

# (QCD-like) Strongly interacting dark matter

Suchita Kulkarni (she/her)

Junior group leader

[suchita.kulkarni@uni-graz.at](mailto:suchita.kulkarni@uni-graz.at)

 [@suchi\\_kulkarni](https://twitter.com/suchi_kulkarni)



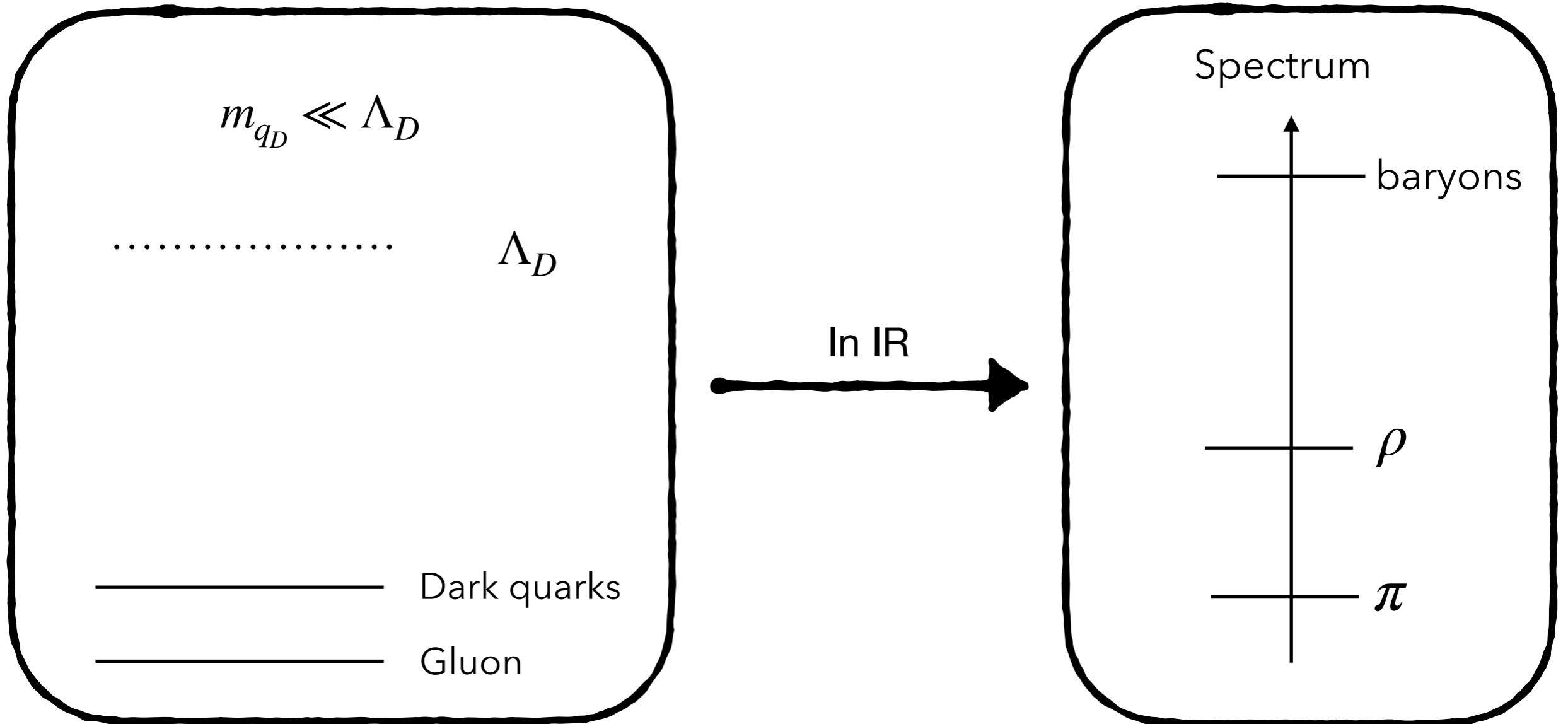
**NAWI Graz**  
Natural Sciences

**FWF**

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



# Can dark matter be composite instead of elementary?



# Can dark matter be composite instead of elementary?

- Composite Higgs: dark sector (DS) scale related to SM

Nussinov Phys.Lett.B 165 (1985) 55-58, Chivakula et al, Nucl.Phys. B329 (1990) 445, Hietanen et al., arXiv:1308.4130, Cacciapaglia et al arXiv:2002.04914

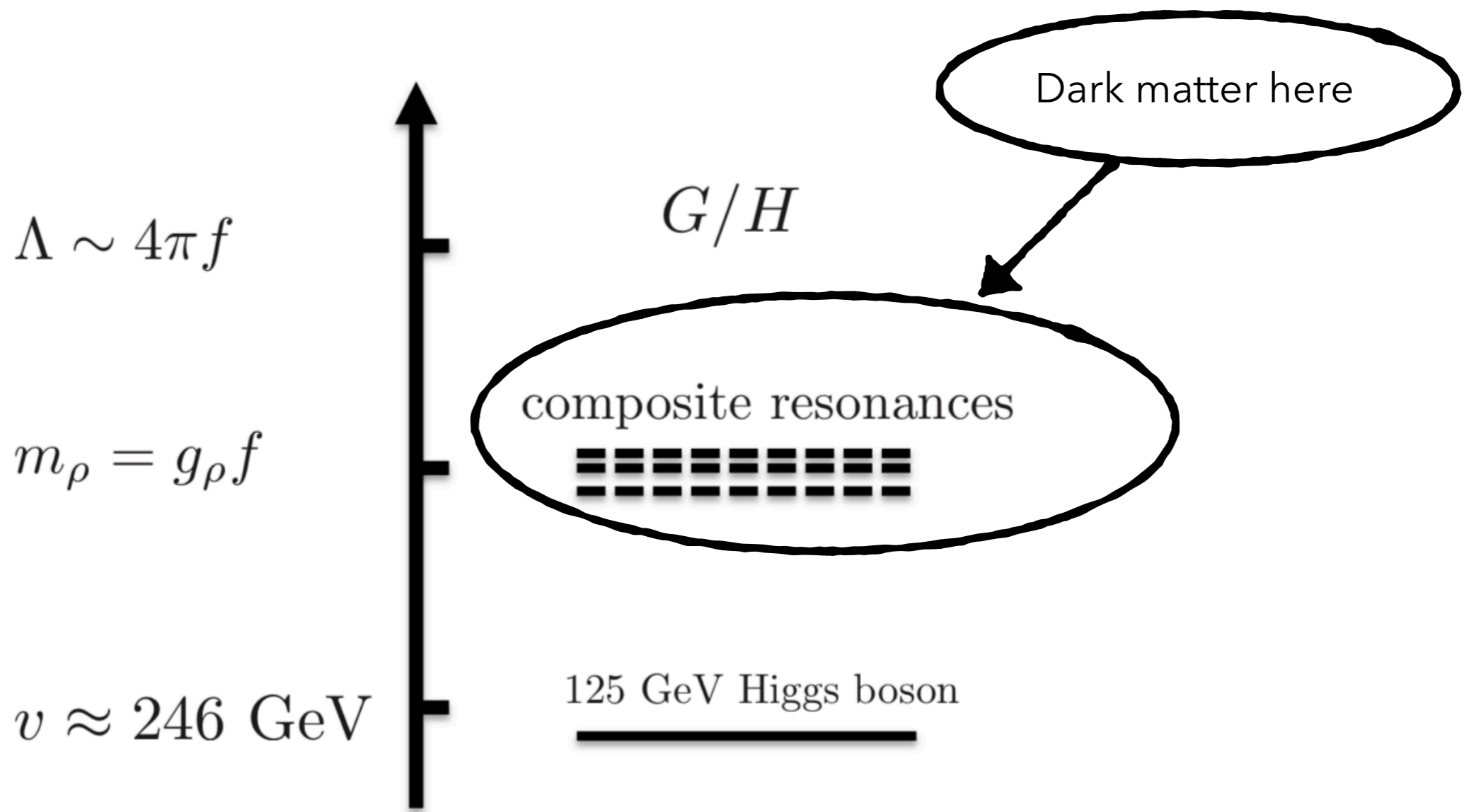


Figure from Liu et. al. arXiv:1904.00026

# Strongly interacting dark matter

- Composite Higgs: dark sector (DS) scale related to SM
- This talk: no relation between DS and SM scales

Nussinov Phys.Lett.B 165 (1985) 55-58, Chivakula et al, Nucl.Phys. B329 (1990) 445, Hietanen et al., arXiv:1308.4130, Kribs et al., arXiv:0909.2034, Buckley et al, arXiv:1209.6054, Francis et al., arXiv:1809.09117, LSD, arXiv:1301.1693, Boddy et al., arXiv:1402.3629, Detmold et al. arXiv:1406.2276, Farrar et al arXiv:2007.10378, Kaplan et al. arXiv:0909.0753

## New previously unexplored signatures

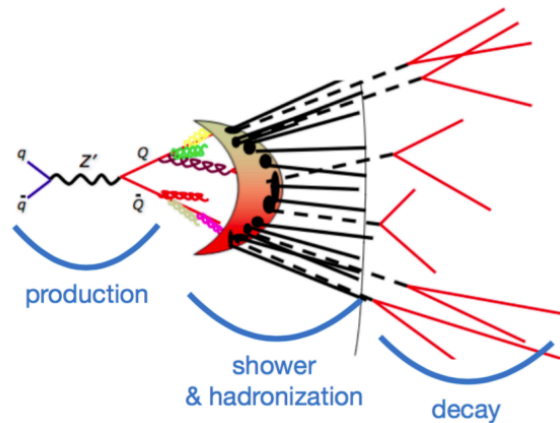


Diagram by M. Strassler

- Strassler et al hep-ph/0604261
- Cohen et al arXiv:1503.00009
- Schwaller et al arXiv:1502.05409
- LLP community report arXiv:1903.04497
- Kahlhoefer et.al. arXiv:1907.04346
- Hofman et al arXiv:0803.1467
- Strassler arXiv:0801.0629
- Knapen et al arXiv:1612.00850

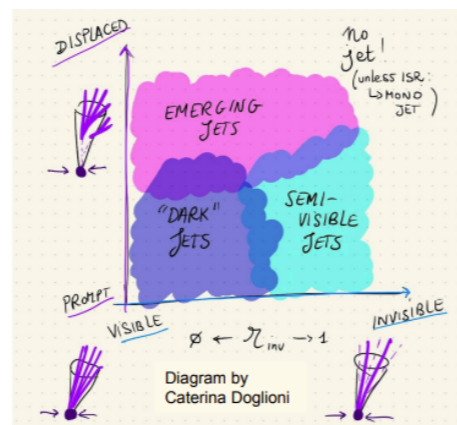
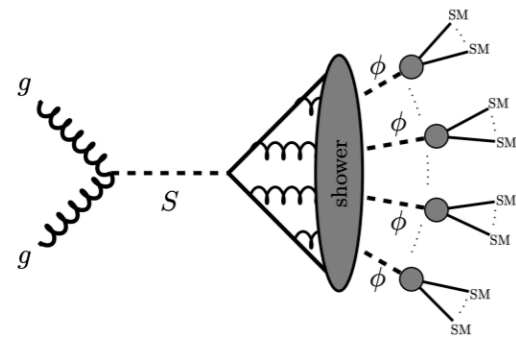
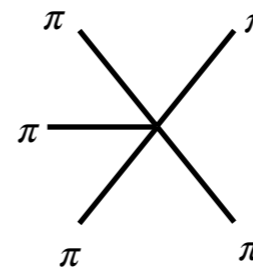
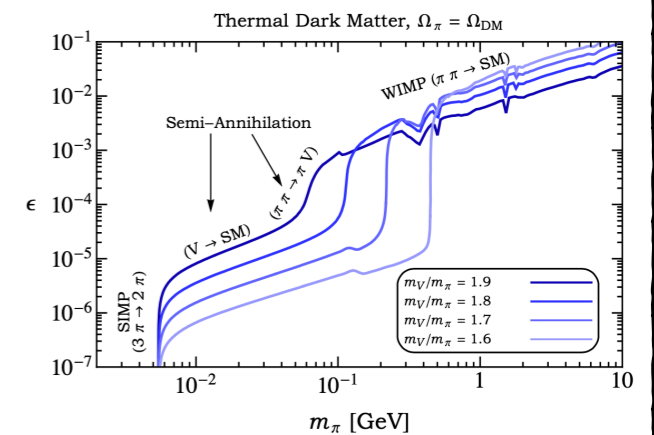
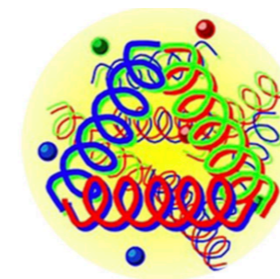


