

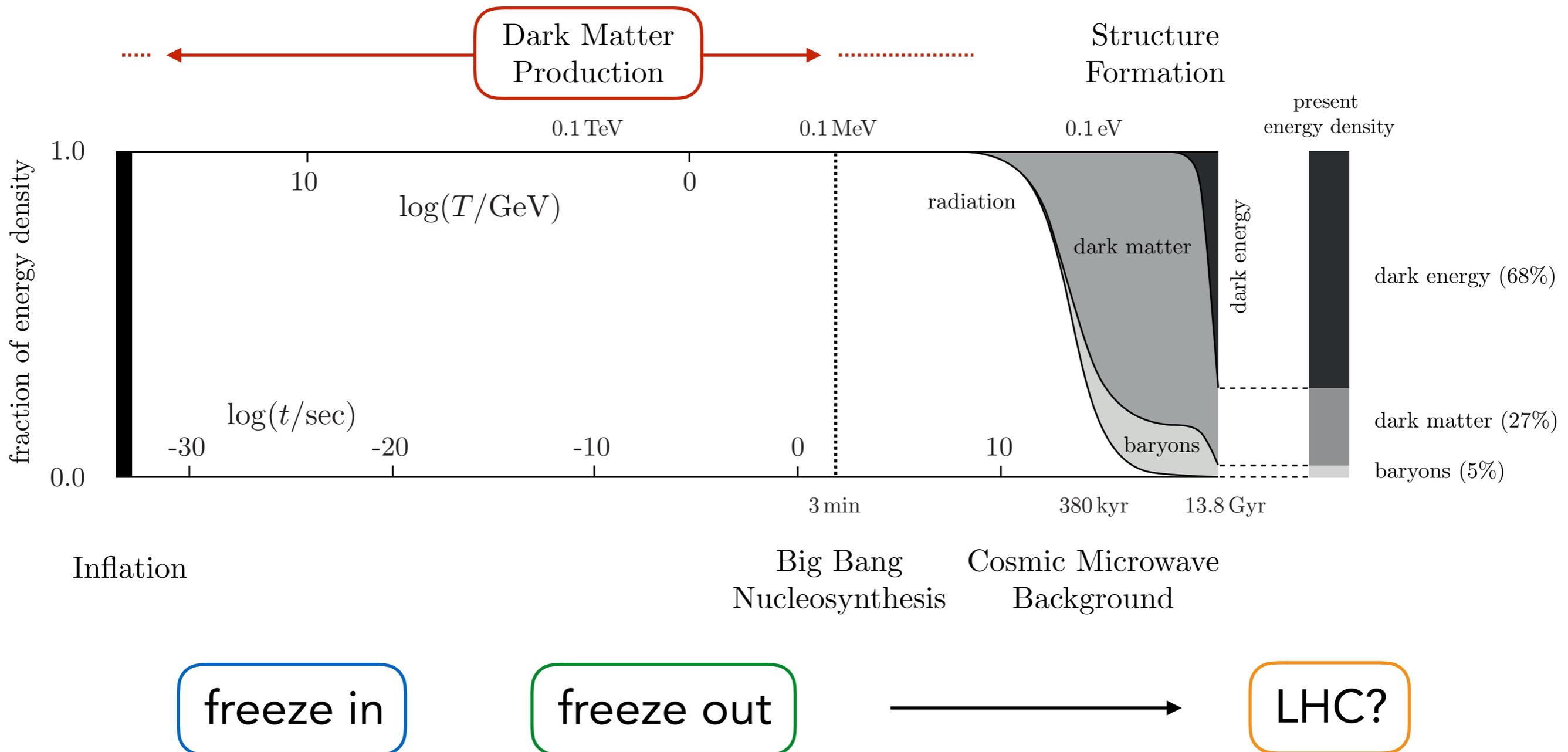
# HIDDEN PHYSICS • DARK MATTER

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Hidden Physics at the LHC • March 1-3, 2021 • online

# Hints from the early universe

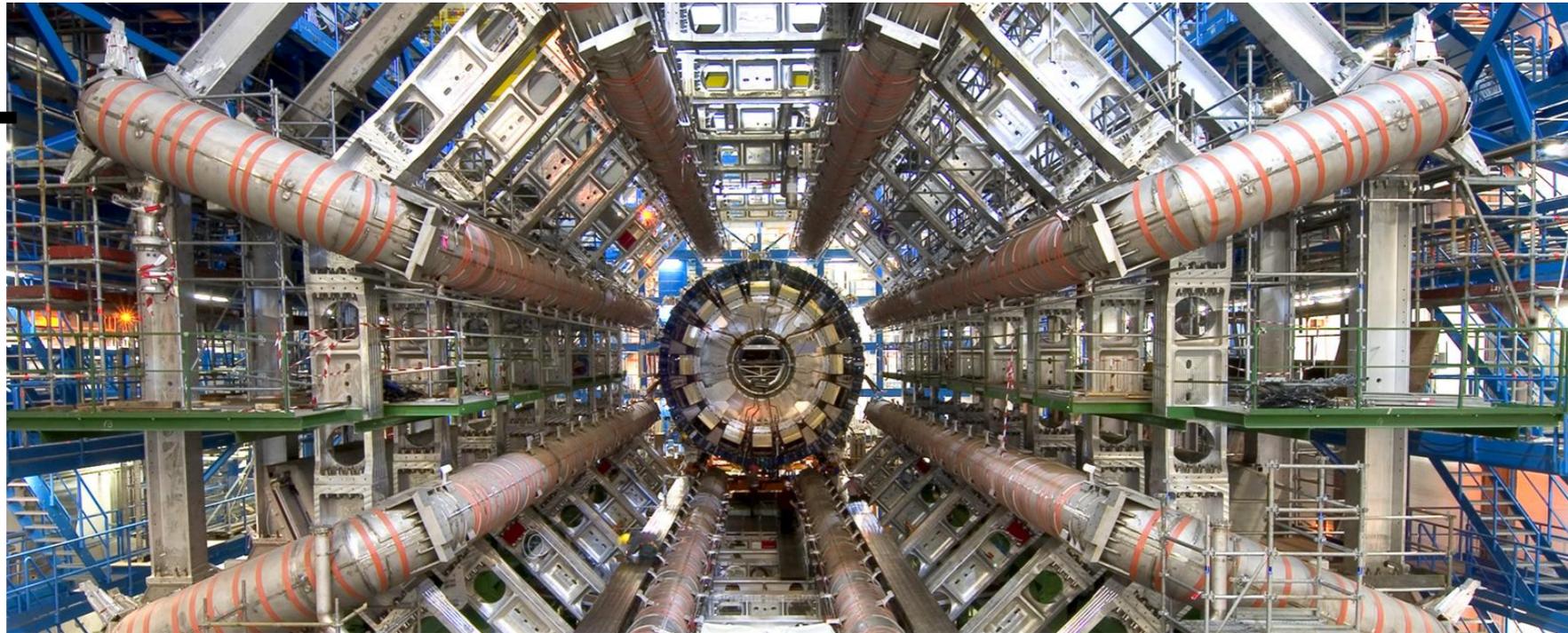


# Nothing?

mass



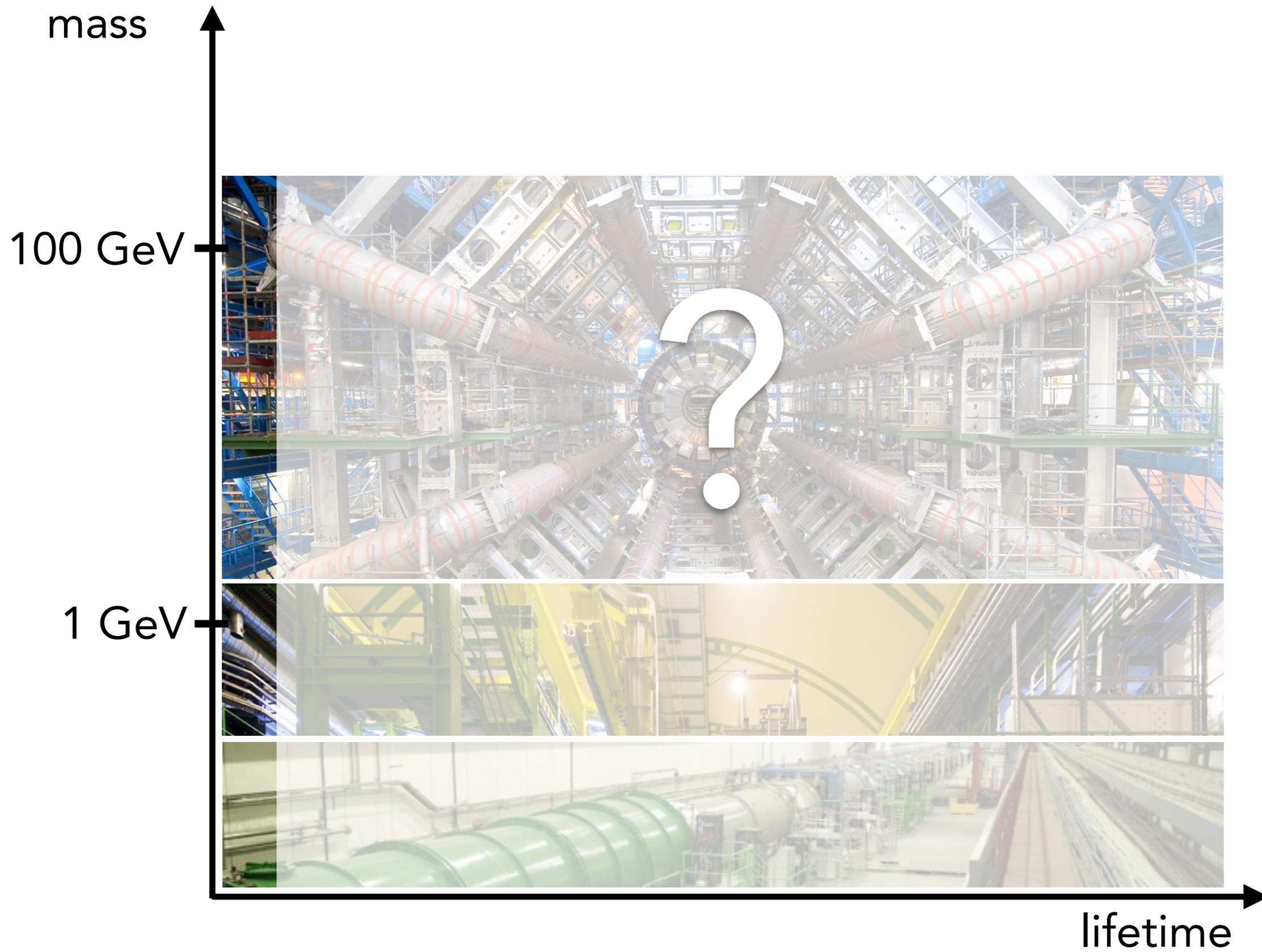
100 GeV



1 GeV

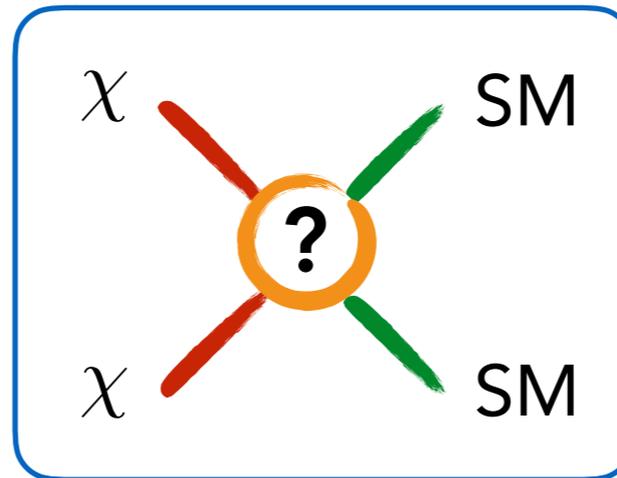


# Anything?



# Dark matter interactions

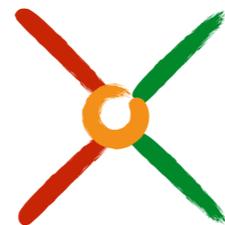
dark sector



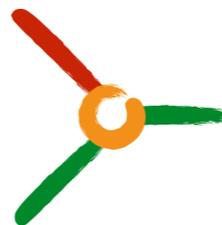
visible sector

Portals:

