

SCUOLA  
NORMALE  
SUPERIORE

# Bindings in the Dark

*bound states in DM phenomenology*

Andrea Mitridate



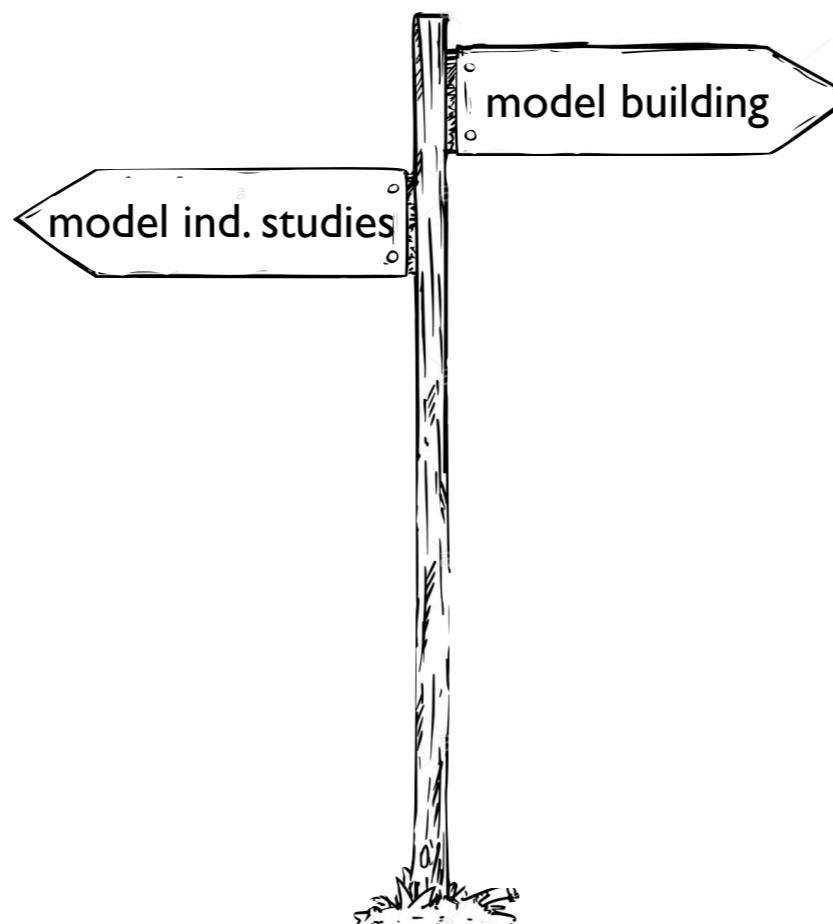
# how to tackle the DM problem

proposal for new experiments

bounds on DM properties using  
astro/cosmo data

studies on DM production  
mechanisms

...



**explain DM**

+

origin of the weak scale

*or/and*

baryogenesis

*or/and*

strong CP problem

...

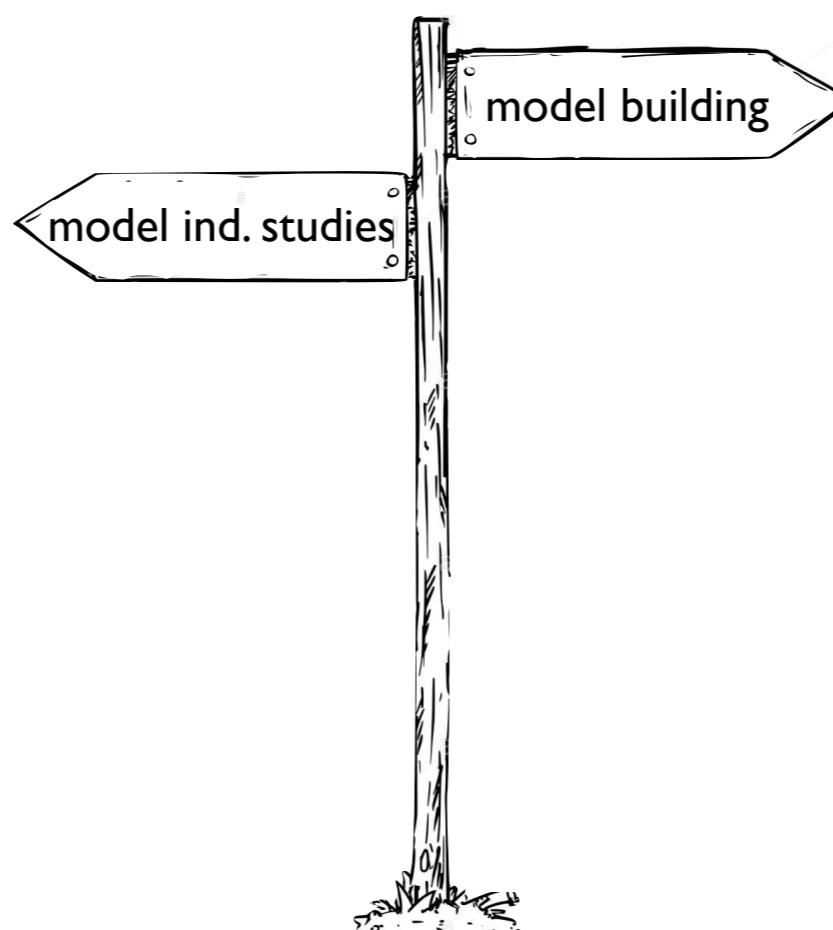
## Dark Matter bound states

proposal for new experiments  
bounds on DM properties using astro/cosmo data  
studies on DM production mechanisms  
...

**explain DM**

+

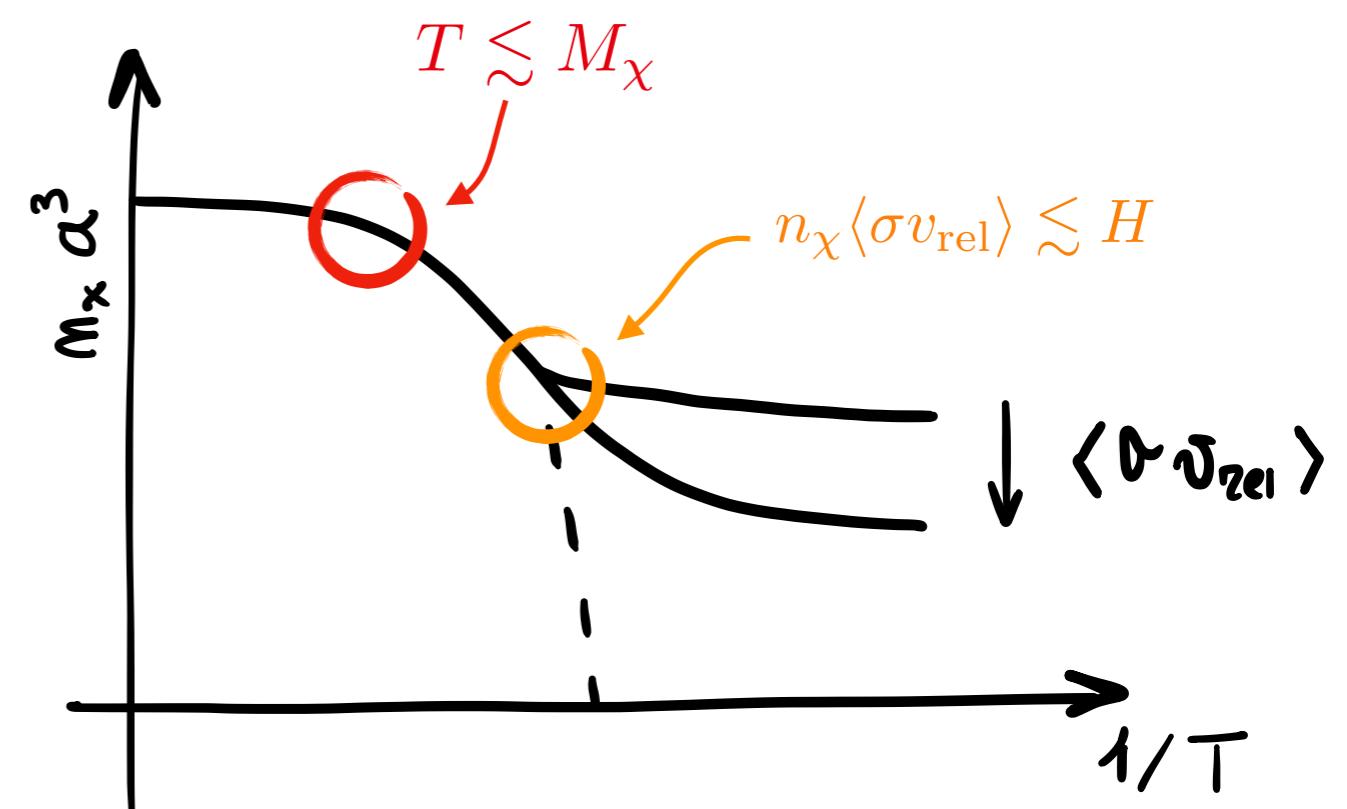
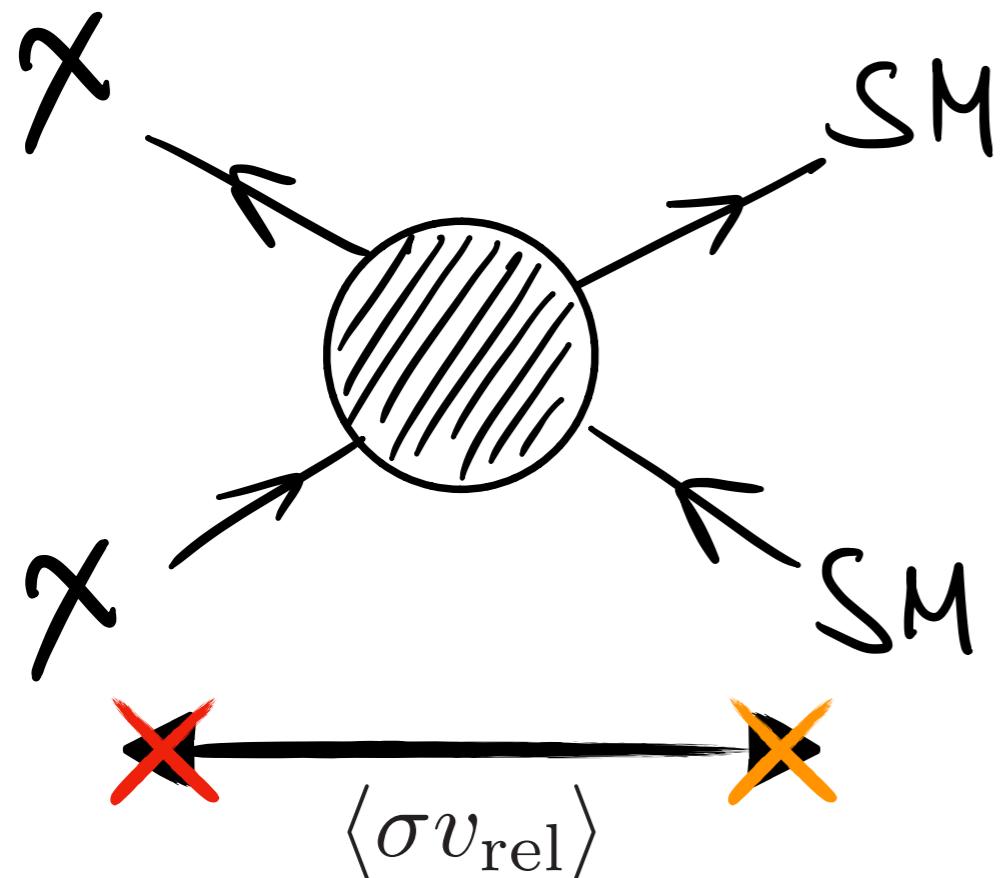
origin of the weak scale  
*or/and*  
baryogenesis  
*or/and*  
strong CP problem  
...



# *Chapter 1*

## bound states and thermal relics

# the standard thermal picture



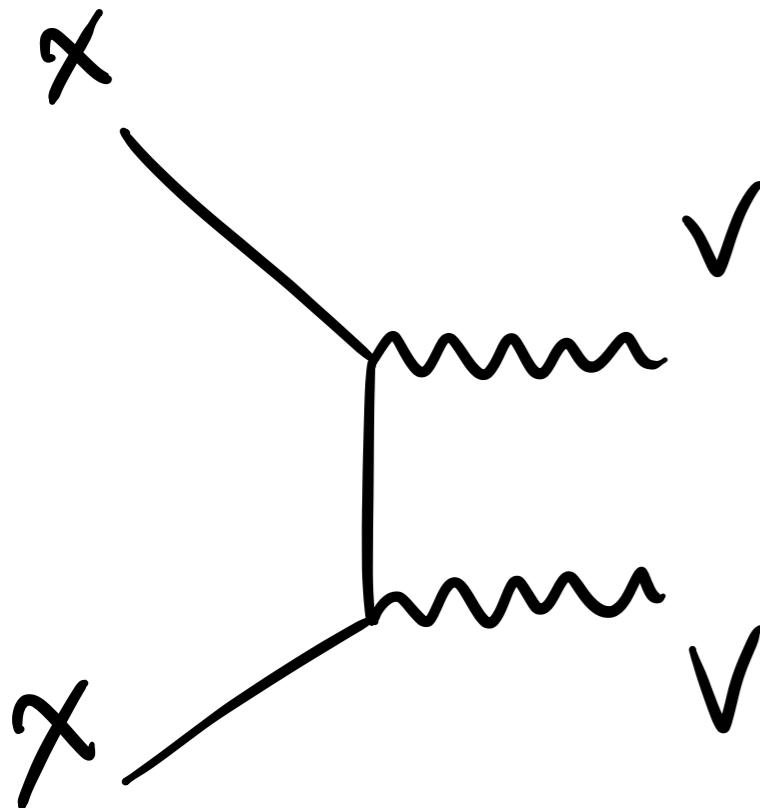
$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 \simeq \frac{10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-2}}{\langle \sigma_A v \rangle}$$

# WIMP(-like) relics

based on JCAP 1705 (2017) no. 05, 006

$\chi$  belongs to a representation R of a weakly coupled gauge group with vector mediators  $V_a$

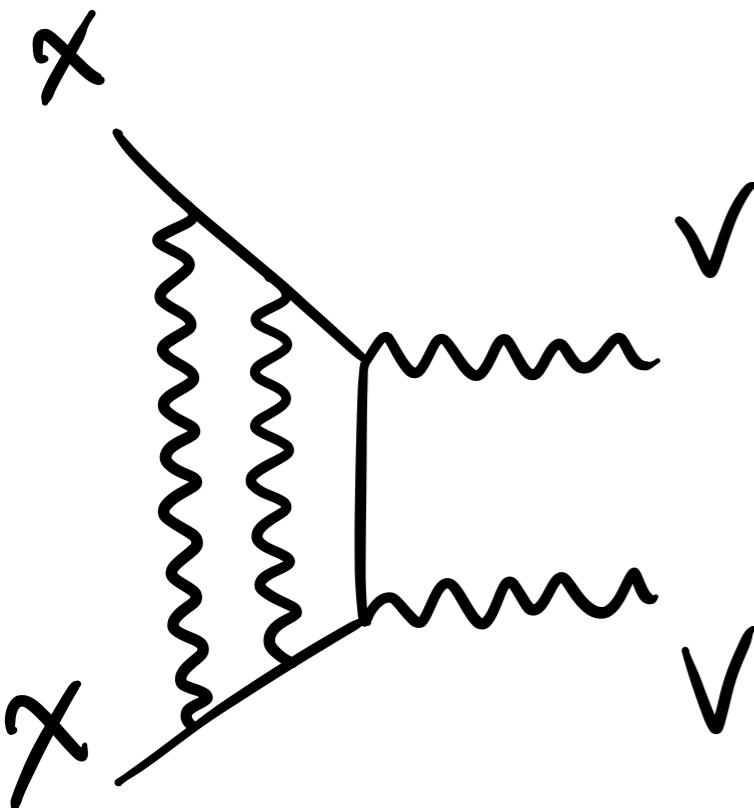
interactions associated to this group set the relic density



$$\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle \simeq \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{M_\chi^2}$$

$\chi$  belongs to a representation R of a weakly coupled gauge group with vector mediators  $V_a$

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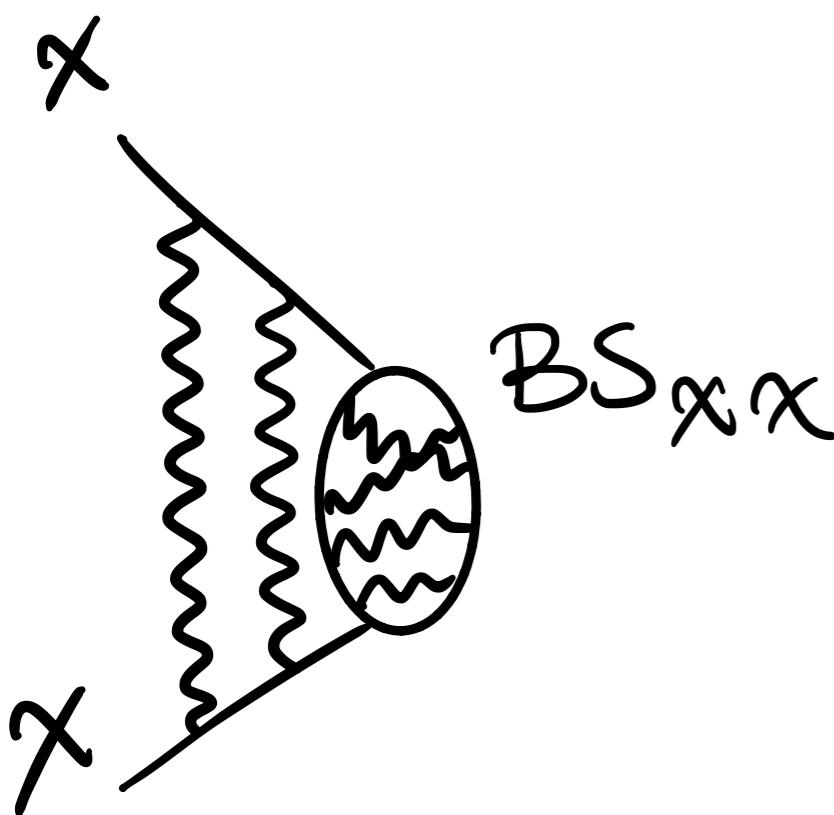
If the interaction is long ranged ( $\alpha M_\chi > M_V$ ), non perturbative effects can spoil the perturbative results

$$\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle \simeq S_{\text{Som}} \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{M_\chi^2} \sim \frac{\alpha}{v_{\text{rel}}} \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{M_\chi^2}$$

[Sommerfeld (1931);  
Hisano et al. (2002); ...]

$\chi$  belongs to a representation R of a weakly coupled gauge group with vector mediators  $V_a$

interactions associated to this group set the relic density

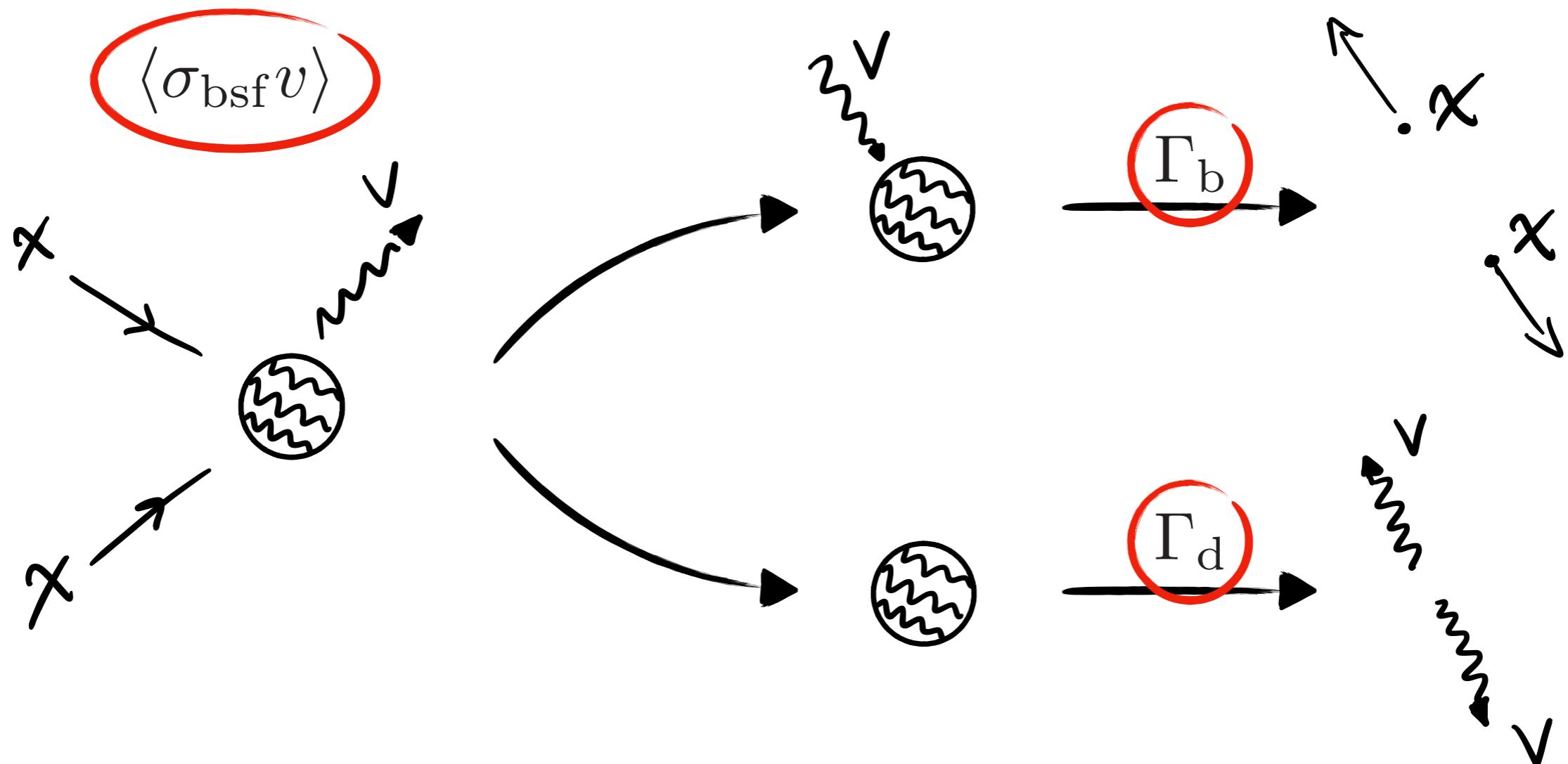


If the interaction is long ranged ( $\alpha M_\chi > M_V$ ), non perturbative effects can spoil the perturbative results

$$\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle \simeq (S_{\text{Som}} + S_{\text{BS}}) \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{M_\chi^2}$$

Scalar mediator: Wise et al. (2014)  
 Abelian gauge theory: Petraki et al. (2014)  
 QCD in the perturbative regime: Ellis (2015)

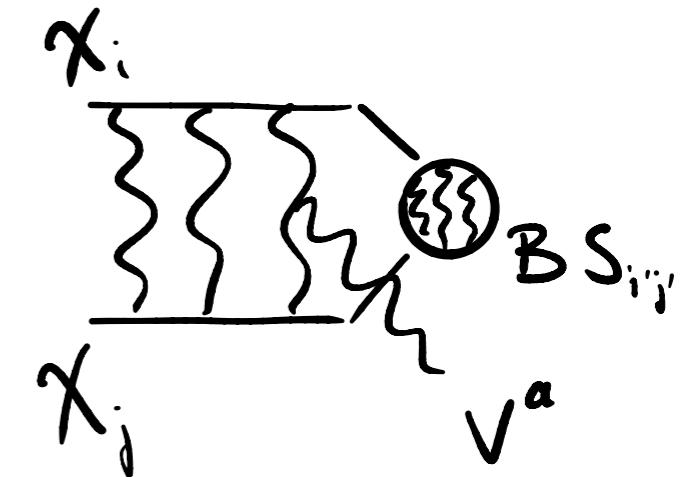
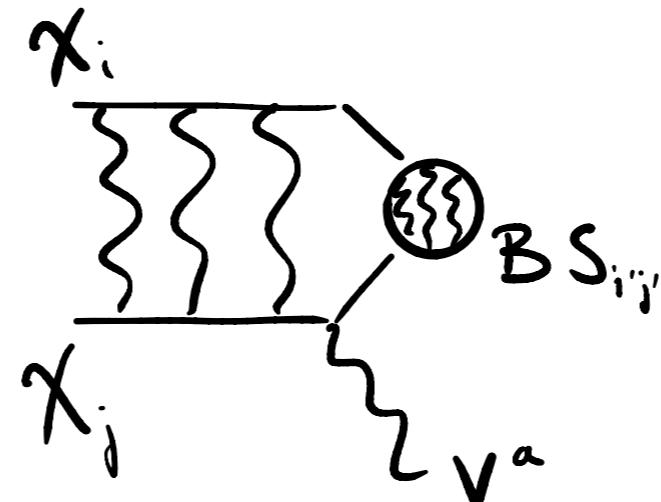
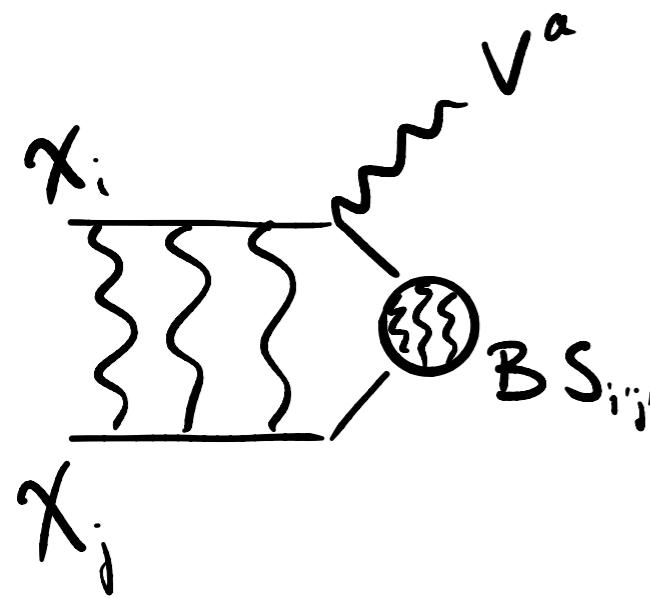
# how bound states get in the game



