



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



# Directional dark matter detection

Ciaran O'Hare  
University of Sydney





Directional dark matter detection

**Direct dark matter detection**



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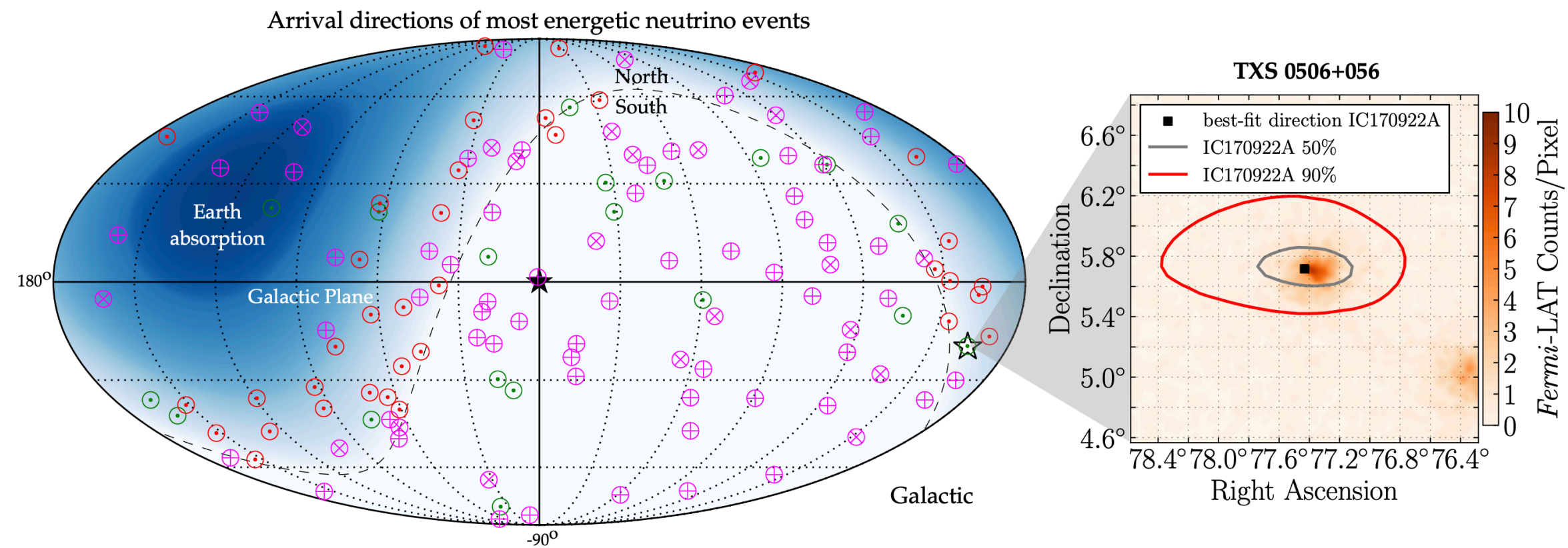
**Direct dark matter detection**



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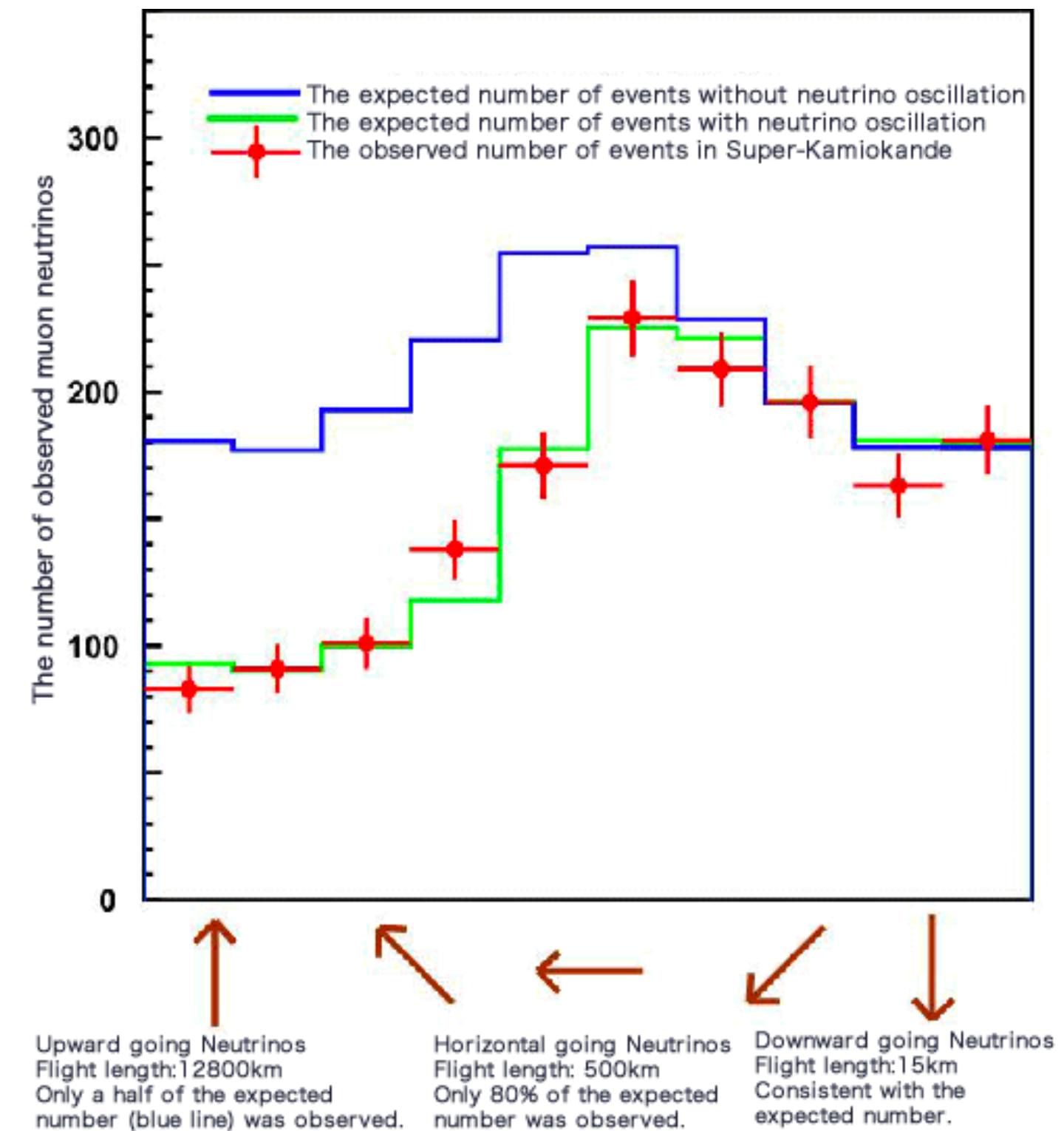
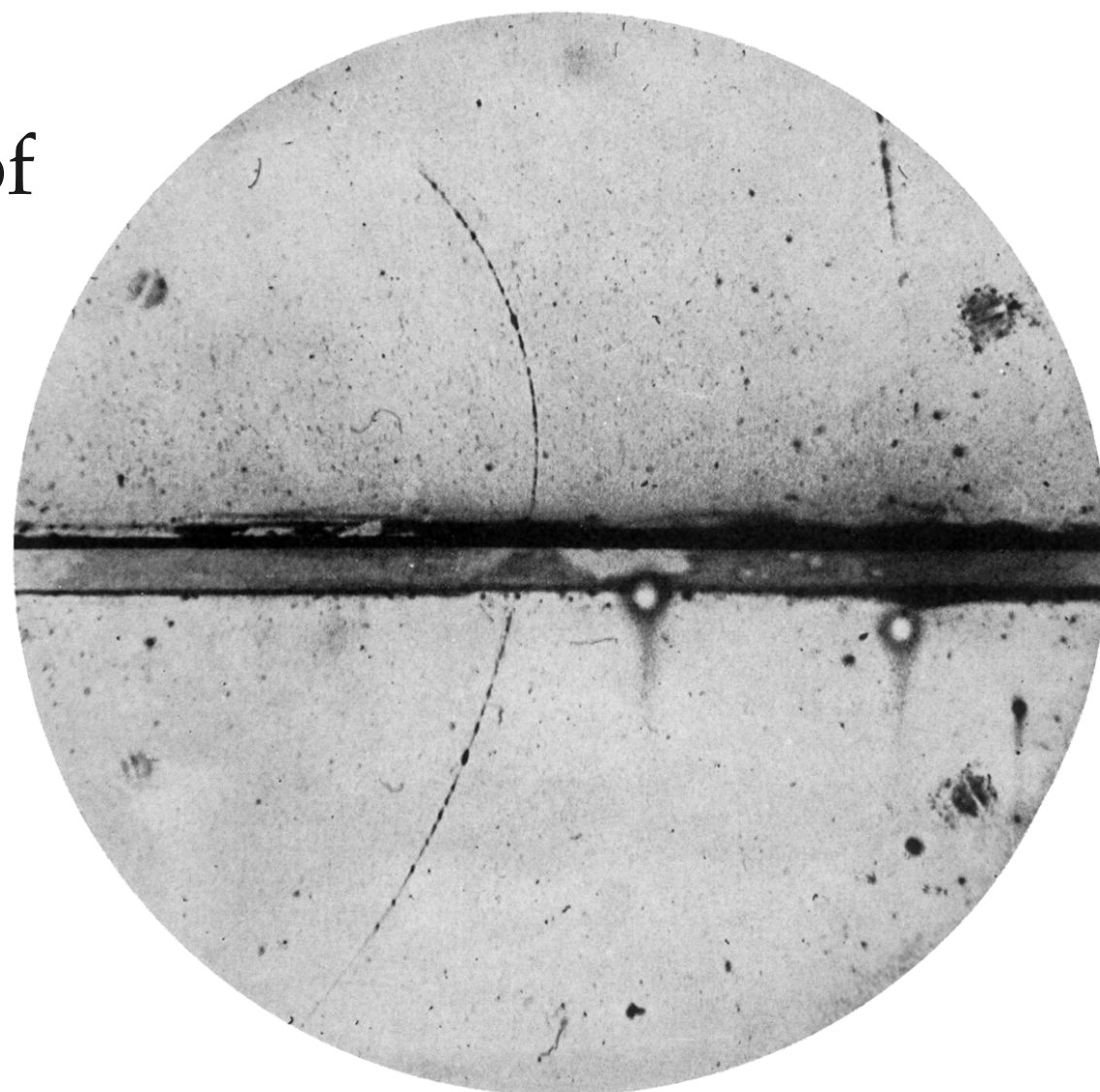
**Basic message: detecting the directions of dark matter particles is a good thing to try and do, regardless of which dark matter particle you're searching for**

# Obvious fact: Detecting particle directions is useful

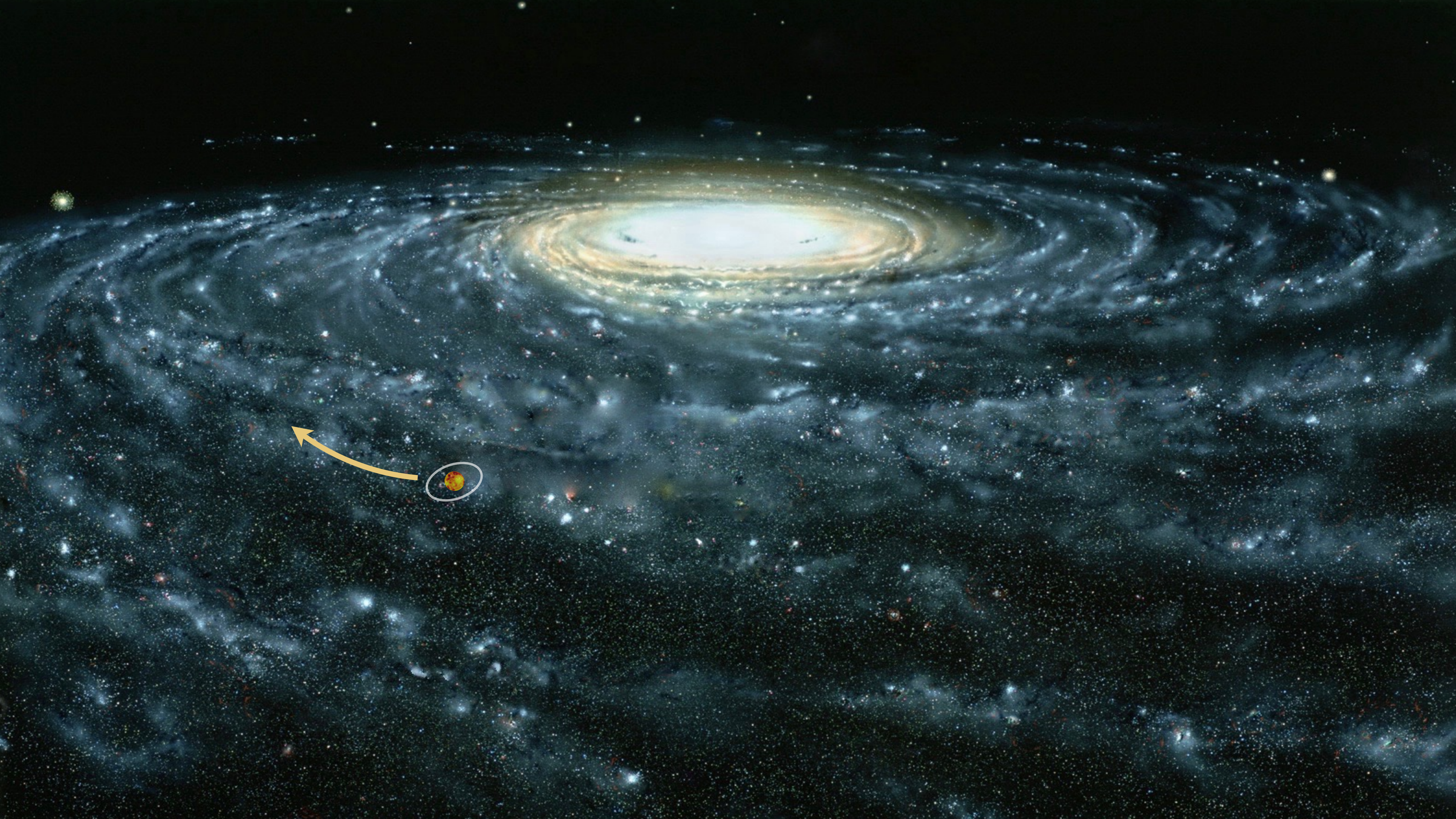


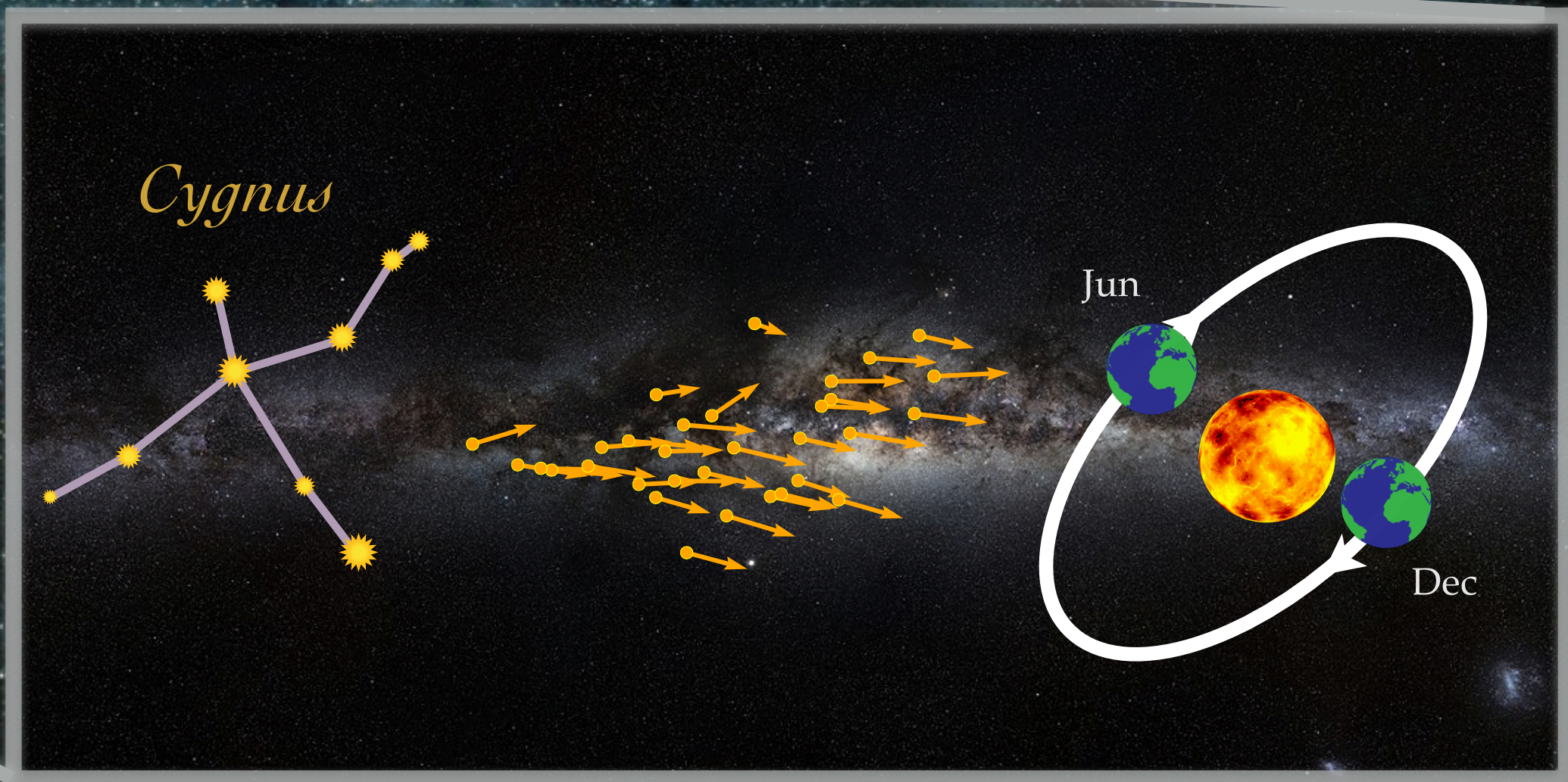
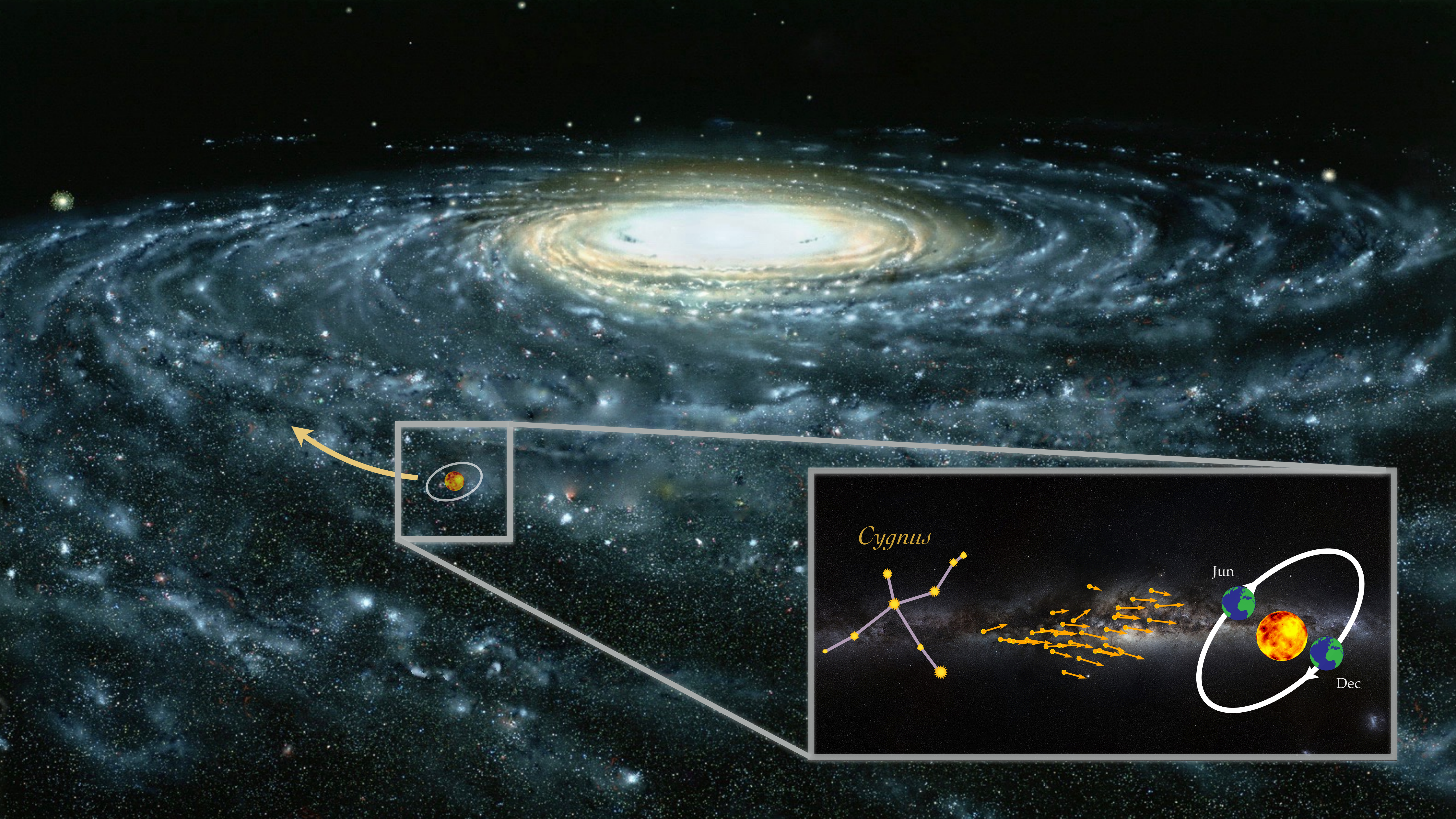
IceCube high energy  $\nu$  sky  
1911.02561

Discovery of  
positron

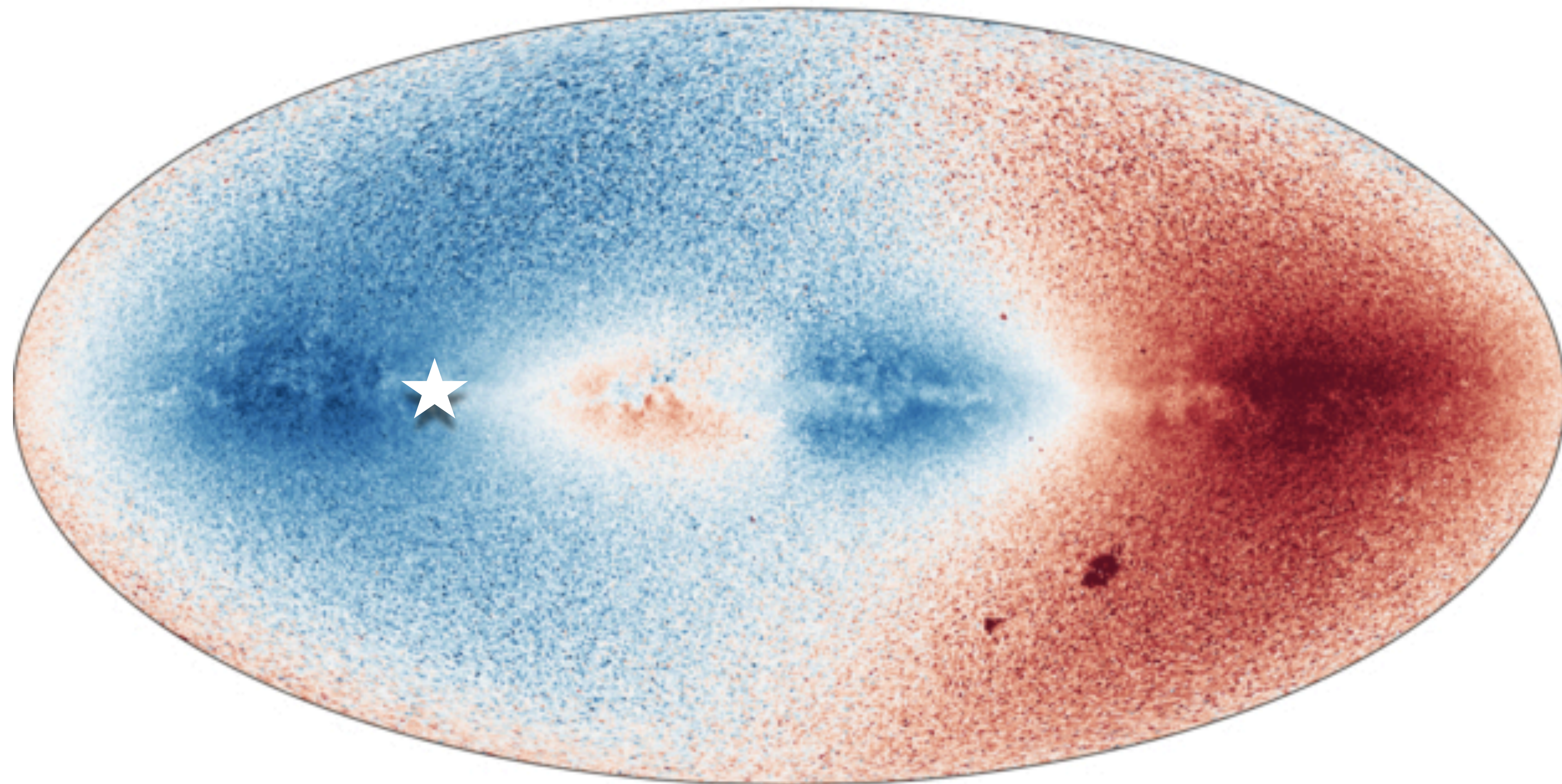


Atmospheric  $\nu_\mu$   
(Super-K)





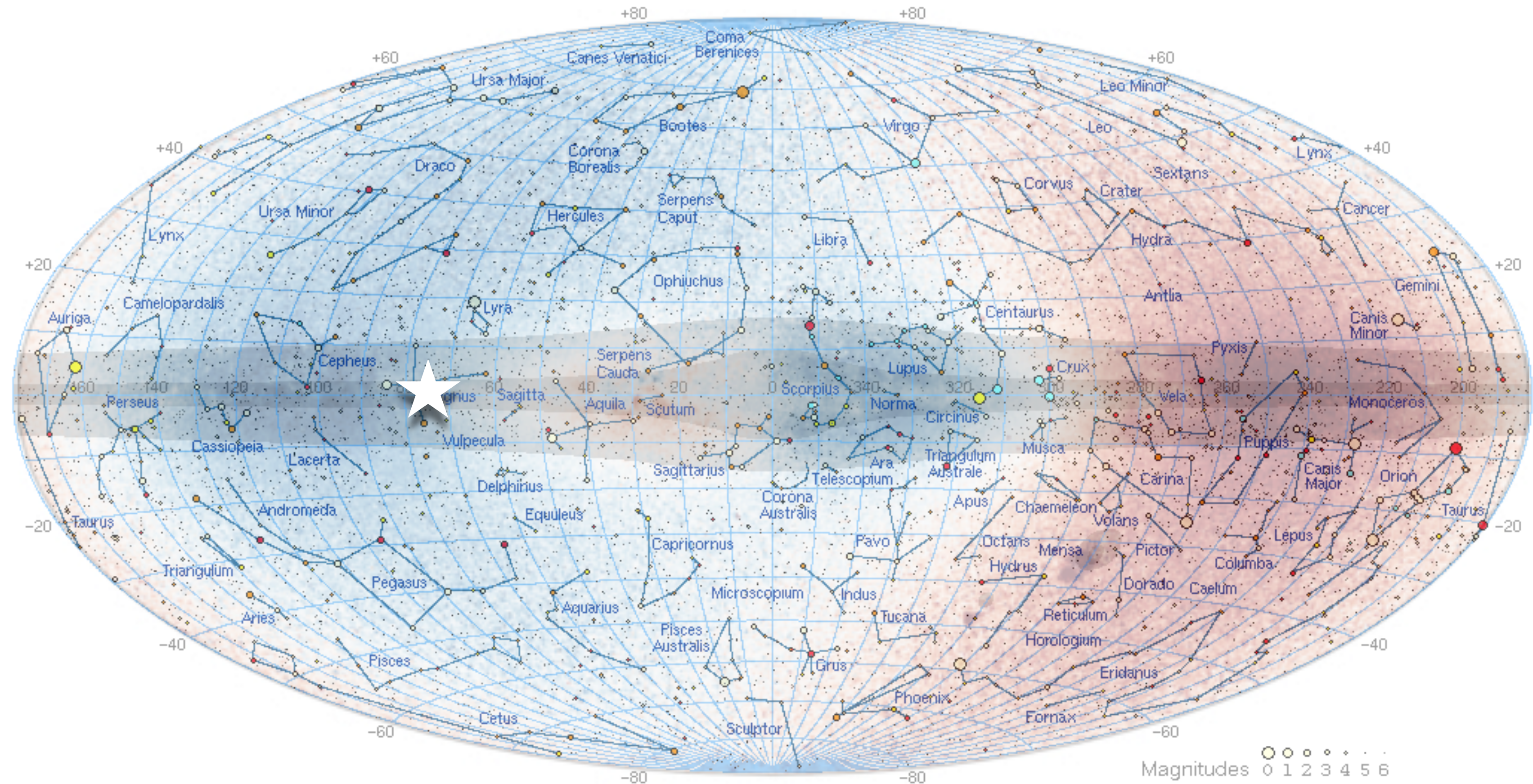




*Gaia* RVS skymap of line of sight velocities

Blue = moving towards us (relatively)

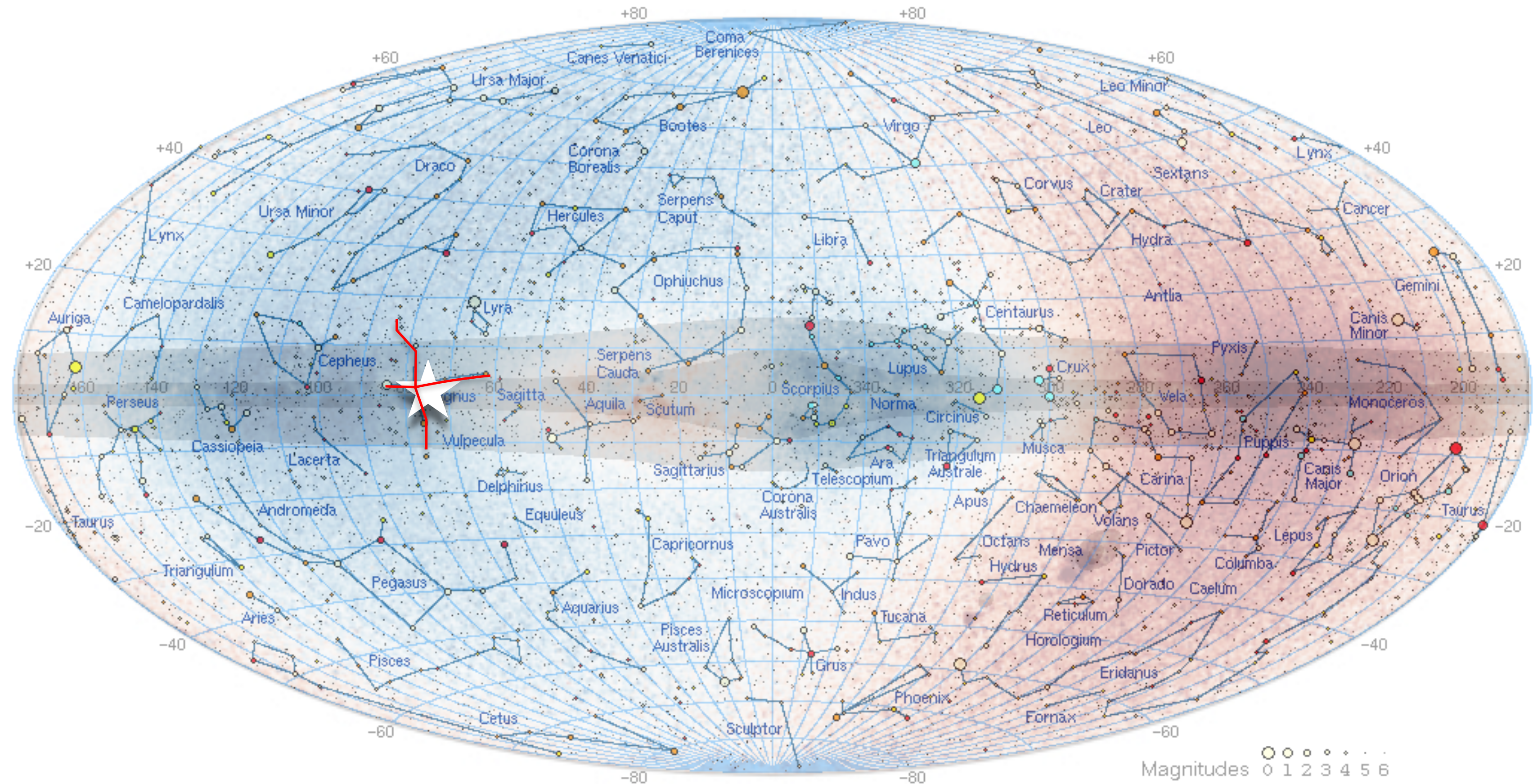
Red = moving away from us



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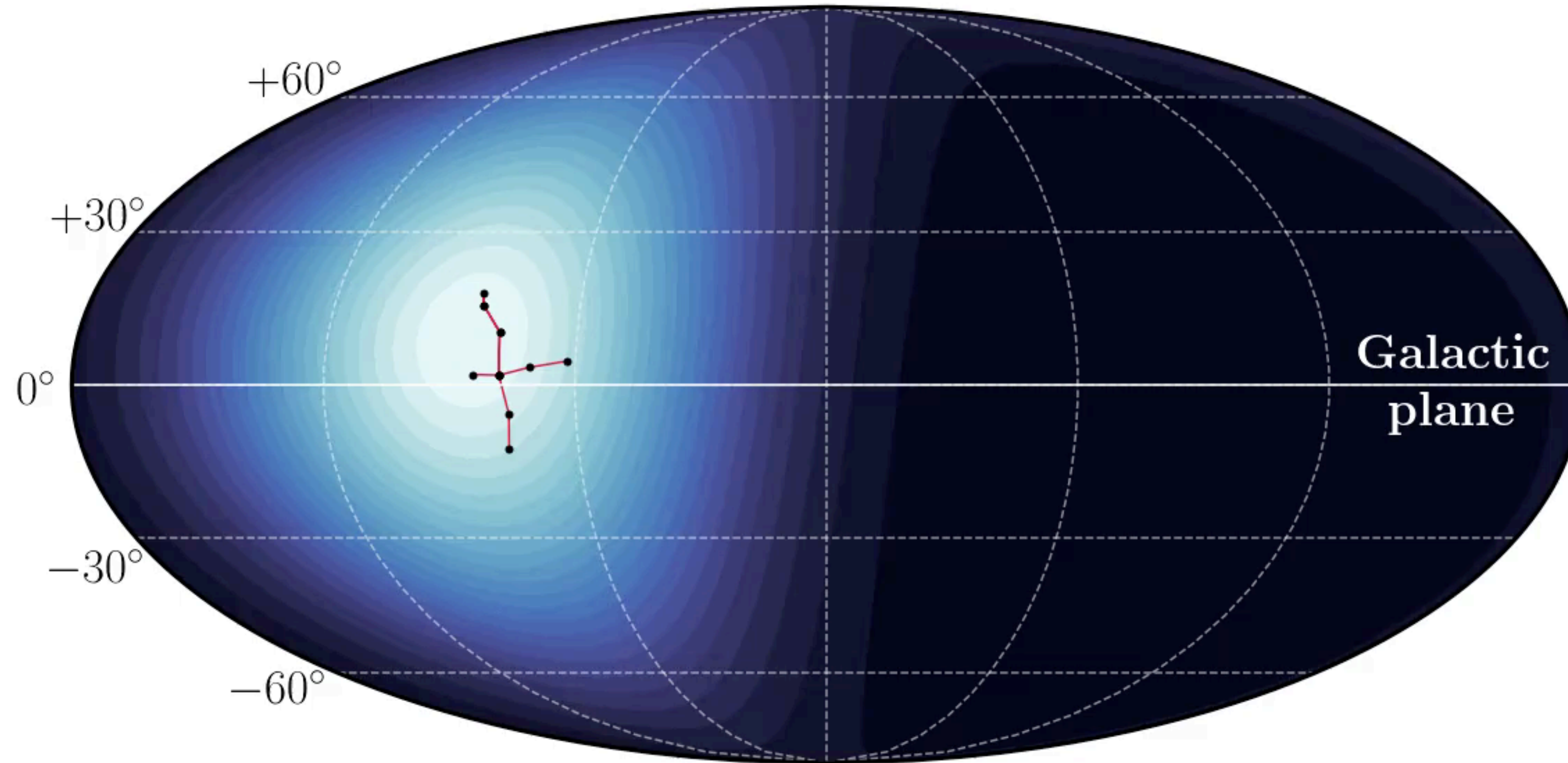
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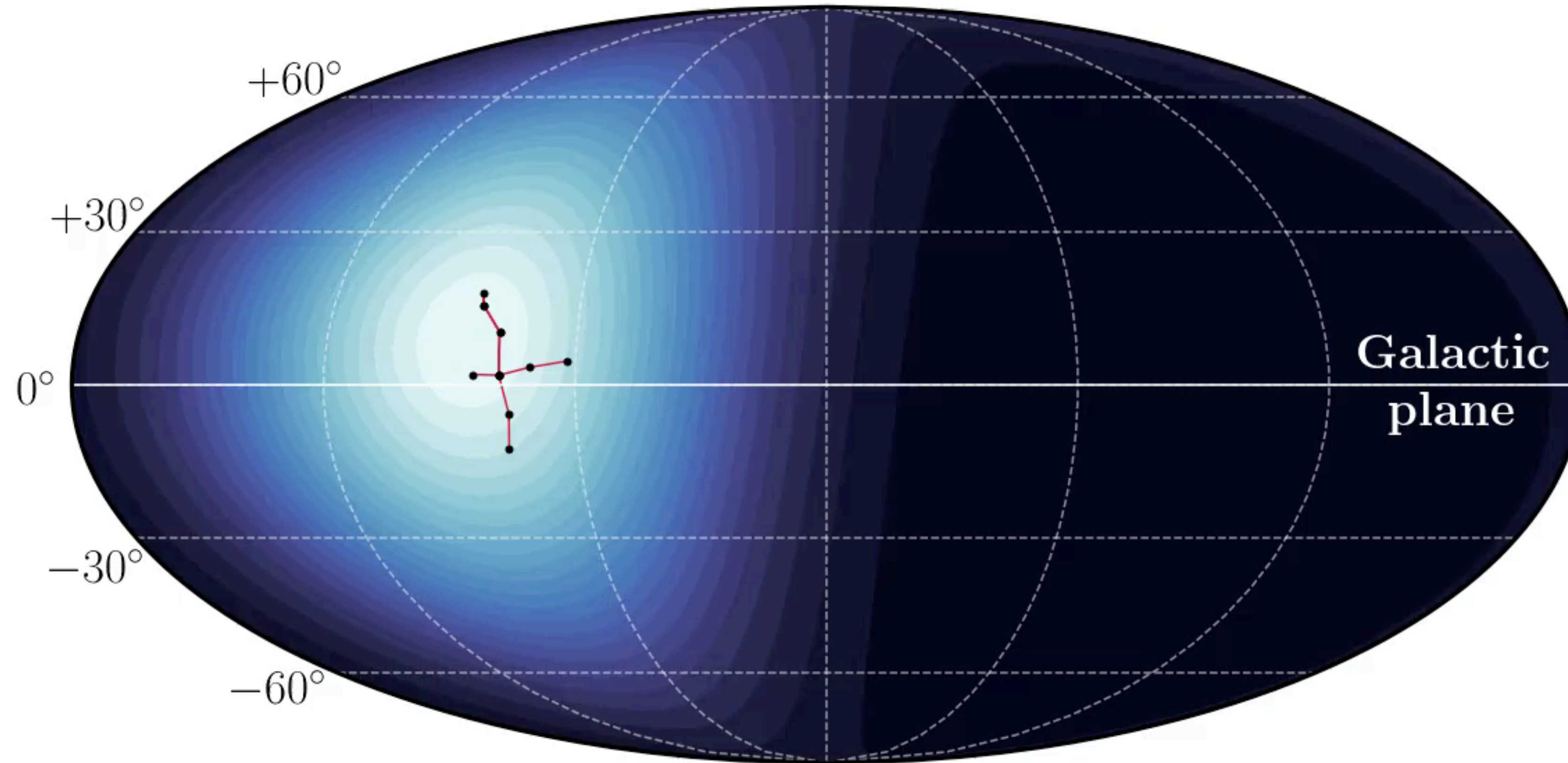
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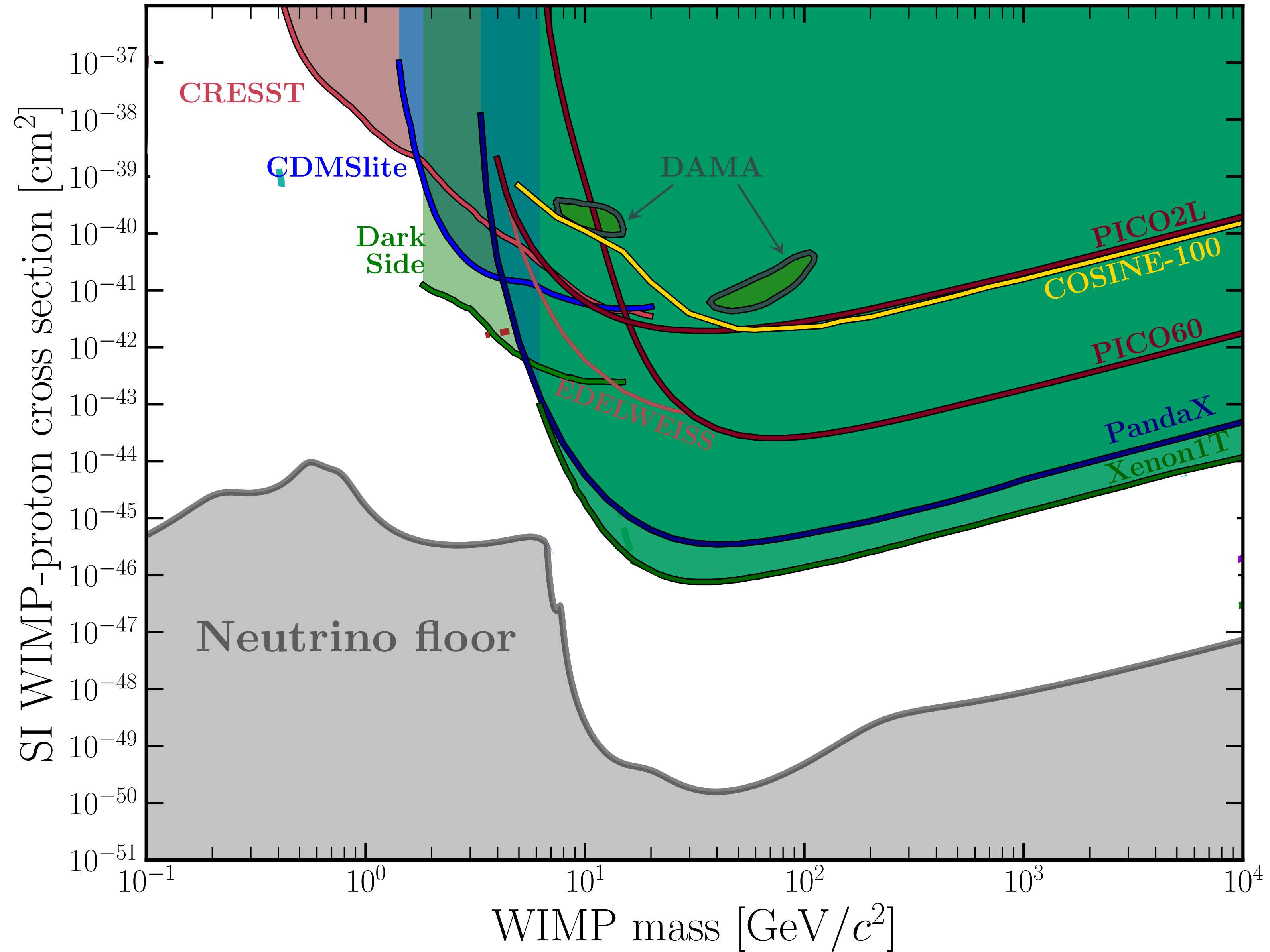


The dark matter flux on Earth is anisotropic and should align with the direction of galactic rotation → a highly characteristic signal that is robust against theoretical and astrophysical uncertainties

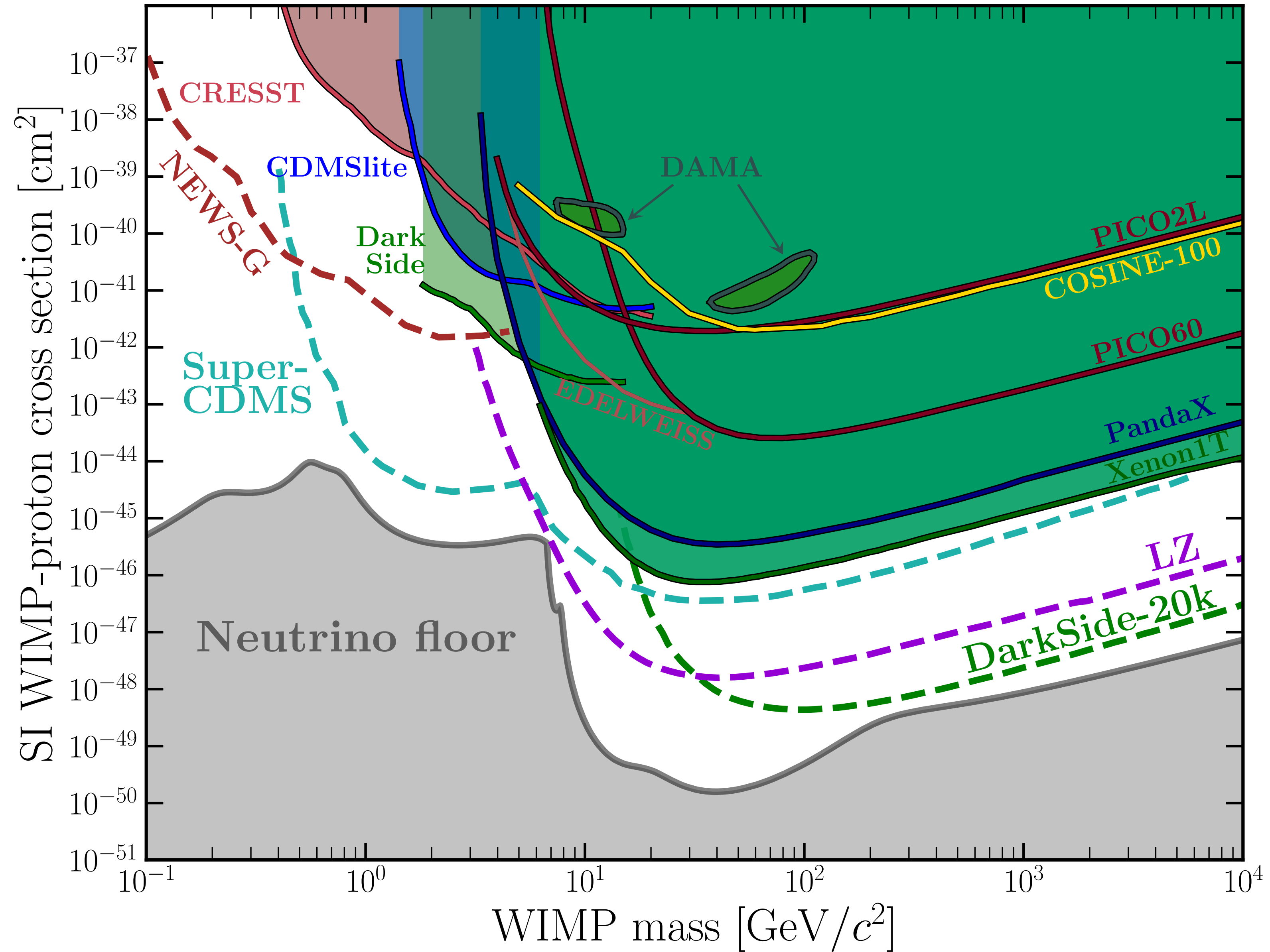


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# First example: Searches for WIMP-like dark matter

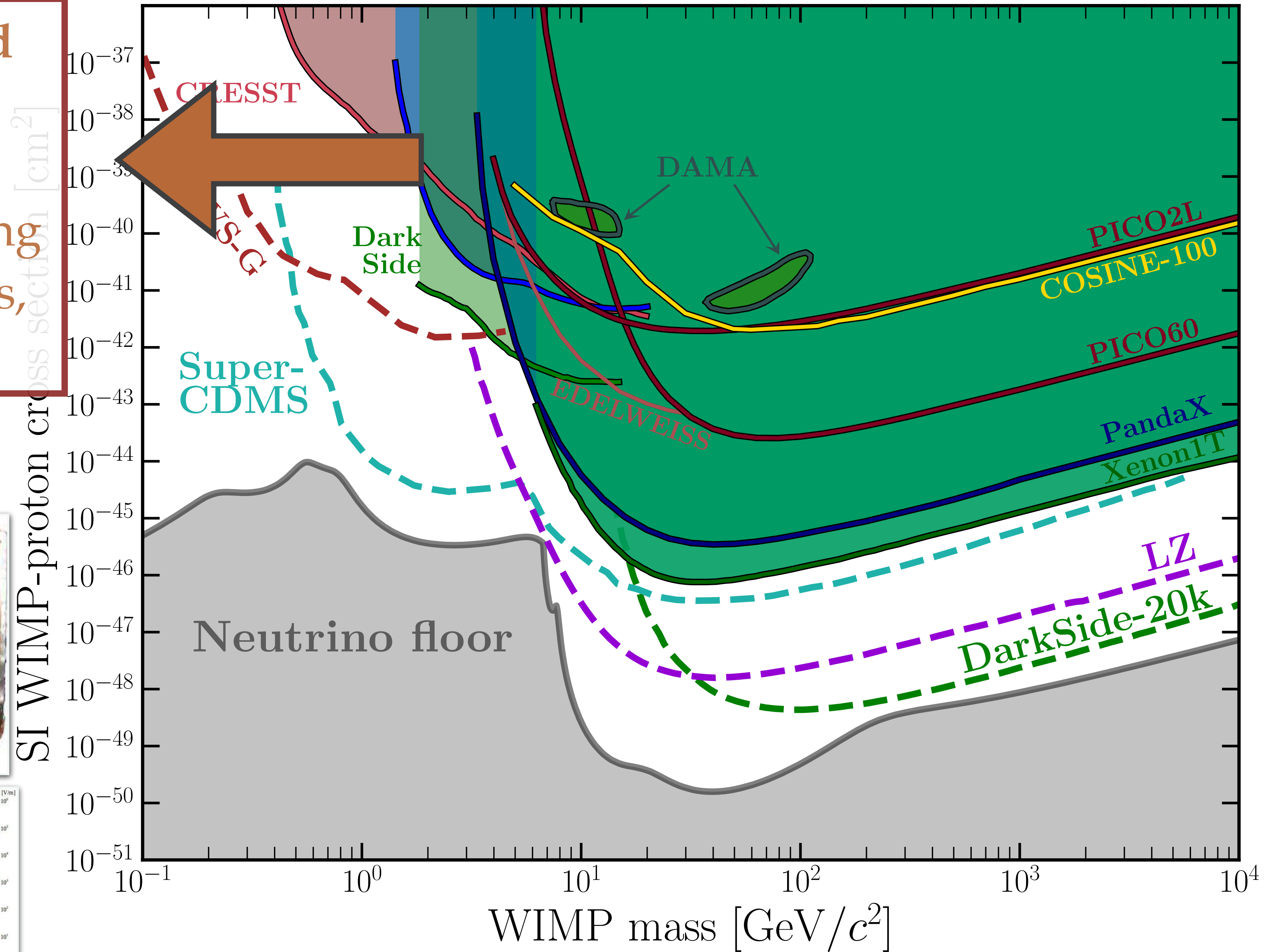
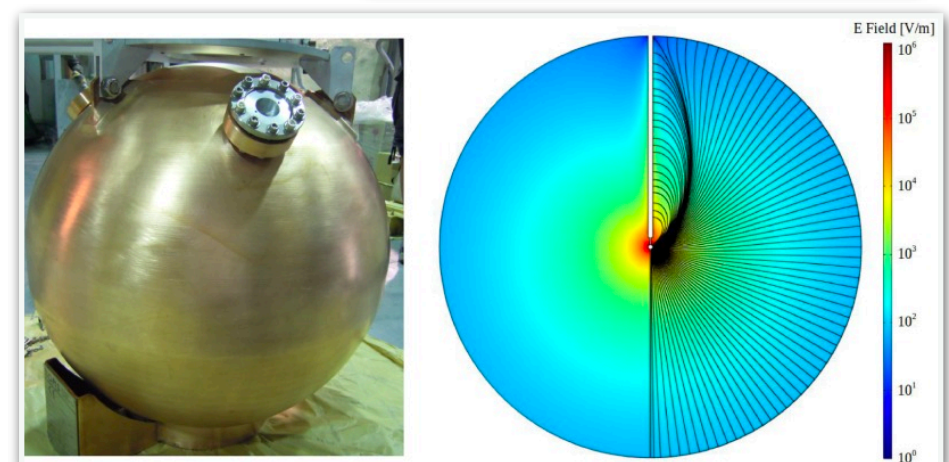
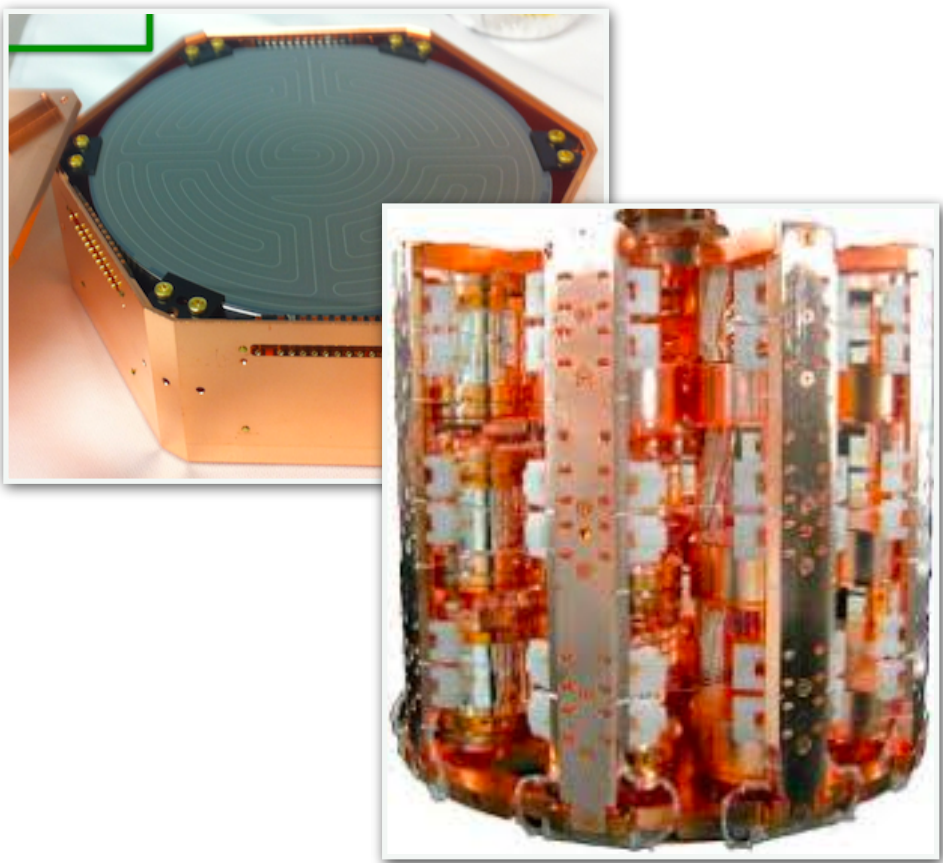


