



Supernova Cooling from Neutrino-devouring Dark Matter

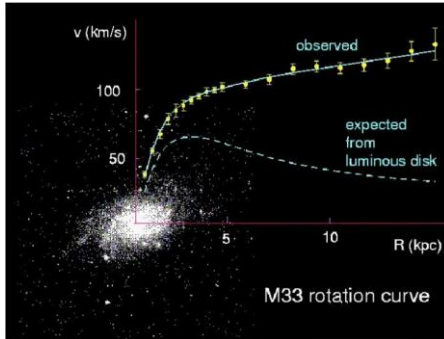
Yugen Lin
(林宇根)

Institute of Theoretical Physics, Chinese
Academy of Sciences

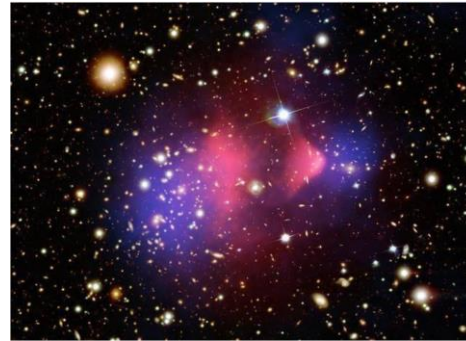
2025.10.26

Collaboration with Chih-Ting Lu and Ningqiang Song
arXiv: 2507.22124

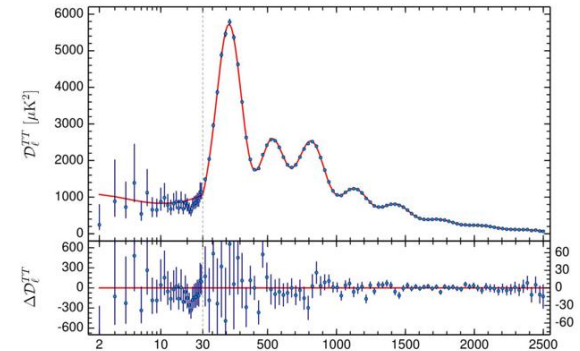
Evidence for Dark Matter



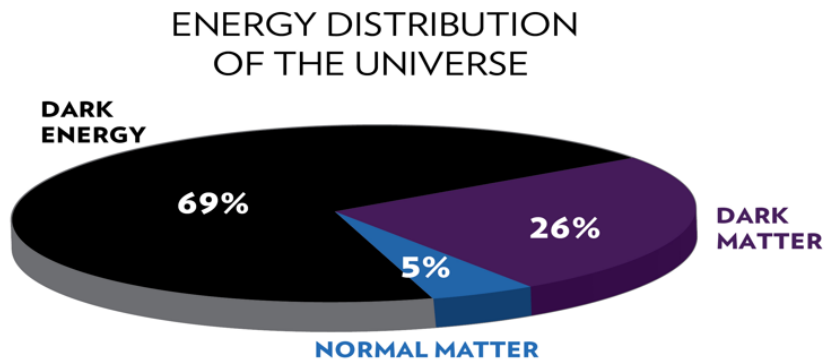
Galaxy Rotation Curve



Bullet Cluster



CMB



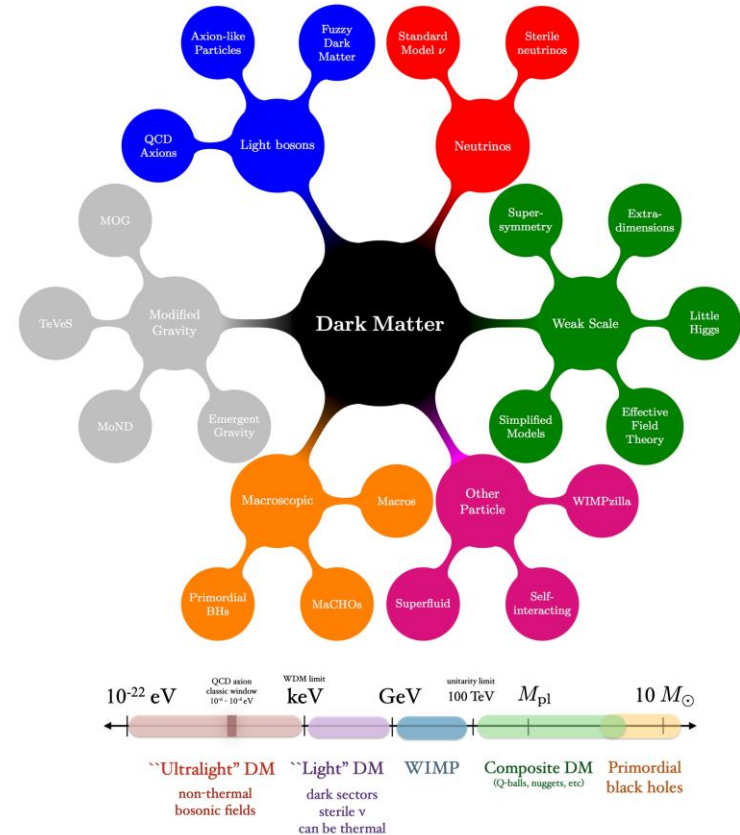
$$\text{DM: } \Omega_c h^2 = 0.11933 \pm 0.00091$$

