

# Direct Dark Matter Searches ... in Freiburg



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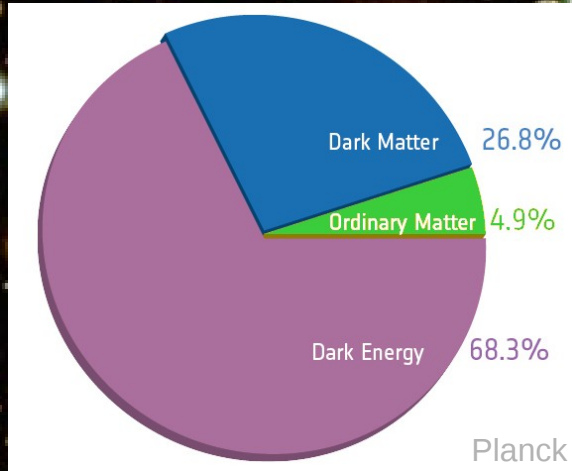
GRK 2044 Seminar, Universität Freiburg, December 7, 2016

[marc.schumann@physik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:marc.schumann@physik.uni-freiburg.de)

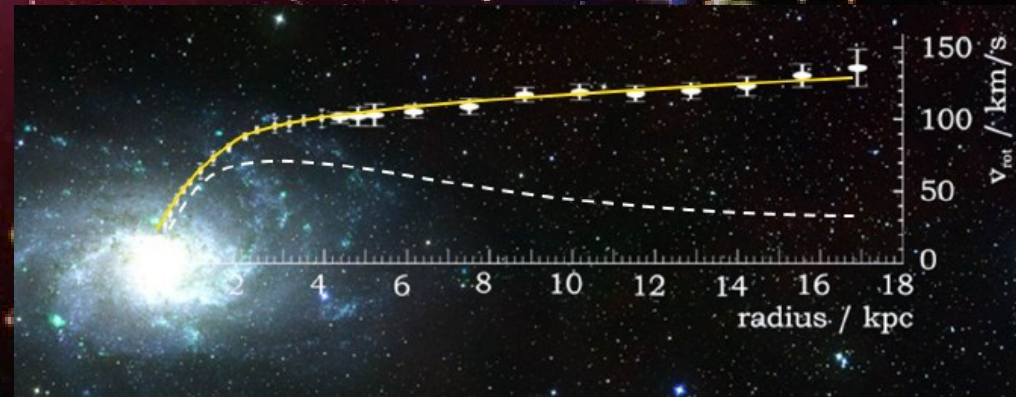
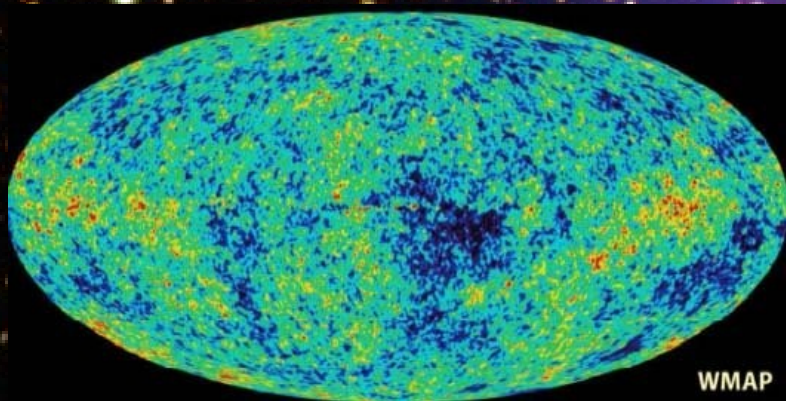




# Dark Matter: (indirect) Evidence



The indirect evidence for the existence of dark matter is a clear indication for physics beyond the Standard Model



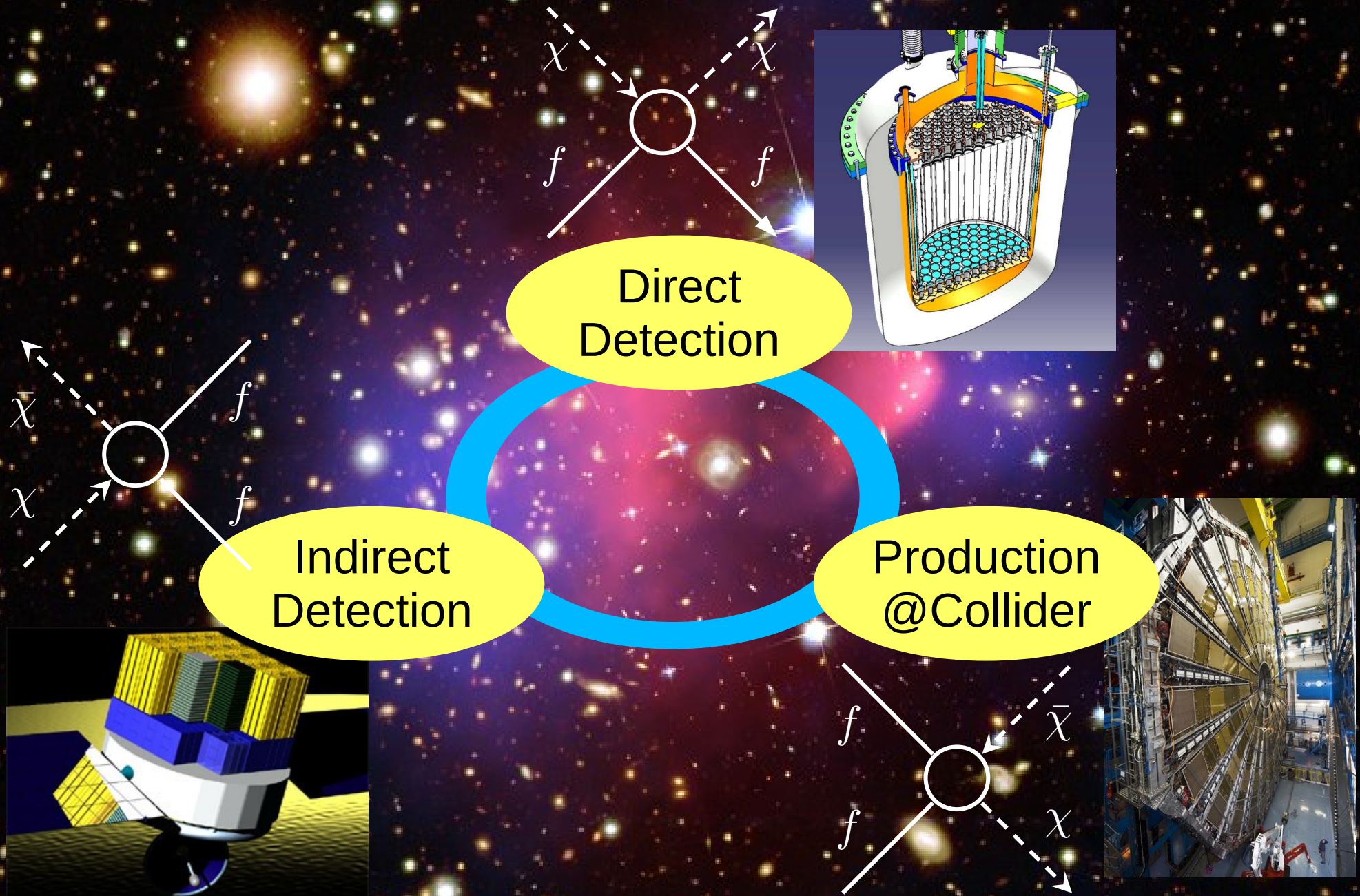
# THE DM CANDIDATES ZOO

## WIMPs

= weakly interacting massive particles

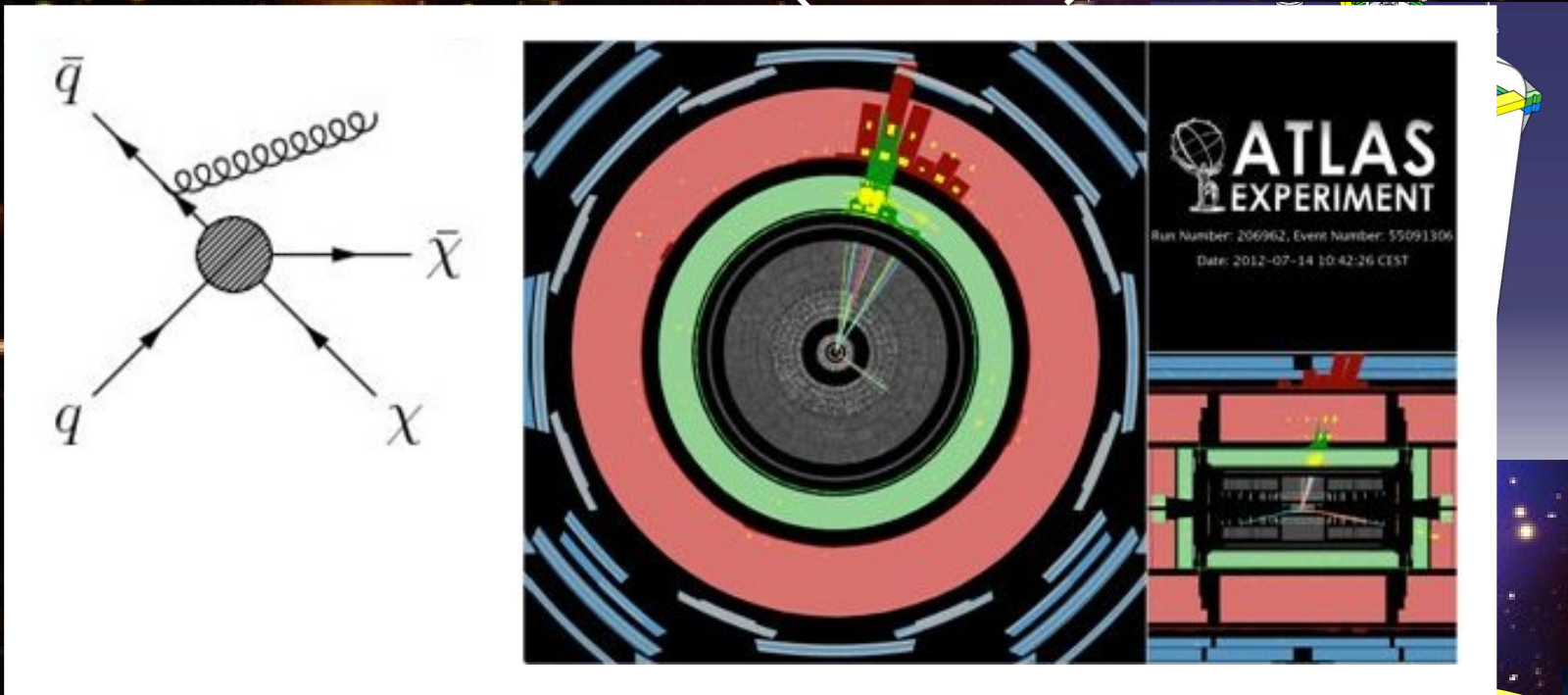


# Dark Matter WIMP Search



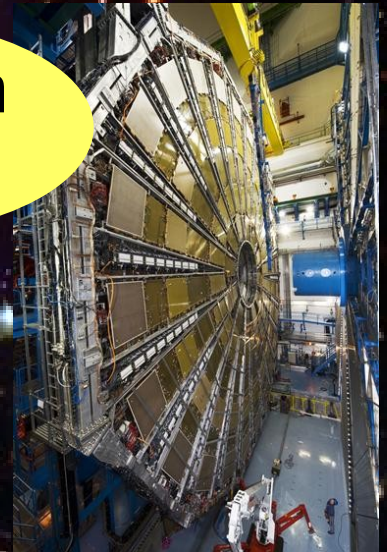
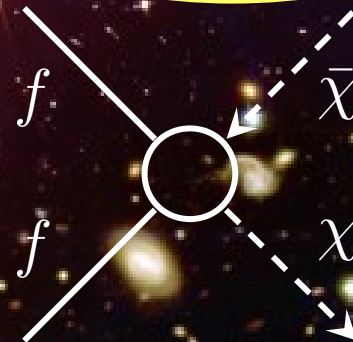
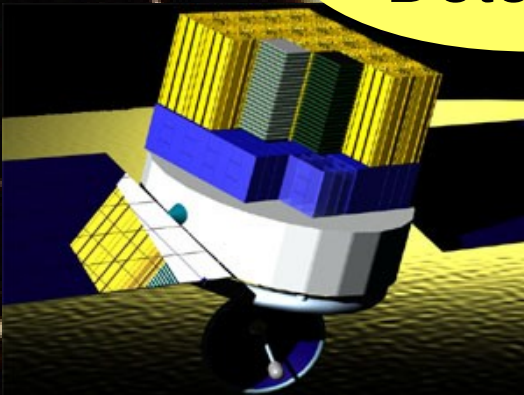


# Dark Matter WIMP Search



Indirect  
Detection

Production  
@Collider



# Direct WIMP Search

Direct Detection:

$$E_r < 100 \text{ keV}$$

$$R < 1 \text{ evt/kg/year}$$

Recoil Energy:

$$E_r \sim \mathcal{O}(10 \text{ keV})$$

Event Rate:

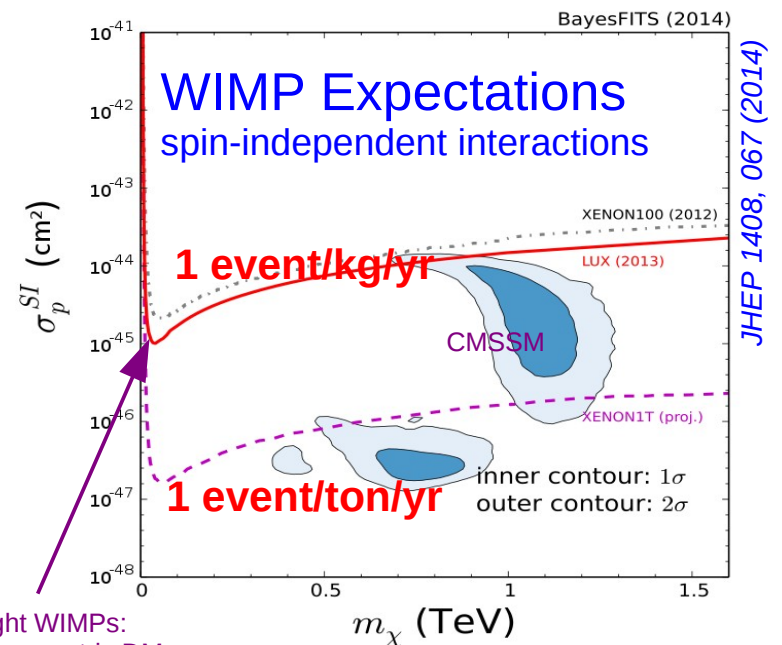
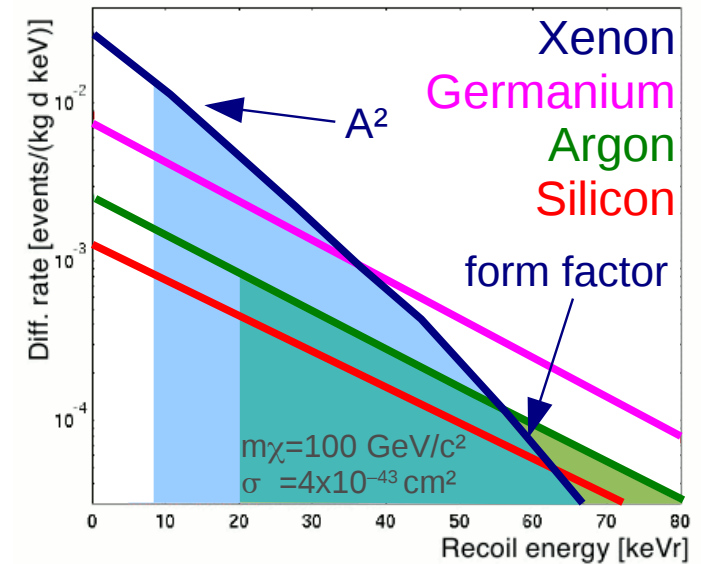
$$R \propto N \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} \langle \sigma_{\chi-N} \rangle$$

Detector

Local DM  
Density

Physics

$$\rho_\chi \sim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$



light WIMPs:  
asymmetric DM,  
sneutrinos, ...



# Direct WIMP Search

## Direct Detection:

$$E_r < 100 \text{ keV}$$

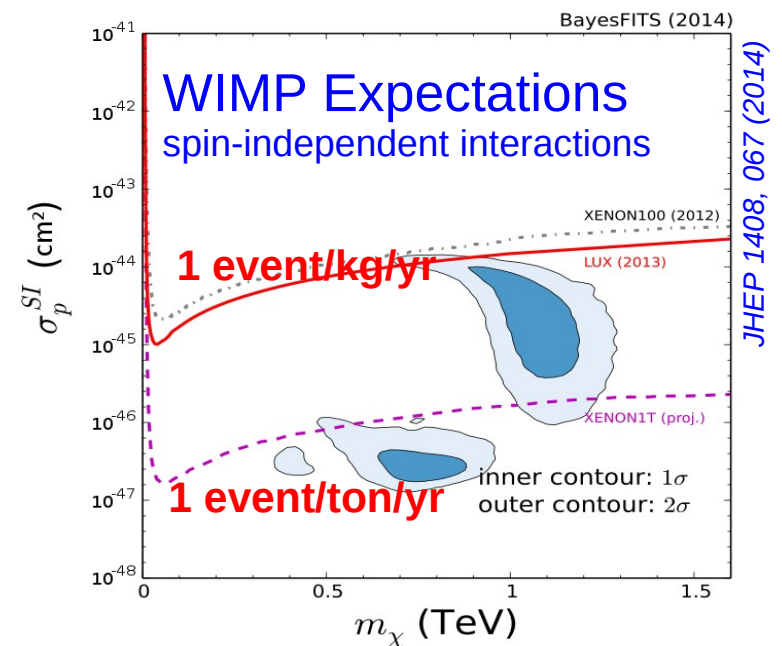
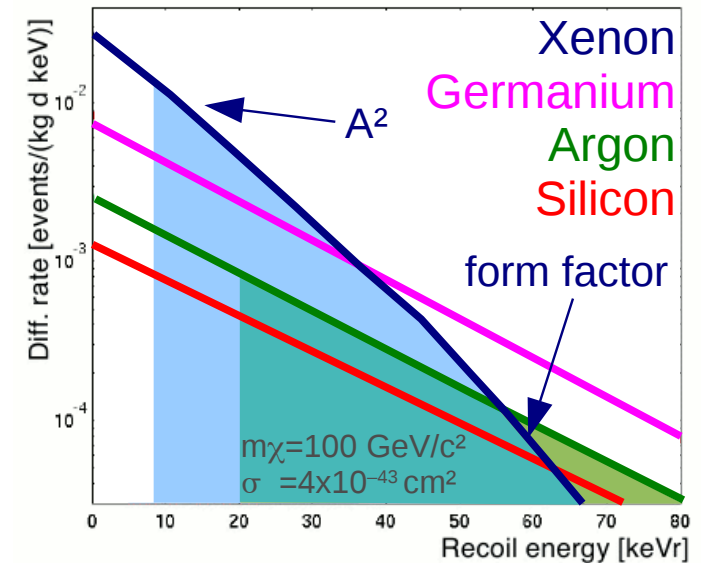
$$R < 1 \text{ evt/kg/year}$$

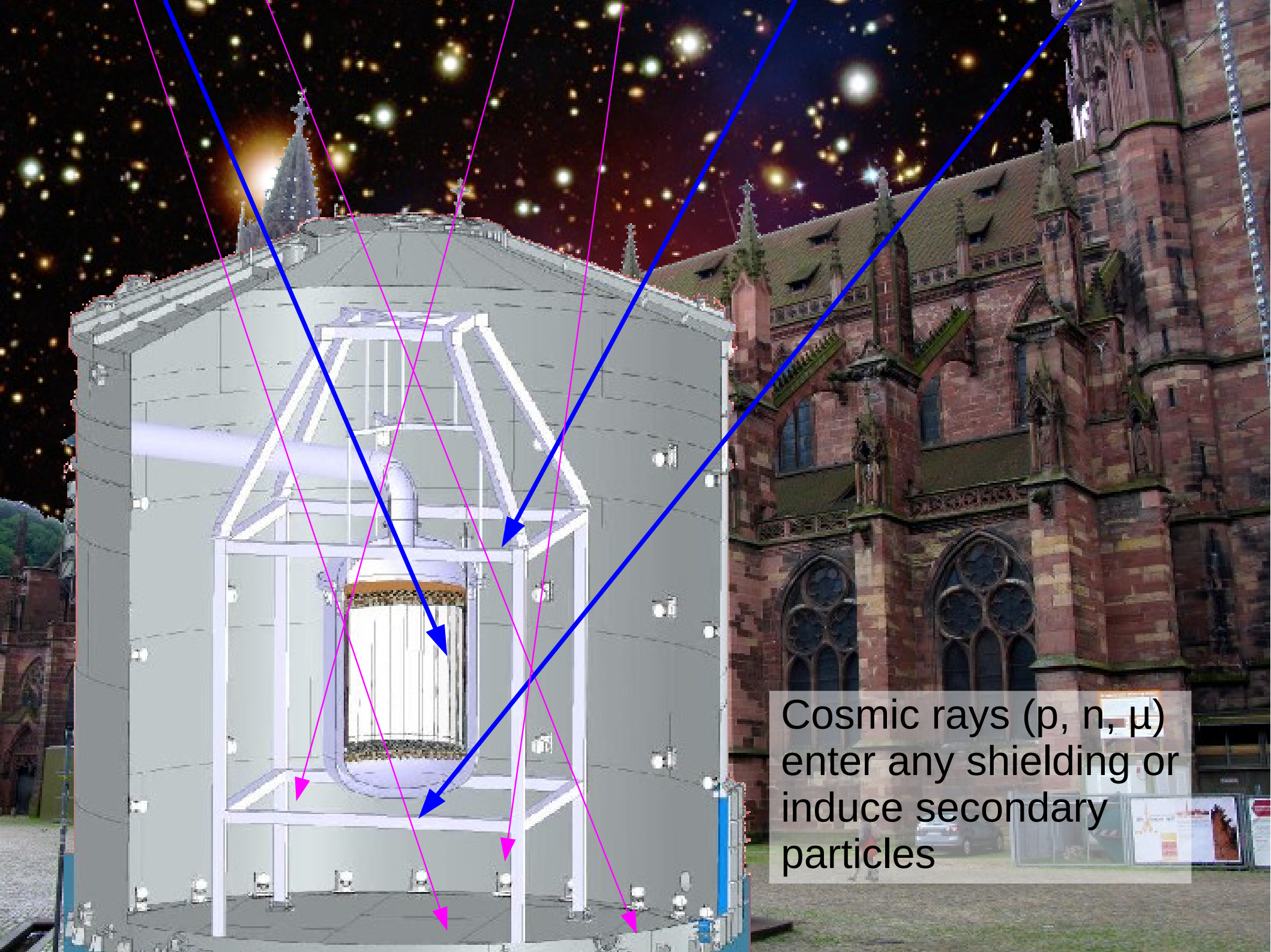
## How to build a WIMP detector?

- large total mass, high  $A$  ✓
- low energy threshold ✓ for liquid
- ultra low background ✓ xenon TPCs
- good signal / background discrimination ✓

## We are dealing with

- extremely **low rates** ( $O(1)$  Hz)
- extremely **low thresholds** ( $\sim 2$  keV)
- extremely **low radioactive** backgrounds





Cosmic rays ( $p$ ,  $n$ ,  $\mu$ ) enter any shielding or induce secondary particles



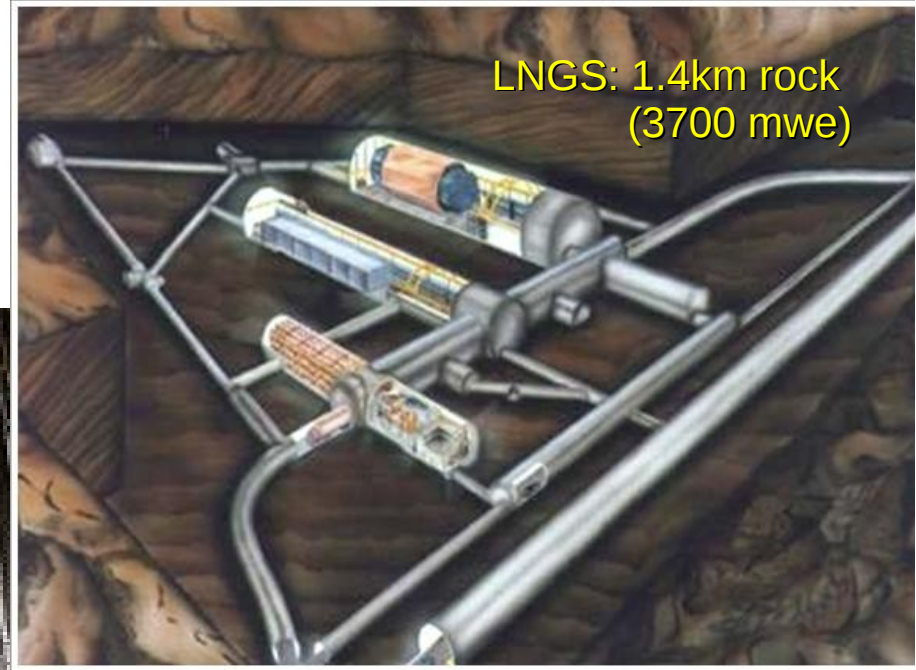






# Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso

LNGS: 1.4km rock  
(3700 mwe)