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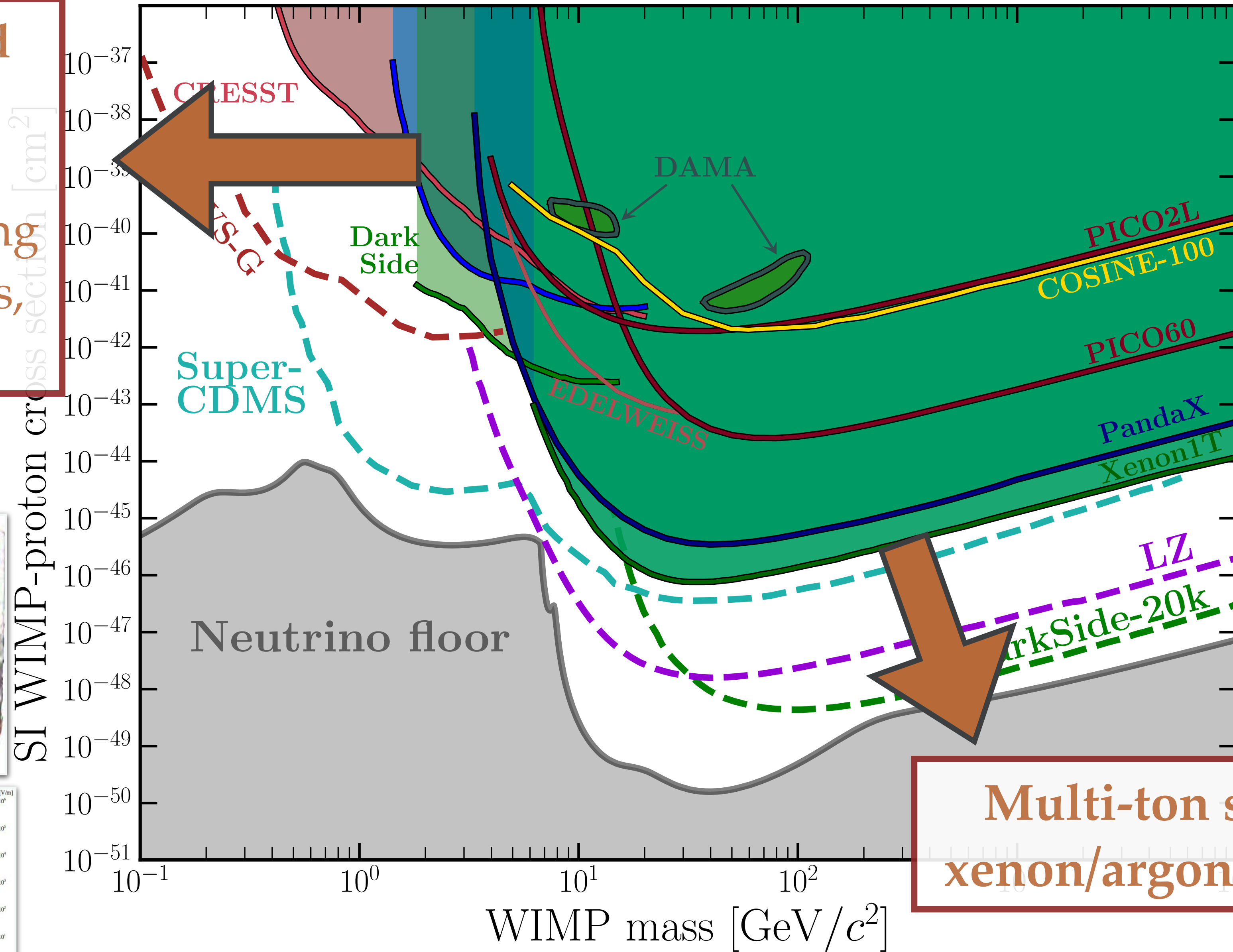
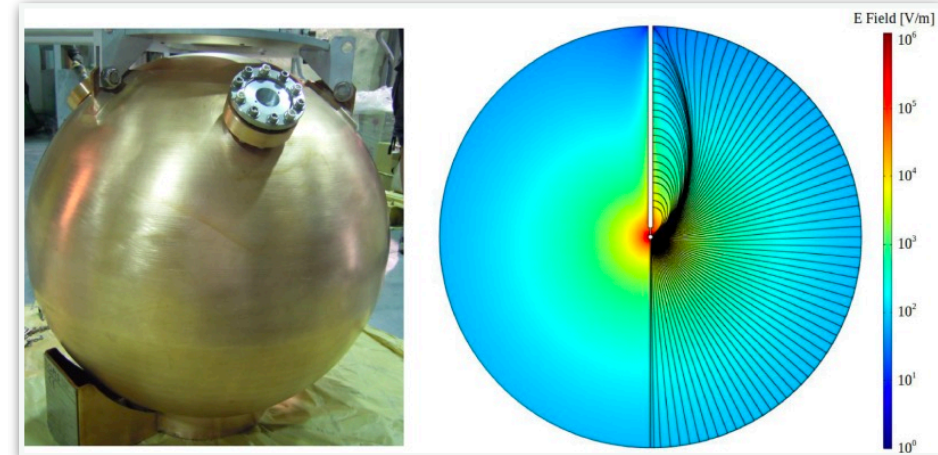
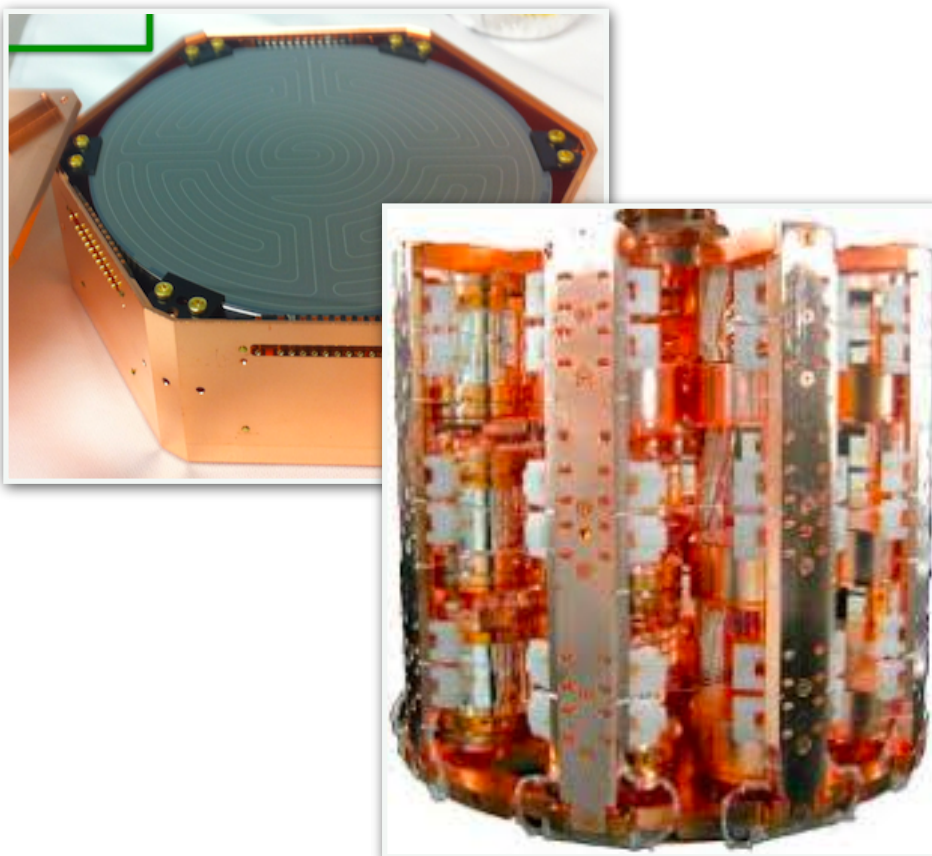
Low threshold detectors  
e.g. cryogenic scintillators using semiconductors, gas SPCs



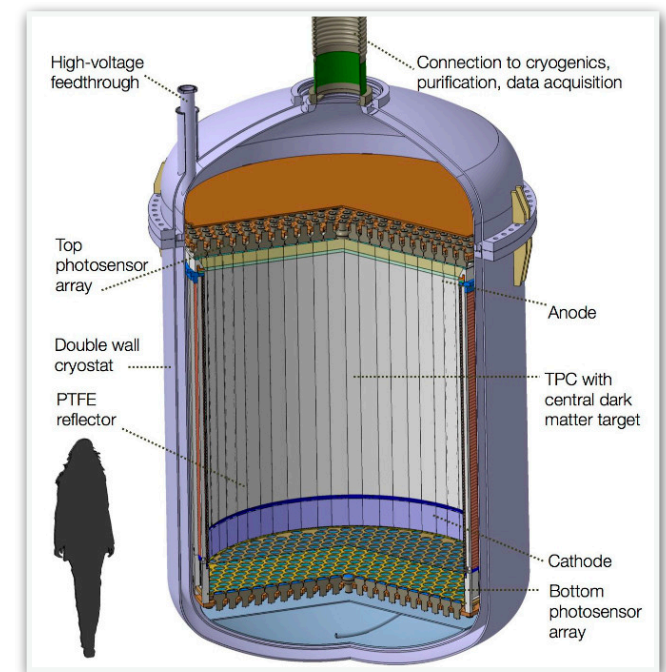


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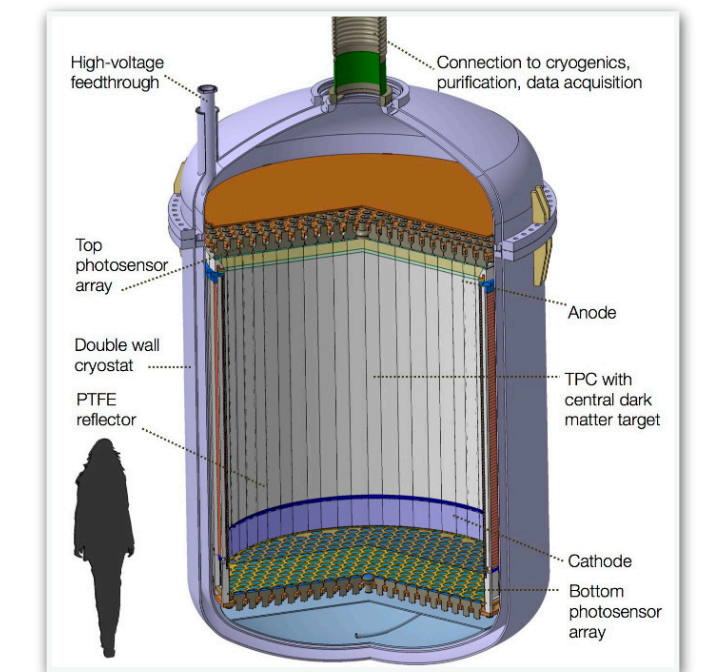
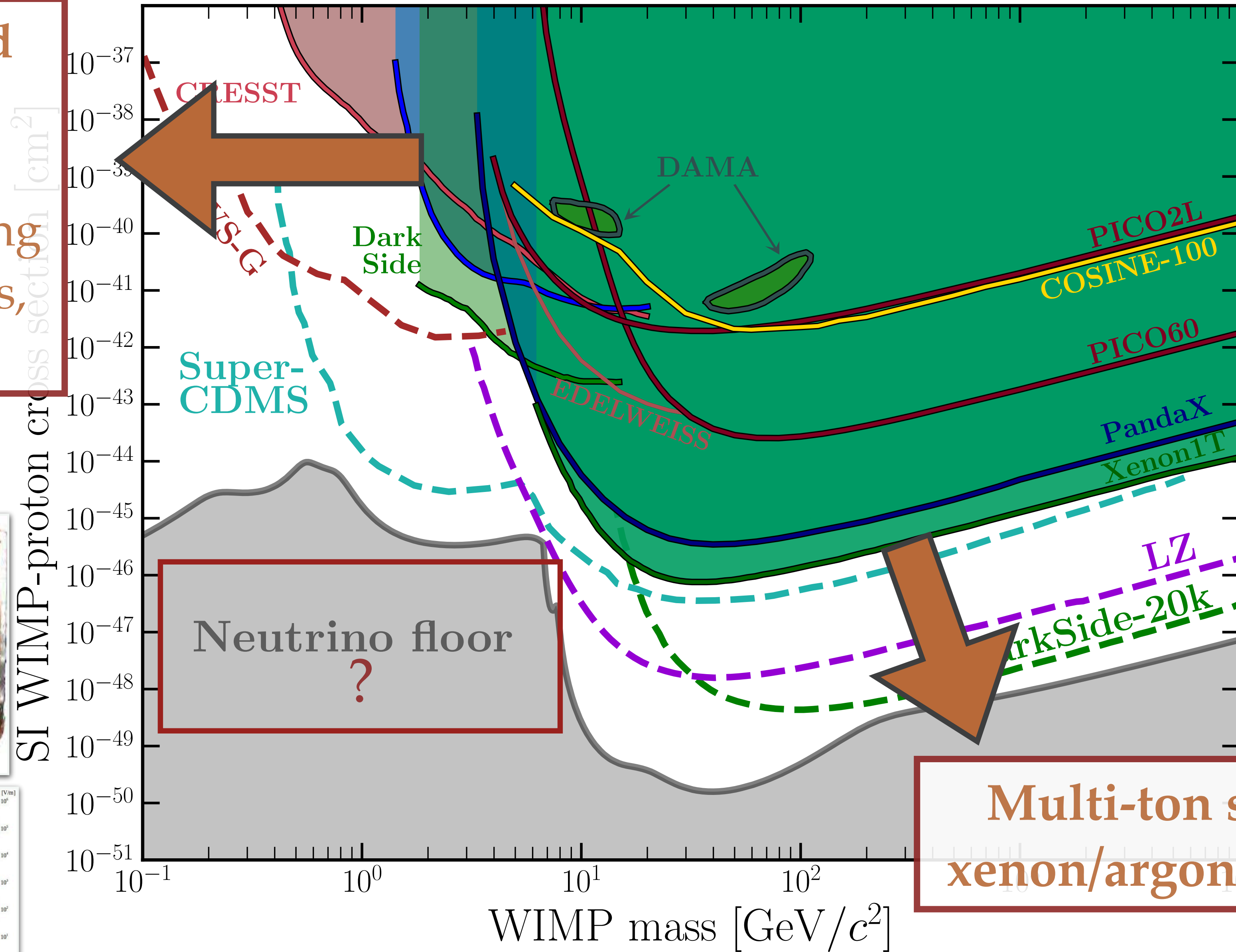
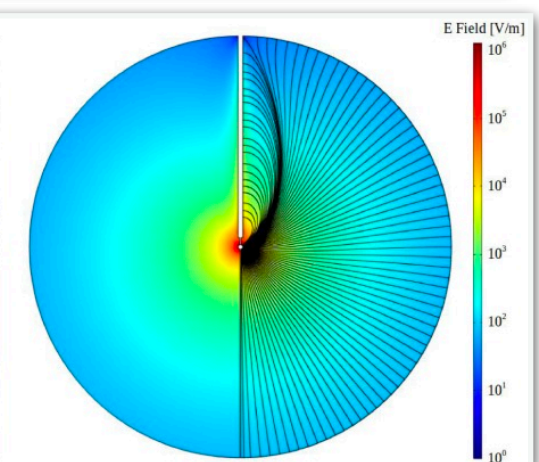
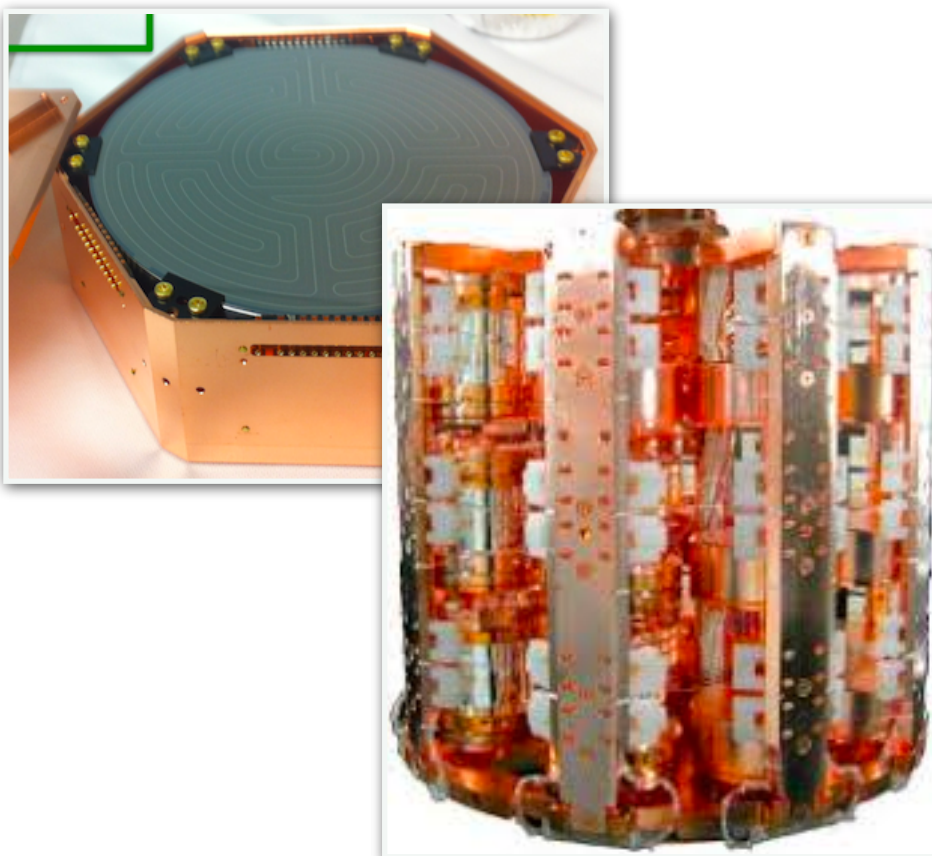


Multi-ton scale liquid xenon/argon experiments



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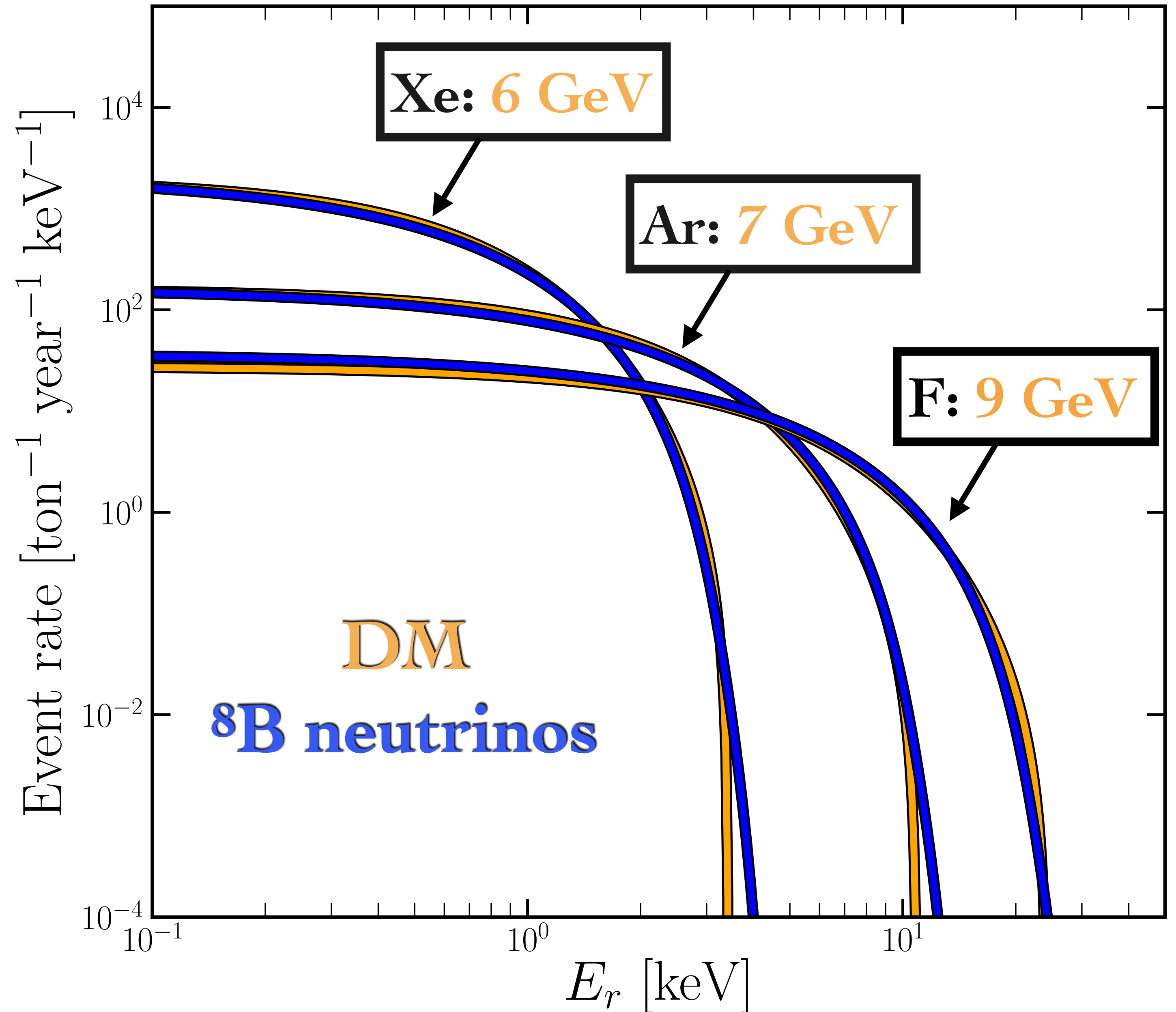
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Multi-ton scale liquid xenon/argon experiments

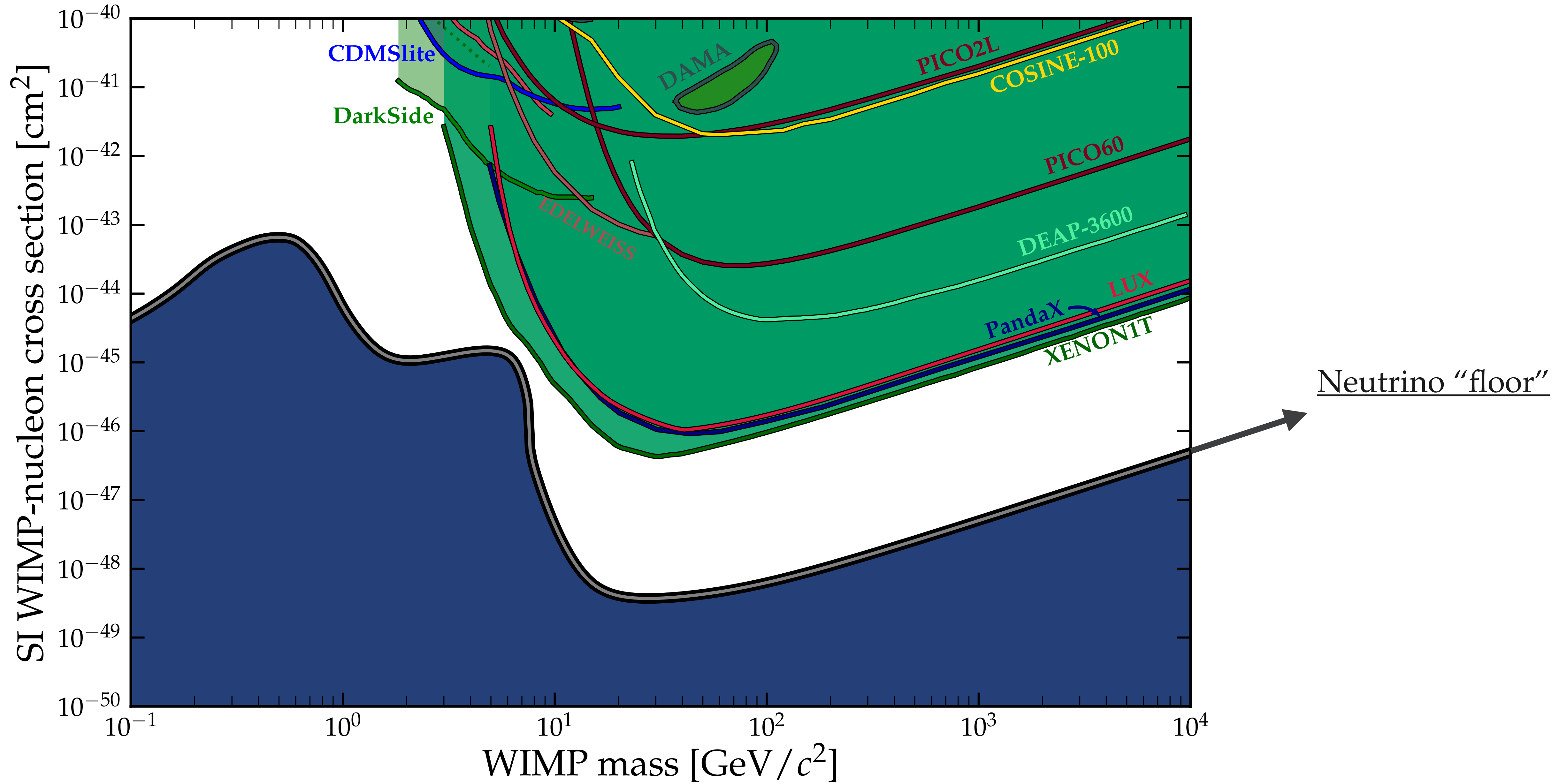
# Why is there a neutrino floor?

→ close similarity between the signal of DM and solar neutrinos



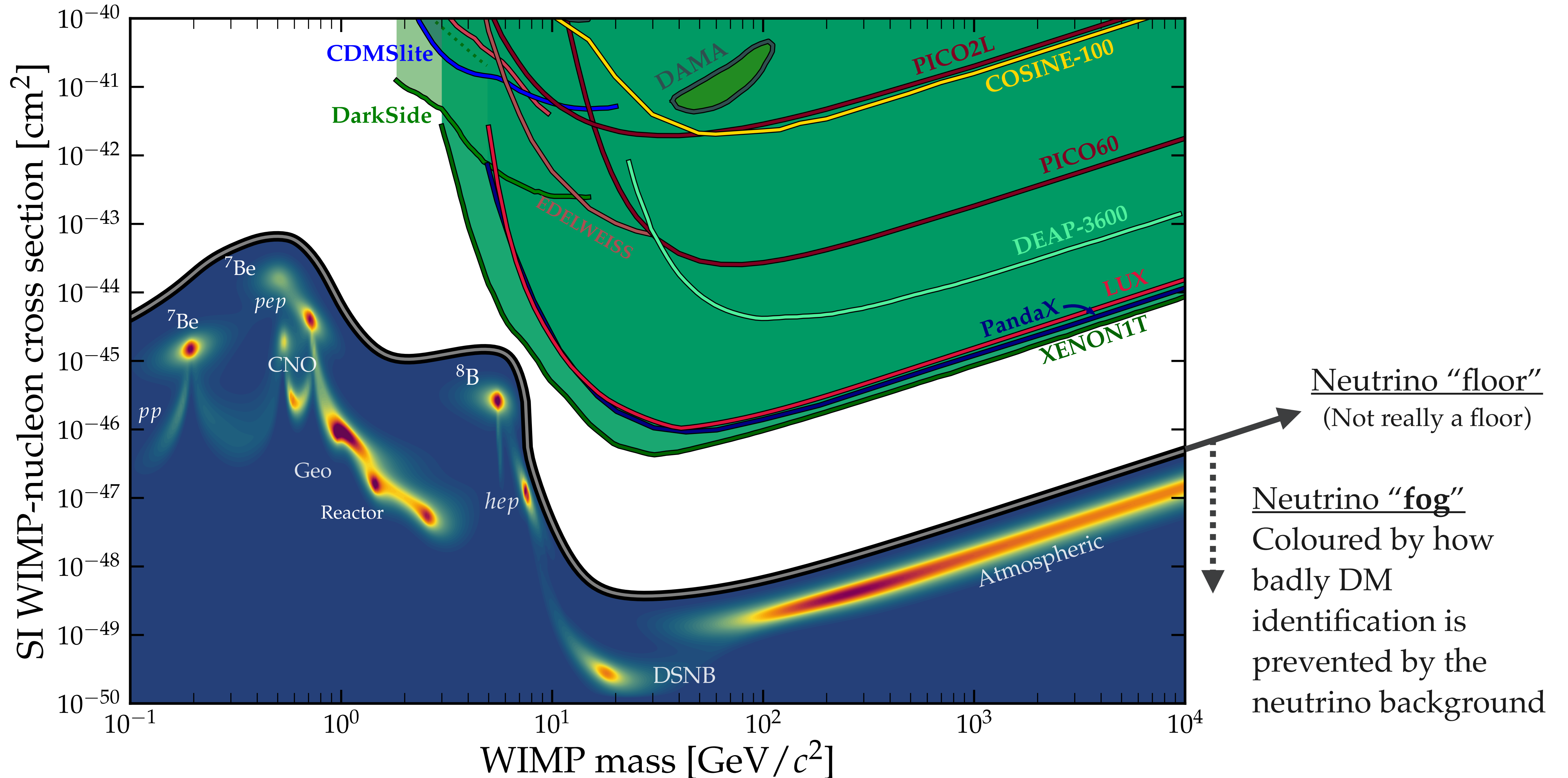
# Neutrino floor,

O'Hare [2109.03116]

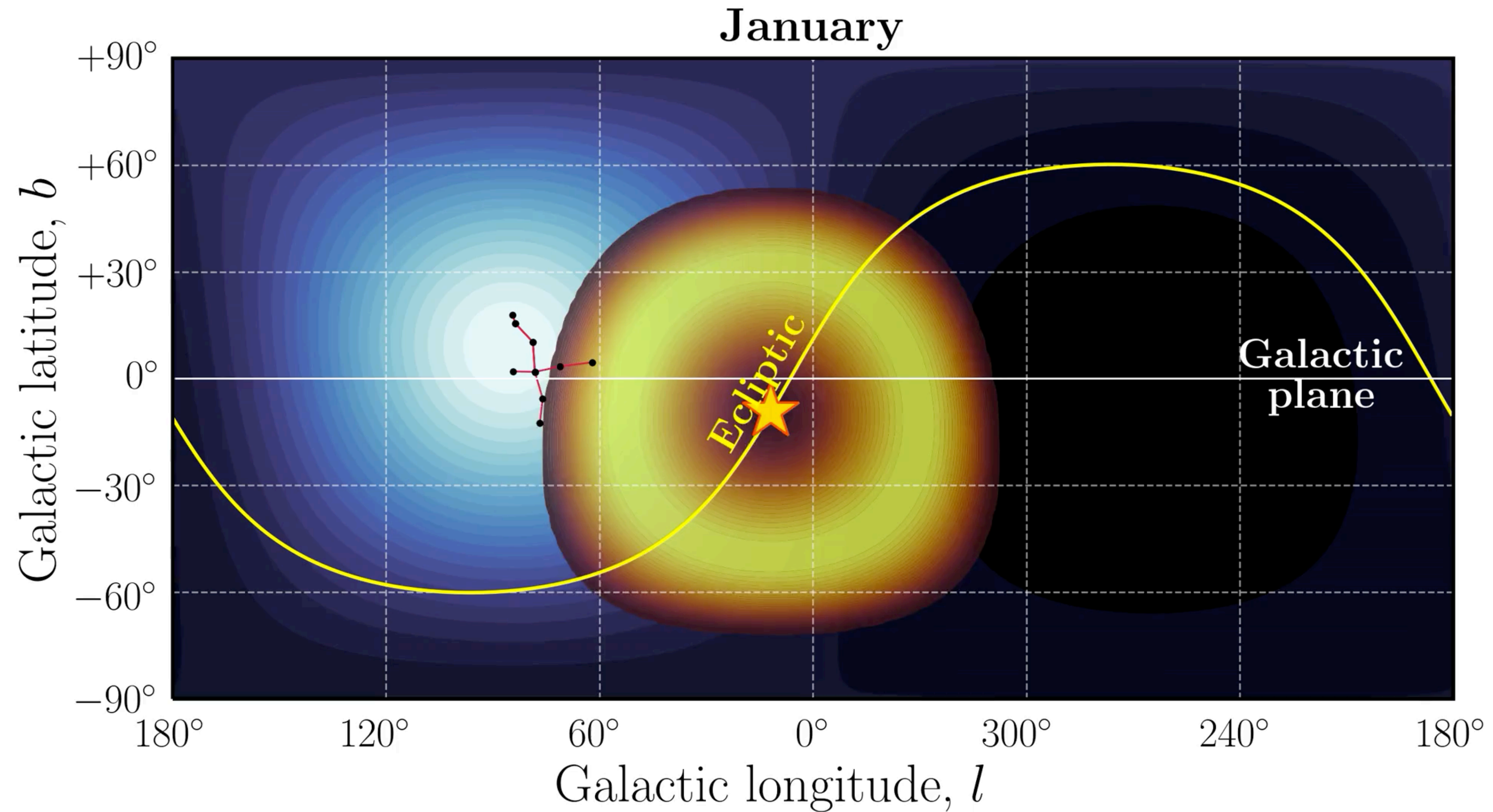


# Neutrino floor, or neutrino fog?

O'Hare [2109.03116]

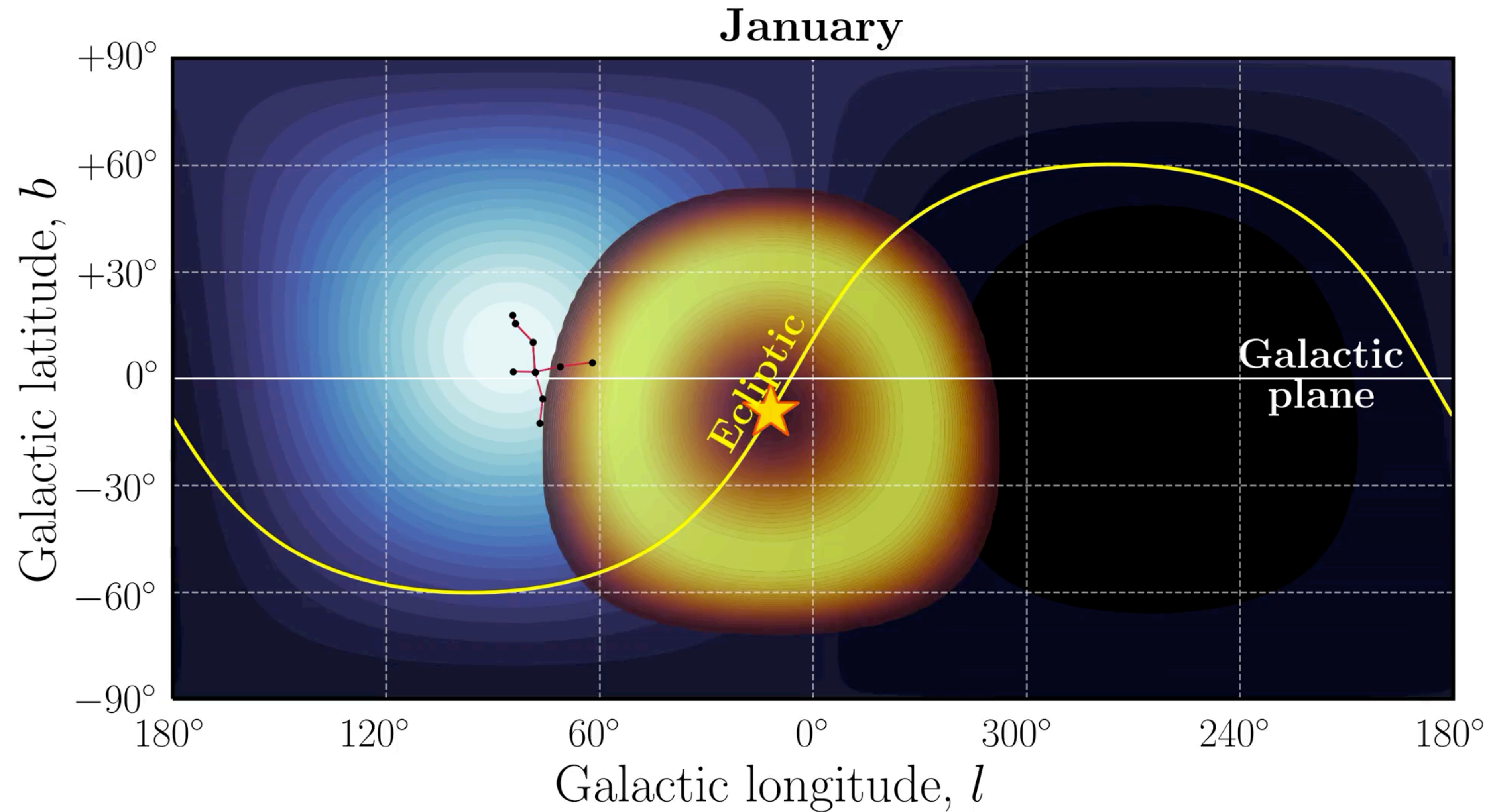


Nothing should mimic dark matter's directional signal, including **neutrinos**



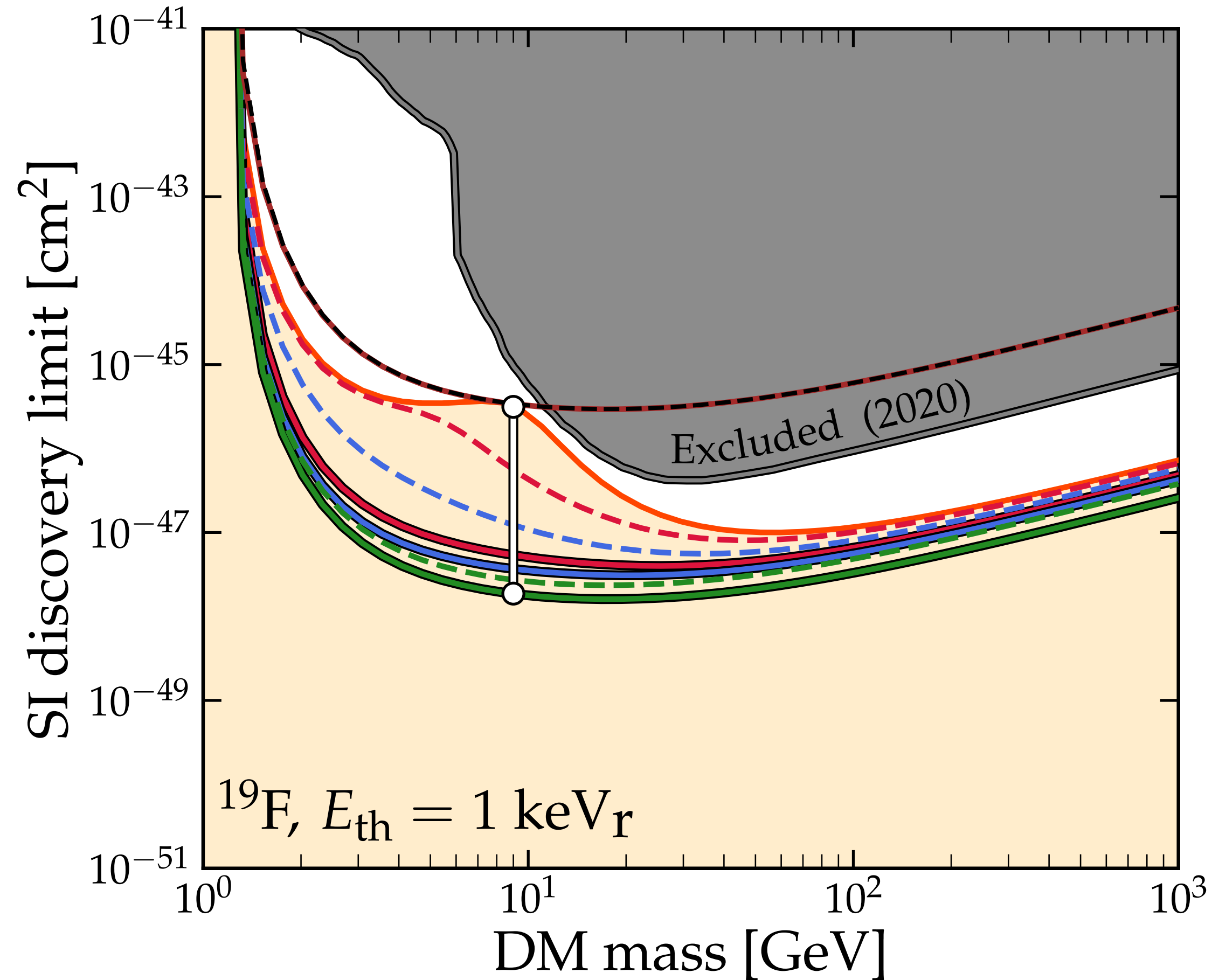
A directional detector should be able to “see through” the neutrino fog

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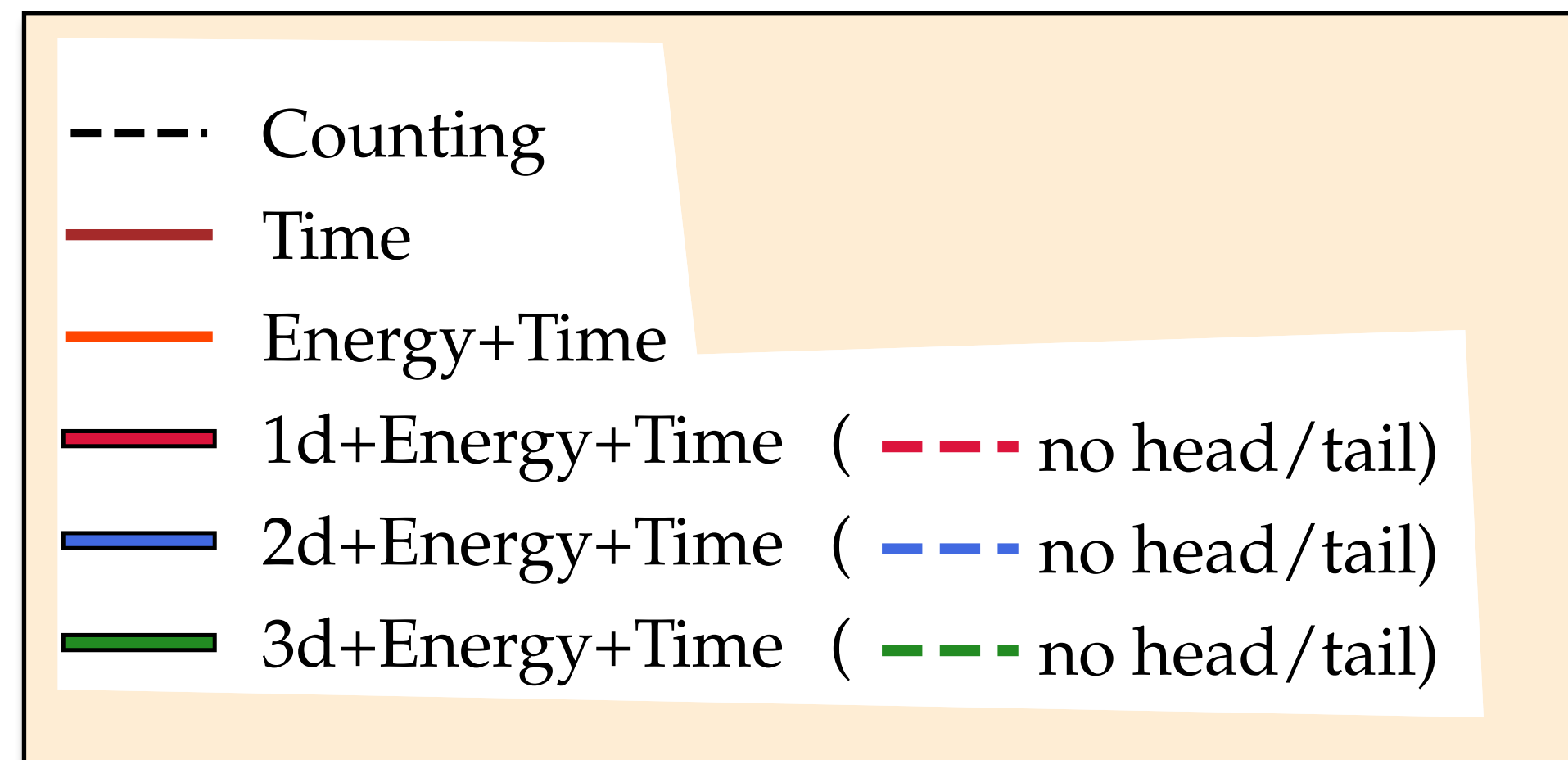


A directional detector should be able to “see through” the neutrino fog

# Subtracting the neutrino background



Same experiment, different information used

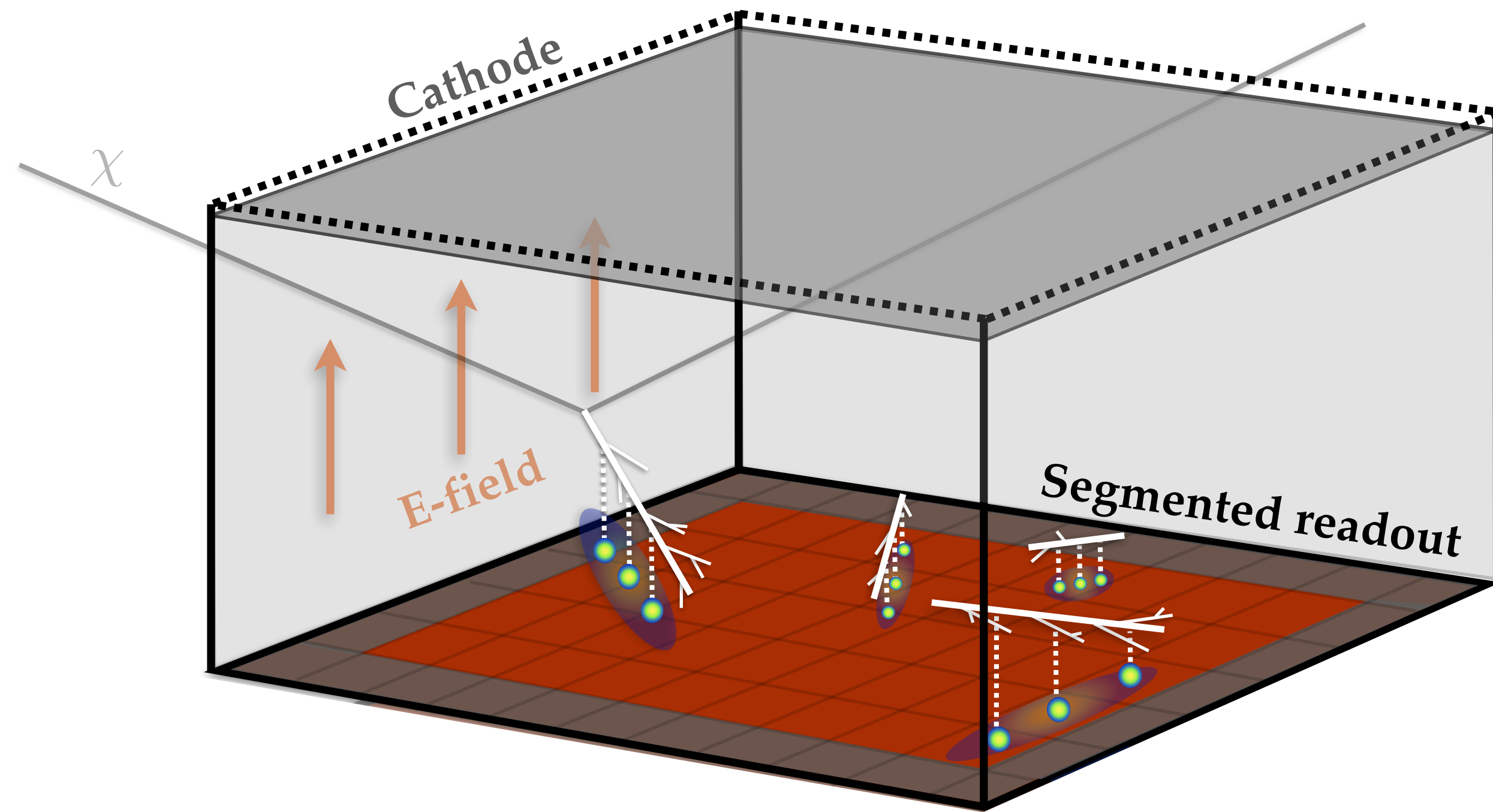


Increasing directionality

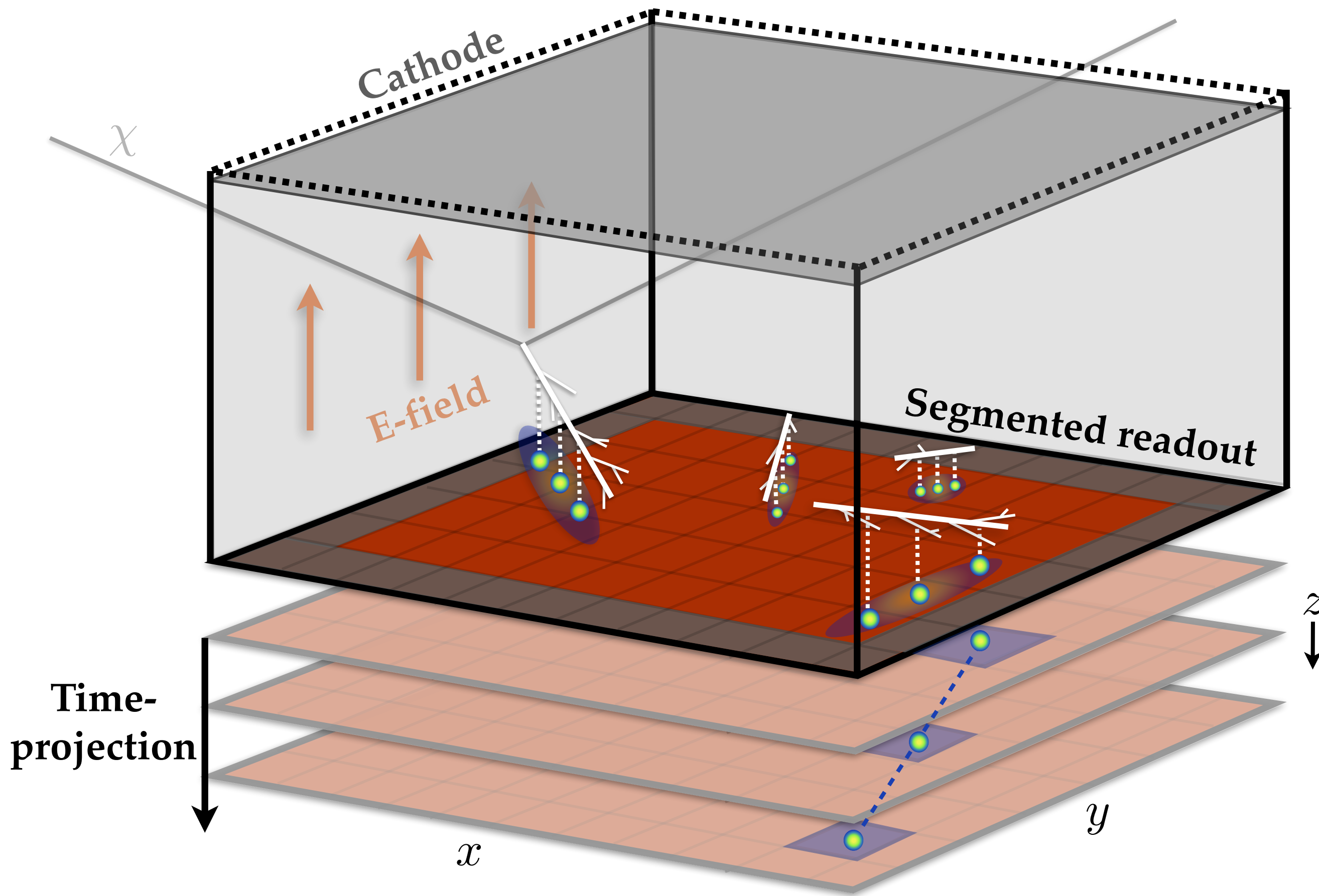
**Directional experiments don't see the neutrino fog**



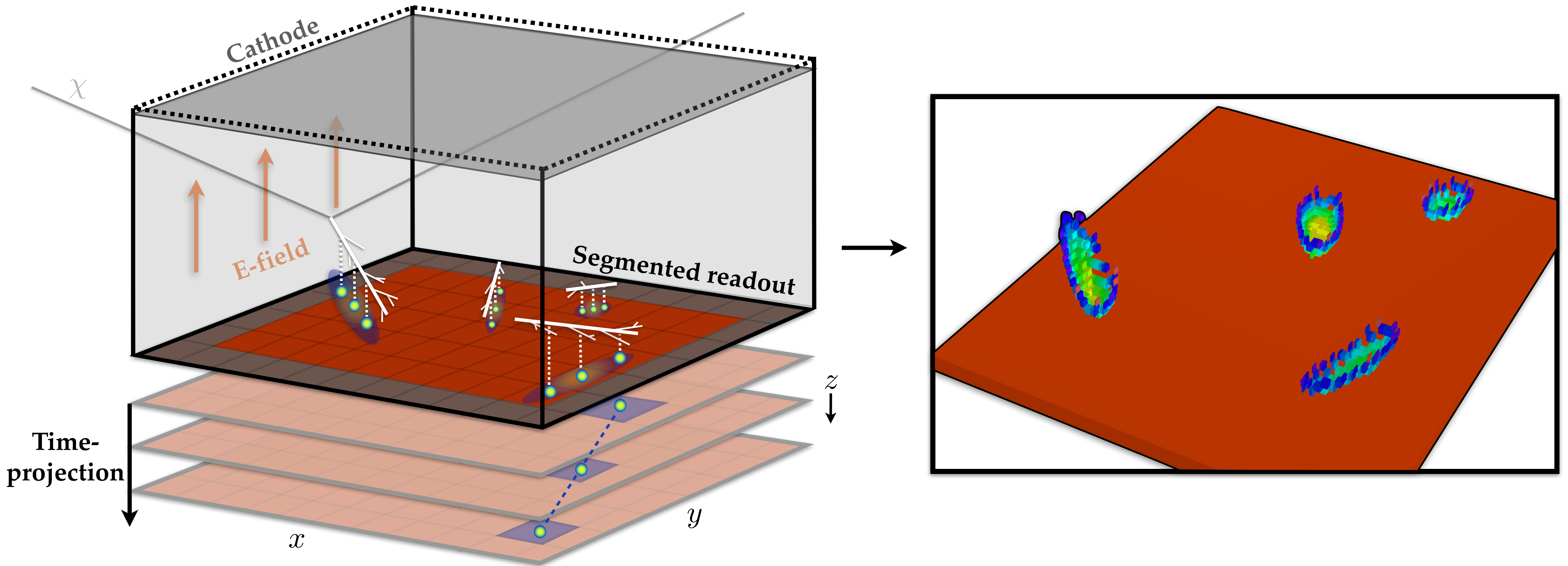
# One popular approach: gas time projection chamber

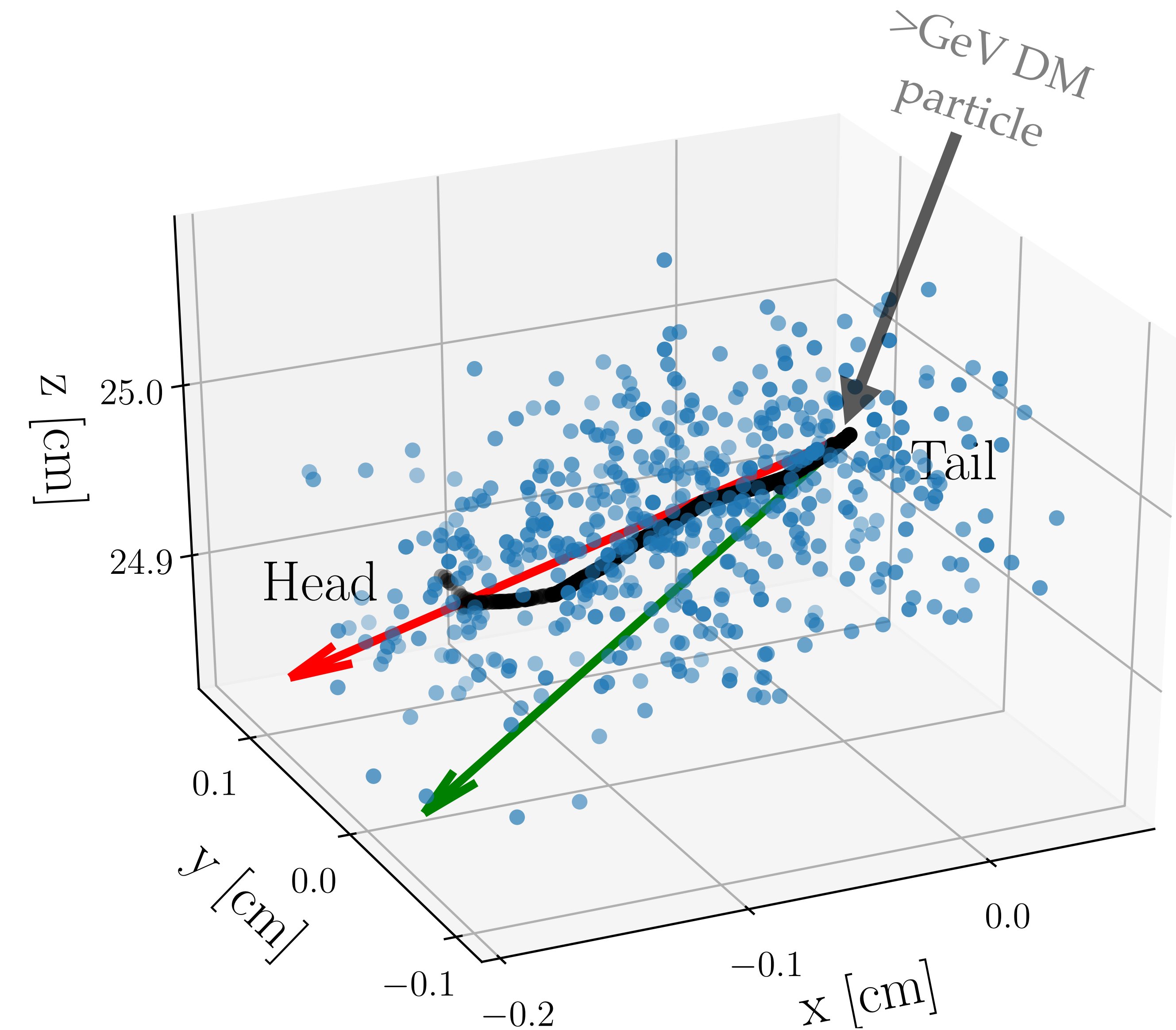


# One popular approach: gas time projection chamber



# One popular approach: gas time projection chamber





## The ideal detector measures:

- **Initial** recoil direction (i.e. what the DM scattering predicts)
- The full 3-dimensions of the track
- The head / tail (i.e. sign of the track vector)
- The time of the event (to account for Earth rotation)

● Initial track

● After diffusion

↑ True recoil dir.

