

Dark Matter – A Particle Physicist's Perspective

Matthew Kirk – Physics, PhD

Why do we need dark matter?

- First mentioned in 1930
- Swiss astronomer – Fritz Zwicky
- Used virial theorem to calculate mass of galaxy

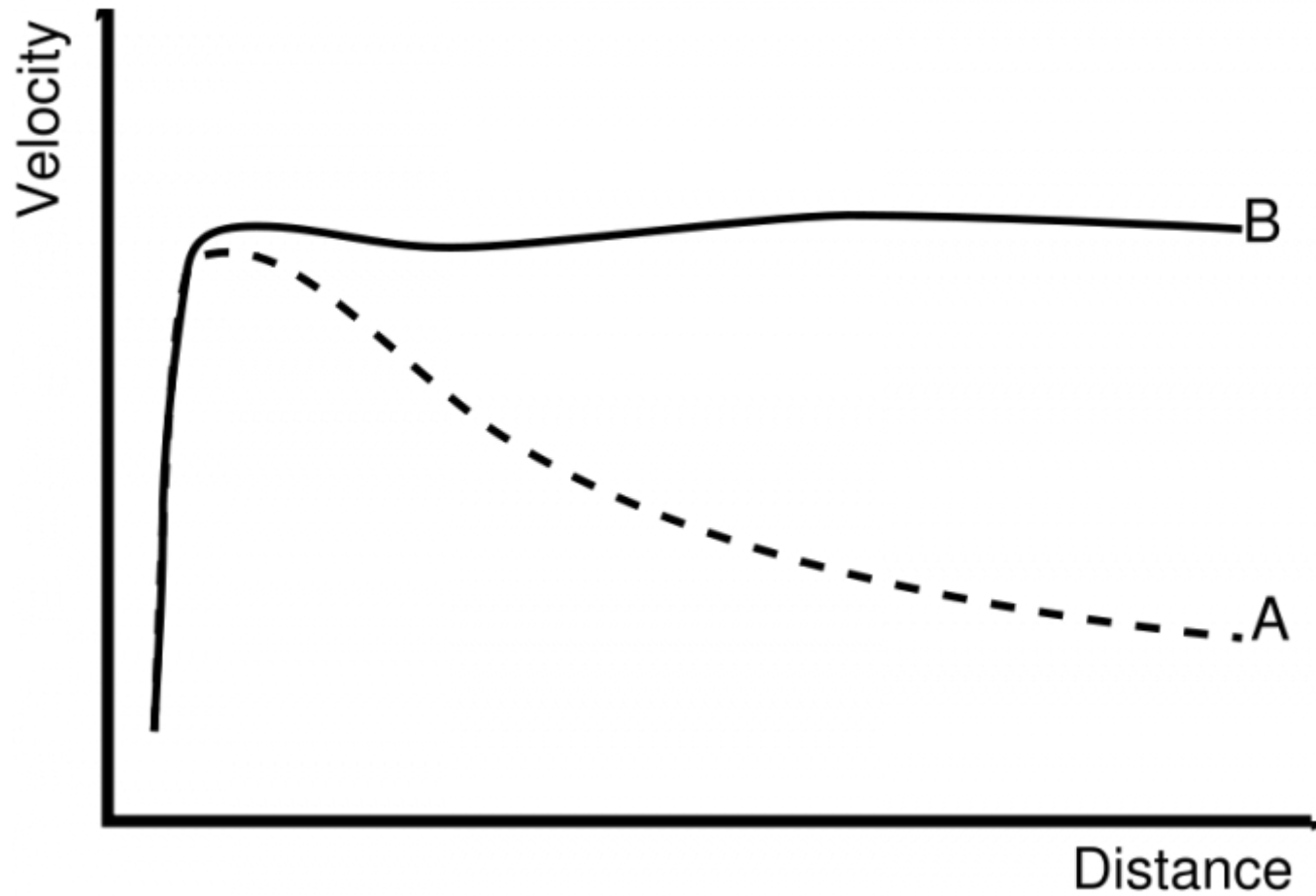
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- Factor of 500 different to expected result

