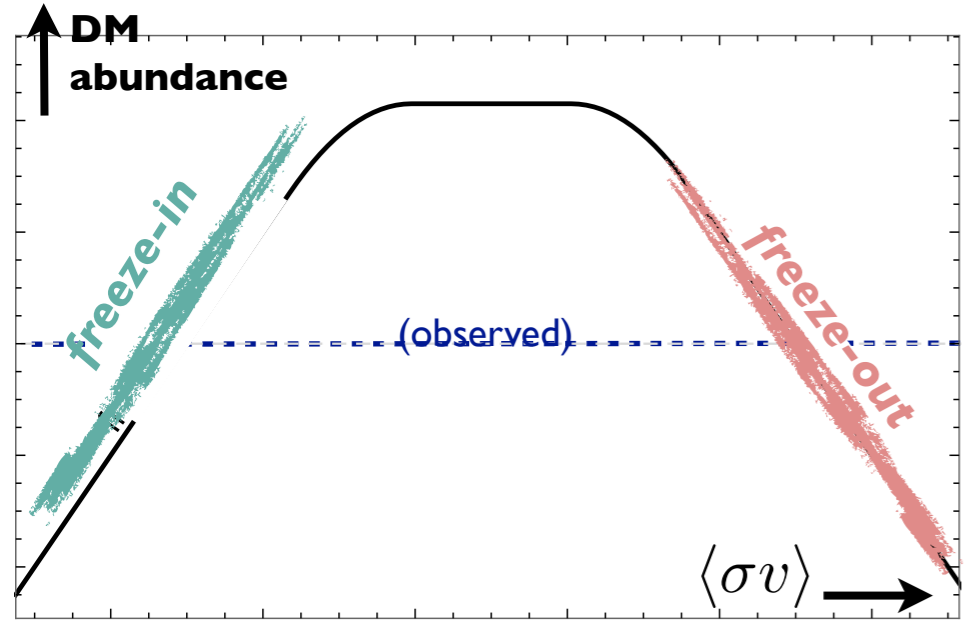


Dark Matter from the Primordial Plasma

From freeze-in to pandemic production

Torsten Bringmann

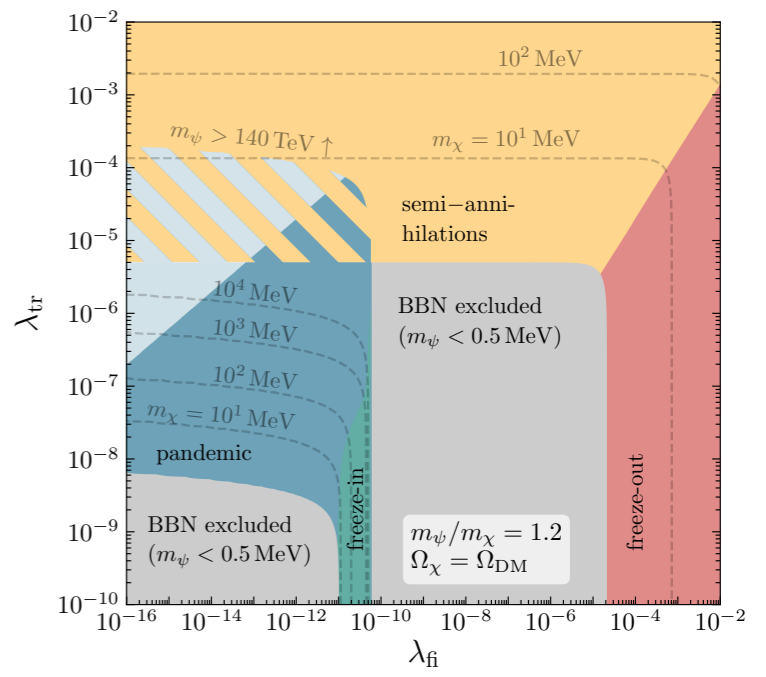


Based on

TB, Heeba, Kahlhoefer & Vangsnes, JHEP '22

TB, Depta, Hufnagel, Ruderman & Schmidt-Hoberg, PRL '21

TB, Depta, Hufnagel, Kersten, Ruderman & Schmidt-Hoberg, arXiv:2206.10630

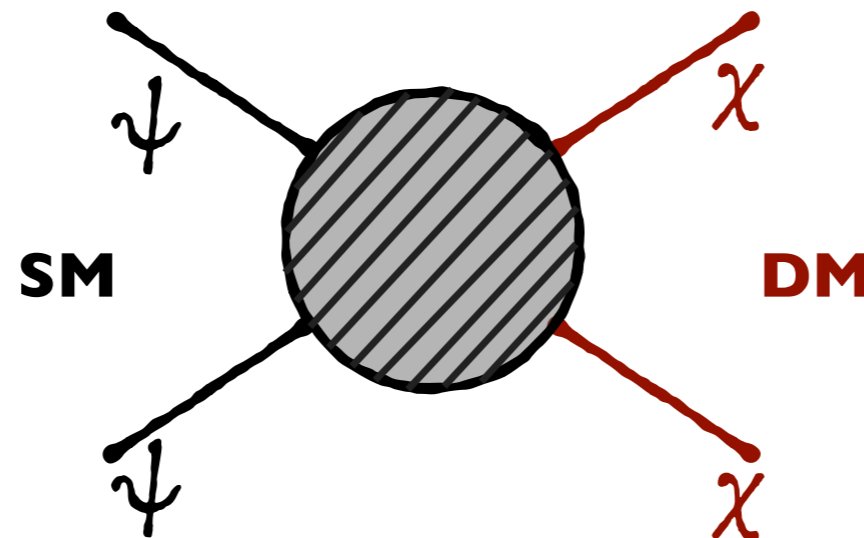


standard production mechanisms

'pandemic' production

The origin of dark matter

- Existence of (particle) DM = **evidence** for BSM physics
- Guiding principle: any convincing model for dark matter must include a **production mechanism**
- Typical interaction with the primordial heat bath:

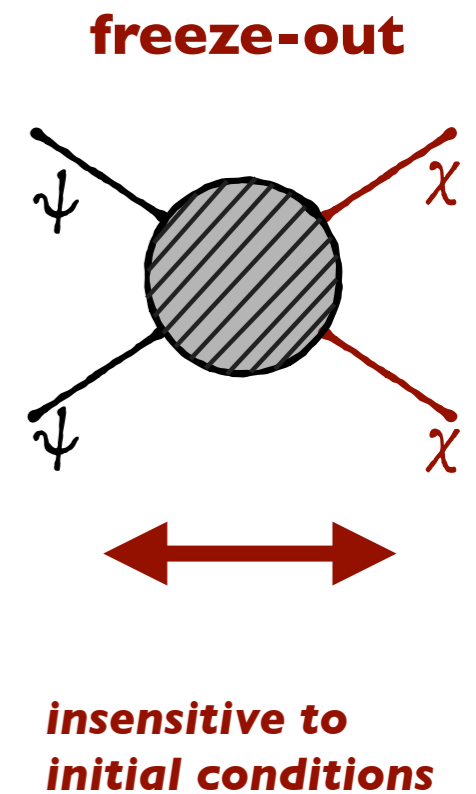
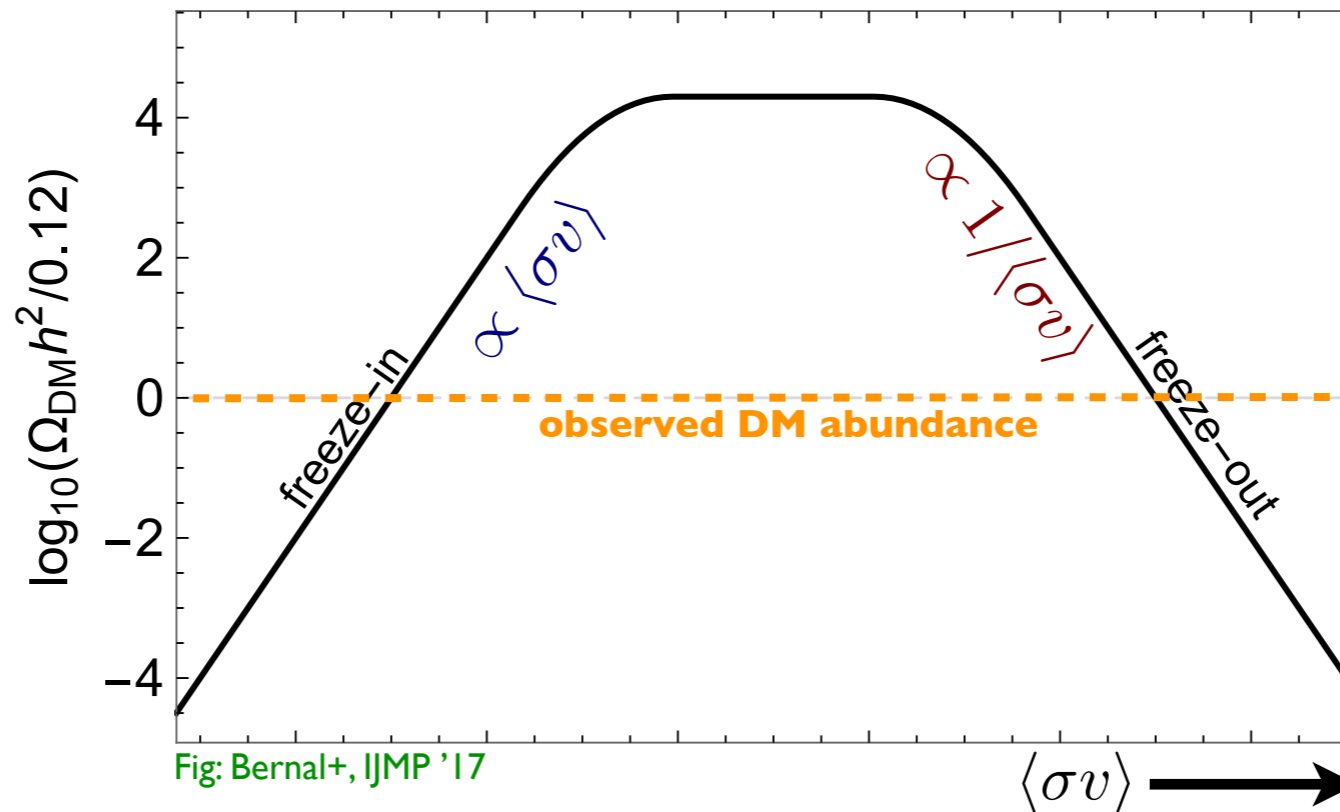
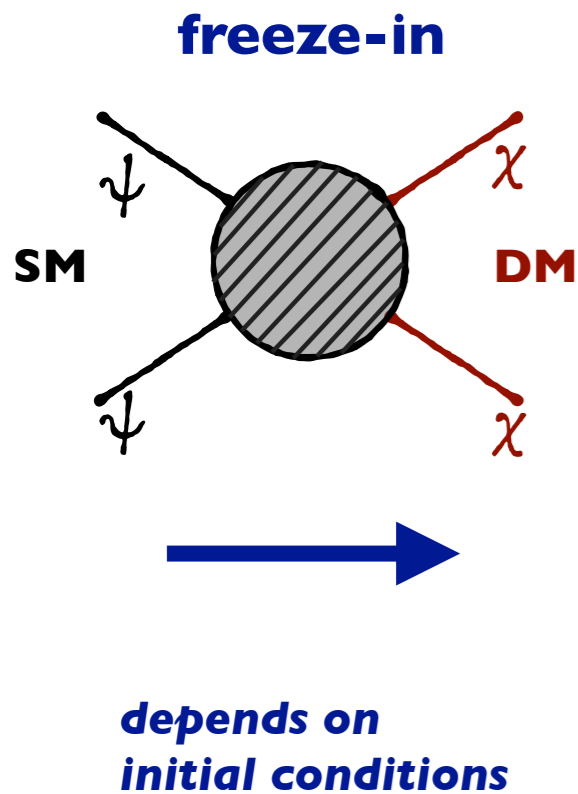


FIMPs or WIMPs ?

- Smooth transition between two regimes:

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3Hn_\chi = \langle \sigma v \rangle n_{\chi,eq}^2$$

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3Hn_\chi = \langle \sigma v \rangle (n_{\chi,eq}^2 - n_\chi^2)$$



Freeze-in: Case study

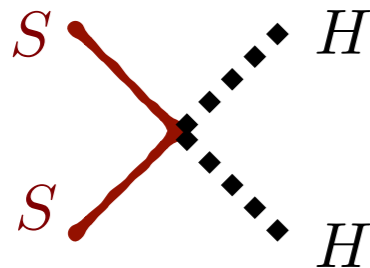
TB, Heeba, Kahlhoefer & Vangsnes, JHEP '22

Scalar Singlet DM

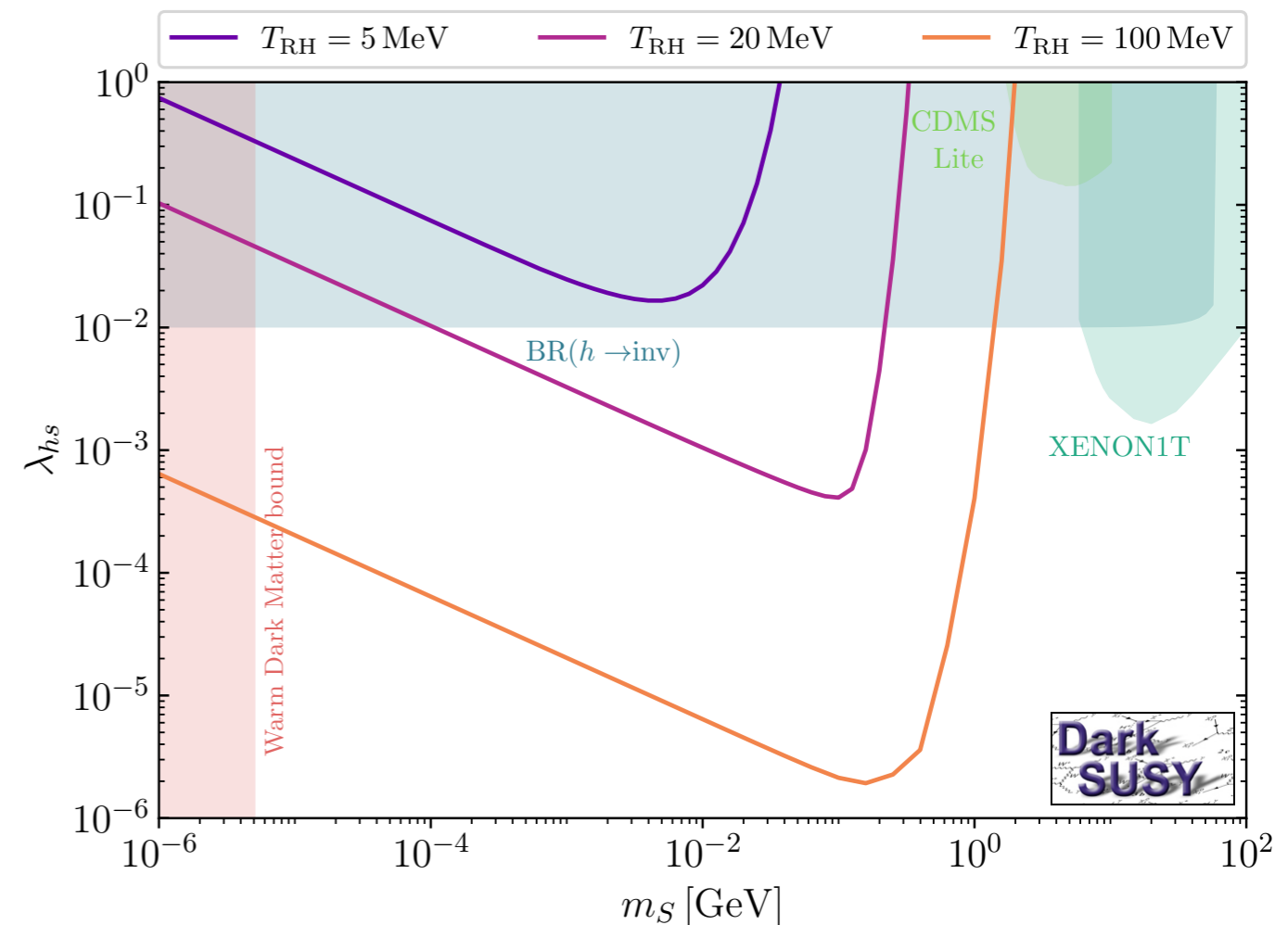
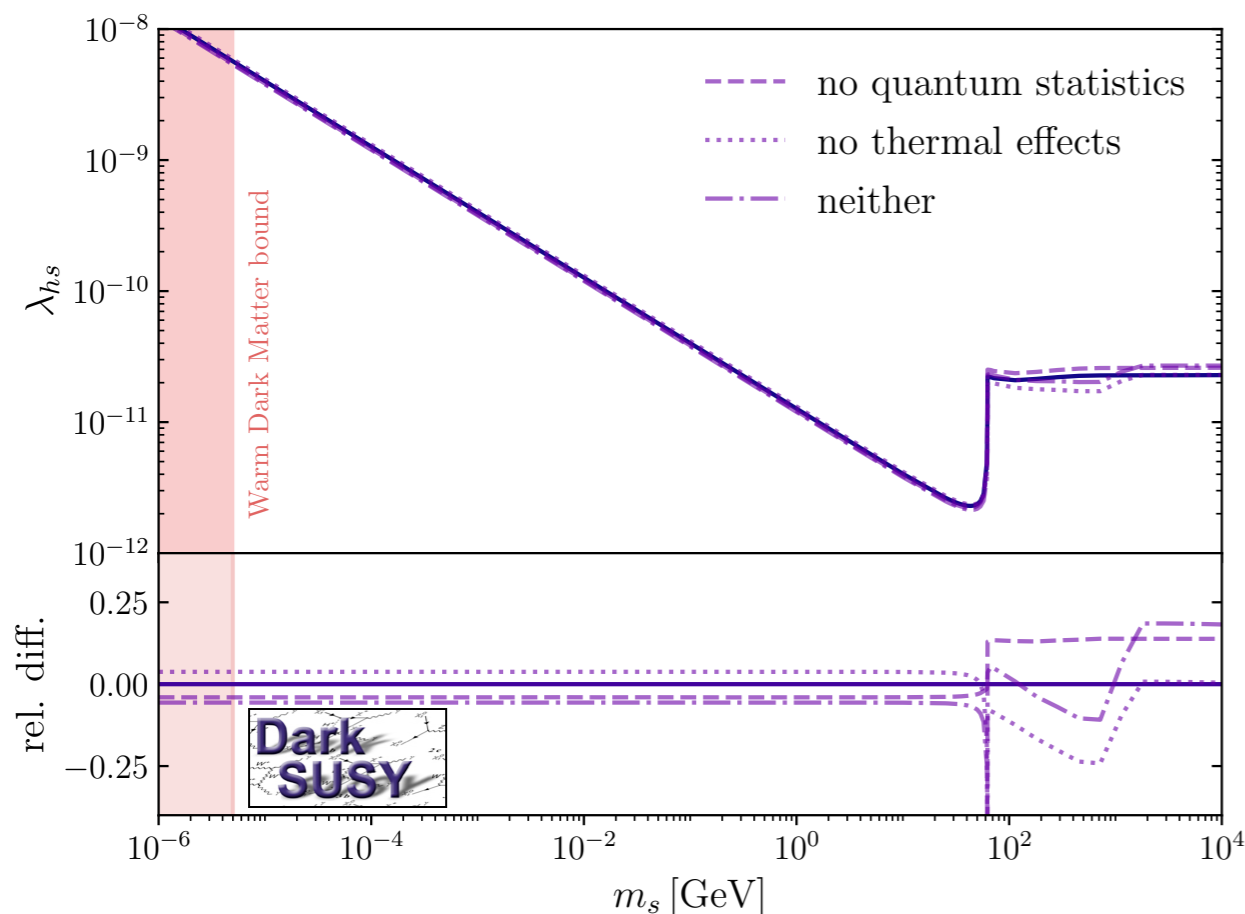
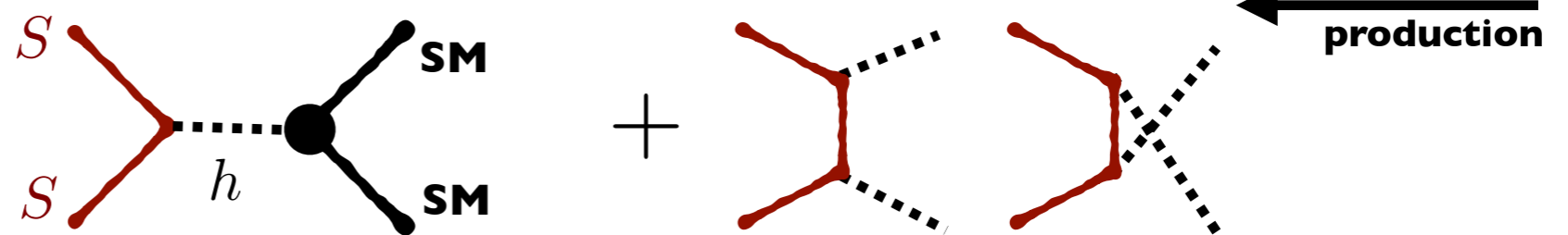
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu S \partial^\mu S + \frac{1}{2} \mu_S^2 S^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{hs} S^2 |H|^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda_s S^4$$

