

# Discovering Dark Matter by Reheating Pasta

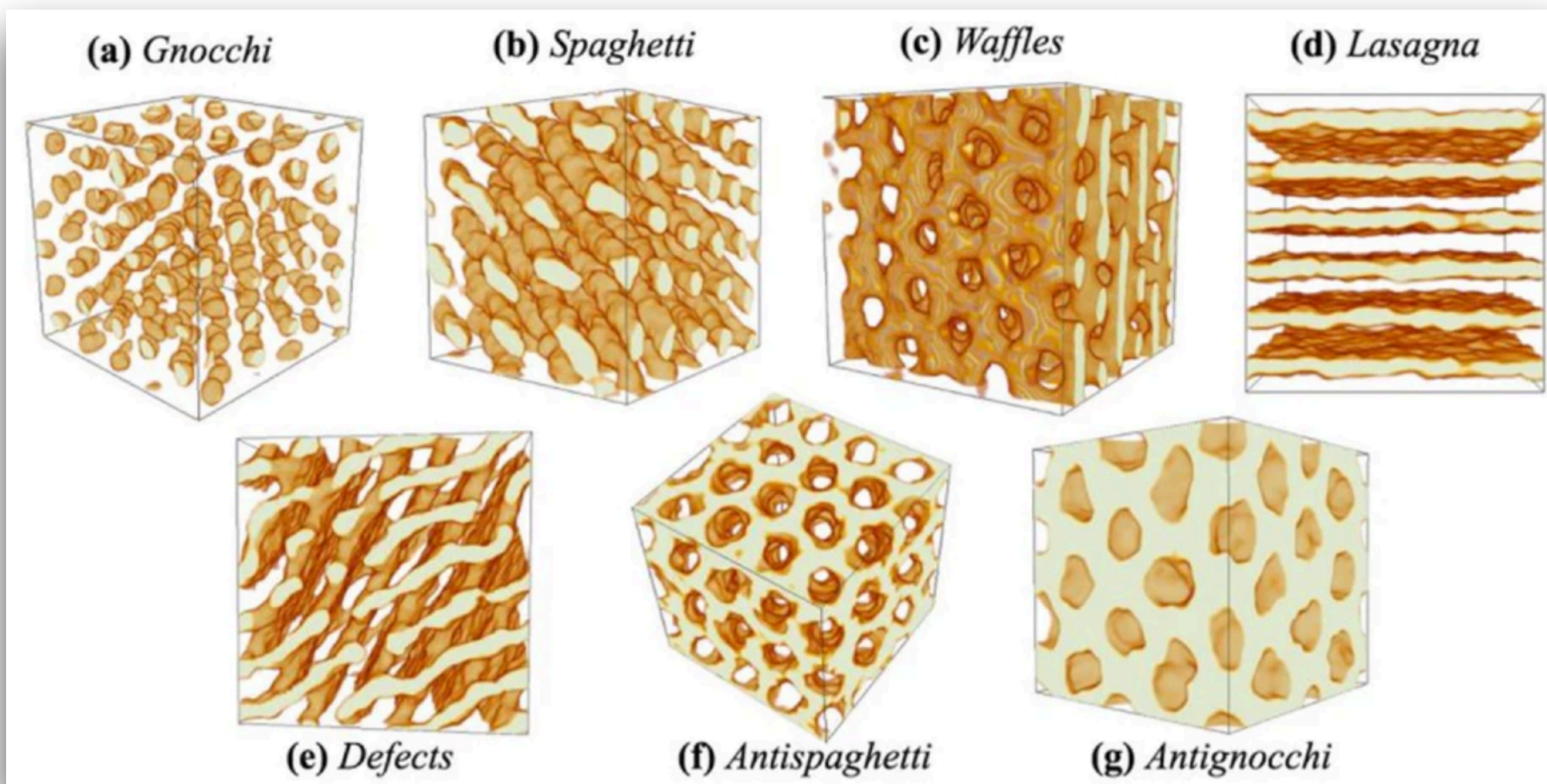
**Nirmal Raj**

**TRIUMF**



with  
**Javier Acevedo,  
Joe Bramante,  
Rebecca Leane**

**1911.06334,  
accepted at JCAP**

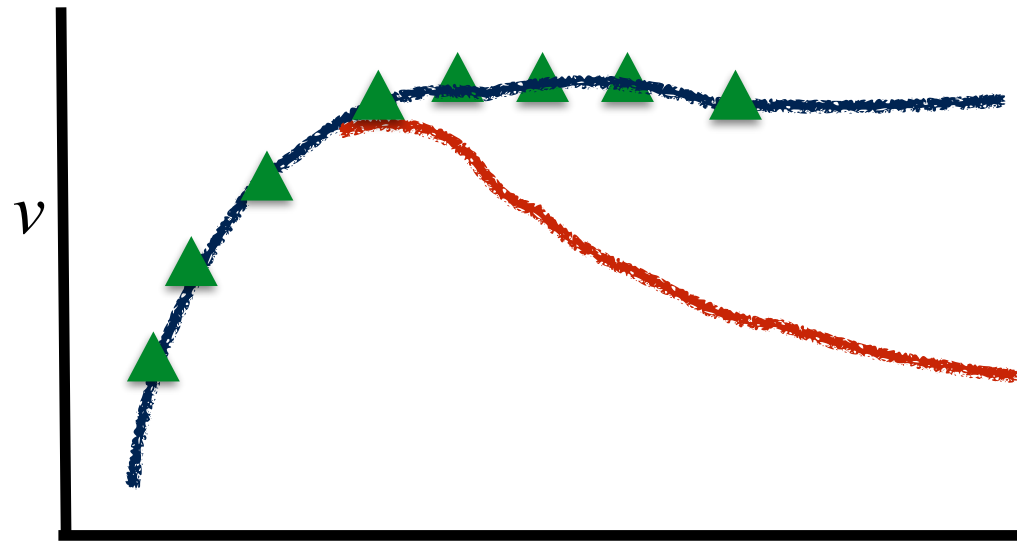


based partly on collaborations with  
**Masha Baryakhtar | Aniket Joglekar | Shirley Li  
Tim Linden | Flip Tanedo | Hai-Bo Yu**

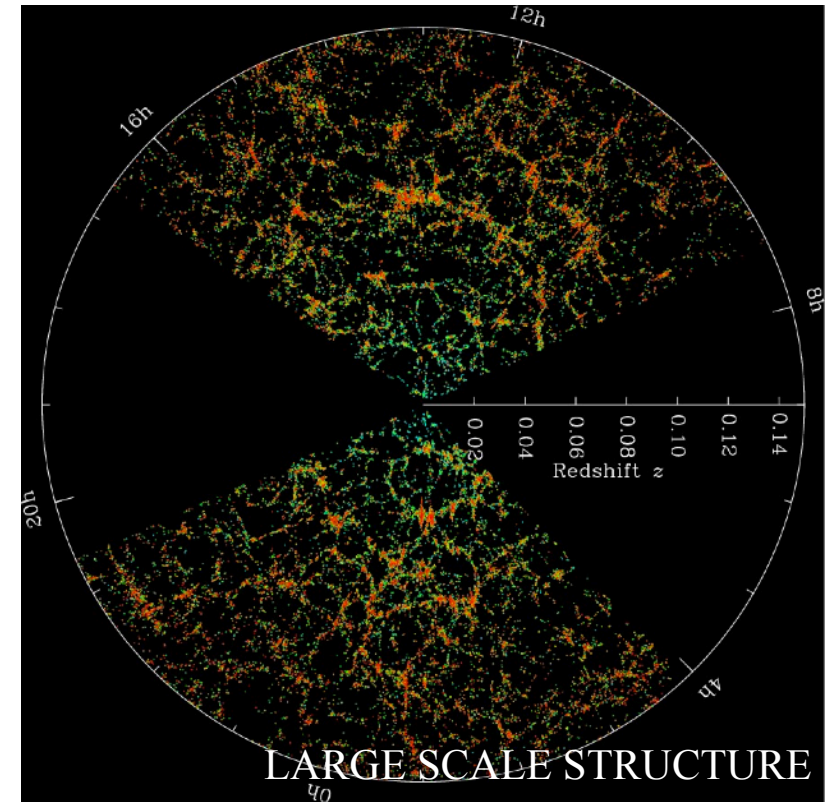
11 Mar 2020, New Techniques for Dark Matter Discovery, TRIUMF



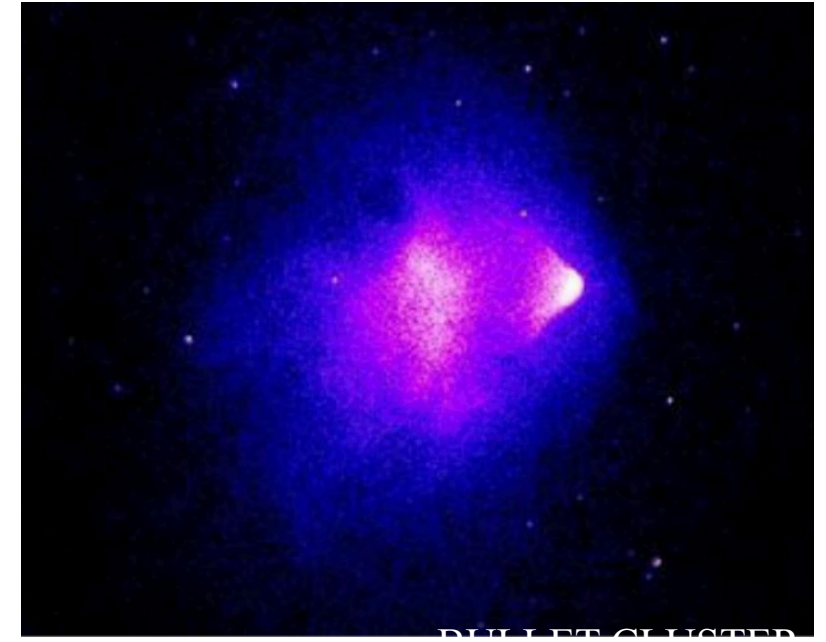
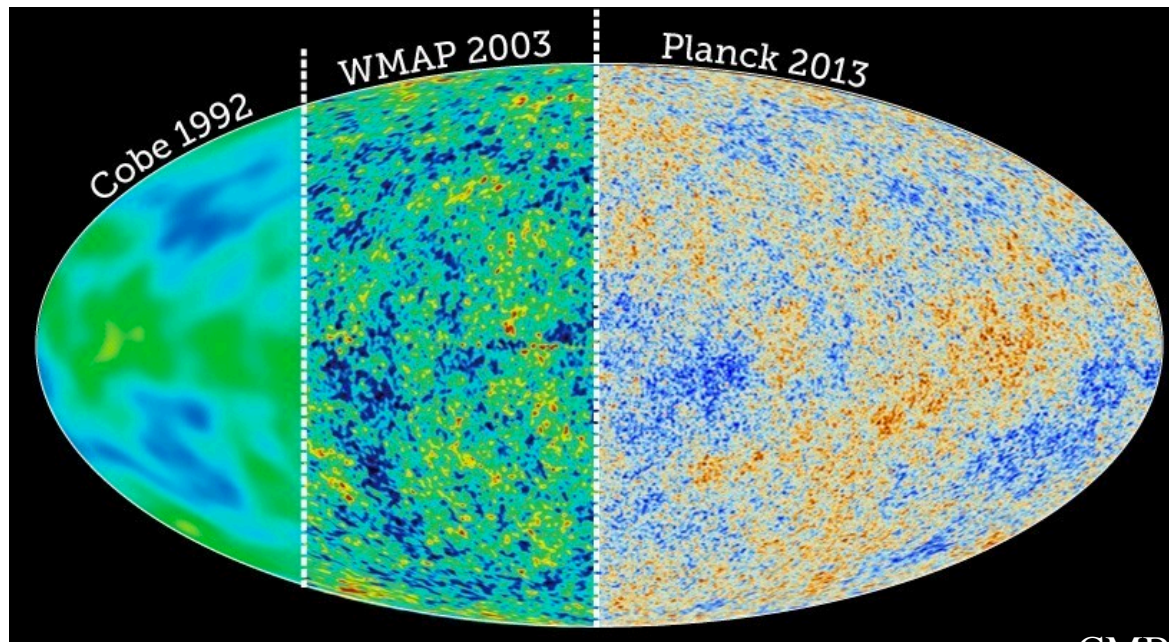
# Dark reality



