

# Milli-interacting dark matter interpretation of the direct- search experiments

Quentin Wallemacq

Rencontres de Moriond  
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Q. Wallemacq, arXiv:1307.7623  
Q. Wallemacq, arXiv:1401.5243



# Introduction

## Direct-search experiments

	Operating temperature (K)	Energy interval (keVee)
DAMA/LIBRA ( $9.3\sigma$ )	300	2-6
CoGeNT ( $2.2\sigma$ )	77	0.5-3
CDMS-II/Si (5.4% probability to be due to bg)	cryogenic	3 events at 8.2, 9.5 and 12.3 keVr
CDMS-II/Ge-superCDMS (Ge)	cryogenic	No signal
XENON100-LUX (Xe)	173	No signal

**Aim**: reconcile **AS MANY** experiments as possible in a unique scenario!

Dependence on:

- Detector composition (nucleus)
- **Temperature**

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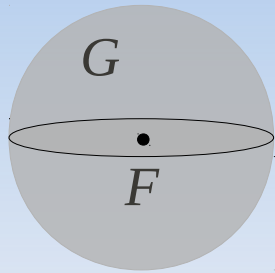


New interaction mechanism,  
new dark sector

# Milli-interacting dark matter

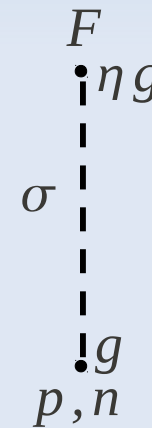
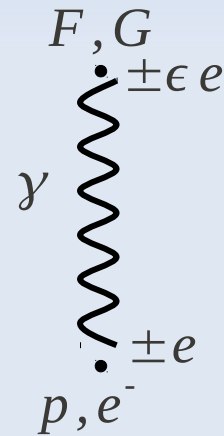
## The model

**Subdominant** dark sector:



Hydrogen-like dark atoms

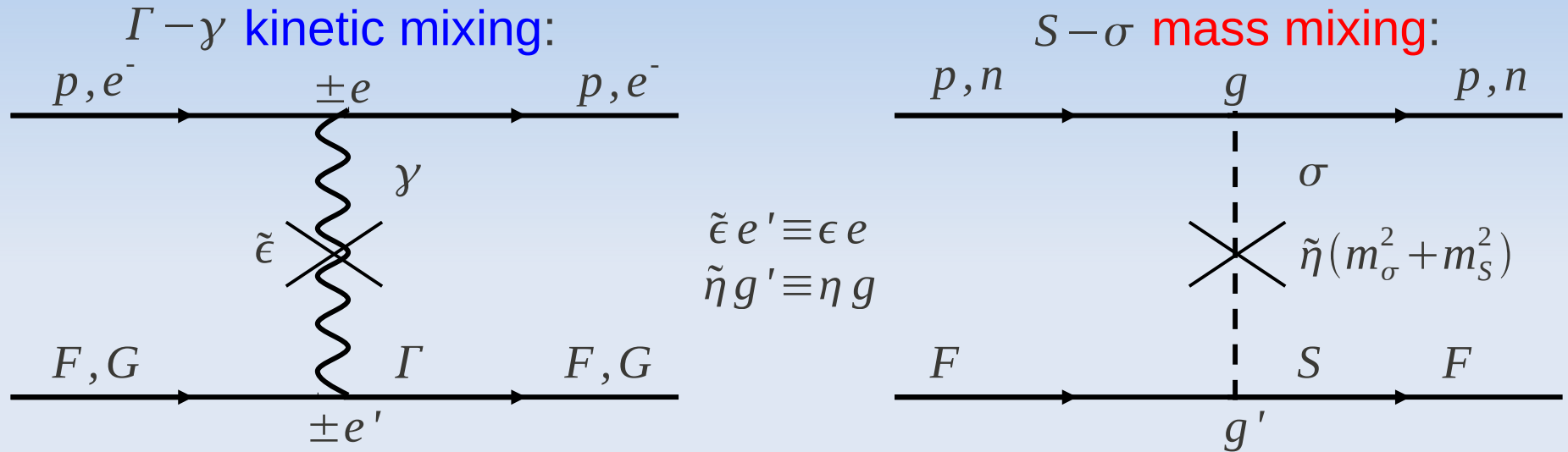
- $F, G$ : electric millicharges
- $F$ : new scalar interaction with nucleons



# Milli-interacting dark matter

## The model

Dark sector = dark fermions  $F, G$  + dark photons  $\Gamma$  + dark scalars  $S$

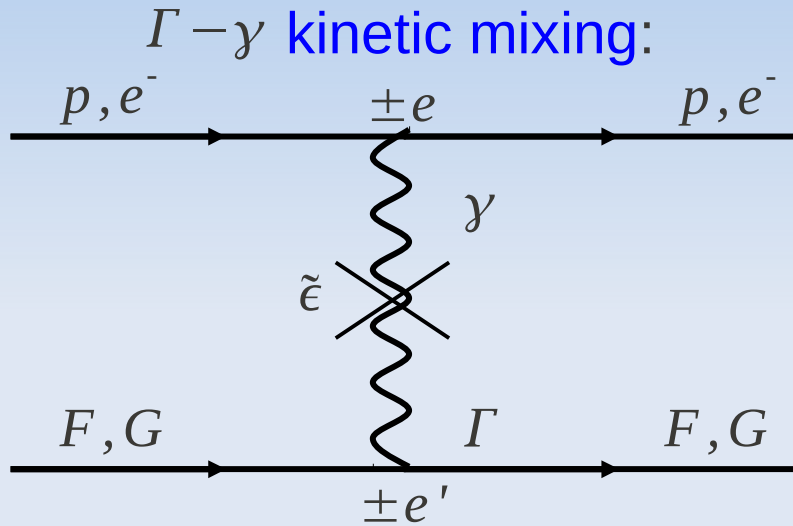


Holdom (1986), Foot (2000),  
Feldman et al. (2007), Cline (2012)

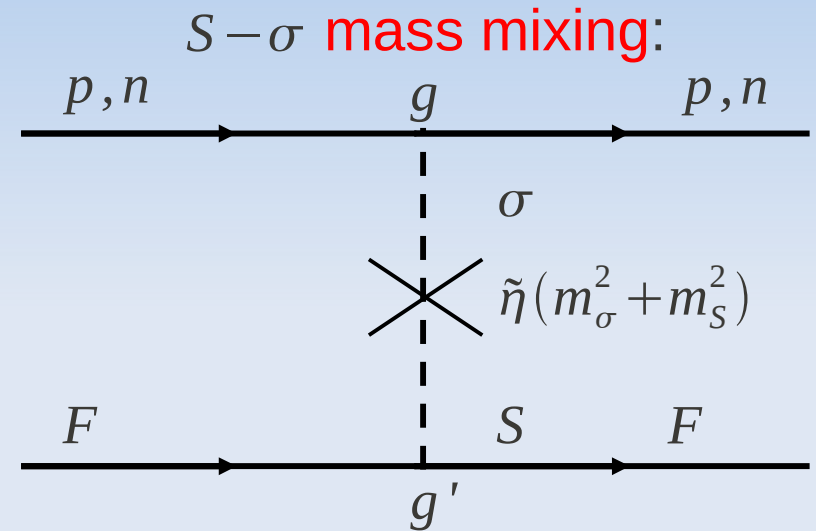
# Milli-interacting dark matter

## The model

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$$\tilde{\epsilon} e' \equiv \epsilon e$$
$$\tilde{\eta} g' \equiv \eta g$$