$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \sigma v \rangle + \text{BR} \langle \sigma_{\text{bsf}} v \rangle$$

$$\text{BR} = \frac{\langle \Gamma_d \rangle}{\langle \Gamma_d + \Gamma_b \rangle}$$

$$\langle \sigma_{\text{bsf}} v \rangle$$



$$\mathcal{A}_{p,nlm} \approx \langle \psi_{nlm,i'j'} V_a | H_I | \phi_{pl,ij} \rangle$$

$$R \otimes R' = \sum_J J$$

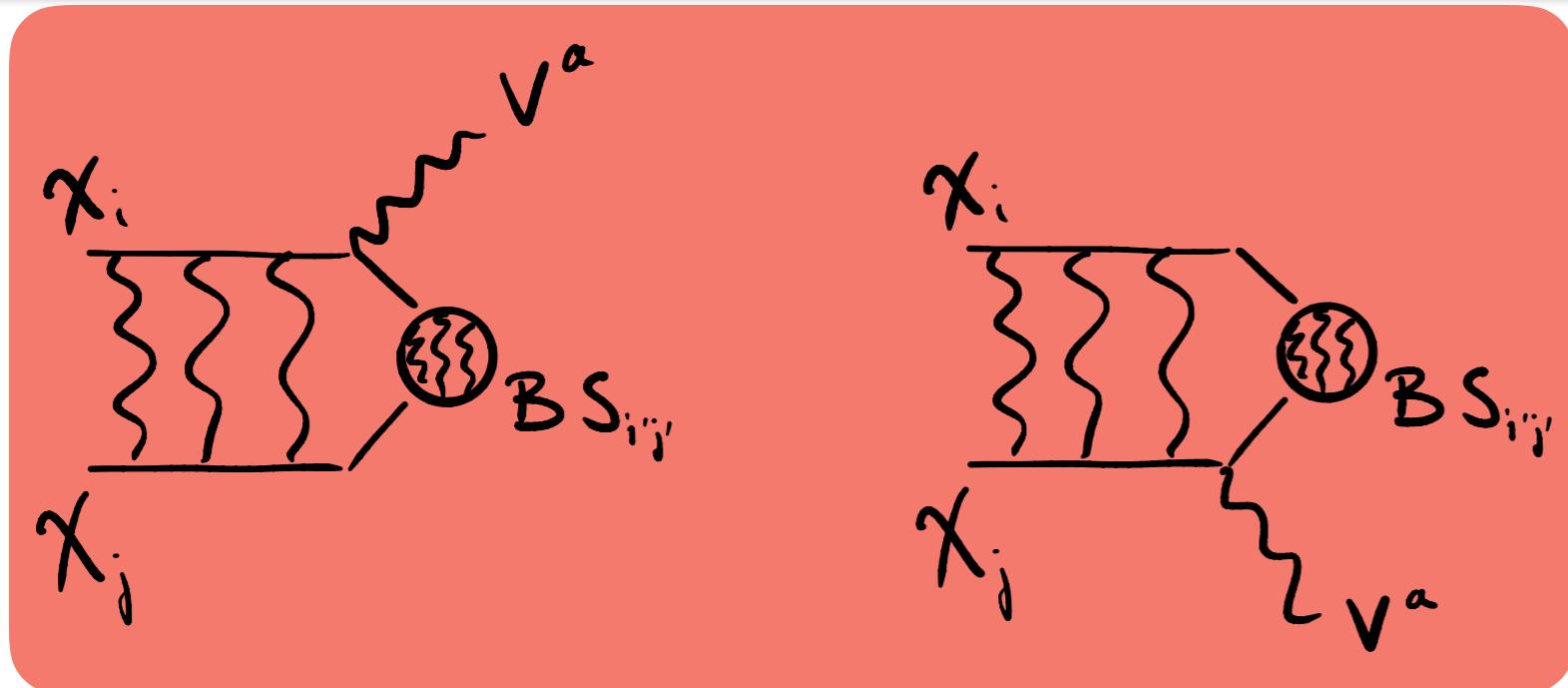
wave-functions are solution of

$$-\frac{\nabla^2 \psi}{M_\chi} + V\psi = E\psi$$

$$V = -\frac{\alpha_{eff}}{r} e^{-M_V r} \quad \alpha_{eff} = \alpha(C_J - C_R - C_{R'})$$

$$H_I = -\frac{g}{M_\chi} \left( \vec{A}^a \cdot \vec{p}_1 T_{i'i}^a \delta_{jj'} + \vec{A}^a \cdot \vec{p}_2 \bar{T}_{j'j}^a \delta_{ii'} \right) \\ + \left( g\alpha \vec{A}^a(0) \cdot \hat{r} e^{-M_a r} \right) T_{i'i}^b \bar{T}_{j'j}^c f^{abc}$$

$$\langle \sigma_{\text{bsf}} v \rangle$$



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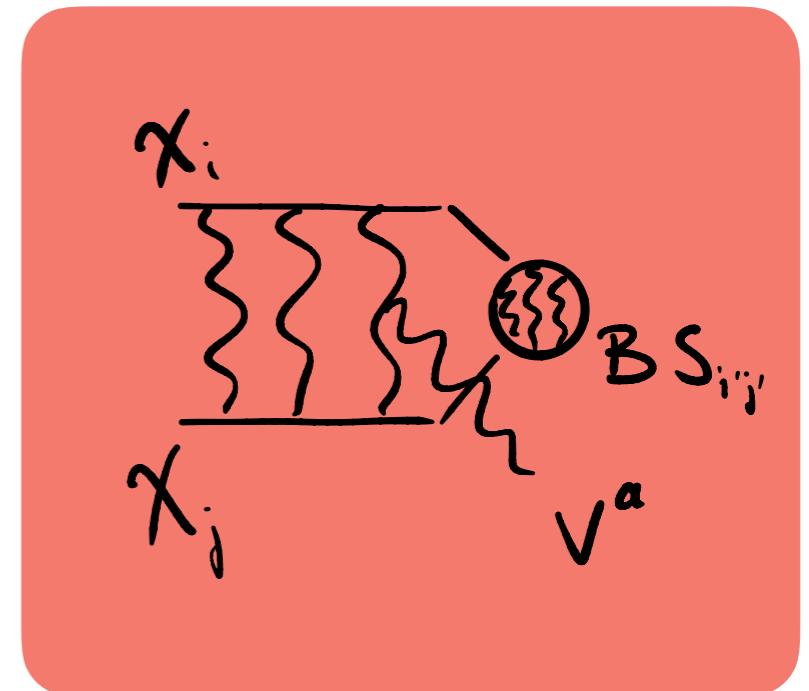
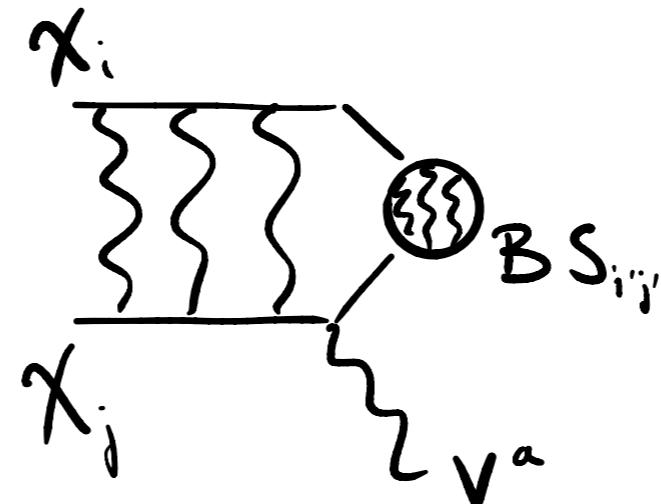
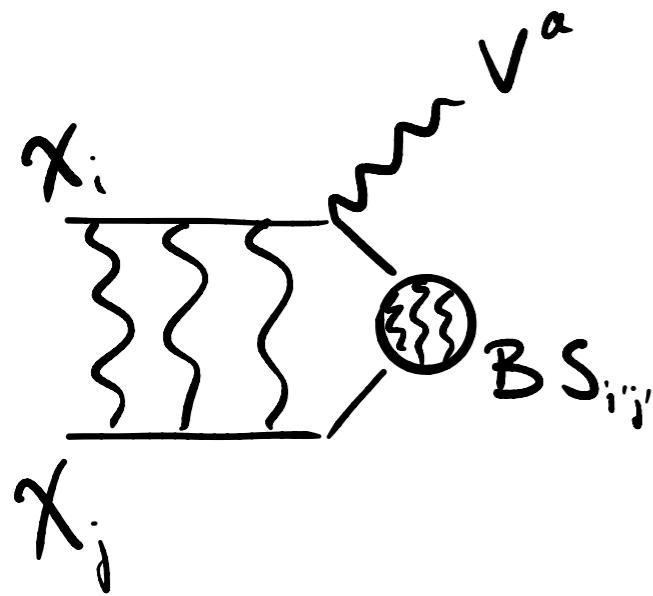
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$$\langle \sigma_{\text{bsf}} v \rangle$$



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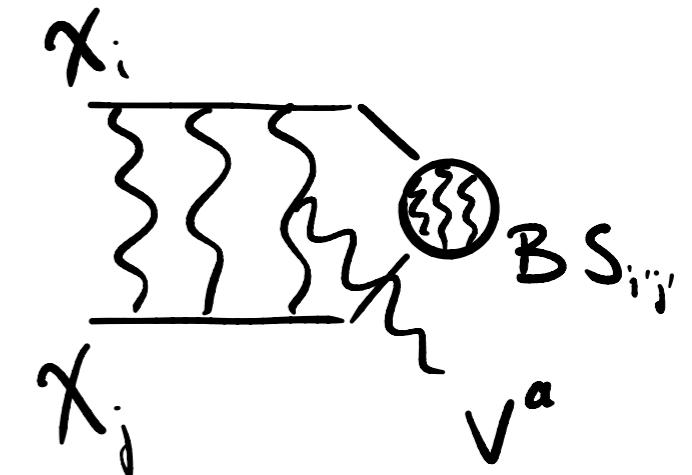
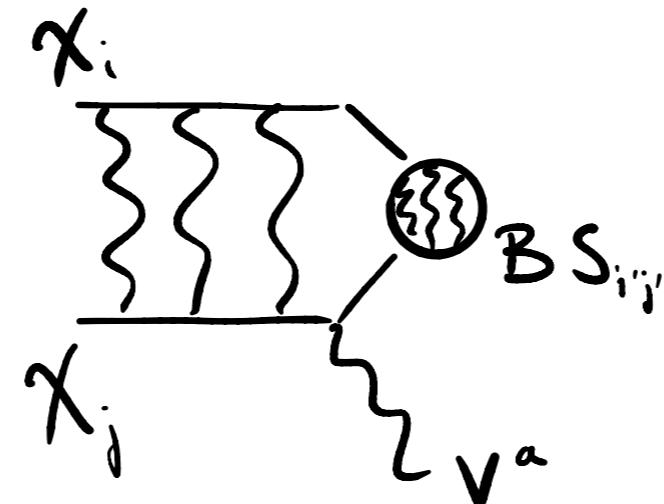
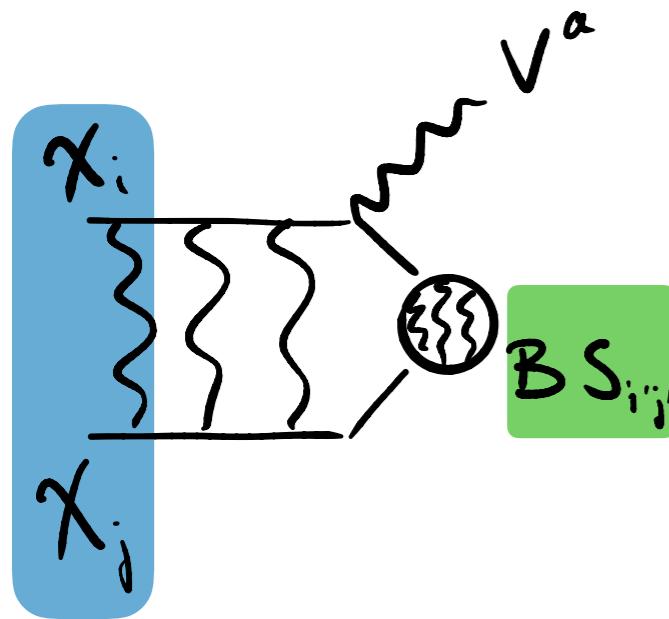
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In general BS cross sections have to be computed numerically, however for  $M_V = 0$  we can get an analytic expressions, e.g.

$$(\sigma v_{\text{rel}})_{\text{bsf}}^{n=1, \ell=0} = \sigma_0 \lambda_i (\lambda_f \zeta)^5 \frac{2S+1}{g_\chi^2} \frac{2^{11} \pi (1 + \zeta^2 \lambda_i^2) e^{-4\zeta \lambda_i \arccot(\zeta \lambda_f)}}{3(1 + \zeta^2 \lambda_f^2)^3 (1 - e^{-2\pi \zeta \lambda_i})} \times \sum_{aMM'} \left| C_{\mathcal{J}}^{aMM'} + \frac{1}{\lambda_f} C_{\mathcal{T}}^{aMM'} \right|^2$$

Physics becomes more clear in the limit  $v_{\text{rel}} \ll \alpha$

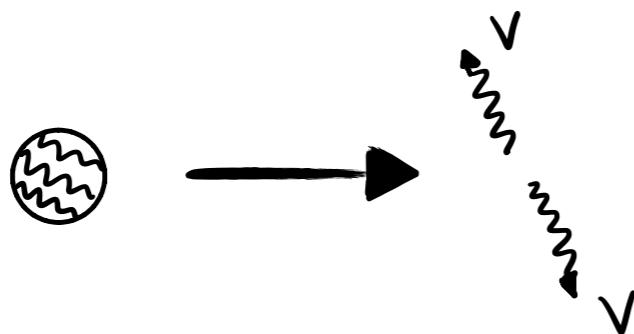
$$H_I = -\frac{g}{M_\chi} \left( \vec{A}^a \cdot \vec{p}_1 T_{i'i}^a \delta_{jj'} + \vec{A}^a \cdot \vec{p}_2 \bar{T}_{j'j}^a \delta_{ii'} \right) + \left( g\alpha \vec{A}^a(0) \cdot \hat{r} e^{-M_a r} \right) T_{i'i}^b \bar{T}_{j'j}^c f^{abc}$$

$$-\frac{\nabla^2 \psi}{M_\chi} + V\psi = E\psi$$

$$V = -\frac{\alpha_{\text{eff}}}{r} e^{-M_V r} \quad \alpha_{\text{eff}} = \alpha(C_J - C_R - C_{R'})$$

# decay and breaking rates

## Decay



decays happen mostly in the  $\ell = 0$  states

Spin 0

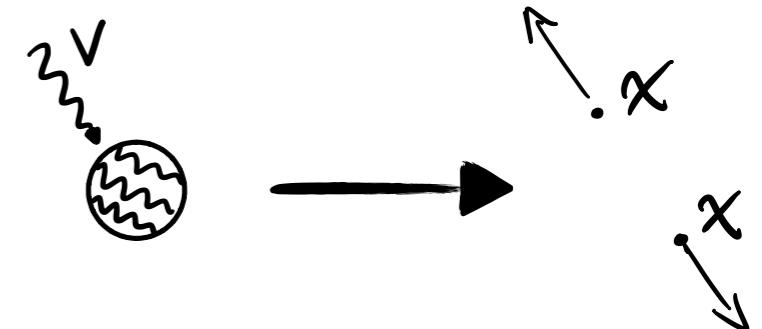
$$\Gamma_d (B_{n0} \rightarrow VV) \propto \alpha_{eff}^5 M_\chi$$

Spin 1

$$\Gamma_d (B_{n0} \rightarrow \bar{f}f) \propto \alpha_{eff}^5 M_\chi$$

$$\Gamma_d (B_{n0} \rightarrow VVV) \propto \alpha_{eff}^6 M_\chi$$

## Break



breaking rate is related to formation cross section by the Milne relation

$$2n_B \Gamma_b = (n_\chi^{eq})^2 \langle \sigma_{bsf} v_{rel} \rangle$$

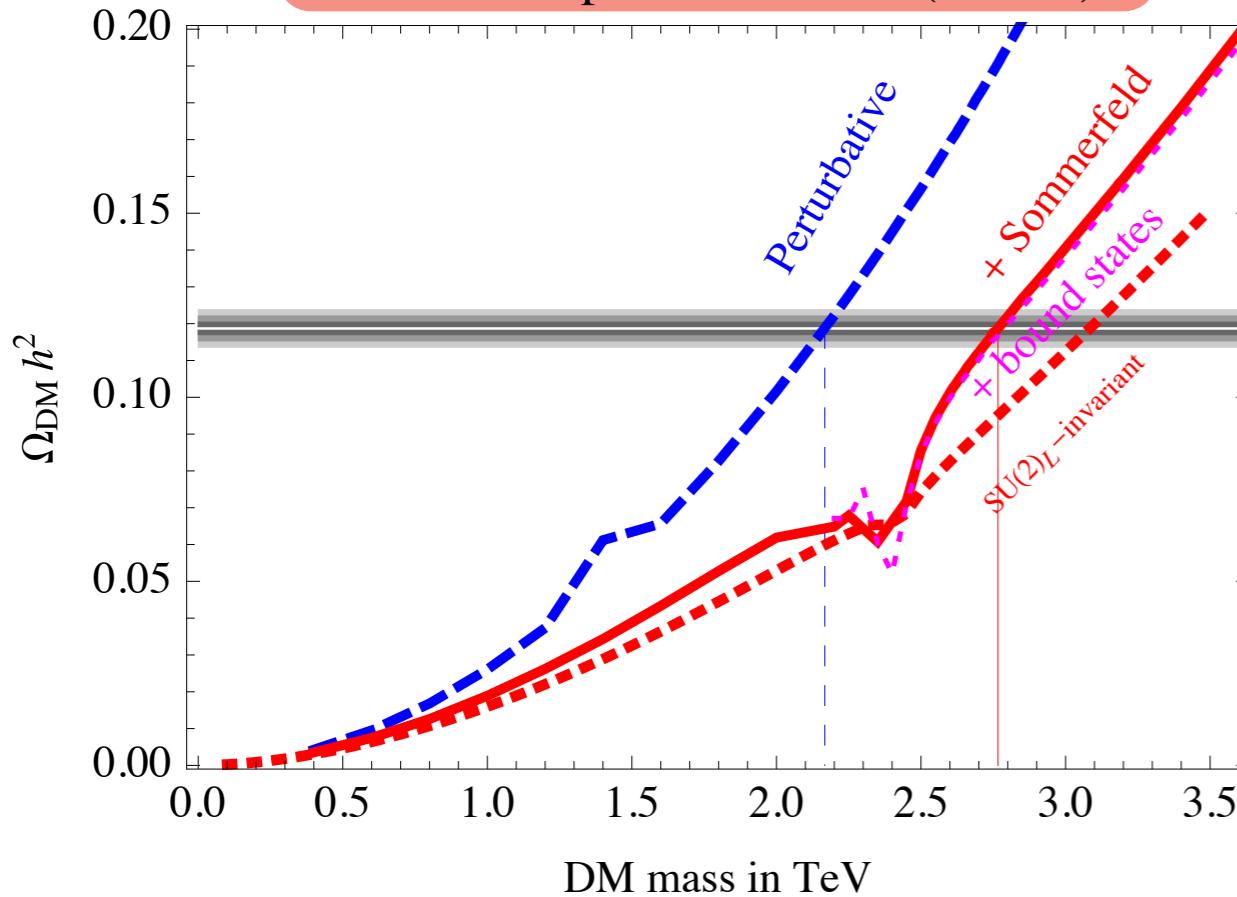
in the non-relativistic limit it reduces to

$$\Gamma_b \propto (M_\chi T)^{3/2} e^{-E_B/T} \langle \sigma_{bsf} v_{rel} \rangle$$

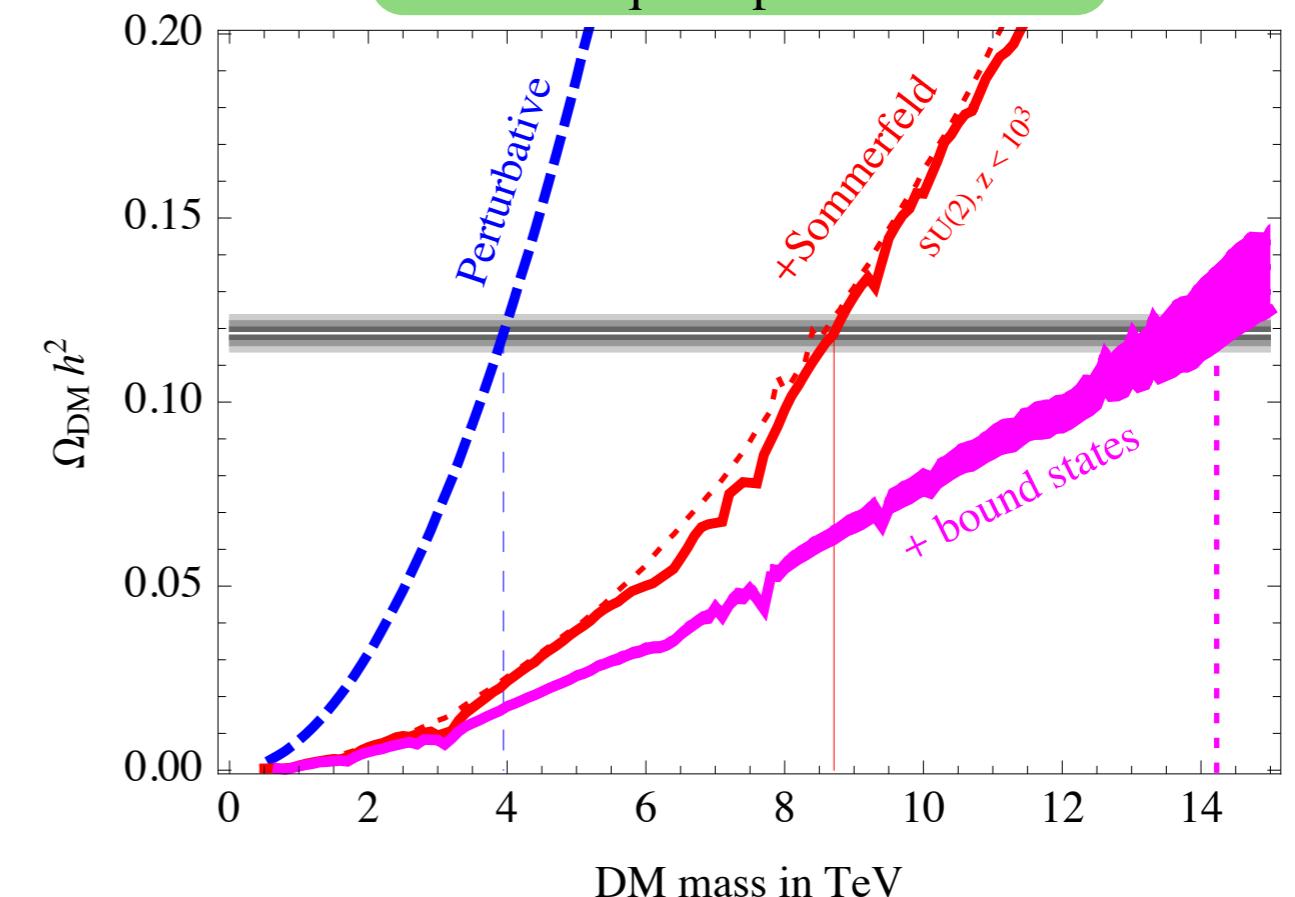
**bound state formation is important when  $\Gamma_d \gg \Gamma_b$**

# application to minimal DM candidates

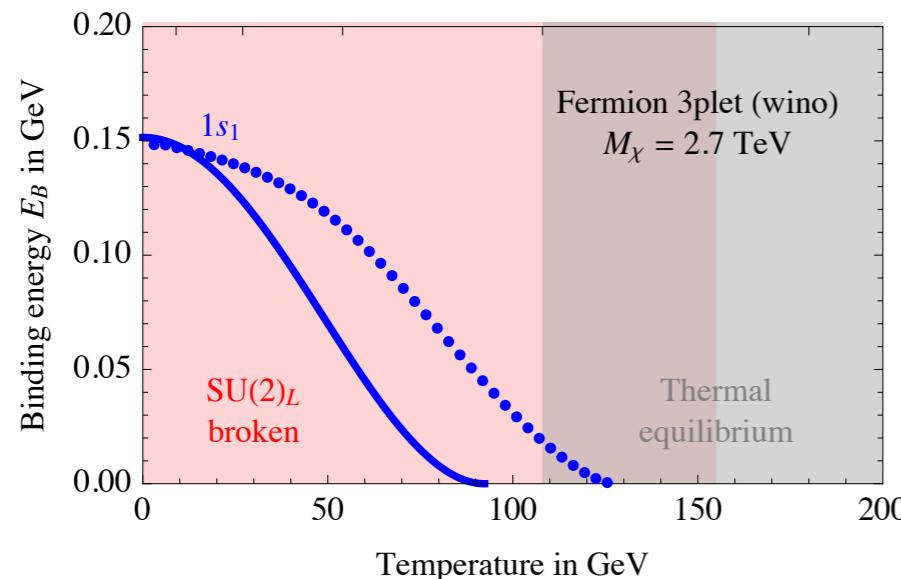
Fermion triplet with  $Y = 0$  ('wino')



