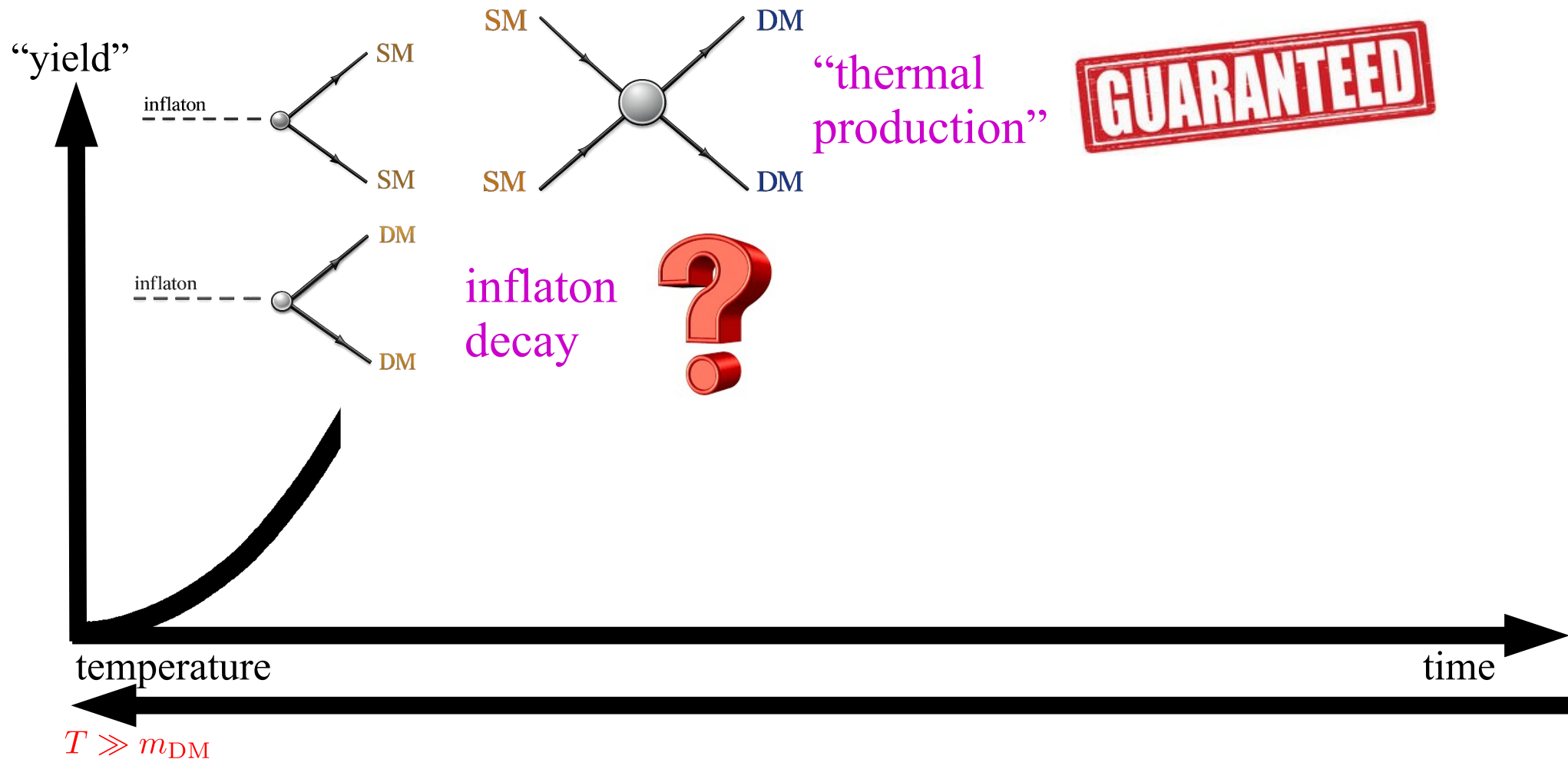


WIMP history (in a nutshell)



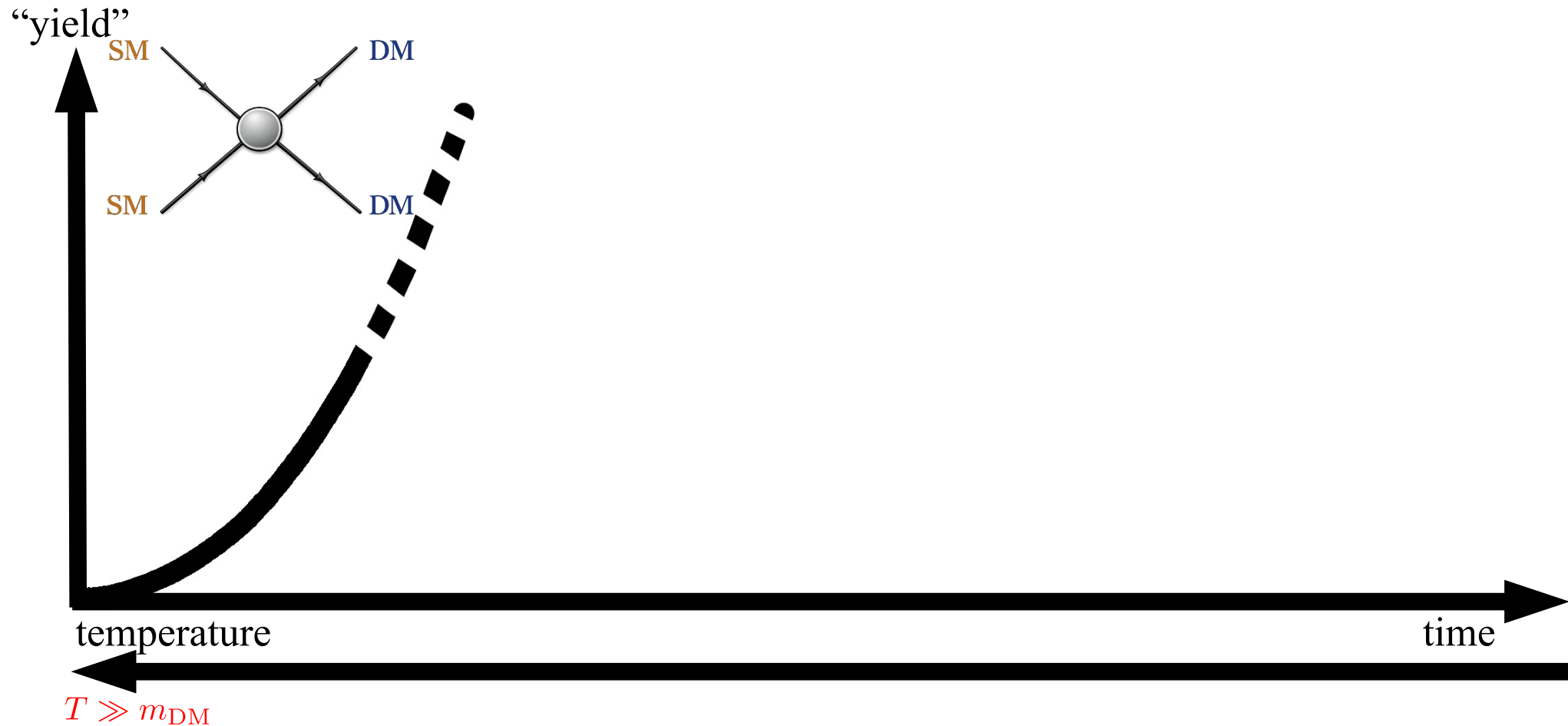
Assume that the temperature of the Universe after reheating was much larger than the DM mass.

WIMP history (in a nutshell)

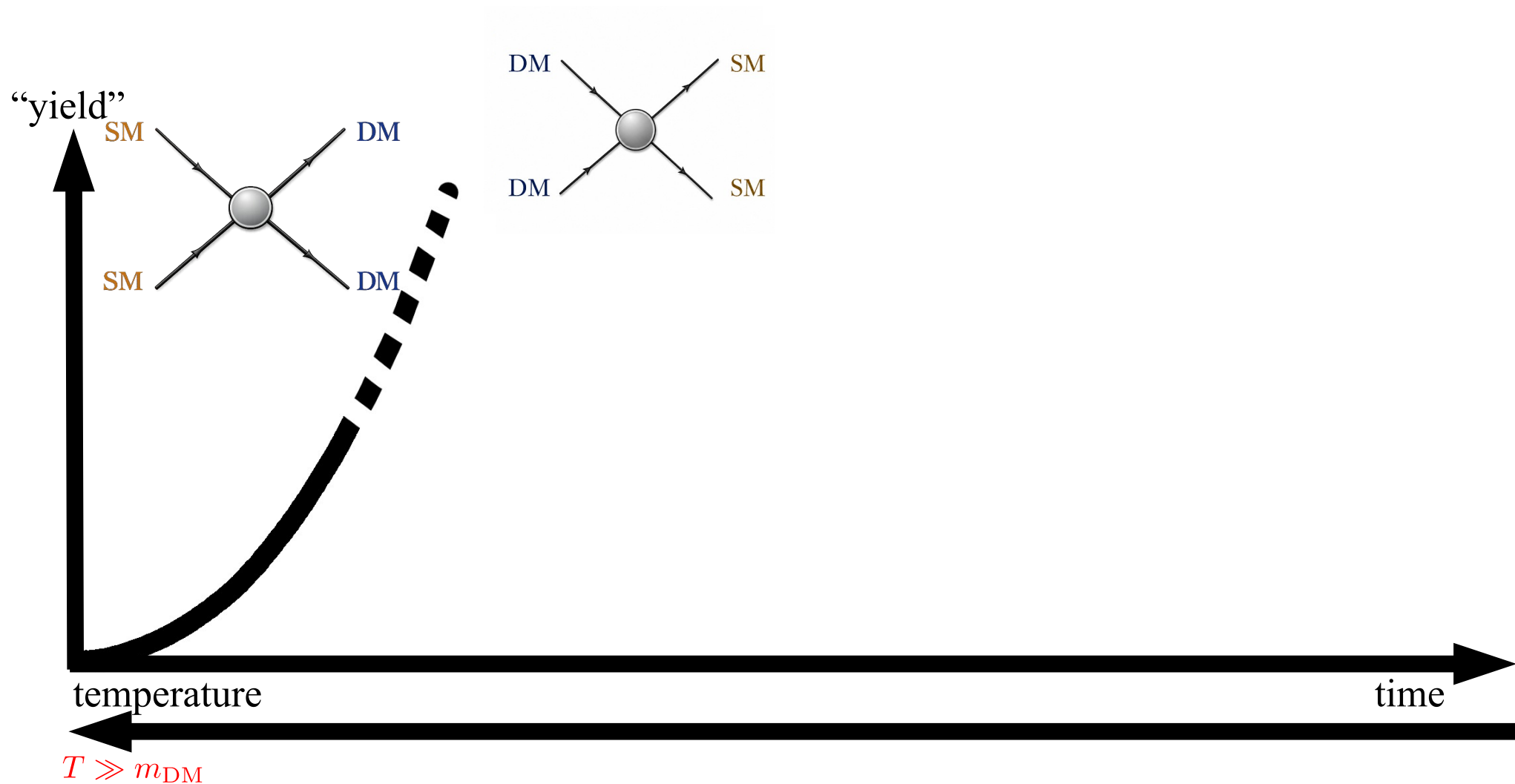


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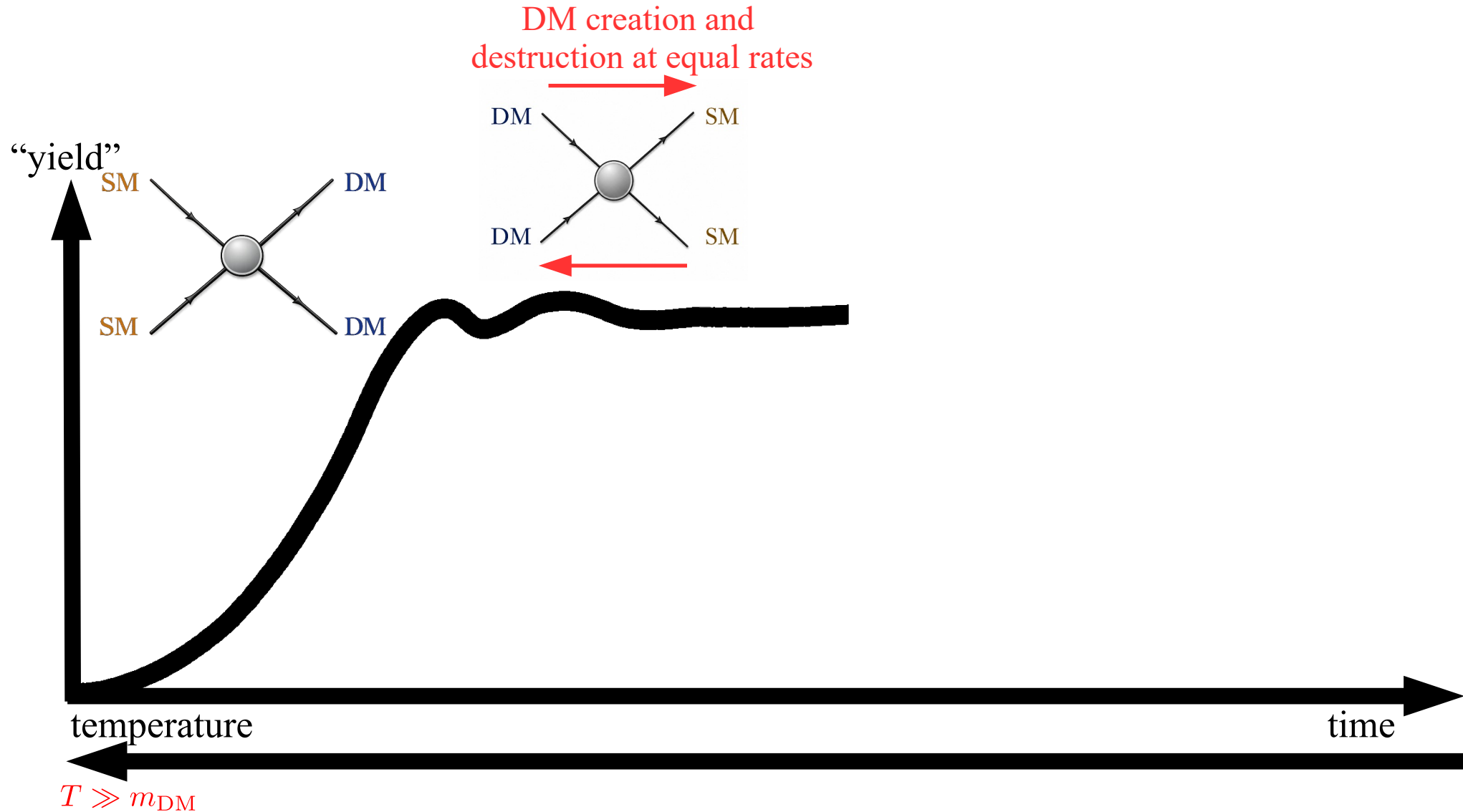
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



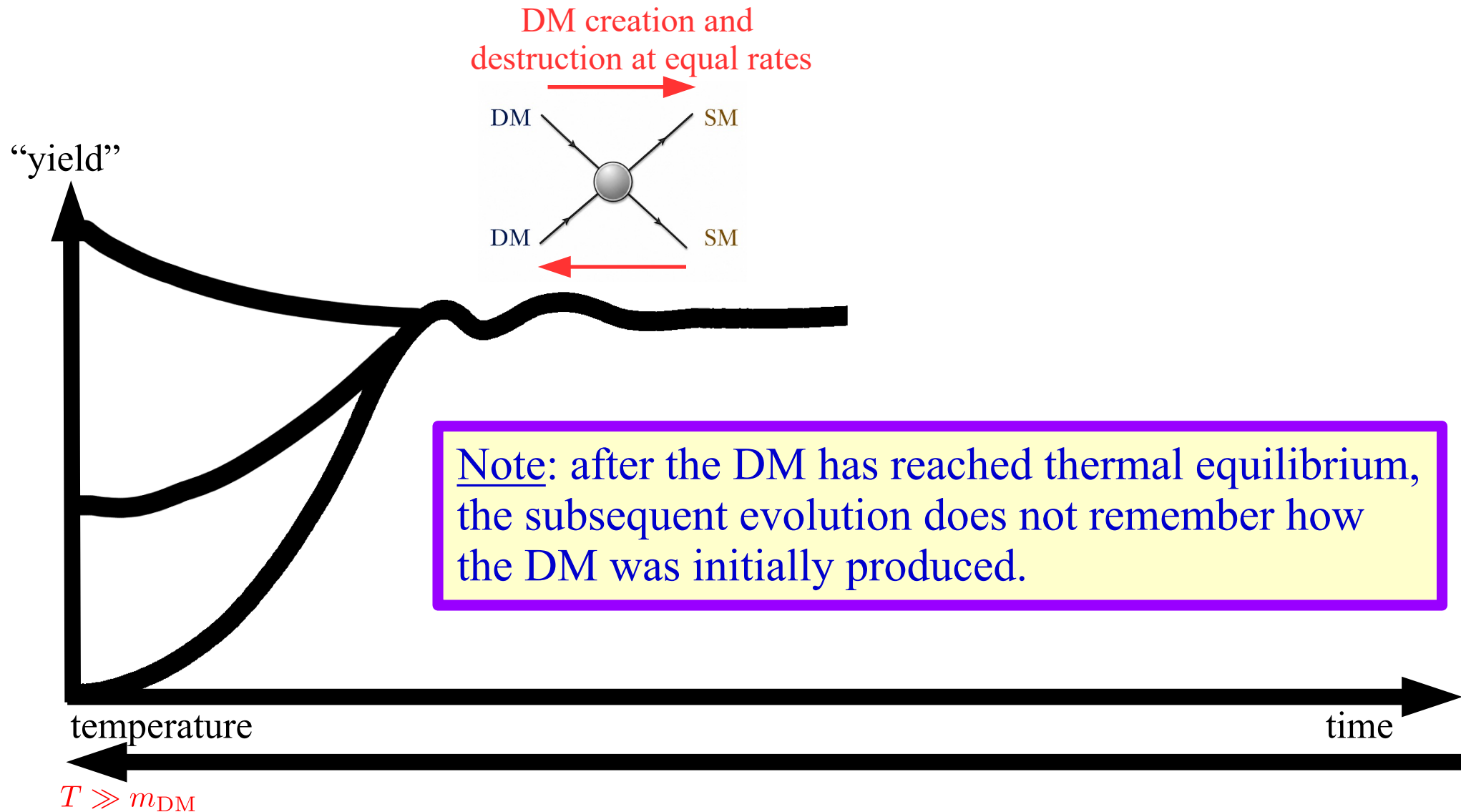
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



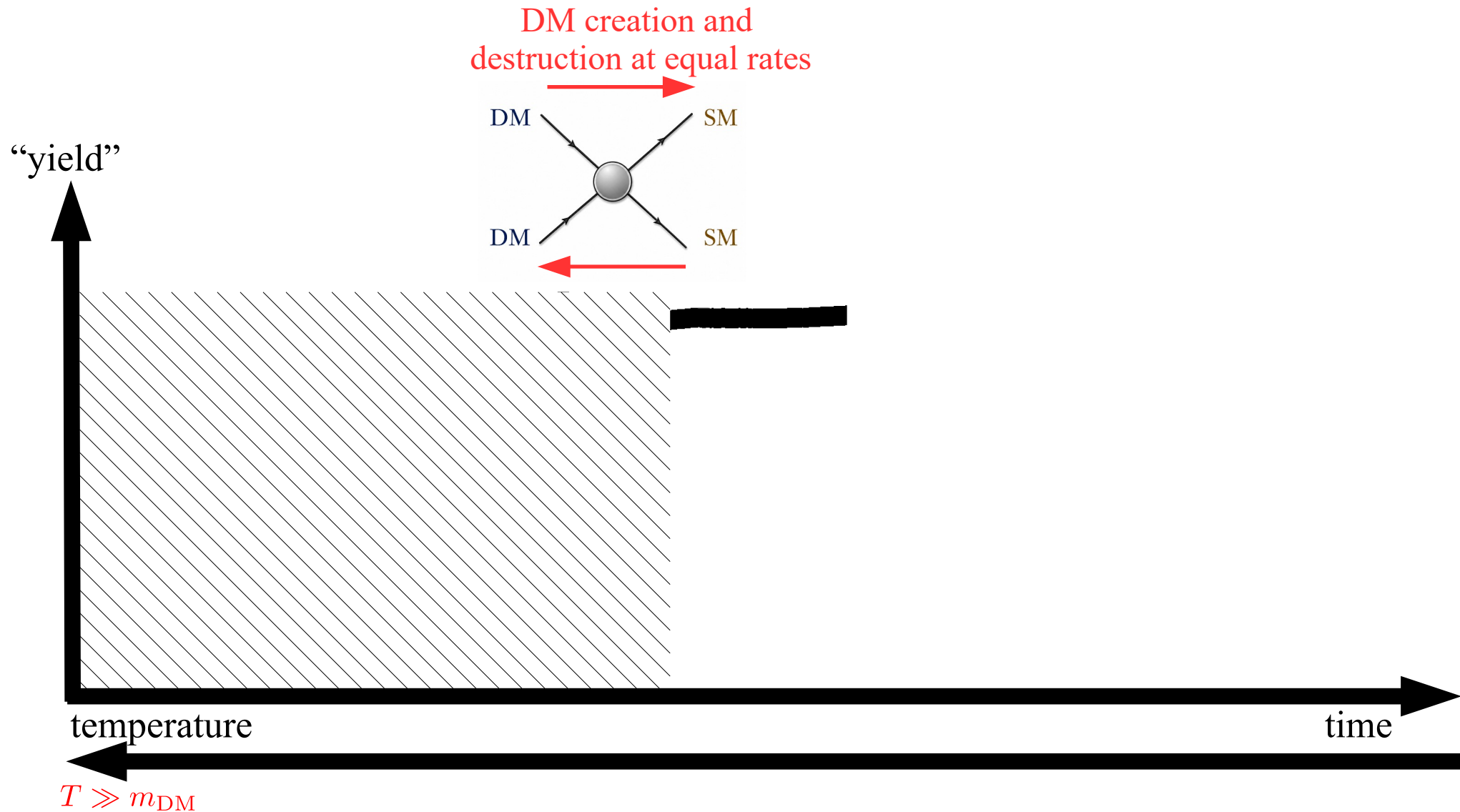
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



