

# *Dark matter at the LHC*

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Christopher McCabe



# Outline

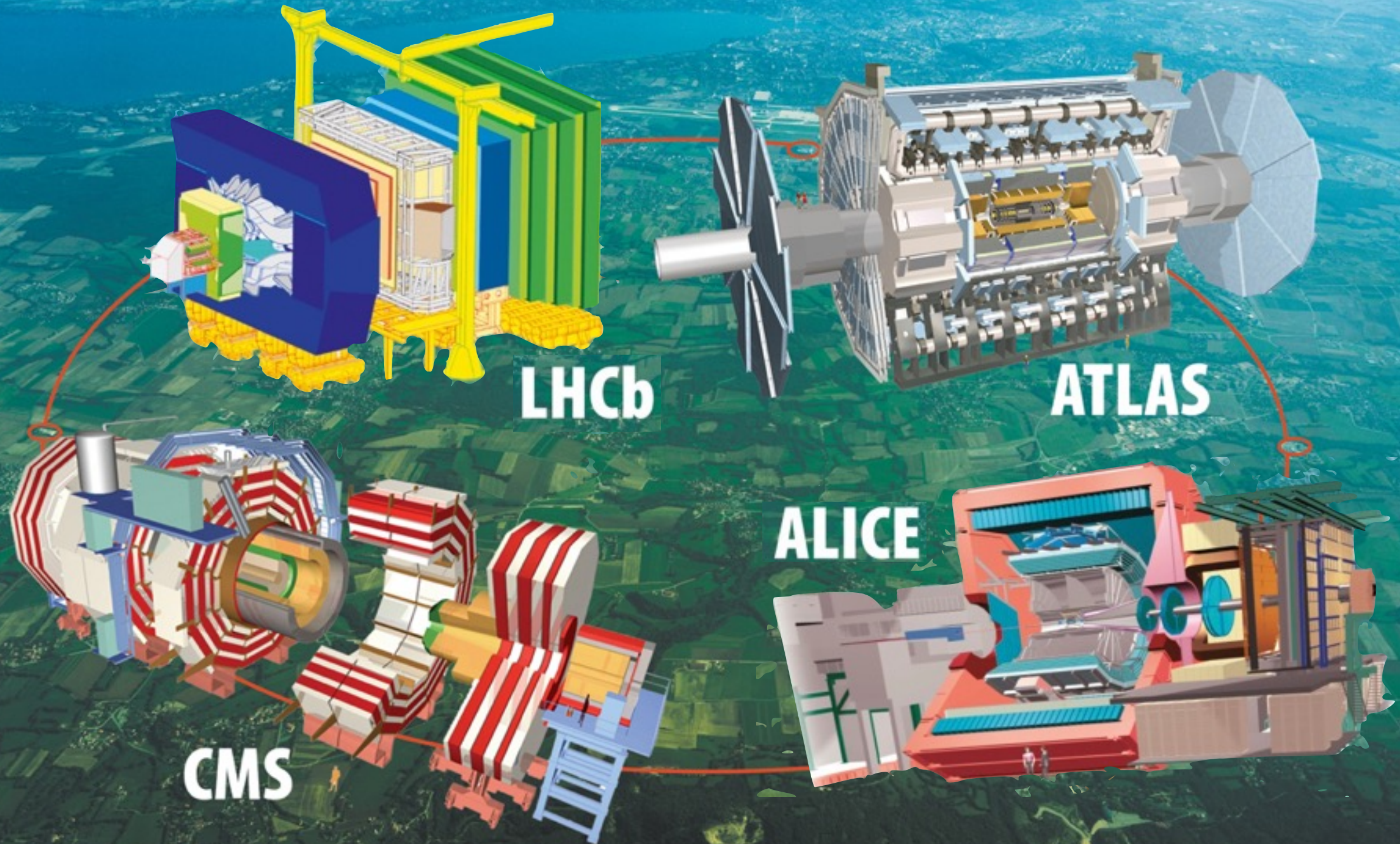
- Prelude: The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
- Searching for dark matter at colliders from
  - *pair production (monojet)*
  - cascade decays (SUSY)

*Prelude:  
The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)*



# The Large Hadron Collider

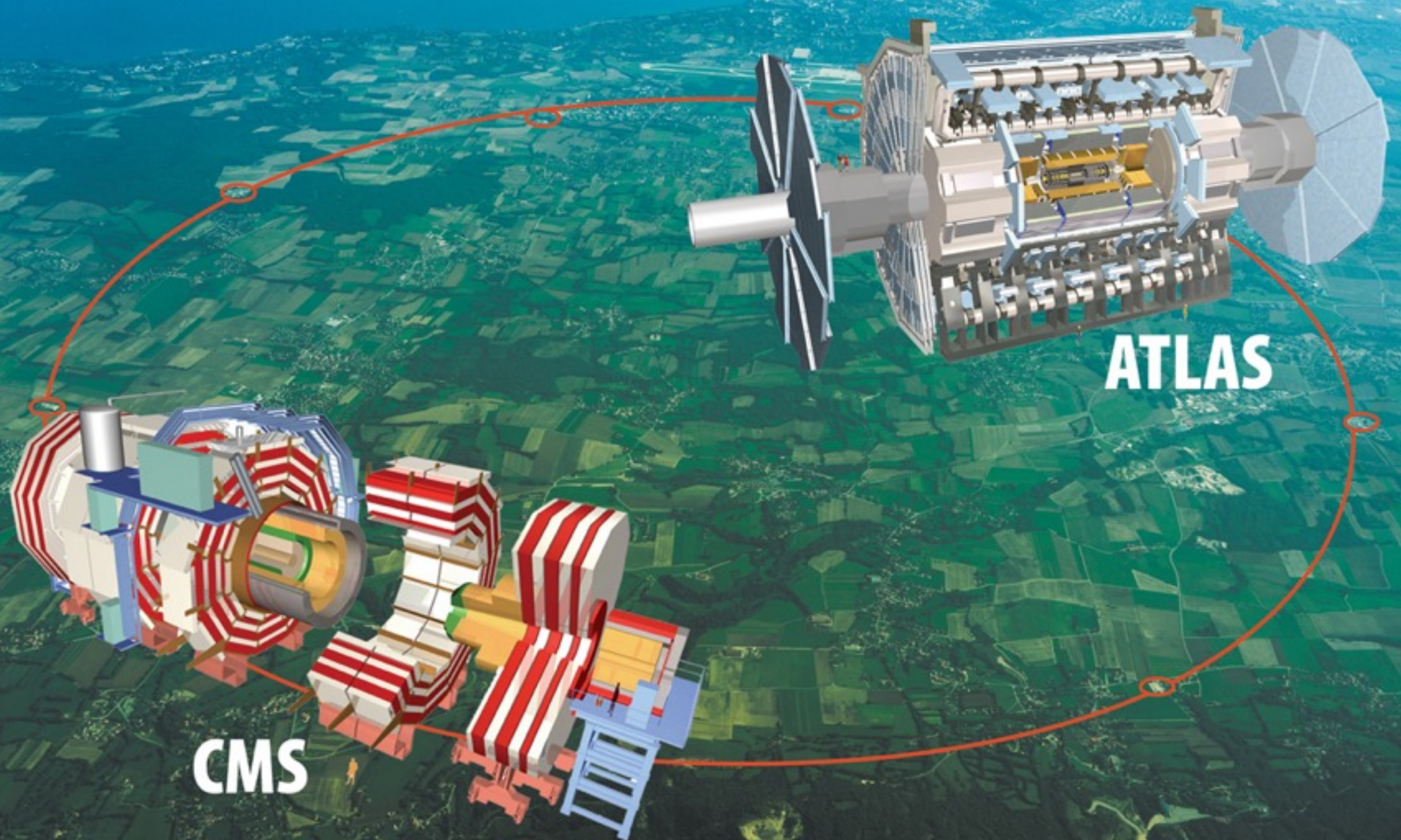
- Proton collider (mostly - short periods of lead/gold collisions)
- There are four large experiments at different collision points





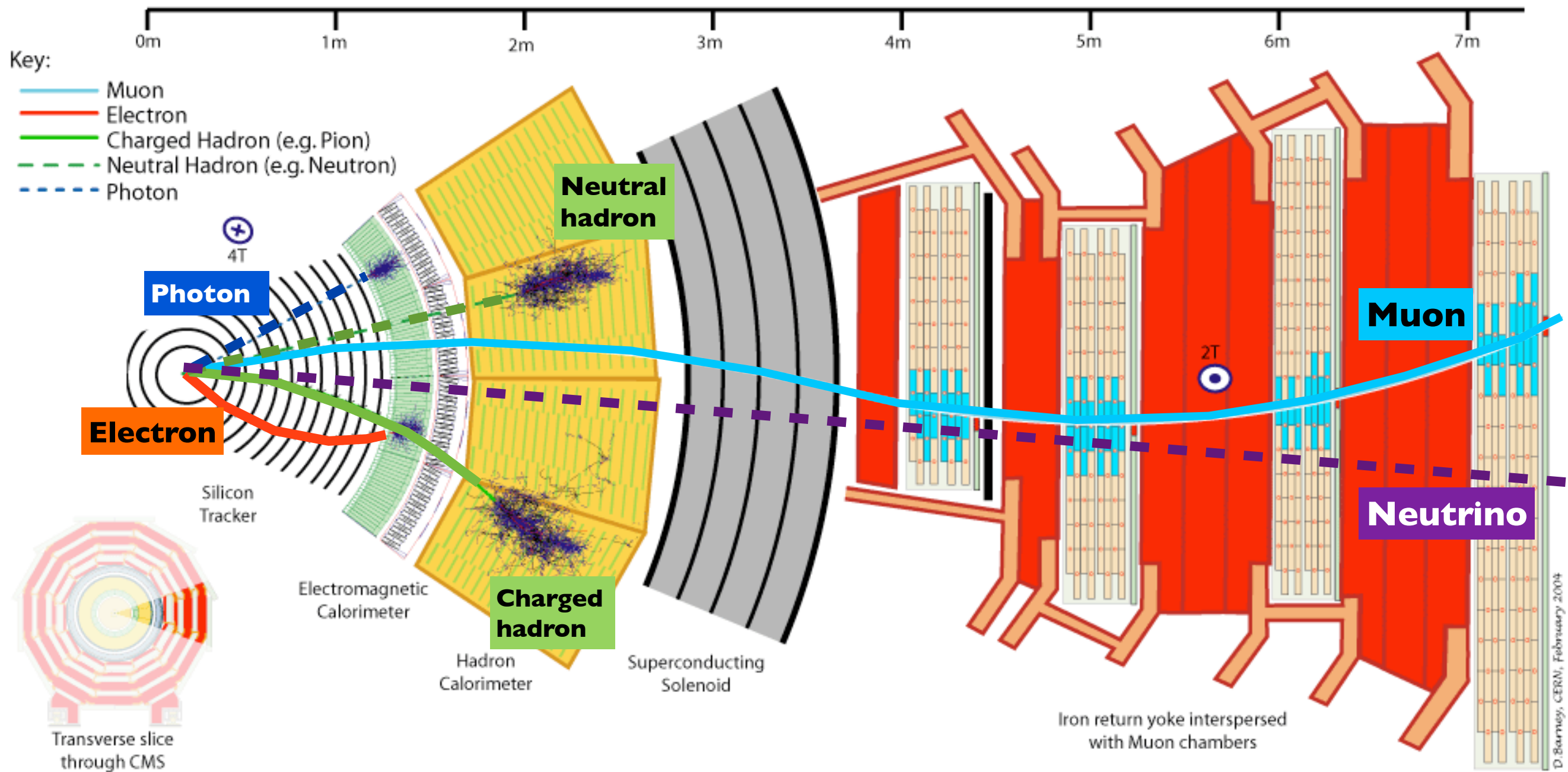
# The Large Hadron Collider

- Focus on the two 'general purpose' detectors





# A slice through CMS

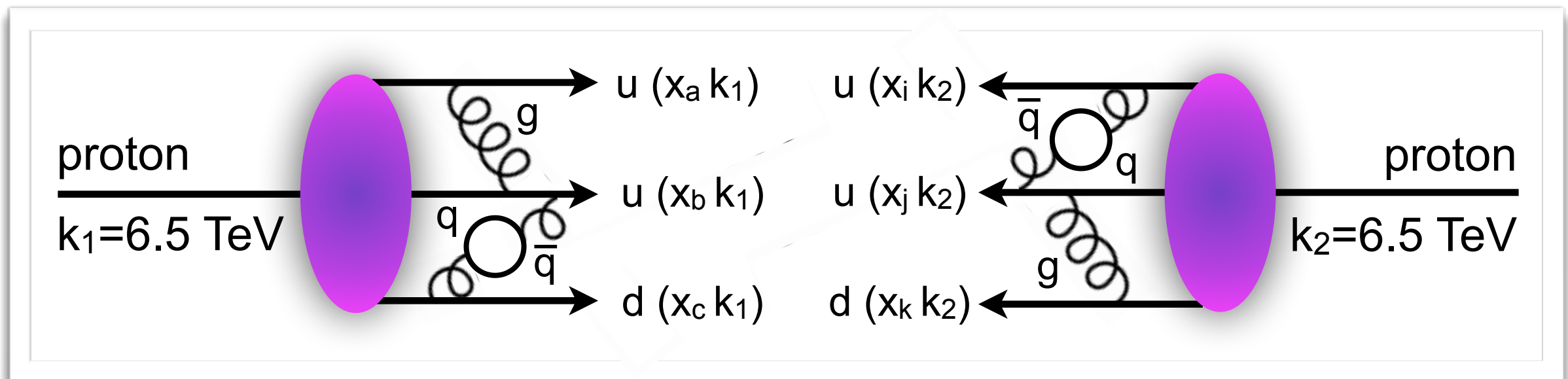


Neutrinos traverse the detector without any interaction



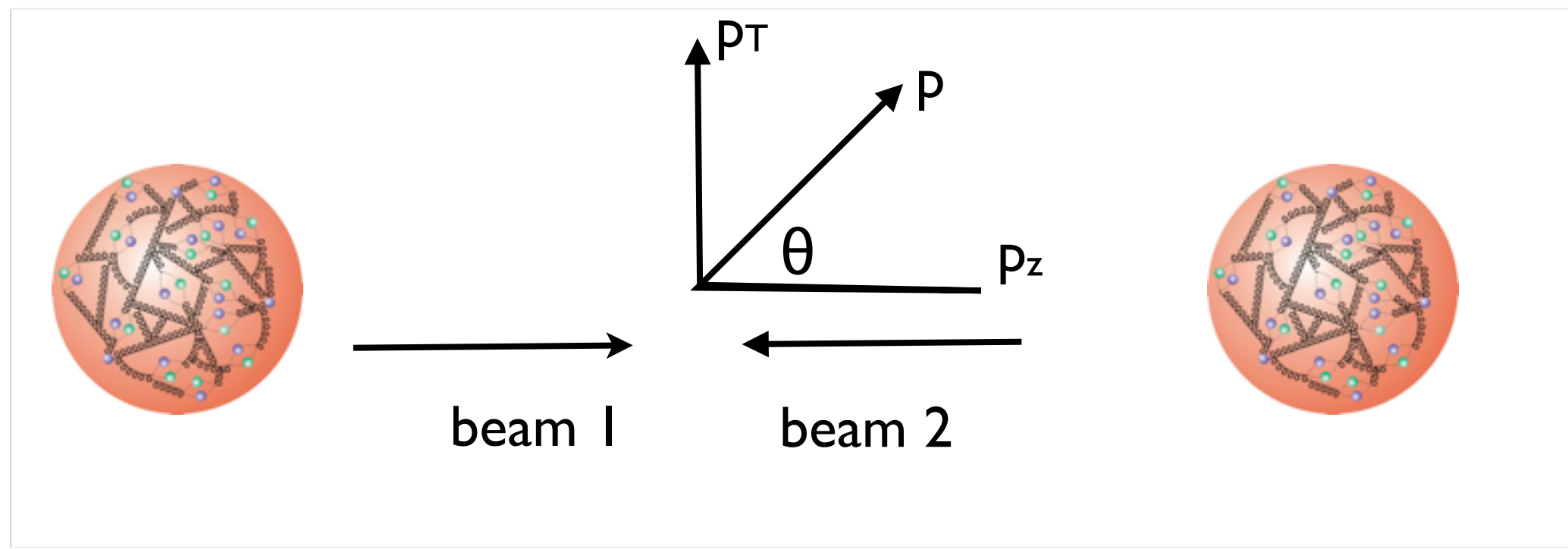
# Collider basics

- LHC collides protons each with an energy 6.5 TeV



- Protons are not point-like particles
  - Quarks/anti-quarks/gluons generally called **partons**
  - Partons carry a fraction  $x$  of the protons energy
  - Parton distribution functions (pdf) tell us the probability of finding a parton with energy fraction  $x$
- proton beam offers a wide range of collision energies

# Transverse quantities



- Proton centre of mass (COM) frame **not** the same as the parton COM frame
- Parton's initial momentum along beam direction (z) unknown
- ➔ Can't use full momentum conservation
- But...transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) is known: initially zero
- ➔ Use transverse quantities:  $p_T = p \sin \theta$



# Luminosity

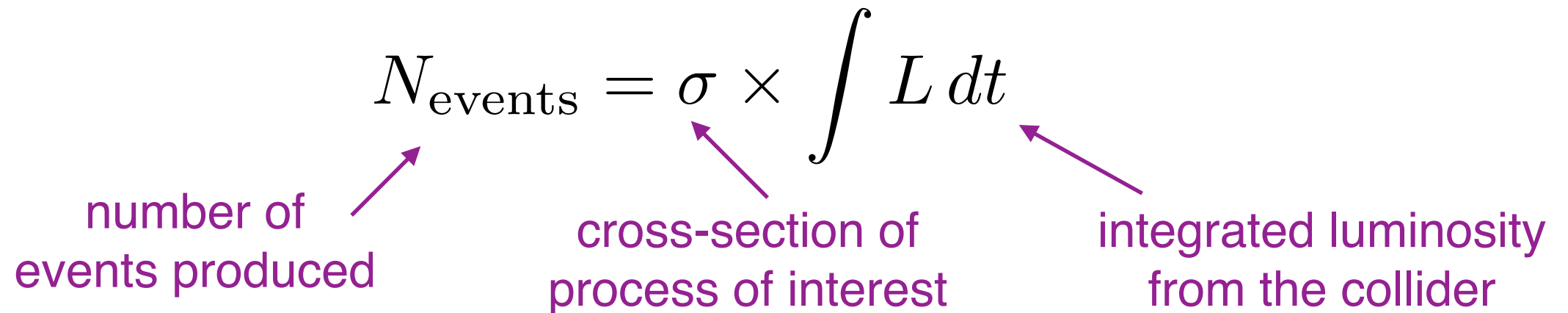
- We need high luminosity as well as high energy

$$N_{\text{events}} = \sigma \times \int L dt$$

number of events produced

cross-section of process of interest

integrated luminosity from the collider

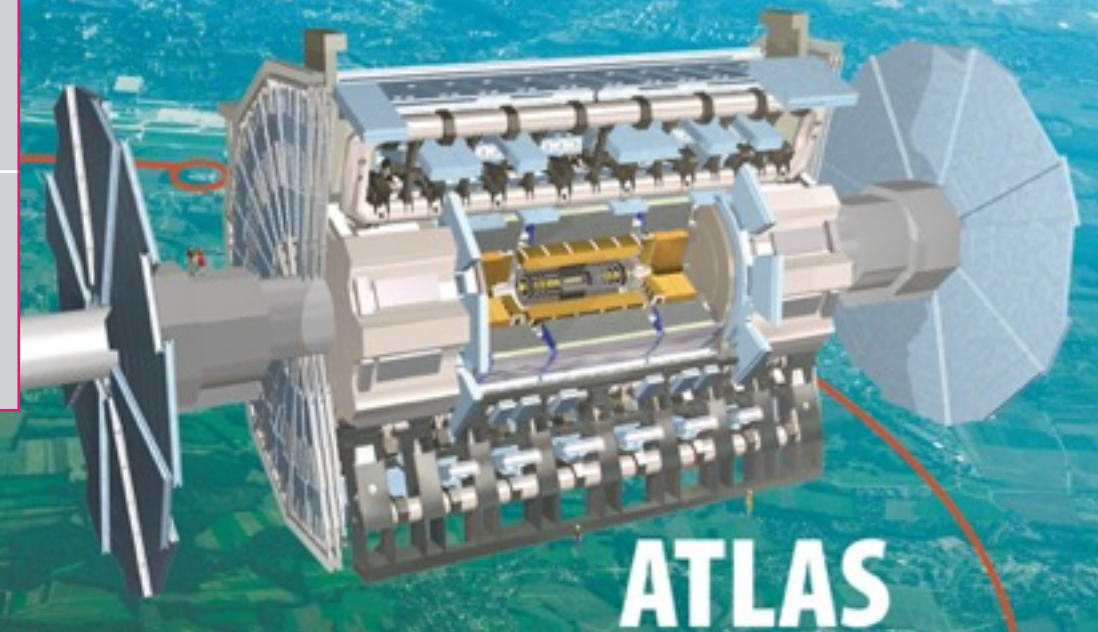


- Cross-section has units barn, pico-barn (pb), femto-barn (fb), ...
- Integrated luminosity has units inverse barn, pb<sup>-1</sup>, fb<sup>-1</sup>, ...
- To observe rare processes (small cross-section) need a larger integrated luminosity



# The Large Hadron Collider

	2011	2012	2015-18
Energy ( $\sqrt{s}$ )	7 TeV	8 TeV	13 TeV
Integrated luminosity	5 fb <sup>-1</sup>	20 fb <sup>-1</sup>	150 fb <sup>-1</sup>

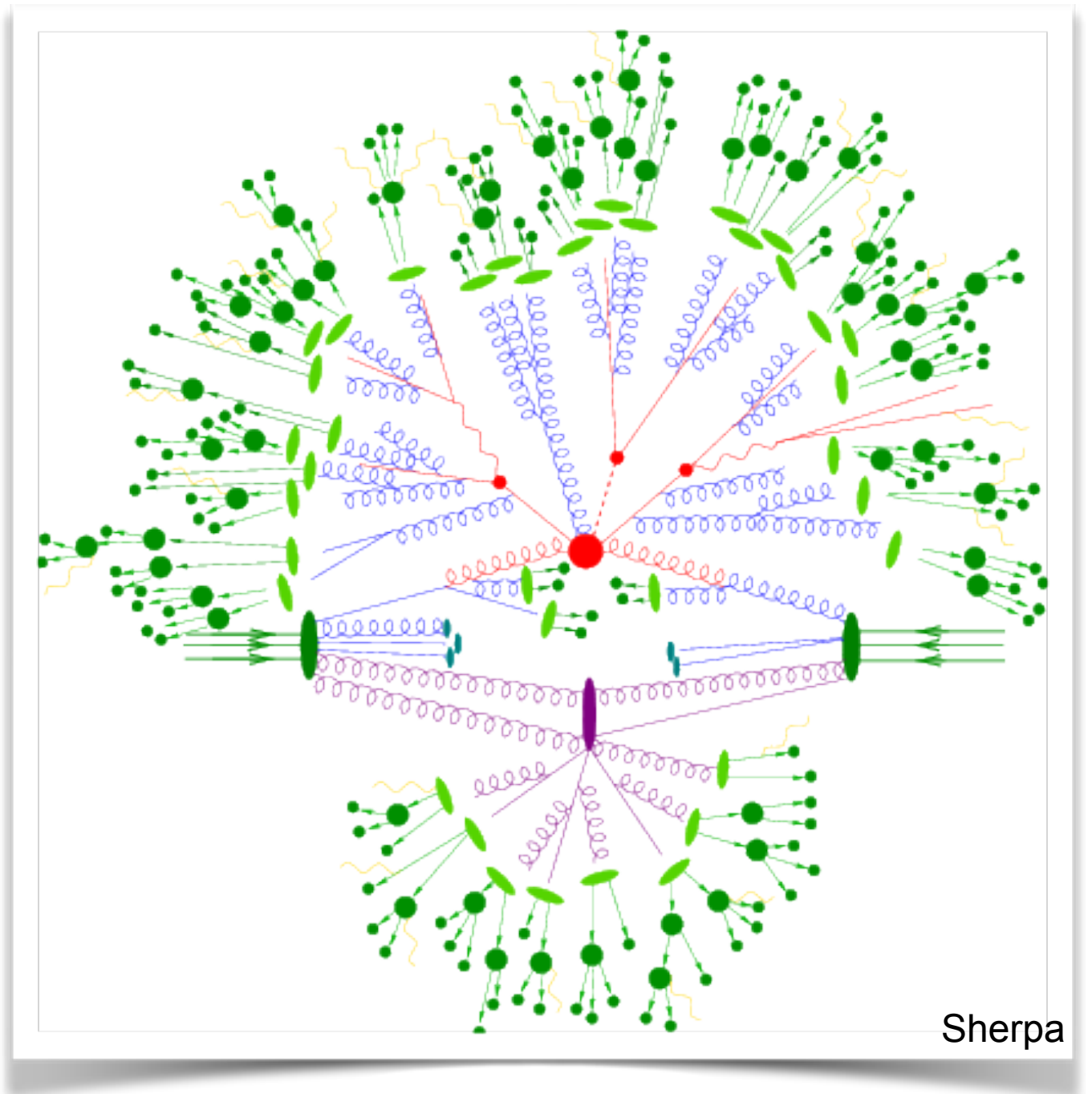




# Proton collisions are messy

One event has multiple stages:

- Signal  
(production and decays)
- QCD-Bremsstrahlung
- Multiple interactions
- Hadronisation

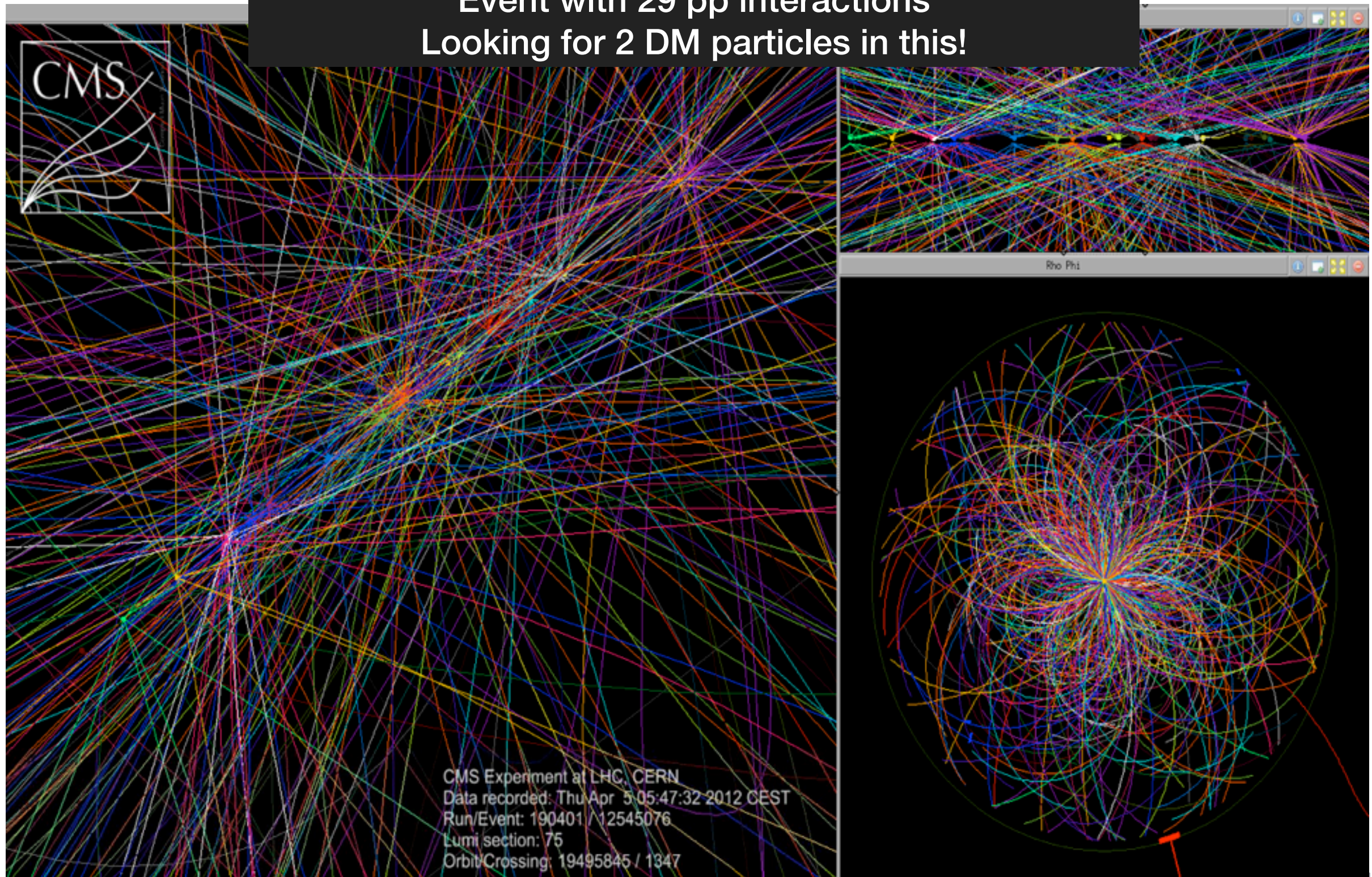


Monte Carlo event generators can simulate this!



