

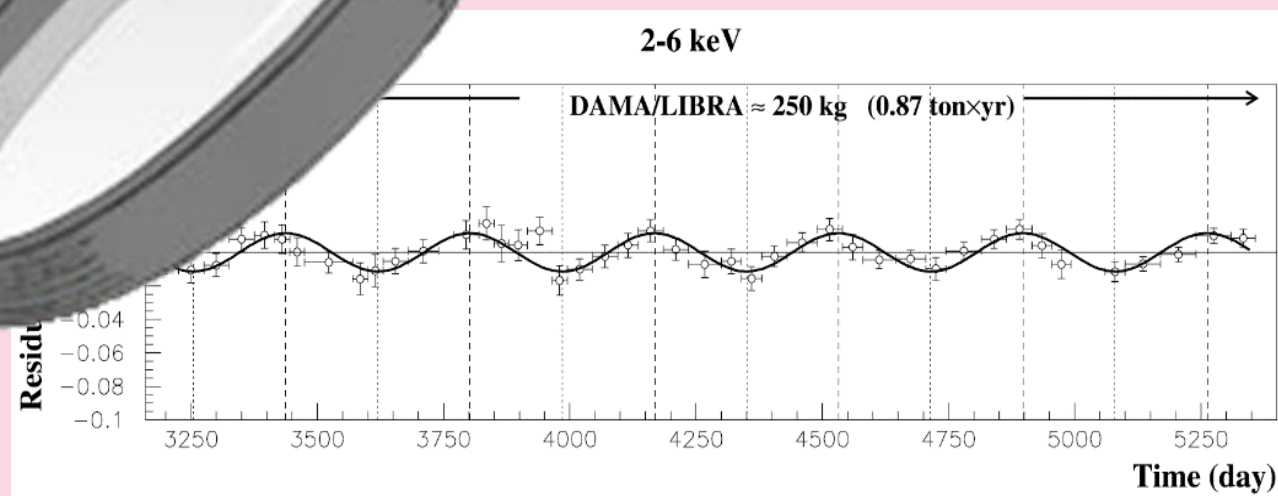
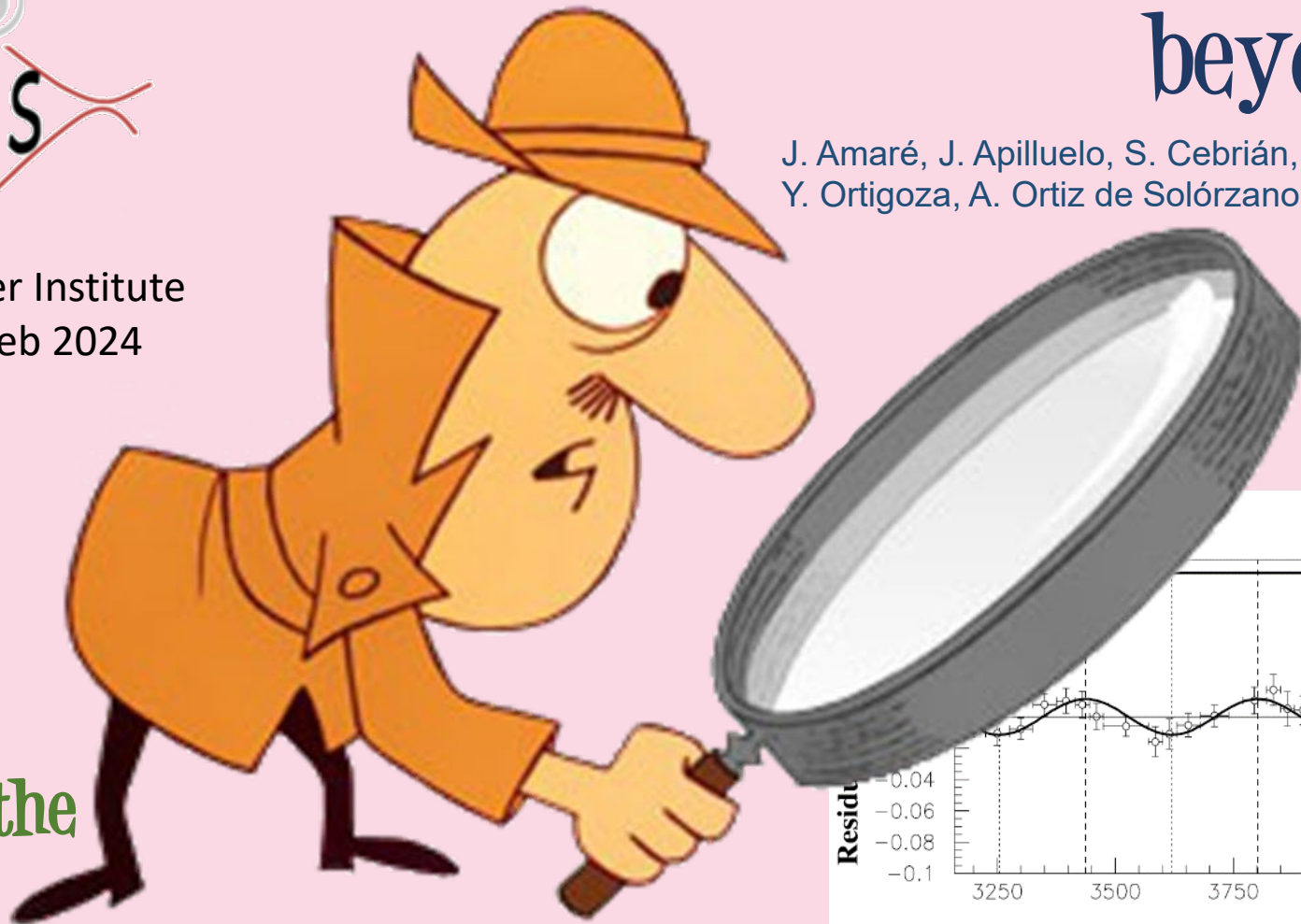
# AN AIS-112

## First direct test of DAMA/LIBRA beyond **three sigma**

J. Amaré, J. Apilluelo, S. Cebrián, D. Cintas, I. Coarasa, E. García, M. Martínez,  
Y. Ortigoza, A. Ortiz de Solórzano, T. Pardo, J. Puimedón, M.L. Sarsa

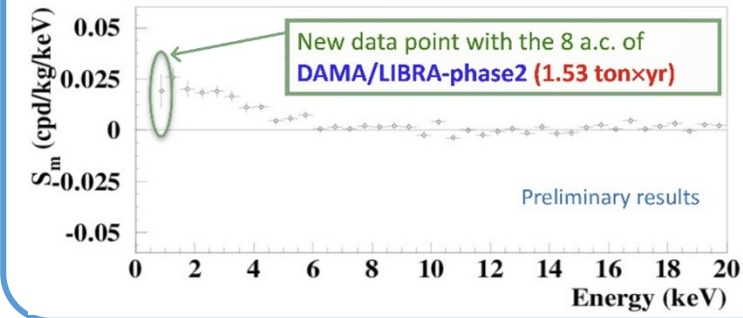
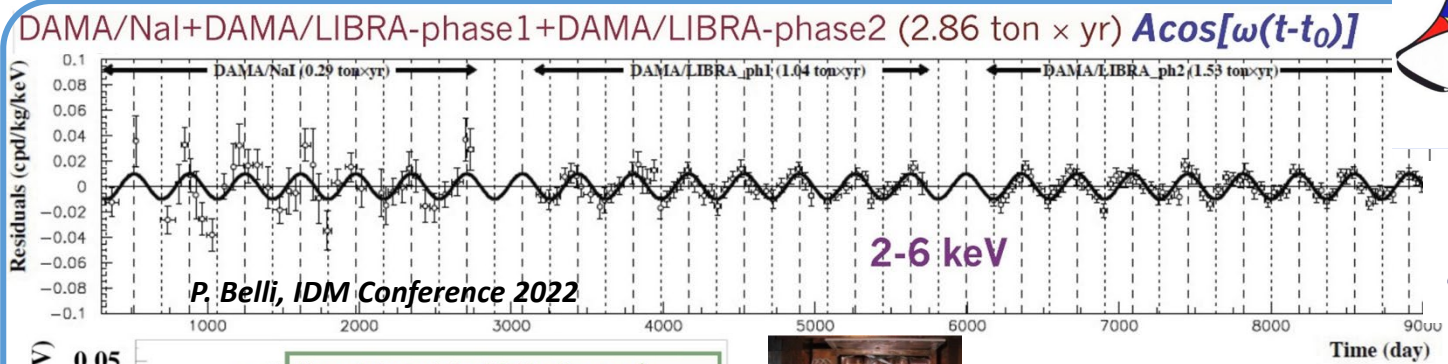
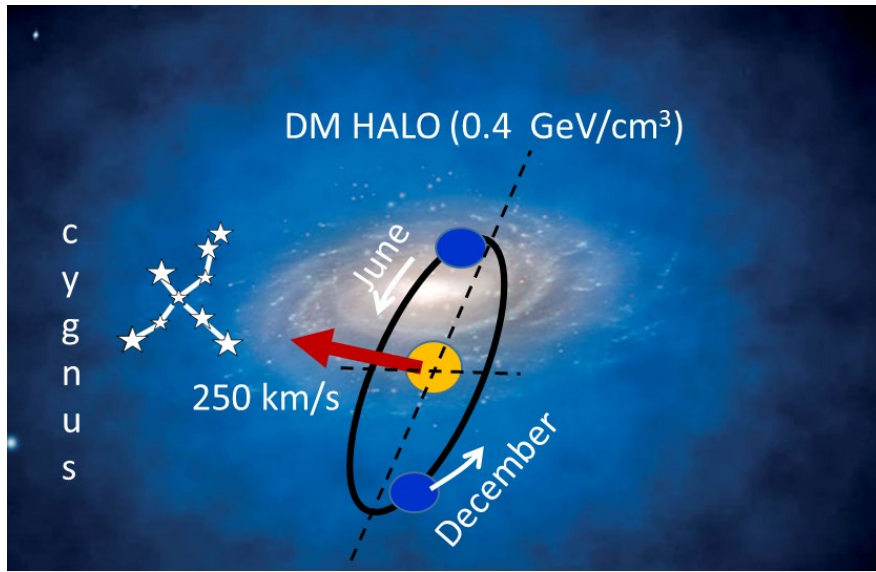


Lake Louise Winter Institute  
(Canada) 18–24 Feb 2024



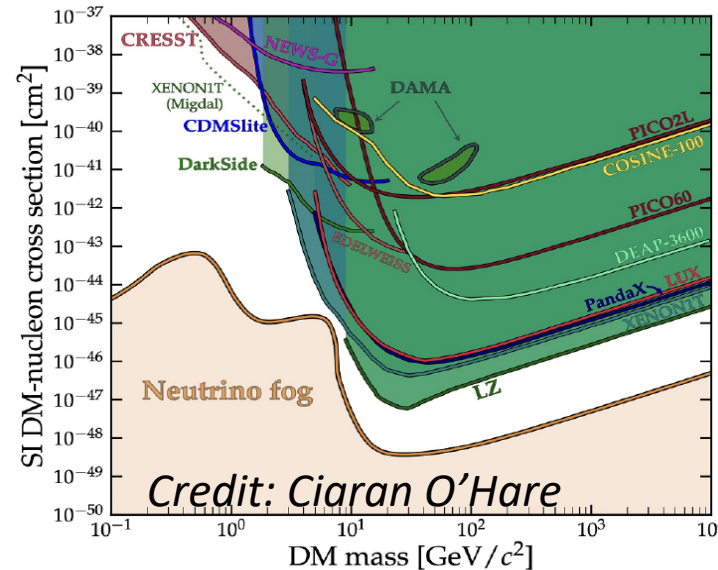
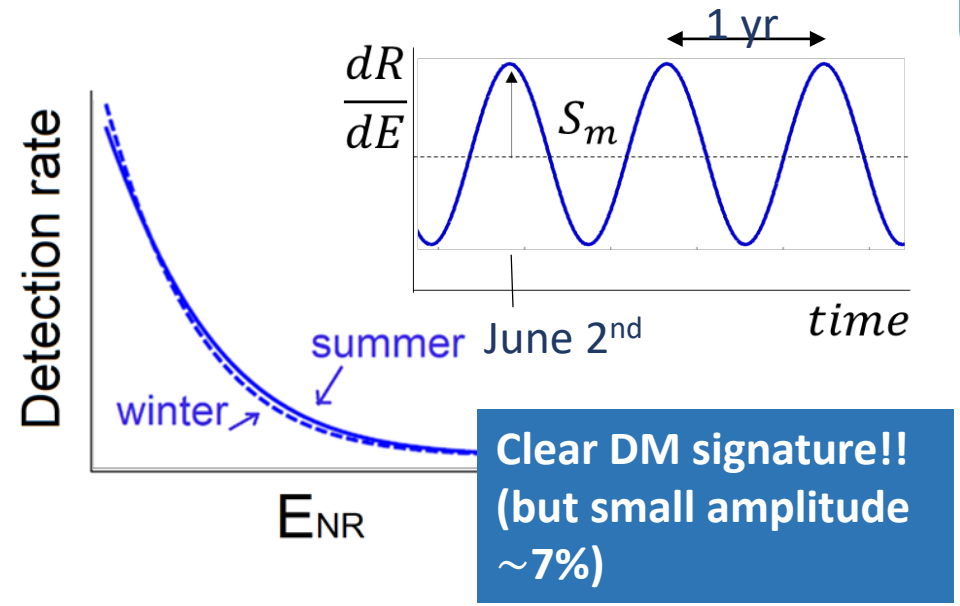
**M. Martínez,**  
On behalf of the  
**AN AIS team**

# DM annual modulation & DAMA/LIBRA positive signal



- 1995-2002: DAMA/NaI: 100 kg NaI(Tl)
- 2003-today: DAMA/LIBRA: 250 kg NaI(Tl)

