



# XLZD Beyond WIMPS: Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay and More!

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TAUP Vienna  
August 2023



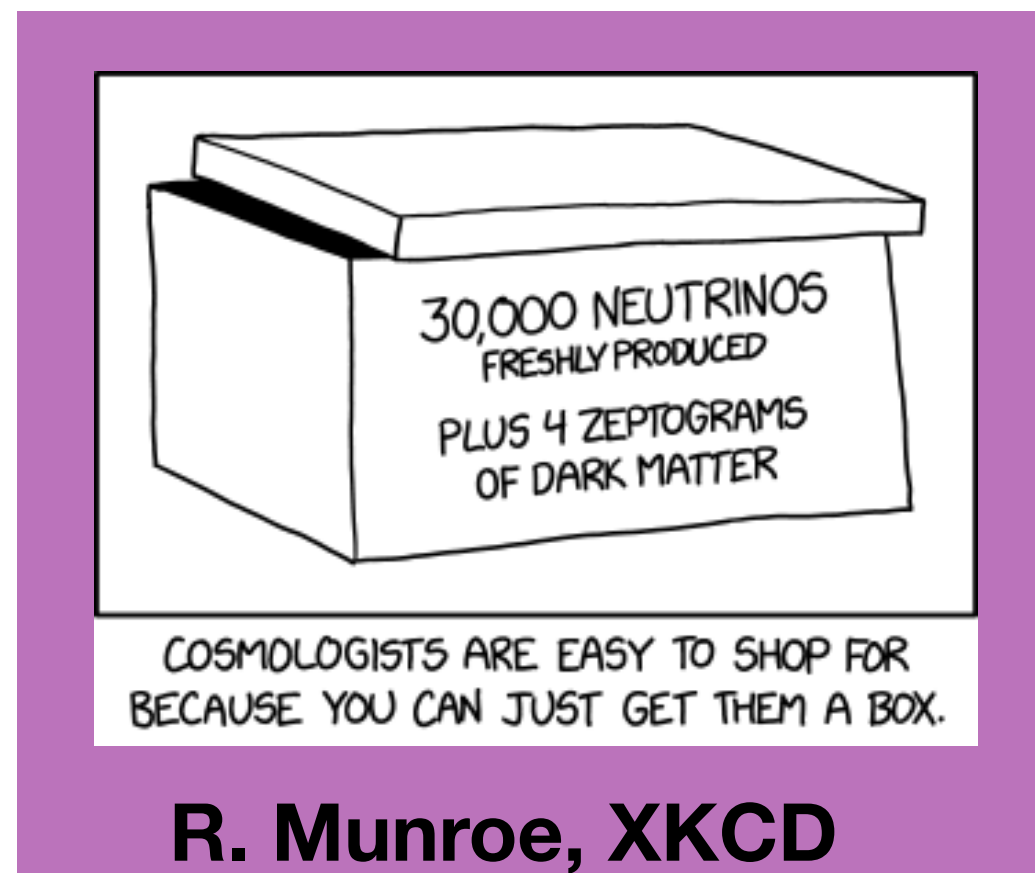
[kimberly.palladino@physics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kimberly.palladino@physics.ox.ac.uk)

2 LZ postdoc positions soon open



# XLZD Consortium

- Consortium MOU signed in July 2021 by **XENONnT**, **LUX-ZEPLIN**, **DARWIN**
- XENONnT and LZ: ongoing science programs, technology progenitors
- DARWIN: initiated R&D and design studies
- Led by Steering Committee
- Working groups: science, technical, siting
- In-person meetings - KIT in June 2022, UCLA in March 2023
- [xlzd.org](http://xlzd.org)



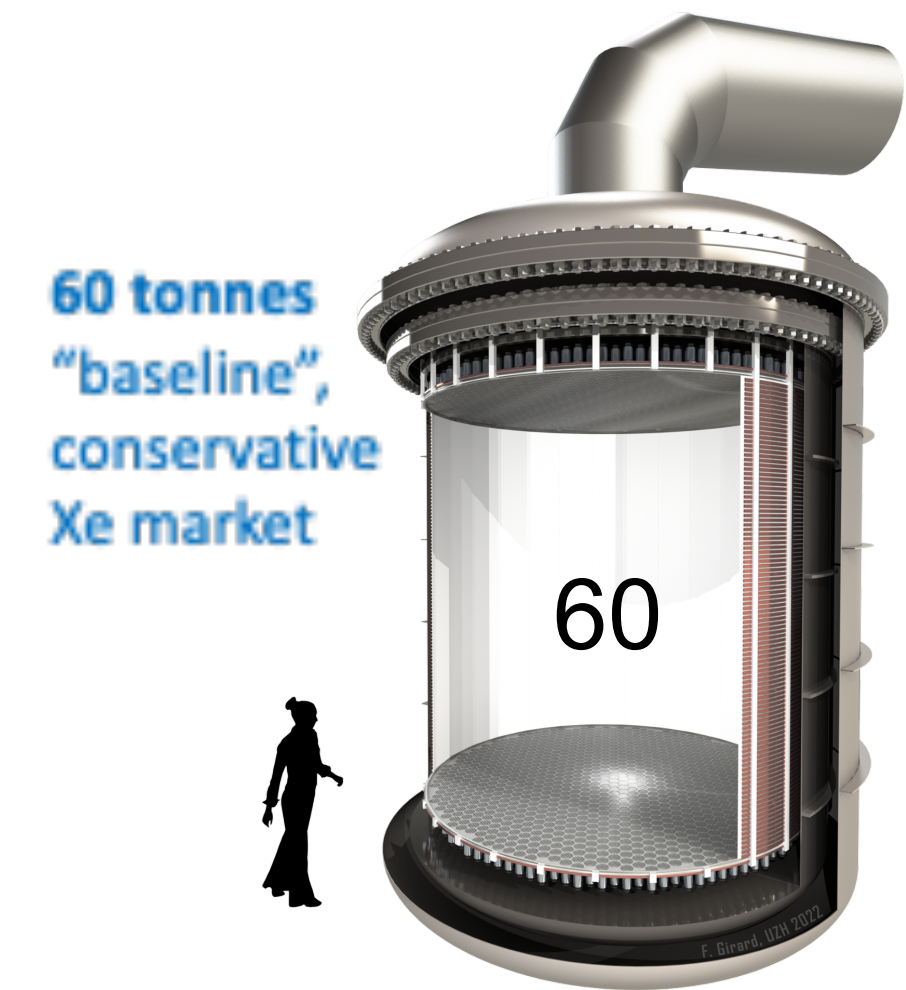
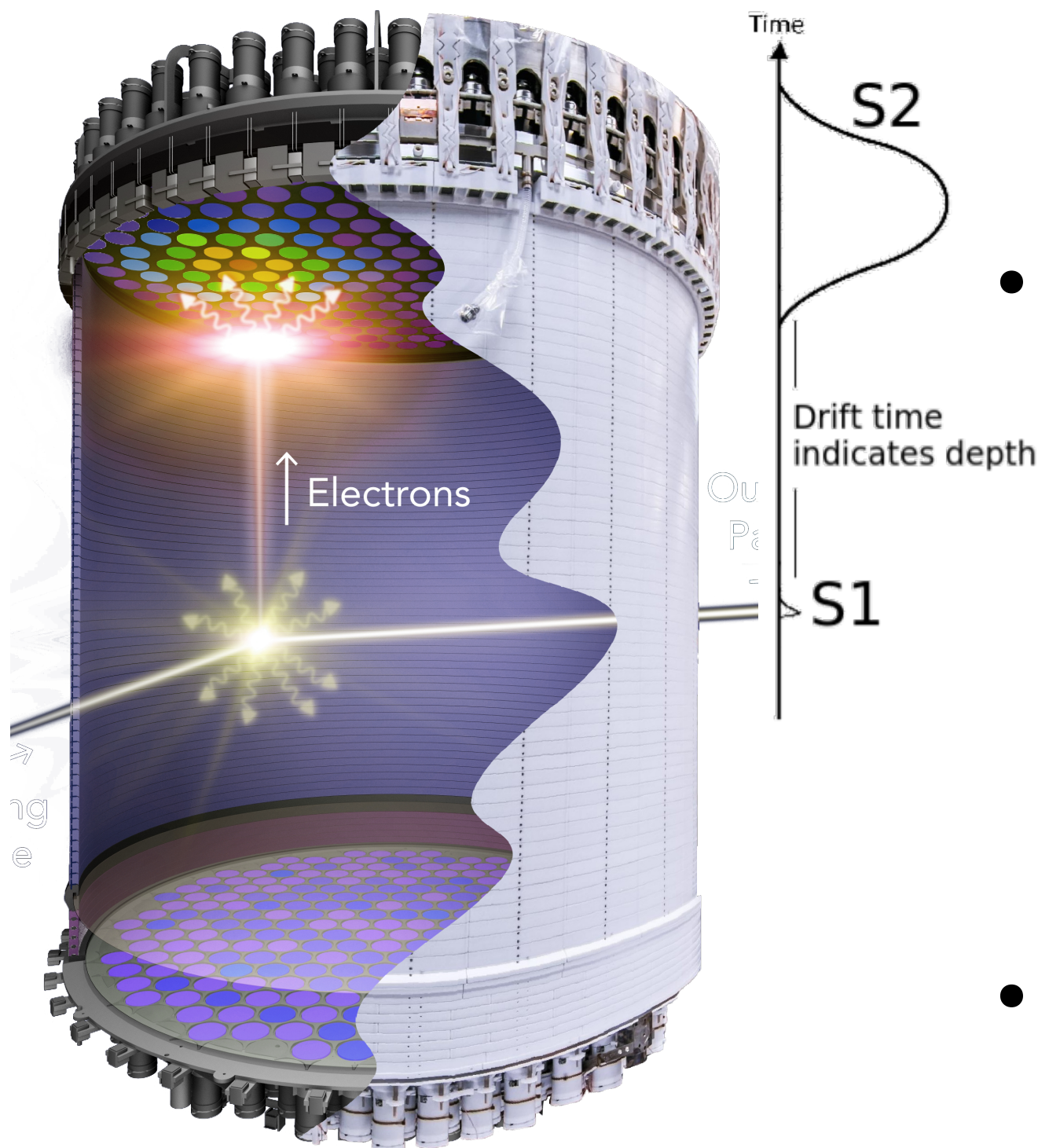
XLZD Meeting at KIT in Karlsruhe, Germany (June 2022)

**See Tina Pollmann's talk today 16:00 in DM session in BIG-Hörsaal**



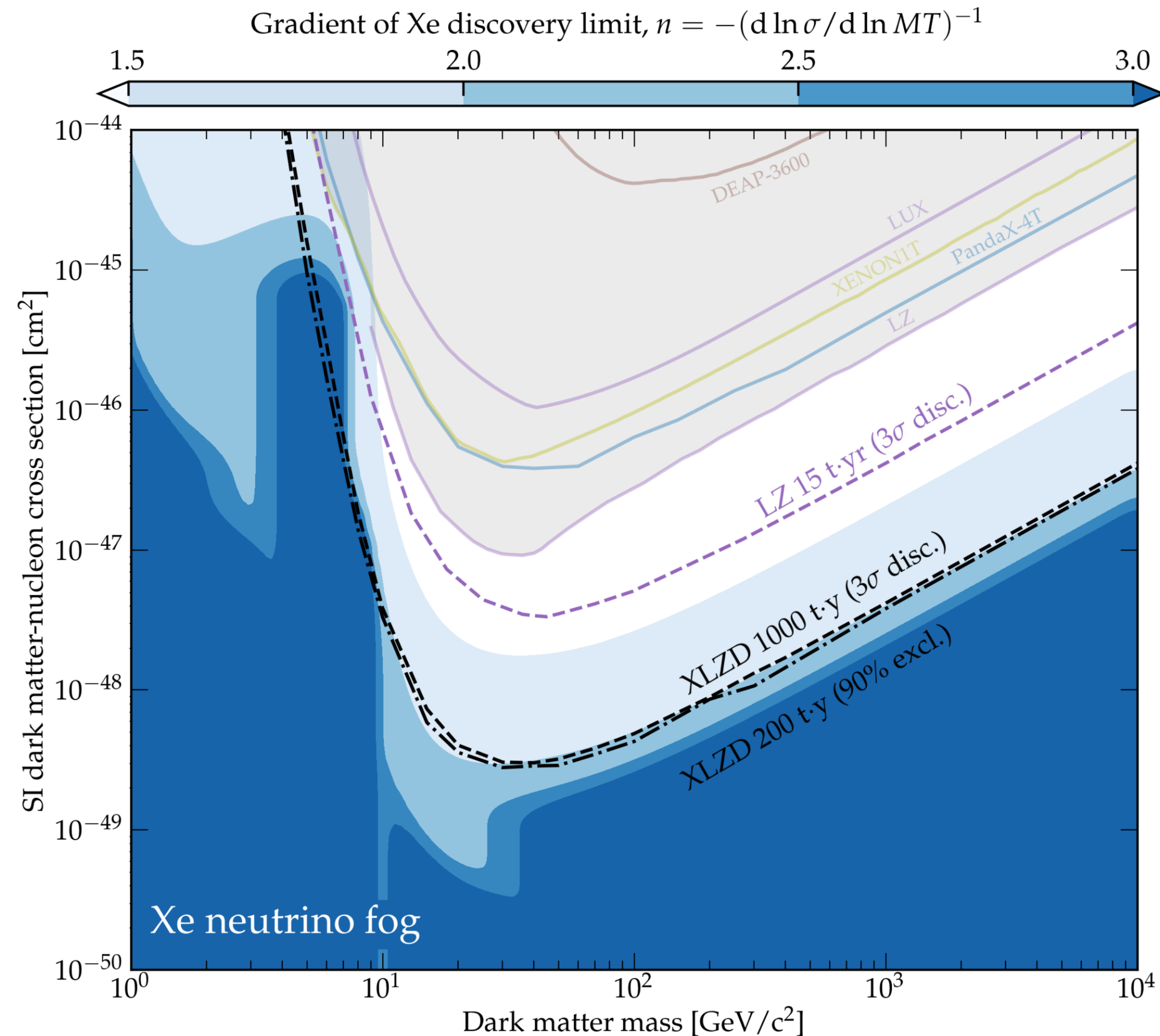
# XLZD Detector

- Design for Discovery into the neutrino fog
  - a detector that drives the full consortium to come together
- 60t active 1:1 aspect ratio at (300cm)
  - Xe acquisition may drive stages or final scale
  - also considering 40 t and 80 t options
- Engineer for access
  - risk mitigation and opportunity for growth



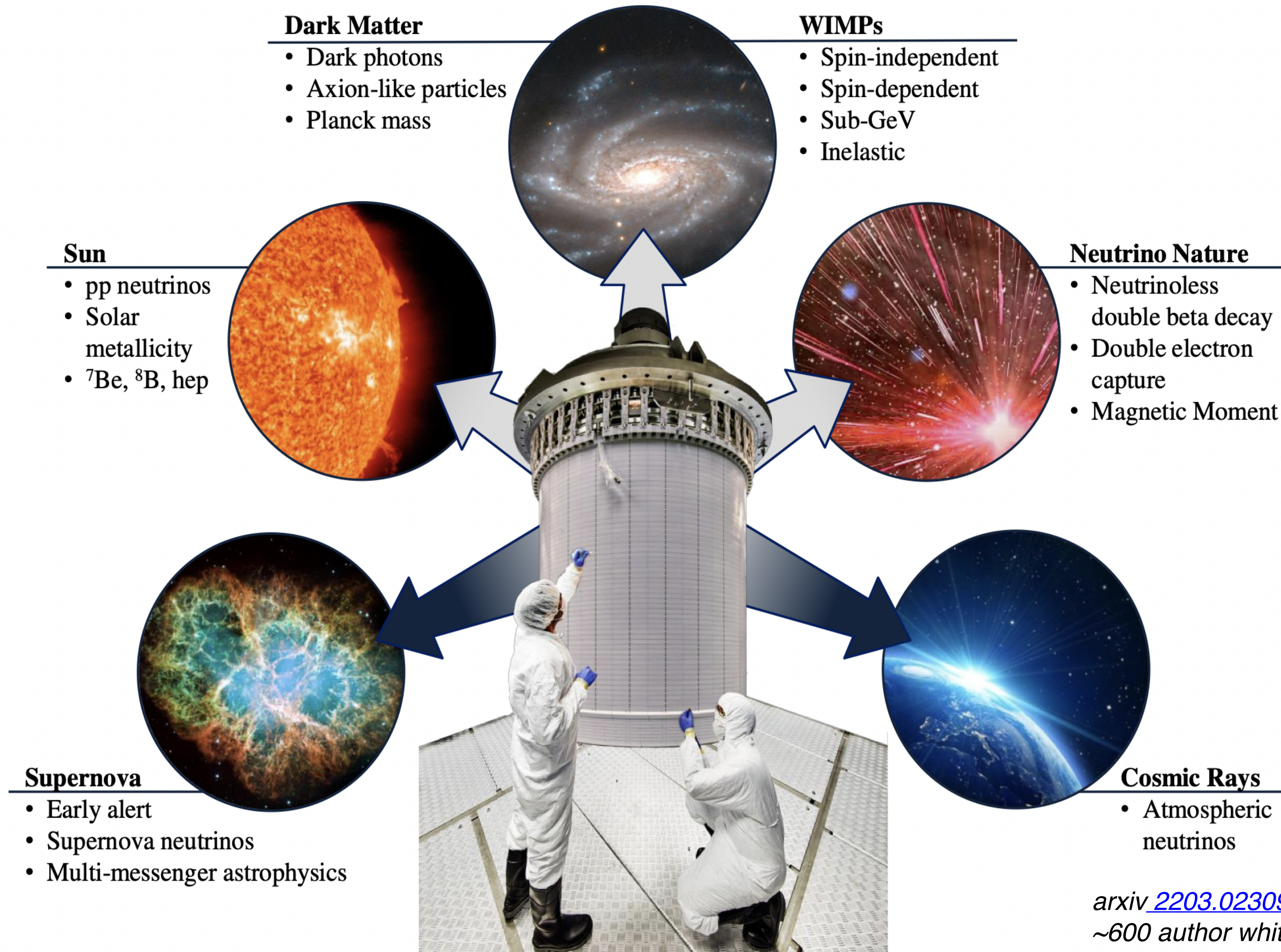


# XLZD DM Sensitivity





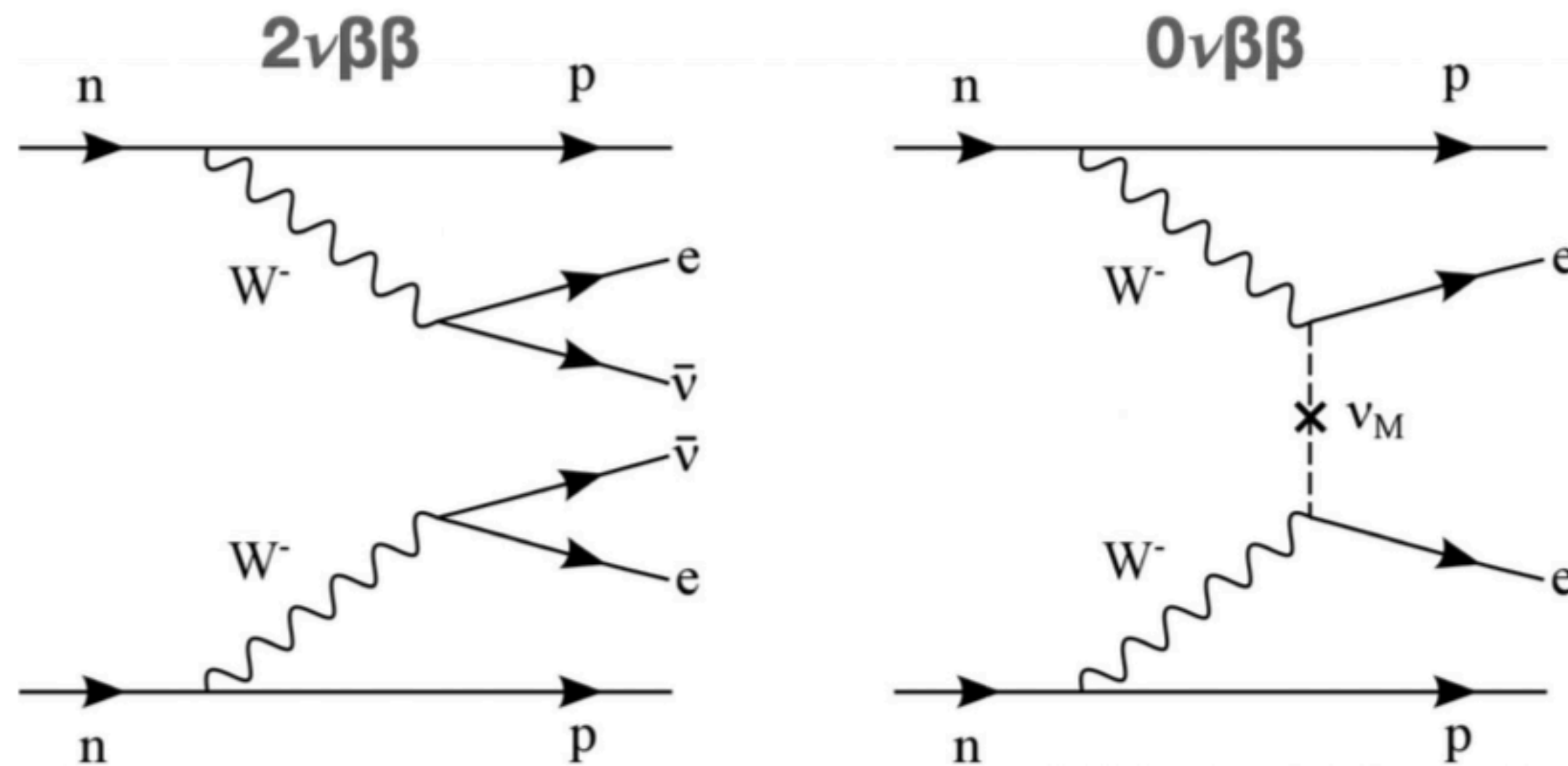
# XLZD Science



arxiv [2203.02309](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.02309) / J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys.  
~600 author whitepaper on the science reach



# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay



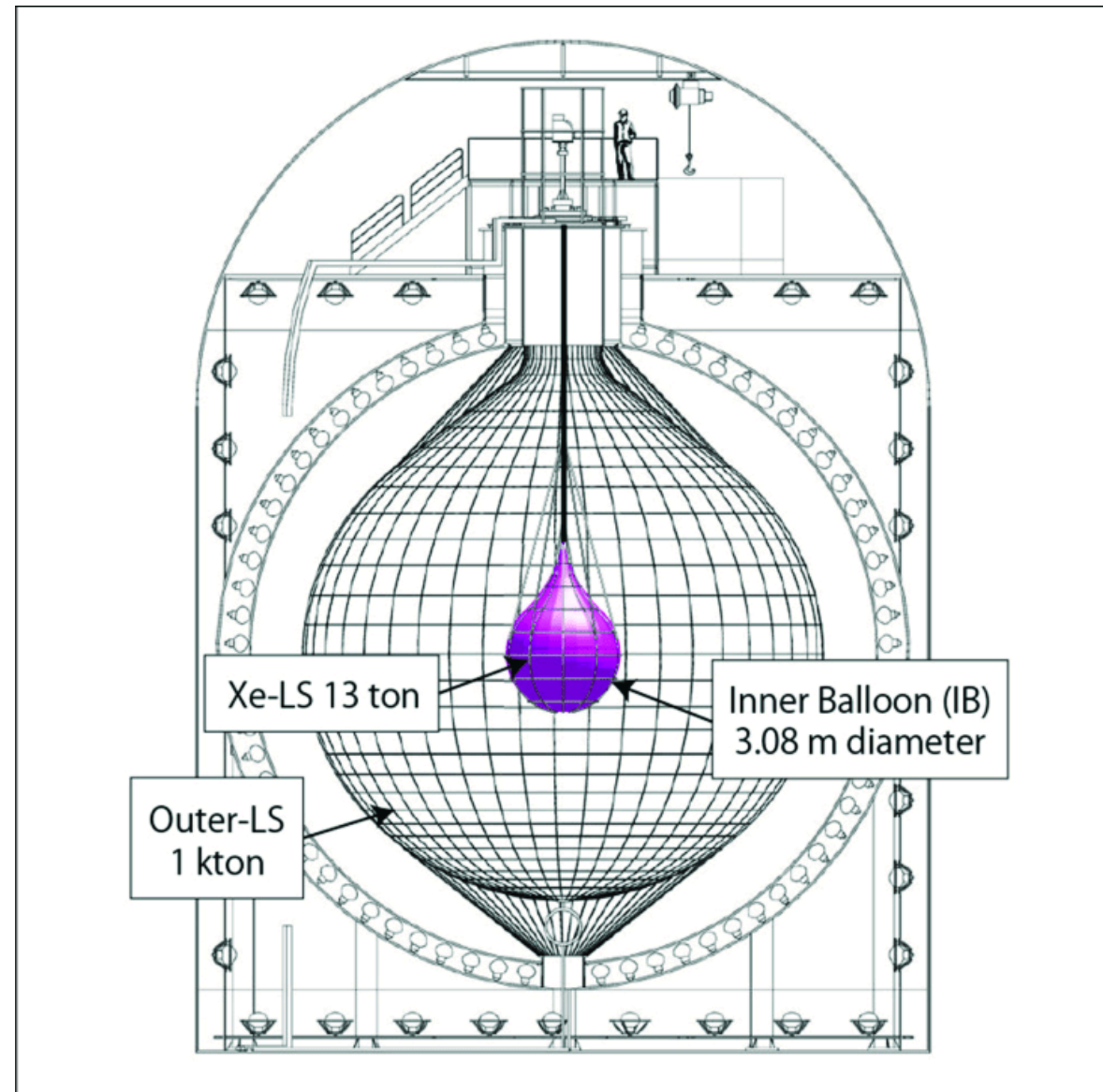
D. Moore's Morning Plenary

- Standard Double beta decay occurs when single beta decay is forbidden or suppressed
  - Confirmed in 14 isotopes
- Neutrinoless double beta decay can occur if neutrinos are Majorana particles
  - Beyond the standard model process, yet unobserved, linked to matter/antimatter asymmetry

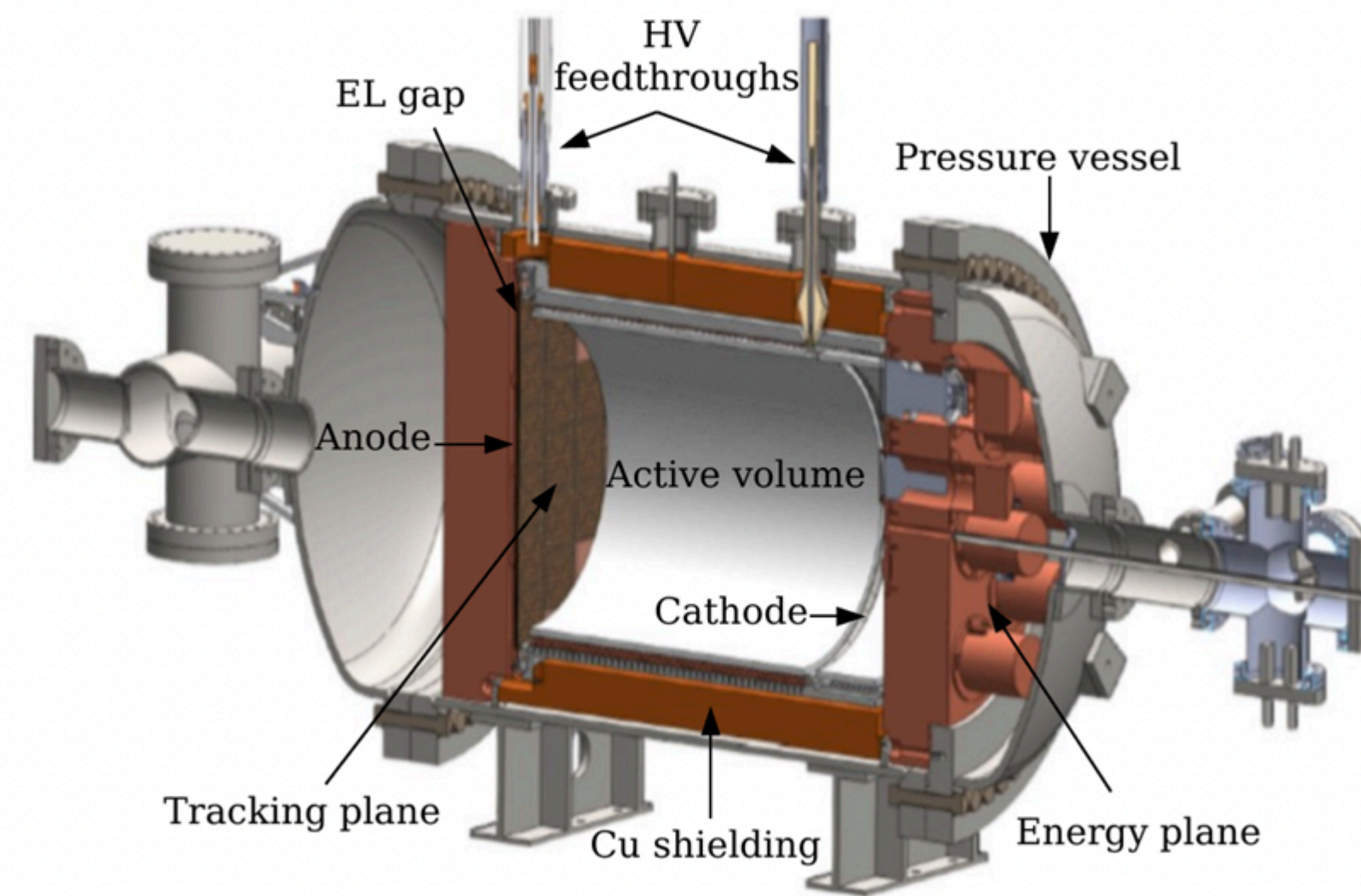


# $^{136}\text{Xe } 0\nu\text{bb}$

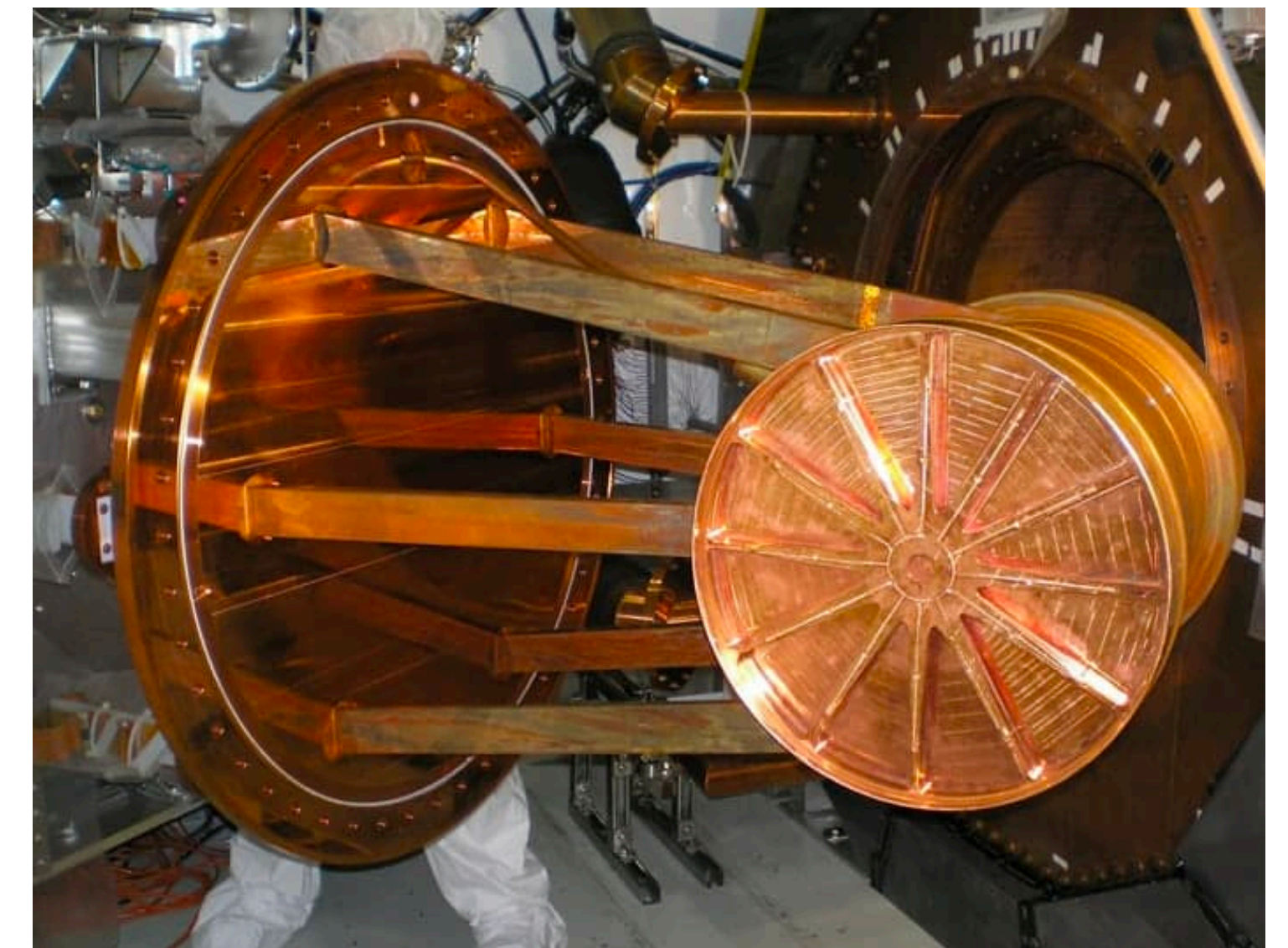
- $^{136}\text{Xe}$  is a  $0\nu\text{bb}$  candidate with a natural abundance of 8.9%
- Past and future experiments, many dedicated to  $0\nu\text{bb}$ 
  - Future detectors could tag the Barium daughter
- World leading limit from KamLAND-Zen  $T_{1/2} > 2.3 \times 10^{26}$  yr



**KamLAND-ZEN**



**NEXT-White**



**EXO-200**



# $0\nu\beta\beta$ in XLZD

- My personal wording of our approach
  - If we are careful and pay attention to details from siting, detector design, materials choices etc, how sensitive can XLZD be to  $^{136}\text{Xe}$   $0\nu\beta\beta$ ?
  - The primary physics driver for XLZD is the WIMP search and discovery capability to the neutrino fog, but with modest investment, can we also improve our sensitivity  $0\nu\beta\beta$ ?
- Format of this discussion:
  - Energy resolution
  - Backgrounds (detector materials, intrinsic, activation)
  - Current sensitivity projections and decision impacts

Studies presented here from:



**Alex Lindote**  
**LIP Coimbra**

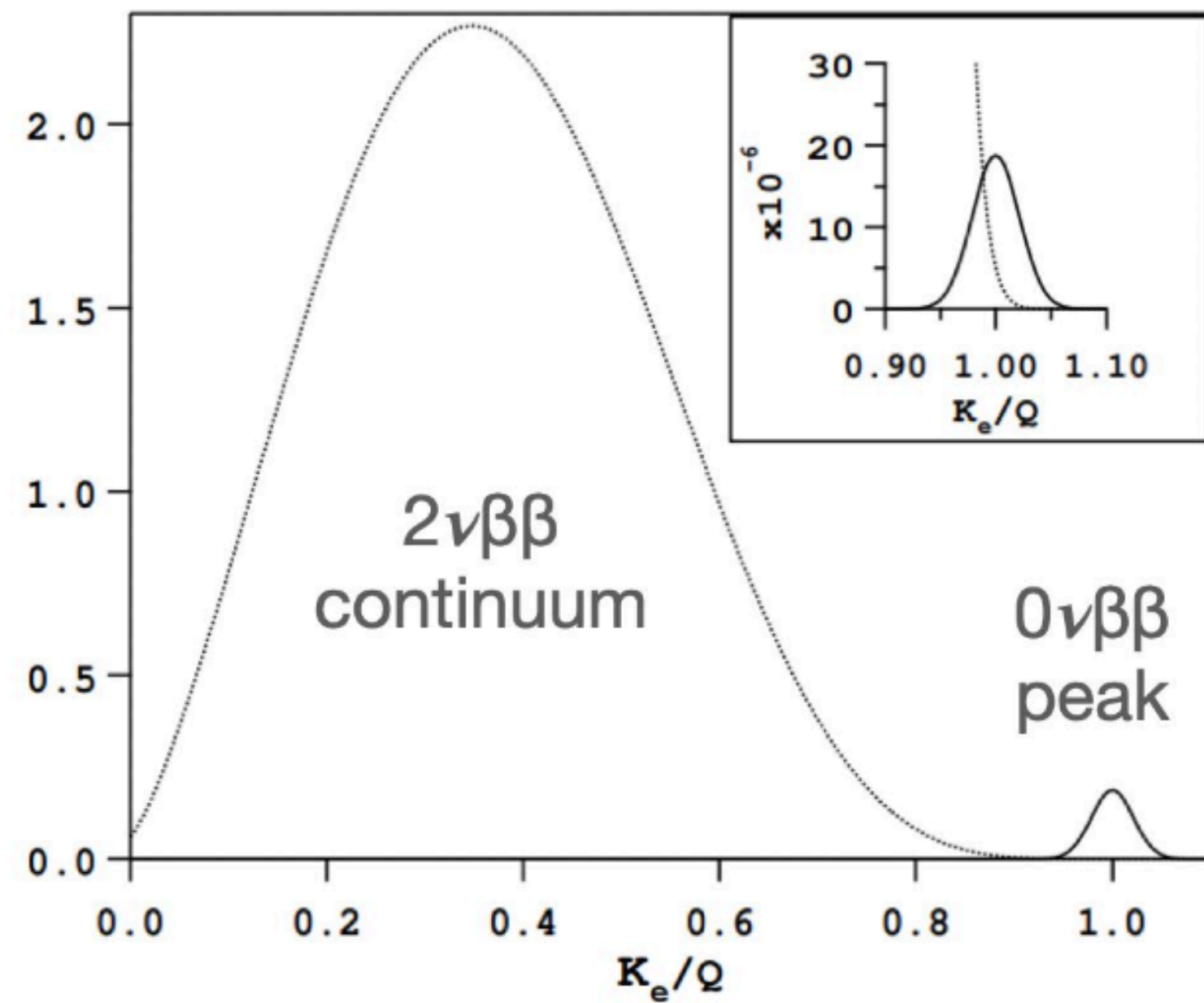


**Fabian Kuger**  
**formerly Freiburg**

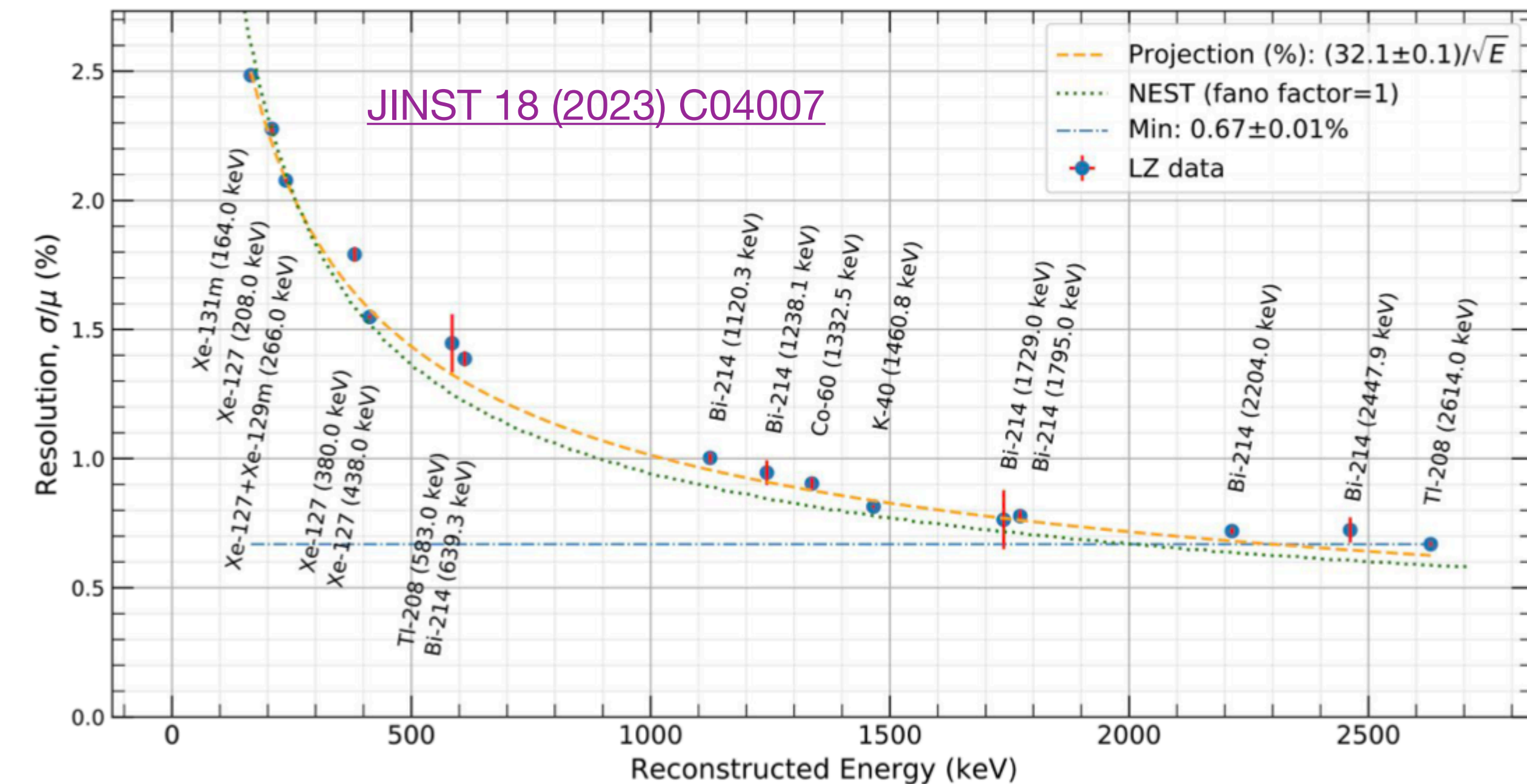
**Collaboration, advice, and engagement with  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experts is wonderful!**