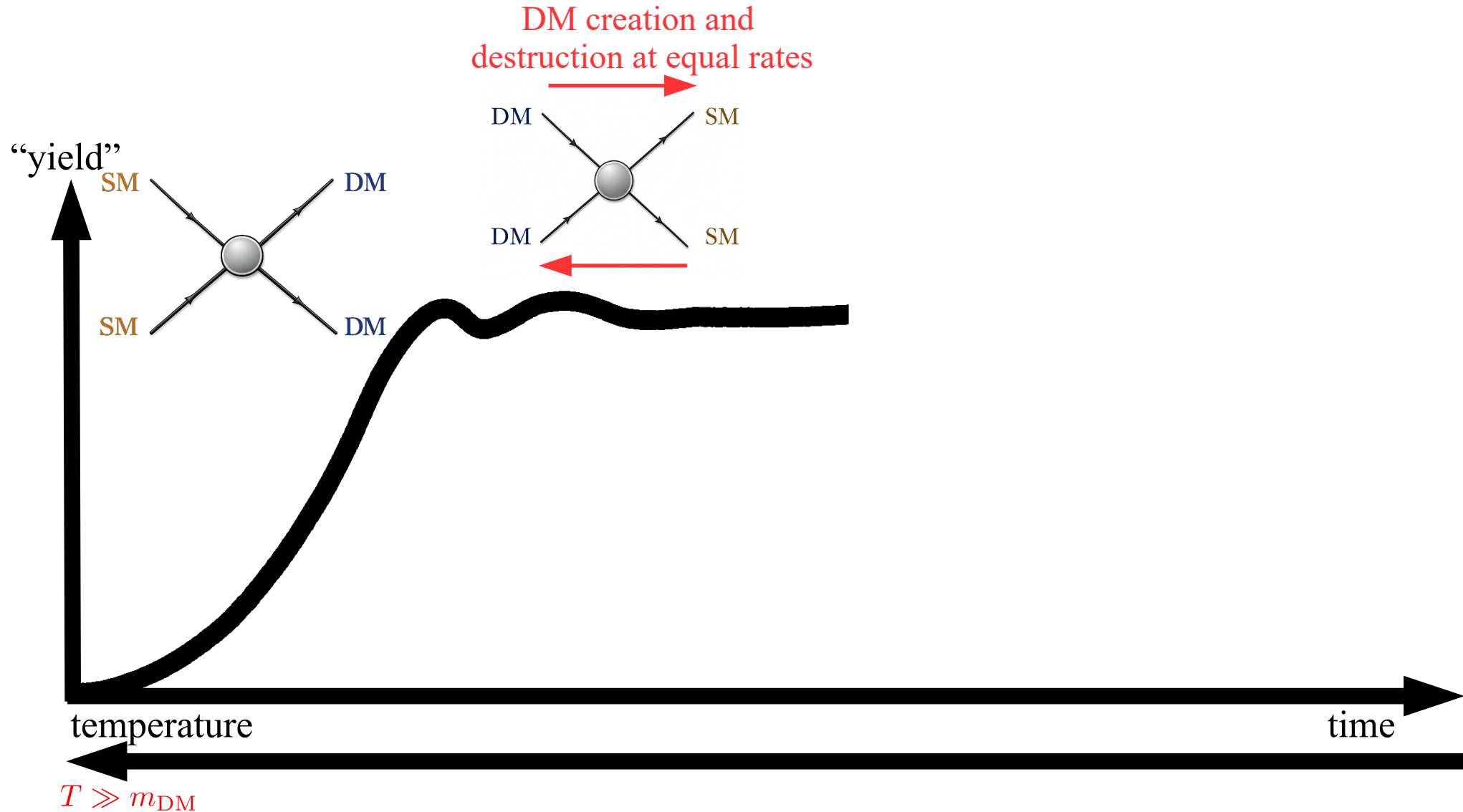
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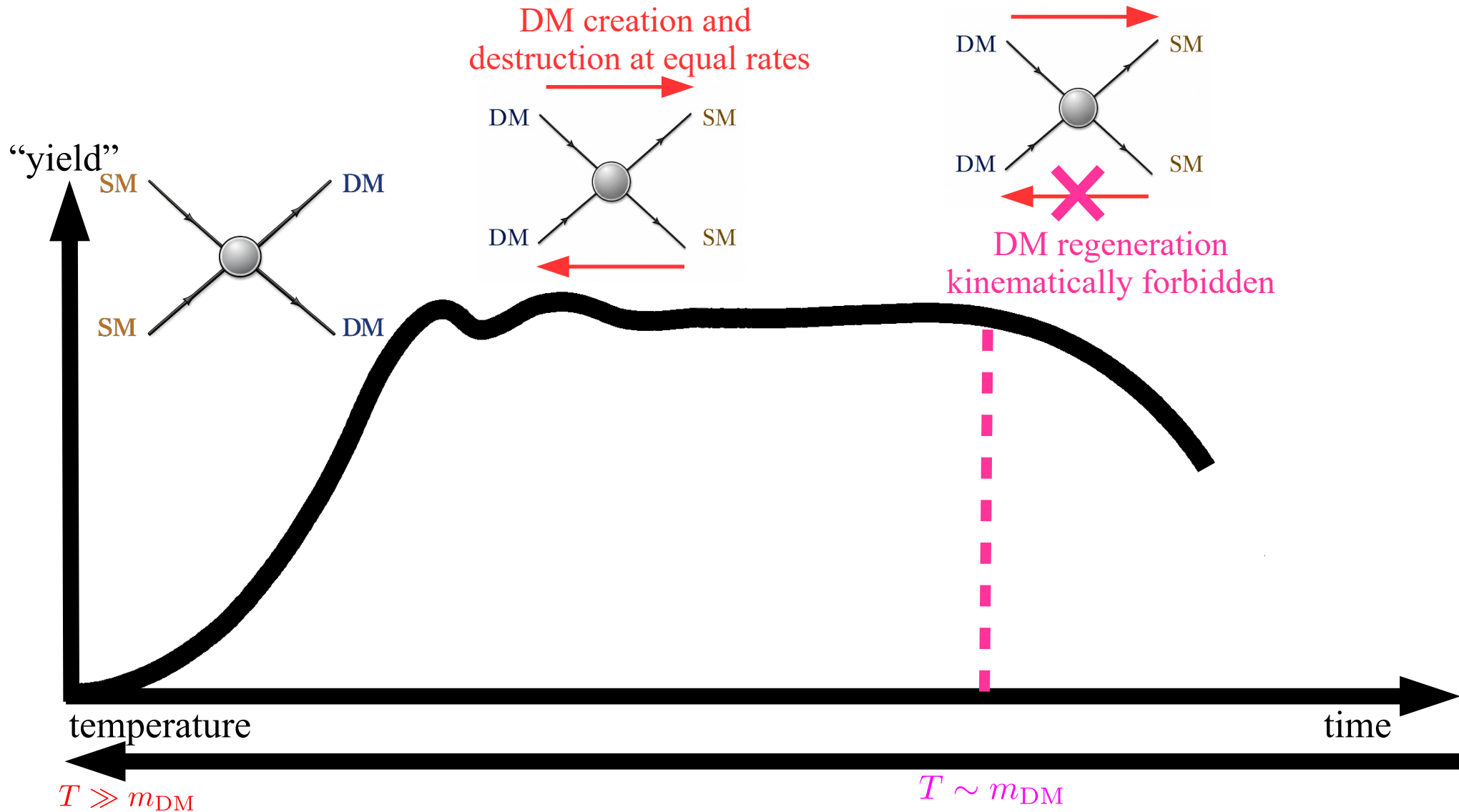
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



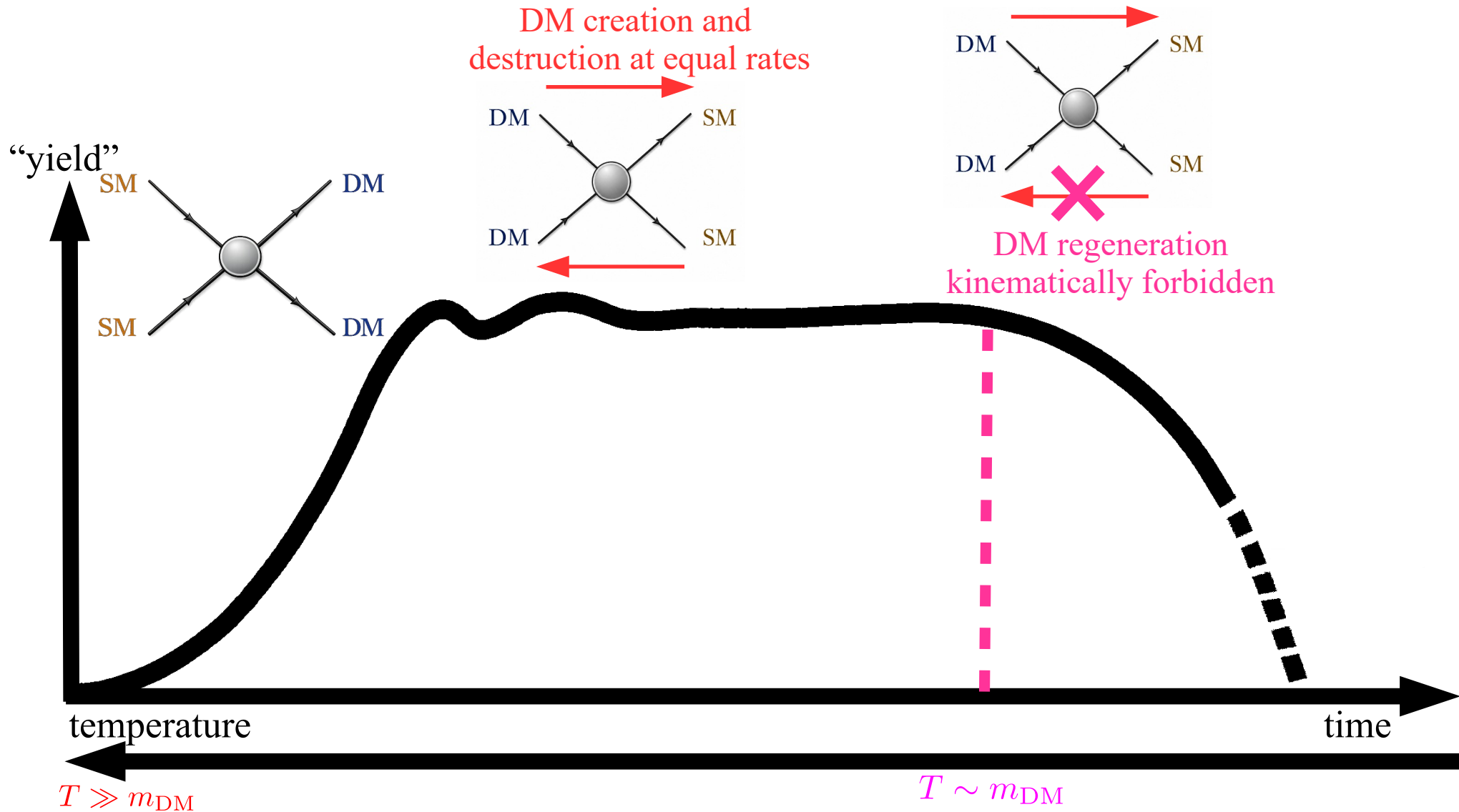
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



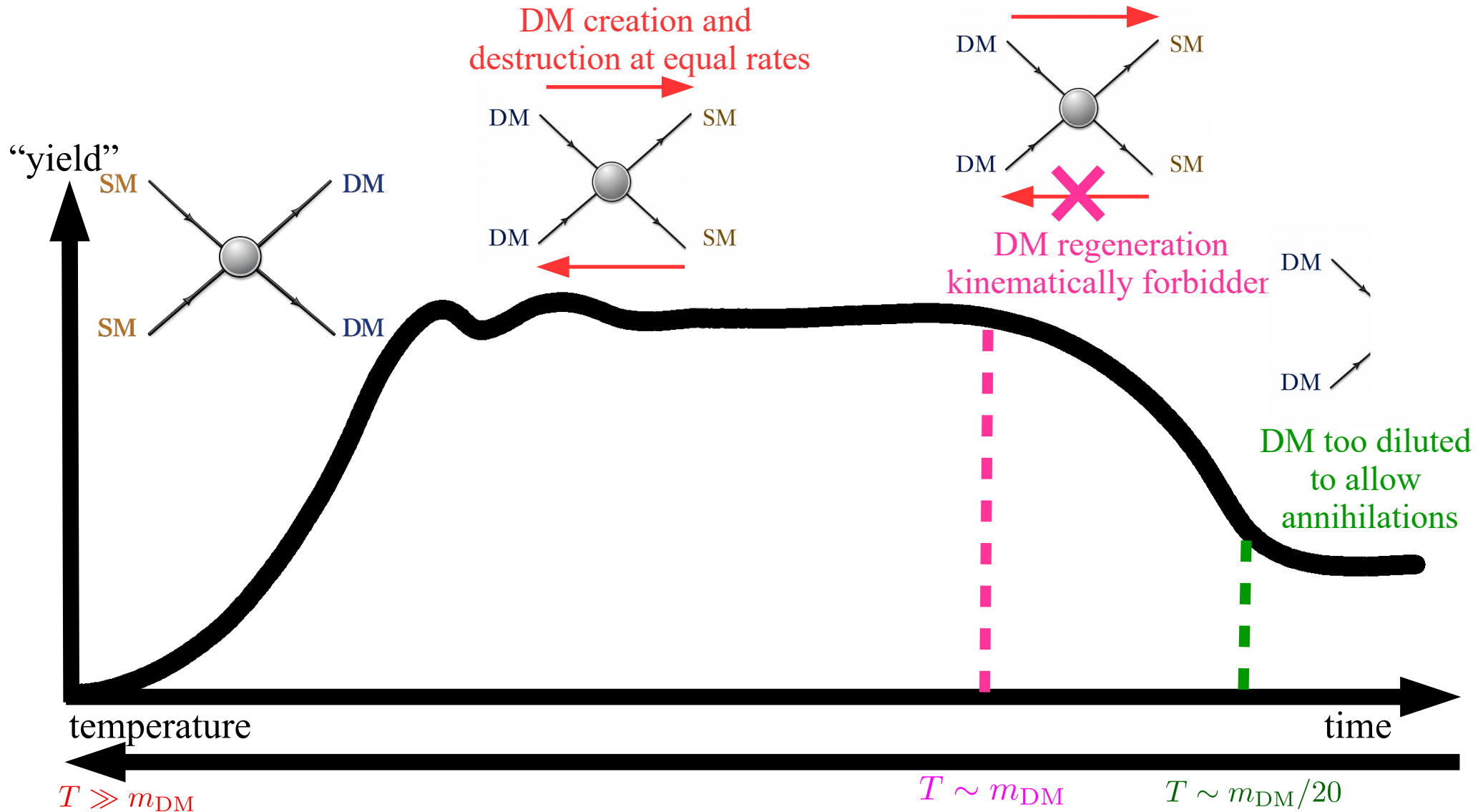
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



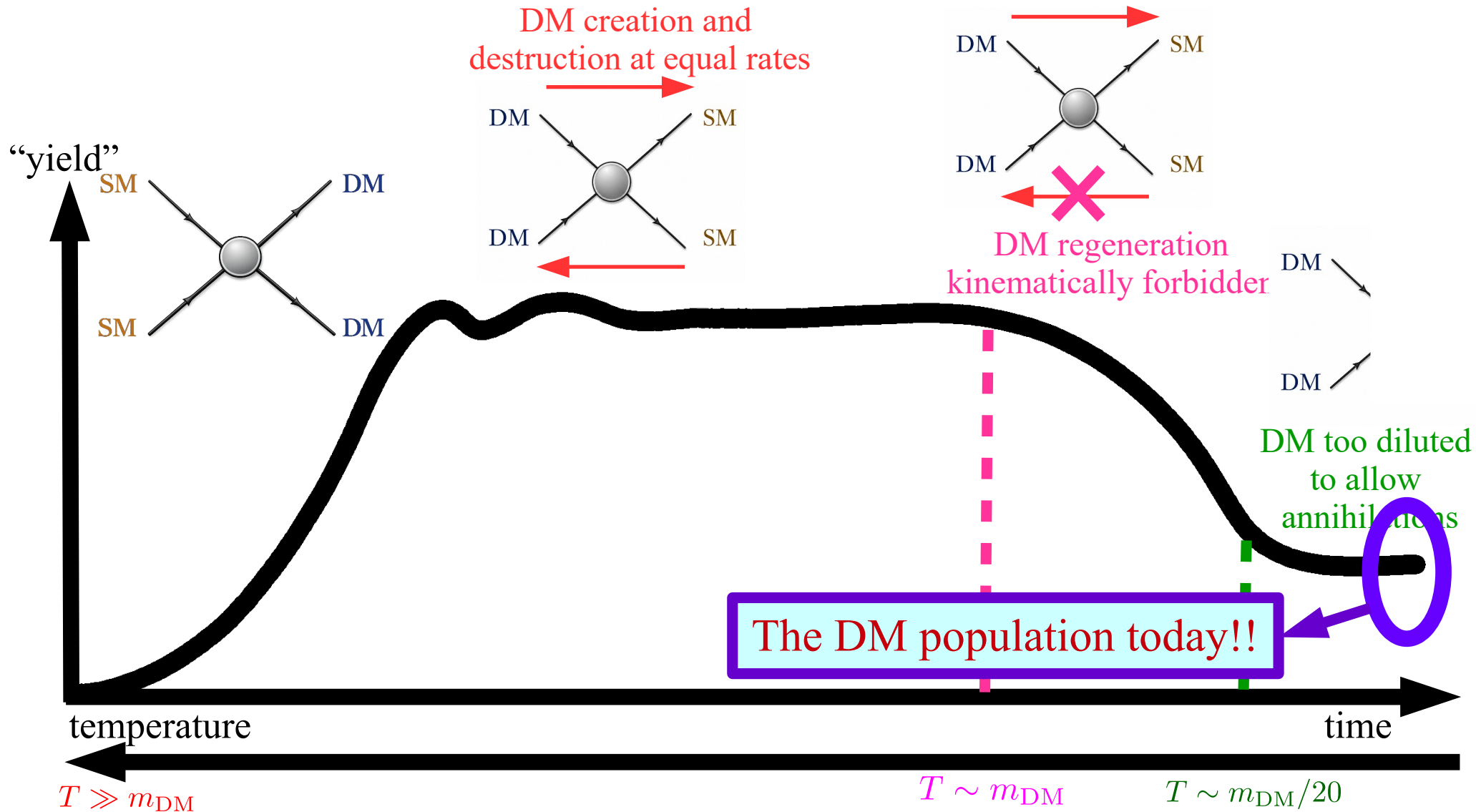
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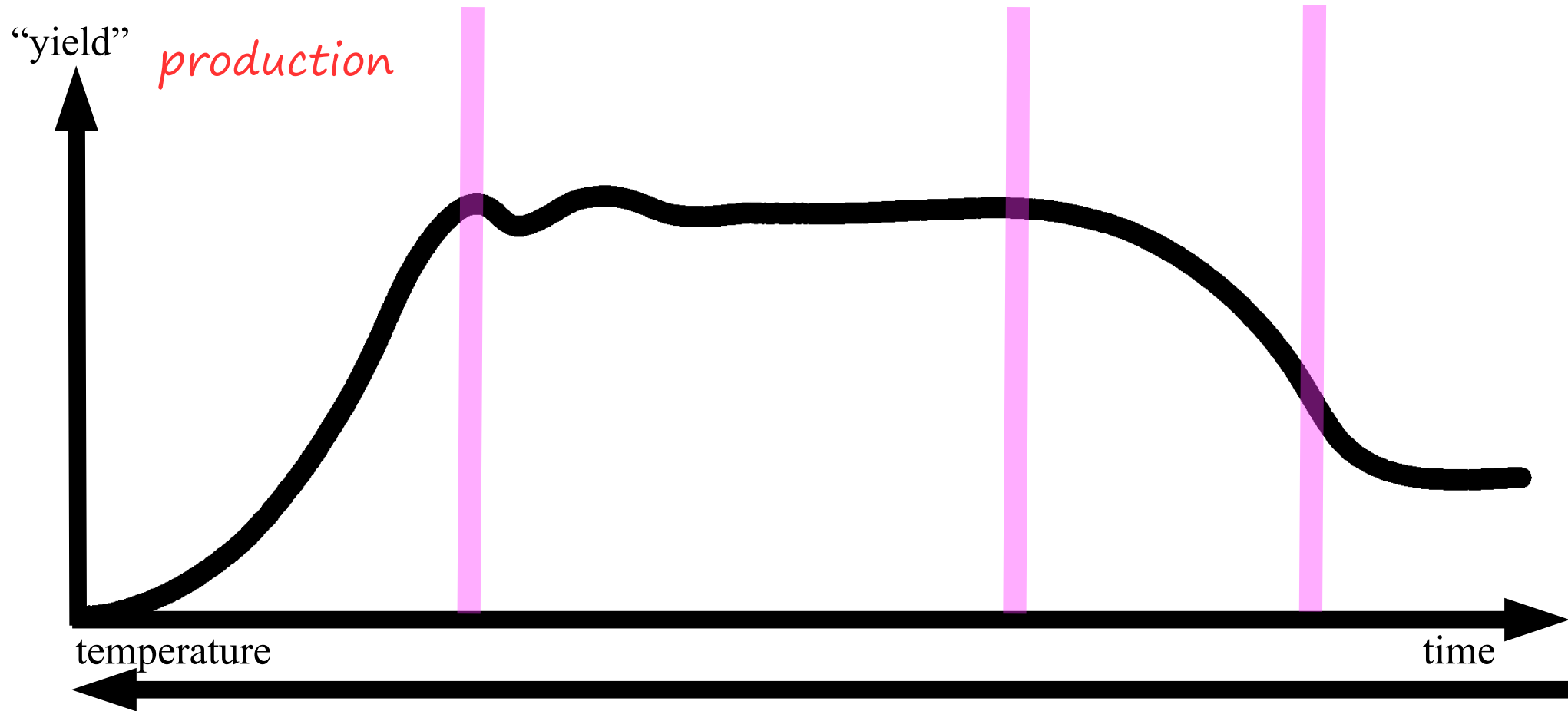
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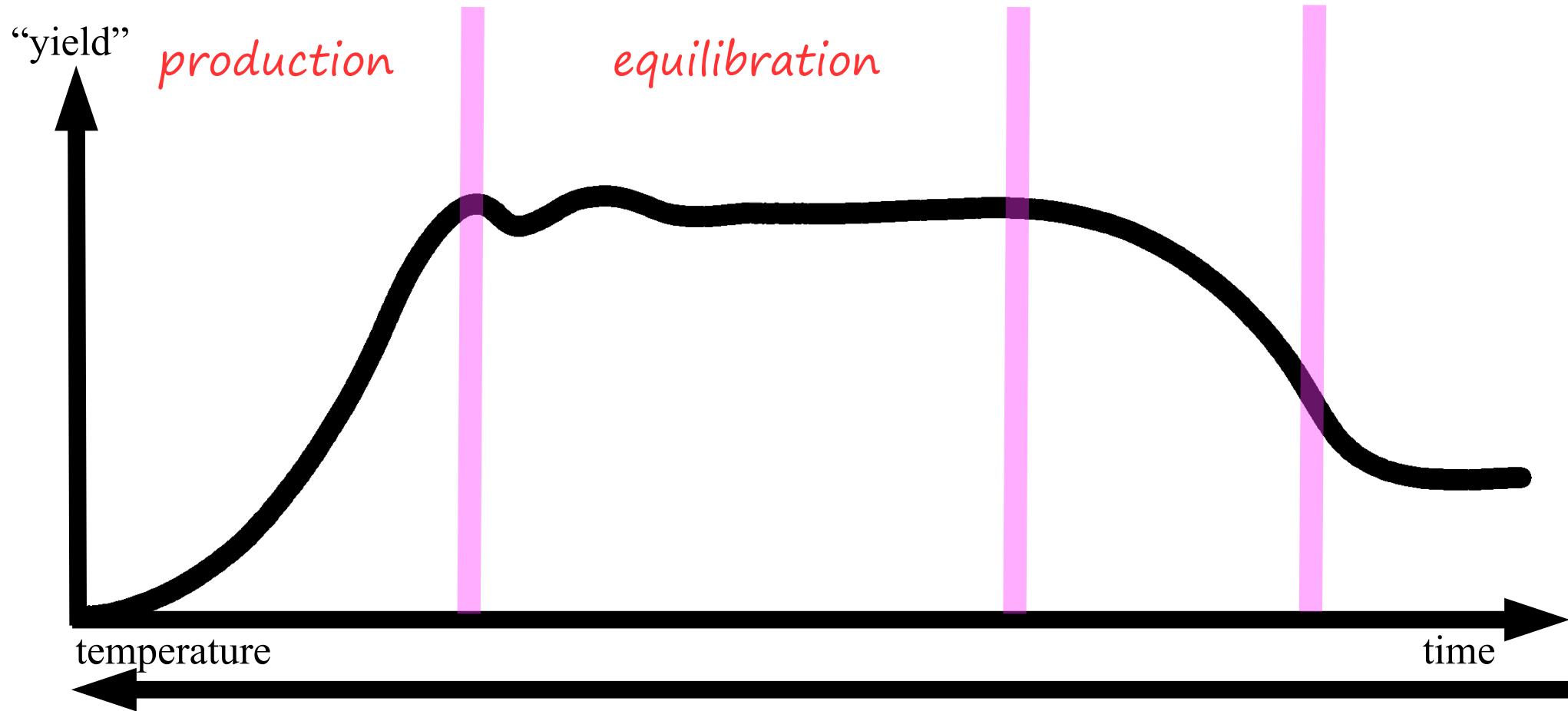
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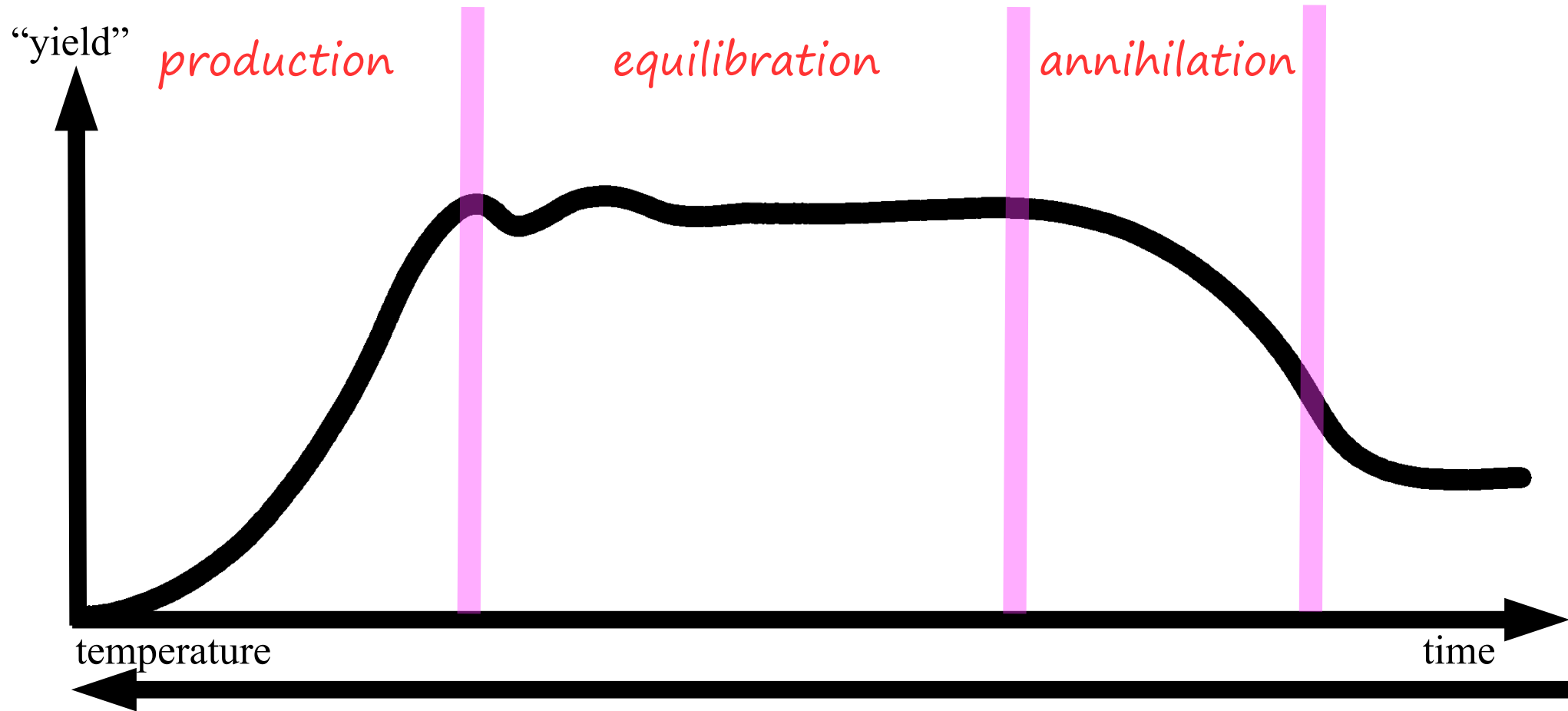
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



