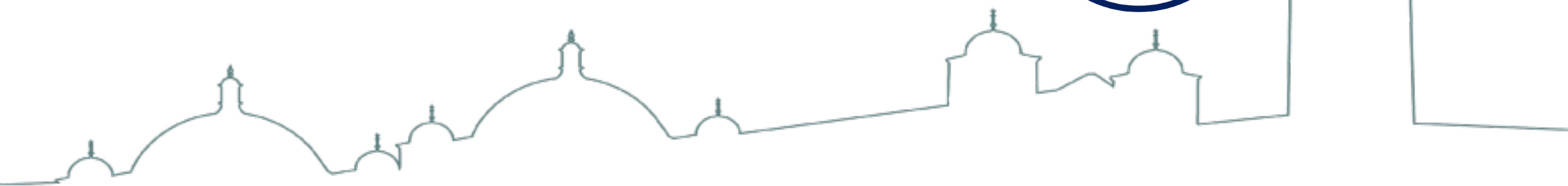


# Recent Results from NEWS-G

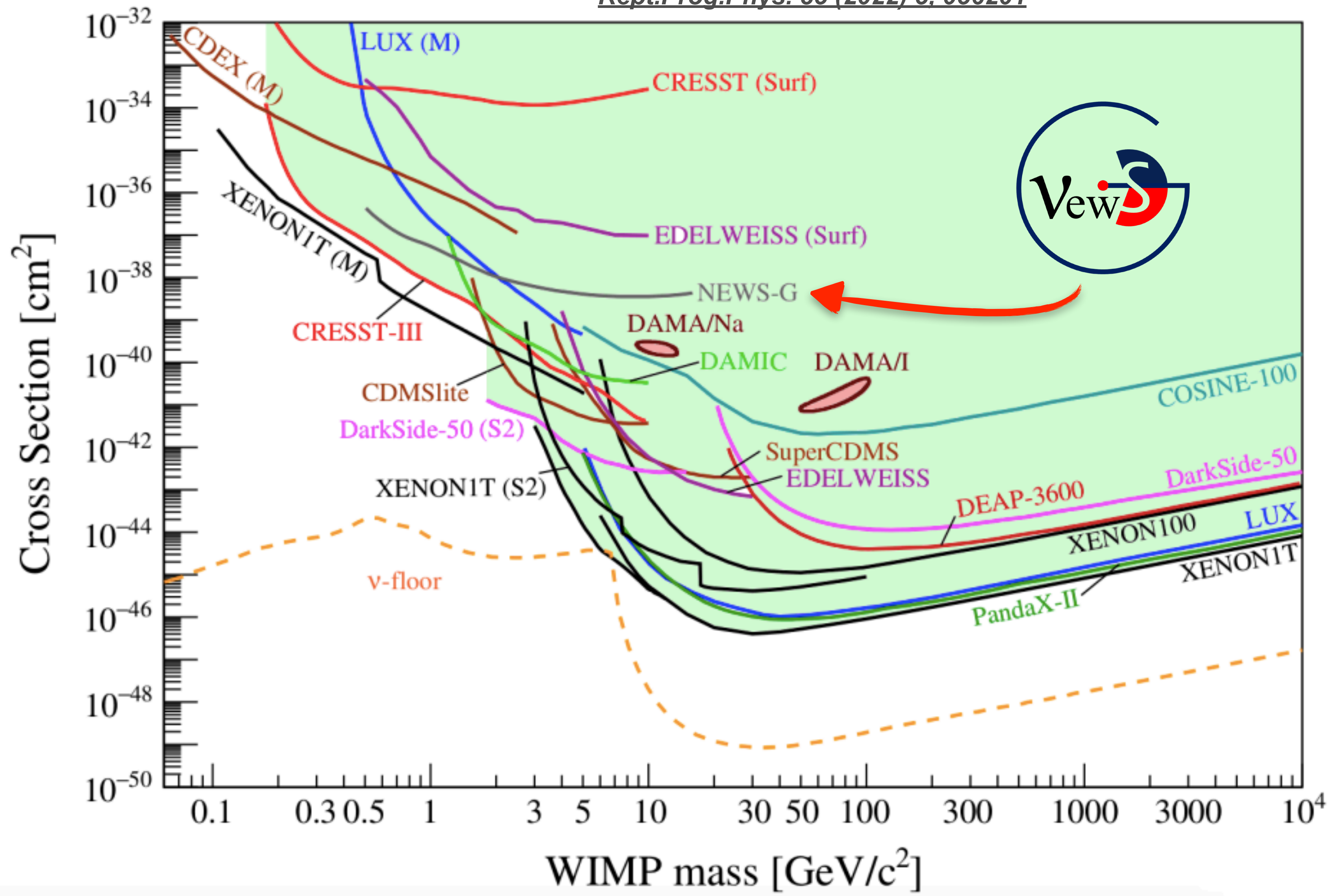
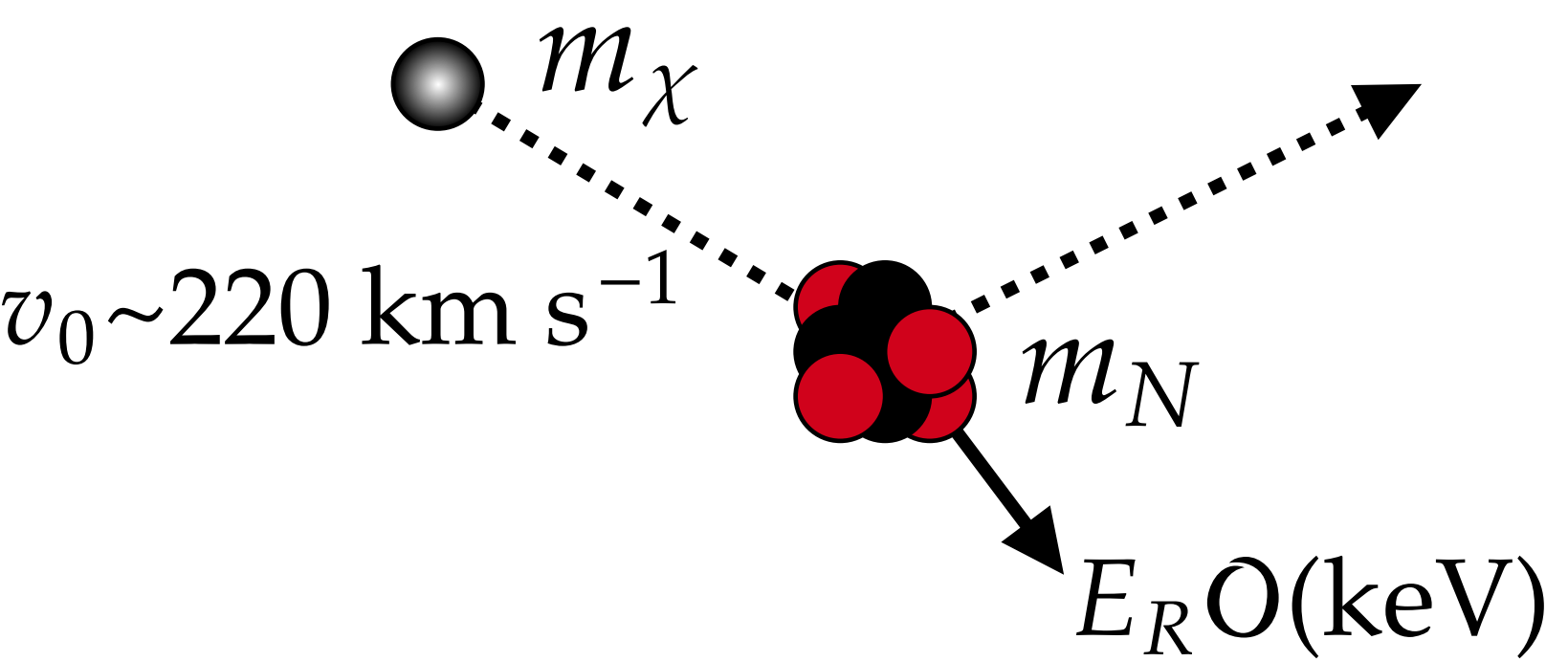
**P. Knights**

University of Birmingham, UK



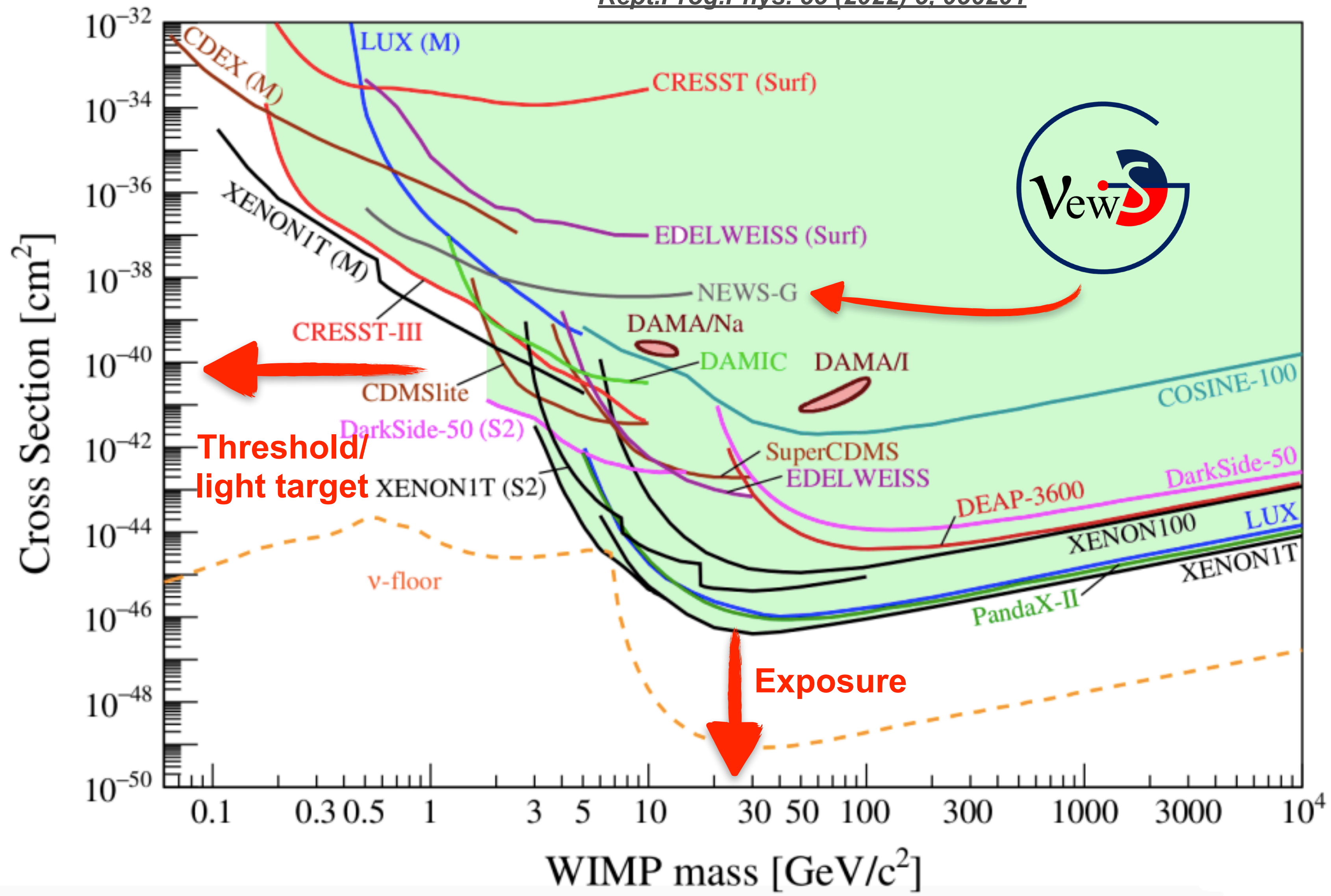
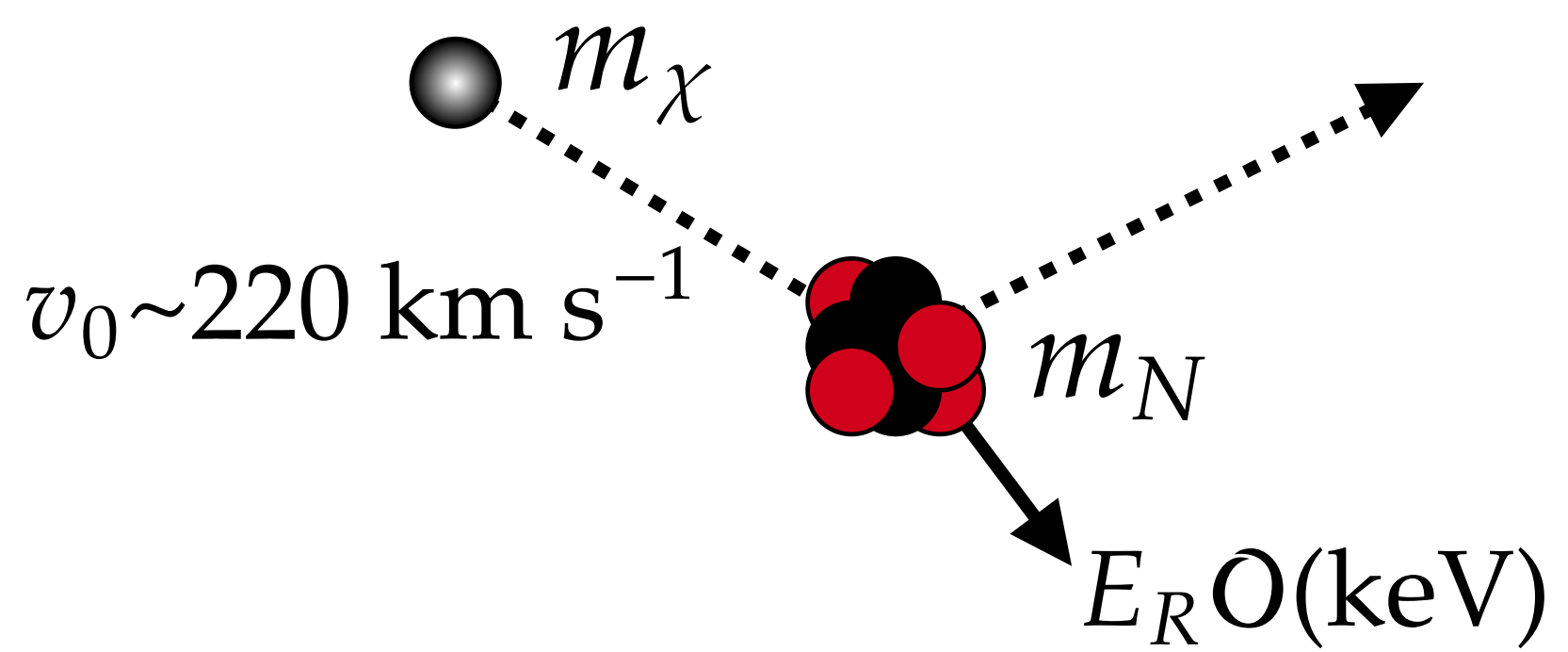
# The Search for Light Dark Matter

Rept.Prog.Phys. 85 (2022) 5, 056201



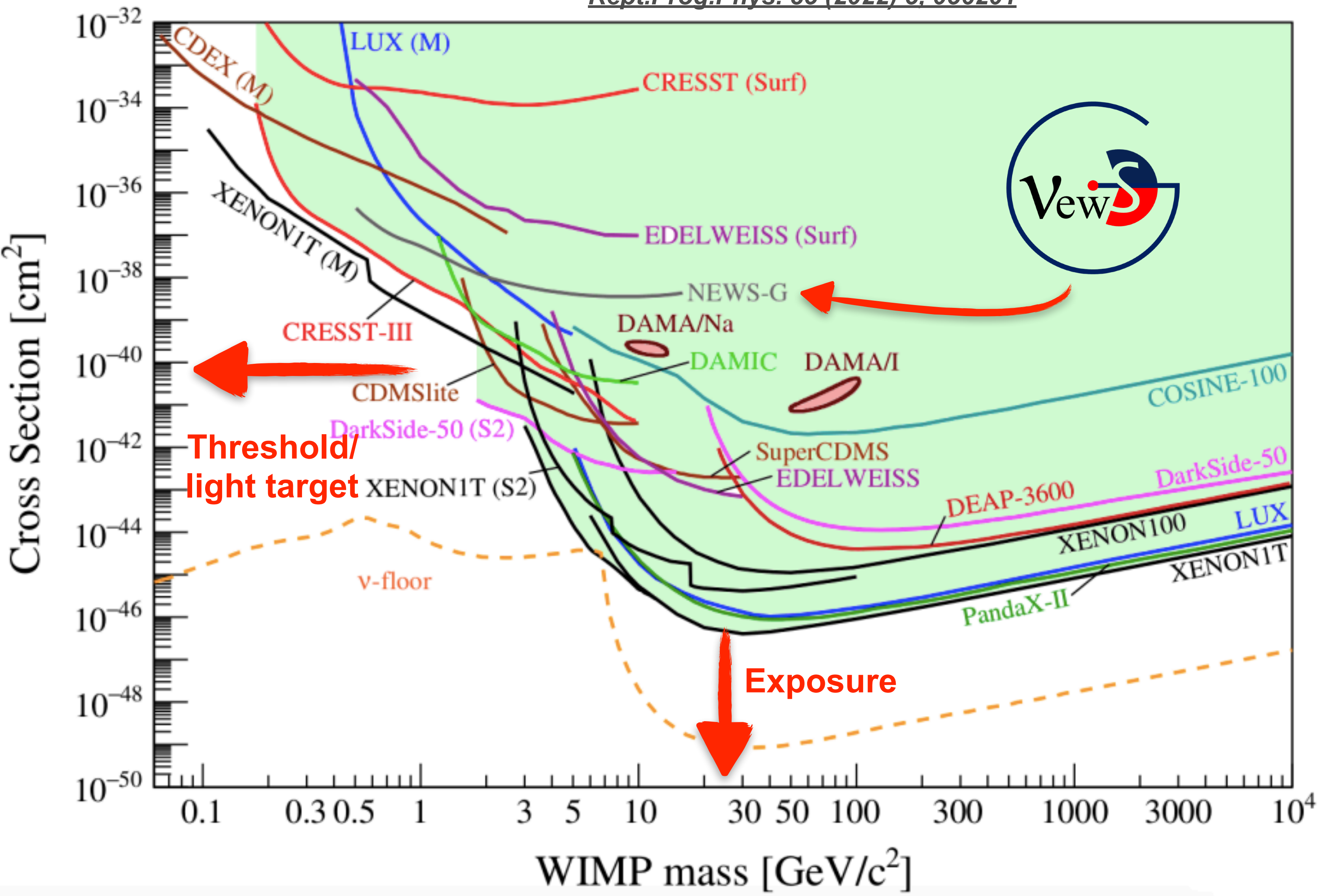
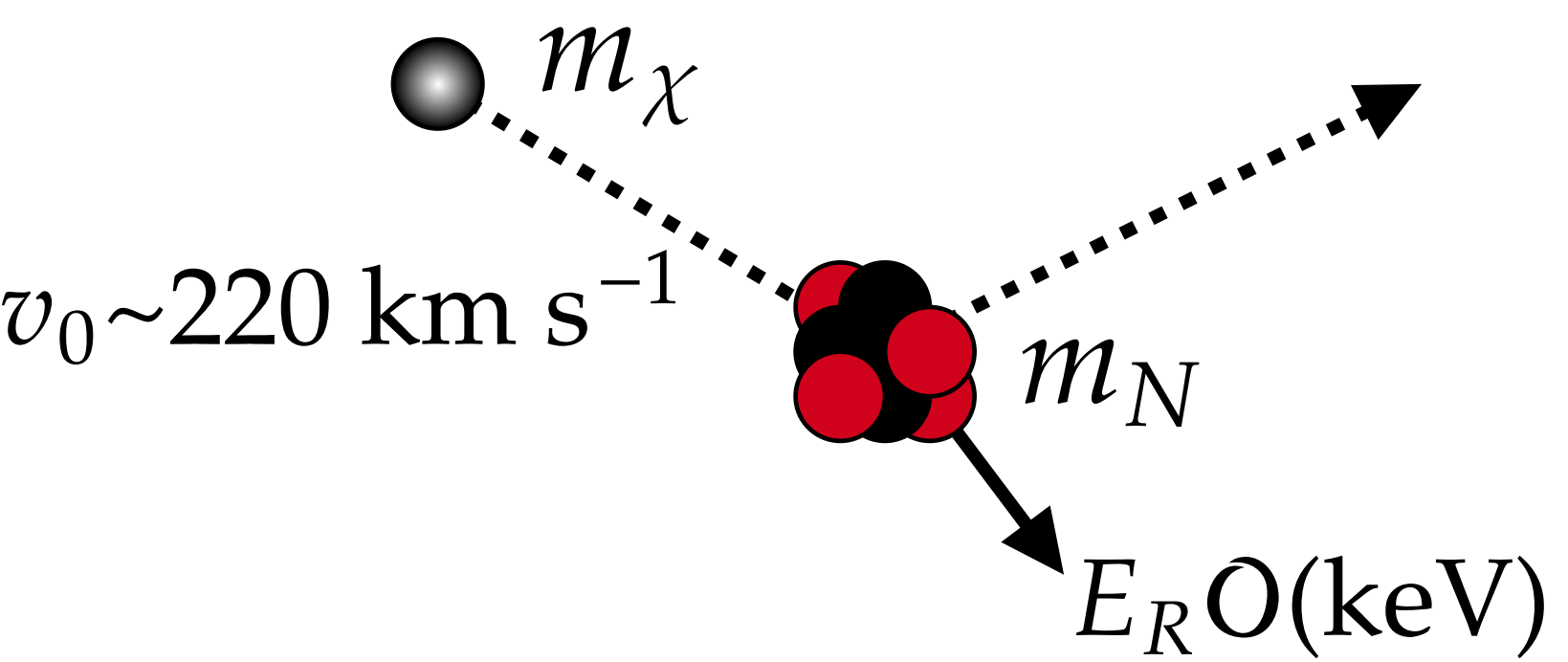
# The Search for Light Dark Matter

Rept.Prog.Phys. 85 (2022) 5, 056201



# The Search for Light Dark Matter

Rept.Prog.Phys. 85 (2022) 5, 056201



- Light DM region has **attracted theoretical** interest
- Exploring light DM with nuclear recoils requires:
  - **Low energy threshold**
  - **Low-mass target nuclei**

## New Experiments With Spheres - Gas

Light DM searches with a novel gaseous detector, the spherical proportional counter



Boulby Underground Laboratory



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

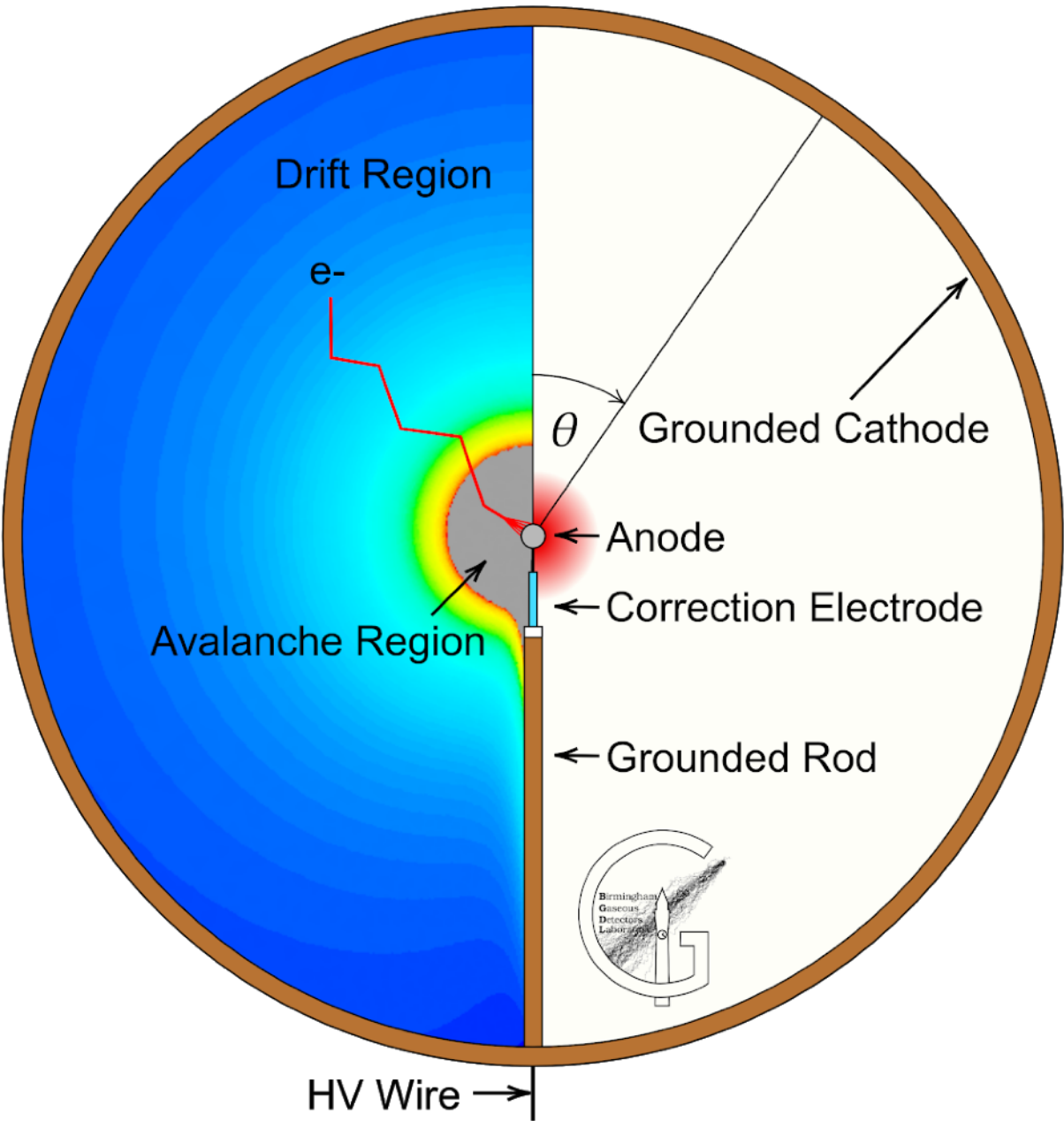


UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# Spherical Proportional Counters

- Simplest form: ~ mm ball in a ~0.1-1 m spherical shell
- Ideal electric field varies as  $1/r^2$
- **Naturally divides** detector: **drift** and **avalanche** regions

$$\vec{E} \approx \frac{V_1}{r^2} r_a \hat{r}$$

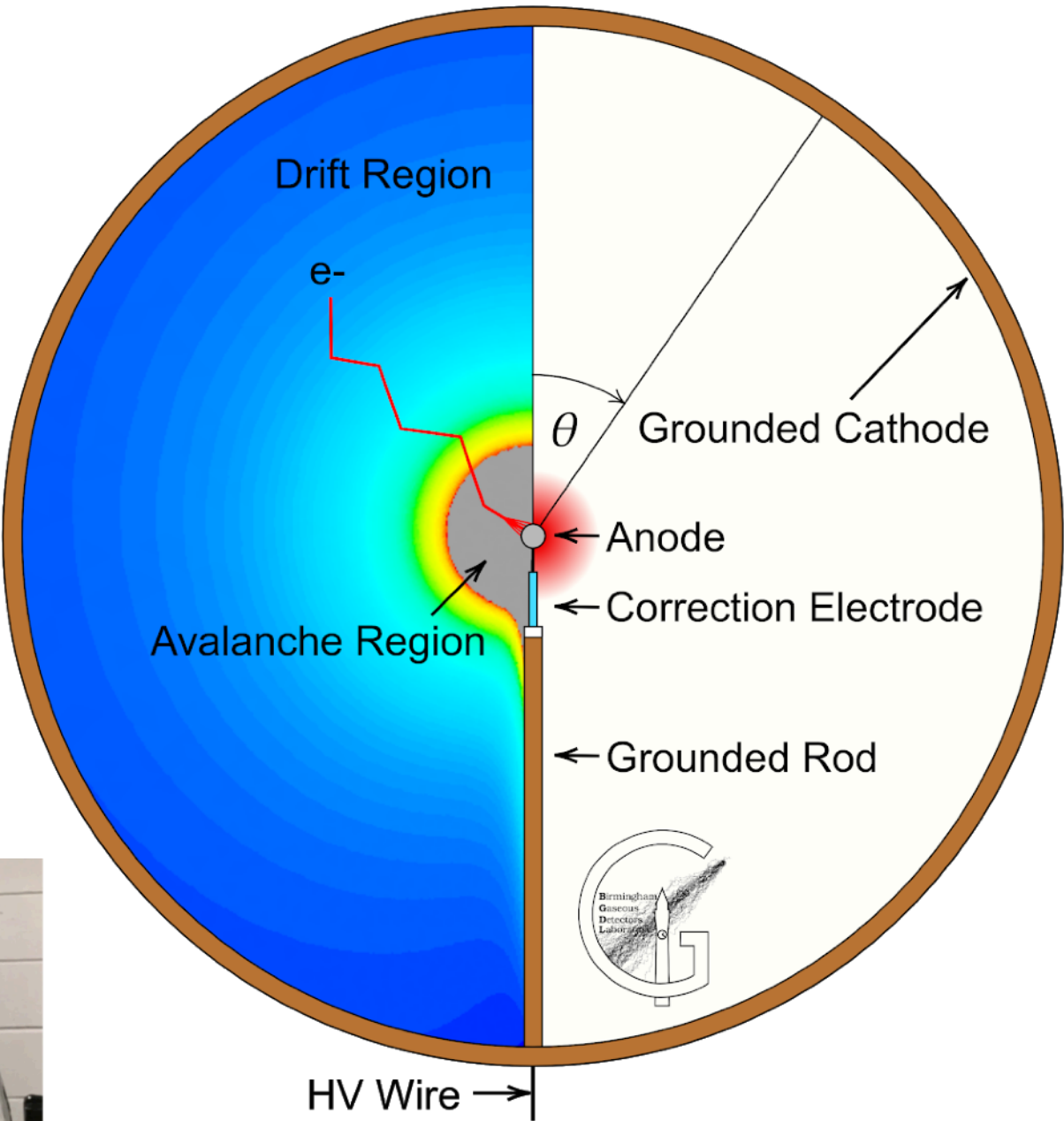
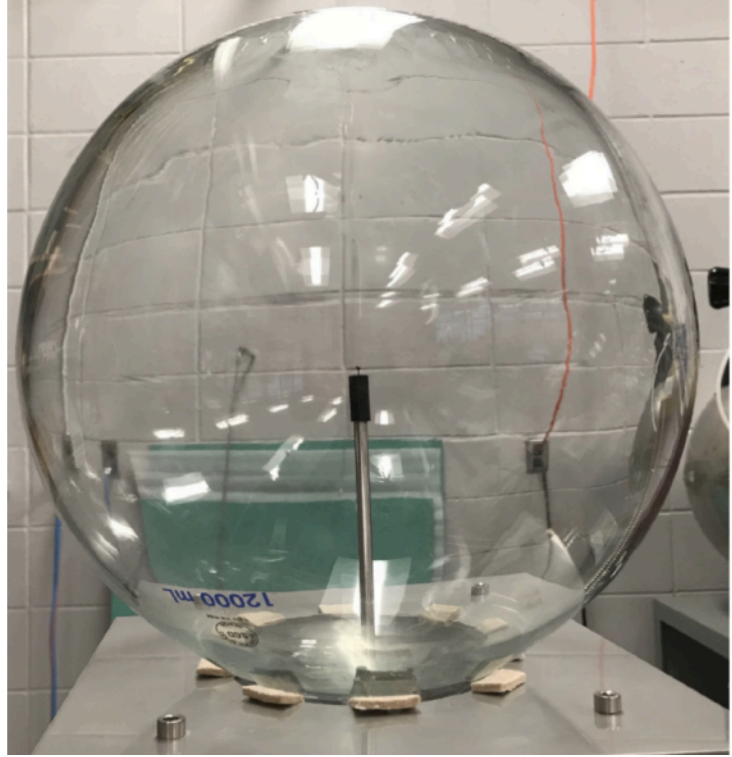


*JINST 15 (2020) 06, C06013*

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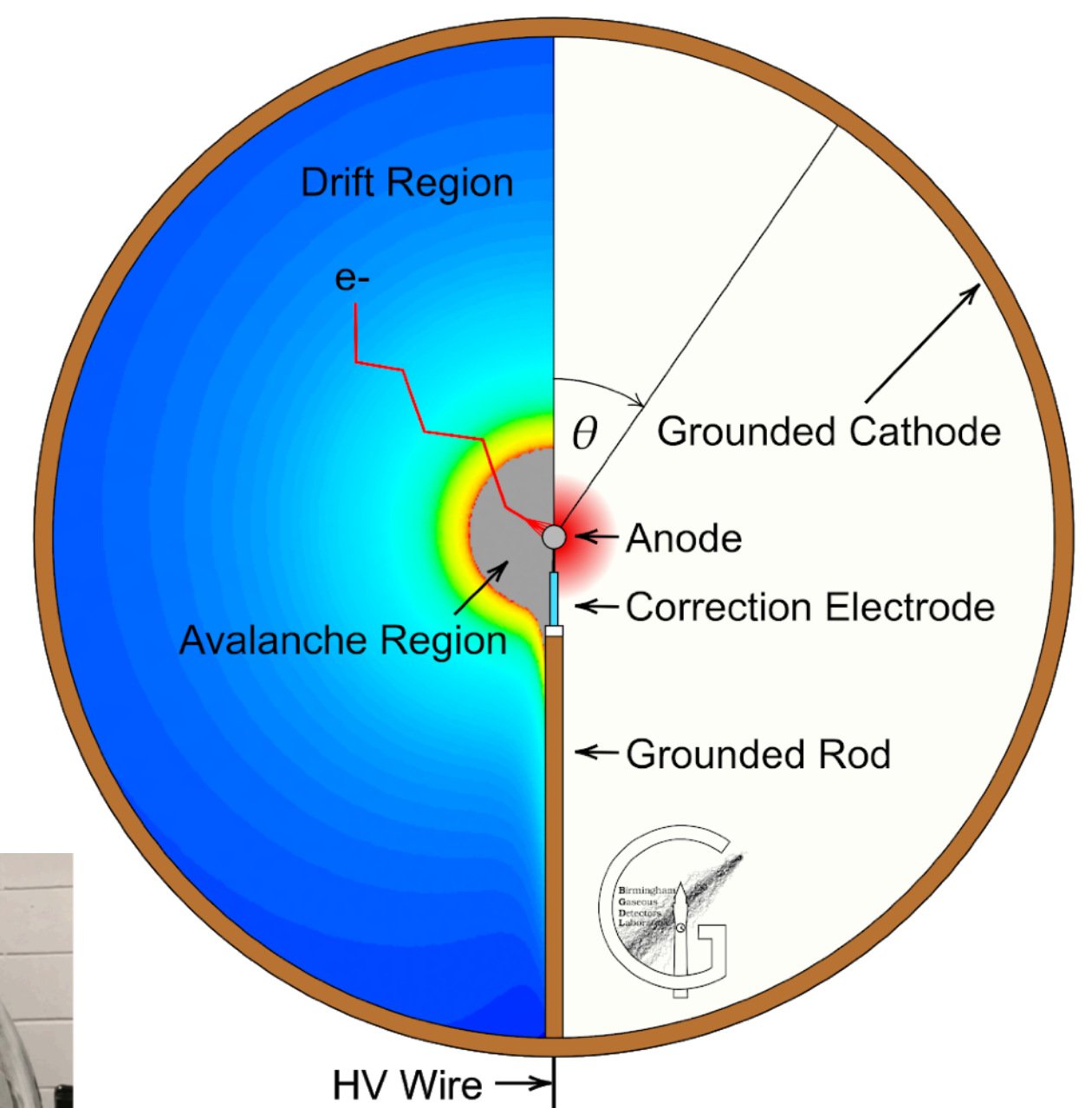
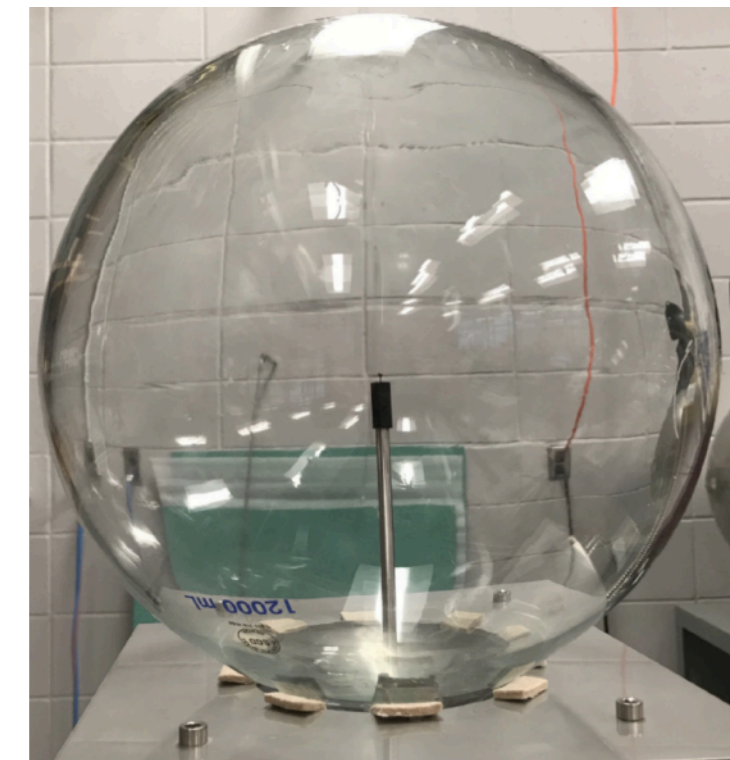


*JINST 15 (2020) 06, C06013*

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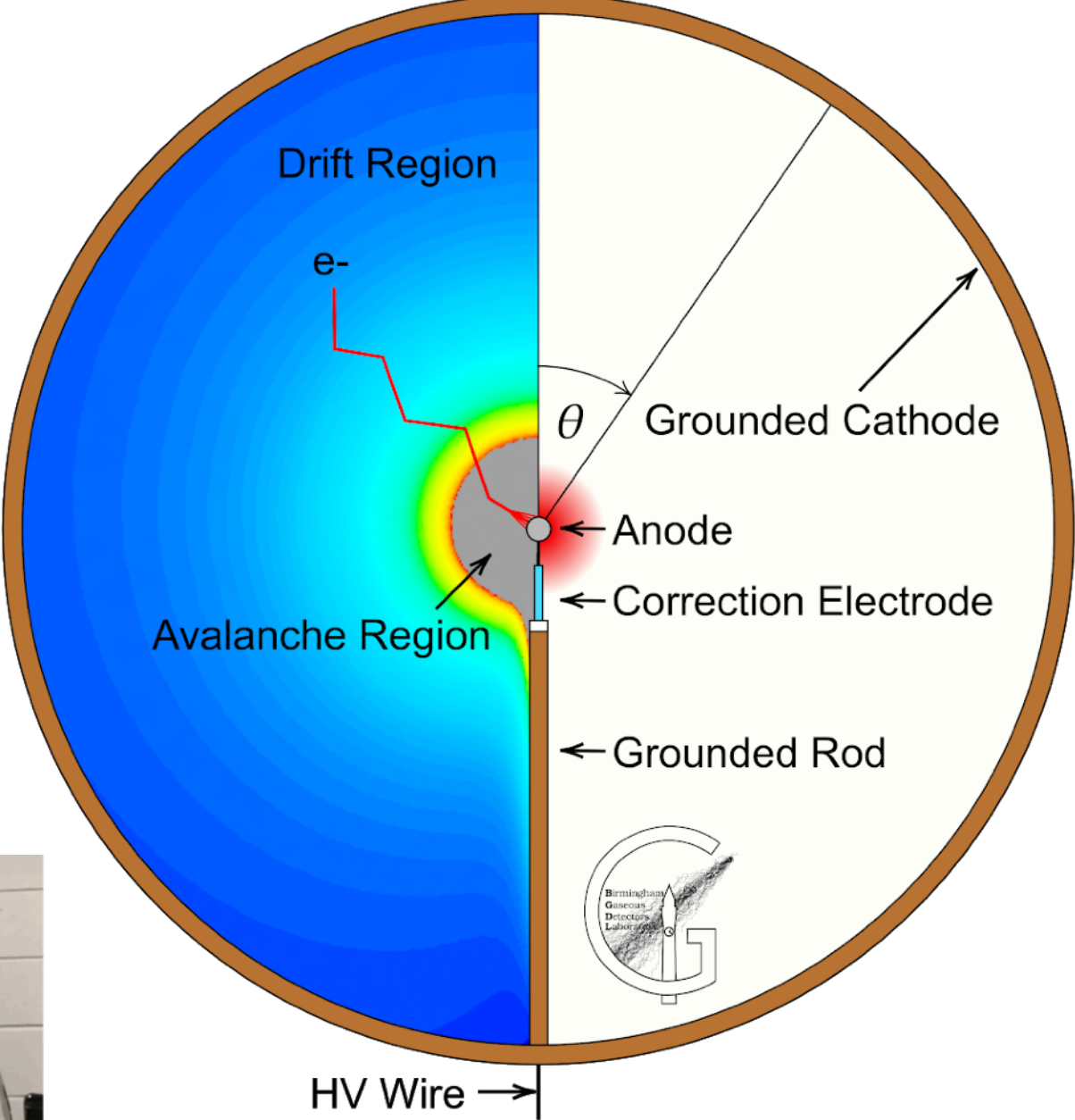
*JINST 15 (2020) 06, C06013*

- **Low capacitance**, independent of detector size
- Single-electron detection
- **Lowest surface area to volume ratio**
- Fiducialisation and PID from radial E-field
- **Choice of gas targets** (H, He, Ne) and pressures
- Kinematic match to light-DM

