

The First Stars in the Universe as Dark Matter Laboratories

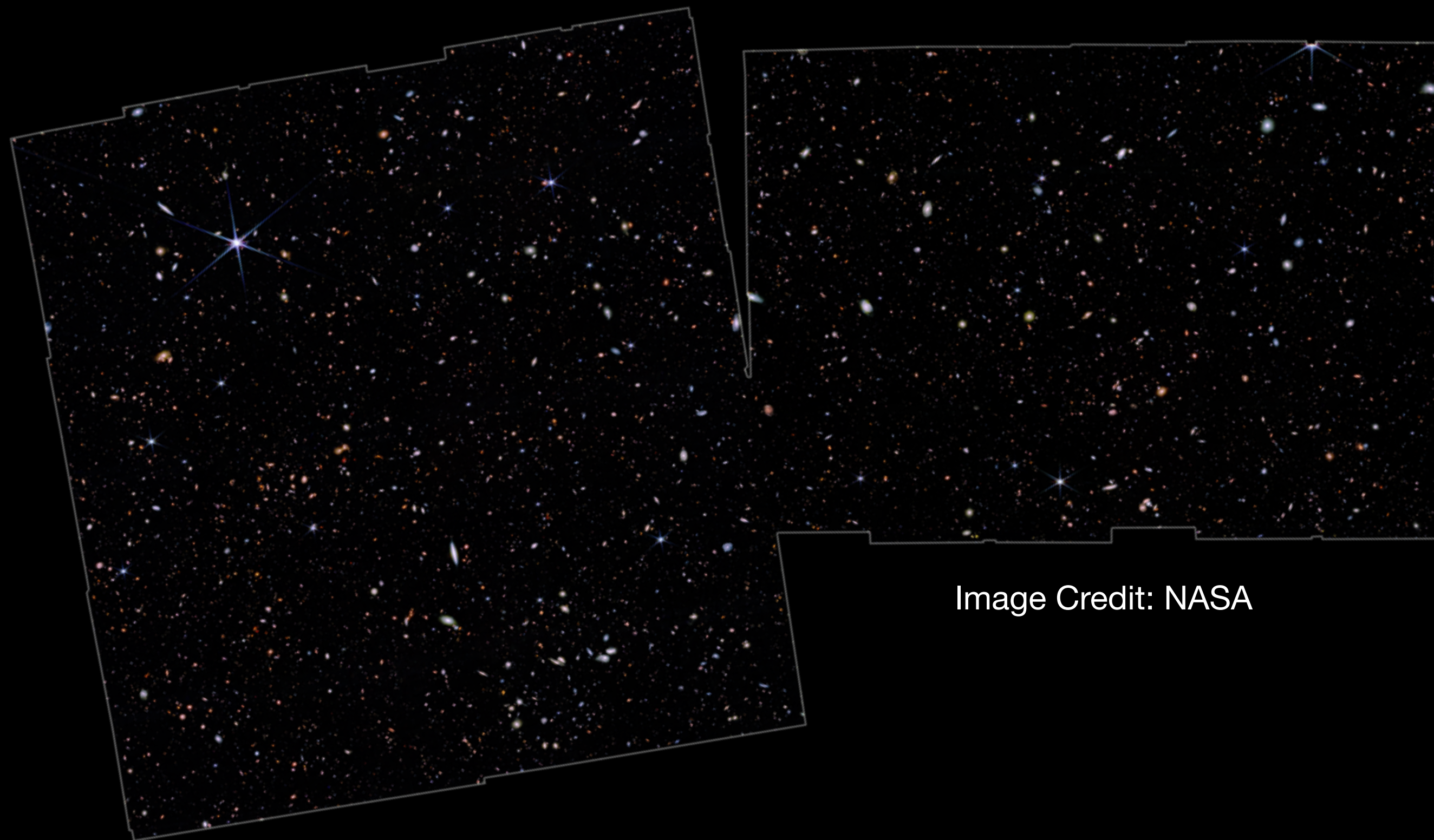
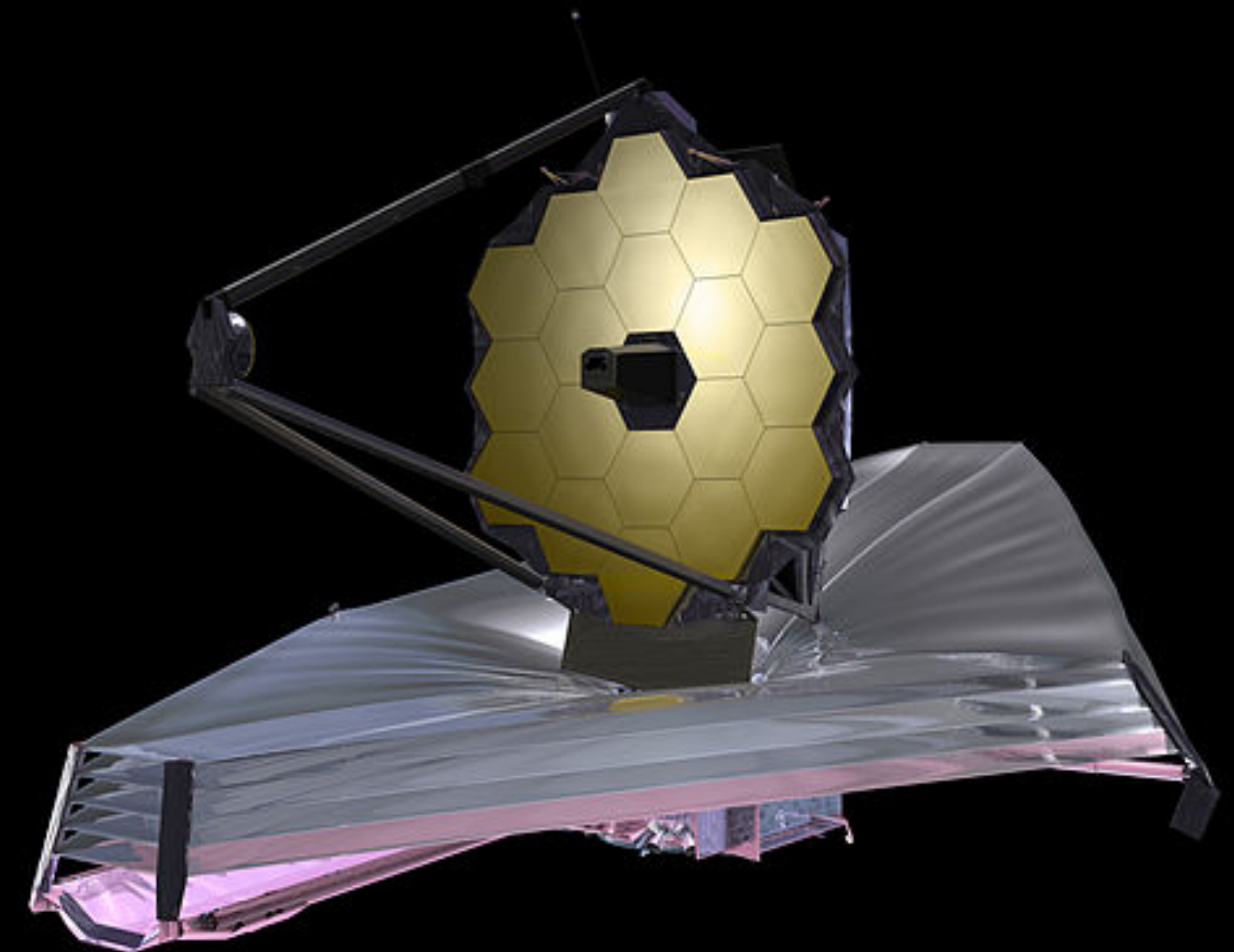


Image Credit: NASA



Searches to find DM via other effects rather than Gravity

- Direct Detection. Probes DM-Regular Matter interactions
 - Deep underground experiments (LUX, XENON, DAMMA, etc.)
- Indirect Detection. Probes DM-DM interactions
 - Detect signals of Dark Matter annihilations in high DM density environments
- Production of DM particles in accelerators (LHC).
 - Would be detected as missing energy

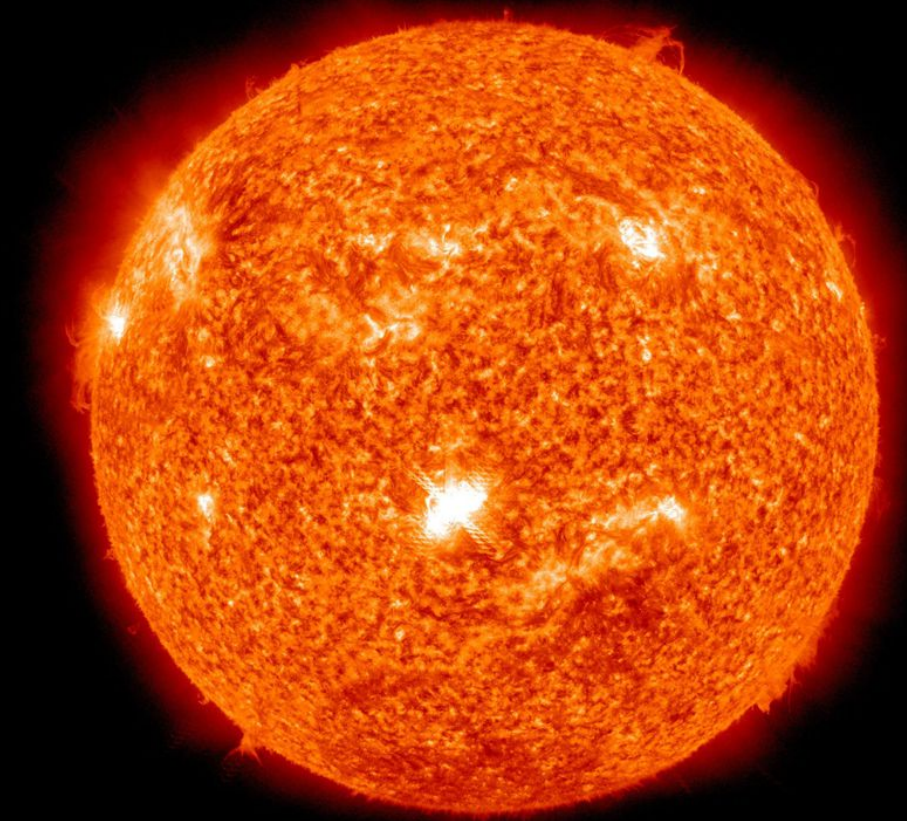
Astrophysical Objects as DM Probes



Earth



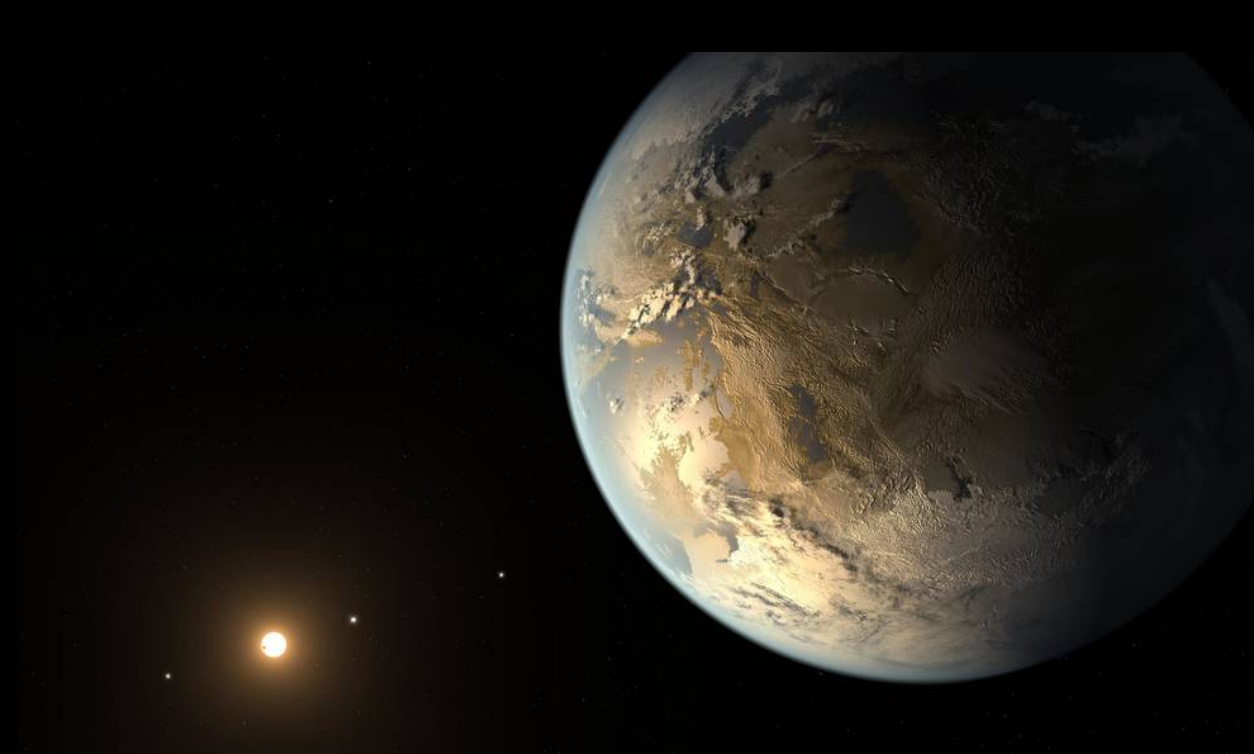
Moon



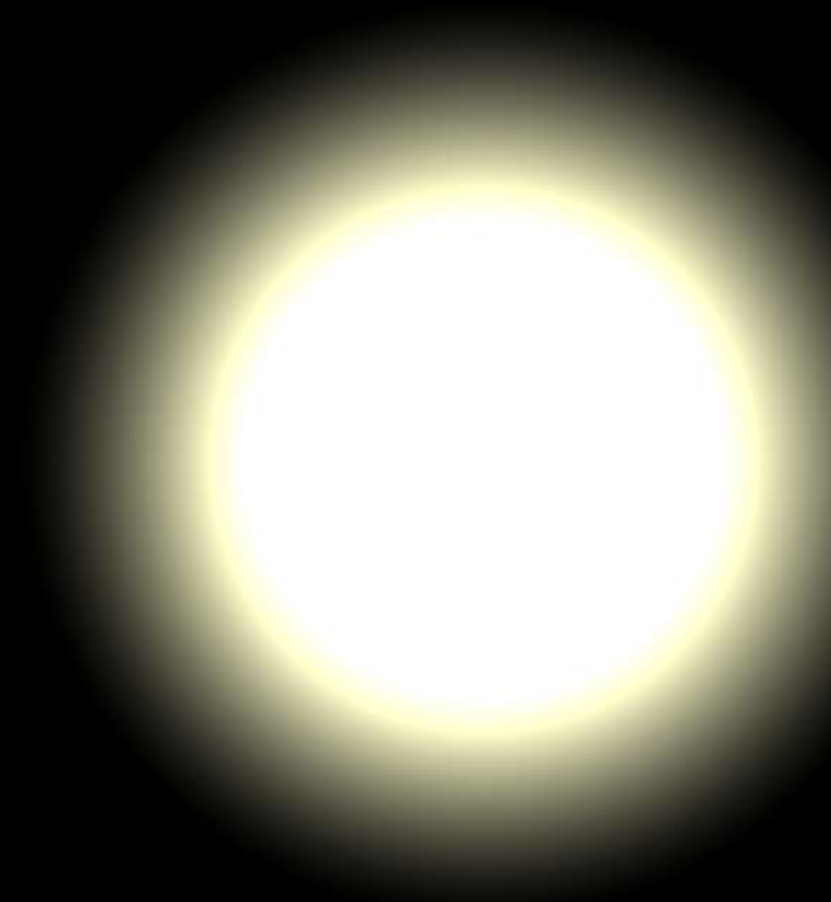
Sun



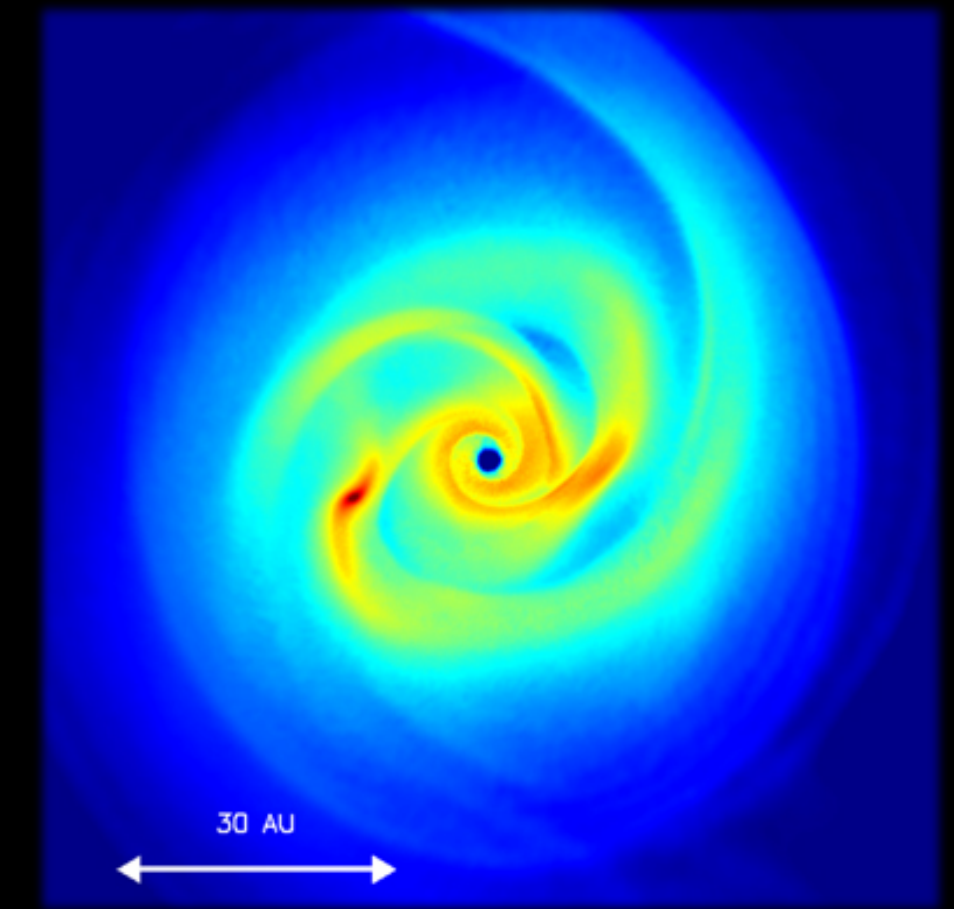
Neutron Stars



Exoplanets



White Dwarfs



The First Stars

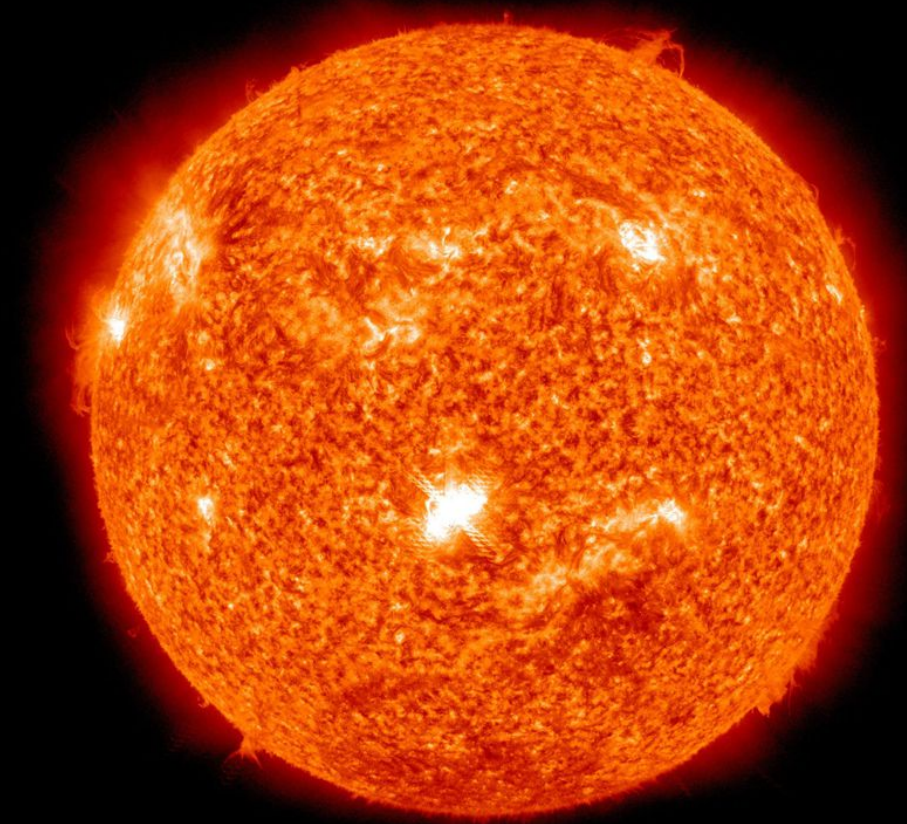
Astrophysical Objects as DM Probes



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Neutron Stars



Exoplanets



White Dwarfs



The First Stars

The first Stars, bird's-eye view

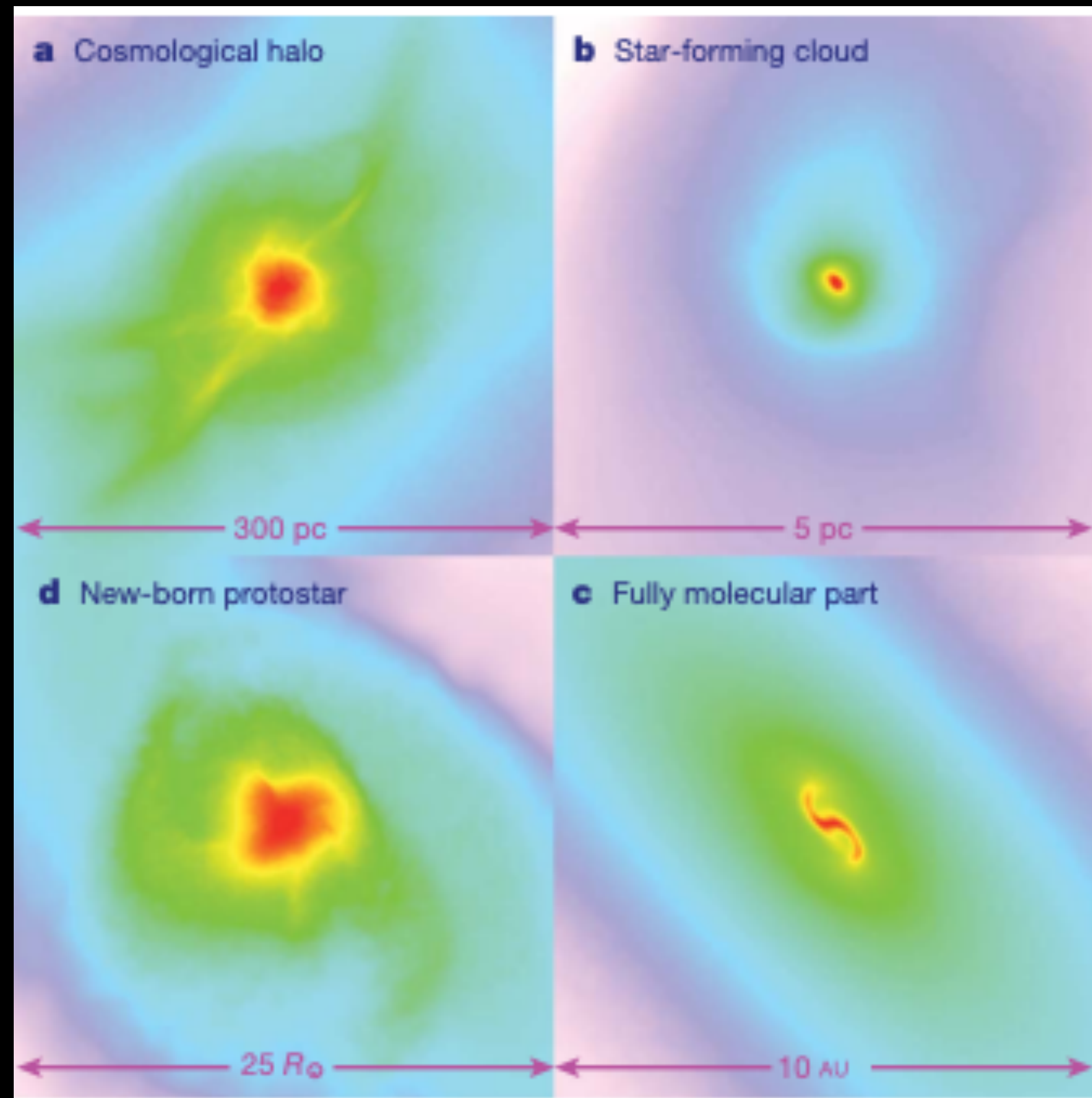


Figure From: Bromm et al. Nature 459 (2009)

- The form at high redshift ($z \sim 10-40$) from pristine BBN H and He gas
- In very DM rich environments, at the center of DM microhalos
- Usually in isolation, or with few companions