# Many interactions!

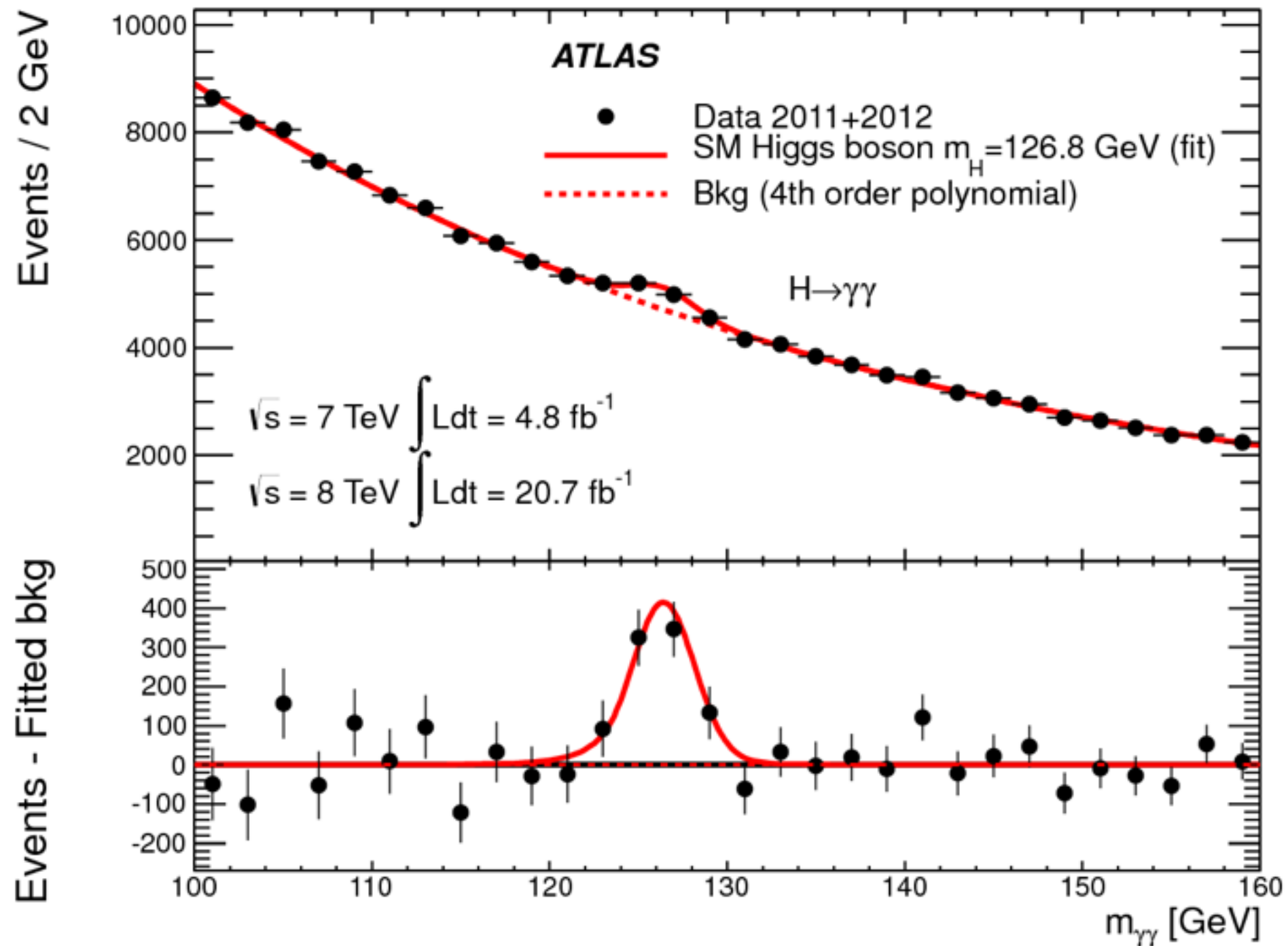
Event with 29 pp interactions  
Looking for 2 DM particles in this!





# Messy...but still useful

2012: Higgs discovery!



# *Searching for dark matter*

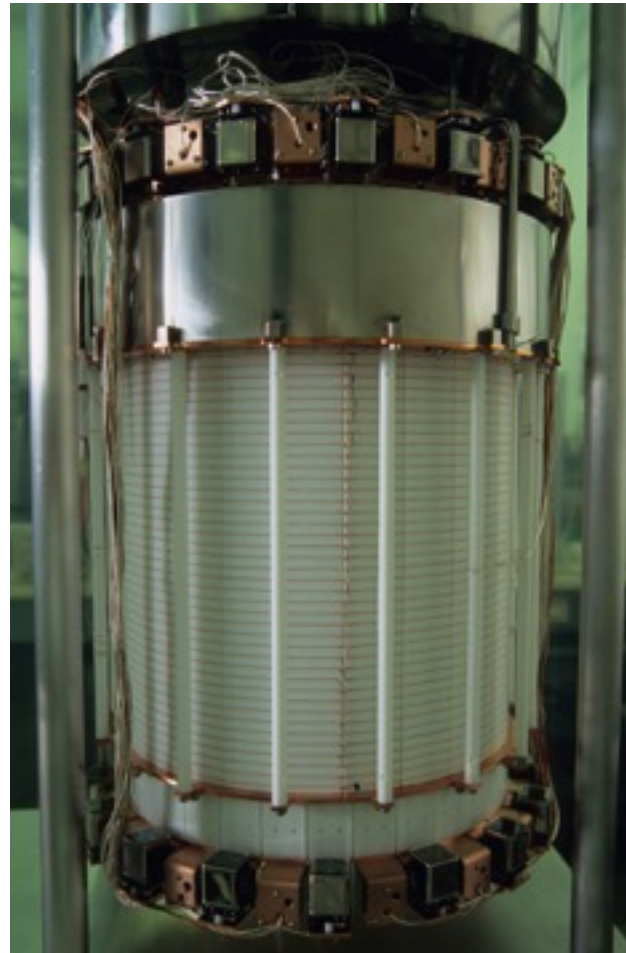


# Three popular strategies

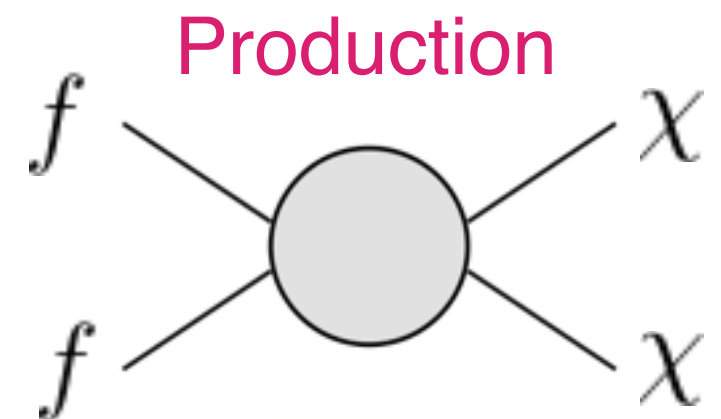
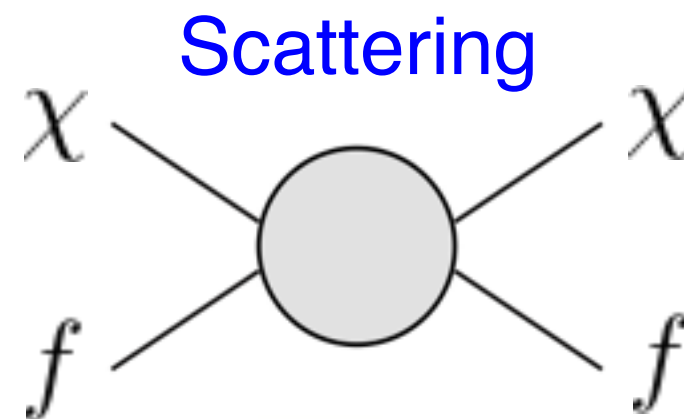
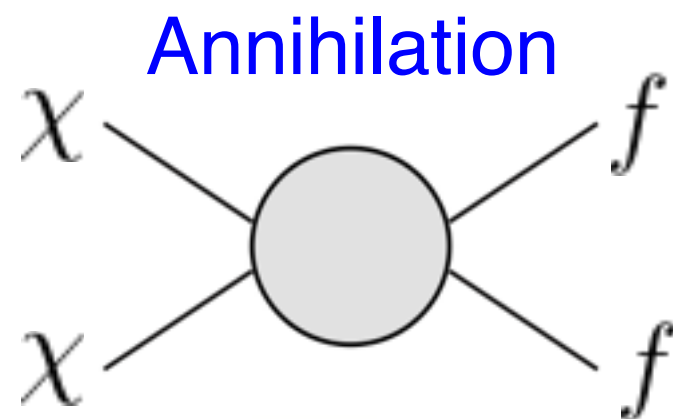
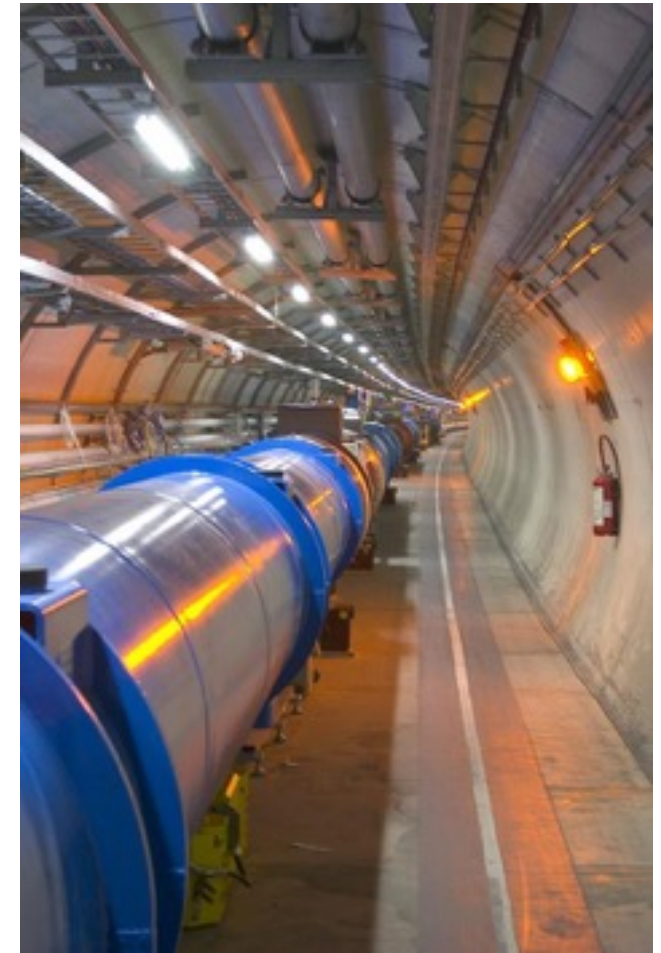
Indirect detection



Direct detection



Collider



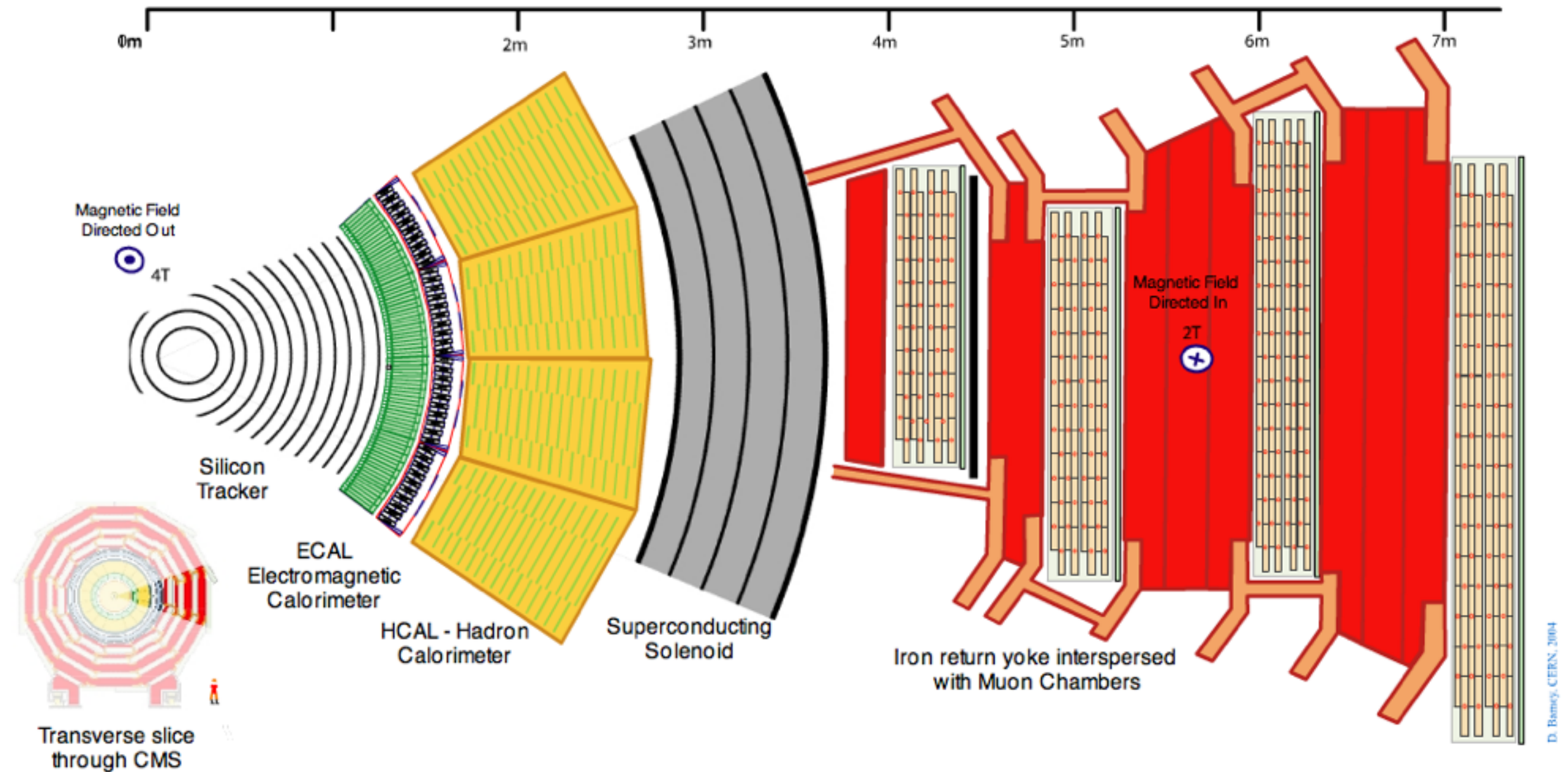
# Warning

- Things to remember:
  - Colliders cannot prove stability beyond the apparatus
  - The dark matter mass reconstruction will be poor
  - Colliders cannot distinguish single and multiple invisible particles
  - May give little information on the nature of interaction, spin of the dark matter, its quantum numbers...

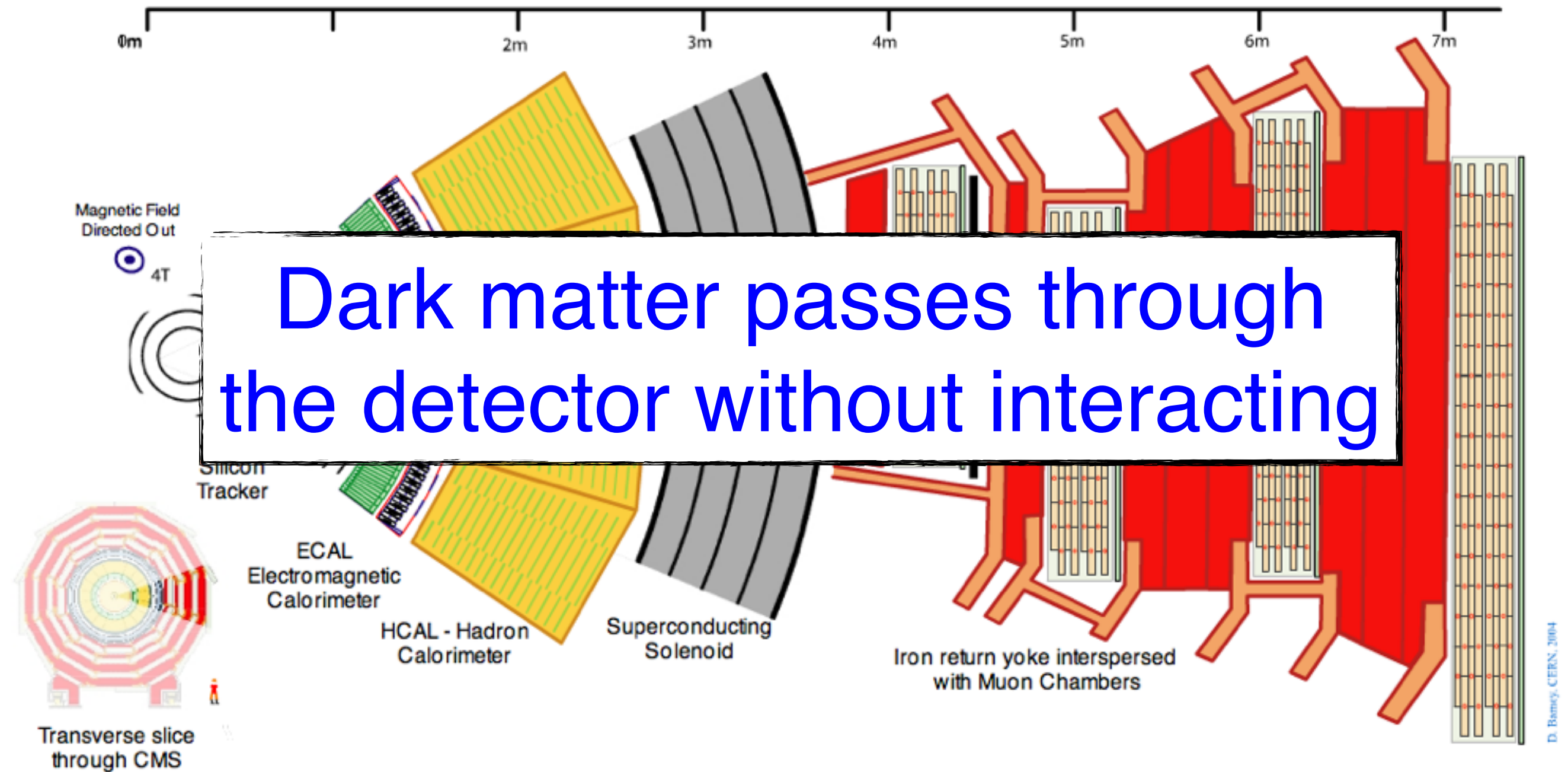
Interpreting any signal will be challenging



