

# Search for Matter Creation with $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay (experimental overview)

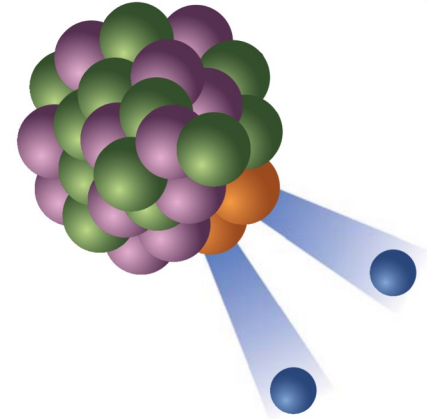
Ruben Saakyan (UCL)

FIPs 2022

20-Oct-2022



- Introduction and Motivation
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  and neutrino physics, physics reach
- Experimental approaches
- Outlook and international landscape



## *Disclaimer:*

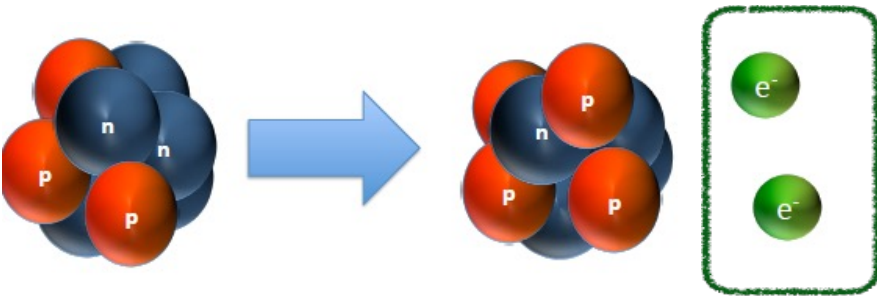
- Vibrant field: impossible to do justice to all projects
- Focus on giving an overview of most promising techniques and convey excitement about physics reach, with breakthroughs potentially around the corner

# The Big Questions



**Proton Decay:**  
 “Disappearance” of nucleons

$$B = N_{\text{baryons}} - N_{\text{anti-baryons}}$$

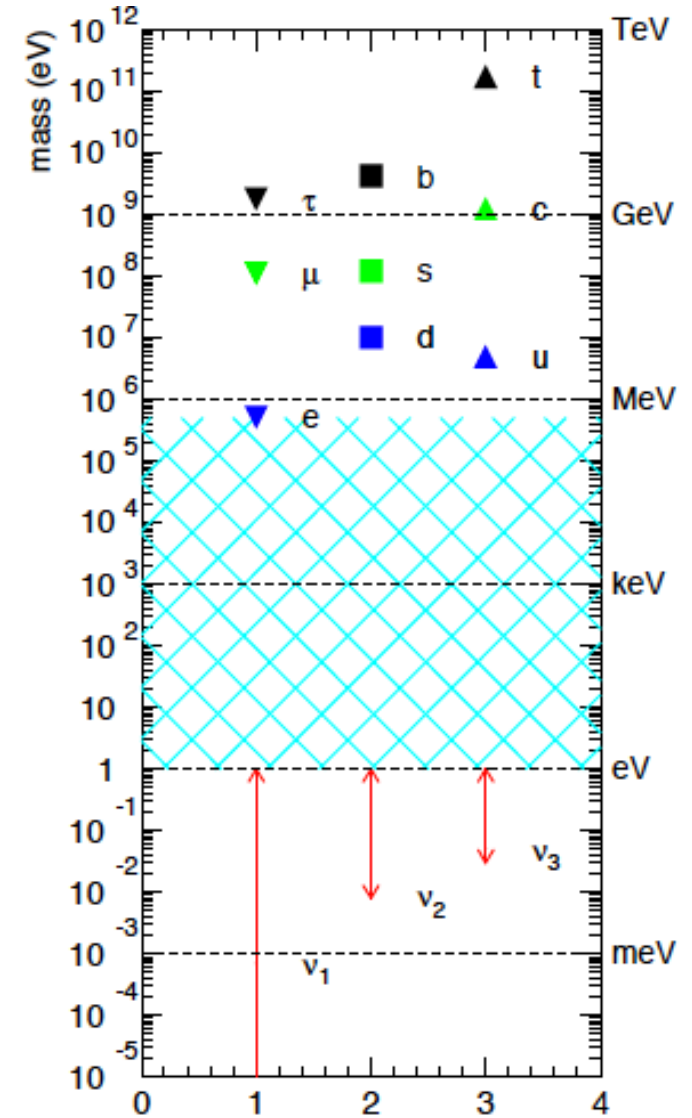


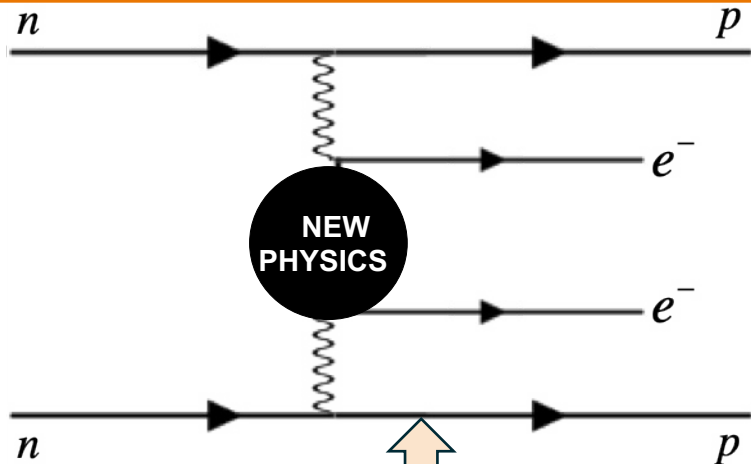
**Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )**  
 “Creation” of electrons

$$L = N_{\text{leptons}} - N_{\text{anti-leptons}}$$

*L and B-L non-conservation*

- Crucial for understanding *dominance of matter* over anti-matter
- Crucial for understanding mechanism behind  $\nu$ -mass (*Majorana* vs *Dirac*)
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  is the most sensitive way to address **L**epton **N**umber **V**iolation *regardless* of underlying mechanism





NEW PHYSICS

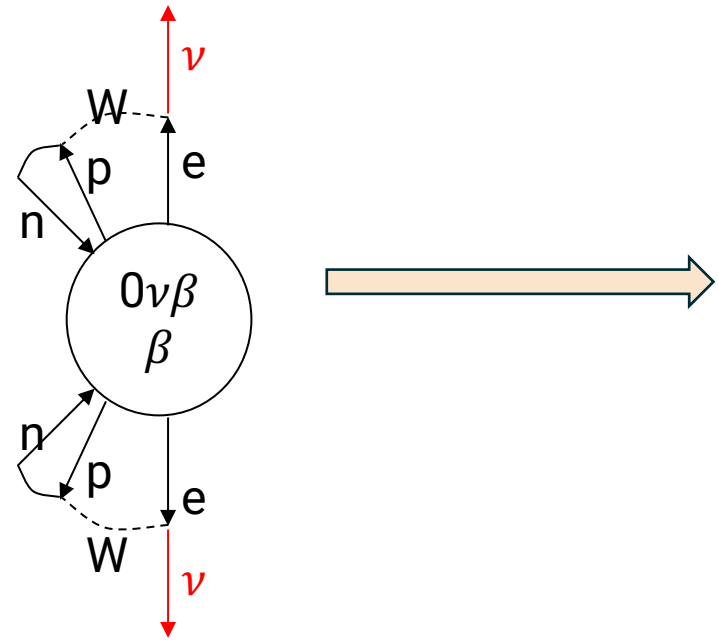
phase space

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = G^{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M^{0\nu}|^2 \eta^2$$

**NME:**  
 Nasty Nuclear  
 Matrix  
 Element

LNV parameter

$\eta$  can be due to  $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ ,  $V + A$ , Majoron, SUSY,  $H^-$ , leptoquarks or a combination of them



*Schechter and Valle, 1982:*

Observation is unambiguous evidence for non-zero Majorana mass (even if it is not dominating mechanism)



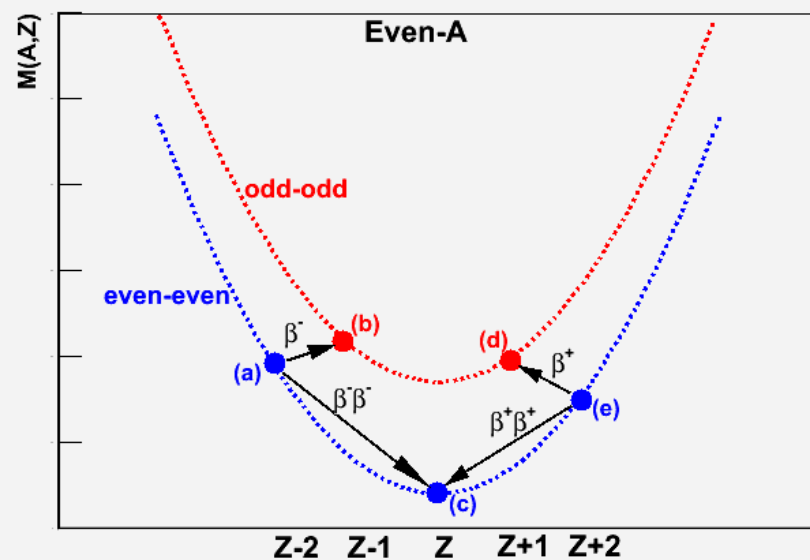
## Abstract

From the Fermi theory of  $\beta$ -disintegration the probability of simultaneous emission of two electrons (and two neutrinos) has been calculated. The result is that this process occurs sufficiently rarely to allow a half-life of over  $10^{17}$  years for a nucleus, even if its isobar of atomic number different by 2 were more stable by 20 times the electron mass.

M. Goeppert-Mayer

*Double beta-Disintegration, Phys.Rev. 48:512-16 (1935)*

Citations per year



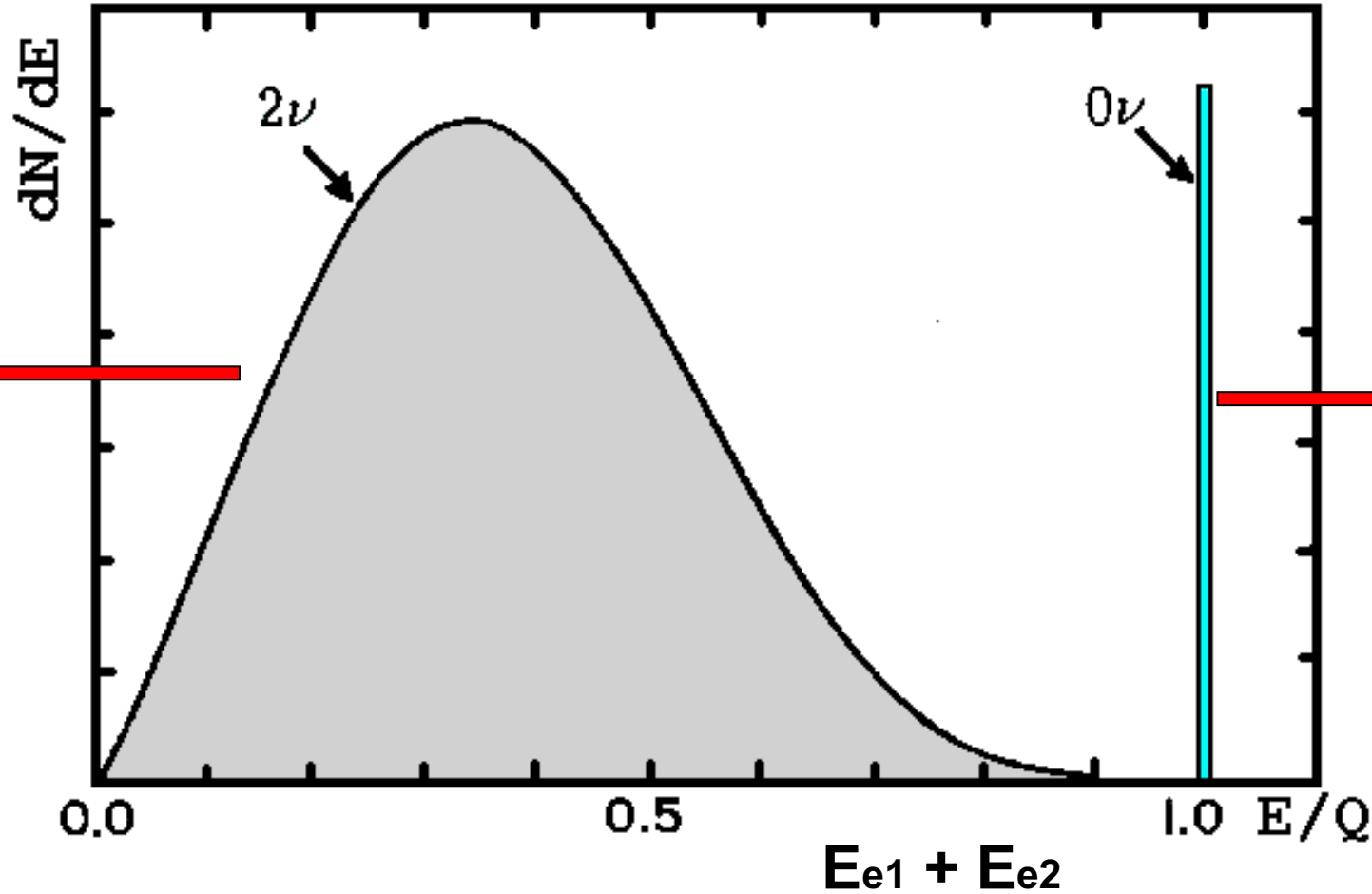
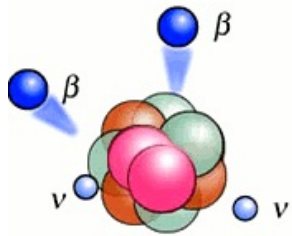
Over **40 nuclei** can undergo  **$\beta\beta$ -decay** (including  **$\beta^+\beta^+$**  and **2K-capture**)

Only **~9** experimentally feasible for  **$0\nu\beta\beta$**

Isotope	Daughter	$Q_{\beta\beta}^a$ [keV]	$f_{\text{nat}}^b$ [%]	$f_{\text{enr}}^c$ [%]
$^{48}\text{Ca}$	$^{48}\text{Ti}$	4 267.98(32)	0.187(21)	16
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$^{76}\text{Se}$	2 039.061(7)	7.75(12)	92
$^{82}\text{Se}$	$^{82}\text{Kr}$	2 997.9(3)	8.82(15)	96.3
$^{96}\text{Zr}$	$^{96}\text{Mo}$	3 356.097(86)	2.80(2)	86
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$^{100}\text{Ru}$	3 034.40(17)	9.744(65)	99.5
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$^{116}\text{Sn}$	2 813.50(13)	7.512(54)	82
$^{130}\text{Te}$	$^{130}\text{Xe}$	2 527.518(13)	34.08(62)	92
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$^{136}\text{Ba}$	2 457.83(37)	8.857(72)	90
$^{150}\text{Nd}$	$^{150}\text{Sm}$	3 371.38(20)	5.638(28)	91

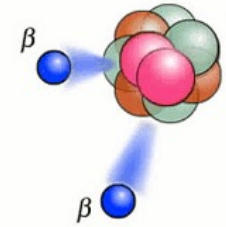
$$\Gamma^{2\nu} \propto G_F^4$$

$$T_{1/2} \sim 10^{19} - 10^{24} \text{ yr!}$$



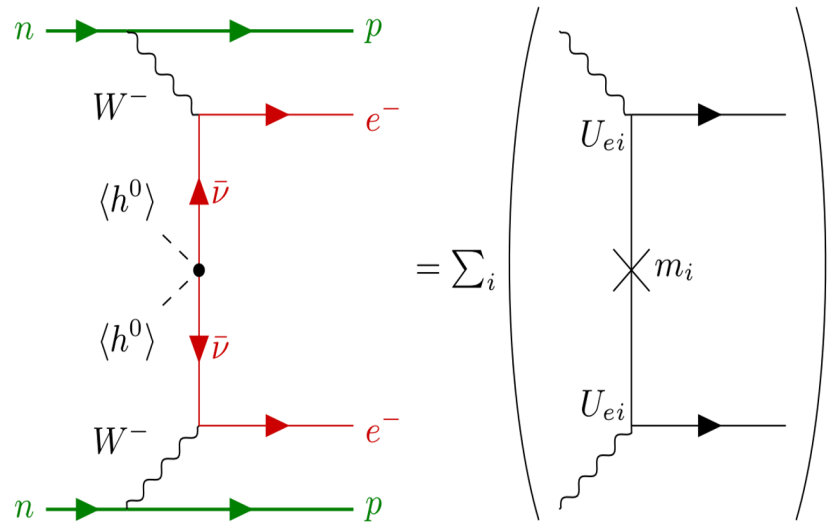
$$\Gamma^{0\nu} \propto G_F^4 \cdot \eta_{LNV}^2$$

$$T_{1/2} > 10^{26} \text{ yr!}$$

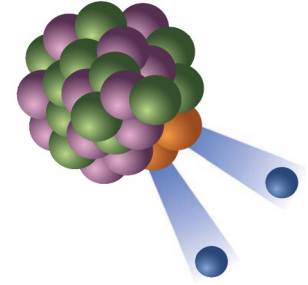


$2\nu\beta\beta(EC/\beta^+)$  has been detected in 13 nuclei!