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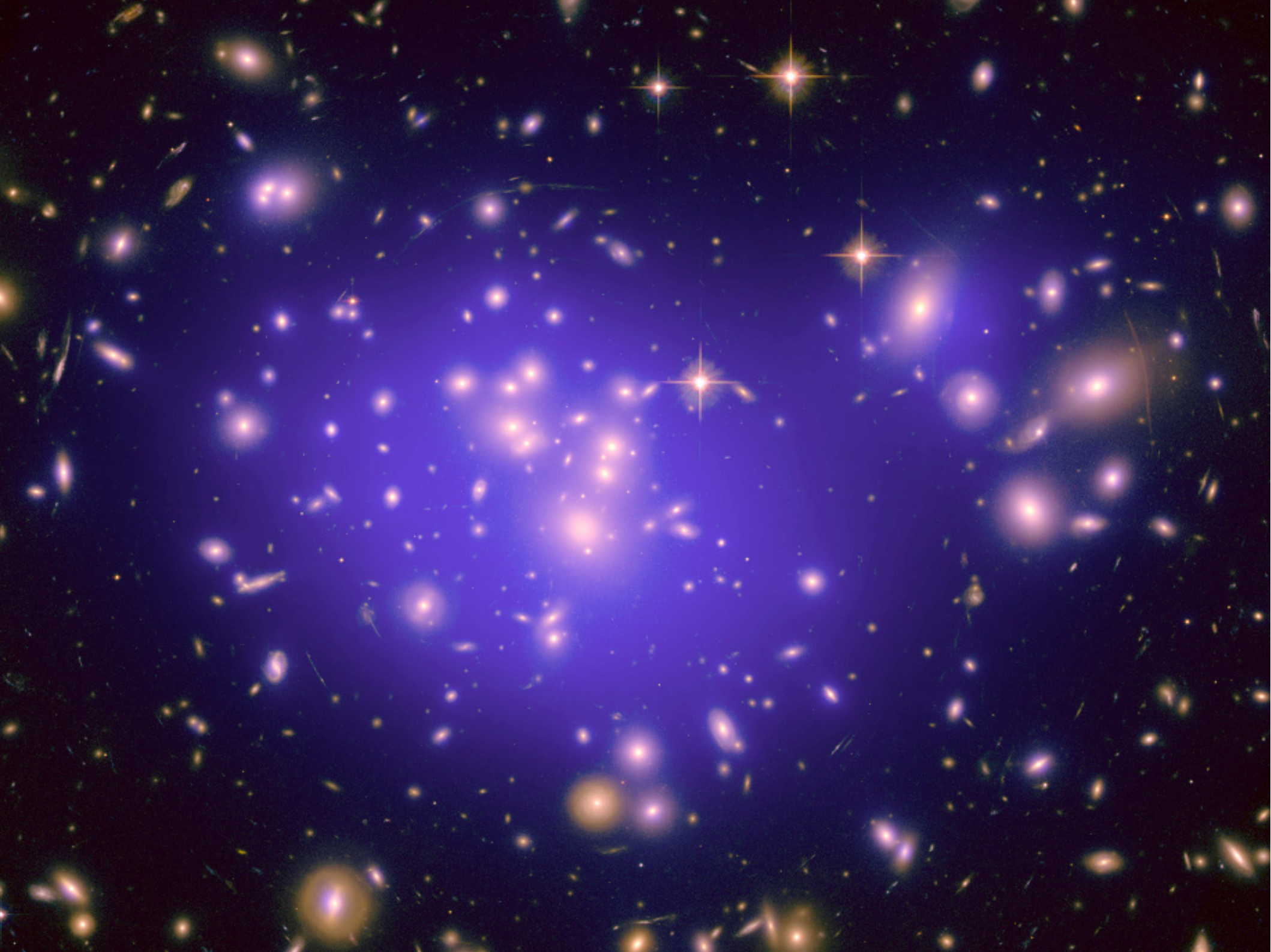
- Rotation curves – how fast stars orbit depends on how far out they are
- First accurate measurement by Vera Rubin – 1970s
- Should fall off – but instead to flatten out

Why do we need dark matter?