GALACTIC ROTATION



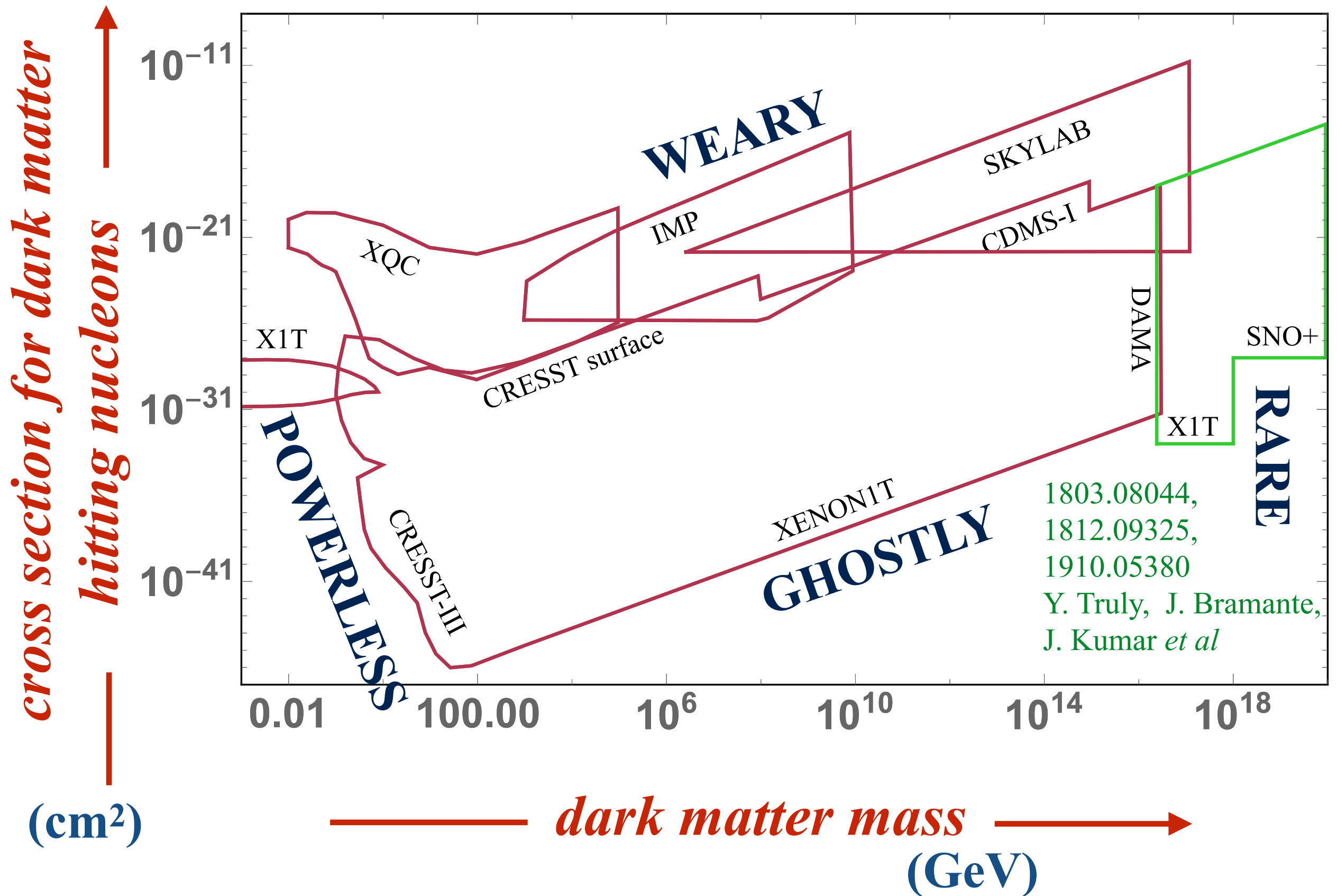
LARGE SCALE STRUCTURE



BULLET CLUSTER

Can we detect its putative non-gravitational interactions?

# Earth-bound searches



# A proposal

$$L \propto (\gamma - 1)m_{\text{DM}}$$

kinetic heating  
of neutron stars





# A proposal

$$L \propto (\gamma - 1)m_{\text{DM}} + m_{\text{DM}}$$

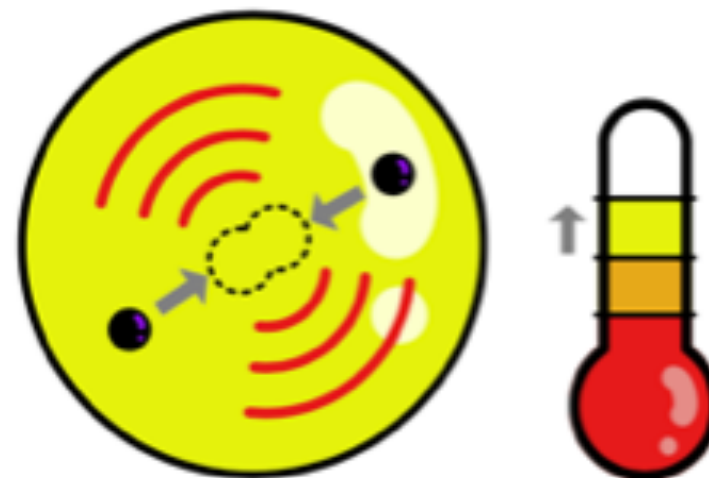
kinetic heating

+ annihilation

Minimum signature



Possible bonus



# Observation prospects

(1.5 solar mass, 10 km star)

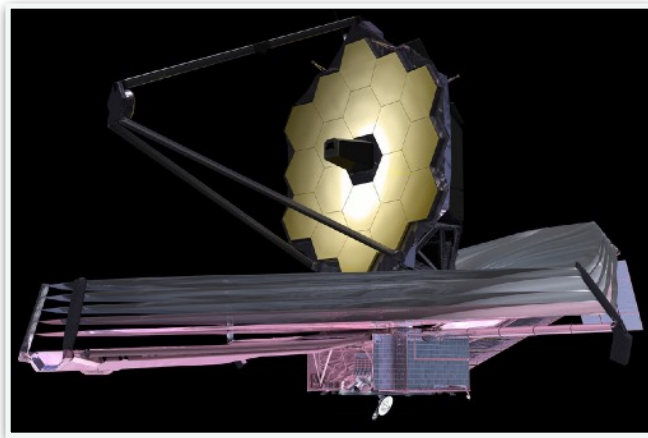
kinetic heating

1750 K

+ annihilation

2480 K

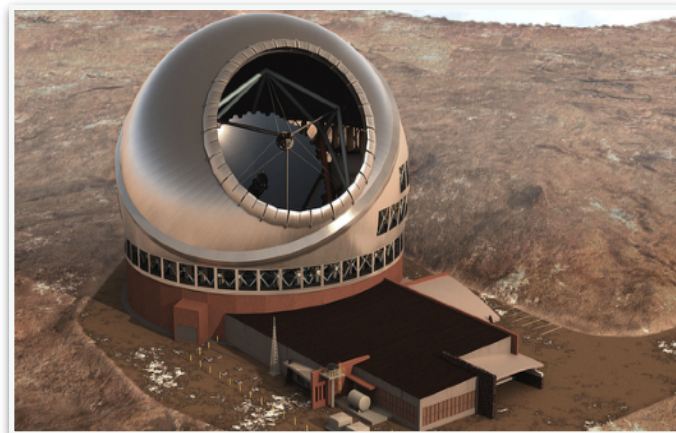
telescope time for  $2\sigma$  sensitivity



James Webb

$$10^5 \text{ sec} \left( \frac{d}{10\text{pc}} \right)^4$$

$$9 \times 10^3 \text{ sec} \left( \frac{d}{10\text{pc}} \right)^4$$



Thirty Meter

$$7 \times 10^4 \text{ sec} \left( \frac{d}{10\text{pc}} \right)^4$$

$$2 \times 10^3 \text{ sec} \left( \frac{d}{10\text{pc}} \right)^4$$

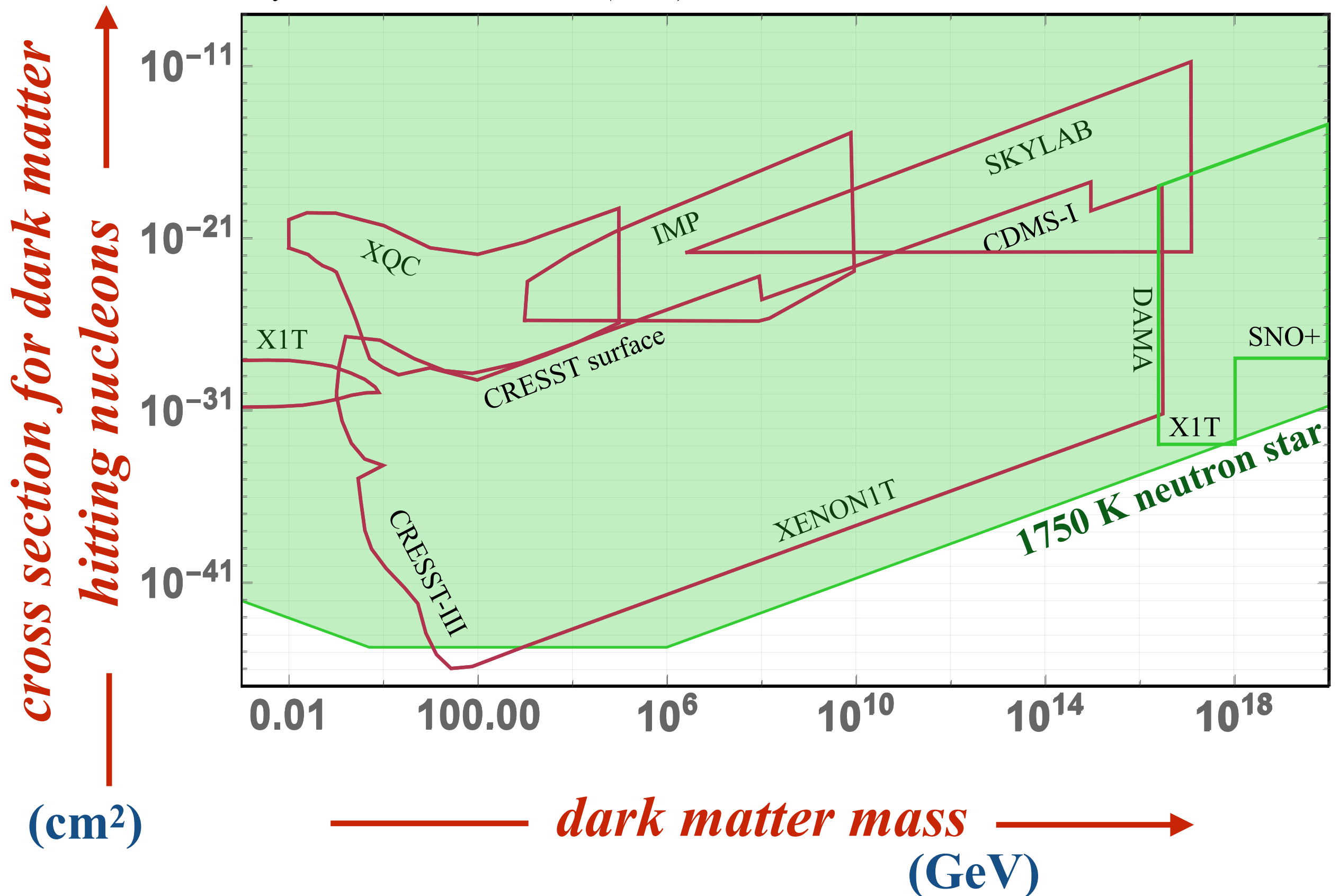
Annihilation saves observation time (= \$\$)  
by a factor of  $>10!$