The first Stars, bird's-eye view

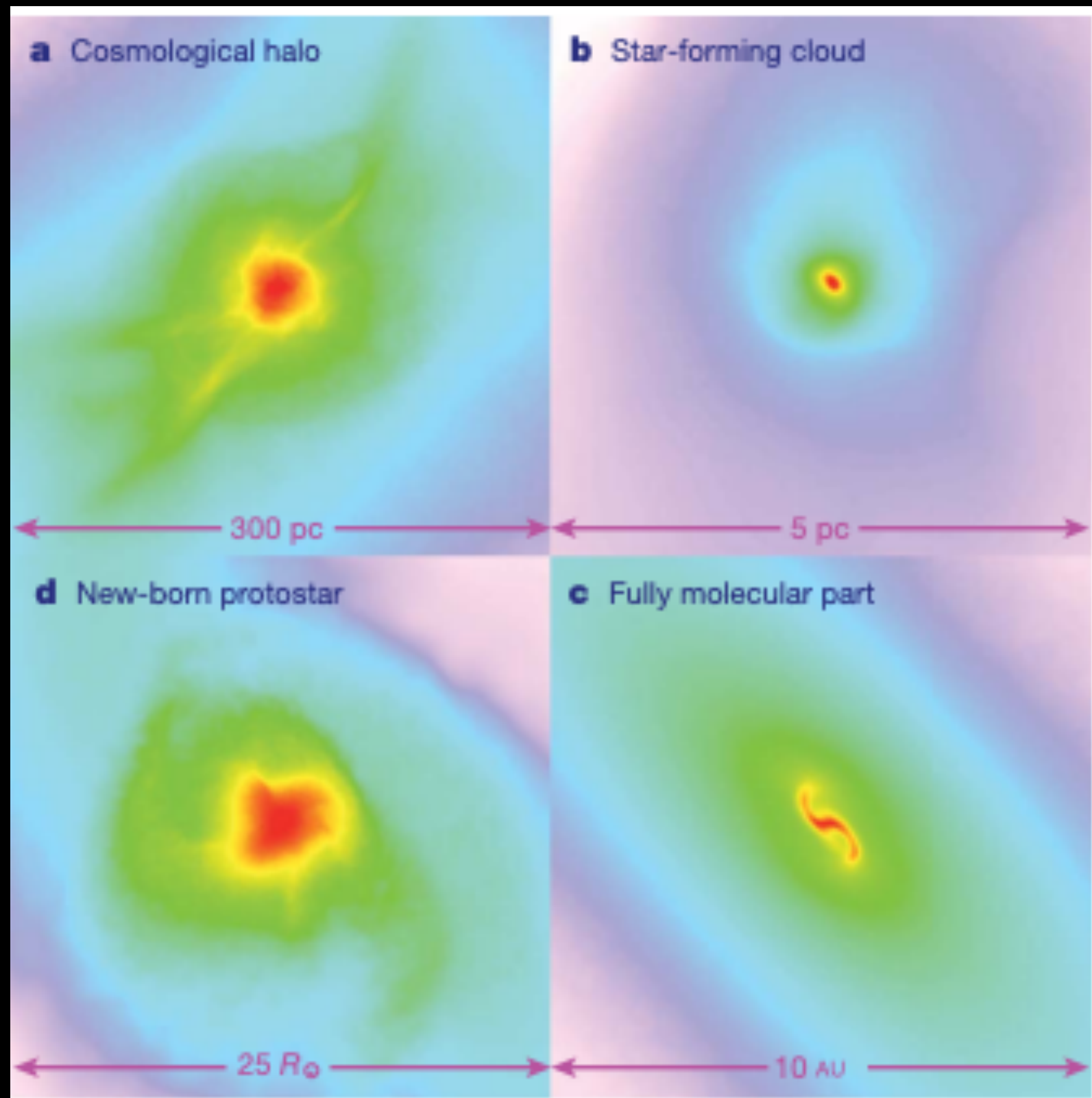
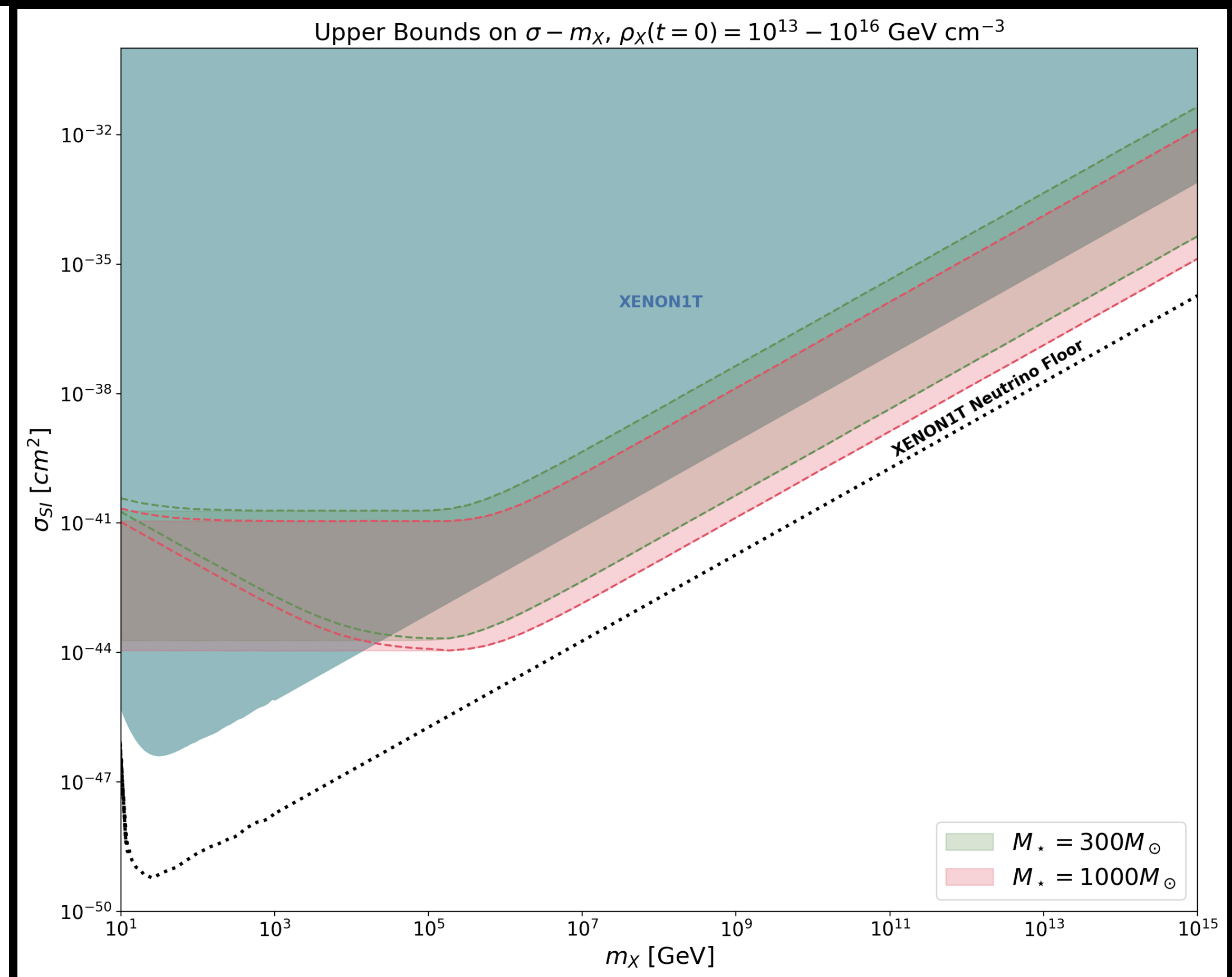
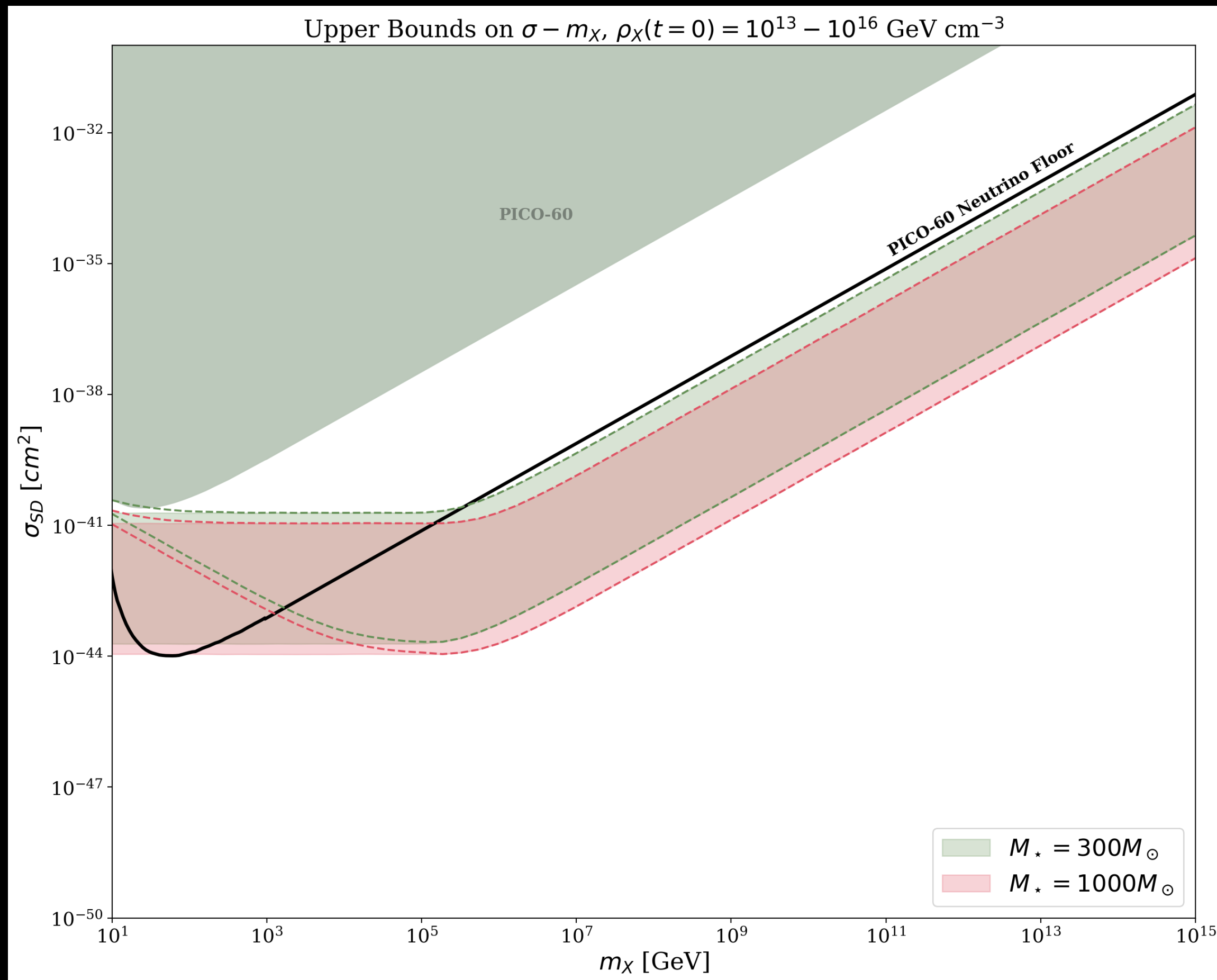


Figure From: Bromm et al. Nature 459 (2009)

- The form at high redshift ($z \sim 10-40$) from pristine BBN H and He gas
- In very DM rich environments, at the center of DM microhalos
- Usually in isolation, or with few companions
- They can grow as massive as $1000M_{\odot}$ (Population III aka PopIII stars: zero metallicity stars powered by H fusion)

PopulationII stars as DM probes

Bounds from imposing sub-Eddington Luminosity:
 $L_{DM}(M_\star, R_\star; DM \text{ params}) \leq L_{Edd}(M_\star) - L_{nuc}(M_\star)$



Ilie et al. PhysRevD.104.123031 (2021) (arXiv: 2009.11474)

Population III stars as DM probes

The team:



Caleb Levy (Harvard U)



Jacob Pilawa (UC Berkeley)



Saiyang Zhang (UT Austin)

Ilie et al. PhysRevD.104.123031 (2021) (arXiv: 2009.11474)

PopII stars Observational Status

Monthly Notices
of the
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
MNRAS **494**, L81–L85 (2020)
Advance Access publication 2020 March 13

doi:10.1093/mnras/slaa041

Candidate Population III stellar complex at $z = 6.629$ in the MUSE Deep Lensed Field

E. Vanzella,^{1★} M. Meneghetti,^{1★} G. B. Caminha,² M. Castellano,³ F. Calura,^{1★}
P. Rosati,^{1,4} C. Grillo,⁵ M. Dijkstra, M. Gronke,⁶ E. Sani,⁷ A. Mercurio,⁸ P. Tozzi,⁹
M. Nonino,¹⁰ S. Cristiani,¹⁰ M. Mignoli,¹ L. Pentericci,³ R. Gilli,¹ T. Treu,¹¹
K. Caputi,² G. Cupani,¹⁰ A. Fontana,³ A. Grazian,¹² and I. Balestra^{10,13}

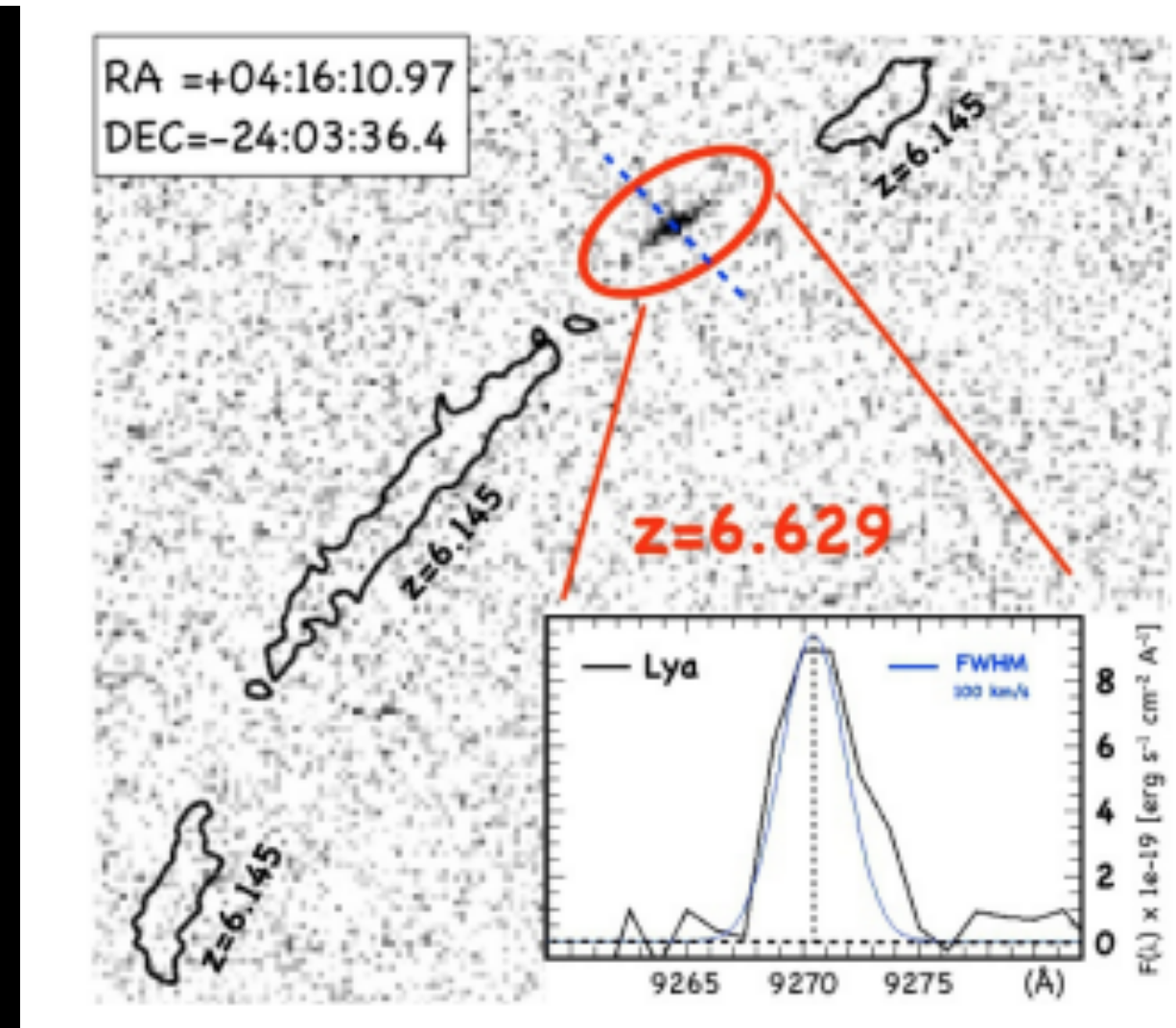
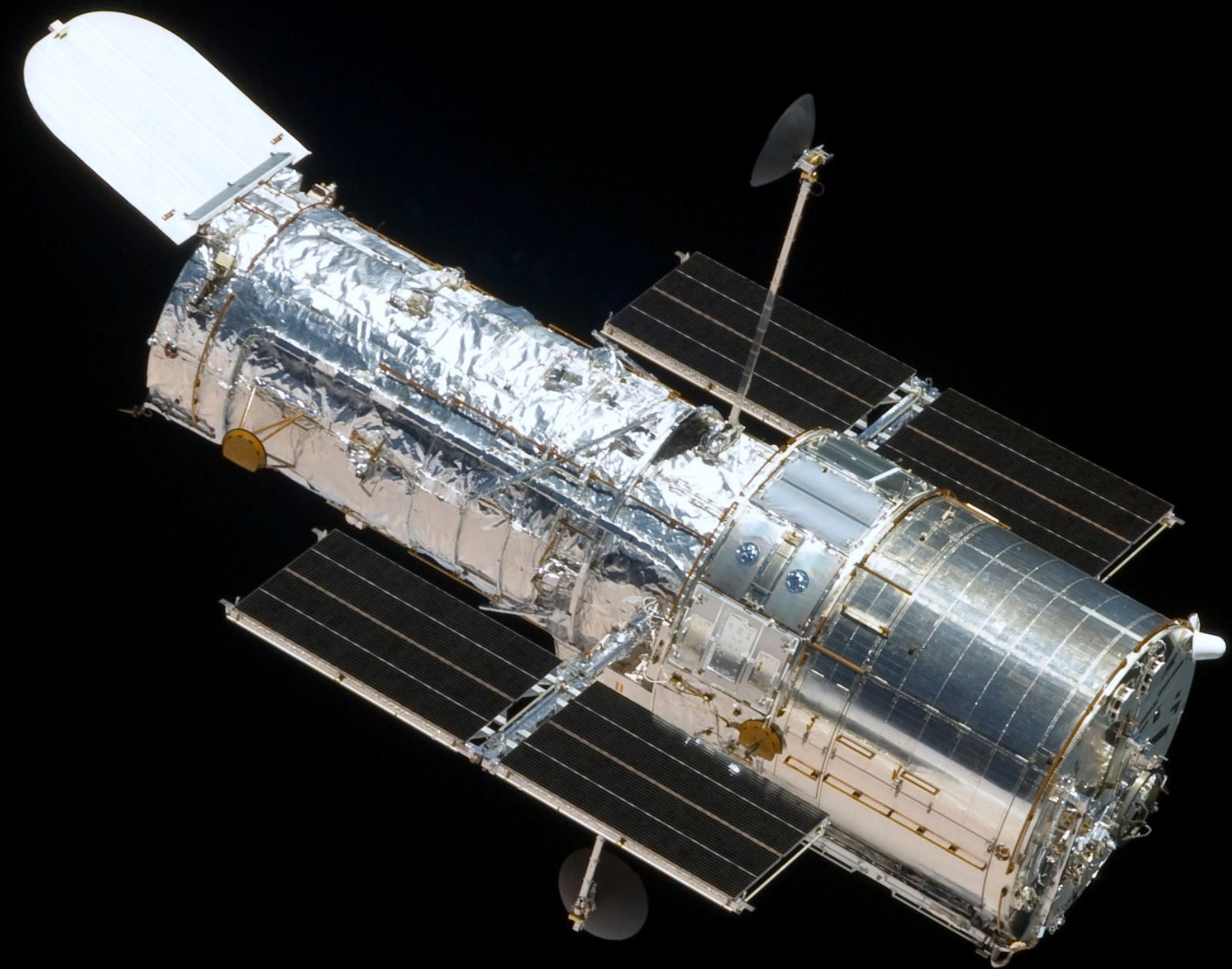


Fig. From Vanzella et al. MNRAS Lett. 294 (2020)



Hubble Space Telescope. Image credit: NASA

PopII stars Observational Status

A highly magnified star at redshift 6.2

Brian Welch , Dan Coe, ... Tom Broadhurst  Show authors

Nature **603**, 815–818 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

1940 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

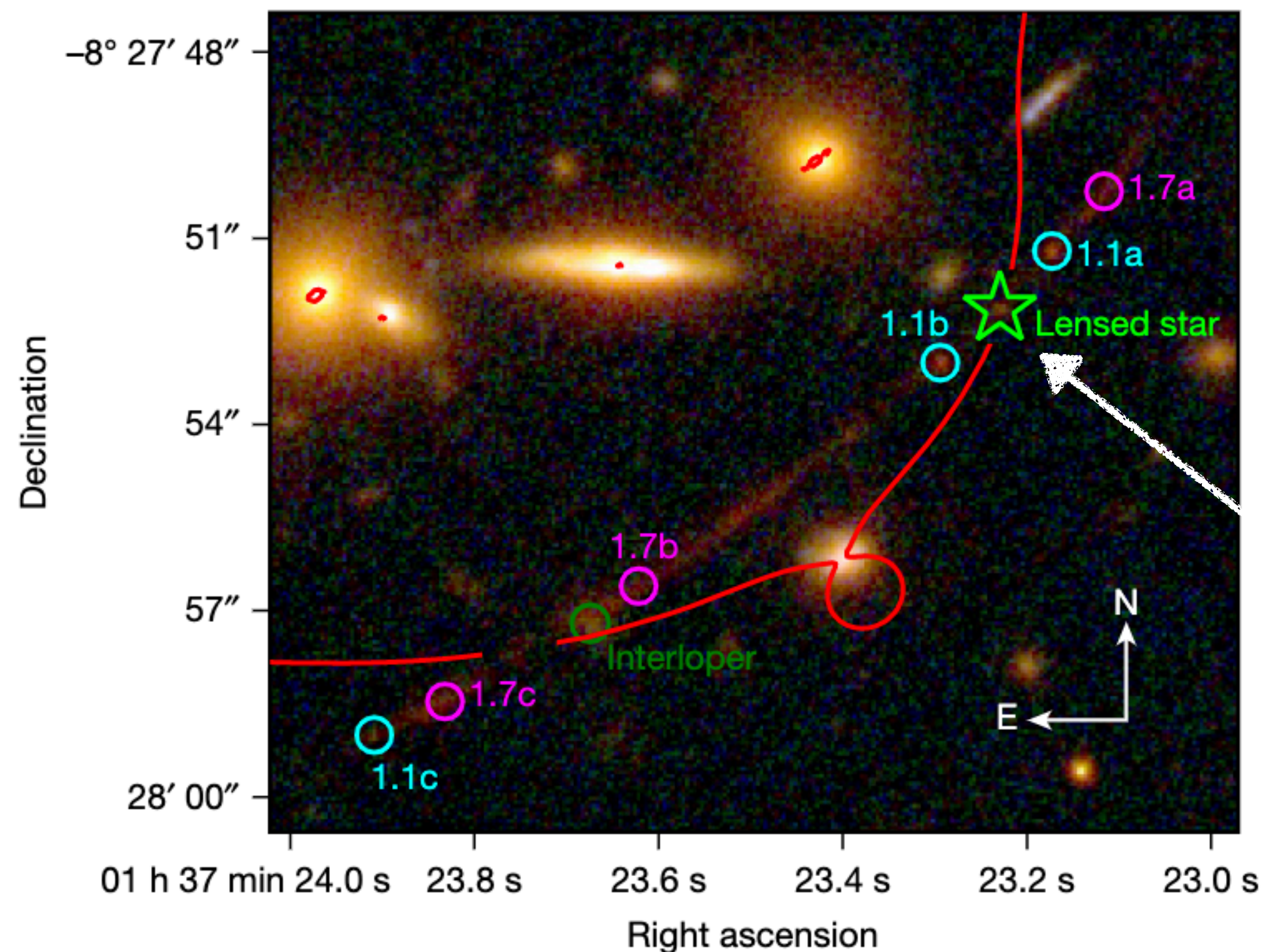
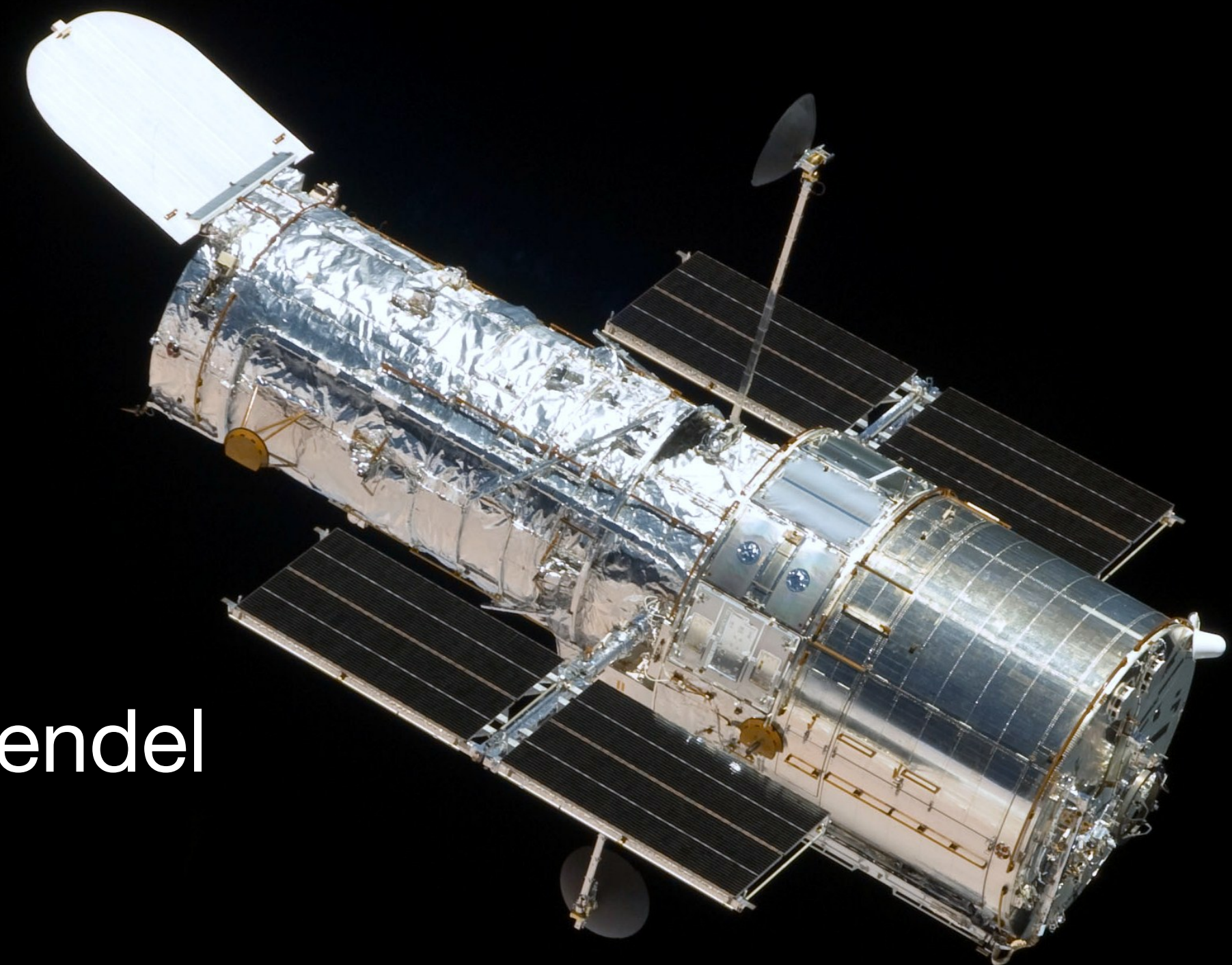


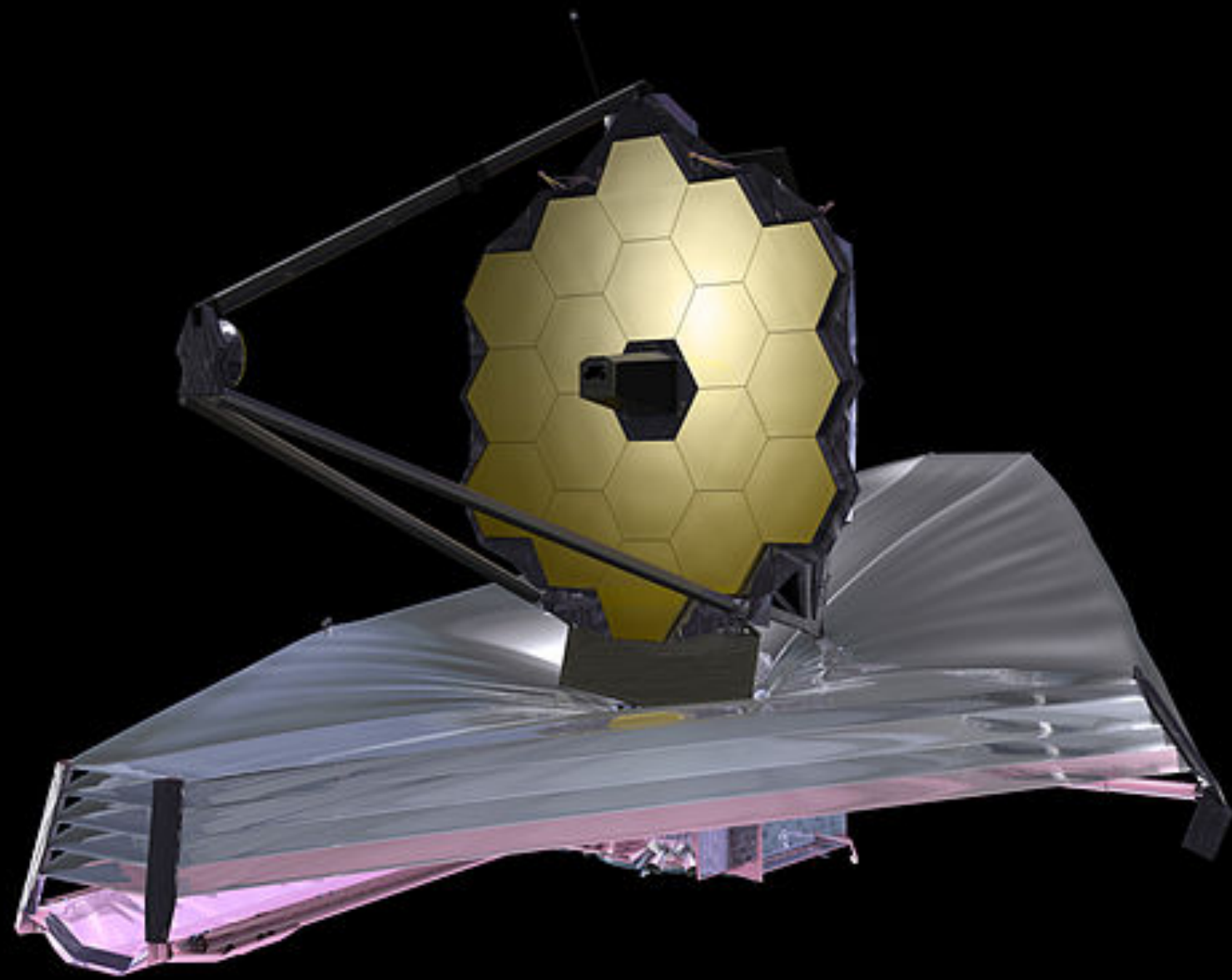
Fig. From Welch et al. *Nature* **603**, 815–818 (2022)