Diagram by Caterina Doglioni

## New dark matter candidates

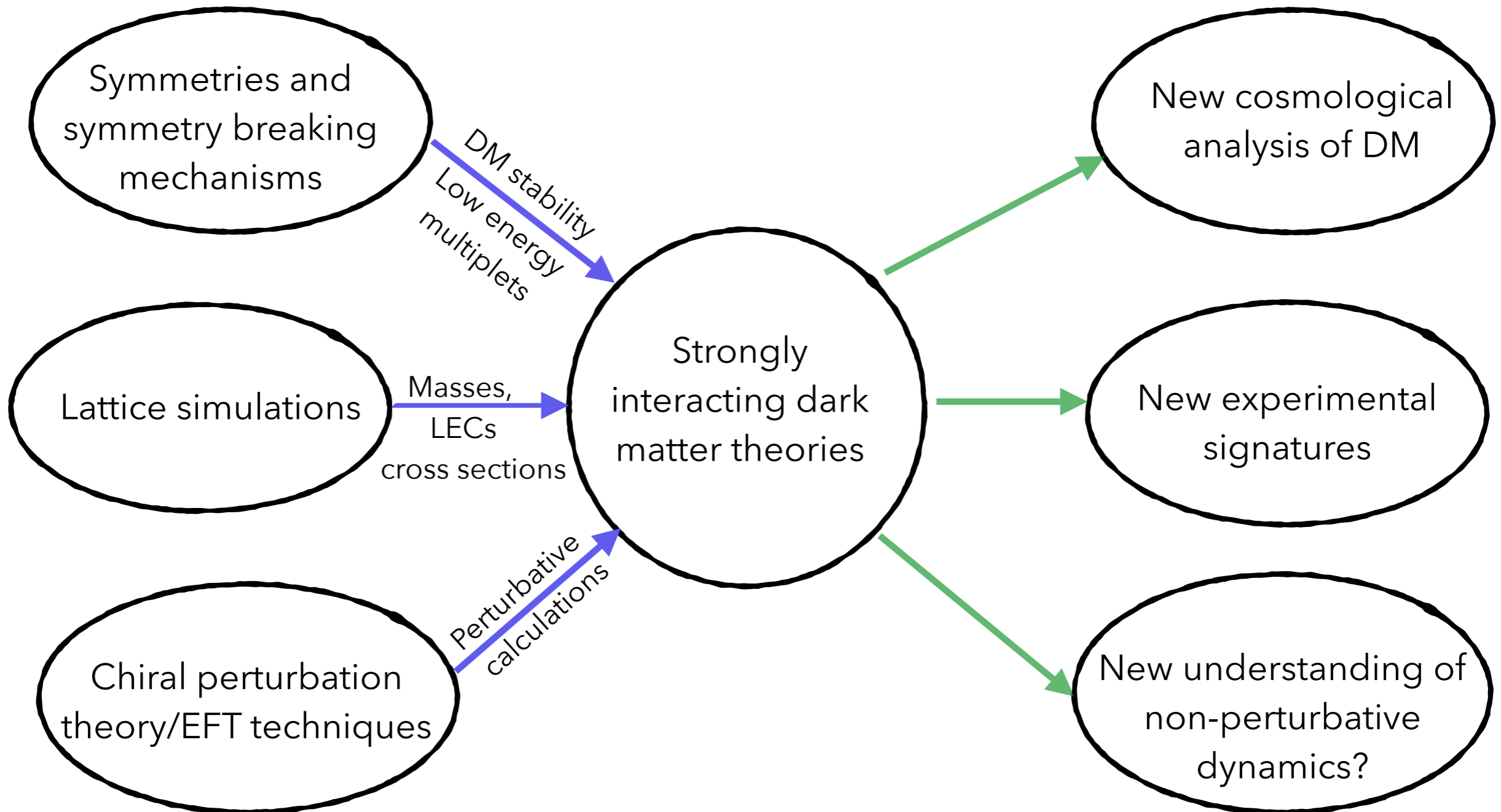


- Hochberg et al arXiv:1512.07917
- Kribs et al arXiv: 1604.04627
- Cline et al arXiv:2108.10314
- Berlin et al arXiv:1801.05805
- Fransden et al. arXiv:1103.4350
- Soni et al arXiv:1602.00714, 1610.06931, 1704.02347



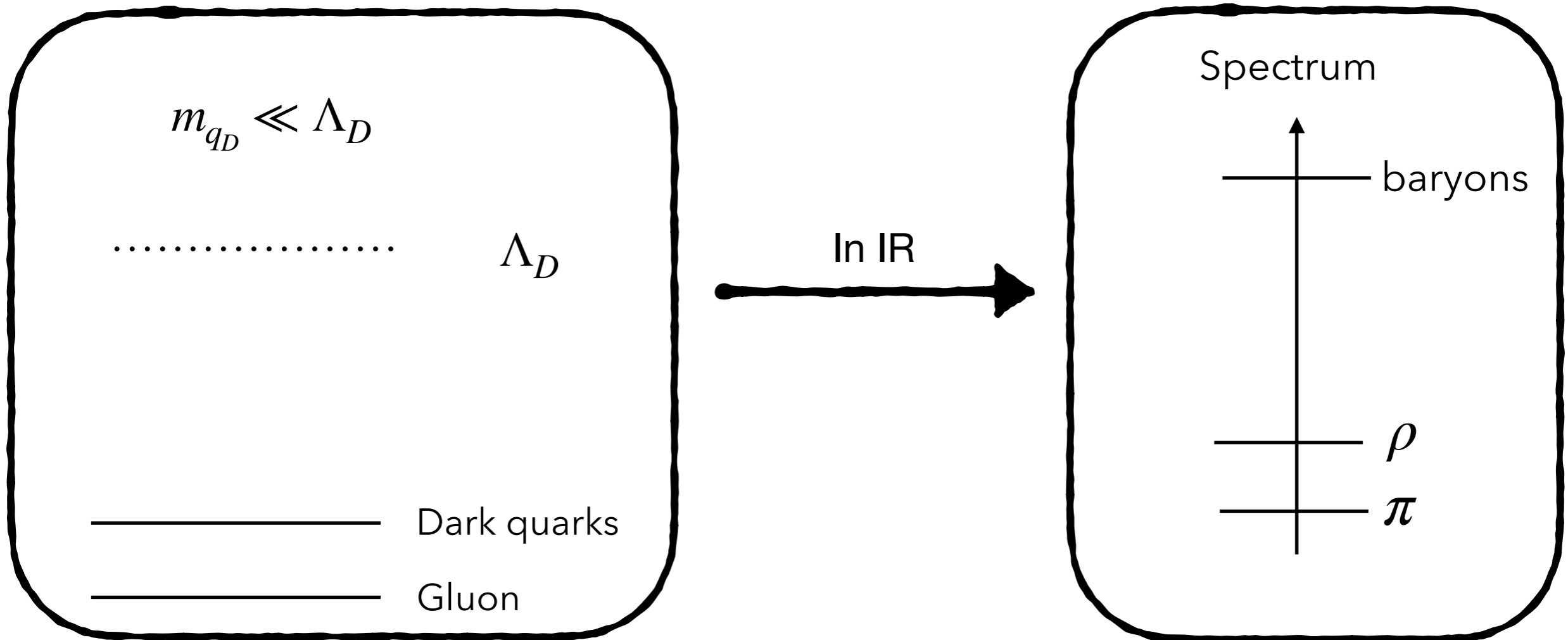
# Strongly interacting theories: pathways

How to make systematic progress in the landscape of strongly interacting dark matter?



N.B. All calculations can be done on lattice, but they are expensive, perturbative analysis is pragmatic way out

# Strongly interacting theories: composition

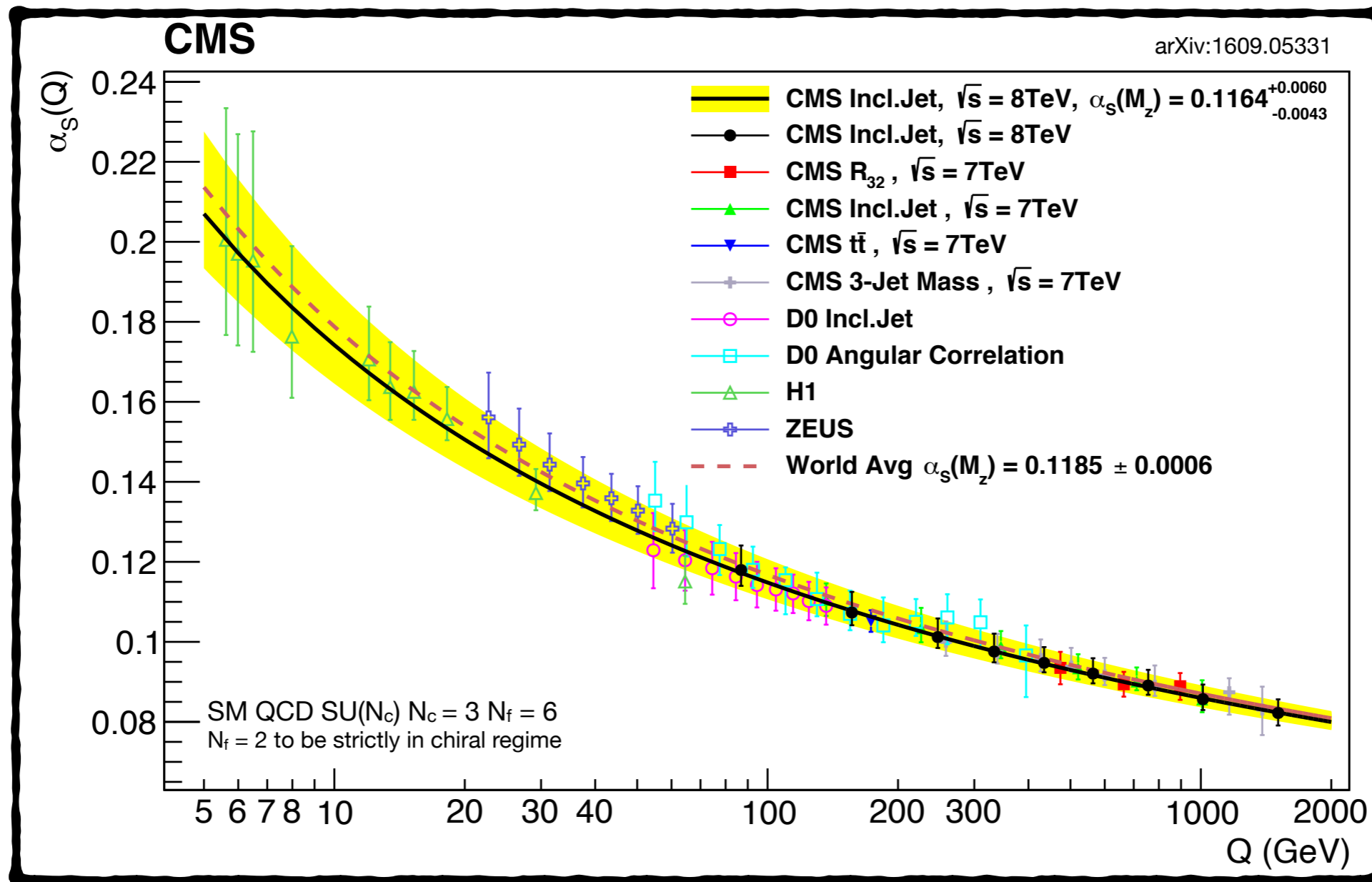


UV physics contains

- Gauge fields (gluons)
- Matter fields i.e. Dirac/Majorana fermions, Scalars (in representation  $N_r$ )
- This talk: Dirac fermions in fundamental rep