If possible: individual electron energies,  $E_{e1}$ ,  $E_{e2}$ , and angle  $\theta$  between them



$$P \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto G g^4 M^2 \left( \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e} \right)^2$$

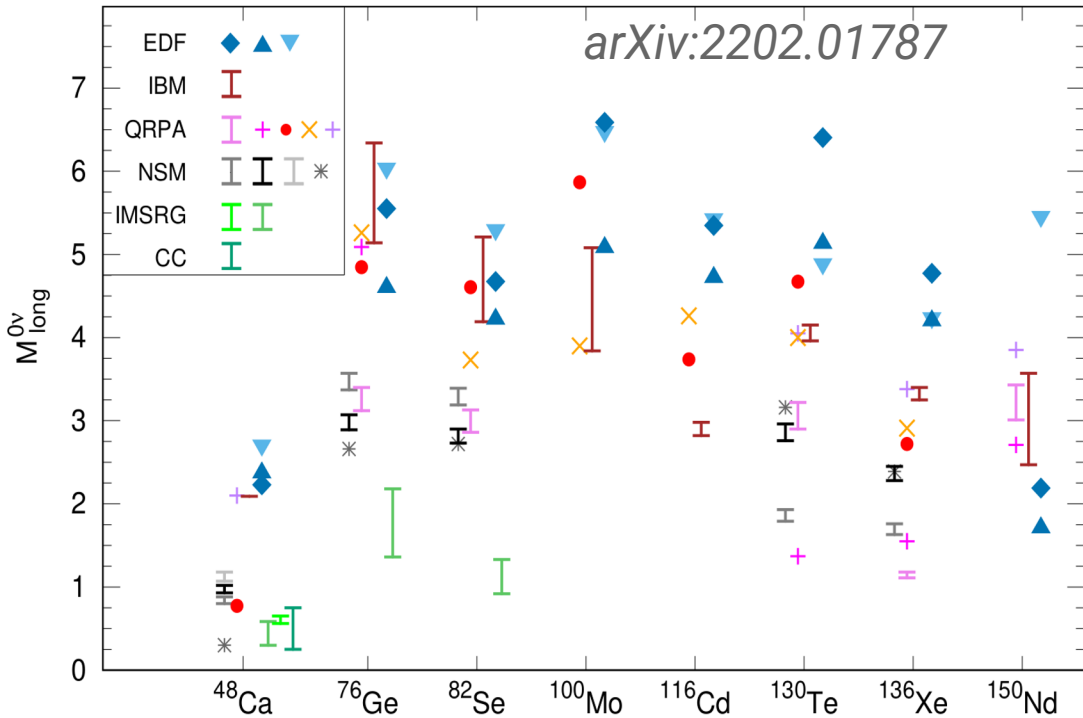


$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| = \left| c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_1 + s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_2 e^{i2\alpha} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i2\beta} \right|$$

$$c_{12} = \cos\theta_{12}, c_{13} = \cos\theta_{13}, s_{12} = \sin\theta_{12}, s_{13} = \sin\theta_{13}$$

$m_{1,2,3} \rightarrow$  mass eigenstates  $\alpha, \beta \rightarrow$  Majorana CP-phases

- Minimal extension of SM
- Access to absolute neutrino mass
- Reach interplay with neutrino oscillations, kinematic measurements ( $m_\beta$ ), cosmology ( $\Sigma$ )



$$P \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto G g^4 M^2 \left( \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e} \right)^2$$

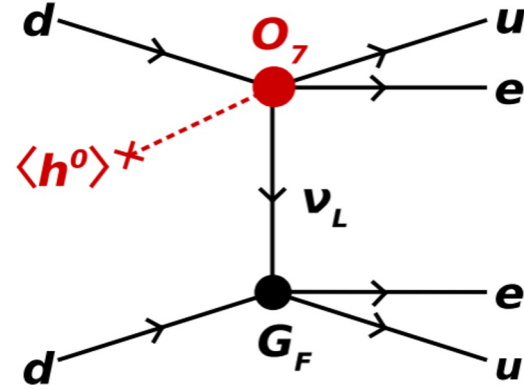
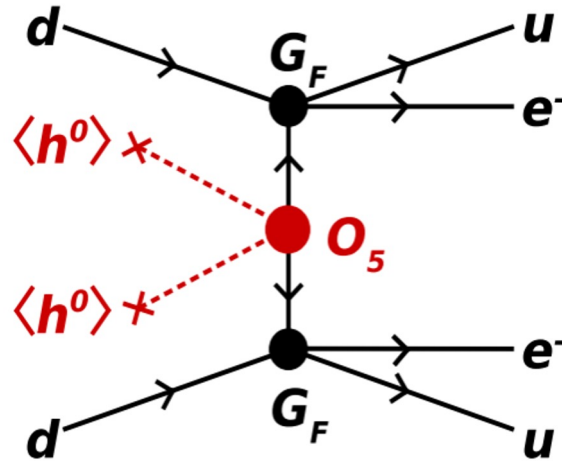
nuclear matrix element (NME)

- Significant effort from different groups and different nuclear models
- *Question of gA quenching under study*
- No isotope has clear preference. Choice driven by experimental considerations.
- **Multiple isotope confirmation crucial**
- **Experimental input important**
  - »  **$2\nu\beta\beta$  decay**
  - » charge exchange reactions
  - » muon capture

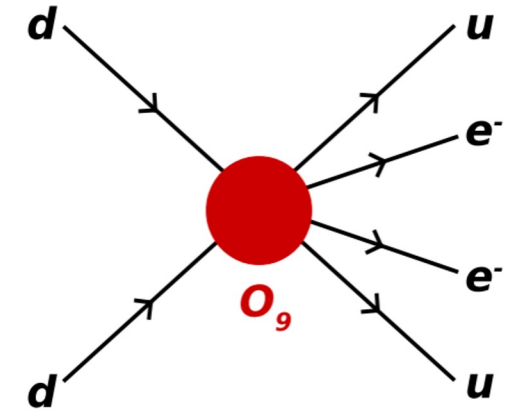




Cirigliano et al., JHEP 12, 097 (2018)

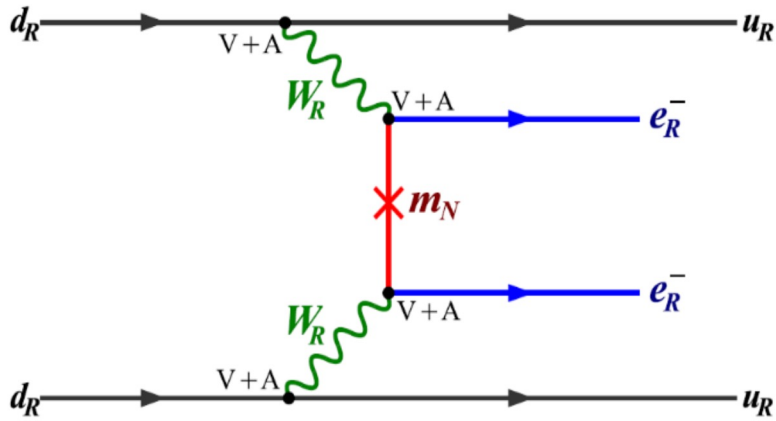


Deppisch, Graf, Iachello and Kotila  
Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9, 095016

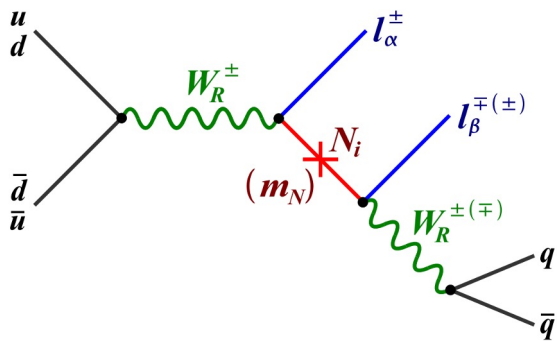


- Any new L-violating physics can result in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  (access to ultra-high energy BSM)
- That includes Heavy Neutral Leptons and many other (see F. Deppisch talk)

Example: Left-Right Symmetric models

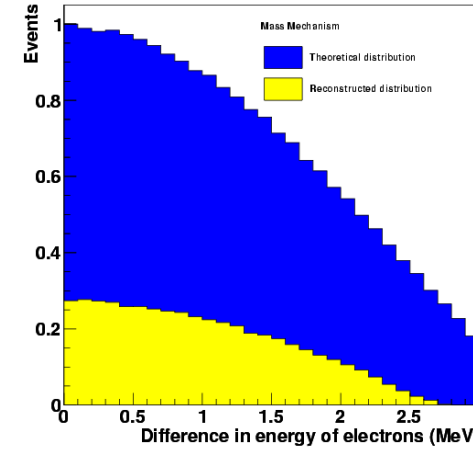


Synergies with LHC searches

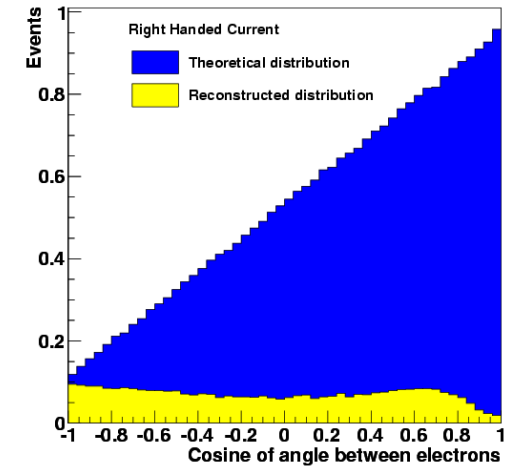
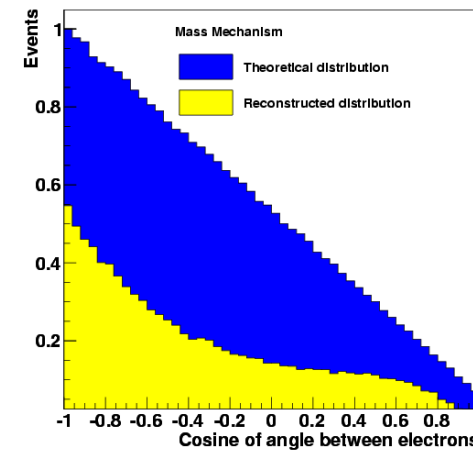
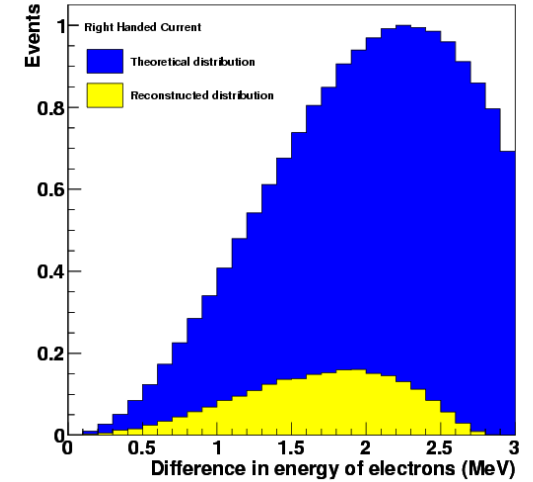


Deppisch, Graf, Iachello and Kotila  
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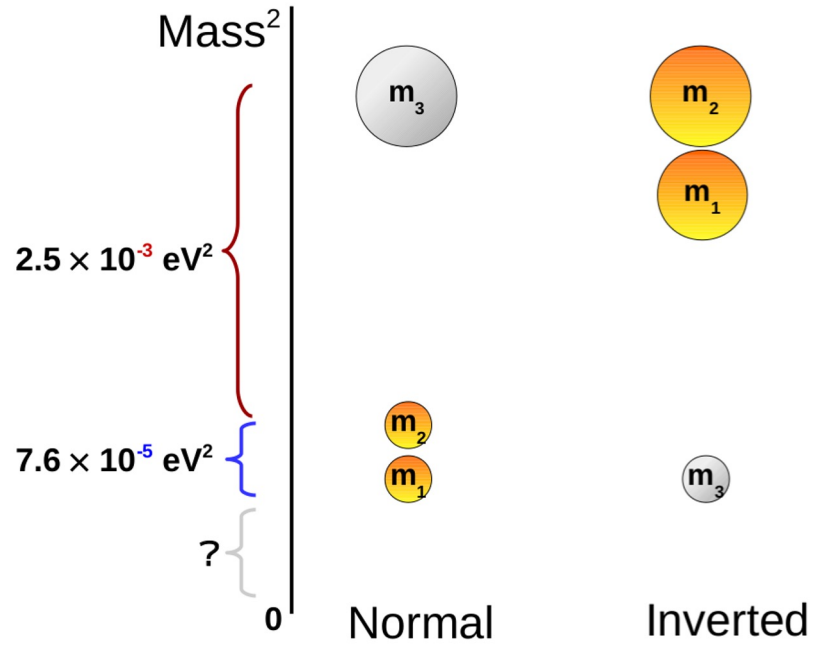
$\langle m_\nu \rangle$



