

# Optimal Observing Strategies for Velocity-Suppressed Dark Matter Annihilation

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PHENO

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# Road Map: The whole talk in 20 seconds



Indirect Detection is a powerful probe of DM



Velocity-dependent DM annihilation requires different theoretical tools

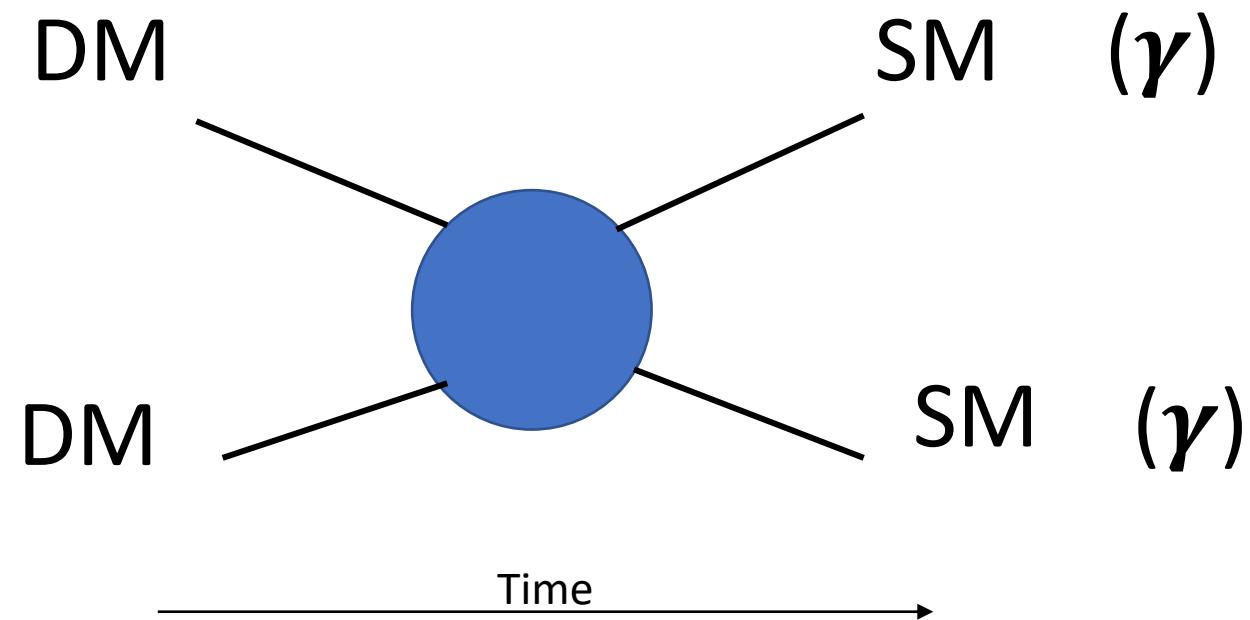


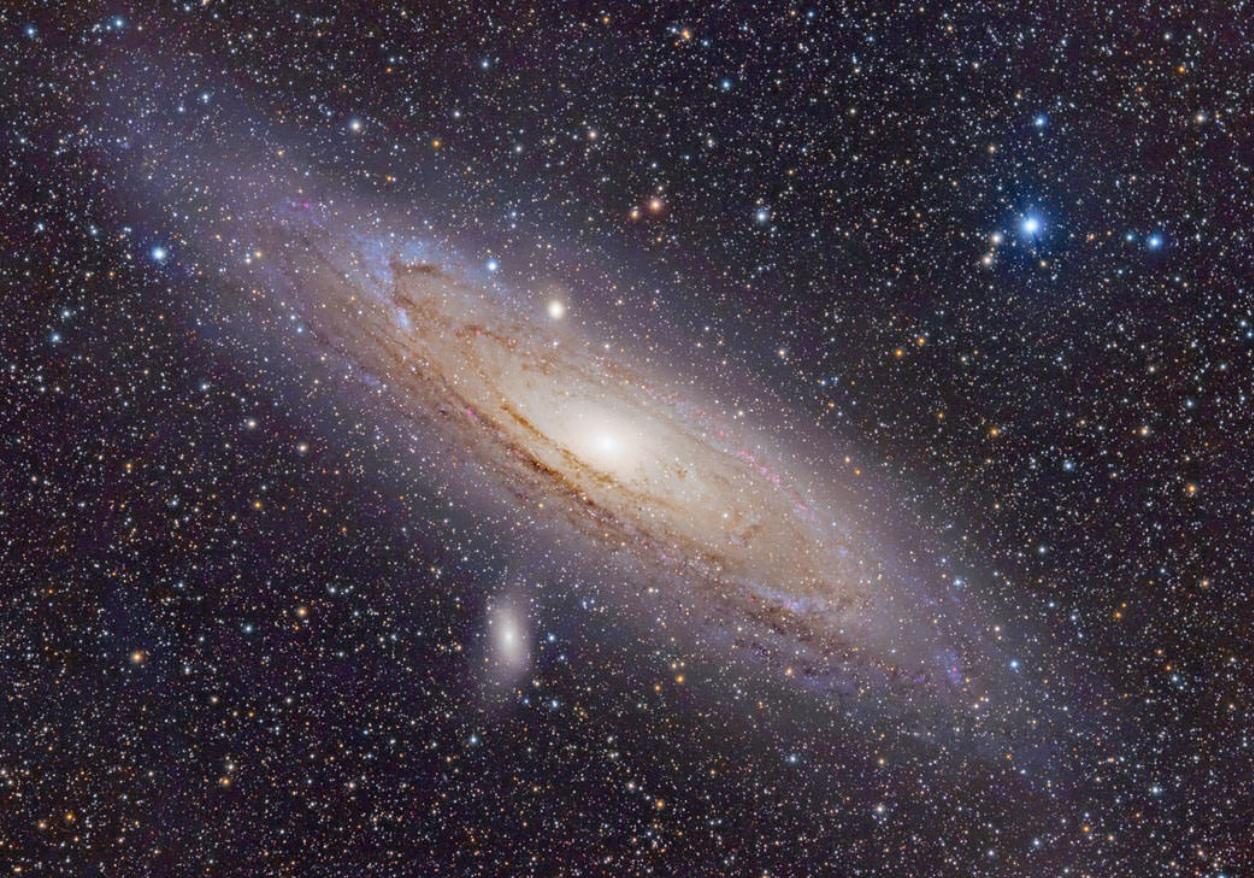
Outcome: **Optimizing the signal-to-noise ratio implies non-trivial observation strategies**



# Indirect Detection

Looking for Standard Model particles produced from the annihilation or decay of dark matter.





# Where should we point our telescopes?

Common sense: Look at where the DM density is highest!

M31, M87, dSphs

Galactic Center

# Annihilation Flux – Quantifying the Signal

Typically, the photon flux for DM annihilation is decomposed as

$$\Phi = \frac{<\sigma v>}{8\pi m_\chi^2} \frac{dN_\gamma}{dE} \int dl \ \rho[r(l, b)]^2$$

Particle Physics

J-Factor

# Annihilation Flux – Quantifying the Signal

Typically, the photon flux for DM annihilation is decomposed as

$$\Phi = \frac{<\sigma v> dN_\gamma}{8\pi m_\chi^2} \frac{dE}{dl} \int dl \rho[r(l,b)]^2$$

Relies on the assumption that the cross section is velocity-independent!

# Velocity-Dependent J-factor

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \langle \sigma v \rangle_0 S(v/c)$$

$$J(b) = \int dl \int d\mathbf{v}^3 f(\mathbf{v}) (v/c)^n \rho[r(l, b)]^2$$

$$S(v/c) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (v/c)^n$$

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$n = 0$ : s-wave

$n = 2$ : p-wave

$n = 4$ : d-wave

# Velocity-Dependent J-factor

Think simple! Assume Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution

$$f(\mathbf{v}) \propto (\sigma_v^2)^{-3/2} e^{-\mathbf{v}^2/\sigma_v^2}$$

From equipartition theorem:

$$\sigma_v^2 = \frac{\langle v^2 \rangle}{3}$$

Where (virialized)