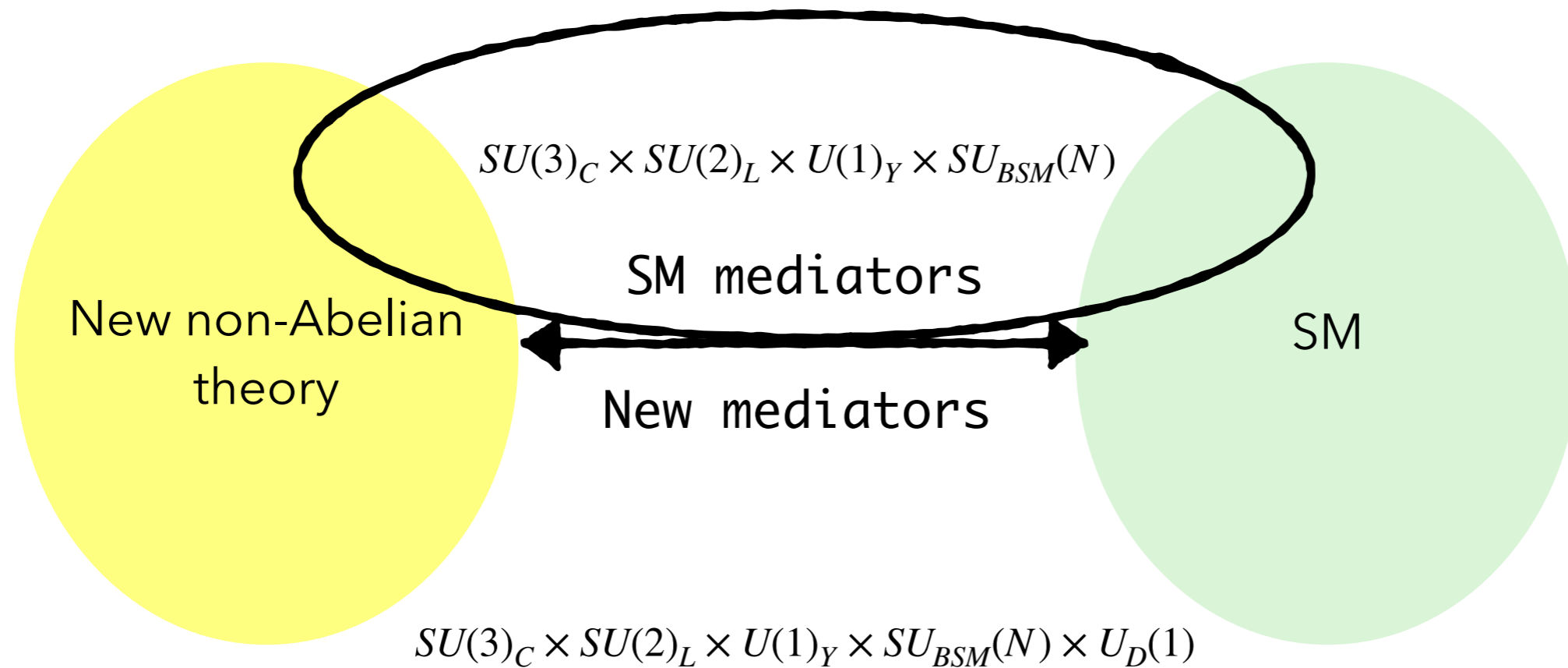
- Two discrete parameters  $N_{c_D}, N_{f_D}$
- Two continuous parameters  $m_{q_D}, \alpha_D(\mu)$  (UV)
  - $\Lambda_D, m_{\pi_D}/\Lambda_D$  or  $m_{\pi_D}, m_{\pi_D}/m_{\rho_D}$  (IR)
- $N_{c_D} = 2$  and/or  $N_{f_D} = 1$  special cases

# Strongly interacting theories: QCD-like



- QCD like theories: asymptotically free theories and in chirally broken phase (dark pions are Goldstones; chiral perturbation theory expected to be valid)
- Choose  $N_{c_D}, N_{f_D}$  such that asymptotic freedom is achieved

# Portal phenomenology - I

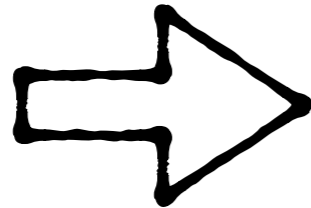


J. Butterworth, L. Corpe, **SK.**, X. Kong, M. Thomas arXiv:2105.08494

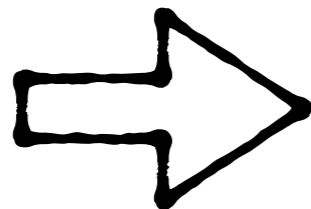
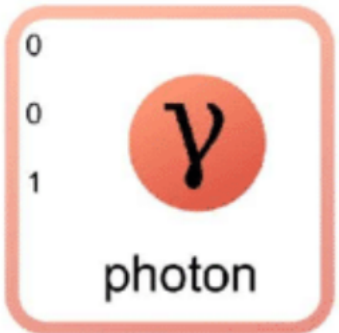


# SM mediators

Appelquist et al arXiv:1402.6656



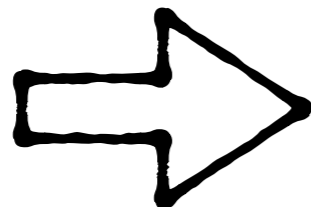
Relevant if DS has SM color charges



Lowest dimensional operators:

- magnetic dipole (5)
- charge radius (6)
- polarizability (7)

Similar considerations for W/Z mediators, suppressed by masses

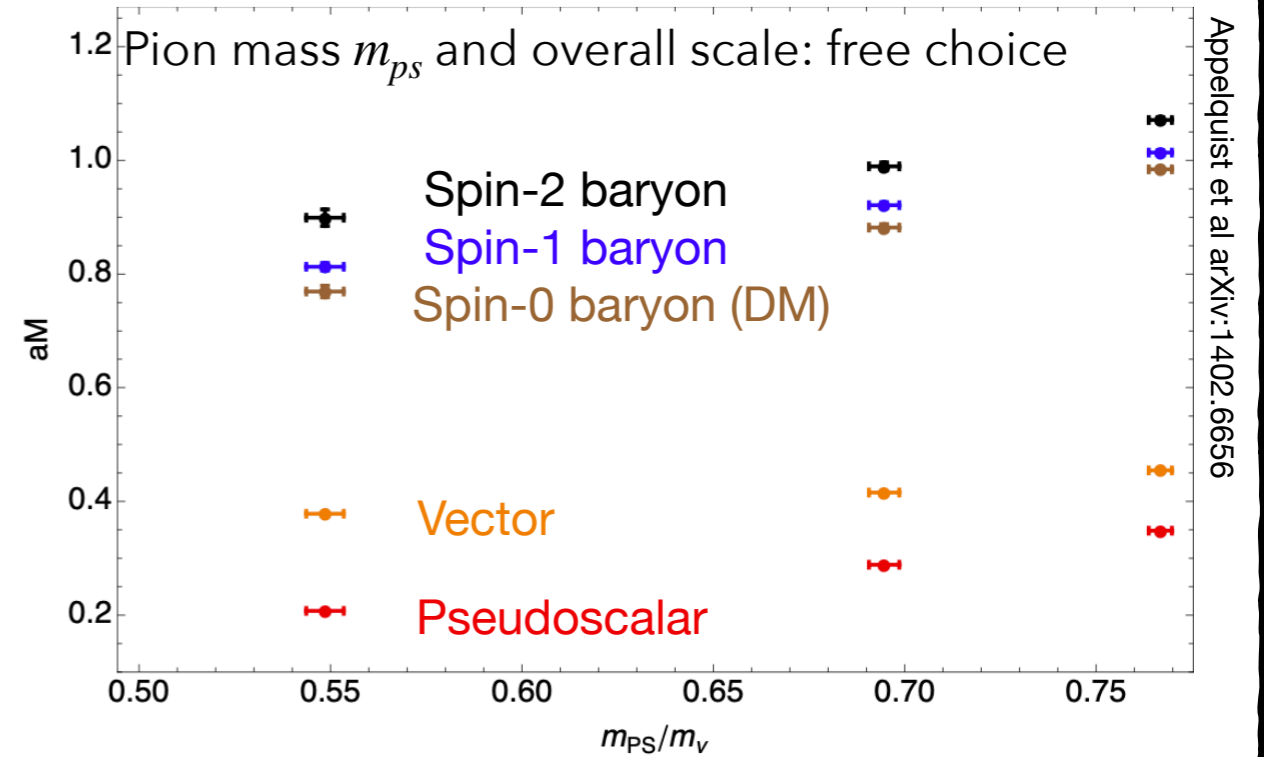


Most relevant interaction if constituents have Yukawa couplings

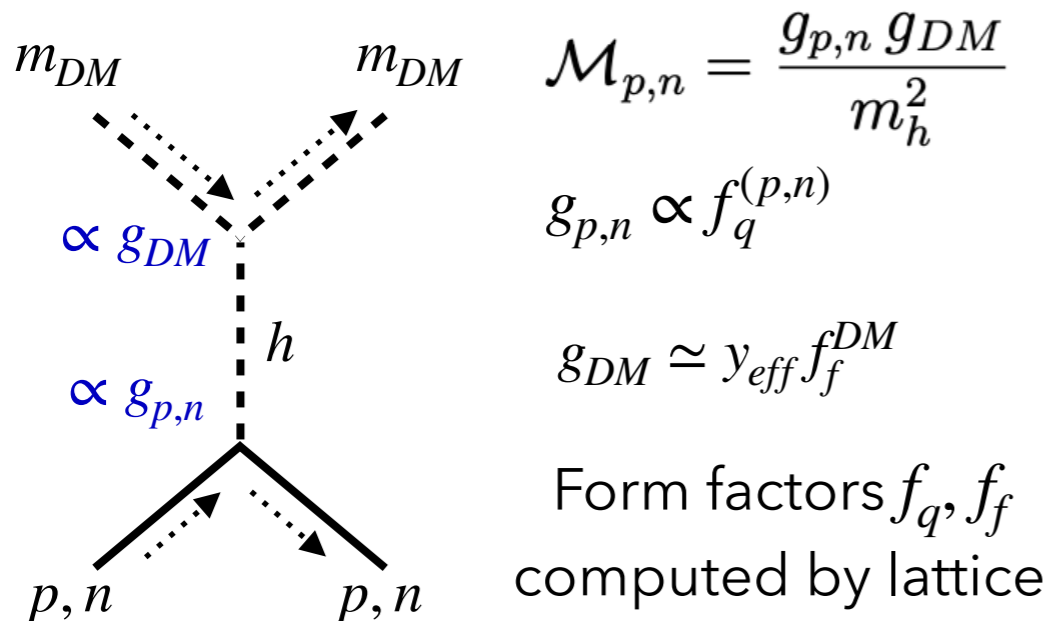
- Theory with  $N_{c_D} = 4, N_{f_D} = 4$ ; contains scalar baryon
- Dark quarks get part of their masses from EWSB and partly vector-like

