

# **GAMMA-RAY DM SEARCHES CIRCA 2026: *STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS***

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A deep-field astronomical image showing a vast number of galaxies of various shapes and sizes, including spirals, ellipticals, and irregulars, scattered across a black background. The galaxies are concentrated in the center and spread out towards the edges. A text box is overlaid in the upper-middle section.

**Visible matter is just the tip of the iceberg**

# Observational evidence of dark matter (DM)

## Galactic scales

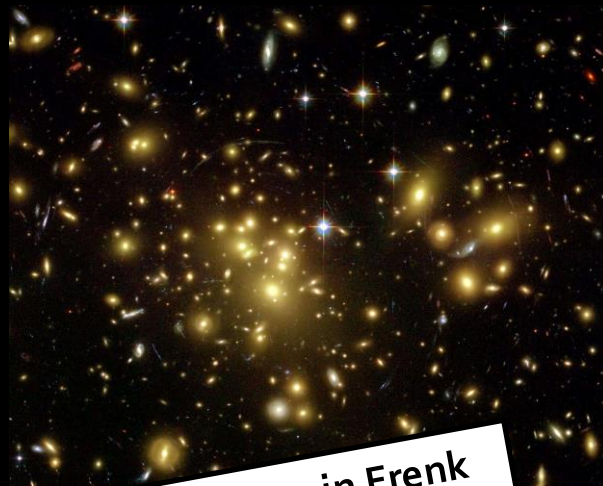
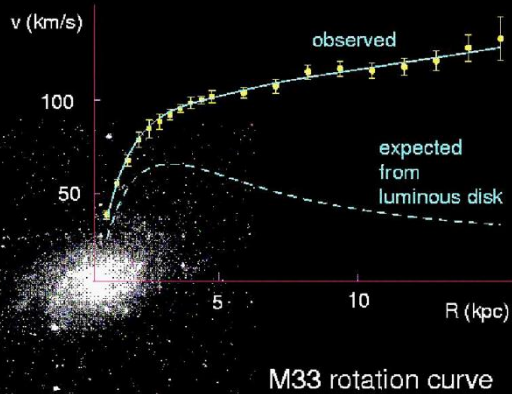
- a) Rotation curves of spirals
- b) Weak lensing
- c) Velocity dispersions of satellite galaxies
- d) Velocity dispersions in dSphs

## Galaxy clusters scales

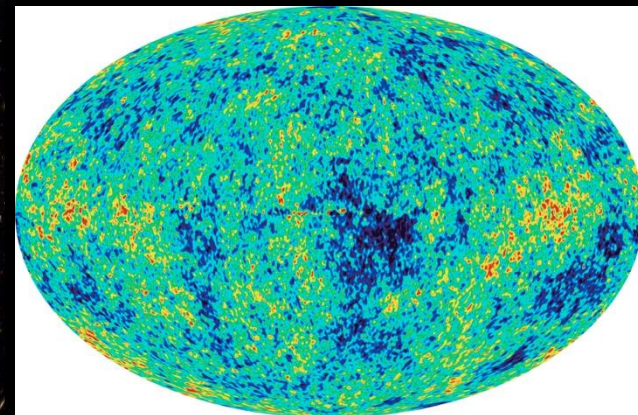
- a) Velocity dispersions of individual galaxies
- b) Strong and weak lensing
- c) Peculiar velocity flows
- d) X-ray emission

## Cosmological scales

- a) CMB anisotropies
- b) Growth of structure
- c) LSS distribution
- d) BAOs
- e) SZ effect



More e.g. in Frenk  
and Tutusaus's talks



# Observational evidence of dark matter (DM)

## Galactic scales

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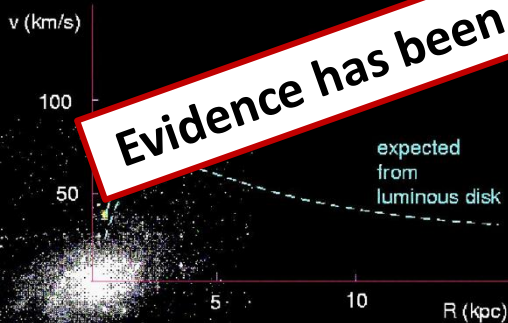
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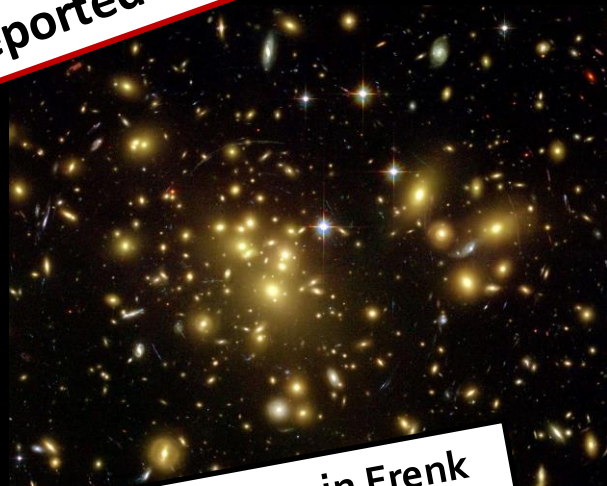
## Cosmological scales

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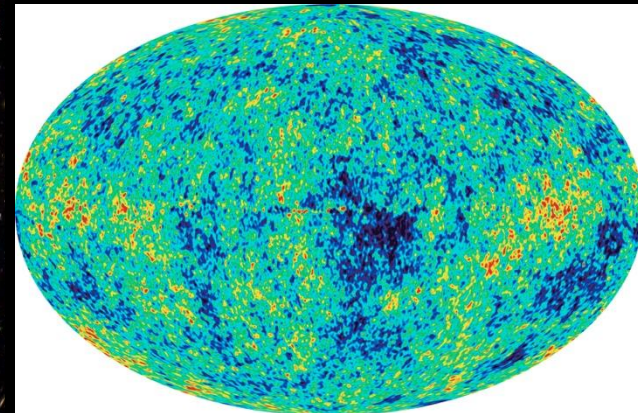
**Evidence has been reported at all scales, but is only astrophysical as of today.**



M33 rotation curve



More e.g. in Frenk and Tutusaus's talks



# What could the DM be made of?

Most of the matter in the Universe must be in the form of **non-baryonic DM**.

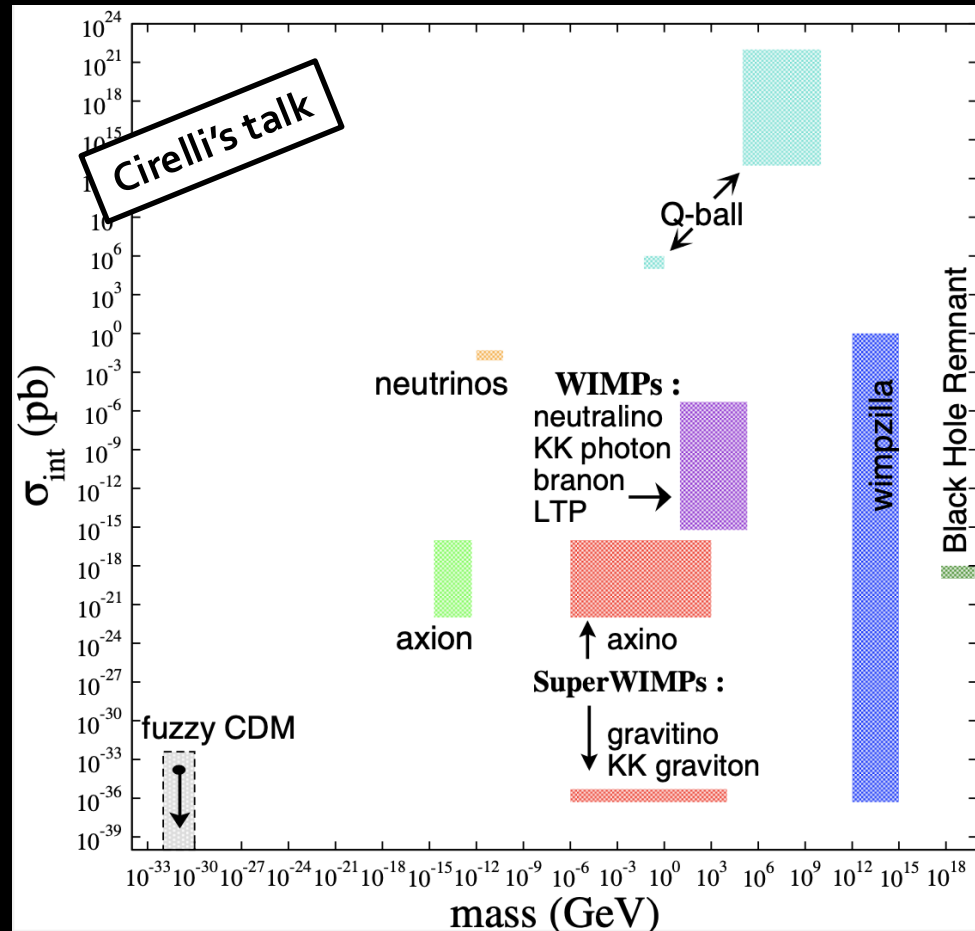
## Requisites:

- 1) Non-baryonic.
- 2) No electromagnetic interactions.
- 3) Stable or very long-lived.
- 4) Cold (for structure formation).
- 5) Reproduce the observed relic abundance.

### □ No viable candidate in the Standard Model

The neutrino, the only non-baryonic DM candidate known to exist, is excluded.

### □ Huge plethora of possible candidates beyond the Standard Model



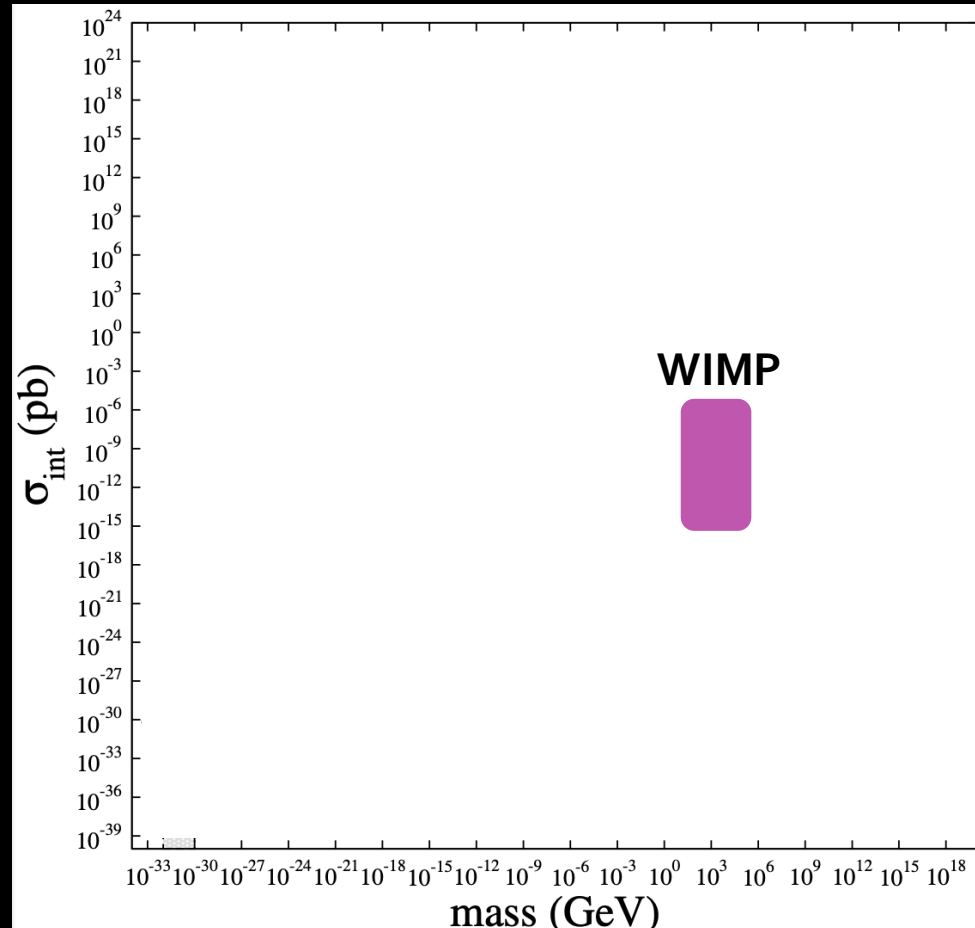
[DMSAG 2007; Baer+14; Conrad+17]

# What could the DM be made of?

Most of the matter in the Universe must be in the form of non-baryonic DM.

THIS TALK 

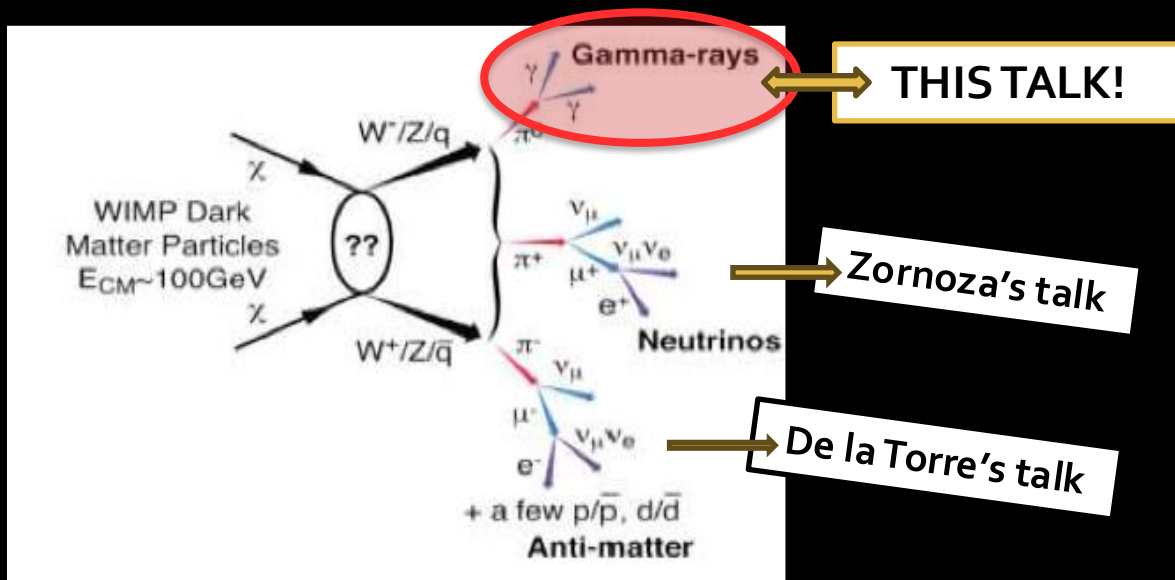
Hypothetical **massive** (GeV-TeV) particle,  
that interacts **weakly** (and **gravitationally!**),  
and naturally explains DM via **thermal freeze-out**.