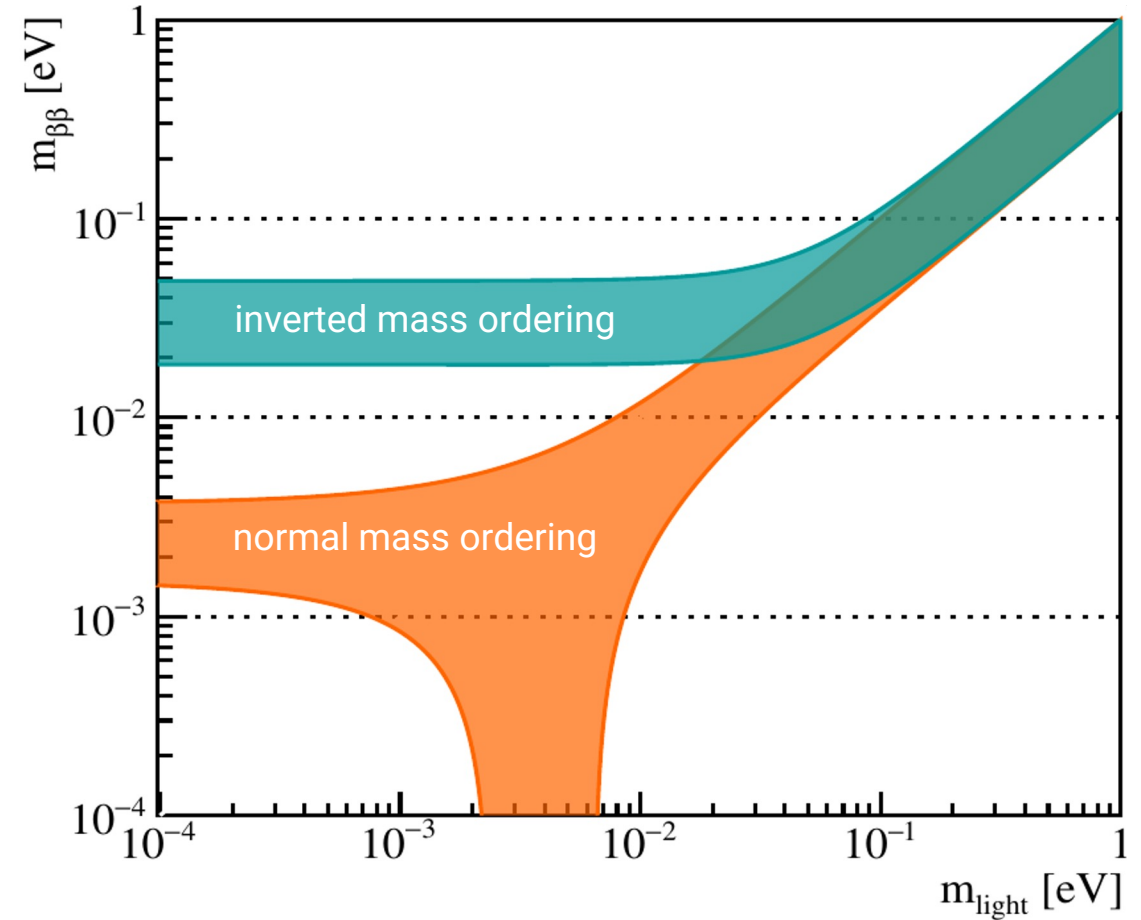
V+A

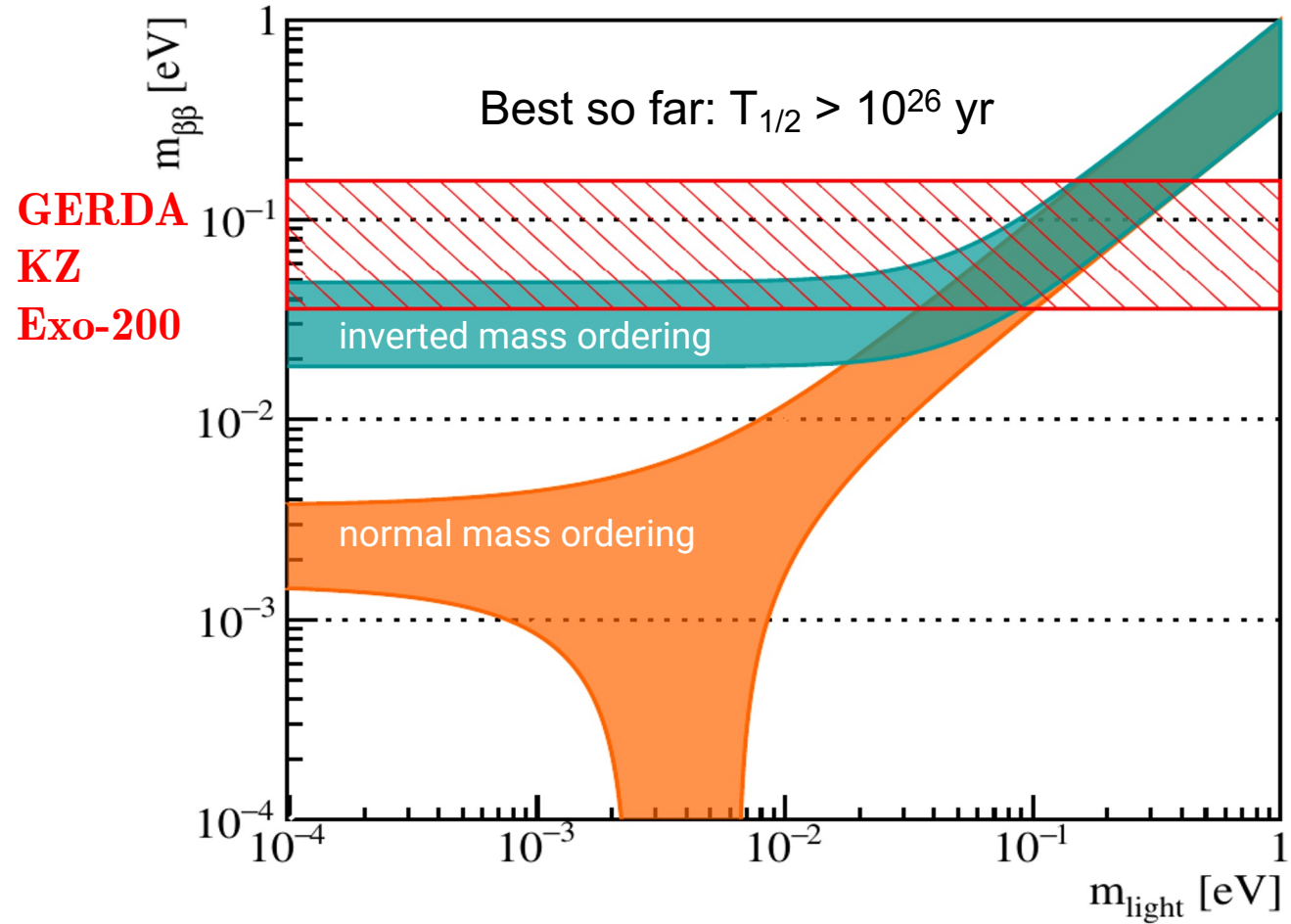
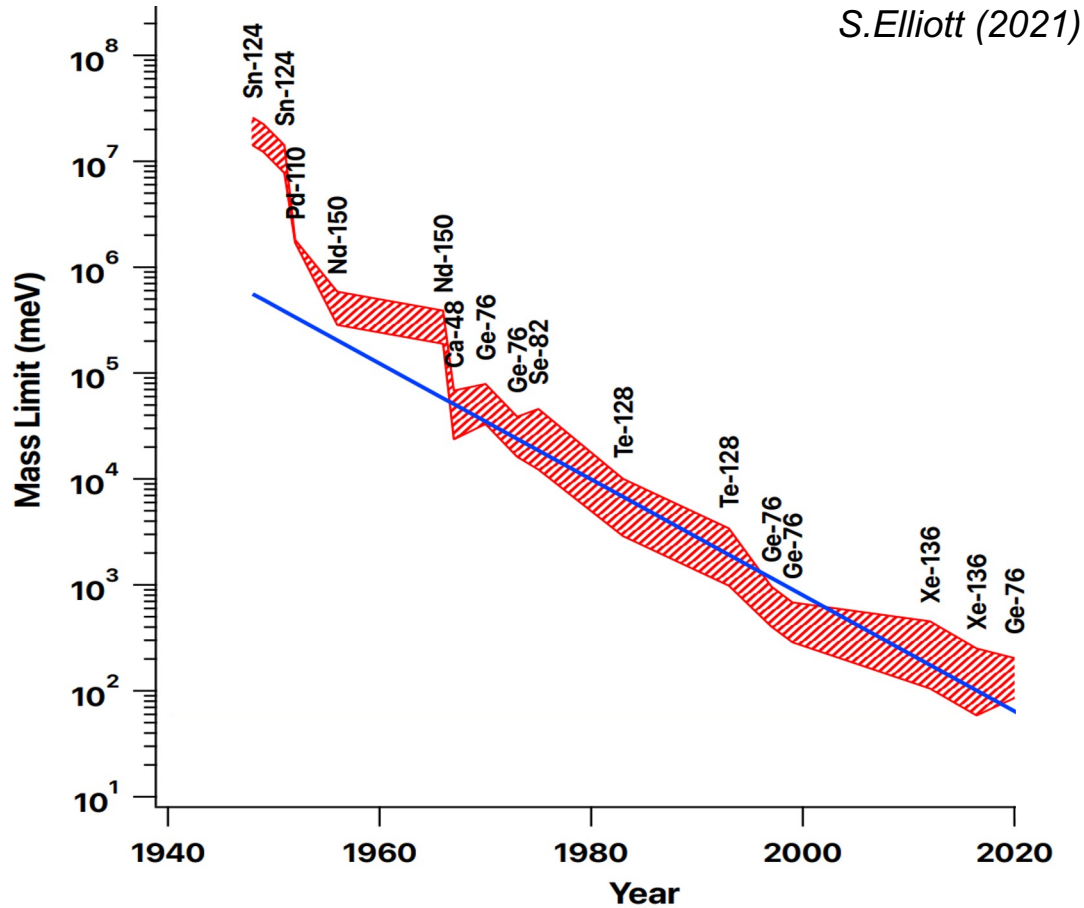


SuperNEMO Collaboration  
EPJ C (2010) 70, pp. 972-943.

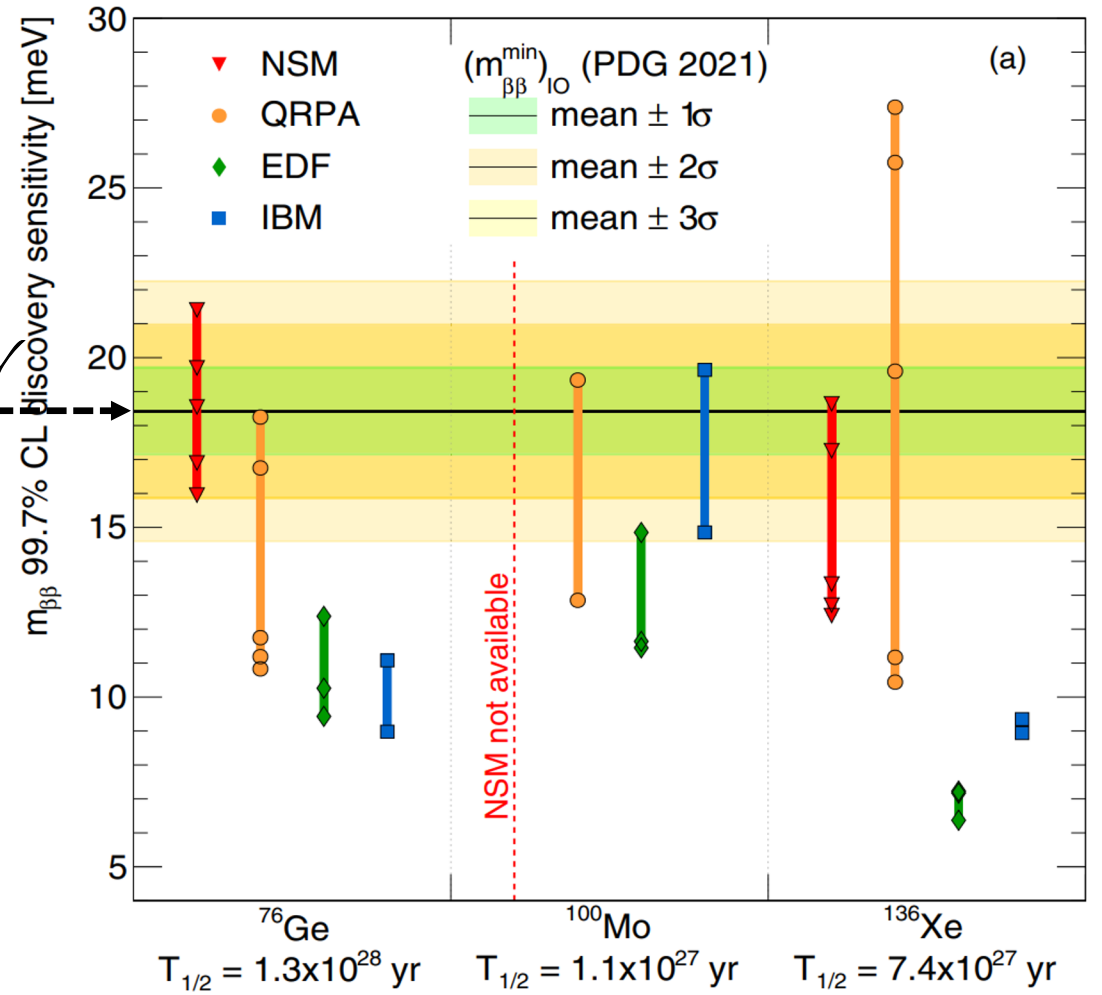
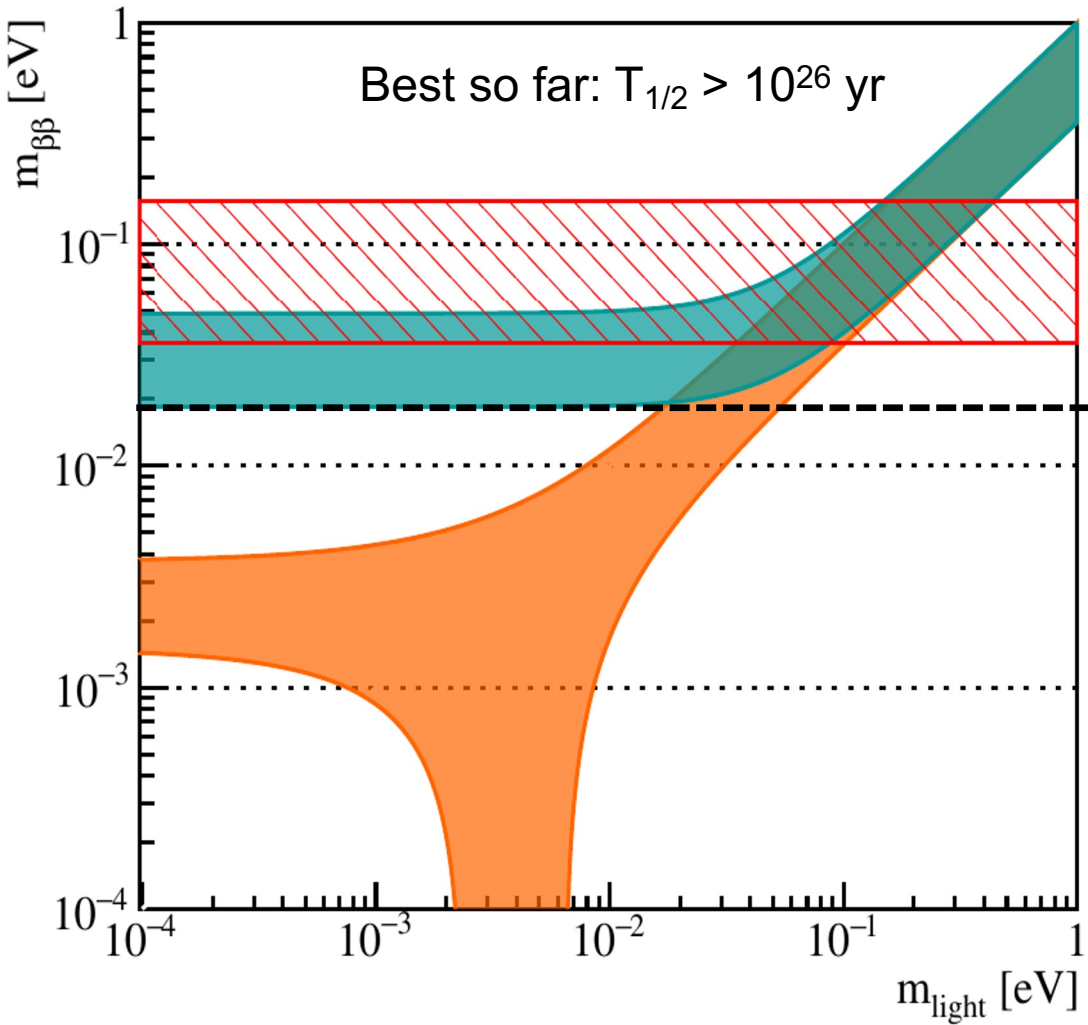