# Phenomenology

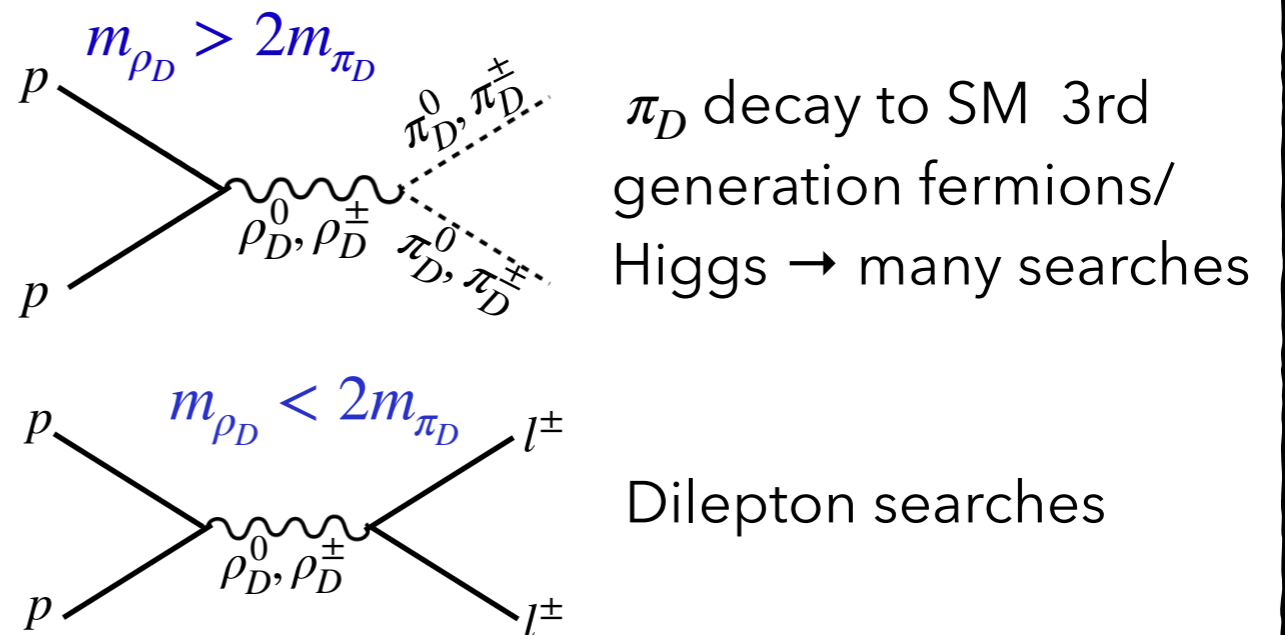
- Necessary inputs for phenomenology
  - Bound state mass spectrum
  - Interaction with the SM sector
- LEP results  $m_{\tilde{\tau}} > 86.6$  GeV directly applicable  
 → dark proton mass  $> \mathcal{O}(100)$  GeV



## DD phenomenology

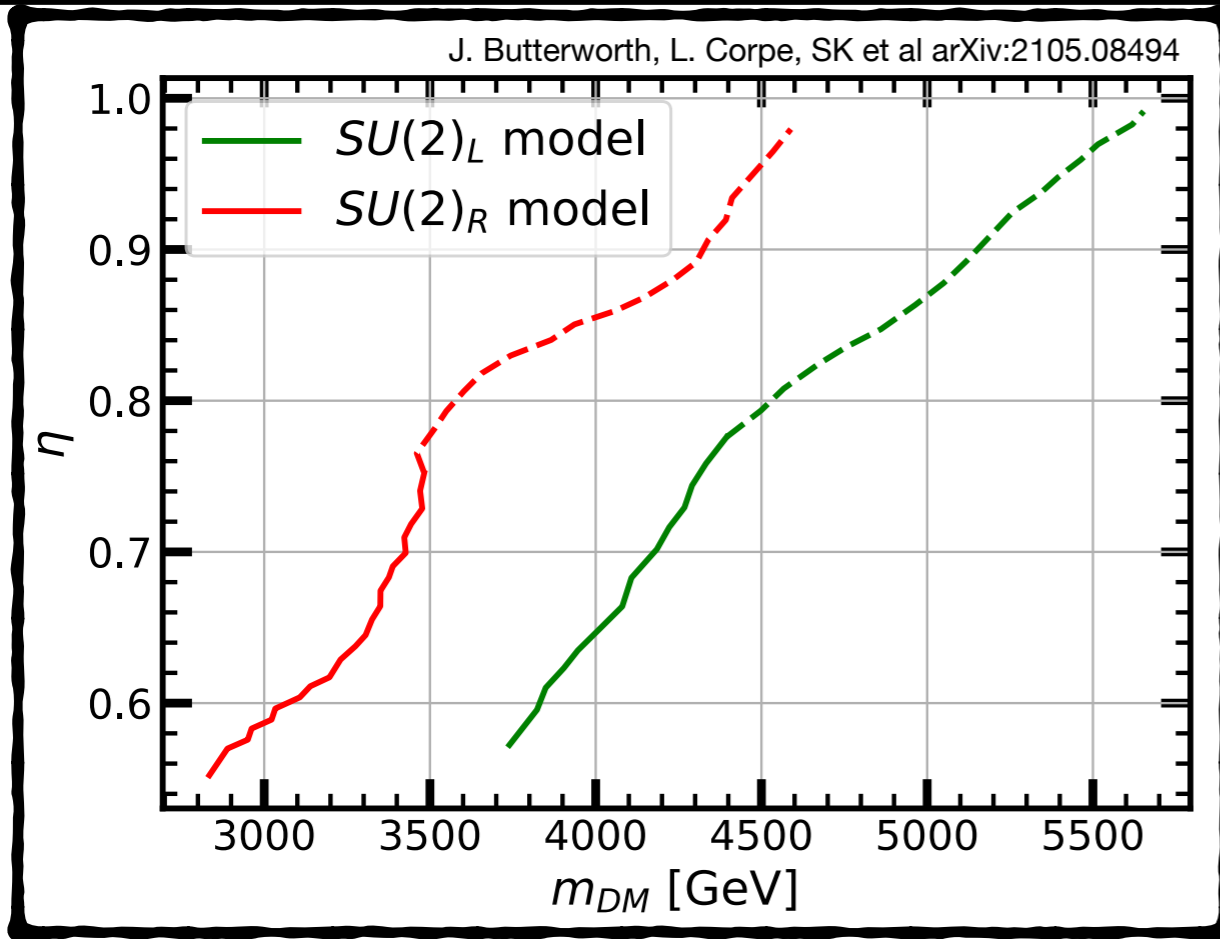


## LHC phenomenology



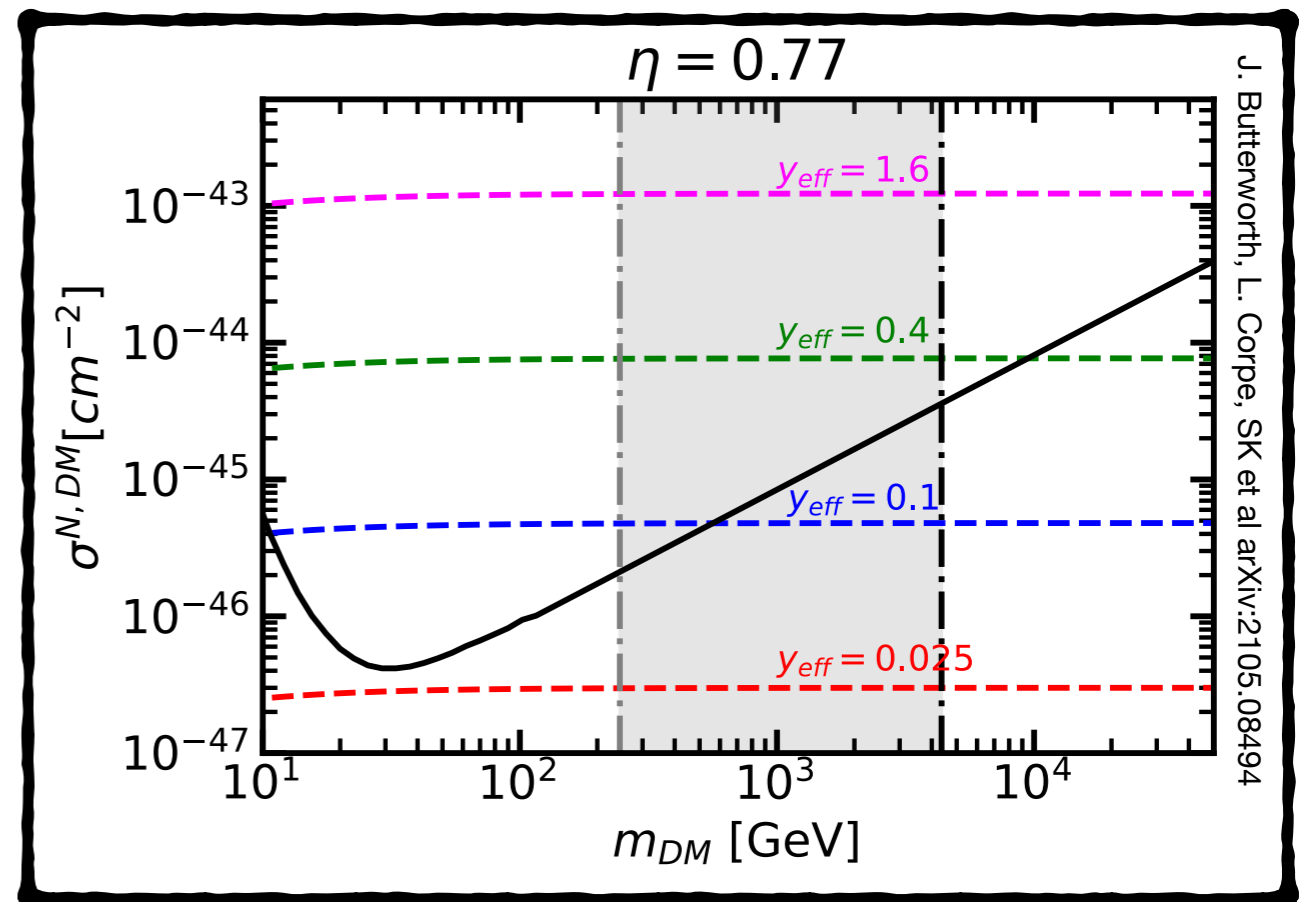
# Constraints

See also Appelquist et al, arXiv:1503.04203



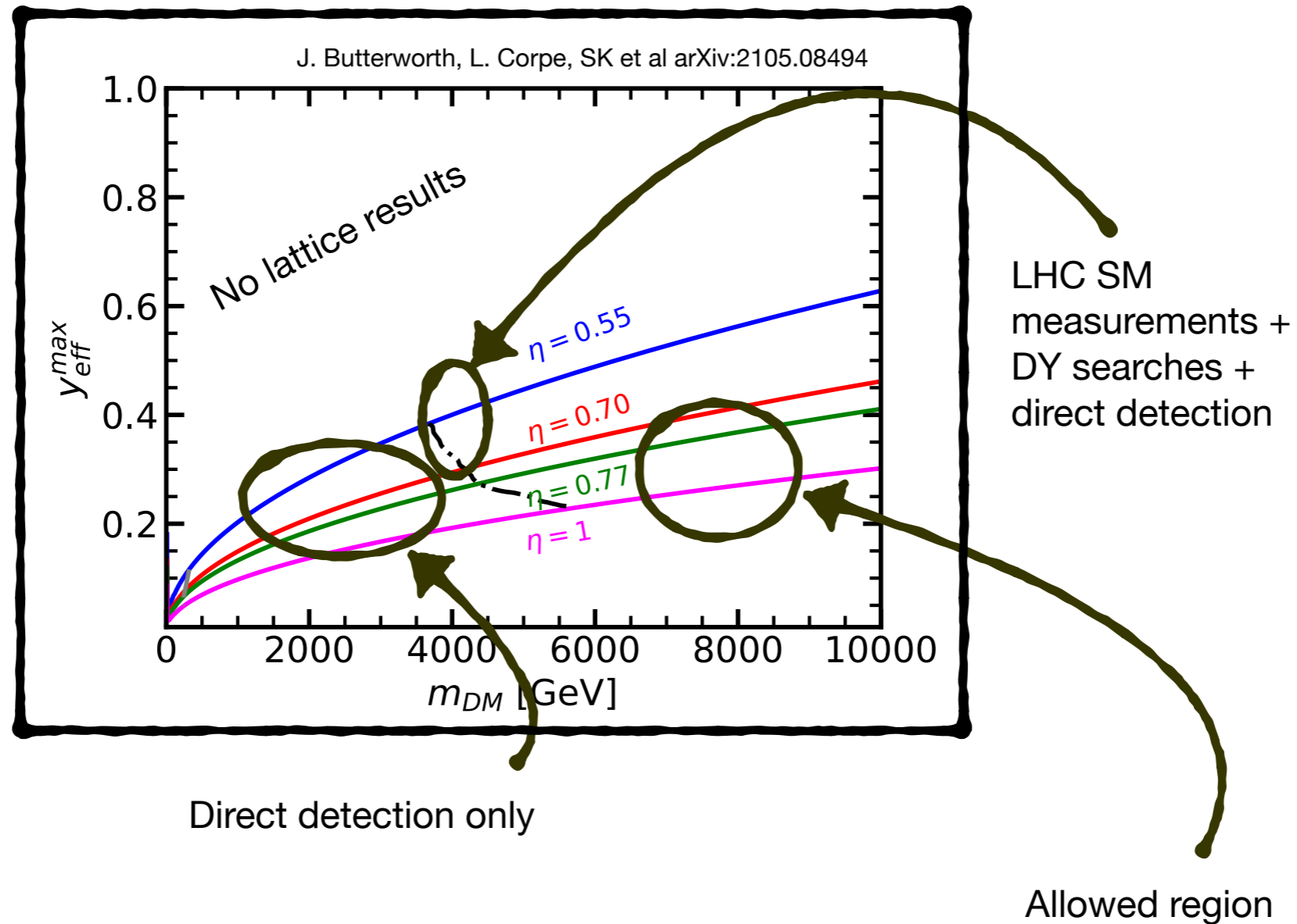
- Analysis with the help of CONTUR; constraints from SM precision measurements
- LHC exclusions together with the lattice results push the dark matter mass limits to multi-TeV mass range