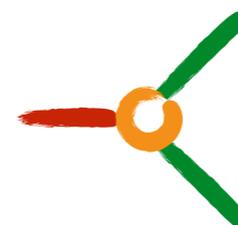
$$H^\dagger H S S$$



$$\bar{L} H N$$



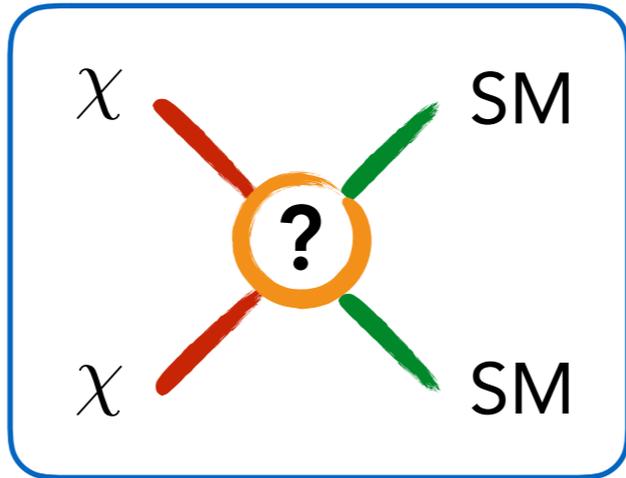
$$\frac{a}{\Lambda} V^{\mu\nu} \tilde{V}_{\mu\nu}$$



→ Martin Bauer's talk

# Dark matter interactions

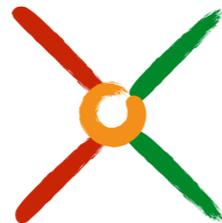
dark sector



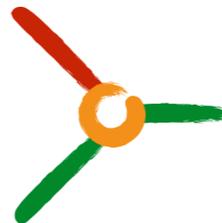
visible sector

Portals:

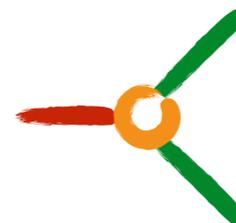
$$H^\dagger H S S$$



$$\bar{L} H N$$

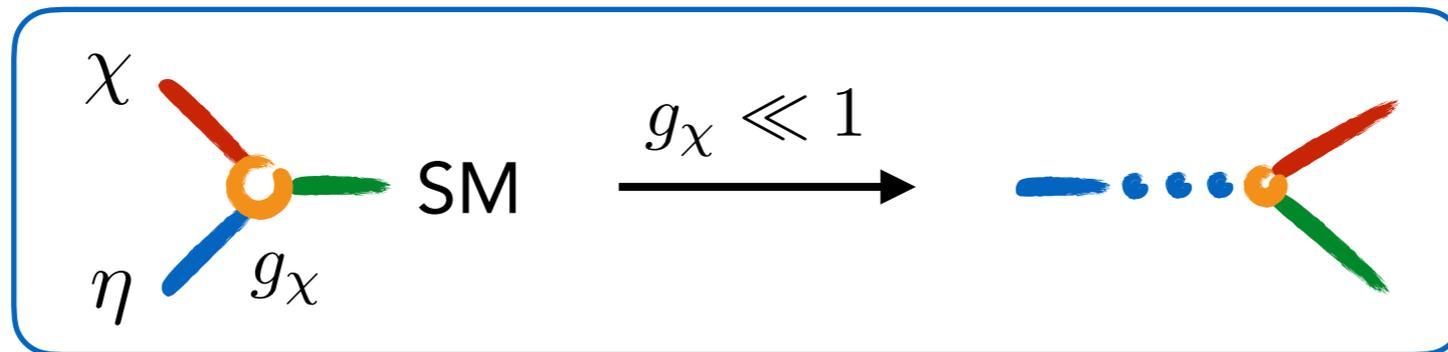


$$\frac{a}{\Lambda} V^{\mu\nu} \tilde{V}_{\mu\nu}$$



→ Martin Bauer's talk

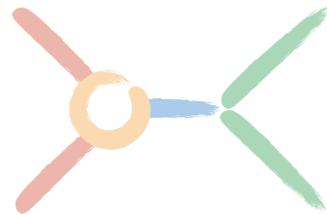
Mediators:



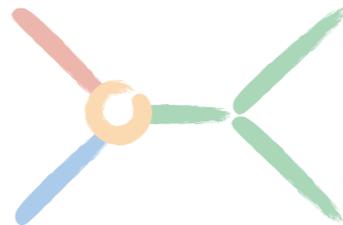
# The new WIMP

In the early universe:

pair annihilation

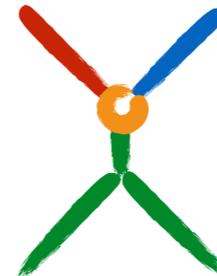


co-annihilation



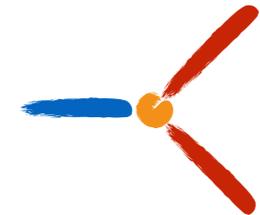
Griest, Seckel 1991

co-scattering



Ruderman et al. 2017

freeze-in



Hall et al. 2009

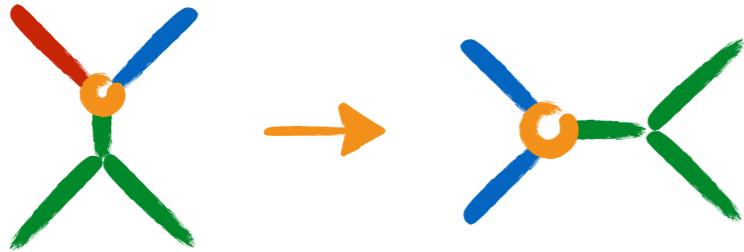
smaller coupling / longer lifetime

in thermal equilibrium

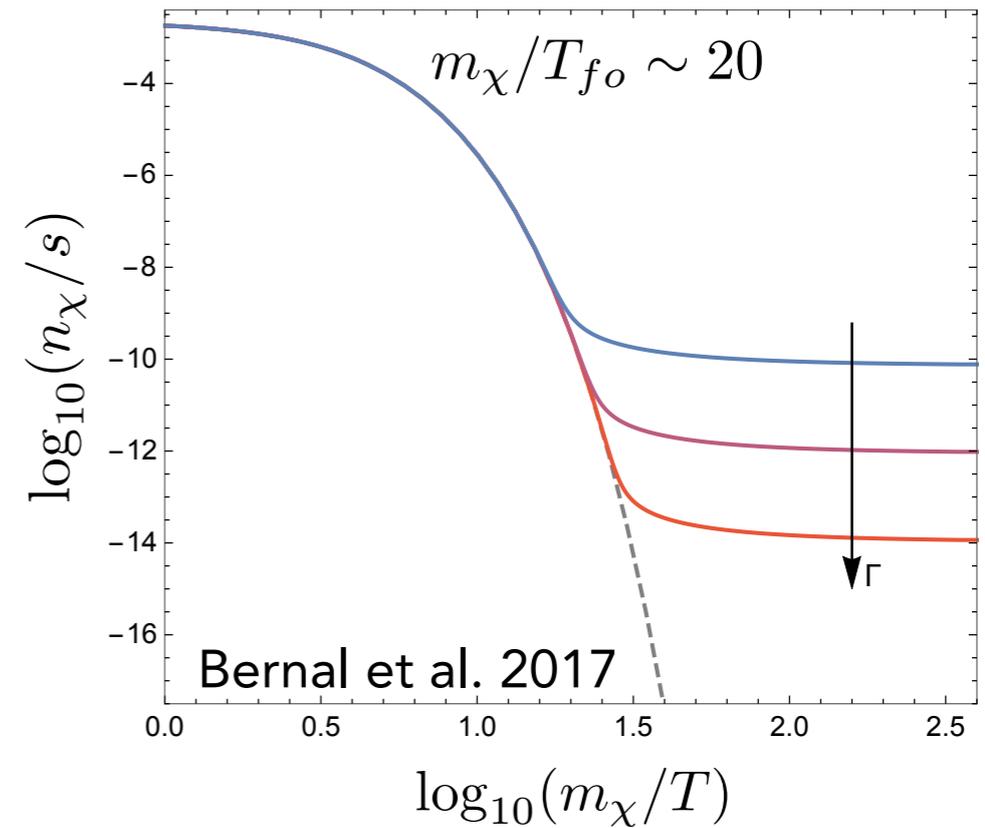
out of equilibrium

# Relic abundance: freeze out

co-scattering / mediator annihilation

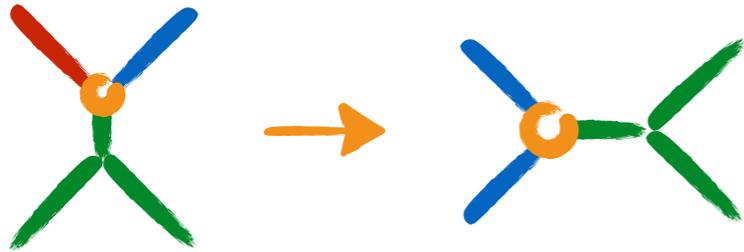


$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim \frac{m_\chi}{T_{fo}} \frac{\text{GeV}^{-1}}{M_P \langle \sigma v \rangle}$$

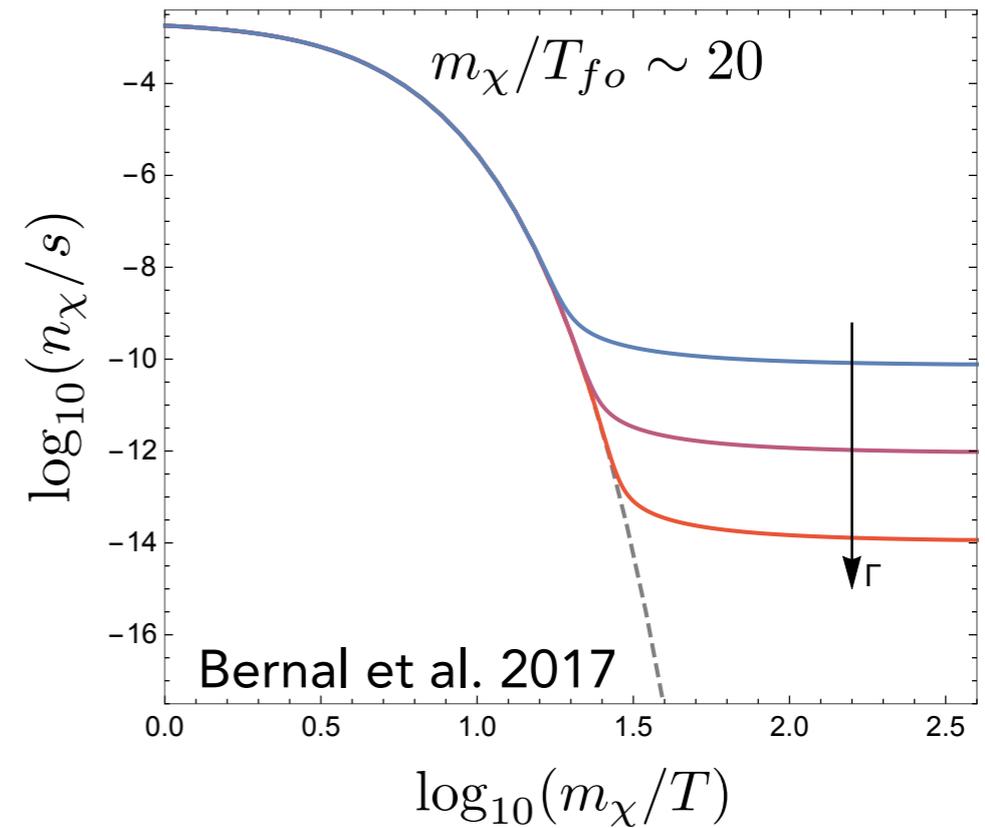


# Relic abundance: freeze out

co-scattering / mediator annihilation



$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim \frac{m_\chi}{T_{fo}} \frac{\text{GeV}^{-1}}{M_P \langle \sigma v \rangle}$$



