

# **Self-interacting dark matter, collapsed halos, and high-redshift supermassive black holes**

**Yi-Ming Zhong**

City University of Hong Kong



香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

USTC, 9 May, 2024



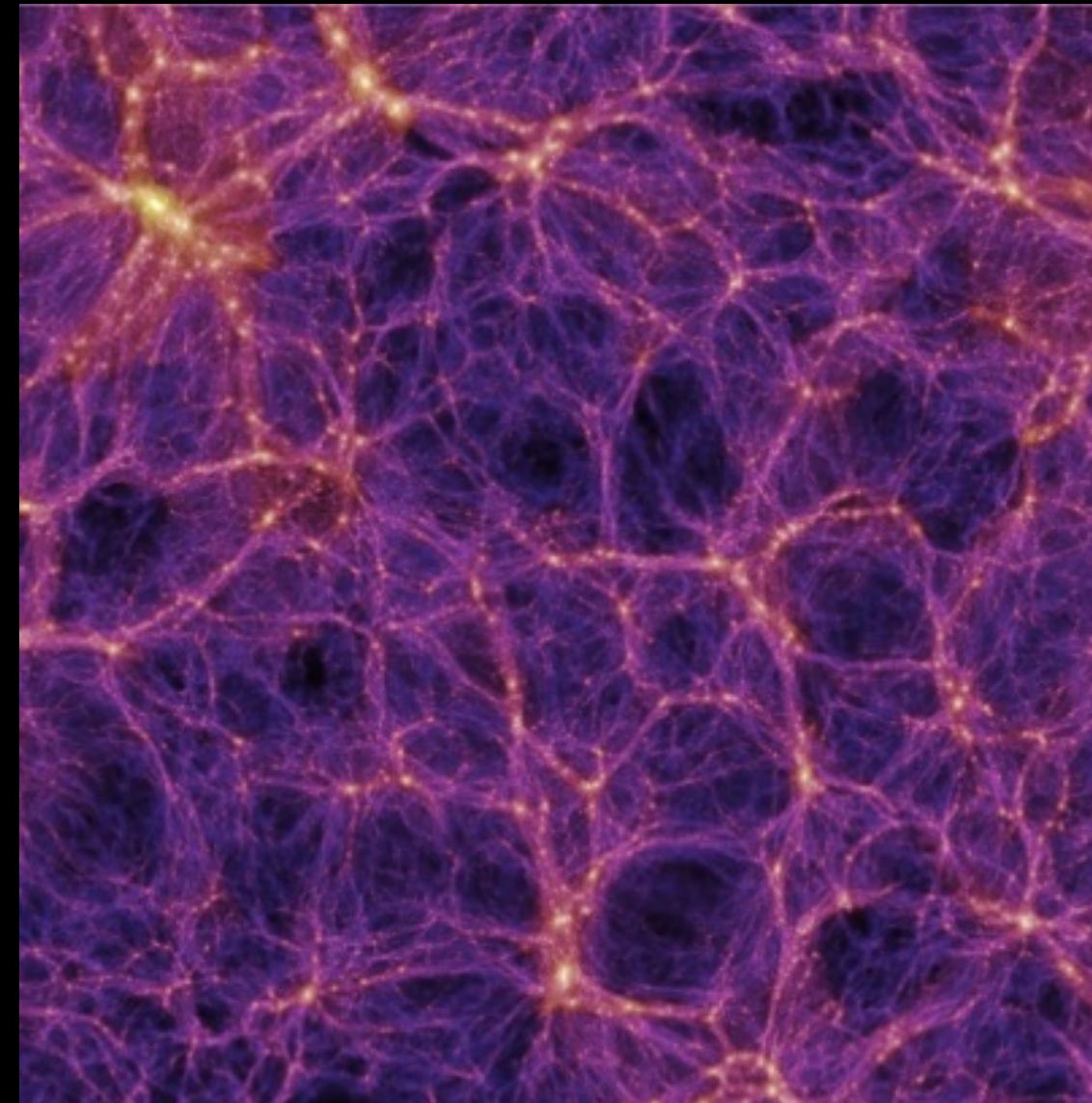
# Outline

- Introduction
- Gravothermal collapse of self-interacting dark matter (SIDM) halos
- Collapsed halos give birth to high-z supermassive black holes
- Summary

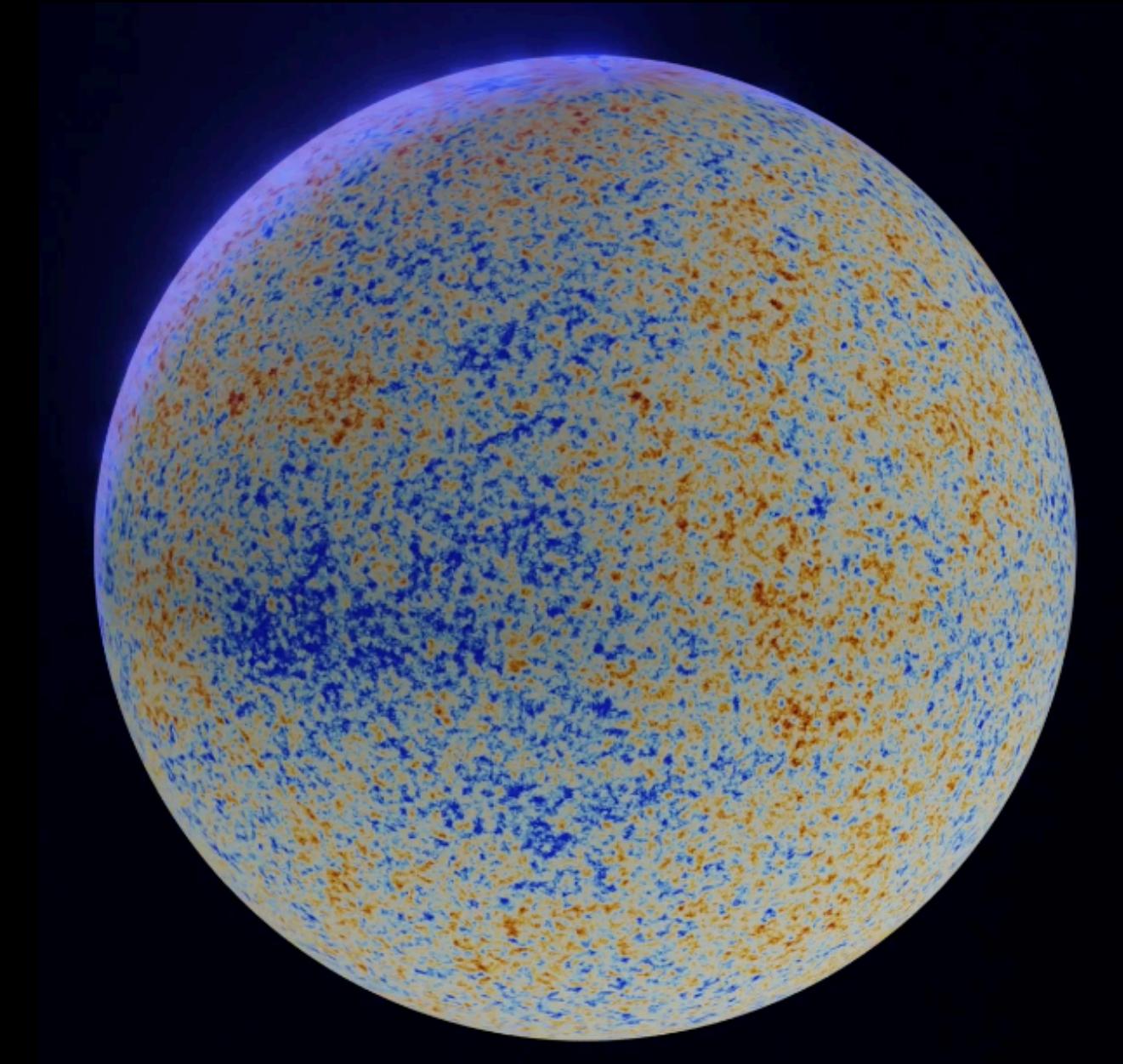
# Evidence for dark matter



**Bullet Cluster**

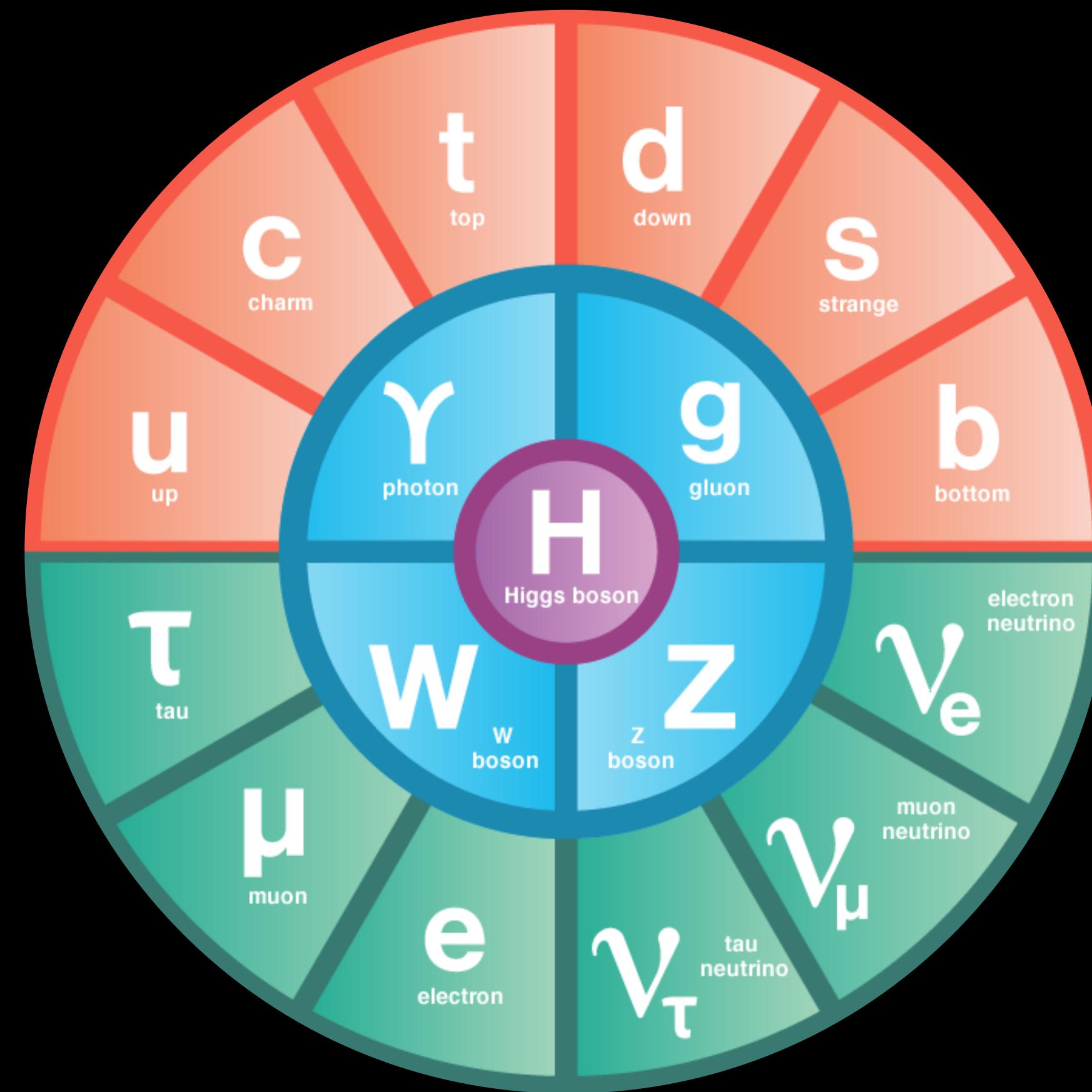


**Large-Scale Structure**

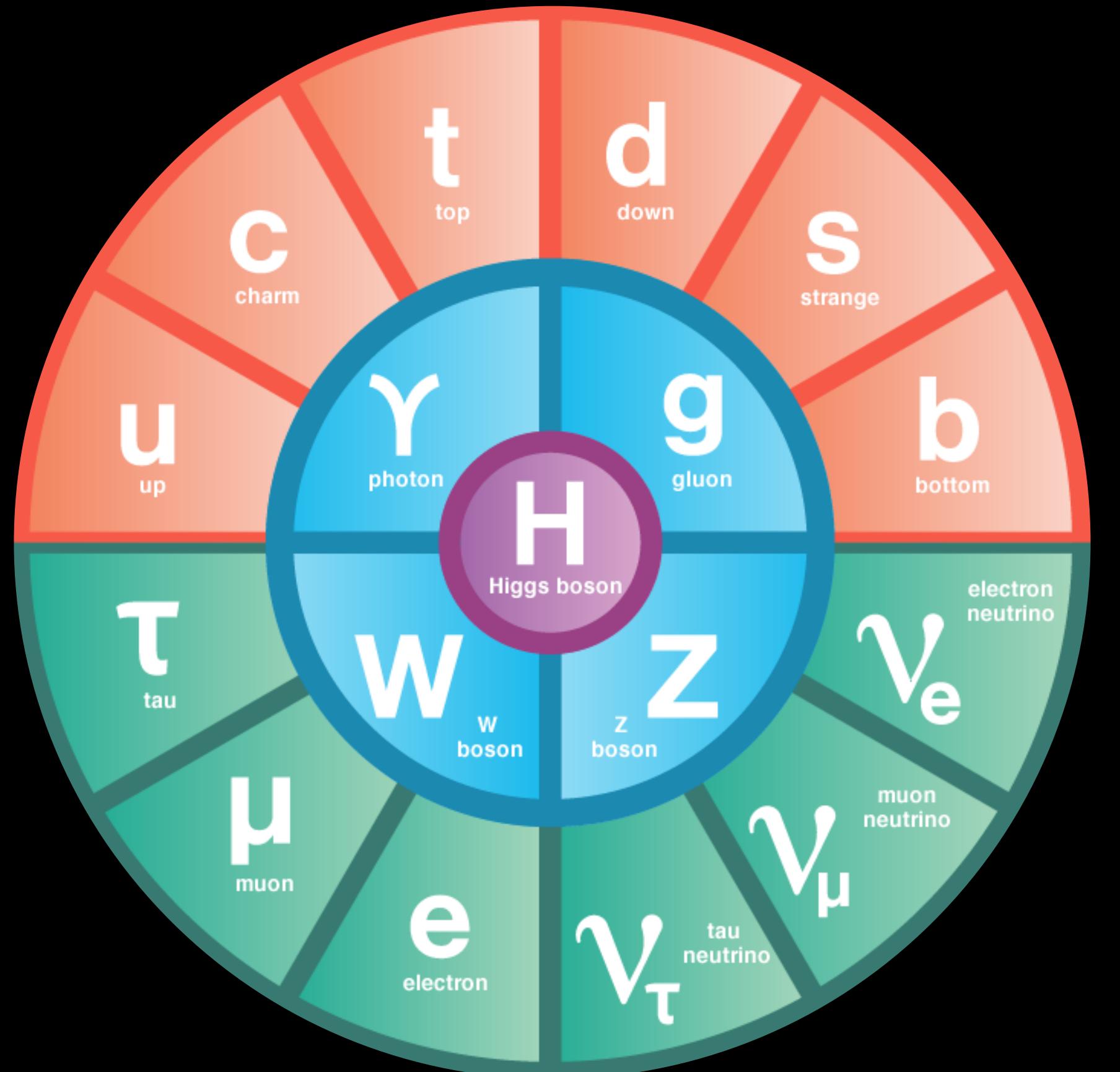


**Cosmic Microwave  
Background**

# Ordinary matter



The Standard Model of Particle Physics

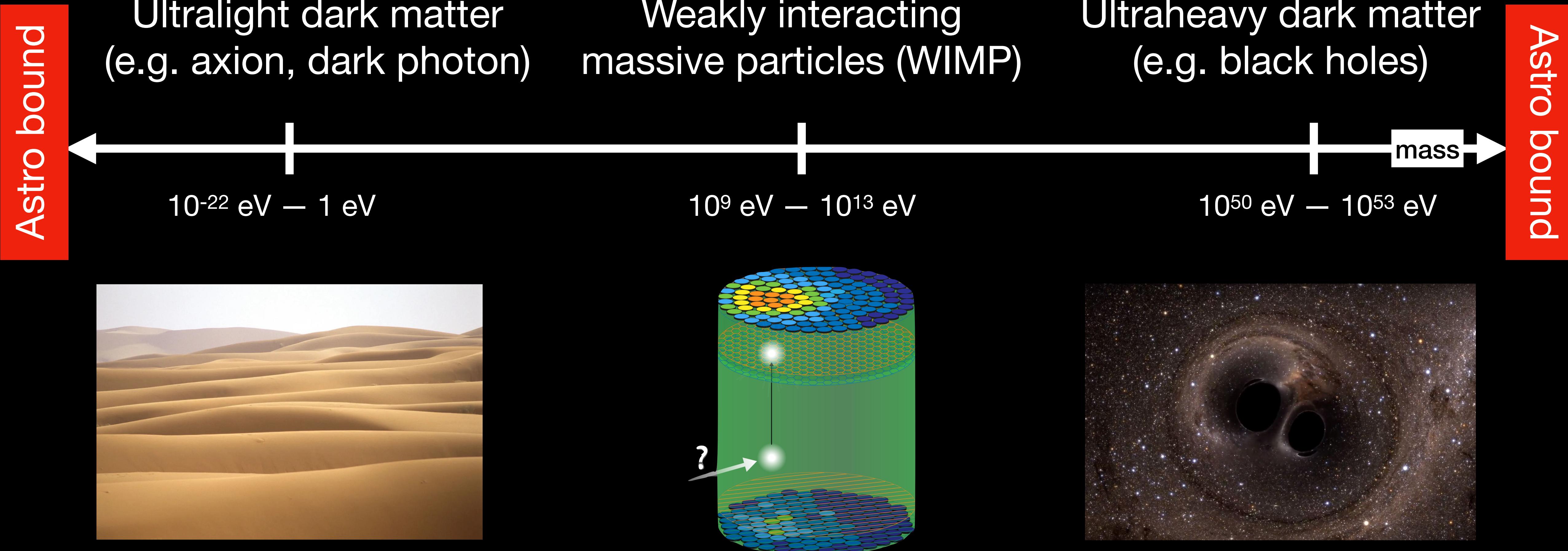


Ordinary matter

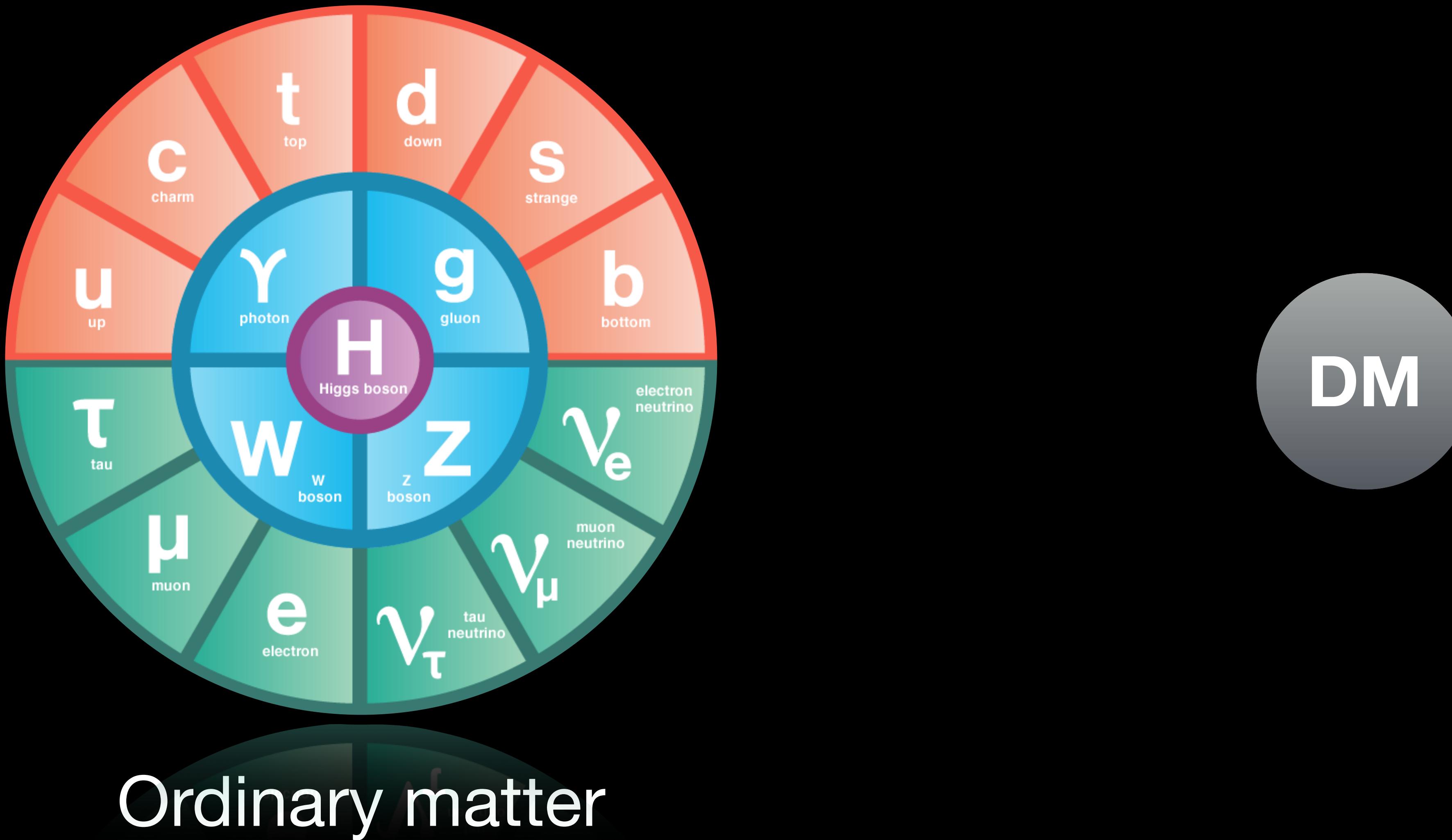


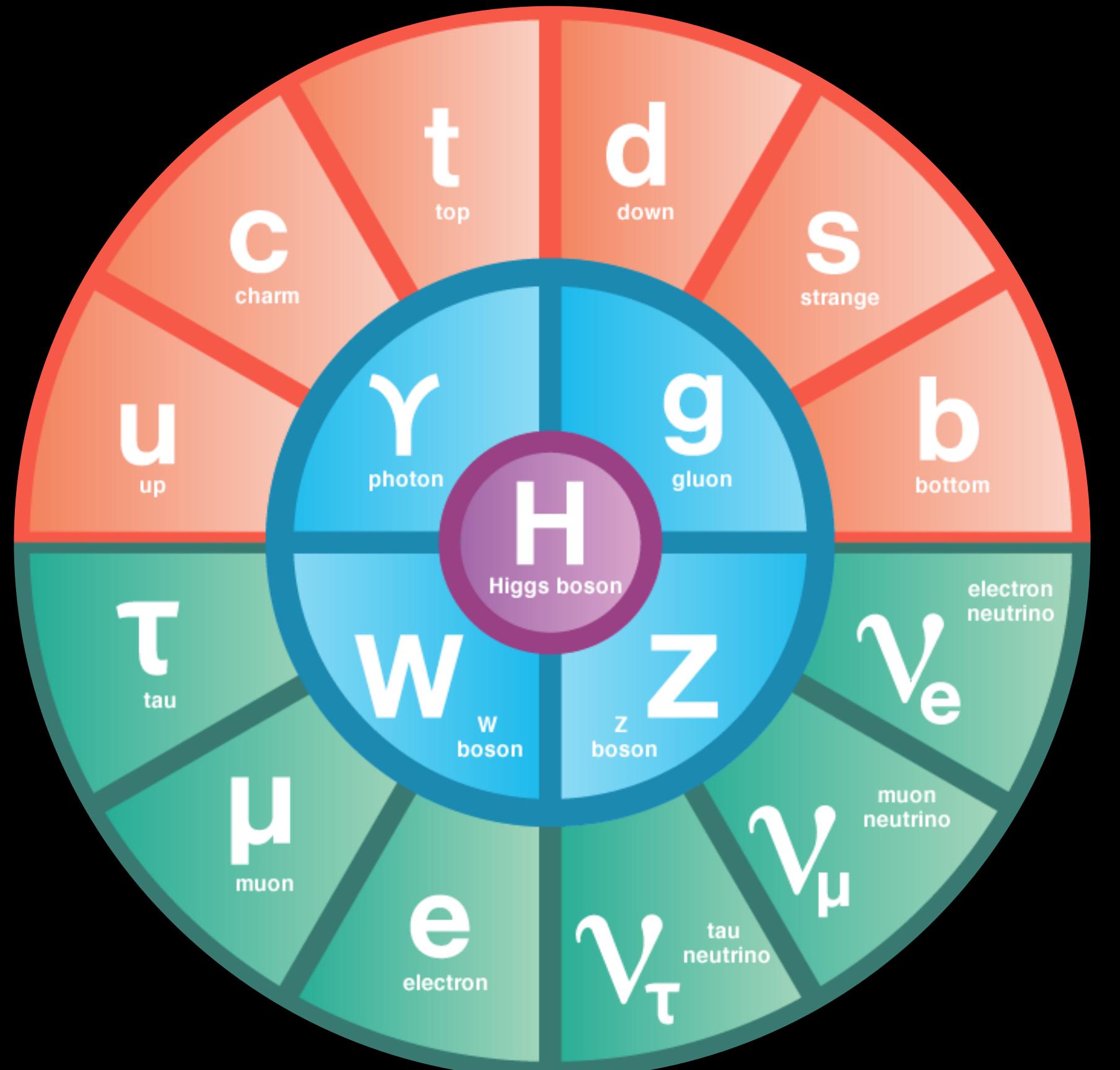
What is dark matter?

# Dark matter candidate

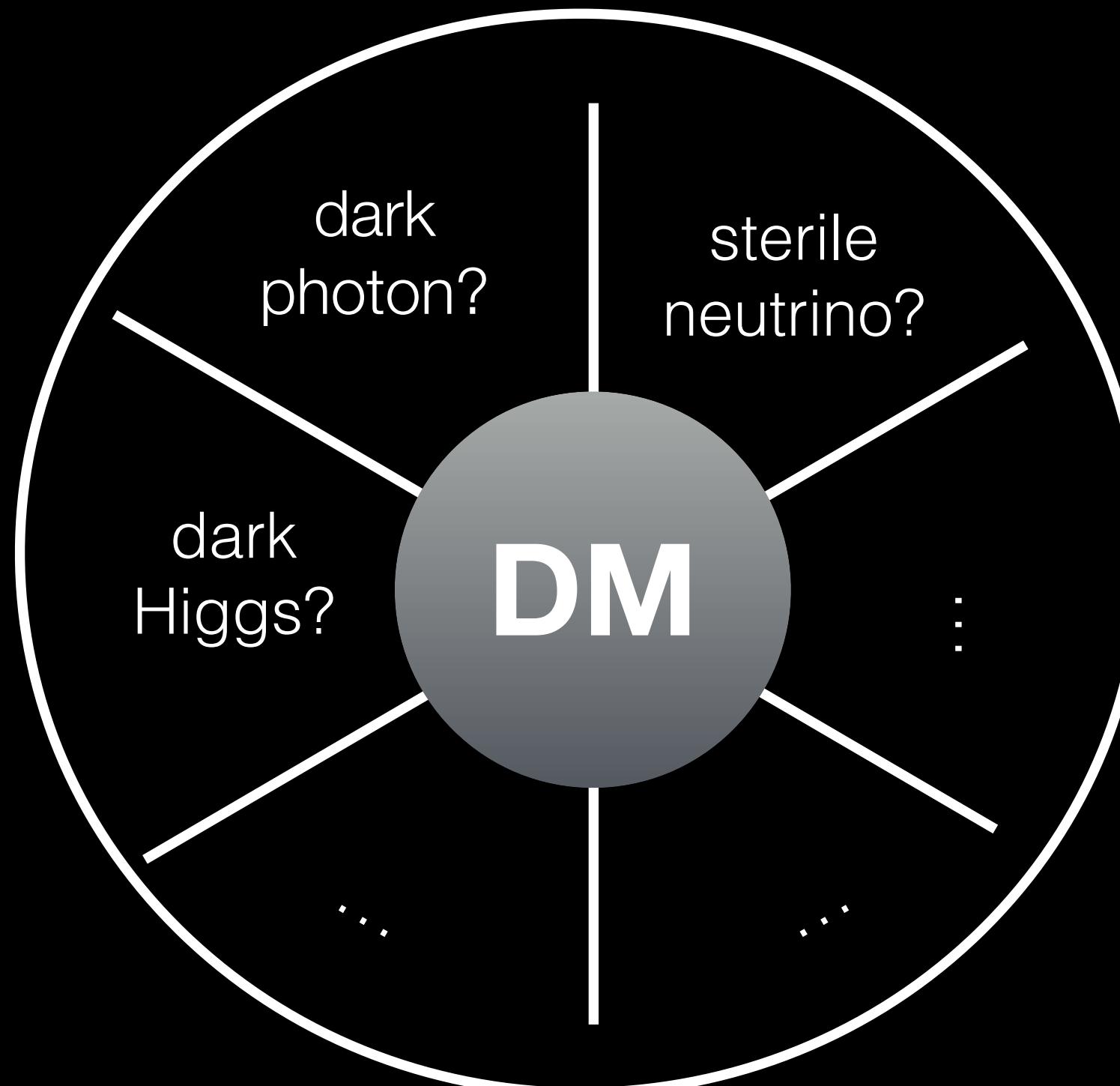


# Is dark matter alone?

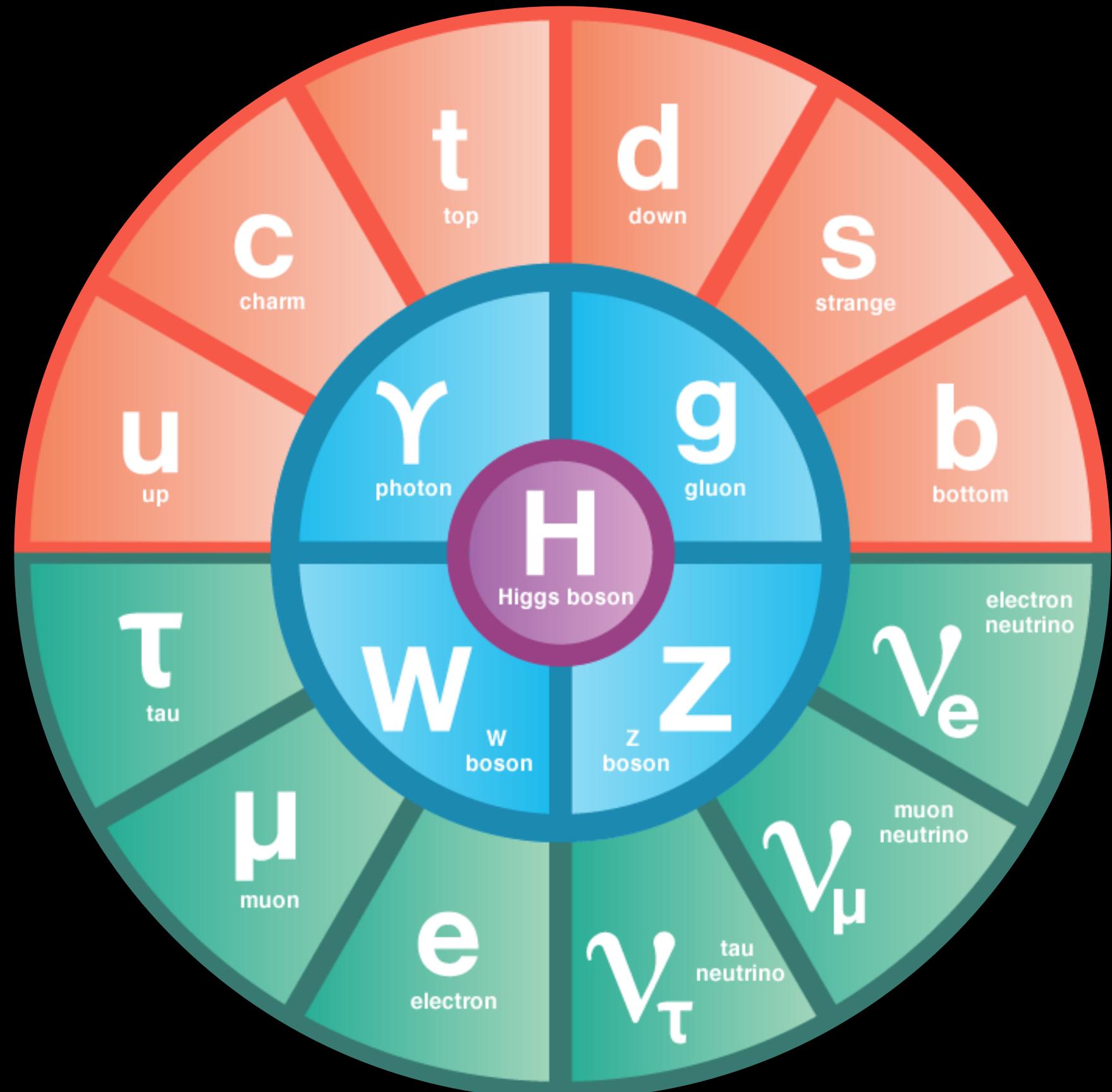




Ordinary matter

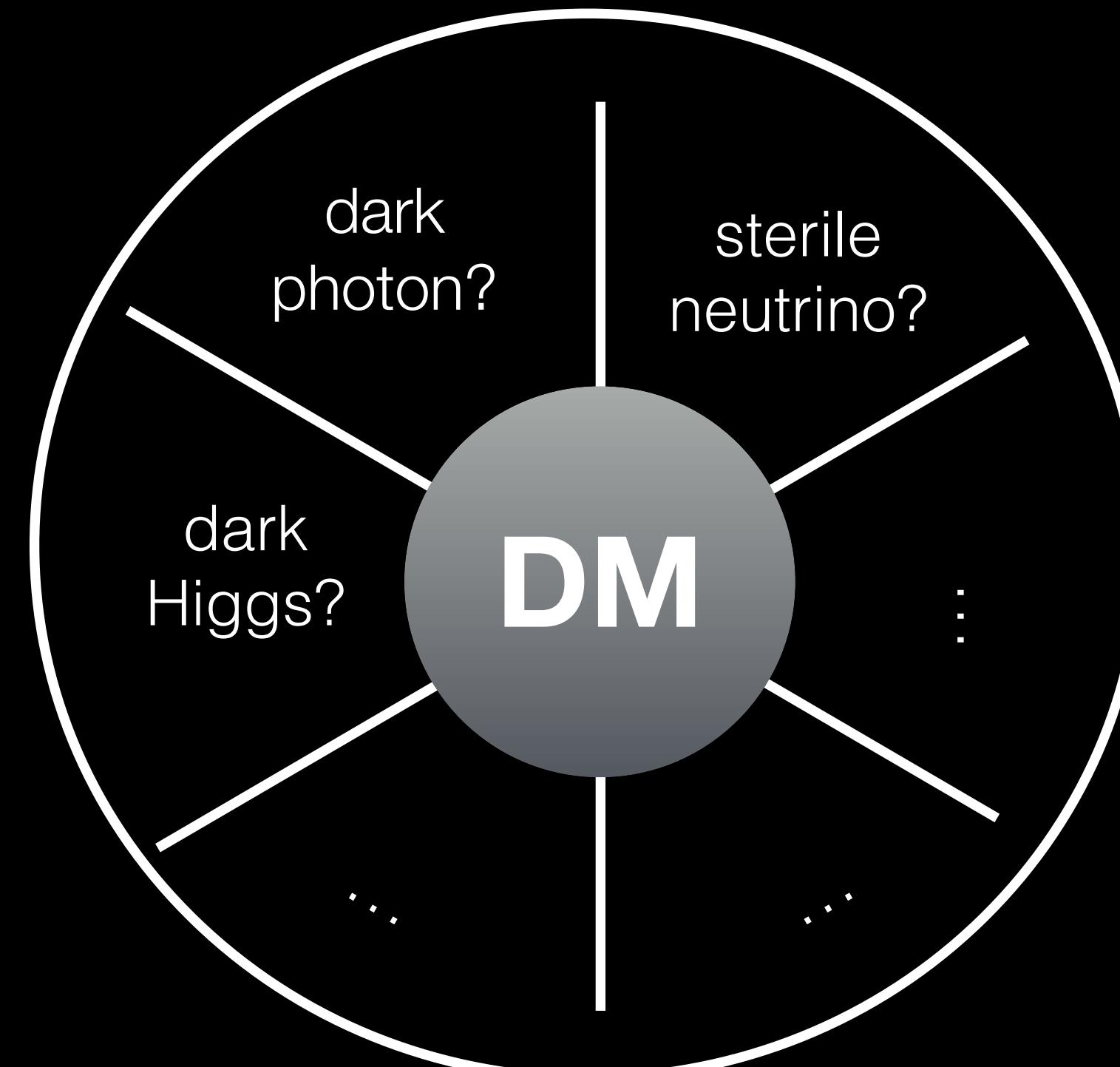


Dark sector



Ordinary matter

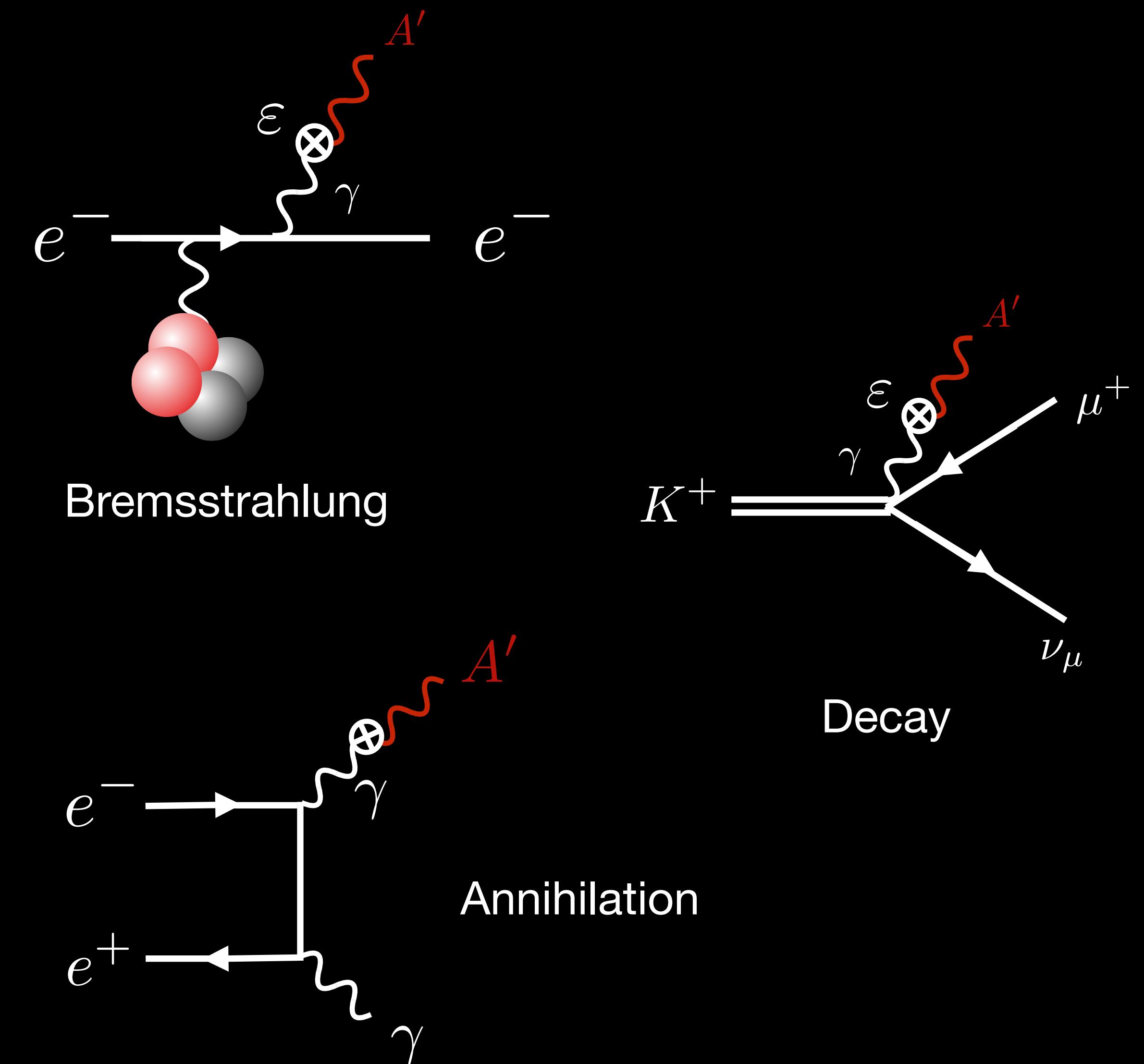
Portal?