# Energy Resolution



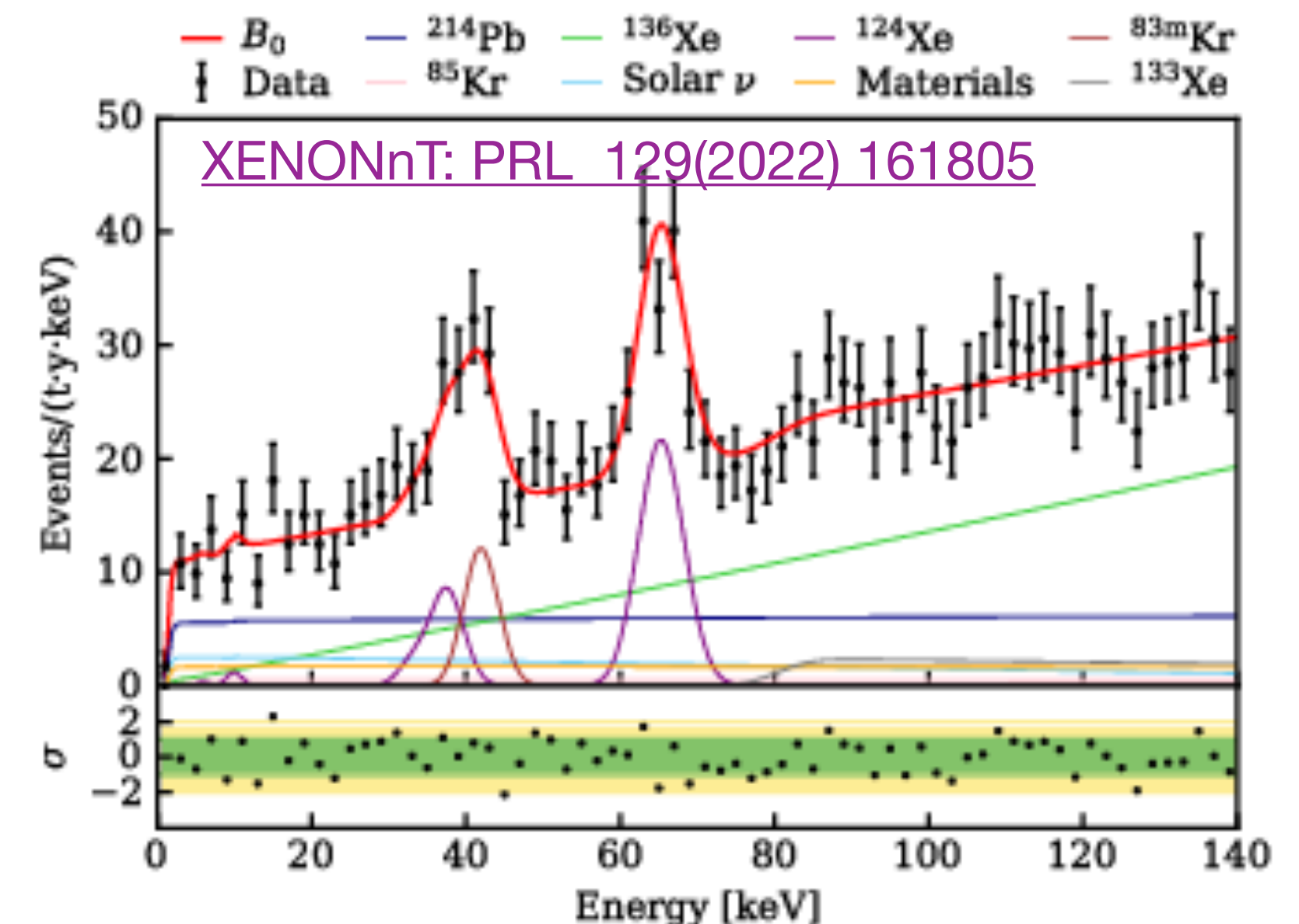
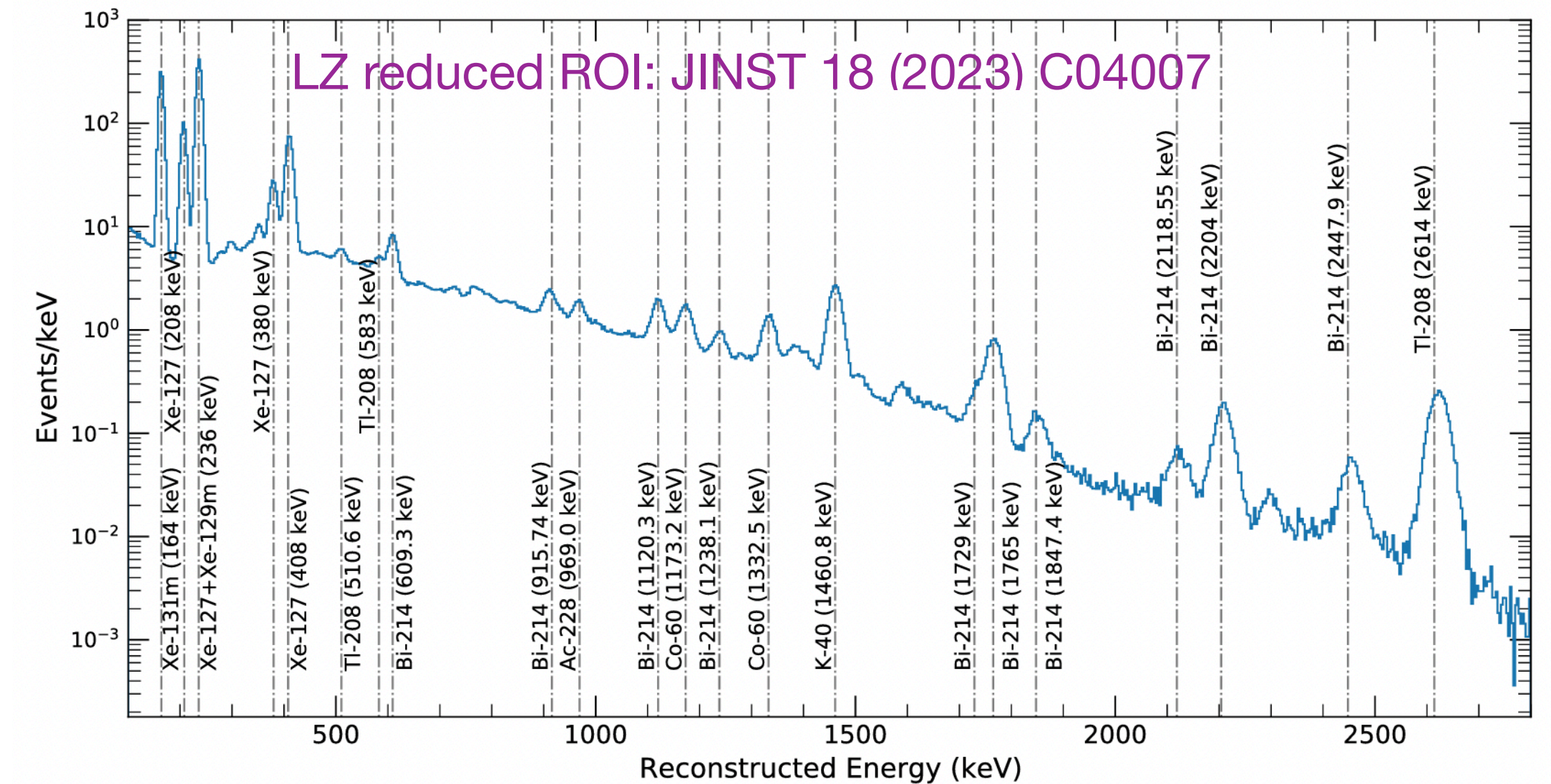
- At  $Q = 2458$  keV
- Assume 0.65%, LZ has demonstrated .67% energy resolution
- requires 3D position-based corrections to scintillation and ionization signals
- $\pm 1\sigma$  defined ROI around  $Q$  value: 33 keV wide





# Detector Backgrounds

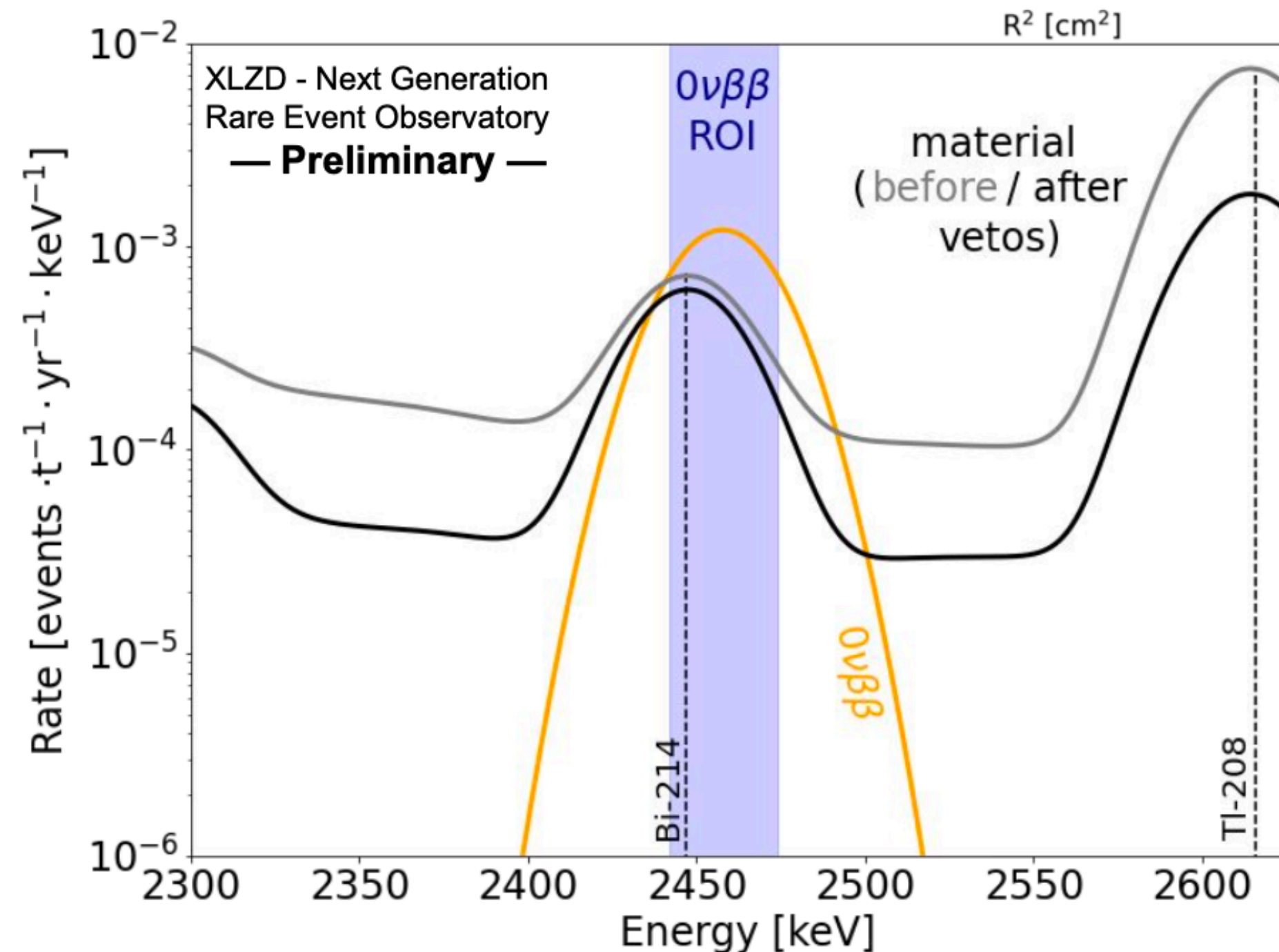
- Build upon successes of current detectors
- High energy Gammas
  - LZ radioactivity control  
PRD 108(2023) 012010
- Radon removal
  - XENONnT Rn down to  $0.8 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$
  - total events  $15.8 \pm 1.3 \text{ ev}/(\text{t y keV})$
- Analysis of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$   $2\nu\text{bb}$  spectrum shape not yet explored





# Veto Detectors

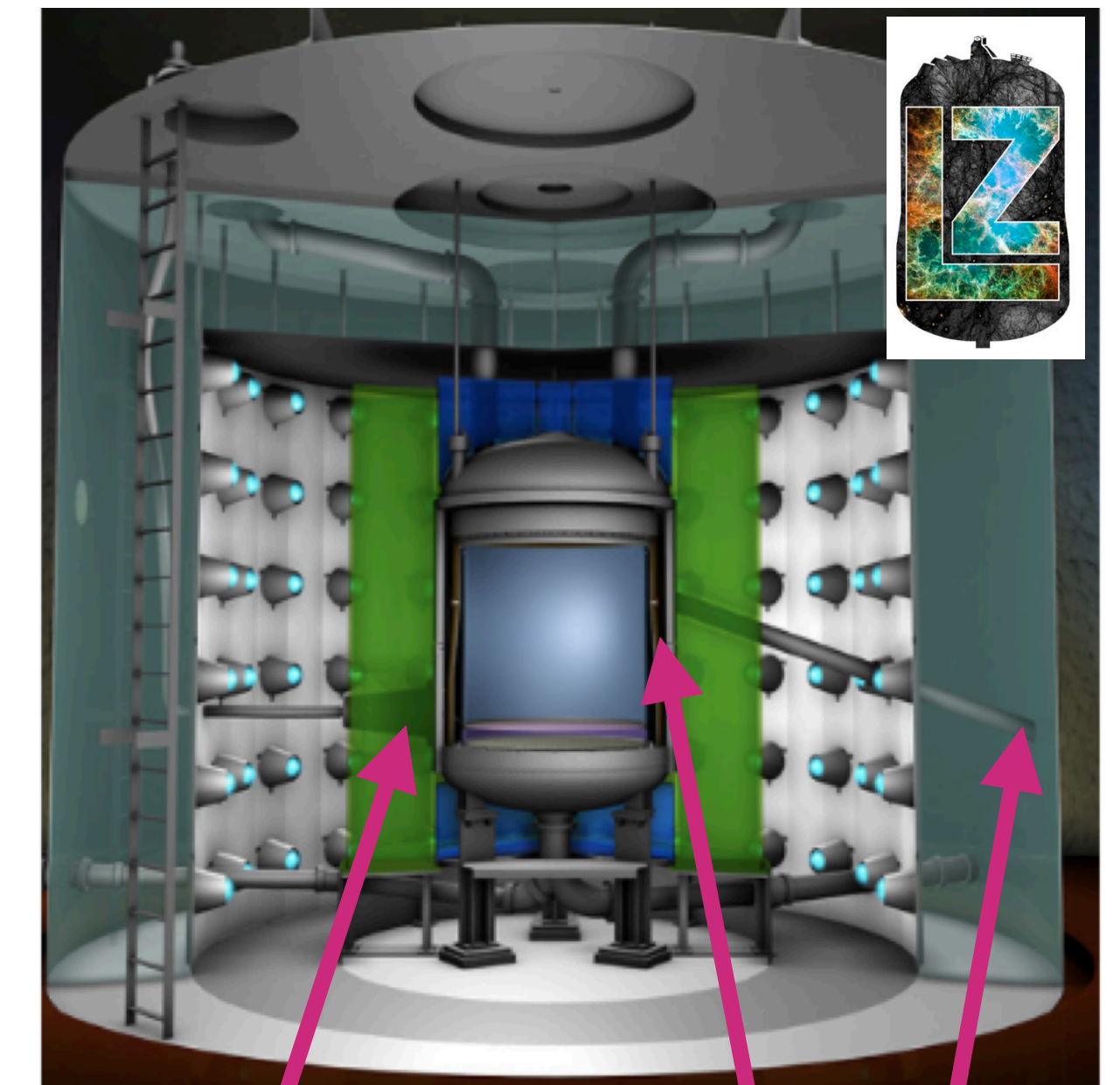
- Nested veto detectors provide shielding and background tagging
- 12 m diameter tank to shield against cavern gammas
- Gammas from detector materials near the TPC
  - $^{214}\text{Bi}$   $\gamma$  from  $^{238}\text{U}$  chain (2447 keV)
  - $^{208}\text{Tl}$   $\gamma$  from  $^{232}\text{Th}$  chain (2615 keV)
- Xe self-shielding is also key, optimized  $0\nu\beta\beta$  FV used, not WIMP FV, benefit from larger detectors



External BG spectrum in the XLZD (60 t) fiducial volume

$0\nu\beta\beta$  signal with  $T_{1/2} = 5 \times 10^{27}$  yr

- Instrumented Xe skin + OD allows for tagging of the coincident gammas or Compton scatters from  $^{208}\text{Tl}$  2615 keV, reducing the bkgds by >80% (70% reduction skin alone)