$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$



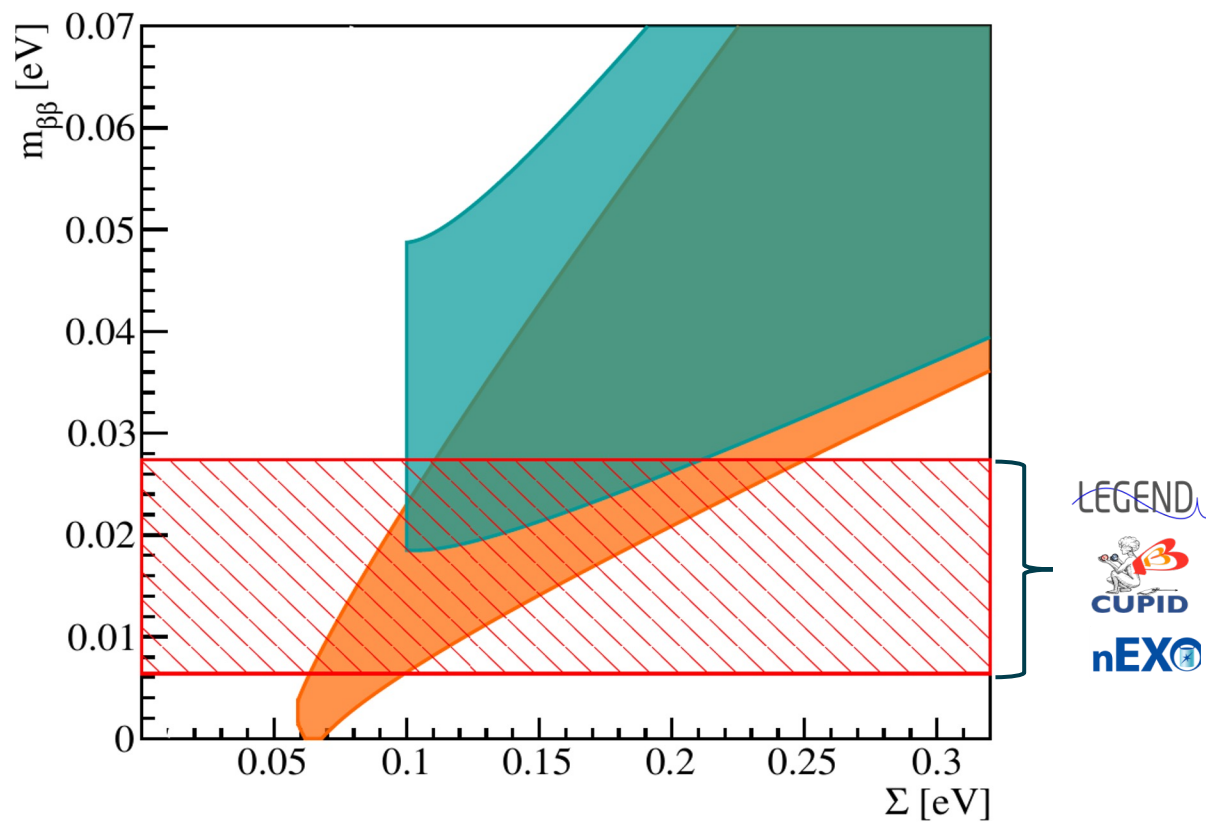


PRC 104, L042501 (2021)

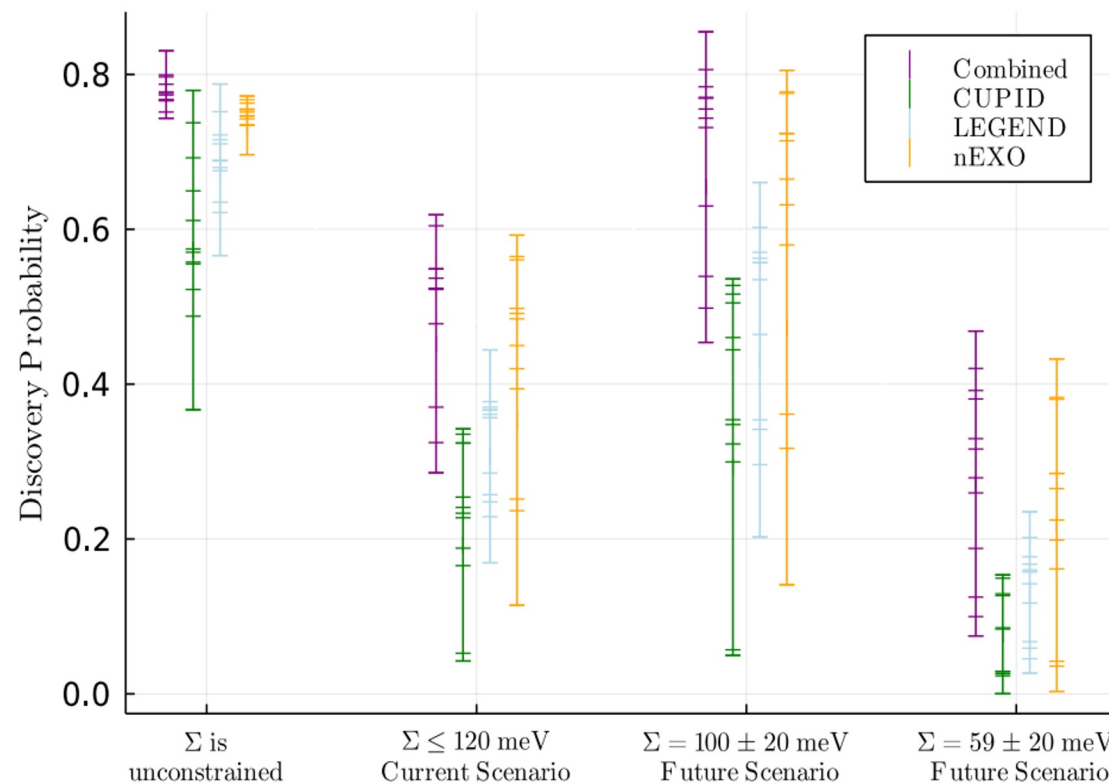


Cosmology surveys (DESI/EUCLID) closing in on positive measurement for  $\Sigma$

$$\Sigma = \sum_i m_i$$



arXiv:2202.01787



arXiv: 2208.09954

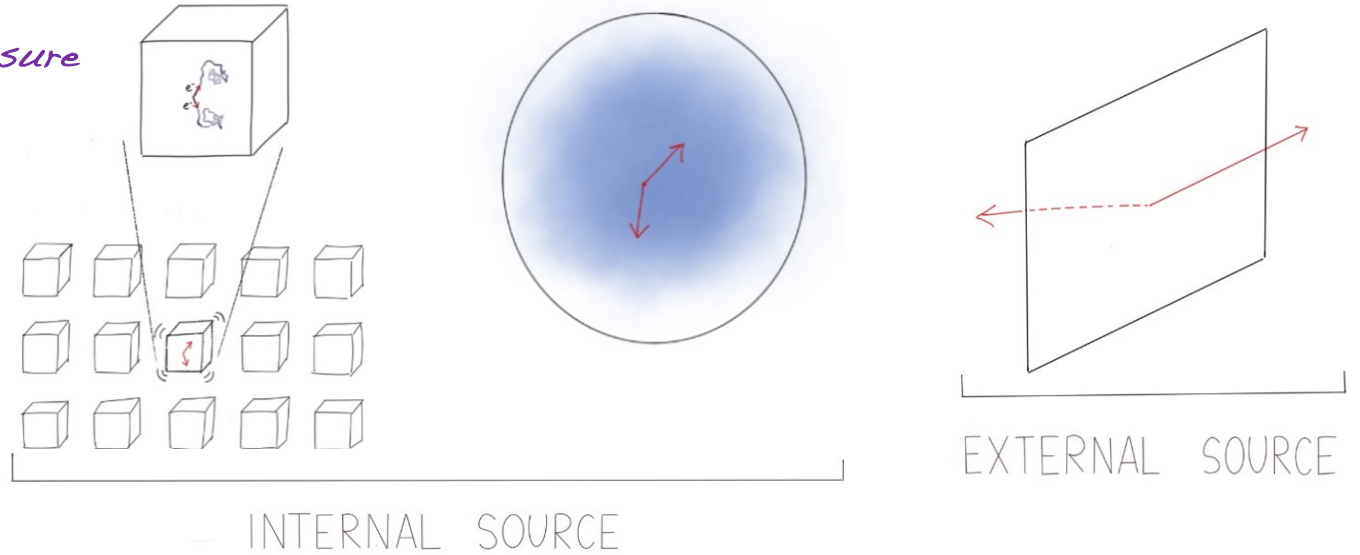
# Experimental Approaches

maximise *detection efficiency*  
and  $\beta\beta$  *isotope abundance*

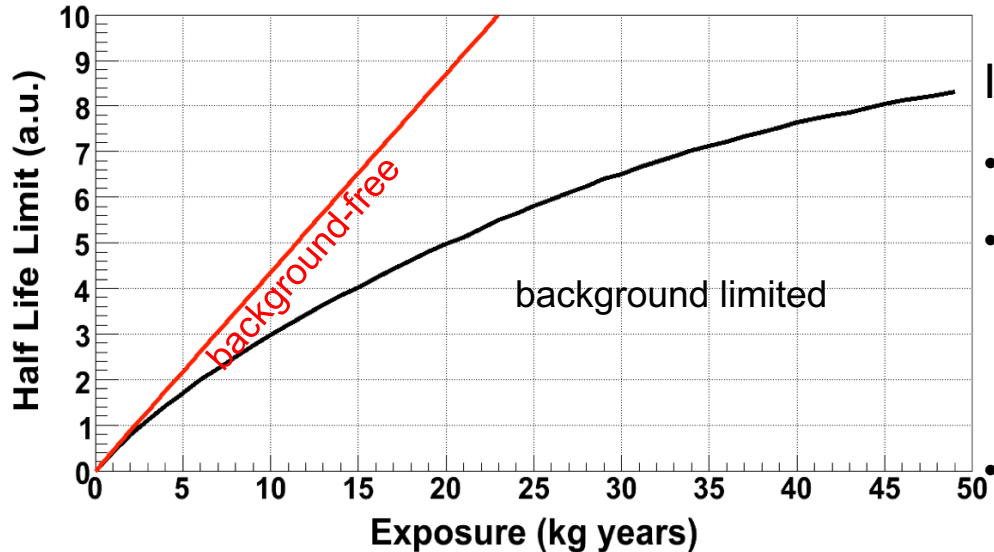
maximise *exposure*

minimise *background*

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (90\% \text{ C.L.}) = 2.54 \times 10^{26} \text{ y} \left( \frac{\epsilon \times a}{W} \right) \sqrt{\frac{M \times t}{b \times \Delta E}}$$

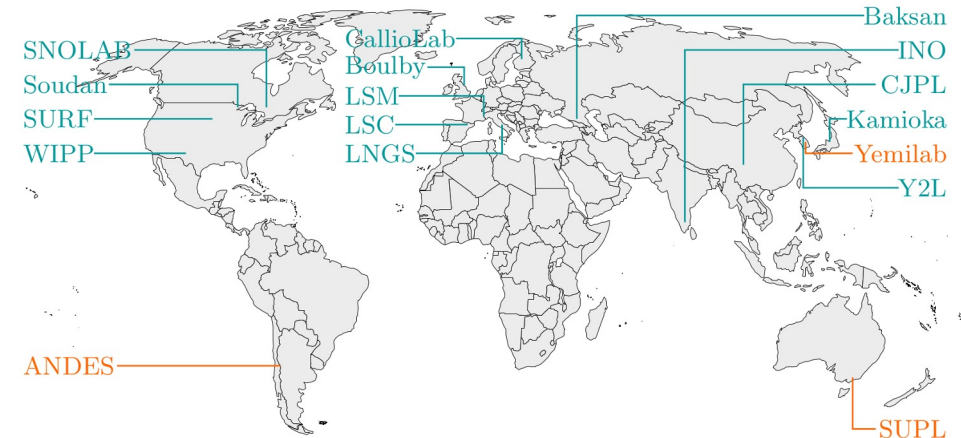


- Drawings courtesy of Laura Manenti



It's all about backgrounds

- Cosmic rays (**underground**)
  - Natural radioactivity (**clean materials, particle id and tagging**)
- Standard Model  $2\nu\beta\beta$   
(**energy resolution**)





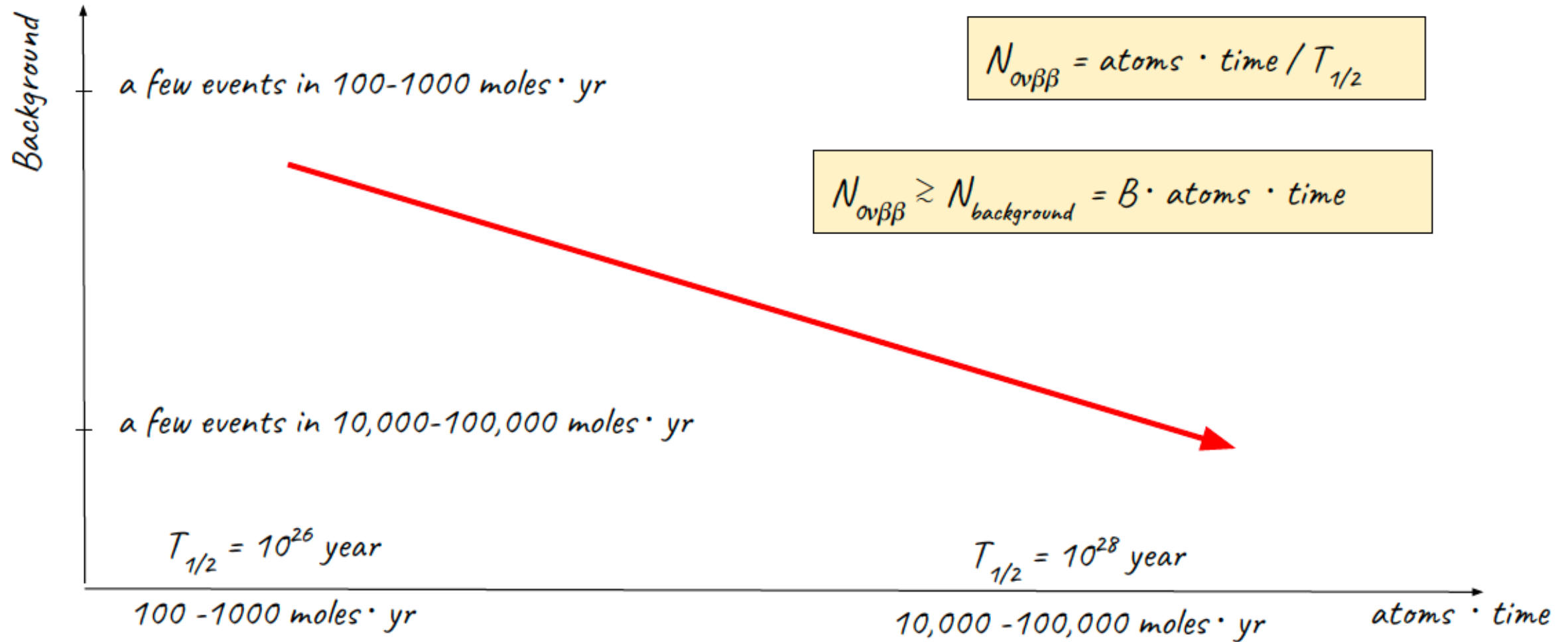
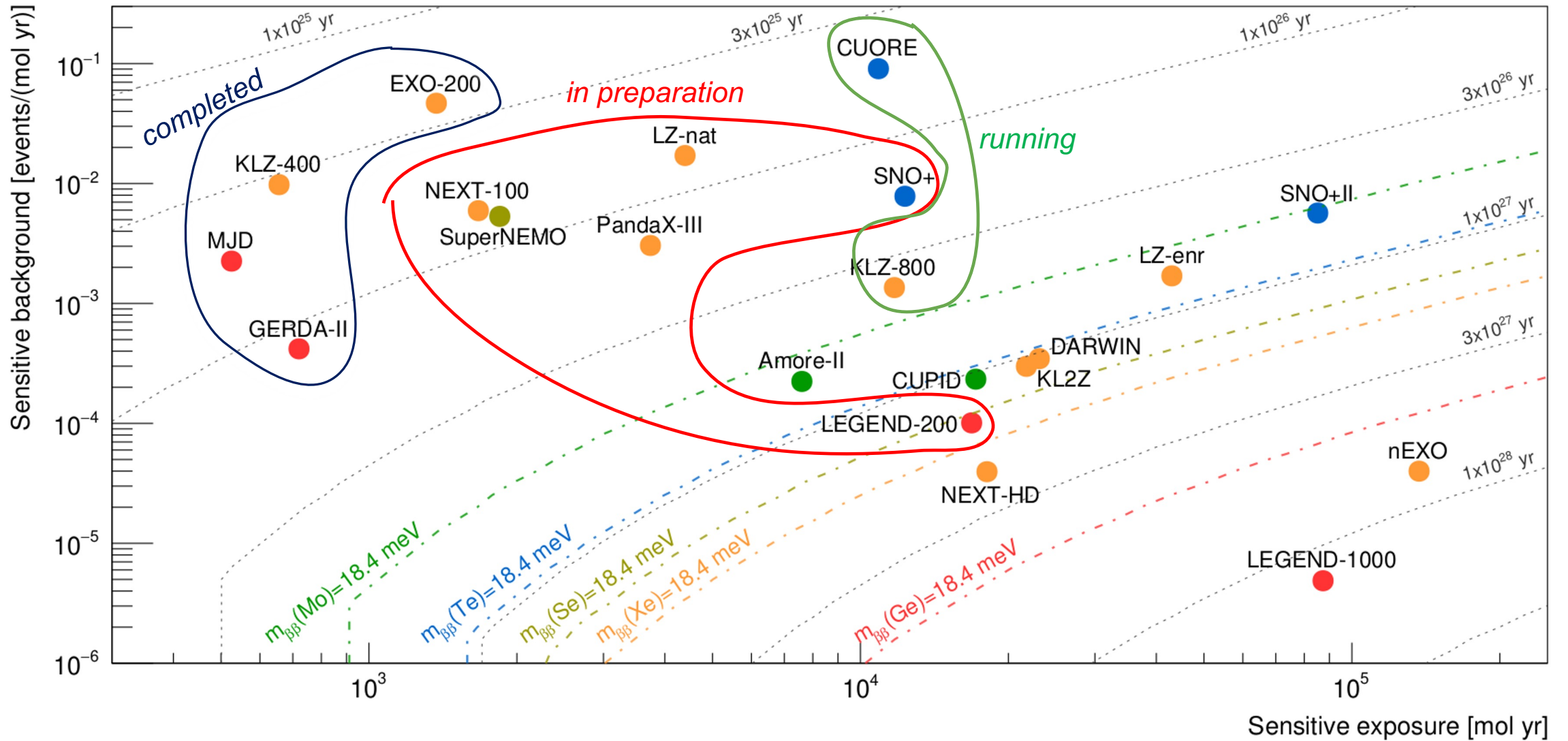
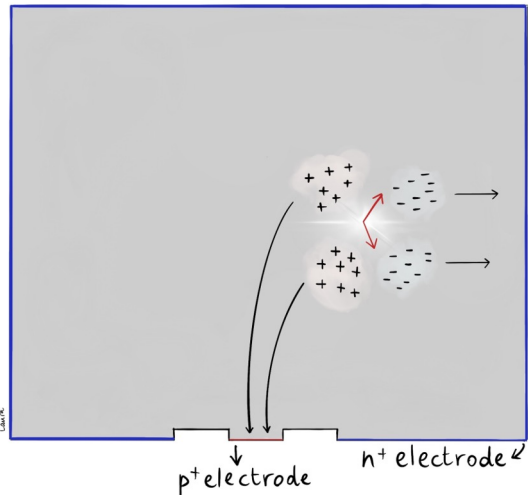