Dark sector

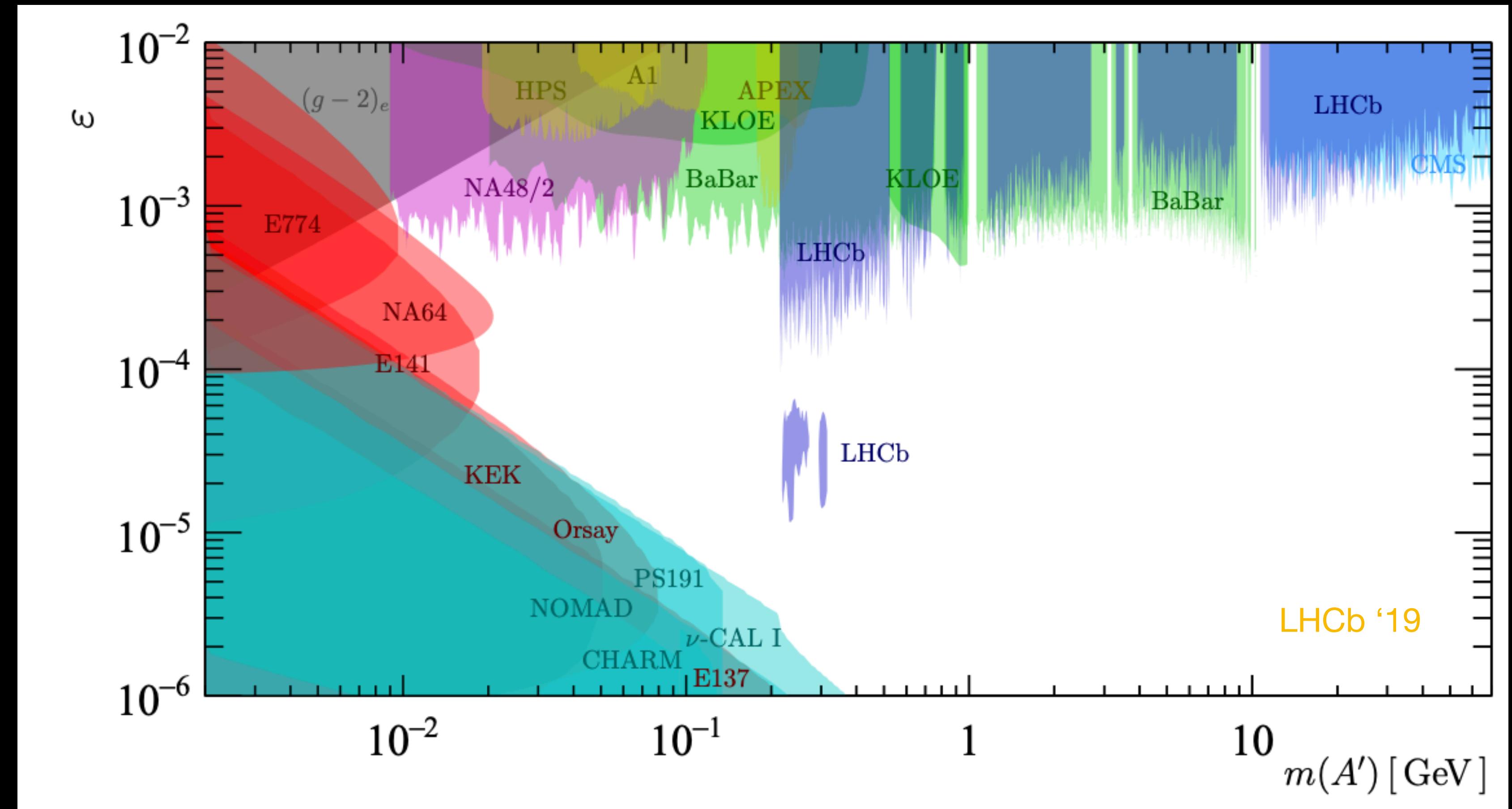
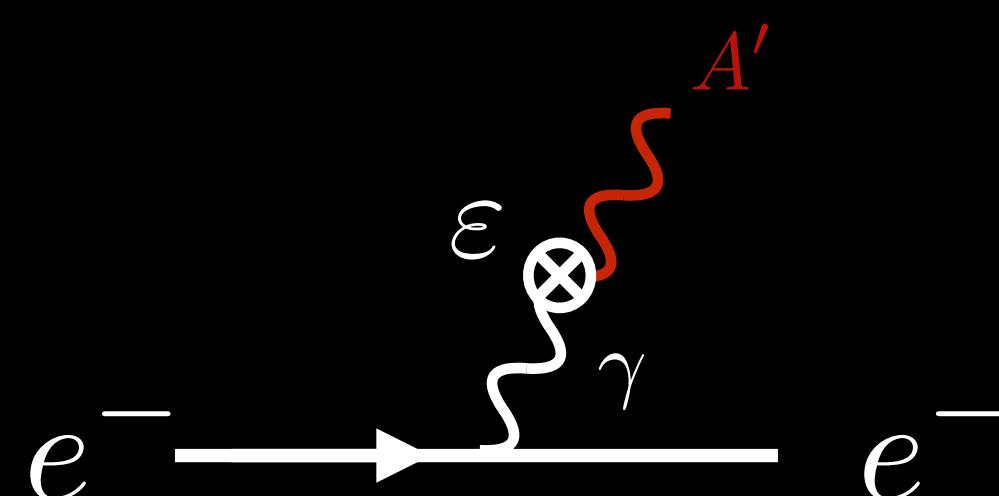
# Dark sector searches

If dark photon  
couples to the  
Standard Model  
charged particles



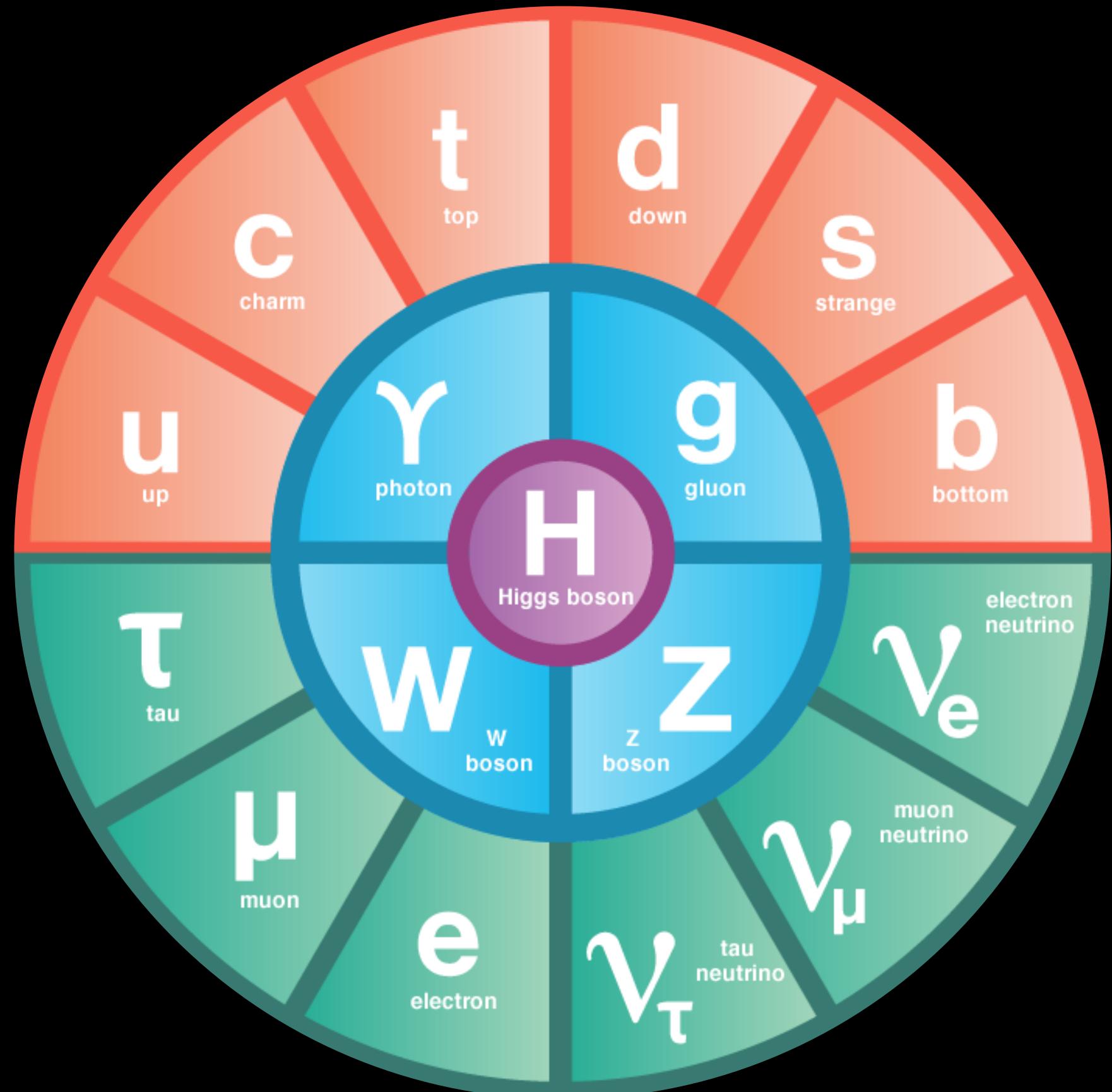
# Dark sector searches

Coupling to the  
Standard Model  
charged particles

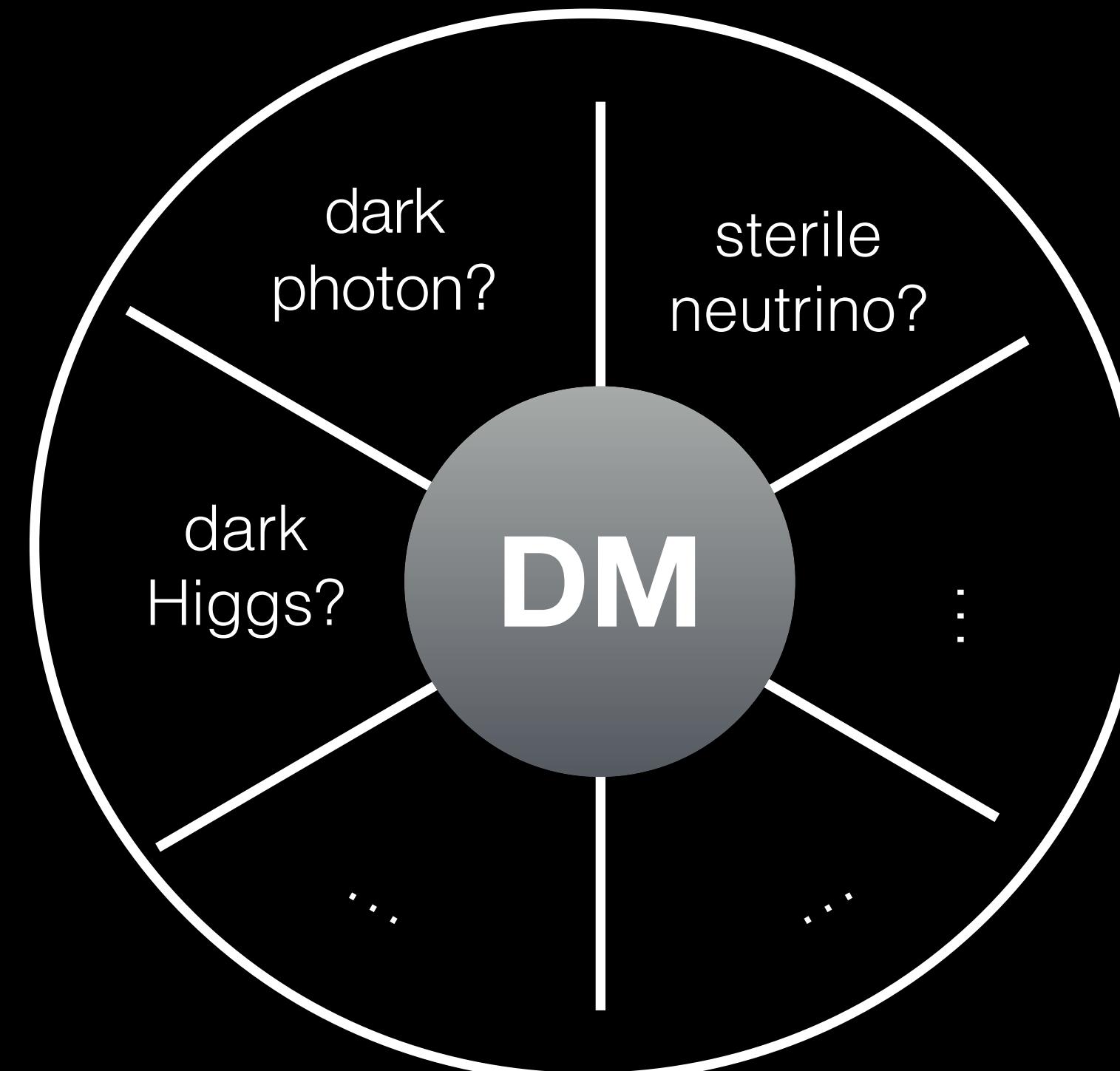
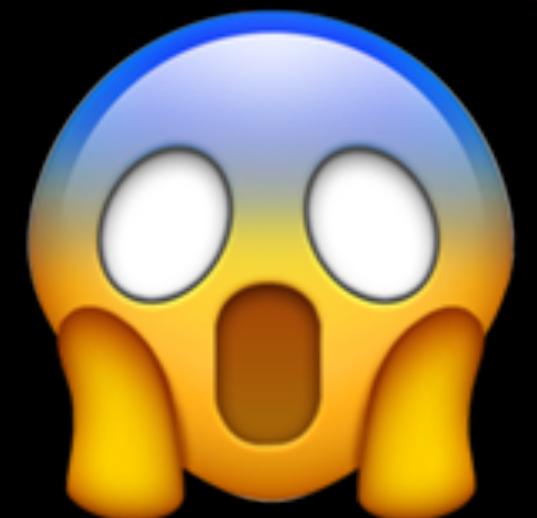
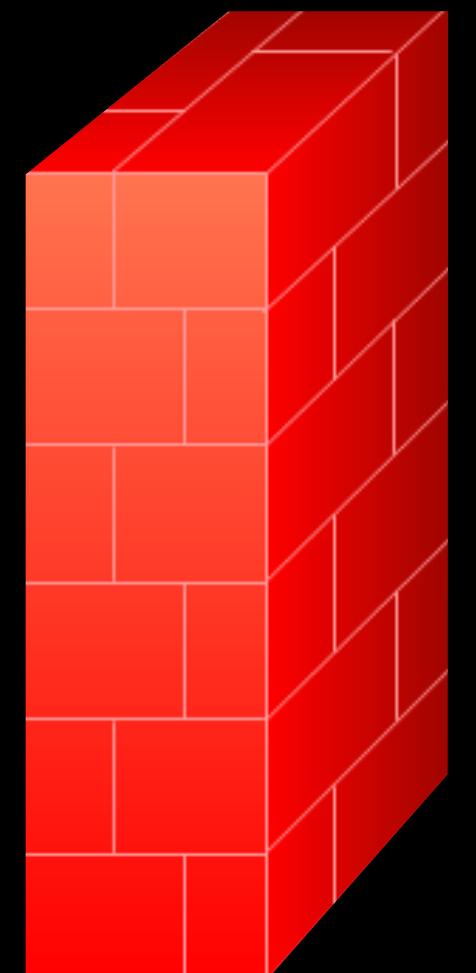


Except ATOMKI'16, JAM '23

Dark photon mass



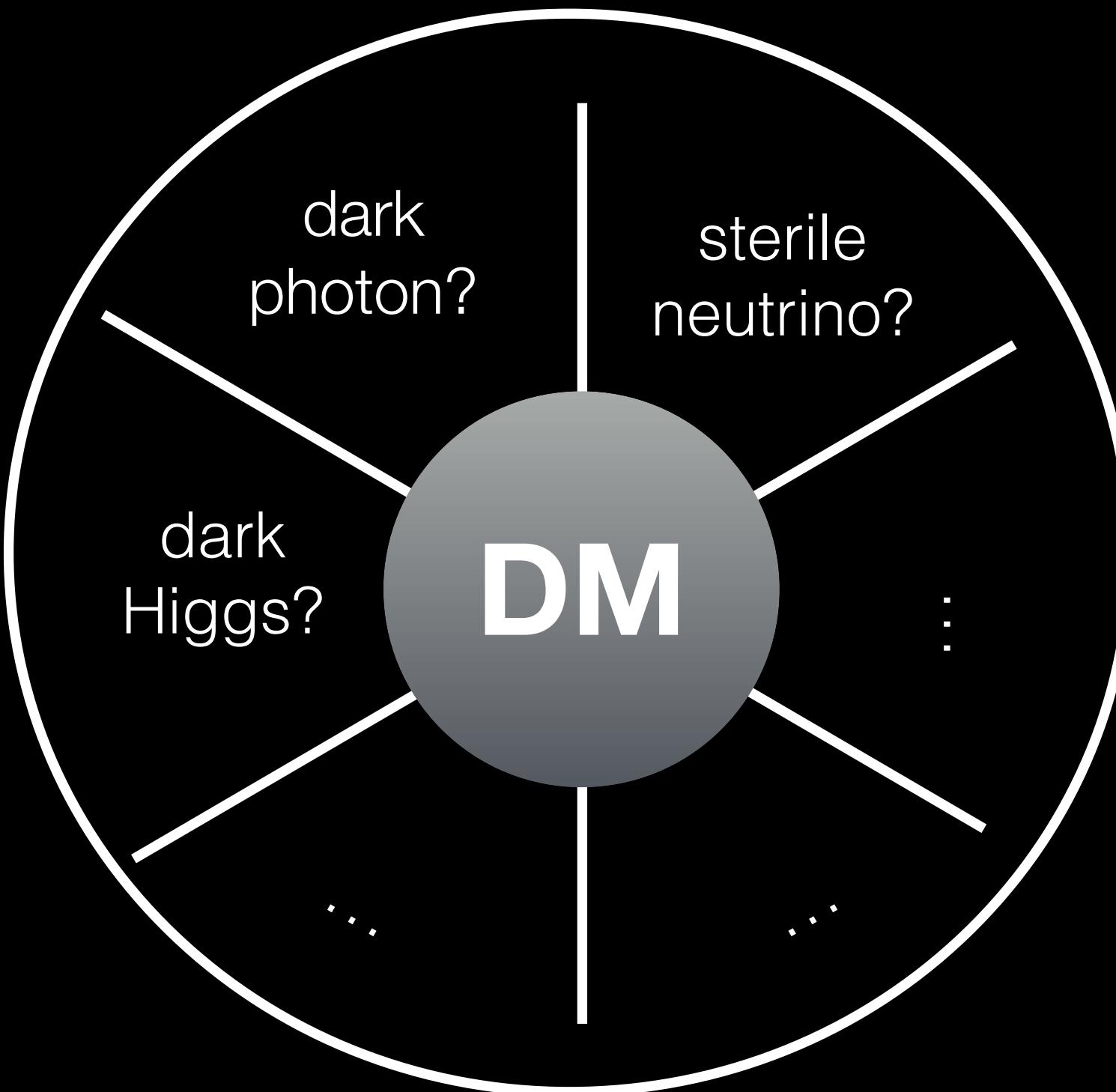
Ordinary matter



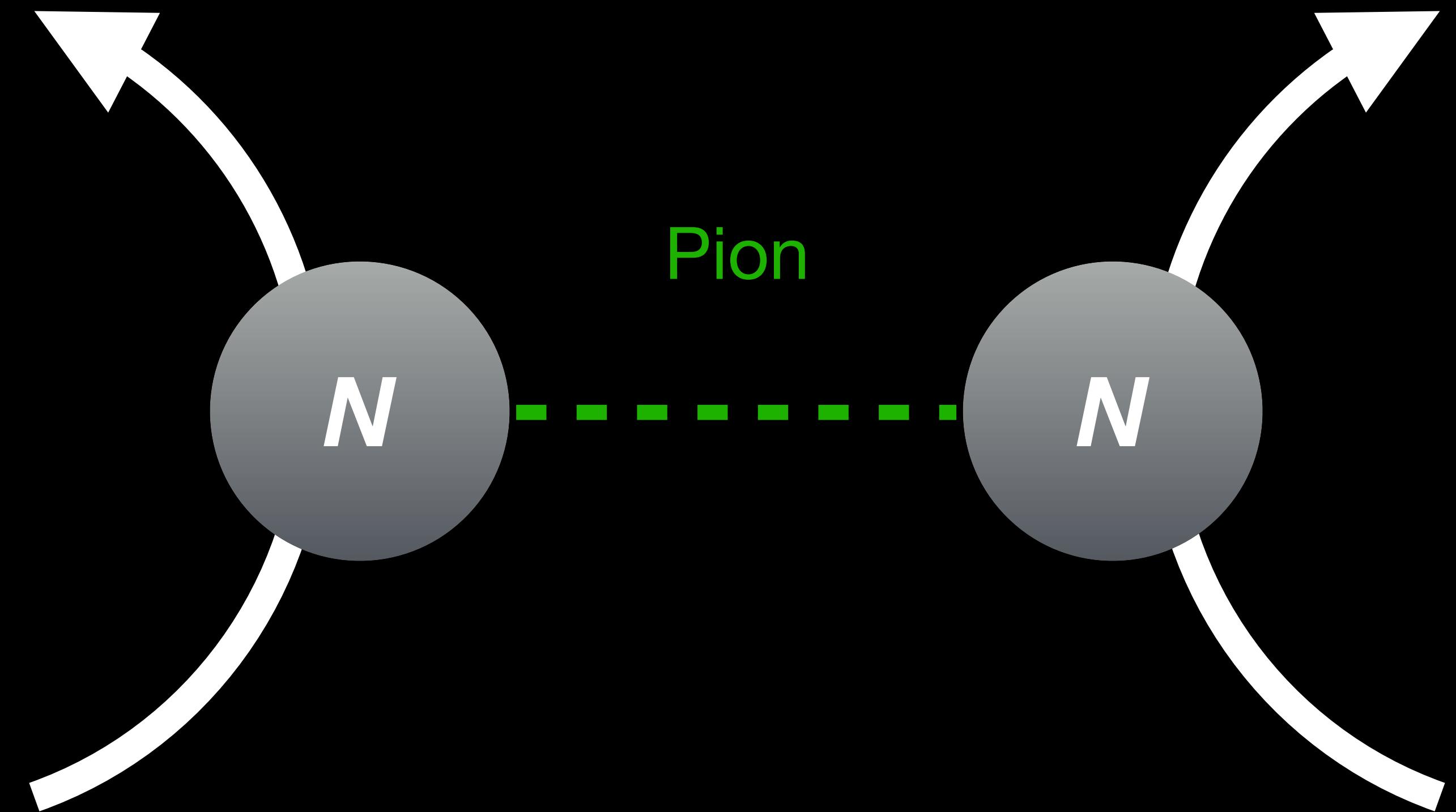
Dark sector



Self-interactions?



Dark sector



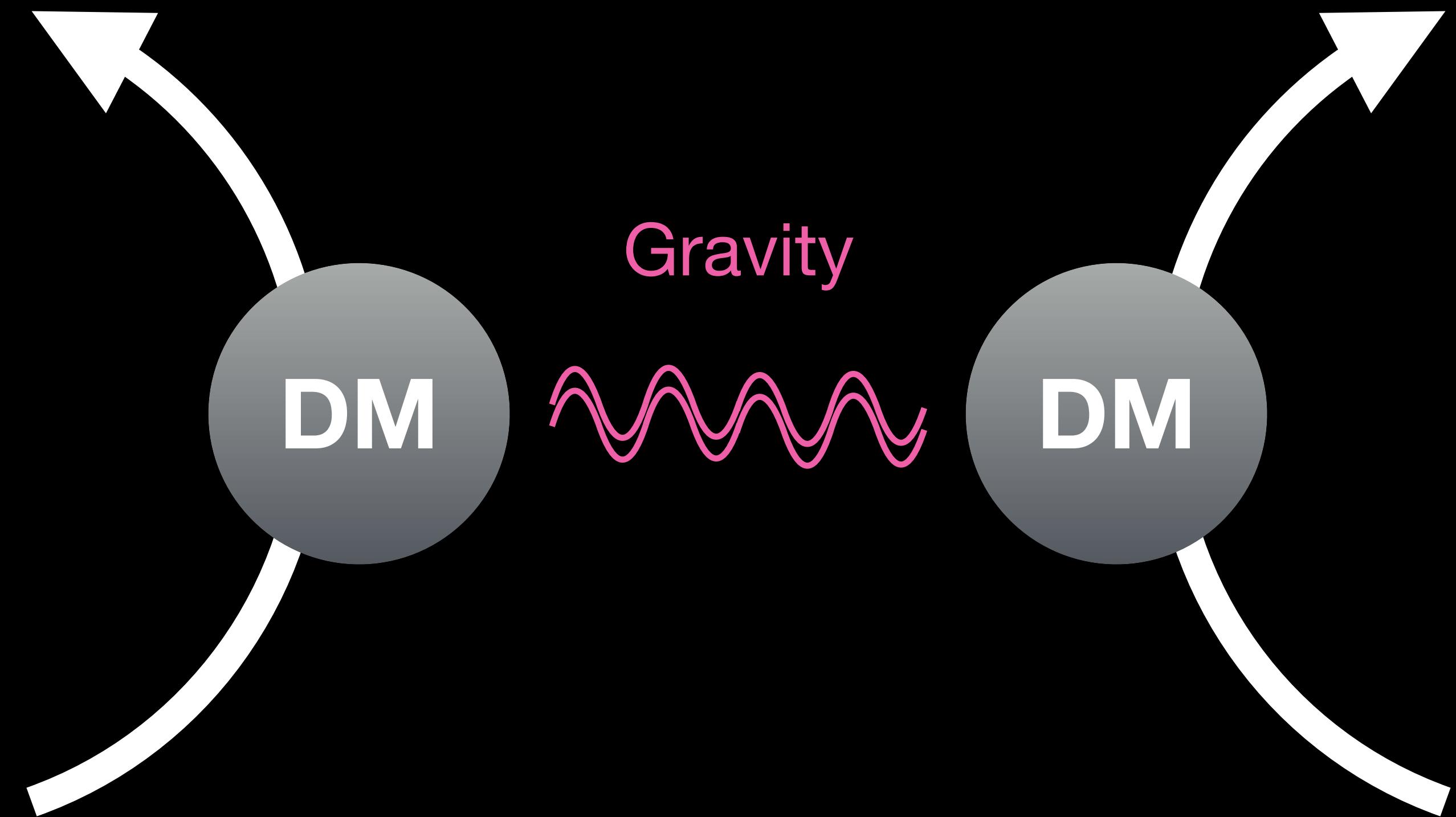
## Nucleon-nucleon self-interaction

Cross section strength:  $\sigma_T/m_N \sim 10 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$

Nuclear Data Sheets '11

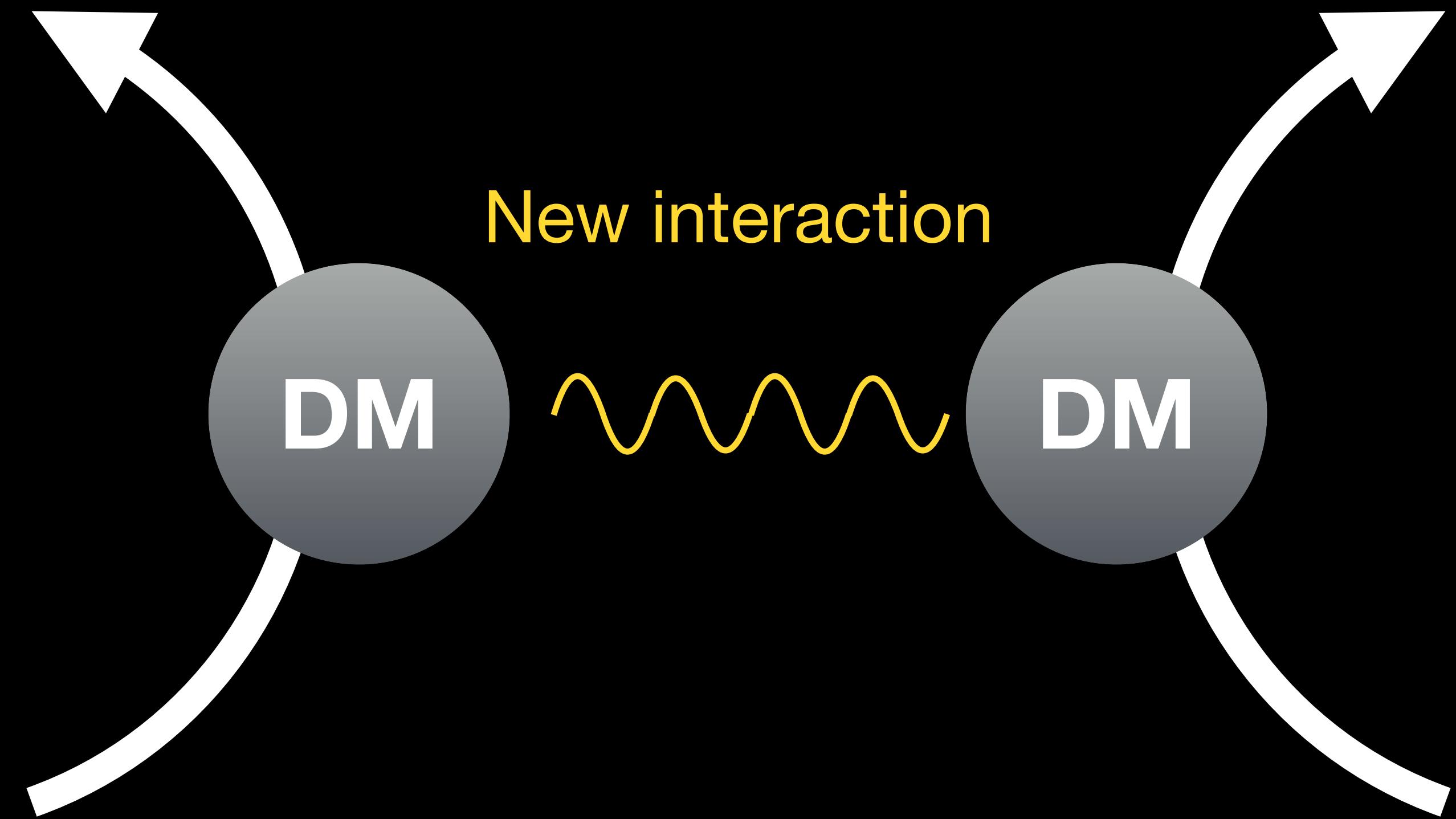
$1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$

$\approx 2 \text{ barn}/\text{GeV}$



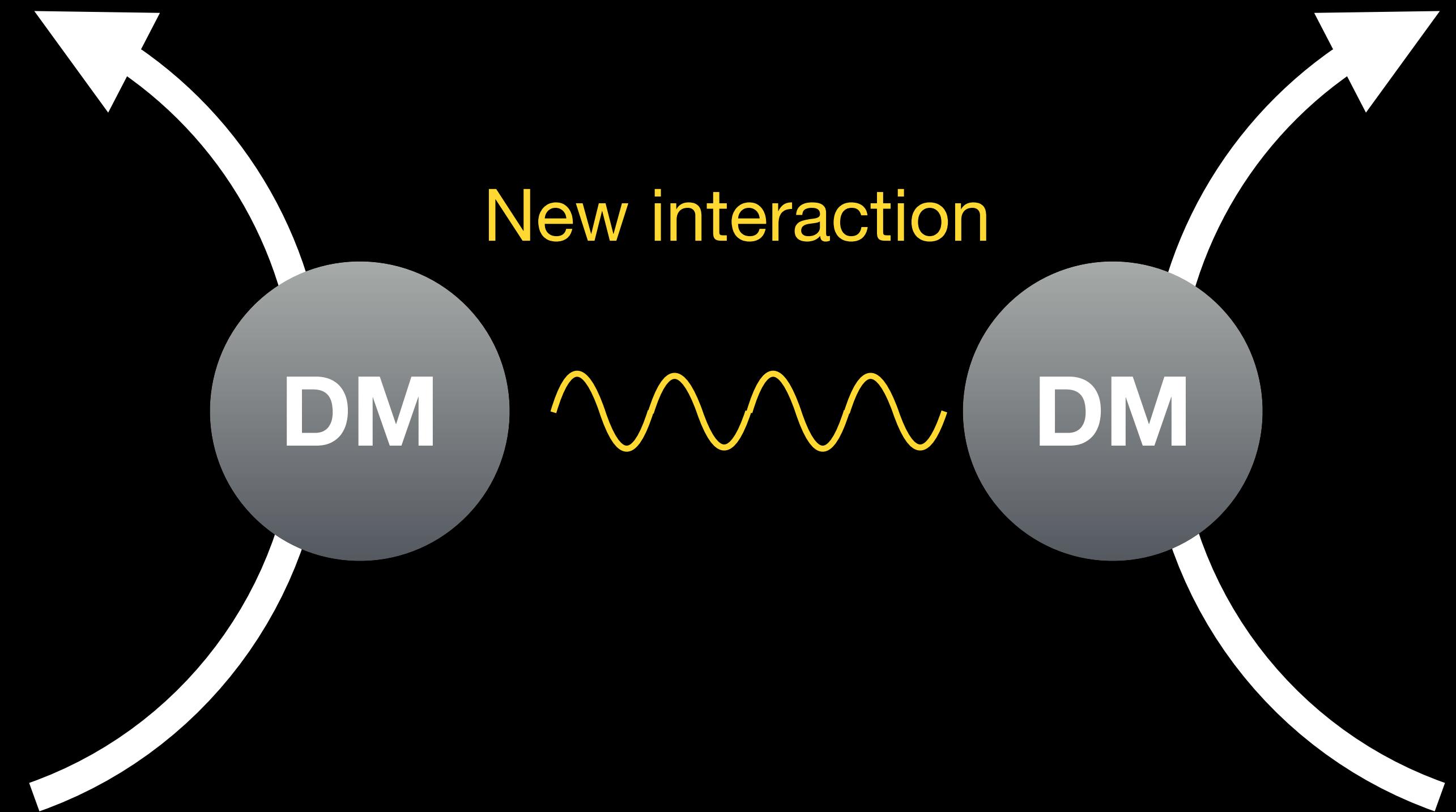
## Cold Collisionless Dark Matter (CDM)

Cross section strength:  $\sigma_T/m_{\text{DM}} \sim 10^{-70} \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$  (DM mass~GeV)



## Self-Interacting Dark Matter (SIDM)

Cross section strength:  $\sigma_T/m_{\text{DM}} \sim 1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$

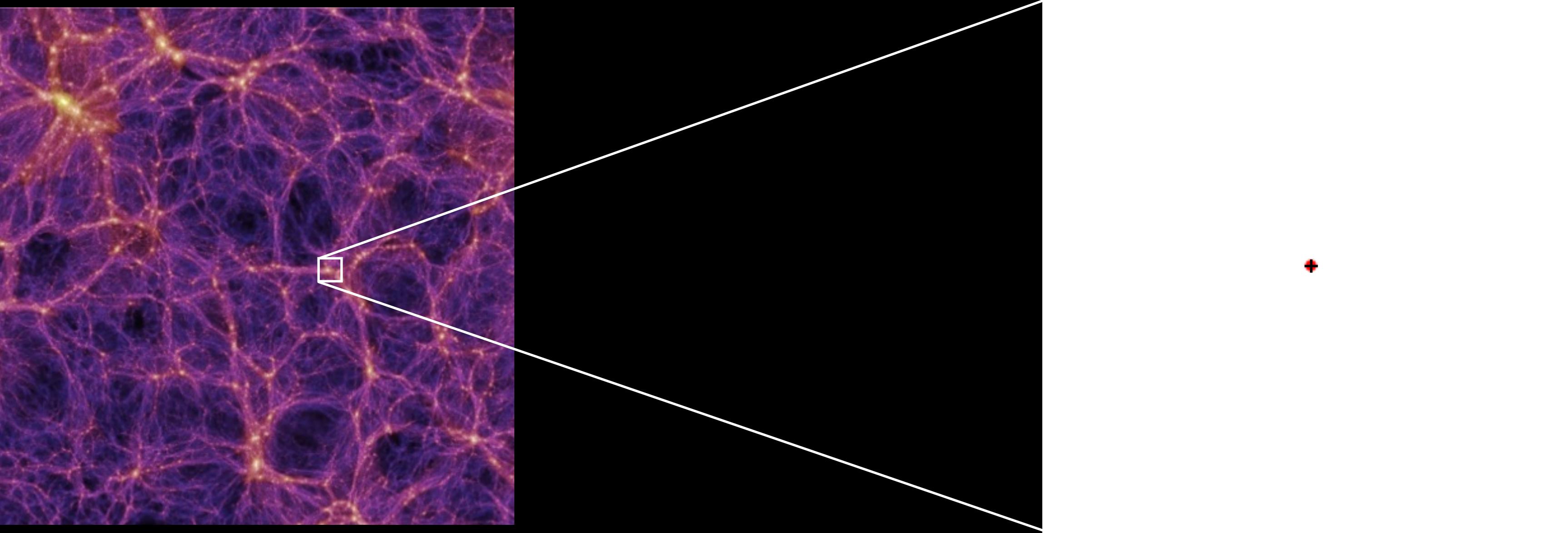


$$\sigma_T/m_{\text{DM}} \sim 1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$$

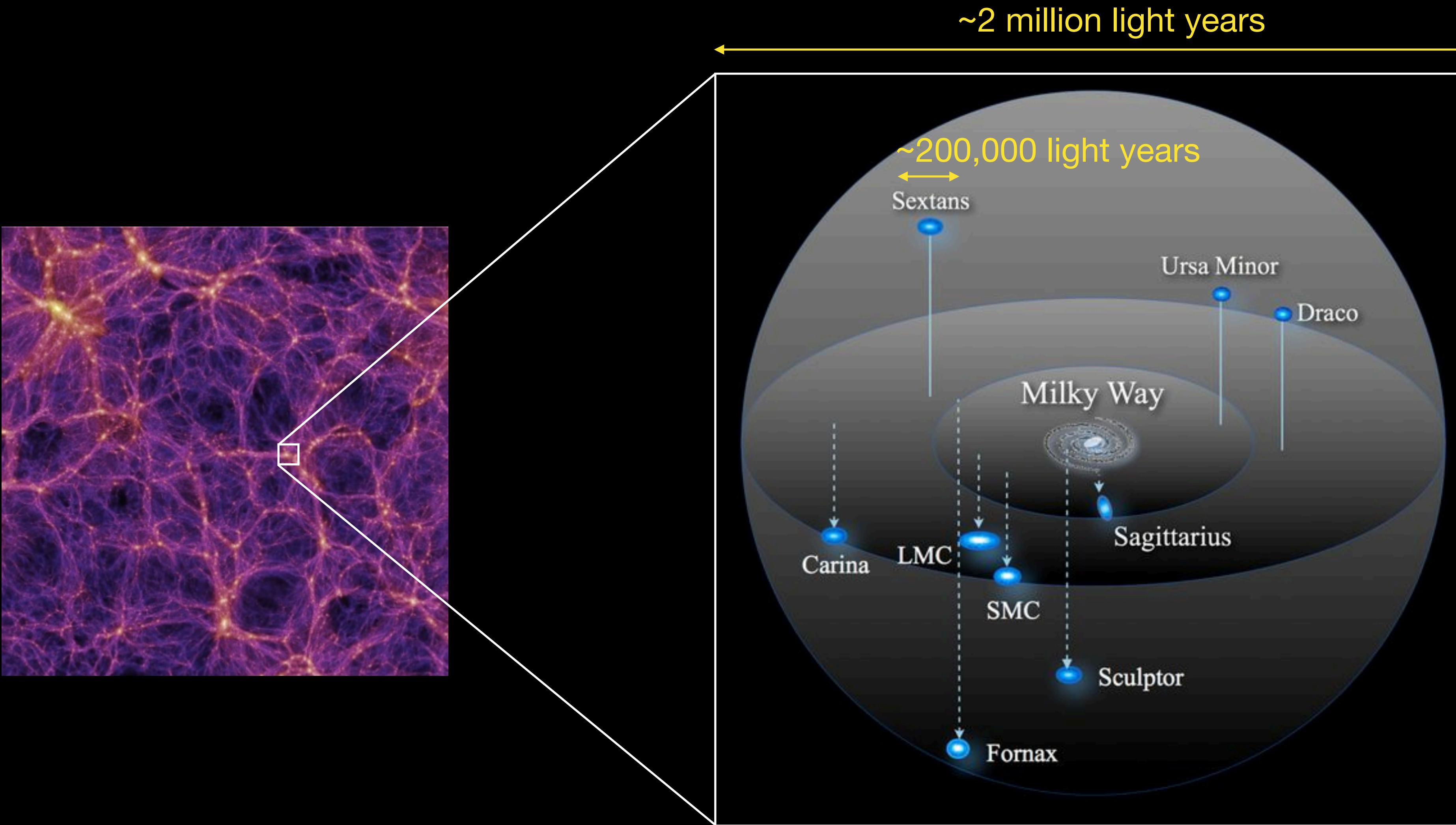
$$t_{\text{rlx}} = \frac{1}{\rho(\sigma/m)v} \sim 10 \text{ Gyr} \left( \frac{0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3}{\rho} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}}{\sigma/m} \right) \left( \frac{200 \text{ km/s}}{v} \right)$$