# A dark matter event



# A dark matter event

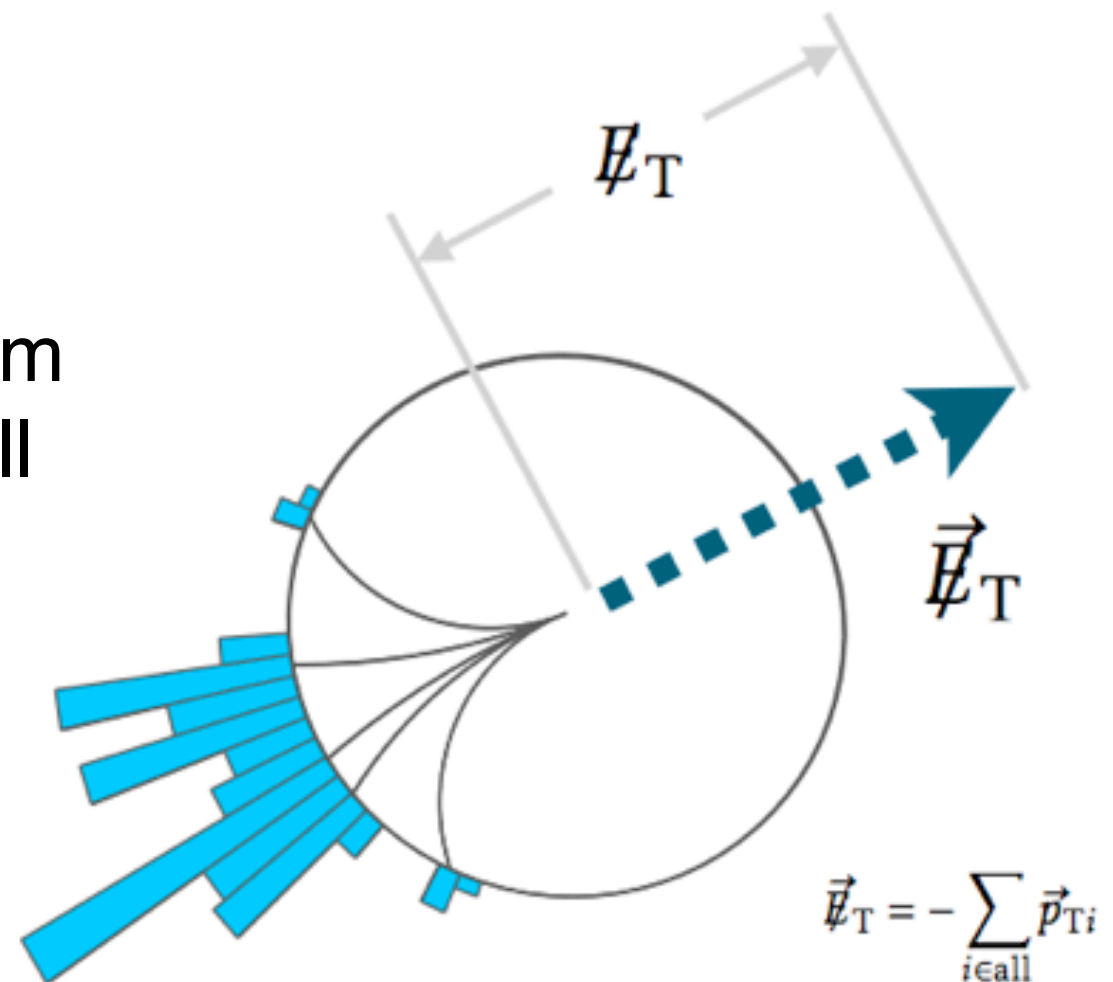




# Missing transverse energy (MET or $\cancel{E}_T$ )

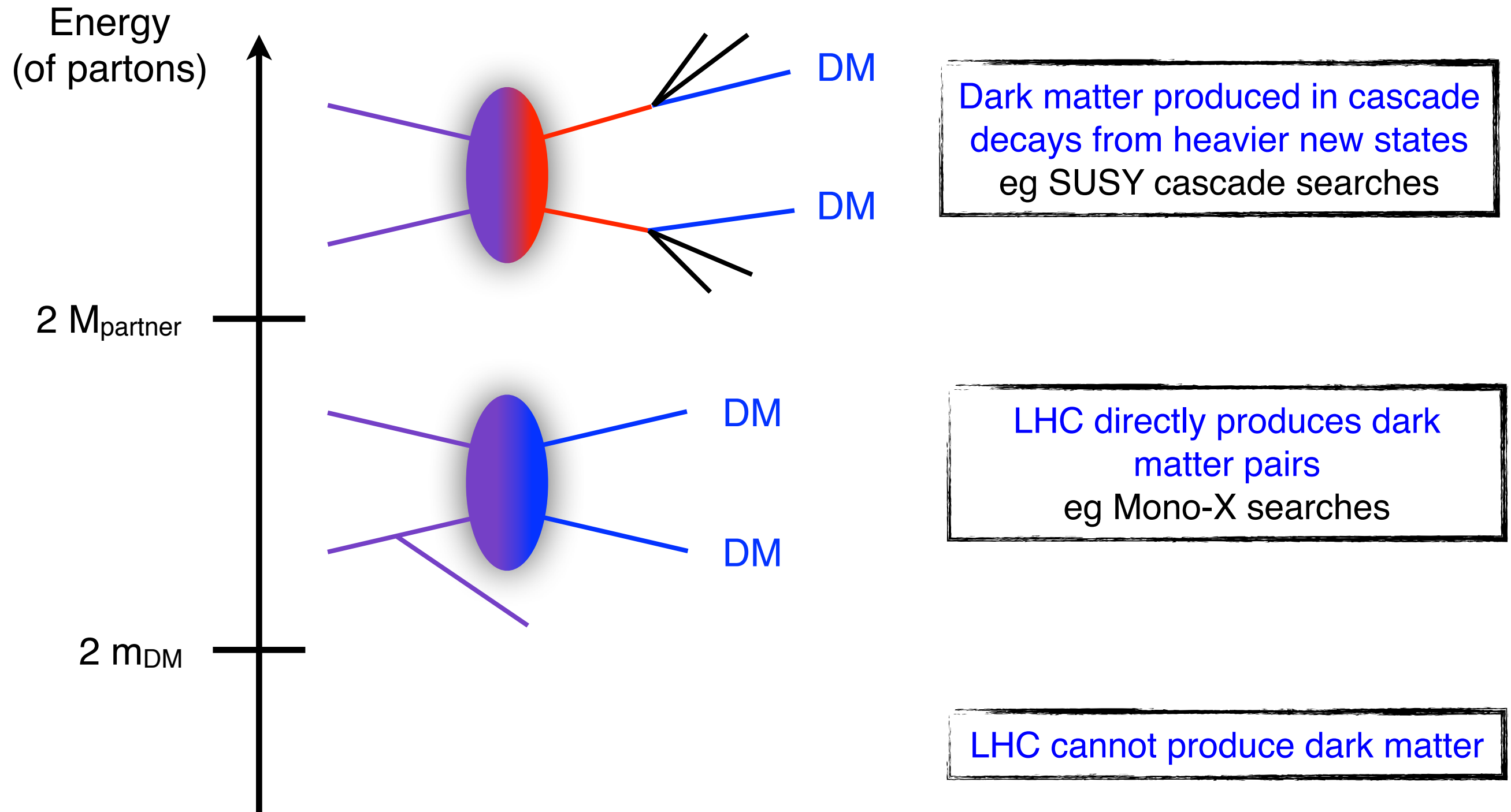
- At the heart of all collider searches for dark matter

MET = negative of the vector sum of the transverse momenta of all visible particles in the event



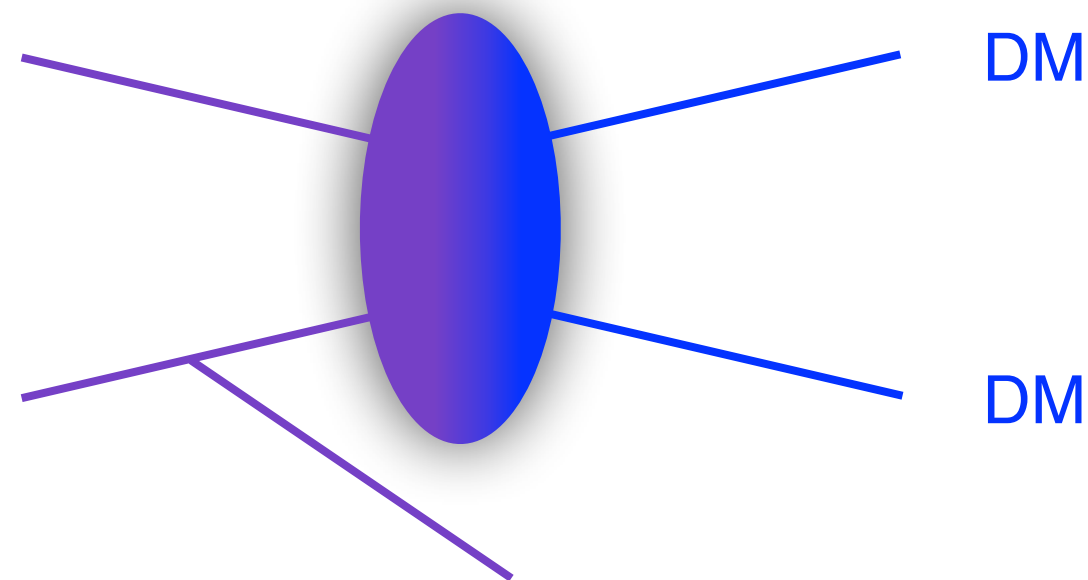
- MET search used to discover  $W$ -boson with UA1  
➔ has been a major tool for hadron colliders ever since

# LHC search categorisation



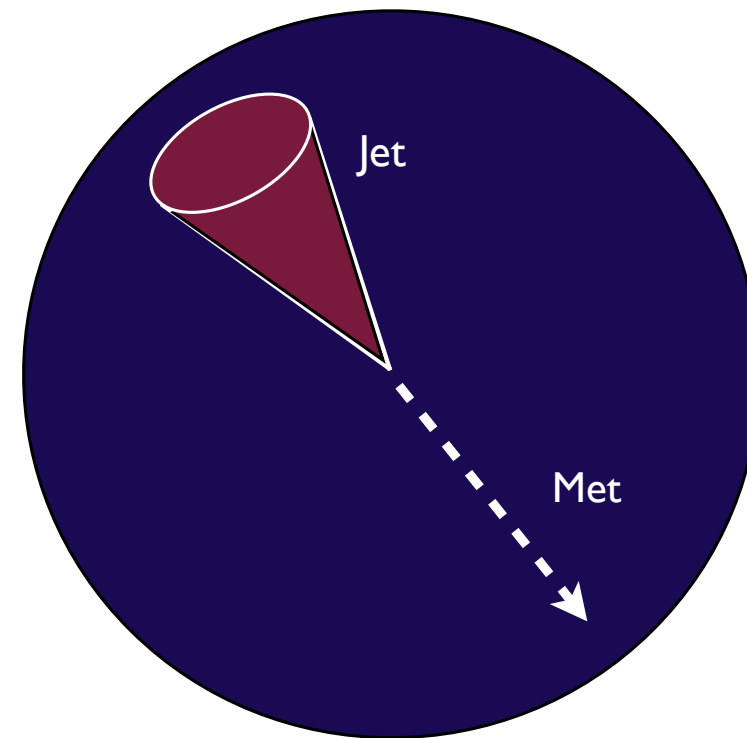
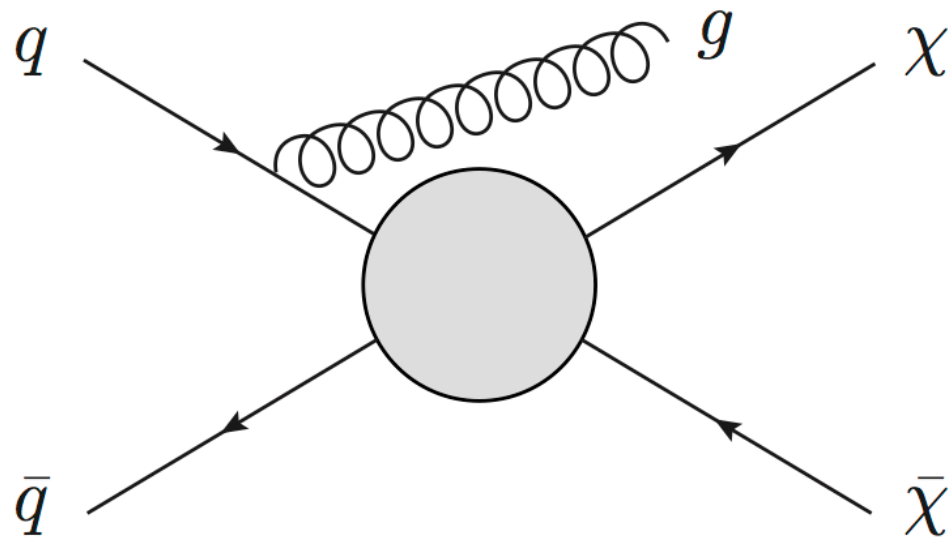


# *Searches for dark matter pair production*



# Monojet signature

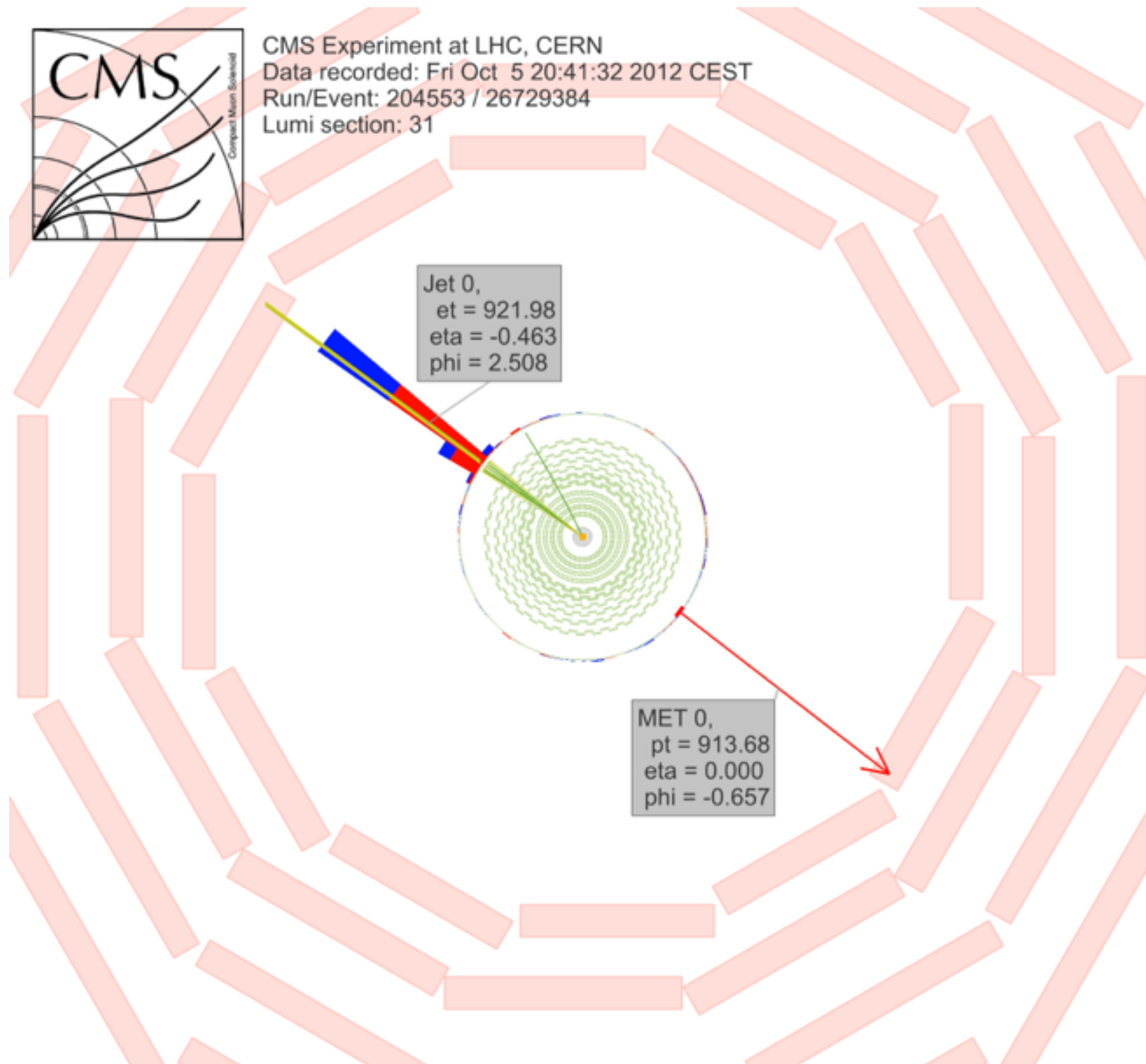
- ‘Classic’ pair production search
  - ➔ Simple and striking signature: hard jet and MET



- Dark matter recoils against a QCD jet from initial state radiation (ISR)



# Monojet: a real event



# CMS search search (ATLAS similar)

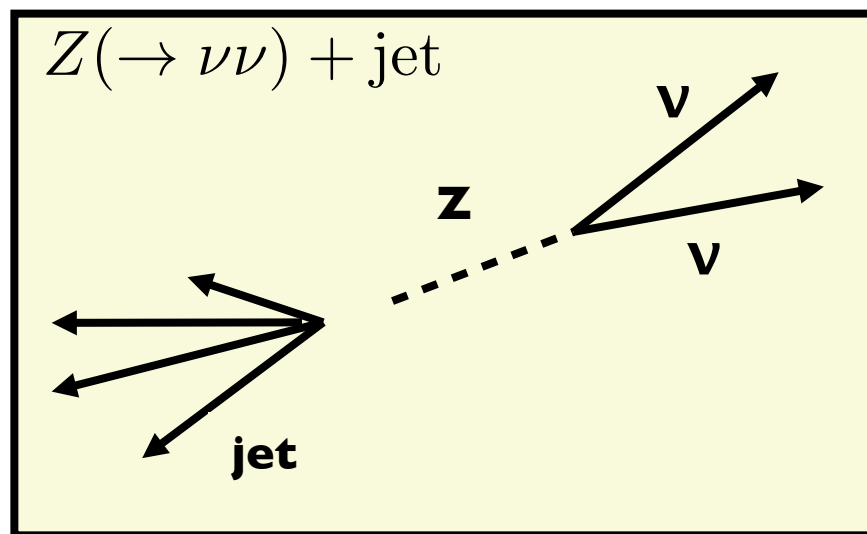
CMS: 1408.3583  
ATLAS: 1502.01518

- Event selection:

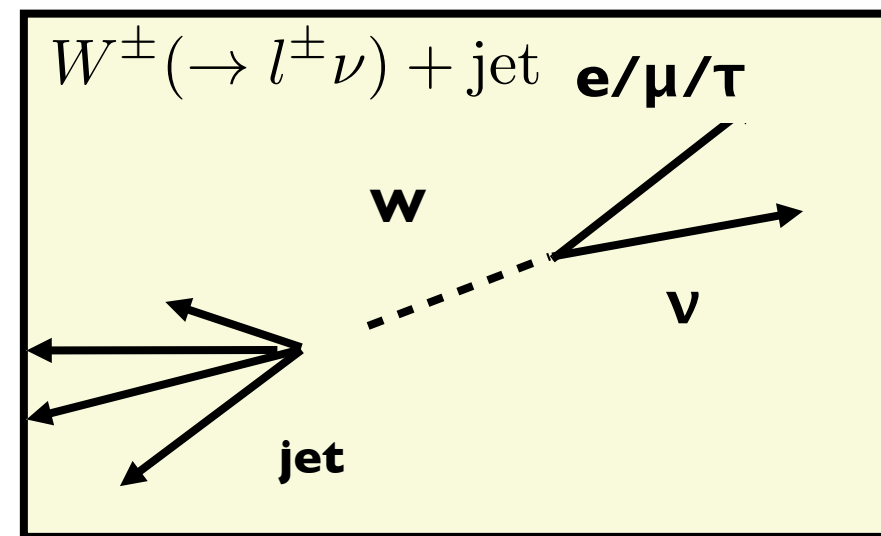
- Large missing transverse energy:  $\cancel{E}_T > 500 \text{ GeV}$
- One energetic jet:  $p_T > 100 \text{ GeV}$
- One additional jet if  $p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$  and  $\Delta\phi(j_1, j_2) < 2.5$

- Main backgrounds:

Irreducible background;  
looks like signal

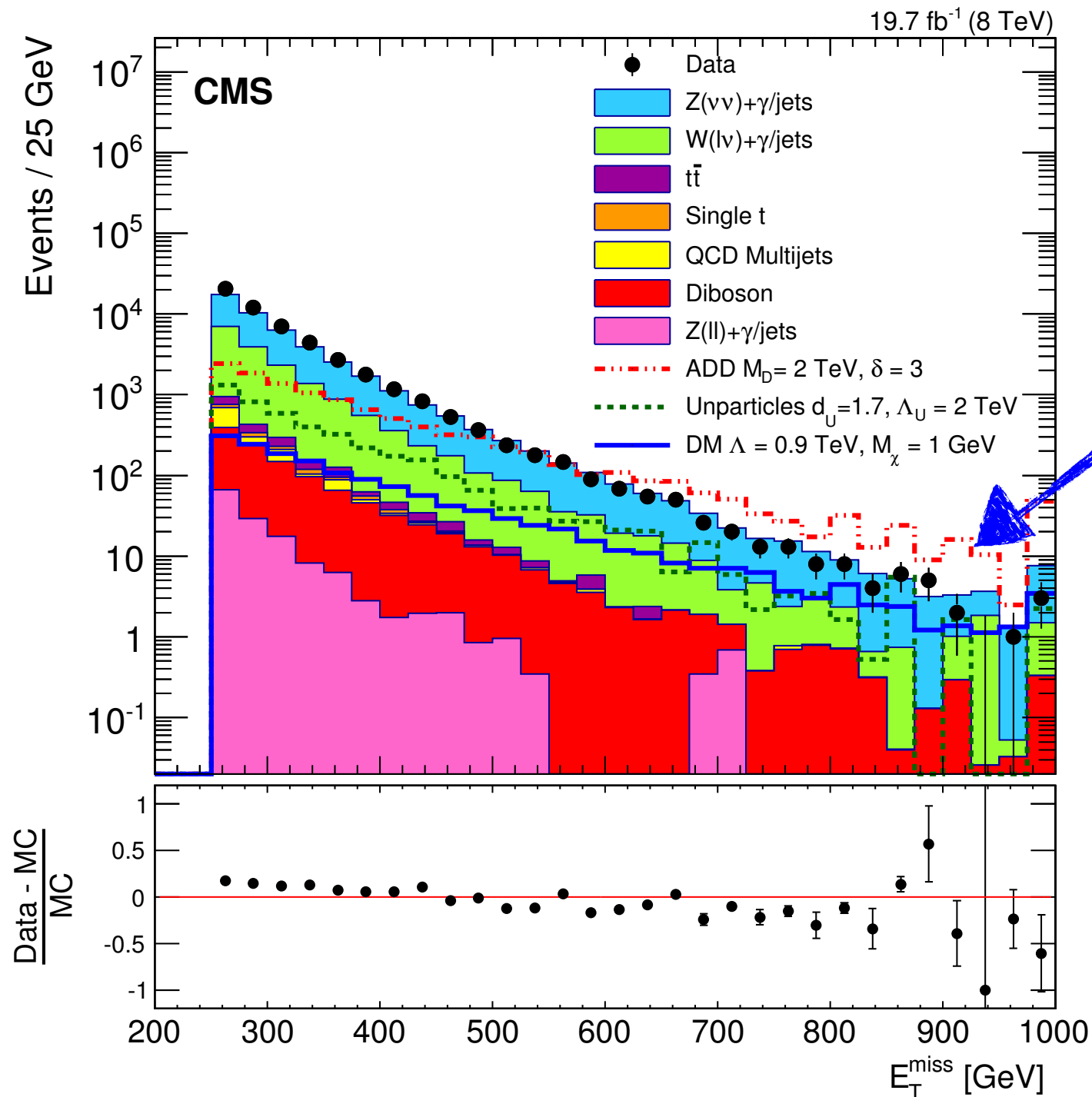


$e/\mu$  not detected  
 $\tau$  decays hadronically





# Monojet results



- Signal is a slight increase in the tail of the distribution
- Difficult to observe
- So far, no excess

# Interpretation

Problem: In which framework should we interpret the search?

➔ There is no canonical dark matter model (outside SUSY...)

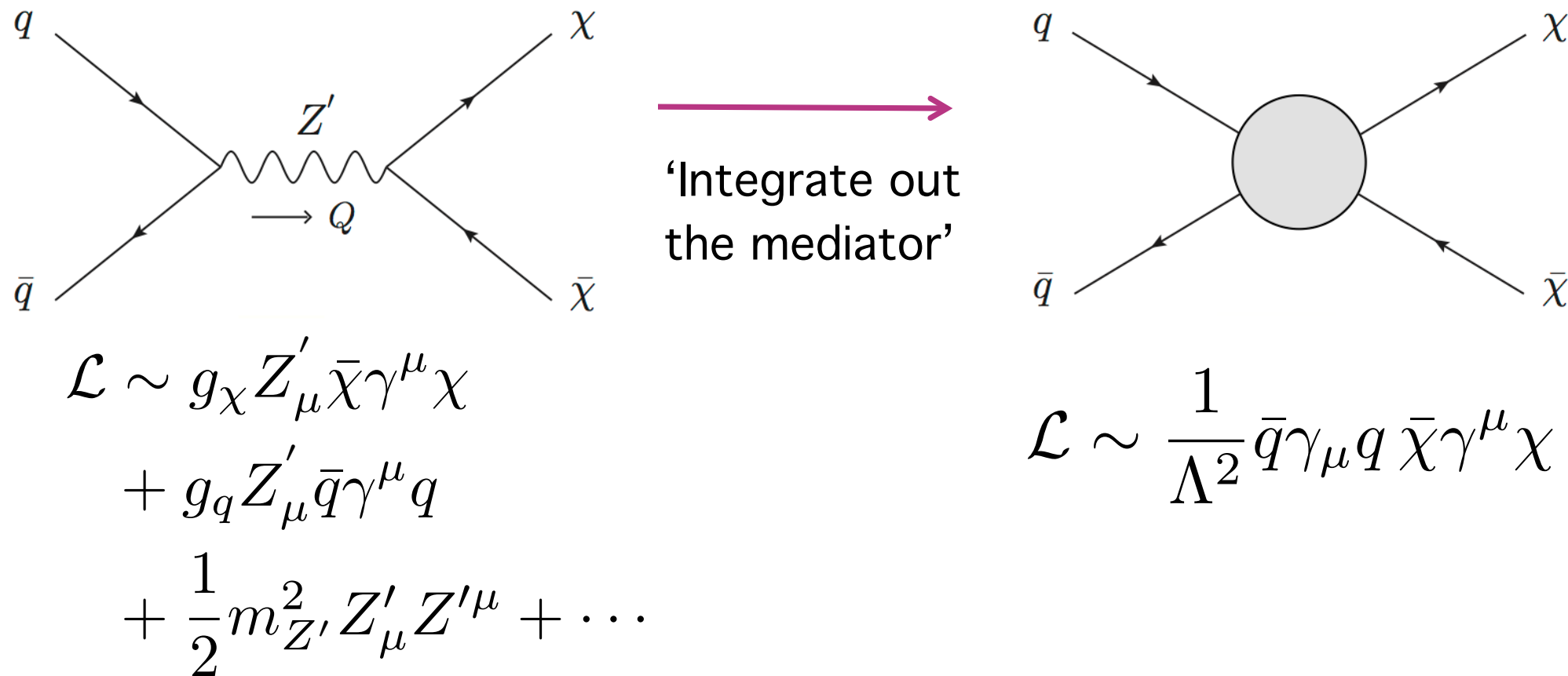
Different approaches taken:

1. Effective field theory/contact interaction
2. Simplified models



# 1. Effective field theory (EFT)

- Treat the interaction as a contact (point-like) interaction



- Parameter of interest is the contact interaction scale  $\Lambda$
- Related to parameters in the full theory:  $\Lambda = \frac{m_{Z'}}{\sqrt{g_q g_\chi}}$

# This is not a new idea

- Fermi could describe  $\beta$ -decay without knowing the microscopic details:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} [\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma^5)\psi] [\bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu(1 - \gamma^5)\psi] \quad \text{where} \quad G_F \propto \frac{g_{\text{weak}}^2}{M_W^2}$$

- It is a very useful idea
- we don't need to know all details of the full theory
- Can (in principle) constrain many different theories:

Name	Operator	Coefficient
D1	$\bar{\chi}\chi\bar{q}q$	$m_q/M_*^3$
D2	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi\bar{q}q$	$im_q/M_*^3$
D3	$\bar{\chi}\chi\bar{q}\gamma^5q$	$im_q/M_*^3$
D4	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi\bar{q}\gamma^5q$	$m_q/M_*^3$
D5	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\chi\bar{q}\gamma_\mu q$	$1/M_*^2$
D6	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\gamma^5\chi\bar{q}\gamma_\mu q$	$1/M_*^2$
D7	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\chi\bar{q}\gamma_\mu\gamma^5q$	$1/M_*^2$
D8	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\gamma^5\chi\bar{q}\gamma_\mu\gamma^5q$	$1/M_*^2$
D9	$\bar{\chi}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\chi\bar{q}\sigma_{\mu\nu}q$	$1/M_*^2$
D10	$\bar{\chi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\gamma^5\chi\bar{q}\sigma_{\alpha\beta}q$	$i/M_*^2$
D11	$\bar{\chi}\chi G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu}$	$\alpha_s/4M_*^3$
D12	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu}$	$i\alpha_s/4M_*^3$
D13	$\bar{\chi}\chi G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$	$i\alpha_s/4M_*^3$
D14	$\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$	$\alpha_s/4M_*^3$

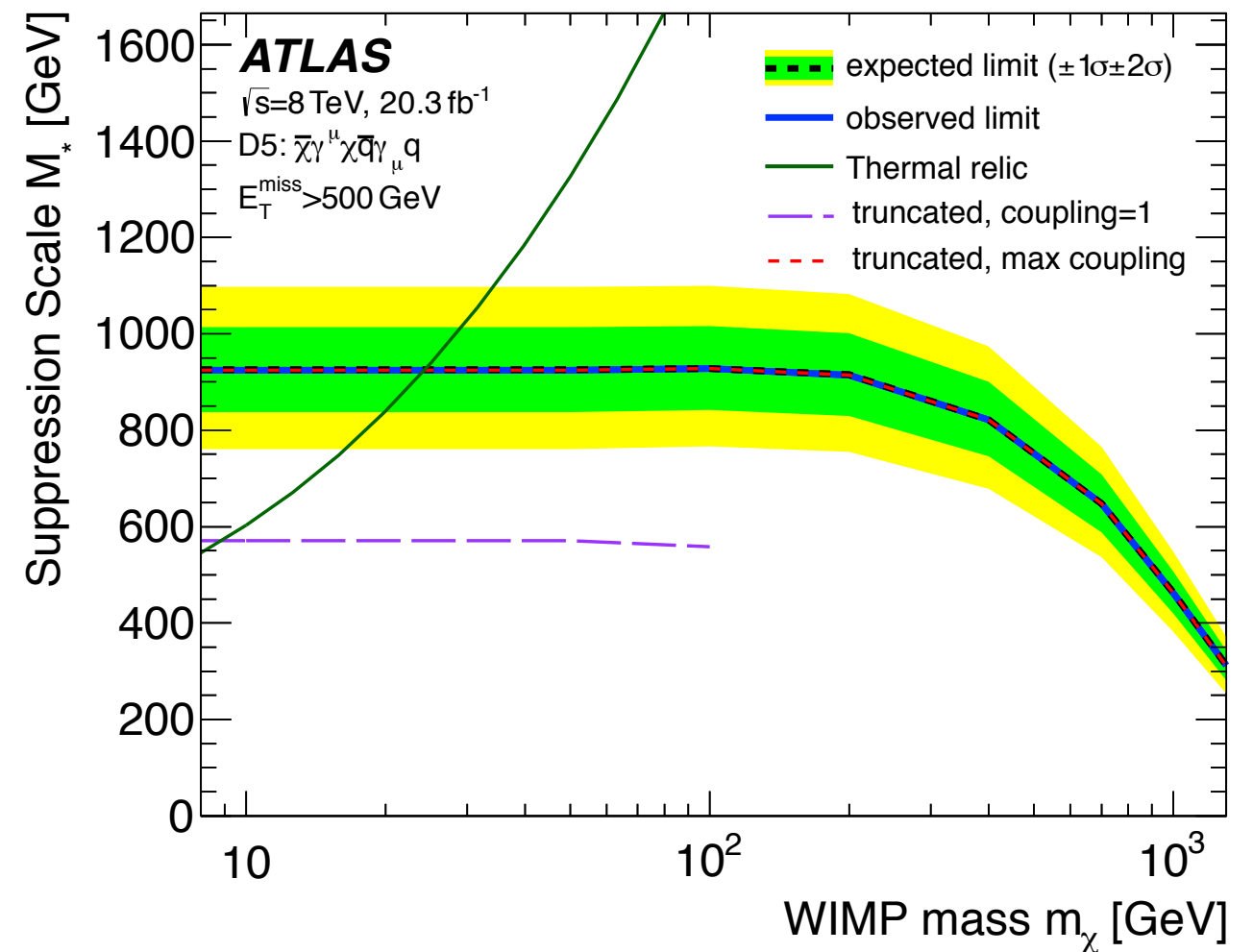
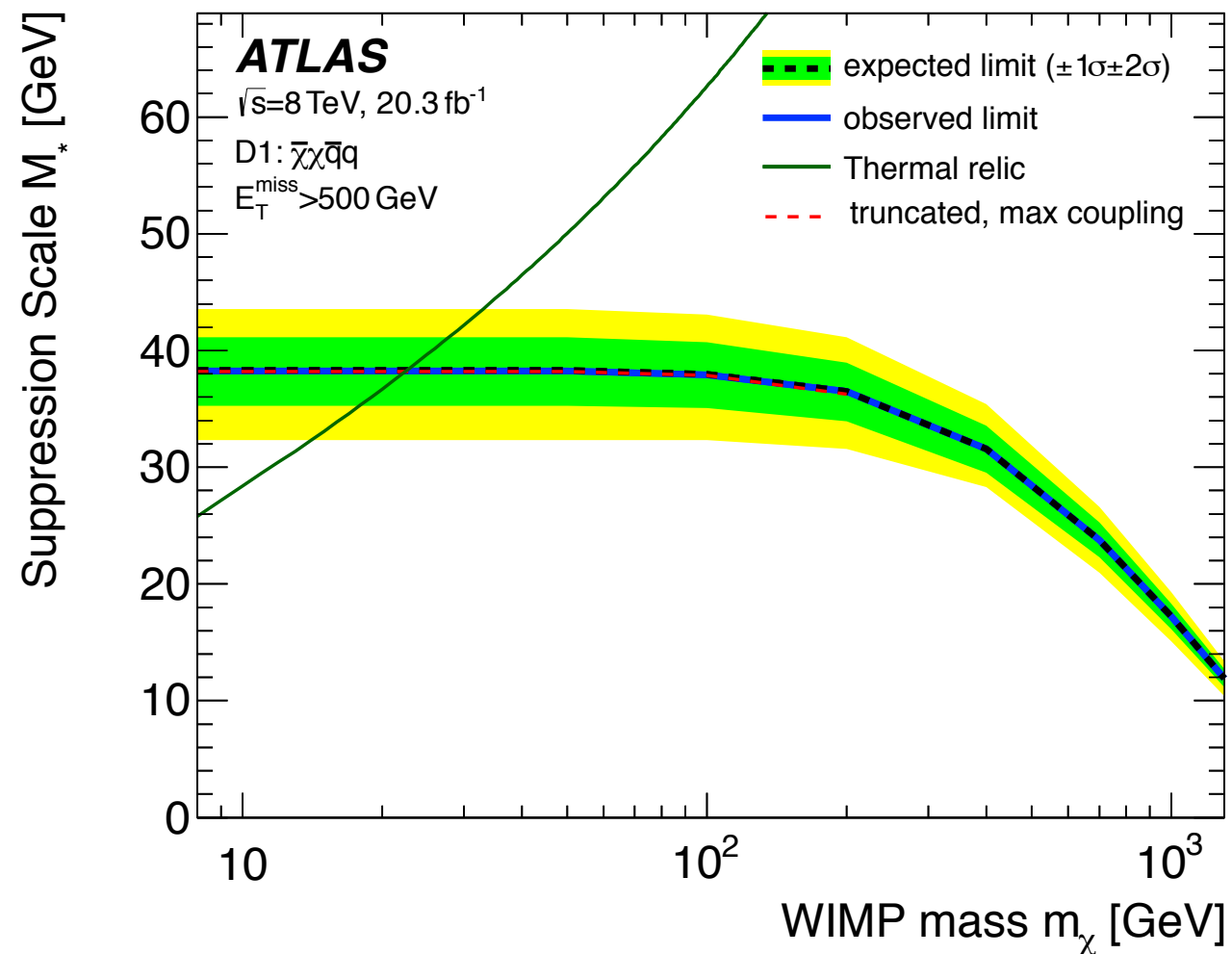
Name	Operator	Coefficient
C1	$\chi^\dagger\chi\bar{q}q$	$m_q/M_*^2$
C2	$\chi^\dagger\chi\bar{q}\gamma^5q$	$im_q/M_*^2$
C3	$\chi^\dagger\partial_\mu\chi\bar{q}\gamma^\mu q$	$1/M_*^2$
C4	$\chi^\dagger\partial_\mu\chi\bar{q}\gamma^\mu\gamma^5q$	$1/M_*^2$
C5	$\chi^\dagger\chi G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu}$	$\alpha_s/4M_*^2$
C6	$\chi^\dagger\chi G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$	$i\alpha_s/4M_*^2$
R1	$\chi^2\bar{q}q$	$m_q/2M_*^2$
R2	$\chi^2\bar{q}\gamma^5q$	$im_q/2M_*^2$
R3	$\chi^2 G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu}$	$\alpha_s/8M_*^2$
R4	$\chi^2 G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$	$i\alpha_s/8M_*^2$

Goodman et al  
arXiv:1008.1783



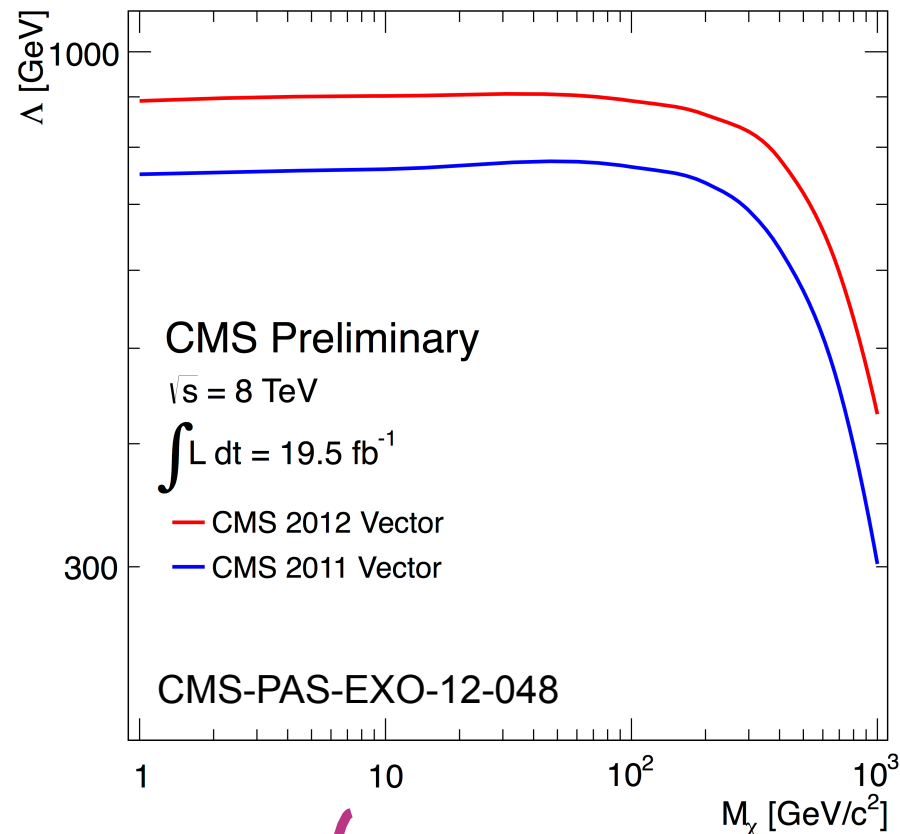
# Advantage of EFT approach

- Straightforward to constrain  $\Lambda$  (or  $M_\star$ ) for various operators

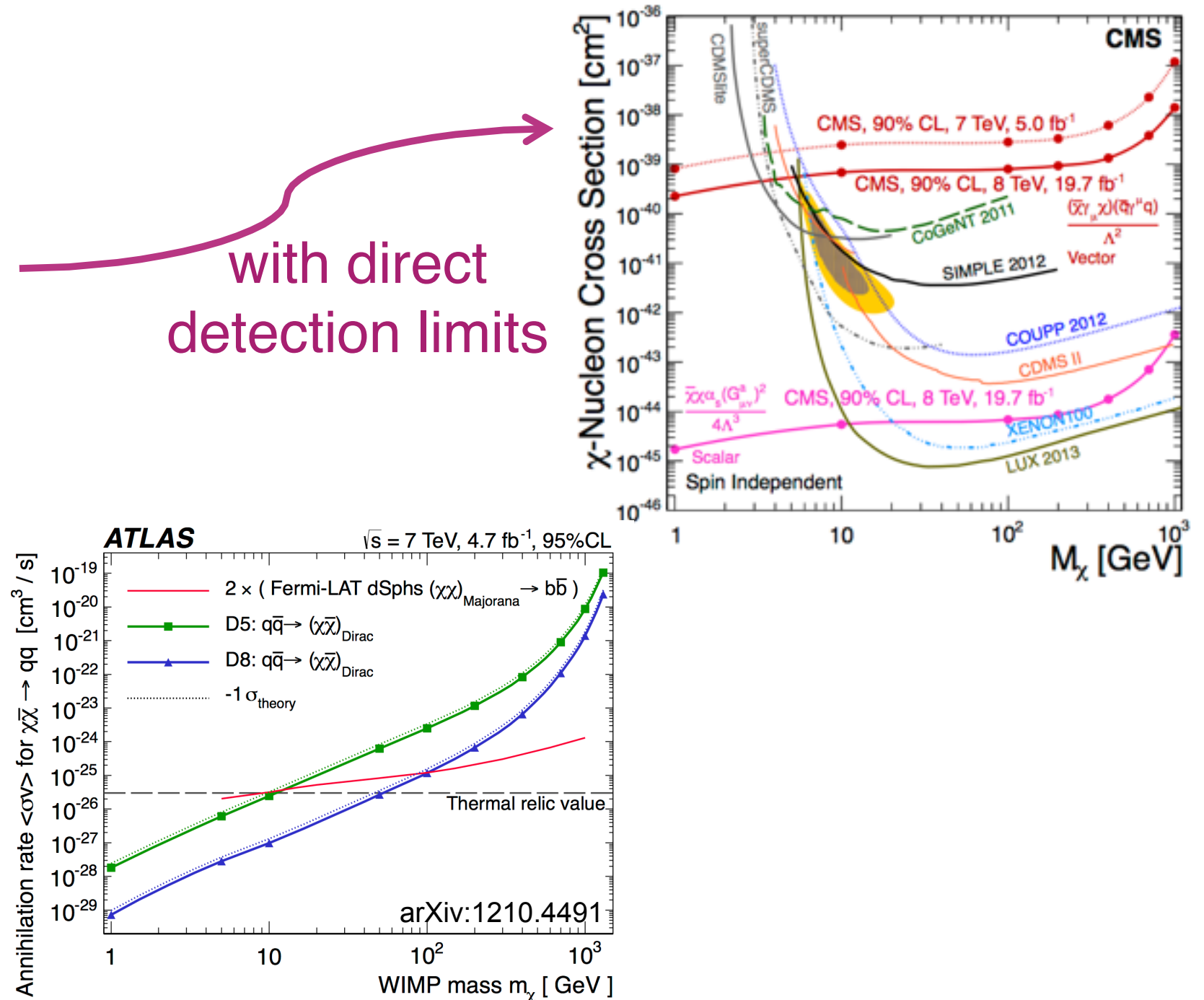


# Advantage of EFT approach

- Comparison with other dark matter searches is straightforward



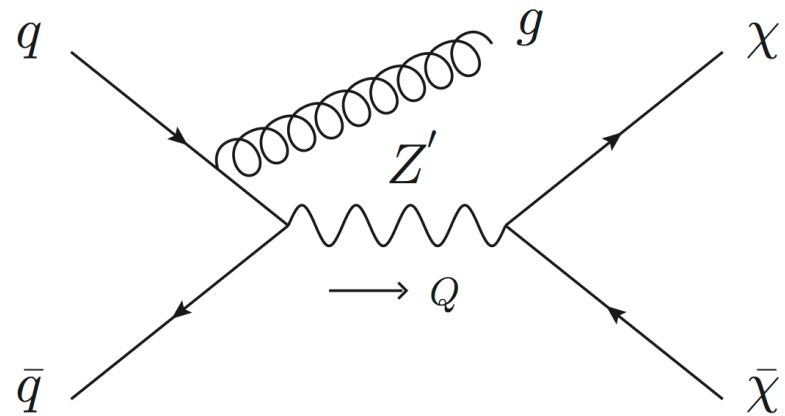
with indirect  
detection limits





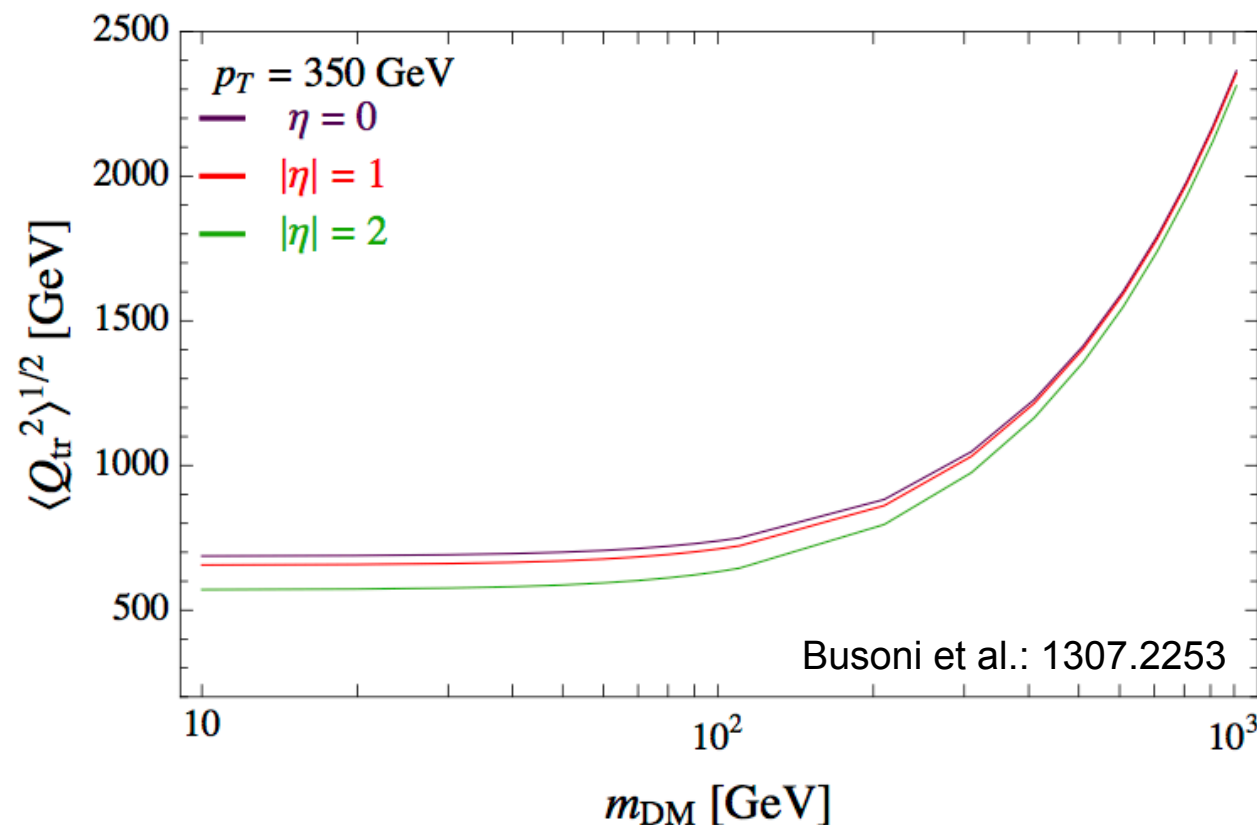
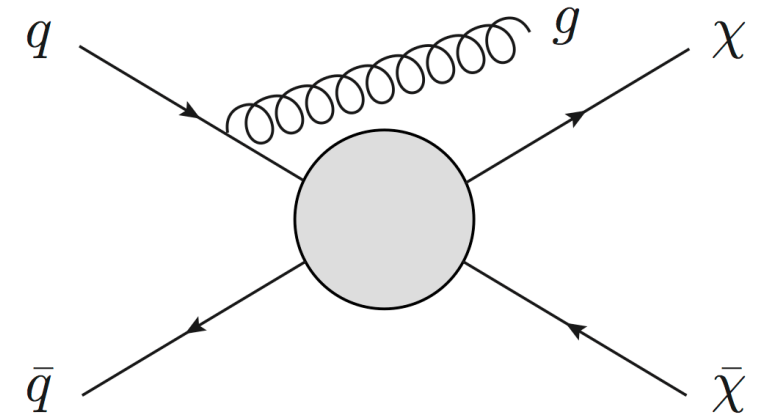
# Disadvantage of EFT approach

- Is it valid...?



Good approximation if

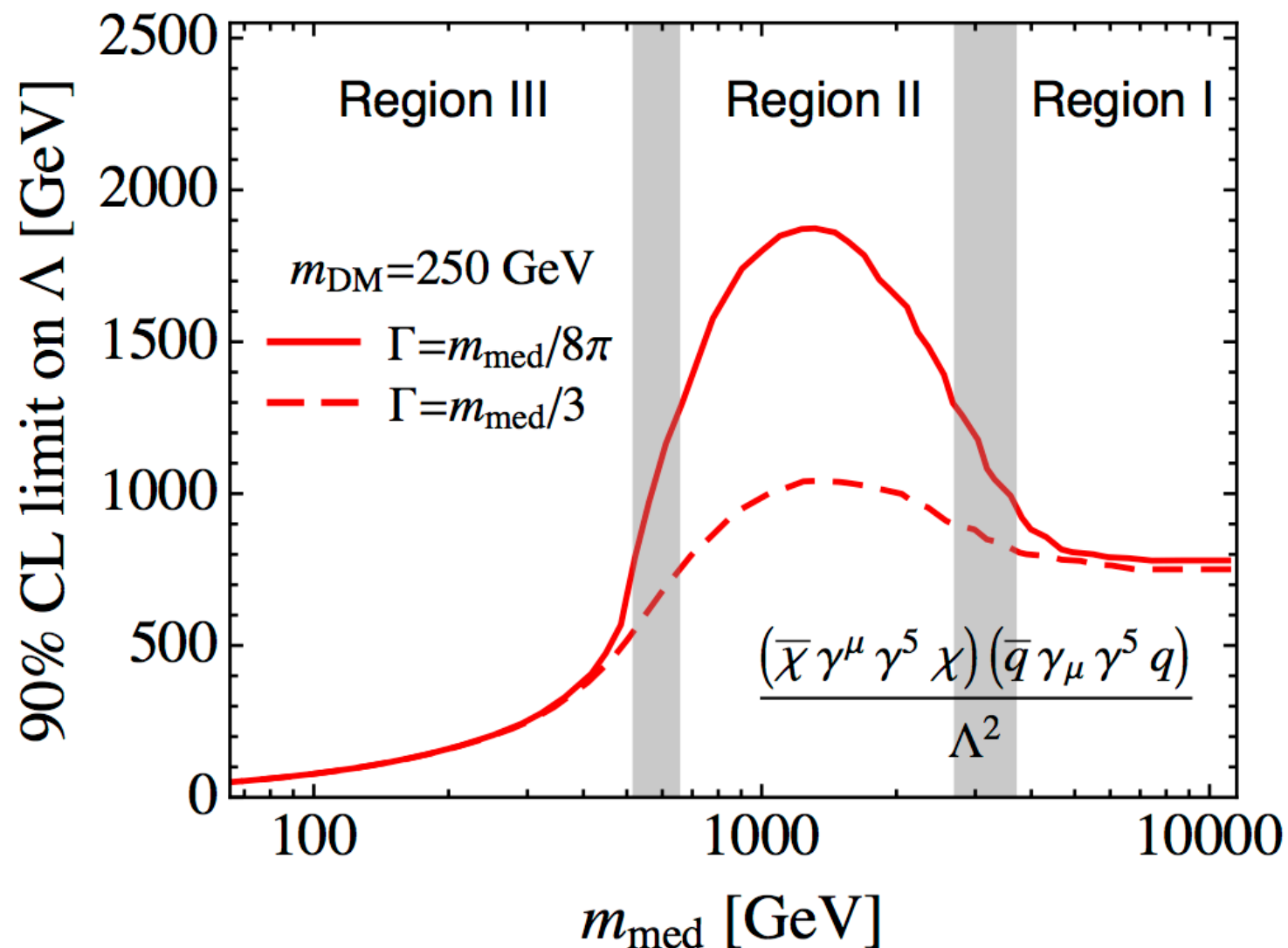
$$M_{Z'} \gg Q$$



$$M_{Z'} \gtrsim \text{TeV}$$

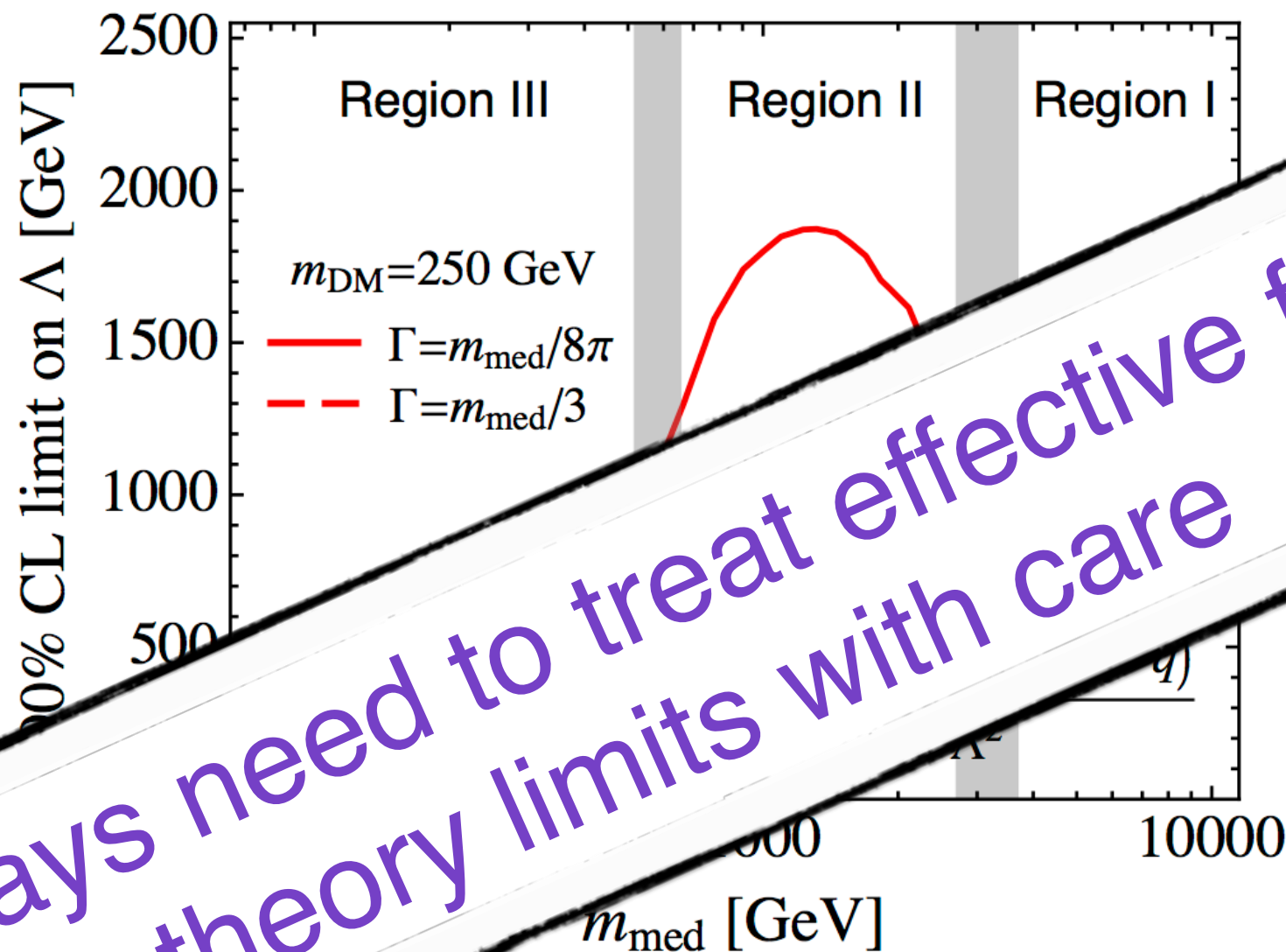
# EFT validity: what goes wrong?