$$\langle v^2 \rangle^{1/2} \propto v_c(r) = \sqrt{\frac{2GM(< r)}{r}}.$$

# Velocity-Dependent J-factor

Average *relative* velocity

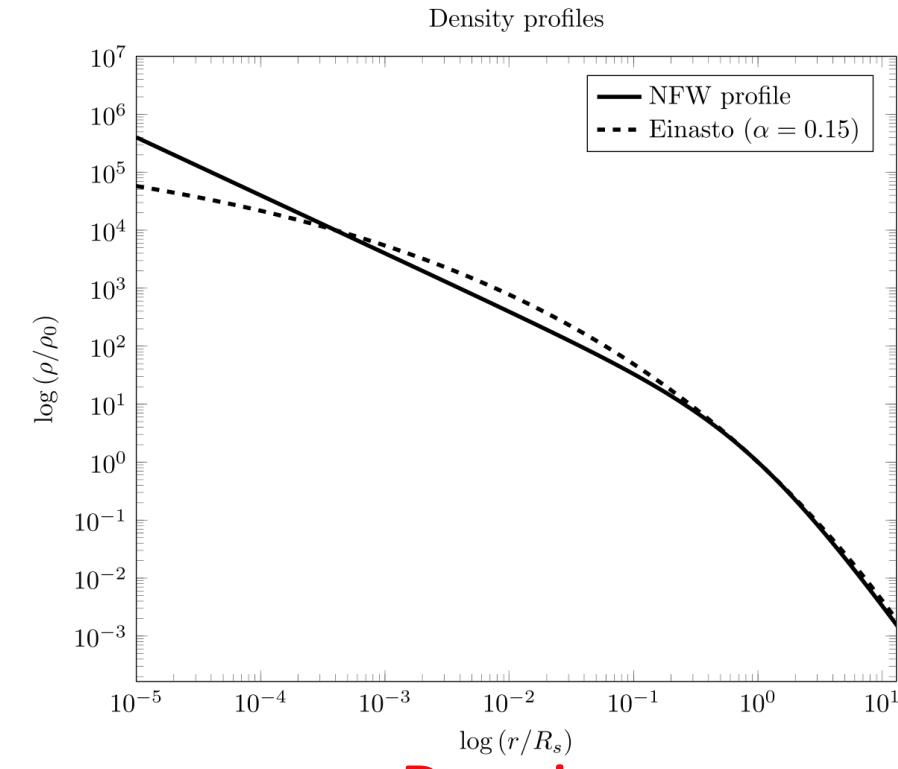
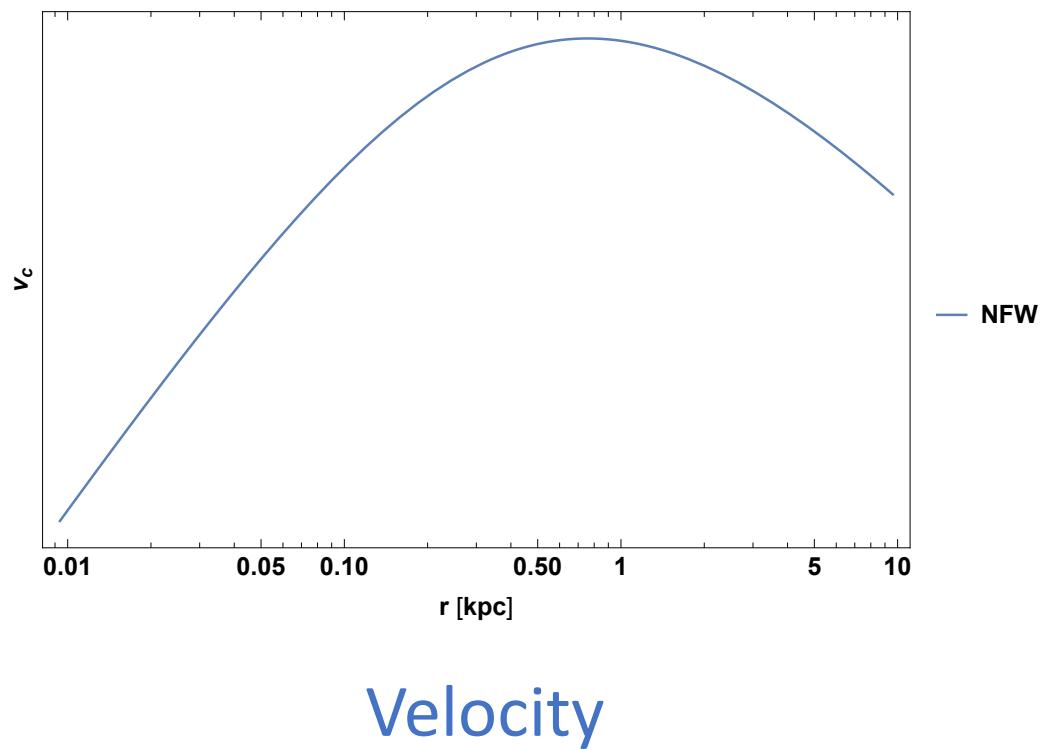
$$\langle v_{\text{rel}}^2 \rangle = \langle (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}')^2 \rangle = \int d^3\mathbf{v} \int d^3\mathbf{v}' (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}')^2 f(\mathbf{v})f(\mathbf{v}') = 2\langle v^2 \rangle = 2v_c^2$$

So in this case,

$$\mathcal{J}_n(b) \propto \int dl (v_c/c)^n \rho[r(l, b)]^2$$

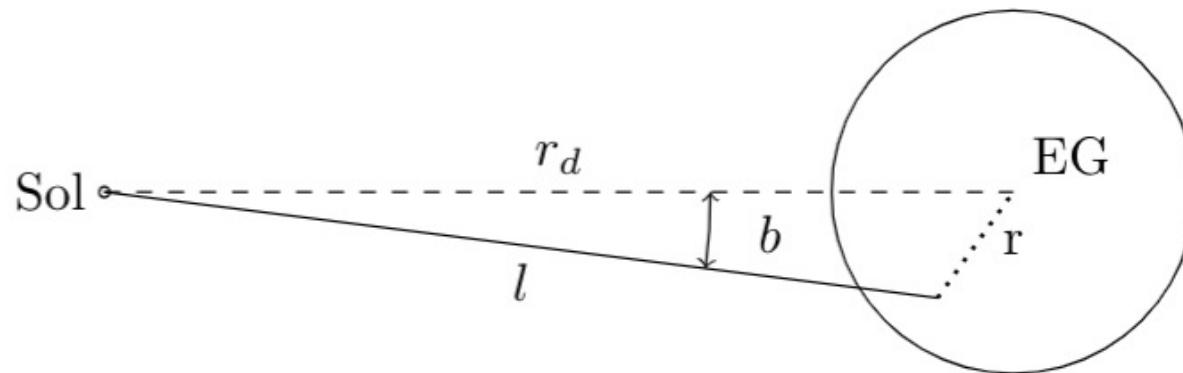
# Velocity-Dependent J-factor

$$\mathcal{J}_n(b) \propto \int dl (v_c/c)^n \rho [r(l, b)]^2$$



Density

# Velocity-Dependent J-factor - Calculation



$$r = \sqrt{r_d^2 - 2lr_d \cos(b) + l^2}$$

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{\left(\frac{r}{r_s}\right) \left(1 + \frac{r}{r_s}\right)^2}$$

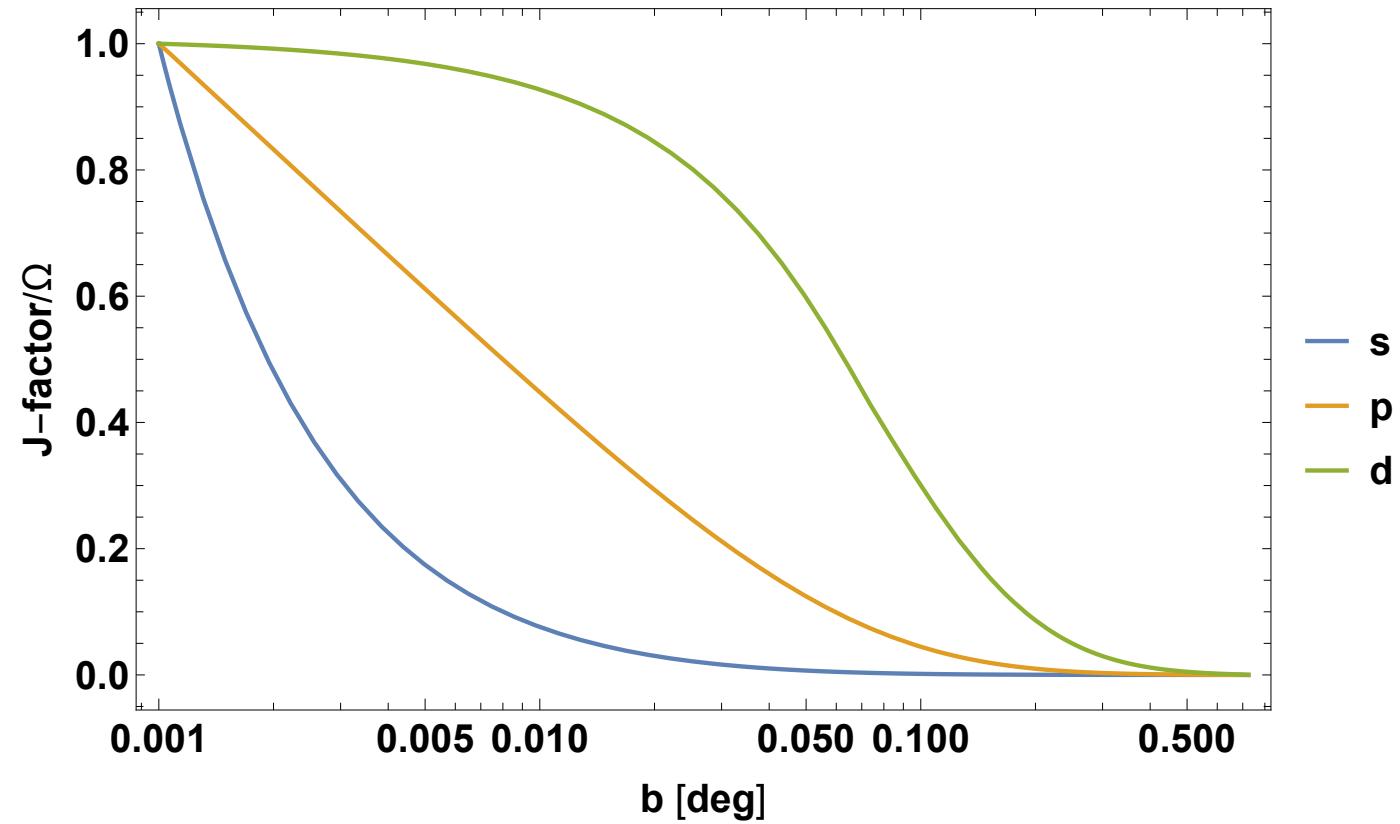
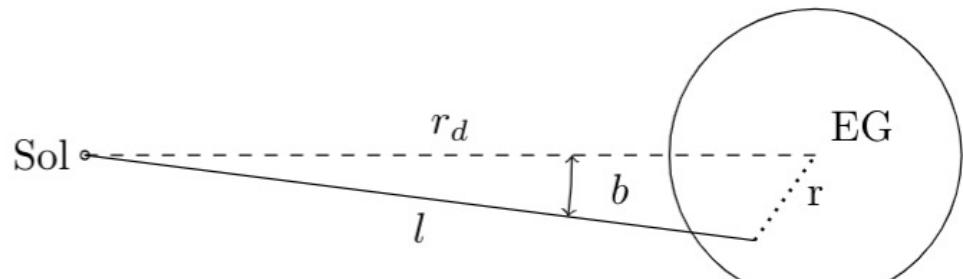
$$M(< r) = 4\pi\rho_0 r_s^3 \left( \frac{r_s}{r_s + r} - 1 + \log\left(1 + \frac{r}{r_s}\right) \right)$$