$$\text{NM: } \Omega_b h^2 = 0.022242 \pm 0.00014$$

$$\text{DE: } \Omega_\Lambda = 0.6889 \pm 0.0056$$

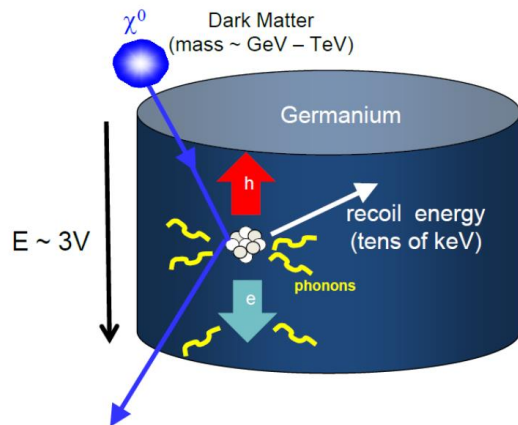
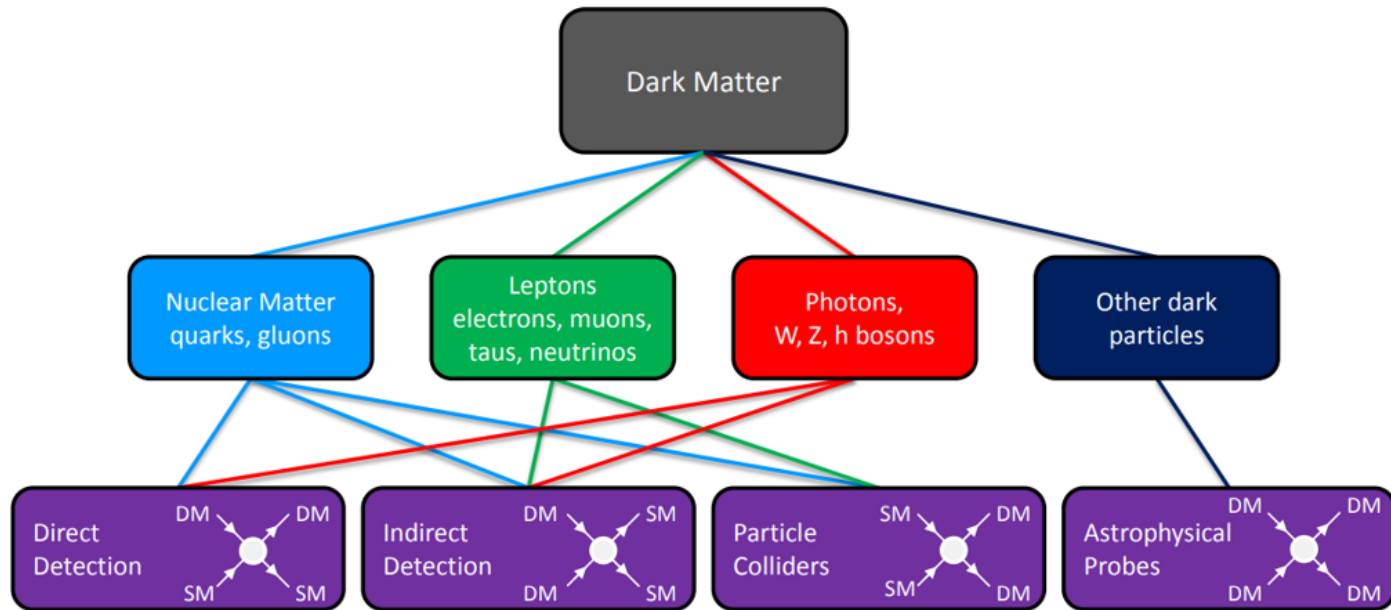
What is Dark Matter ?

mass →	$\approx 2.3 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	$\approx 173.07 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	0	$\approx 126 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
charge →	2/3	2/3	2/3	0	0
spin →	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0
	u up	c charm	t top	g gluon	H Higgs boson
QUARKS	d down	s strange	b bottom	γ photon	DM
	$\approx 4.8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 95 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	0	
	-1/3	-1/3	-1/3	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z Z boson	
LEPTONS	$0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$105.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$1.777 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	$91.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	
	-1	-1	-1	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	ν_e electron neutrino	ν_μ muon neutrino	ν_τ tau neutrino	W W boson	
	$< 2.2 \text{ eV}/c^2$	$< 0.17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$< 15.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$80.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	
	0	0	0	± 1	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
					GAUGE BOSONS