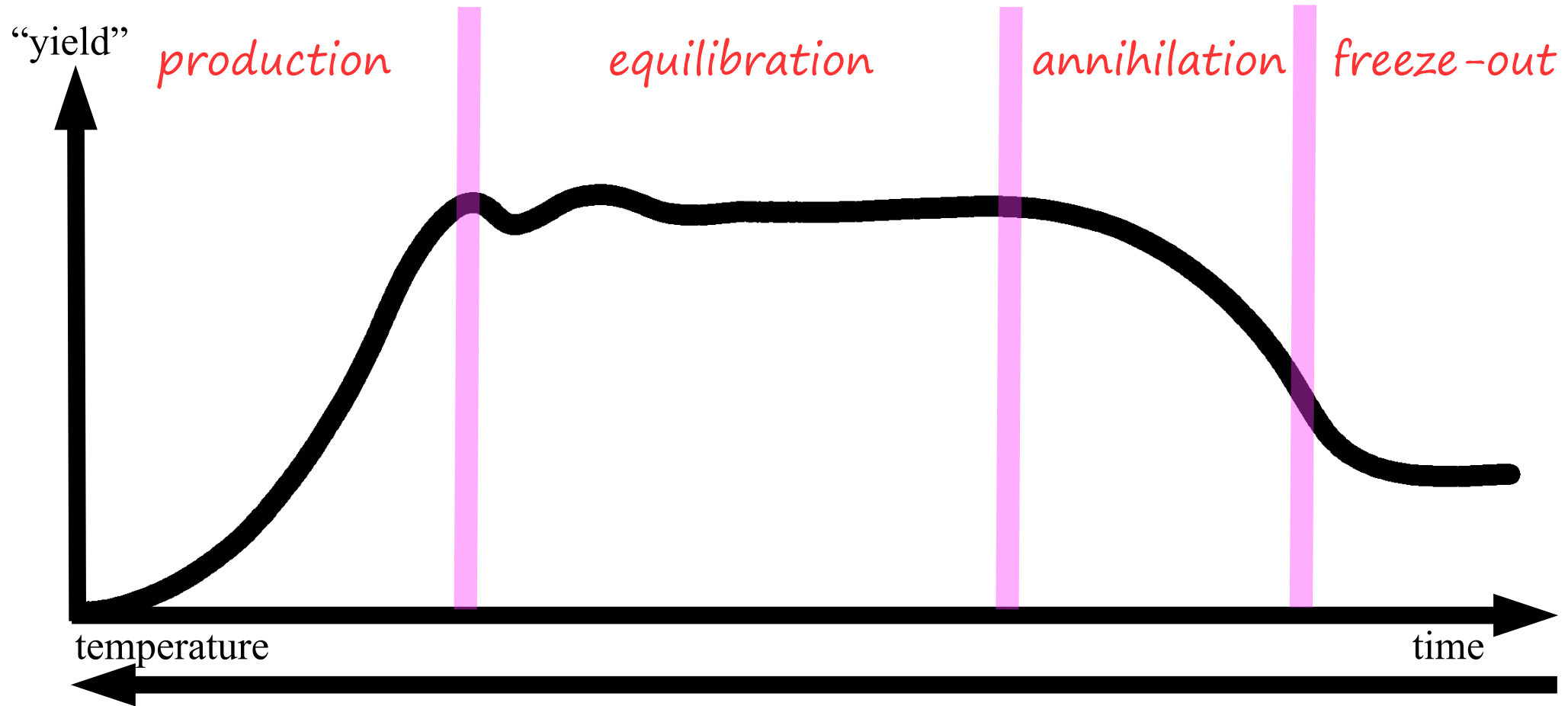
WIMP history (in a nutshell)



WIMP history (in a nutshell)

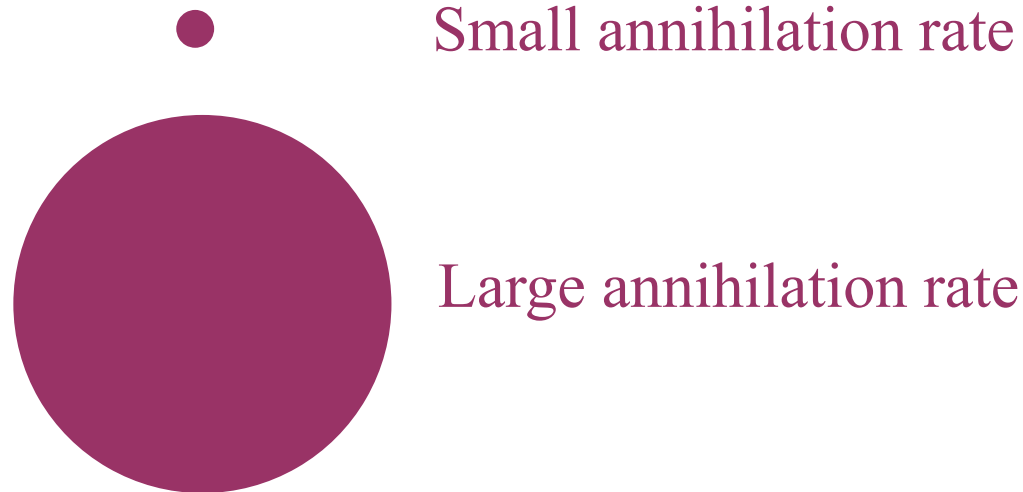


WIMP history (in a nutshell)



A heuristic view of the freeze-out

The probability of interaction is controlled by the cross-section

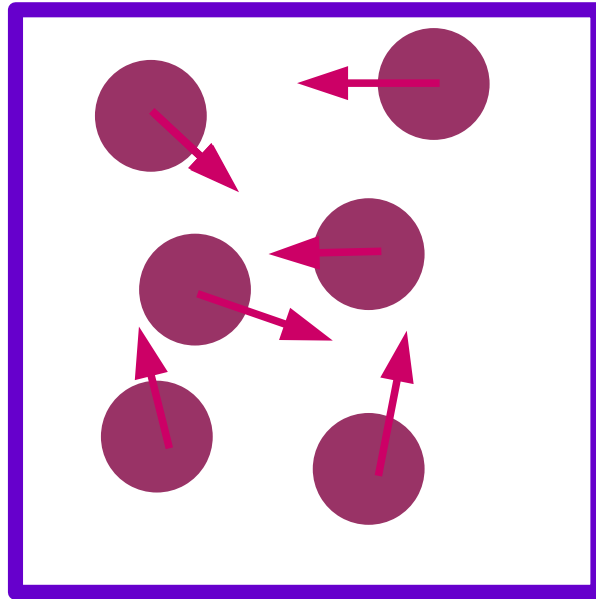


At very high temperatures, dark matter particles are annihilated and regenerated at the same rate.

However, at low temperatures, the Standard Model particles do not have enough kinetic energy to regenerate DM particles.

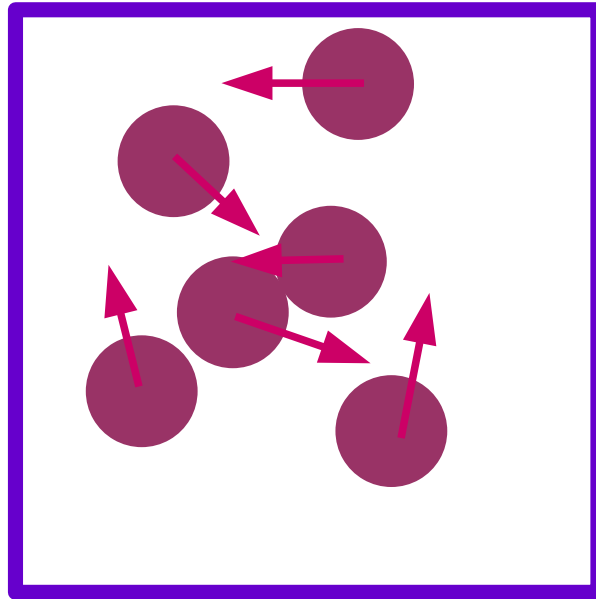
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



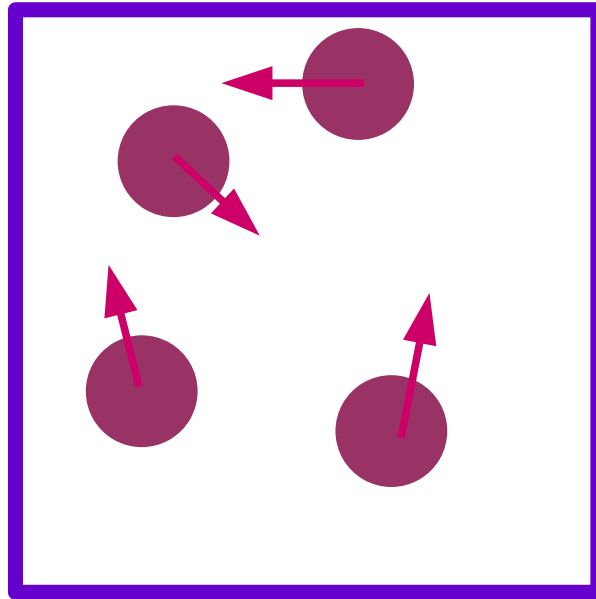
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



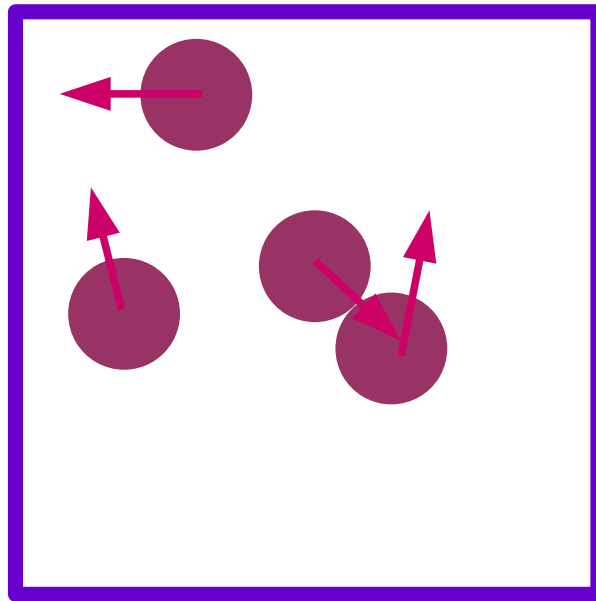
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



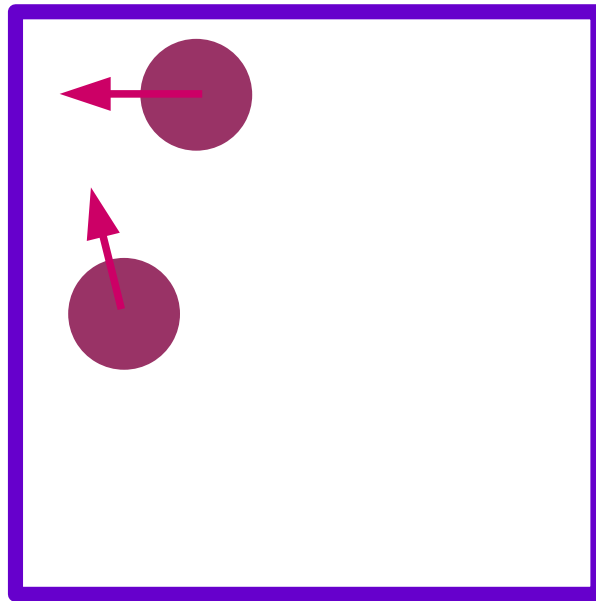
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



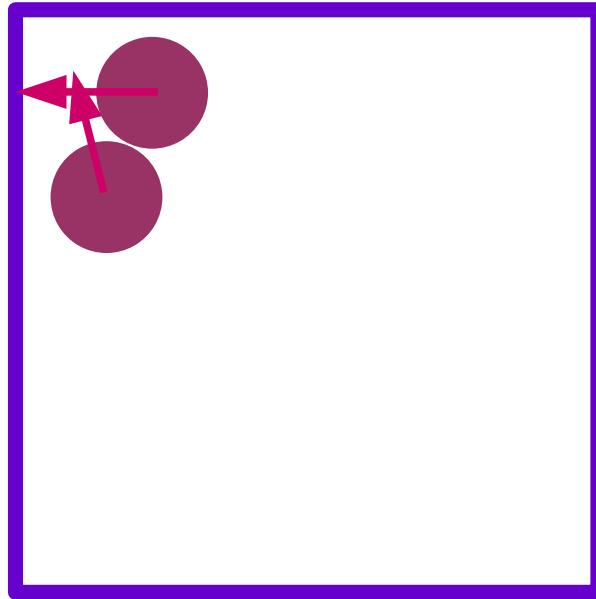
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



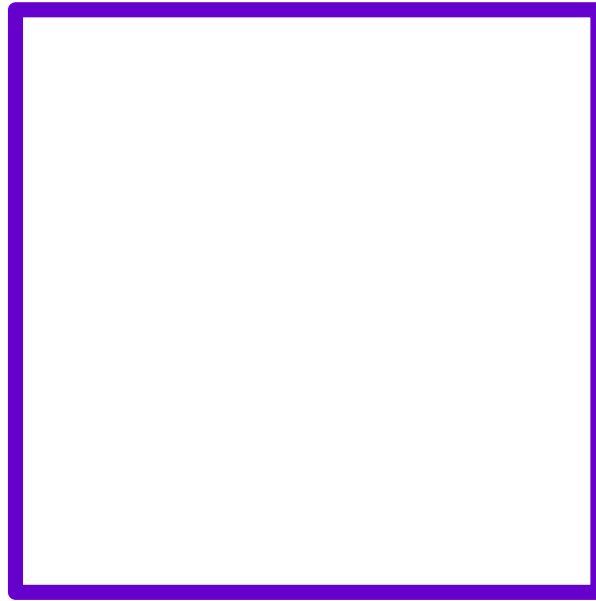
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

Dark matter population in a **static** Universe



A heuristic view of the freeze-out

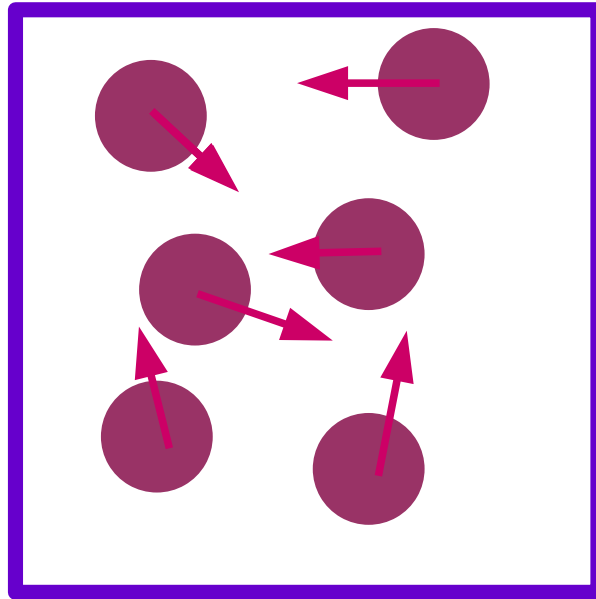
Dark matter population in a static Universe

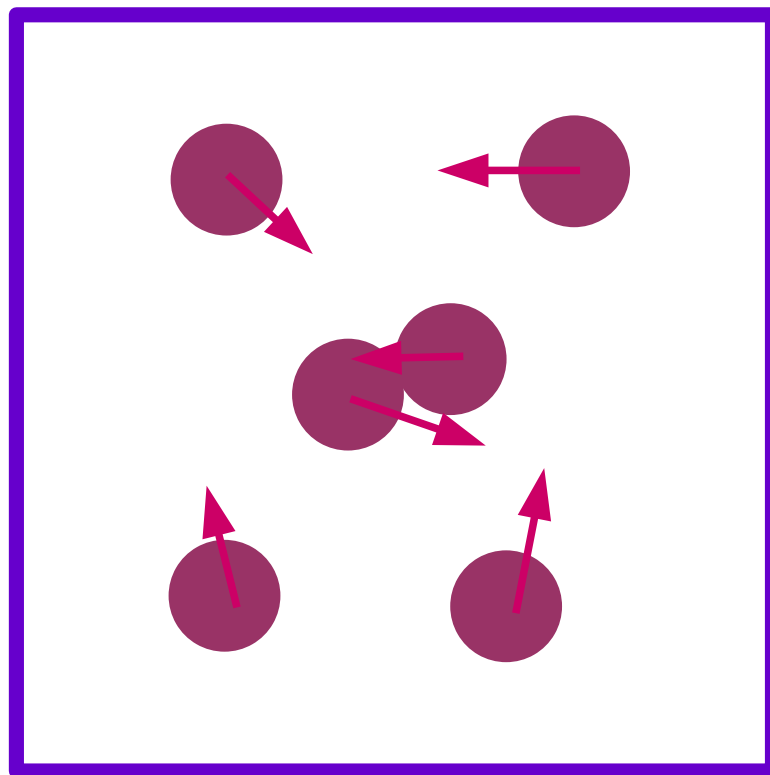


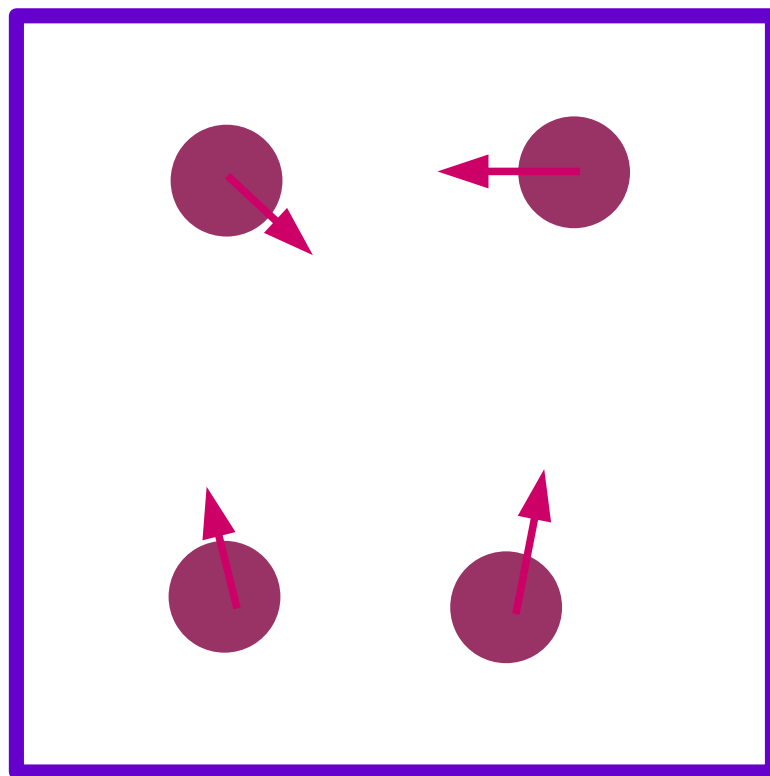
No DM particles at the end!