Spergel & Steinhardt '00

# Where to look at?

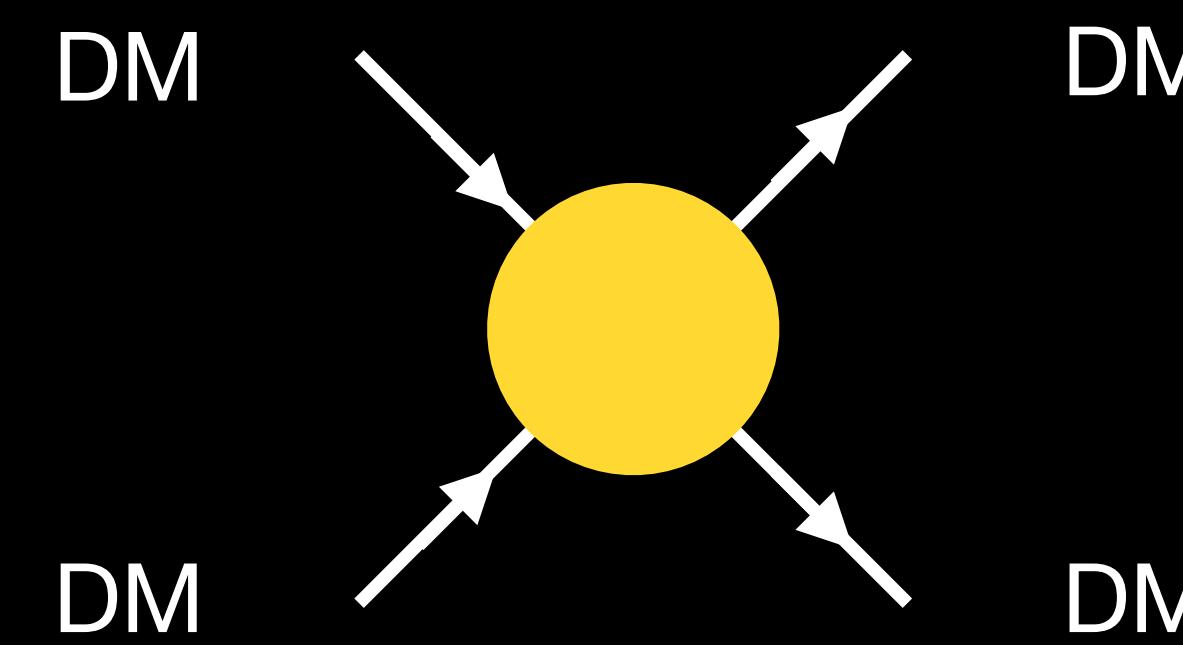


# Where to look at?

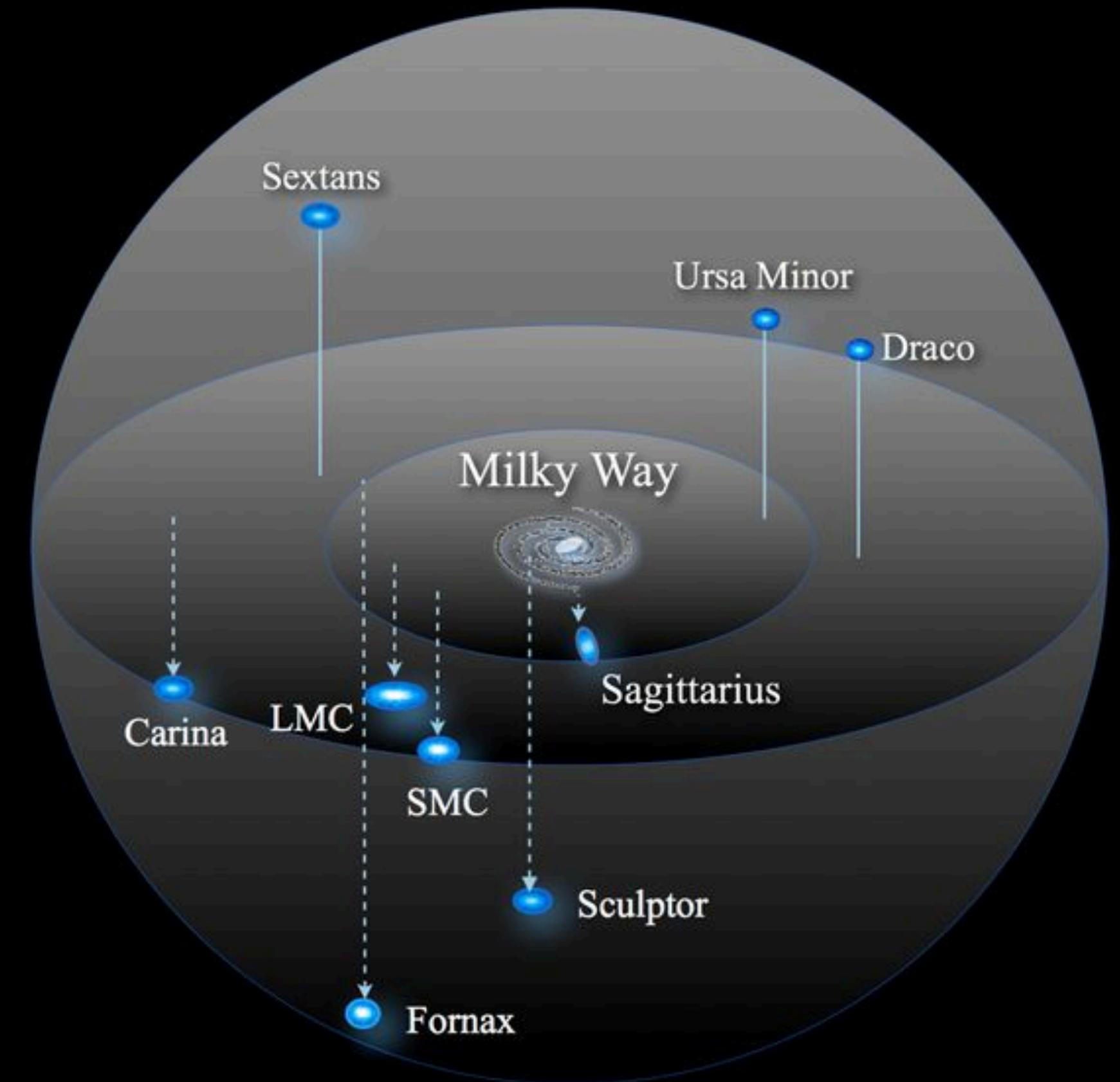
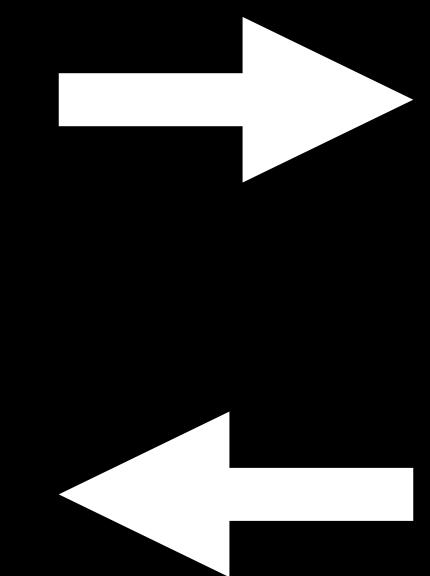


**Dark matter halos**

# Dark matter halos can probe self-interactions



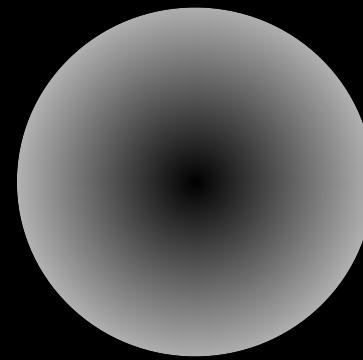
Dark matter self-interactions



Dark matter halo properties

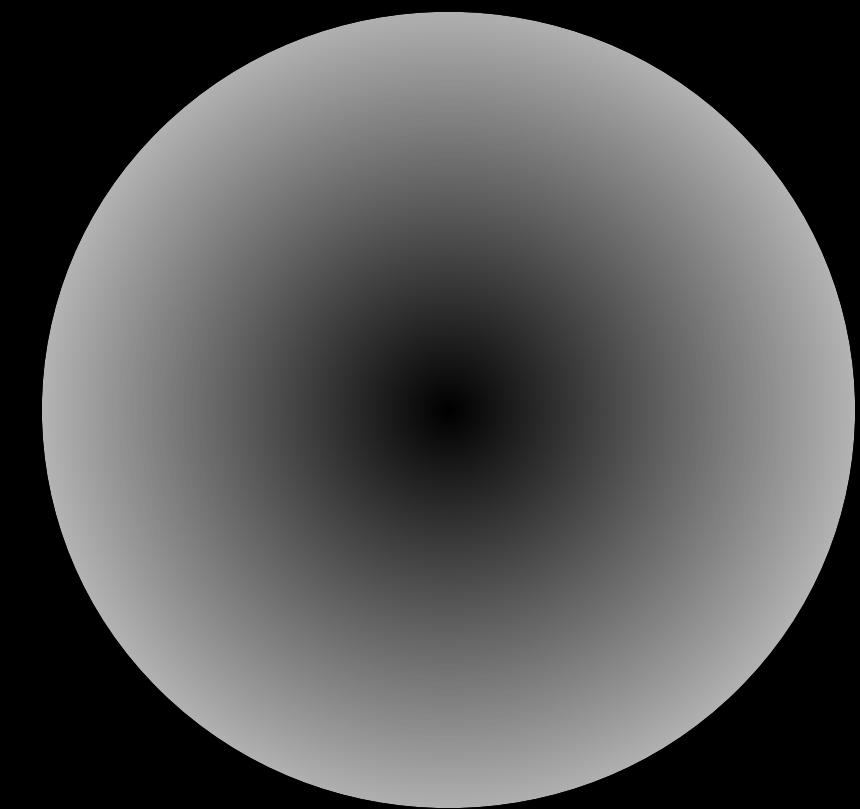
# Dark matter halo classes

Dwarf halos



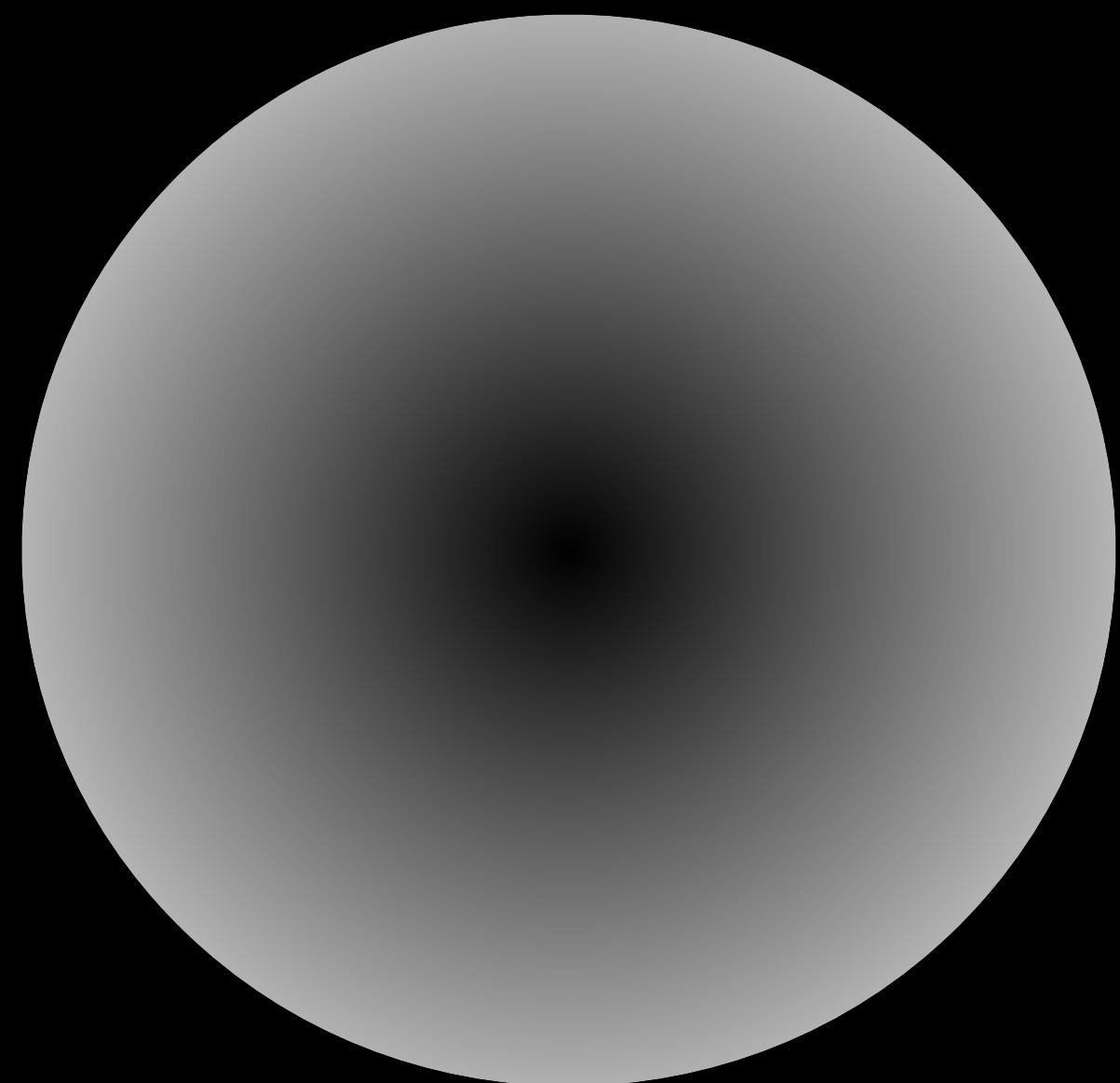
$10^8 \sim 10^{11} M_\odot$

Milky Way-sized halos



$10^{11} \sim 10^{14} M_\odot$

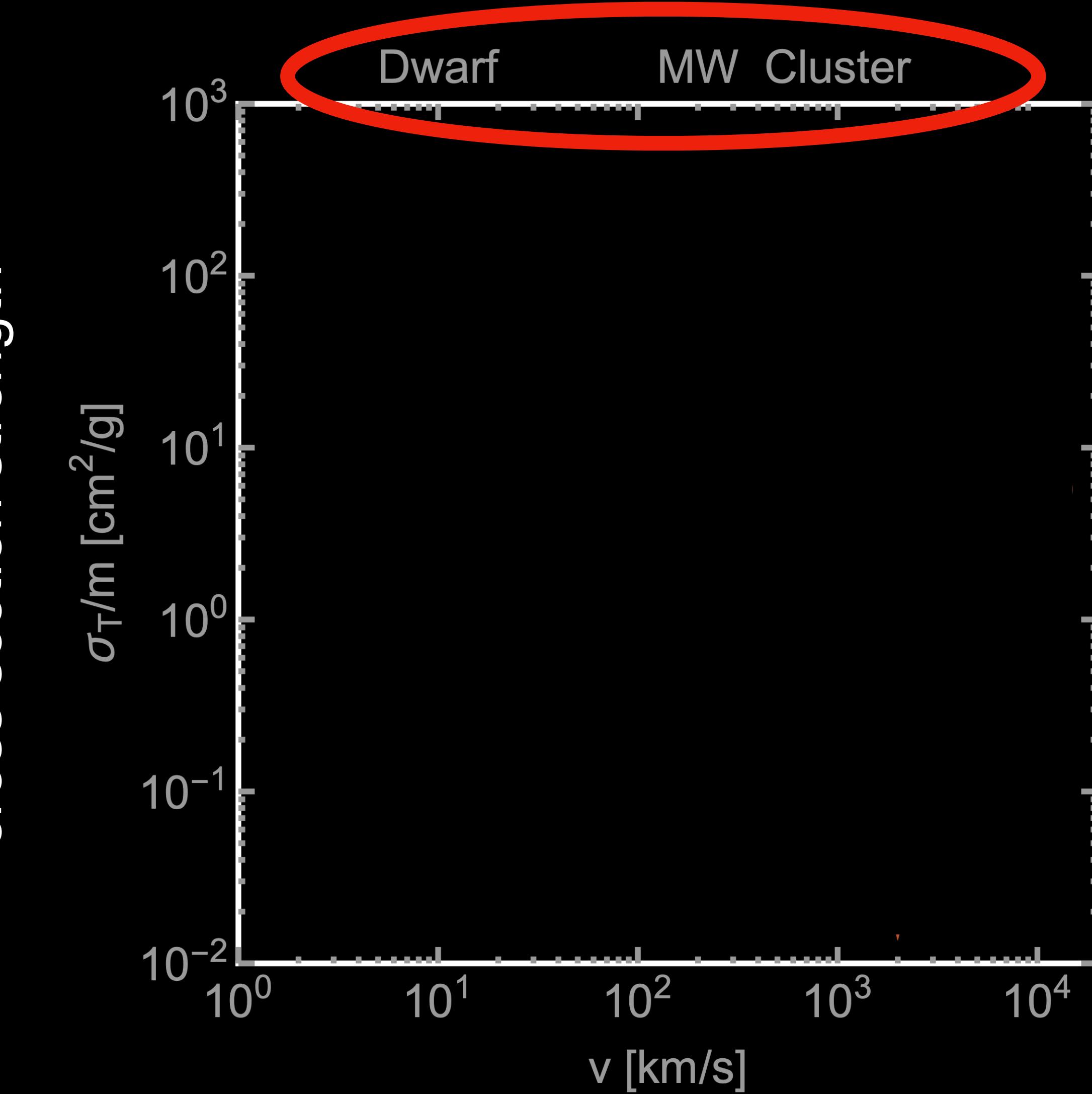
Galaxy cluster halos



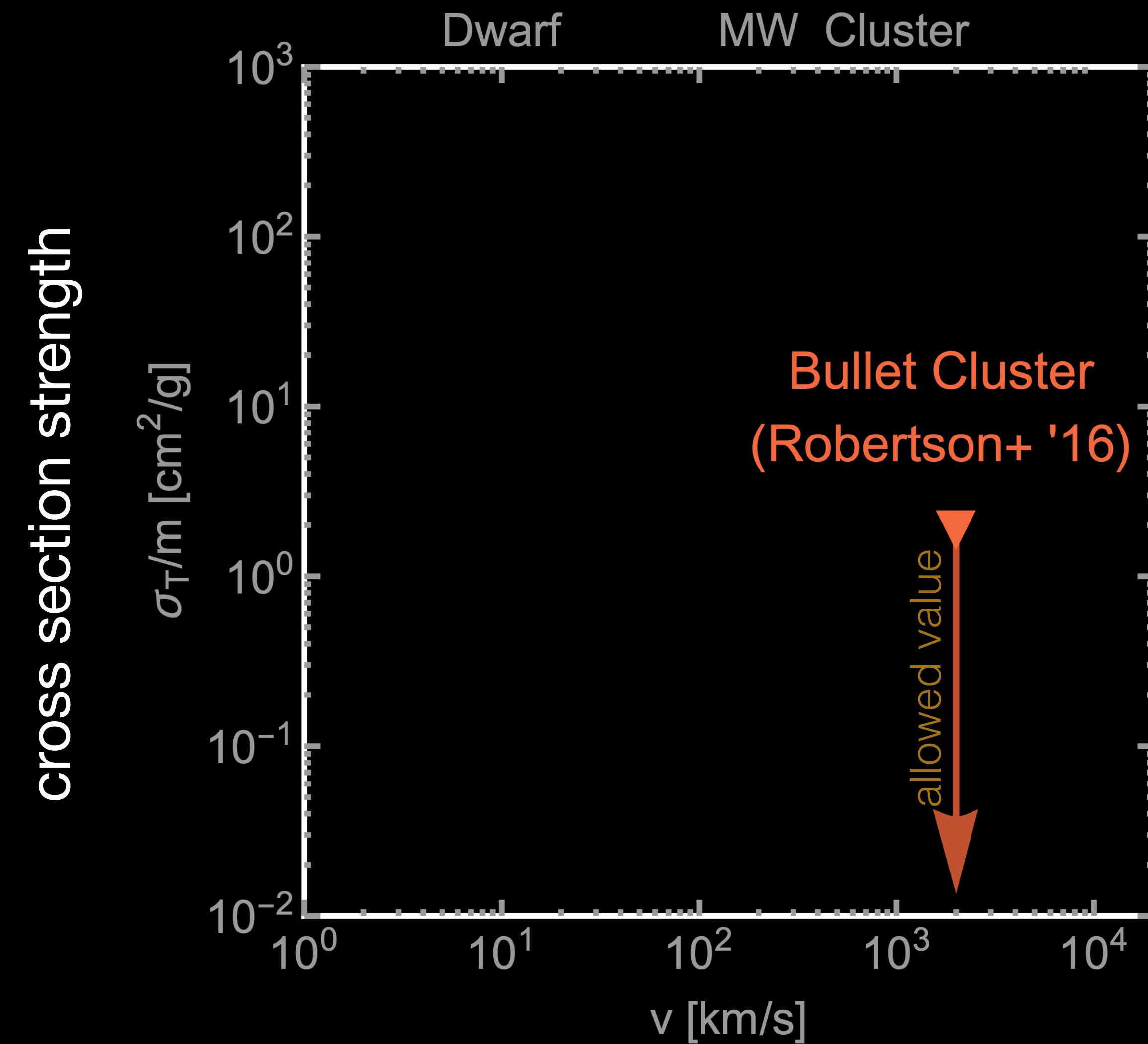
$10^{14} \sim 10^{15} M_\odot$

# Constraints on dark matter self-interaction

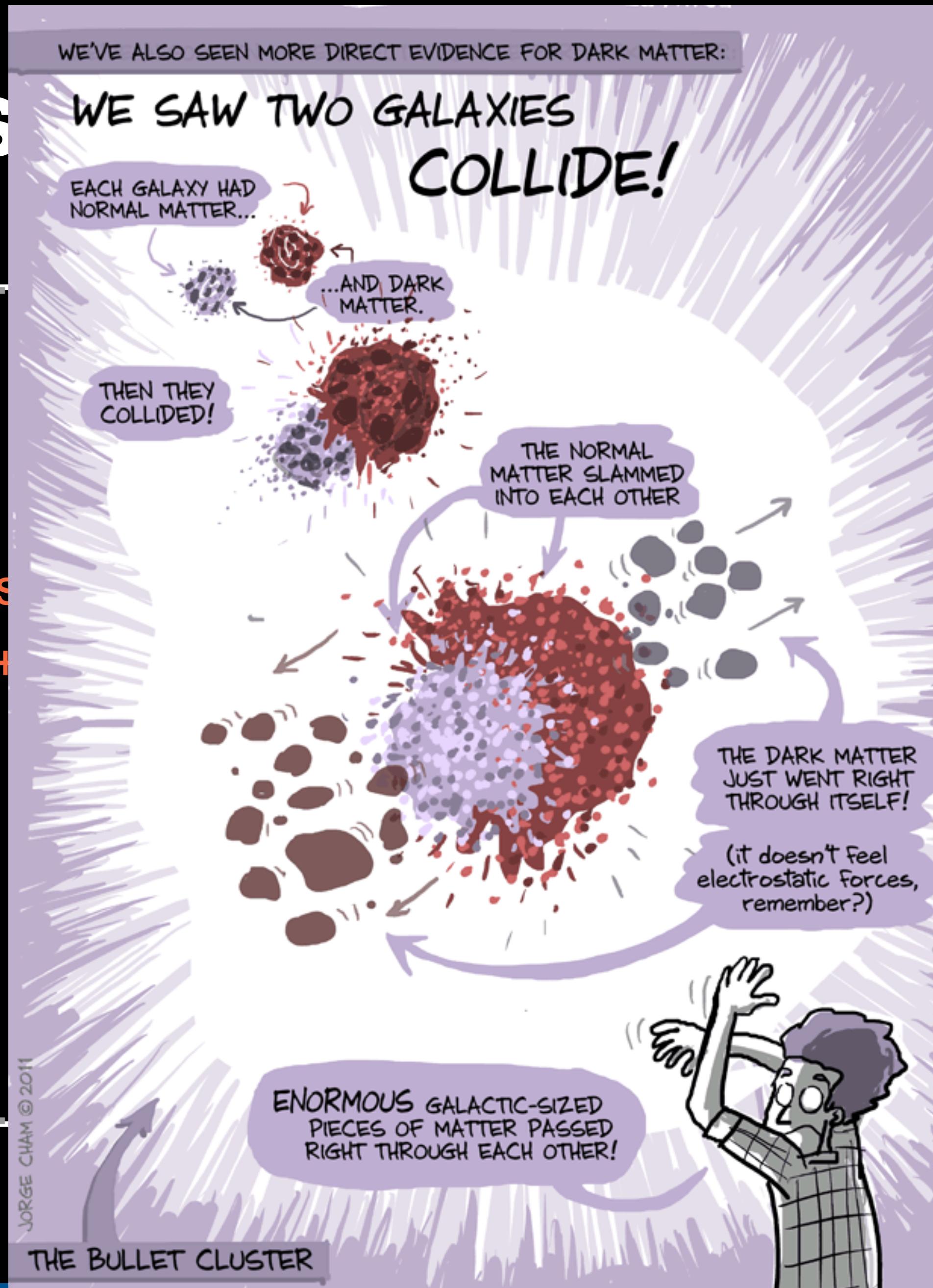
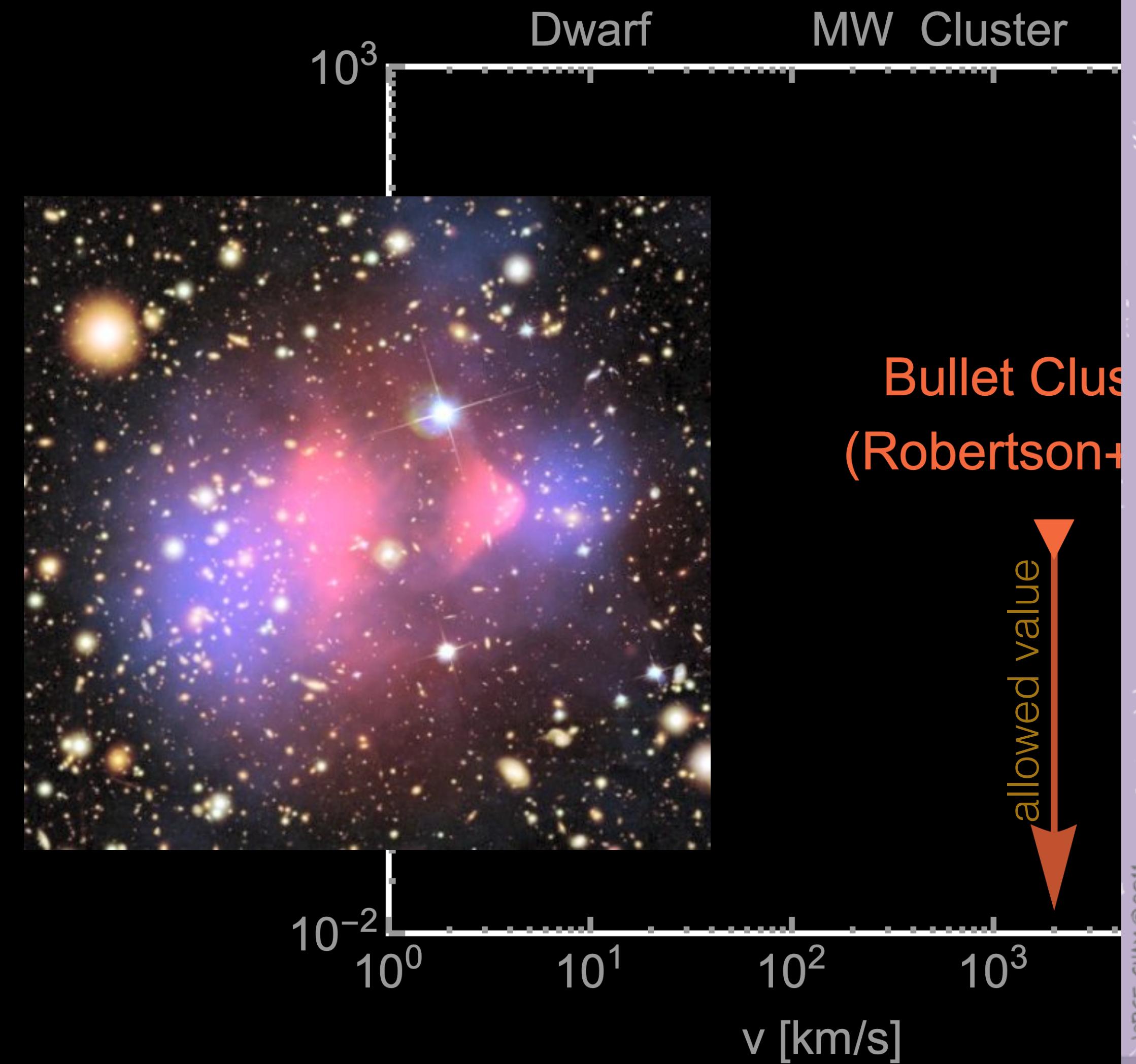
$1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$   
 $\approx 2 \text{ barn}/\text{GeV}$



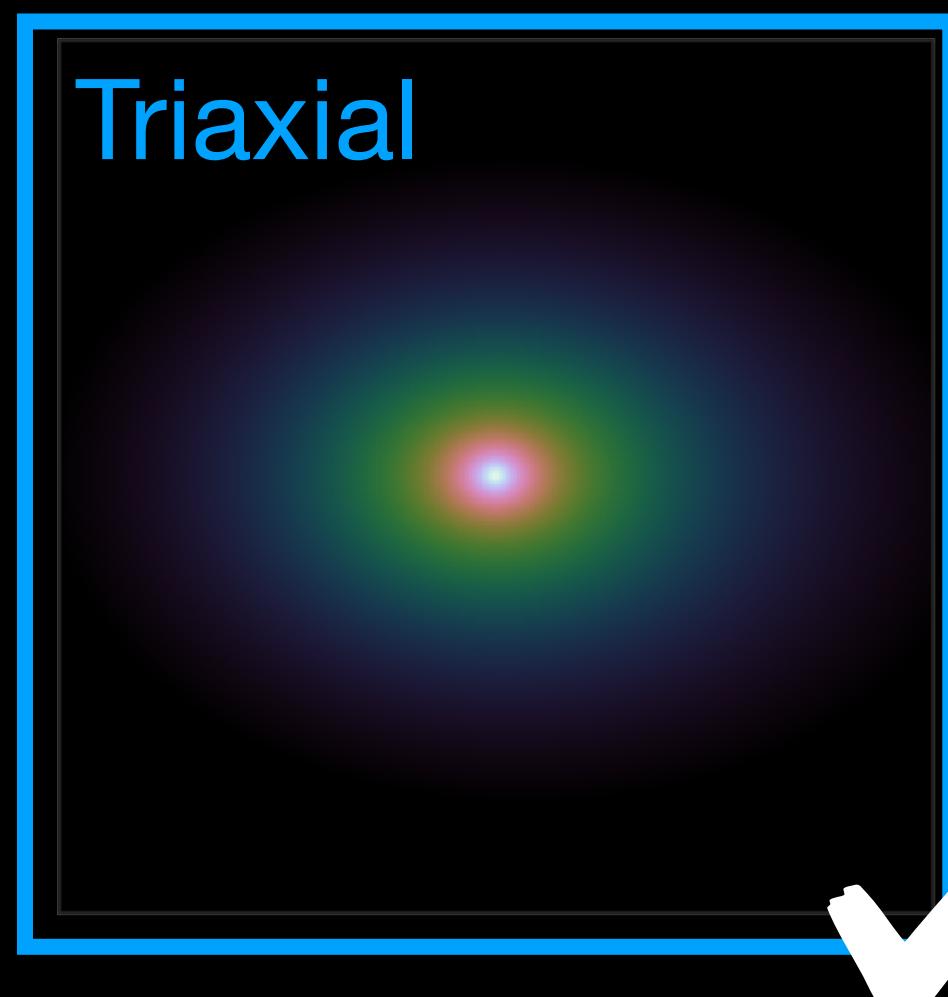
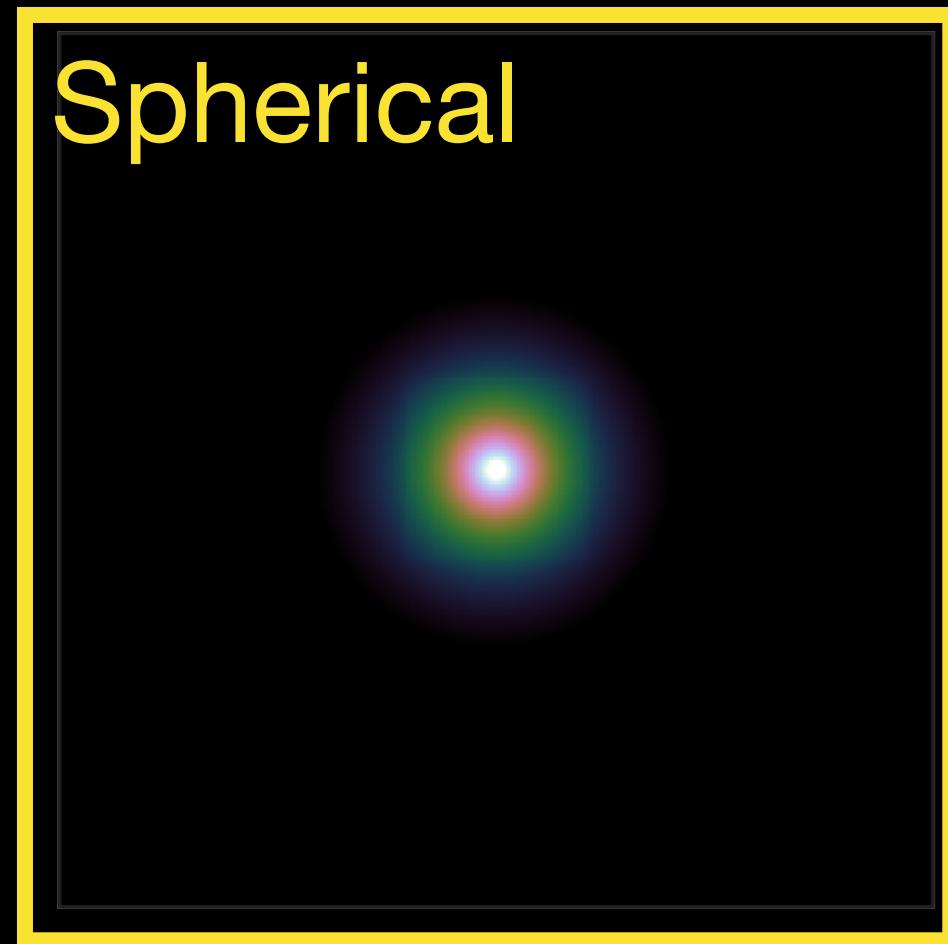
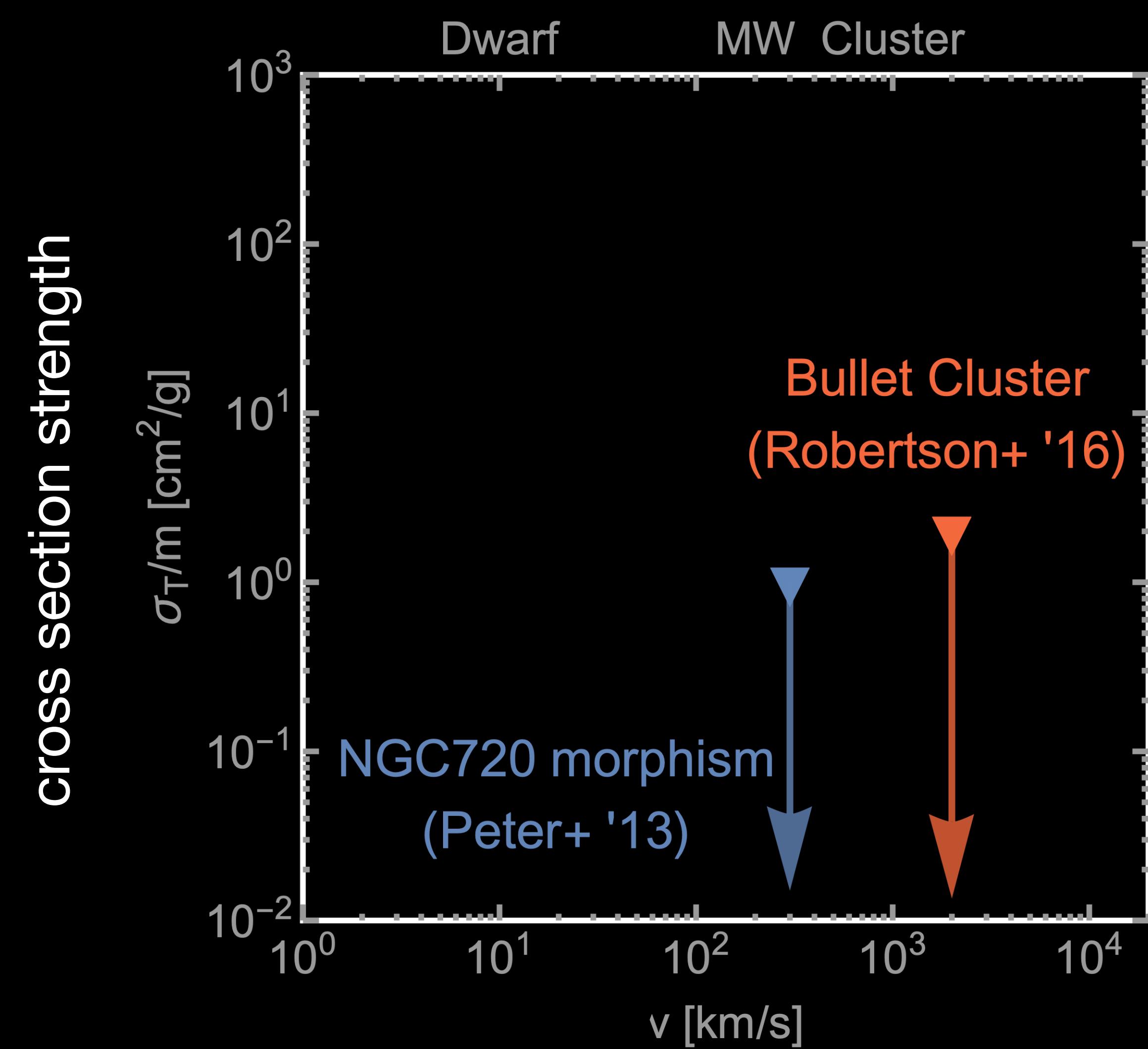
# Constraints on dark matter self-interaction