$$v_c(r) = \sqrt{\frac{2GM(< r)}{r}}.$$

$$\mathcal{J}_n(b) \propto \int dl (v_c/c)^n \rho[r(l, b)]^2$$

Everything is known once density profile is defined!

# Velocity-Dependent J-factor



Velocity-dependent channels are less sharply peaked at the center!

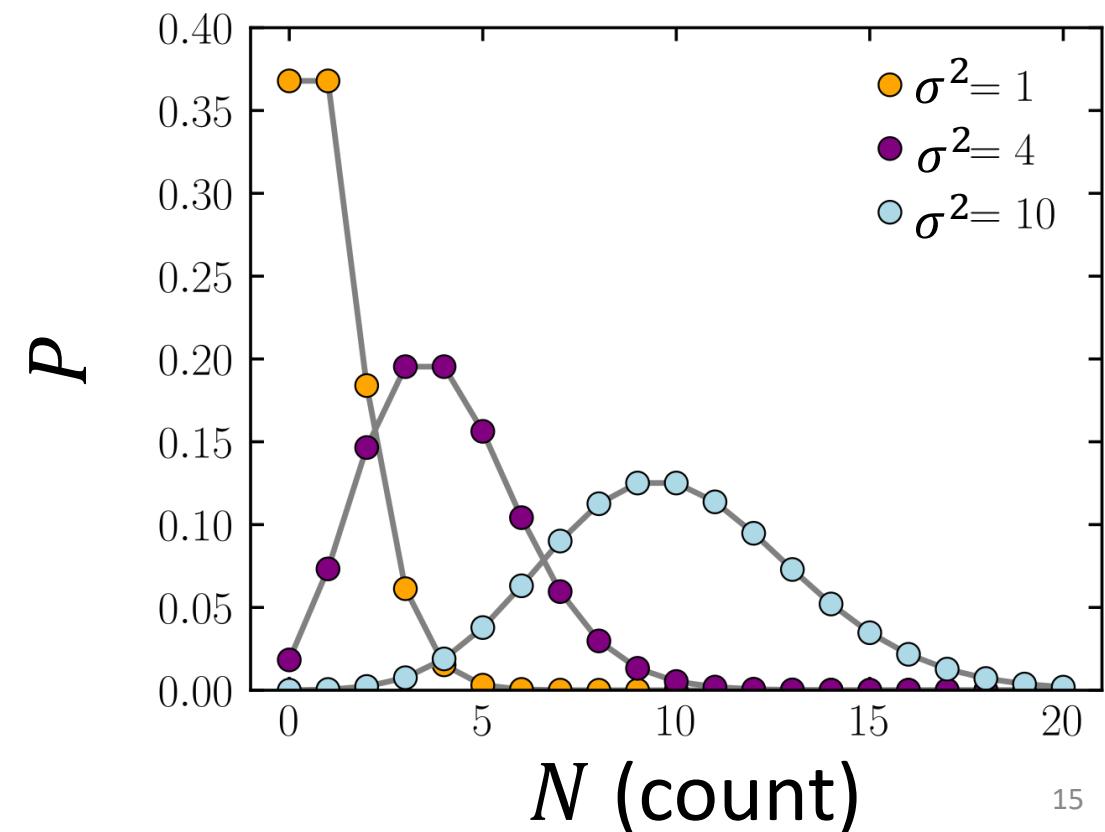
# Signal to noise ratio

Photon counts: independent, random events at a constant rate. Well described by a Poisson distribution!