# Background Sources

muons

high-E neutrinos  
→ CNNS bg  
→ **NR signature**

pp+<sup>7</sup>Be neutrinos  
→ **ER signature**

muon-induced neutrons

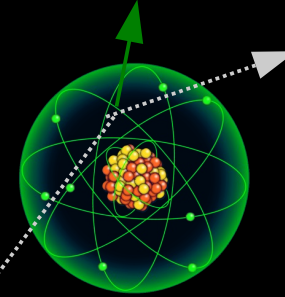
neutrons from (α,n) and sf

natural γ-bg

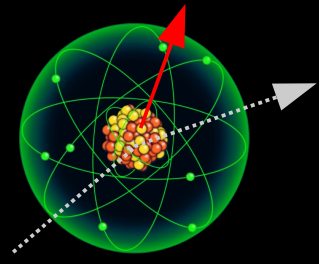
natural γ-bg

neutrons from (α,n) and sf

target-intrinsic bg:  
α-, β-, γ-radiation, n;  
activation, impurities,  
2νββ

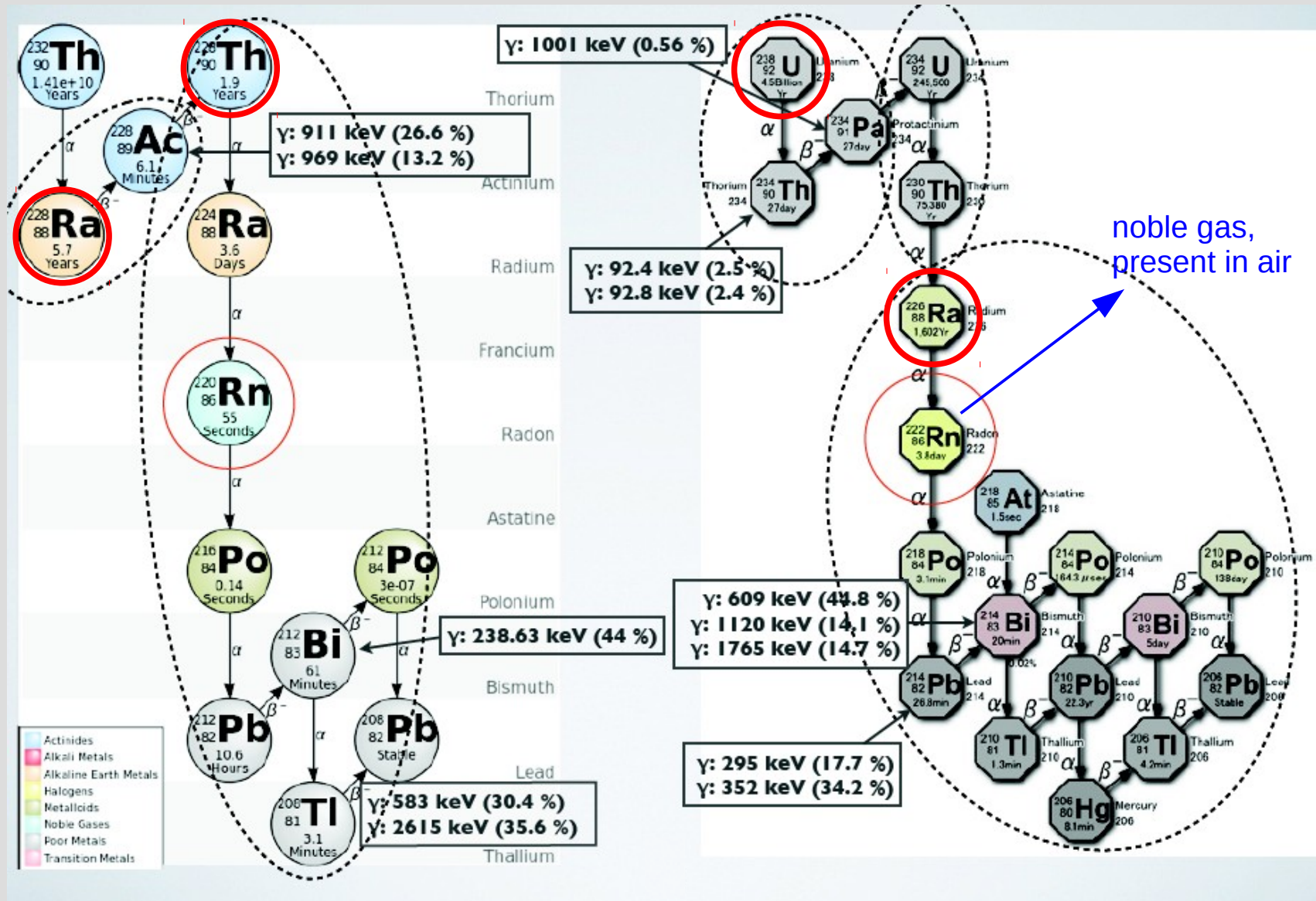


**Electronic Recoils**  
(gamma, beta)



**Nuclear Recoils**  
(neutron, WIMPs)

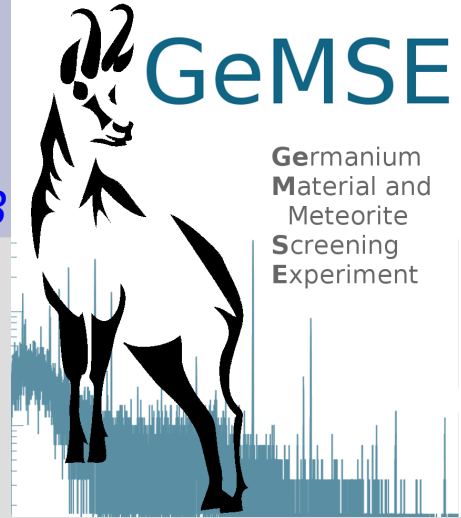
# The U and Th Chains



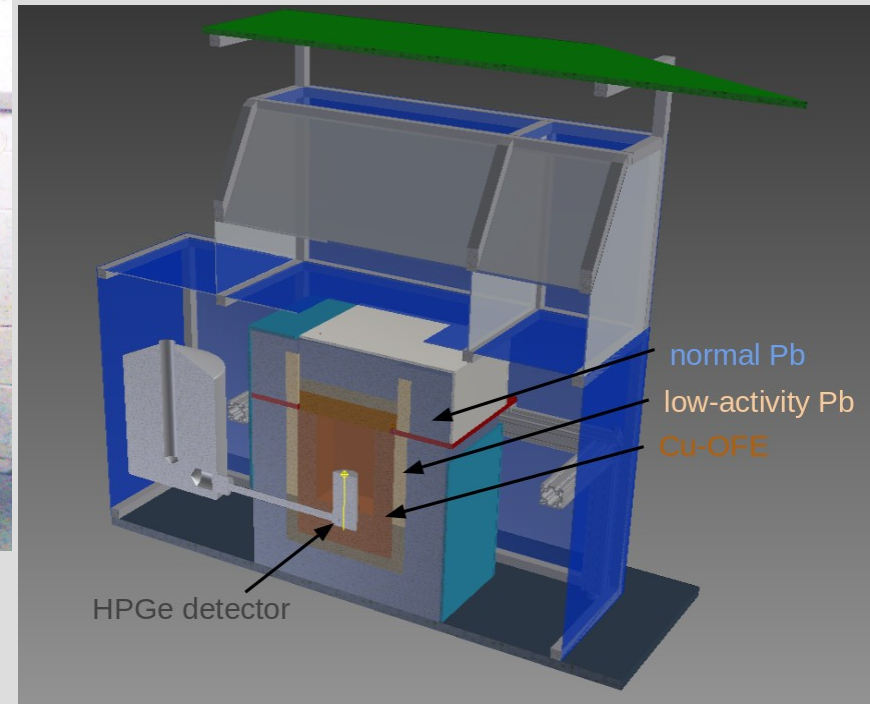
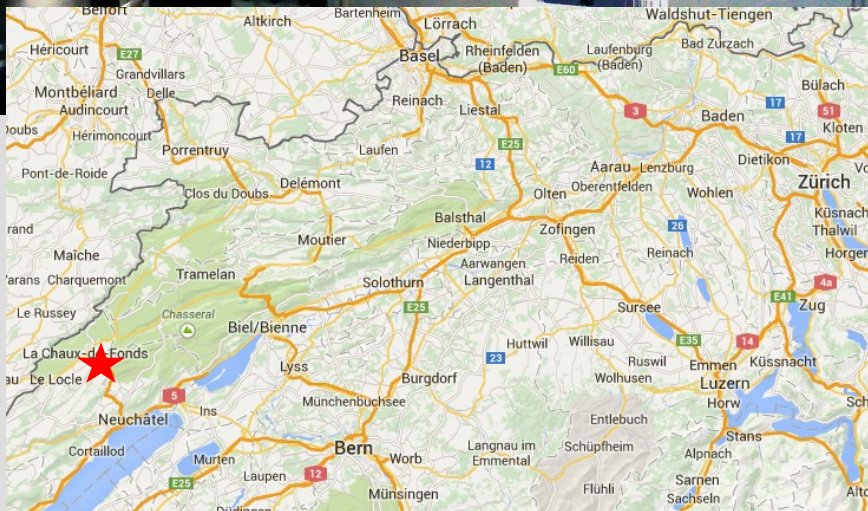


# Low-background Screening

arXiv:1606.03983

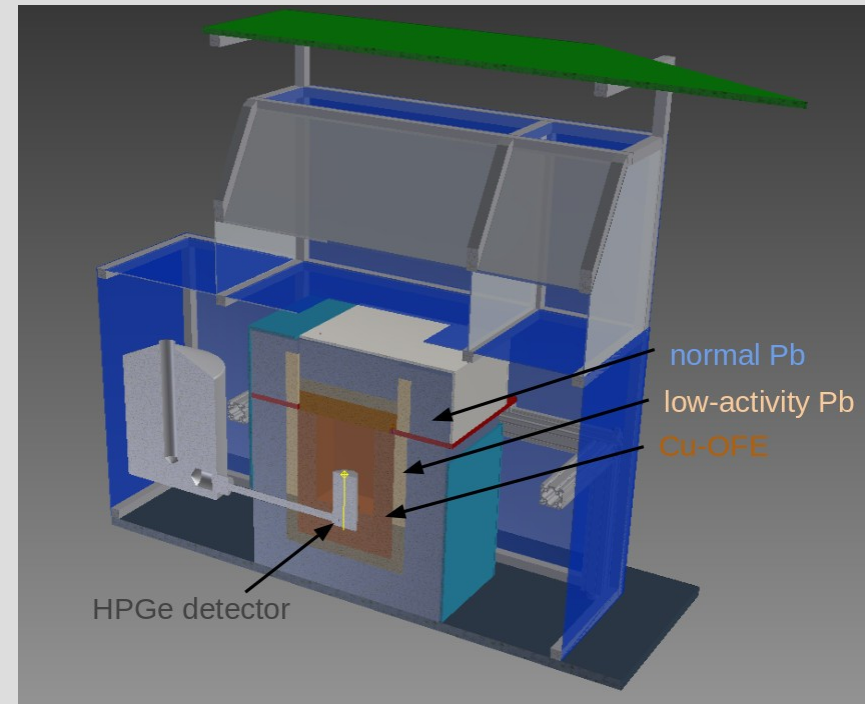
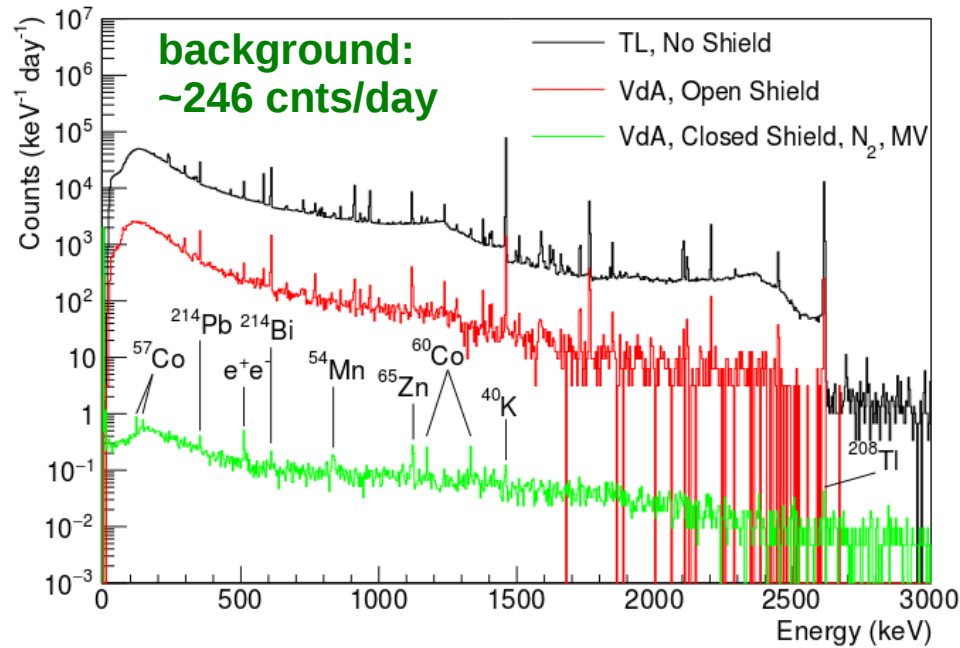
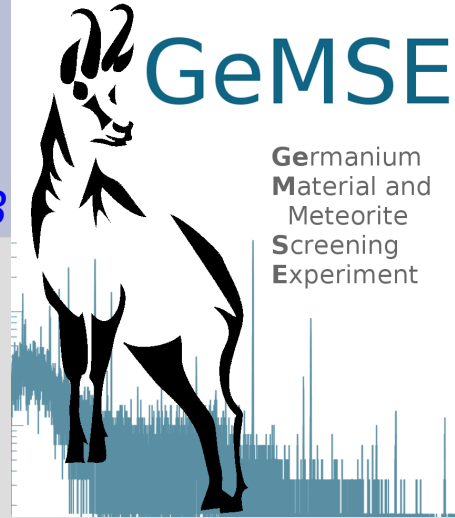


Vue des Alpes Laboratory  
(600 mwe)

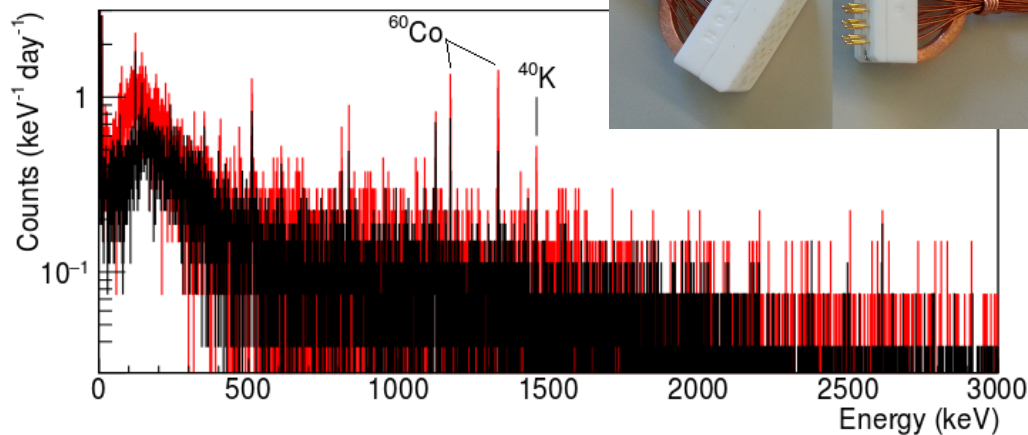


# Low-background Screening

arXiv:1606.03983



low-background HV connector





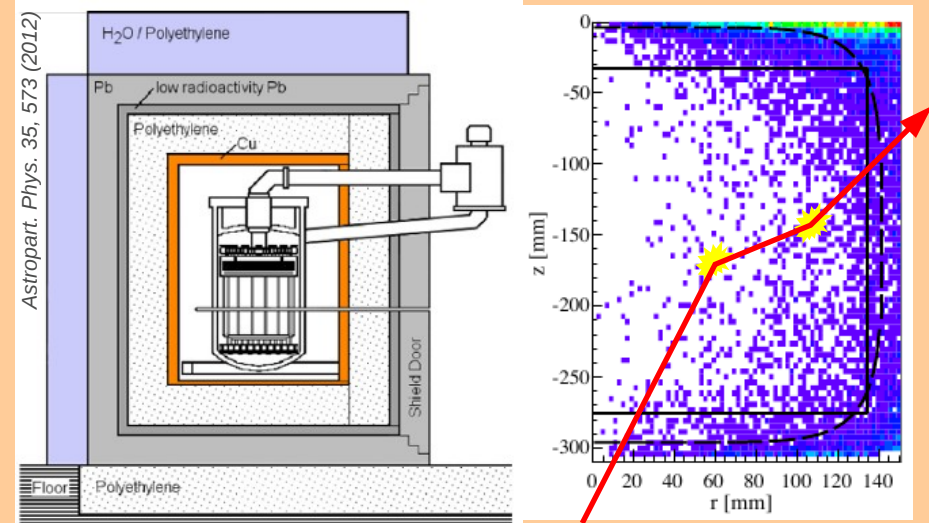
# Background Suppression

## A Avoid Backgrounds

Use of radiopure materials

Shielding

- deep underground location
- large shield (Pb, water, poly)
- active veto ( $\mu$ ,  $\gamma$  coincidence)
- self shielding  $\rightarrow$  fiducialization



## B Use knowledge about expected WIMP signal

WIMPs interact only once

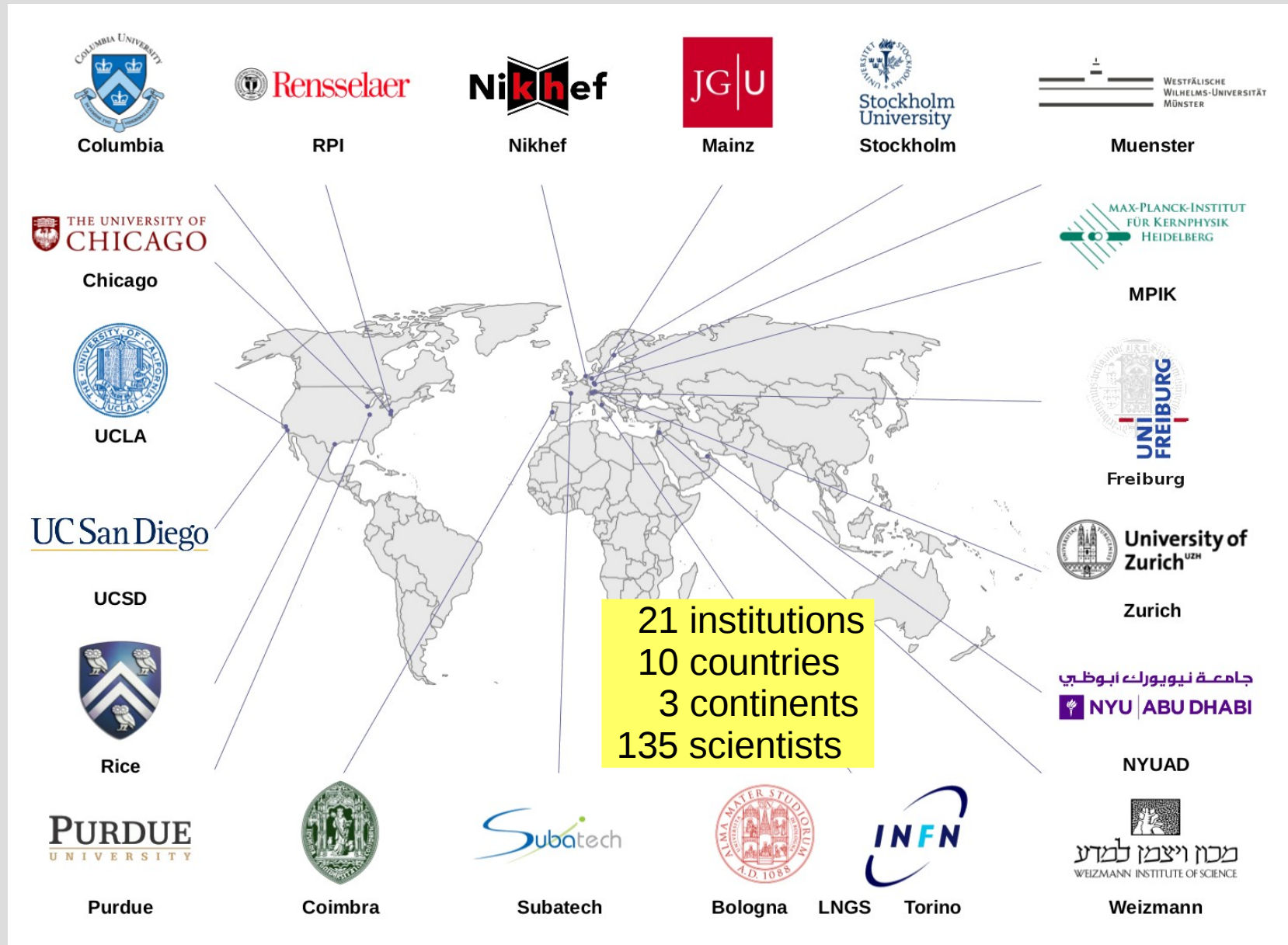
- $\rightarrow$  single scatter selection
- require some position resolution

WIMPs interact with target nuclei

- $\rightarrow$  nuclear recoils
- exploit different  $dE/dx$  from signal and background

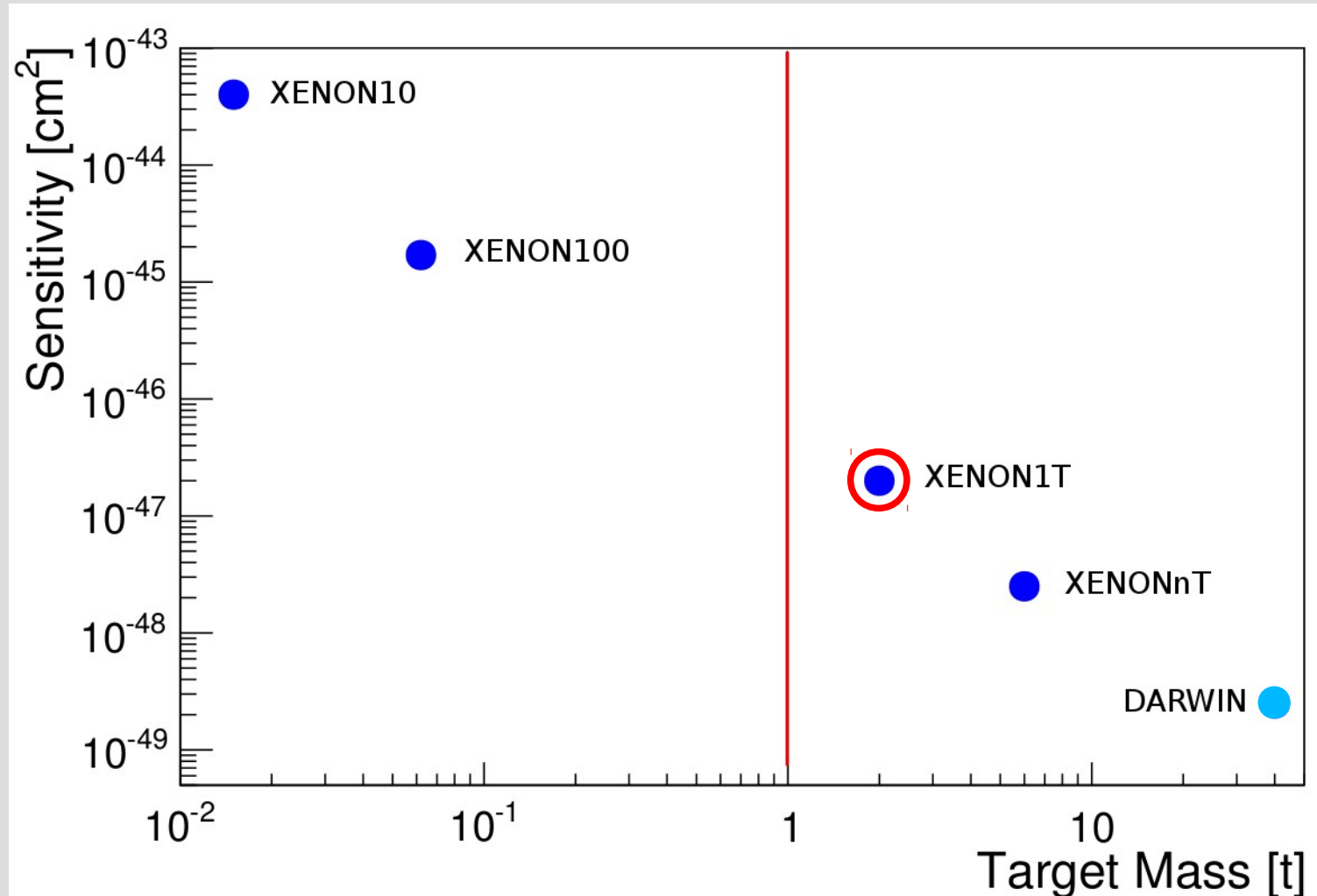
# The XENON Collaboration

[www.xenon1t.org](http://www.xenon1t.org)





# XENON Instruments

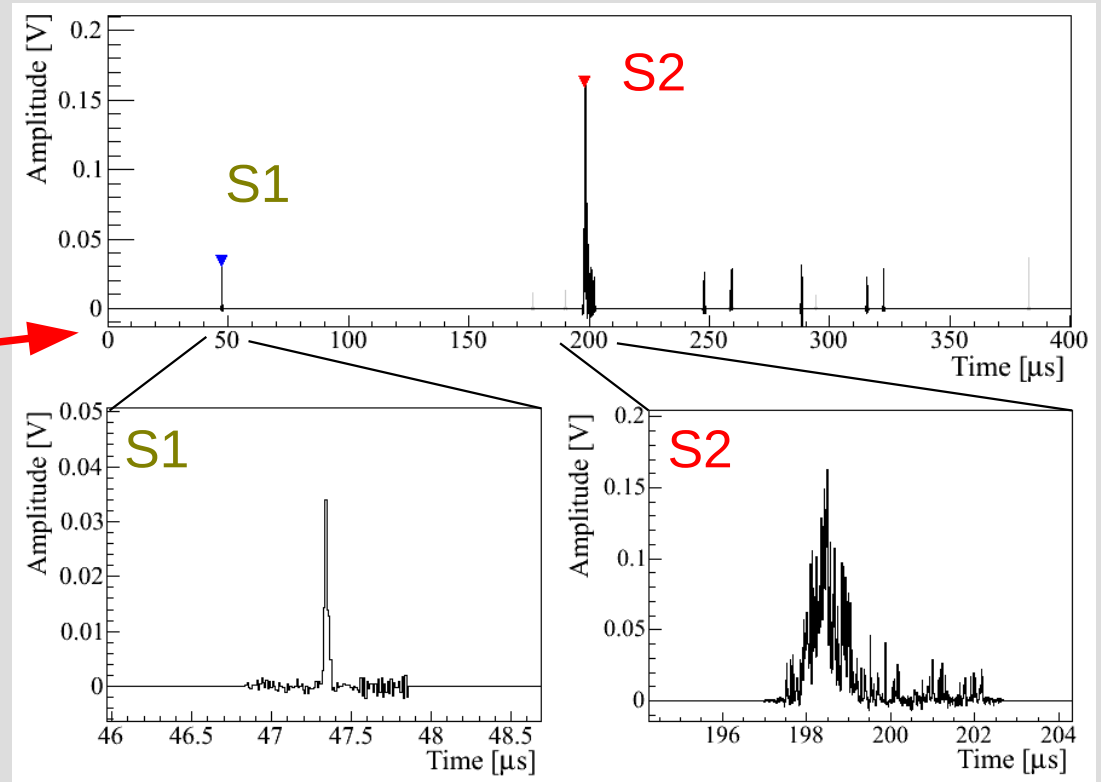
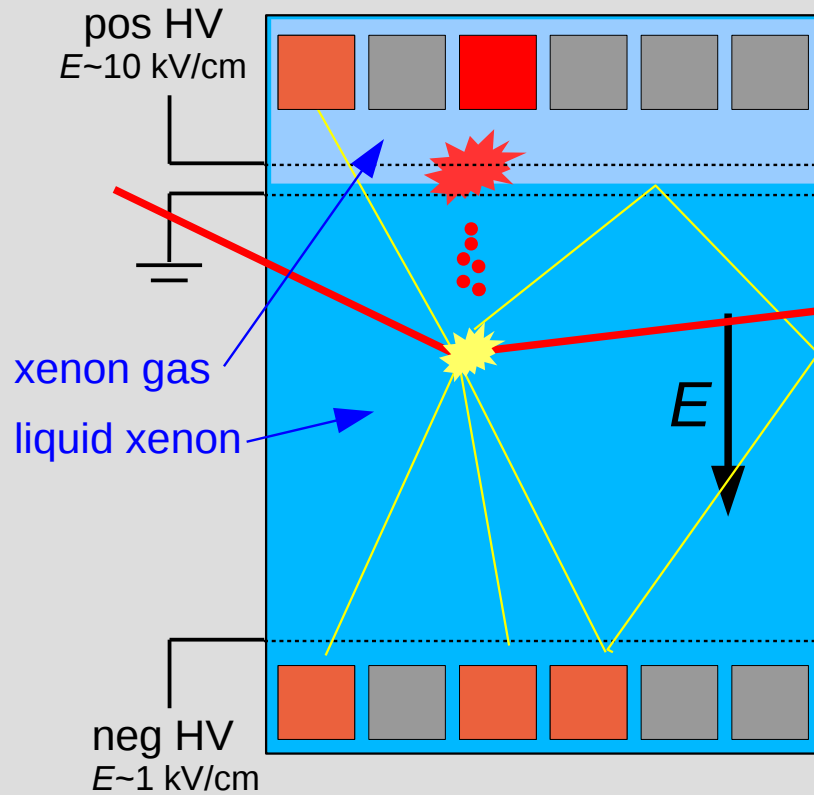


The XENON collaboration develops and operates dark matter detectors of increasing size and sensitivity