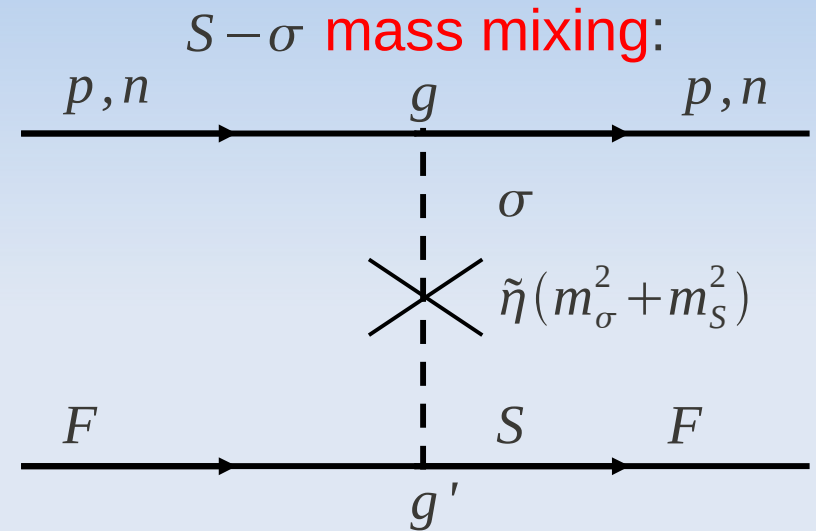
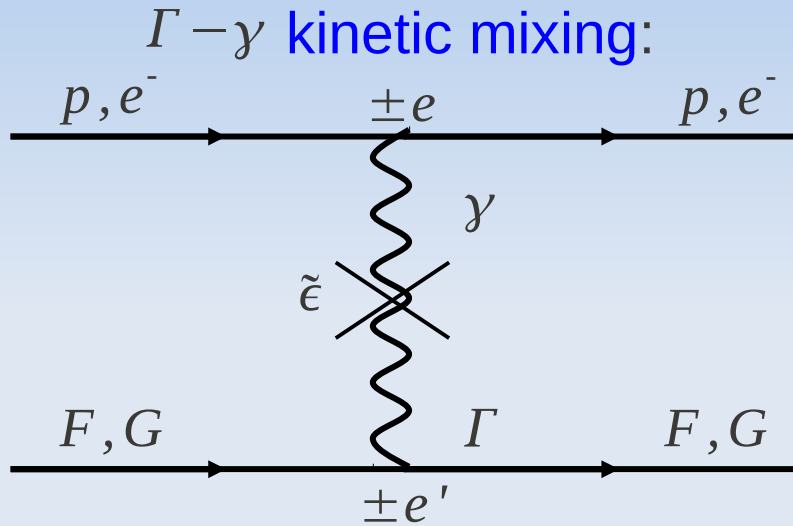
Holdom (1986), Foot (2000),  
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5 constrained parameters:  $m_F, m_S, a_0', \epsilon, \eta$

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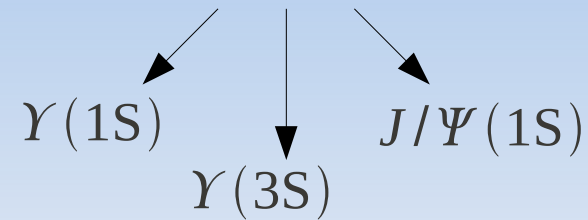
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5 constrained parameters:  $m_F, m_S, a_0', \epsilon, \eta$

1 Å: typical size of standard atoms

# Constraints

- Unseen disintegrations of vector mesons:  $Q\bar{Q} \rightarrow \gamma S$



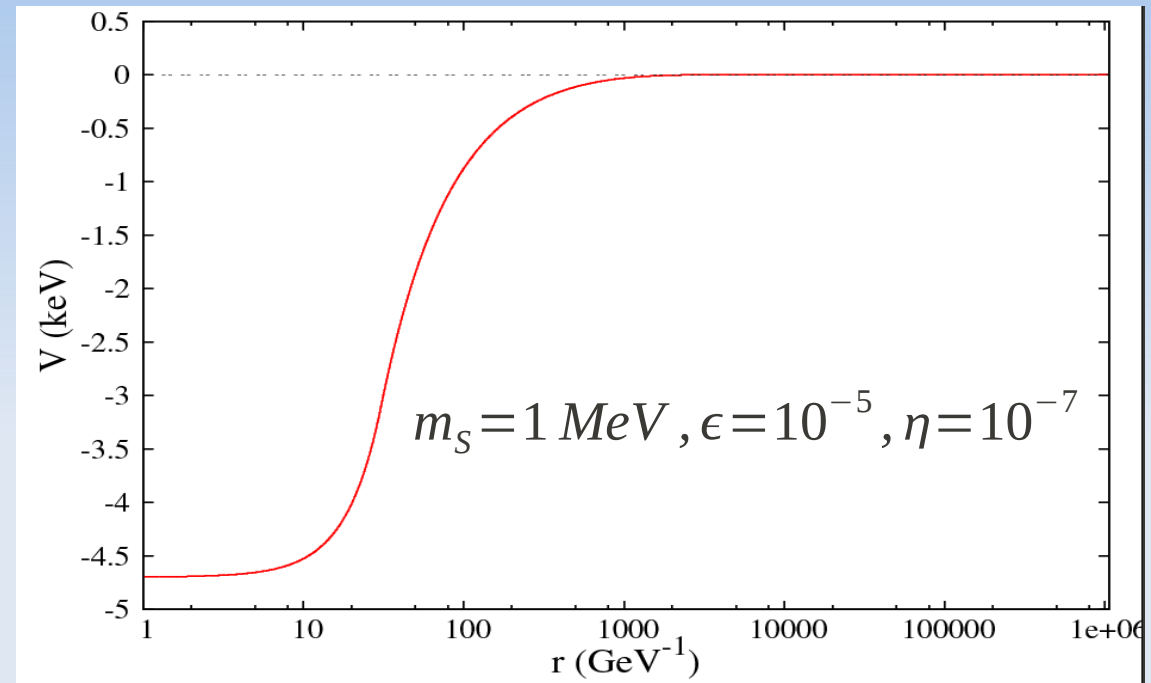
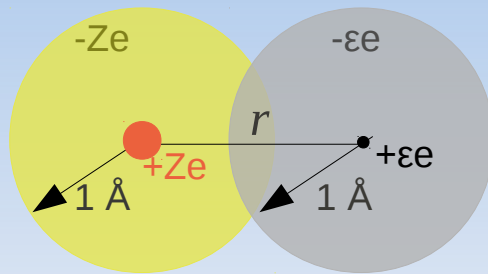
—————▶  $\eta < 1.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$

- CMB (Planck):  $\Omega_{F,G} h^2 < 0.001$  (95 % CL)      Dolgov et al. (2013)
- Accelerators:  $\epsilon < 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$  at  $m_G = 1 \text{ MeV}$       A.A. Prinz et al. (1998)