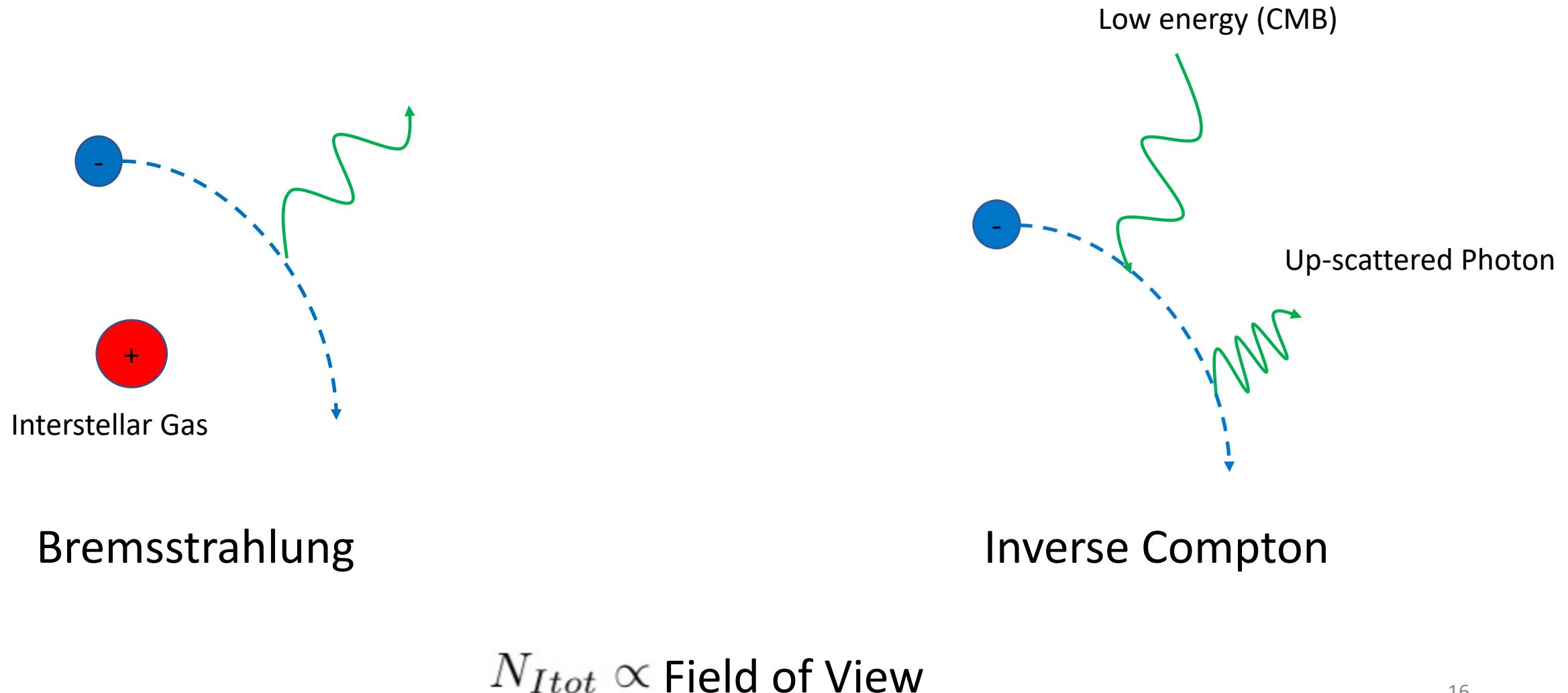
$$\sigma = N^{1/2}$$

Define optimal field of view as the one that maximizes the quantity

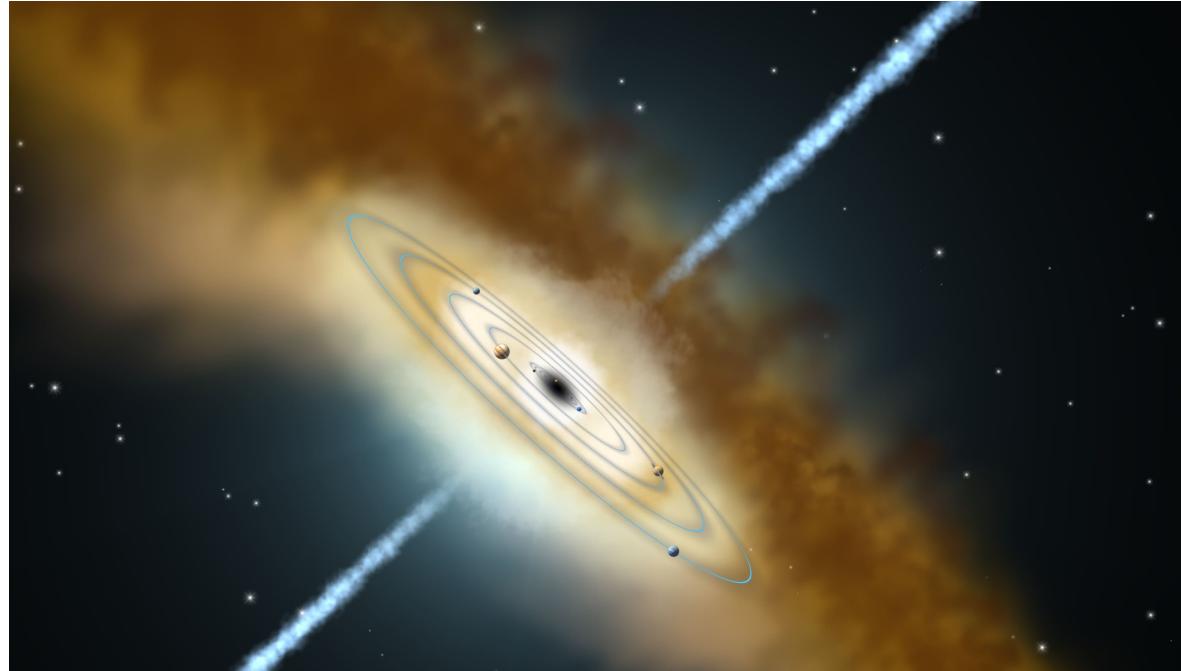
$$\frac{\mathcal{J}}{N^{1/2}}$$



# Gamma Ray Background – Diffuse, Isotropic



# Gamma Ray Background – Point Sources



$\sigma$ : Width due to  
instrument-  
dependent point  
spread function

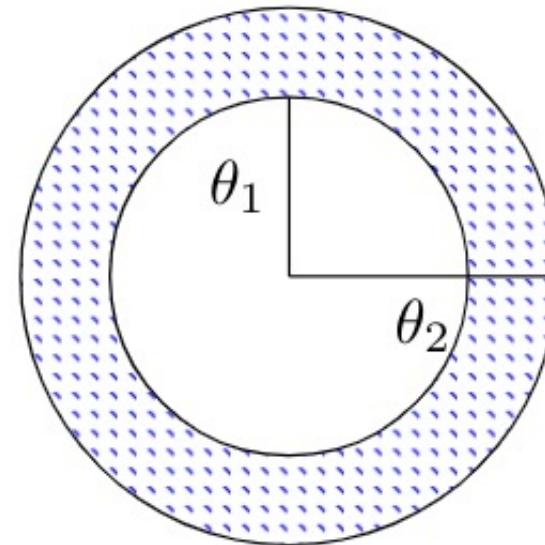
$$N_G(b) \propto \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{b^2}{\sigma^2} \right)}$$

# Field of View Geometry

$\theta_1 = 0$ : Disk

$\theta_1 \neq 0$ : Annulus

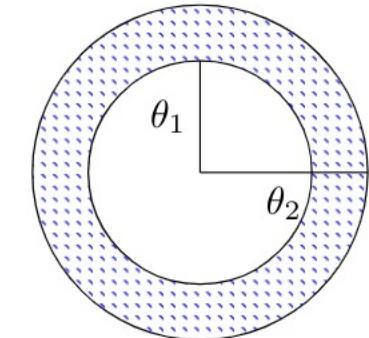
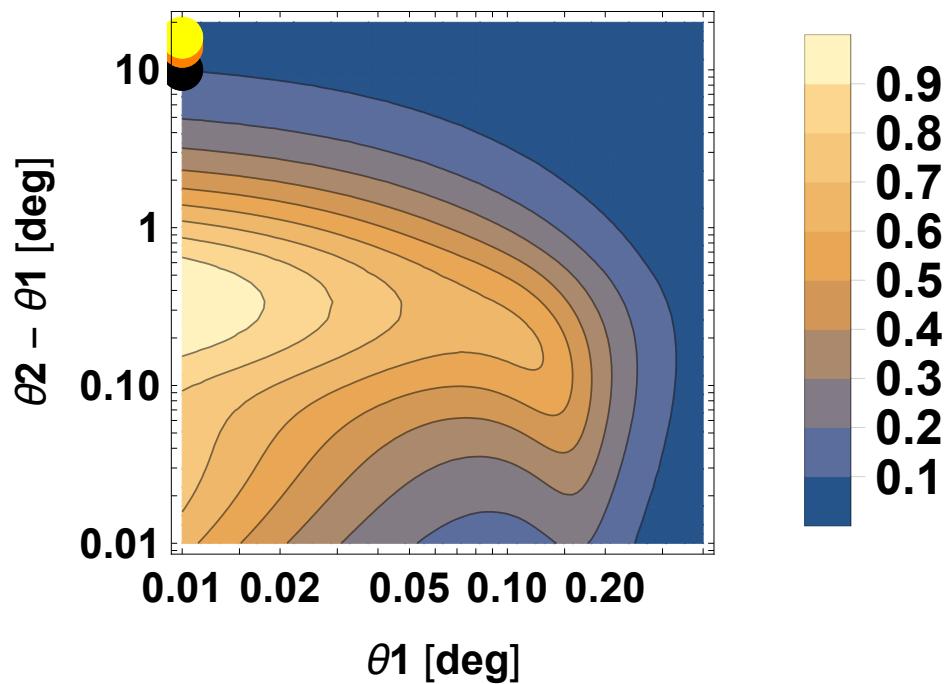
$\theta_2 - \theta_1$ : Thickness