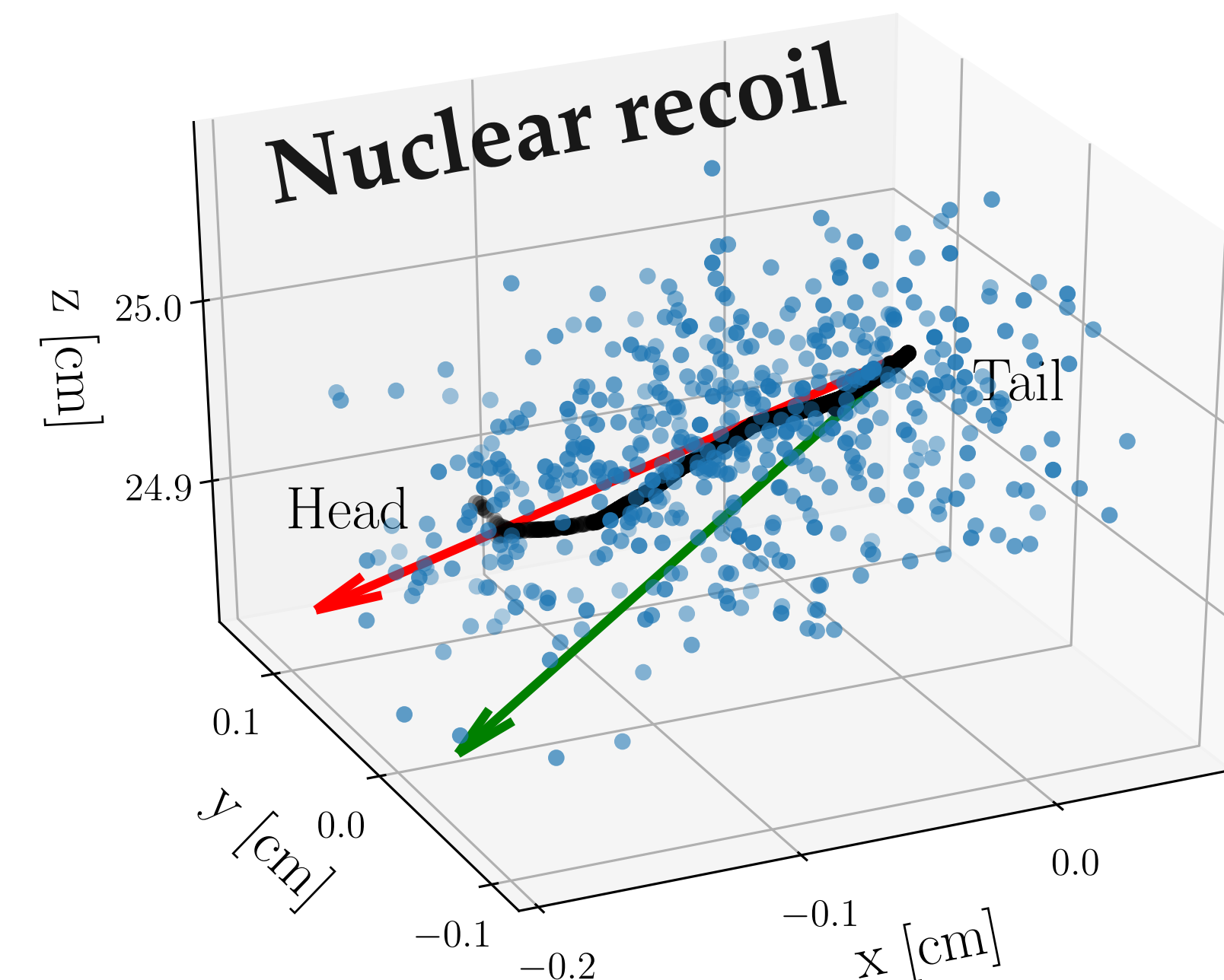
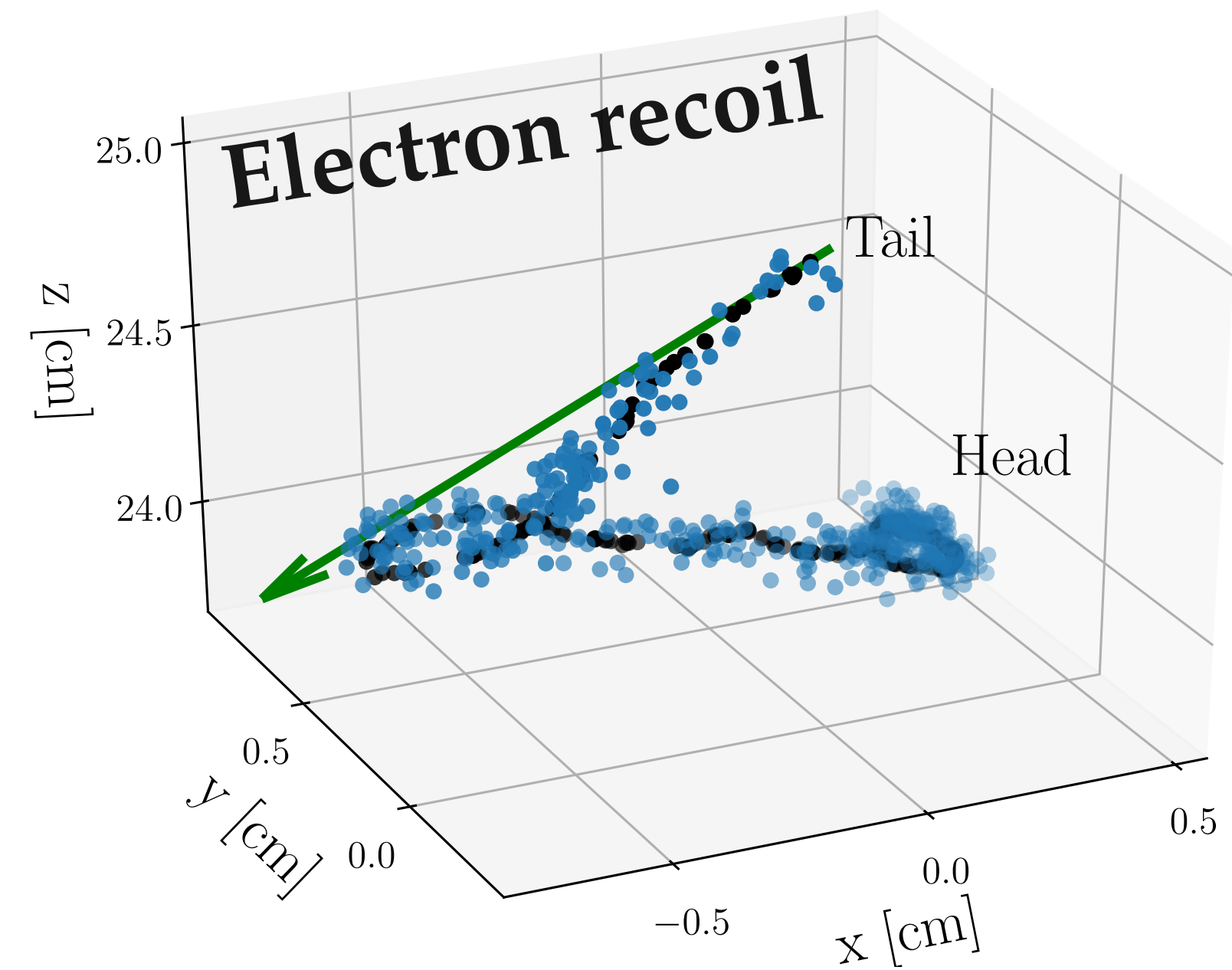
↑ Straggled recoil dir.

# Angular performance

Everything gets worse at lower energies:

- Decreasing quenching factor, means recoils are harder to detect
- Tracks get shorter  $\rightarrow$  harder to measure directions
- Contrast in  $dE/dx$  is lower, harder to measure head-tail
- All this makes it harder to distinguish ER/NRs, so worse background rejection

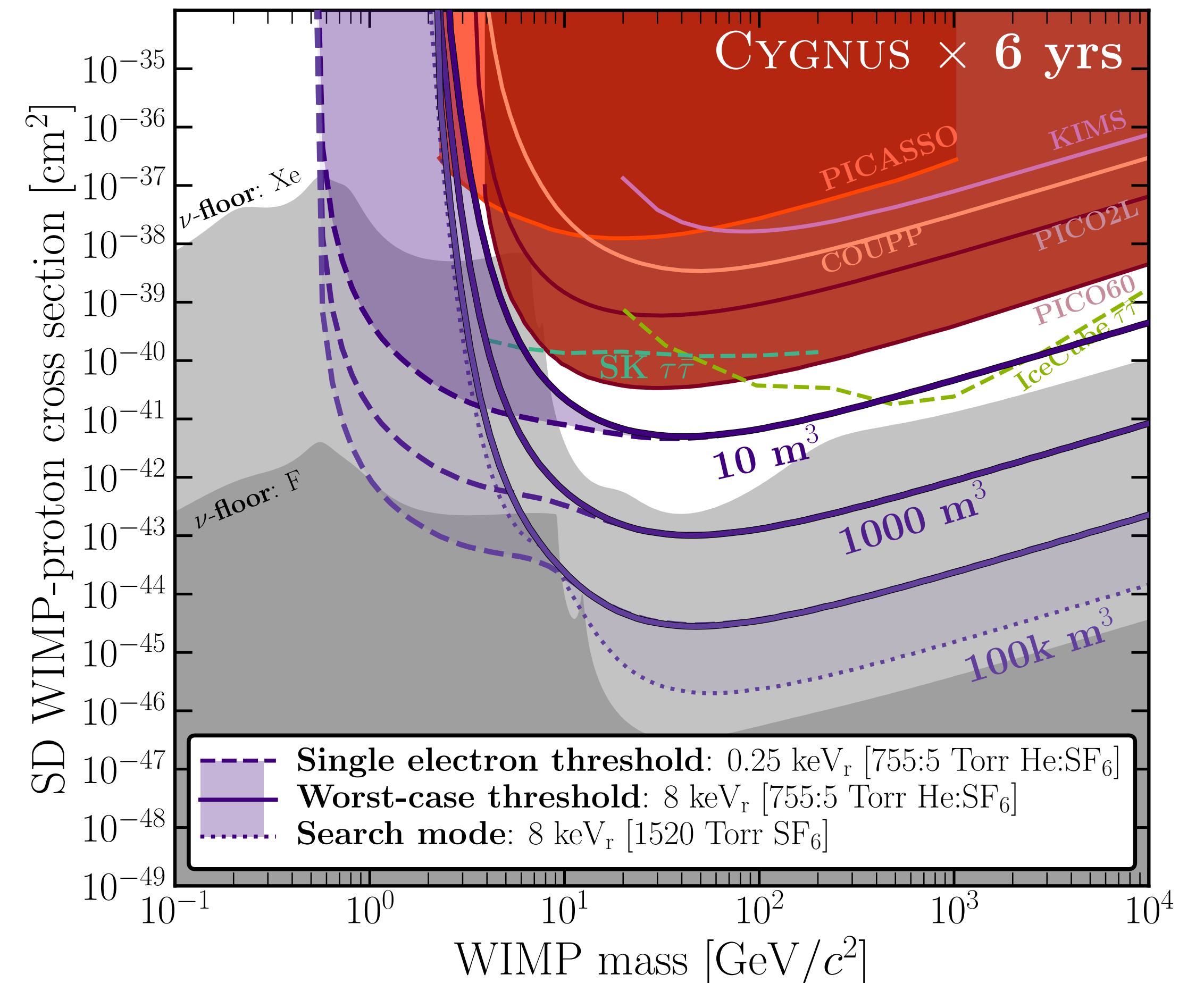
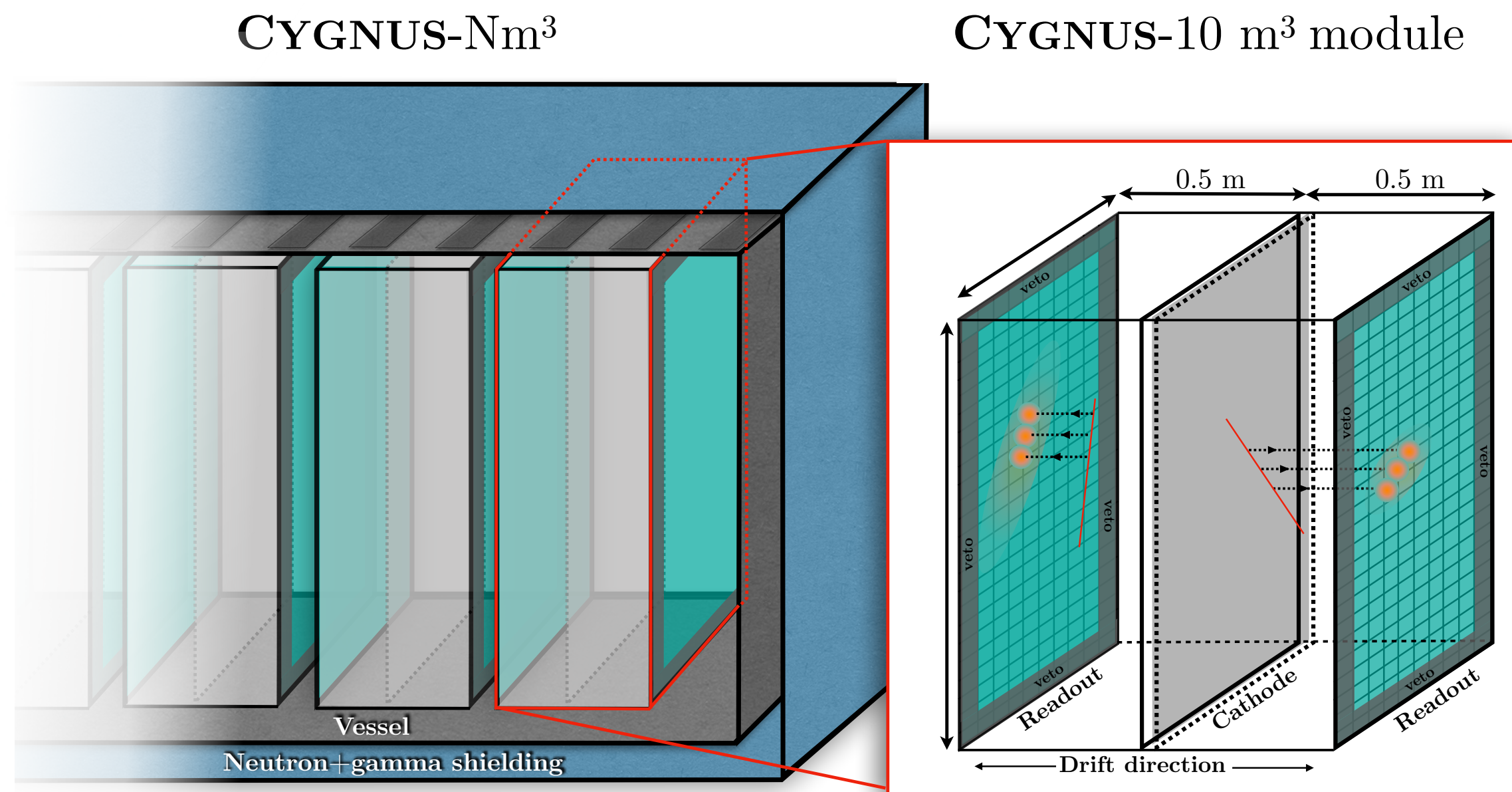
$\rightarrow$  **Energy dependence of directional performance is very important, and needs to be the focus of all directional detection proposals**



[2008.12587]

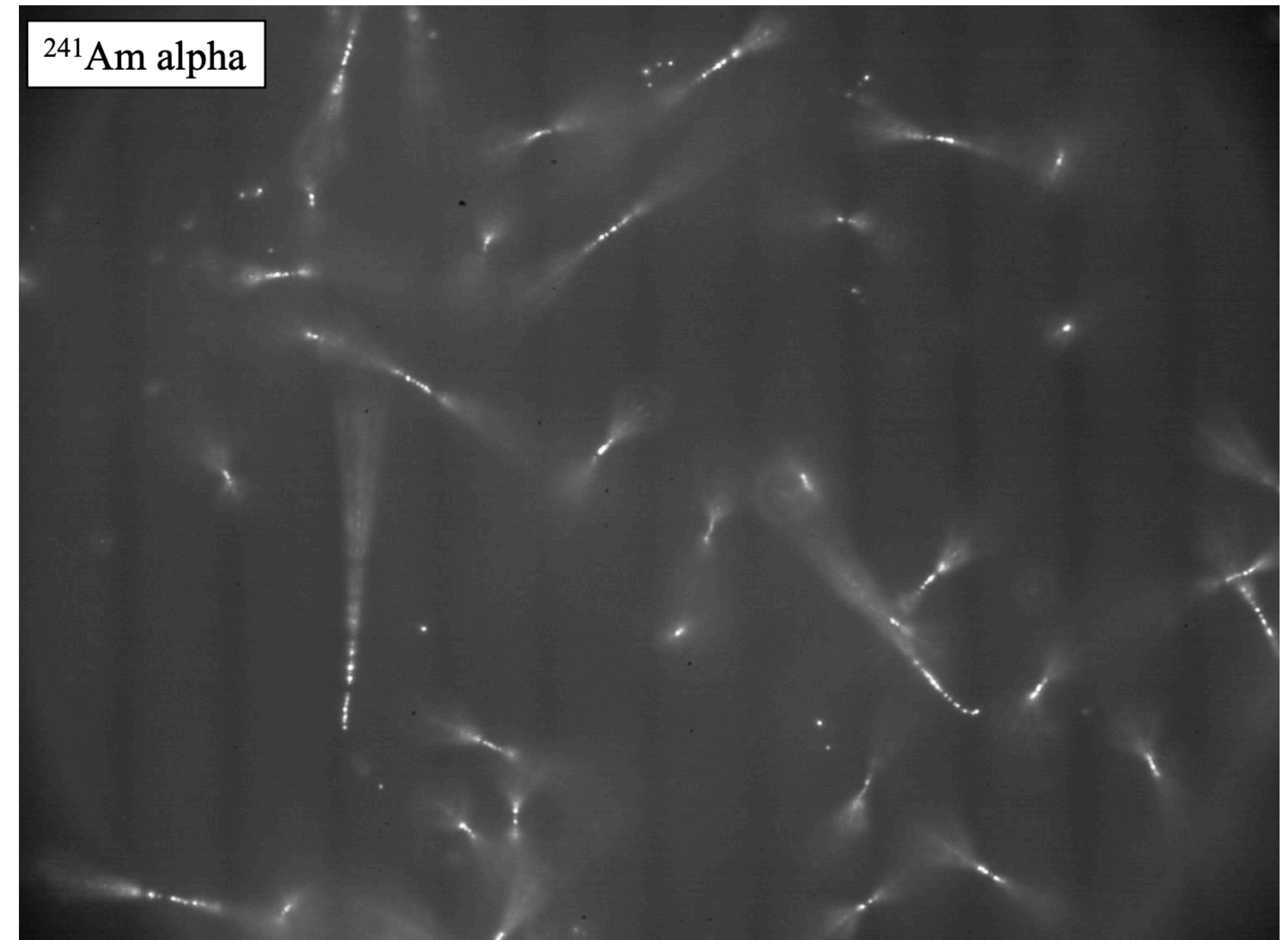
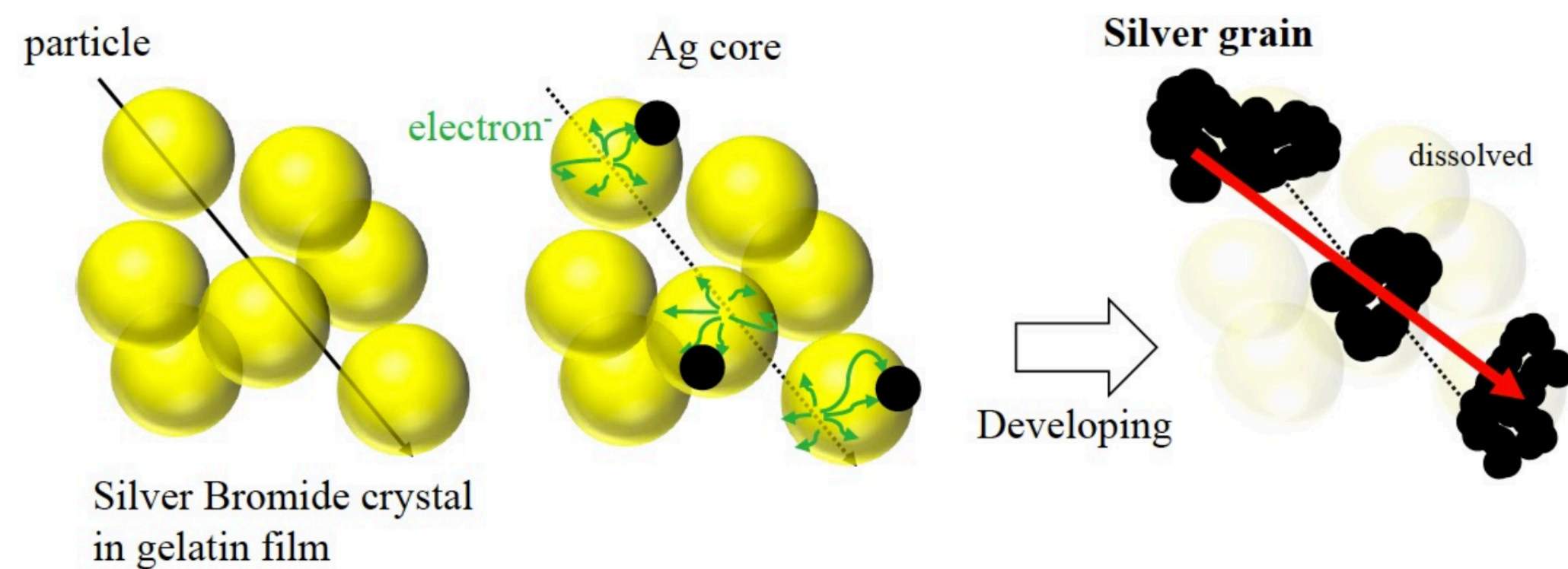
# CYGNUS: Feasibility of a nuclear recoil observatory with directional sensitivity to dark matter and neutrinos

S. E. Vahsen,<sup>1</sup> C. A. J. O'Hare,<sup>2</sup> W. A. Lynch,<sup>3</sup> N. J. C. Spooner,<sup>3</sup> E. Baracchini,<sup>4,5,6</sup> P. Barbeau,<sup>7</sup>  
J. B. R. Battat,<sup>8</sup> B. Crow,<sup>1</sup> C. Deaconu,<sup>9</sup> C. Eldridge,<sup>3</sup> A. C. Ezeribe,<sup>3</sup> M. Ghrear,<sup>1</sup> D. Loomba,<sup>10</sup>  
K. J. Mack,<sup>11</sup> K. Miuchi,<sup>12</sup> F. M. Mouton,<sup>3</sup> N. S. Phan,<sup>13</sup> K. Scholberg,<sup>7</sup> and T. N. Thorpe<sup>1,6</sup>



# 3D tracking in high density targets?

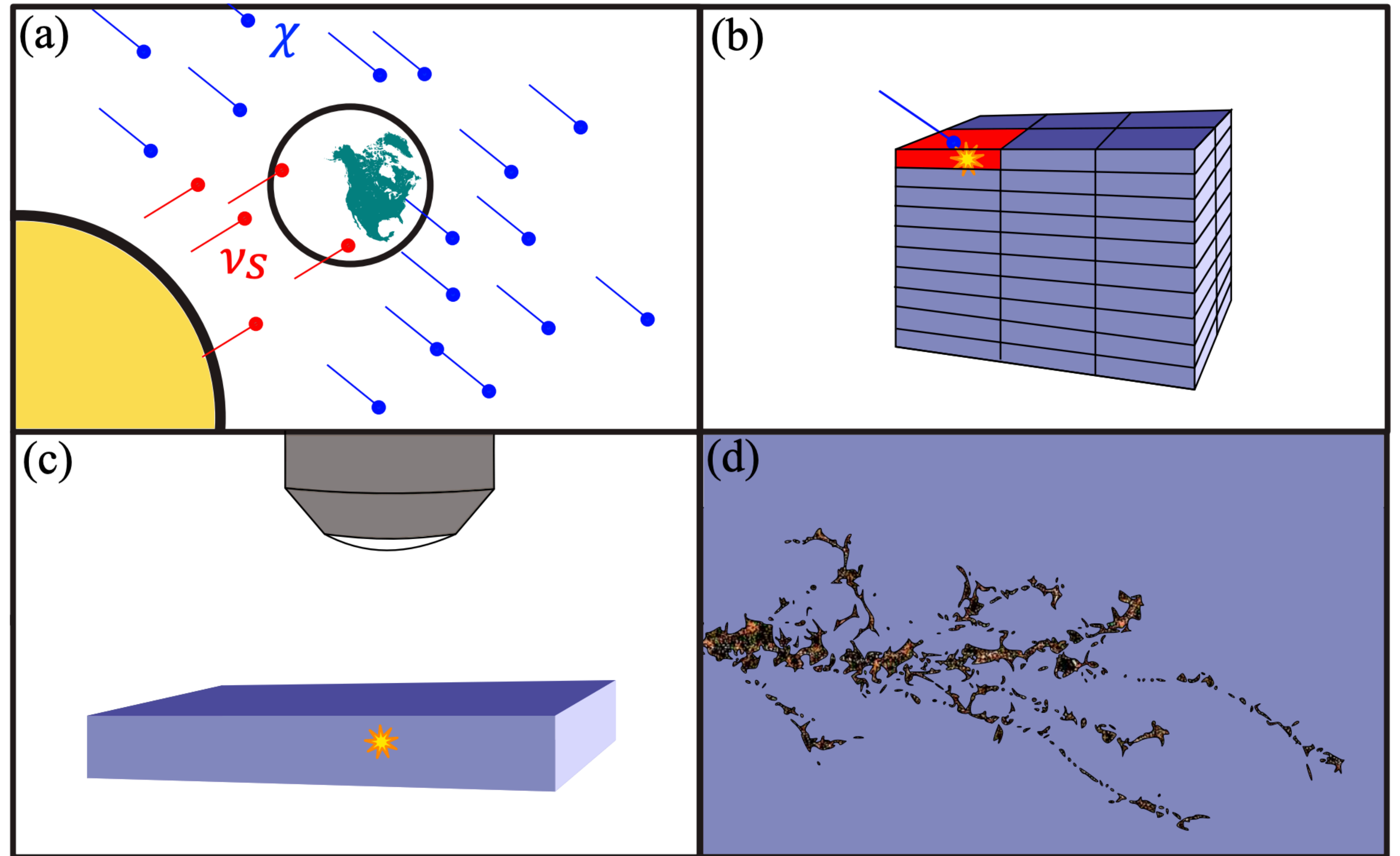
Nuclear emulsions-based  
directional detector being pursued  
by NEWSdm collaboration  
[1604.04199]



# Another idea for a solid target: crystal defect spectroscopy

Marshall+ [2009.01028]

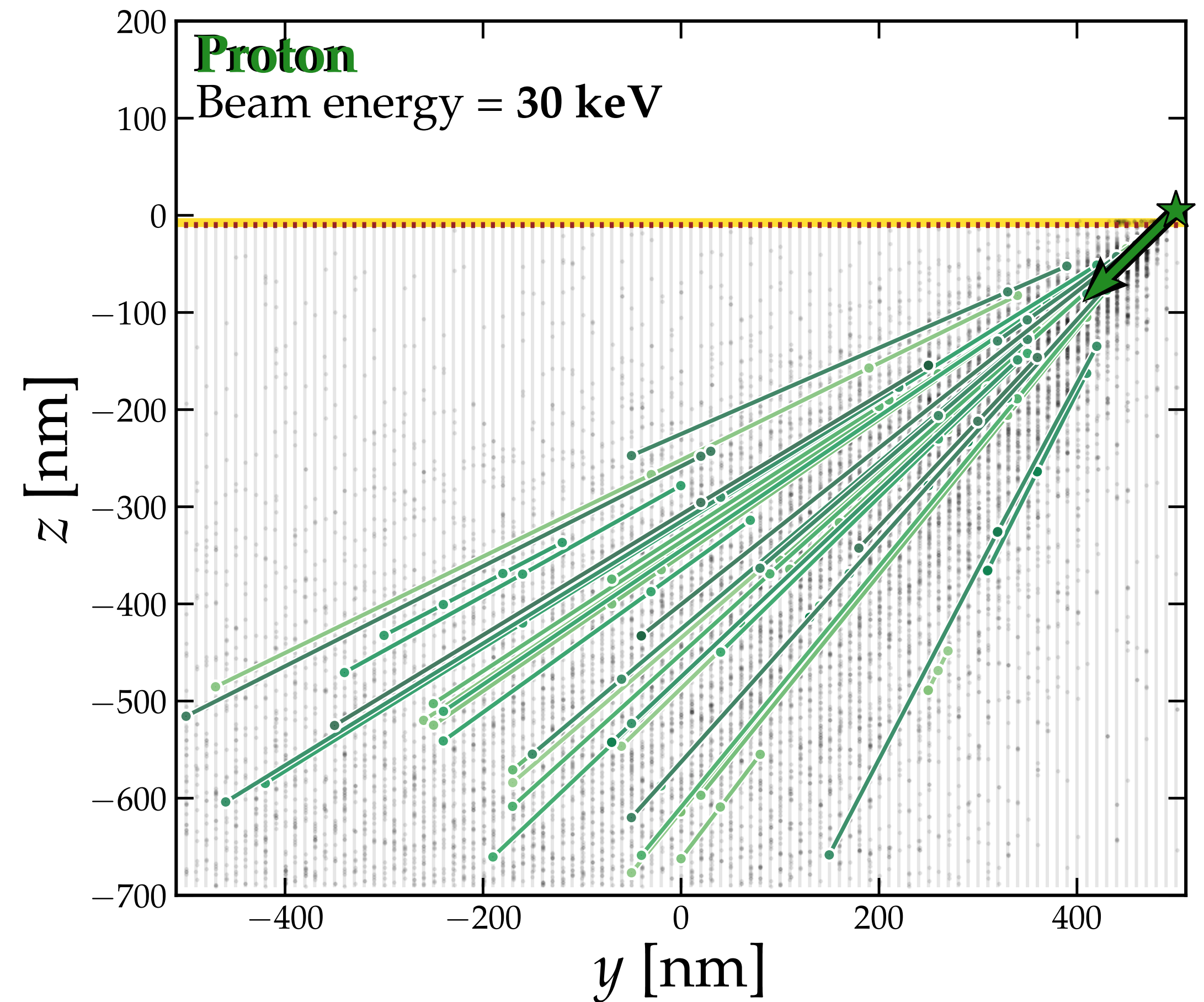
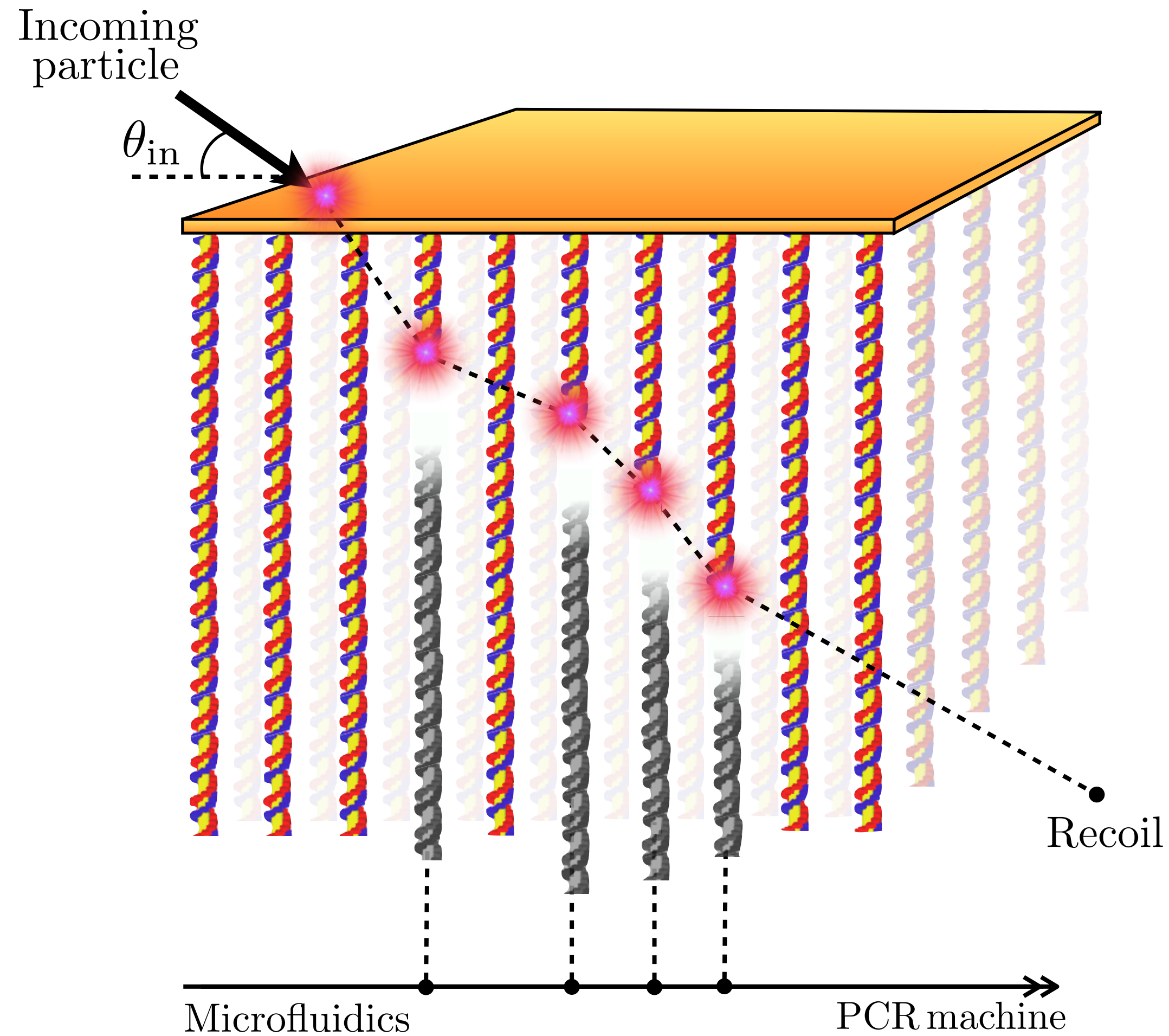
Nitrogen vacancy centres in diamond.  
Can spectroscopically interrogate crystal damage to detect tracks





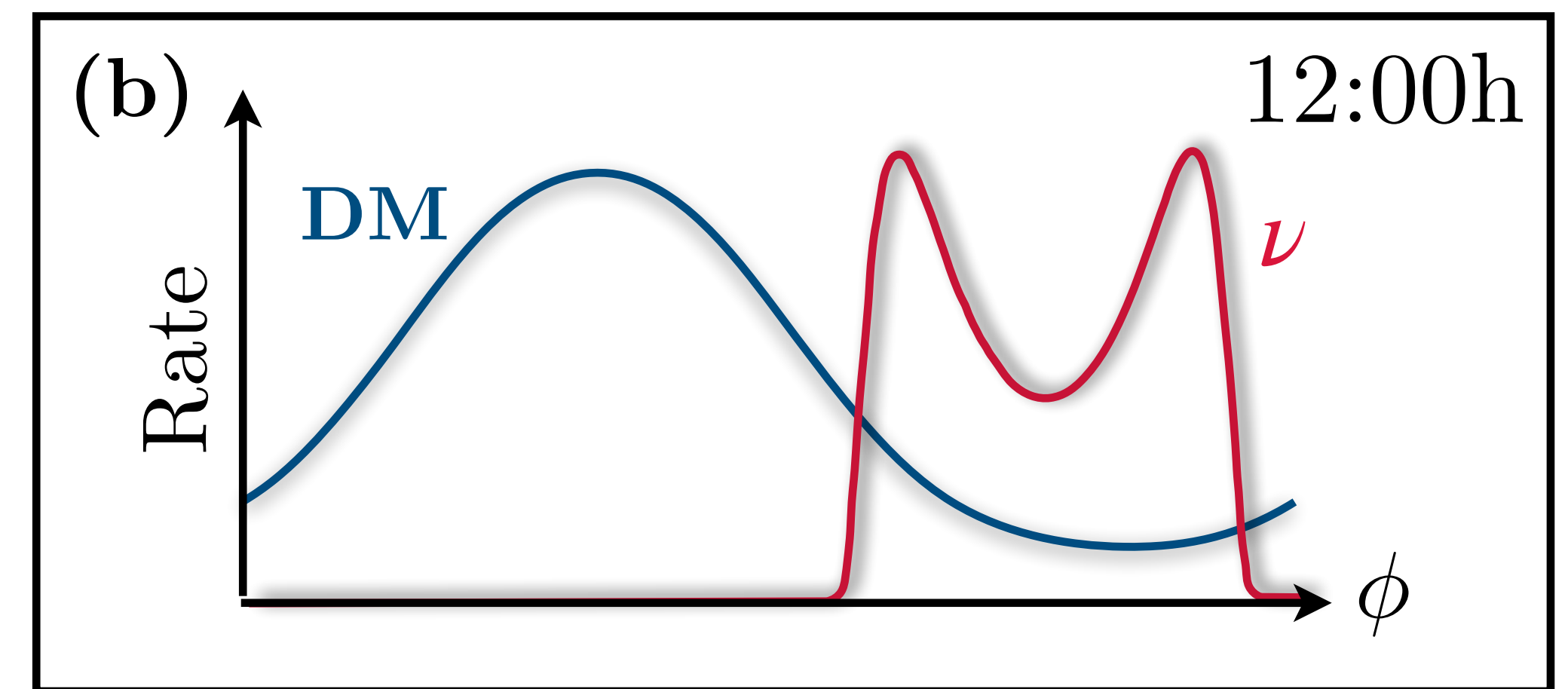
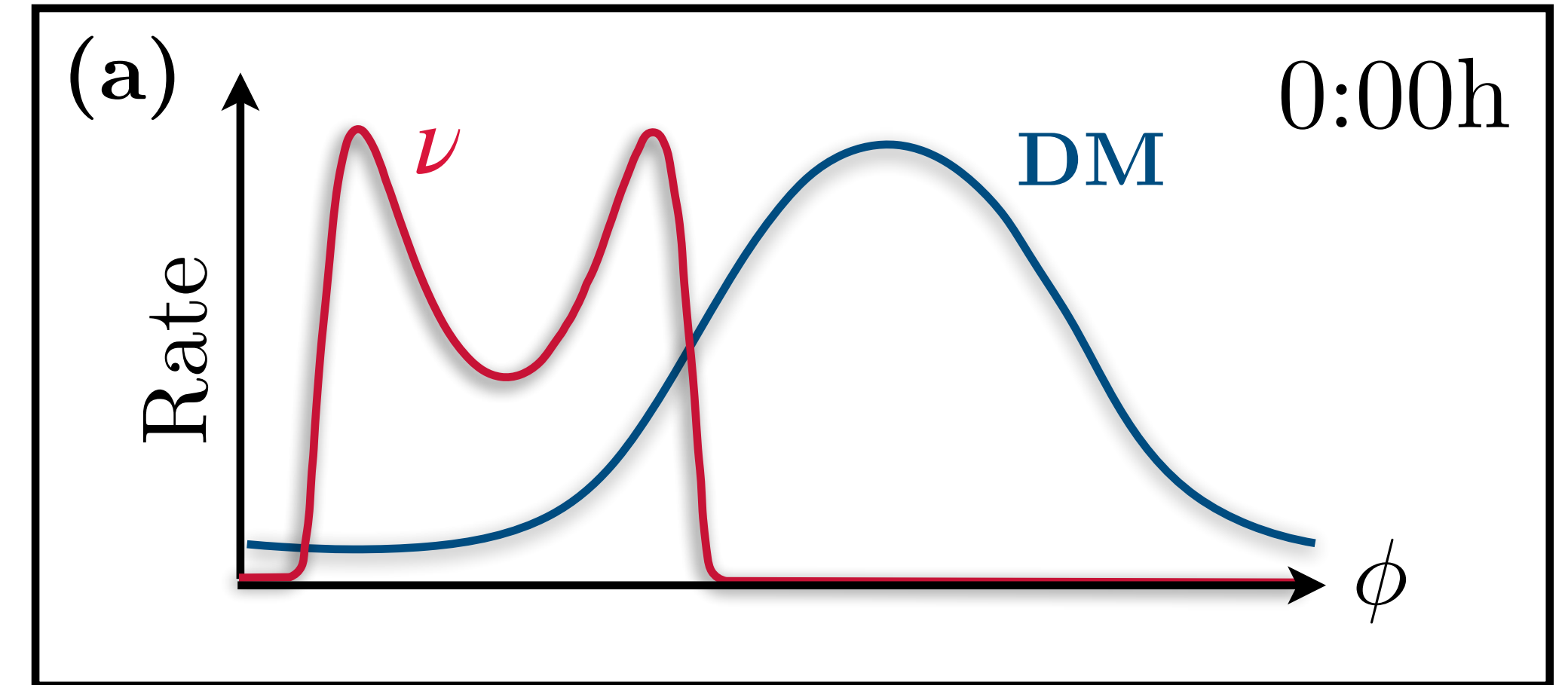
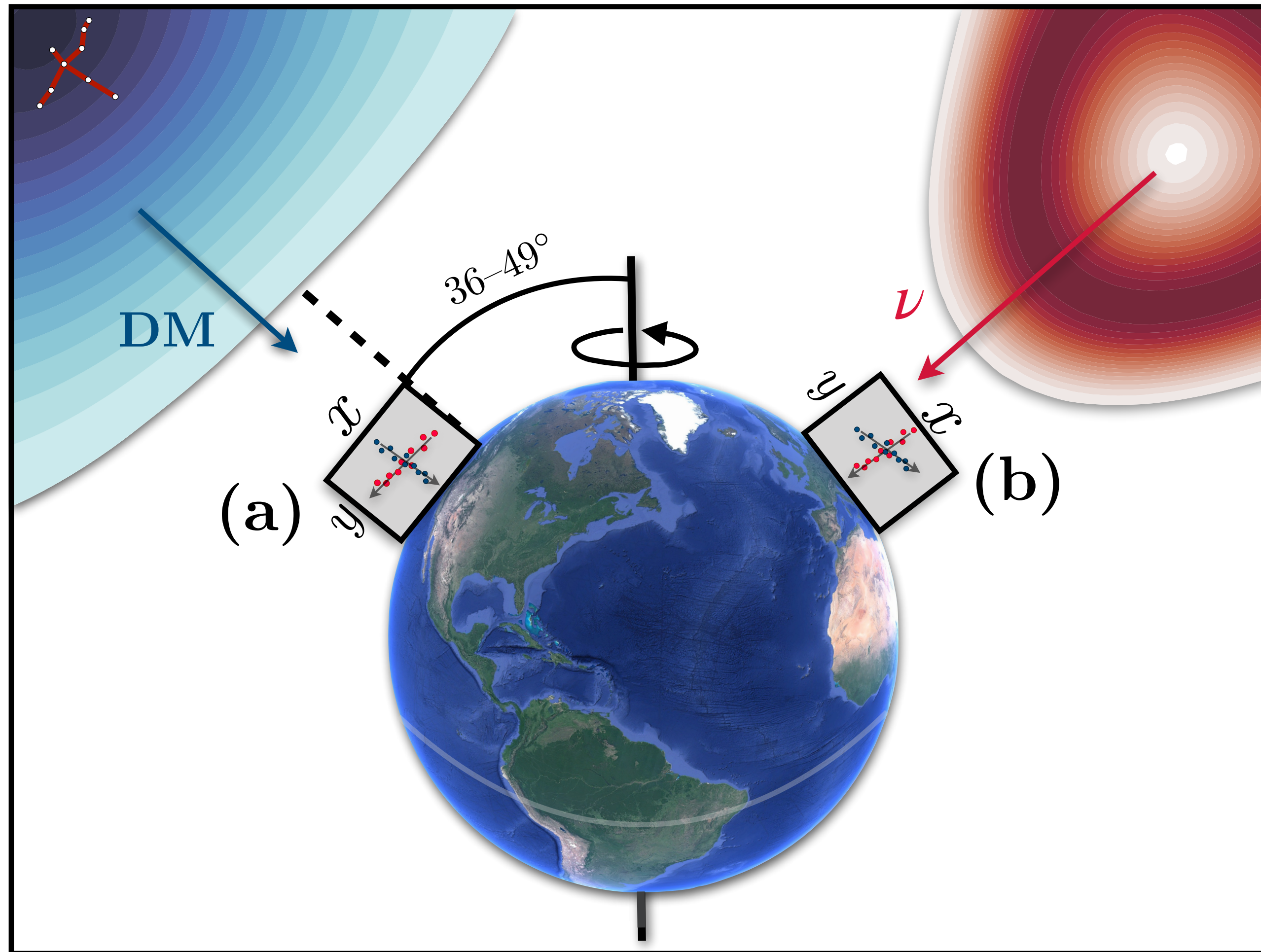
# DNA-based directional detector?