- Direct detection limits push dark quark Yukawa coupling to lower values



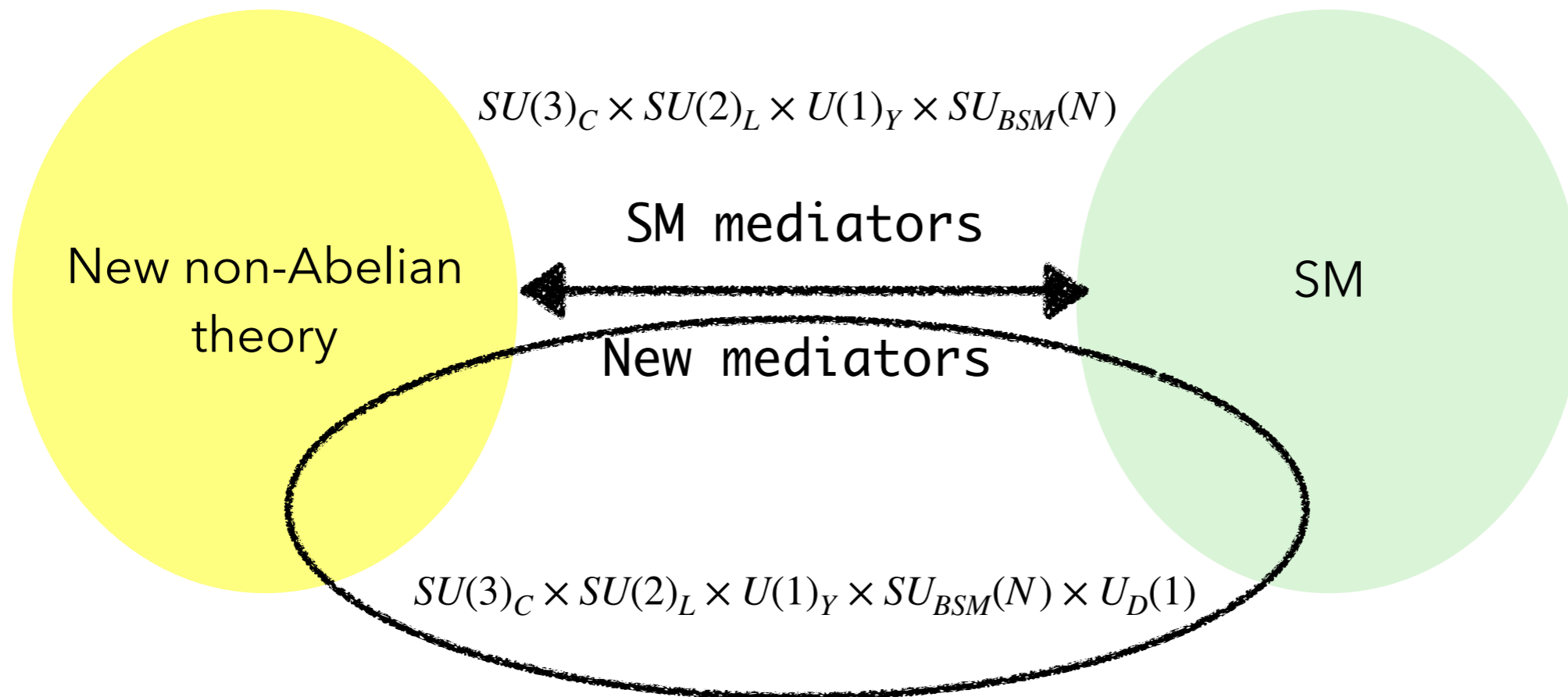
# Combined limits

Combination of direct detection limits, LHC measurements and DY searches



Either require low values of Higgs - dark quark effective Yukawa coupling or require very heavy dark matter

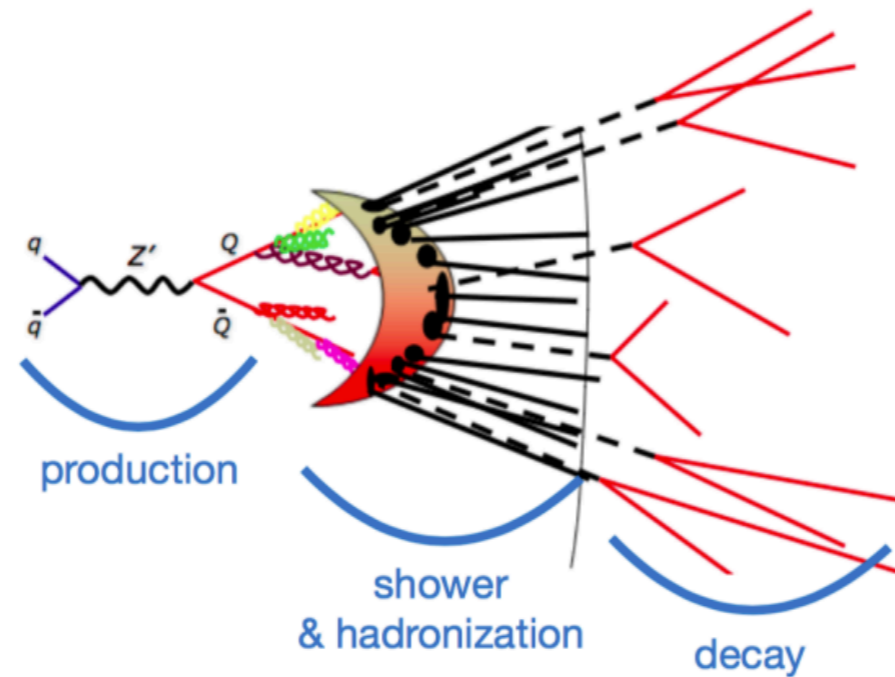
# Portal phenomenology - II



Snowmass darkshowers (incl. **S.K.**, S. Mee, M. Strassler) arXiv:2202.05191

# Theory setup

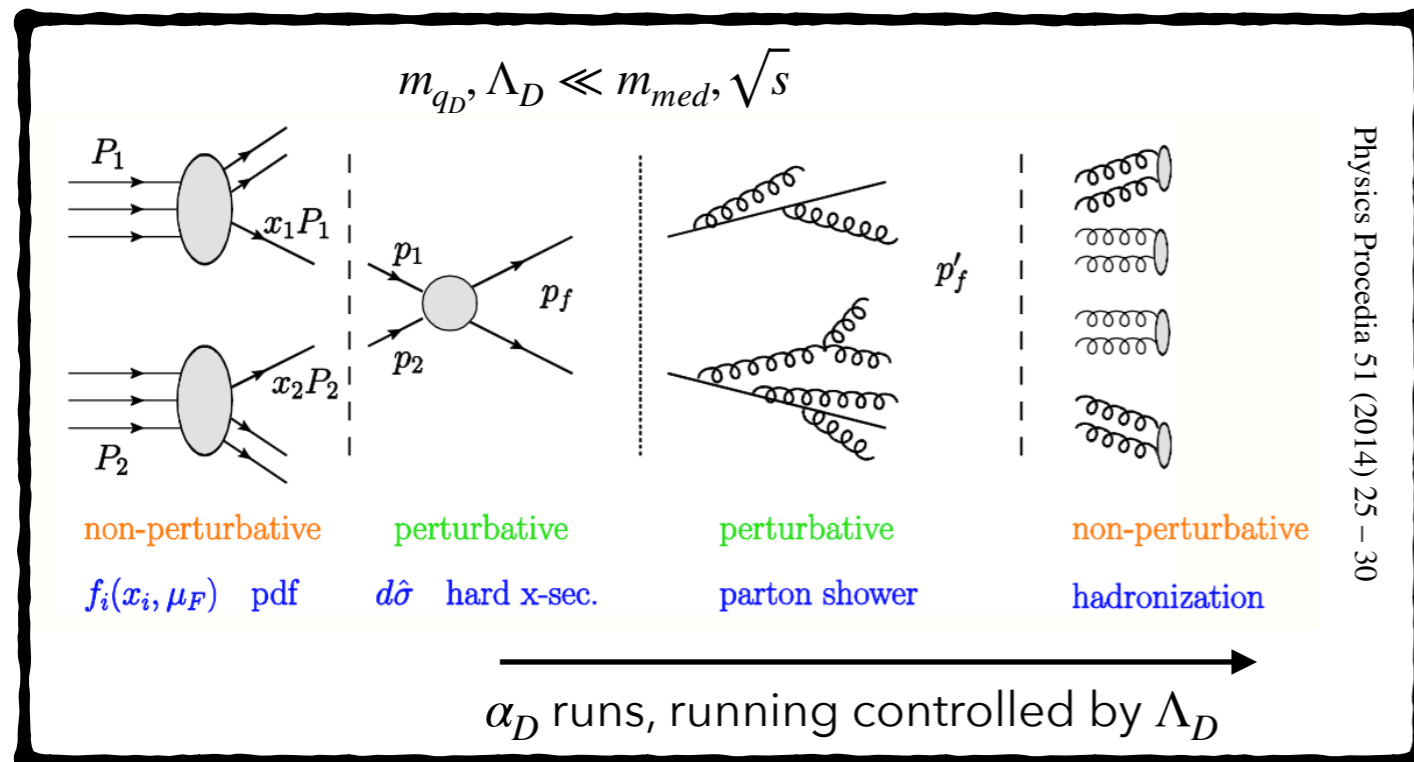
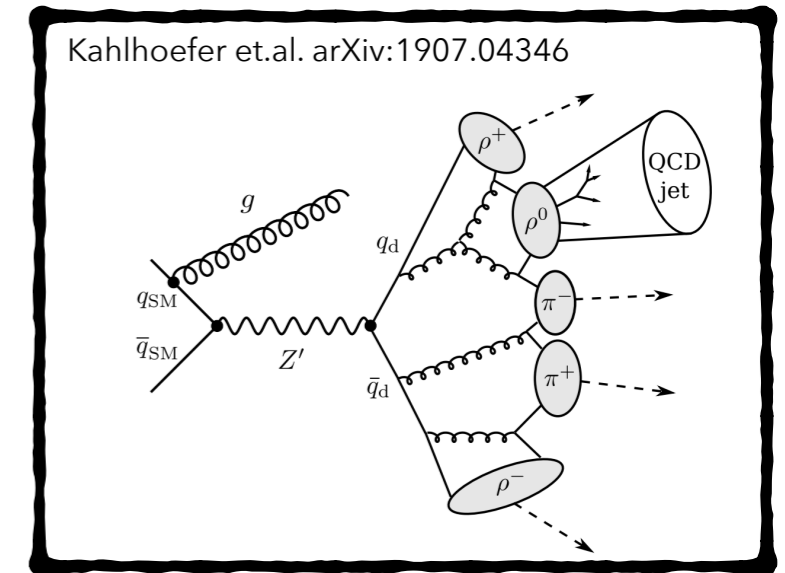
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \subset -e_D Z'_\mu \sum_i \bar{q}_{Di} Q_i \gamma^\mu q_{Di} - g_q Z'_\mu \sum_r \bar{q}_{SM,r} \gamma^\mu q_{SM,r}$$



- $m_{Z'} \gtrsim 30\Lambda_D, m_{q_D} \ll \Lambda_D \ll \sqrt{s} \rightarrow$  production of dark quarks followed by rapid parton showering and hadronization  $\rightarrow$  jets
- $Z'$  coupling leads to decay of some of the dark hadrons back to the SM; details coupling dependent