# Extragalactic Results

$$\frac{\mathcal{J}}{N^{1/2}}$$

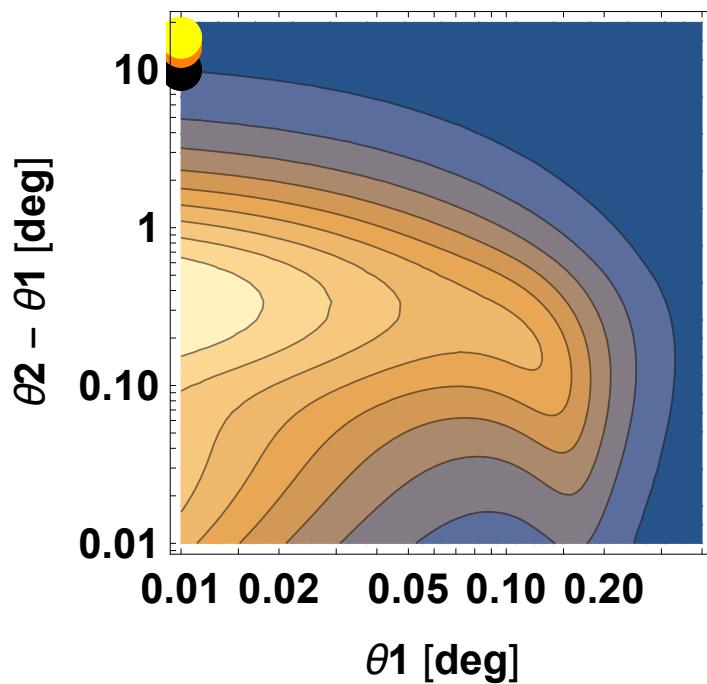
EG s-wave



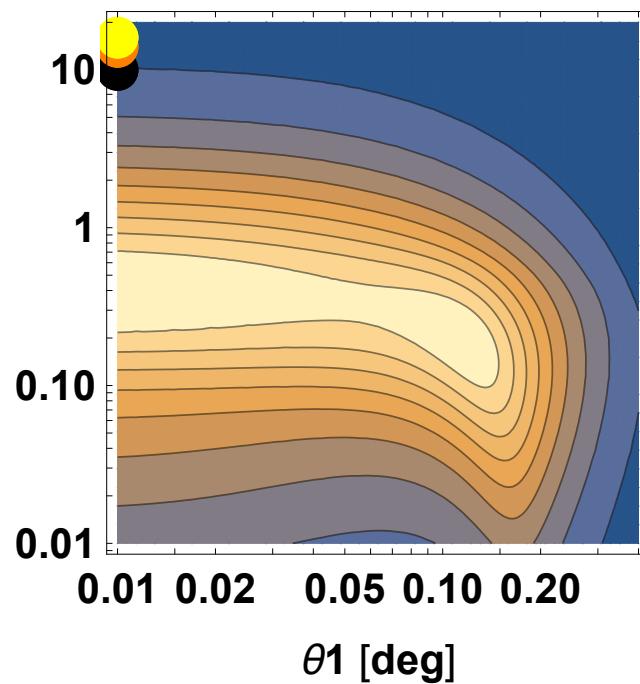
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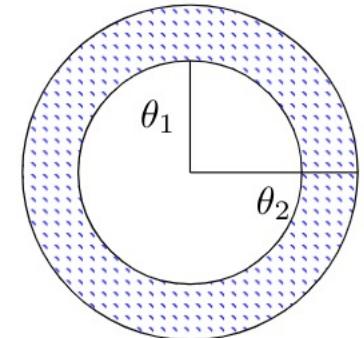
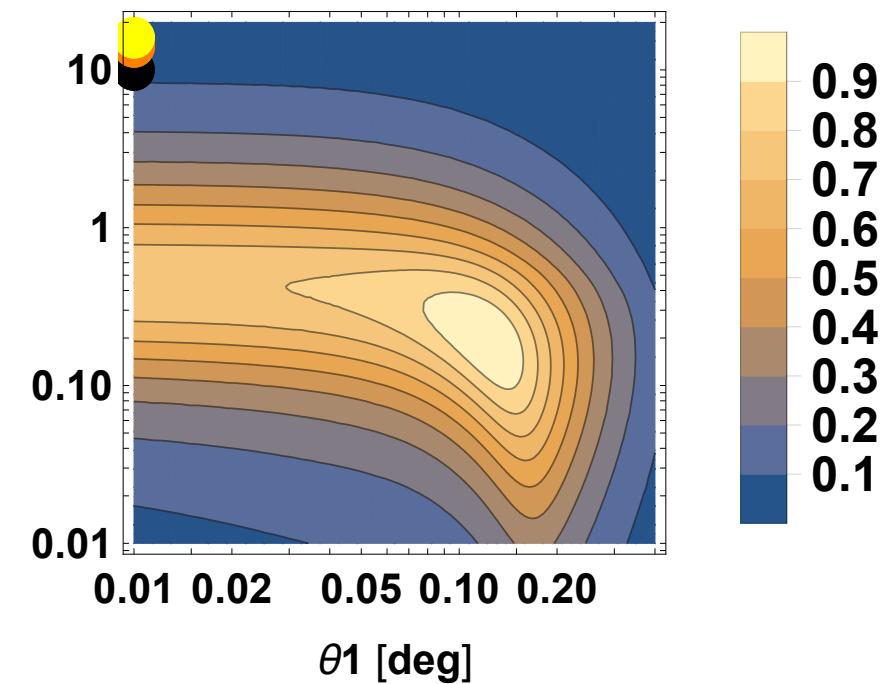
EG s-wave



EG p-wave



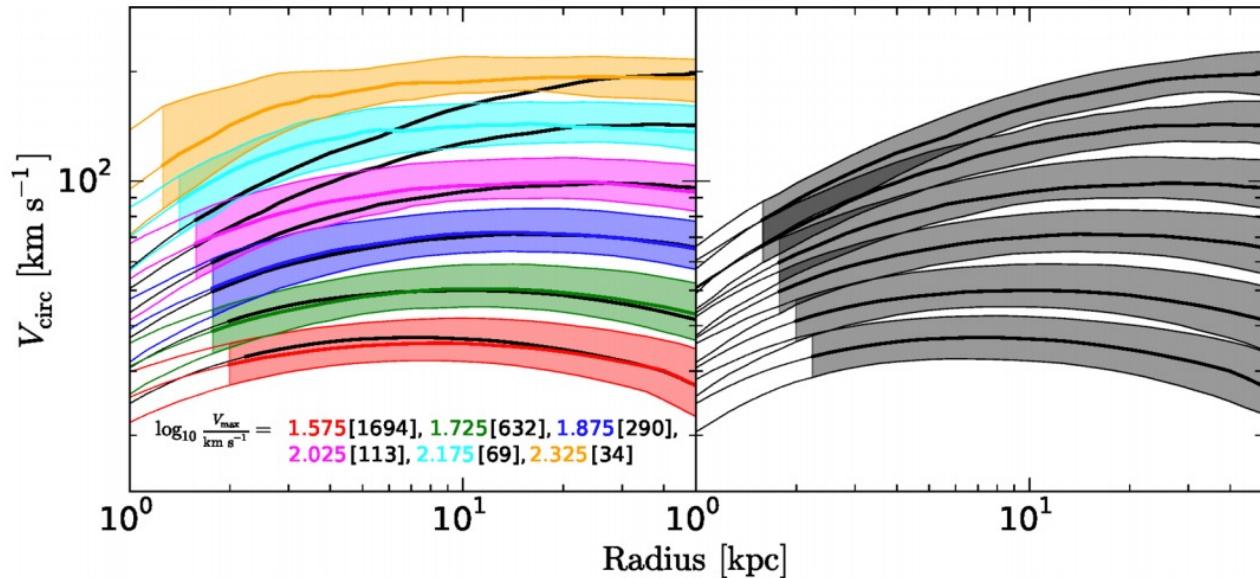
EG d-wave



Dots: Fermi-LAT Surveys (Mauro et al.; Feng et al.; Abddo et al.)

# Caveats and Future Work

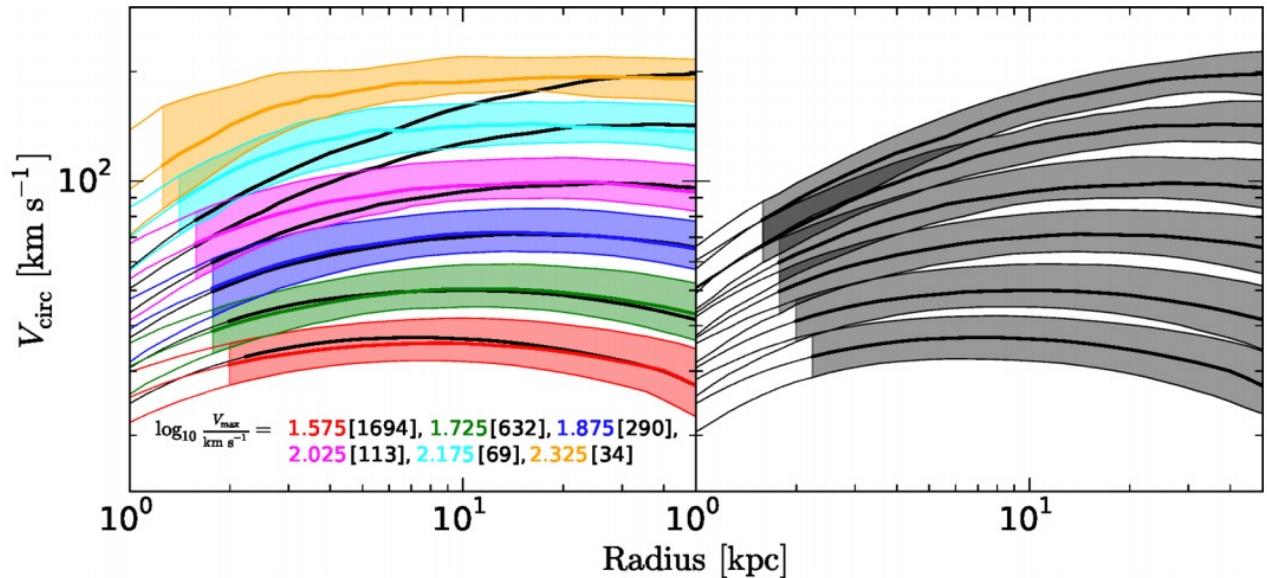
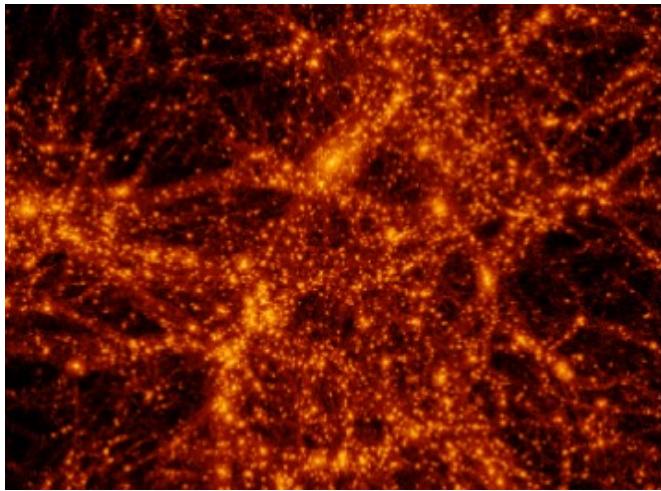
No two sources are alike (e.g. dSphs). Results are dependent on background,  $\rho$ , and  $v$ .



Oman et al. MNRAS 452, 3650-3665

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No two sources are alike (e.g. dSphs). Results are dependent on background,  $\rho$ , and  $v$ .