Image courtesy M. Agostini

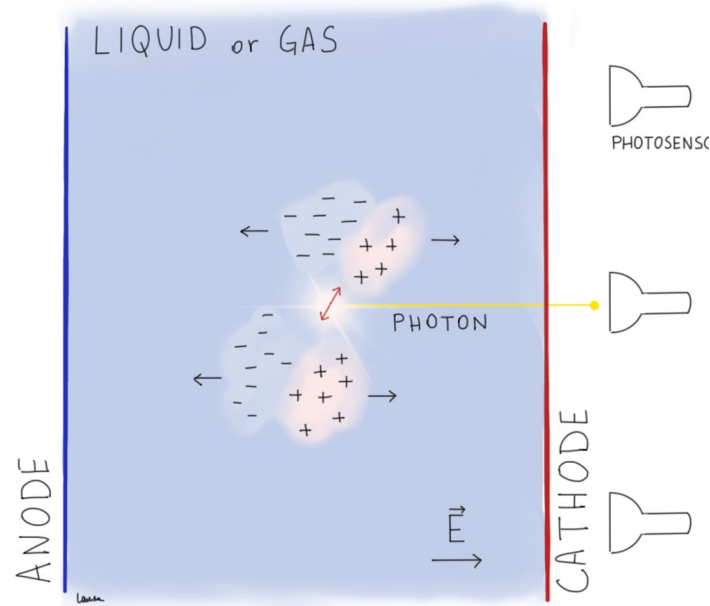


# Leading Experimental Techniques

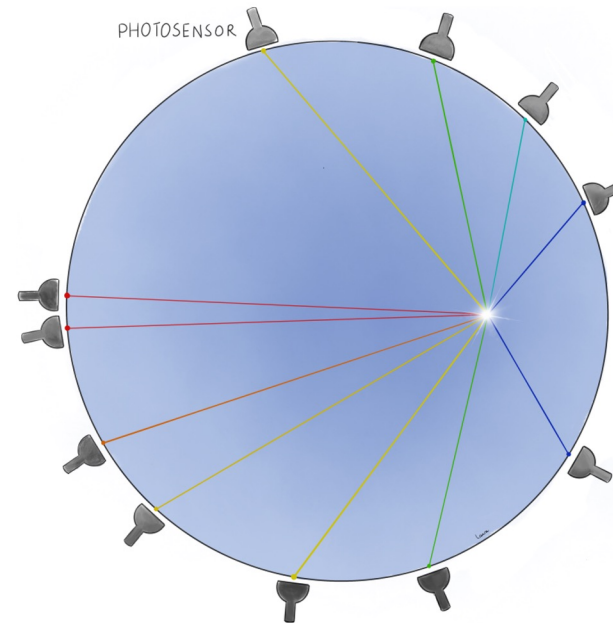


*Ge Semiconductor detectors (<sup>76</sup>Ge)*

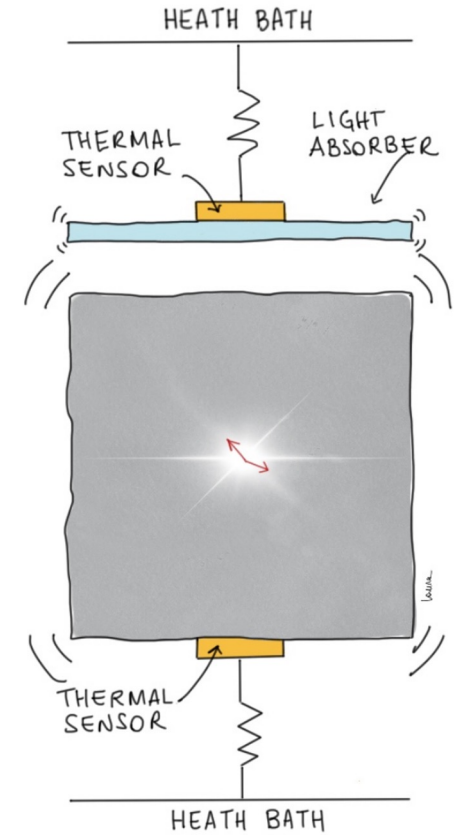
*Drawings courtesy of Laura Manenti*



*Xe Time Projection Chambers (<sup>136</sup>Xe)*



*Large Liquid scintillator detectors (<sup>130</sup>Te, <sup>136</sup>Xe)*

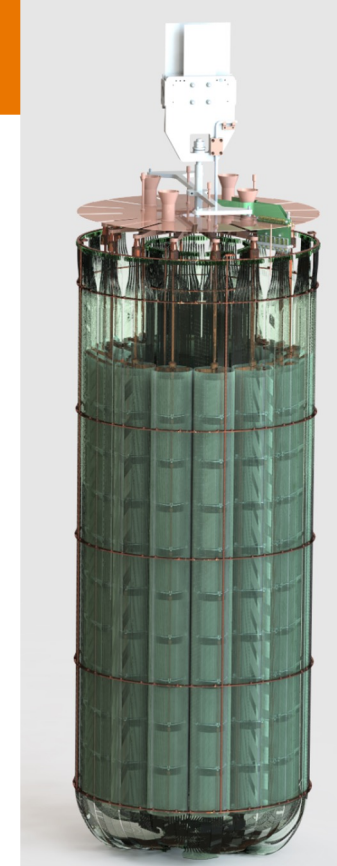
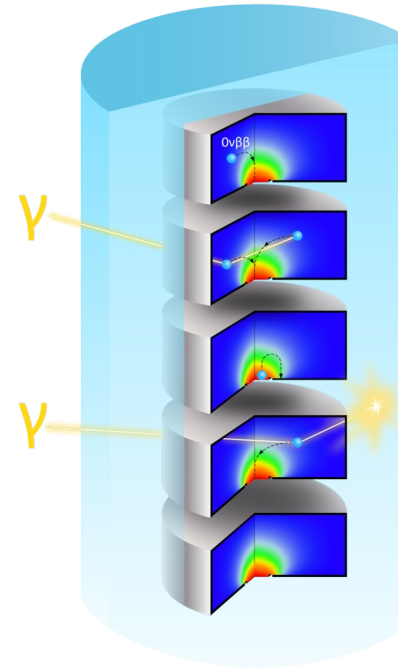
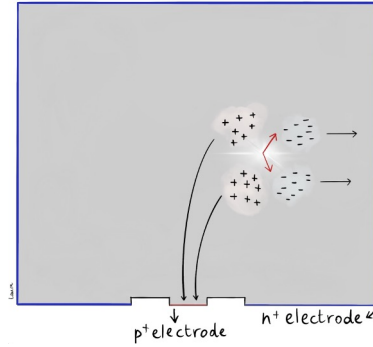


*Cryogenic Calorimeters (<sup>100</sup>Mo, <sup>30</sup>Te)*

# Enriched Ge semiconductor detectors

high-purity  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  detectors

- ionization and charge drift
- $< 0.1\%$  energy resolution
- event topology



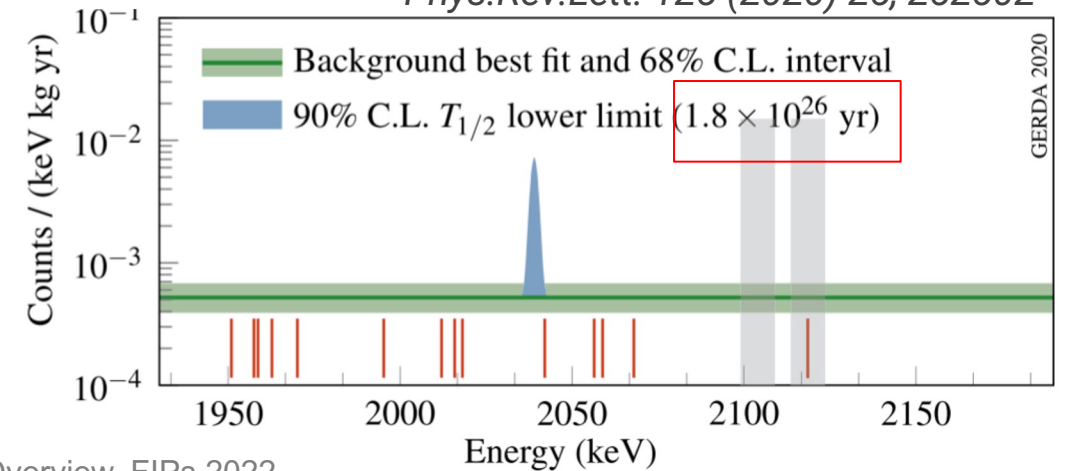
liquid Ar detector

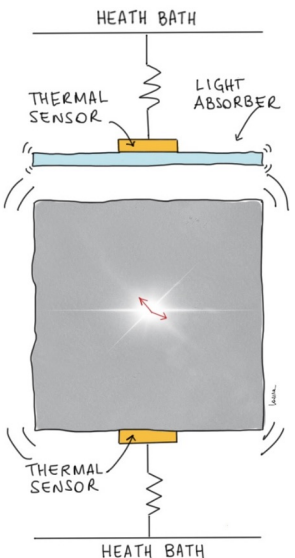
- shield and scintillation light

Staged approach:

- **GERDA/MAJORANA Demonstrator** (40 kg)
- **LEGEND-200** under commissioning (200 kg)
- **LEGEND-1000** conceptual design in preparation (1 t)

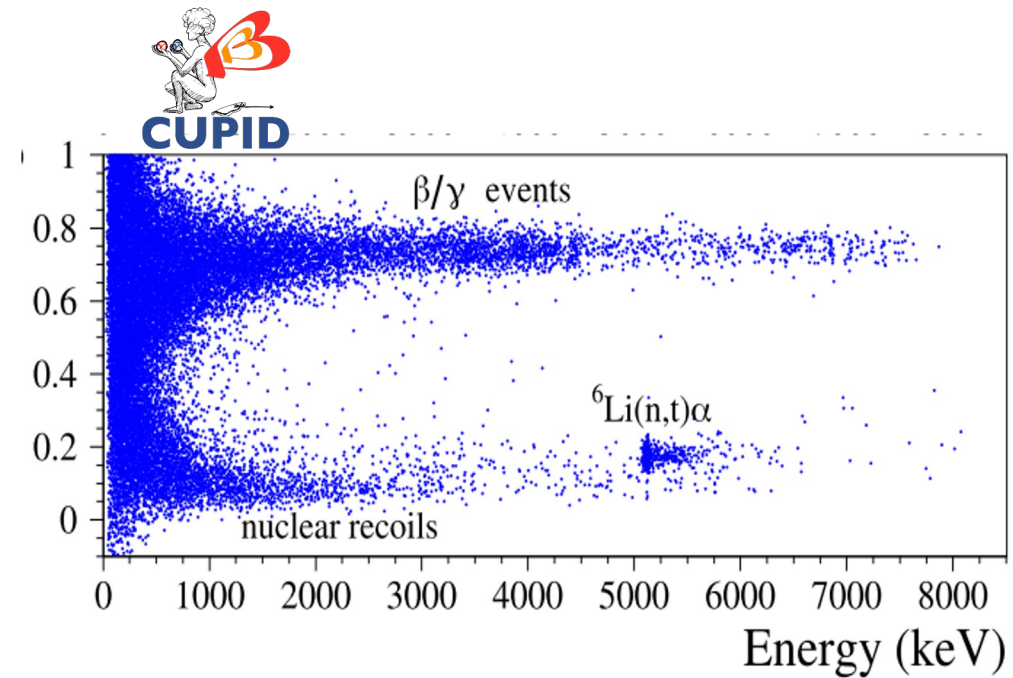
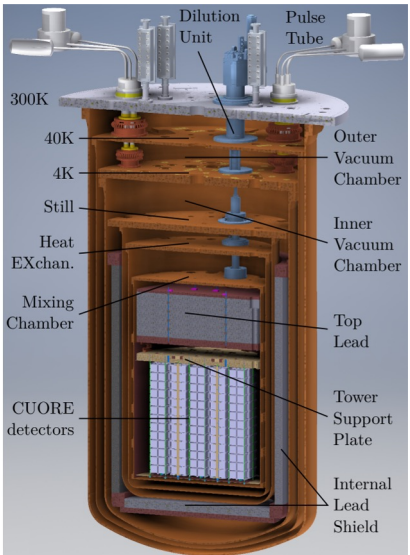
*Phys.Rev.Lett.* 125 (2020) 25, 252502



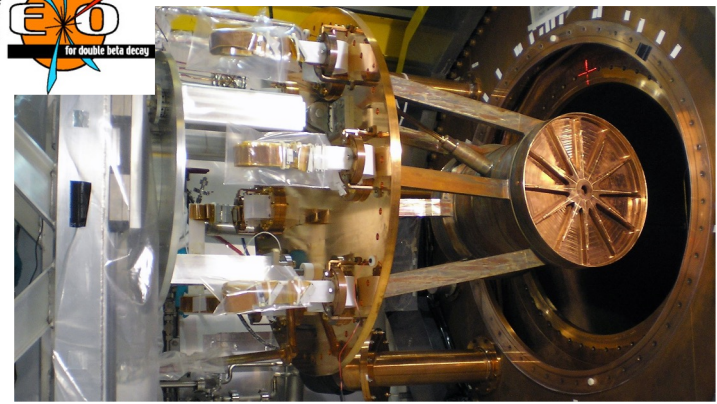
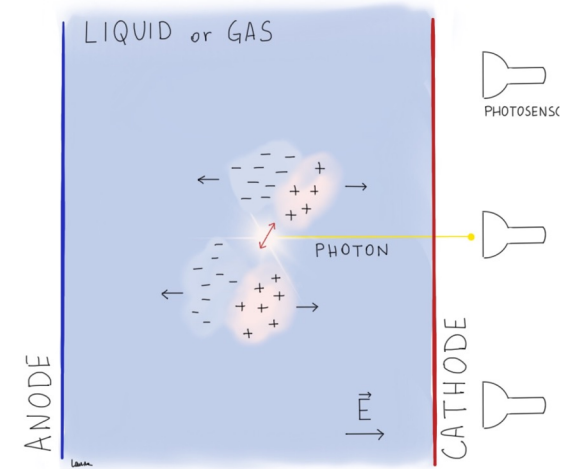