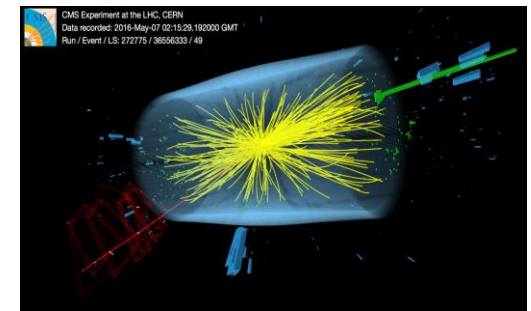
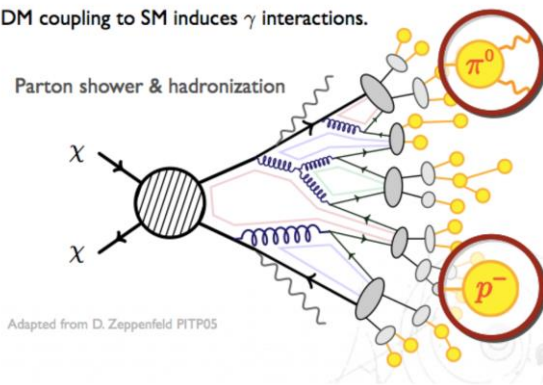


- What do we know about DM at present?
 1. Neutral
 2. Non-baryonic
 3. Stable
 4. Relative-cold
- What do we **not** know about DM at present?
 1. Mass?
 2. Spin?
 3. Interaction? ...

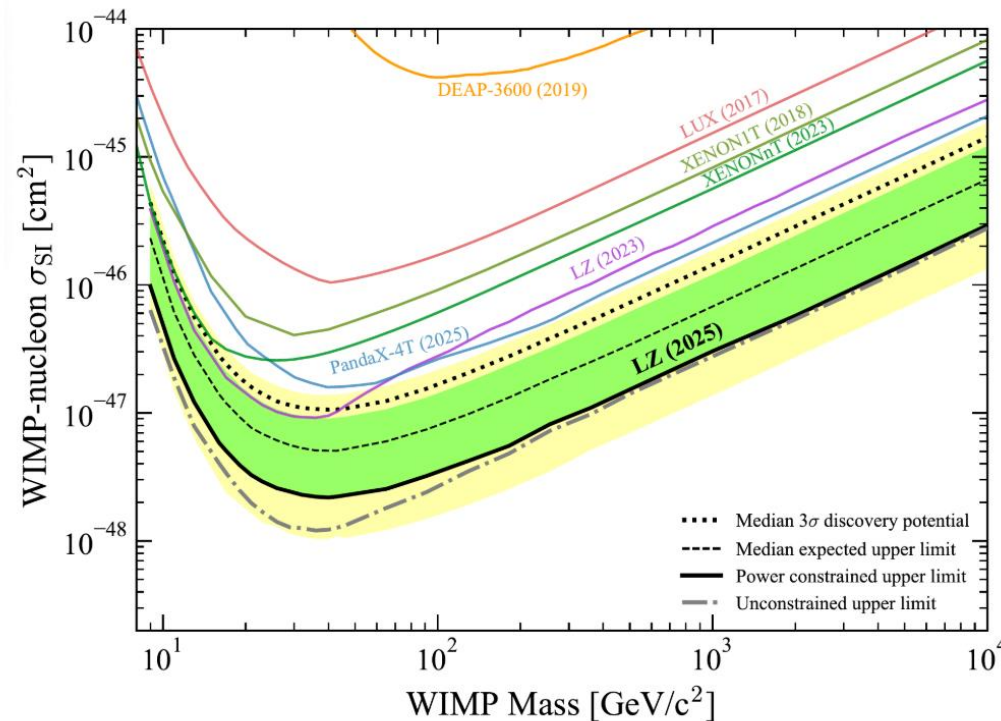
Ways of Probing DM



DM coupling to SM induces γ interactions.



Direct Detection Status



- DM in the GeV-TeV mass scale has been under extensive searches in multi-tonne scale experiments underground by investigating the recoil signals of nucleus down to the energy of $O(\text{keV})$ range.
- ✓ DM searches have pushed the limit on the WIMP-nucleon cross-section near the neutrino floor. The null results of direct detection experiments have sparked the search for **lighter DM** below the **GeV** mass scale.

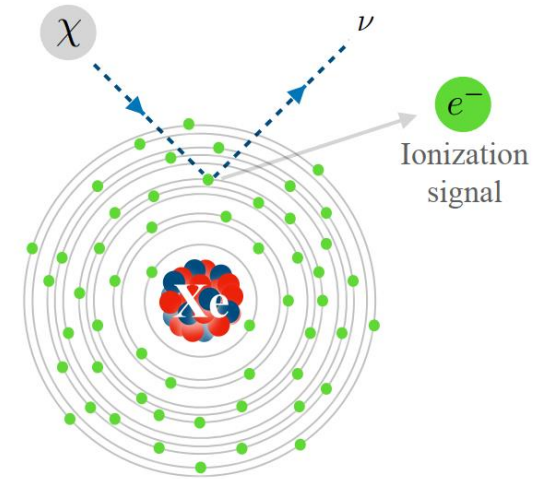
Fermionic Dark Matter

□ Particle DM detection strategy

1. Scattering: depositing kinetic energy, it is difficult to probe light DM.
2. **Absorption**: depositing **mass energy**, it is easy to overcome the threshold.