Oman et al. MNRAS 452, 3650-3665

Need to account for DM  
Substructure and baryons

# Thank you!

Wonderful  
Collaborators



Gabby Huckabee



Stefano Profumo

Our recent paper on this subject:



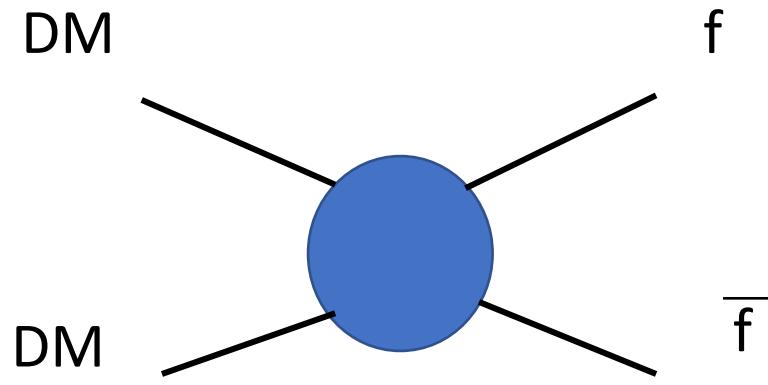
arXiv: 2105.03438  
[nwsmith@ucsc.edu](mailto:nwsmith@ucsc.edu)

# Bonus Slides

# Velocity-Suppressed Cross Sections

Example: Majorana DM annihilating to fermion/antifermion pairs

$L, S, J = 0$



$L, S, J = 0$

Outgoing fermions must have same helicity (opposite chirality). Coupling must vanish in chiral limit. To get the correct final state spin, the s-wave cross section is chirality suppressed by

$$\mathcal{M} \propto \frac{m_f^2}{m_\chi^2}$$

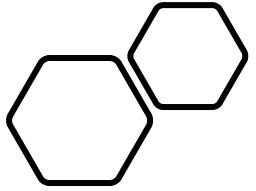
# Thermal Average + Velocity Expansion

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \frac{\int \sigma v \, dn_1^{\text{eq}} \, dn_2^{\text{eq}}}{\int dn_1^{\text{eq}} \, dn_2^{\text{eq}}} = \frac{\int \sigma v \, e^{-E_1/T} \, e^{-E_2/T} \, d^3 p_1 \, d^3 p_2}{\int e^{-E_1/T} \, e^{-E_2/T} \, d^3 p_1 \, d^3 p_2}.$$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \frac{1}{8m^4 T K_2^2(m/T)} \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} \sigma(\tilde{s} - 4m^2) \sqrt{\tilde{s}} K_1(\sqrt{\tilde{s}}/T) \, ds$$

Expand  $\langle \sigma v \rangle$  in powers of  $v$ :

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \langle \sigma v \rangle_0 S(v/c)$$



# Instrumental Angular Resolution

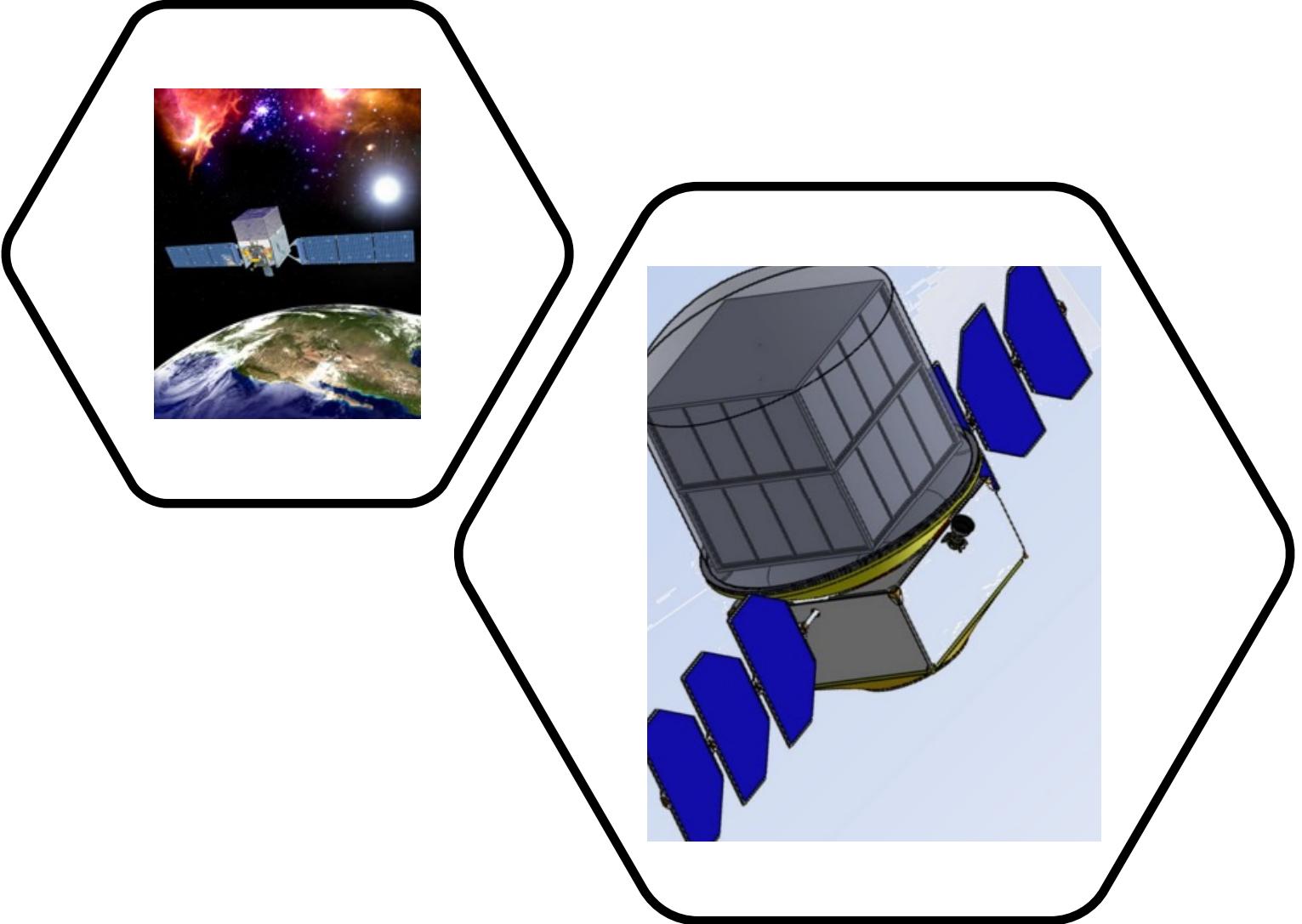
FERMI-LAT:

~0.15 degrees for >10 GeV

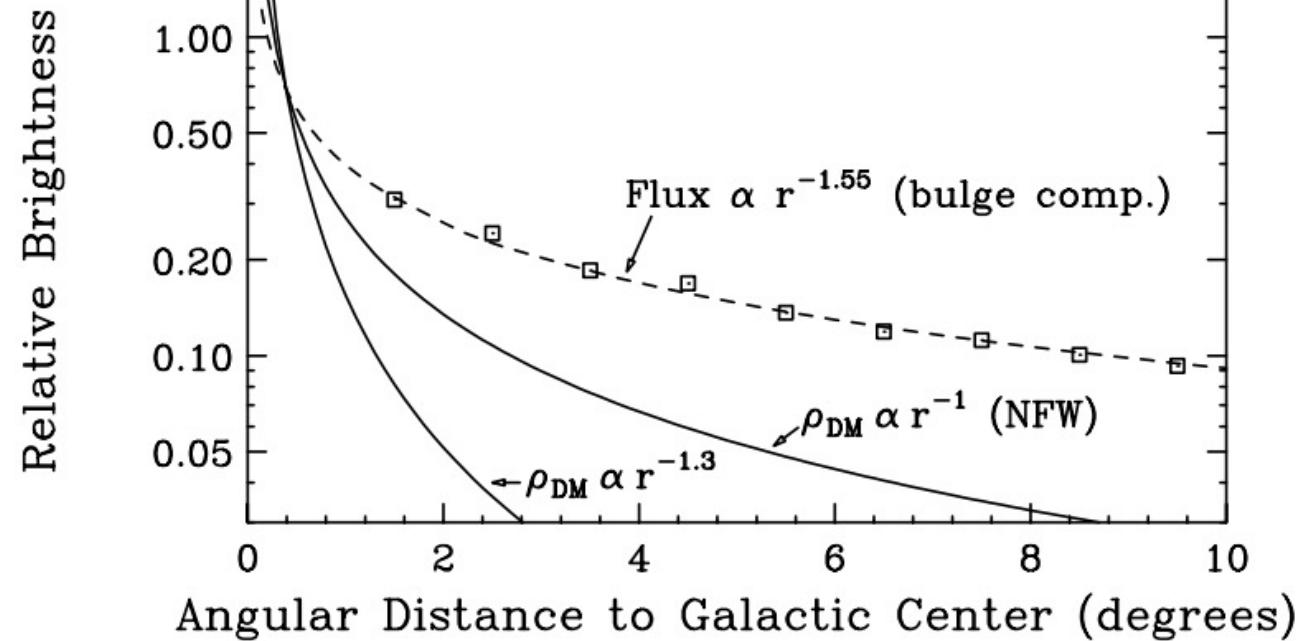
~1 degree for ~1 GeV

AdEPT:

<0.1 degrees for >1 GeV

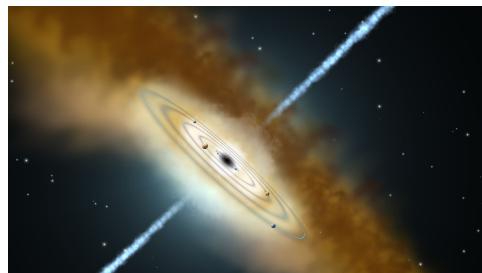
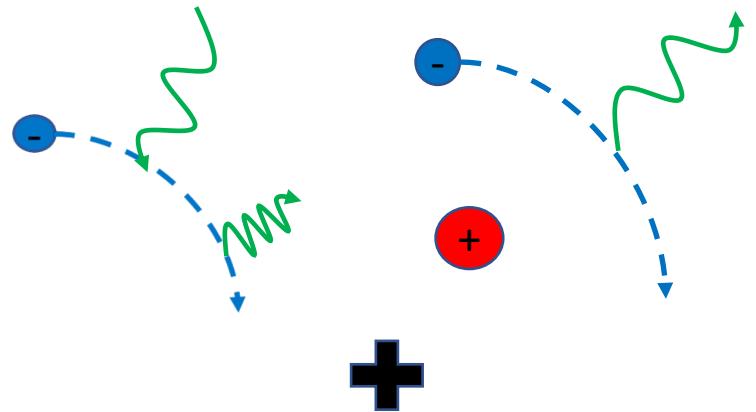


# Gamma Ray Background – Bulge

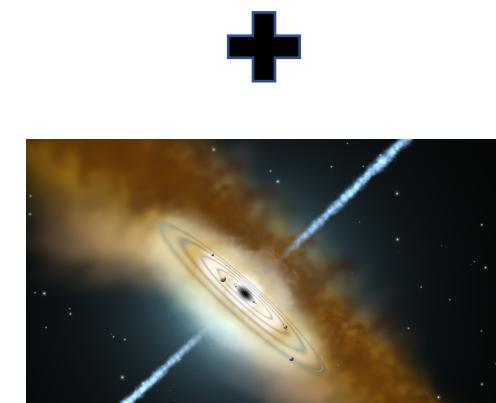


Hooper, Goodenough. arXiv:1010.2752

# Gamma Ray Background – 2 cases



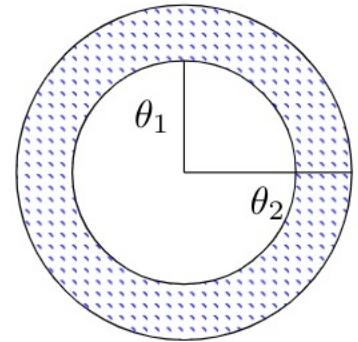
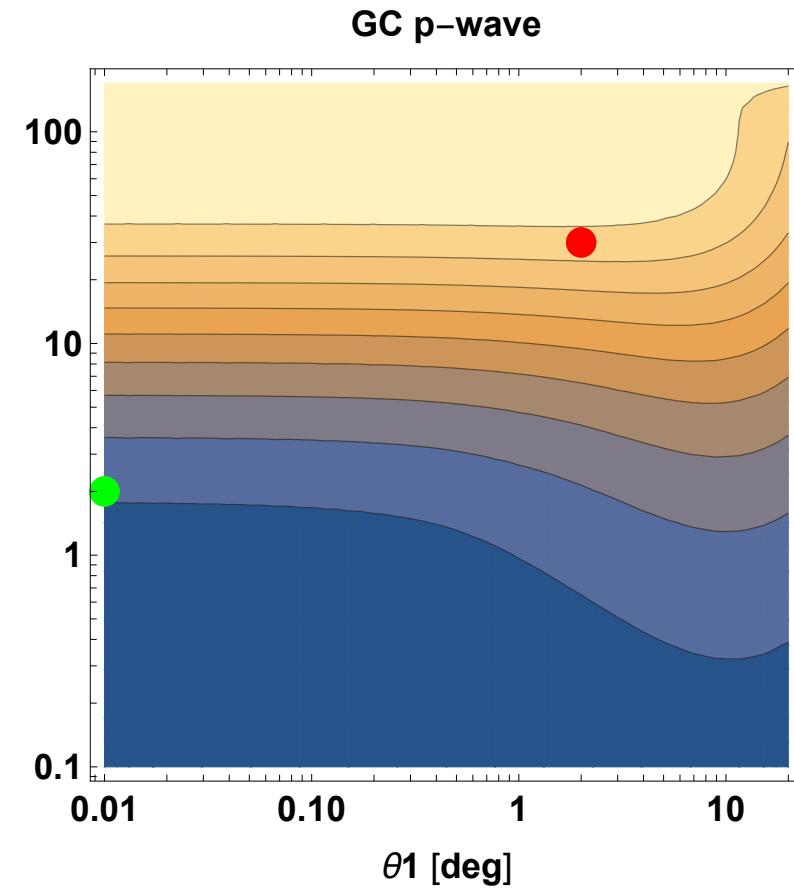
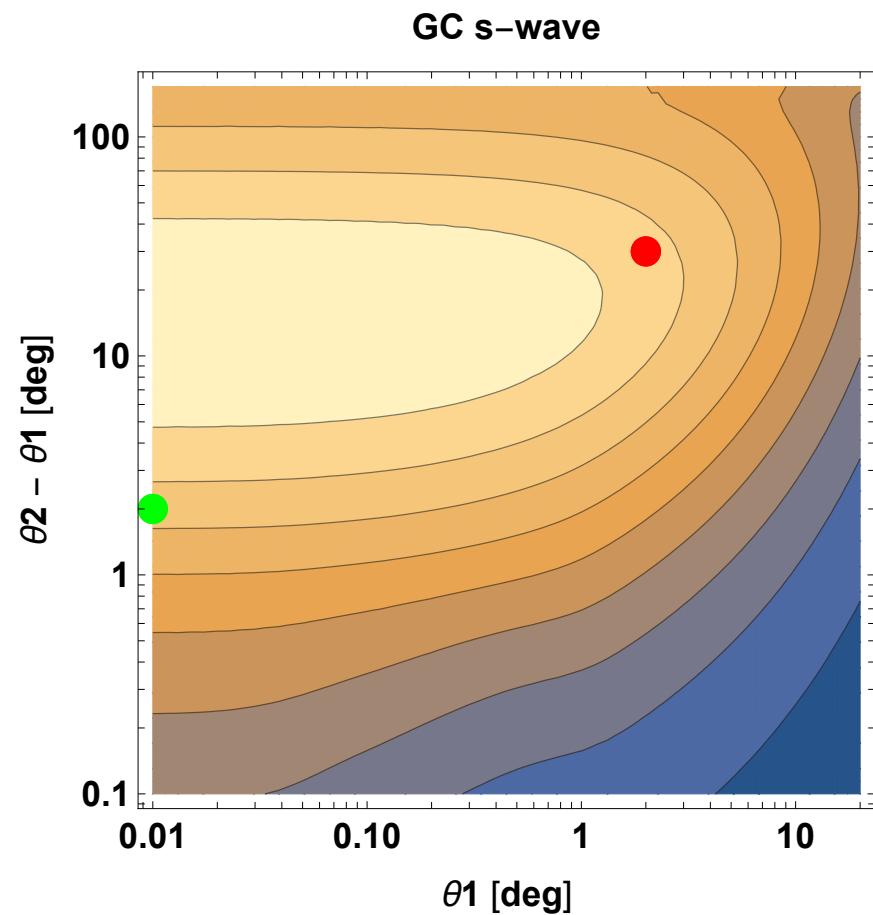
Extra-galactic  
Isotropic + Point Source