# Dual Phase TPC

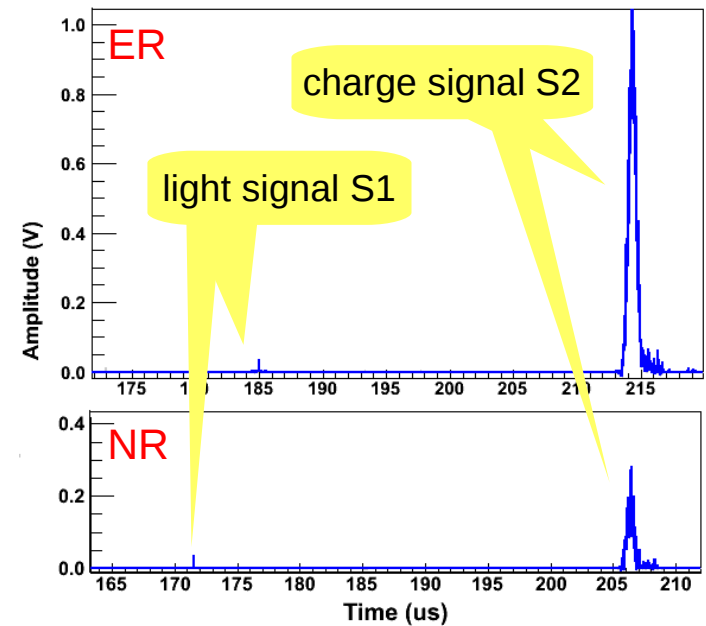
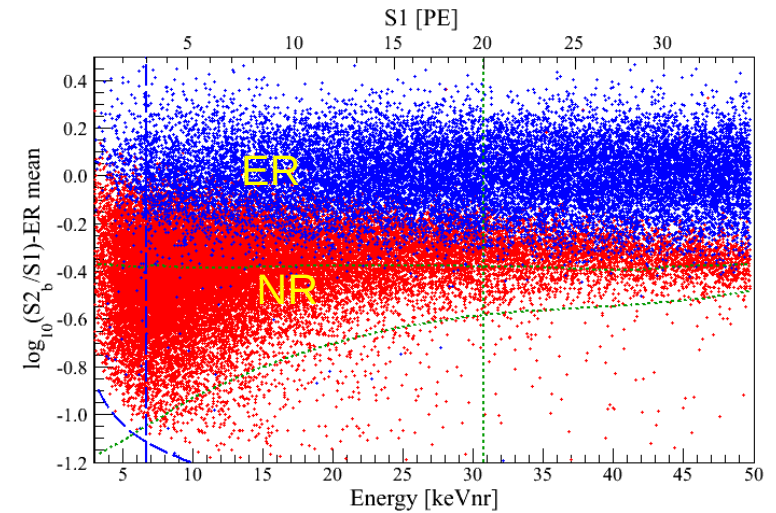
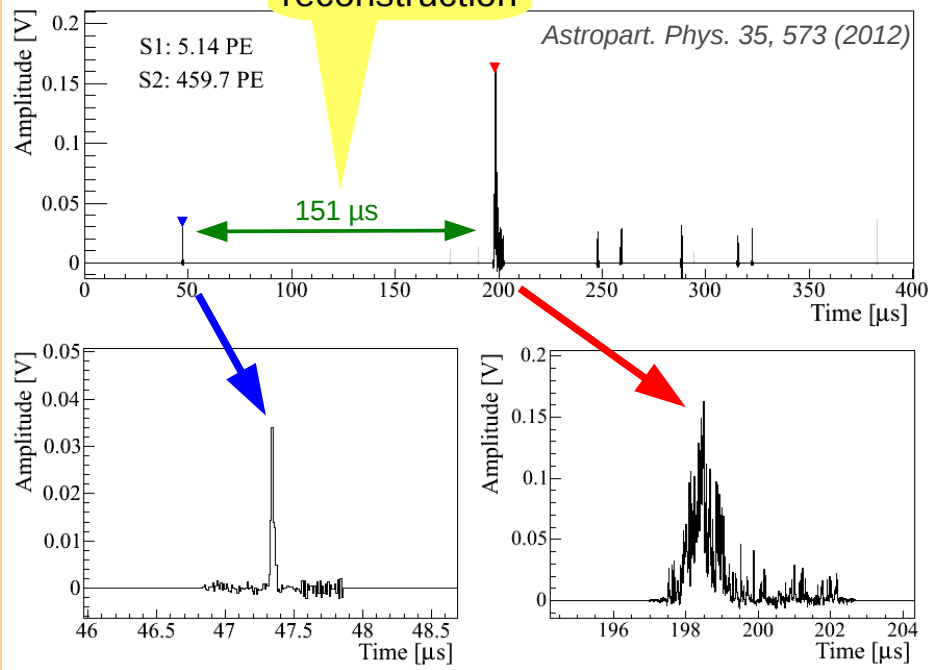
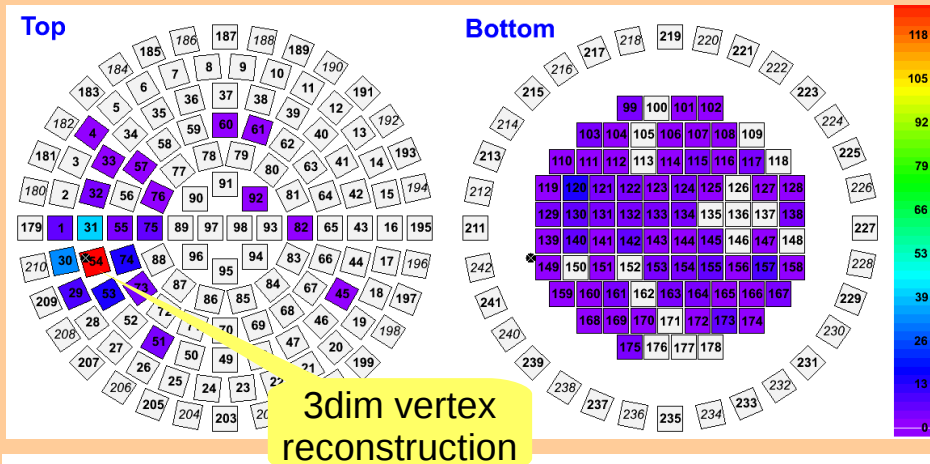
*Dolgoshein, Lebedenko, Rodionov, JETP Lett. 11, 513 (1970)*

TPC = time projection chamber





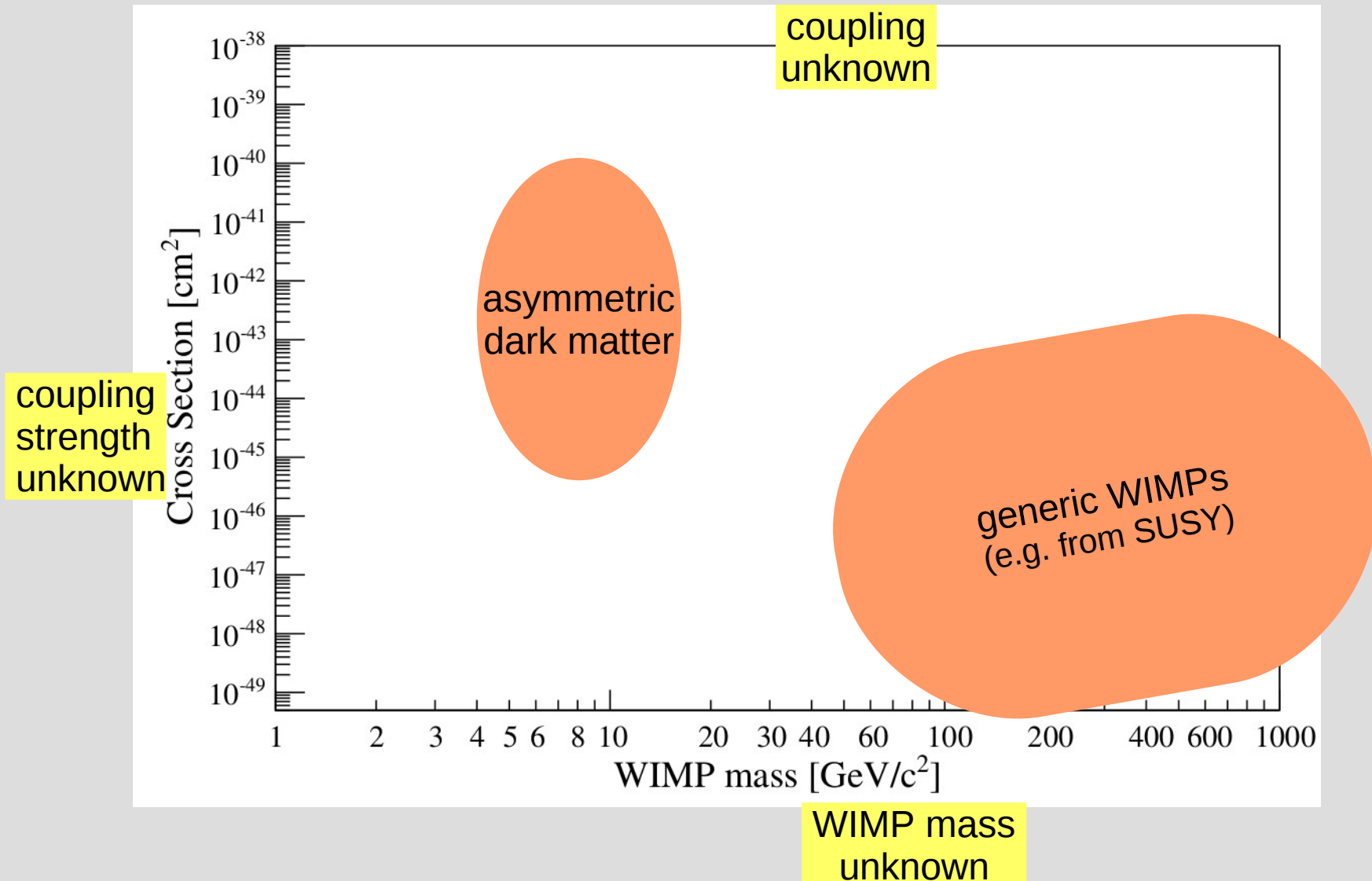
# Dual Phase TPC



Figures: XENON100

# The WIMP Parameter Space

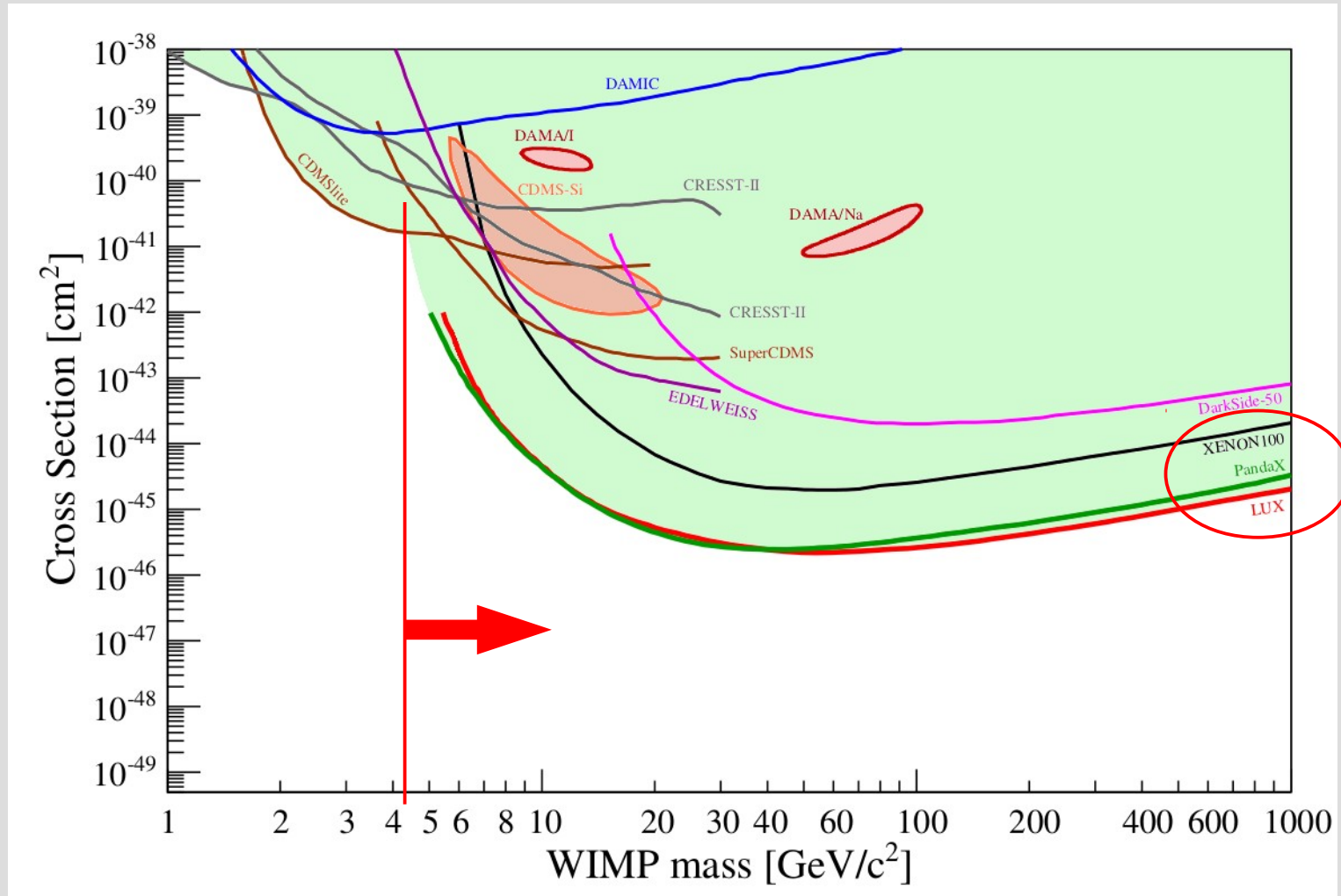
spin-independent WIMP-nucleon interactions





# State-of-the-Art

spin-independent WIMP-nucleon interactions



*some results are missing...*

# XENON1T @ LNGS





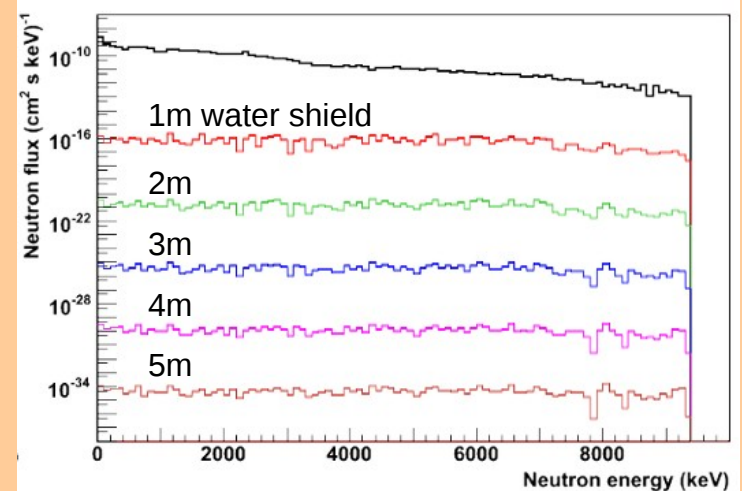
# XENON1T @ LNGS



## Water Cerenkov Shield

*JINST 9, P11006 (2014)*

- 9.6m diameter, 10m height
  - external  $\gamma$ , neutrons irrelevant
  - muon induced NRs irrelevant
- dominating background of XENON1T will be intrinsic







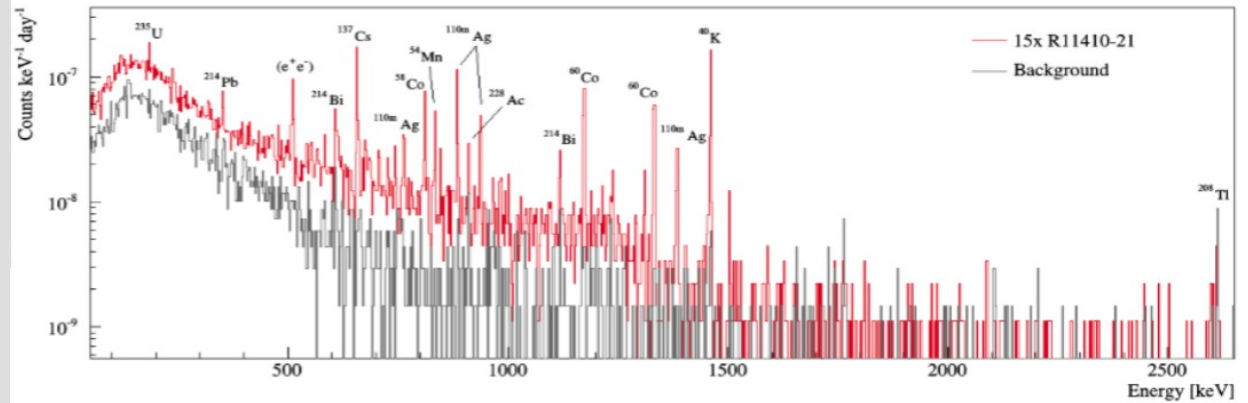


# PMTs: Hamamatsu R11410-21

JINST 8, P04026 (2013)  
EPJ C 75, 546 (2015)

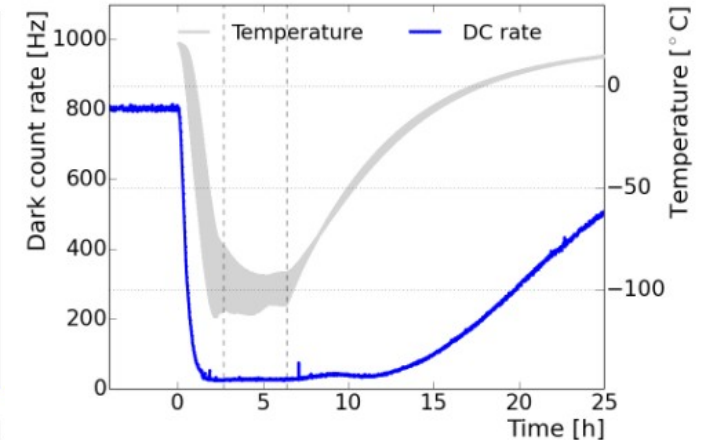
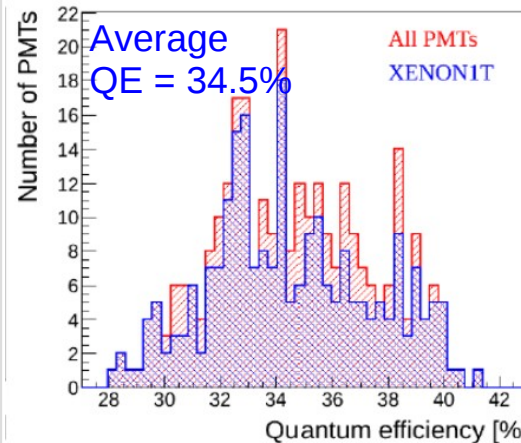


## Low-background PMT developed with Hamamatsu



## Extensive pre-testing/characterization campaign

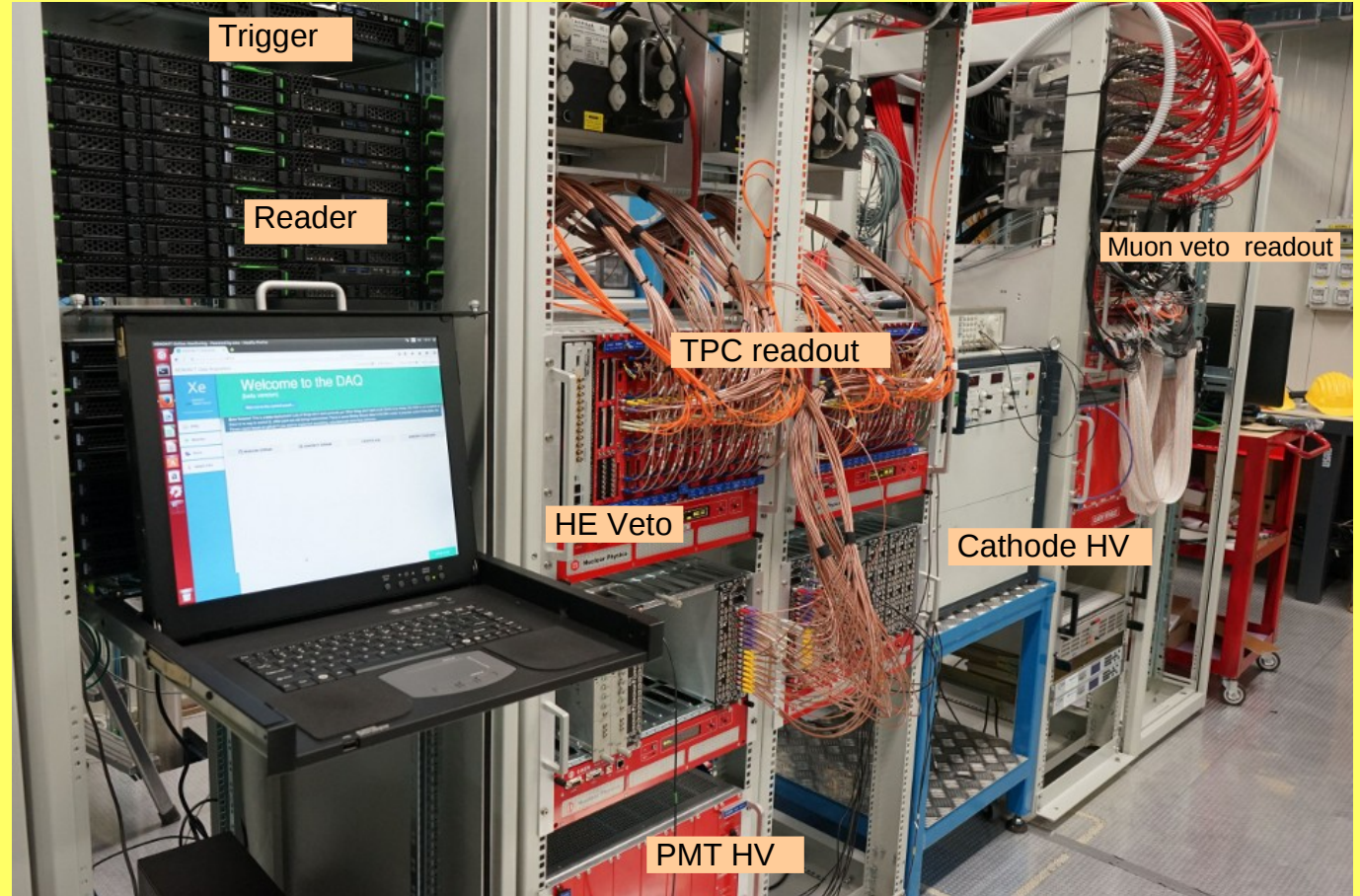
[arXiv:1609.01654](https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.01654)



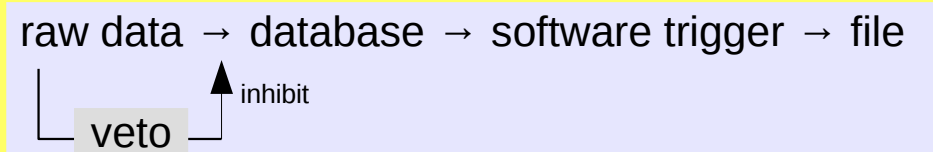


# PMTs: Hamamatsu R11410-21

## TPC Data Acquisition, Electronics



Parallel, trigger-less readout: → low threshold  
→ high throughput (>300 MB/s achieved → 0.8 TB/d):





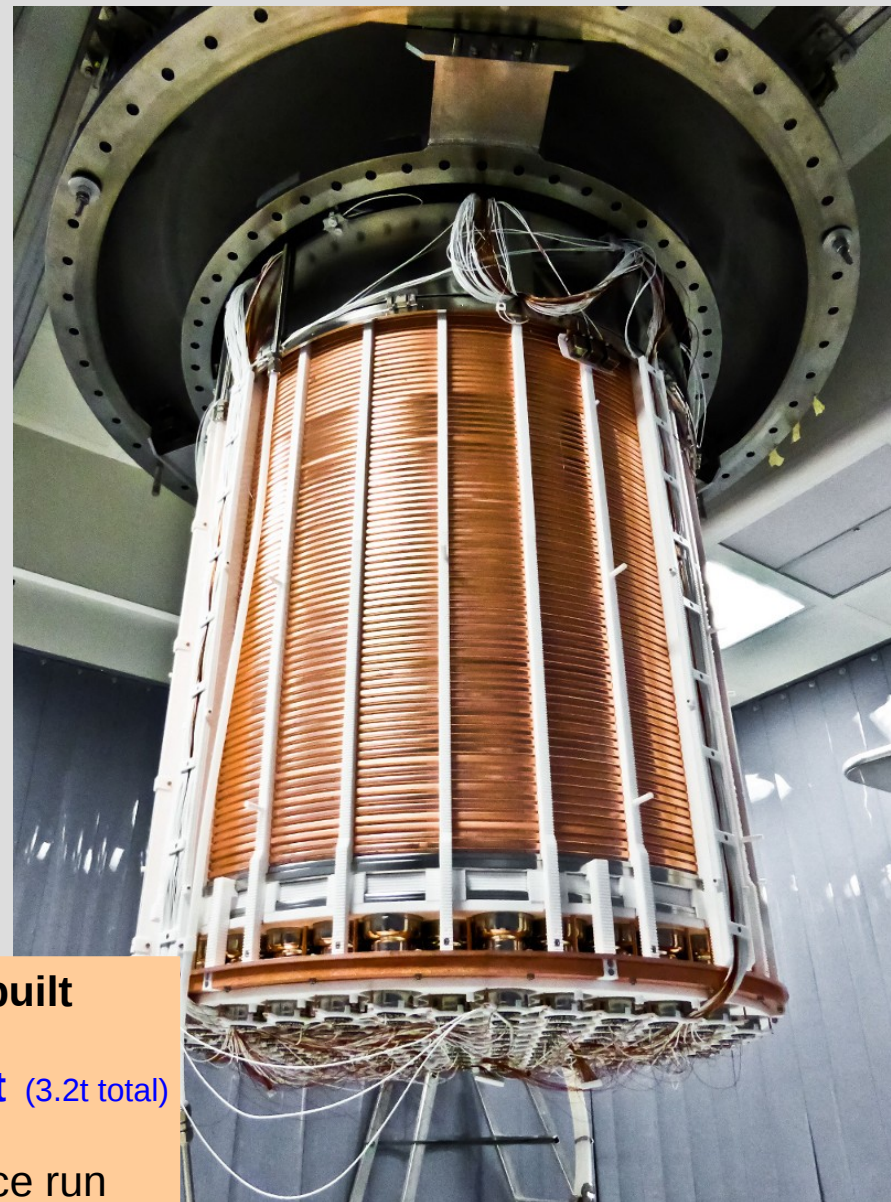




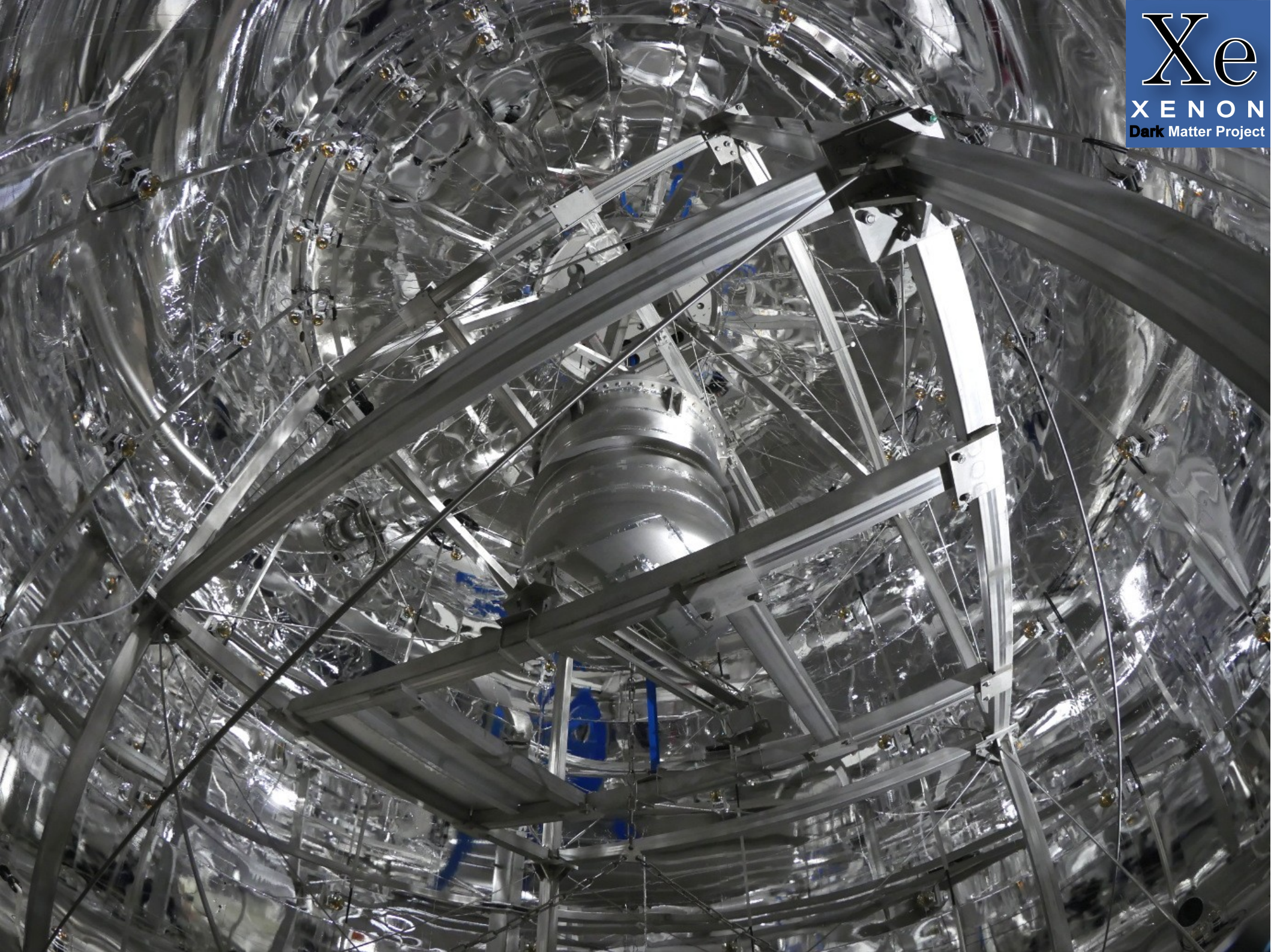
# XENON1T



- largest LXe TPC ever built
- cylinder: 96 cm
- active LXe target: 2.0t (3.2t total)
- 248 PMTs
- operating: started science run