- number densities in dark sector

$$\frac{n_\eta}{n_\chi} \sim e^{-\frac{\Delta m}{T}} \sim 1$$

- compressed spectrum

$$\frac{\Delta m}{m} \ll 1$$

- observed abundance for

$$g_\chi^2 \sim e^{-\frac{m_\chi}{T}} g_{\text{WIMP}}^2 \ll 1$$

- long-lived mediators

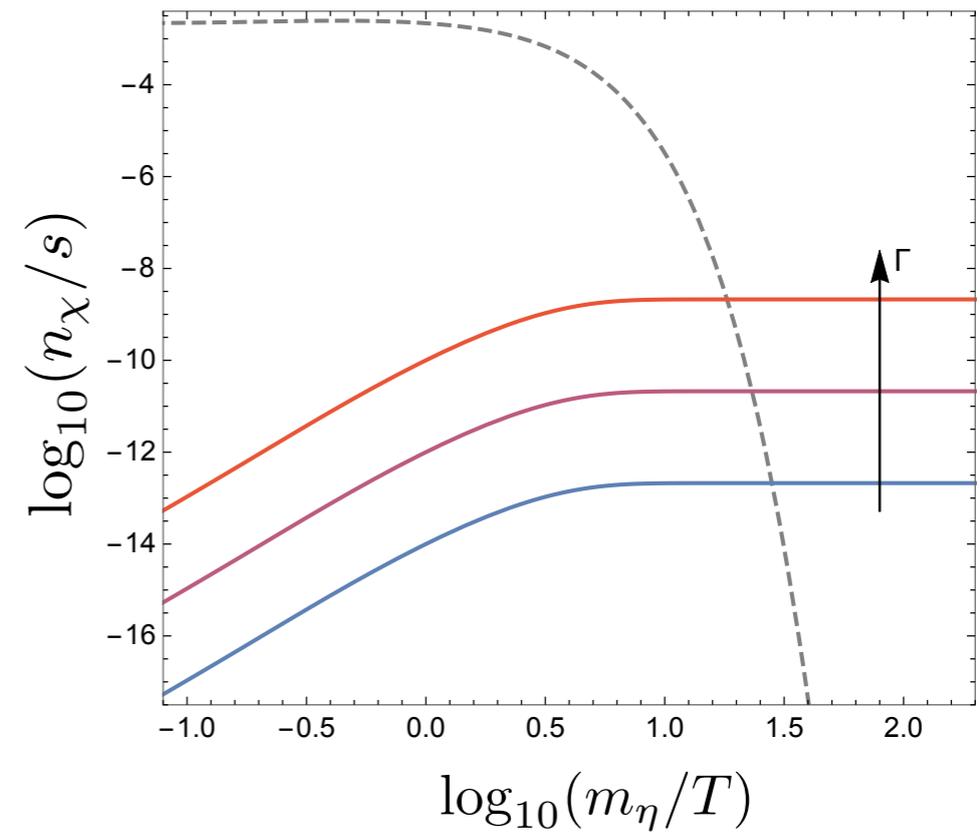
$$c\tau_\eta \sim \frac{1}{g_\chi^2 m_\eta} \left( \frac{m}{\Delta m} \right)^n$$

# Relic abundance: freeze in

mediator decay / scattering



$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim \frac{m_\chi}{\text{GeV}} \frac{M_P \Gamma_\eta}{T_{fi}^2}$$

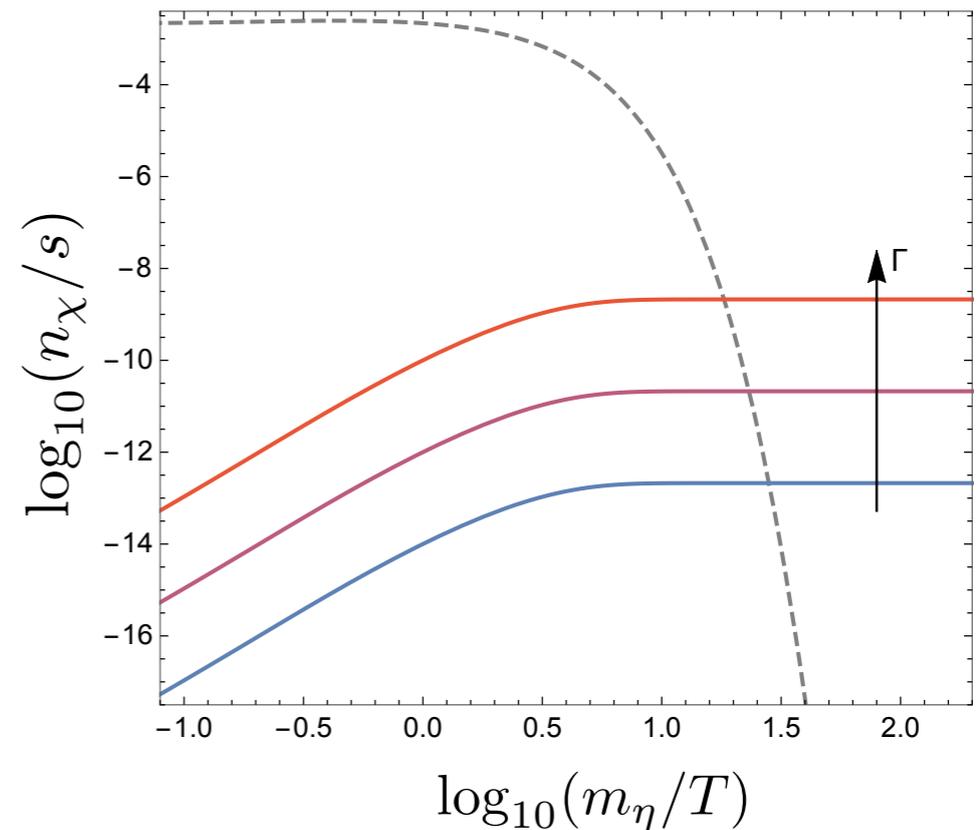


# Relic abundance: freeze in

mediator decay / scattering



$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim \frac{m_\chi}{\text{GeV}} \frac{M_P \Gamma_\eta}{T_{fi}^2}$$