□ Fermionic DM model

1. Scalar-type: $O_S = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi} P_L \nu) (\bar{e} e)$
2. Vector-type: $O_V = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu P_L \nu) (\bar{e} \gamma_\mu e)$
3. Tensor-type: $O_T = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} P_L \nu) (\bar{e} \sigma_{\mu\nu} e)$



□ Direct detection signal

1. Ionized electron, it can be searched in photoelectron signatures.
2. Neutrino, missing energy.

UV Completion

□ Scalar interaction:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_{ee}\phi\bar{e}e + y_{\chi\nu}\phi\bar{\chi}P_L\nu + \text{h.c.} \quad \phi \text{ is a heavy scalar field.}$$

Integrating out the scalar field, we can obtain

$$O_S = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi}P_L\nu) (\bar{e}e), \quad \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \equiv \frac{y_{\chi\nu}y_{ee}}{m_\phi^2}.$$

□ Vector interaction:

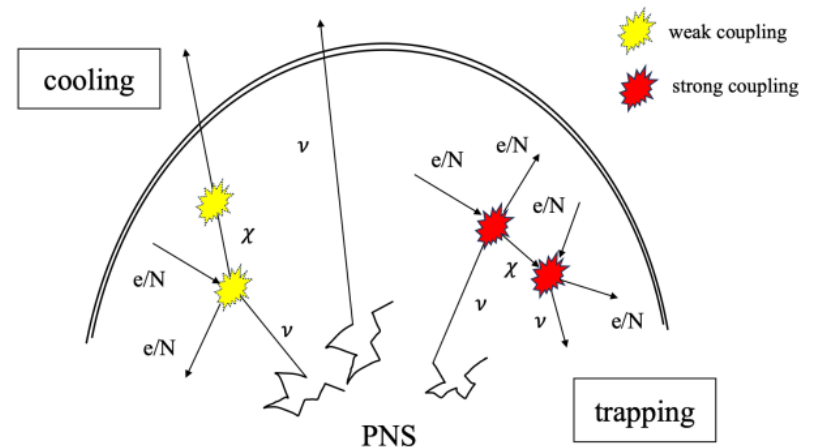
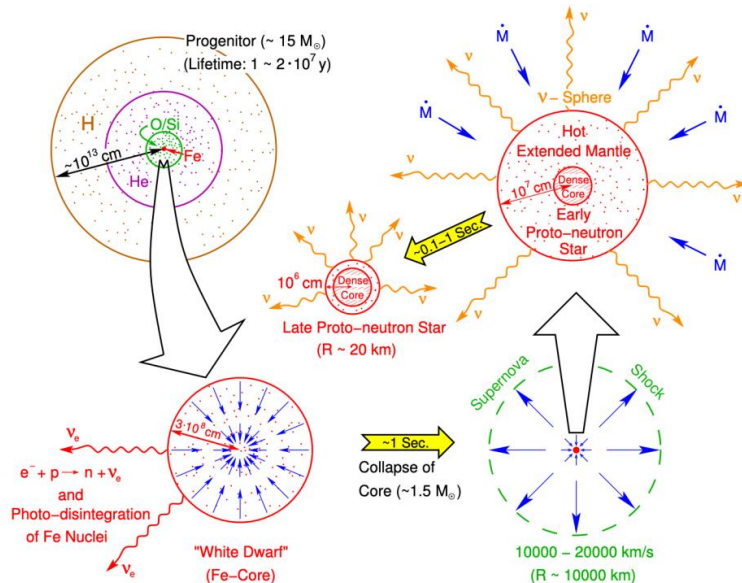
$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_e\bar{e}\gamma_\mu e A'^\mu + g_\chi\bar{\chi}\gamma_\mu\chi A'^\mu, \quad A' \text{ is a new gauge boson.}$$

$$\text{Integrating out } A', \quad \mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_e g_\chi}{m_{A'}^2} \bar{e}\gamma^\mu e \bar{\chi}\gamma_\mu\chi.$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset m_\chi\bar{\chi}\chi + (y\phi\bar{\chi}P_L\nu + \text{h.c.}) = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu} & \bar{\chi} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ y\langle\phi\rangle & m_\chi \end{pmatrix} P_L \begin{pmatrix} \nu \\ \chi \end{pmatrix} + \text{h.c.}$$

$$O_V = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu P_L\nu) (\bar{e}\gamma_\mu e), \quad 1/\Lambda^2 \equiv g_e g_\chi s_\theta c_\theta / m_{A'}^2, \quad s_\theta = y\langle\phi\rangle / \sqrt{y^2\langle\phi\rangle^2 + m_\chi^2}$$

Supernova Explosion



- ✓ Core-collapse SN can reach core temperatures in excess of 30 MeV, which makes them **an ideal astrophysical source** for **sub-GeV dark matter**.
- ✓ **Raffelt criterion**: The luminosity carried by the new particles must be smaller than the luminosity carried by neutrinos.