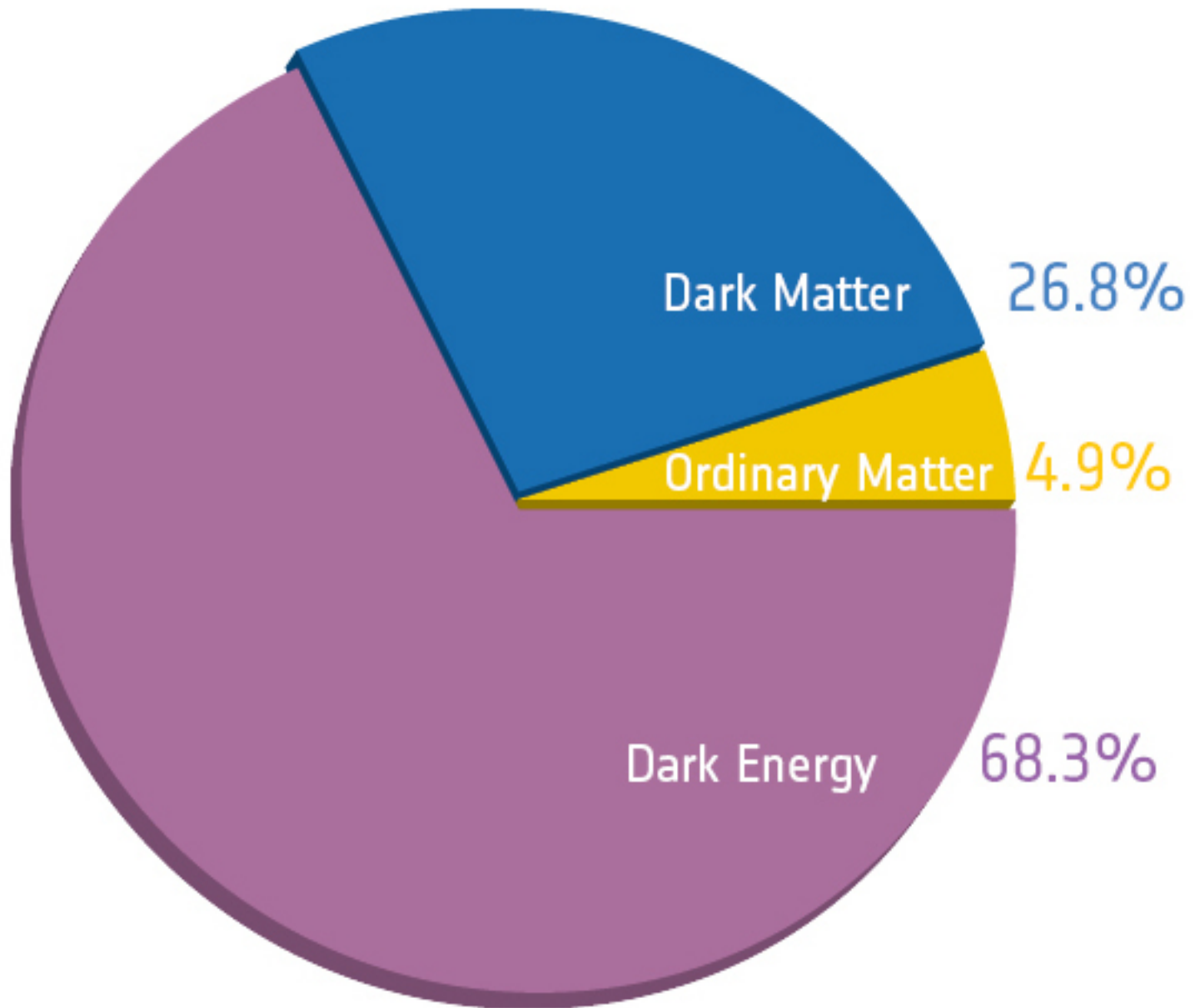
Why do we need dark matter?

- Gravitational lensing
 - Similar idea as virial theorem
 - Gravity bends light passing near galaxy – how much depends on how heavy the galaxy is
 - Get a difference between what is seen and the amount calculated



What do we know?

- Cosmic Microwave Background – Planck and WMAP
- Dark Matter is around 26% of universe