**DAMA sees an annual modulation compatible with DM at  $13.7 \sigma$**



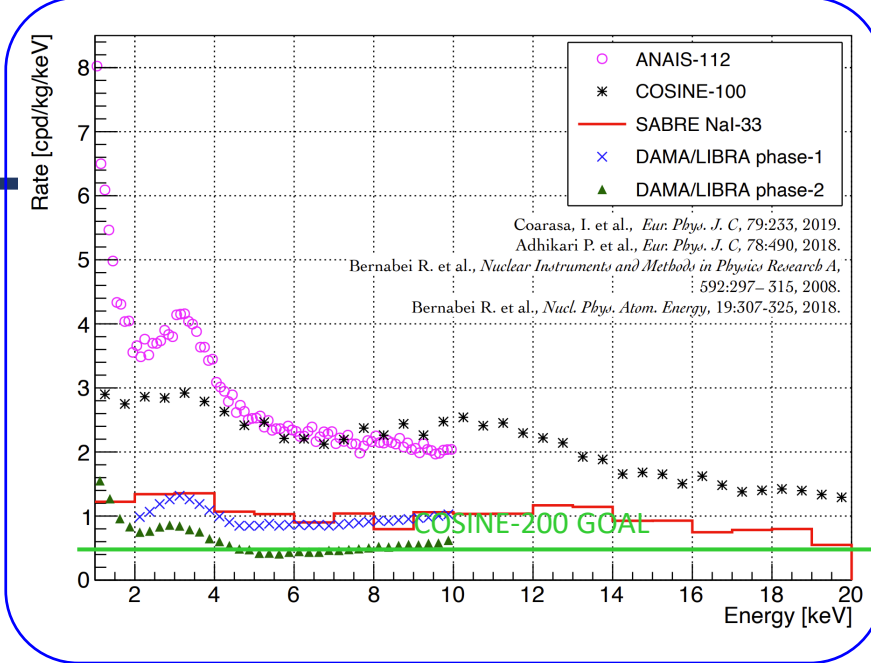
Other direct detection experiments do not see the signal, **but the comparison is model dependent**

**A model independent confirmation is needed using the same target → NaI(Tl)**

# Testing the DAMA/LIBRA signal

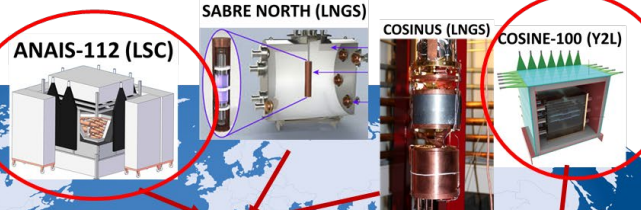
## Experimental requirements

- Target: NaI / NaI(Tl)
- Large exposure
- Very stable operation conditions
- Energy threshold: 1 keVee
- Background level as low as possible (DAMA: 1 cpd/kg/keV @ 2 keVee )
- Good knowledge of the detector response to nuclear recoils

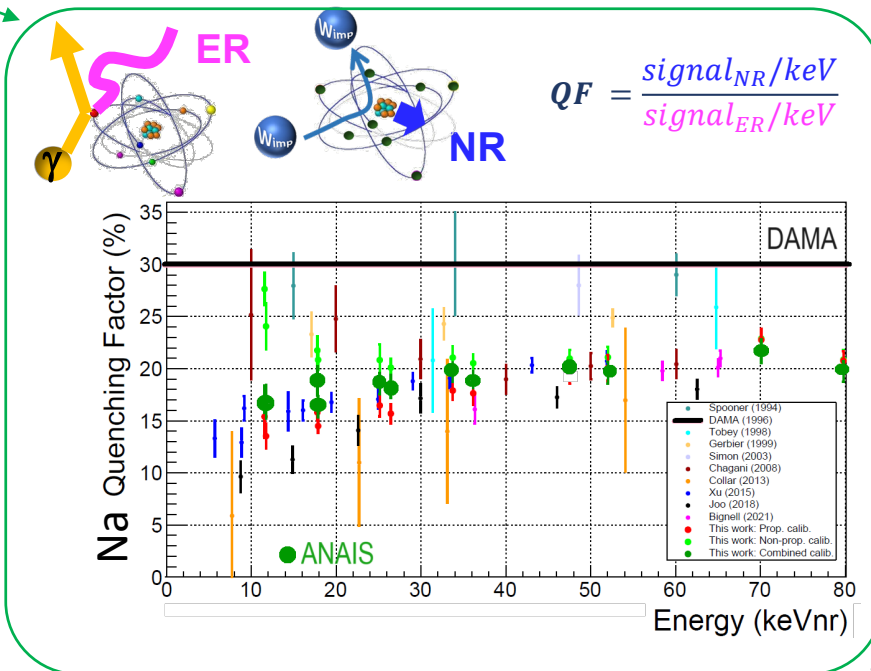


## A world effort

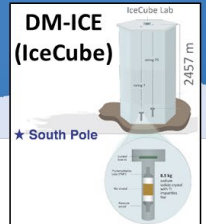
In Data-Taking since Aug 2017  
112 kg NaI(Tl)



Data-Taking from Sep 2017- Mar 2023  
~60 kg NaI(Tl)  
Upgrade: COSINE-200



DAMA/LIBRA (LNGS)  
IN DATA-TAKING  
Since 1995 100 kg NaI(Tl)  
Since 2003 250 kg NaI(Tl)



## Annual Modulation with NaI Scintillators <https://gifna.unizar.es/anais/>

J. Amaré, J. Apilluelo, S. Cebrián, D. Cintas, I. Coarasa, E. García, M. Martínez, M.A. Oliván, Y. Ortigoza, A. Ortiz de Solórzano, T. Pardo, J. Puimedón, M.L. Sarsa

**GOAL:** Confirmation/refutation of DAMA-LIBRA modulation signal with the same target and technique (but different experimental approach and environmental conditions)

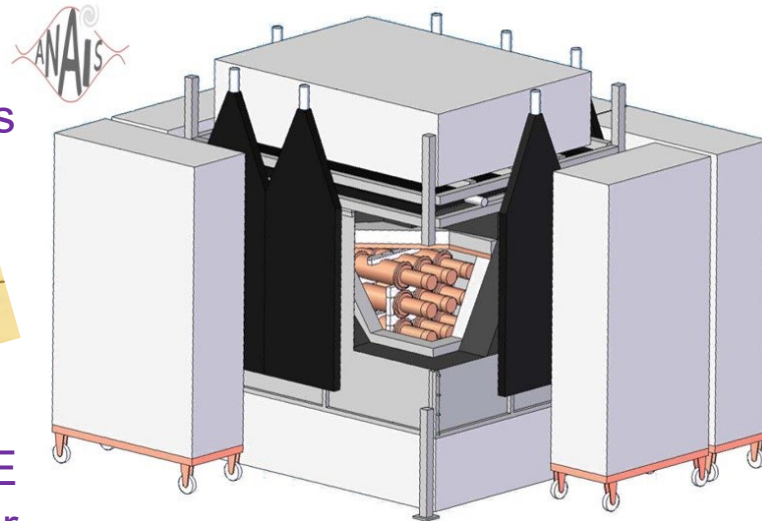
**Projected sensitivity:  $3\sigma$  in 5 years data-taking**

### THE DETECTOR:

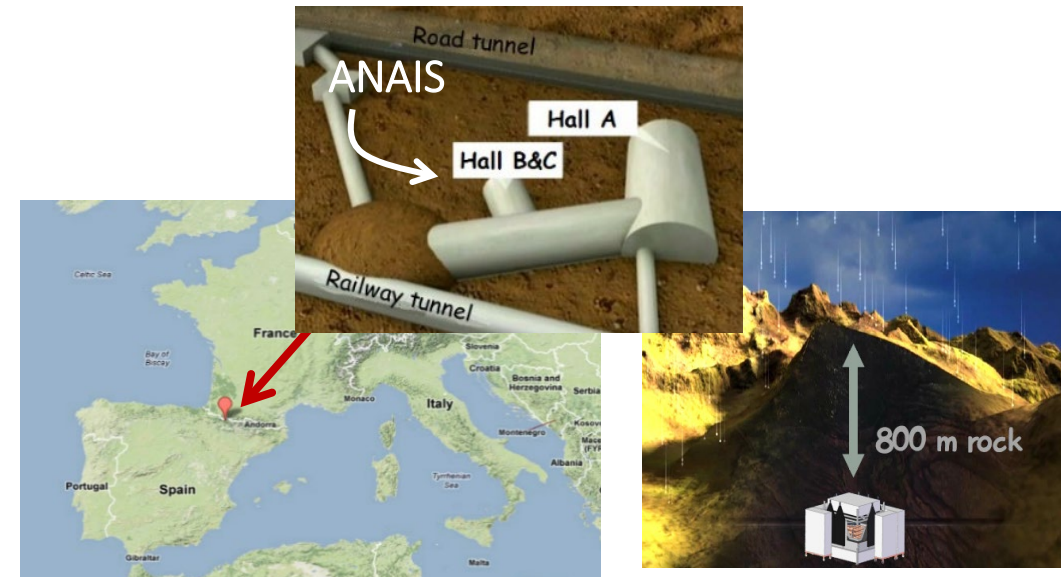
3x3 matrix of 12.5 kg NaI(Tl) cylindrical modules = 112.5 kg of active mass



Two high QE PMTs per detector

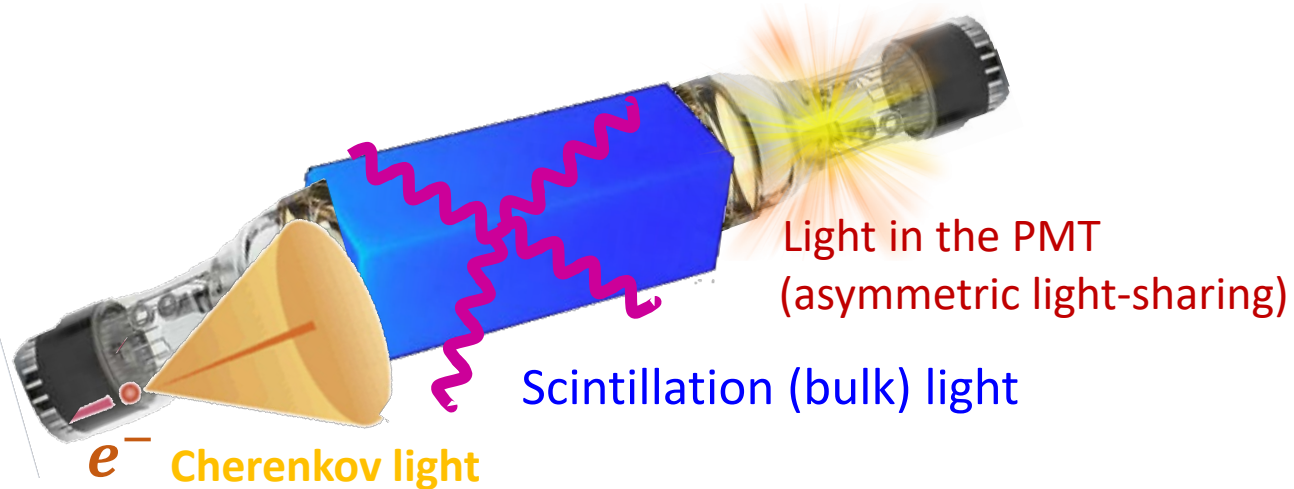


**WHERE:** At Canfranc Underground Laboratory, @ **SPAIN** (under 2450 m.w.e.)



**taking data since August 2017**

# Event selection, background and efficiency

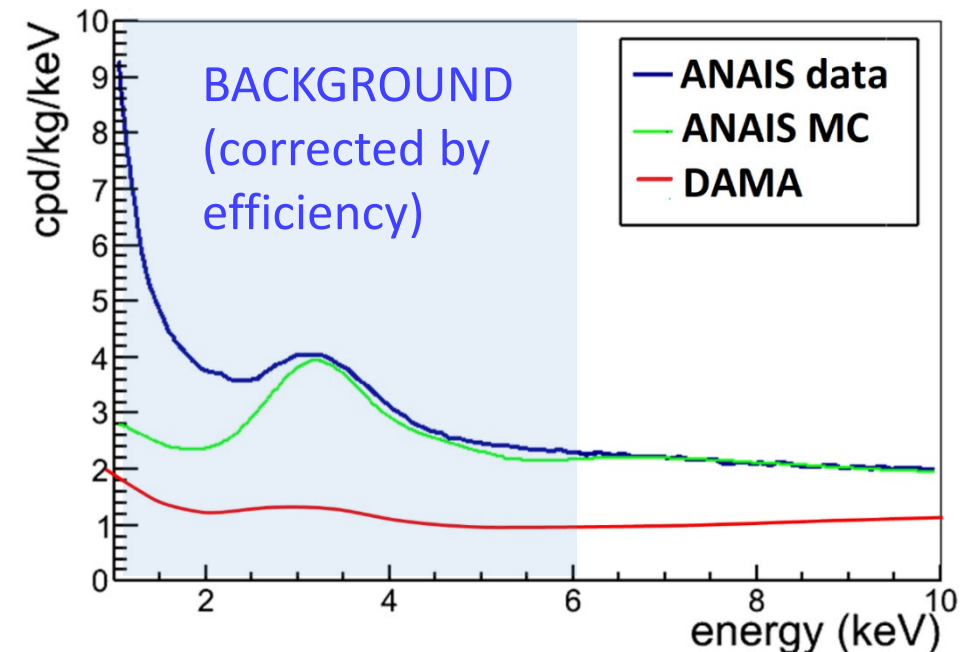
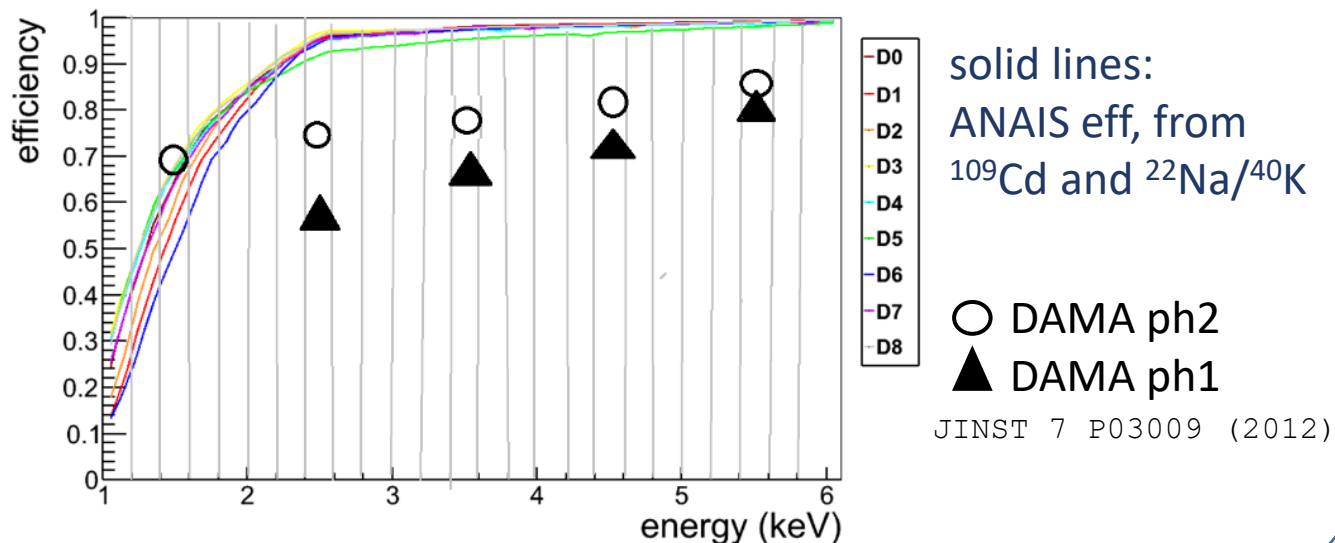