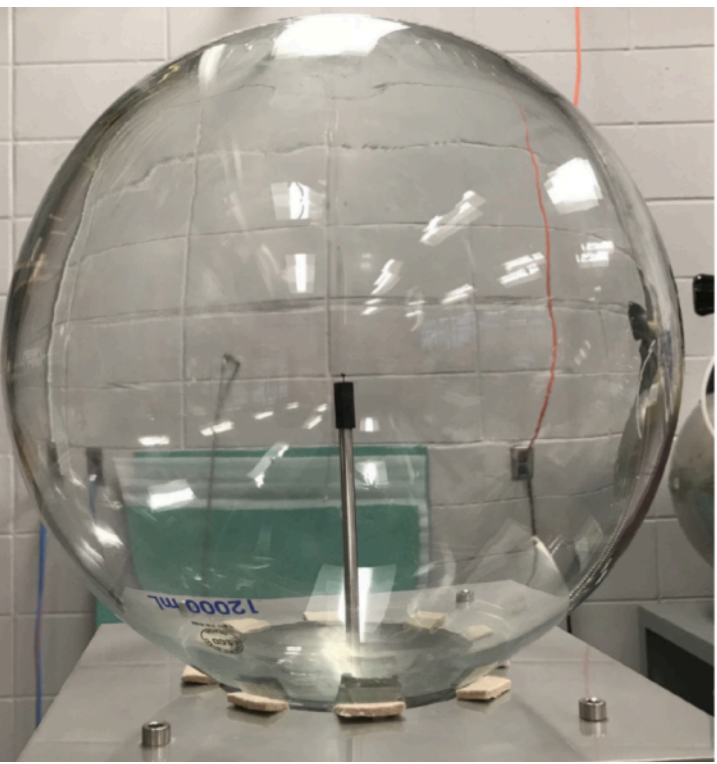


# Spherical Proportional Counters

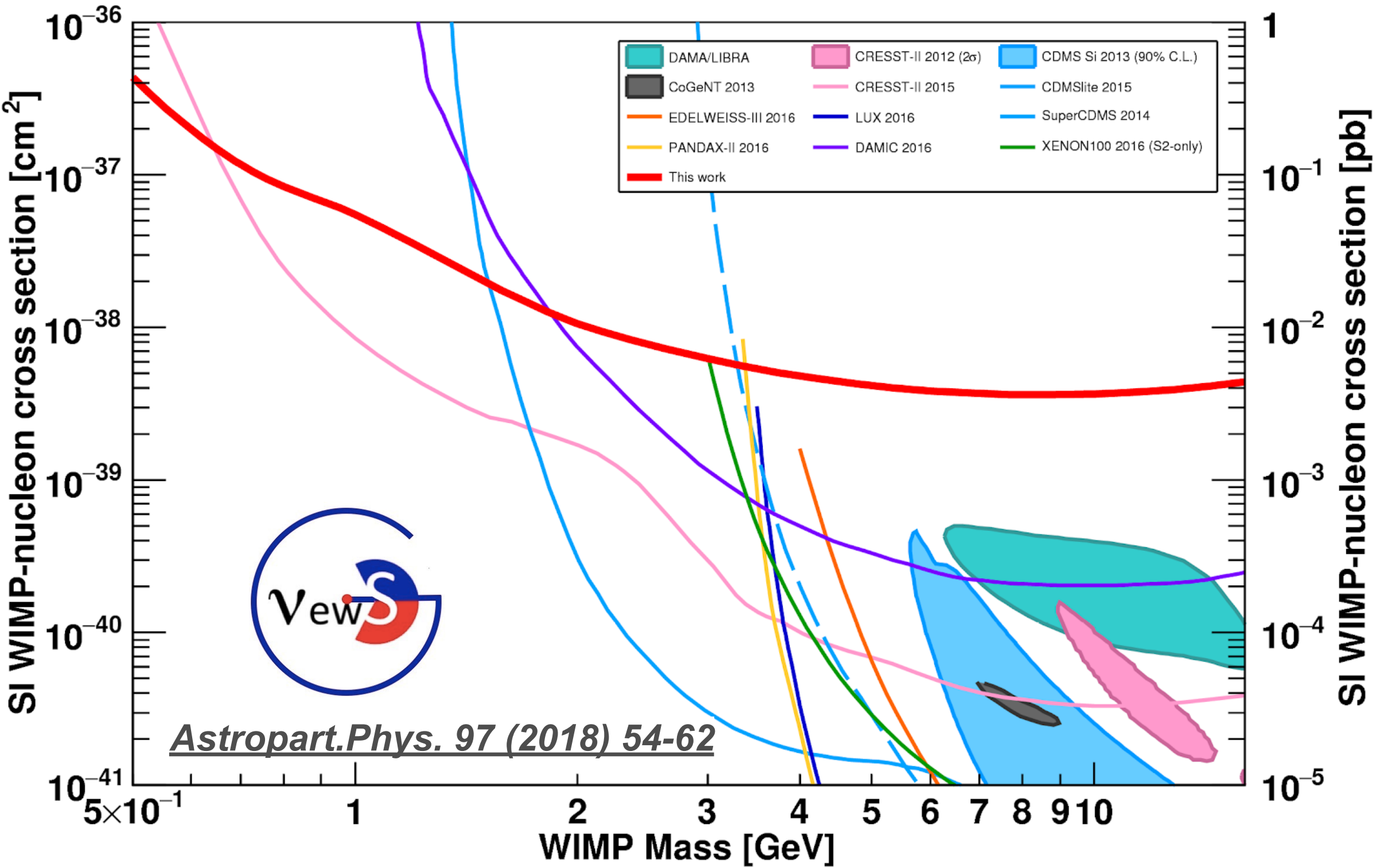
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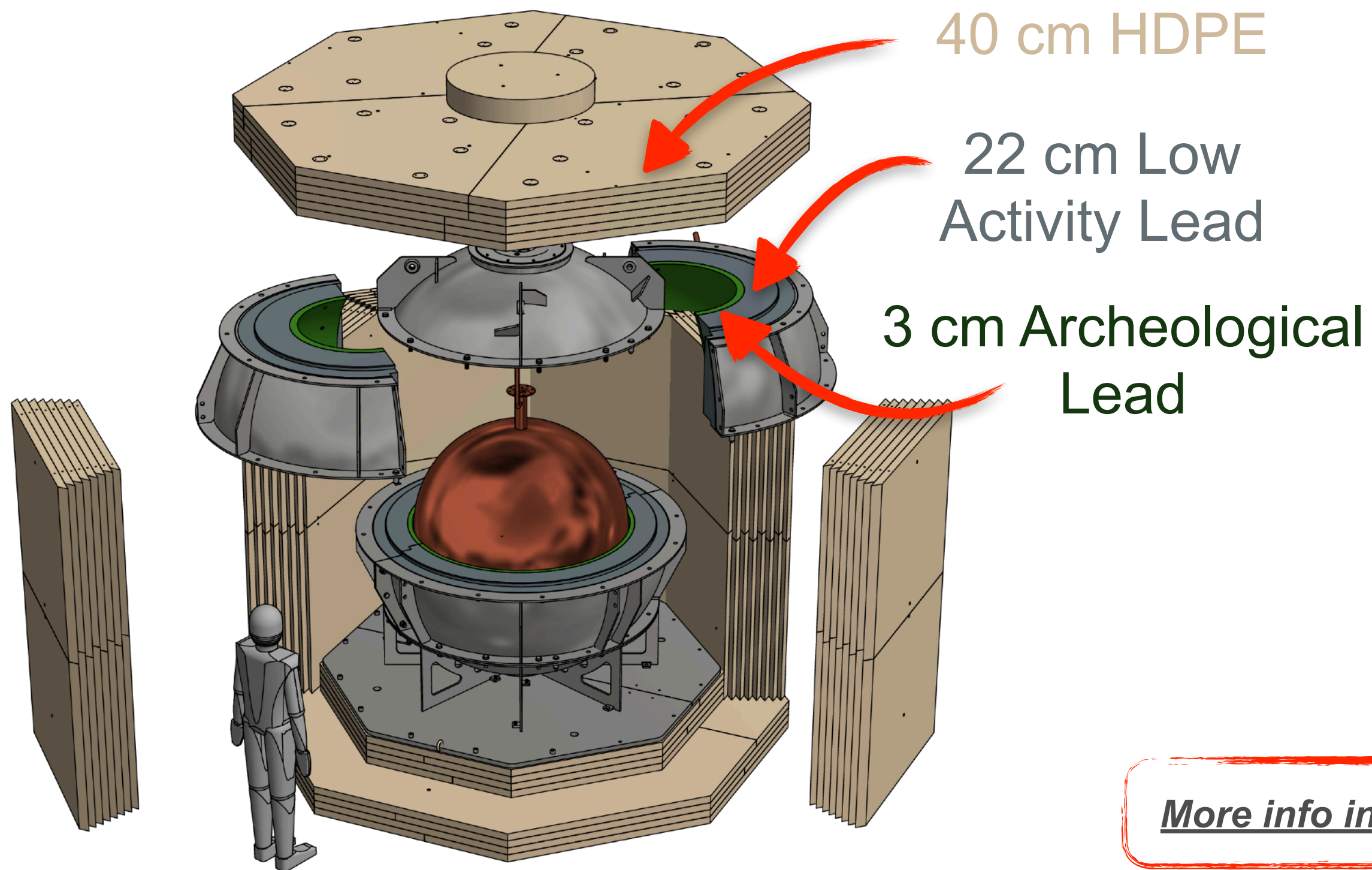
JINST 15 (2020) 06, C06013



- **Low capacitance**, independent of detector size
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- **Lowest surface area to volume ratio**
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# SNOGLOBE

- New  $\varnothing$ 140 cm detector
- 4N (99.99% pure) Aurubis copper
- Constructed and tested in LSM, France
- Now being commissioned in SNOLAB, Canada

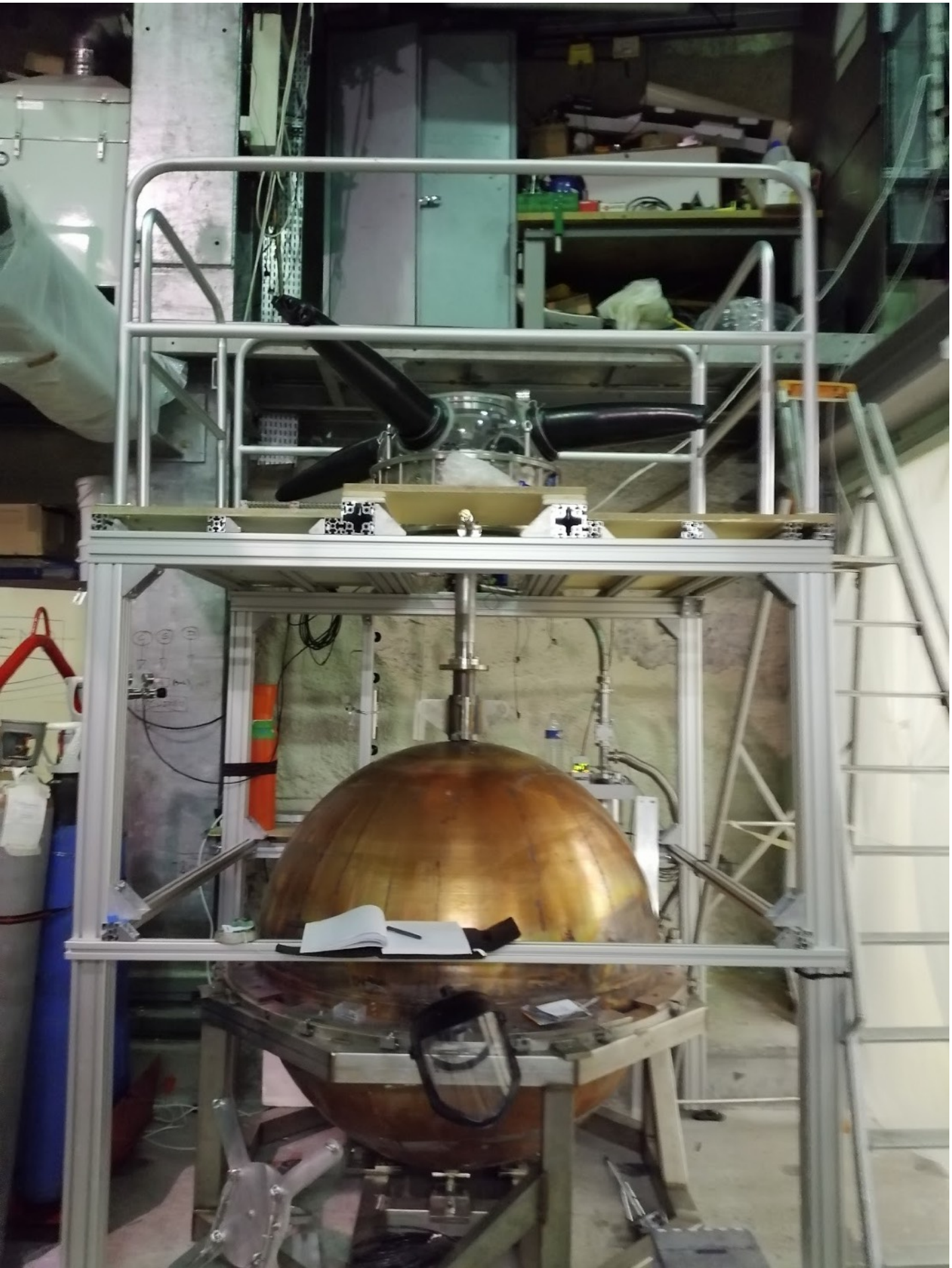
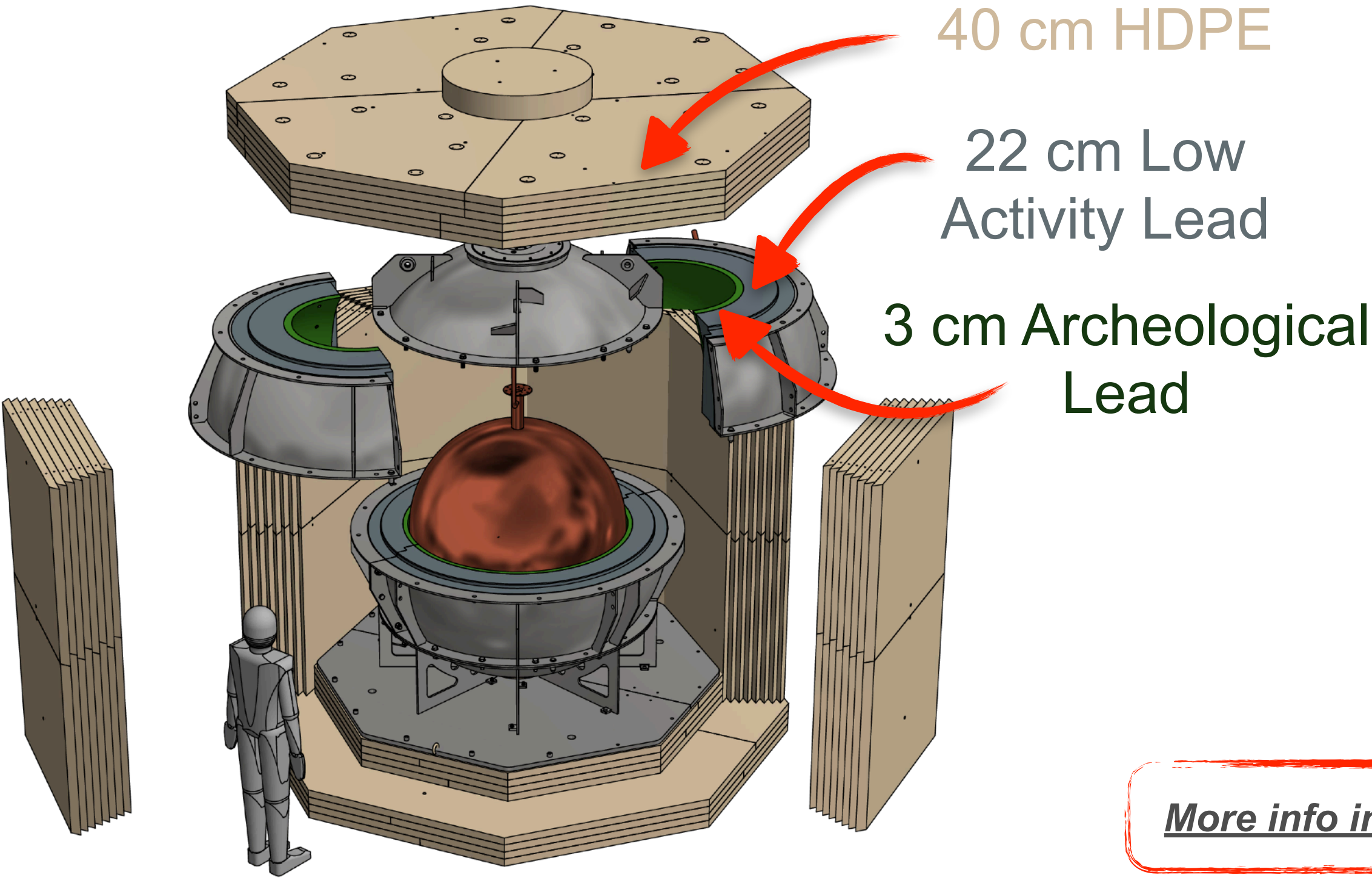


*More info in recent article: [arXiv 2205.15433](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.15433)*

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In LSM

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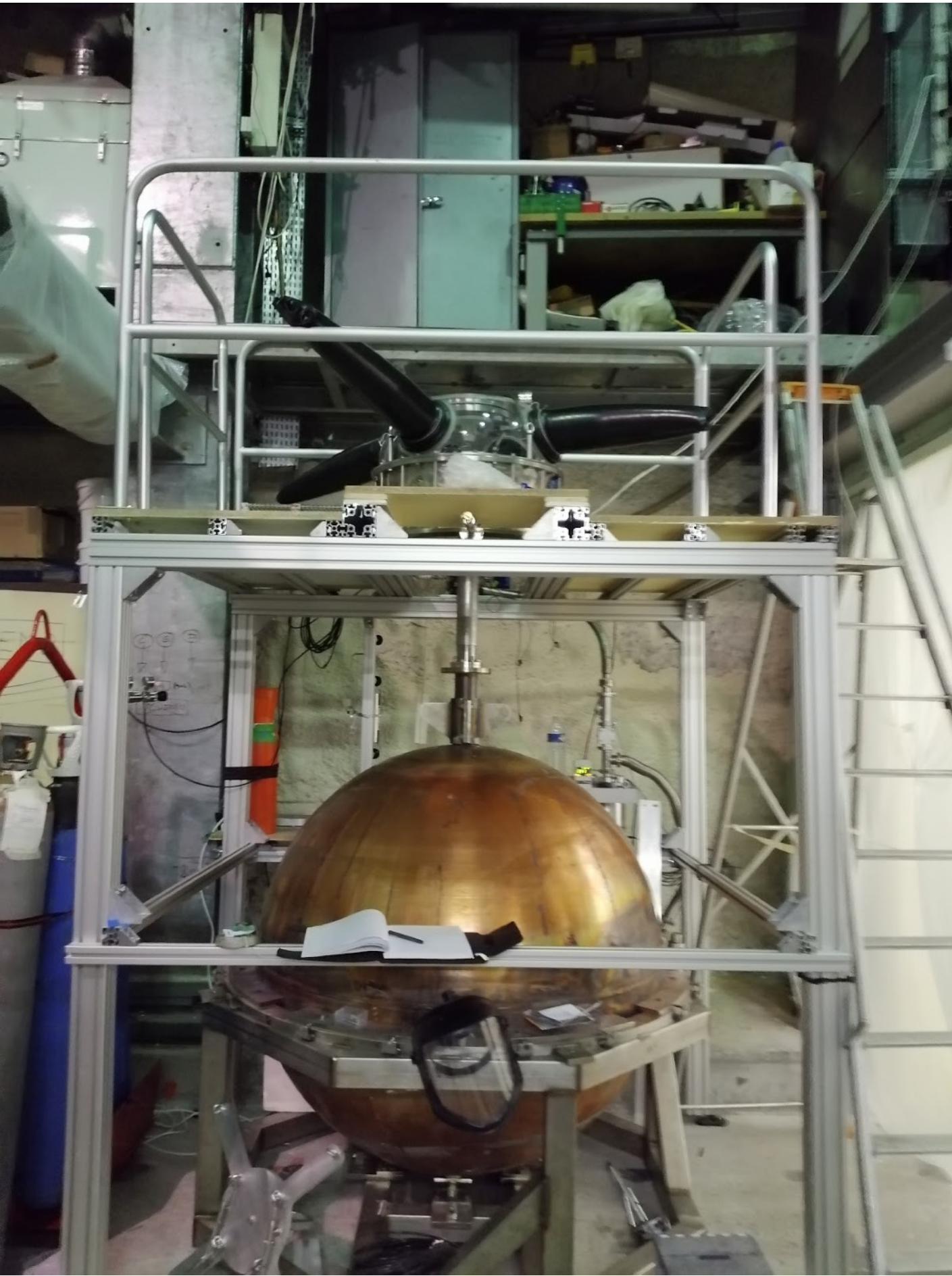
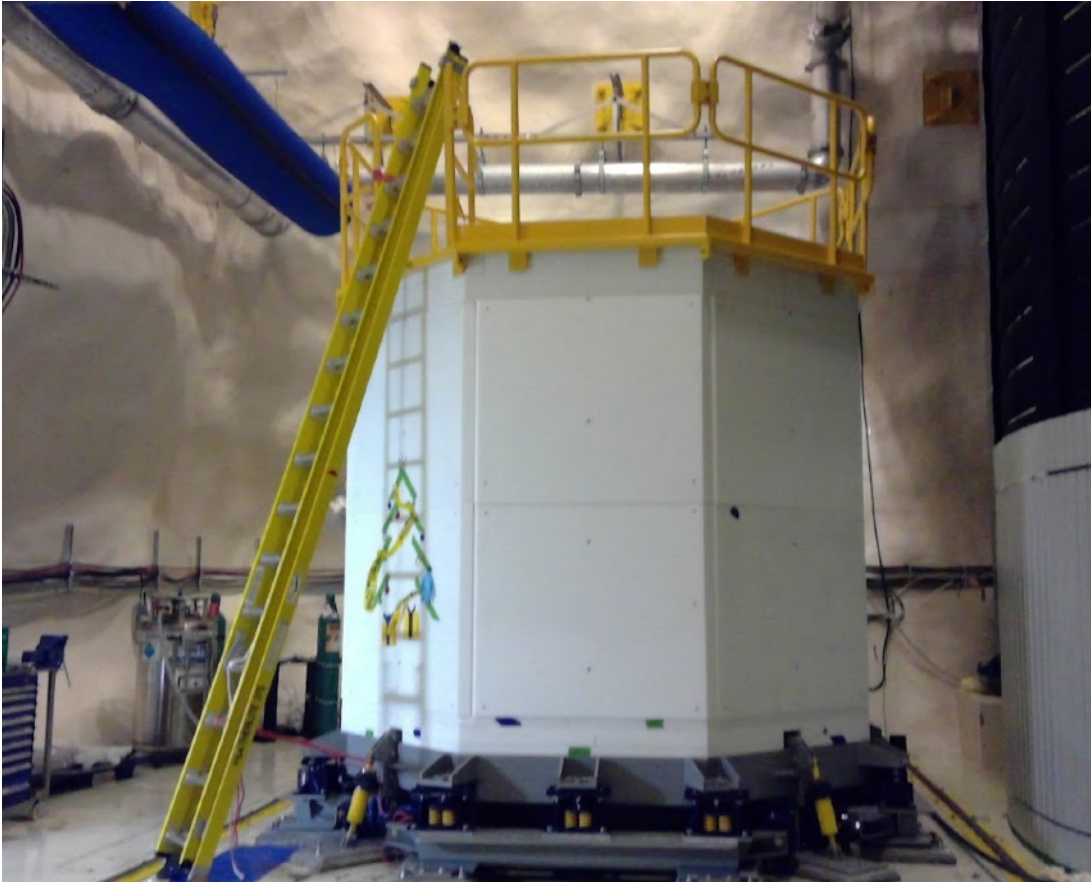
# SNOGLOBE

Location in SNOLAB

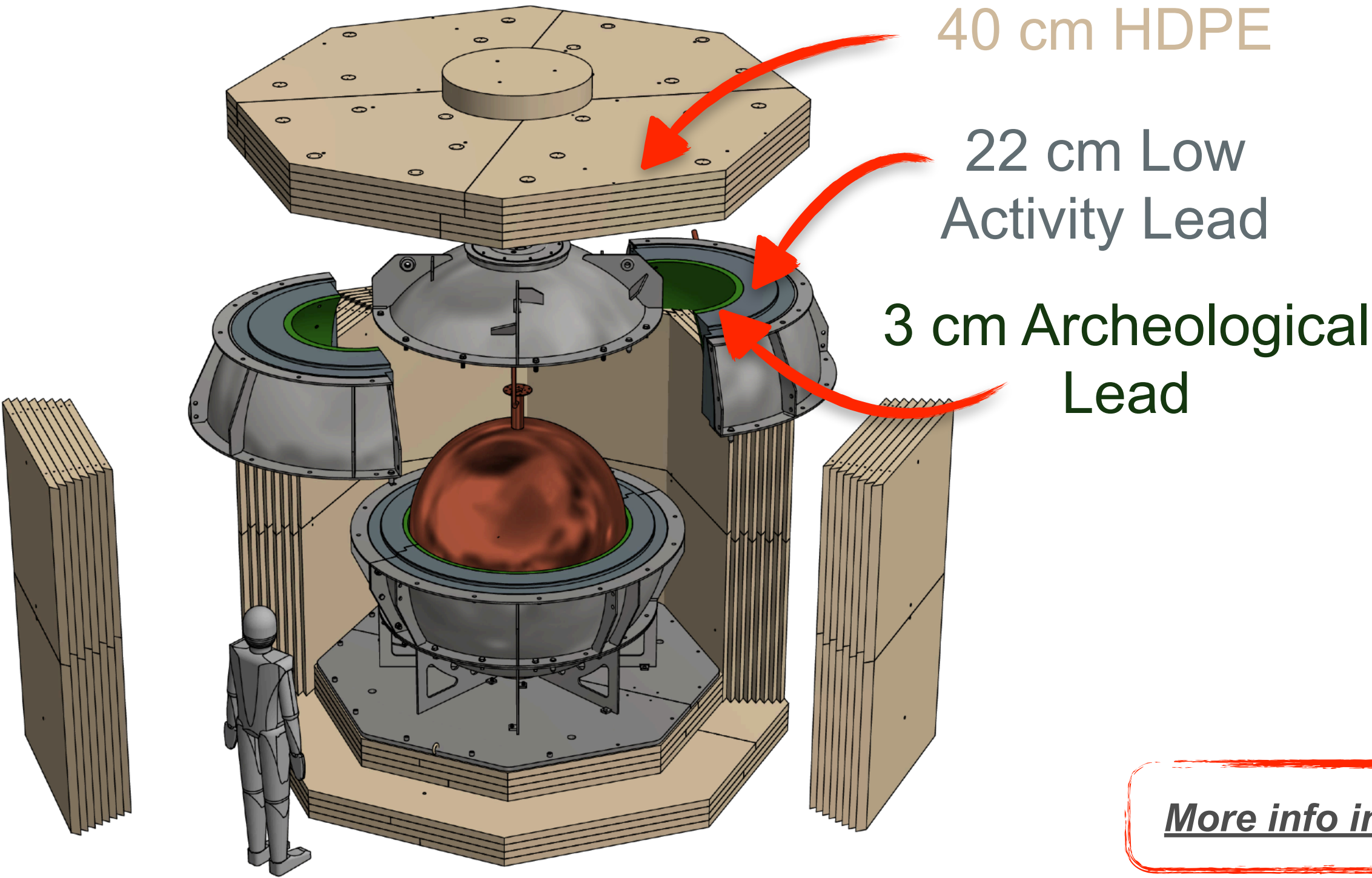
In LSM



Installed in SNOLAB  
Dec 2020



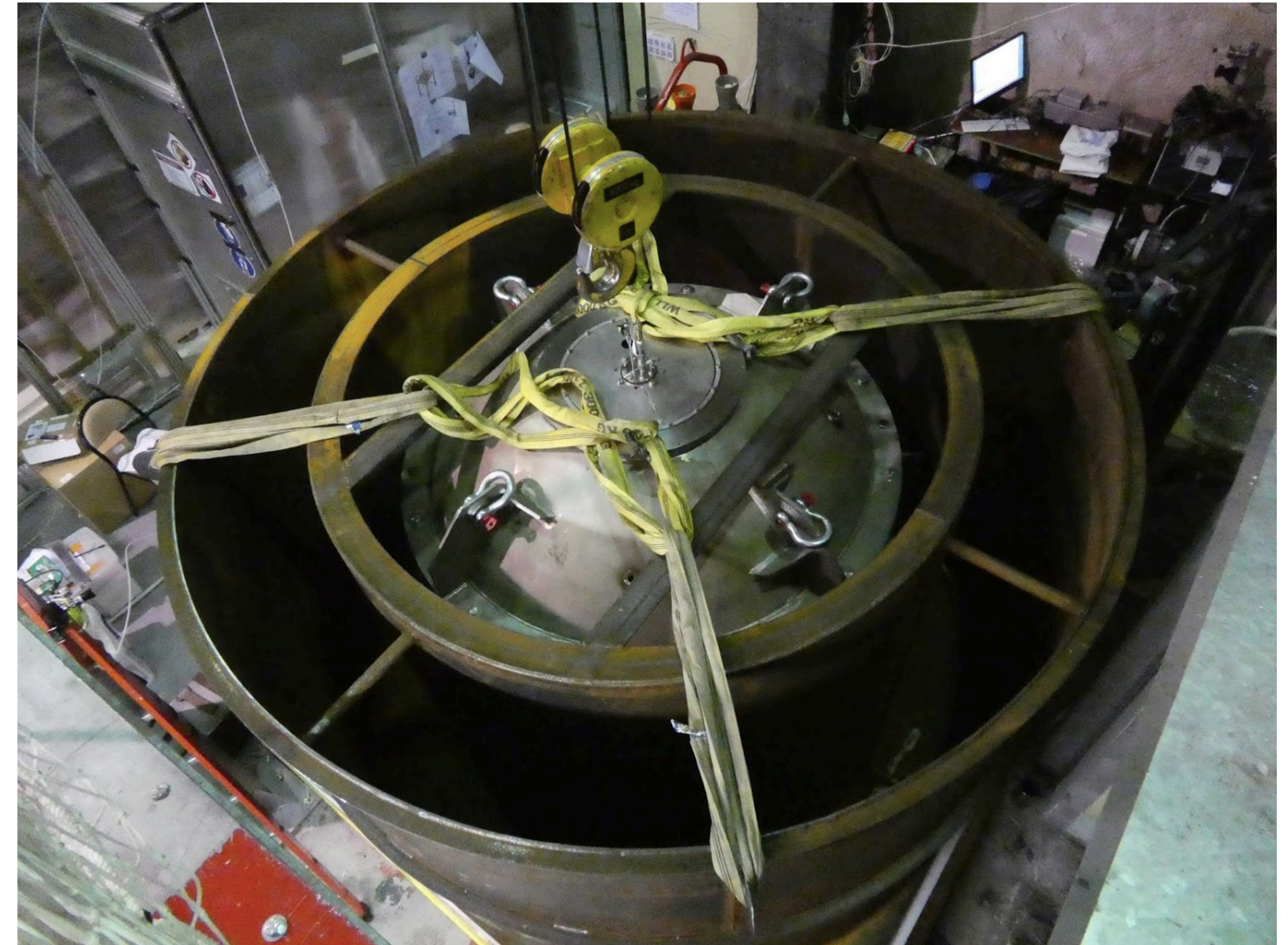
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# SNOGLOBE in LSM

- Constructed and first operated in LSM
- Initial commissioning data taking in LSM
  - **UV Laser and  $^{37}\text{Ar}$  calibration systems**
  - **Multi-anode sensor - ACHINOS**
- Temporary lead + water shielding installed end 2019
- **~10 days of commissioning data taken**
  - **135 mbar of  $\text{CH}_4$  (~100g)**



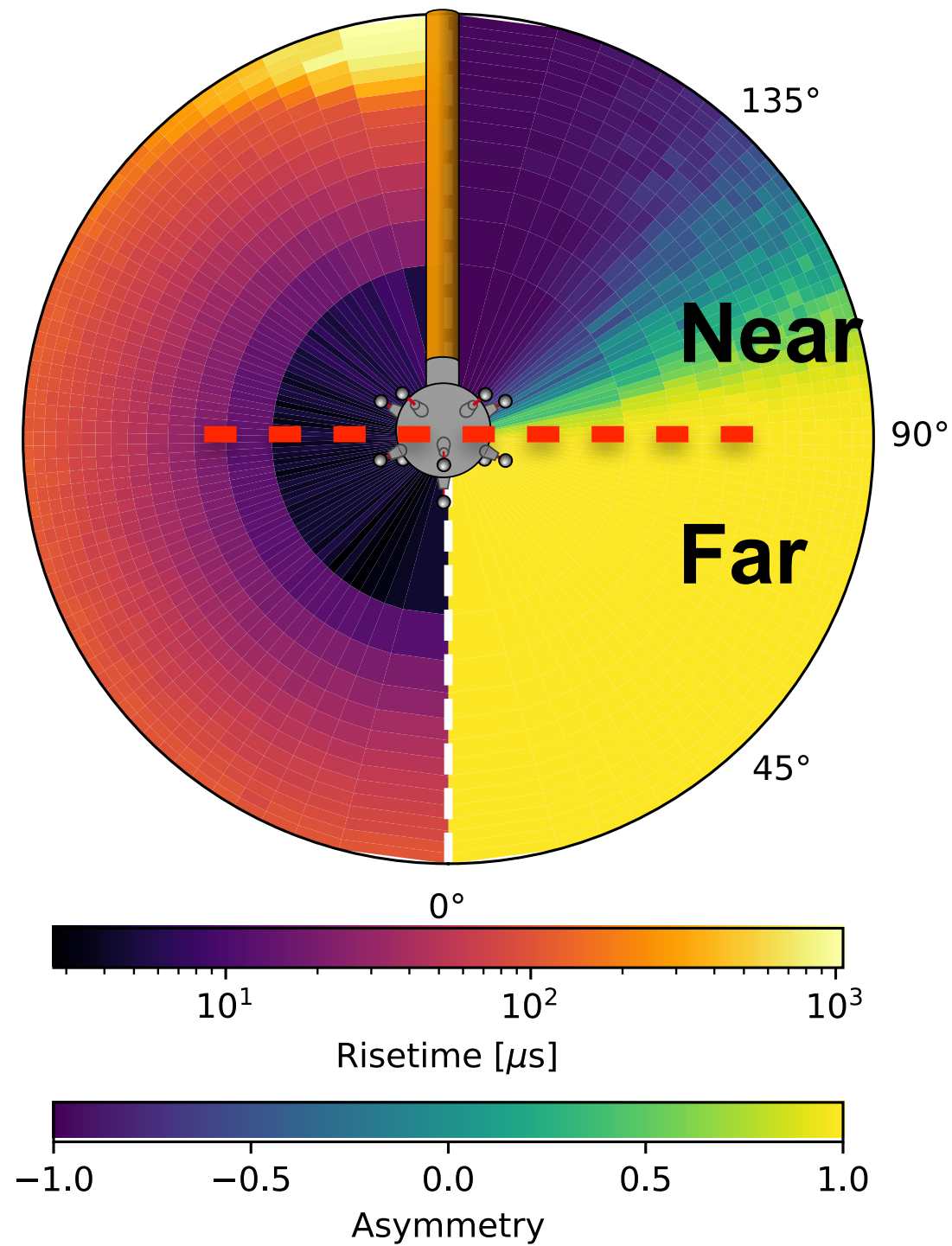
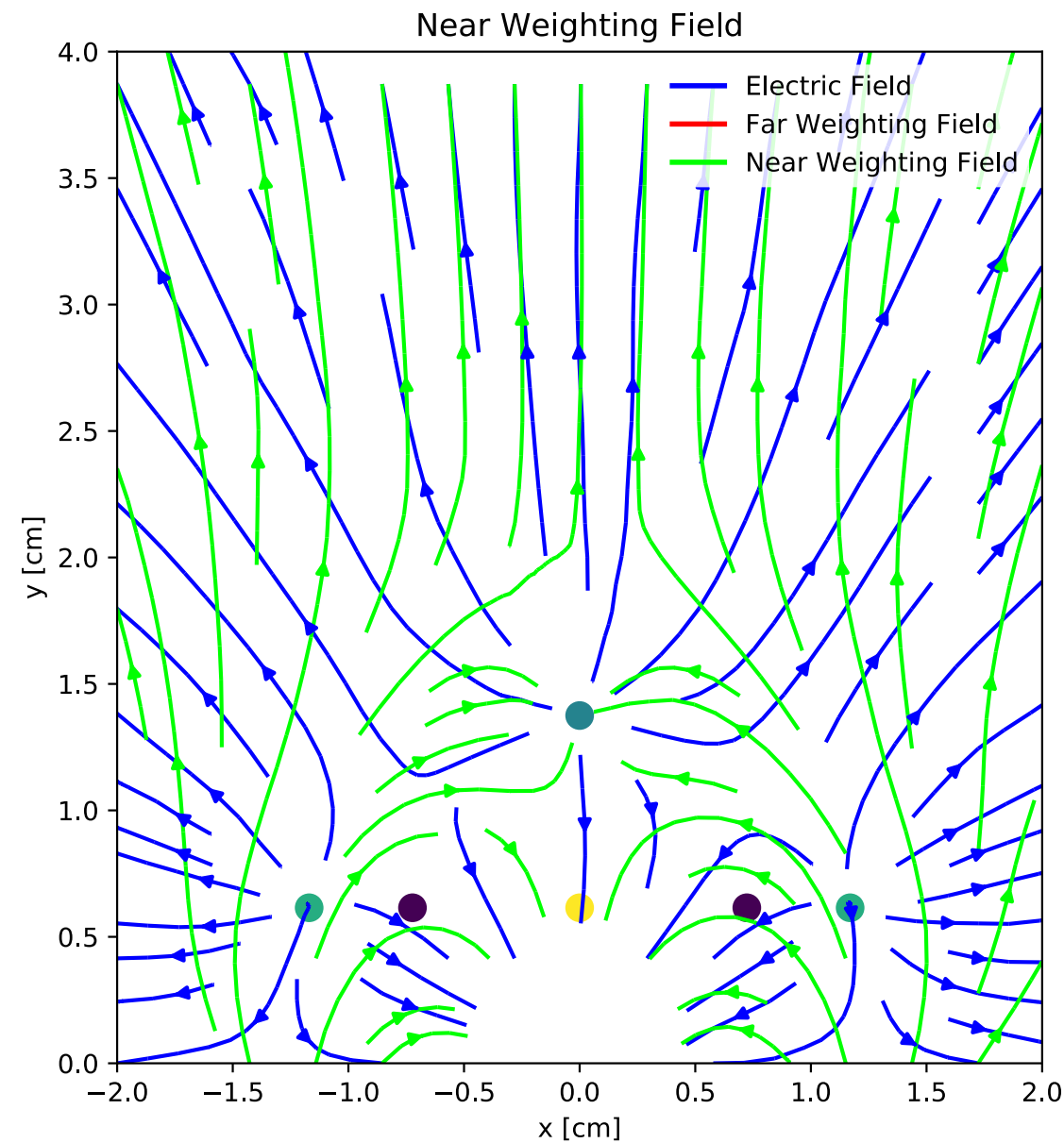
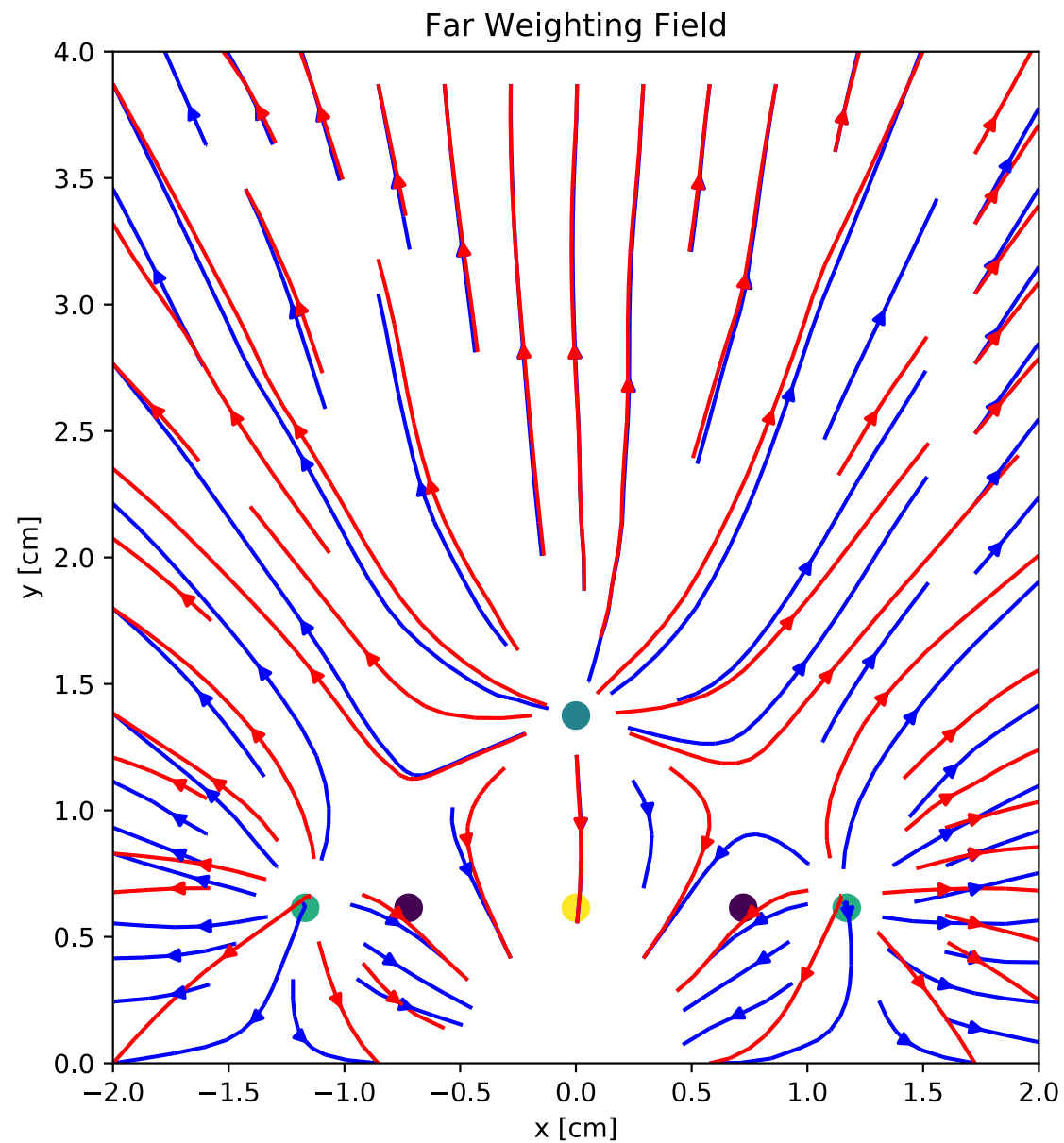
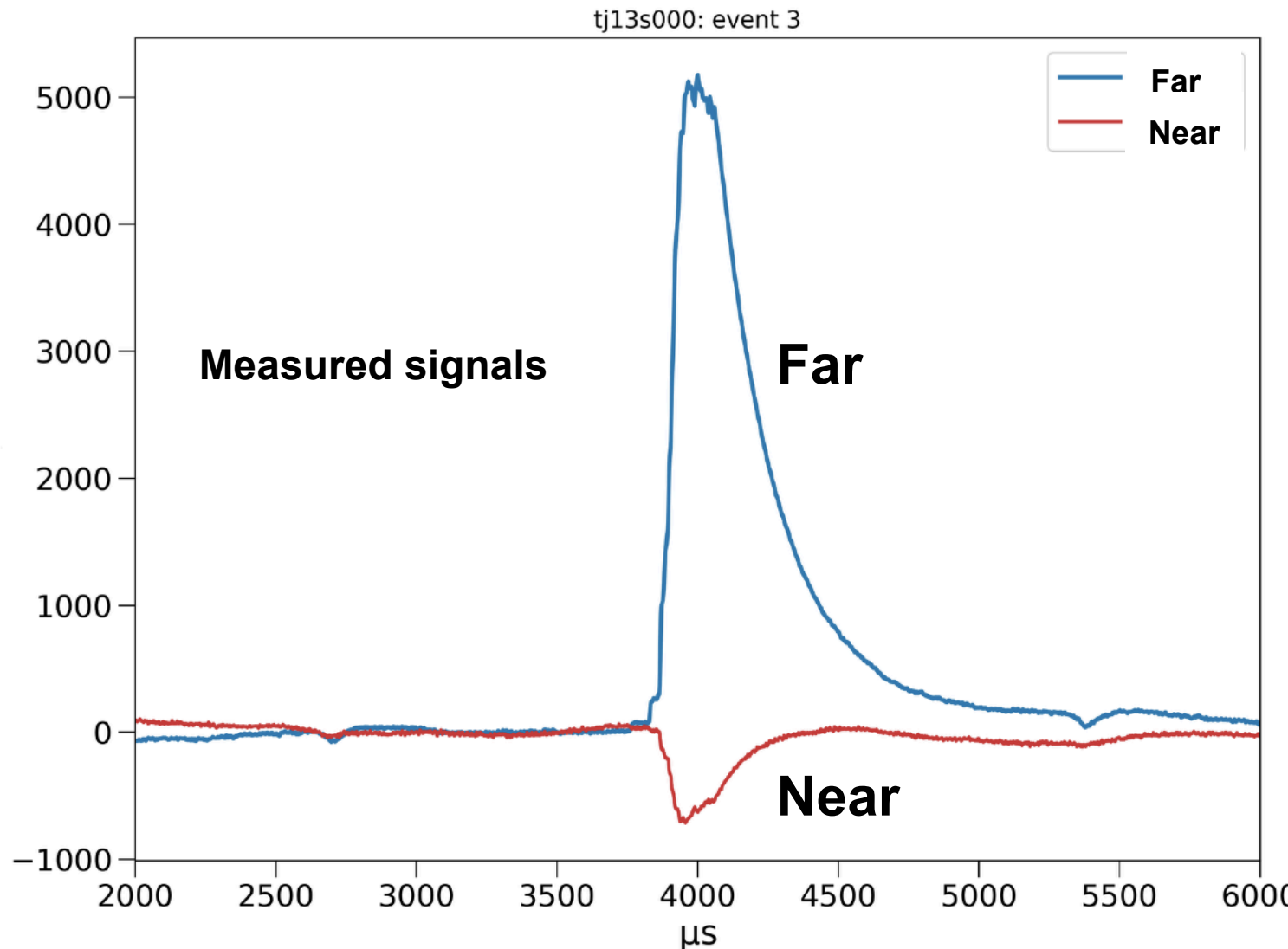
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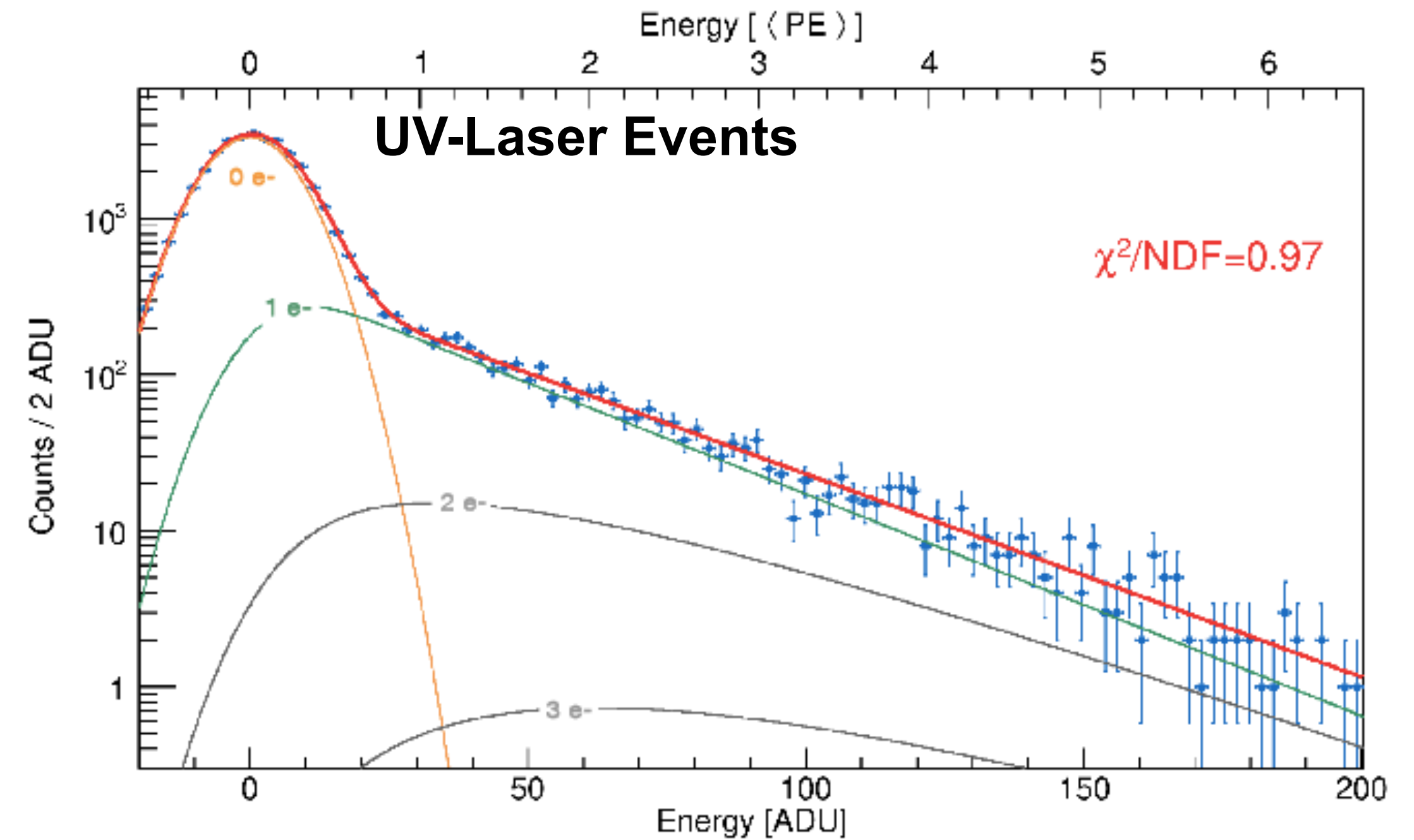
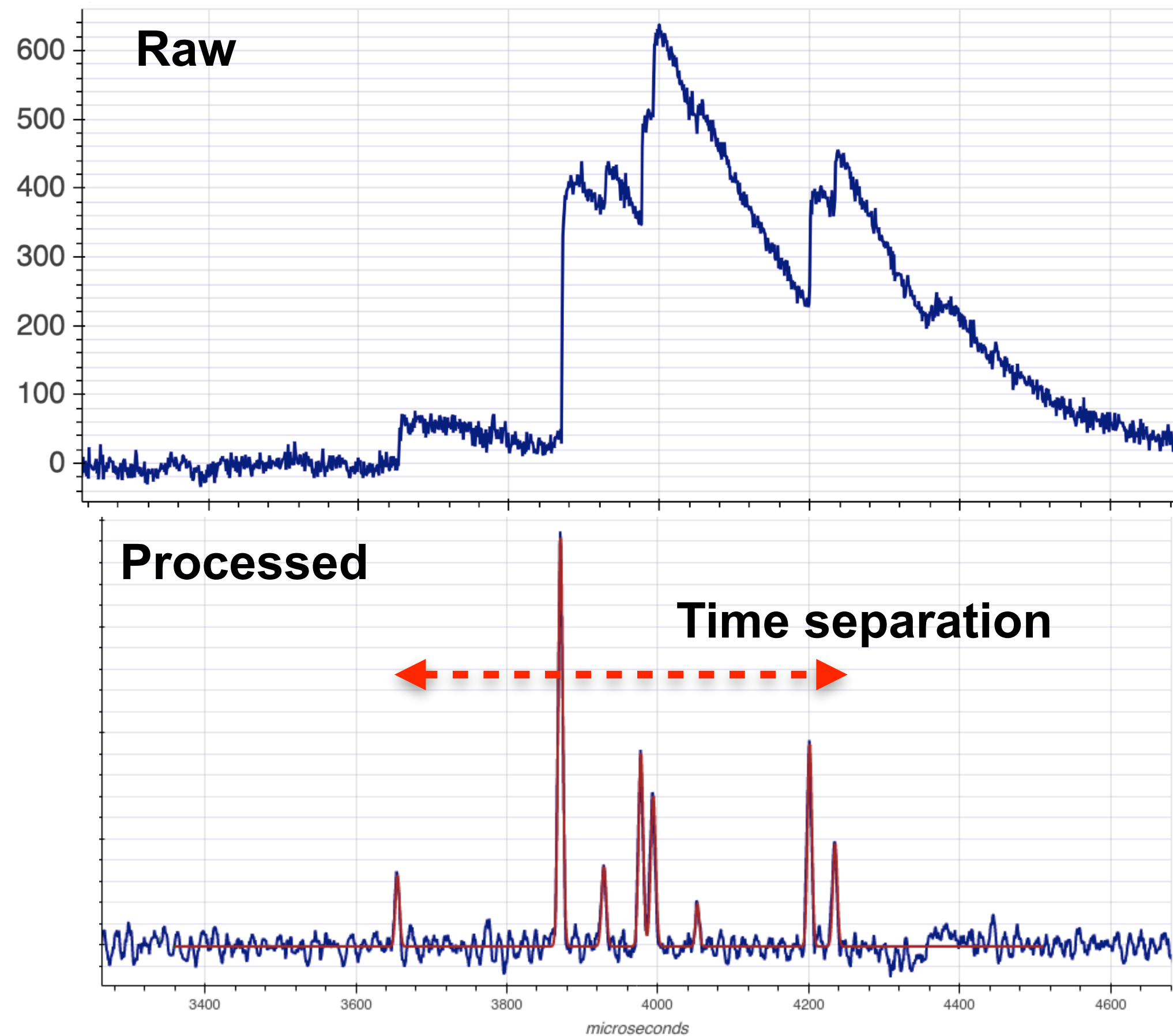
# ACHINOS