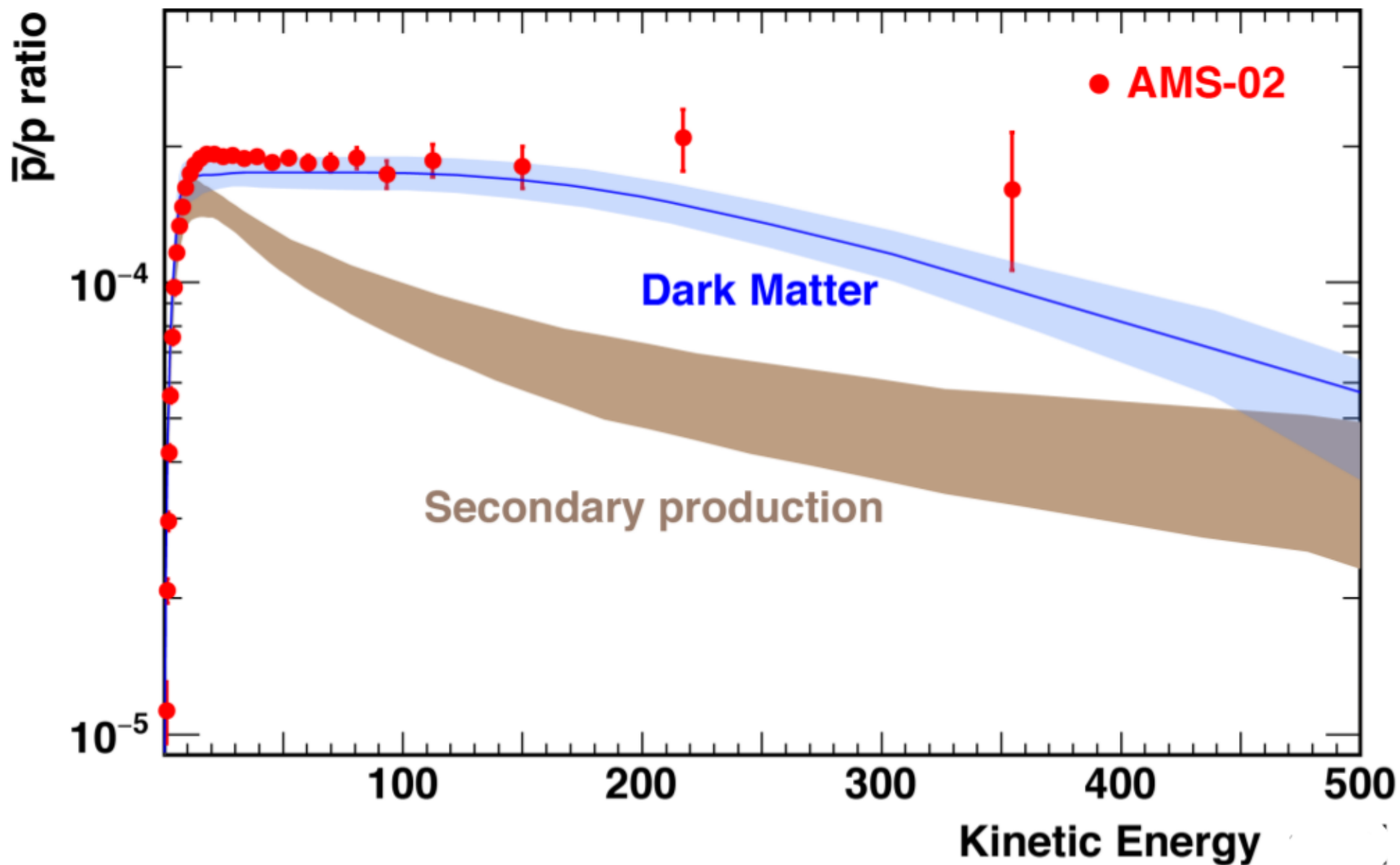


What else have we seen?

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- Excess of positrons

What haven't we seen?

