

The Power of the Dark Sink

Robert McGehee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



DM Landscape @ MITP

“The” Dark Matter Slide

Further Goes Slower



Further Goes Slower



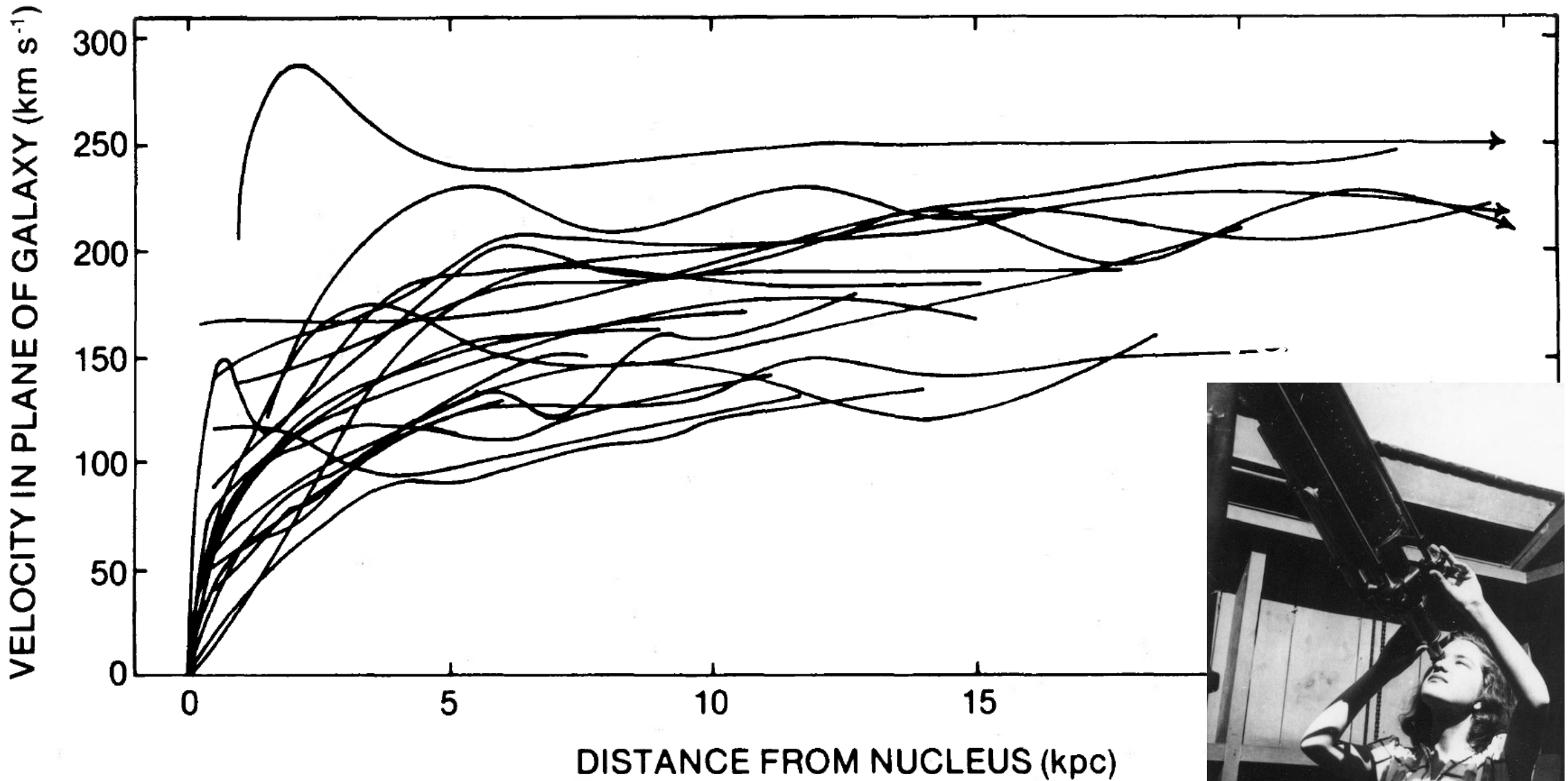
Further Goes Similar!



Vera Rubin



Credit: Vassar College, courtesy AIP Emilio
Segrè Visual Archives

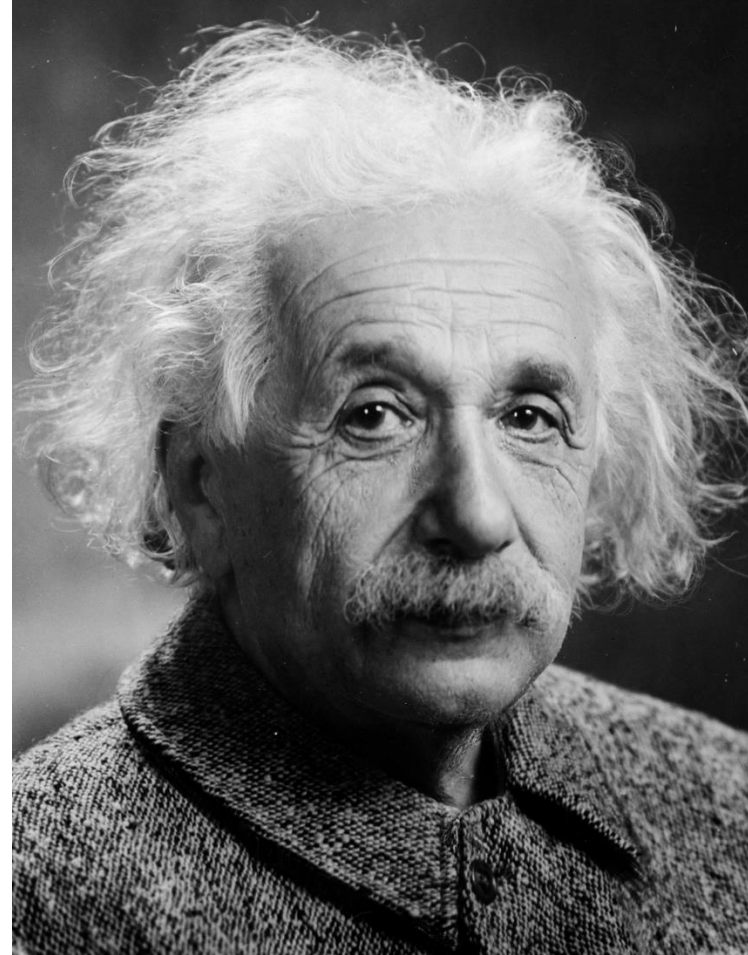
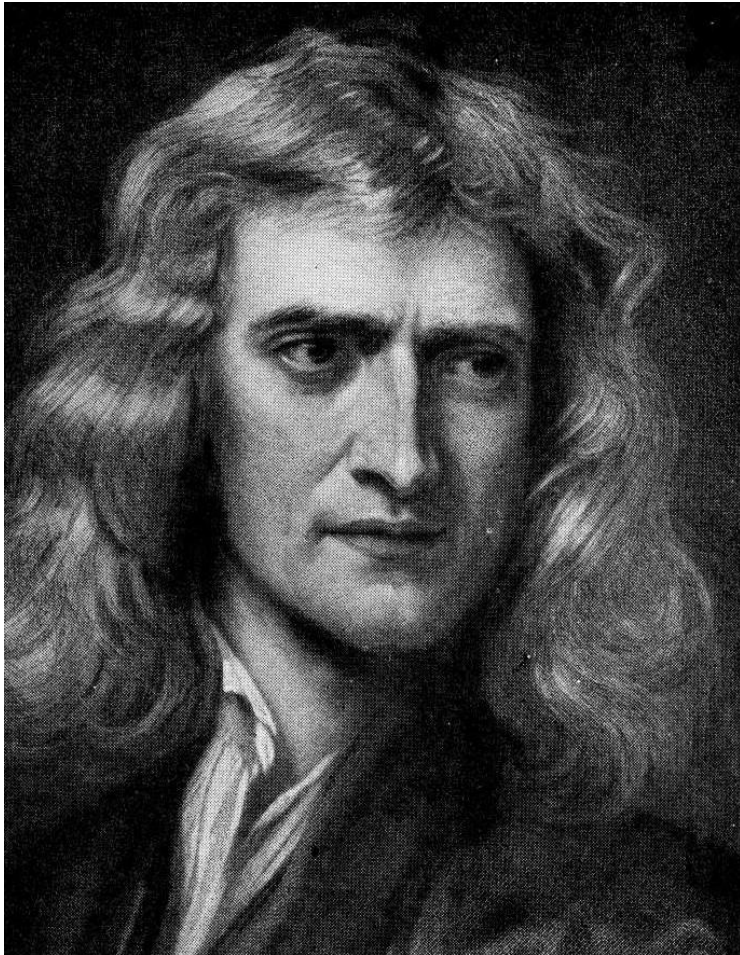


V.C. Rubin, N. Thonnard, W.K. Ford, Jr. *Astrophys. J.* 238 (1980) 471



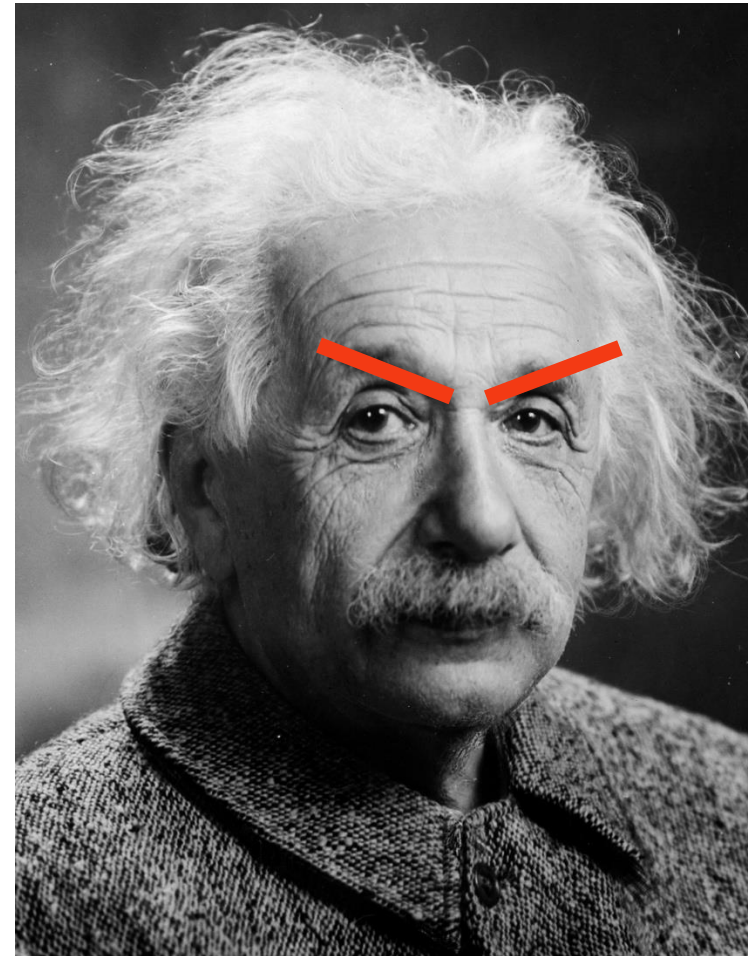
Credit: Vassar College, courtesy AIP Emilio
Segrè Visual Archives

Oops?



R McGee

Blasphemer!



R McGee



Credit: NASA, ESA, and T. Brown and J. Tumlinson (STScI)



Credit: NASA

So...what do we know?

So...what do we know?

there's lots of it

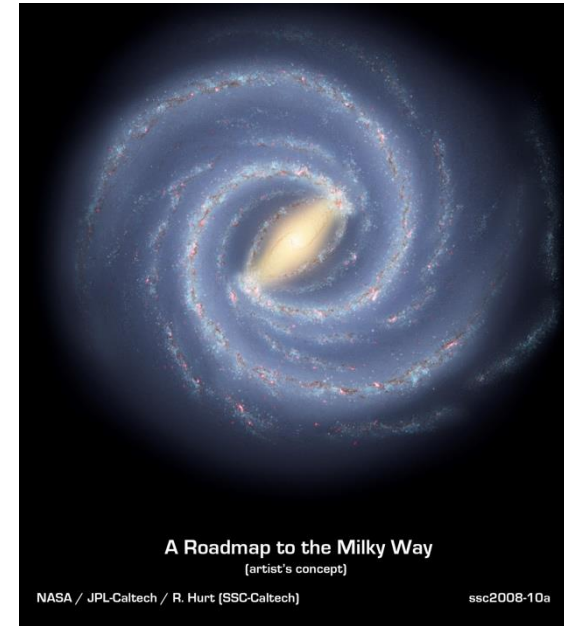
$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \approx 5\Omega_{\text{b}}$$

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it's in galaxies, including ours

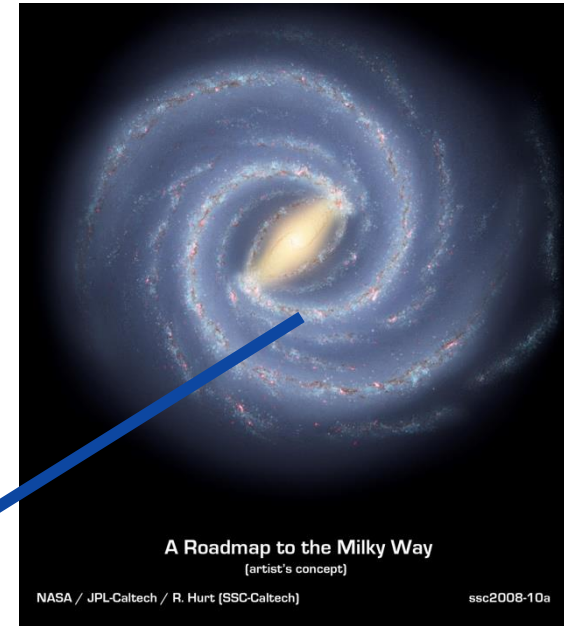


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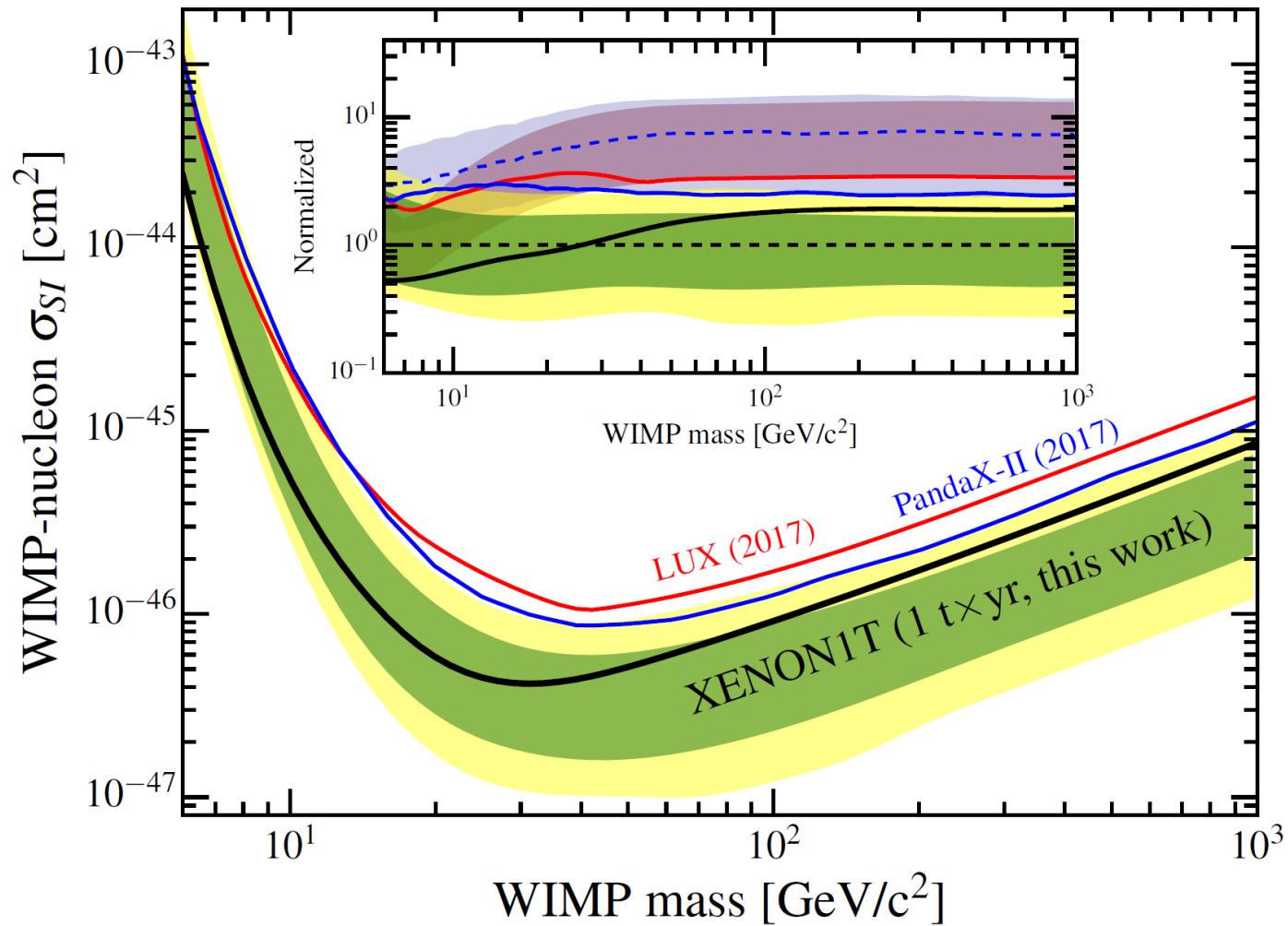
it's in galaxies, including ours

$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \approx 5\Omega_{\text{b}}$$



maybe it (very rarely) bumps into stuff on Earth

Direct Detection Today

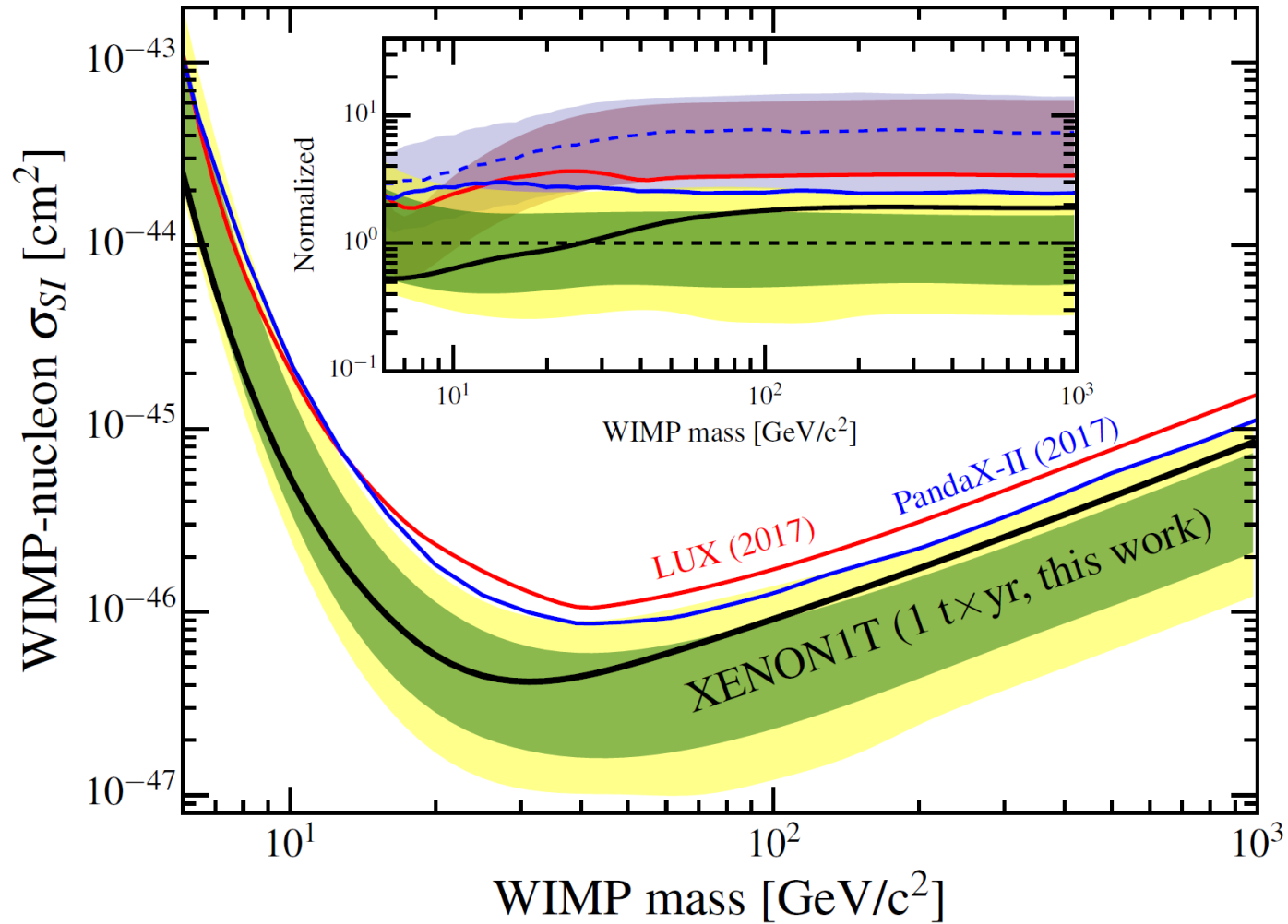


XENON Collaboration [1805.12562]

R McGee

Direct Detection Future

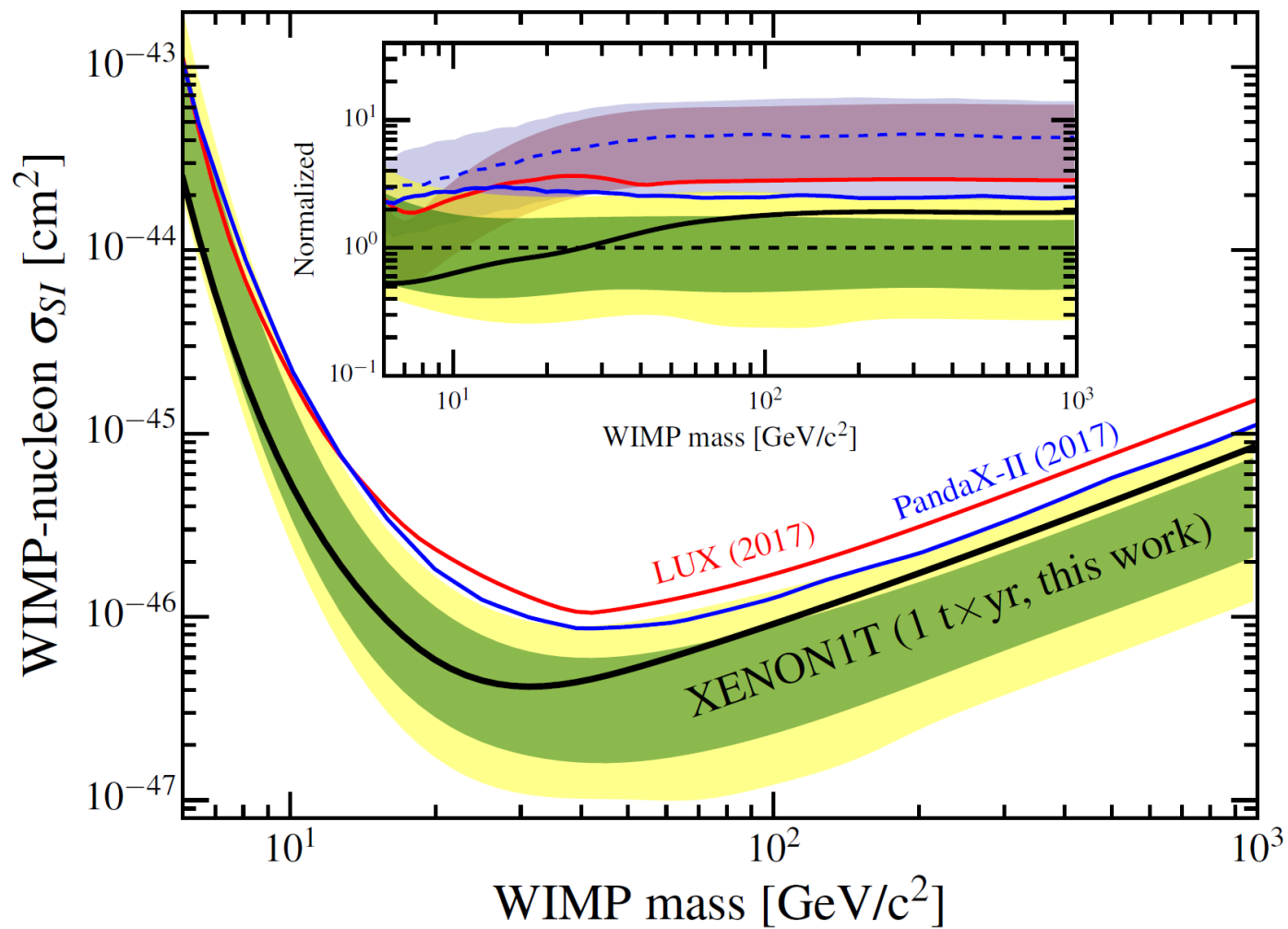
Go lighter



Go lower

Direct Detection Future

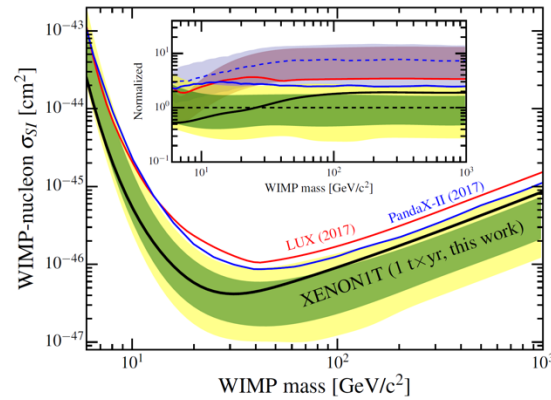
Go lighter



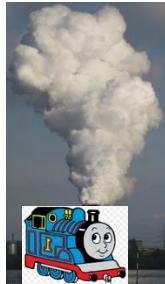
Go lower 

Direct Detection Future Full Steam Ahead!