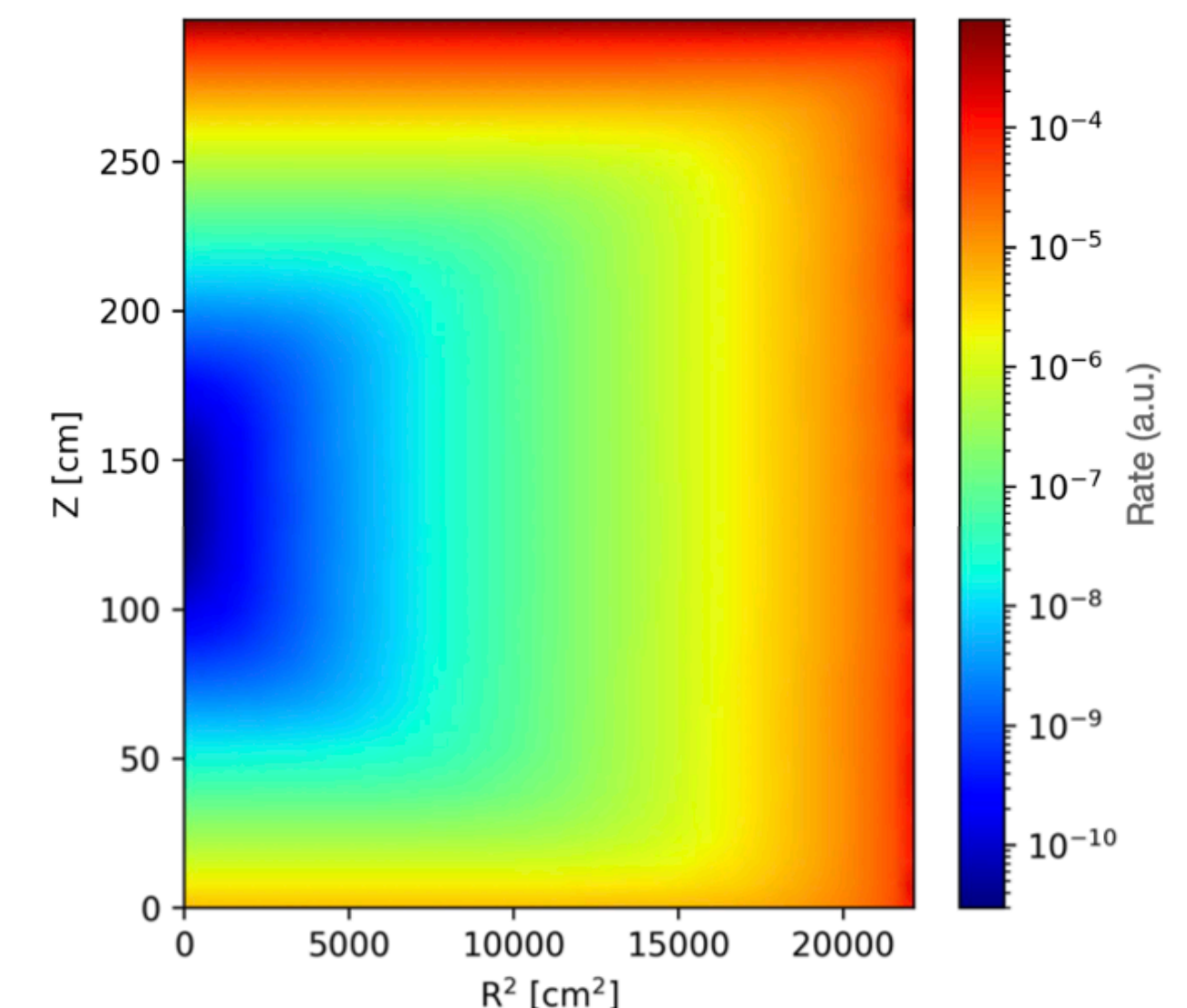


Xe skin

OD: Gd LS

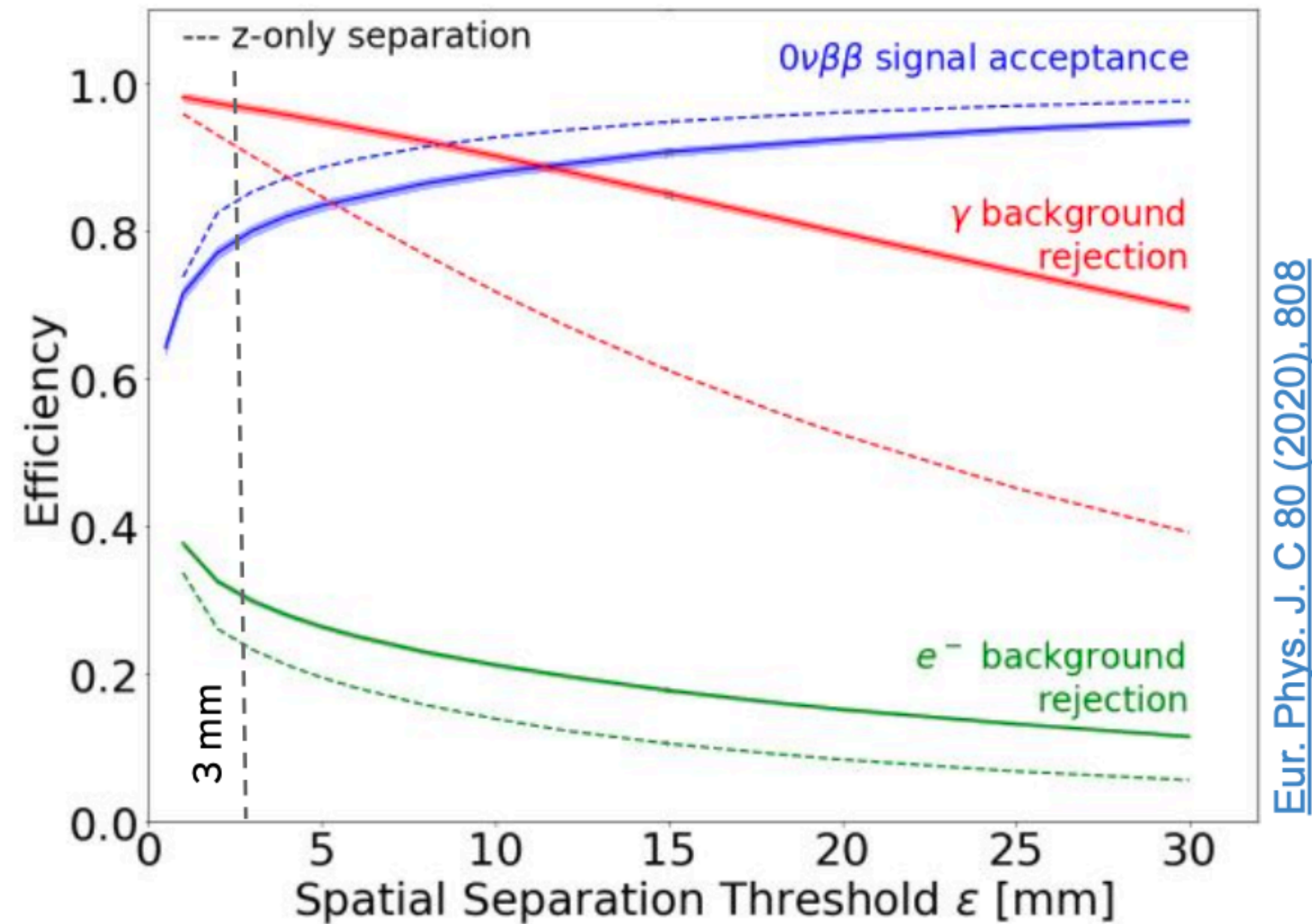
Water shielding

Example  $\gamma$  SS BG ROI rate in a 60 t TPC

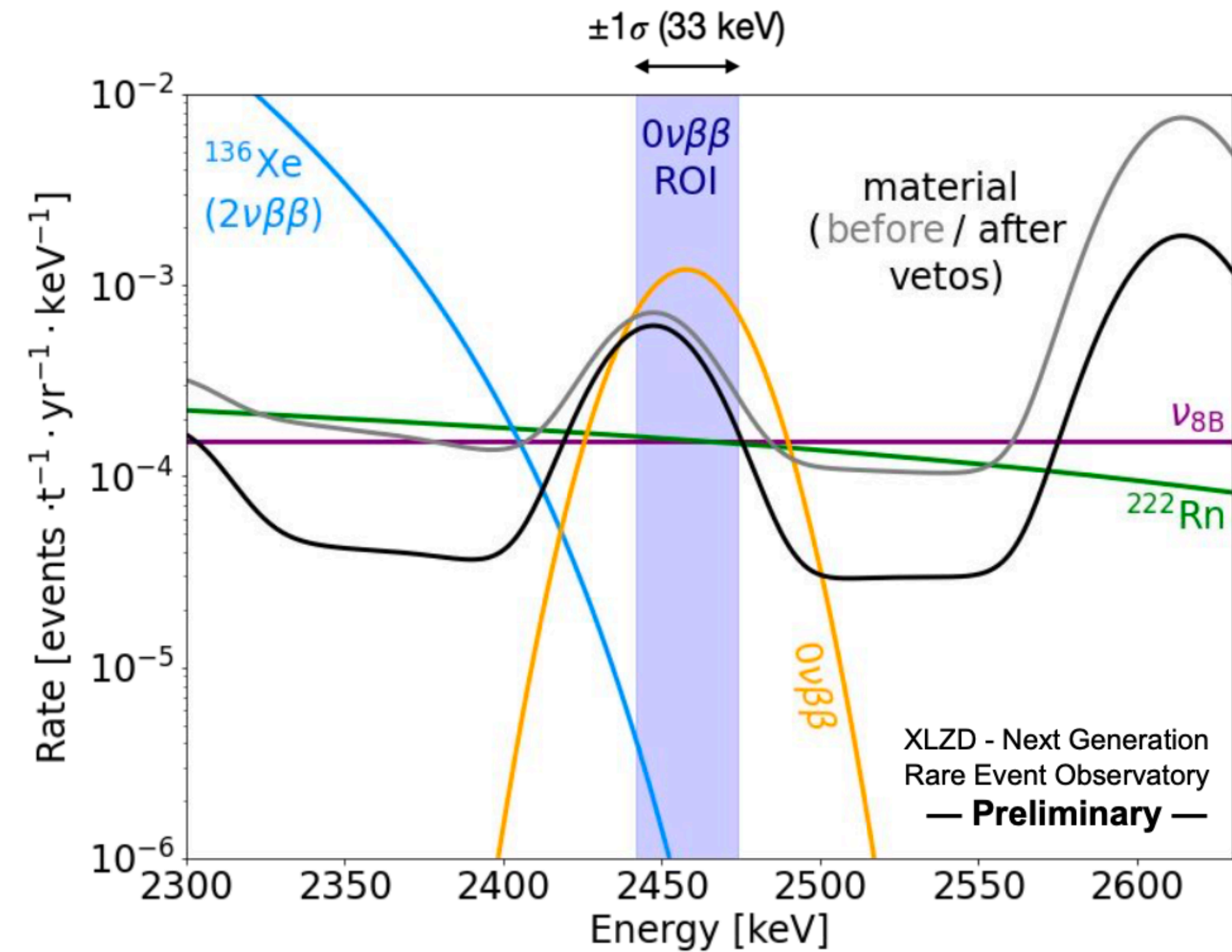




# Multiple Scatters and Intrinsic Backgrounds



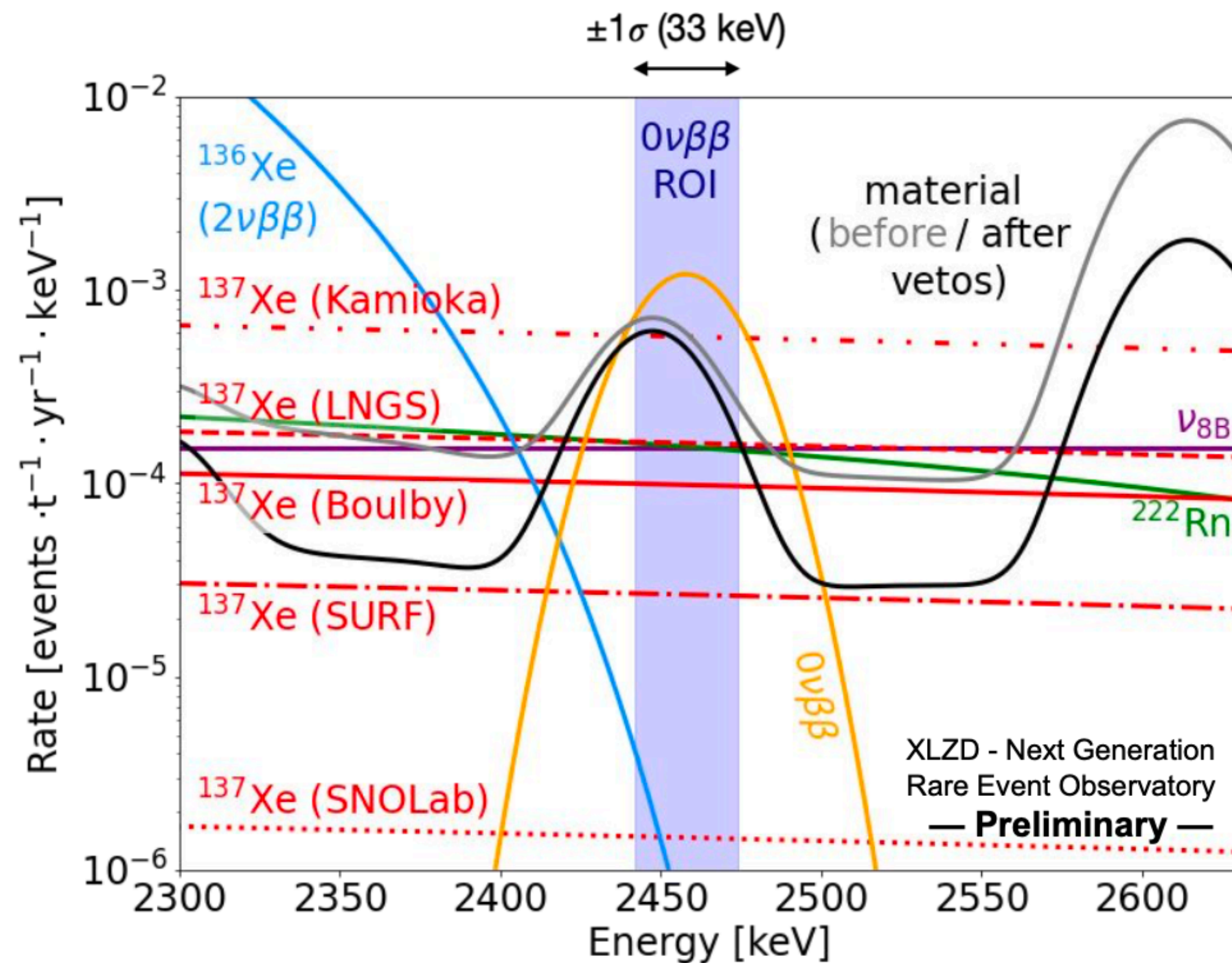
- Multiple scatters reduce the gamma and single electron (bremsstrahlung) backgrounds
  - $0\nu\beta\beta$  will appear as single scatter
- 3 mm vertical separation threshold used



- Uniform across volume, mostly flat spectra
- $^{222}\text{Rn}$  at  $0.1 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$  ( $\sim 10\%$  of current)
- BiPo tagging of  $\alpha > 99.95\%$
- Small contribution from  $^{136}\text{Xe } 2\nu\beta\beta$



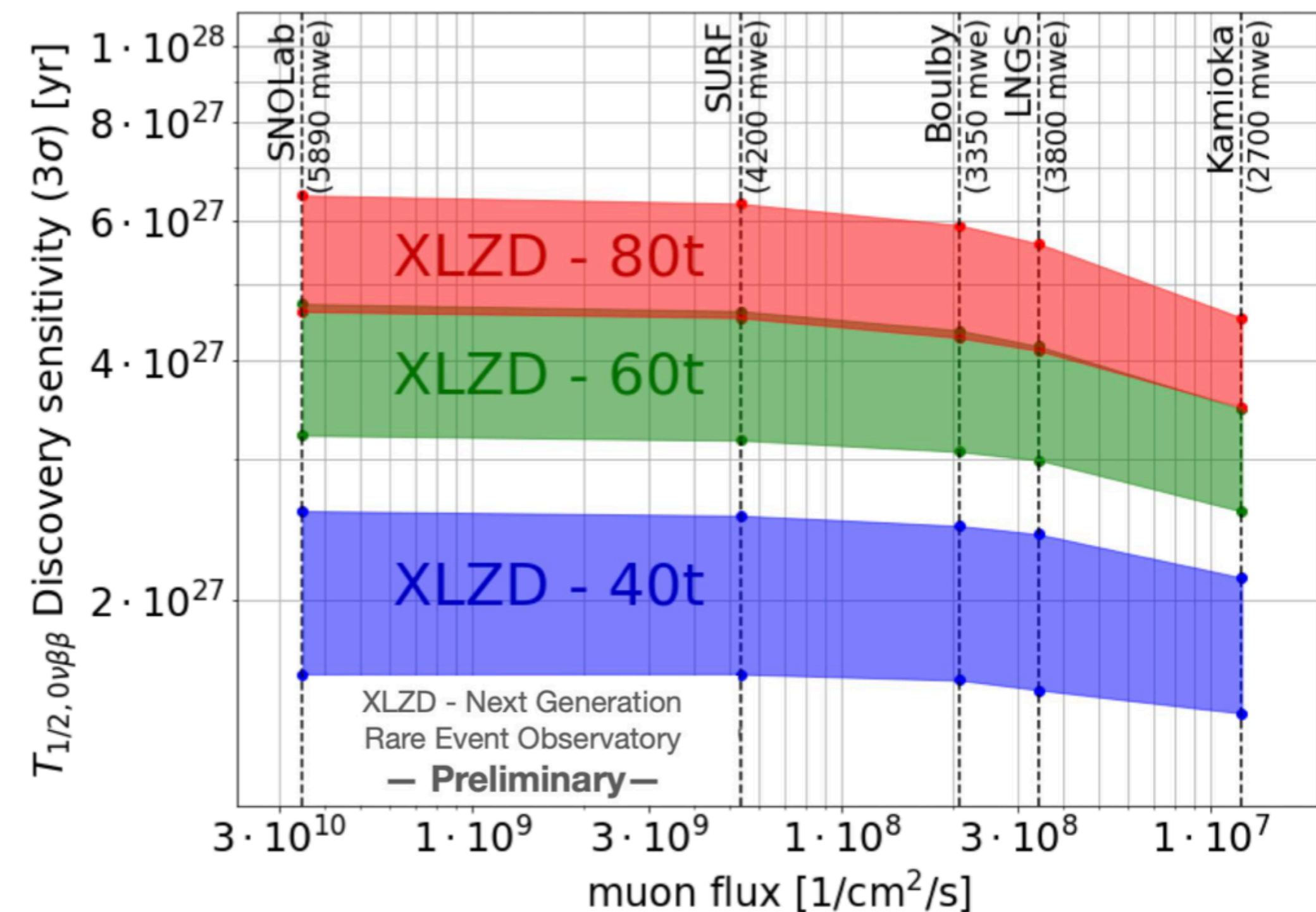
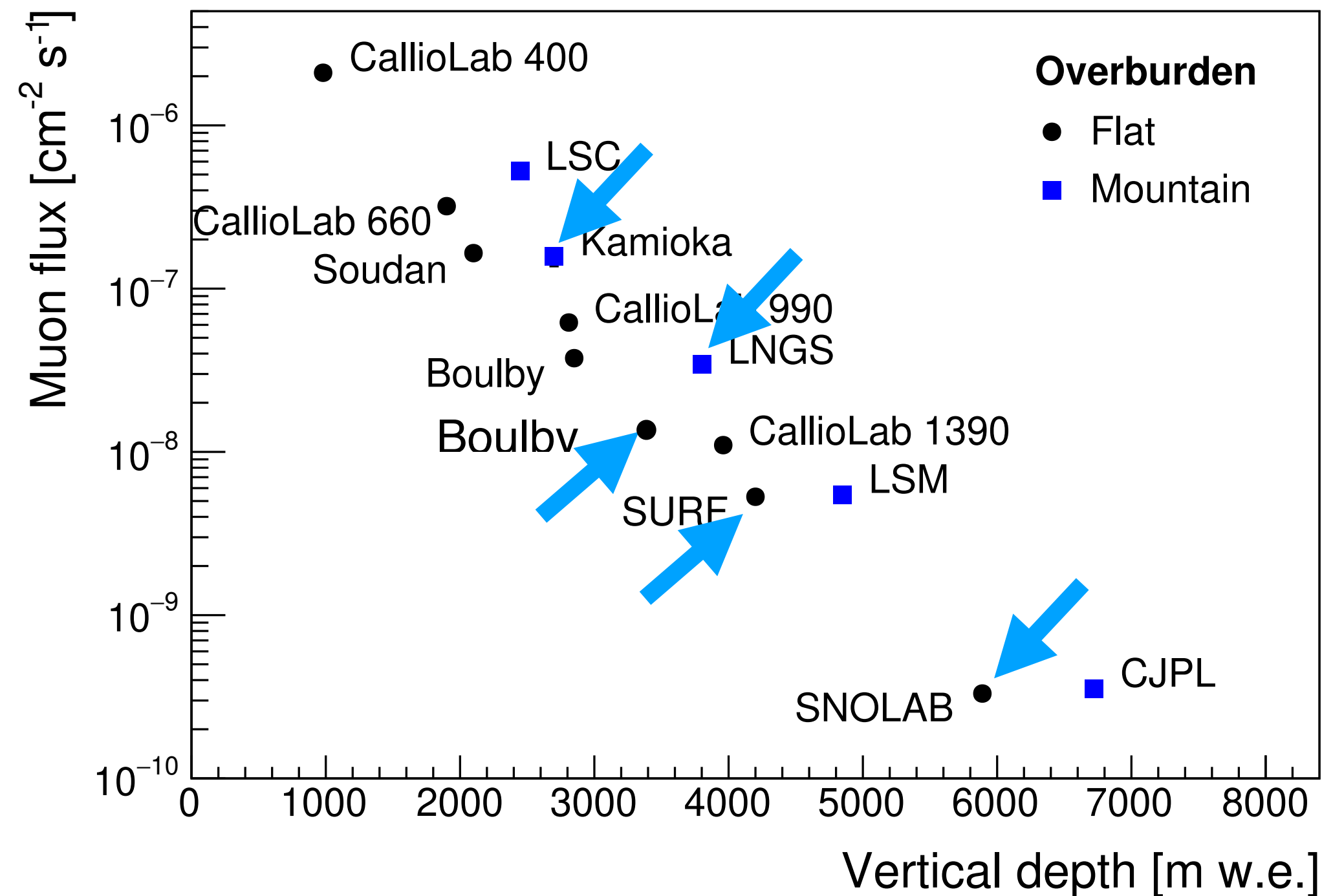
# Cosmogenic Activation



- Primarily concerned with  $^{137}\text{Xe}$  (beta decay with  $Q=4162$  keV)
- Muon-induced neutrons capture on  $^{136}\text{Xe}$
- Lab depth dependent
- Estimates from the DARWIN muon studies [arXiv:2306.1634](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.1634)
- Xenon in purification/circulation system should also have neutron shielding, or shielded delayed re-feed



# Laboratory Location



- XLZD is evaluating 5 UG laboratories, XLZD science-driven Siting Report due this autumn
- Siting decision expected in ~2025, likely made above the pay grade of researchers