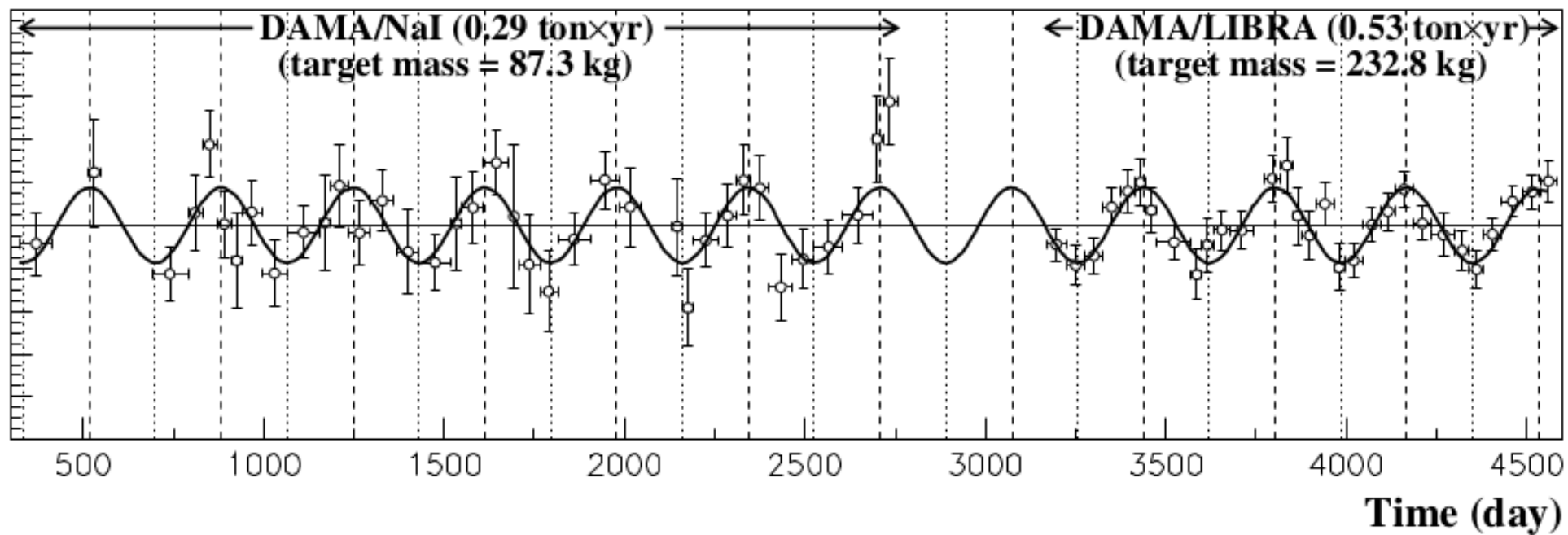
- Any “real” evidence down here on Earth!