2018



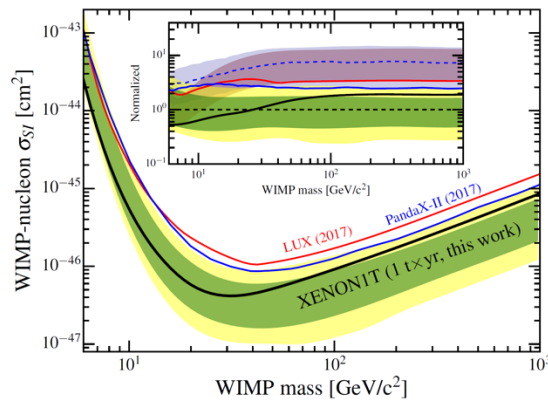
XENON Collaboration
[1805.12562]



R McGehee

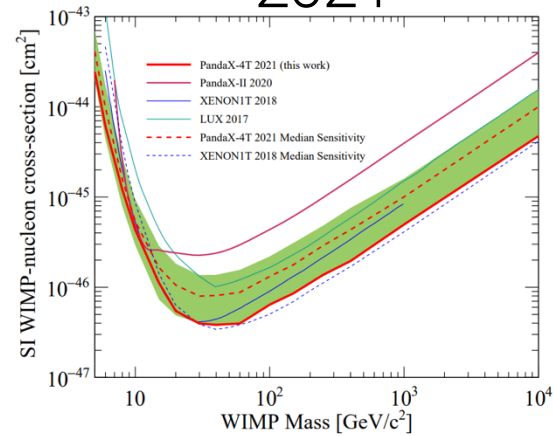
Direct Detection Future Full Steam Ahead!

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XENON Collaboration
[1805.12562]

2021



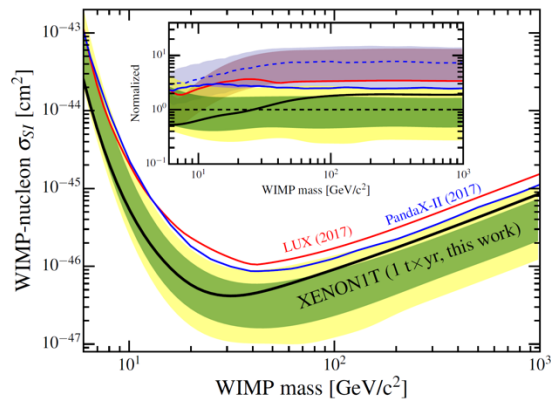
PandaX Collaboration
[2107.13438]



R McGehee

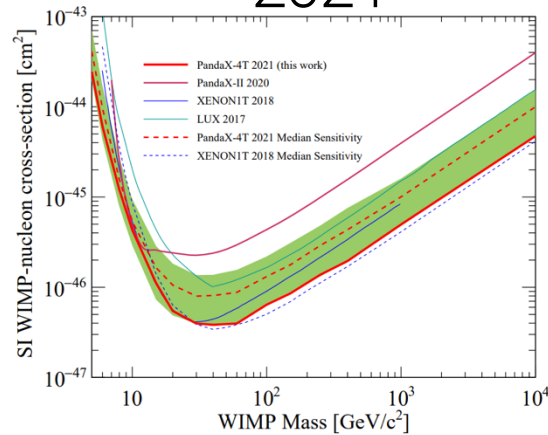
Direct Detection Future Full Steam Ahead!

2018



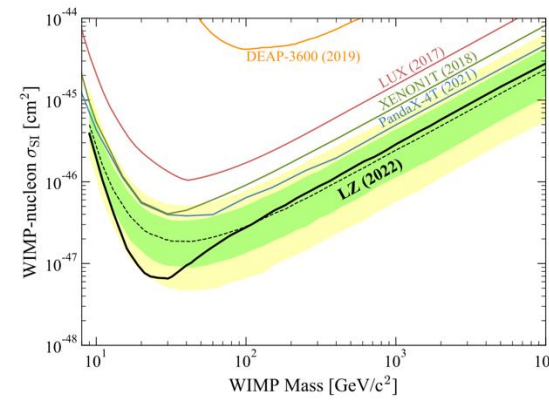
XENON Collaboration
[1805.12562]

2021

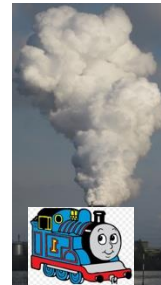


PandaX Collaboration
[2107.13438]

2022

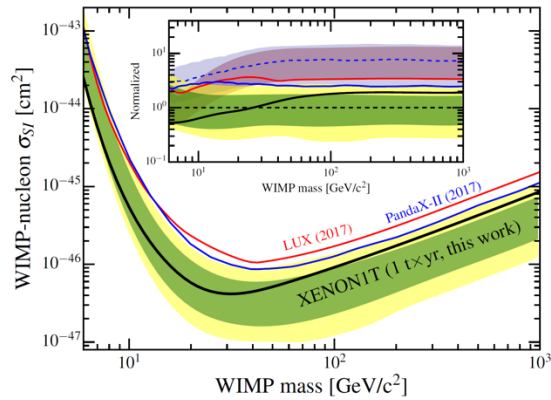


LZ Collaboration
[2207.03764]



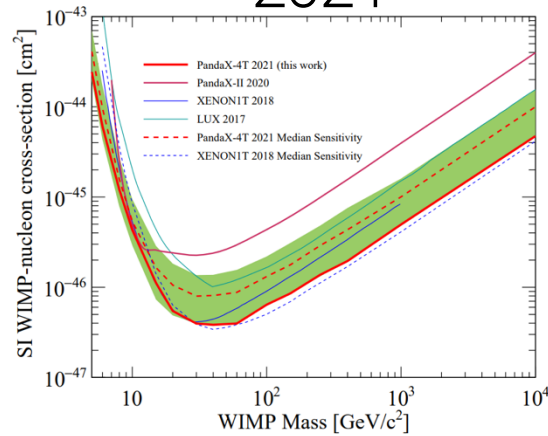
Direct Detection Future Full Steam Ahead!

2018



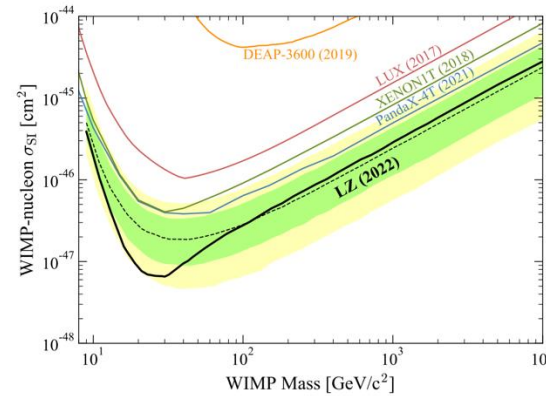
XENON Collaboration
[1805.12562]

2021



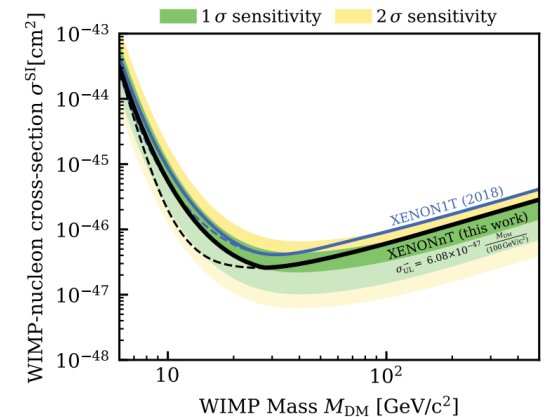
PandaX Collaboration
[2107.13438]

2022

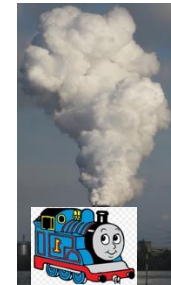


LZ Collaboration
[2207.03764]

2023

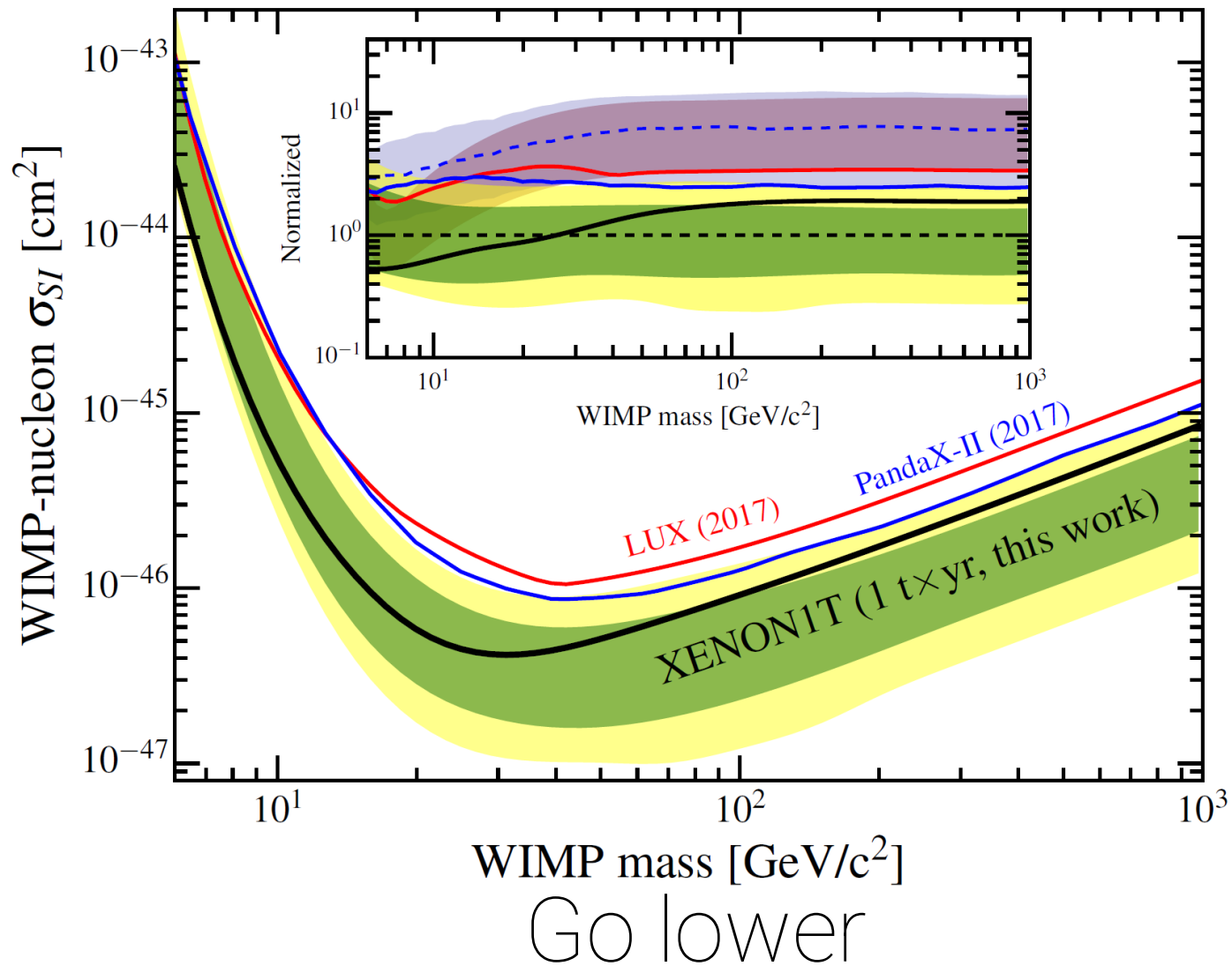


XENON Collaboration
[2303.14729]



R McGehee

Direct Detection Future

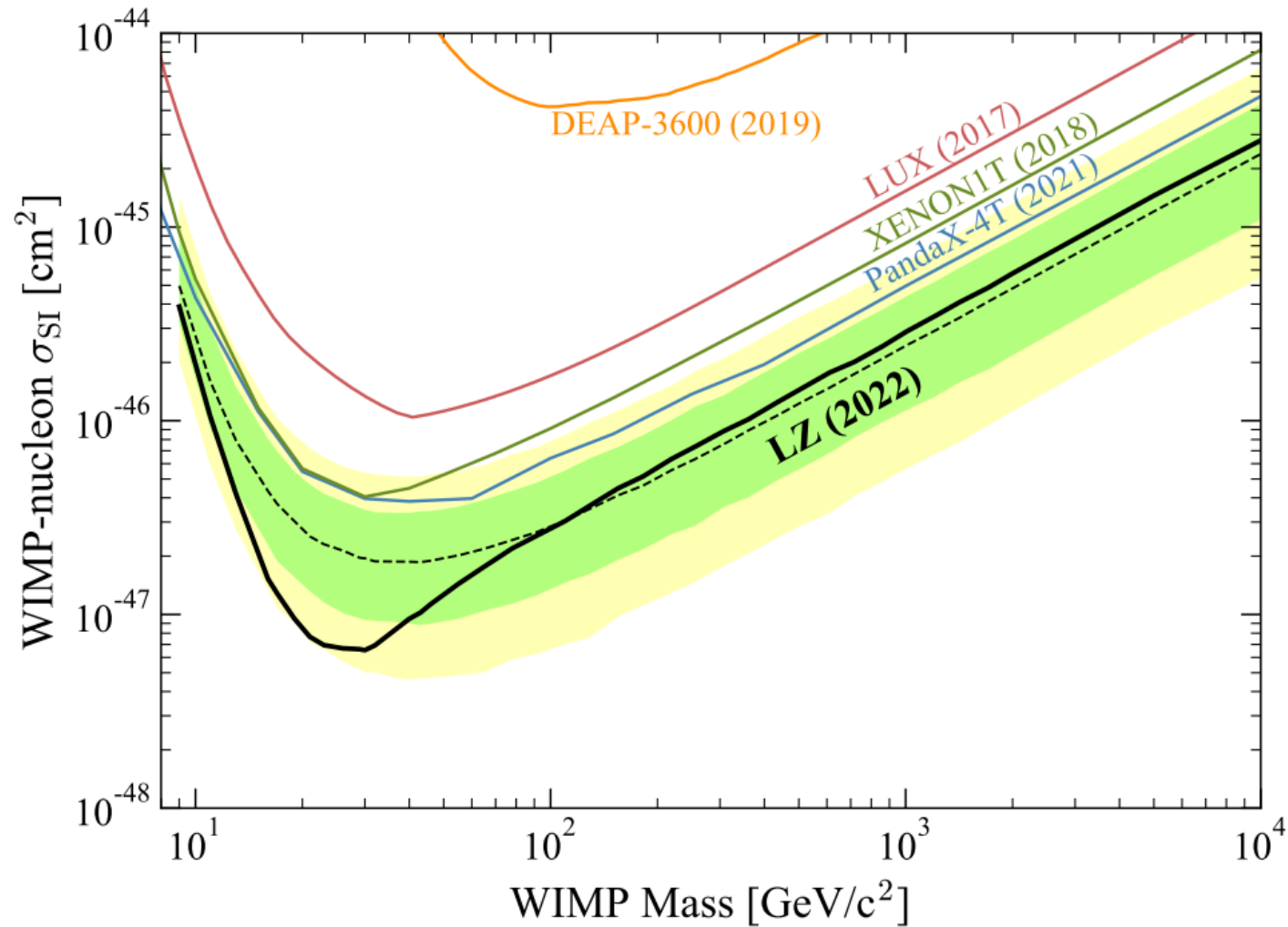


Go lighter



Go lower

Direct Detection Future



Go lighter



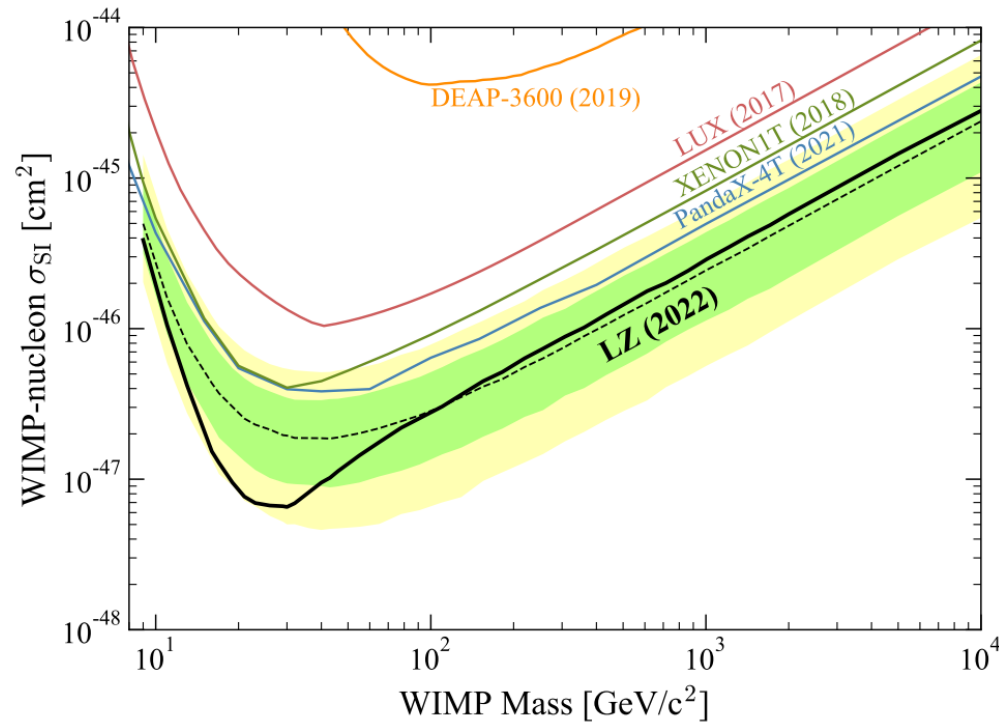
Go lower

Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

How?

Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

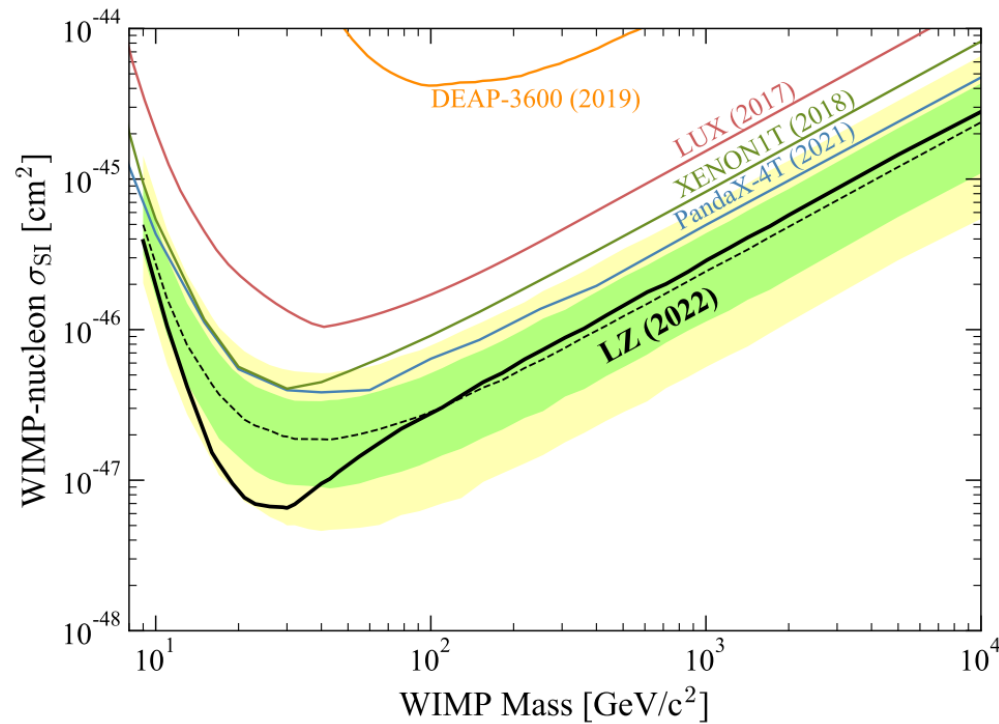
How?



$E_{\text{thresh}} \sim \text{keV}$

Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

How?

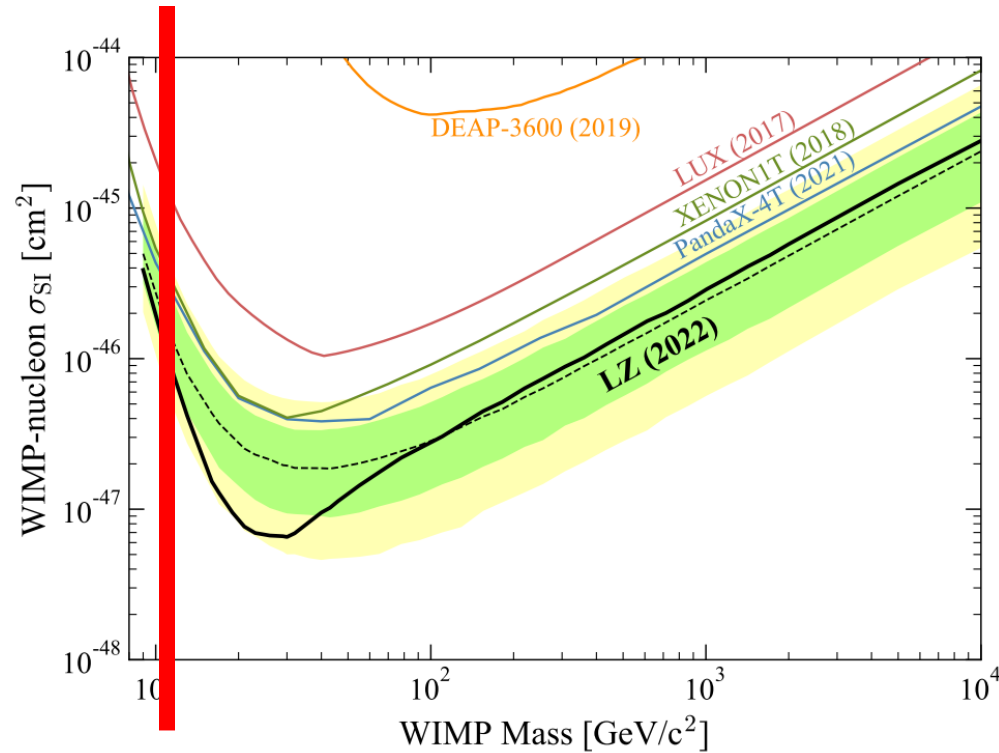


$$E_{\text{thresh}} \sim \text{keV}$$

$$E_{\text{NR}} \sim \frac{(m_{\text{DM}} v)^2}{m_N}$$

Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

How?



$$E_{\text{thresh}} \sim \text{keV}$$

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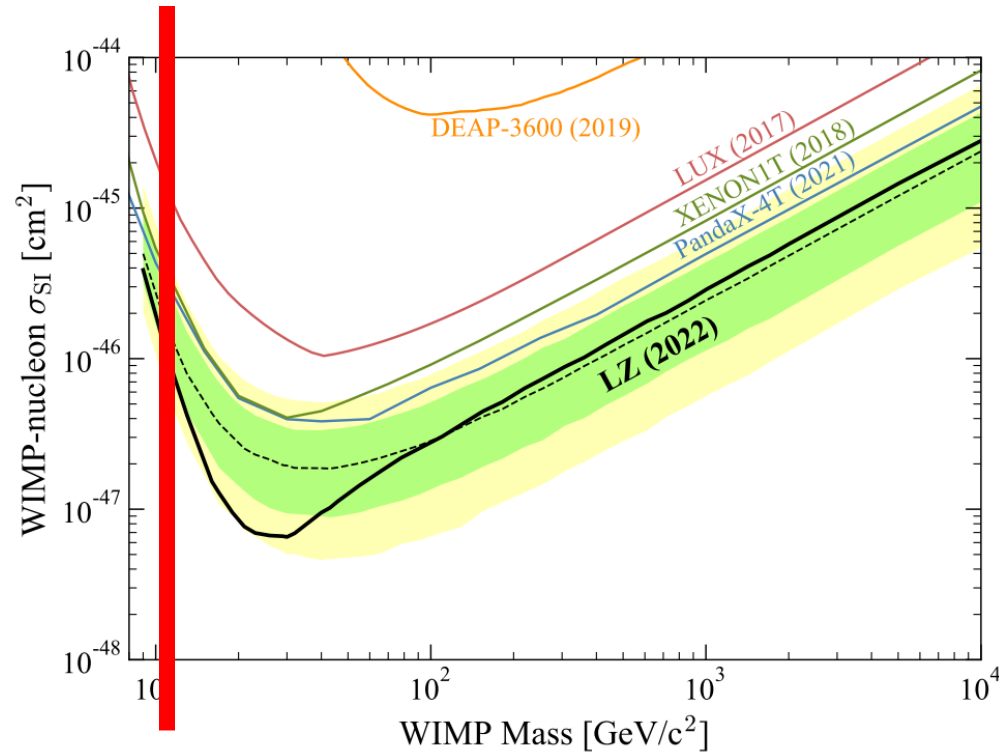
$$v \sim 10^{-3}$$

$$m_{\text{DM}} \sim 10 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_N \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$$

Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

How?