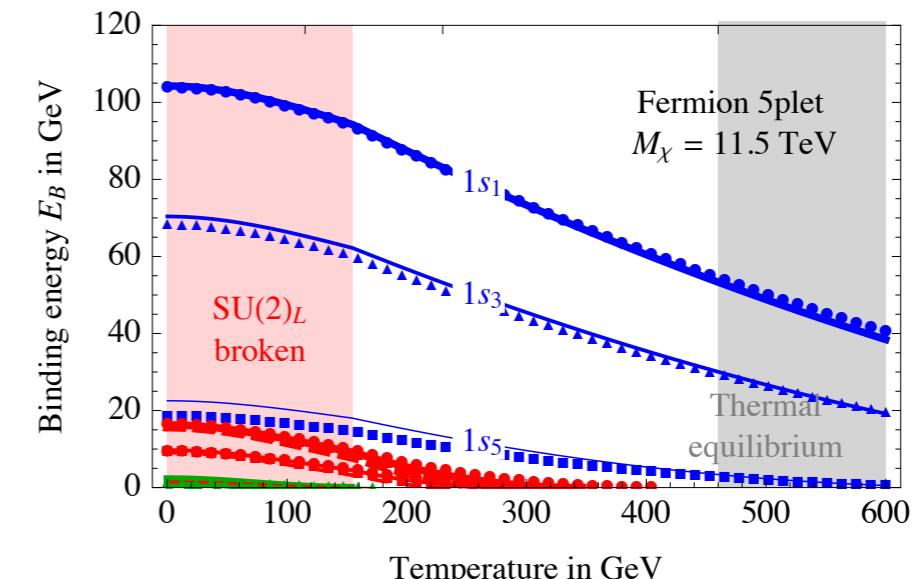
Fermion quintuplet with  $Y = 0$



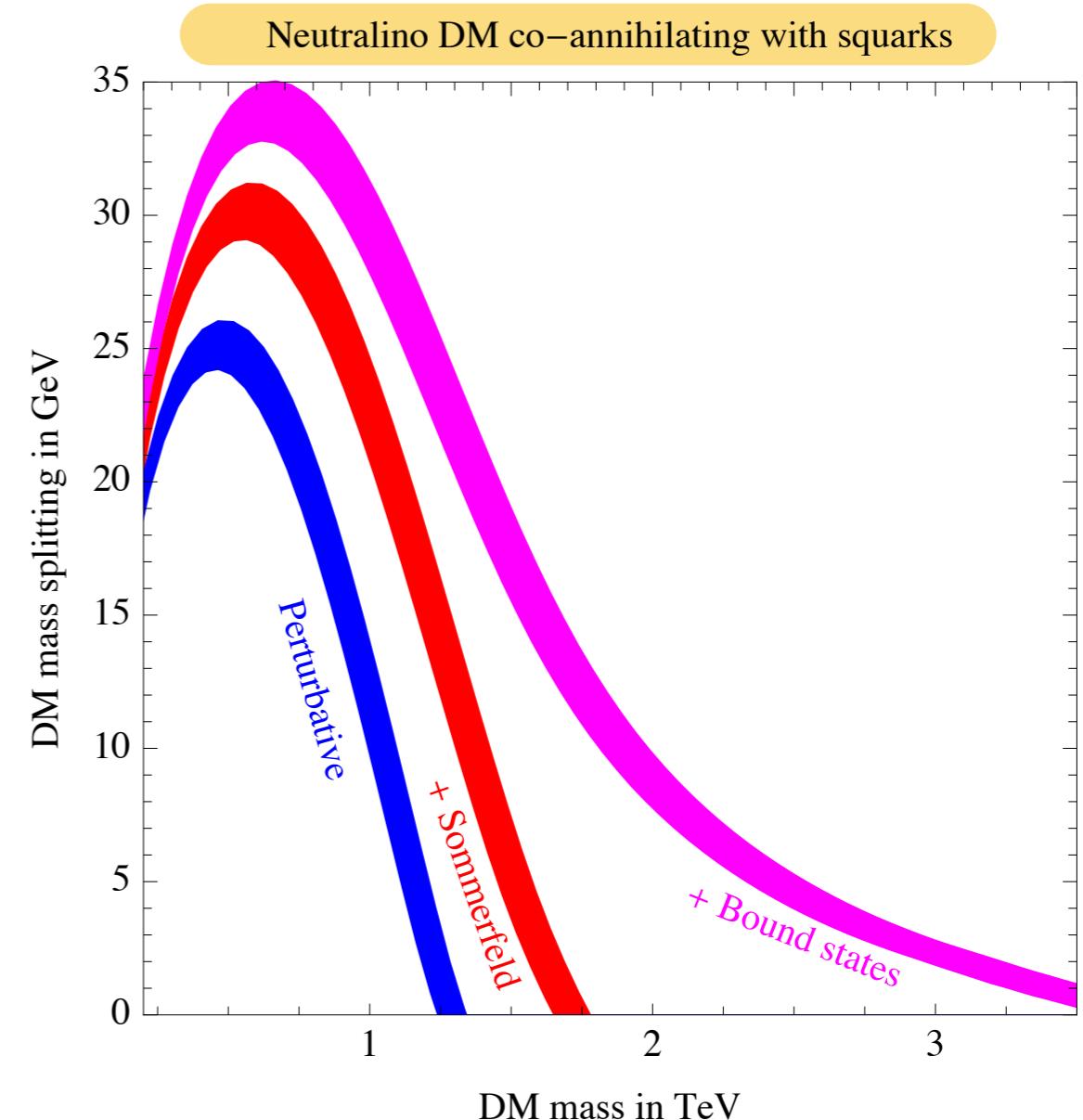
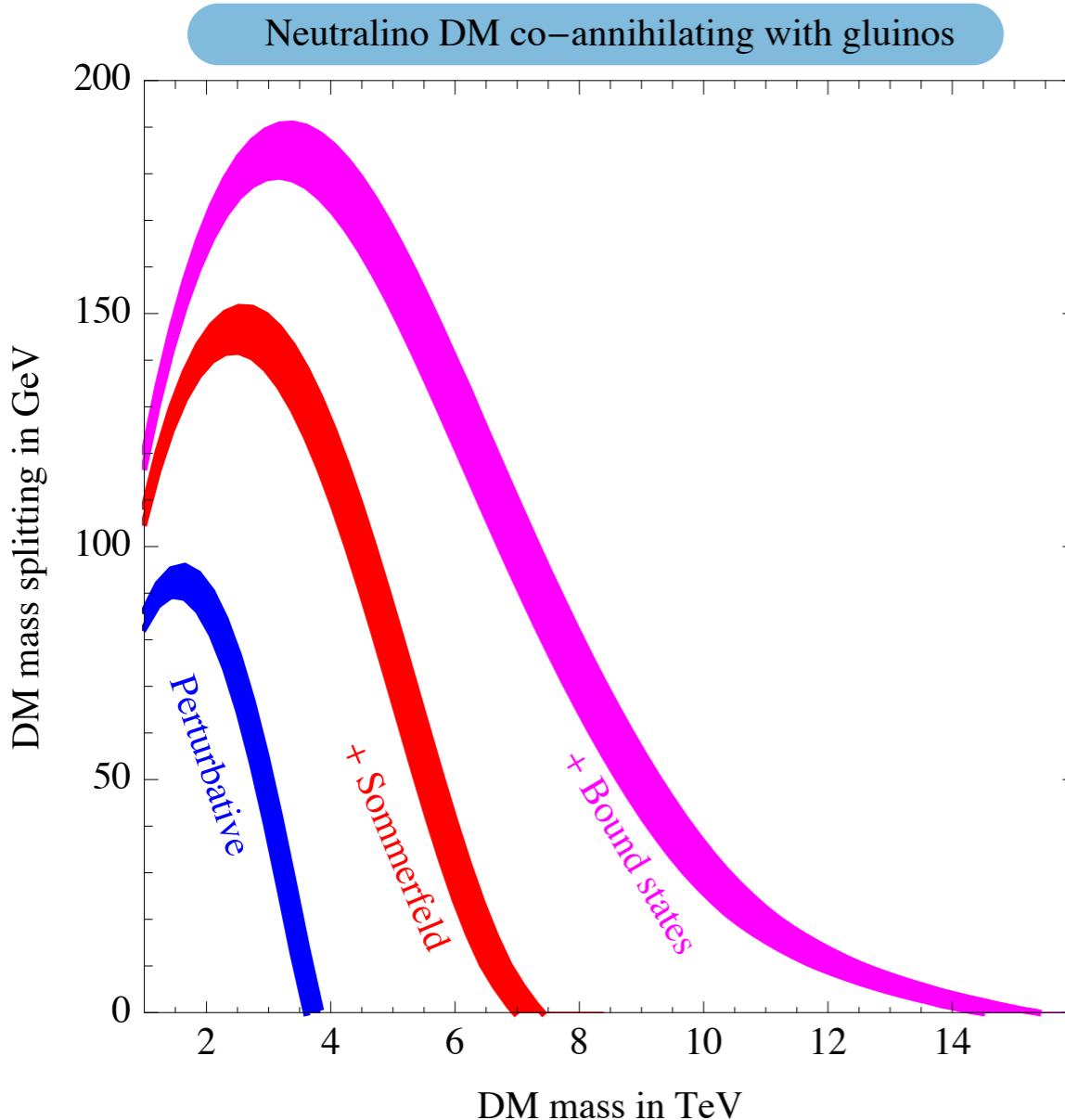
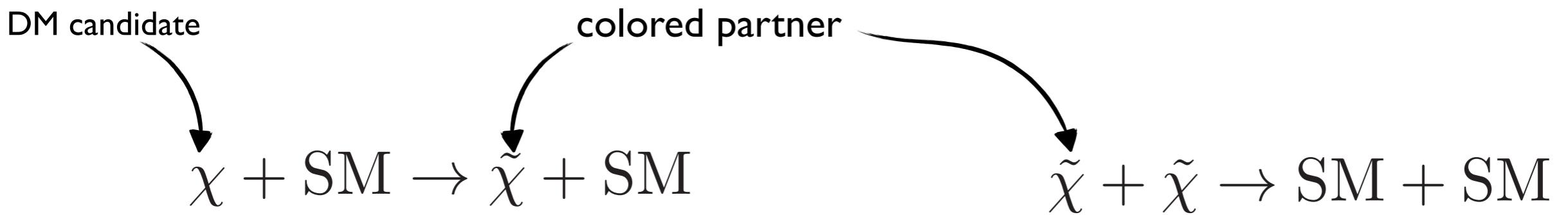
**no substantial effect** because bound states are too shallow



**60% effect** due to the presence of deep bound states



# application to coannihilating DM



# colored(-like) relics

based on PRD 99 (2019) no. I

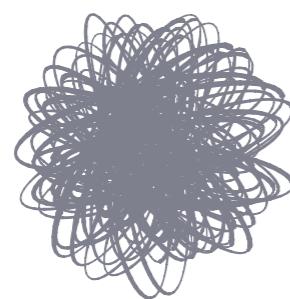
$\chi$  belongs to a representation R of a confining gauge group with confinement scale  $\Lambda < M_\chi$

interactions associated to this group set the relic density

below the confinement scale

## light d.o.f

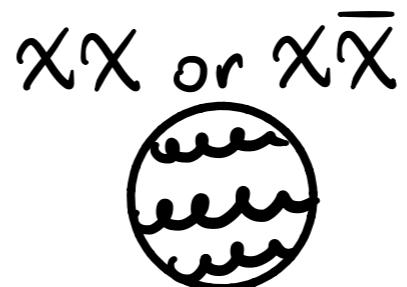
pion-like states if light ( $M < \Lambda$ ) particles are present  
or  
glueball states otherwise



$M \sim \Lambda$

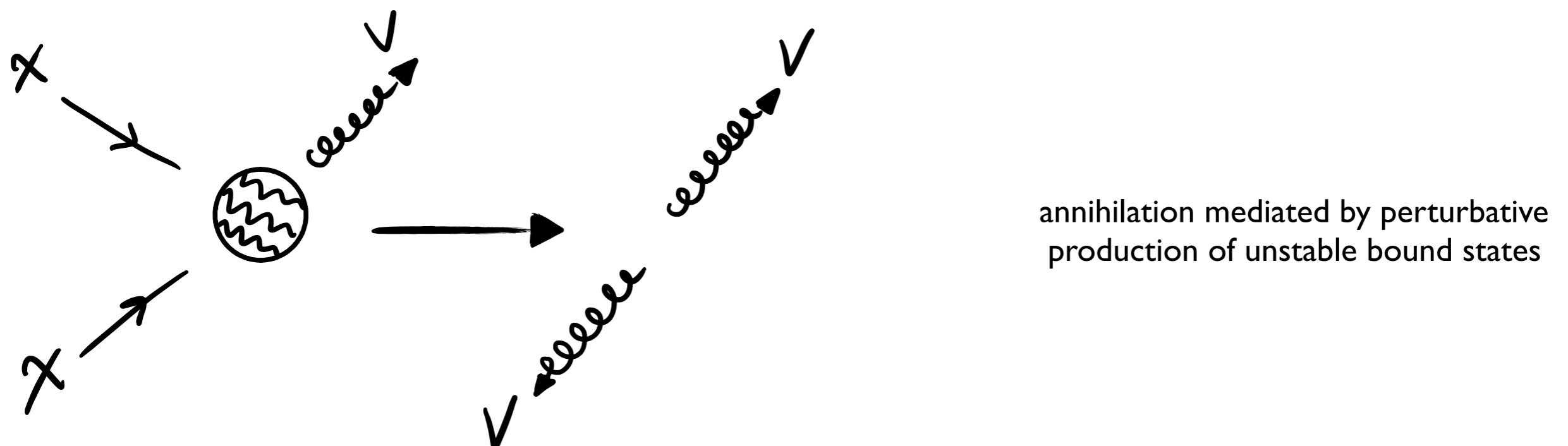
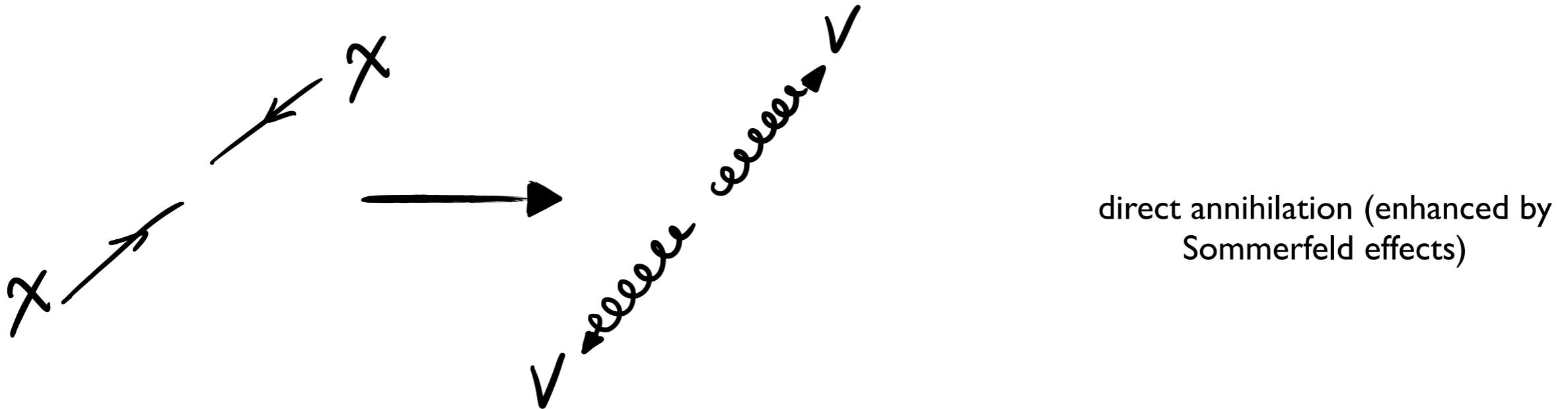
## heavy d.o.f

bound states made of  $\chi$  only  
and  
bound states of  $\chi$  and light particles/mediators



$M \sim M_\chi$

at  $T > \Lambda$  everything goes like in the weakly coupled scenario

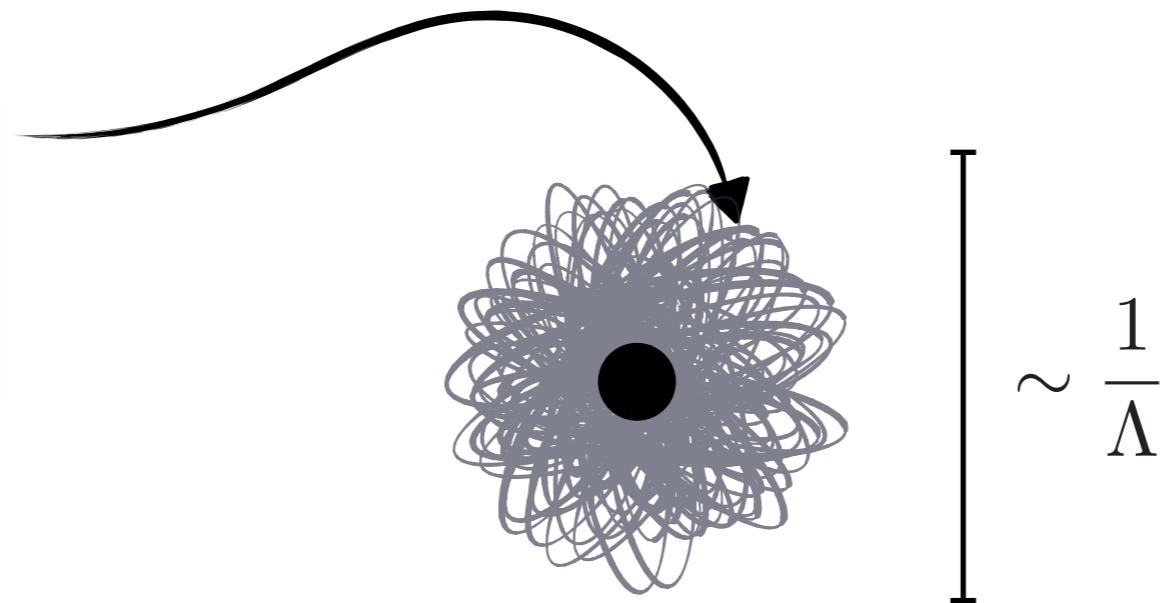


at  $T < \Lambda$  everything confines into (dark) color singlet states

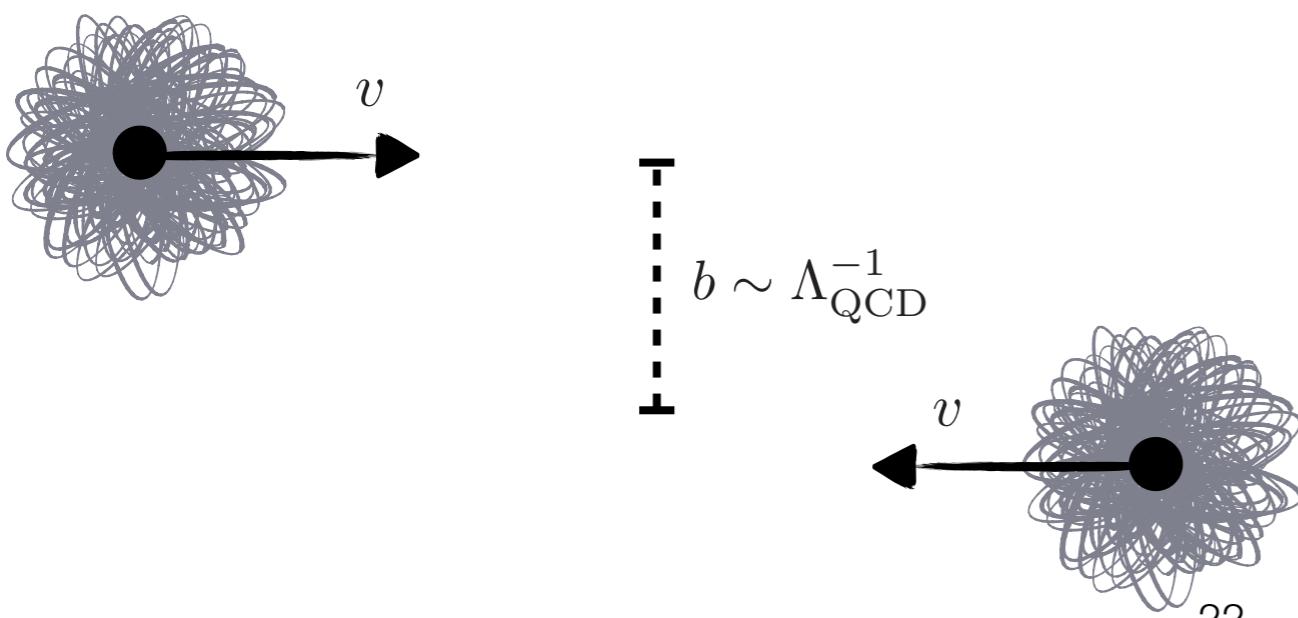
in the QCD case

$$R = \square \rightarrow qq \text{ or } \bar{q}$$

$$R = \text{Adj} \rightarrow q\bar{q} \text{ or } g$$

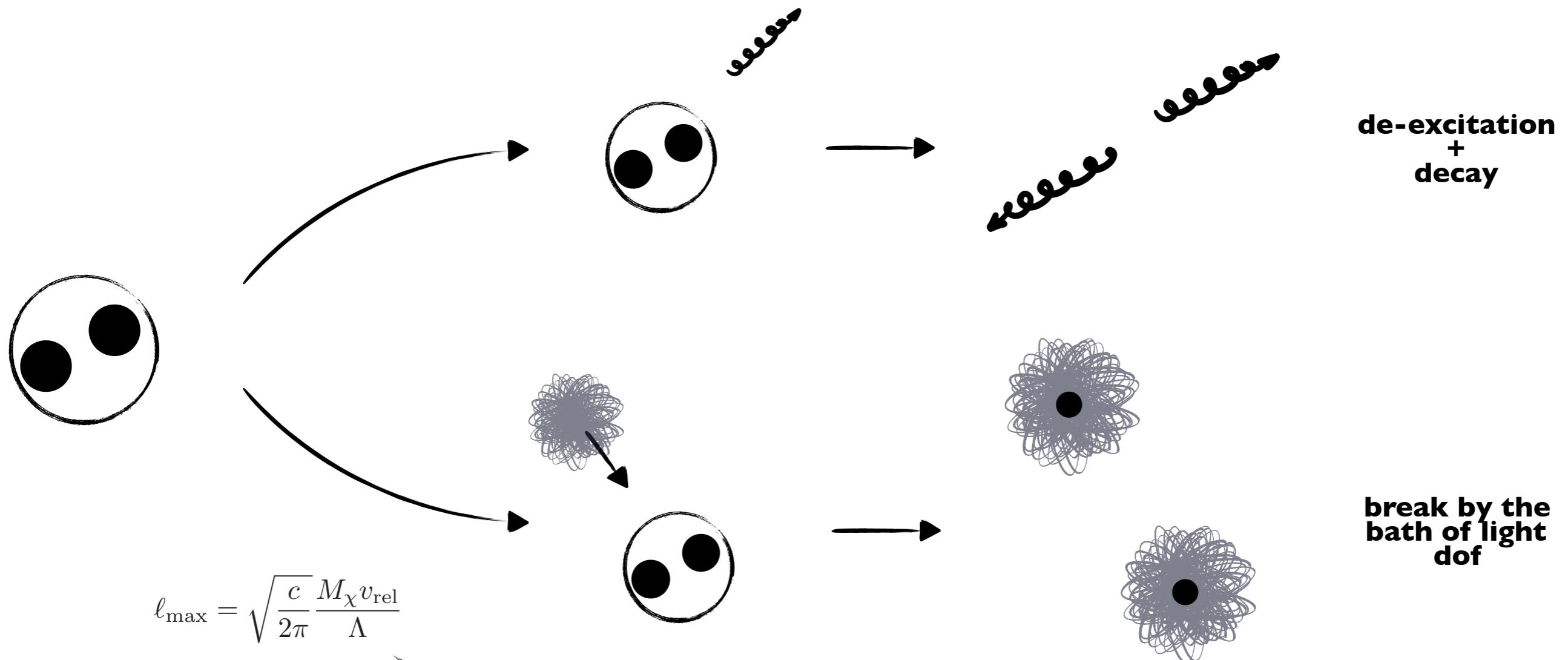


these states collide with large impact parameters, giving rise to self scattering cross-sections of typical QCD size



$$\sigma \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^{-2} \gg \alpha_3^2 / M_Q^2$$