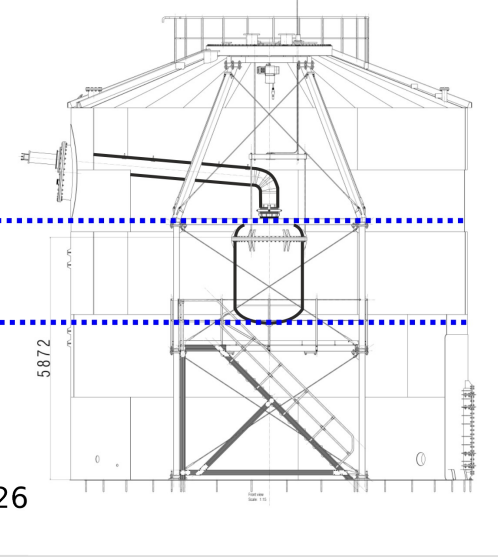
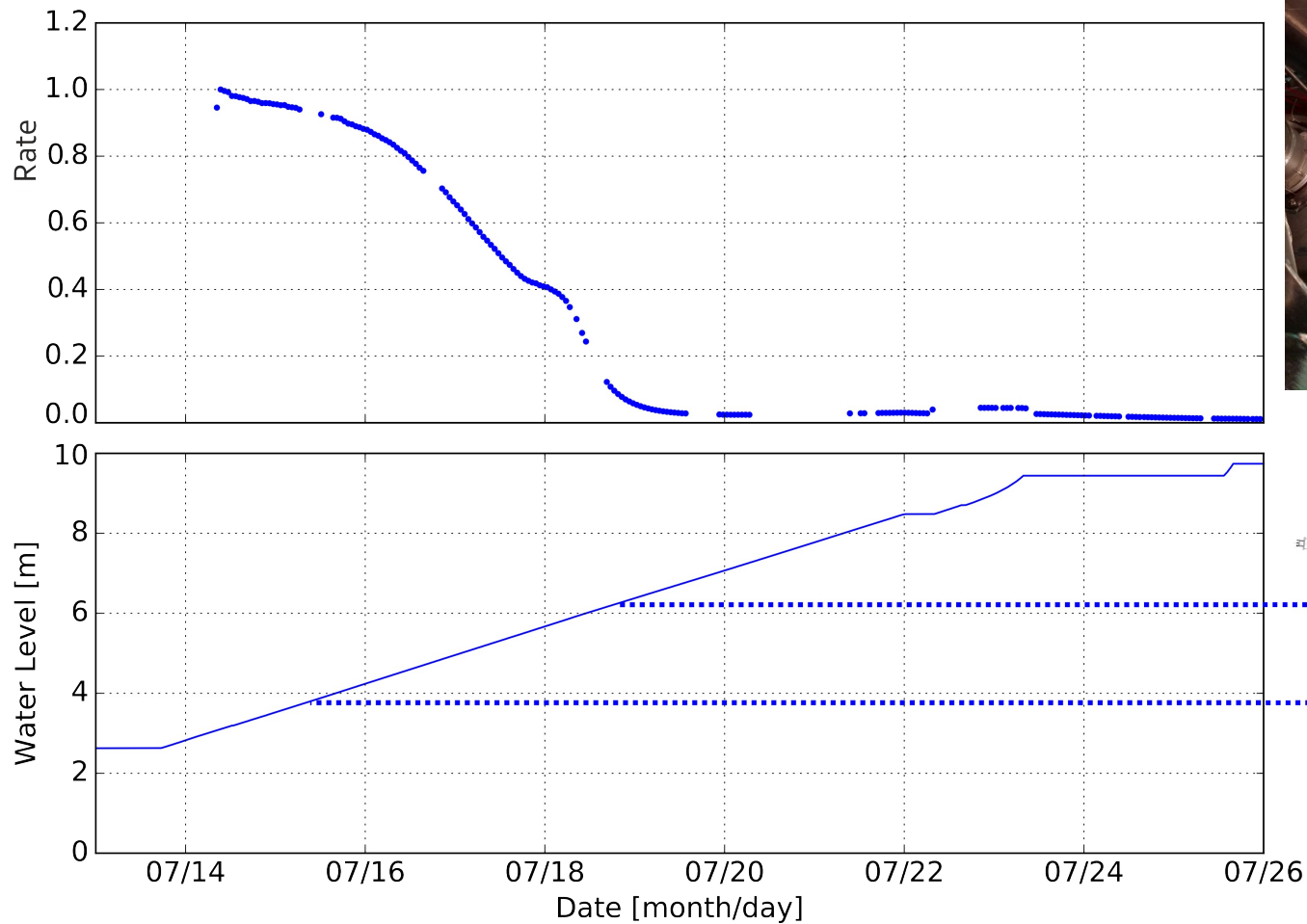
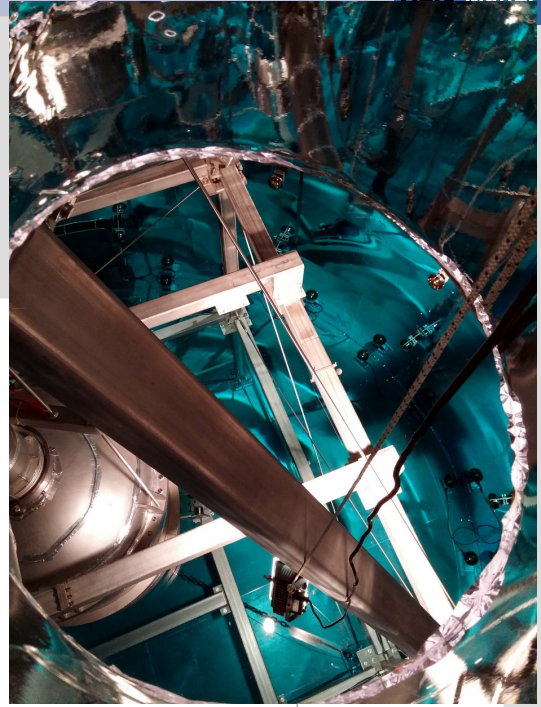






# XENON1T Performance

Water shield filled since Summer...

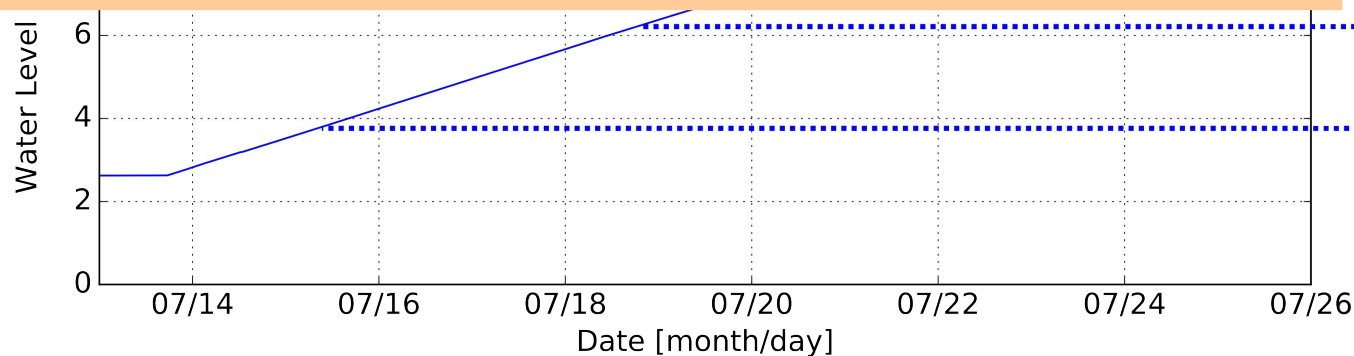
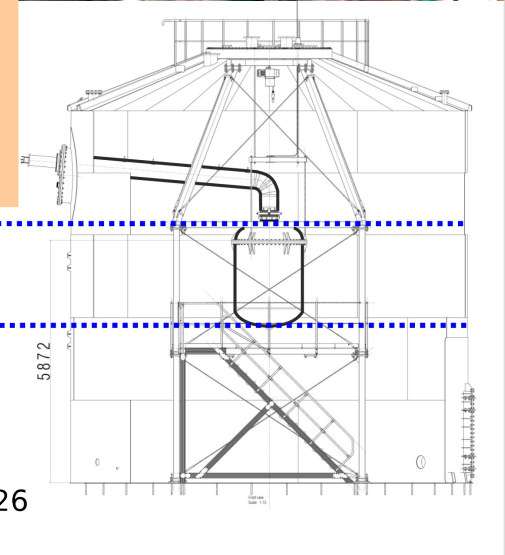
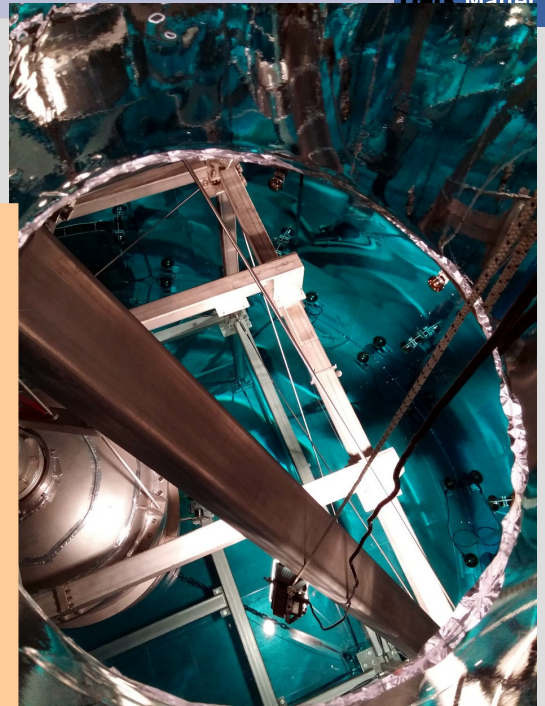
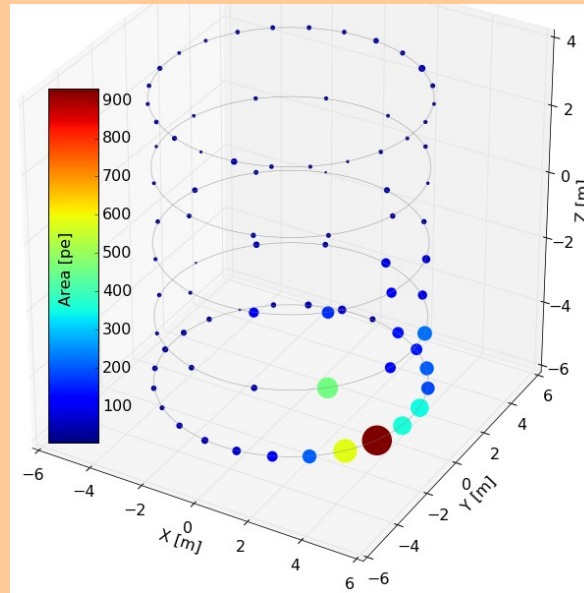
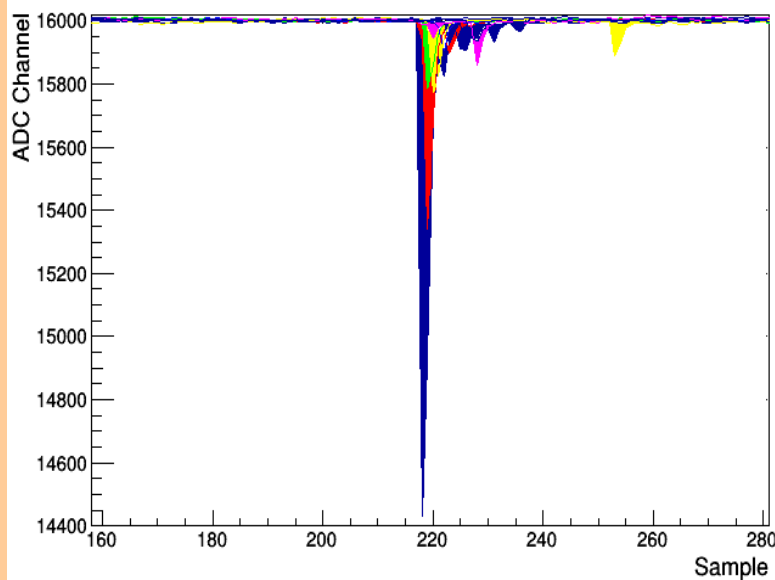




# XENON1T Performance

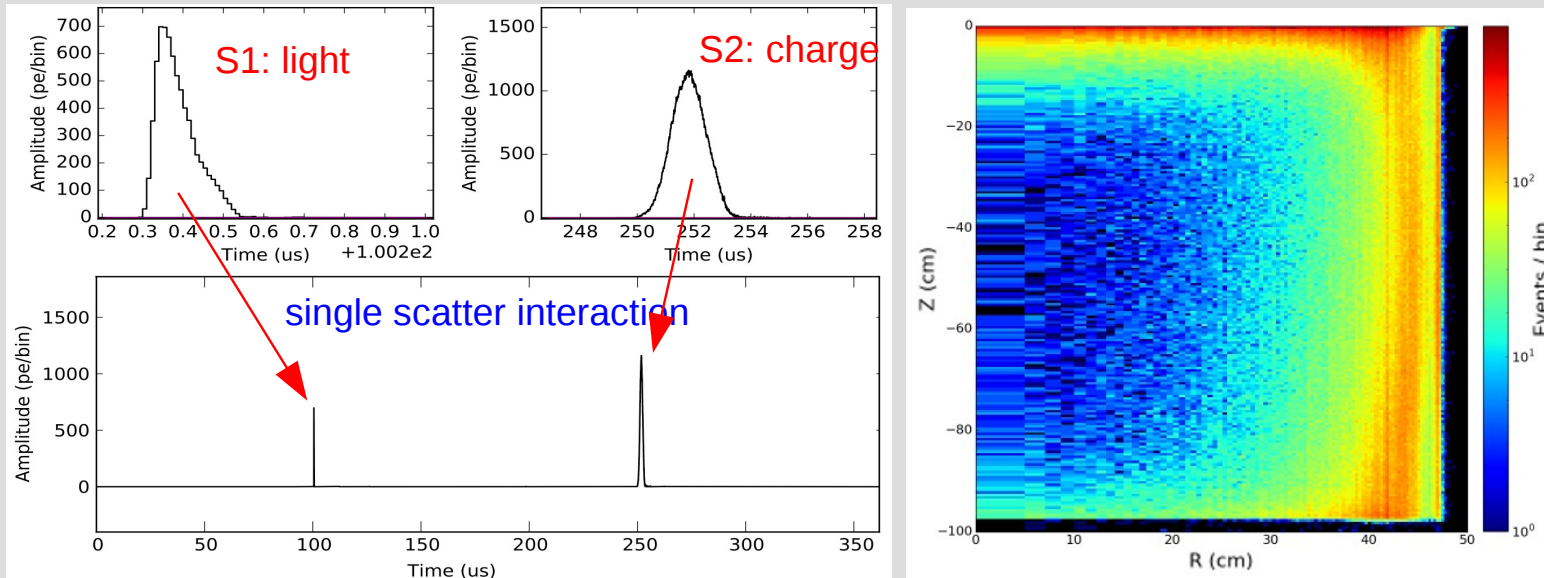
Water shield continuously filled since Summer...

Cerenkov detector sees muons...

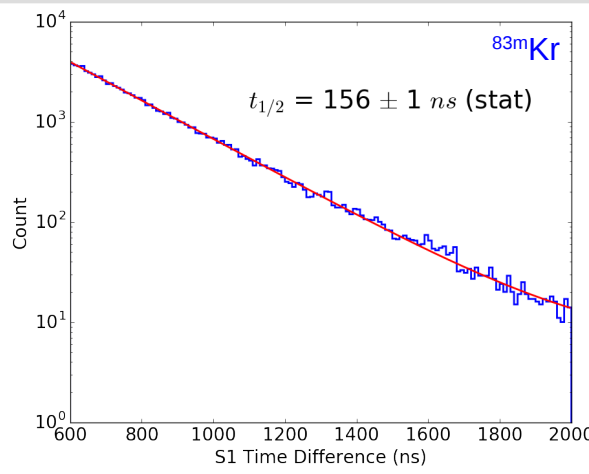
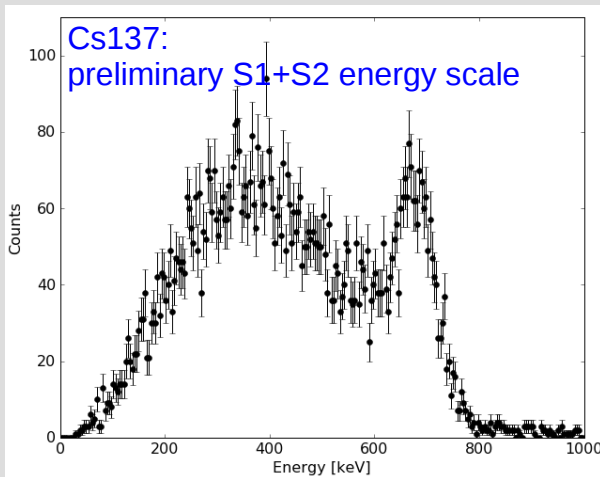


# XENON1T Performance

Recording light (S1) and light signals (S2) from the entire detector



Calibration: external ( $^{137}\text{Cs}$ , AmBe), internal ( $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{220}\text{Rn}$ )



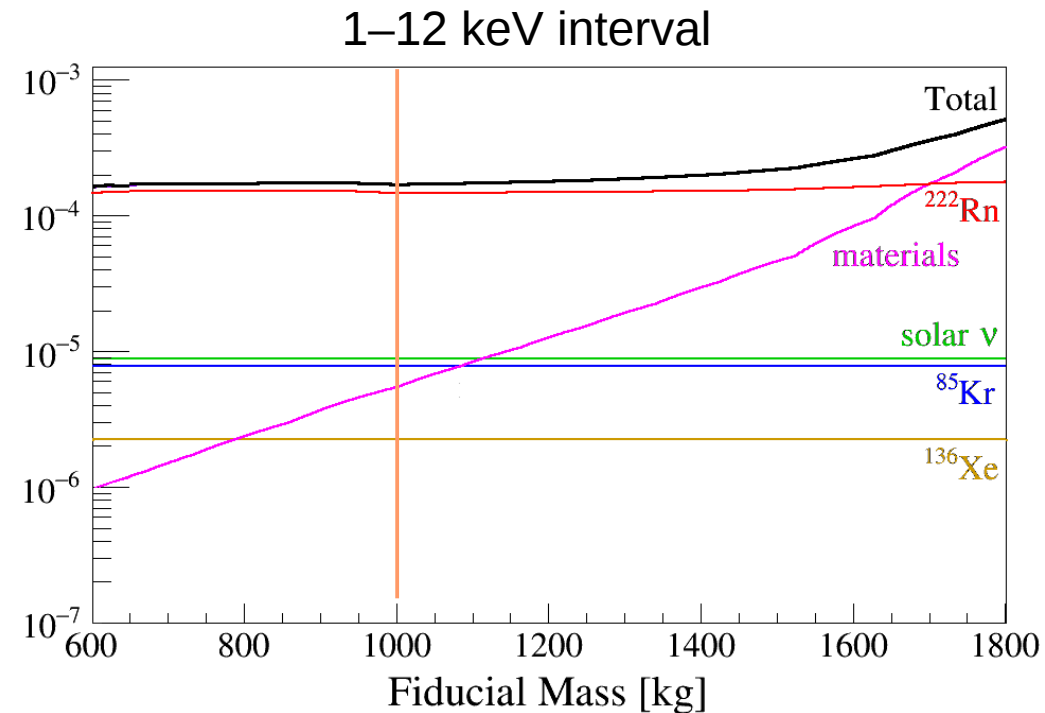
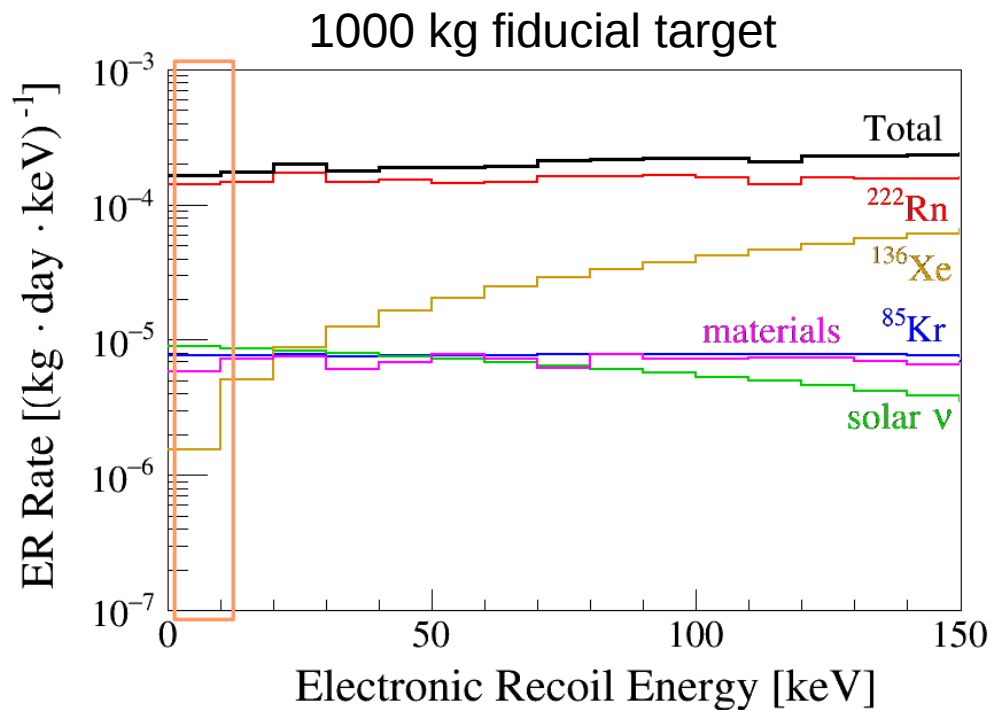
## Backgrounds

- material background low, self-shielding effective
- $^{222}\text{Rn}$  background agrees with predictions
- online removal of  $^{85}\text{Kr}$  via cryogenic distillation started



# Background: Electronic Recoils

JCAP 04, 027 (2016)

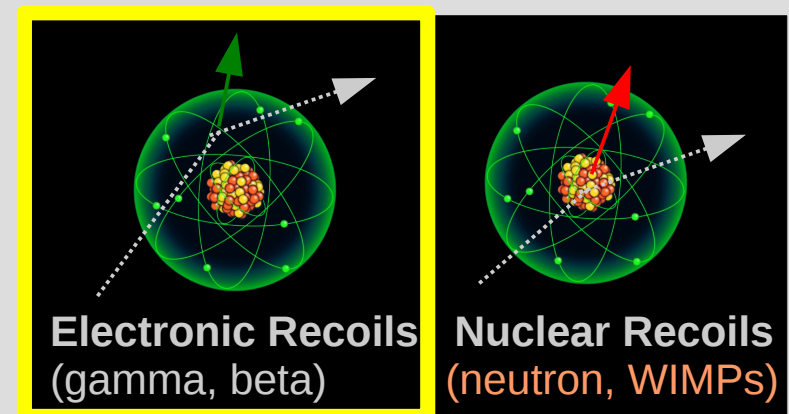


Assumed contamination:

$^{222}\text{Rn}$ : 10  $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$

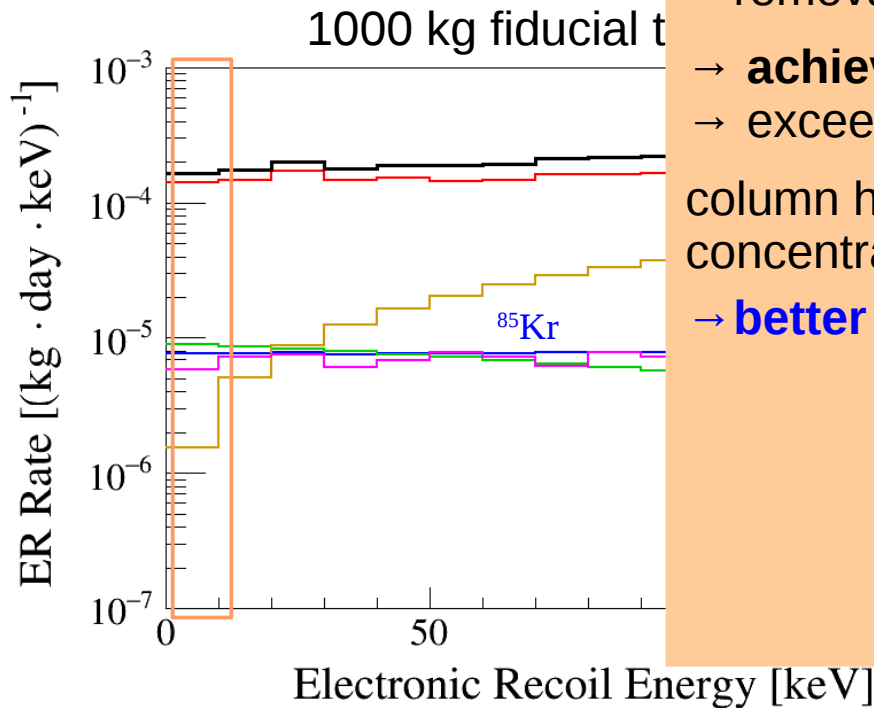
$^{\text{nat}}\text{Kr}$ : 0.2 ppt

$^{136}\text{Xe}$ : 8.9% natural abundance



# Background: Electronic Recoils

JCAP 04, 027 (2016)



different boiling points of Xe and Kr  
 → removal of Kr by cryogenic distillation  
 → **achieved reduction factor  $\sim 5 \times 10^5$**   
 → exceeds the design goal of  $10^4$ !

column has already delivered a concentration of  **$< 0.026 \text{ ppt} = 2.6 \times 10^{-14}$**   
 → **better than required for XENON1T**



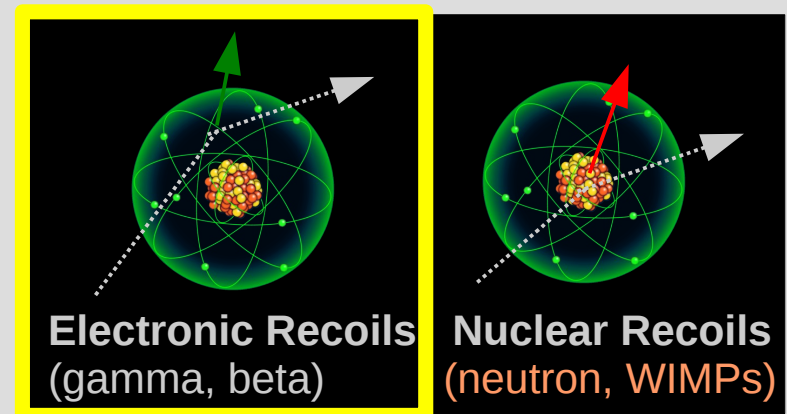
Fiducial Mass [kg]