Not that high-density, but could provide nm-scale tracking



# A different way of seeing directionality: Daily modulation

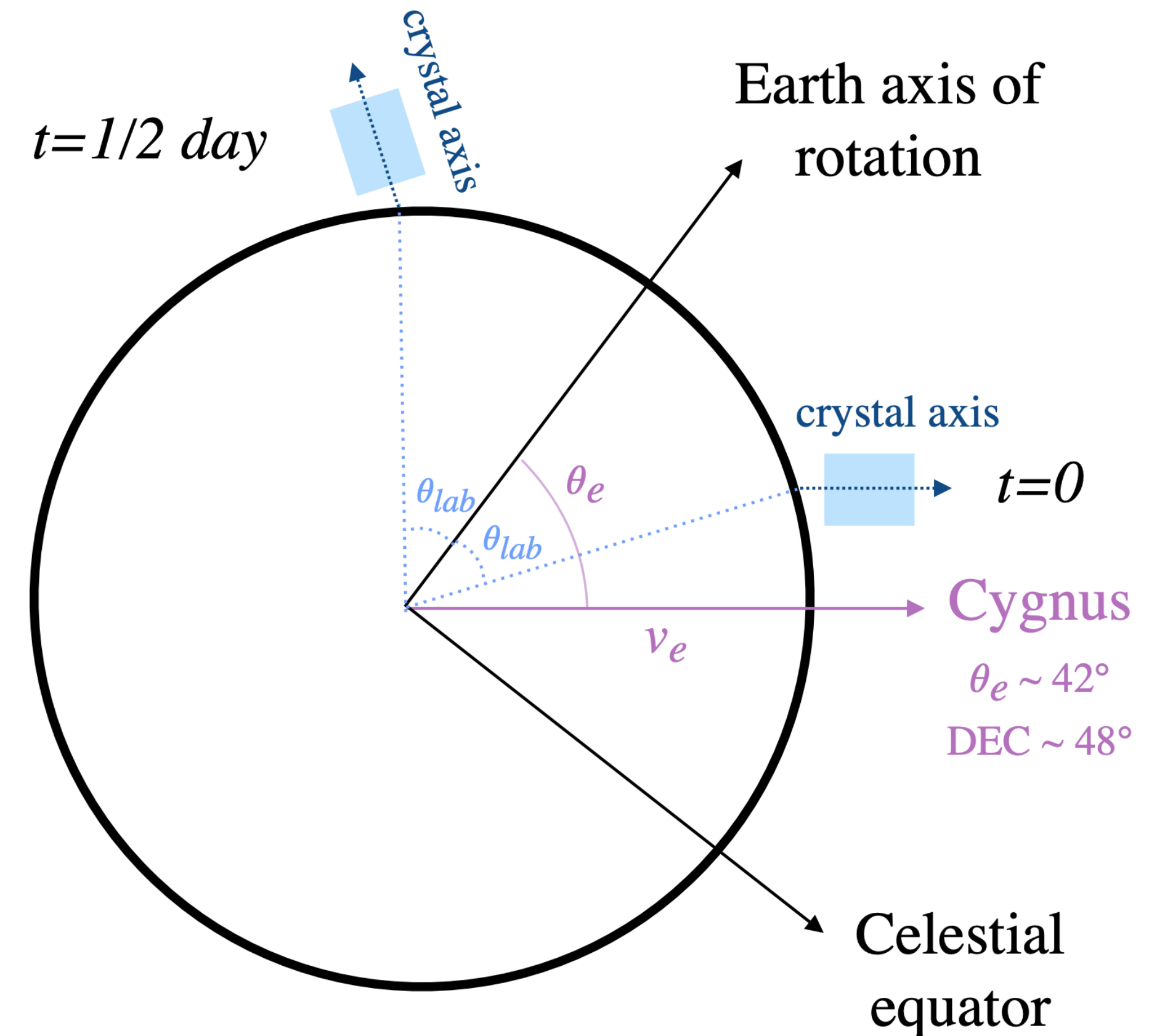
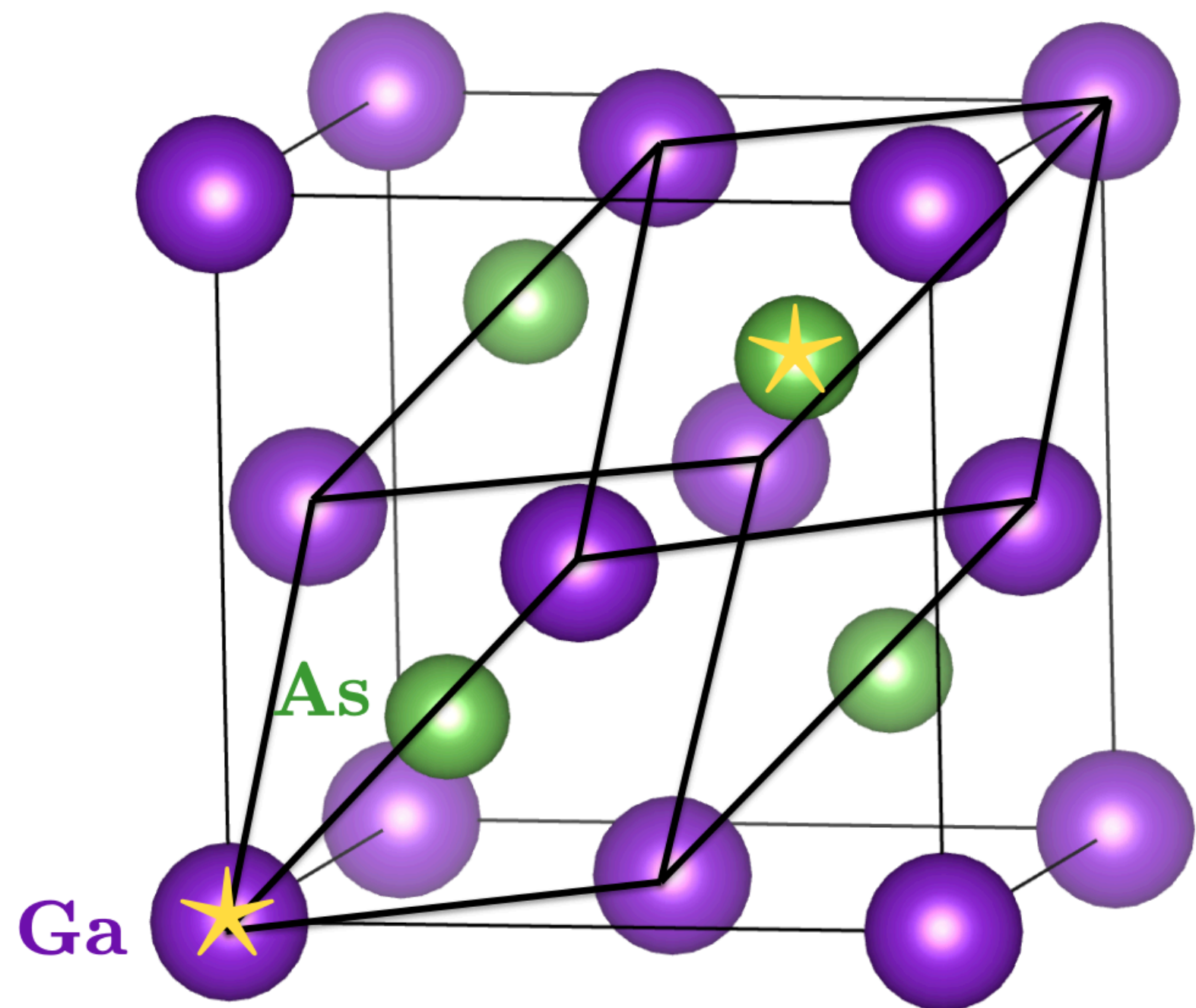
From the detector's perspective, the galactic dipole signature translates to a sidereal daily modulation in angle  $\rightarrow$  this is also a smoking gun



# Directionality via daily modulation

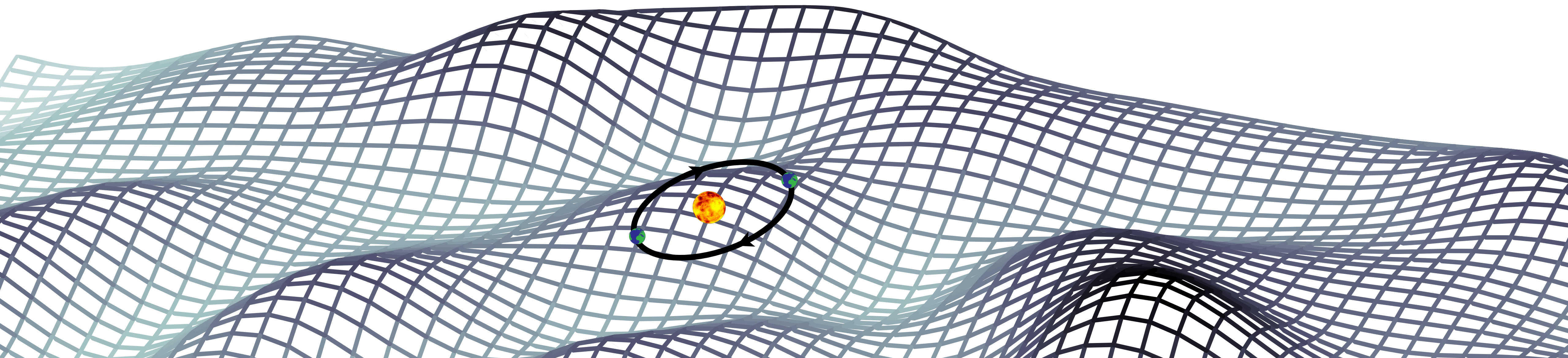
Use some material with an anisotropic response to a DM signal (e.g. via phonons/light )  
→ Detect directionality via daily modulation without needing to reconstruct a track in 3D.  
Could be an approach for very low mass DM-electron scattering

e.g. “Polar materials” Griffin+ [1807.10291]



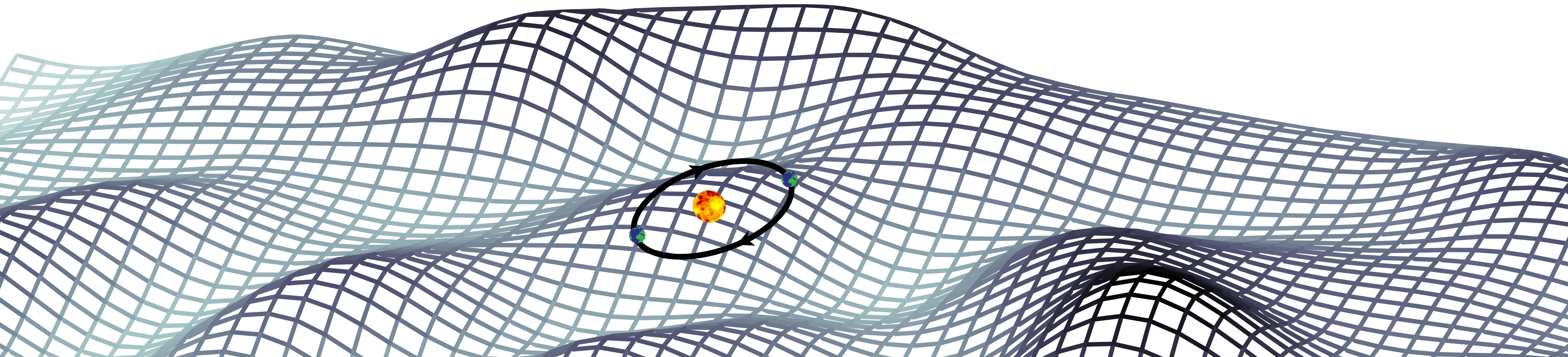
# What about wave-like dark matter, e.g. axions?

$$a(\mathbf{x}, t) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_{\text{DM}}}}{m_a} \cos(m_a t - m_a \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \phi)$$



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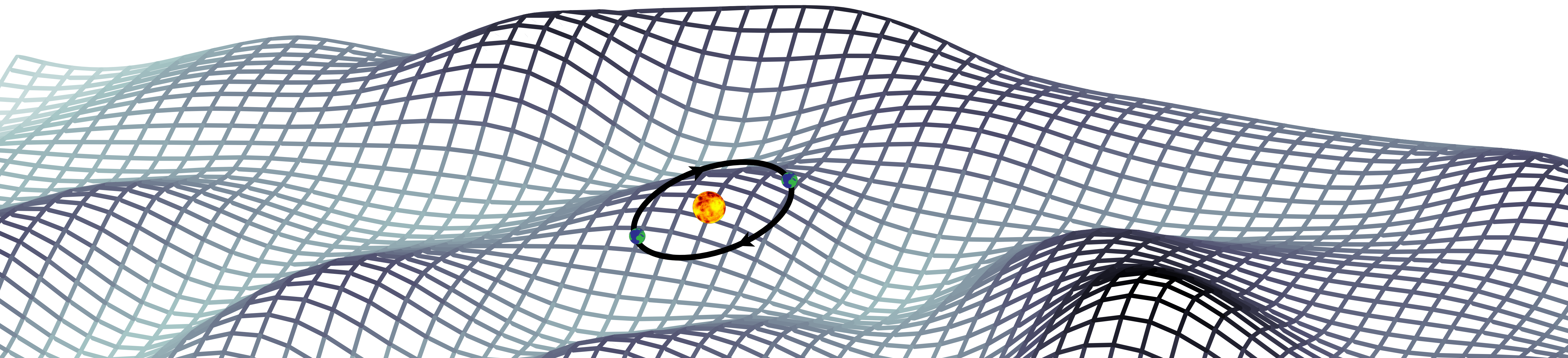
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How to extract directional signal?

→ Measure field over scales  $|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2| \gtrsim 1/m_a v$

→ Measure gradient of the field  $\nabla a \sim \mathbf{v} \sin(m_a t - m_a \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \phi)$



# Directional detection for QCD axions

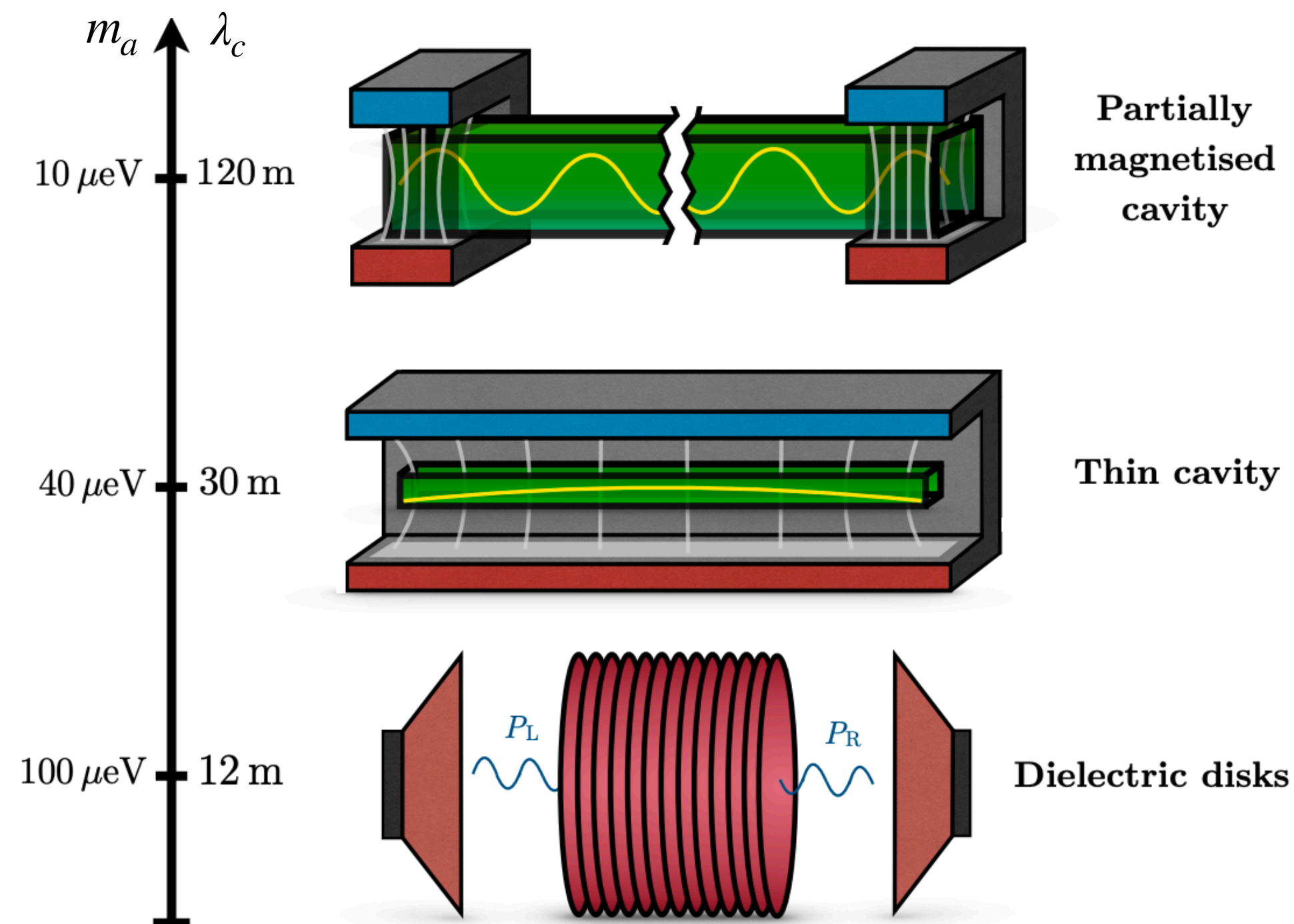
May also be possible to do some kind of directional measurement to extract even more information

$$a(\mathbf{x}, t) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_{\text{DM}}}}{m_a} \cos(m_a t - \boxed{m_a \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \phi)$$

## Single experiment directionality

→ Exploit different phase of oscillation at different ends of a large detector

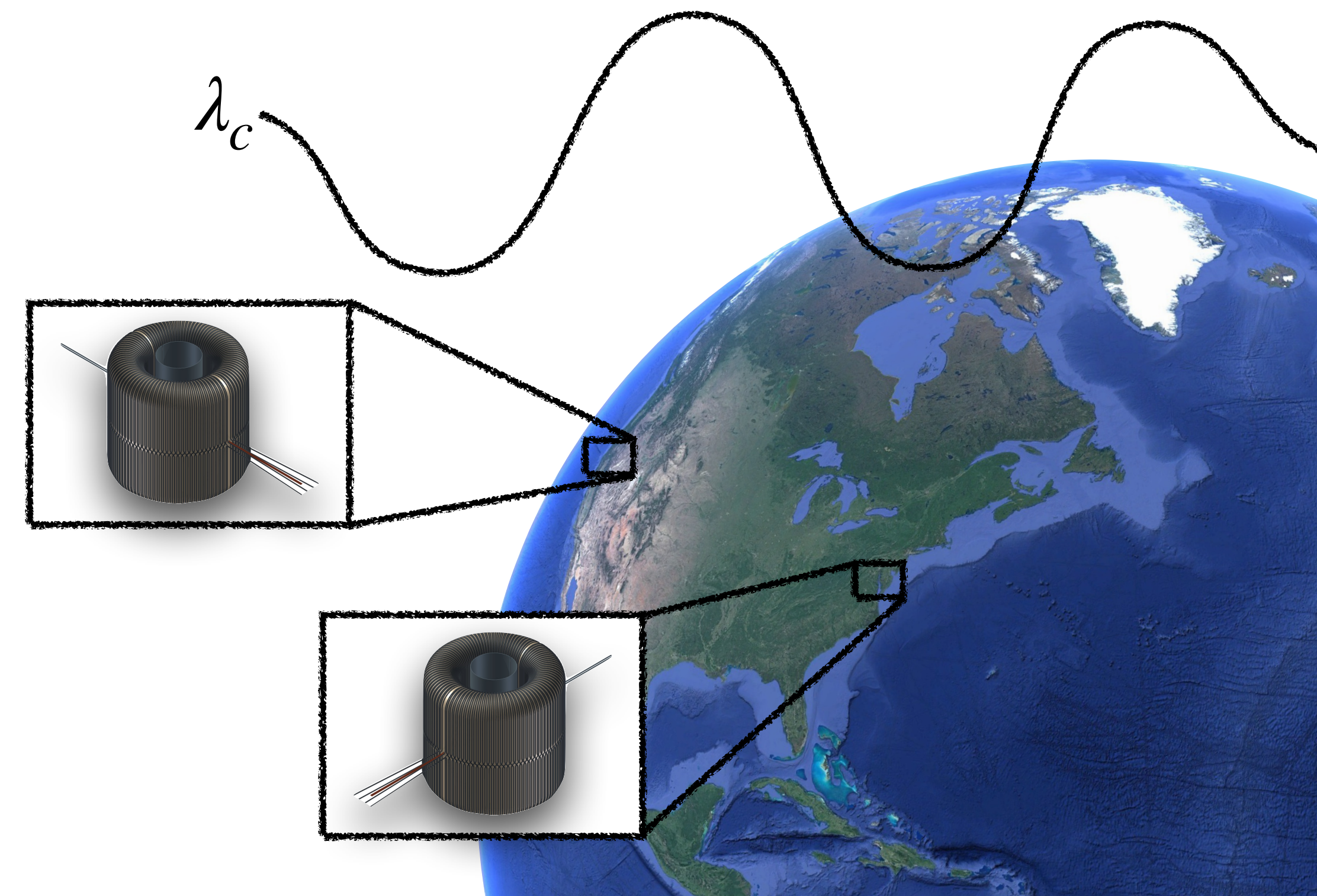
Knirck+ [1806.05927]



## Multi-experiment directionality

→ combine precise axion phase information at detectors separated by a few wavelengths

Foster+ [2009.14201]



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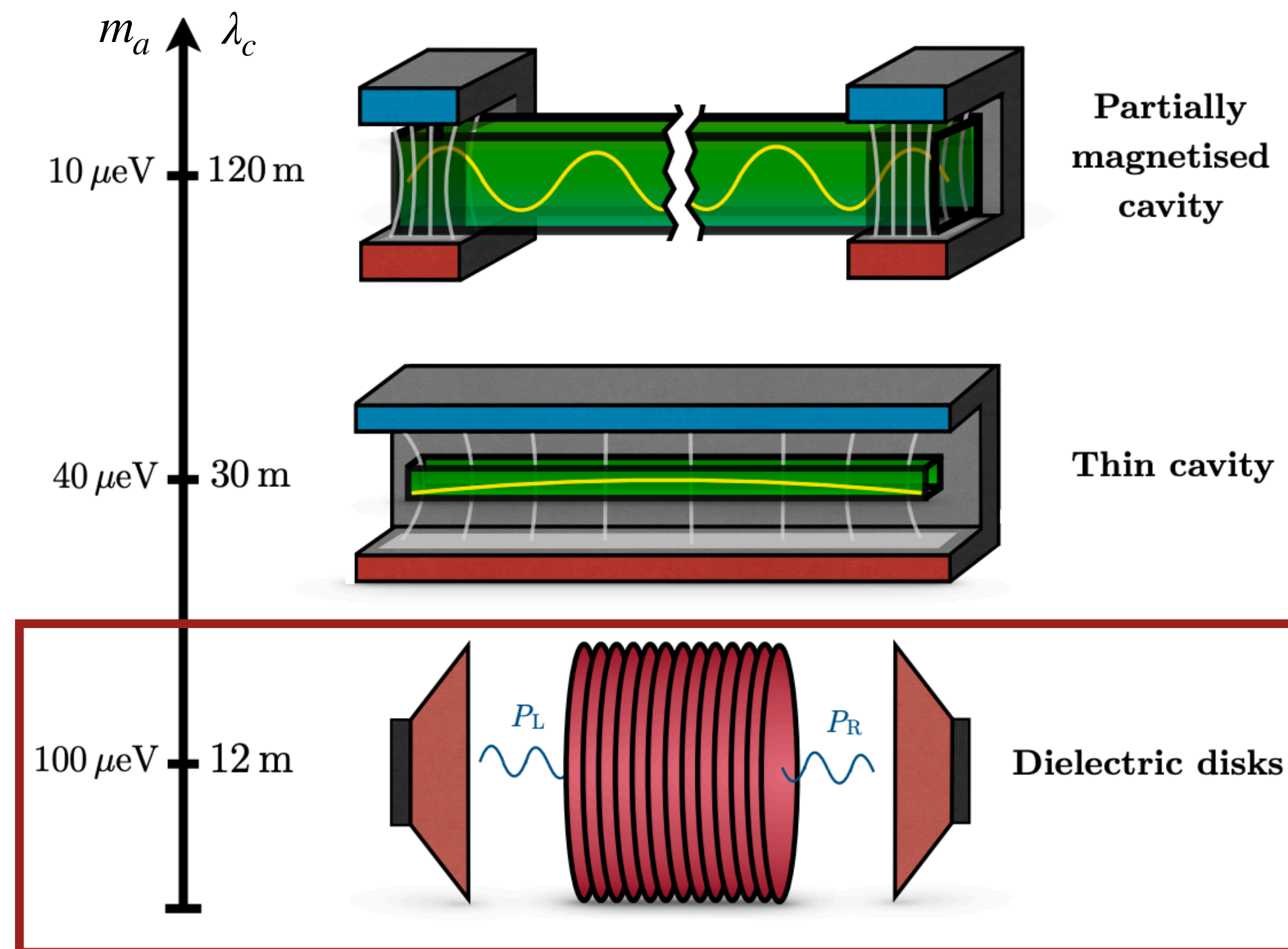
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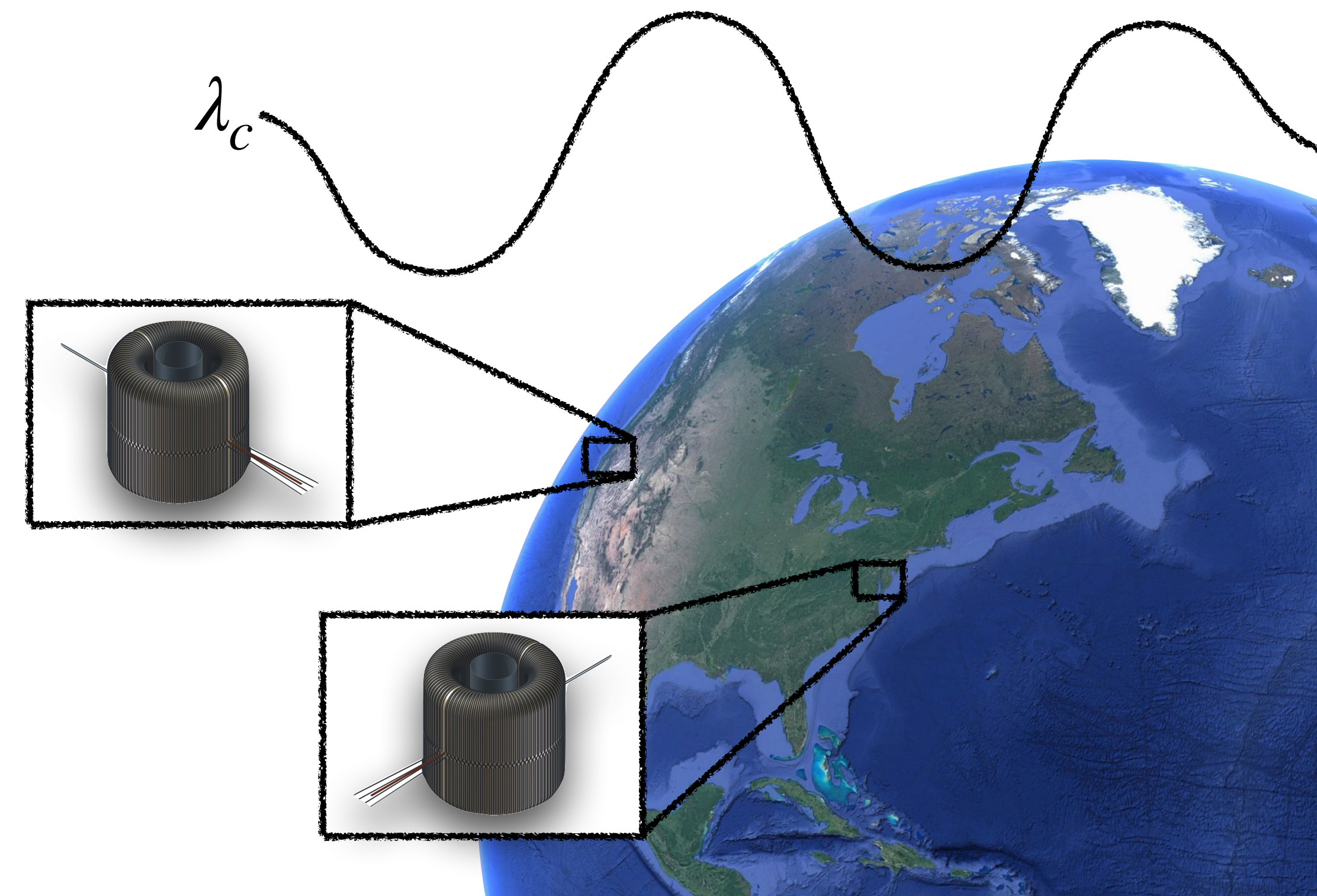
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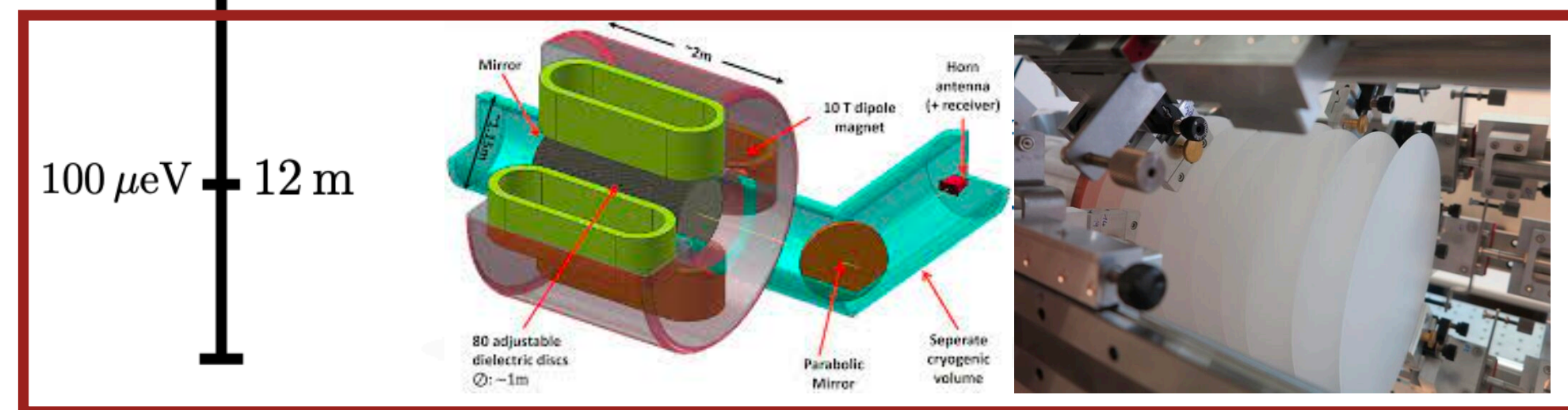
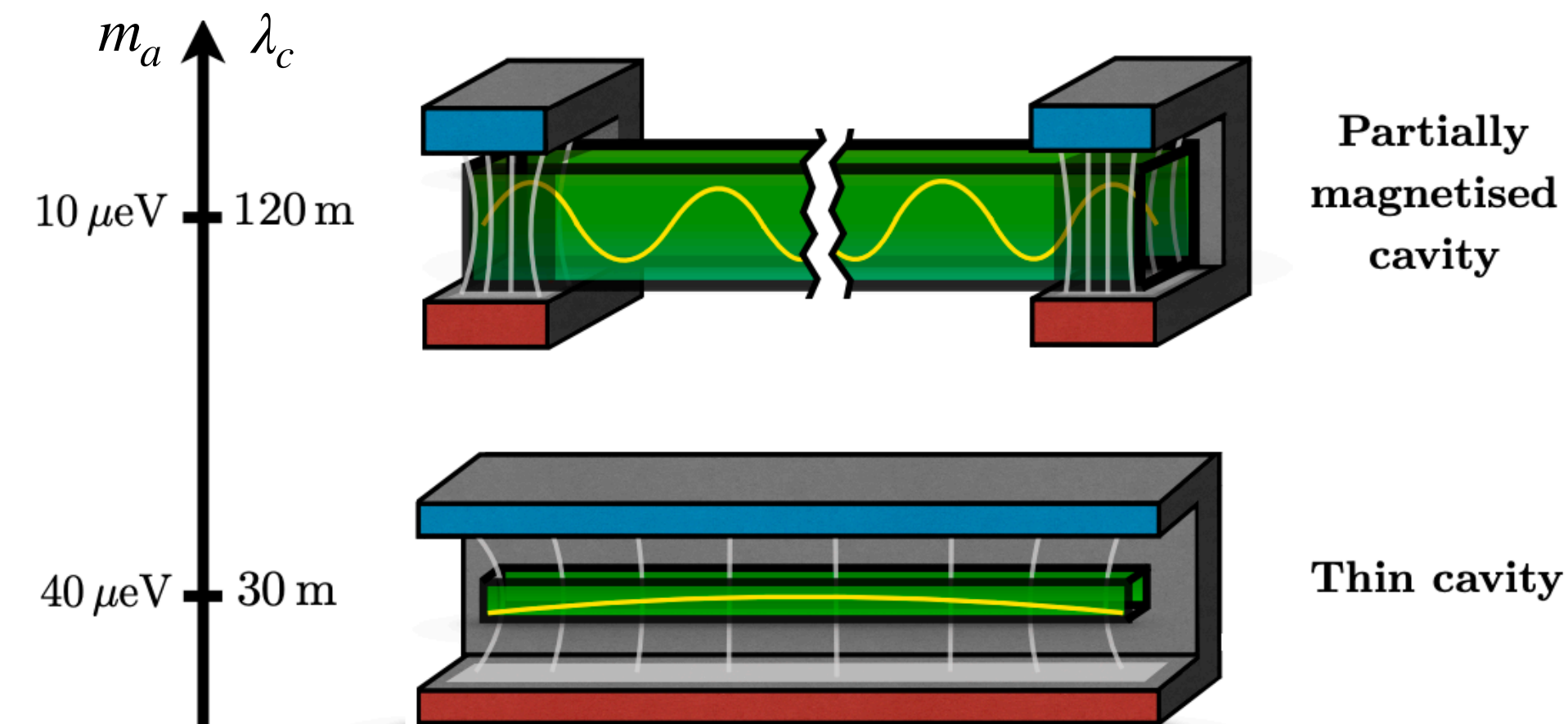
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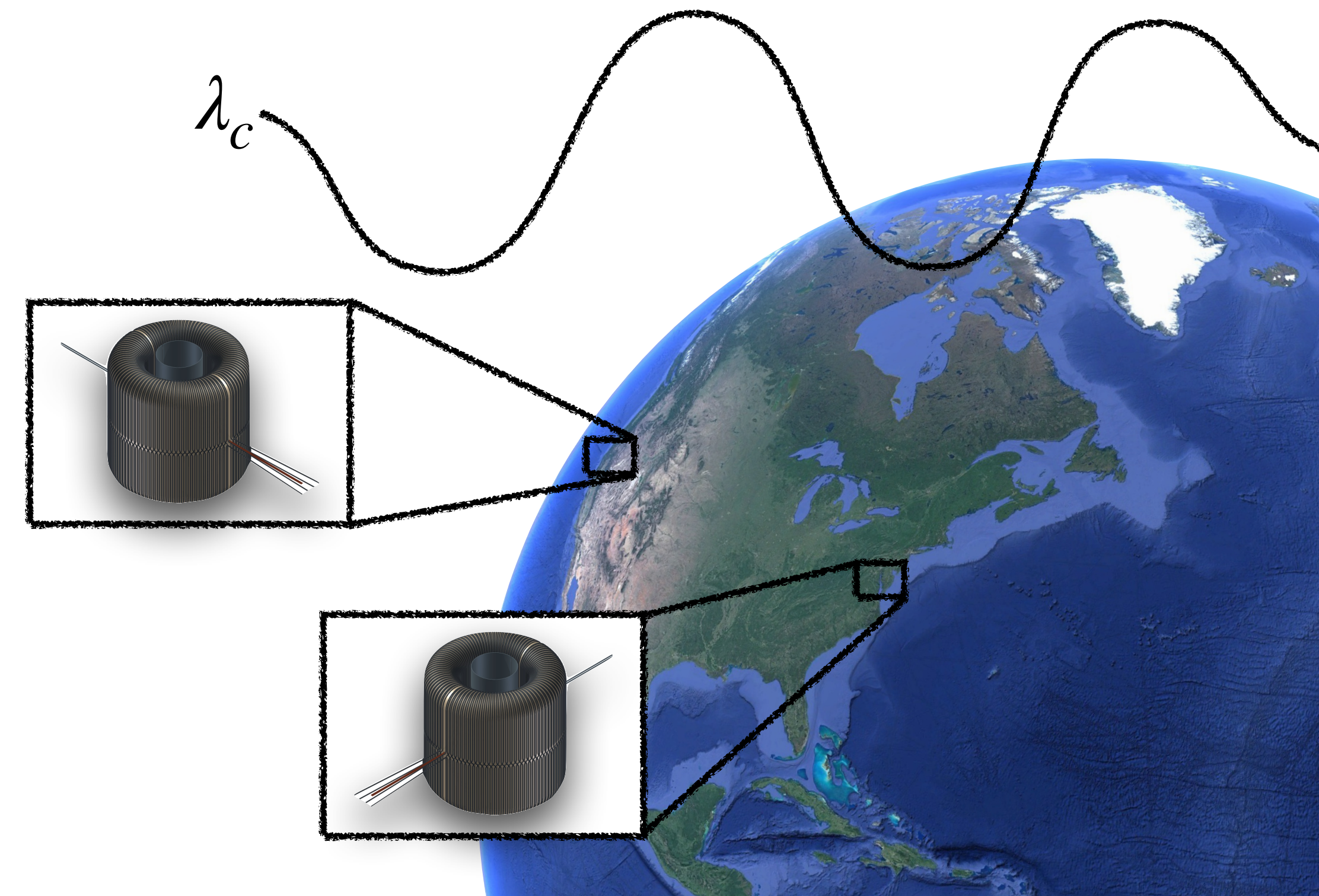
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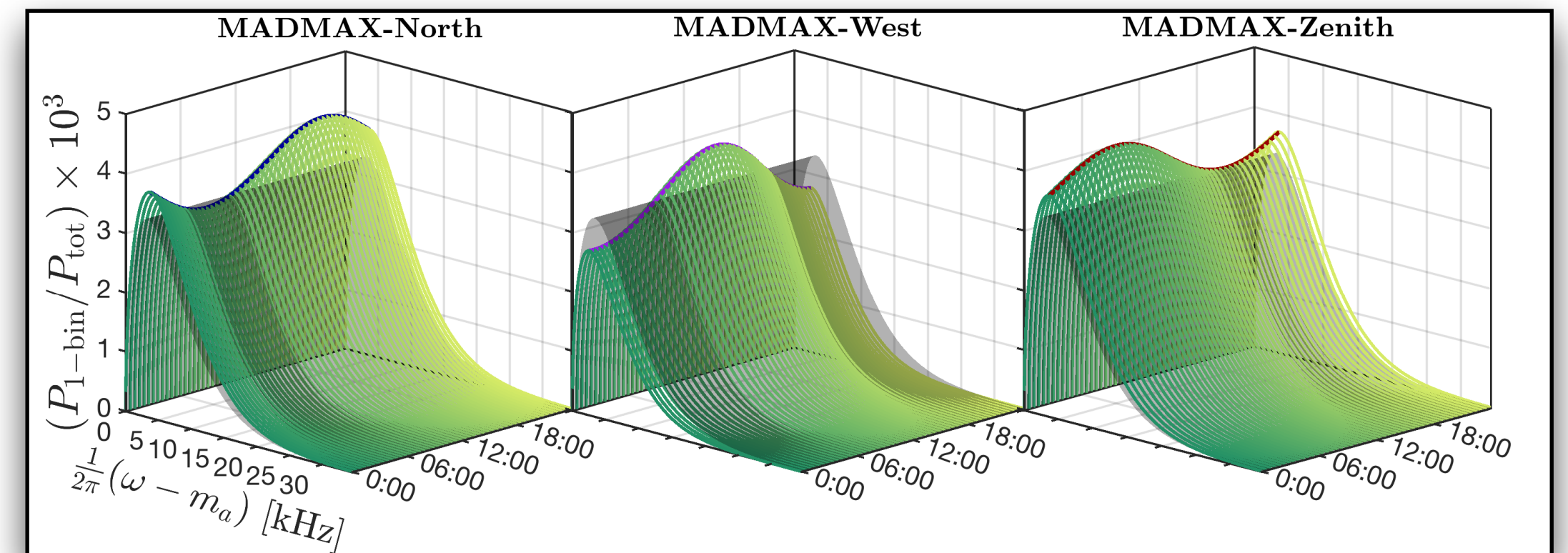


# Directional detection for QCD axions

Directionality / sidereal modulation provides unambiguous evidence of a dark matter signal, but can also help study the velocity distribution of dark matter

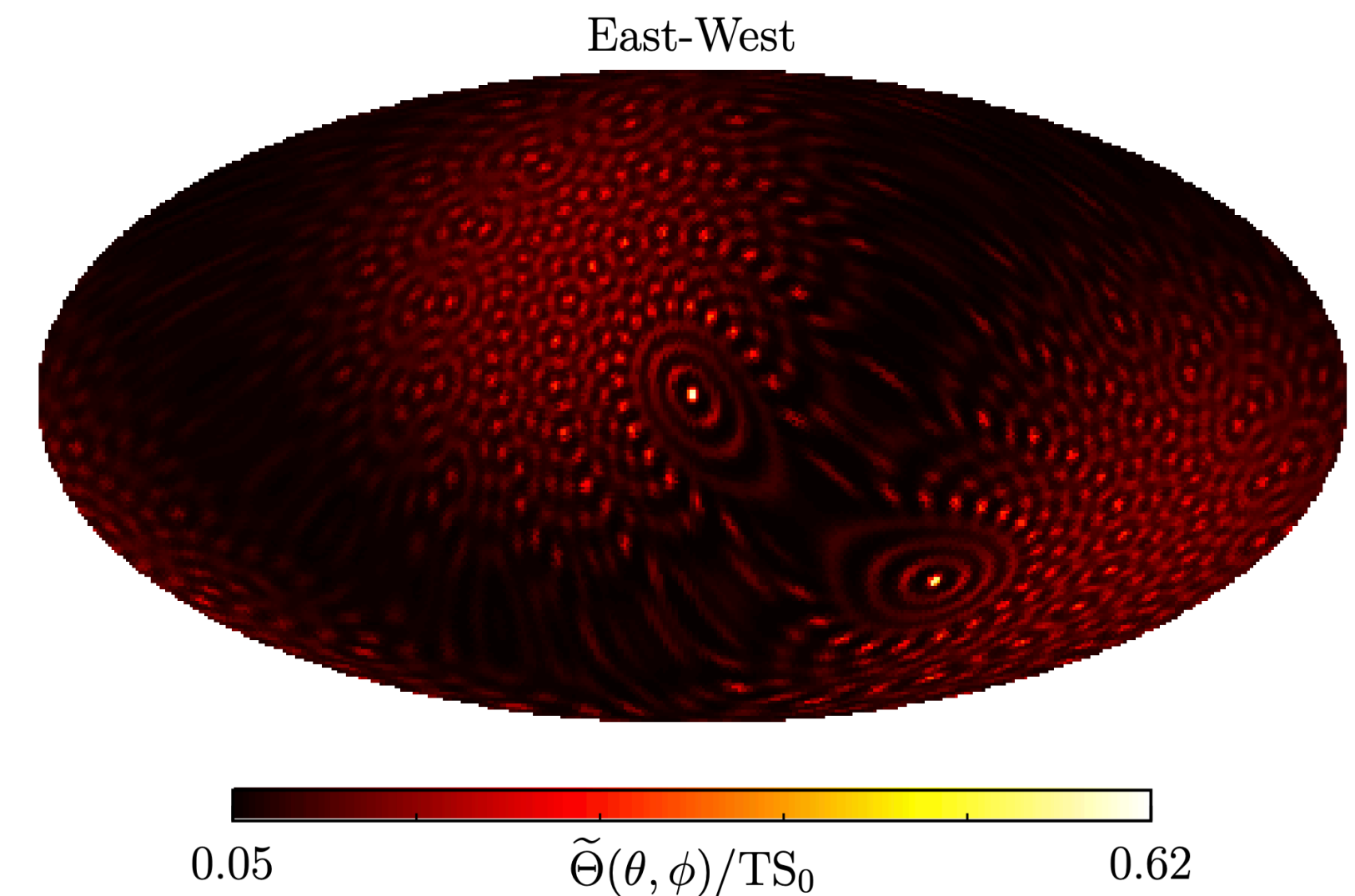
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Knirck+ [1806.05927]



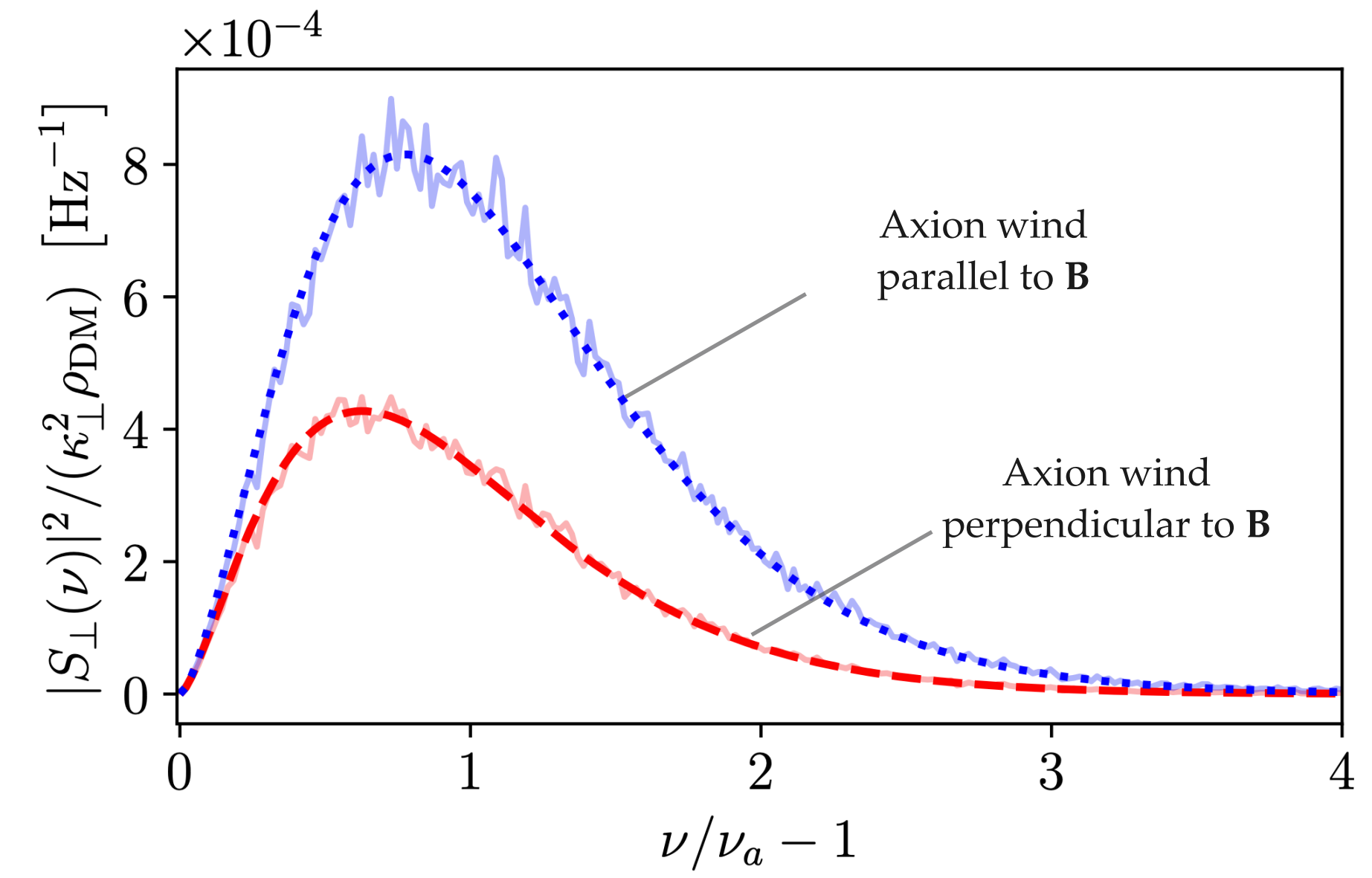
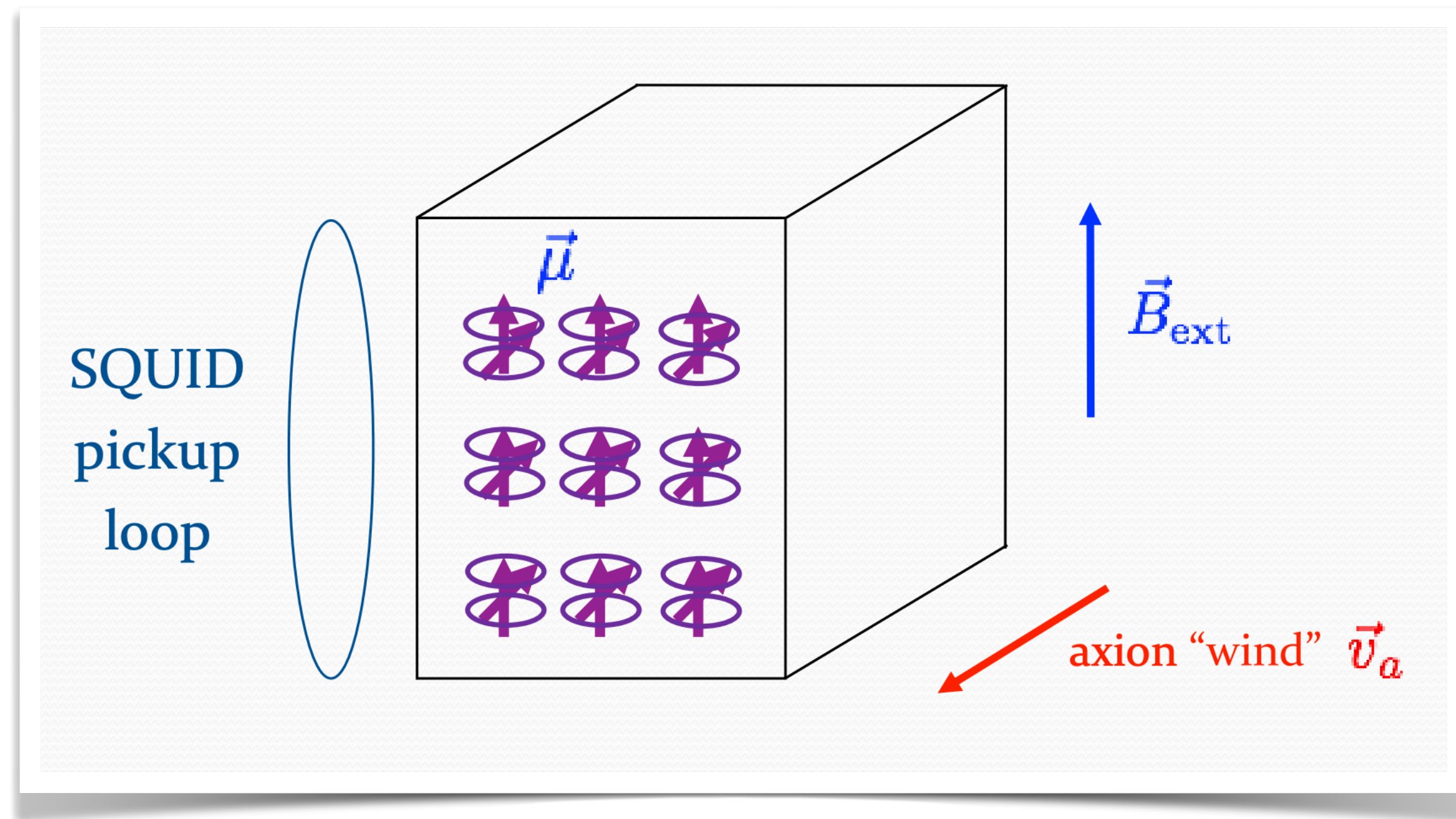
## Multi-experiment directionality

Foster+ [2009.14201]



# Directional detection for light ALPs: CASPEr-gradient

$$\mathcal{L} \sim \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 N$$

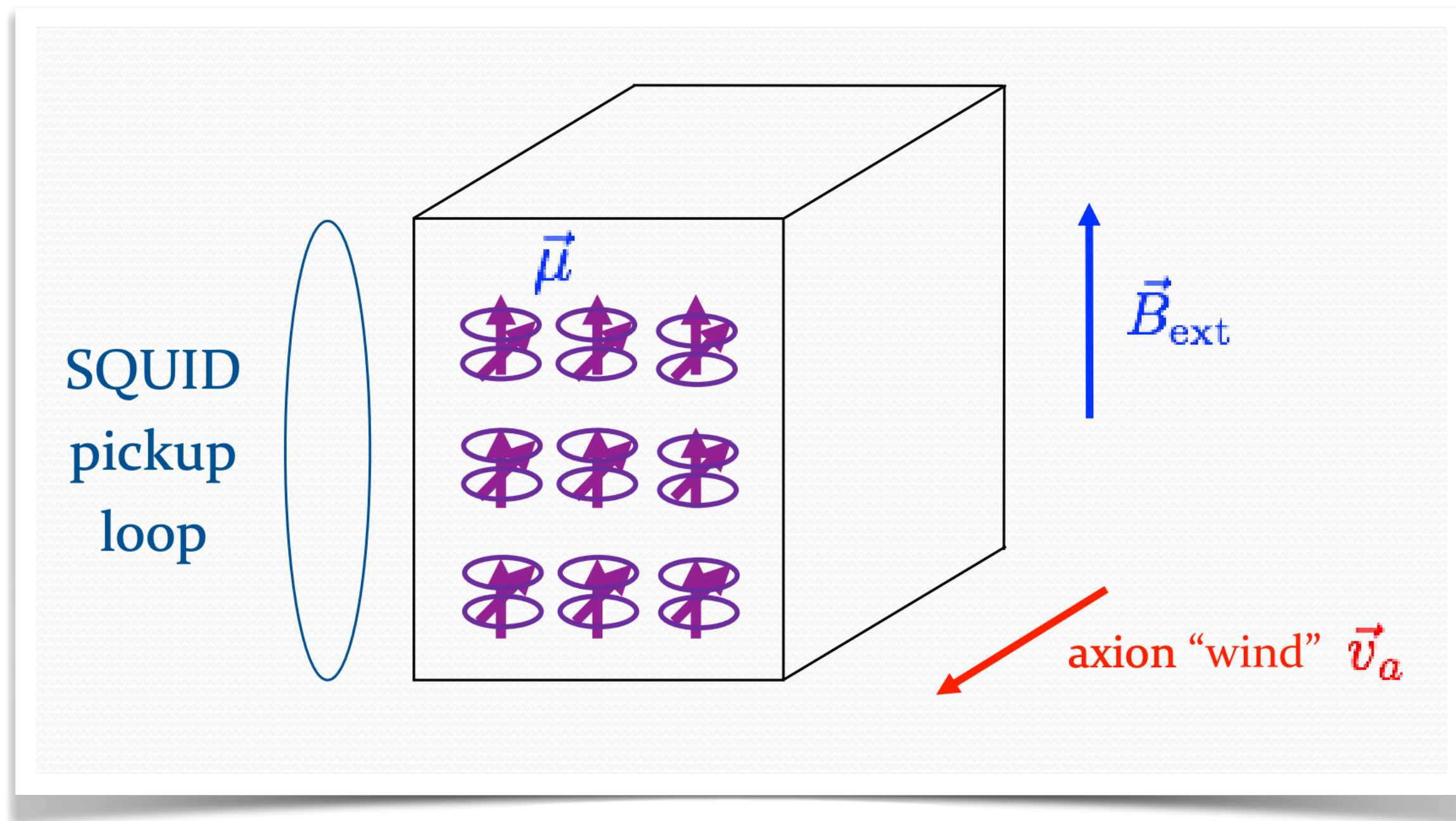


Daily modulation due to directional dependence on axion gradient

Gramolin+ [2107.11948]