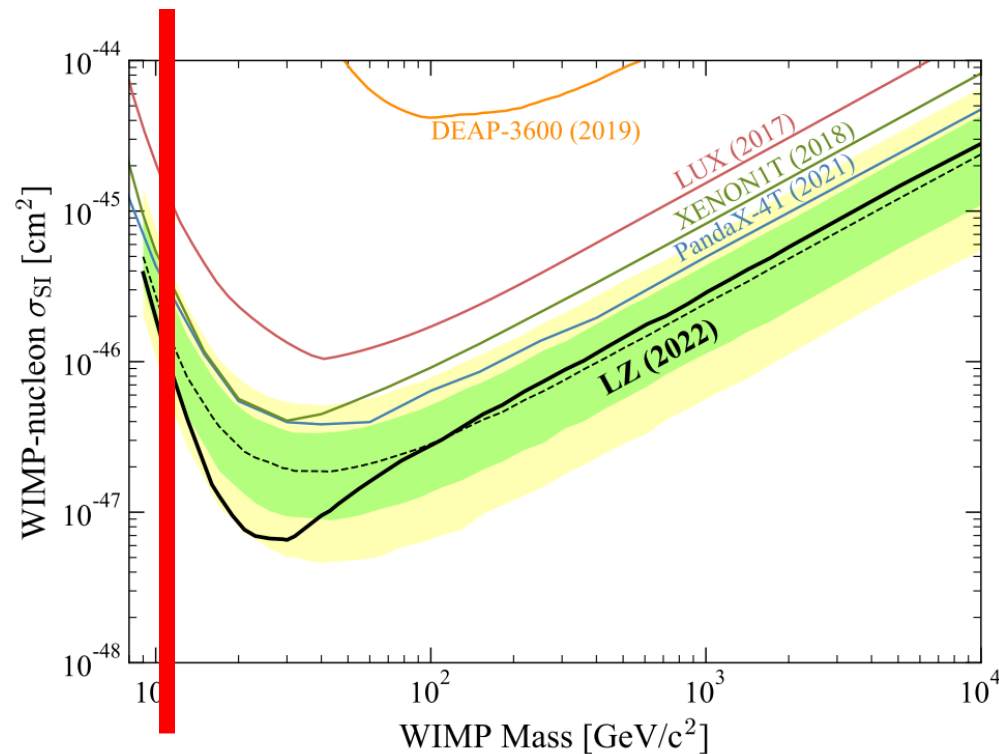
$$E_{\text{thresh}} \sim \text{keV} \quad v \sim 10^{-3}$$

$$E_{\text{NR}} \sim \frac{(m_{\text{DM}} v)^2}{m_N} \sim \text{keV}$$

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Directly Detecting *Light* Dark Matter

How?



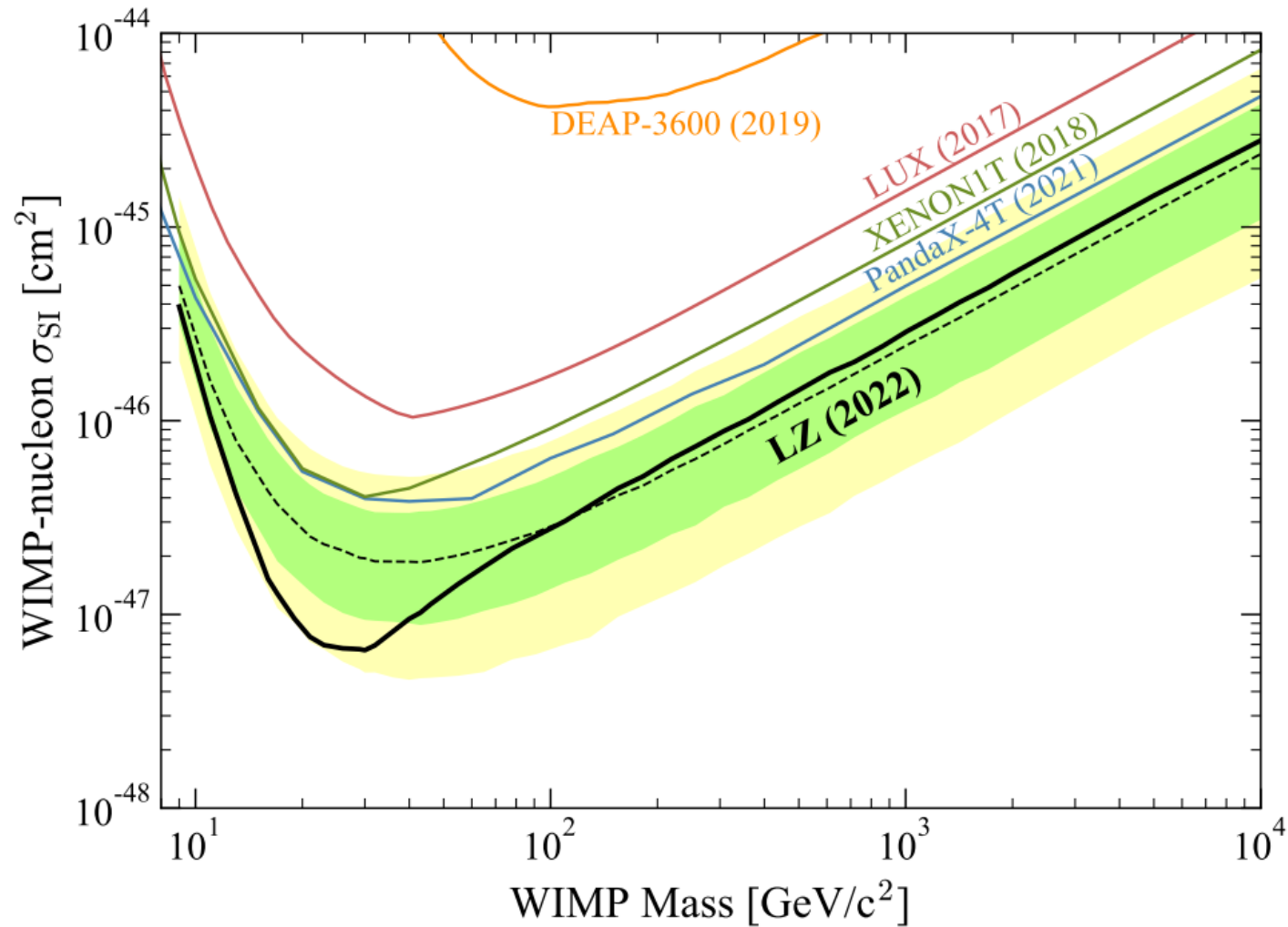
$$E_{\text{thresh}} \sim \text{keV} \quad v \sim 10^{-3}$$

$$E_{\text{NR}} \sim \frac{(m_{\text{DM}} v)^2}{m_N} \sim \text{keV}$$

$m_{\text{DM}} \sim 10 \text{ GeV}$
 $m_N \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$

$m_{\text{DM}} \lesssim 10 \text{ GeV}$ requires *new ideas!*

Direct Detection Future

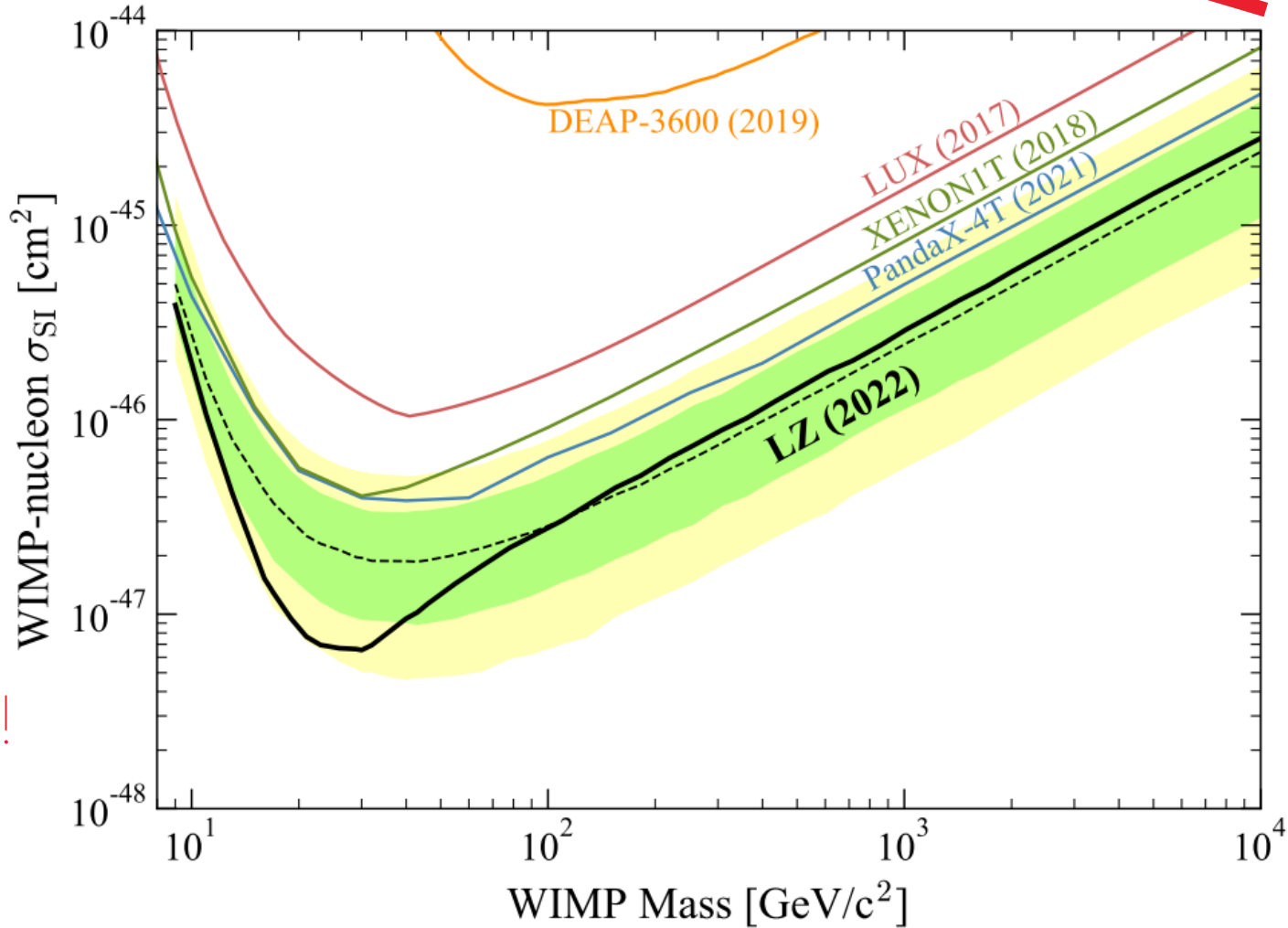


Go lighter



Go lower

Direct Detection ~~Future~~ Today!



Go lighter



Use electrons!

Go lower

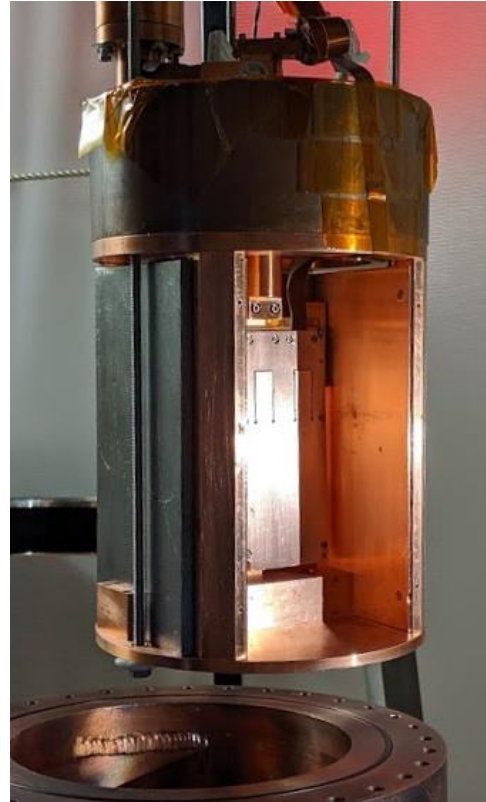
Direct Detection ~~Future~~ Today!

New technology

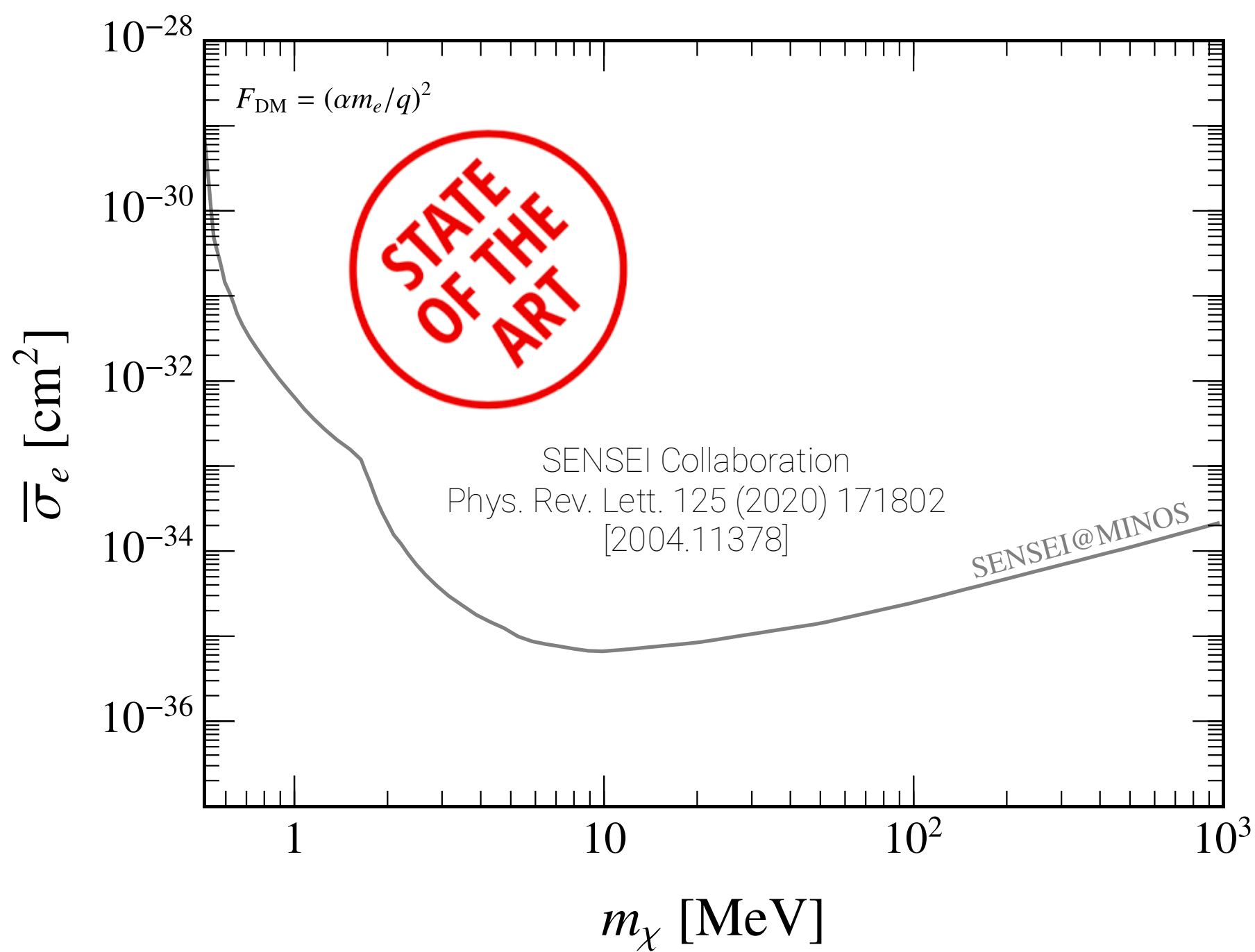
Go lighter

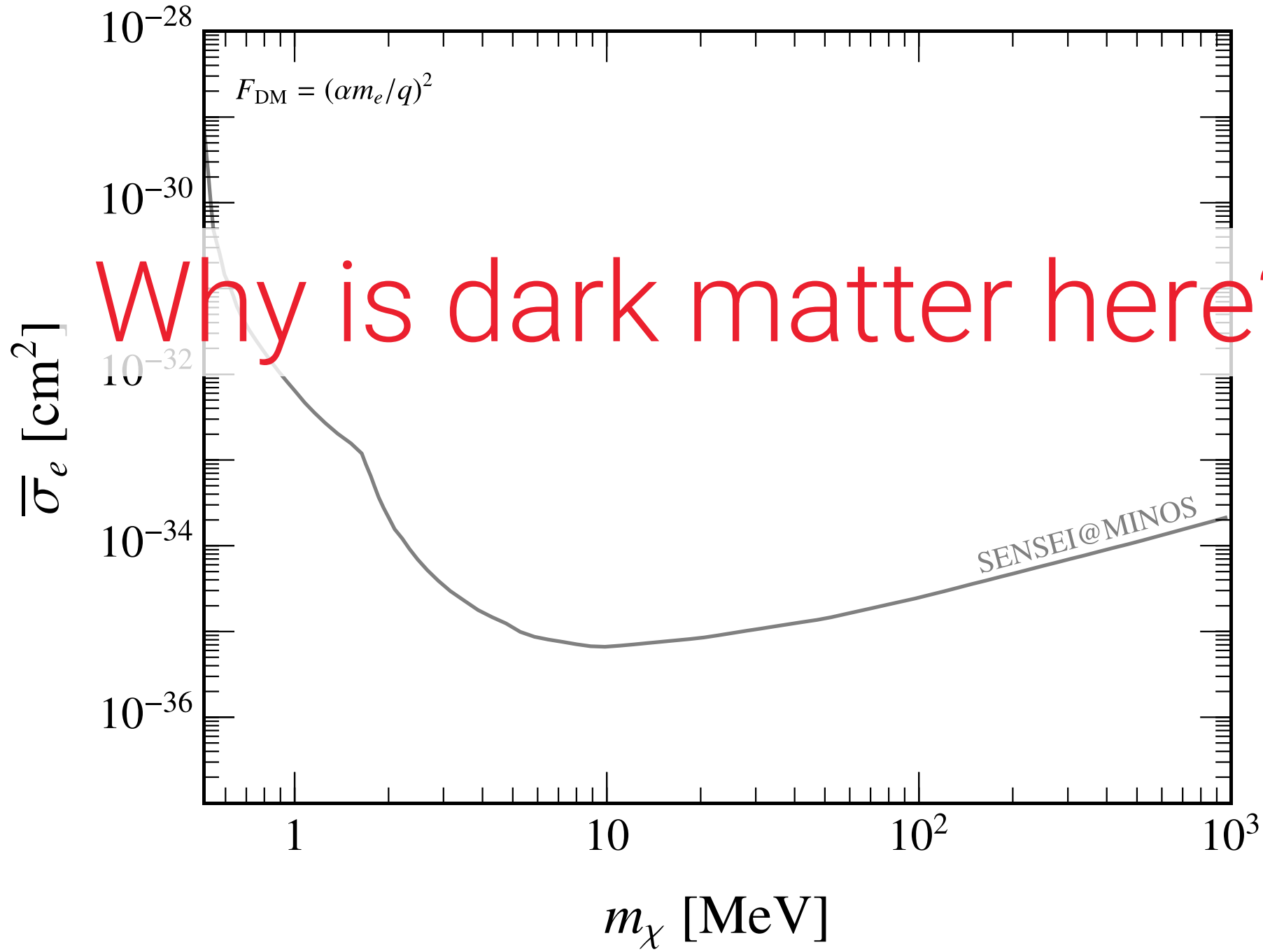


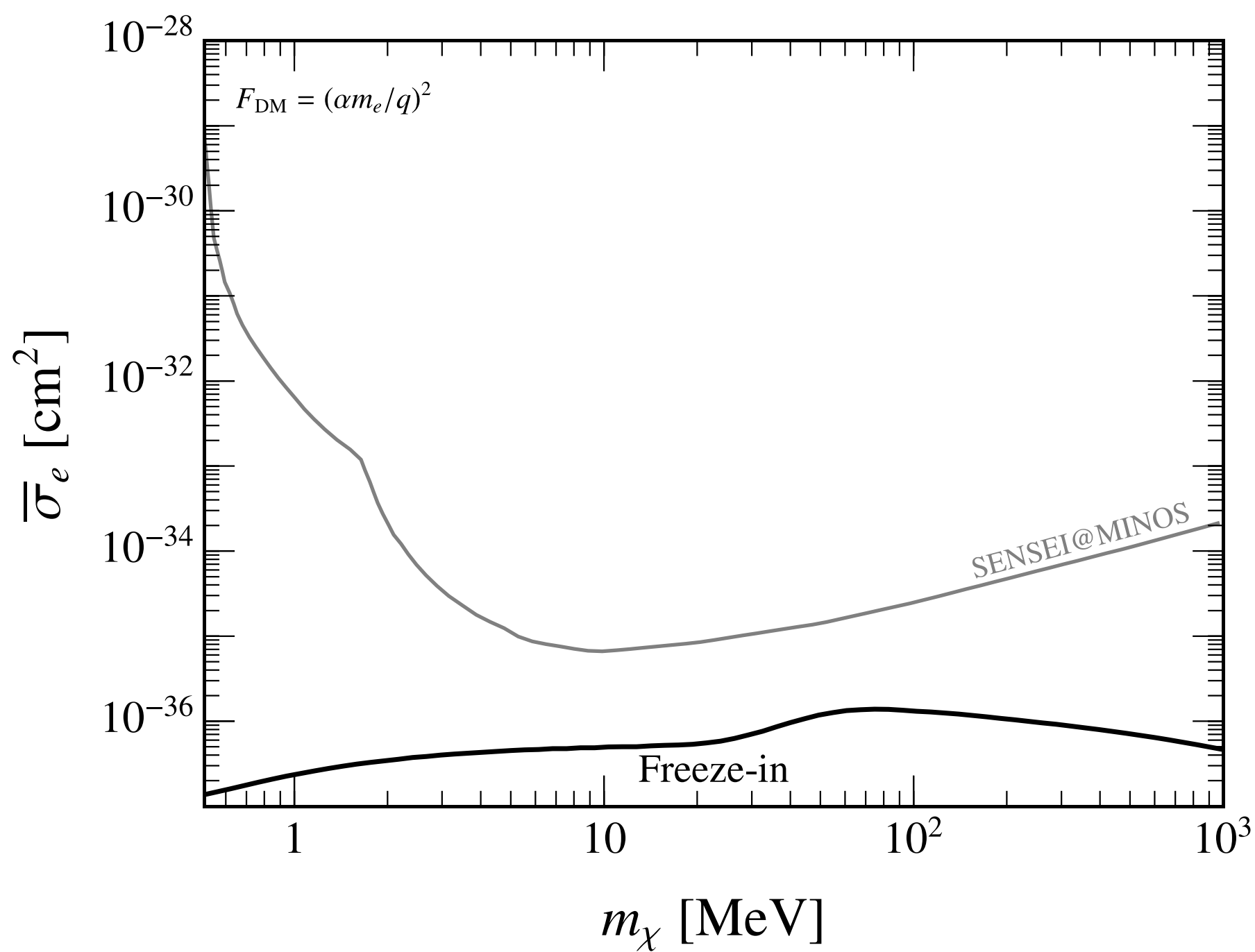
Use electrons!