Earendel

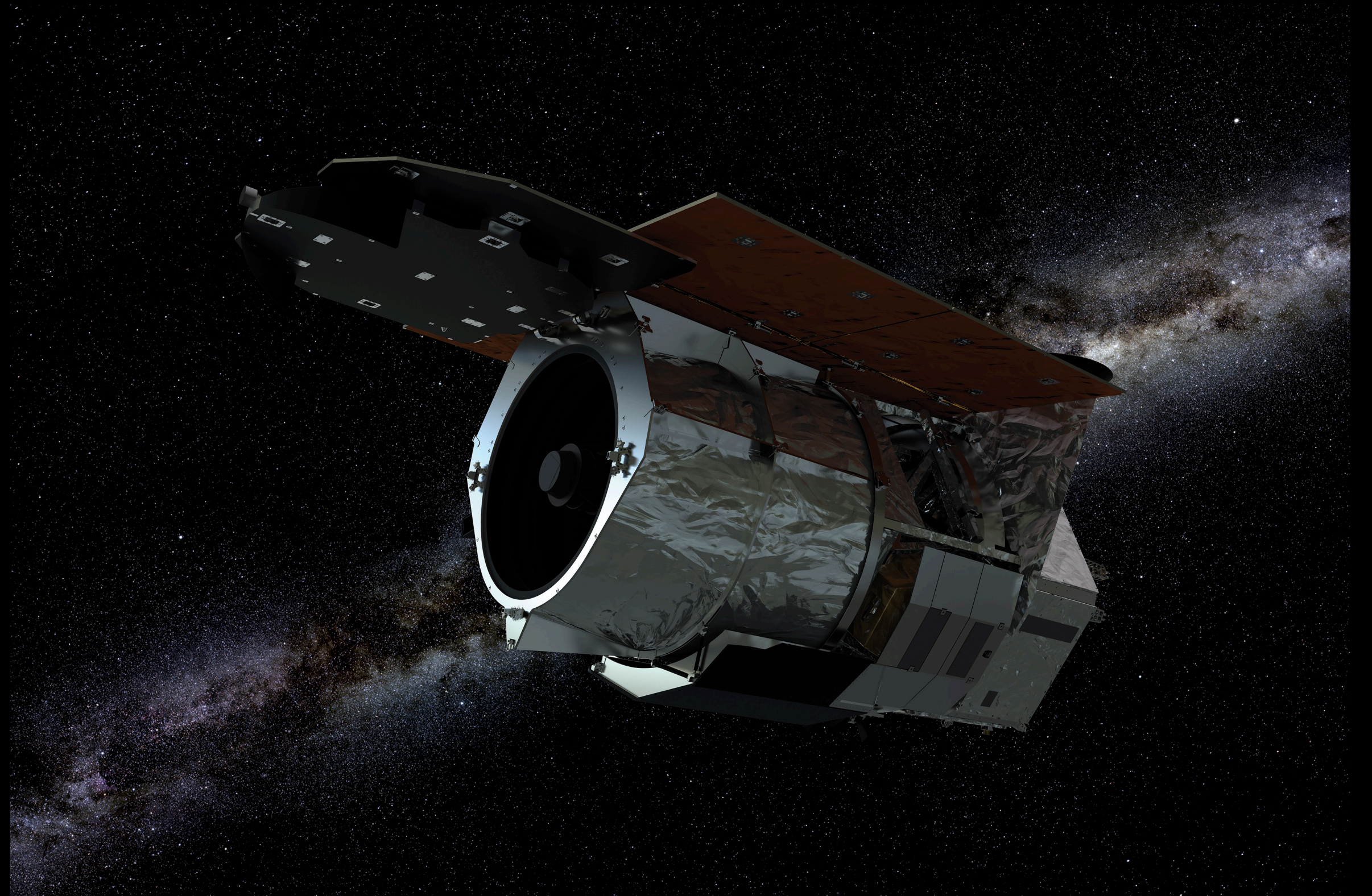


Hubble Space Telescope. Image credit: NASA

Observational Prospects

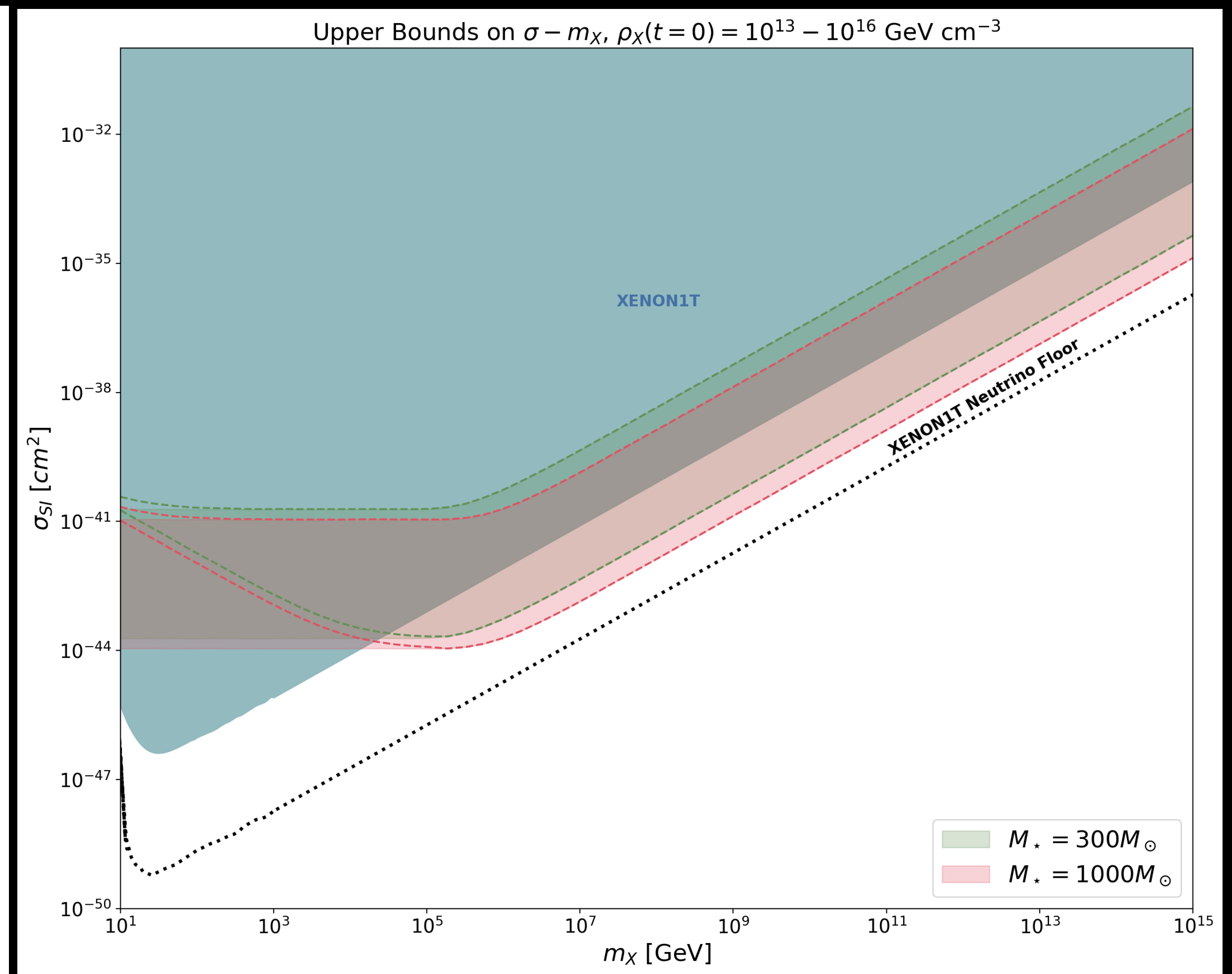
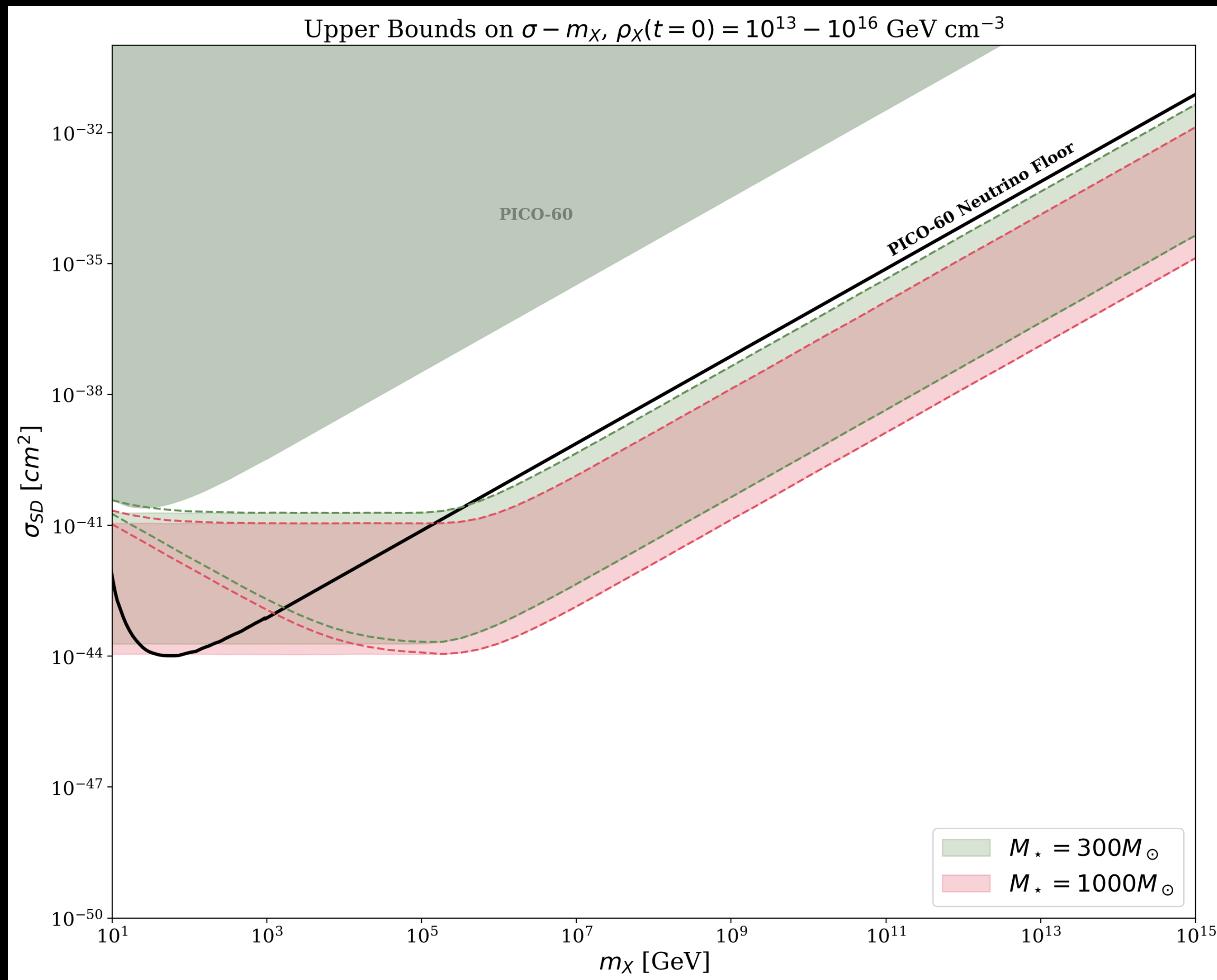


JWST



Roman (WFIRST)

Why are PopII stars such powerful DM probes?

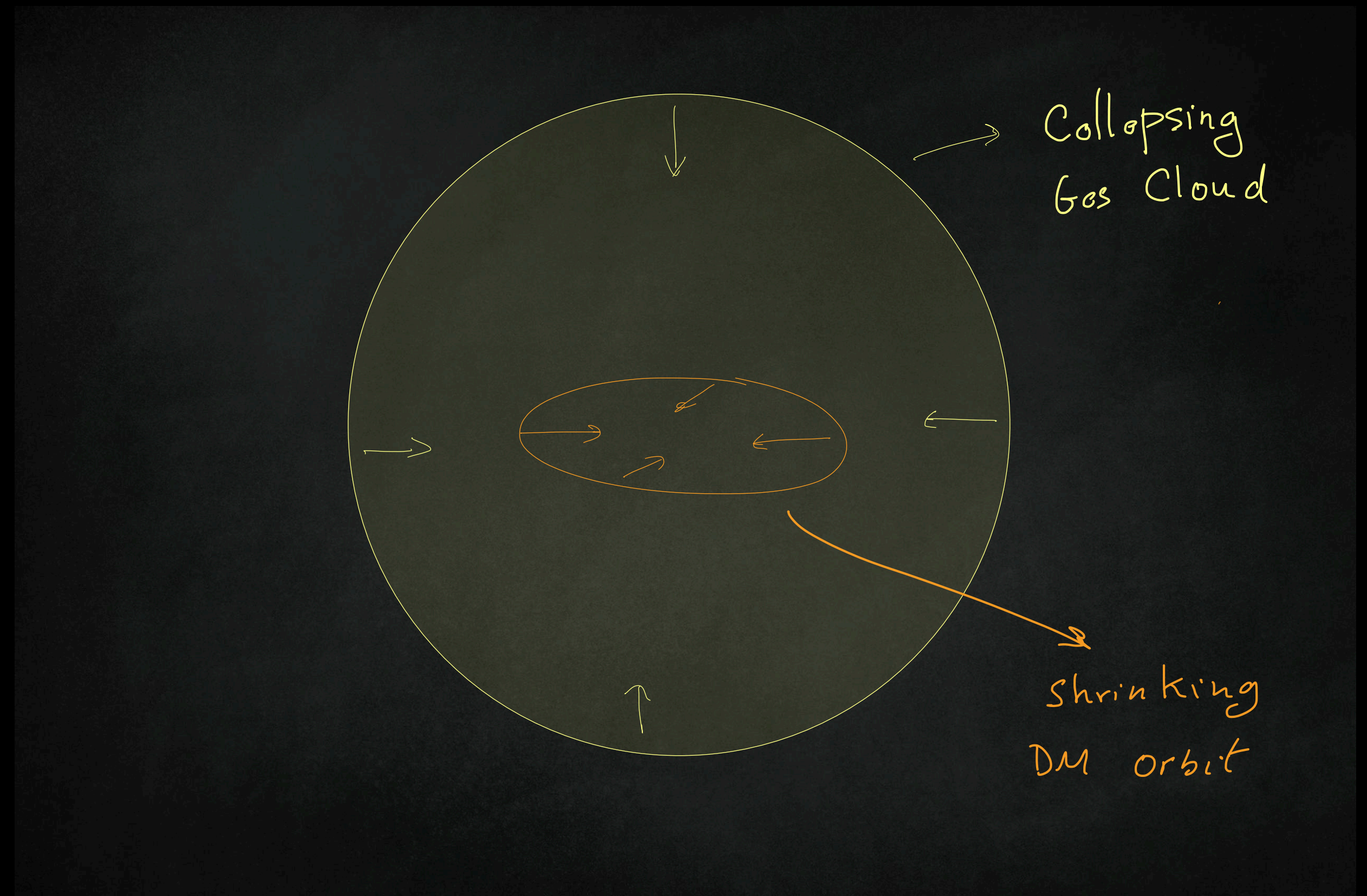
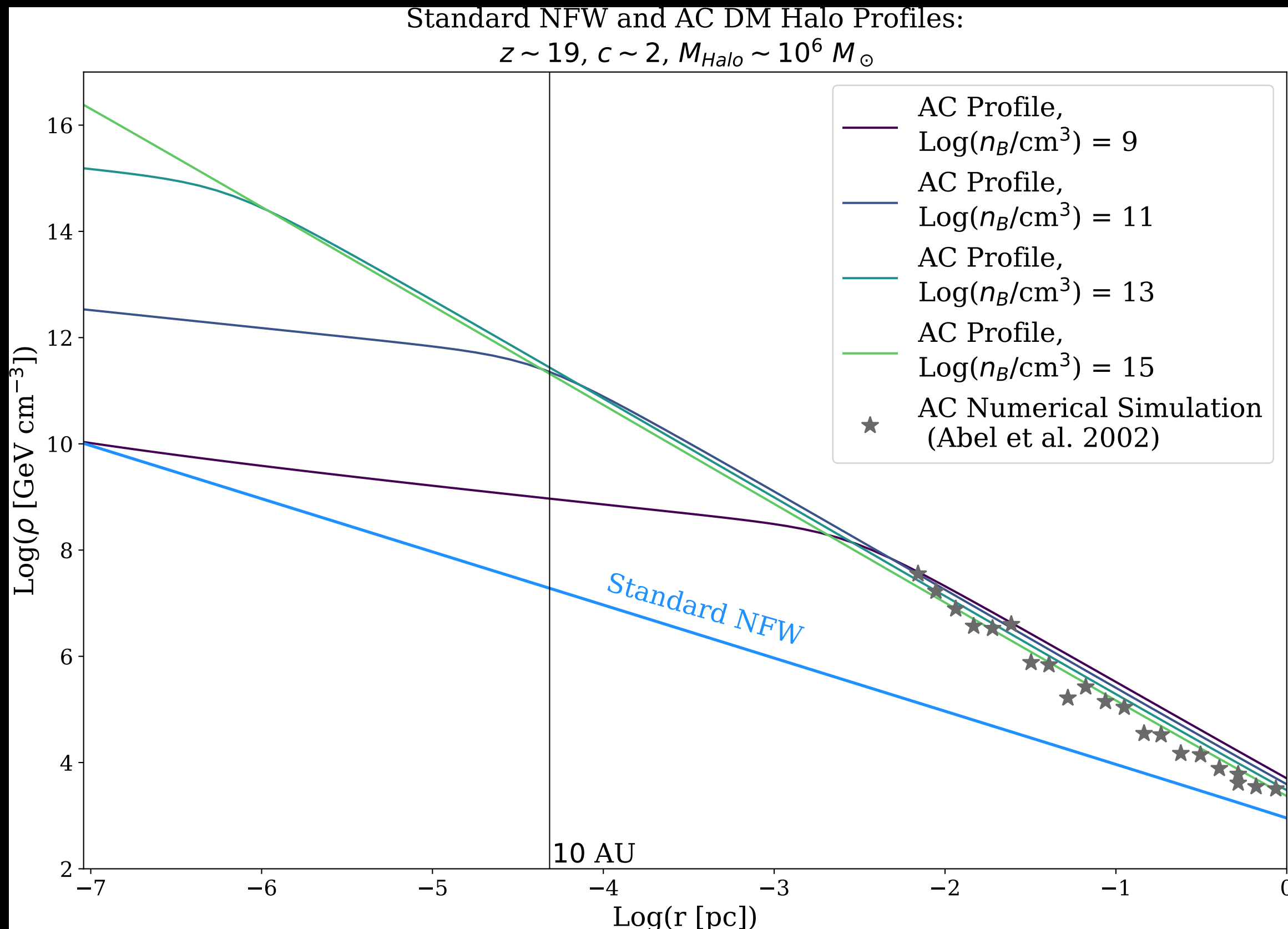


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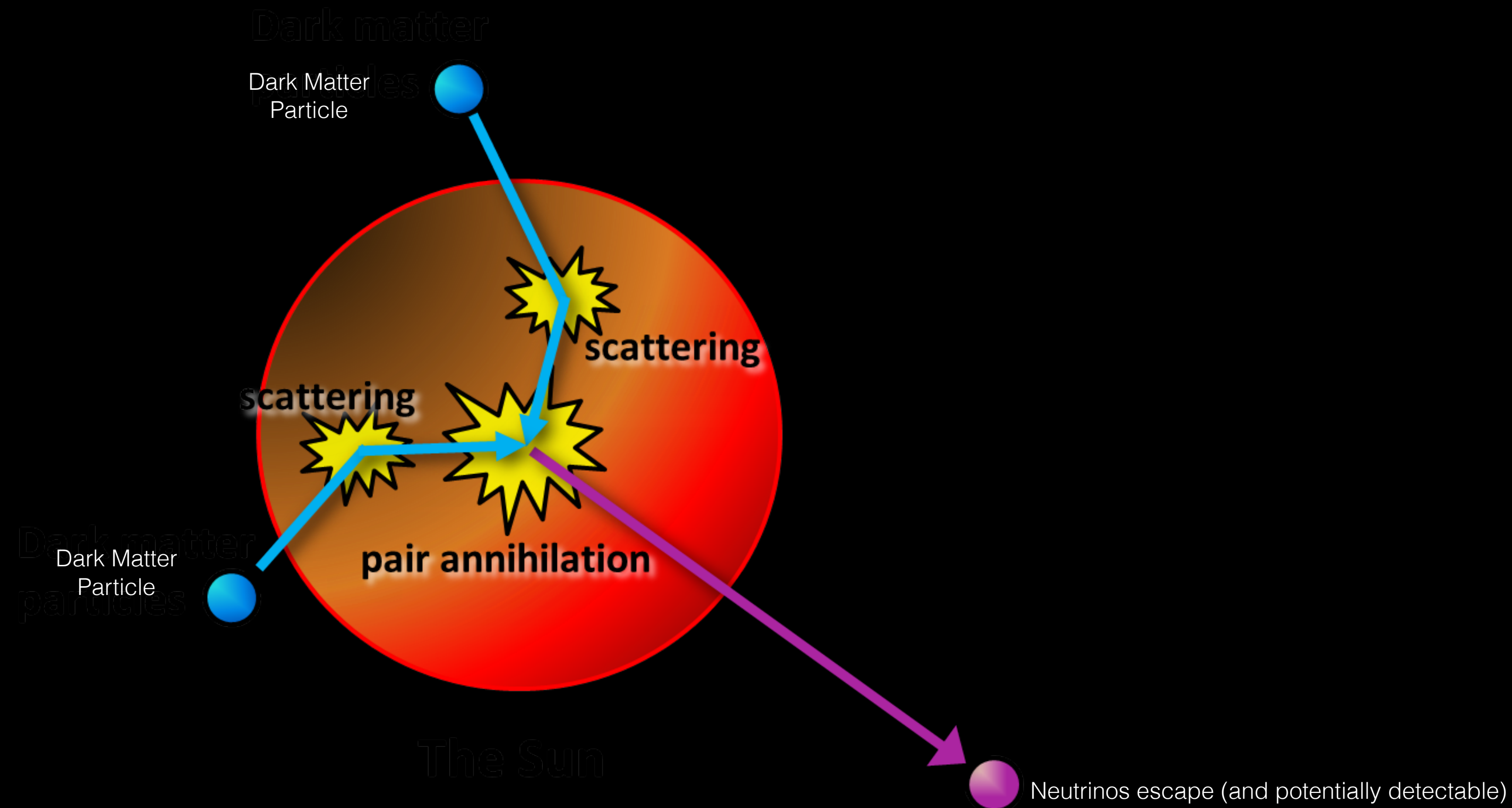
- They form in very DM rich environments (at the center of high z DM halos)
- They are quite large, and, as such, great Dark Matter “captors”
- They shine close to the Eddington limit even if one includes only nuclear fusion power

DM Densities enhancement: Adiabatic Compression



Blumenthal AC formalism vs Abel et al Science (2002) Simulation

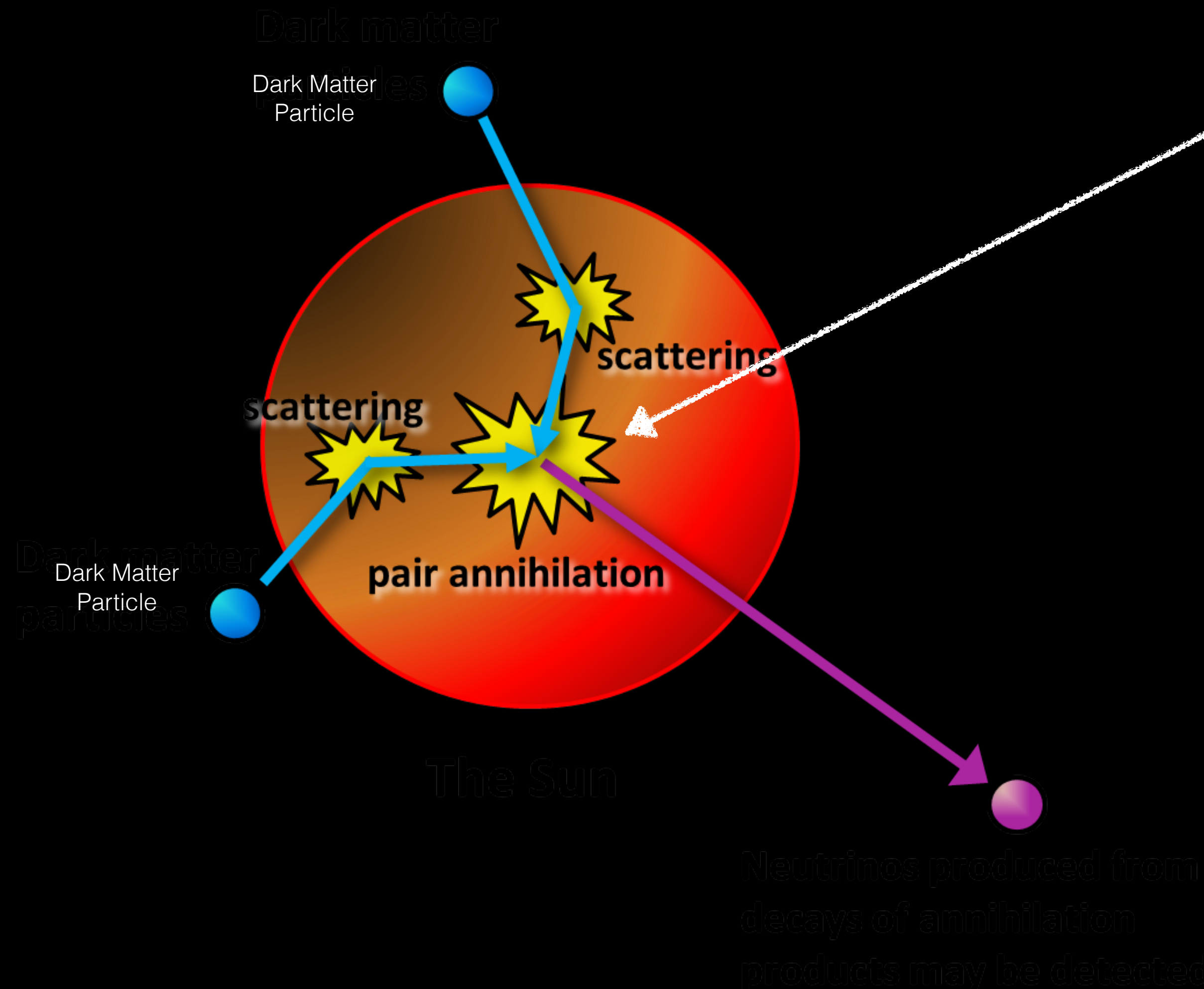
A Star burning Captured Dark Matter



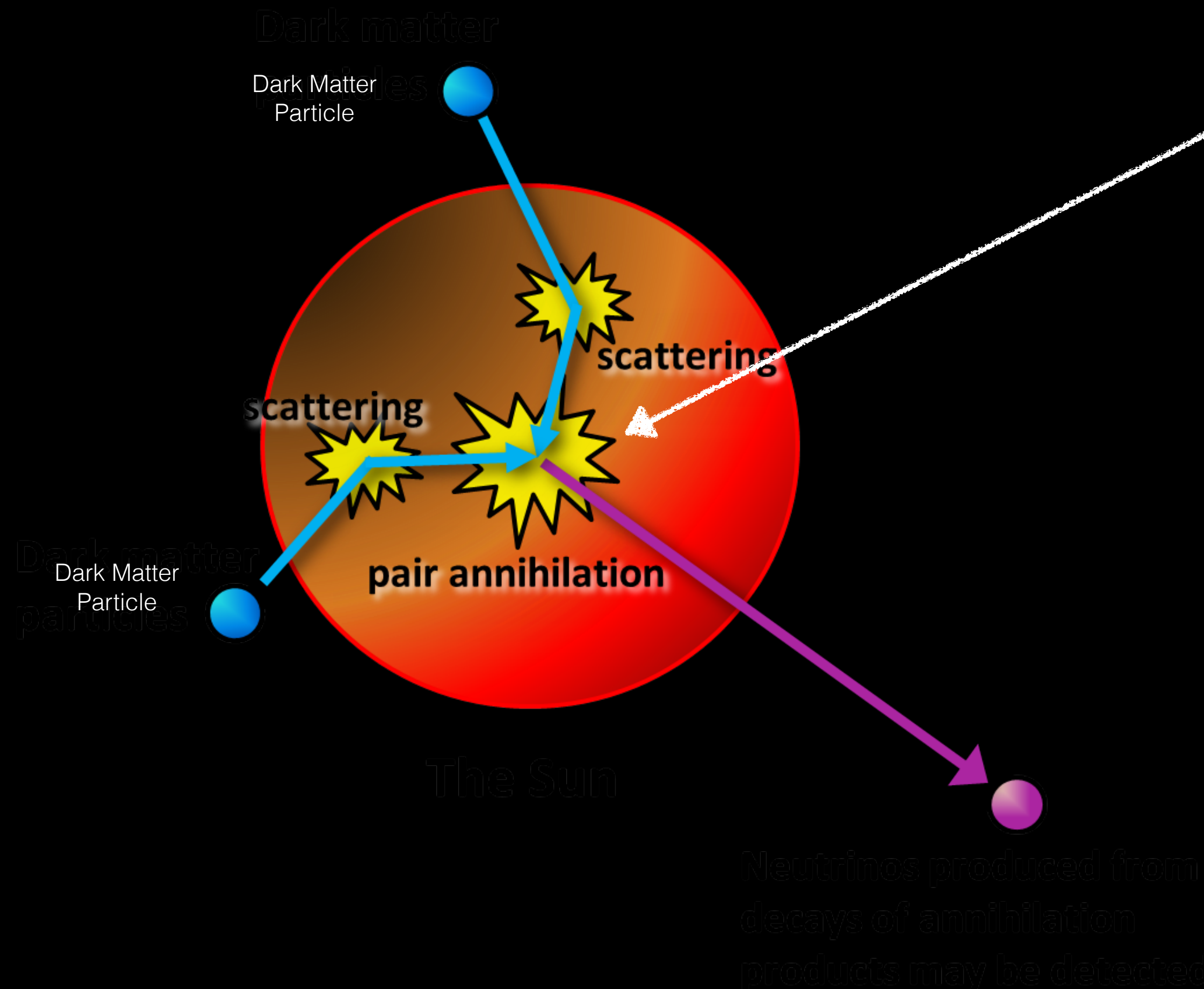
Neutrinos produced from decays of annihilation products may be detected.

A Star burning Captured Dark Matter

DM Luminosity can increase brightness



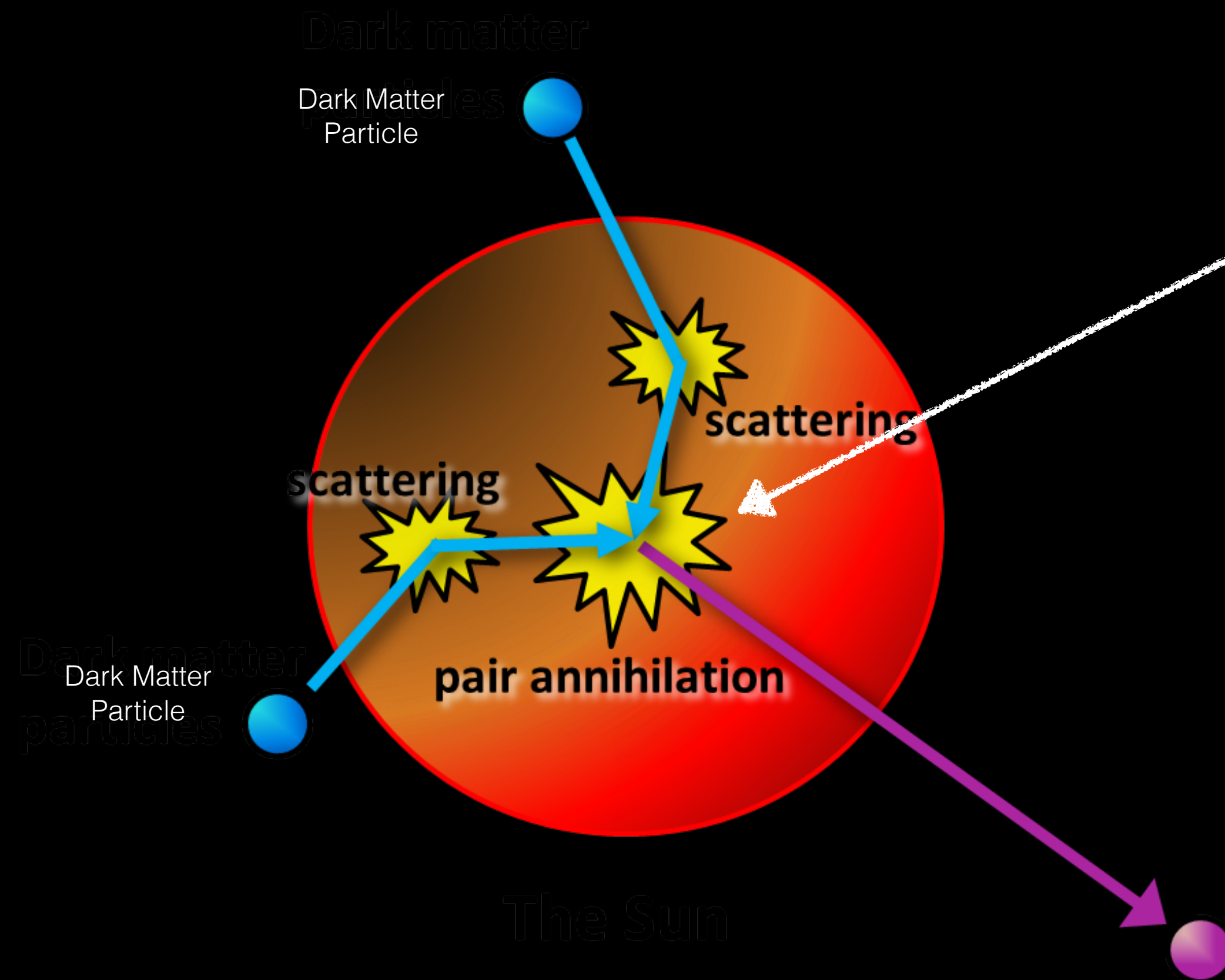
A Star burning Captured Dark Matter



DM Luminosity can increase brightness

$$L_{DM} = f \cdot \Gamma_A \cdot m_X$$

A Star burning Captured Dark Matter



DM Luminosity can increase brightness

$$L_{DM} = f \cdot \Gamma_A \cdot m_X$$

Fraction of annihilation energy deposited inside the star, i.e. not lost to neutrinos.