*M Baryakhtar, J Bramante, S Li, T Linden, N. Raj*  
*Phys.Rev.Lett.* 119, 131801 (2017)

# Increase in acreage

*M Baryakhtar, J Bramante, S Li, T Linden, N. Raj*

*Phys.Rev.Lett. 119, 131801 (2017)*





# What happened next

## 32. Neutron stars at the dark matter direct detection frontier

Nirmal Raj (Notre Dame U.), Philip Tanedo, Hai-Bo Yu (UC, Riverside). Jul 28, 2017. 6 pp.  
Published in *Phys.Rev. D97* (2018) no.4, 043006

## 26. Reheating neutron stars with the annihilation of self-interacting dark matter

Chian-Shu Chen (Tamkang U.), Yen-Hsun Lin (Taiwan, Natl. Cheng Kung U.). Apr 10, 2018. 16 pp.  
Published in *JHEP* 1808 (2018) 069

## 21. Heating up Neutron Stars with Inelastic Dark Matter

Nicole F. Bell, Giorgio Busoni, Sandra Robles (Melbourne U.). Jul 8, 2018. 20 pp.  
Published in *JCAP* 1809 (2018) 018

## 2. Heating neutron stars with GeV dark matter

Wai-Yee Keung (Illinois U., Chicago), Danny Marfatia (Hawaii U.), Po-Yan Tseng (IPAP, Seoul & Yonsei U.). Jan 24, 2020. 24 pp.  
e-Print: [arXiv:2001.09140](https://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09140) [hep-ph] | [PDF](#)

## 18. New Analysis of Neutron Star Constraints on Asymmetric Dark Matter

Raghuveer Garani, Yoann Genolini, Thomas Hambye (Brussels U.). Dec 20, 2018. 42 pp.  
Published in *JCAP* 1905 (2019) 035

## 15. Capture of Leptophilic Dark Matter in Neutron Stars

Nicole F. Bell (Melbourne U.), Giorgio Busoni (Heidelberg, Max Planck Inst.), Sandra Robles (Melbourne U.). Apr 22, 2019. 26 pp.  
Published in *JCAP* 1906 (2019) 054

## 9. Dark matter interactions with muons in neutron stars

Raghuveer Garani (Brussels U.), Julian Heeck (UC, Irvine). Jun 24, 2019. 8 pp.  
Published in *Phys.Rev. D100* (2019) no.3, 035039

Julian's talk

## 4. Relativistic capture of dark matter by electrons in neutron stars

Aniket Joglekar (UC, Riverside), Nirmal Raj (TRIUMF), Philip Tanedo, Hai-Bo Yu (UC, Riverside). Nov 29, 2019. 6 pp.  
UCR-TR-2019-FLIP-NCC-1701-B  
e-Print: [arXiv:1911.13293](https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.13293) [hep-ph] | [PDF](#)

## 17. Detecting Dark Matter with Neutron Star Spectroscopy

Daniel A. Camargo, Farinaldo S. Queiroz, Riccardo Sturani (IIP, Brazil). Jan 16, 2019. 22 pp.  
Published in *JCAP* 1909 (2019) no.09, 051

## 11. Dark Matter Heating vs. Rotochemical Heating in Old Neutron Stars

Koichi Hamaguchi (Tokyo U. & Tokyo U., IPMU), Natsumi Nagata, Keisuke Yanagi (Tokyo U.). May 8, 2019. 6 pp.  
Published in *Phys.Lett. B795* (2019) 484-489