Assumed contamination:

$^{222}\text{Rn}$ :  $10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$

$^{\text{nat}}\text{Kr}$ :  $0.2 \text{ ppt}$

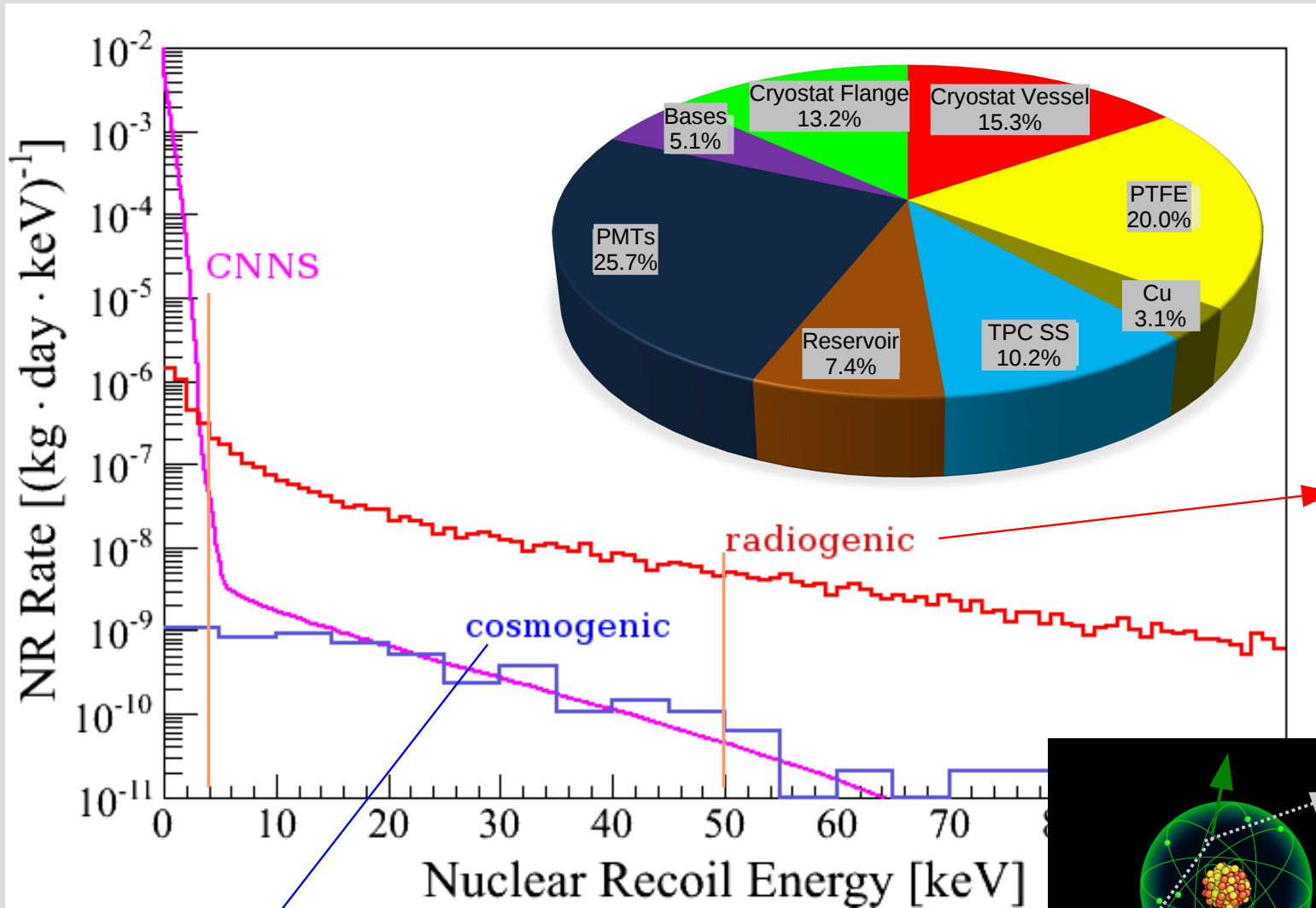
$^{136}\text{Xe}$ : 8.9% natural abundance





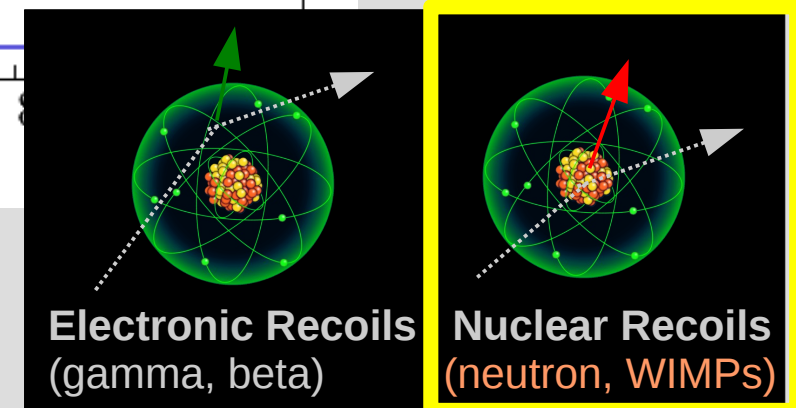
# Background: Nuclear Recoils

JCAP 04, 027 (2016)



material screening, e.g. EPJ C 75, 546 (2015)

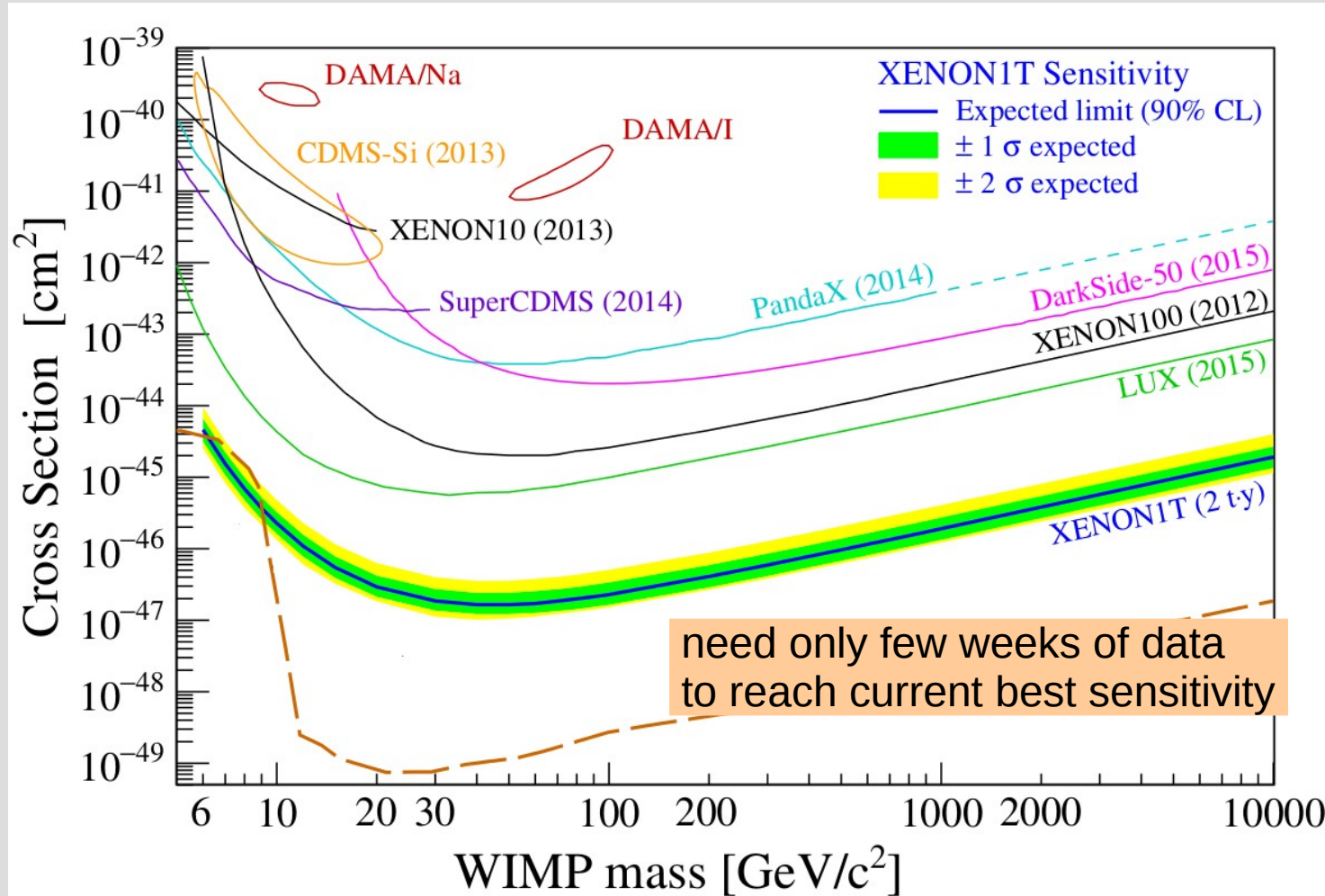
Muon veto design and performance:  
XENON1T, JINST 9, P11006 (2014)



# XENON1T Sensitivity

JCAP 04, 027 (2016)

based on background predictions shown before, 2 t×y exposure:



assumptions: energy interval: 4 – 50 keVr, ER rejection as XENON100: 99.5% @ 50% NR acc.  
 → expected LY is 2x higher than in XENON100!



# XENON1T → XENONnT

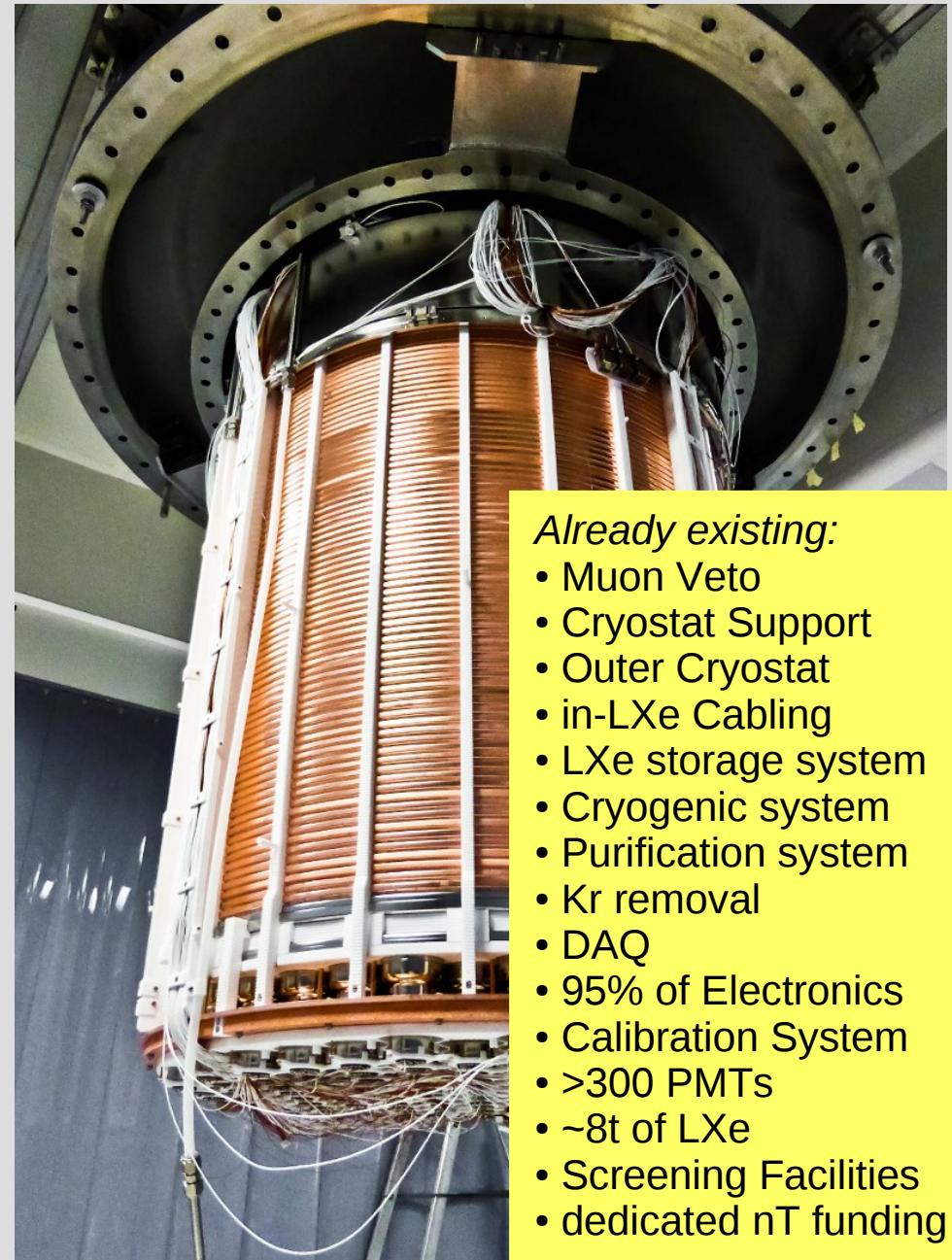
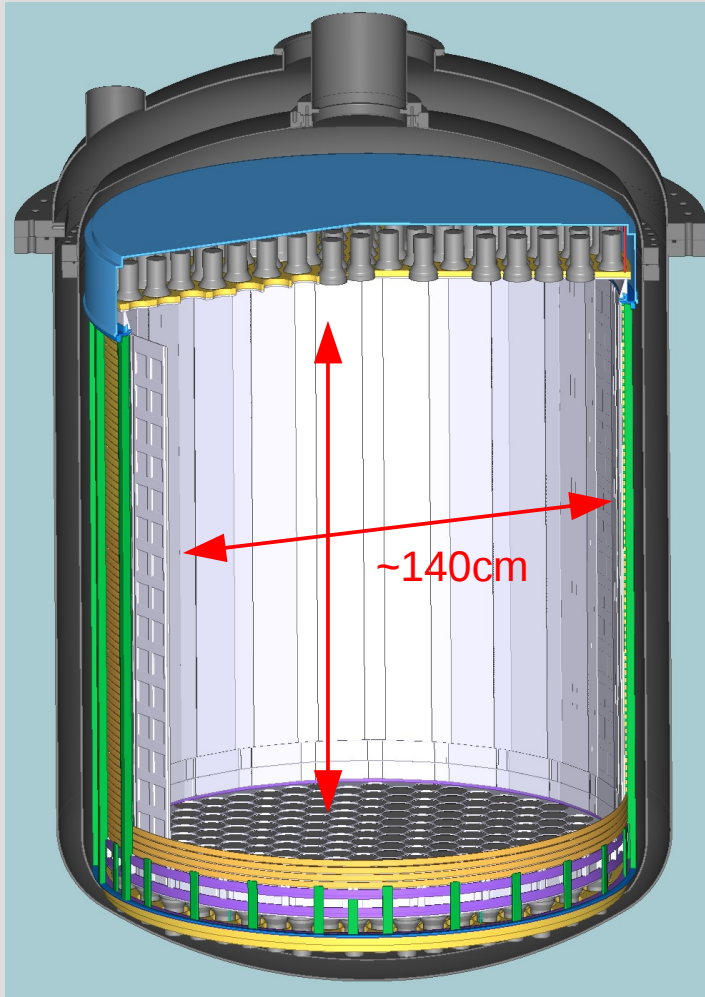
JCAP 04, 027 (2016)

## XENON1T

- 2t active LXe target
- operating
- science run started

## XENONnT

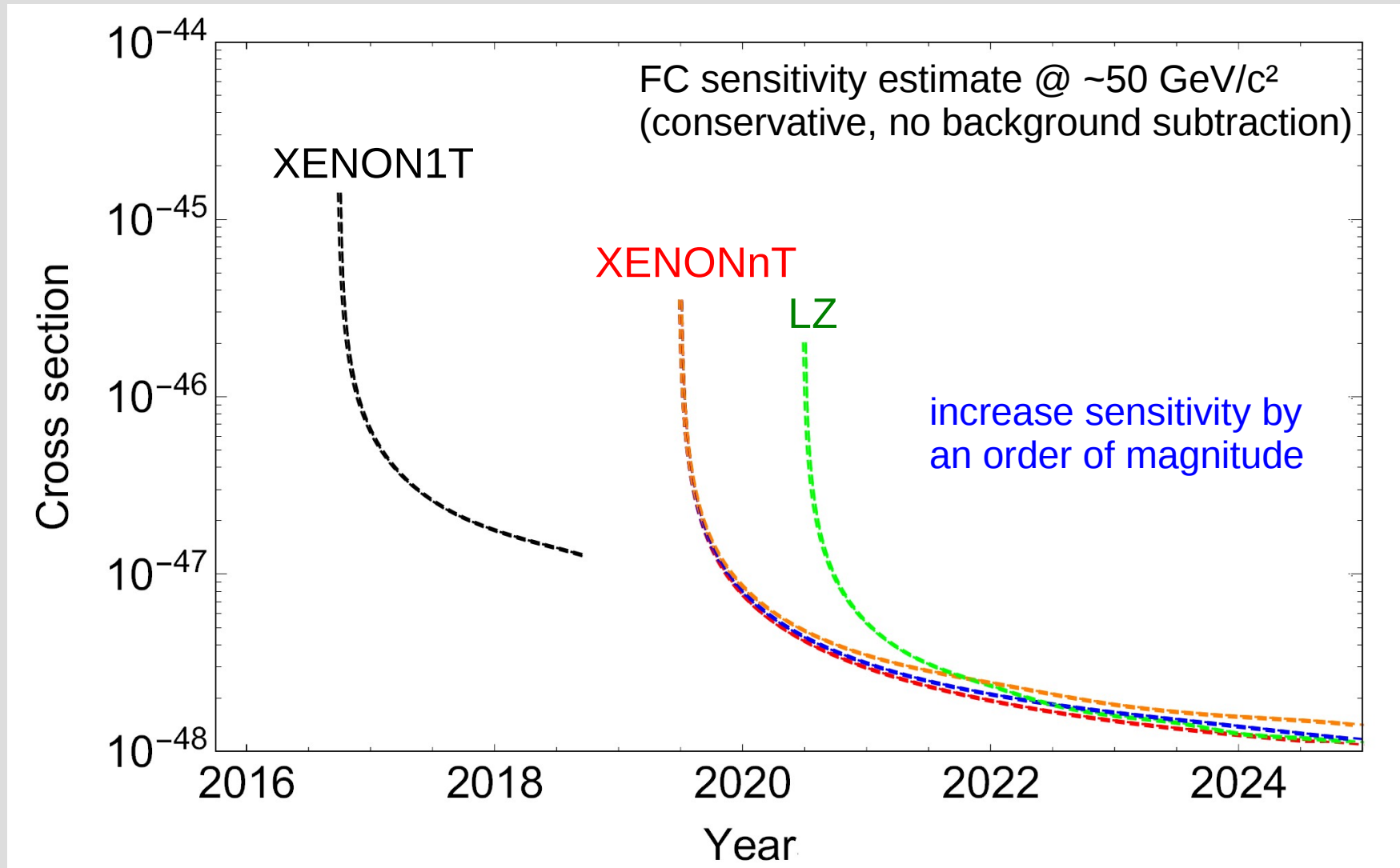
- 6t active target
- projected to start in 2018



### Already existing:

- Muon Veto
- Cryostat Support
- Outer Cryostat
- in-LXe Cabling
- LXe storage system
- Cryogenic system
- Purification system
- Kr removal
- DAQ
- 95% of Electronics
- Calibration System
- >300 PMTs
- ~8t of LXe
- Screening Facilities
- dedicated nT funding

# XENONnT: Sensitivity vs. time

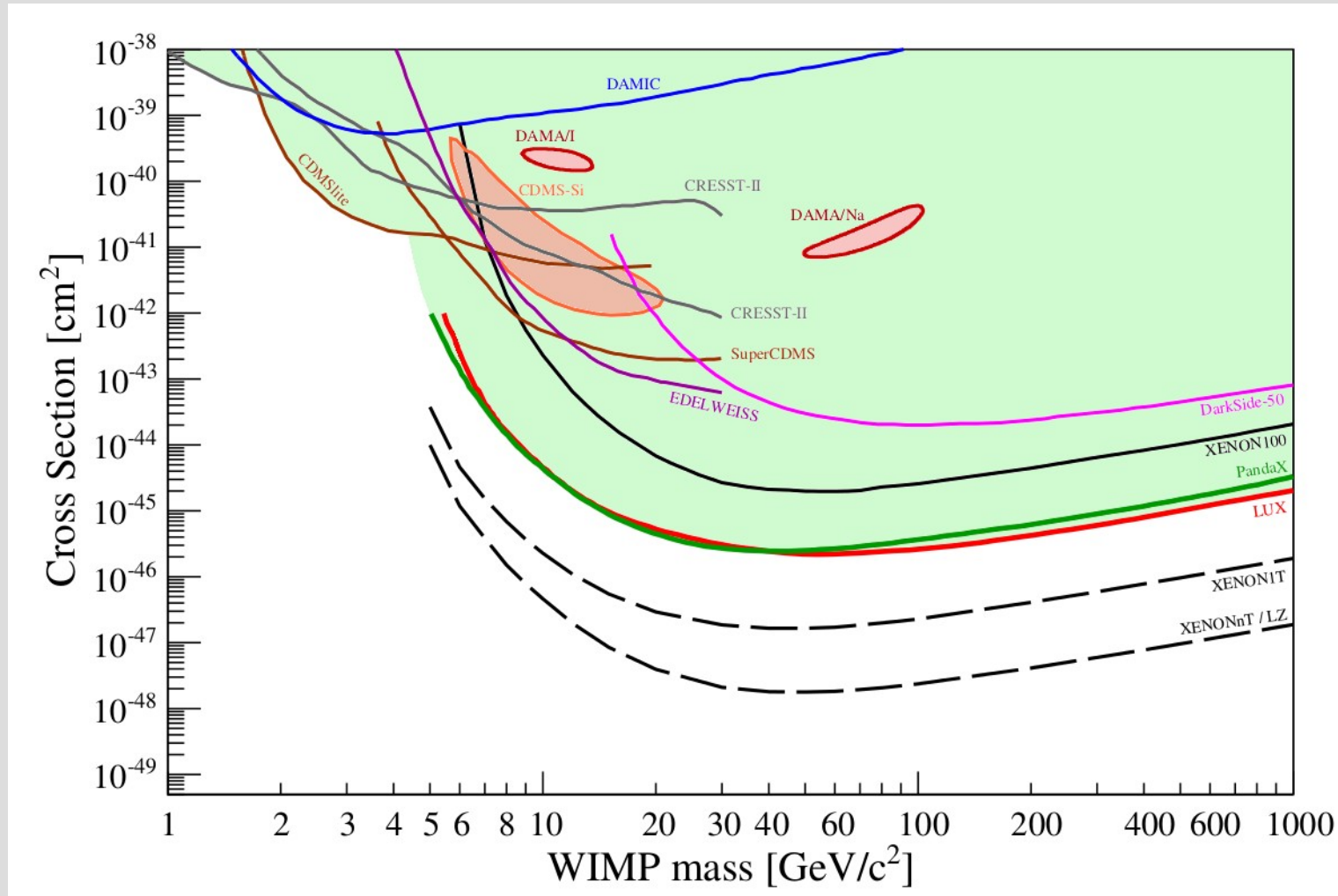


LZ information taken from: <https://idm2016.shef.ac.uk/indico/event/0/contribution/69/material/slides/0.pdf>



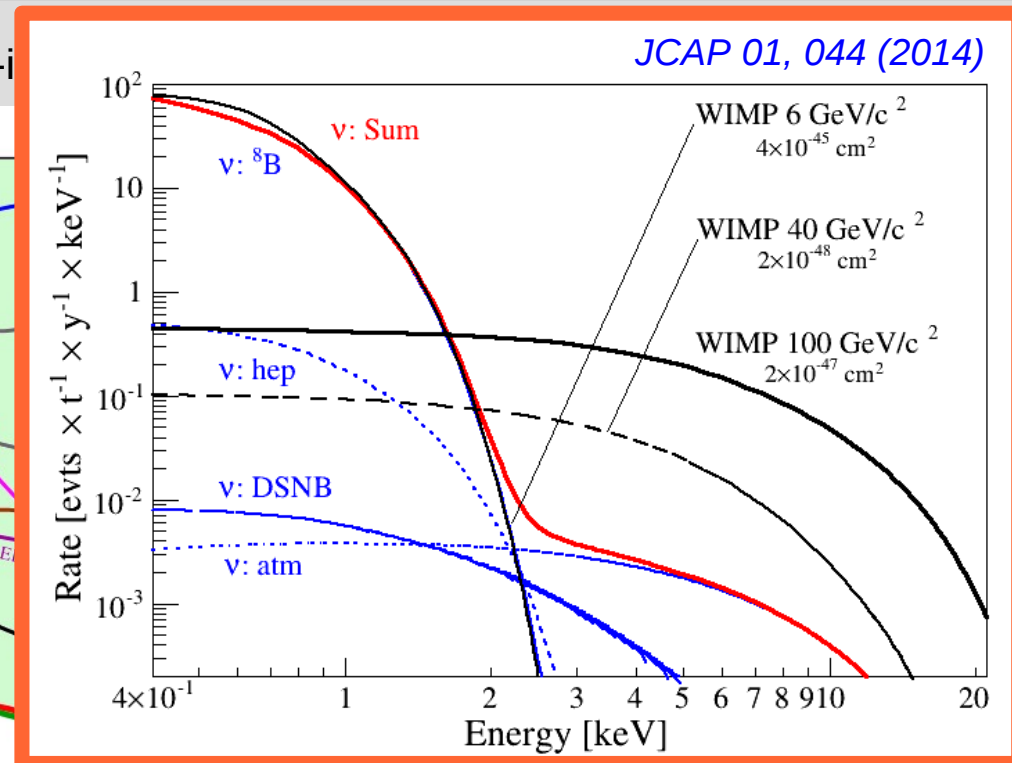
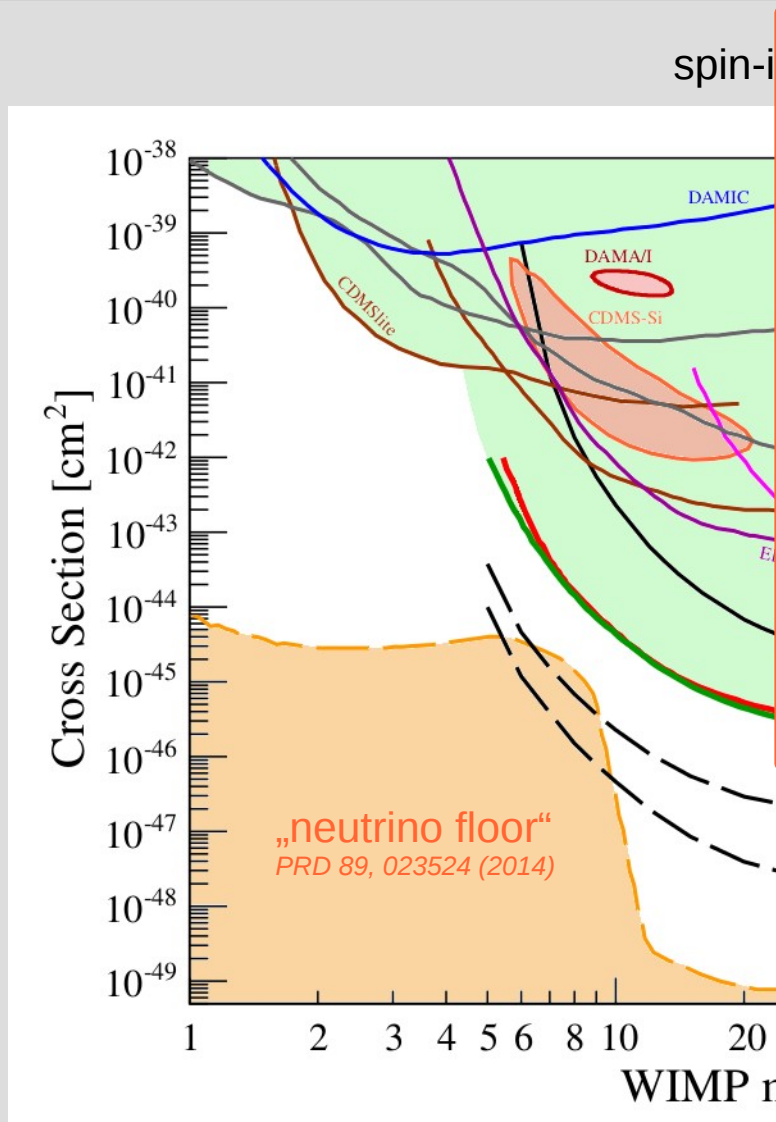
# XENON Science Goals

spin-independent WIMP-nucleon interactions

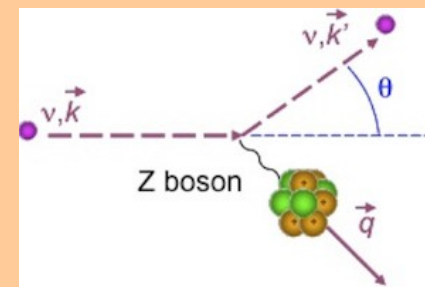


*some projects are missing...*

# Dark Matter Searches: The Limit



Interactions from coherent neutrino-nucleus scattering (CNNS) will dominate  
 → **ultimate background** for direct detection