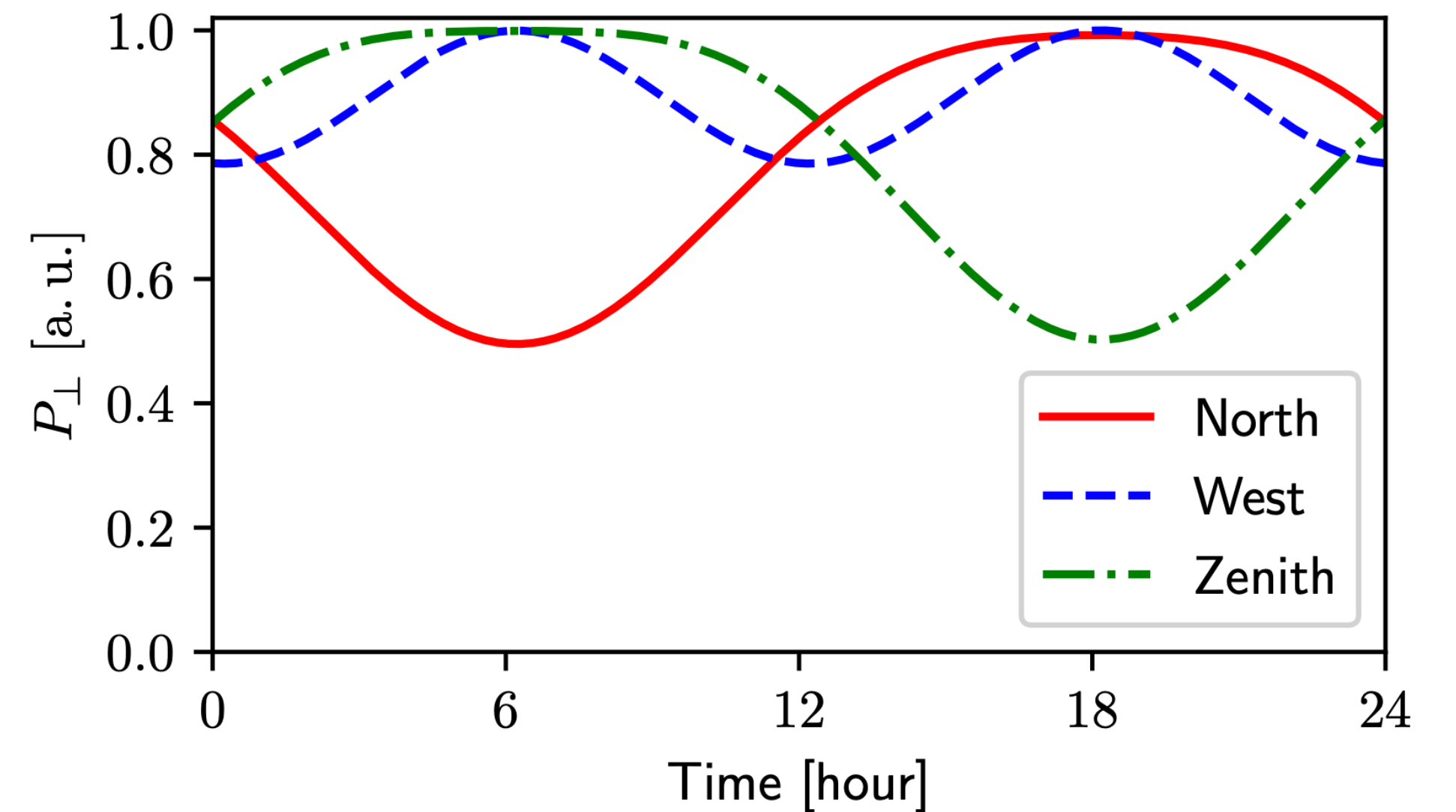
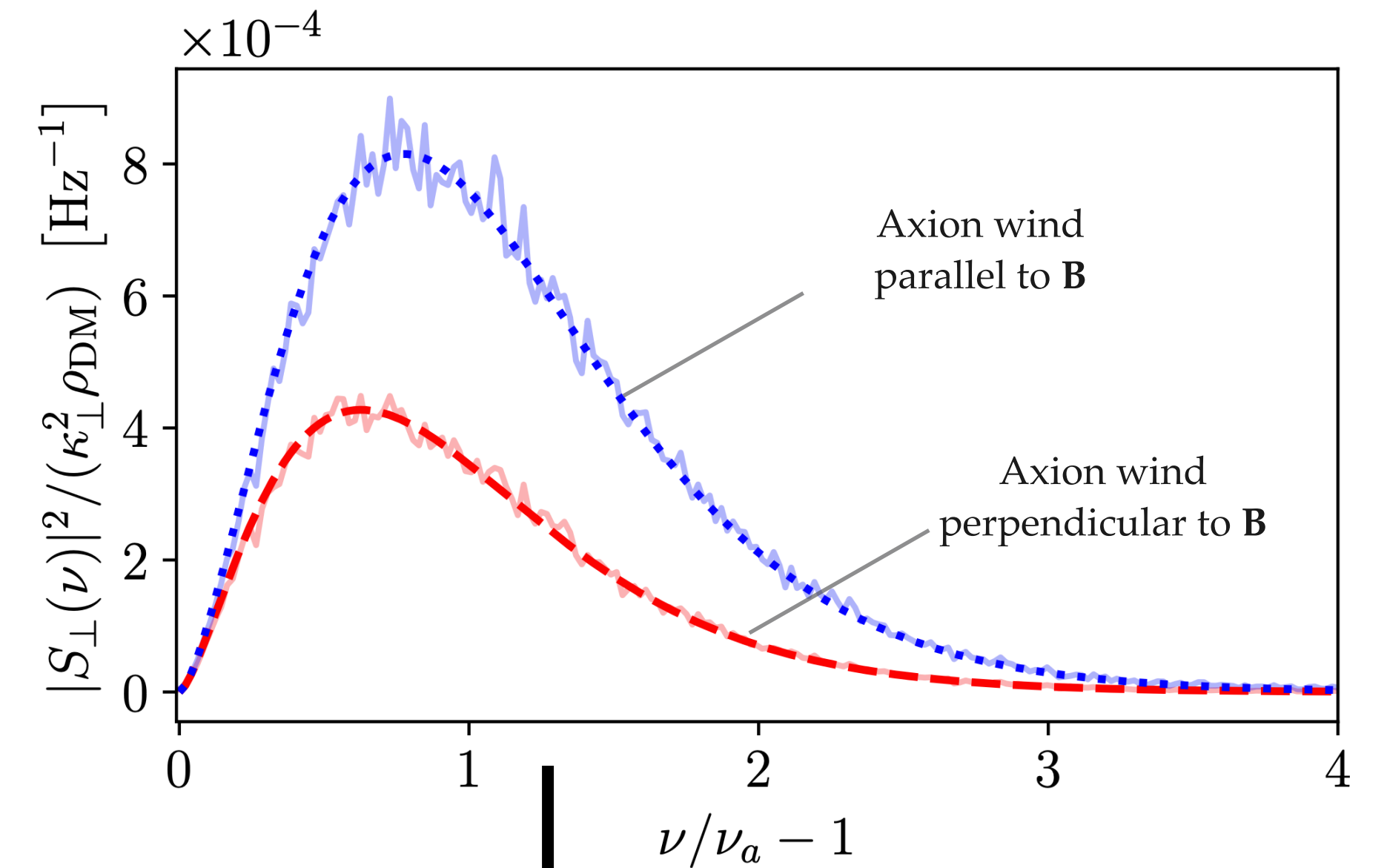
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$$\mathcal{L} \sim \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 N$$



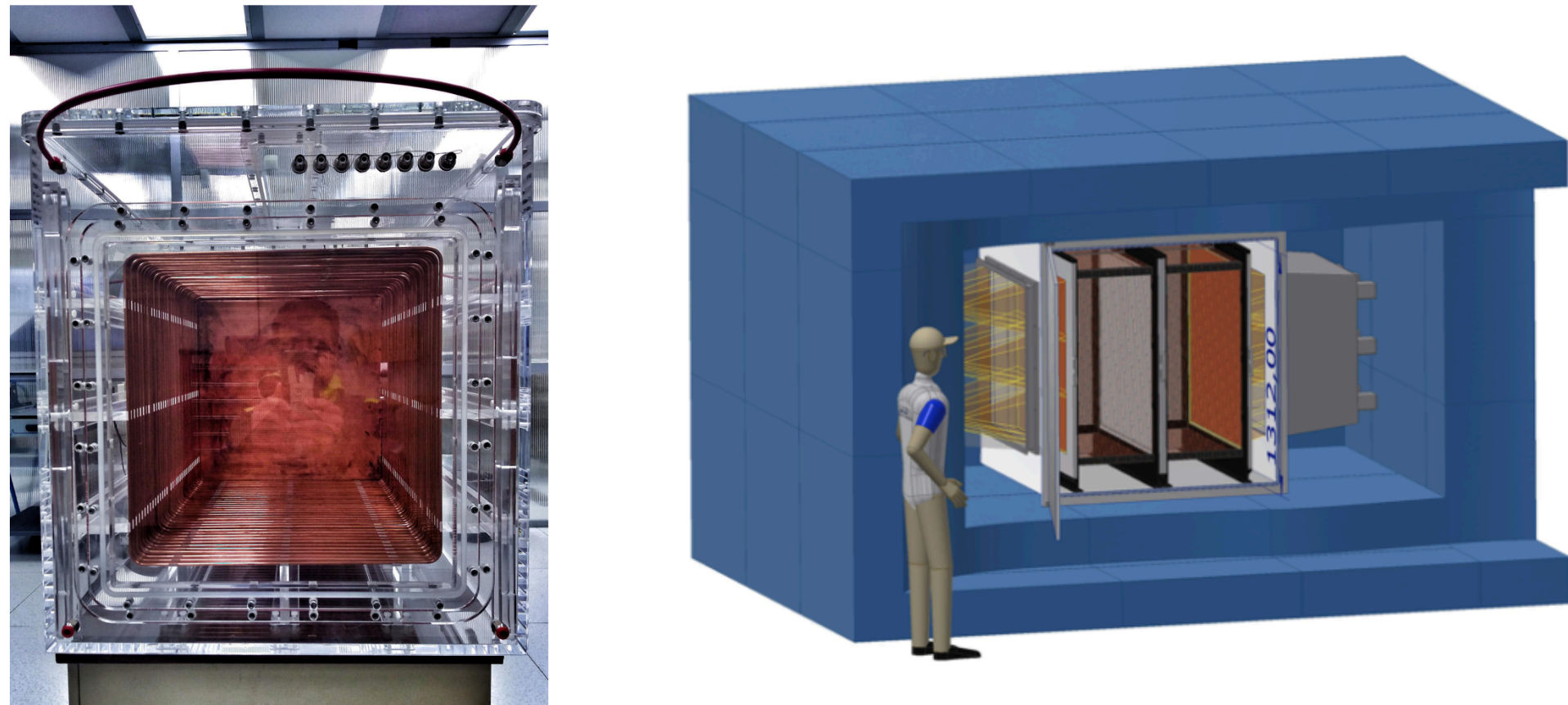
Daily modulation due to directional dependence on axion gradient

Gramolin+ [2107.11948]

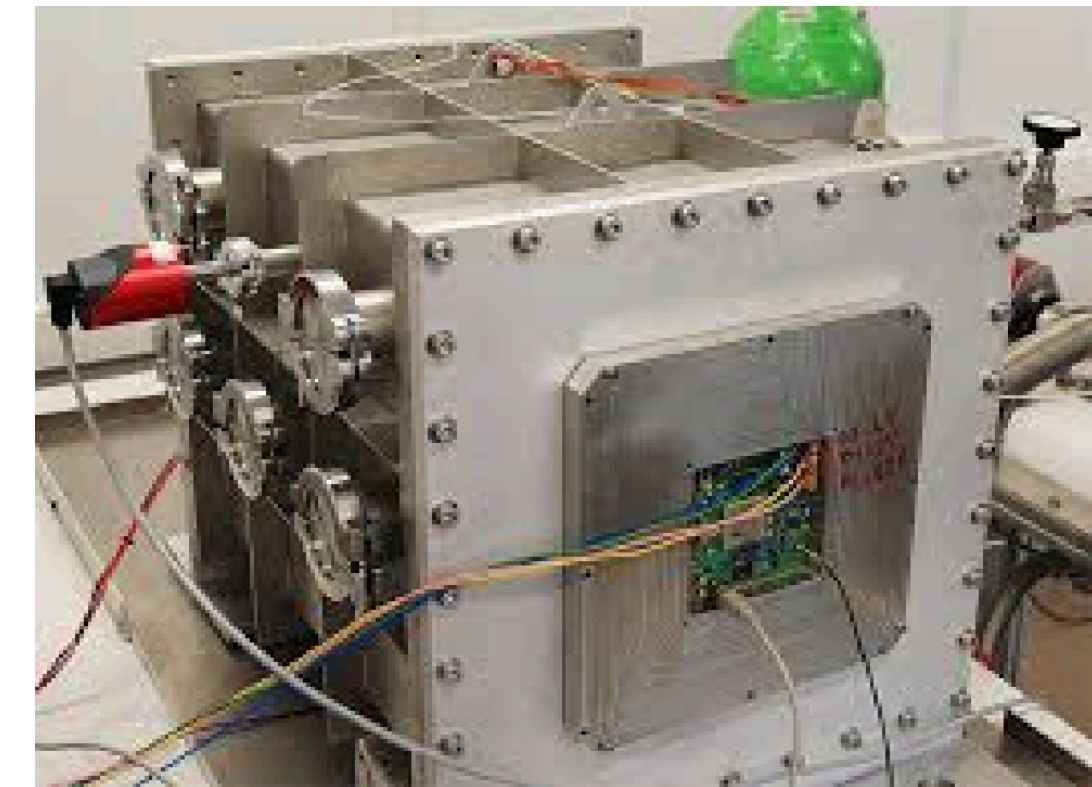


# More experiments I didn't have time to mention

## CYGNO (various TPC projects)

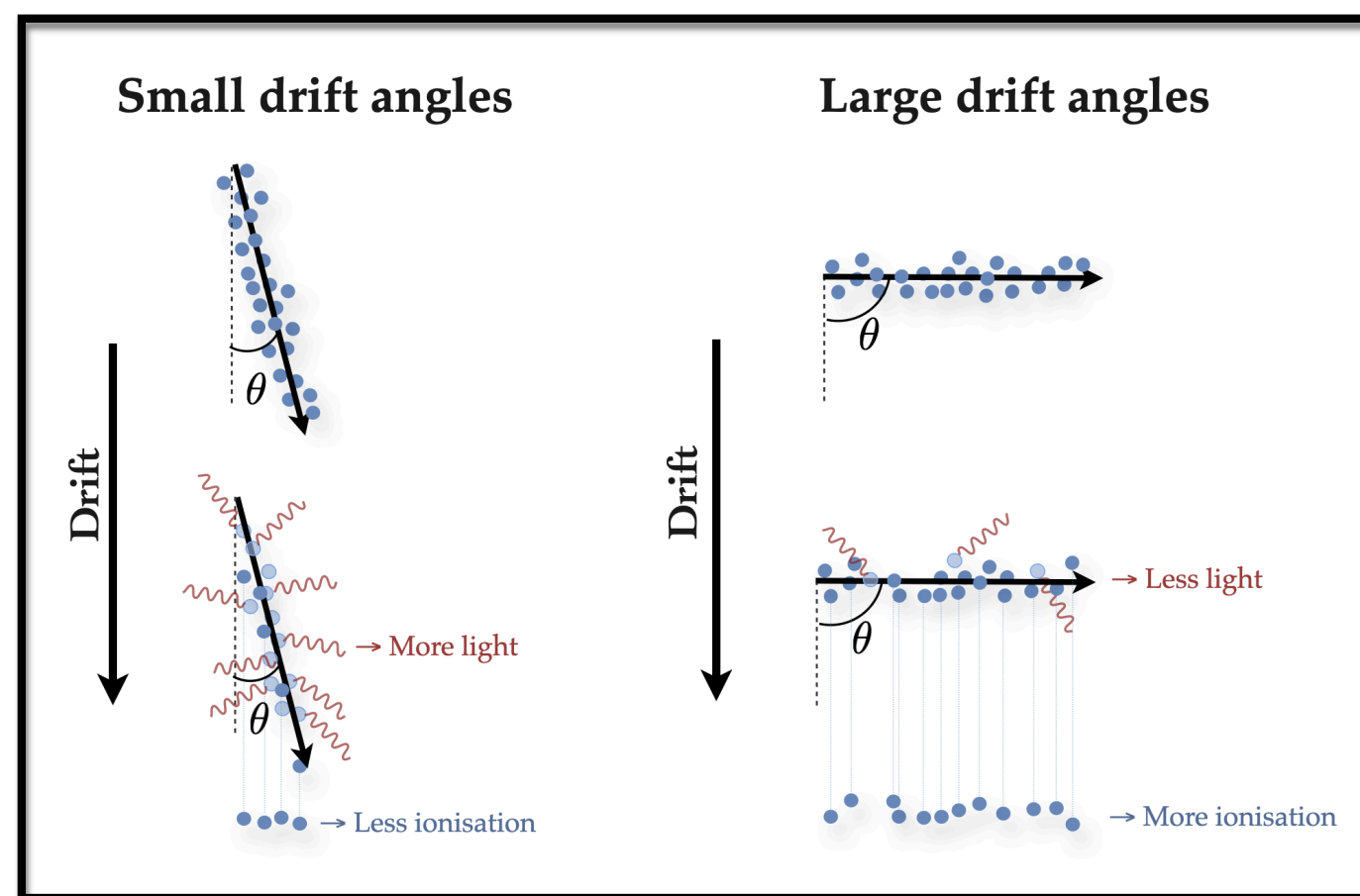


## MIMAC (TPC)

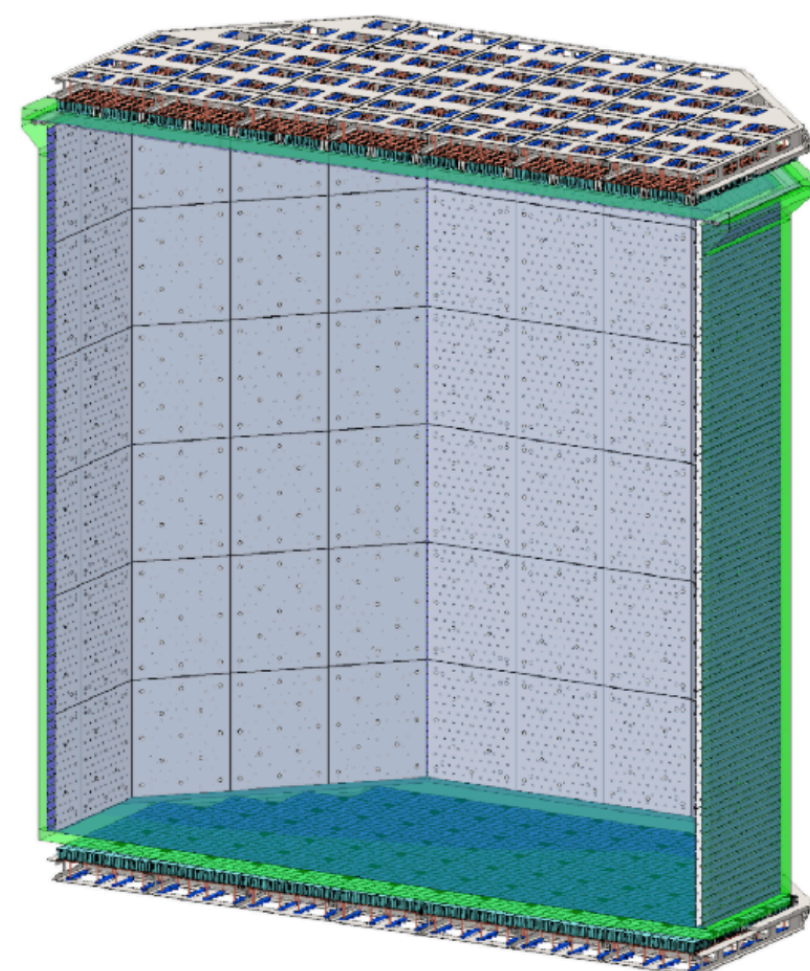


## ReD/DarkSide

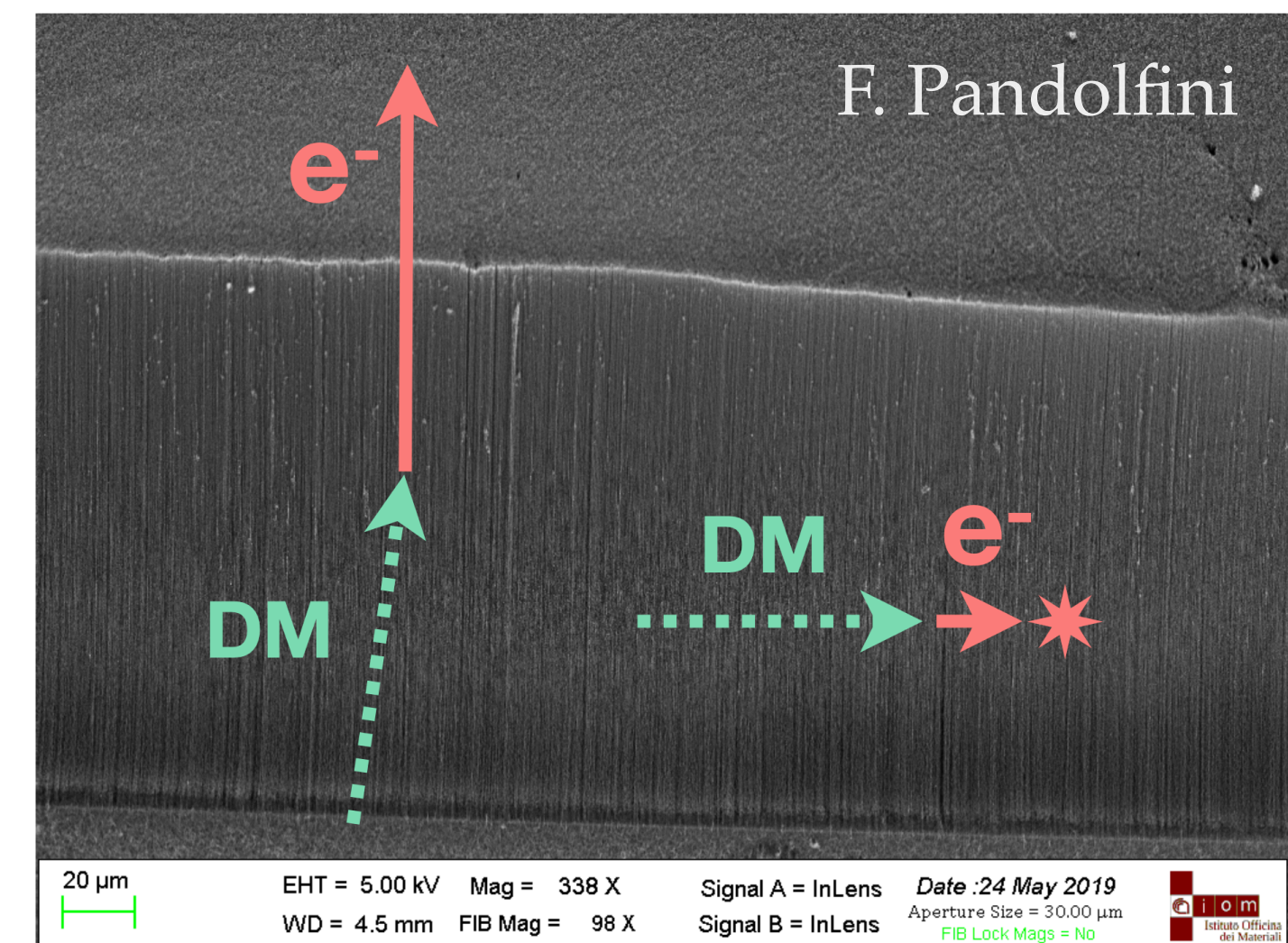
### (columnar recombination in LAr)



DarkSide-20k. 2024-??



## Dark-PMT (Carbon nanotubes)



# Summary

- Directionality is a smoking gun signature that could be used to confirm the signal of almost any DM candidate detected directly
- Especially helpful for confronting impending crises in the field like the neutrino fog
- Directionality is inspiring many novel detector concepts

See [2102.04596] for a recent review of directional detection



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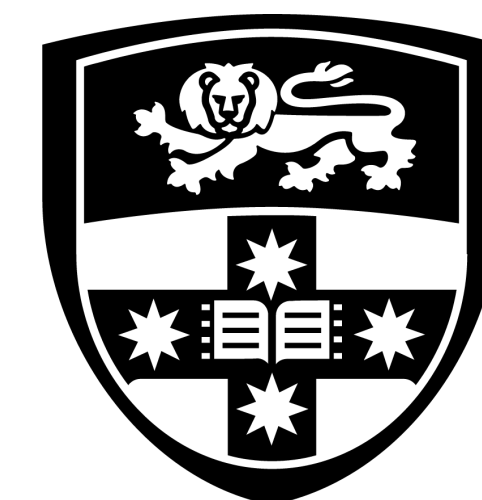
# Further reading (of my own papers...)

[2102.04596] - a review of directional detection

[2002.07499] - directional detection in Xe / Ar

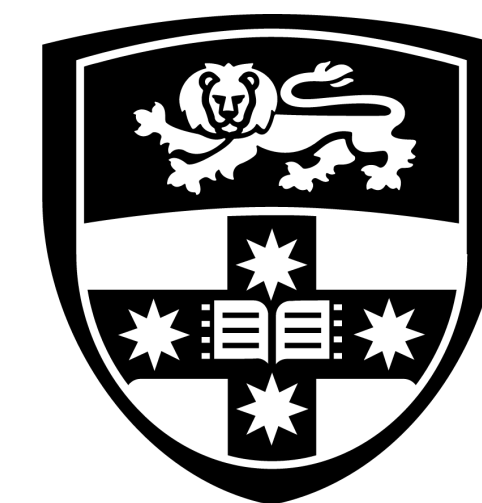
[2008.12587] - directional detection with gas TPCs

[2105.11949] - directional detection with DNA



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# Extra slides



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# Target gas mixture: 755:5 He+SF<sub>6</sub> at 1 atm.

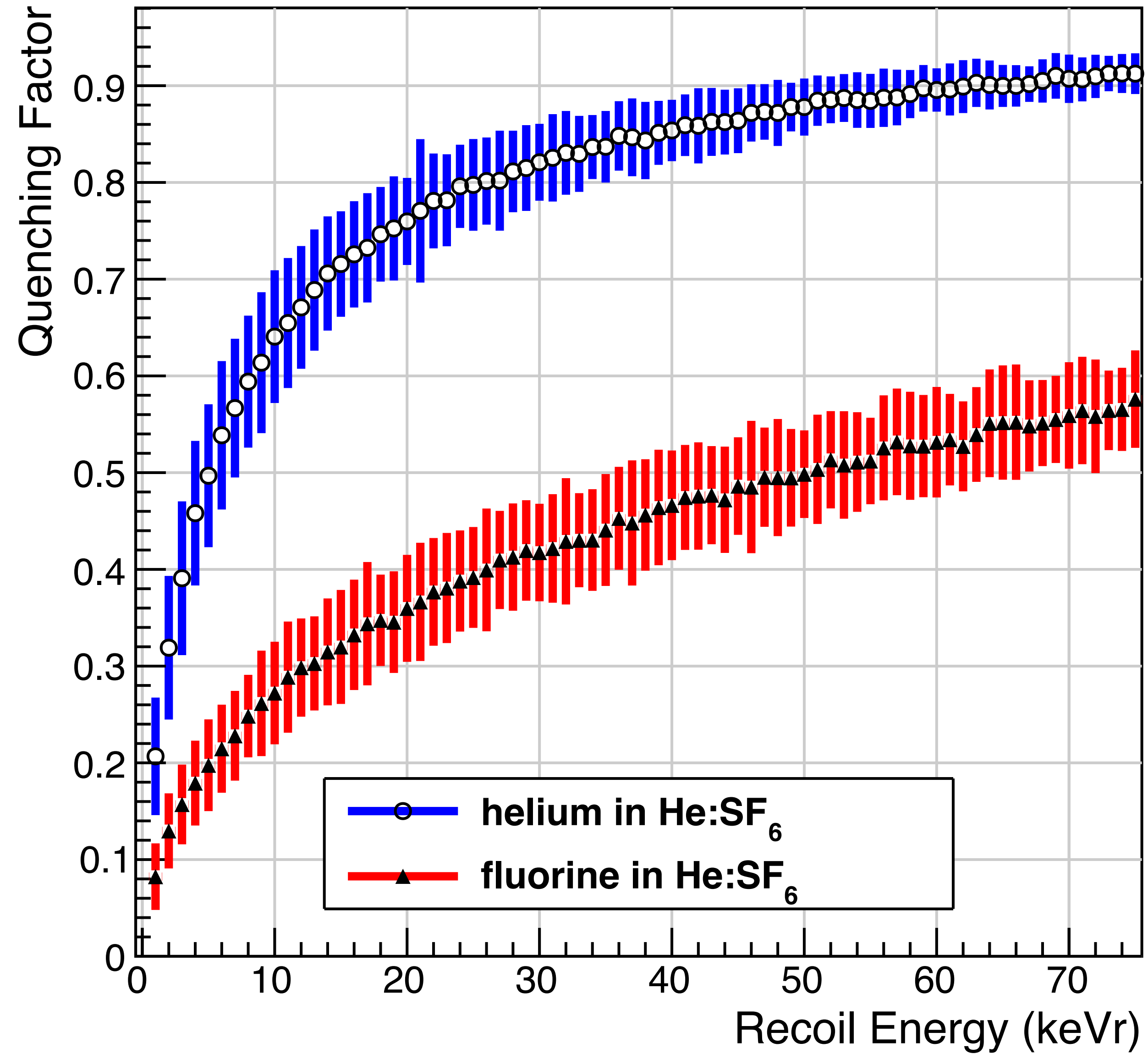
## Why SF<sub>6</sub>?

- ☑ **Negative ion drift mixture:** drift ions rather than electrons, results in lower diffusion and better track preservation
- ☑ **Minority charge carriers** which can be used to fiducialise the gas volume in the drift direction ( $z$ )
- ☑ **<sup>19</sup>F has very high  $\langle S_p \rangle$**  so sets powerful spin dependent WIMP limits (this is why PICO's SD-p limits are so good)

## Why He?

- ☑ **Light WIMPs** still give large recoil energies with He: improves the low mass sensitivity
- ☑ **High quenching factor** in gas mixture (>70% above 10 keVr)
- ☑ **Doesn't significantly impact Fluorine tracks**, can be used simultaneously

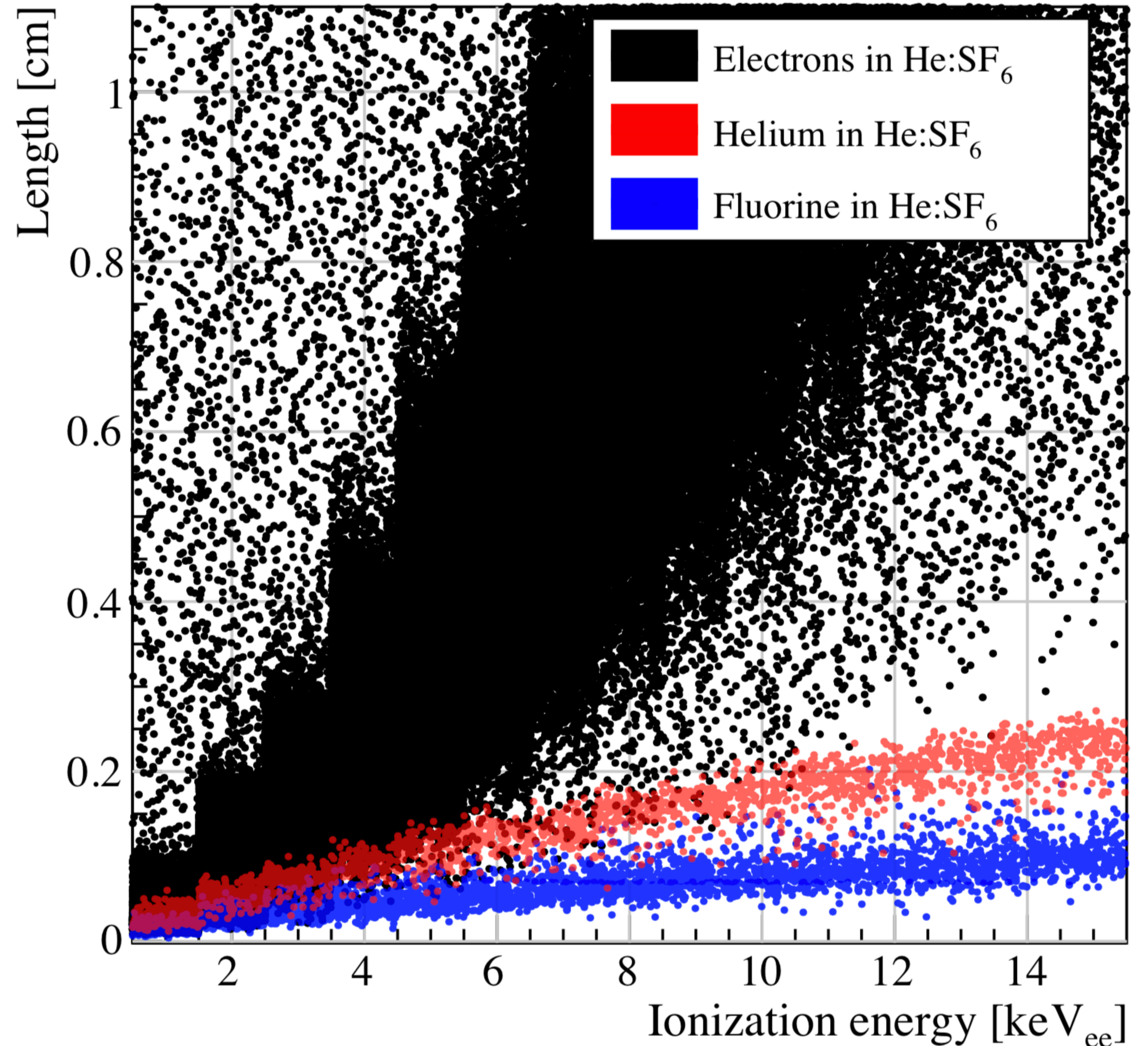
# Quenching factors for recoils in 1 atm of He+SF<sub>6</sub>



# Electron discrimination

- Electrons have much longer tracks than nuclei so can discriminate based on this info.
- Track lengths for recoils in He+SF<sub>6</sub> at 1 atm:

Energy threshold will be based on how low this can be achieved, probably can do a lot better with more sophisticated track fit and comparison metric



Gas mixture	SF <sub>6</sub>	He:SF <sub>6</sub>	He:SF <sub>6</sub>
Pressure [Torr]	20	740:20	755:5
Density [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	0.16	0.32	0.20
$W$ [eV/ion pair]	35.5	38.0	40.0
Trans. diffusion [ $\mu\text{m}/\sqrt{\text{cm}}$ ]	116.2	78.6	78.6
Long. diffusion [ $\mu\text{m}/\sqrt{\text{cm}}$ ]	116.2	78.6	78.6
Drift velocity [mm/ $\mu\text{s}$ ]	0.140	0.140	0.140
Mean avalanche gain	$9 \times 10^3$	$9 \times 10^3$	$9 \times 10^3$

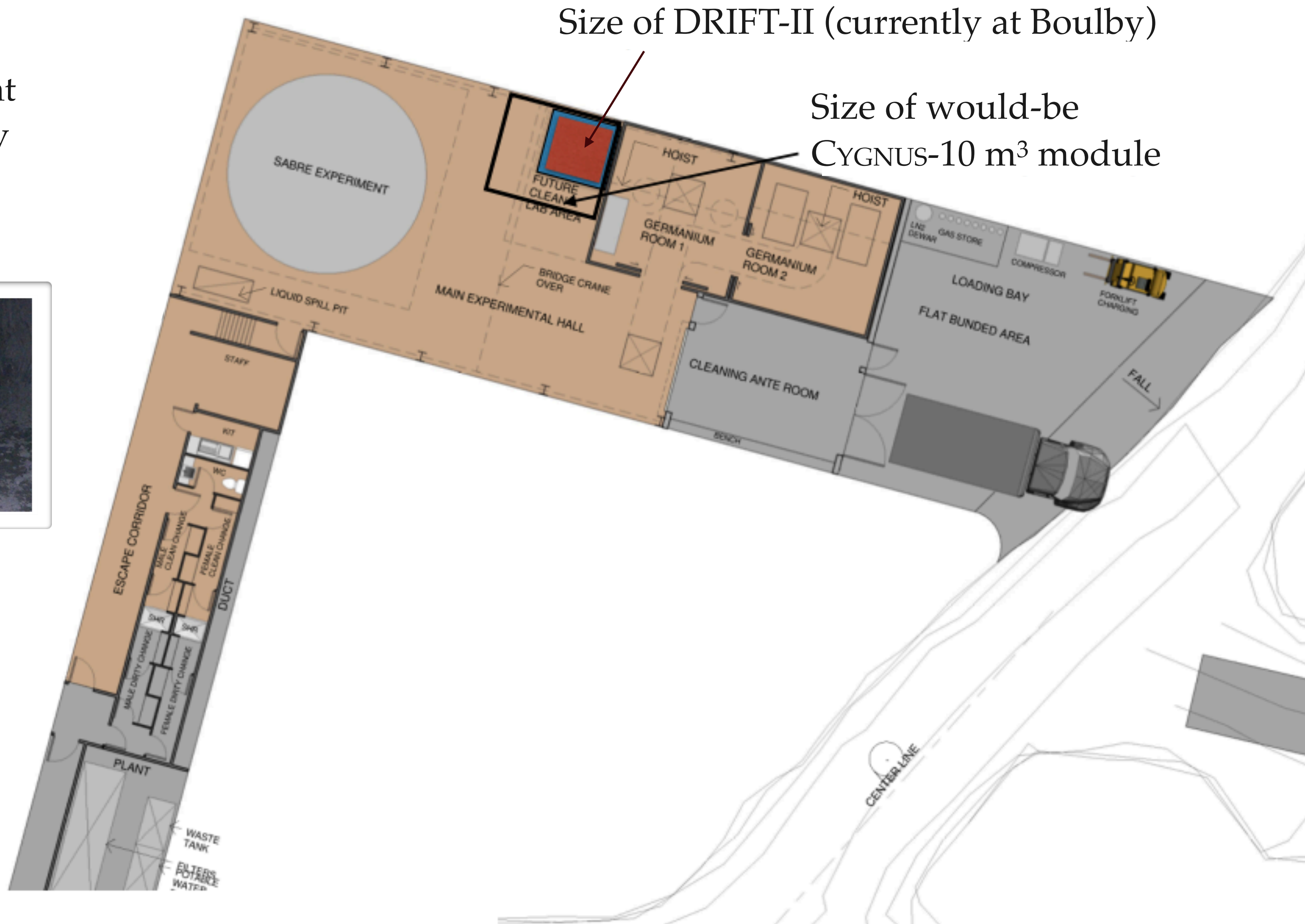
TABLE I. Various gas-dependent parameters assumed in the TPC detector simulation. The values are sourced as follows: the  $W$  factor for pure SF<sub>6</sub> is from a measurement with alpha particles [310], while the  $W$  factors for the He:SF<sub>6</sub> and He:CF<sub>4</sub> mixtures are calculated using Eq.(1) of Ref. [266]. The diffusion values and drift velocity in 20 Torr of pure SF<sub>6</sub> were measured in Ref. [299]. For the He:SF<sub>6</sub> mixtures, no measurements or reliable simulations exist, so we use the 40 Torr pure SF<sub>6</sub> diffusion from Ref. [299] and then assume the electric field can be adjusted to keep the drift velocity constant. The avalanche gain assumed for pure SF<sub>6</sub> has been achieved with THGEMs in Ref. [311] and triple thin GEMs in Ref. [312], and is also used for He:SF<sub>6</sub> mixtures.

Readout type	Dimensionality	Segmentation ( $x \times y$ )	Capacitance [ $pF$ ]	$\sigma_{\text{noise}}$ in 1 $\mu\text{s}$	Threshold/ $\sigma_{\text{noise}}$
planar	1d ( $z$ )	10 cm $\times$ 10 cm	3000	18000 $e^-$	3.09
wire	2d ( $yz$ )	1 m wires, 2 mm pitch	0.25	800 $e^-$	4.11
pad	3d ( $xyz$ )	3 mm $\times$ 3 mm	0.25	375 $e^-$	4.77
optical	2d ( $xyz$ )	200 $\mu\text{m}$ $\times$ 200 $\mu\text{m}$	n/a	2 photons	5.77
strip	3d ( $xyz$ )	1 m strips, 200 $\mu\text{m}$ pitch	500	2800 $e^-$	4.61
pixel	3d ( $xyz$ )	200 $\mu\text{m}$ $\times$ 200 $\mu\text{m}$	0.012 - 0.200	42 $e^-$	5.77

TABLE II. List of readout-specific parameters that are used in the simulation of each technology we consider here. The capacitance, which determines the noise level, is listed as that for a single detector element. For the optical readout, a yield of  $7.2 \times 10^{-6}$  photons per avalanche electron is used to account for the combined effects of photon yield, geometric optical acceptance, optical transparency, and quantum efficiency.

# Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory (SUPL)

- ♦ 1.6 km depth, still operational gold mine
- ♦ First underground site in Southern Hemisphere
- ♦ Will host one half of SABRE experiment
- ♦ Cygnus involvement as part of recently formed Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics

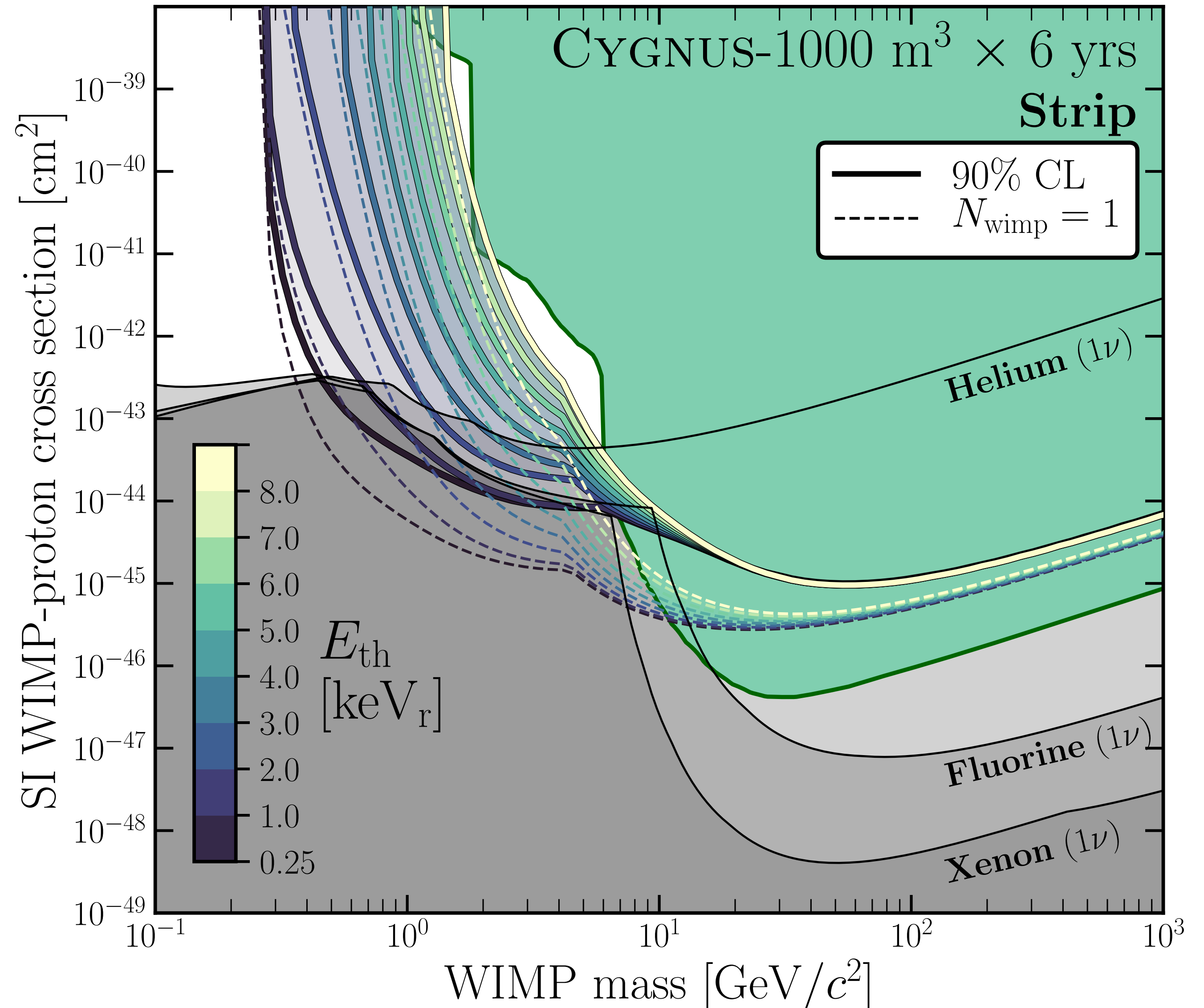


**$\mu$ -PIC (strip) readout currently looks the best in terms of cost vs. directional sensitivity**

A closer look at dependence on threshold:

Threshold:

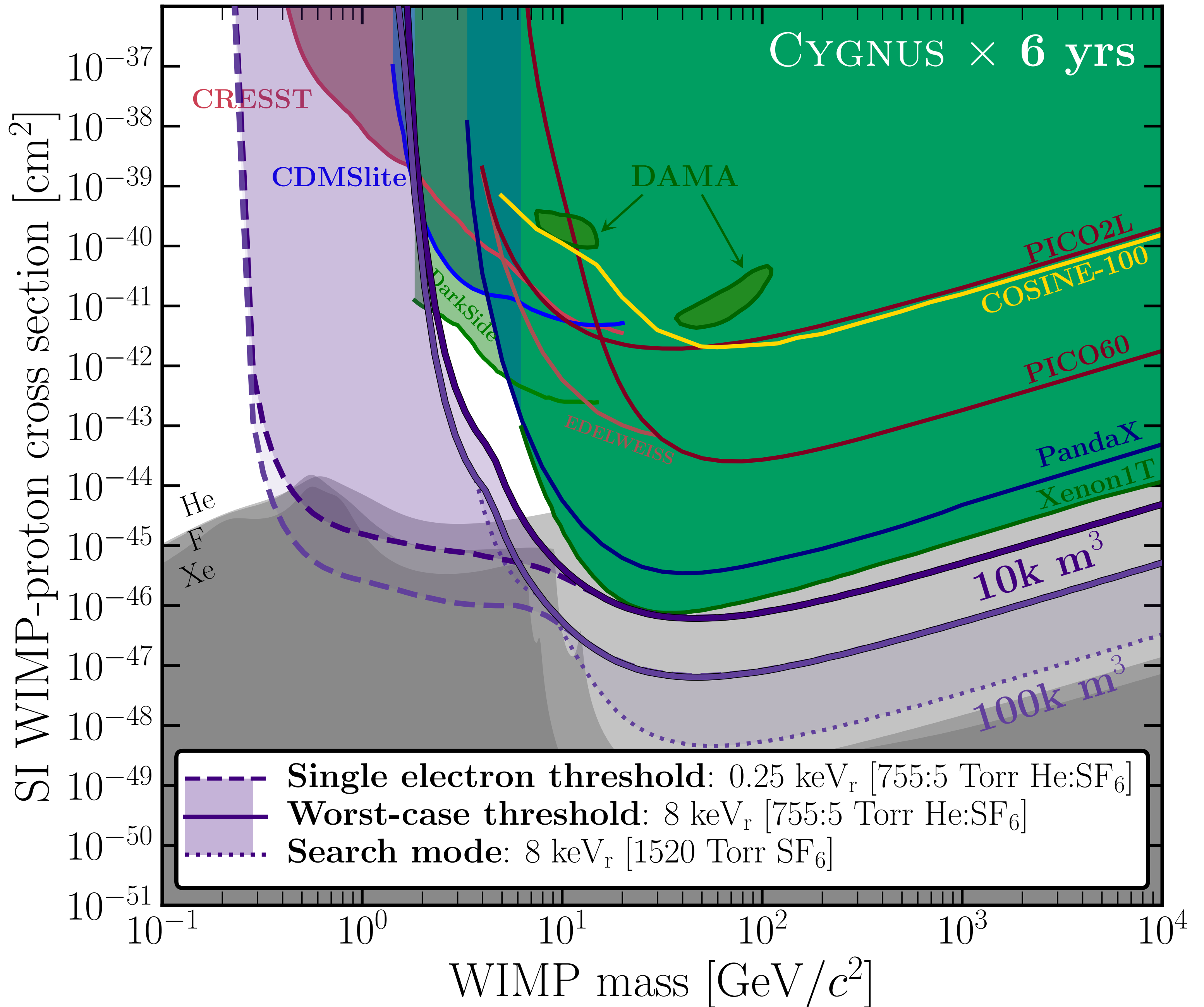
- 8 keVr definitely feasible with simplest electron rejection strategy
- 3 keVr is probably feasible with optimisation of gas, bespoke track fitting algorithms
- 0.25 keVr is theoretical minimum (single electron)



# Sensitivity (SI)

→ Window worst/best case threshold  
→ Search mode: 1 atm. of SF<sub>6</sub> but no directionality (possible way to extend high mass sensitivity)

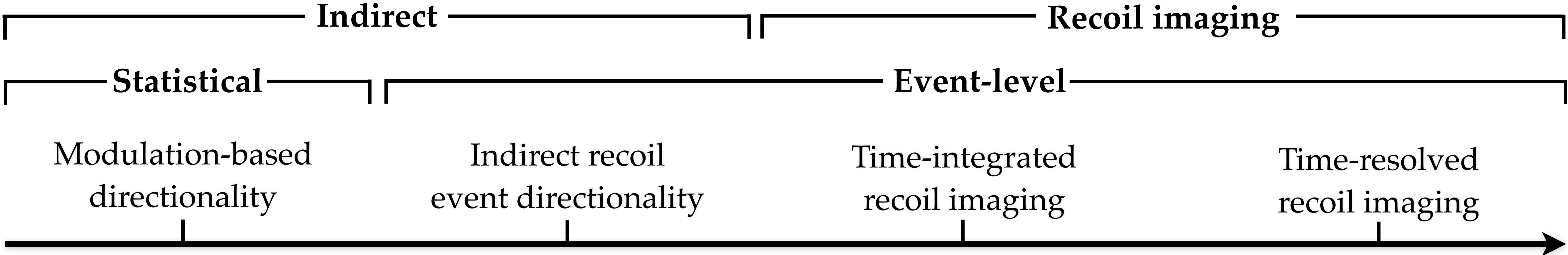
**Important note:** these limits are true discovery limits, i.e. a signal can be confirmed as DM, so comparison of Cygnus limits with other experiments undersells its potential





# Detector classes by directional information

Demonstrated   
R&D   
Proposed 



**Anisotropic scintillators**

- ▶ No event-level directions
- ▶ Exploits modulation of DM with respect to crystal axes

**Columnar recombination**

- ▶ Event-level 1d directions
- ▶ No head / tail
- ▶ Direction and energy are not independent

**Nuclear emulsions**

- ▶ 2d recoil tracks, without head / tail
- ▶ No event times information recorded

**DNA detector**

- ▶ 3d recoils without head / tail
- ▶ No event times recorded

**Gas TPC**

- ▶ Head / tail measurable
- ▶ 1d, 2d or 3d
- ▶ Independent energy / direction measurement