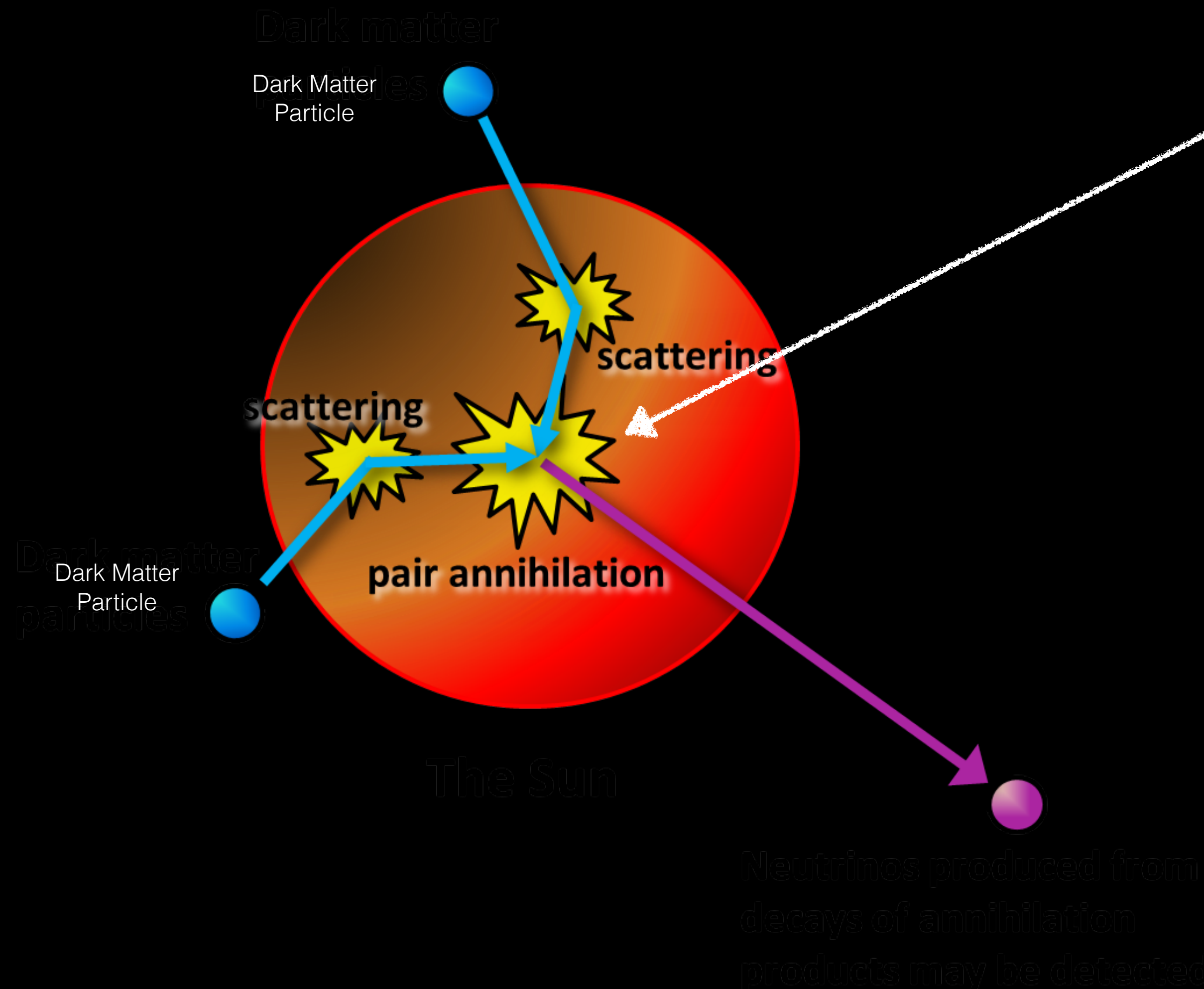
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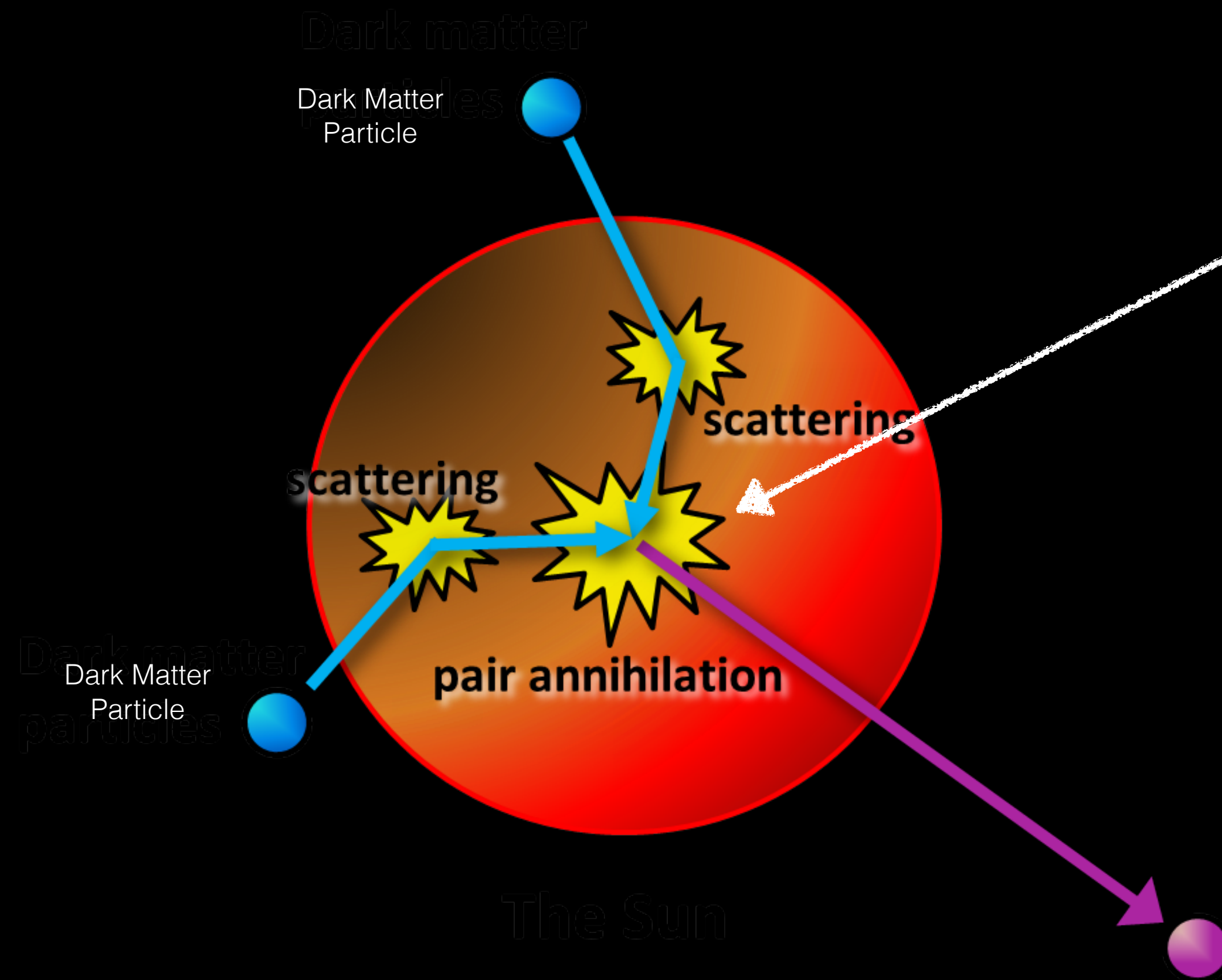
DM Luminosity can increase
brightness

$$L_{DM} = f \cdot \Gamma_A \cdot m_X$$

$$\Gamma_A \xrightarrow[\text{Capture-Annihilation Equilibrium}]{2 \text{ Captured DM annihilated each event}} \frac{C}{2}$$



A Star burning Captured Dark Matter



DM Luminosity can increase
brightness

$$L_{DM} = f \cdot \Gamma_A \cdot m_X$$

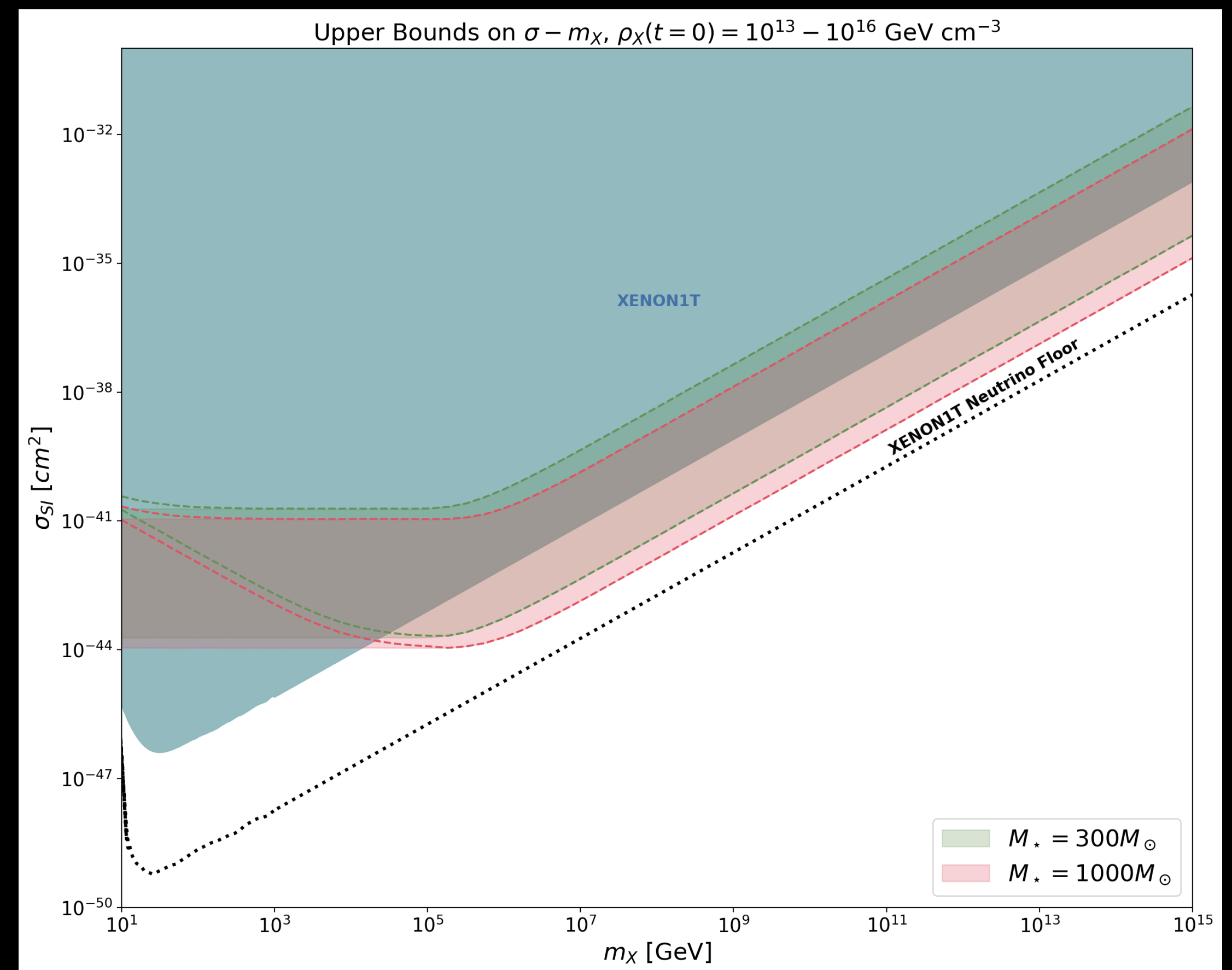
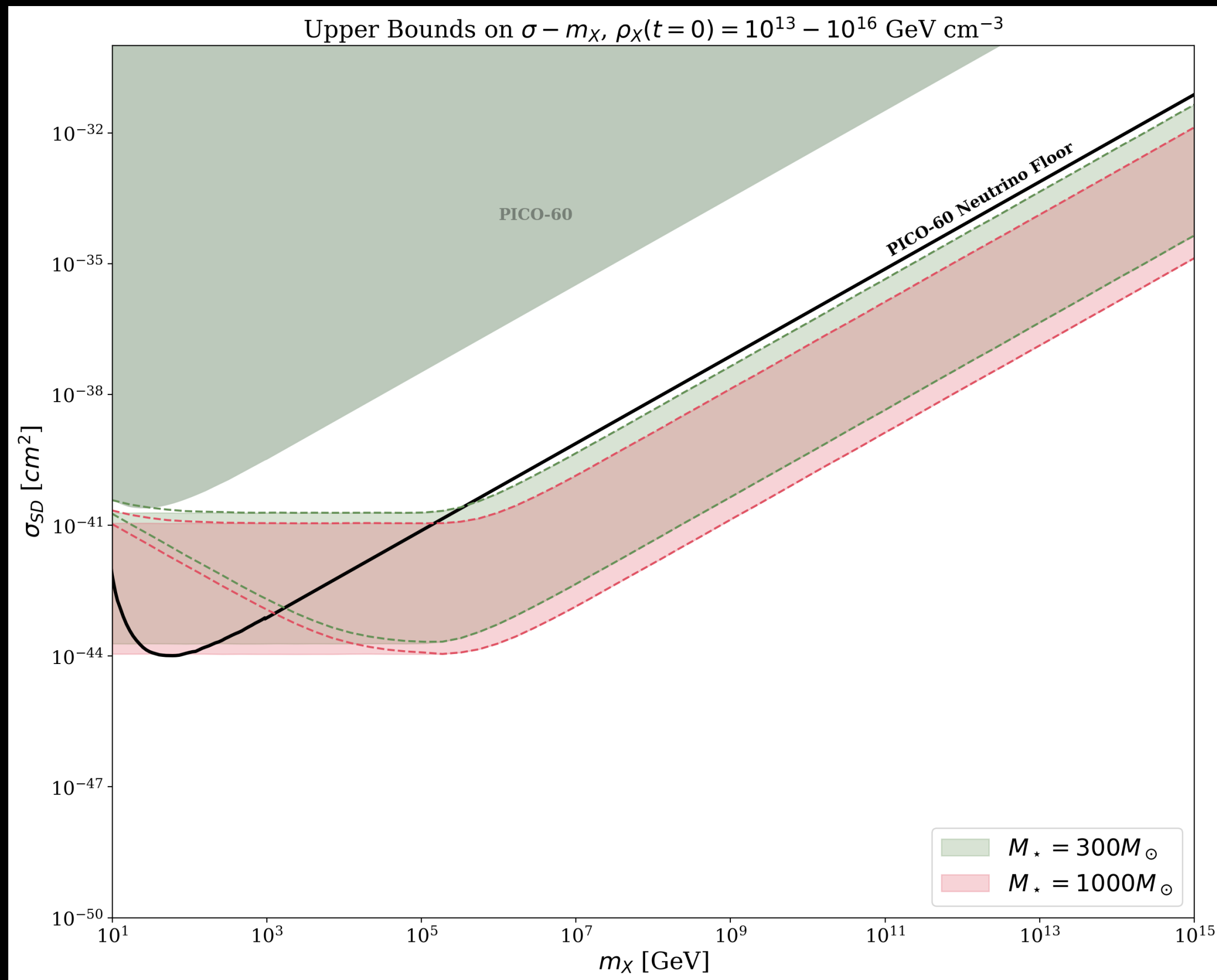
Capture & Annihilation

Equilibrium

$$L_{DM} \propto C_{tot} \propto \sigma \times \rho_X$$

Neutrinos produced from
decays of annihilation
products may be detected.

Bounds from imposing sub-Eddington Luminosity:

$$L_{DM}(M_\star, R_\star; DM \text{ params}) \leq L_{Edd}(M_\star) - L_{nuc}(M_\star)$$


Conclusion for PopIII stars as DM probes

- PopIII stars could tell us about what DM **cannot be**

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The first Stars, bird's-eye view

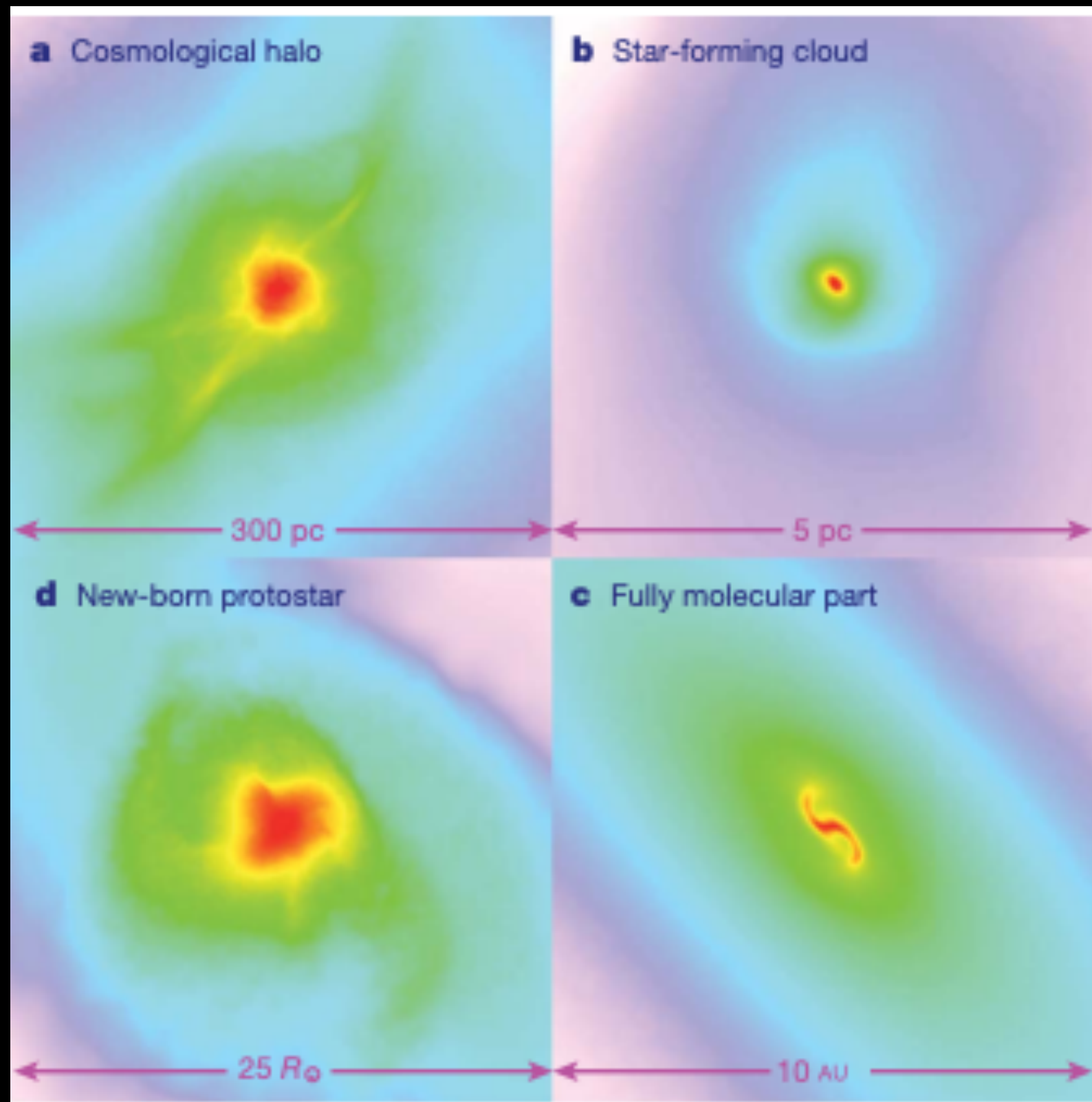


Figure From: Bromm et al. Nature 459 (2009)

The first Stars, bird's-eye view

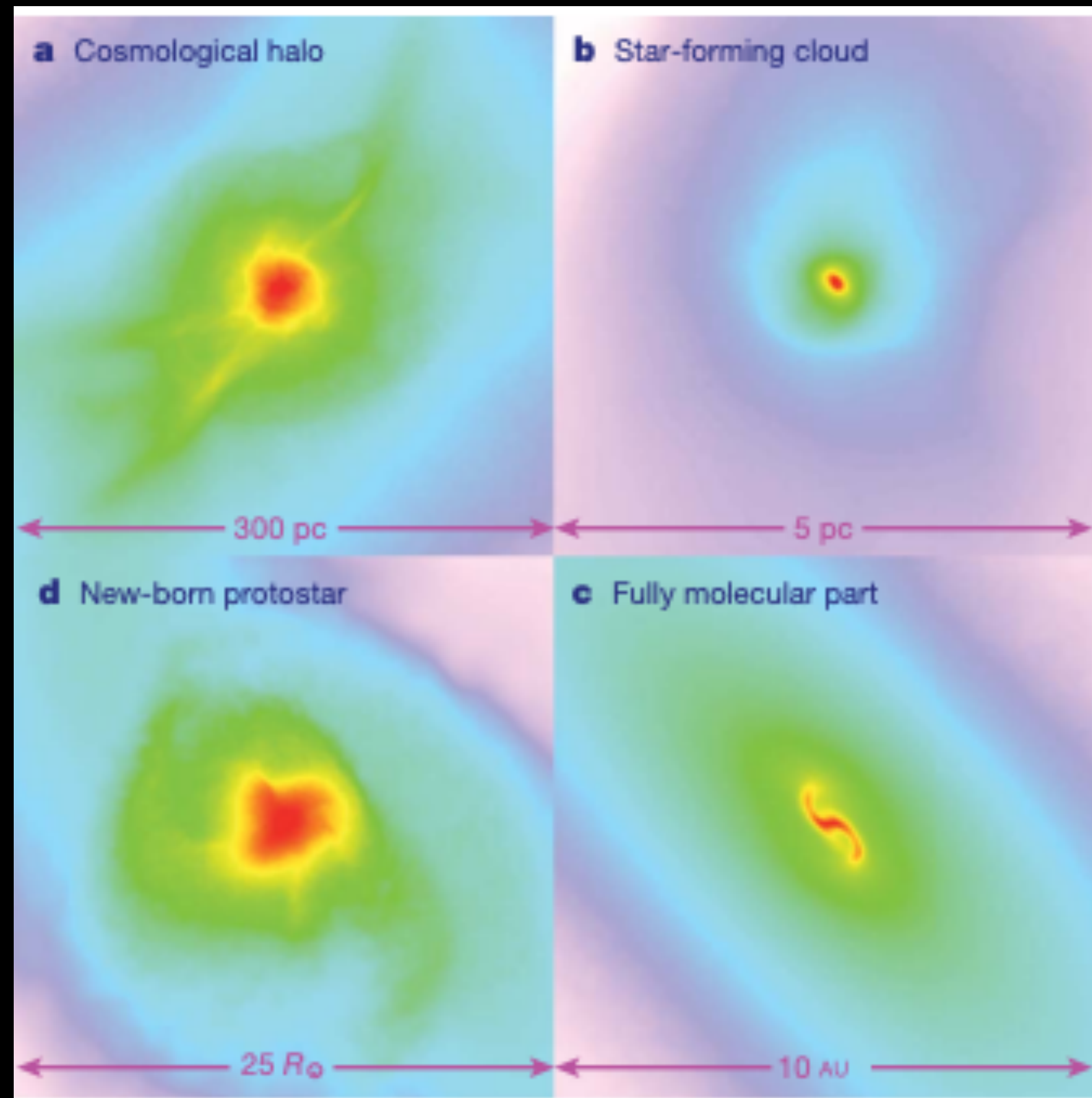


Figure From: Bromm et al. Nature 459 (2009)

- The form at high redshift ($z \sim 10-40$) from pristine BBN H and He gas
- In very DM rich environments, at the center of DM microhalos
- Usually in isolation, or with few companions
- DM annihilations can lead to formation of **Dark Stars (DS)** powered solely by DM annihilations [Spolyar, Freese, Gondolo PRL 2007]

The three conditions for the formation of a Dark Star

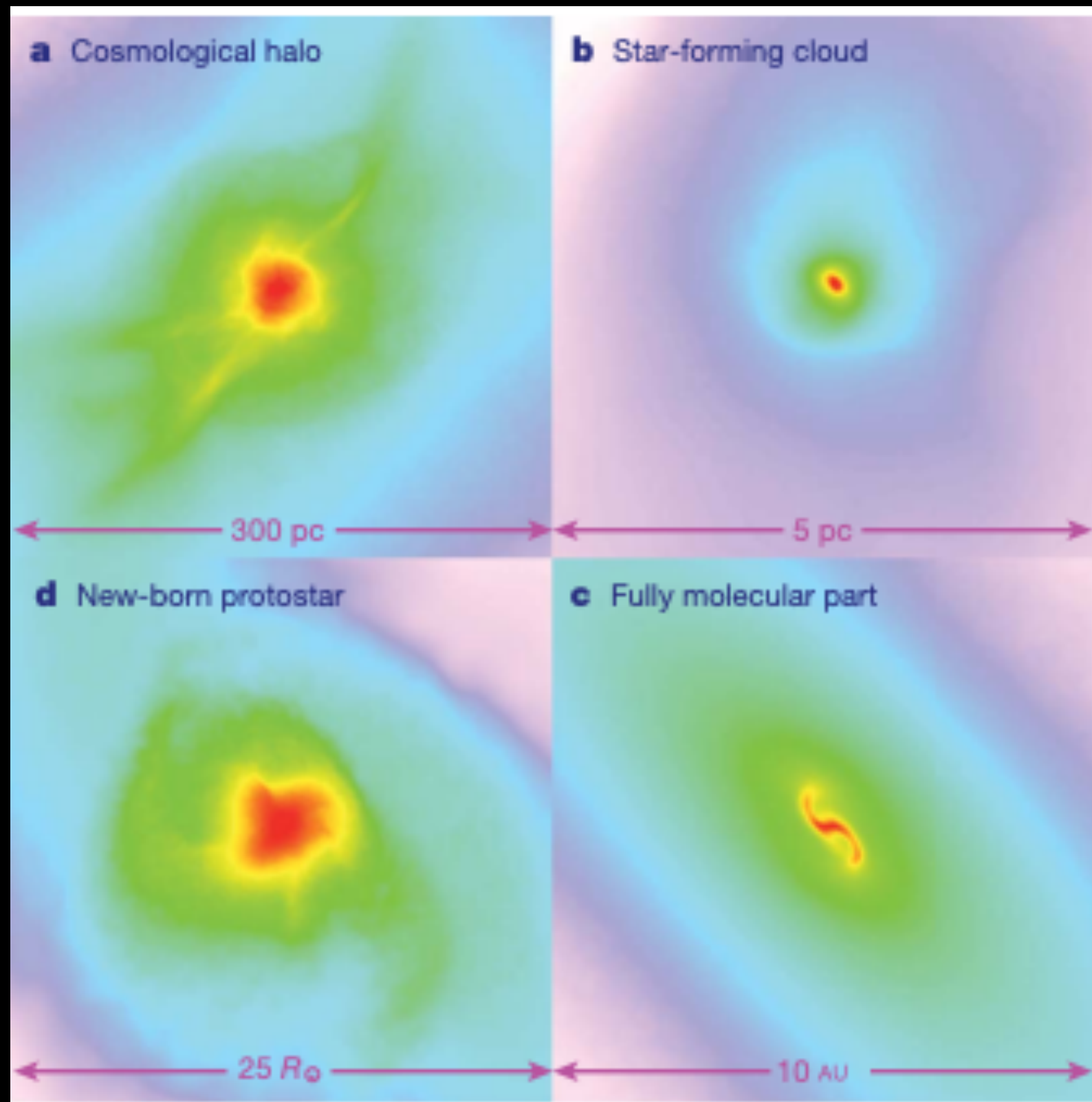
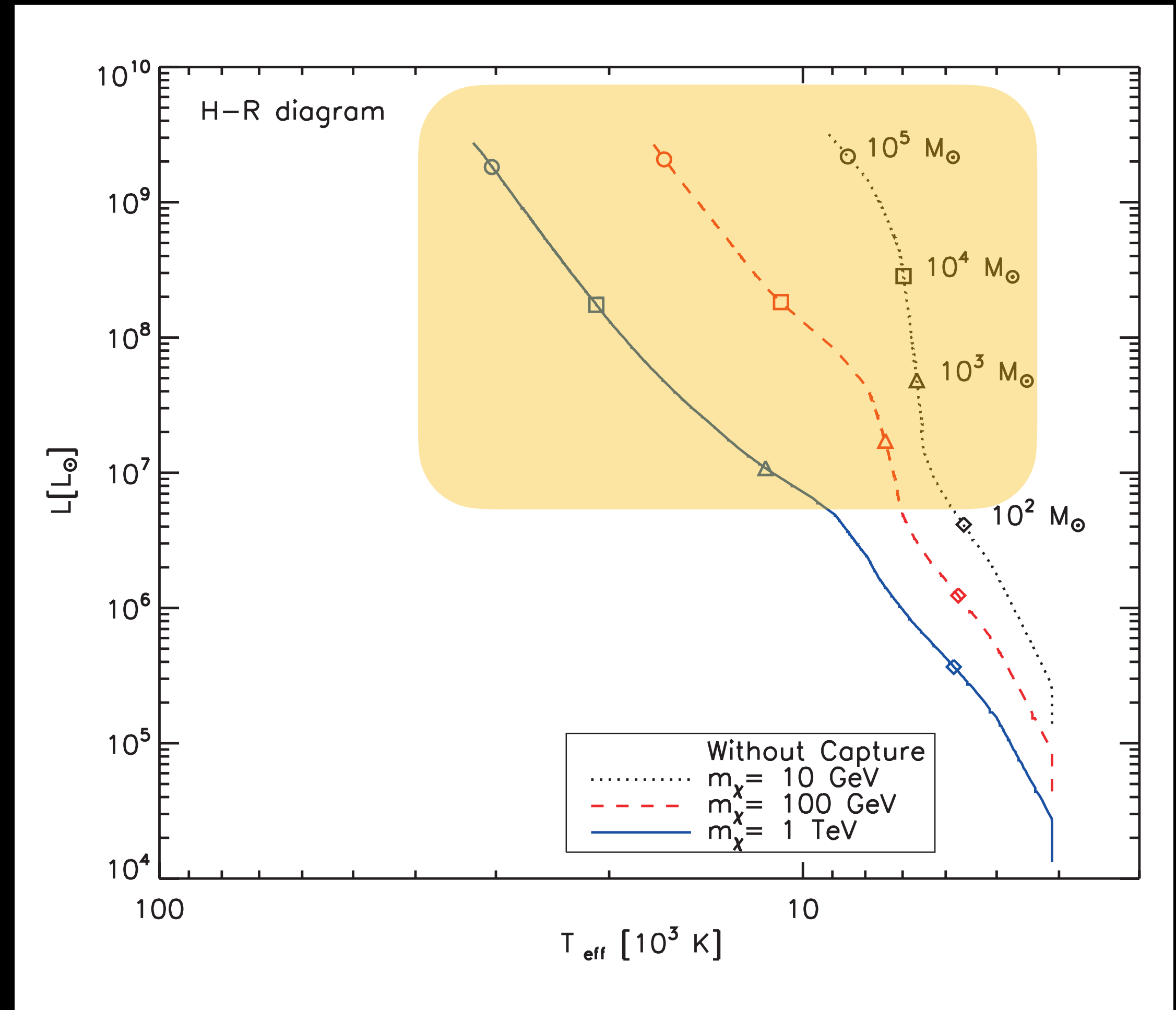