Silveira & Zee, PLB '85

before EWSB:



after EWSB:



High reheating temperature

Low reheating temperature

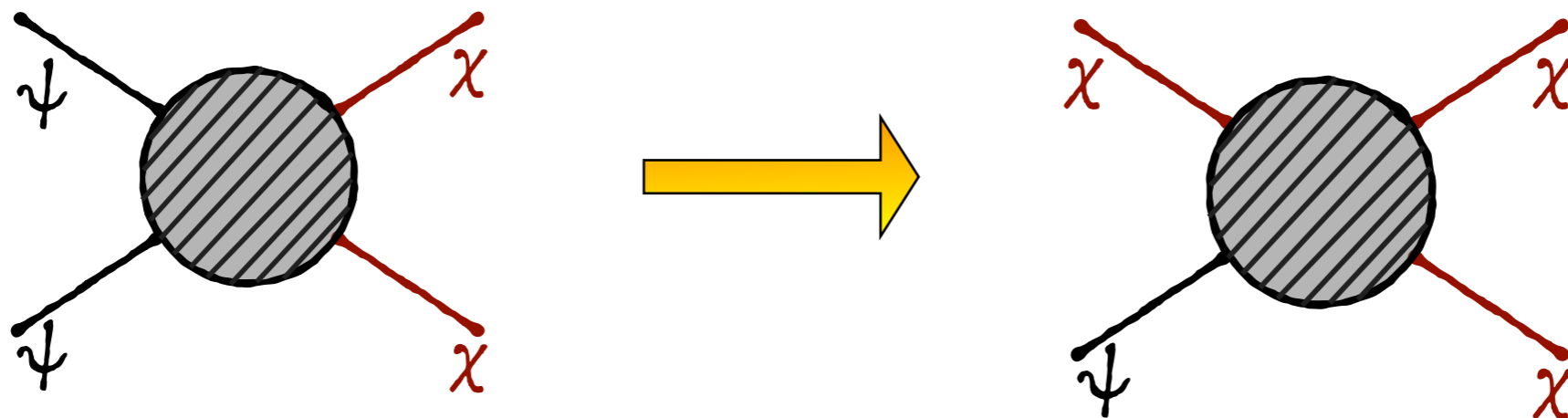


A new production mechanism

- In the past, **many variants** of freeze-out scenario have been explored:

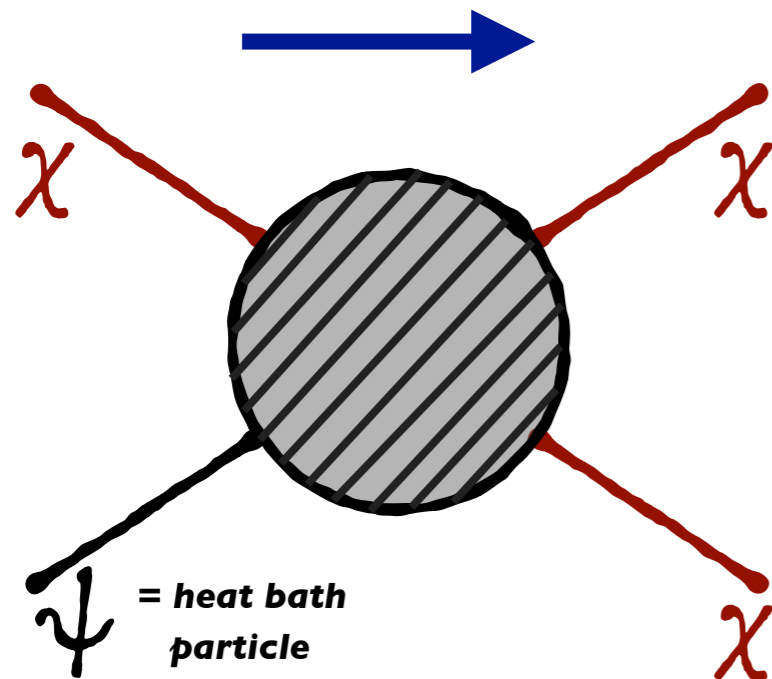
HIDDEN SECTOR FREEZE-OUT
FORBIDDEN DARK MATTER
CANNIBAL DARK MATTER
ZOMBIE DARK MATTER
ELDER DARK MATTER
KINDER DARK MATTER
SIMP DARK MATTER
...

- Can we get a **qualitatively different** freeze-in scenario?