- Single anode: **gain and drift fields coupled**
- Idea: **Multiple anodes** located at same distance from centre of detector
- **Gain and drift decoupled**
- **Drift field** determined by **collective field of all anodes**
- **Gain** determined by **individual anode**
- Currently, read out as 2-channels, near and far
- Observe the expected induced signal on other channel when electrons arrive exclusively to other



# Electron Counting

- After pulse treatment, resolve primary electrons
  - Diffusion  $O(100 \mu\text{s})$  in commissioning data
  - If  $>1e$ , **time separation** surface/volume discrimination



- **UV 231 nm laser** for continuous detector monitoring
  - Drift time, gain, efficiencies etc.
- **$^{37}\text{Ar}$**  at end of data taking
  - Gain measurements
  - W-value and Fano
  - Electron attachment

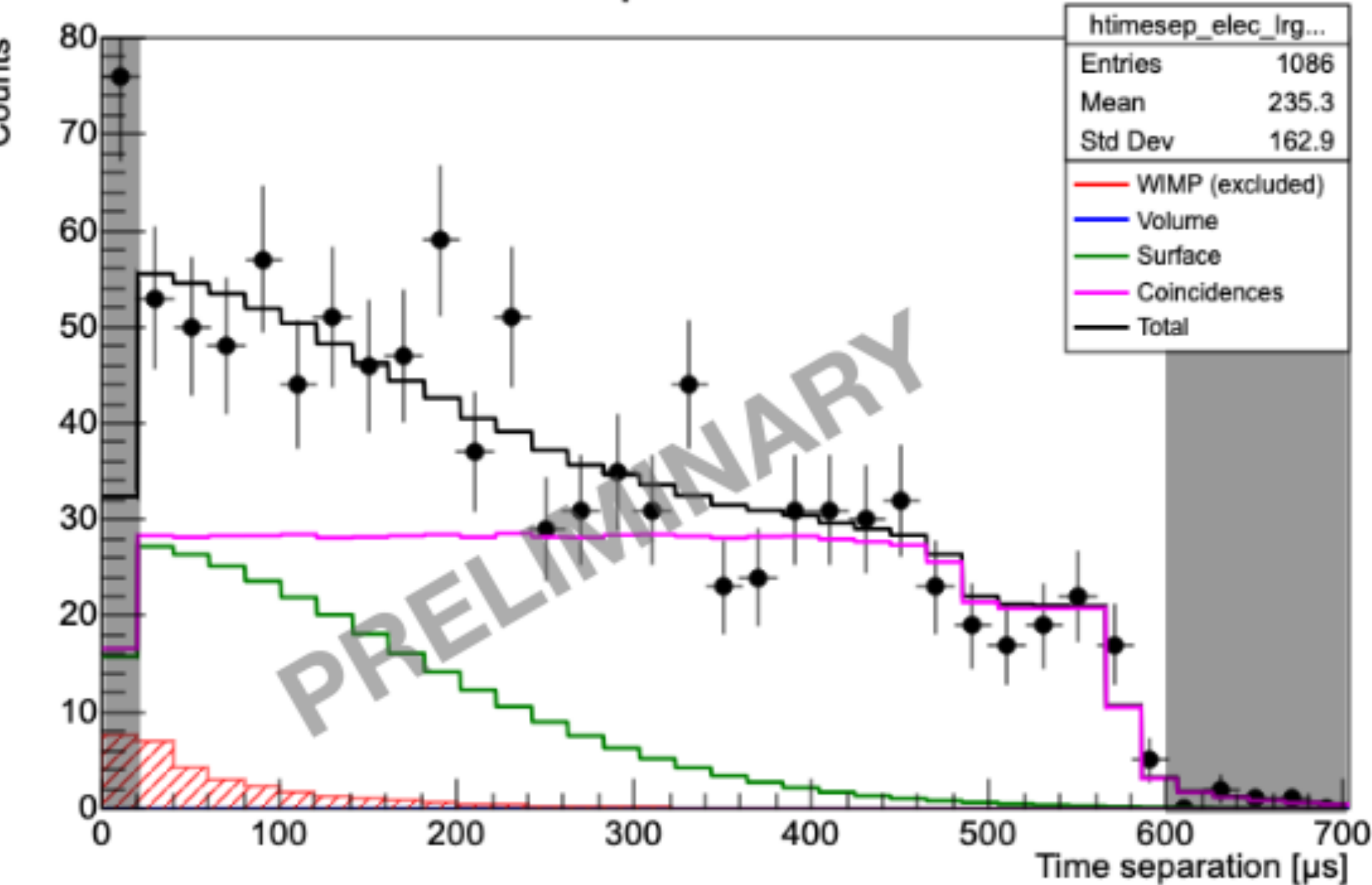


# Commissioning Data

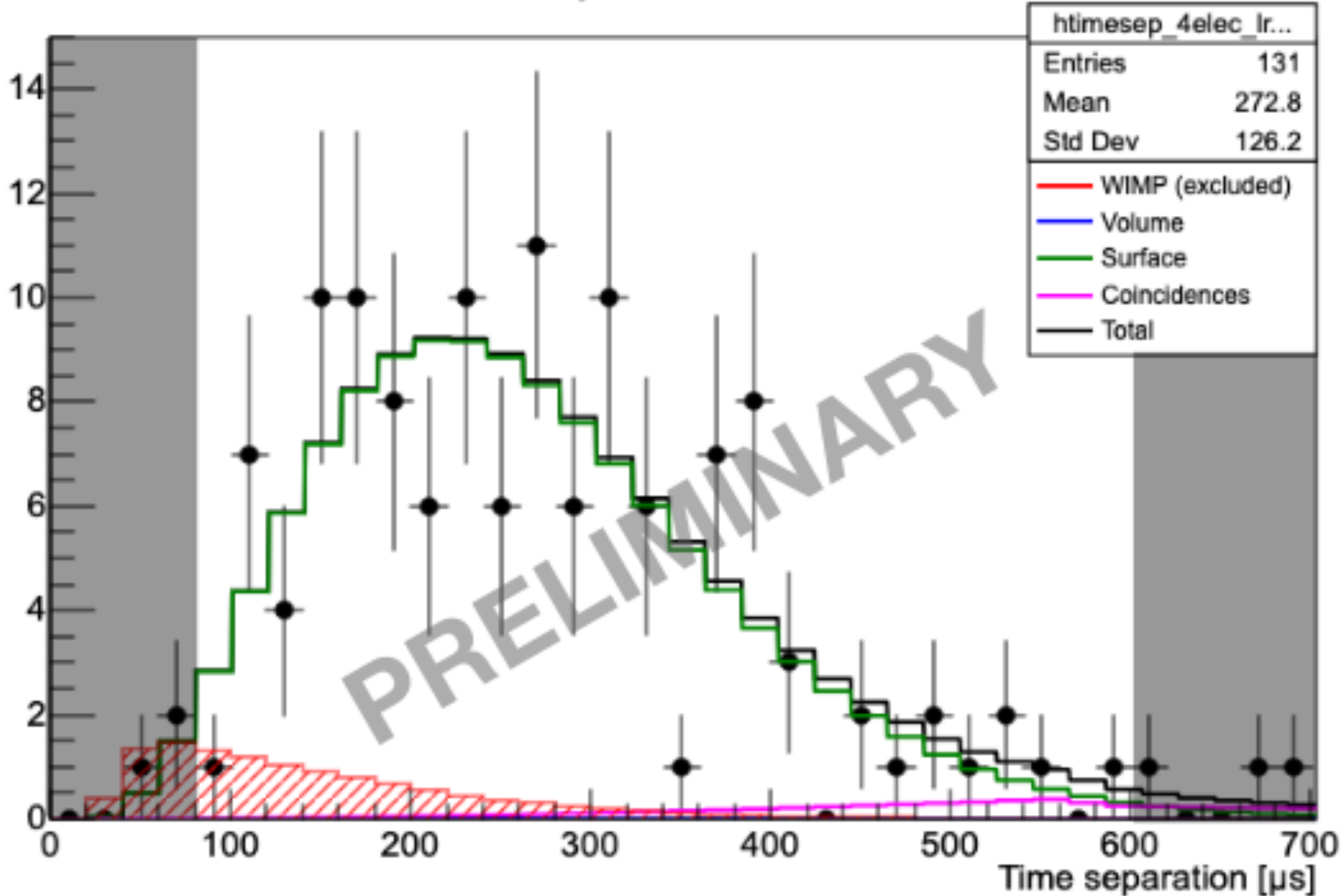
- Data divided into 2/3/4 peak
- Principle discriminating variable: time separation
  - Surface/volume and coincidence discrimination

- Only test data analysed so far: ~30% data
  - Remaining data is blind
- No significant DM signal observed

2 peaks



4 peaks



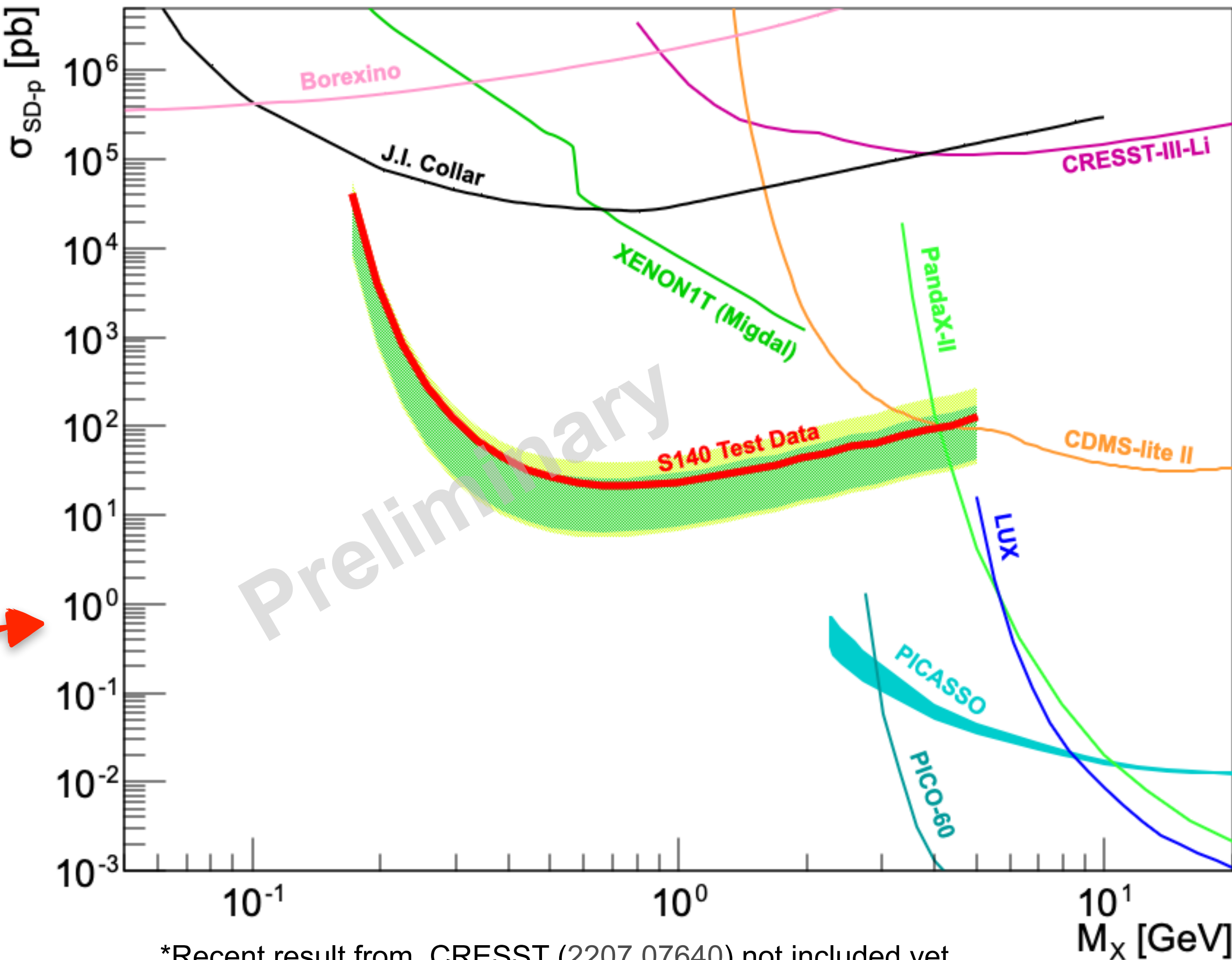
# LSM Physics Result

- Results with 0.12 kg·days test data
- Combination of W-value and Comimac QF used
- Conservative logarithmic extrapolation
- Profile likelihood ratio method used to calculate 90% exclusion limit
- Full results with blind data expected within weeks - **potential for best constraints on SD-p DM interactions below 1 GeV!**



**New Result!**

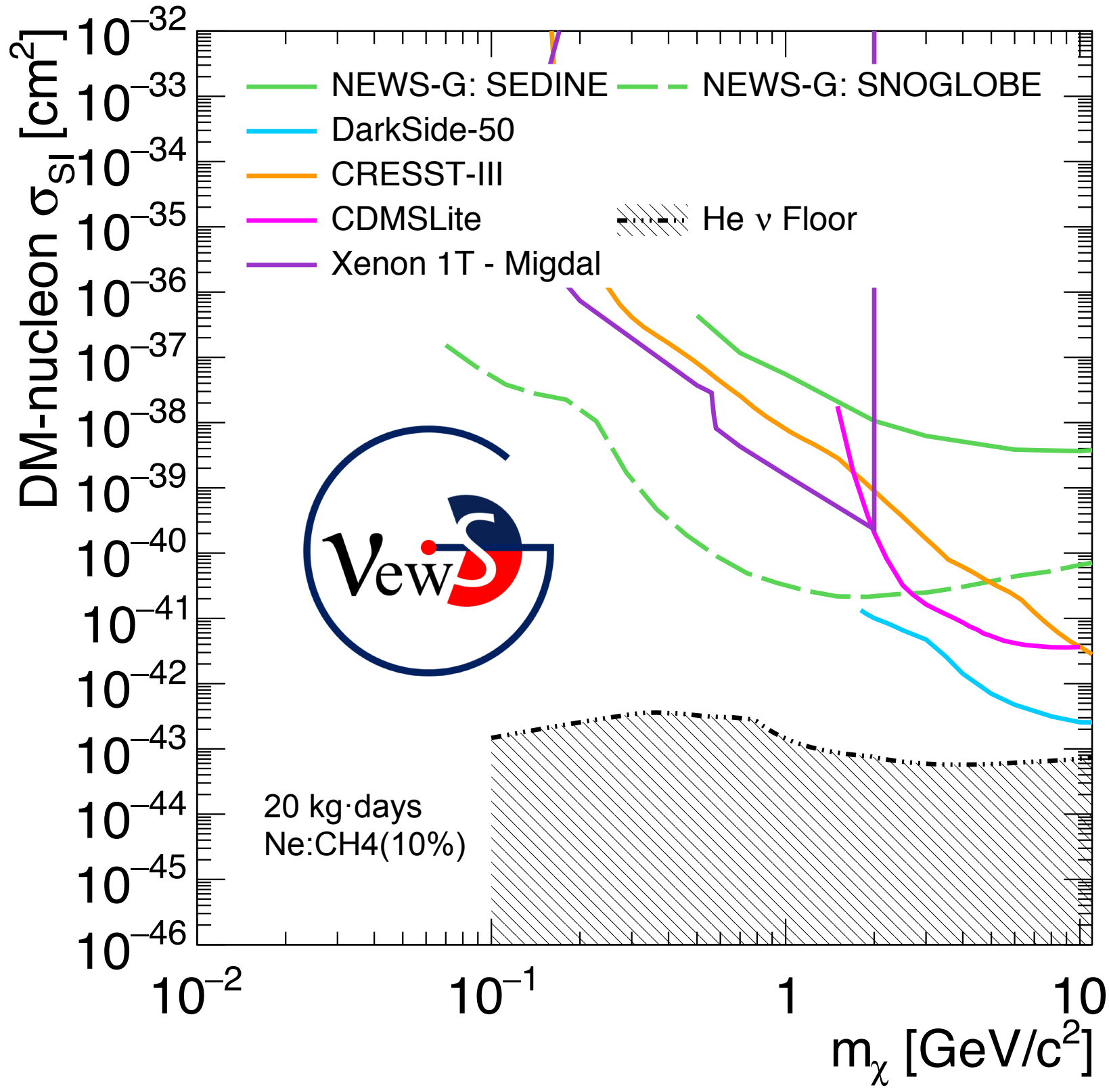
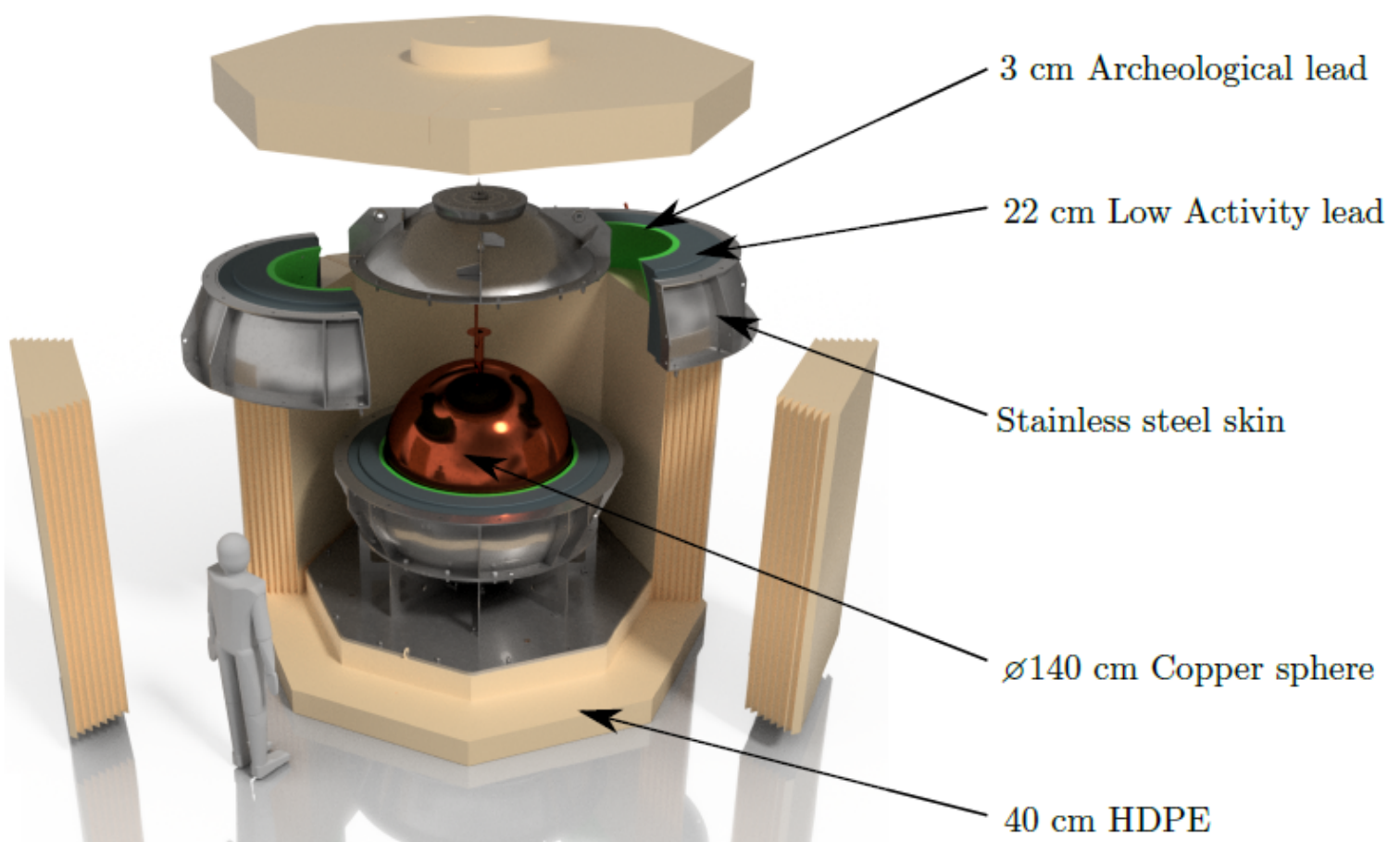
WIMP exclusion limit (S140@LSM, 135mbar CH4)



\*Recent result from CRESST (2207.07640) not included yet

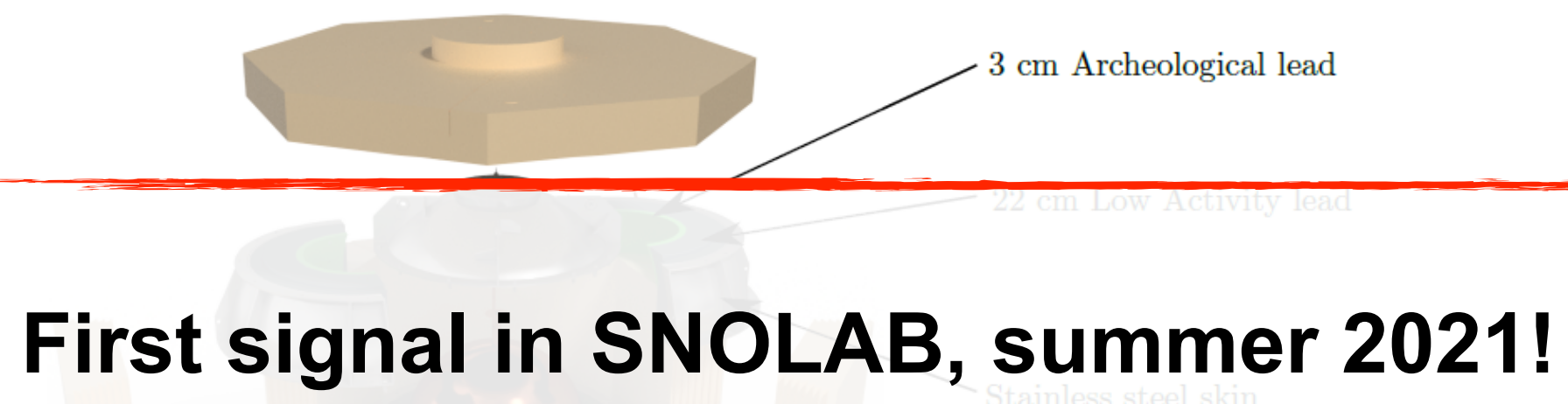
# SNOGLOBE in SNOLAB

■ Now in commissioning in SNOLAB

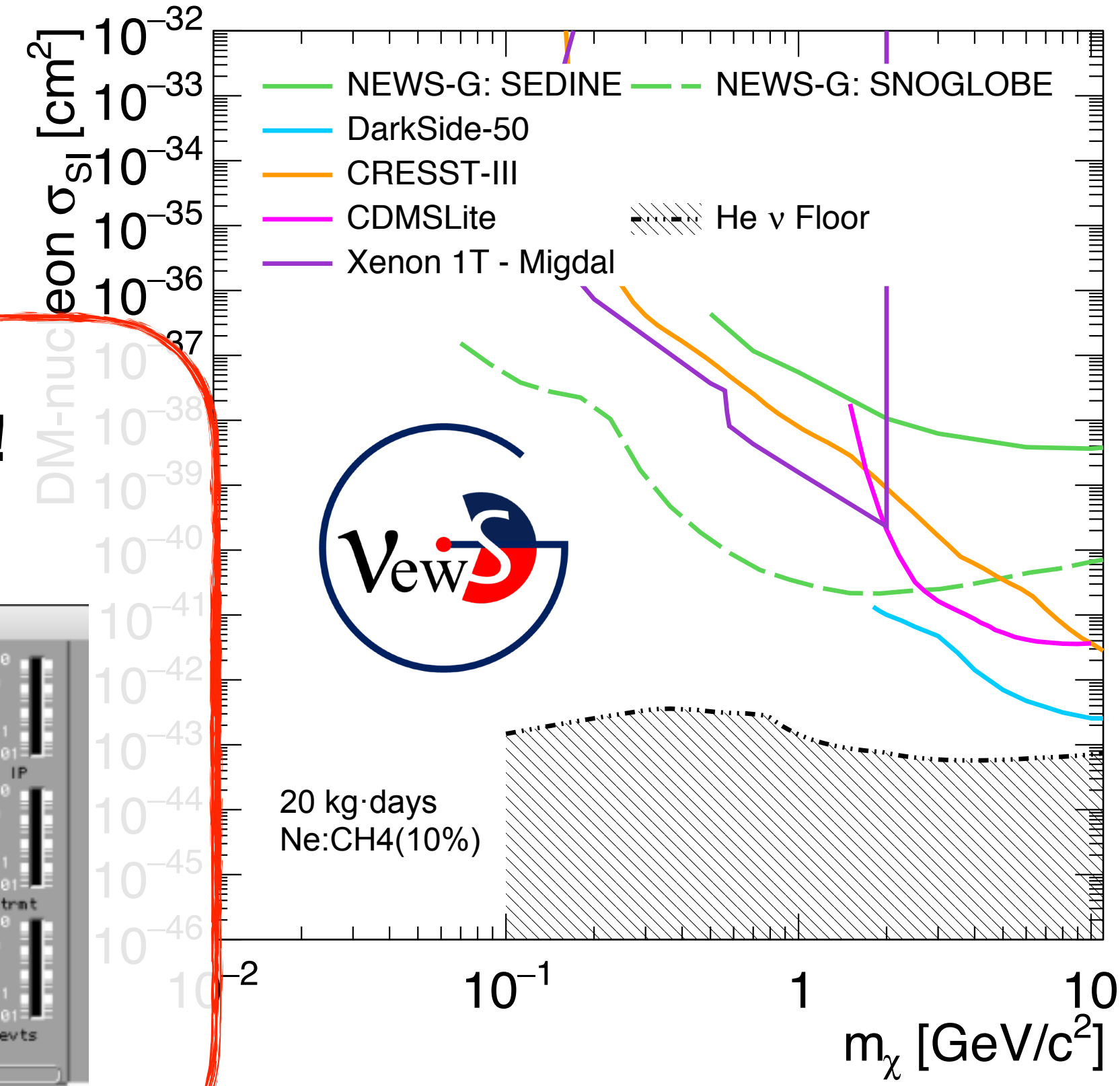
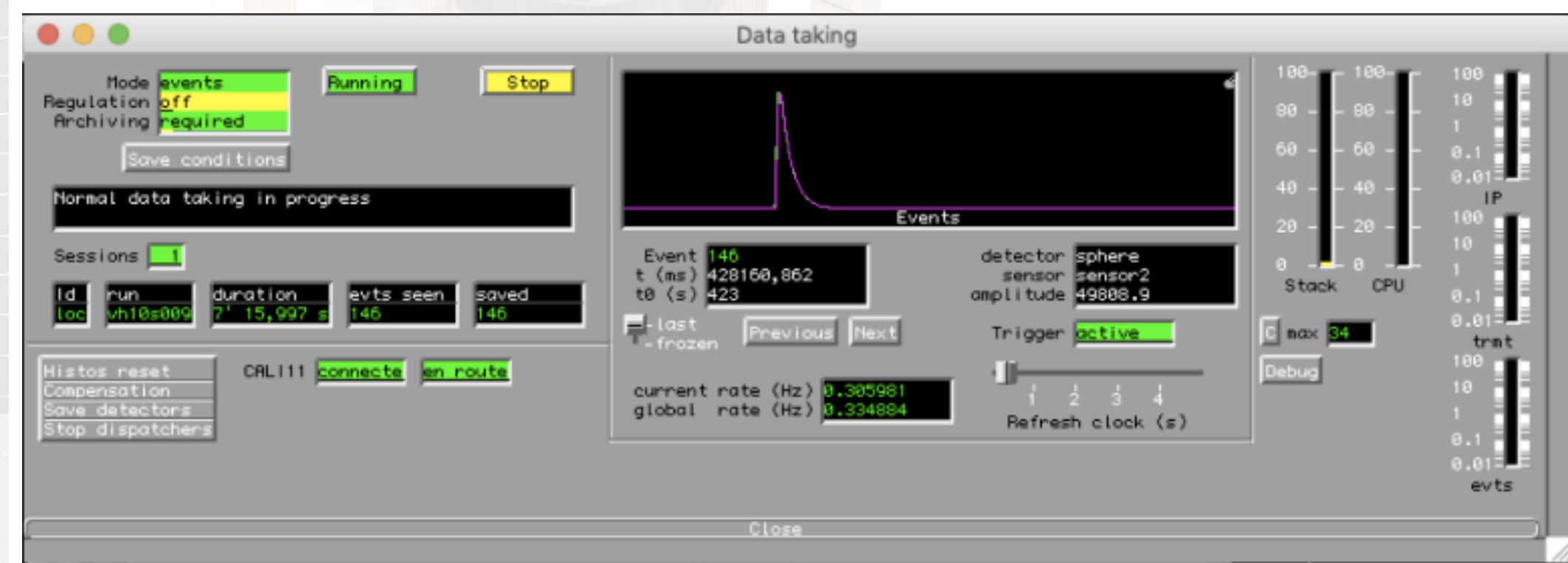