# Studying XLZD $0\nu\beta\beta$ Sensitivity

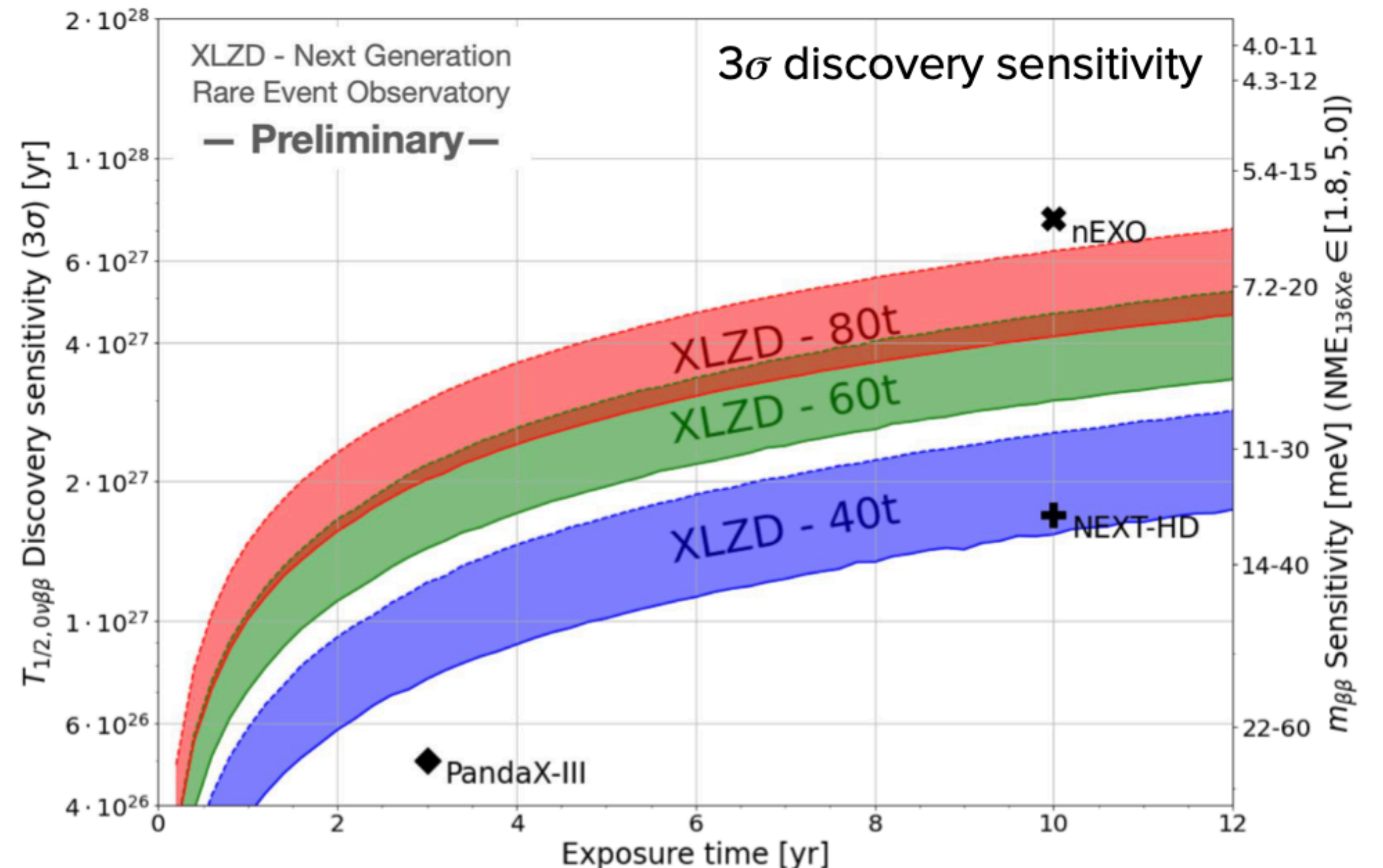
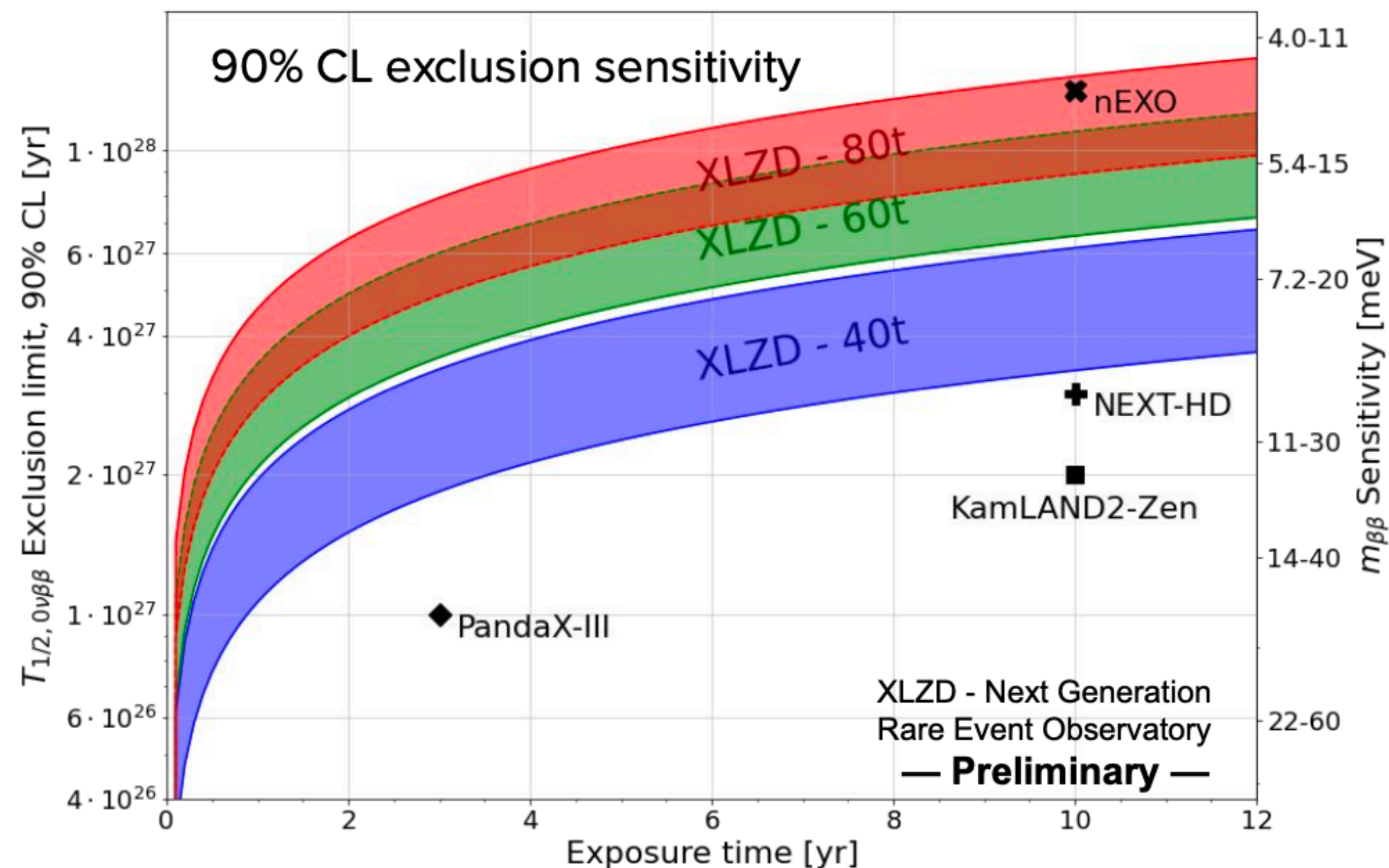
- Study all 3 detector geometries, and provide baseline and progressive input parameter curves for each
- Materials gamma backgrounds use the LZ detector materials background budget, but mitigate non-PMT sources
- Gamma attenuation is studied with a semi-analytical toy model (verified against LZ and DARWIN simulations) to quantify backgrounds surviving vetos and Multiple Scattering cuts
- Rn reduction and BiPo tagging
- Site muon rates range from  $2.58 \times 10^{-8}$  muons/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (LNGS) to  $6.16 \times 10^{-9}$  muons/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (SURF)

Parameter	Baseline	Progressive
External gamma flux (% of LZ)	30	10
Energy resolution (%)	0.65	0.6
Vertical SS/MS discrimination (mm)	3	2
BiPo tagging efficiency @ 0.1 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$ $^{222}\text{Rn}$ (%)	99.95	99.99
Installation site	LNGS	SURF

- Studied in multiple optimized FV shells (not yet PLR)
- FV of baseline (progressive) models for each active mass, assume natural abundance of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  (8.9%)
  - 6 (7) t FV for 40 t (progressive 0.6 t  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )
  - 9 (12) t FV for 60 t (progressive 1.1 t  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )
  - 15 (18) t FV for 80 t (progressive 1.6 t  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )
- 90% C.L. and  $3\sigma$  discovery following method of [PRD 96 \(2017\) 053001](#)



# Projected XLZD $0\nu\beta\beta$ Sensitivity



Rev Mod Phys 95 (2023) 025002

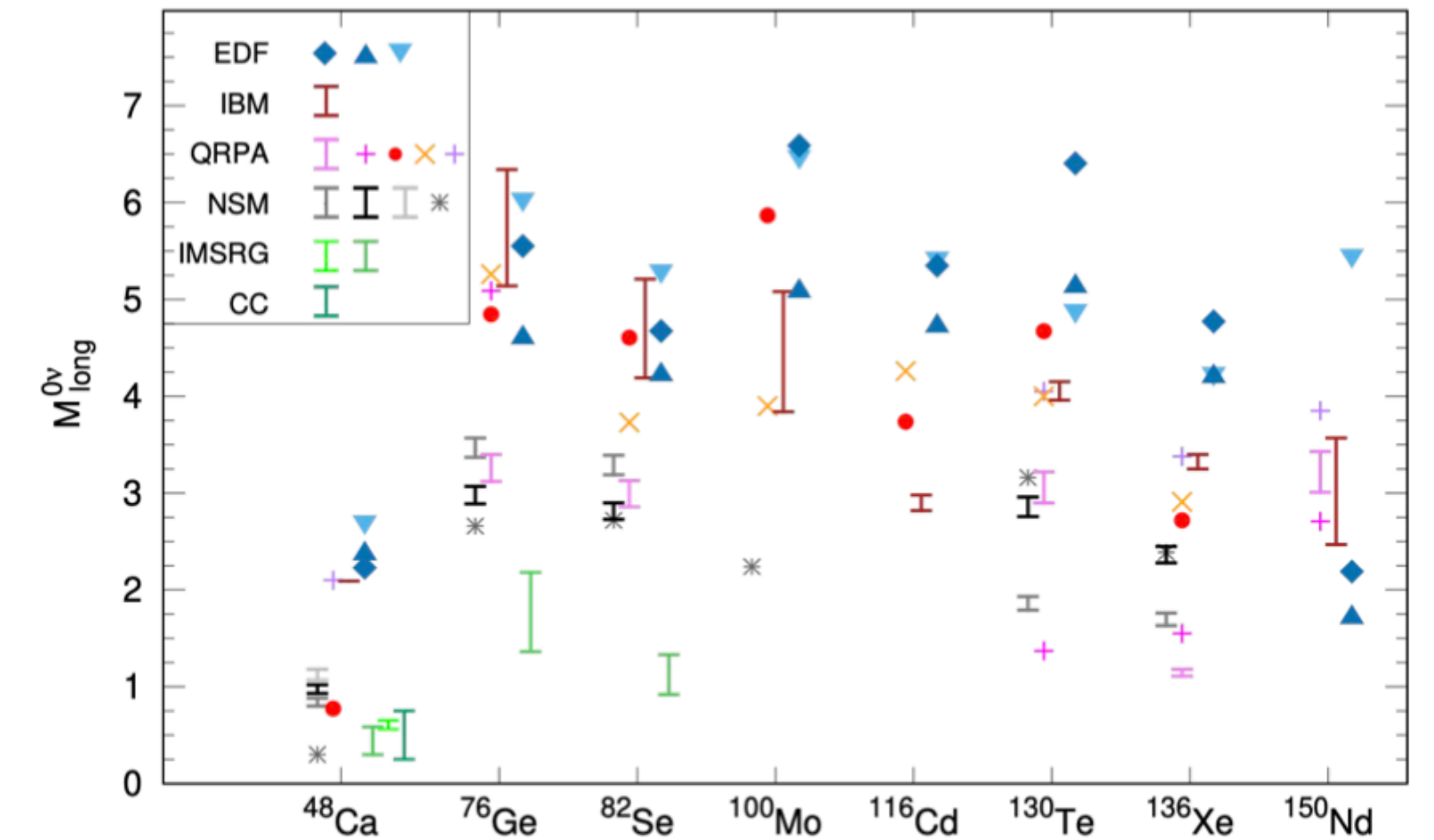
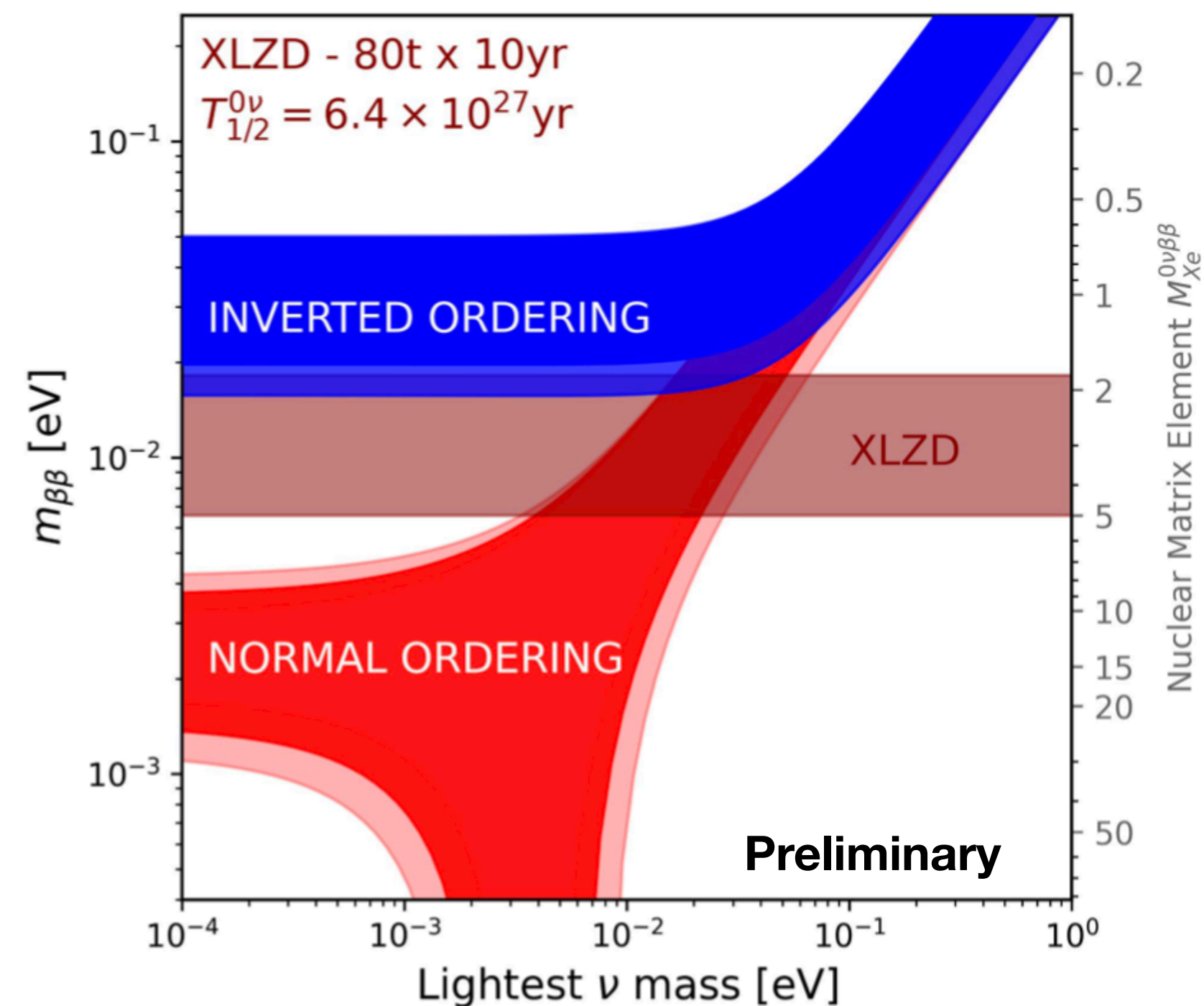
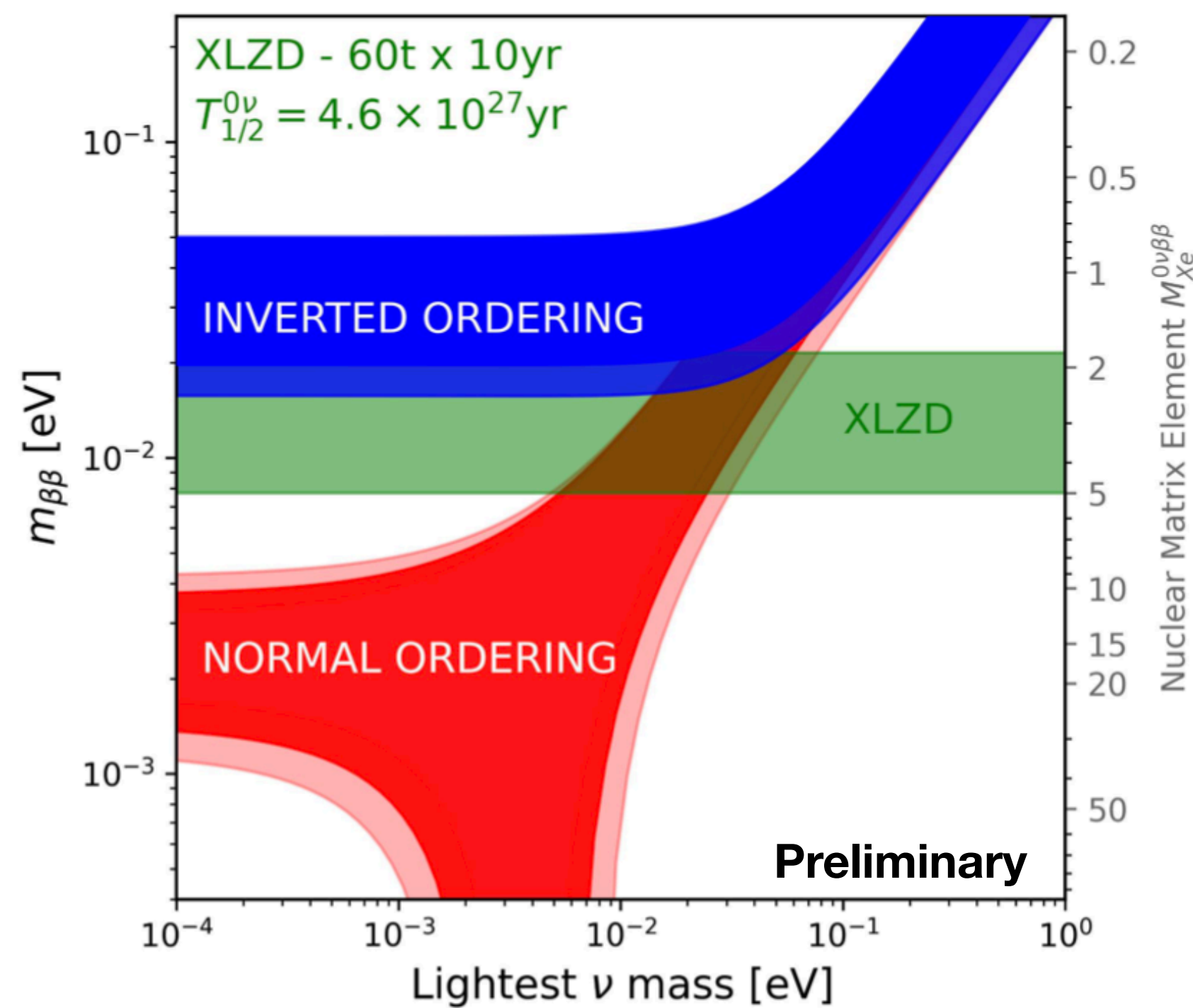
nEXO: JPhys G 49 (2022) 015104

NEXT-HD: JHEP 08 (2021) 164



# XLZD Majorana Mass Reach

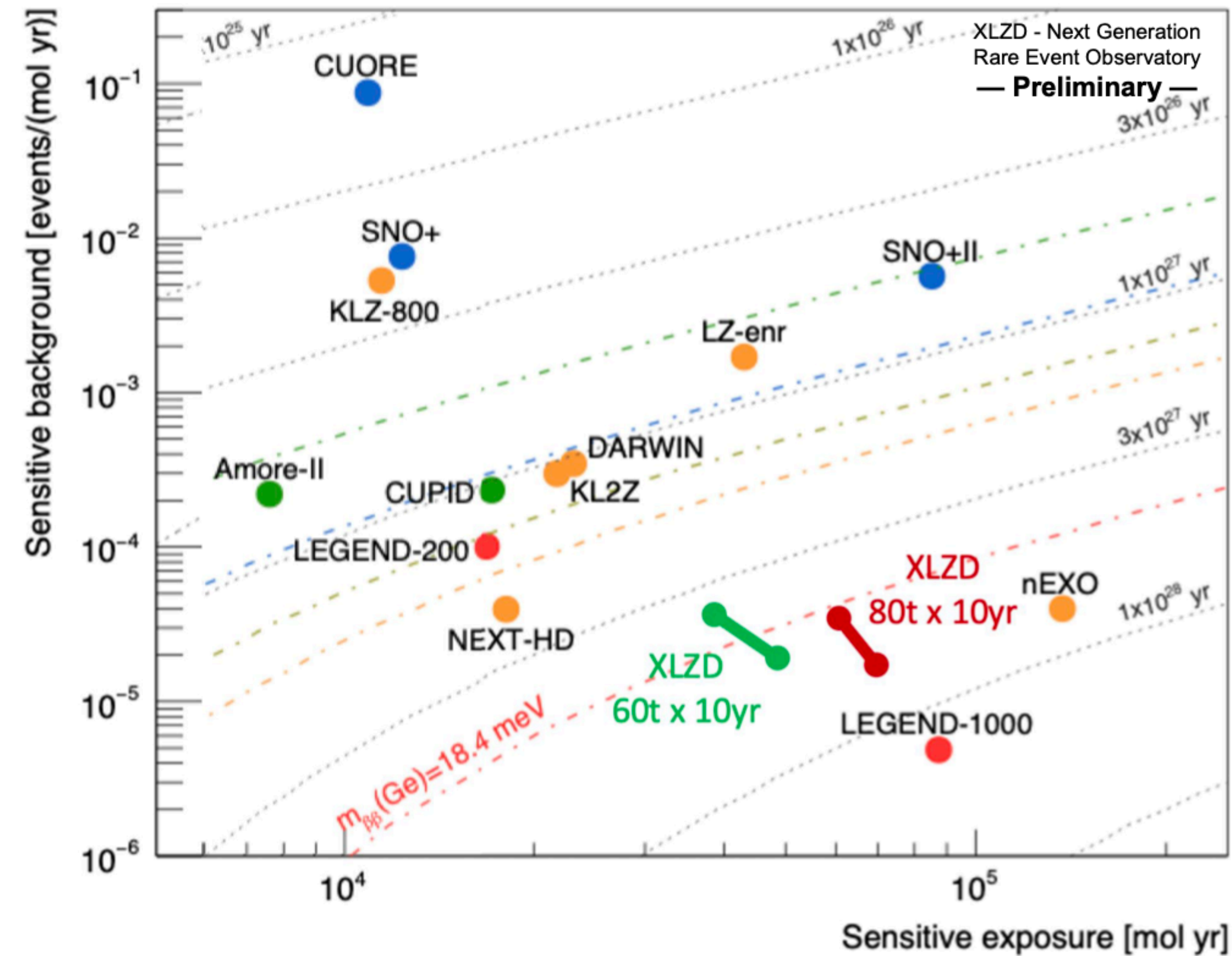
$$\left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu}\right)^{-1} = G^{0\nu} |\mathcal{M}^{0\nu}|^2 \frac{\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2}{m_e^2}$$



