

Wandering Pico-charged particles explain both  
**XENONIT electron recoil** spectrum and the **511 keV**  
line

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**HIDDe**  
Hunting Invisibles: Dark sectors, Dark matter and Neutrinos

# References

- Y.F. and M. Rajae, "Pico-charged intermediate particles rescue dark matter interpretation of 511 keV signal", JHEP 1712 (2017) 083
- Y.F. and M. Rajae, "Pico-charged particles explaining 511 keV line and XENON1T signal," Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 10, 103532

# Hints for dark matter

Rotation curve

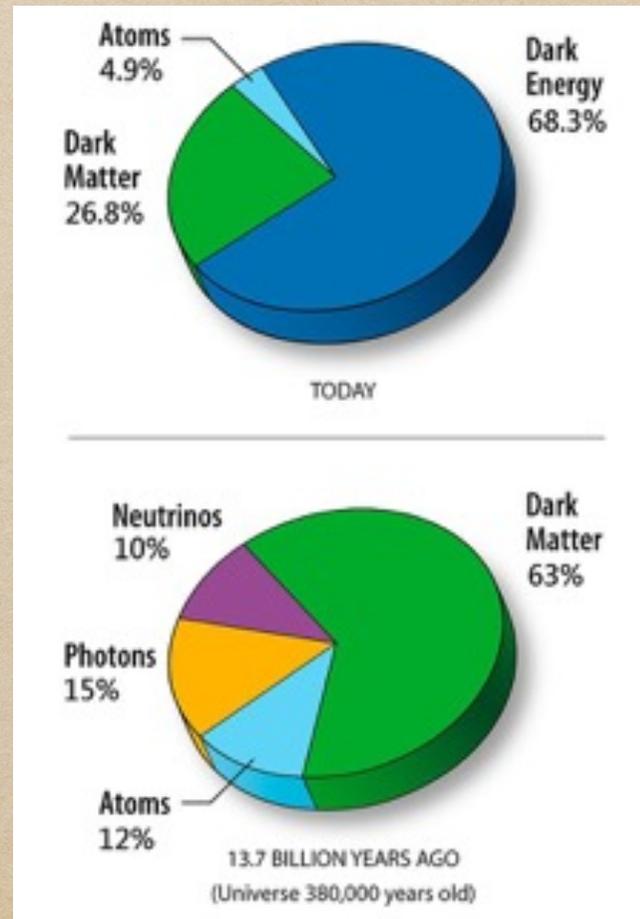
Galaxy clusters

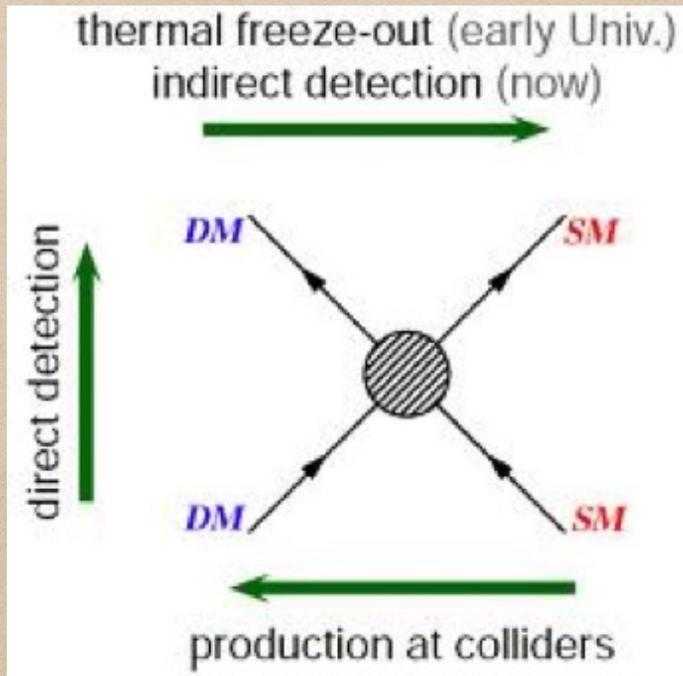
Bullet clusters

Cosmic Microwave background

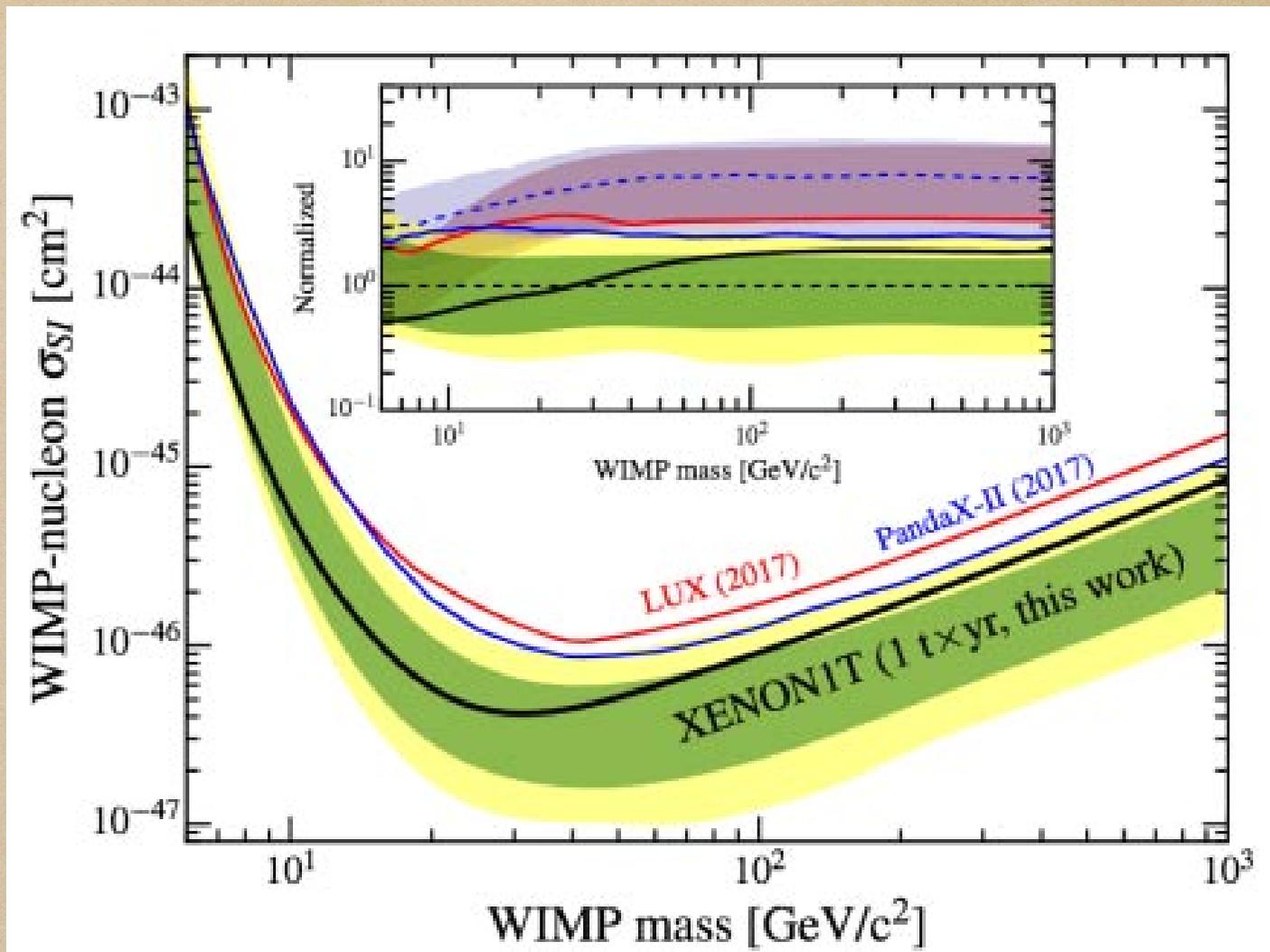
Structure Formation

# Dark matter abundance



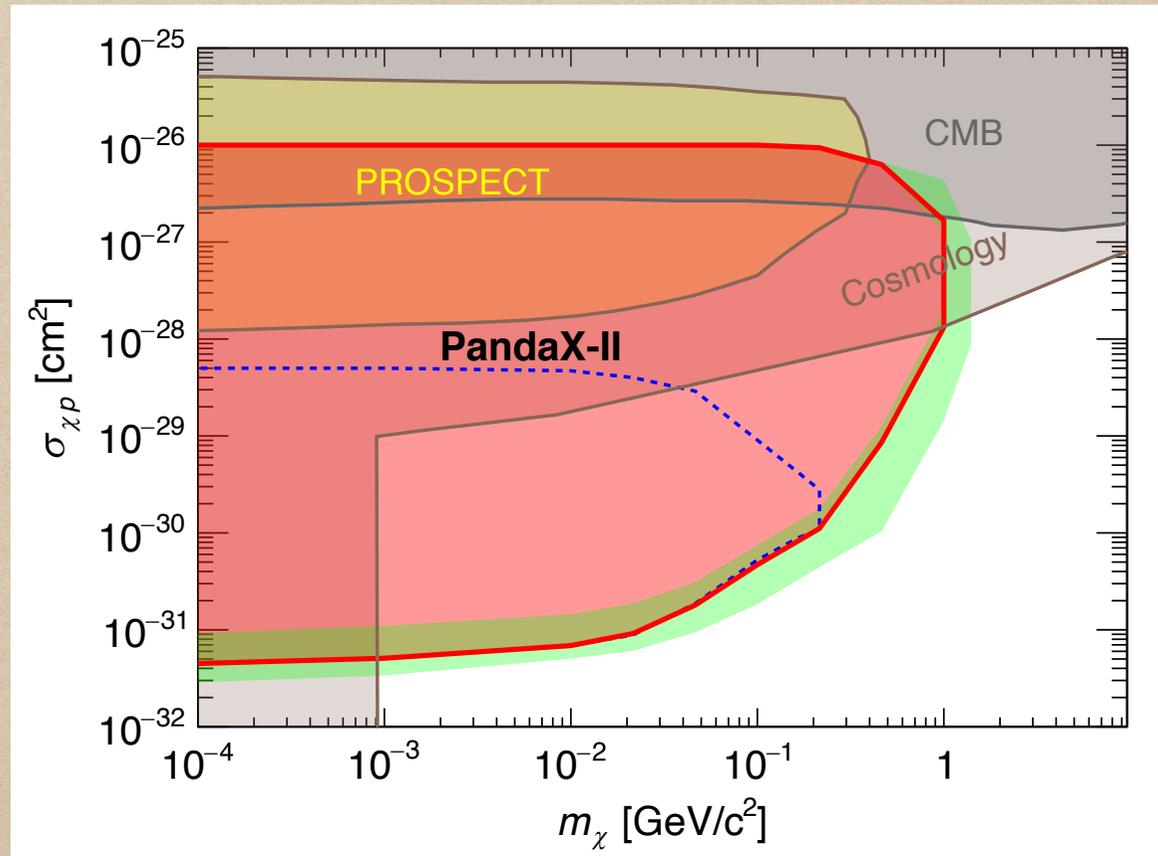


- News from direct dark matter searches



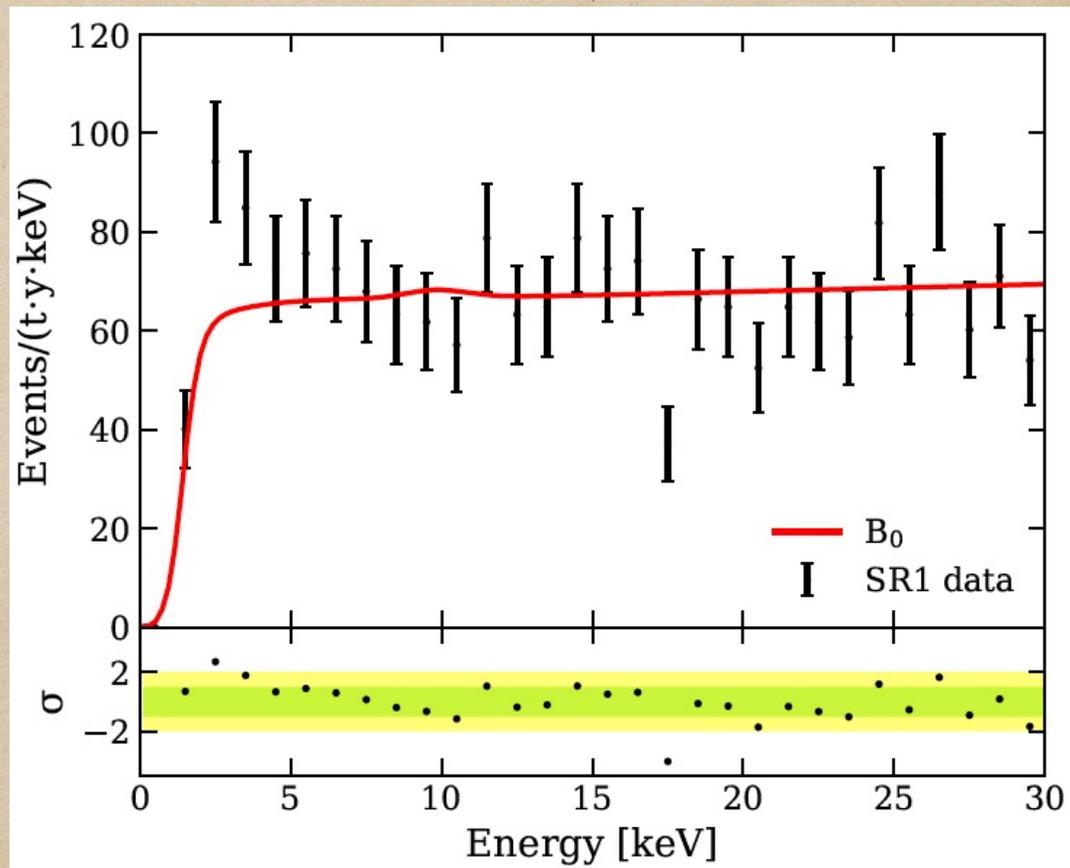
XENON collaboration, *Nuovo Cim. C* 42 (2019) 2-3, 76

# CR boosted DM



PandaX-II collaboration, arXiv:2112.08957

# XENONIT electron recoil data

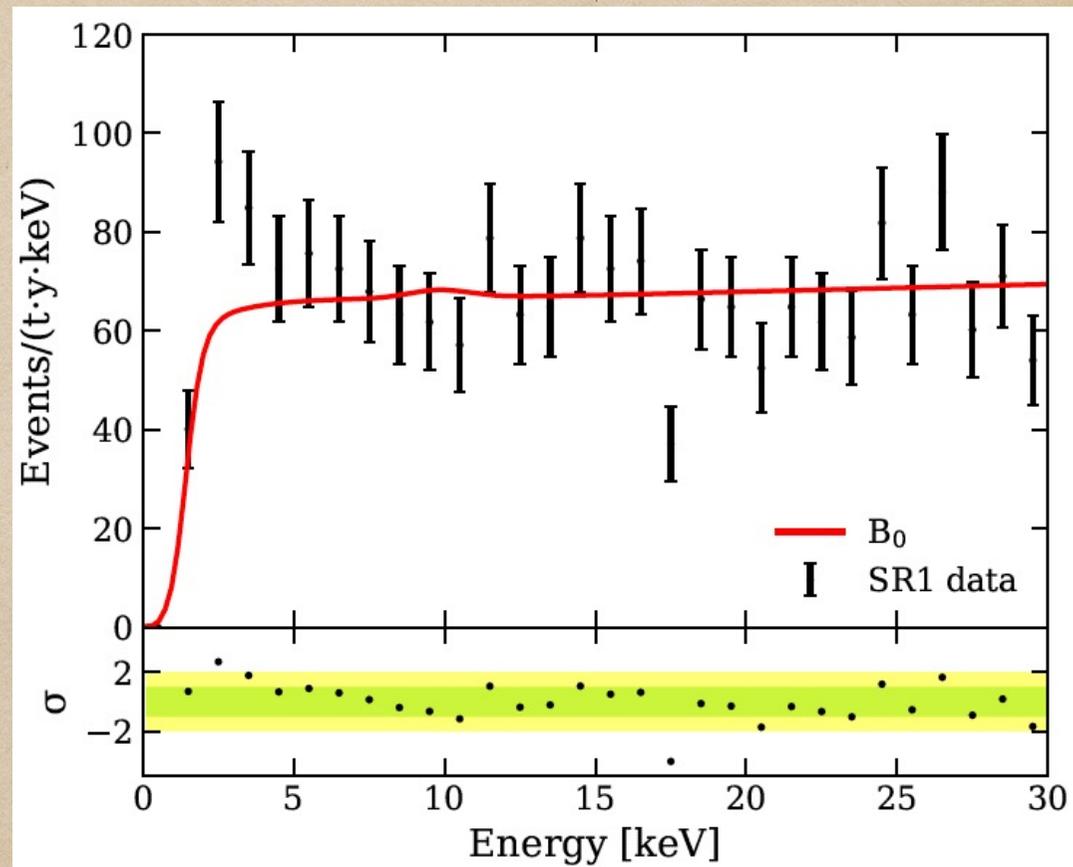