# SNOGLOBE in SNOLAB

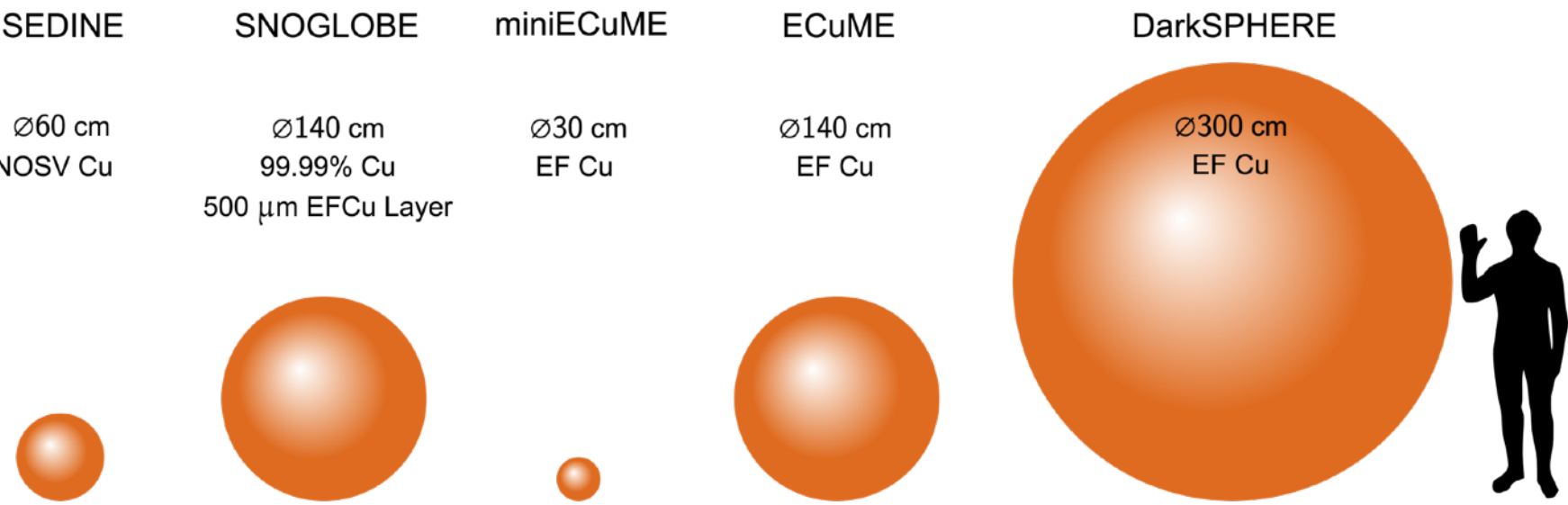
Now in commissioning in SNOLAB



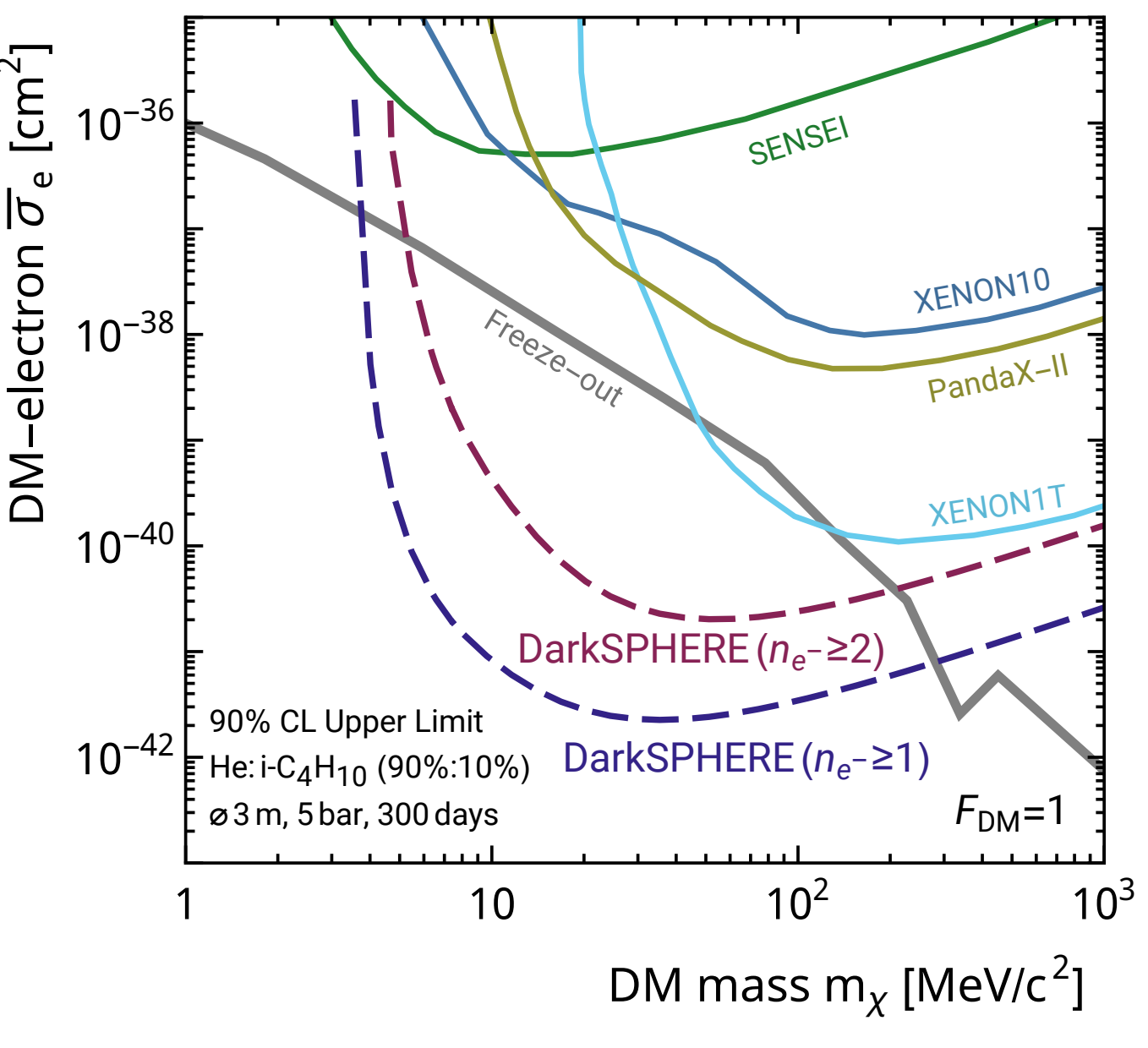
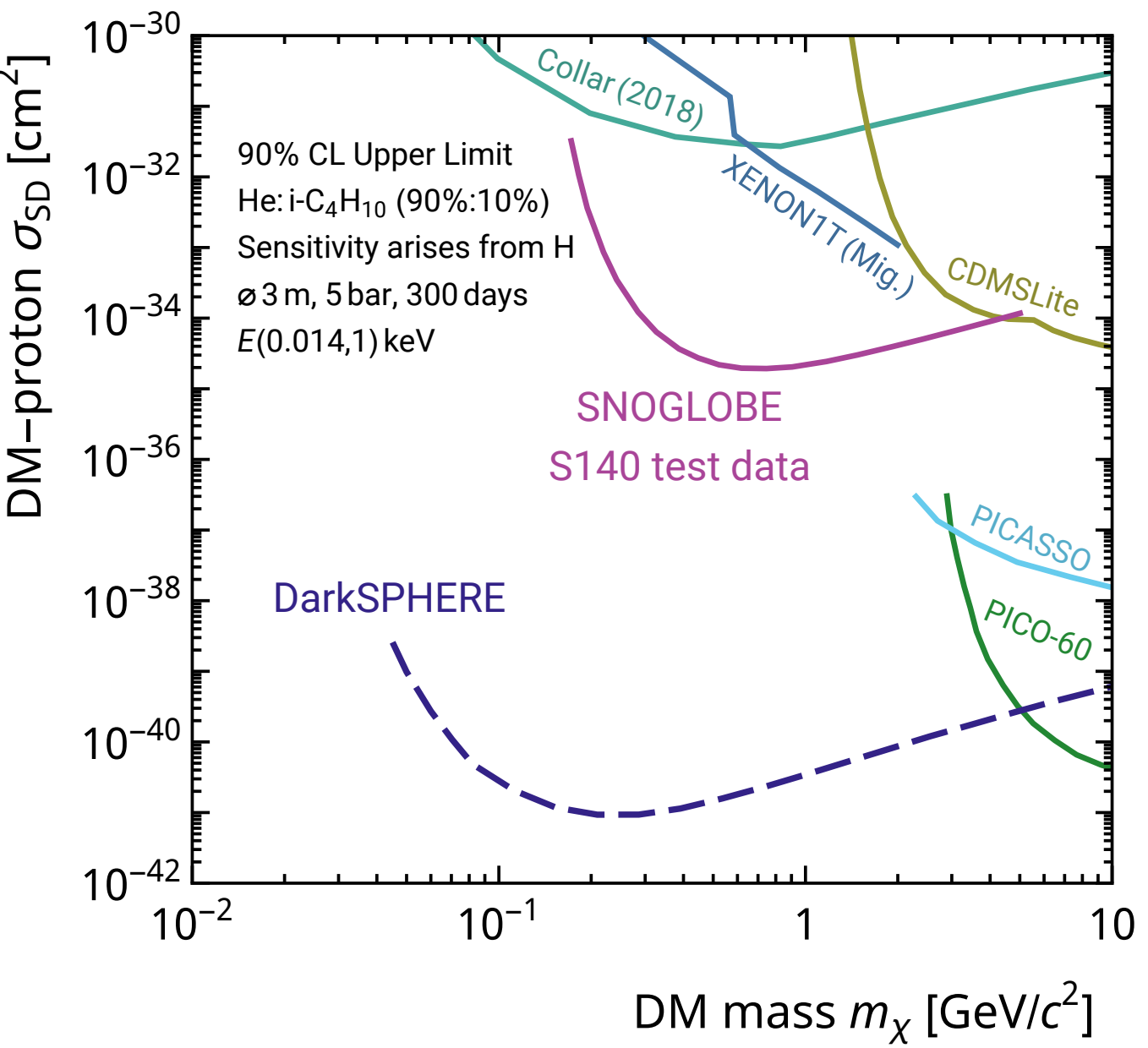
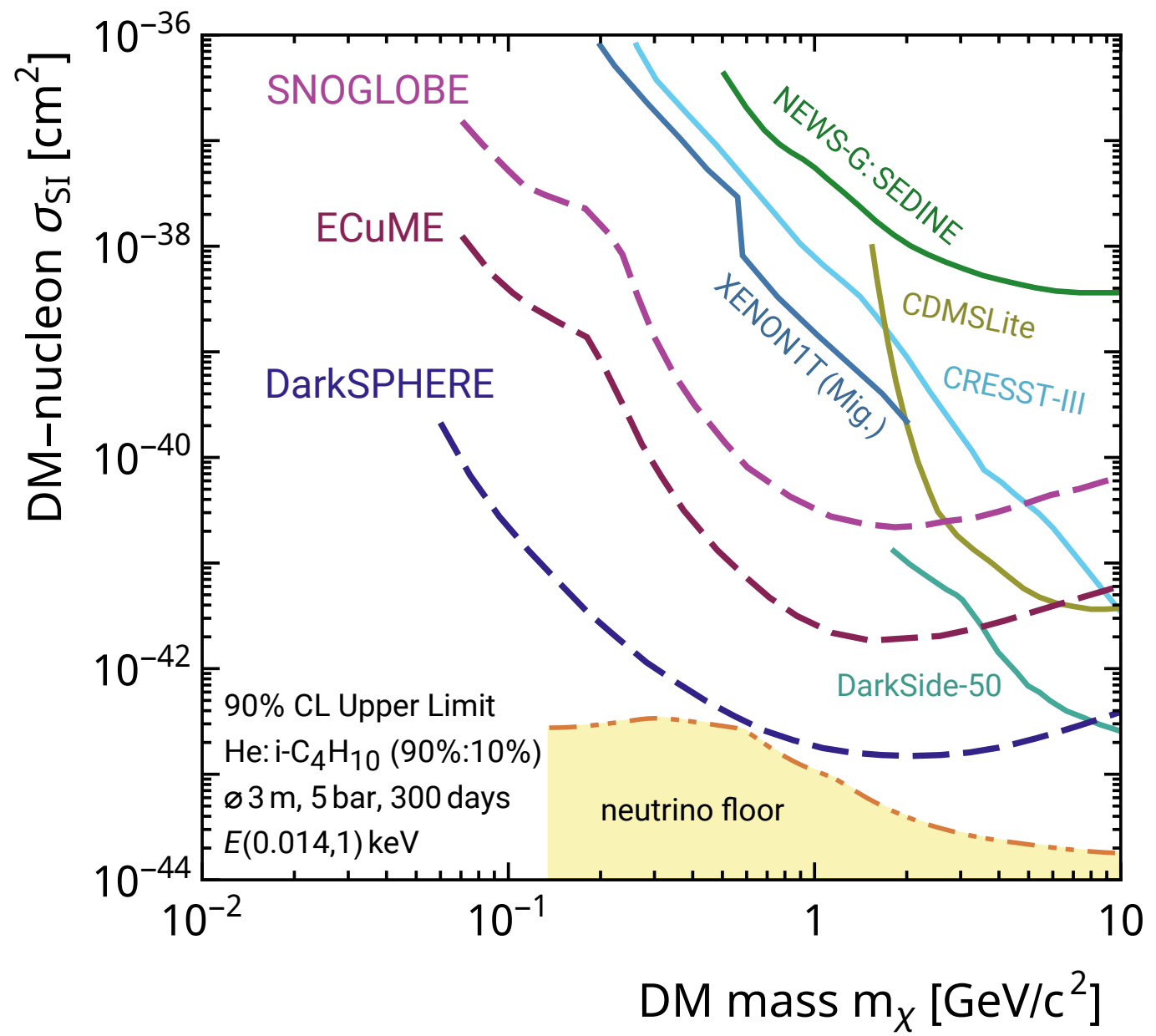
First signal in SNOLAB, summer 2021!



# Future Detectors

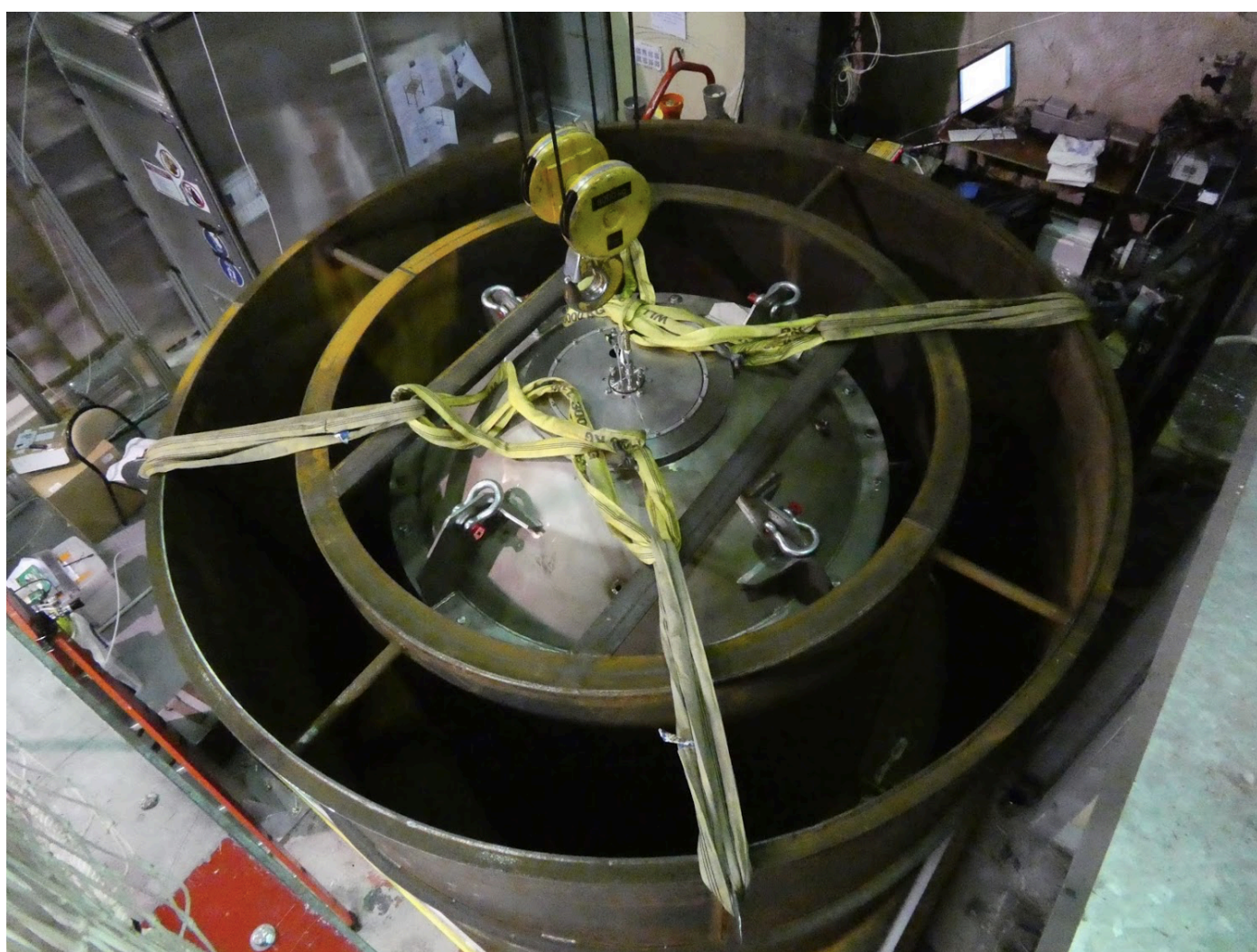


- Dominant BG: Radioactivity and activation of copper
- Idea: Use deep-underground, intact, electroformed detectors
- ECuME (SNOLAB):  $\varnothing 140$ cm SPC, to be installed in SNOGLOBE's shield
- Future: DarkSPHERE
- $\varnothing 3$ m SPC with water-based shielding to minimise BG from environment

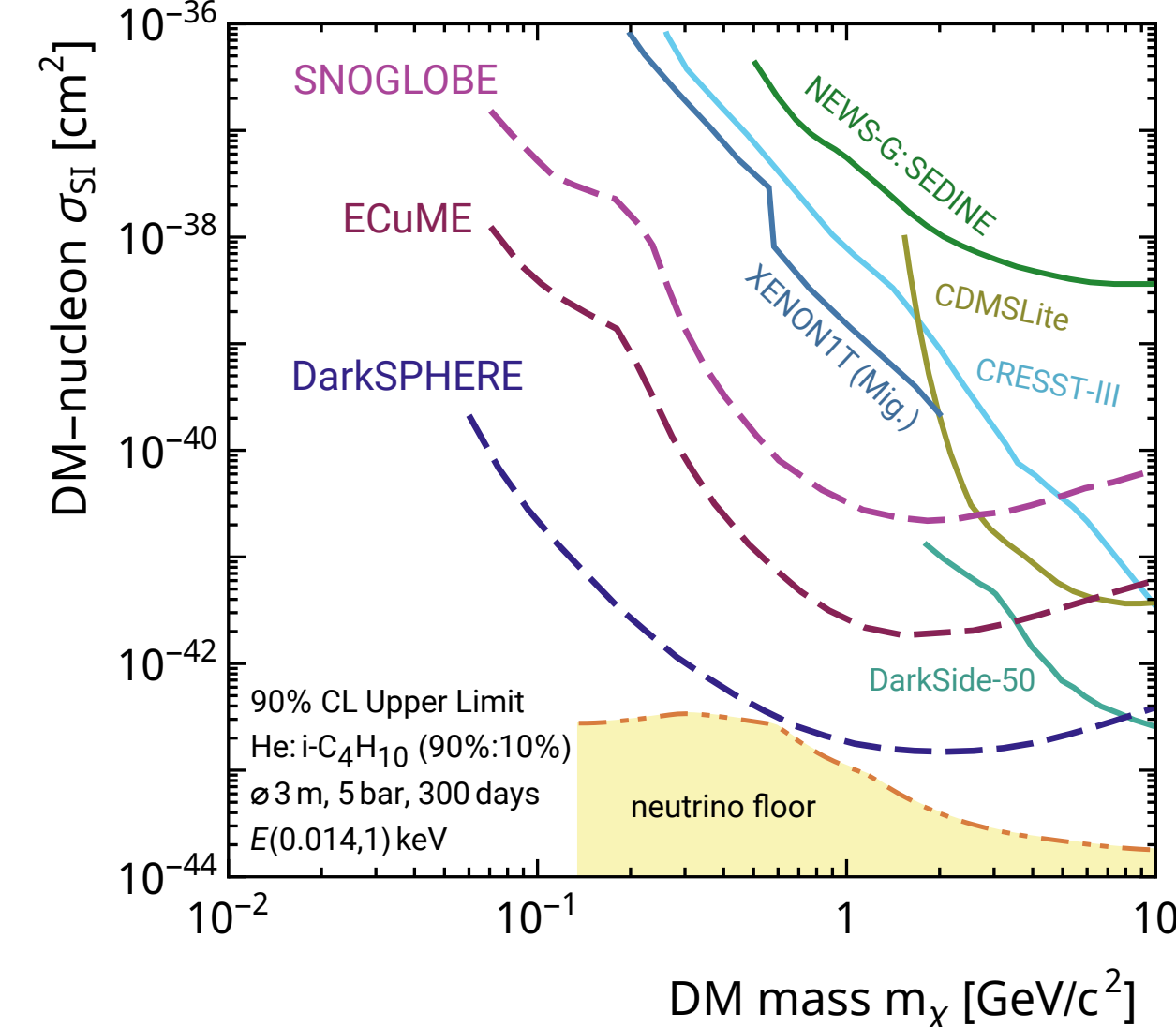
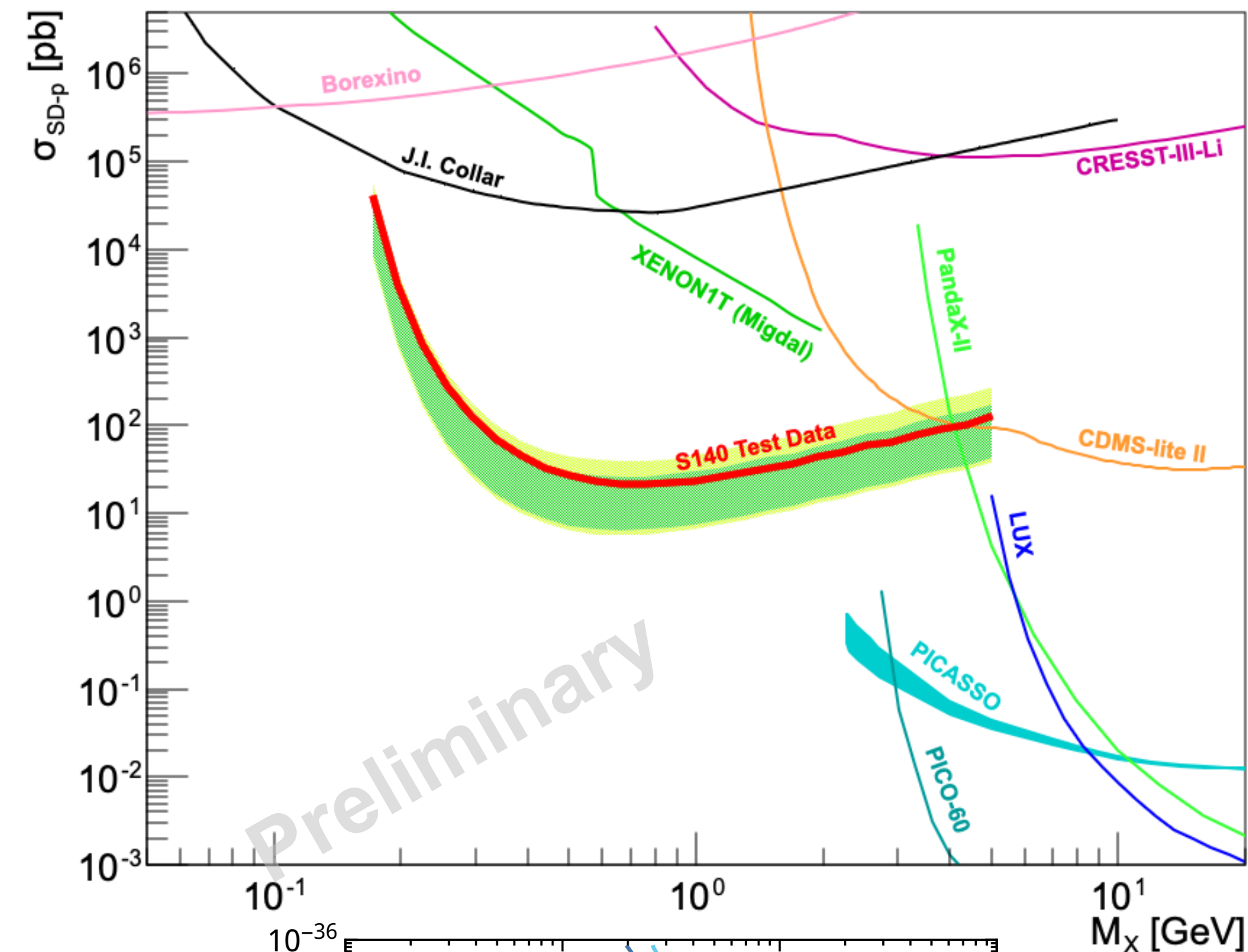


# Summary

- SNOGLOBE: 140cm SPC
- Commissioned and initially operated in LSM
- Commissioning data ~10 days with 135 mbar CH<sub>4</sub>
- Only analysed ~30% data
- expected to place world-leading limit on SD-p
- Data taking commencing in SNOLAB
- R&D an plans for future detectors ongoing

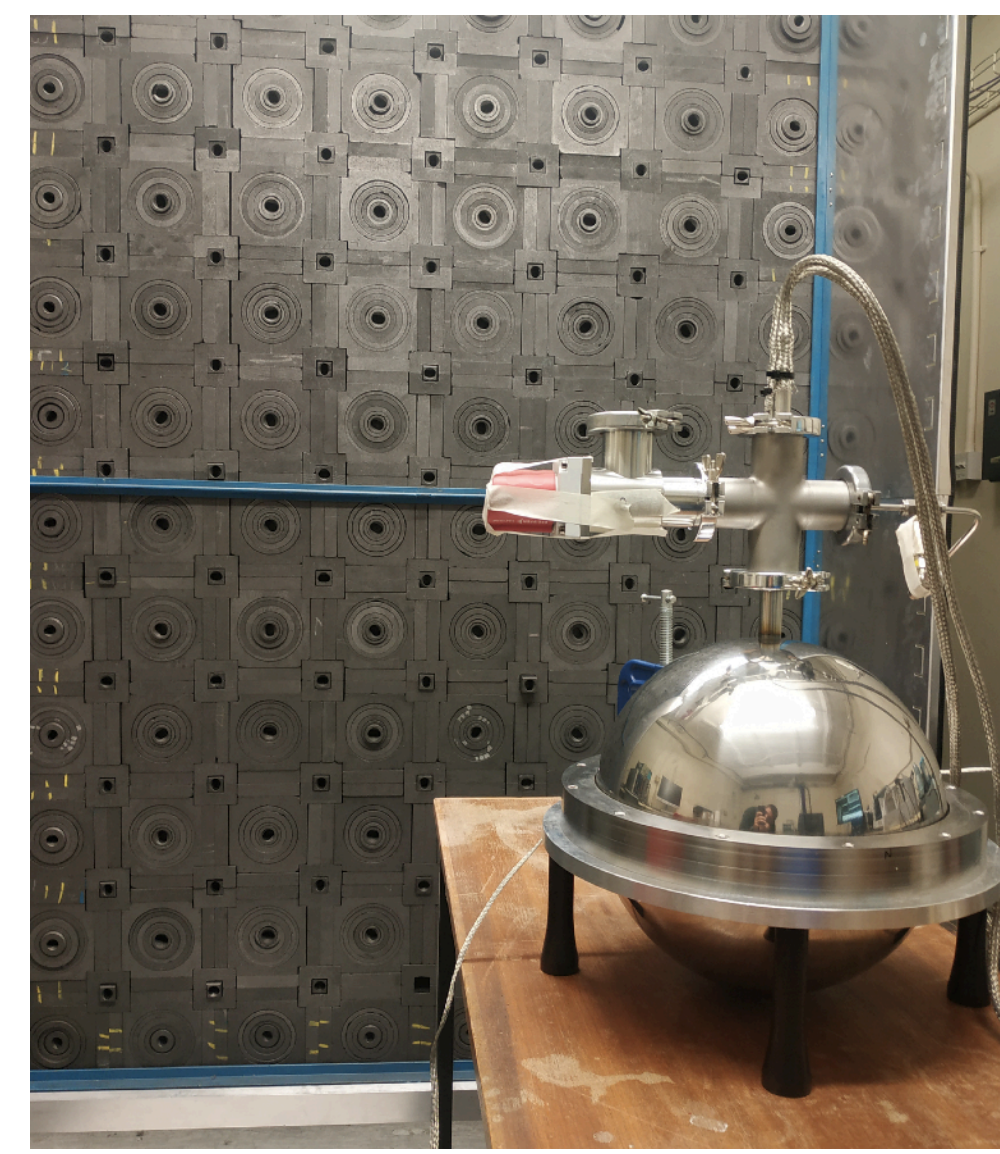
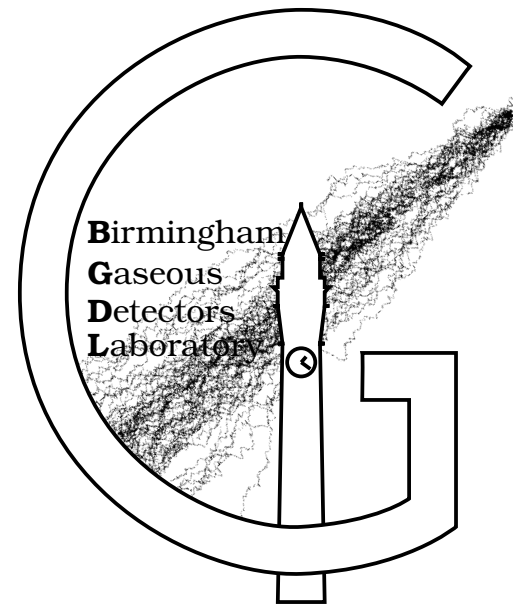


WIMP exclusion limit (S140@LSM, 135mbar CH<sub>4</sub>)



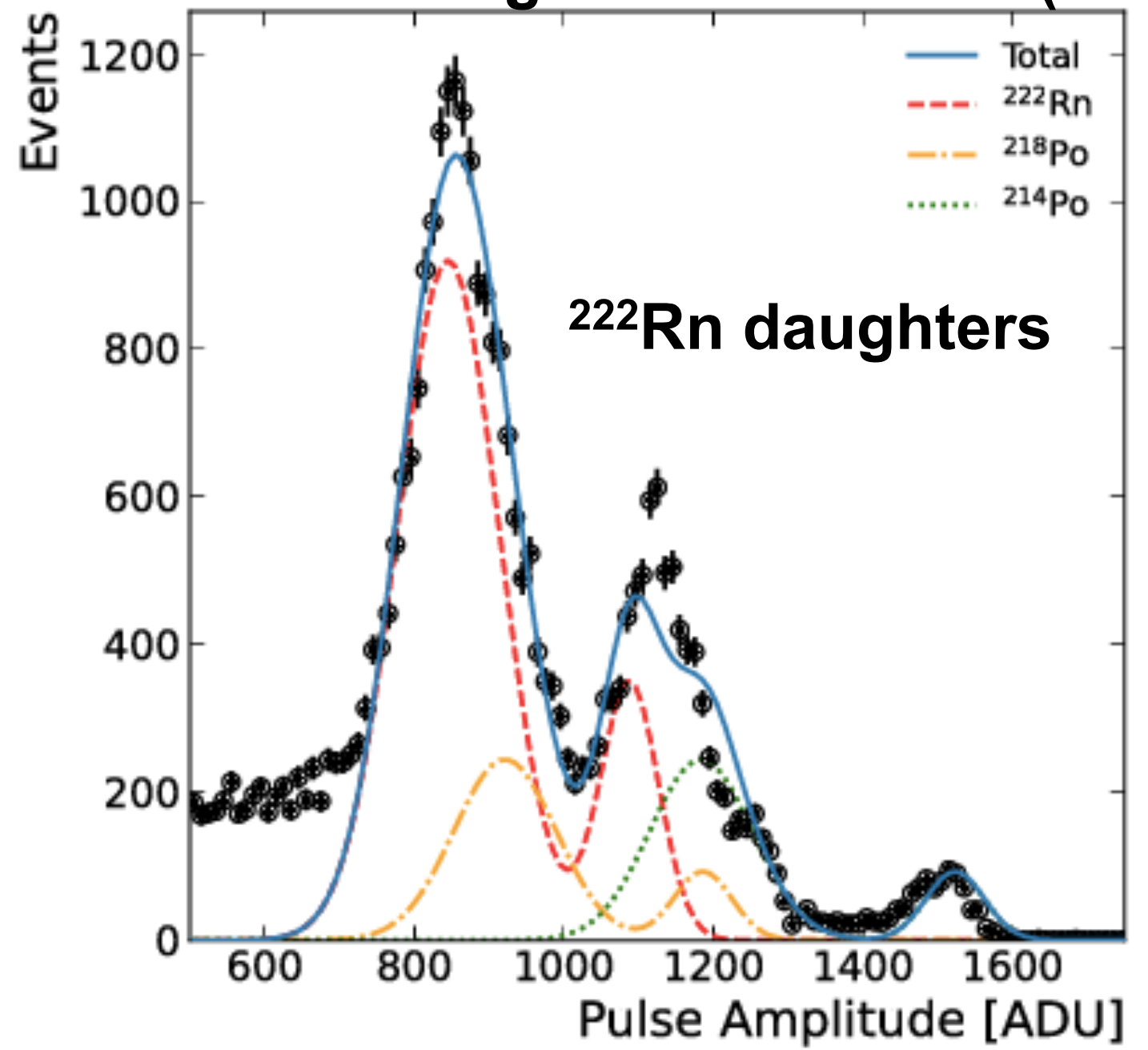
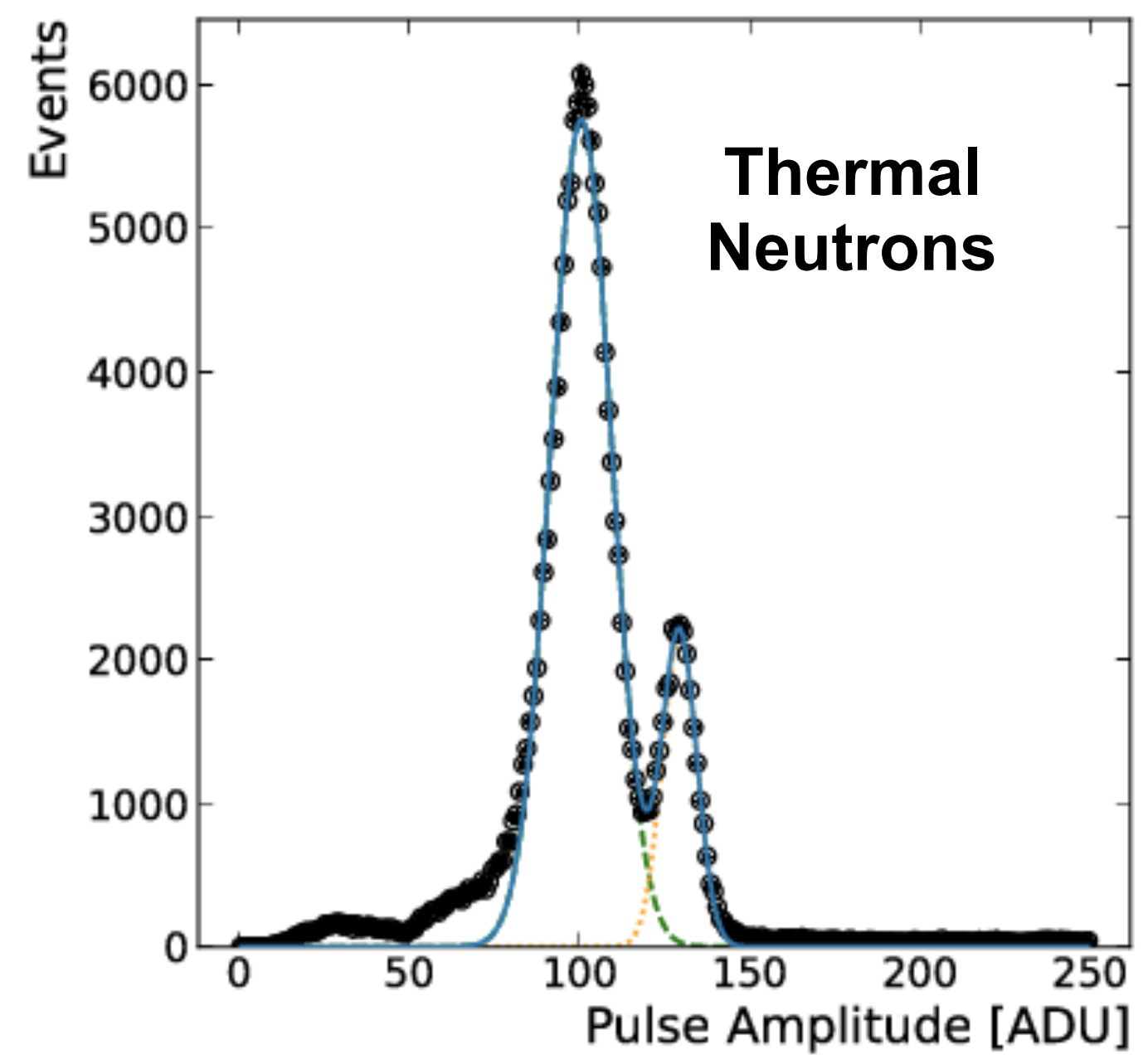
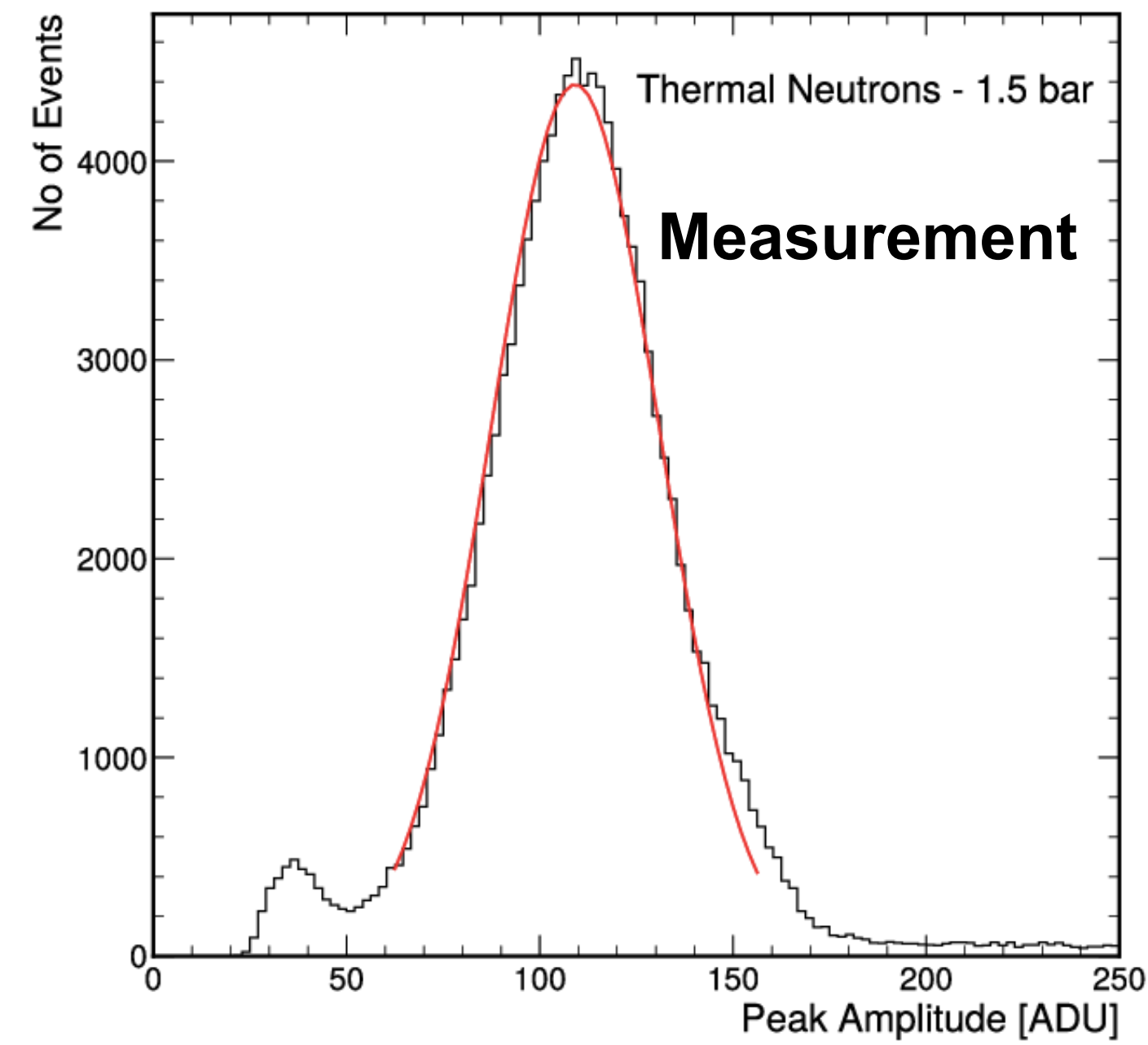
# Neutron Measurements and ACHINOS

- N<sub>2</sub> filled SPC as a neutron detector - See I. Manthos talk at last DMUK
  - (n,α) and (n,p) reactions, exo- and endothermic
  - Sensitivity to thermal and fast neutrons
- Recent paper, under review [2206.04331](#)



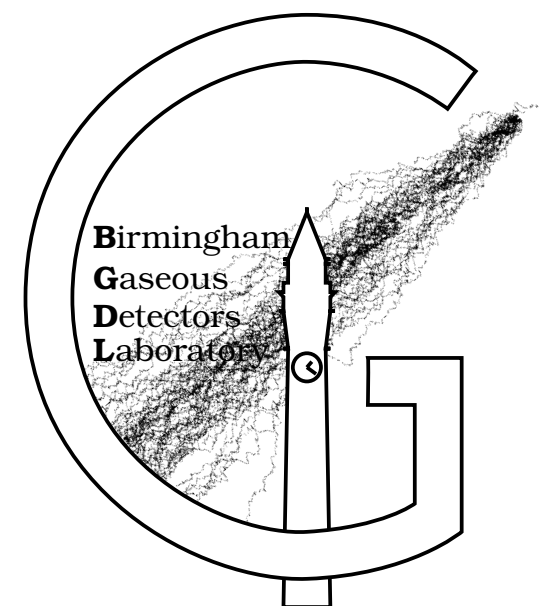
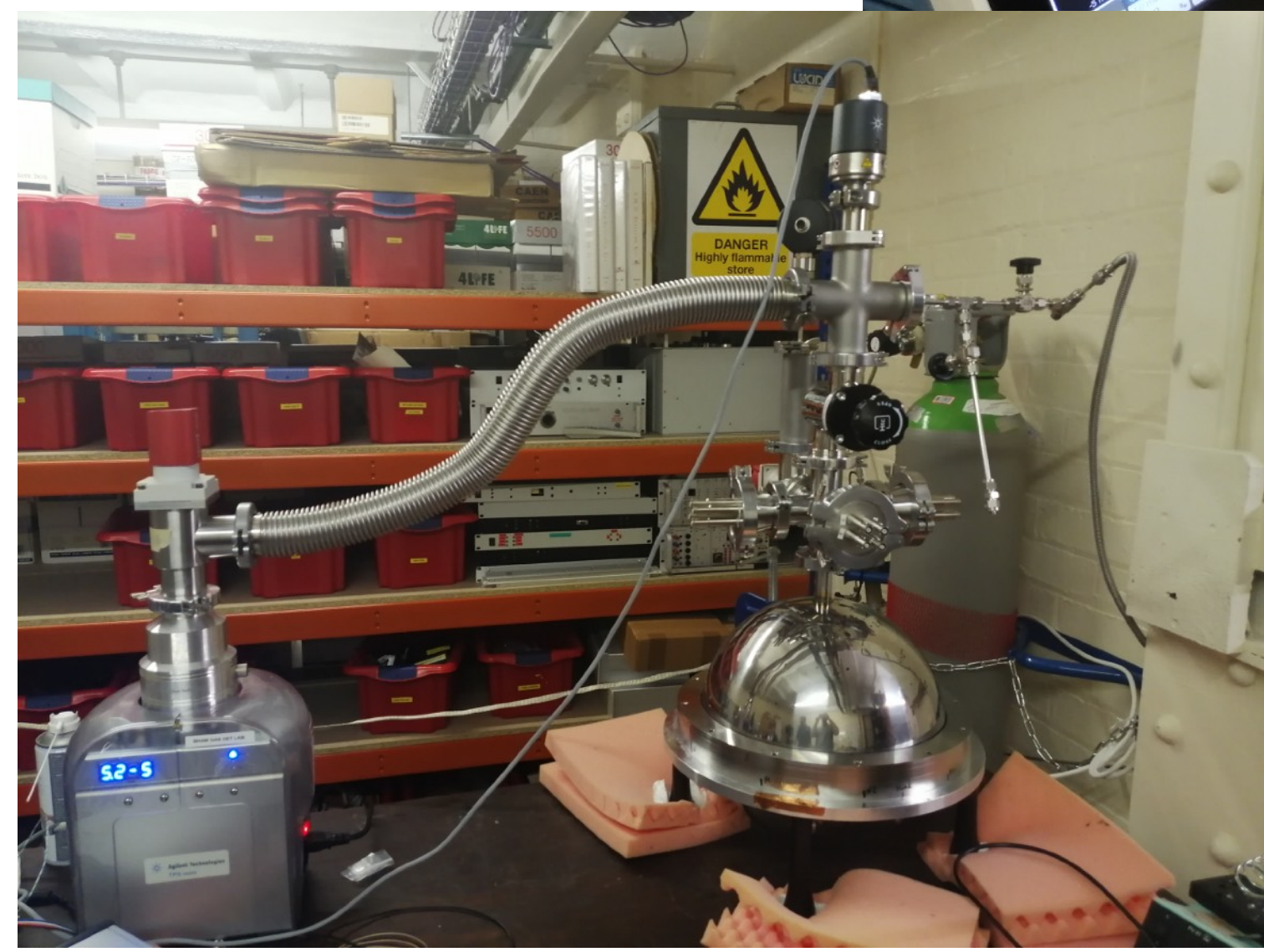
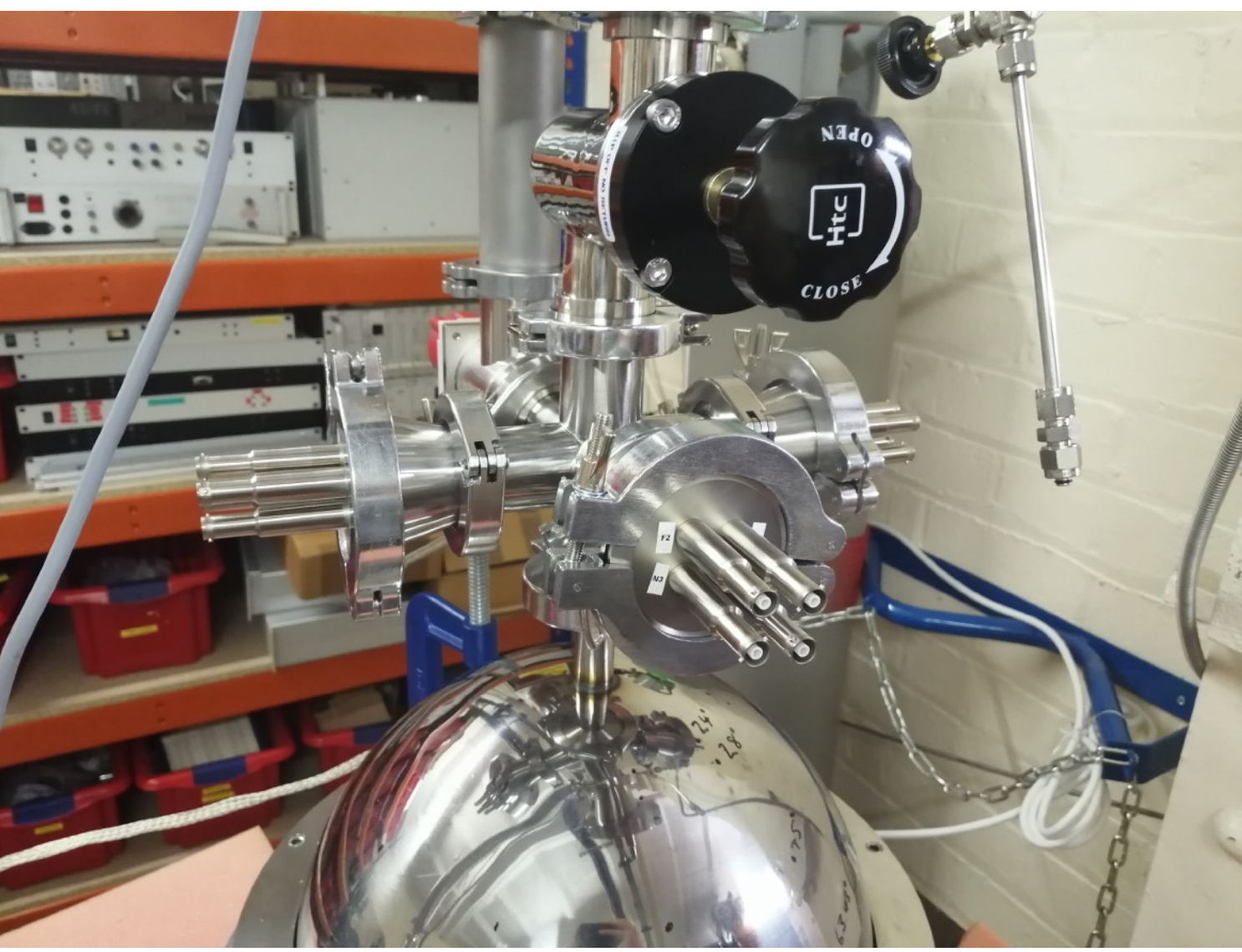
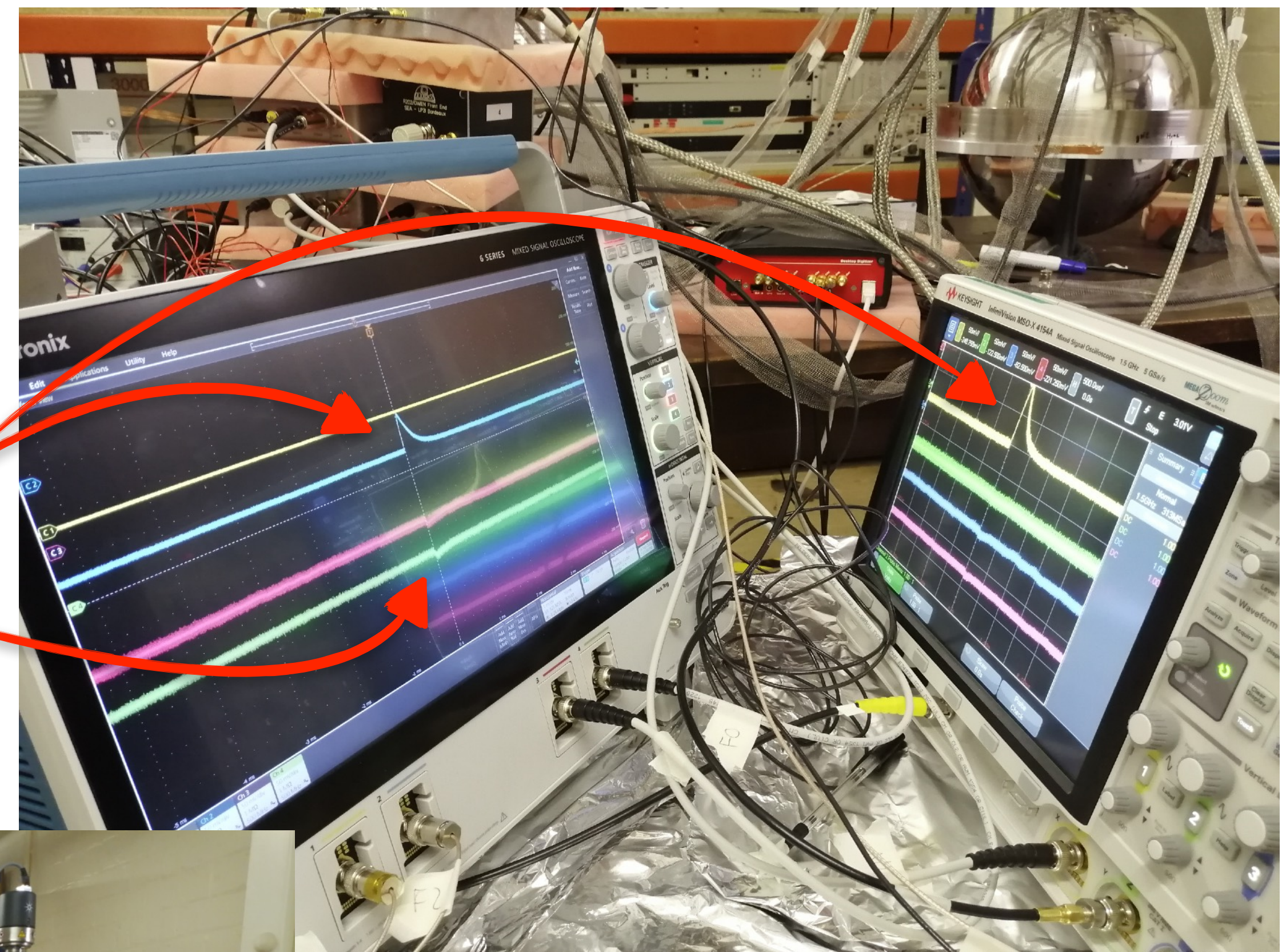
- α and p discrimination would allow fast/thermal discrimination
- Highlighted anode with different gain for this particular ACHINOS
  - Both could be addressed with individual anode read-out
  - Also interesting for BG rejection, and track reconstruction

Measurement Improved Processing and Simulation (Lines)



# Individual Anode Read-Out

- Work underway to individually read out the 11 anodes
  - Custom-built preamplifier boxes (design, U. Of Bordeaux) built in-house, using CREMAT CR110
- Data with 200 mbar Ar:CH<sub>4</sub> (2%) and <sup>210</sup>Po α
  - α ~15 cm range
  - See 'tracks' where multiple anodes collect electrons
  - See induced signal on other anodes (negative)
- Work ongoing, but stay tuned!