DM Production

- ✓ Considering the supernova core temperature, the process $\nu e^- \rightarrow \chi e^-$ can effectively produce dark matter $M_\chi \lesssim 100$ MeV.
- ✓ The differential number of fermionic DM particle produced via the effective DM-neutrino interaction per unit time t at position r is

$$\frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r \partial t} \left(\frac{d\mathcal{N}_\chi}{dE_\chi} \right) = \sigma_{\nu e} n_e \frac{dn_\nu}{dE_\nu}$$

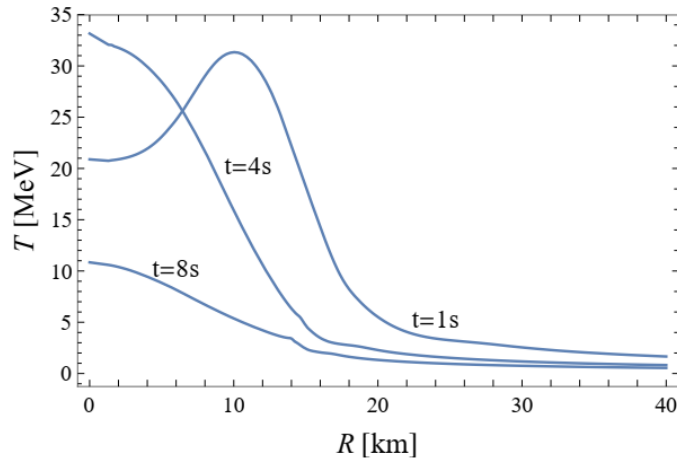
$$dn_\nu/dE_\nu = n_\nu f_\nu(E_\nu)/\bar{E}_\nu \quad f_\nu = \frac{(1+\alpha)^{(1+\alpha)}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left(\frac{E_\nu}{\bar{E}_\nu} \right)^\alpha \text{Exp} \left[- (1+\alpha) \frac{E_\nu}{\bar{E}_\nu} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathcal{N}_\chi}{dE_\chi} = & \int_0^R 4\pi R'^2 dR' \int_0^t dt' \frac{(1+\alpha(t', R'))^{(1+\alpha(t', R'))}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha(t', R')) \bar{E}(t', R')} \\ & \left[\frac{E}{\bar{E}(t', R')} \right]^{\alpha(t', R')} \text{Exp} \left[- (1+\alpha(t', R')) \frac{E}{\bar{E}(t', R')} \right] \\ & n_\nu(t', R') \sigma(\Lambda, M_\chi, T(t', R'), E) n_e(t', R'). \end{aligned}$$

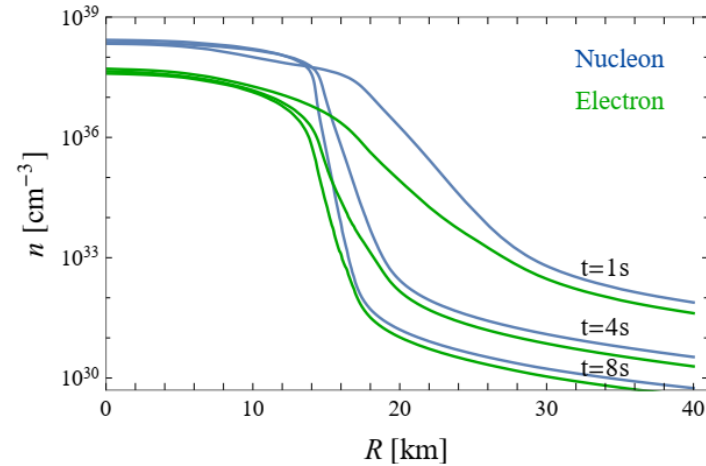

- ✓ Solving the above equation using data associated to the simulation performed by the Garching group of an $8.8M_\odot$ progenitor star.