Pulse shape cut to select pulses with NaI(Tl) scintillation constant (biparametric)

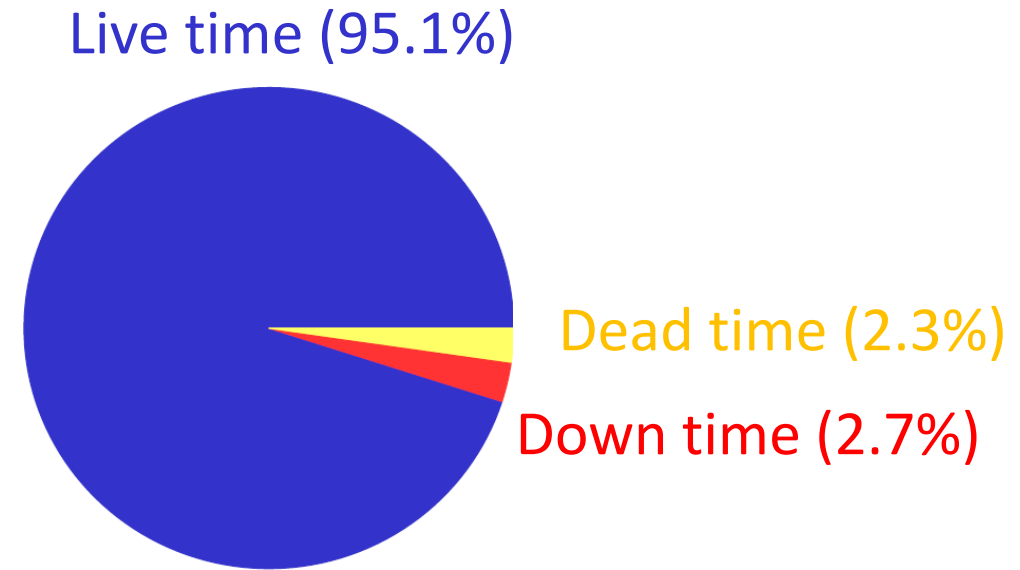
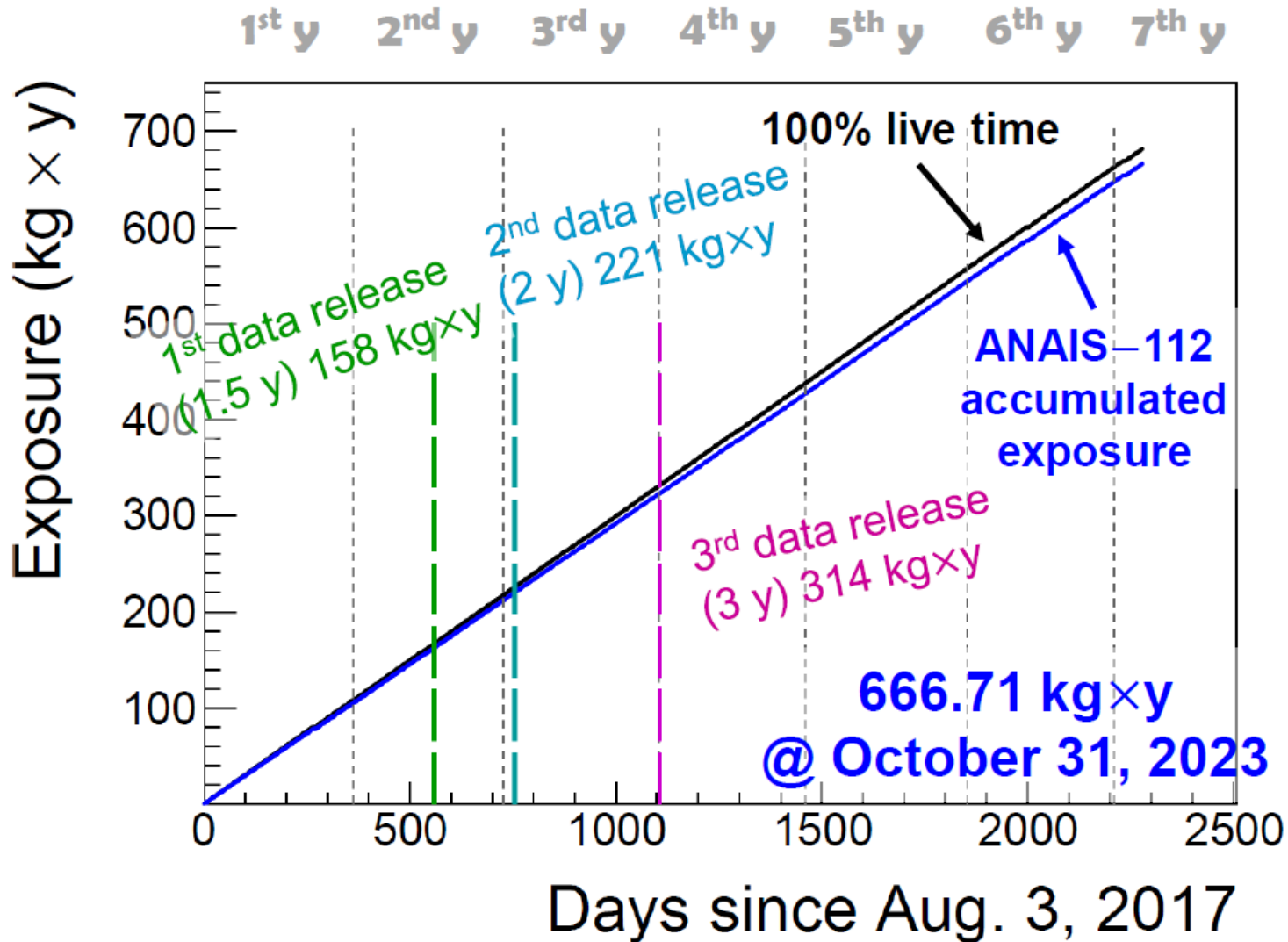
$$P_1 = \frac{\int_{100 \text{ ns}}^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t) dt}{\int_0^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t) dt} \quad \mu_p = \frac{\sum A_p t_p}{\sum A_p}$$

We remove asymmetric low-energy events (<2 keVee) with origin in the PMT ( $n_1 > 4$ ,  $n_2 > 4$ )

## EVENT SELECTION EFFICIENCY



# Data-taking overview



# Annual modulation analysis

PRD 103, 102005 (2021)

Focus on model independent analysis searching for modulation

- In order to better compare with DAMA/LIBRA results
  - use the same energy regions ([1-6] keV, [2-6] keV)
  - fix period 1 year and phase to June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Simultaneous fit of the 9 detectors. 10 days bins.

Fit each detector bkg to:

$$R_{0,d} + R_d \phi_{bkg,d}^{MC}(t_i) + S_m \cos(\omega(t_i - t_0))$$

$\phi_{bkg,d}^{MC}$ : Decaying background, modeled by MC

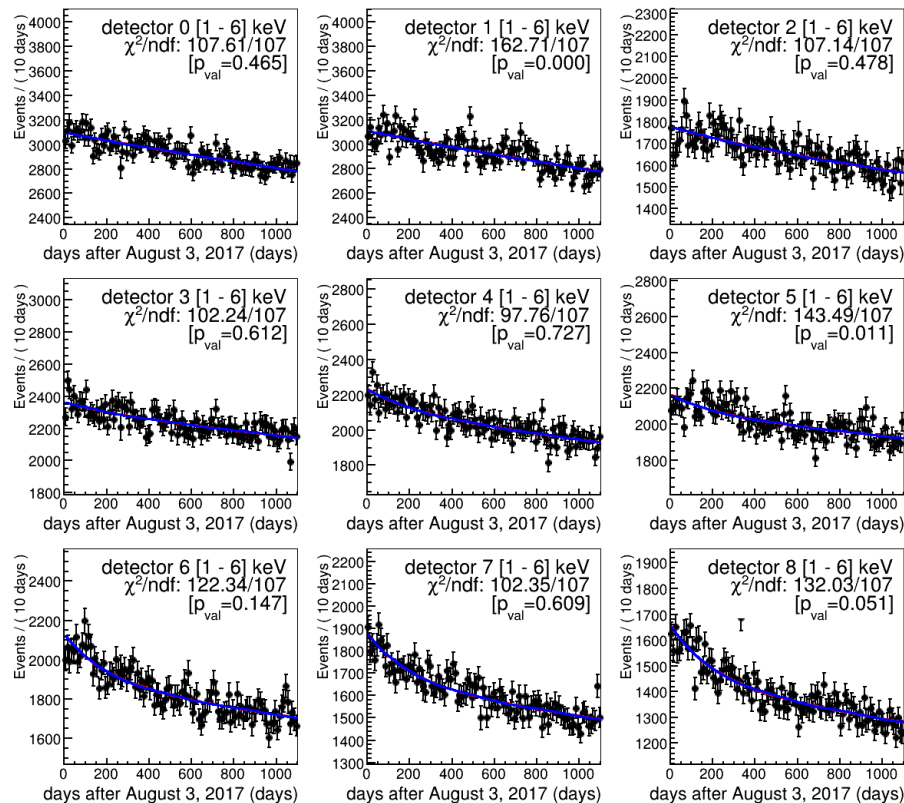
$S_m$ : modulation amplitude

Null hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 1075.81/972 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.011$ ]

Mod hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 1075.15/971 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.011$ ]

$S_m = (-0.0034 \pm 0.0042)$  (cpd/kg/keV)

[1-6] keV

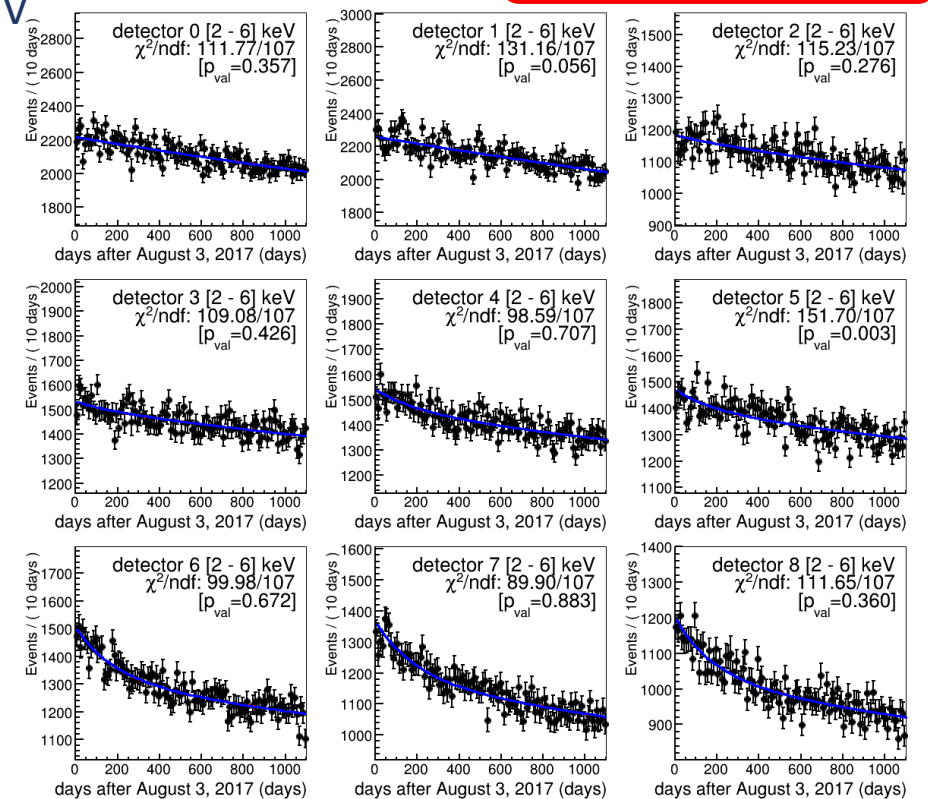


Null hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 1018.19/972 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.148$ ]

Mod hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 1018.18/971 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.143$ ]

$S_m = (0.0003 \pm 0.0037)$  (cpd/kg/keV)