- mediator sets freeze-in time

$$T_{fi} \approx m_\eta/3$$

- dark matter out of equilibrium

$$g_\chi \lesssim 10^{-7}$$

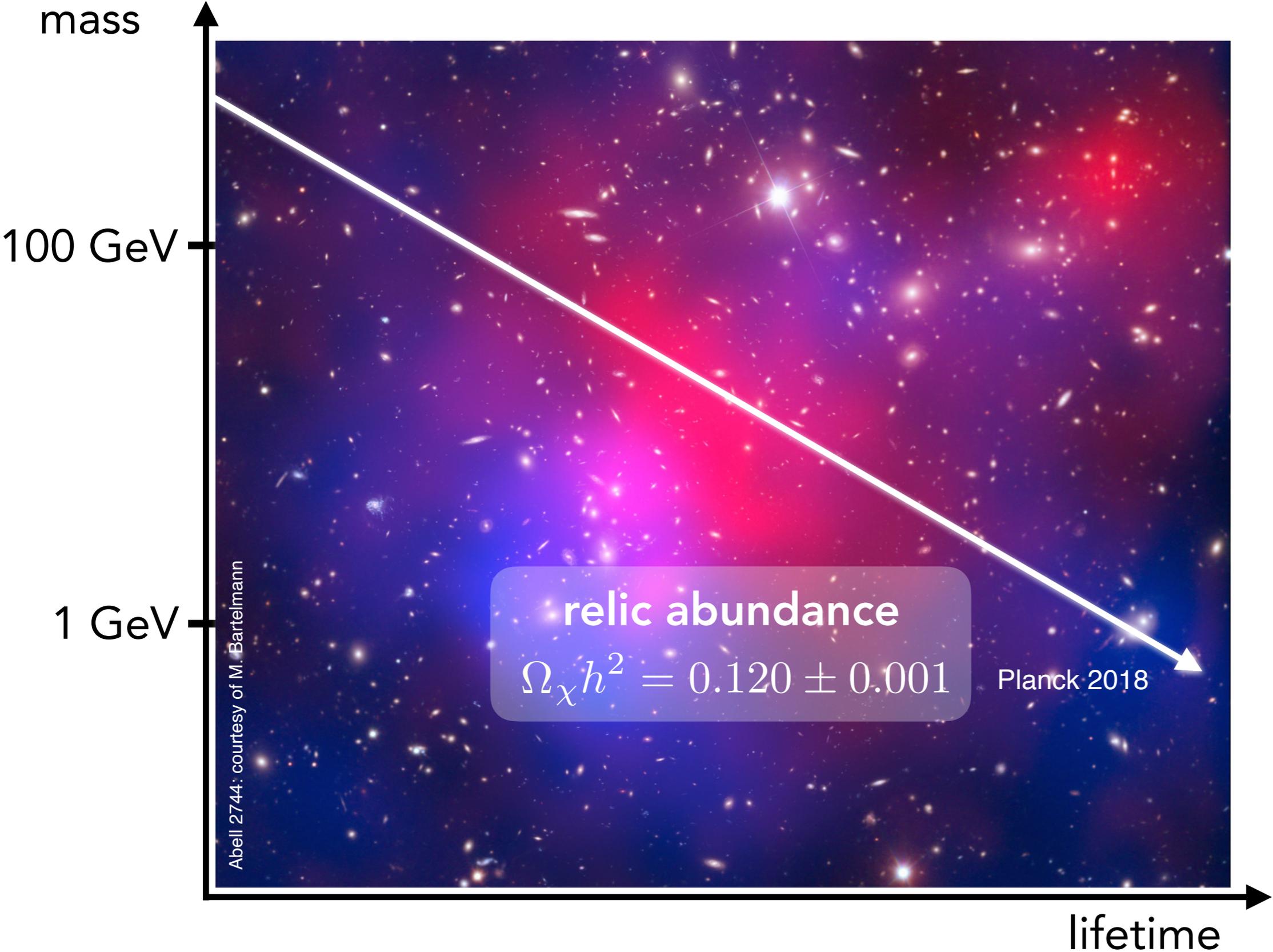
→ split spectrum

$$\frac{m_\eta^2}{m_\chi} \sim 10^9 \text{ GeV}$$

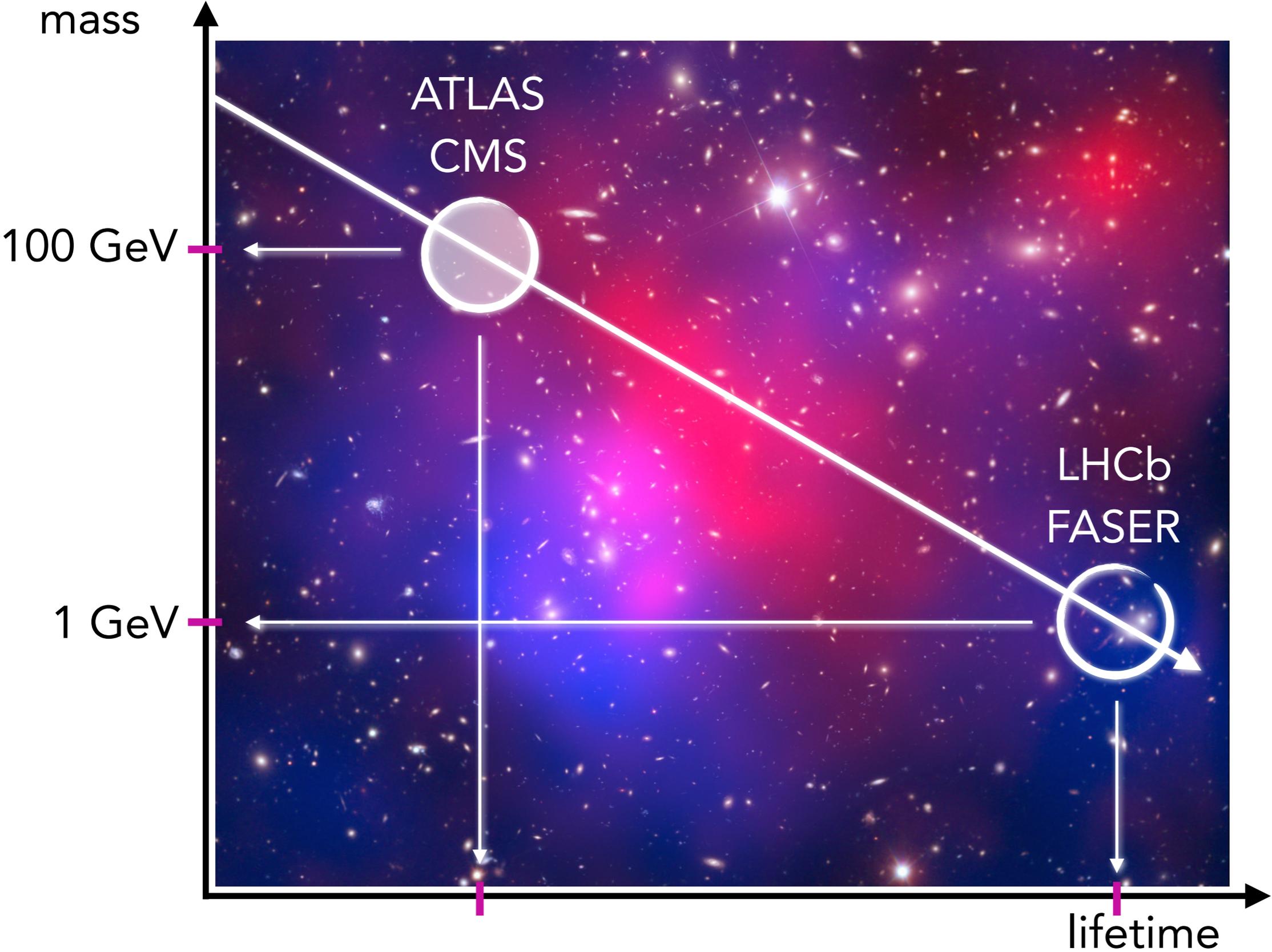
→ long-lived mediators

$$c\tau_\eta \sim \frac{m_\chi}{m_\eta^2}$$

# Dark matter at the LHC



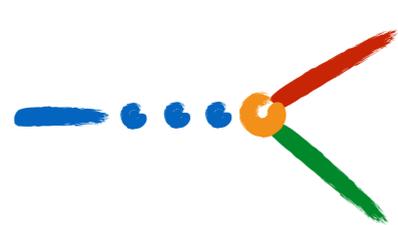
# Dark matter at the LHC



# Weak-scale dark sectors

co-scattering:

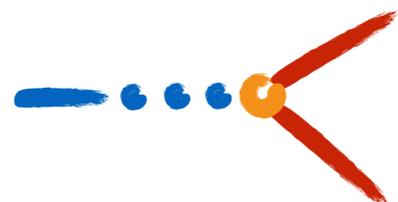
Blekman et al. 2007.03708 (electroweakinos)



$$c\tau_\eta \approx 1 \text{ cm} \left( \frac{6 \times 10^{-5}}{g_\chi} \right)^2 \left( \frac{20 \text{ GeV}}{m_\eta - m_\chi} \right)^5 \left( \frac{m_\eta}{80 \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

freeze-in (radiation era):

No, Tunney, Zaldivar 1908.11387

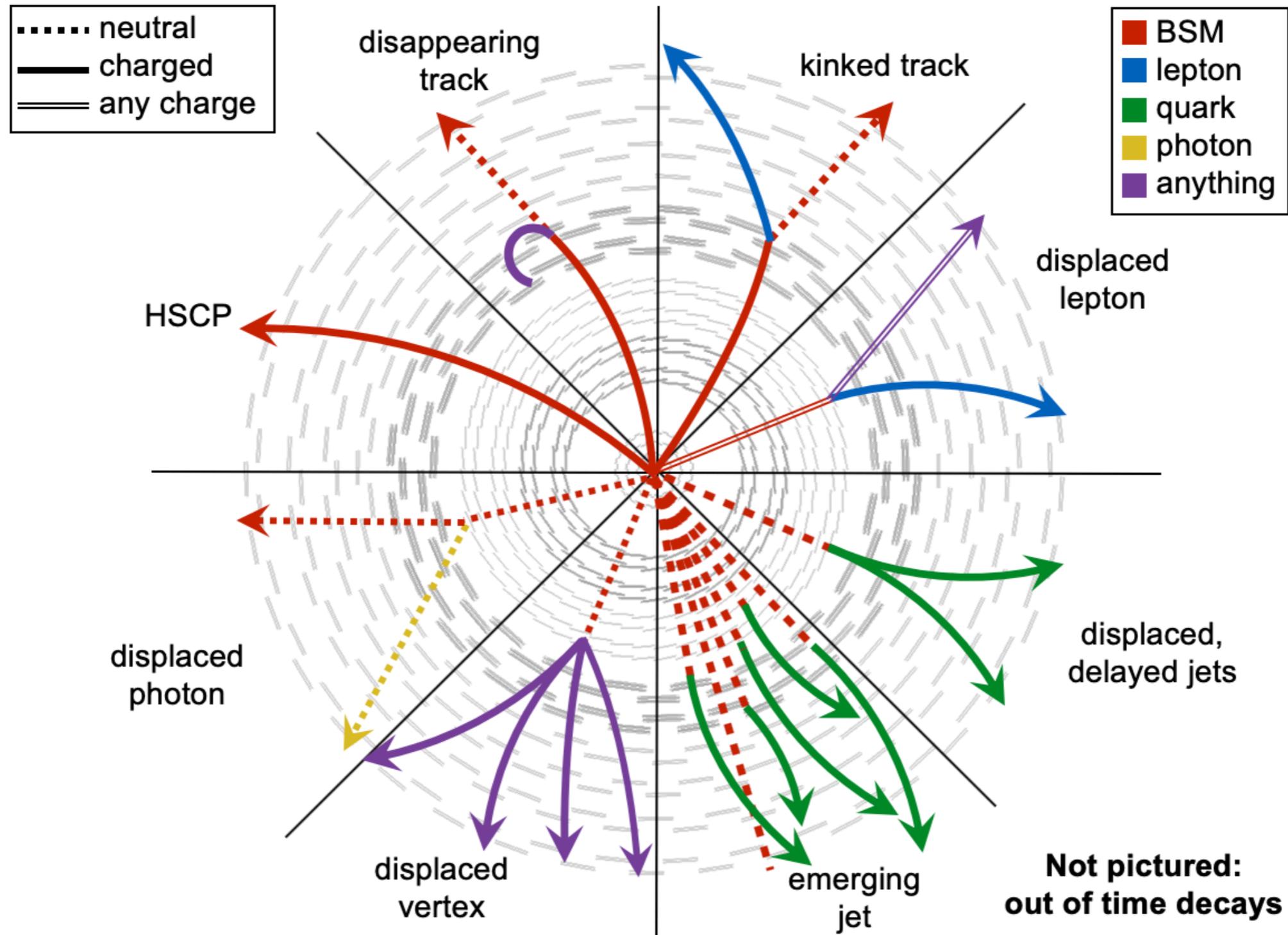


$$c\tau_\eta \approx 3.6 \text{ m} \left( \frac{m_\chi}{100 \text{ keV}} \right) \left( \frac{300 \text{ GeV}}{m_\eta} \right)^2$$

Observable at the LHC:  $200 \mu\text{m} \lesssim d = (\beta\gamma)c\tau_\eta \lesssim 1 \text{ m}$

Mediator lifetimes are in reach at colliders!

# The LLP playground

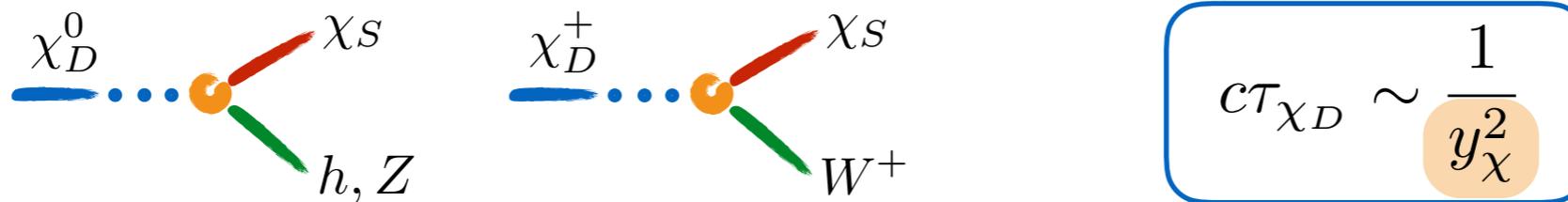


# Dark sectors with weak interactions

- higgsino-bino-like:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{m_S}{2} \bar{\chi}_S \chi_S - \frac{m_D}{2} \bar{\chi}_D \chi_D - y_\chi \bar{\chi}_D H \chi_S + h.c.$$

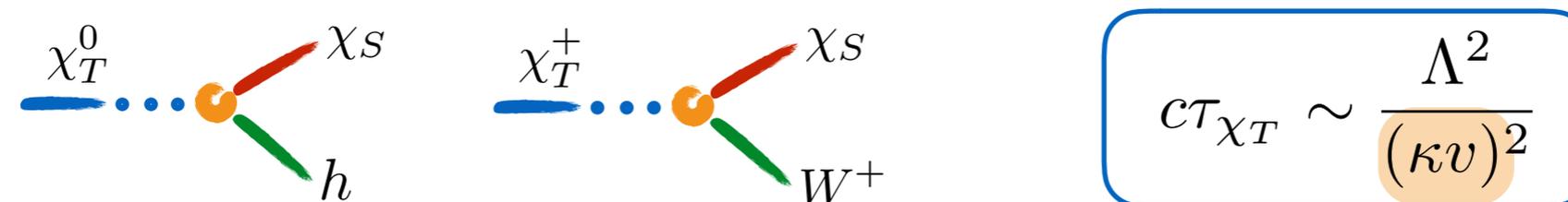
Mediator decays:



- wino-bino-like:

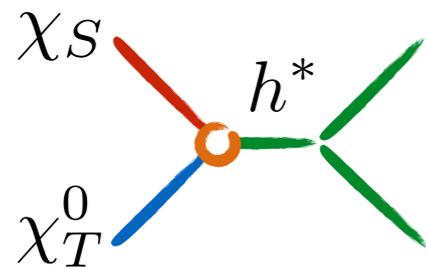
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{m_S}{2} \bar{\chi}_S \chi_S - \frac{m_D}{2} \bar{\chi}_T \chi_T + \frac{\kappa}{\Lambda} (H^\dagger \bar{\chi}_T H) \chi_S + h.c.$$