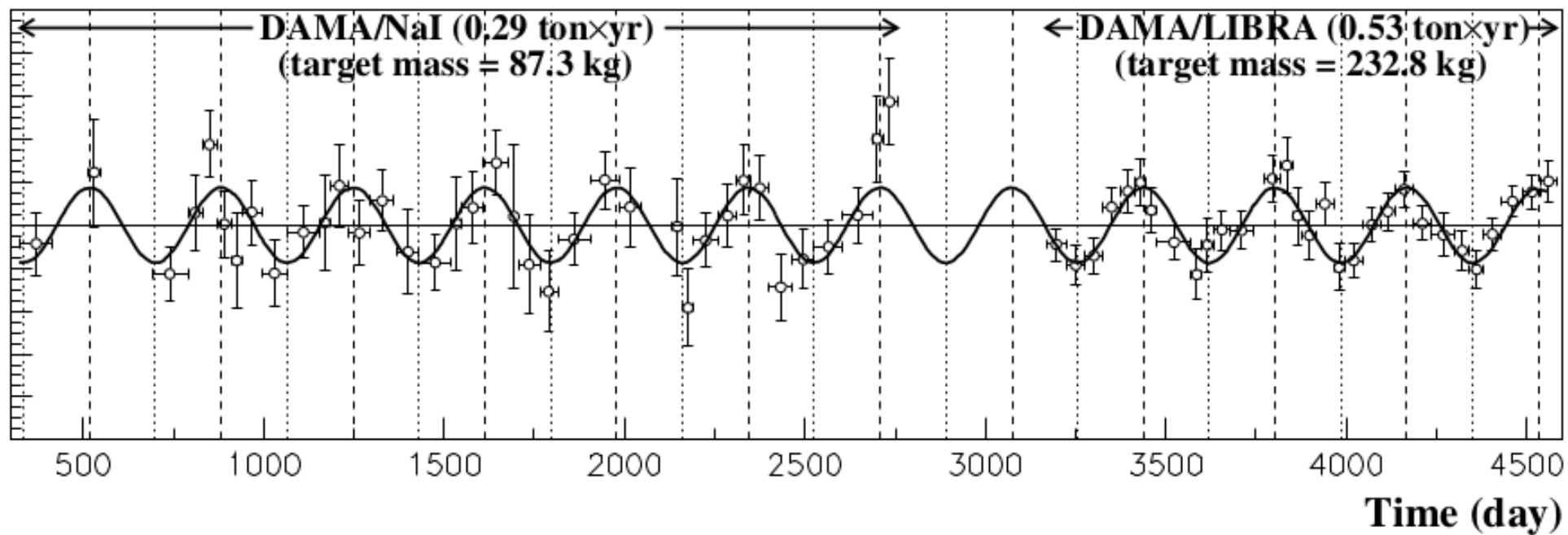
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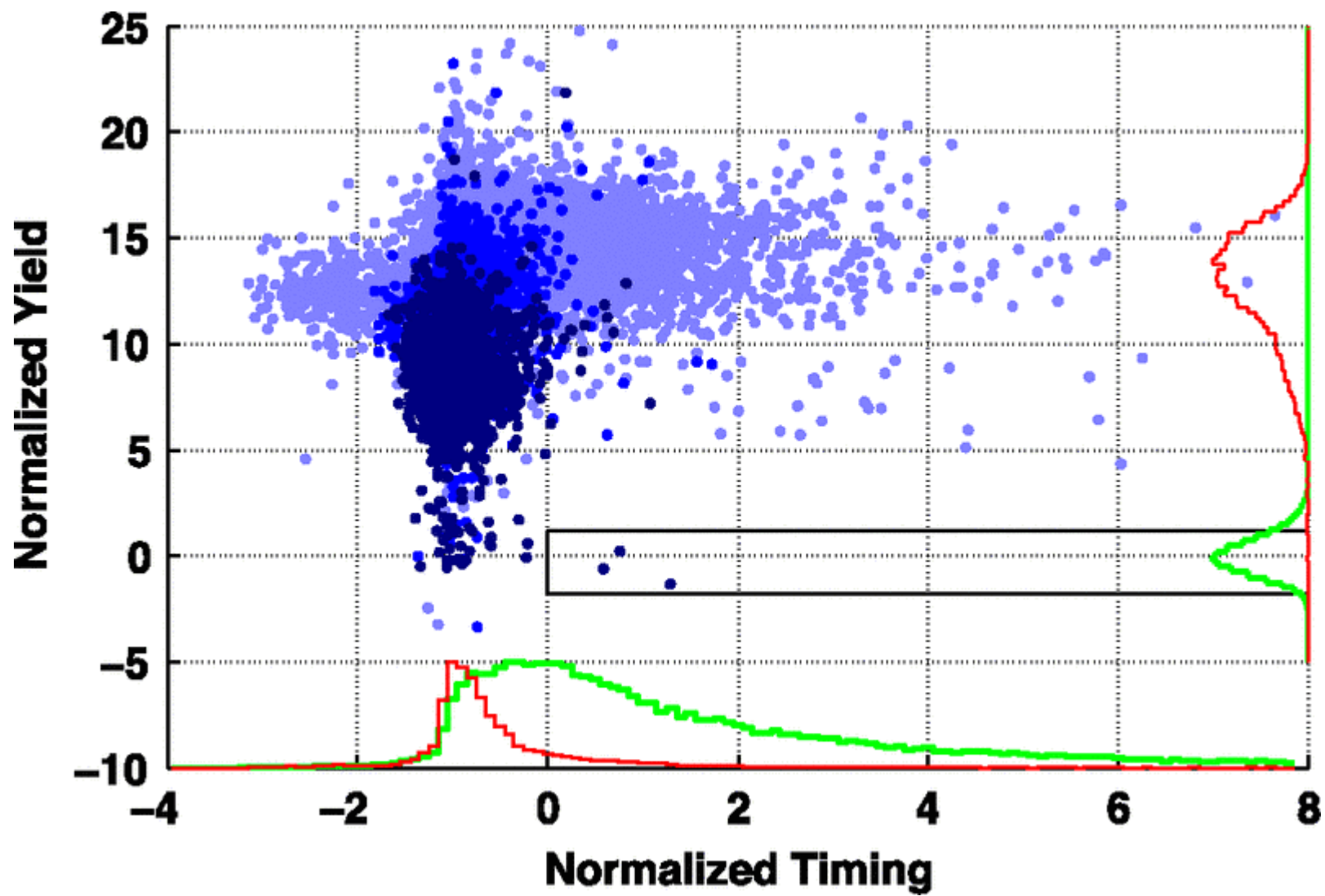
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- Direct detection limits keep on going down