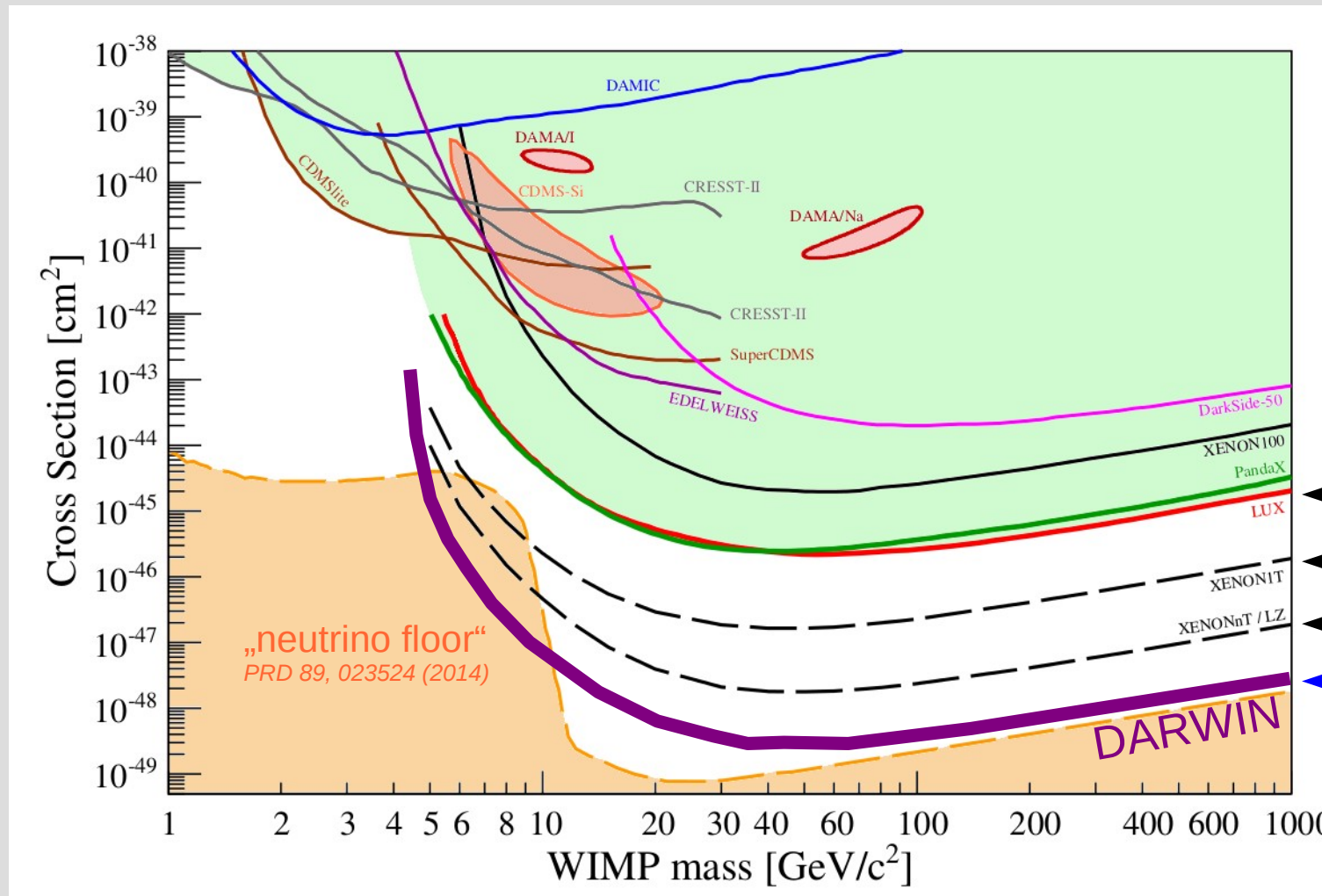




# DARWIN The ultimate WIMP Detector



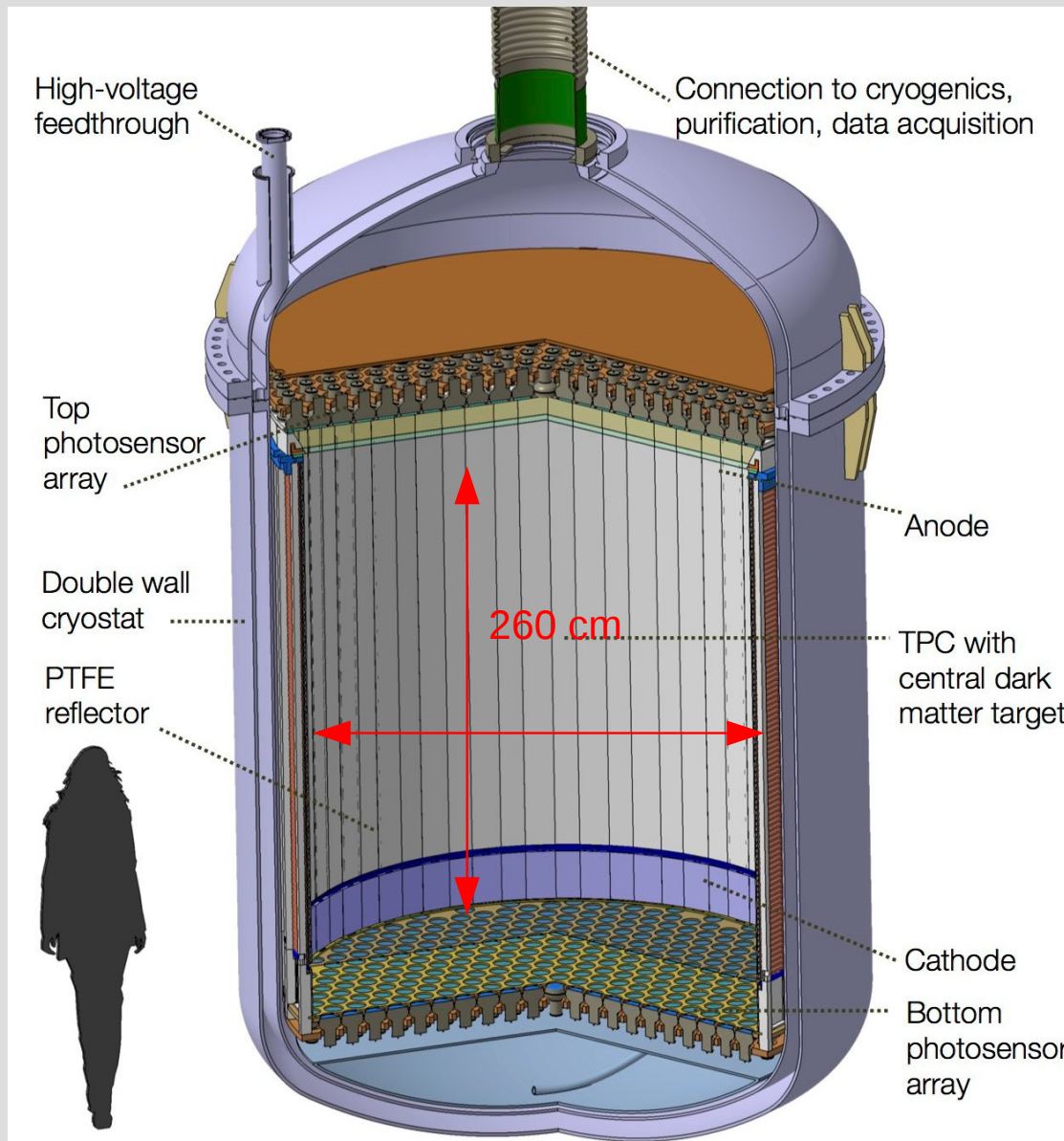
spin-independent WIMP-nucleon interactions



*some projects are missing...*

# DARWIN The **ultimate** WIMP Detector

JCAP 11, 017 (2016)



- aim at **sensitivity of a few  $10^{-49}$  cm<sup>2</sup>**, limited by **irreducible  $\nu$ -backgrounds**
- international consortium, 21 groups  
→ R&D ongoing

## Baseline scenario

~50t total LXe mass

**~40 t LXe TPC**

~30 t fiducial mass

- Timescale: start after XENONnT

[www.darwin-observatory.org](http://www.darwin-observatory.org)



# DARWIN Backgrounds

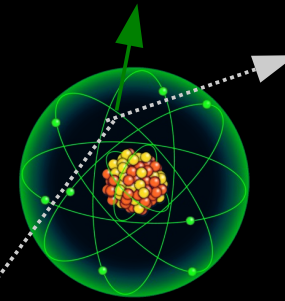
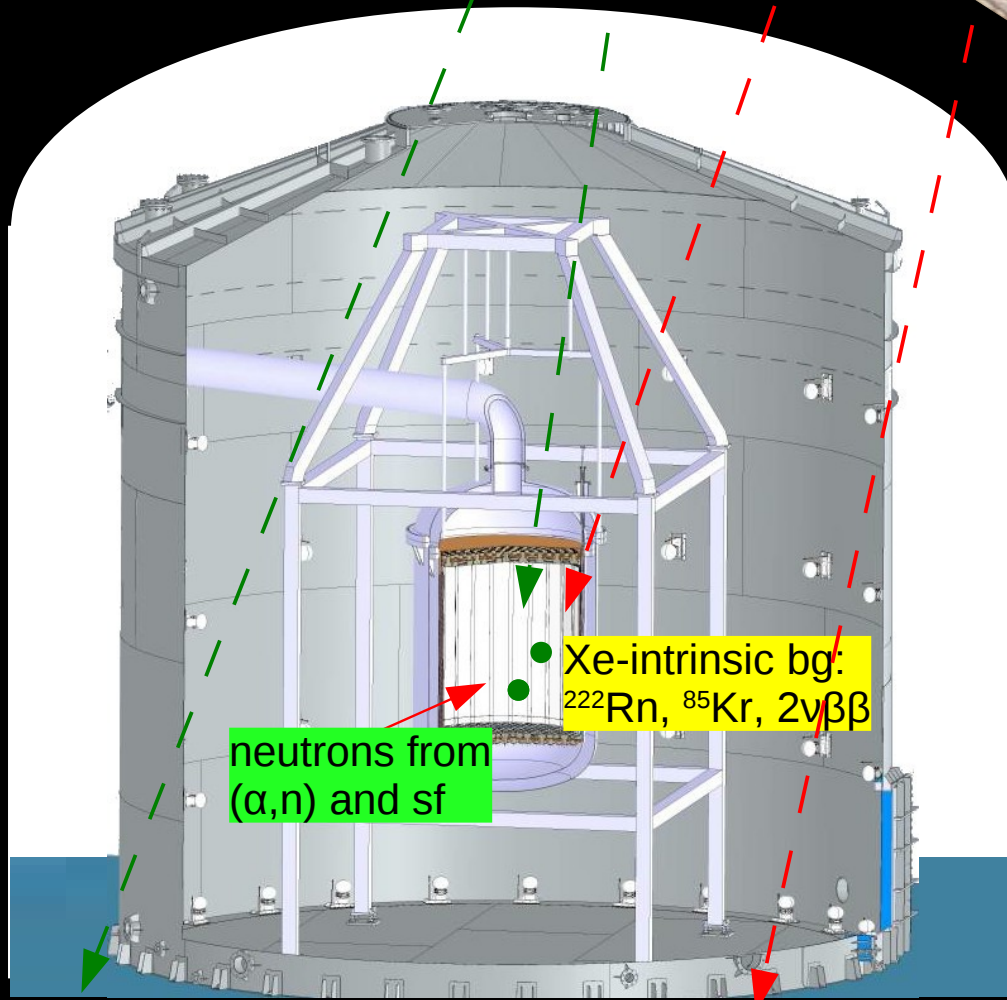
pp+<sup>7</sup>Be neutrinos  
→ ER signature

high-E neutrinos  
→ CNNS bg  
→ NR signature

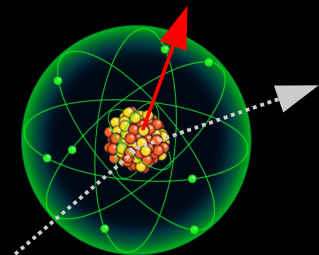
Remaining background sources:

- Neutrinos (→ ERs and NRs)
  - Detector materials (→ n)
  - Xe-intrinsic isotopes (→ e<sup>-</sup>)
- (assume 100% effective shield (~15m) against μ-induced background)

*JCAP 10, 016 (2015)*



**Electronic Recoils**  
(gamma, beta)



**Nuclear Recoils**  
(neutron, WIMPs)

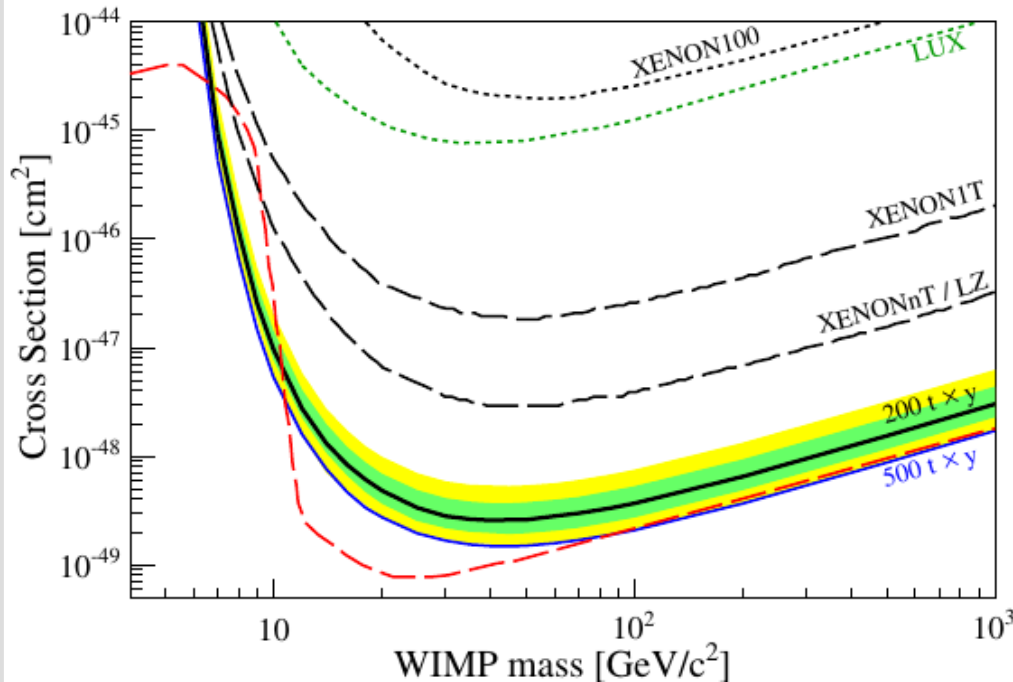
only single scatters

# DARWIN WIMP Sensitivity

JCAP 10, 016 (2015)

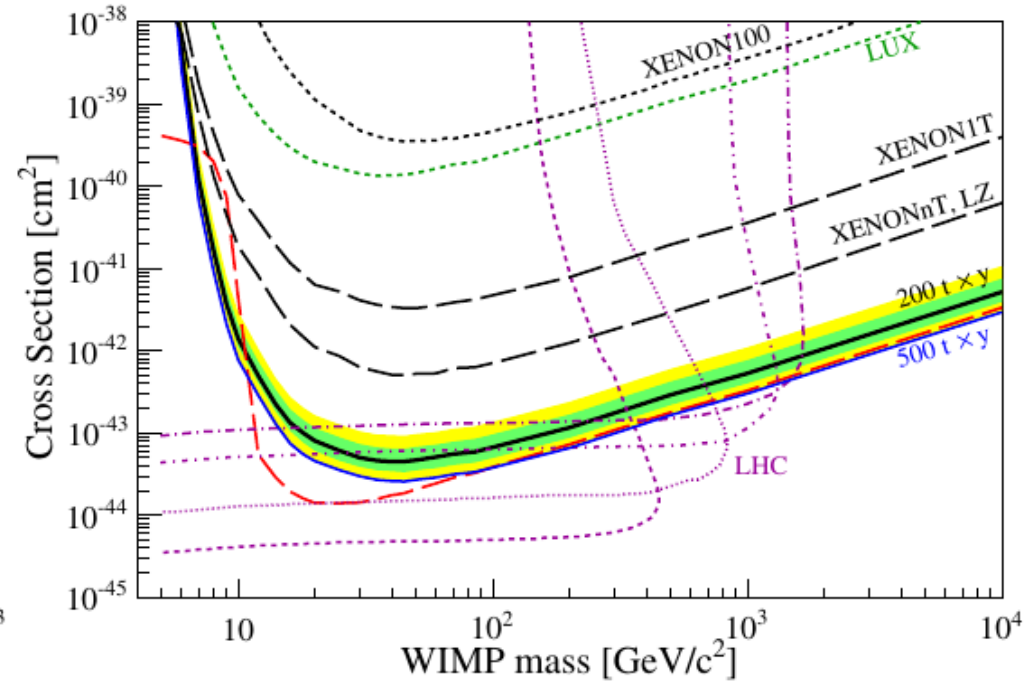
- exposure: 200 t × y; **all backgrounds included**
- **likelihood analysis**
- 99.98% ER rejection @ 30% NR acceptance, S1+S2 combined energy scale, LY=8 PE/keV, 5-35 keV<sub>nr</sub> energy window

spin-independent couplings



200 t × y:  $\sigma < 2.5 \times 10^{-49} \text{ cm}^2$  @ 40 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

spin-dependent couplings (n-only)

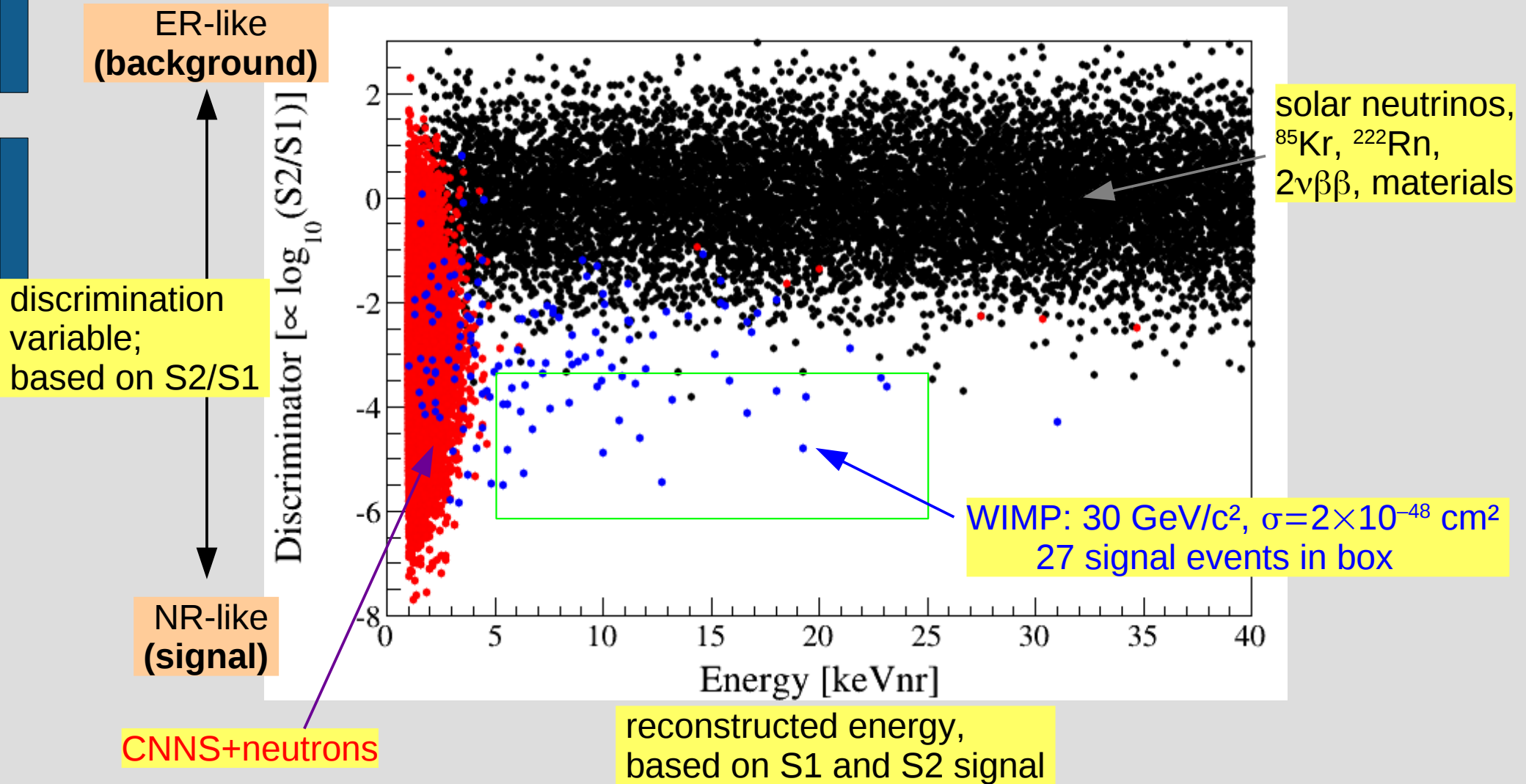


excellent complementarity to LHC searches

Phys.Dark Univ. 9-10, 51 (2015).



# WIMP Detection

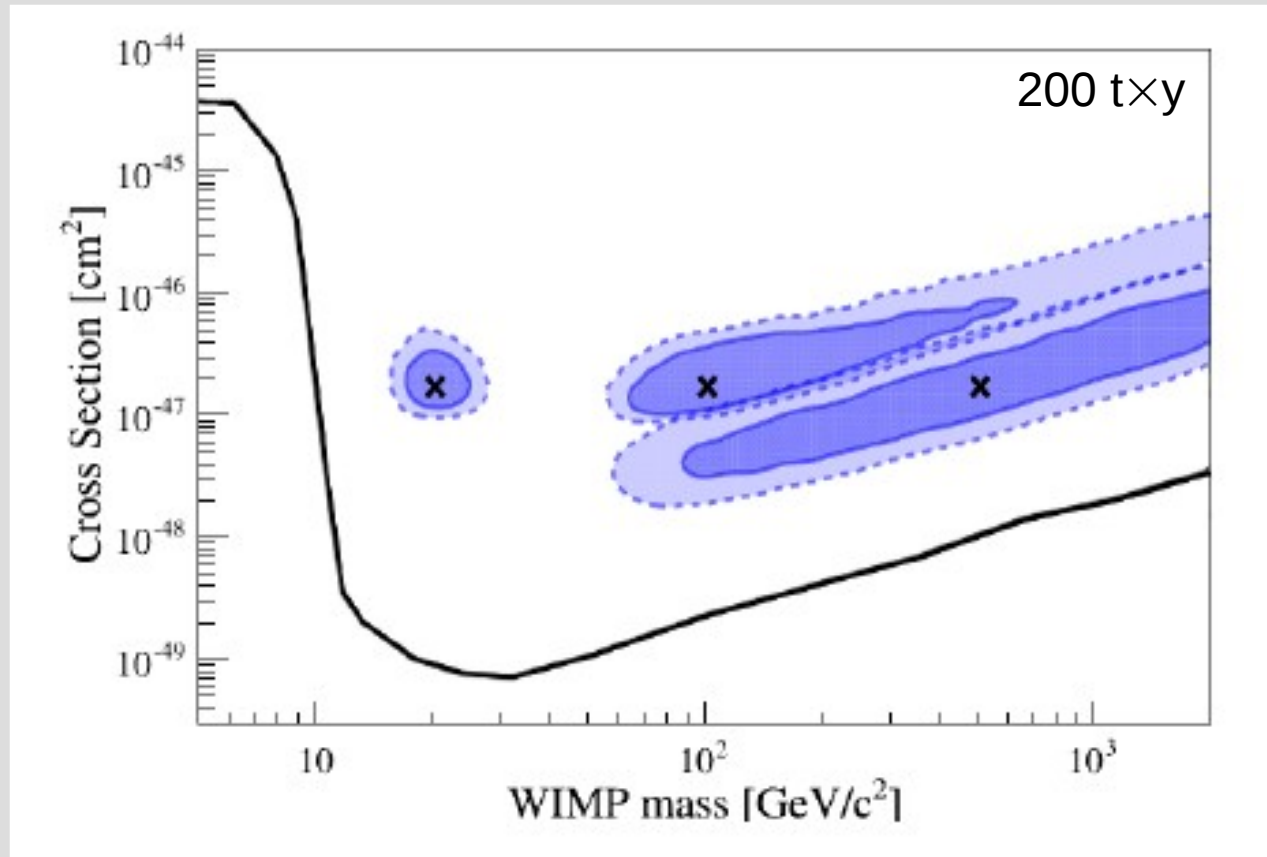


# WIMP Spectroscopy

JCAP 11, 017 (2016)