$\chi\chi$  bound states can form in such collisions



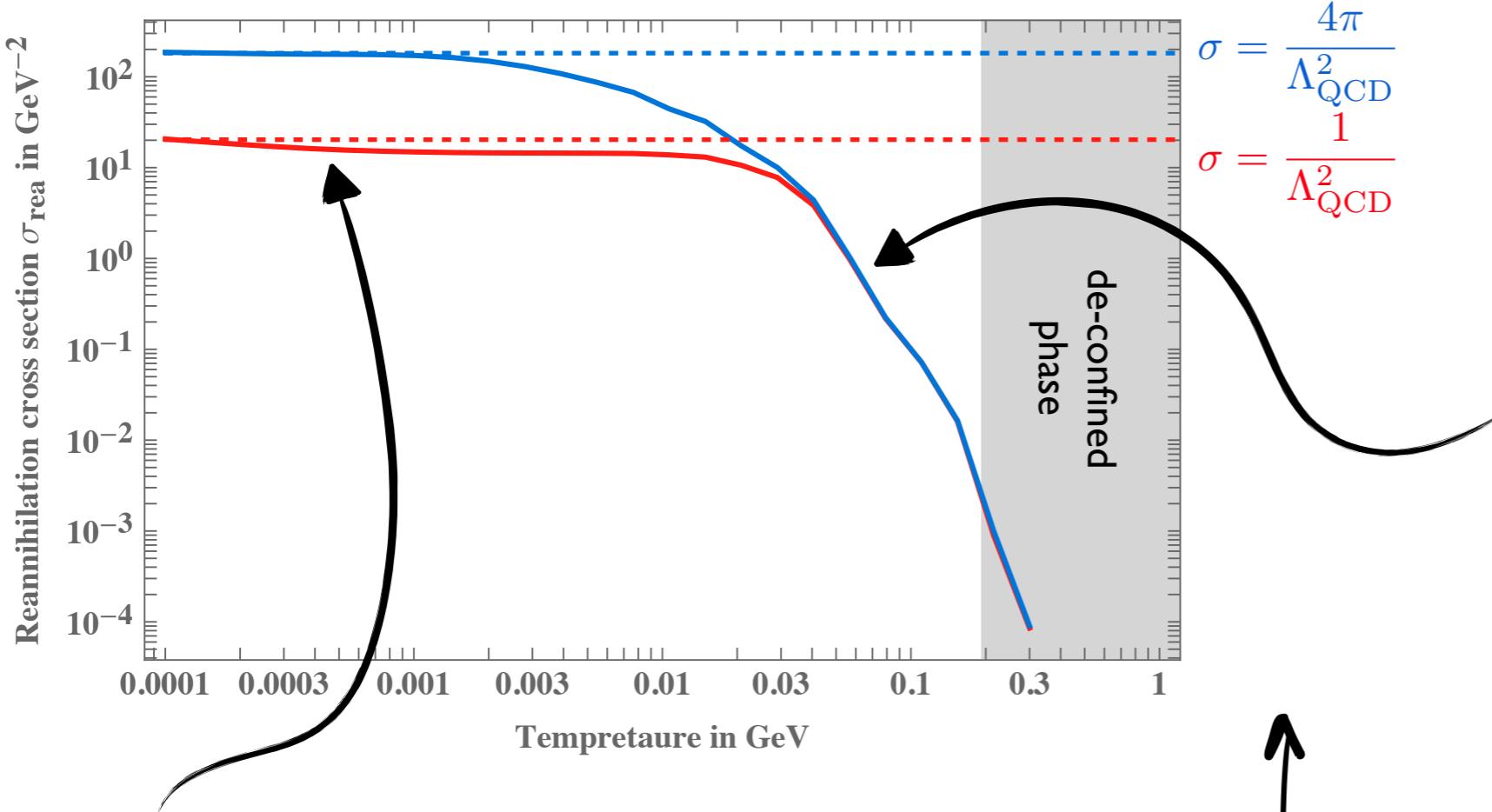
$$\ell_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{c}{2\pi}} \frac{M_\chi v_{\text{rel}}}{\Lambda}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{rea}} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\ell_{\max}} \beta_\ell \sigma_\ell$$

$$\sigma_\ell \simeq 2\pi \frac{2\ell + 1}{M_\chi^2 v_{\text{rel}}^2}$$

# reannihilation cross section

simulating numerically the dynamic of the system we computed the  $\beta_\ell$  for the QCD case



at  $T \gg m_\pi$  the effective re-annihilation cross section is reduced compared to the geometric one

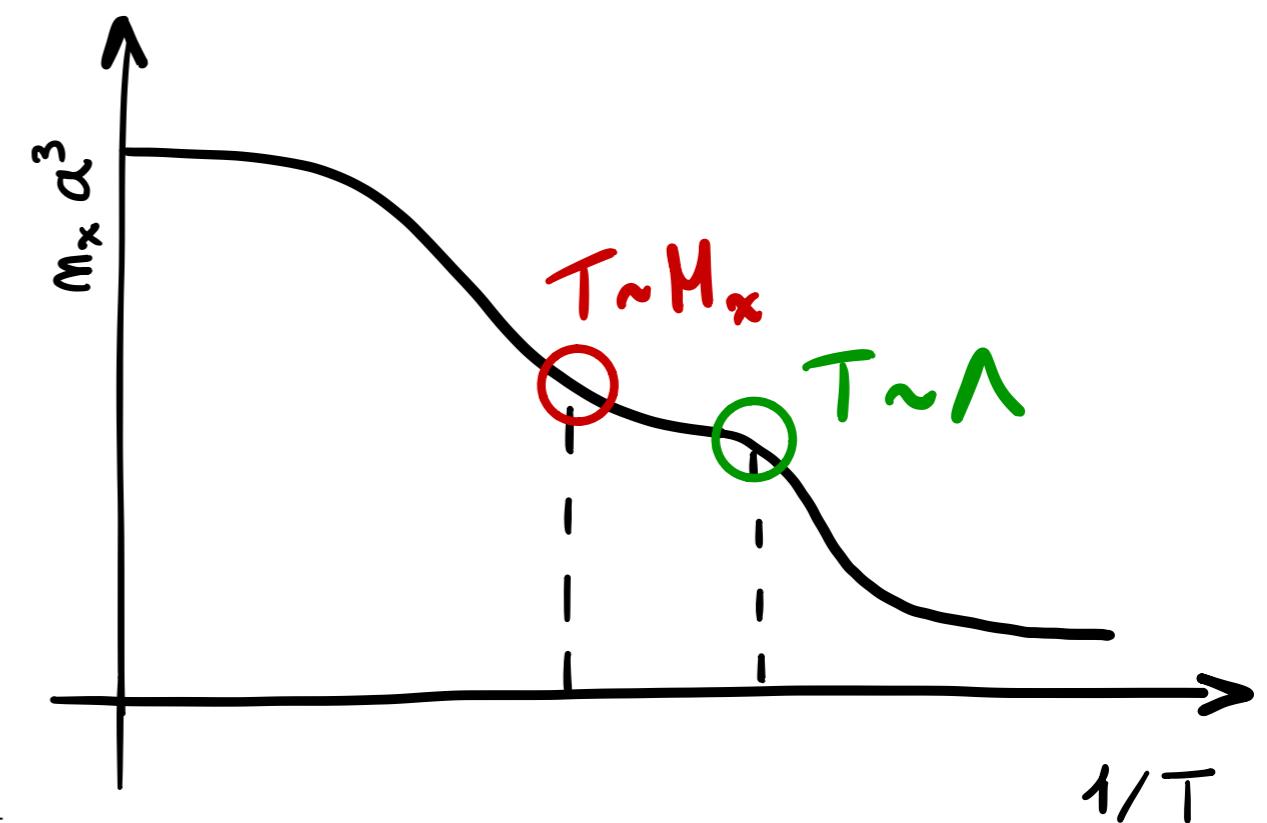
at low temperatures all the  $\ell$ -states manage to decay

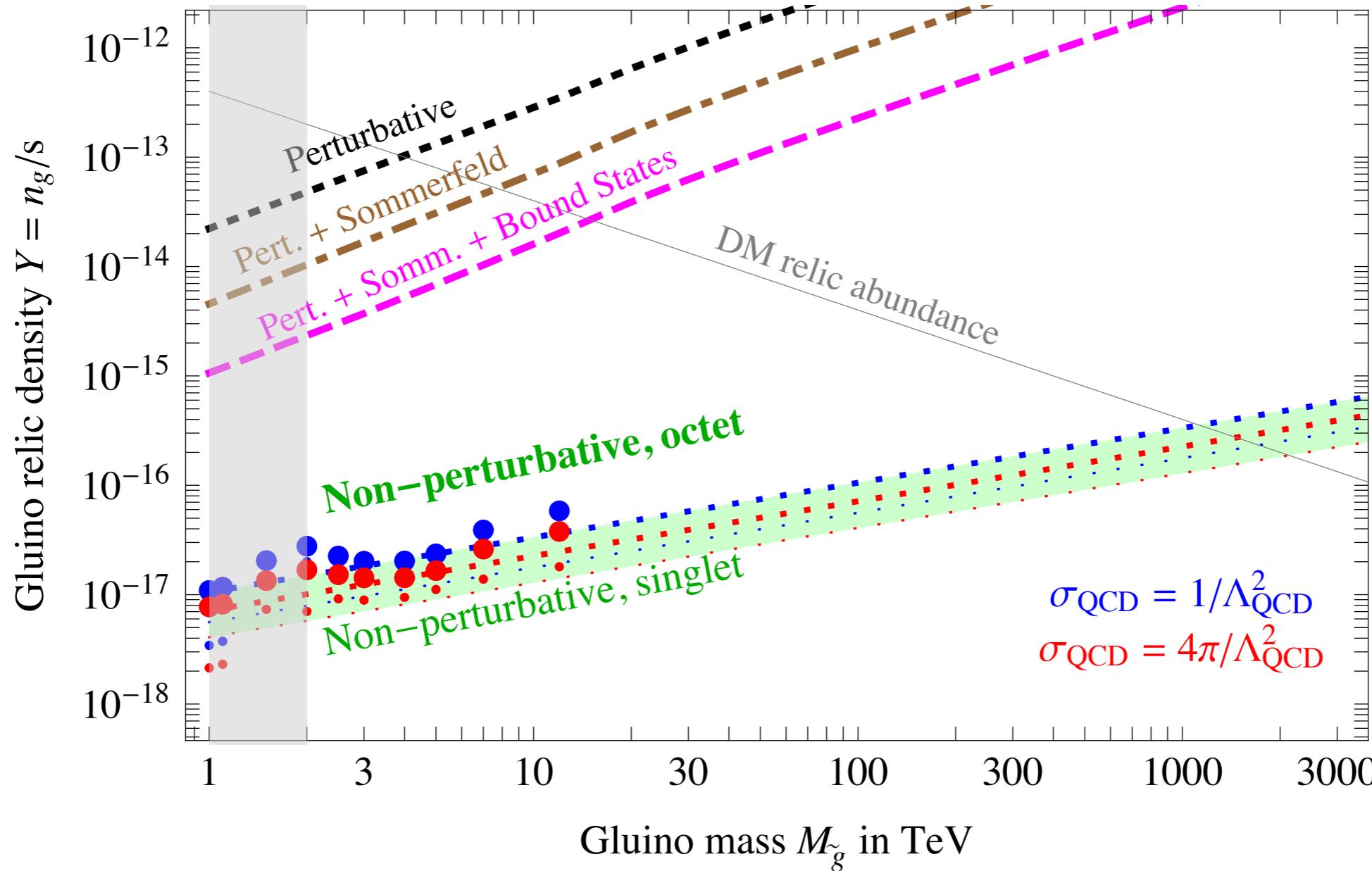
$$\downarrow$$

$$\beta_\ell = 1$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\sigma_{\text{rea}} = \frac{c}{\Lambda^2}$$





# *Chapter 2*

bound states as the Dark Matter

# **Dark Matter as a QCD bound state**

based on PRD 97 (2018) no.11

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \bar{\mathcal{Q}} (i \not{D} - M_{\mathcal{Q}}) \mathcal{Q}$$

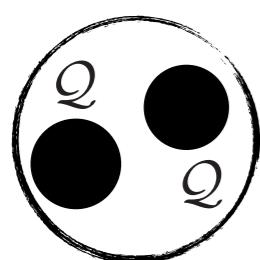
$$\mathcal{Q} = (8, 1)_0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \bar{Q} (i \not{D} - M_Q) Q$$

$$Q = (8, 1)_0$$

new (stable) hadrons are expected

### $Q$ -onlyum



$$\sim \frac{1}{\alpha_3 M_Q}$$

$$E_B \sim \alpha_3^2 M_Q$$

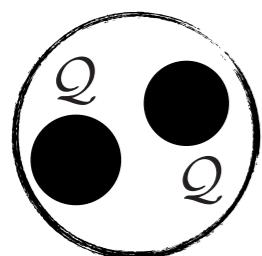
**DM candidate**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \bar{Q} (i \not{D} - M_Q) Q$$

$$Q = (8, 1)_0$$

new (stable) hadrons are expected

### $Q$ -onlyum



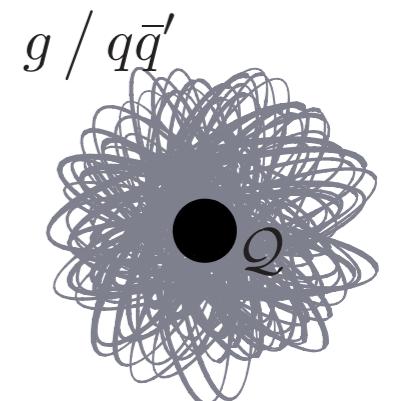
$$\sim \frac{1}{\alpha_3 M_Q}$$

$$E_B \sim \alpha_3^2 M_Q$$

**DM candidate**

### Hybrids

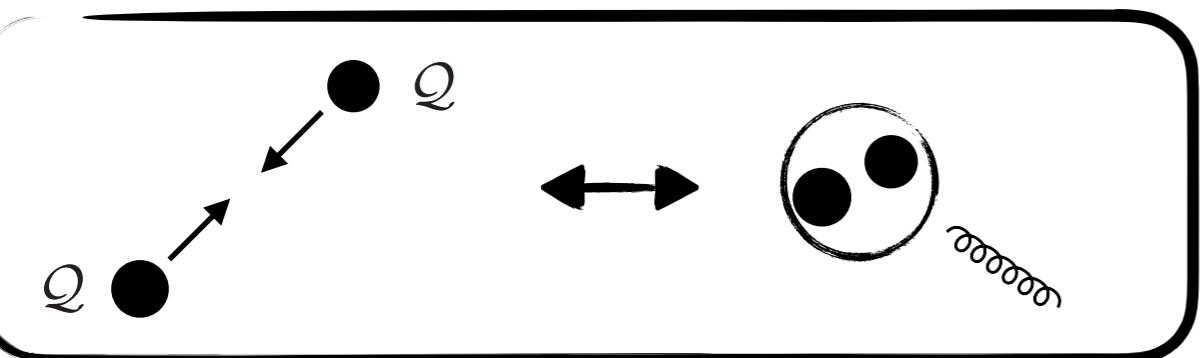
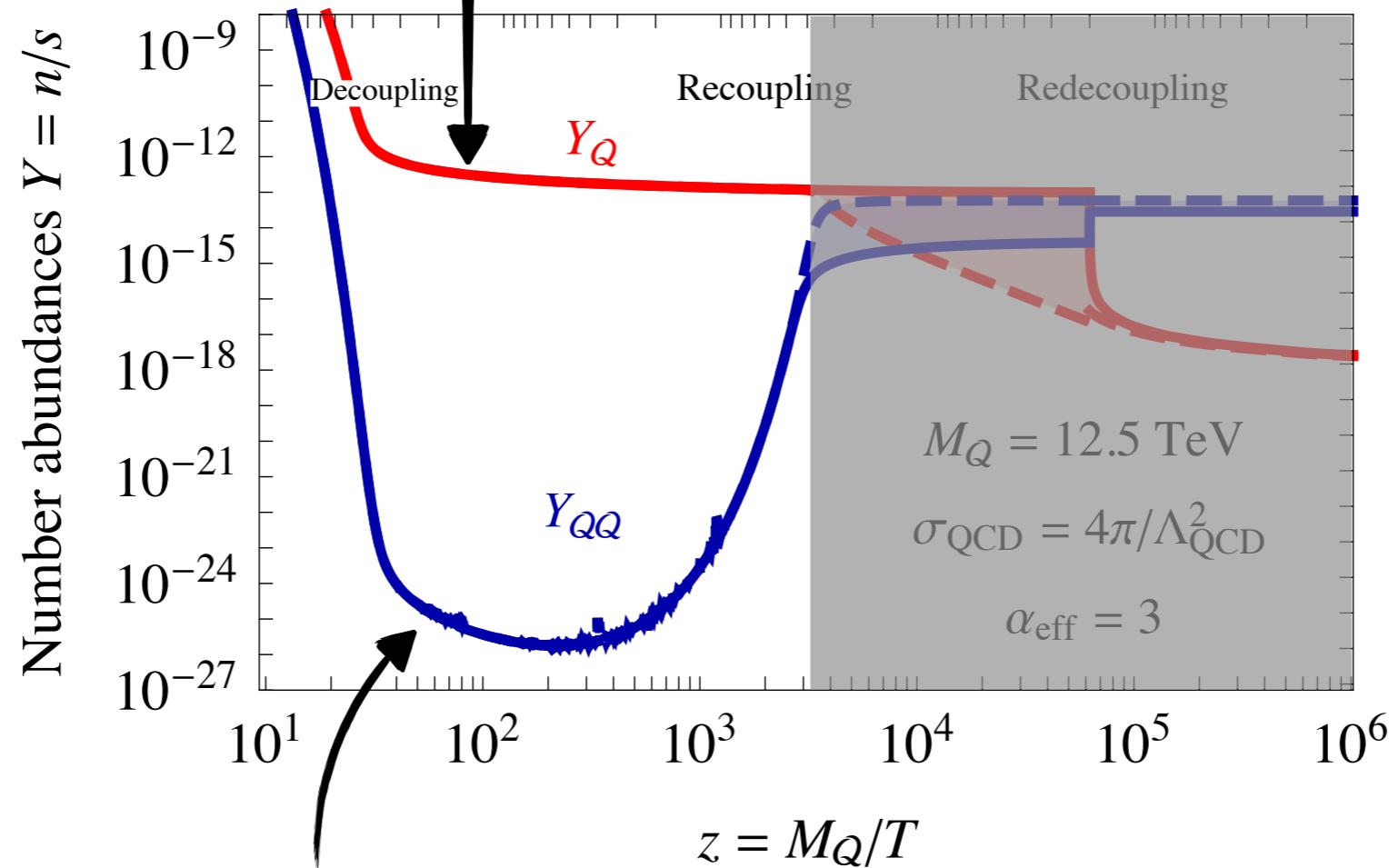
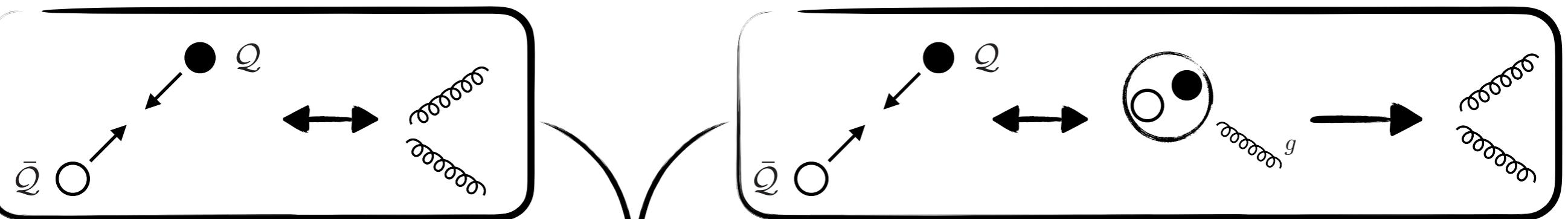
$$\sim \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}$$



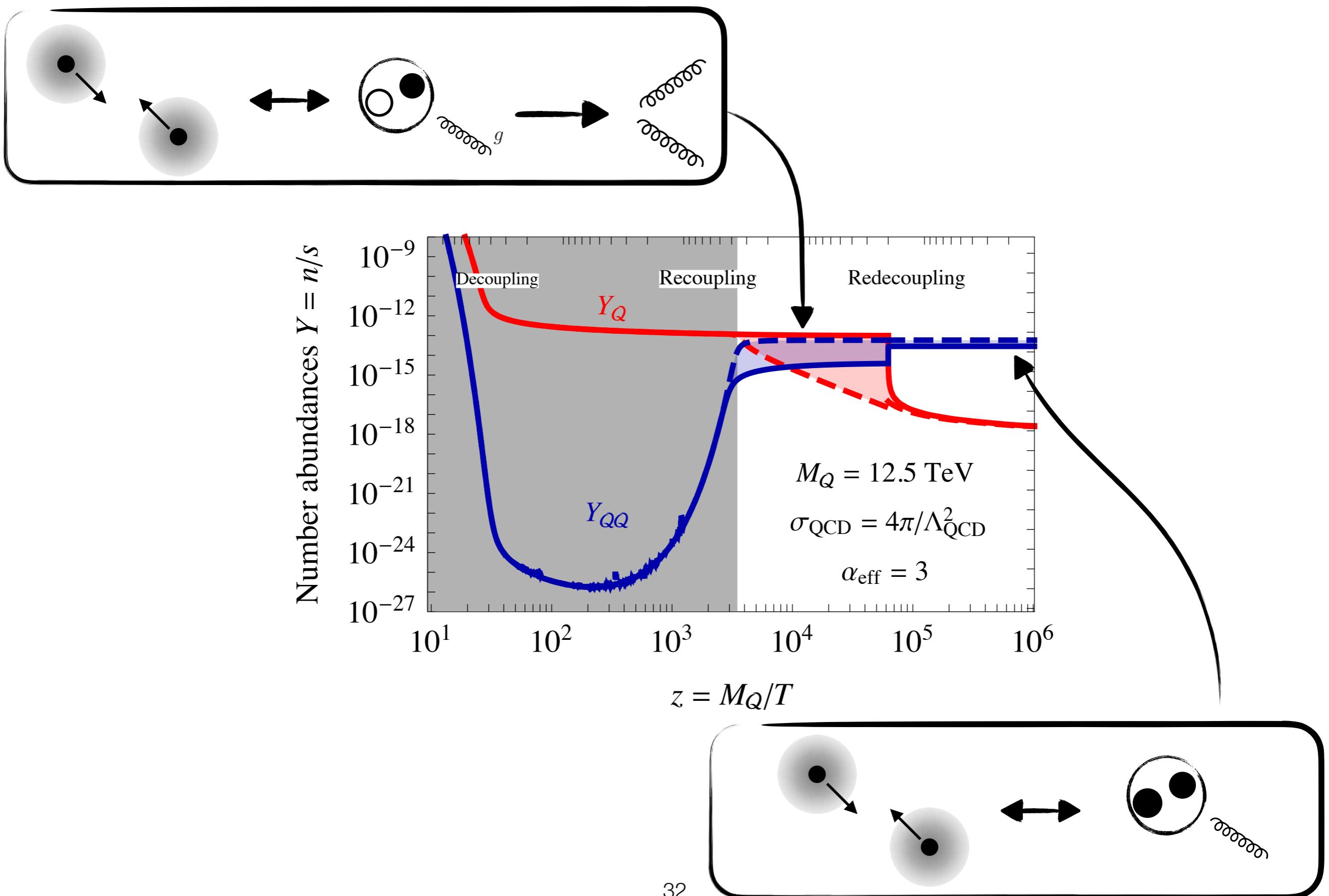
$$E_B \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \quad \& \quad \sigma \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^{-2}$$