[DMSAG 2007; Baer+14; Conrad+17]

# 'Indirect' WIMP searches via gamma rays

If dark matter (DM) is made of WIMPs  $\rightarrow$  **annihilations** (and **decays**) in gamma rays



**Fermi LAT**  
[>2008]



**LHAASO**  
[>2023]



**MAGIC**  
[>2003]



**HESS**  
[>2002]



**VERITAS**  
[>2006]



**HAWC**  
[>2015]

# The WIMP-induced gamma-ray (annihilation) flux

$$F(E_\gamma > E_{th}, \Psi_0) = J(\Psi_0) \square f_{PP}(E_\gamma > E_{th}) \quad \text{photons cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Astrophysics

Particle physics

l.o.s. integration of the squared DM density

$$J(\Psi_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Delta\Omega} d\Omega \int_{l.o.s.} \rho_{DM}^2[r(\lambda)] d\lambda$$

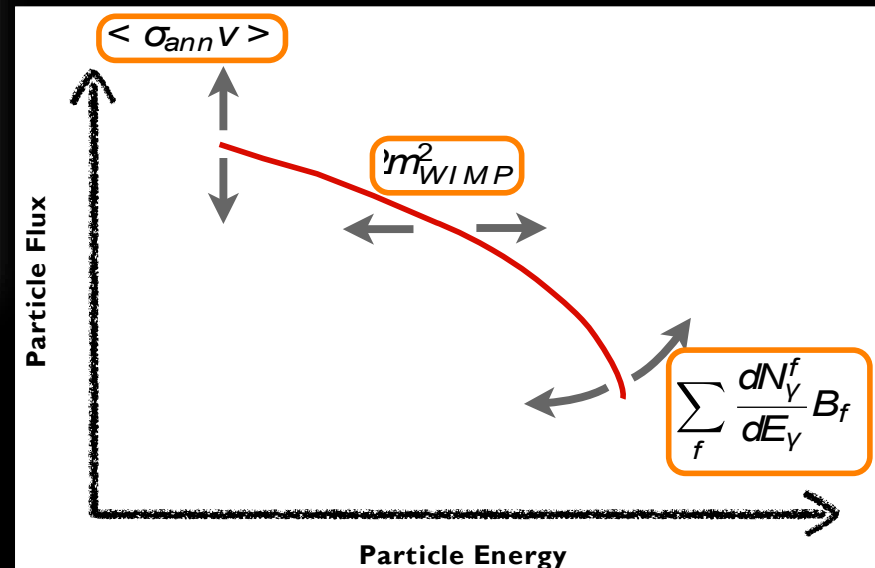
"J-factor"

$$f_{PP} \propto \square_f \frac{dN_\gamma^f}{dE_\gamma} B_f \frac{\langle \sigma \square v \rangle}{m_\chi^2}$$

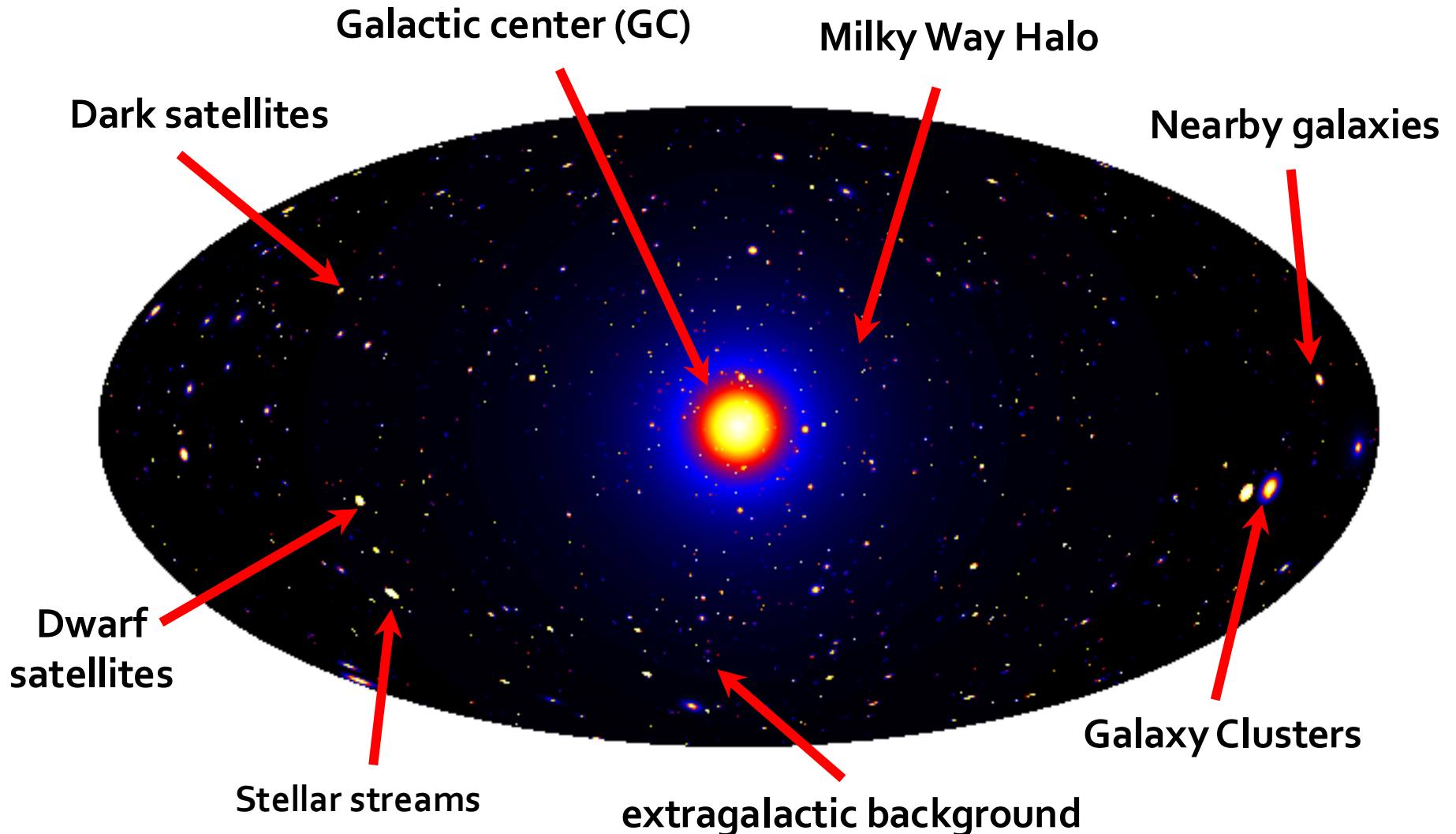
$N_\gamma$ : ph / annihilation  
 $\langle \sigma v \rangle$ : cross section  
 $m_\chi$ : WIMP mass  
 $b_f$ : branching ratio

Where to search? E.g.:

- Galactic center
- Dwarf spheroidal galaxies
- Local galaxy clusters
- Nearby galaxies
- Etc

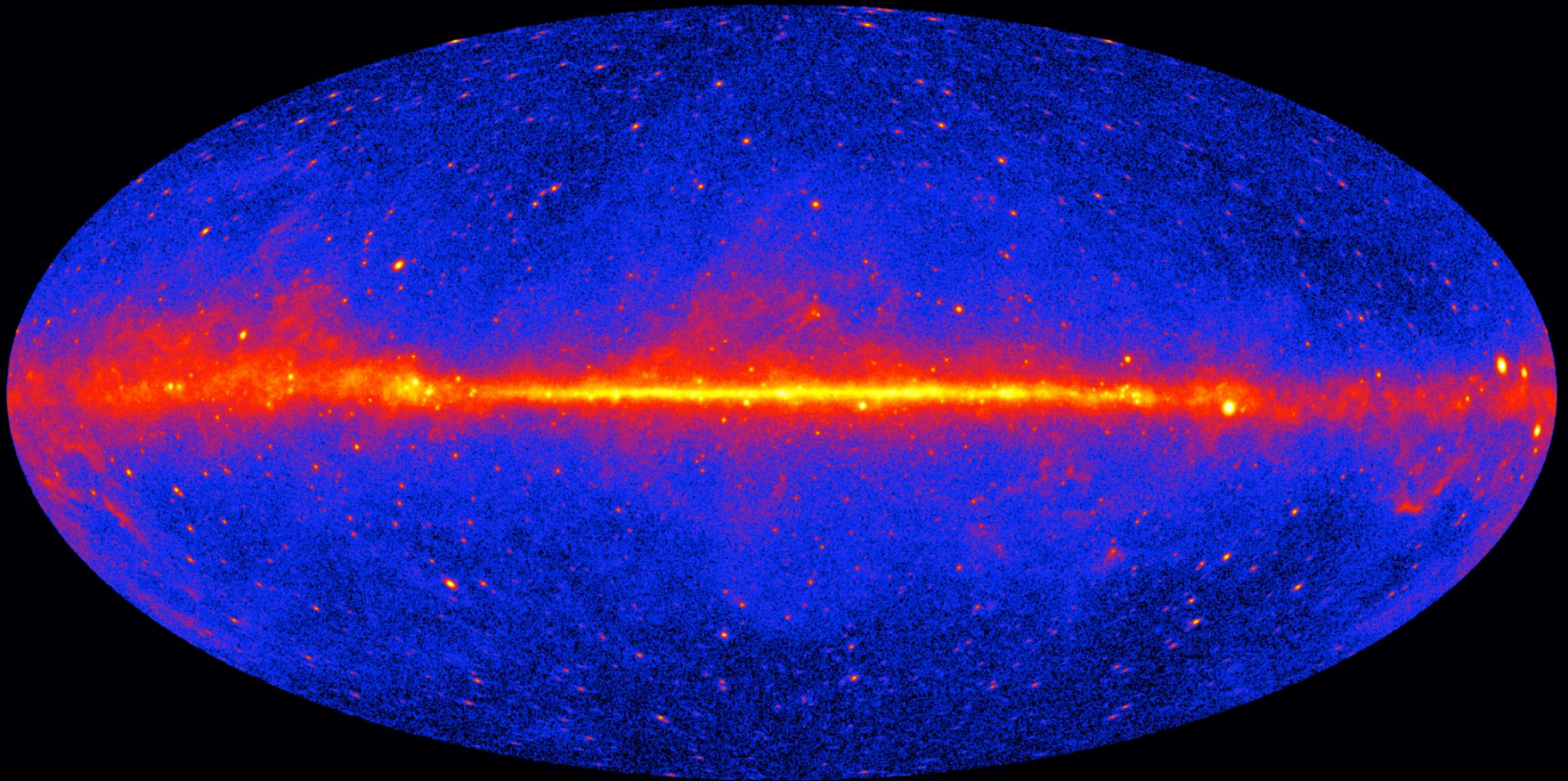


# DM targets and signal predictions

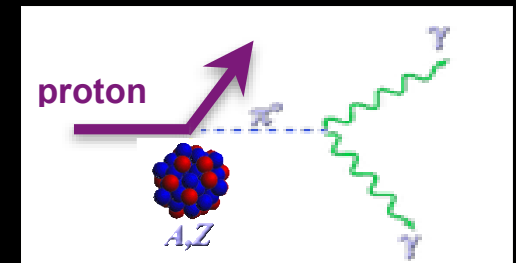
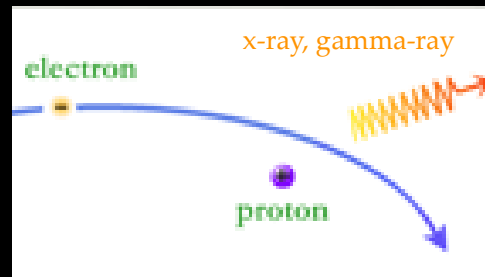
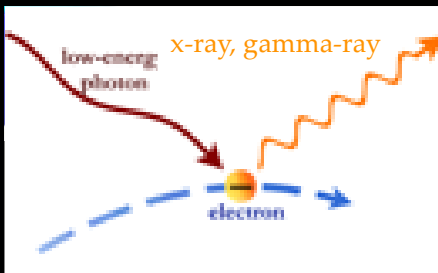
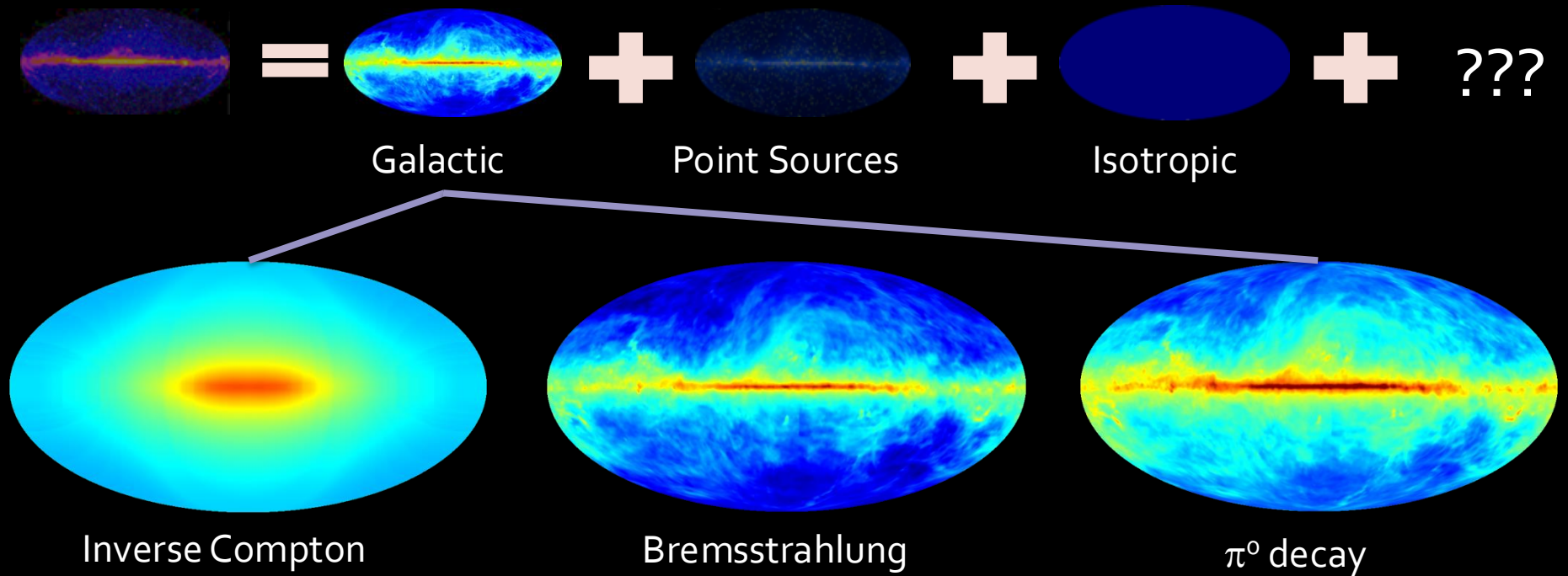