*particle model  
interpretations*

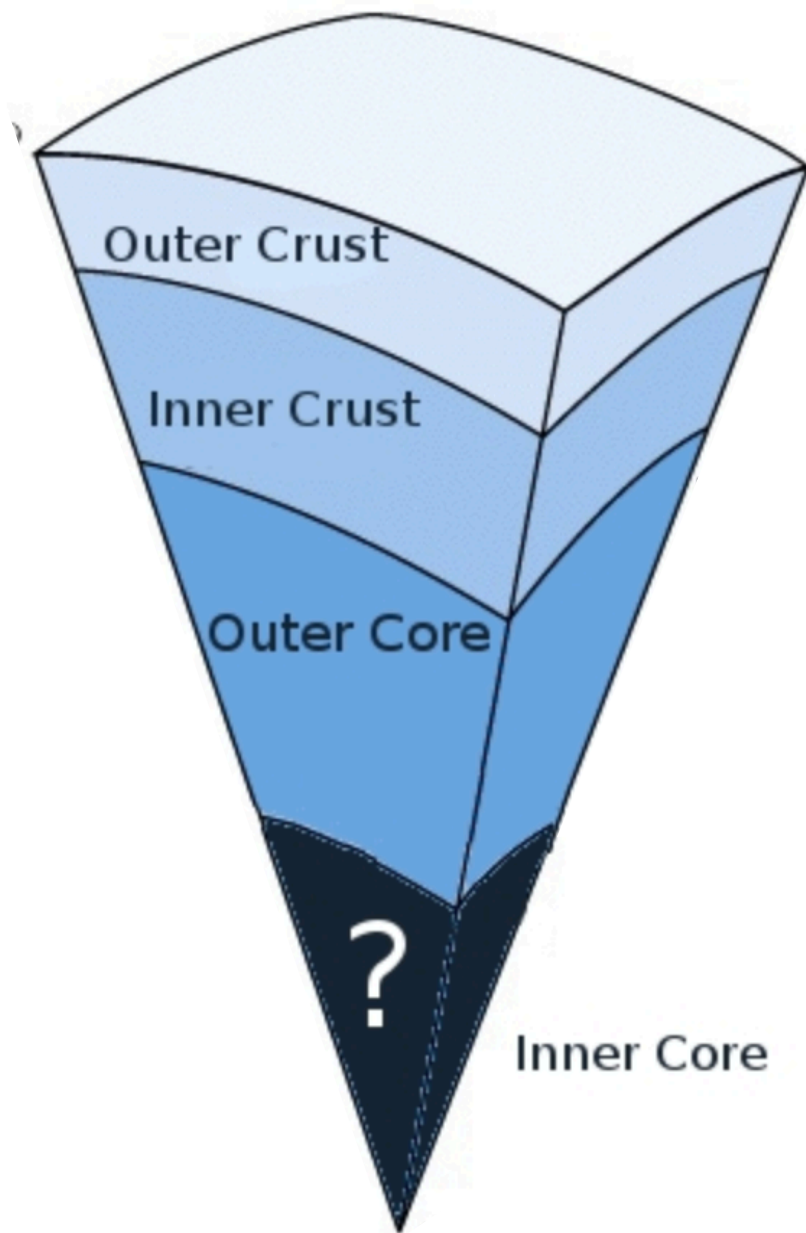
**nucleon targets**

**lepton targets**

*astronomy*

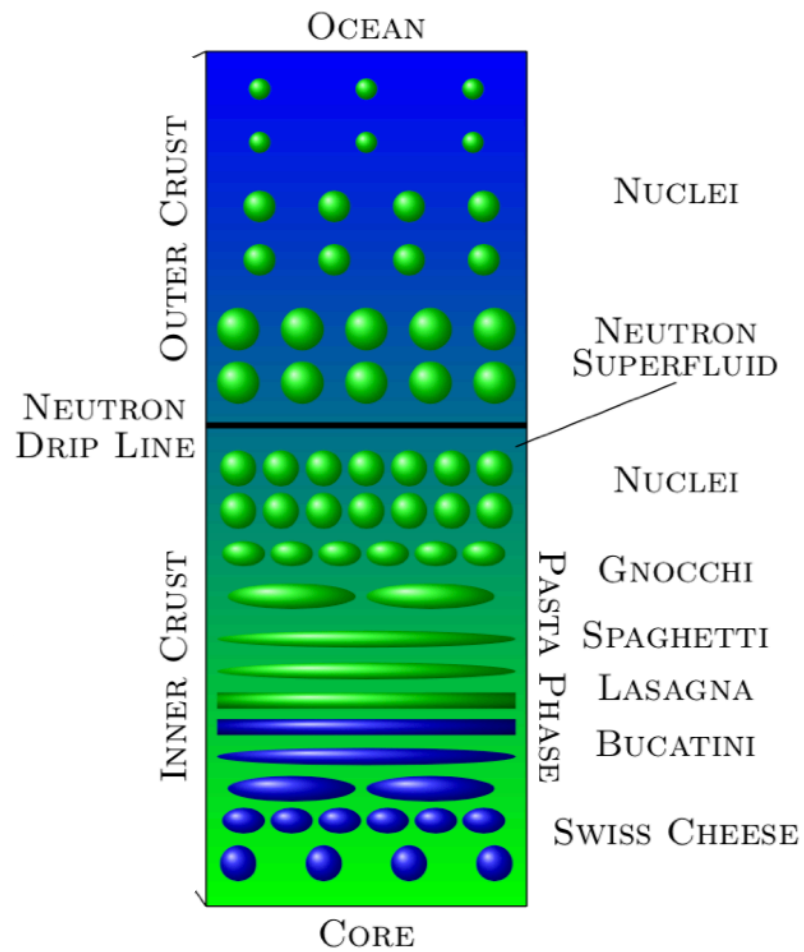
*nuclear  
astrophysics*

# BUT

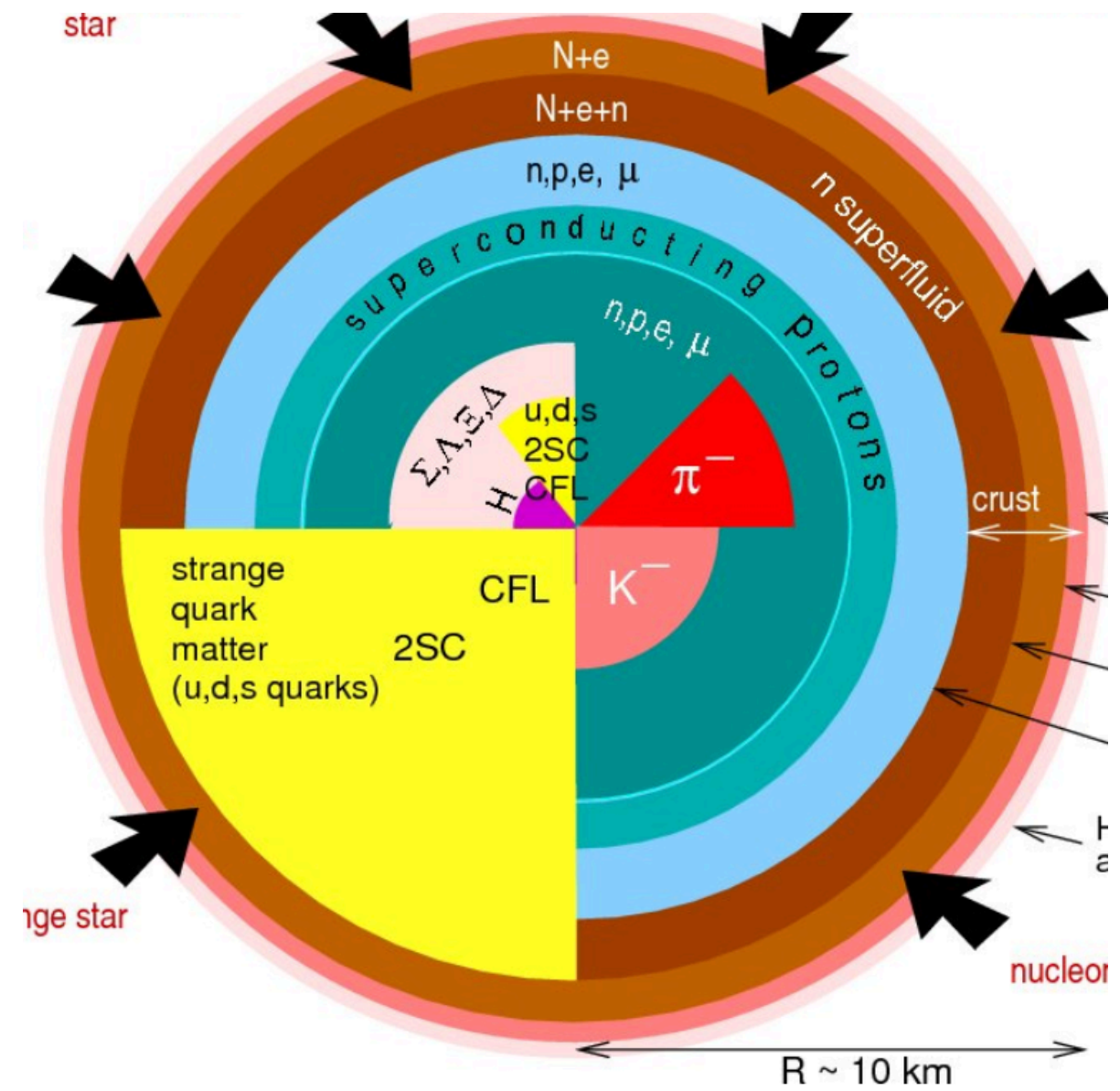


Are we barking down  
the wrong stellar region?

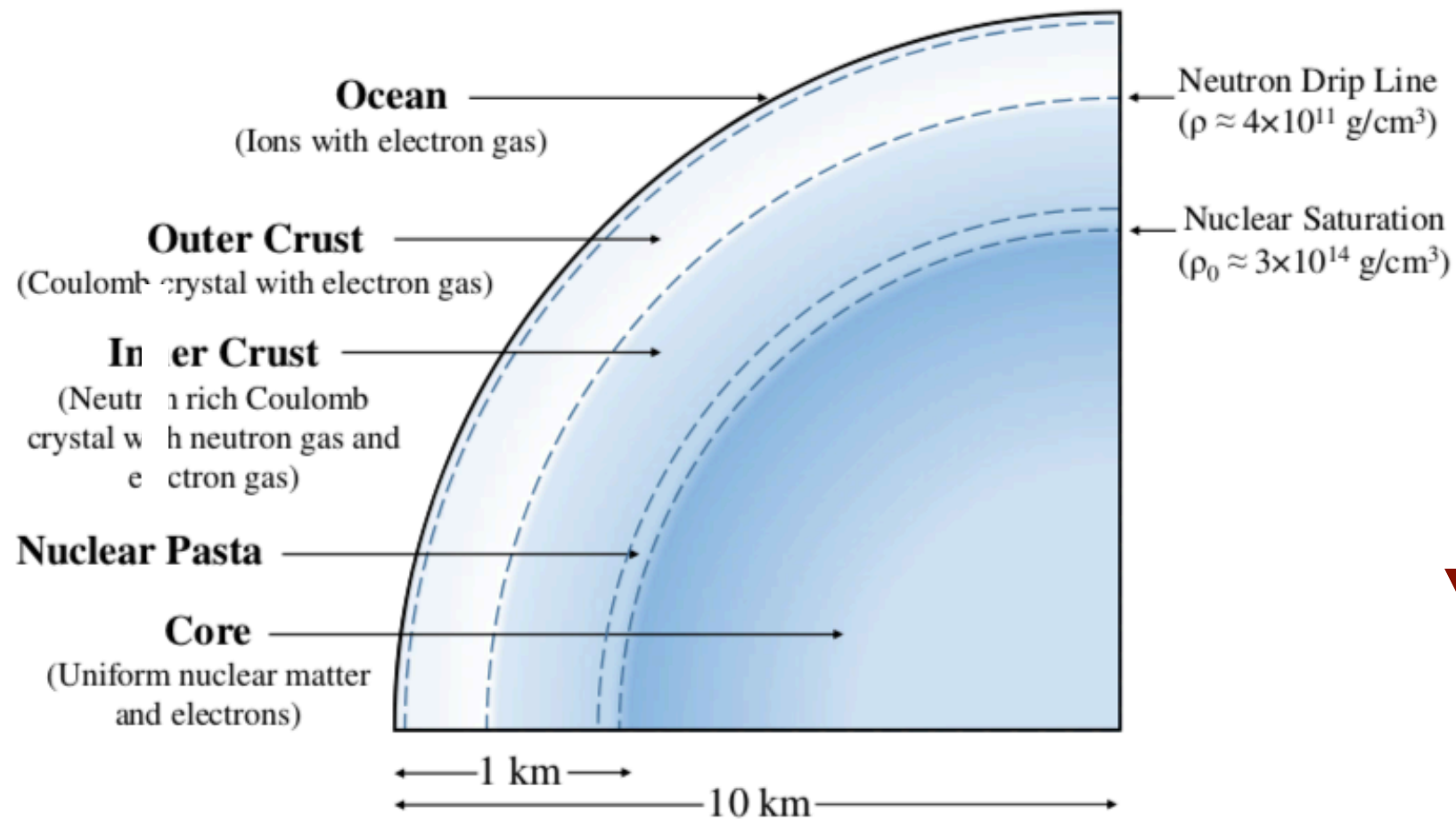
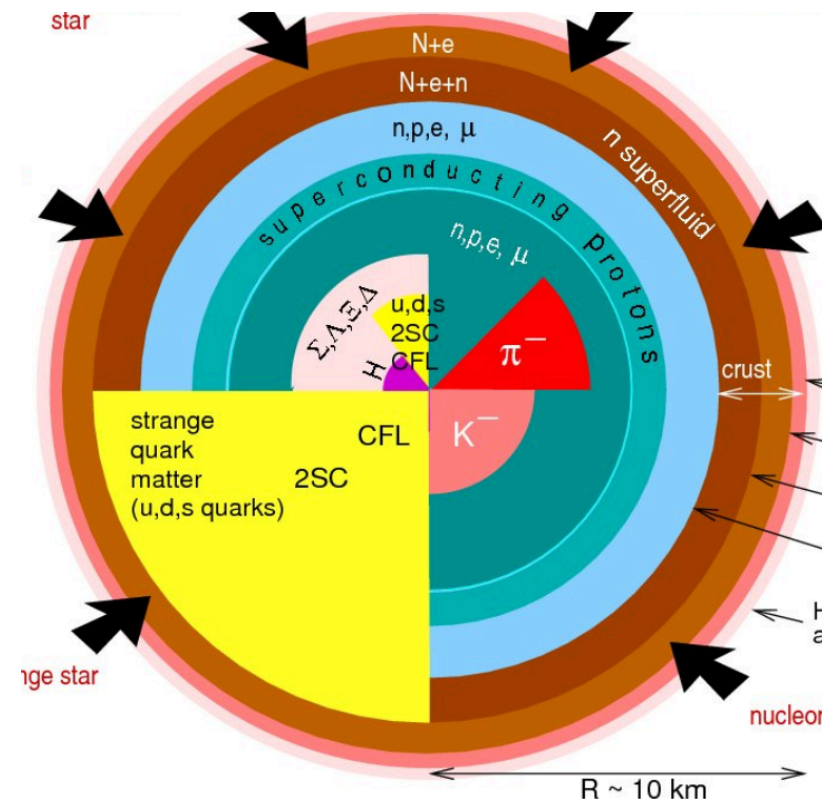
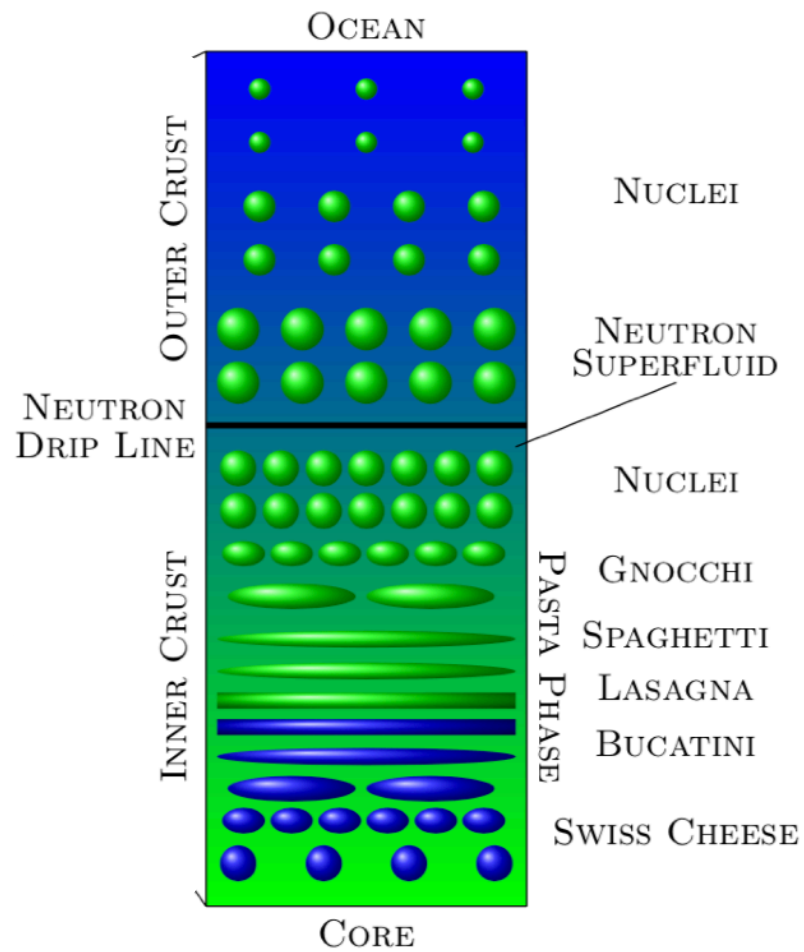
J Acevedo, J Bramante, R Leane, **N R**; 1911.06334