Figure From: Bromm et al. Nature 459 (2009)

- Sufficiently high DM densities
- Poor cooling mechanisms for the collapsing molecular cloud
- DM annihilation products can thermalize efficiently with the baryons in the cloud

Growth of DS to Supermassive Status: via **Extended AC**

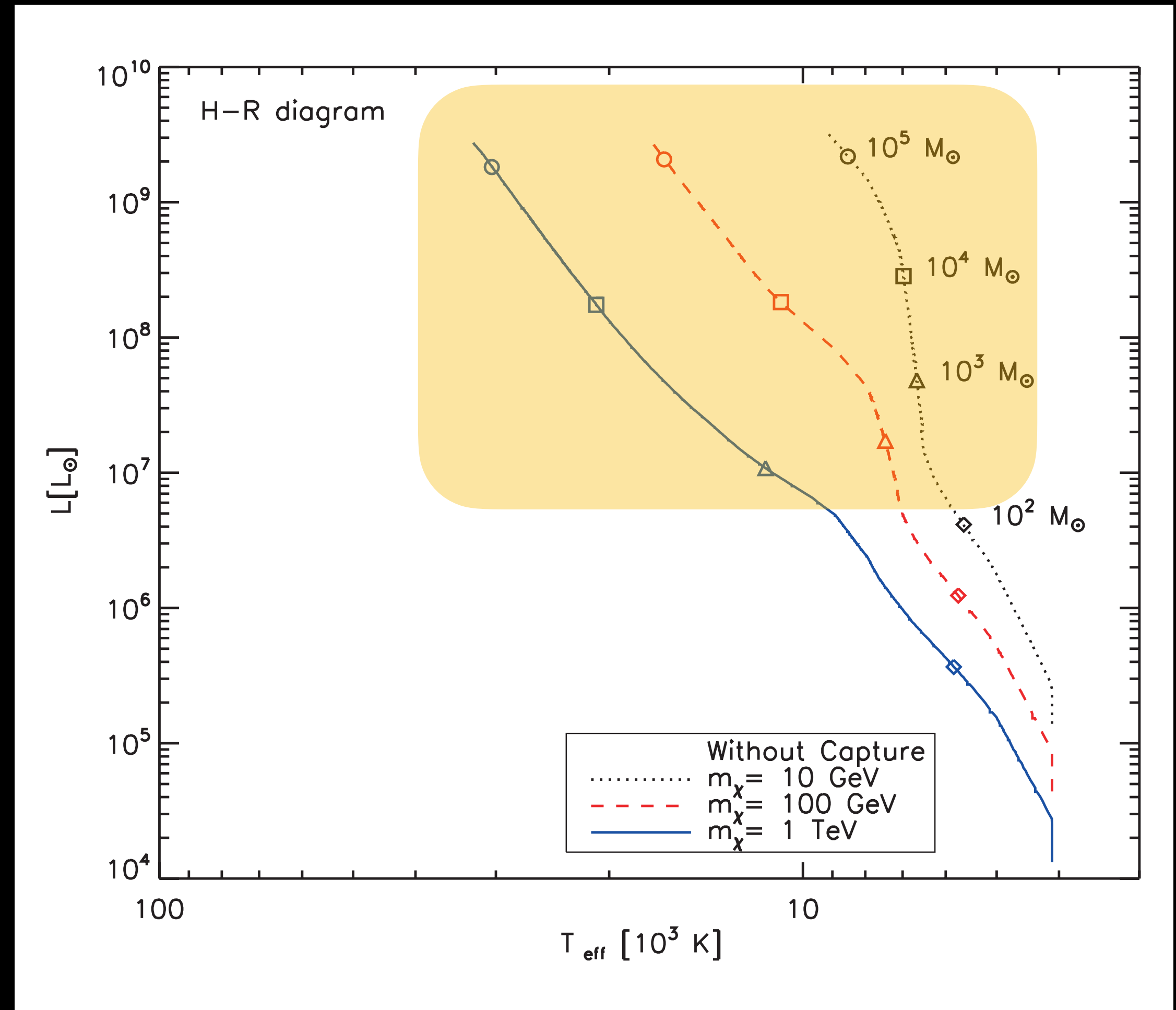
- In triaxial DM halos (expected from simulations) a large population DM orbits are centrophilic (chaotic and box orbits)
- Those orbits can continue to supply DM to provide a heat source for the DS for a prologued time



Freese, Cl, Spolyar, et al. 2010 ApJ

Growth of DS to Supermassive Status: via **Extended AC**

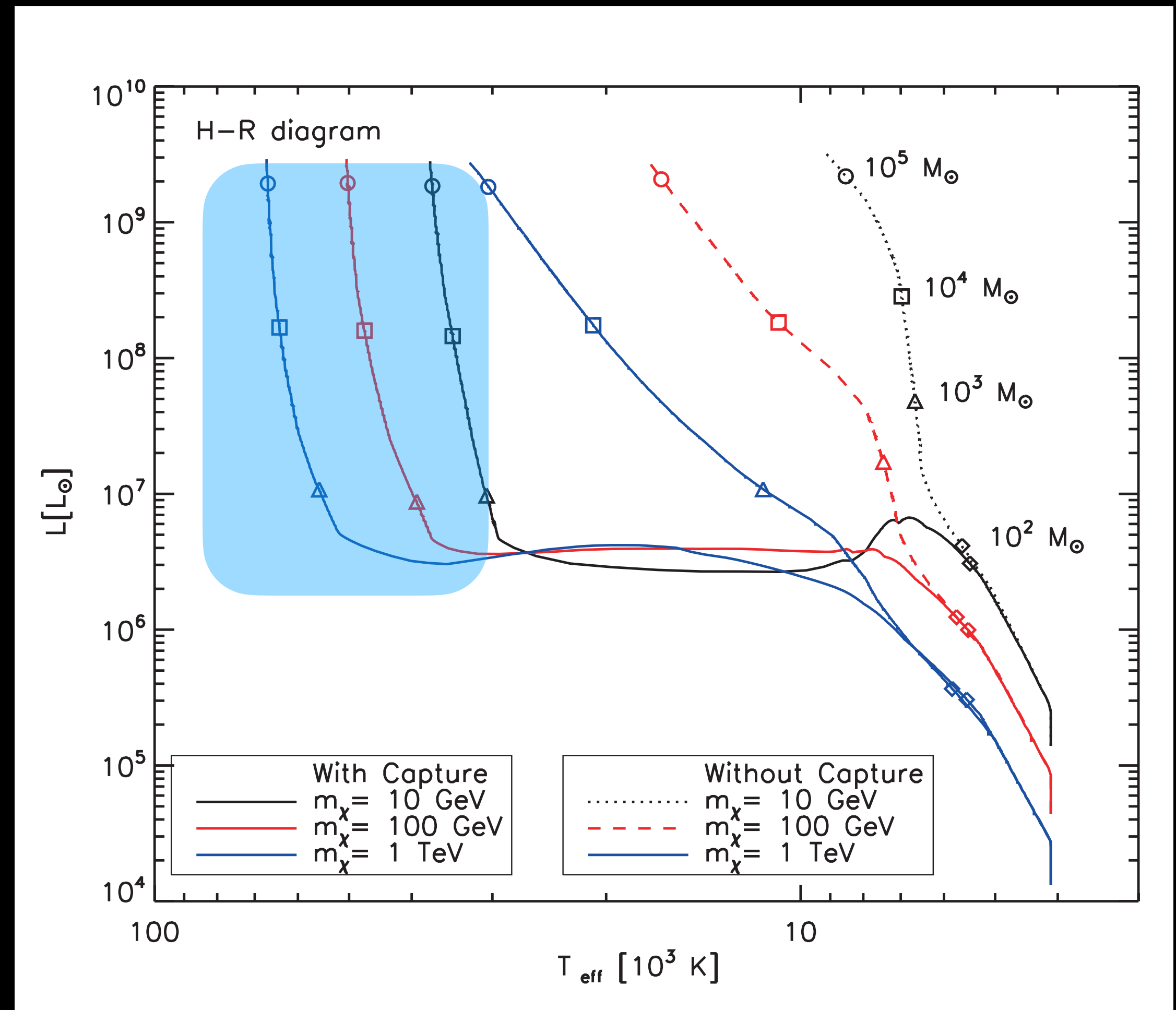
- In triaxial DM halos (expected from simulations) a large population DM orbits are centrophilic (chaotic and box orbits)
- Those orbits can continue to supply DM to provide a heat source for the DS for a prologued time
- DS growing via accretion inside a $10^6 M_\odot$ DM halo to reach $M_{SMDS} \sim 10^5 M_\odot$



Freese, Cl, Spolyar, et al. 2010 ApJ

Growth of DS to Supermassive Status: via **DM capture**

- If DM interacts with baryons inside a star it can get trapped (Captured)
- Same basic physics as that exploited by Direct Detection experiments: elastic collisions of DM with nuclei
- Plot on Right for the assumes $\rho_\chi \sigma = 10^{14} \text{ GeVcm}^{-3} \times 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2$



Freese, Cl, Spolyar, et al. 2010 ApJ

Observational puzzles **SMDs** can solve

Artist impression of J0313-1806. One of the most distant quasars ($z > 7.5$).

Powered by a SMBH: $M_{SMBH} \simeq 1.6 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$

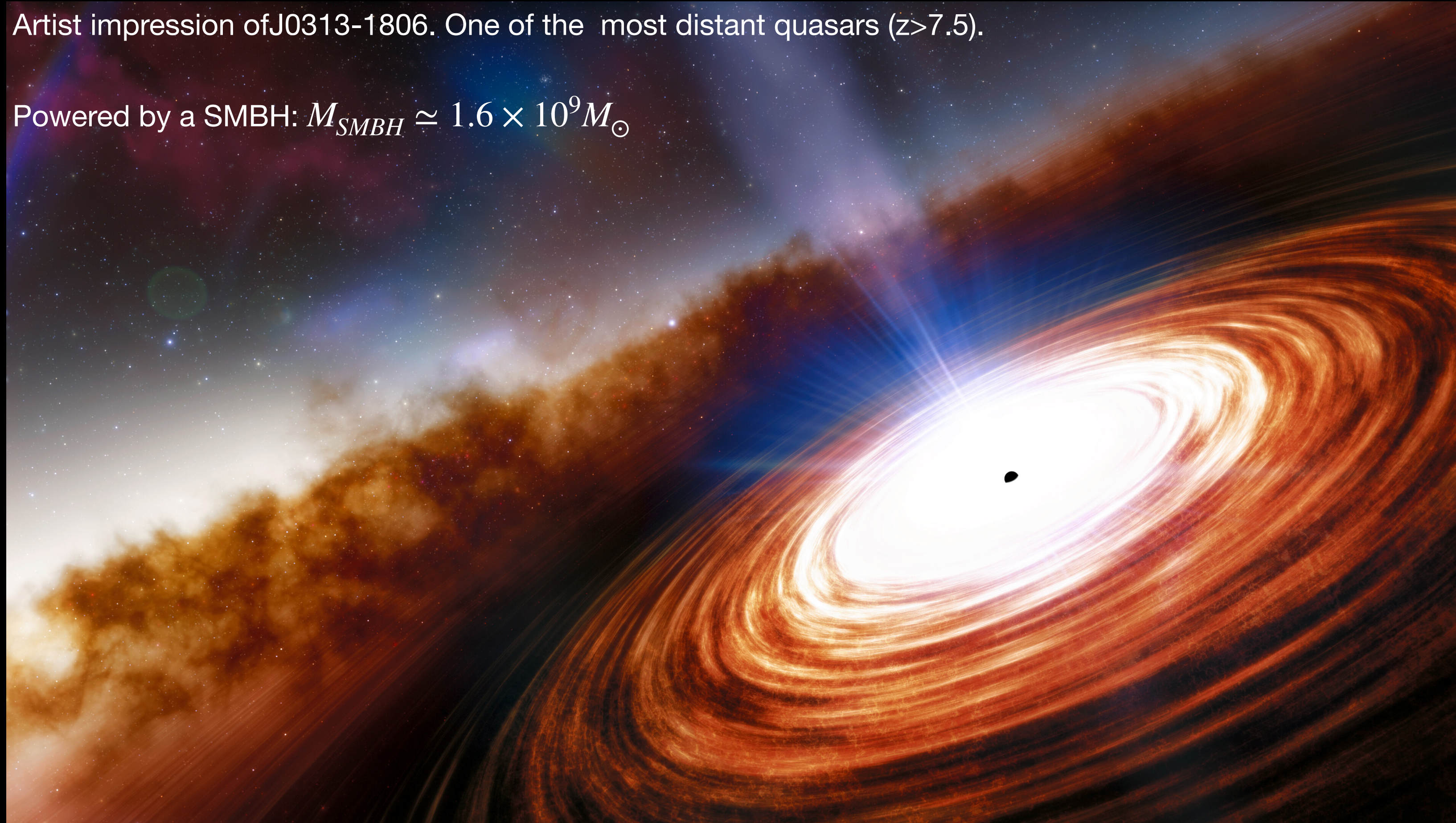
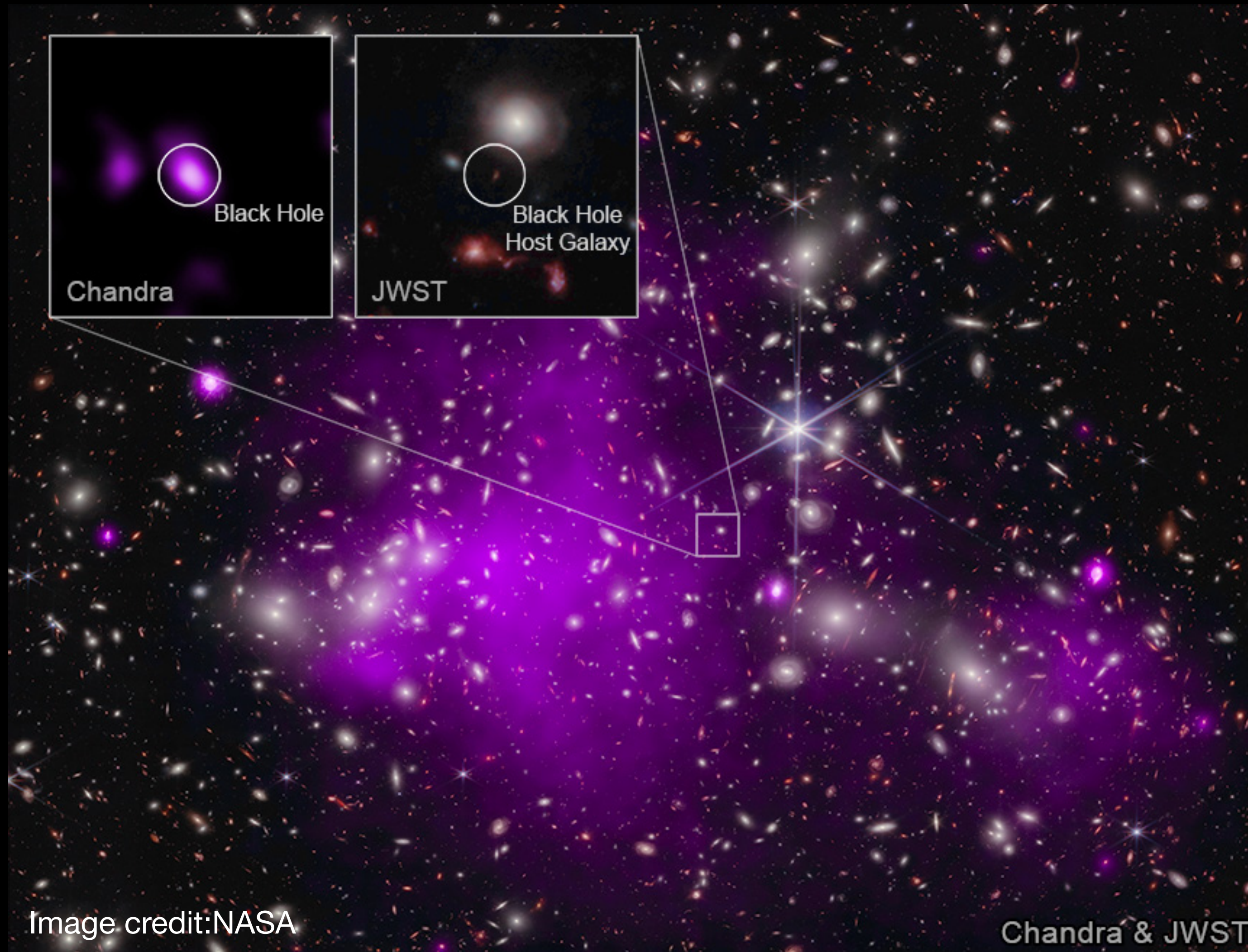


Image Credit: NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/J. da Silva

- The many Supermassive Black Holes powering observed quasars at $z > 6$ for which either a **heavy seed** is necessary, or sustained Super Eddington Accretion.

SMDS solution to the UHZ1 puzzle

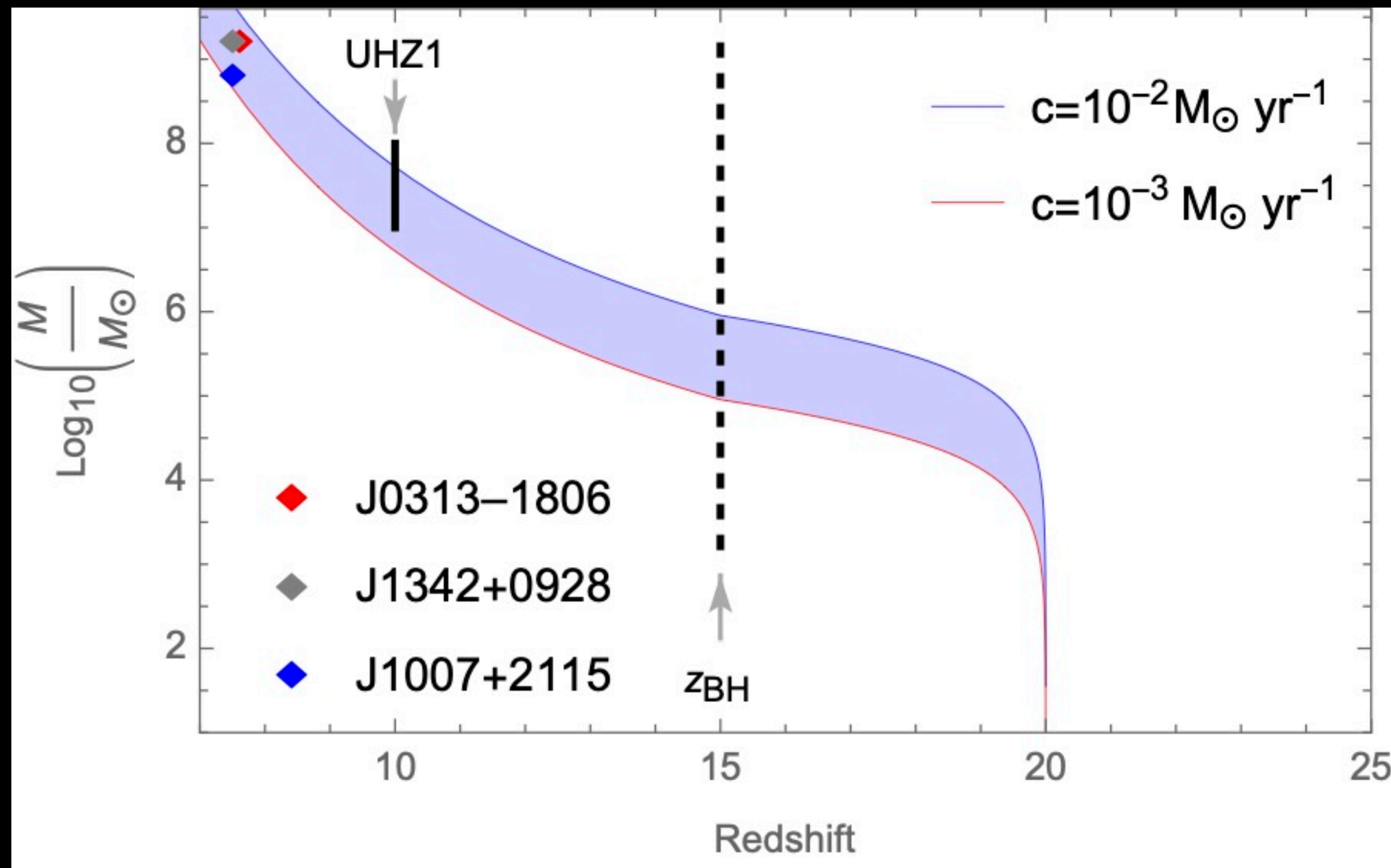


- UHZ1: a system at $z \sim 10$
- Observed with JWST/Chandra
- Contains a quasar of powered by a BH $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$
- Significant stellar population, $M_{\star} \sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$

Image credit: NASA

Chandra & JWST

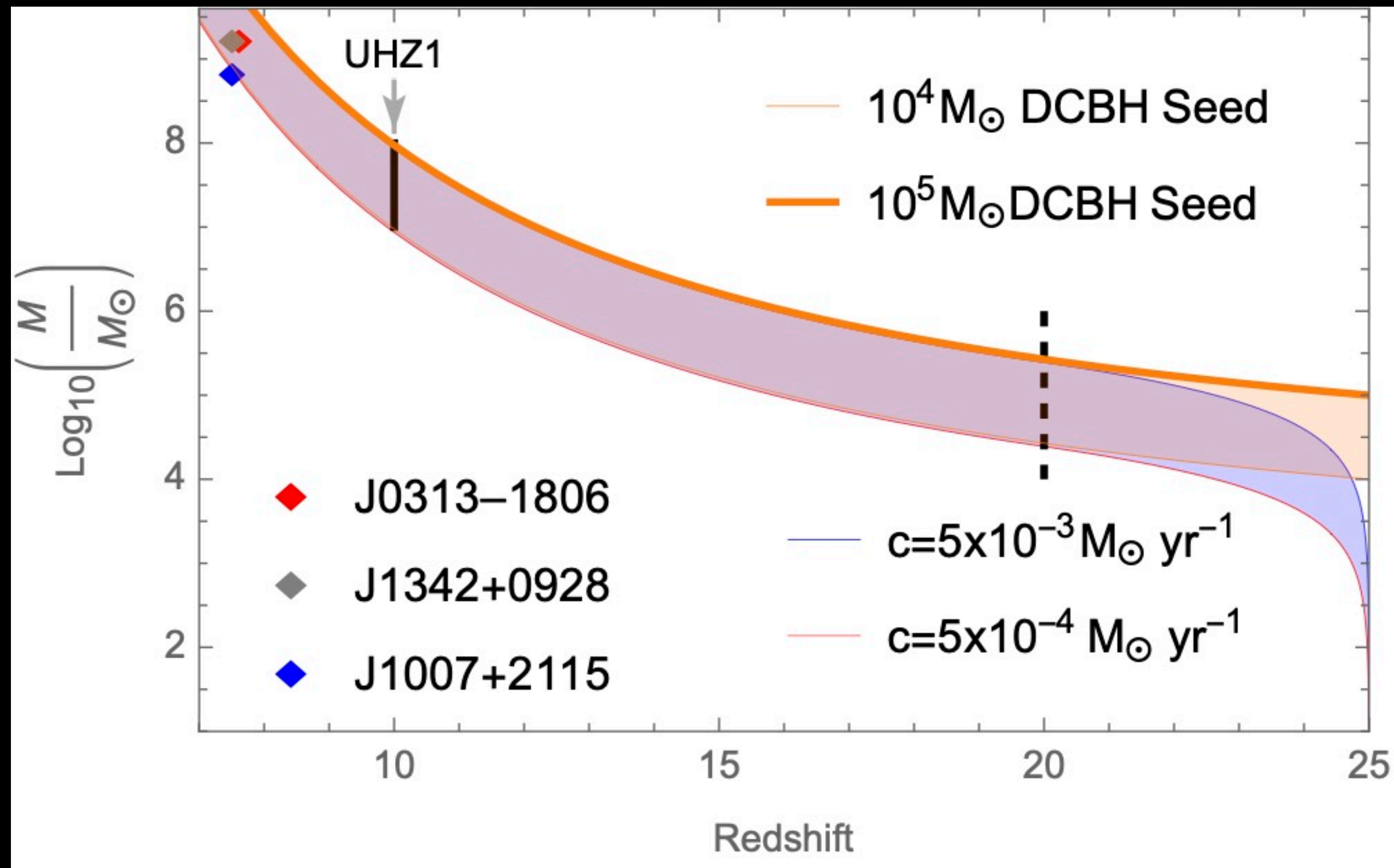
SMDS solution to the UHZ1 puzzle



- UHZ1: a system at $z \sim 10$
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Figure from: Cl et al. ArXiv: 2312.13837

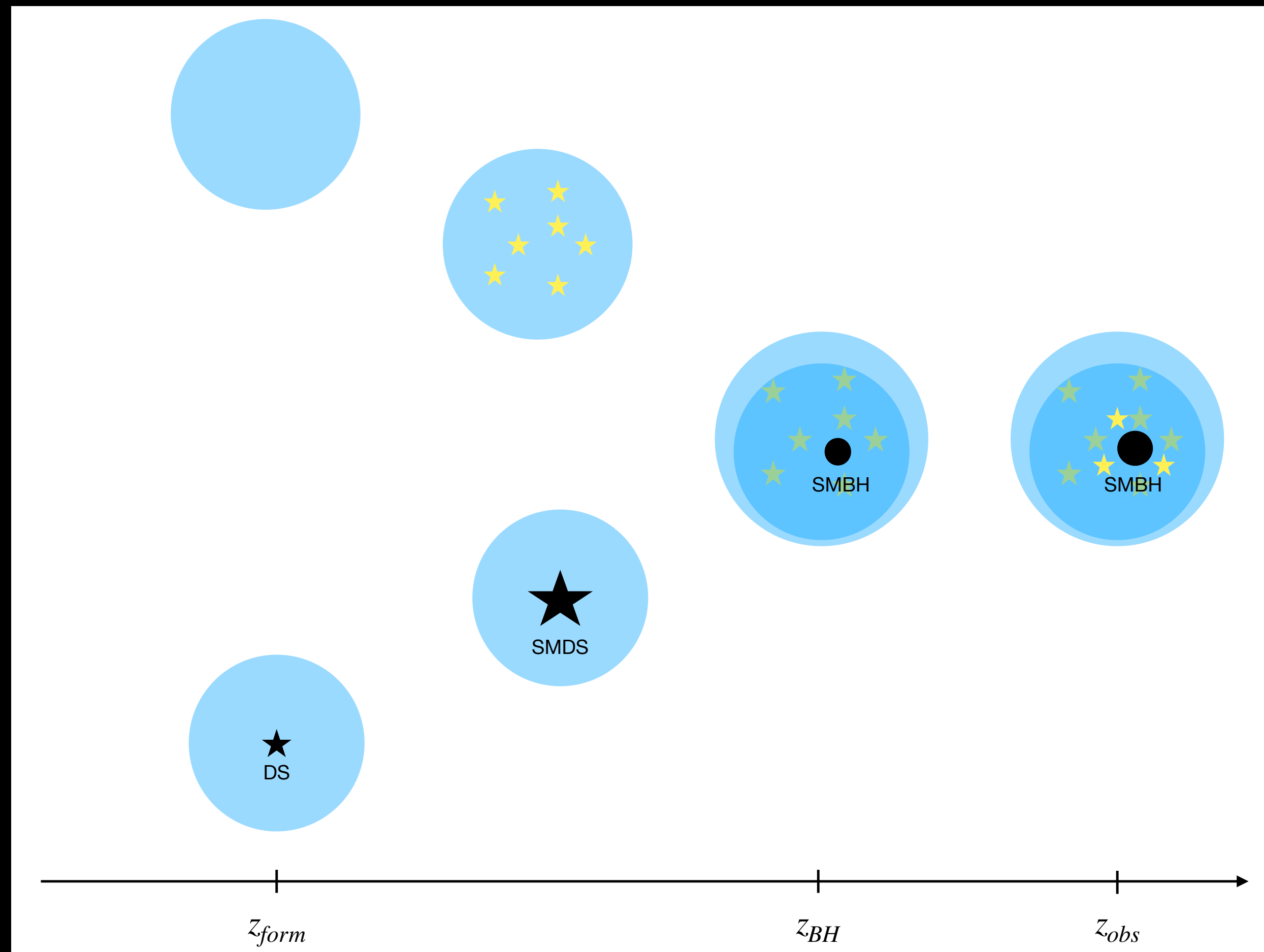
SMDS vs DCBH solution to the UHZ1 puzzle



- UHZ1: a system at $z \sim 10$
- Observed with JWST/Chandra
- Contains a quasar of powered by a **BH $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$**
- Significant stellar population, $M_{\star} \sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$

Figure from: Cl et al. ArXiv: 2312.13837

SMDS solution to the UHZ1 puzzle



- UHZ1: a system at $z \sim 10$
- Observed with JWST/Chandra
- Contains a quasar of powered by a BH $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$
- Significant stellar population, $M_{\star} \sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$

Figure from: Cl et al. ArXiv: 2312.13837

JWST Observational motivations for **SMDS**

The six Labbe galaxy candidates [Labbe et al. Nature 2023]

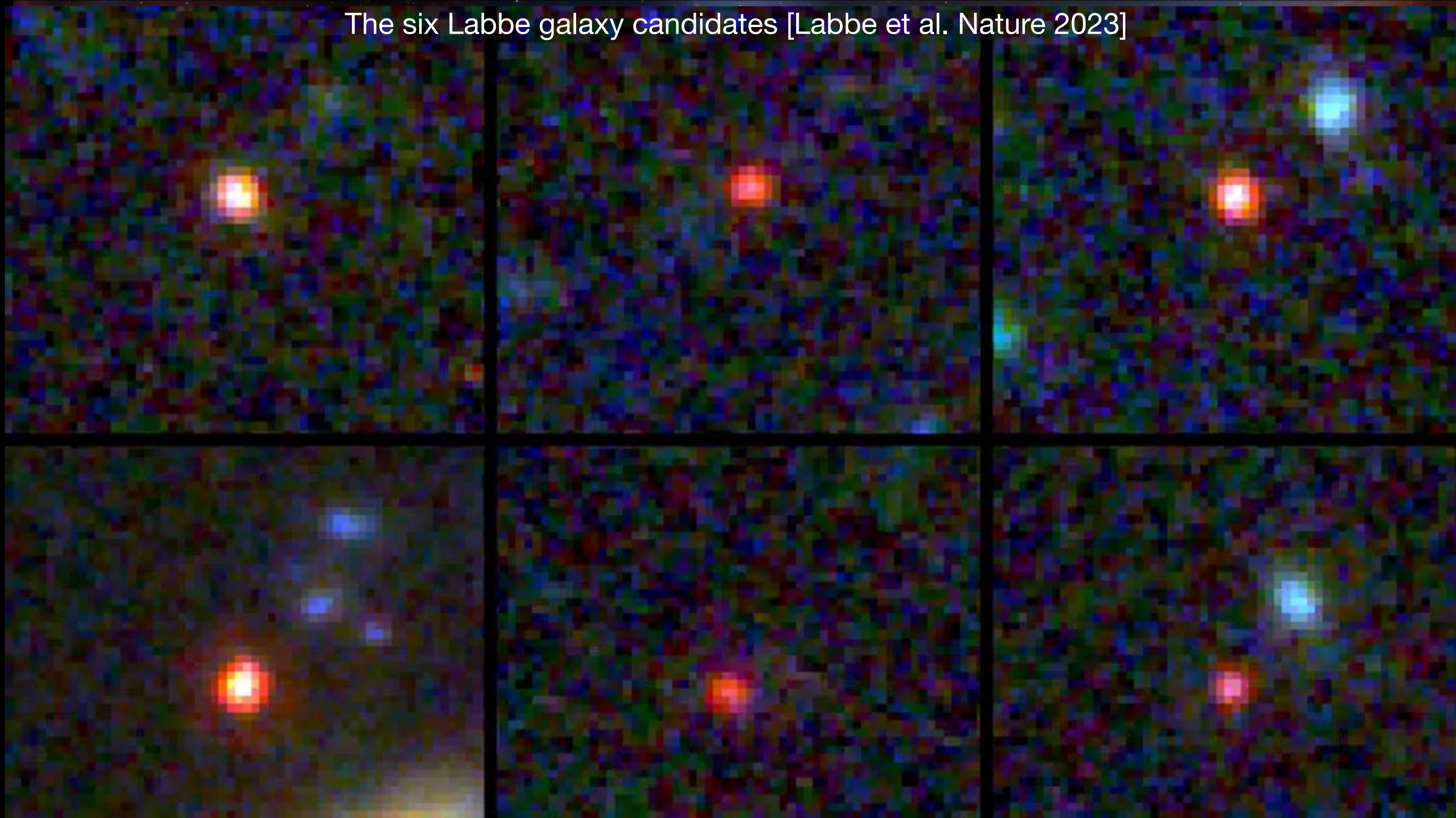


Image Credit: NASA/JWST/STSci

- Too many too massive too soon galaxies observed by JWST
- They would require **almost 100% efficiency** of gas to star conversion.