XENON collaboration,  
"Excess electronic recoil events in XENONIT," *Phys. Rev. D* (2020) 7,  
072004, arXiv: 2006.09721

# XENONIT electron recoil data

residue Tritium decay ??

Bhattacharjee and Sengupta, 2006.16172  
Robinson, 200.13278

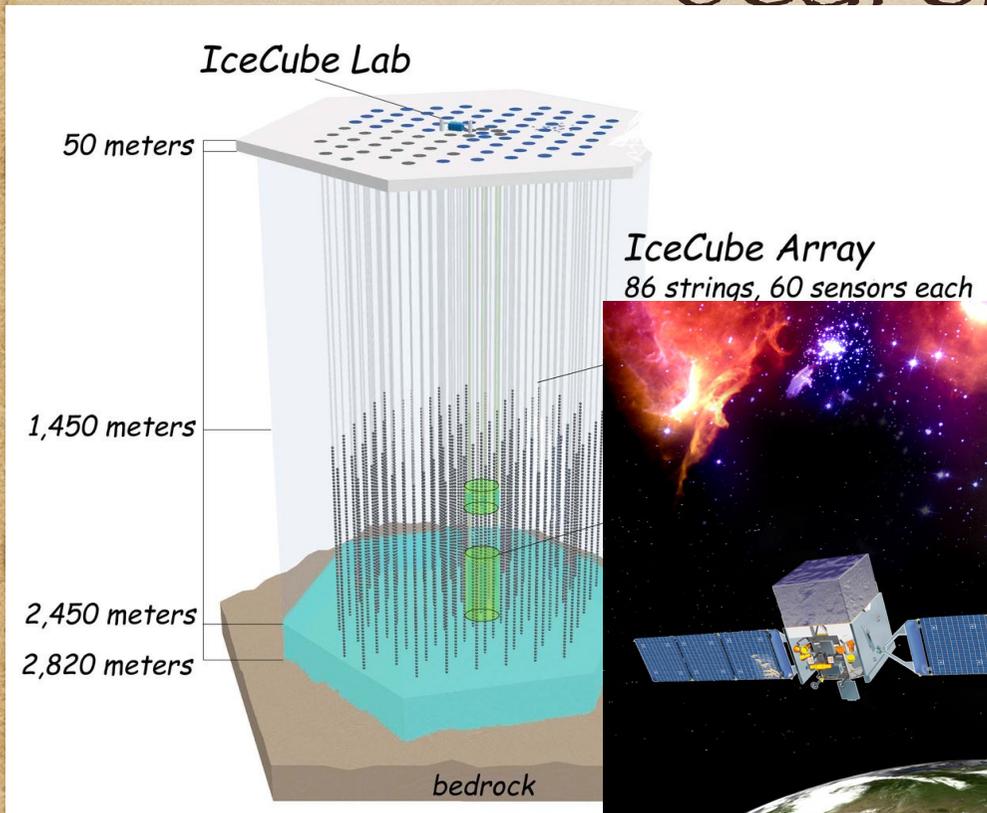


XENON collaboration,  
"Excess electronic recoil events in XENONIT," Phys. Rev. D (2020) 7,  
072004, arXiv: 2006.09721

# Indirect dark matter searches

- Searching for stable product from dark matter annihilation or decay such as
- photons
- positrons
- antiproton
- antihydrogen
- neutrinos
- ....

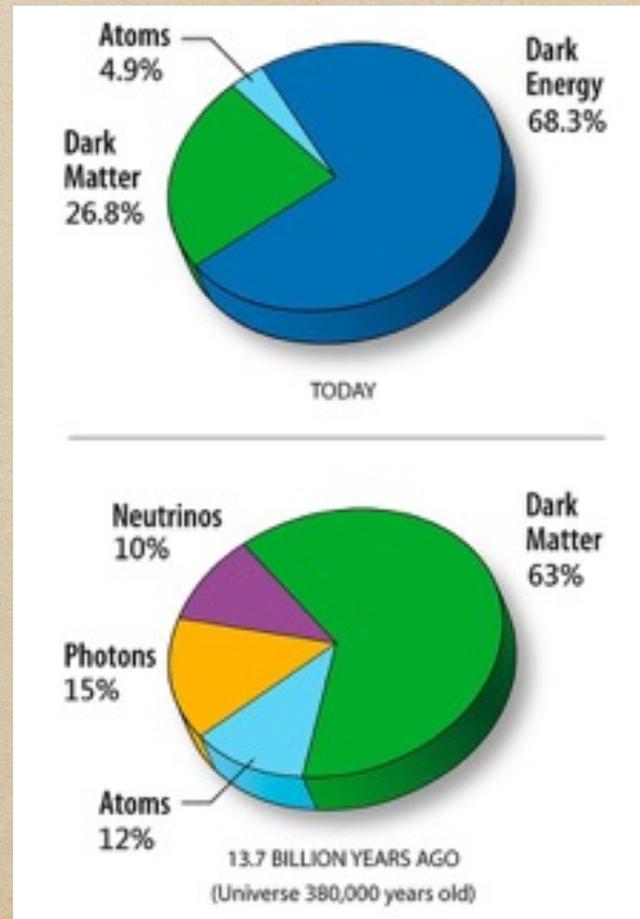
# Indirect dark matter searches



# Hints for DM from indirect search

- Signals that went away with further data: 130 GeV line observed by Fermi-LAT
- Signals that stay robust but go “out of fashion”: PAMELA Signal, INTEGRAL 511 keV line, AMS02 anti-Helium excess

# Simple? Minimal?



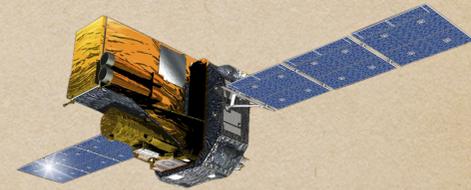
# 511 keV

- It has been observed for more than 40 years
- Leventhal et al., 1978
- $e^-e^+$  annihilation