**Dangerous**

# (pre-confinement) cosmological evolution

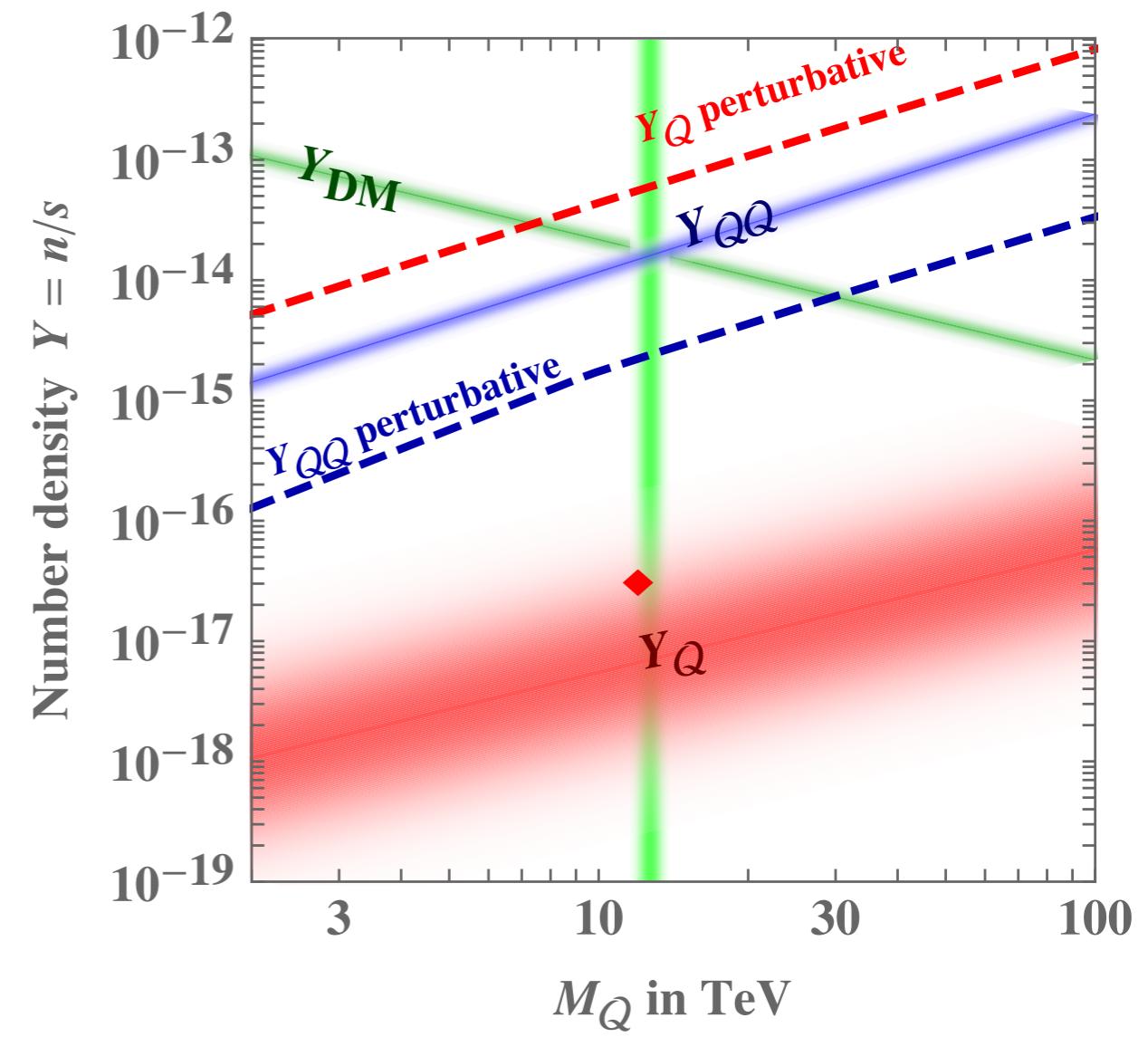
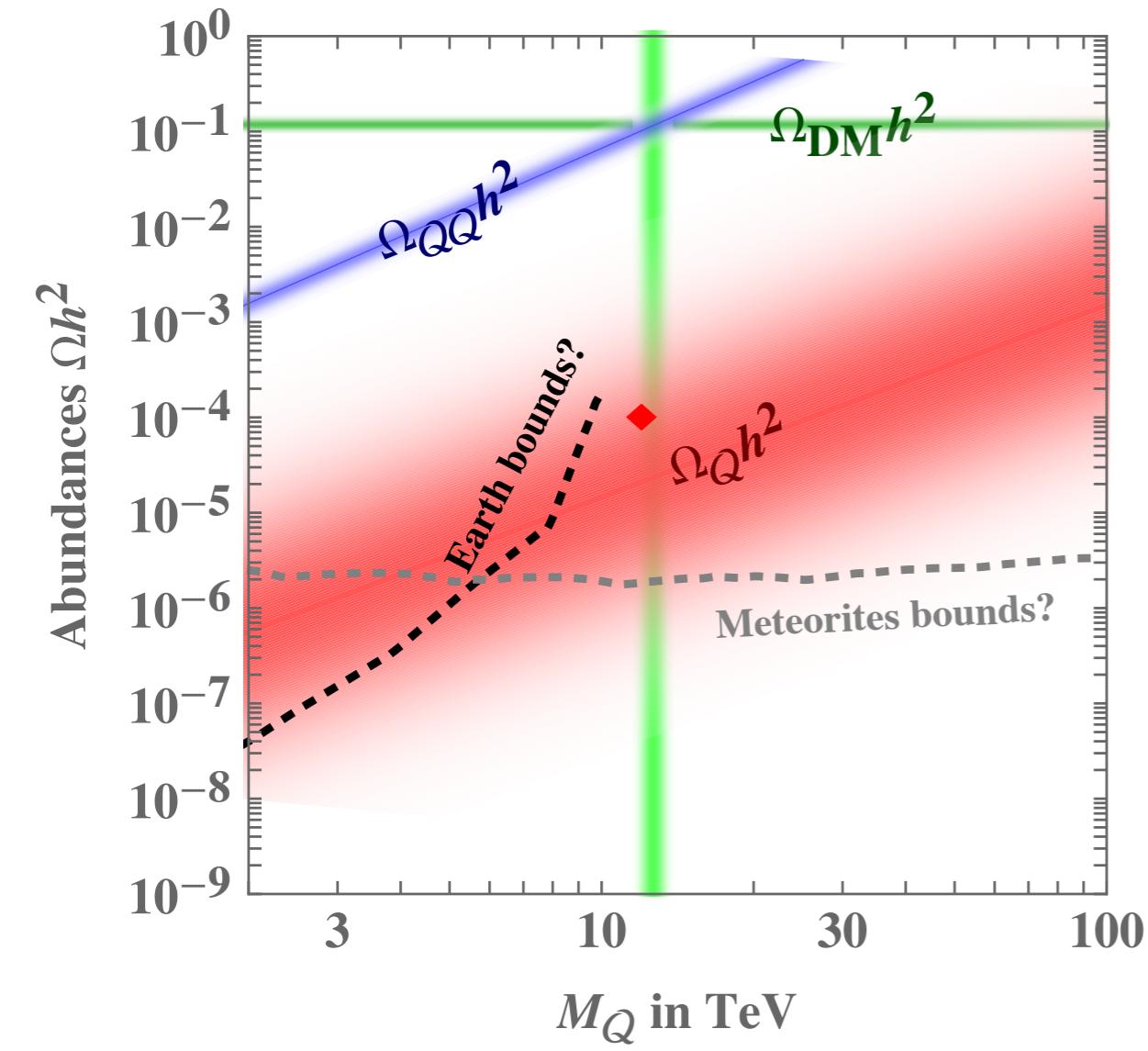


# (post-confinement) cosmological evolution



$$M_Q \simeq 12.5 \text{ TeV}$$

$$\Omega_{\text{hyb}} \sim 10^{-4} \Omega_{\text{DM}}$$



# Dark Matter signals

$QQ$  interacts with gluons through induced chromo-dipole moments analogous to Rayleigh scattering hydrogen/light

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = c_E M_{\text{DM}} \bar{B} B \vec{E}^a \vec{E}^a$$

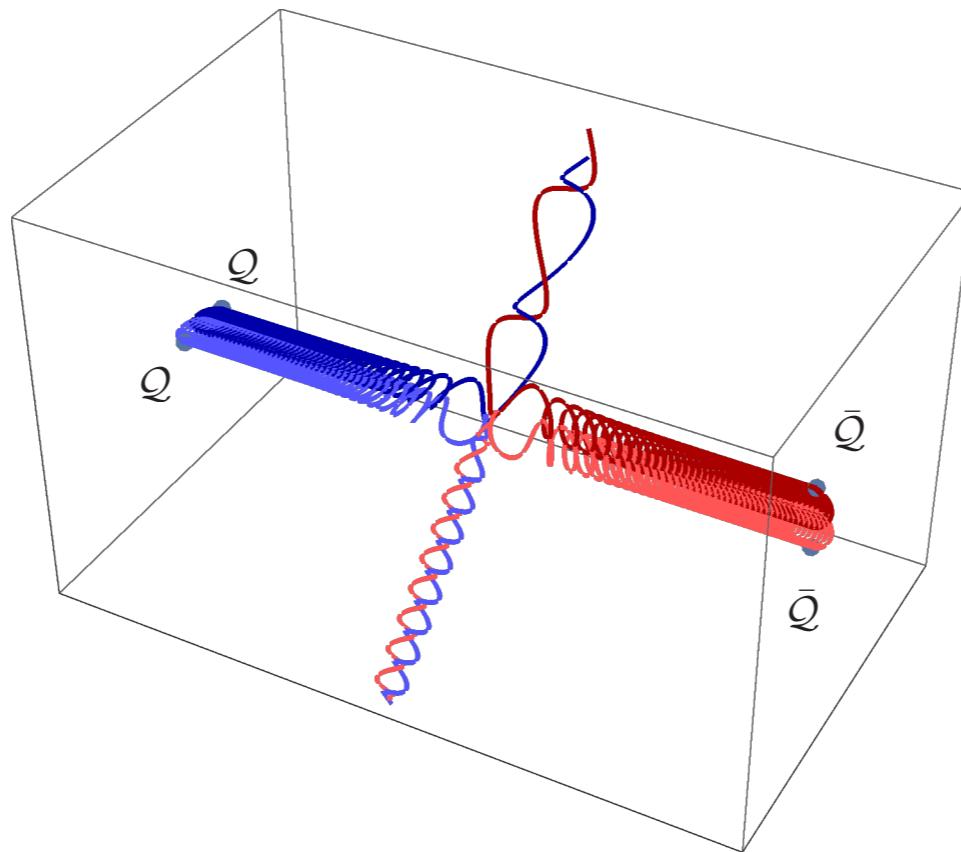
the polarizability coefficient is:

$$c_E = \pi \alpha_3 \langle B | \vec{r} \frac{1}{H_8 - E_{10}} \vec{r} | B \rangle \simeq 1.5 \pi a^3$$

this gives a SI cross section slightly below XENON1T bounds

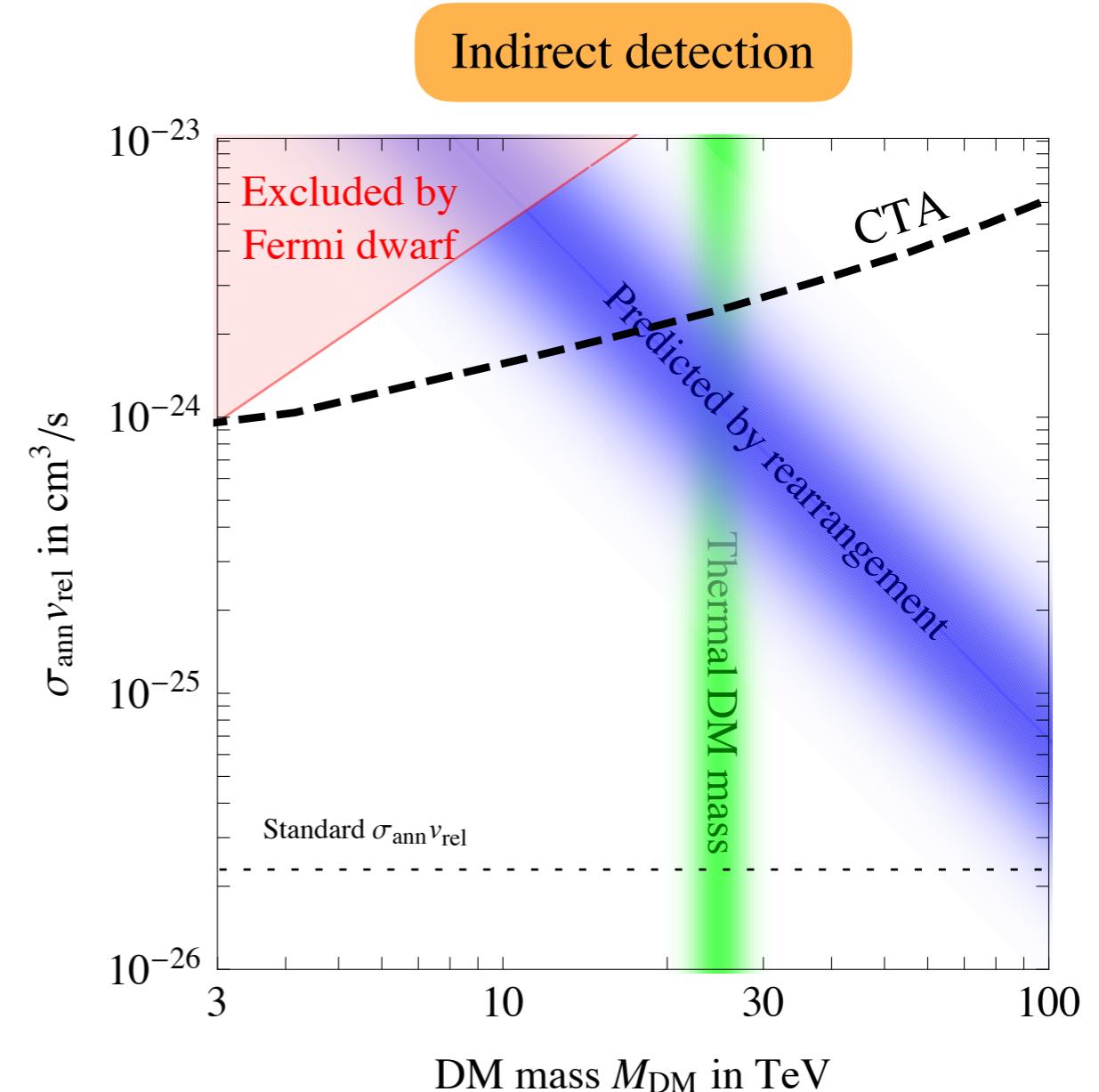
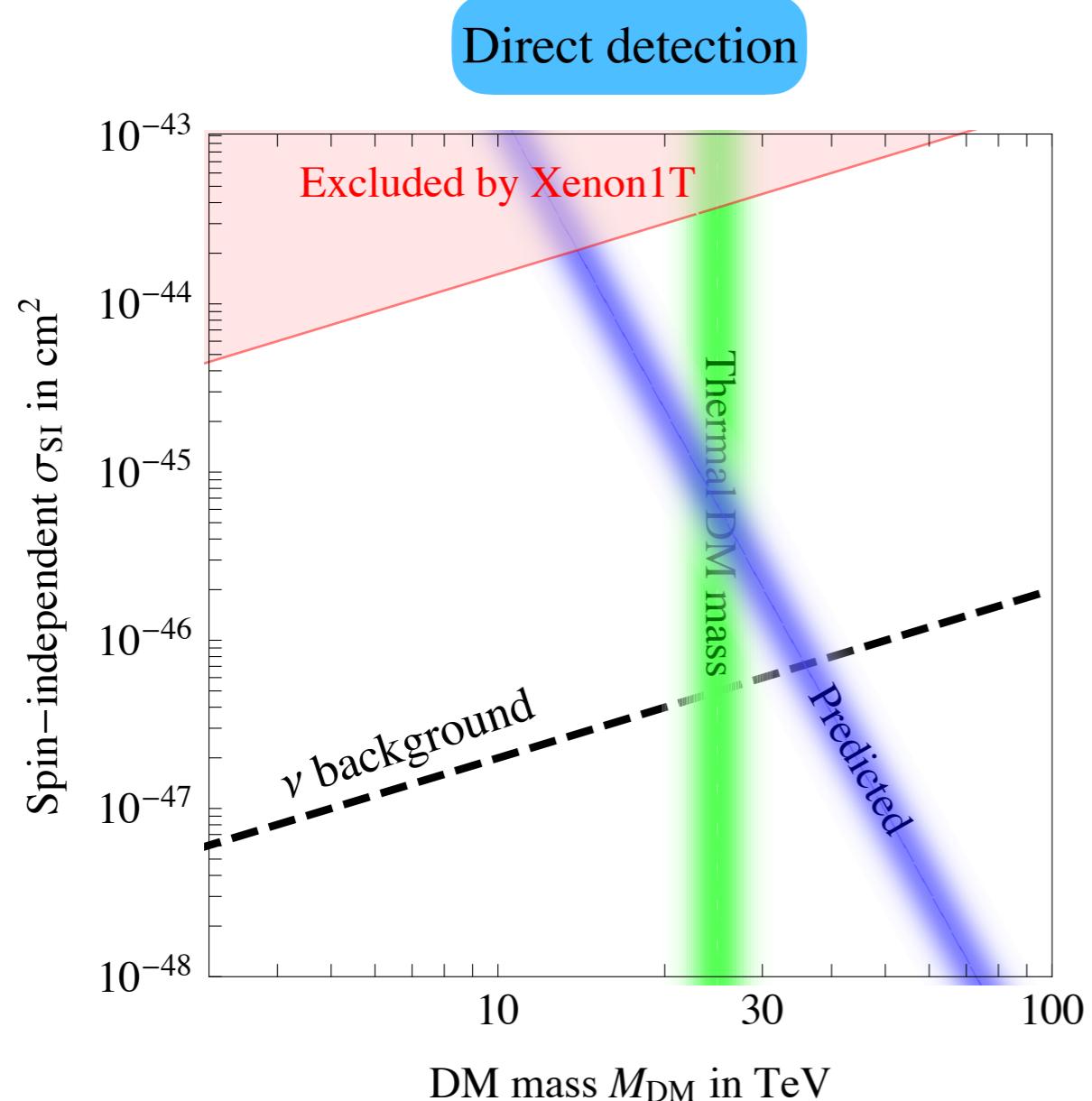
$$\sigma_{\text{SI}} = 2.3 \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2 \times \left( \frac{20 \text{ TeV}}{M_{\text{DM}}} \right)^6 \left( \frac{0.1}{\alpha_3} \right)^8 \left( \frac{c_E}{1.5 \pi a^3} \right)^2$$

DM annihilation is dominated by **recombination** followed by a **decay** into SM particles



the recombination cross section is  $\sim \alpha_3^4/v_{\text{rel}}$  bigger than the one for direct annihilation

$$\sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \sim \pi a^2 v_{\text{rel}} \sim 4 \cdot 10^{-25} \frac{\text{cm}^3}{\text{s}}$$



$\mathcal{Q}$  can be pair produced through QCD interactions

$$p + p \rightarrow \mathcal{Q} + \bar{\mathcal{Q}}$$

and then hadronize into stable or long lived hadrons which give rise to (charged) tracks

$$\mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}g \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}q\bar{q}'$$

$\sqrt{s} \sim 85 \text{ TeV}$  is needed to discover  $\mathcal{Q}$  with  $M_{\mathcal{Q}} \sim 12.5 \text{ TeV}$

$\sqrt{s} \sim 100 \text{ TeV}$  would be sensitive up to  $M_{\mathcal{Q}} \lesssim 15 \text{ TeV}$

# Hybrids signals/bounds

hybrids in the galactic halo hit the Earth with energies  $E_0 = M_Q v^2 / 2 \sim \text{MeV}$   
 but then they lose energy due to interaction with matter

Starkman et al. 90'

$$E = E_0 \exp(-x/x_0)$$

$$x_0 = \frac{\rho N_A \sigma_A}{M_Q} \sim 100 \text{ m} \ll \begin{matrix} \text{atmosphere} \\ \text{thickness} \end{matrix}$$

hybrids reach underground detectors with energies below typical thresholds  $\mathcal{O}(\text{keV})$

Mack, Beacom, Bertone 07'

hybrids are still excluded by balloon searches or Earth over-heating if  $\Omega_{\text{hyb}} = \Omega_{\text{DM}}$   
 but not if  $\Omega_{\text{hyb}} \sim 10^{-4} \Omega_{\text{DM}}$

hybrids in the galactic halo hit the Earth with energies  
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# searches for heavy nuclei in terrestrial samples

Hemmick et al. 89'

$$N_{\text{hyb}} < \begin{cases} 10^{-14} & \text{Oxygen} \\ 10^{-16} & \text{Enriched C} \end{cases}$$

Norman, Gaze, Bennett 86'

**\*\*\*CAUTION\*\*\***

**\*\*\*not clear whether or not hybrids bind to nuclei\*\*\***

for iso-spin triplet  $Qq\bar{q}'$  pions can mediate long ranges forces.  
So we expect they do

for iso-spin singlet  $Qg$  pions cannot mediate long ranges forces.  
They do not bind? They bind only to big nuclei?

**\*\*\*the following bounds apply only if they do bind\*\*\***

$$N_n \Big|_{\text{Earth}} \quad M_Q \quad M_{\text{Earth}}$$

# searches for heavy nuclei in terrestrial samples

Hemmick et al. 89'

$$\frac{N_{\text{hyb}}}{N_n} < \begin{cases} 10^{-14} & \text{Oxygen} \\ 10^{-16} & \text{Enriched C} \\ 10^{-12} & \text{Iron} \end{cases}$$

Norman, Gaze, Bennett 86'

hybrids get captured and thermalized in the upper atmosphere

$$M \sim \rho_{\text{hyb}} v_{\text{rel}} \times \pi R_E^2 \times \Delta t \sim 2.5 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ kg}$$

then collisions in the Earth atmosphere could make hybrid N, O, He kept in the crust by electromagnetic binding

$$\left. \frac{N_{\text{hyb}}}{N_n} \right|_{\text{Earth}} = \frac{M}{M_Q} \frac{m_N}{M_{\text{Earth}}} \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-18}$$

# searches for heavy nuclei in terrestrial meteorites

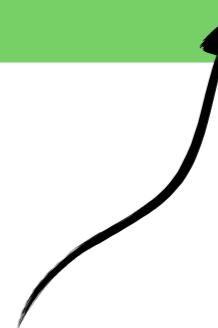
limits by meteorites samples give

$$\frac{N_{\text{hyb}}}{N_n} < 4 \times 10^{-14}$$

Polikanov et al. 91'

meteorites capture hybrids only if they bind to nuclei

$$\left. \frac{N_{\text{SIMP}}}{N_n} \right|_{\text{meteorite}} = n_{\text{SIMP}} \sigma_{\text{capture}} v_{\text{rel}} \Delta t \approx 10^{-14} \frac{\sigma_{\text{capture}}}{0.01/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}$$



estimated scaling typical neutron-capture cross sections

# **Dark Matter as a dark bound state**

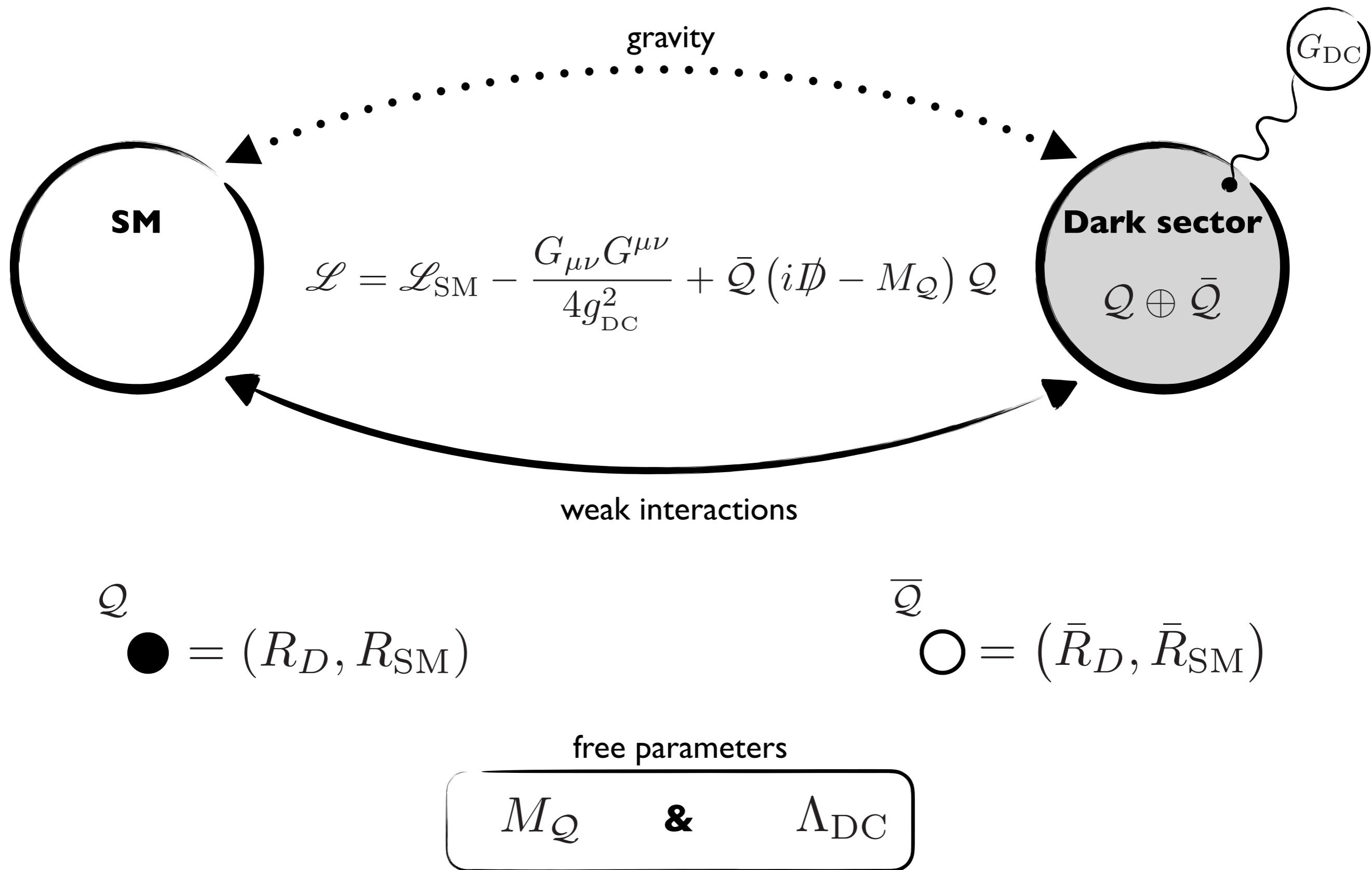
based on JHEP 1710 (2017) 210 **and** JHEP 1902 (2019) 187