Mediator decays:

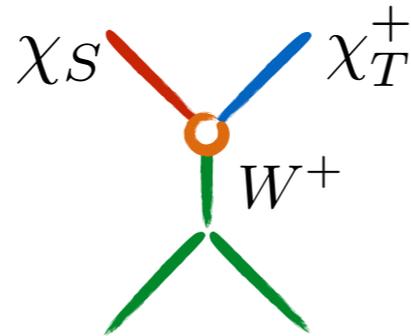


# LHC signatures

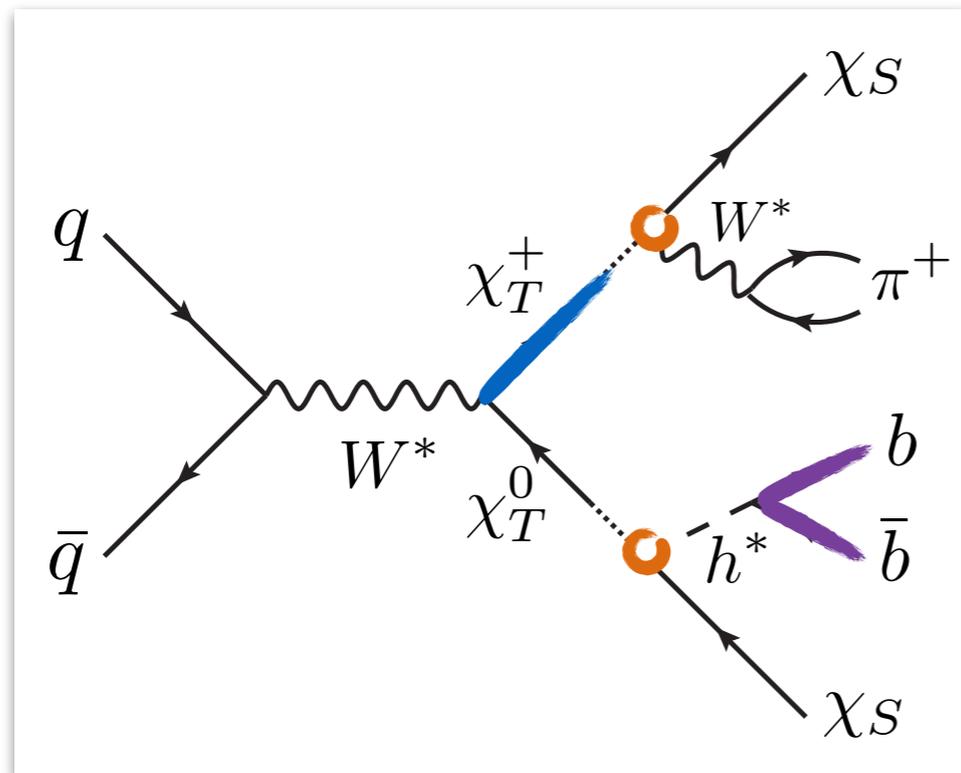
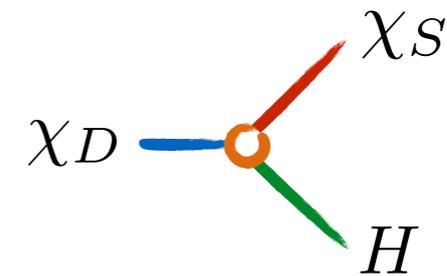
co-annihilation?



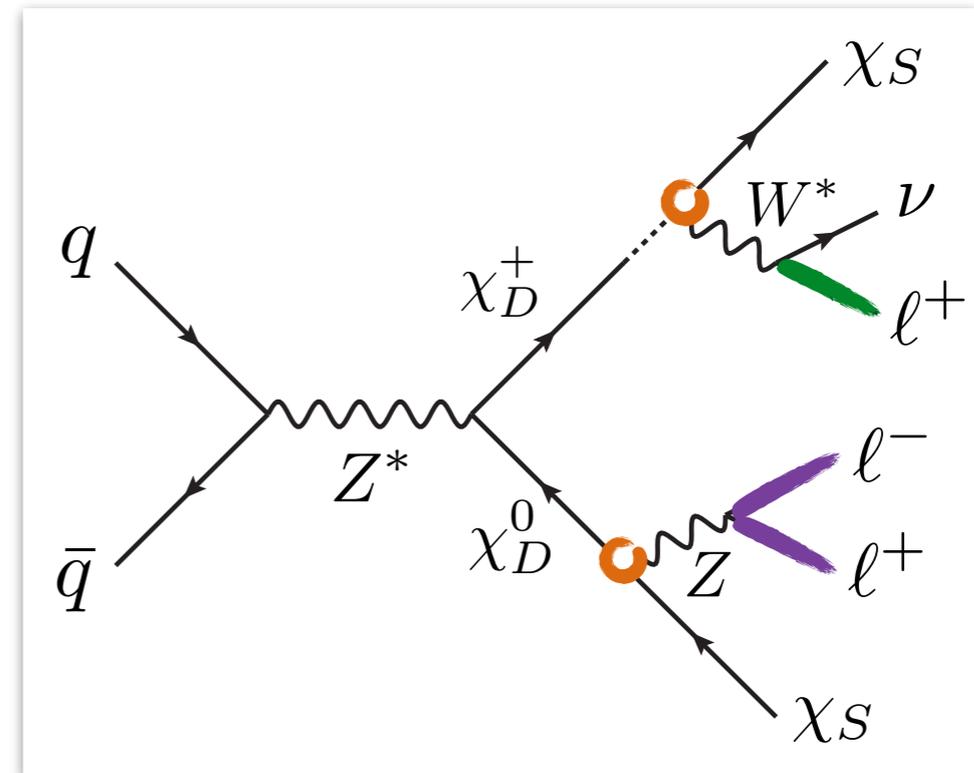
co-scattering?



freeze-in?

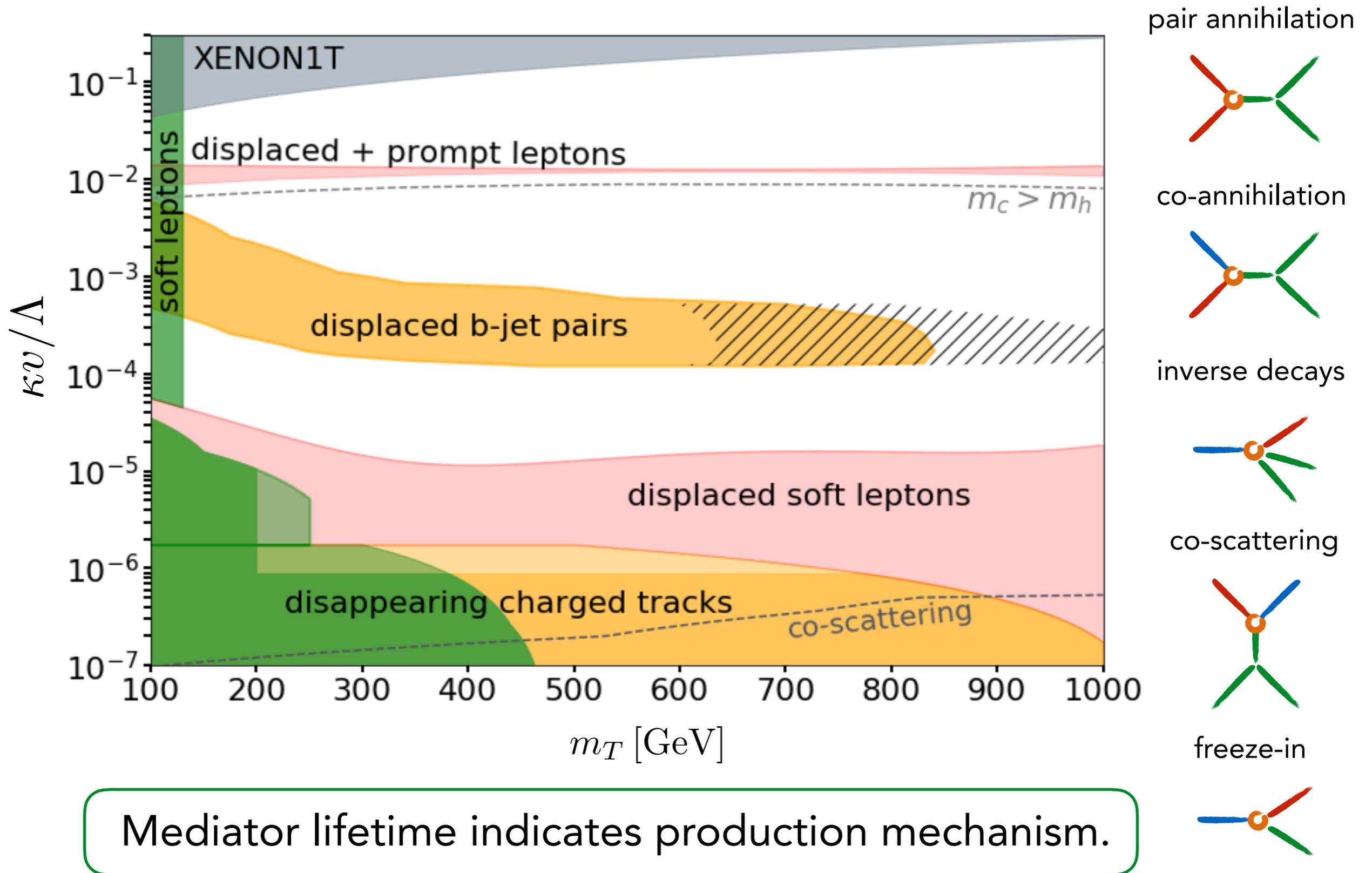


disappearing track / HSCP  
displaced b-jet vertex



displaced soft leptons  
displaced lepton/jet vertex

# Dark matter signals at the LHC

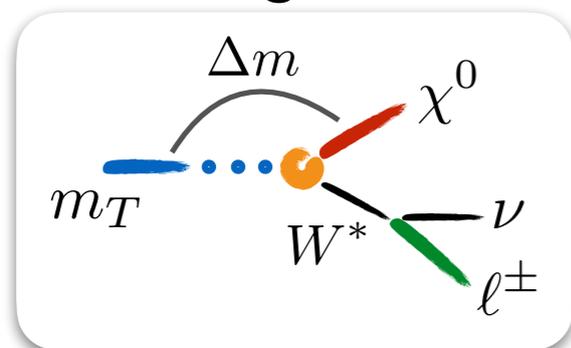


# Co-scattering: soft displaced leptons

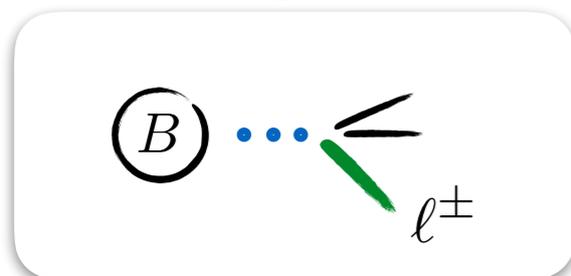
compressed dark sector:  $\frac{\Delta m}{m} \ll 1$

$$p_T^\ell > 40 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow 20 \text{ GeV}$$