# INTEGRAL

INTErnational Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Laboratory

Launched in 2002

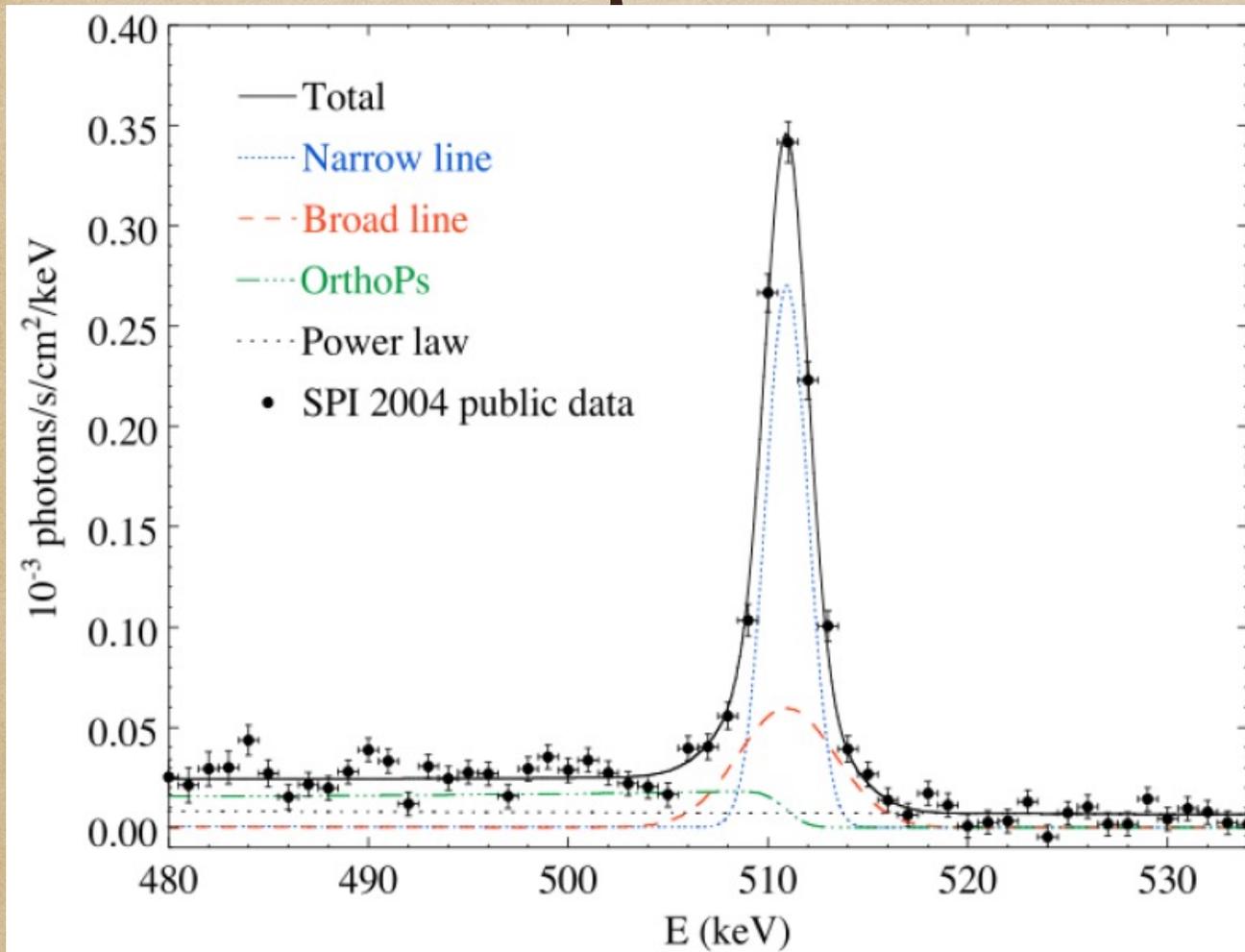


SPI at INTEGRAL of ESA

Angular resolution:  $2^\circ$

Energy resolution: 2 keV

# Spectrum



58 $\sigma$  C.L.

Va'vra, 1304.0833

# Flux from bulge

Siegert et al., *Astron Astrophys* 586 (2016) A84  
arXiv:1512.00325

$$(0.96 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-3} \text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$$

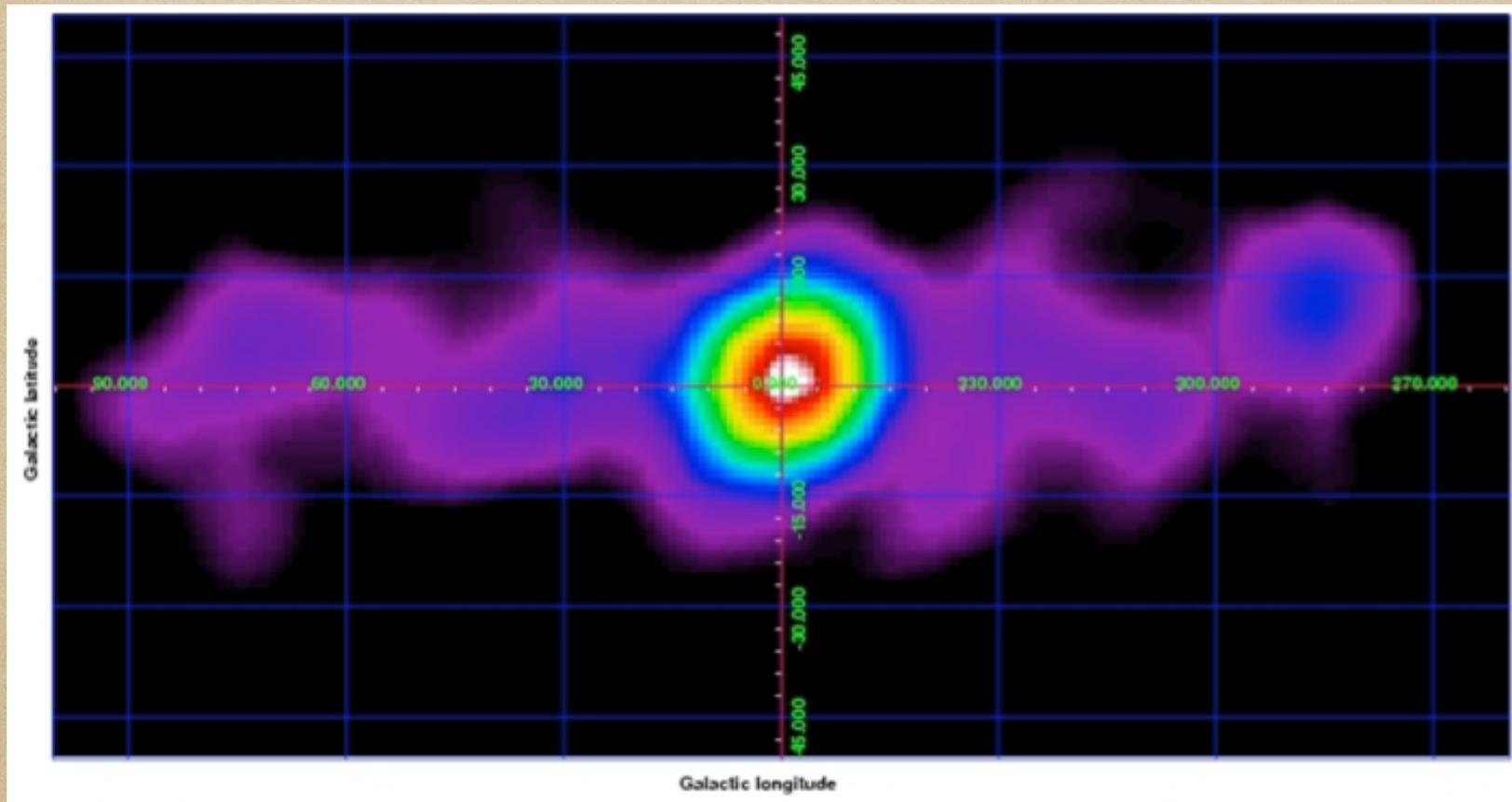
Angular resolution:  $2^\circ$

Observed Intensity of the line  $\propto \rho_{DM}^2$



Hint for originating from DM annihilation

# Morphology of the line



Distribution of the line as observed by INTEGRAL/SPI: ESA/Bouchet et al.

# Some alternative scenarios

- Radioactive decay:  $^{56}\text{Ni}$   $^{44}\text{Ti}$   $^{13}\text{N}$   $^{26}\text{Al}$
- Accreting binary sources
- pulsars
- supermassive blackhole

# Dark matter explanation

- C Boehm, D Hooper, Silk, Casse and Paul, Phys. Rev. Lett. 92 (2004) 101301
- Dark matter mass  $\sim$  **few MeV**  
 $\sigma(X + X \rightarrow e^- e^+) \sim 10^{-4} pb$

# Delayed recombination

Reionization



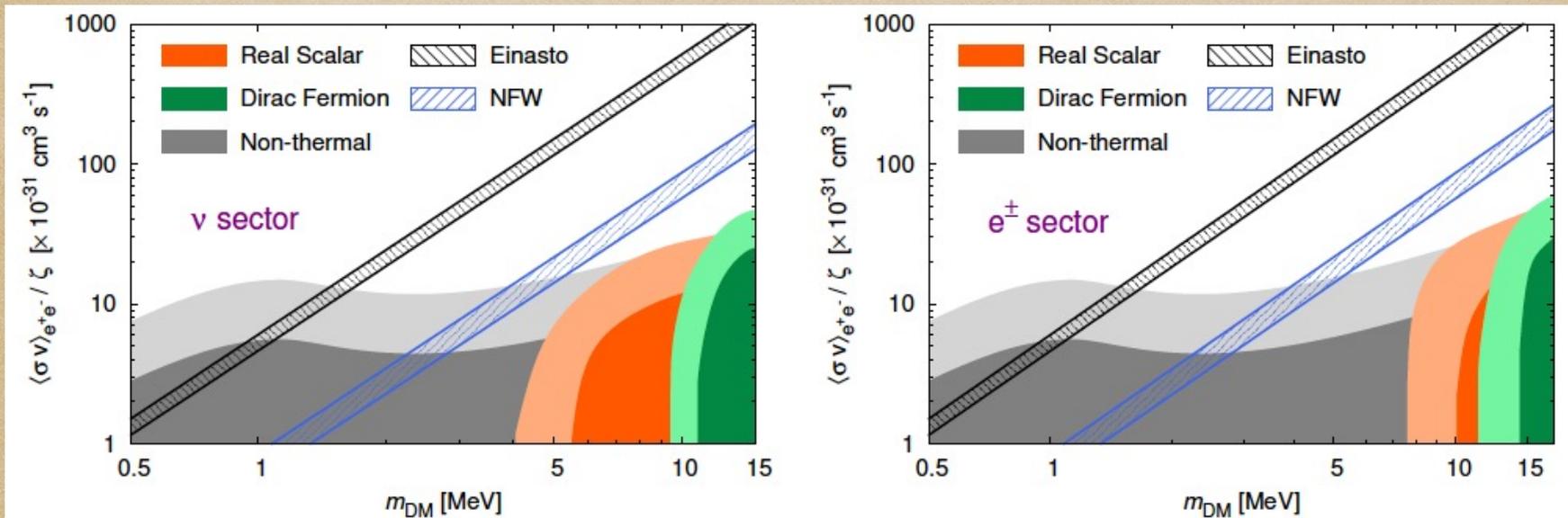
rescattering CMB photons  
last scattering surface



Broadening

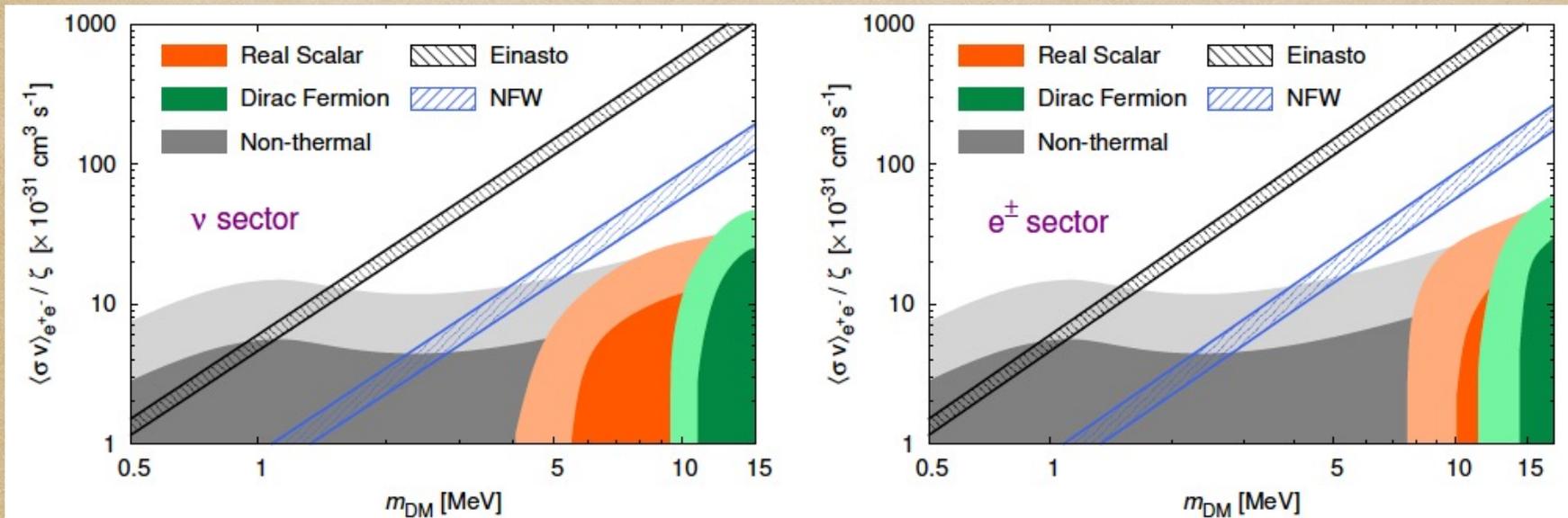
- **Suppression** of temperature and polarization correlation on small scales (large multipoles)
- Late time Thompson scattering  **enhanced** polarization correlation at large scales

# Bounds from CMB



Wilkinson, Vincent, Boehm and McCabe, PRD 94 (2016)

# Bounds from CMB



Wilkinson, Vincent, Boehm and McCabe, PRD 94 (2016)

Assumption: The annihilation cross section is **constant** in velocity (**S-wave**).