**problem: we need (at least) a new stable particle**

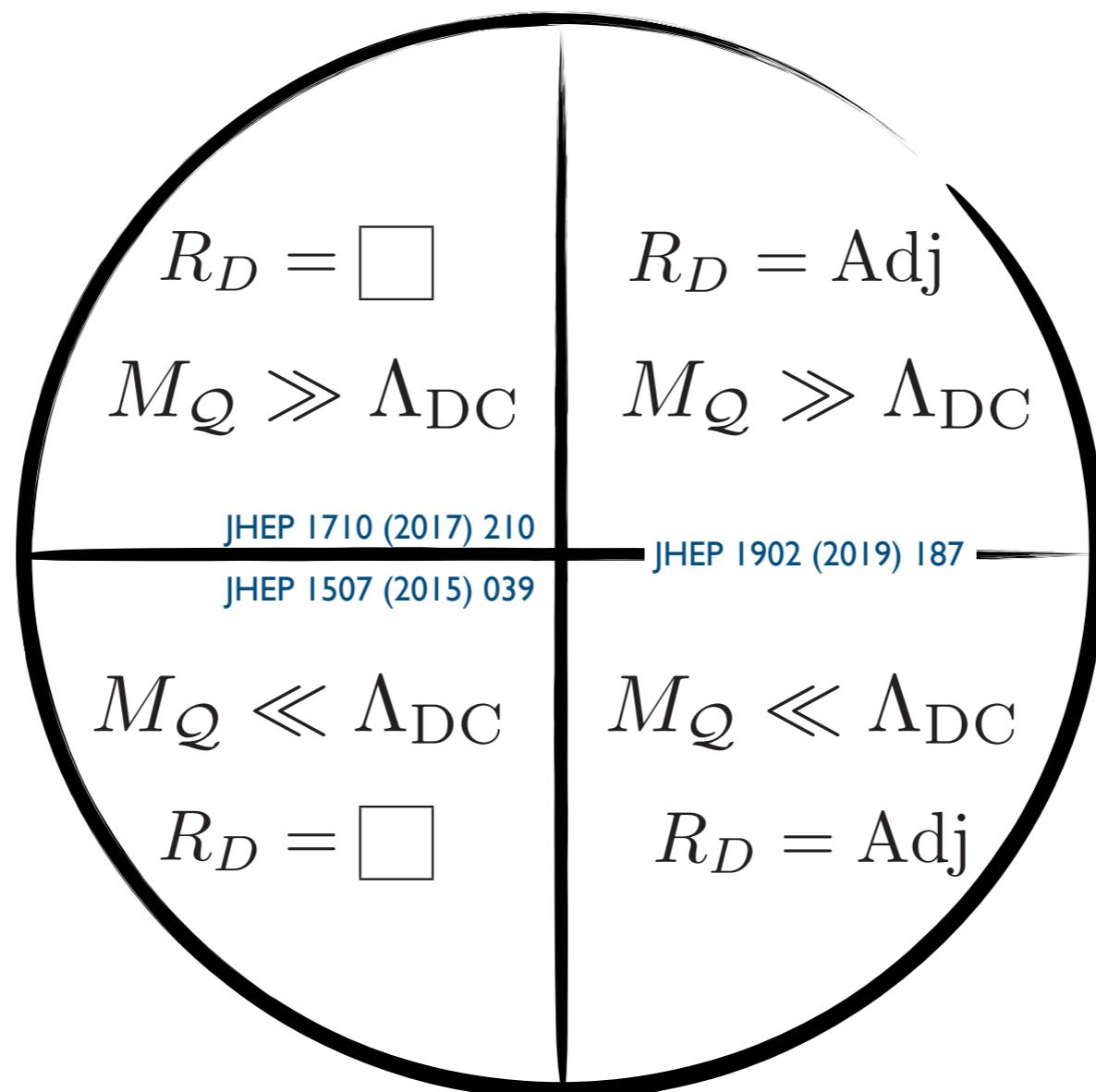
**analogy: proton is stable due to accidental baryon number**

**idea: DM accidentally-stable bound state of a strongly-coupled gauge dynamics**

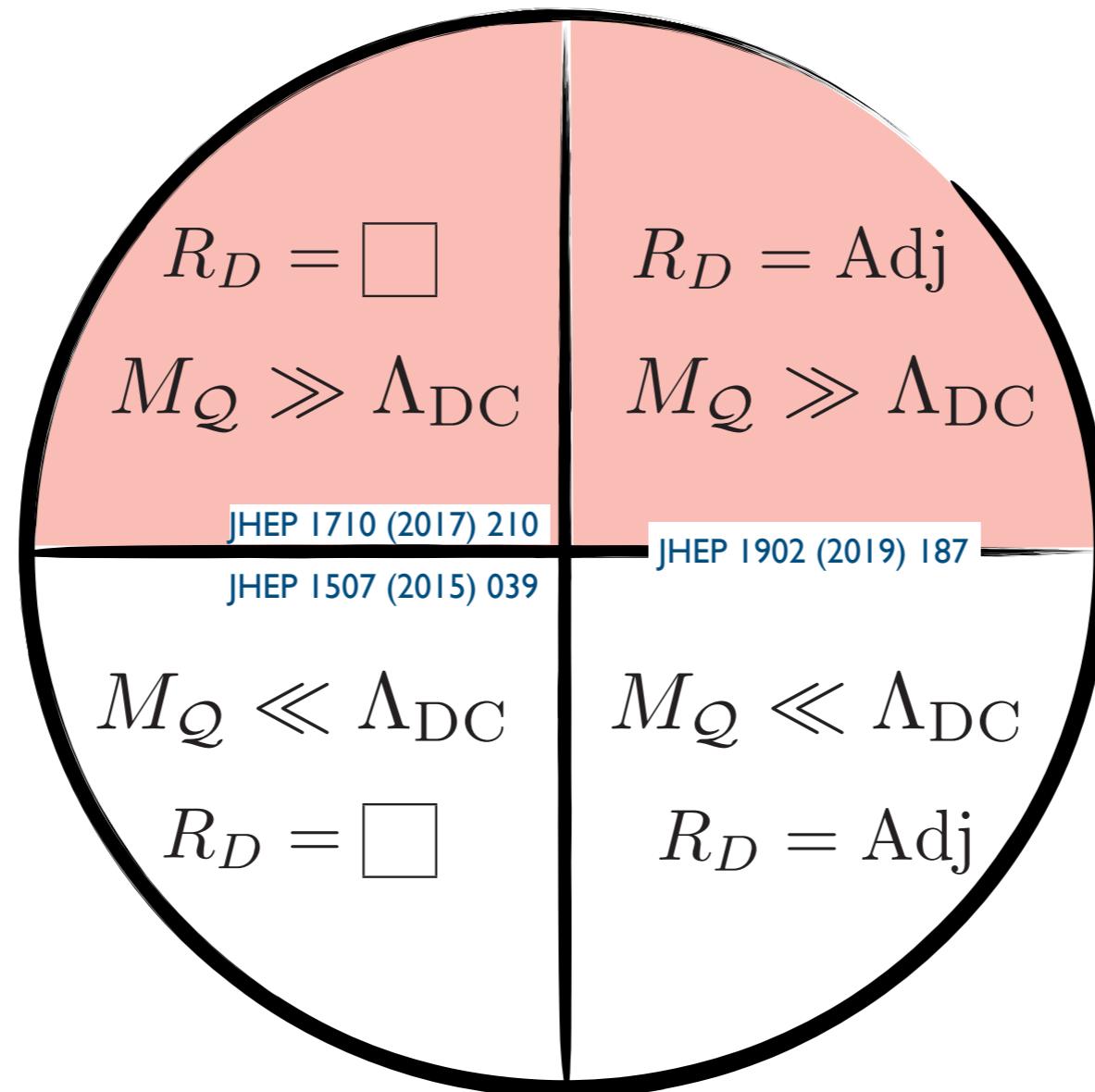
# the model



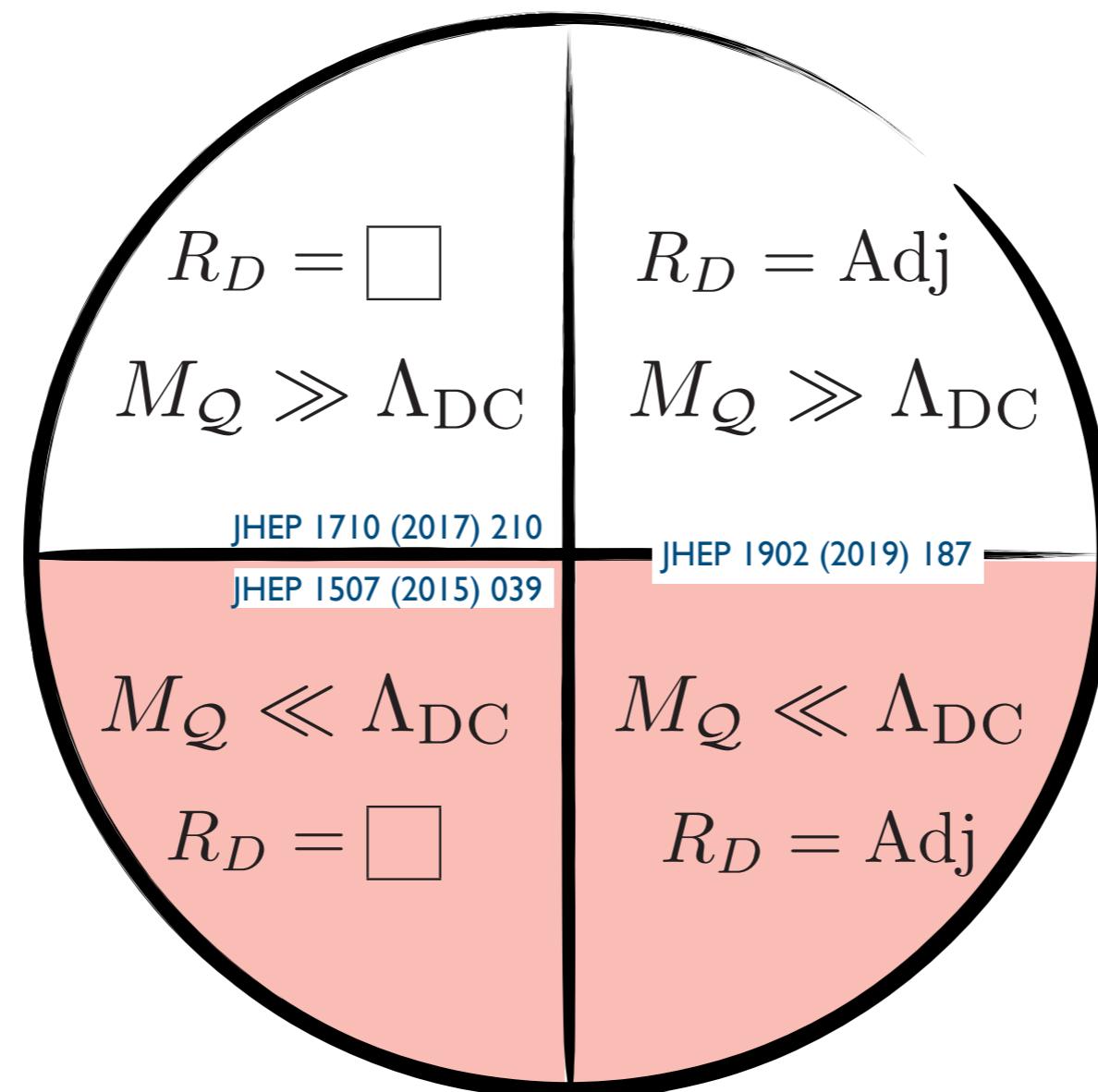
## the benchmark scenarios



# the benchmark scenarios



# the benchmark scenarios



in the following I will consider the benchmark model

$$R_{\text{SM}} = 3_0 \quad \text{and} \quad G_{\text{DC}} = \text{SU}(3)$$

$$M_Q \ll \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

$$R_D = \square$$

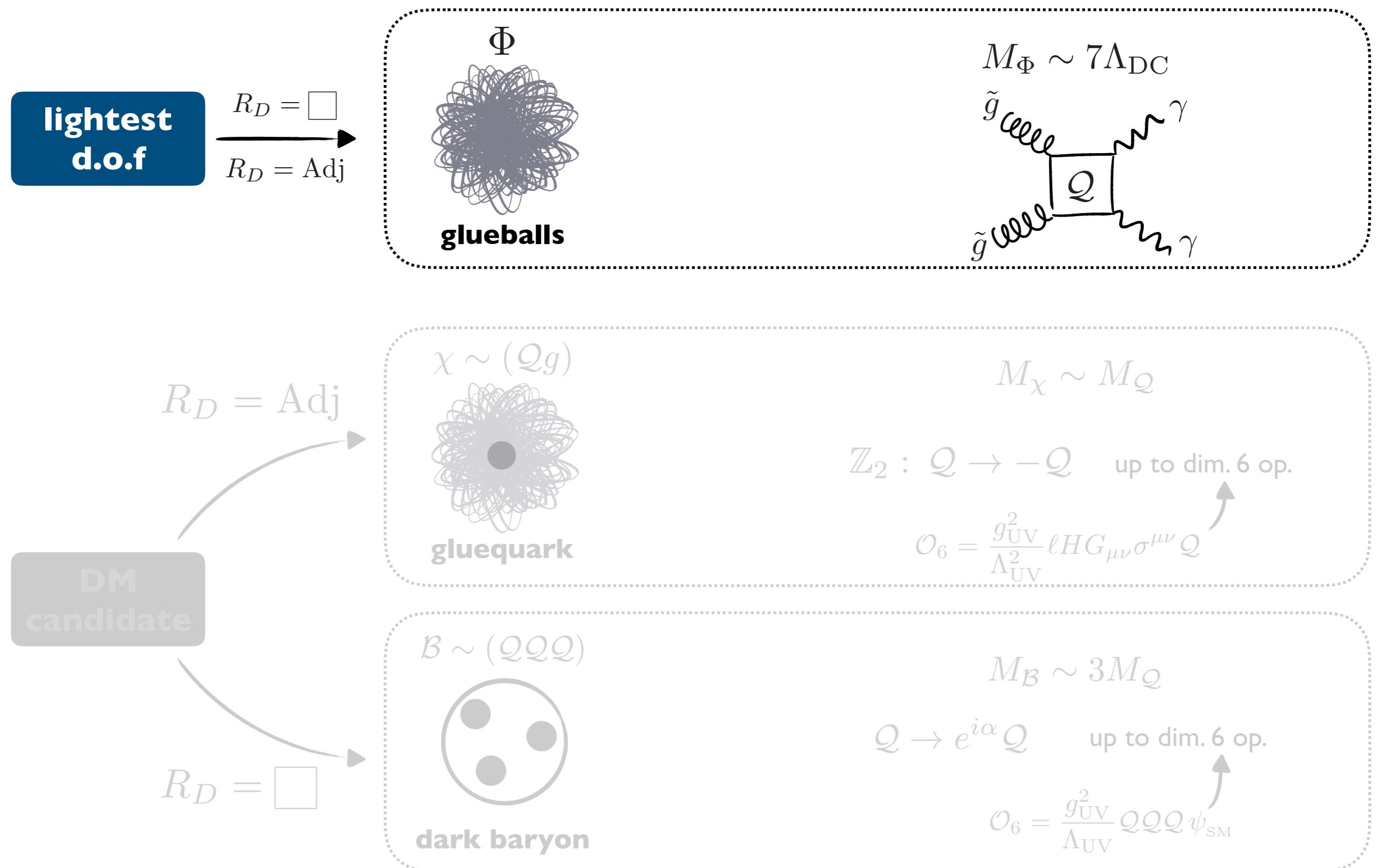
$$M_Q \ll \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$