A new production mechanism

• 'Pandemic' dark matter



TB, Depta, Hufnagel, Rudermann
& Schmidt-Hoberg, 2103.16572
Hryczuk & Laletin, 2104.05684

$$\dot{n}_\chi + 3H n_\chi = n_\chi n_\psi^{\text{eq}} \langle \sigma v \rangle$$

[for $n_\chi \ll n_\psi^{\text{eq}}$]

• The 'SIR' compartmental model

A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Epidemics.
By W. O. KERMACK and A. G. MCKENDRICK.
(Communicated by Sir Gilbert Walker, F.R.S.—Received May 13, 1927.)

S # **susceptible individuals**
 I # **infected individuals**
recovered ($R = \text{tot} - S - I$)

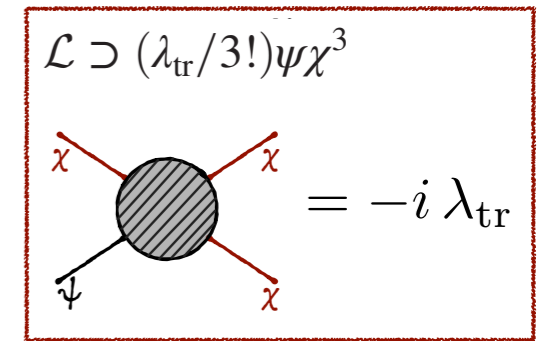
β **infection rate**
 γ **recovery rate**

$$\dot{I} = \beta S I - \gamma I$$

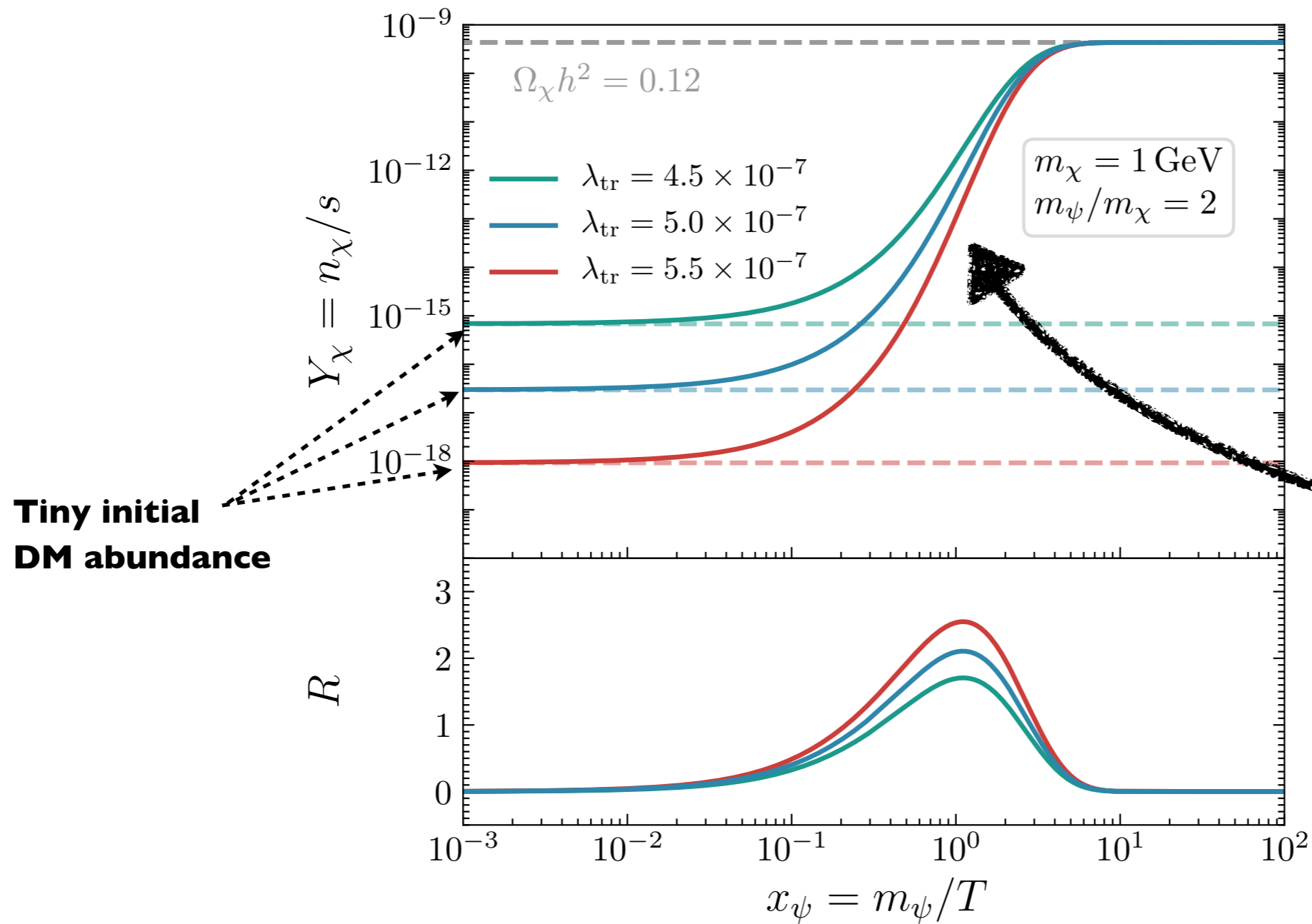
→ **reproduction number, or 'R-value':**

$$R \equiv \frac{\beta S}{\gamma} = \frac{n_\psi^{\text{eq}} \langle \sigma v \rangle}{3H}$$

Exponential DM production



toy model



Tiny initial
DM abundance



**exponential
growth** $R \gtrsim 1$

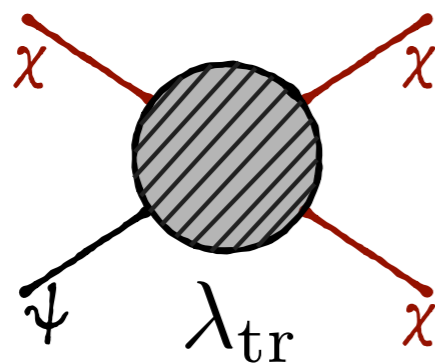
← large H

→ small n_ψ^{eq}

$$R \equiv \frac{\beta S}{\gamma} = \frac{n_\psi^{\text{eq}} \langle \sigma v \rangle}{3H}$$

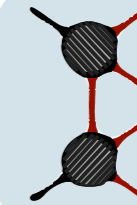
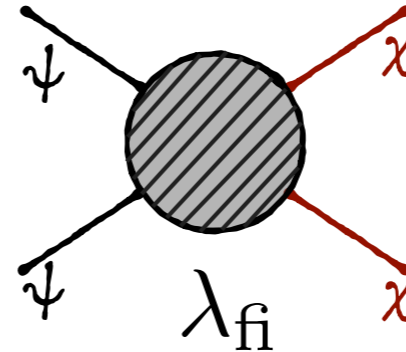
Adding freeze-in production

'transmission'