Can **p-wave** annihilation rescue the DM explanation?

$$\sigma(X + X \rightarrow e^- e^+) = (10^{-4} \text{ pb})(v/10^{-3})^2$$

- At galaxy:  $10^{-3} \gg$  velocity at recombination

At **freeze-out** time:

$$\sigma(X + X \rightarrow e^- e^+) = 10 - 100 \text{ pb}$$

suppressed relic density

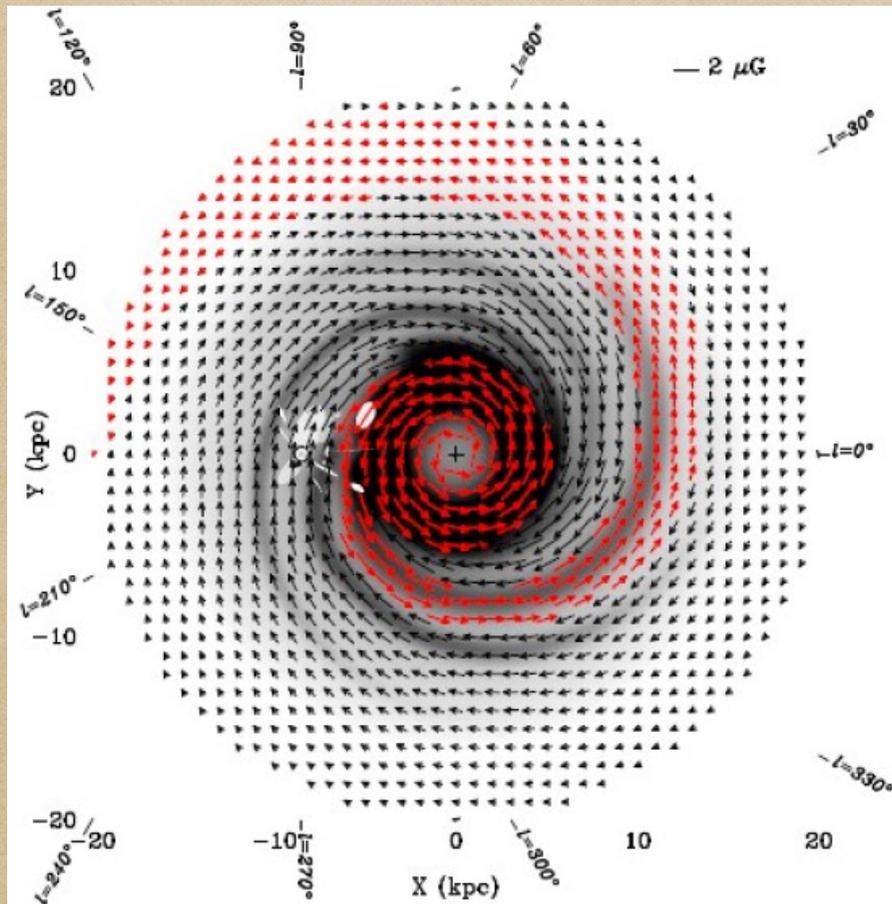
# Our scenario

- YF and M Rajaei, "Pico-charged intermediate particles rescue dark matter interpretation of 511 keV signal", JHEP 1712 (2017) 083

$$X \rightarrow C\bar{C} \quad C\bar{C} \rightarrow e^-e^+$$

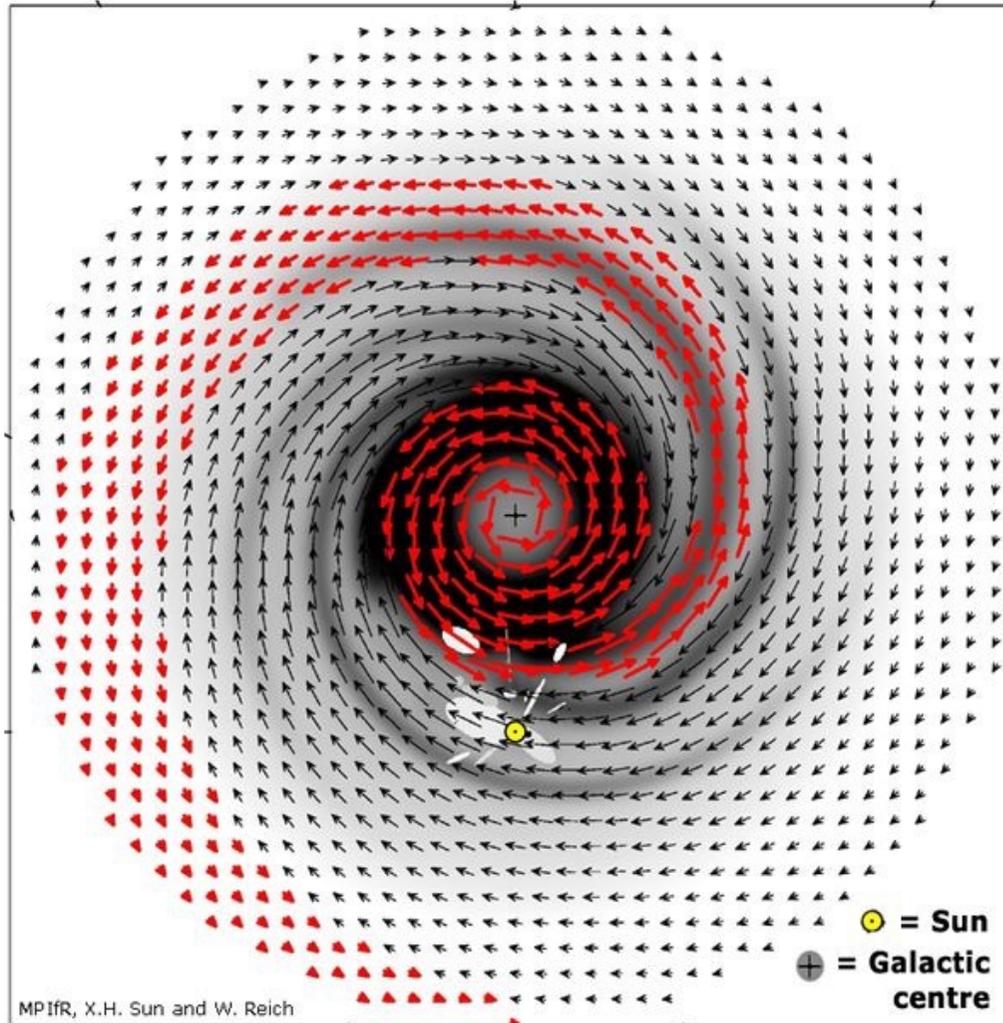
- The velocity of  $C$  will be above escape velocity.

# Galactic magnetic field



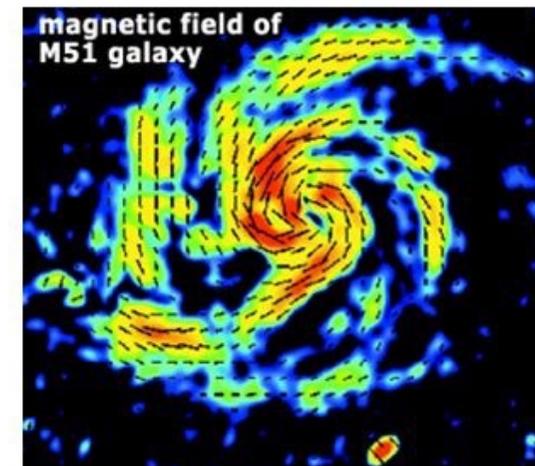
Sun et. al 2008

# The magnetic fields of our galaxy, the Milky Way



The main magnetic field structure lies *in the plane* of the disc and follows the spiral arms.

- ❑ The red arrows are in the opposite direction to the black ones – i.e. the magnetic field is reversed.
- ❑ There is also a toroidal and a poloidal magnetic field (not shown)



# Larmour radius

$$r_L = 5 \text{ pc} \times \left( \frac{3 \times 10^{-11}}{q} \right) \left( \frac{m_X}{5 \text{ MeV}} \right) \left( \frac{10 \mu\text{Gauss}}{B} \right)$$

$$(8 \text{ kpc}) \times \sin(2^\circ) = 280 \text{ pc}$$

# A few words on dark matter

$$m_X \sim O(10 \text{ MeV})$$

$$\langle \sigma(X + X \rightarrow \nu + \nu, \bar{\nu} + \bar{\nu})v \rangle|_{tot} = 1 \text{ pb}$$

Bohm et al., PRD 77 (2008) 043516;

Farzan, PRD 80 (2009) 073009

The bounds from CMB on  $N_{eff}$  then implies  $m_X > 5 \text{ MeV}$

Wilkinson et al., PRD 94 (2016) 103525

# Assigning (pico)charge to C

- Feldman, Liu and Nath, Phys Rev D 95 (2007)

$$U(1)_X \times SU(2) \times U(1)_Y \rightarrow U(1)_{em},$$

- Stueckelberg mechanism

$$-\frac{X_{\mu\nu}X^{\mu\nu}}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2}X_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} - (\partial_\mu\sigma + M_1X_\mu + M_2B_\mu)^2$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_2}{M_1} \ll 1 \qquad \delta \ll 1$$

Dark photon,  $A'$ , mainly composed of  $X_\mu$

- Feldman, Liu and Nath, Phys Rev D 95 (2007)

$$U(1)_X \times SU(2) \times U(1)_Y \rightarrow U(1)_{em},$$

- Stueckelberg mechanism

$$-\frac{X_{\mu\nu}X^{\mu\nu}}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2}X_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} - (\partial_\mu\sigma + M_1X_\mu + M_2B_\mu)^2$$

Dark photon mass arbitrary given by  $M_1$

# Electric and dark charges

Dark charge:

$$q' \bar{f} \gamma^\mu f A'_\mu \quad \text{where} \quad q' = e \cos \theta_W (\epsilon - \delta) Q_f,$$

$$g_X J_C^\mu A'_\mu$$

$$J_C^\mu = i(C^* \partial^\mu C - C \partial^\mu C^*)$$

Electric charge:

$$q_C J_C^\mu A_\mu$$

$$q_C = -g_X \epsilon \cos \theta_W$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_2}{M_1} \ll 1$$