signal



background

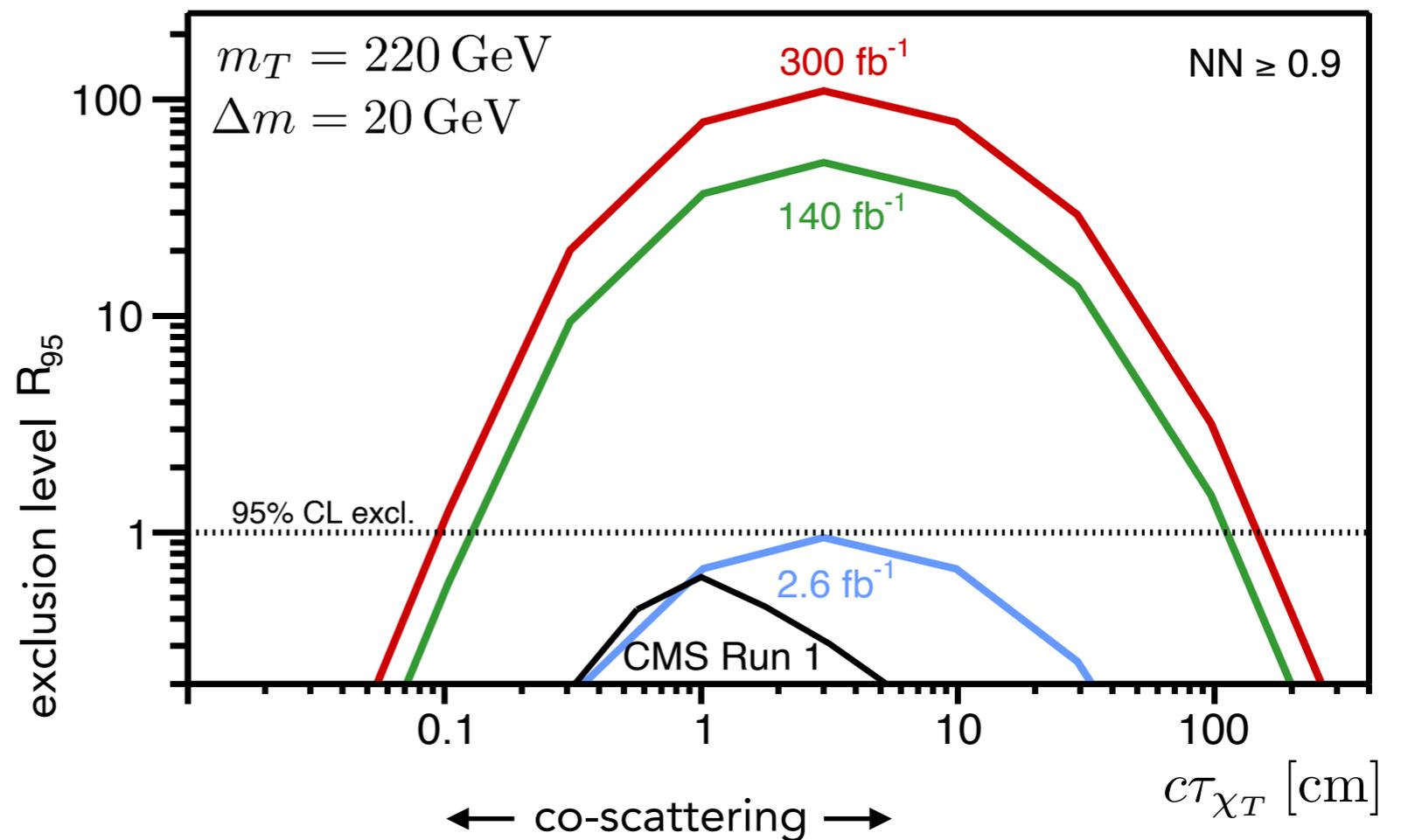
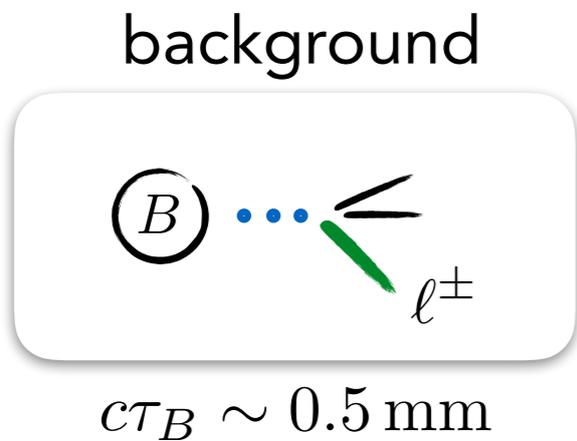
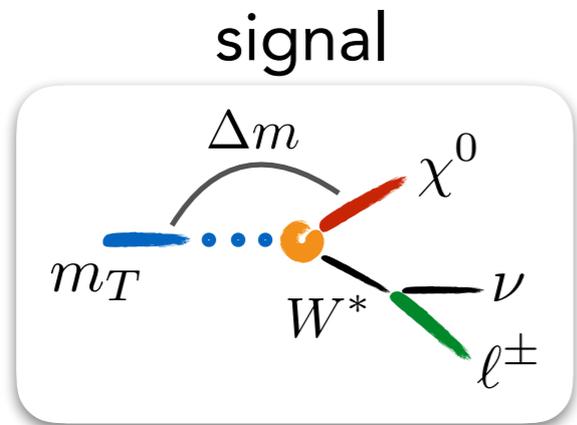


$$c\tau_B \sim 0.5 \text{ mm}$$

# Co-scattering: soft displaced leptons

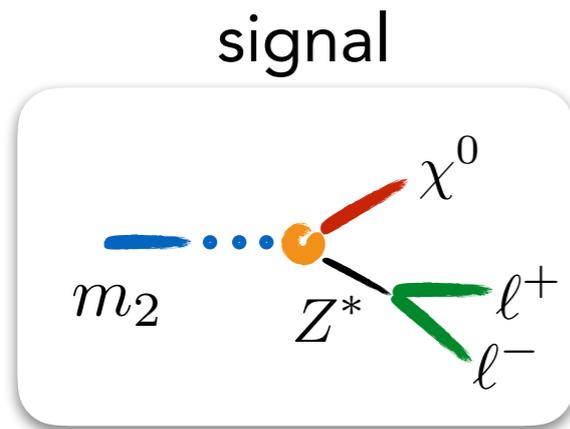
compressed dark sector:  $\frac{\Delta m}{m} \ll 1$

$$p_T^\ell > 40 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow 20 \text{ GeV}$$



Displaced leptons with  $CT_{\chi T} > 2 \text{ mm}$  accessible with Run 2+ data.

# Freeze-in: radiation era



relic abundance:

$$\frac{m_2^2}{m_\chi} \sim 10^9 \text{ GeV}$$

structure formation:

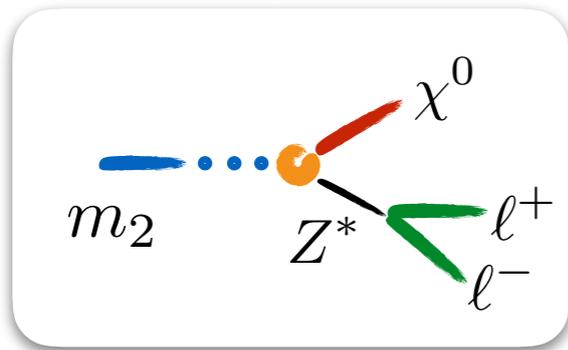
$$m_\chi \gtrsim 10 \text{ keV}$$

Boulebnane et al. 1709.07283

Ballesteros et al. 2011.13458

# Freeze-in: radiation era

signal



relic abundance:

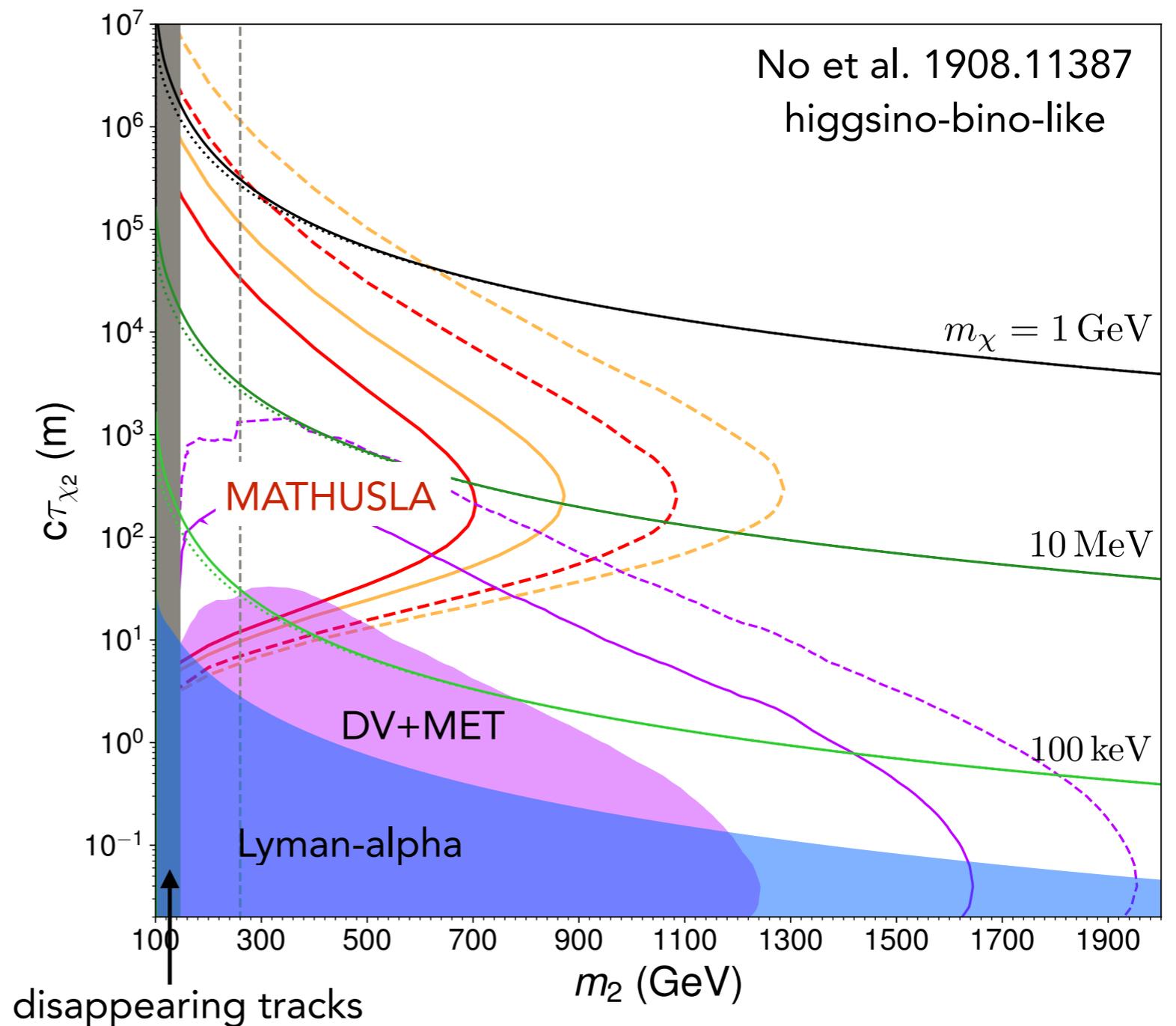
$$\frac{m_2^2}{m_\chi} \sim 10^9 \text{ GeV}$$

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Boulebnane et al. 1709.07283