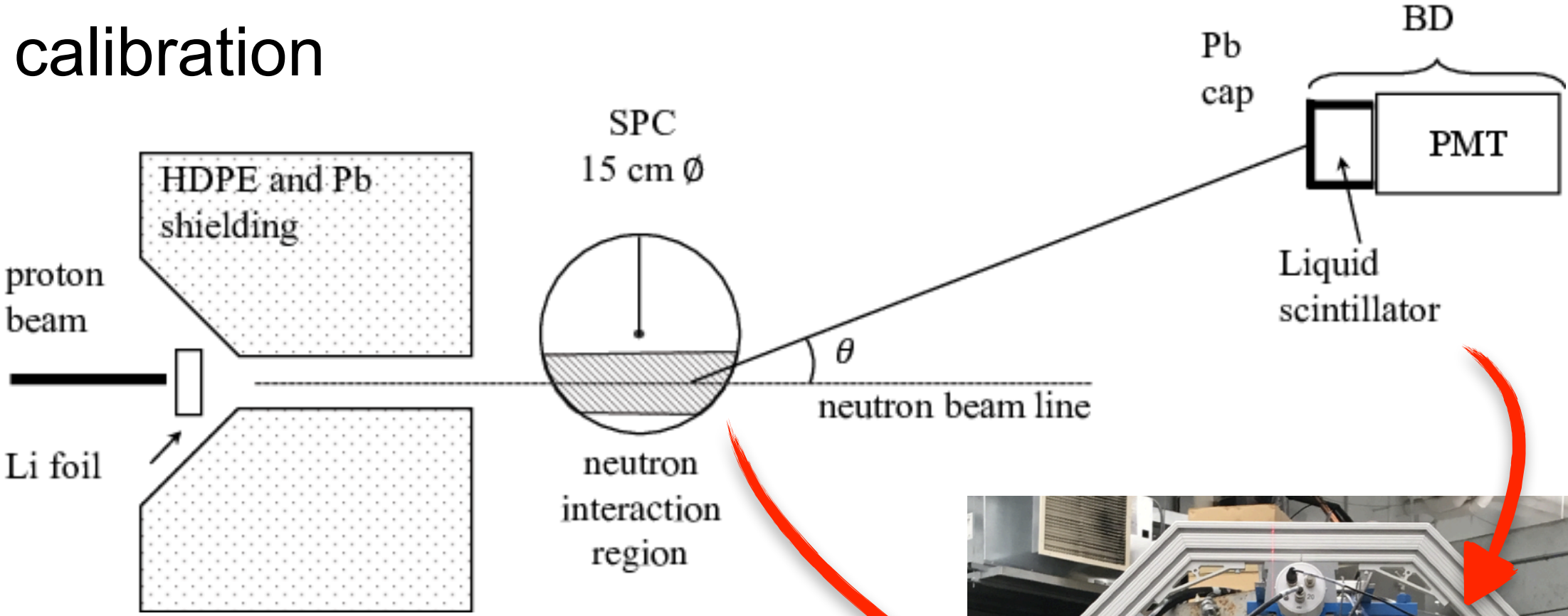


# Additional Slides

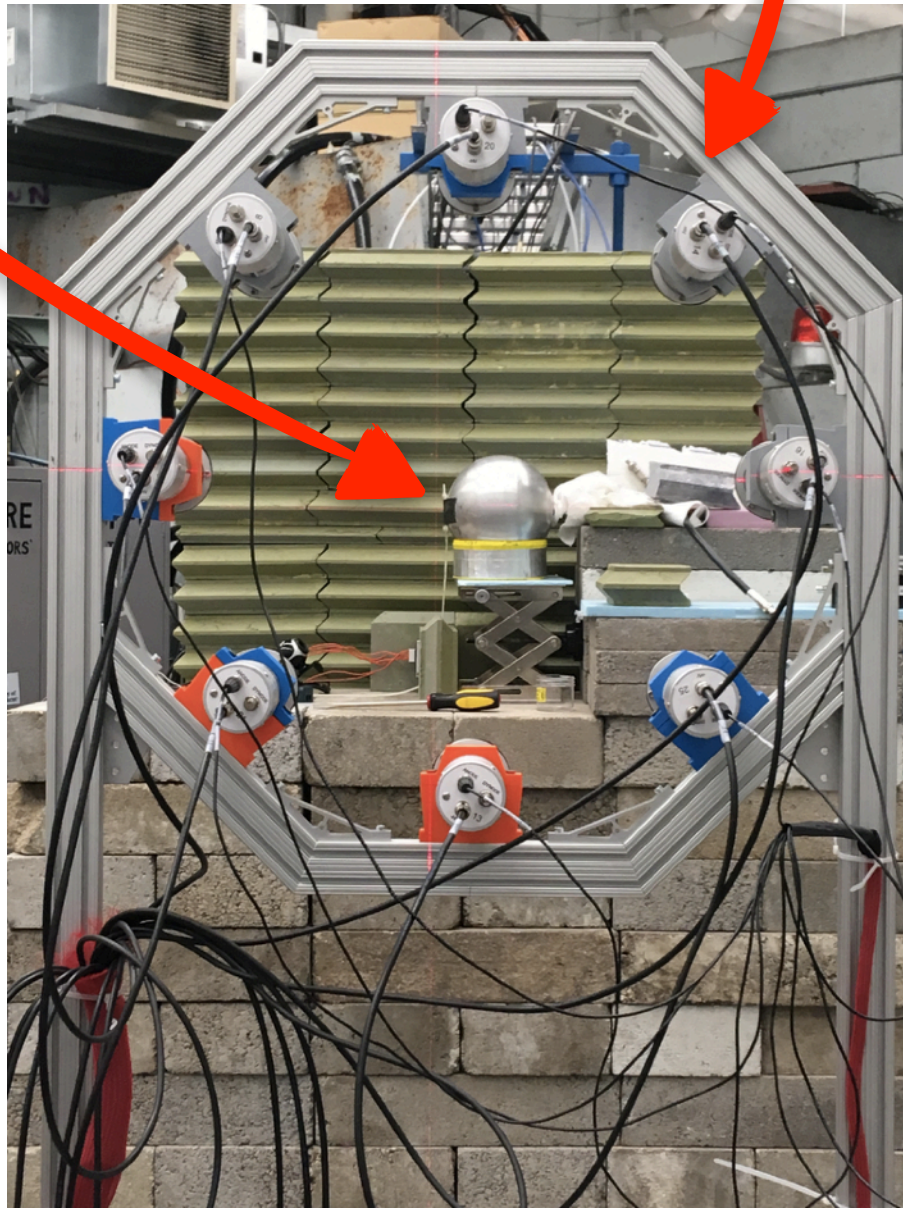
# Quenching Factor Measurements: TUNL

Neutron scattering-induced nuclear recoils in SPC → compare to calibration

- 2 measurement approaches
  - Neutron scattering at TUNL
  - Electron/Ion beam, COMIMAC, at Grenoble



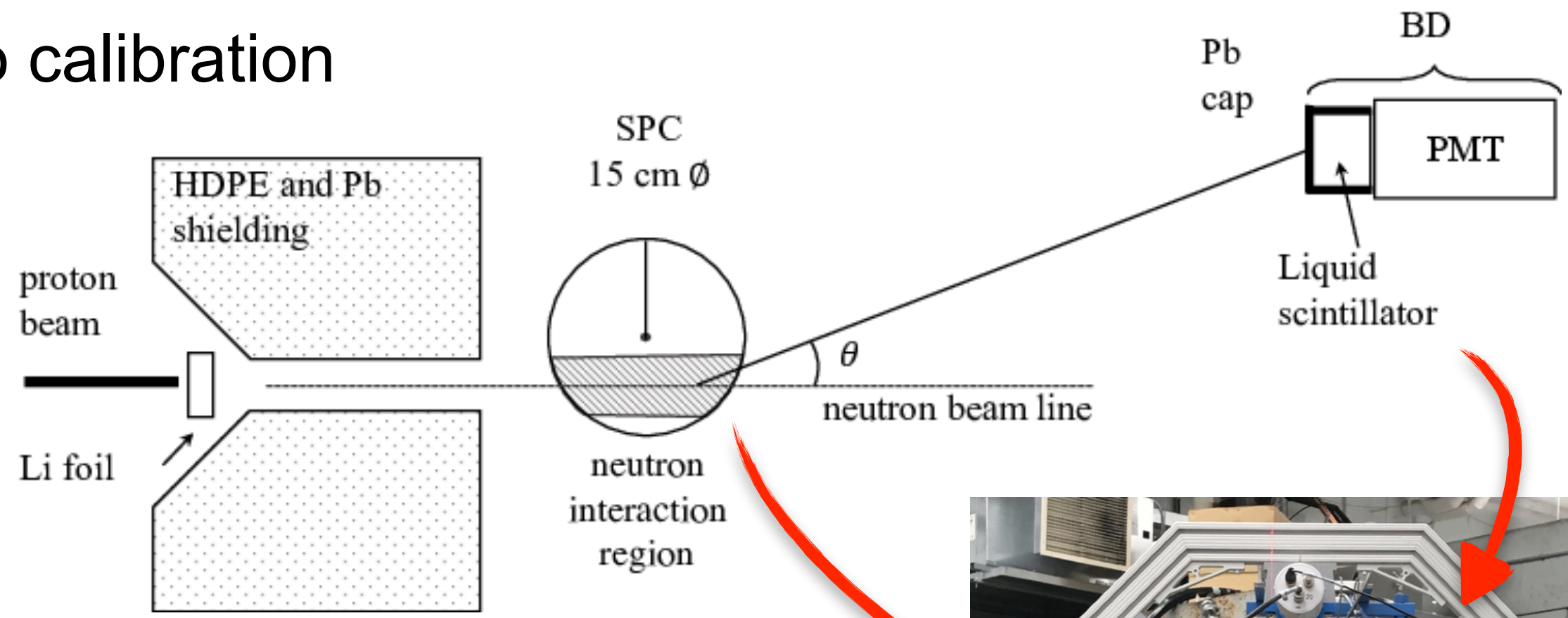
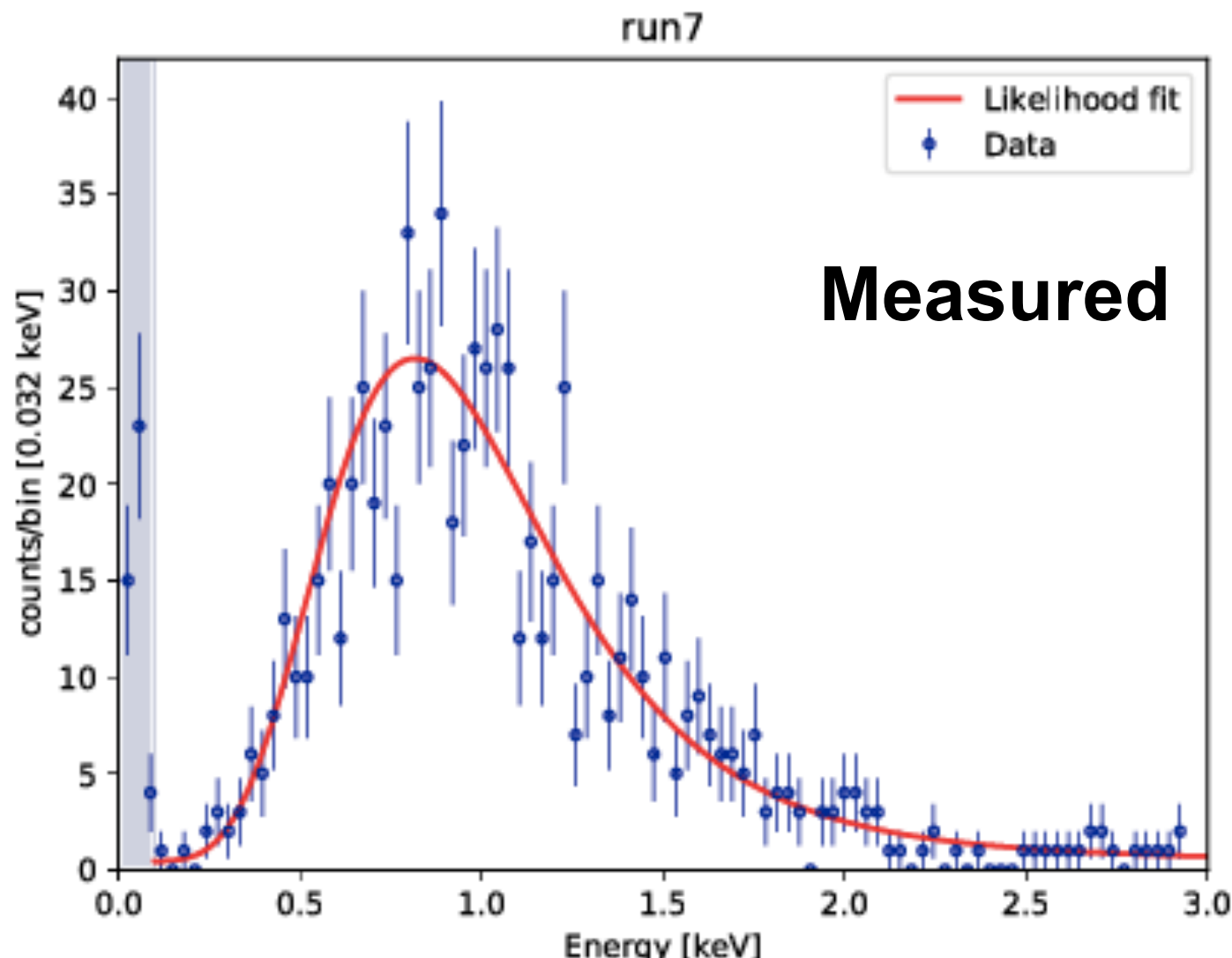
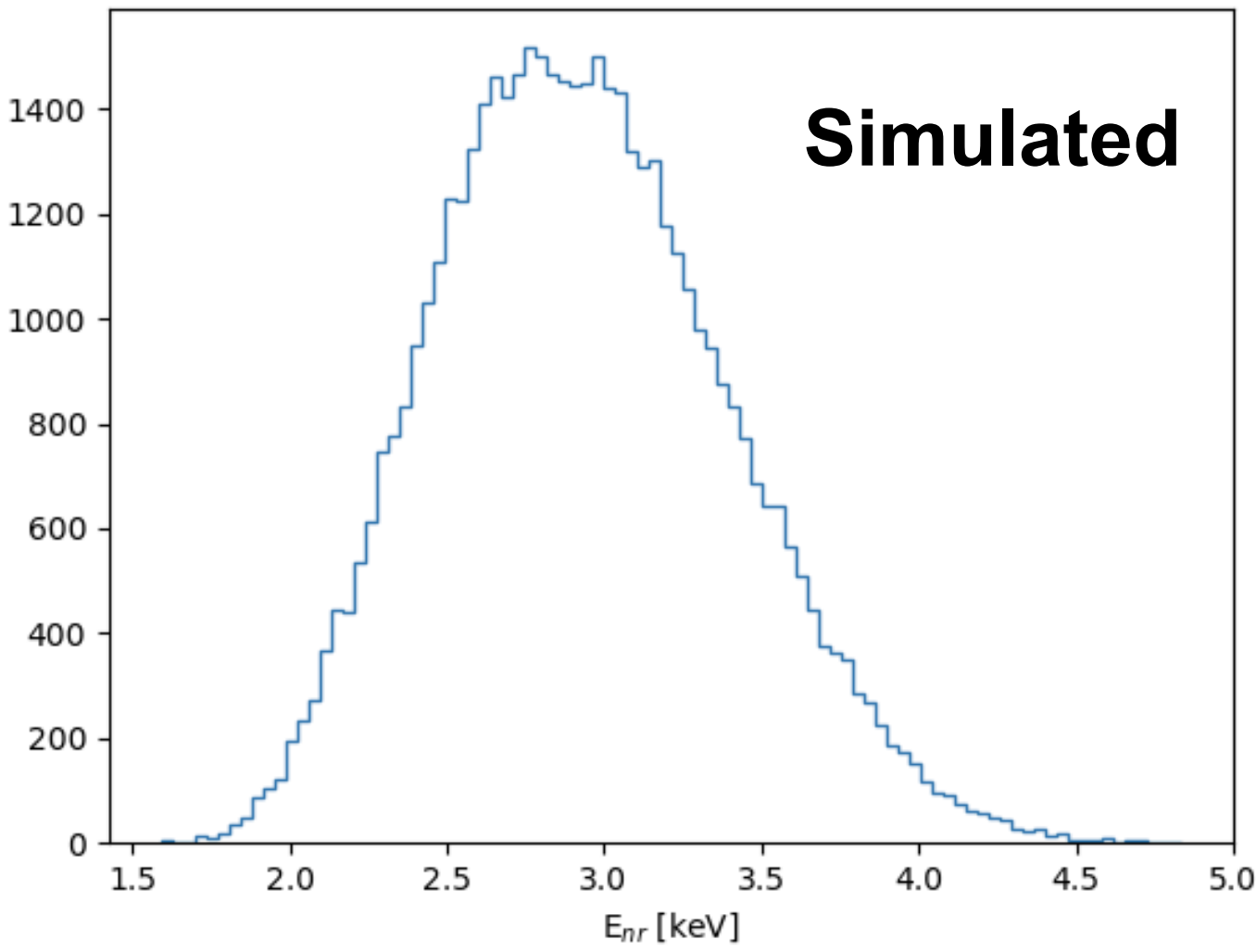
Run	$E_{nr}$ [keV <sub>nr</sub> ]	$\sigma_{E_{nr}}$ [keV <sub>nr</sub> ]	$\theta$ [°]	$\sigma_{\theta}$ [°]
8	6.80	1.15	$29.02 \pm 0.4$	2.45
7	2.93	0.46	$18.84 \pm 0.1$	1.47
14	2.02	0.29	$15.63 \pm 0.3$	1.12
9	1.70	0.26	$14.33 \pm 0.06$	1.1
10	1.30	0.2	$12.48 \pm 0.05$	0.94
14	1.03	0.2	$11.13 \pm 0.3$	1.1
11	0.74	0.11	$9.4 \pm 0.03$	0.69
14	0.34	0.11	$6.33 \pm 0.26$	1.1



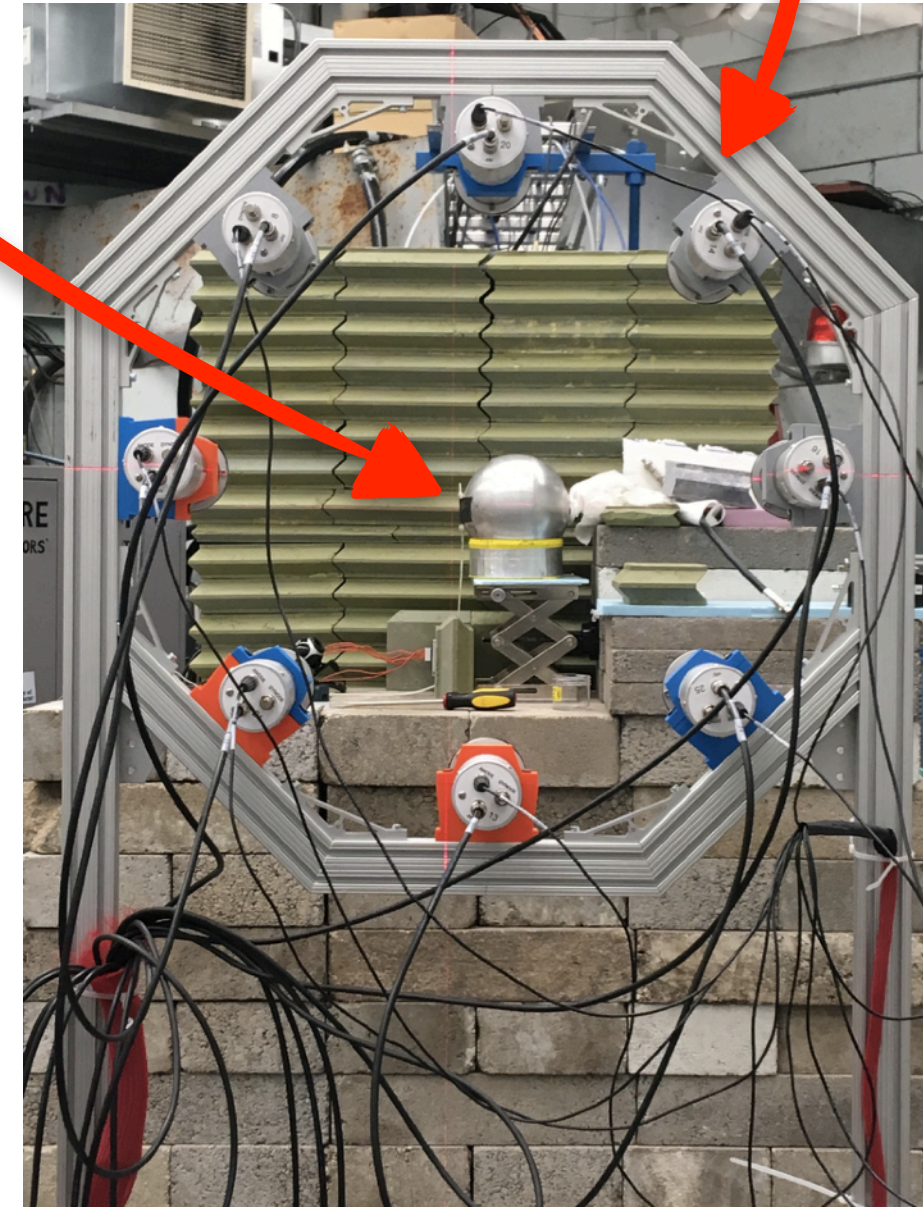
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Recoil Spectrum



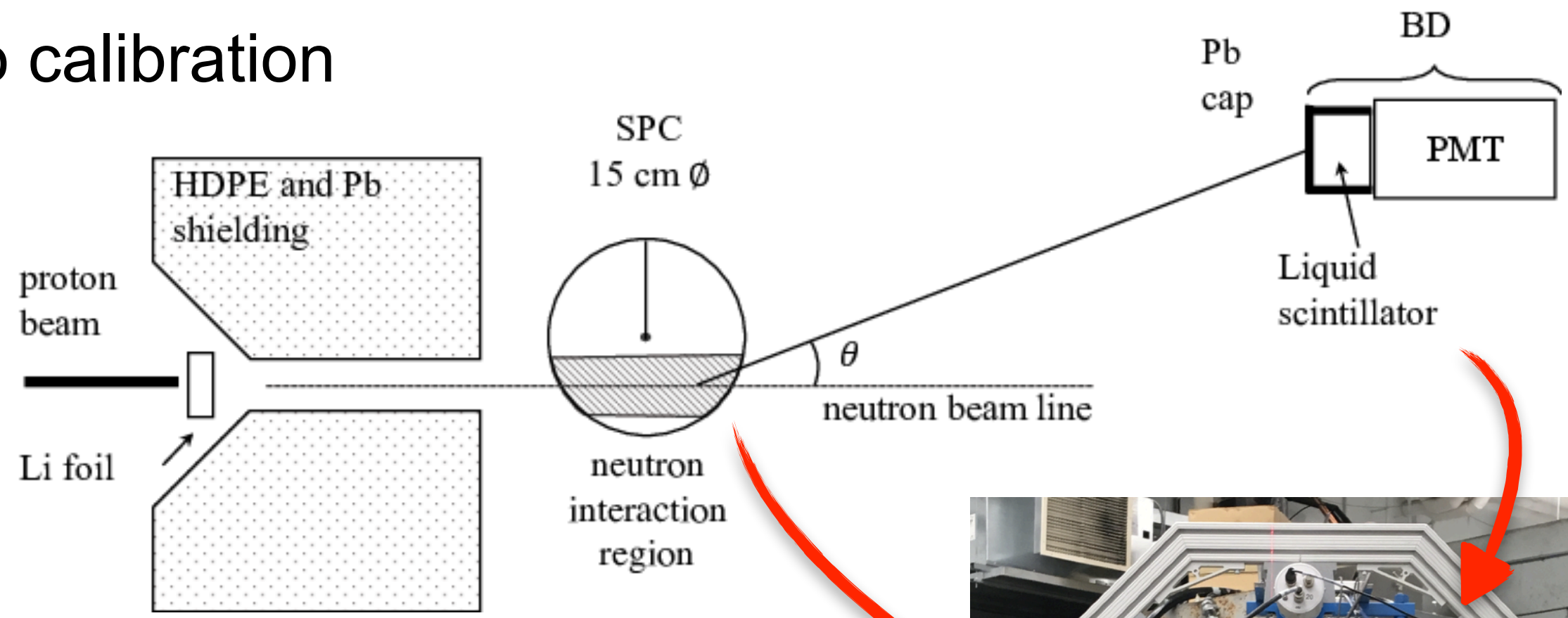
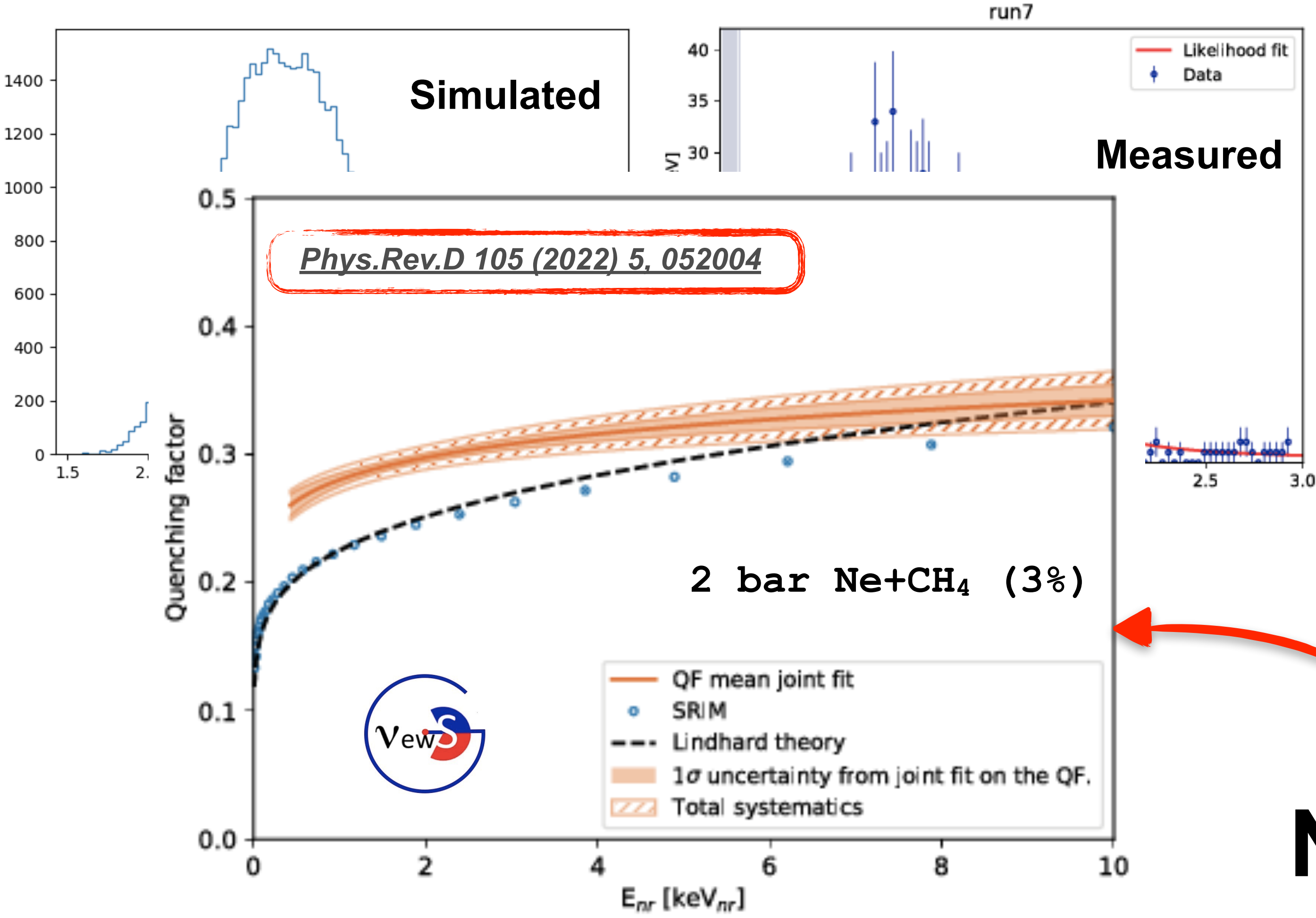
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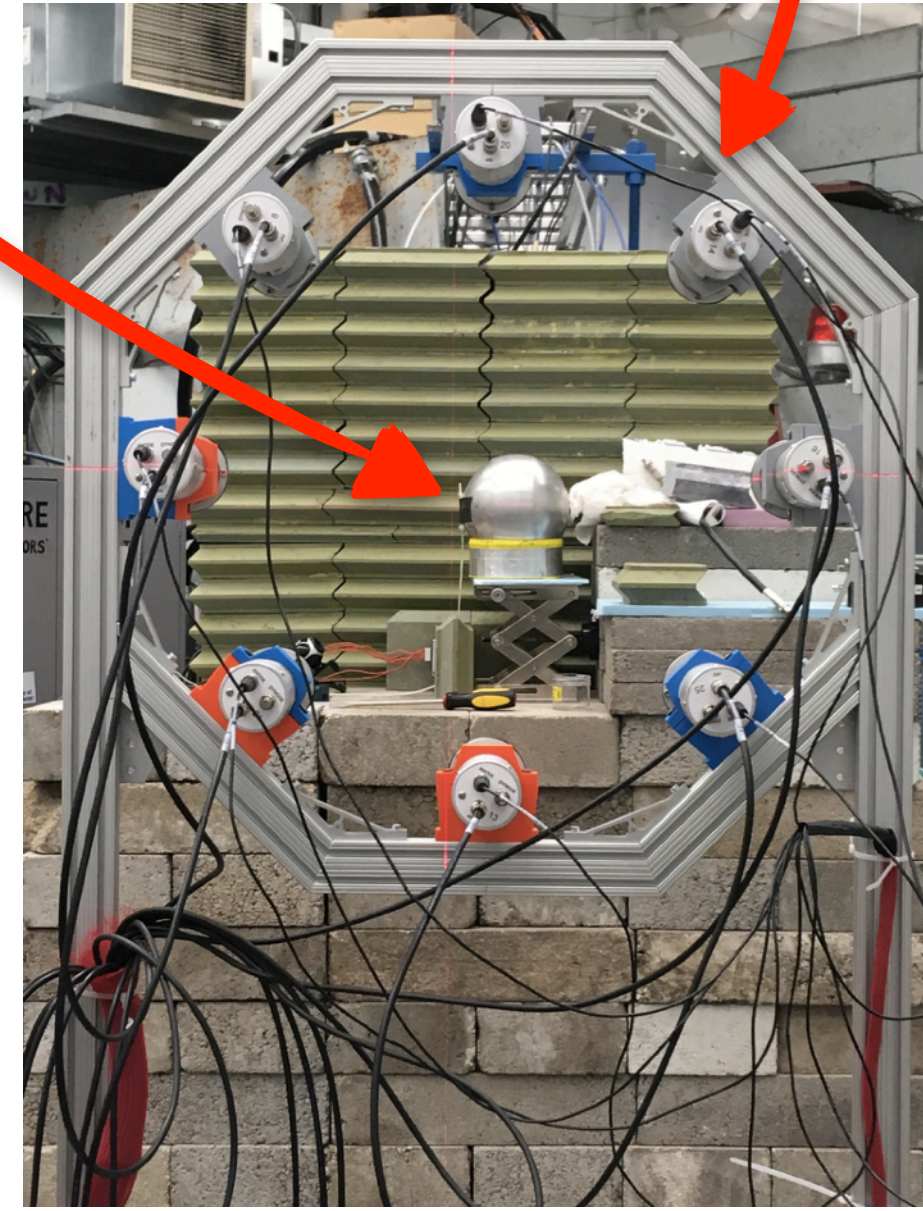
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Neutron scattering-induced nuclear recoils in SPC → compare to calibration

## Recoil Spectrum



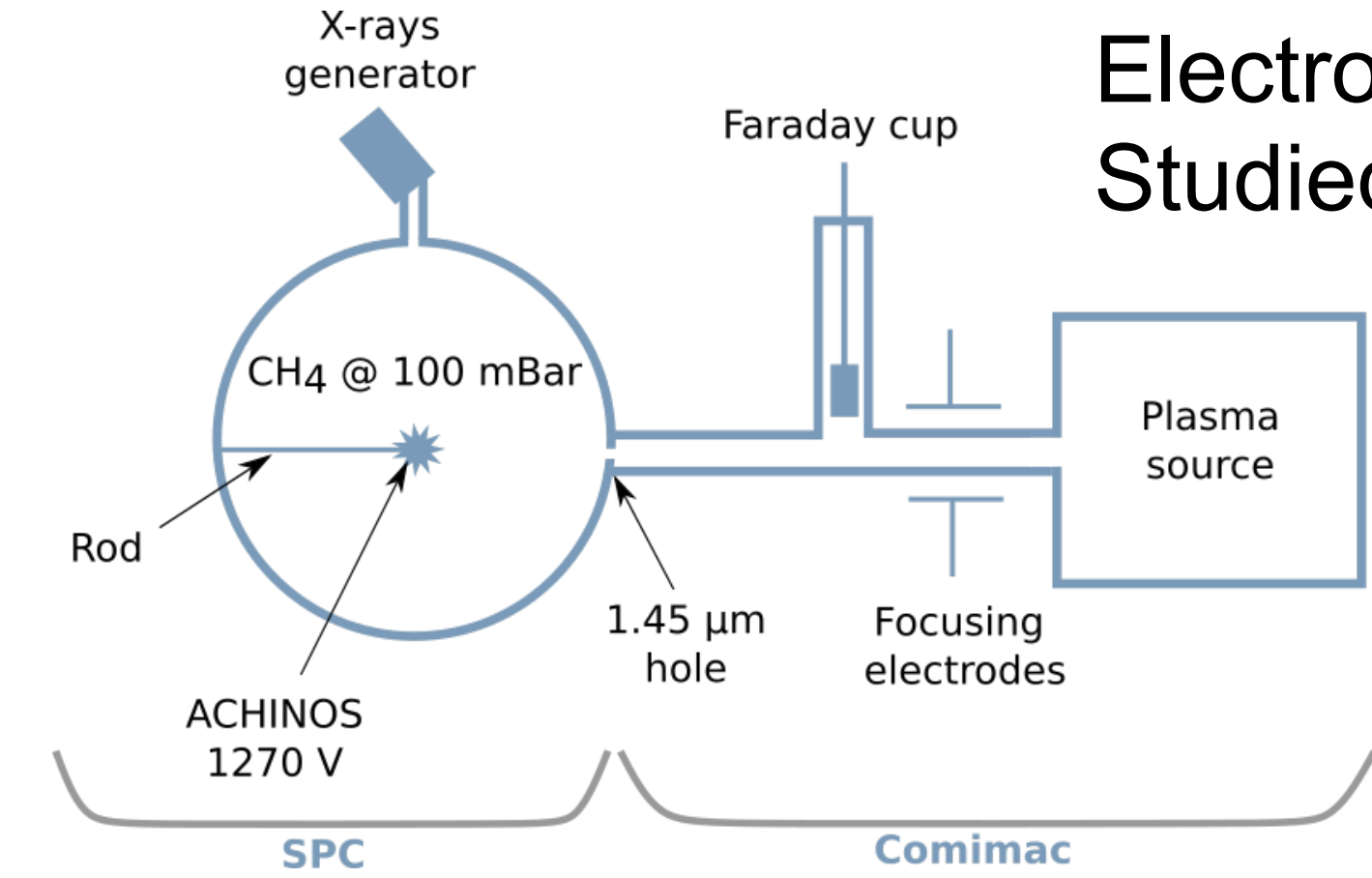
Run	$E_{nr}$ [keV <sub>nr</sub> ]	$\sigma_{E_{nr}}$ [keV <sub>nr</sub> ]	$\theta$ [°]	$\sigma_{\theta}$ [°]
8	6.80	1.15	$29.02 \pm 0.4$	2.45
7	2.93	0.46	$18.84 \pm 0.1$	1.47
14	2.02	0.29	$15.63 \pm 0.3$	1.12
9	1.70	0.26	$14.33 \pm 0.06$	1.1
10	1.30	0.2	$12.48 \pm 0.05$	0.94
14	1.03	0.2	$11.13 \pm 0.3$	1.1
11	0.74	0.11	$9.4 \pm 0.03$	0.69
14	0.34	0.11	$6.33 \pm 0.26$	1.1



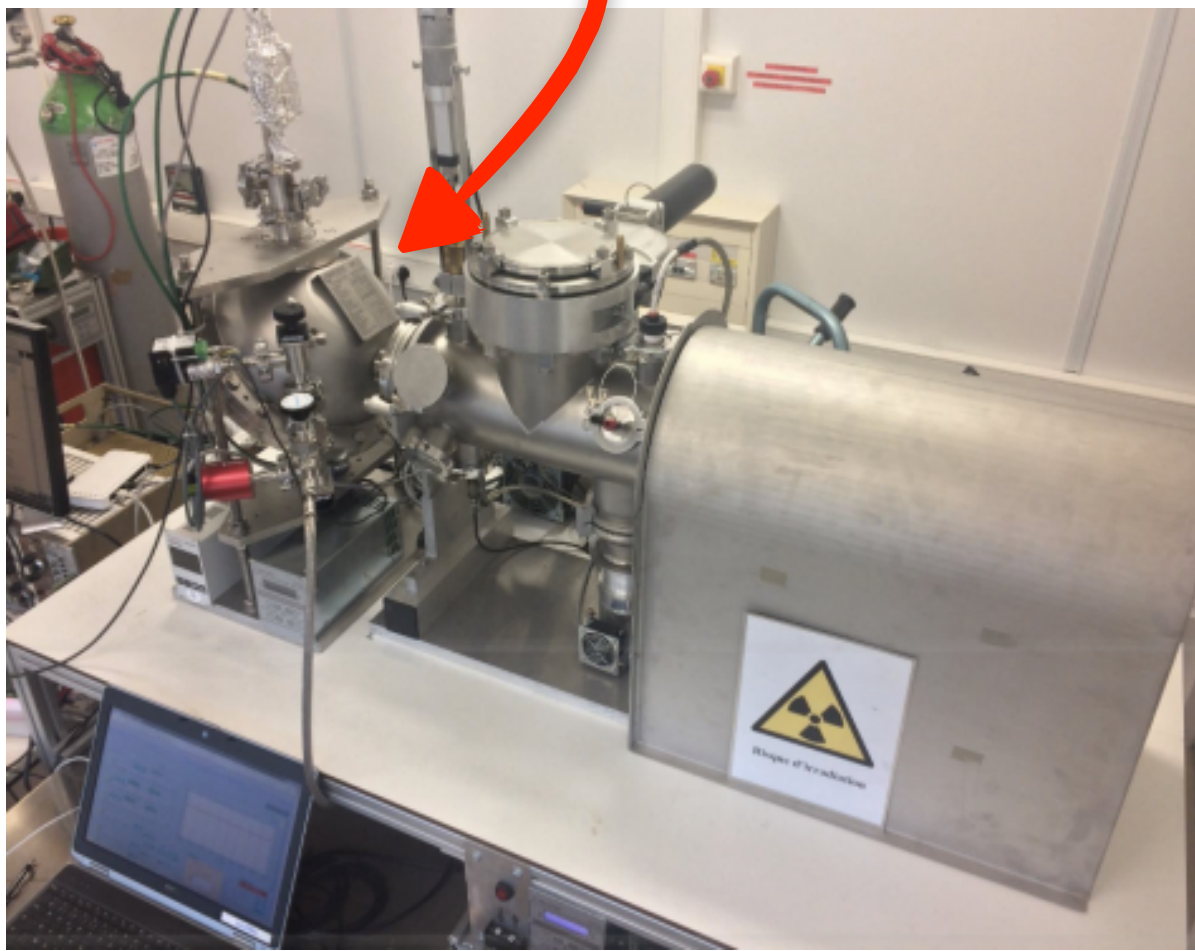
**New Result 2022!**

# Quenching Factor Measurements:

Electrons and ions directed into SPC → compare response  
Studied ions 2 - 13 keV, calibrated with e<sup>-</sup> 1.5 - 13 keV