# A particularly interesting limit

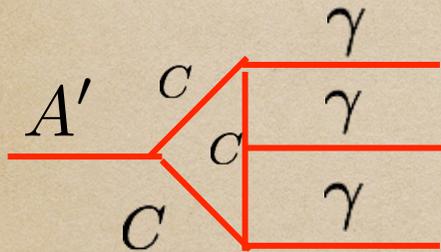
- Feldman, Liu and Nath, Phys Rev D 95 (2007)  
 $\delta = \epsilon$   Decoupling of the sectors

$$q' \bar{f} \gamma^\mu f A'_\mu \quad \text{where} \quad q' = e \cos \theta_W (\epsilon - \delta) Q_f,$$

No tree level coupling between  $A'$  and SM fermions

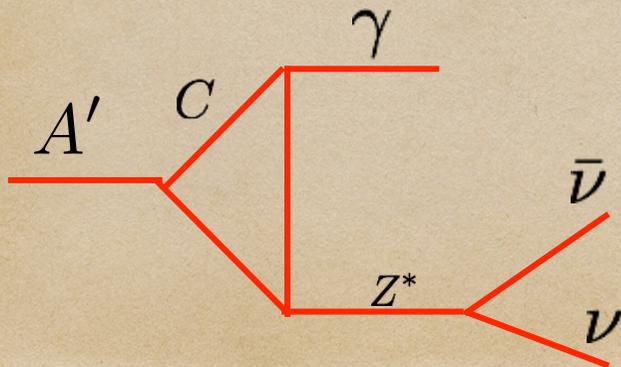
# Decay of Dark photon

- kinetically available decays modes for keV dark photons  $\gamma\gamma, \gamma\gamma\gamma, \nu\bar{\nu}$
- Landau-Yang theorem  ~~$A' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$~~



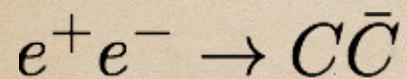
$$\Gamma_{A'} \sim m_{A'} \frac{q_X^2 q_c^6}{4\pi(16\pi^2)^2}$$

$$\tau = 7 \times 10^{45} \text{ years} \gg 10 \text{ Gyr}$$

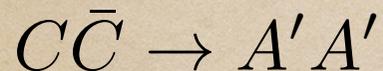


$$\Gamma_{A'} \propto m_{A'} \left( \frac{m_{A'}^2}{m_Z^2} \right)^2 \frac{q_X^2 q_c^4}{4\pi(16\pi^2)^2}$$

## C and A' production in early Universe



The charge of C is too small for thermal equilibrium



$$\frac{n_{A'}}{n_\gamma} = 10^{-4} \left( \frac{q_c}{10^{-11}} \right)^2$$

# Range of parameters for metastable dark photon

$$10^{-11} < q_C < 3 \times 10^{-10}$$



BBN:  $\frac{n_{A'}}{n_\gamma} < 0.1$

$$10 \text{ eV} < m_{A'} < 10 \text{ keV}$$



Non-relativistic at recombination



Subdominant dark matter component

# Acceleration by supernova shock waves

Chuzhoy and Kolb, JCAP 0907 (2009) 014

$$\tau_E^{-1} = d \log E / dt$$

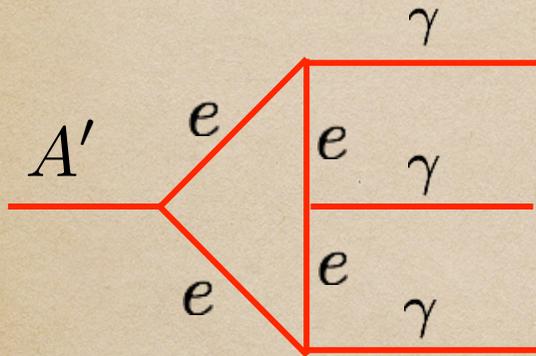
$$(100 \text{ Myr})^{-1}$$

We need a mechanism for energy loss of C in the galaxy.

The same mechanism that gives charge to C particles also provides a mechanism for cooling.

Background A' can play the role of the coolant

What if  $\delta \neq \epsilon$



$$\tau = 1000 \text{ yr} \left( \frac{3 \times 10^{-10}}{q'} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\text{keV}}{m_{A'}} \right)$$

Before recombination

$$q' \sim g_X \max[\delta, \epsilon] \sim 10^{-11} - 3 \times 10^{-10}$$

## Fast $A'$ decay

identify the  $U_X(1)$  gauge symmetry with  $L_\mu - L_\tau$

$$g_{\tau-\mu} A'_\mu (\bar{\nu}_\tau \gamma^\mu \nu_\tau - \bar{\nu}_\mu \gamma^\mu \nu_\mu) \quad \Rightarrow \quad A' \rightarrow \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\mu, \nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\tau$$

$$g_{\tau-\mu} > \text{few} \times 10^{-7} (\text{MeV}/m_{A'})^{1/2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Relaxing supernova bound}$$

Fast decaying  $A'$   Another coolant is needed

Y.F. and M. Rajaei, "Pico-charged particles explaining 511 keV line and XENONIT signal," *Phys.Rev.D* 102 (2020) 10, 103532

# Bounds on $\frac{n_C}{n_X}$ fraction

$$n_C = \frac{\rho_X}{m_X} f \quad \text{where} \quad f = \Gamma_X t^0.$$

- Dominant DM component cannot be relativistic [Audren, JCAP 1412 (2014)]  $f < 1 \%$
- Not all coolants are ejected:  $f < 10^{-2} \left( \frac{q_C}{10^{-11}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_{A'}}{10 \text{ keV}} \right) \left( \frac{m_X}{10 \text{ MeV}} \right)$
- $C$  should be accumulated  $n_C \langle \sigma(C\bar{C} \rightarrow A'A')v \rangle t_0 \ll 1$

$$f < 6 \times 10^{-4} \left( \frac{m_X}{10 \text{ MeV}} \right) \left( \frac{0.15}{g_X} \right)^4 \left( \frac{m_C}{5 \text{ MeV}} \right)^2$$

# Direct detection

$C$  relativistic

$$v \sim 1/3$$

$$\langle \Delta E \rangle \sim 0.035 \text{ keV} \frac{1}{1-v^2} \left( \frac{v}{1/3} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_C}{3 \text{ MeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{28 \text{ GeV}}{M_N} \right) \left( \frac{M_N}{M_N + \gamma m_C} \right)^2$$

Present

LUX experiment  $E_{th} = 3 \text{ keV}$

DAMA  $E_{th} = 2 \text{ keV}$

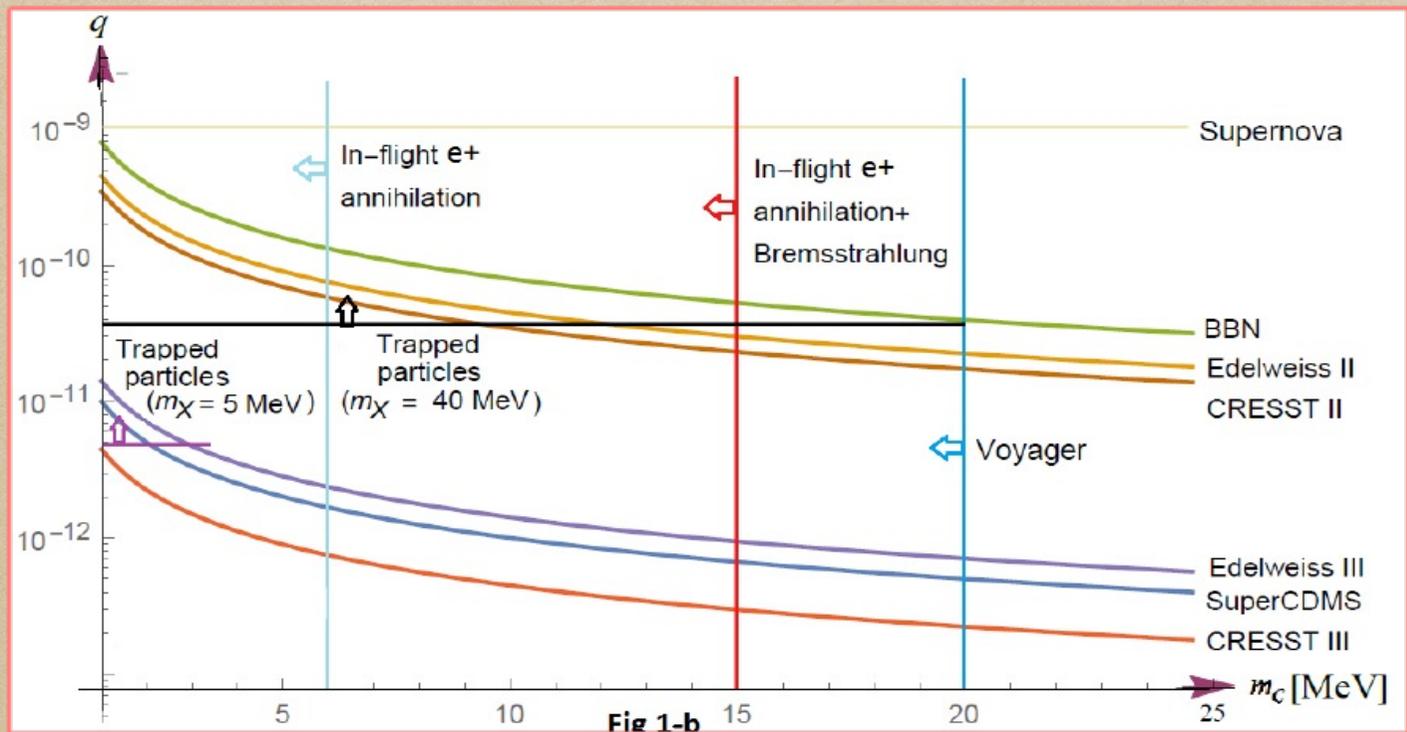
CRESST II  $E_{th} = 0.3 \text{ keV}$

Future

SuperCDMS  $E_{th} = 0.056 \text{ keV}$

CRESST III  $E_{th} = 0.02 - 0.06 \text{ keV}$

Edelweiss III  $E_{th} < 0.1 \text{ keV}$



# Dependence on recoil energy

$$\frac{dN_{events}}{dE_r} = \frac{1}{M_N} \frac{\rho_X}{m_X} (2fv) \frac{d\sigma}{dE_r}$$

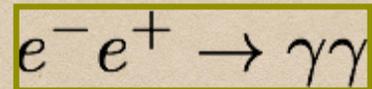
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_r} = |F|^2 \frac{Z^2}{4\pi M_N^2} \times \frac{e^2 q^2 m_C^2}{E_r^2} \times \frac{1}{E_r^{max}}$$