Reconstruction:  $2 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$

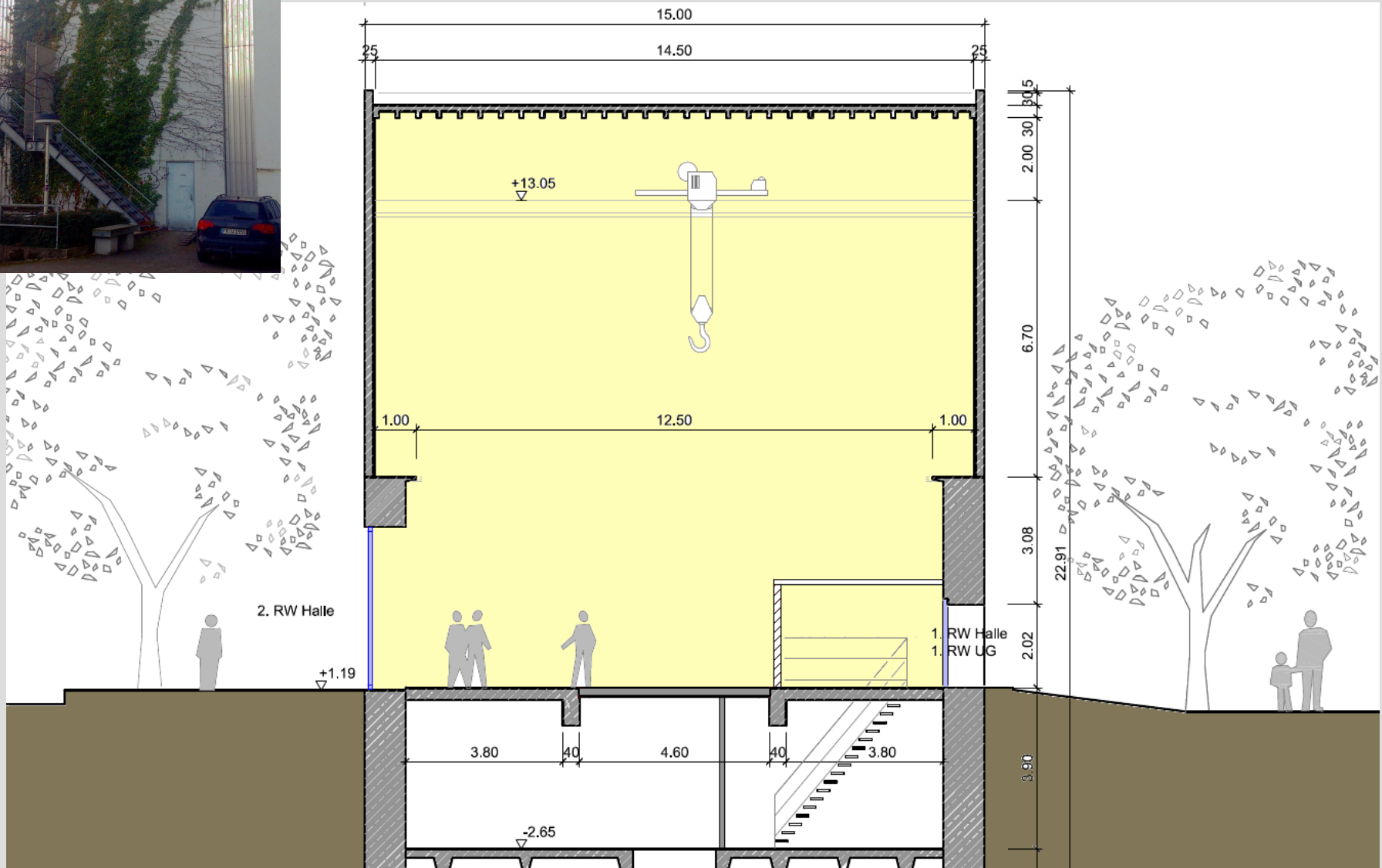


Capability to reconstruct WIMP parameters

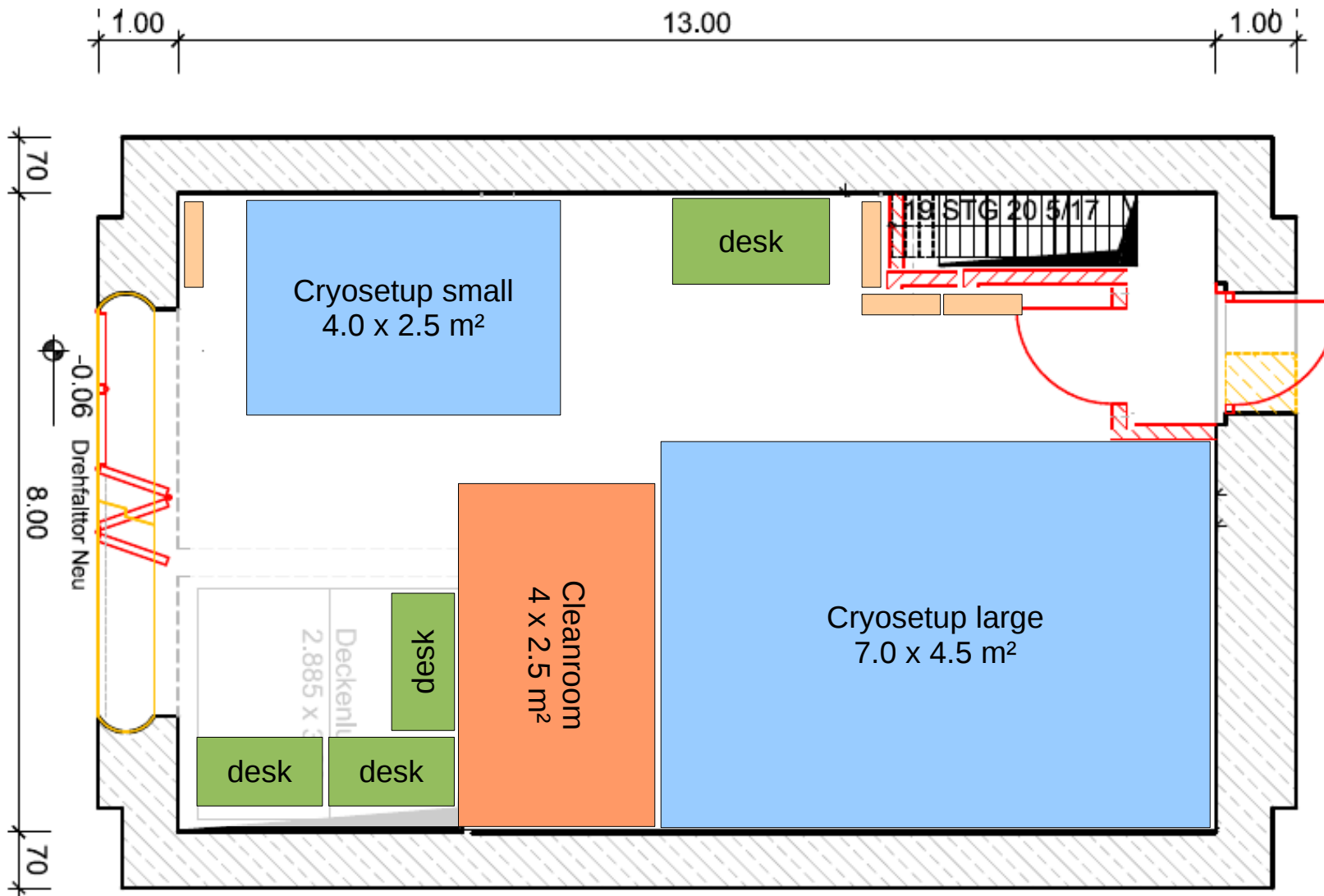
- $m_\chi = 20, 100, 500 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- $1\sigma/2\sigma$  CI, marginalized over astrophysical parameters
- due to flat WIMP spectra, no target can reconstruct masses  $>500 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



# New: Cryolab @ FR



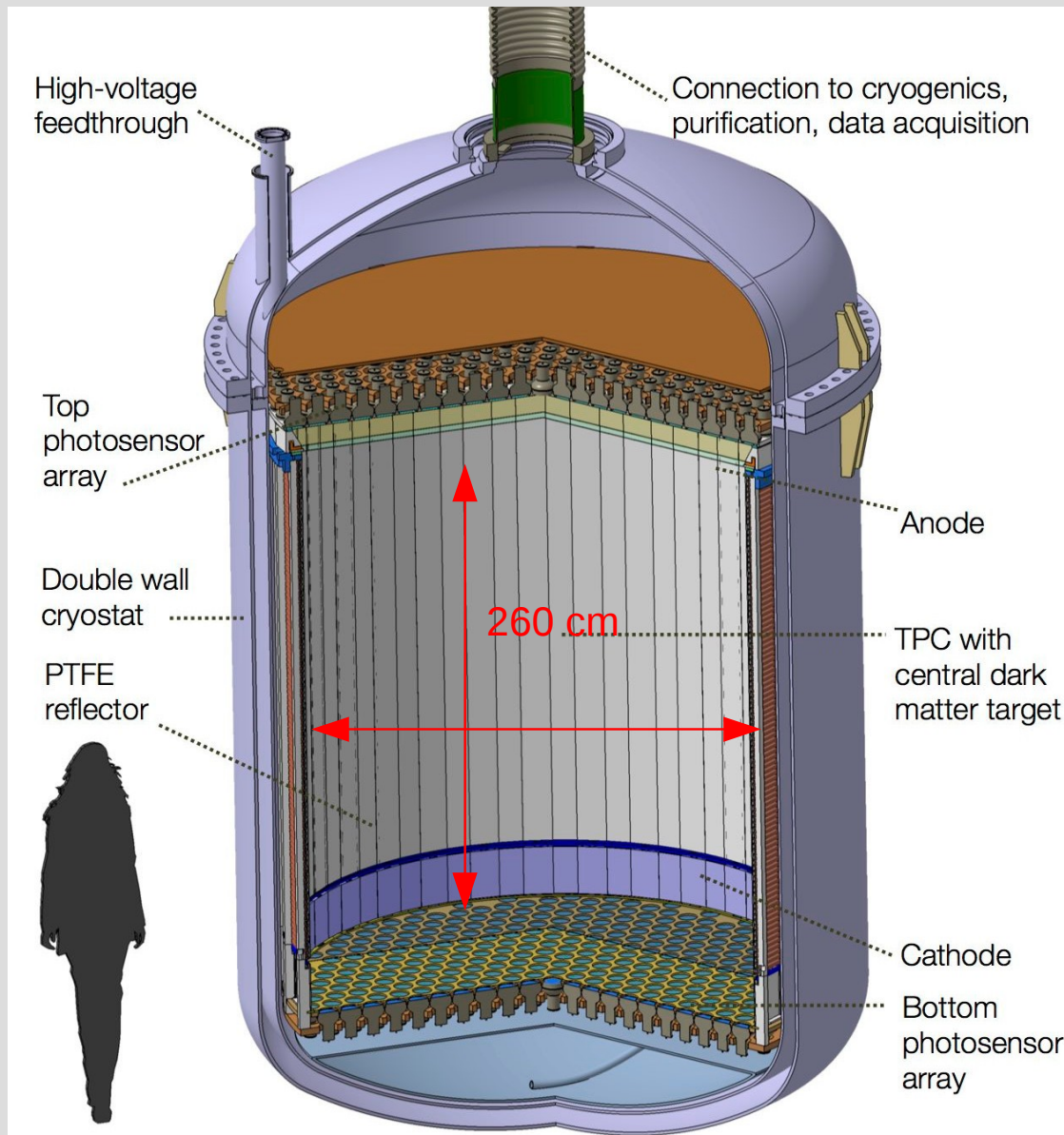
# New: Cryolab @ FR



**R&D Objective:** Solve some of the most critical challenges for the *ultimate* dark matter detector.  
→ backgrounds ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ,  $(\alpha, n)$  neutrons), detector size



# DARWIN The **ultimate** WIMP Detector

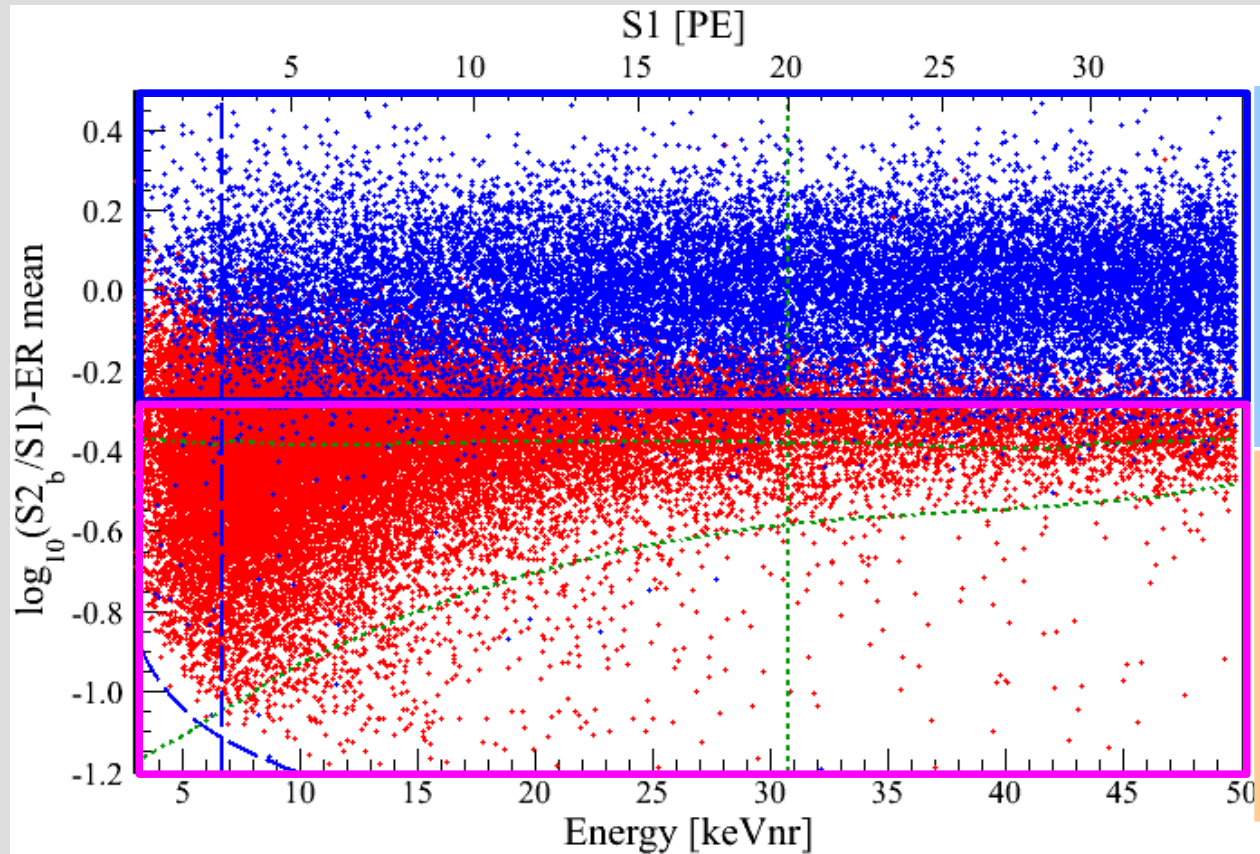


other than WIMPs



**What (else) can we do with these instruments?**

# Interactions in LXe Detectors



scattering off atomic electrons, excitations etc.

→ **electronic recoil**

- rare processes detectable if ER background is low

coherent scattering off xenon nucleus

→ **nuclear recoil**

- Dark Matter
- CNNS

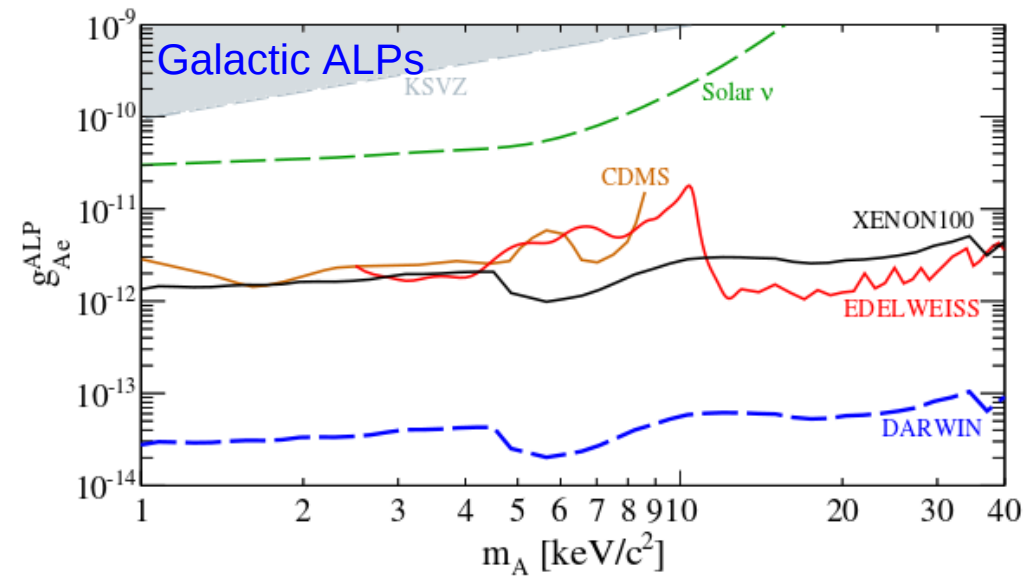
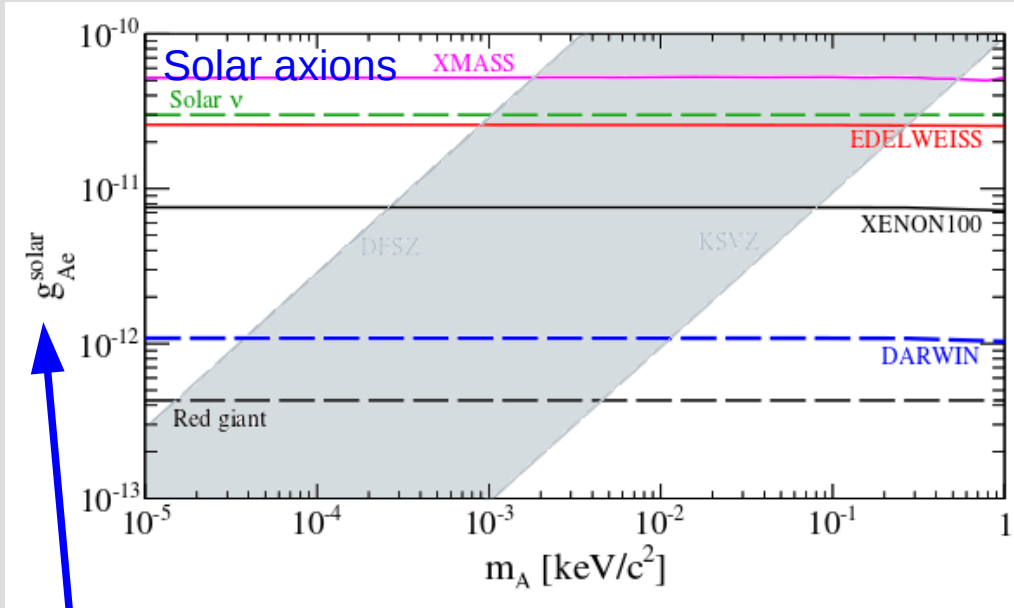
Many **science channels** are accessible with a multi-ton DARWIN detector thanks to its extremely low ER background.



# Solar Axions, Dark Matter ALPs



JCAP 11, 017 (2016)



Axions and ALPs couple to xenon via **axio-electric-effect**

$$\sigma_{Ae}(E_A) = \sigma_{pe}(E_A) \frac{g_{Ae}^2}{\beta_A} \frac{3E_A^2}{16\pi\alpha m_e^2} \left(1 - \frac{\beta_A}{3}\right)$$

→ axion ionizes a Xe atom

## Axion

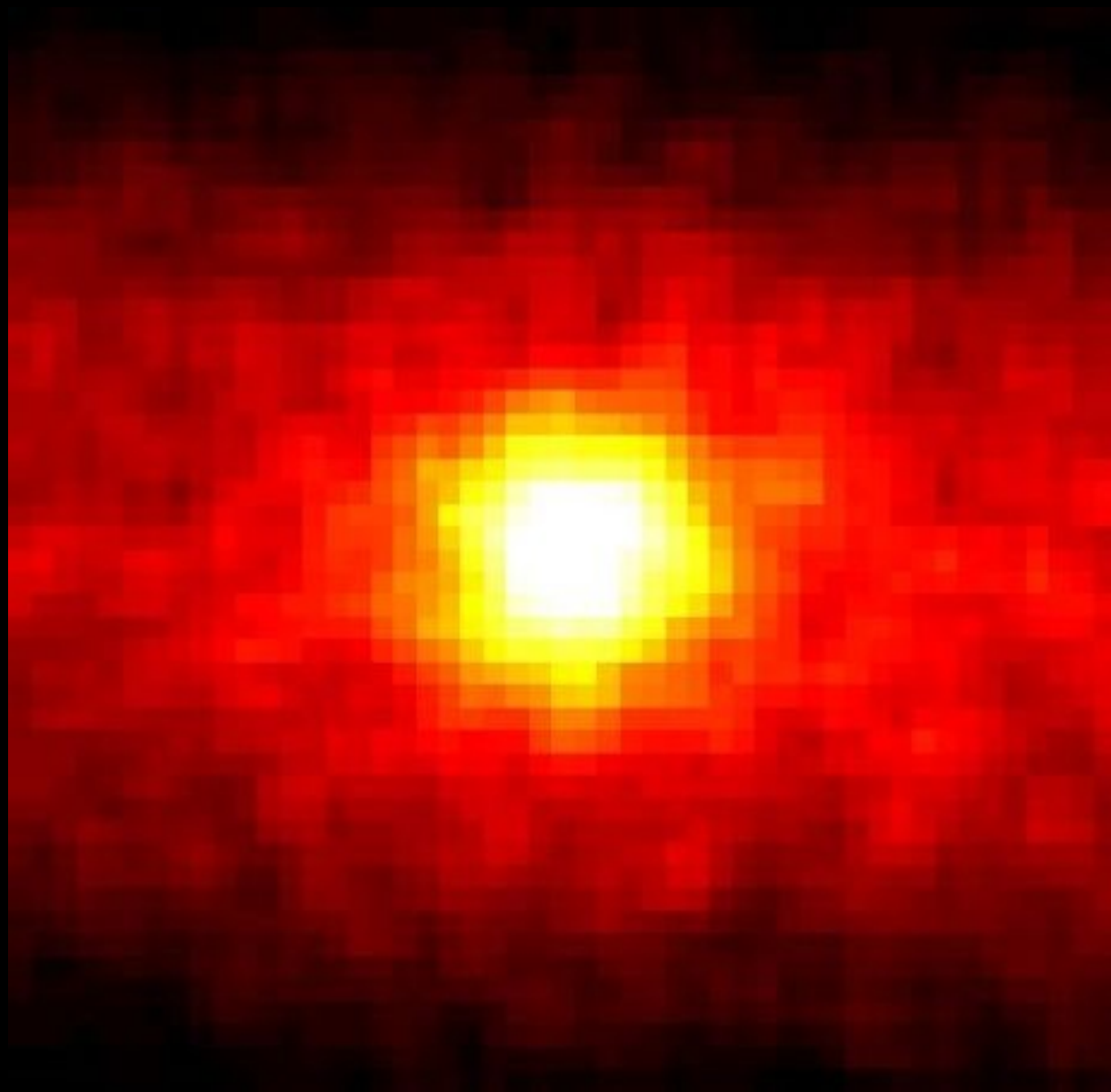
arises naturally in the Peccei-Quinn solution of the strong CP-problem

→ well-motivated dark matter candidate

## Axion-like particle (ALP)

generalization of the axion concept, but without addressing strong CP problem

(ALPs = Nambu-Goldstone bosons from breaking of some global symmetry)

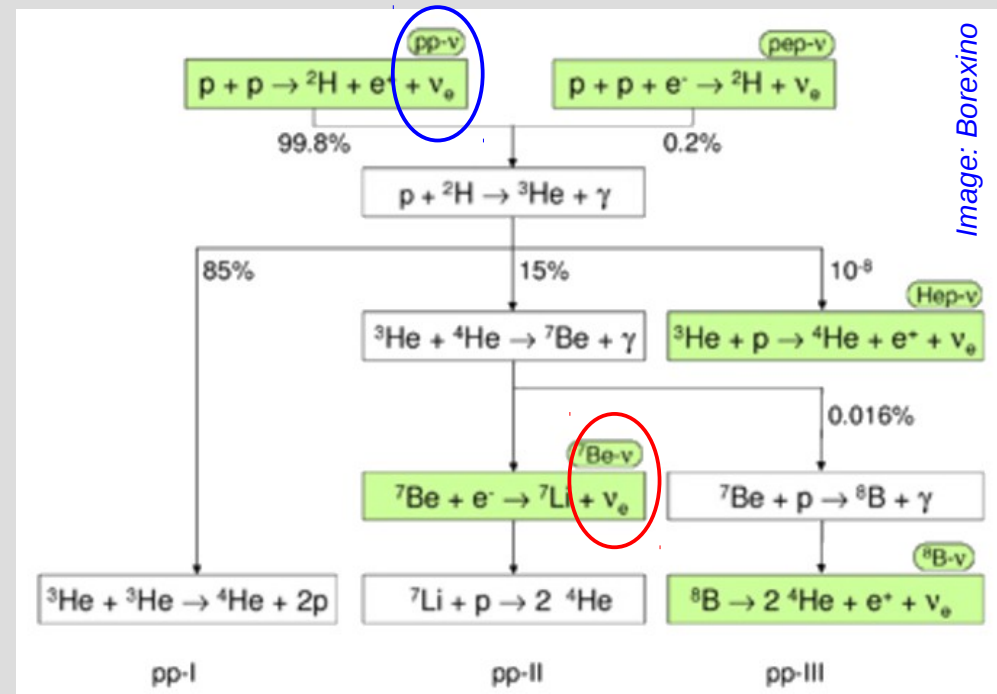
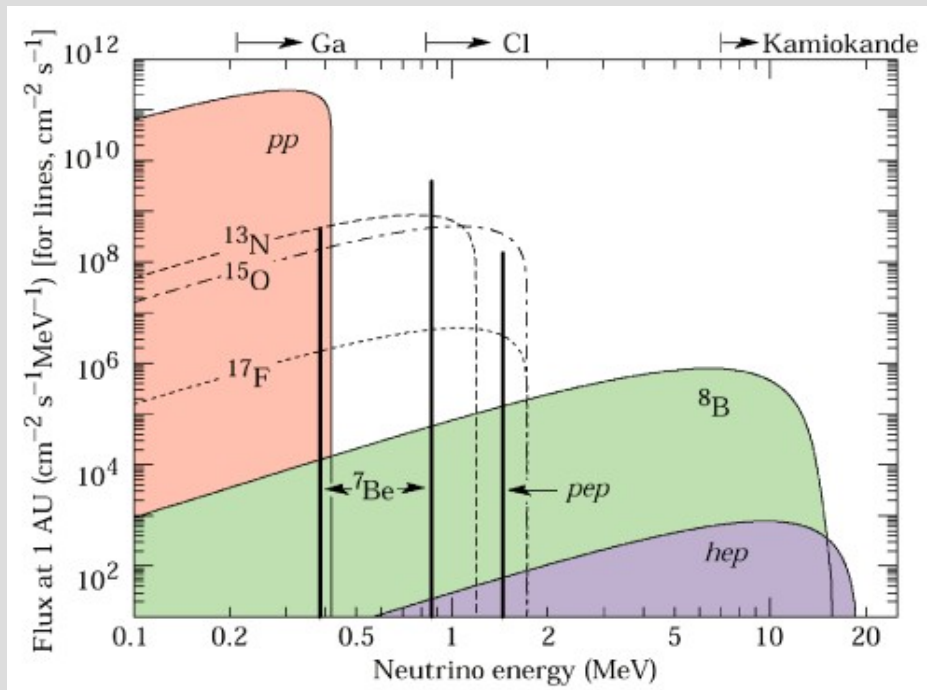
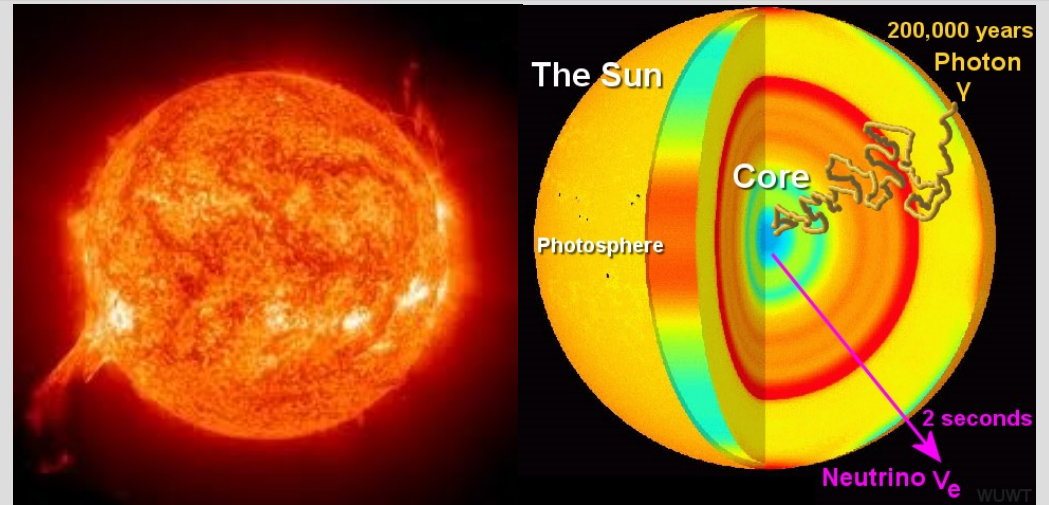




# Low-E solar Neutrinos

## Low-energy solar Neutrinos: pp, ${}^7\text{Be}$

- vast majority of solar neutrinos; help to understand how the Sun works
- very low energetic, hard to detect
- mainly pp-neutrinos