Buchmüller,  
Dolan, CM  
arXiv:1308.6799



- Region I: EFT limit is valid
- Region II: EFT limit is too weak (no s-channel enhancement)
- Region III: EFT limit is too strong (no off-shell suppression)

# EFT validity: what goes wrong?

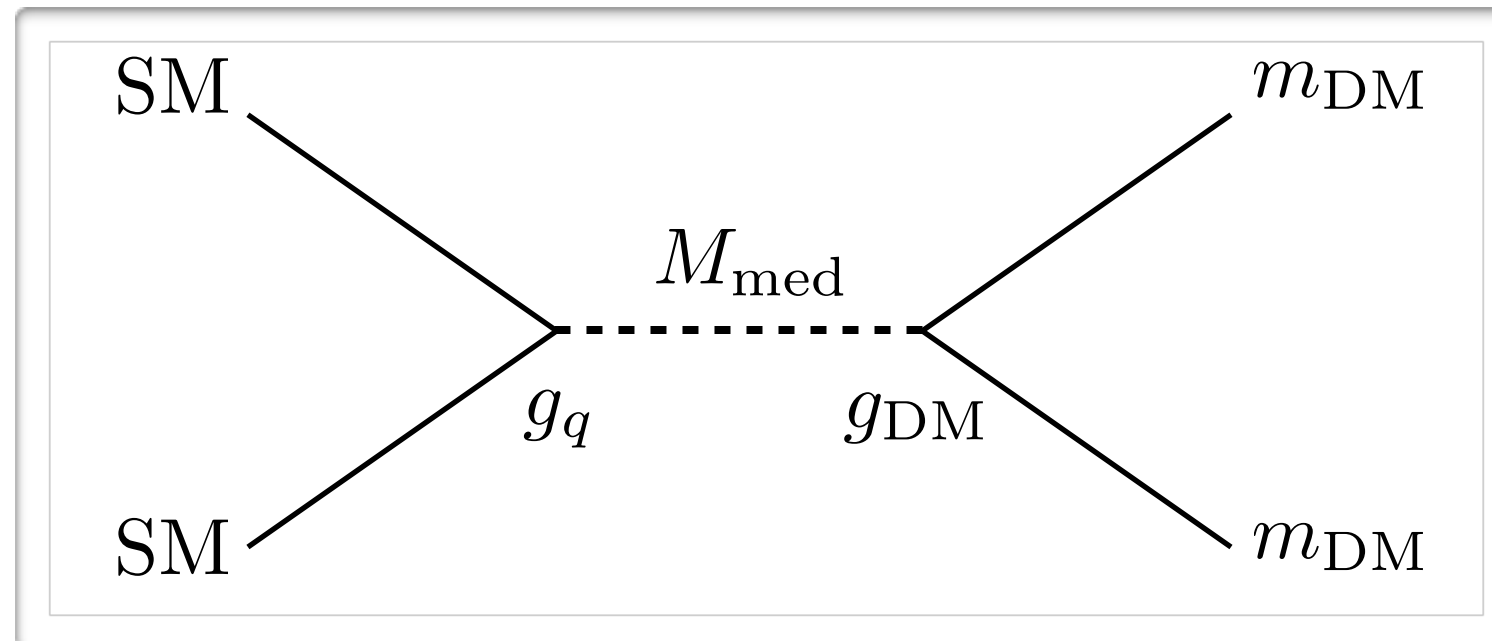


- Region I: EFT limit is valid
- Region II: EFT limit is too weak (no s-channel enhancement)
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## 2. Simplified models

- Characterise collider dark matter production with a small number of variables

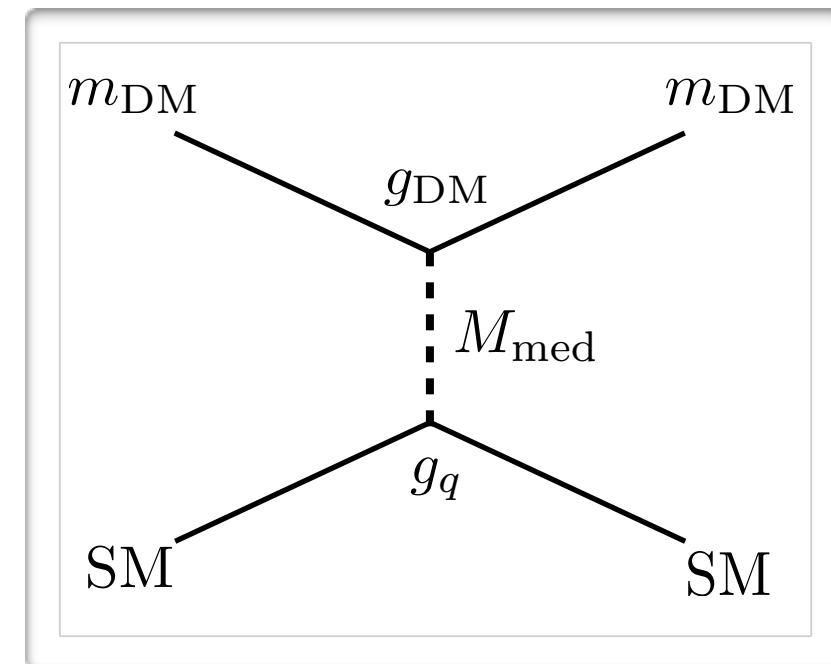
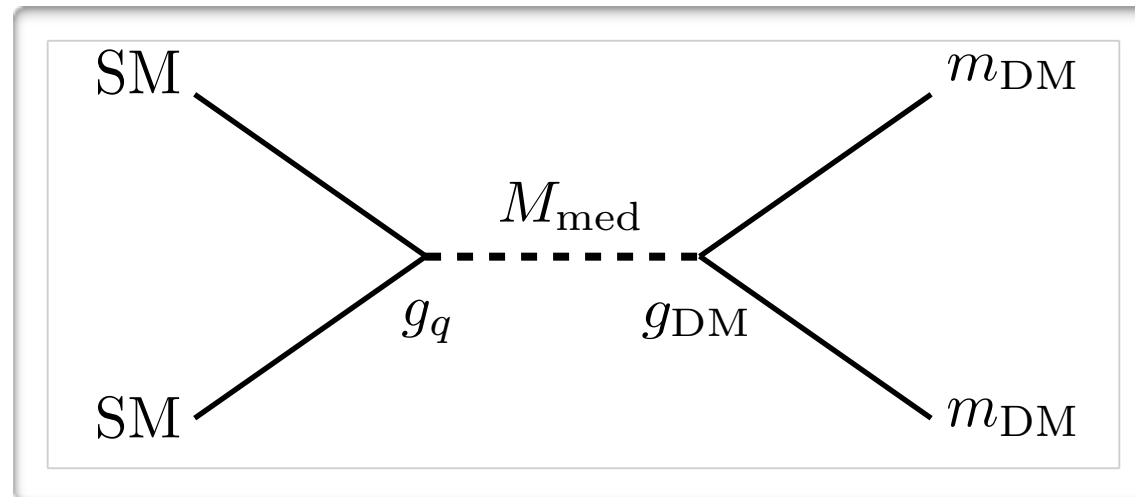


Minimum 4 parameters		Mediators		Dark matter	
$m_{\text{DM}}$	$M_{\text{med}}$	Vector	Axial-Vector	Dirac	Complex scalar
$g_q$	$g_\chi$	Scalar	Pseudo-scalar	Majorana	Real scalar

# 2. Simplified models

Buchmüller, Dolan,  
Malik, CM  
arXiv:1407.8257

- Same parameters also characterise direct searches



## Minimum 4 parameters

$m_{\text{DM}}$	$M_{\text{med}}$
$g_q$	$g_\chi$

## Mediators

Vector	Axial-Vector
Scalar	Pseudo-scalar

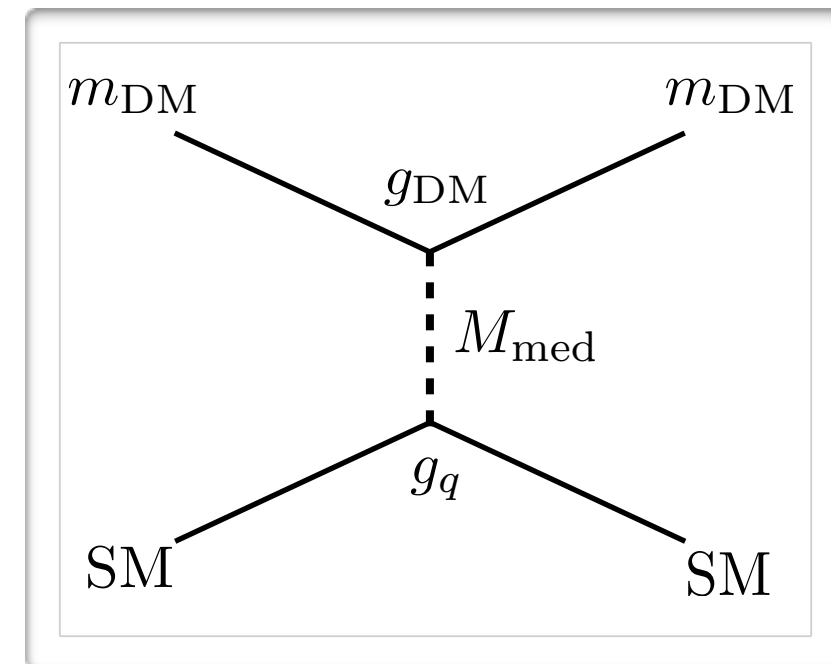
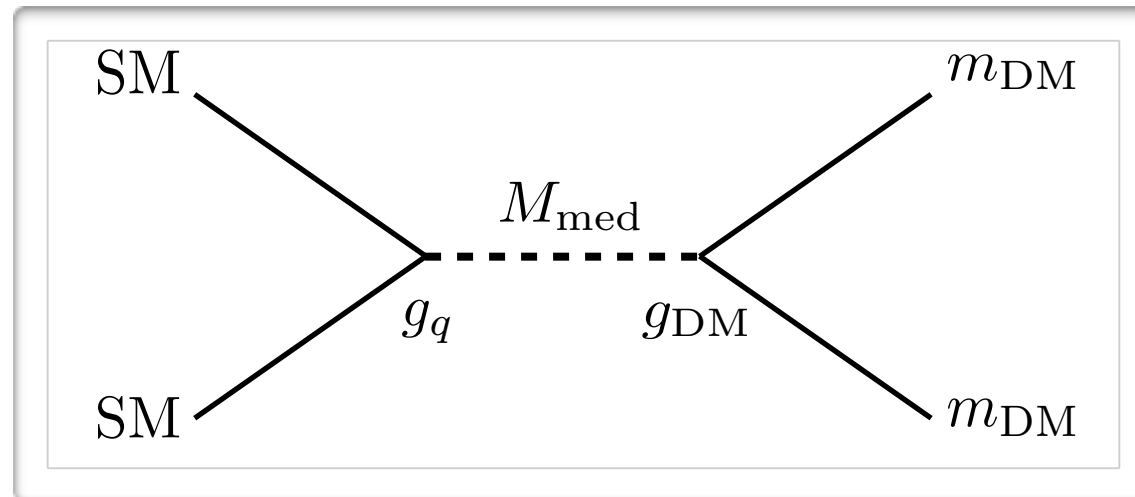
## Dark matter

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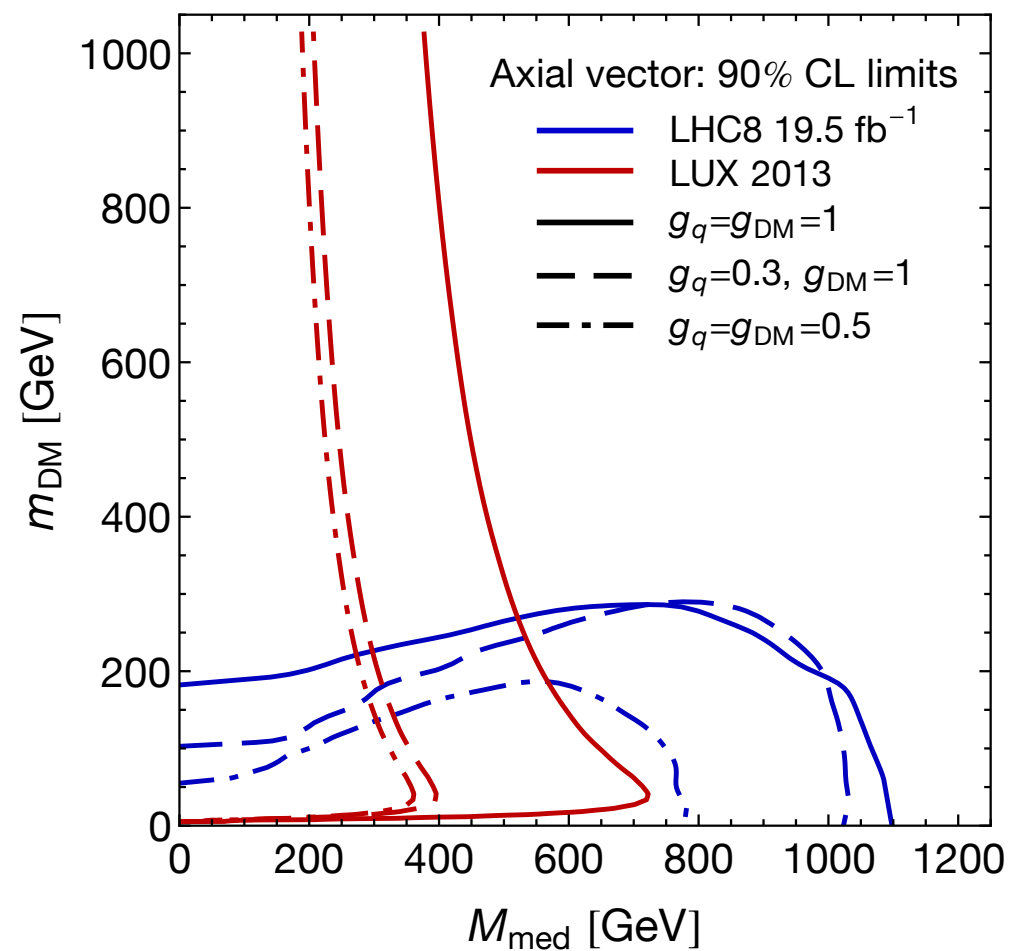
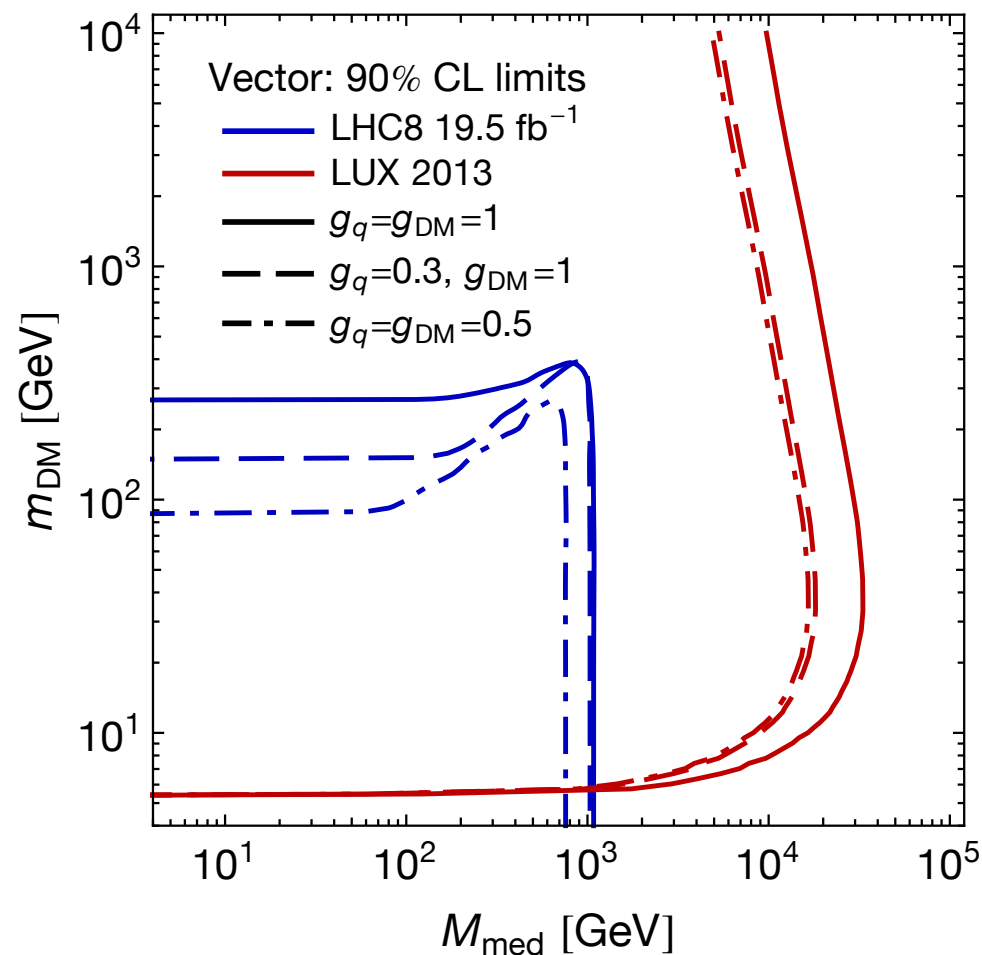
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# Slicing through parameter space

- We need to fix two parameters to show results:

$m_{\text{DM}}$	$g_\chi$
$M_{\text{med}}$	$g_q$

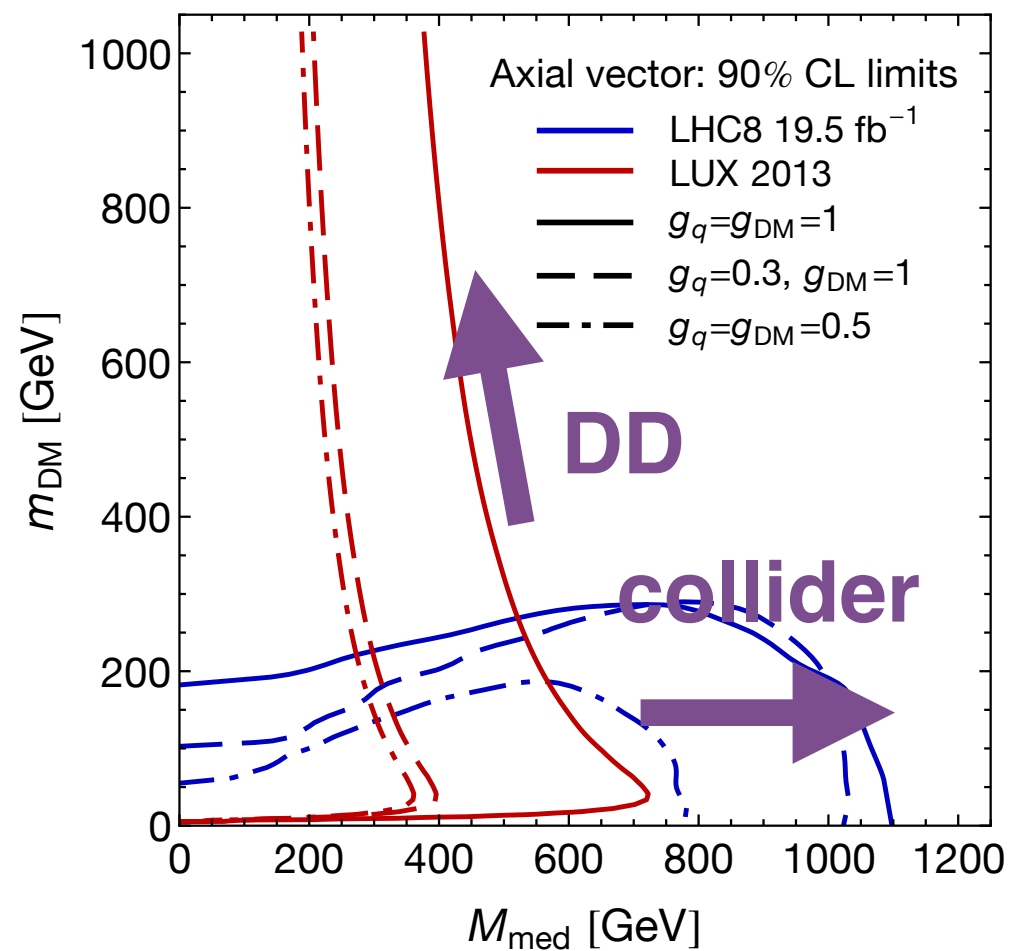
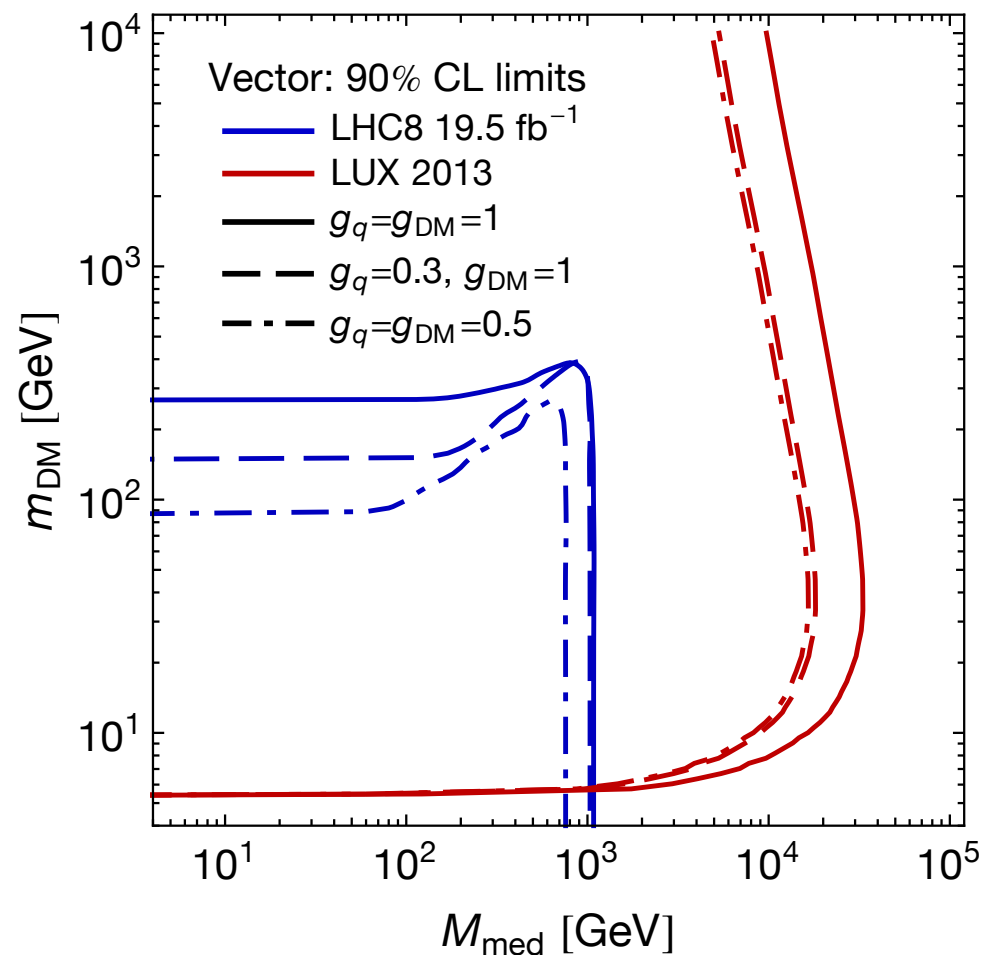