Recoil energy

Distinctive behavior

**Different** recoil energy dependence from DM signal  
Even **dipole** or **anapole** DM

# Electron positron annihilation



- Decay at rest: 511 keV line
- Decay in flight: harder and continuous spectrum

Beacom and Yuksel, PRL 97 (2006) 071102

$$E_{inj} < 3 \text{ MeV}$$

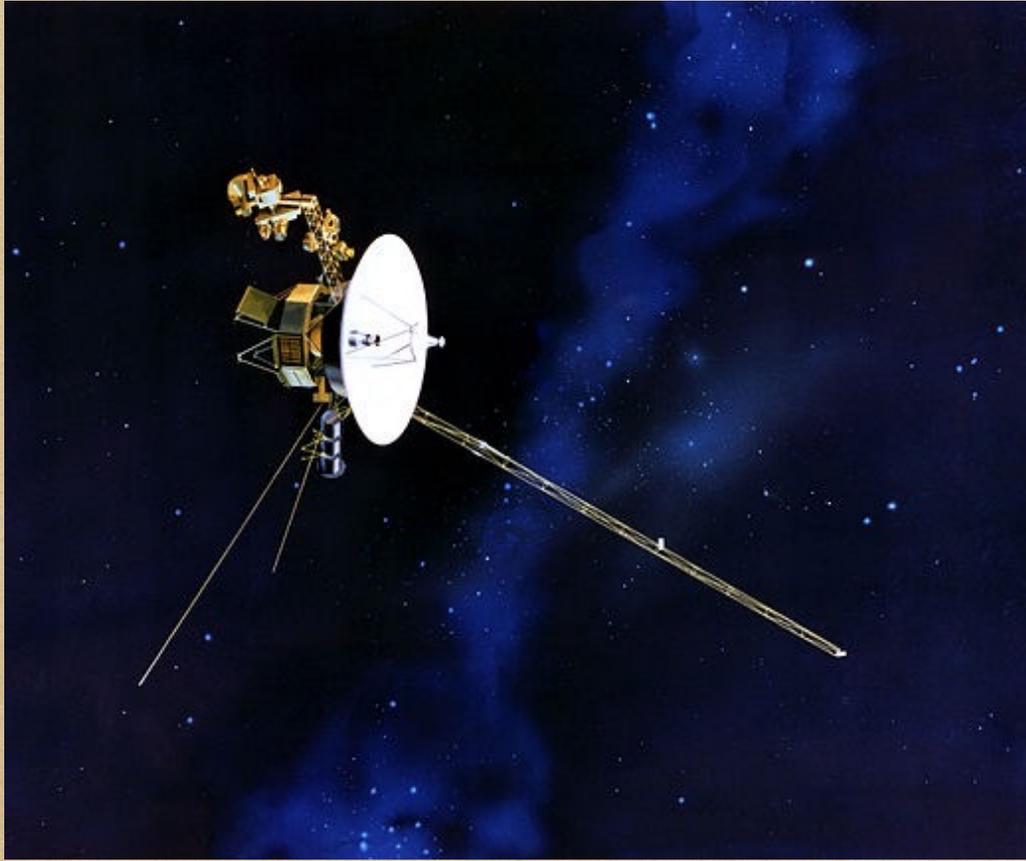
Assuming zero ionization

Size, Casse and Schanne, PRD 74 (2006) 063514

$$E_{inj} < 7.5 \text{ MeV}$$

51 % ionization

# A fun bound from Voyager



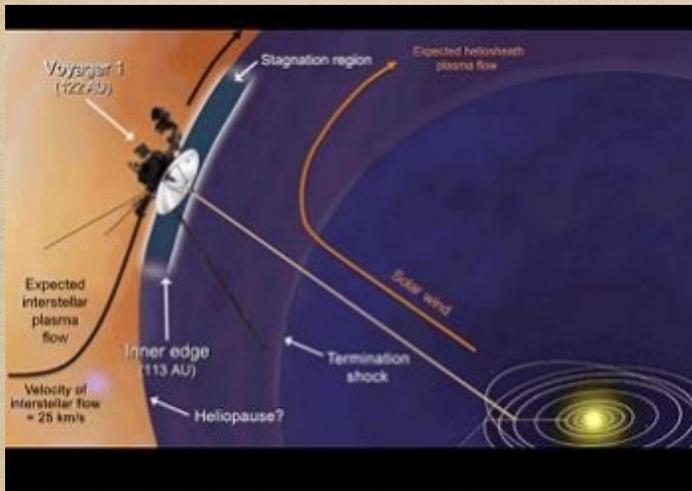
Launched on 5th of September, 1977

# A fun bound from Voyager



Containing a piece of Azarbaijani music

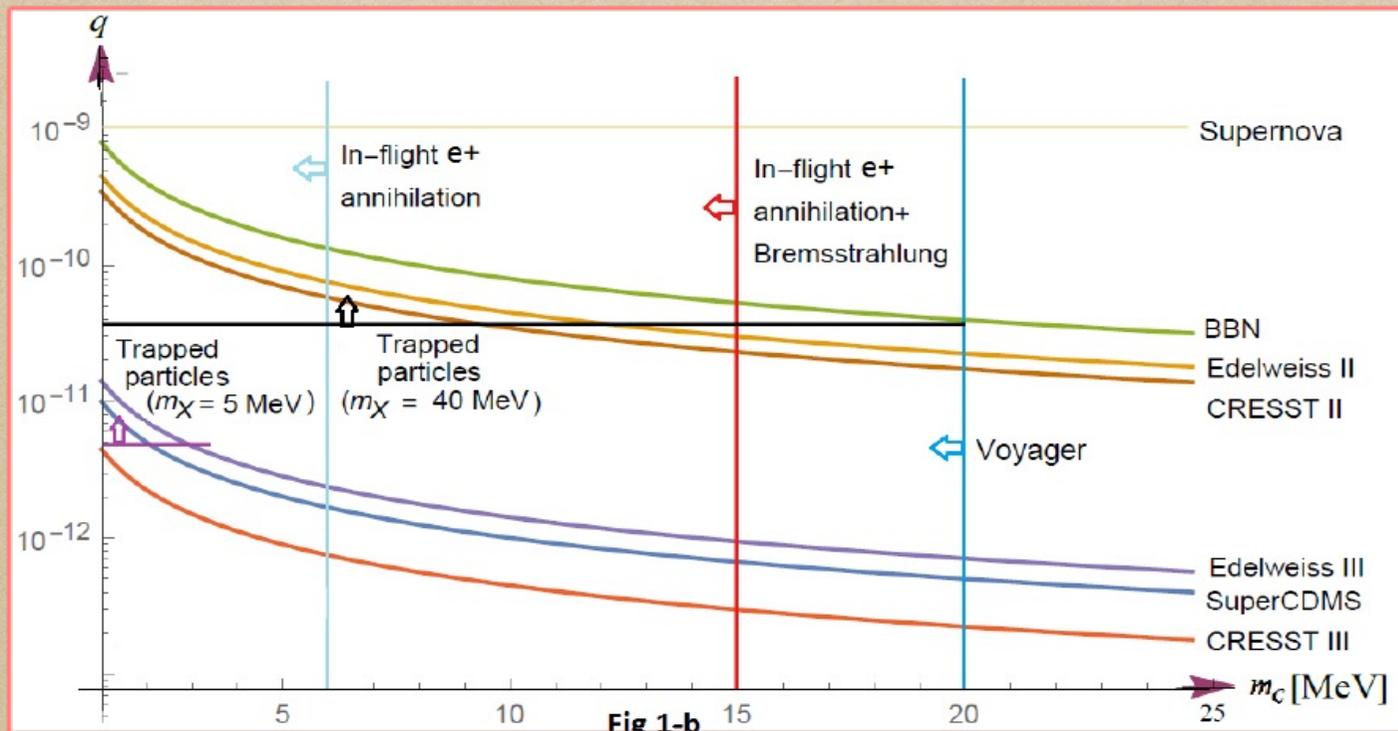
# Voyager out of heliopause



$$E_{inj} < 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Boudaud Lavallo and Salati, PRL 119 (2017) 021103

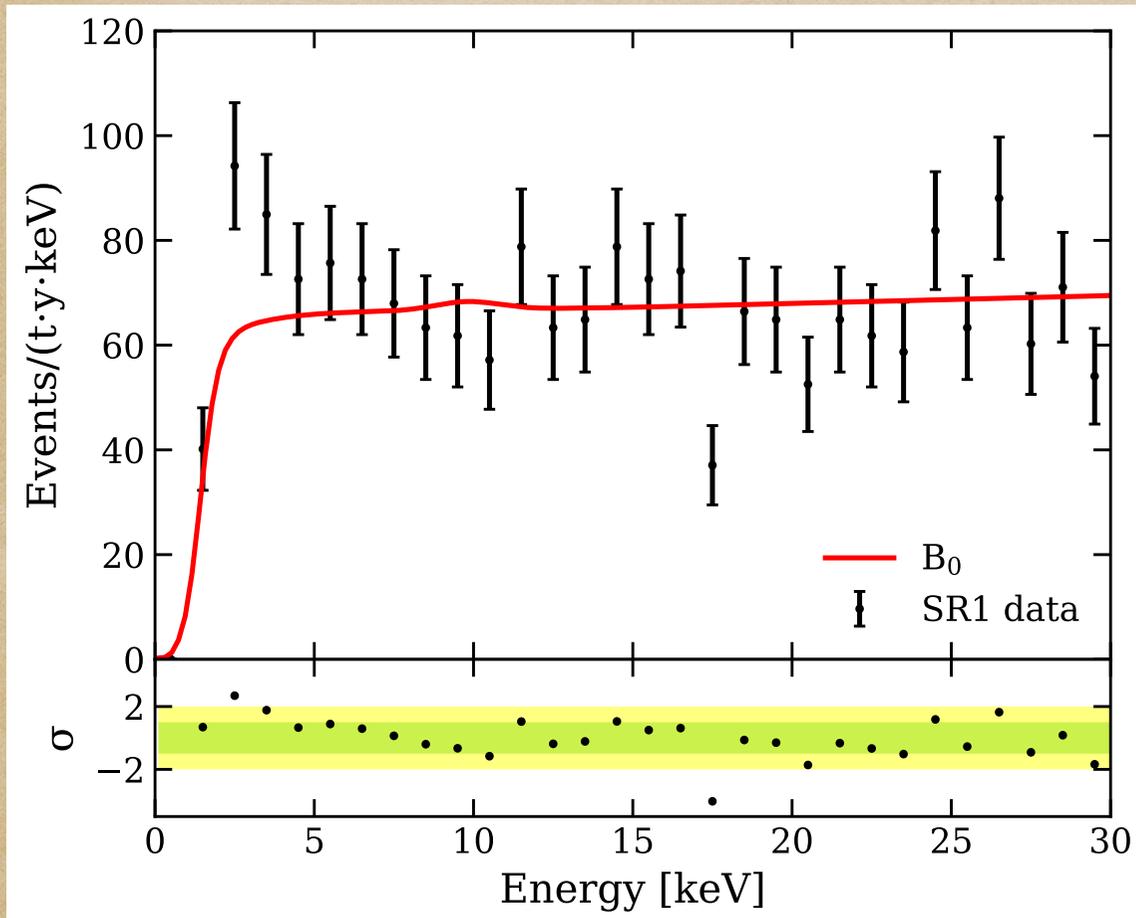
Voyager entered interstellar medium in summer 2012



# Tests of the scenario

- Direct dark matter search
- Positron search by **Voyager**
- Studying the correlation of 511 keV line with magnetic field **in various dwarf galaxies** (e.g. **Reticulum II**) and **milky way**

# Then came XENONIT electron excess



XENON collaboration, ◆

Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 7 .

$$X \rightarrow C\bar{C}$$

Relativistic, accumulated by magnetic field

Energy pump by supernova wind



Repelling from galactic disk

$$X \rightarrow C\bar{C}$$

Relativistic, accumulated by magnetic field

Energy pump by supernova wind

~~Repelling from galactic disk~~

Energy loss by scattering on coolants

# Coolant and final velocity

$$10 \text{ eV} < m_Y < 10 \text{ keV}, n_Y|_{local} = (\rho_{DM}|_{local}/\langle\rho_{DM}\rangle)\langle n_Y\rangle$$

Energy loss of C at each collision:  $\Delta E_C = m_Y \left(\frac{E_C}{m_C}\right)^2 v^2.$

Cooling time scale:  $\tau_E = \int_{m_C(1+v_f^2/2)}^{m_X/2} \frac{dE_C}{\Delta E_C} \frac{1}{\sigma_S v n_Y} \sim \frac{4\pi m_C^3}{g_Y^4 n_Y m_Y} \left(\frac{1}{v_f} - \frac{1}{v_i}\right)$

For stable A'  $Y \equiv A', g_Y = g_X$

$$\tau_E = \text{time scale of energy gain from supernova shock waves} = 100 \text{ Myr}$$

$$v_f = 0.08 \left(\frac{0.25}{g_Y}\right)^4 \left(\frac{m_C}{3\text{MeV}}\right)^3 \frac{0.1 \times \rho_{DM}|_{local}}{n_Y m_Y}.$$

Maximum recoil energy:  $E_{max} = 2mv_f^2 \frac{m_C^2}{(m + m_C)^2}$

$m_C \sim 1 - 5 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $m = m_e$  and  $v_f = 0.08$ ,  $\longrightarrow$   $E_{max} = 3 - 5.5 \text{ keV}$