The Majorana mass is highly dependent on the nuclear matrix model



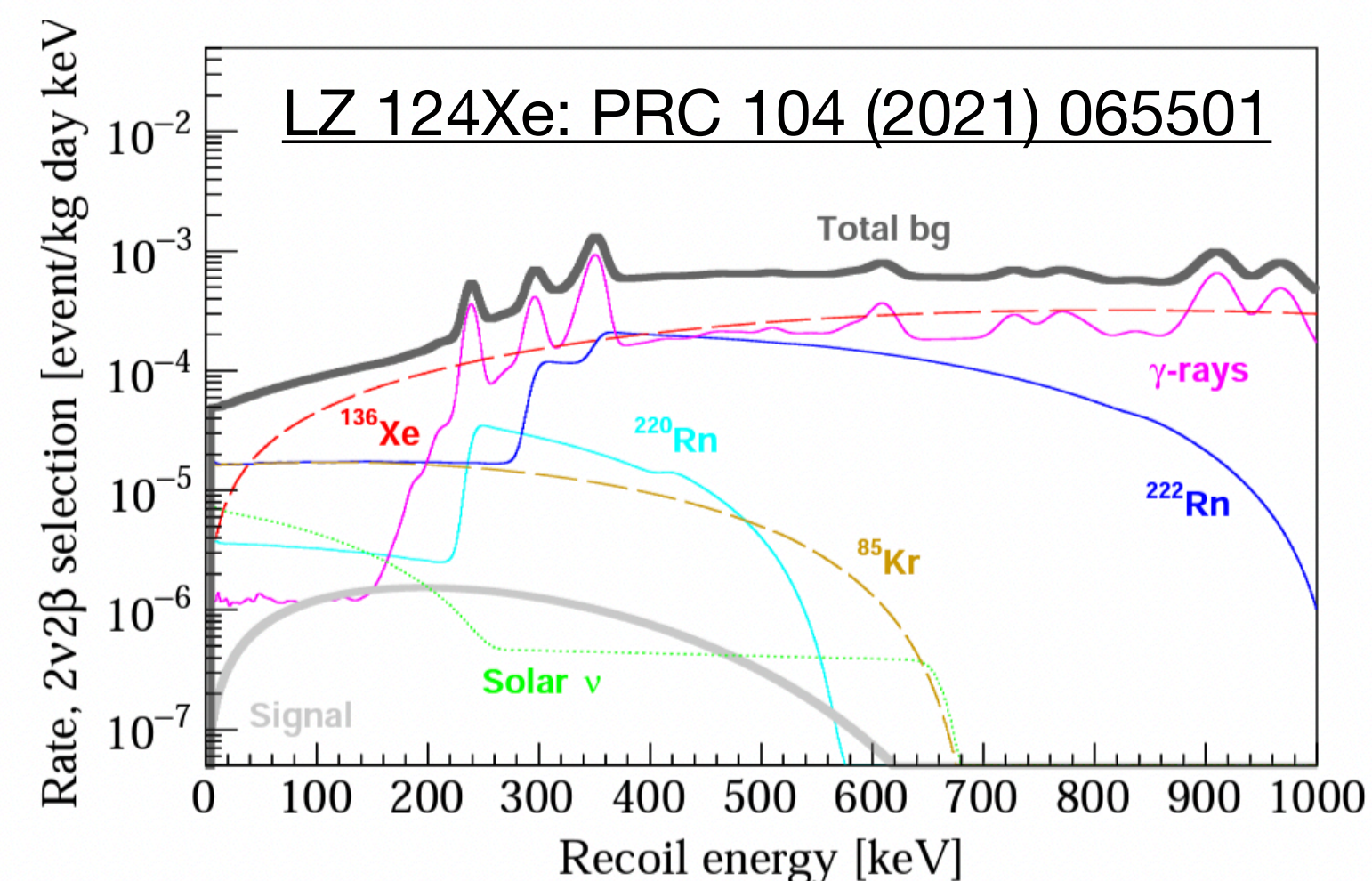
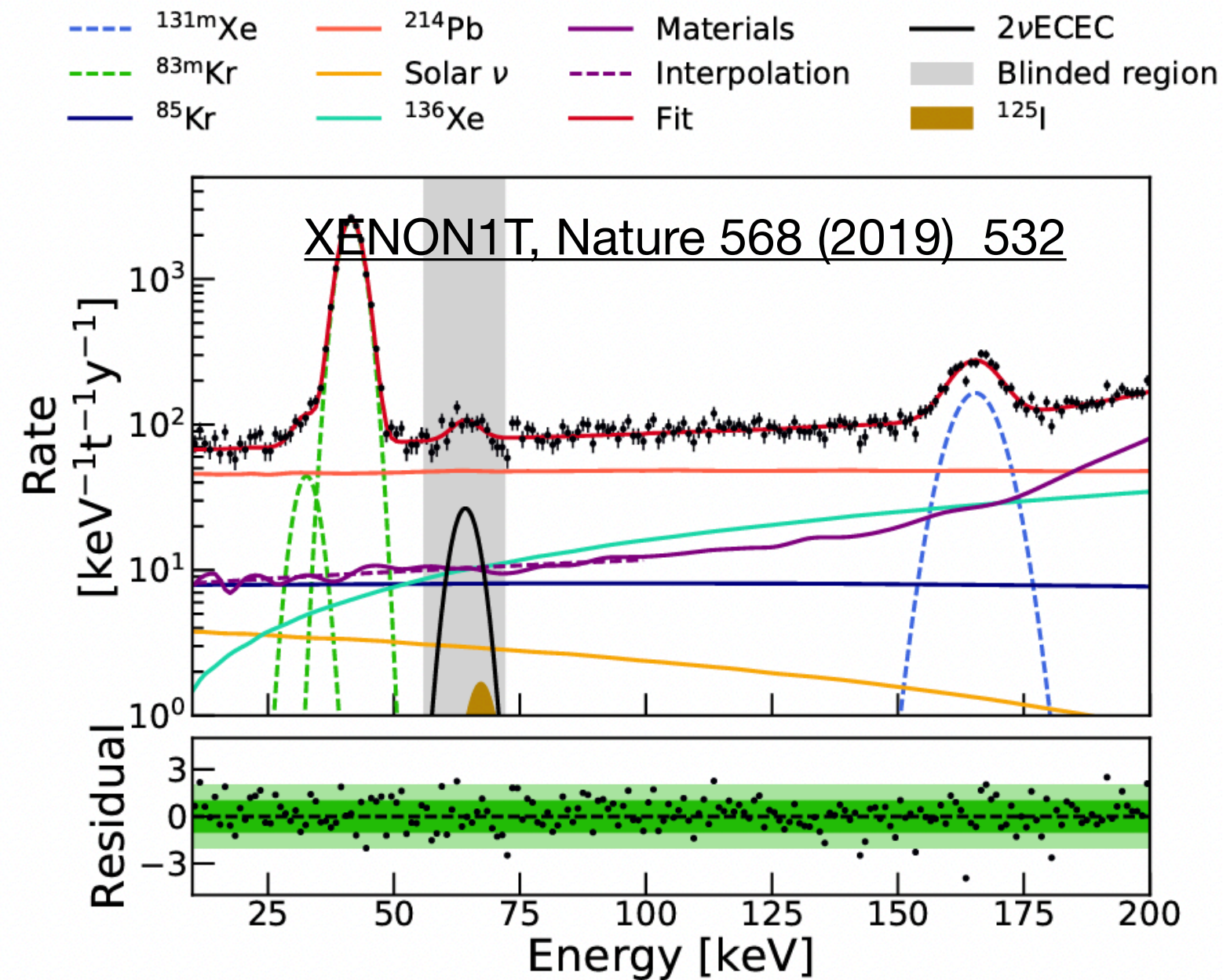
# Sensitive Exposure



Adding XLZD to the overview plot from [Rev Mod Phys 95 \(2023\) 025002](#)



# Double-electron capture



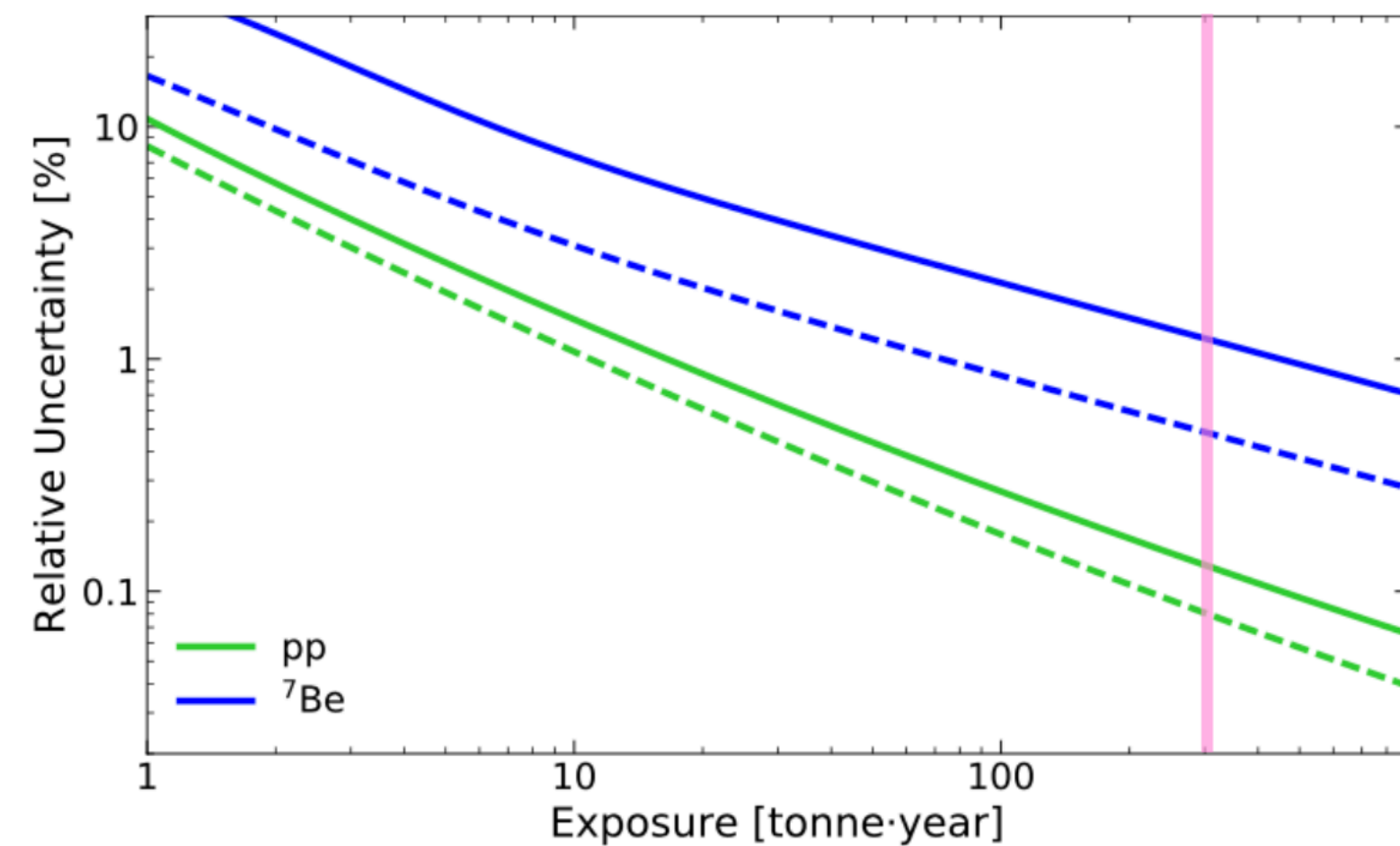
- $2\nu$  DEC observed by XENON1T for  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  (64.3 keV)
- $T_{1/2}^{2\nu KK} = (1.8 \pm 0.5 \text{ stat} \pm 0.1 \text{ sys}) \times 10^{22} \text{ years}$
- $0\nu\text{DEC}$  can be searched for too
- $^{134}\text{Xe}$  is also predicted to double beta decay,  $2\nu\text{bb}$  not yet detected
- $Q=825.8 \text{ keV}$  , 10.4% abundance
- Low Rn and depleted  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  necessary



# More Neutrino Physics

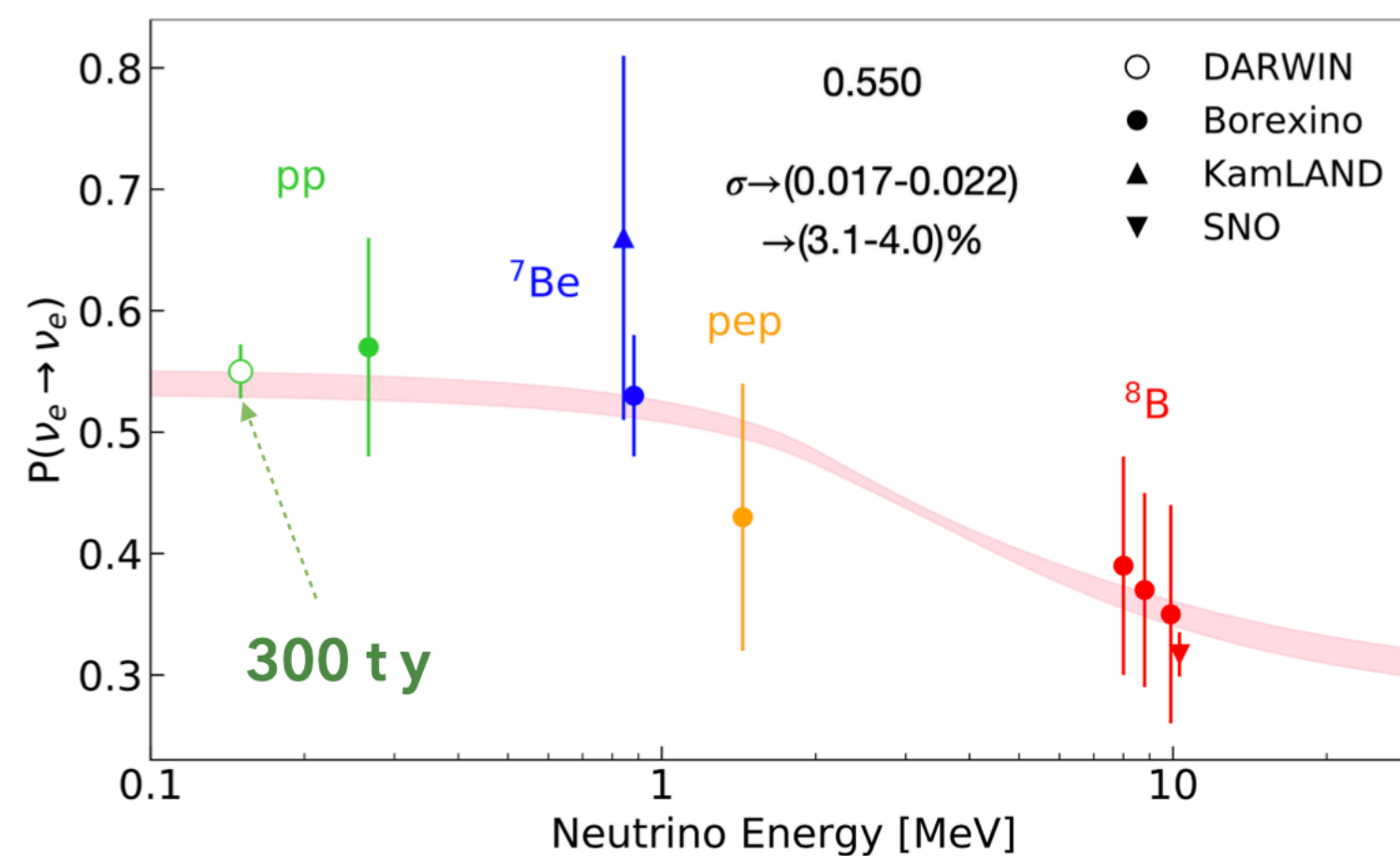
## Solar neutrinos

0.15 % precision on pp flux with 300 ty

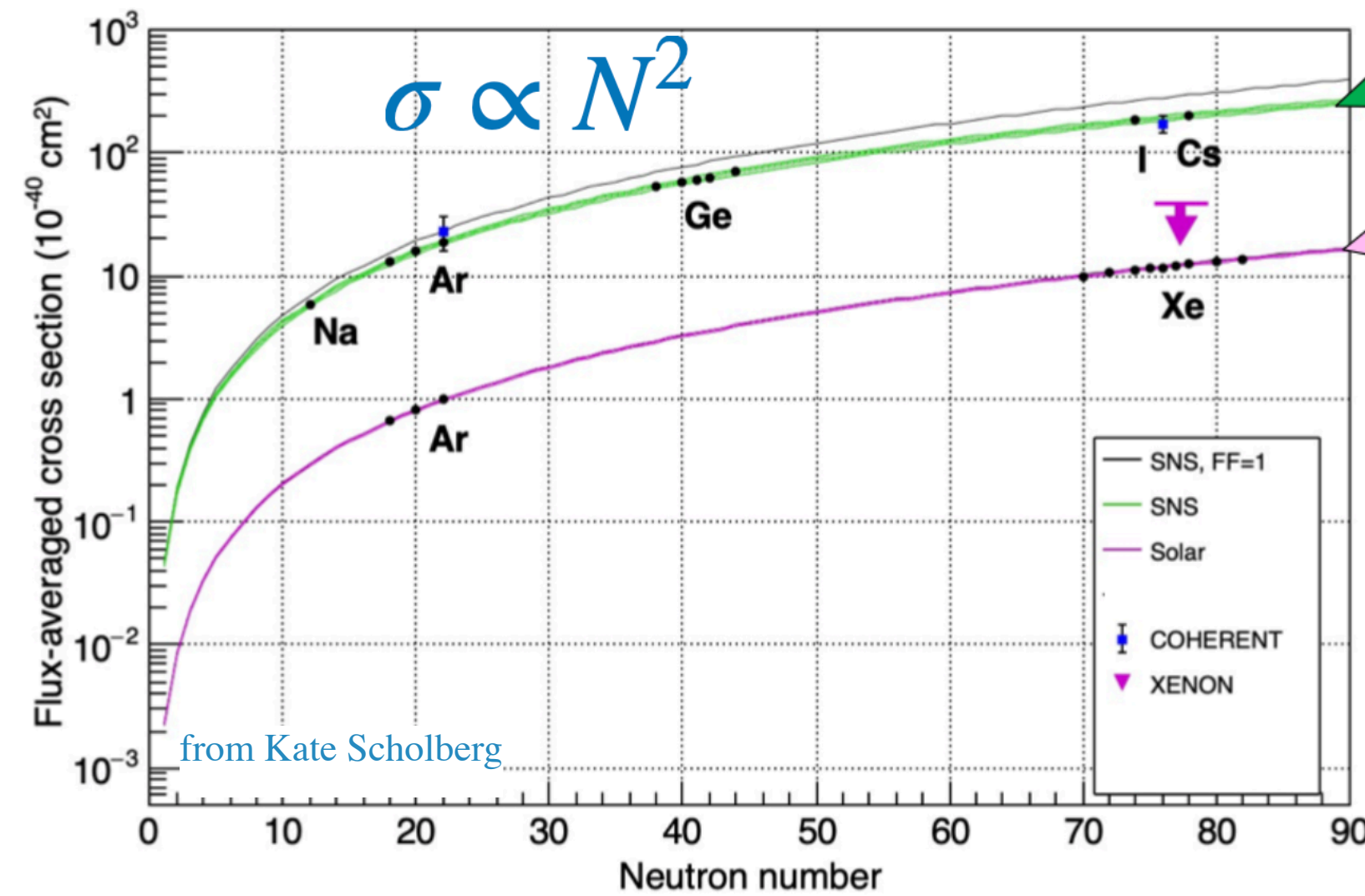


DARWIN collaboration, EPJ-C 80 12 (2020)