Supernova Simulation Data

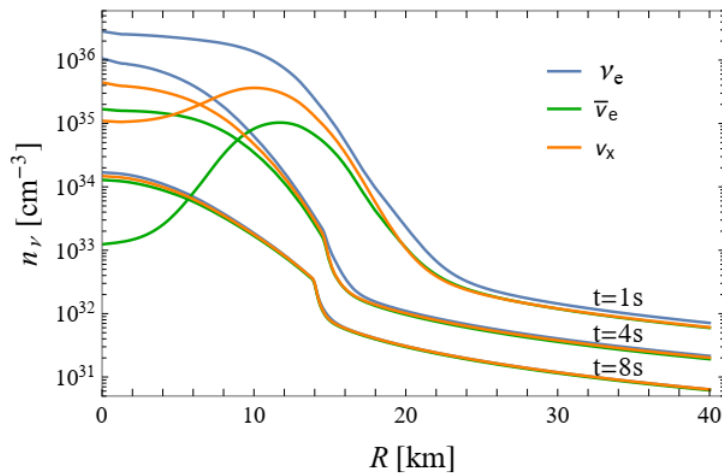
SN temperature



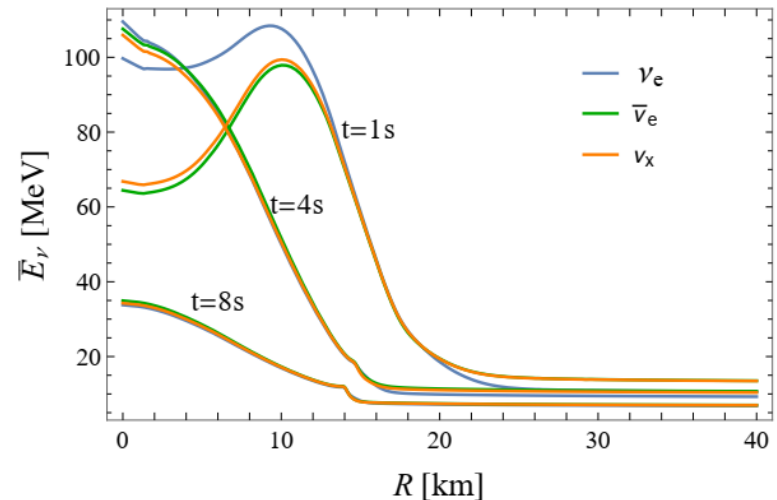
e/N number density



Neutrino number density

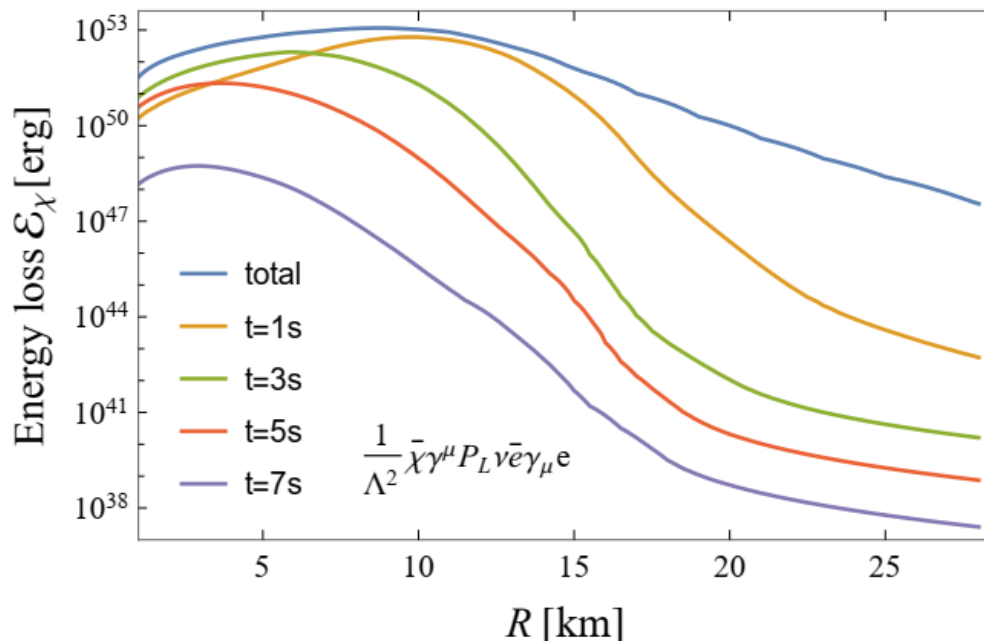


Neutrino mean energy



Supernova Energy Loss

$$\frac{d\mathcal{N}_\chi}{dE_\chi} = \int_0^R 4\pi R'^2 dR' \int_0^t dt' \frac{dn_\nu(t', R')}{dE_\nu} \times \sigma_{\nu e}(\Lambda, M_\chi, T(t', R'), E_\nu) n_e(t', R')$$



- Parameter choice: $M_\chi = 1 \text{ MeV}$, $\Lambda^{-1} = 10^{-7} \text{ MeV}^{-1}$.
- The position of maximum energy loss: $R \sim 10 \text{ km}$.

Supernova energy loss from DM production in 1 km wide spherical shells and 1 s time slides as a function of radius.