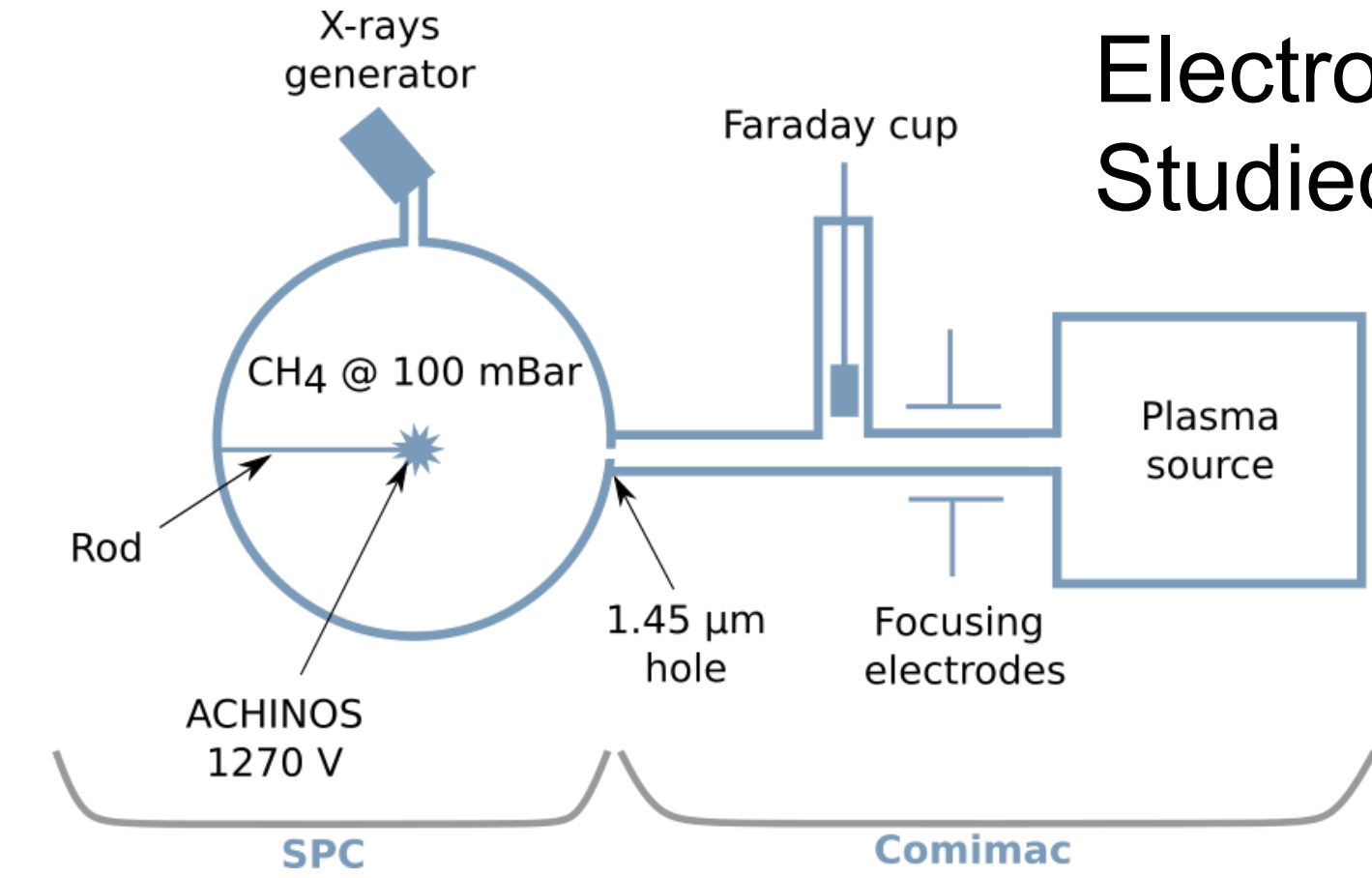


∅30 cm SPC

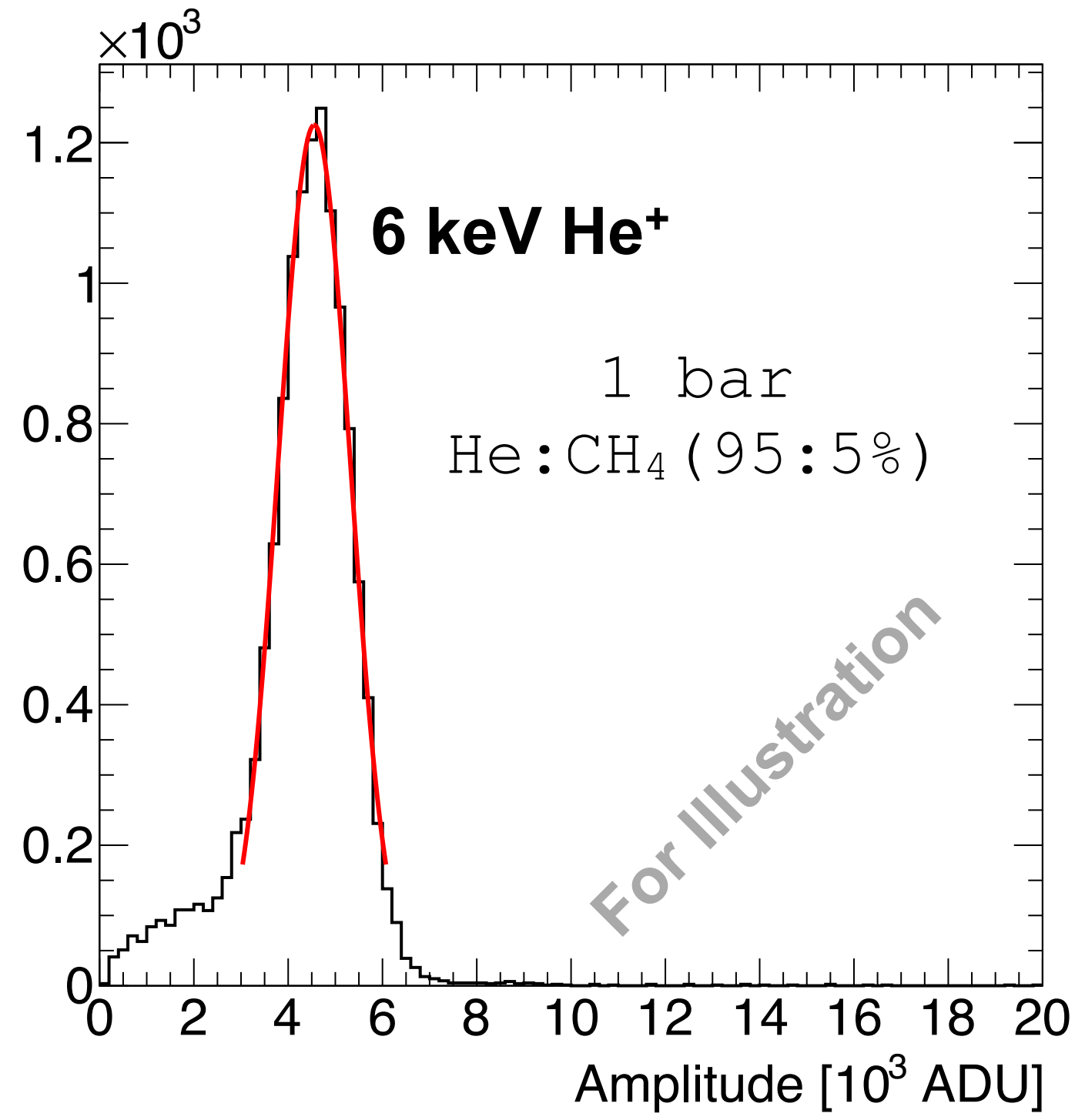
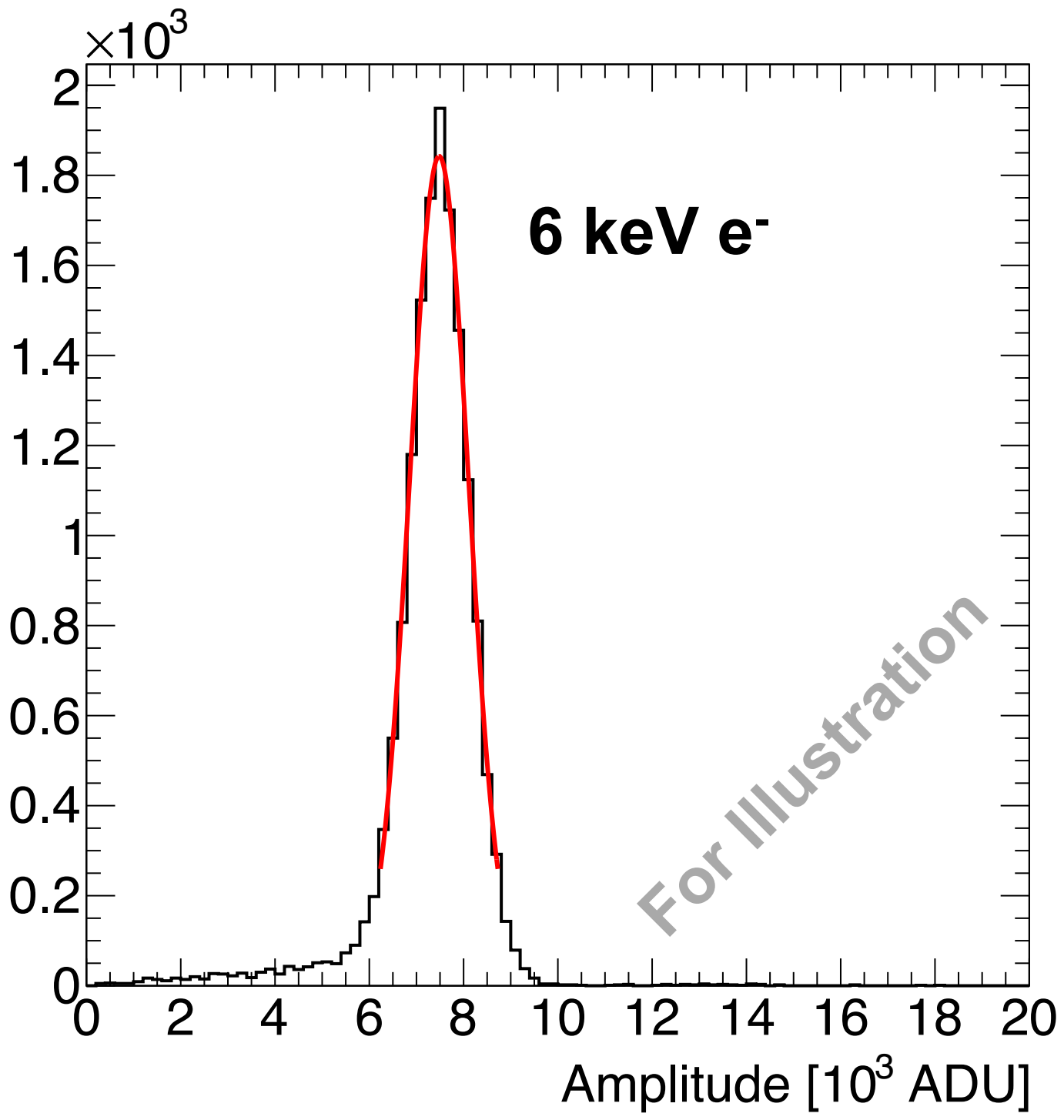
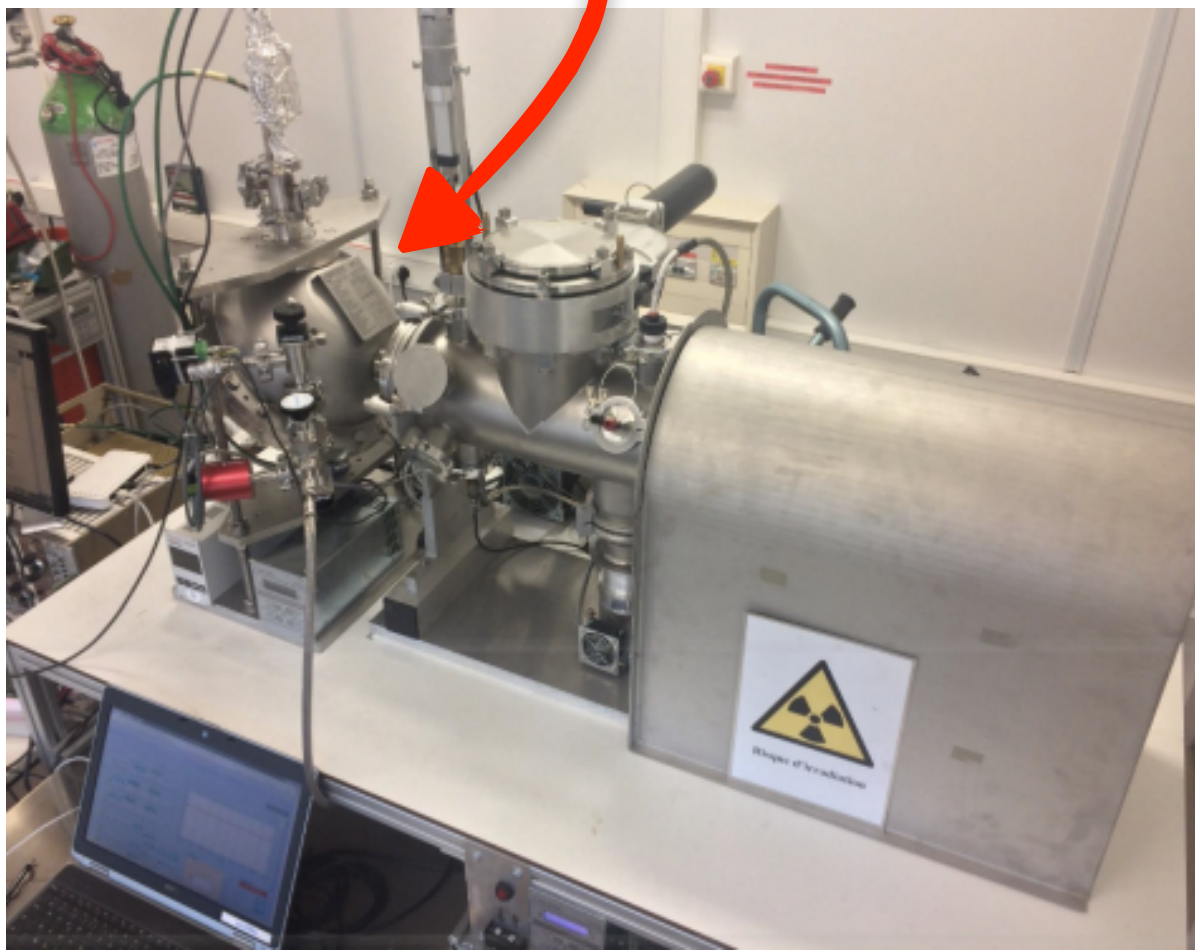


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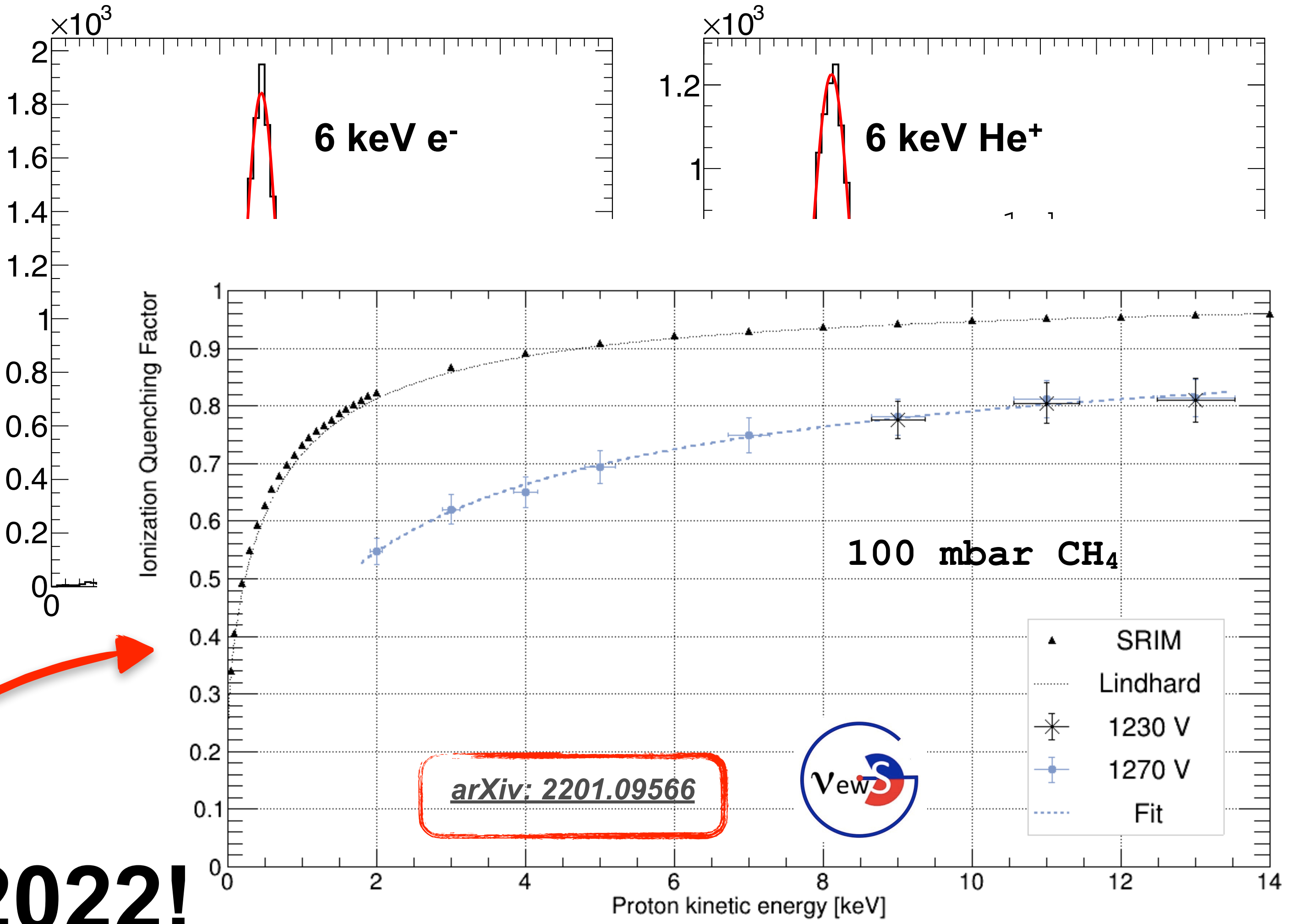
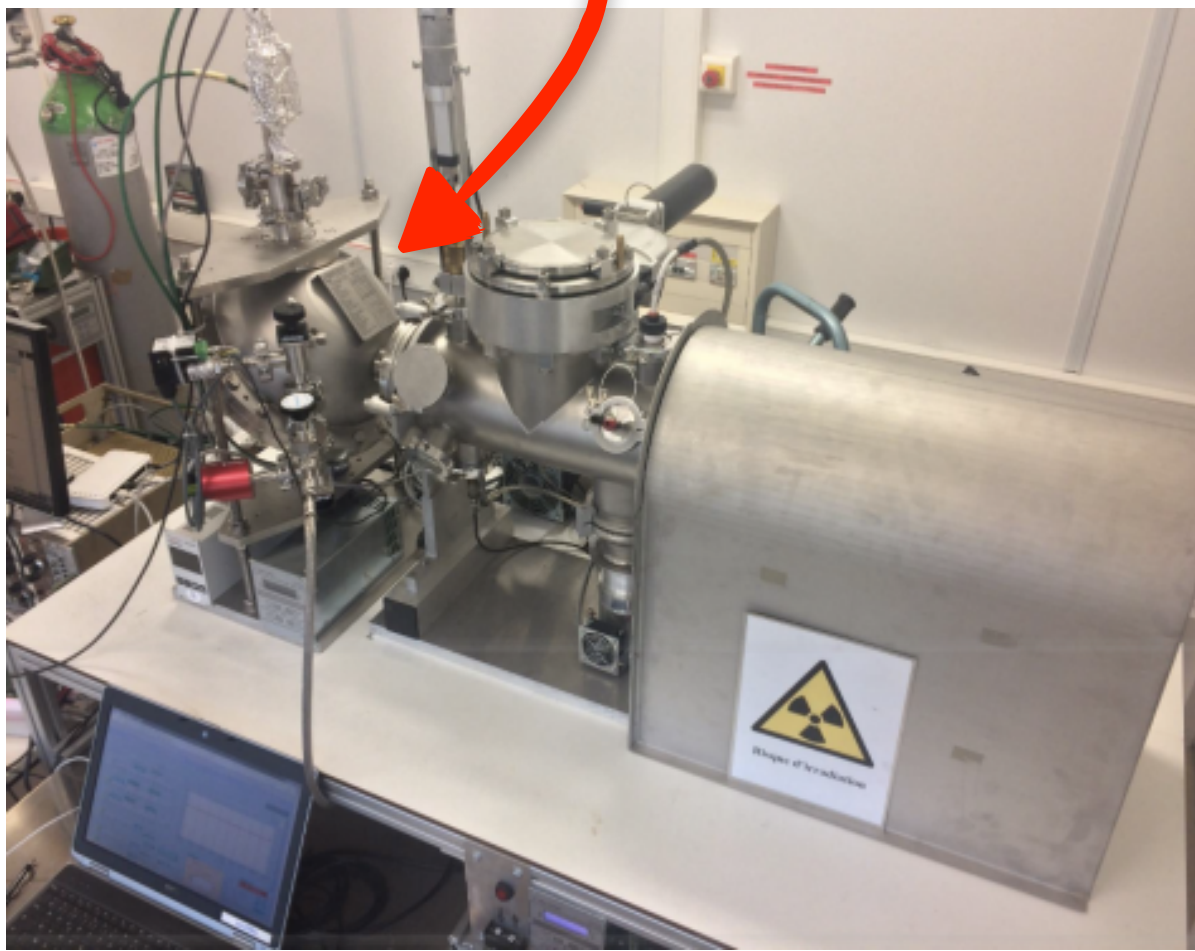
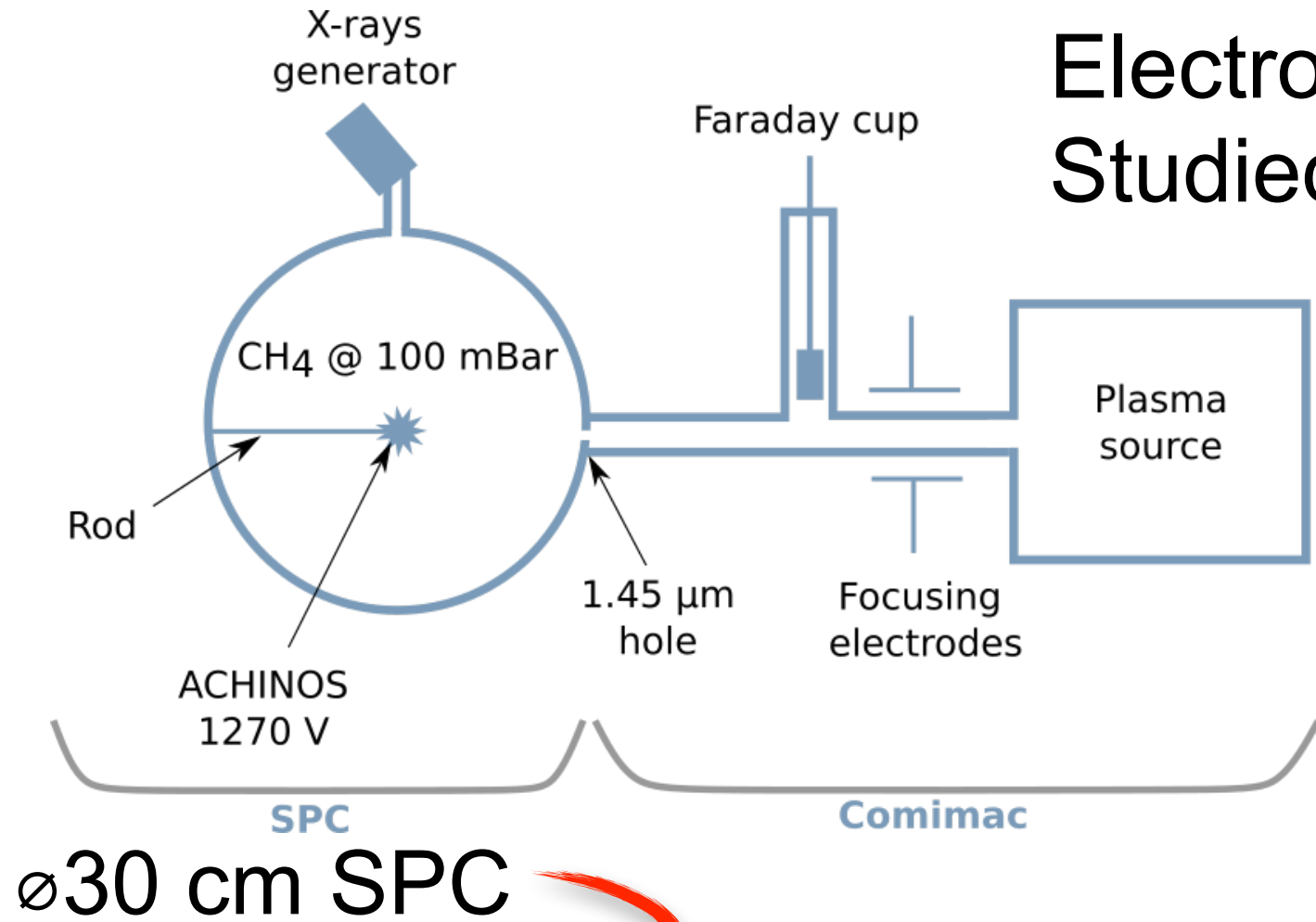


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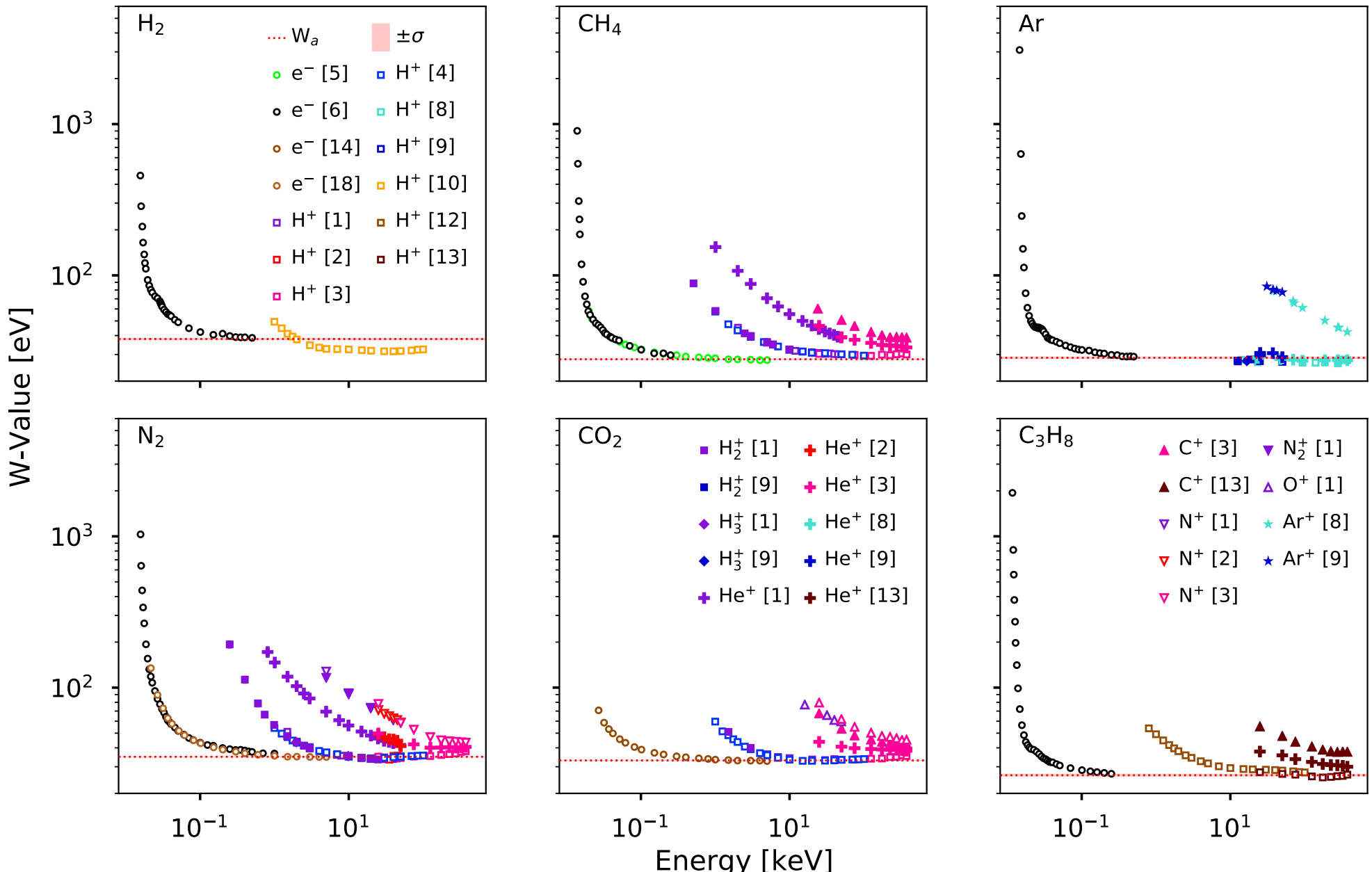


**New Result 2022!**

# Quenching Factor Estimates: W-Values

- W-value: **Average energy** required to produce **electron-ion pair**
- W different for electrons and ions, and varies with energy
  - Difference is quantified by QF
- W of electrons and ions in gases prev. studied for dosimetry
  - Comparing asymptotic electron W-value and W(E) for ions, get QF

*Astropart.Phys. 141 (2022) 102707*



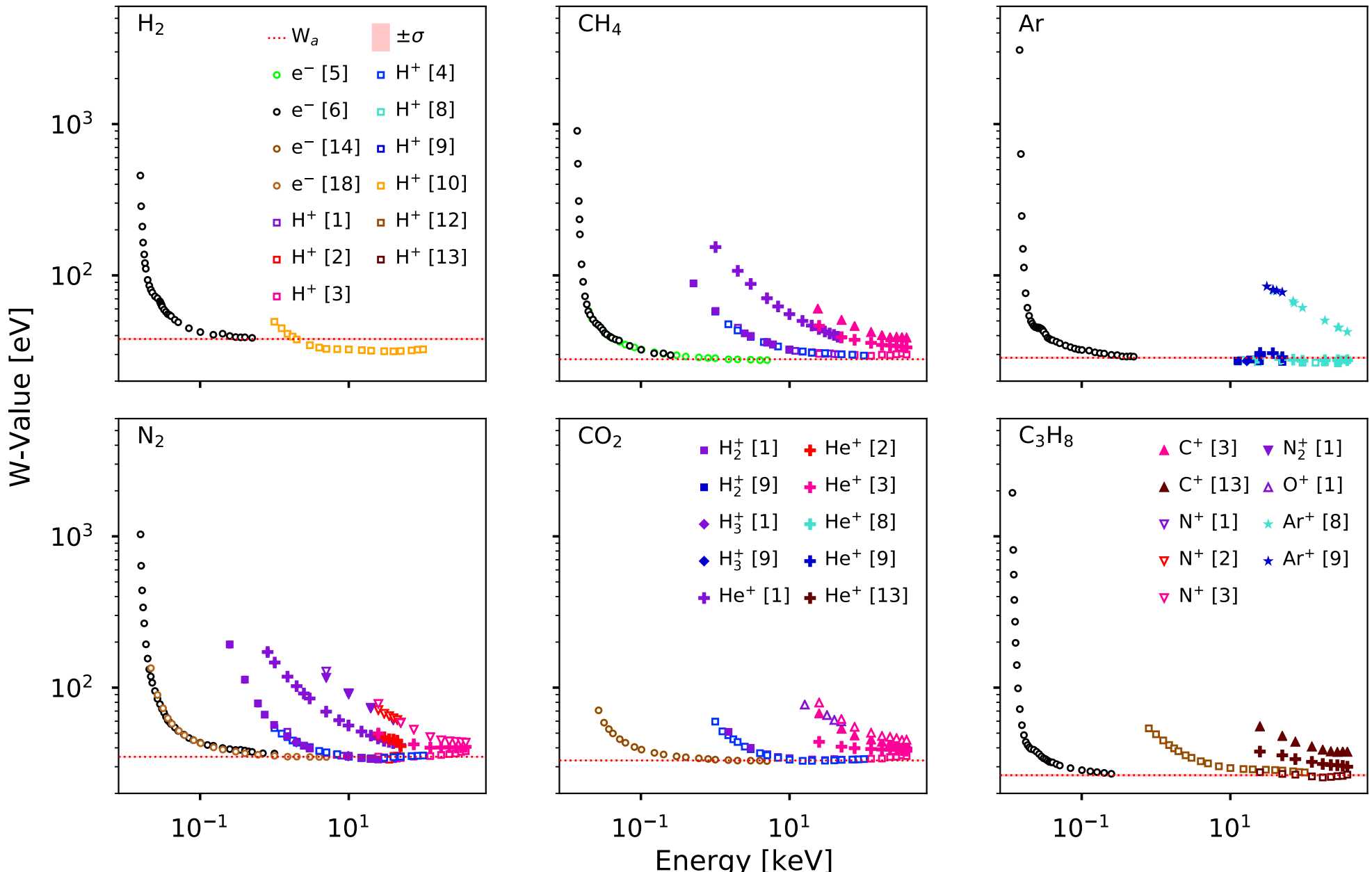


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Gas	W [eV]	
	ICRU	Asymptotic
H <sub>2</sub>	36.5±0.7	38.0±0.8
CH <sub>4</sub>	27.3±0.6	27.90± 0.01
N <sub>2</sub>	34.8±0.7	34.91±0.17
Ar	26.4±0.5	28.5±0.6
CO <sub>2</sub>	33.0±0.7	33.02±0.12
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	24.0±0.5	26.4±0.5

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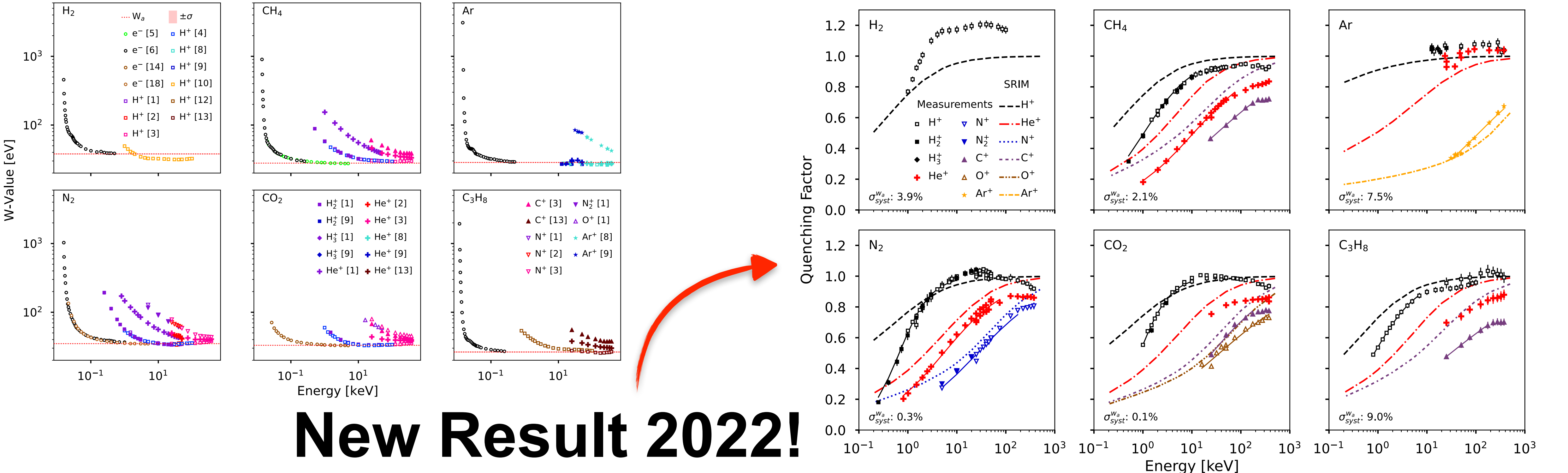


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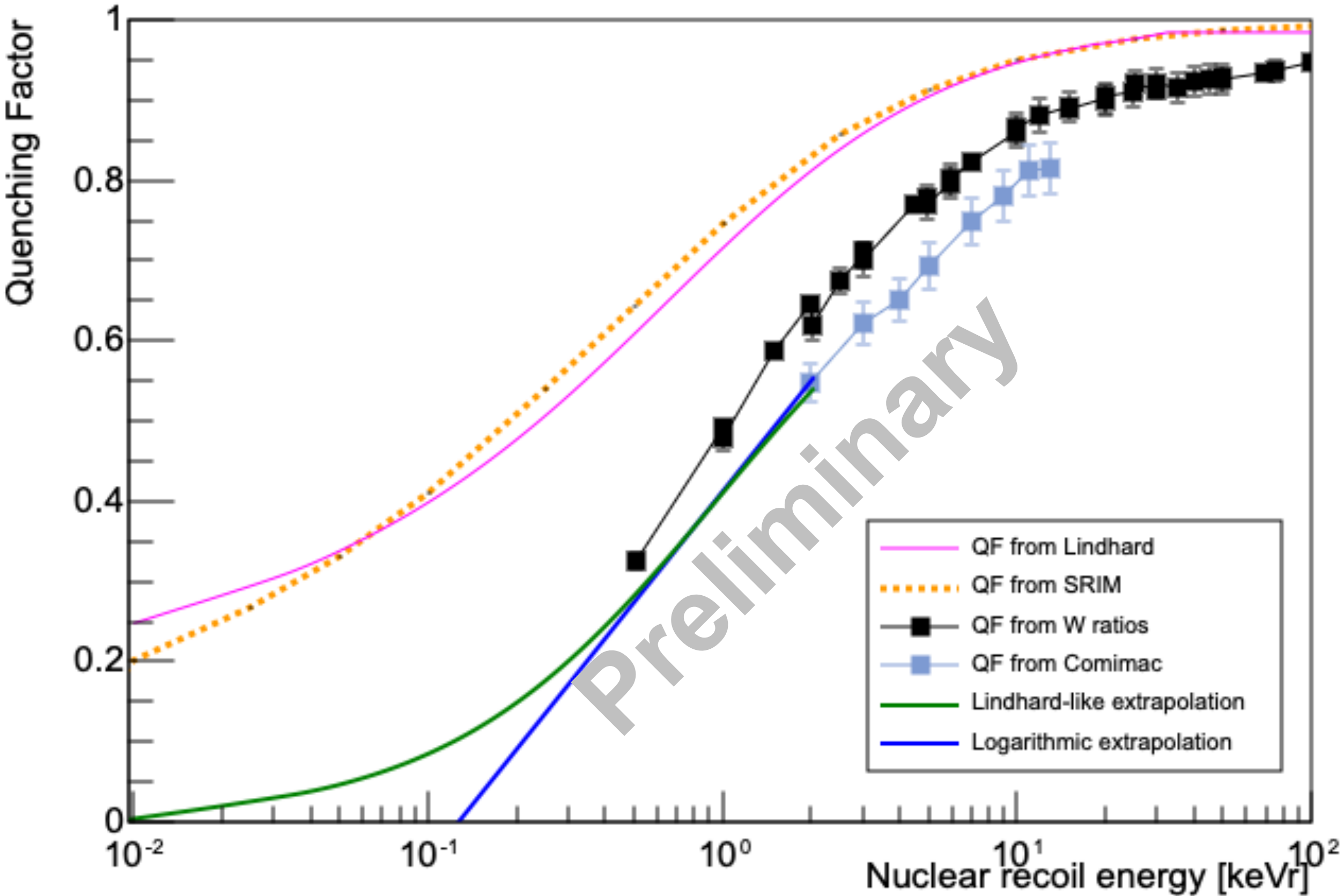
*Astropart.Phys. 141 (2022) 102707*