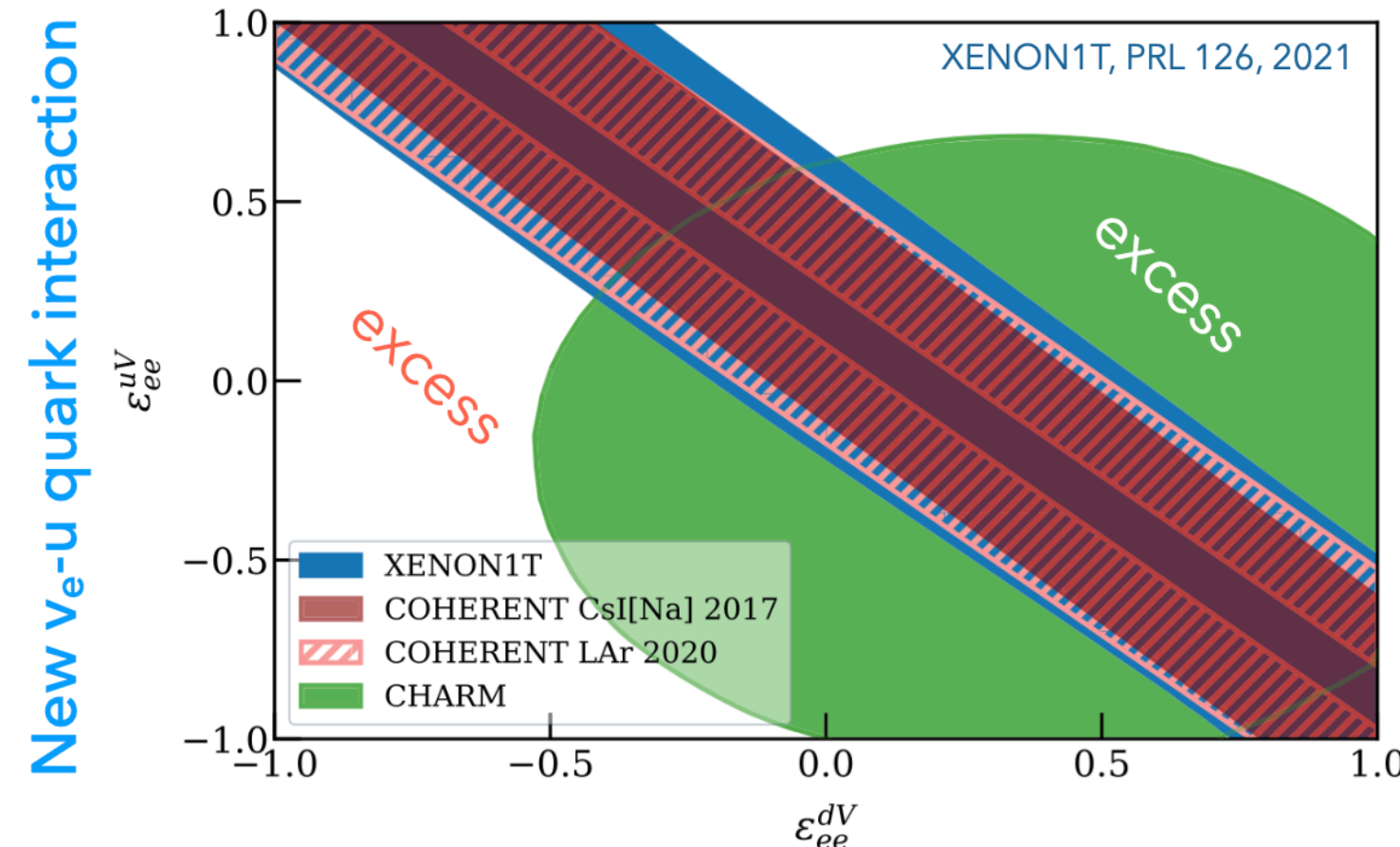
300 ty



## CE $\nu$ Ns and Non-Standard Interactions

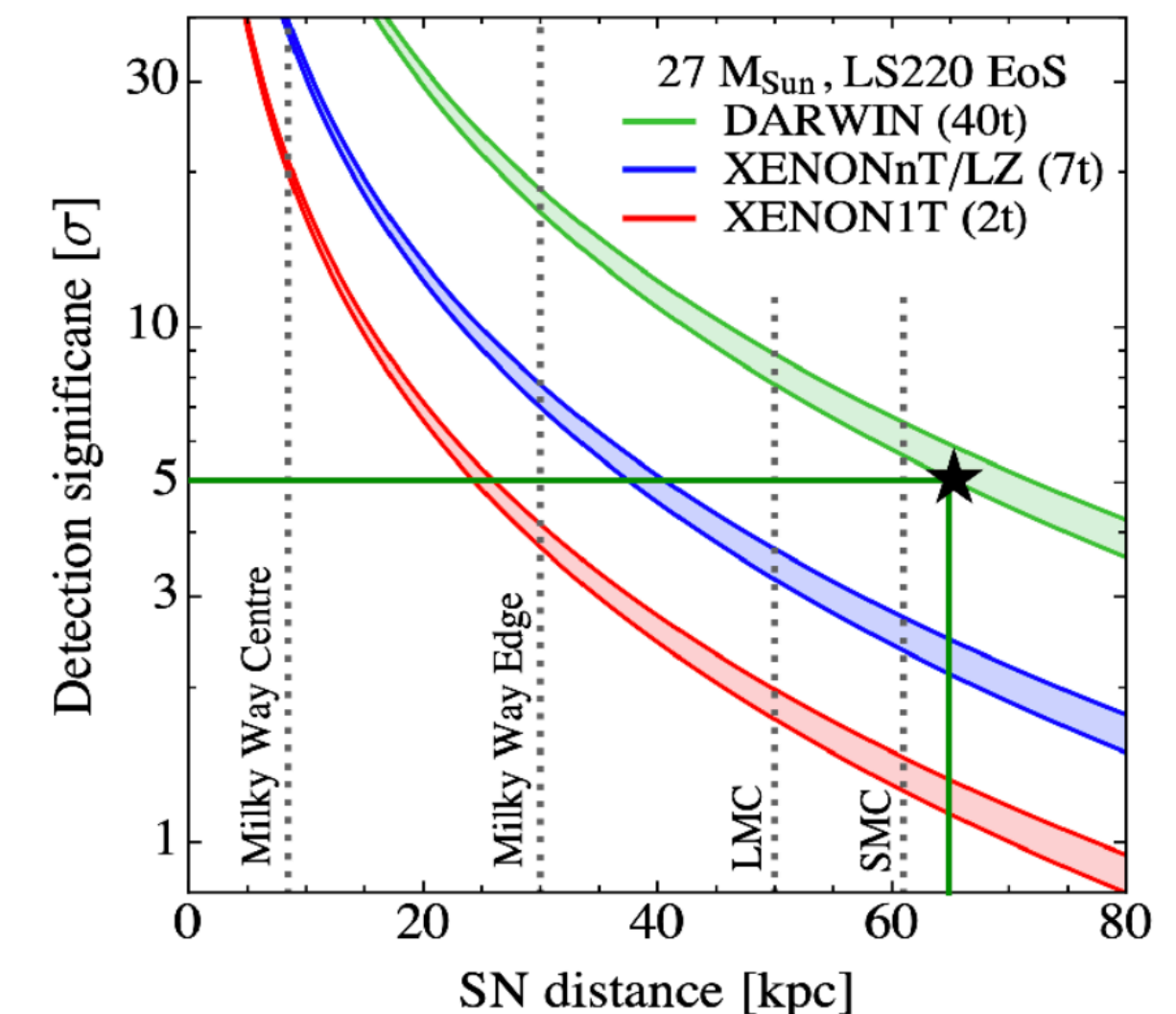


Ratio wrt SM



New  $\nu_e$ -d quark interaction

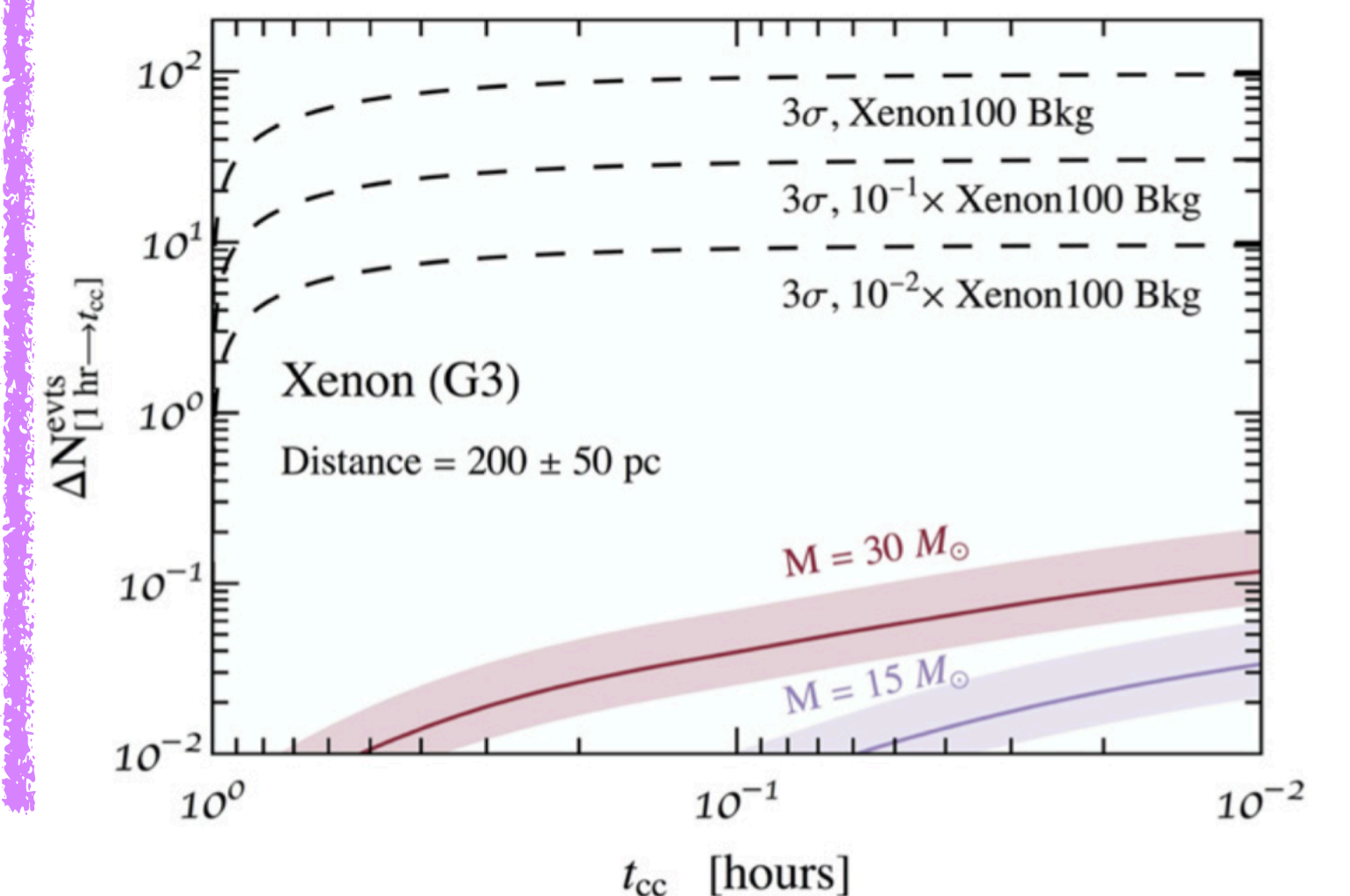
## Core collapse SN



R. Lang et al., PRD 94, 103009

J. Phys. G 50, 2023, 013001

50 t LXe





# XLZD is more than WIMPs

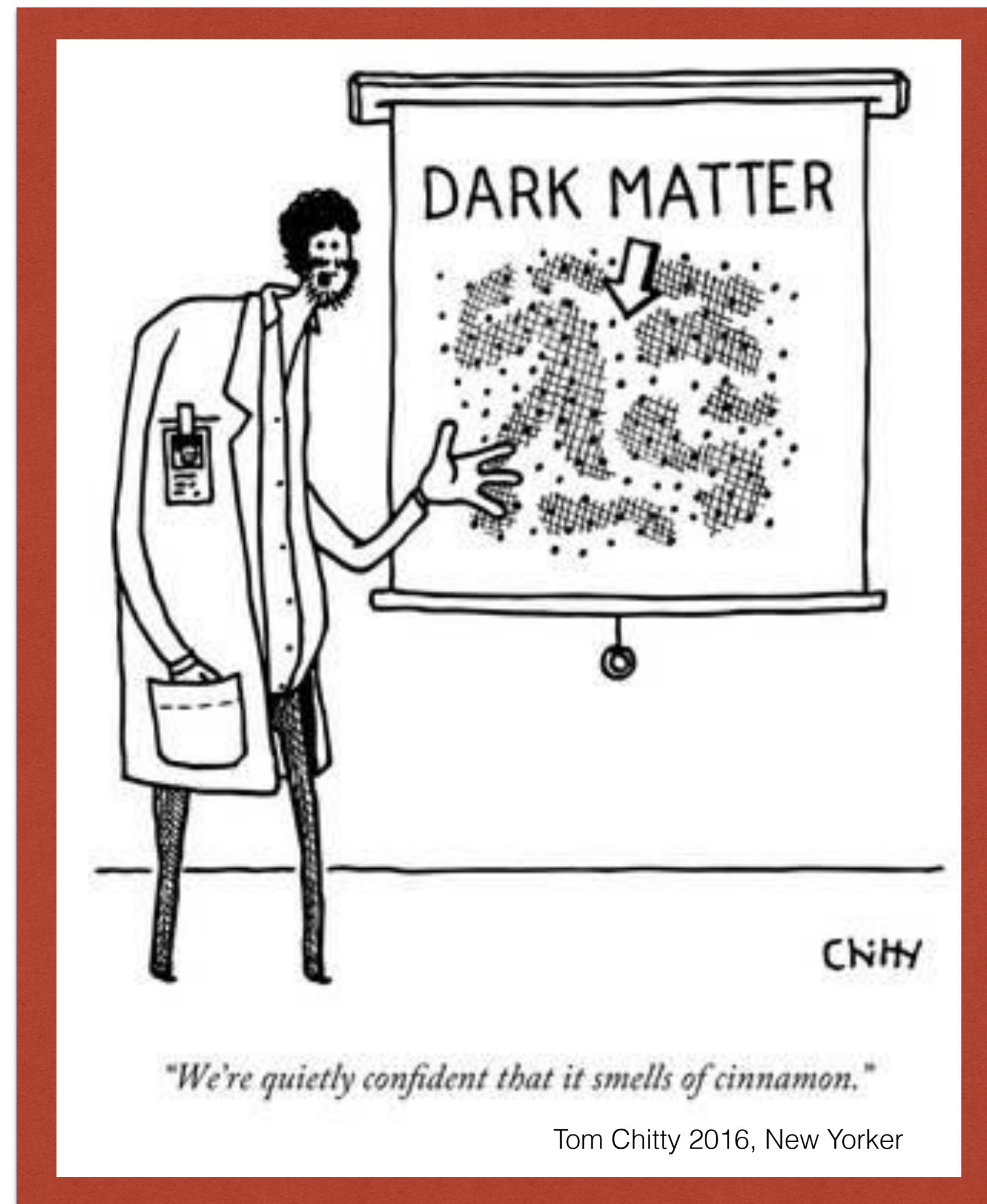


*XLZDers at the Getty Center in LA  
-Florian Jorg*

- XLZD can do competitive searches for  $0\nu bb$ 
  - Energy resolution and multiple-scatter rejection shown in current detectors
- Final sensitivity will depend on detector size, site, and detector backgrounds
- A rare event observatory, with low backgrounds and broad energy ROI can search for a variety of new physics signals!

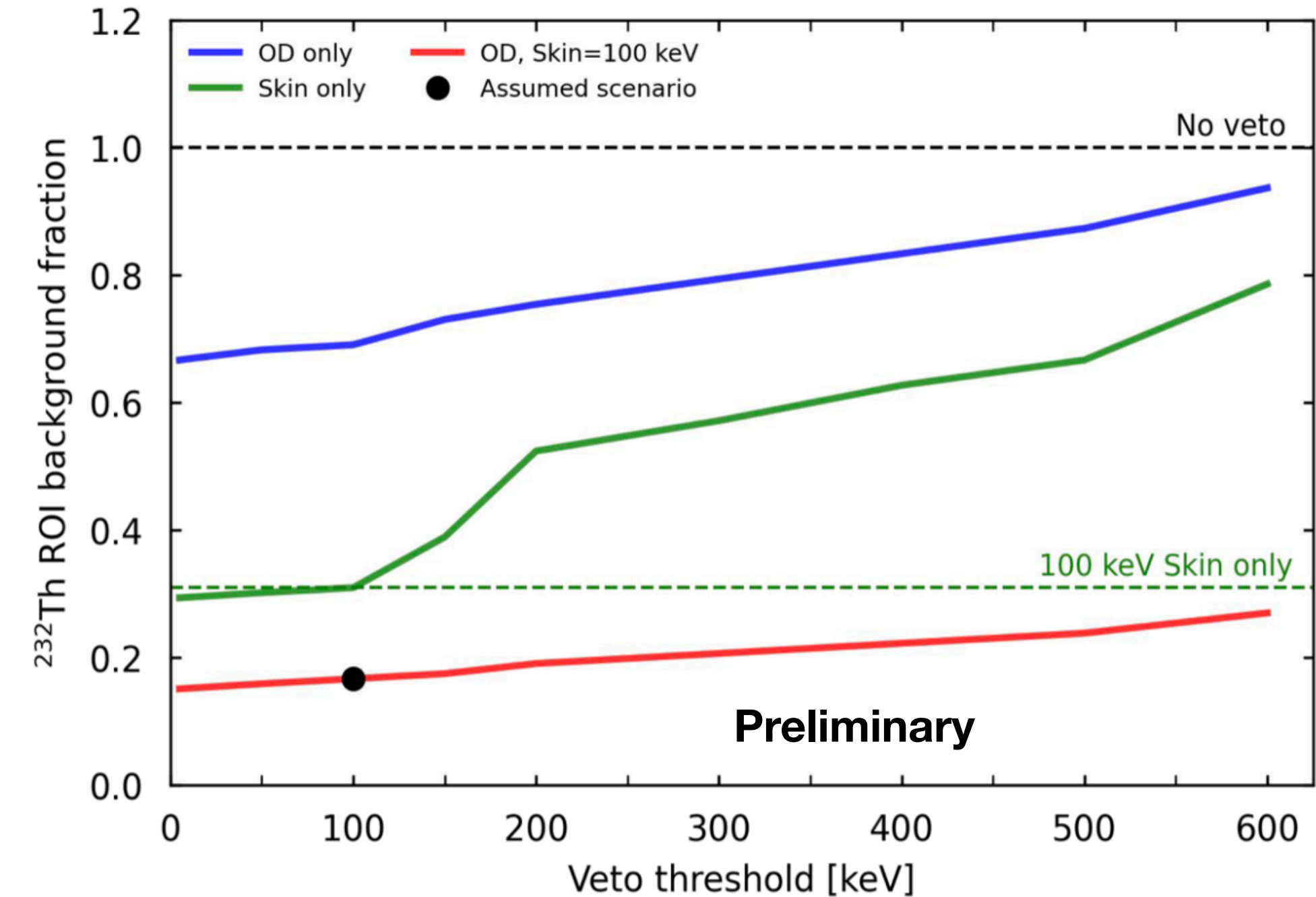
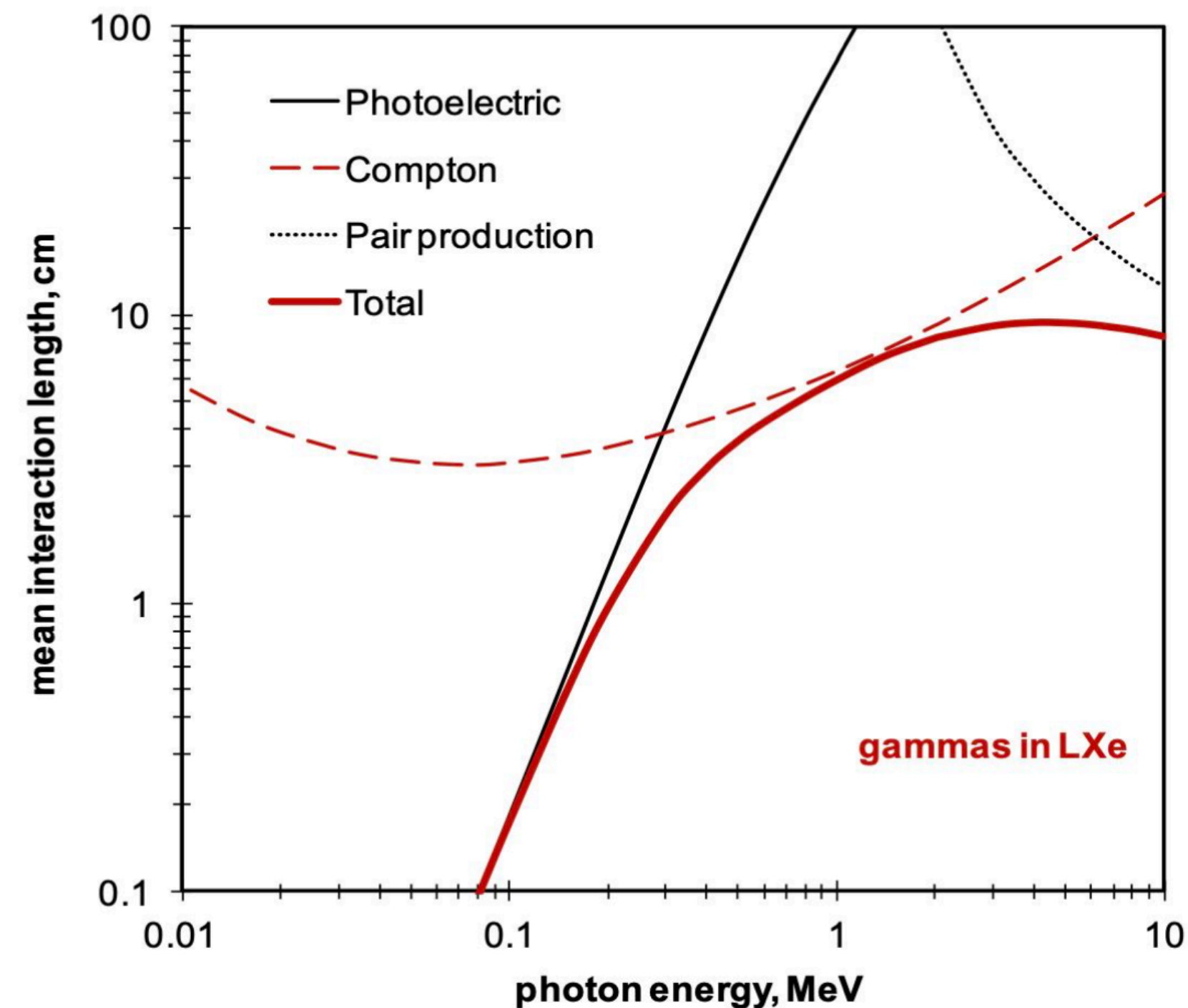