DM Propagation

- ✓ If $1/\Lambda^2$ is too large, the produced DM particle may further scatter with the electron or nucleon to convert back to a neutrino.
- ✓ The survival probability of DM from back-conversion

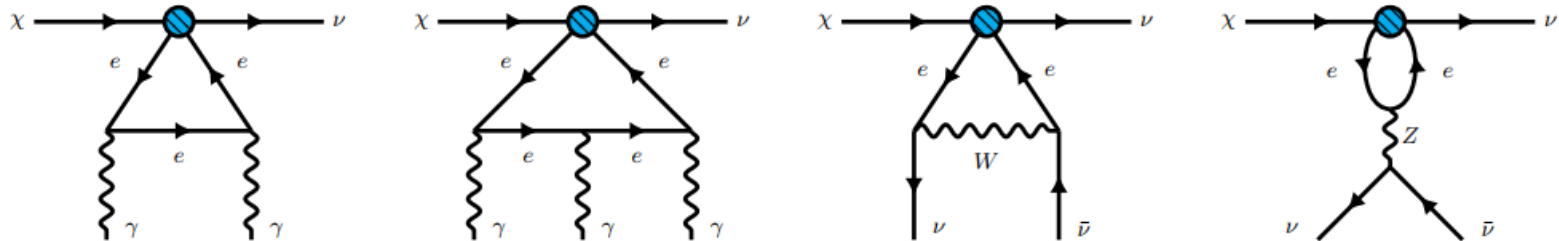
$$P(t, r) = \text{Exp} \left(- \int_r^\infty \frac{dr'}{\lambda(t, r')} \right)$$

- $\lambda(t, r)$ is the mean free path of DM, $\lambda_{\chi e}(r) = (n_e \sigma_{\chi e \rightarrow \nu e})^{-1}$
 - The energy of DM produced at (t, R) : $\bar{E}_\chi = \int \frac{dN_\chi}{dE_\chi} E_\chi dE_\chi / \int \frac{dN_\chi}{dE_\chi} dE_\chi$
- ✓ The two approximation for the calculation of the free path $\lambda(t, r)$
 - In the first approach, we fix the time variable and evaluate λ at $t = 1$ s.
 - In the second approach, we fix the radius and evaluate λ at $r = 10$ km.

Fermionic DM Decay

$$O_S = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi} P_L \nu) (\bar{e} e)$$

$$O_V = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu P_L \nu) (\bar{e} \gamma_\mu e)$$



▣ Scalar-type: the leading decay is $\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma$

$$\Gamma_{\nu \gamma \gamma} \simeq 10^{-26} \text{sec}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_\chi}{20 \text{ keV}} \right)^7 \left(\frac{\text{TeV}}{\Lambda} \right)^4$$

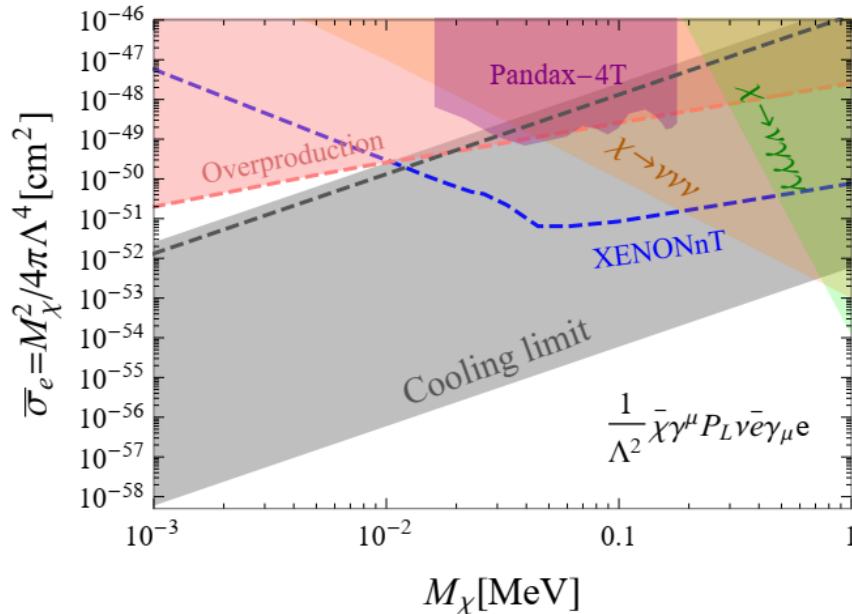
▣ Vector-type: the leading decay is $\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma \gamma$ and $\chi \rightarrow \nu \nu \nu$

$$\Gamma_{\nu \gamma \gamma \gamma} \simeq 10^{-26} \text{sec}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_\chi}{320 \text{ keV}} \right)^{13} \left(\frac{\text{TeV}}{\Lambda} \right)^4$$