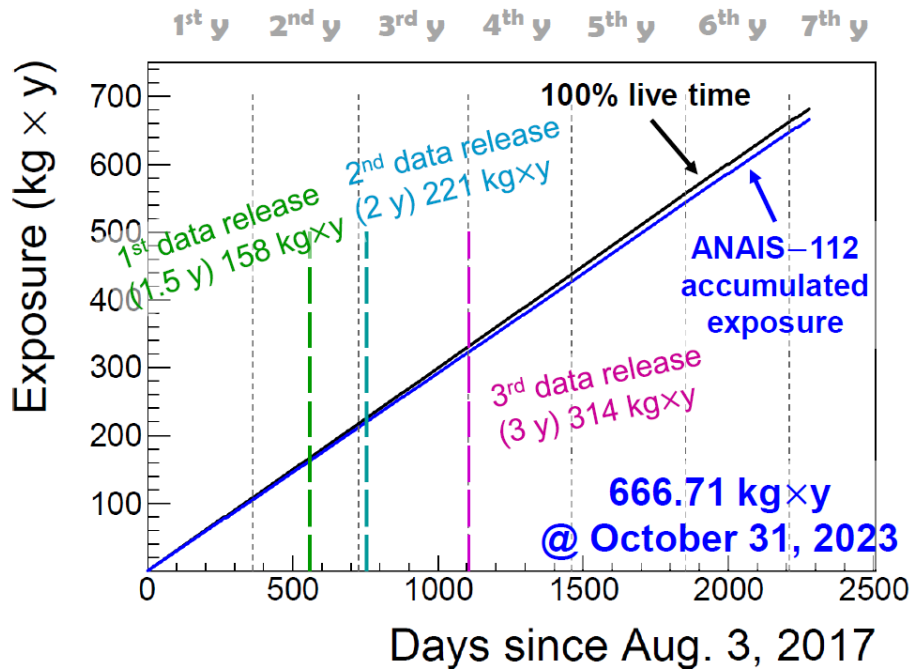
[2-6] keV



# Annual modulation results

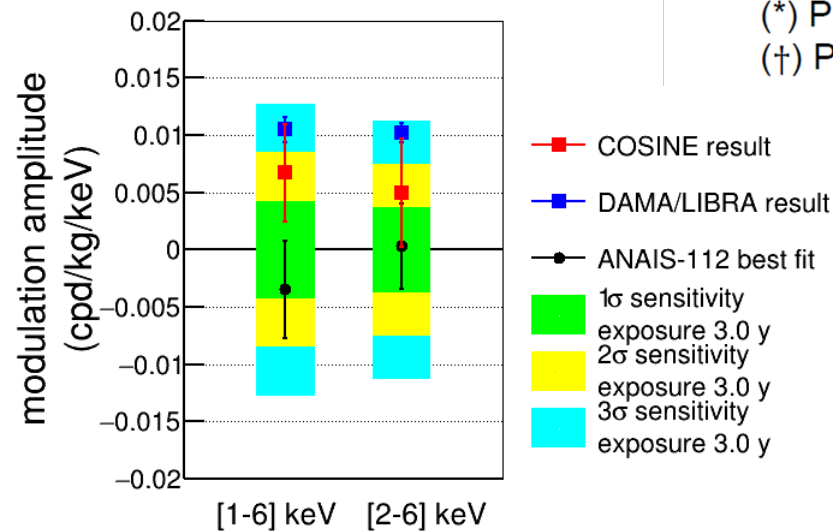
## ANAIS-112 data releases:

- 1.5y: Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 031301 (2019)
- 2y: J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 1468, 012014 (2020)
- 3y: Phys. Rev. D 103, 102005 (2021)



## ANAIS-112 3y modulation results:

E (keV)	$S_m$ (counts/keV/kg/day)		
	ANAIS-112	COSINE-100 (*)	DAMA/LIBRA (†)
[1-6]	$-0.0034 \pm 0.0042$	$0.0067 \pm 0.0042$	$0.0105 \pm 0.0011$
[2-6]	$0.0003 \pm 0.0037$	$0.0050 \pm 0.0047$	$0.0102 \pm 0.0008$



(\*) PRD 106, 052005 (2022)  
 (†) PPNP 114, 103810 (2020)

**ANAIS-112 3y:**  
**~2.5 $\sigma$  sensitivity**

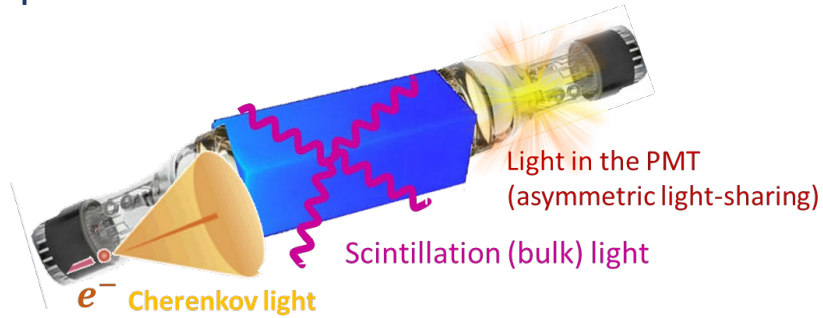
Thanks to the support of the Dark Matter Data Center, funded by the ORIGINS excellence cluster, **ANAIS-112 3-years data is freely available for downloading** <https://www.origins-cluster.de/odsl/dark-matter-data-center/available-datasets/anais>



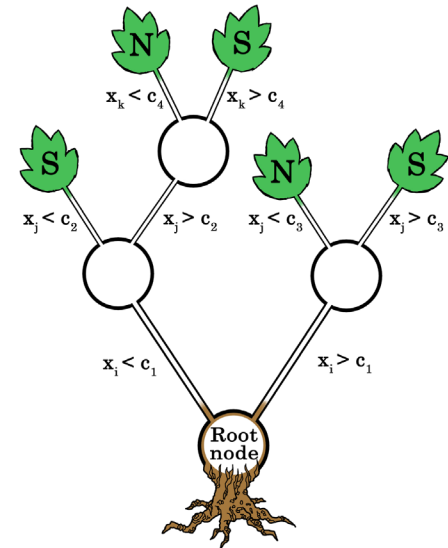
# Improving ANAIS-112 sensitivity

“Improving ANAIS-112 sensitivity to DAMA/LIBRA signal with machine learning techniques”, I. Coarasa et al, JCAP11(2022)048

Improve the “bulk scintillation” event selection with machine learning techniques



15 discrimination parameters combined in a boosted decision tree (instead of the 4 parameters used in the standard analysis)



Std analysis

$$P_1 = \frac{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t)}{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t)}$$

$$\mu_p = \frac{\sum_i A_i t_i}{\sum_i A_i} \quad n_0, n_1$$

$$P_2 = \frac{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^{50 \text{ ns}} A(t)}{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t)}$$

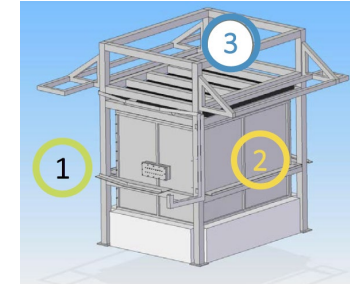
$$Asynphe = \frac{nphe_0 - nphe_1}{nphe_0 + nphe_1}$$

$$CAP_x = \frac{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^x A(t)}{\sum_{0 \text{ ns}}^{t_{\max}} A(t)}$$

$x = 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700$  and  $800 \text{ ns}$

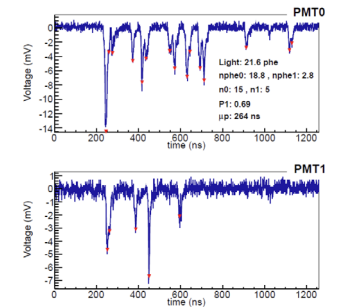
TRAINING POPULATIONS

## SIGNAL EVENTS: Neutron calibrations



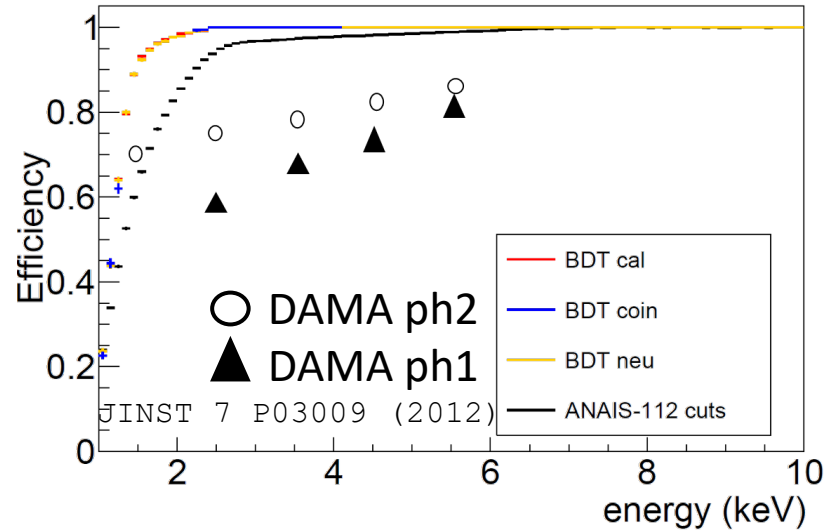
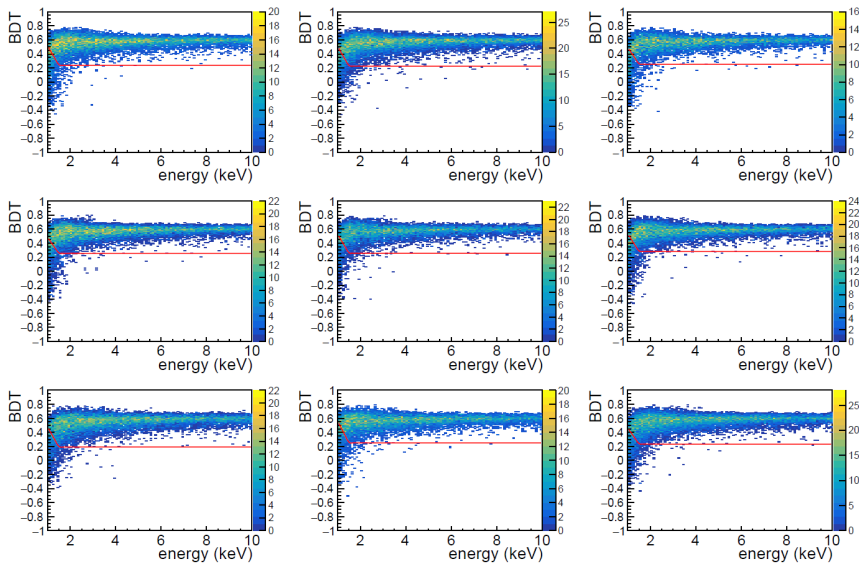
## NOISE EVENTS: “Blank” module (No NaI(Tl))

Since 2018 a BLANK module (without NaI(Tl) crystal) taking data with the same DAQ



# Event selection with BDT

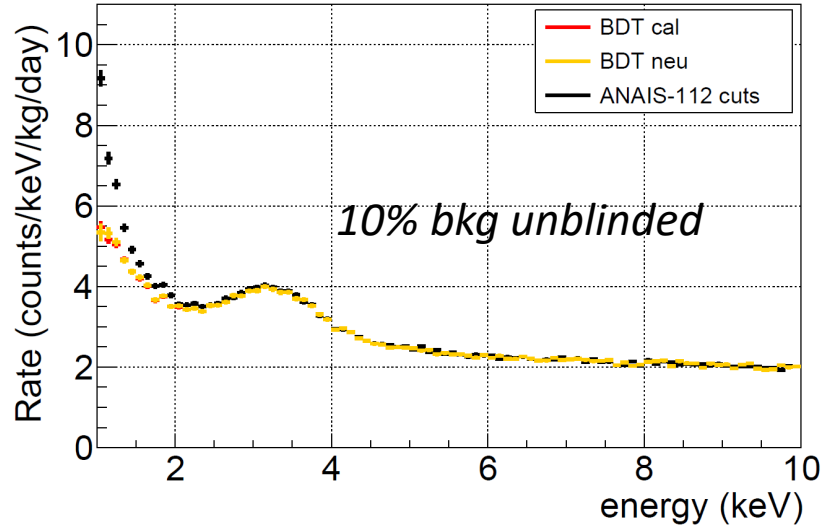
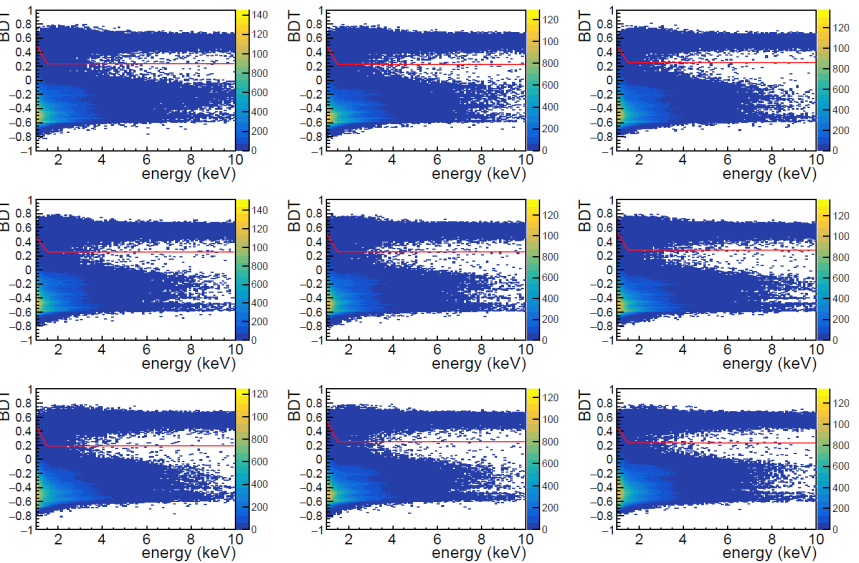
Neutron calibration



~30% improvement in efficiency

CUT on BDT parameter applied to background

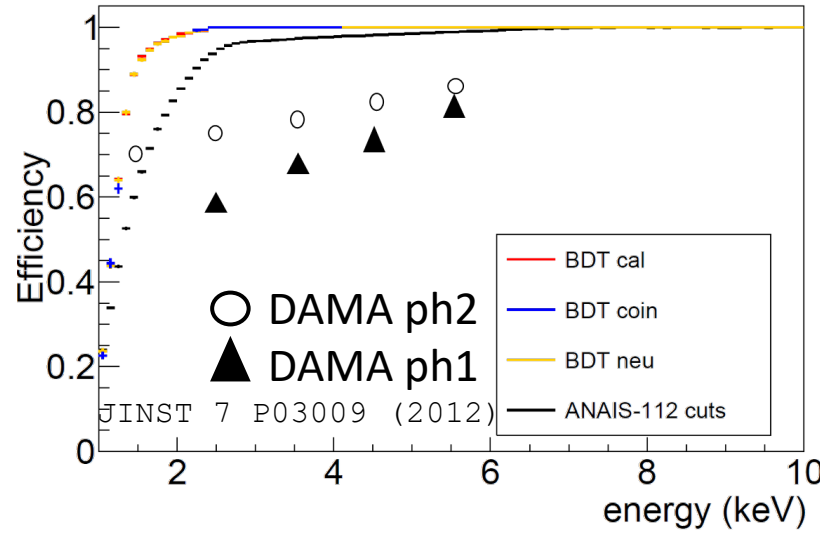
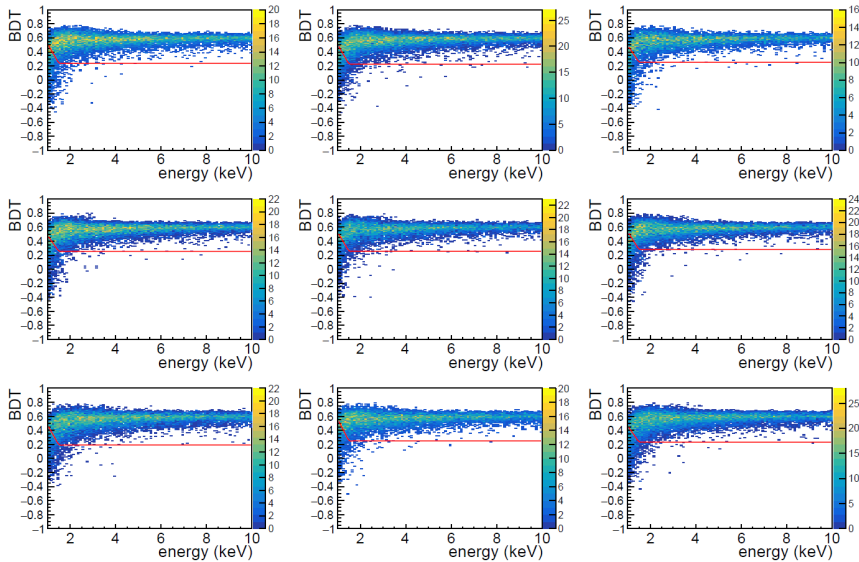
(10% bkg unblinded events)