JWST Observational motivations for **SMDS**

Insights from HST into Ultramassive Galaxies and Early-Universe Cosmology

Nashwan Sabti, Julian B. Muñoz, and Marc Kamionkowski
Phys. Rev. Lett. **132**, 061002 – Published 9 February 2024

Physics See News Feature: [JWST Sees More Galaxies than Expected](#)

Article

References

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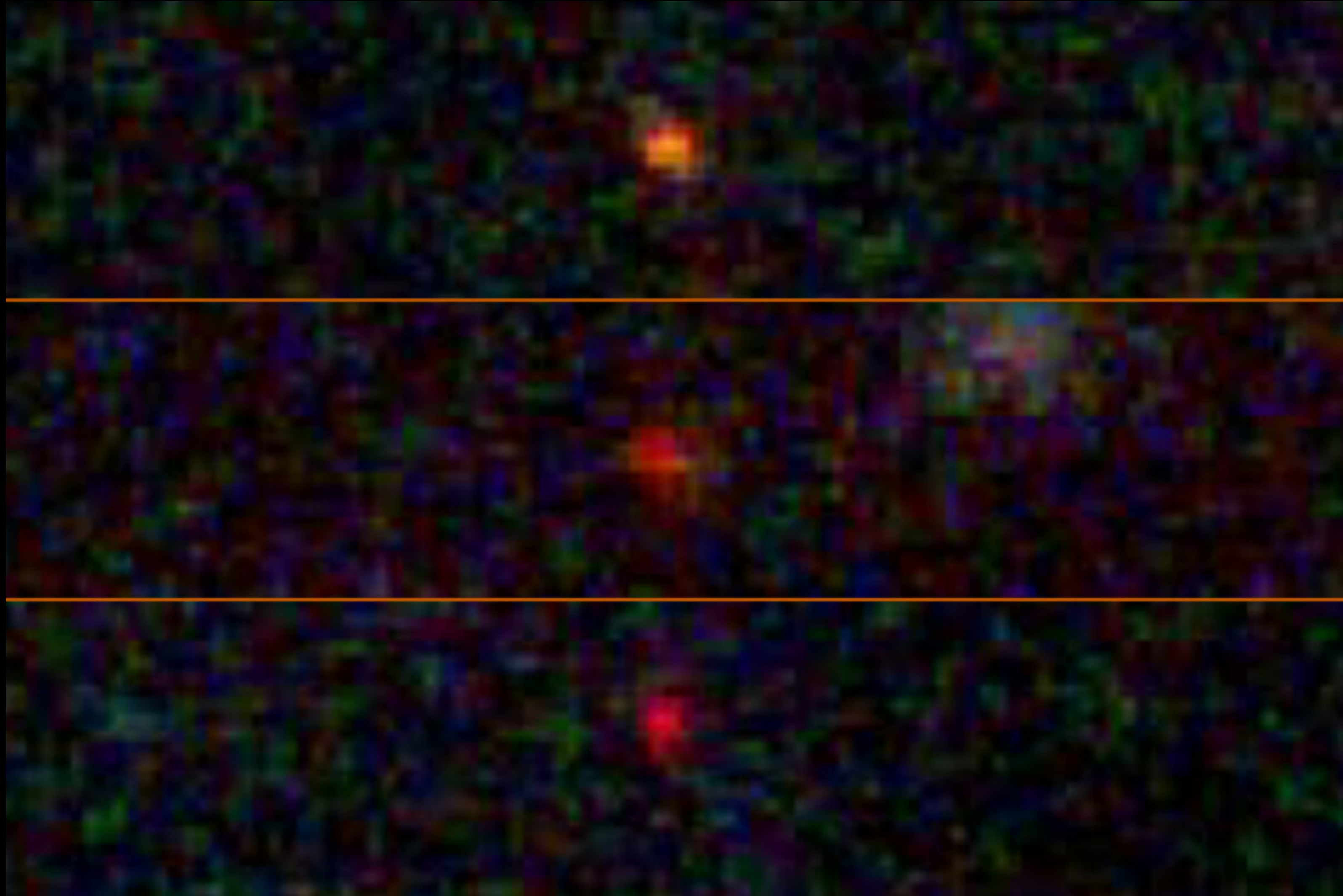


ABSTRACT

The early-science observations made by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have revealed an excess of ultramassive galaxy candidates that appear to challenge the standard cosmological model (Λ CDM). Here, we argue that any modifications to Λ CDM that can produce such ultramassive galaxies in the early Universe would also affect the UV galaxy luminosity function (UV LF) inferred from the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). The UV LF covers the same redshifts ($z \approx 7-10$) and host-halo masses ($M_h \approx 10^{10}-10^{12} M_\odot$) as the JWST candidates, but tracks star-formation rate rather than stellar mass. We consider beyond- Λ CDM power-spectrum enhancements and show that any departure large enough to reproduce the abundance of ultramassive JWST candidates is in conflict with the HST data. Our analysis, therefore, severely disfavors a cosmological explanation for the JWST abundance problem. Looking ahead, we determine the maximum allowable stellar-mass function and provide projections for the high- z UV LF given our constraints on cosmology from current HST data.

- “Universe breaker” type “galaxies:” too many too massive too soon
- They would require **almost 100% efficiency** of gas to star conversion.
- HST data highly **disfavors LCDM modifications as a solution to this puzzle**

Supermassive Dark Stars: Observational Status



First three SMDS Candidates identified:

Cl, Paulin and Freese PNAS
120 (30) 2023



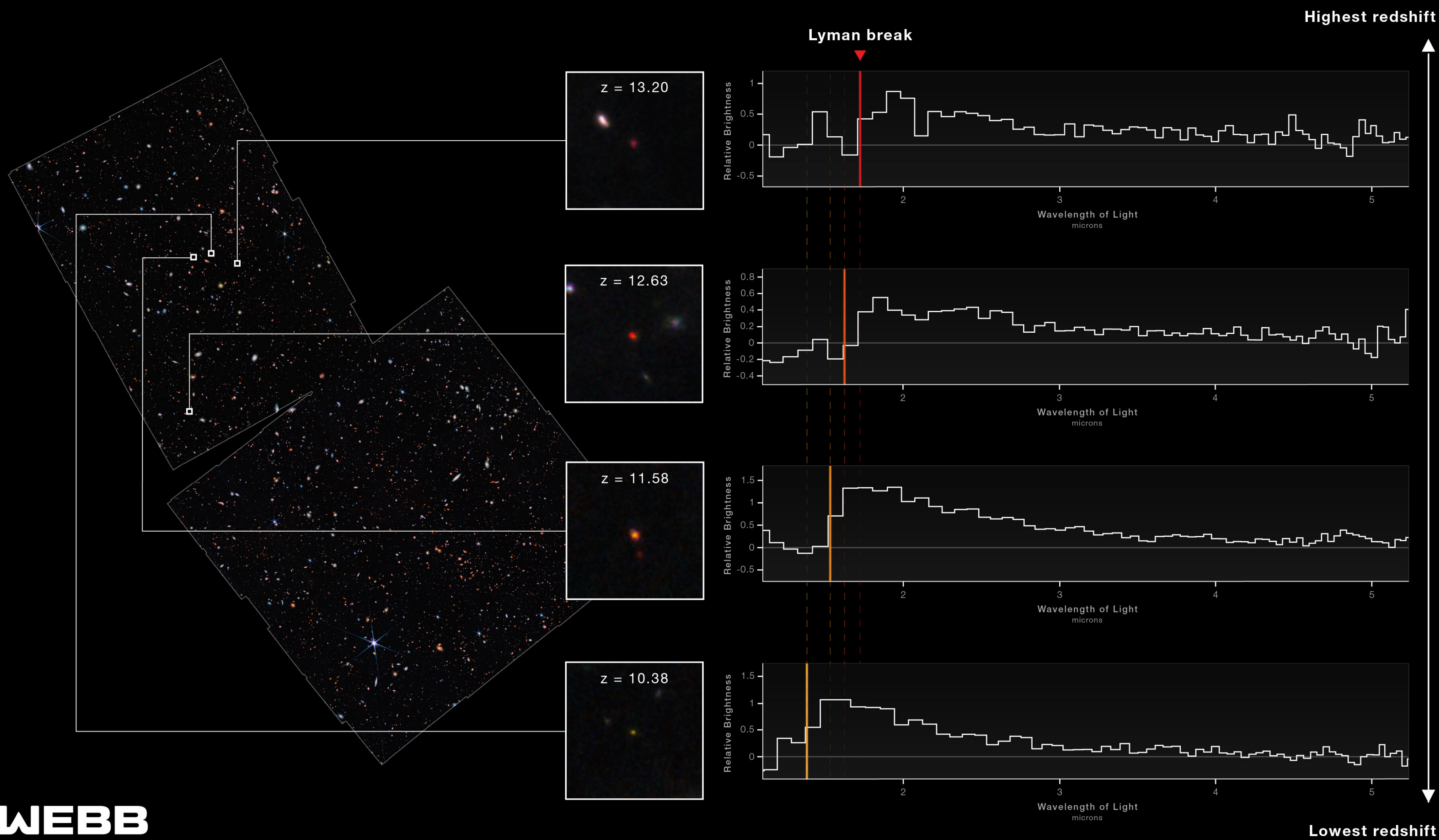
Three criteria for selection of SMDS candidates

- A. Spectroscopically confirmed as high redshift objects: $z_{spec} \gtrsim 10$
- B. Consistent with a point source interpretation
- C. Available photometric or spectra data is fit well by SMDS SEDs

WEBB SPECTRA REACH NEW MILESTONE IN REDSHIFT FRONTIER

NIRCam Imaging

NIRSpec Microshutter Array Spectroscopy



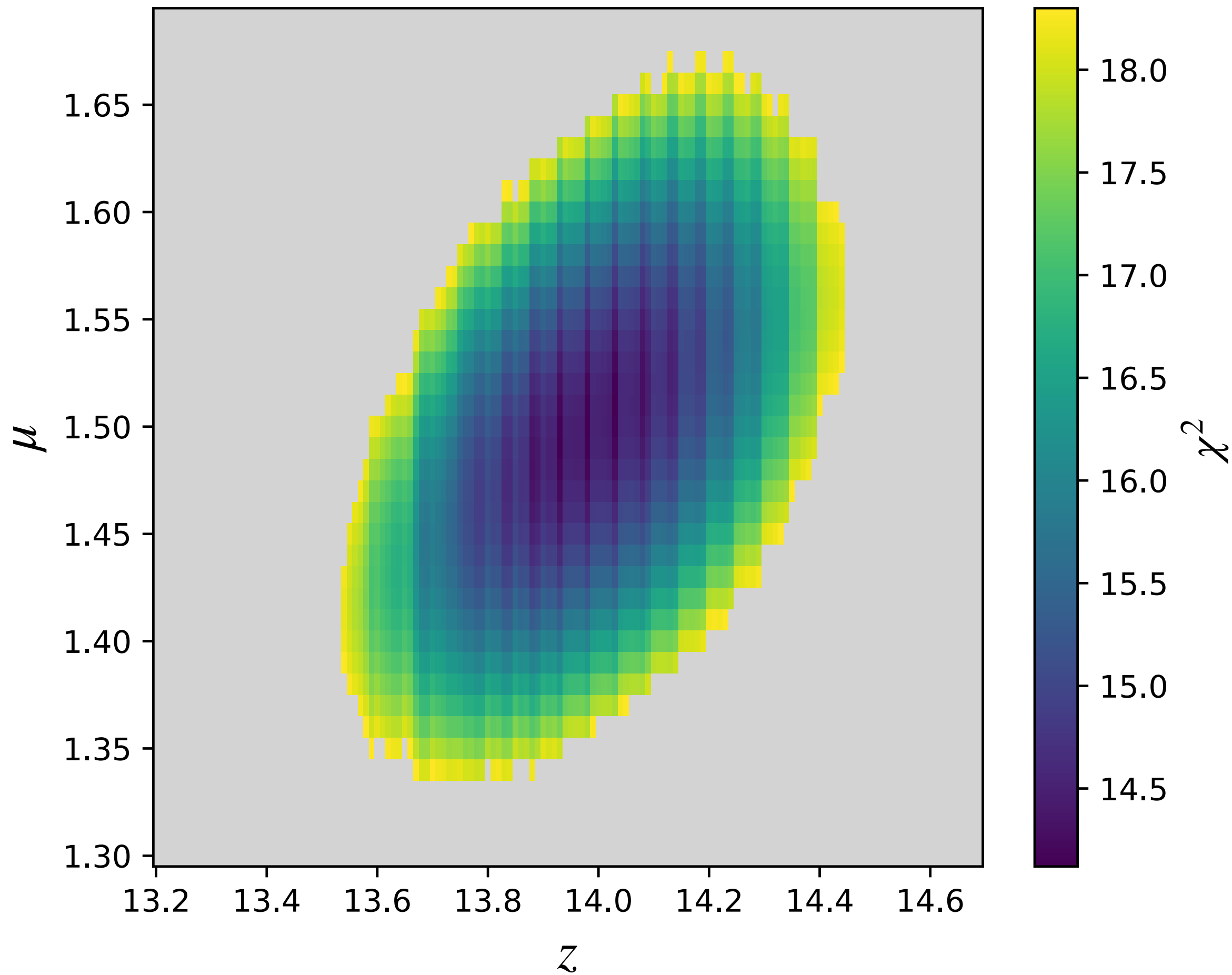
- The four JADES objects identified by Robertson et al. 23 and spectroscopically confirmed by Curtis-Lake et. al 23 were selected based on criteria A and B.

Method to identify the best fit SMDS candidates to JWST data

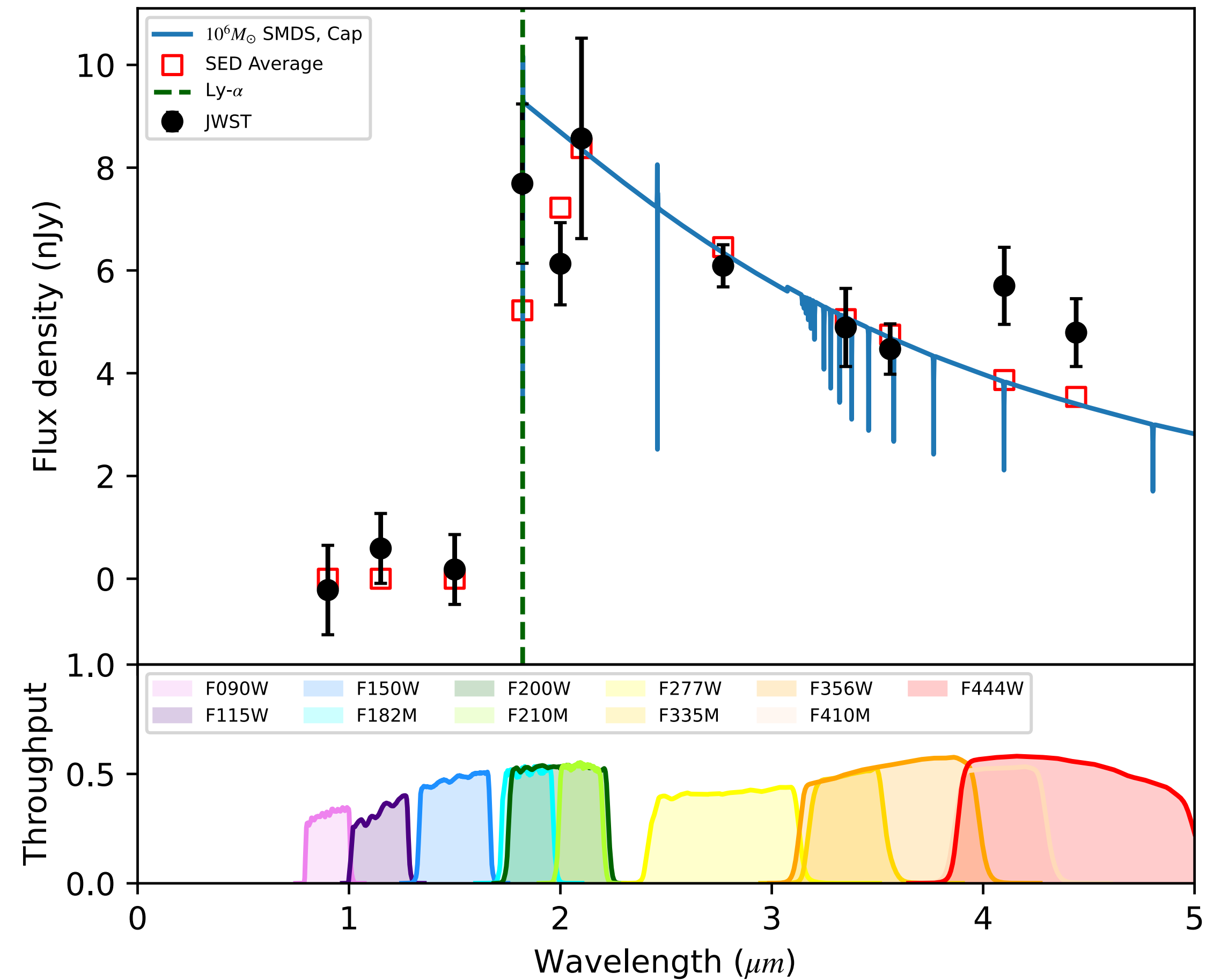
- A. Spectroscopically confirmed as high redshift objects: $z_{spec} \gtrsim 10$
- B. Consistent with a point source interpretation
- C. Available photometric or spectra data is fit well by SMDS SEDs
 - We generated rest frame SMDS SEDs using TLUSTY on a coarse stellar mass grid for each formation mechanism and for a canonical WIMP 100 GeV DM.
 - We perform a two parameter scan over z and μ to determine the best fit via the minimum χ^2 method

JADES-GS-z13-0 as a SMDS candidate

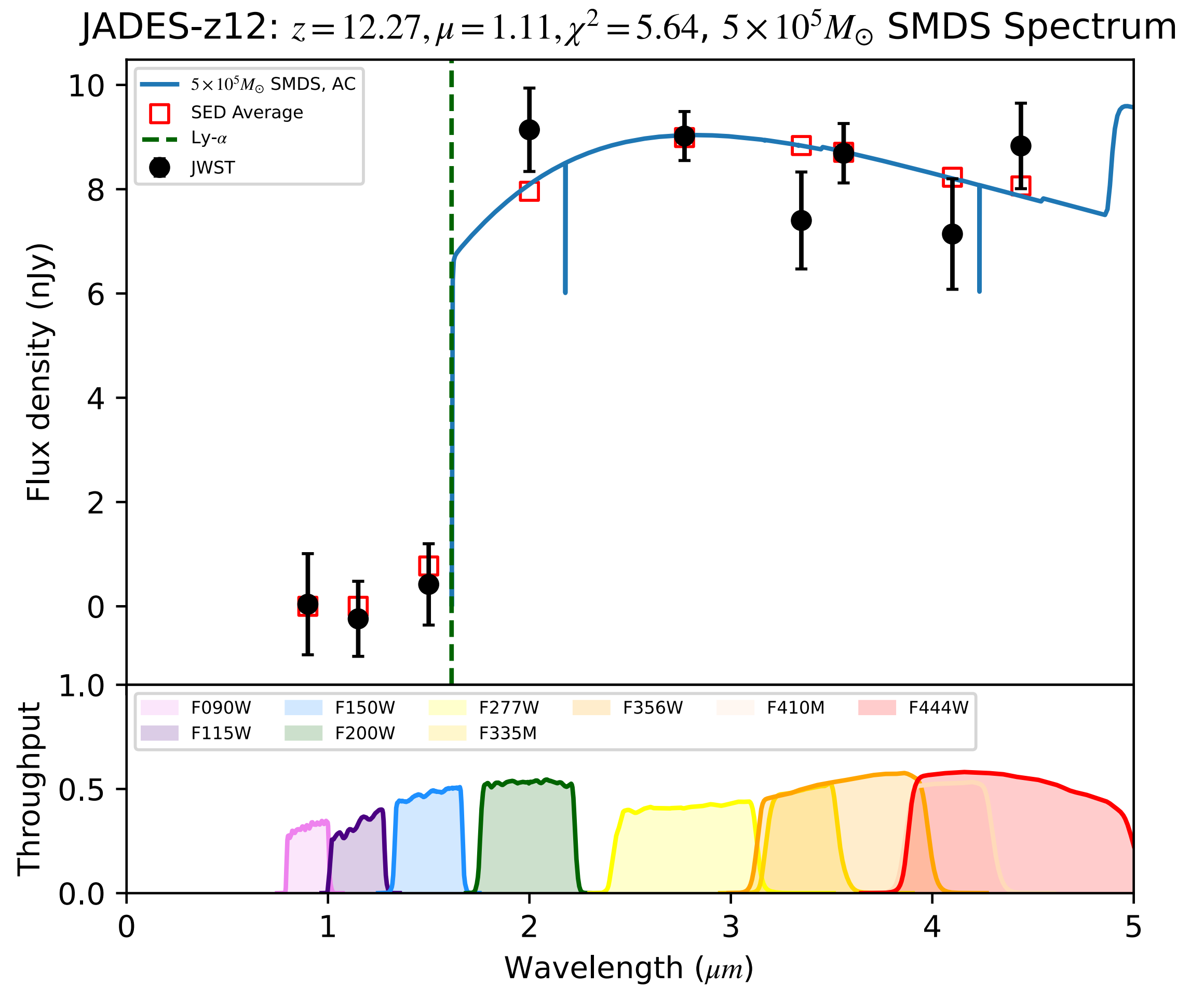
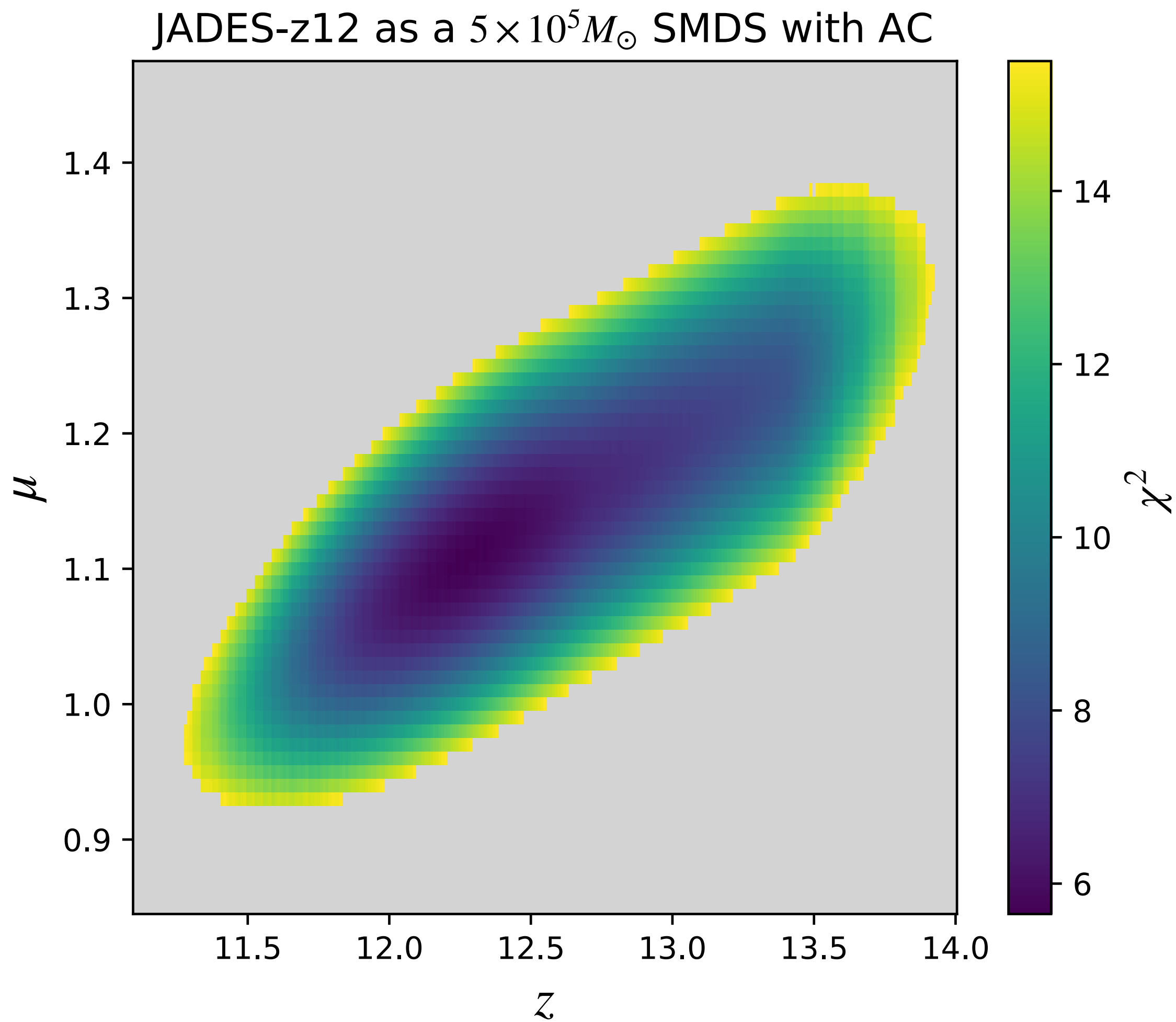
JADES-z13 as a $10^6 M_\odot$ SMDS with Capture