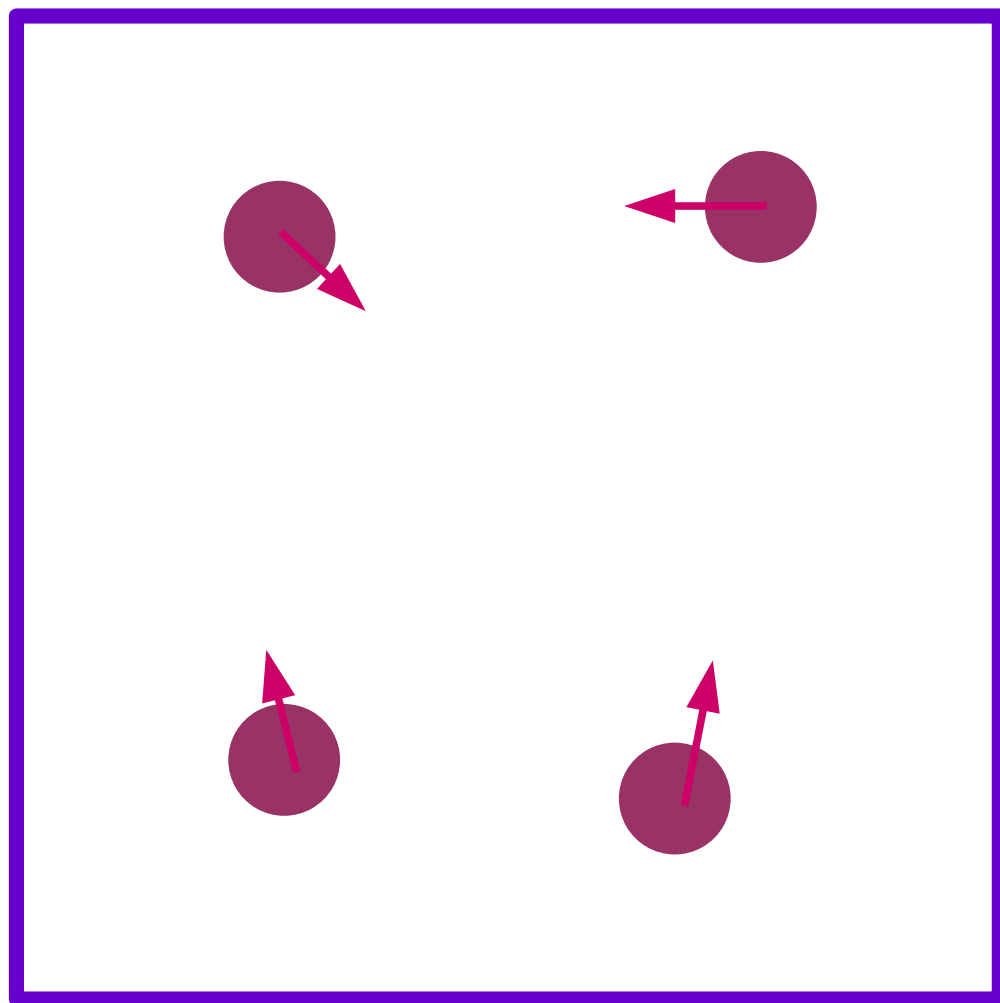
A heuristic view of the freeze-out

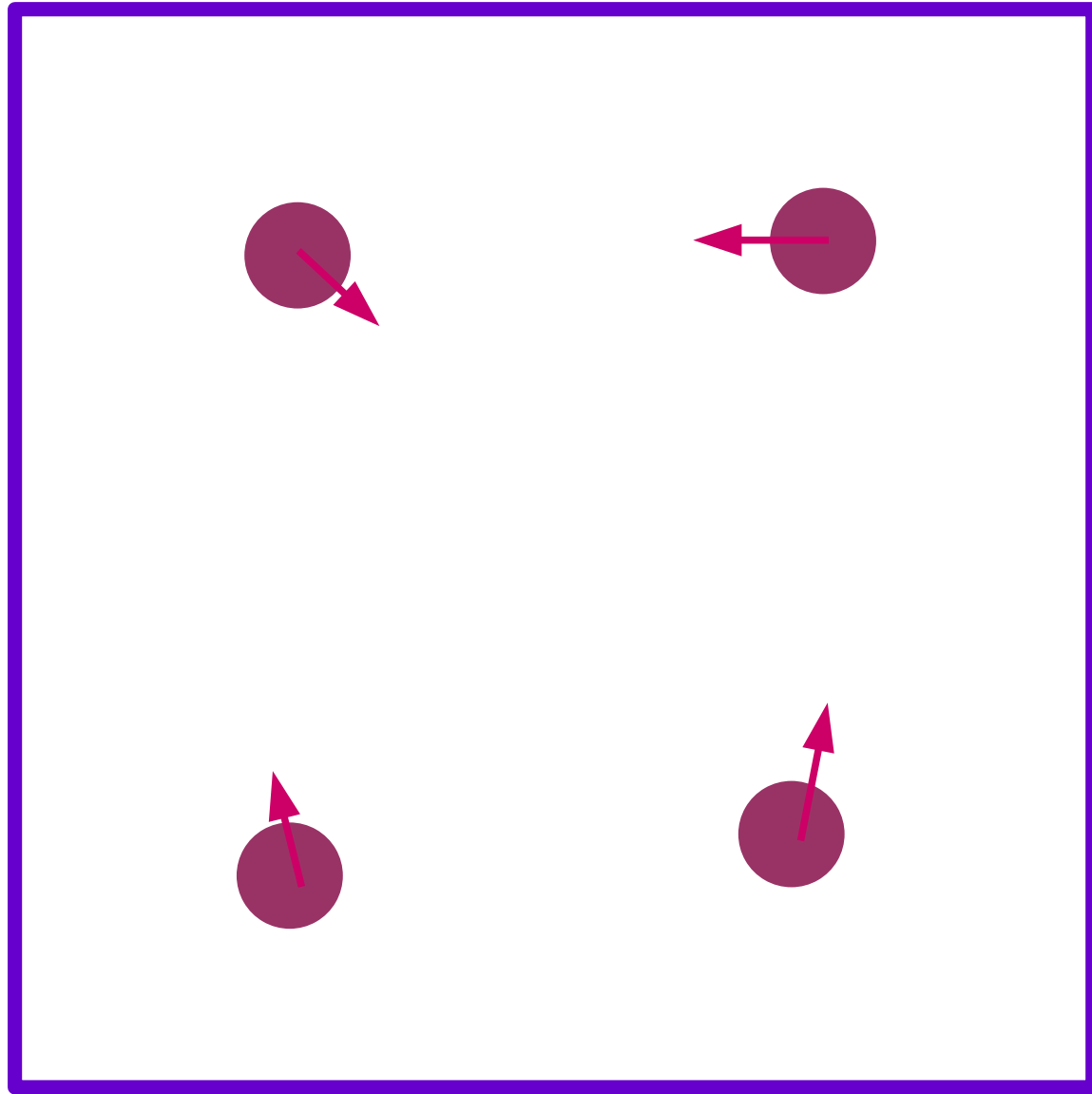
Dark matter population in an **expanding** Universe





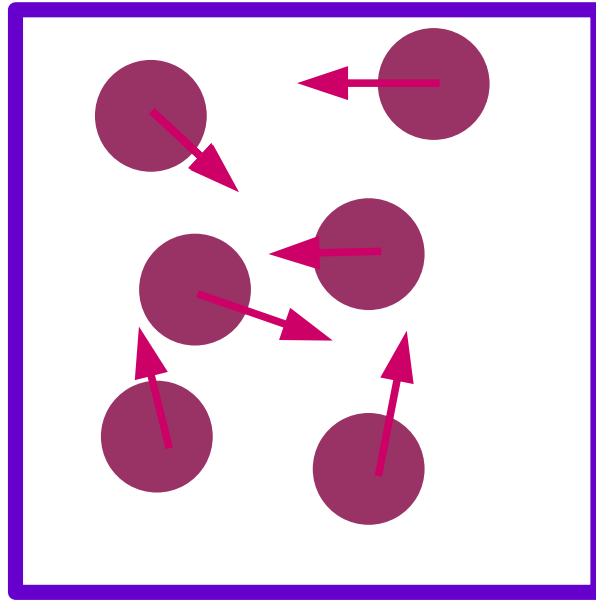




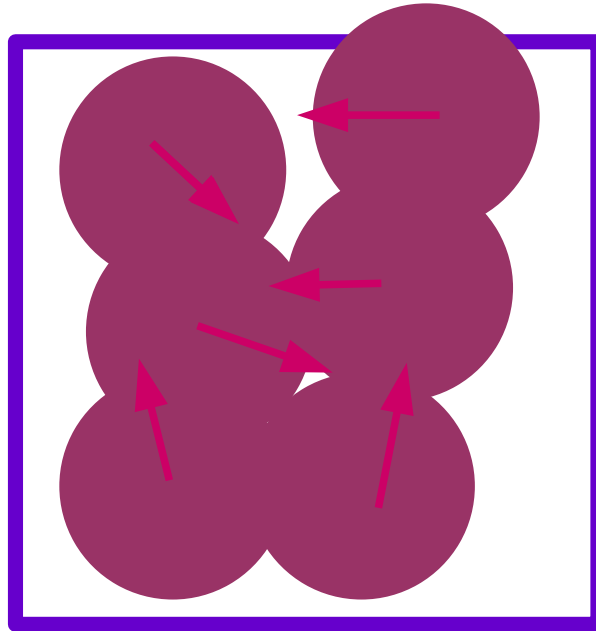


Dark matter particles can no longer annihilate.
The number of dark matter particles “freezes-out”

The *relic abundance* of dark matter particles depends on their annihilation cross section and on their velocity

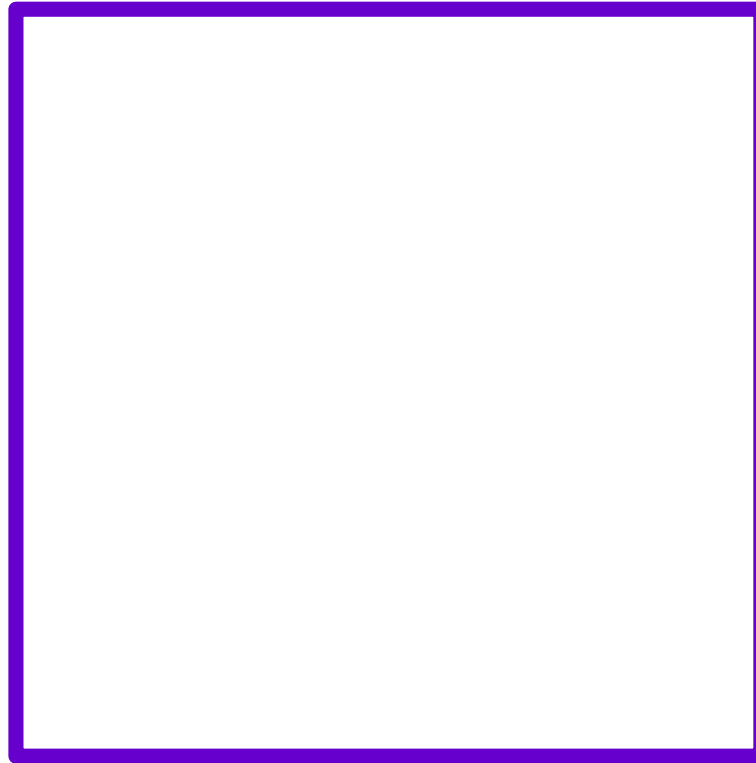


The *relic abundance* of dark matter particles depends on their annihilation cross section...



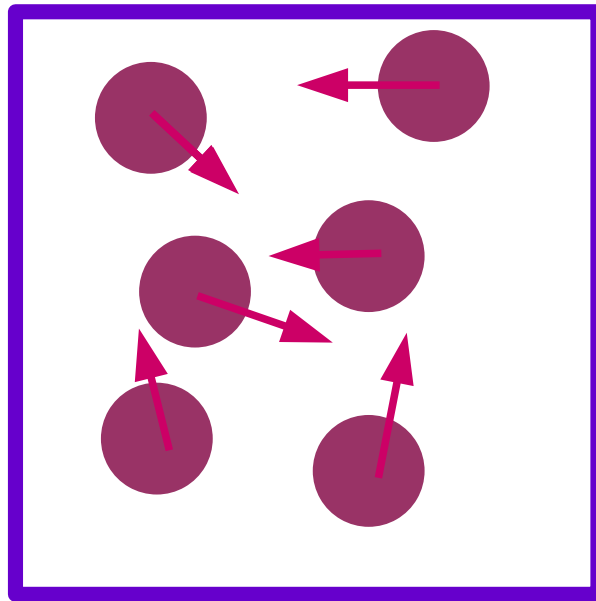
Large annihilation cross section $\rightarrow$ Small relic abundance
Small annihilation cross section $\rightarrow$ Large relic abundance

The *relic abundance* of dark matter particles depends on their annihilation cross section...

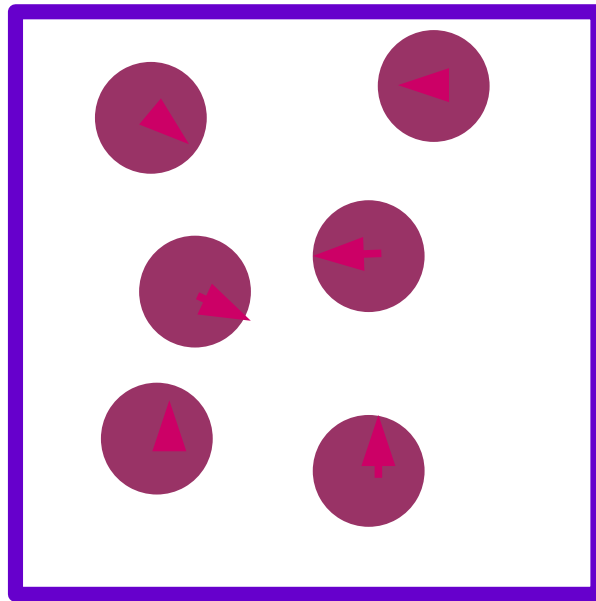


Large annihilation cross section $\rightarrow$ Small relic abundance
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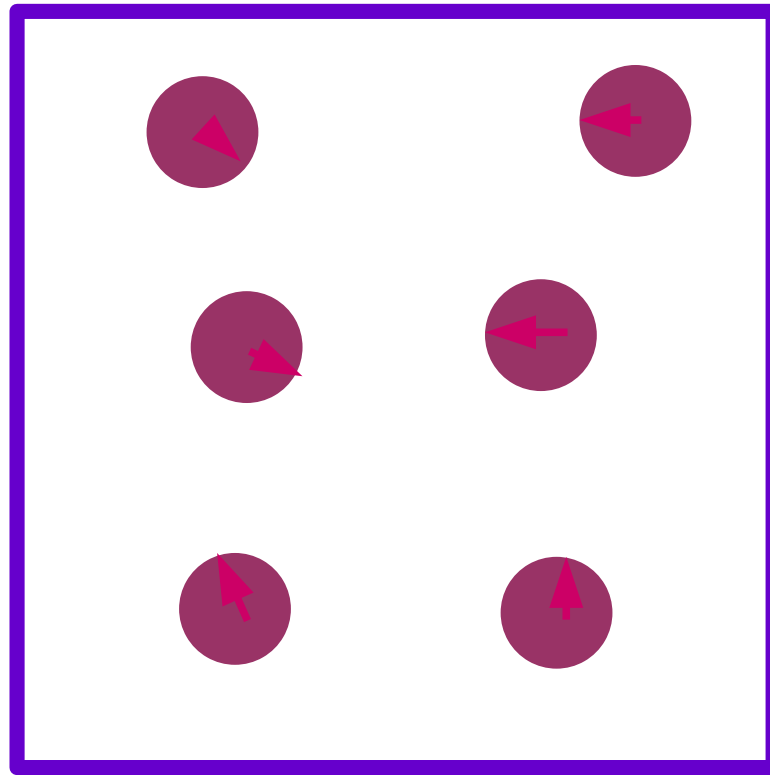
... and on their velocity



... and on their velocity



... and on their velocity



Large velocity $\rightarrow$ Small relic abundance
Small velocity $\rightarrow$ Large relic abundance

A heuristic view of the freeze-out

$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 \propto \frac{1}{\langle \sigma v \rangle}$$

A heuristic view of the freeze-out

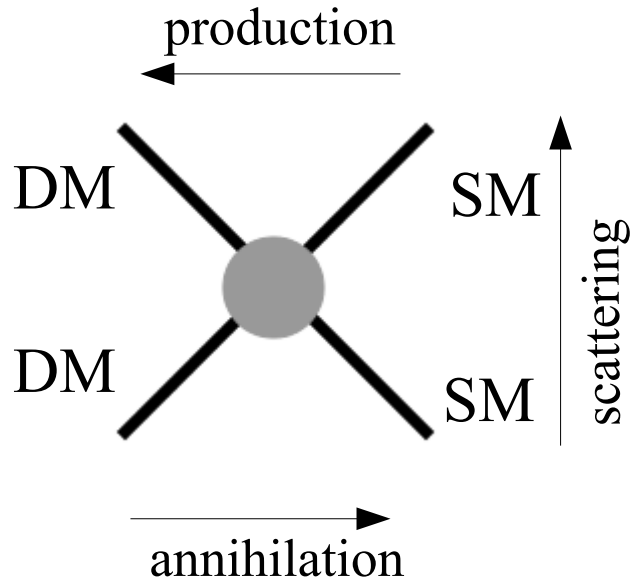
Boltzmann equation for the yield

$$\frac{x}{Y_{\text{eq}}} \frac{dY}{dx} = -\frac{\Gamma_{\text{ann}}(x)}{H(x)} \left[\left(\frac{Y}{Y_{\text{eq}}} \right)^2 - 1 \right]$$

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

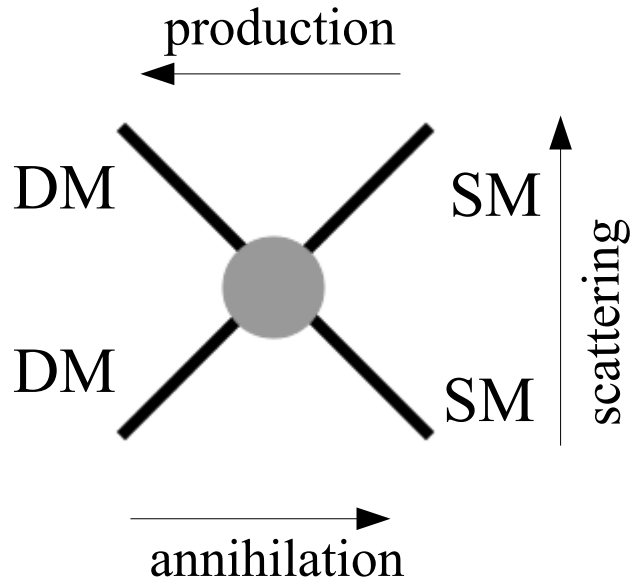
Main results from this part

WIMP dark matter



Main results from this part

WIMP dark matter

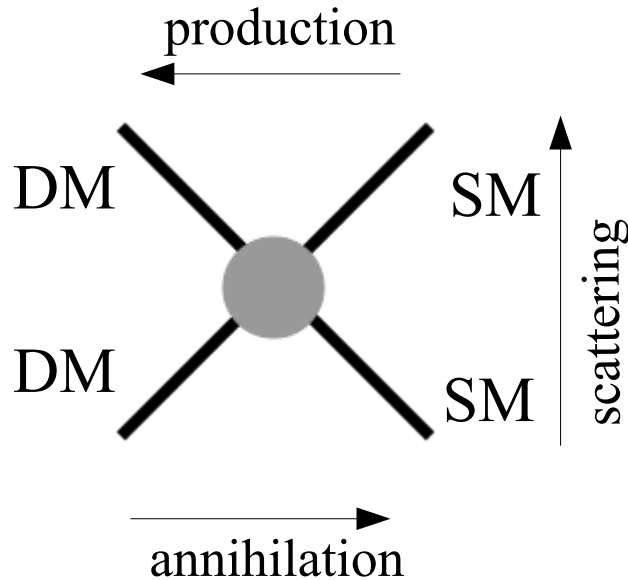


Relic abundance of DM particles

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

Main results from this part

WIMP dark matter



Relic abundance of DM particles

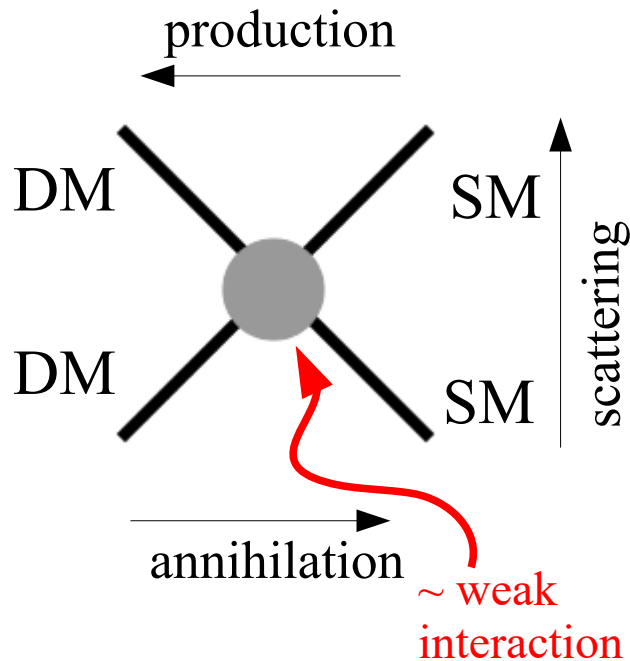
$$\Omega h^2 \simeq \frac{3 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}}{\langle \sigma v \rangle}$$

Correct DM abundance $\Omega h^2 = 0.12$ if

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \simeq 3 \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} = 1 \text{ pb} \cdot c$$

Main results from this part

WIMP dark matter



Relic abundance of DM particles

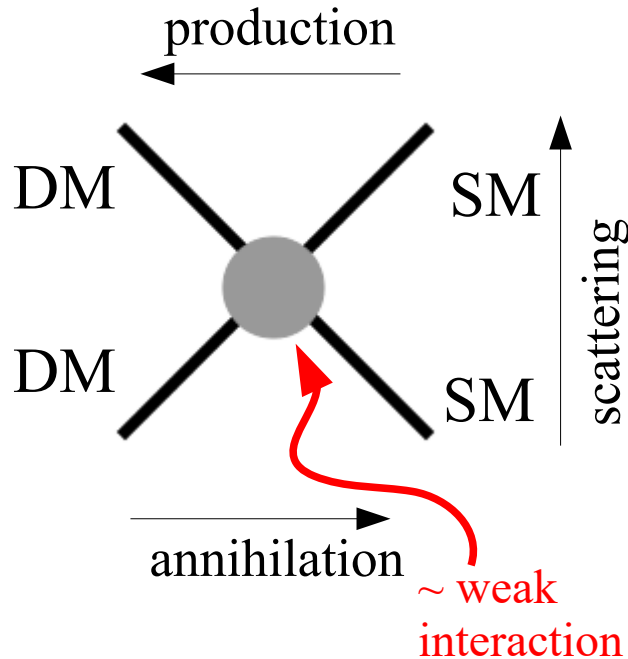
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Main results from this part