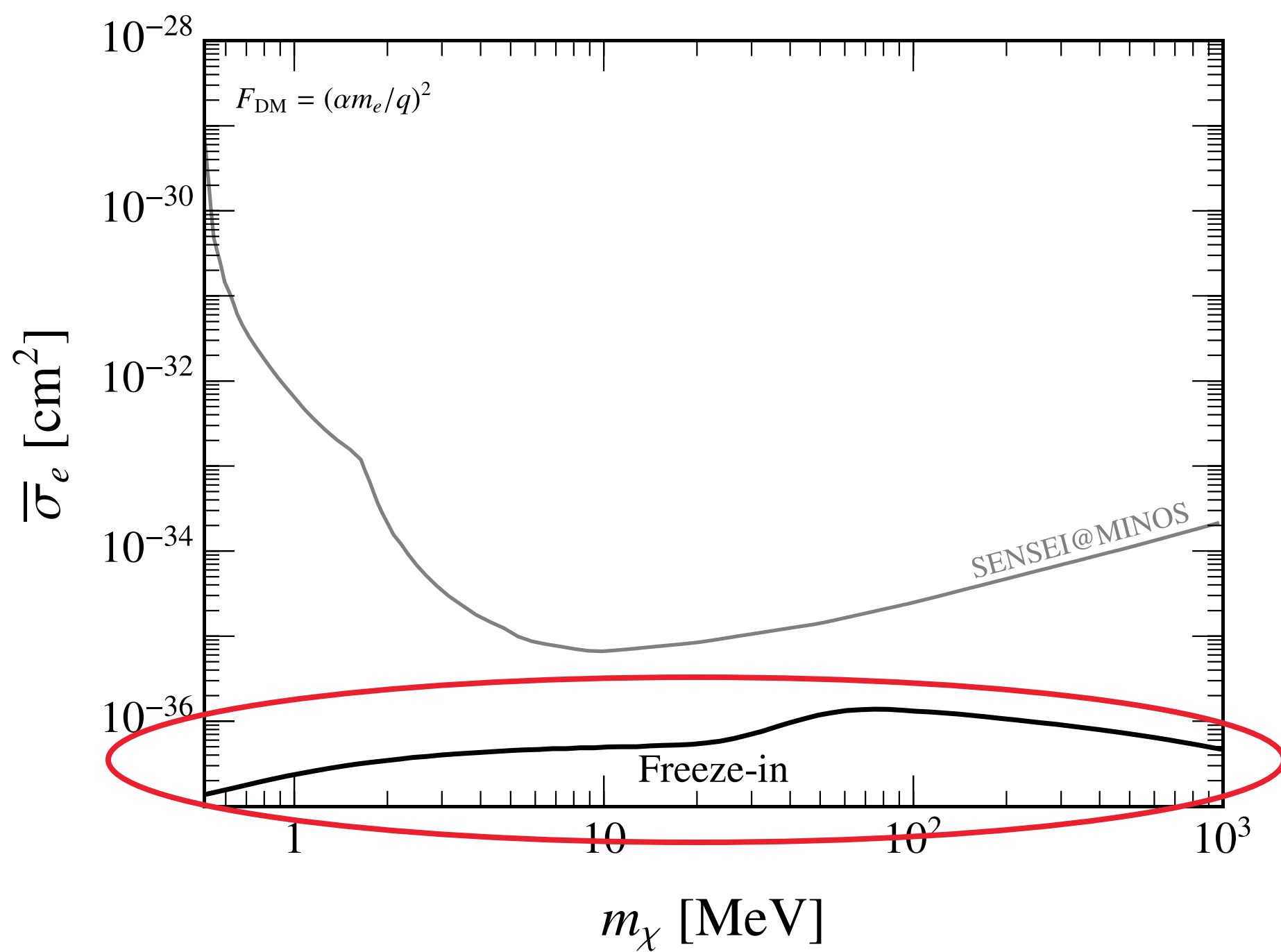


SENSEI









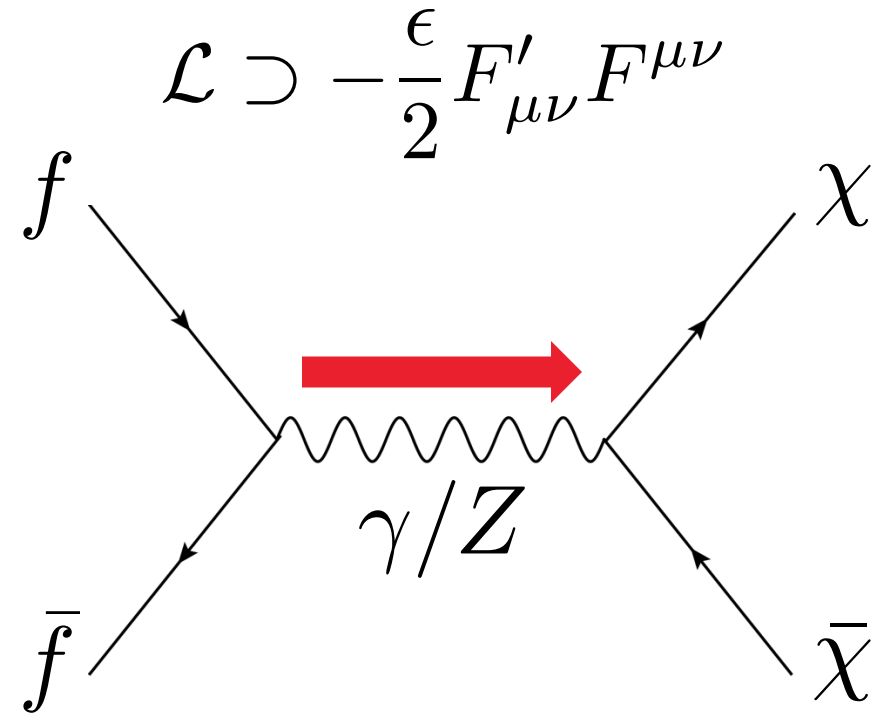
Freeze-In

L. J. Hall, K. Jedamzik,
J. March-Russell, & S. M. West
JHEP 03 (2010) 080
[0911.1120]

Freeze-In

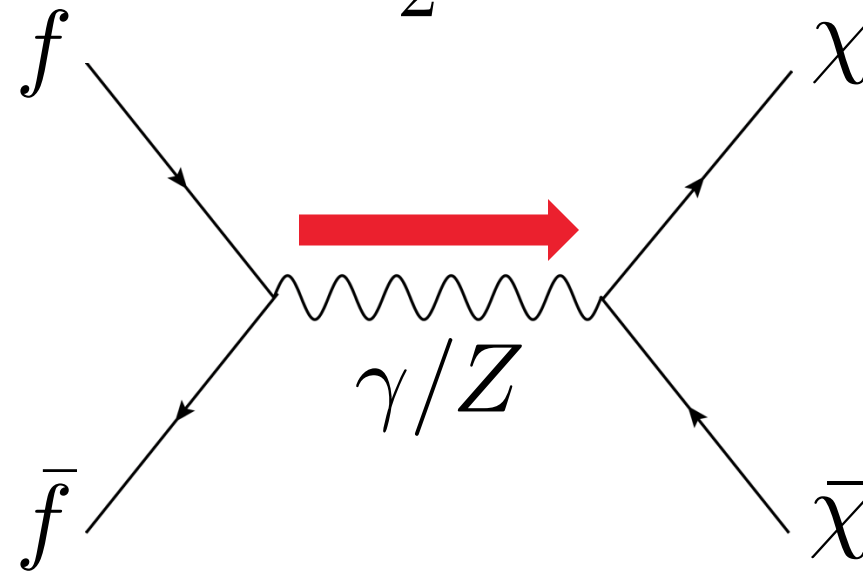
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon}{2} F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

Freeze-In



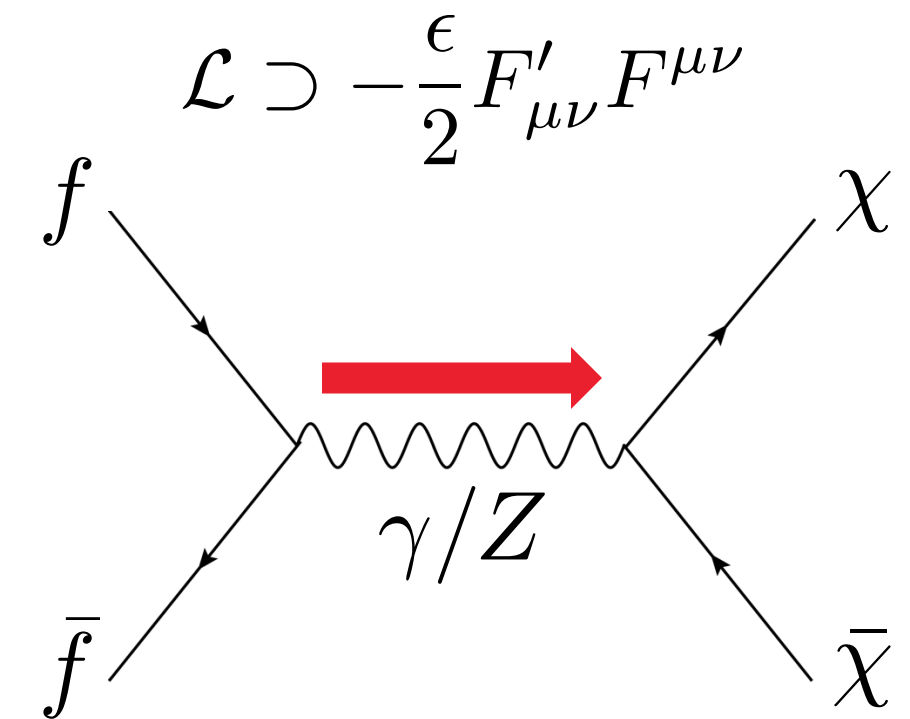
Freeze-In

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon}{2} F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$



$$\kappa \equiv \epsilon \sqrt{\alpha'/\alpha} \approx \mathcal{O}(10^{-11})$$

Freeze-In

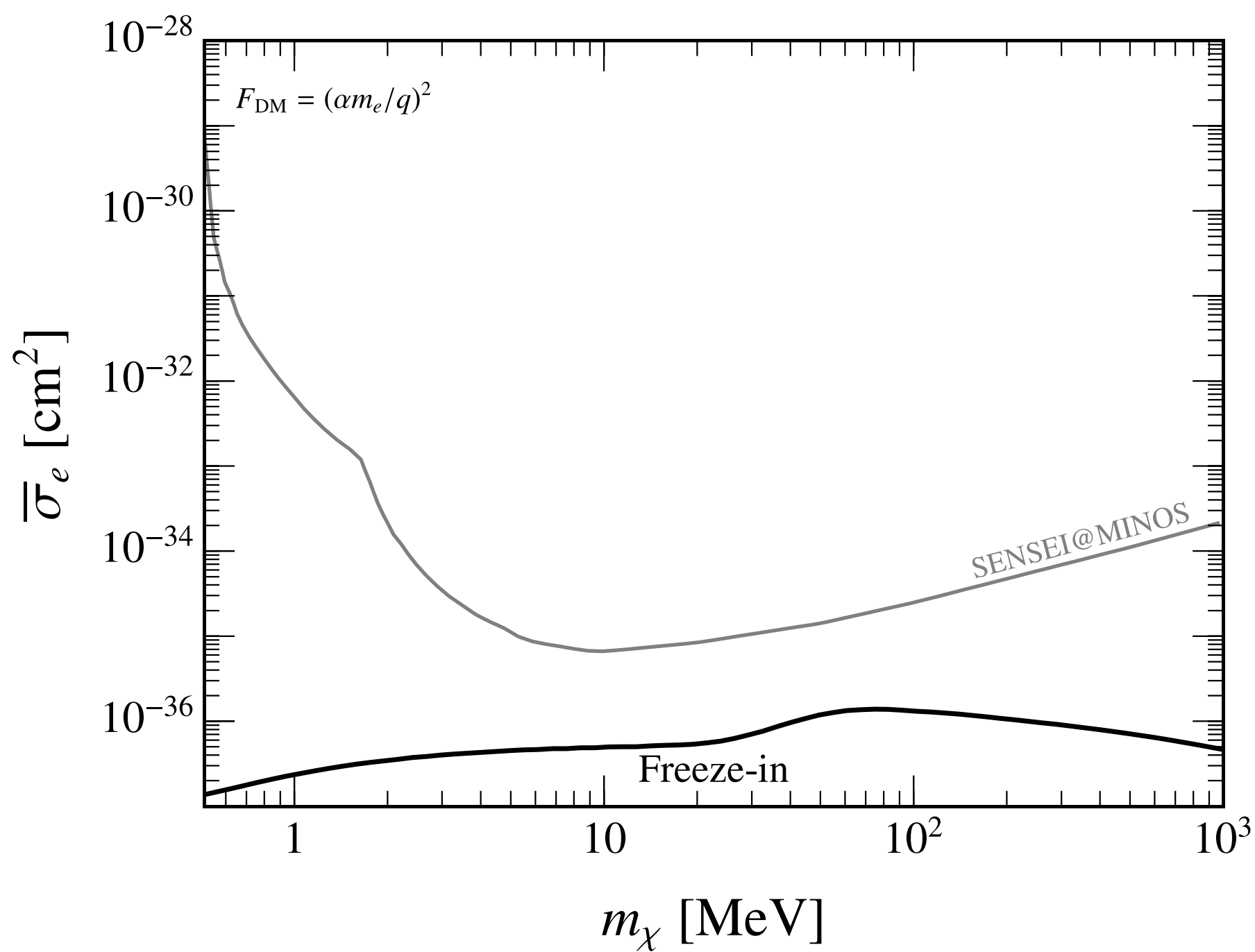


$$\kappa \equiv \epsilon \sqrt{\alpha'/\alpha} \approx \mathcal{O}(10^{-11})$$

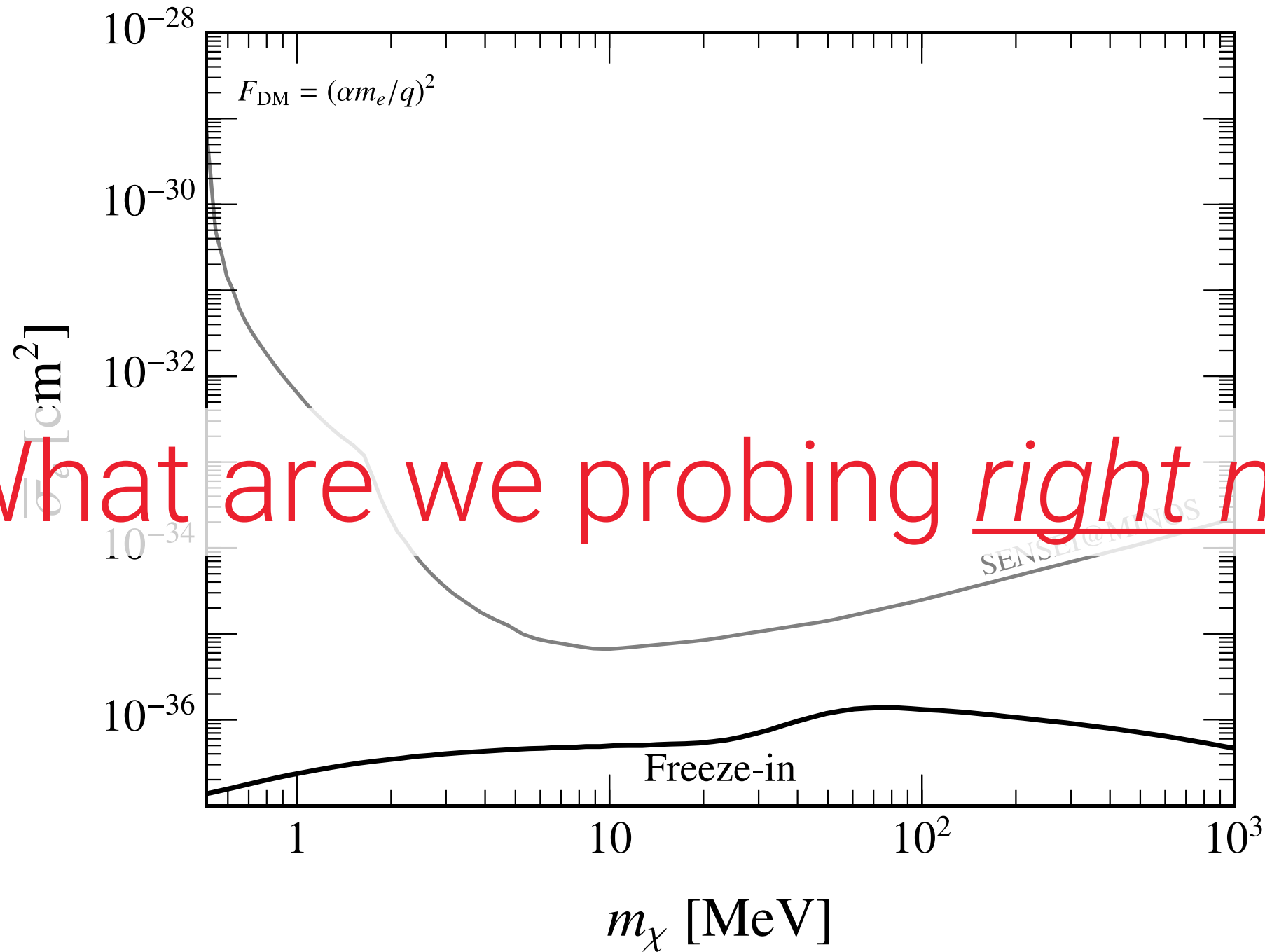
$$\bar{\sigma}_e \approx \frac{16\pi\mu_{\chi e}^2 \kappa^2 \alpha^2}{(\alpha m_e)^4}$$

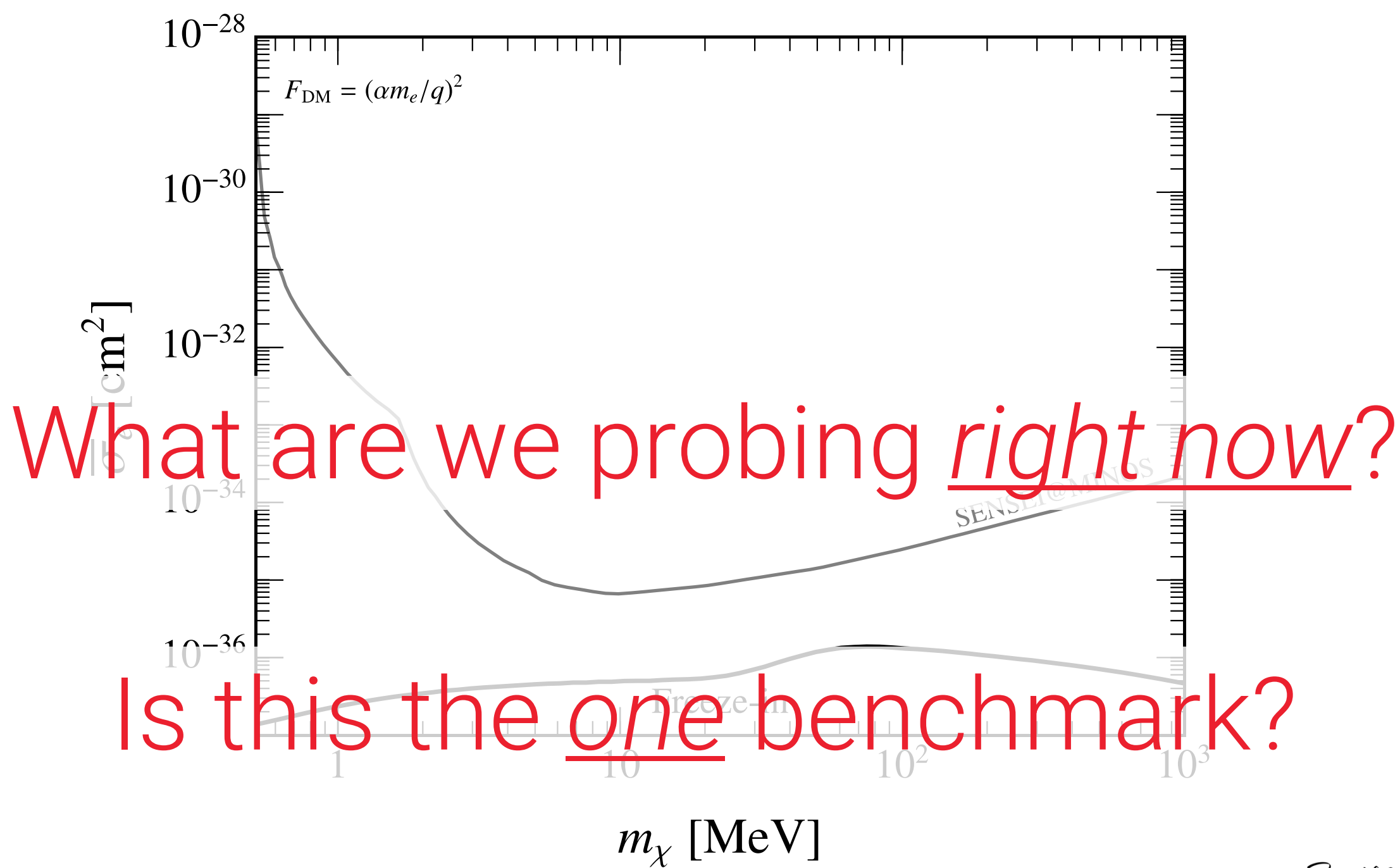
R. Essig, J. Mardon, T. Volansky
Phys. Rev. D 85 (2012) 076007
[1108.5383]

X. Chu, T. Hambye, M. H. G. Tytgat
JCAP 05 034 (2012)
[1112.0493]



What are we probing right now?





The Challenges of Model Building

Want a realistic model with a “large” cross section

The Challenges of Model Building

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➤ Light mediators coupled to SM are constrained

The Challenges of Model Building

Want a realistic model with a “large” cross section

- **Light** mediators coupled to SM are constrained
- **Large** couplings to DM may mess up relic abundance

The Challenges of Model Building

Want a realistic model with a “large” cross section

- Light mediators coupled to SM are constrained
- Large couplings to DM may mess up relic abundance

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

The Real Challenge: BBN

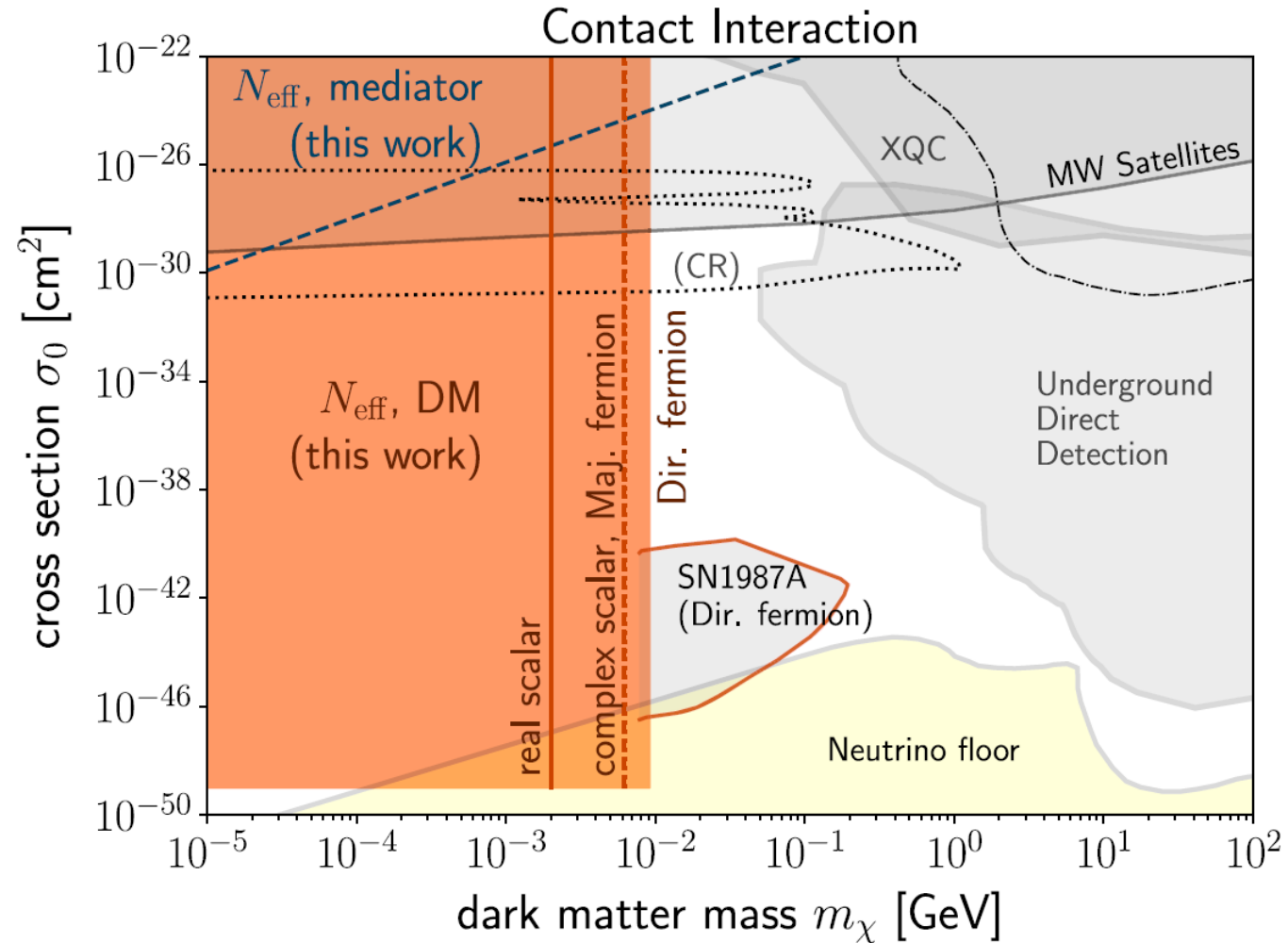
BBN “measures” the energy density of the Universe