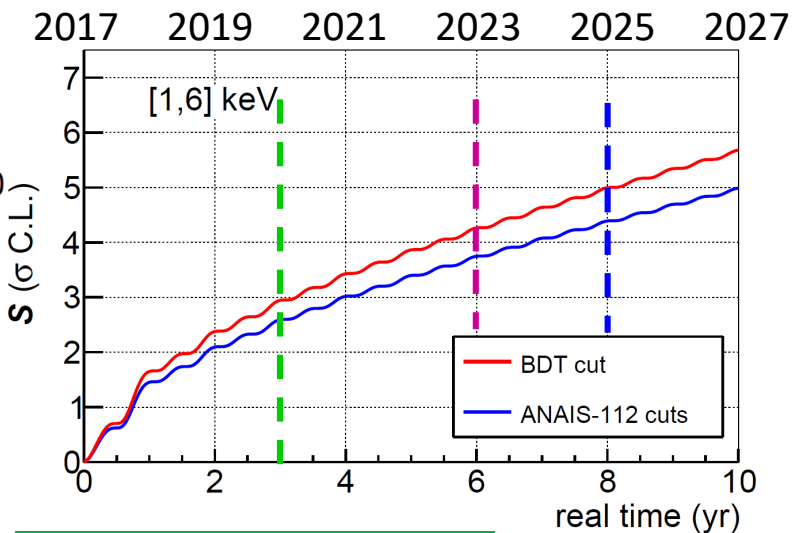
~18% bkg reduction in [1-2] keV

# Event selection with BDT

Neutron calibration

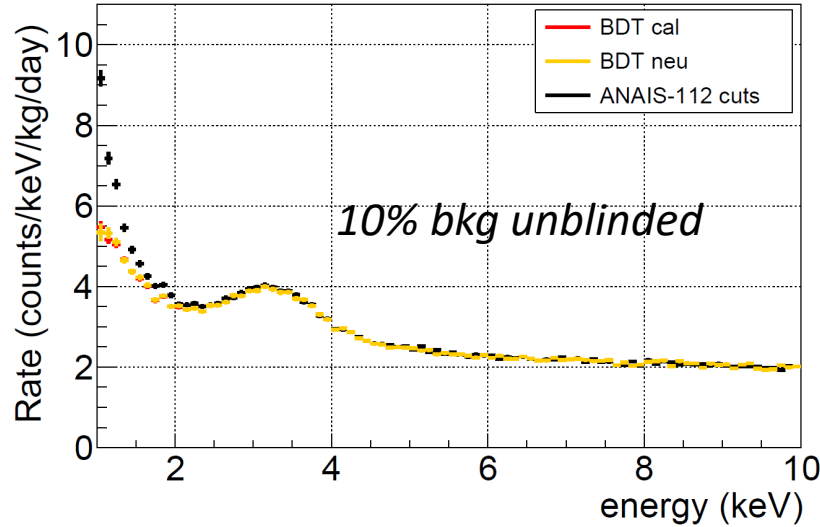
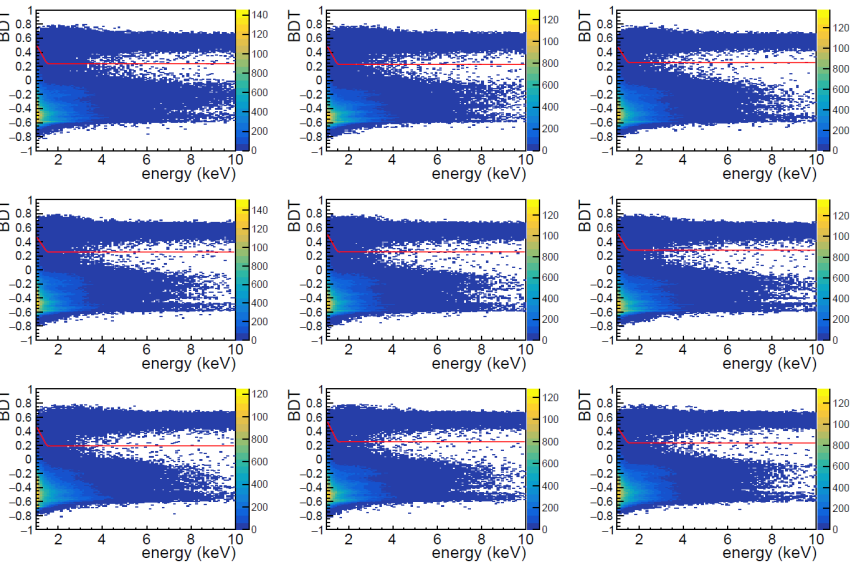


$$\text{DM Sensitivity} \propto \sqrt{\frac{MT\epsilon}{B}}$$



CUT on BDT parameter applied to background

(10% bkg unblinded events)



**3 $\sigma$  sensitivity with 3y**

**>4 $\sigma$  sensitivity with 6y (last summer)**

**5 $\sigma$  sensitivity in late 2025**

# Improved 3-years results [1-6] keV

2.5 $\sigma$   $\rightarrow$  2.9 $\sigma$

**NEW**

PRD 103, 102005 (2021)

Null hyp  $\chi^2/\text{nfd}$ : 1075.81/972 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.011$ ]

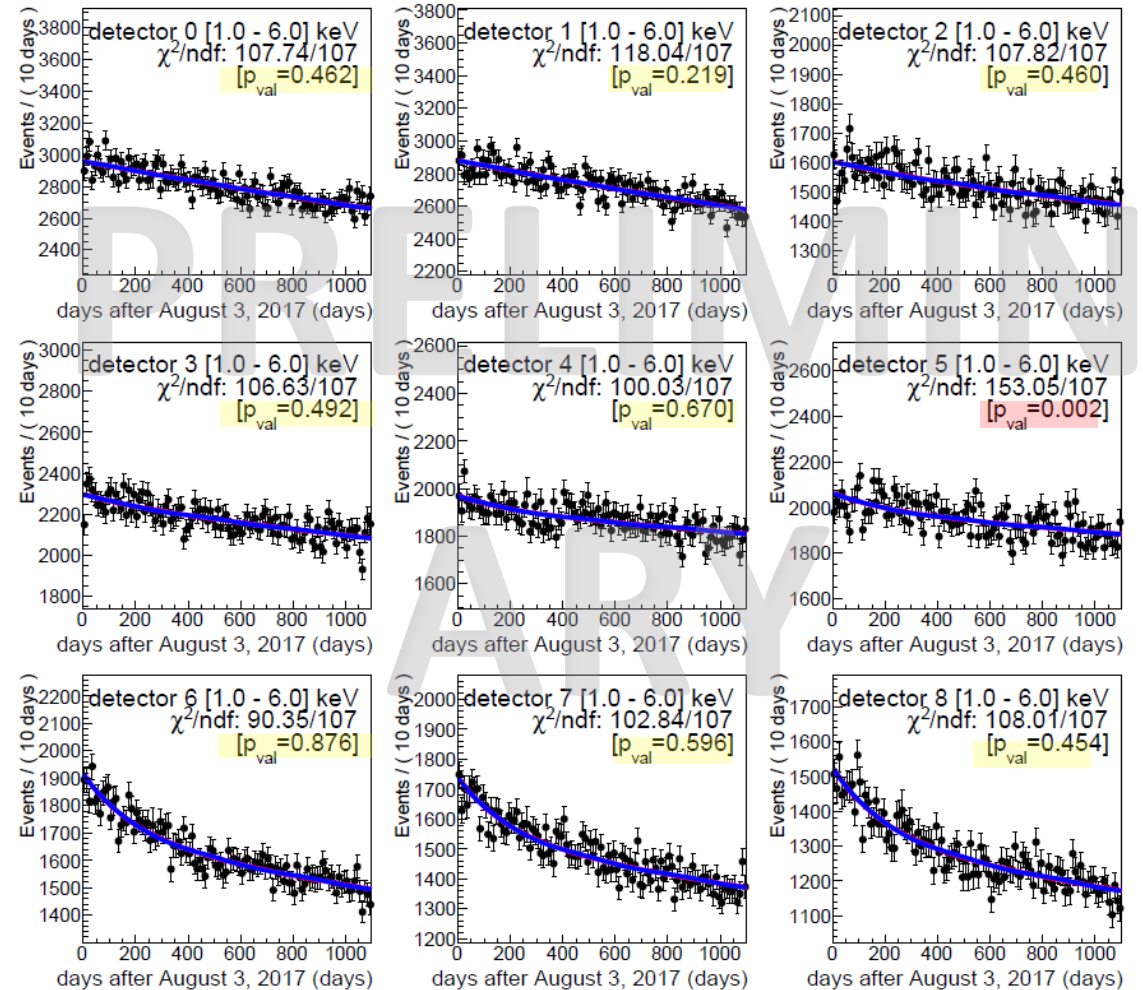
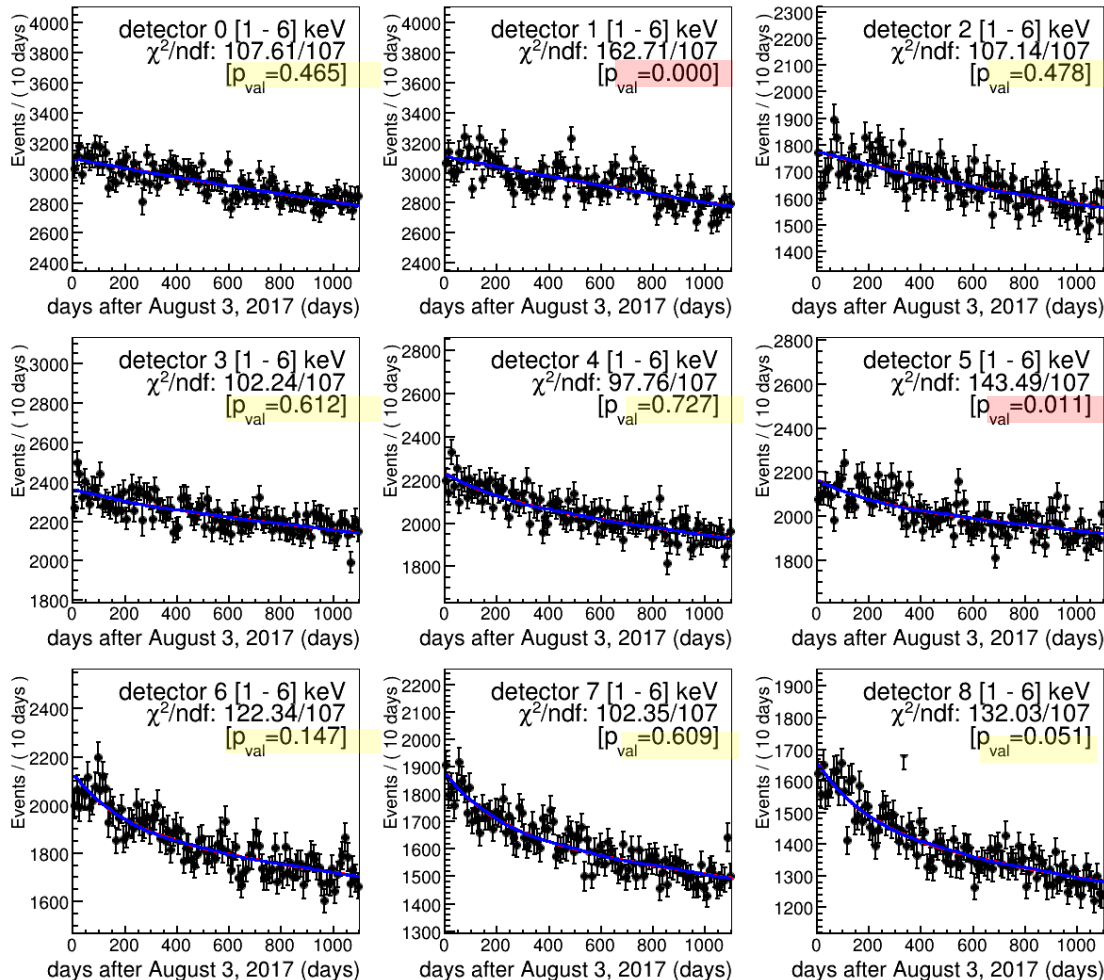
Mod hyp  $\chi^2/\text{nfd}$ : 1075.15/971 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.011$ ]

Null hyp  $\chi^2/\text{nfd}$ : 993.78/972 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.307$ ]

Mod hyp  $\chi^2/\text{nfd}$ : 992.99/971 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.305$ ]