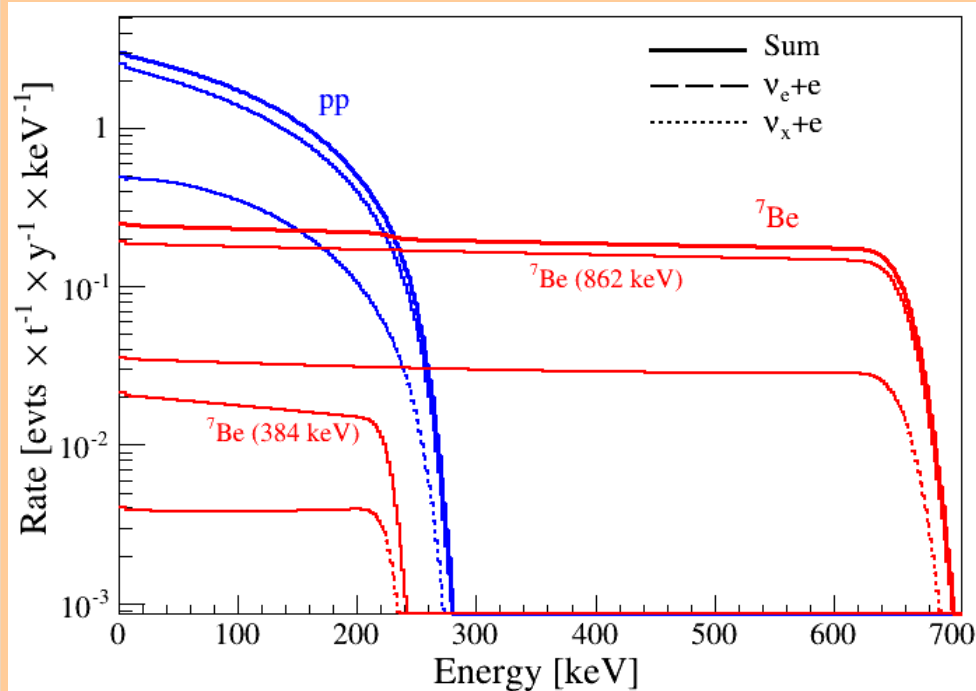


# pp-Neutrinos in DARWIN

a background for the WIMP search

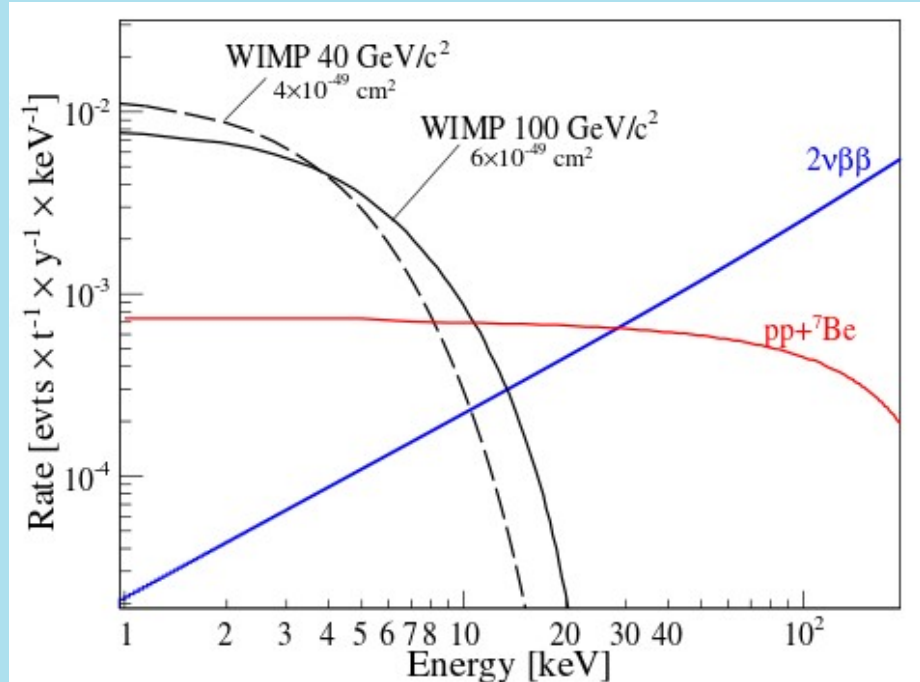
JCAP 11, 017 (2016)

## Differential Recoil Spectrum in Xe



- neutrinos interact with Xe electrons  
→ electronic recoil signature
- continuous recoil spectrum  
→ largest rate at low E

## Neutrino interactions



- ER rejection efficiencies  $\sim 99.98\%$  at 30% NR efficiency are required to reduce to sub-dominant level



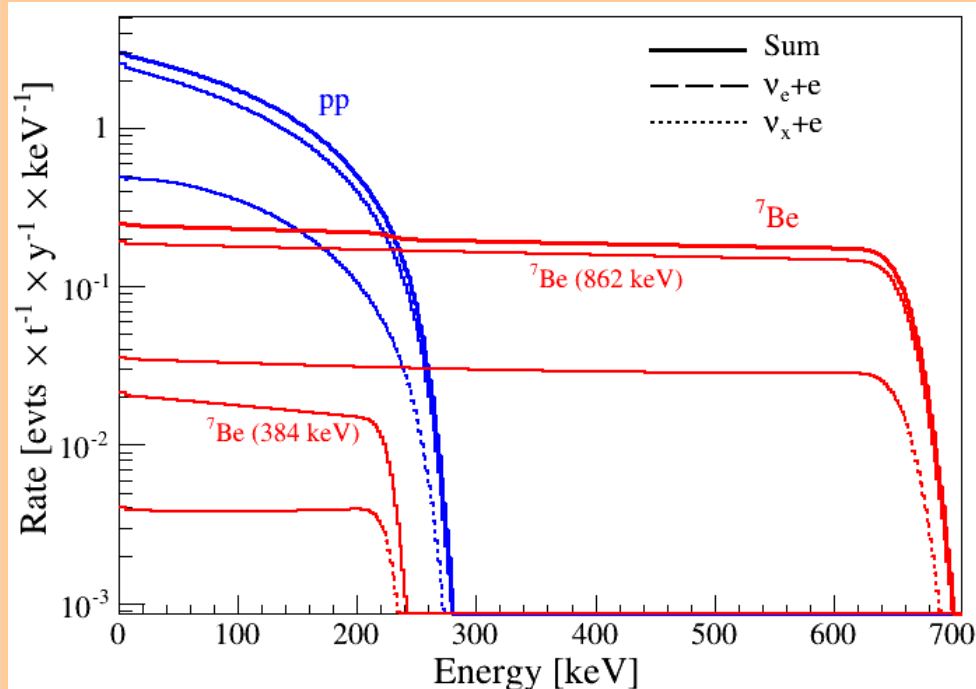
# pp-Neutrinos in DARWIN



JCAP 11, 017 (2016)

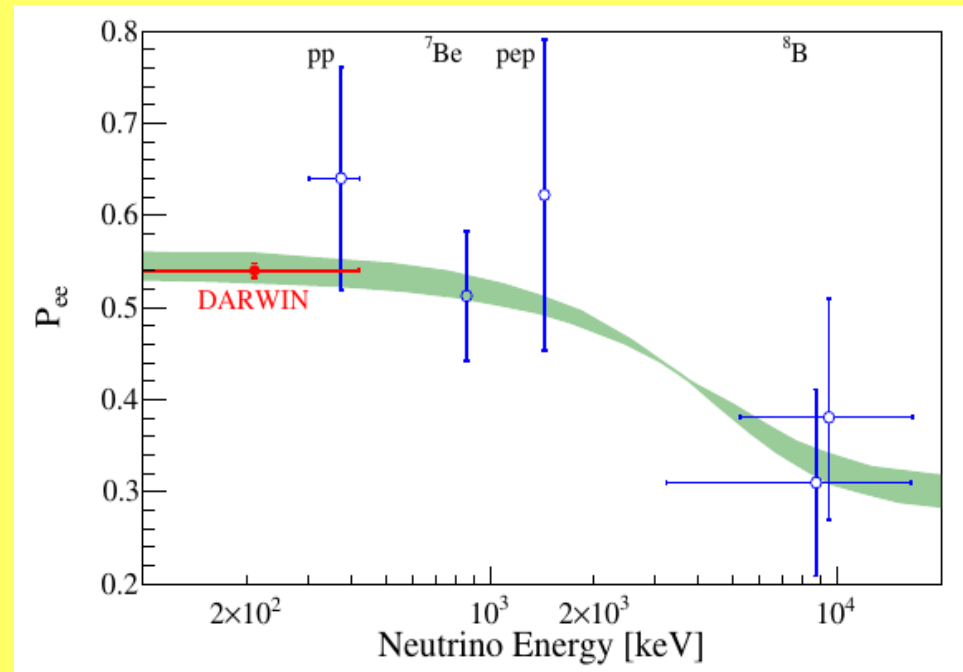
a new physics channel!

## Differential Recoil Spectrum in Xe



- neutrinos interact with Xe electrons  
→ electronic recoil signature
- continuous recoil spectrum  
→ largest rate at low E  
→  $\sim 0.26 \nu$  evts/t/d in low-E region (2-30 keV)

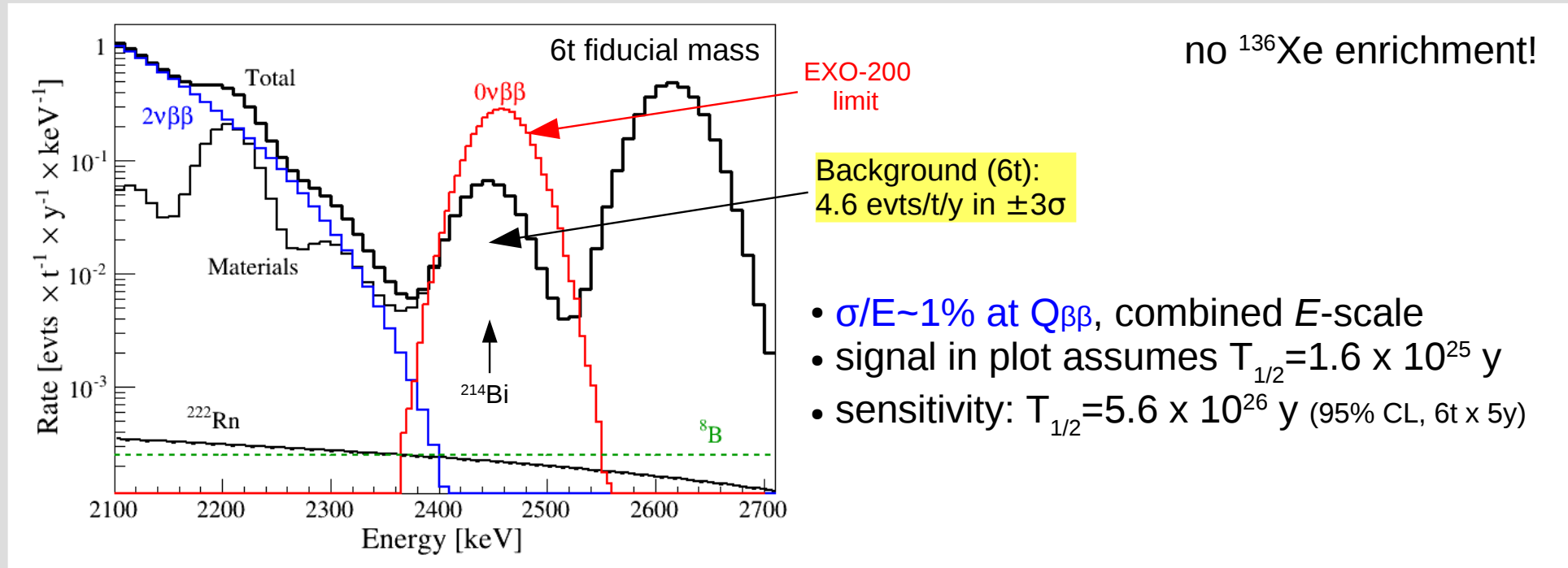
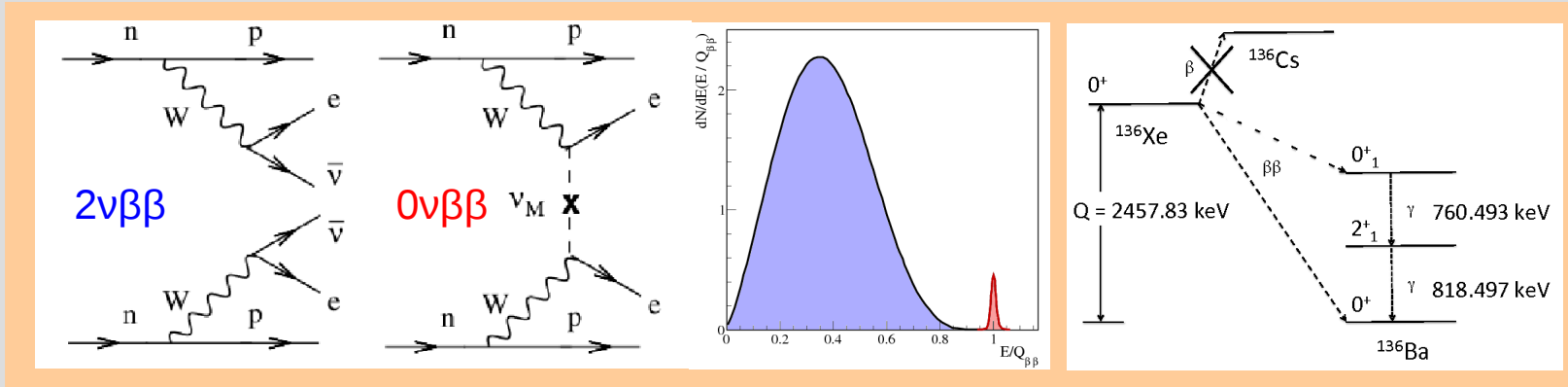
## Neutrino interactions



- 30t target mass, 2-30 keV window  
→ 2850 neutrinos per year (89% pp)  
→ achieve 1% statistical precision  
on pp-flux ( $\rightarrow P_{ee}$ ) with 100 t  $\times$  y

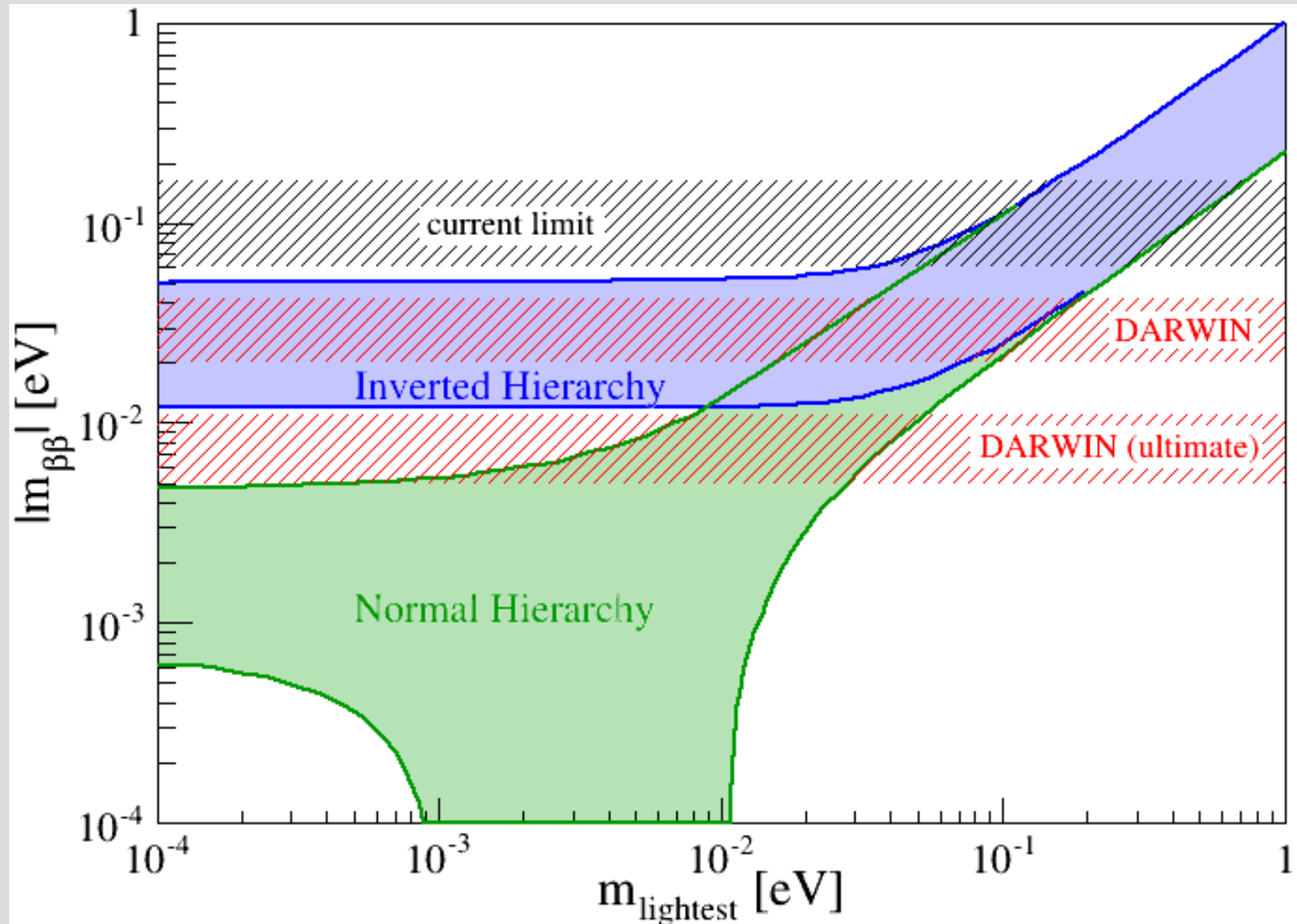
# $^{136}\text{Xe}$ : $0\nu$ double-beta Decay

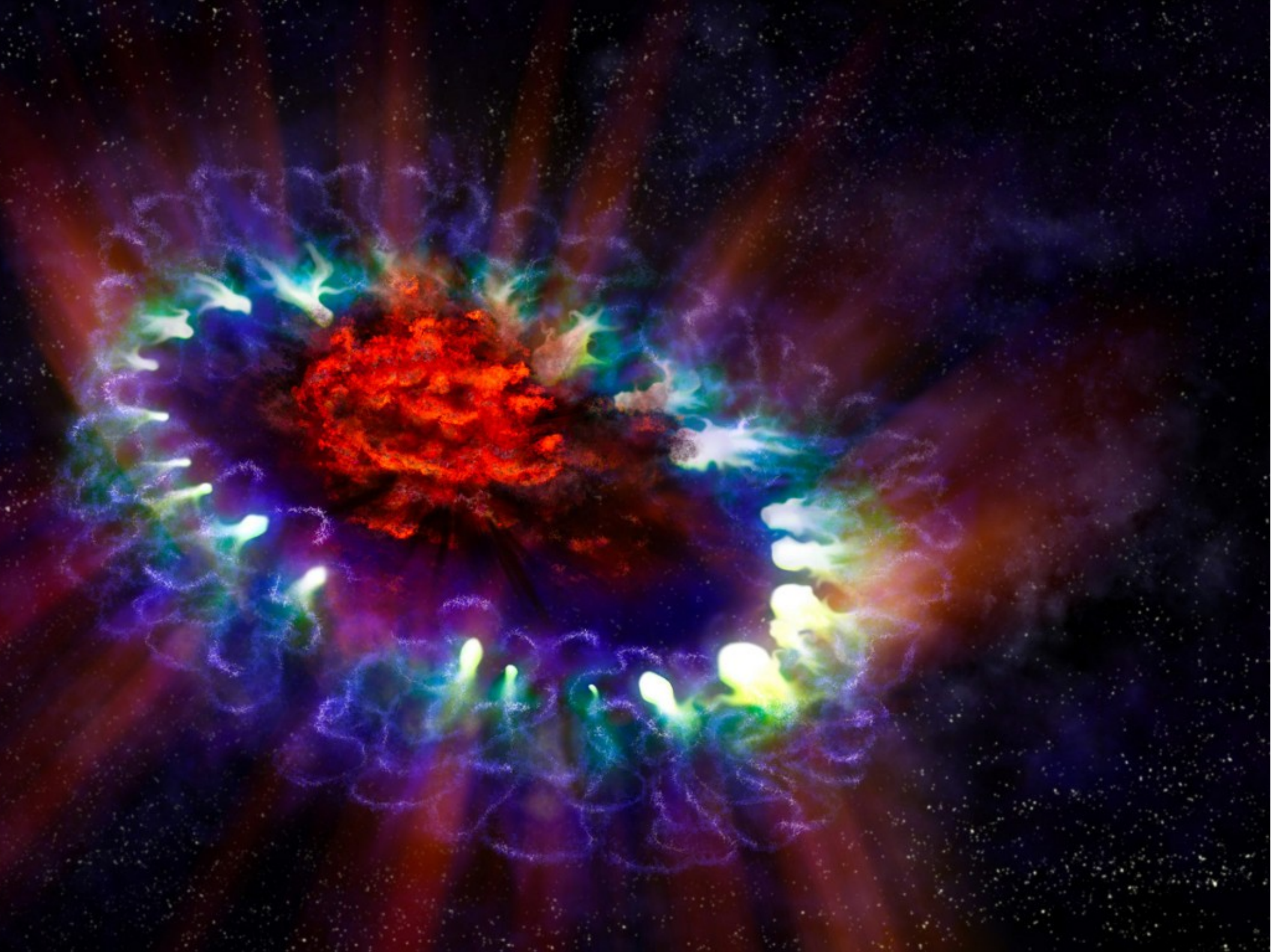
JCAP 01, 044 (2014)





# 0ν Double-beta Decay



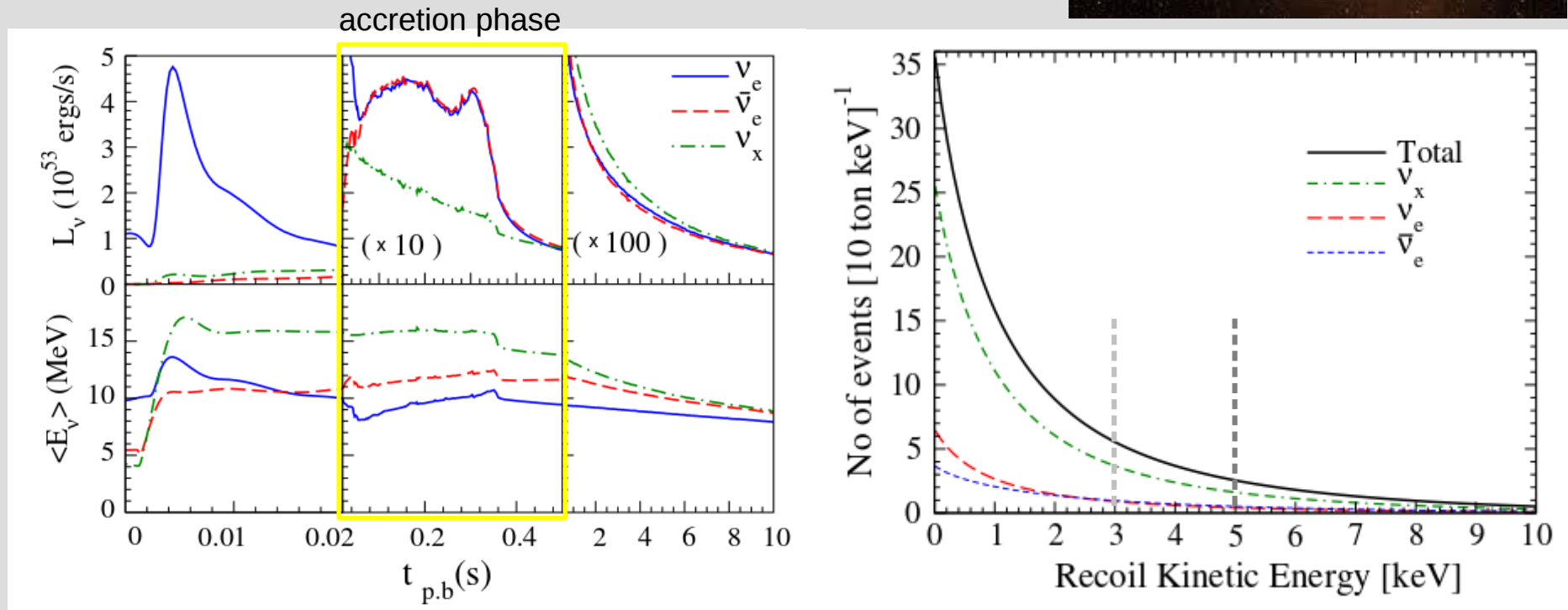


# Supernova Neutrinos

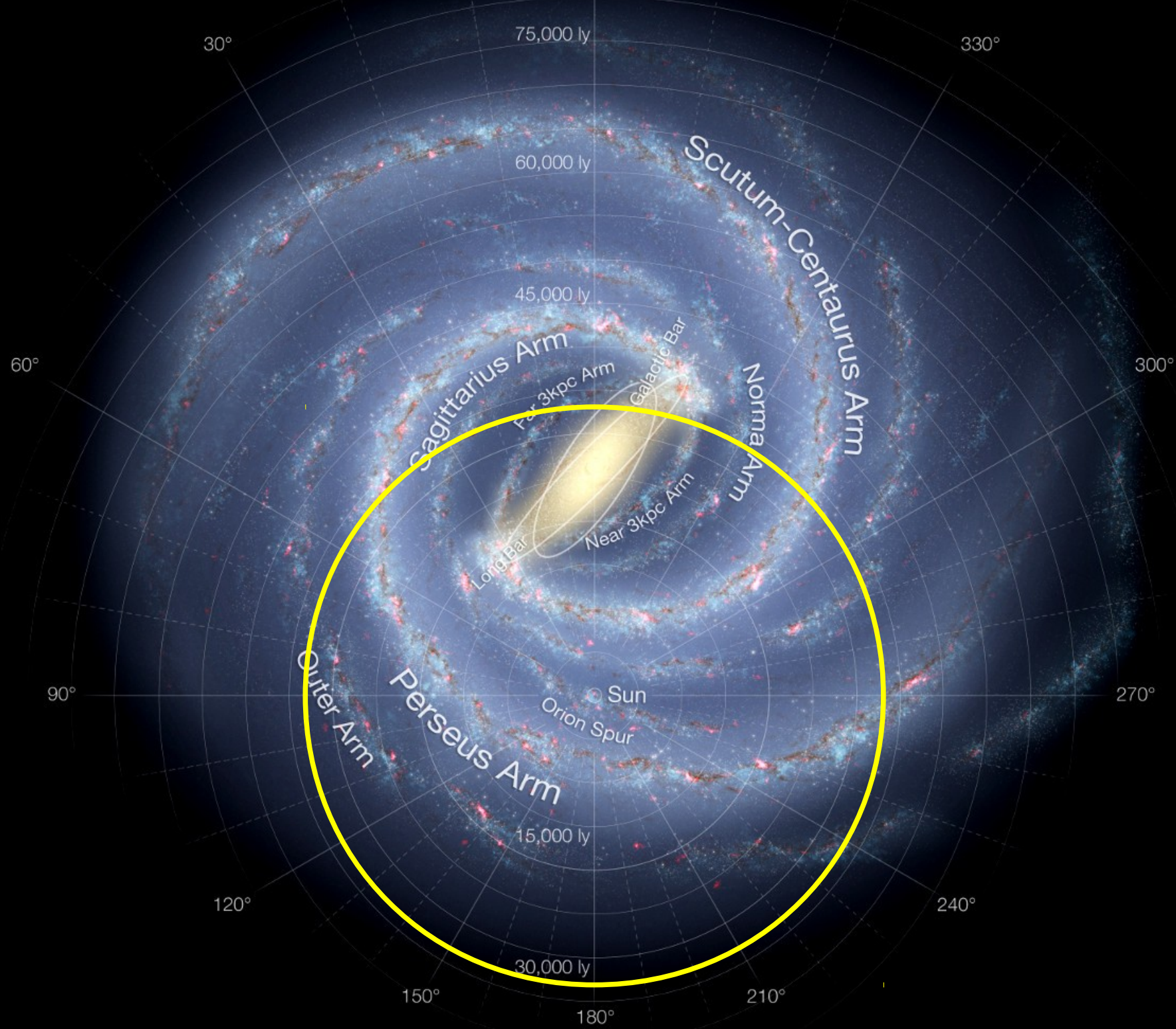
Chakraborty et al., PRD 89, 013011 (2014)

Lang et al., PRD 94, 103009 (2016)

- $\nu$  from supernovae could be detected via CNNS as well
- signal from accretion phase of a  $\sim 18 M_{\text{sun}}$  supernova @ 10 kpc is visible in a **10t-LXe detector** (=DARWIN)
- signal: NRs plus precise time information
- challenge: threshold







# Exciting times ahead of us