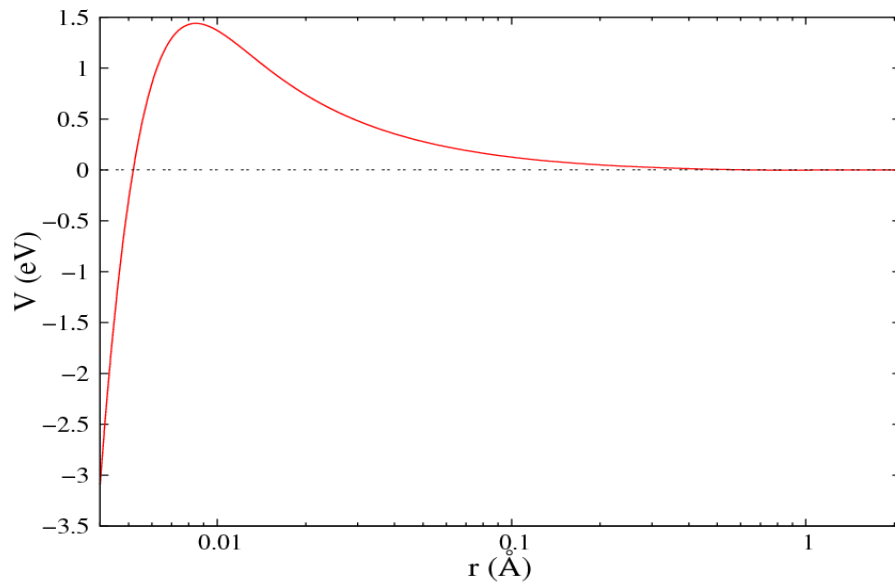
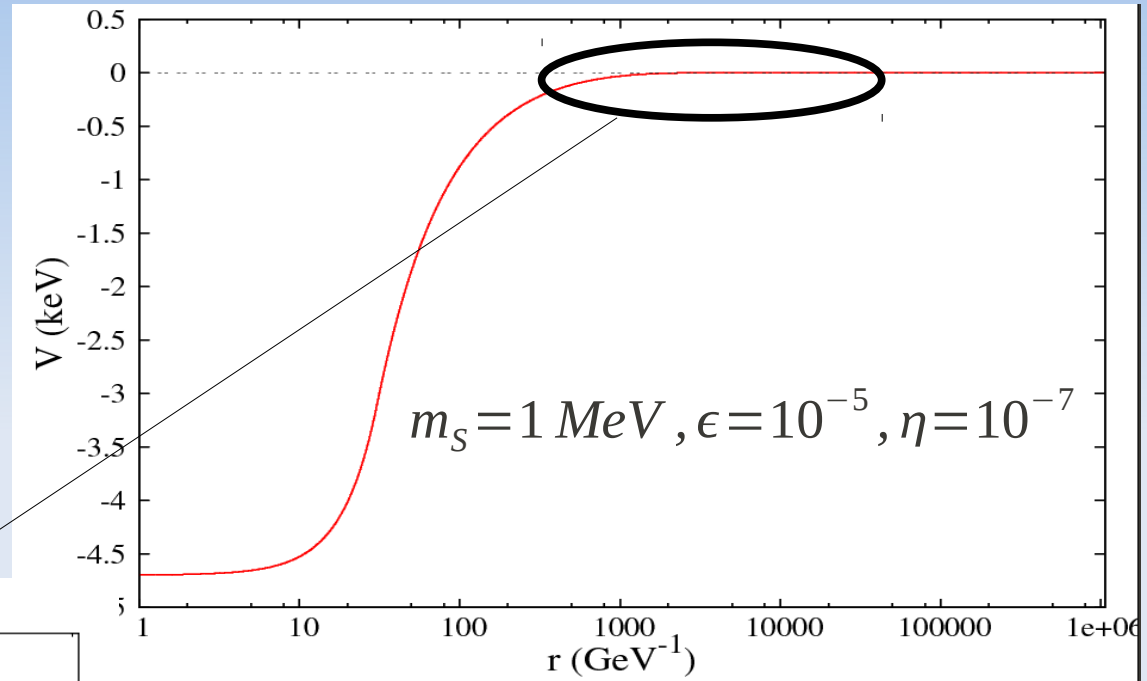
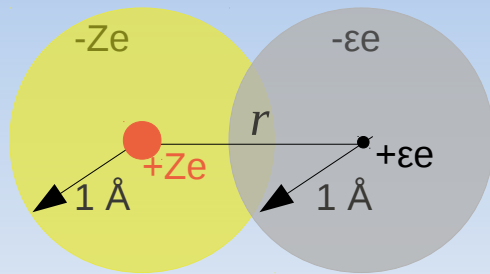
# Dark-Standard interactions

## Atom-dark atom



# Dark-Standard interactions

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# From space to underground detectors

## Thermalization in terrestrial crust

Dark matter « wind »  $\longrightarrow$  Dark atoms hit the surface of the Earth



Lose energy  $\longleftarrow$  Undergo elastic collisions with terrestrial atoms



• Energy loss per unit path length:  $\frac{dE}{dx}$

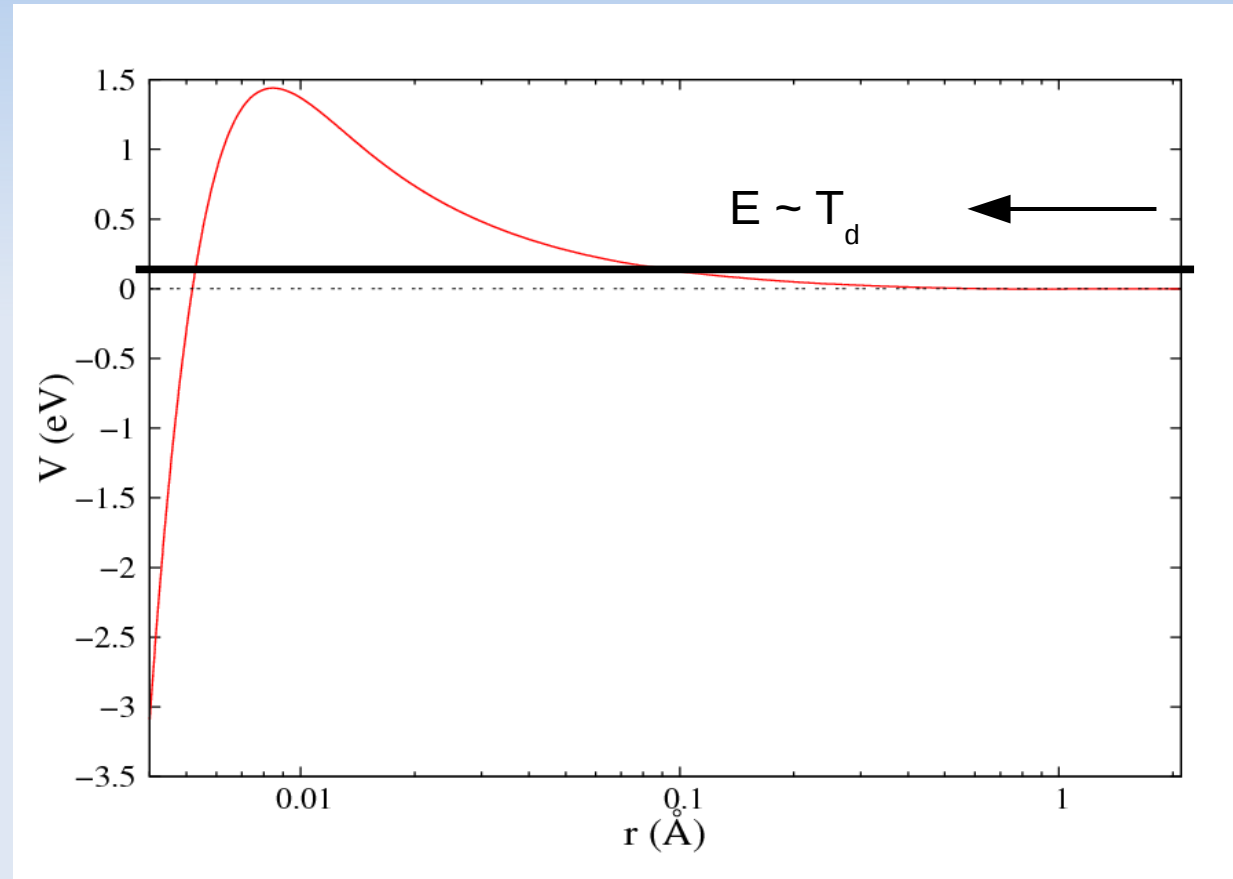
• Penetration length:  $x = \int_{E_{th}}^{E_0} \frac{dE}{|dE/dx|} < 1 \text{ km}, E_{th} = \frac{3}{2} T_{crust}$