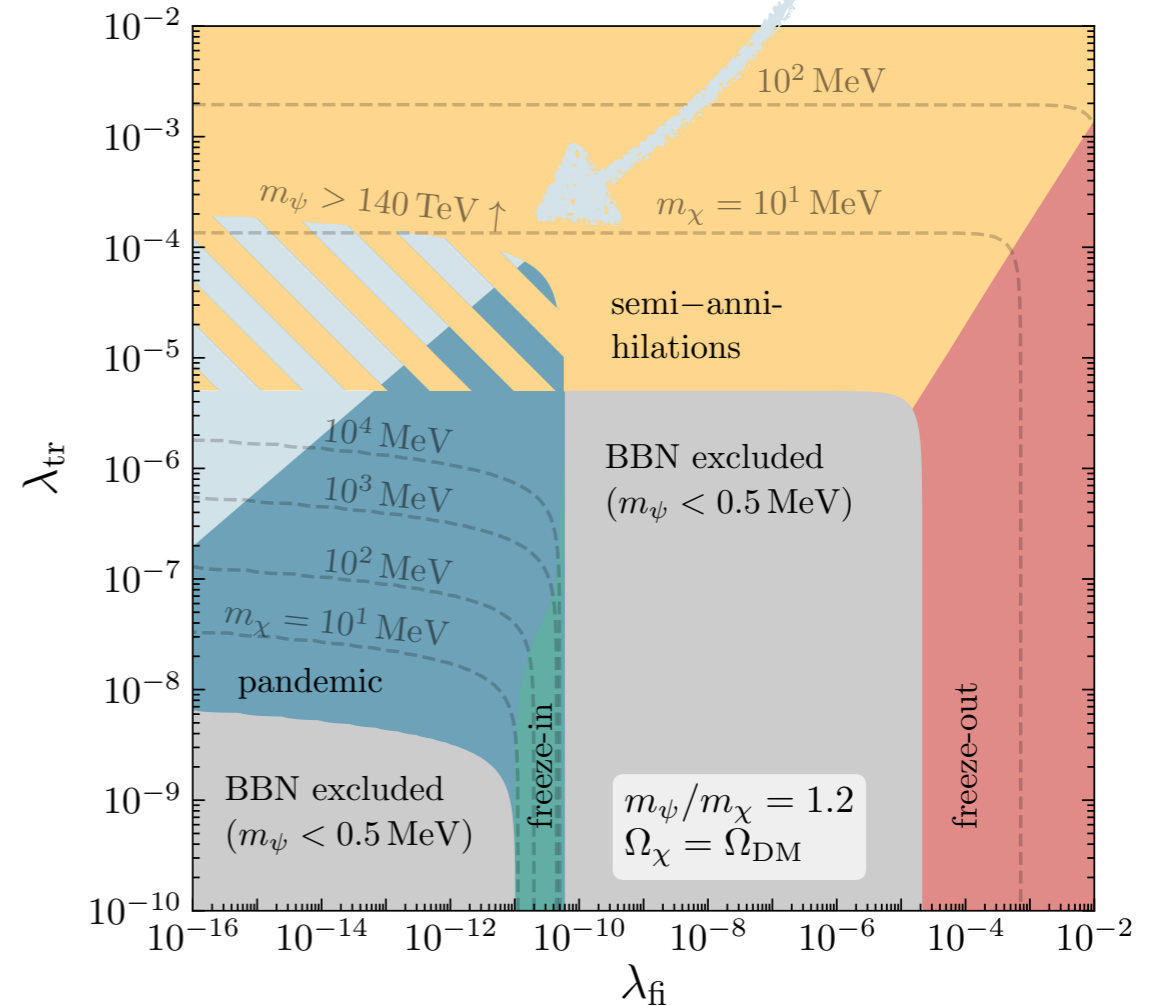
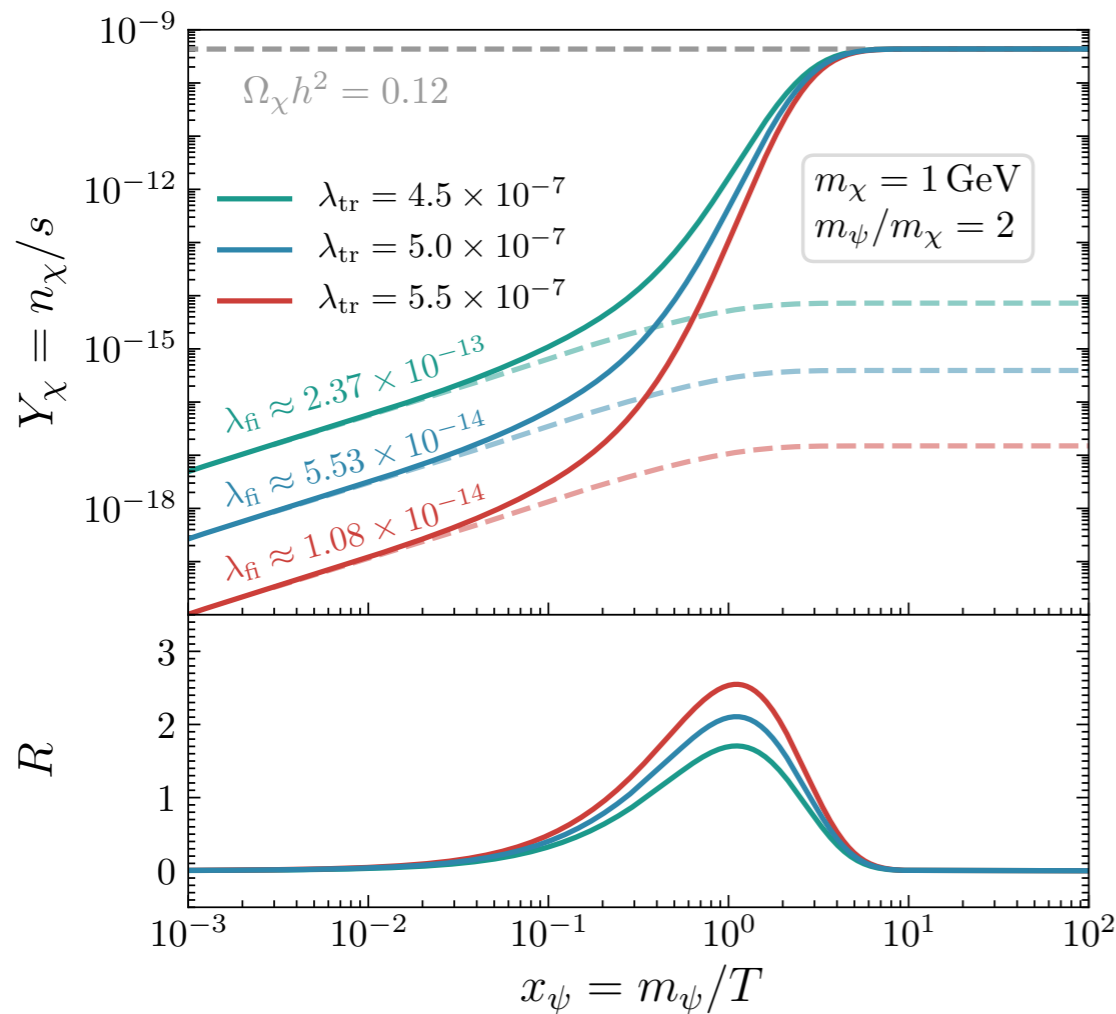


+

'freeze-in'



2 → 4
freeze-in
dominates

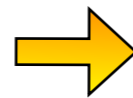


➔ **'Pandemic' production turns out to be a rather generic mechanism for the genesis of DM!**

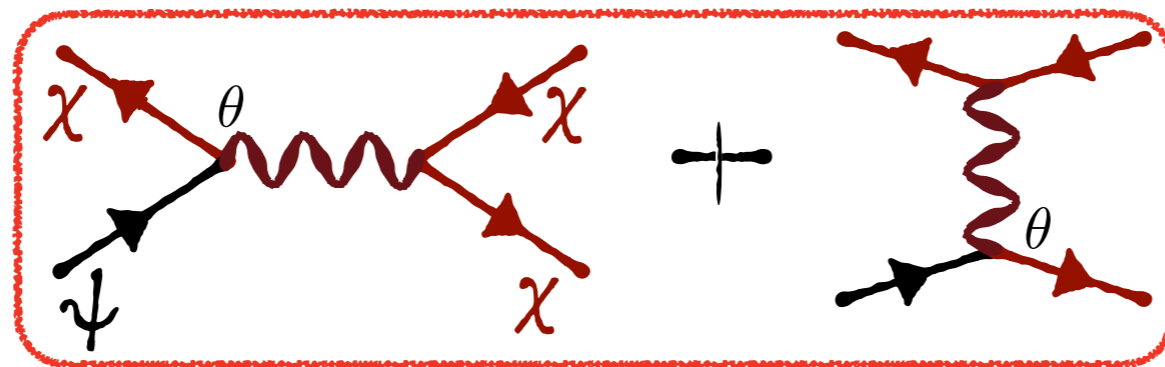
Signals ?

- Necessarily model-dependent
 - ‘Pandemic DM’ describes a **class** of models, just like ‘WIMP’ does
- Q: Is there a *generic* way to realize $\langle\sigma v\rangle_{\text{fi}} \ll \langle\sigma v\rangle_{\text{tr}}$?
- A: yes — just add a **dark sector mediator** and **mass mixing!**

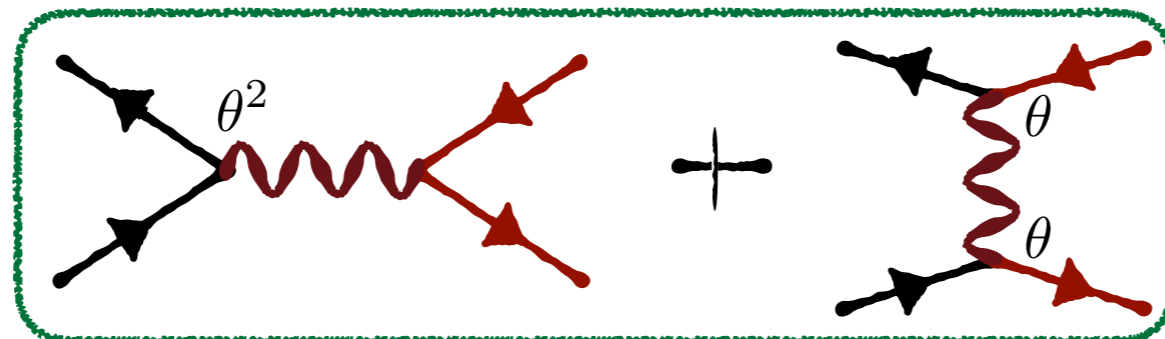
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\delta m (\bar{\psi}\chi + \bar{\chi}\psi) - g\bar{\chi}V\chi$$