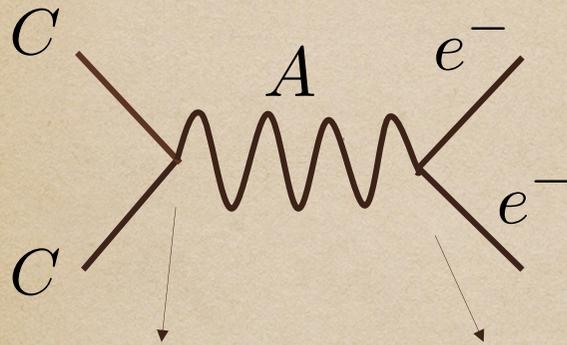
The spectrum of recoiled electrons from a unit of mass of the detector

$$\frac{dN}{dE_r} = \frac{Z_{out}}{m_N} \left( 2f \frac{\rho_X}{m_X} \right) \int f_C(v) \frac{d\sigma}{dE_r} v dv$$

$$Z_{out} = 44$$

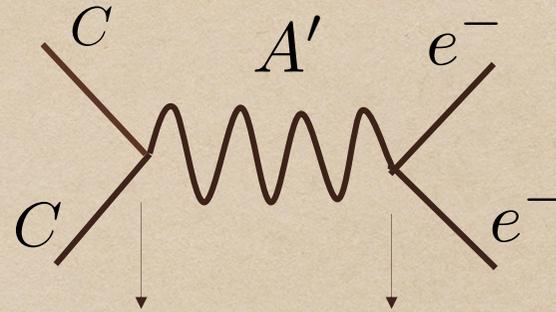
$$m_N = 131 \text{ GeV.}$$

# Cross section



$$q_C = -g_X \epsilon \cos \theta_W$$

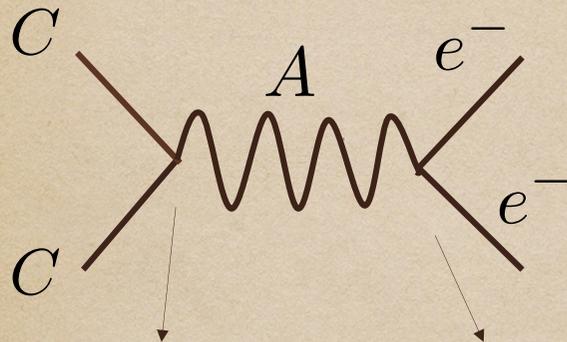
$e$



$$g_X$$

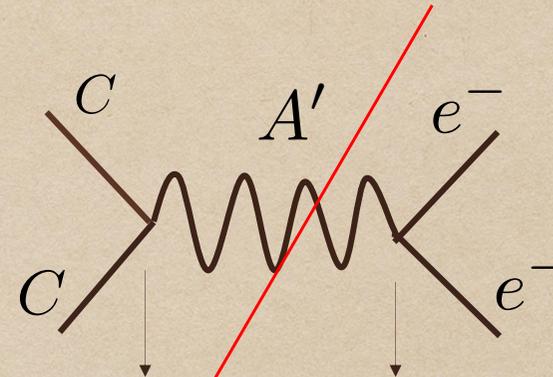
$$q' = e \cos \theta_W (\epsilon - \delta) Q_f$$

# Cross section



$$q_C = -g_X \epsilon \cos \theta_W$$

$e$



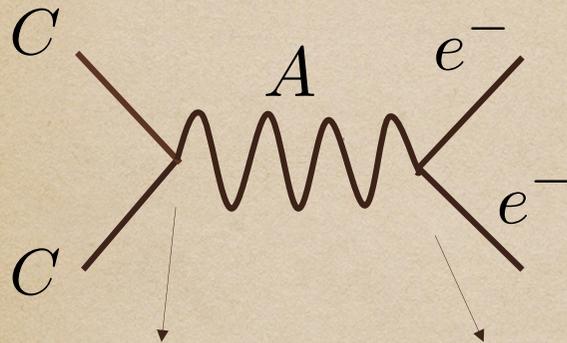
$g_X$

$$q' = e \cos \theta_W (\epsilon - \delta) Q_f$$

$$|\epsilon|/2m_e E_r \gg |\epsilon - \delta|/(2m_e E_r + m_{A'}^2),$$

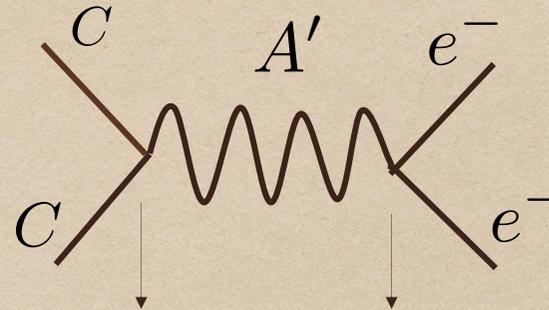
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_r} = \frac{e^2 q_C^2}{8\pi m_e v^2} \frac{1}{E_r^2} \quad \text{where} \quad E_r < E_{max} = 2m_e v_f^2 \left( \frac{m_C}{m_C + m_e} \right)^2$$

# Cross section



$$q_C = -g_X \epsilon \cos \theta_W$$

$e$



$g_X$

$$q' = e \cos \theta_W (\epsilon - \delta) Q_f$$

General value of  $\epsilon/(\epsilon - \delta)$



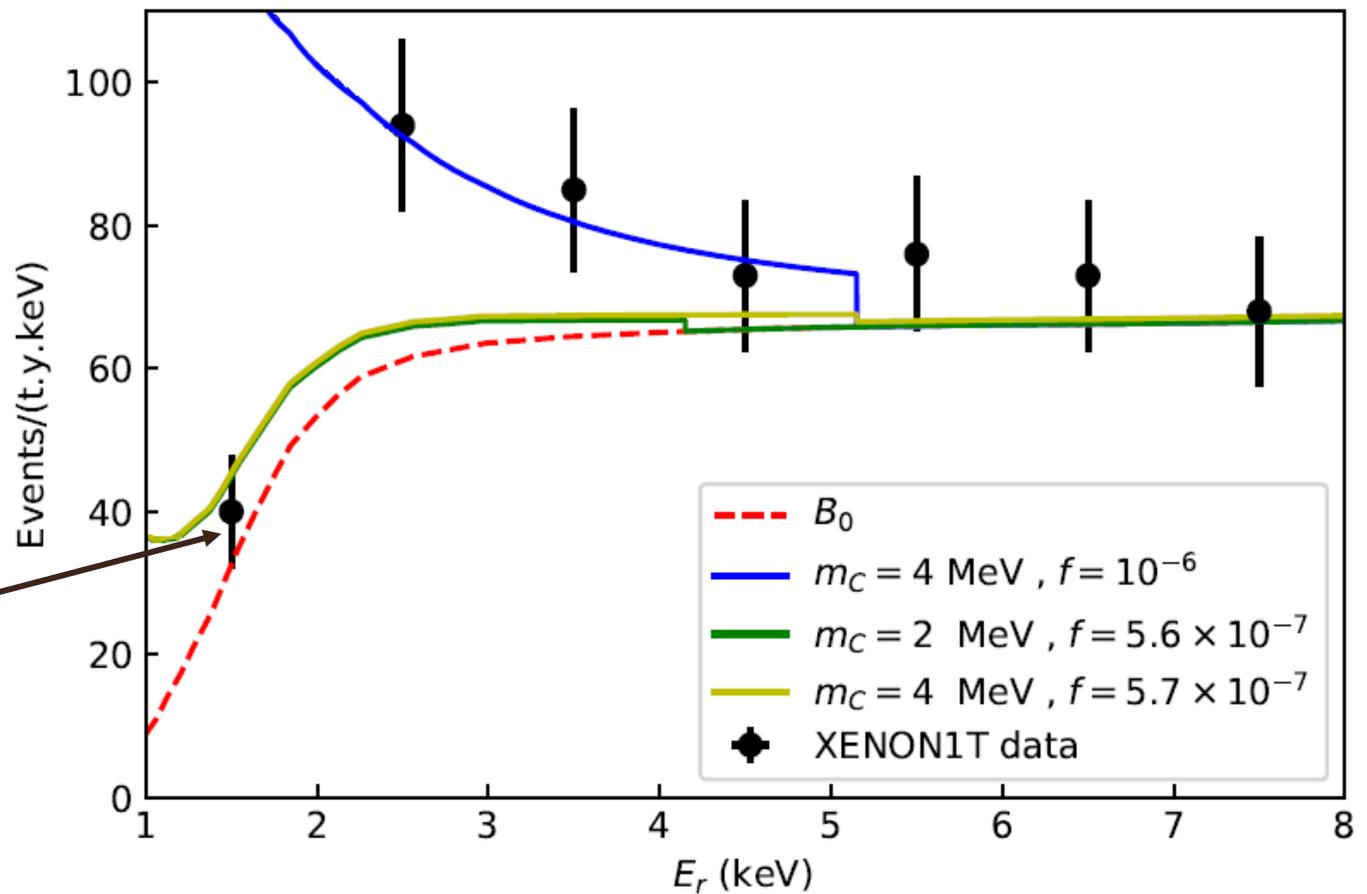
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_r} = \frac{e^2 q_C^2}{8\pi m_e v^2} \frac{1}{E_r^2} \times \left( 1 + \frac{2m_e E_r}{2m_e E_r + m_{A'}^2} \frac{\delta - \epsilon}{\epsilon} \right)^2$$

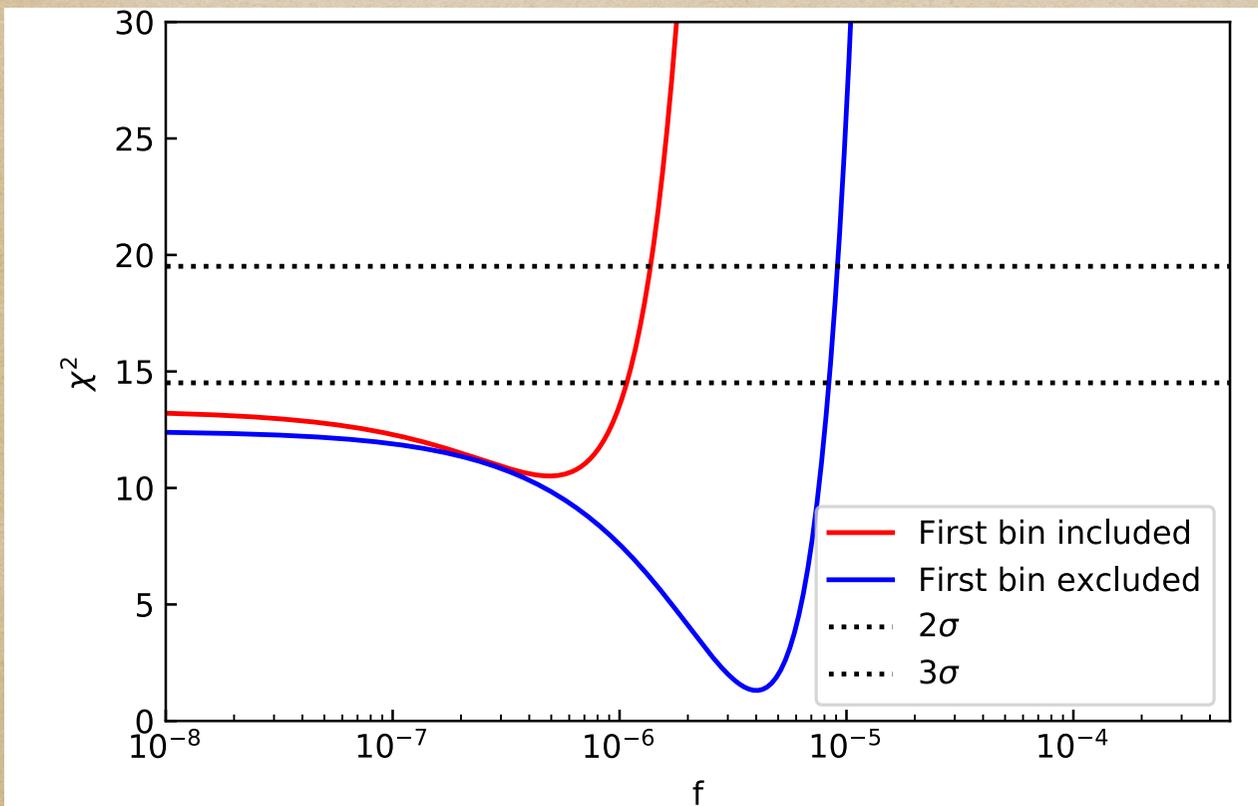
Photon dominance:

$$\frac{dN}{dE_r} = \frac{1225}{\text{ton.year.keV}} \left( \frac{2 \text{ keV}}{E_r} \right)^2 \left( \frac{q_C}{10^{-11}} \right)^2 \frac{f}{10^{-4}} \frac{10 \text{ MeV}}{m_X} \frac{0.08}{v_f} \Theta(E_{max} - E_r).$$