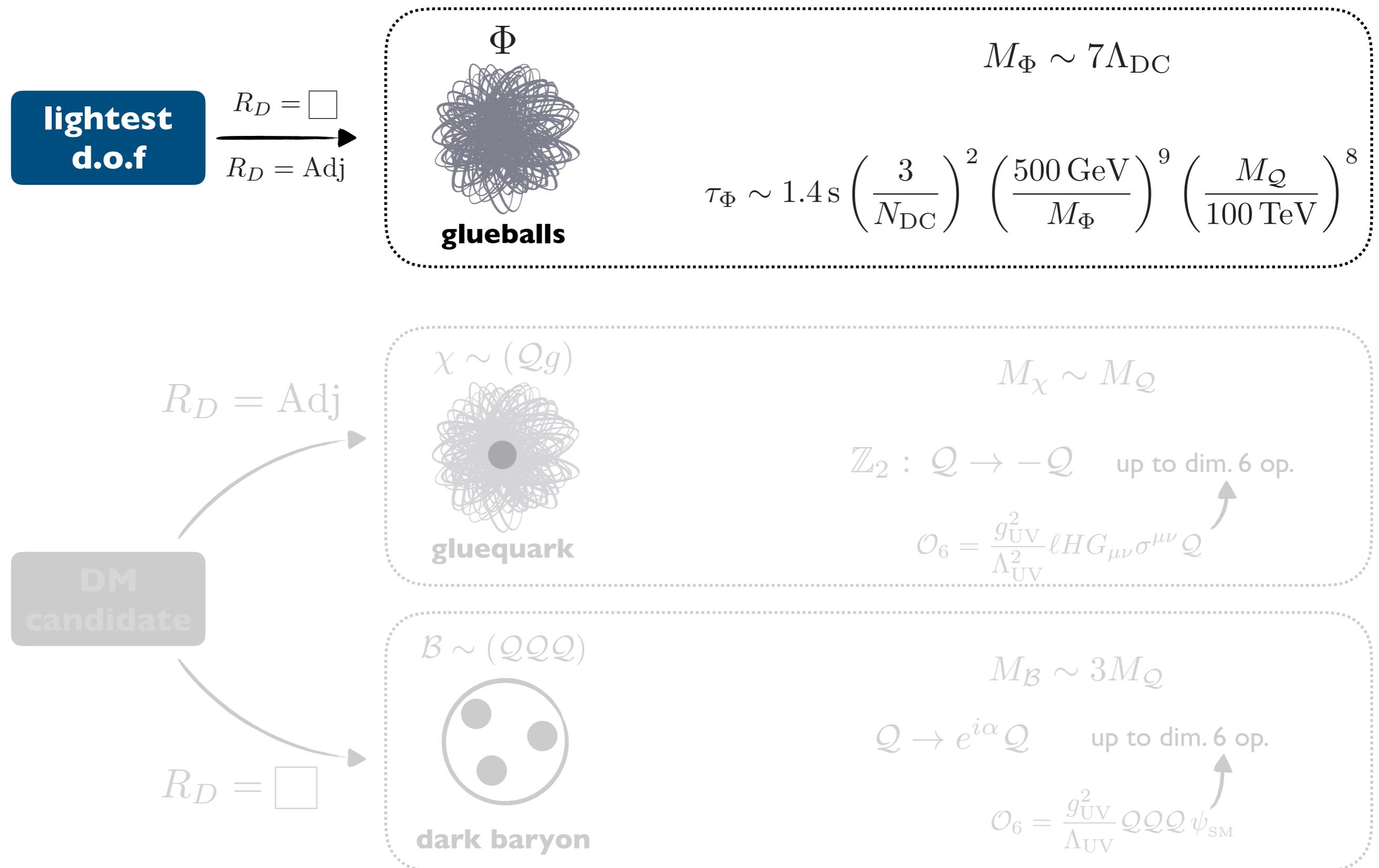
the heavy regime

$$M_Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

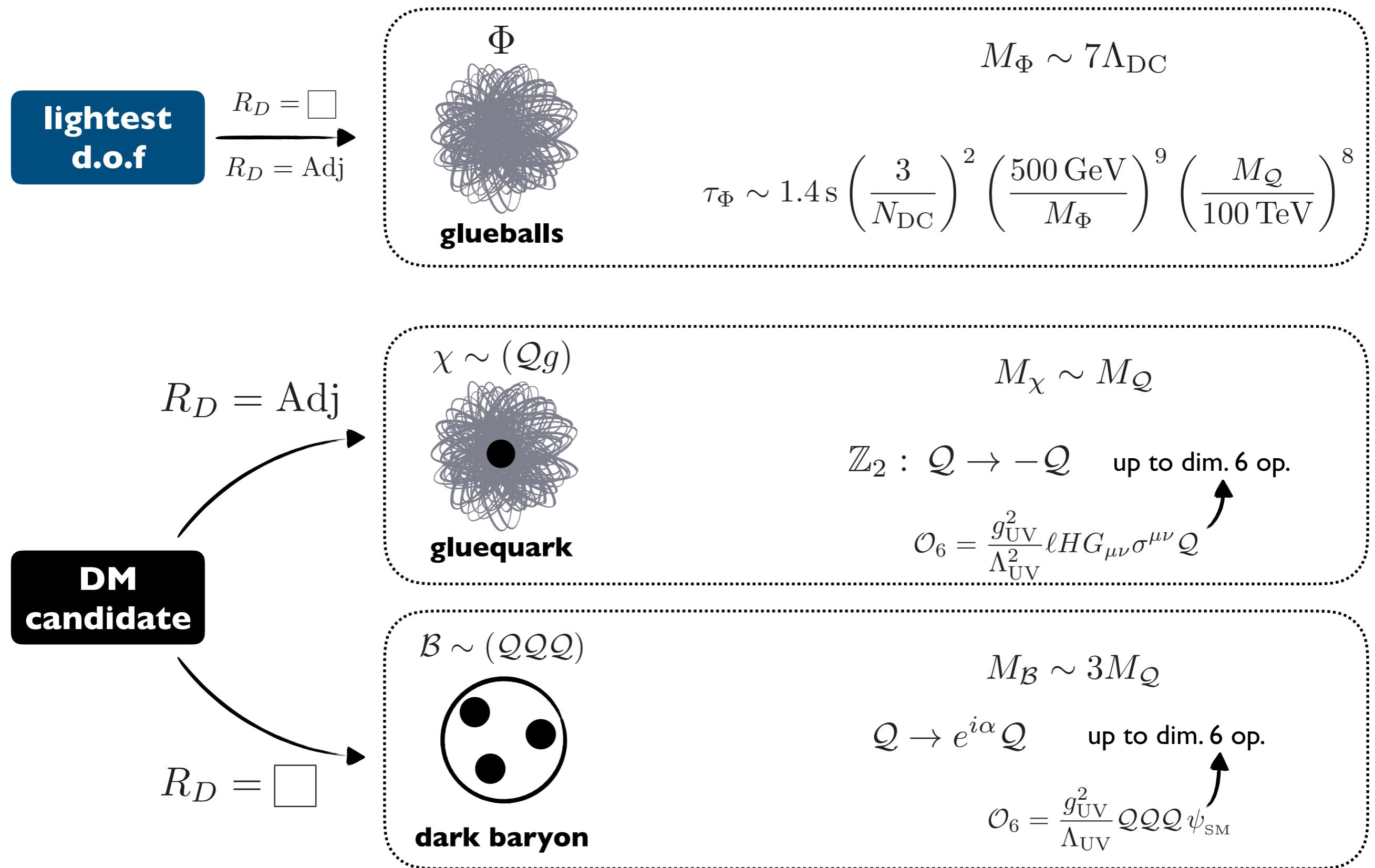
# the spectrum



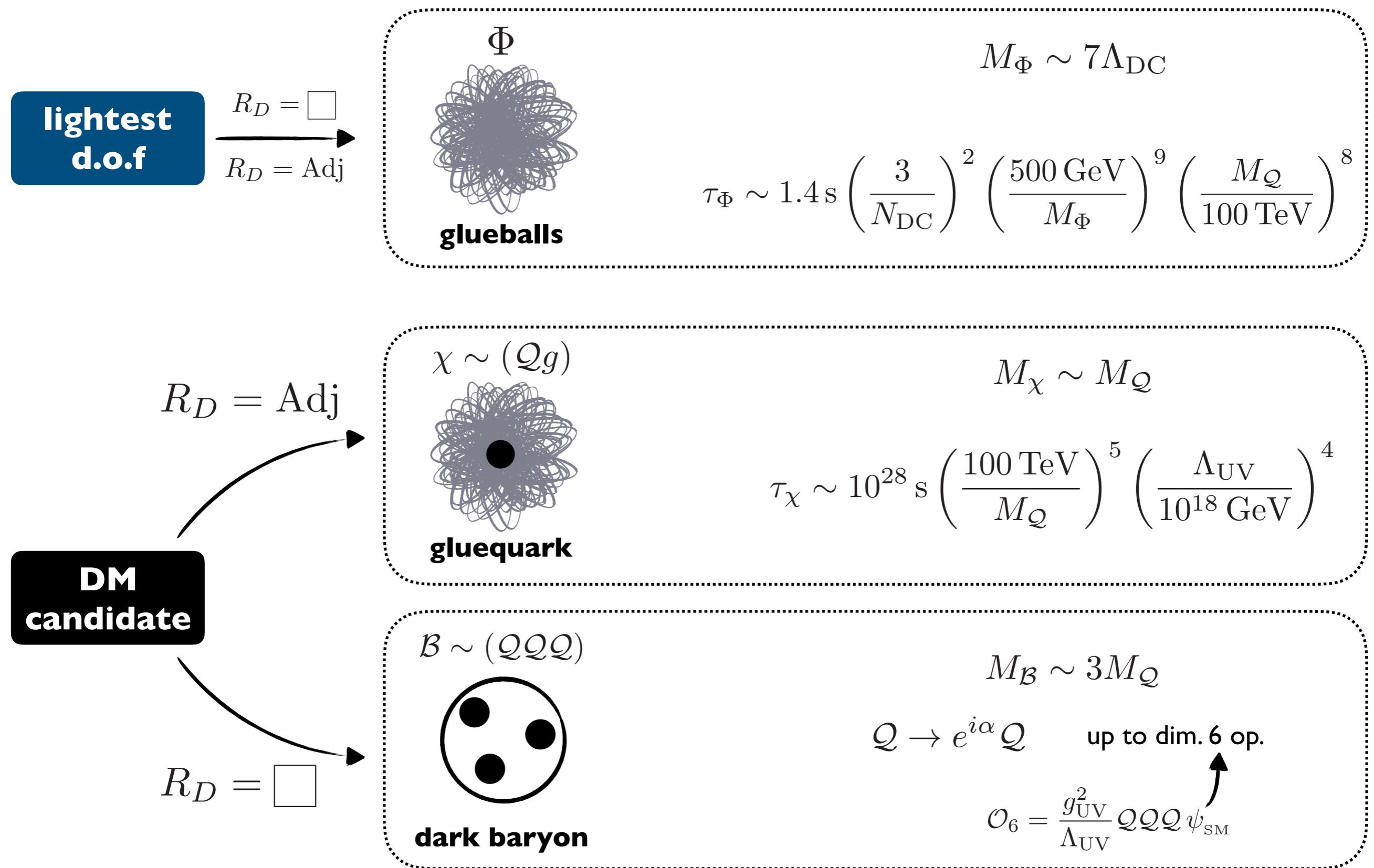
# the spectrum



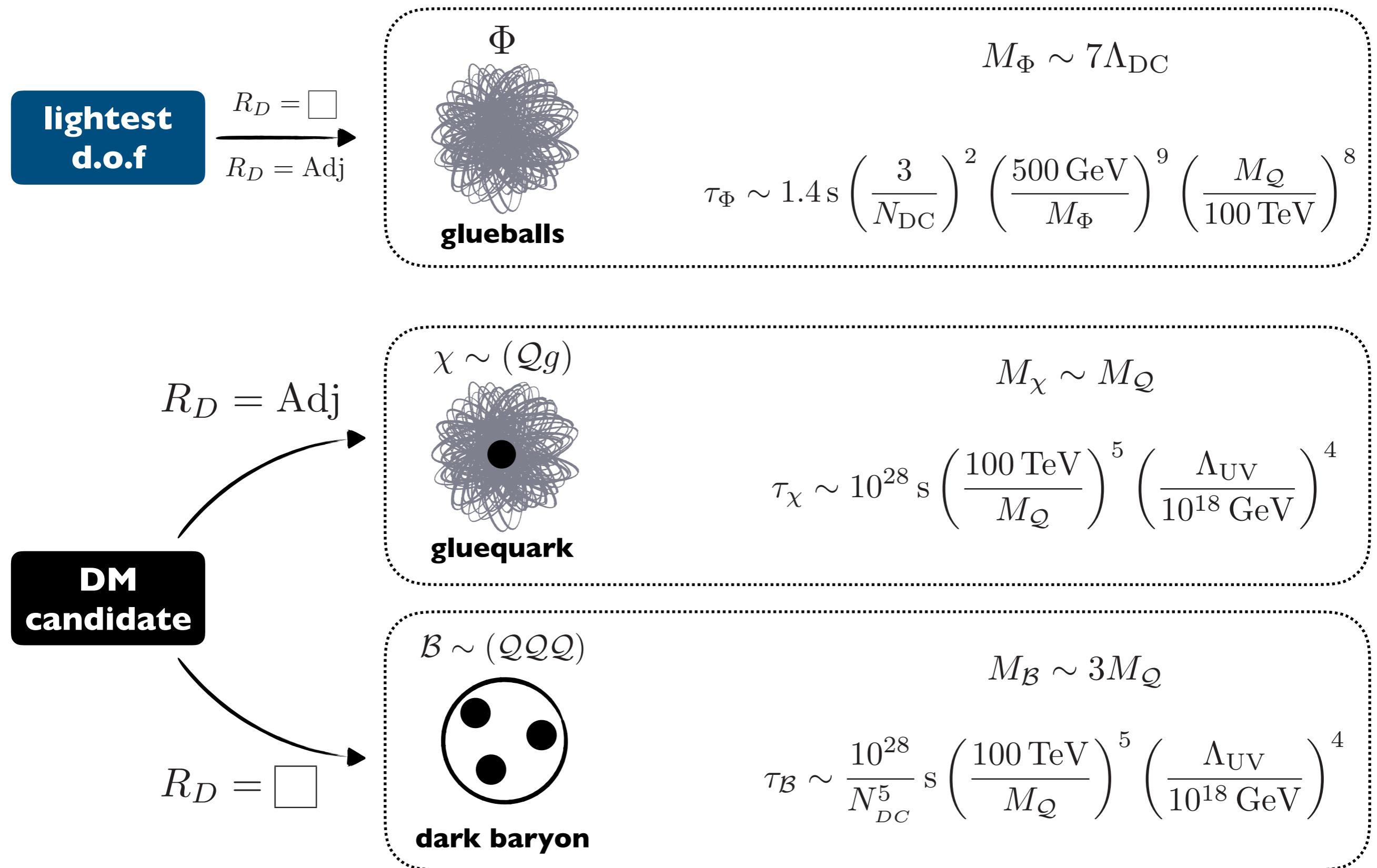
# the spectrum



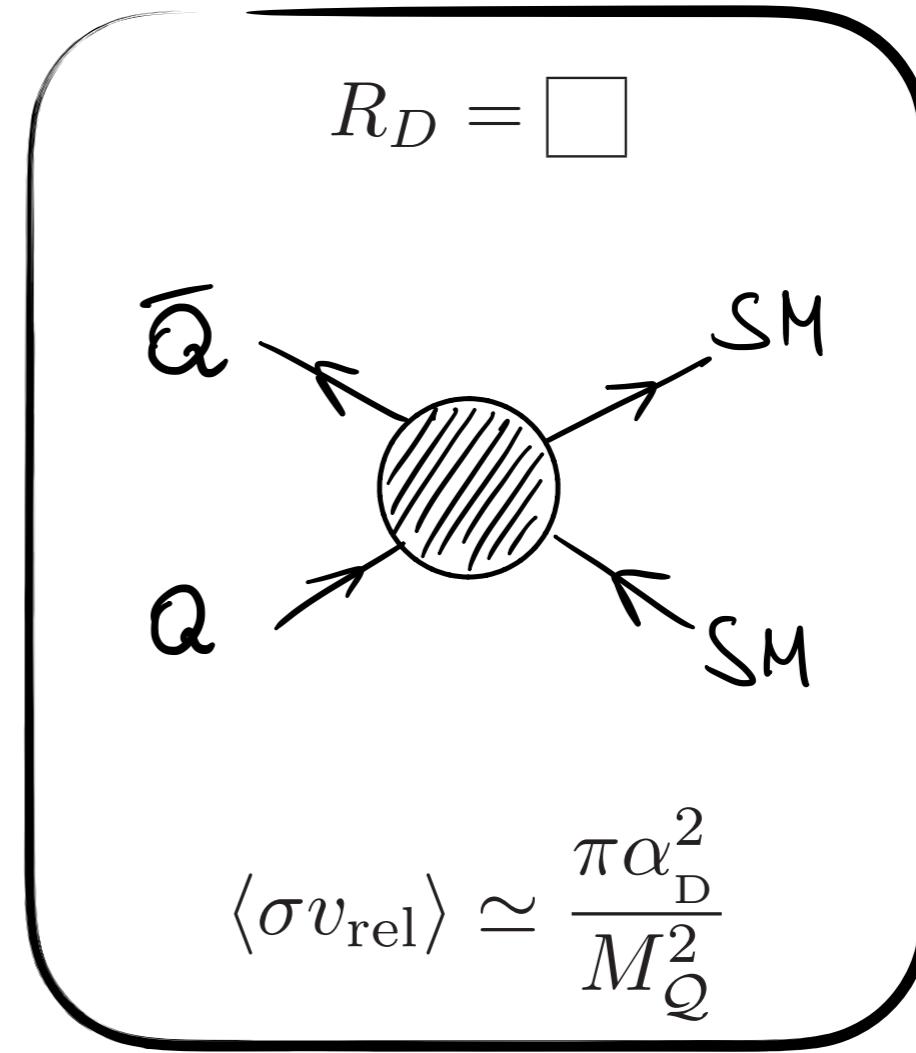
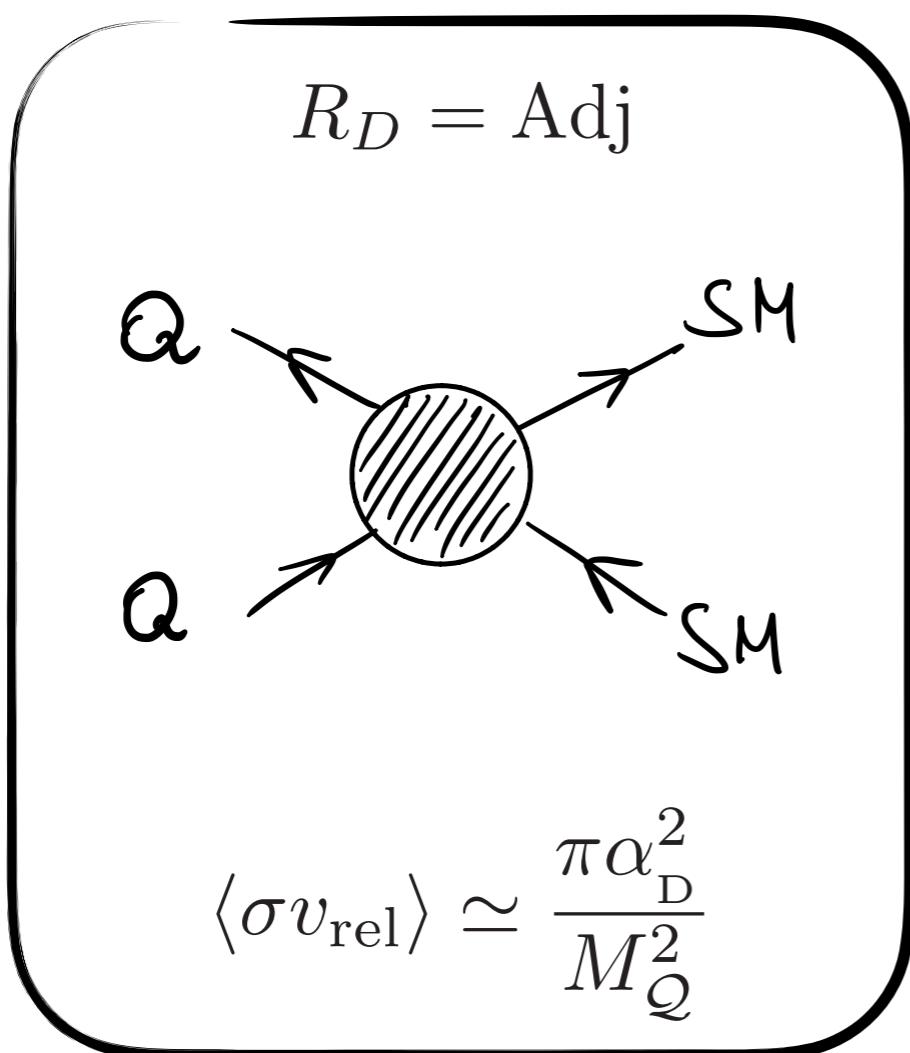
# the spectrum



# the spectrum

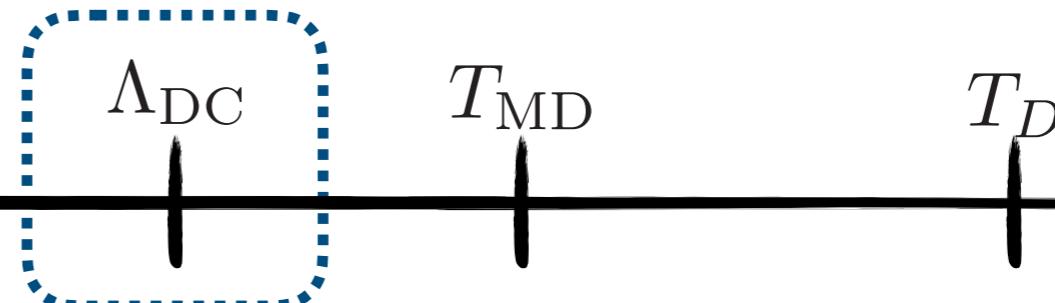


# thermal history: perturbative regime

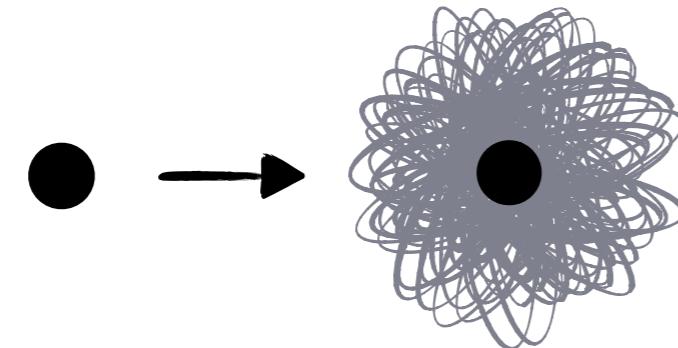


## thermal history: confinement

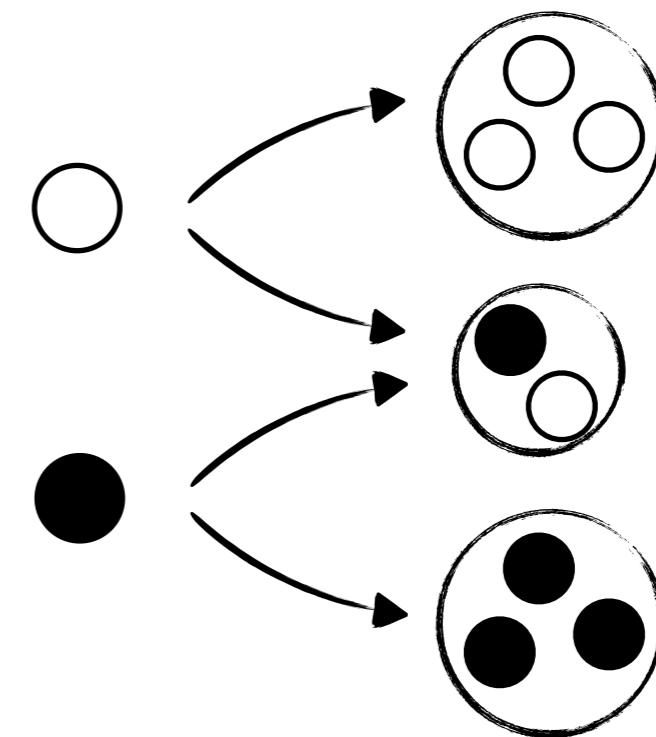
$T$        $M_Q$        $M_Q/25$



$R_D = \text{Adj}$

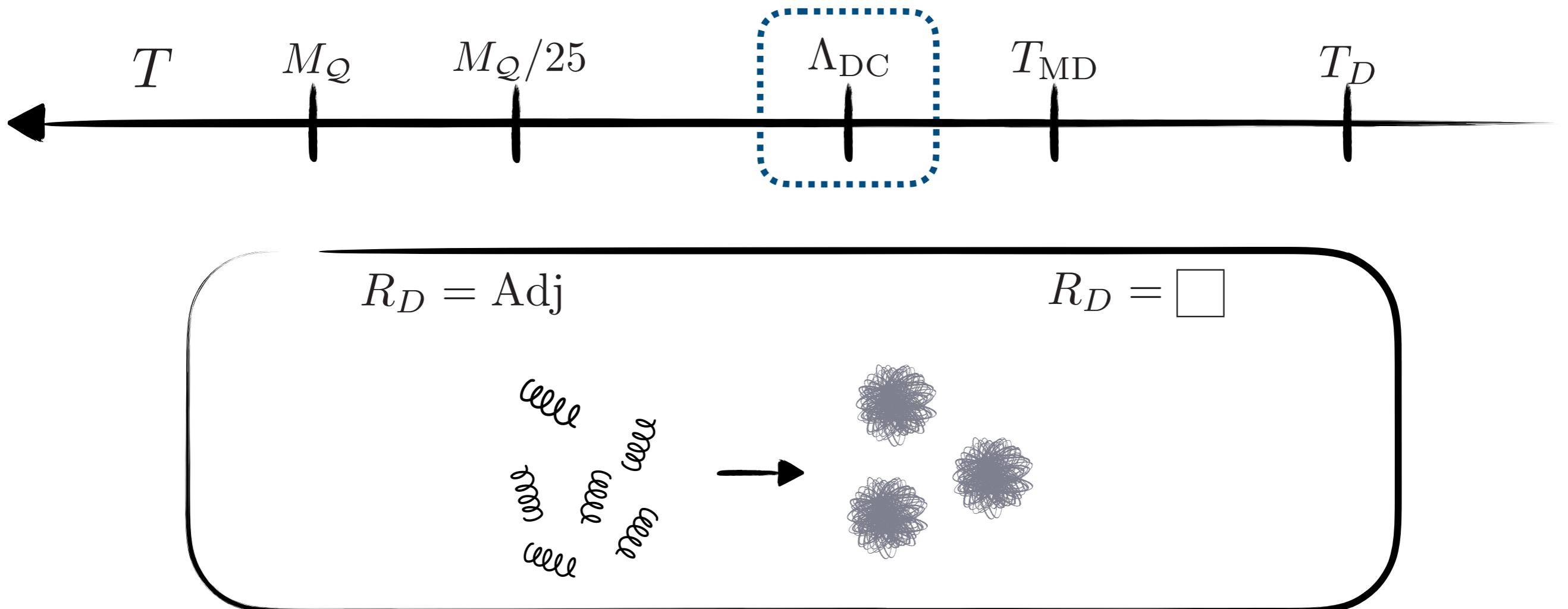


$R_D = \square$



$$\rho_B \approx \frac{1}{1 + 2^{N_{DC}-1}/N_{DC}}$$

# thermal history: dilution



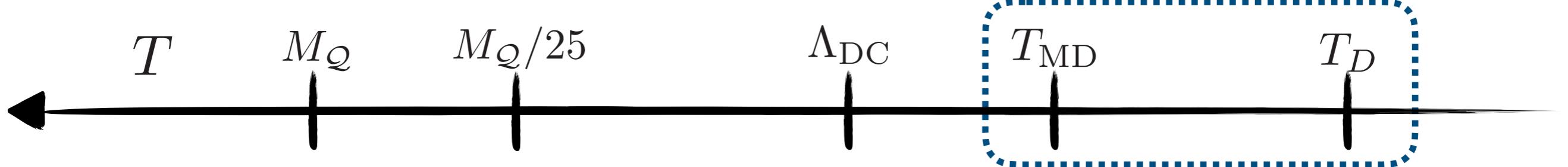
energy density in glueball just after confinement is huge even if they are a non relativistic species

$$\rho_\Phi \approx g_{_D}^* \Lambda_{DC}^4$$

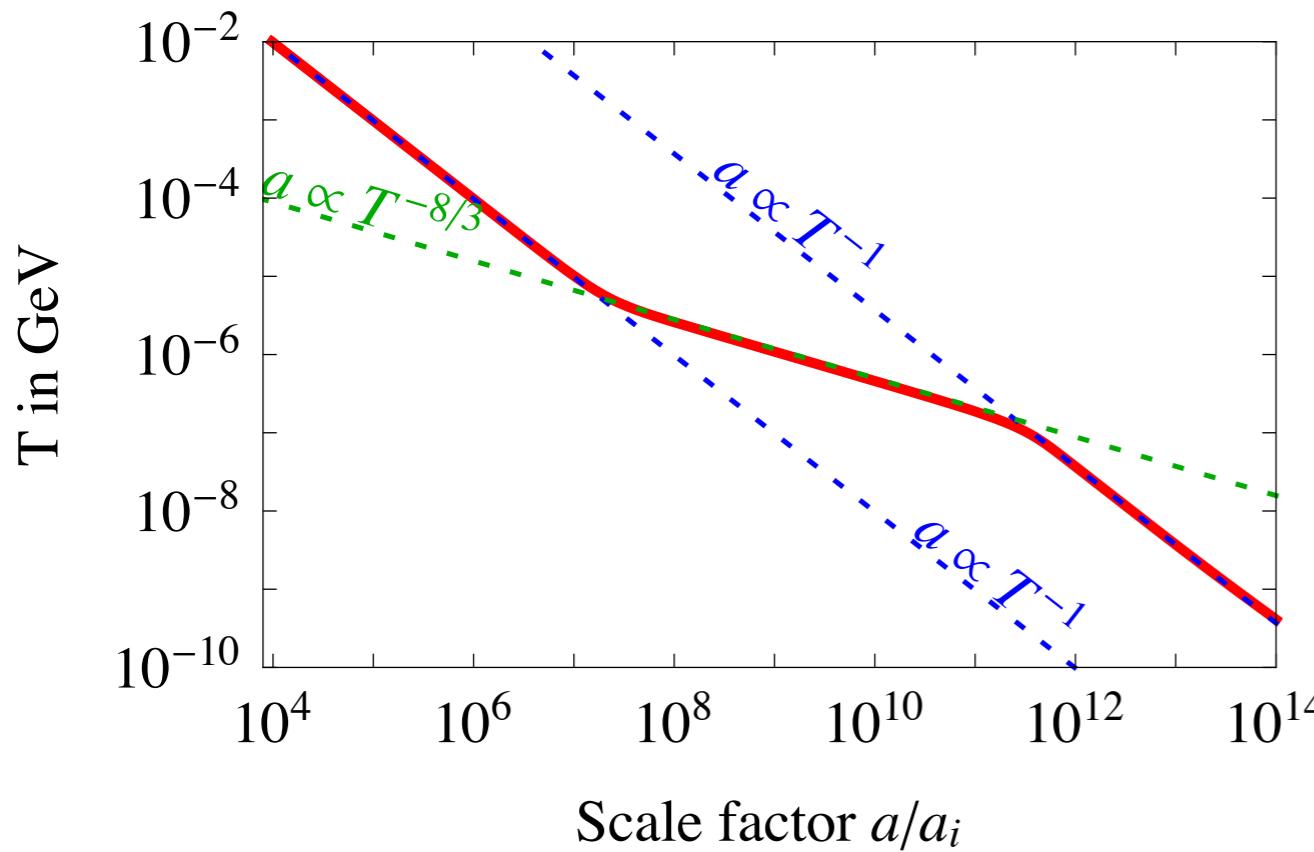
**VS**

$$\rho_r \approx g_{_{SM}}^* \Lambda_{DC}^4$$

# thermal history: dilution



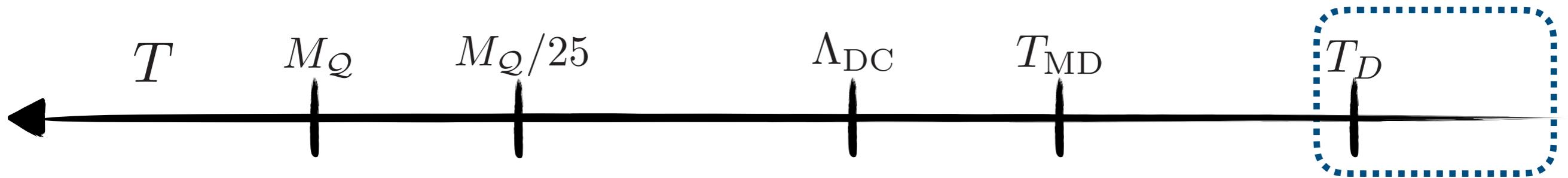
decays of this large amount of energy during an early stage of matter domination leads to a non-standard scaling:



$$a \propto T^{-8/3} \quad \text{instead of} \quad a \propto T^{-1}$$

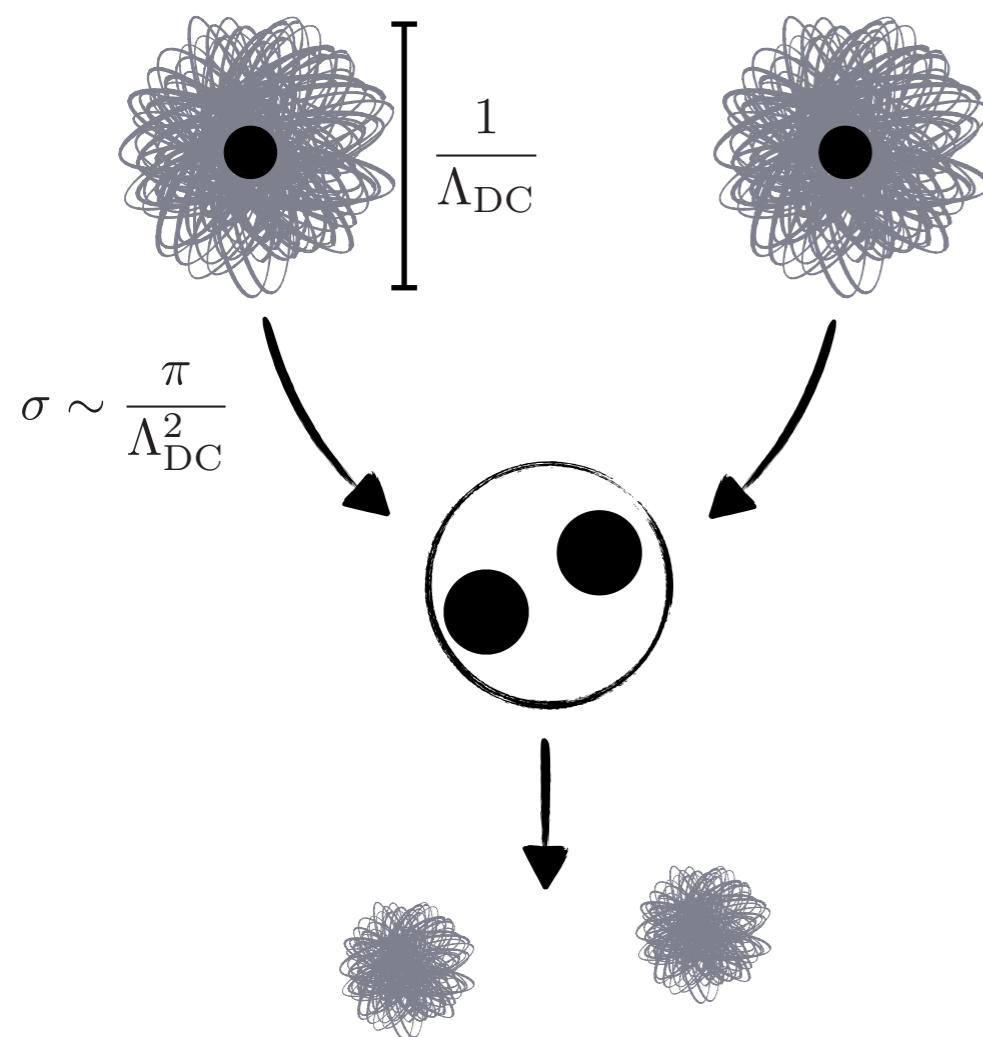
$$\Omega_{DM} = \Omega_{DM}^{\text{naive}} \left( \frac{T_D}{T_{MD}} \right)^5$$