The Real Challenge: BBN

BBN “measures” the energy density of the Universe

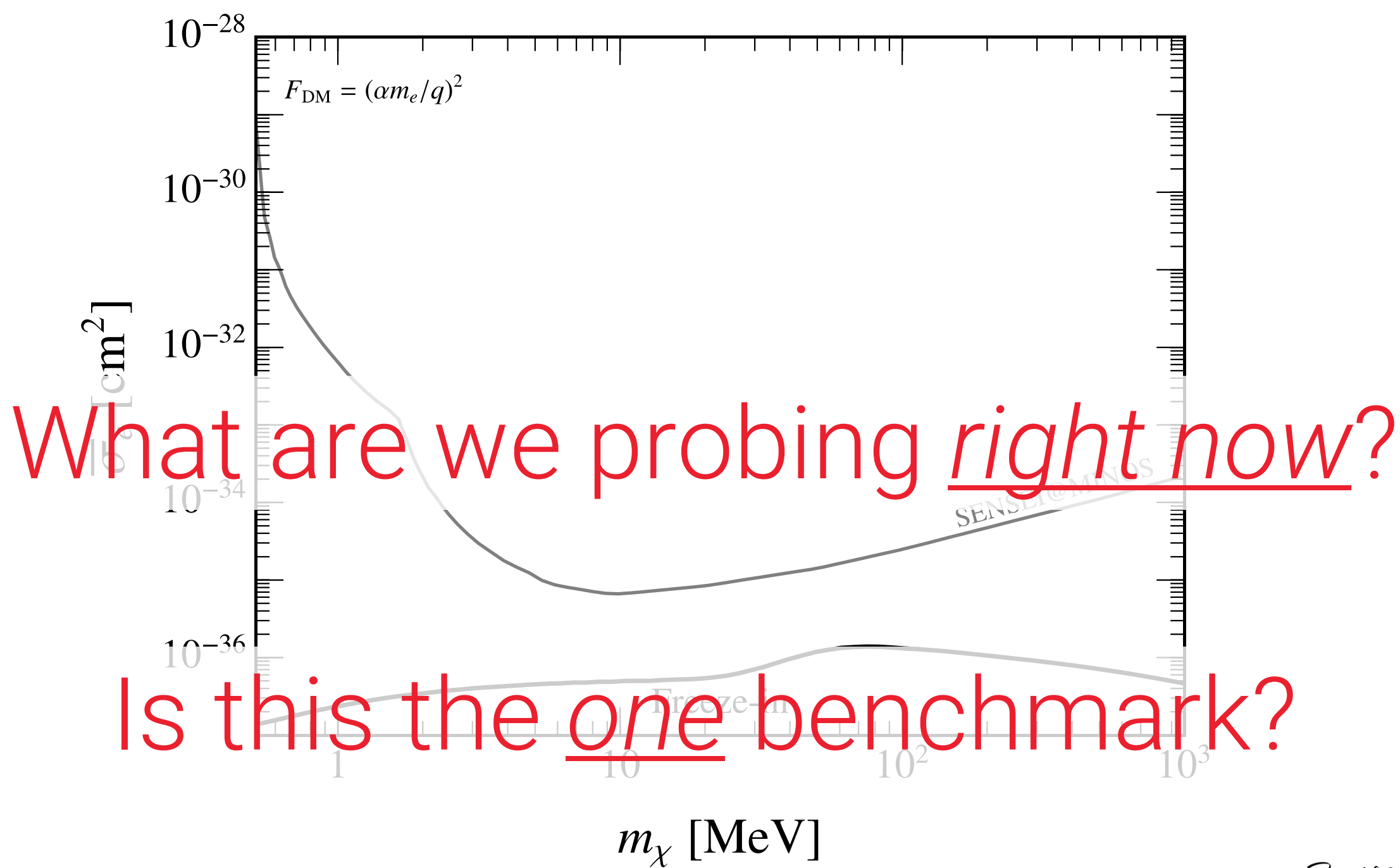
if DM is *light* and *interacts too much*, it will have too much energy density

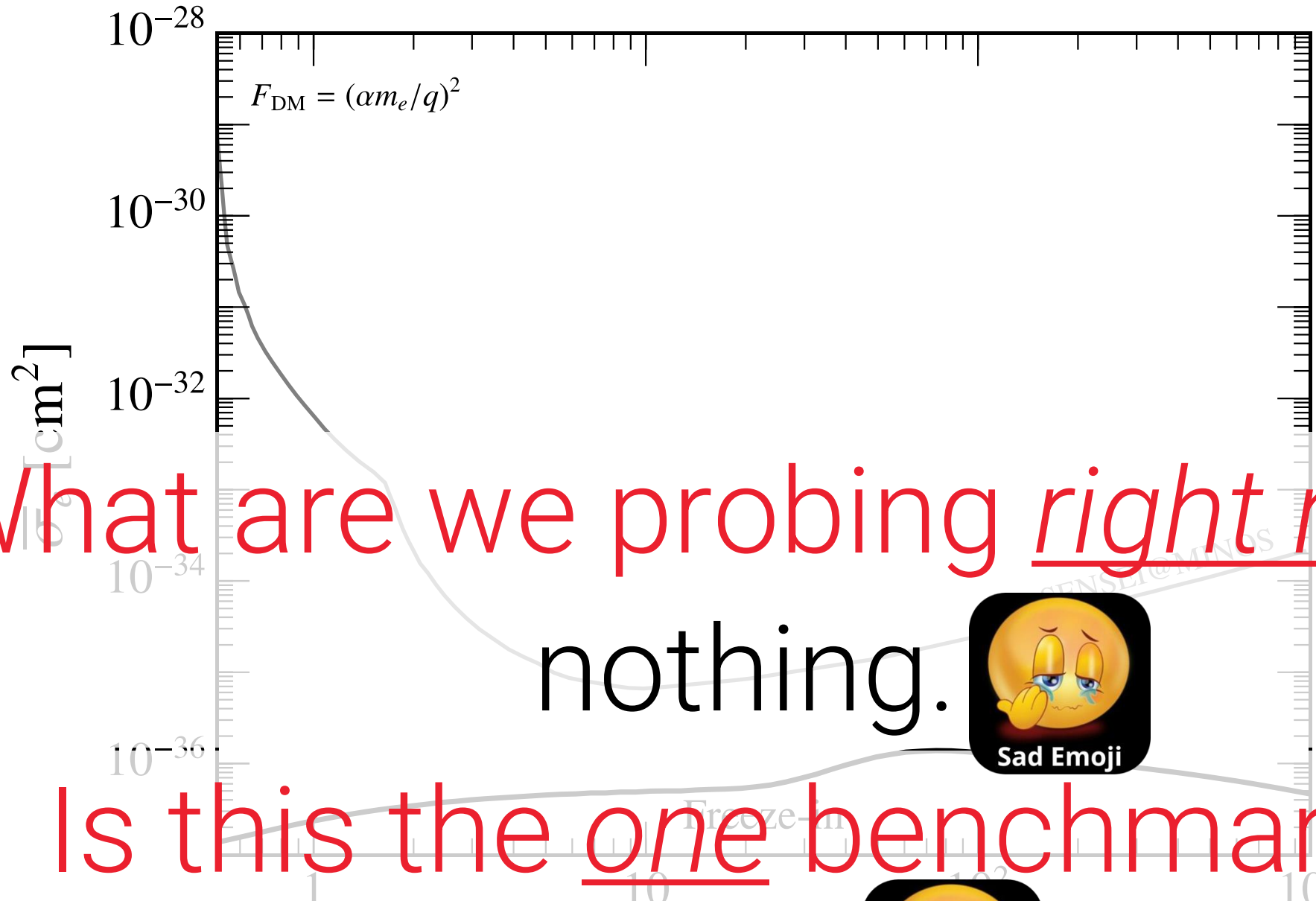
The Real Challenge: BBN



G. Krnjaic and S. McDermott [1908.00007]

R McGee





What are we probing right now?

nothing.



Is this the one benchmark?

yes.



A full-page image of Darth Vader in his iconic black armor and cape, standing in a control room. He is gesturing with his right hand towards a wall of glowing blue lights. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the numerous small, rectangular lights on the wall behind him. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues and blacks, with the bright blue of the lights providing a stark contrast.

The Power of the Dark Sink

2312.14152
w/ Prudhvi N.
Bhattiprolu &
Aaron Pierce

~~Freeze In~~ Dark Sink

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon}{2} F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \quad + \text{Light fermion } \psi$$

~~Freeze In~~ Dark Sink

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$$\text{SM SM} \rightarrow \bar{\chi}\chi \quad \bar{\chi}\chi \leftrightarrow \bar{\psi}\psi$$

~~Freeze In~~ Dark Sink

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{\epsilon}{2} F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \quad + \text{Light fermion } \psi$$

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$$\kappa \equiv \epsilon \sqrt{\alpha'/\alpha} \approx \mathcal{O}(10^{-11}) \quad \kappa \lesssim \kappa_{\text{th}} \approx 8 \times 10^{-7} \frac{\sqrt{m_\chi/\text{GeV}}}{g_*(T = m_\chi)^{3/8}}$$

~~Freeze In~~ Dark Sink

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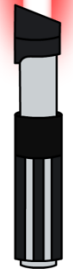
Larger cross sections @ current direct detection exps

Temperature



The Story

- SM produces dark matter

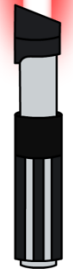


Temperature



The Story

- SM produces dark matter
- Dark matter thermalizes with Dark Sink

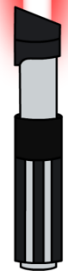


Temperature



The Story

- SM produces dark matter
- Dark matter thermalizes with Dark Sink
- Dark Matter Annihilates away; SM continues to produce it

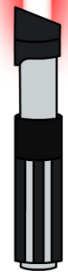


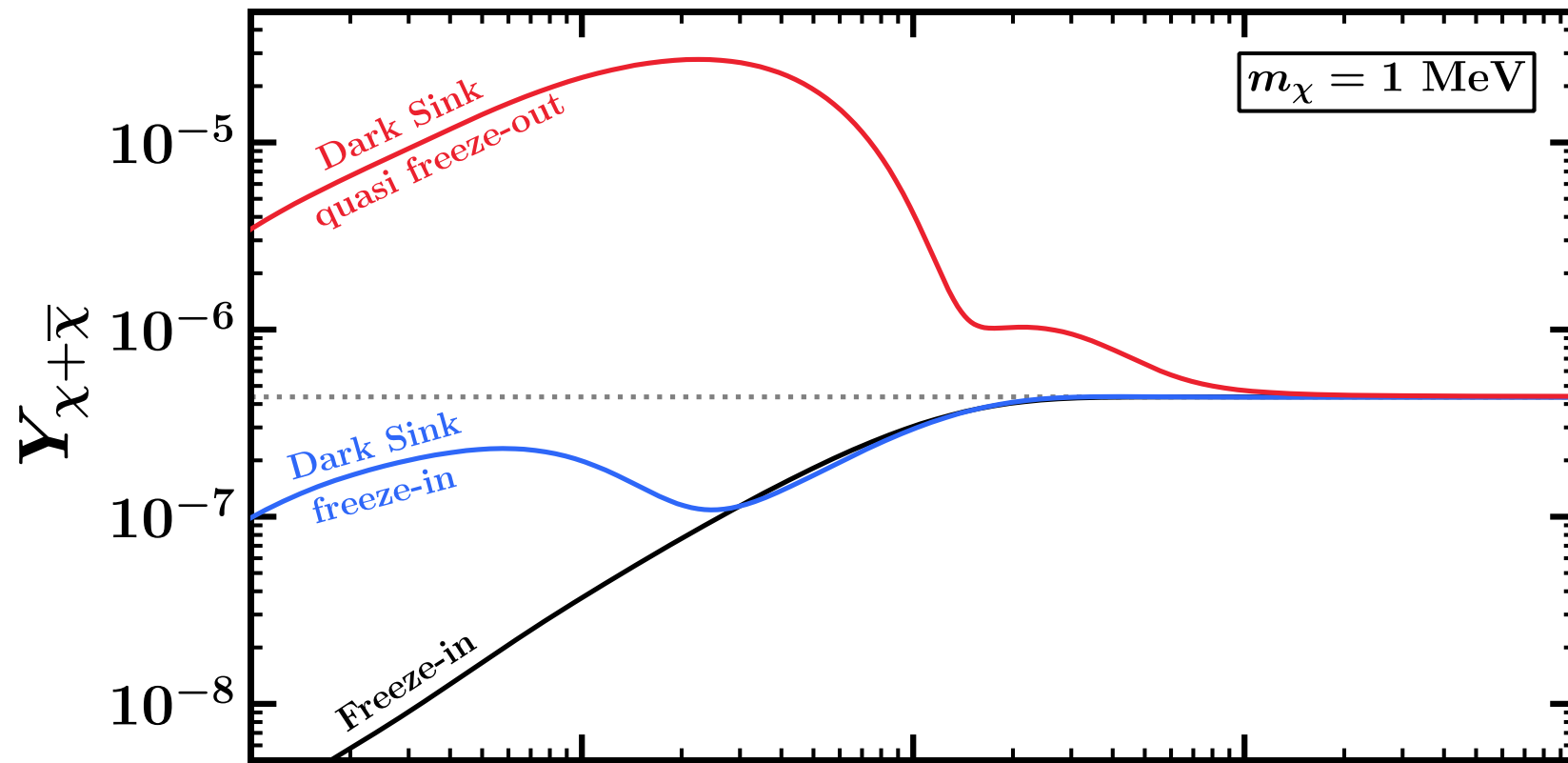
Temperature



The Story

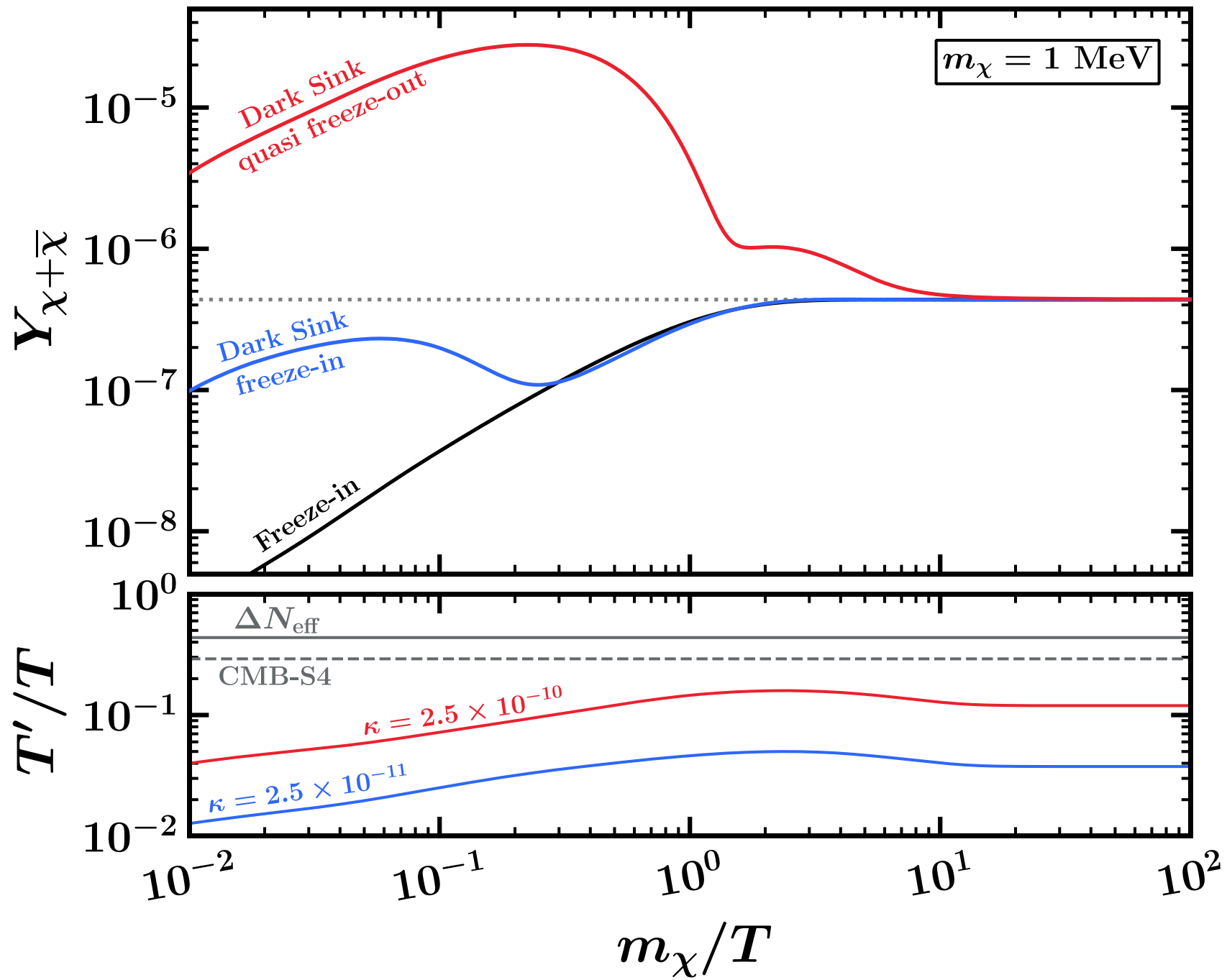
- SM produces dark matter
- Dark matter thermalizes with Dark Sink
- Dark Matter Annihilates away; SM continues to produce it
- Annihilations and SM freeze-in both lose to Hubble