WIMP dark matter

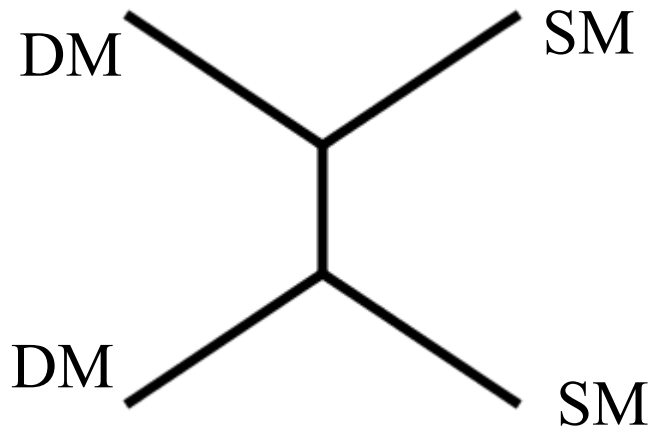


Relic abundance of DM particles

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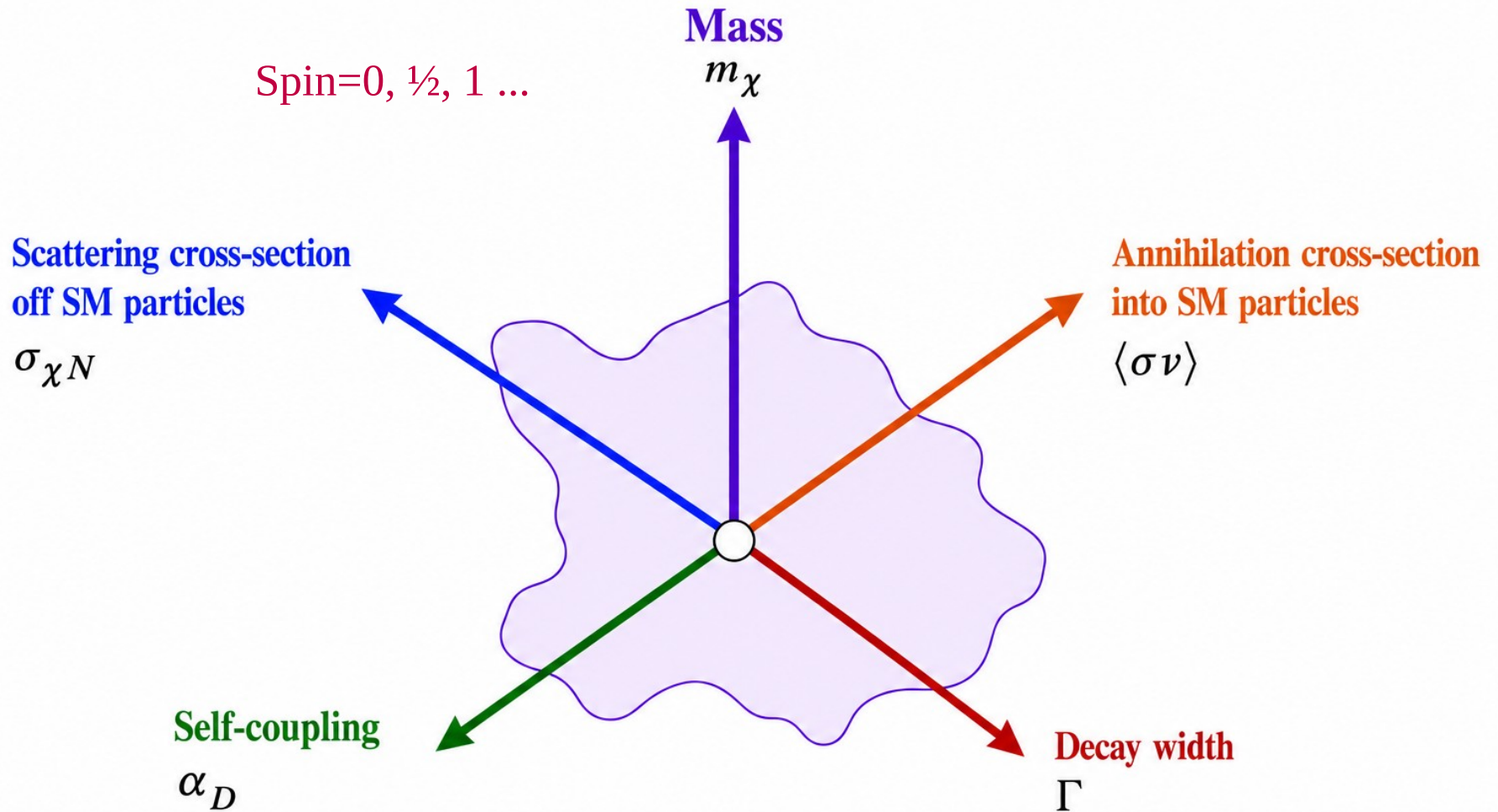


$$\sigma \sim \frac{g^4}{m_{\text{DM}}^2} = 1 \text{ pb}$$

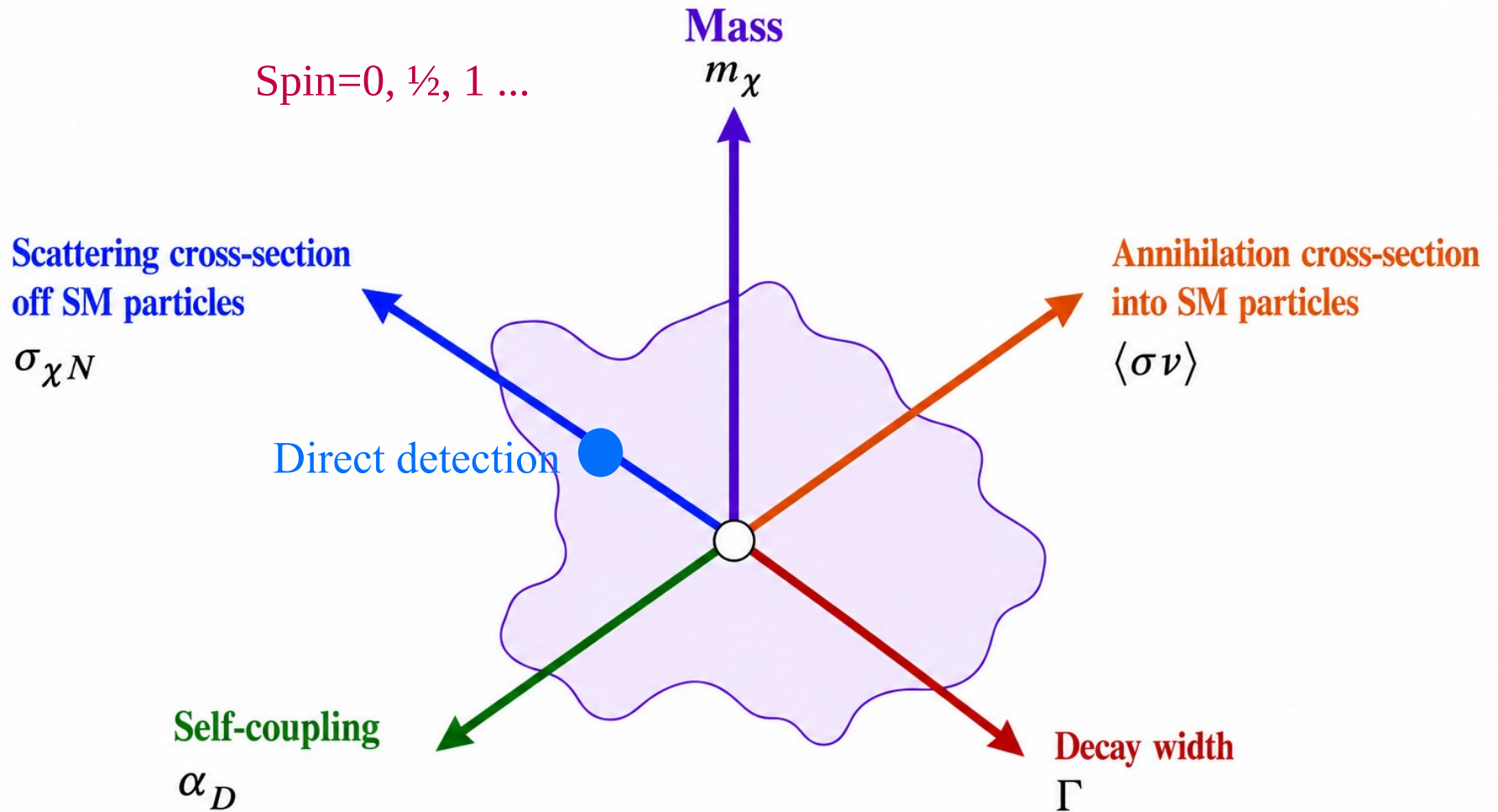
$$m_{\text{DM}} \sim 10 \text{ GeV} - 1 \text{ TeV}$$

(provided $g \sim g_{\text{weak}} \sim 0.1$)

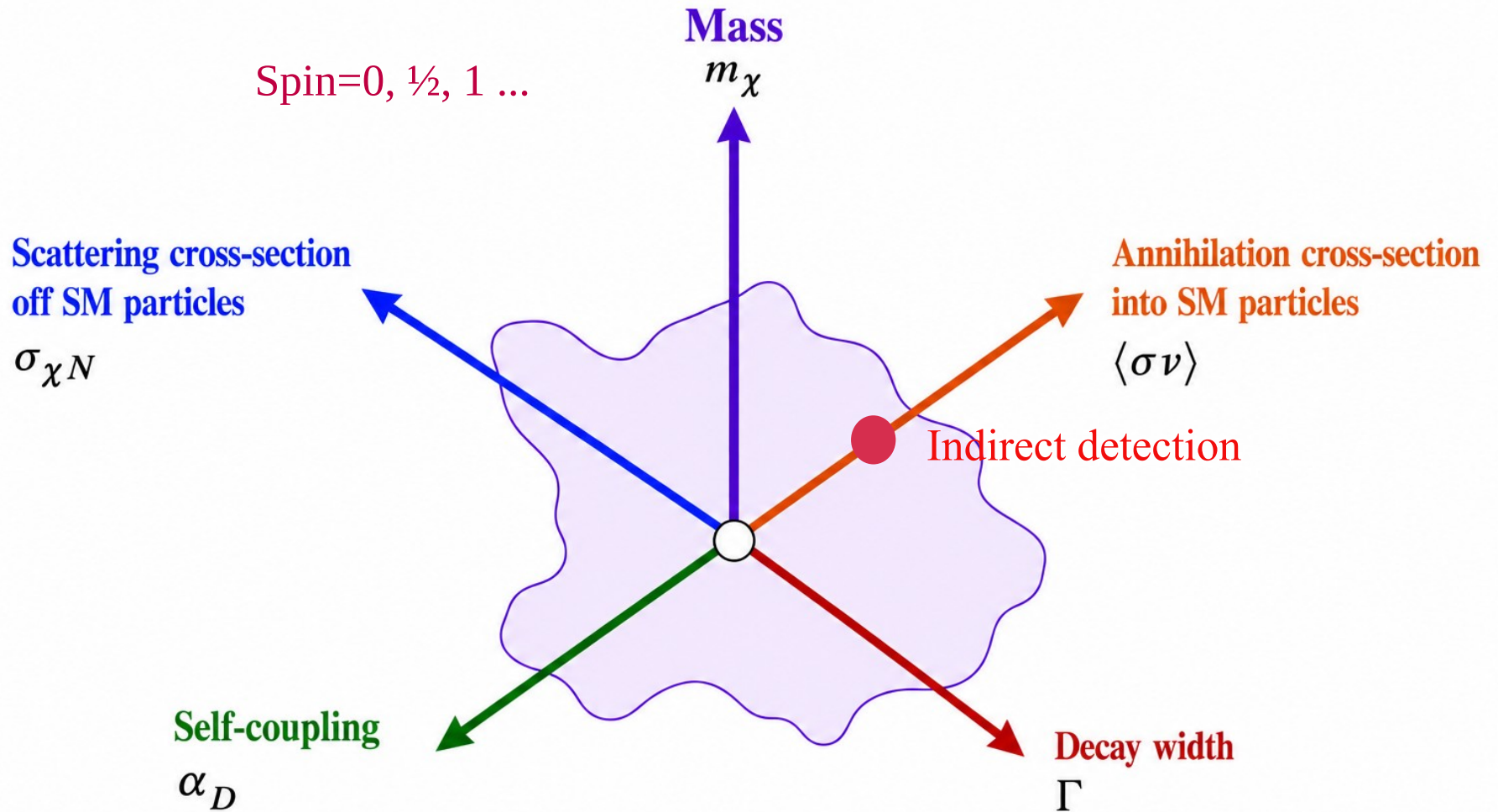
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



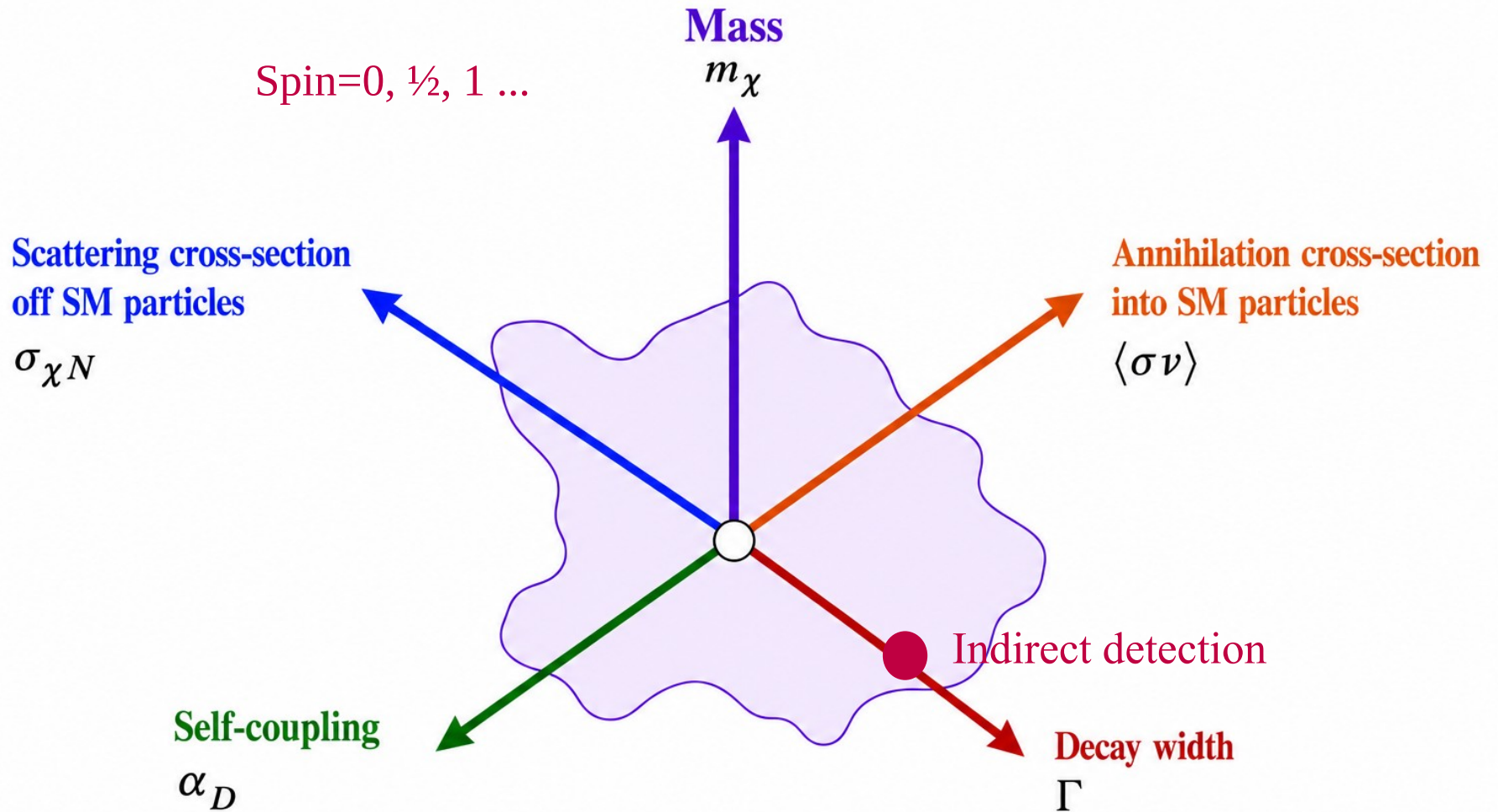
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



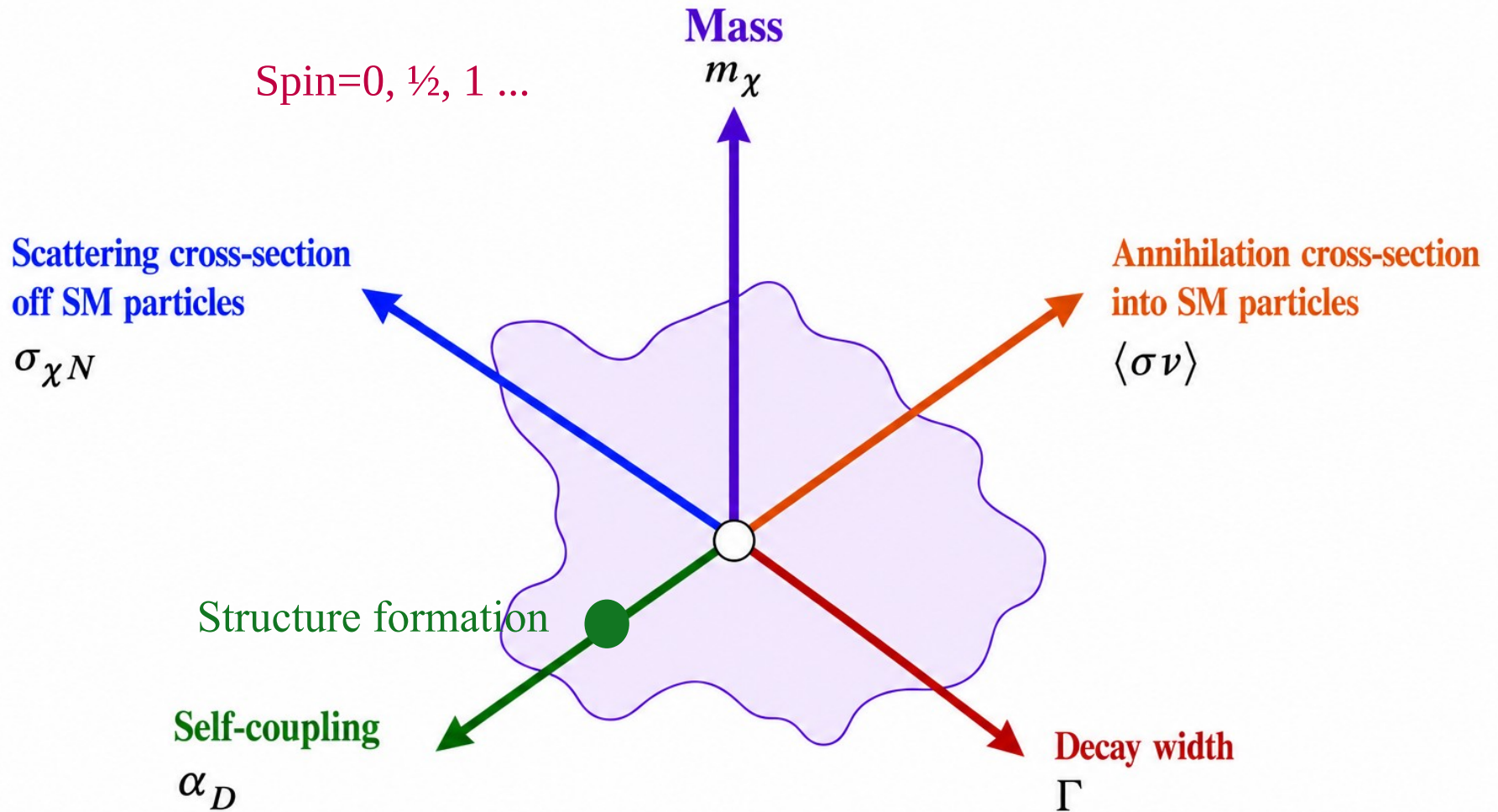
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



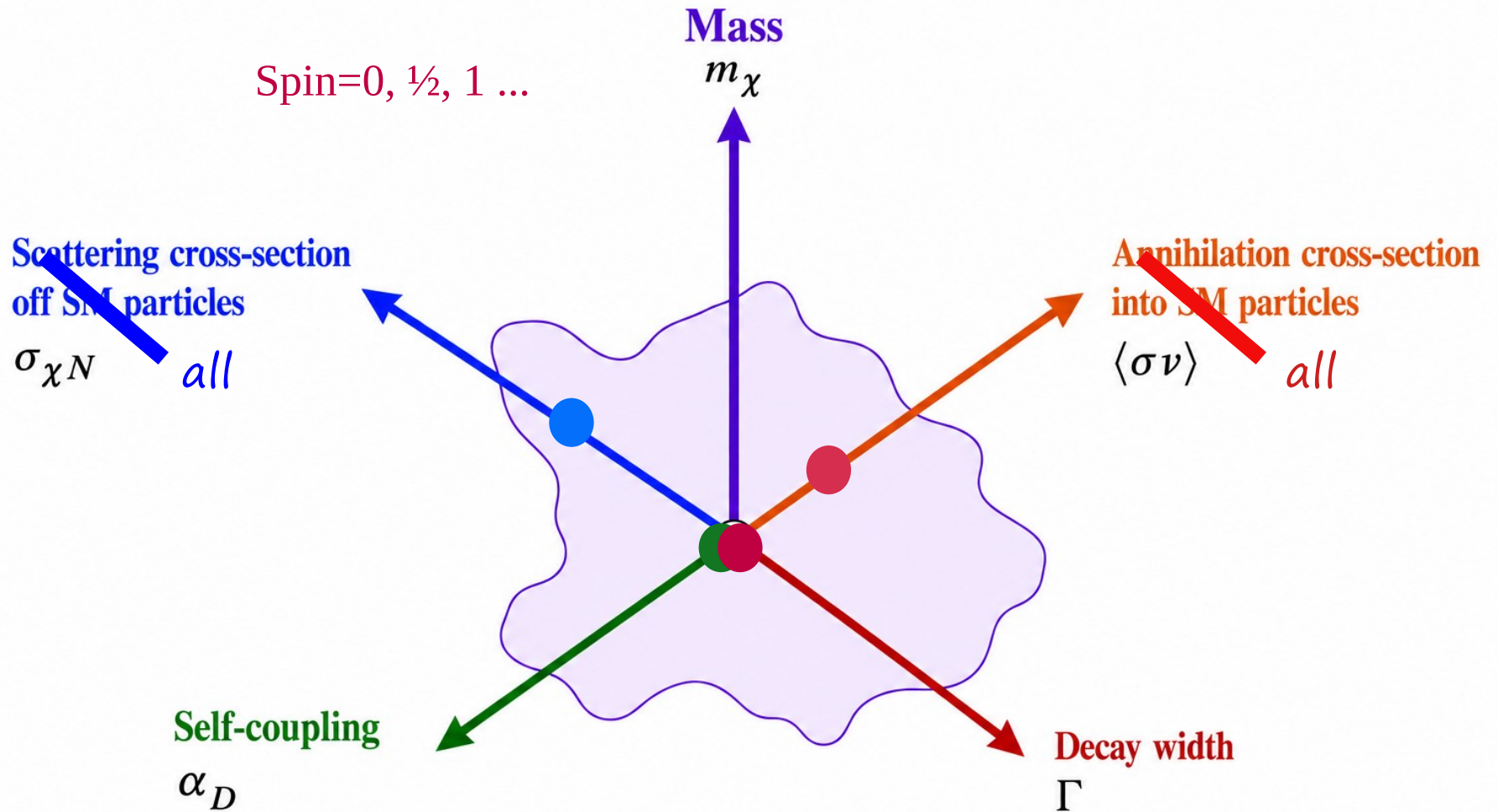
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space

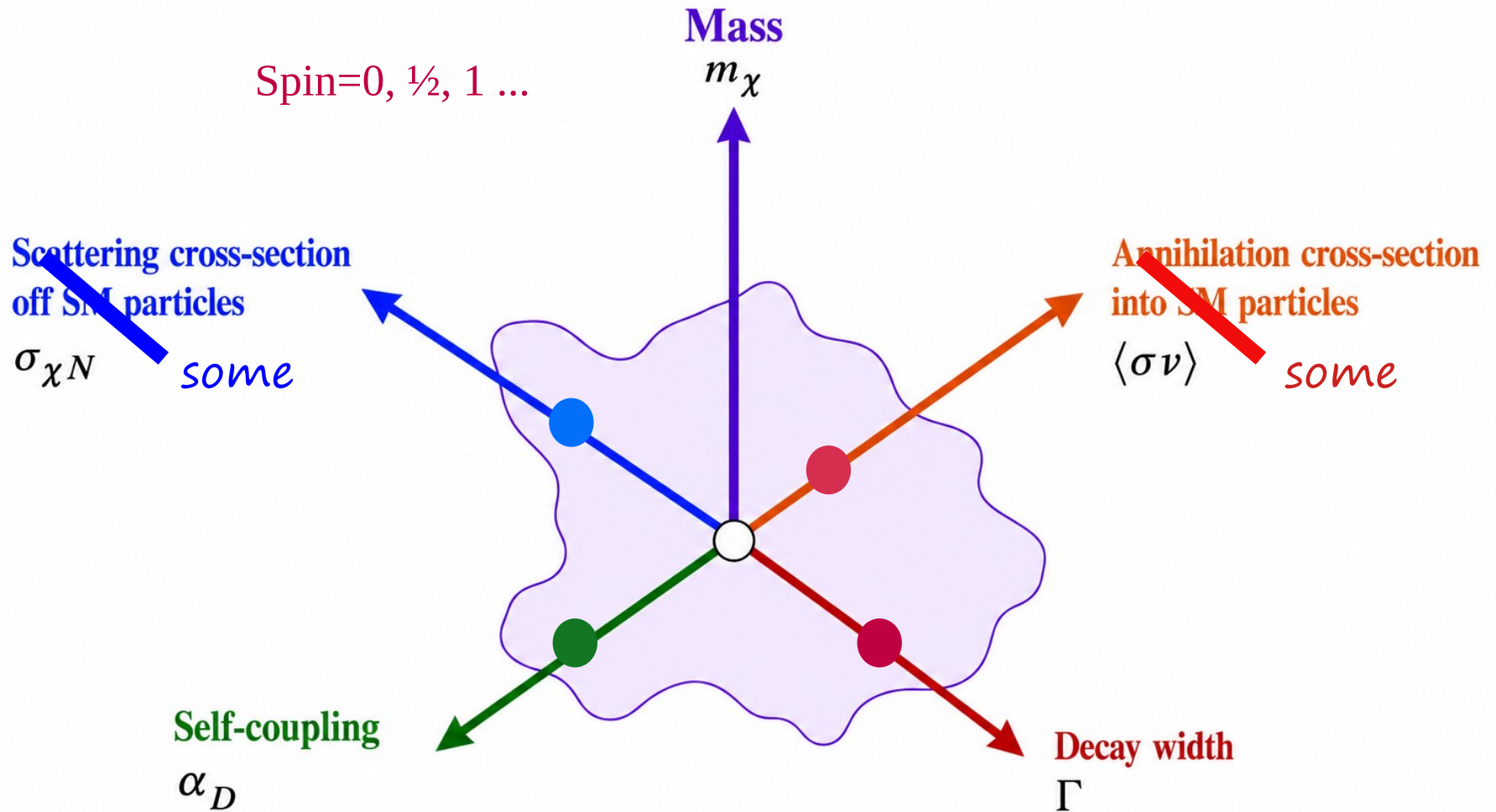


Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



Traditional dark matter searches were optimized to detect the lightest neutralino of the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model.