**Typical depth of underground detectors**

# From space to underground detectors

## Bound-state-formation events

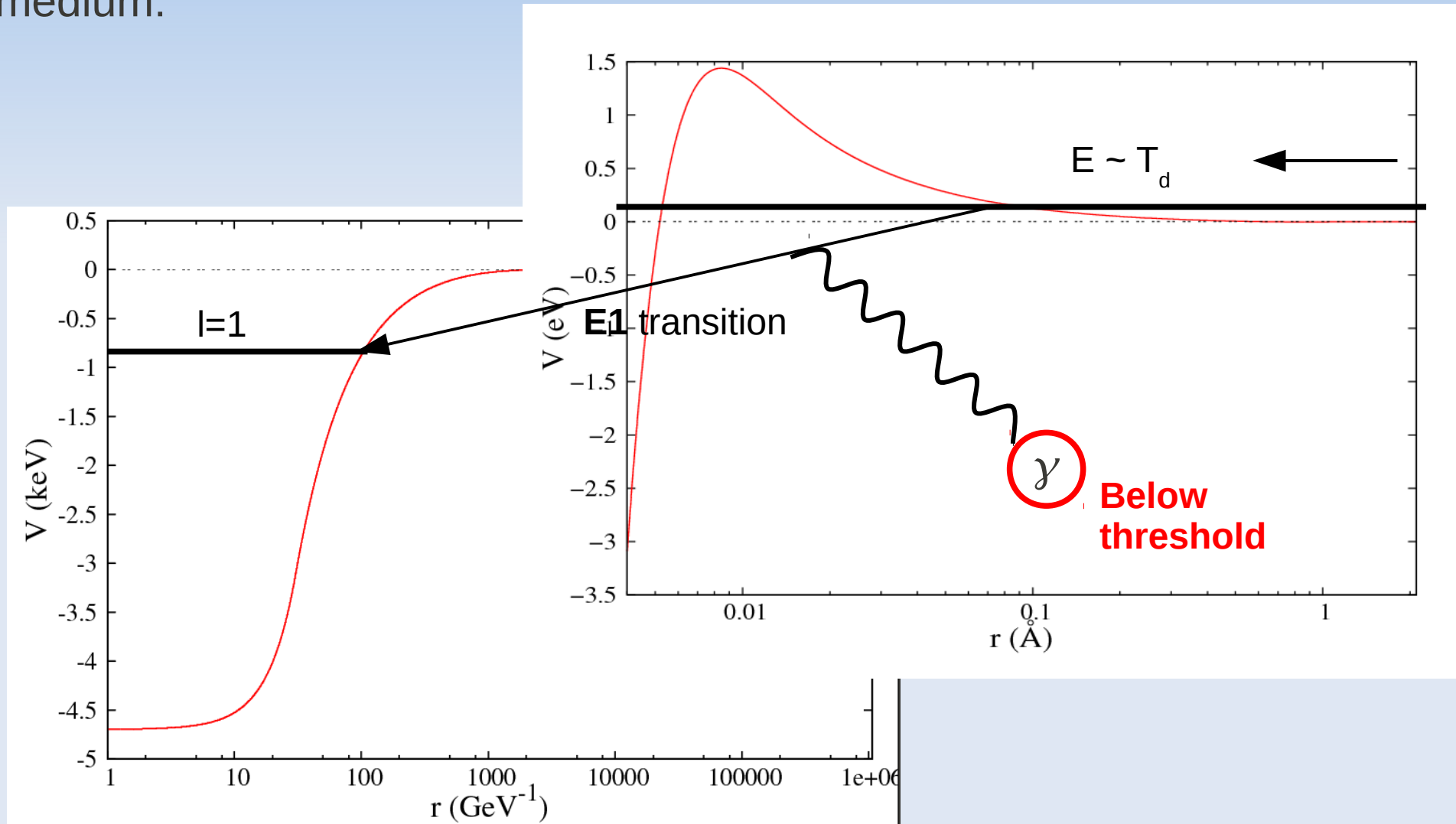
**Radiative capture** of **thermal** F particles by atomic nuclei of the active medium:



# From space to underground detectors

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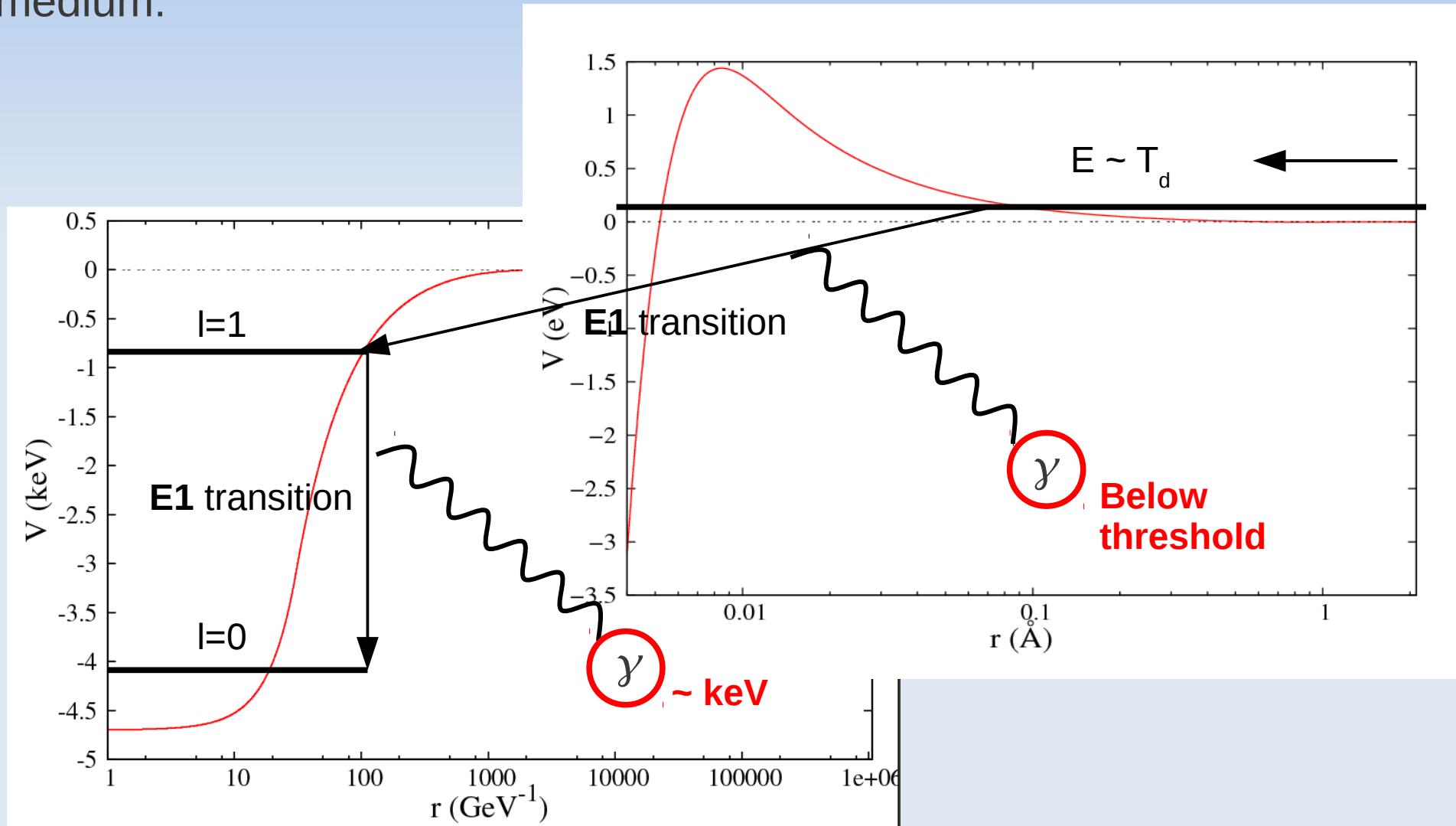
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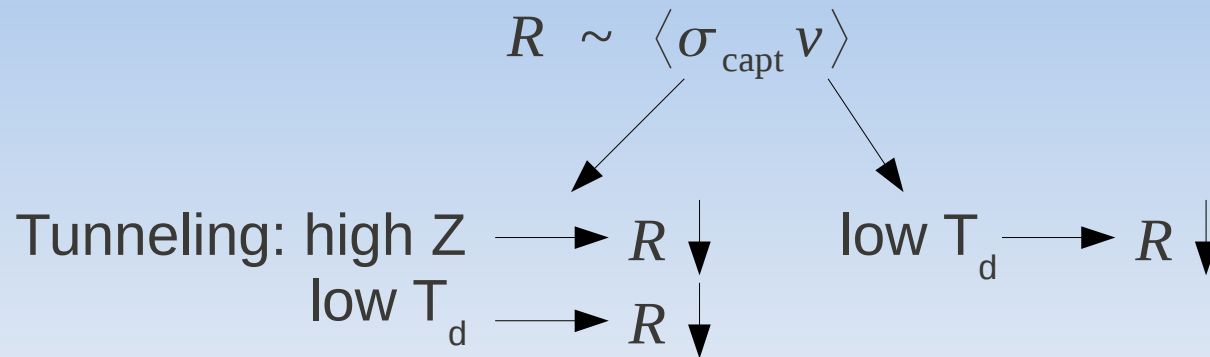
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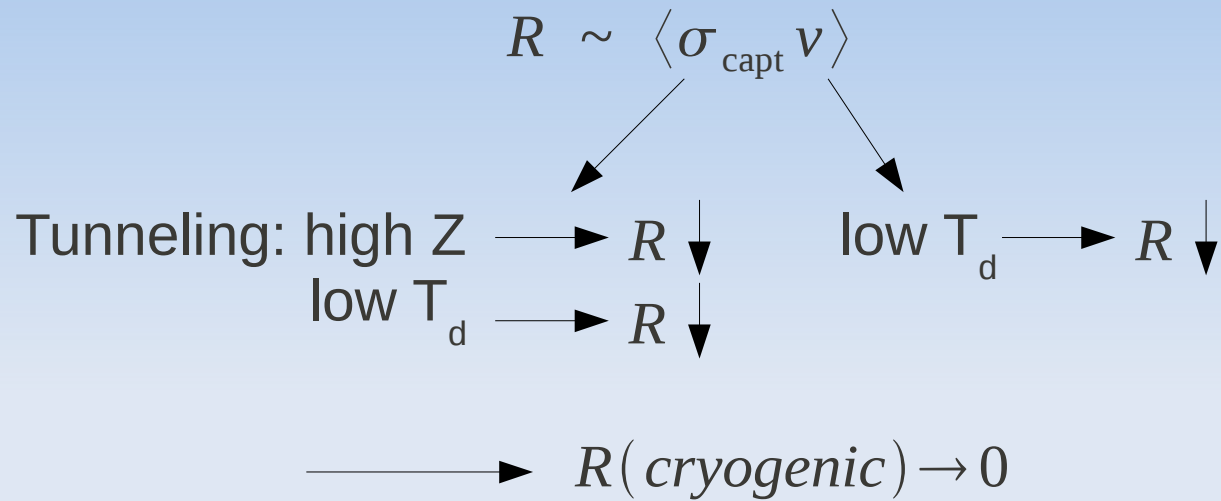
# From space to underground detectors