# Backup Slides





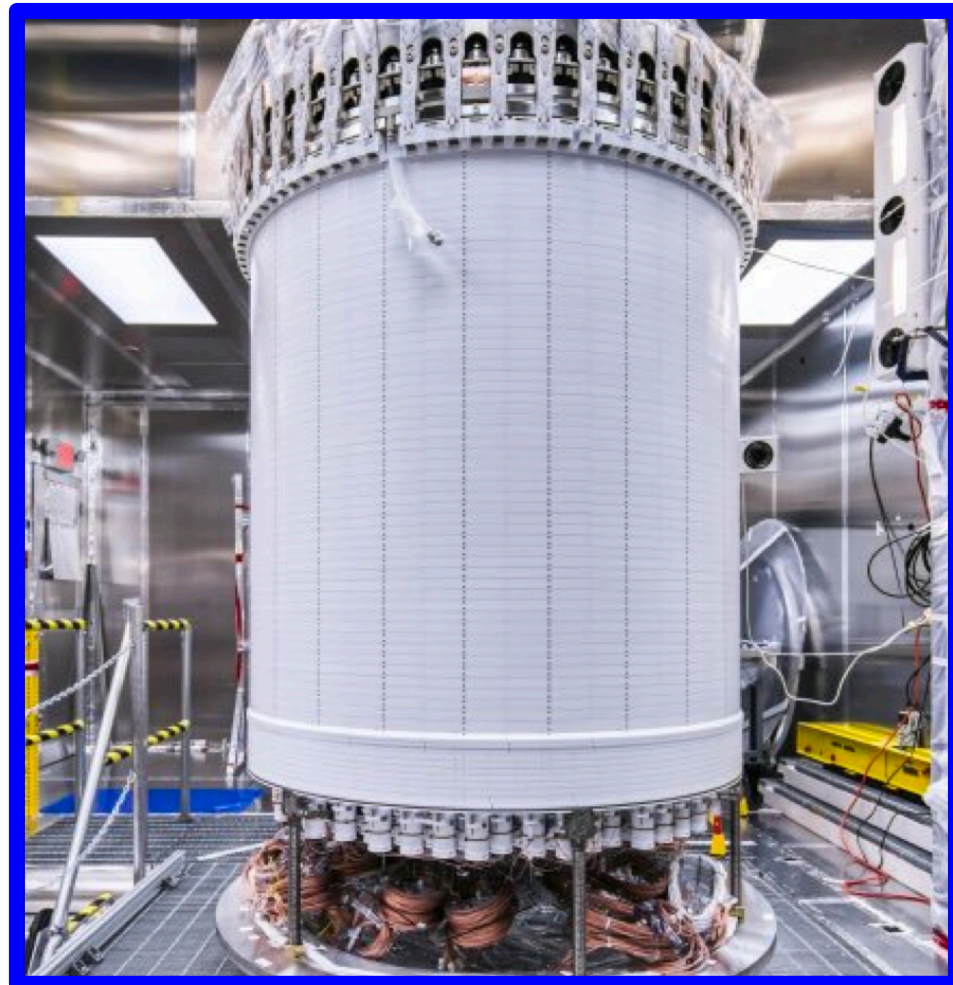
# Mean Free Paths and Multiple Scatters



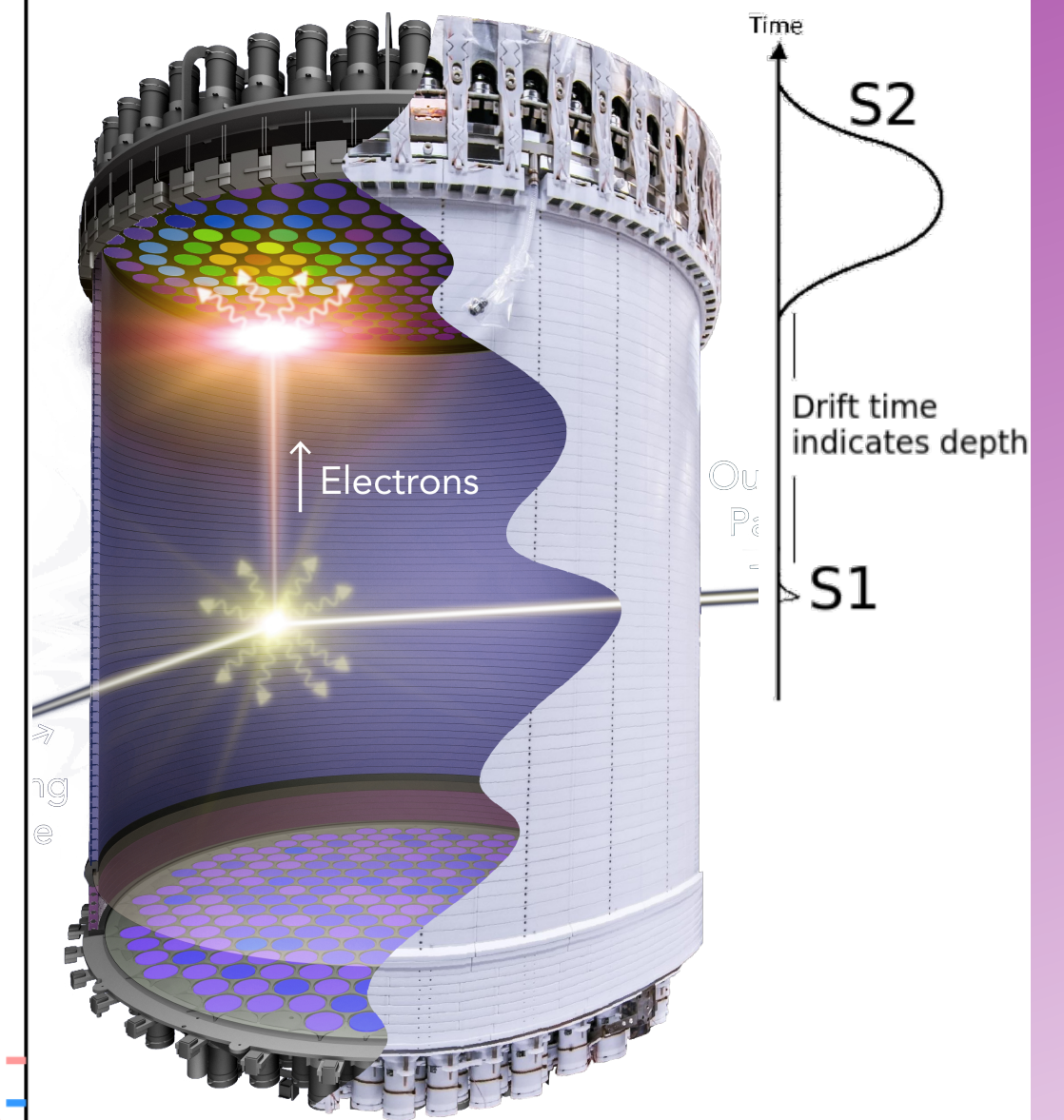
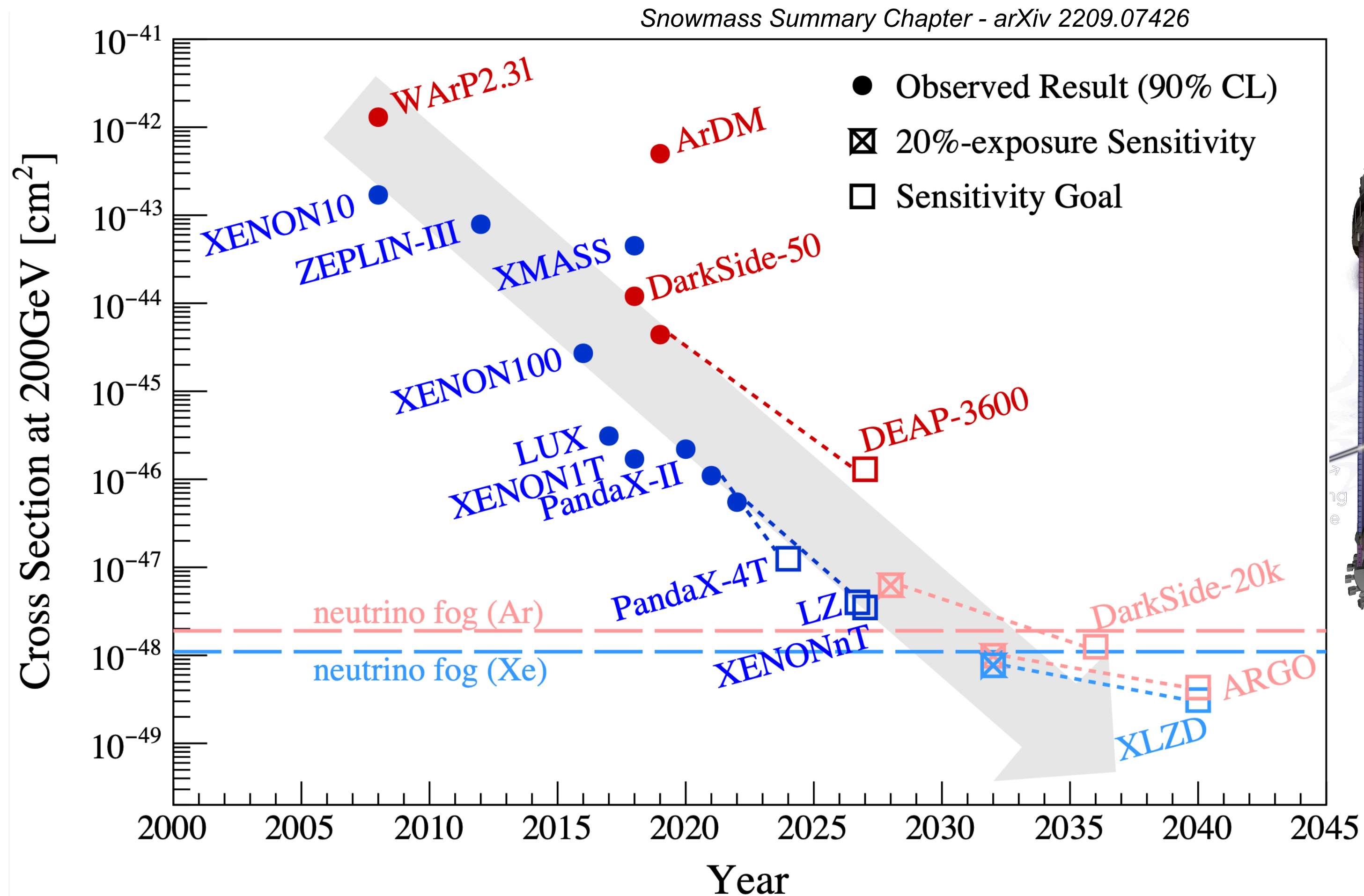
- Gammas near Q value likely to have multiple Compton scatters (10 cm MFP) before photoelectric effect (2 m)



# Liquid Noble Detectors



LUX-ZEPLIN

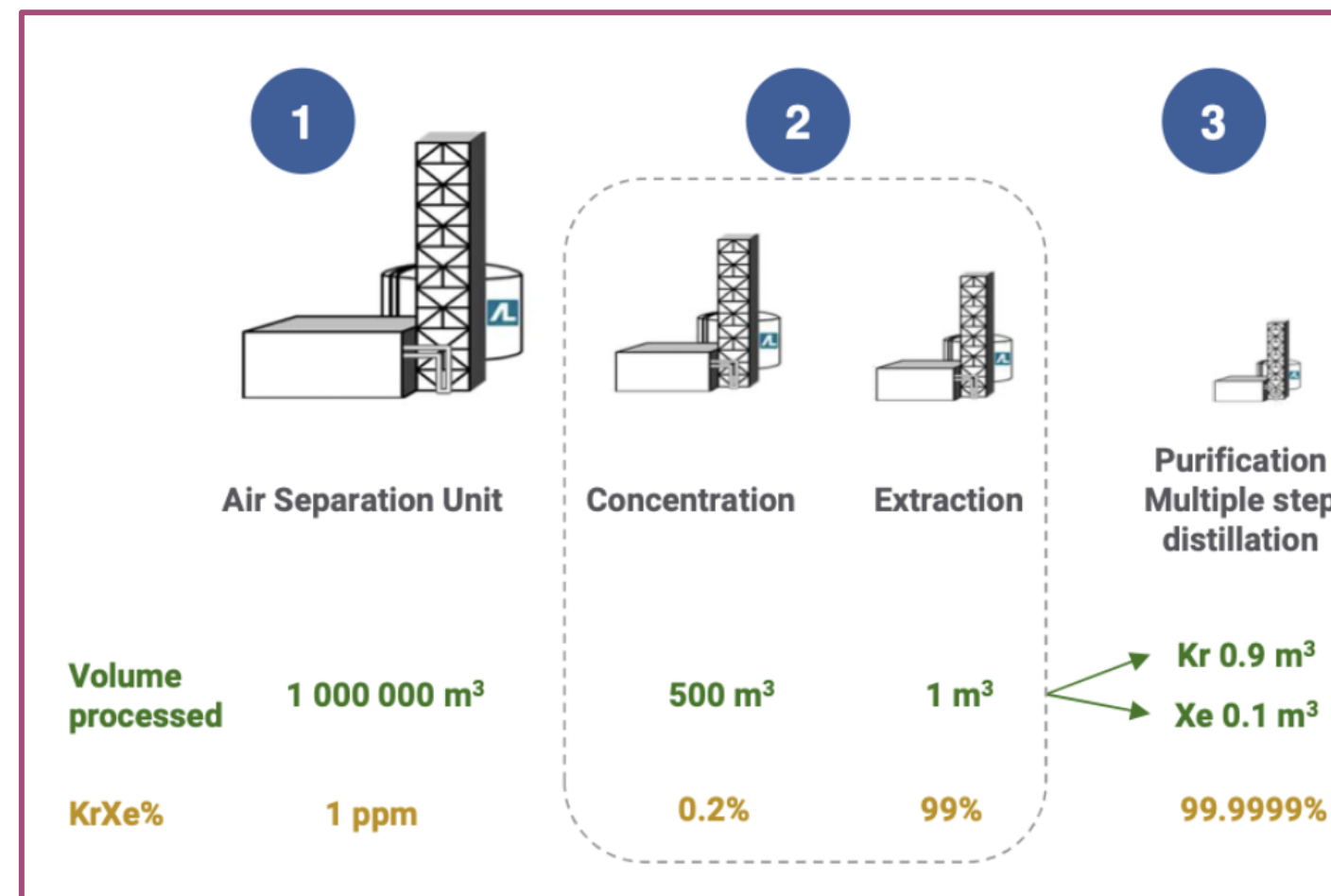




# Known Risks and R&D Areas

## Xenon Supply

- Commodity produced at ~60t/yr and increasing - XLZD needs to acquire ~1 year of world production
- Coordinated acquisition through long-term contracts over a decade and multiple suppliers
- Continued discussion with suppliers necessary

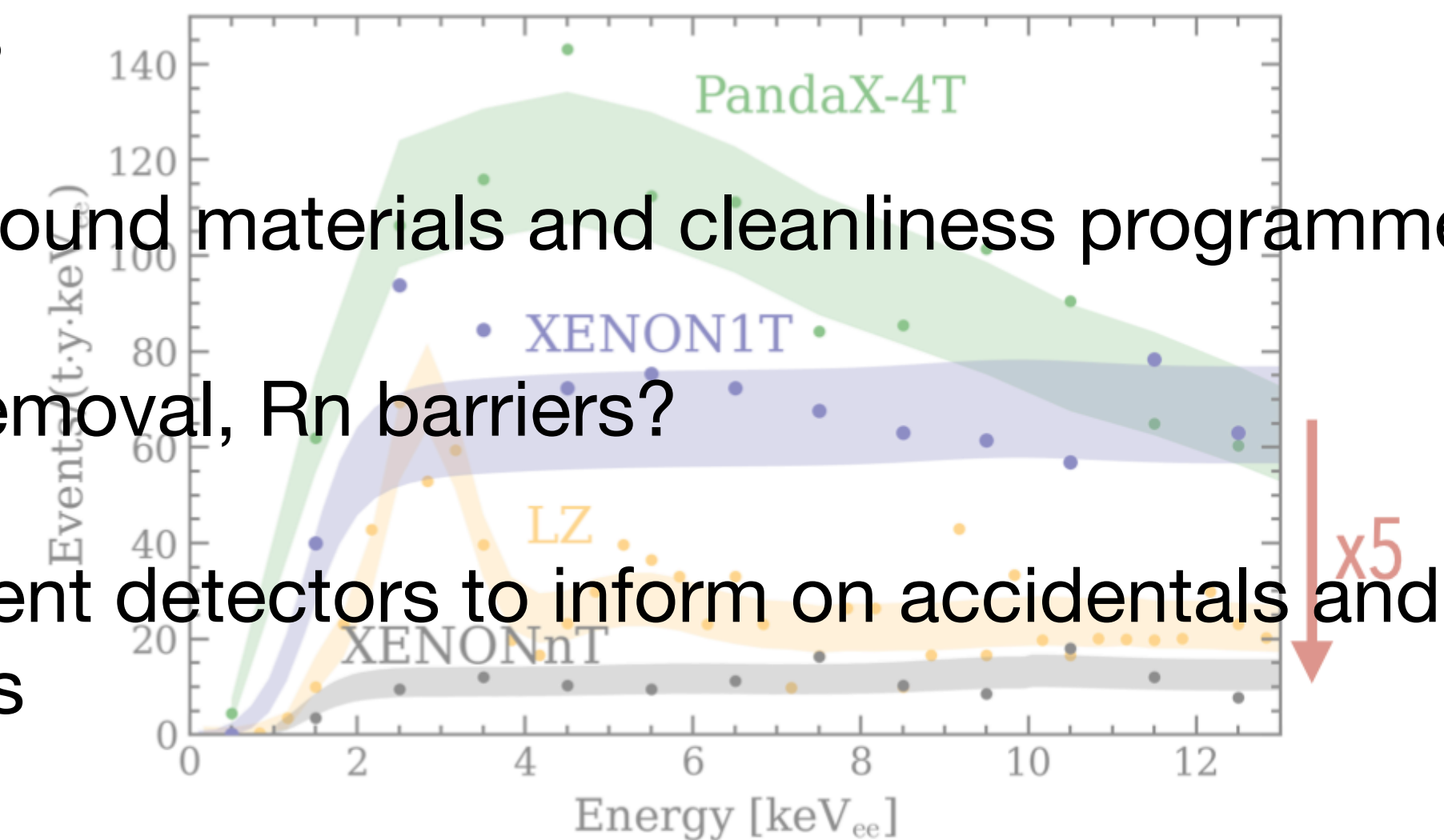


## Electric fields

- Increasing scale of HV electrodes and voltage requires R&D, engineering, and a robust QA/testing programme
- TPC diameter and height 'only' doubling

## Backgrounds

- Low background materials and cleanliness programme
- In-line Rn removal, Rn barriers?
- Exploit current detectors to inform on accidentals and other effects



Track record of the combined teams in scaling from 10 kg to 10 tonnes provides the technical foundation and capabilities for making the necessary advances