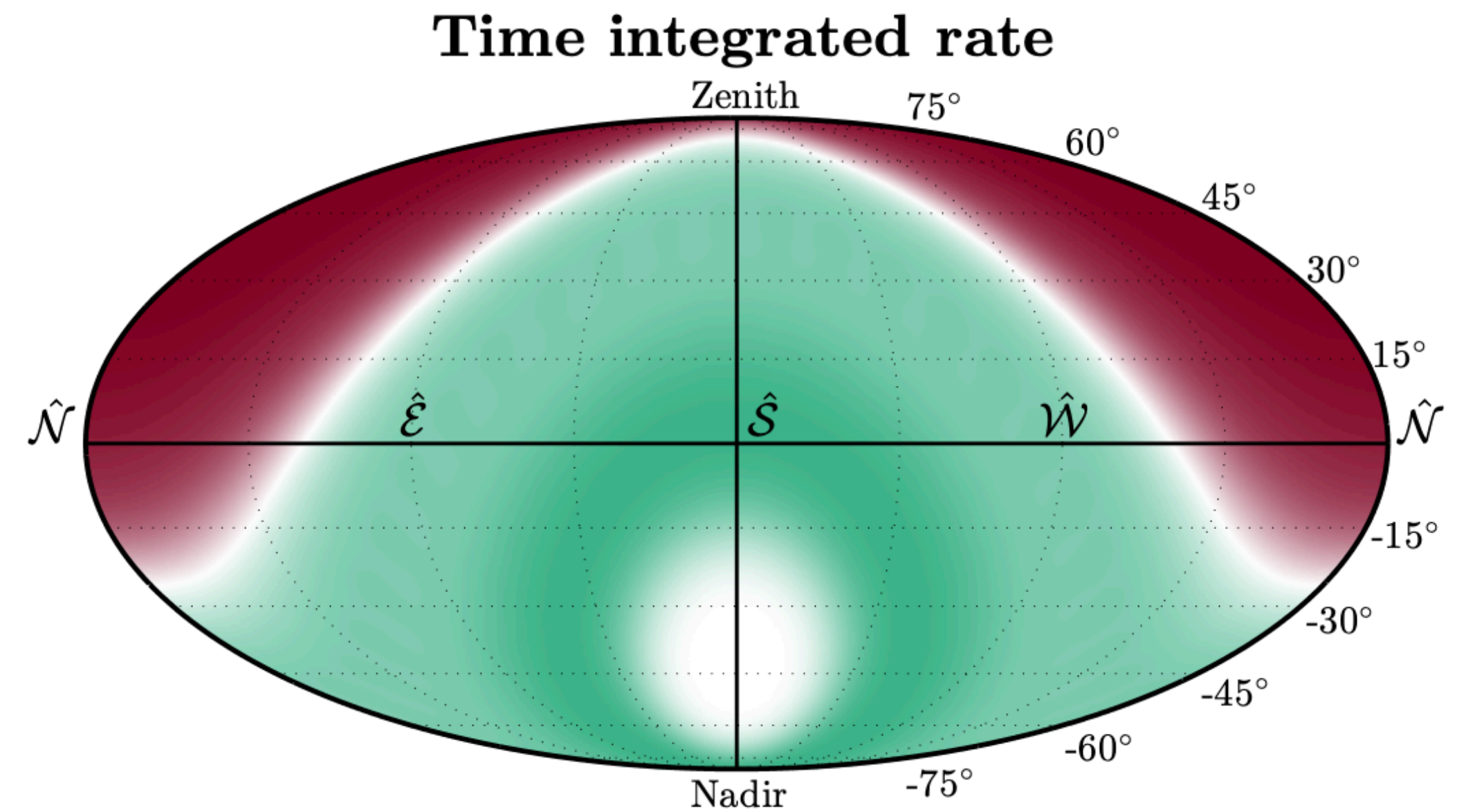
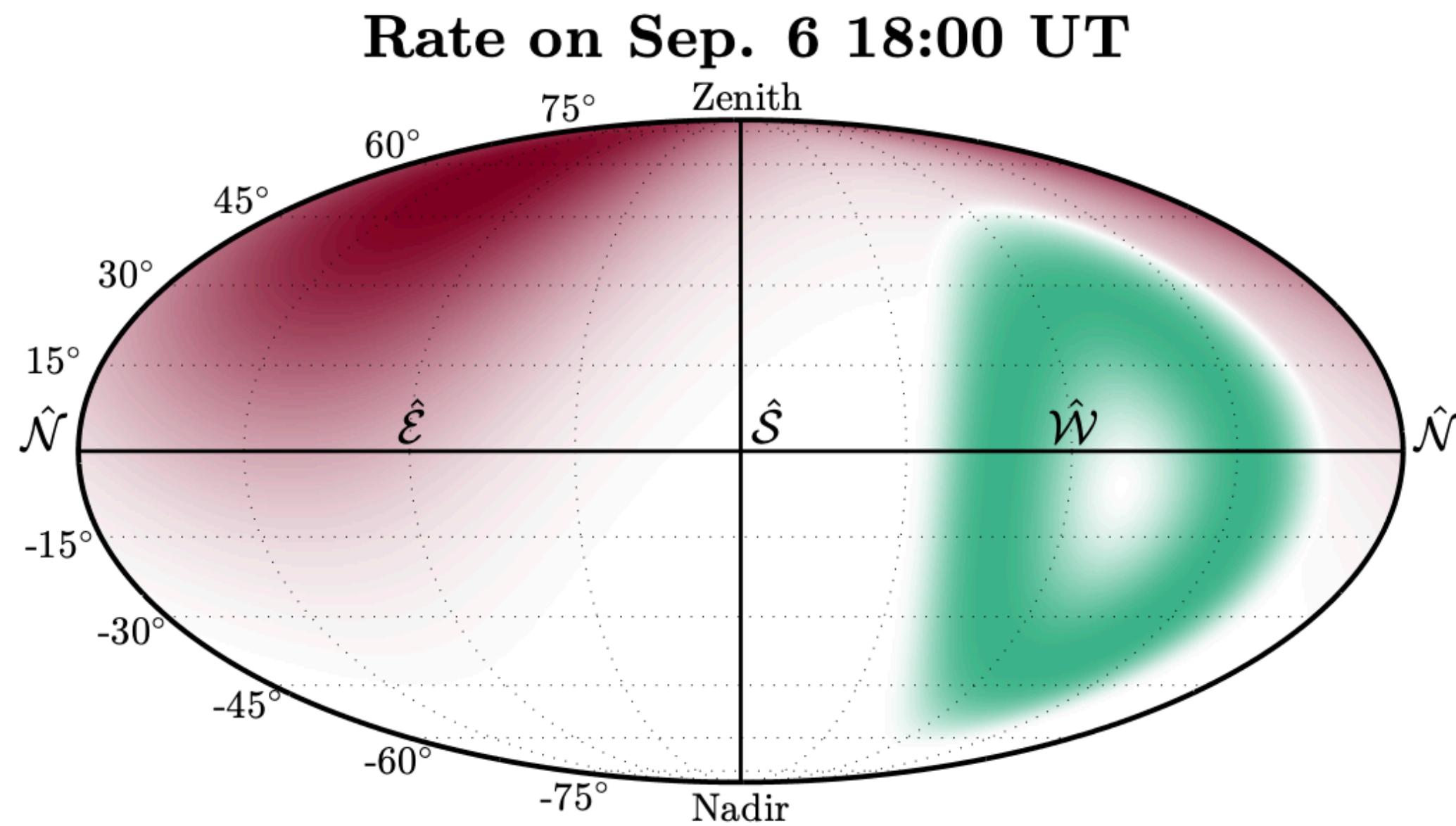
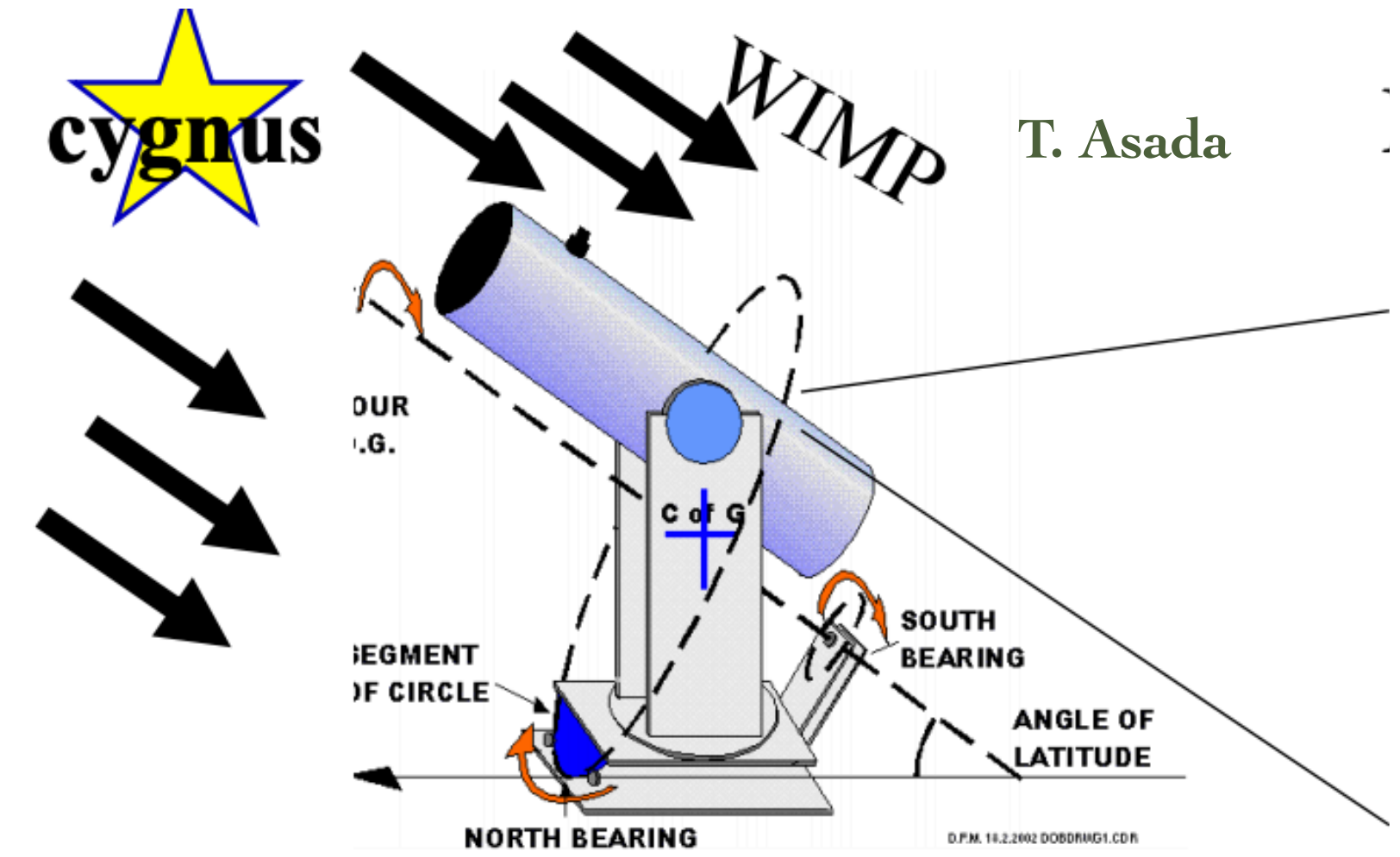
**Crystal defects**

- ▶ 3d track topology
- ▶ Head / tail measurable

# Time-integrated directional detection

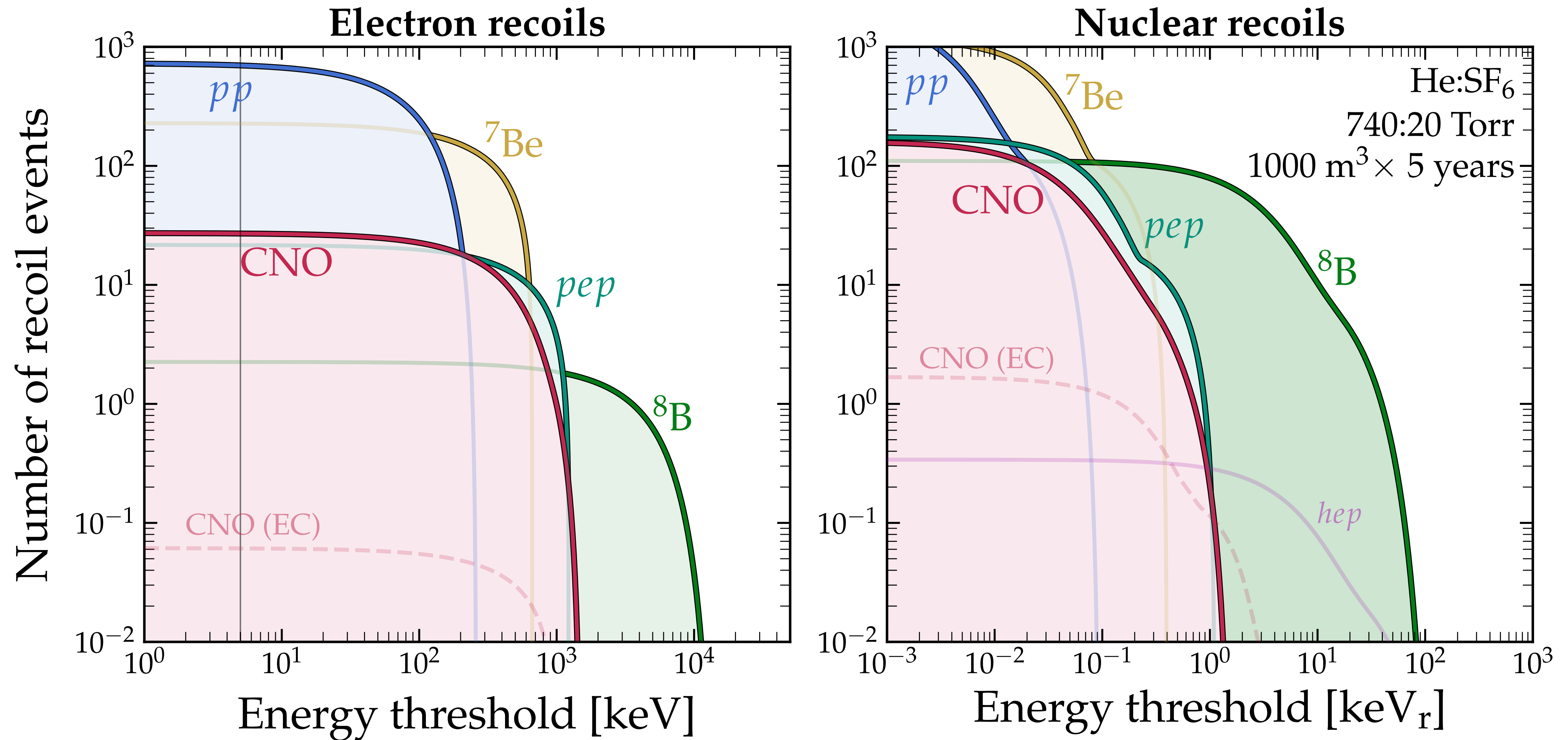
Experiments like NEWSdm need to develop tracks after exposure

→ rotation of Earth will wash out anisotropy unless some Cygnus-tracking is implemented



# Directionality in TPCs, beyond dark matter

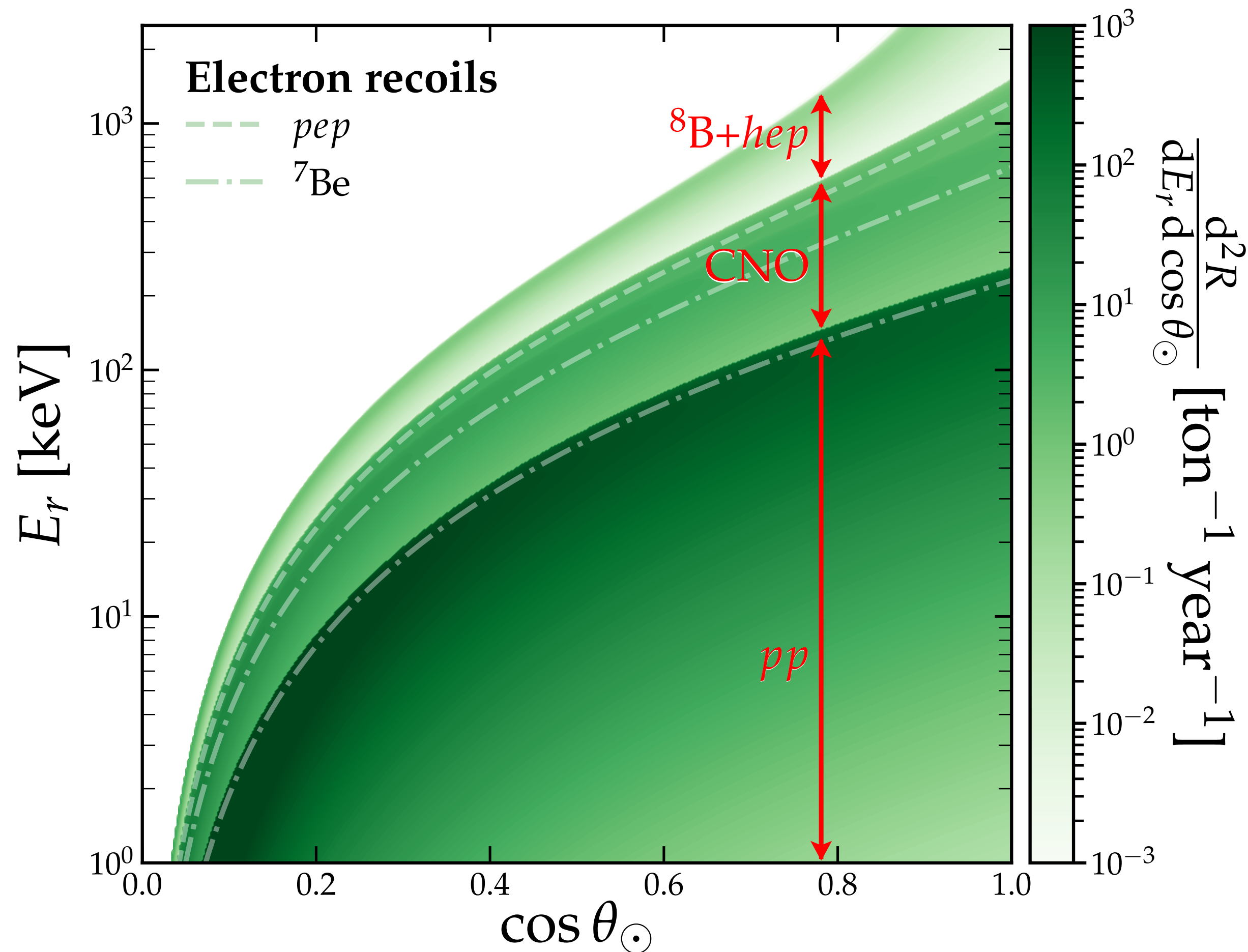
A directional detector has the potential for superior background rejection and NR/ER discrimination  
→ this is true even if we're not interested about DM below the neutrino floor



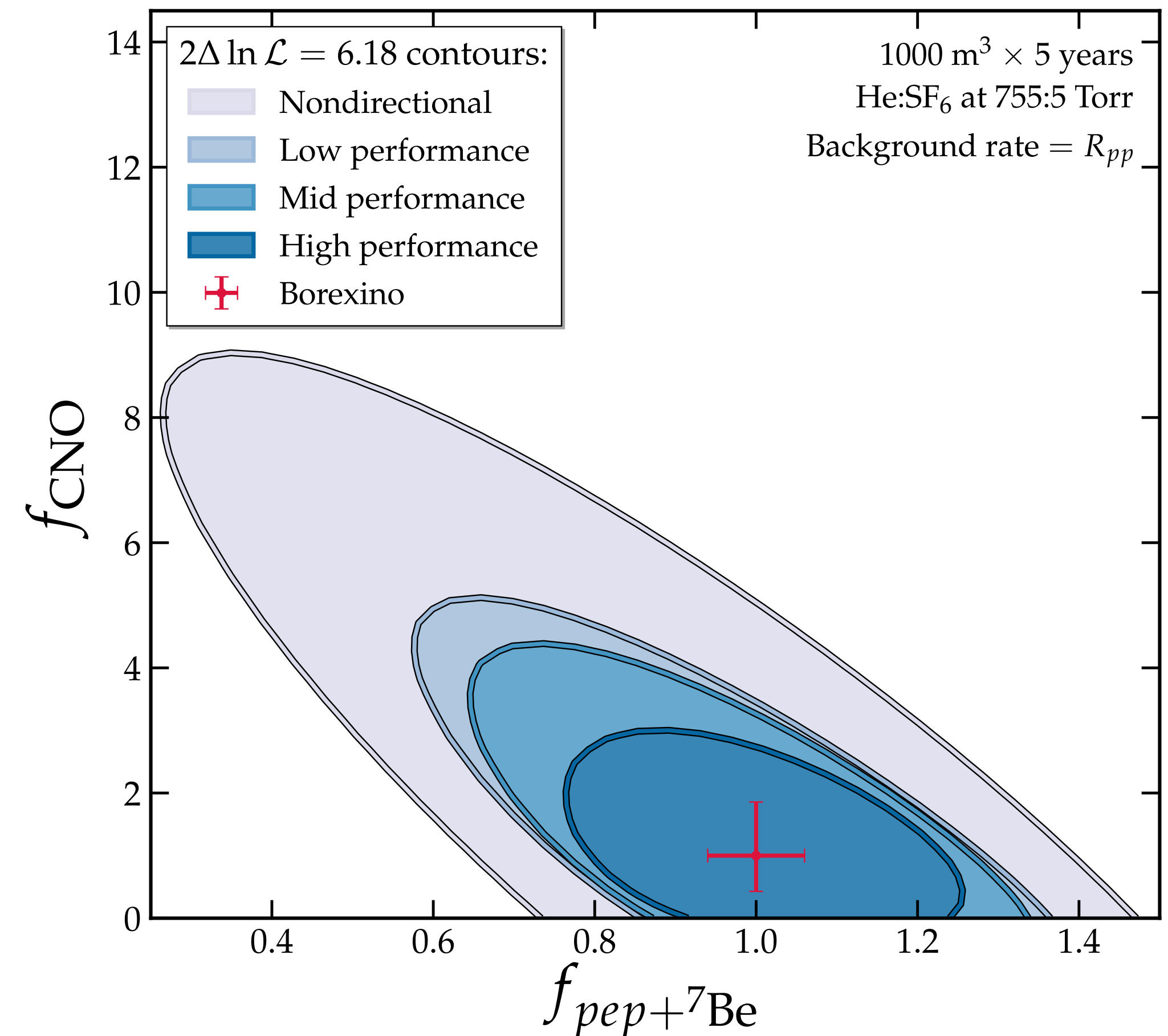
# CYGLUS?

Given known direction to the Sun, directional information allows one to reconstruct the neutrino energy spectrum event-by-event using both electron and nuclear recoils

Recoil energy+angle spectrum (ERs)

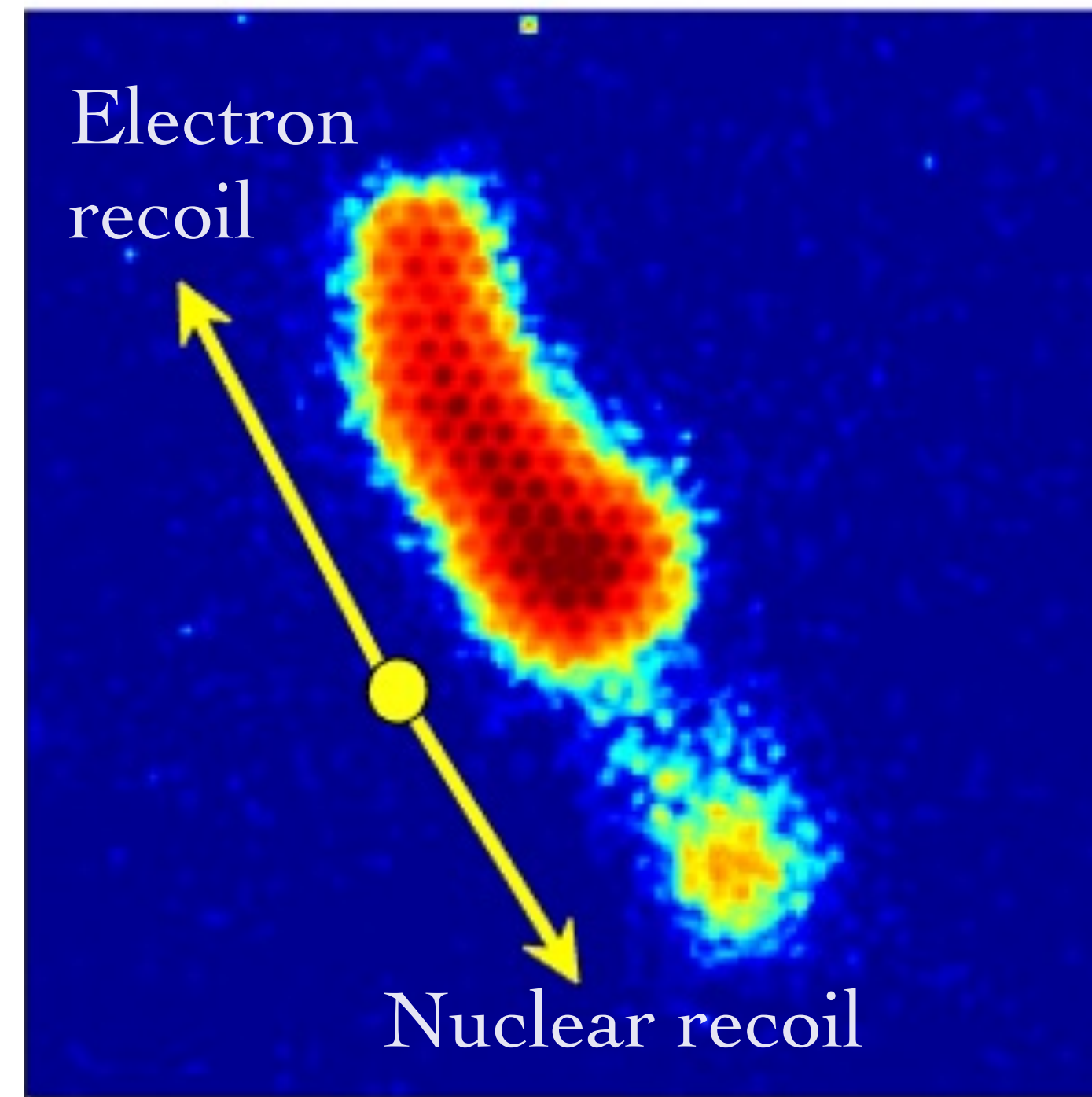
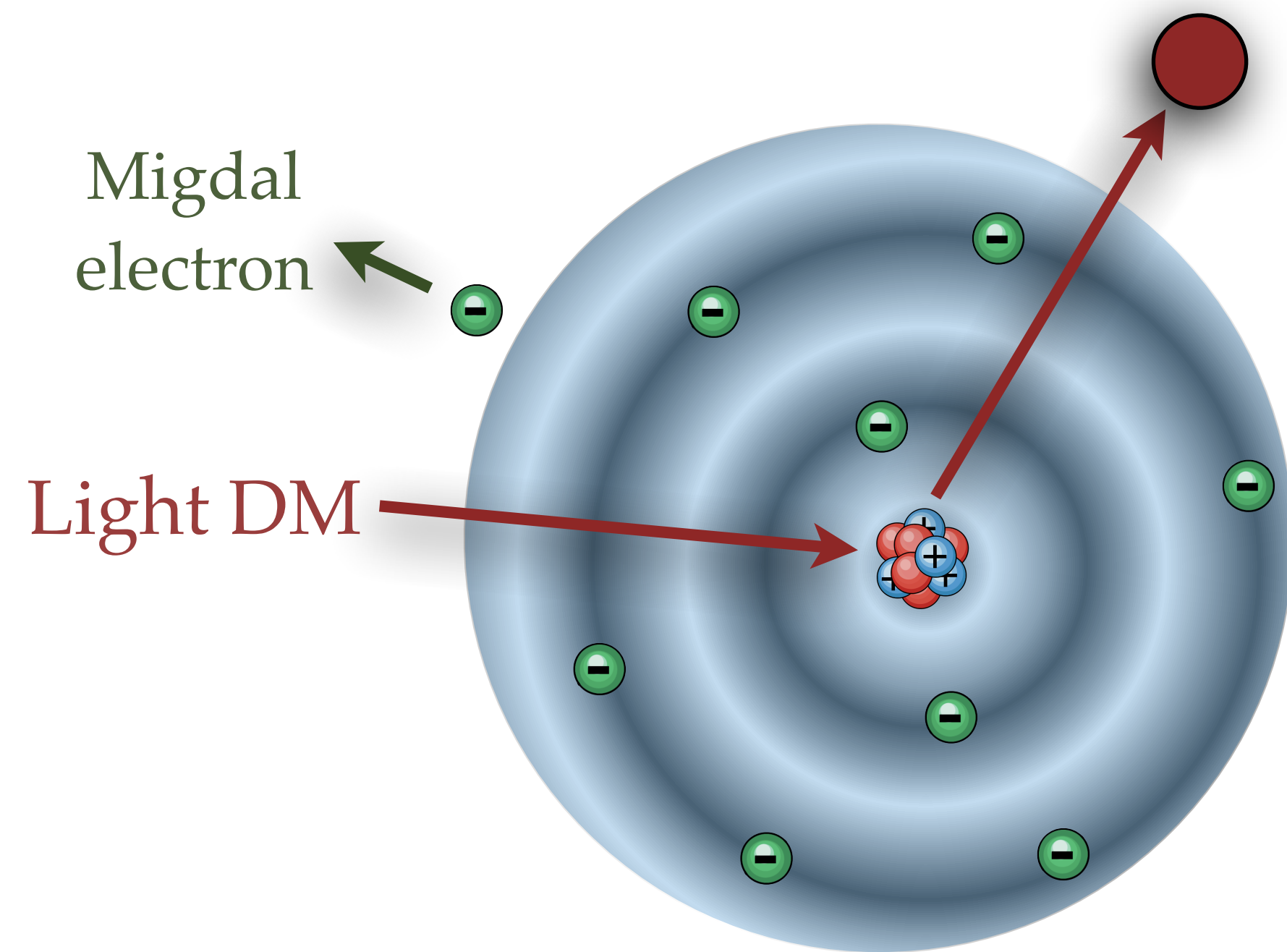


Measure neutrino fluxes



# General physics: Measurement of the Migdal effect

→ Emission of  $\sim\text{keV}$  electron for very low energy NRs. Important for sub-GeV DM searches, but on shaky ground theoretically as it has never been measured



Could be confirmed directionally, using a small-scale TPC!

2102.04596

# Directional Recoil Detection

Sven E. Vahsen,<sup>1</sup> Ciaran A. J. O'Hare,<sup>2</sup> and Dinesh Loomba<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA; email: sevahsen@hawaii.edu

<sup>2</sup>ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics, The University of Sydney, School of Physics, NSW 2006, Australia; email: ciaran.ohare@sydney.edu.au

<sup>3</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, NM 87131, USA, email: dloomba@unm.edu

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science  
2021. XX:1–45

This article's doi:  
10.1146/annurev-nucl-020821-035016

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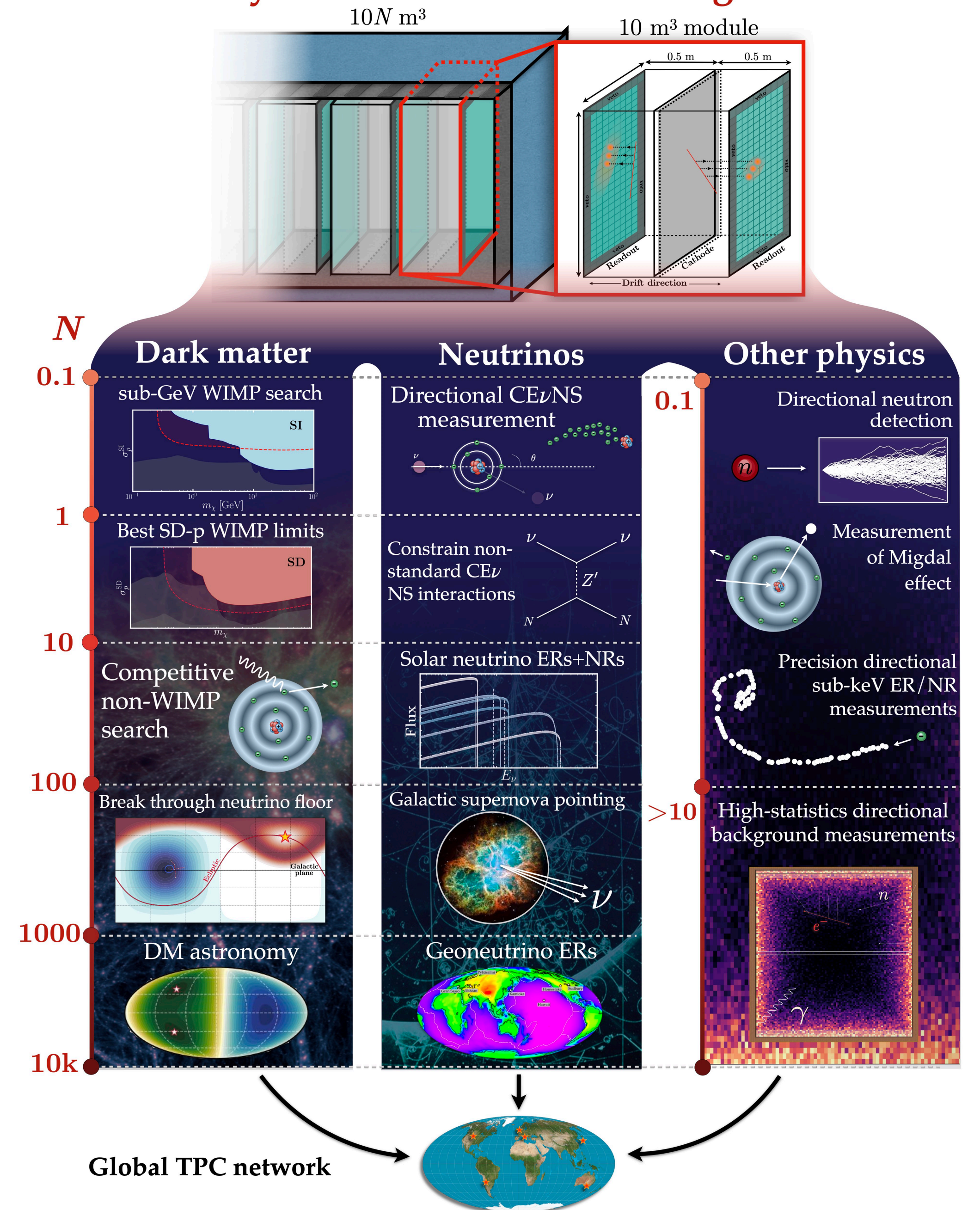
### Keywords

nuclear recoils, electron recoils, dark matter, neutrinos, gas time projection chambers, Migdal effect

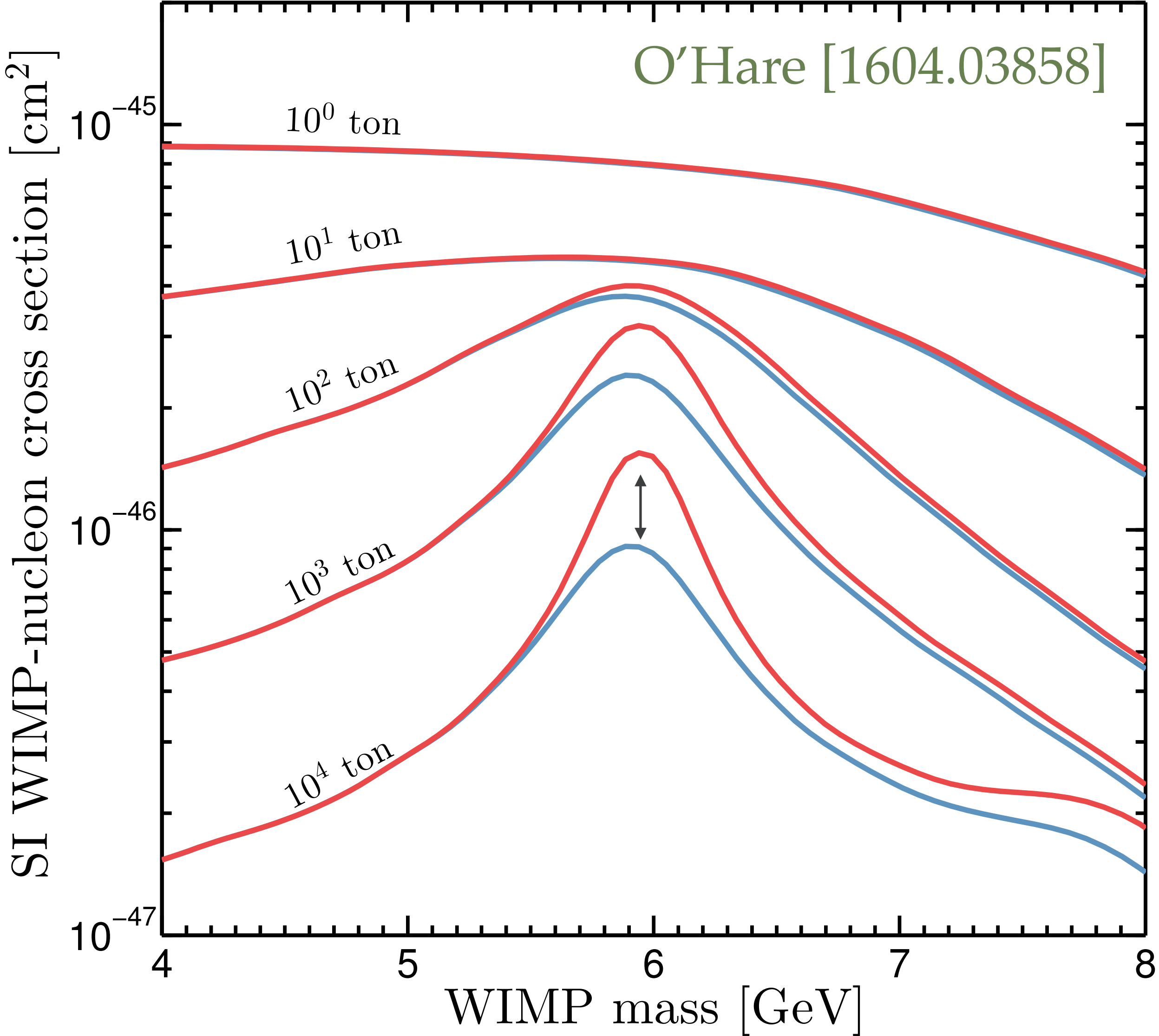
### Abstract

Searches for dark matter-induced recoils have made impressive advances in the last few years. Yet the field is confronted by several outstanding problems. First, the inevitable background of solar neutrinos will soon inhibit the conclusive identification of many dark matter models. Second, and more fundamentally, current experiments have no practical way of confirming a detected signal's galactic origin. The concept of directional detection addresses both of these issues while offering opportunities to study novel dark matter and neutrino-related physics. The concept remains experimentally challenging, but gas time projection chambers are an increasingly attractive option, and when properly configured, would allow directional measurements of both nuclear and electron recoils. In this review, we reassess the required detector performance and survey relevant technologies. Fortunately, the highly-segmented detectors required to achieve good directionality also enable several fundamental and applied physics measurements. We comment on near-term challenges and how the field could be advanced.

## Physics case for a directional gas TPC



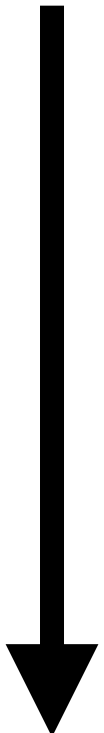
# Annual modulation: does it help?



Information used:

**Energy only**

**Energy+Time**

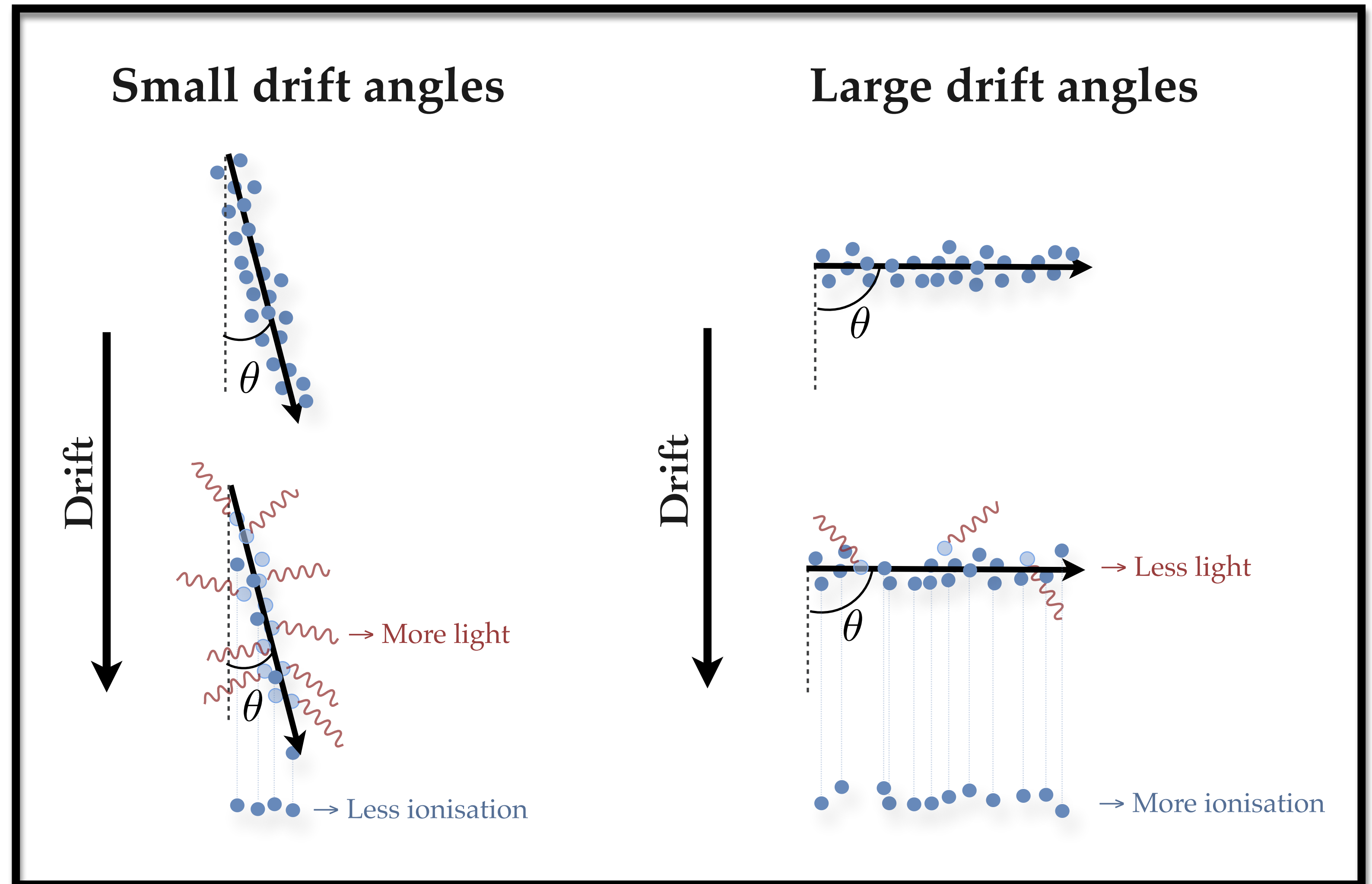
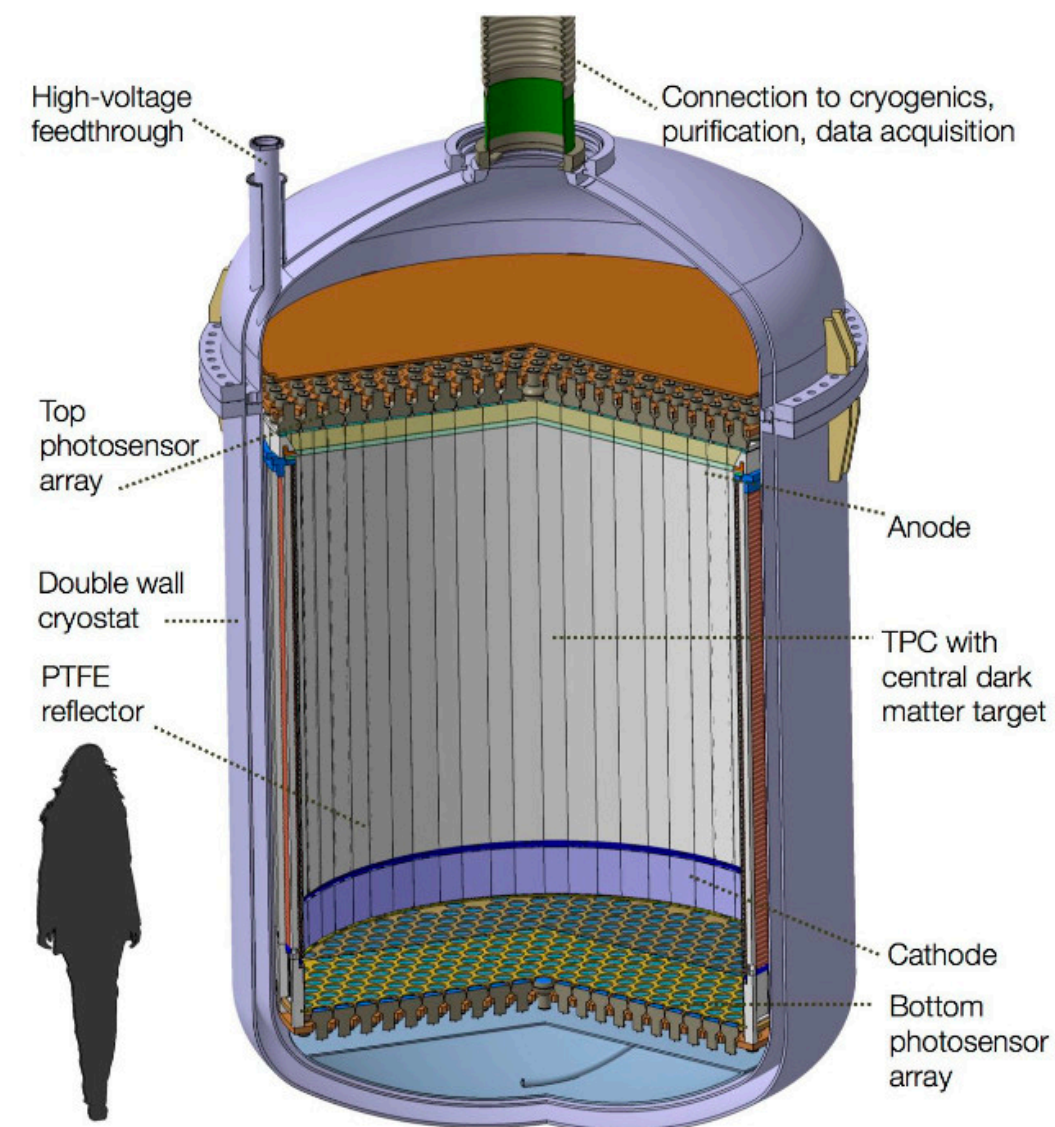


Increasing exposure

# Directionality in liquids: columnar recombination

Nygren 2013 J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 460 012006

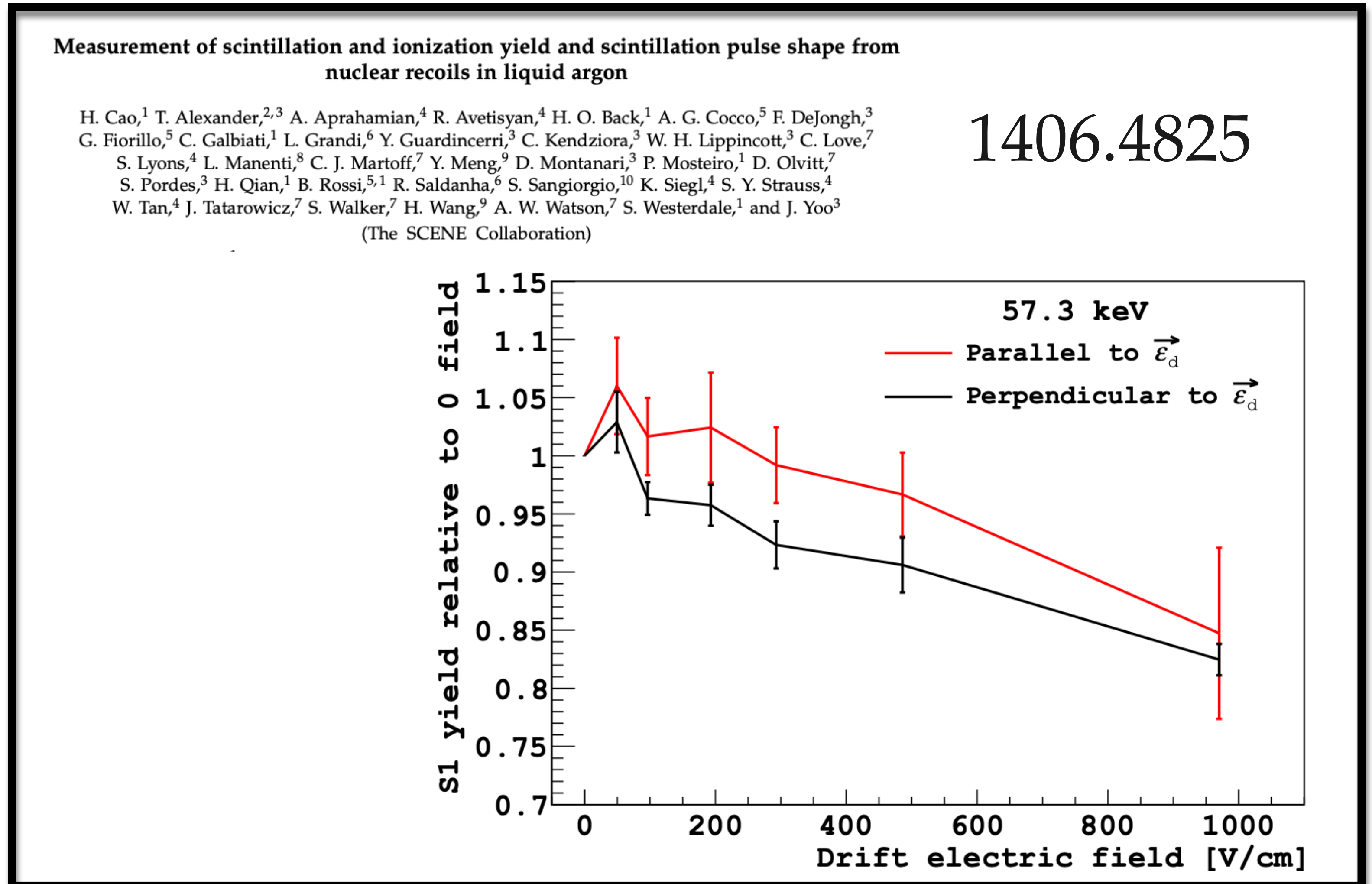
→ Possible directional effect where charge/light yield in LXe/LAr depends on angle of recoil w.r.t. electric field





# Directionality in liquids: columnar recombination

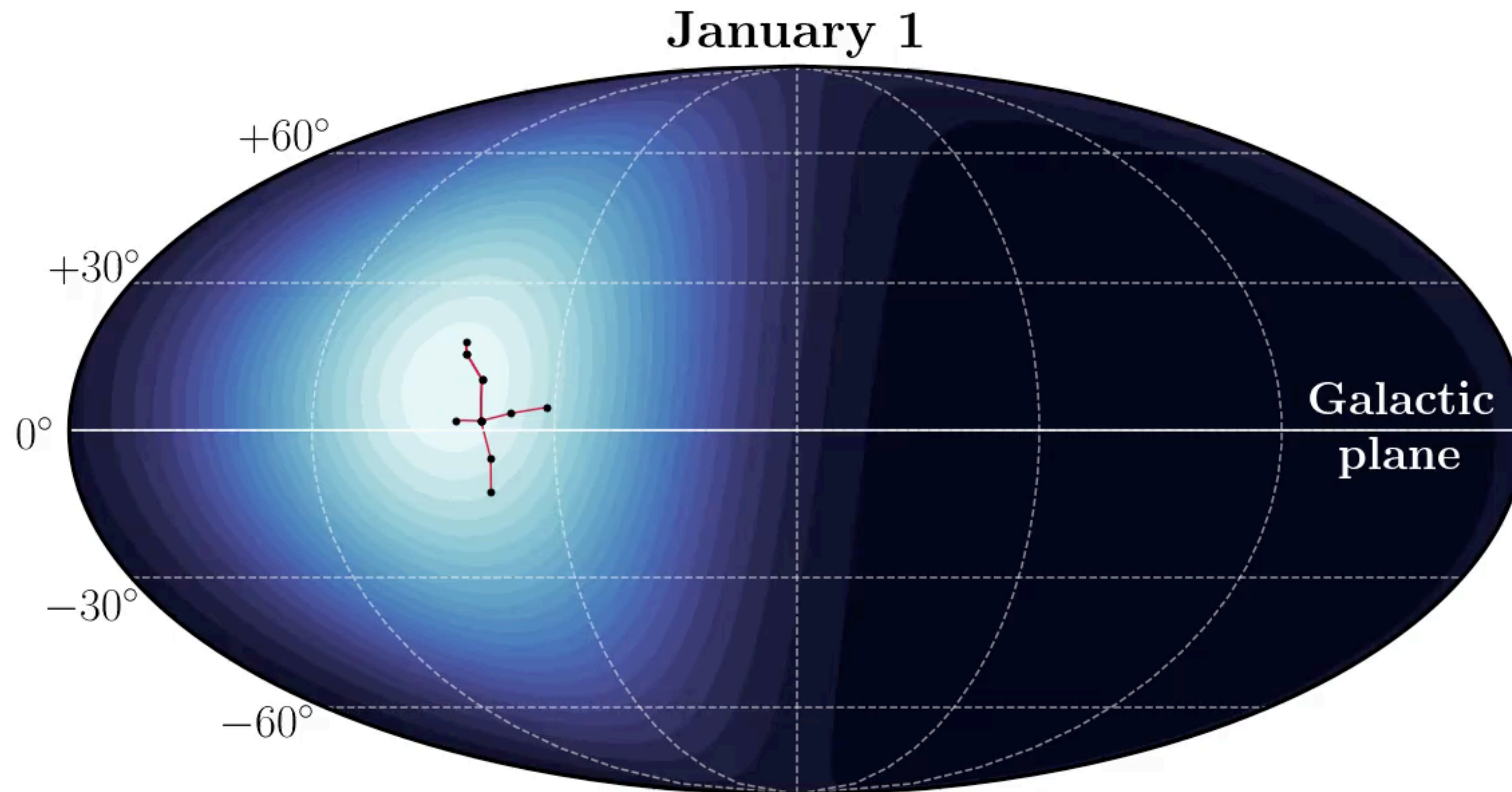
- Possible hint in LAr
- Almost certainly unobservable in LXe (at interesting energies, though GXe is a possibility)



Based on standard assumptions, what should the signal look like?