## Bound-state-formation rate



# From space to underground detectors

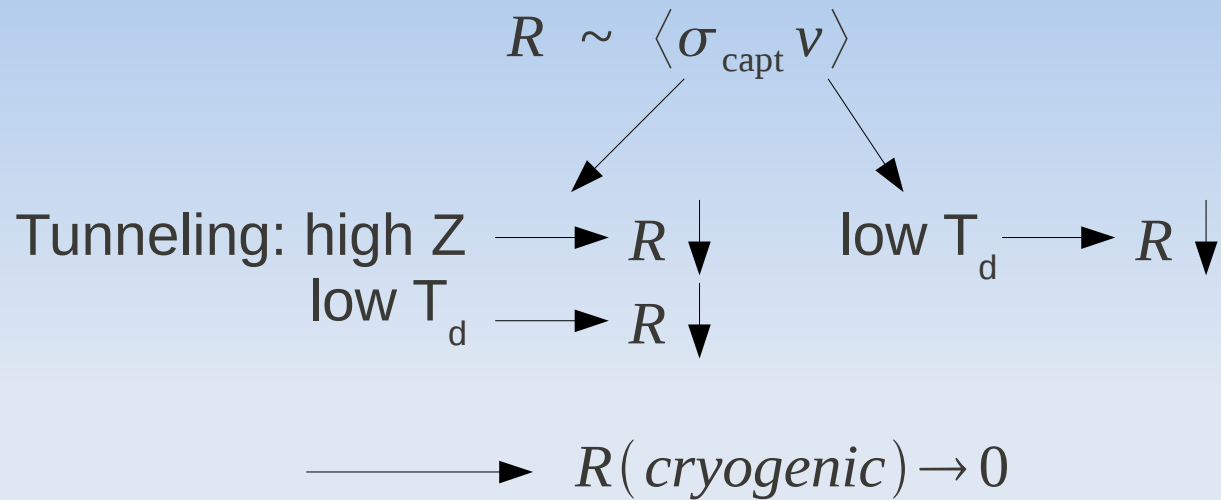
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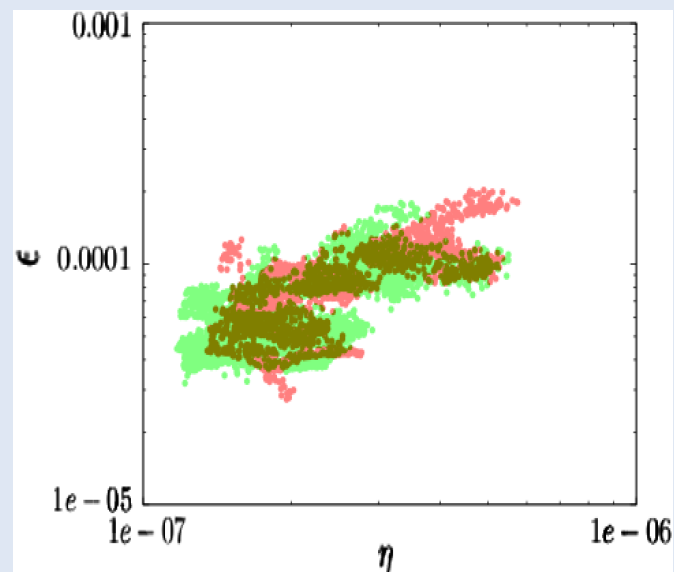
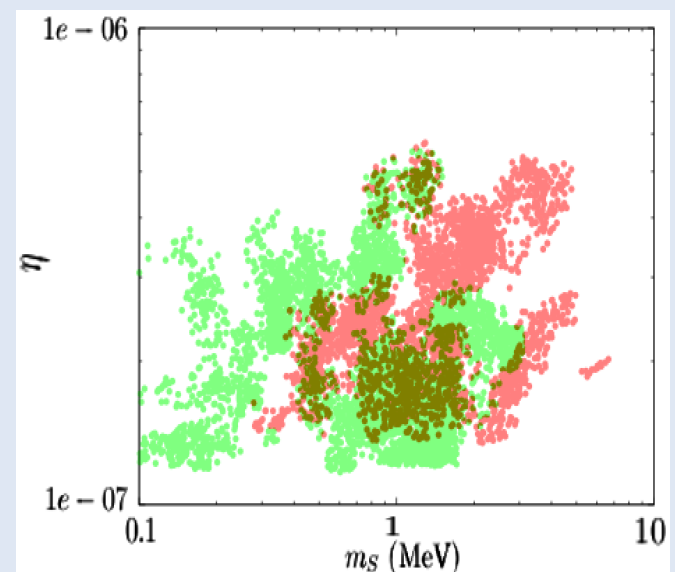
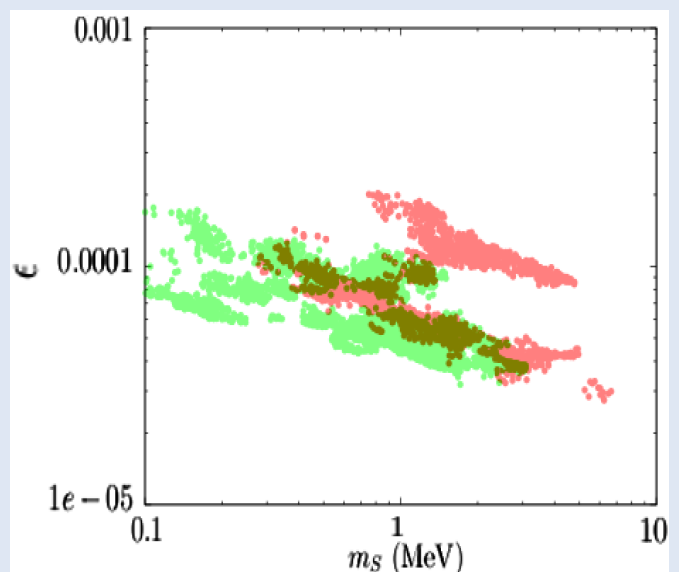
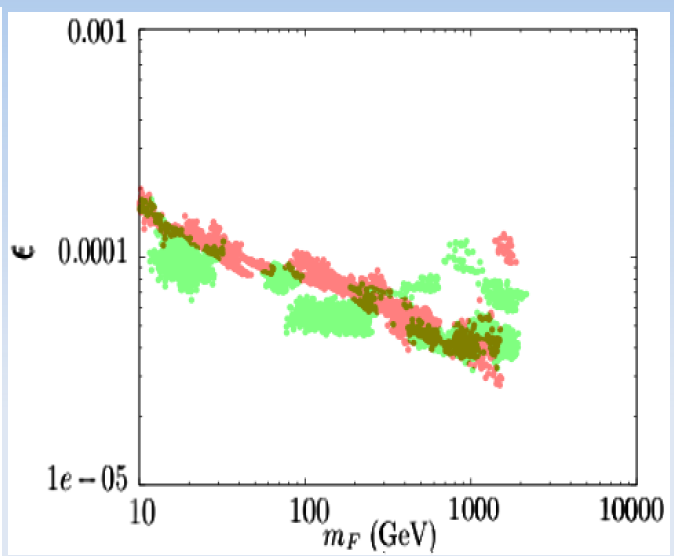
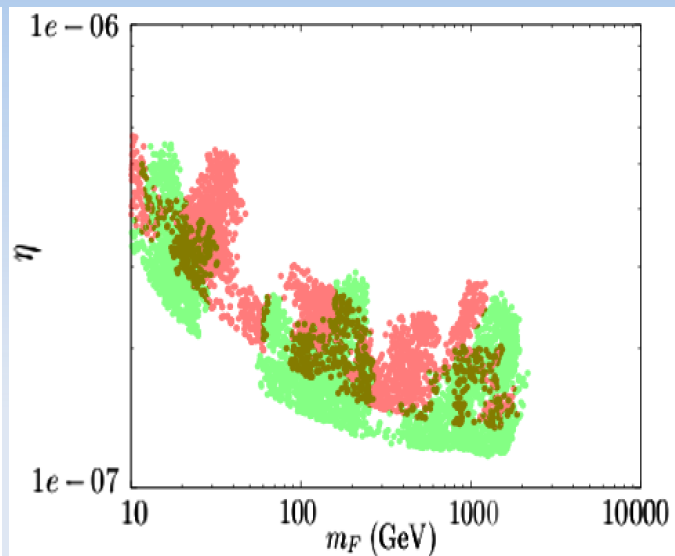
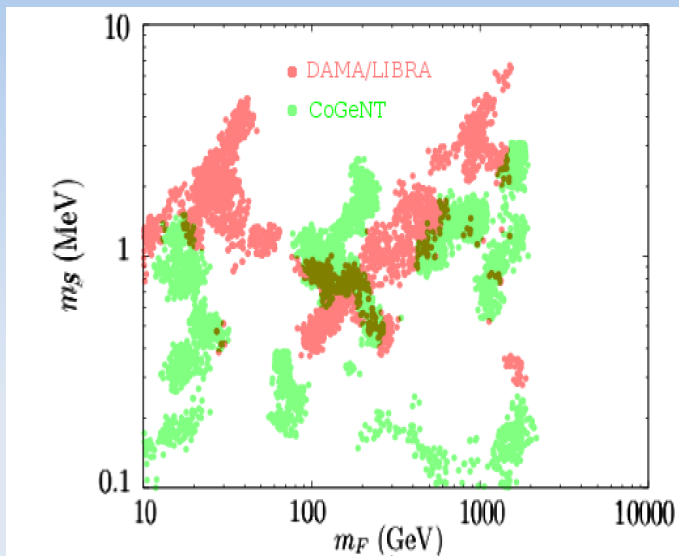
**IMPORTANT:**  
Electron recoils and **NOT**  
nuclear recoils!