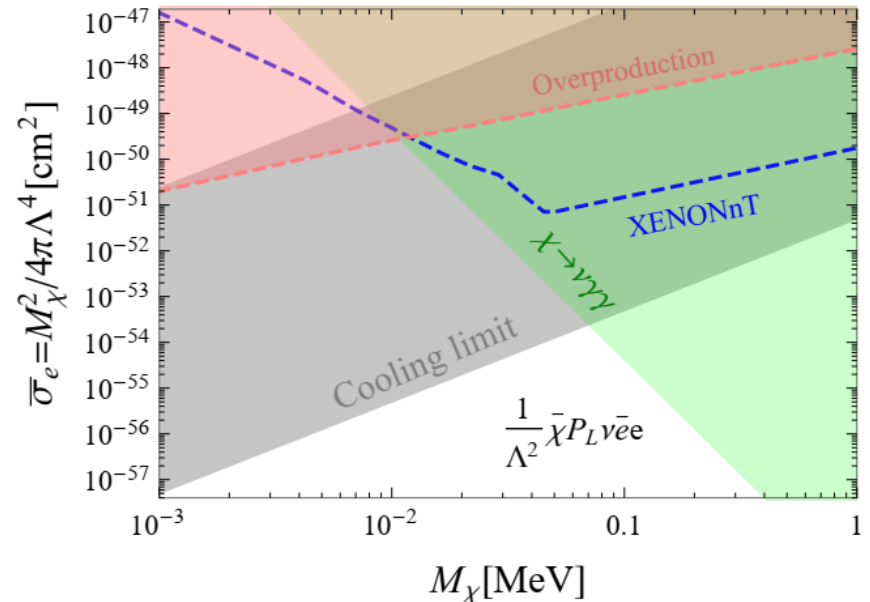
$$\Gamma_{\nu \nu \nu} \simeq 10^{-17} \text{sec}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_\chi}{200 \text{ keV}} \right)^5 \left(\frac{\text{TeV}}{\Lambda} \right)^4$$

Cooling Limits

Vector-type operator

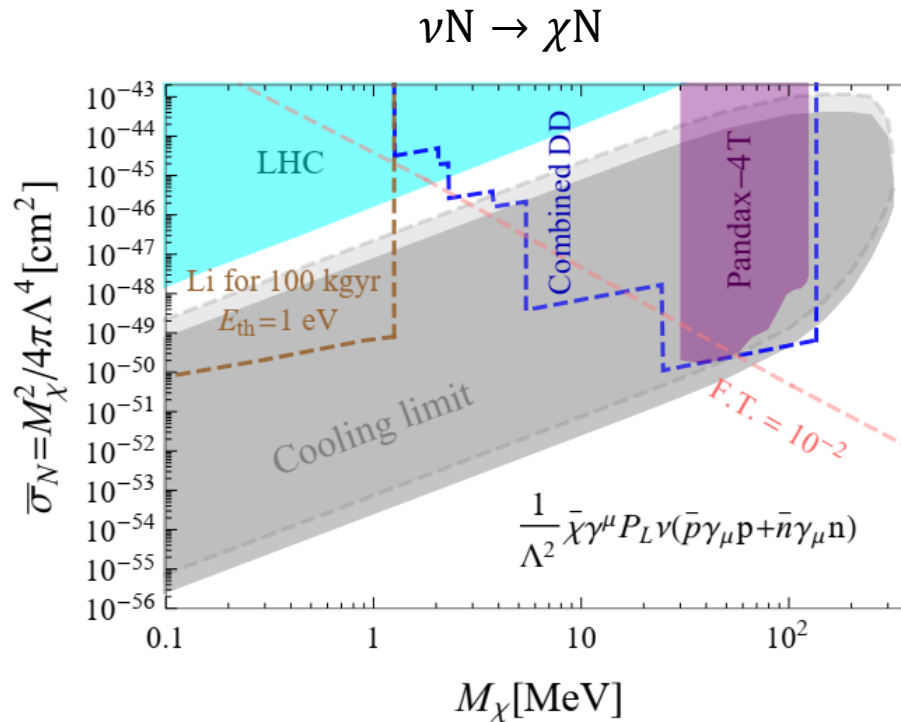


Scalar-type operator



- ✓ The cooling limits have strong complementarity with constraints from DM decay, cosmology, astrophysics, and direct detection experiments.
- ✓ Supernova cooling sets stringent constraints on FDM, which span by about seven orders of magnitude in the cross section. It rules out the cross sections as low as $10^{-51} - 10^{-58} \text{ cm}^2$ in the keV–MeV mass range.

Cooling Limits



- ✓ We also do the similar analysis for neutrino-nucleon scattering process.
- ✓ For DM coupling to nucleons, supernova cooling rules out $10^{-49} - 10^{-56} \text{ cm}^2$ in the 0.1 – 100 MeV mass range.
- ✓ The supernova limits do not require the new particles to be cosmological DM, which can be extended to arbitrarily small masses of new particles.

Summary

- The direct detection null results have sparked the search of lighter DM with masses below the GeV scale.
- Core-collapse SN is an ideal astrophysical source for sub-GeV particles, which can set unique constraints on the existence of new, low-mass particles that are weakly-coupled to the SM.
- We exclude the cross sections down to $10^{-51} - 10^{-58} \text{ cm}^2$ in the keV-MeV mass range for DM-electron scattering, and $10^{-49} - 10^{-56} \text{ cm}^2$ in the 0.1-100 MeV mass range for DM-nucleon scattering.
- SN cooling limits are complementary with the constraints from cosmology, astrophysics, LHC and direct detection experiments, which can also be scaled and extended to arbitrarily small masses of new particles.