→ a **Gaussian** peaking towards **Cygnus**

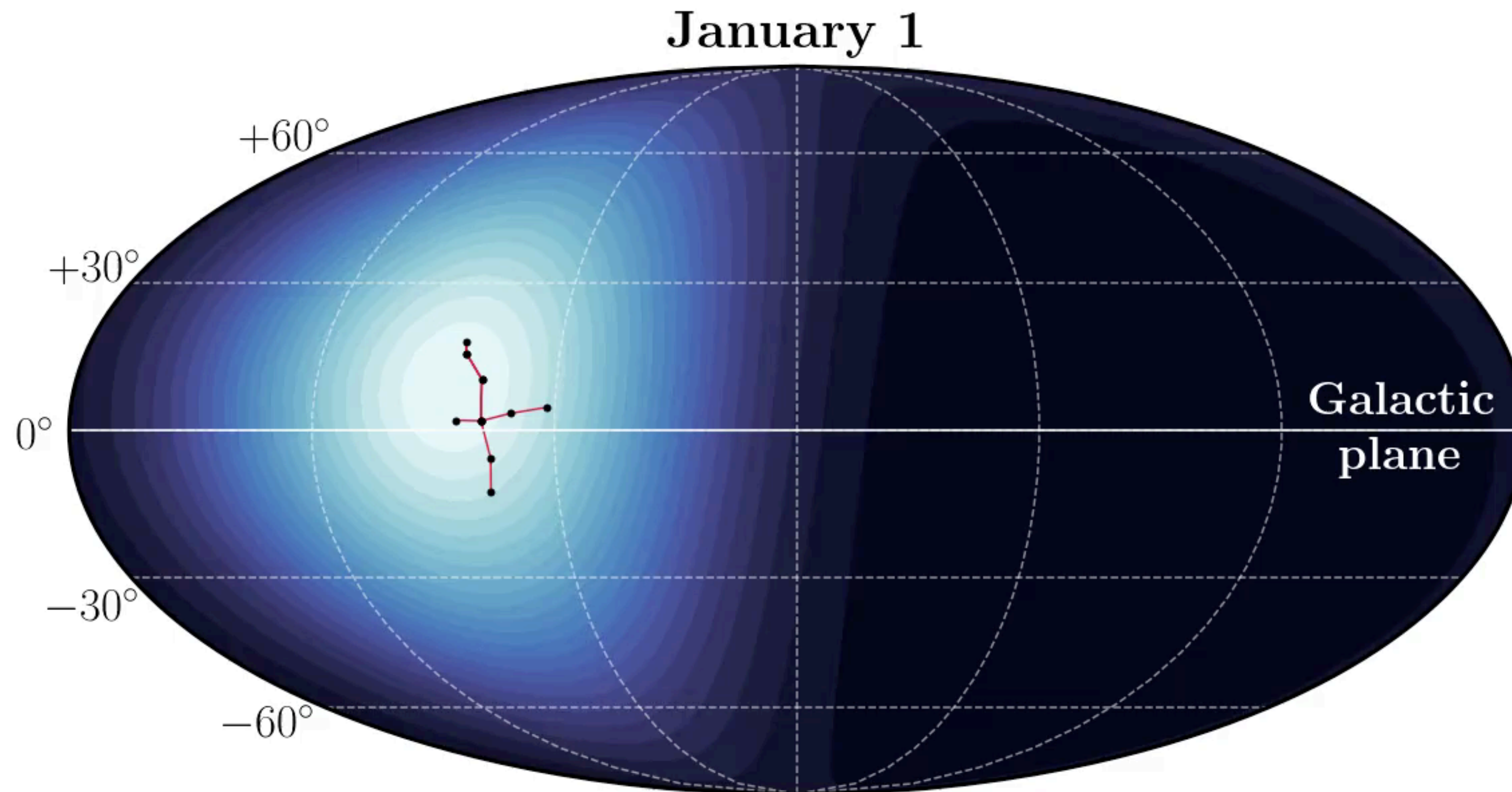
$$\left. \frac{dR(t)}{d \cos \theta} \right|_{E_r} \propto \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_v^2)^{1/2}} \exp \left( -\frac{(v_{\min} + v_{\text{lab}}(t) \cos \theta)^2}{2\sigma_v^2} \right)$$



Based on standard assumptions, what should the signal look like?

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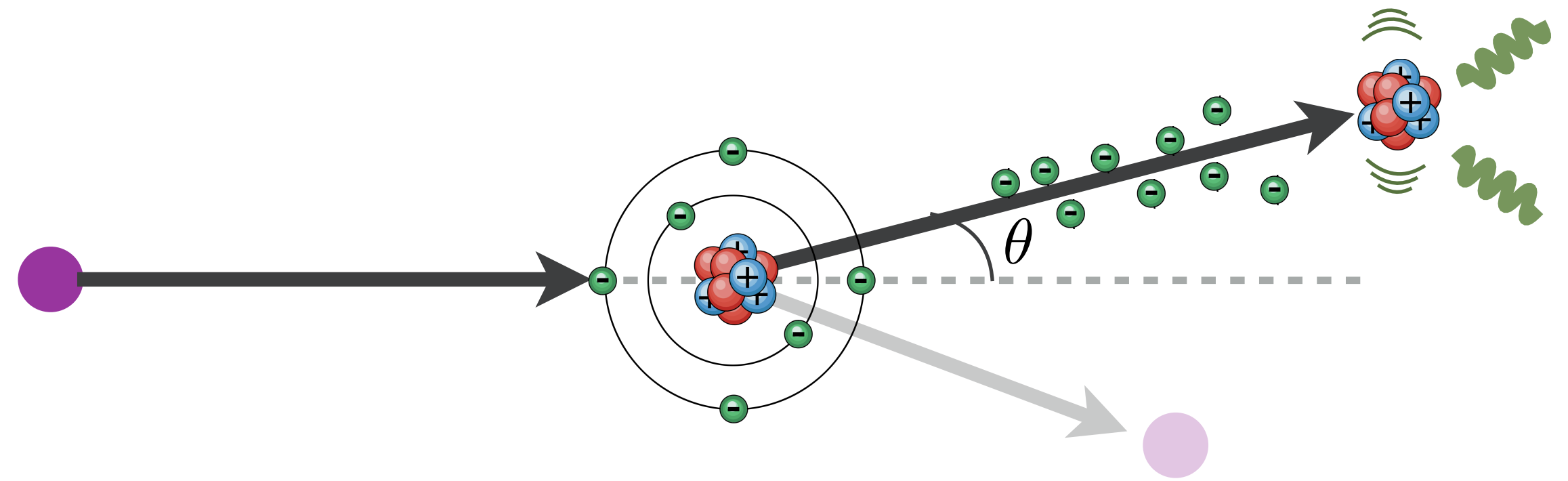
$$\left. \frac{dR(t)}{d \cos \theta} \right|_{E_r} \propto \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_v^2)^{1/2}} \exp \left( -\frac{(v_{\min} + v_{\text{lab}}(t) \cos \theta)^2}{2\sigma_v^2} \right)$$



# Standard prediction based on a few assumptions

- The DM scatters elastically

$$\hookrightarrow E_r = \frac{2m_N m_\chi^2}{(m_N + m_\chi)^2} v^2 \cos^2 \theta$$



- The DM velocity distribution is a Gaussian (SHM)

$$\hookrightarrow f(\mathbf{v}) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v}_{\text{lab}})^2}{2\sigma_v^2}\right)$$

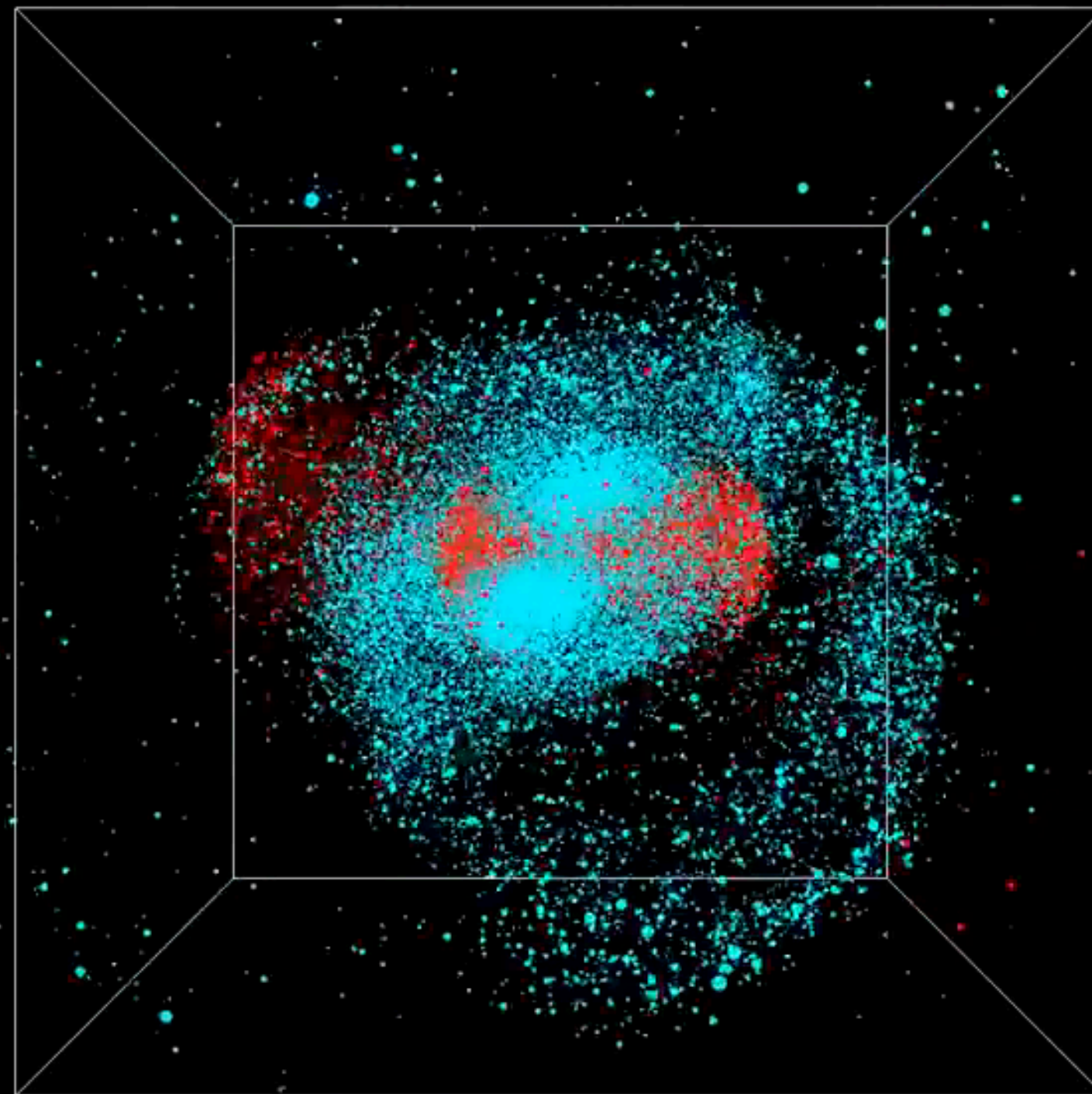
- DM-nucleus matrix element does not depend on velocity

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{dR}{d\Omega} \sim \int \delta(v \cos \theta - v_{\text{min}}) f(\mathbf{v}) d^3\mathbf{v}$$

Should the DM velocity distribution be a Gaussian?

→ Evidence of significant merger in the MW's history

## The Gaia Sausage

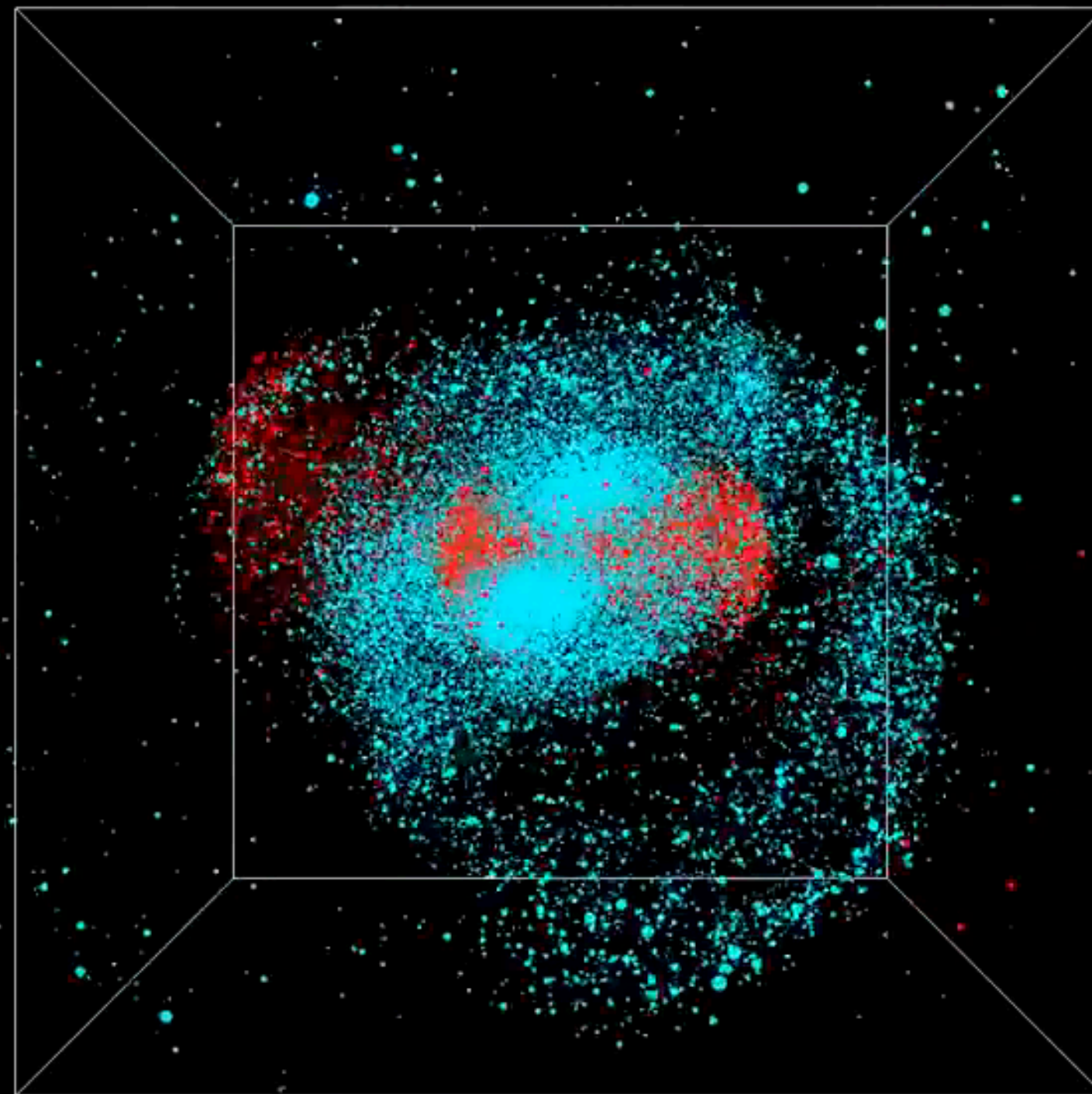


See e.g. Helmi et al. 1806.06038, O'Hare et al., 1810.11468, Necib et al. 1810.12301

Should the DM velocity distribution be a Gaussian?

→ Evidence of significant merger in the MW's history

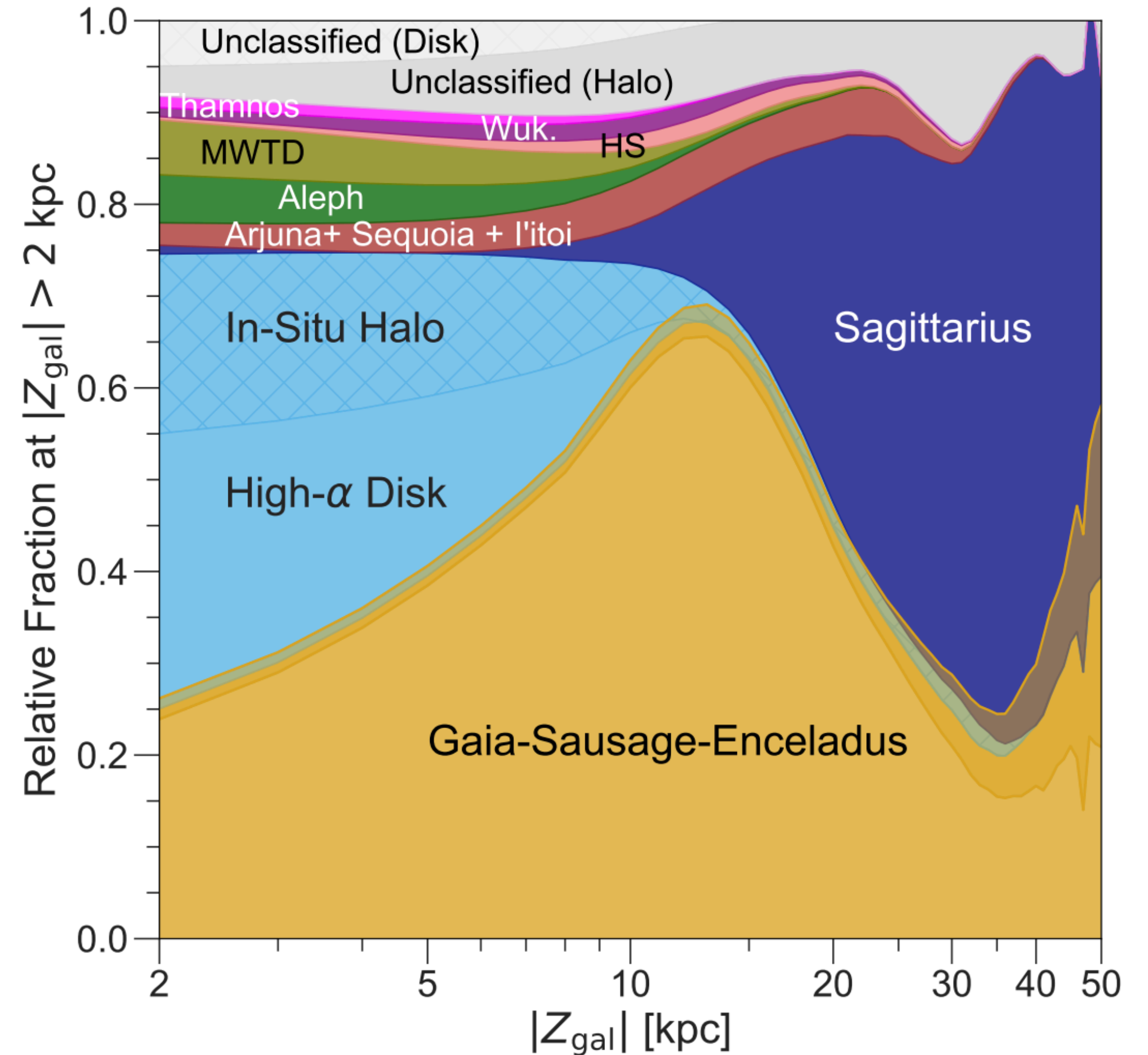
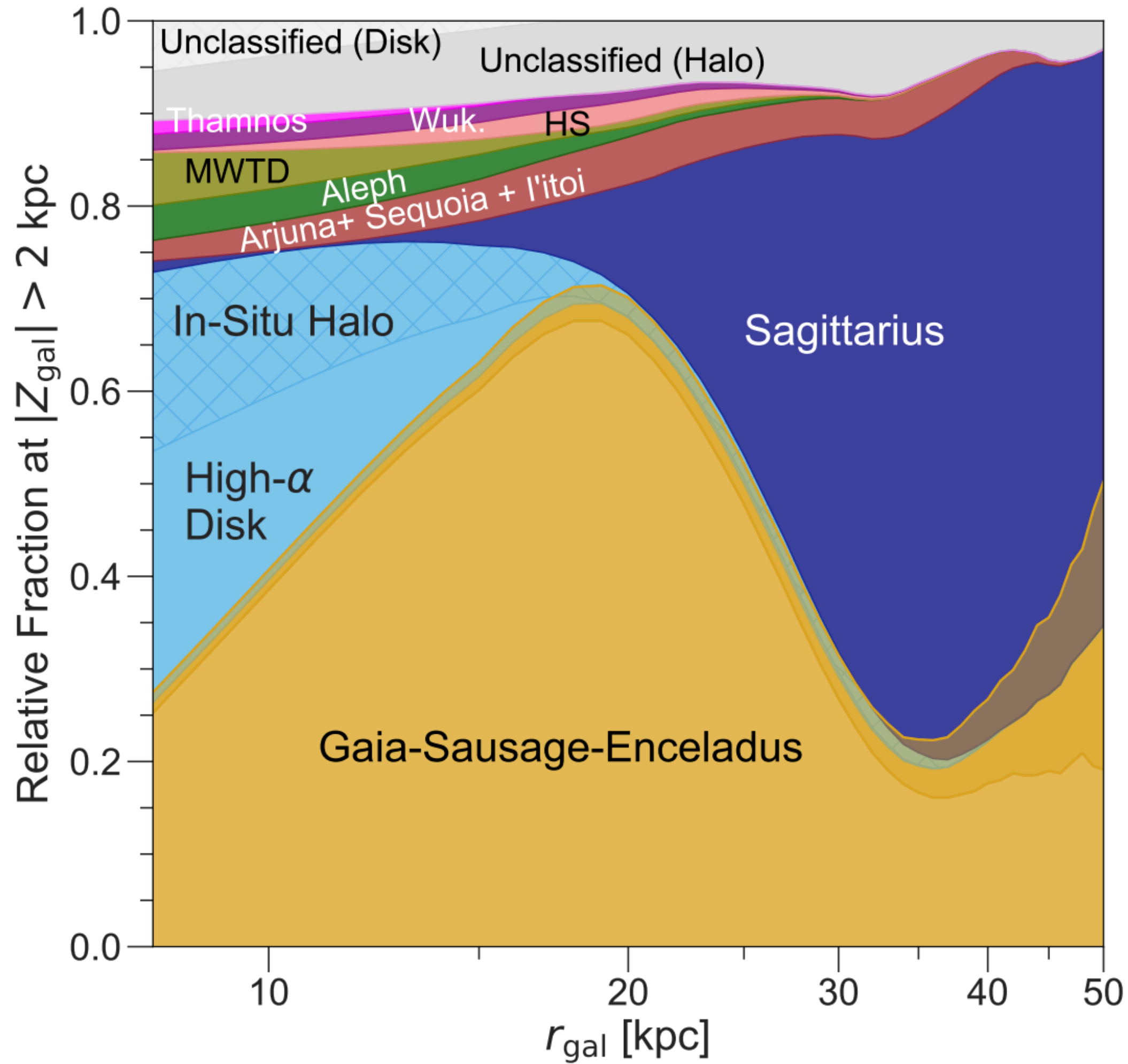
## The Gaia Sausage



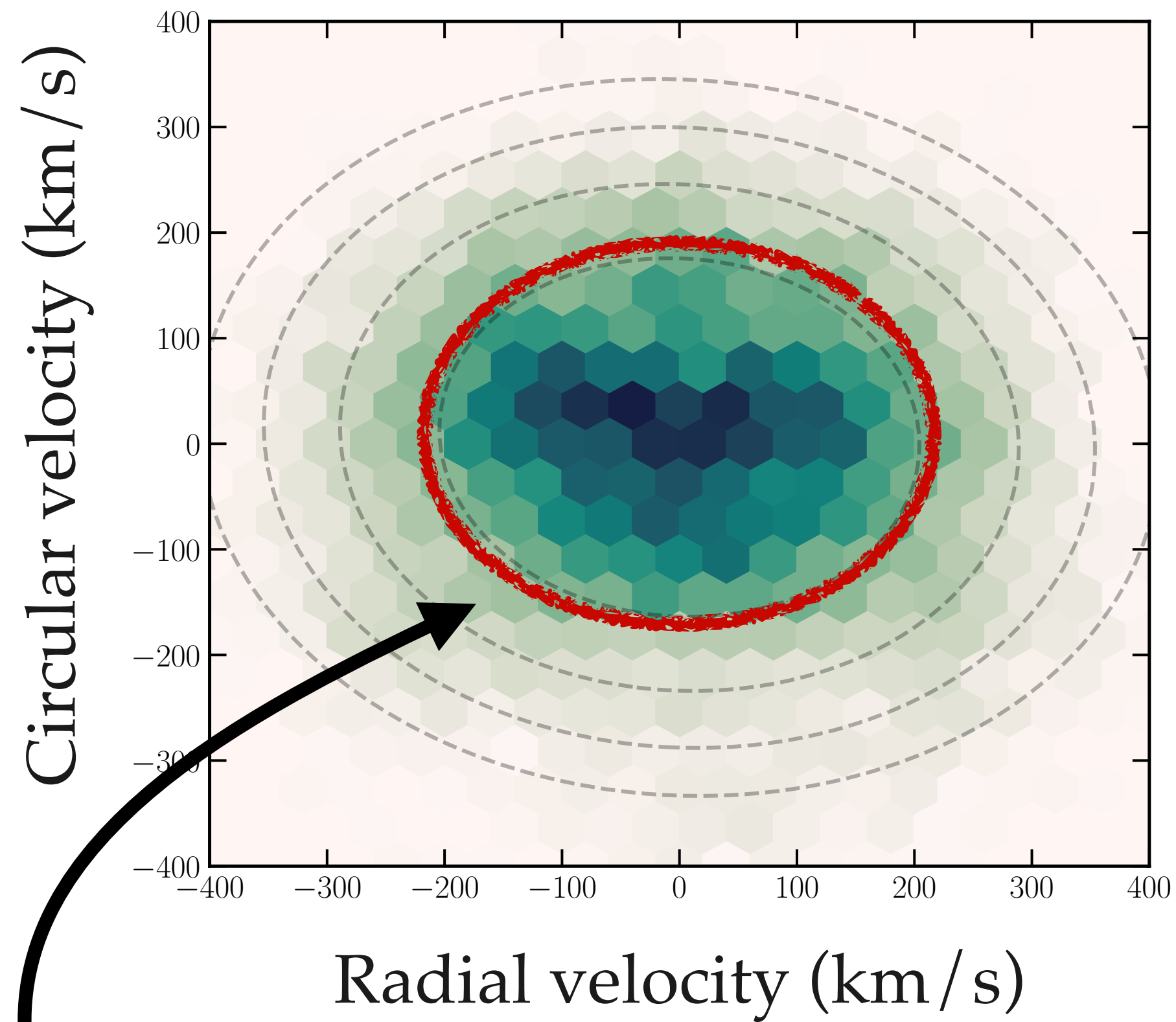
See e.g. Helmi et al. 1806.06038, O'Hare et al., 1810.11468, Necib et al. 1810.12301

# Evidence from the H3 Survey that the Stellar Halo is Entirely Comprised of Substructure

ROHAN P. NAIDU,<sup>1</sup> CHARLIE CONROY,<sup>1</sup> ANA BONACA,<sup>1</sup> BENJAMIN D. JOHNSON,<sup>1</sup> YUAN-SEN TING (丁源森),<sup>2,3,4,5,\*</sup>  
 NELSON CALDWELL,<sup>1</sup> DENNIS ZARITSKY,<sup>6</sup> AND PHILLIP A. CARGILE<sup>1</sup>



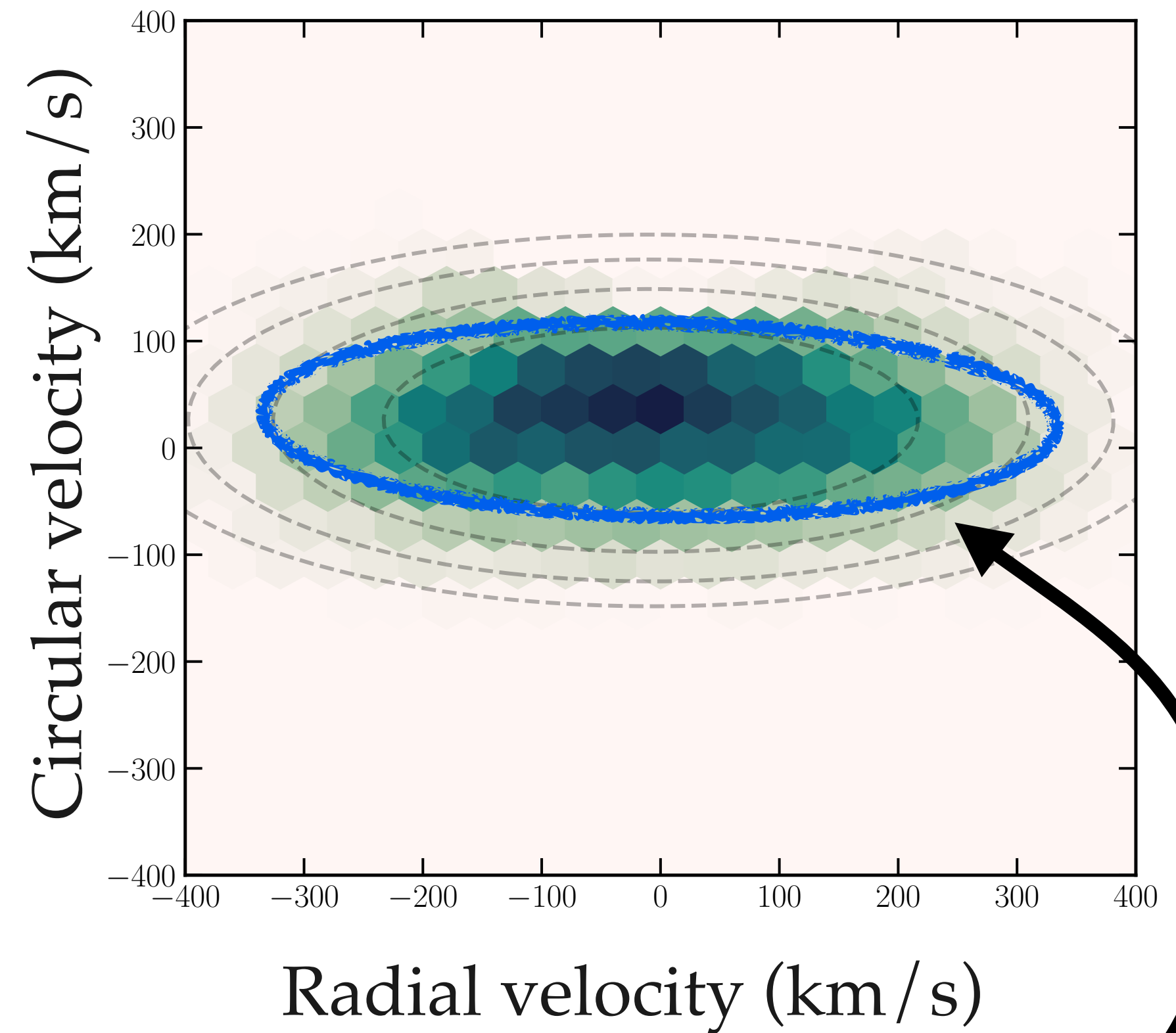
$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -1.5$



### “Metal-poor” halo

- Round velocity ellipsoid
- ~30% of main sequence halo sample
- More metal-poor on average

$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] > -1.5$

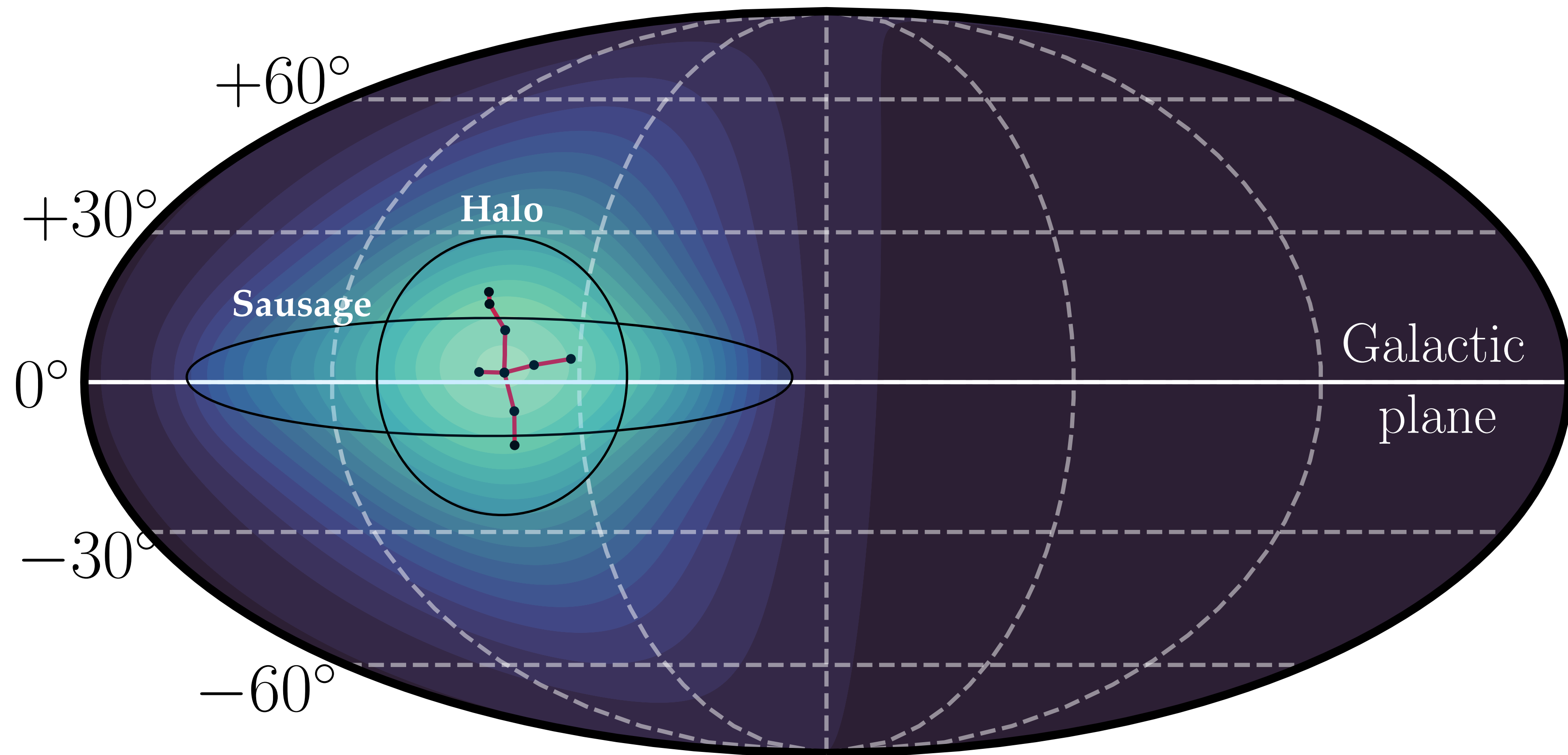


### “Metal-rich” halo

- Highly eccentric radial orbits
- Dominant contribution ~50%
- Characteristic metallicity  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -1.4$



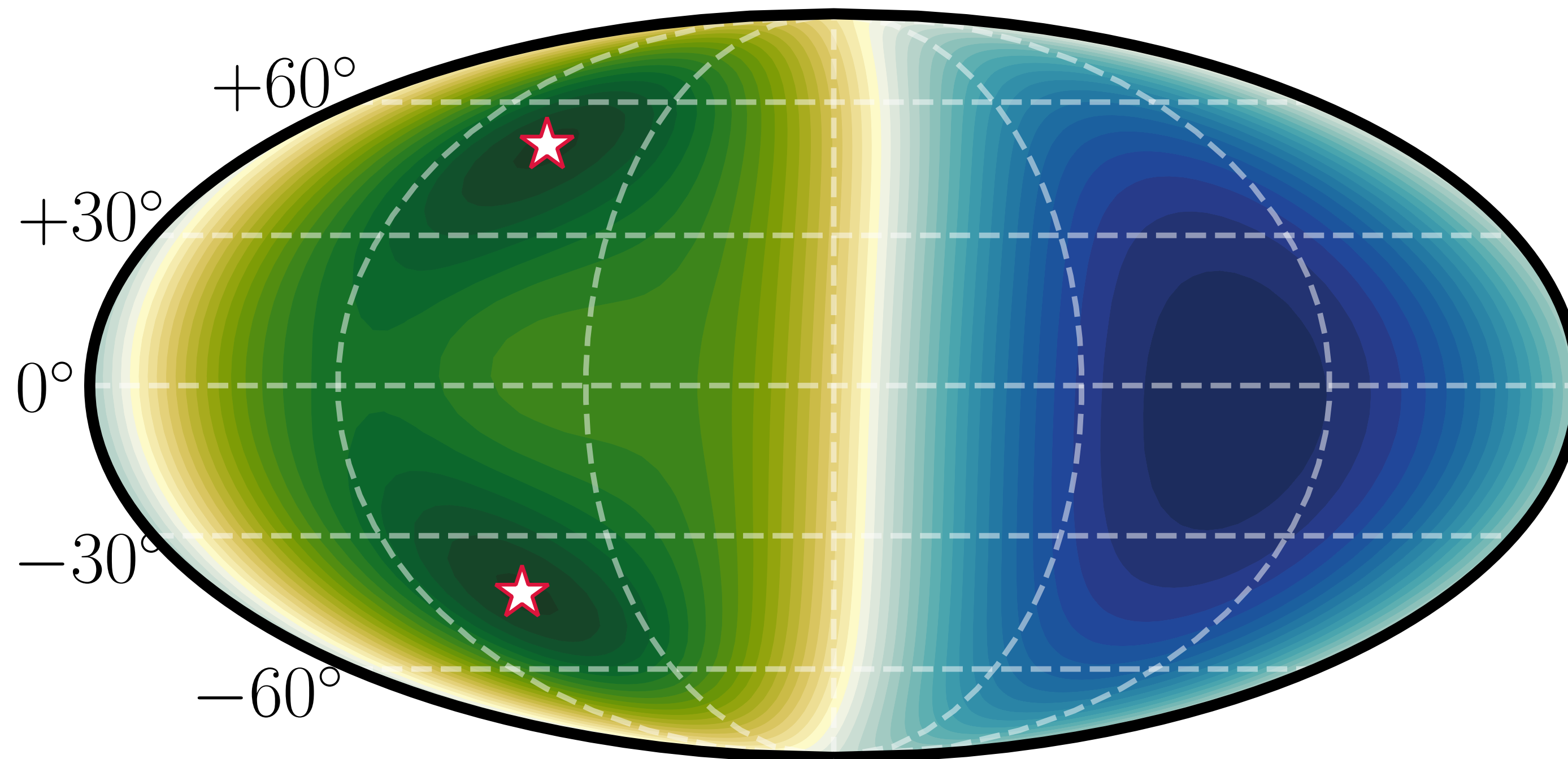
# Flux of DM from the Gaia Sausage versus the rest of the halo



# The Gaia Sausage gives rise to peaks off center from Cygnus

O'Hare+ [1909.04684]

5 – 10 keV



Distribution for 5-10 keVr Fluorine recoils with a 100 GeV WIMP

Halo model = SHM + Sausage



# DNA detector?

## New Dark Matter Detectors using DNA or RNA for Nanometer Tracking

Andrzej Drukier,<sup>1,\*</sup> Katherine Freese,<sup>2,3,†</sup> Alejandro Lopez,<sup>2,‡</sup> David Spergel,<sup>4,§</sup> Charles Cantor,<sup>5,¶</sup> George Church,<sup>6,\*\*</sup> and Takeshi Sano<sup>7,††</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *BioTraces Inc., 5660 Oak Tanager Ct., Burke, Va. 22015*

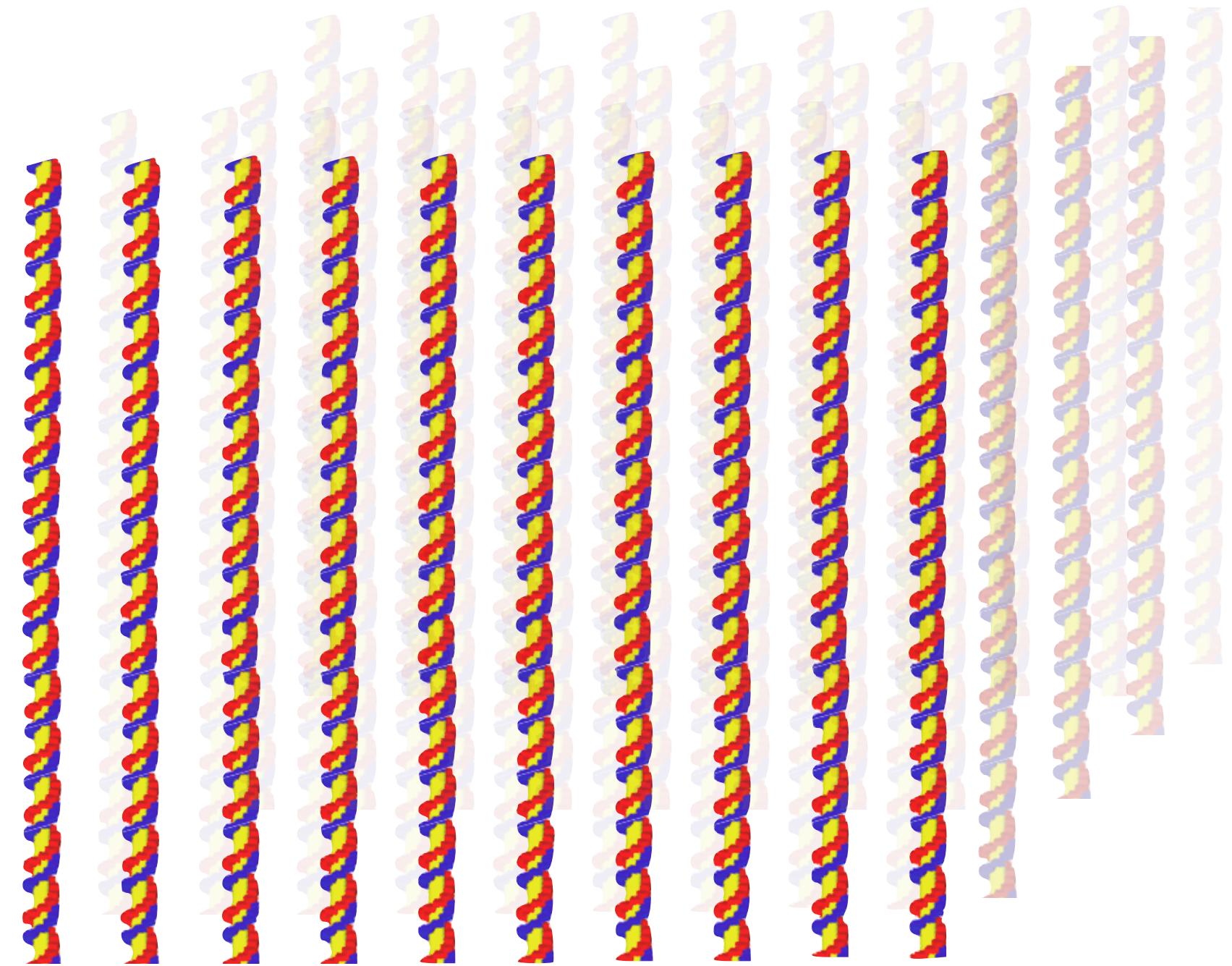
<sup>2</sup> *Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109*

<sup>3</sup> *Physics Department, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91101*

1206.6809

# DNA-based particle detector?

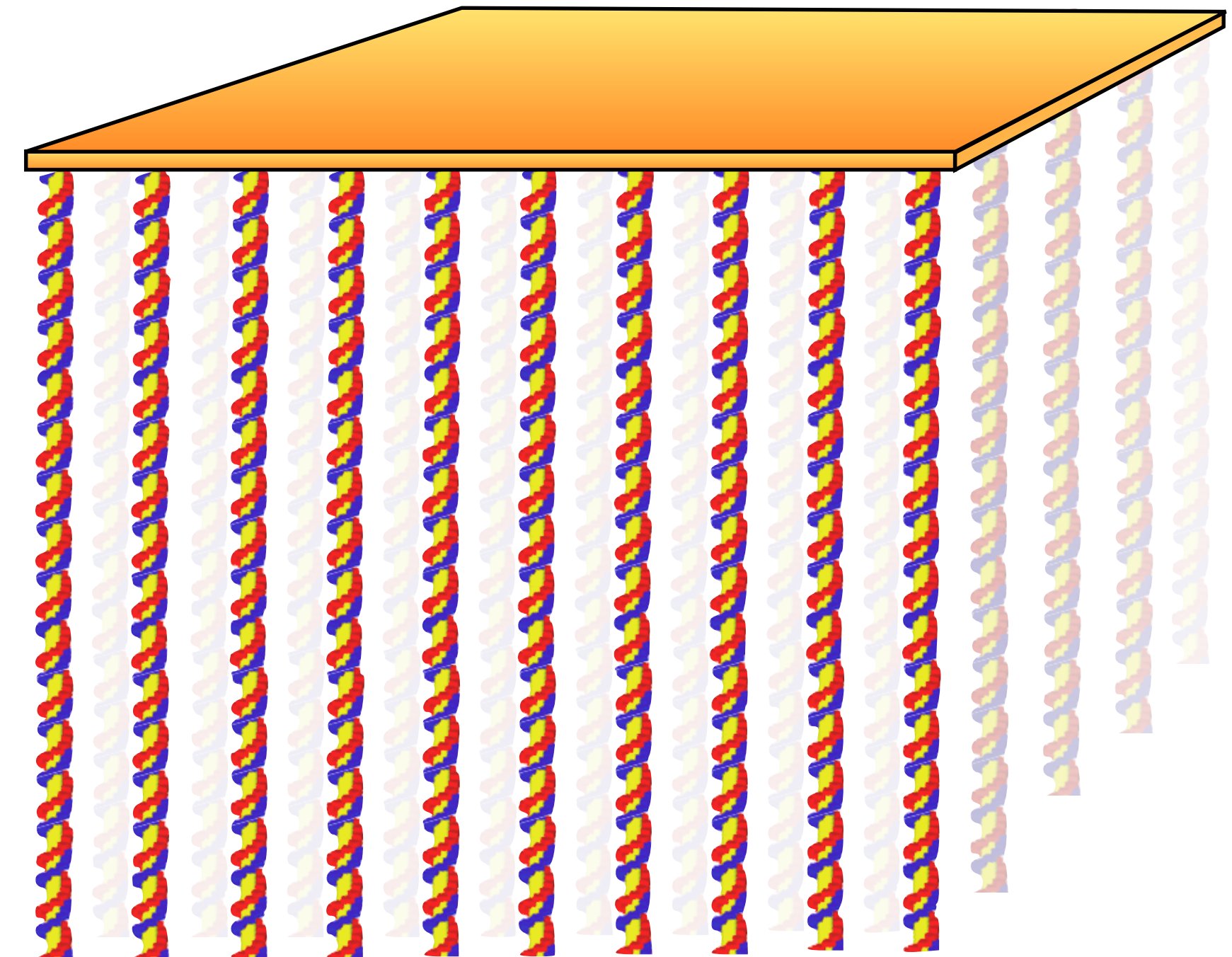
Step 1: acquire some double or single-stranded nucleic acids, each with a known sequences of bases



# DNA-based particle detector?

Step 1: acquire some double or single-stranded nucleic acids, each with a known sequences of bases

Step 2: Attach them in a regular pattern to a thin substrate made of a high density material

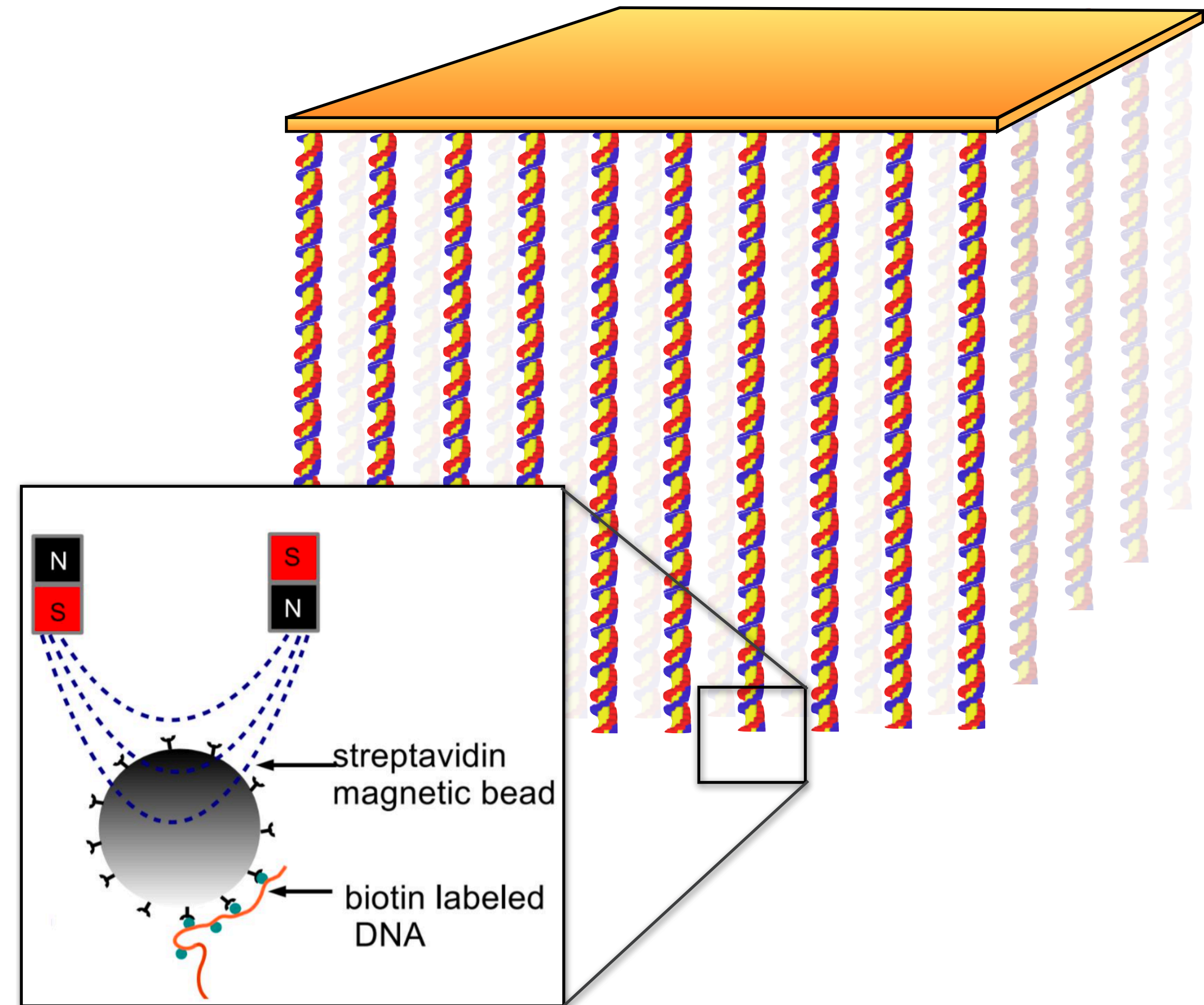


# DNA-based particle detector?

Step 1: acquire some double or single-stranded nucleic acids, each with a known sequences of bases

Step 2: Attach them in a regular pattern to a thin substrate made of a high density material

Step 3: Attach a paramagnetic bead to each strand



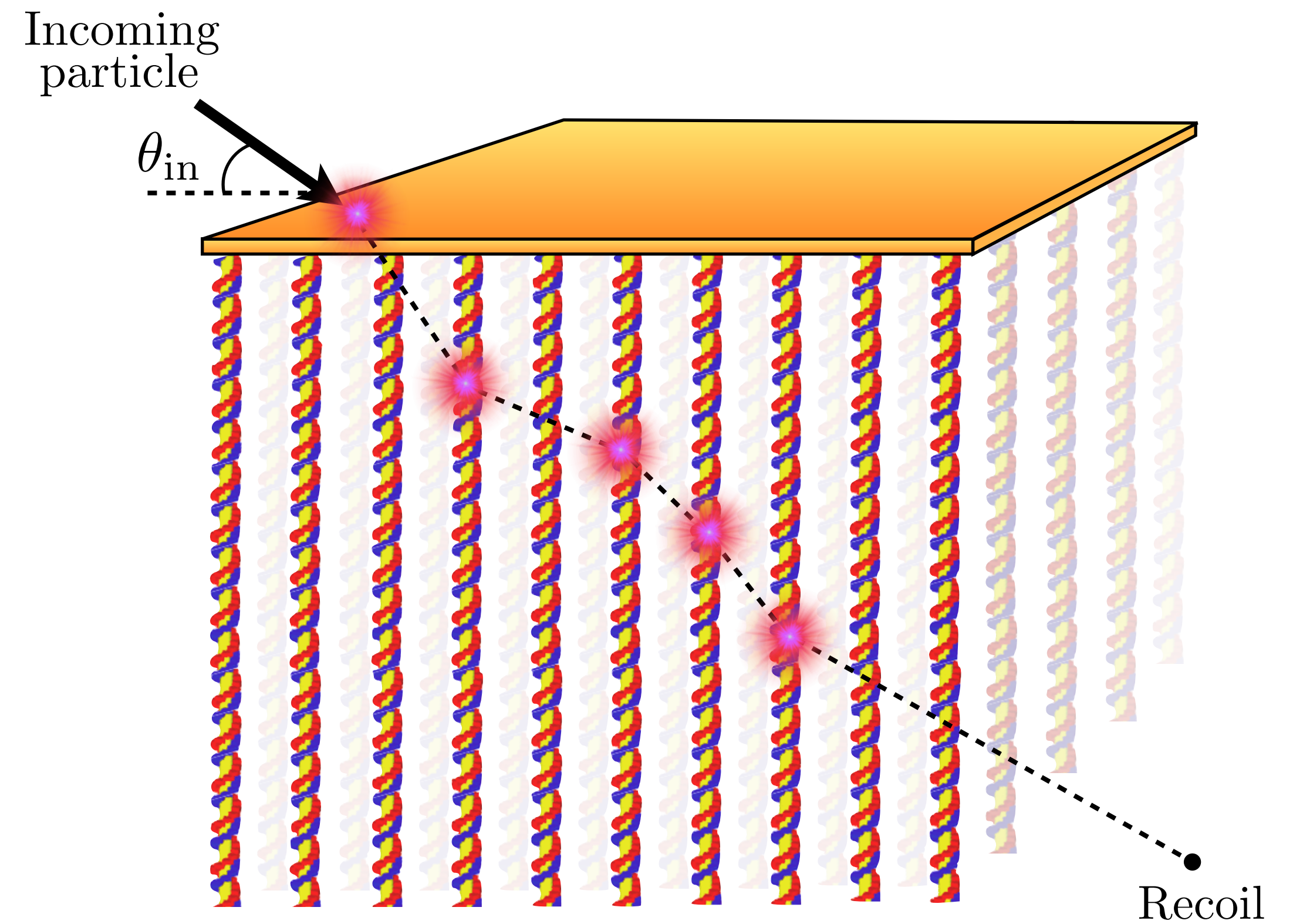
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Step 4: Particles come in and break a sequence of bases