structure of the crust,  
better understood than core



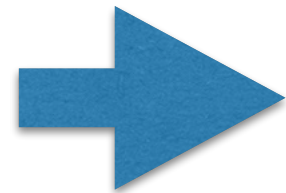




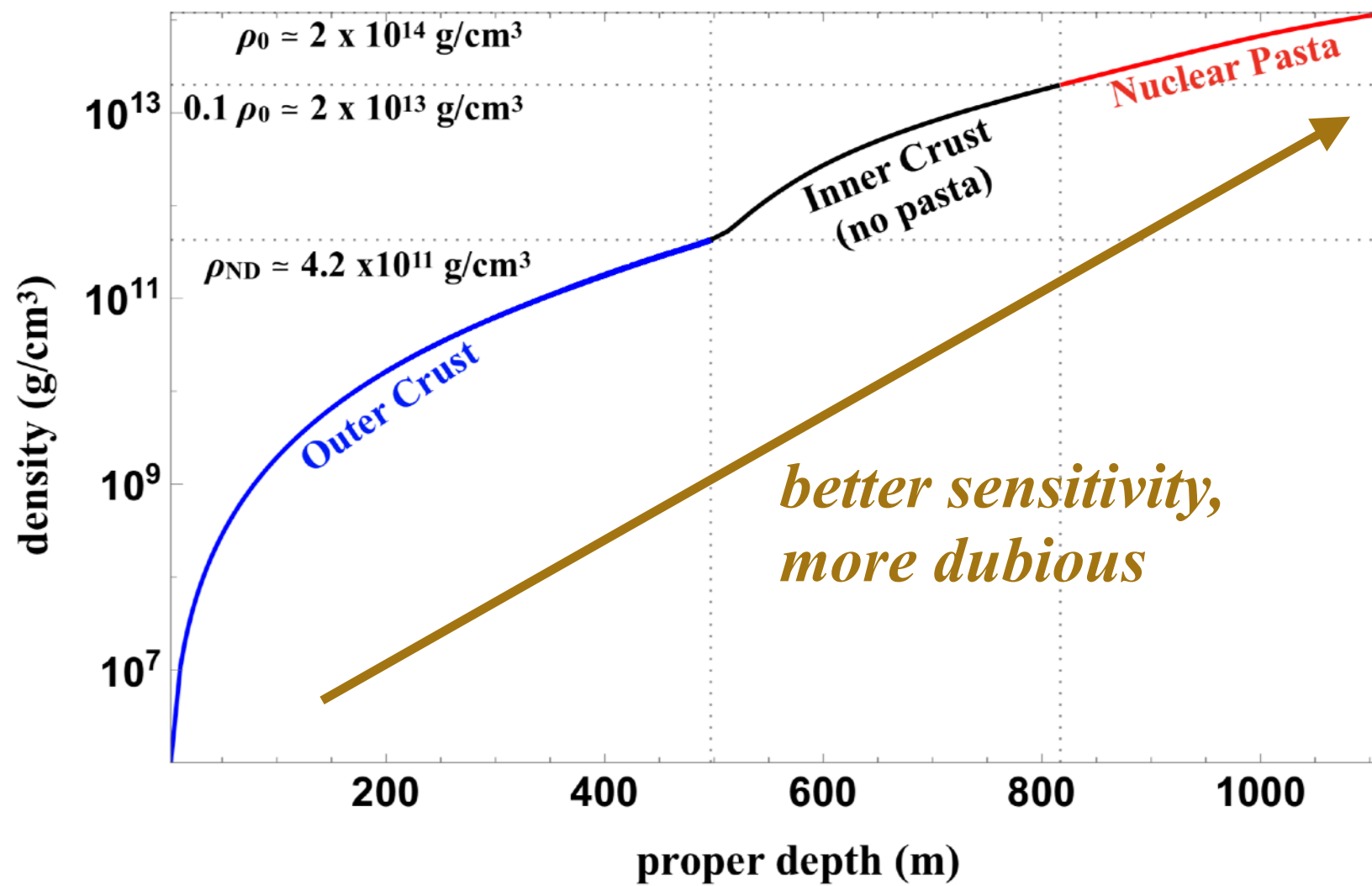
deeper =>  
knowledge of structure  
more uncertain

# Climbing down the layers

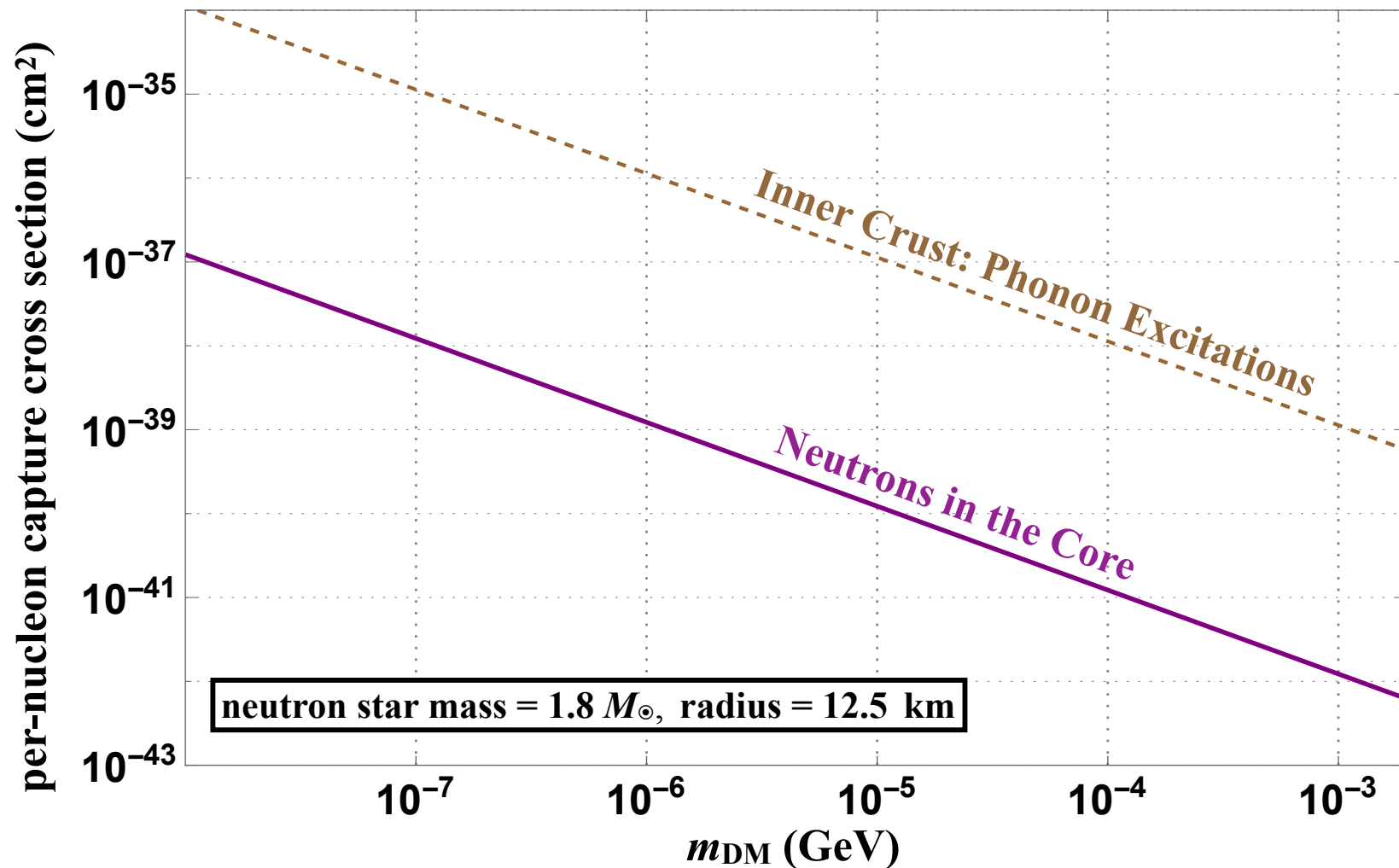
deeper =>  
knowledge of structure  
more uncertain



worthwhile to investigate capability of  
every layer to capture dark matter



# Crust vs low mass dark matter



capture by exciting single  
superfluid phonon:

energy deposited > halo KE

$[q \times \text{phonon speed}] [m_{\text{DM}} (10^{-3} c)^2]$

$\sim m_{\text{DM}} v_{\text{esc}} \times 0.04 c]$

$$\sigma_{\text{phonon}}(q) = S_{\text{phonon}}(q) \sigma_{n\chi}$$

$$\downarrow$$

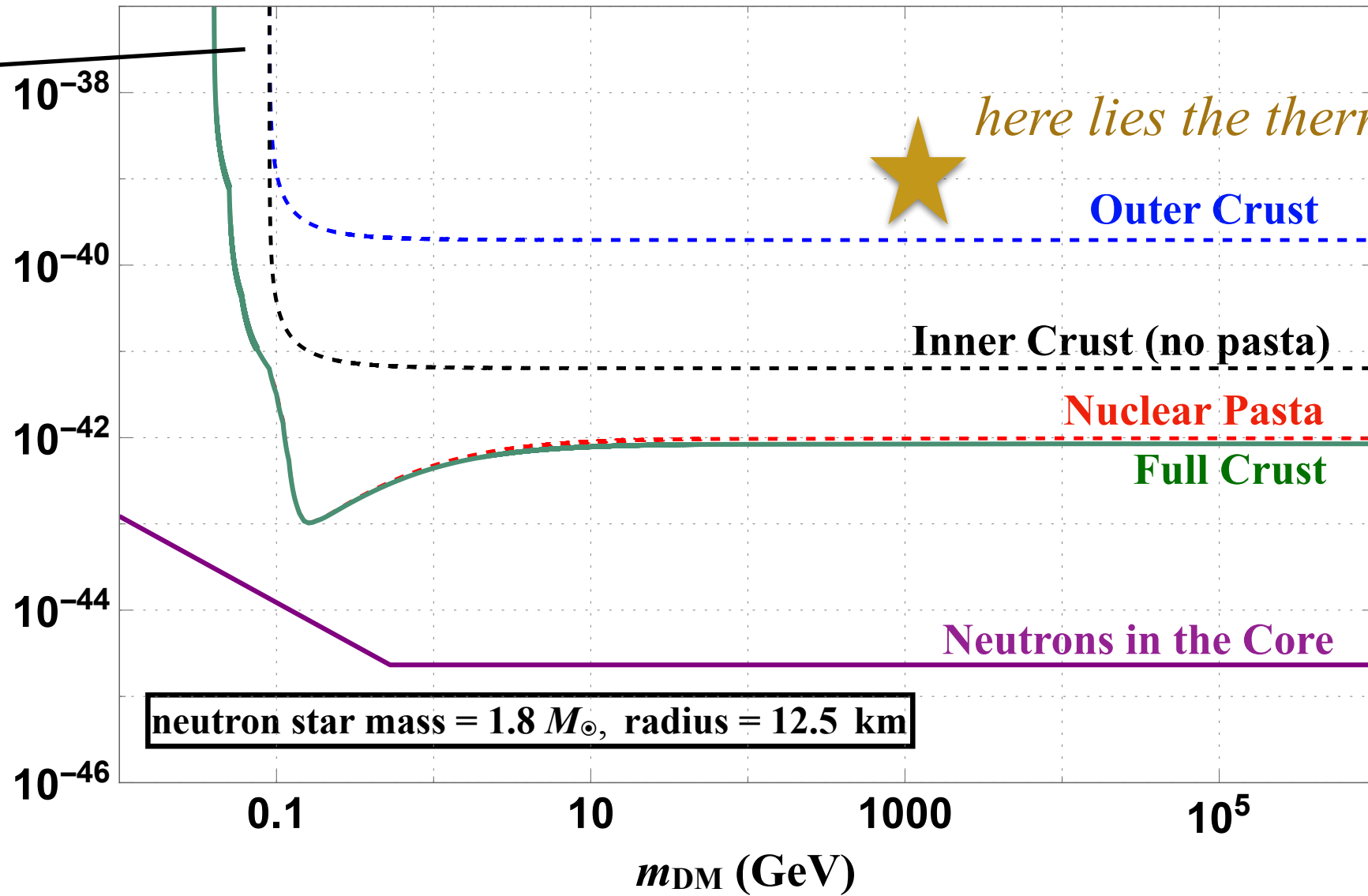
$$q / (2m_n \times \text{phonon speed})$$