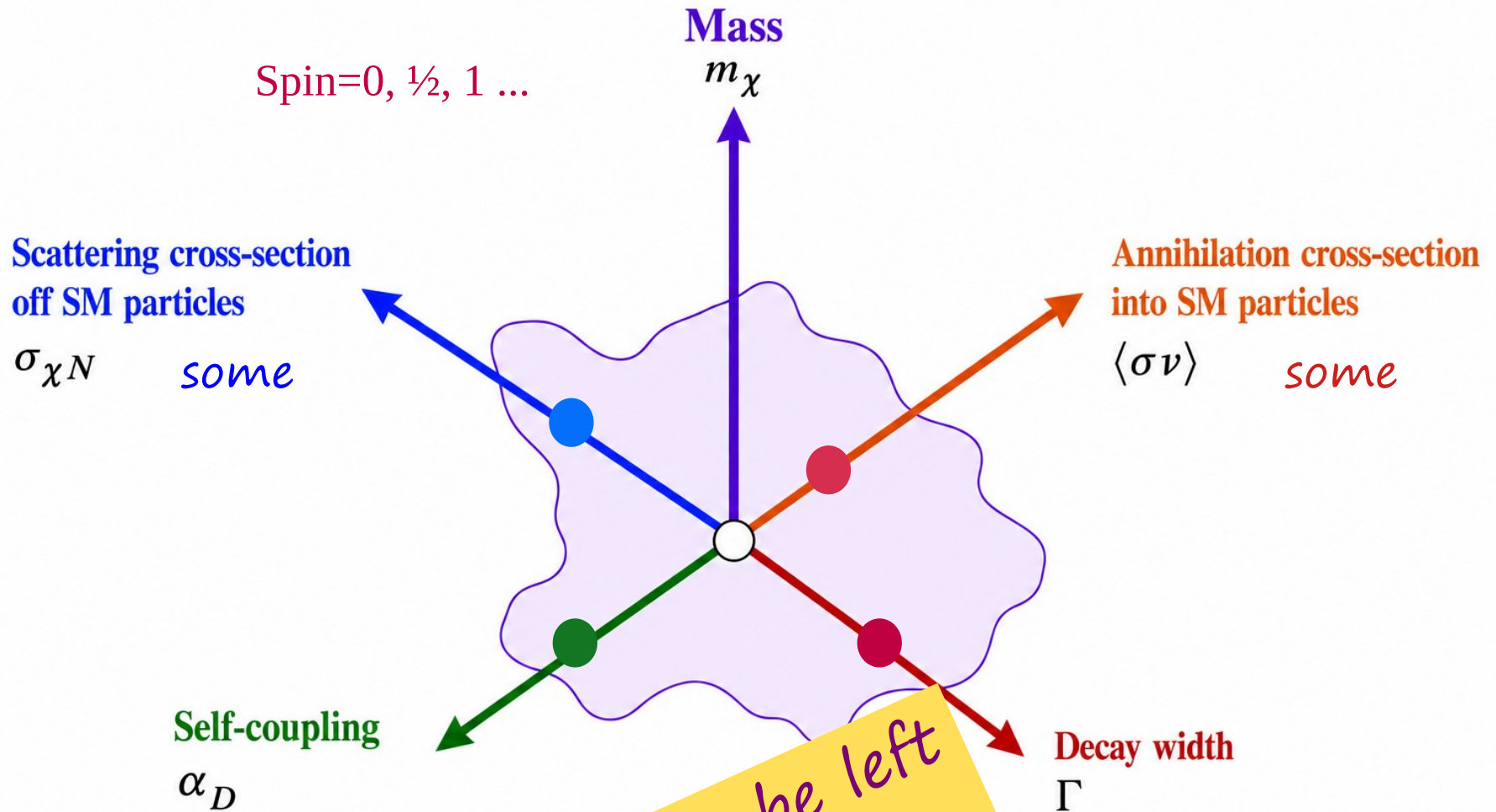
Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



Modern approach:

- Be agnostic about the model.
- Identify distinct DM signals that allow to explore as much parameter space as possible.

Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space



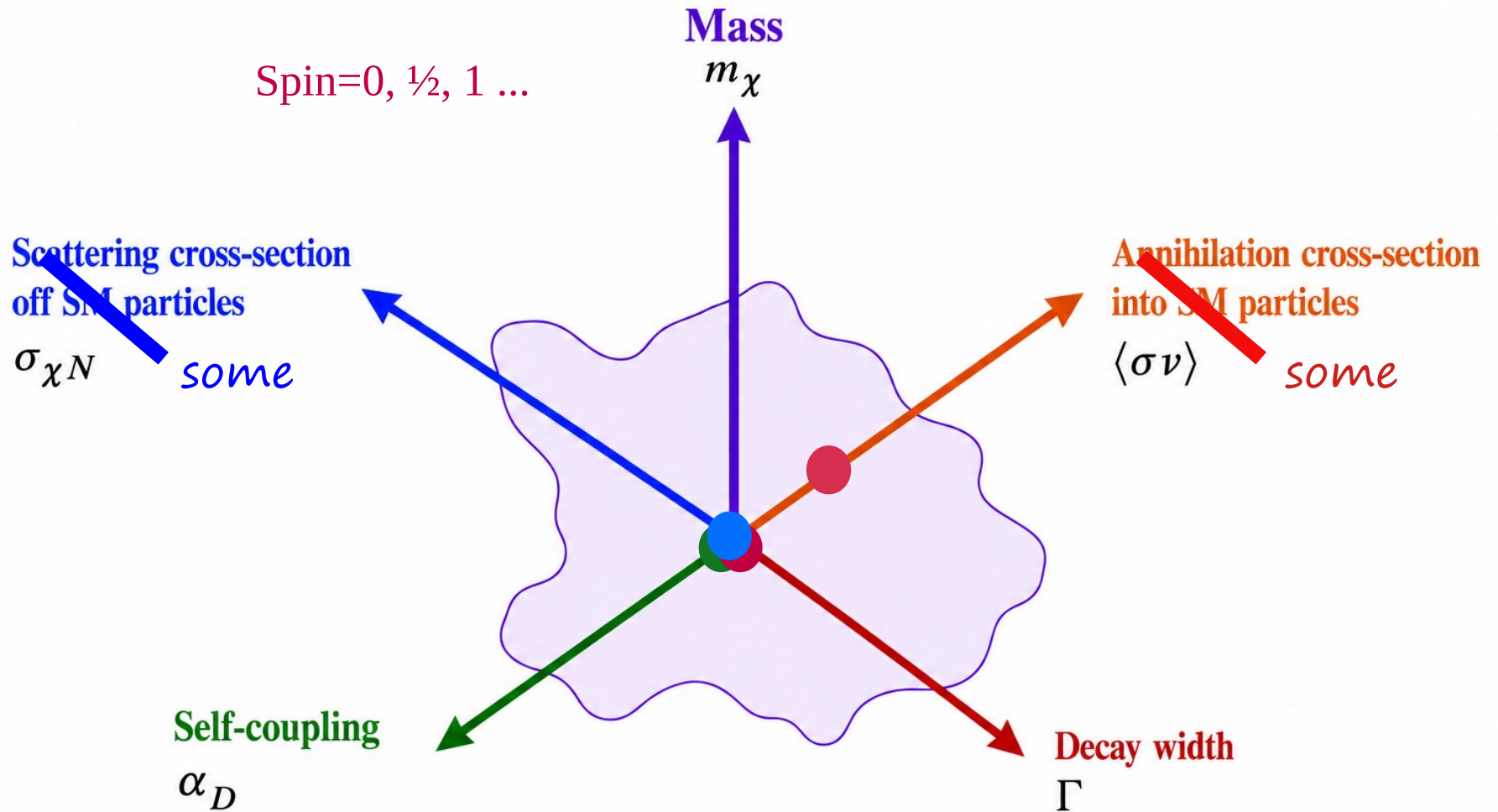
Modern approach:

- Be agnostic about the model.

- Identify all signals that allow to explore as much parameter space as possible.

*No stone must be left
untturned!*

Particle Dark Matter Parameter Space

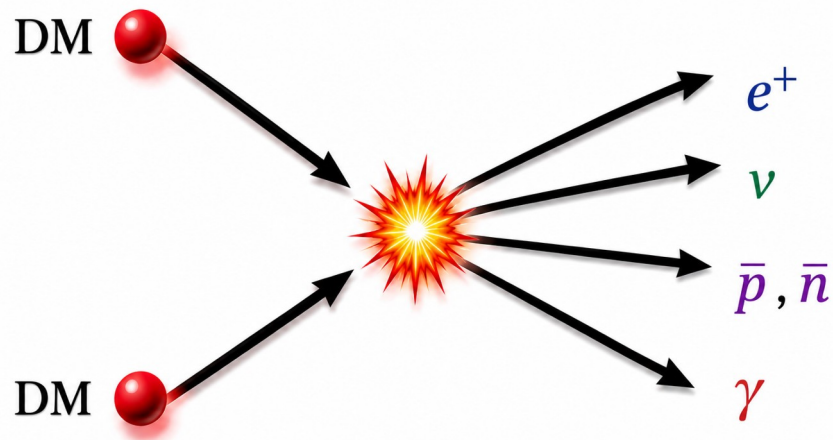


Indirect dark matter searches

Indirect dark matter searches

General idea:

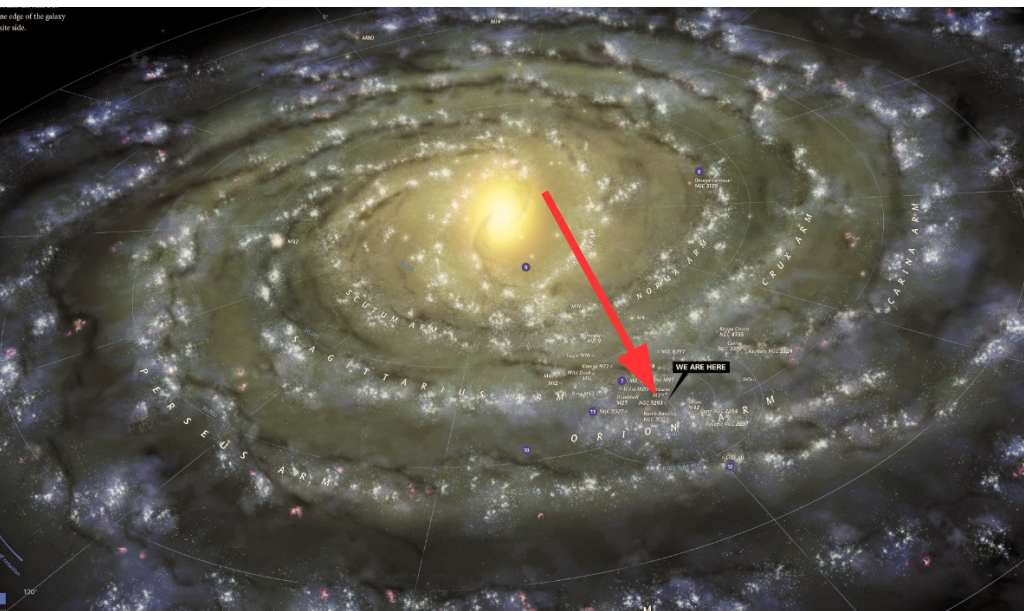
1) Dark matter particles annihilate or decay producing a flux of stable particles: photons, electrons, protons, positrons, antiprotons, (anti-)neutrinos or anti-nuclei



Indirect dark matter searches

General idea:

- 1) Dark matter particles annihilate or decay producing a flux of stable particles: photons, electrons, protons, positrons, antiprotons, (anti-)neutrinos or anti-nuclei.
- 2) These particles propagate through the galaxy and through the Solar System. Some of them will reach the Earth.

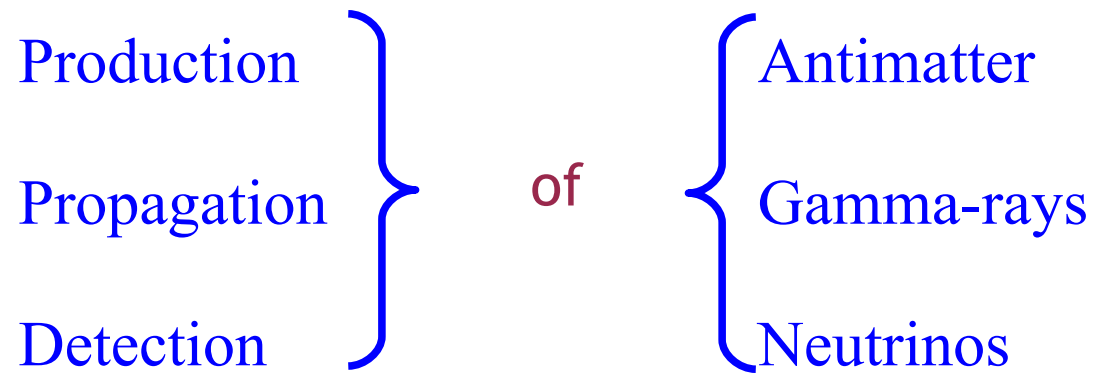


Indirect dark matter searches

General idea:

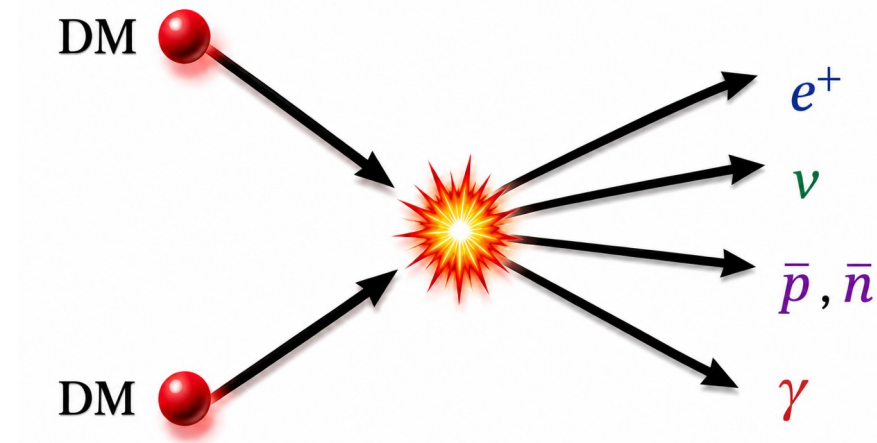
- 1) Dark matter particles annihilate or decay producing a flux of stable particles: photons, electrons, protons, positrons, antiprotons, (anti-)neutrinos or anti-nuclei.
- 2) These particles propagate through the galaxy and through the Solar System. Some of them will reach the Earth.
- 3) The products of the dark matter annihilations or decays are detected **together with other particles produced in astrophysical processes** (for example, cosmic ray collisions with nuclei in the interstellar medium). The existence of dark matter can then be inferred if there is a significant excess in the fluxes compared to the expected astrophysical backgrounds.

Indirect dark matter searches



Production

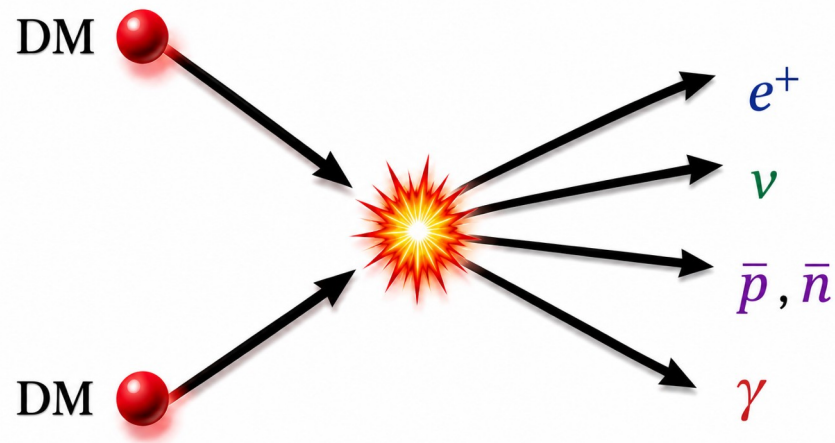
Production of SM particles in DM annihilation



Number of particles of the type “i” produced at the position $\mathbf{r}$ per unit time and unit volume:

$$Q(T, \vec{r}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\rho_{\chi}^2(\vec{r})}{m_{\chi}^2} \sum_i (\sigma v)_i \frac{dN^i}{dT}$$

Production of SM particles in DM annihilation

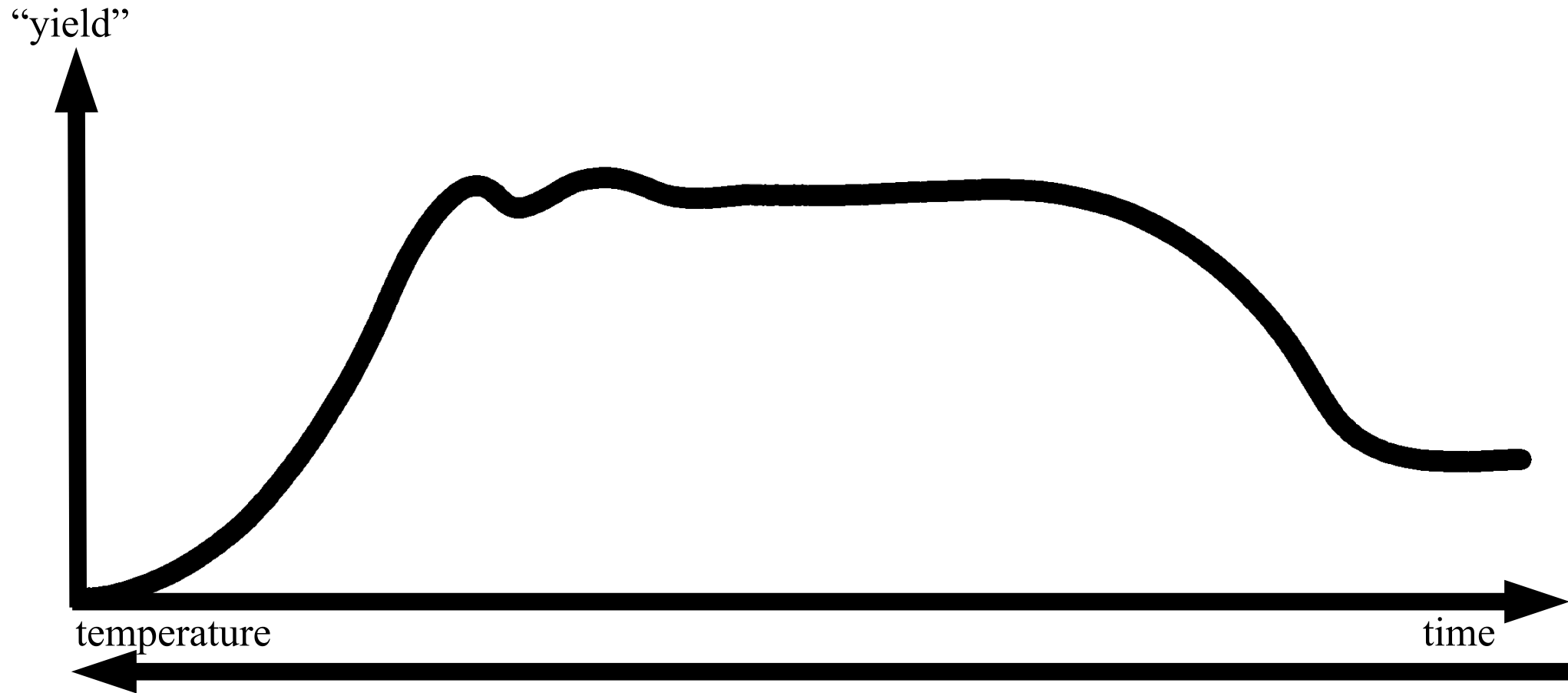


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DM density distribution in the MW

Dark matter distribution

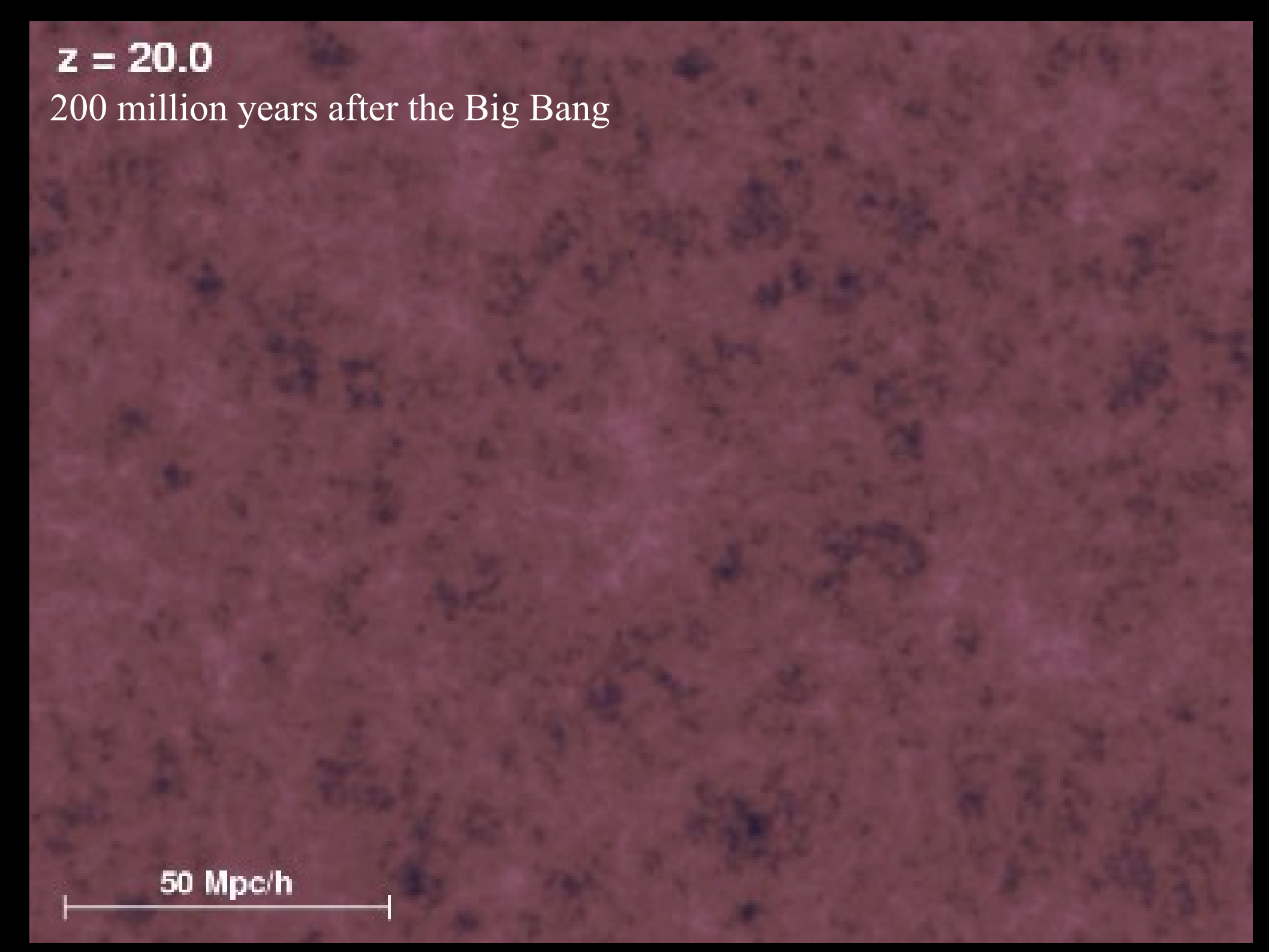


The universe at $T \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

$z = 20.0$

200 million years after the Big Bang

50 Mpc/h

A visualization of a simulated cosmic web at redshift z=20.0, 200 million years after the Big Bang. The image shows a dense network of dark, filamentary structures (galaxies and gas) against a lighter, textured background. The structures are interconnected, forming a complex web-like pattern. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates a distance of 50 Mpc/h.