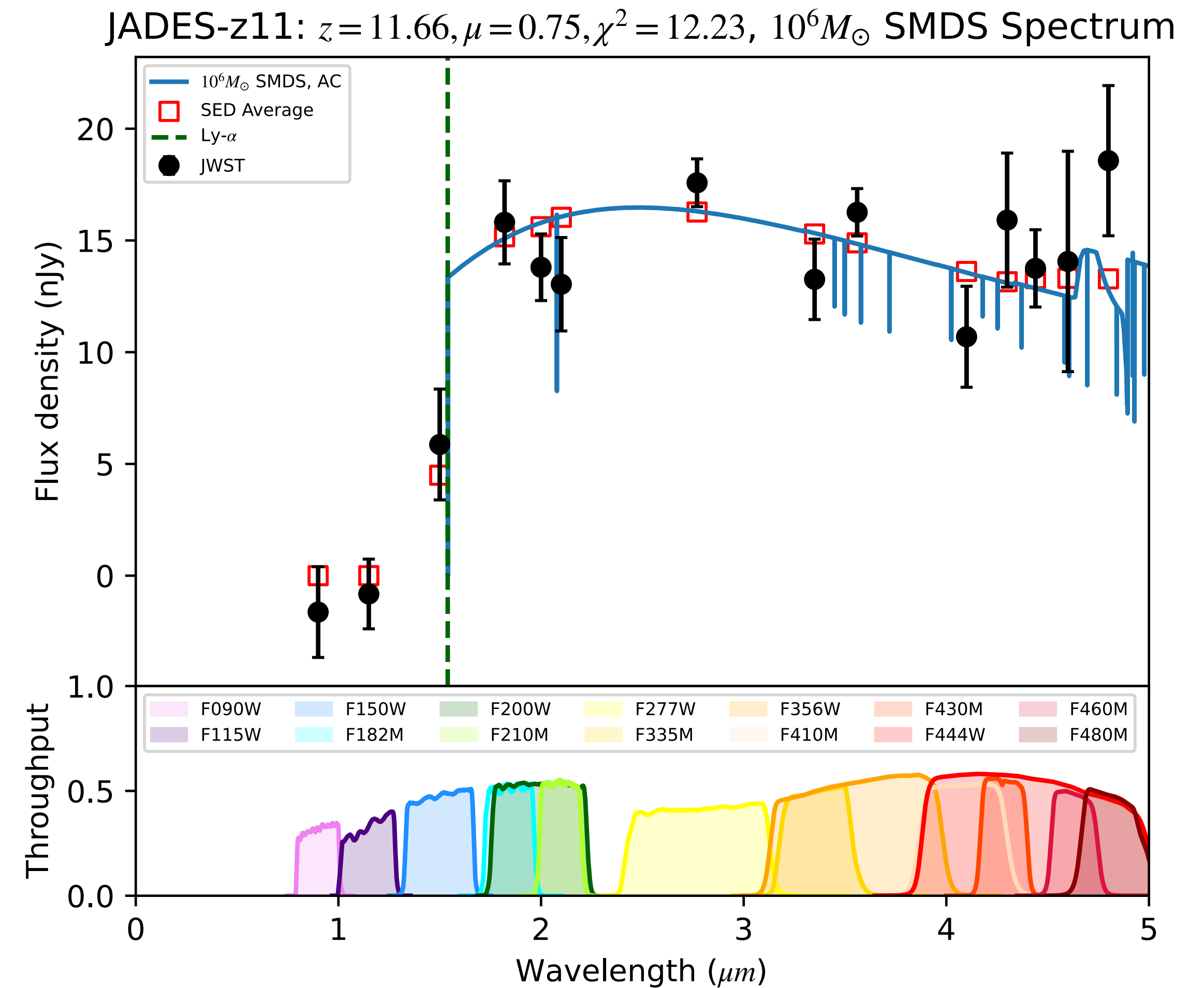
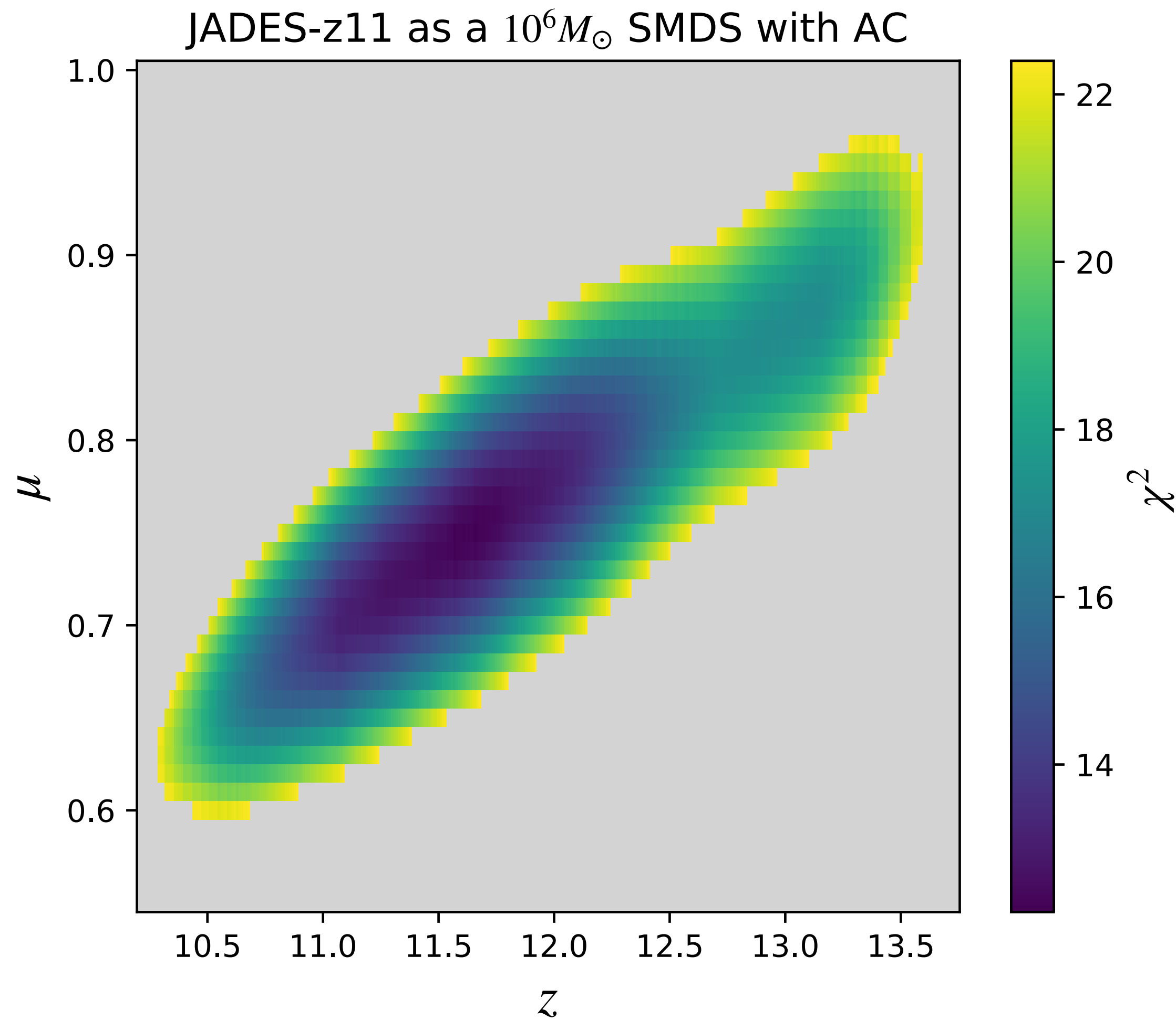
JADES-z13: $z = 13.98, \mu = 1.50, \chi^2 = 14.12, 10^6 M_\odot$ SMDS Spectrum



JADES-GS-z12-0 as a SMDS candidate



JADES-GS-z11-0 as a SMDS candidate



Conclusions and outlook

- We identified three SMDS candidates out of the four JADES objects selected
- SMDS are generically very good fits for photometric data for $z > 10$ point sources in JWST data

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- We need high S/N spectra to differentiate a SMDS from an early galaxy
- Promising smoking gun signature of SMDSs is the HeII 1640 absorption line (JADES-GS-z13-0 already shows tentative signs of this feature)

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- Once a statistically sufficient sample of SMDSs is identified we can infer particle DM parameter likelihood fits

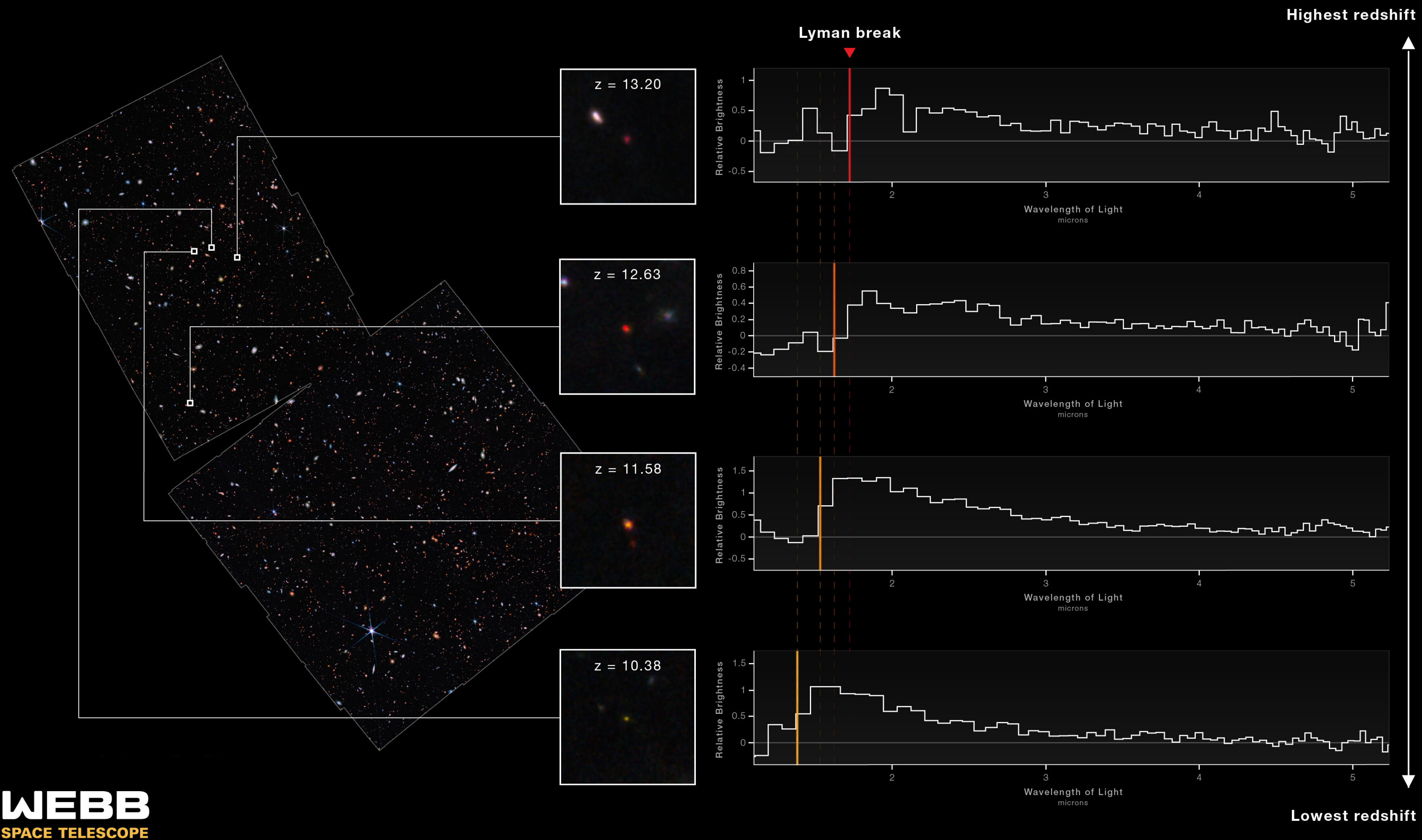
Summary

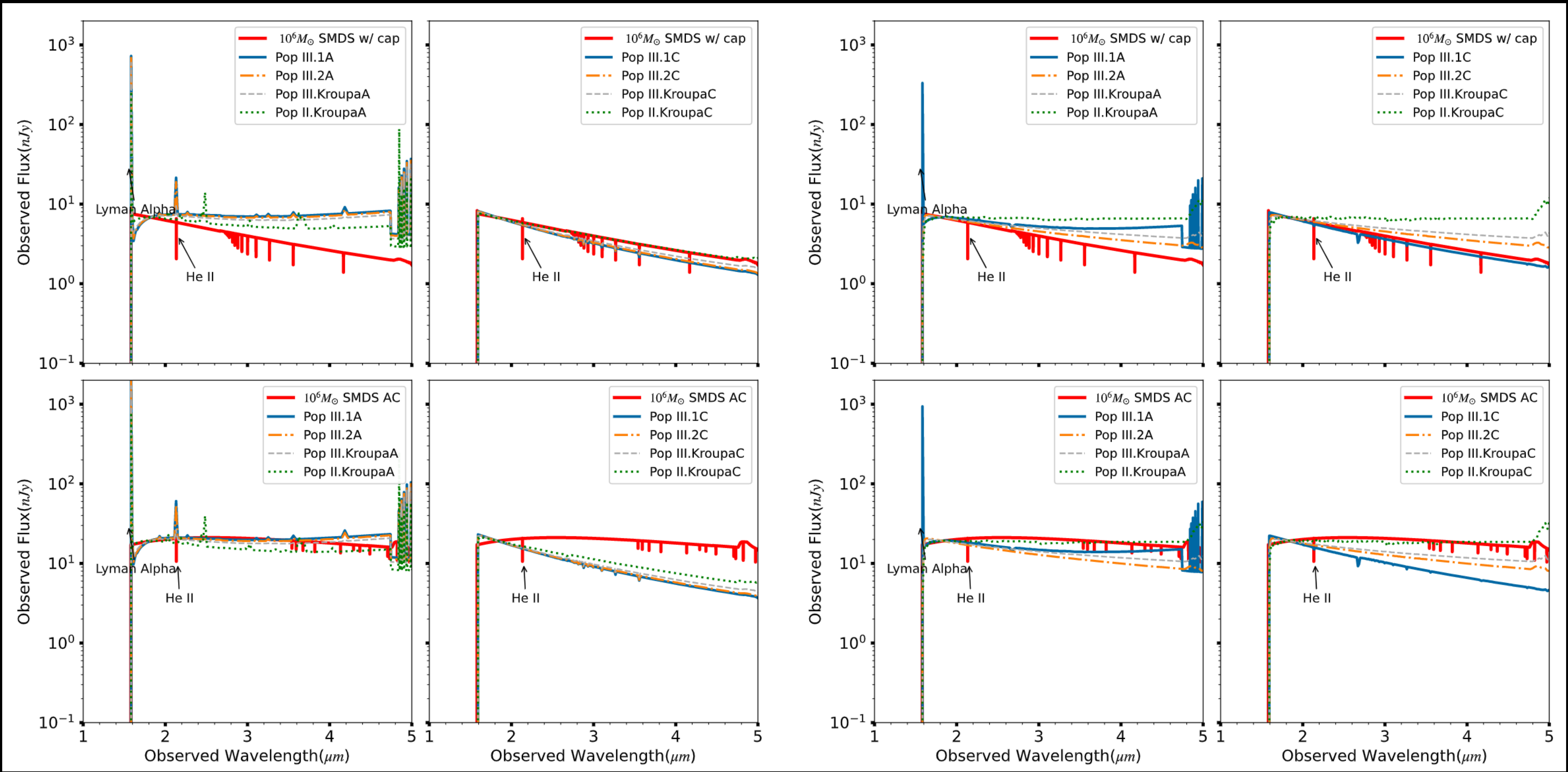
- JWST is poised to find observe the first stars
- Population III stars (i.e. zero metallicity H burners) can be used to constrain the Spin Dependent DM-proton interaction cross section (σ) below the neutrino floor
- Supermassive Dark Stars provide natural Heavy BH Seeds required by the most distant quasars data
- Supermassive Dark Stars can be part of the solution to the too many too massive early galaxies observed by JWST

WEBB SPECTRA REACH NEW MILESTONE IN REDSHIFT FRONTIER

NIRCam Imaging

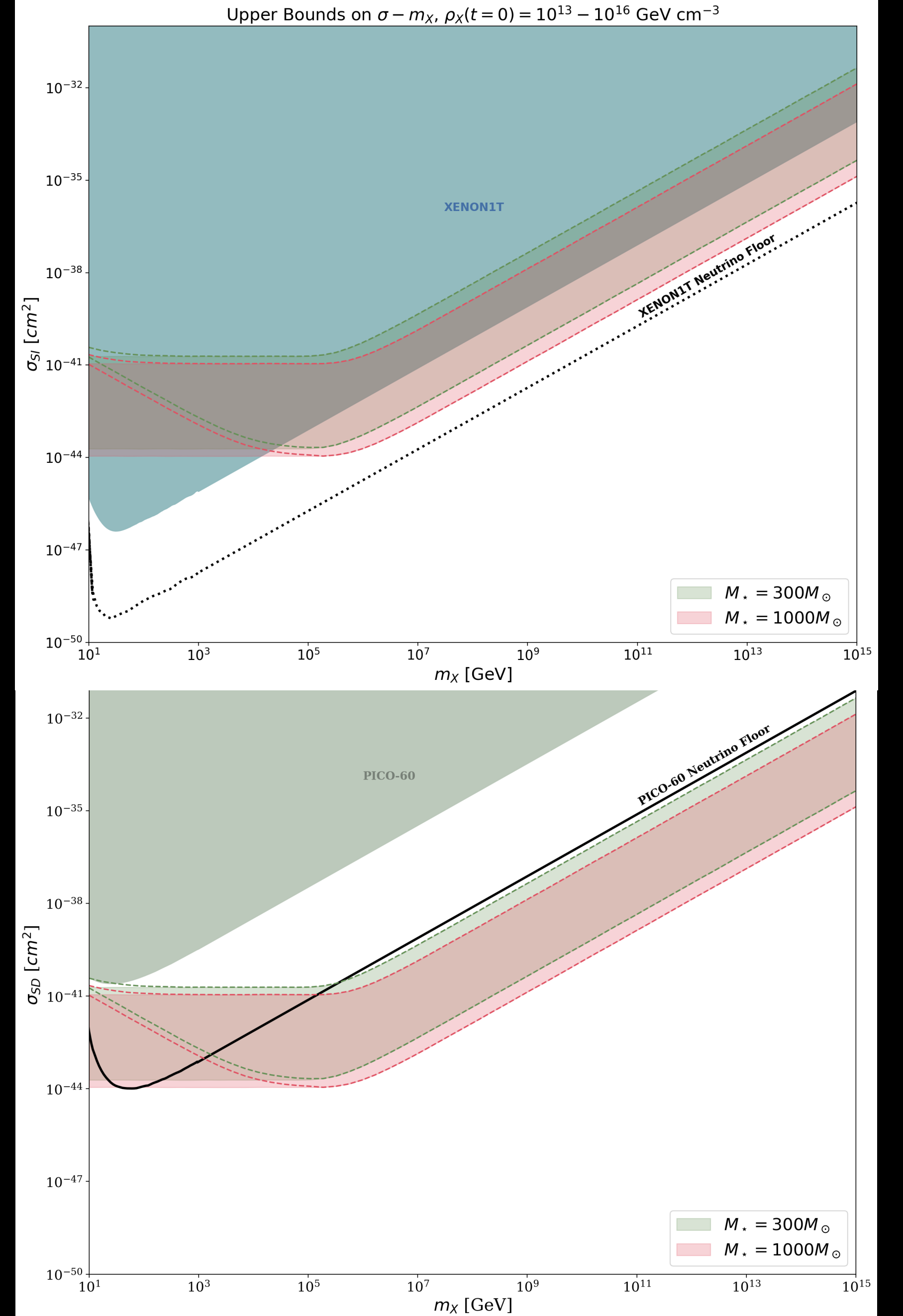
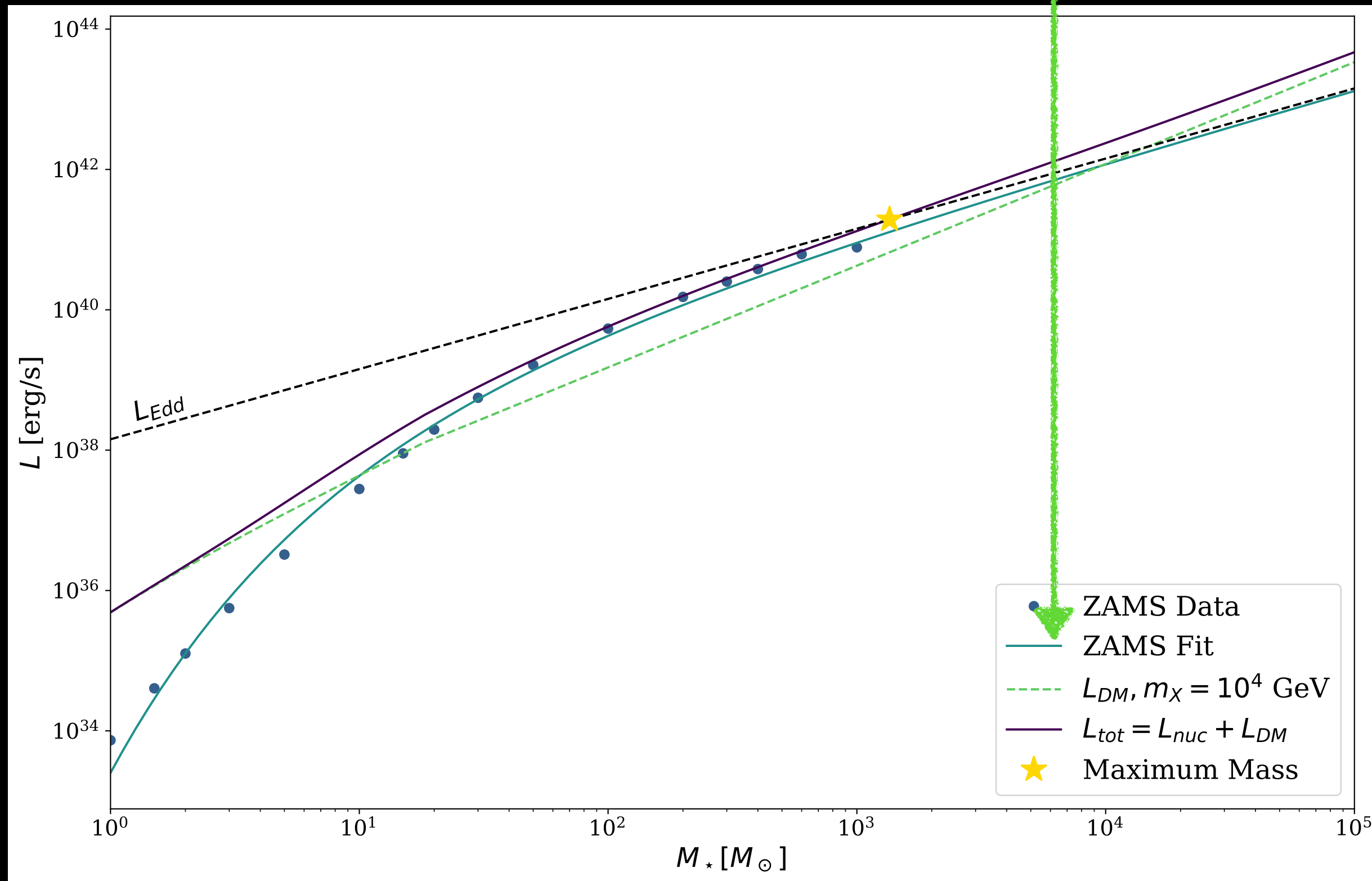
NIRSpec Microshutter Array Spectroscopy





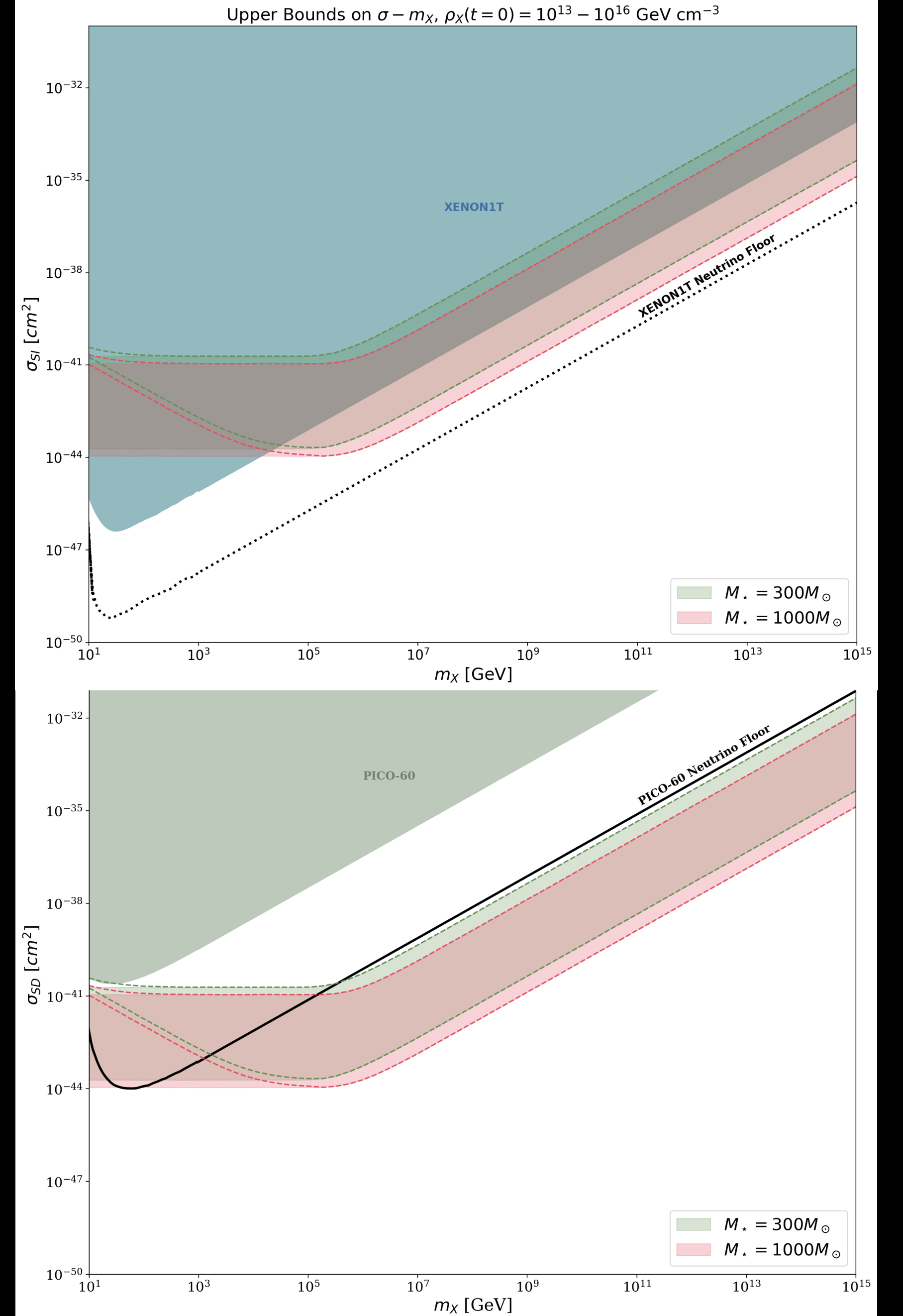
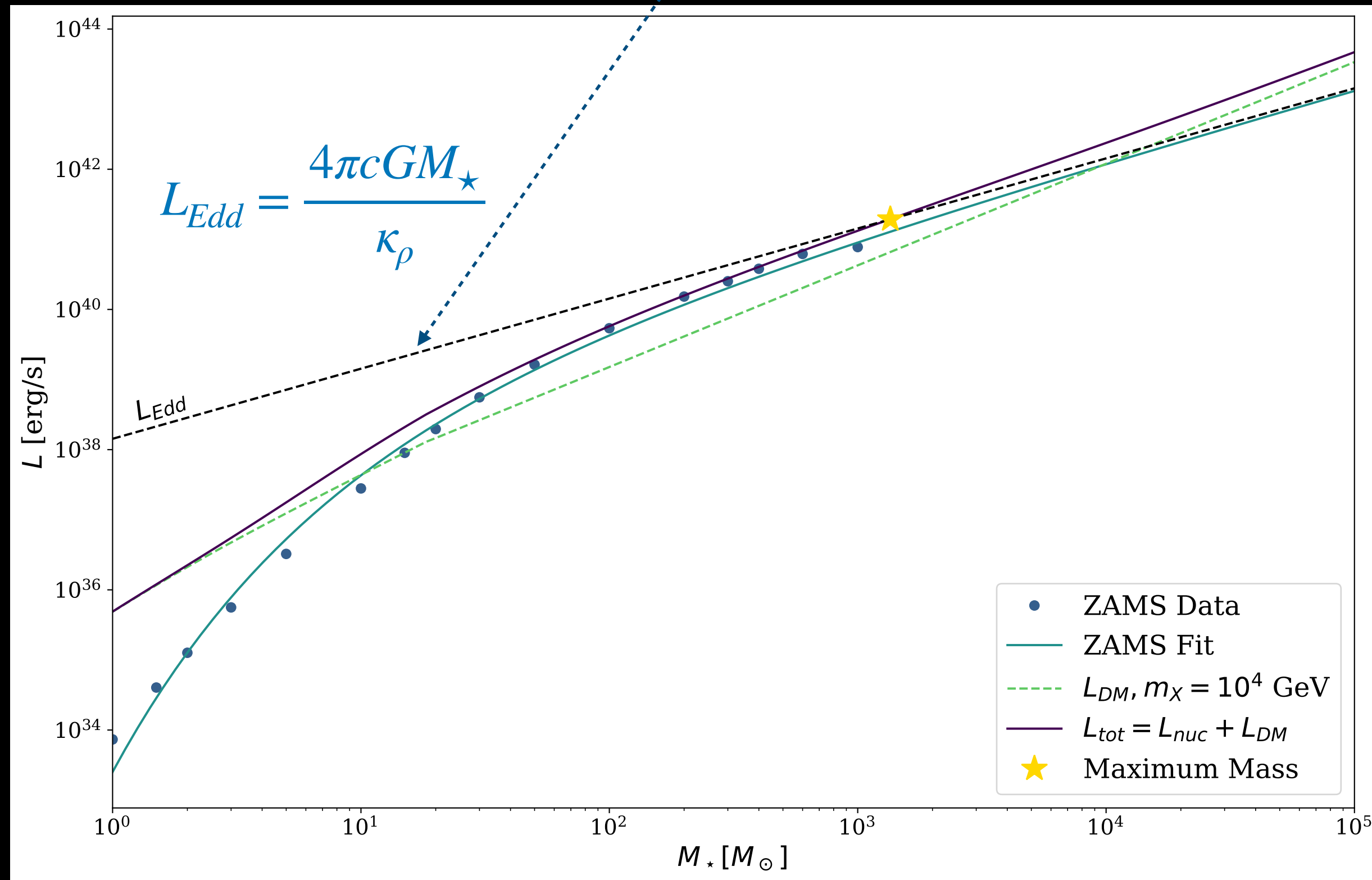
Bounds from imposing sub-Eddington Luminosity:

$$L_{DM}(M_\star, R_\star; DM \text{ params}) \leq L_{Edd}(M_\star) - L_{nuc}(M_\star)$$