No discrimination  
power: DAMA,  
CoGeNT

Discrimination  
power:  
XENON100,  
CDMS, LUX

# Exploring the parameter space

## Reproduction of DAMA and CoGeNT



# Exploring the parameter space

Consistency with XENON100, CDMS-II/Ge, superCDMS, LUX

- XENON100, LUX: - electron vs. nuclear recoil discrimination power
  - No signal
- ▶ Remaining events (if any) are considered as backgrounds and rejected
- ▶ Increased expected electronic background must still be consistent with observed one

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**OK**

- Problems with CDMS-II/Si and CRESST-II

# Conclusion

- Complex and **subdominant** dark sector made of dark atoms interacting with standard sector through electric ( $\gamma - I$ ) and « nuclear » ( $\sigma - S$ ) **millicharges**.
  - Explains: **DAMA/LIBRA, CoGeNT**
  - Does not contradict: **XENON100, CDMS-II/Ge, superCDMS, LUX**
  - Does not explain: **CDMS-II/Si, CRESST-II**
- Predictions:
    - one emitted photon below keV
    - contribution to electronic background
    - emission of spectral lines



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**Thank you!**

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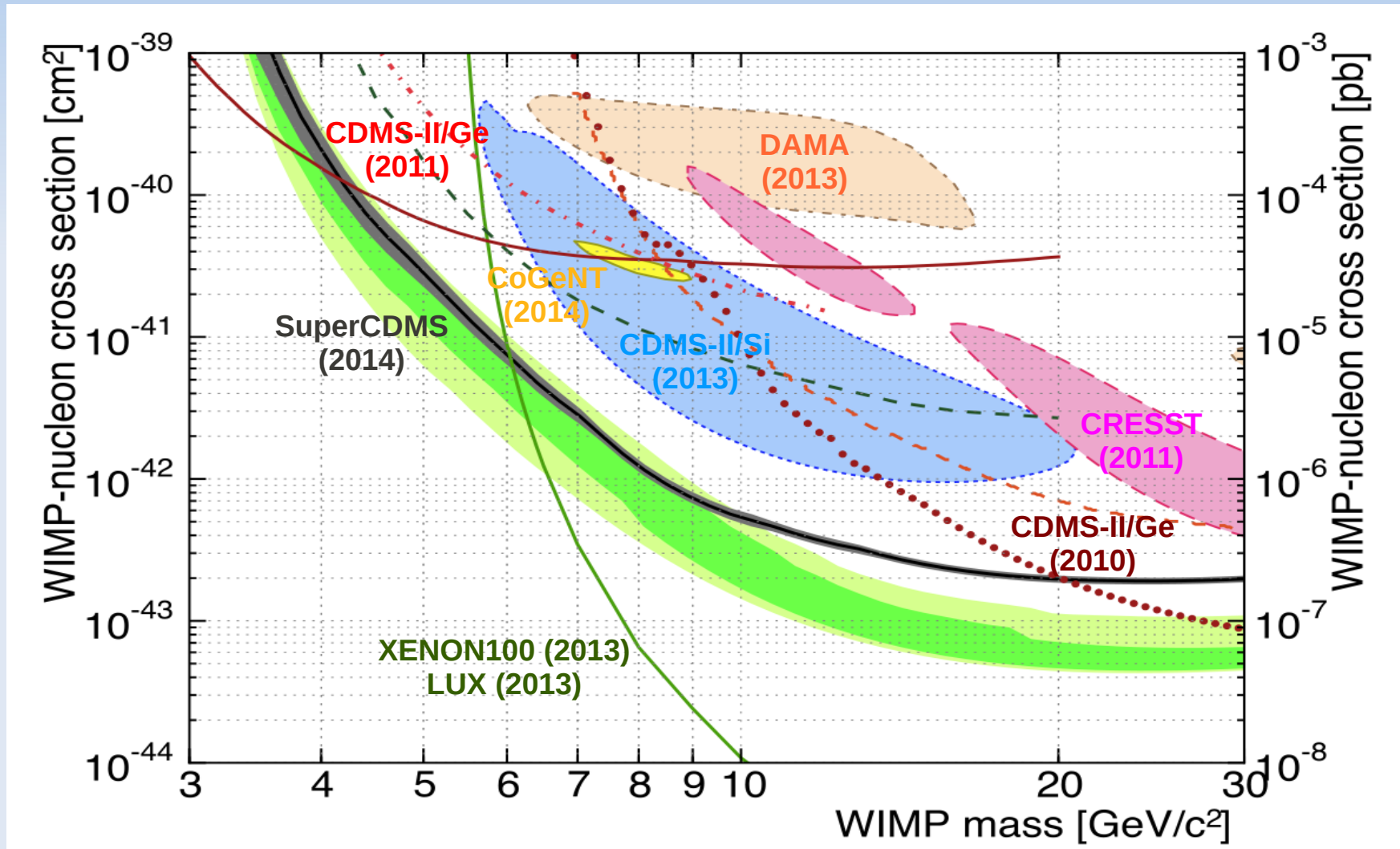
Phys. Rev. D88 (2013) 063516  
Advances in High Energy Physics, vol. 2014 (2014) 525208