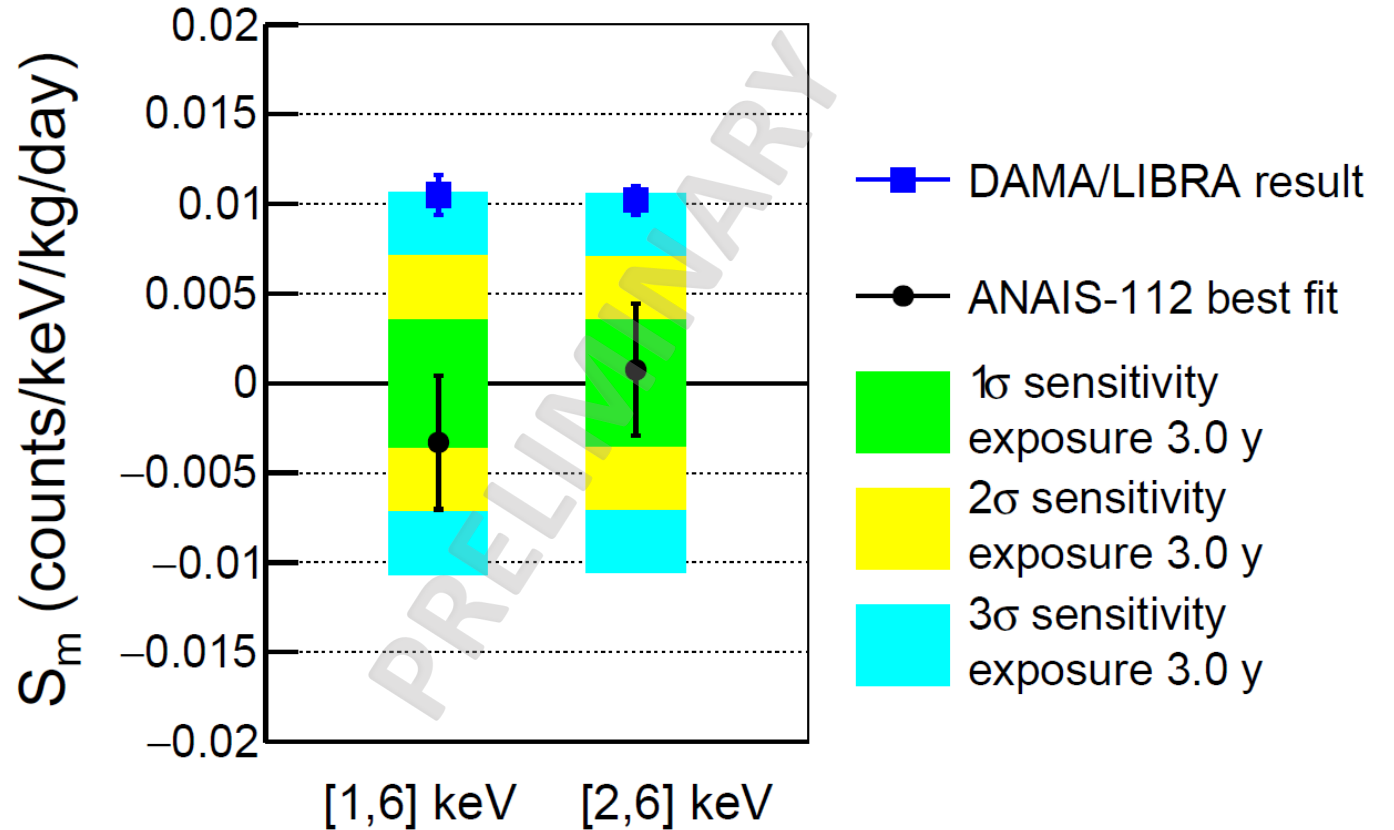
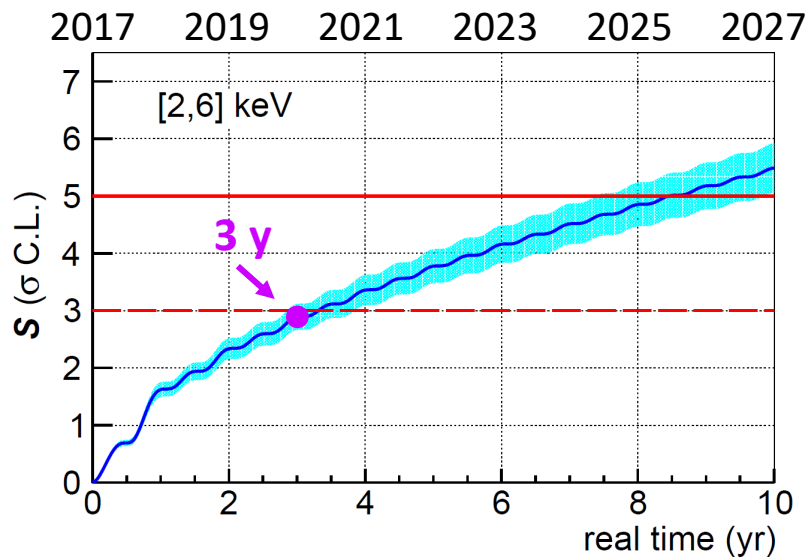
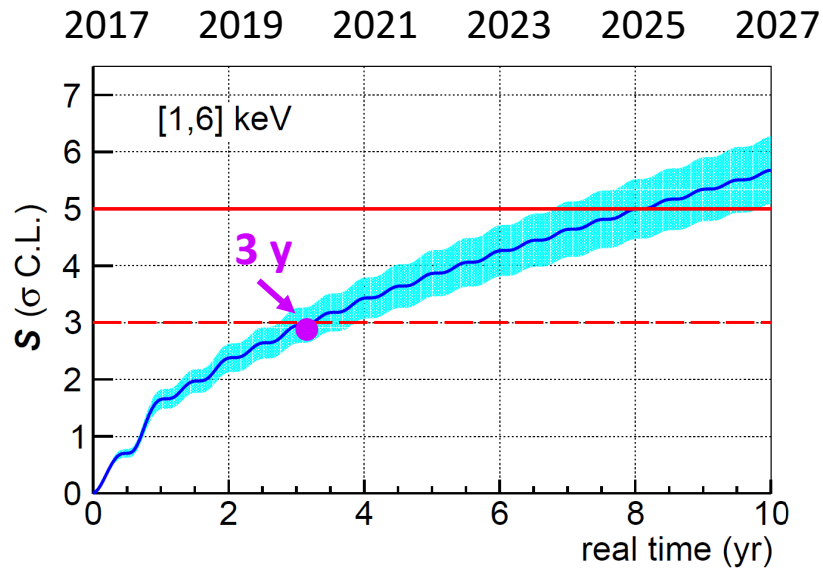
$S_m = (-0.0034 \pm 0.0042)$  (cpd/kg/keV)

$S_m = (-0.0033 \pm 0.0037)$  (cpd/kg/keV)



# 3-years annual modulation with BDT cut

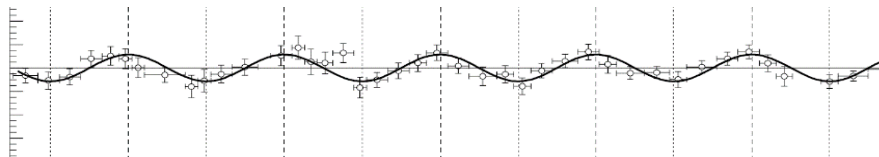
**NEW**



best fit modulation amplitudes compatible with zero at  $\sim 1\sigma$   
Best fit incompatible with DAMA/LIBRA at 3.9 (2.8)  $\sigma$  for [1-6] ([2-6]) keV  
**Sensitivity with 3 years data:  $2.9\sigma$  for [1-6] & [2-6] keV**  
 **$5\sigma$  sensitivity at reach in late 2025**

# Outlook & summary

- Currently, many efforts trying to provide an independent confirmation of DAMA/LIBRA signal with the same target.
- ANAIS-112: is taking data in stable condition @ LSC **since 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017** with excellent performances. Up to now it has accumulated  $\sim 700 \text{ kg}\times\text{y}$  exposure.
- 3-years annual modulation analysis (PRD 103, 102005 (2021)) **public for downloading** at <https://www.origins-cluster.de/odsl/dark-matter-data-center/available-datasets/anais>
- Sensitivity improved with machine learning techniques. **ANAIS-112 observes no modulation and discards DAMA/LIBRA DM interpretation with  $\sim 3\sigma$  sensitivity** in [1-6] keV ([2-6] keV).
- **For the first time, a direct test (i.e. model independent) of DAMA is at reach with  $>3\sigma$  sensitivity.  $5\sigma$  sensitivity in late 2025.**
- Analysis including possible **quenching factor difference on NaI crystals** ongoing. Results soon.



# Outlook & summary

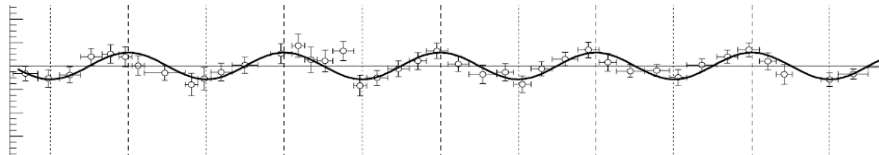
- Currently, many efforts trying to provide an independent confirmation of DAMA/LIBRA signal with the same target.
- ANAIS-112: is taking data in stable condition @ LSC since **3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017** with excellent performances. Up to now it has accumulated  $\sim 700 \text{ kg}\times\text{y}$  exposure.
- 3-years annual modulation analysis (PRD 103, 102005 (2021)) **public for downloading** at <https://www.origins-cluster.de/odsl/dark-matter-data-center/available-datasets/anais>
- Sensitivity improved with machine learning techniques. **ANAIS-112 observes no modulation and discards DAMA/LIBRA DM interpretation with  $\sim 3\sigma$  sensitivity** in [1-6] keV ([2-6] keV).
- **For the first time, a direct test (i.e. model independent) of DAMA is at reach with  $>3\sigma$  sensitivity.  $5\sigma$  sensitivity in late 2025.**
- Analysis including possible **quenching factor difference on NaI crystals** ongoing. Results soon.

Thanks!!

[gifna.unizar.es/anais/](http://gifna.unizar.es/anais/)



**CAPA** Centro de Astropartículas y Física de Altas Energías  
Universidad Zaragoza



# Backup

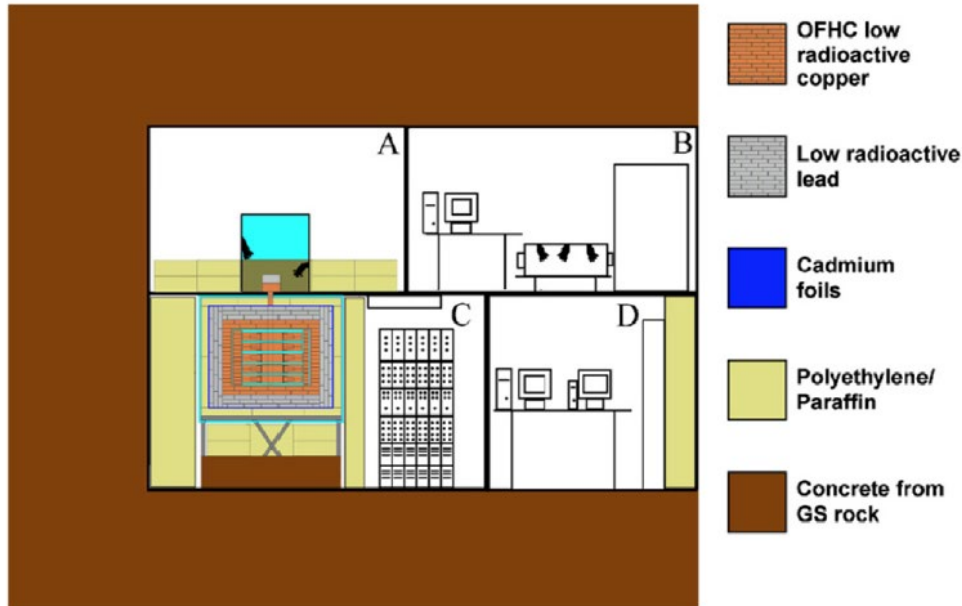
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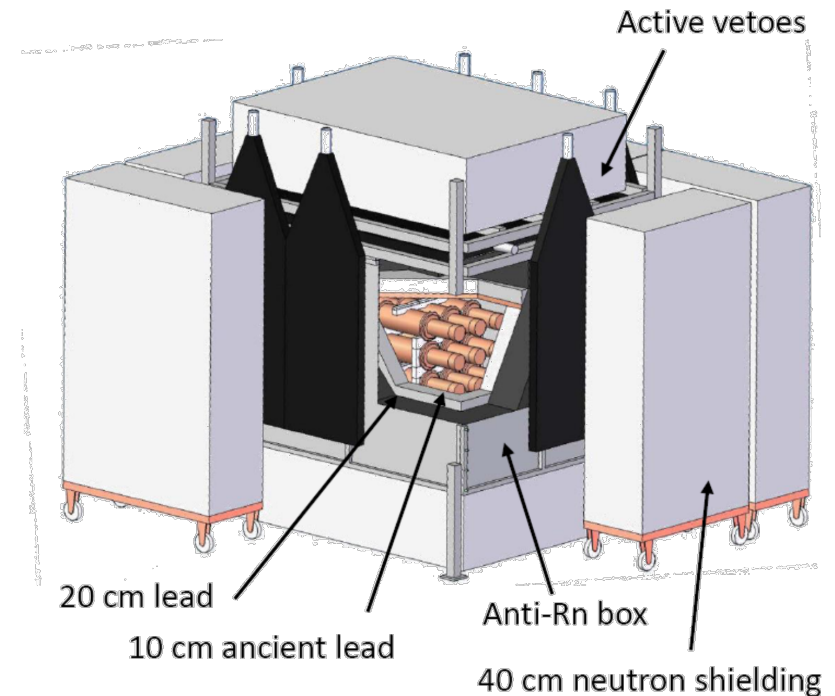
# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

## Shielding

- Gamma shielding:  
>10 cm of OFHC Cu + 15 cm of Pb
- Anti-Rn: Plexiglas box fluxed with N<sub>2</sub> gas
- Neutron shielding:  
10/40 cm Polyethylene/paraffin + Cd foils



- Gamma shielding:  
10 cm of ancient Pb + 20 cm of Pb
- Anti-Rn metallic box fluxed with N<sub>2</sub> gas
- Active muon vetoes
- Neutron shielding:  
40 cm Polyethylene/water tanks



# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

## Muon veto



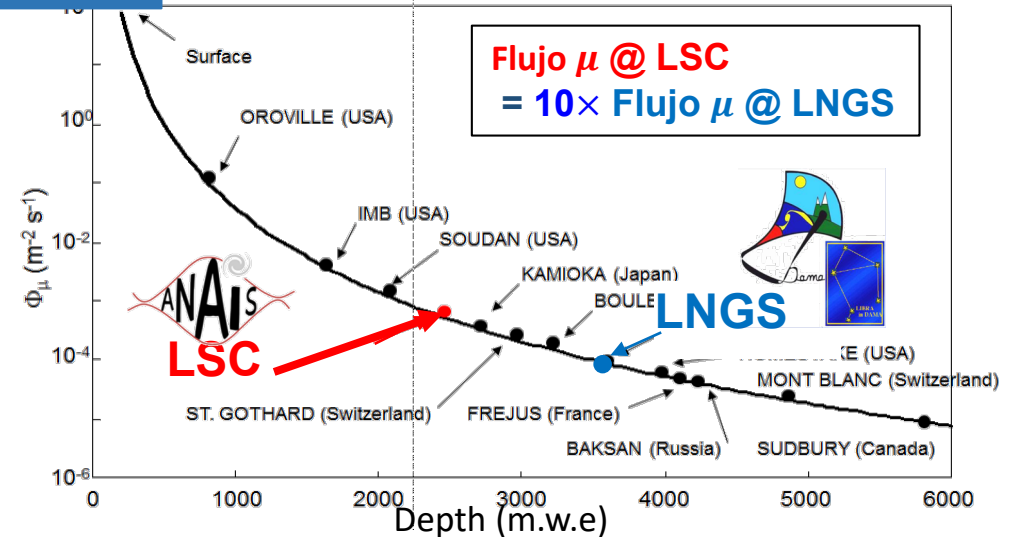
Muon veto: 16 plastic scintillators



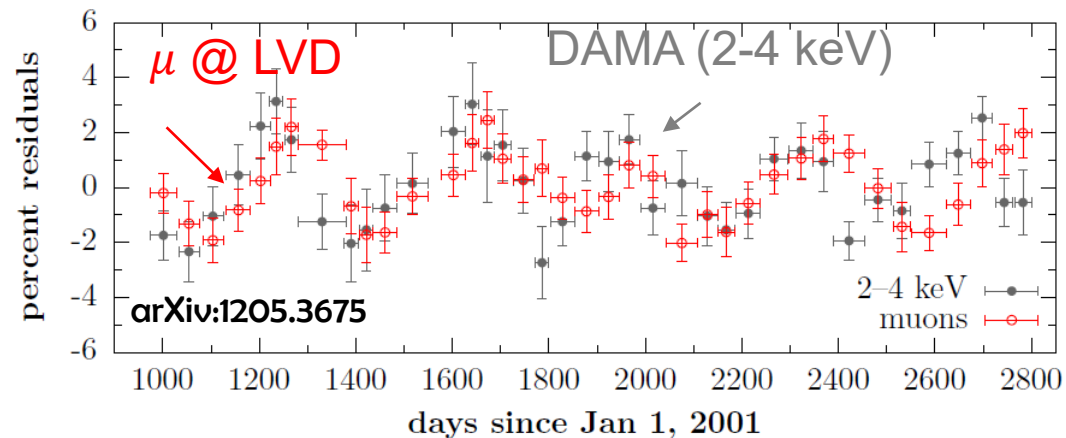
In ANAIS we flag every muon that cross the shielding  
We set a (configurable) dead-time after every passage



DAMA/LIBRA has no muon veto



## The underground muon flux is annual-modulated!



## Can muons explain DAMA signal?

- Modulation phase inconsistency
- Muons interacting directly in the detectors do not fulfill the DM requisites
- Not enough muon-induced fast neutrons to account for the signal

But still some open questions:

- (delayed) effect of muons in PMTs?
- slow phosphorescence in NaI?

# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

## NaI(Tl) scintillating detectors



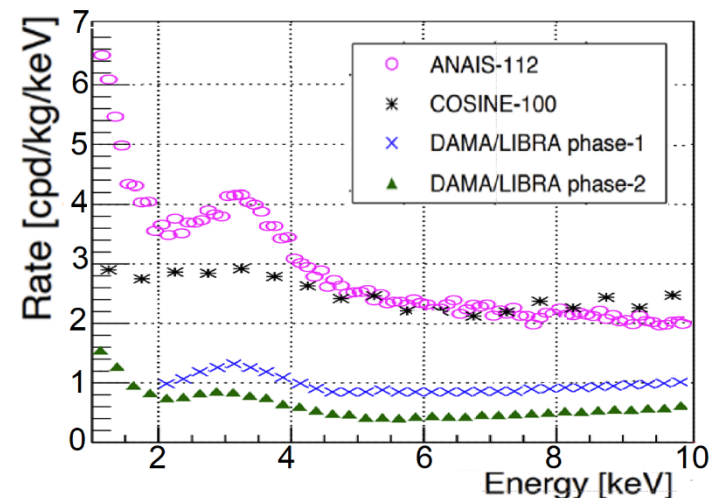
- 25 crystals,  $10.2 \times 10.2 \times 25.4 \text{ cm}^3$ , 9.7 kg each
- Sain Gobain, Kyropoulos method with a platinum crucible
- PMTs phase-1: ETL 9265–B53/FL and 9302–A/FL (QE ~30%)
- PMTs phase-2: Hamamatsu R6233MOD (QE ~38%)
- Light guides: 10 cm Suprasil B



- 9 cylindrical crystals, 12 cm  $\phi \times 30 \text{ cm}$ , 12.5 kg each
- Alpha Spectra (same as COSINE)
- PMTS: Hamamatsu R12669SEL2 (QE ~40%)
- Quartz window (no light guides)

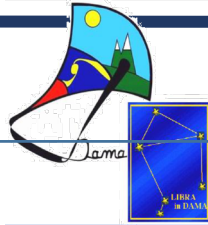
## Superior radiopurity of DAMA/LIBRA crystals wrt ANAIS/COSINE

	K (ppb)	$^{210}\text{Pb}$ (mBq/kg)
DAMA (Saint Gobain)	13	0.01-0.03
ANAIS/COSINE (Alpha Spectra)	18-44	0.7-3

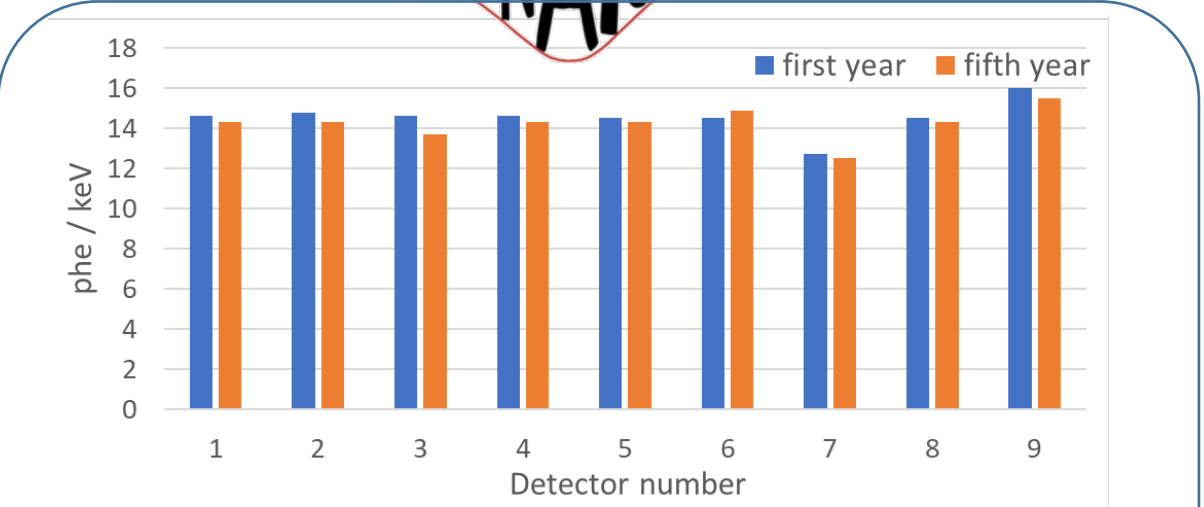
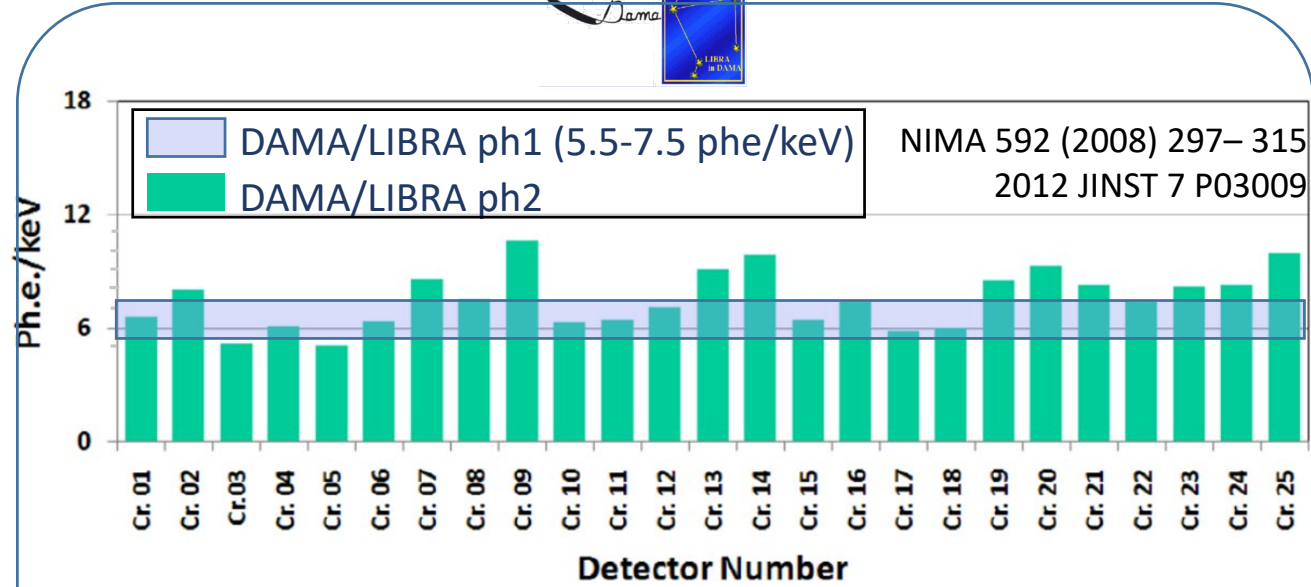


ANAIS: EPJC 79:233, 2019  
 COSINE: EPJC 78:490, 2018  
 DAMA-ph1: NIMA 592 (2008)  
 297–315  
 DAMA-ph2: Nucl. Phys. At.  
 Energy, 19:307-325, 2018

# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

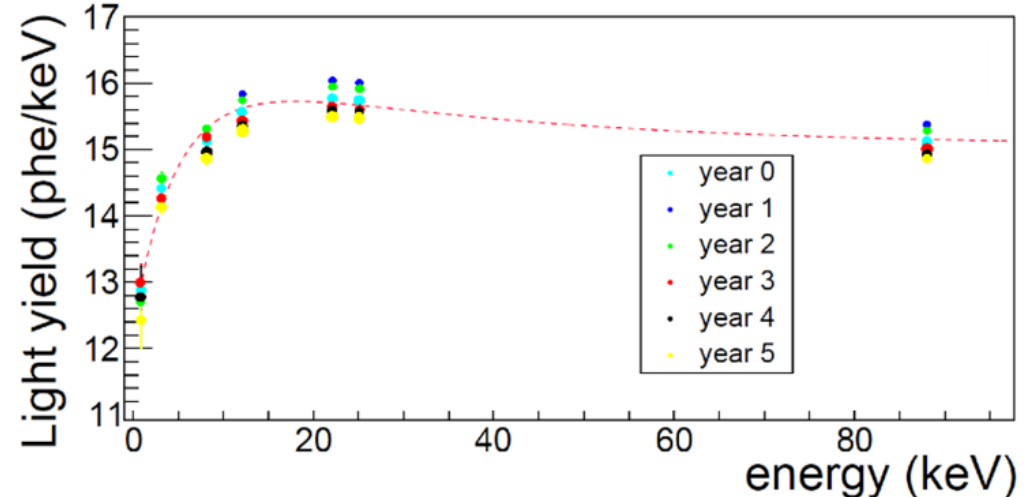


## Light collection



- DAMA/LIBRA-phase1 showed a very good linearity between the calibration with the 59.5 keV line of  $^{241}\text{Am}$  and the tagged 3.2 keV line of  $^{40}\text{K}$
- in DAMA/LIBRA-phase2 a slight nonlinearity is observed(it gives a shift of about 0.2 keV at the software energy threshold and vanishes above 15 keV).