**New Result 2022!**

# Quenching Factor

Quenching Factor of H in CH4



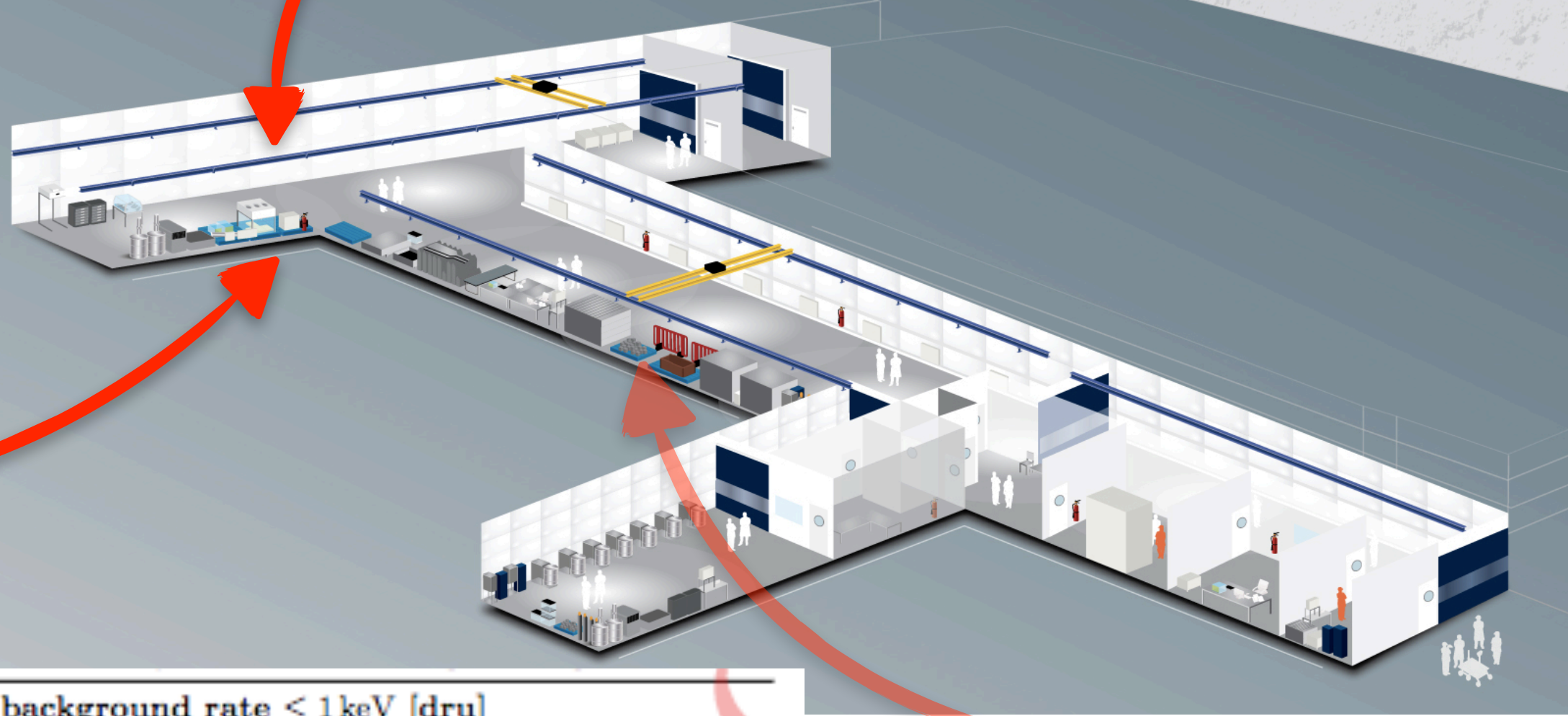
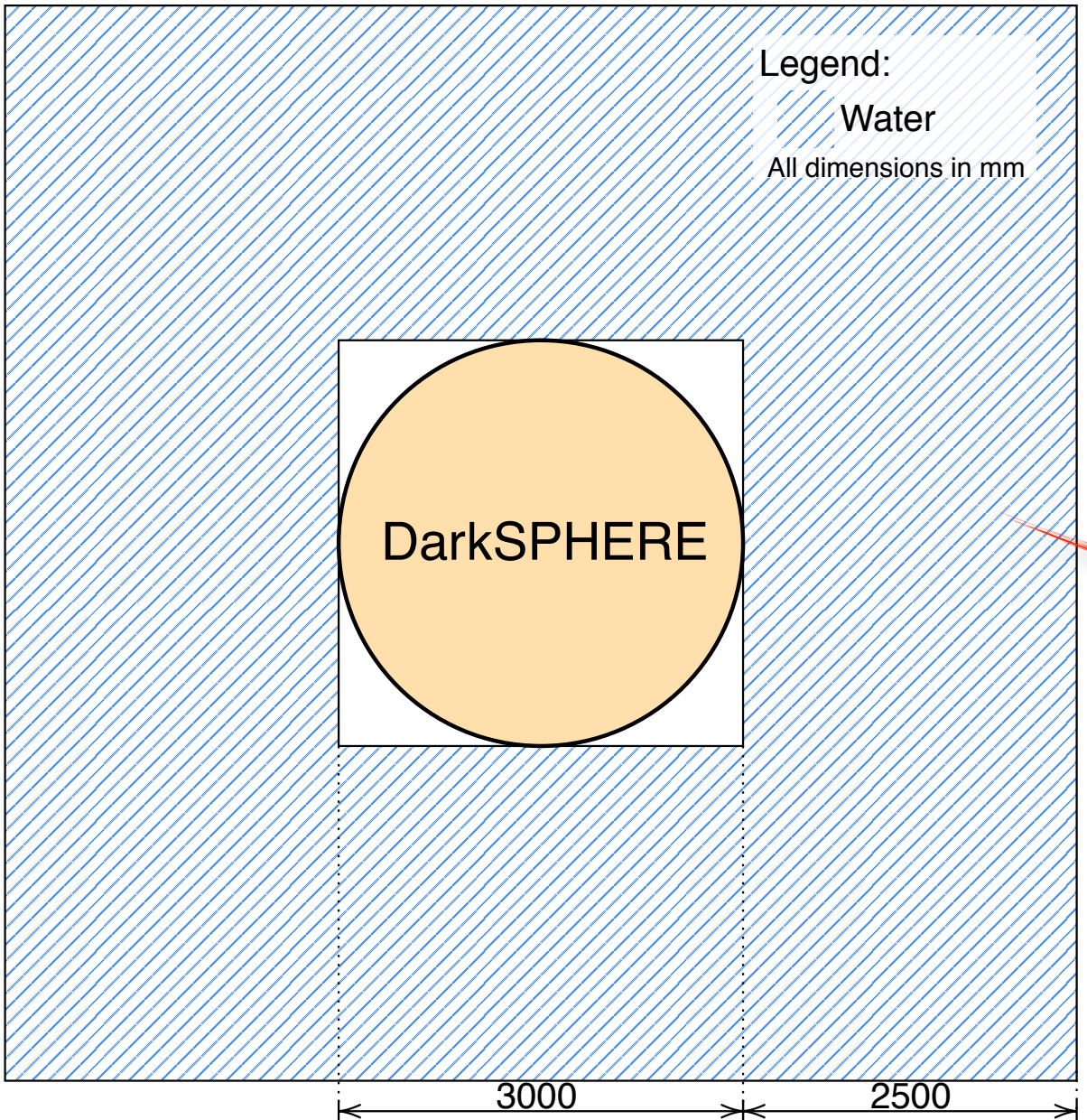
- Combination of W-value and Comimac QF used
- Use conservative logarithmic extrapolation

# Shielding & Backgrounds

- Available space in Boulby LEC: 8 x 8 x 8 m<sup>3</sup>
- Conceptual shielding extensively studied in Geant4 with G4RadioactiveDecayPhysics
- Several designs explored
- Found water-only achieves desired BG suppression
- Dominant background is from photons from cavern
- Shielding material and copper (~10<sup>-5</sup>dru) contributions are subdominant



Large Experimental Cavern (LEC)

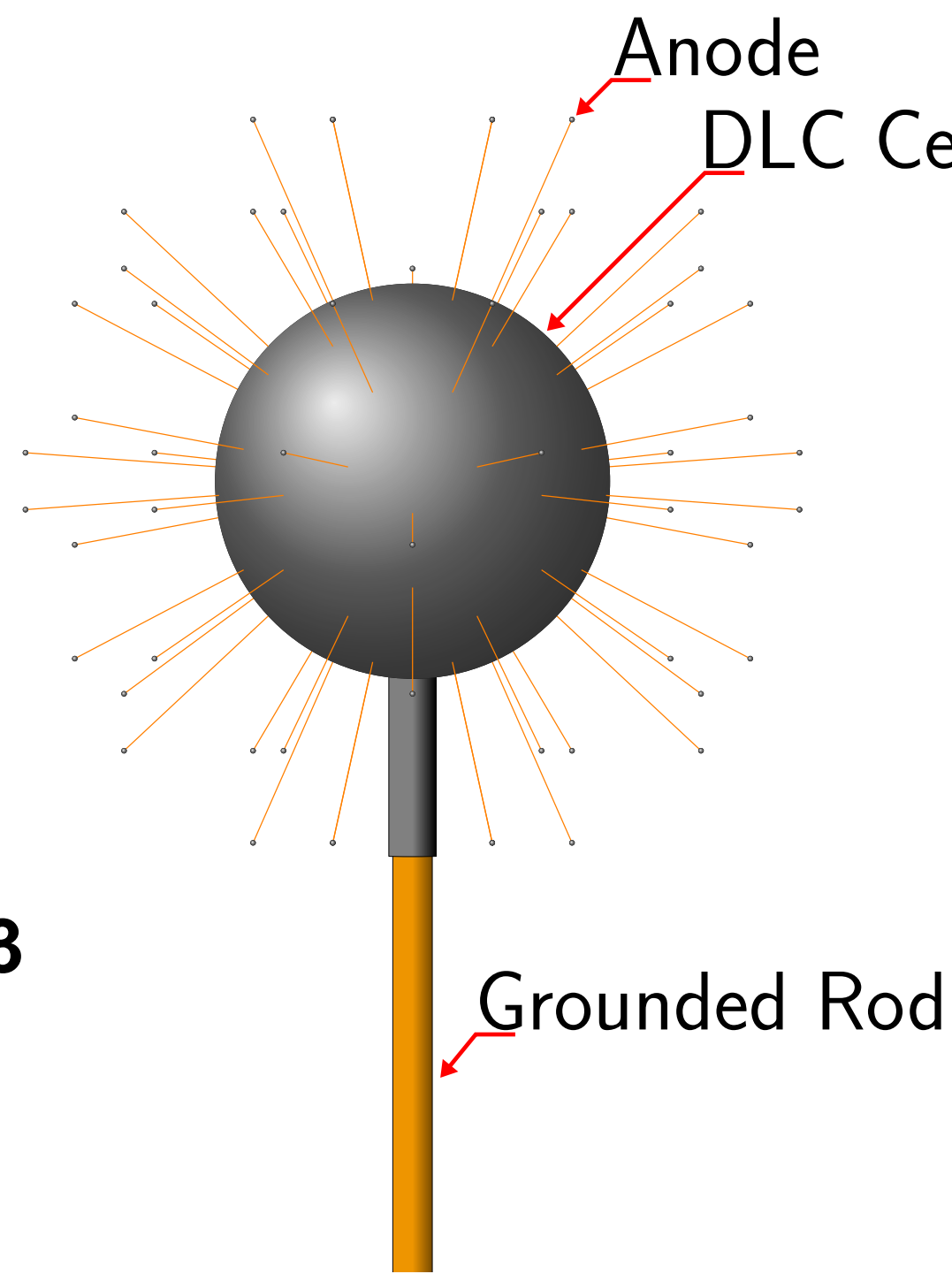
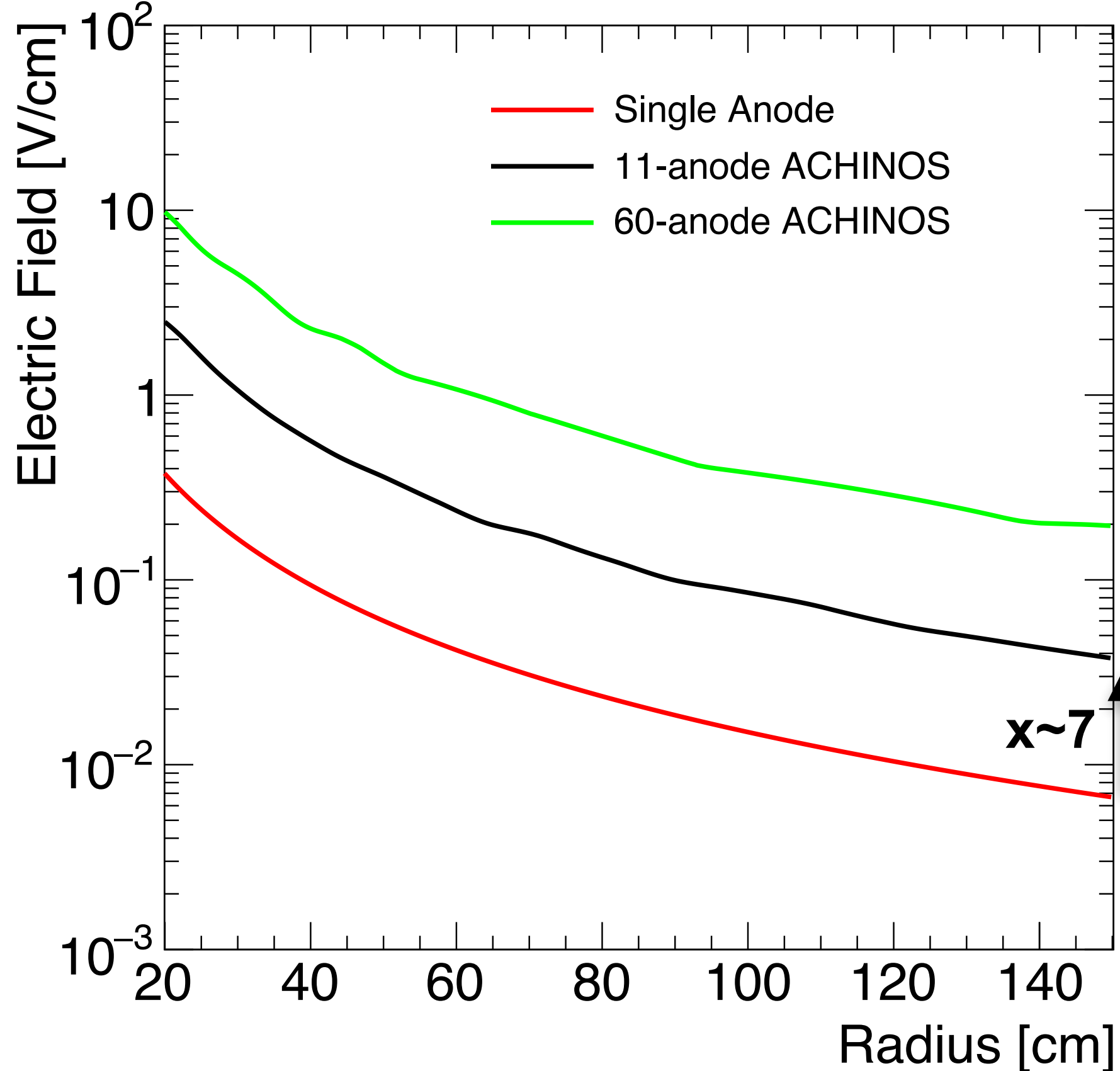


Shielding Configuration	Environmental background rate ≤ 1 keV [dru]			
	Photon-induced Photon	Neutron-induced Neutron	Photon-induced Photon	Total
2.5 m water	4.24 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> (0.06)	9.45 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> (0.54)	1.26 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> (0.31)	4.46 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> (0.06)

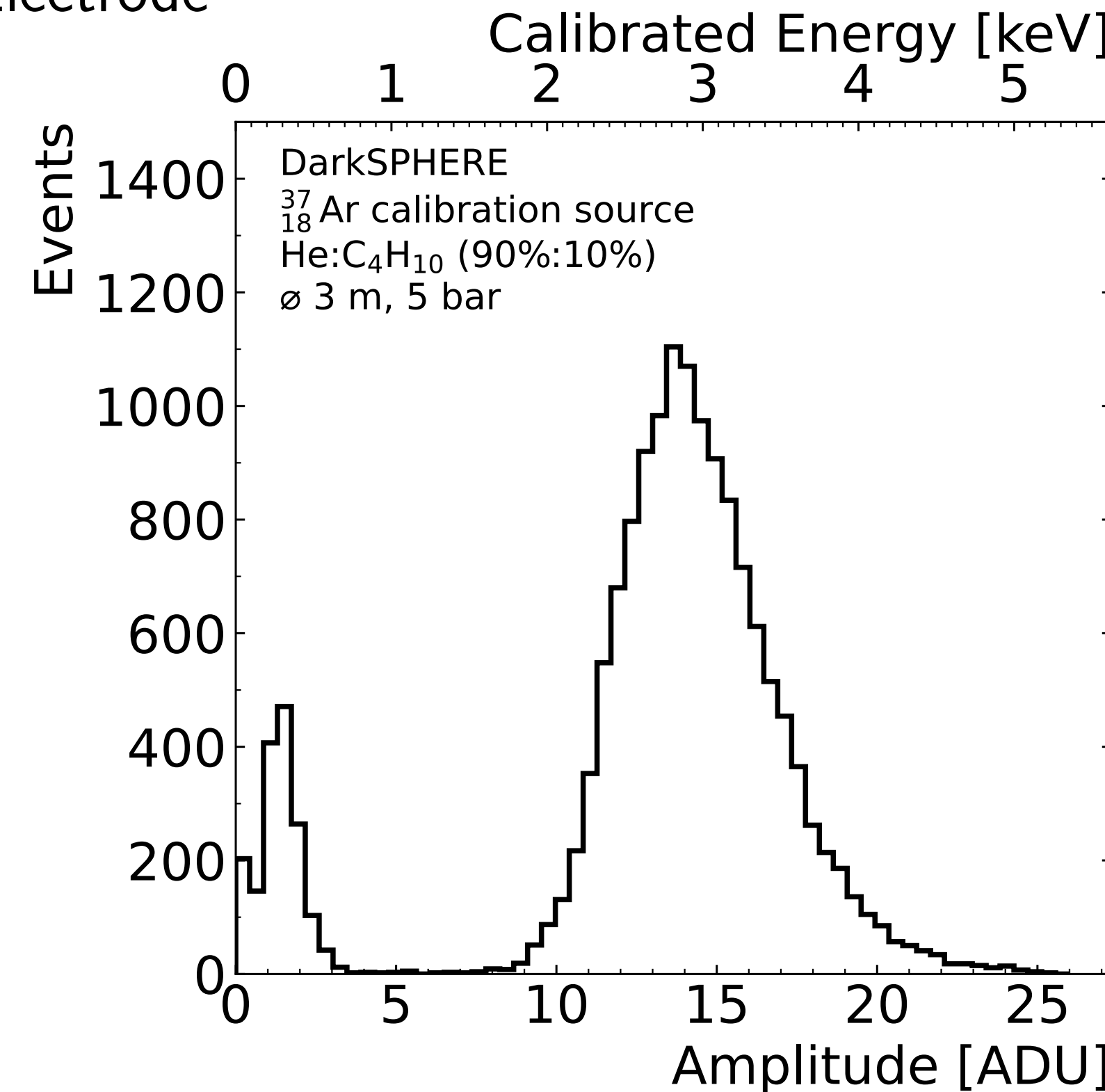
Current ø30cm SPC!

# Read-Out and Calibration

- Larger detector requires larger ACHINOS
- First simulations performed with crude 60-anode ACHINOS
  - Anodes at vertices of truncated icosahedron (a football)
  - Use full simulation framework
- Also intend use laser calibration in DarkSPHERE

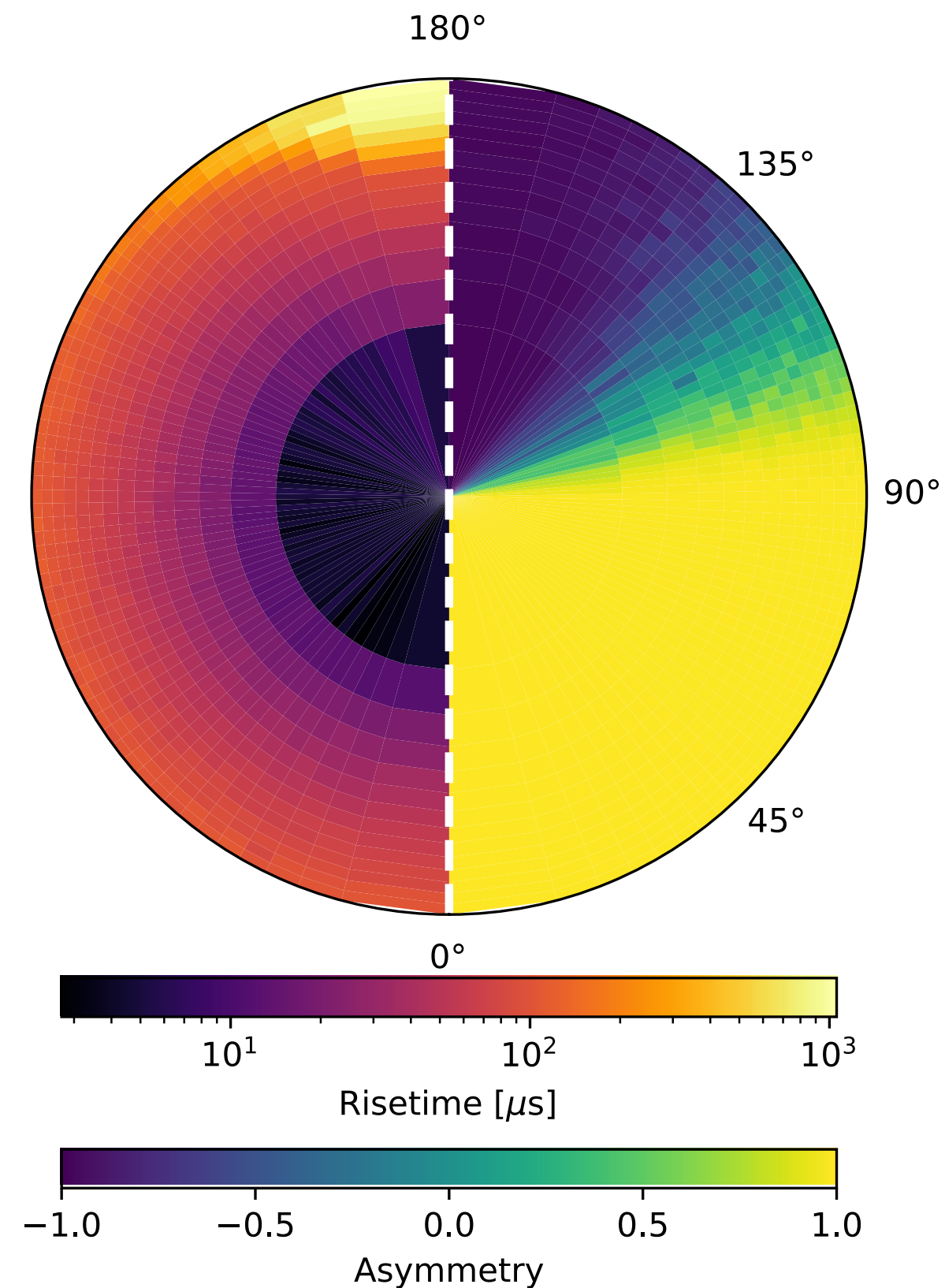


## Simulation of $^{37}\text{Ar}$ Calibration

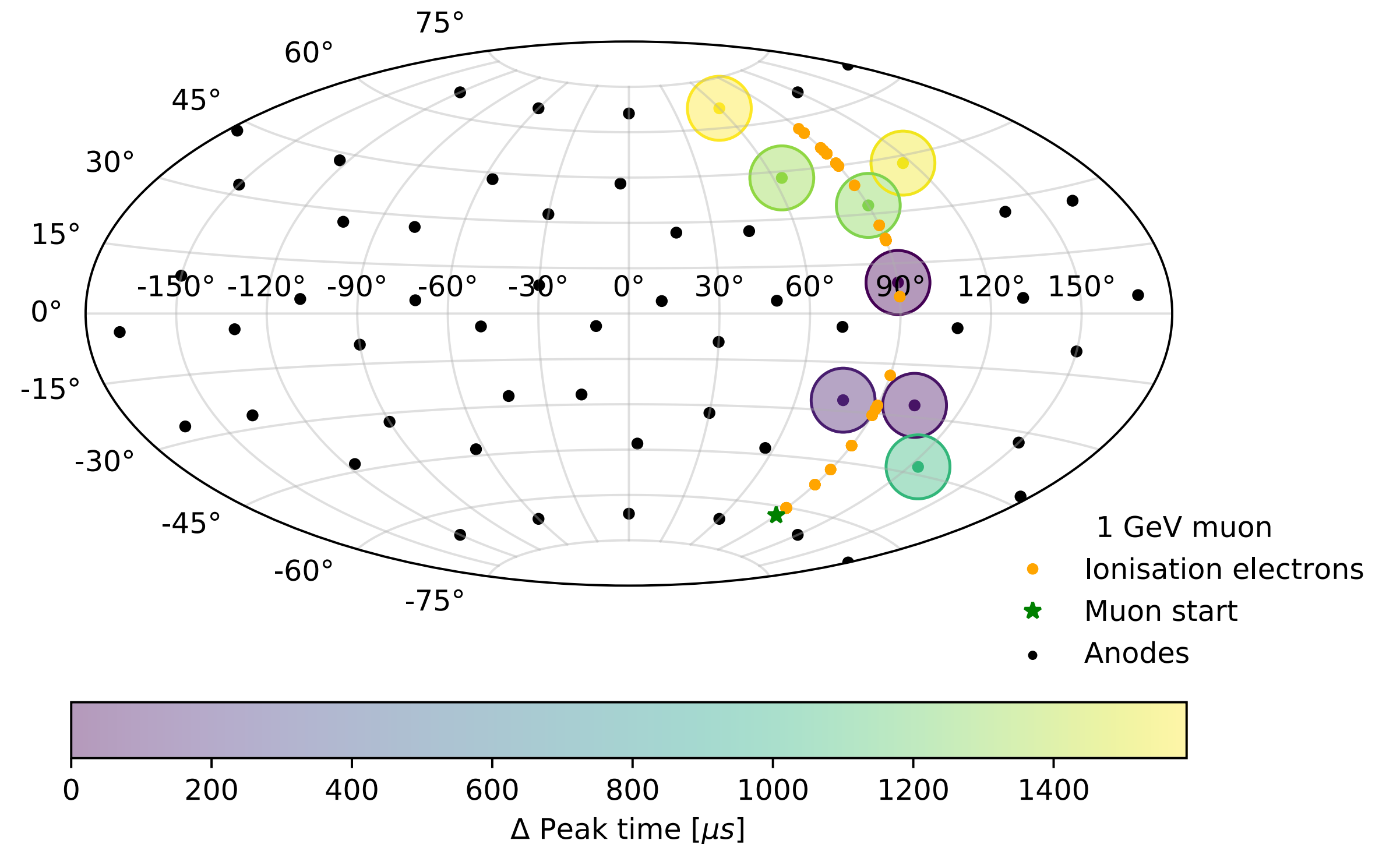


# Event Localisation

11-anode ACHINOS, 2 read-outs

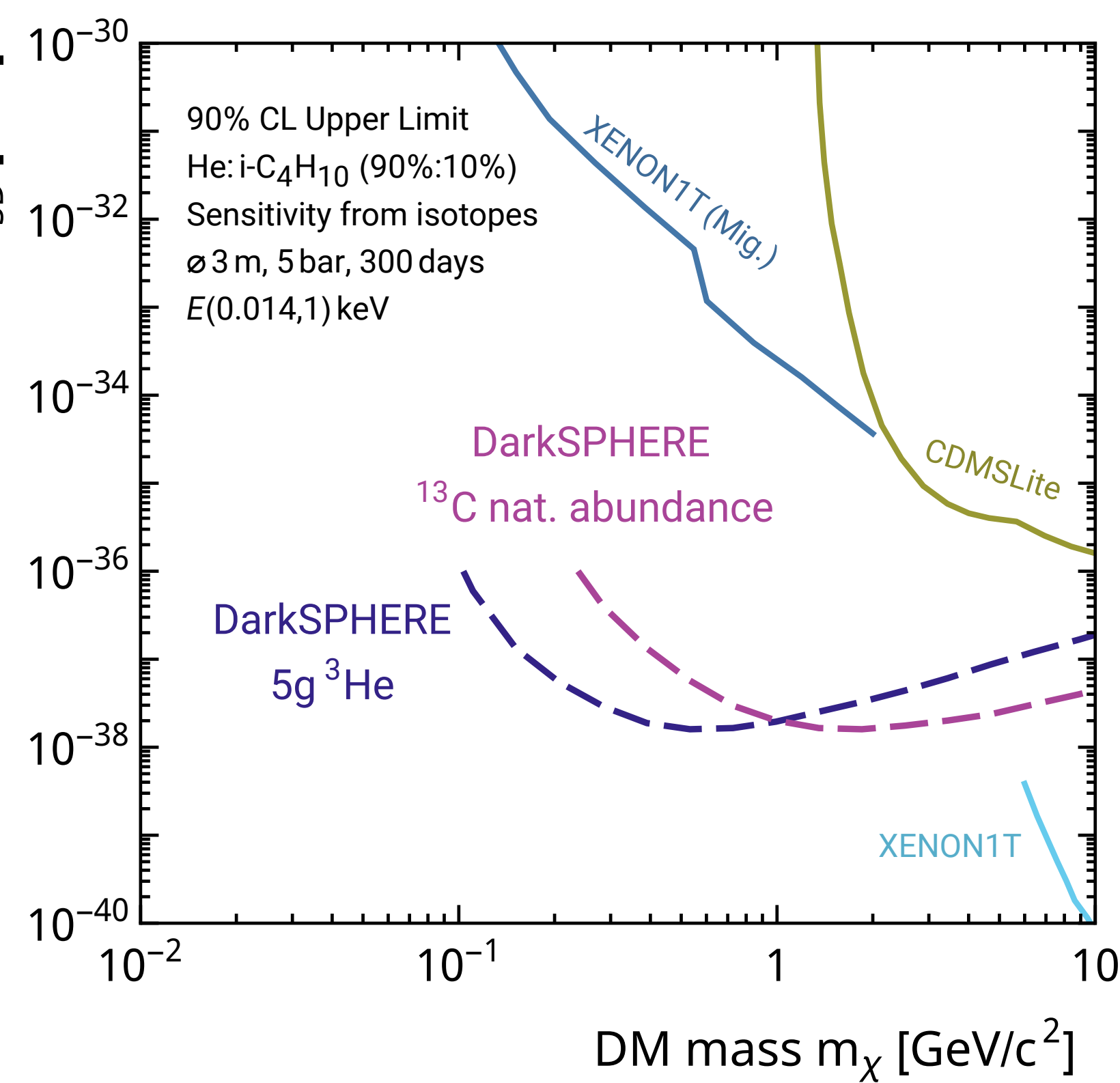
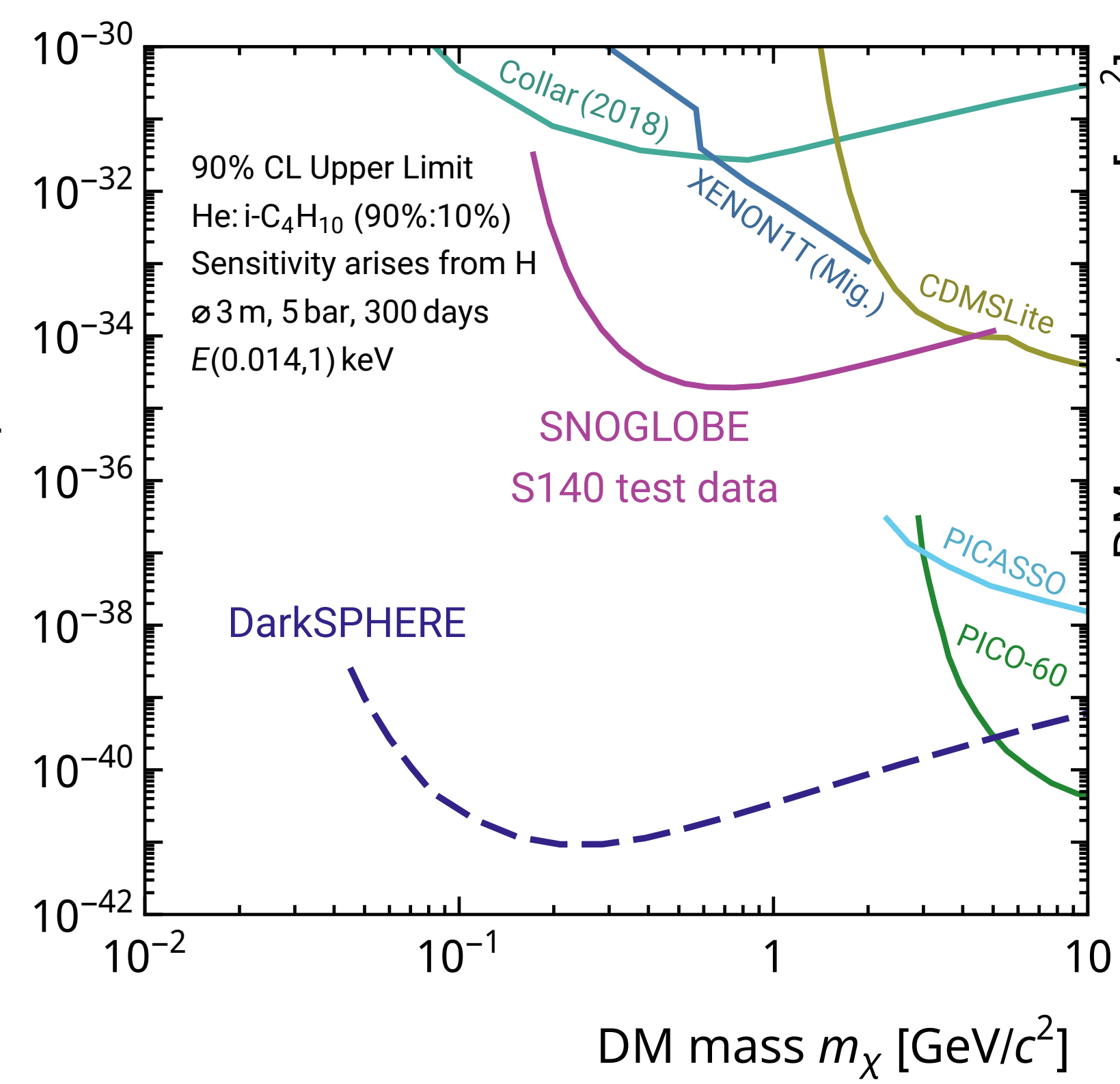
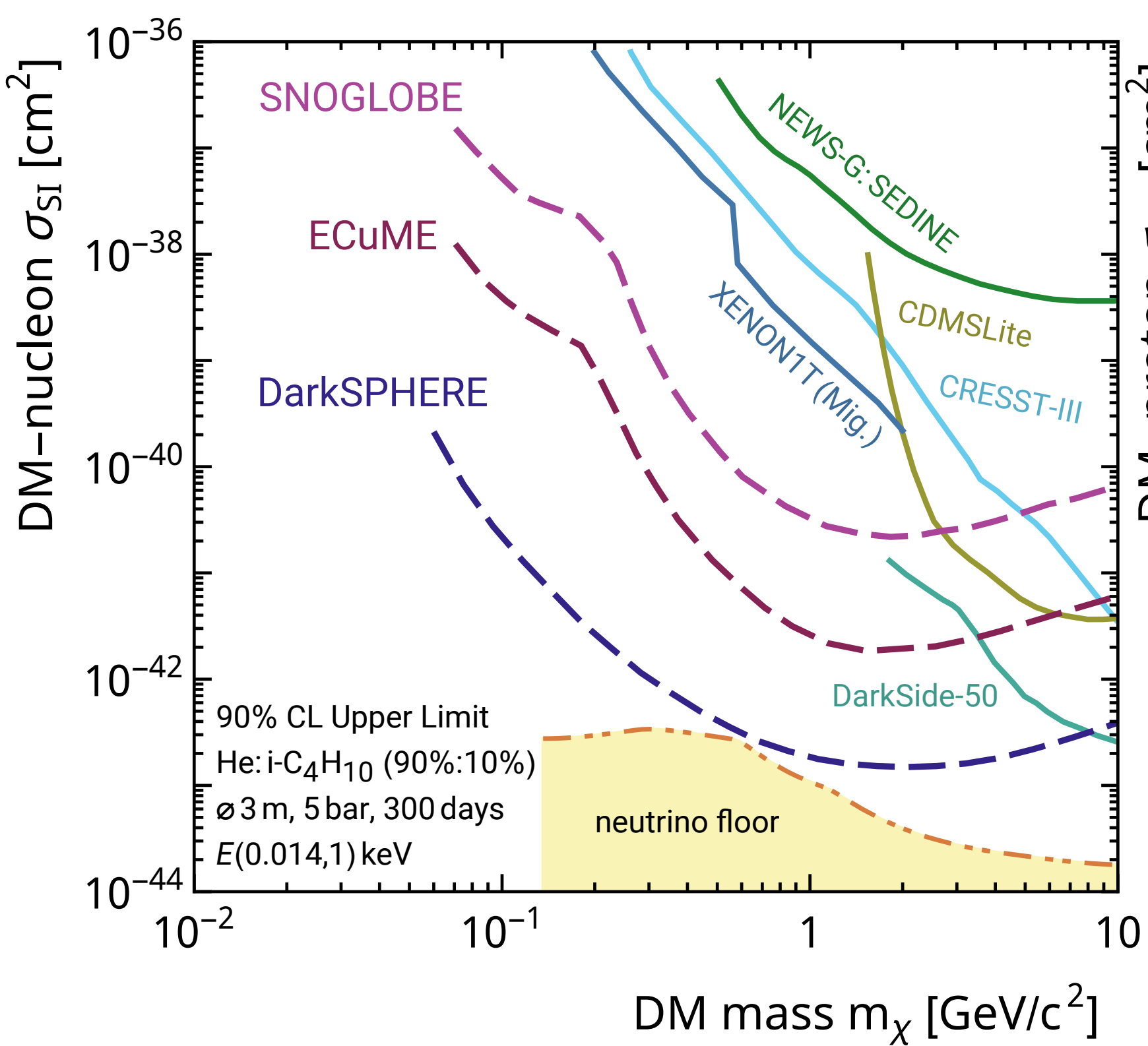


60-anode ACHINOS, individual read-out

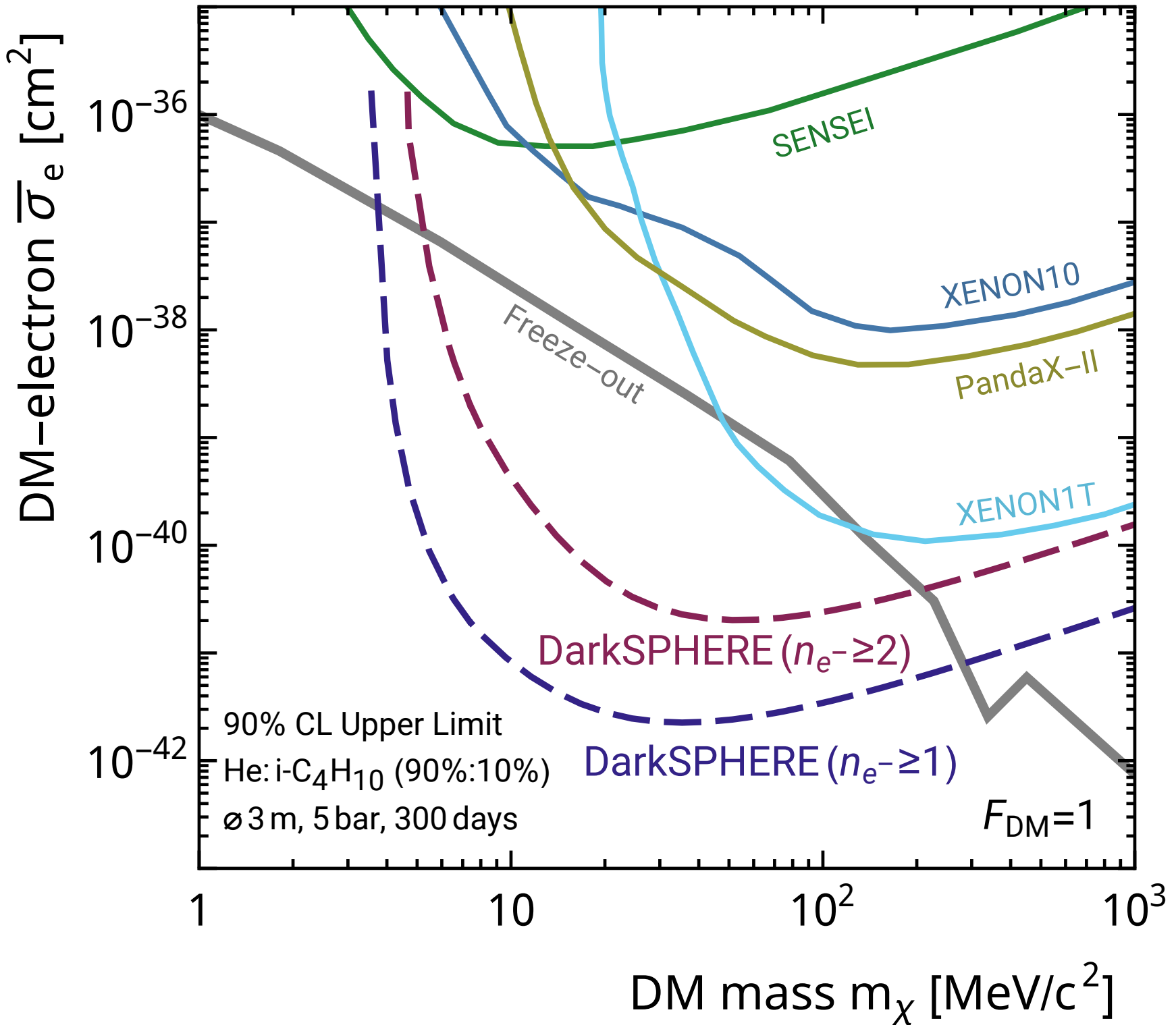
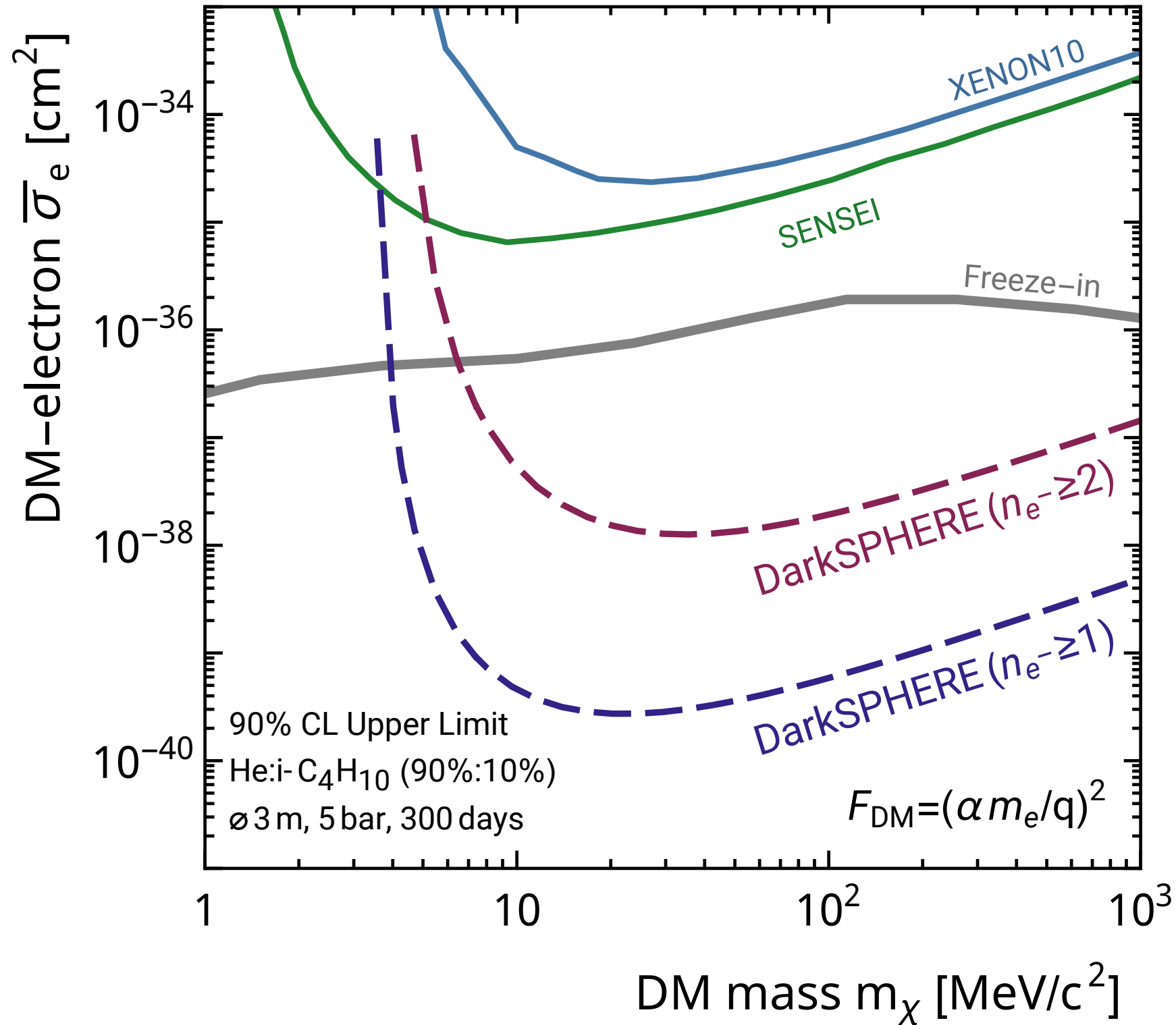


- Currently exploring event localisation capability of higher-anode achinos in simulation
- Provide additional BG rejection handles (track/point-like, position dependent etc.)