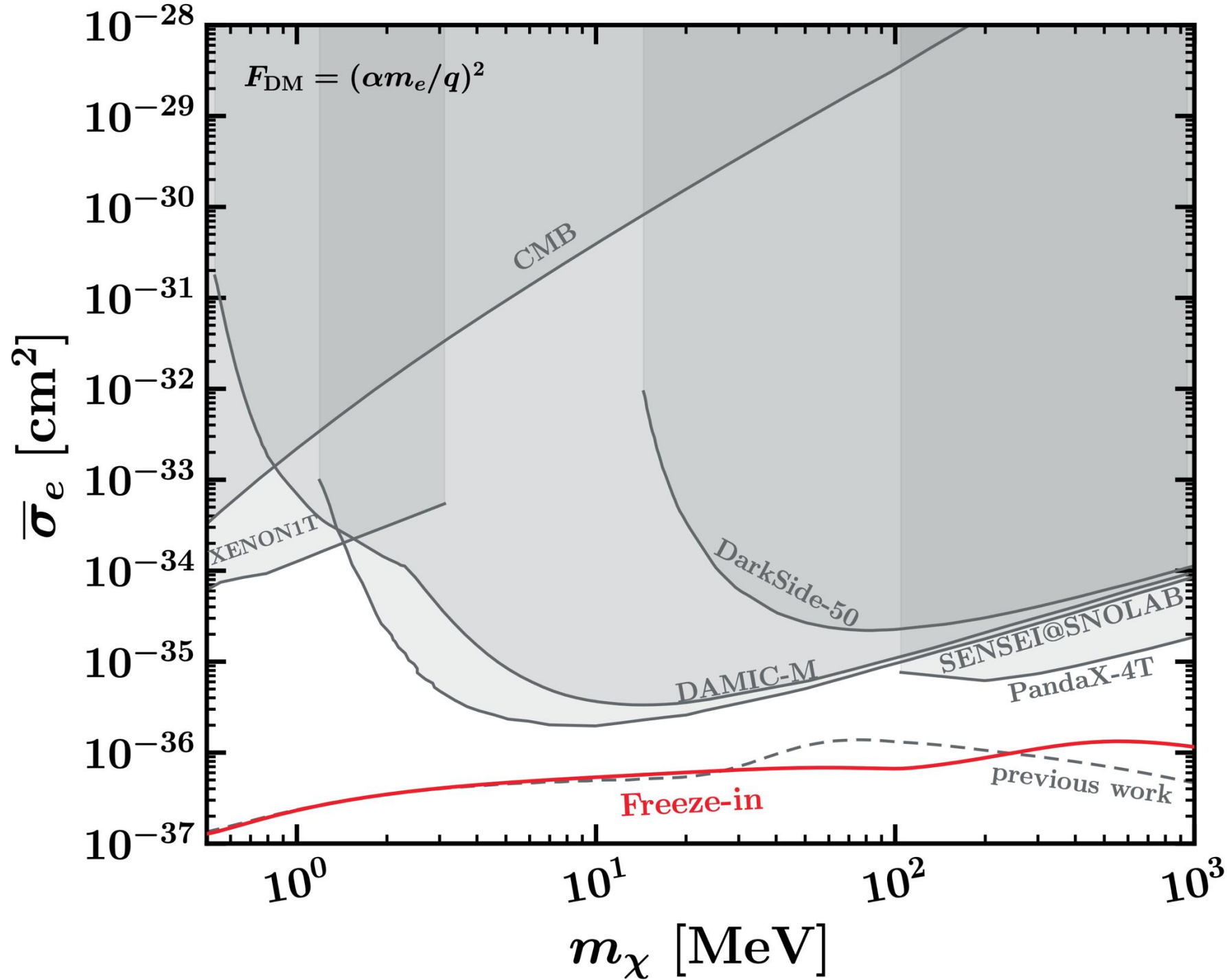




m_{χ}/T

R McGee

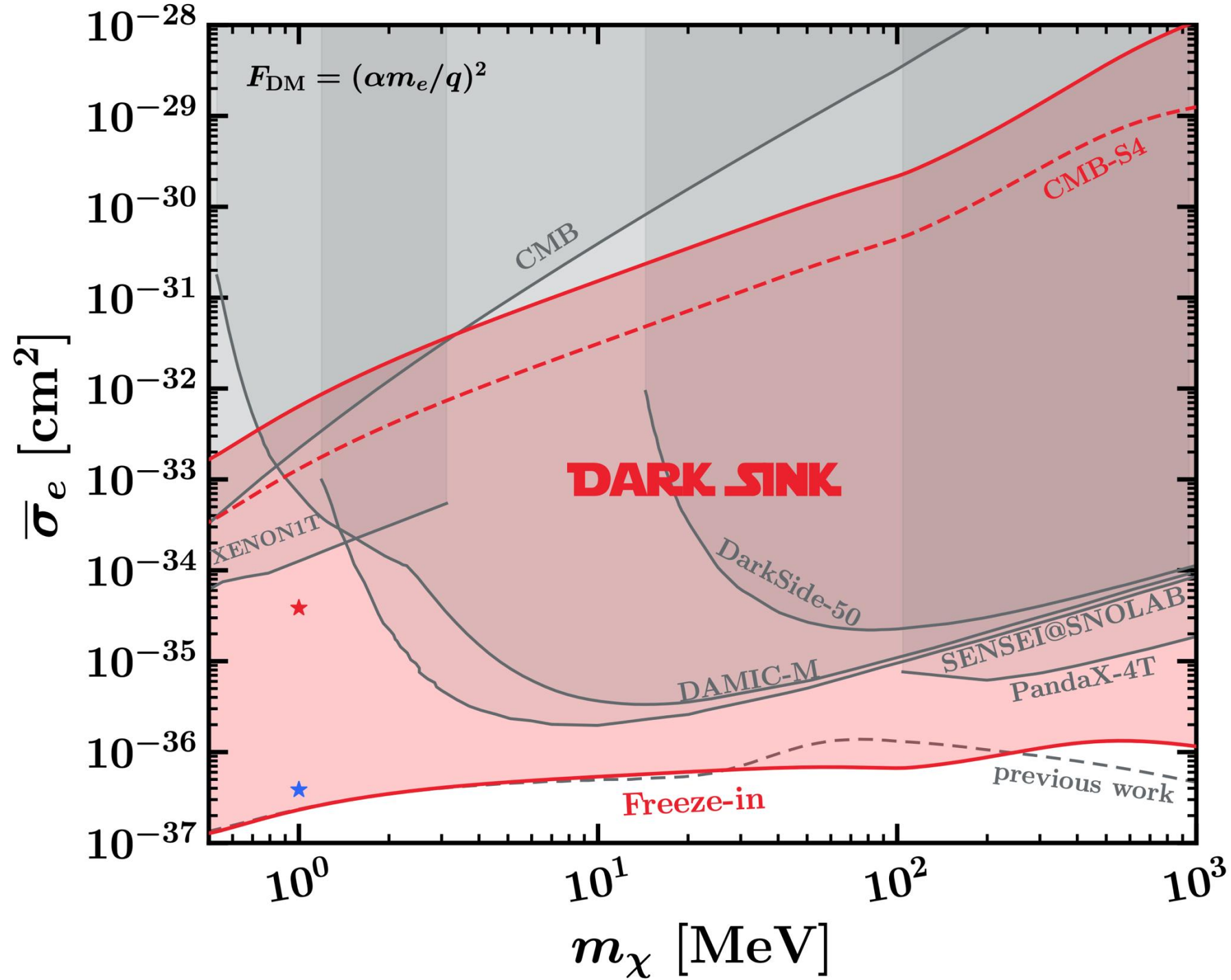


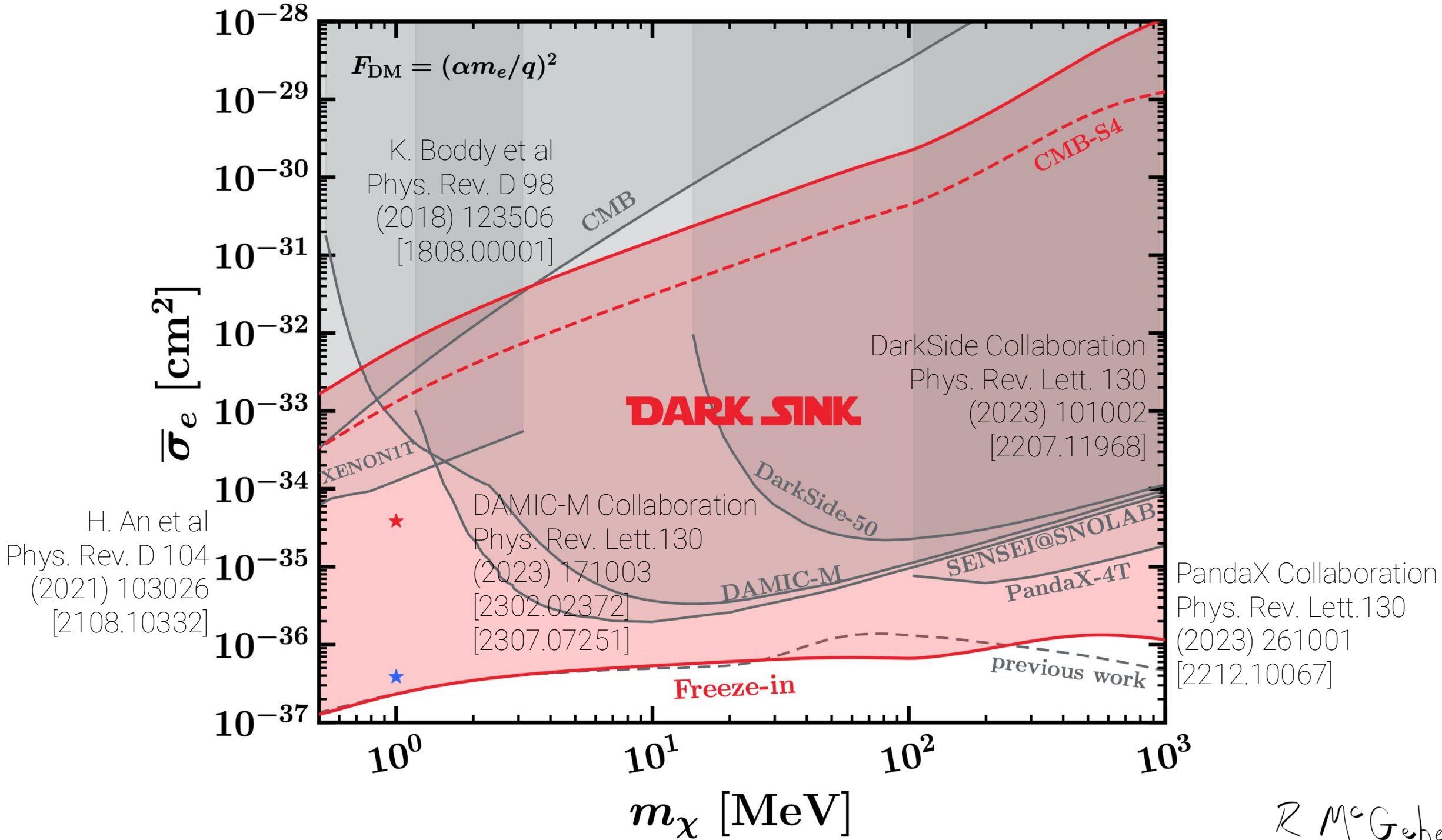


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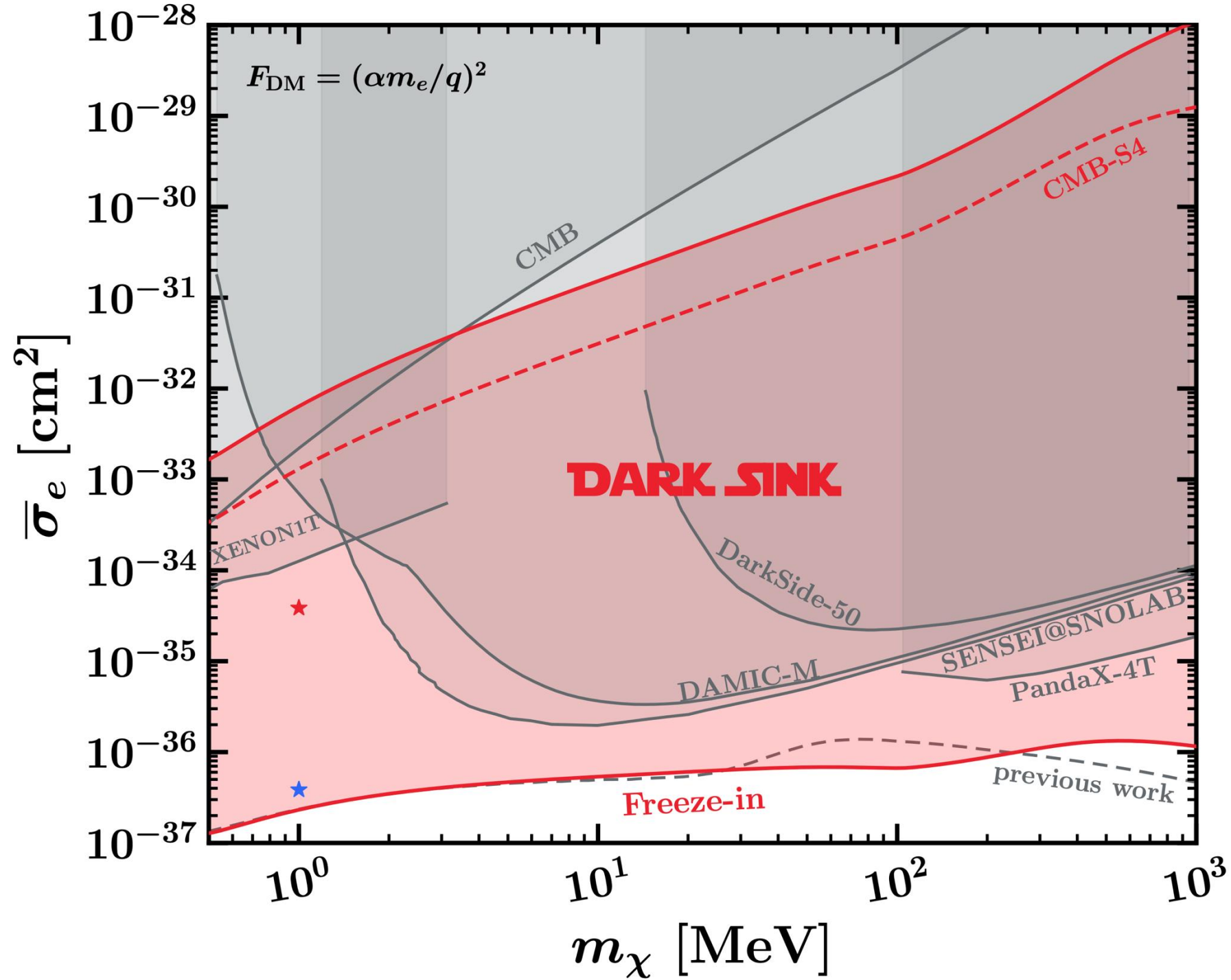
SENSEI Collaboration
 [2312.13342]

R McGeehee

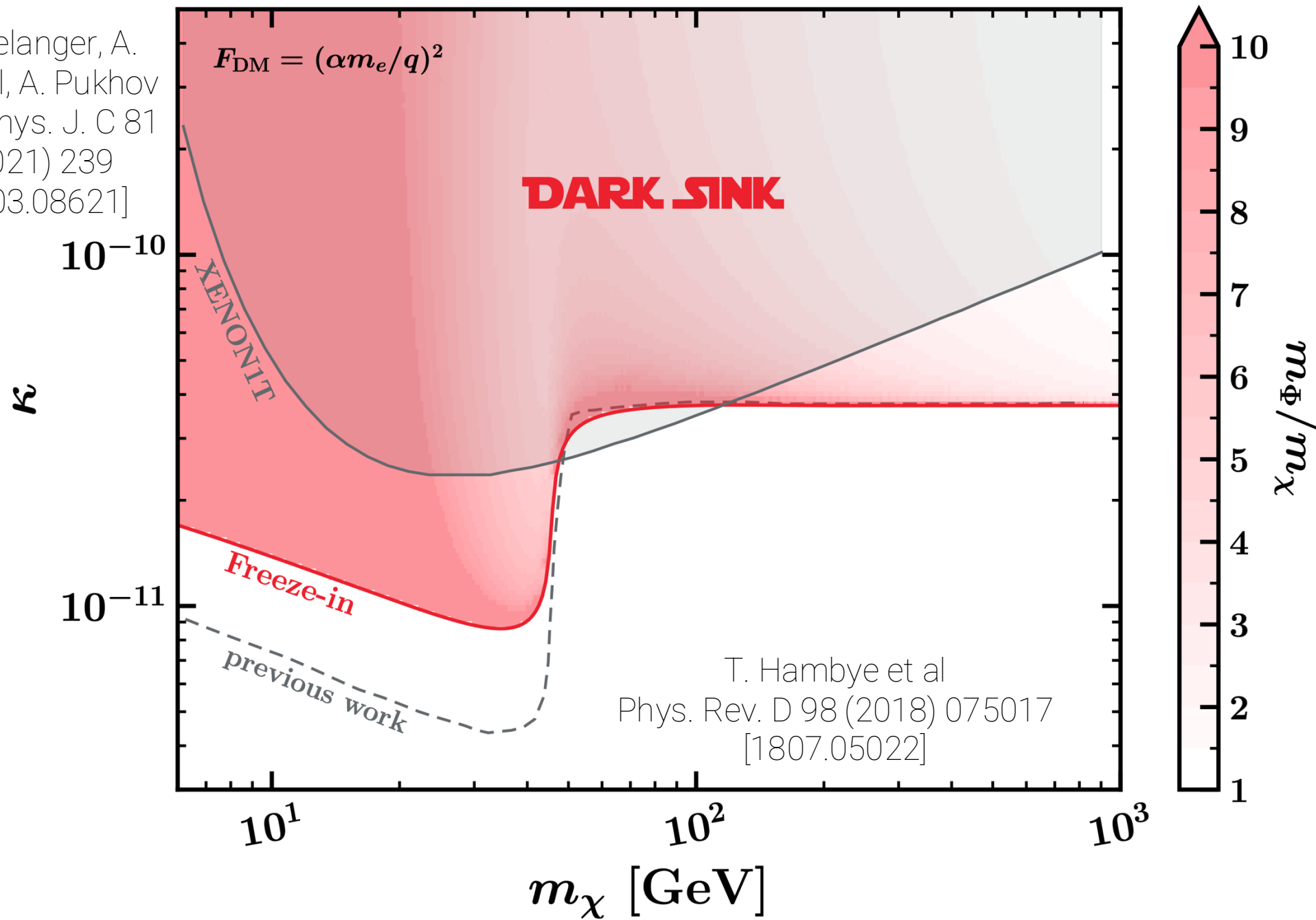




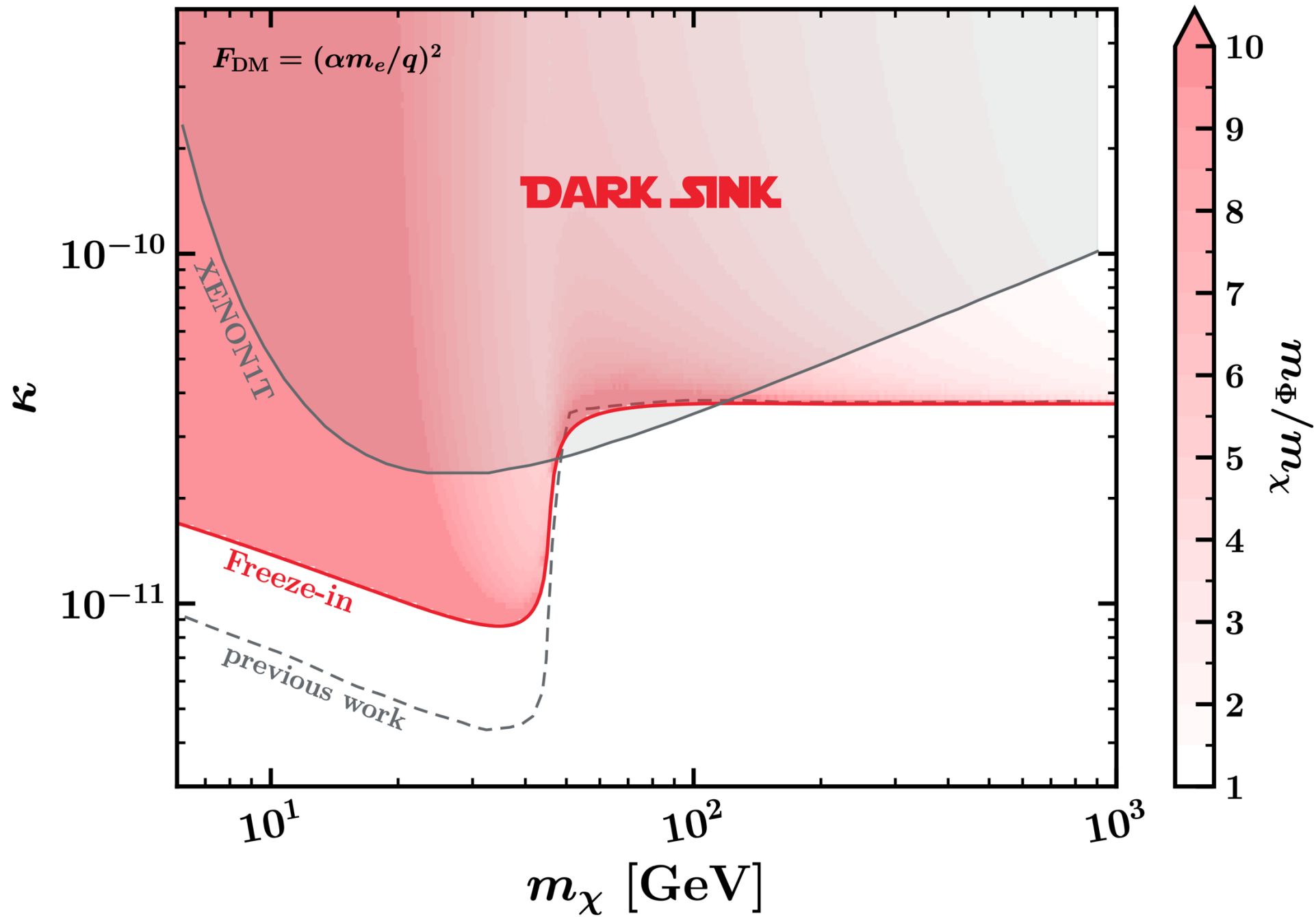
R McGehee



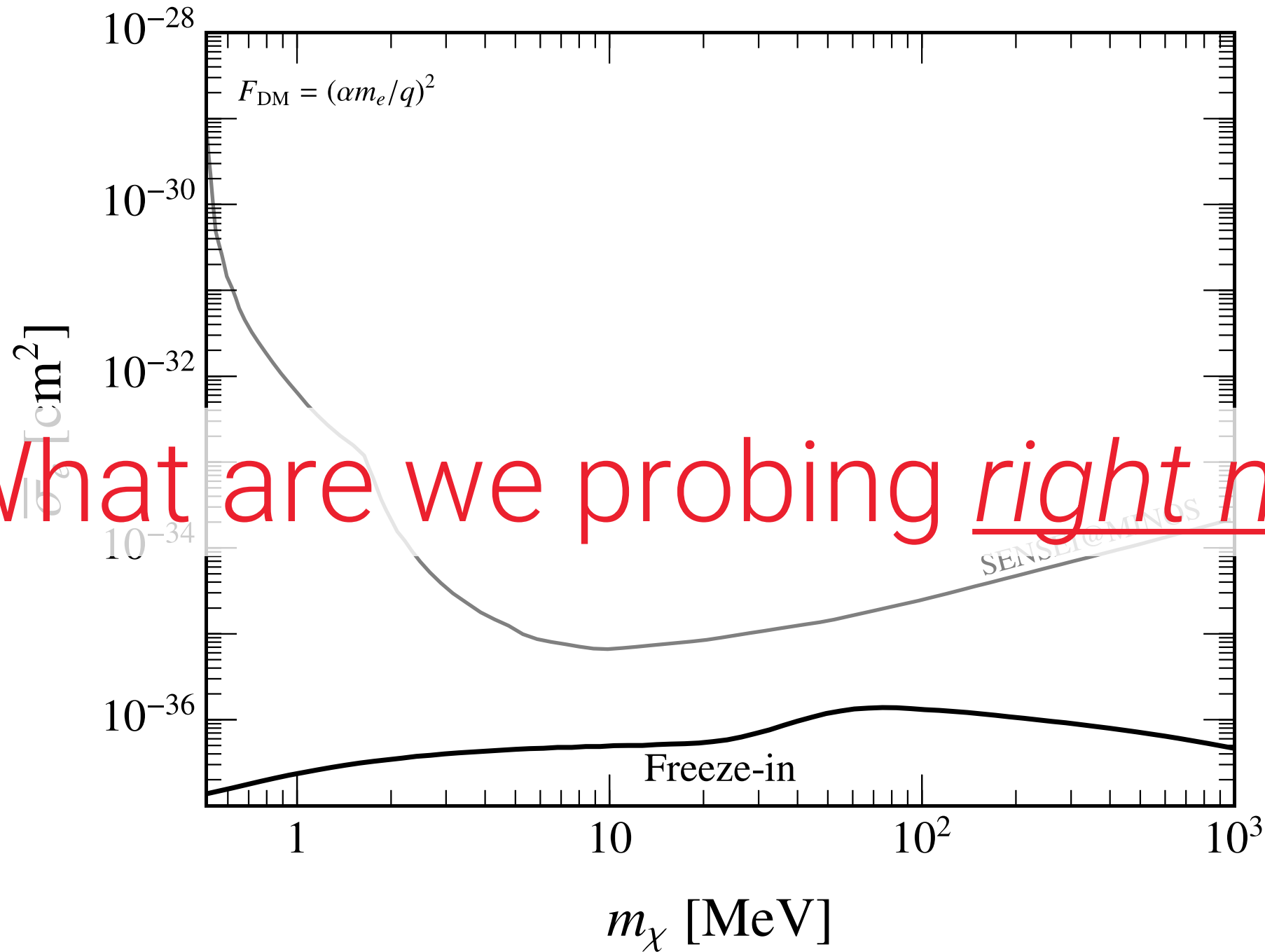
G. Belanger, A.
Mjallal, A. Pukhov
Eur. Phys. J. C 81
(2021) 239
[2003.08621]

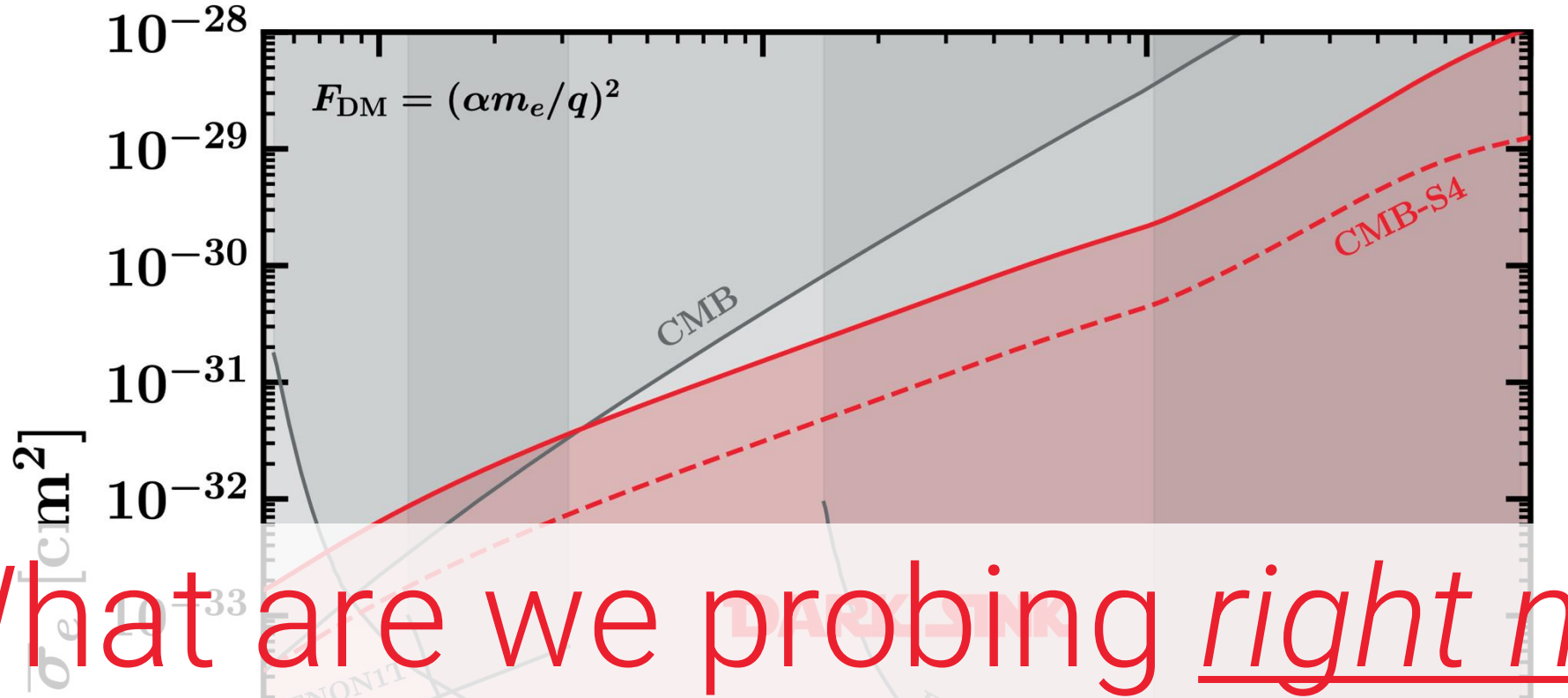


R McGee

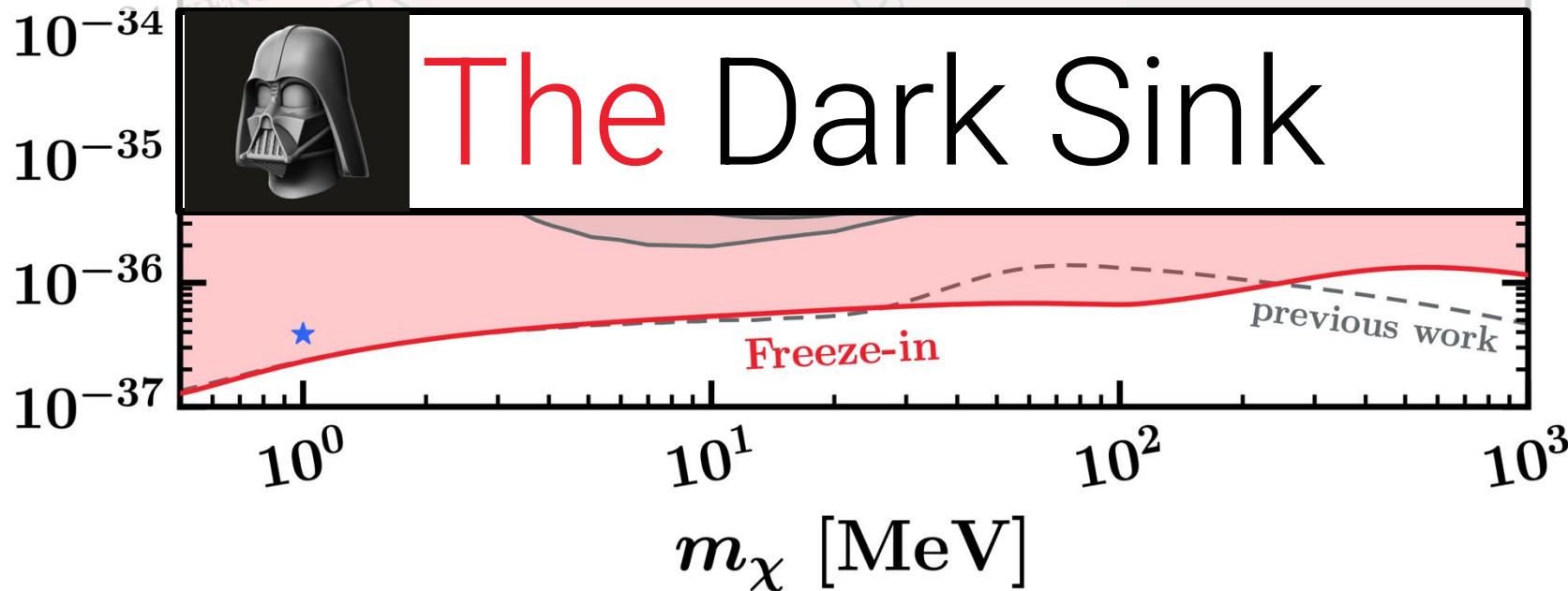


What are we probing right now?





What are we probing right now?





R McGehee

What about sub-MeV?

What about sub-MeV?

plasmons...

2408.07744
w/ Prudhvi N.
Bhattiprolu,
Evan Petrosky,
& Aaron Pierce

So, what do plasmons do?

So, what do plasmons do?

They decay!

$$n_{\gamma_t^*} \langle \Gamma \rangle_{\gamma_t^* \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}} = \frac{\alpha \kappa^2}{\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{3} Z_t \frac{m_t^2}{\omega_t (e^{\omega_t/T} - 1)} \left(1 + \frac{2m_\chi^2}{m_t^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{m_t^2}}$$

$$n_{\gamma_\ell^*} \langle \Gamma \rangle_{\gamma_\ell^* \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}} = \frac{\alpha \kappa^2}{2\pi^2} \int_0^{k_{\max}} \frac{k^2 dk}{3} Z_\ell \frac{\omega_\ell}{e^{\omega_\ell/T} - 1} \left(1 + \frac{2m_\chi^2}{m_\ell^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{m_\ell^2}}$$

So, what do plasmons do?