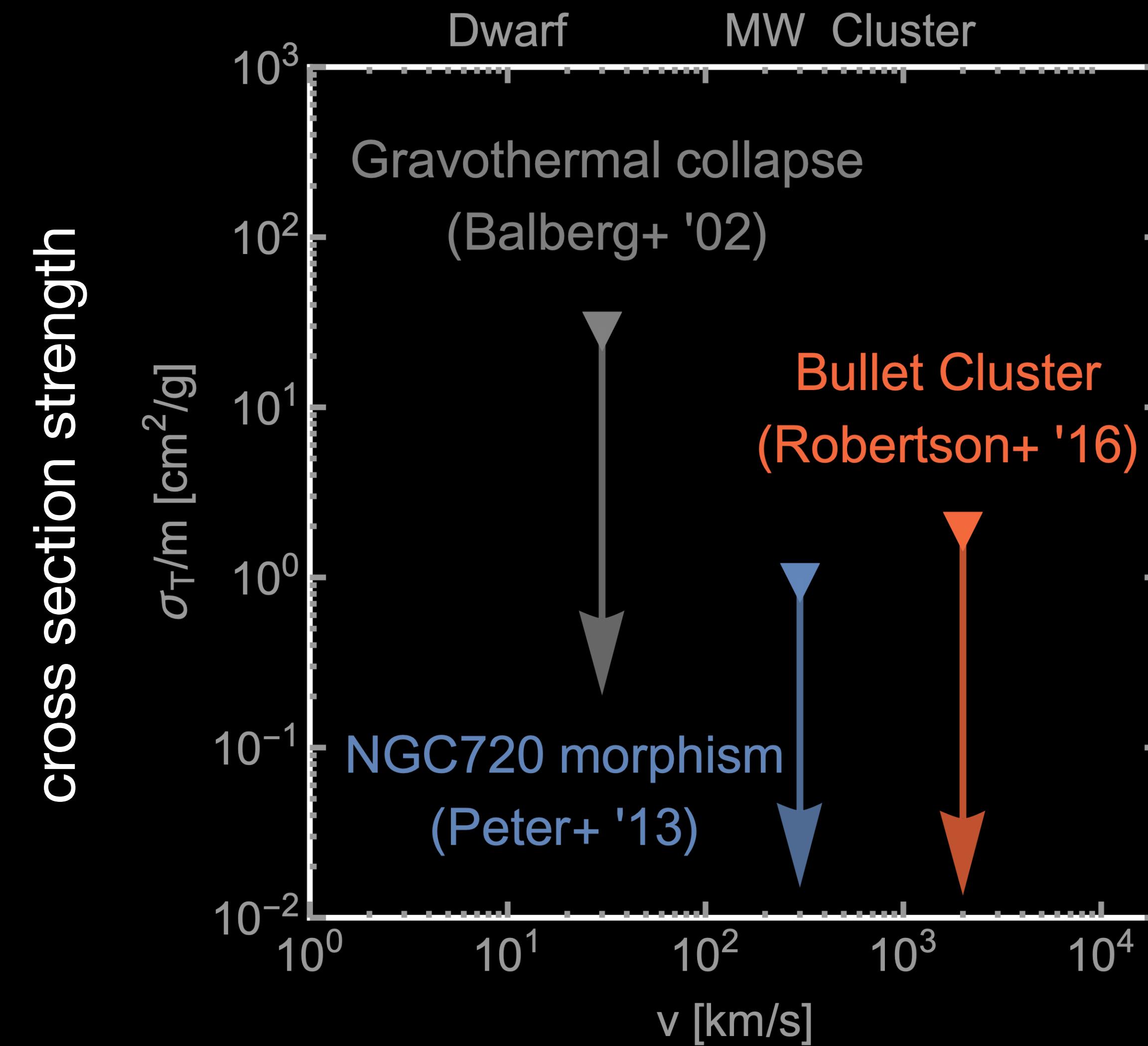
# Constraints on dark matter



# Constraints on dark matter self-interaction



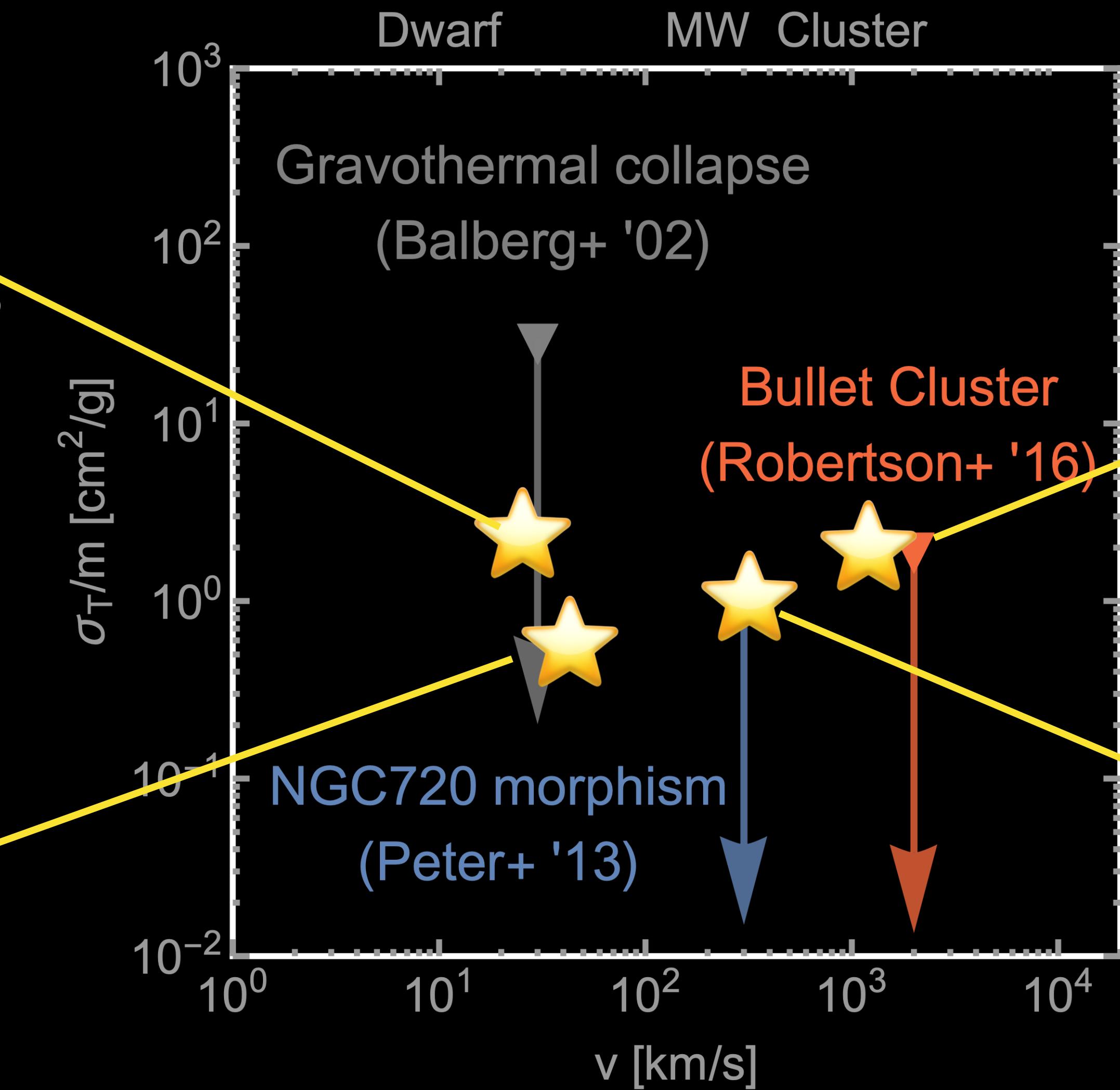
# Constraints on dark matter self-interaction



# Solving “small-scale problems” of CDM

Diversity  
(Kamada+ '16)

Too big to fail  
(Zavala+ '12  
Elbert+ '14)



Splashback  
radius deficit  
(More+ '16)

Cusp vs core  
(Wandelt+ '00)

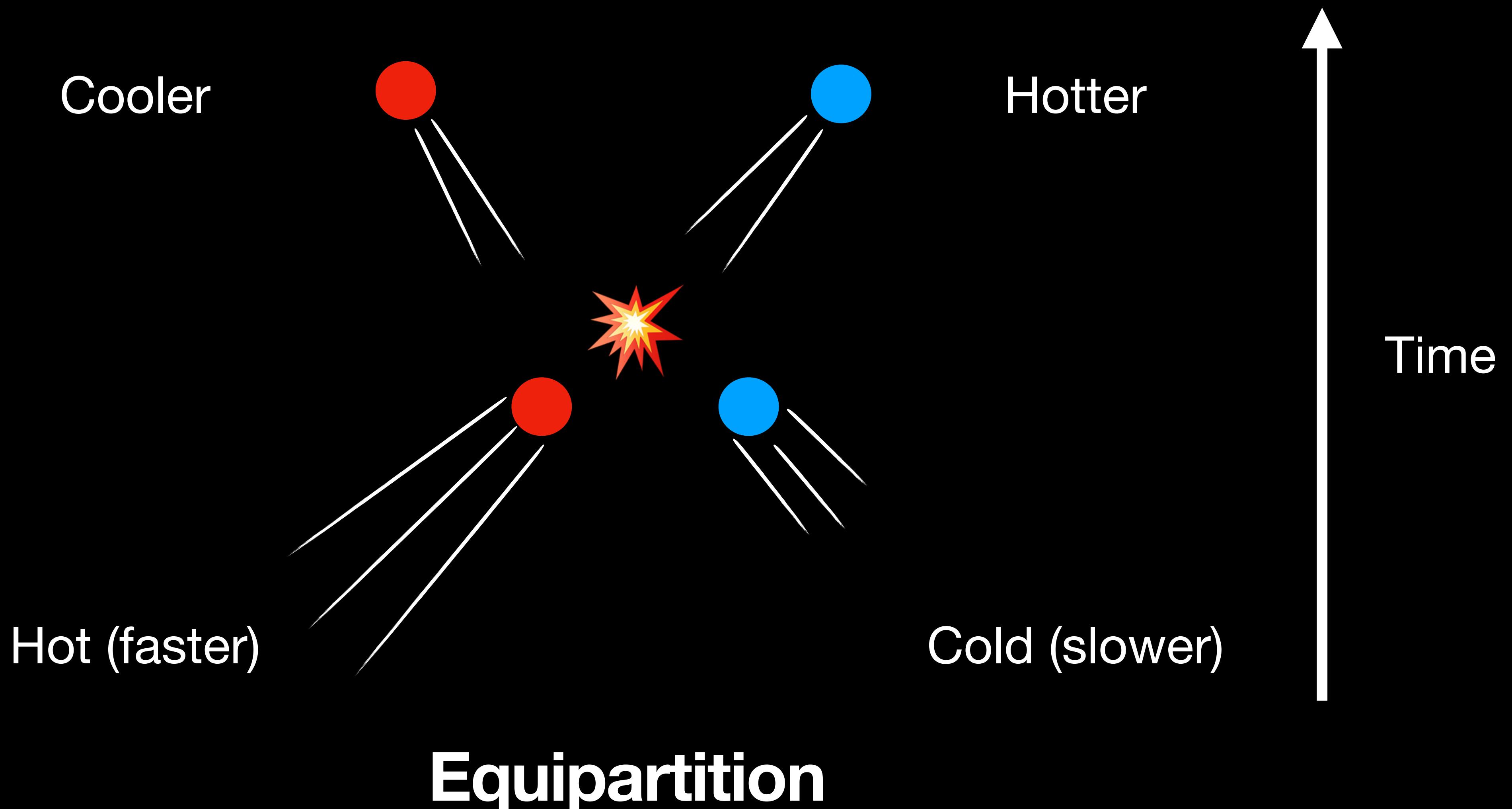


Solving small-scale problems of CDM

Probing dark sectors

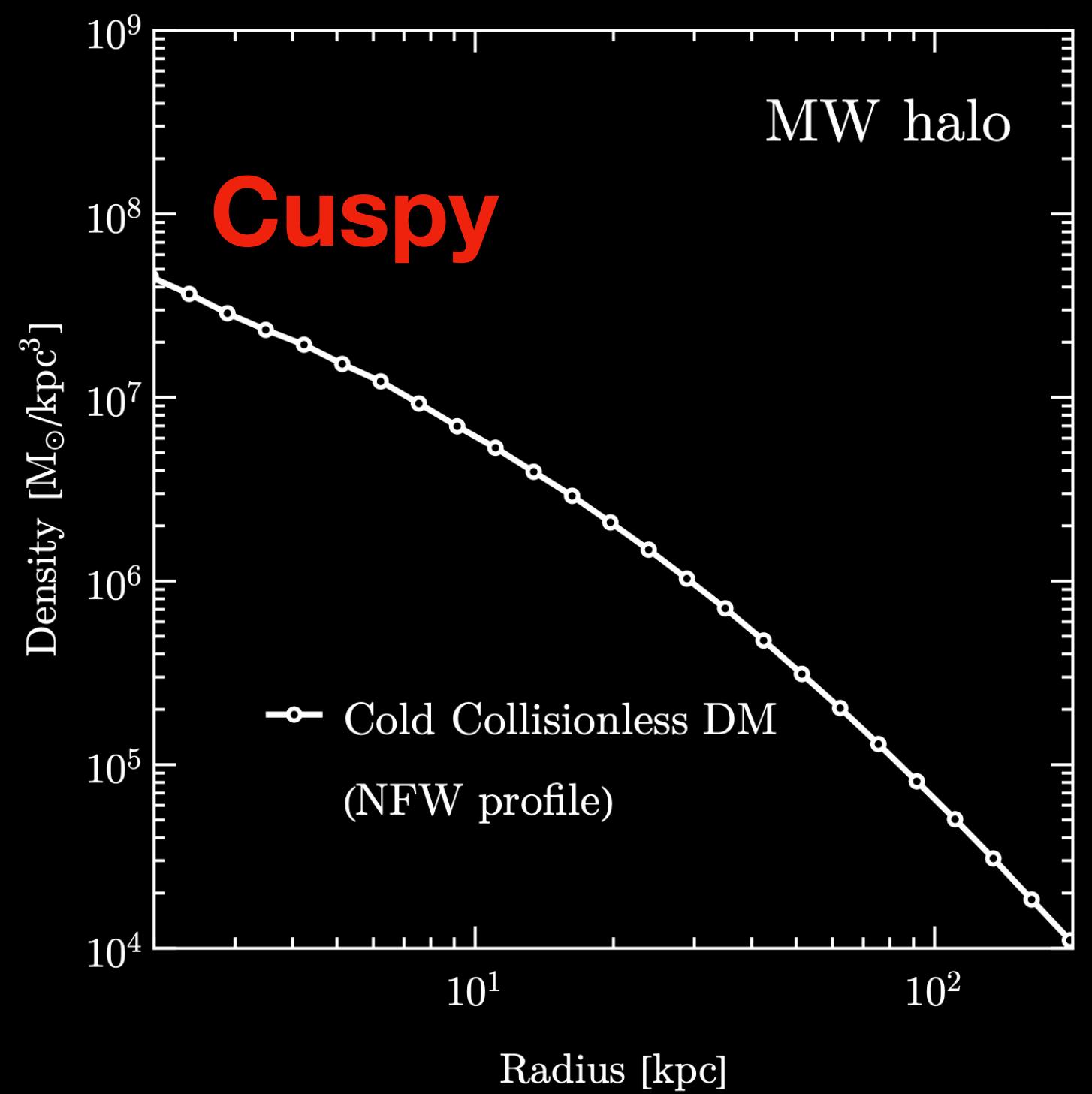
# Gravothermal collapse of self-interacting dark matter halos

# Effects of self-interaction



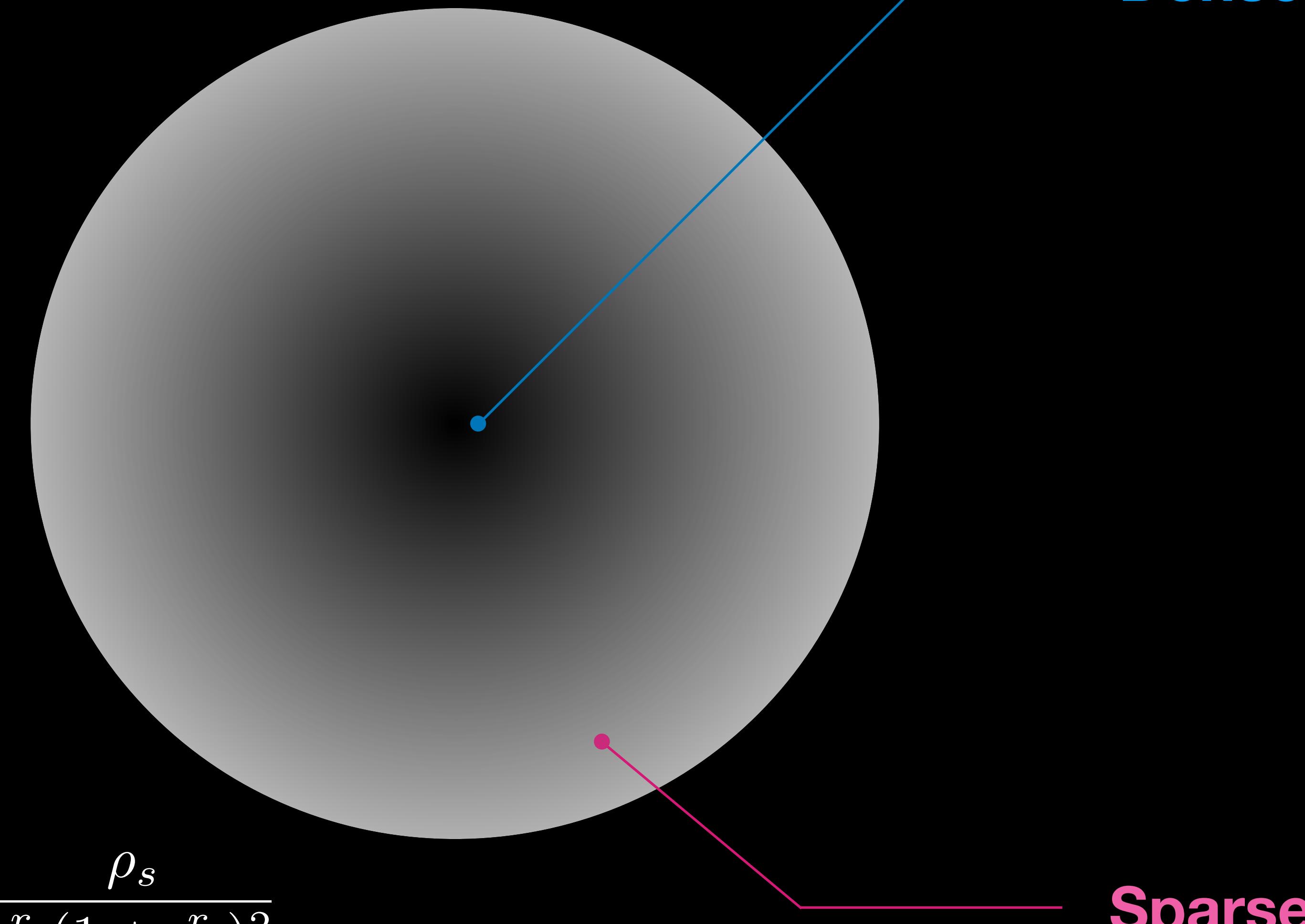
# I. Halo formation

Density profile  
(density at given radii)



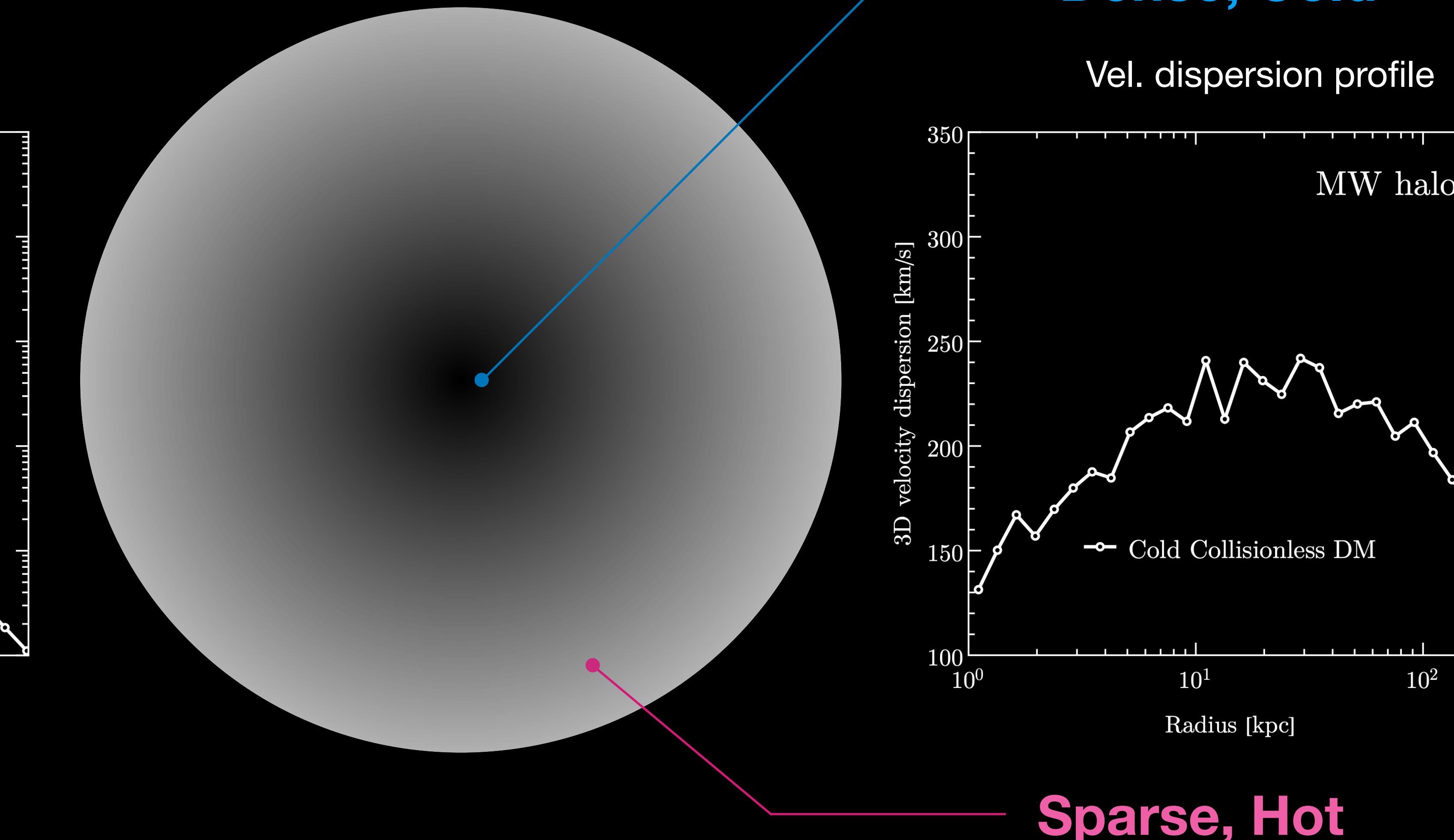
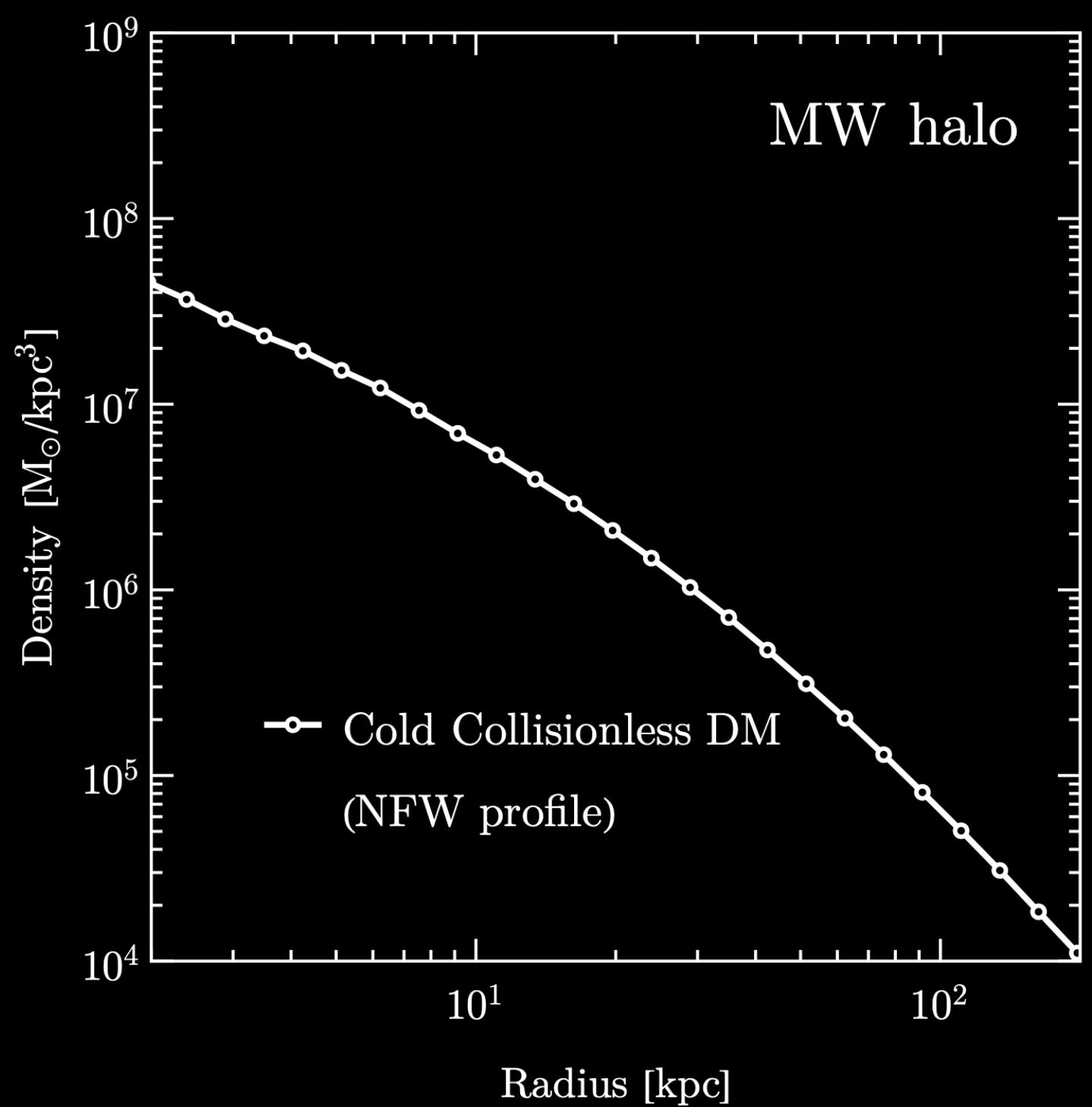
Navarro-Frenk-White (NFW) profile

$$\rho = \frac{\rho_s}{r_s} \left(1 + \frac{r}{r_s}\right)^2$$

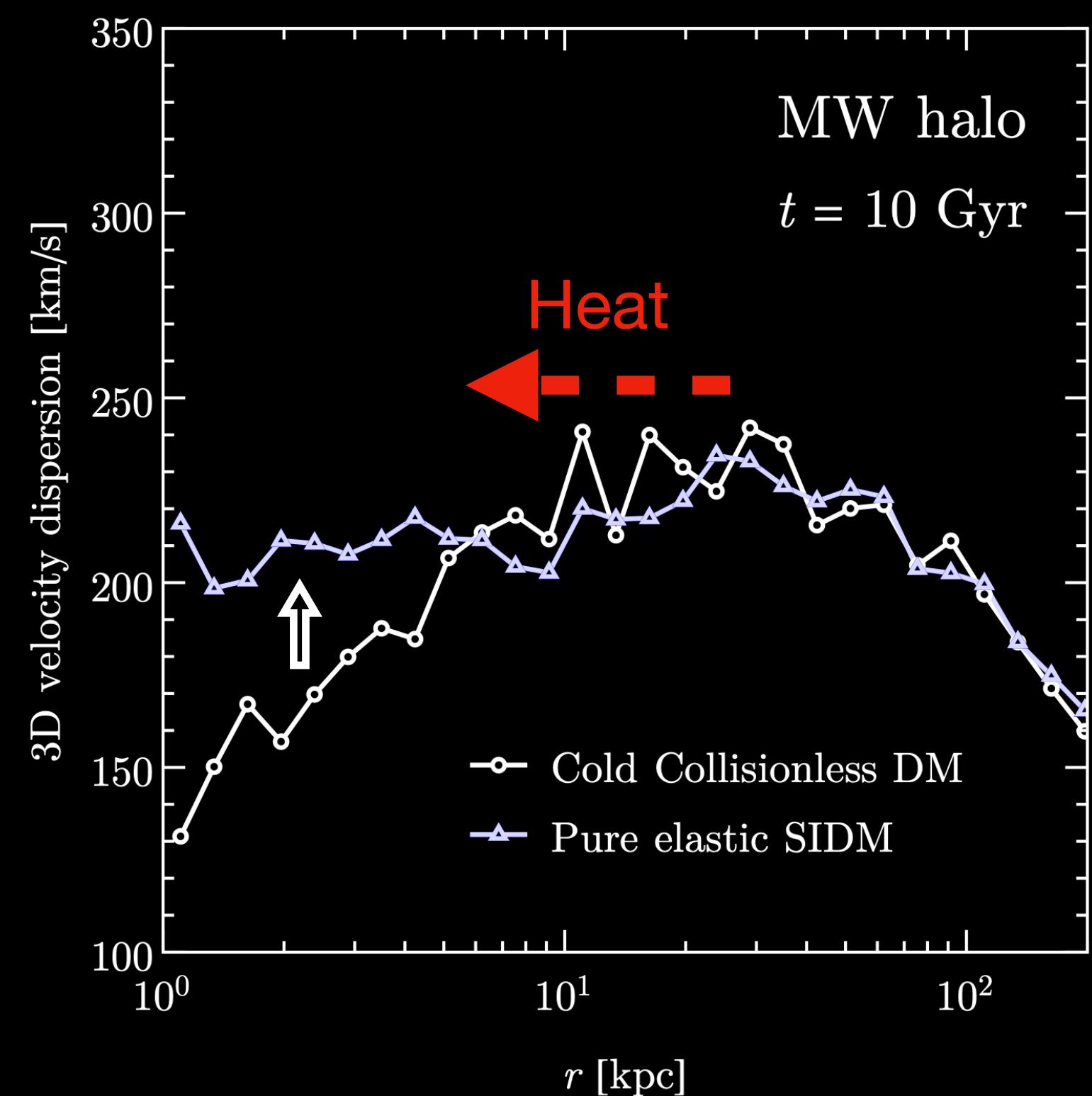
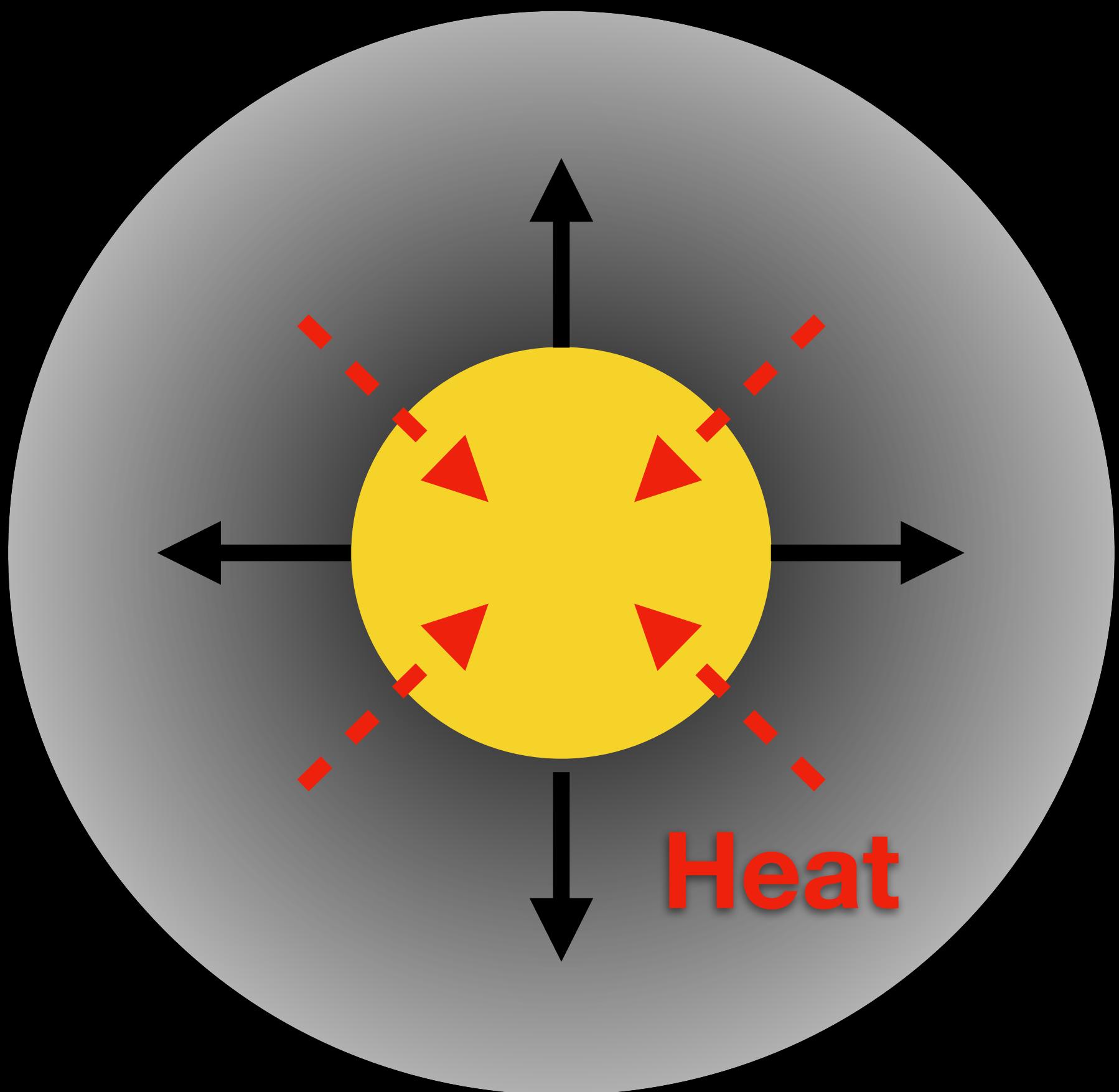
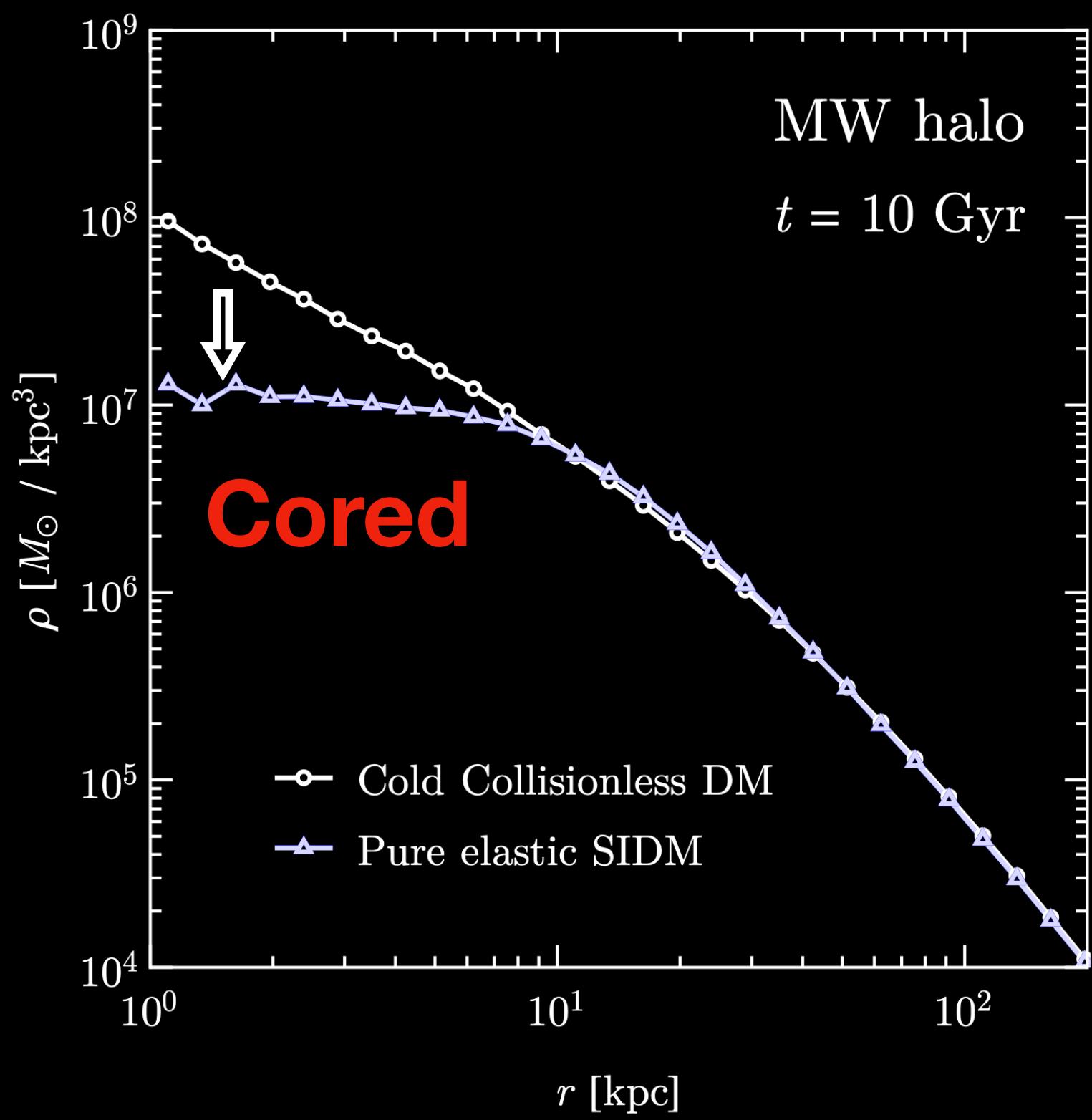


# I. Halo formation

Density profile  
(density at given radii)