# thermal history: reannihilation

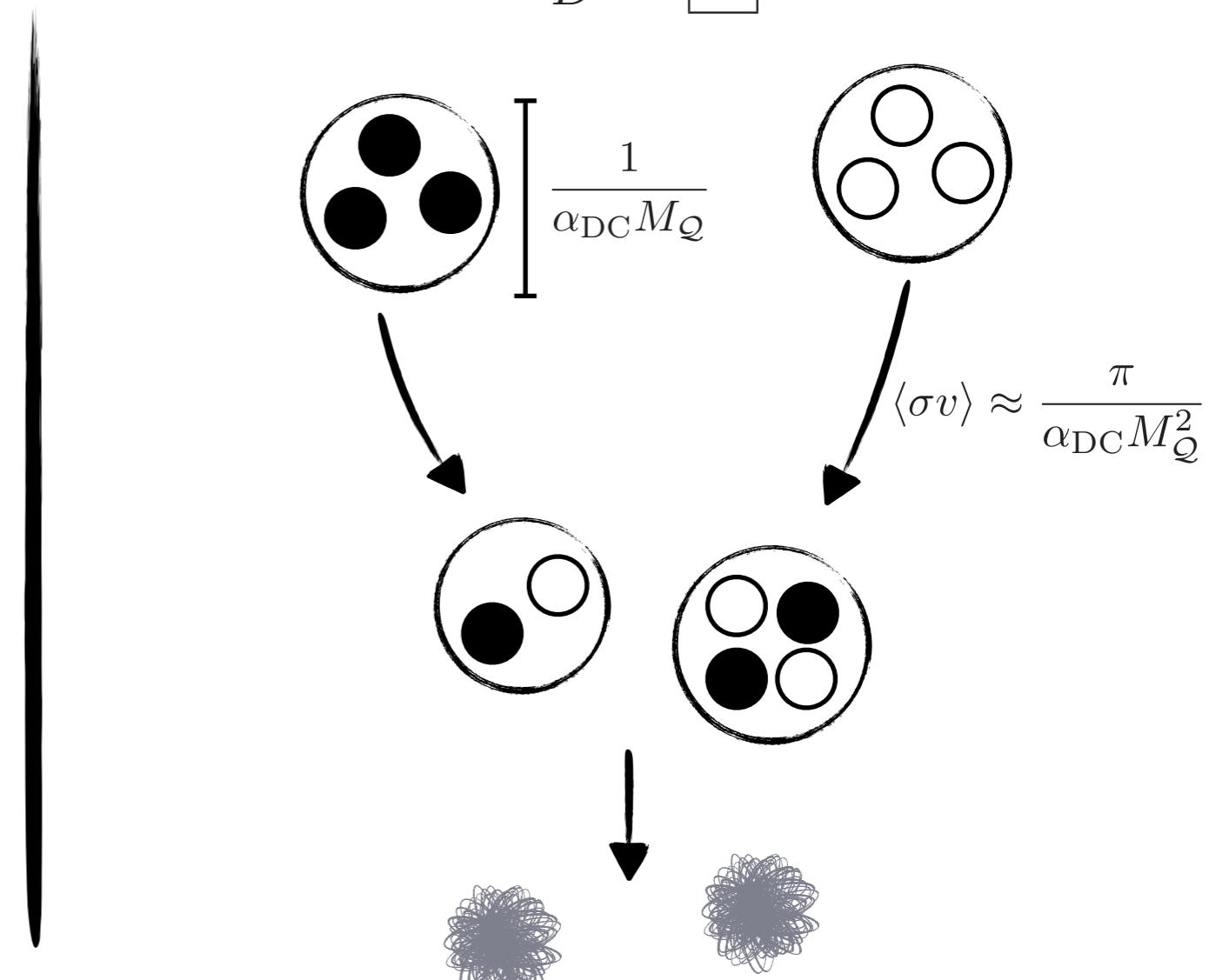


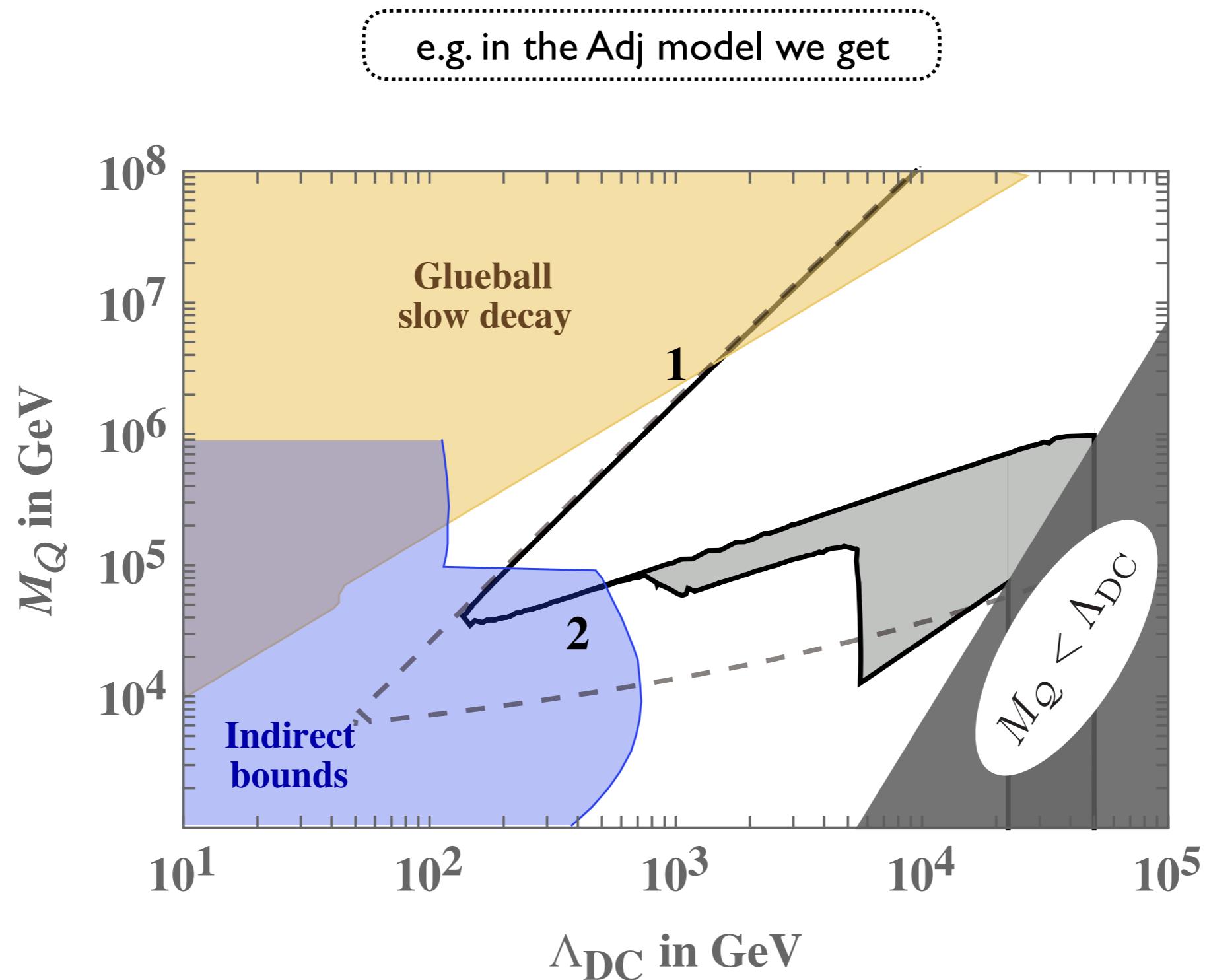
a second stage of annihilation can take place due to the large self scattering cross section of the DM

$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$



$$R_D = \square$$





① dilution dominates and prevent reannihilation

② reannihilation sets the final relic density

the light regime

$$M_Q \ll \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

# the spectrum

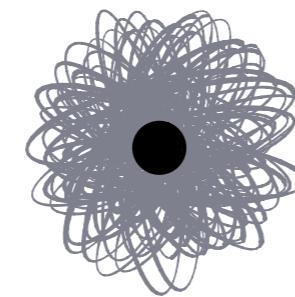
$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$

**DM candidate**

$$R_D = \square$$

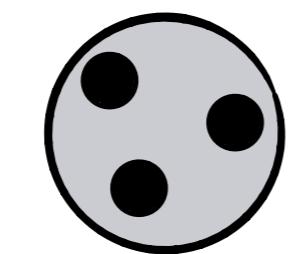
**lightest d.o.f**

$$\chi \sim (\mathcal{Q}g)$$



**gluequark**

$$\mathcal{B} \sim (\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q})$$



**dark baryon**

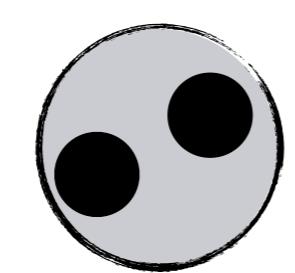
$$M_\chi \sim \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

$$\tau_\chi \sim 10^{28} \text{ s} \left( \frac{100 \text{ TeV}}{M_Q} \right)^5 \left( \frac{\Lambda_{\text{UV}}}{10^{18} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

$$M_{\mathcal{B}} \sim 3\Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

$$\tau_{\mathcal{B}} \sim \frac{10^{28}}{N_{DC}^5} \text{ s} \left( \frac{100 \text{ TeV}}{M_Q} \right)^5 \left( \frac{\Lambda_{\text{UV}}}{10^{18} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

$$\pi \sim (\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q})$$



**pions**

$$\text{SU}(3) \rightarrow \text{SO}(3) \quad \text{five PNGB in a } 5_0$$

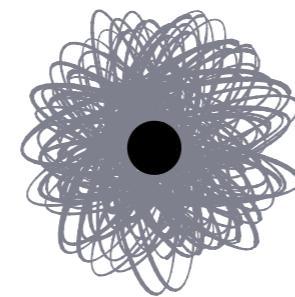
$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$

$$m_\pi^2 \sim M_Q \Lambda_{\text{DC}} + \frac{9}{2\pi} \Lambda_{\text{DC}}^2$$

# the spectrum

$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$

$$\chi \sim (\mathcal{Q}g)$$

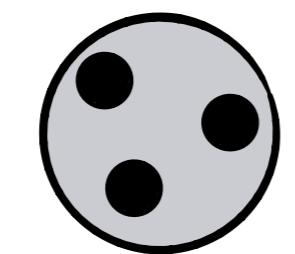


**gluequark**

**DM candidate**

$$R_D = \square$$

$$\mathcal{B} \sim (\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q})$$

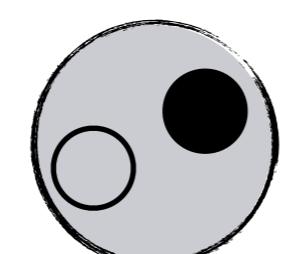


**dark baryon**

**lightest d.o.f**

$$R_D = \square$$

$$\pi \sim (\mathcal{Q}\bar{\mathcal{Q}})$$



**pions**

$$M_\chi \sim \Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

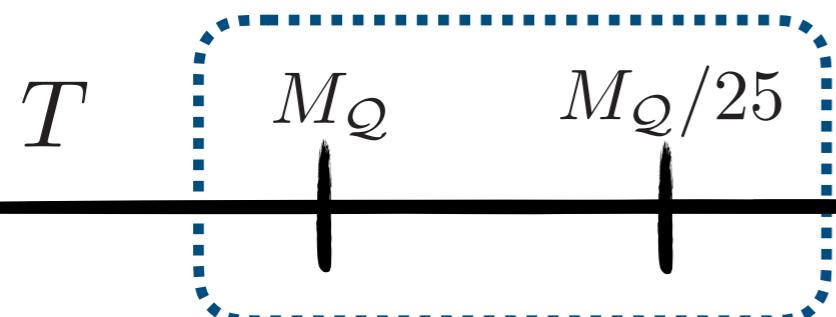
$$\tau_\chi \sim 10^{28} \text{ s} \left( \frac{100 \text{ TeV}}{M_Q} \right)^5 \left( \frac{\Lambda_{\text{UV}}}{10^{18} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

$$M_{\mathcal{B}} \sim 3\Lambda_{\text{DC}}$$

$$\tau_{\mathcal{B}} \sim \frac{10^{28}}{N_{DC}^5} \text{ s} \left( \frac{100 \text{ TeV}}{M_Q} \right)^5 \left( \frac{\Lambda_{\text{UV}}}{10^{18} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4$$

$$\text{SU}(6) \rightarrow \text{SO}(6) \text{ eight PNGB in a } 3_0 \oplus 5_0$$

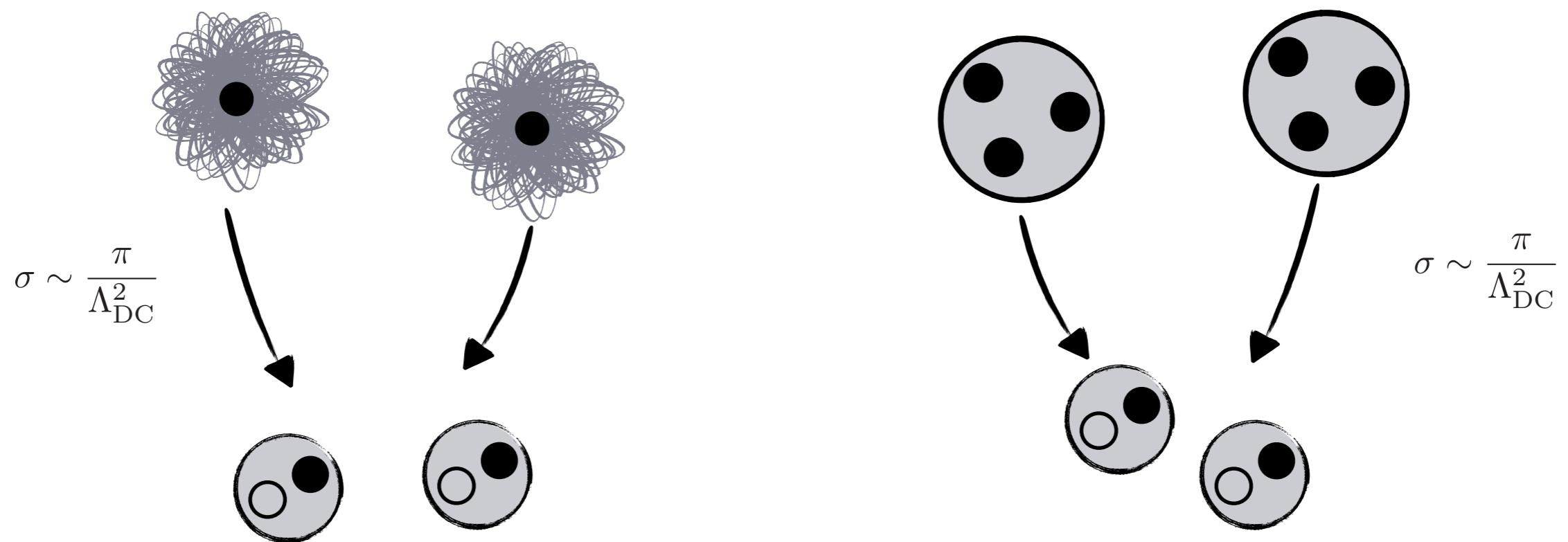
$$m_\pi^2 \sim M_Q \Lambda_{\text{DC}} + \frac{9}{2\pi} \Lambda_{\text{DC}}^2$$



only one relevant scale in the game:  $\Lambda_{\text{DC}}$

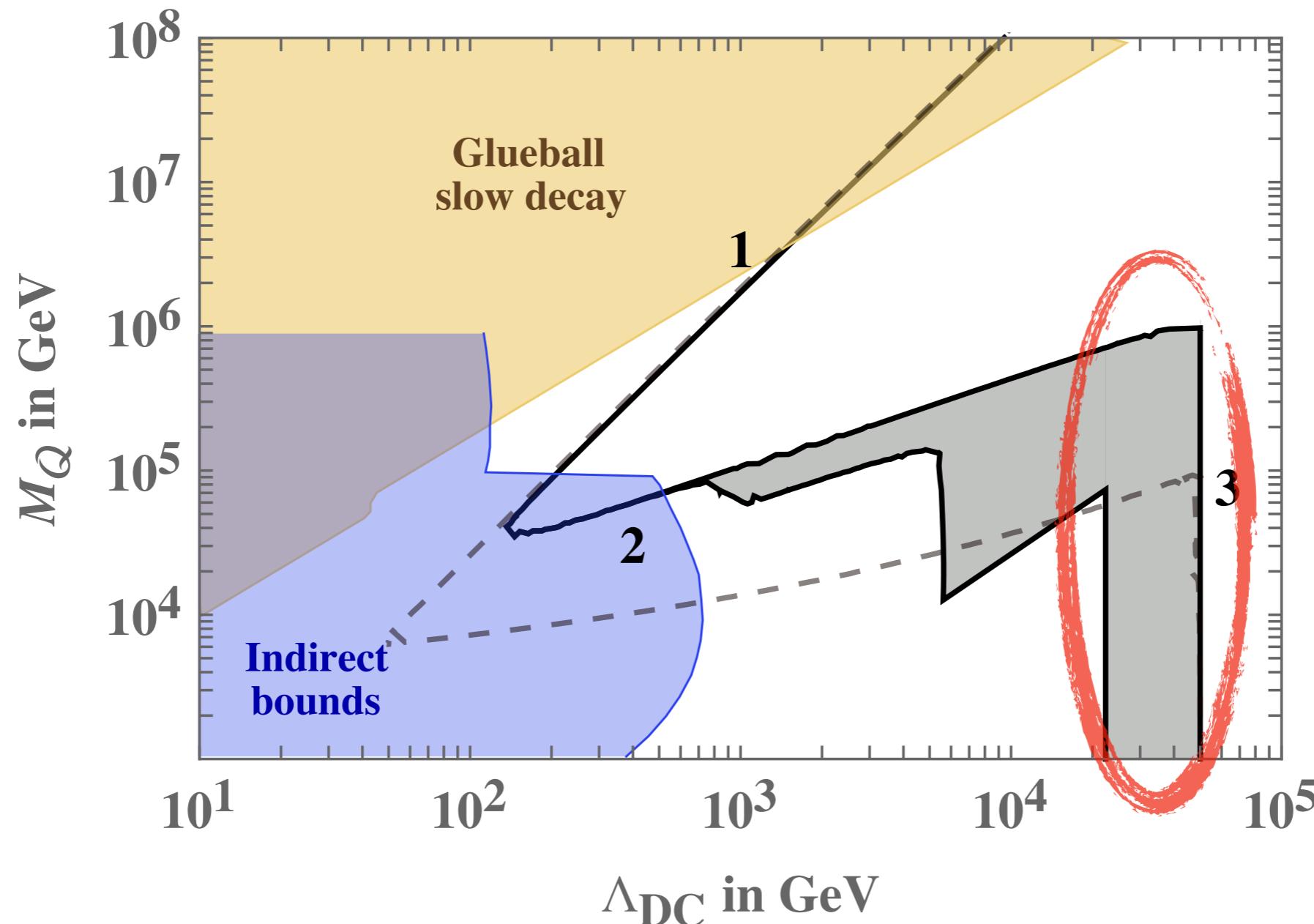
$$R_D = \text{Adj}$$

$$R_D = \square$$



$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} \sim \frac{M_{\text{DM}}}{T_{\text{f.o.}}} \frac{1}{\langle \sigma v \rangle} \propto \Lambda_{\text{DC}}^2$$

e.g. in the Adj model we get



experimental signatures

# experimental searches and cosmological constraints

residual **annihilations** or **decays** of DM particles could give rise to indirect detection **signals**

large uncertainties on the annihilation cross section

best guess

$$\text{Adj} \rightarrow \sigma v \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{DC}}^2}$$

$$\square \rightarrow \sigma v \sim \frac{\pi}{\alpha_{\text{DC}} M_Q^2}$$

higher dim. operators can induce DM decays

$$\tau_{\text{DM}} \sim \frac{\Lambda_{\text{UV}}^4}{M_{\text{DM}}^5}$$

CMB spectral distortions

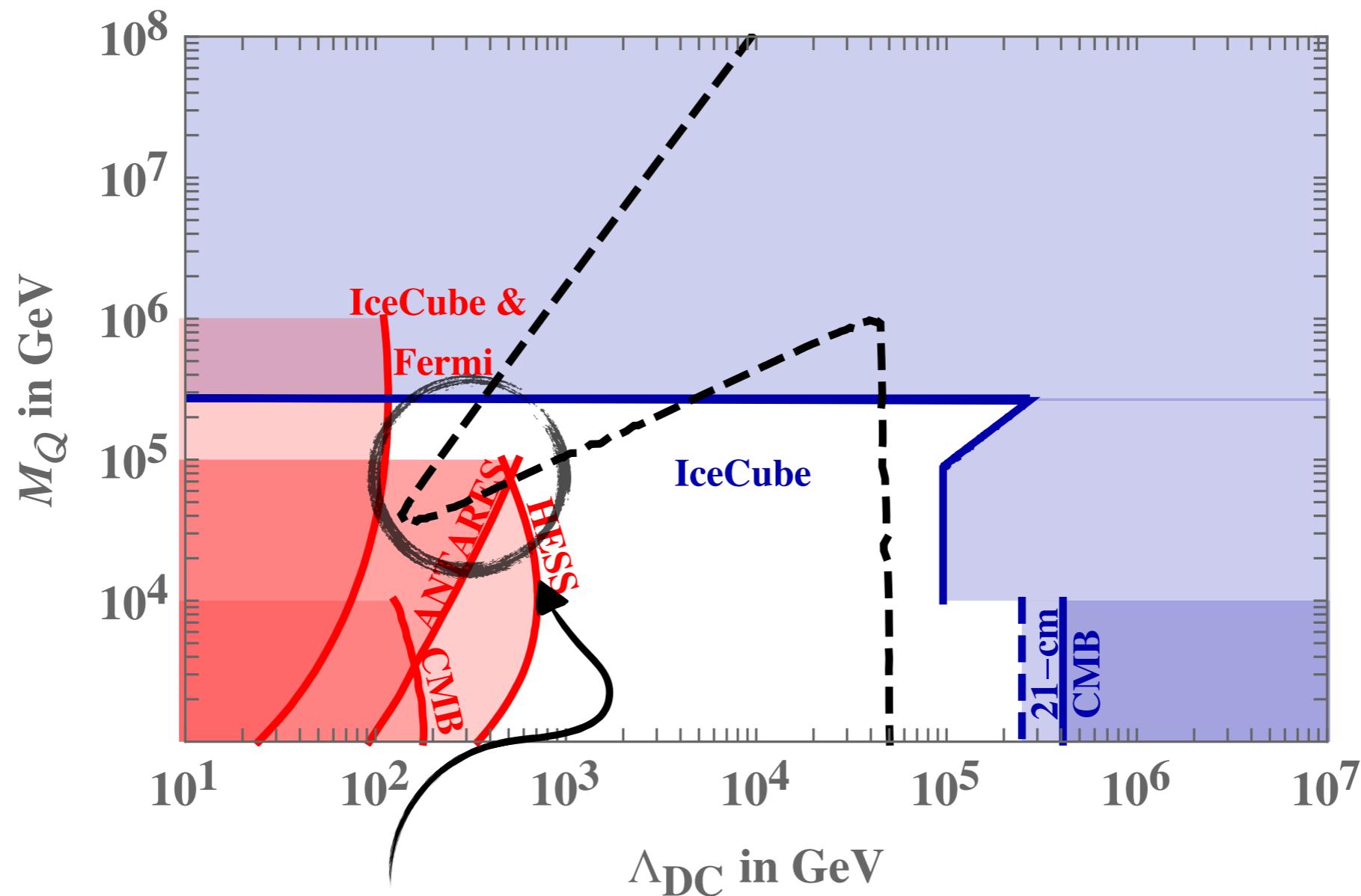
21 cm signal

cosmic ray observations

# experimental searches and cosmological constraints

e.g. in the Adj. model we get

$$\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v \rangle = \Lambda_{\text{DC}}^{-2}$$



masses up to 100 TeV can be tested  
because of the huge enhancement of  
annihilation cross sections

bound states can give  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  corrections to thermal relic densities

DM itself can be in the form of bound states

bound state can enhance indirect detection signal

bound state DM can be much heavier than usual WIMP