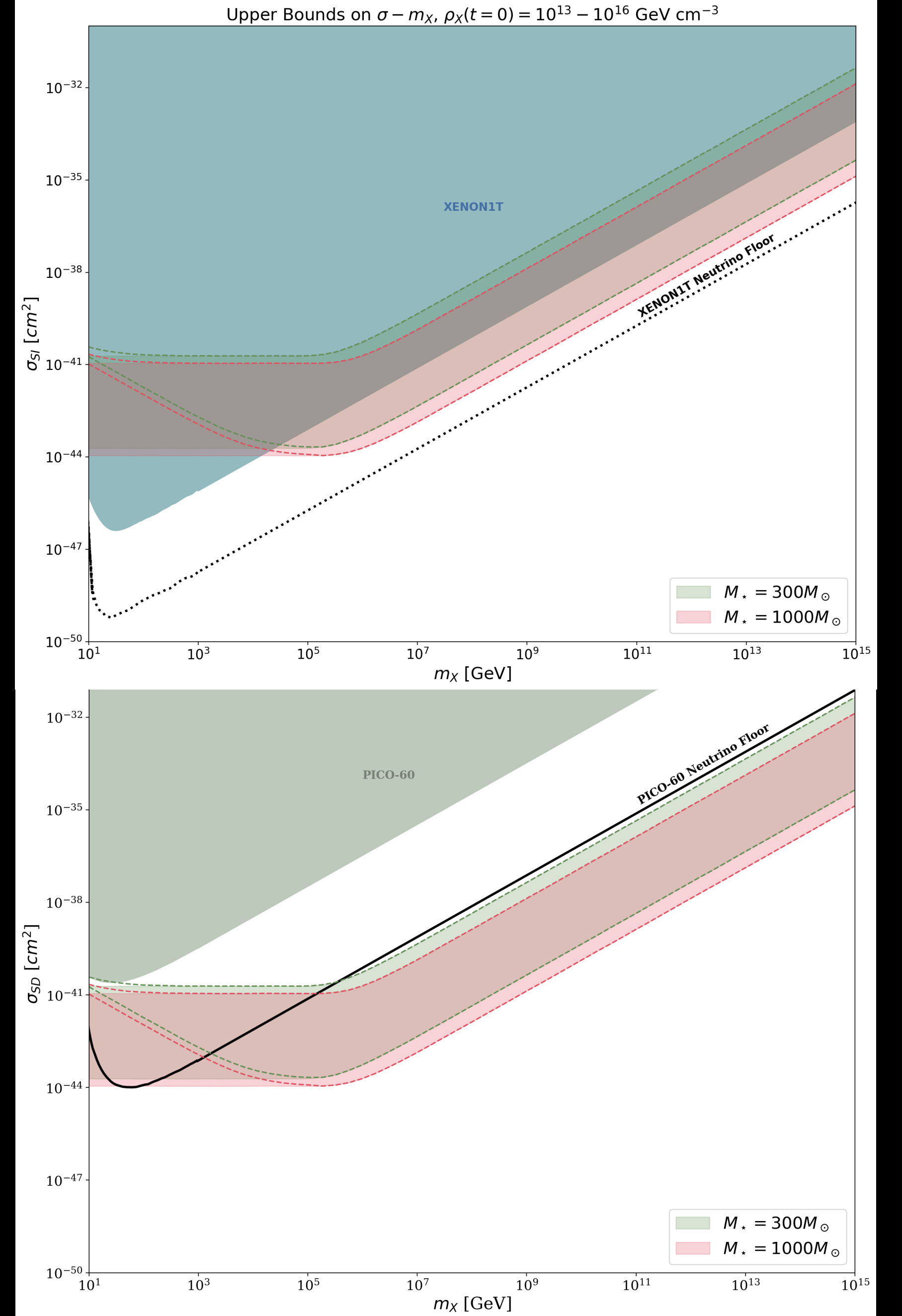
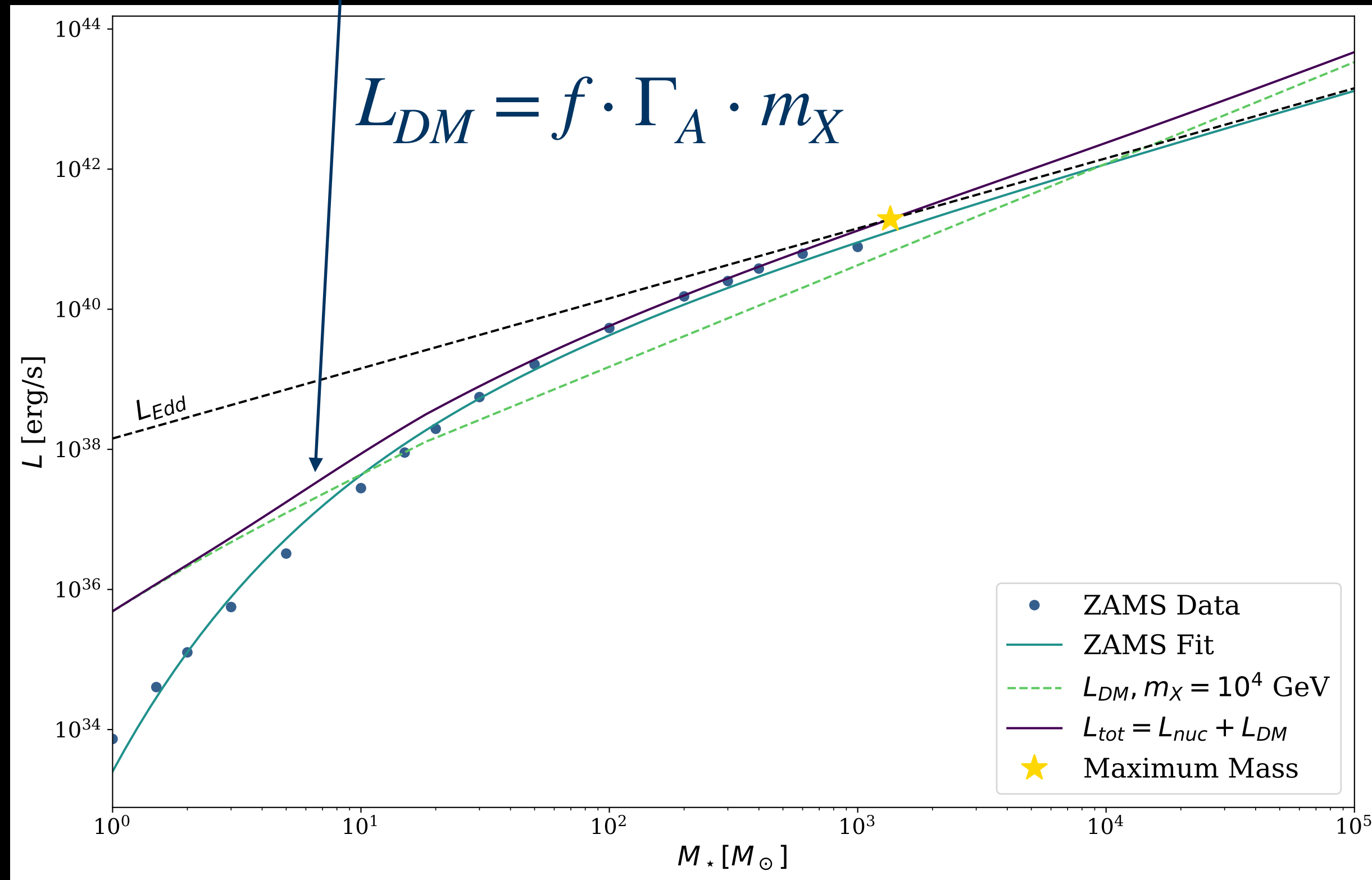
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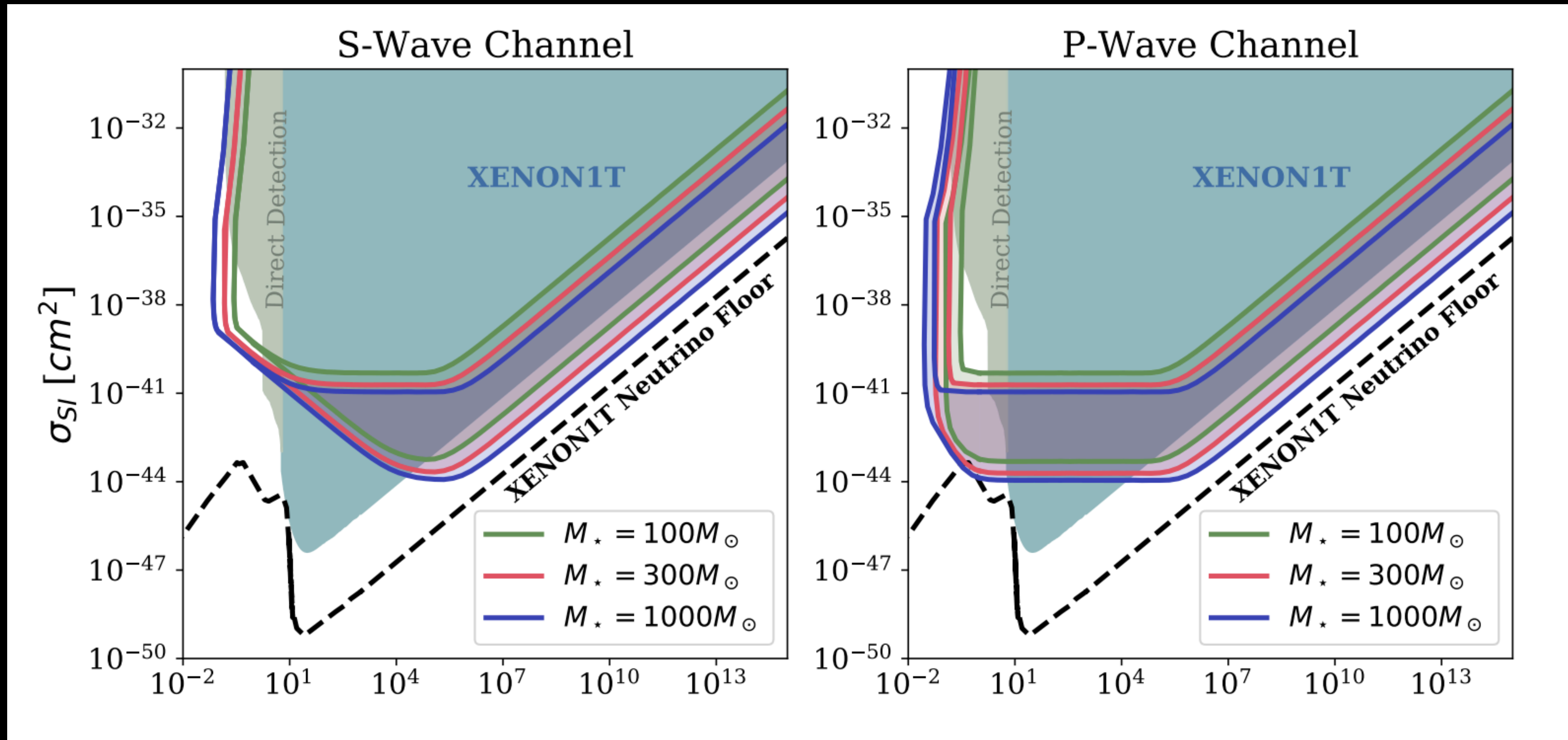


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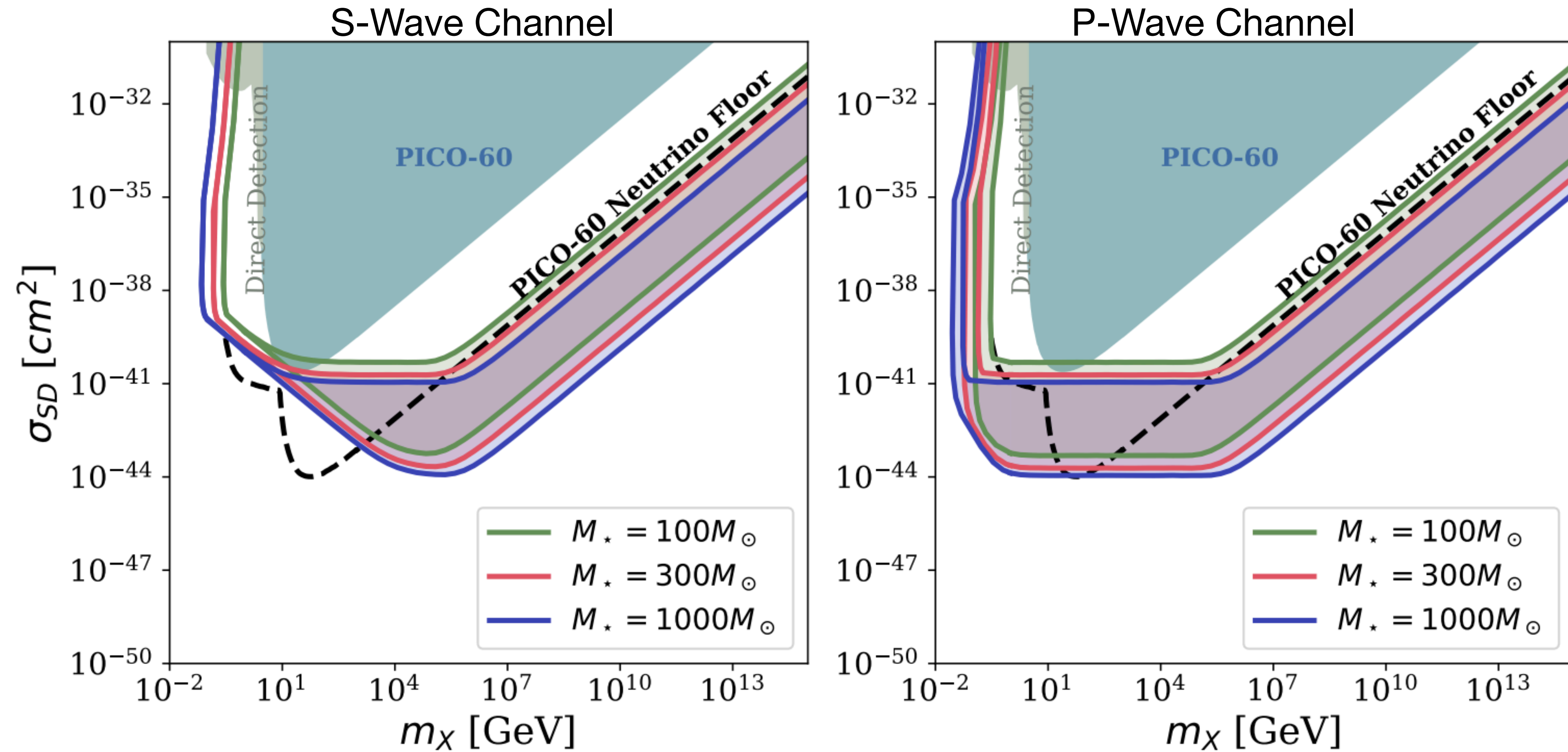
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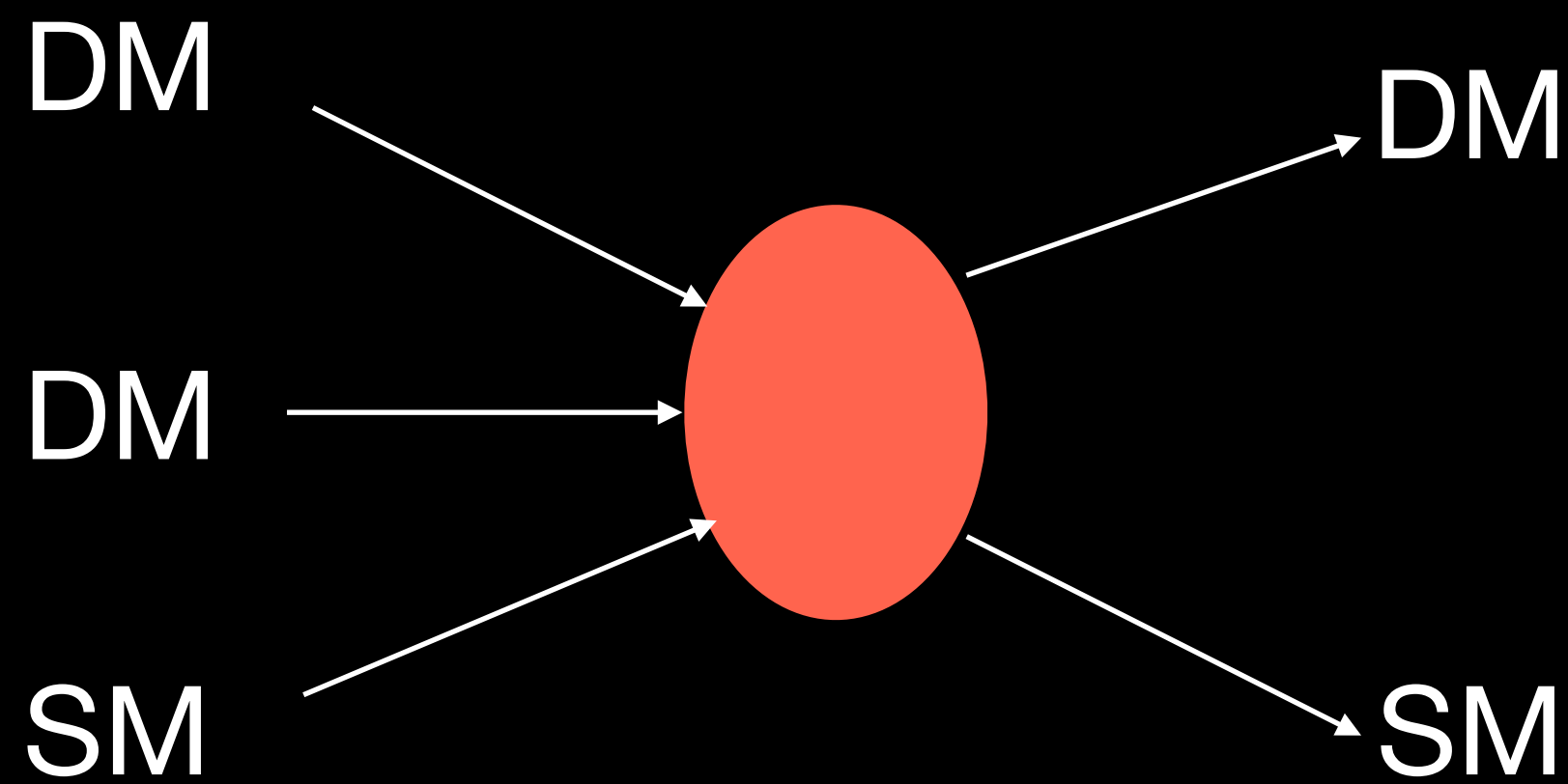
Sub GeV WIMP DM regime?



Sub GeV WIMP DM regime?



Other sub GeV DM Models

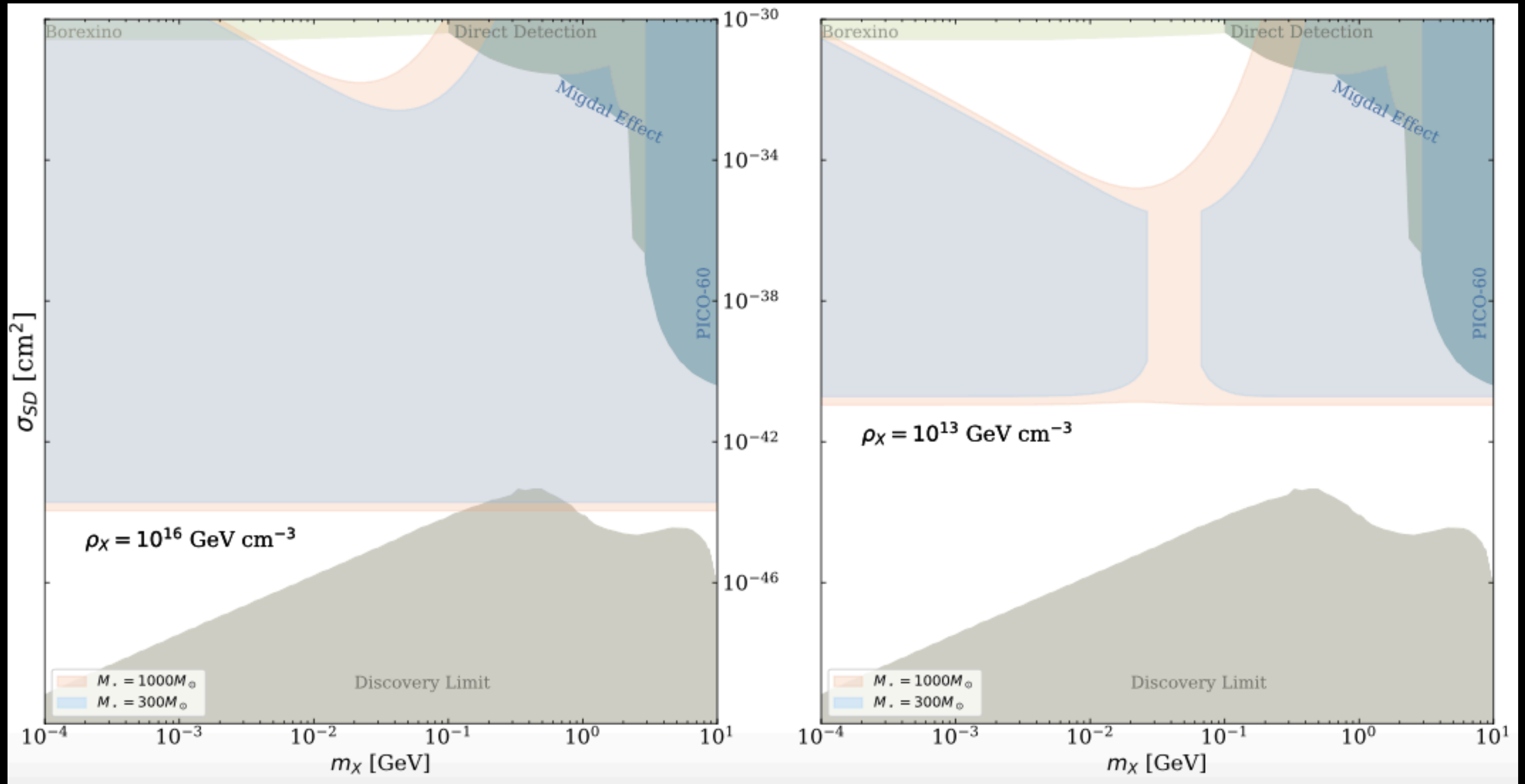


$$\langle \sigma_{CoSIMP} v^2 \rangle \sim 10^{12} \left(\frac{\text{MeV}}{m_X} \right)^3 \left(\frac{0.12}{\Omega_X h^2} \right)^2 \text{GeV}^{-5}$$

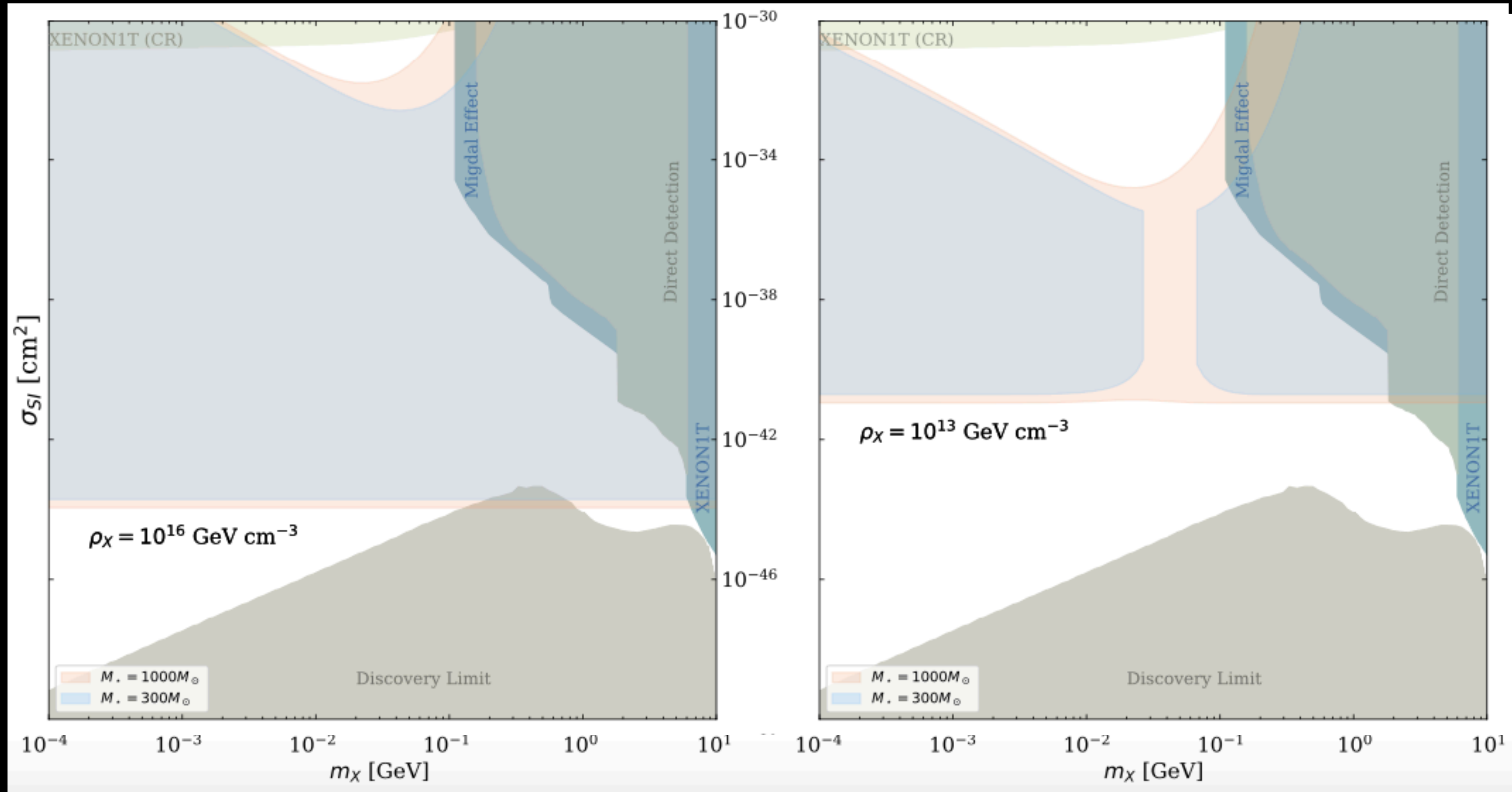
CoSIMP DM

J. Smirnov and J. Beacom PRL 125 (2020)

SD Bounds on Co-SIMP sub GeV DM



SI Bounds on Co-SIMP sub GeV DM



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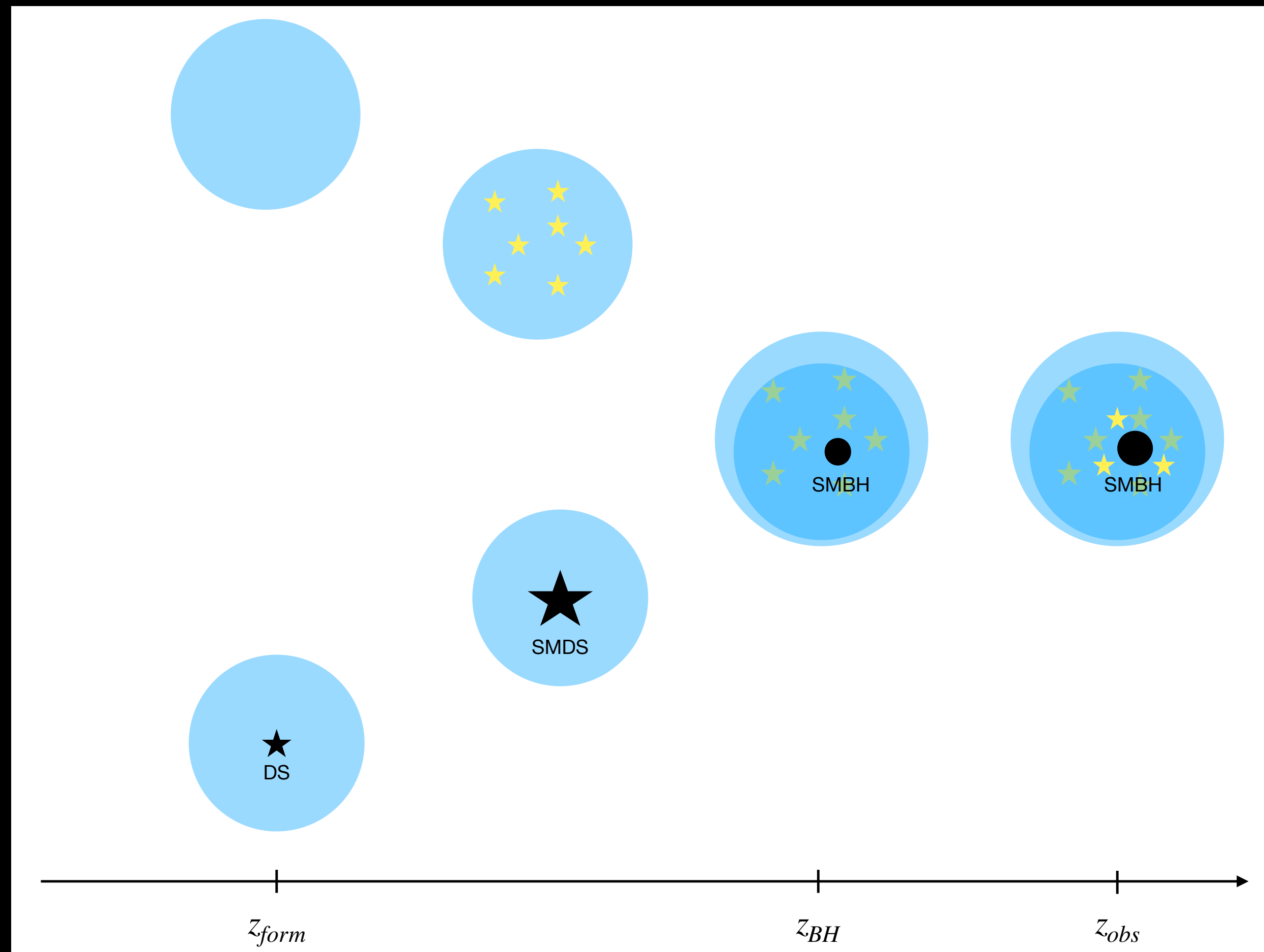
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- PopIII stars can probe **below the neutrino floor of SD experiments**
- PopIII stars are **excellent sub-GeV DM probes**

SMDS solution to the UHZ1 puzzle



- UHZ1: a system at $z \sim 10$
- Observed with JWST/Chandra
- Contains a quasar of powered by a BH $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$
- Significant stellar population, $M_{\star} \sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$

Figure from: Cl et al. ArXiv: 2312.13837

Three SMDs candidates

Table S2. The best-fit parameters corresponding to each of the SMDS candidates.

Candidate	z_{phot}	z_{spec}	μ	χ^2	χ^2_{crit}	χ^2_{gal}	Formation Mechanism	SMDS Mass (M_{\odot})
JADES-GS-z13-0	13.98	13.20	1.50	14.12	18.3	6.8	Capture	10^6
JADES-GS-z12-0	12.27	12.63	1.11	5.64	15.5	3.6	Extended AC	5×10^5
JADES-GS-z11-0	11.66	11.58	0.75	12.23	22.4	14.7	Extended AC	10^6

Table from: Ilie, Paulin and Freese PNAS 120 (30) 2023

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- $\mu < 1$ is statistically preferred for sources at high z [Wang+, *Astrophys.J.* 572 (2002) L15-L18]