- Limits valid for all dark matter and mediator masses
- Includes resonant enhancement/off-shell suppression effects

# Slicing through parameter space

- We need to fix two parameters to show results:

$m_{\text{DM}}$	$g_\chi$
$M_{\text{med}}$	$g_q$

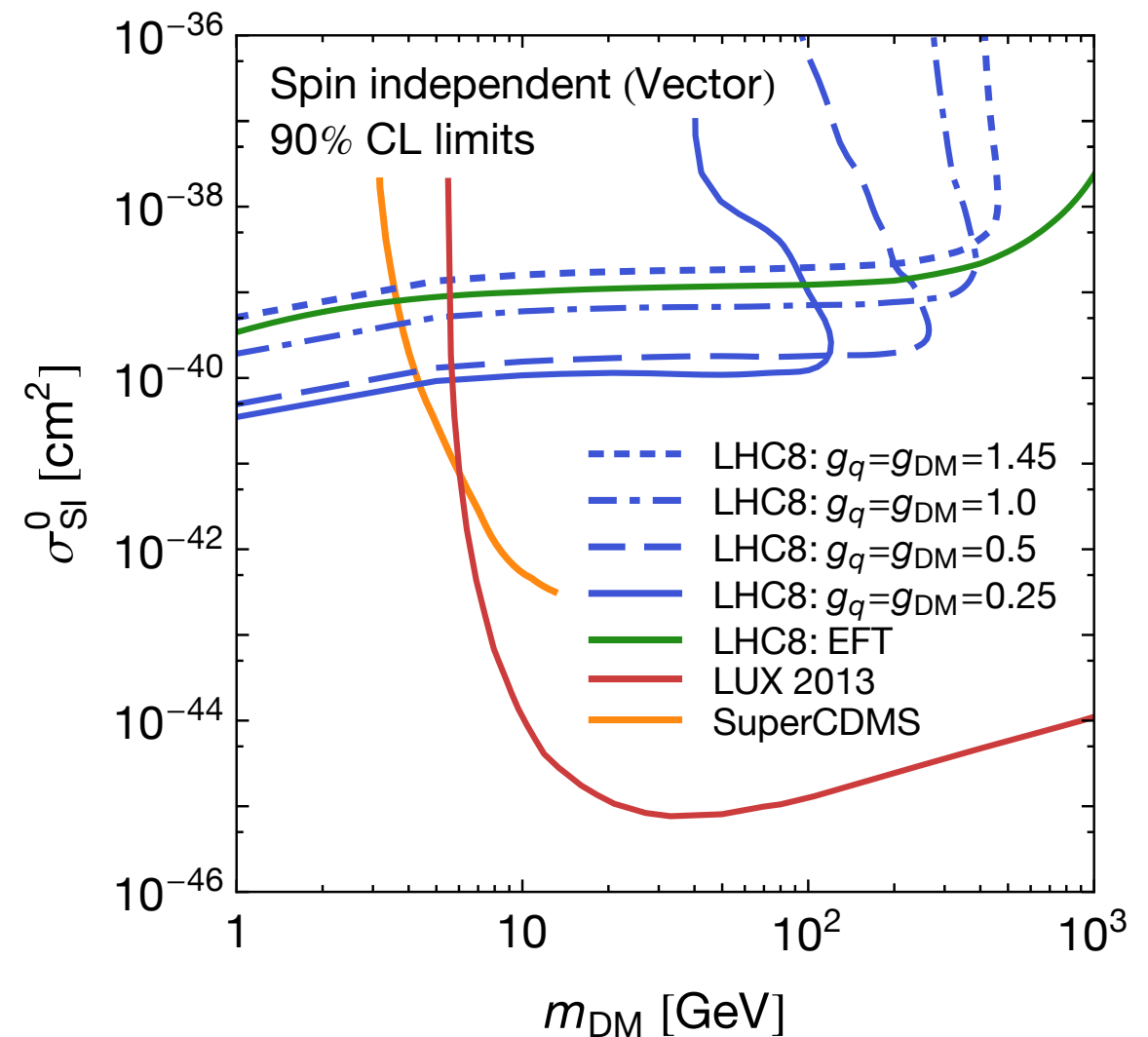
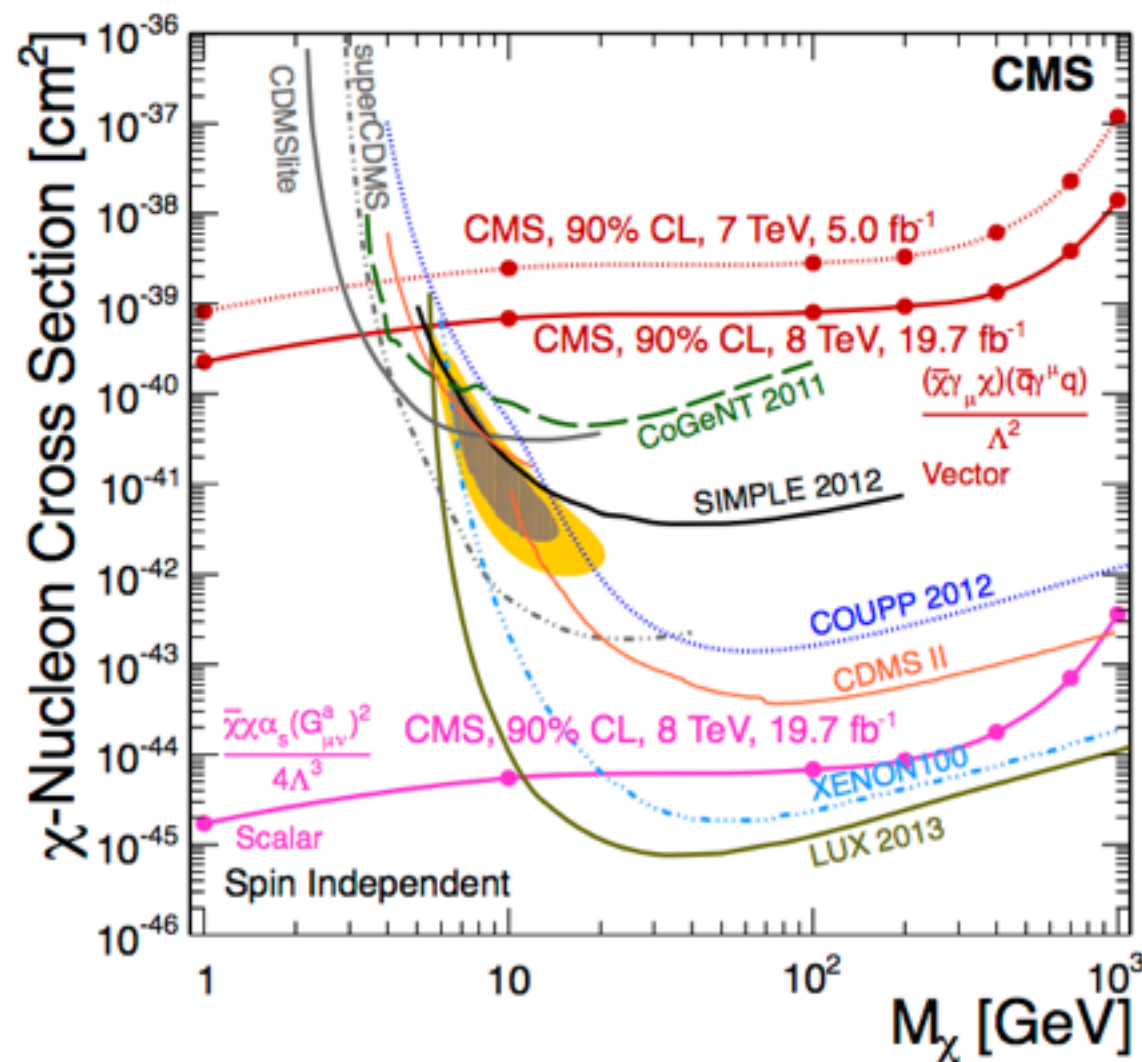


- Better elucidation of the complementarity between collider and direct searches

# Comparison with direct detection

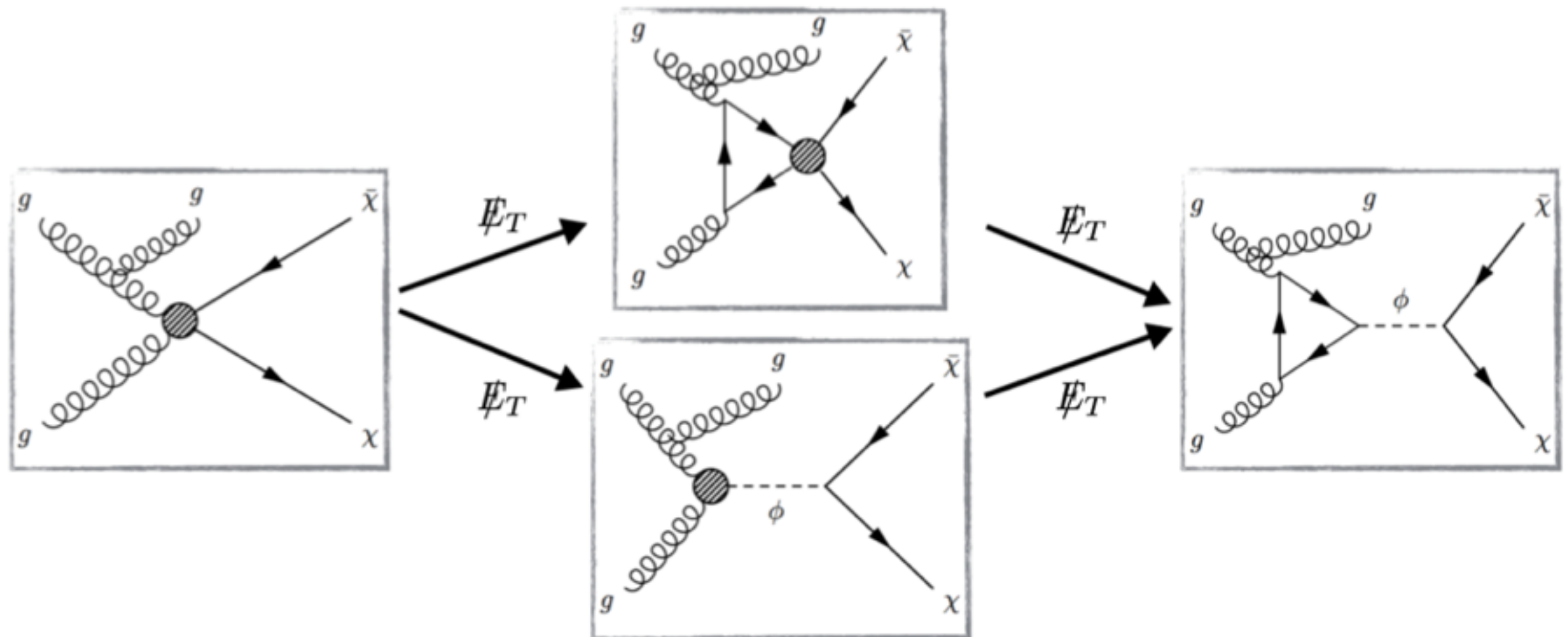
Malik, CM et al  
arXiv:1409.4075

- EFT limit overestimates at high mass/underestimates at low mass





- Extendable to other mediators

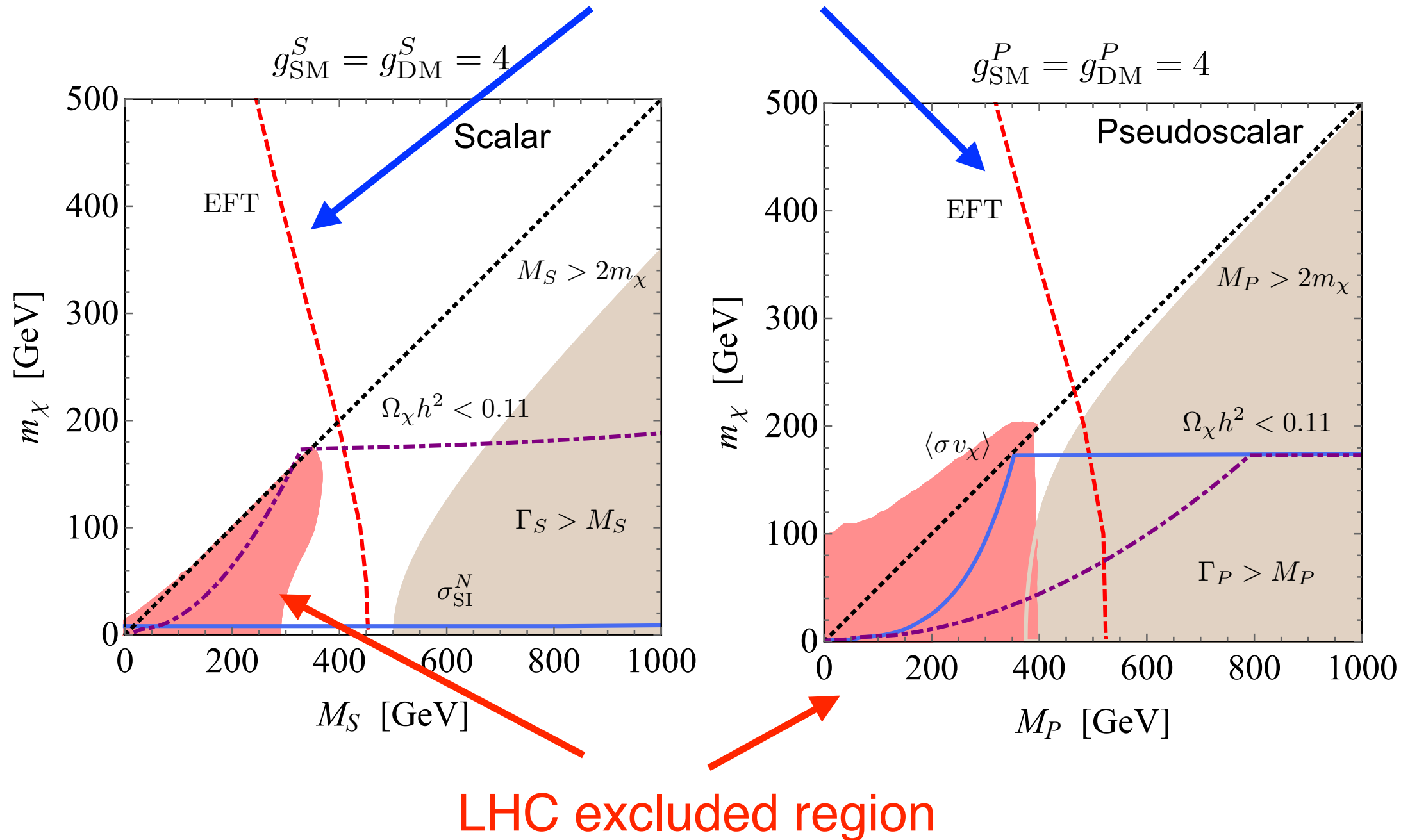


- Additional complexity resolving both the top-loop and mediator

# Scalar/Pseudoscalar

Haisch, Re  
arXiv:1503.00691

Exclusion limit if you naively used the EFT limit

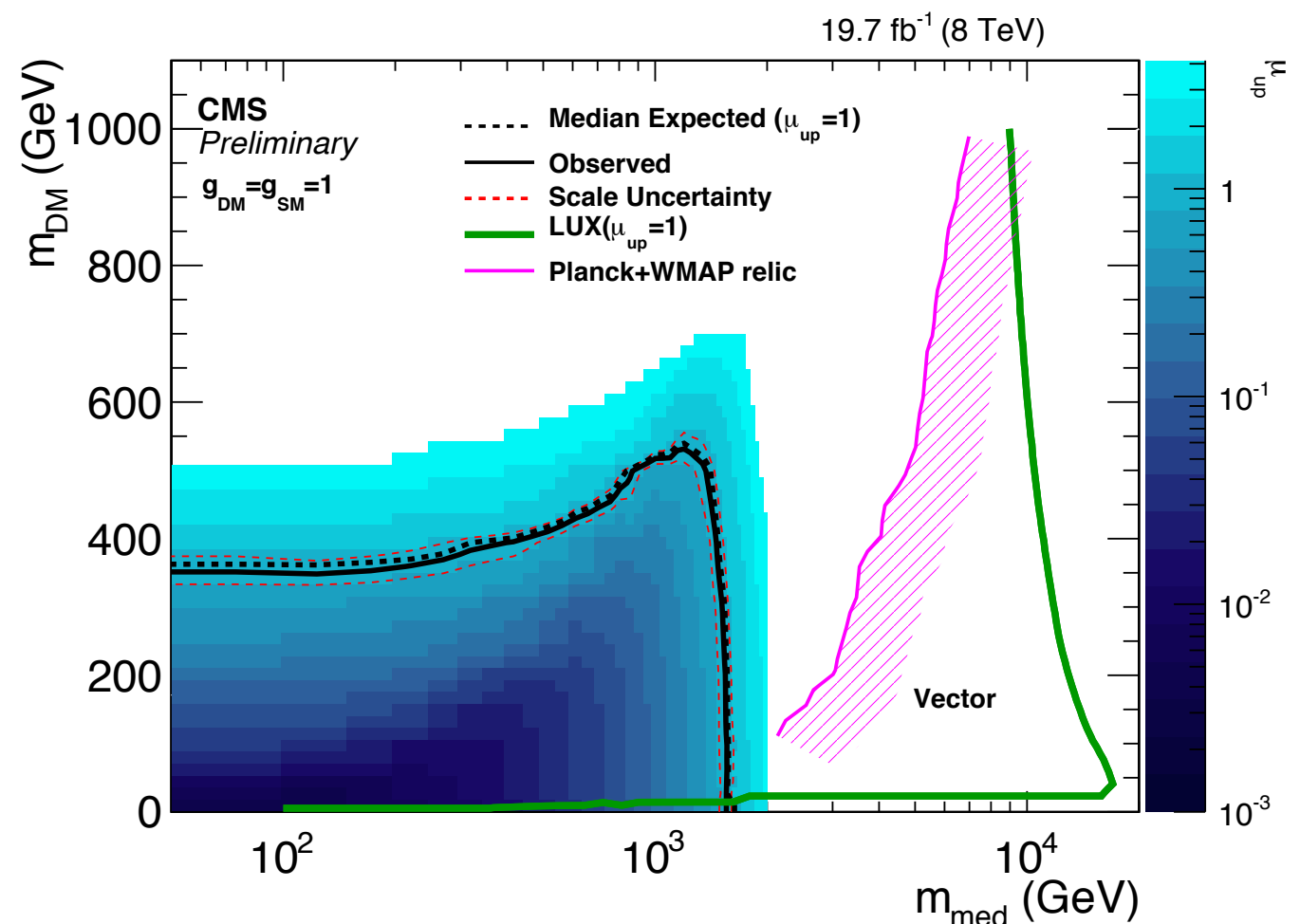


# Future recommendations

- ATLAS and CMS formed a working group to reach a consensus on which approach to take going forward  
[arXiv:1507.00966](https://arxiv.org/abs/1507.00966)

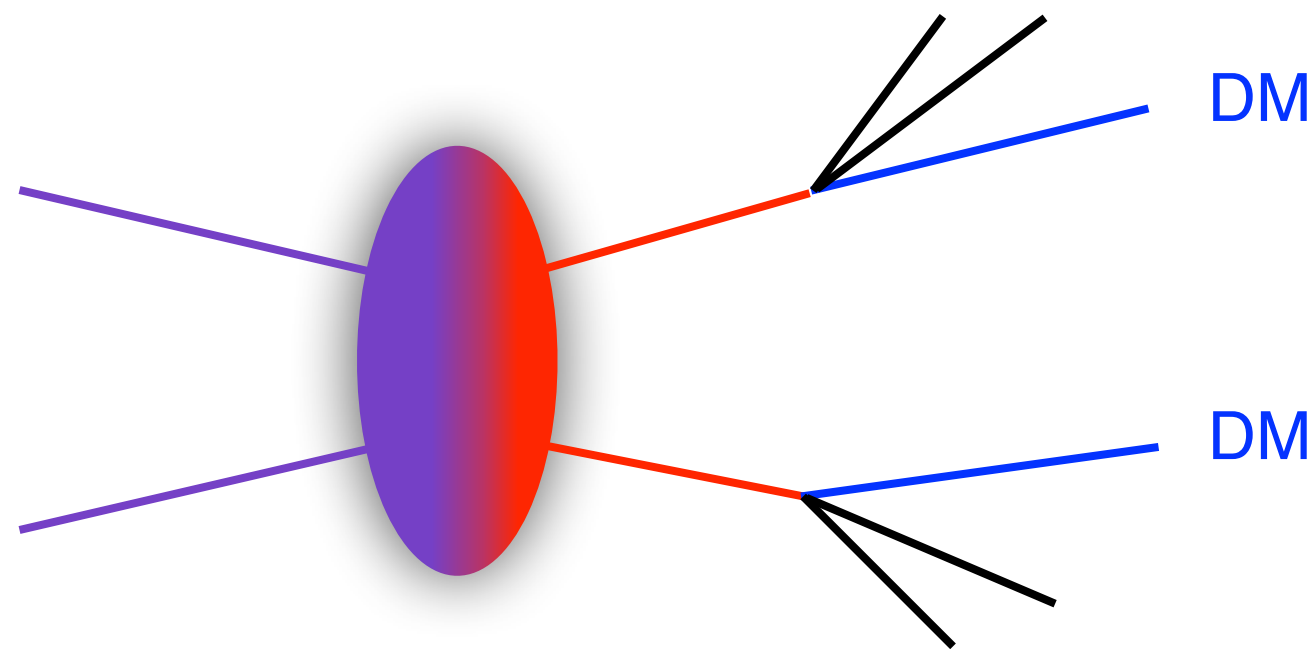
Use simplified models when possible - will also still see some EFT results for certain benchmark models

CMS have shown first results in the simplified model framework  
CMS-EXO-12-055-pas





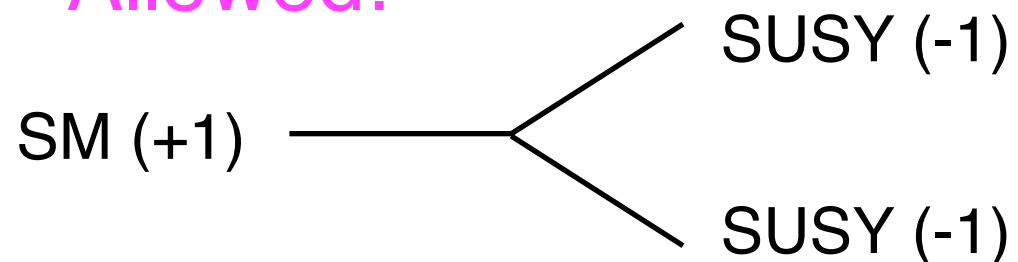
# *Dark matter produced in cascade decays*



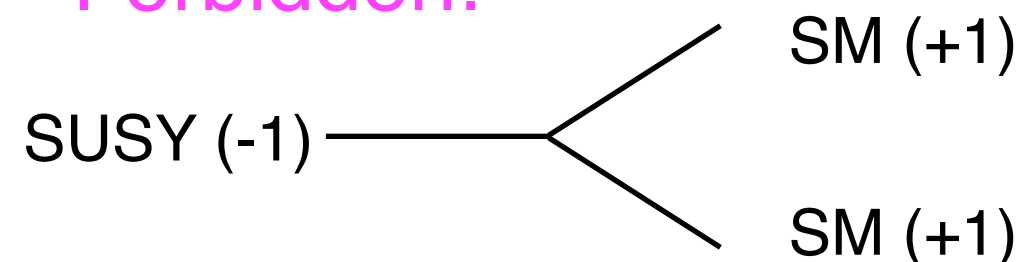
# SUSY: searching for decay chains

- SUSY has R-parity: {SM: R-parity +1, SUSY: R-parity -1}

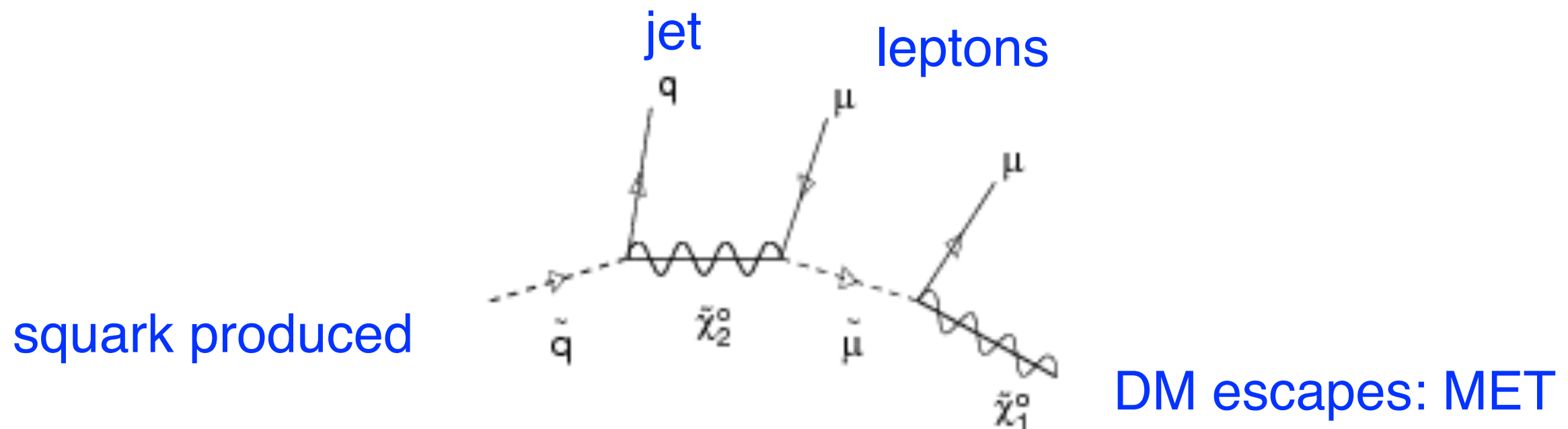
Allowed:



Forbidden:

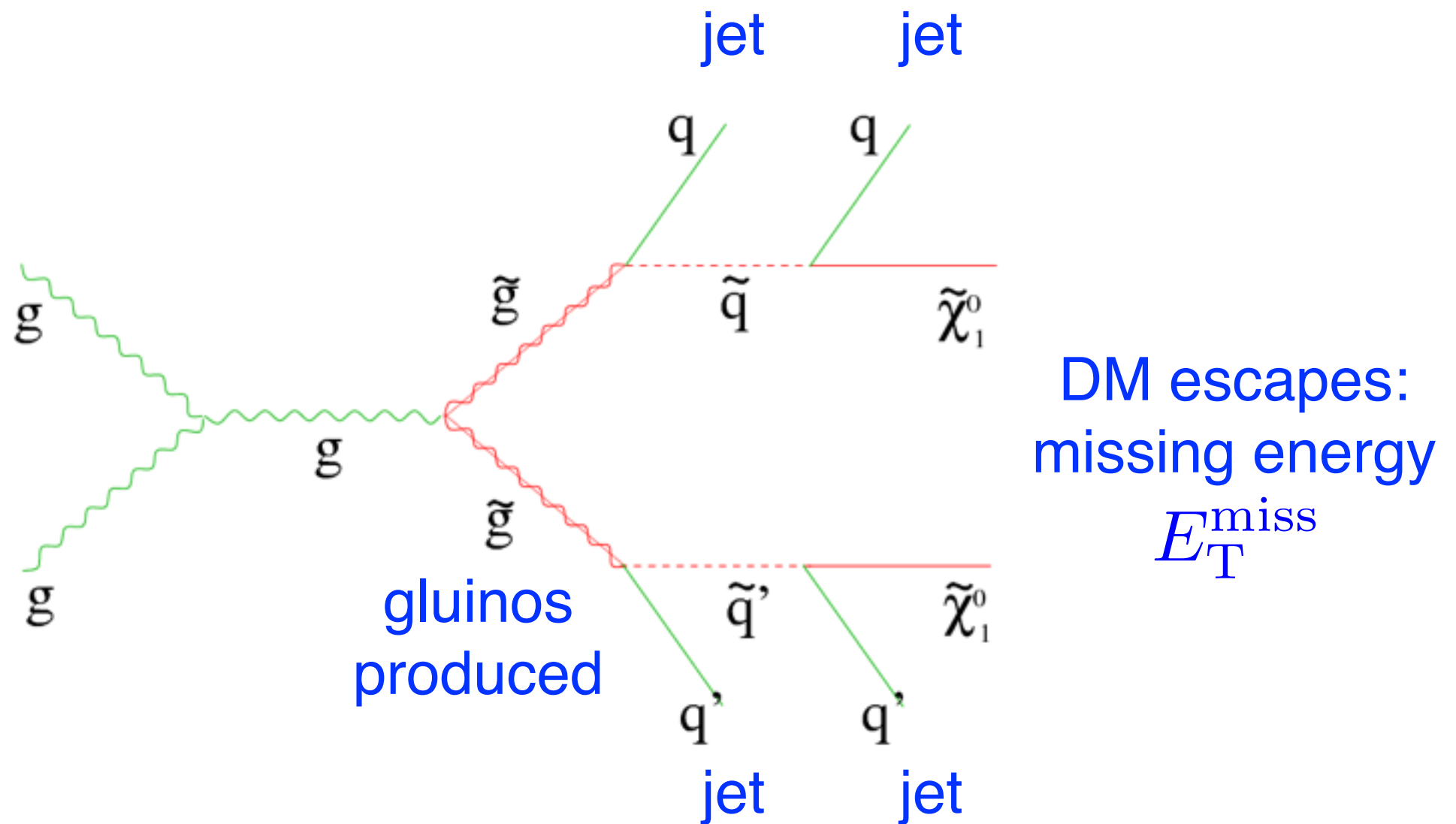


- If a heavier SUSY particle is produced, can have long decay chains terminating in the lightest supersymmetric particle



# SUSY: searches

- Basic idea: always searching for jets + leptons + missing energy



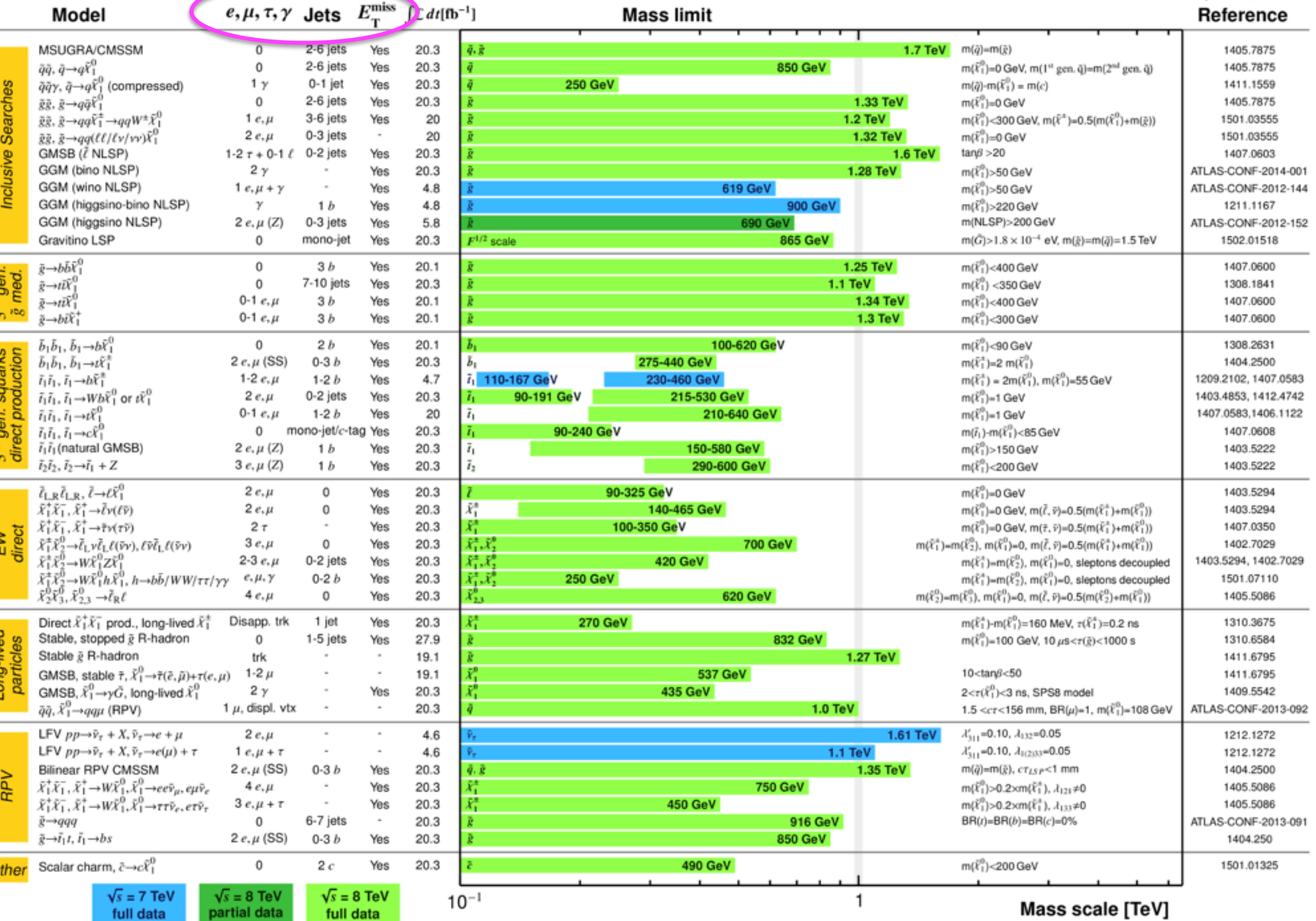


# ATLAS SUSY Searches\* - 95% CL Lower Limits

Status: Feb 2015

ATLAS Preliminary

$\sqrt{s} = 7, 8 \text{ TeV}$



\*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown. All limits quoted are observed minus 1 $\sigma$  theoretical signal cross section uncertainty.

# Summary

- Exciting times for dark matter searches at the LHC
- There is lots of activity from the collaborations
- Generic signature is missing transverse energy
- Interpreting searches outside SUSY framework is challenging
- ATLAS/CMS will use more simplified models going forward

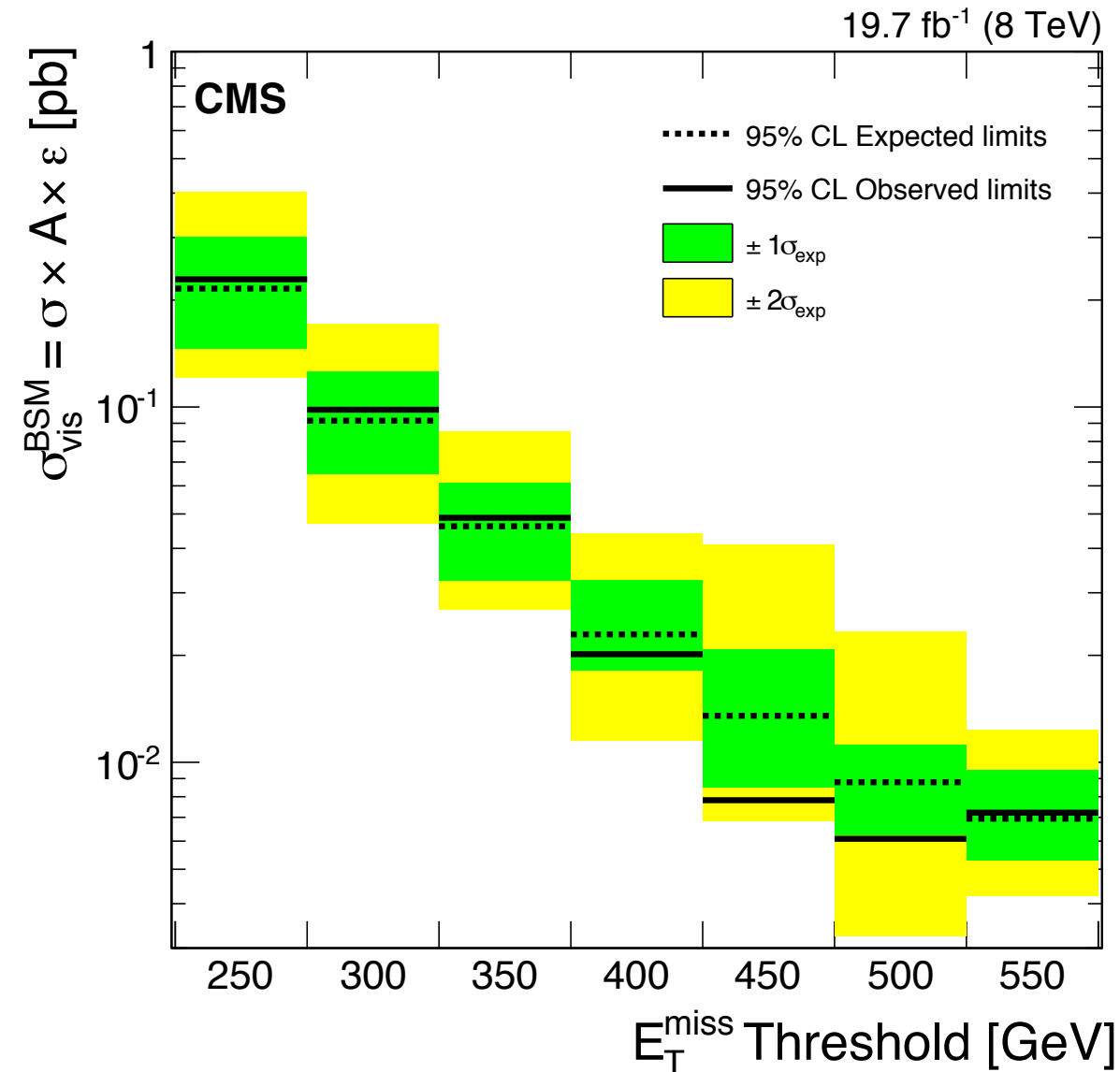
Thank you

# Backup



# True model independent limit

- What the experiments constrain:  
cross-section x acceptance x efficiency



Useful if I want to constrain my theory but not particularly informative

# Region I: EFT valid

EFT limit applies to a small class of theories

- Large mediator mass:

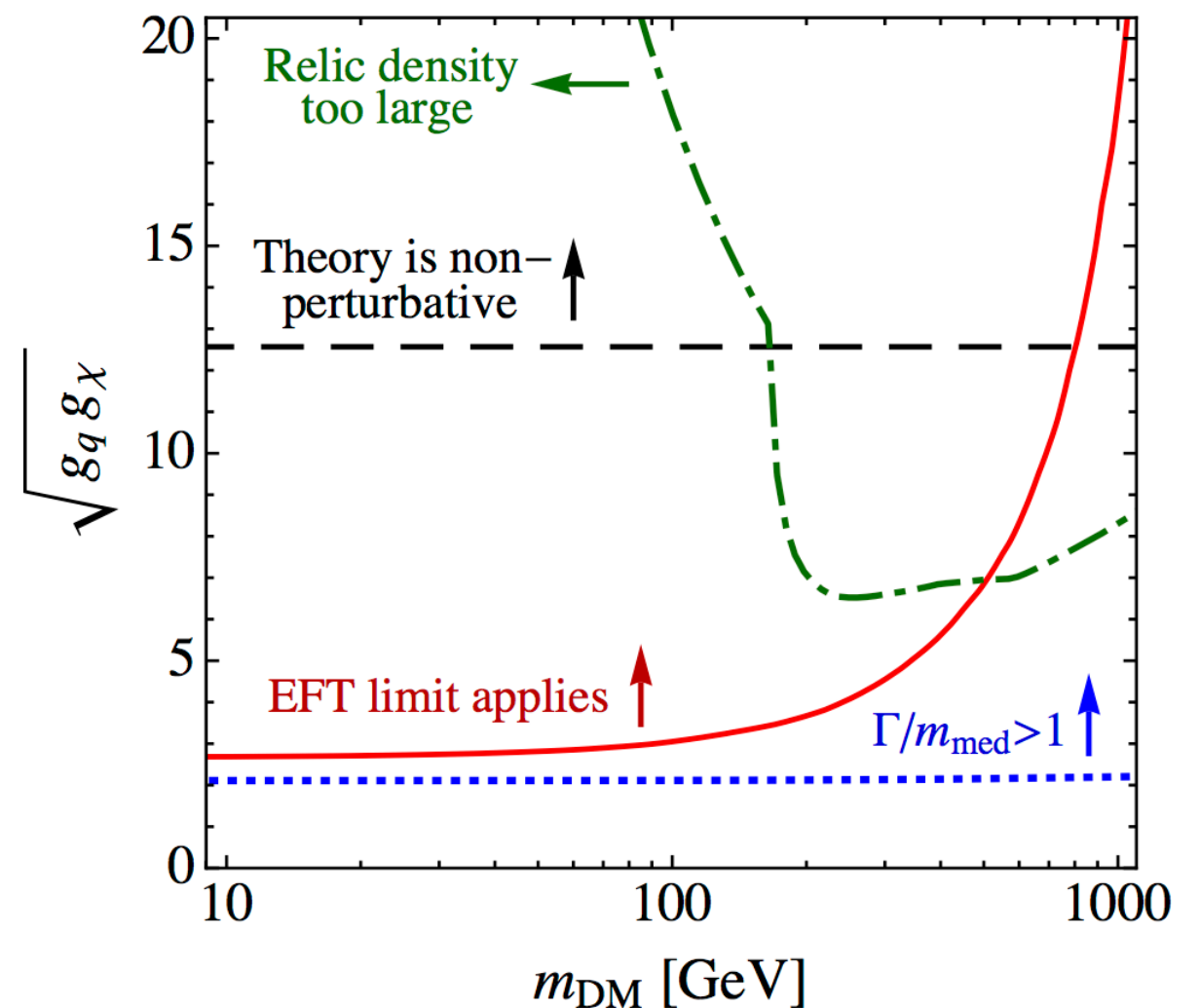
$$m_{\text{med}} \gtrsim 3 \text{ TeV}$$

- Large couplings:

$$\sqrt{g_q g_\chi} = \frac{m_{\text{med}}}{\Lambda}$$

- Large mediator width:

$$\Gamma > m_{\text{med}}$$



# Region II: EFT too weak

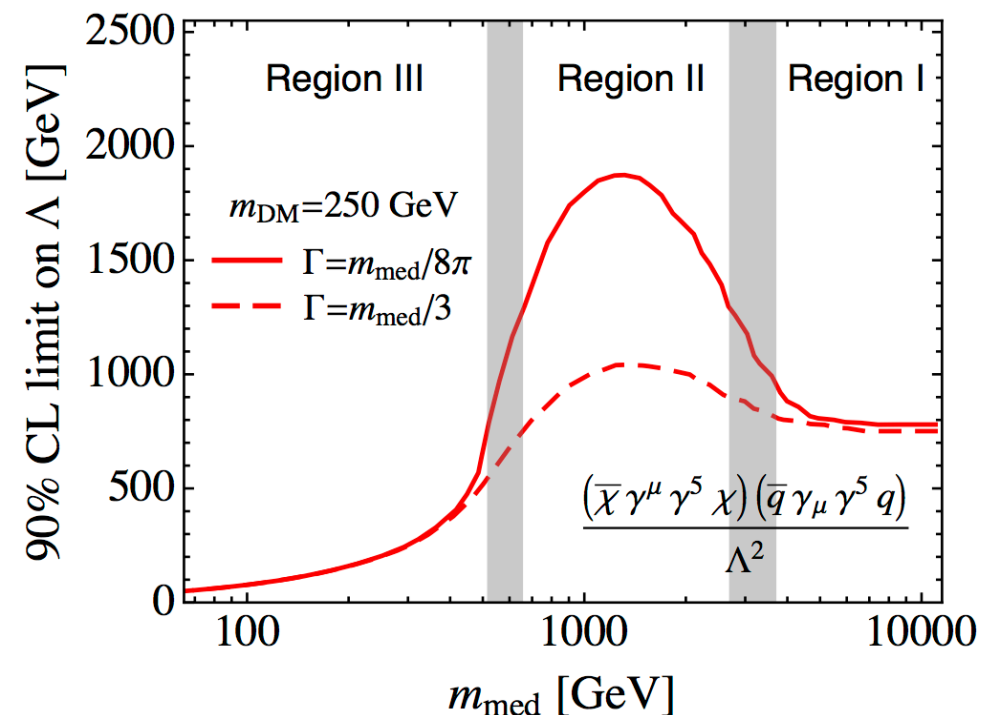
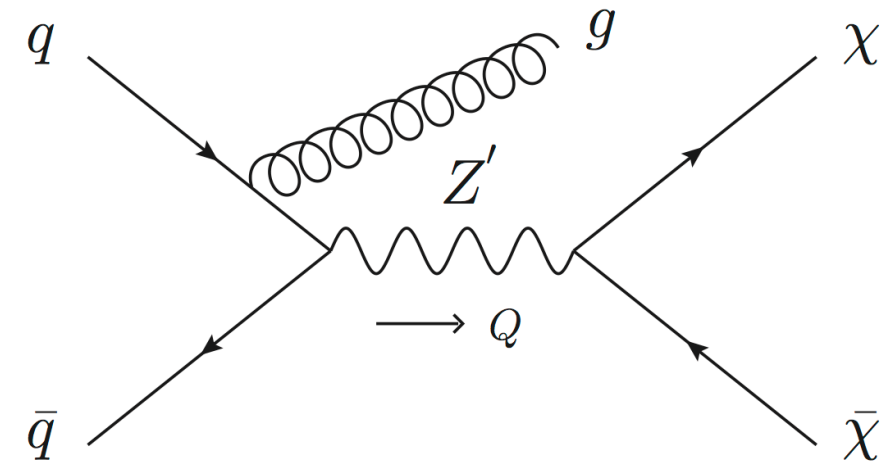
EFT does not account for s-channel resonant enhancement

- Enhanced when

$$m_{\text{med}}^2 \sim 4m_{\text{DM}}^2 + E_{\text{T}}^2$$

- The width plays a crucial role

- Peak height scales as  $\Gamma^{-1/4}$



# Region III: EFT too strong

EFT does not account for off-shell production

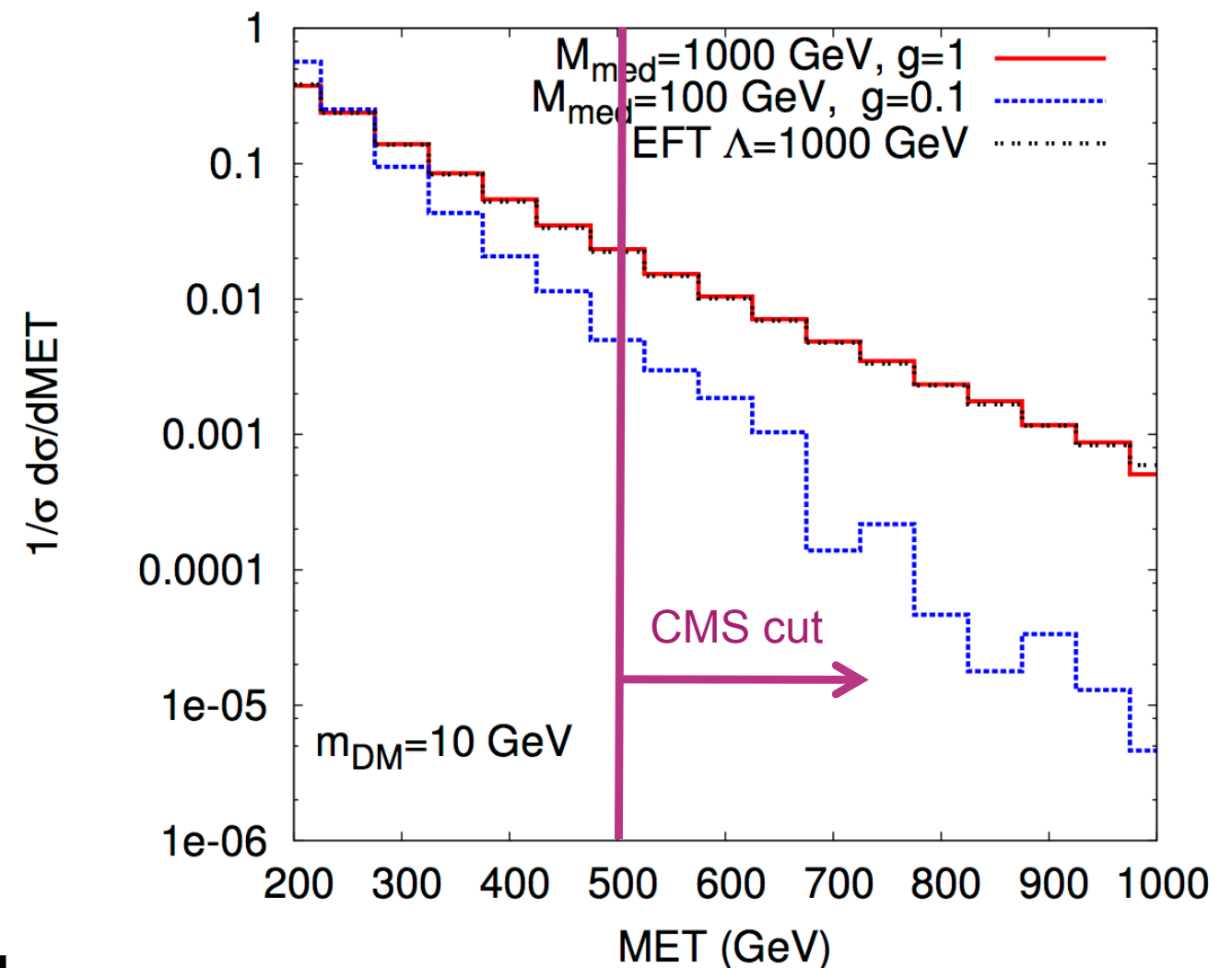
- Light mediator masses

$$m_{\text{med}} < 500 \text{ GeV}$$

- Events with a light mediator are much softer

- EFT limit on  $g$  weaker

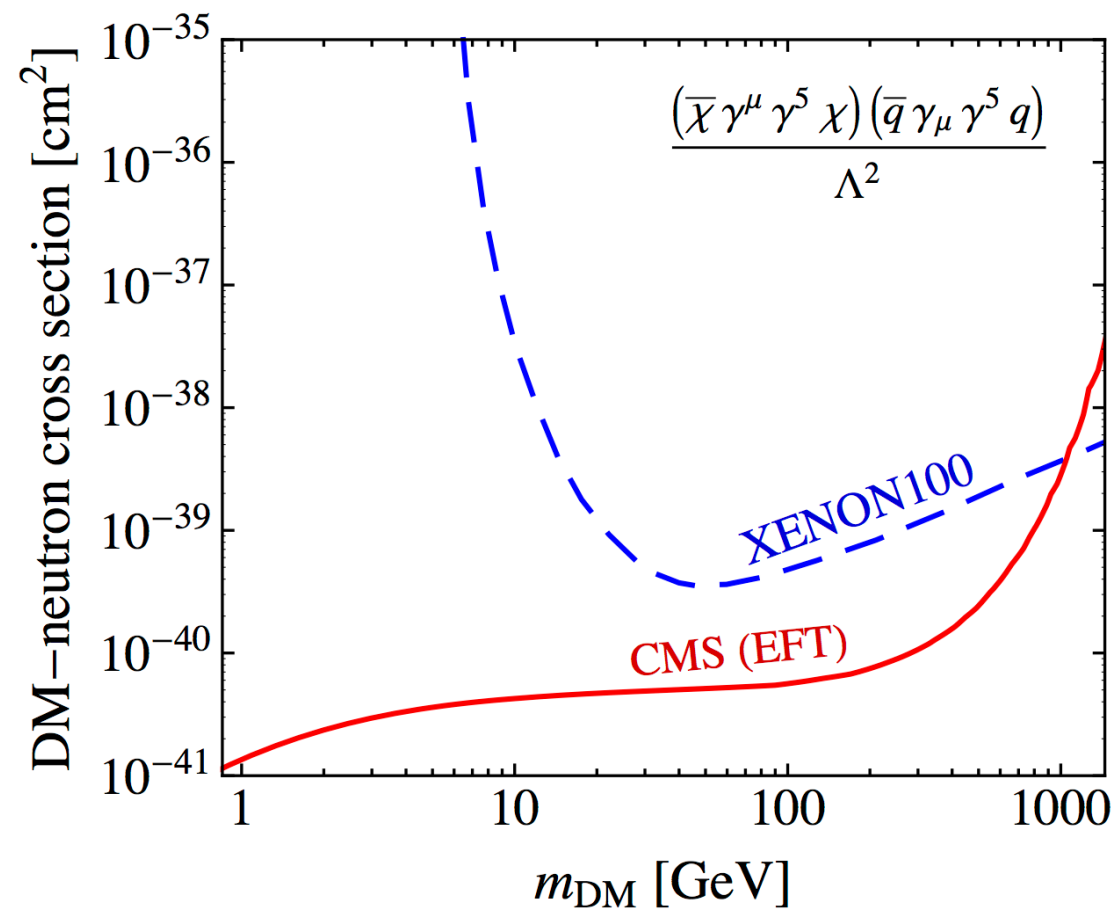
→ limit on  $\Lambda \sim \frac{m_{\text{med}}}{g}$  is strong