- array of isotopically enriched crystals operated at  $\sim 10$  mK
- thermal and scintillation signal
- particle ID and good energy resolution
- Leading results for  $^{130}\text{Te}$  and  $^{82}\text{Se}$ , future focus on  $^{100}\text{Mo}$

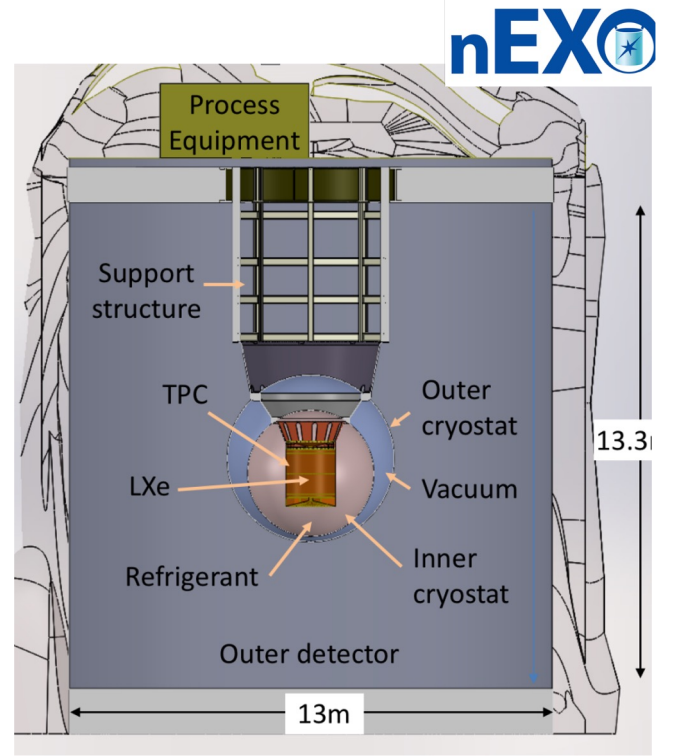
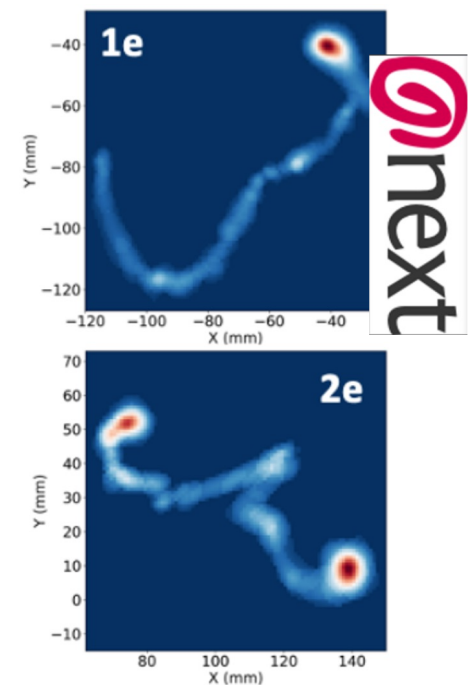
Experiment	Crystal	$m_{tot}$ [kg]	$f_{enr}$ [%]
CUORE	$^{nat}\text{TeO}_2$	742	34 <sup>a</sup>
CUPID-0	$\text{Zn}^{enr}\text{Se}$	9.65	96
CUPID-Mo	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	4.16	97
CROSS	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	8.96	98
CUPID	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	472	$\geq 95$
AMoRE	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	200	96



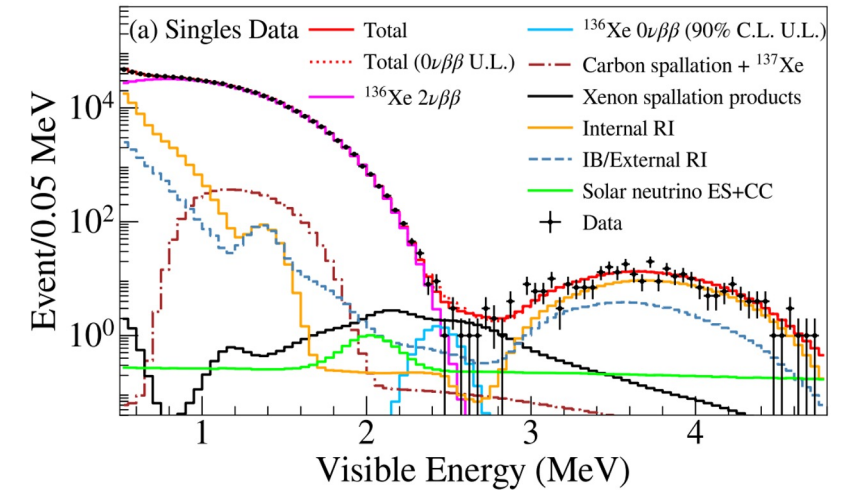
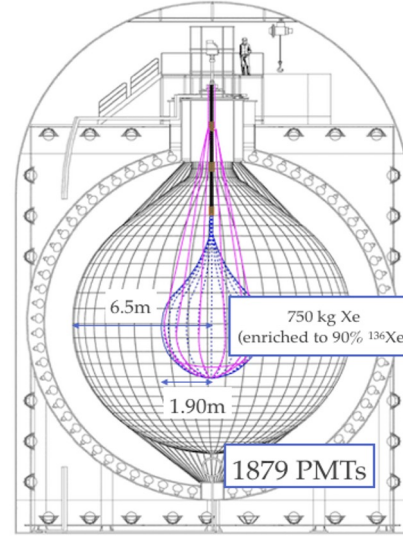
- $^{136}\text{Xe}$  VUV scintillation light and ionization electron drift -> 3D reconstruction
- background decreasing with distance from surface,  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  and  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  remain problematic
- R&D to tag  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay daughter isotope



Experiment	$m_{tot}$ [kg]	$f_{enr.}$ [%]	Phase	Readout
EXO-200	161	81	liquid	LAPPDs + wires
nEXO	5109	90	liquid	electrode tiles + SiPMs
NEXT-100	97	90	gas	SiPMs + PMTs
NEXT-HD	1100	90	gas	SiPMs + PMTs
PandaX-III-200	200	90	gas	Micromegas
PandaX-III-1K	1000	90	gas	Micromegas
LZ-nat	7000	9	dual-phase	PMTs
LZ-enr	7000	90	dual-phase	PMTs
DARWIN	39300	9	dual-phase	PMTs



- scintillator loaded with target isotope
- scintillation photons detected by PMTs
- photon number and arrival time gives event energy and position
- self-shielding and fiducialization
- Broad physics program (e.g. solar, reactor, geo-neutrinos)



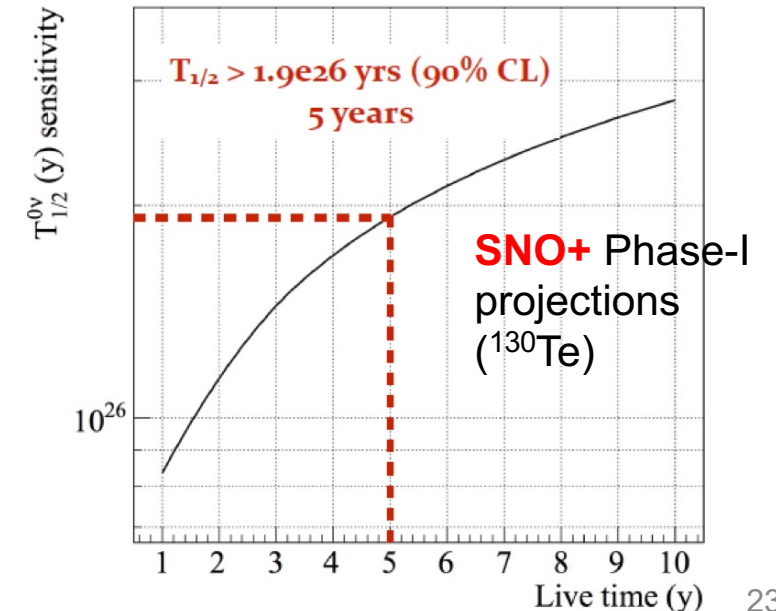
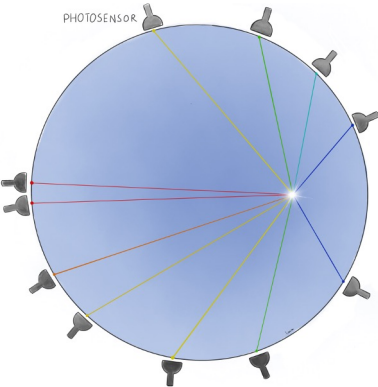
KZ collaboration, [2203.02139](#)

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.3 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr at 90\% C.L.}$$

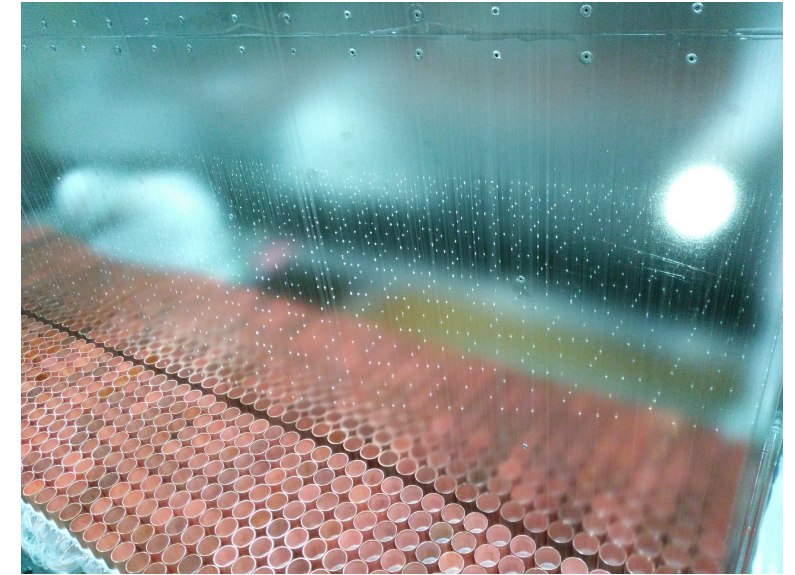
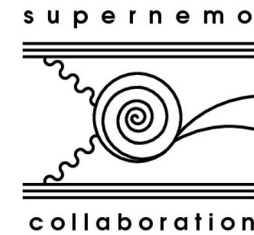
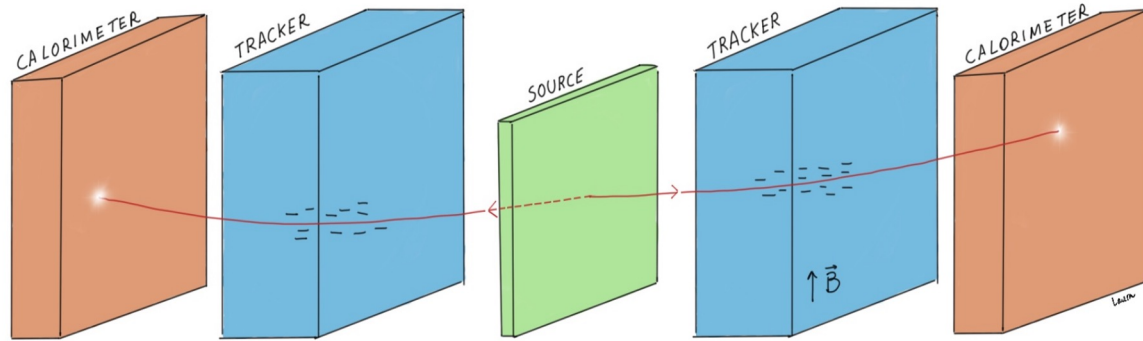


## KamLAND-Zen-800 @Kamioka ( $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )

- 750 kg of enriched Xe in nylon balloon
- **Strongest constraints so far:  $m_{\beta\beta} < 36\text{-}156 \text{ meV}$**
- backgrounds: cosmogenic, solar neutrinos,  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  on balloon
- next phase: improved resolution and purer scintillator

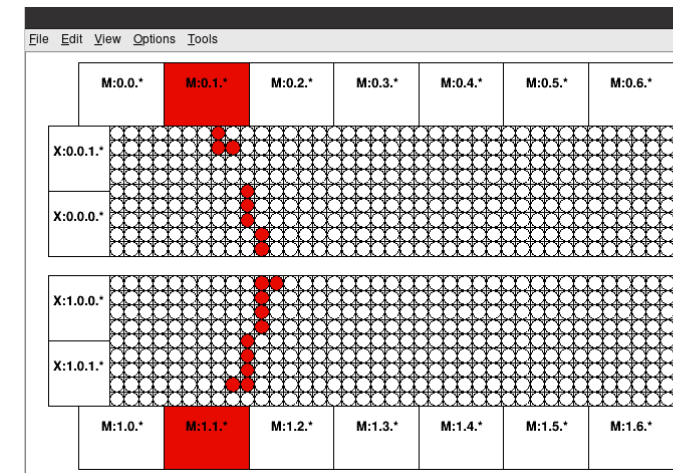


NEMO-technique: full topology reconstruction of final states



SuperNEMO-Demonstrator *running* at LSM

- **Multi-isotope** confirmation
- Exploring underlying **physics mechanism**
  - Angular distributions
  - Single electron energies
- Constraining nuclear physics  $\rightarrow$  **NME and  $g_A$**  through precision  $2\nu\beta\beta$  studies
- **BSM** physics with  $2\nu\beta\beta$  (*Phys.Rev.Lett.125 (2020) 17, 171801*)