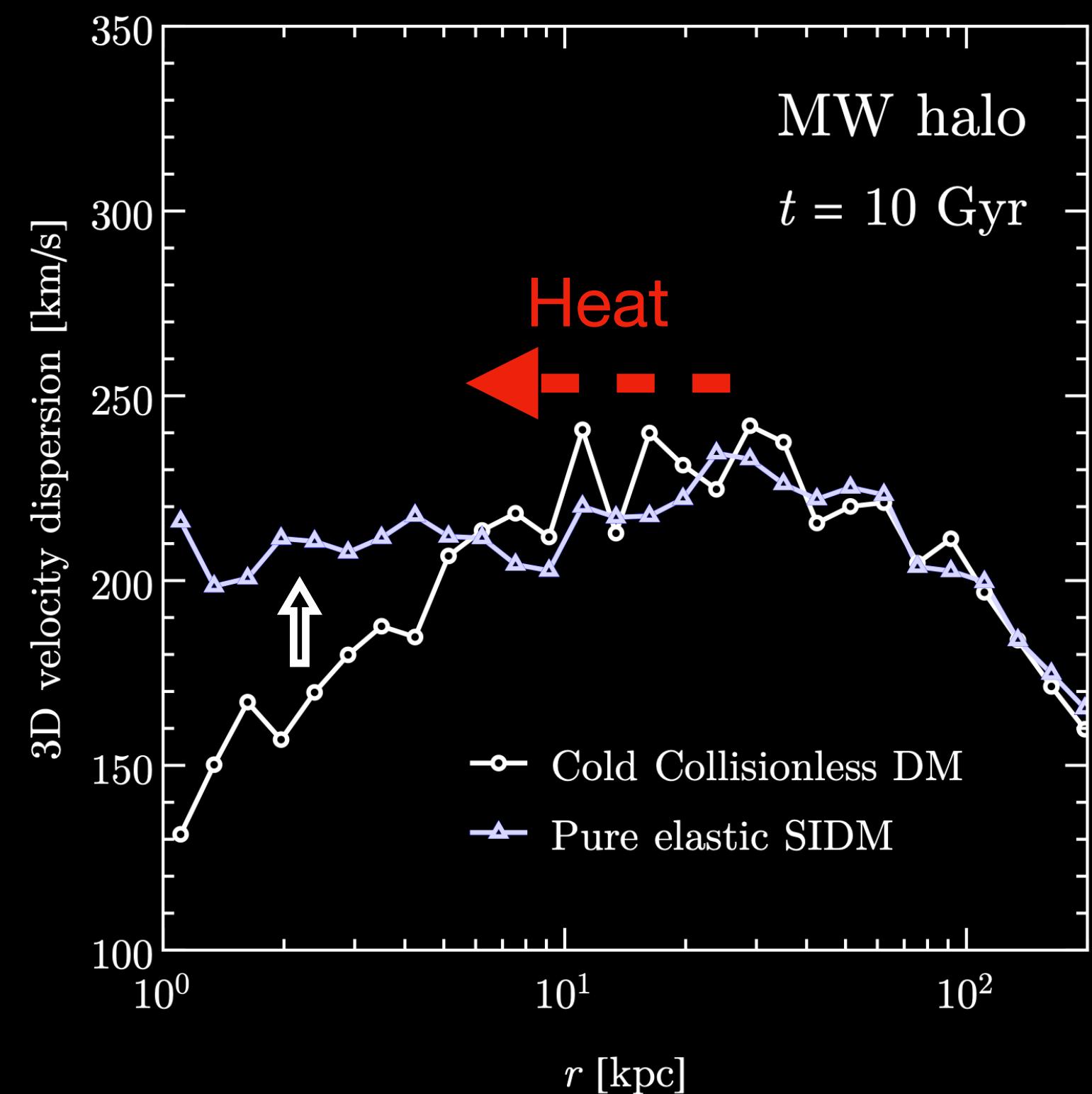
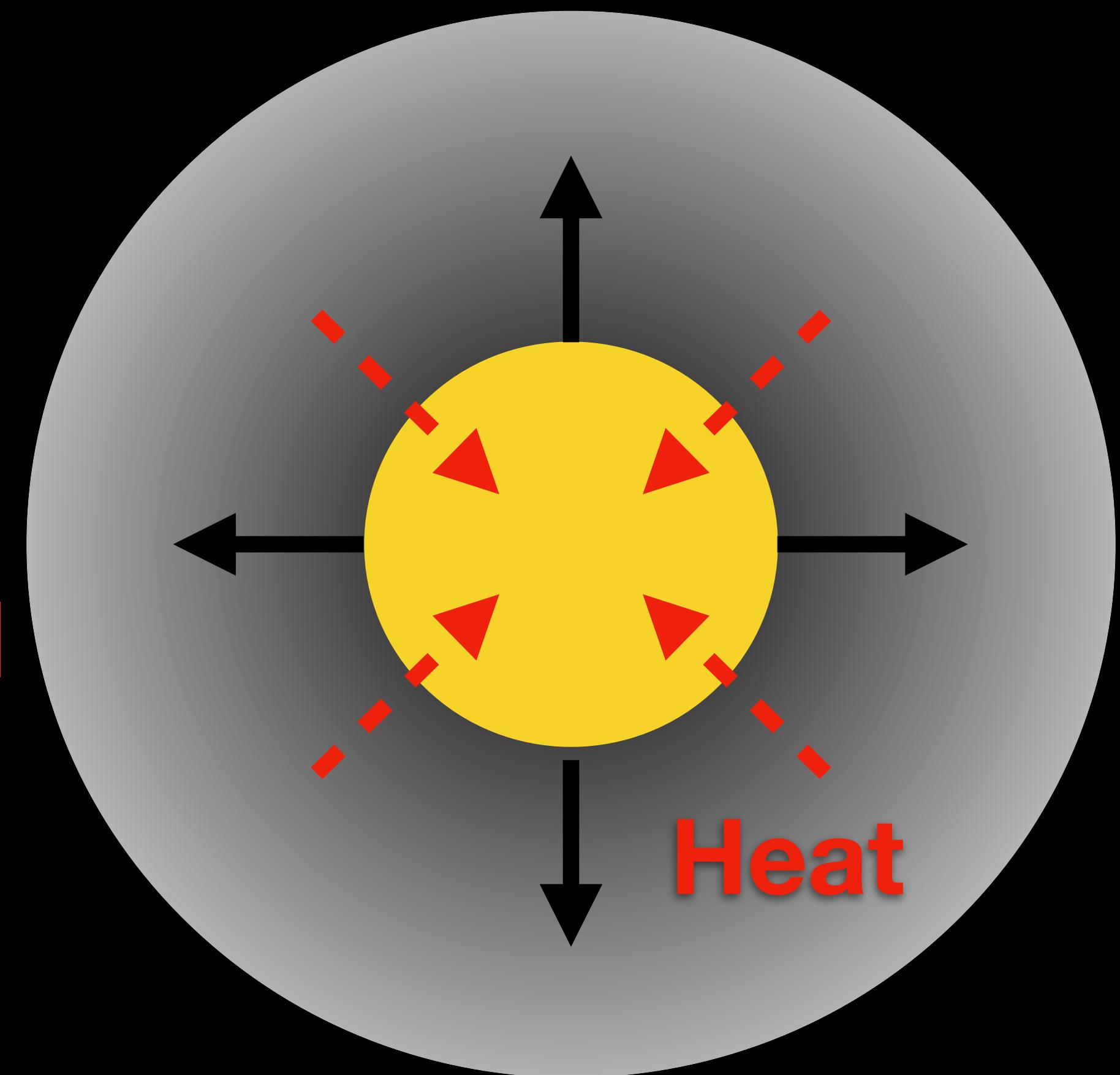
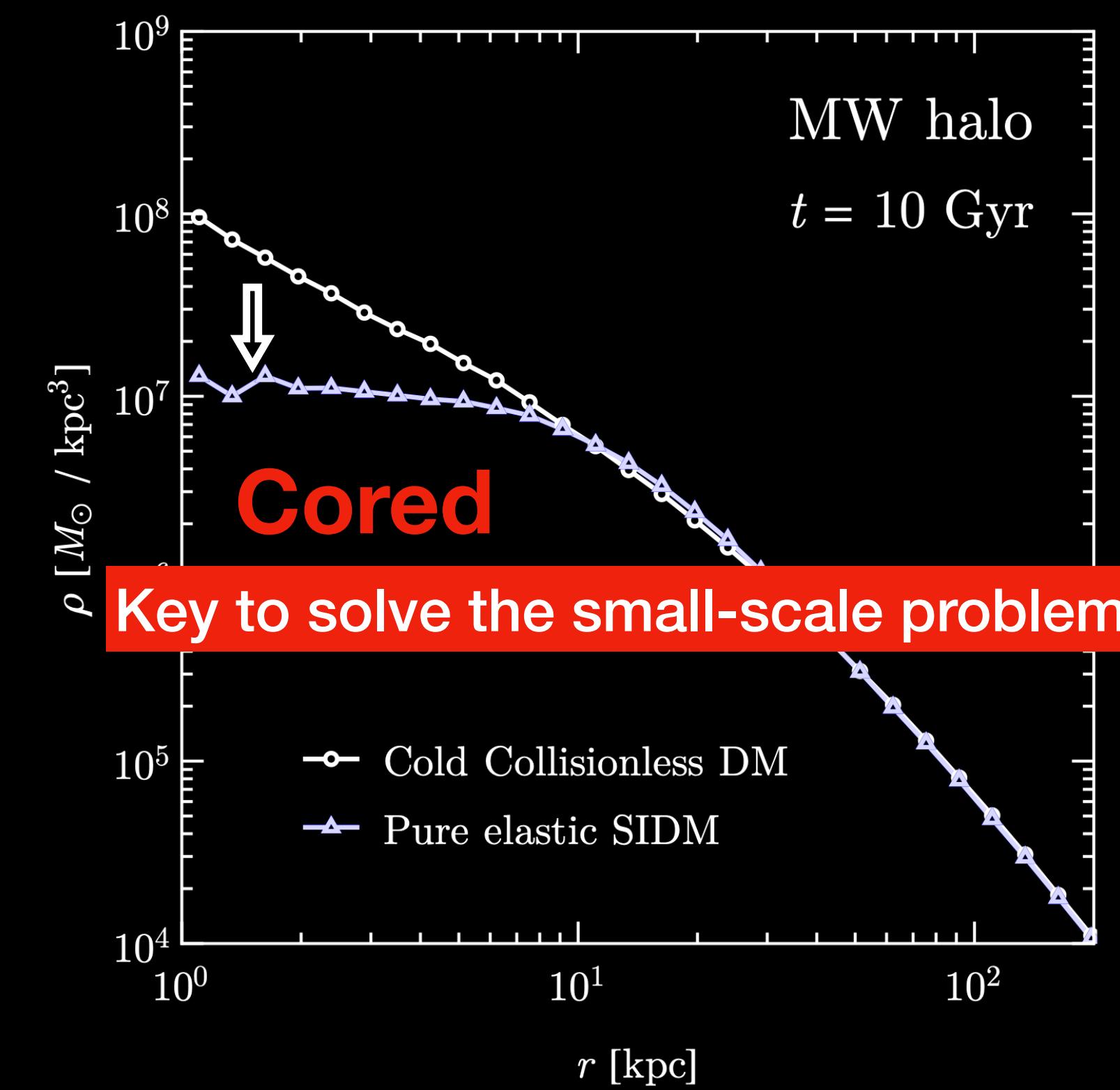


## II. Core expansion



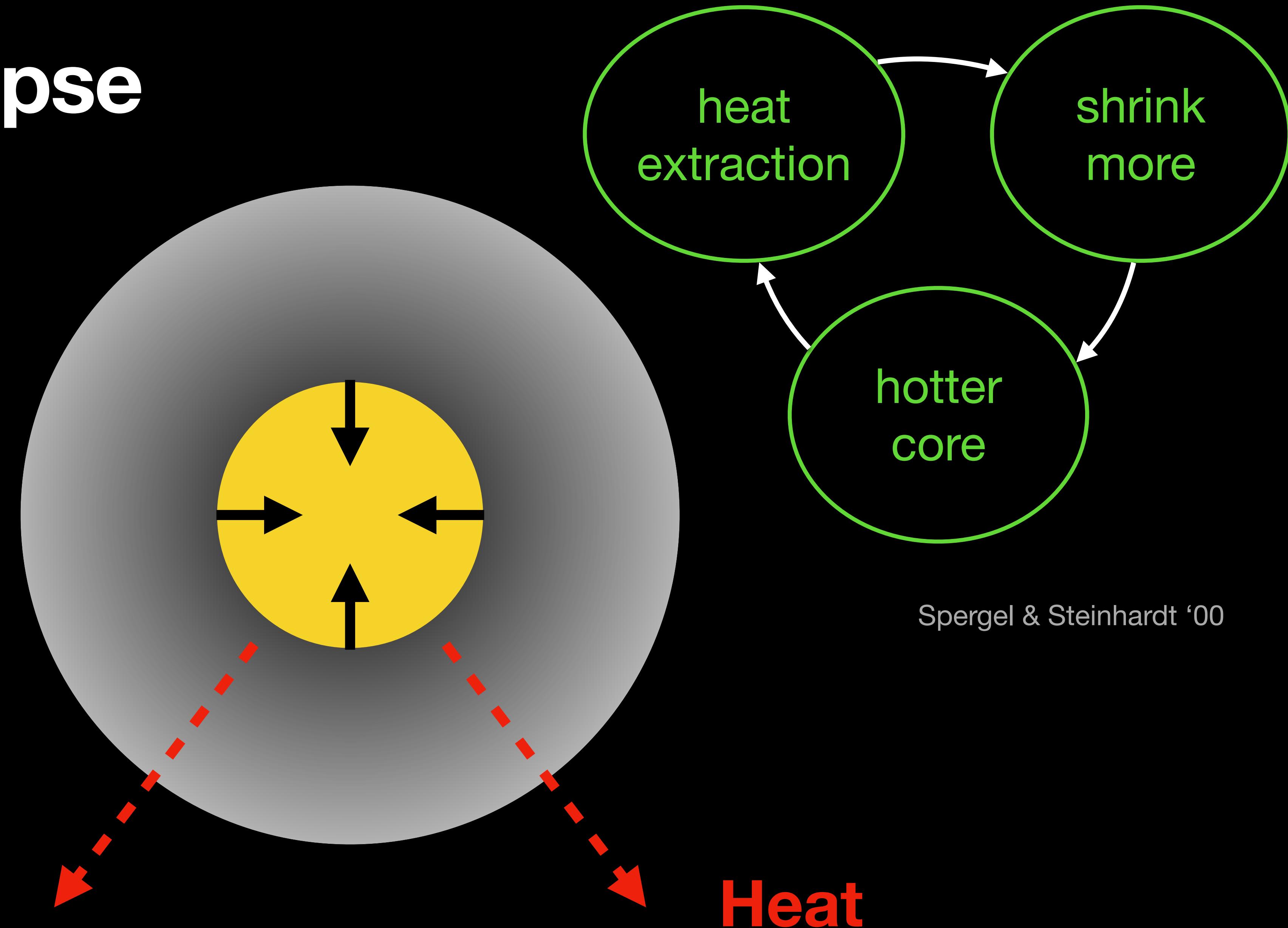
Huo, Yu & YZ '20

## II. Core expansion



Huo, Yu & YZ '20

# III. Core collapse



### III. Core collapse

$$2E_{\text{kin}} + E_{\text{pot}} = 0$$

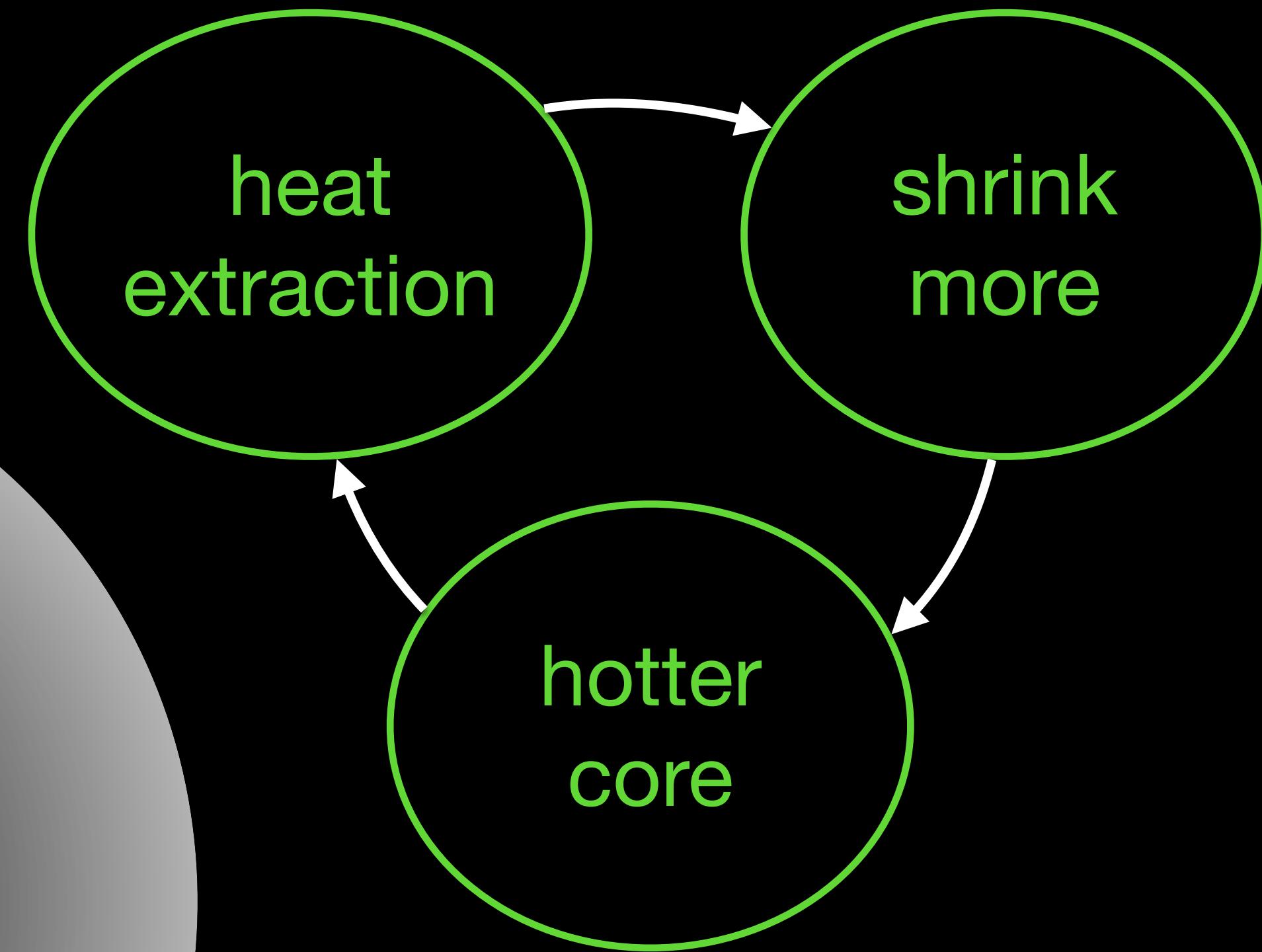
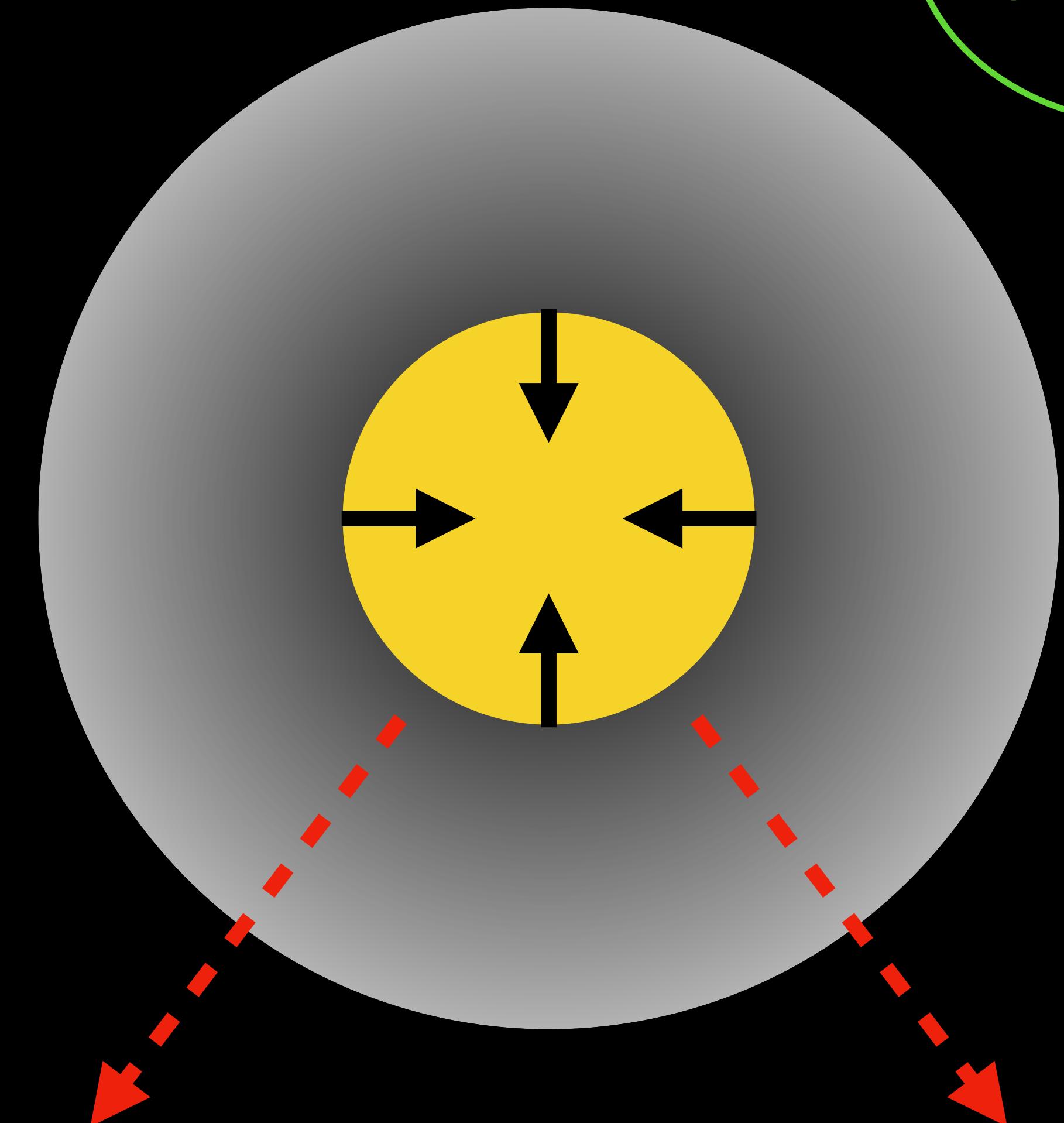


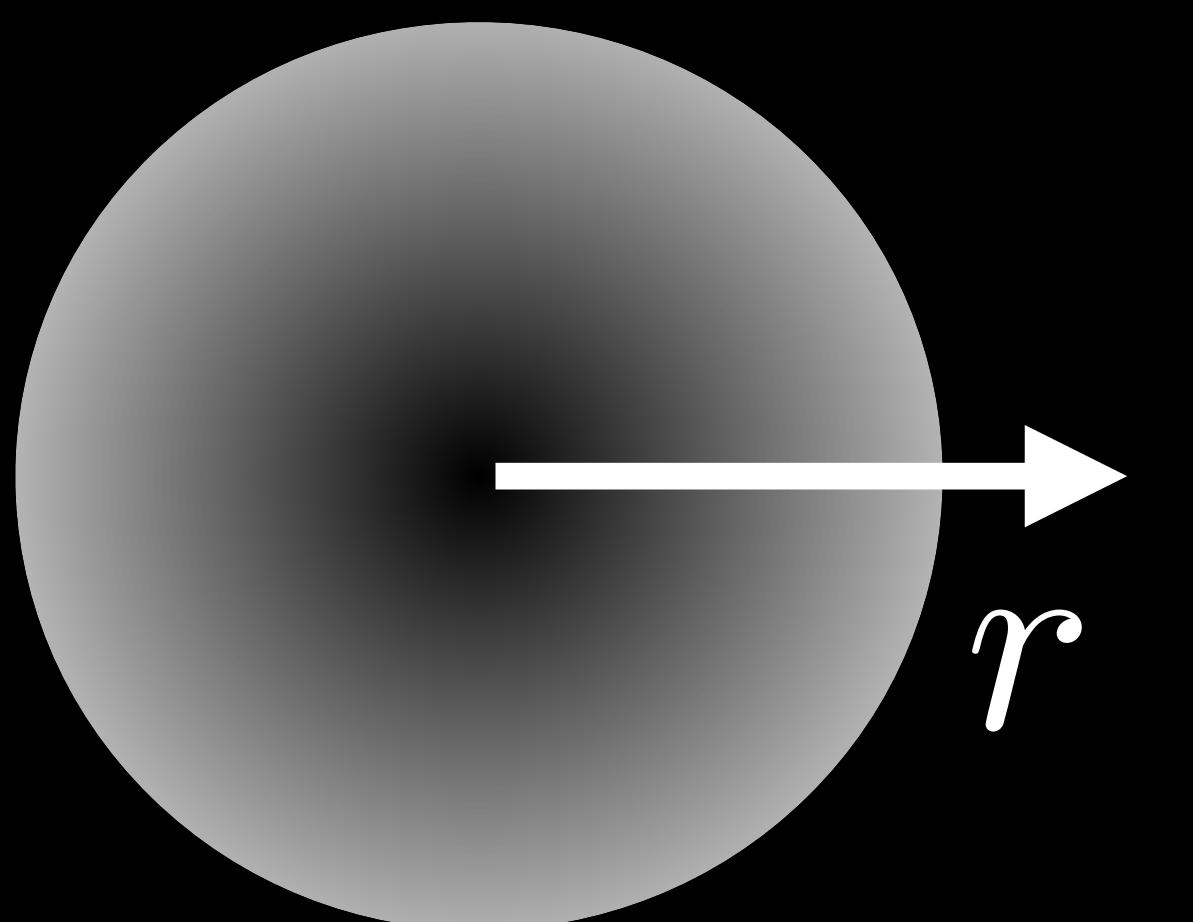
$$E_{\text{total}} = -E_{\text{kin}}$$



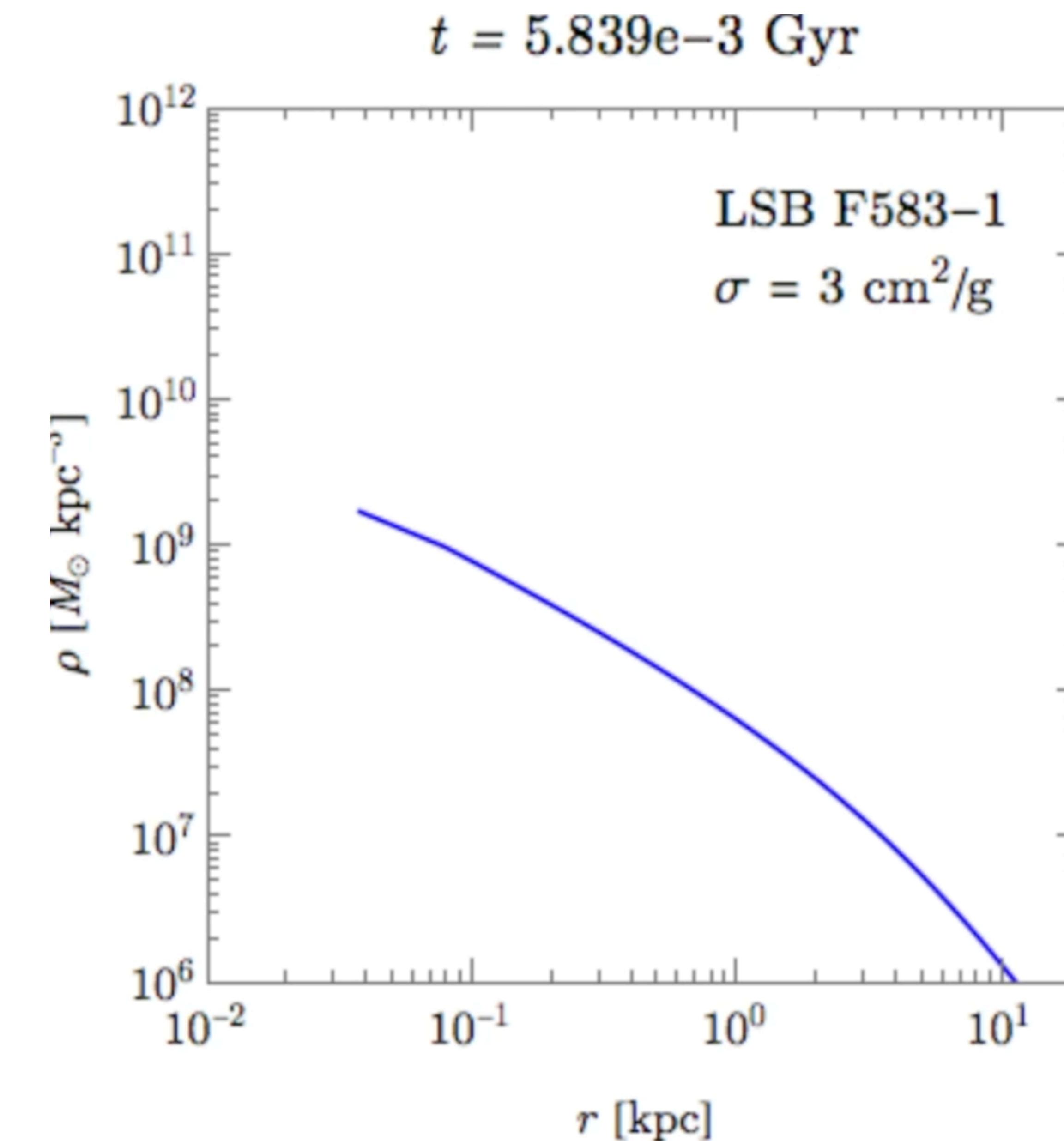
$$E_{\text{kin}} \propto T$$

$$C \equiv \frac{E_{\text{total}}}{T} < 0$$





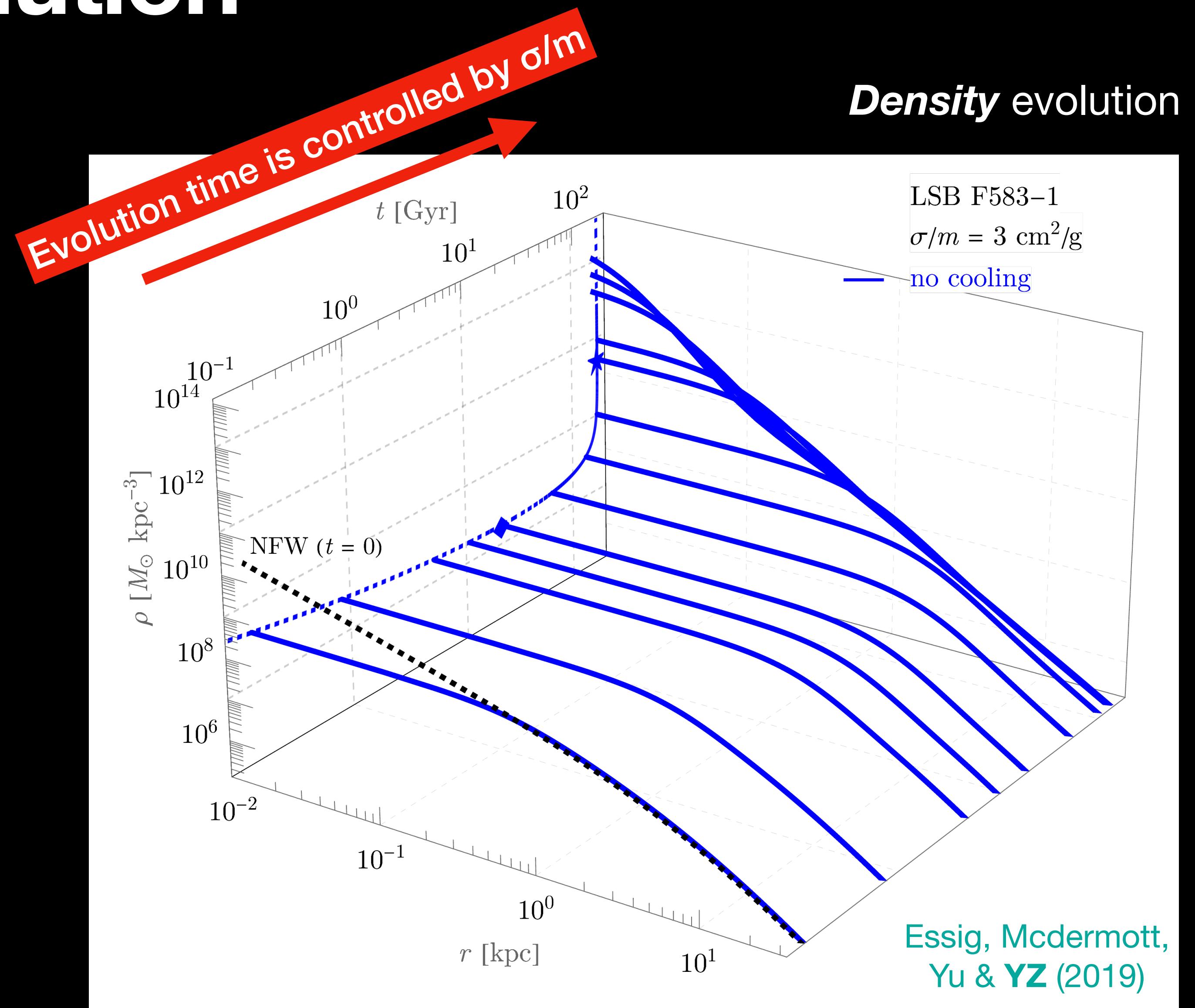
Dark matter halo



# Gravothermal evolution

Evolution stages:

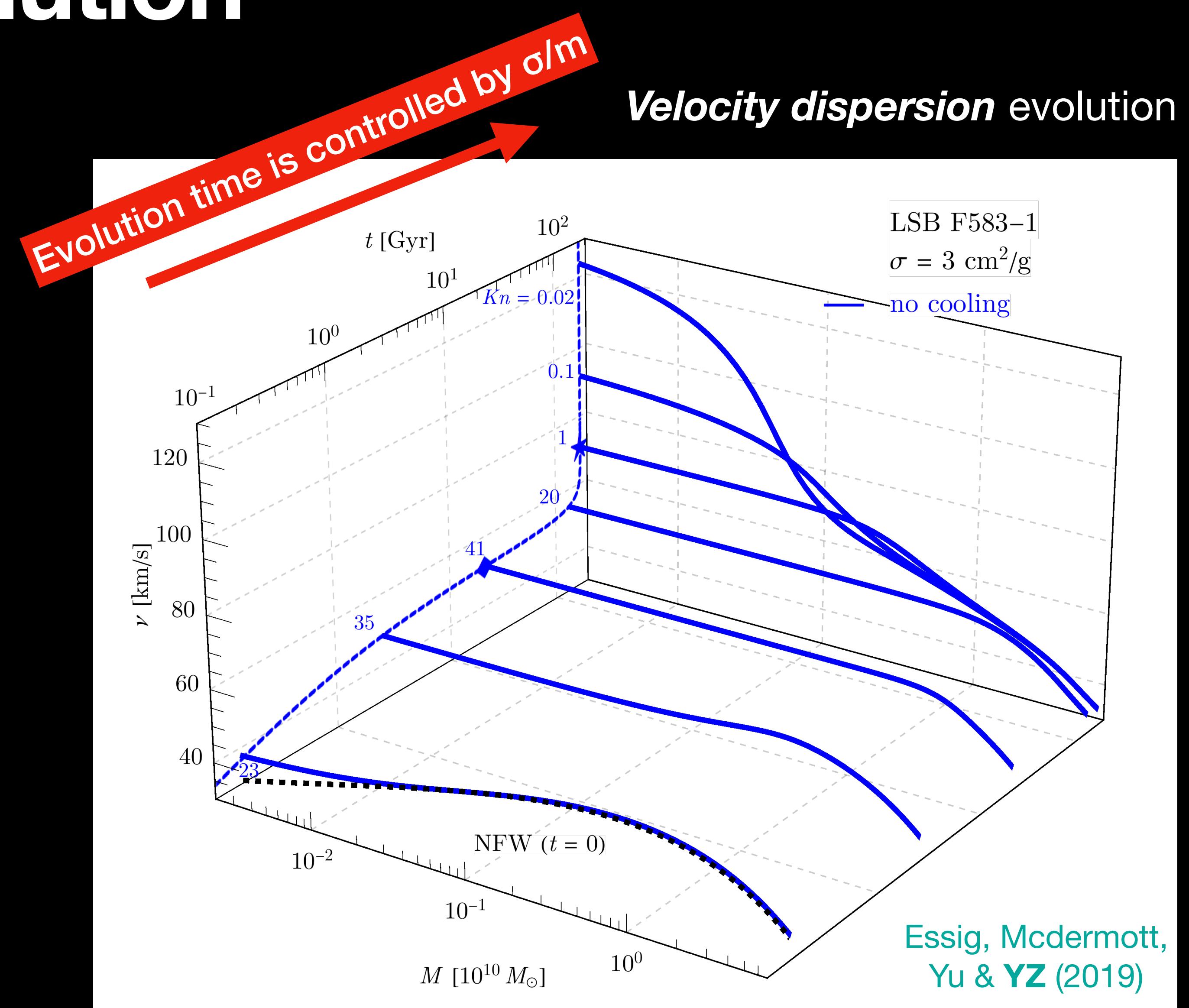
0. Halo formation
1. Core expansion
2. Quasi-stable
3. Core collapse



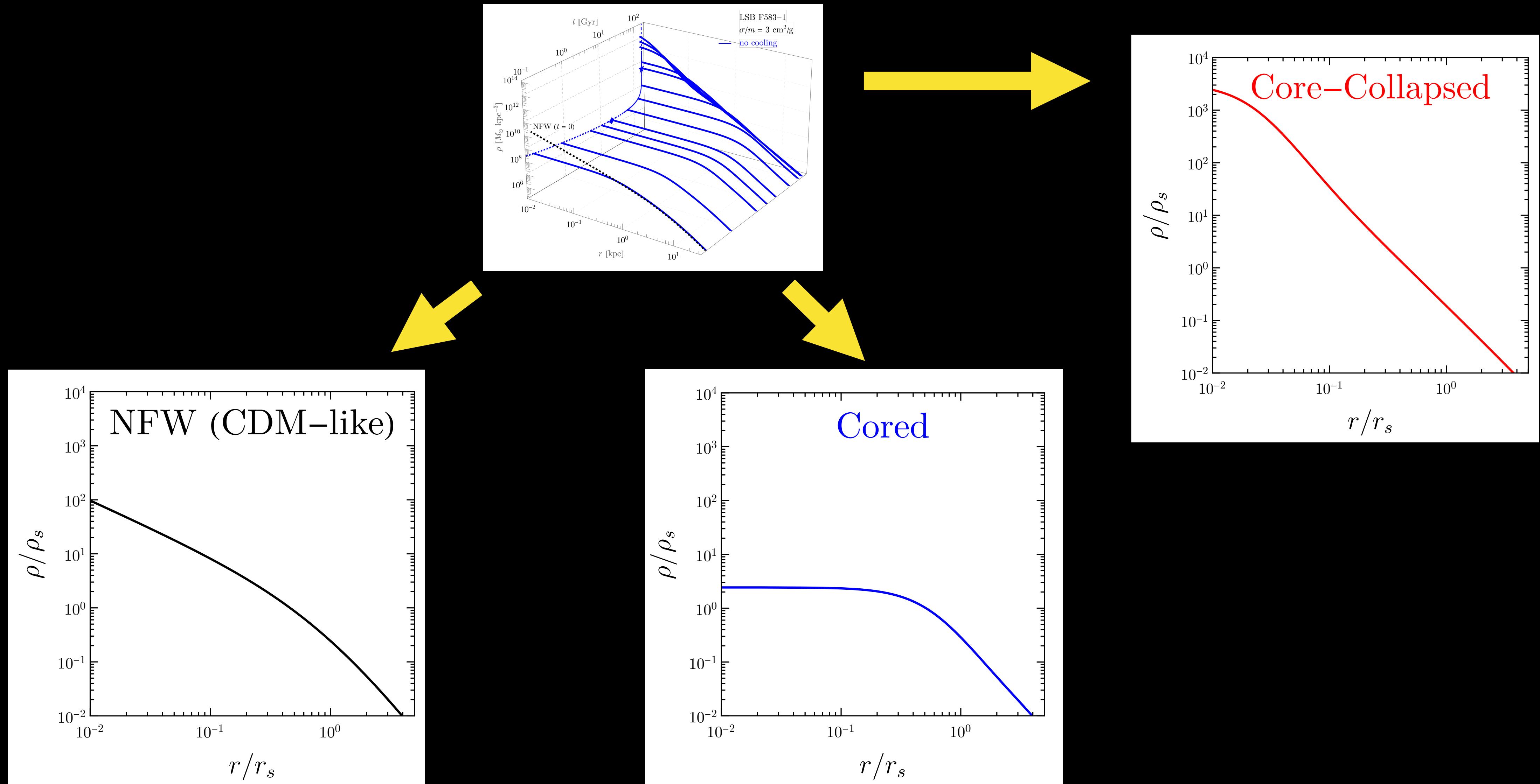
# Gravothermal evolution

Evolution stages:

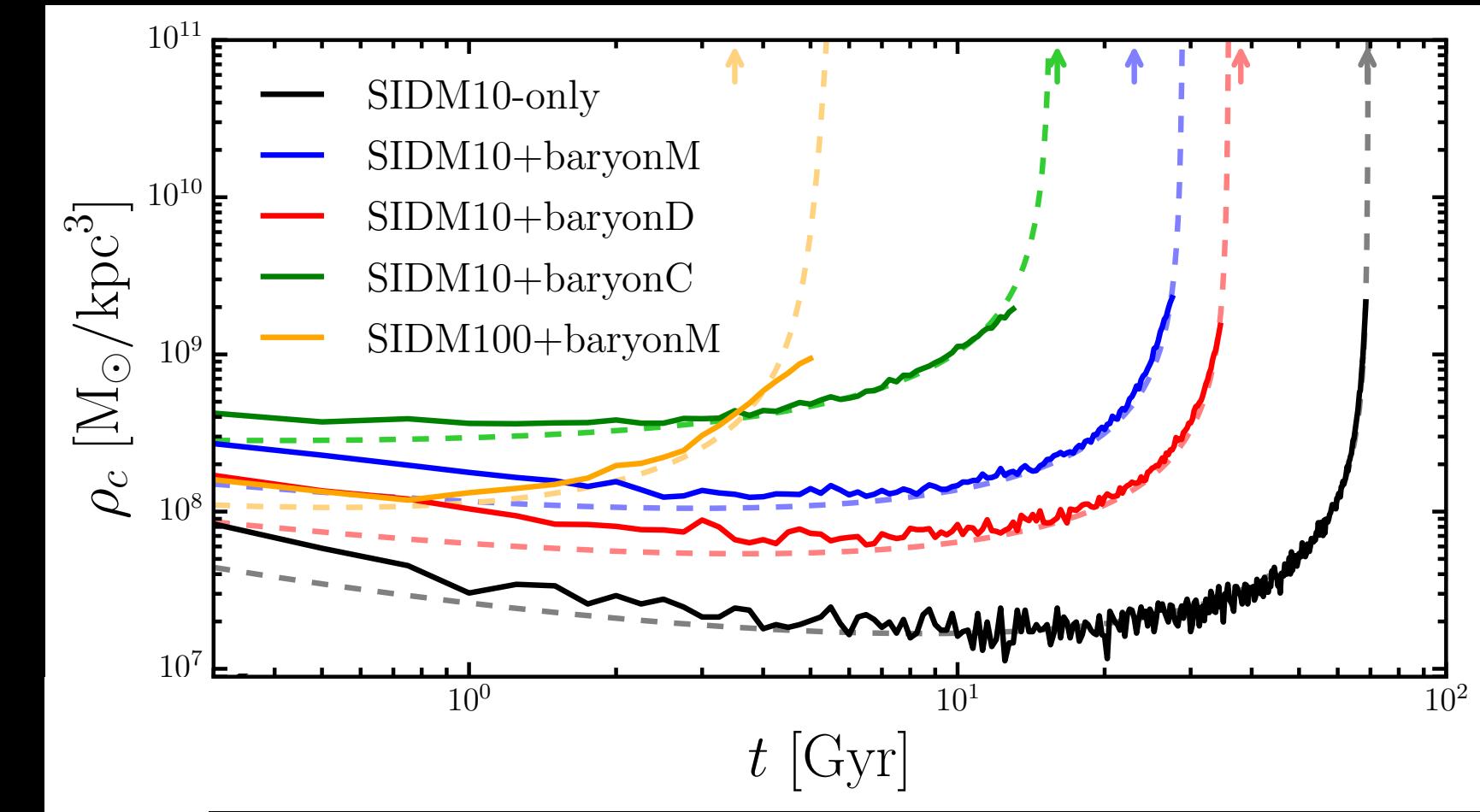
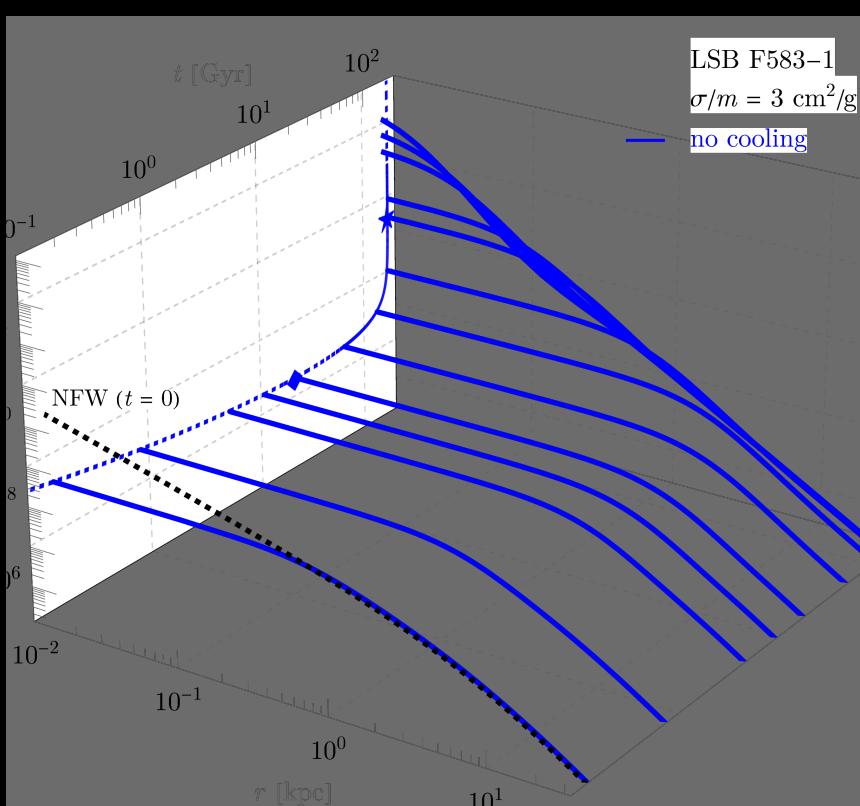
0. Halo formation
1. Core expansion
2. Quasi-stable
3. Core collapse



# Self-interactions increase halo's ***\*\*diversity\*\****



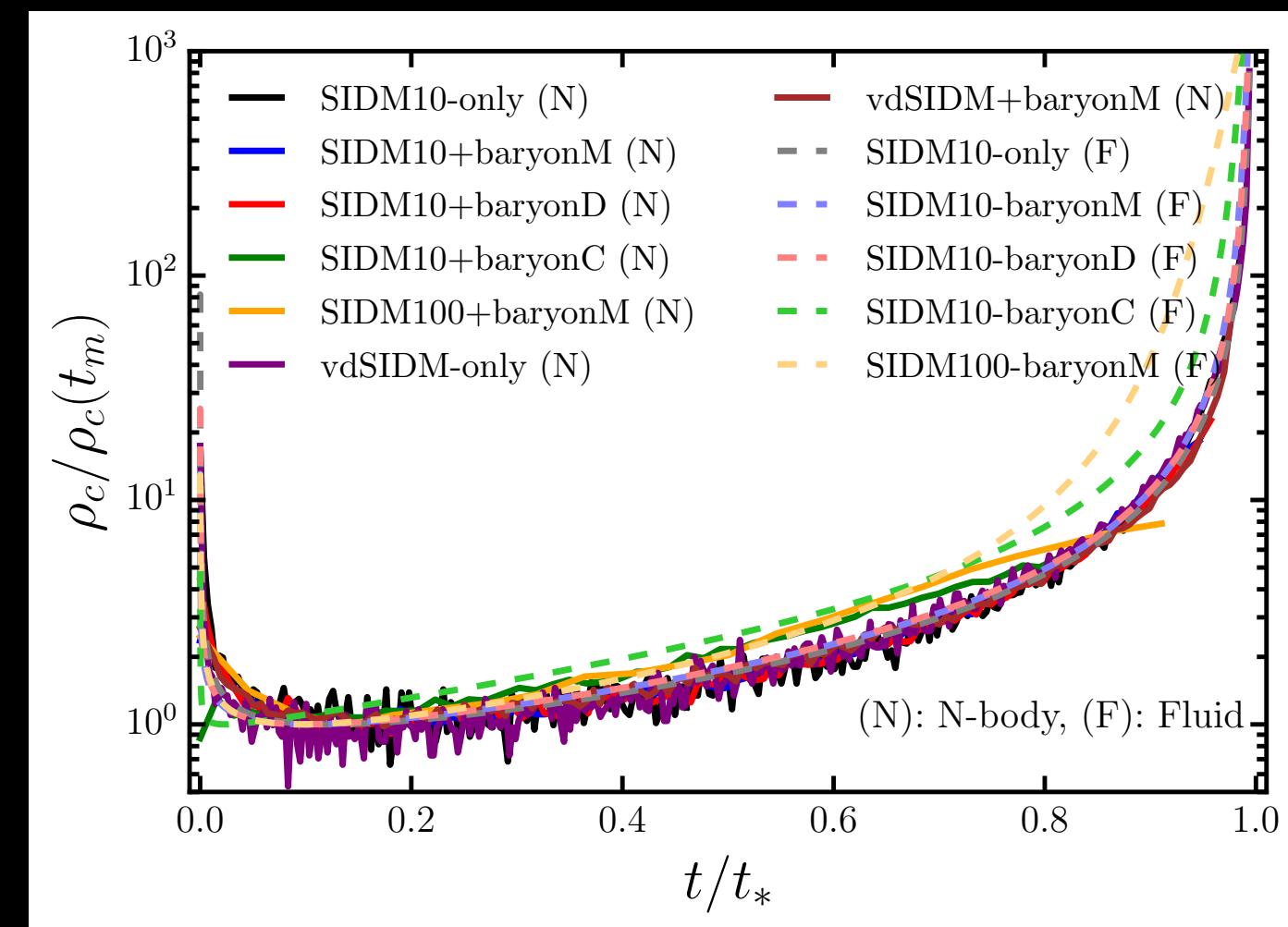
# Self-interactions enforce halo's *\*\*universality\*\**



Different halo configurations

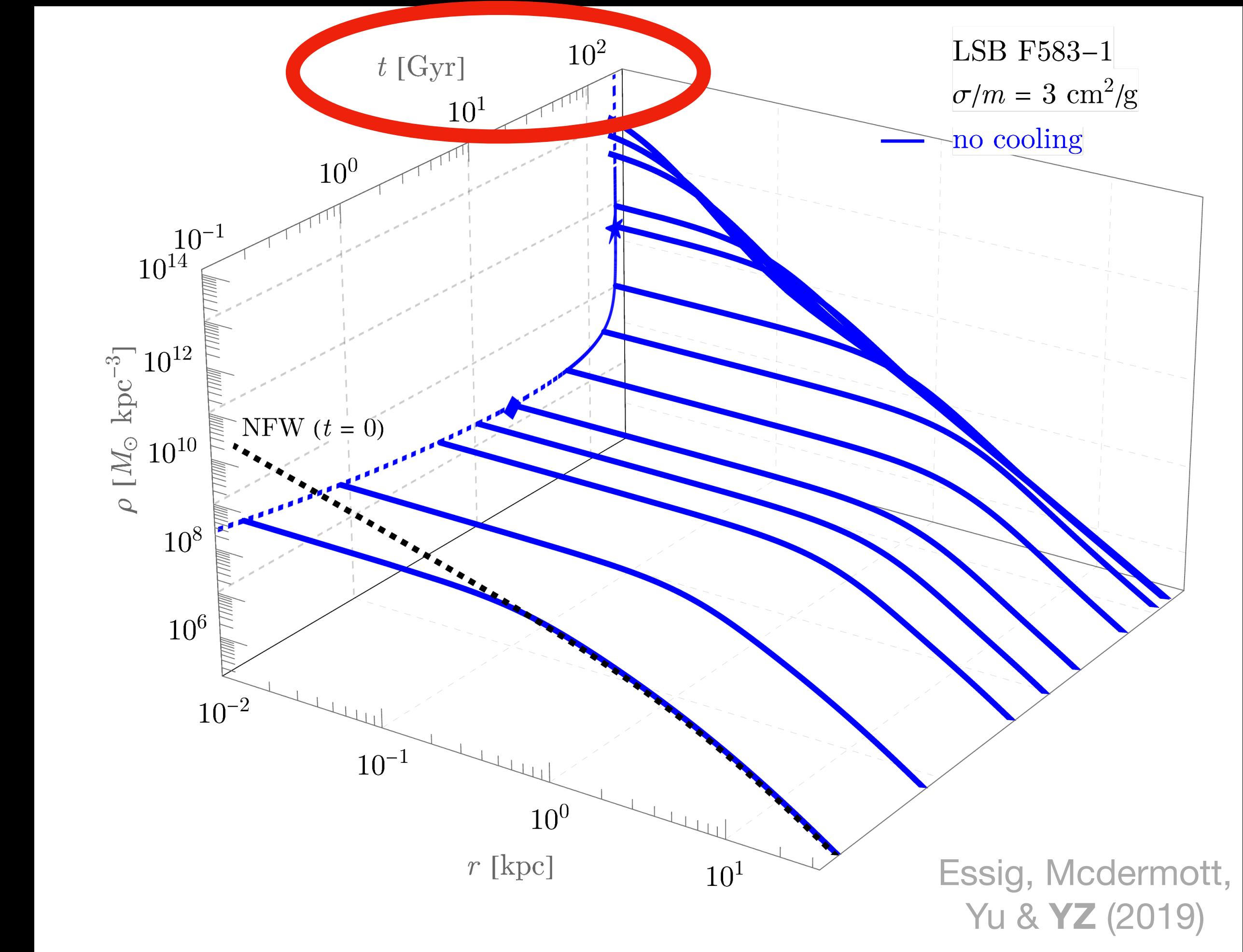
YZ, Yang & Yu '23

Rescaling

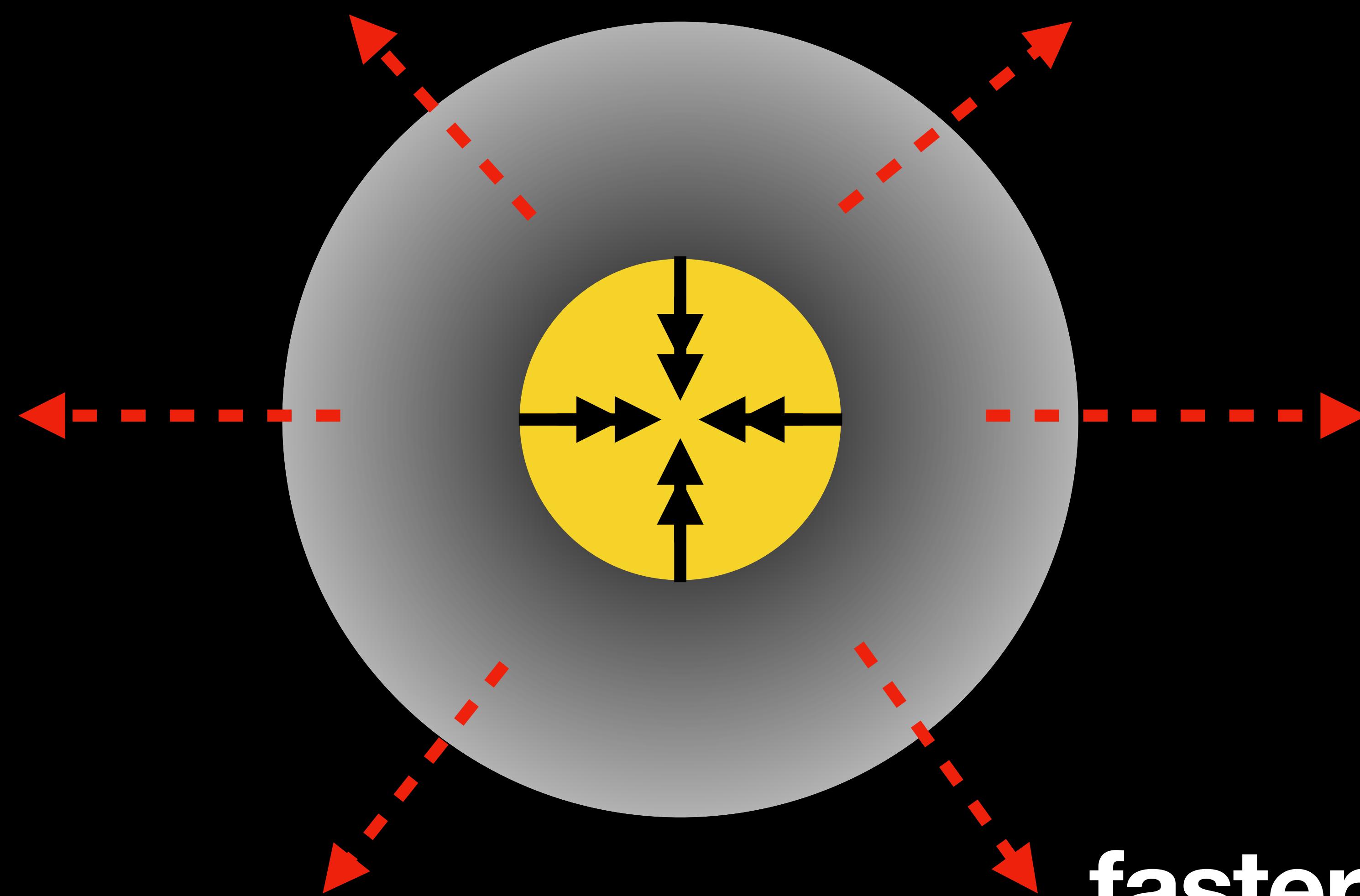


# But it takes too long...

Why should we care?



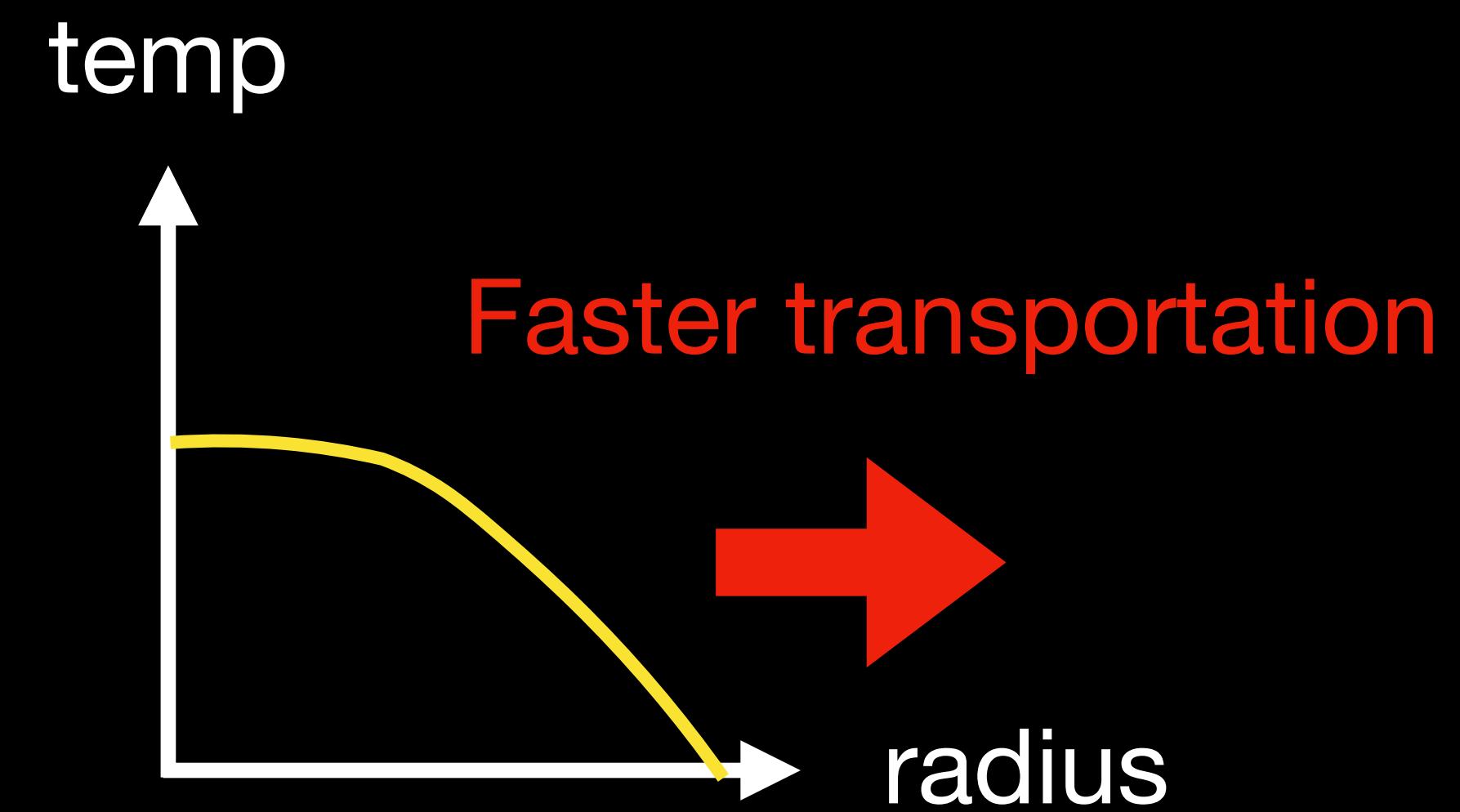
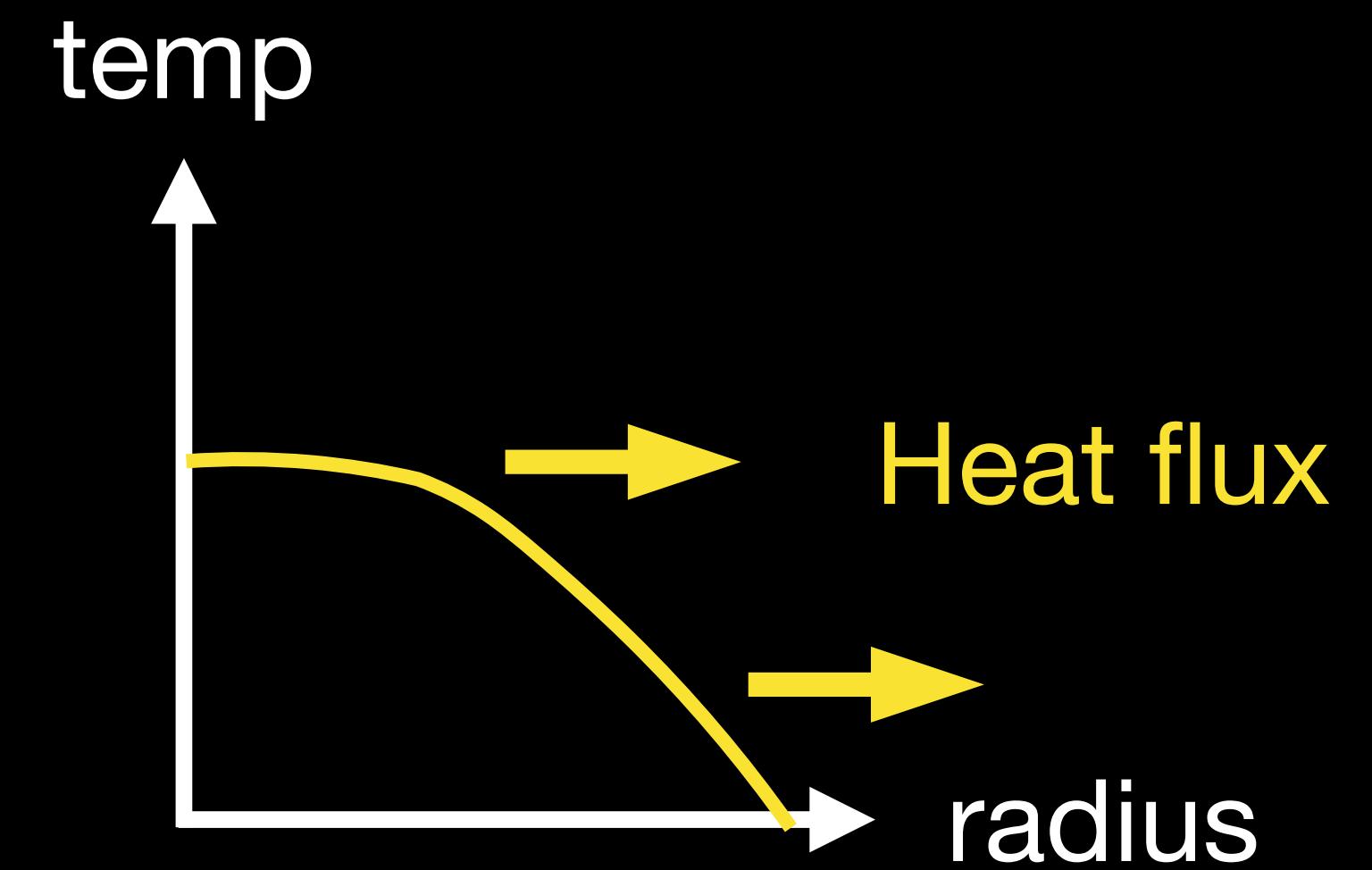
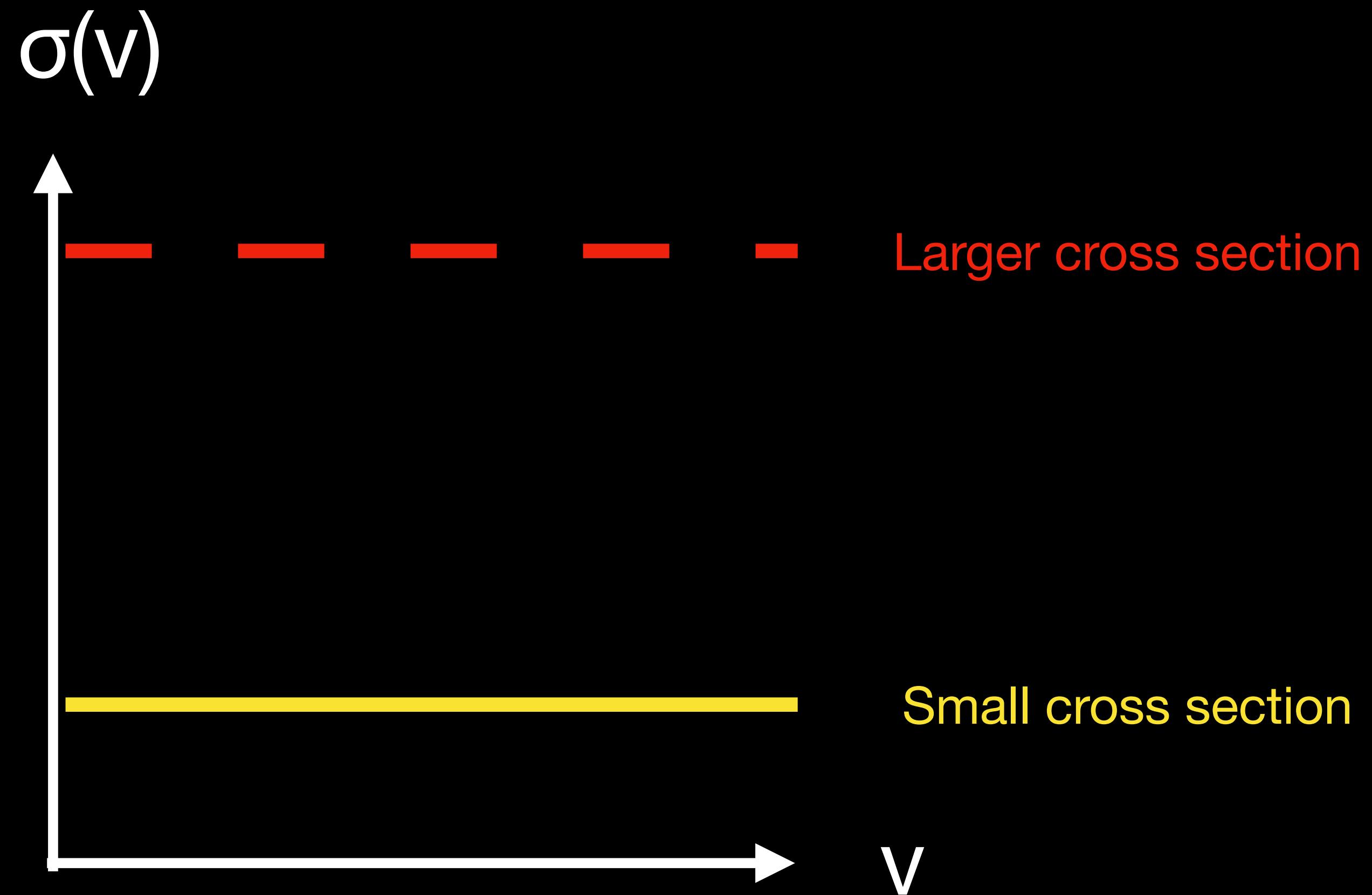
# If more heat goes out



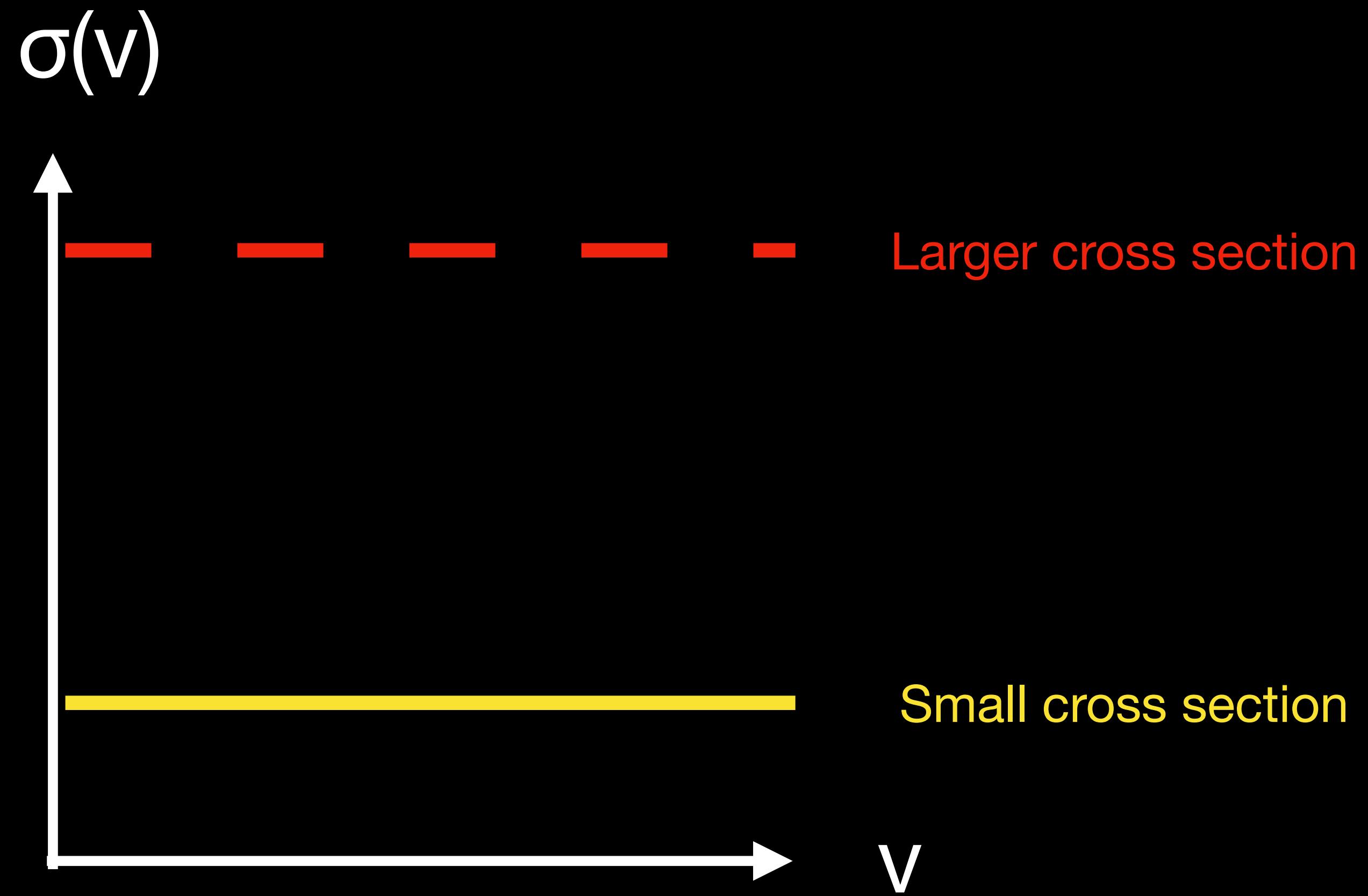
# How to transfer more heat out?

- Velocity-dependent (vd) self-interaction
- Dissipative self-interaction Essig, Mcdermott, Yu & **YZ** (2019); Huo, Yu & **YZ** (2020)
- Central baryon component Yang, Yu & **YZ** (2023); Yang+ (**YZ** included, 2023)
- Tidal stripping Nishikawa+ (2019)
- .....

# 1. Larger self-interaction

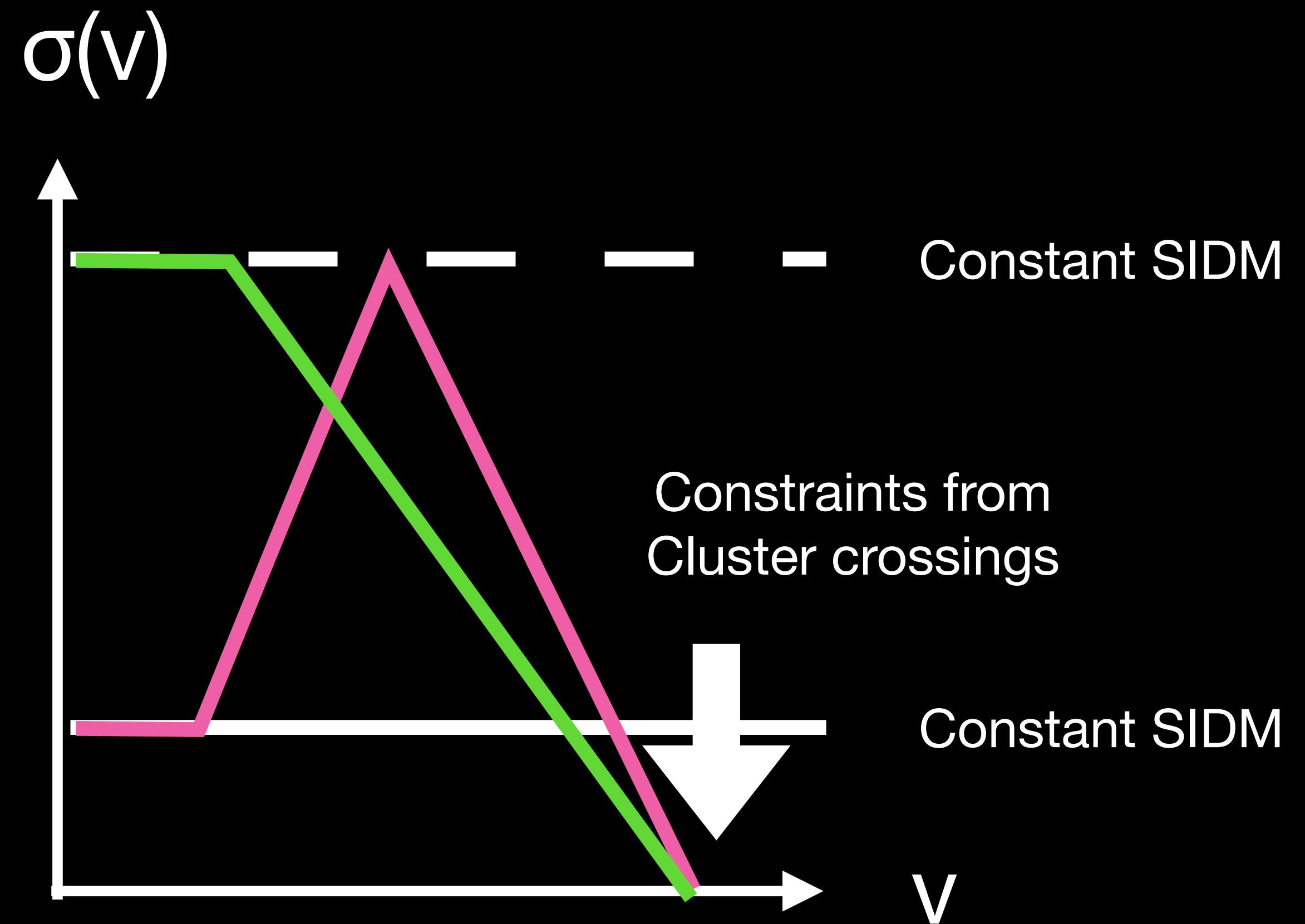


# 1. Larger self-interaction



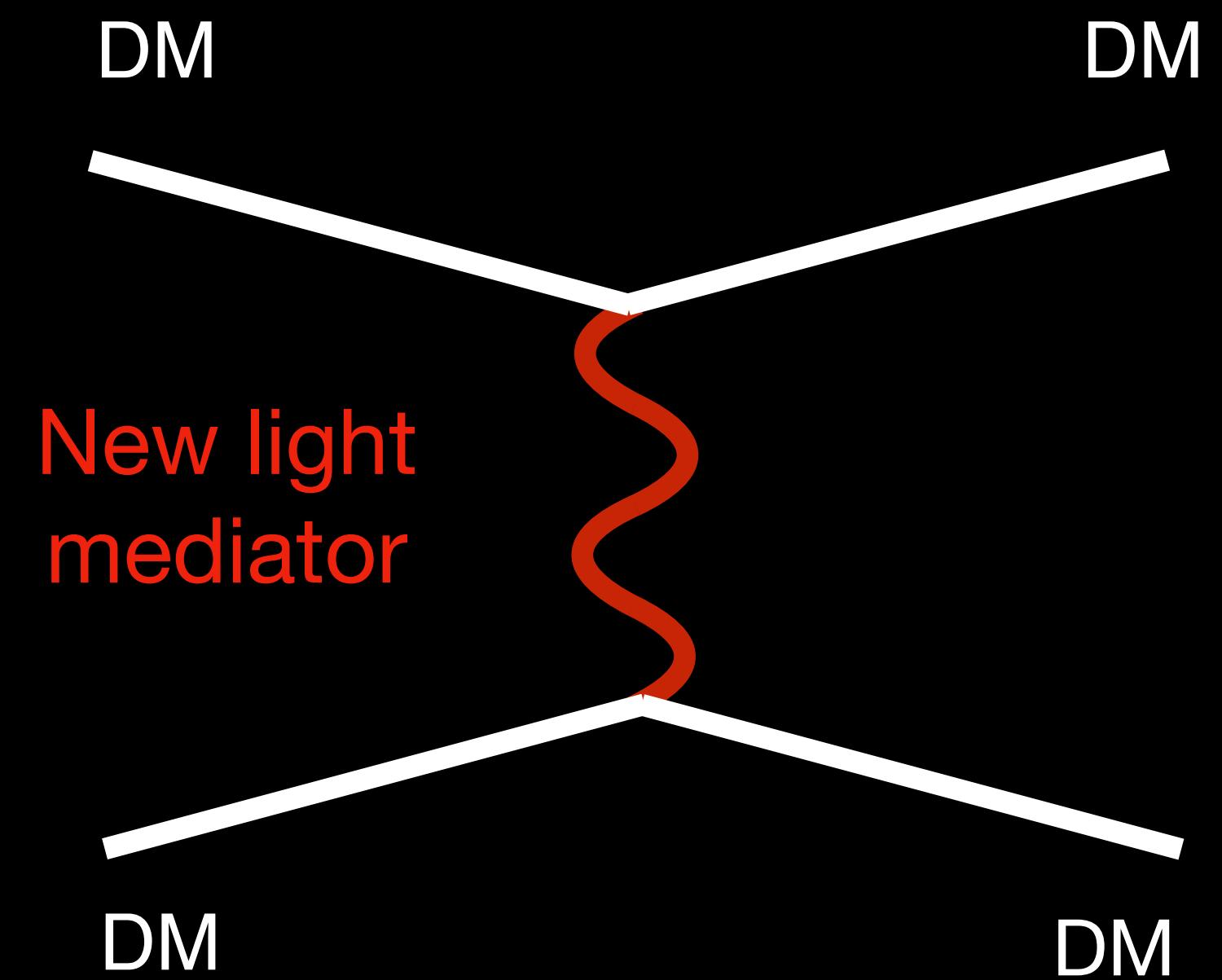
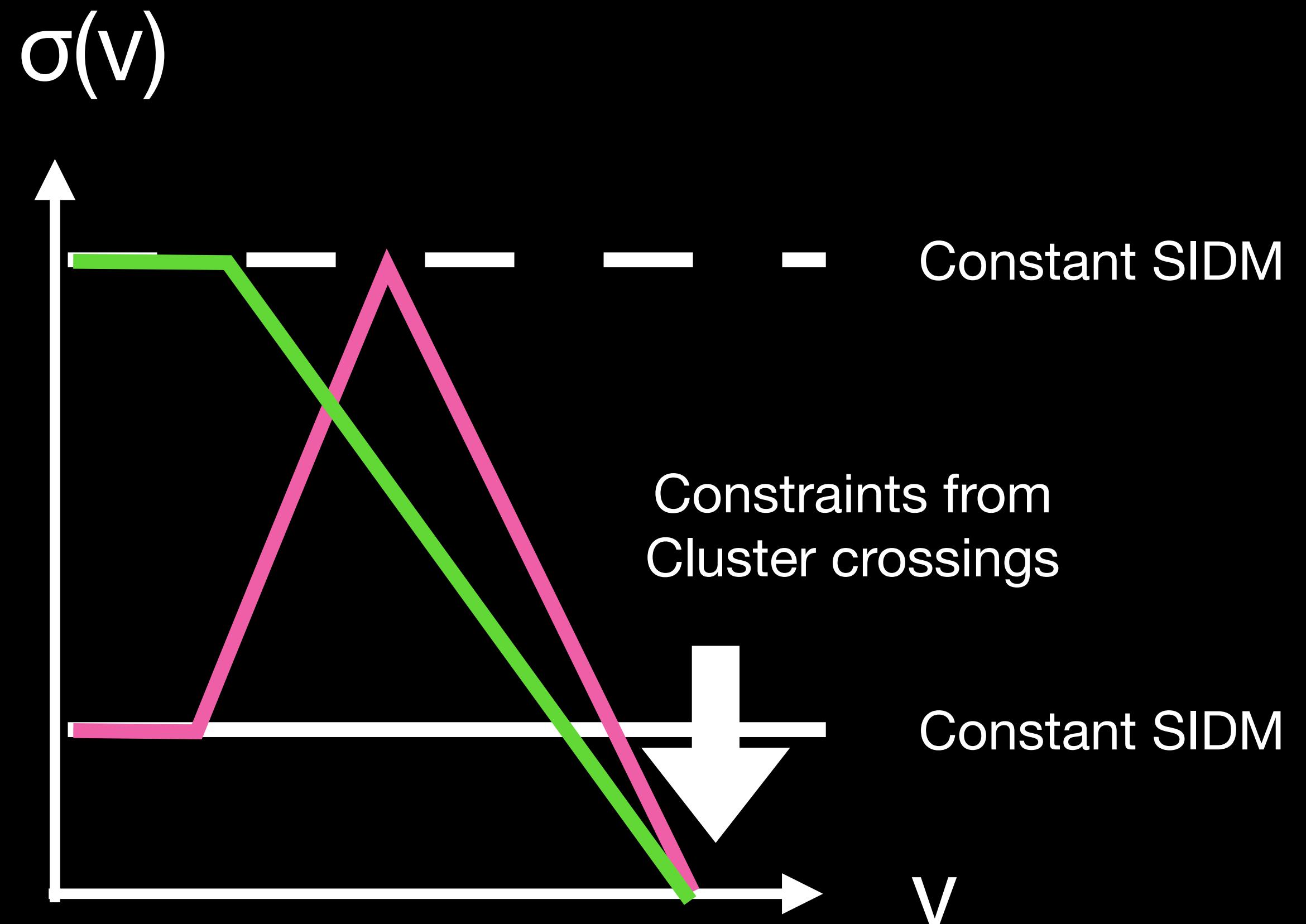
Bullet cluster crossing