# (LHC) phenomenology

- Depending on  $N_{c_D}, N_{f_D}$  a variety of DM candidates possible e.g. dark pions, dark baryon (NB: baryons could be spin 0,1/2)
- Stabilise pions with appropriate  $U_D(1)$  charges  $\rightarrow$  easier in even flavours than odd flavours
- Dark quark production followed by hadronization (similar to the SM at the LHC)
- Leads to new signatures, few constraints, many possibilities



- Jet shapes and kinematics depends on consistency between UV and IR regimes
- It seems favourable to use  $\Lambda_D$  as external scale to define physical masses

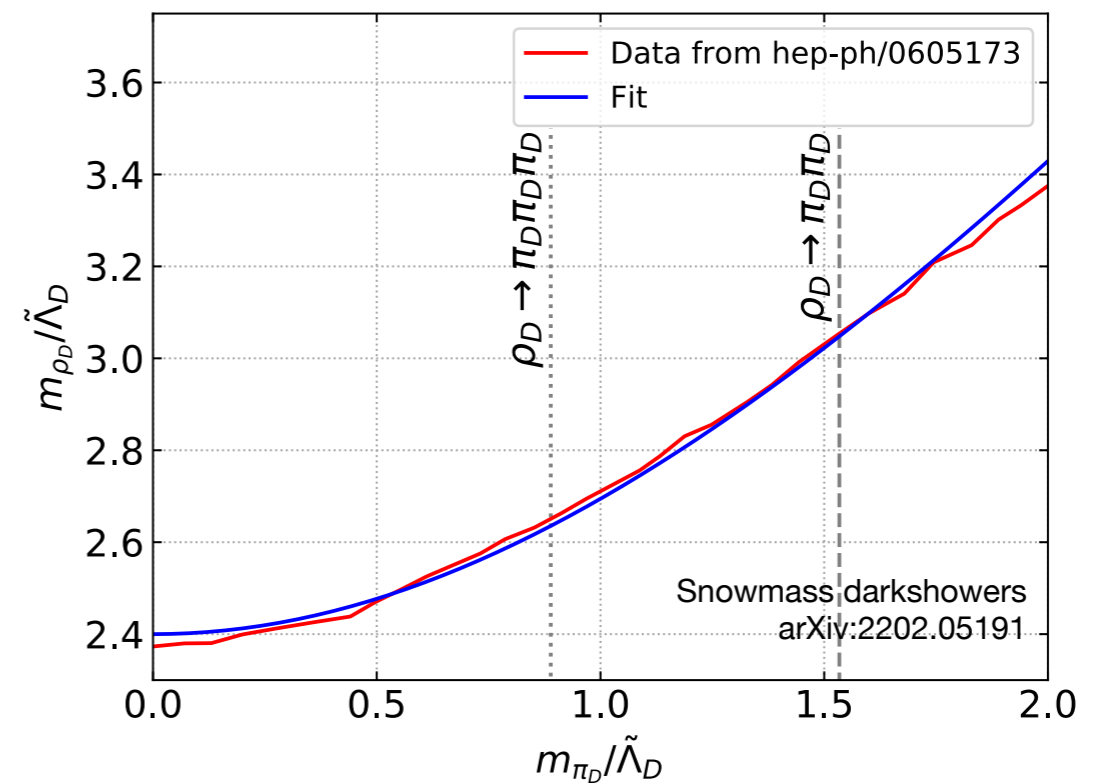
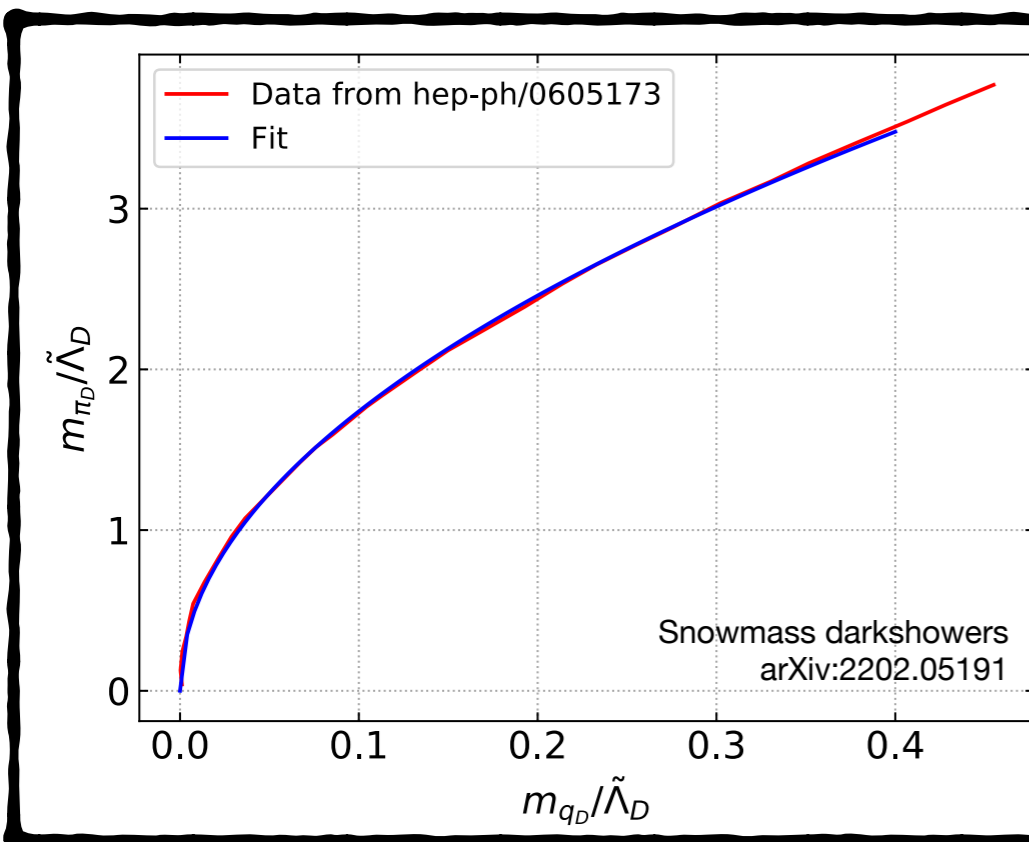
# Dark meson masses



- Effects due to  $N_{c_D}, N_{f_D}$  can be ignored for now
- Dark meson mass fits from lattice results

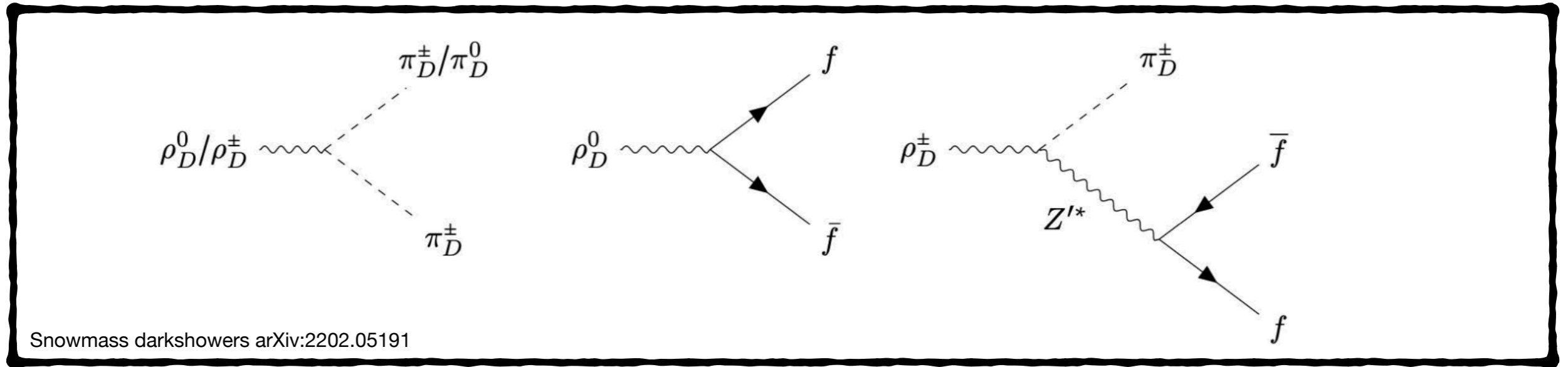
$$\frac{m_{\pi_D}}{\tilde{\Lambda}_D} = 5.5 \sqrt{\frac{m_{q_D}}{\tilde{\Lambda}_D}}$$

$$\frac{m_{\rho_D}}{\tilde{\Lambda}_D} = \sqrt{5.76 + 1.5 \frac{m_{\pi_D}^2}{\tilde{\Lambda}_D^2}}$$



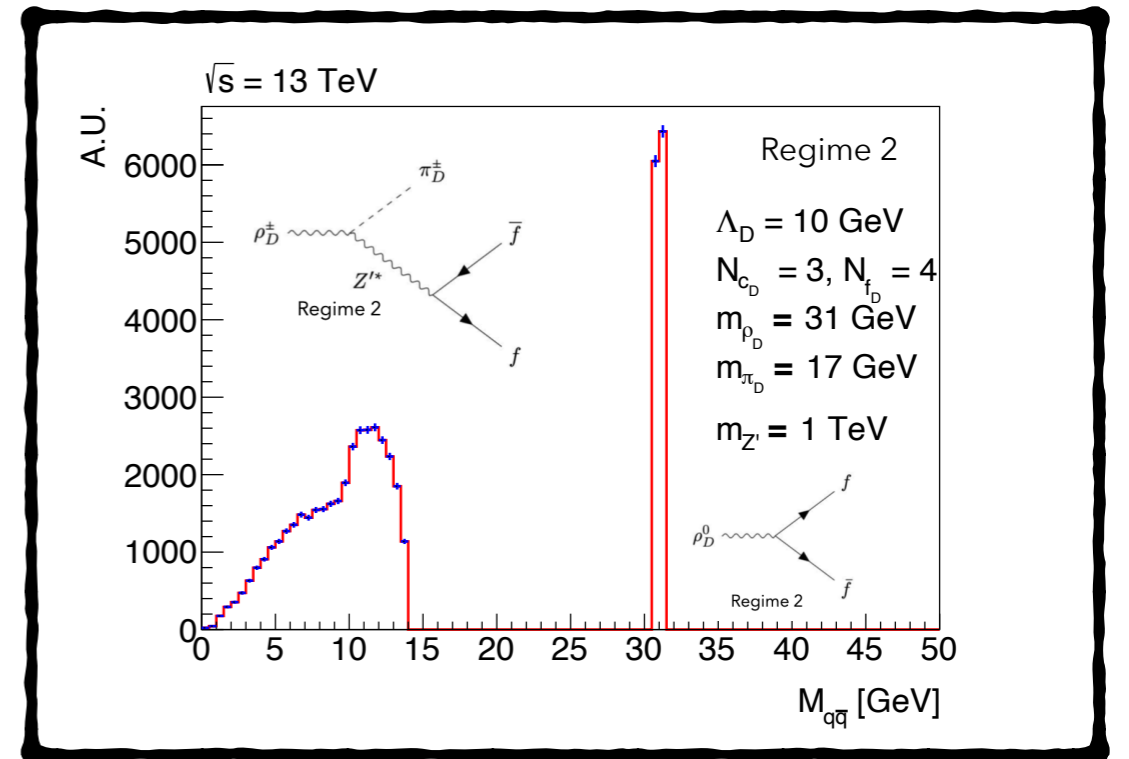
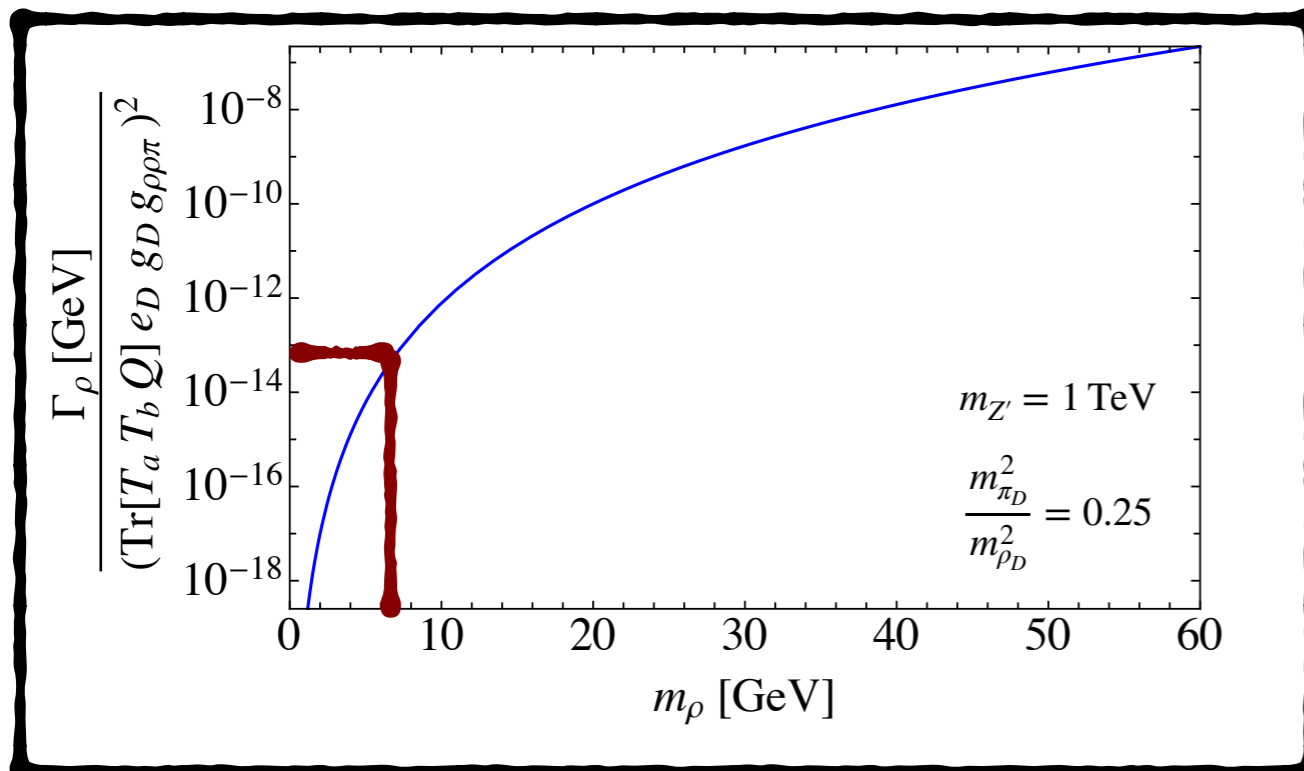