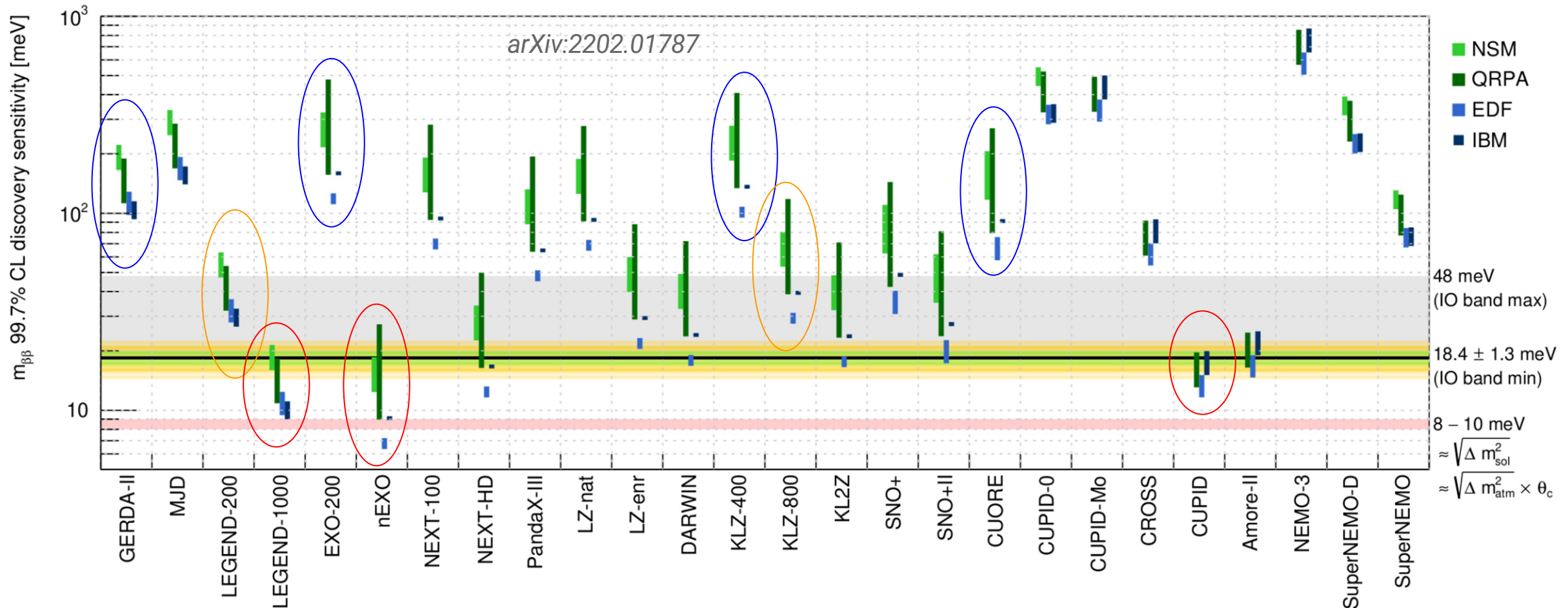




The Big 4 of last decade: **GERDA, EXO-200, KamLAND-Zen-400, CUORE**

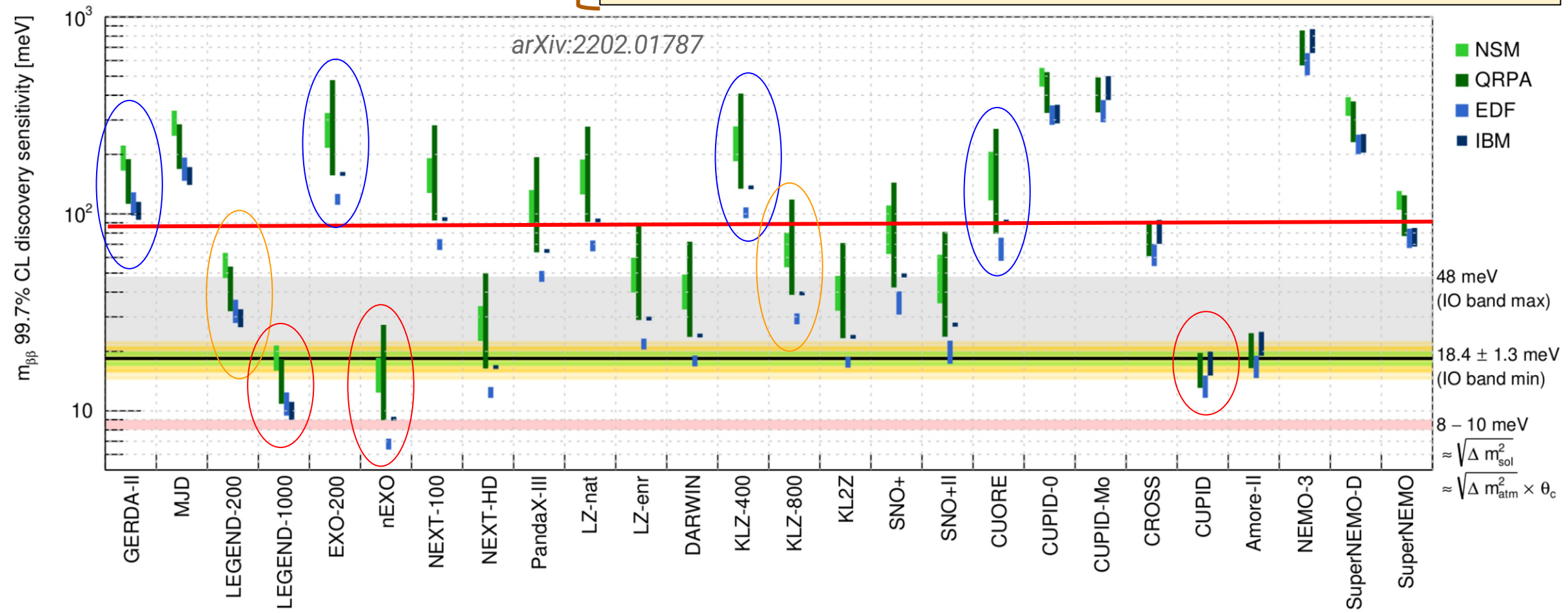
The two to watch: **LEGEND-200, KamLAND-Zen-800**

The ultimate I.O. experiments: **LEGEND-1000, CUPID, nEXO**



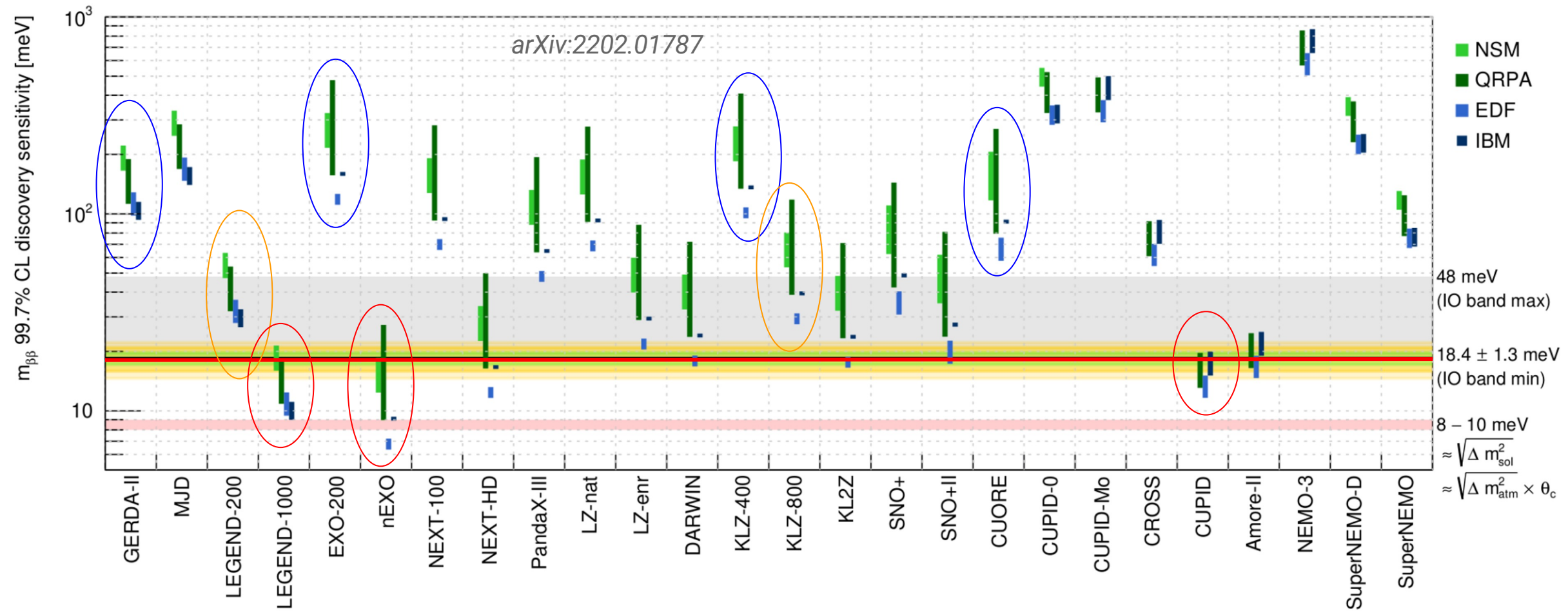
## Scenario 1: signal just beyond current limits

- discovery within few years
- precise rate measurement with next-gen experiments
- Access to underlying mechanism with SNEMO-like technique



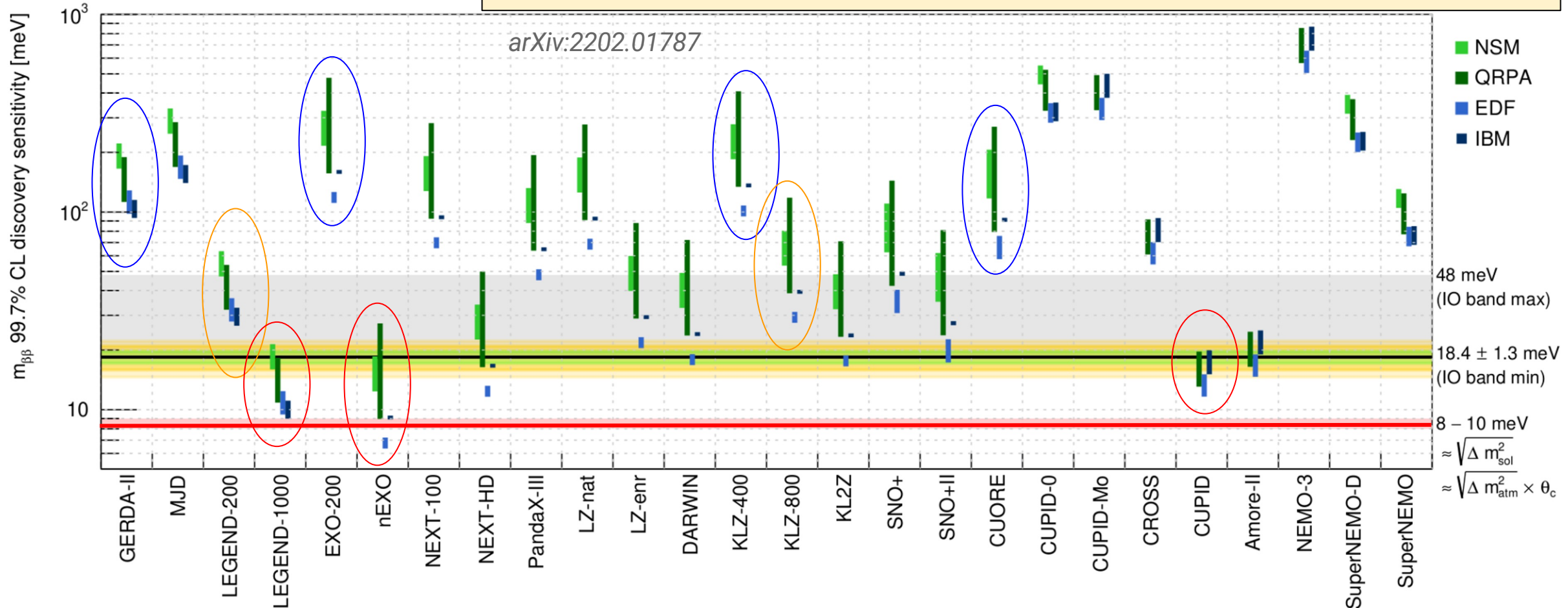
## Scenario 2: signal at bottom of I.O.

- need to wait next-gen experiments for a discovery
- need R&D to measure decay features



## Scenario 3: signal in N.O. (or absent)

- R&D and new ideas for convincing discovery
- interplay with oscillation experiments and cosmology can lead to breakthroughs even in absence of signal



<https://science.osti.gov/hp/nsac>

REACHING FOR THE HORIZON

The 2015 LONG RANGE PLAN for NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DOE NP Portfolio Review  
July 2021  
CUPID  
LEGEND-1000  
nEXO

Double Beta Decay APPEC Committee  
Report  
Version 3  
February 11, 2020

Committee members: Andrea Giuliani, J.J. Gomez Cadenas, Silvia Pascoli (Chair), Ezio Previtali, Ruben Saakyan, Karoline Schaffner and Stefan Schönert

arXiv:1910.04688v2 [hep-ex] 10 Feb 2020

Figure 1: Schematic view of neutrinoless double beta decay.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.04688>

<https://agenda.infn.it/event/27143/>

North America - Europe Workshop on Future of Double Beta Decay

INFN APPEC

The Workshop is jointly organized by INFN, APPEC and DOE.

IUPAP Neutrino Panel White Paper



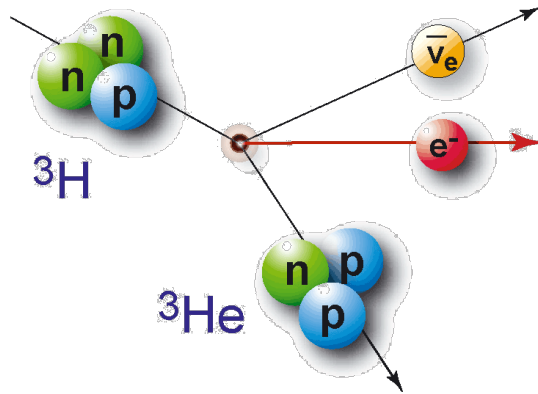
New LRP process started  
(2023-2032)

Community Summer Study  
SN WMASS  
July 17-26 2022, Seattle

- $0\nu\beta\beta$  is the best way to probe **Lepton Number Violation** and its connection to preponderance of **matter** and **neutrino mass** generation mechanism
- Huge progress over past decade has led to a **coordinated international effort**
  - Phased approach, convergence on experiments fully covering I.O. sensitivity
  - Continuing R&D to tackle N.O. and detailed exploration of signal
  - Strong effort in NME modelling, ab initio calculations, experimental input
- Interplay with oscillations, cosmology and  $\beta$ -decay results yields a significant likelihood of **discovery in next 2-15 years!**
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  could be driven by a different LNV mechanism – open minded, **discovery oriented** search