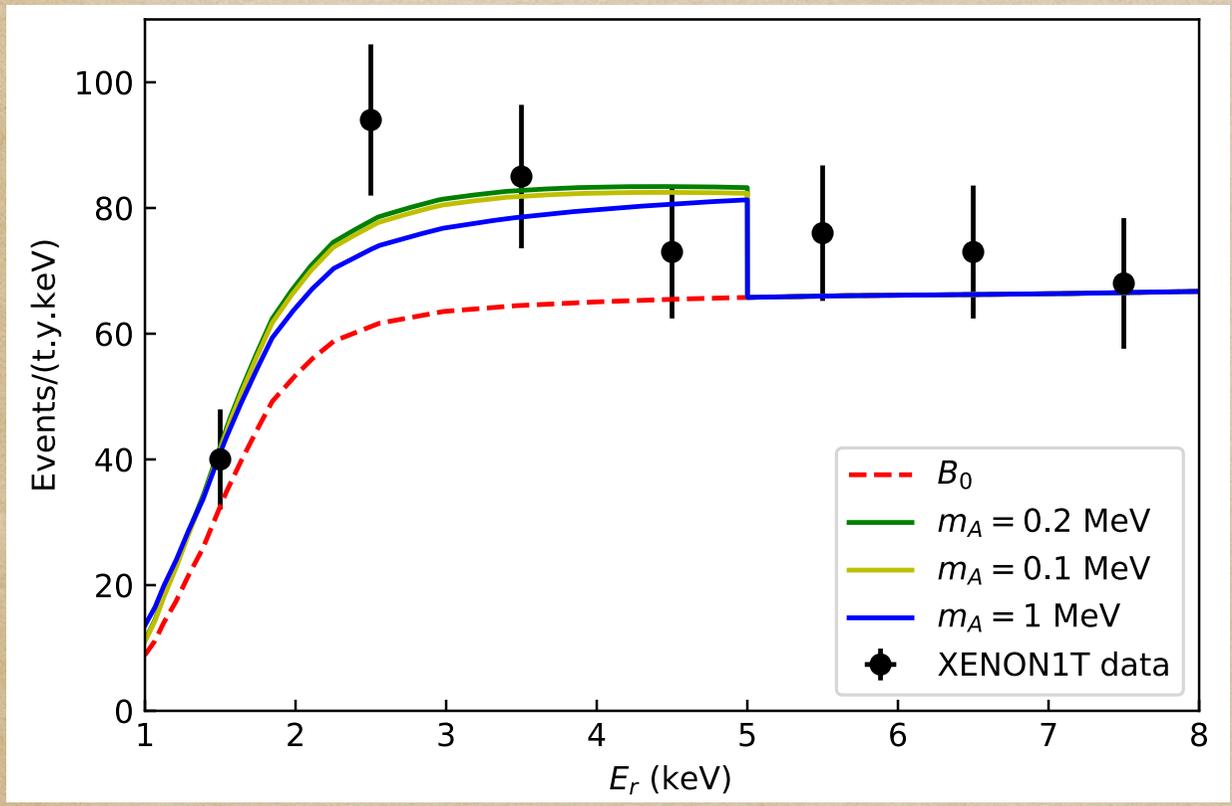
$$\chi^2 = \sum_{bins} \frac{[N_i^{pred} - N_i^{obs}]^2}{\sigma_i^2}$$

background from  $^{214}\text{Pb}$





$1 \text{ keV} < E_r < 8 \text{ keV}$



$$m_C = 4 \text{ MeV}$$

$$f \simeq 10^{-7}$$

$$\frac{\delta - \epsilon}{\epsilon} = -2 \times 10^3 \left( \frac{m_{A'}}{\text{MeV}} \right)^2$$

# Interpreting as a bound

$$f < 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \quad \text{at } 3\sigma$$

Lifetime of  $X \rightarrow C\bar{C}$  is longer than million times the age of the universe

• 511 keV line:  $\sigma(C + \bar{C}) = 10^{-4} \text{ b} \left( \frac{10^{-7}}{f} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_X}{10 \text{ MeV}} \right)$

# Ways to test

- further **Direct DM** search,
- **511 keV** line from **dwarf galaxies** and correlation with **magnetic field**,
- **positron excess** to be observed by **Voyage**
- **harder continuous photon spectrum** (annihilation in flight) from **galactic center**
- **supernova** neutrino spectrum and neutrino emission duration because of  $A'$  coupled to neutrinos

# Summary

- A model based on decay of MeVish DM to pair of “pico-charged” particles,  $C$
- Magnetic field of the galaxy can accumulate  $C$  in galactic disk
- $C$  particles, being relativistic, can leave a significant recoil energy to electrons
- XENONIT electron excess can be explained
- Annihilation of  $C$  pairs can explain the 511 keV line
- Several approaches to test the model

# Dark photon concentration in galaxy

$$n_{\gamma'}|_{GC} = \frac{\rho_{DM}|_{GC}}{\langle \rho_{DM} \rangle} \langle n_{\gamma'} \rangle.$$

$$\rho_{DM}|_{GC} \sim 3 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}$$



$$n_{\gamma'} \sim 10^5 (q/10^{-11})^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$\Delta E_C = m_{\gamma'} \left( \frac{E_C}{m_C} \right)^2 v^2$$

$$\sigma_S \simeq 3g_X^4 / (4\pi m_C^2)$$

$$\tau_E = \int_{m_C(1+v_f^2/2)}^{m_X/2} \frac{dE_C}{\Delta E_C} \frac{1}{\sigma_S v n_{\gamma'}}|_{GC} \simeq 100 \text{ Myr} \left( \frac{m_C}{5 \text{ MeV}} \right)^3 \left( \frac{10 \text{ keV}}{m_{\gamma'}} \right) \left( \frac{0.03}{v_f} \right) \left( \frac{0.15}{g_X} \right)^4 \left( \frac{10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}}{n_{\gamma'}} \right)$$

$$\tau_E \text{ is given by } (n_{\gamma'} m_{\gamma'})^{-1}$$

$$v_f = 0.3 \left( \frac{0.15}{g_X} \right)^4 \left( \frac{10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}}{n_{\gamma'}} \right) \left( \frac{m_C}{5 \text{ MeV}} \right)^3 \left( \frac{m_{\gamma'}}{10 \text{ keV}} \right)$$

Direct annihilation of  $C$  pairs to  
electron positron pair

$$C\bar{C} \rightarrow \phi\phi$$

$$\frac{\bar{e}e\bar{C}C}{\Lambda}$$

$$\sigma(C\bar{C} \rightarrow \phi\phi) \sim 100pb$$

$$\Lambda \sim 100 GeV$$

# In two steps

$$C\bar{C} \rightarrow \phi\phi \quad \phi \rightarrow e^-e^+$$

$$g_\phi \phi e^-e^+$$

$$0.3 \times 10^{-15} < g_\phi < 10^{-11}$$

decay length smaller than 100 pc

Supernova

# Model building

$$a_\phi \phi |H|^2$$

$$g_\phi = \sqrt{2} \frac{a_\phi v}{m_h^2} Y_e$$

# Bounds on charge

- SLAC bounds on millicharged particles; Prinz et al., PRL 81 (1998) 1175 1 MeV-100 MeV

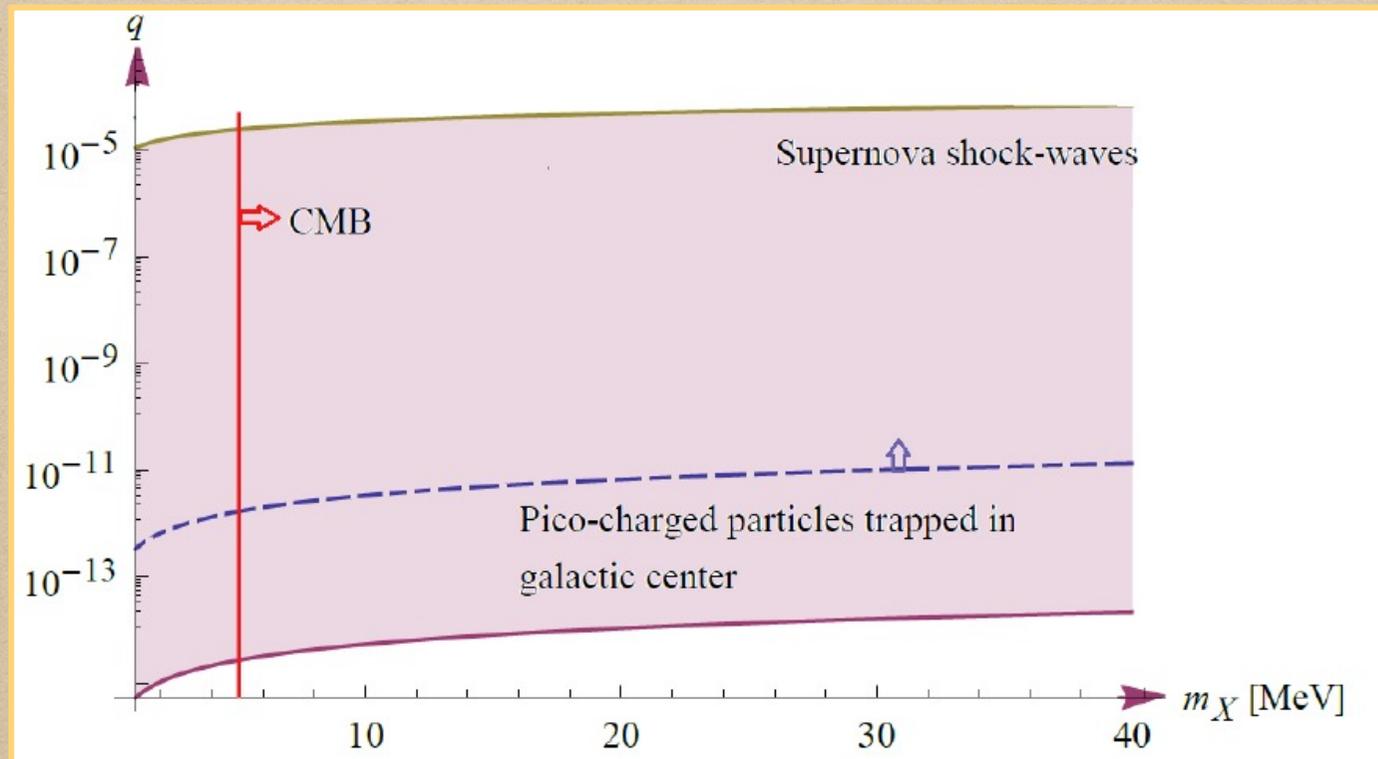
$$q_C < 4.1 \times 10^{-5} e - 5.8 \times 10^{-4} e$$

- Supernova bound (energy loss)

Davidson, Hannestad and Raffelt, JHEP 05 (2000) 03

$$q_C < 10^{-9}$$

# Bounds on electric charge of C versus DM mass



Beacom and Yuksel, PRL 97 (2006) 071102

$$E_{inj} < 3 \text{ MeV}$$

Assuming zero ionization

Size, Casse and Schanne, PRD 74 (2006) 063514

$$E_{inj} < 7.5 \text{ MeV}$$

51 % ionization