# The gamma-ray sky

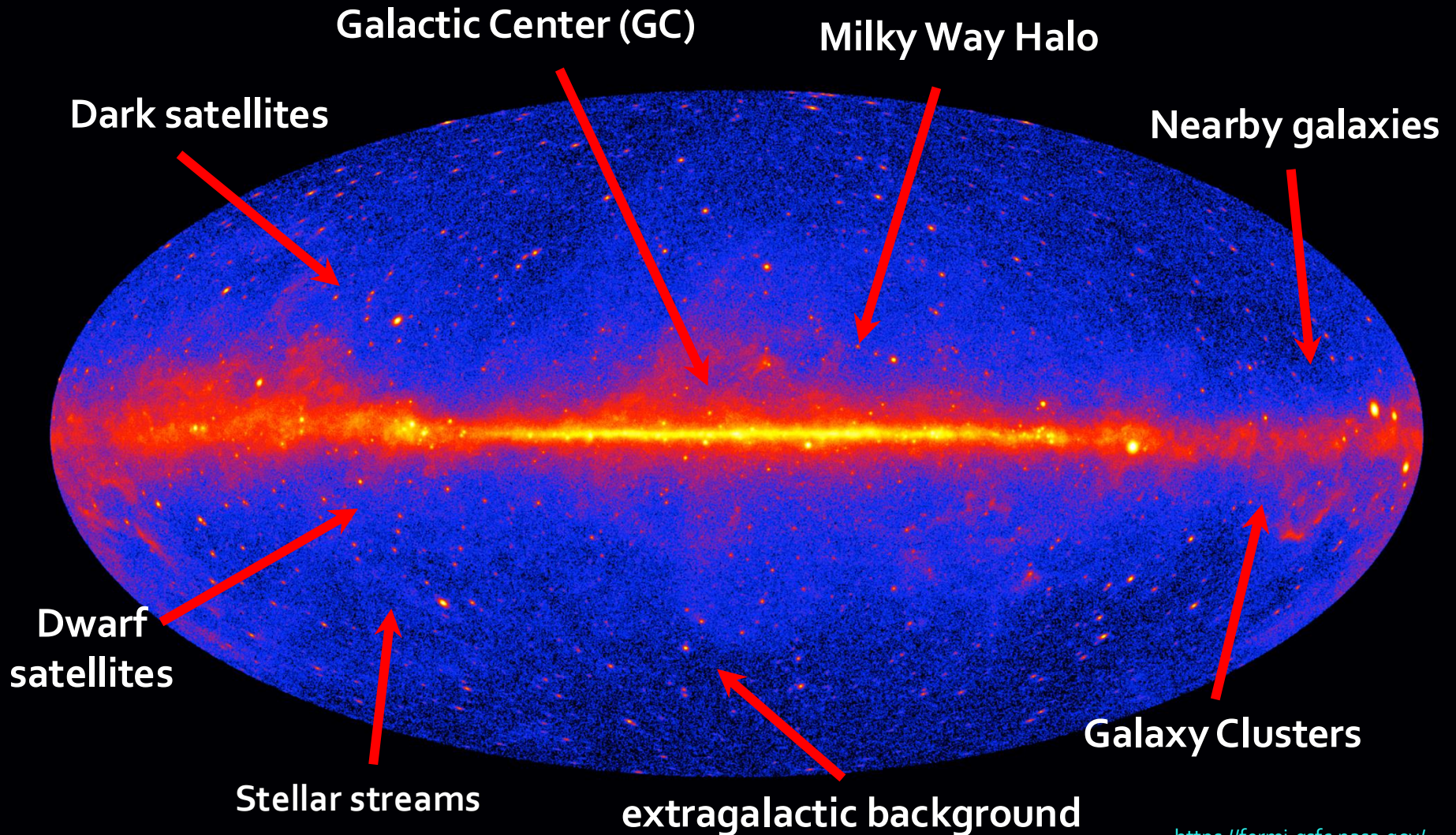
as seen by Fermi LAT above 1 GeV



# The complexity of the gamma-ray sky



# Astrophysical vs DM-induced signals



Need to **disentangle** dark matter annihilations from  
'conventional' astrophysics.

Crucial to **understand** the astrophysical processes  
in great detail.

# $\gamma$ -ray DM searches today

**No unambiguous signals found.**

(Several hints/claims in the past though.)

# MAIN BATTLEGROUND

**A personal selection of recent highlights**

[GALACTIC CENTER, DWARF GALAXIES, and others beasts]

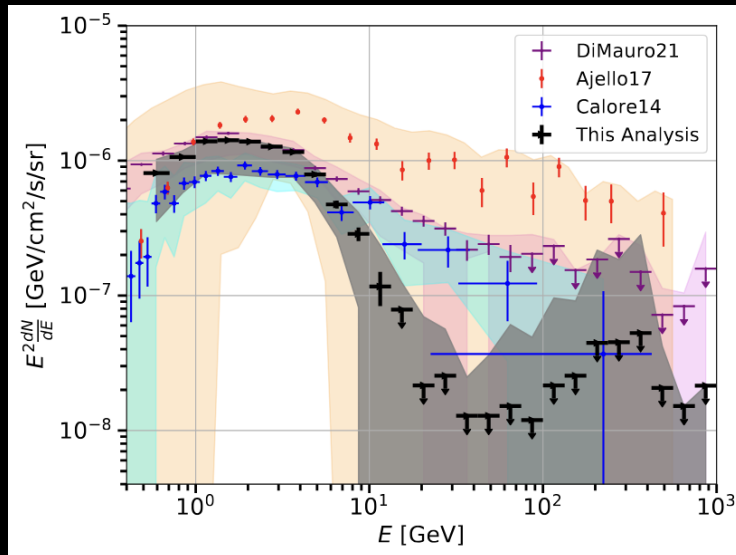
# 'GeV excess' (GCE) in the GC

(e.g., Goodenough & Hooper 09, 11; Gordon+13; Daylan+14, Abazajian+14, Calore+14; Gordon & Macías 14, Ajello+16, Ackermann+17; di Mauro+21;26)

**The excess is real and statistically significant. No debate.**

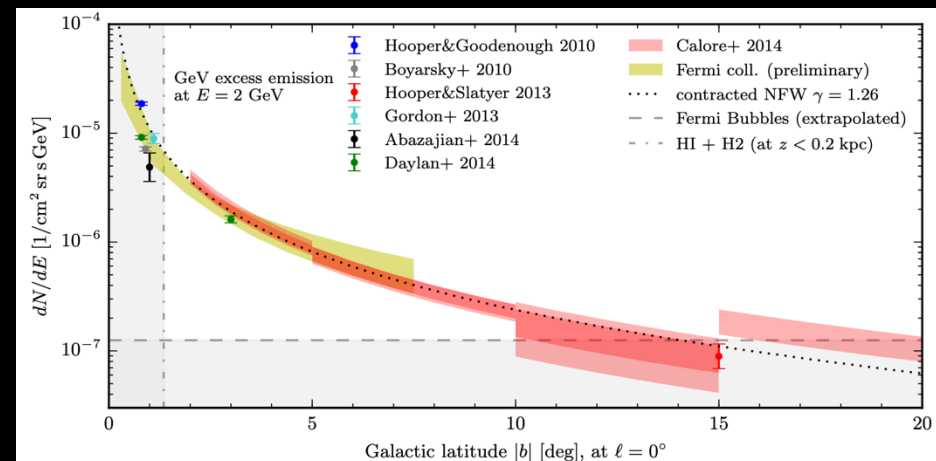
- Observed consistently in Fermi-LAT data for >15 years.
- Bright, spatially extended gamma-ray excess above standard diffuse models.
- Robust to variations of the diffuse models (its existence, not its details).
- Interpretation difficult due to complicated astrophysical fore/backgrounds.

**Spectrum** peaks at  $\sim 3$  GeV, falls off at higher energies, O(50-100 GeV).



[di Mauro 2026]

**Spatially** very extended ( $10\text{-}20^\circ$ ,  $\sim\text{kpc}$  scale), centered on the GC, nearly spherical.



[Calore+14]

# GCE *ca.* 2026: the debate

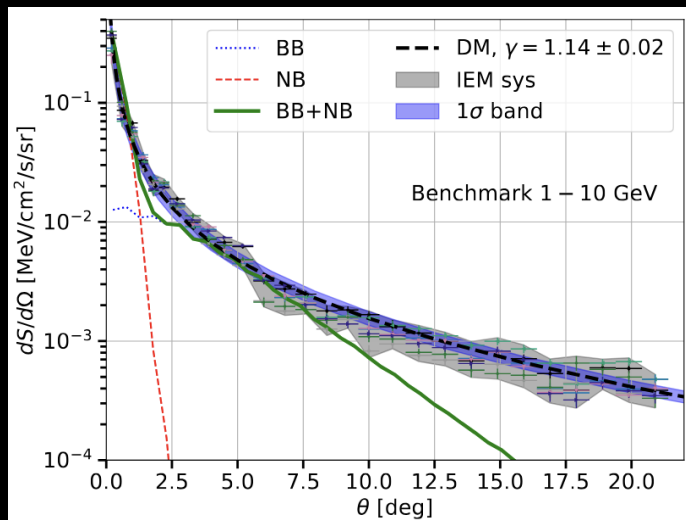
(e.g., Bartels+18; Macias+18; Buschmann+20; Leane&Slatyer 20; di Mauro+21;26; Zhong+24; Song+24; Malyshev+25; Ramírez+25; Holst&Hooper 25)

## Excess is robust. Precise properties are not.

- **Morphology:** spherical vs bulge-like; central battleground today.
- **Granularity:** Point-source vs smooth emission.
- **Systematics:** Role of diffuse background systematics.
- **Interpretation:** DM vs Millisecond Pulsars (MSPs) vs mixed scenario.

### DM ANNIHILATION

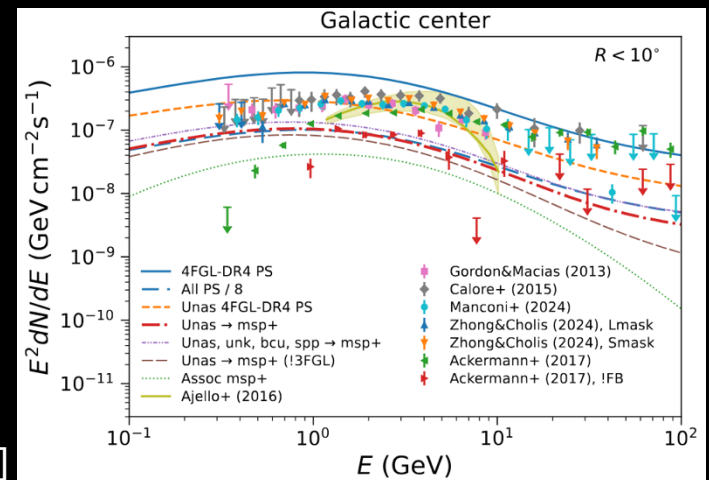
- gNFW,  $\gamma \sim 1.1 - 1.3$ .
- Approx. half the thermal cross section.
- 10-100 GeV WIMPs.



[di Mauro 26]

### MSPs

- Unresolved MSPs can reproduce spectrum, spatial extension, source-count statistics.
- Required number may be too large,  $O(10^3)$ .
- Luminosity function suggests some tension.

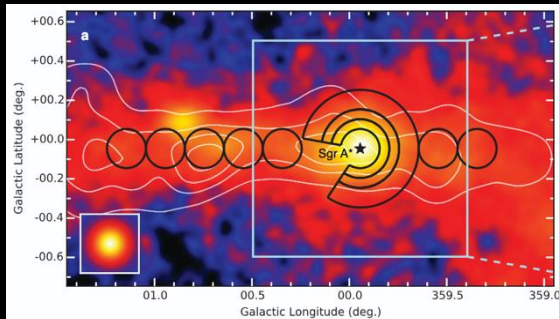


[Malyshev 25]

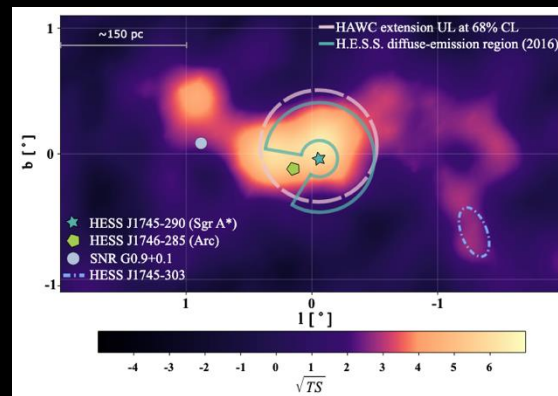
# The GC region @TeV-PeV energies

## FACTS

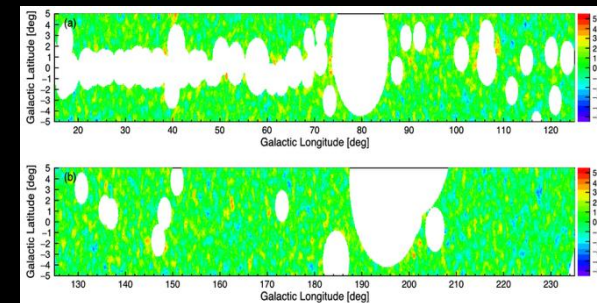
- **TeV regime:** central bright source coincident with Sgr A\* (HESS J1745-290) and diffuse emission along Galactic ridge.
- **PeV regime:** diffuse Galactic emission up to  $\sim 1$  PeV and many sub-PeV sources.



HESS @ 0.2-40 TeV  
[Abramowski+16]



HAWC @ 1-100+ TeV  
[Albert+24]



LHAASO @ 0.5 TeV - PeV  
[Cao+23]

## DEBATE

- **Precise origin** of the  $>10$  TeV central emission (hadronic vs leptonic).
  - DM not preferred: only viable in tuned DM models and spike-enhanced scenarios.
- Existence and shape of potential **DM spikes** (e.g. Zuriaga-Puig+23).
- Possible **DM contribution to PeV diffuse emission** (DM not required but gives constraints)

The Fermi-LAT GCE has transitioned  
from a discovery problem to a **degeneracy problem**.