They decay!

$$n_{\gamma_t^*} \langle \Gamma \rangle_{\gamma_t^* \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}} = \frac{\alpha \kappa^2}{\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{3} \frac{Z_t m_t^2}{\omega_t (e^{\omega_t/T} - 1)} \left(1 + \frac{2m_\chi^2}{m_t^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{m_t^2}}$$

$$n_{\gamma_\ell^*} \langle \Gamma \rangle_{\gamma_\ell^* \rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi}} = \frac{\alpha \kappa^2}{2\pi^2} \int_0^{k_{\max}} \frac{k^2 dk}{3} \frac{Z_\ell \omega_\ell}{e^{\omega_\ell/T} - 1} \left(1 + \frac{2m_\chi^2}{m_\ell^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{m_\ell^2}}$$

Kinda a pain...

How does this change the story?

How does this change the story?

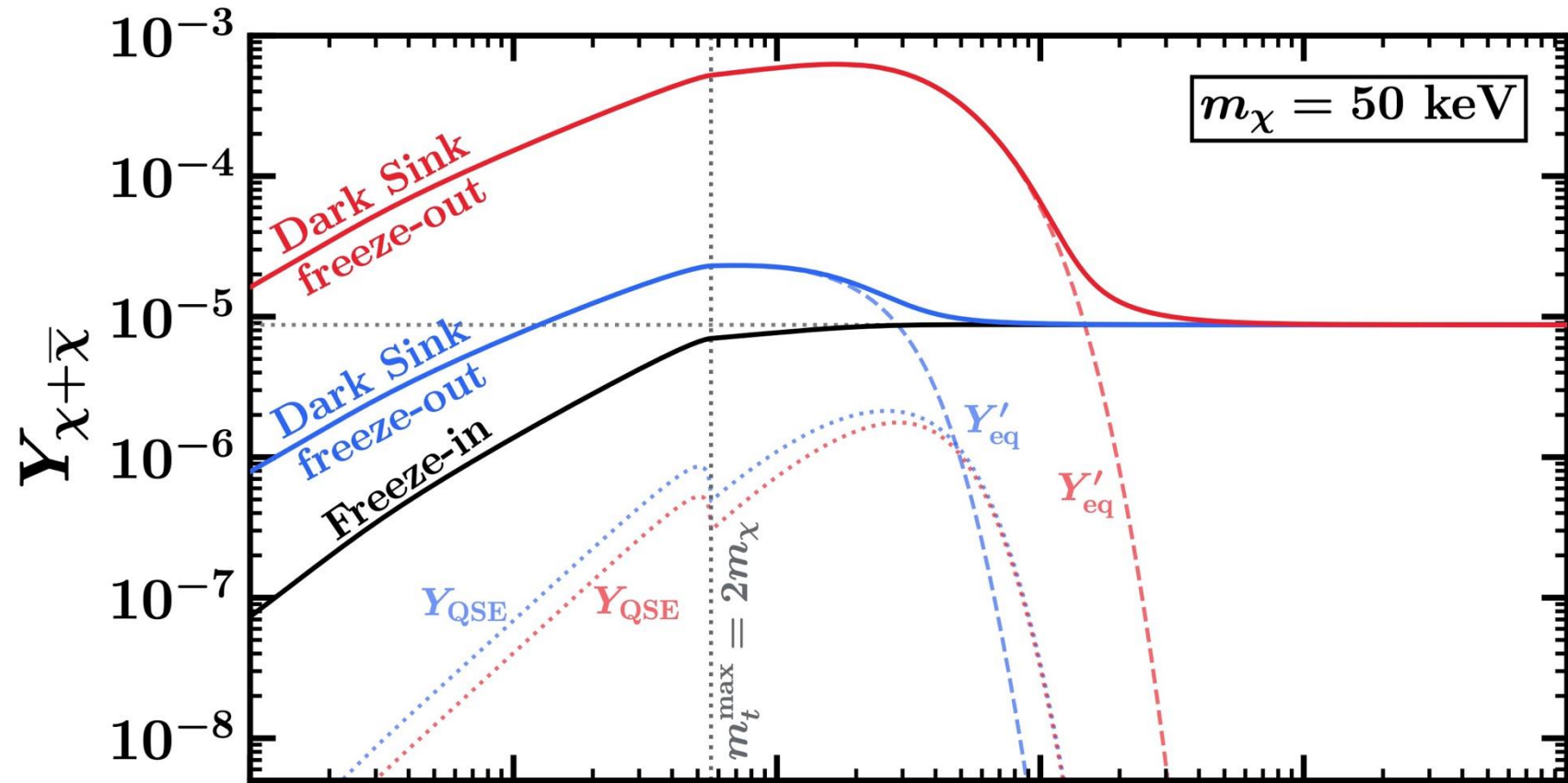
Just another term in ye old Boltzmann equations...

$$-\overline{H}T_s \frac{dY}{dT} = n_e^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle_{e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}} \left(1 - \frac{Y^2}{Y_{\text{eq}}^2} \right)$$

How does this change the story?

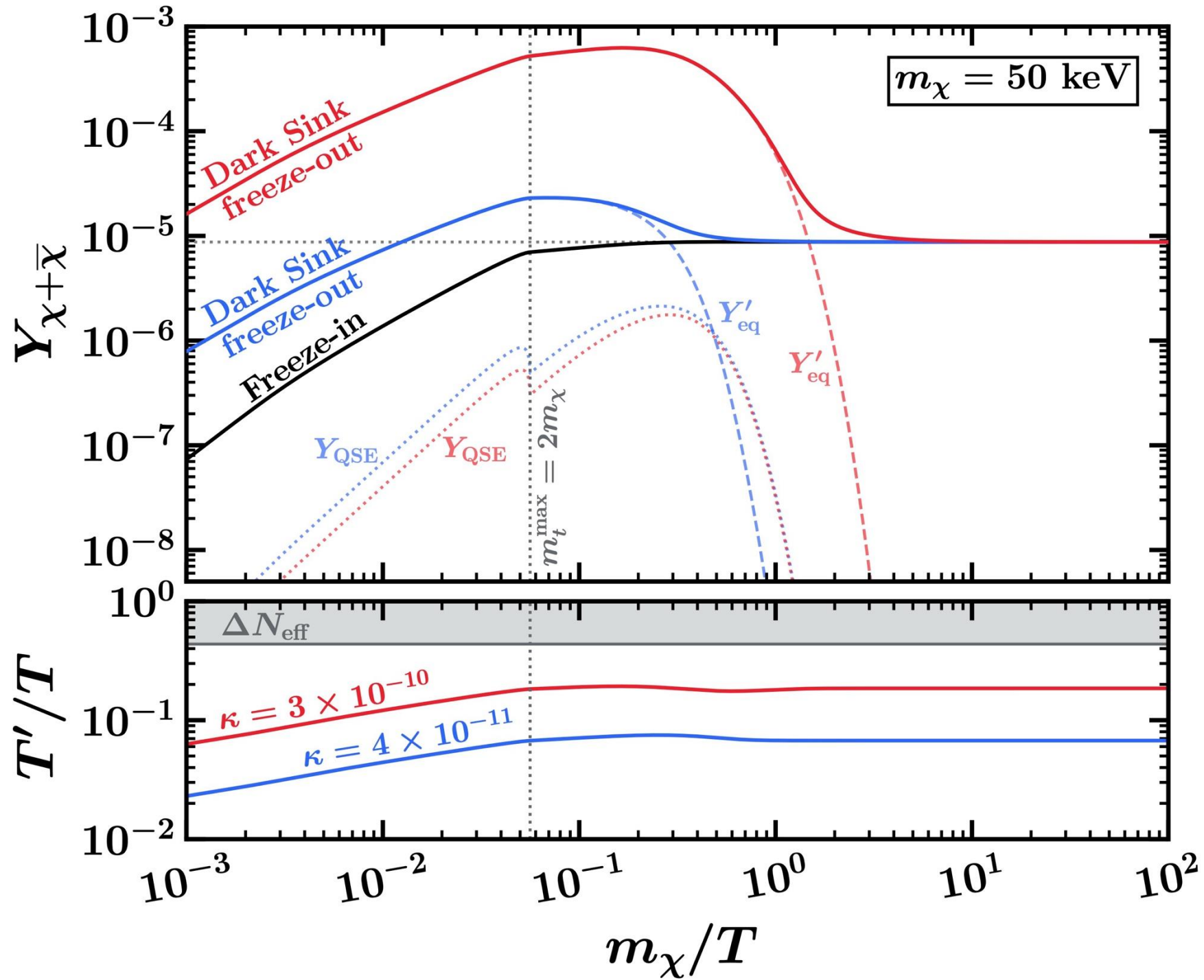
Just another term in ye old Boltzmann equations...

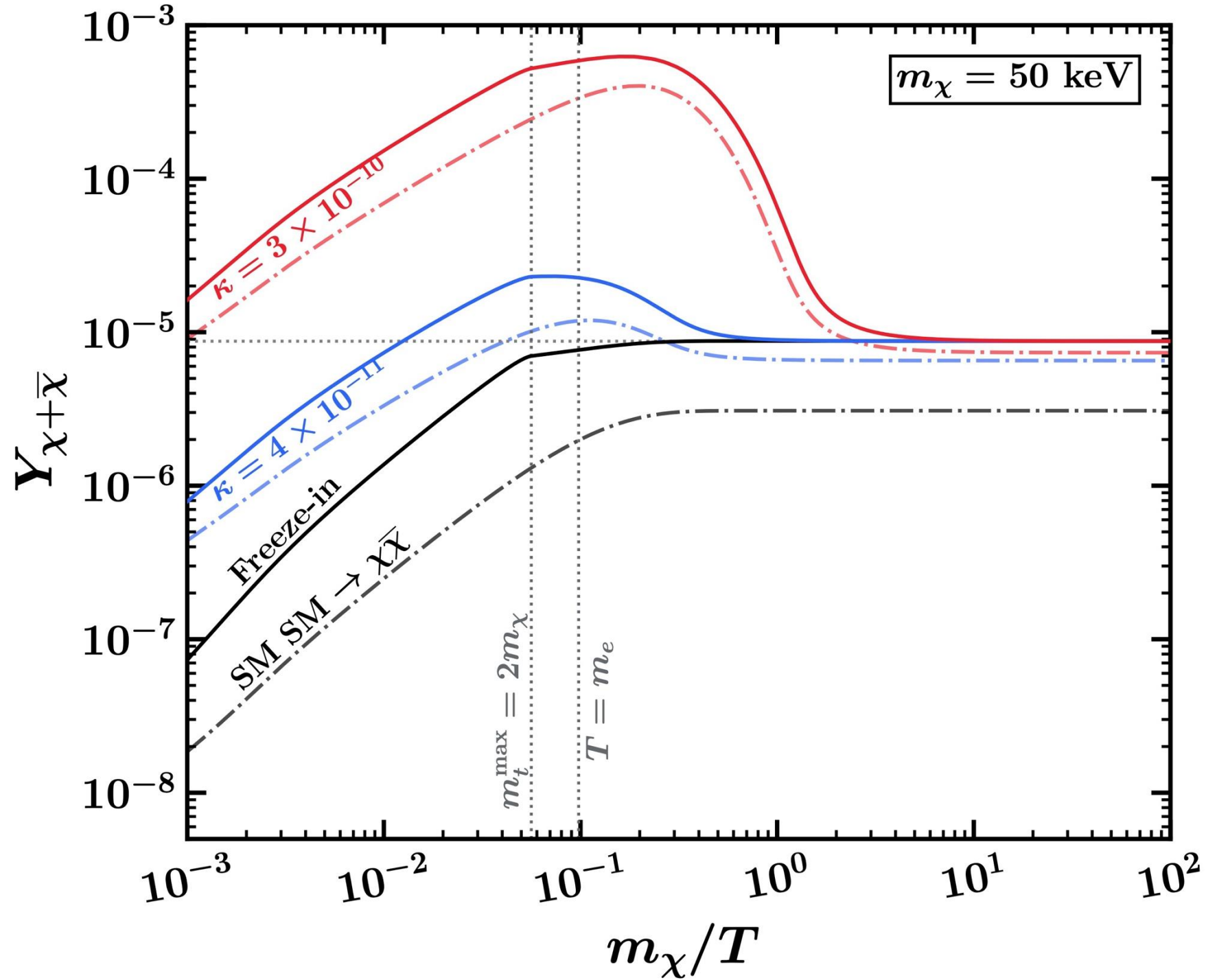
$$-\overline{HT} s \frac{dY}{dT} = n_e^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle_{e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}} \left(1 - \frac{Y^2}{Y_{\text{eq}}^2} \right) + n_{\gamma^*} \langle \Gamma \rangle_{\gamma^* \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}} \left(1 - \frac{Y^2}{Y_{\text{eq}}^2} \right)$$