# Nuclear-Recoil DM Searches



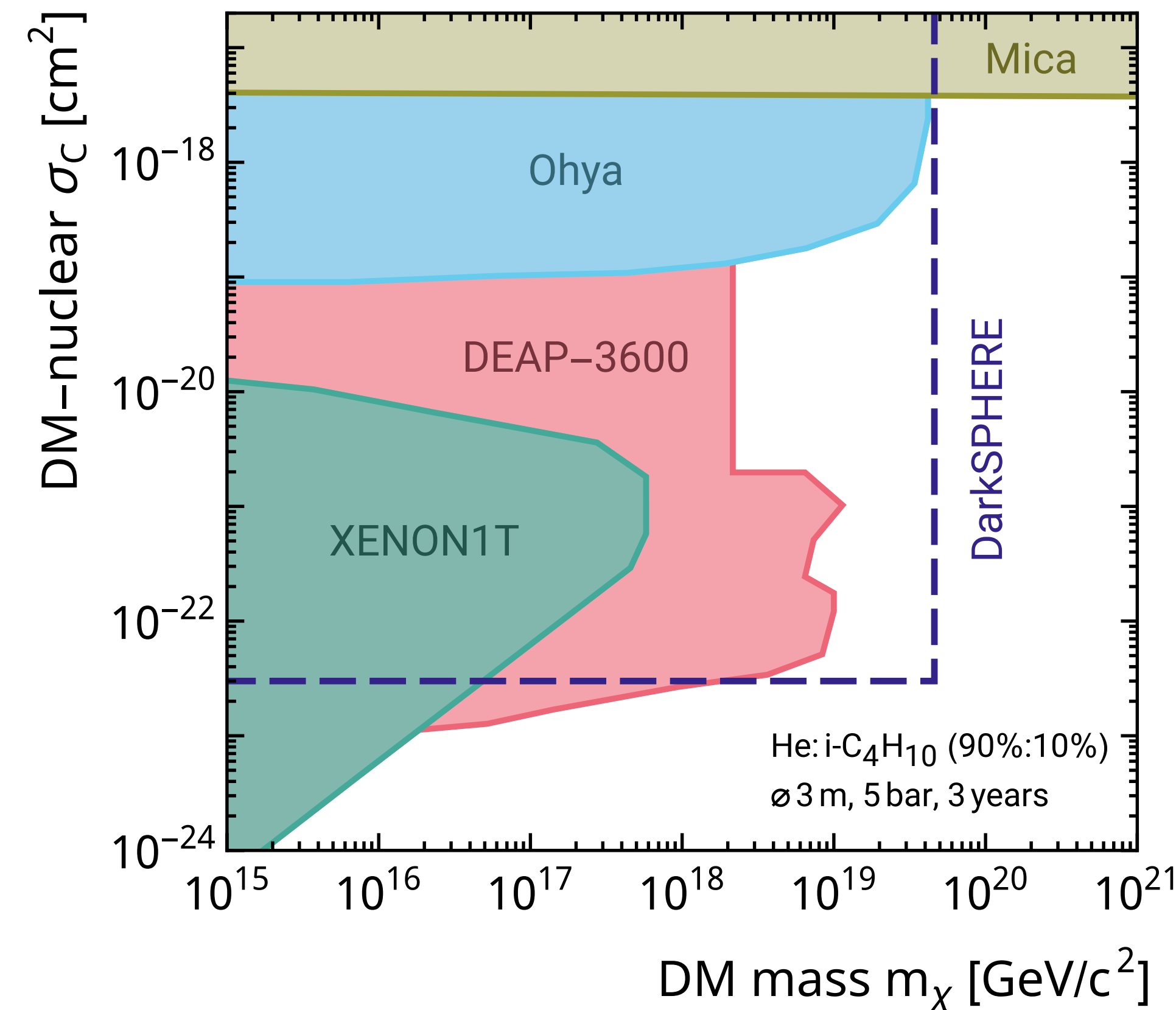
# Electron-Recoil DM Searches





# Heavy DM Searches and Other Applications

- Looking for multiply interacting DM in the detector
  - Sensitivity scales with detector radius
- Potential for a multi-physics platform:
  - $0\nu\beta\beta$  (R2D2)
  - $^{136}\text{Xe}$  at 5 bar in DarkSPHERE would detect  $\sim 5 \times (10 \text{ kpc}/d_{\text{SN}})^2$  events for supernova at distance  $d_{\text{SN}}$ , assuming a  $27M_{\odot}$  progenitor [C McCabe, L. Hamaide]



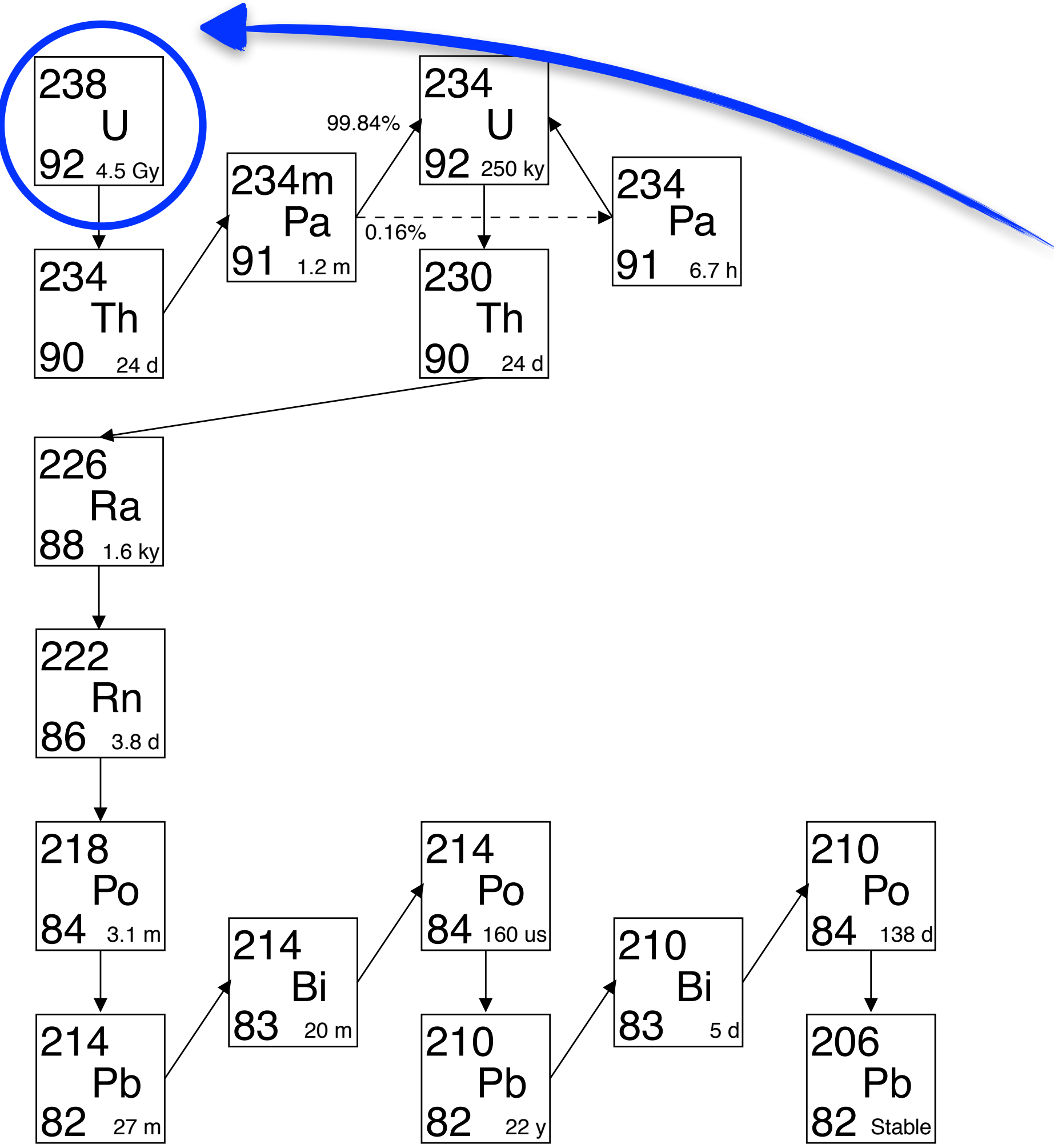
# Boulby Electroforming Facility

- STFC Early Technology Development Capital Funding bid to establish deep-underground EFCu facility in Boulby successful
- Modelled after ECuME facility
  - Input from NEWS-G and PNNL
- Delivery of components ongoing!
- Boulby acquiring Type1 water facility



Unfortunately, just 4N5 Cu rods, not dark matter

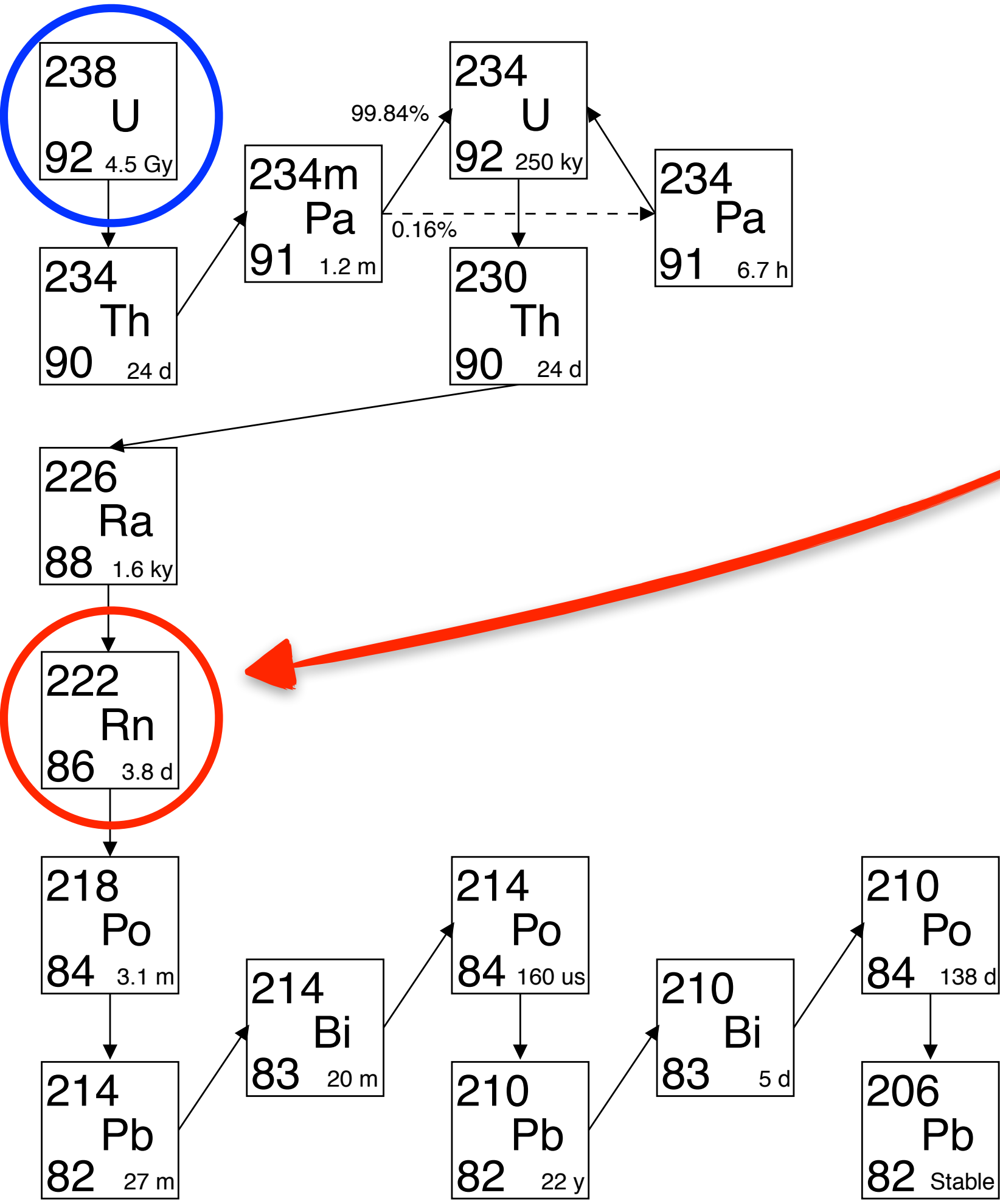
# Copper Backgrounds



- Commercial copper has two primary contamination sources:
- Fast neutrons from cosmic muon spallation e.g.  $^{63}\text{Cu}(n,\alpha)^{60}\text{Co}$
  - Mitigation: minimise time outside underground laboratory
  - **$^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{232}\text{Th}$**  decay chains naturally found in raw material
  - Assay: ICP-MS  $\sim 10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$
  - Long-lived  $^{238}\text{U}$  daughters introduced by  **$^{222}\text{Rn}$  gas**
  - **$^{210}\text{Pb}$  is long-lived**, so builds up, and leads to **break in secular equilibrium** of chain
  - Assay: alpha-counter, UltraLo-1800  $\sim 30 \text{ mBq/kg}$

XIA UltraLo-1800  
<https://www.xia.com/ultral0-theory.html>

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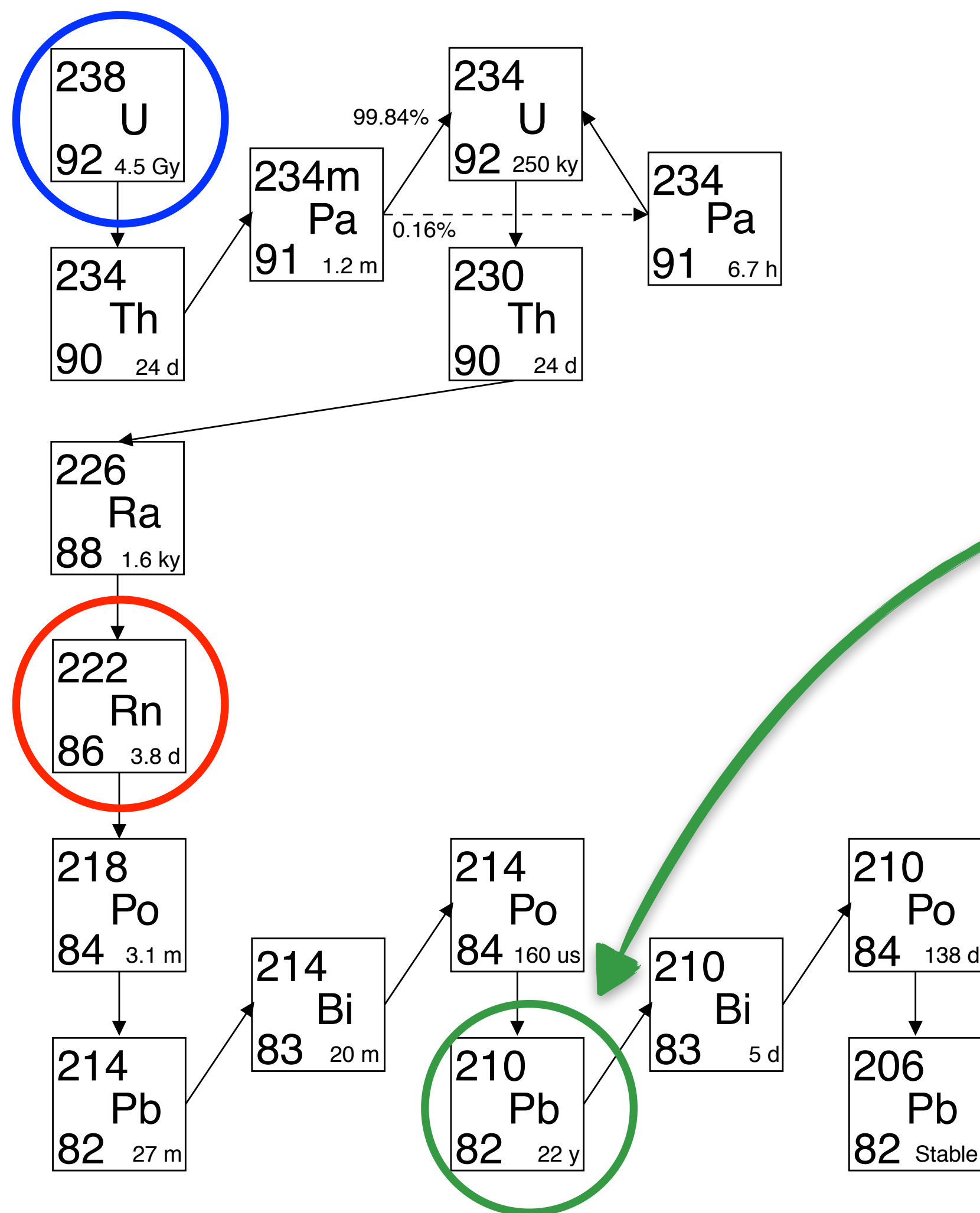


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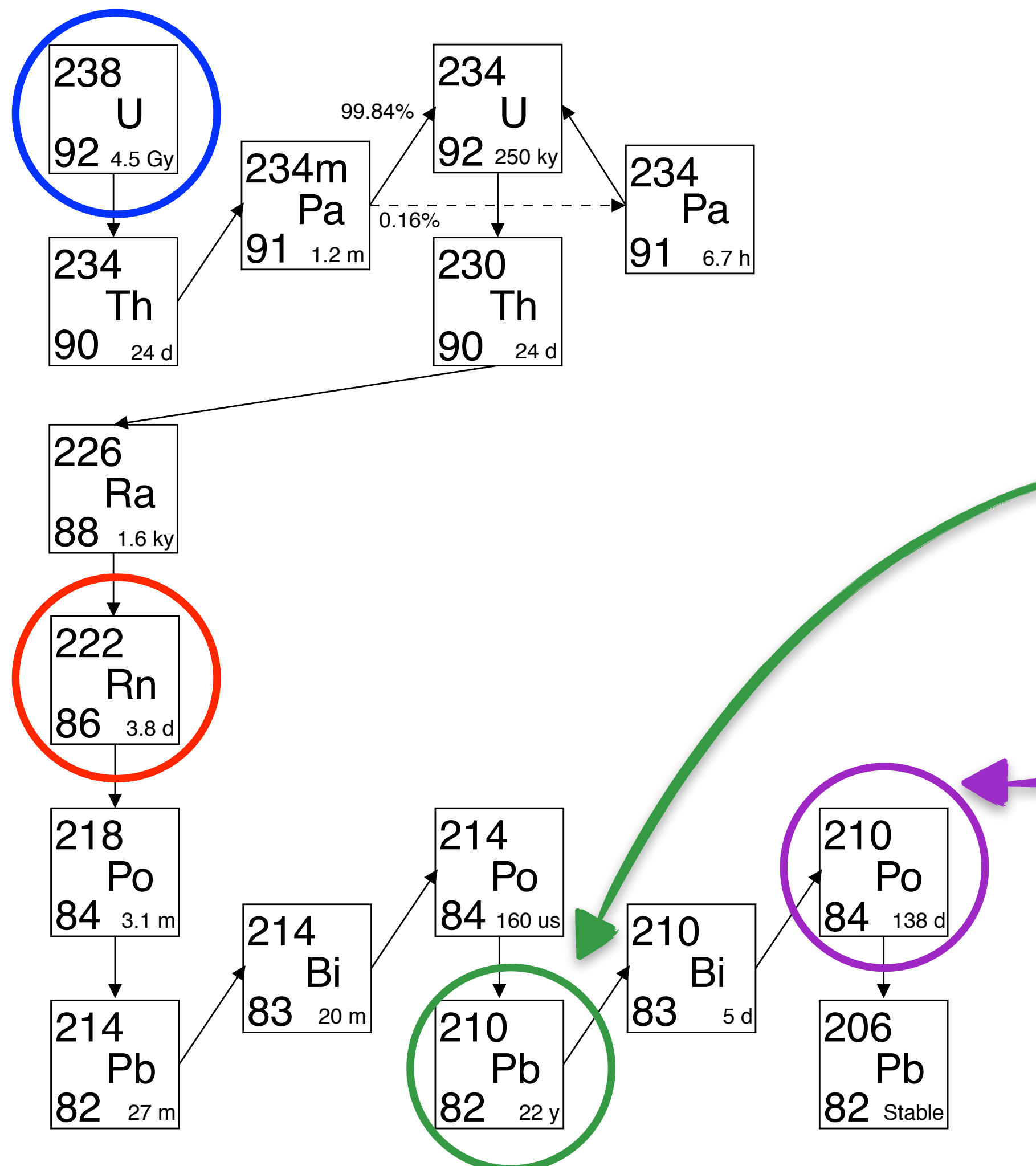
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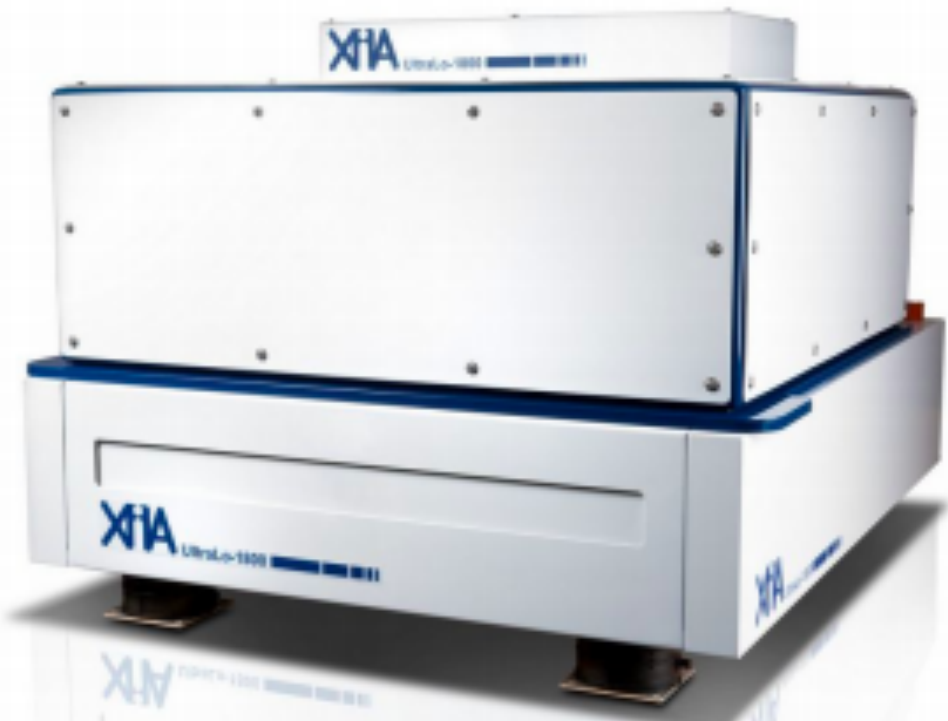
XIA UltraLo-1800

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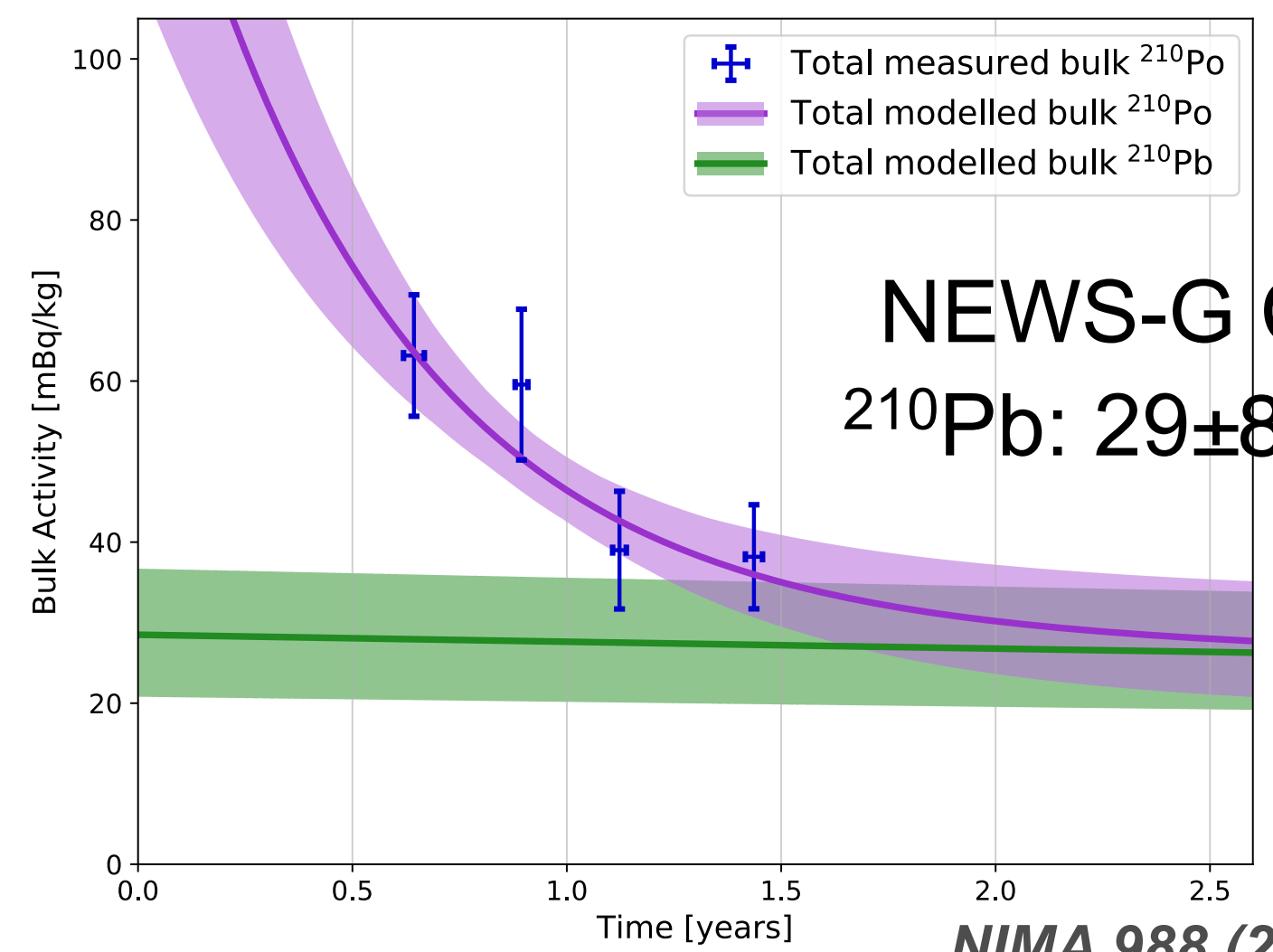
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XIA UltraLo-1800  
<https://www.xia.com/ultralow-theory.html>

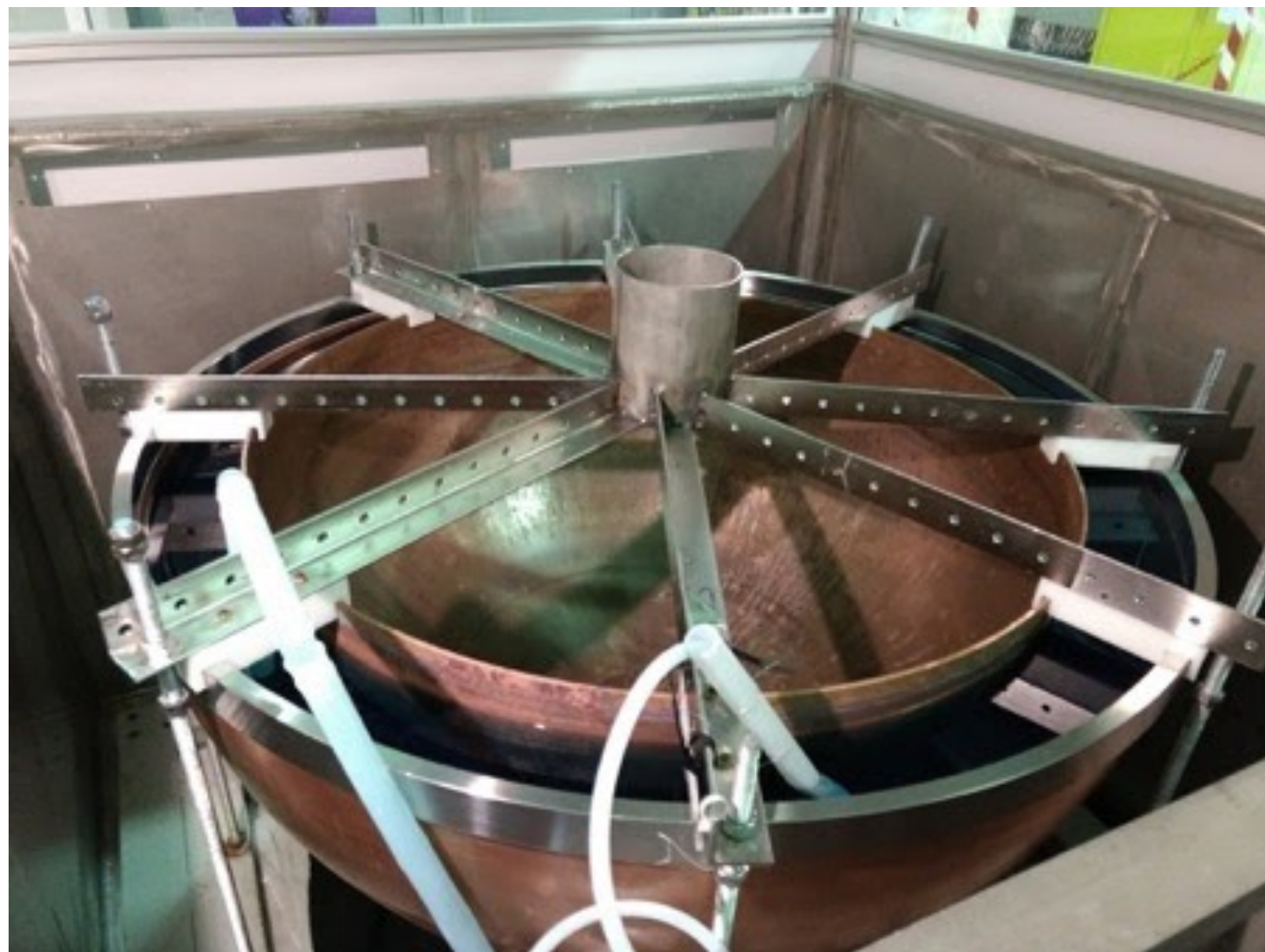


NEWS-G Copper:  
 $^{210}\text{Pb}: 29 \pm 8 \text{ mBq/kg}$

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# Ultra-Pure Copper Electroplating

- Exploits electrochemical properties
  - **Cu Preferentially deposited**
- **500  $\mu\text{m}$  electroplated layer** on detector inner surface
- **Background reduction** by factor 2.6  $<1$  keV (Geant4)
- Copper deposition rate  **$\sim 36 \mu\text{m}/\text{day}$** 
  - Could electroform complete detector
- **ICP-MS assay** of sample comparable to other EF copper
  - $^{210}\text{Po}$  in other EF copper below XIA UltraLo-1800 sensitivity  $<3$  mBq/kg



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## ICP-MS Assay

Sample	Weight [g]	$^{232}\text{Th}$ [ $\mu\text{Bq kg}^{-1}$ ]	$^{238}\text{U}$ [ $\mu\text{Bq kg}^{-1}$ ]
C10100 Cu (Machined)	-	$8.7 \pm 1.6$	$27.9 \pm 1.9$
Cu Electroformed	-	$<0.119$	$<0.099$
Hemisphere 1	0.256	$<0.58$	$<0.26$
Hemisphere 2	0.614	$<0.24$	$<0.11$

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/nima](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nima)

### Copper electroplating for background suppression in the NEWS-G experiment

L. Balogh<sup>a</sup>, C. Beaufort<sup>b</sup>, A. Brossard<sup>a</sup>, R. Bunker<sup>c</sup>, J.-F. Caron<sup>a</sup>, M. Chapellier<sup>a</sup>, J.-M. Coquillat<sup>a</sup>, E.C. Corcoran<sup>d</sup>, S. Crawford<sup>a</sup>, A. Dastgheibi Fard<sup>b</sup>, Y. Deng<sup>e</sup>, K. Dering<sup>a</sup>, D. Durnford<sup>e</sup>, G. Gerbier<sup>a</sup>, I. Giomataris<sup>f</sup>, G. Giroux<sup>a</sup>, P. Gorel<sup>g,h,i</sup>, M. Gros<sup>f</sup>, P. Gros<sup>a</sup>, O. Guillaudin<sup>b</sup>, E.W. Hoppe<sup>c</sup>, I. Katsioulas<sup>j</sup>, F. Kelly<sup>d</sup>, P. Knights<sup>f,i,\*</sup>, L. Kwon<sup>d</sup>, S. Langrock<sup>h</sup>, P. Lautridou<sup>k</sup>, R.D. Martin<sup>a</sup>, J.-P. Mols<sup>f</sup>, J.-F. Muraz<sup>b</sup>, X.-F. Navick<sup>f</sup>, T. Neep<sup>l</sup>, K. Nikolopoulos<sup>l</sup>, P. O'Brien<sup>e</sup>, R. Owen<sup>l</sup>, M.-C. Piro<sup>e</sup>, D. Santos<sup>b</sup>, G. Savvidis<sup>a</sup>, I. Savvidis<sup>l</sup>, F. Vazquez de Sola Fernandez<sup>a</sup>, M. Vidal<sup>a</sup>, R. Ward<sup>l</sup>, M. Zampalo<sup>b</sup>

(NEWS-G Collaboration)

S. Alcantar Anguiano<sup>c</sup>, I.J. Arnquist<sup>c</sup>, M.L. di Vacri<sup>c</sup>, K. Harouaka<sup>c</sup>, K. Kobayashi<sup>m,n,1</sup>, K.S. Thommasson<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> LPSC, Université Grenoble-Alpes, CNRS/IN2P3, Grenoble, France

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<sup>d</sup> Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Department, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario K7K 7B4, Canada

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<sup>j</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom

<sup>k</sup> SUBATECH, IMT-Atlantique, Université de Nantes/IN2P3-CNRS, Nantes, France

<sup>l</sup> Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>m</sup> Kamioka Observatory, ICRR, University of Tokyo, Higashi-Matsumi, Kamioka, Hida, Gifu 506-1205, Japan

<sup>n</sup> Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8582, Japan

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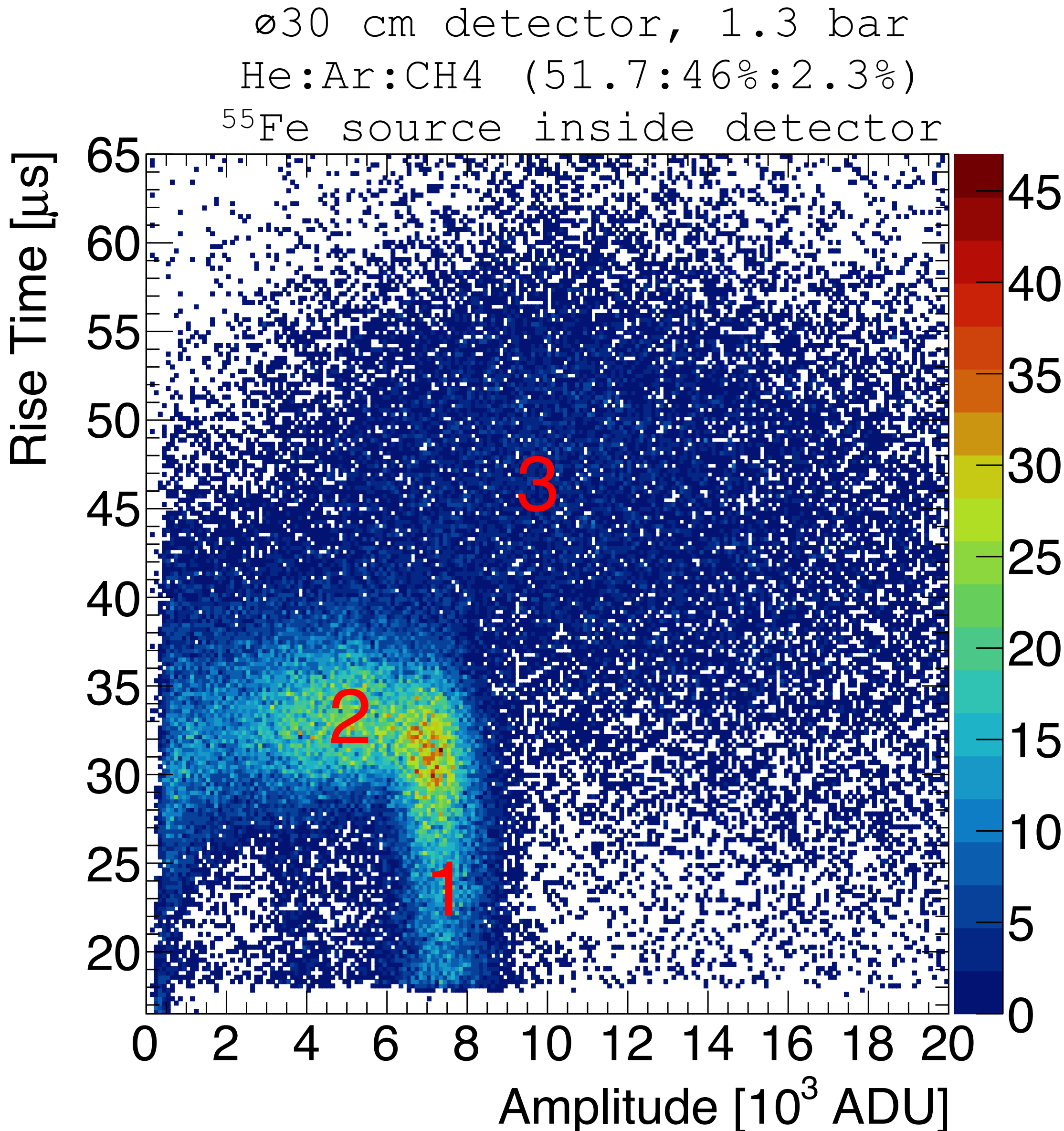
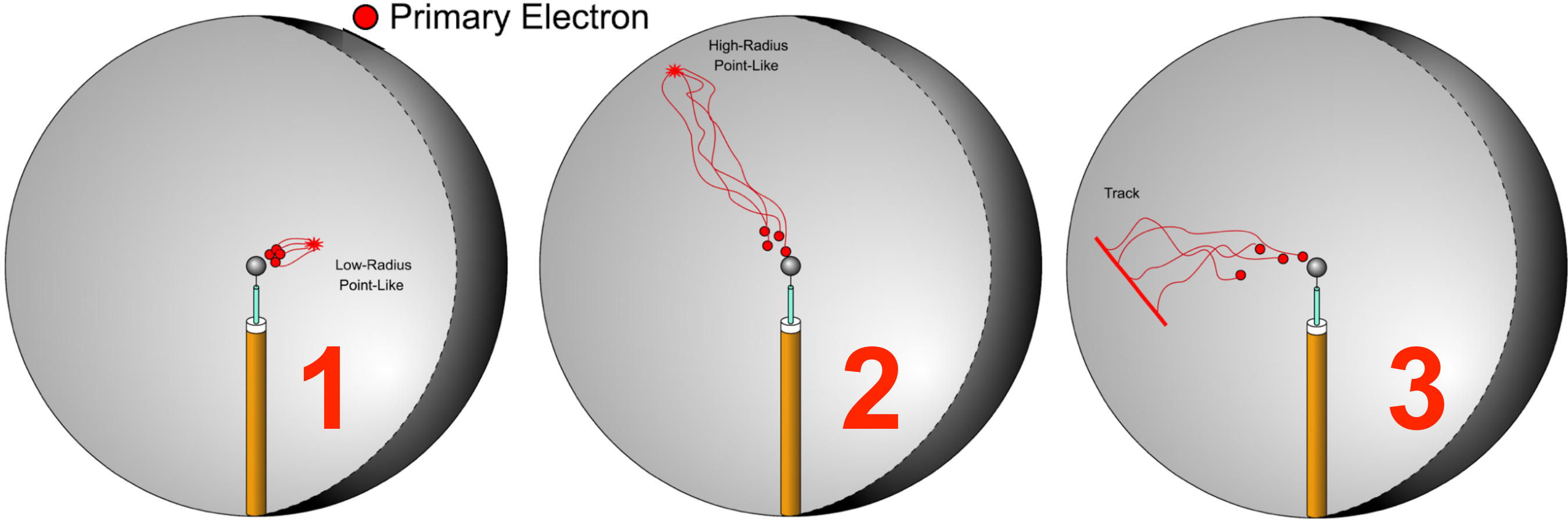




# Pulse-Shape Discrimination

- Lots of information in a pulse. e.g. in rise time
- Electron from **larger radii diffuse more**
- Larger spread in arrival → higher pulse rise time/width
- Spatially extended primary ionisation results in higher rise time/width
- **Particle ID by pulse-shape discrimination possible**

Primary Electron Diffusion → Pulse Rise time



(1) X-rays in volume, (2) X-rays near shell, (3) Cosmic muons

# Background Contributions to SNOGLOBE

	Source	Contamination / flux	Unit	Events rate <1 keV [dru]	Events rate in [1;5] keV [dru]	Total rate [mHz]
Gas mixture	<sup>3</sup> H	13	μBq/kg	0.05	0.06	0.005
	<sup>222</sup> Rn	111	μBq/kg	0.05	0.04	0.2
Copper sphere 500 μm electrolyte	<sup>210</sup> Pb	28.5	mBq/kg	1.04	1.01	0.86
	<sup>238</sup> U	3	μBq/kg	0.0117	0.115	0.028
	<sup>232</sup> Th	13	μBq/kg	0.0754	0.0692	0.163
	<sup>40</sup> K	0.1	mBq/kg	0.0157	0.0186	0.0622
Roman lead	<sup>210</sup> Pb	<25	mBq/kg	<0.14	<0.12	0.057
	<sup>238</sup> U	44.5	μBq/kg	0.142	0.094	0.277
	<sup>232</sup> Th	9.1	μBq/kg	0.0256	0.0161	0.0577
	<sup>40</sup> K	<1.3	mBq/kg	<0.28	0.23	0.65
Low activity lead	<sup>210</sup> Pb	4.6	Bq/kg	0.053	0.055	0.17
	<sup>238</sup> U	79	μBq/kg	0.17	0.132	0.5
	<sup>232</sup> Th	9	μBq/kg	0.0251	0.0201	0.075
	<sup>40</sup> K	<1.46	mBq/kg	<0.35	0.26	0.67
Cavern	Gamma	$4.87 \times 10^{-8}$	γ/cm <sup>2</sup> /s	0.0084	0.0095	0.00464
	Neutron	4000	neutron/m <sup>2</sup> /day	0.0044	0.0004	$3.54 \times 10^{-11}$
	Muon	0.27	muon/m <sup>2</sup> /day	0.00062	0.00044	$5.04 \times 10^{-8}$
Total				1.67	1.54	2.4
Total + cosmogenic activation of the copper sphere				5.20	5.20	5.4
Total + cosmogenic activation of the copper sphere and 6 months of cooling				2.8	2.5	3.4
Total + cosmogenic activation of the copper sphere and 1 years of cooling				2.1	1.9	3.0
Total + cosmogenic activation of the copper sphere and 2 years of cooling				1.9	1.7	2.9

Table 5.6: Summary of the main background of NEWS-G at SNOLAB, without rise time selection. The upper limits of activities in the lead are not taking into account in the total.

*From A. Brossard, Ph. D. Thesis*