Ballesteros et al. 2011.13458



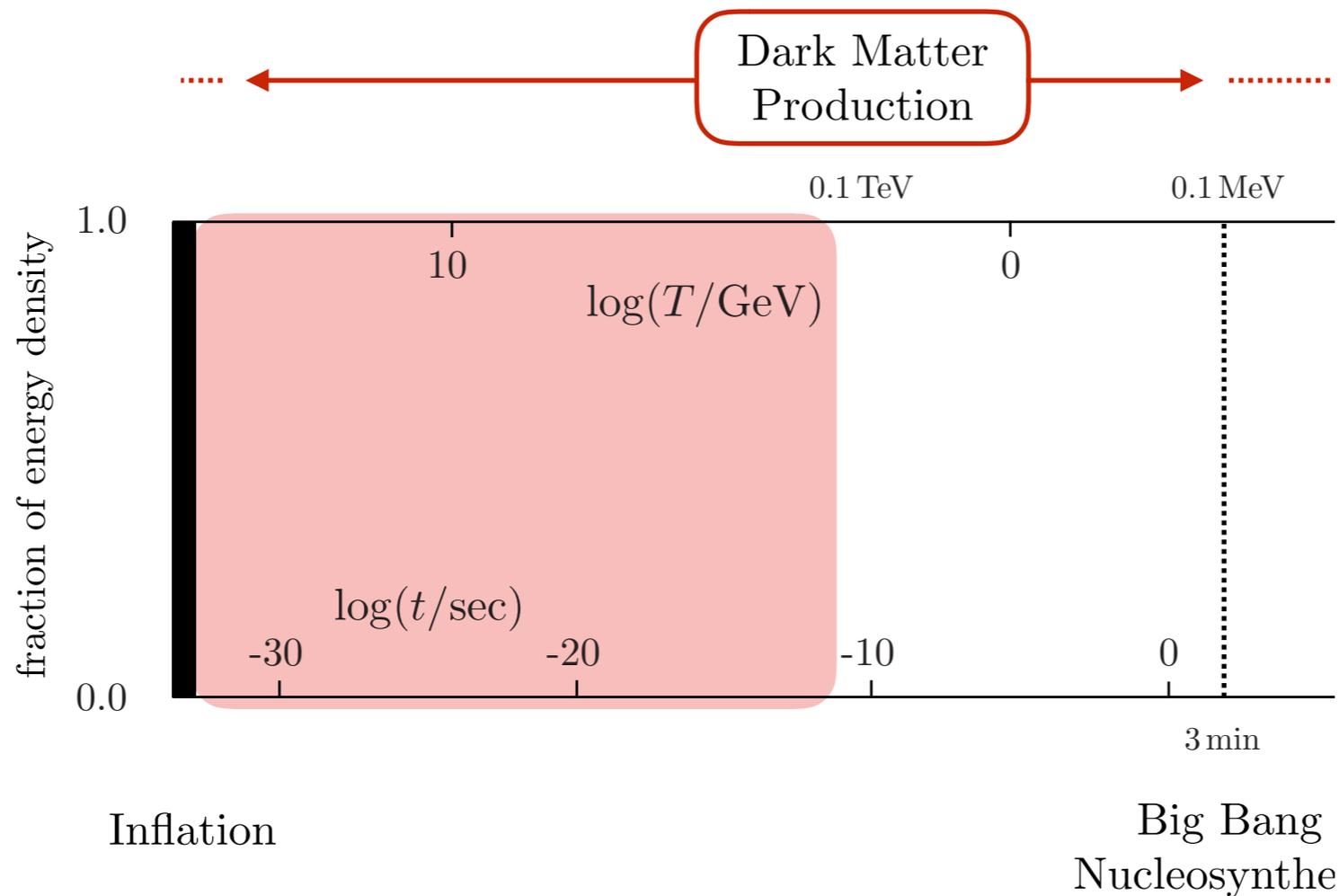
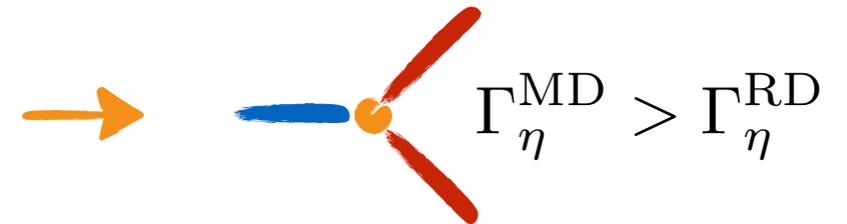
(Sub-) MeV dark matter from freeze-in is within LHC reach.

# Freeze-in: early matter dominance

less efficient:

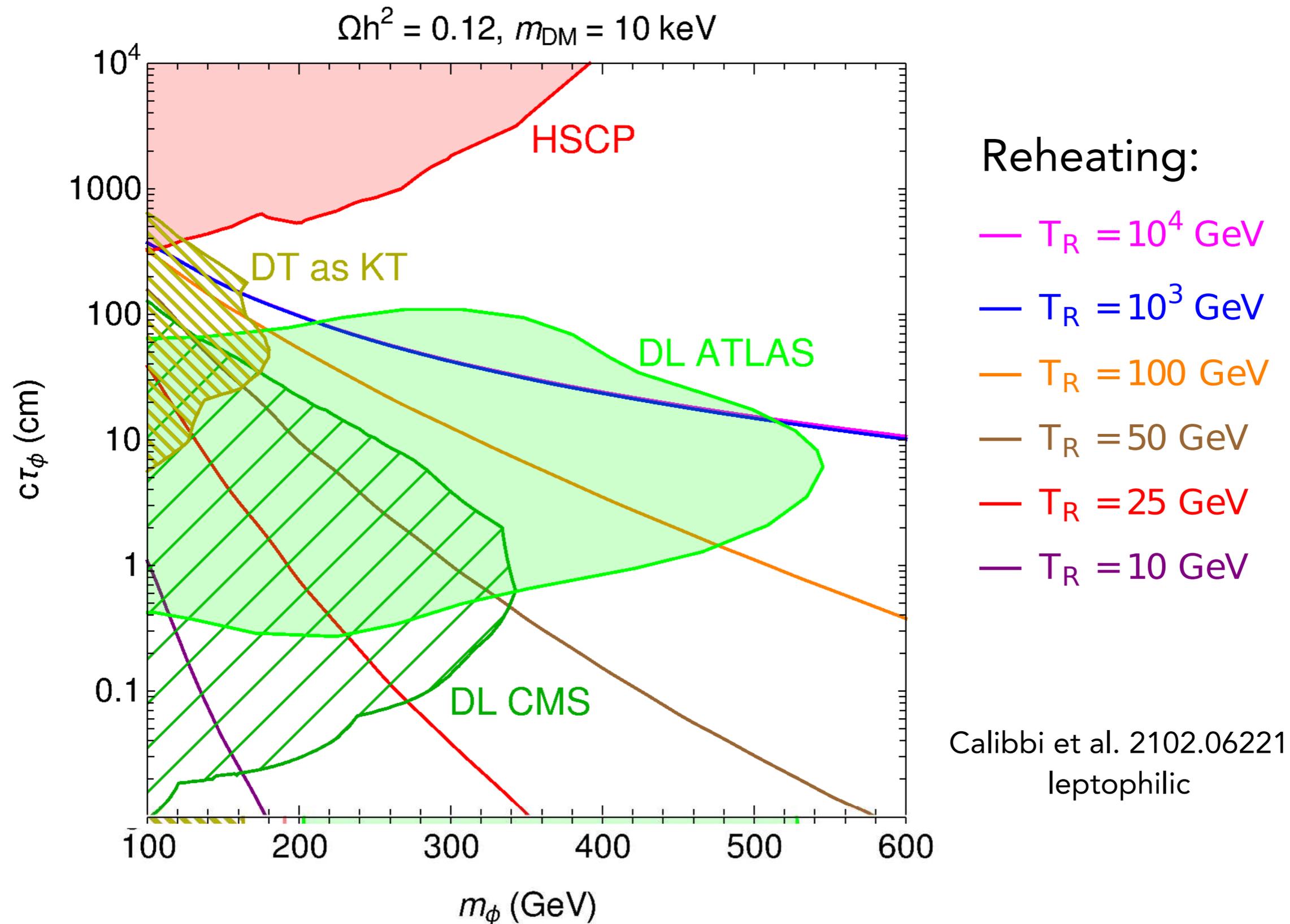
Co et al. 1506.07532

$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim \left( \frac{T_R}{m_\eta} \right)^7 \frac{m_\chi}{\text{GeV}} \frac{M_P \Gamma_\eta}{m_\eta^2}$$



Mediators have shorter lifetimes than in radiation era freeze-in.

# Freeze-in: early matter domination



# Opportunities for ATLAS and CMS

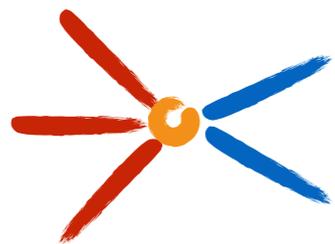
## Co-scattering: soft displaced particles

- dedicated LLP triggers → LLP WG white paper
- flavor tagging for LLPs

## Freeze-in: long lifetimes

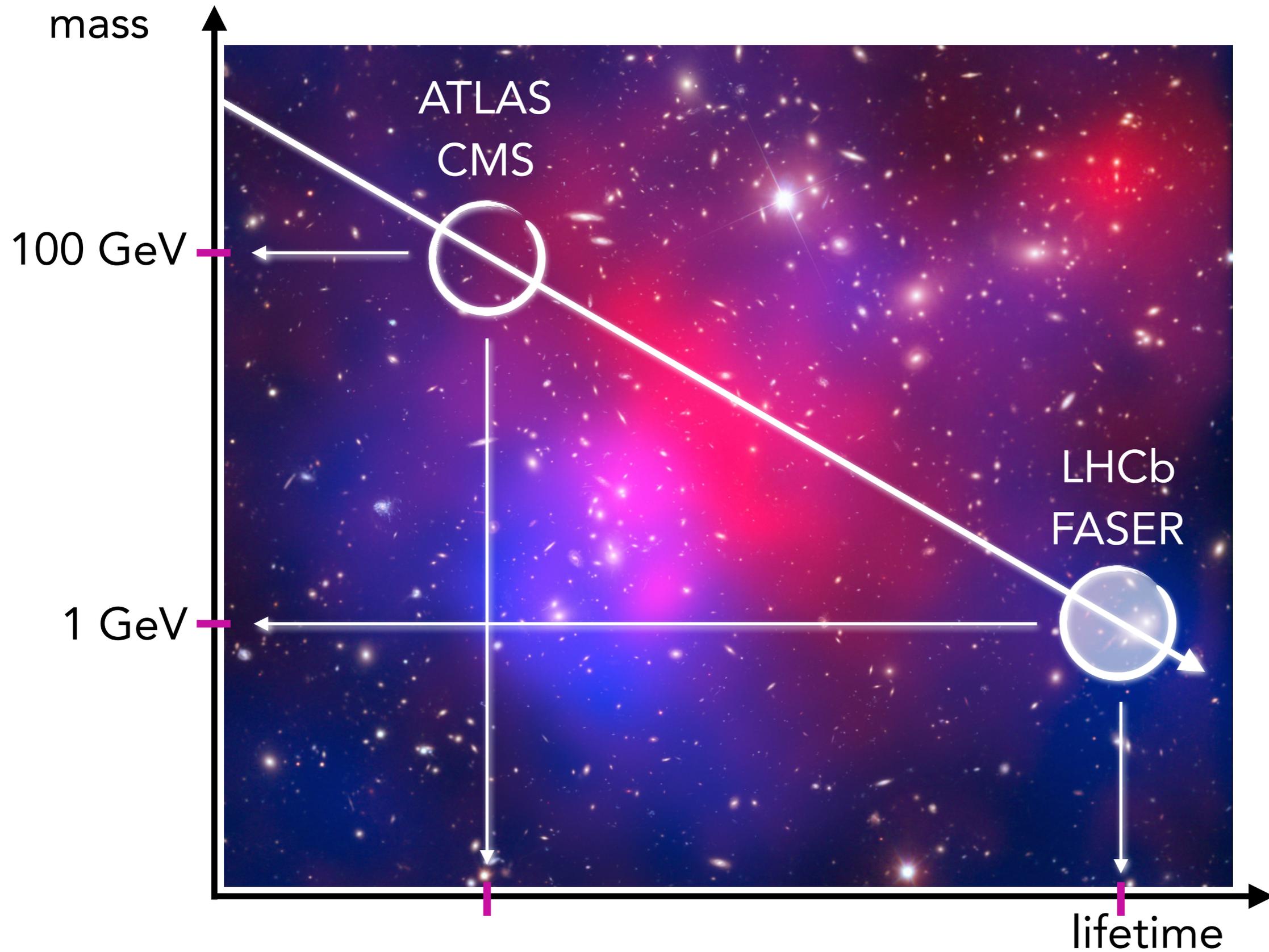
- LLP searches in muon chamber
- synergy with FASER + future far-distance detectors