$$\mathcal{L} \supset -g[\bar{\chi}V\chi + \theta(\bar{\psi}V\chi + \bar{\chi}V\psi) + \theta^2\bar{\psi}V\psi]$$



transmission $\propto \theta$



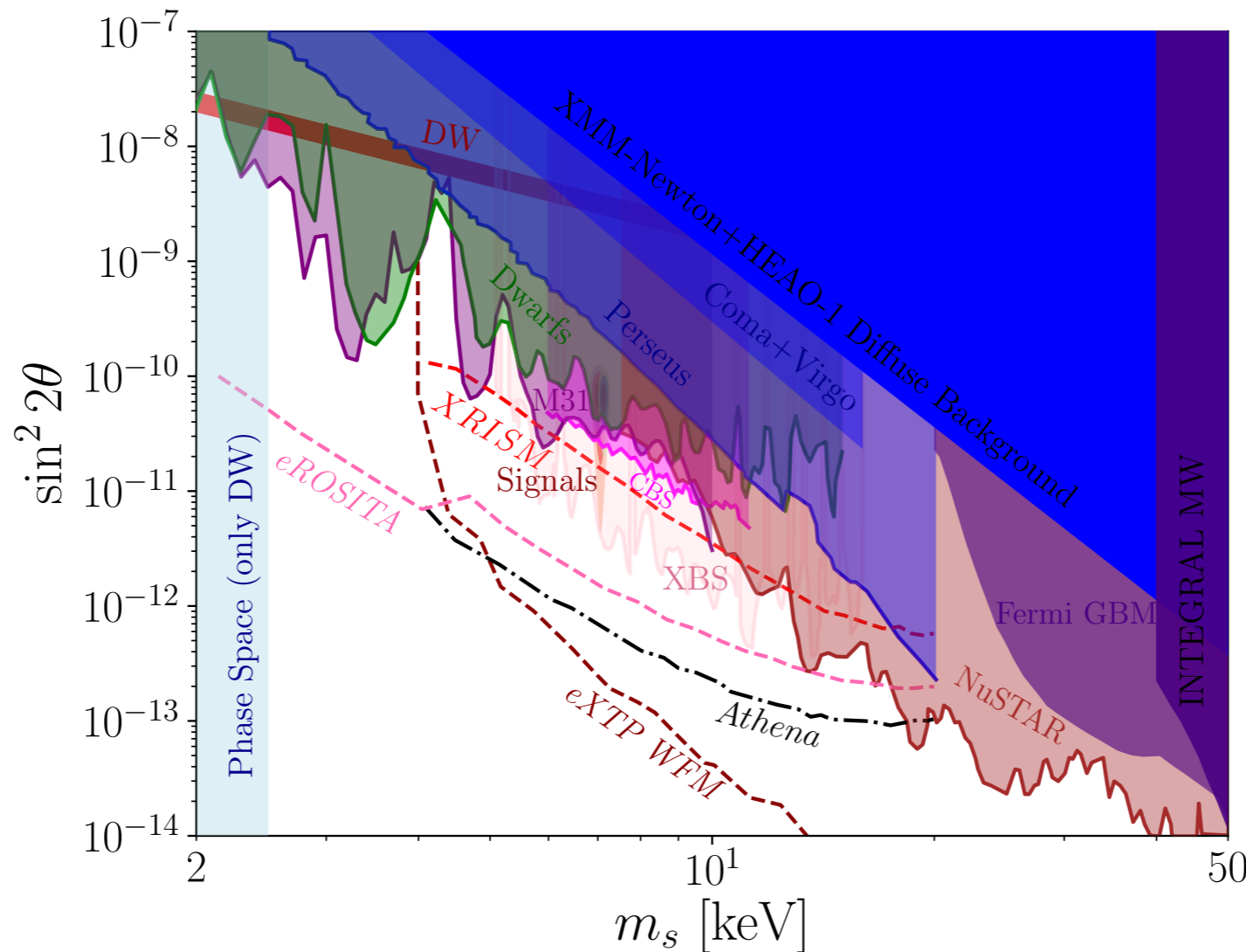
freeze-in $\propto \theta^2$

Sterile neutrinos

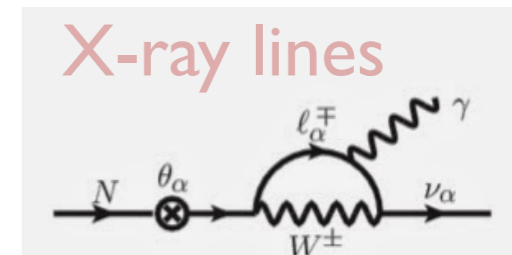


- An **excellent**, well-motivated dark matter **candidate**
- Production by SM processes: oscillations** with active neutrinos, combined with CC and NC scatterings

Dodelson & Widrow, PRL '94



Abazajian+, 2203.7377



- Unfortunately, this scenario is **ruled out** by observations...

Interacting sterile neutrinos

TB, Depta, Hufnagel, Kersten, Ruderman & Schmidt-Hoberg, arXiv:2206.10630

- Let's add a **scalar** ϕ that only couples to the sterile neutrinos

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{y}{2} \phi \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{y}{2} \phi [\sin^2 \theta \bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_\alpha - \sin \theta \cos \theta (\bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_s + \bar{\nu}_s \nu_\alpha) + \cos^2 \theta \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s]$$

$$m_\phi > 2m_s$$

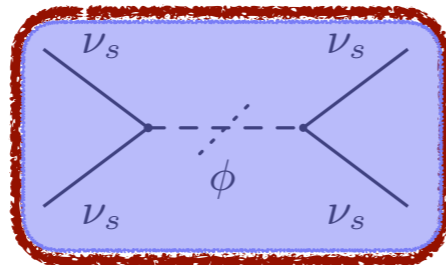
- Early times (\sim QCD PT): standard **DW** production

- Evolution afterwards:

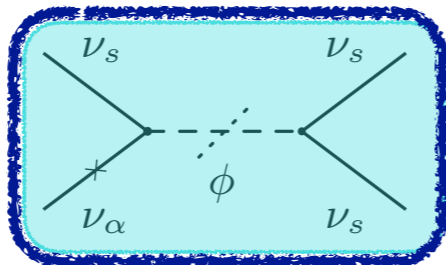
solid: benchmark point with large θ , small y

dashed: benchmark point with small θ , large y

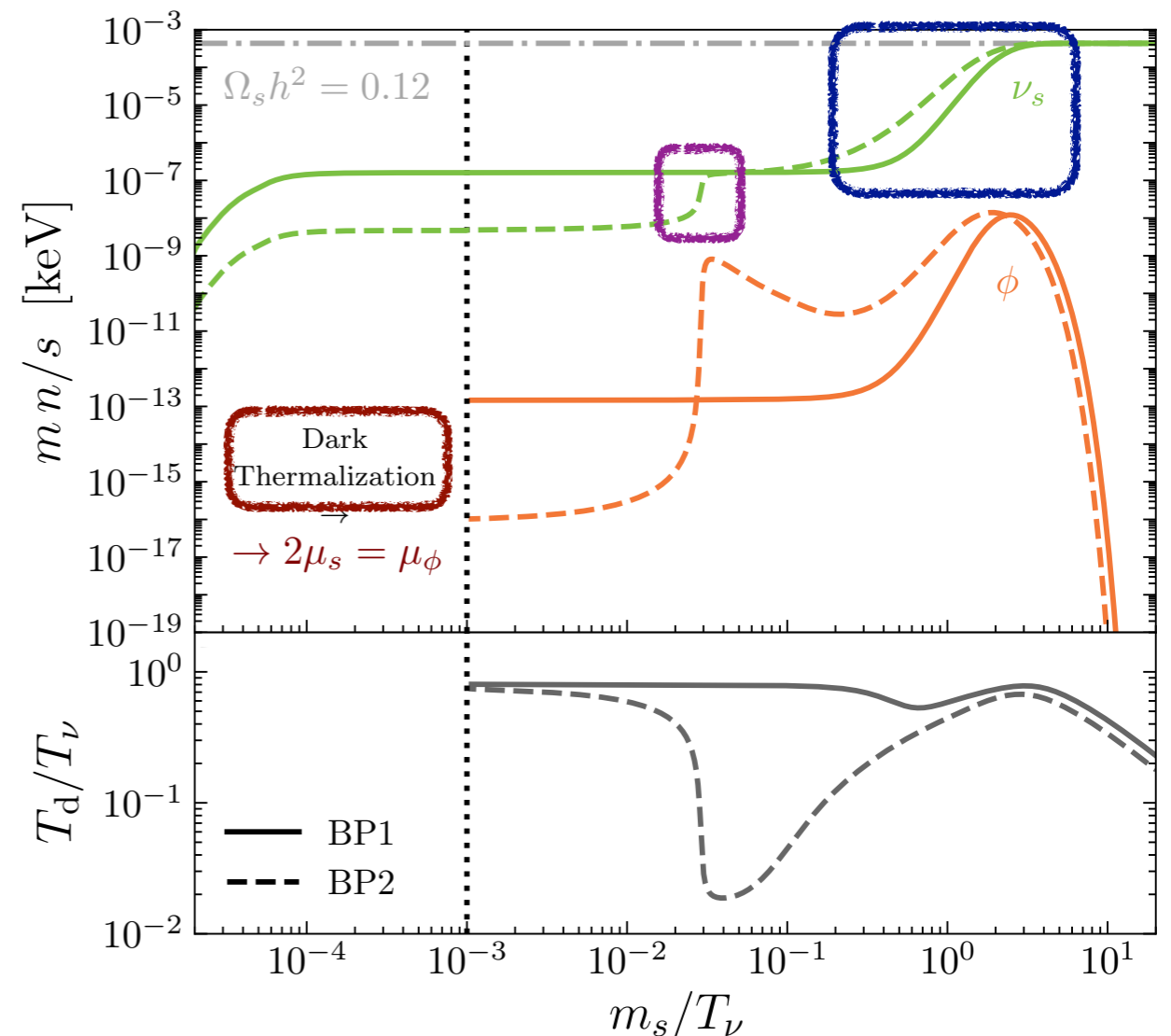
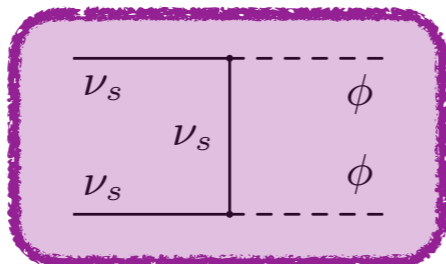
- Thermalization**
in dark sector