In 2026, the limiting factor is not statistics  
but our **ability to model the inner Galaxy**.

The GC is a **complicated** place.

Can **other targets** provide an independent test of the GeV excess as being due to DM?

# The most massive subhalos: Dwarf spheroidal satellite galaxies

- The most **DM dominated** systems known in the Universe.
- **Close**: several of them within 50 kpc.
- **Free** from bright astrophysical gamma-ray sources.
- **~60** confirmed dwarfs in the Milky Way.  
More on the way!
  - 80-100 more candidates.

Fornax dwarf galaxy  
[Credit: ESO/DSS 2]

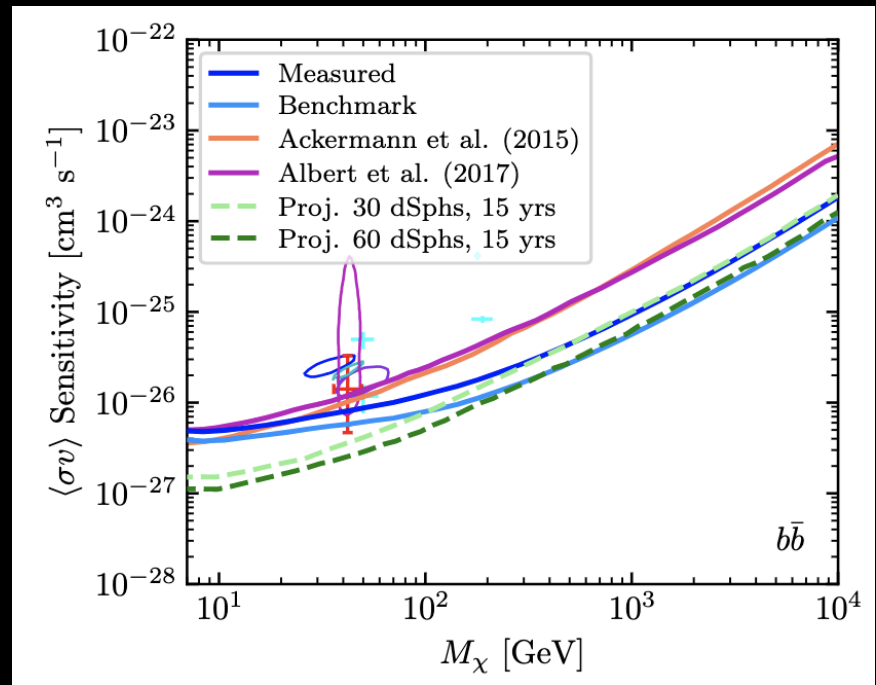
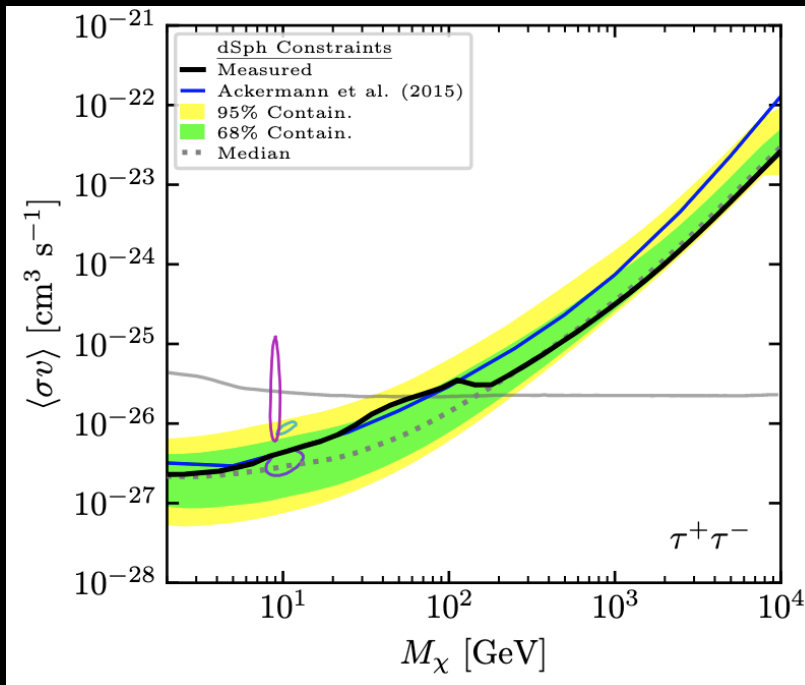
**EXCELLENT TARGETS FOR GAMMA-RAY DM SEARCHES**

# Fermi-LAT 'legacy' dwarf DM analysis

[ McDaniel et al. (2024) – [arXiv:2311.04982](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.04982); PRD 109 (2024) 063024 ]

- No signal found in the direction of ~50 dwarfs.  
→ Most significant excesses are  $< 1\sigma$  (global).
- DM limits exclude thermal WIMPs below ~100 GeV (depending on channel).

→ Dwarfs as a test of the GCE



[McDaniel+24]

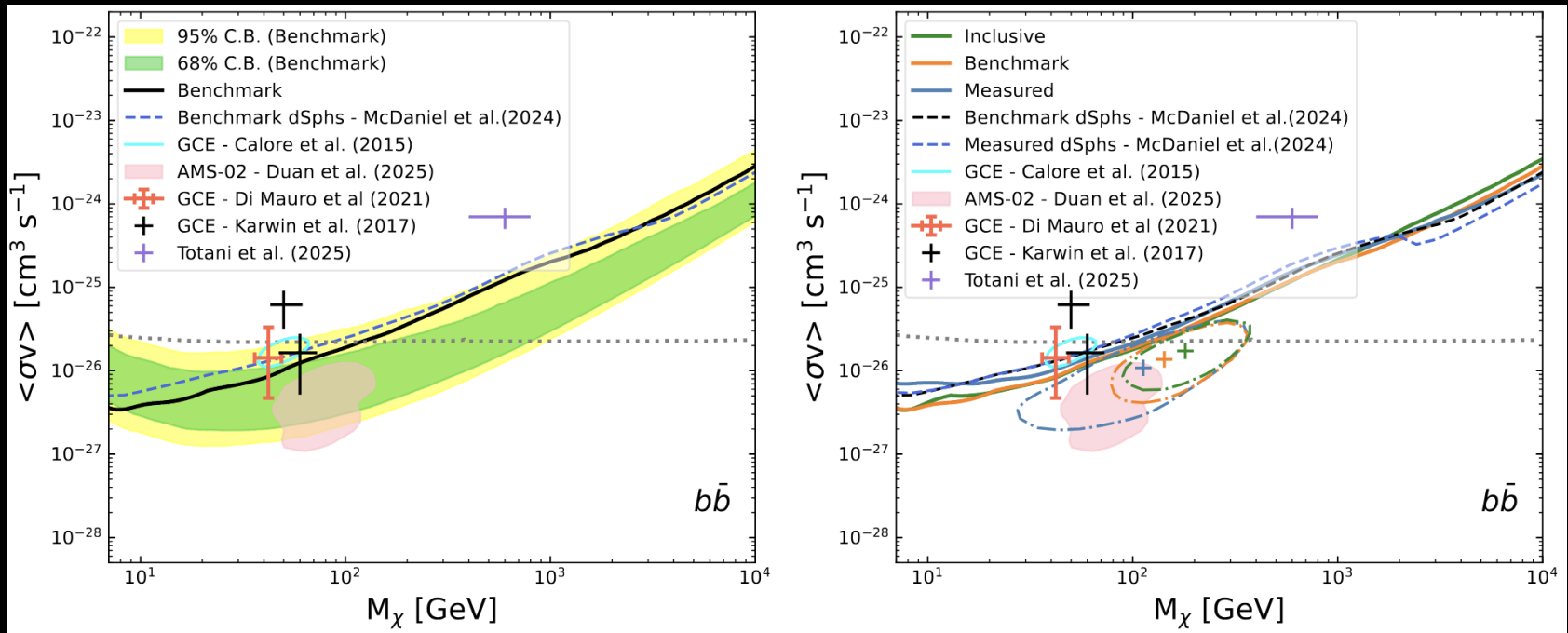
# 'Legacy' dwarf analysis reloaded

[Circiello et al. (2026) – [arXiv:2605.25586](https://arxiv.org/abs/2605.25586); ApJL accepted]

Circiello's talk

- No gamma-ray signal found for same sample in McDaniel+24 with 2 more years.
- Stricter data analysis cuts, better modelling of the region of interest.
- Most significant excess **increases to  $\sim 1.6\sigma$  (global)** for the Benchmark dwarf sample.

→ **Most robust and competitive LAT DM limits so far.**



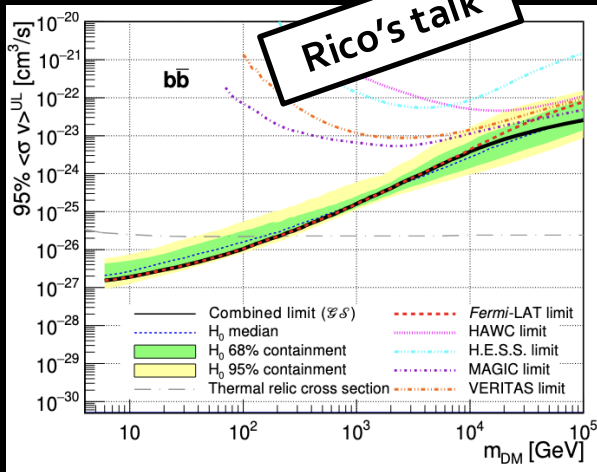
[Circiello+26]

# Dwarfs at TeV-PeV energies

No detections, no hints reported.

## LAT+IACTs+HAWC

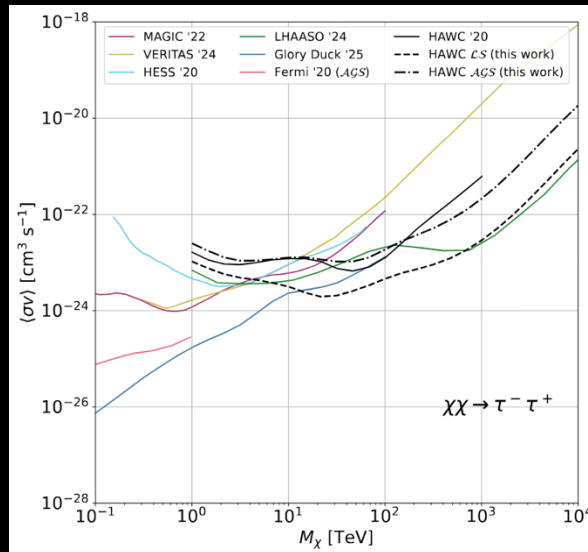
Rico's talk



[Abdollahi+26, arXiv:2508.20229]

Combined likelihood analysis.  
Best limits up to 10-100 TeV,  
depending on channel.

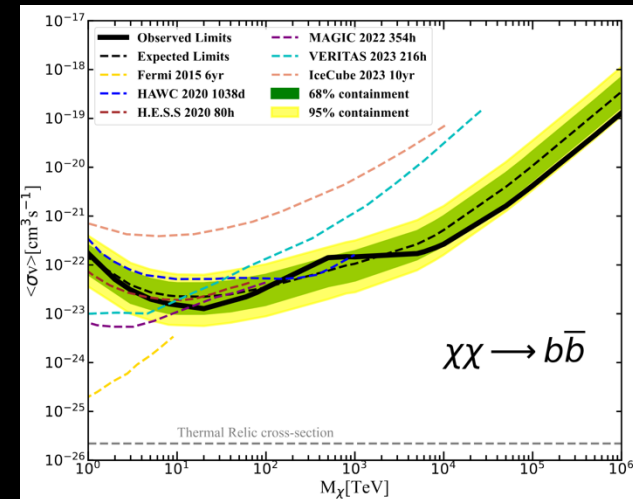
## HAWC



[Albert+26 – arXiv:2602.05955]

17 dwarfs, 3070 days of data.  
Best limits >10-100 TeV,  
depending on channel.

## LHAASO

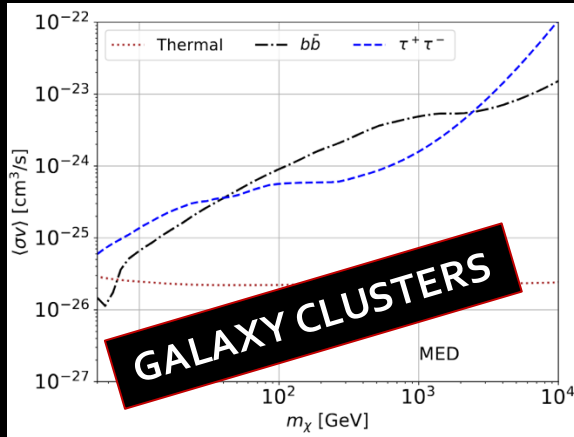


[Cao+24 – arXiv:2406.08698]

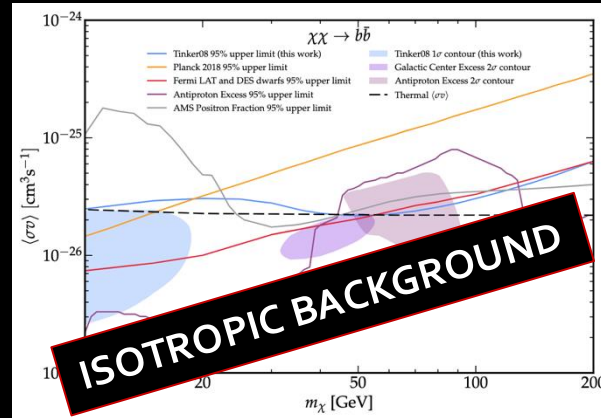
16 dwarfs, 700 days of data,  
extends the search up to the EeV

# OTHER RECENT KEY RESULTS:

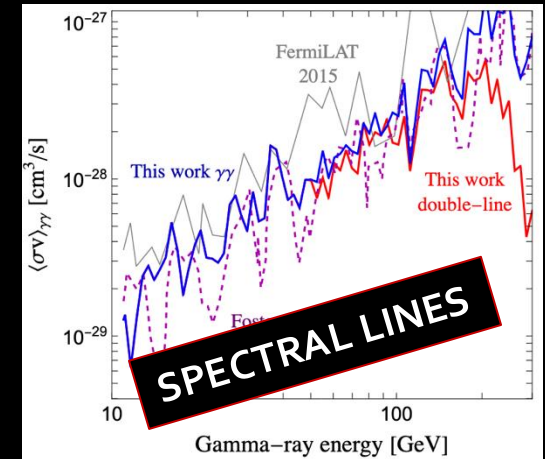
## LAT results beyond GC and dwarfs



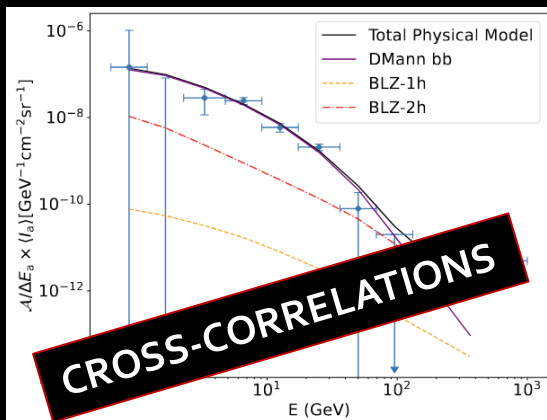
[di Mauro+23]



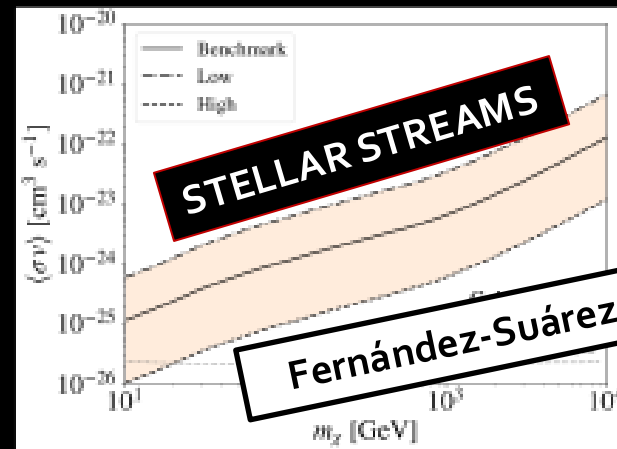
[Cholis+24]



[De la Torre Luque+24]



[Thakore+25]



[Fernández-Suárez+25]

# OTHER RECENT KEY RESULTS:

# Constraints on heavy DM

**Diffuse gammas** the leading probe of ultra-heavy DM (annihilation and decay).

LHAASO Galactic diffuse  $\rightarrow$  high-mass end (PeV-EeV).