Galactic Center  
Bulge + Point Source

# Galactic Center – Weak Point Source

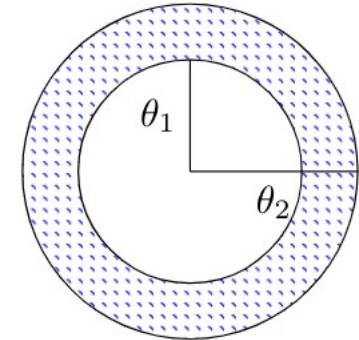
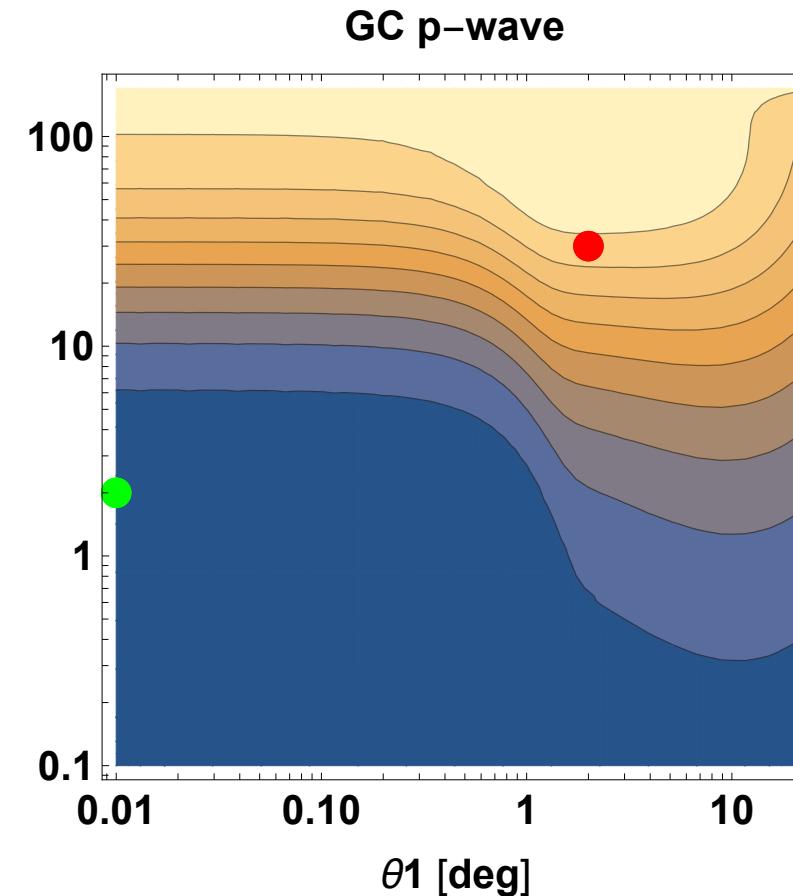
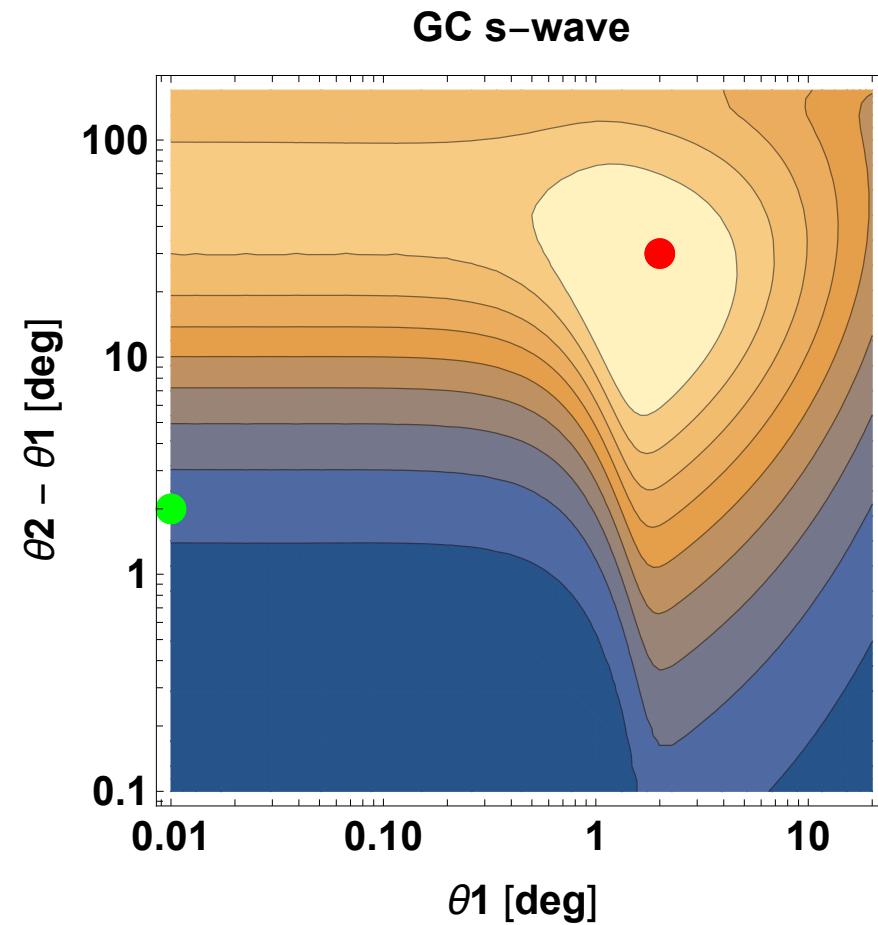
$$\frac{\mathcal{J}}{N^{1/2}}$$



Green: Johnson et al. 1904.06261; Red: Leane and Slatyer. 1904.08430

# Galactic Center – Strong Point Source

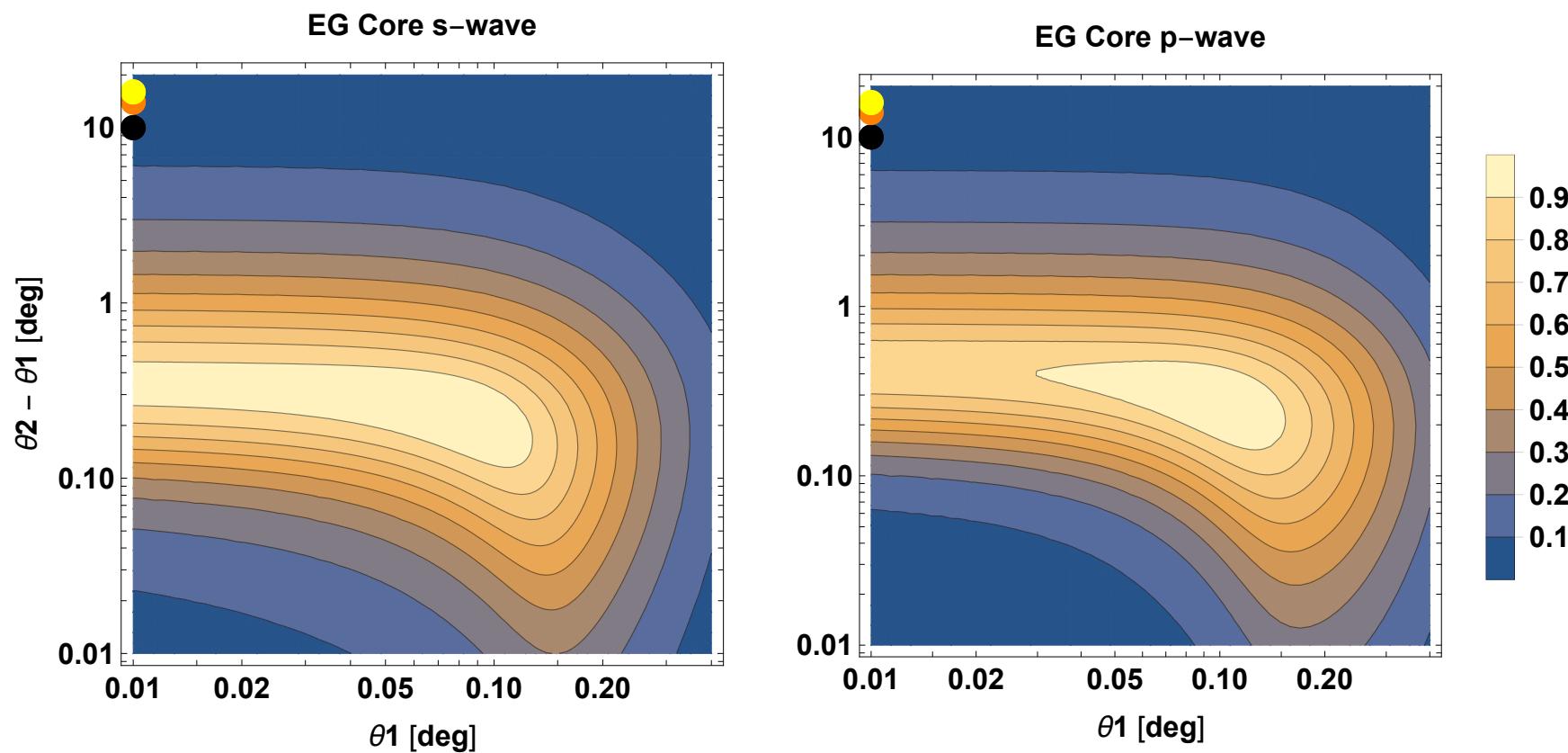
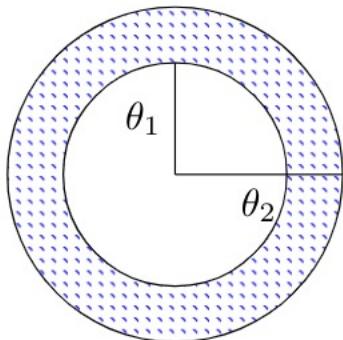
$$\frac{\mathcal{J}}{N^{1/2}}$$



Green: Johnson et al. 1904.06261; Red: Leane and Slatyer. 1904.08430

# Signal to Noise Ratio – Extra-galactic, Core

$$\frac{\mathcal{J}}{N^{1/2}}$$



# Properties of Dark Matter

Interacts through gravity

Invisible

Stable on long timescales