# Introduction

## Direct searches

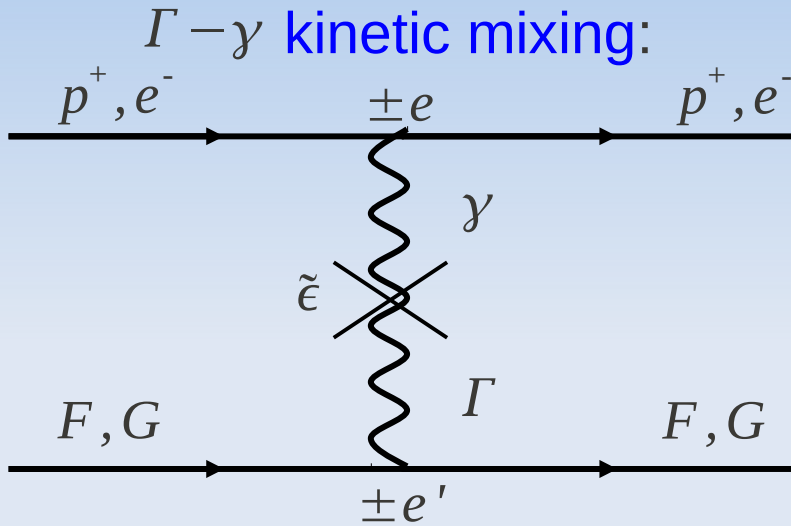
Elastic WIMP-nucleon cross section:



# Milli-interacting dark matter

## The model

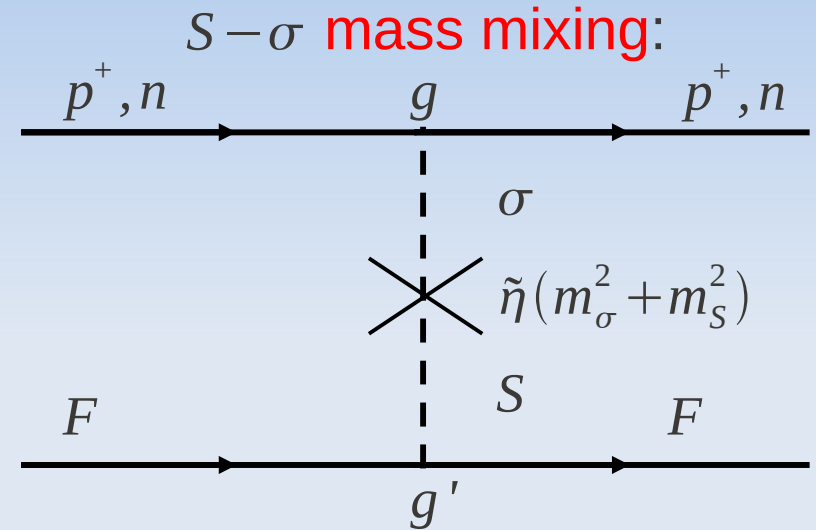
Dark sector = dark fermions  $F, G$  + dark photons  $\Gamma$  + dark scalars  $S$



$$V_k = \pm \frac{\epsilon \alpha}{r}, \quad \alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi}$$

Pure Coulomb,  
attractive or repulsive

Foot (2000), Feldman et al. (2007),  
Cline (2012)



$$V_m = -\frac{\eta (m_\sigma^2 + m_S^2) \beta}{r} \left( \frac{e^{-m_\sigma r} - e^{-m_S r}}{m_S^2 - m_\sigma^2} \right), \quad \beta = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$$

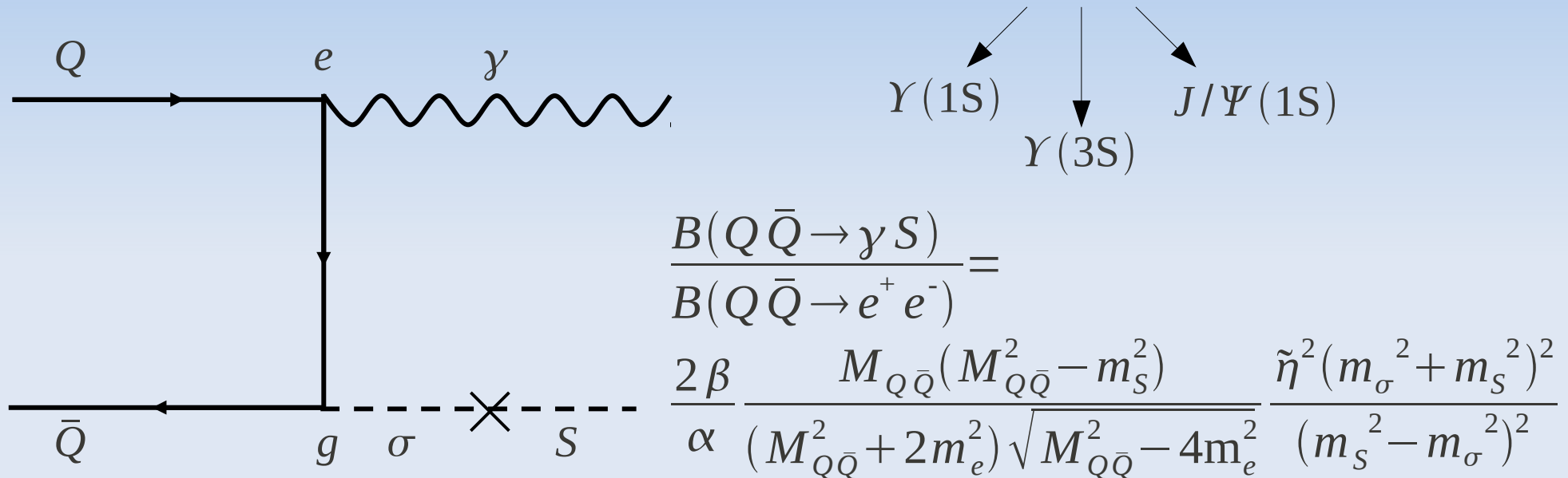
« Composed » Yukawa,  
attractive

$$\text{As } m_S \ll m_\sigma, \quad V_m \approx -\frac{\eta \beta}{r} e^{-m_S r}$$

# Constraints

## Vector meson disintegrations

- Unseen disintegrations of quarkonium states  $Q\bar{Q}$ :  $Q\bar{Q} \rightarrow \gamma S$



$$B(Y(1S) \rightarrow \gamma S) < 5.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

Balest et al. (1995)

$$B(Y(3S) \rightarrow \gamma S) < 15.9 \cdot 10^{-6}$$

Aubert et al. (2008)

$$B(J/\Psi(1S) \rightarrow \gamma S) < 4.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$$

$$\tilde{\eta} < 1.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

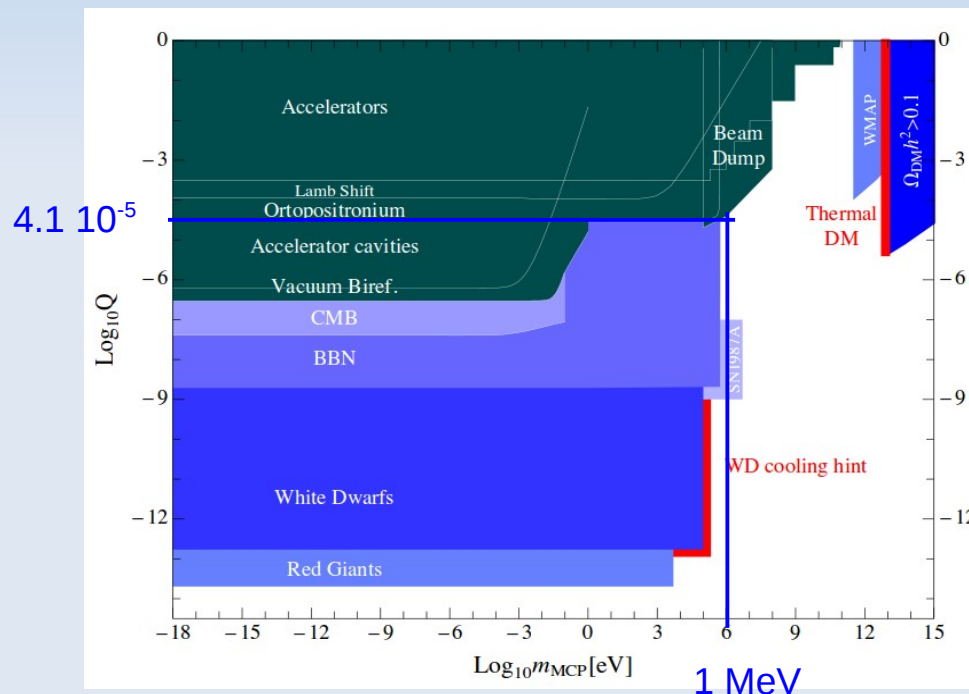
$$\longrightarrow \eta < 1.2 \cdot 10^{-4} \quad (g' = g)$$