- Exponential**
growth



- Reproductive**
freeze-in

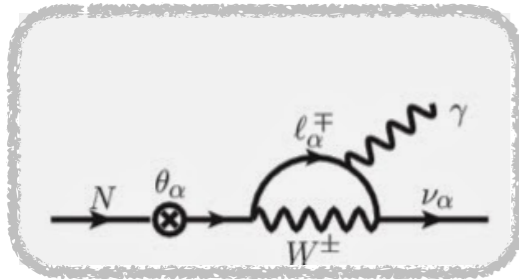


Sterile neutrinos... revived !

TB, Depta, Hufnagel, Kersten, Ruderman & Schmidt-Hoberg, arXiv:2206.10630

Observational constraints

(Standard) X-ray lines



ν_s self-interactions

$$\sigma_T / m_s \lesssim 1 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{g}$$

cf. Tulin & Yu, PR '18

maybe 0.1 possible... (?)

Lyman- α

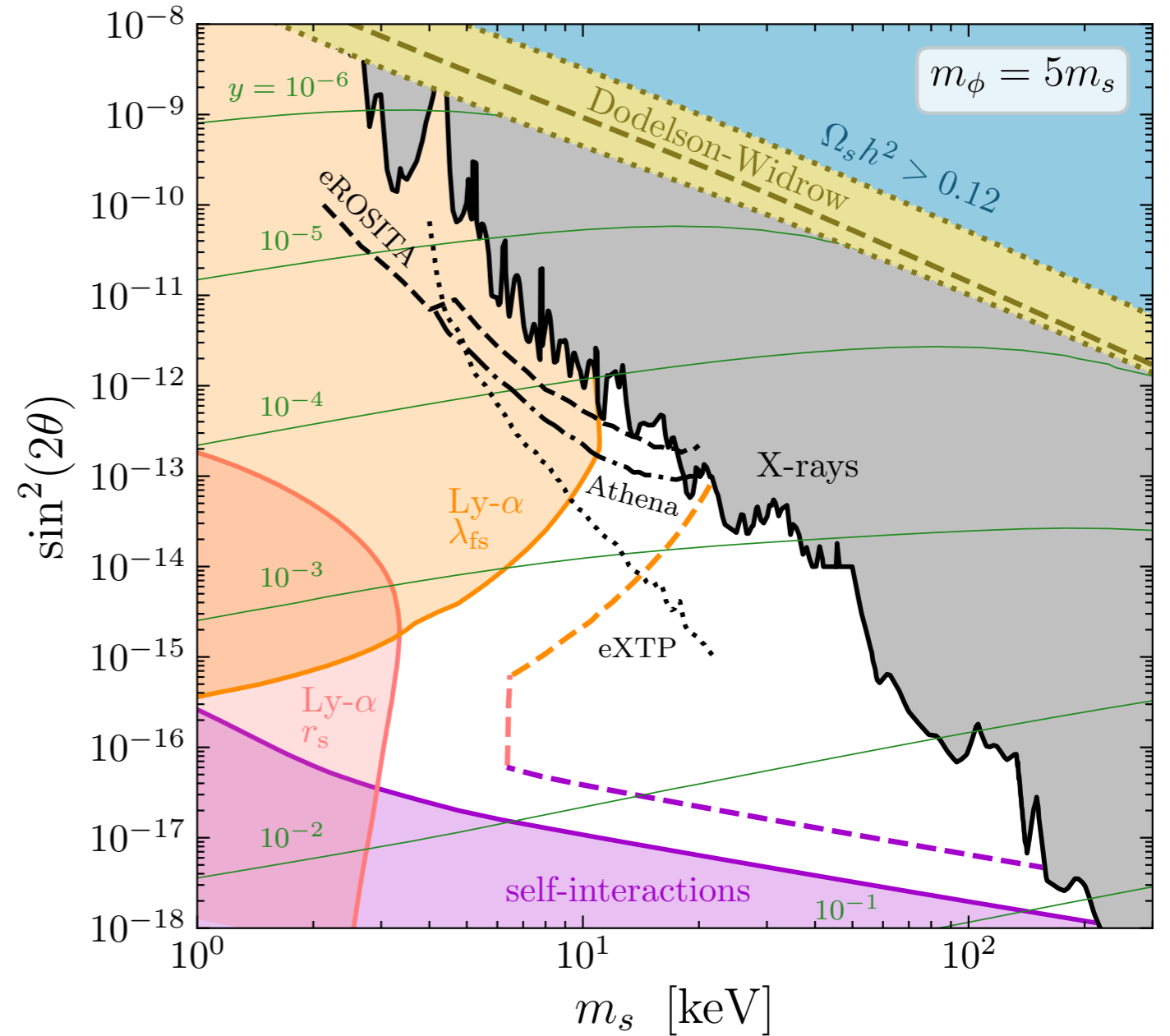
recast $m_{\text{WDM}} > 1.9 \text{ keV}$ to
Garzilli+, MNRAS '21

$$\lambda_{\text{FS}} < 0.24 \text{ Mpc}$$

$$r_s < 0.36 \text{ Mpc}$$

maybe $m_{\text{WDM}} > 5.3 \text{ keV}$ possible... (?)

Palanque-Delabrouille+, JCAP '20



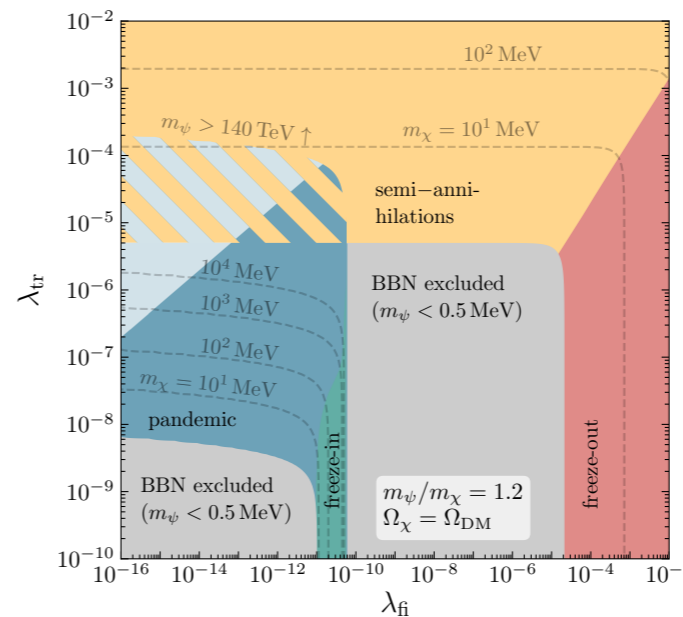
New parameter space

Bounded from above and below

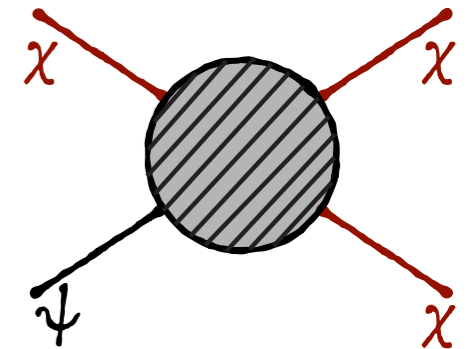
Significant parts in **observational reach**