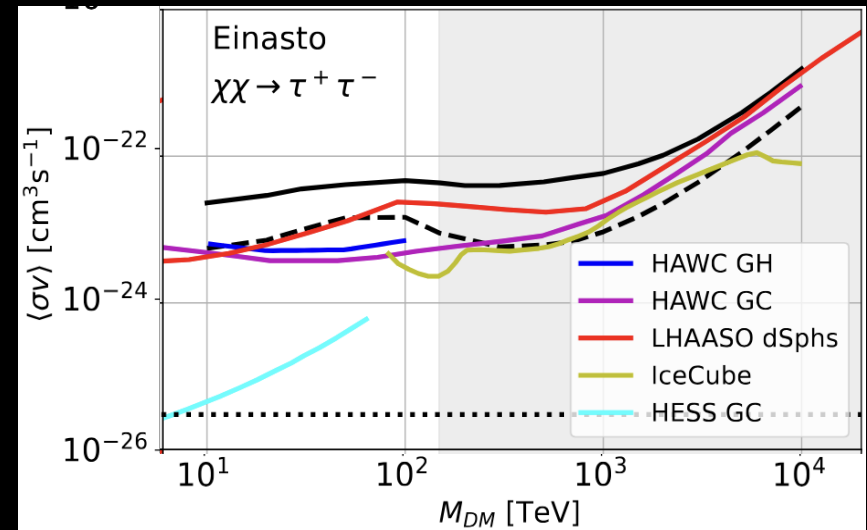
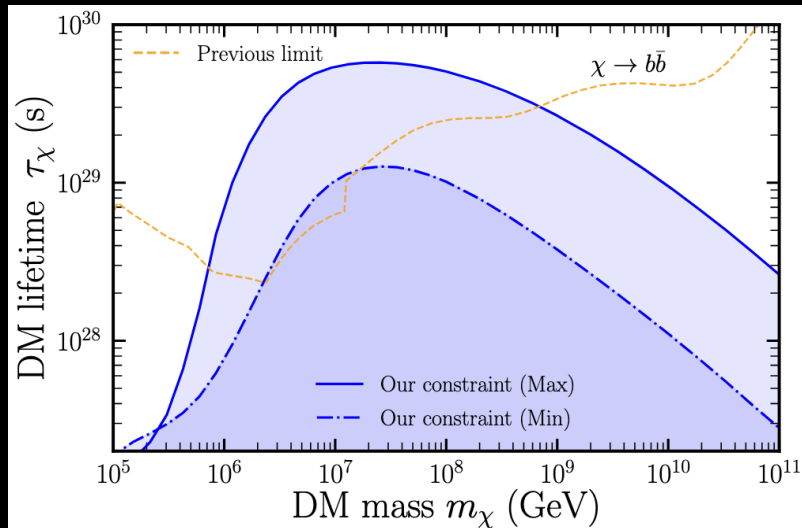
HAWC Galactic halo  $\rightarrow$  intermediate (multi-TeV-PeV).

HESS GC region  $\rightarrow$  low end (TeV).

[Boehm+25; [arXiv:2509.07982](#)]

Use LHAASO Galactic plane data

Include prompt + IC + extragal cascades + absorption



[Rocamora+25; [arXiv:2509.09609](#)]

Use HAWC and LHAASO diffuse data

Include prompt + IC + absorption

(See also Abdalla+22; Cao+22; Albert+23; Alfaro+25)

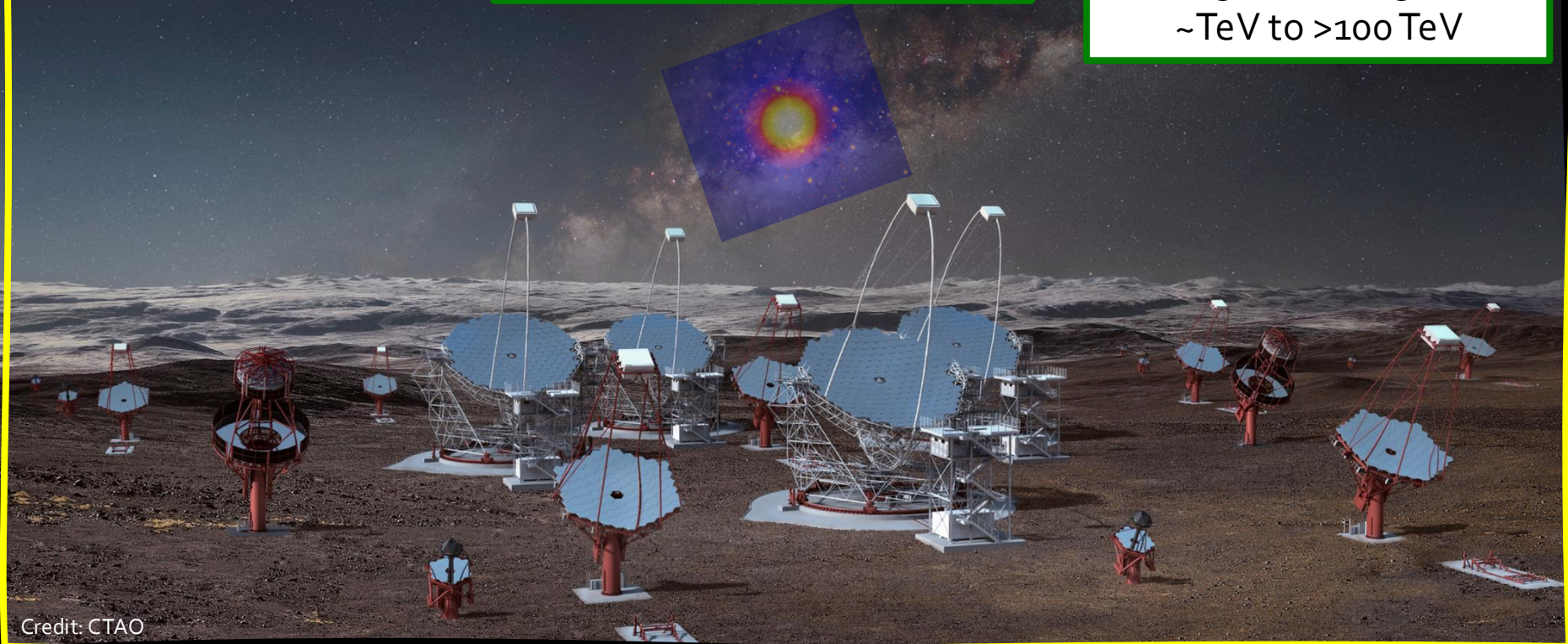
How to make **further progress?**

# The imminent future: Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

23 m (LST) telescopes  
Lowest energies  
~20 to ~200 GeV

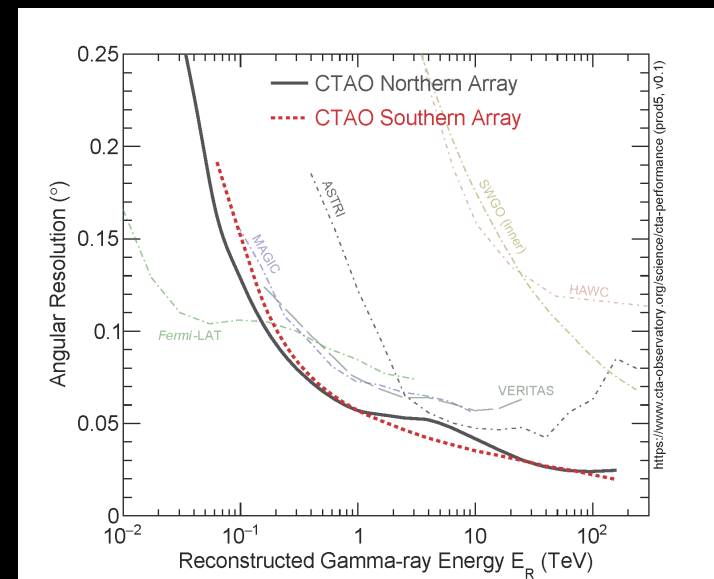
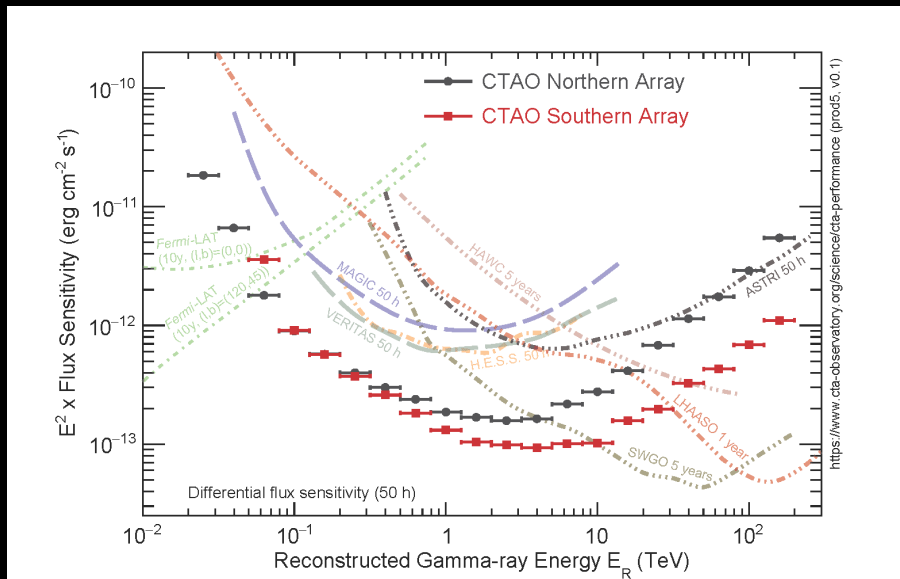
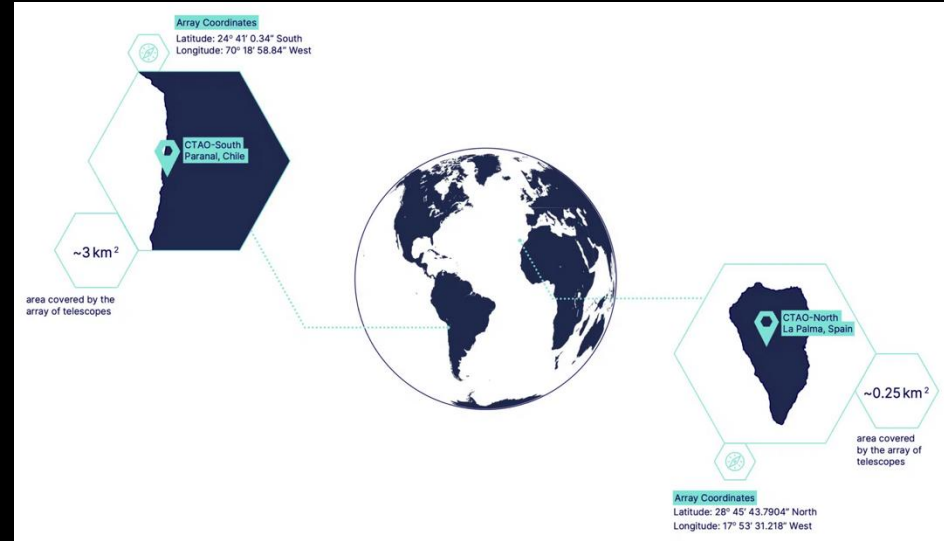
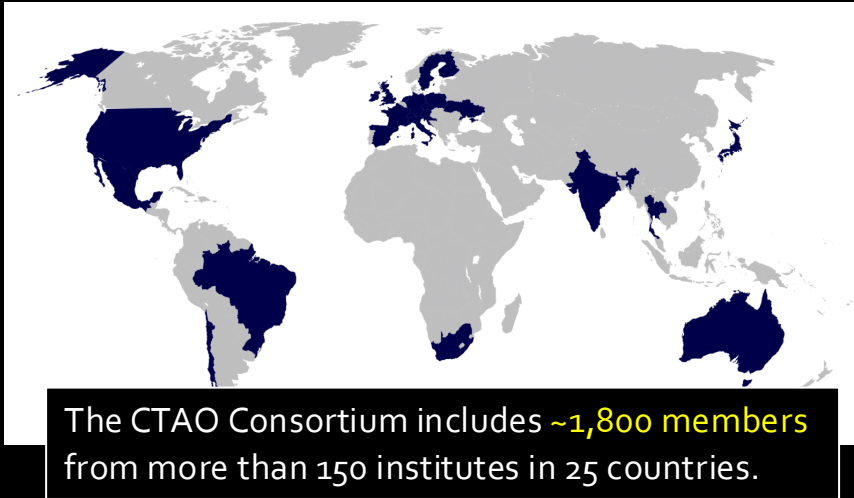
~12 m (MST) telescopes  
Intermediate energies  
~150 GeV to ~5 TeV

~4-6 m (SST) telescopes  
Highest energies  
~TeV to >100 TeV



Credit: CTAO

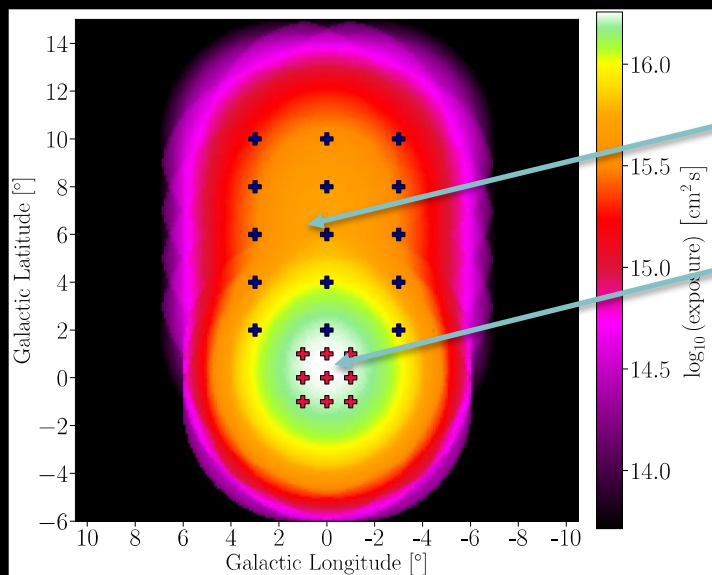
# The imminent future: Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)



# The GC with CTAO

CTAO will turn the GC from a DM discovery target into a **consistency test** for DM.