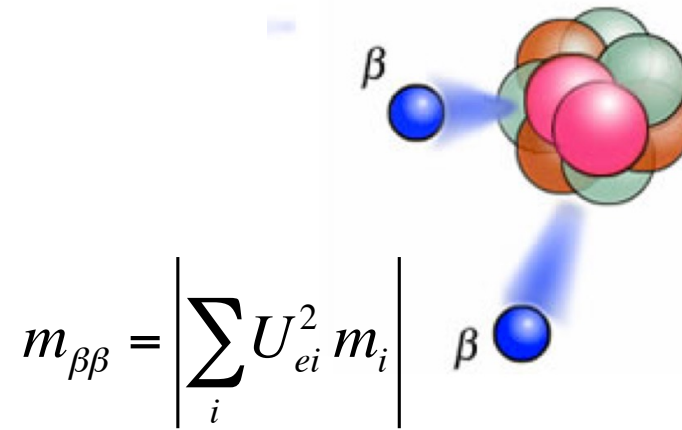
# Additional Material

$\beta$ -decay

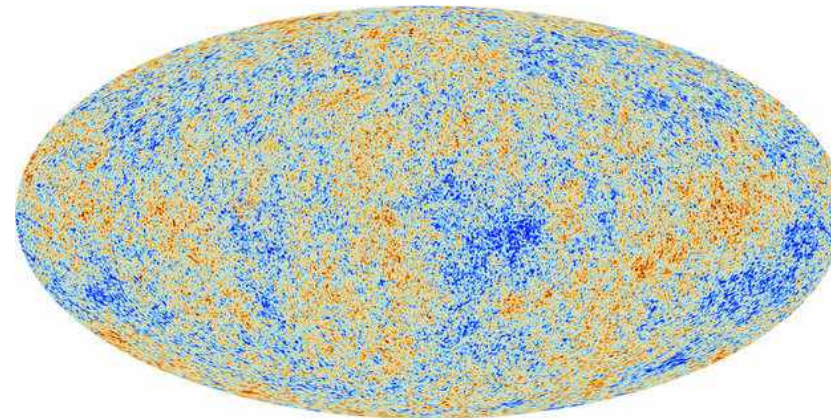


$$m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 \cdot m_i^2}$$

$0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay



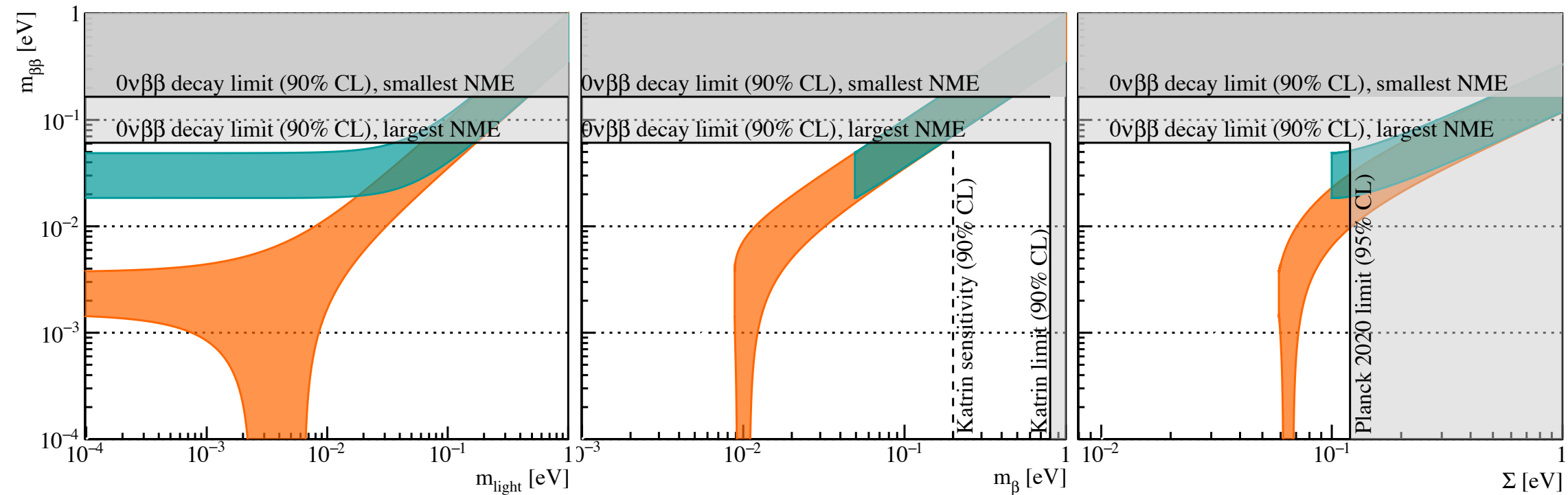
Cosmology



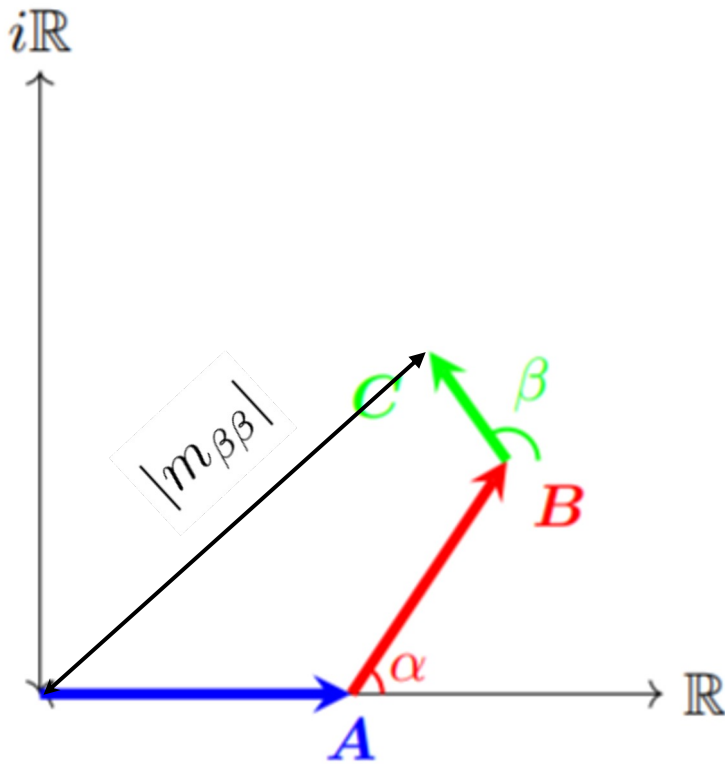
$$\sum_i m_i$$



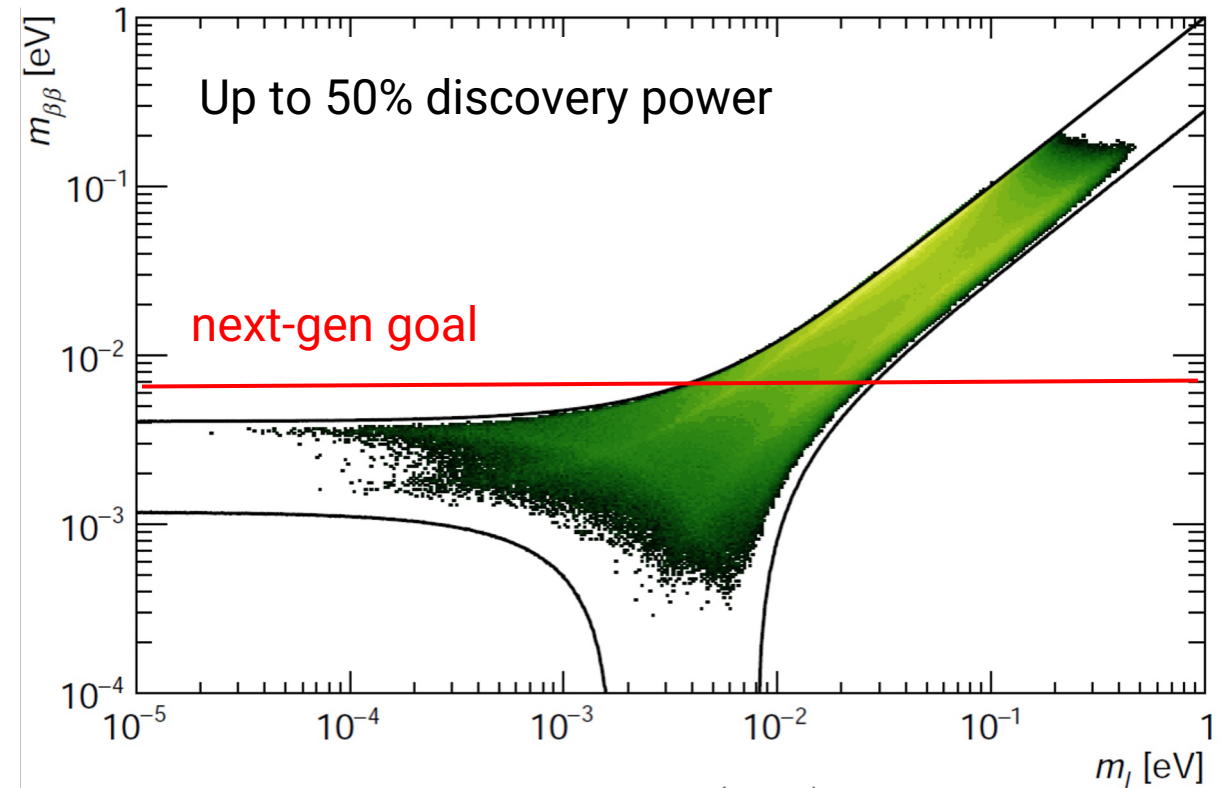
arXiv:2202.01787



$$|m_{\beta\beta}| = \left| \underbrace{c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_1}_A + \underbrace{s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_2 e^{i2\alpha}}_B + \underbrace{s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i2\beta}}_C \right|$$

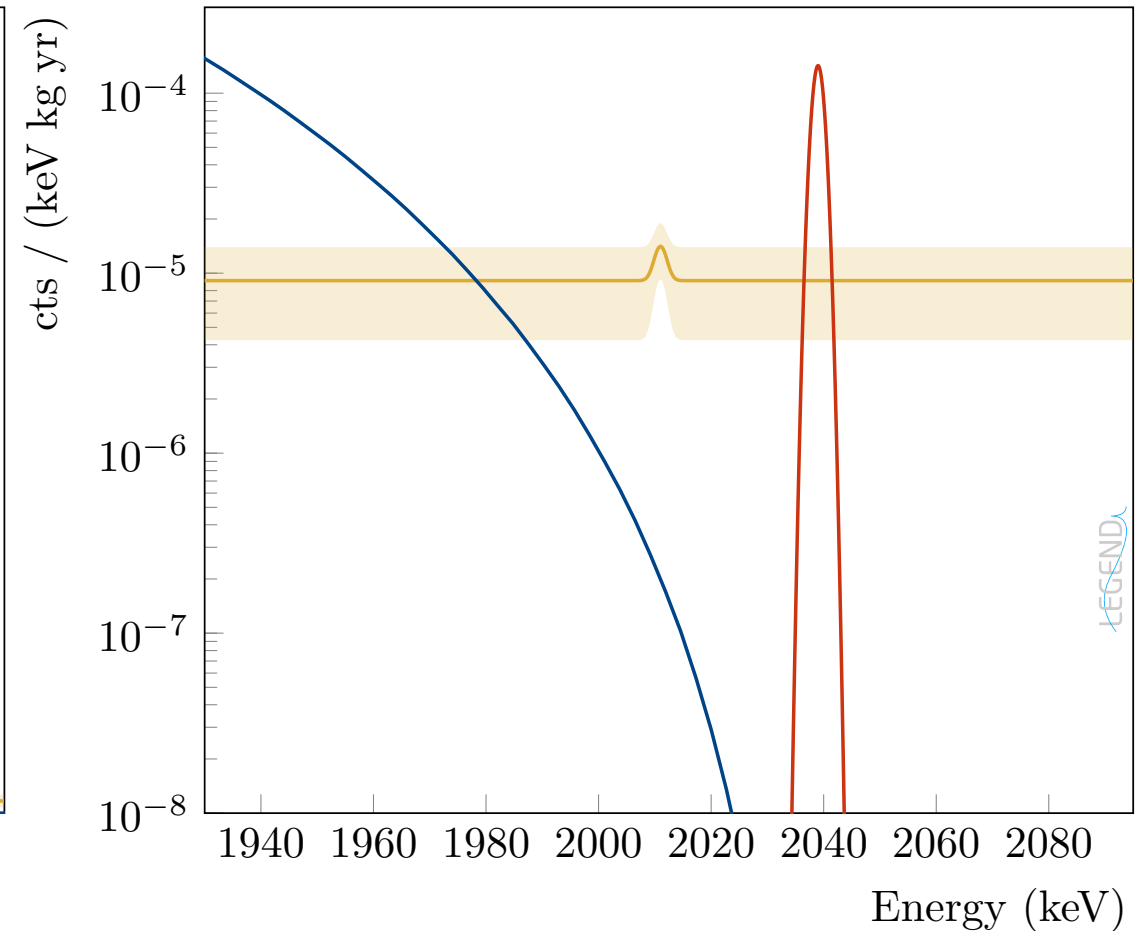
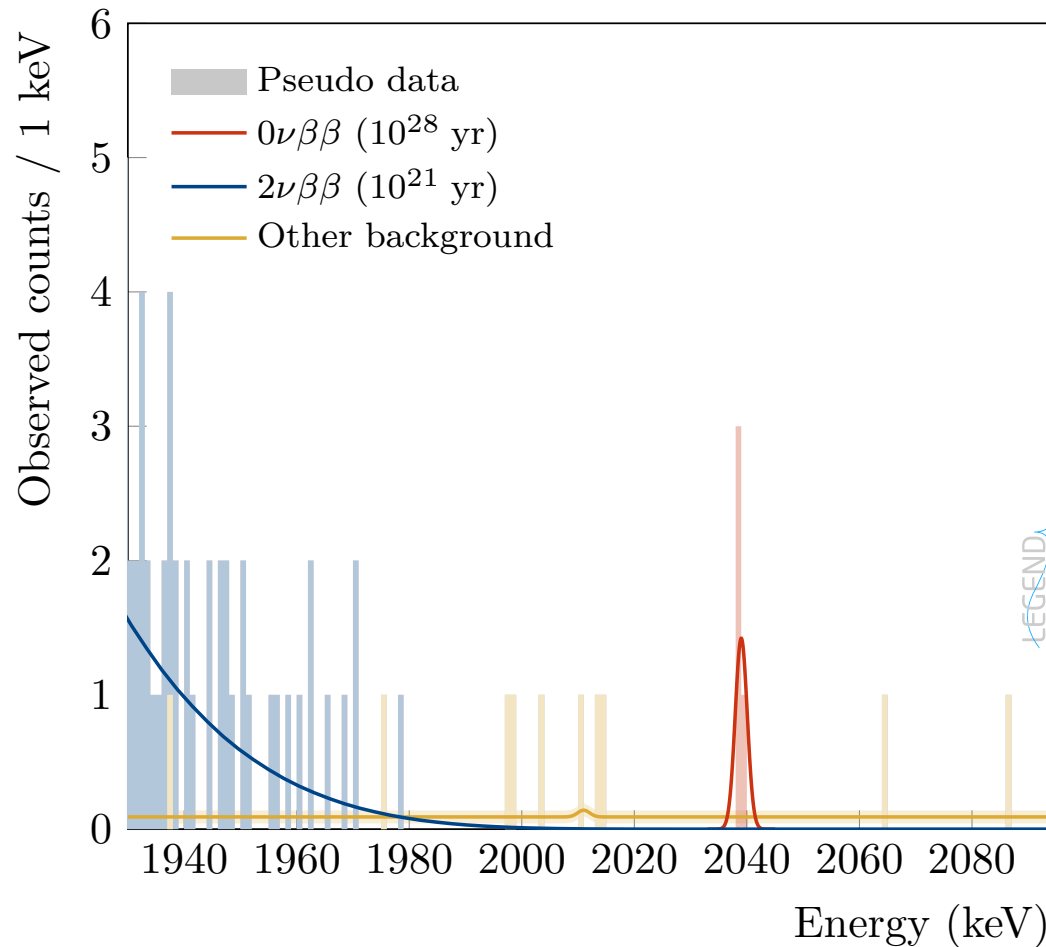


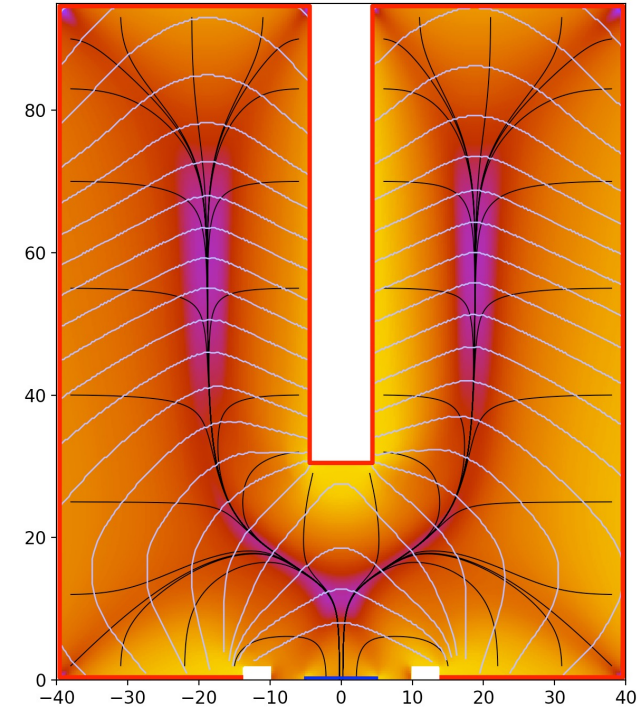
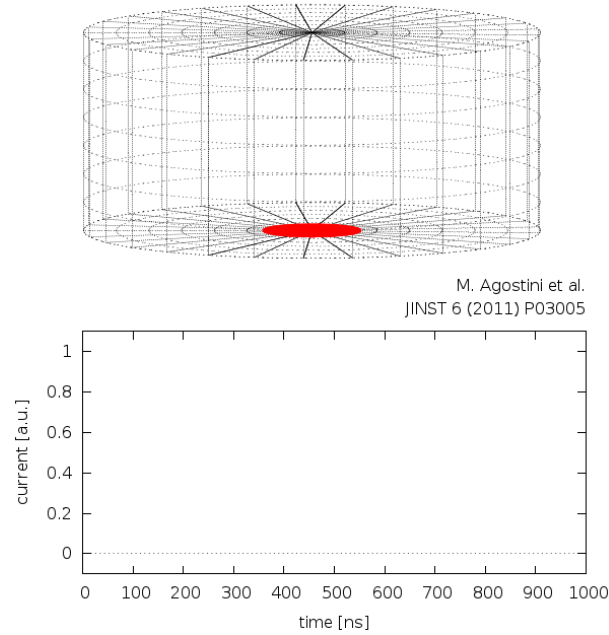
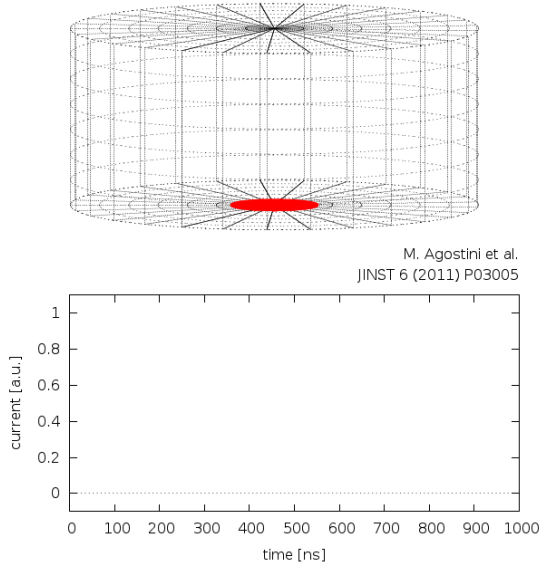
Not equiprobable parameter space: random phases favors large  $m_{\beta\beta}$  values.



PRD 96, 053001 (2017)

# LEGEND 10 t.yr exposure





Inverted **C**oaxial **P**oint **C**ontact

- Source = Detector:  $\text{HP}^{76}\text{Ge}$
- Superb energy resolution  $\sim 0.1\%$  at  $Q_{\text{bb}} = 2039 \text{ keV}$
- “Solid state TPC” capabilities: particle ID and background rejection
- Feasibility to reach zero BG regime