# Other problems

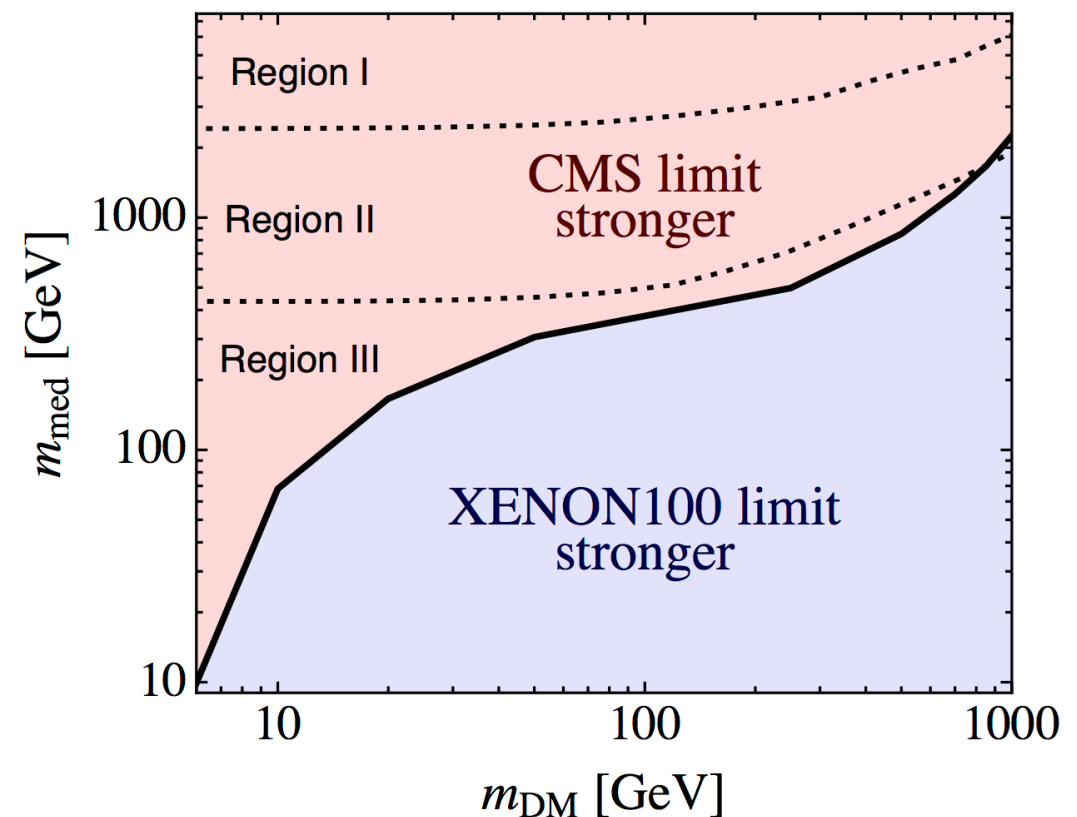
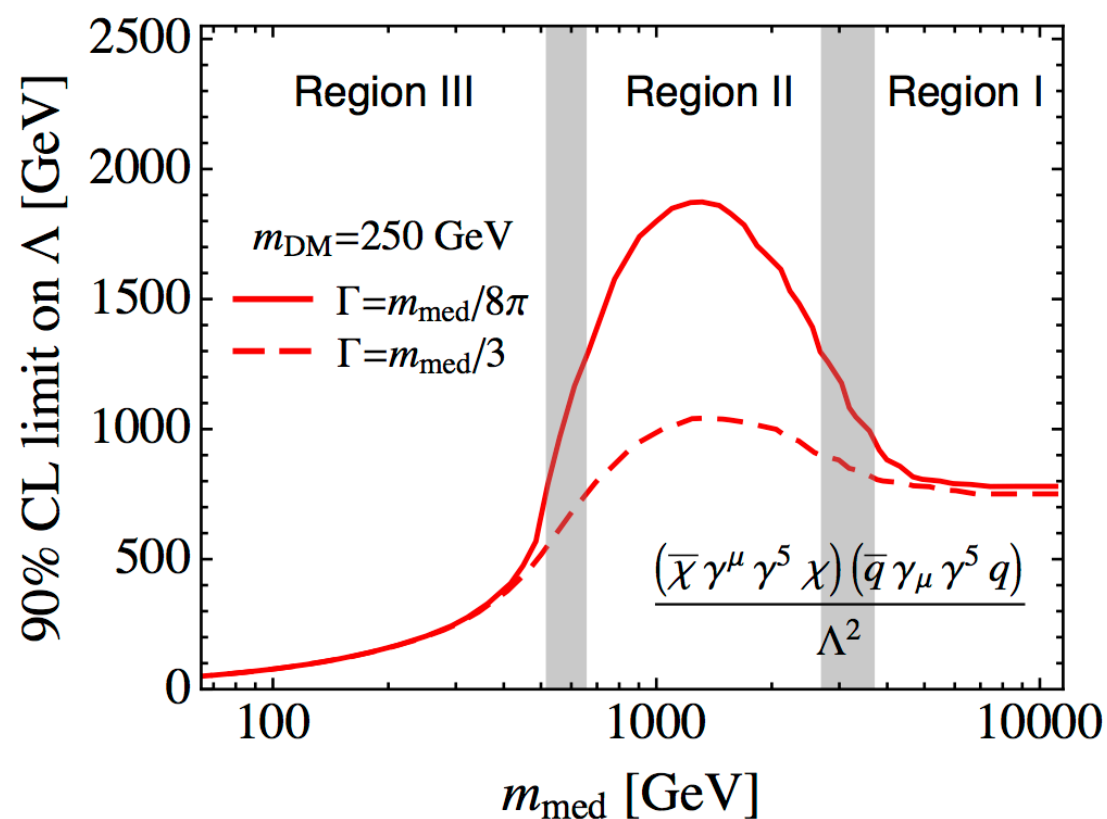
- Comparison with direct detection:



- Naive application of EFT limit gives the impression that the LHC limit is stronger for  $m_{\text{DM}} \lesssim 1 \text{ TeV}$

# Other problems

- Comparison with direct detection:
  - Important to remember dependence on  $m_{\text{med}}$
- Scattering cross section  $\sigma_n \propto \Lambda^{-4}$

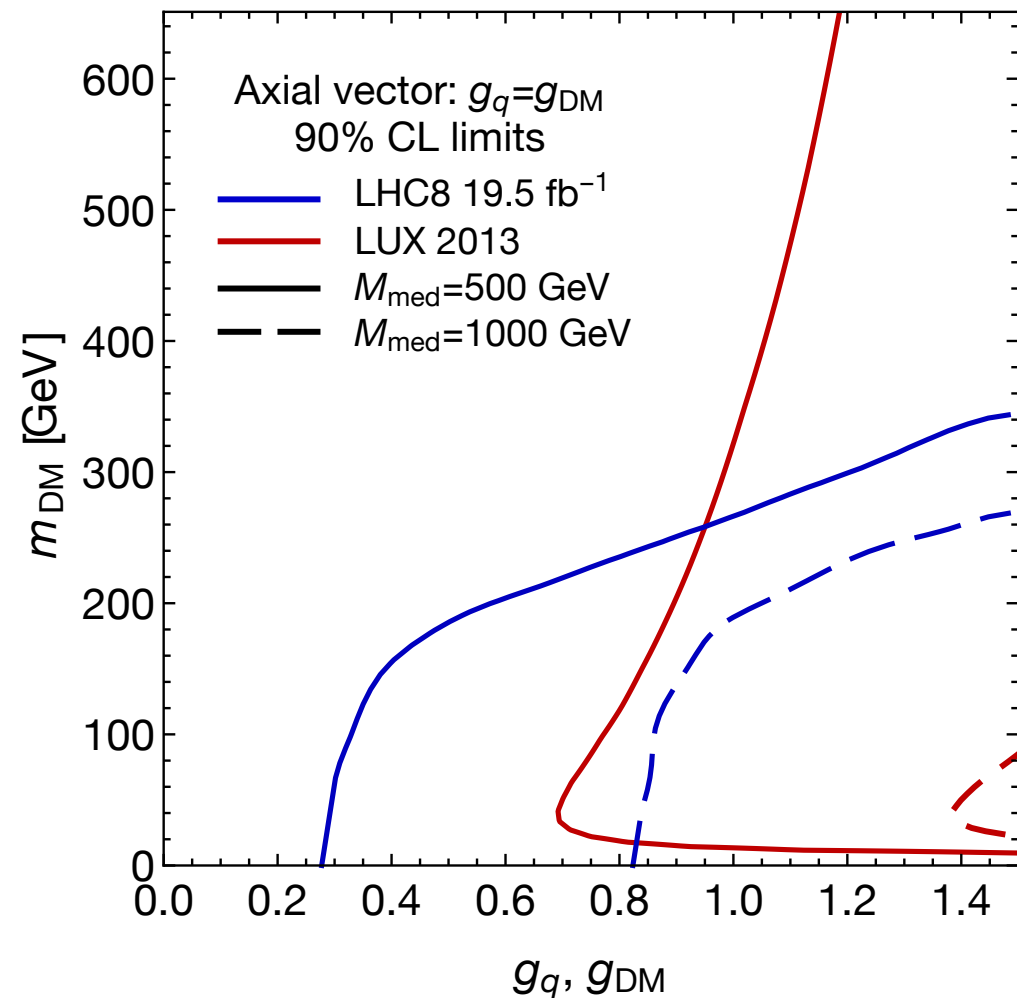
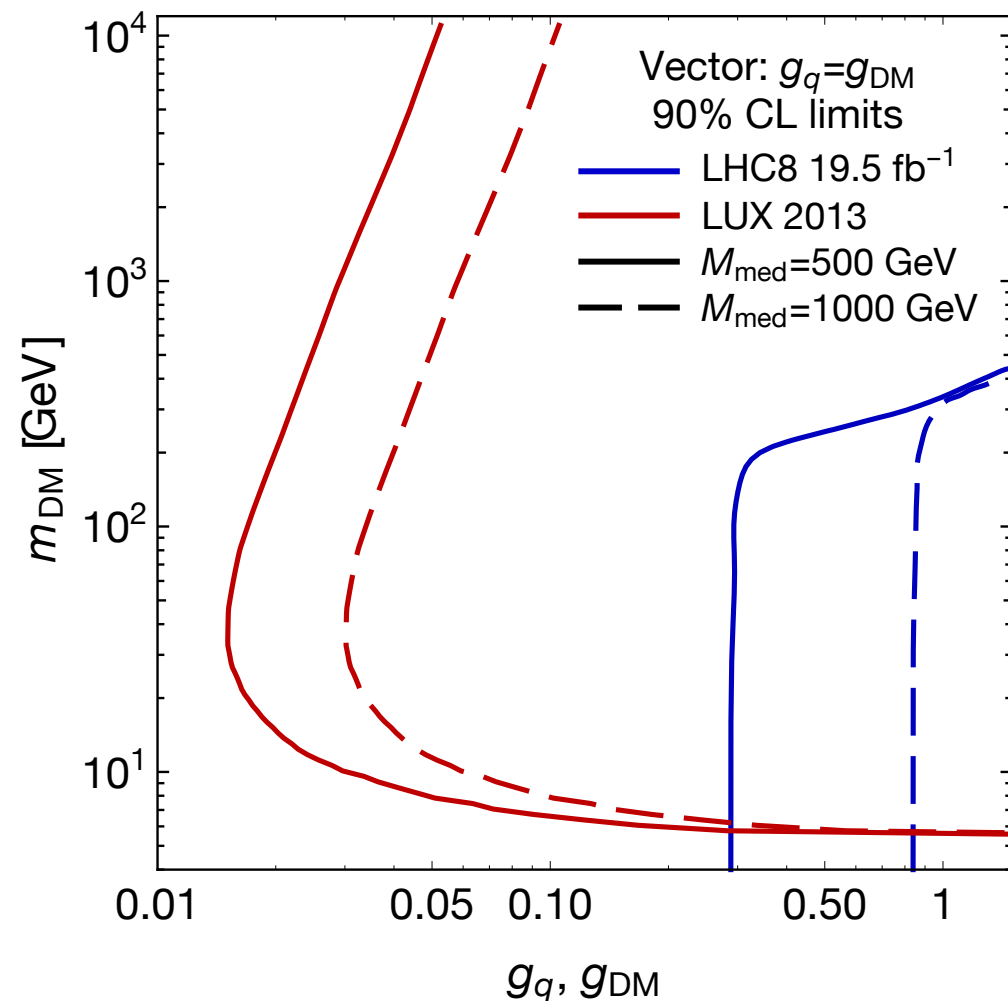


- As  $m_{\text{med}}$  decreases, direct detection limit is stronger

# Slicing through parameter space

- We need to fix two parameters to show results:

$m_{\text{DM}}$	$g_\chi$
$M_{\text{med}}$	$g_q$

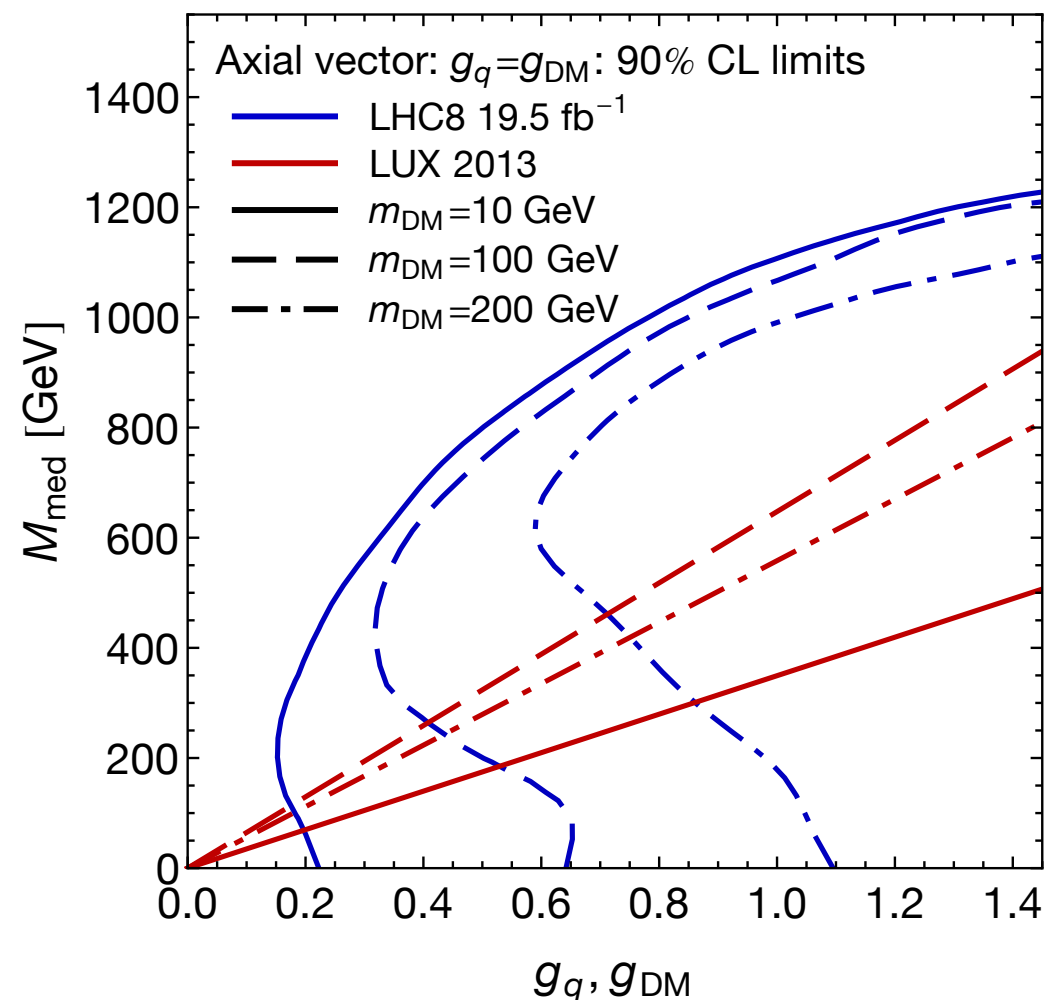
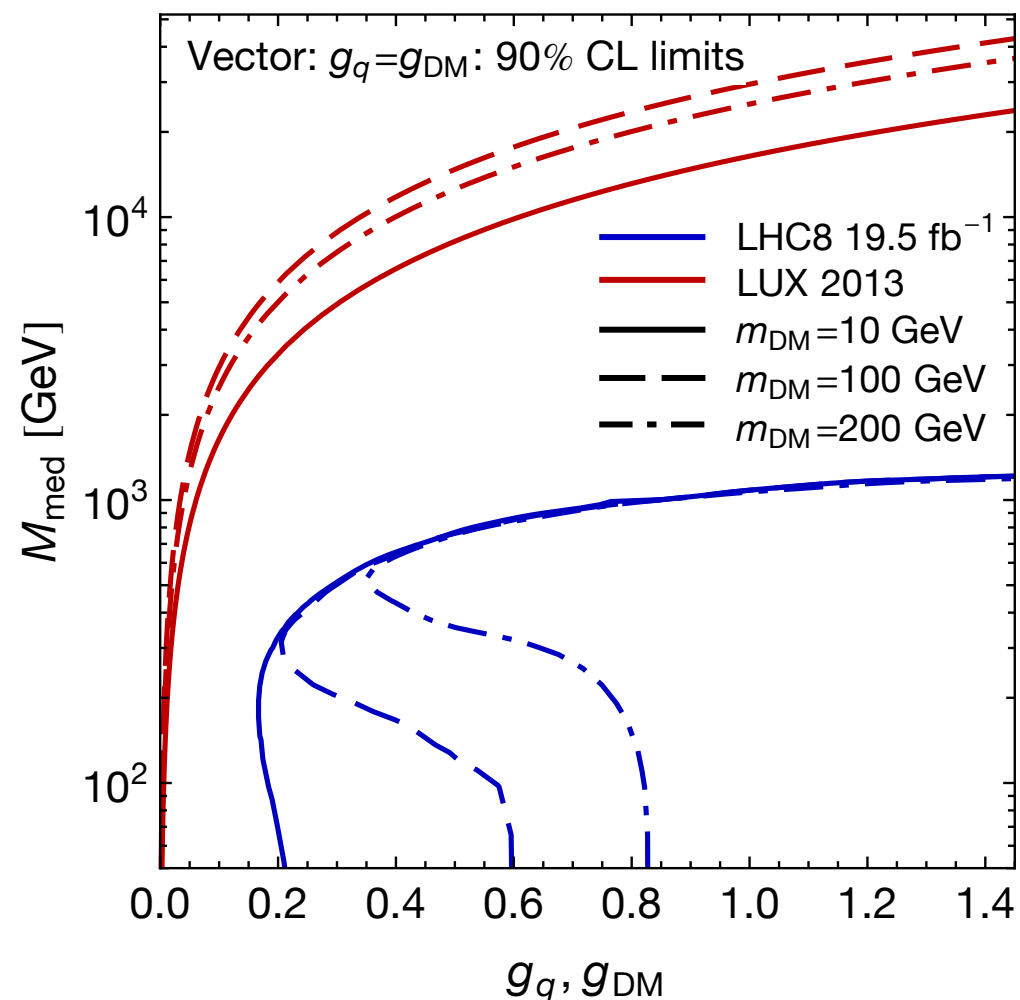


- Better elucidation of the complementarity between collider and direct searches

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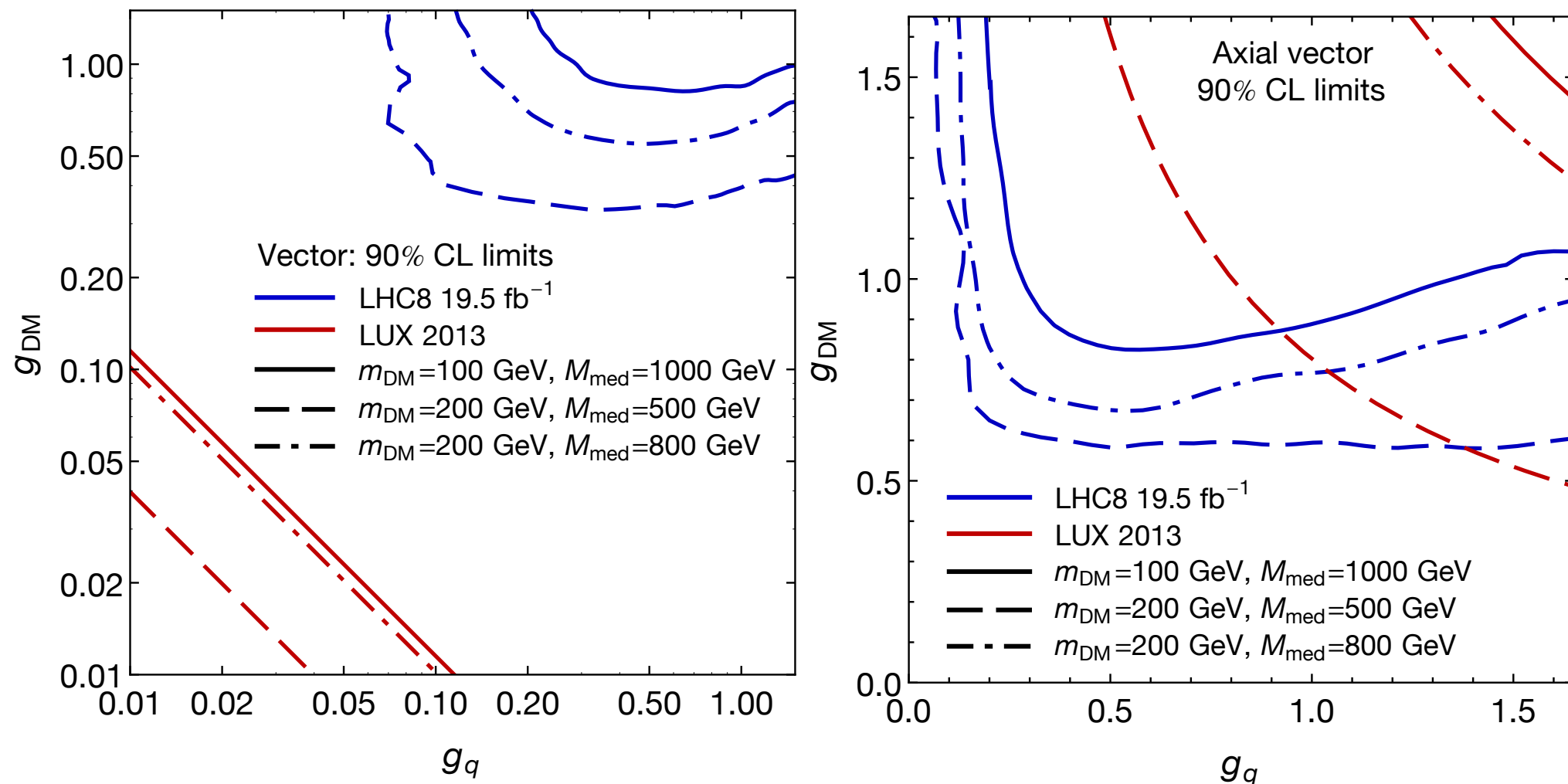
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