# DNA-based particle detector?

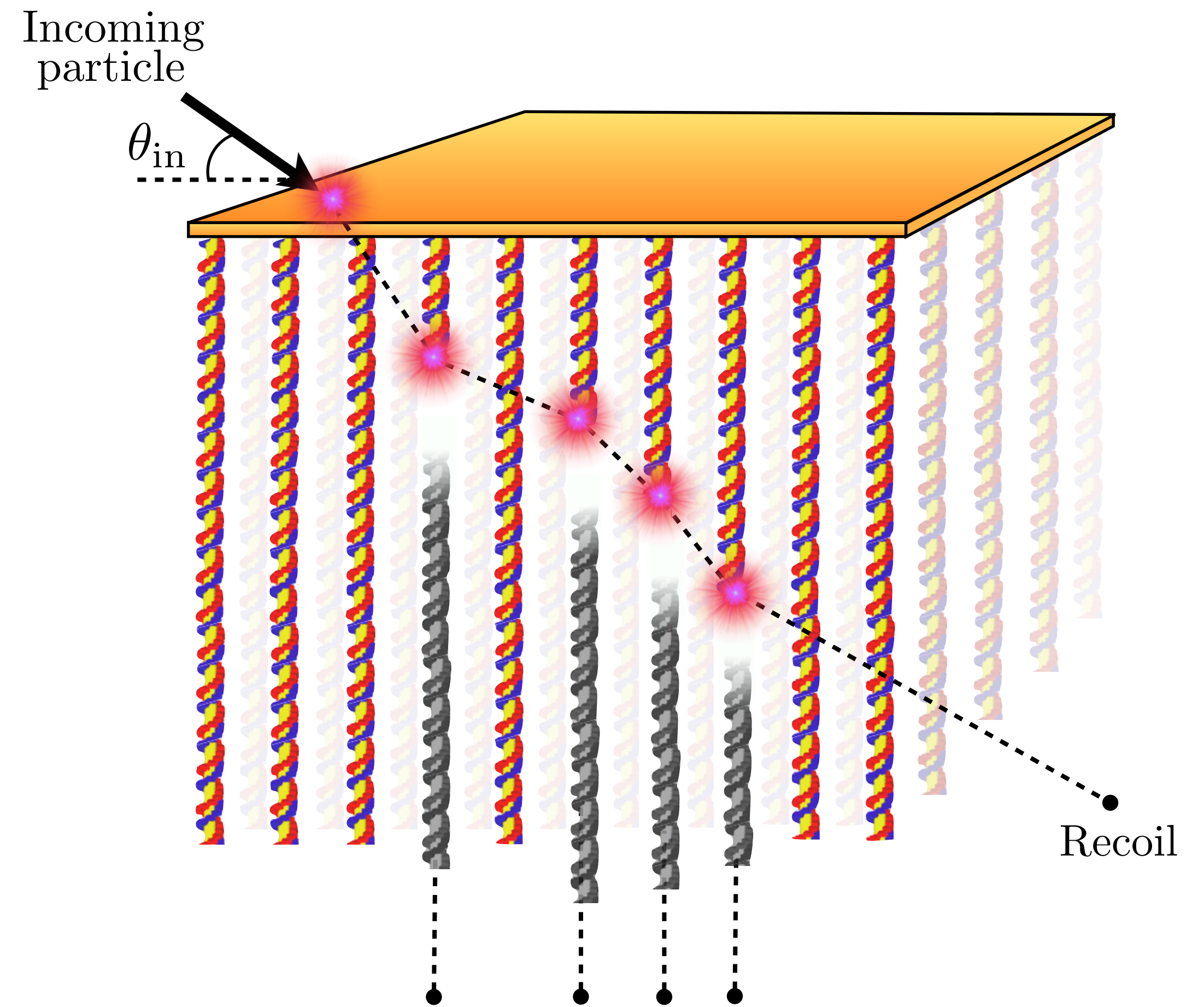
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Step 5: Broken strand segments fall down



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Step 1: acquire some double or single-stranded nucleic acids, each with a known sequences of bases

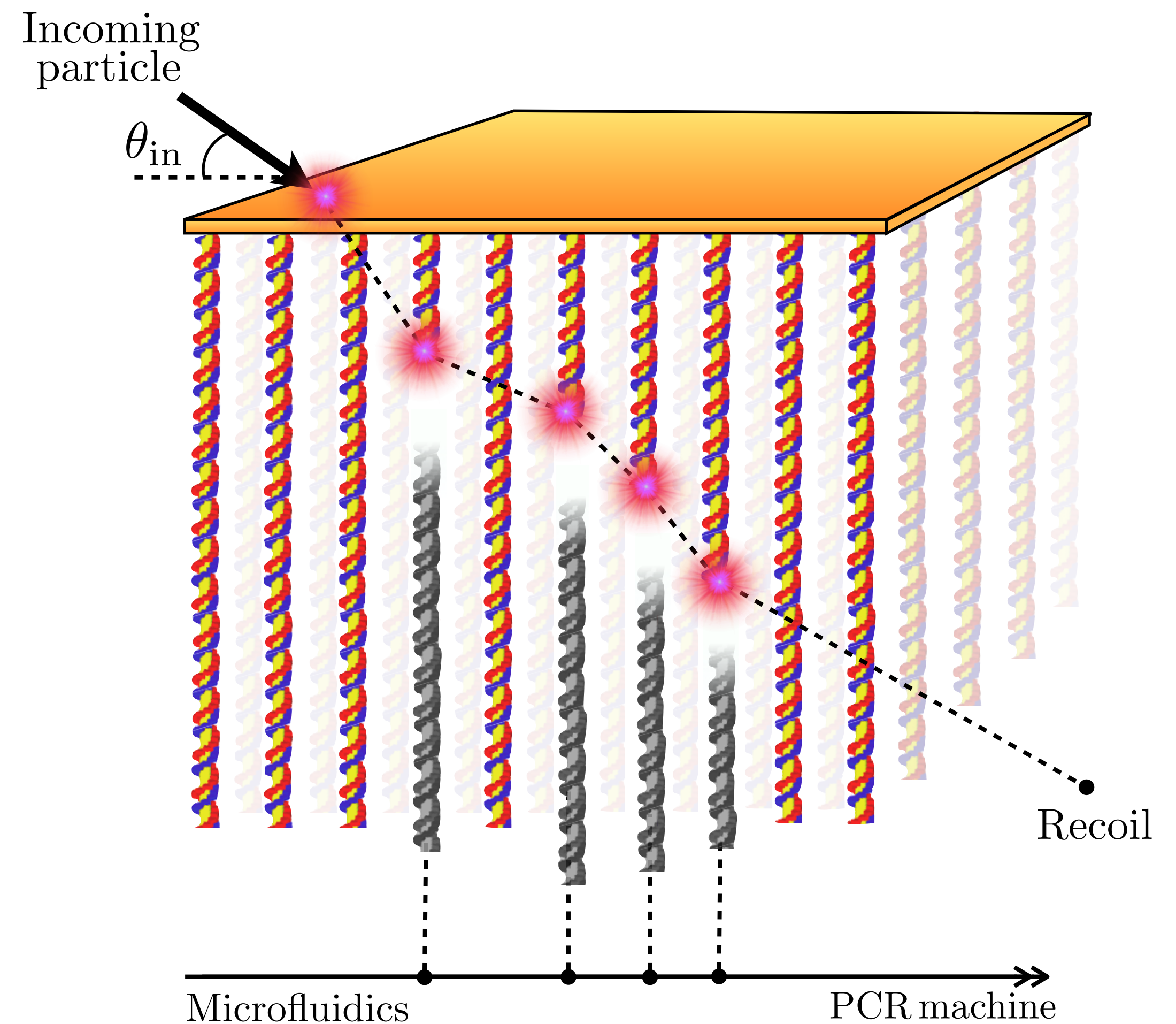
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Step 4: Particles come in and break a sequence of bases

Step 5: Broken strand segments fall down

Step 6: System of microfluidics transports the strand segments to a PCR machine which amplifies them and the original  $(x,y,z)$  positions are reconstructed

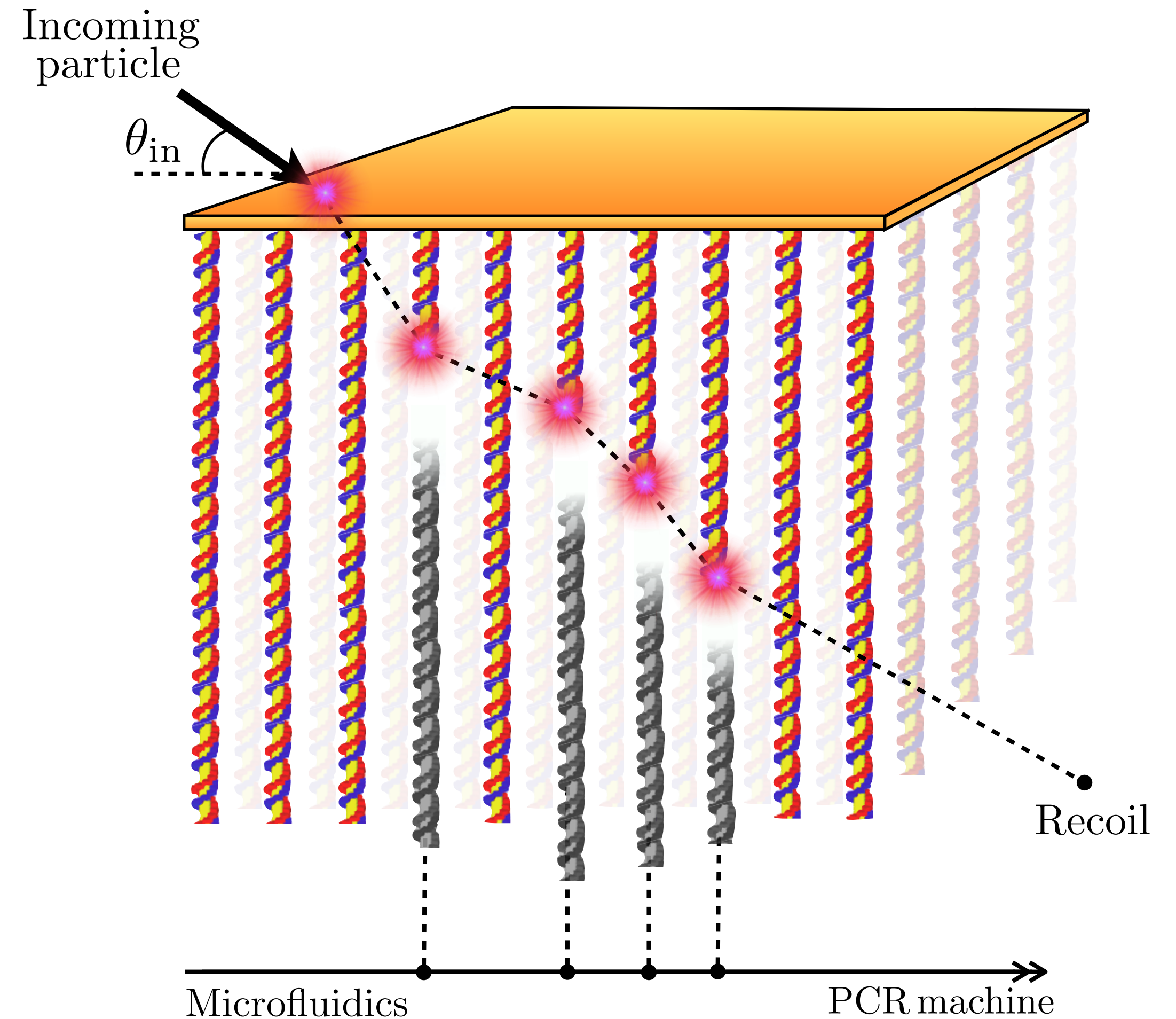


# DNA-based particle detector?

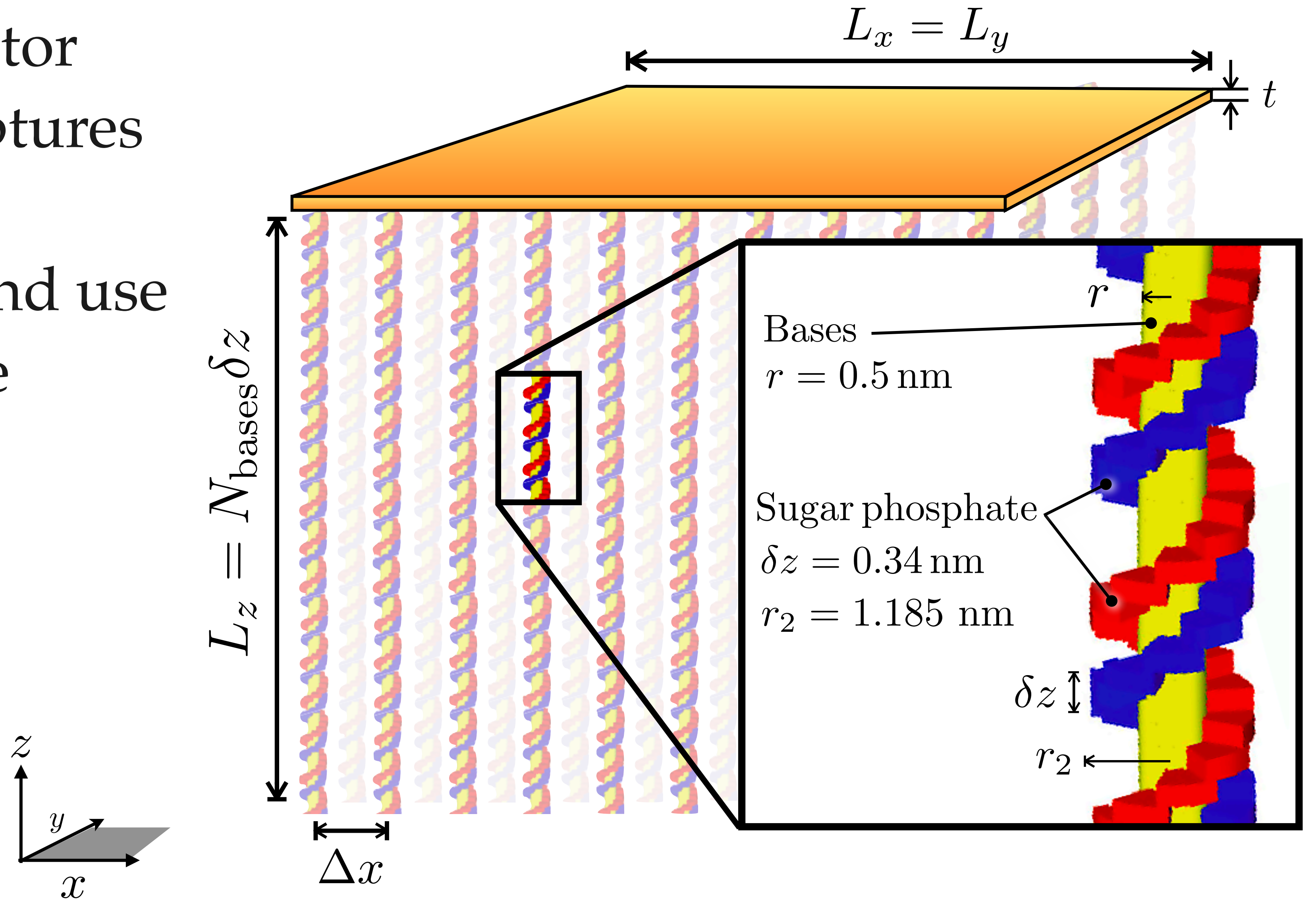
## How crazy is it?

Putting aside the obvious experimental challenge, there is a clear advantage in the context of directional detection

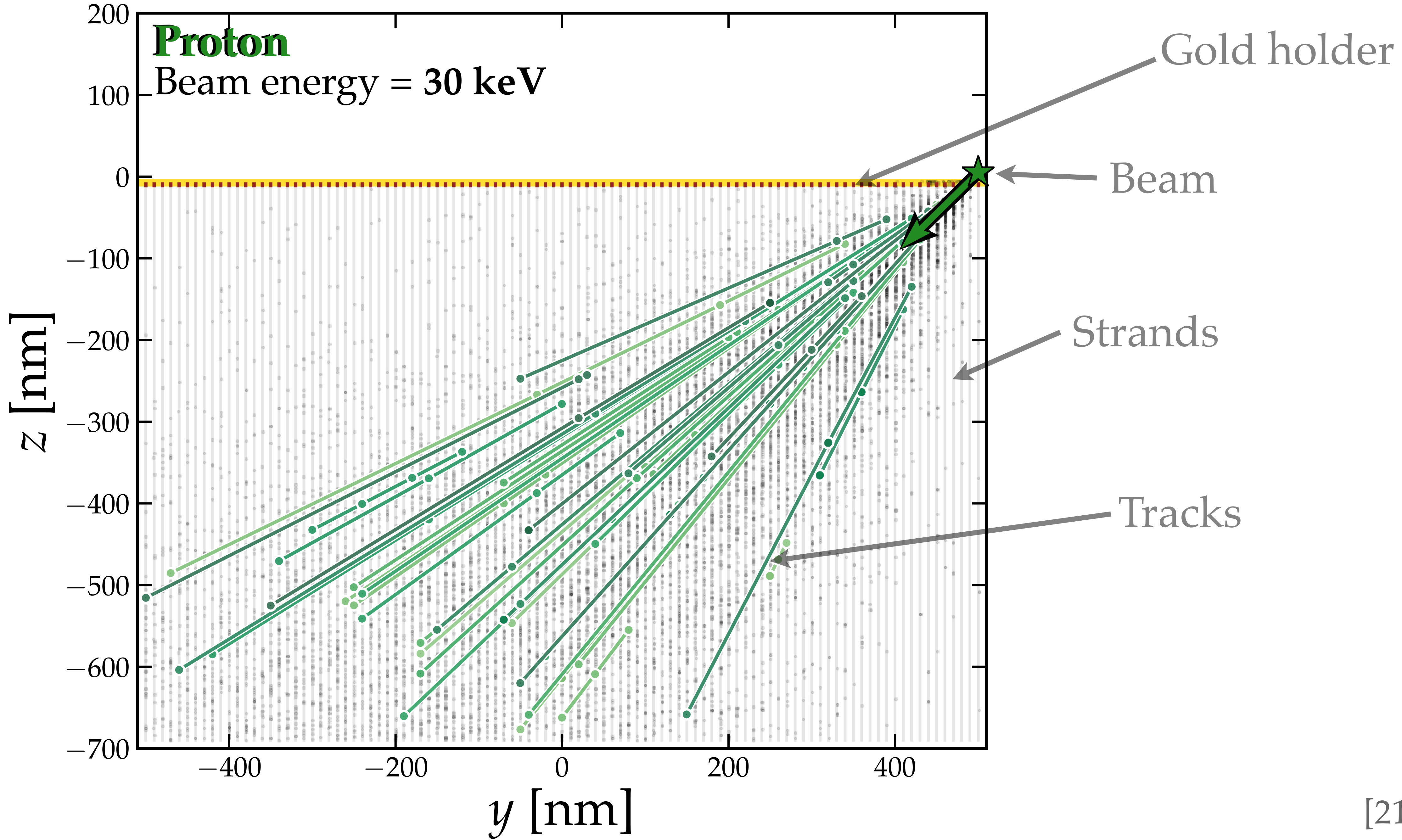
→ No diffusion and no nanoscale interrogation required

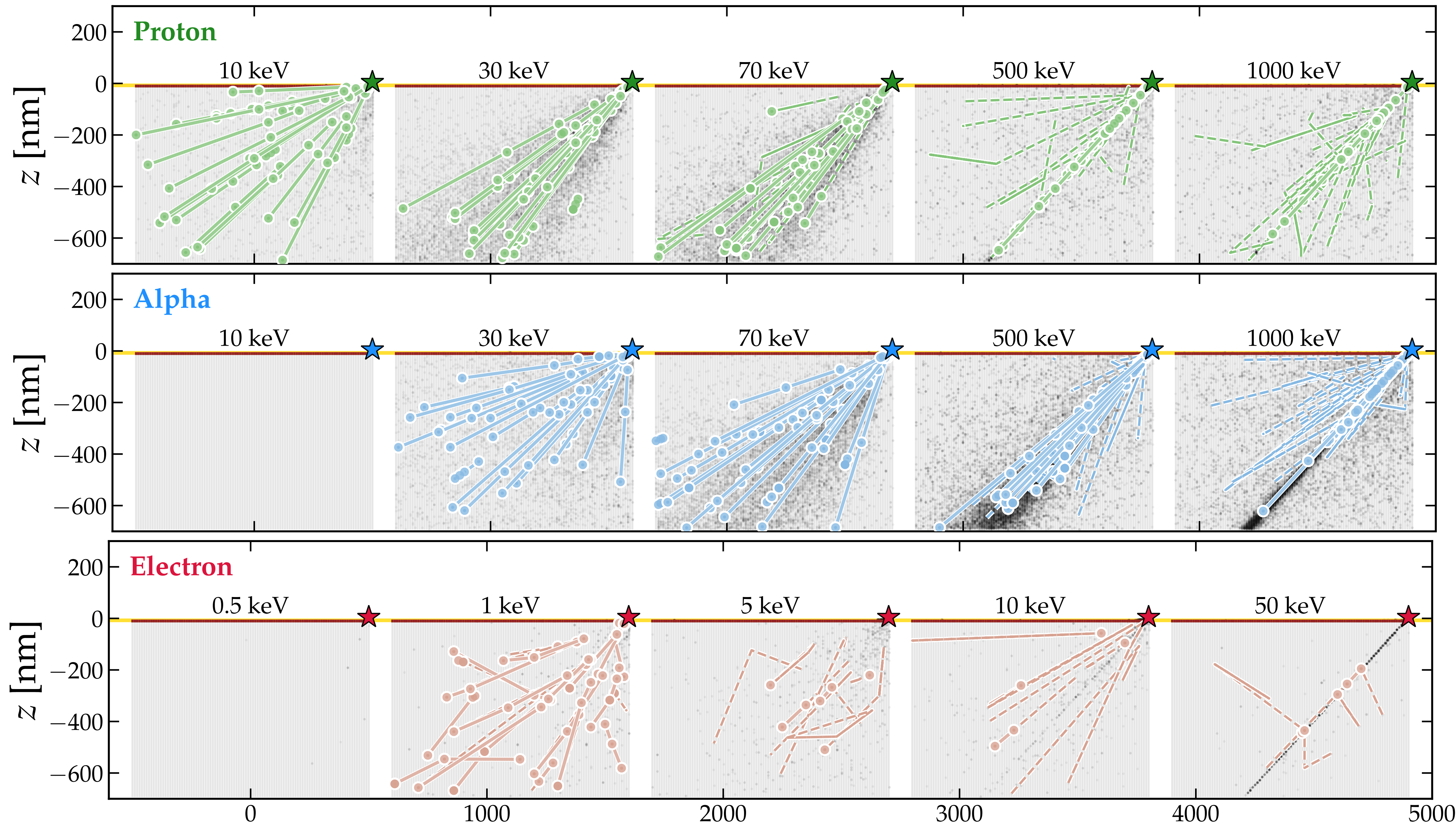


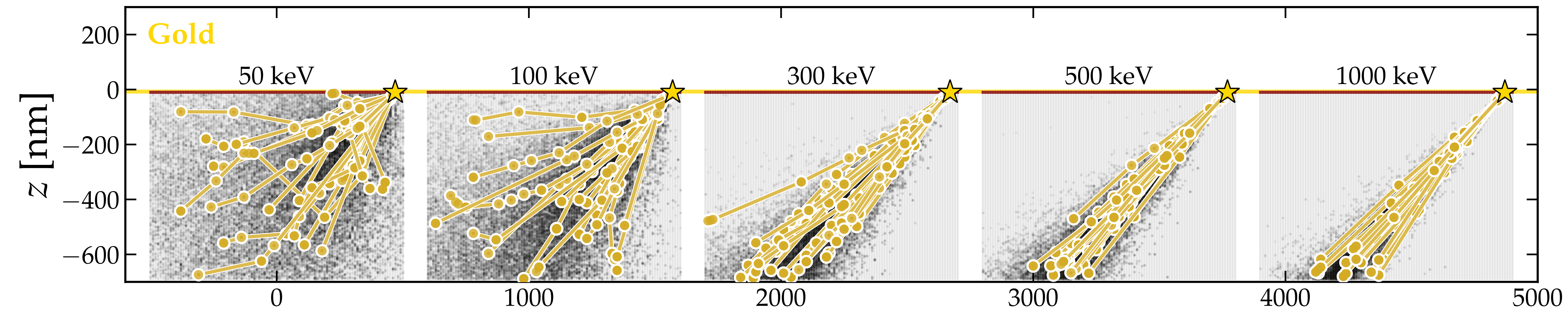
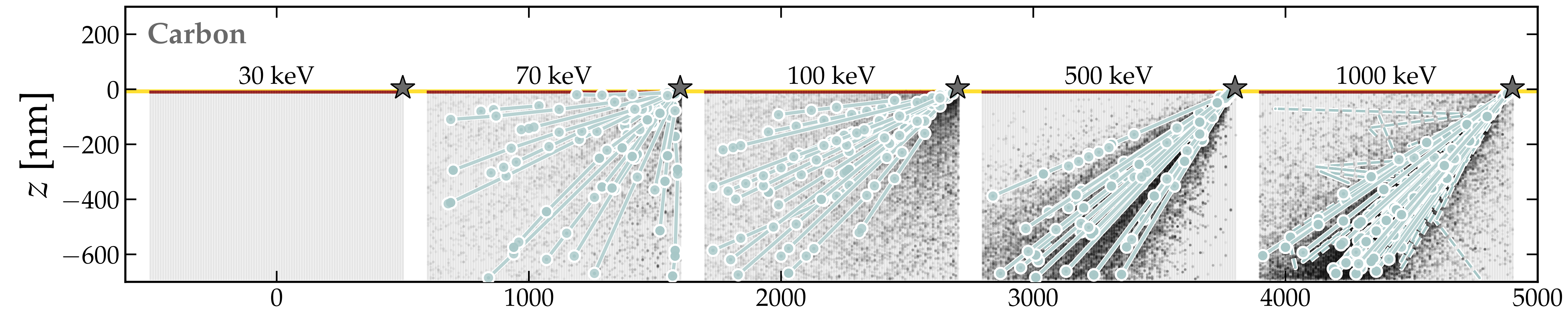
**Idea:** Lets make a crude model of the detector which roughly captures the geometry and material content and use Geant4 to simulate particle tracks

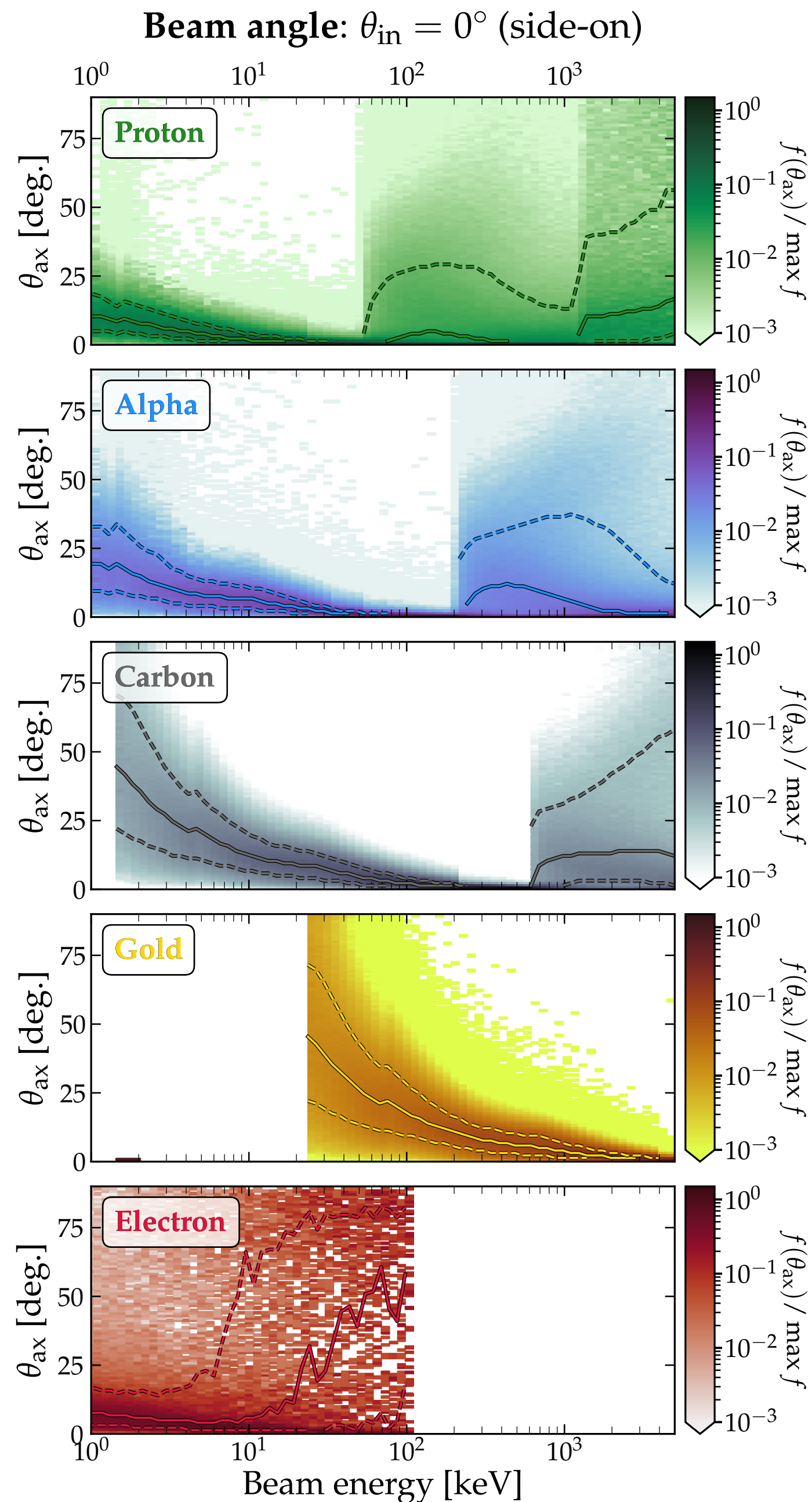


**Proton**  
Beam energy = 30 keV









## Main conclusions from the $\mu\text{m}^3$ unit simulation

- Track directions well-preserved. Around  $25^\circ$  angular res. for *initial* recoil direction
- Particle ID and energy reconstruction not really possible, need to look at tracks over many units and measure  $dE/dx$
- Need to find a good purpose for the idea...











# Experimental side

- **Detector construction** → DNA-origamists can make practically anything

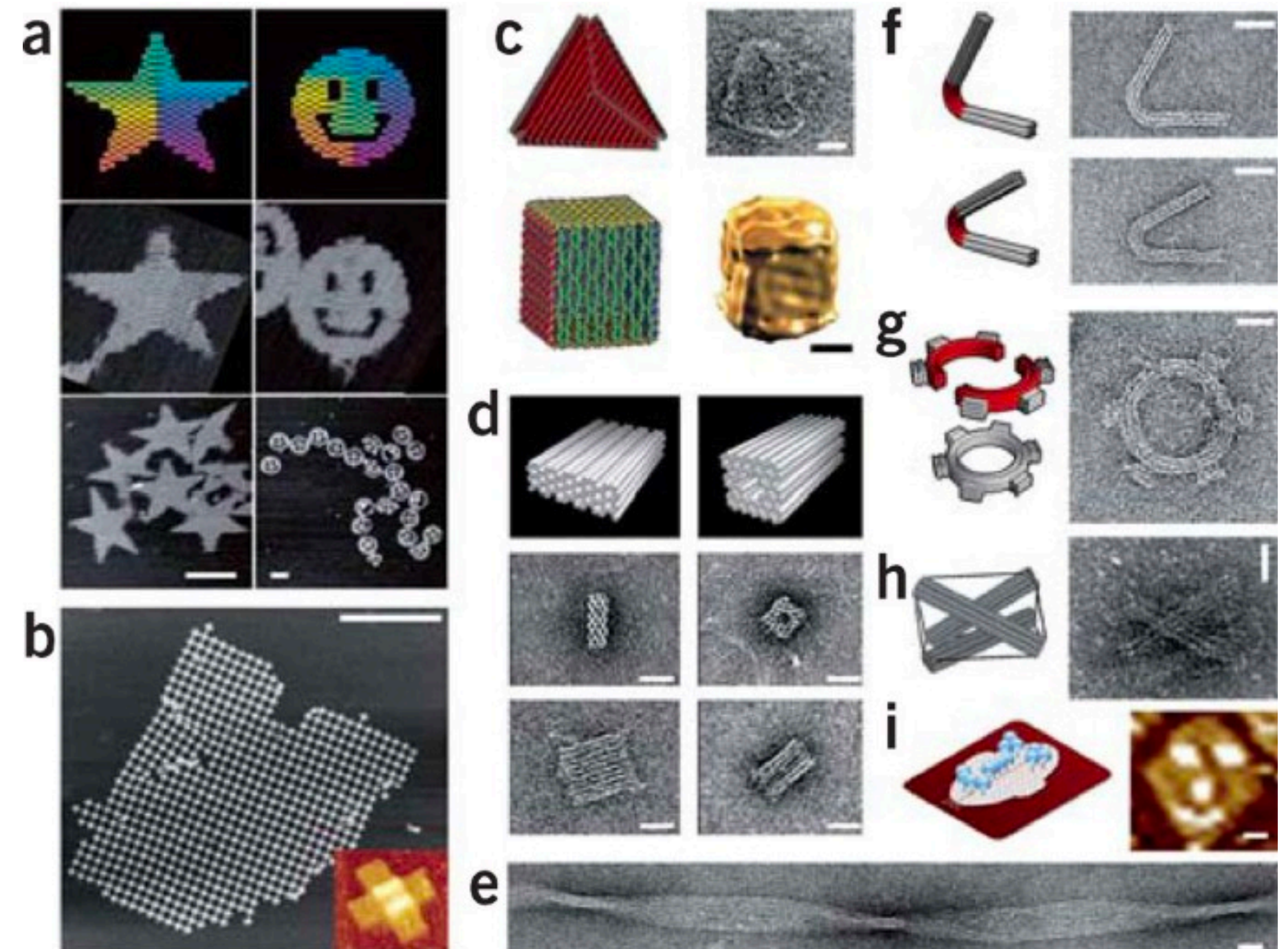
Primer | Published: 28 January 2021

## DNA origami

Swarup Dey, Chunhai Fan , Kurt V. Gothelf , Jiang Li , Chenxiang Lin , Longfei Liu, Na Liu , Minke A. D. Nijenhuis, Barbara Saccà , Friedrich C. Simmel , Hao Yan  & Pengfei Zhan

*Nature Reviews Methods Primers* 1, Article number: 13 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

11k Accesses | 7 Citations | 25 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

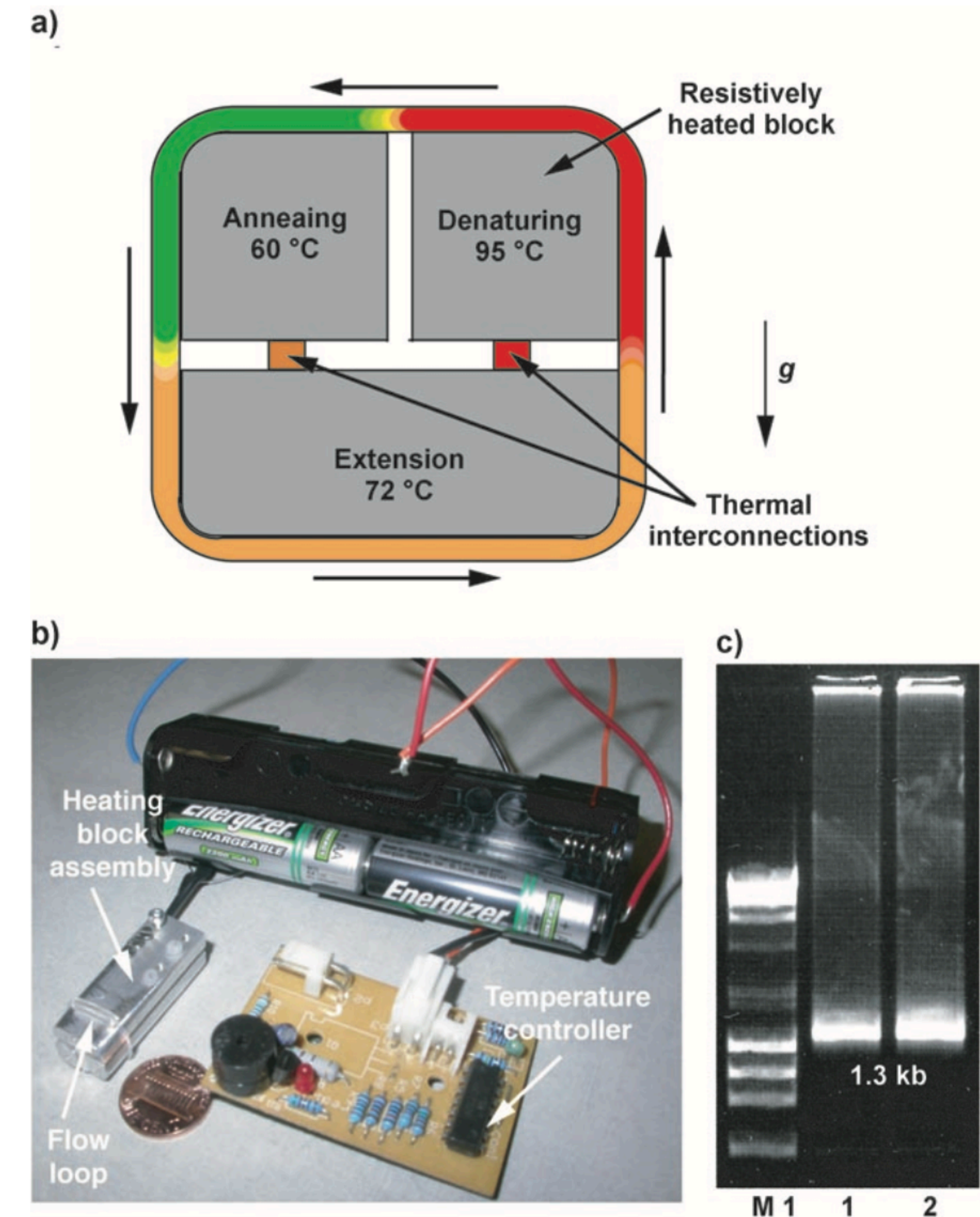


# Experimental side

- **Detector construction** → DNA-origamists can make practically anything
- **PCR machines** → cheap, commercially available, portable, and fast.

## A Pocket-Sized Convective PCR Thermocycler\*\*

*Nitin Agrawal, Yassin A. Hassan, and Victor M. Ugaz\**



# Experimental side

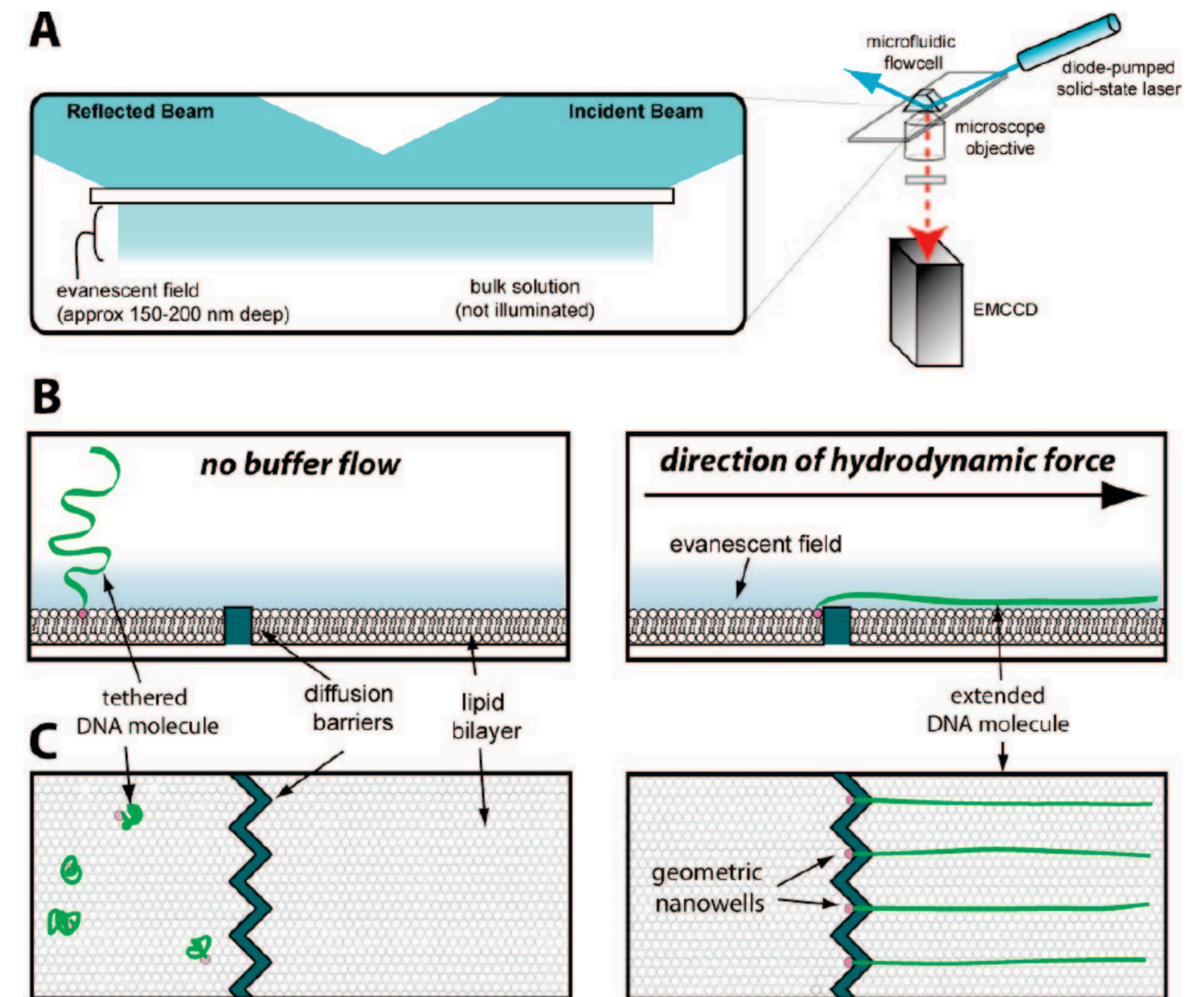
- **Detector construction** → DNA-origamists can make practically anything
- **PCR machines** → cheap, commercially available, portable, and fast.
- **DNA-substrate attachment** → standard protocols (looking at this in the lab right now!)

## Parallel Arrays of Geometric Nanowells for Assembling Curtains of DNA with Controlled Lateral Dispersion

Mari-Liis Visnapuu,<sup>‡,§</sup> Teresa Fazio,<sup>†,§</sup> Shalom Wind,<sup>†</sup> and Eric C. Greene<sup>\*,‡</sup>

*Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics, Center for Electron Transport in Molecular Nanostructures, NanoMedicine Center for Mechanical Biology, Columbia University 1020 Schapiro CEPSR, 530 West 120th Street, New York, New York 10027, and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Columbia University, 650 West 168th Street, Black Building Room 536, New York, New York 10032*

Received June 6, 2008. Revised Manuscript Received August 18, 2008



# Experimental side

- **Detector construction** → DNA-origamists can make practically anything
- **PCR machines** → cheap, commercially available, portable, and fast.
- **DNA-substrate attachment** → standard protocols (looking at this in the lab right now!)
- **Main challenge** → stability of detector and ensuring strands are collected, maybe a total rethink of design is in order (DNA-based harddrive?)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-15588-z>

## DNA punch cards for storing data on native DNA sequences via enzymatic nicking

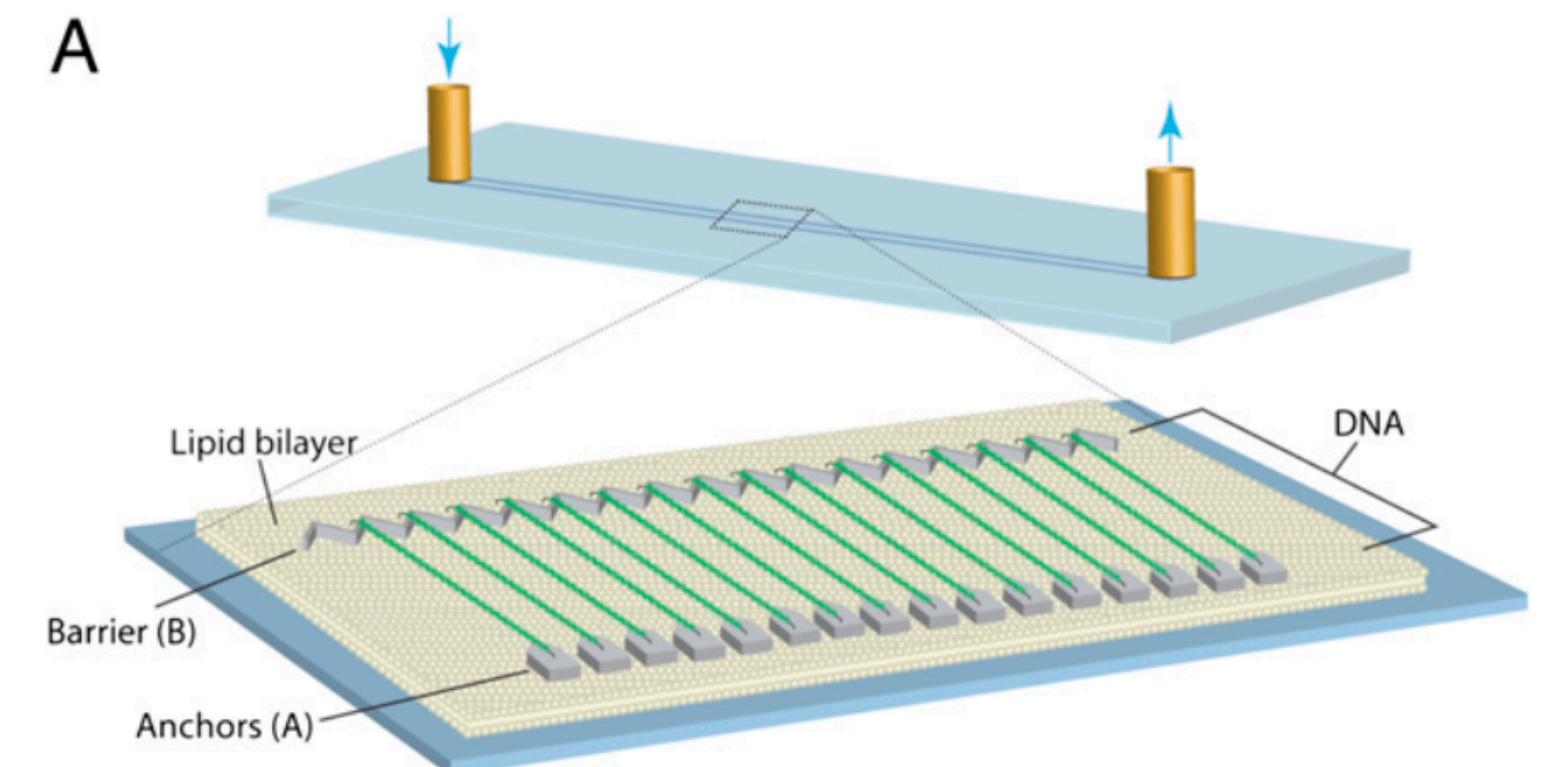
S. Kasra Tabatabaei<sup>1</sup>, Boya Wang<sup>2,8</sup>, Nagendra Bala Murali Athreya<sup>3,8</sup>, Behnam Enghiad<sup>4</sup>, Alvaro Gonzalo Hernandez<sup>5</sup>, Christopher J. Fields<sup>6</sup>, Jean-Pierre Leburton<sup>3</sup>, David Soloveichik<sup>2</sup>, Huimin Zhao<sup>1,4,7</sup> & Olgica Milenkovic<sup>3</sup>

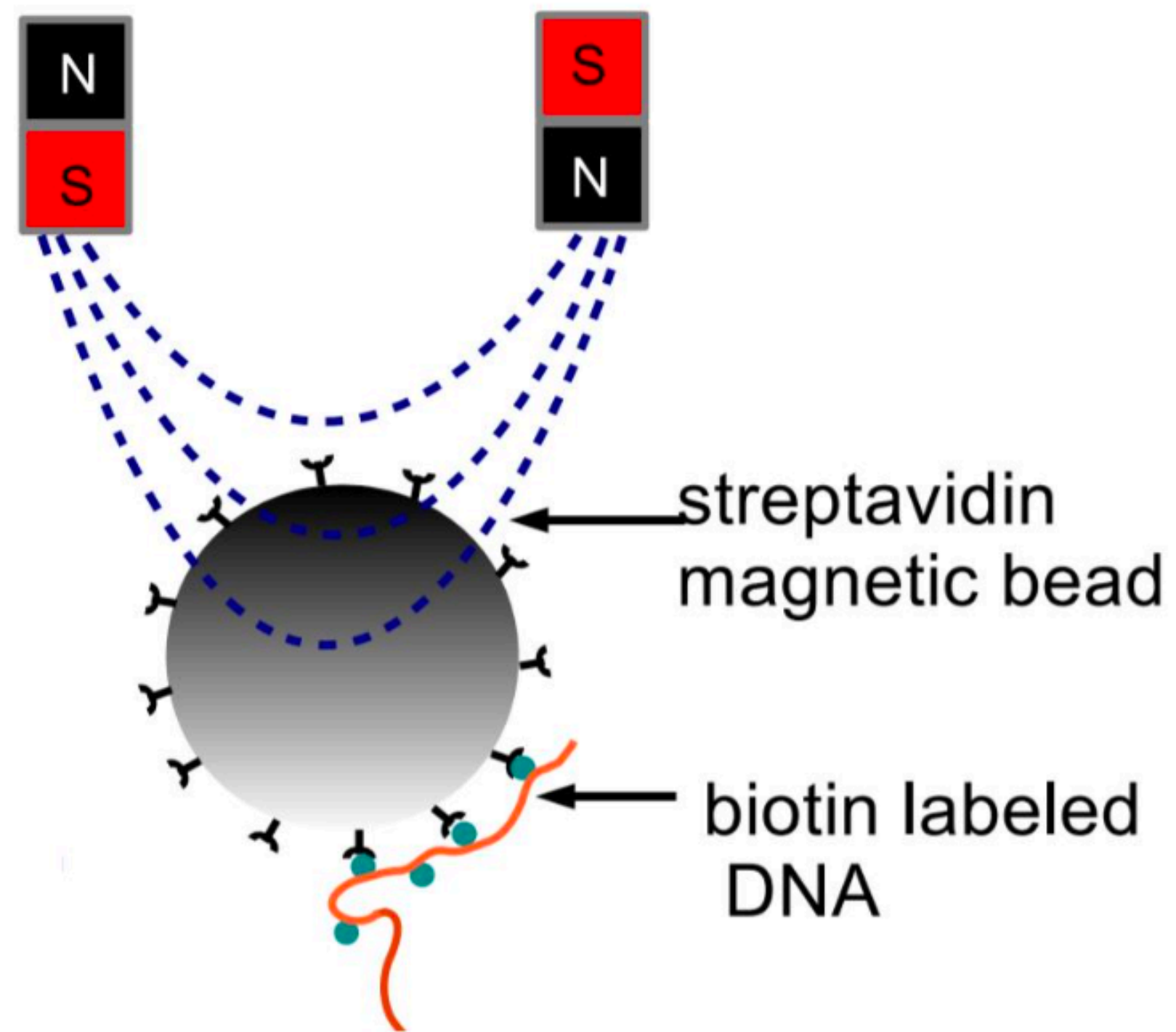
+

## Single-molecule imaging of DNA curtains reveals mechanisms of KOPS sequence targeting by the DNA translocase FtsK

Ja Yil Lee<sup>a,1</sup>, Ilya J. Finkelstein<sup>a,1</sup>, Estelle Crozat<sup>b,2</sup>, David J. Sherratt<sup>b</sup>, and Eric C. Greene<sup>a,c,3</sup>

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[t]

FIG. 3. Diagram from [16] illustrating the DNA to paramagnetic bead attachment and manipulation via an external magnetic field. The connection occurs due to the extreme affinity of Streptavidin (a type of protein) to biotin molecules (vitamin H). Streptavidin is known to form one of the strongest bonds known in nature with biotin.

## Attachment of paramagnetic beads to the DNA strands