# Crust vs WIMPs & heavier dark matter

capture by (quasi-)elastic scattering on *nucleons*

energy transfer <  
nucleon  
binding energy  
 $\sim 10$  MeV



*here lies the thermal Higgsino*

Outer Crust

Inner Crust (no pasta)

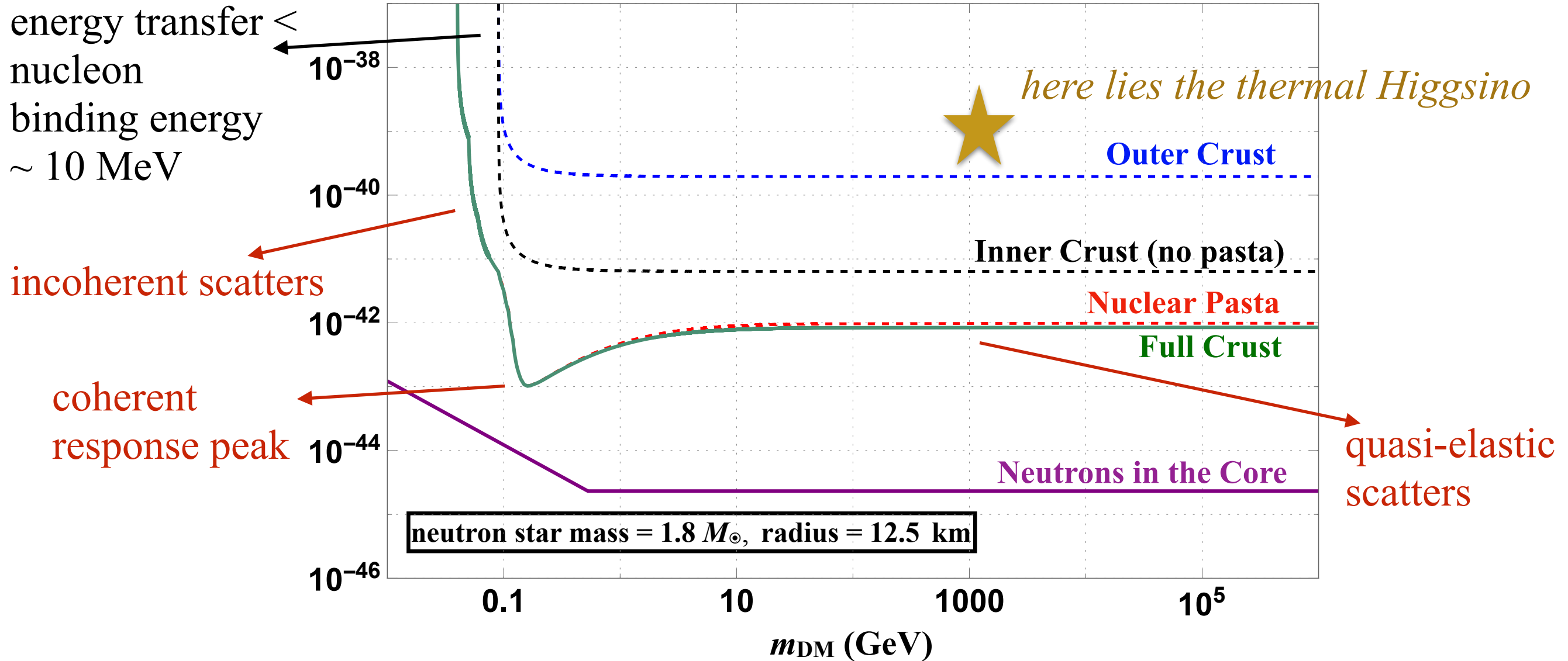
Nuclear Pasta

Full Crust

Neutrons in the Core

# Crust vs WIMPs & heavier dark matter

capture by (quasi-)elastic scattering on *nucleons*

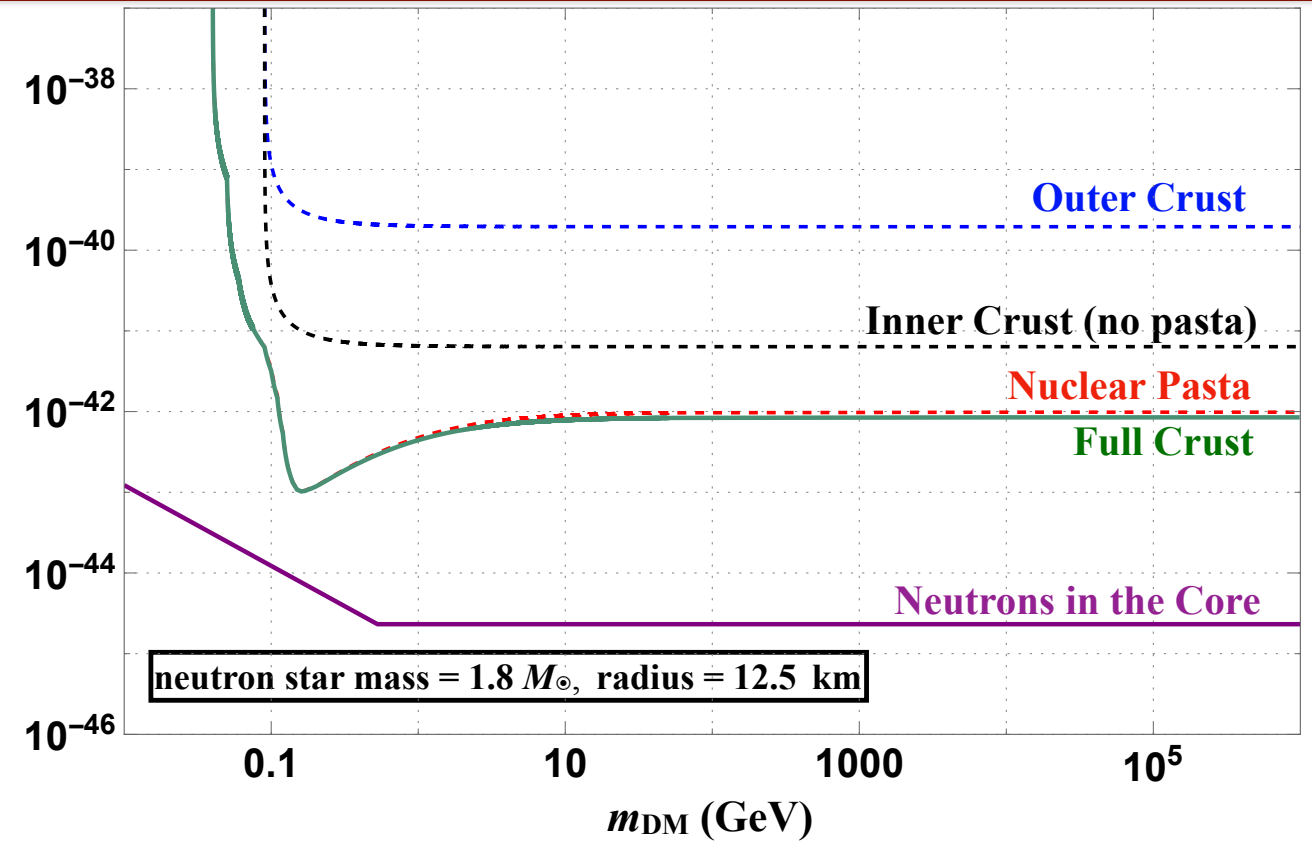
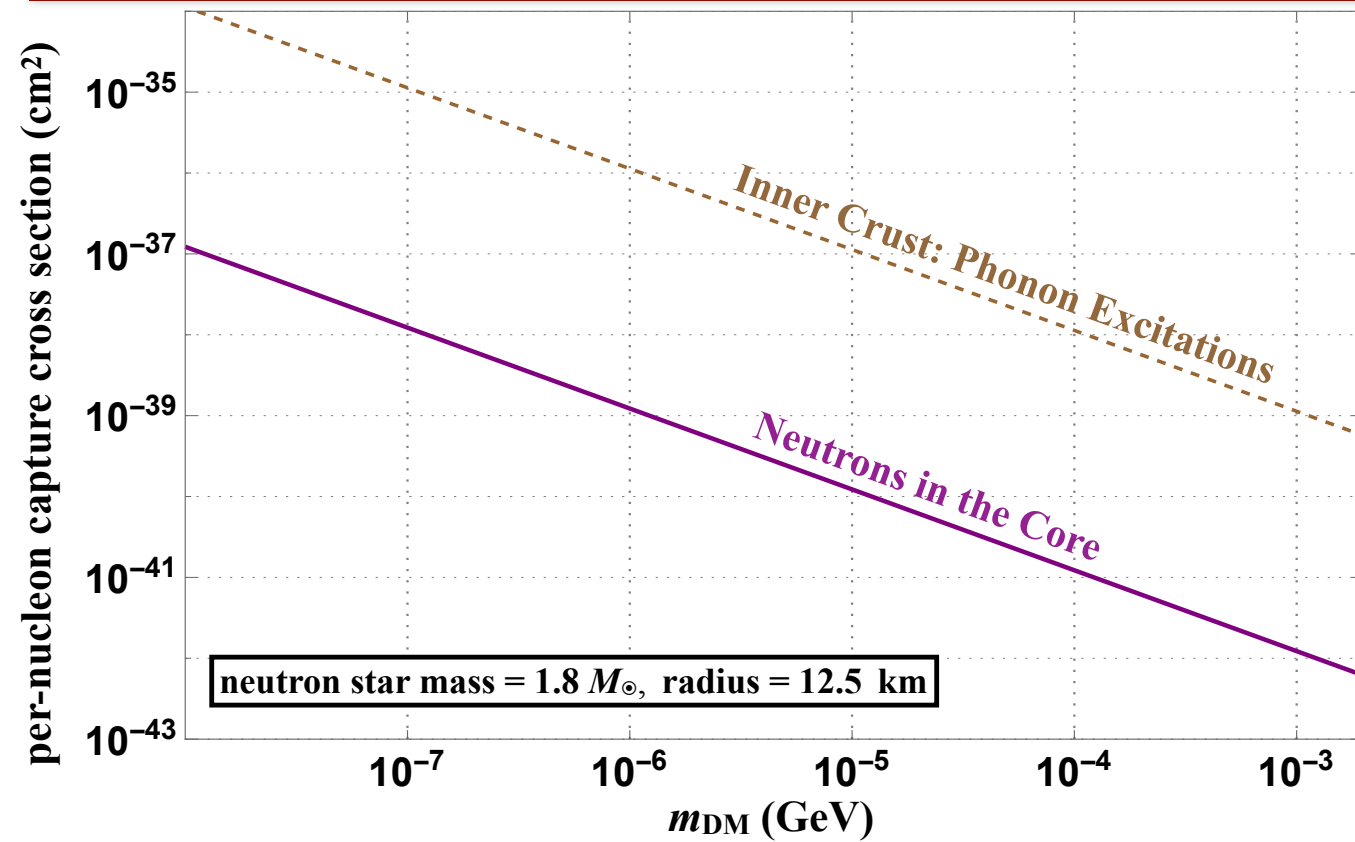


capture by pasta:

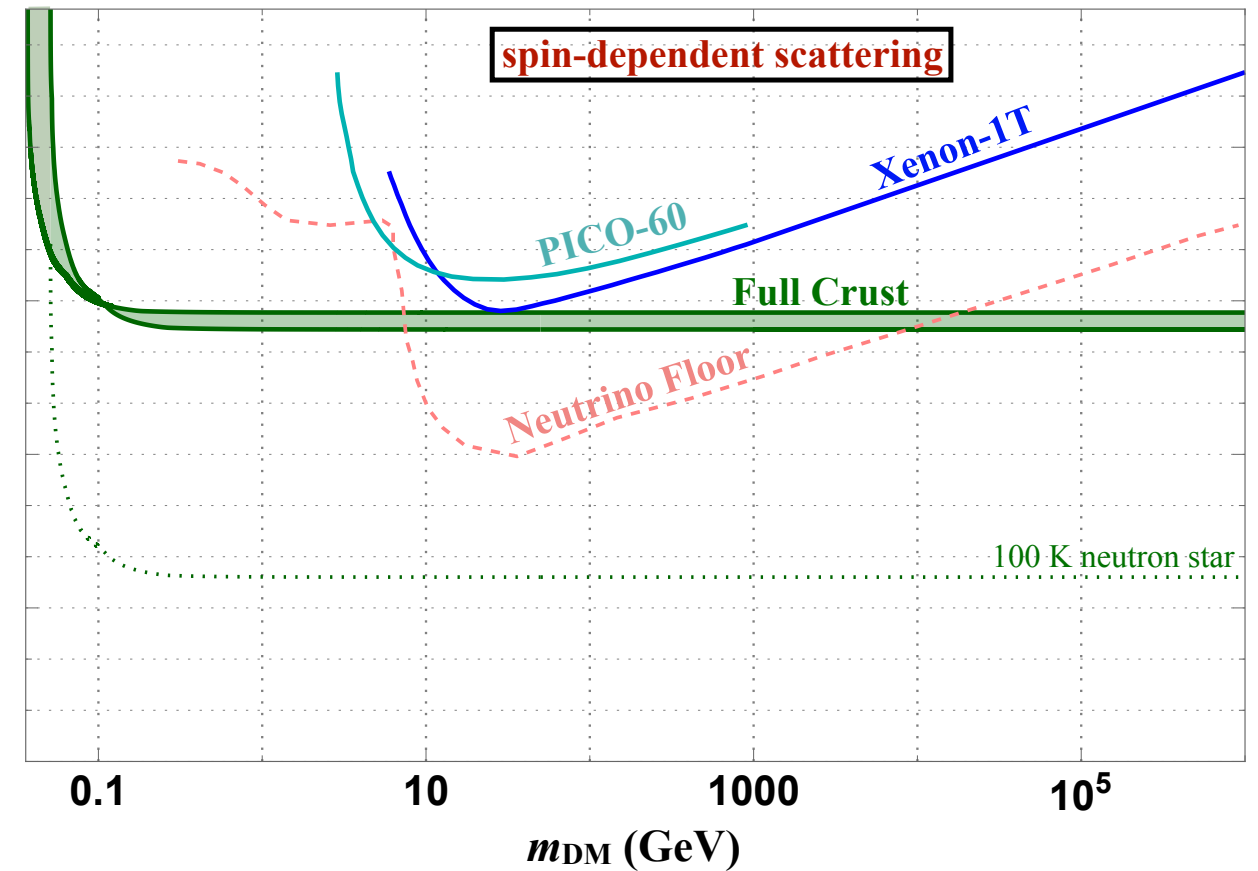
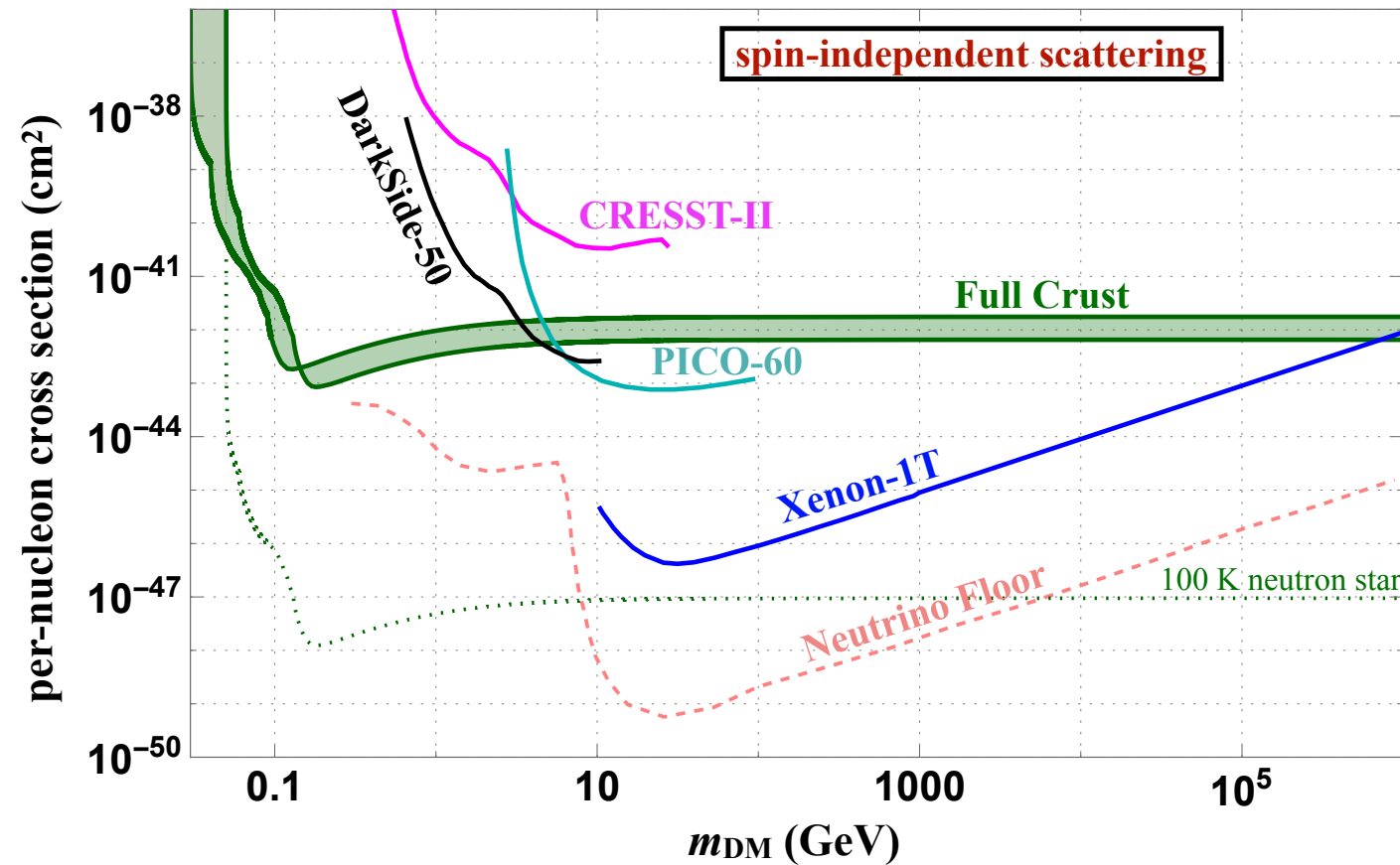
$$\sigma_{\text{pasta}}(q) = S_{\text{pasta}}(q) \sigma_{n\chi}$$

response function describing correlations among *nucleons* in pasta

# Neutron star crust vs Earth crust



versus direct detection:





# Annihilations

Annihilation saves observation time (= \$\$)  
by a factor of  $>10!$

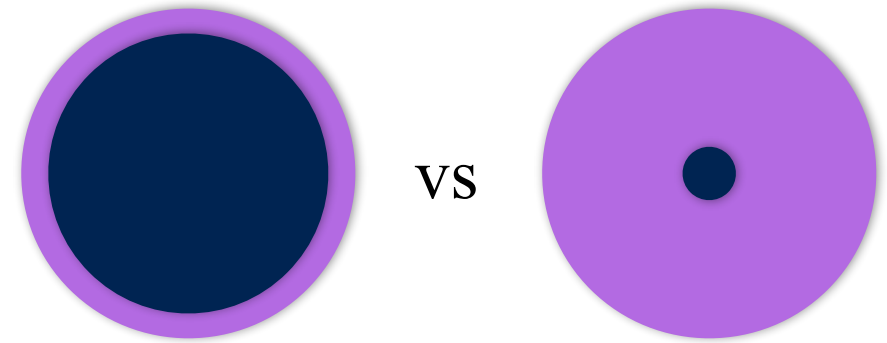
**But how much annihilation is guaranteed?**

Asymmetric — none

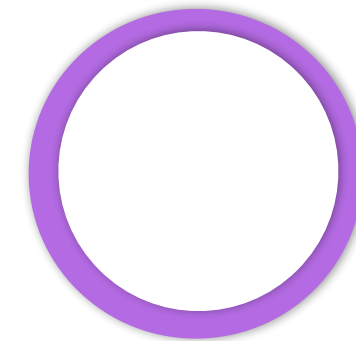
p-wave — very suppressed

*Does DM even thermalize with the star?*

Affects DM spatial distribution,  
hence annihilation rate:



If DM only touches **crust**,  
star effectively **hollow shell**:



*Would the DM cloud filling it  
annihilate efficiently?*

# Annihilations

Annihilation saves observation time (= \$\$)  
by a factor of  $>10!$

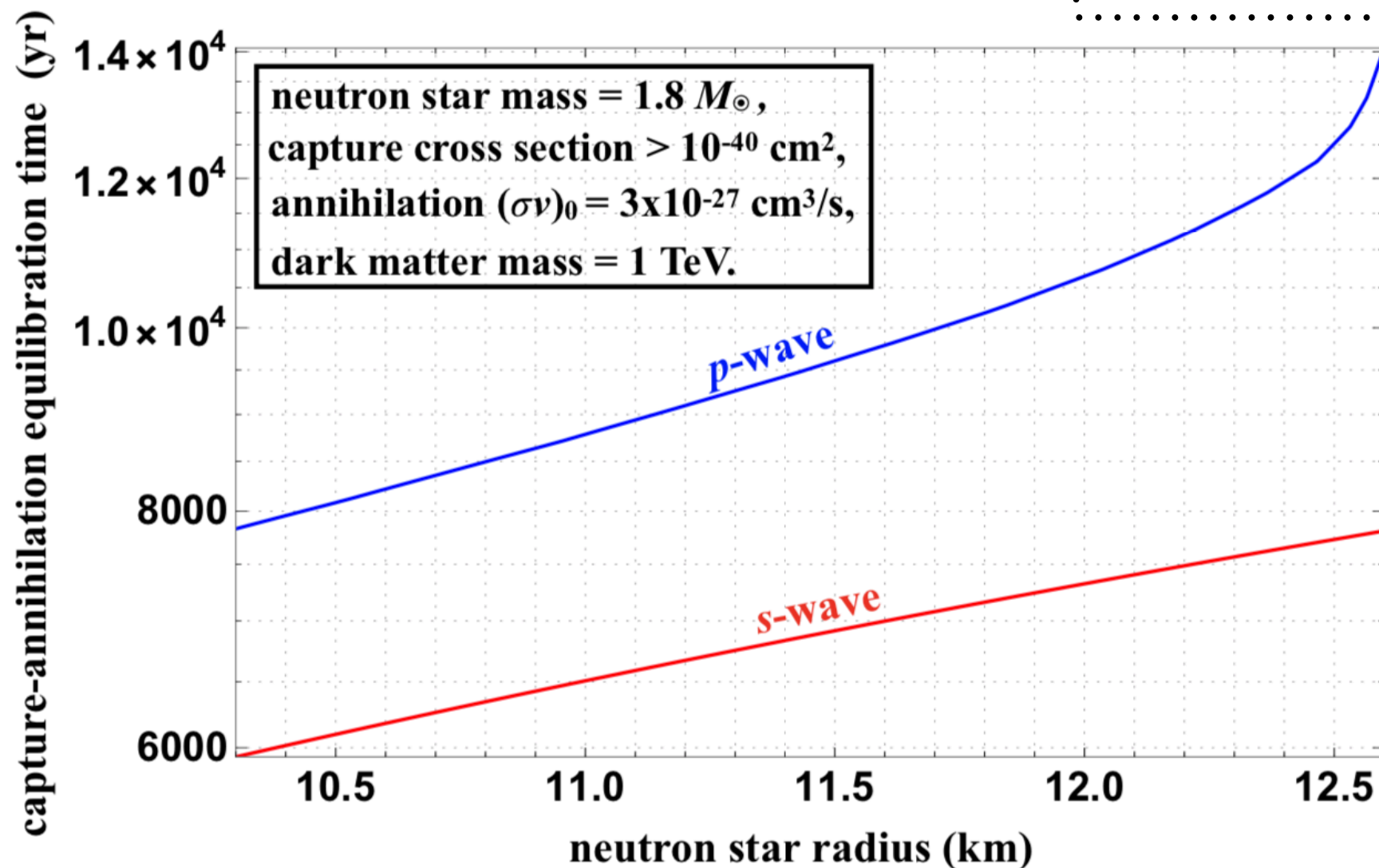
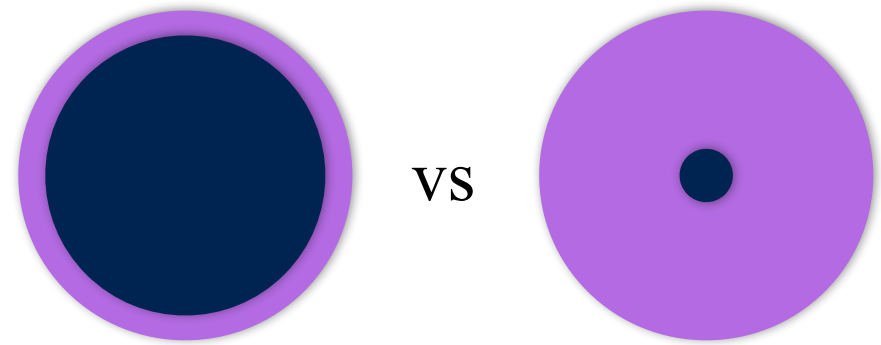
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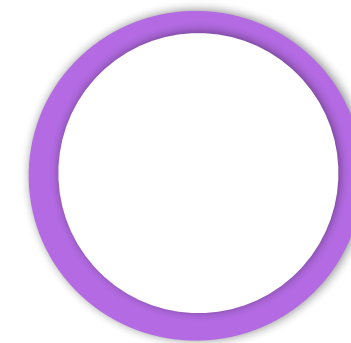
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# Takeaways

- Dark kinetic heating of neutron stars via scattering on *non-relativistic nucleonic* or *ultra-relativistic electronic* targets, in the *less-understood core* or *fail-safe crust*, seriously advances direct detection frontiers.
- ● Capture in the crust depends on
  - kinematics**
    - phonon excitation for sub-MeV masses
    - quasi-elastic nucleon scattering for masses  $> 100$  MeV
  - dynamics**
    - larger cross section  $\Rightarrow$  upper layers
    - resonant enhancement due to pasta structure near 100 MeV mass
- ● Pasta is the best trap (densest layer) for masses  $> 100$  MeV
- Exoplanet observers like James Webb and Thirty Meter Telescope can unmask the heating signal with a day's exposure.

Thank you!

Questions?



# Observation prospects

## Radio telescopes (design: pulsar discovery)



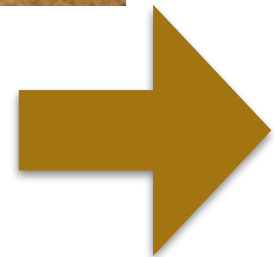
CHIME



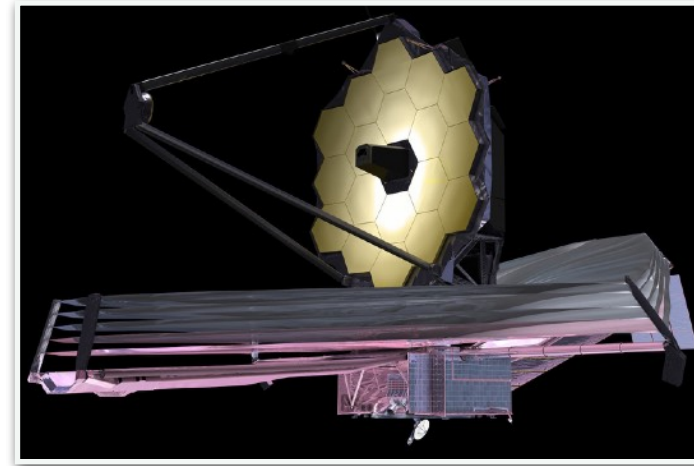
FAST

100 old, cold neutron stars  
in the local 50 pc.

O. Blaes, P. Madau (1993)



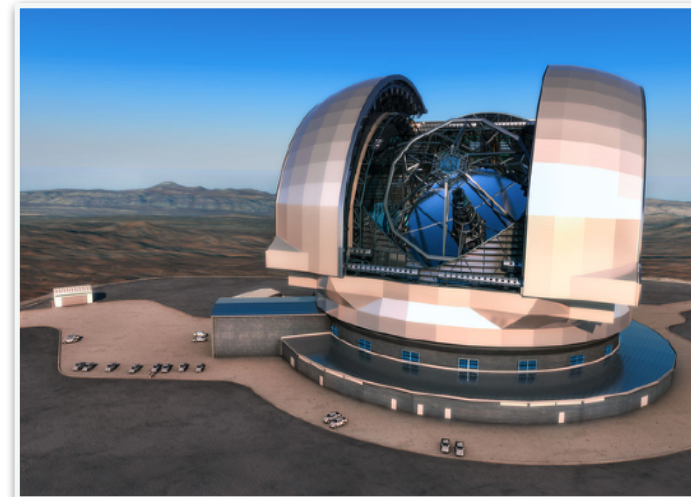
## Infrared telescopes (design: exoplanet atmosphere study)



James Webb



2021



European Extremely Large



2025



Thirty Meter



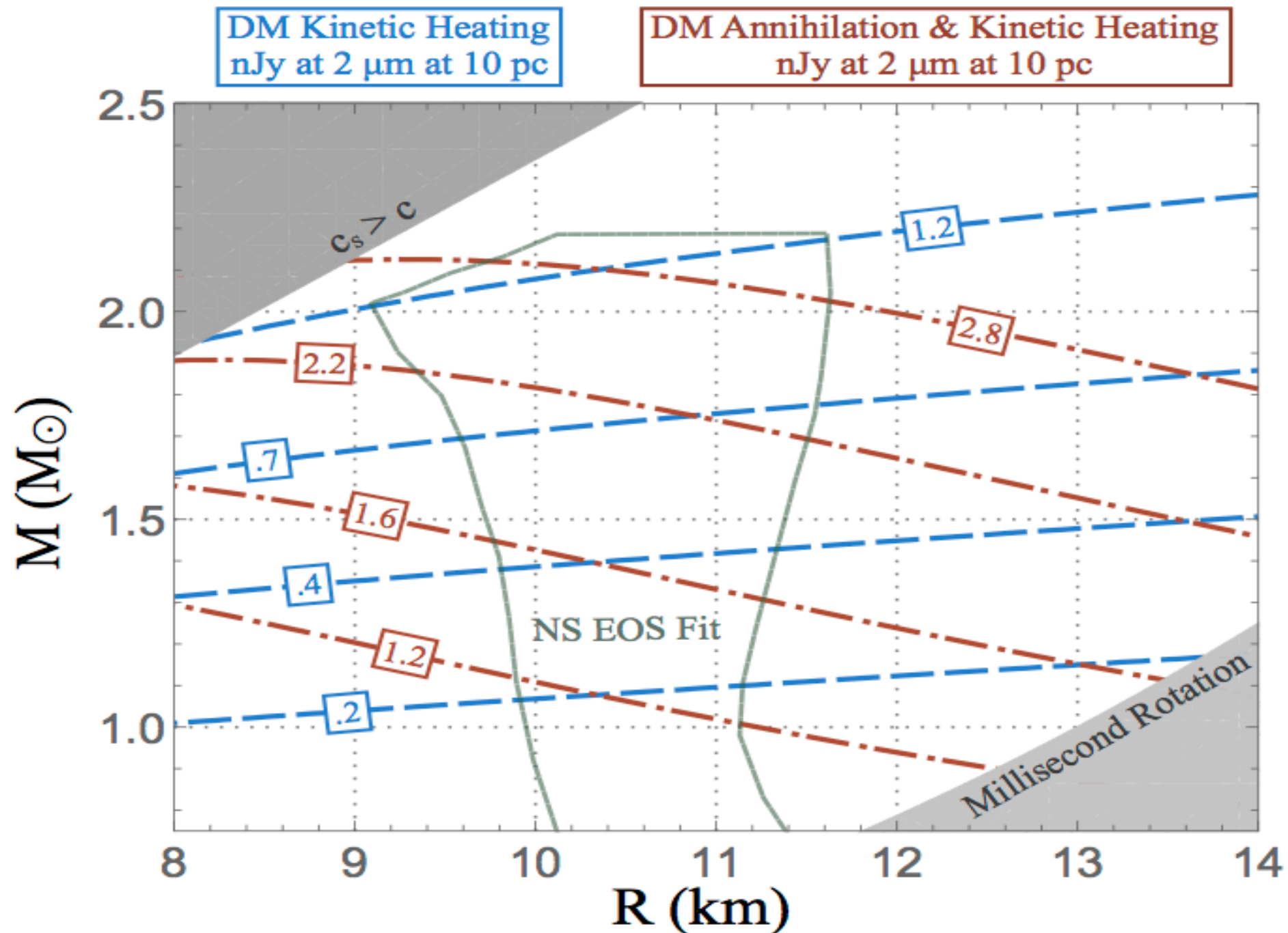
2027

# Brightness diagnosis

$$\left( \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 2GM/R}} \right)$$

$$L \propto (\gamma - 1)m_{\text{DM}} + m_{\text{DM}}$$

kinetic heating  
+ annihilation



# Telling between crust-only and core heating