$z = 0.0$

50 Mpc/h



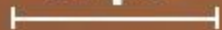
Volker Springel
Max-Planck-Institute
for Astrophysics



$z=0.0$

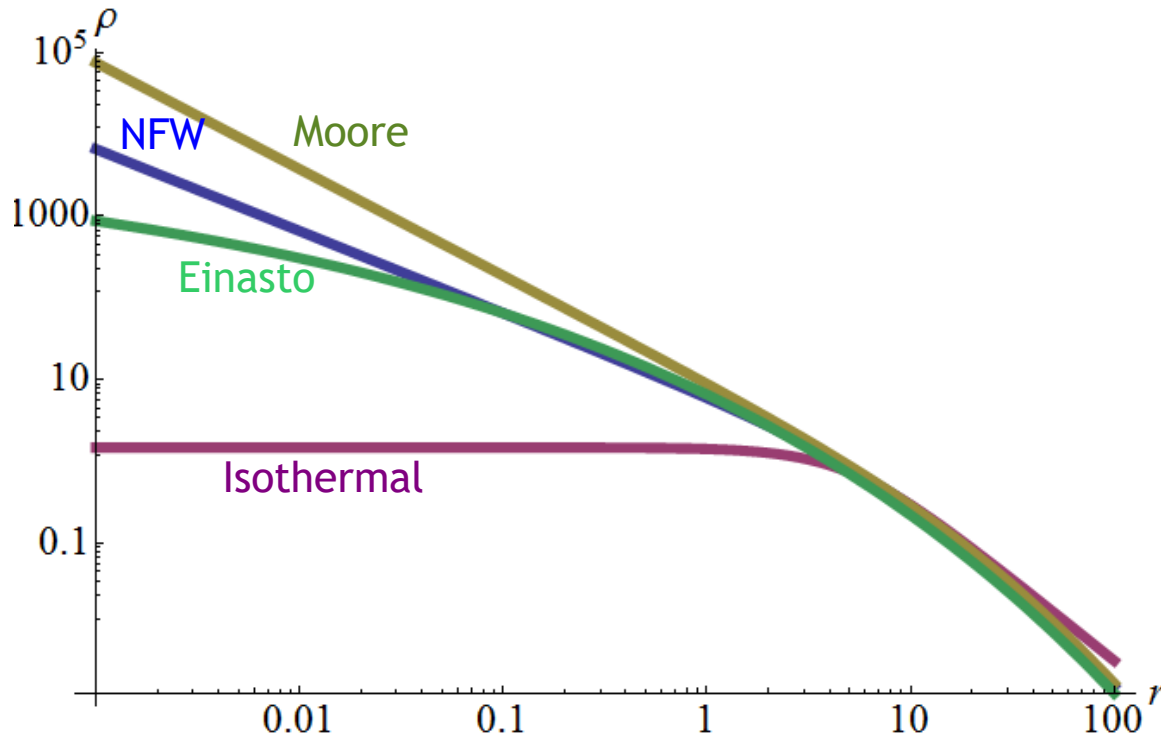
Distance Sun to Milky Way Center ~ 8.5 kpc

8 kpc



Density distribution of dark matter particles:

- Assume spherical symmetry (in a first approximation).
- Radial distribution:



NFW, Isothermal, Moore

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{(r/r_c)^\gamma [1 + (r/r_c)^\alpha]^{(\beta-\gamma)/\alpha}}$$

Halo model	α	β	γ	r_c (kpc)
Navarro, Frenk, White	1	3	1	20
Isothermal	2	2	0	3.5
Moore	1.5	3	1.5	28

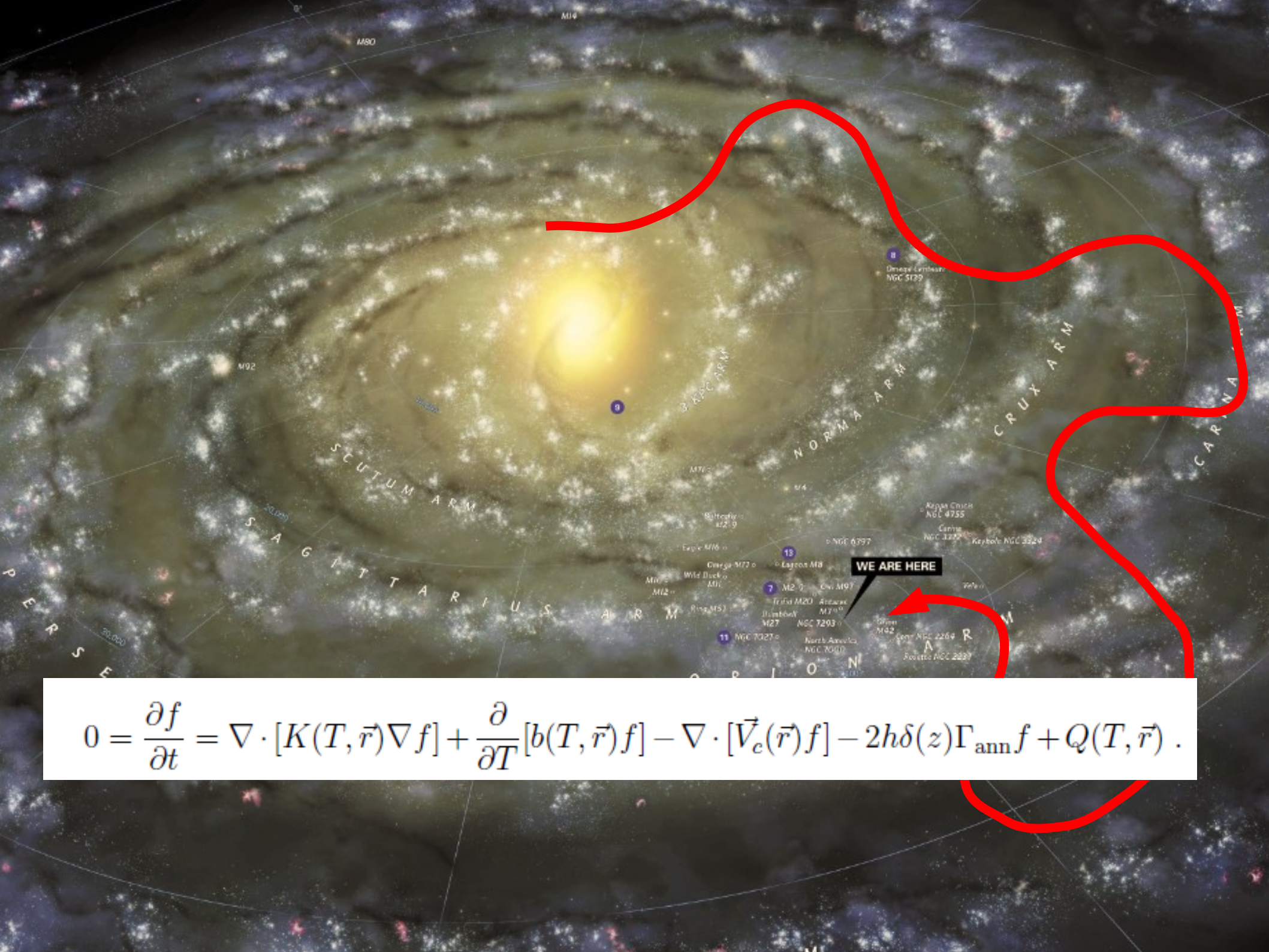
Einasto

$$\rho(r) = \rho_0 \exp \left[-\frac{2}{\alpha} \left(\left(\frac{r}{r_s} \right)^\alpha - 1 \right) \right]$$

$$\alpha = 0.17, r_s = 20 \text{ kpc}$$

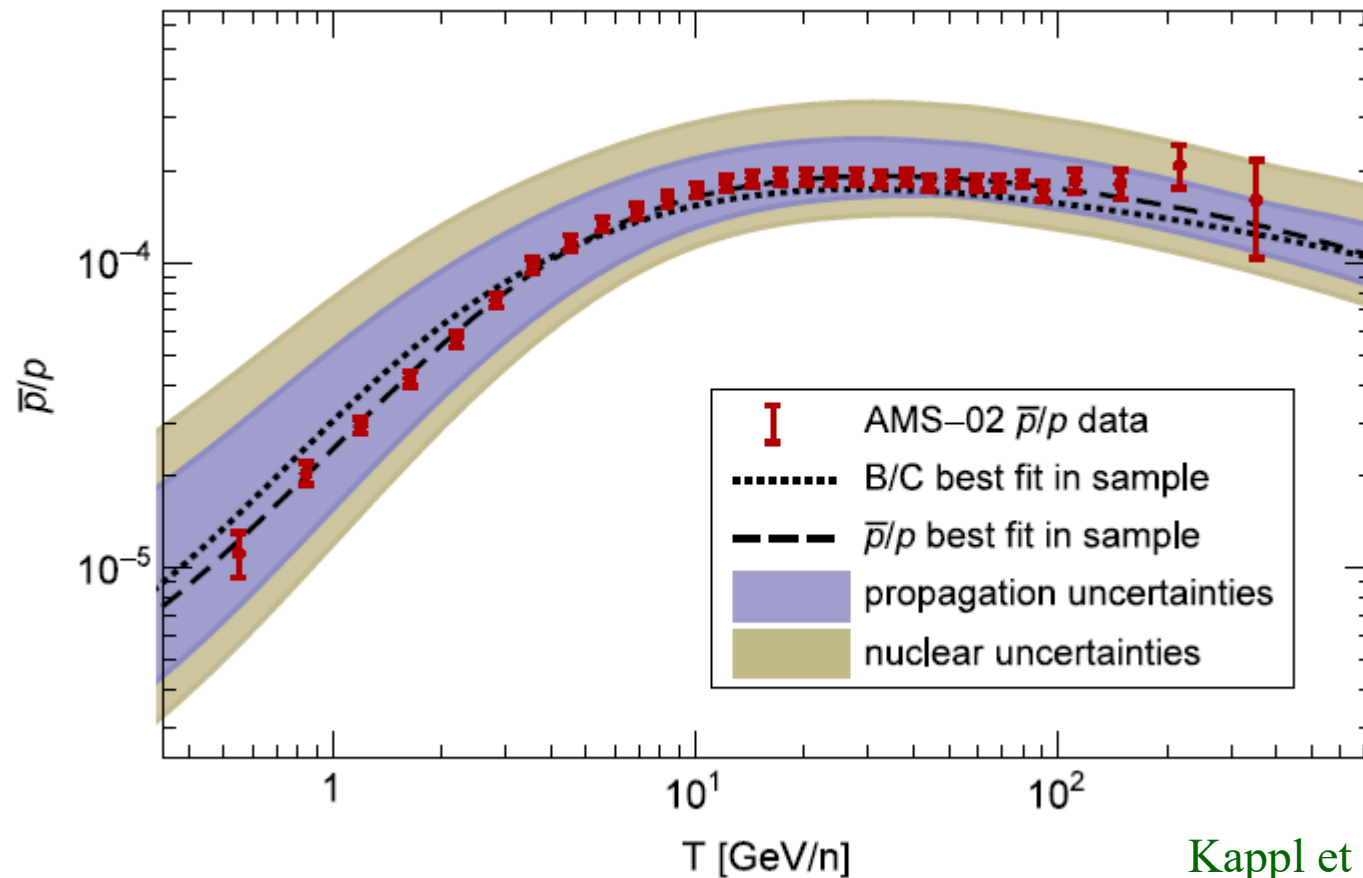
- Normalized such that the local DM density is $\rho(r=8.5 \text{ kpc}) = 0.38 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$

Charged particles



$$0 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot [K(T, \vec{r}) \nabla f] + \frac{\partial}{\partial T} [b(T, \vec{r}) f] - \nabla \cdot [\vec{V}_c(\vec{r}) f] - 2h\delta(z)\Gamma_{\text{ann}}f + Q(T, \vec{r}) .$$

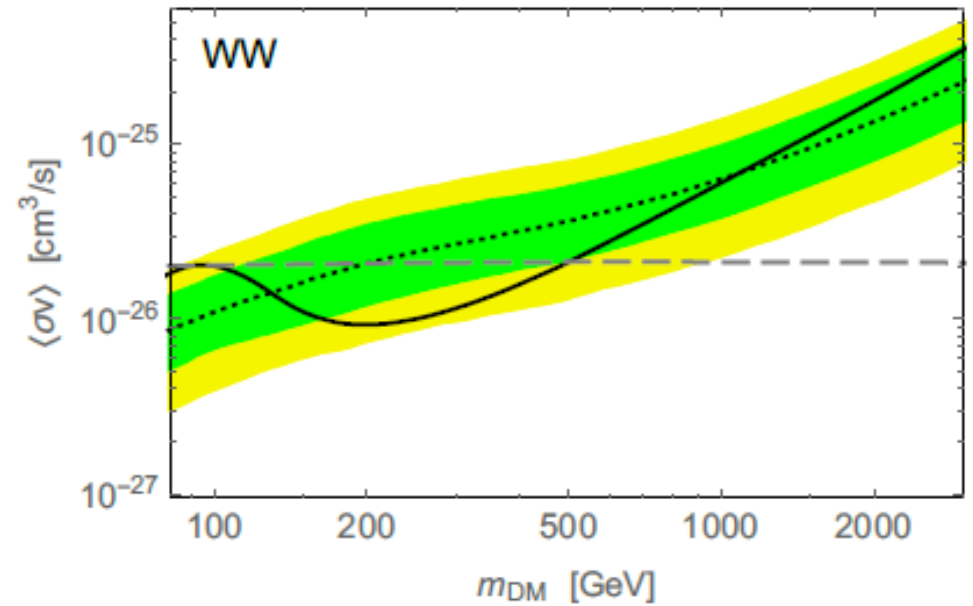
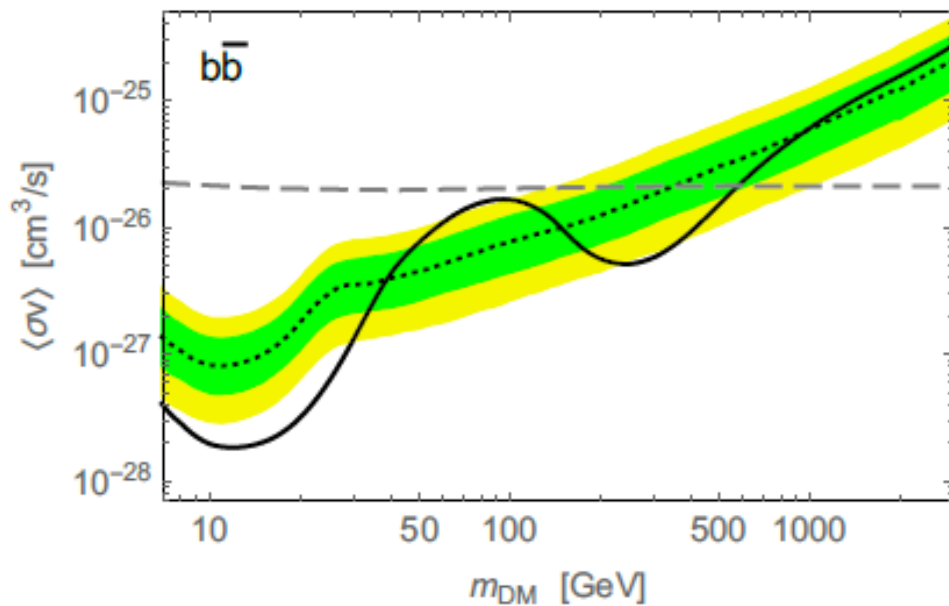
Antiprotons from DM annihilation



Kappl et al'15

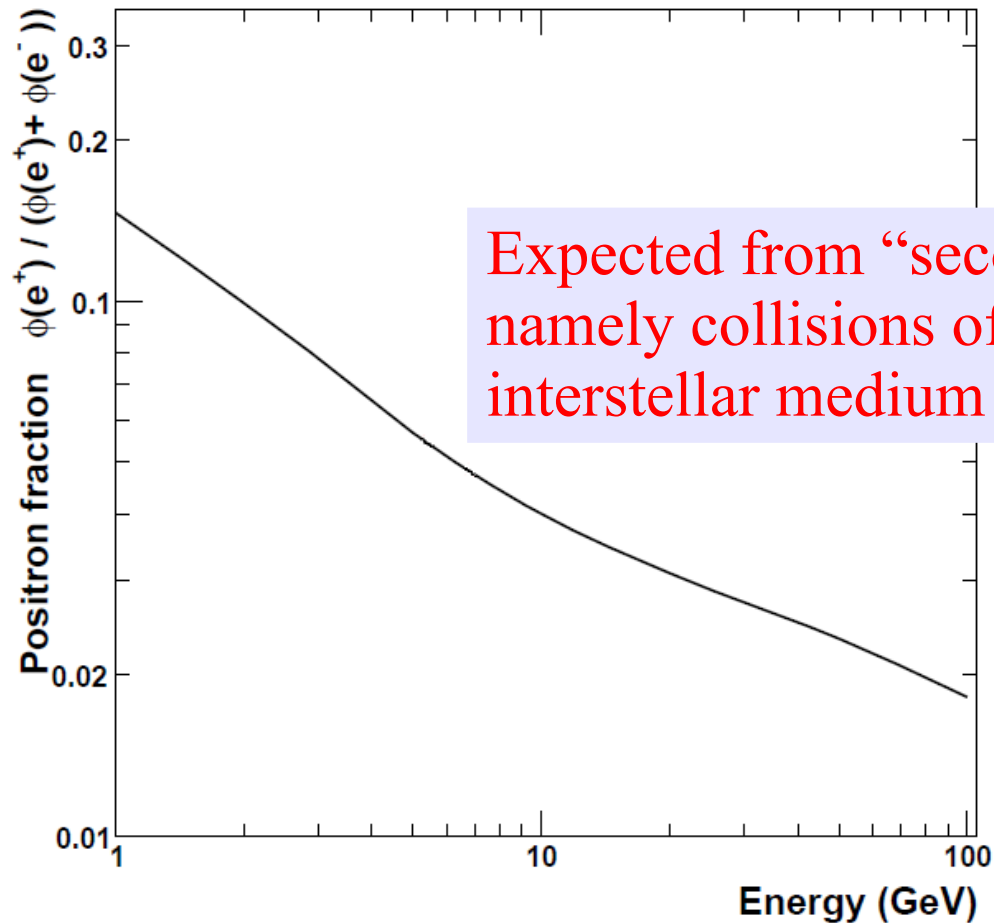
Good qualitative agreement between the measurements and the theoretical predictions from collisions of cosmic rays on the interstellar medium $p p \rightarrow \bar{p} X$