# Constraints

## Electric millicharges

- CMB (Planck):  $\Omega_{mcp} h^2 < 0.001$  (95% CL)

- Accelerators:



Essig et al. (2013)

-  $\epsilon < 0.1$  for  $m_F > 1 \text{ GeV}$

- If  $\alpha' \approx \alpha$ , then  $a_0' = 1 \text{ \AA}$

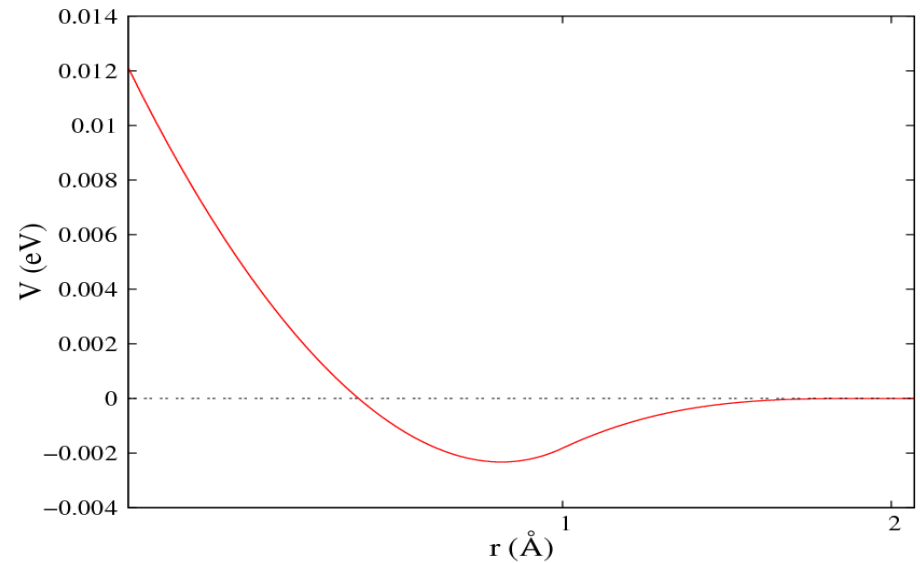
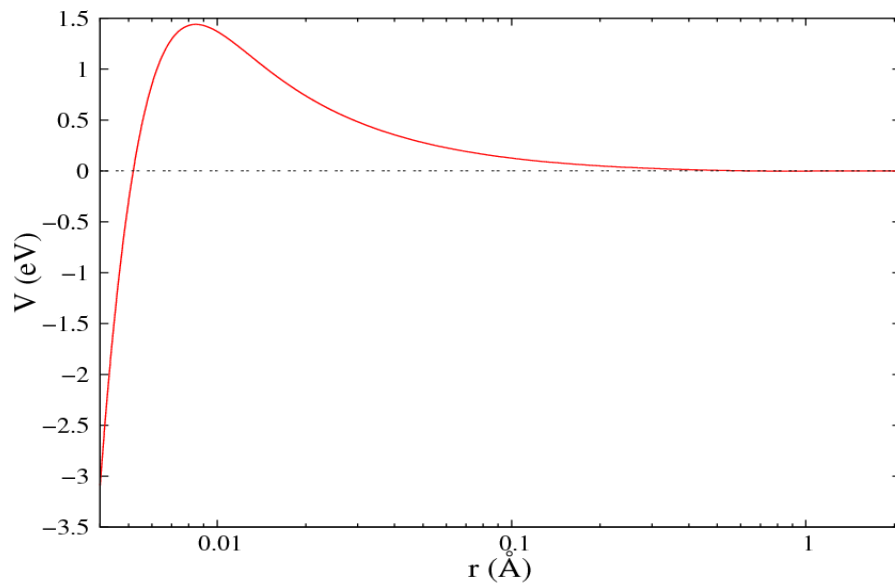
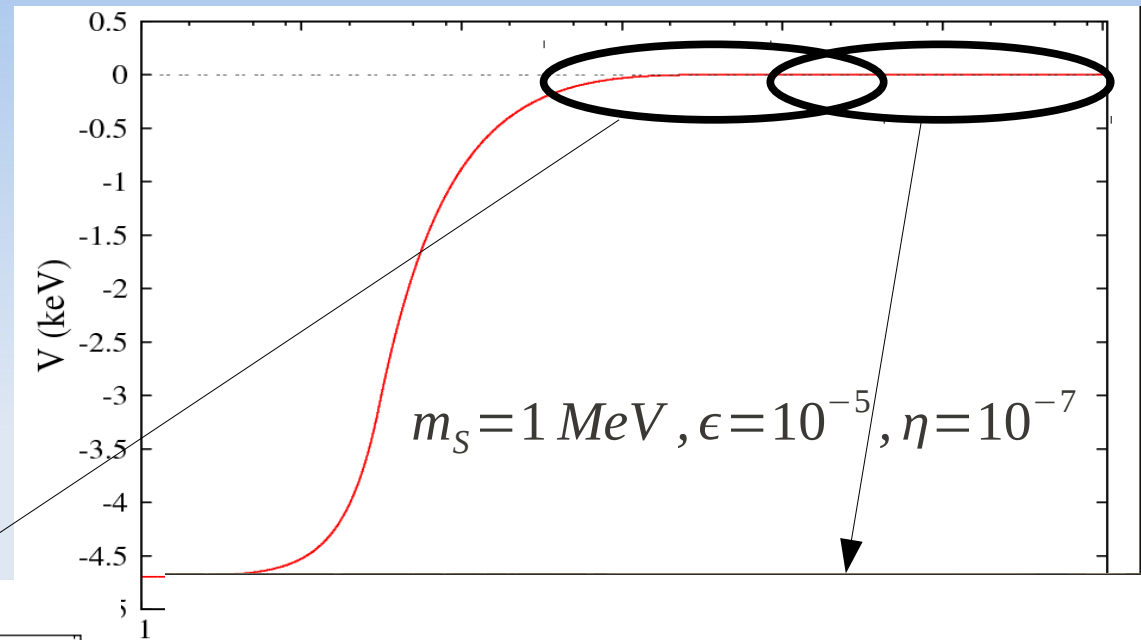
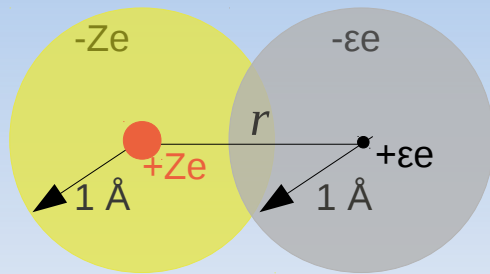
Implies  $m_G \approx m_e \sim \text{MeV}$



Interesting for light component G

# Dark-Standard interactions

## Atom-dark atom



# From space to underground detectors

## Capture cross section

- **Thermal** F-particles: partial s-wave of the incident plane wave
- Solve radial Schrodinger equation at  $l=0$  for  $E>0$ : diffusion eigenstate  $u_{\text{diff}}$
- Solve radial Schrodinger equation at  $l=1$  for  $E_b < 0$ : bound eigenstate  $u_b$

→ **E1 capture cross section:**  $\sigma_{\text{capt}} \sim \frac{(E - E_b)^3}{E^{3/2}} \left| \int_0^\infty r u_b(r) u_{\text{diff}}(r) dr \right|^2$

**Tunneling** (with red arrow pointing to  $u_{\text{diff}}$ )

→ **Event counting rate:**  $R = n_F n_N \langle \sigma_{\text{capt}} v \rangle$

**IMPORTANT:**  
Electron recoils and **NOT** nuclear recoils!

$R \sim \int_0^\infty \sigma_{\text{capt}}(E) E e^{-E/T_d} dE$  (with red circle around  $T_d$ )

Mawellian velocity distributions

No discrimination  
power: DAMA,  
CoGeNT

Discrimination  
power: XENON100,  
CDMS, LUX

**Operating temperature** →  $R(\text{cryogenic}) \rightarrow 0$