- Spectral discrimination between DM and astro (e.g. Abe+25): cutoffs, potential lines...
- Morphology: cuspy DM profile vs. astro ridge emission.
- Multi-TeV DM: drastic increase in sensitivity  $> 1$  TeV to probe specific DM models.



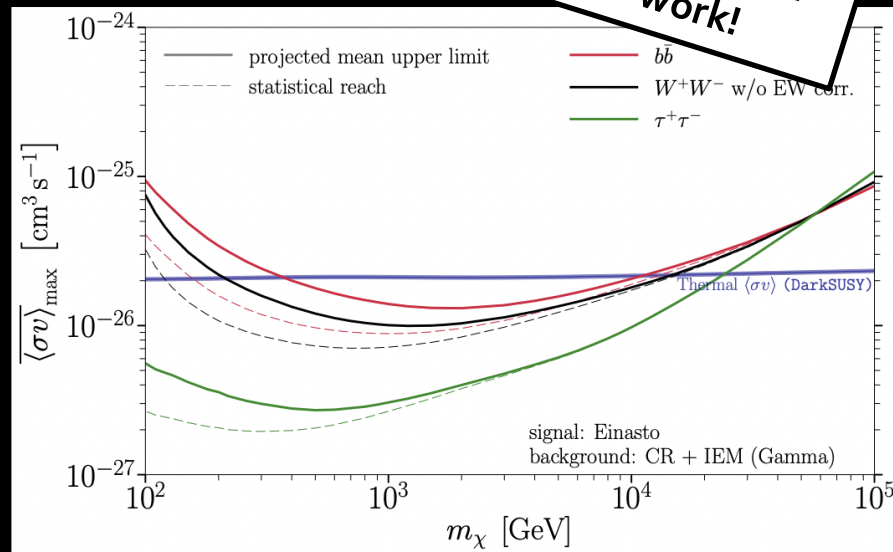
[Acharyya+21]

Extended survey: additional 300 hours

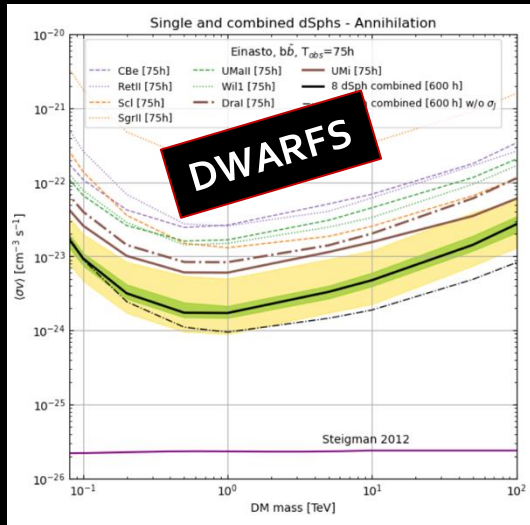
Galactic center survey:  
525 hours in 10 years

See also  
Zuriaga-Puig's  
talk for new  
work!

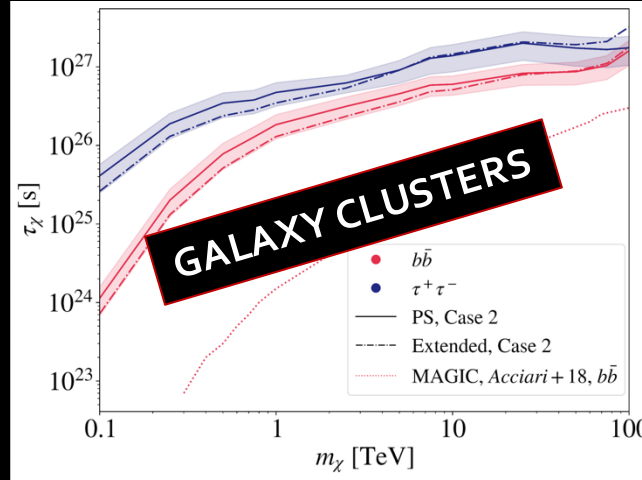
CTAO DM predictions including treatment  
of systematic uncertainties and  
astrophysical backgrounds



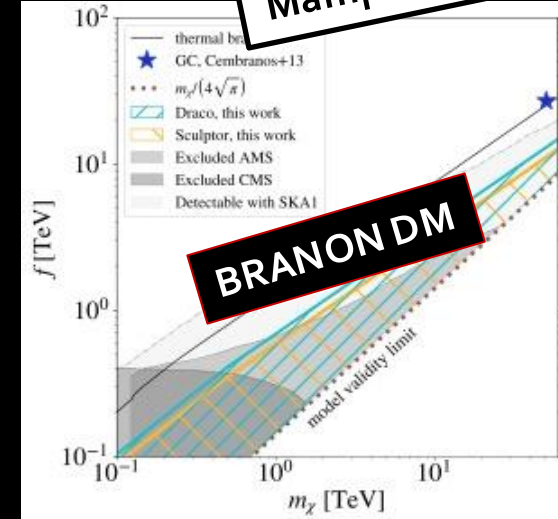
# ... but not only the GC !



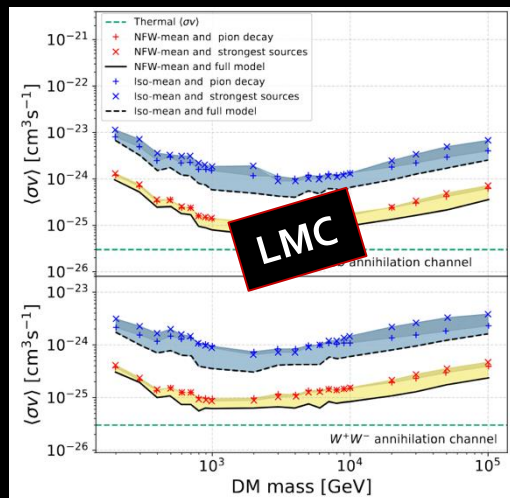
[Abe+25]



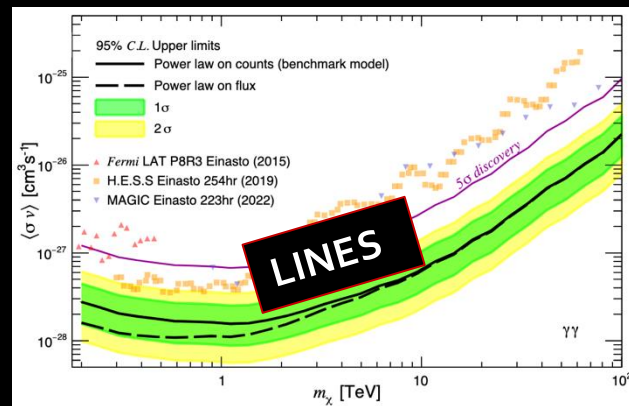
[Pérez-Romero+22]



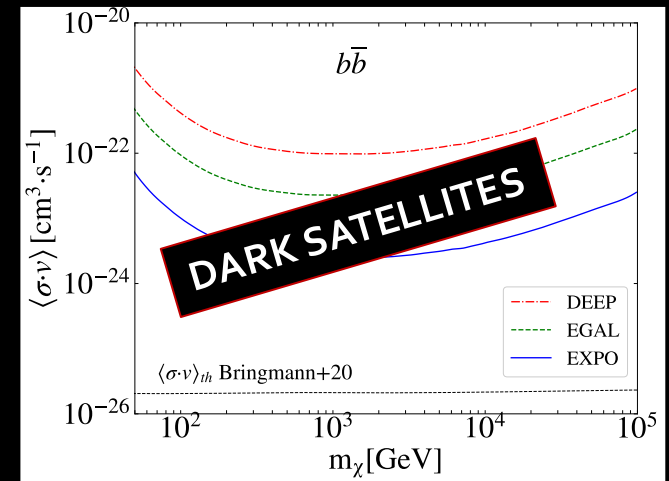
[Aguirre-Santaella+22]



[Acharya+23]



[Abe+24]



[Coronado-Blázquez+21]

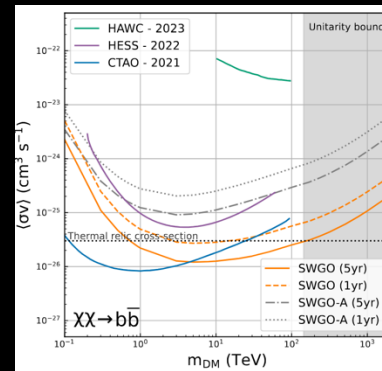
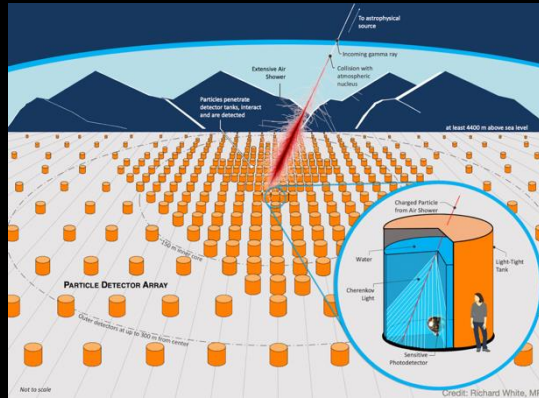
See also  
Mamprim's talk

# CTAO... and friends

## Wide-field VHE detectors (SWGO, next-gen HAWC and LHAASO).

Will dominate constraints at the highest DM masses and for extended DM emission.

SWGO  
[Abreu+25;  
arXiv:2506.01786]



## MeV-GeV missions (COSI, AMEGO-X, newASTROGAM..)

Will fill the MeV gap, allowing to probe light DM and secondary emissions from heavy DM.



Launch in 2027.  
[Tomsick+23; arXiv:2308.12362]



NASA proposal  
[Caputo+22;  
arXiv:2208.04990]

**newASTROGAM**  
Closing the MeV gap

ESA proposal  
[Berge+25;  
arXiv:2507.08133]

# STATUS & PROSPECTS ca. 2026

## TODAY

Different targets observed, different DM scenarios explored.

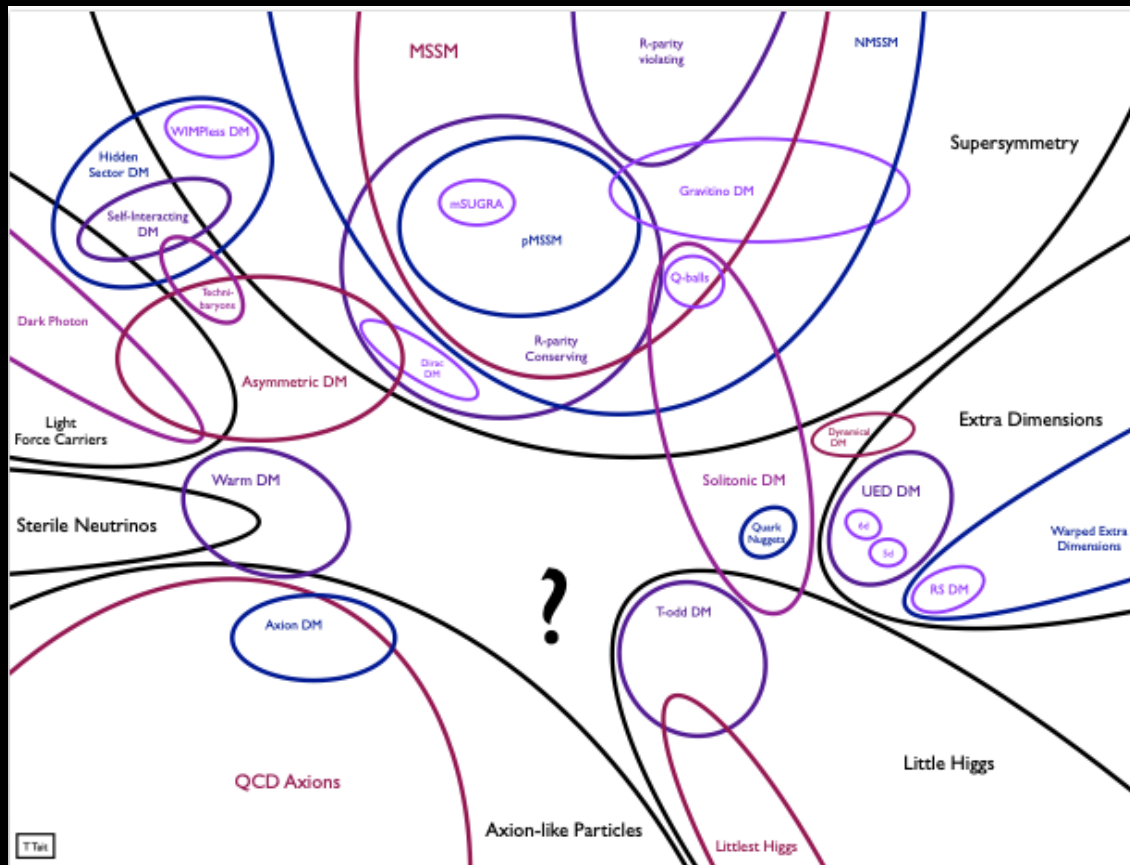
- ✓ No WIMP signals (unambiguously) detected.
- ✓ The GCE is robust. Its precise properties are not.
- ✓ Fermi LAT dwarfs rule out thermal WIMPs below  $\sim 100$  GeV.
- ✓ Ground-based telescopes dominate the TeV-PeV DM mass range.
- ✓ Thermal  $> \text{TeV}$  WIMPs unexplored.
- ✓ Lots of archival data available!