# 1. Velocity-dependent SIDM



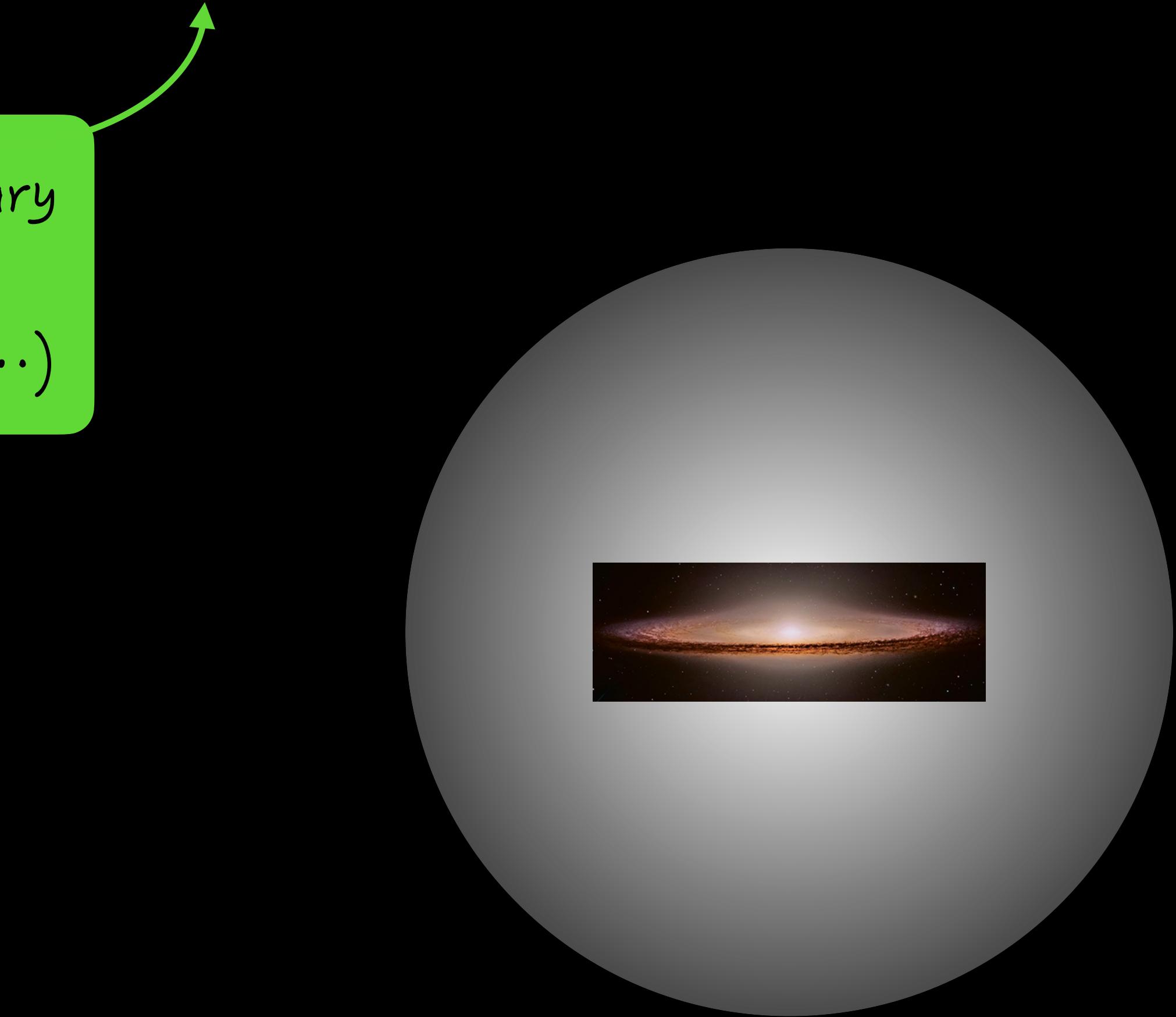
Bullet cluster crossing

# 1. Velocity-dependent SIDM



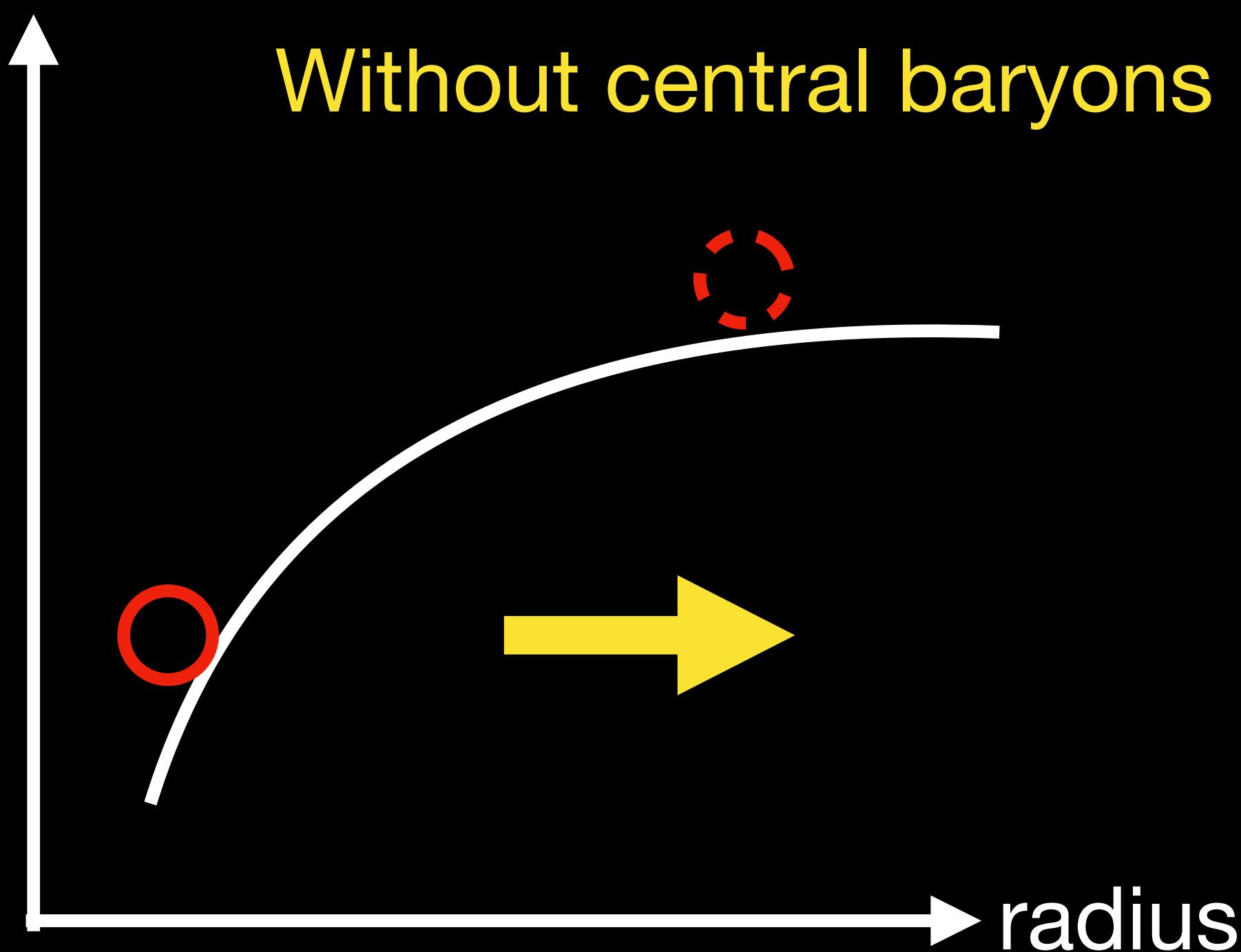
# Central baryonic component (CBC)

Objects made of ordinary  
particles  
(gas, stars, disk, bulge...)



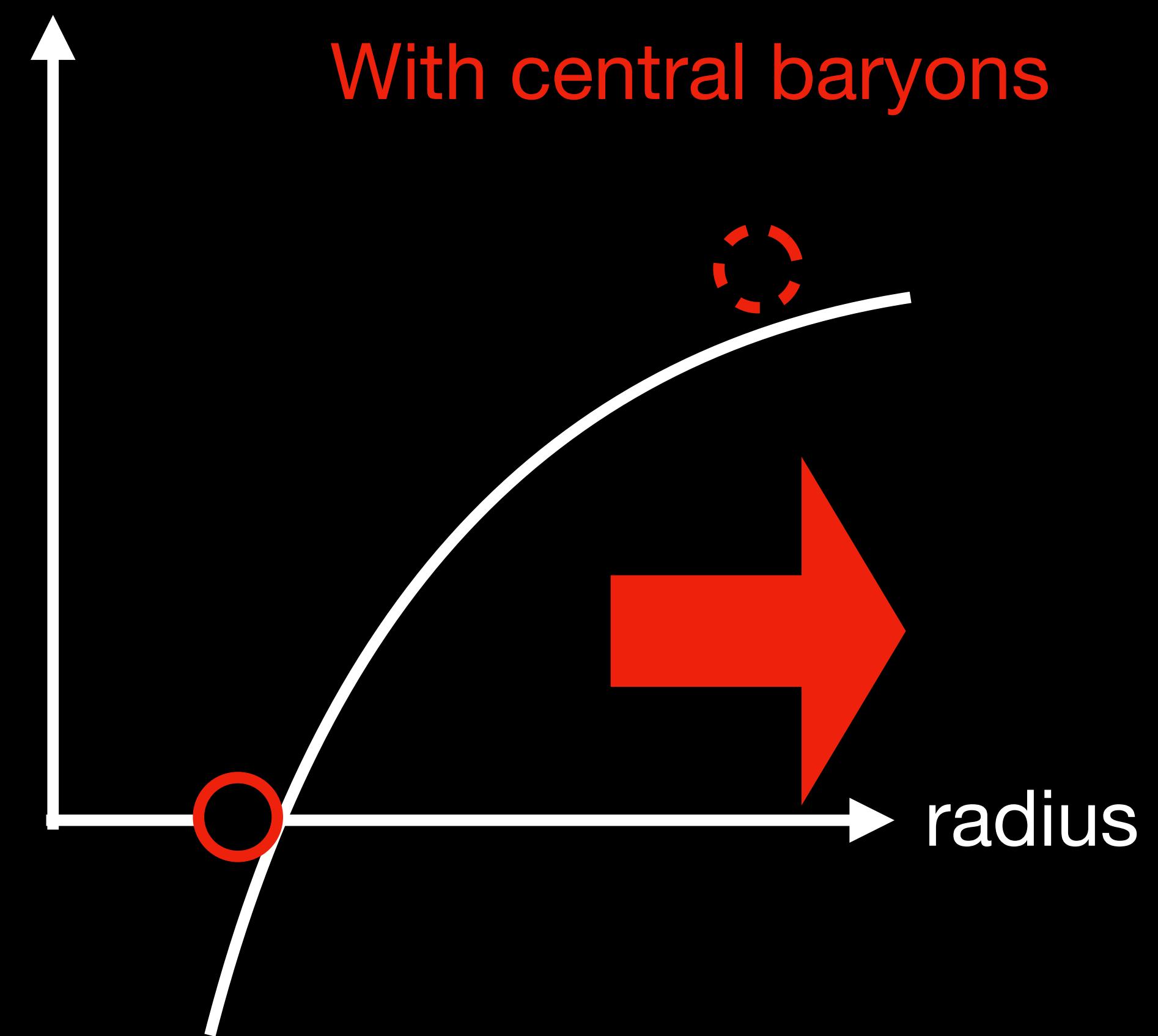
# Central baryonic component (CBC)

Potential



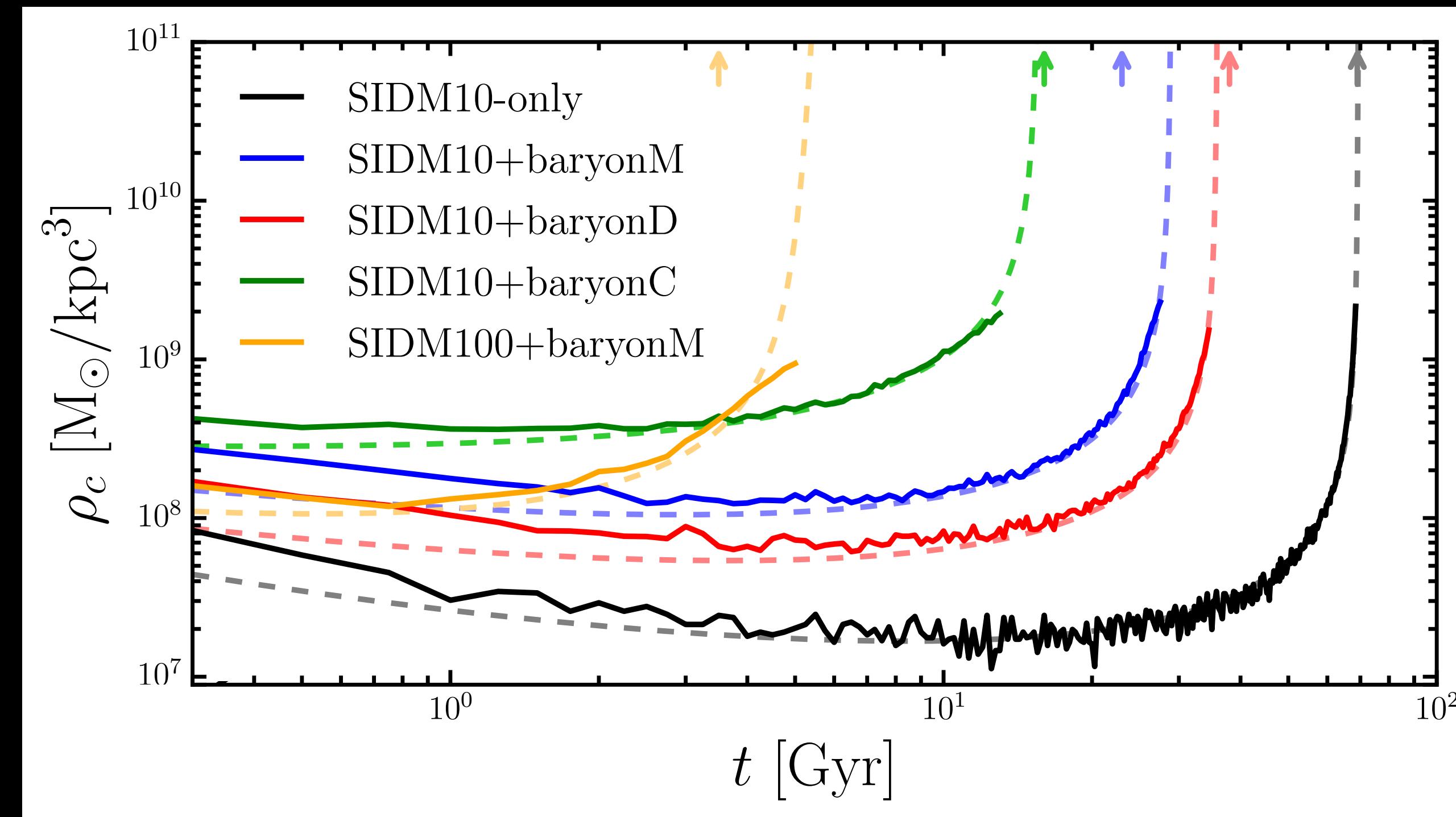
Without central baryons

Potential



With central baryons

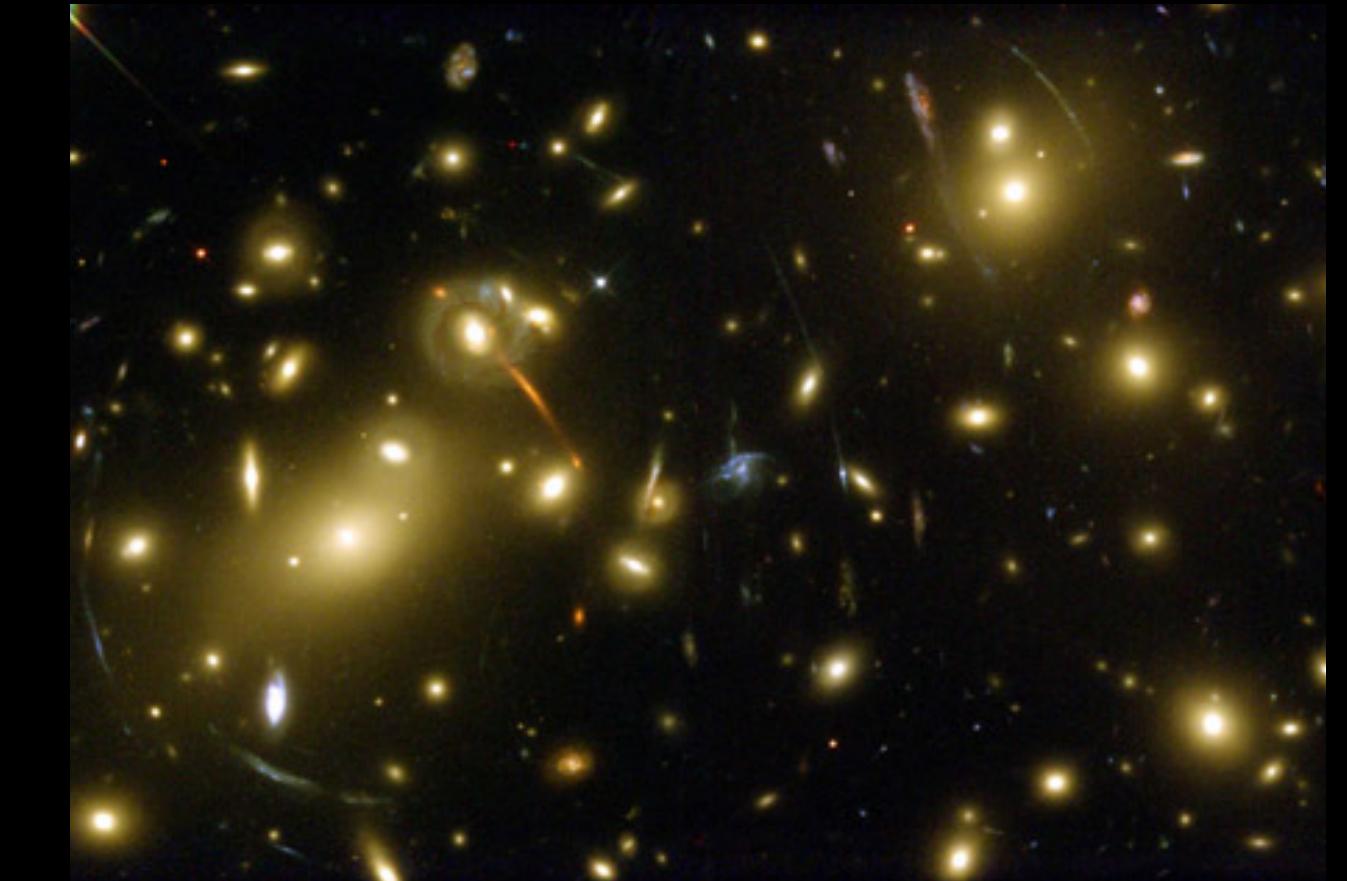
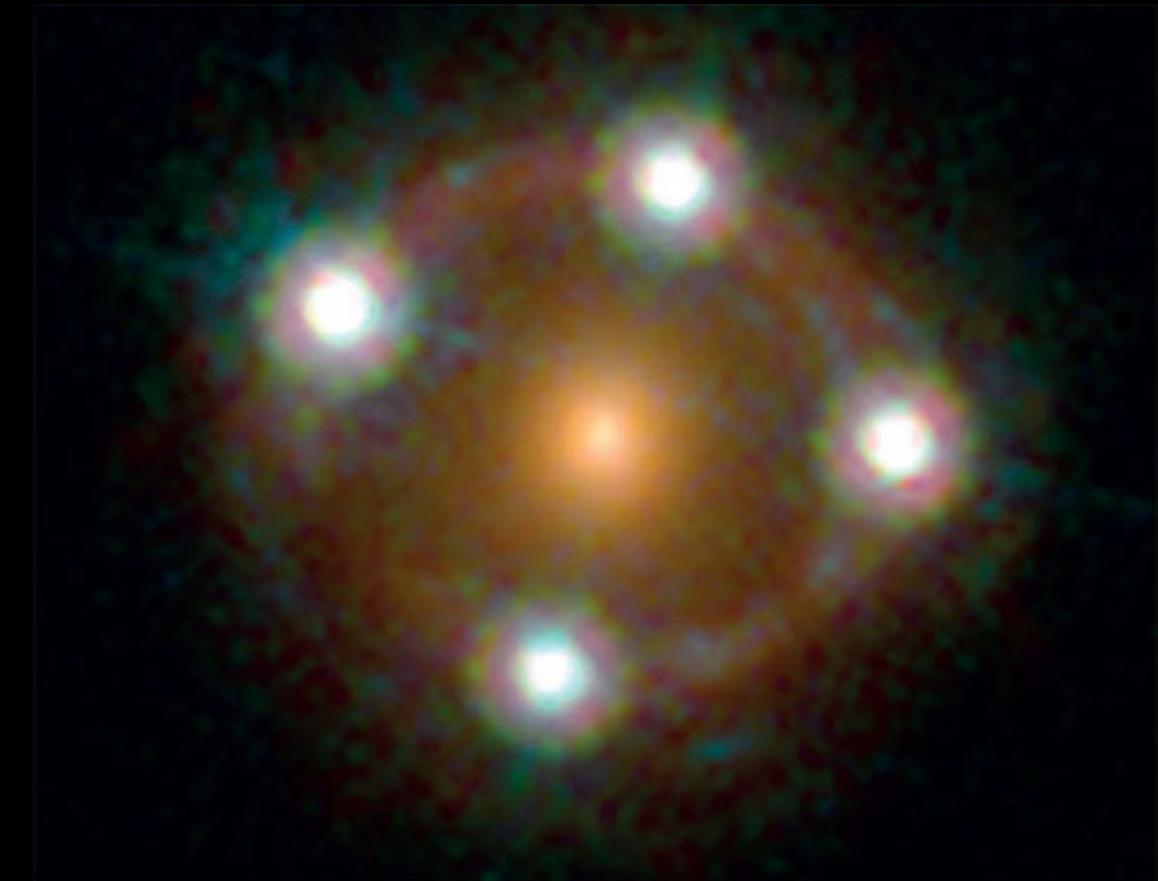
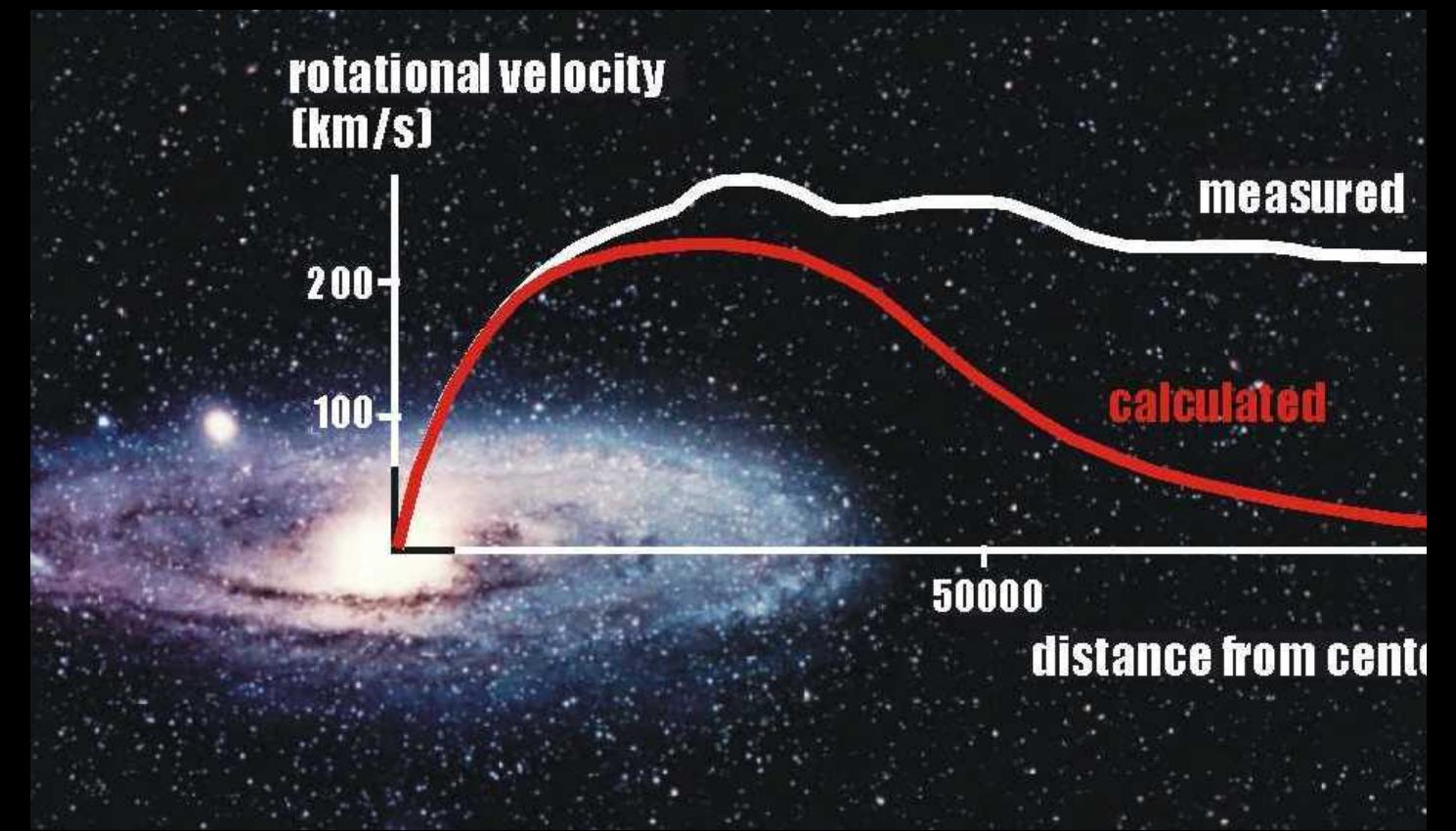
# Central baryonic component (CBC)



Collapse  
much faster

(Up to a factor of 10–100)

How to probe self-interacting  
dark matter?



## Rotation curves

Essig, McDermott, Yu & **YZ** (2018),  
Yang+ (**YZ** included, 2023)

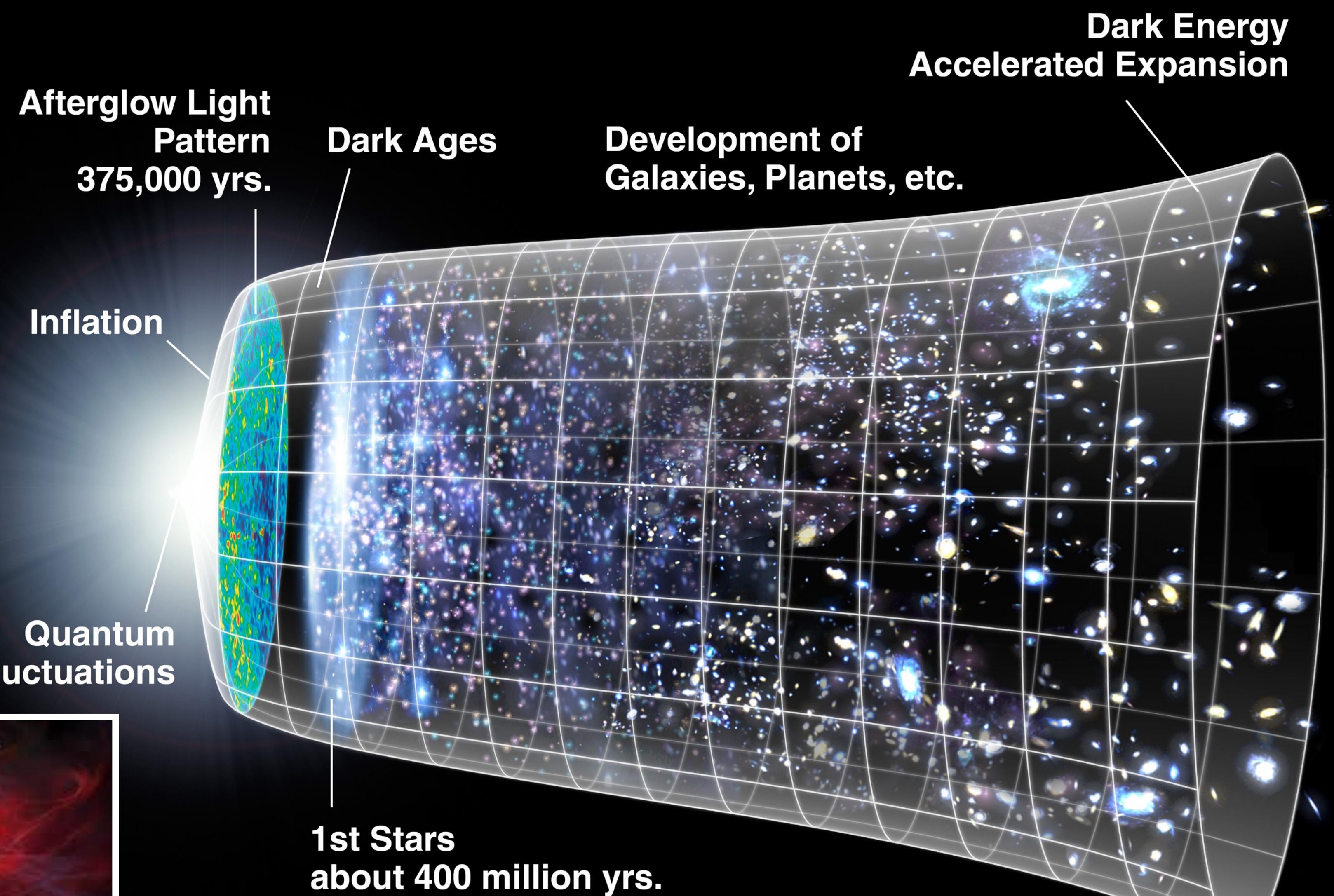
## Strong lensing

Gilman+ (2021),  
Gilman, **YZ** & Bovy (2022)

## Weak lensing

Adhikari, Banerjee, Jain, Hyeon-Shin  
& **YZ** (2024)

Give birth to high-z  
supermassive black holes



# High-z supermassive black holes (SMBHs)

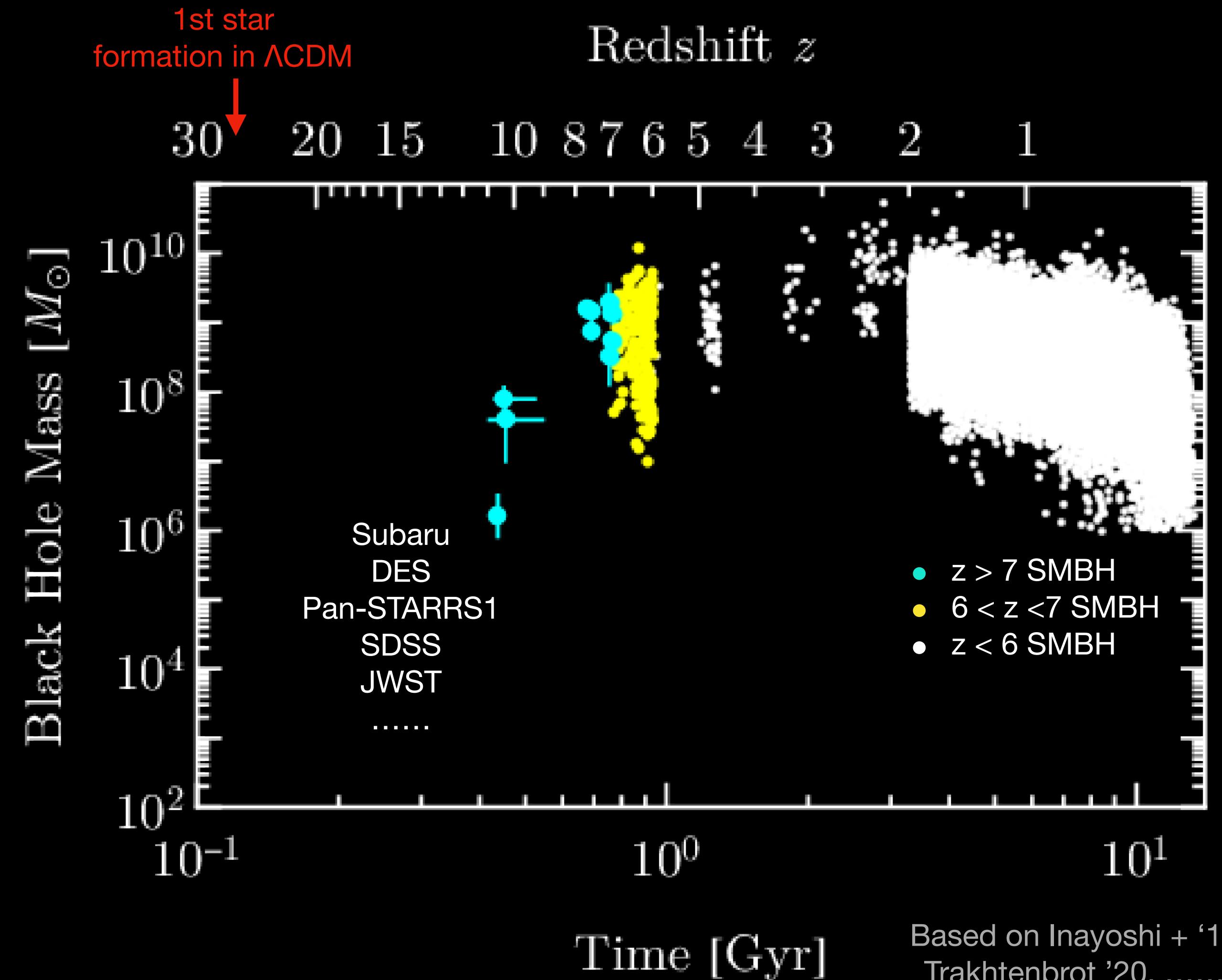
# The high-z supermassive black holes

> 200 SMBHs with mass  $\geq 10^6 M_\odot$  at  $z > 6$   
(7% of the age of Universe)

11 SMBHs with mass  $\geq 10^8 M_\odot$  at  $z > 7$   
(5% of the age of Universe)



How do they form?