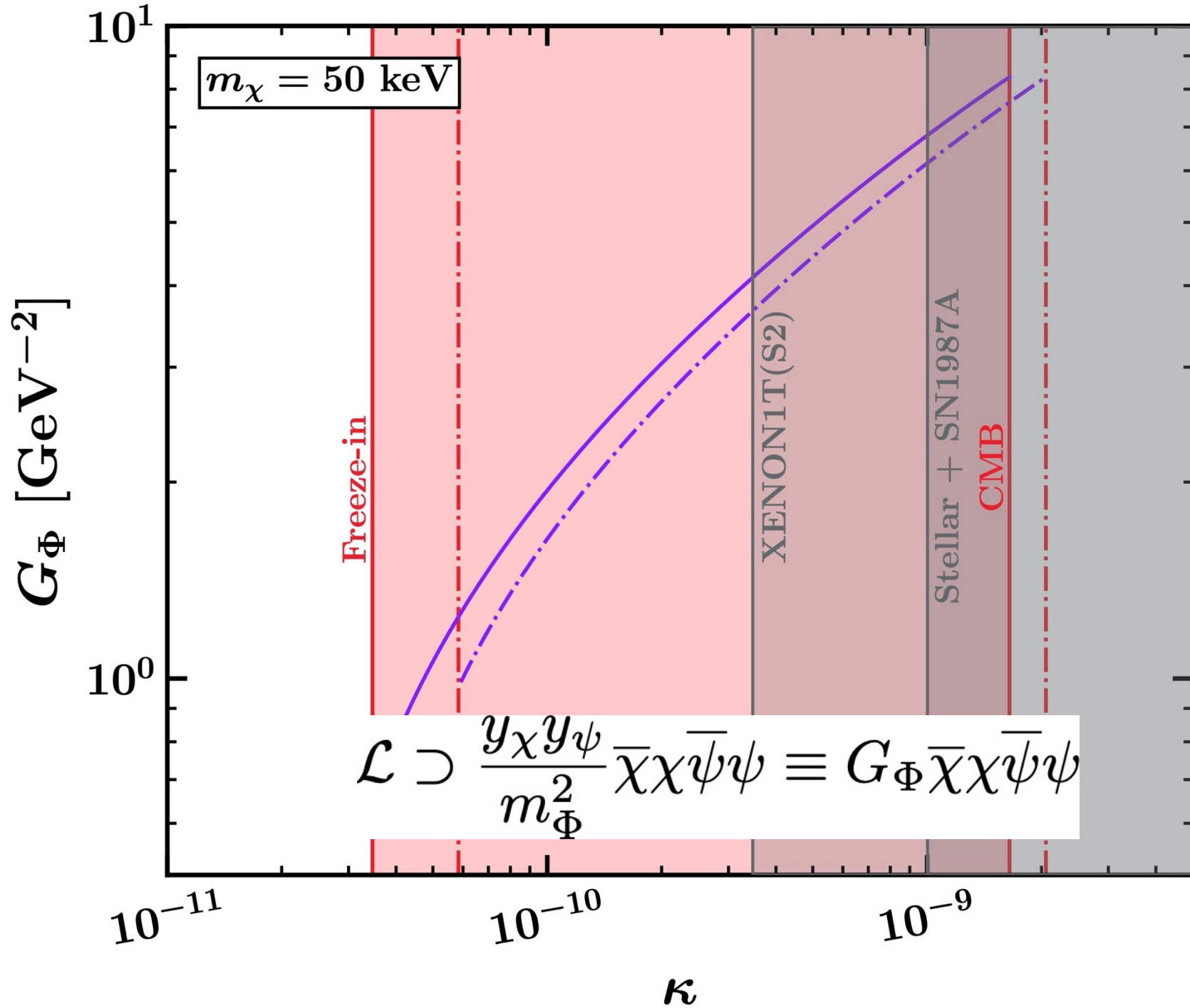


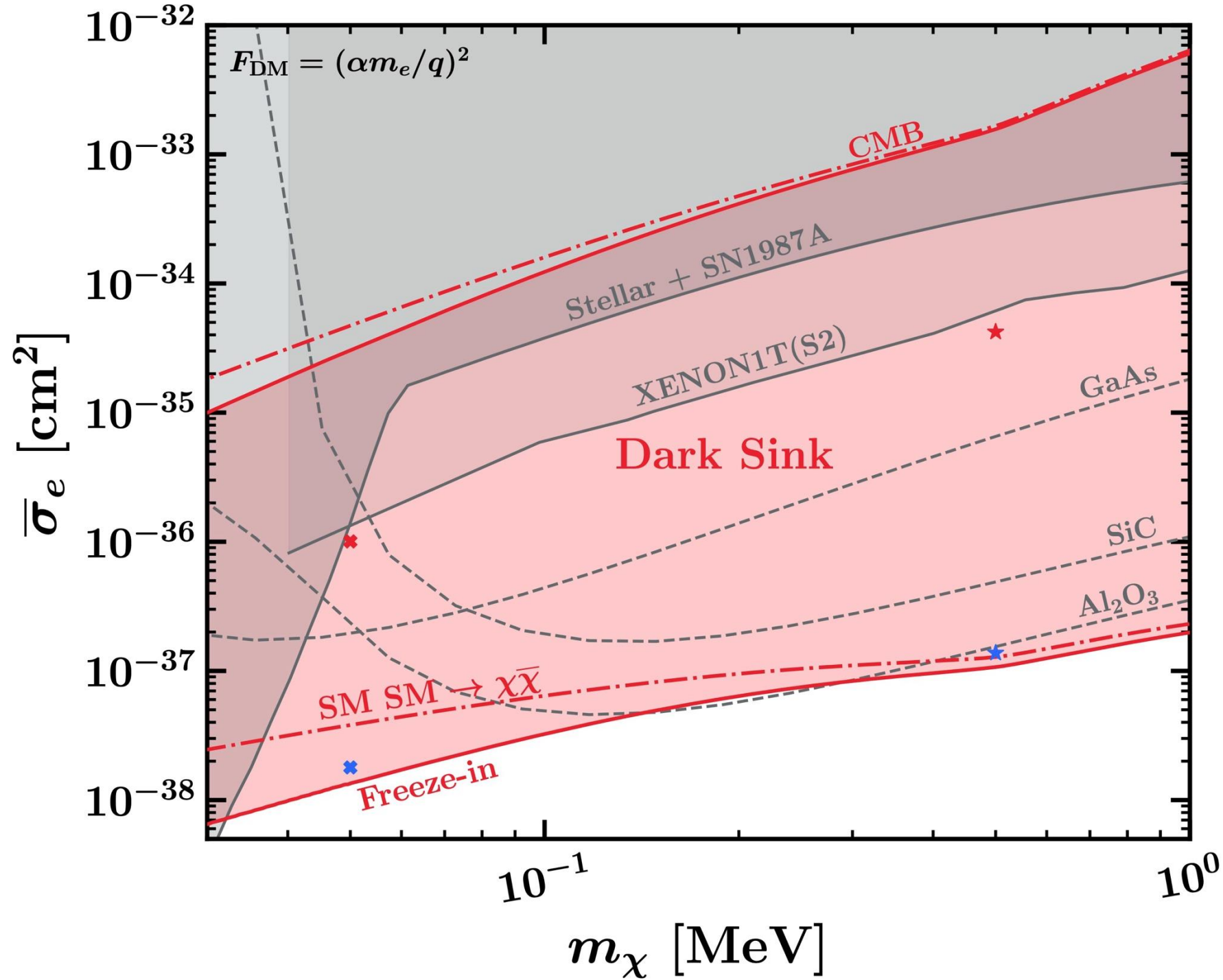
m_{χ}/T

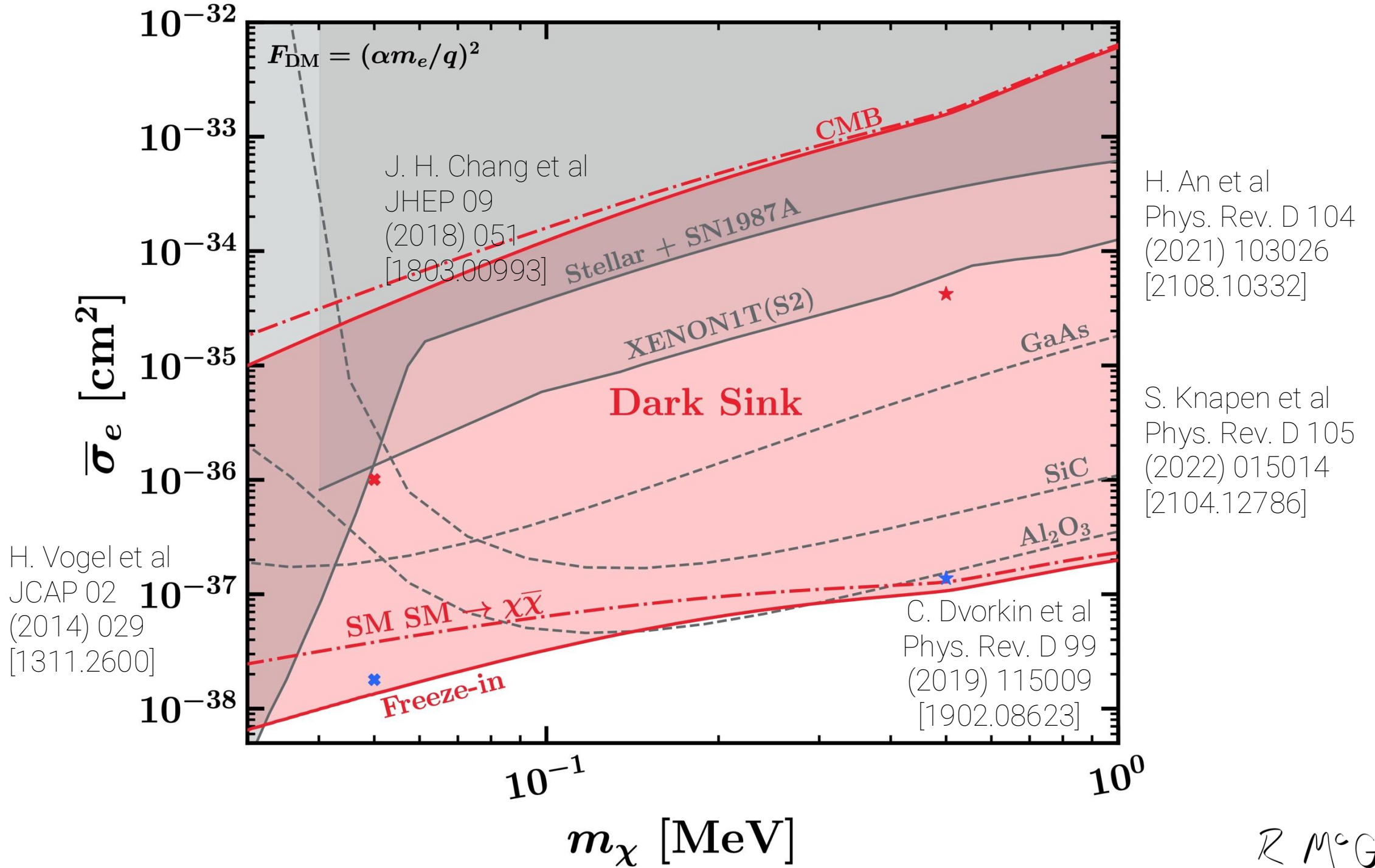
R McGee



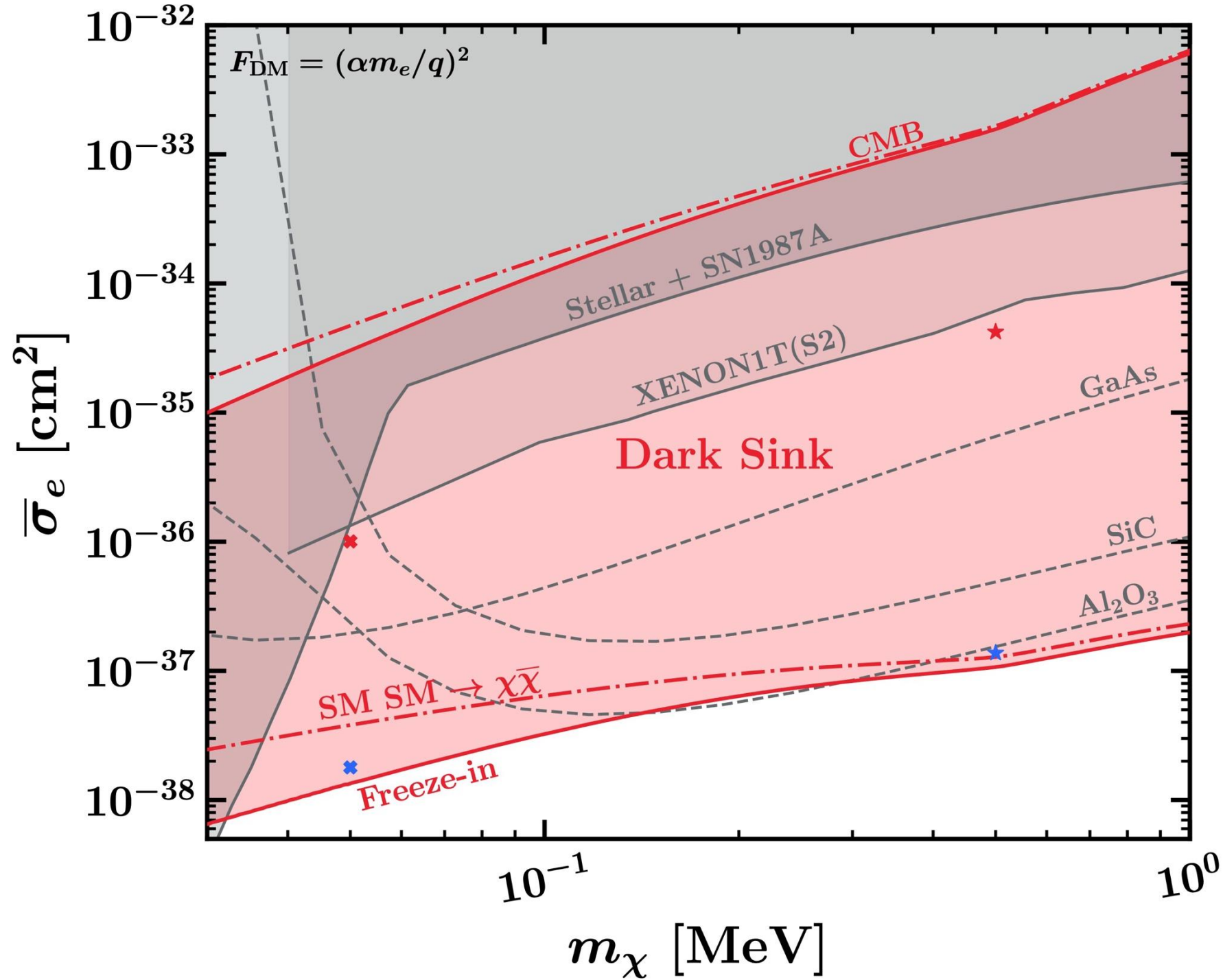








R McGehee



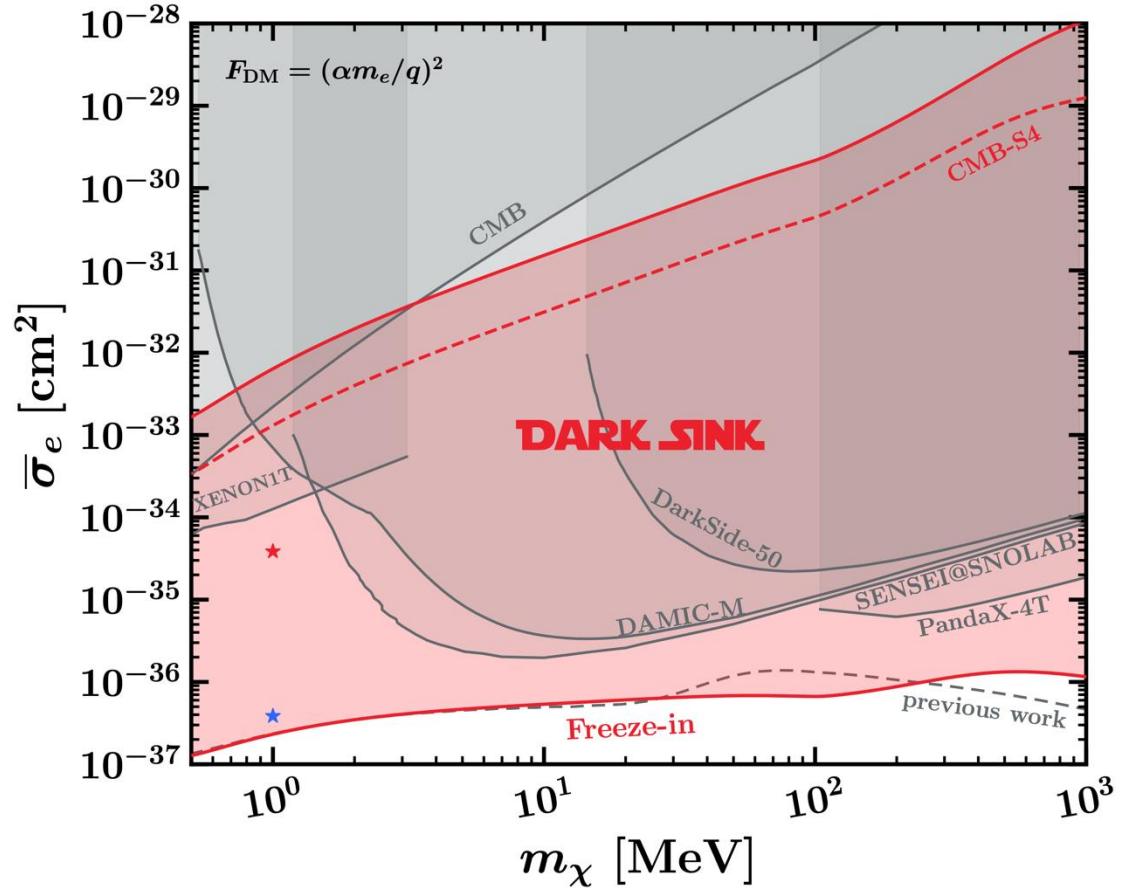


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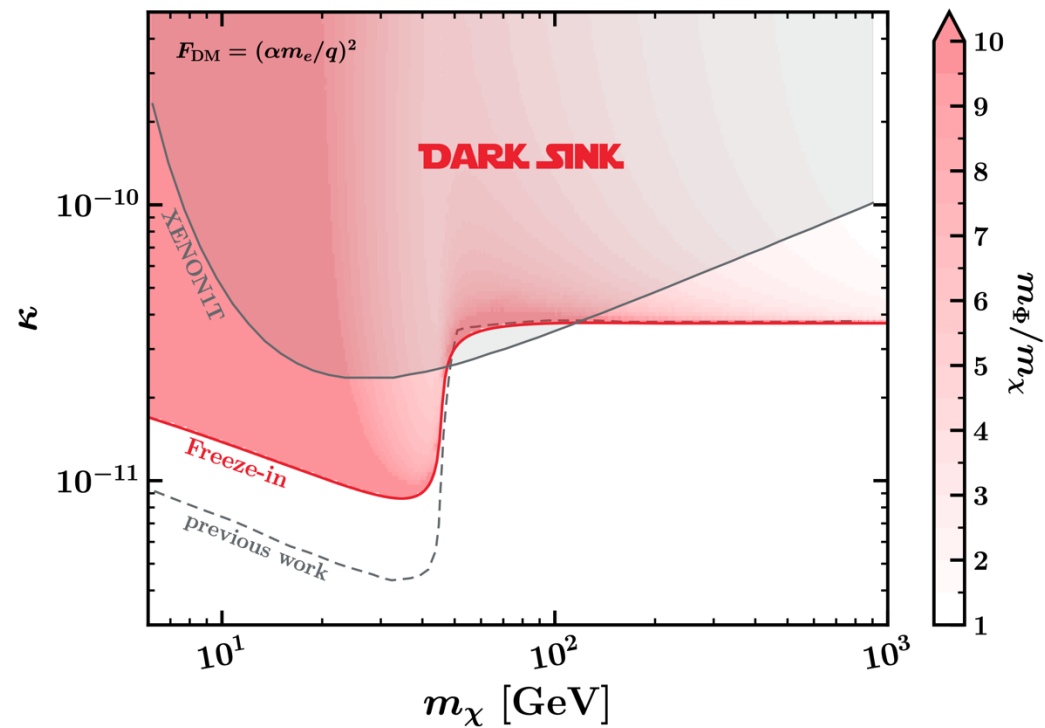
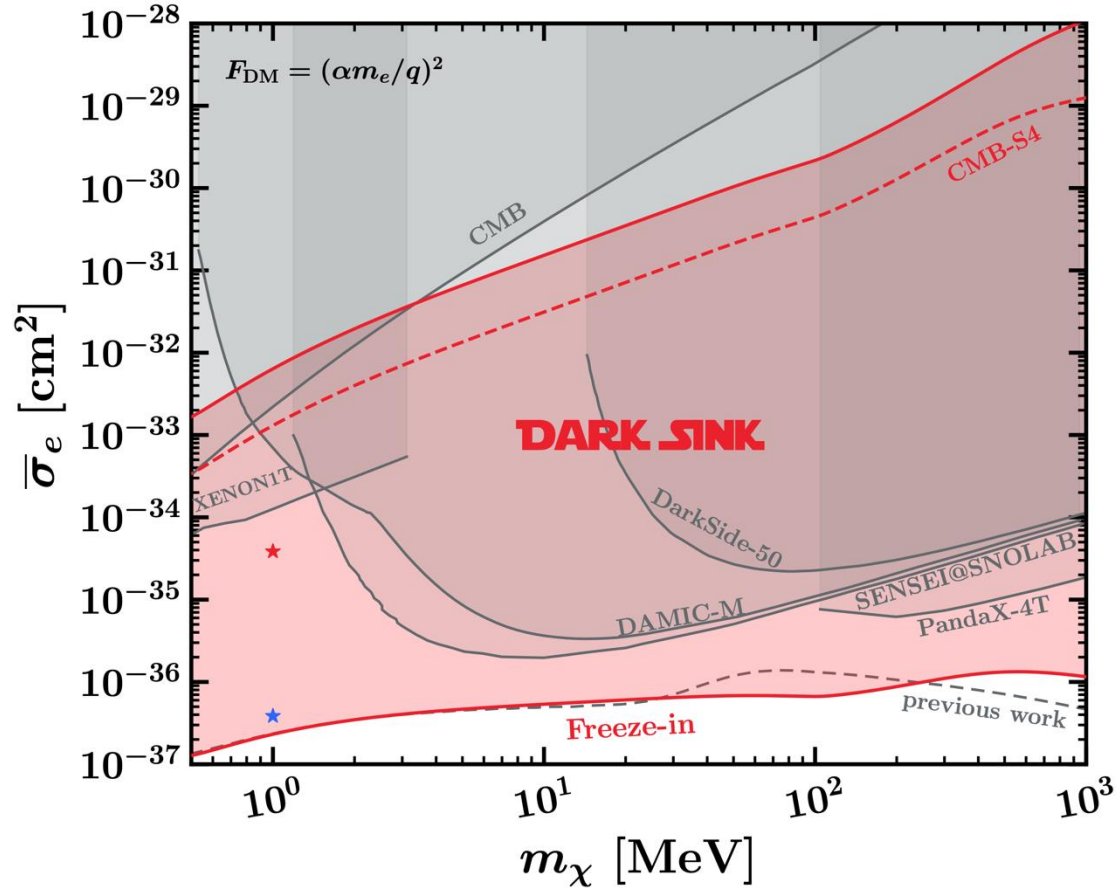


FUTURE

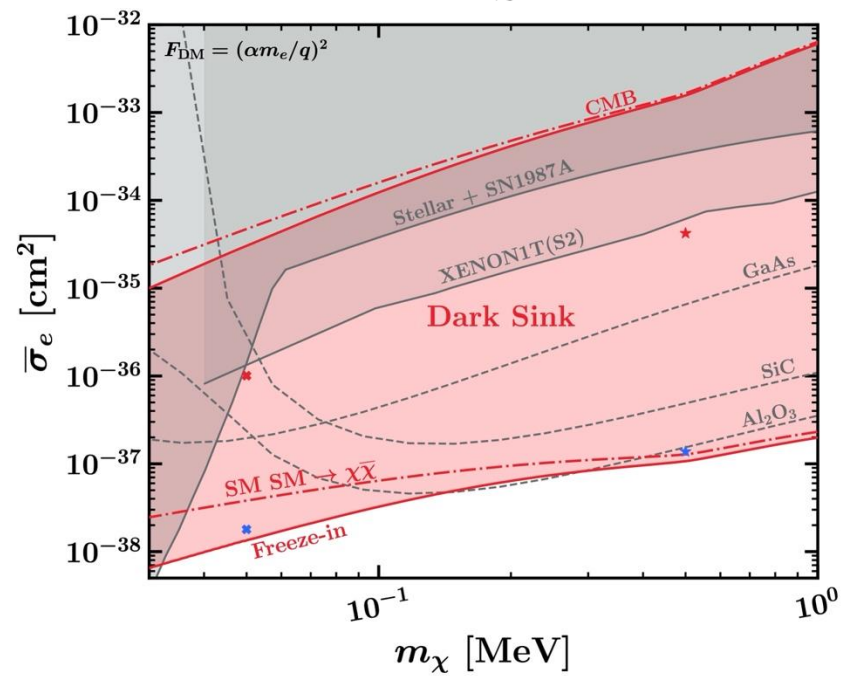
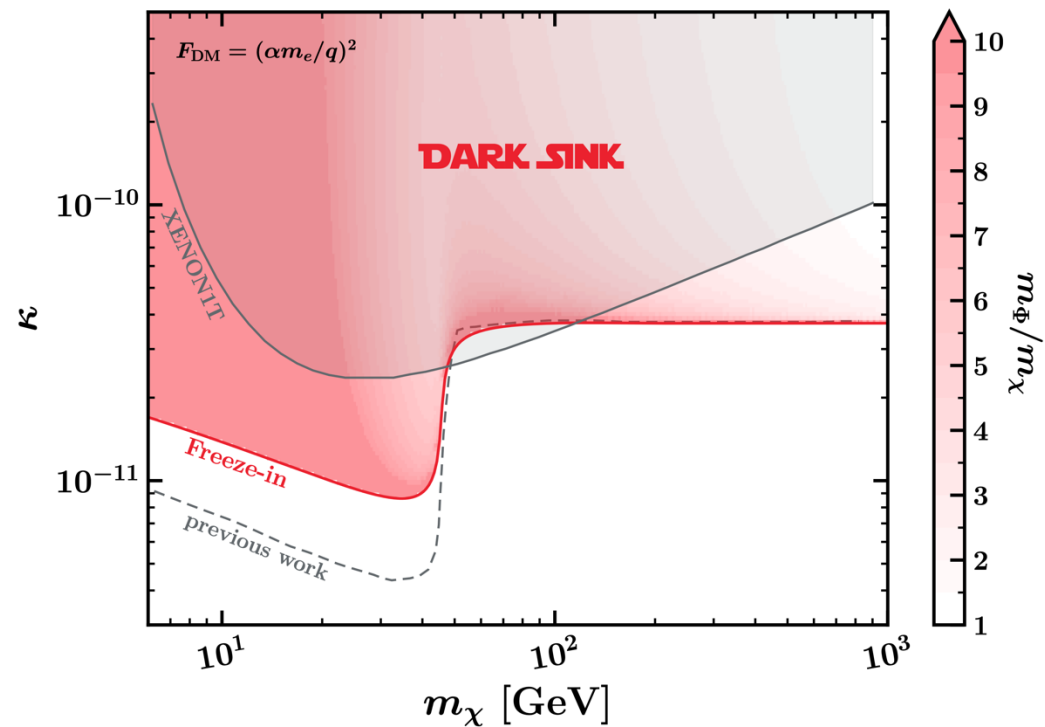
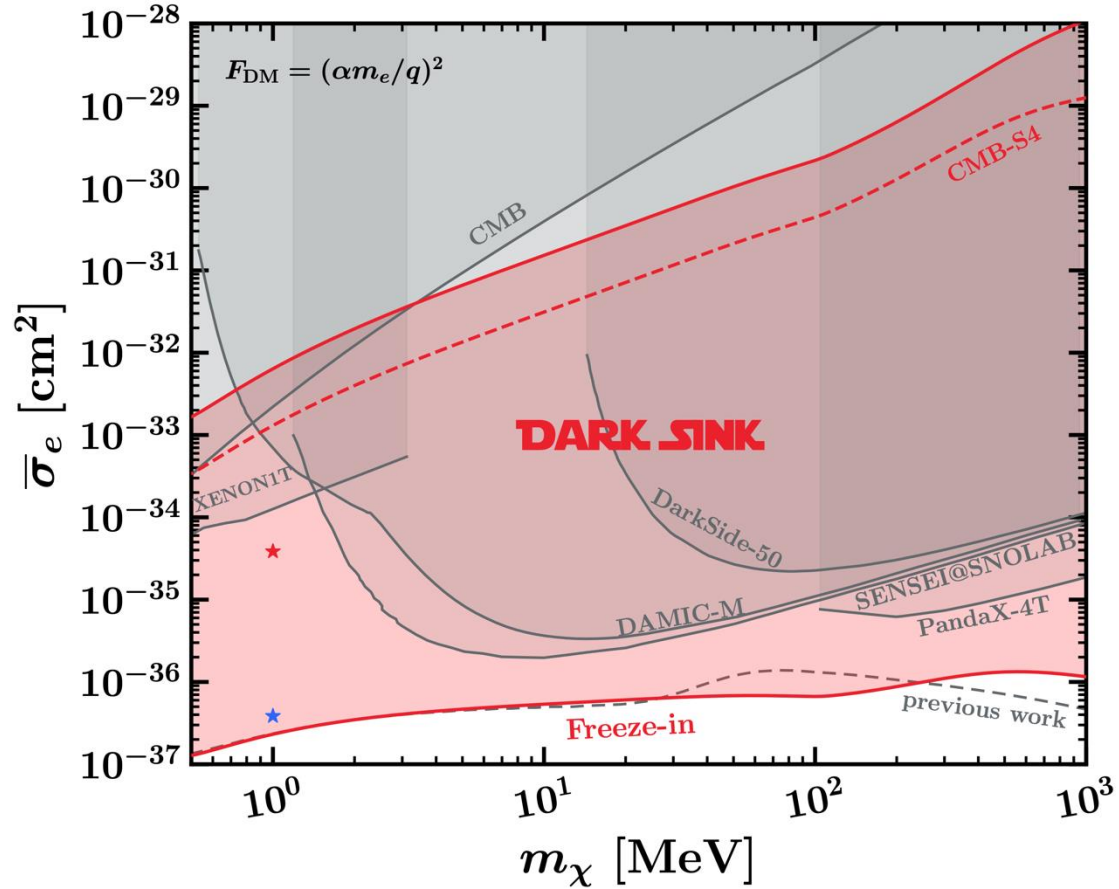
- How a Dark Sink could change other motivated freeze-in pheno:
 - Long-lived searches for FIMPs
 - Direct detection of UV freeze-in models



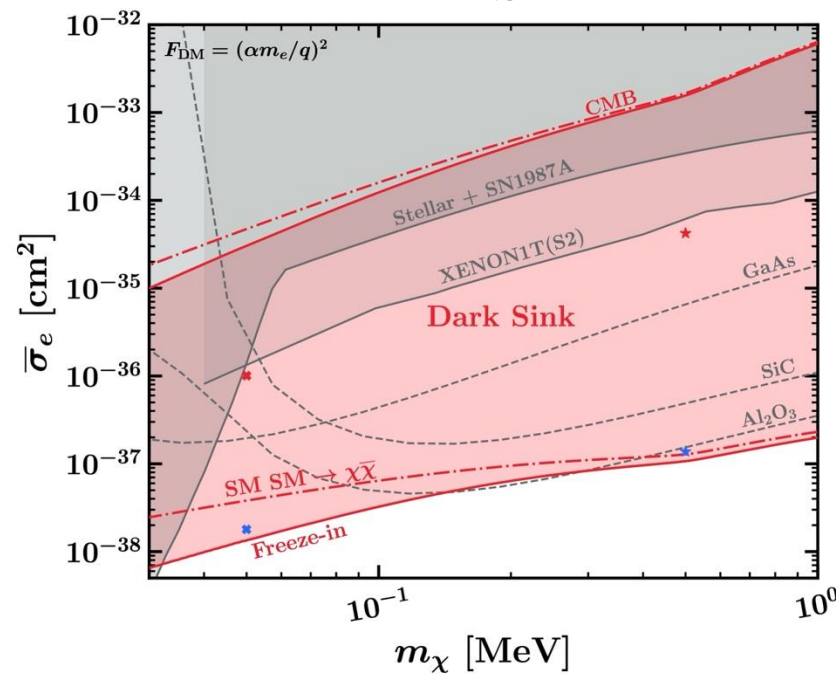
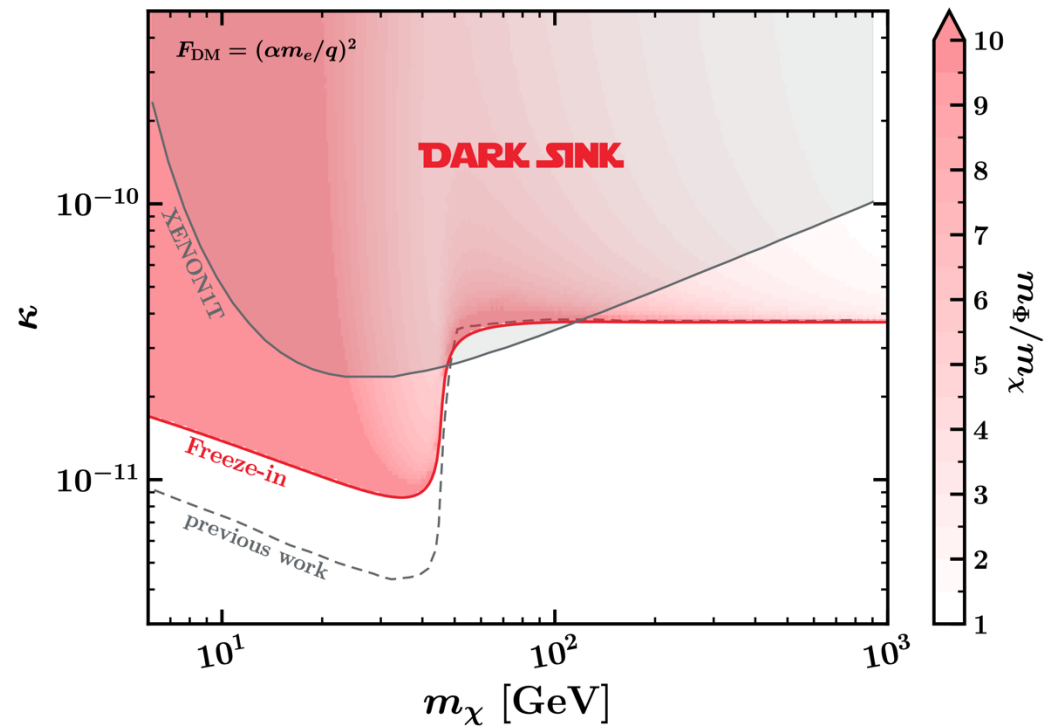
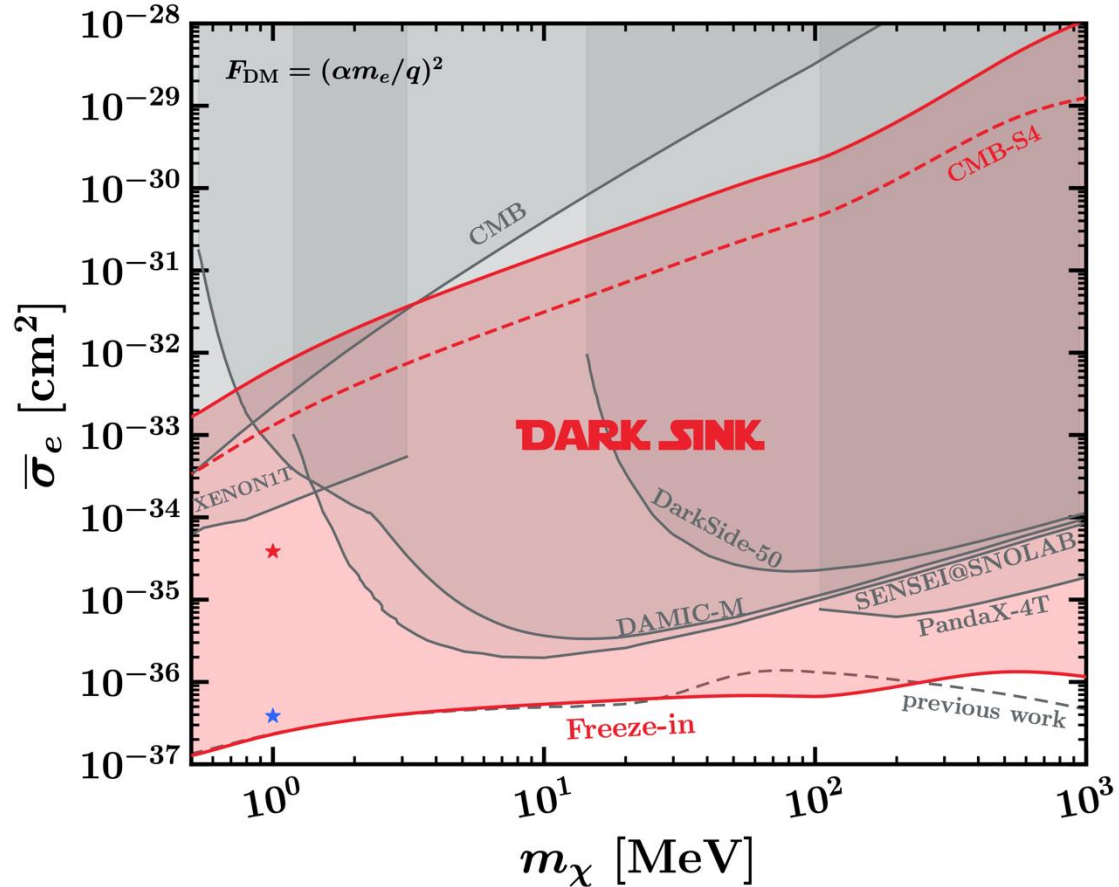
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