## Self interactions:



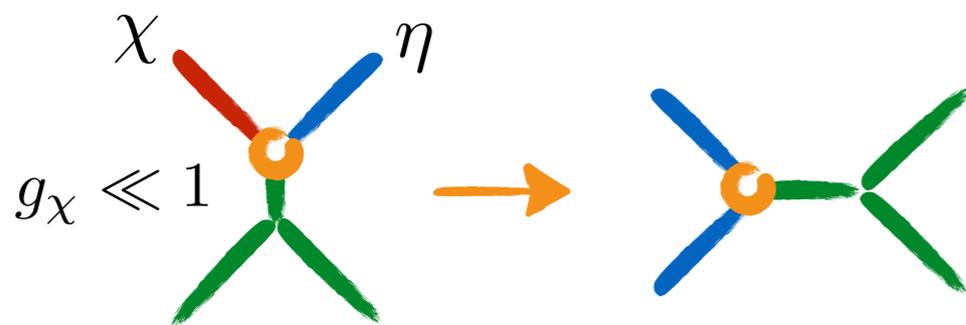
- strong interactions → dark showers

# New WIMPs across the scales



# GeV-scale dark matter production

**Co-scattering:** not tied to a mass scale

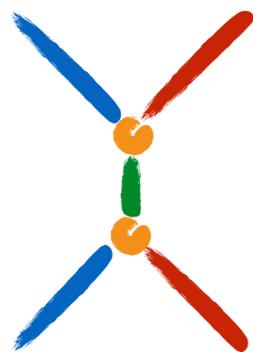


*relative number densities*

$$\frac{n_\eta}{n_\chi} \sim e^{-\frac{\Delta m}{T}} \sim 1$$

$$\frac{\Delta m}{m} \ll 1$$

**Freeze-in:** scattering, annihilation, or decays of heavy particles

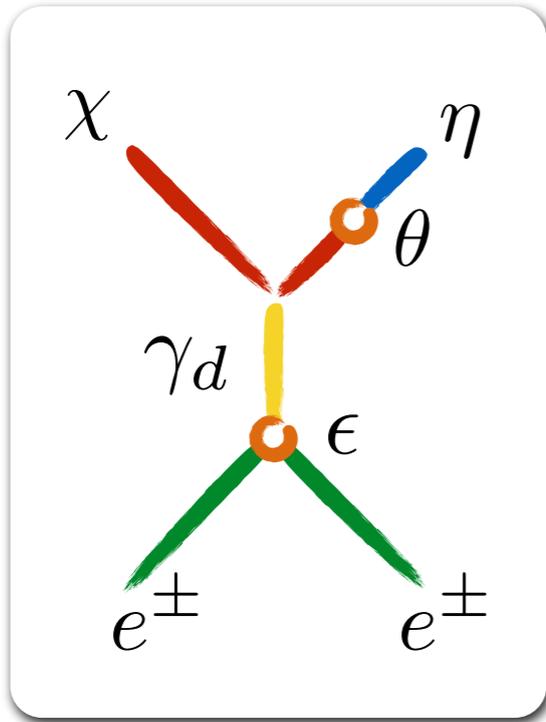


$$\Omega_\chi h^2 \sim m_\chi \int_{T_R}^{T_0} dT \frac{dY_\chi}{dT}$$

e.g. Hambye et al. 1908.09864

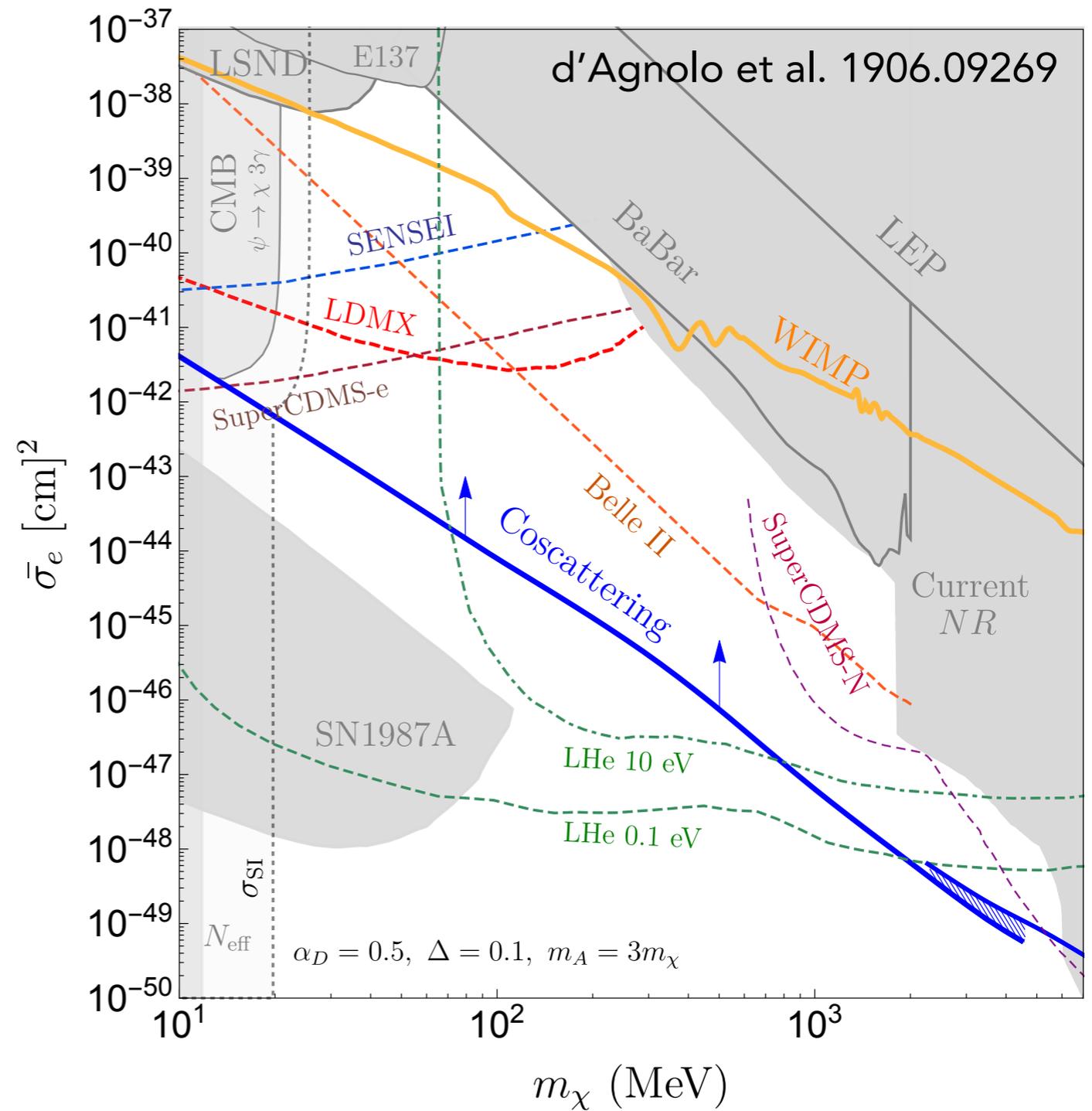
Belanger et al. 2005.06294

# Co-scattering around the GeV scale



$\theta \sim 0.01$  : scalar mixing

$\epsilon \sim 10^{-4}$  : kinetic mixing

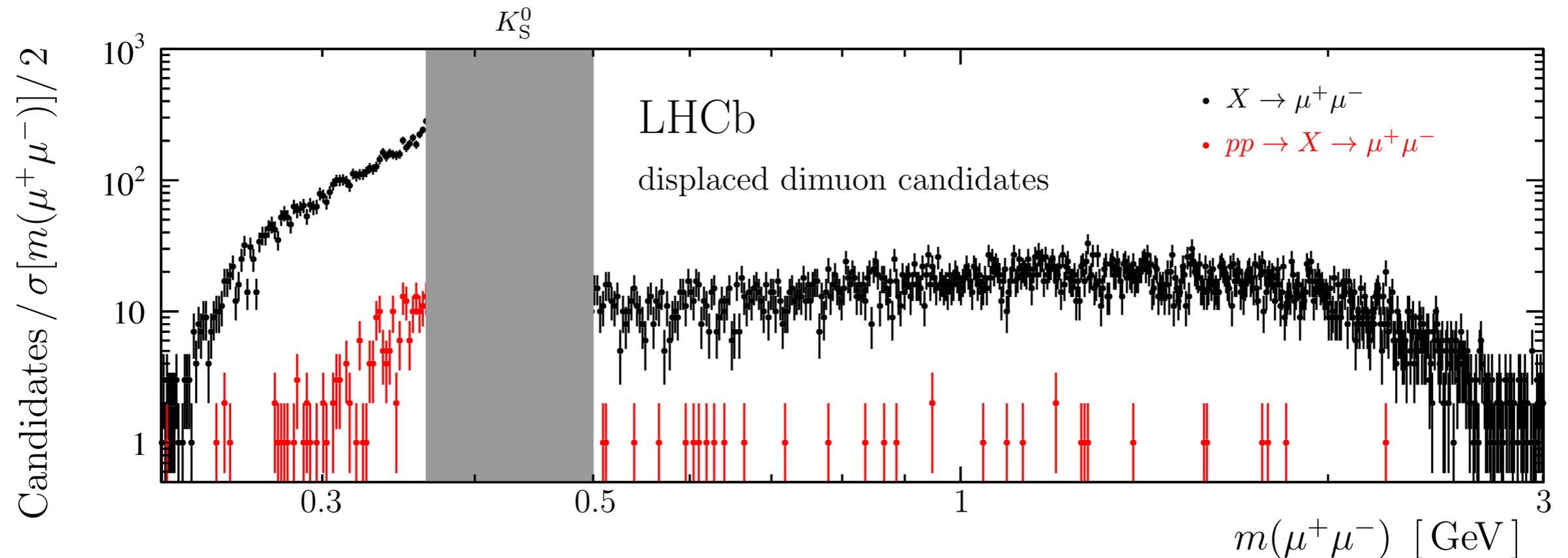


Where is LHCb?

# Opportunities for LHCb

Model-independent search for displaced muons

LHCb 2007.03923



Explore LHCb's potential for LLP searches:  white paper

- excellent vertex reconstruction and mass resolution
- downstream tracks: long lifetimes

# Summary

Long-lived particles are sensitive probes of dark matter.

Predictions from early-universe dynamics:

- small couplings → long-lived mediators
- compressed spectra → soft decay products

Explore LHC's full potential to discover LLPs:

- dedicated LLP triggers
- timing information
- complementarity of ATLAS, CMS / LHCb / FASER

Learn from connections:

- Belle II, fixed-target, neutrino experiments
- direct detection (electron scattering)
- astrophysics (structure formation)

**Thank you for discussions!**  
Freya Blekman, Martino Borsato  
Nishita Desai, Laura Lopez-Honorez  
Sam Junius, Alberto Mariotti.