# Dark meson decays

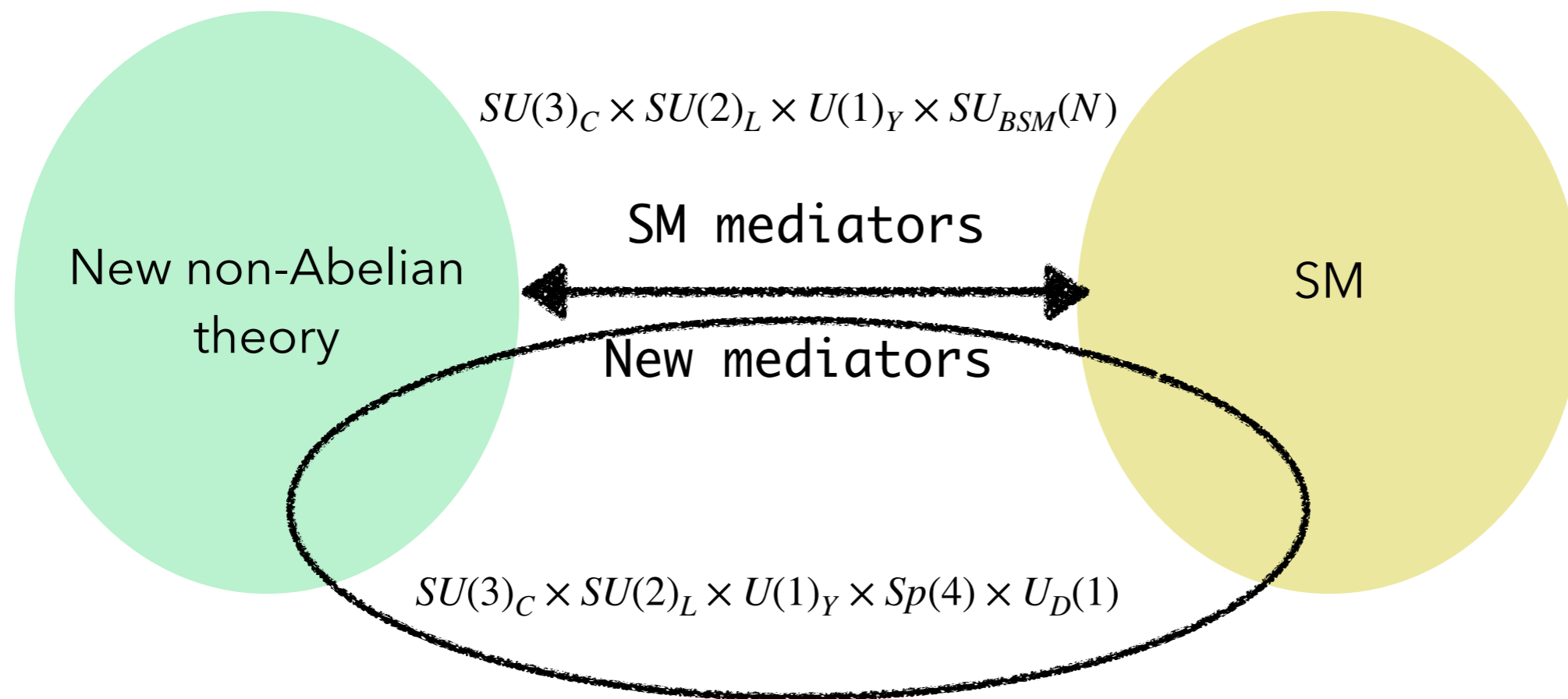


- Off-diagonal dark rho can undergo three body decays; have been absent from much of LHC and DM phenomenology
- Leads to LLPs → displaced vertices at the colliders, correlation cosmology

See also Berlin et al arXiv:1801.05805



# Beyond SU(N)

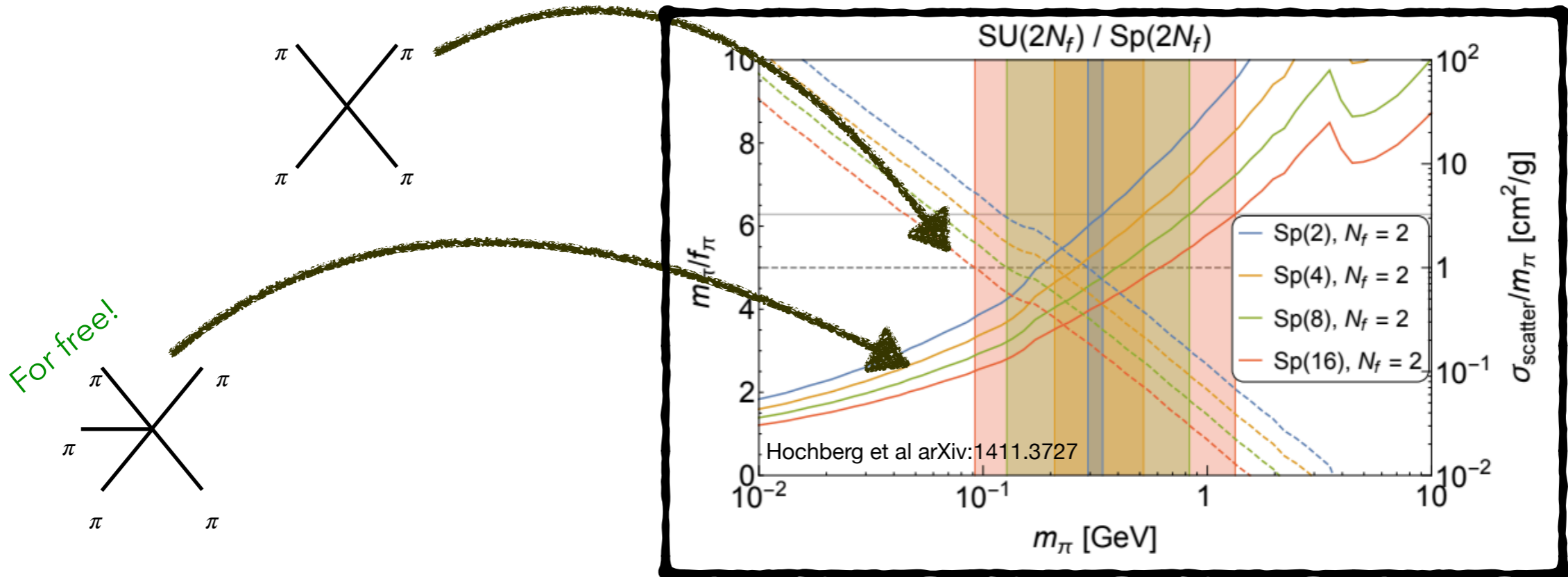
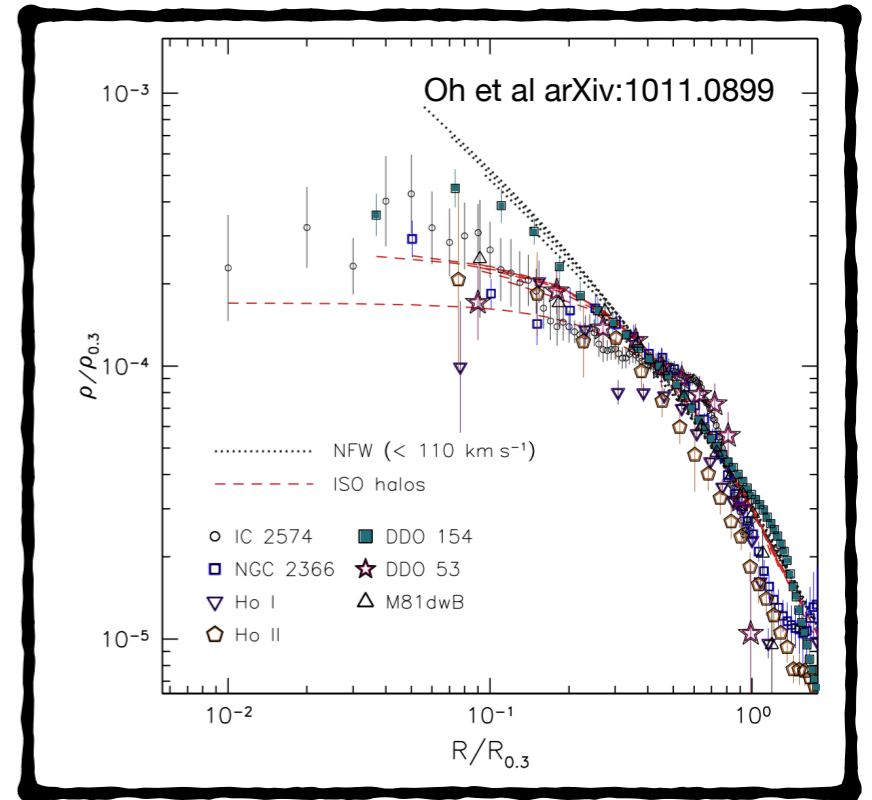


S.K., A. Maas, S. Mee, M. Nikolic, J. Pradler, F. Zierler arXiv:2202.05191

# Dark pion dark matter

- Work in chiral regime, pions are pseudo-Goldstone bosons
- Chiral Lagrangian also contains Weiss-Zumino-Witten term
- In the SM:  $K^+K^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0\pi^-$  and  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