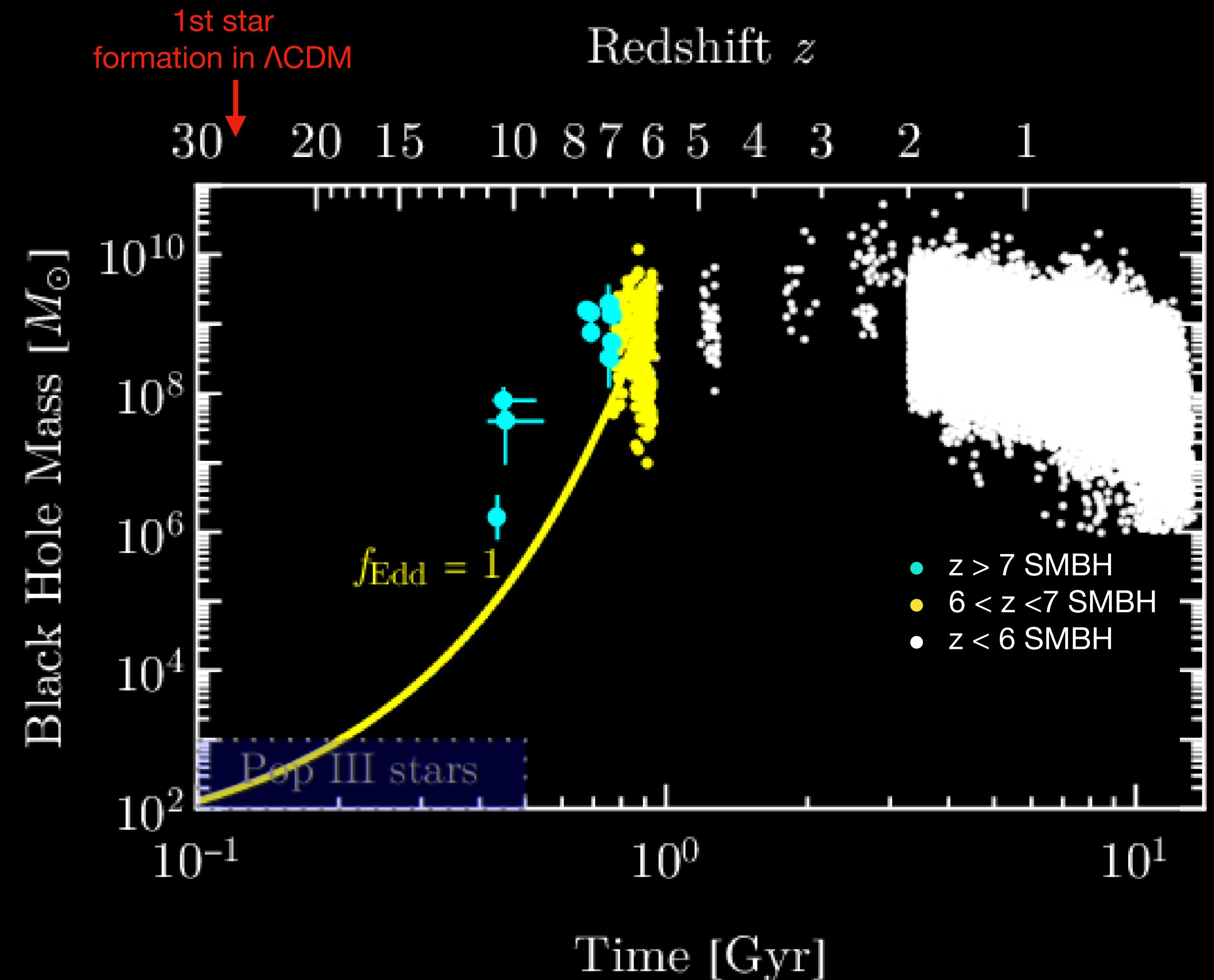
# Eddington limit



Eddington limit:  
max accretion rate of BH

$$M_{\text{BH}} = M_{\text{seed}} \exp(\Delta t / \tau)$$

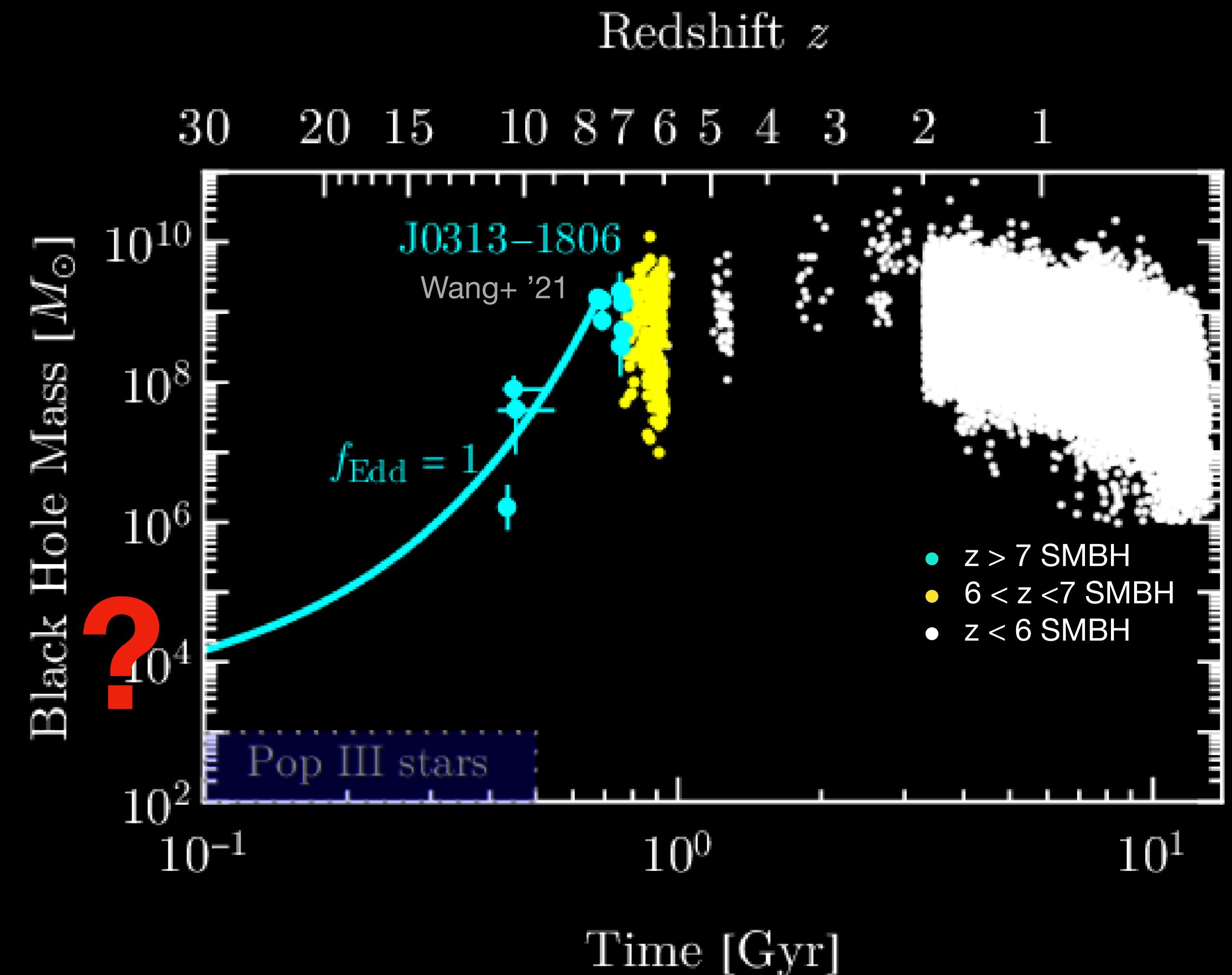
e-folding time  $\tau = 0.5 \text{ Gyr } f_{\text{Edd}}$



# The growth puzzle

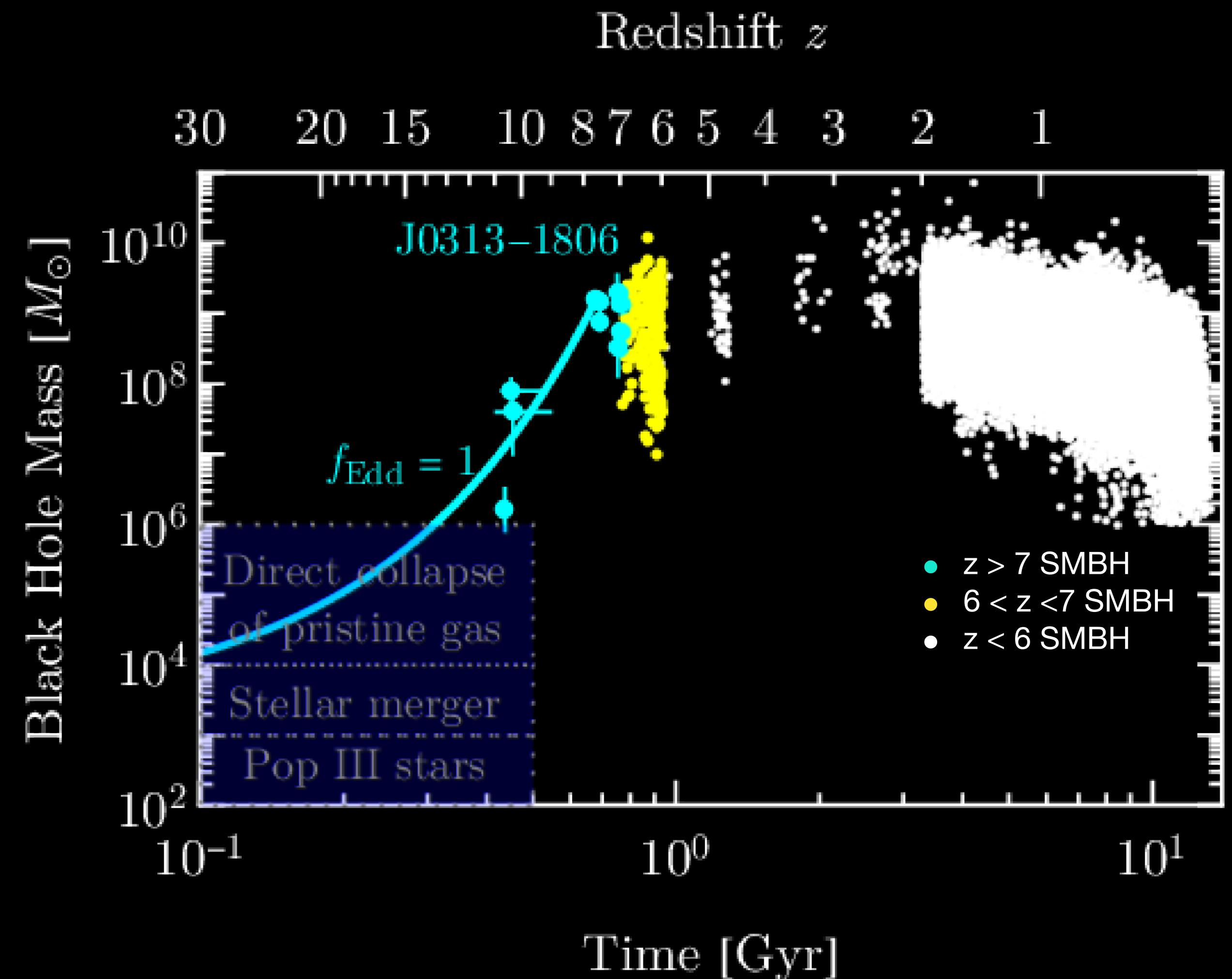
- For  $z > 7$  SMBHs, collapsed Pop III stars are not heavy enough.

e.g. Wang+ '21



# The growth puzzle

- For  $z > 7$  SMBHs, collapsed Pop III stars are not heavy enough.
- One way to solve the puzzle is to form more massive seed BHs
  - Direct collapse of pristine gas ...

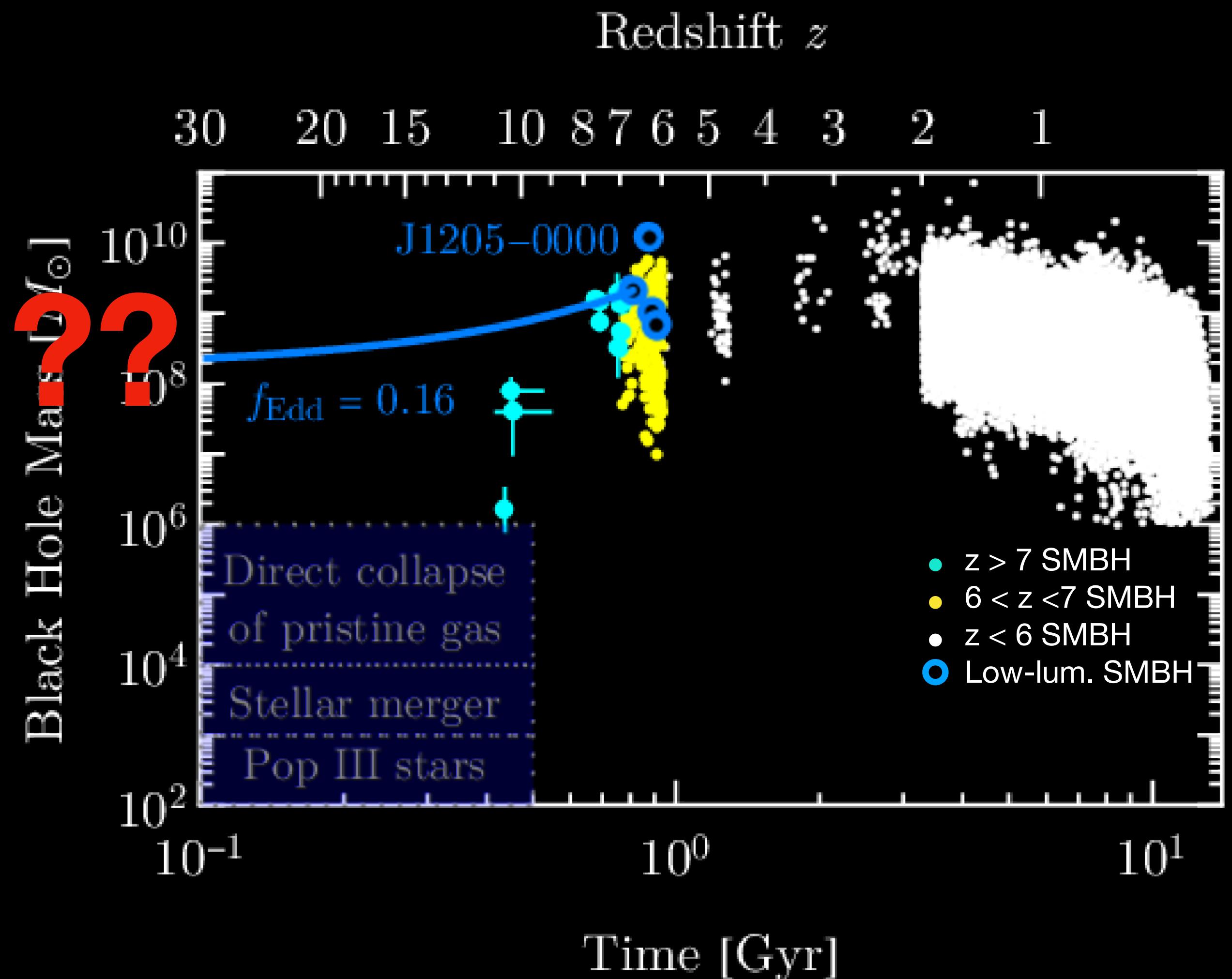


Omukai '01, Bromm & Loeb '03,  
Begelman+ '06, Hosokawa+, '13  
Regan+ '17, Ardaneh+ '18, Wise+ '19...

# A worse puzzle

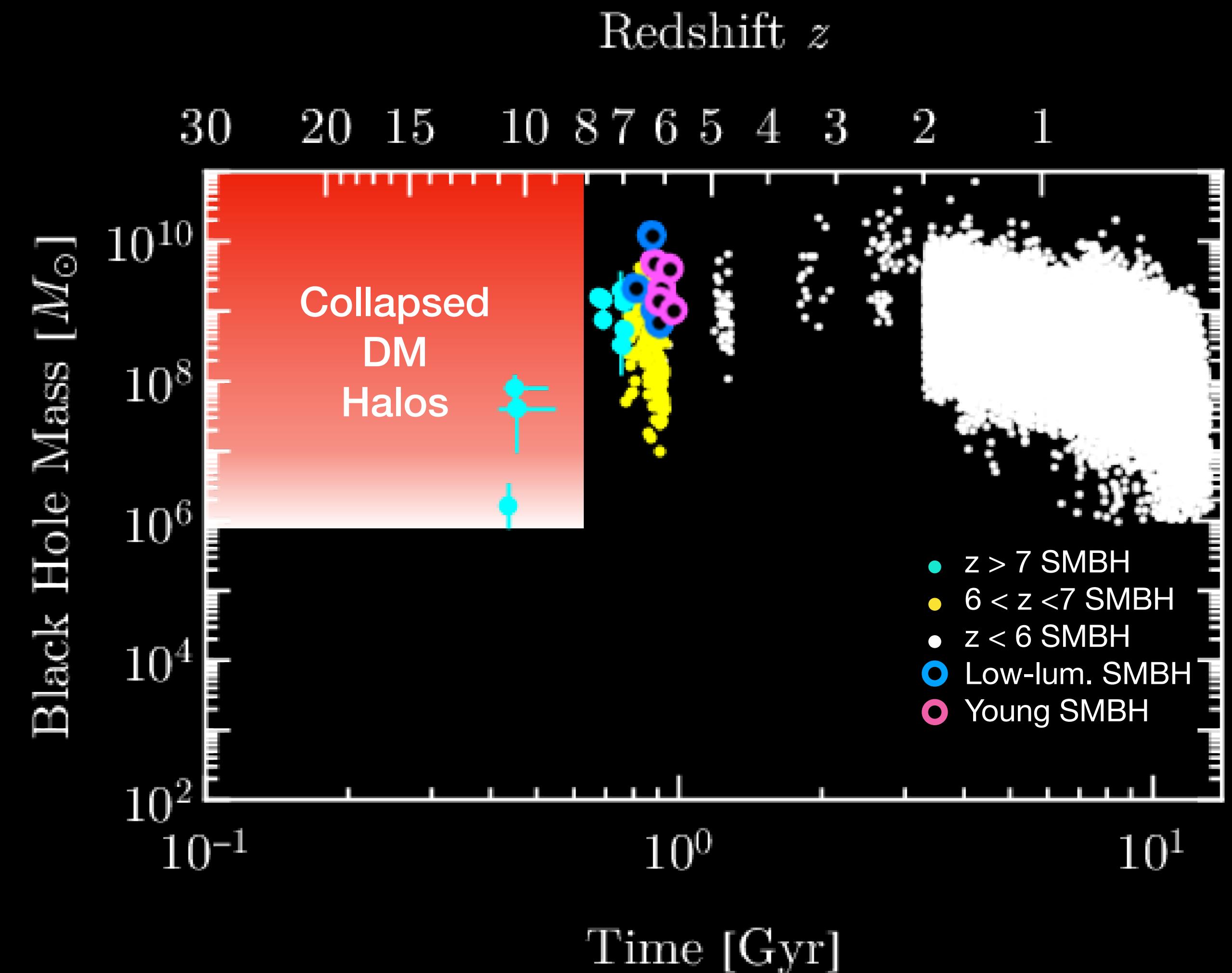
- For  $z > 7$  SMBHs, collapsed Pop III stars are not heavy enough.  
e.g. Wang+ '21
  - There is also a population of low accretion SMBHs.  $f_{\text{Edd}} \ll 1$

Mazzucchelli+ '17, Shen+ '19, Onoue+ '19 [**SHELLQs**]...

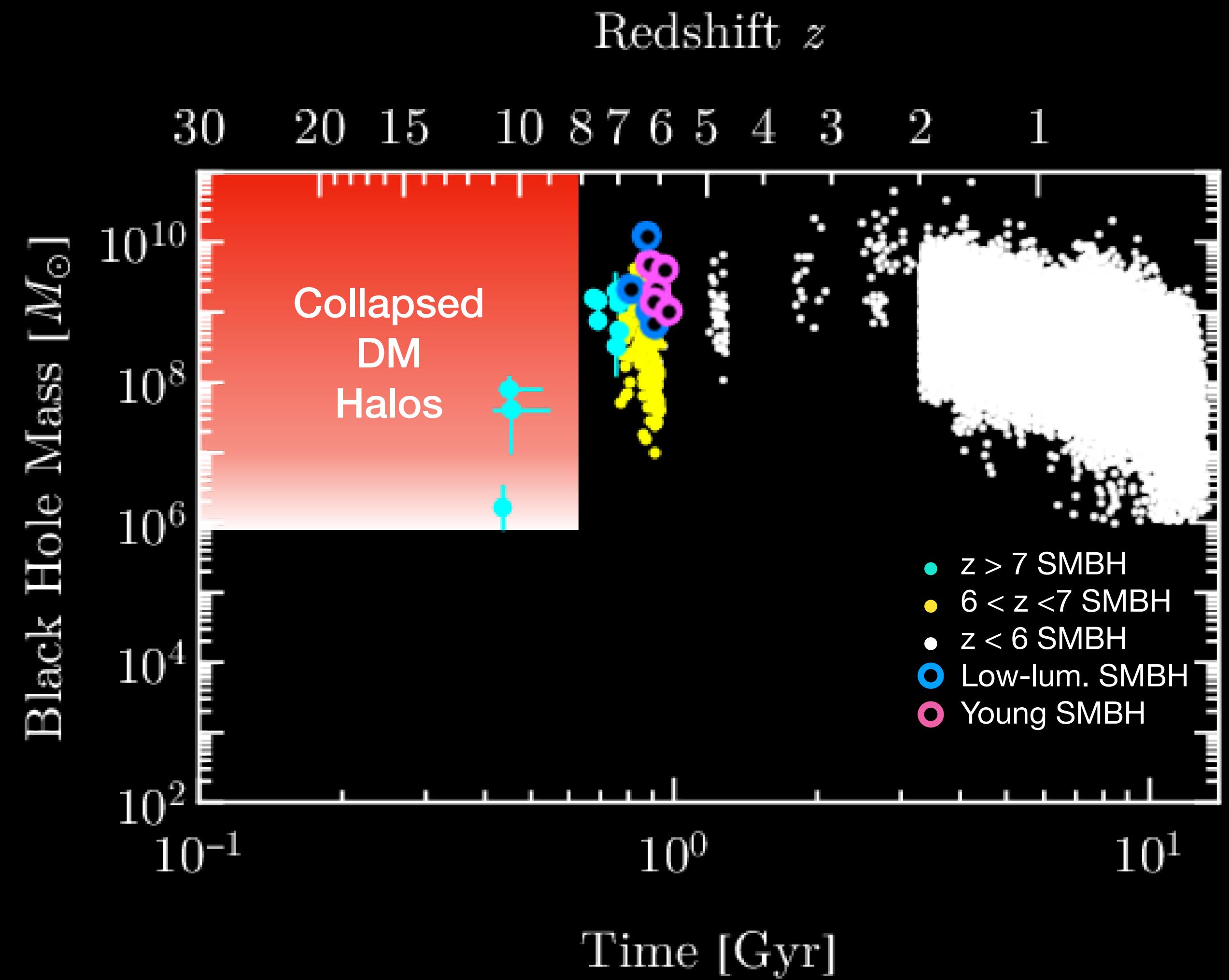
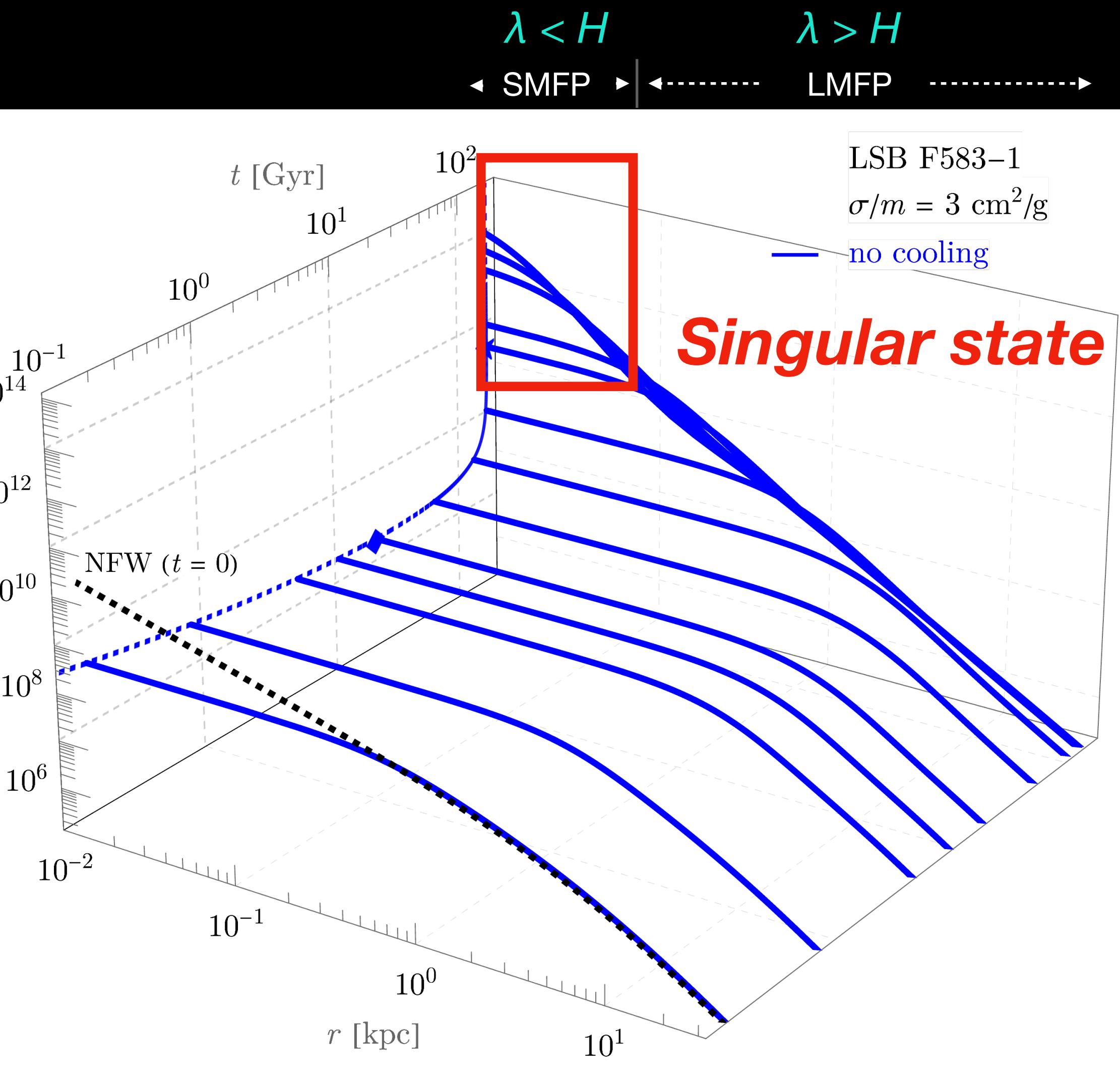


# Seeding SMBHs from collapsed DM halos

Feng, Yu & YZ '21



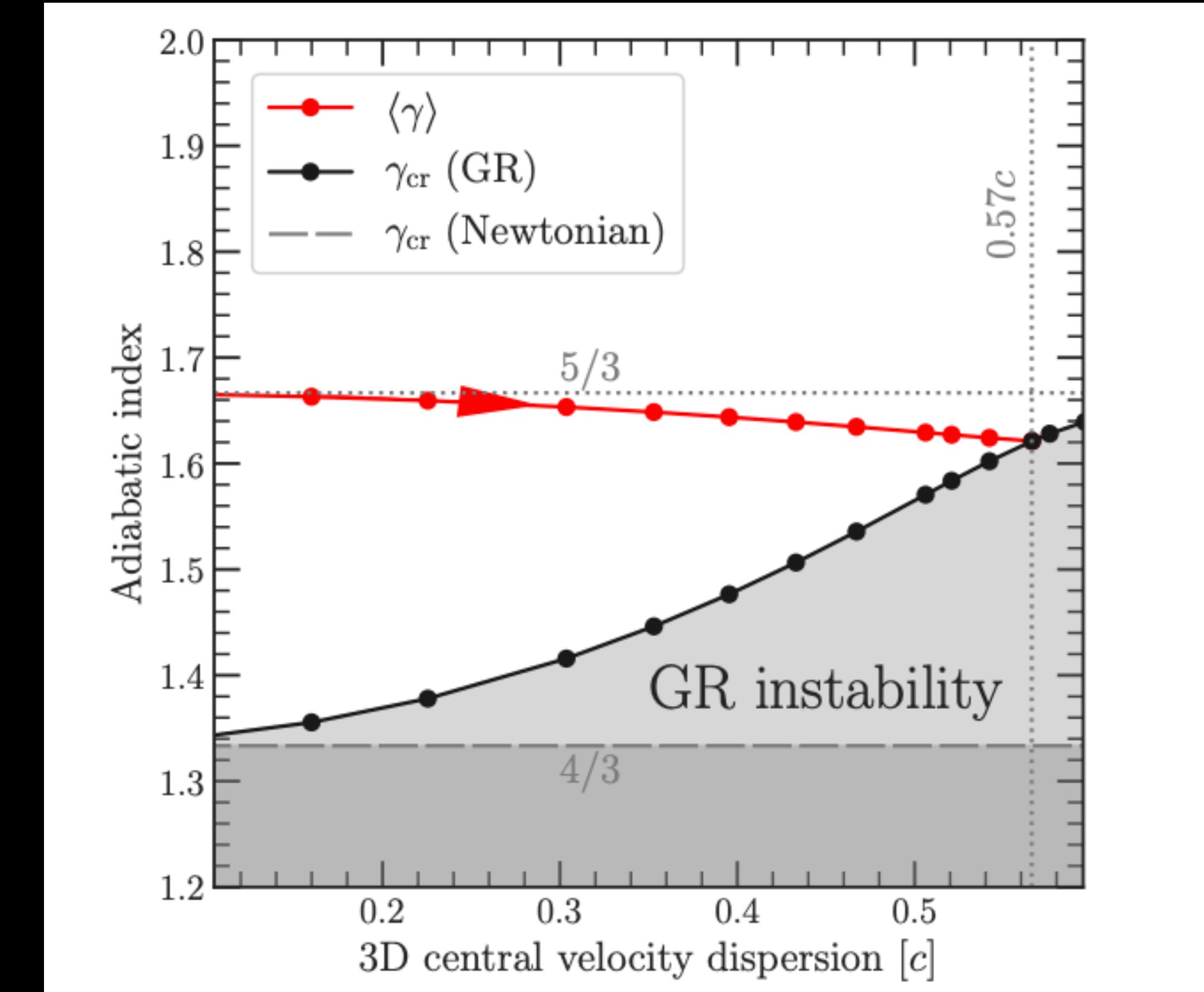
# Our idea



# Our idea

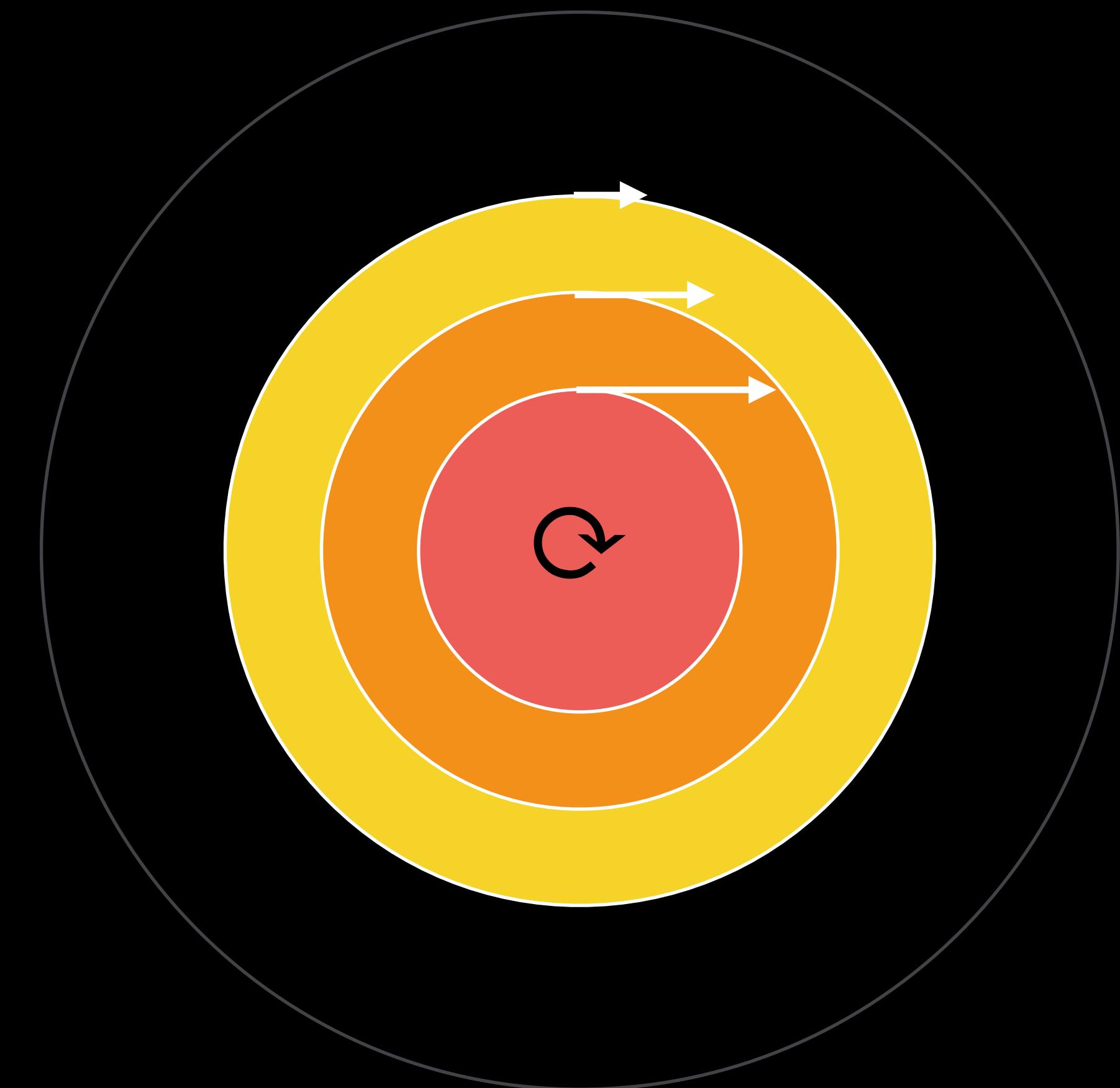
The singular state:

- Can trigger GR instability  
(Feng, Yu & YZ '21, '22)
- Leads to large seed BH mass  
( $\sim 10^{-3}$  halo mass)



# How to dissipate angular momentum?

Collisional viscosity



Angular momentum for the central region can be dissipated efficiently by self-interactions.

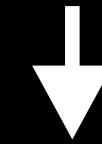
# Galactic-sized SIDM halo



Baryons

- Need to collapse fast  $\Rightarrow$  adding central baryonic components.

Singular state

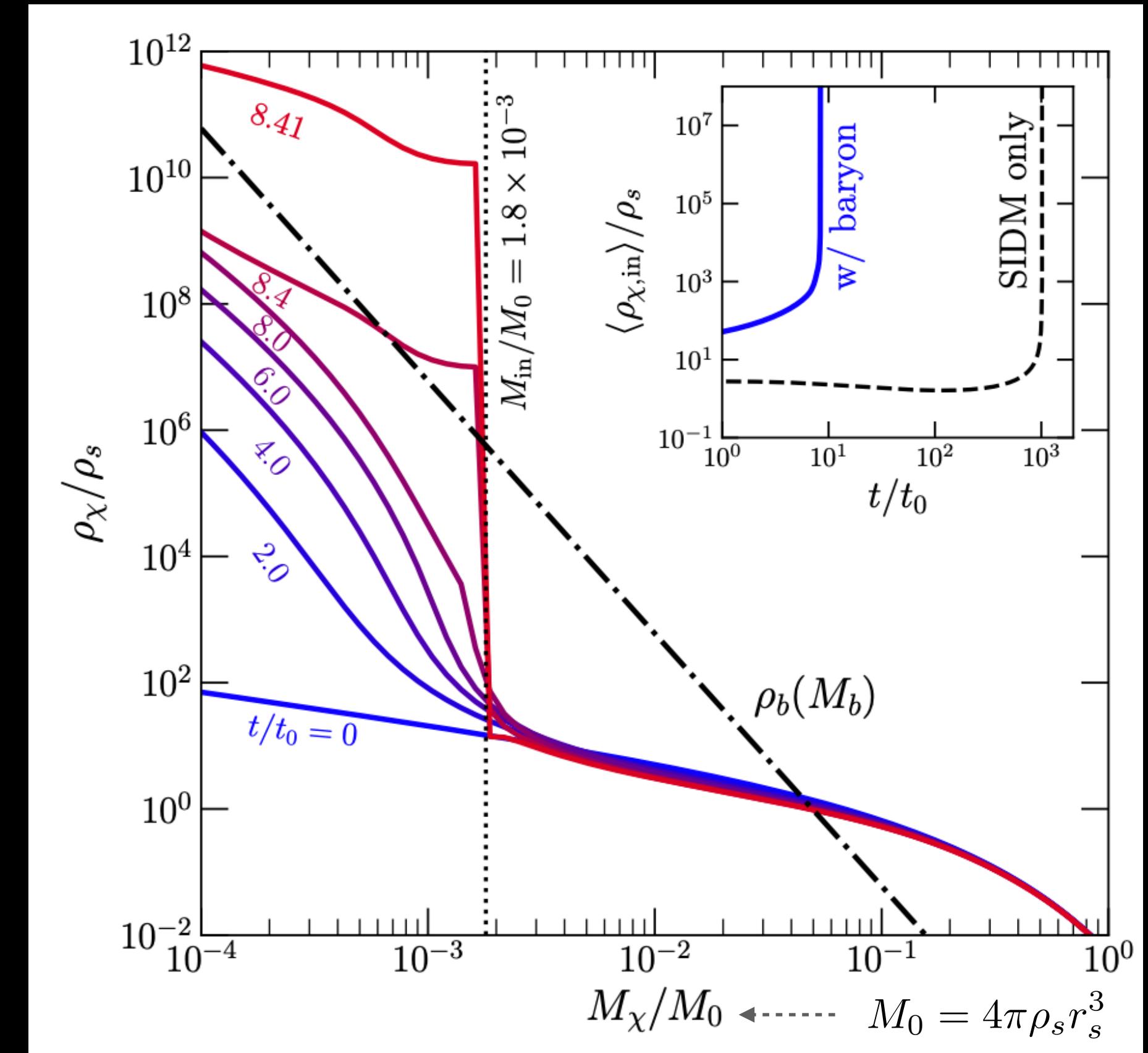


$\lambda < H$

SMFP

$\lambda > H$

LMFP



$$r_s \rho_s \sigma / m = 0.2$$

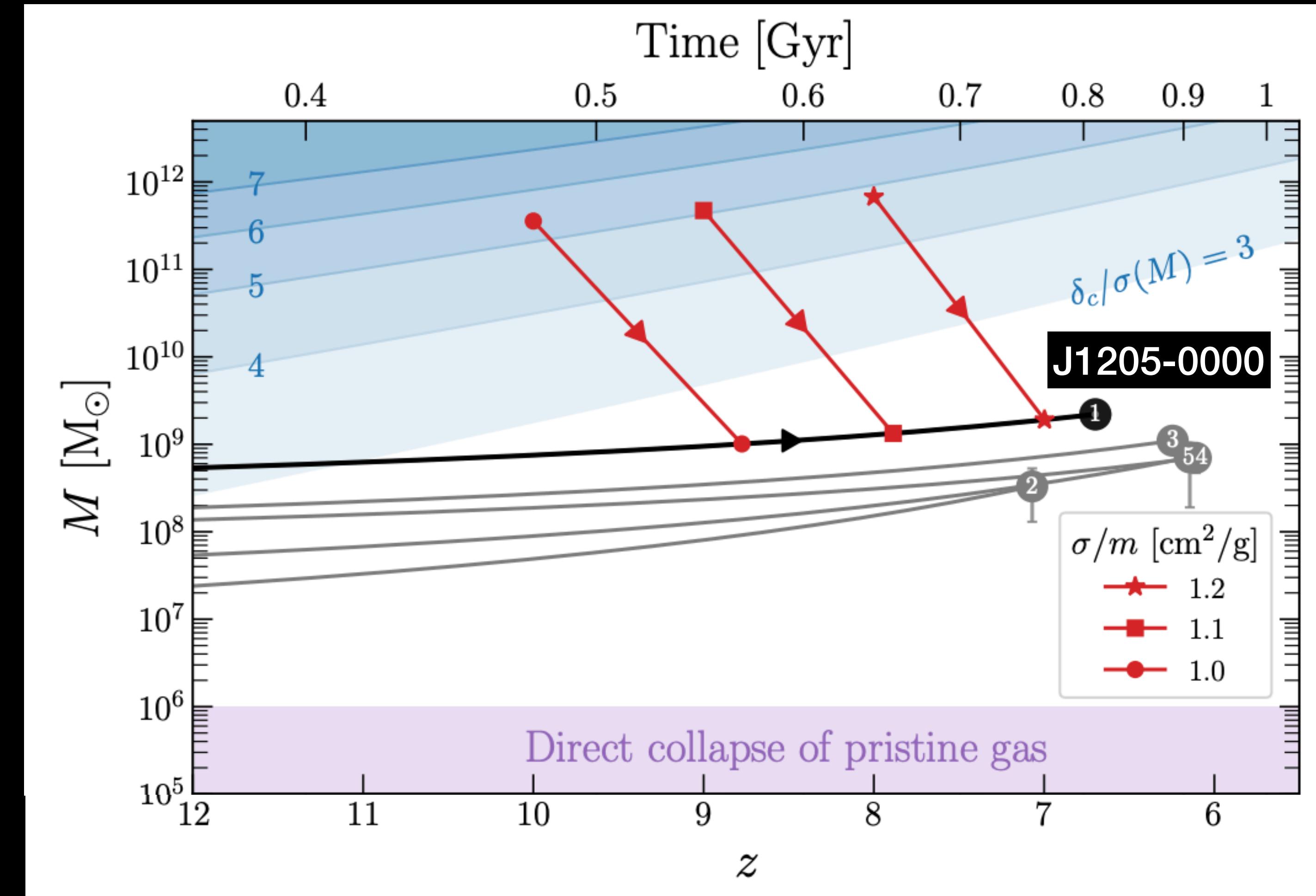
Feng, Yu & YZ, '21

# To form low-luminosity high-z SMBHs

- Need galactic-sized DM halos at high redshift (rare in the early Universe).
- Need compact central baryons.
- Need cross section strength  $\sigma/m \sim O(1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g})$ .

solve the small-scale problems of the  
CDM paradigm

# To form low-luminosity high-z SMBHs



$$\frac{dn(M, z)}{dM} \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{\delta_c^2(z)}{2\sigma^2(M)} \right]$$

# Summary

- The nature of dark matter remains unknown. Dark matter halos are important way to probe dark matter/dark sectors.
- The collapsed SIDM halos could be common.
- Many interesting observational signatures (rotation curves, strong lensing, weak lensing...), including solving the puzzle of high-z supermassive black holes.