Conclusions

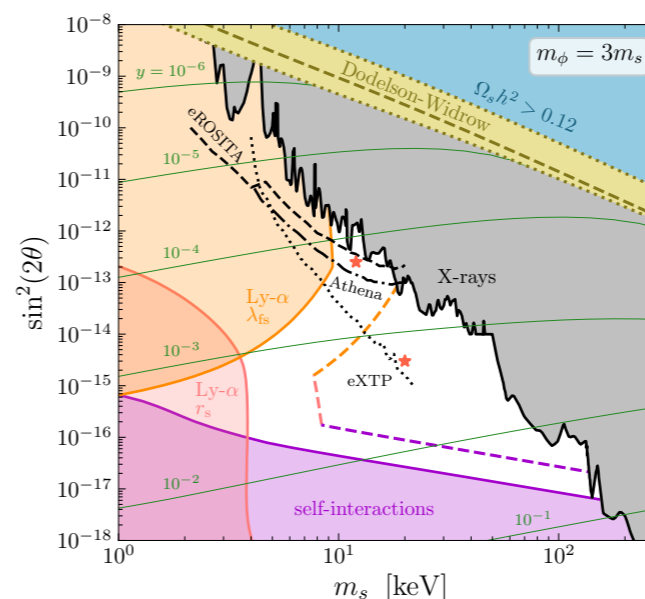
- There are a handful of **generic ways of DM genesis** from the primordial heat bath



- Pandemic dark matter is a novel such mechanism. **Mathematical analogy** to spread of diseases works almost scarily well



- A new *minimal* scenario for **sterile neutrino DM** ?!



Thanks for your attention!

DarkSUSY



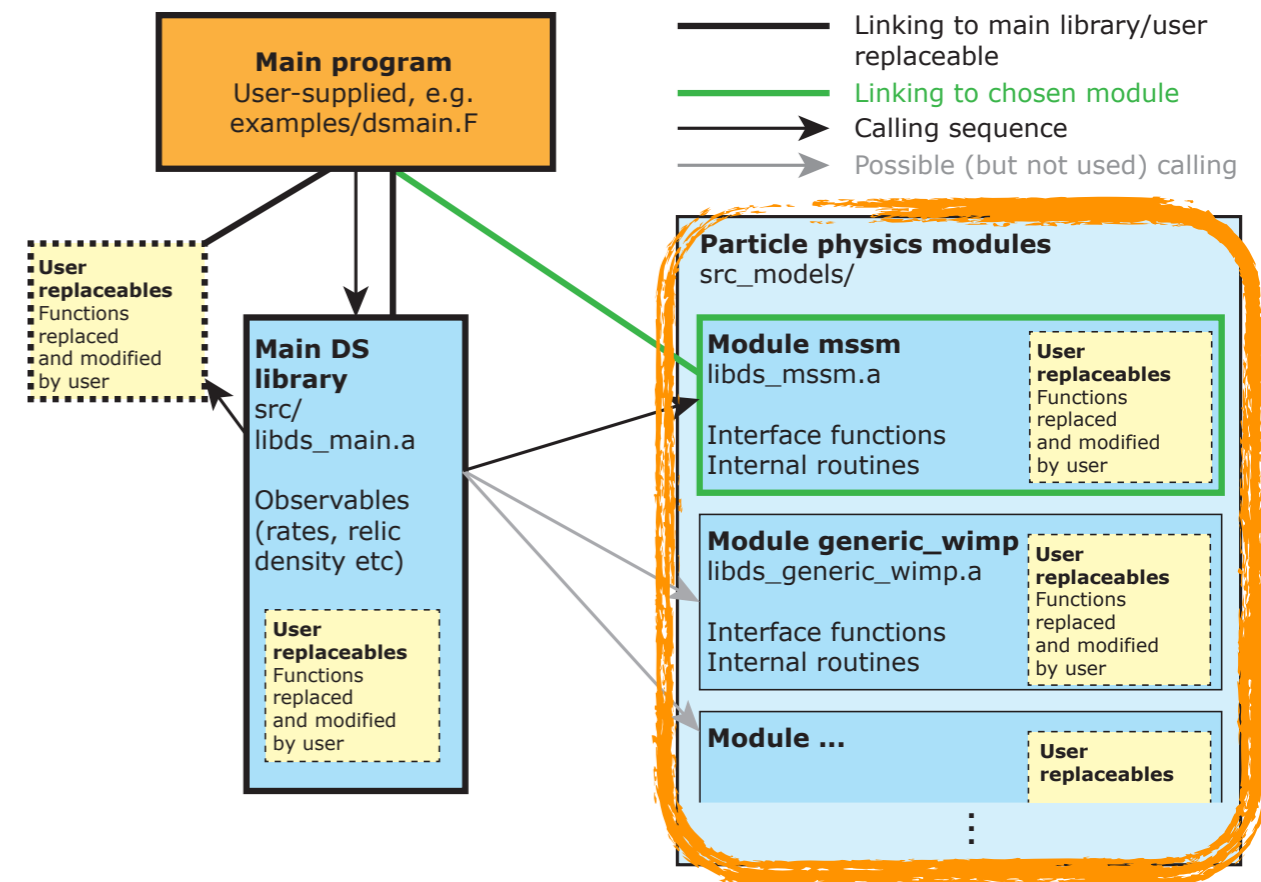
TB, Edsjö, Gondolo,
Ullio & Bergström,
JCAP '18

[http://
darksusy.hepforge.org](http://darksusy.hepforge.org)

Since *version 6*:
no longer restricted to
supersymmetric DM !

Numerical package to calculate 'all' DM related quantities:


- relic density + kinetic decoupling
(also for $T_{\text{dark}} \neq T_{\text{photon}}$)
- generic SUSY models + laboratory constraints implemented
- cosmic ray propagation
- particle yields for generic DM annihilation or decay
- indirect detection rates: gammas, positrons, antiprotons, neutrinos
- direct detection rates
- ...



- since 6.1: DM self-interactions**
- since 6.2: 'reverse' direct detection**
(incl. full Q^2 -dependent scattering!)
- since 6.3: freeze-in**

Collision term for FIMPs

$$C[f_\chi] = \frac{1}{2g_\chi} \int \frac{d^3\tilde{p}}{(2\pi)^3 2\tilde{E}} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} \int \frac{d^3\tilde{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\tilde{\omega}} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\tilde{p} + p - \tilde{k} - k) \\ \times \left[\underbrace{|\mathcal{M}|_{\chi\chi \leftarrow \psi\psi}^2}_{\text{'production'}} f_\psi(\omega) f_\psi(\tilde{\omega}) - \underbrace{|\mathcal{M}|_{\chi\chi \rightarrow \psi\psi}^2}_{\text{'annihilation'}} f_\chi(E) f_\chi(\tilde{E}) \{1 \pm f_\psi(\omega)\} \{1 \pm f_\psi(\tilde{\omega})\} \right]$$


 $C[f_\chi] = \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi\chi \rightarrow \psi\psi} (n_\chi^{\text{MB}})^2$
annihilation of *would-be* MB population
→ **actual** (in eq)

- Only 2 integrals after exploiting spherical symmetry:
(γ : Lorentz boost to CMS)

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi\chi \rightarrow \psi\psi} = \frac{8x^2}{K_2^2(x)} \int_1^\infty d\tilde{s} \tilde{s} (\tilde{s} - 1) \int_1^\infty d\gamma \sqrt{\gamma^2 - 1} e^{-2\sqrt{\tilde{s}}x\gamma} \sigma_{\chi\chi \rightarrow \psi\psi}(s, \gamma)$$


→ $K_1(2\sqrt{\tilde{s}}x)/(2\sqrt{\tilde{s}}x)$ ✓

TB, Heeba, Kahlhoefer & Vangsnes, JHEP '22
(see also Lebedev & Toma, PLB '19 Arcadi+, JHEP '19)

$$\sigma_{\chi\chi \rightarrow \psi\psi}(p, \tilde{p}) = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{4N_\psi E \tilde{E} v_{\text{Møll}}} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} \int \frac{d^3\tilde{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\tilde{\omega}} \delta^{(4)}(\tilde{p} + p - \tilde{k} - k) |\overline{\mathcal{M}}|^2 \{1 \pm f_\psi(\omega)\} \{1 \pm f_\psi(\tilde{\omega})\}$$

→ 1

- In *this* formulation, direct analogy with **WIMP** case!

- 
 - Can recycle sophisticated numerical tools for thermal averages
 - Easier to estimate higher-order corrections