See also talk by S. Mee on Wednesday



# Symmetries

Any  $SU(N)$ ,  $N > 2$  group  $N_f = 2$

$Sp(4)$ /symplectic group  $N_f = 2$

## COMPLEX

$$U(2) \times U(2)$$

axial anomaly

$$SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$$

chiral symm. breaking

$$m_u = m_d \neq 0$$

$$SU(2) \times U(1)$$

$$m_u \neq m_d$$

$$U(1) \times U(1) \times U(1)$$

## PSEUDOREAL

$$U(4)$$

axial anomaly

$$SU(4)$$

chiral symm. breaking

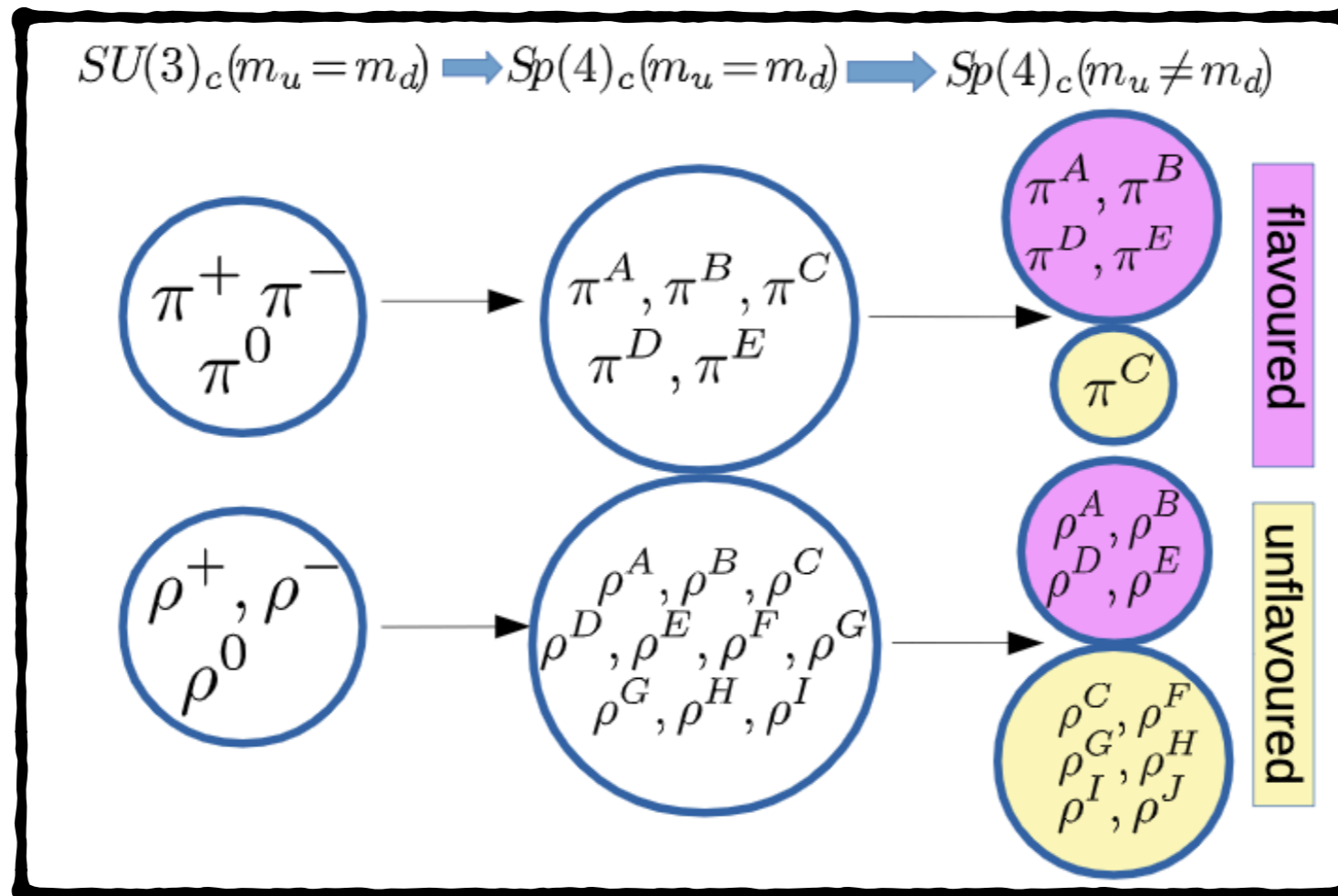
$$m_u = m_d \neq 0$$

$$Sp(4)$$

$$m_u \neq m_d$$

$$SU(2) \times SU(2)$$

# Phenomenological implications

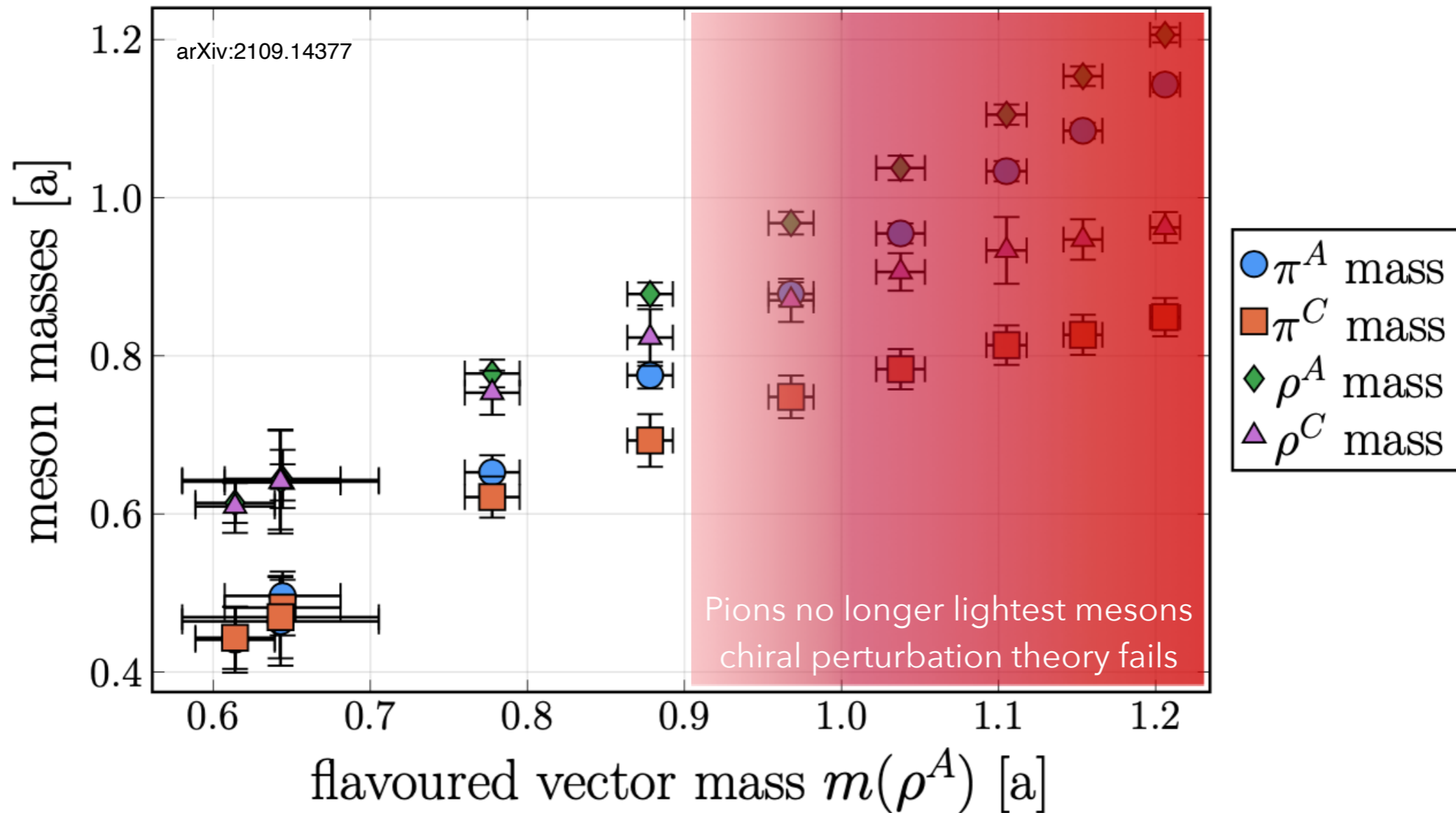


- Theory contains 5 pions associated with broken generators of  $SU(4)/Sp(4)$
- It contains 10 rho mesons associated with unbroken generators
- Can lead to characteristically different phenomenology in low energy
- Charging the theory under external  $U(1)$  keeps all pions stable

$$Sp(4) \rightarrow SU(2) \times U(1) \quad \left( \begin{matrix} \pi^C \\ \pi^D \\ \pi^E \end{matrix} \right), \quad \left( \begin{matrix} \pi^A \\ \pi^B \end{matrix} \right)$$

Lattice calculations  $m_u \neq m_d$ 

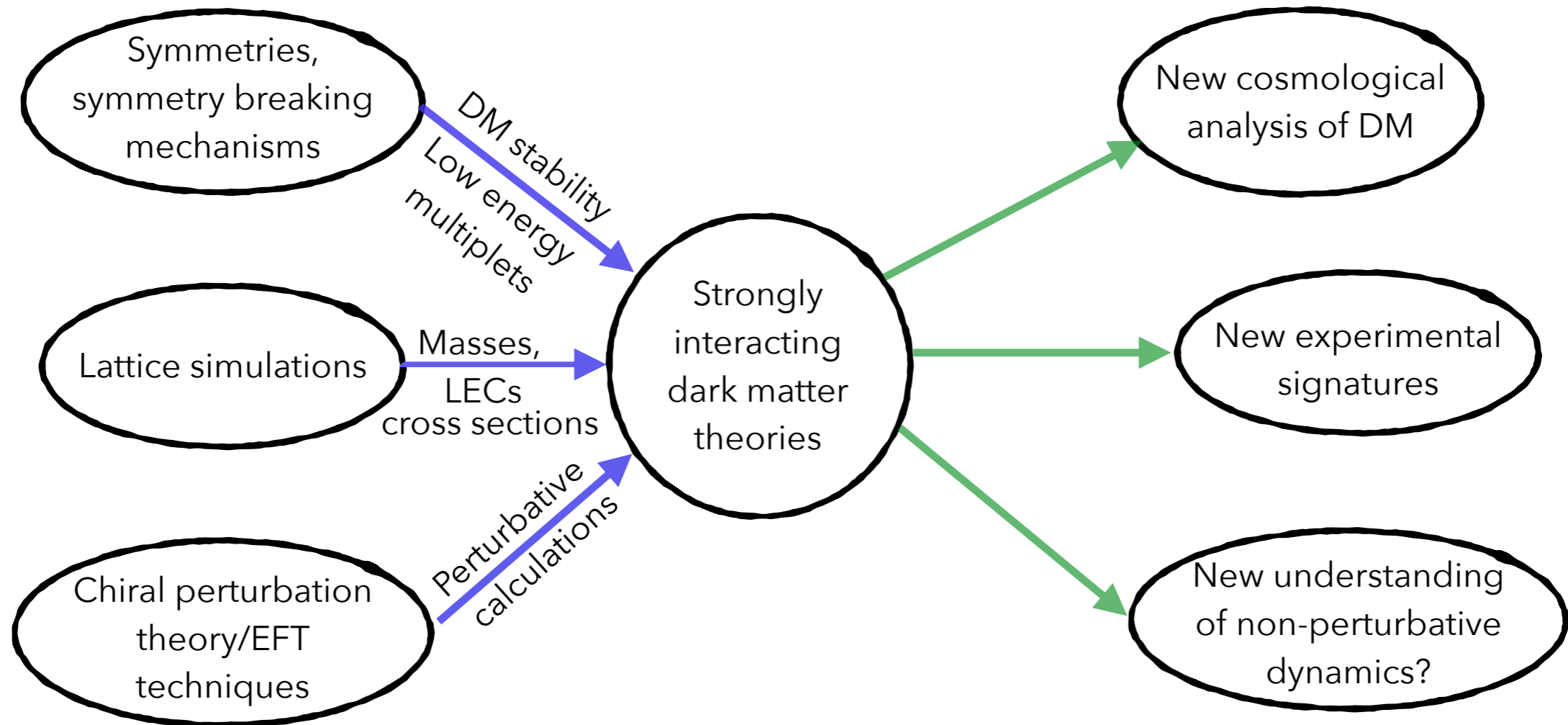
( $\beta = 6.9$ ,  $m(\rho^{deg})/m(\pi^{deg}) = 1.41$ ): meson masses



- For the first time ever, lattice calculations available for non-degenerate dark quark masses

# Conclusions

A systematic analysis of strongly interacting theories is possible



- Presented several examples containing dark baryon and dark pion dark matter candidates
- DM stability is ensured either via symmetries inbuilt in the theories or via careful choices of external charges
- Multiple relic density generation mechanisms can be engineered
- Portals lead to new interesting phenomenology

*Thanks for listening*  
*Questions?*