## TOMORROW

- **Fermi + CTAO** to fully test vanilla WIMP (GeV-TeV) within a few years.
- **New instruments** in the MeV and TeV-PeV to expand the search.
- Fully exploit complementarity and **MW/MM** across experiments.
- New targets and new data-driven **analysis methods** (e.g. ML).
- Improvements from **a better modelling** as important as new instruments.
- Field is moving **from individual targets to 'fields'**.

# Disclaimer: many other particle DM models...

(this talk was just a tiny part of the full story)



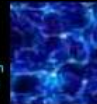
Credit: Tim Tait

Some of these models  
also leave imprints in the  
gamma-ray sky!

(e.g. **ALPs**, **PBHs**)

See e.g. talks by:  
Cirelli  
Mirizzi  
van Bibber  
Kühnel

Critical to **keep the diversity** of astrophysical targets,  
experiments, messengers, DM particle candidates.



# Thanks!

**Miguel A. Sánchez-Conde**

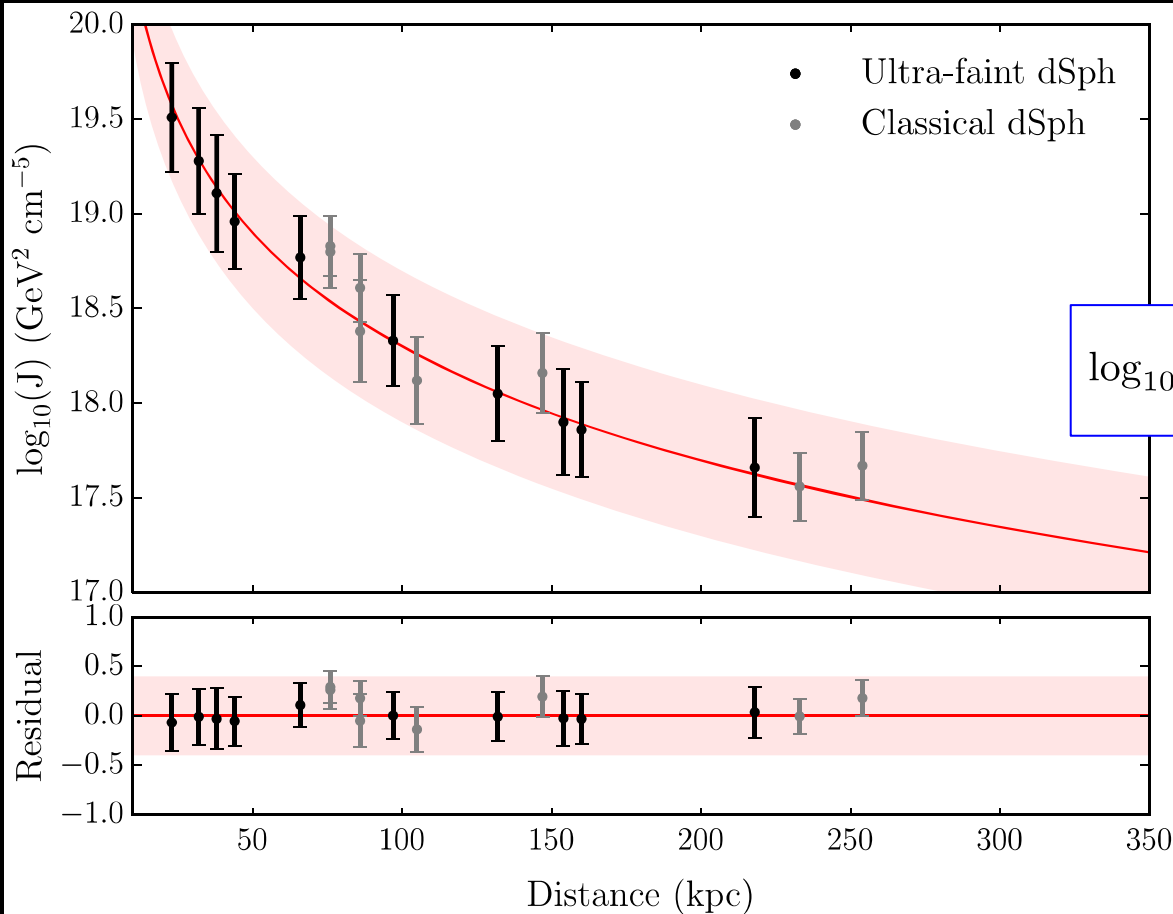
miguel.sanchezconde@uam.es

<https://projects.ift.uam-csic.es/damasco/>

# Dwarf Galaxies' J-Factors

“J-factor” of MW dwarf satellite galaxies inferred from:

- l.o.s. velocity dispersion profiles
- DM density profile (e.g. NFW)



Parametrization based on current knowledge of J-factors

$$\log_{10} \left( \frac{J_{\text{pred}}}{J_0} \right) = -2 \log_{10} \left( \frac{D}{100 \text{ kpc}} \right)$$

with  $J_0 = 18.1 \text{ GeV}^2 \text{cm}^{-5}$

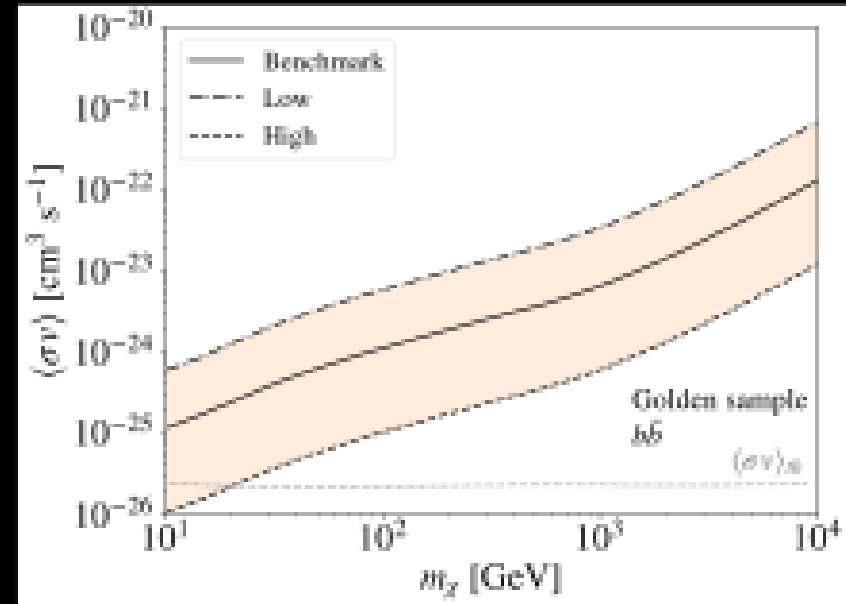
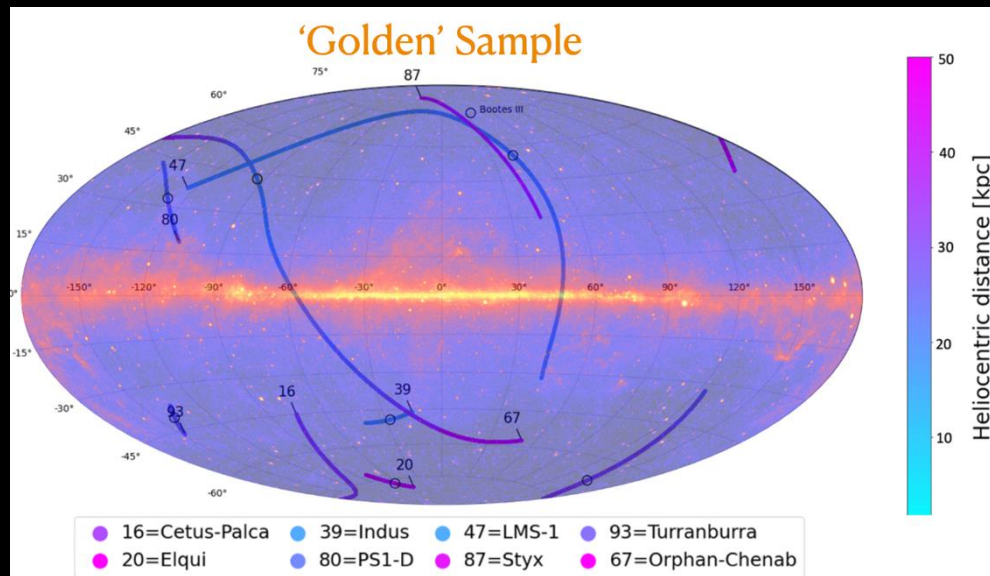
[Albert+17]

# OTHER RECENT KEY RESULTS:

## Fermi-LAT DM search in stellar streams

[ Fernández-Suárez & MASC – [arXiv:2502.15656](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.15656); JCAP 09 (2025) 003 ]

- **Remnants** of globular clusters or **dwarf** galaxies heavily stripped by tidal forces.
- Those with dwarfs as progenitors should still contain **a significant amount of DM today**.
- Search for DM signals in LAT data from a selected sample of **O(10) streams**.
- **Competitive DM constraints** for different assumptions of the DM remnant (i.e. M/L ratios).

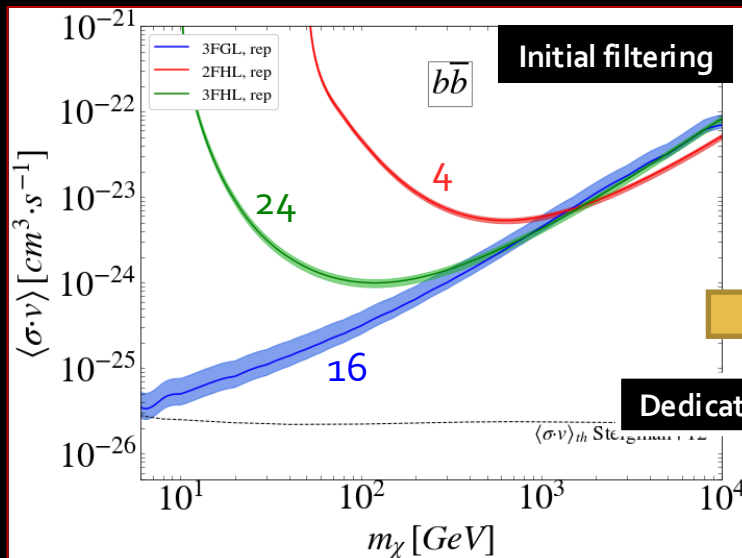


# Dark satellite search in Fermi-LAT catalogs

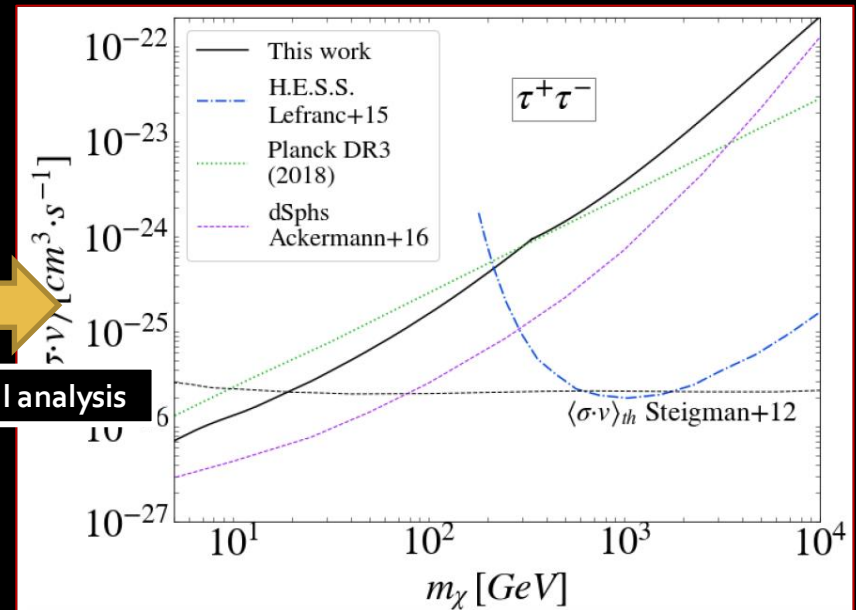
[ Coronado-Blázquez, MASC, et al. (2019 a,b) – arXiv:1906.11896; 1910.14429]

[ Coronado-Blázquez, MASC, et al. (2023) – arXiv:2204.00267 ]

- List of **O(10) VIP candidates** in the 2FGL+2FHL+ 3FGL Fermi LAT catalogs.
- Dedicated **spectral analysis** of best DM subhalo candidates → improved constraints
- DM limits competitive with other targets, **reach thermal** cross section.
- Actual sensitivity of Fermi LAT to **extended DM signals** worsen the limits by a factor ~2-3.
- **4FGL-DR4 search ongoing** (Valenciano-Ruano & MASC, in prep.)