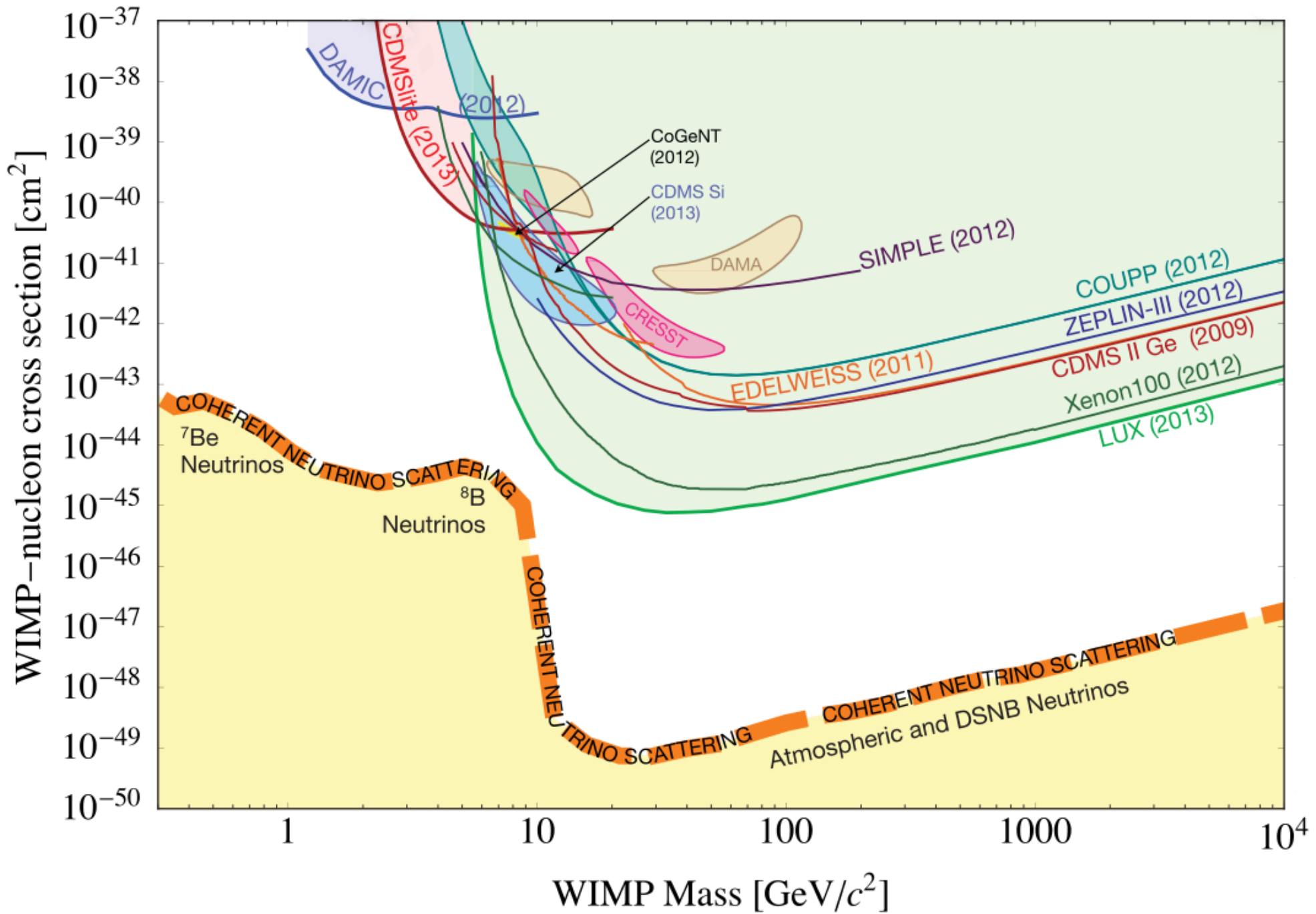
What haven't we seen?

- Any “real” evidence down here on Earth!
- Direct detection limits keep on going down
- Except something odd perhaps in
 - DAMA
 - CoGeNT
 - CDMS









What am I doing?

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- Looking at simplified models
 - Single dark matter particle, single mediator particle

What am I doing?

- Expect “new physics” to affect lots of “old physics”
- What we haven't seen can be just as useful as what we have

Thanks!

Backup slides

What else have we seen?

- Excess of photons from the centre of the galaxy
- Excess of antiprotons compared to protons
- Excess of positrons
- Hints of self interaction between dark matter particles?