Antiprotons from DM annihilation



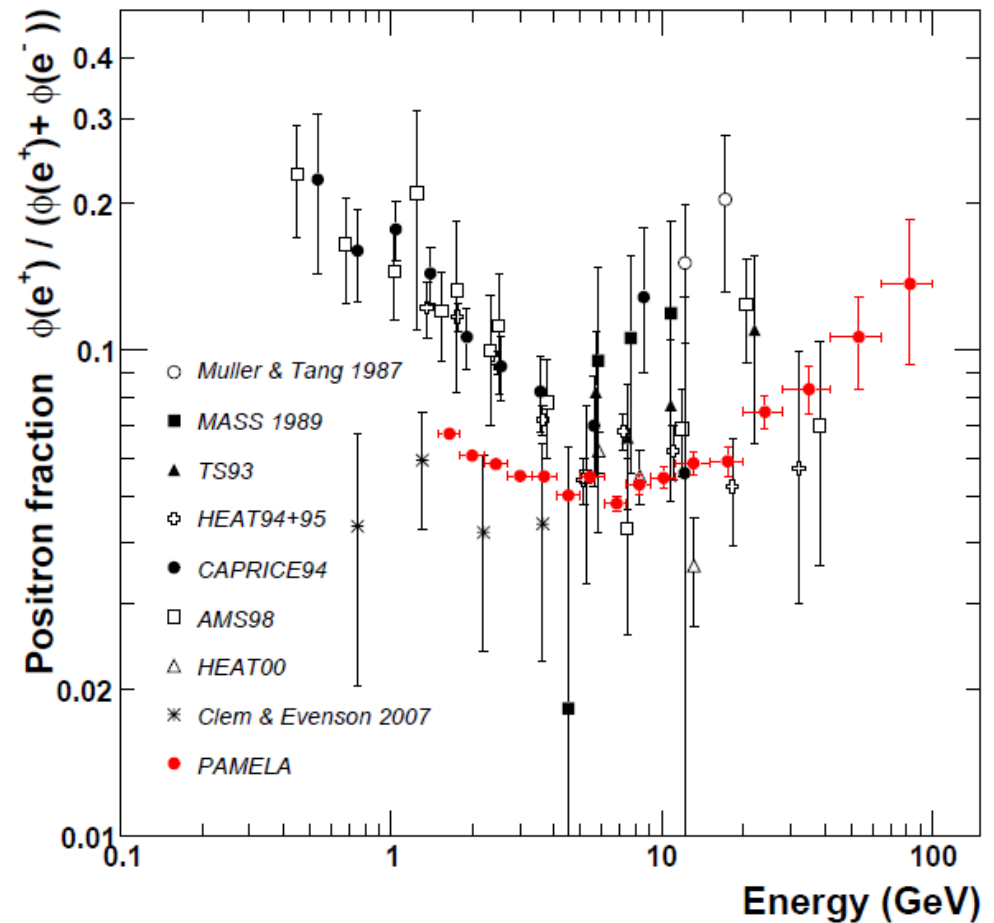
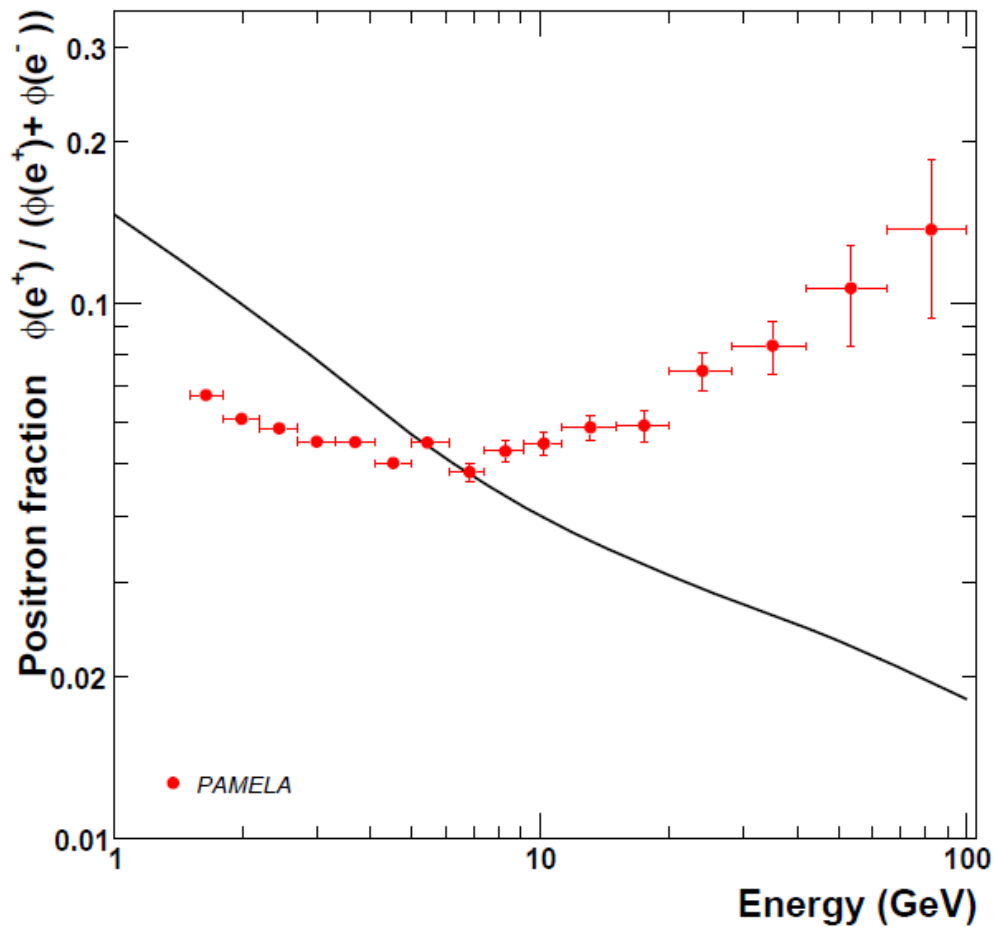
Reinert, Winkler.
1712.00002

Positrons from DM annihilation



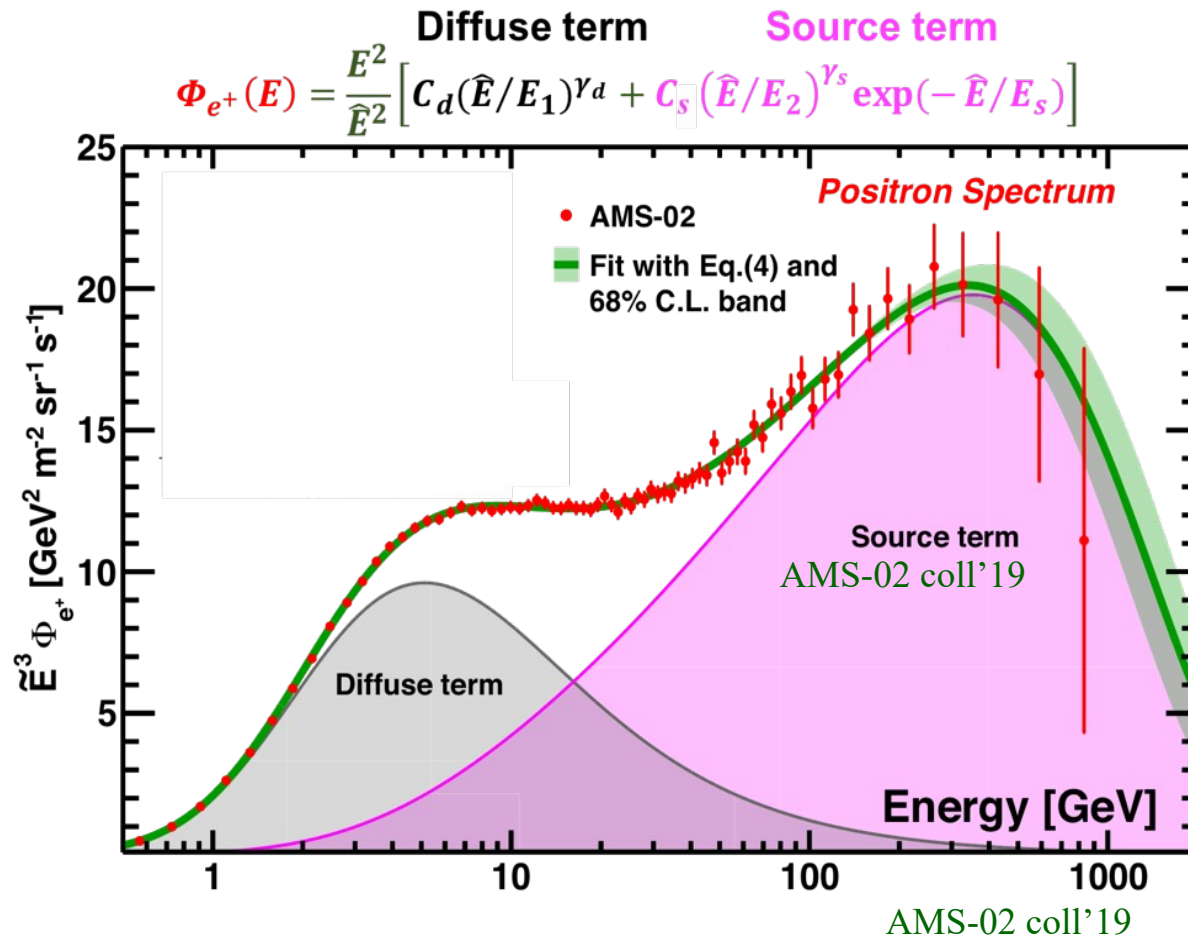
Expected from “secondary production”, namely collisions of cosmic rays on the interstellar medium ($p p \rightarrow e^+ X$).

Positrons from DM annihilation



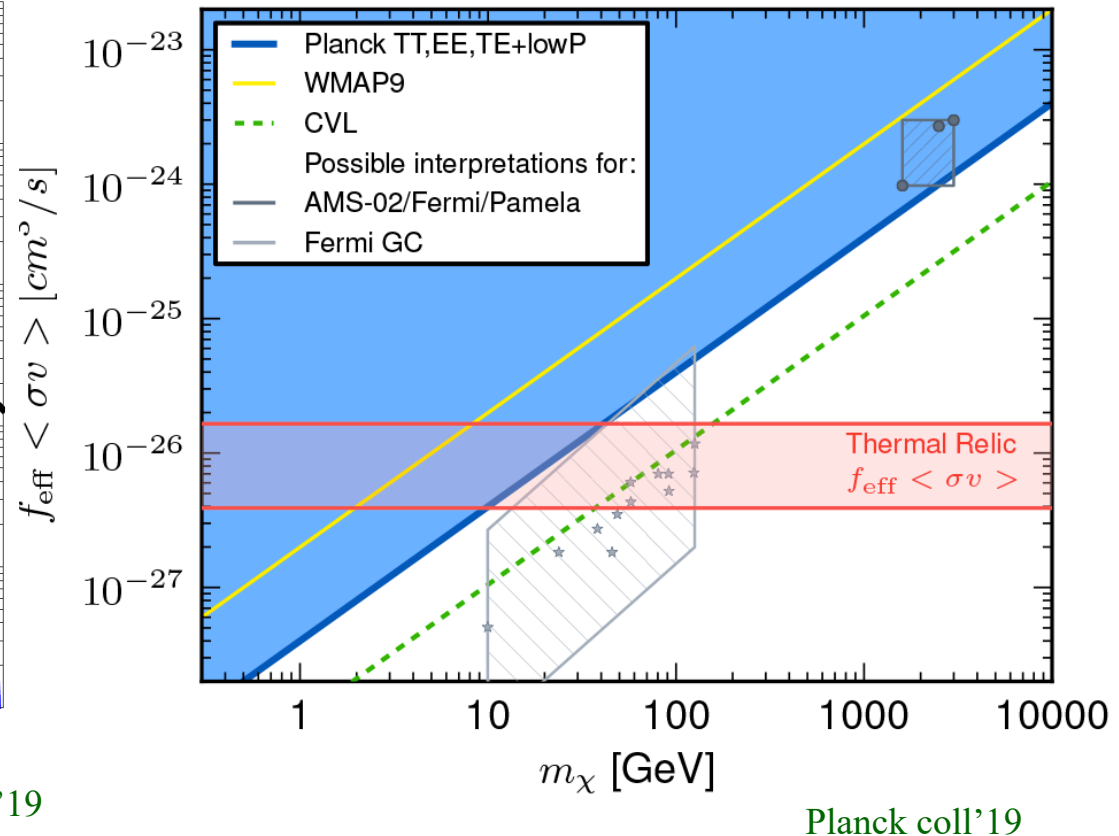
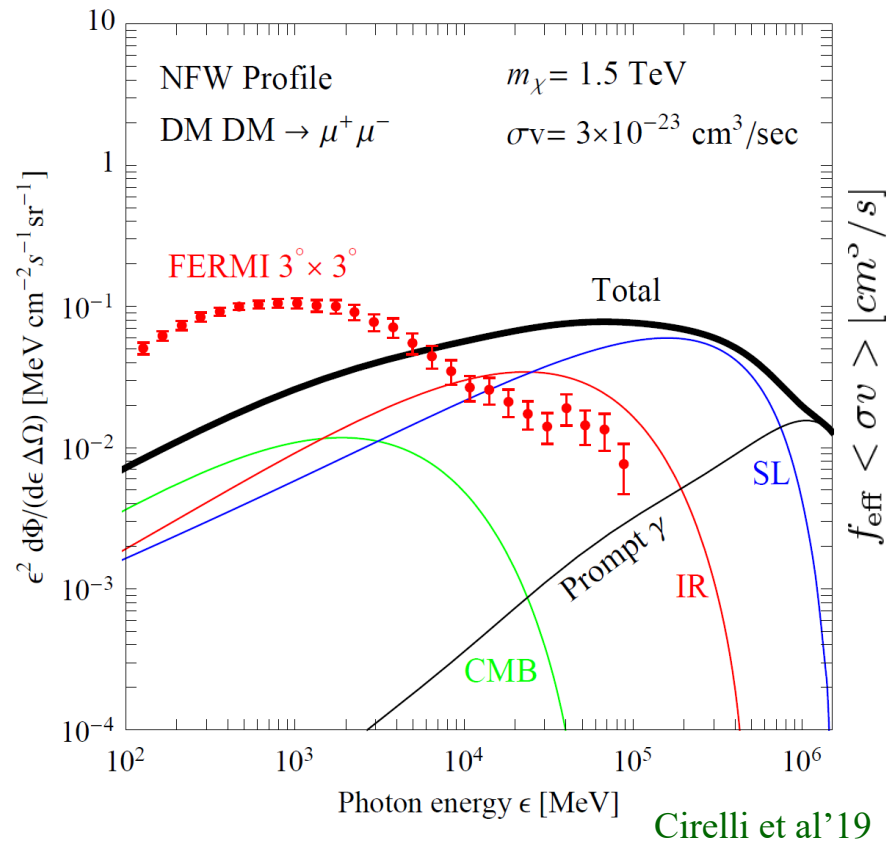
PAMELA coll.
arXiv:0810.4995

Positrons from DM annihilation

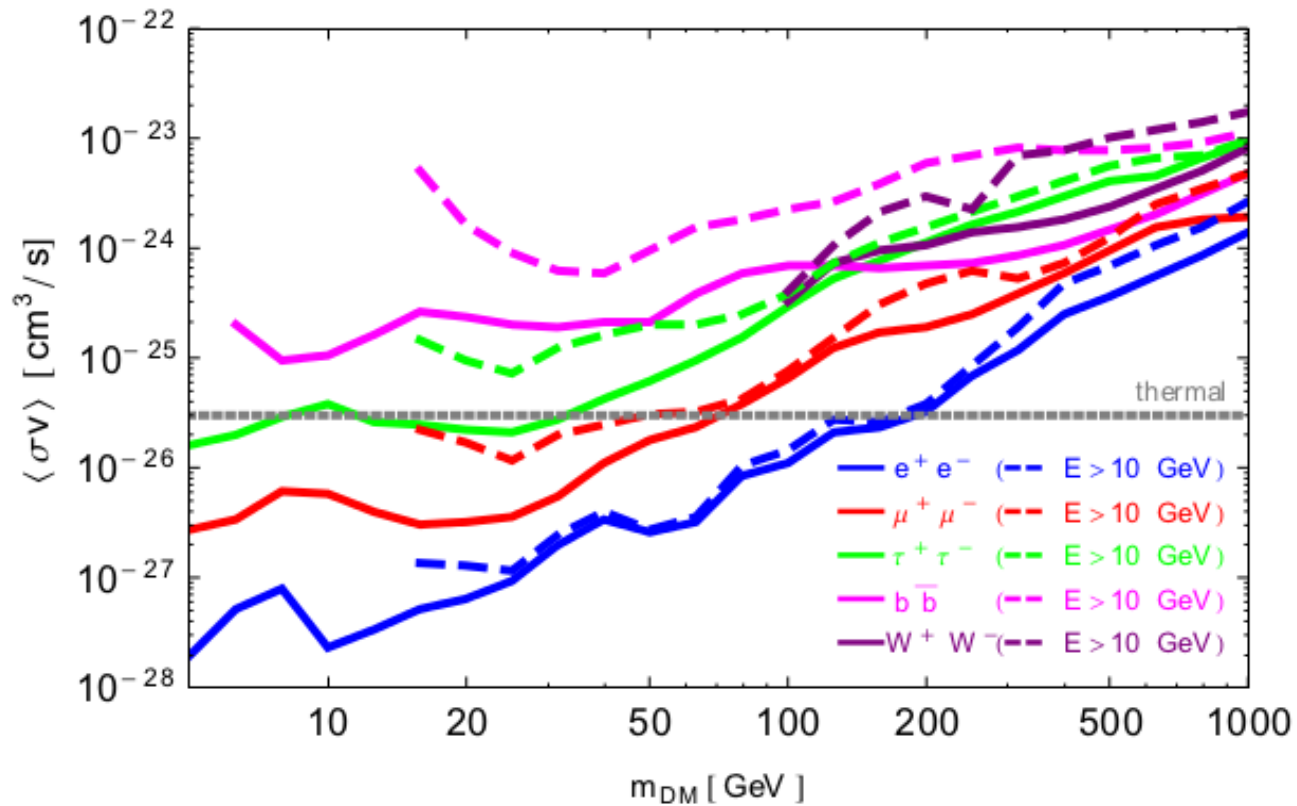


Positrons from DM annihilation

Unlikely to be of dark matter origin. The positrons would upscatter ambient photons in the galactic center region to gamma-ray energies, which are not observed. Also, the annihilation would impact the reionization history of the Universe.



Positrons from DM annihilation



AI, Lamperstorfer, Silk
Bergström et al.

Antinuclei from DM annihilation

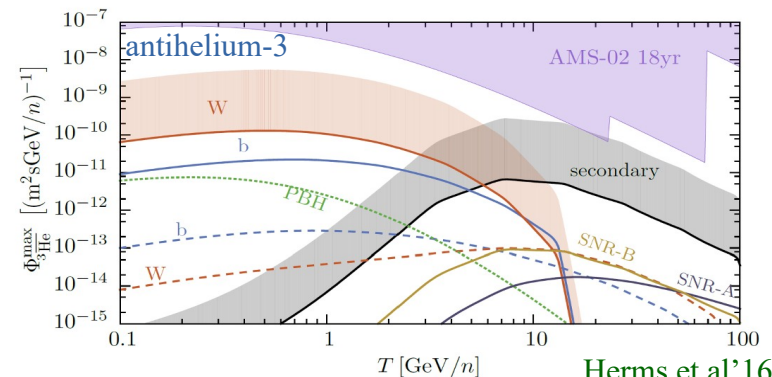
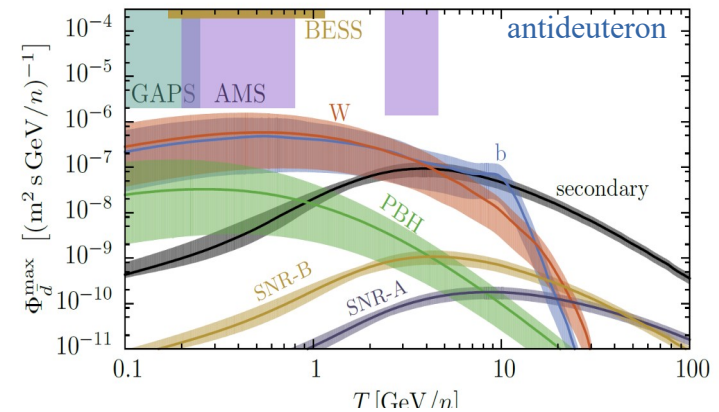
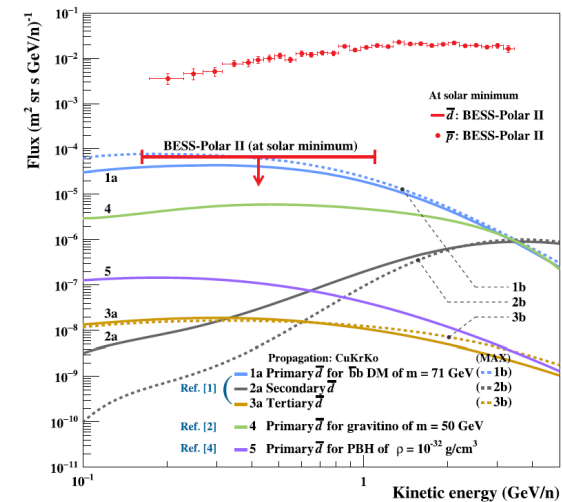
- Antinuclei: Expected from secondary production $pp \rightarrow \bar{d}X$

Correlated to $pp \rightarrow \bar{p}X$

No antinuclei has been detected in cosmic rays.

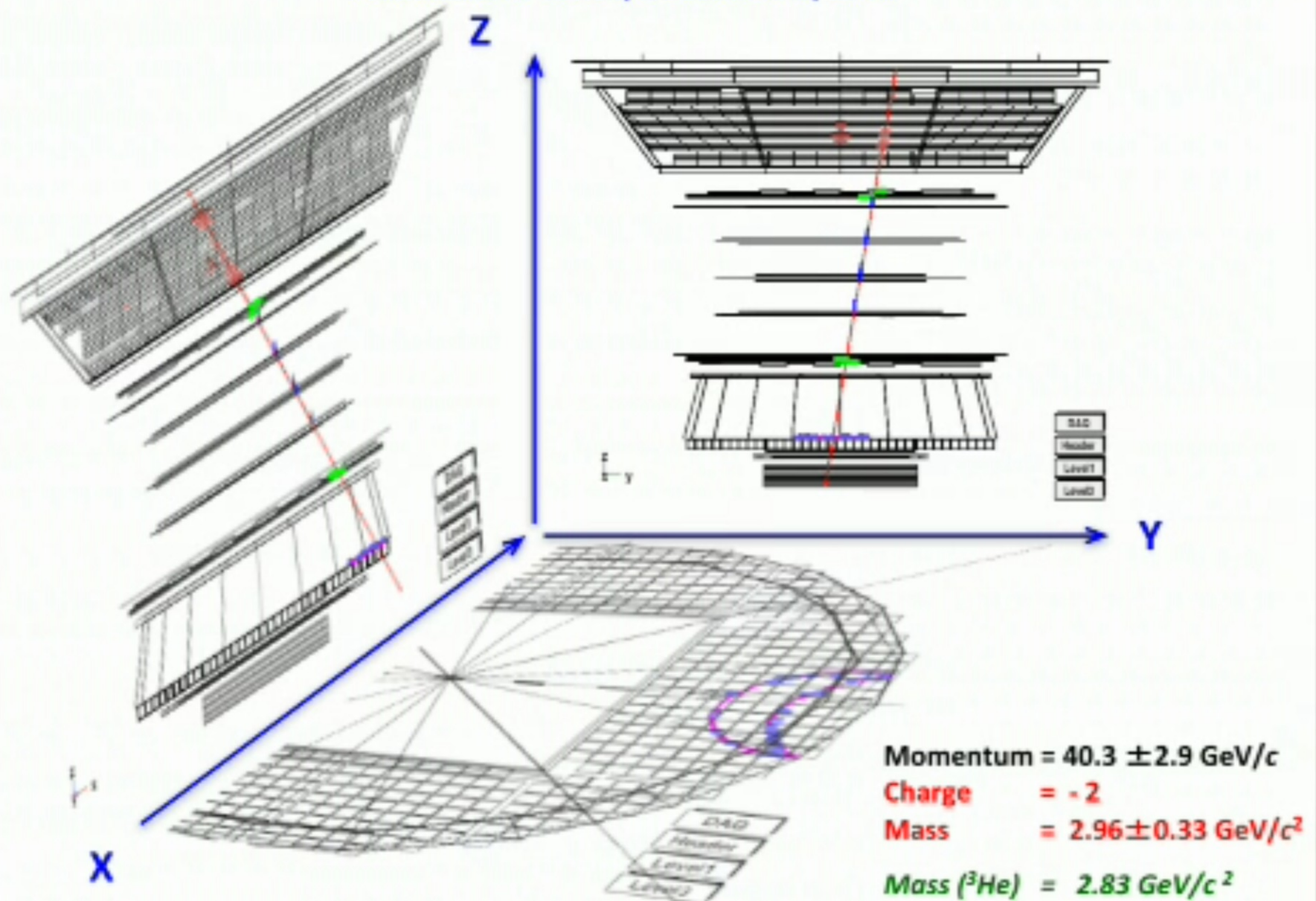
Dark matter annihilations could produce a flux of antinuclei which at low energies is well above the expectations from astrophysics.

Smoking gun for DM detection.



An anti-Helium candidate:

Presented at CERN, December 8, 2016



To date, we have observed eight events in the mass region from 0 to 10 GeV with $Z = -2$.

All eight events are in the helium mass region.

All eight events are clean single-track events without additional hits.

All eight events are in the momentum range $< 100 \text{ GeV}/c$ (where the momentum resolution is better than 10%).