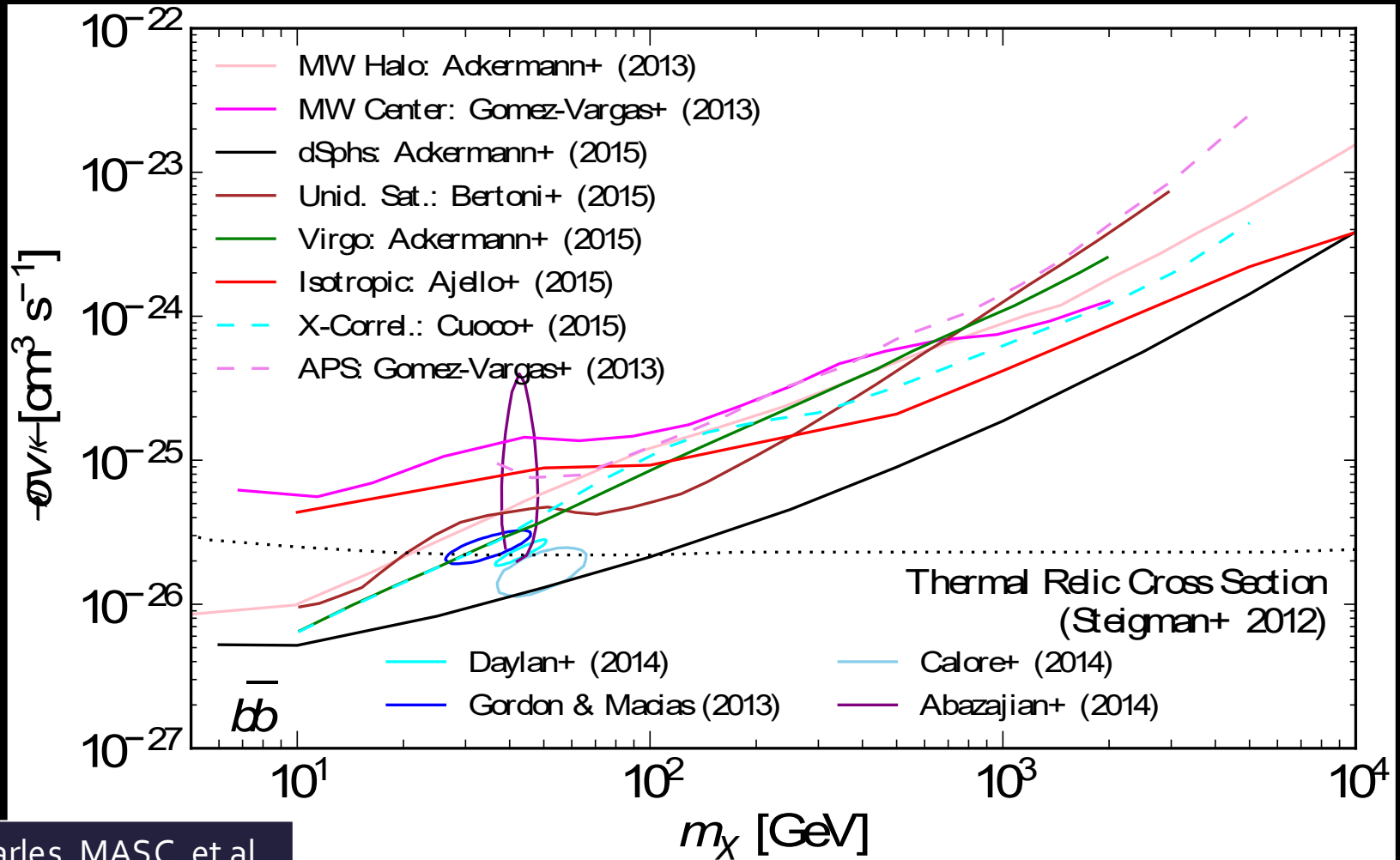
[Coronado-Blázquez, MASC+19 – 1906.11896]



[Coronado-Blázquez, MASC+19b – 1910.14429]

# Fermi-LAT : a lot of DM targets explored so far

[many DM limits and some signal hints]



Charles, MASC, et al.,  
[1605.02016]

# IACTs : a lot of DM targets explored so far

[many DM limits]

Dwarf galaxies, GC halo, dark satellites, local galaxies, galaxy clusters...

Table 8.1 – continued from previous page

| Target             | Year        | Time [h] | IACT                  | Limit | Ref.                    |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Segue 1            | 2008 – 2009 | 29.4     | MAGIC <sup>†</sup>    | Ann.  | Aleksić et al. (2011)   |
|                    | 2010 – 2011 | (47.8)   | VERITAS               | A.+D. | Aliu et al. (2012)      |
|                    | 2010 – 2013 | (92.0)   |                       | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
| Boötes 1           | 2010 – 2013 | 157.9    | MAGIC                 | A.+D. | Aleksić et al. (2012)   |
|                    |             |          |                       | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
|                    | 2010 – 2018 | 184      | VERITAS               | –     | Archer et al. (2012)    |
| Coma Berenices     | 2009        | 14.3     | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
|                    |             | (14.0)   |                       | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
|                    |             |          |                       | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
| Fornax             | 2010 – 2013 | (8.6)    | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | 2010 – 2013 | 10.9     |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | < 2018      | 37       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Ursa Major II      | 2018        | 50.2     | MAGIC                 | Ann.  | Maier et al. (2018)     |
|                    | 2010        | 6.0      | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    |             |          |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
| Triangulum II*     | 2014 – 2016 | 94.8     | MAGIC                 | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
|                    | 2014 – 2016 | 62.4     | MAGIC                 | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)    |
|                    | < 2018      | 181      | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Segue II           | < 2018      | 19       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 14       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 14       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Canes Ven I        | < 2018      | 13       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 13       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 13       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Hercules           | < 2018      | 10       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 7        | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 16       | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Leo I              | < 2018      | 3        | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 3        | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
|                    | < 2018      | 3        | VERITAS               | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)   |
| Leo II             | 2017 – 2018 | 18.3     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | 2017 – 2018 | 16.4     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | 2017 – 2018 | 23.6     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
| Tucana III*        | 2017 – 2018 | 12.4     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | 2017 – 2018 | 11.3     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
|                    | 2018        |          |                       |       |                         |
| Tucana IV*         |             |          |                       |       |                         |
|                    |             |          |                       |       |                         |
|                    |             |          |                       |       |                         |
| Grus II*           |             |          |                       |       |                         |
|                    |             |          |                       |       |                         |
|                    |             |          |                       |       |                         |
| Dark satellites    |             |          |                       |       |                         |
| 1FGL J2347.3+0710  | 2010        | 8.3      | MAGIC                 | –     | Nieppola et al. (2010)  |
| 1FGL J0338.8+1313  | 2010-2011   | 10.7     | MAGIC                 | –     | Nieppola et al. (2010)  |
| 2FGL J0545.6+6018  | 2013-2015   | 8.5      | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Nieppola et al. (2010)  |
| 2FGL J1115.0-0701  | 2013-2015   | 13.8     | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Nieppola et al. (2010)  |
| H3FHL J0929.2-4110 | 2018-2019   | 7.8      | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
| 3FHL J1915.2-1323  | 2018 – 2019 | 3.0      | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
| 3FHL J2030.2-5037  | 2018 – 2019 | 8.8      | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |
| 3FHL J2104.5+2117  | 2018 – 2019 | 5.5      | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a) |

Table 8.1 – Continued on next page

Table 8.1 – continued from previous page

| Target                        | Year        | Time [h] | IACT                  | Limit | Ref.                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Intermediate Mass Black Holes |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| Galactic Plane Survey         | 2004 – 2007 | 400      | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Aharonian et al. (2006)  |
|                               | 2005 – 2006 | 25       | MAGIC <sup>†</sup>    | Ann.  | Doro et al. (2016)       |
| Globular Clusters             |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| M15                           | 2002        | 0.2      | Whipple               | Ann.  | Wood et al. (2008)       |
|                               | 2006 – 2007 | 15.2     | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011) |
| NGC 6388                      | 2008 – 2009 | 27.2     | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011) |
|                               |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| Other galaxies                |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| M33                           | 2002 – 2004 | 7.9      | Whipple               | Ann.  | Wood et al. (2008)       |
| M32                           | 2004        | 6.9      | Whipple               | Ann.  | Wood et al. (2008)       |
| WLM                           | 2018        | 18.2     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a)  |
| Galaxy Clusters               |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| Abell 2029                    | 2003 – 2004 | 6.1      | Whipple               | –     | Perkins et al. (2009b)   |
| Perseus (Abell 426)           | 2004 – 2005 | 13.5     | Whipple               | –     | Perkins et al. (2009b)   |
|                               | 2008        | 24.4     | MAGIC <sup>†</sup>    | Ann.  | Aleksić et al. (2011)    |
|                               | 2009 – 2017 | 202.2    | MAGIC                 | Decay | Acciari et al. (2010)    |
| Fornax (Abell S0373)          | 2005        | 14.5     | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011) |
| Coma (Abell 1656)             | 2008        | 18.6     | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Arlen et al. (2016)      |
| Line searches                 |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| MW Inner Halo                 | 2004 – 2008 | (112)    | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2014) |
|                               |             |          |                       |       |                          |
|                               | 2014        | 15.2     | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a)  |
|                               | 2004 – 2014 | (254)    | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a)  |
|                               | 2013 – 2019 | 204      | MAGIC                 | Ann.  | Inada et al. (2017)      |
| Segue 1 dSph                  | 2010 – 2013 | (157.9)  | MAGIC                 | A.+D. | Aleksić et al. (2011)    |
| Five dSph galaxies            | 2006 – 2012 | (137.1)  | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a)  |
| Five dSph galaxies            | 2007 – 2013 | (229.8)  | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Archer et al. (2012)     |
| WLM                           | 2018        | (18.2)   | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2012a)  |
| Charged particles             |             |          |                       |       |                          |
| All-electron                  | 2004 – 2007 | 239      | H.E.S.S.              | –     | Aharonian et al. (2006)  |
|                               |             |          |                       |       |                          |
|                               | 2009 – 2012 | 296      | VERITAS               | –     | Archer et al. (2012)     |
|                               | 2009 – 2010 | 14       | MAGIC                 | –     | Borla et al. (2016)      |
| Moon shadow                   | 2010 – 2011 | 20       | MAGIC                 | –     | Colin et al. (2016)      |
|                               | 2014        | 1.2      | VERITAS               | –     | Bird et al. (2016)       |

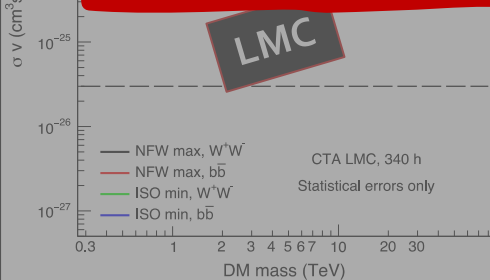
| Target                              | Year        | Time [h] | IACT                  | Limit | Ref.                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| The Milky Way central region & halo |             |          |                       |       |                           |
| MW Centre                           | 2004        | (48.7)   | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Aharonian et al. (2006)   |
|                                     | 2004 – 2008 | (112)    | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011)  |
| MW Inner Halo                       | 2010        | 9.1      |                       | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2015)  |
|                                     | 2004 – 2014 | 254      |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2016)    |
| MW Outer Halo                       | 2014 – 2020 | 546      | H.E.S.S. <sup>†</sup> | Ann.  | Montanari et al. (2021)   |
|                                     | 2018        | 10       | MAGIC                 | Decay | Ninci et al. (2019)       |
| Dwarf Satellite Galaxies            |             |          |                       |       |                           |
| Draco                               | 2003        | 7.4      | Whipple               | Ann.  | Wood et al. (2008)        |
|                                     | 2007        | 7.8      | MAGIC <sup>†</sup>    | Ann.  | Albert et al. (2008b)     |
| Ursa Minor                          | 2007        | (18.4)   | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Acciari et al. (2010)     |
|                                     | 2007 – 2013 | (49.8)   |                       | Ann.  | Archambault et al. (2017) |
|                                     | 2007 – 2018 | 114      |                       | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)     |
|                                     | 2018        | 52.6     | MAGIC                 | Ann.  | Maggio et al. (2021)      |
| Sagittarius                         | 2003        | 7.9      | Whipple               | Ann.  | Wood et al. (2008)        |
|                                     | 2007        | (18.9)   | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Acciari et al. (2010)     |
|                                     | 2007 – 2013 | (60.4)   |                       | Ann.  | Archambault et al. (2017) |
|                                     | 2007 – 2018 | 161      |                       | –     | Kelley-Hoskins (2018)     |
| Canis Major                         | 2006        | (11.0)   | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Aharonian et al. (2008)   |
|                                     | 2006 – 2012 | 90       |                       | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2014)  |
| Willman 1                           | 2006 – 2012 | (85.5)   |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2018a)   |
|                                     | 2006        | 9.6      | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Aharonian et al. (2009a)  |
|                                     | 2007 – 2008 | 13.7     | VERITAS               | Ann.  | Acciari et al. (2010)     |
|                                     |             | (13.6)   |                       | Ann.  | Archambault et al. (2017) |
| Sculptor                            | 2008        | 15.5     | MAGIC <sup>†</sup>    | Ann.  | Aliu et al. (2009)        |
|                                     | 2008        | (11.8)   | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011)  |
|                                     | 2008 – 2009 | 12.5     |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2018a)   |
| Carina                              | 2008 – 2009 | (14.8)   | H.E.S.S.              | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2014)  |
|                                     | 2008 – 2009 | (12.7)   |                       | Ann.  | Abramowski et al. (2011)  |
|                                     | 2008 – 2010 | 22.9     |                       | Ann.  | Abdallah et al. (2018a)   |

# ... but not only the GC !

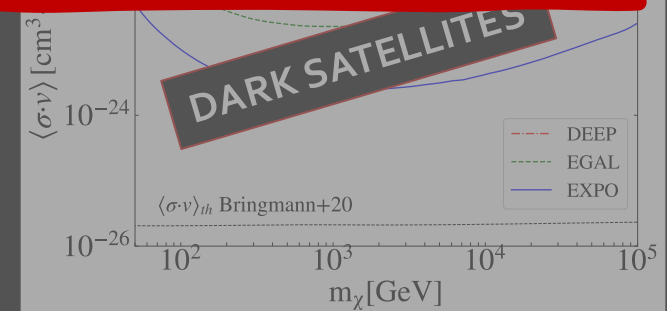
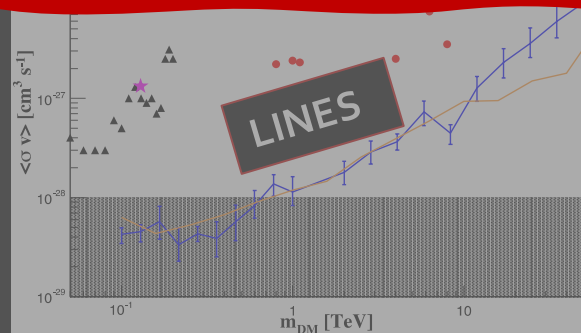
[Aguirre-Santaella+22]

## CTA DARK MATTER PROGRAM ~10% OF TOTAL OBSERVING TIME

| Year                                                           | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Galactic halo                                                  | 175 h | 175 h | 175 h |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Best dSph                                                      | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| <i>in case of detection at GC, large <math>\sigma v</math></i> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Best dSph                                                      |       |       |       | 150 h | 150 h | 150 h | 150 h | 150 h | 150 h | 150 h |
| Galactic halo                                                  |       |       |       | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h |
| <i>in case of detection at GC, small <math>\sigma v</math></i> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Galactic halo                                                  |       |       |       | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h |
| <i>in case of no detection at GC</i>                           |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| <i>Best Target</i>                                             |       |       |       | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h | 100 h |



[Acharya+17]



[Coronado-Blázquez+21]