In ANASIS non proportionality is observed < 25 keV (20%)



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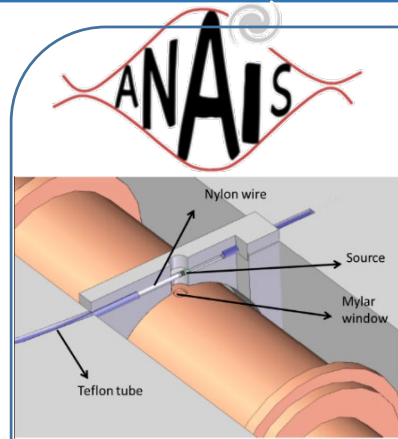
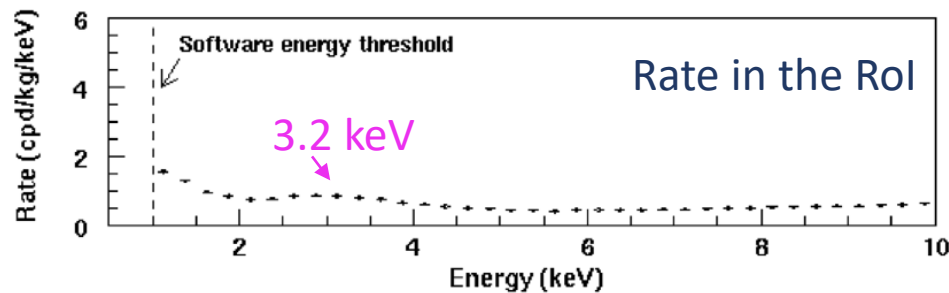
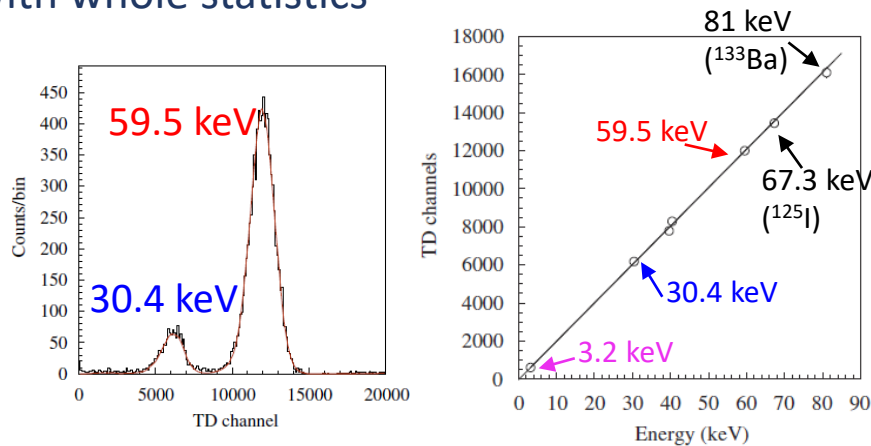
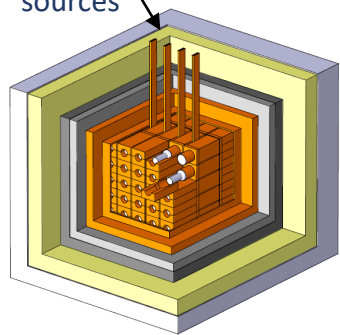
# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

## Low energy calibration – ROI [1-6 keV]

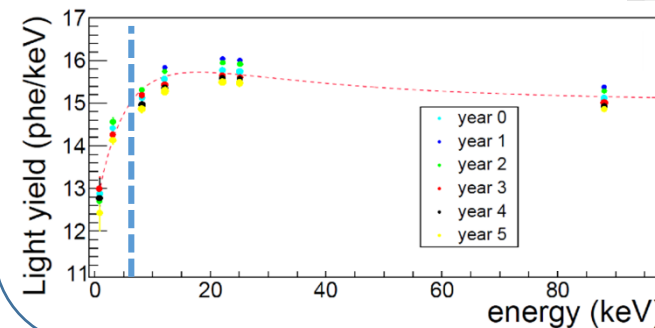
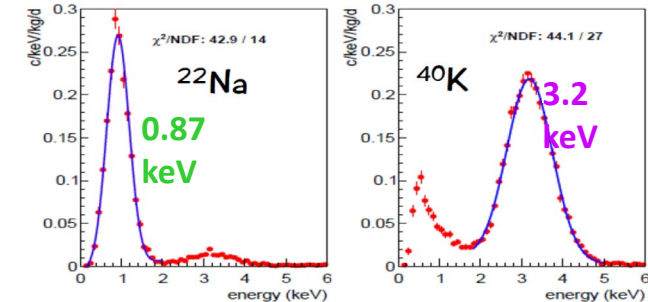
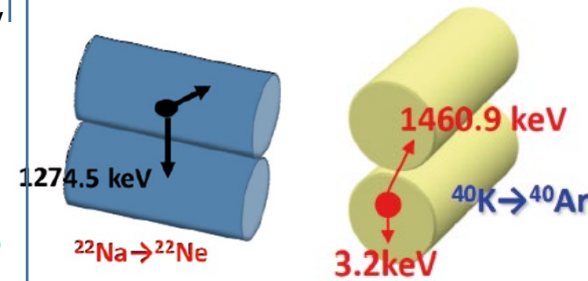
- Periodical calibrations every  $\sim 10$  days with a  $^{241}\text{Am}$  source (30.4 keV (composite), 59.5 keV). Linear calibration down to threshold
- Linearity check and corrected @ 3.2 keV with whole statistics



Guides for  $^{241}\text{Am}$  sources



- Detectors equipped with a **Mylar window**
- Calibration with  $^{109}\text{Cd}$  sources (11.9 keV, 22.6 keV and 88.0 keV) every two weeks for gain correction
- Calibration in the ROI with internal bulk contaminants  $^{22}\text{Na}$  (0.9 keV) and  $^{40}\text{K}$  (3.2 keV) (whole statistics)



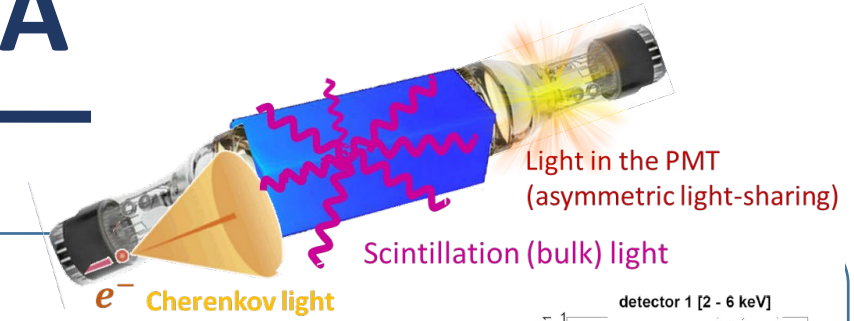
Non proportionality < 25 keV (20%)

Linear calibration in 2 ranges:

- 1-10 keV [ROI]
- 10-100 keV

# What is different wrt DAMA/LIBRA

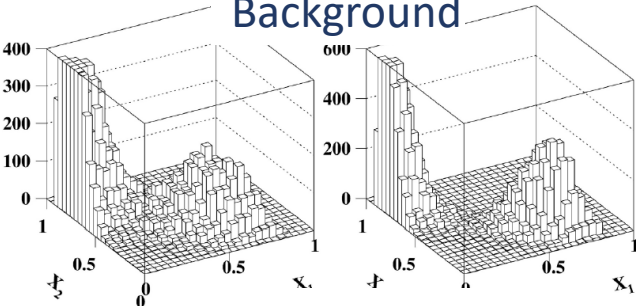
## Event selection & efficiency



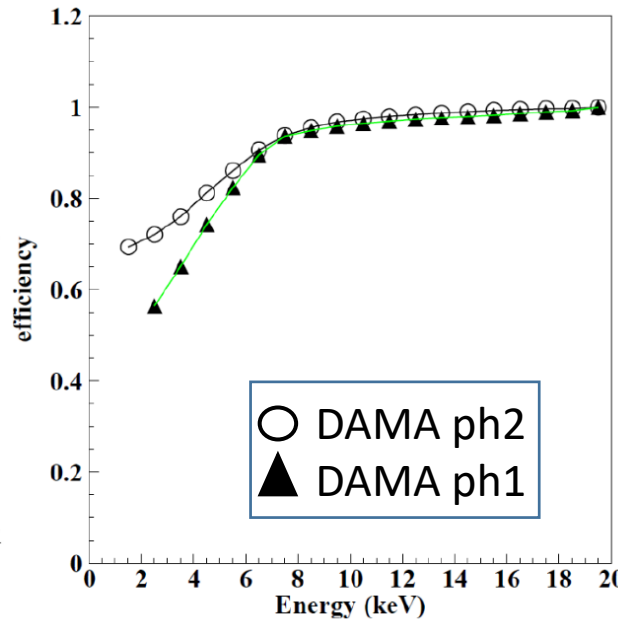
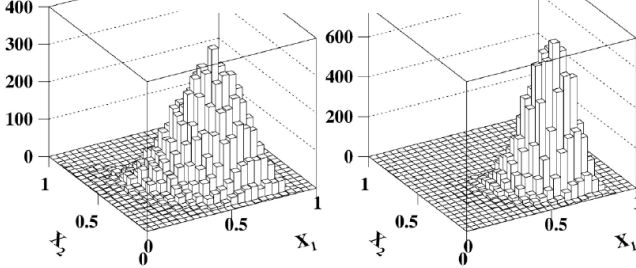
$X_1 = \text{Area}(\text{from } 100 \text{ to } 600 \text{ ns}) = \text{Area}(\text{from } 0 \text{ to } 600 \text{ ns})$   
 $X_2 = \text{Area}(\text{from } 0 \text{ to } 50 \text{ ns}) = \text{Area}(\text{from } 0 \text{ to } 600 \text{ ns})$

$$ES = \frac{1 - (X_2 - X_1)}{2} \quad ES > 0.54 \text{ (0.60) in } 1\text{--}3 \text{ (3--}6) \text{ keV}$$

Background

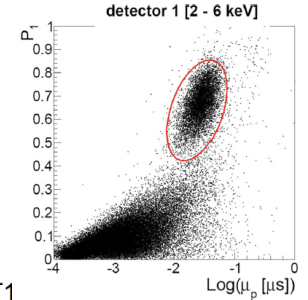


<sup>241</sup>Am calibration

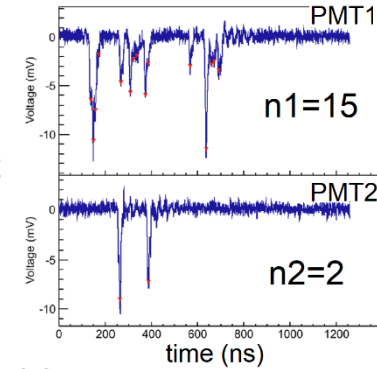


$$P_1 = \frac{\int_{100 \text{ ns}}^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t) dt}{\int_0^{600 \text{ ns}} A(t) dt}$$

$$\mu_p = \frac{\sum A_p t_p}{\sum A_p}$$

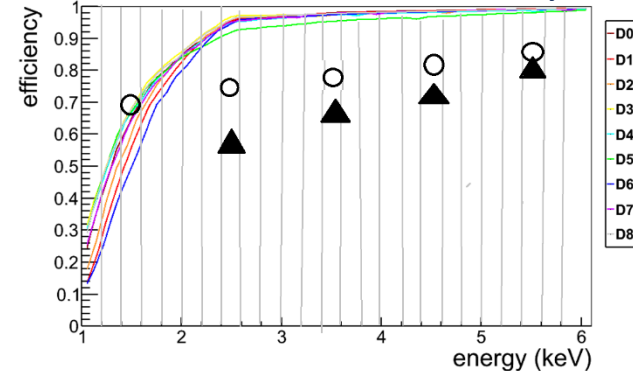


Between 1-2 keV, in ANAIS-112 there is a population of asymmetric events (more light in one PMT wrt the other)



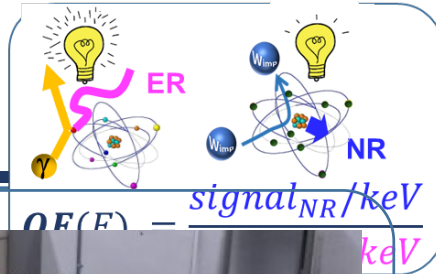
Select events with  $n_1 > 4$  &  $n_2 > 4$

ANAIS vs DAMA efficiency



Continuous lines:  
 ANAIS eff, from <sup>109</sup>Cd and <sup>22</sup>Na/<sup>40</sup>K  
 ○ DAMA ph2  
 ▲ DAMA ph1

# NR Quenching factor measurements



## DAMA/LIBRA

$^{252}\text{Cf}$  calibration

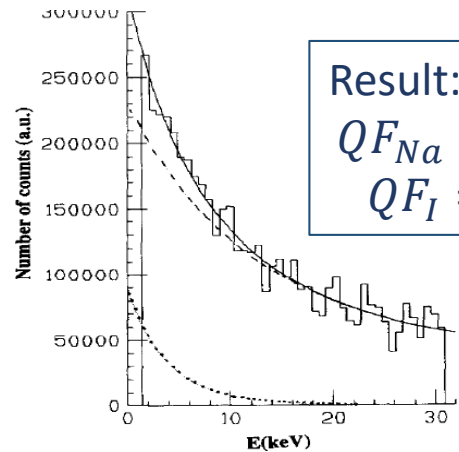
$$E_R = E_{det}/QF$$

Hypothesis: constant QF

Spectrum fitted to:

$$Y(E_{det}) = \alpha_{Na} G_{Na} \left( \frac{E_{det}}{q_{Na}} \right) + \alpha_1 G_1 \left( \frac{E_{det}}{q_1} \right)$$

$$G_X(E_R) = \exp(a_{1,X} E_R^3 + a_{2,X} E_R^2 + a_{3,X} E_R)$$



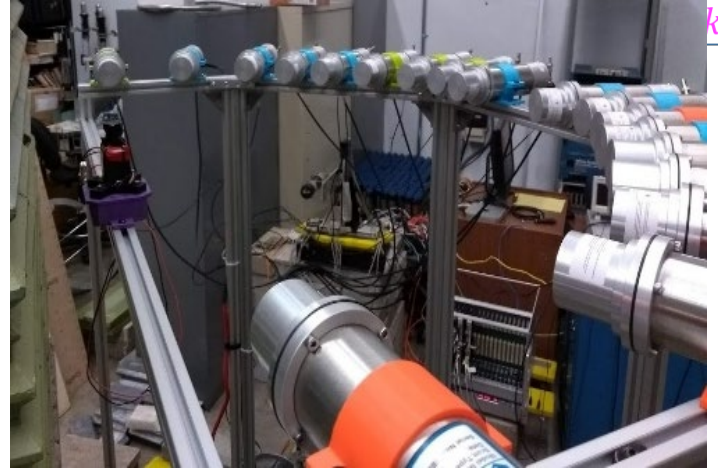
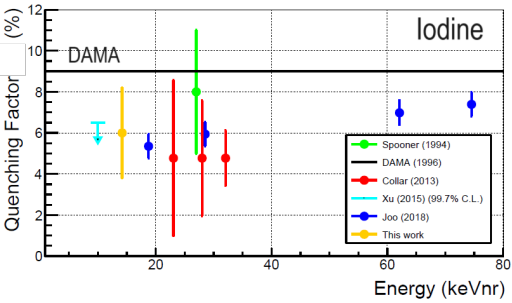
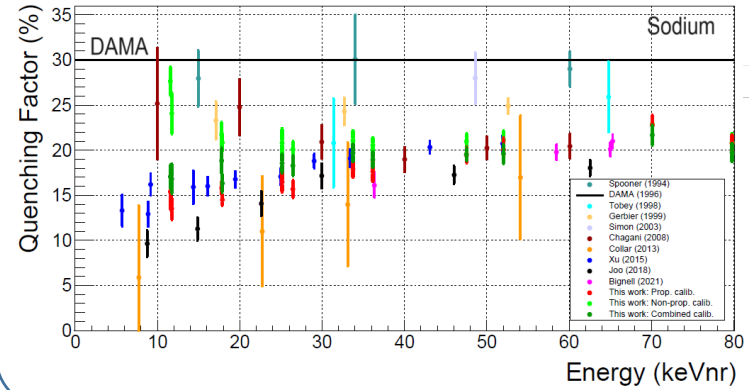
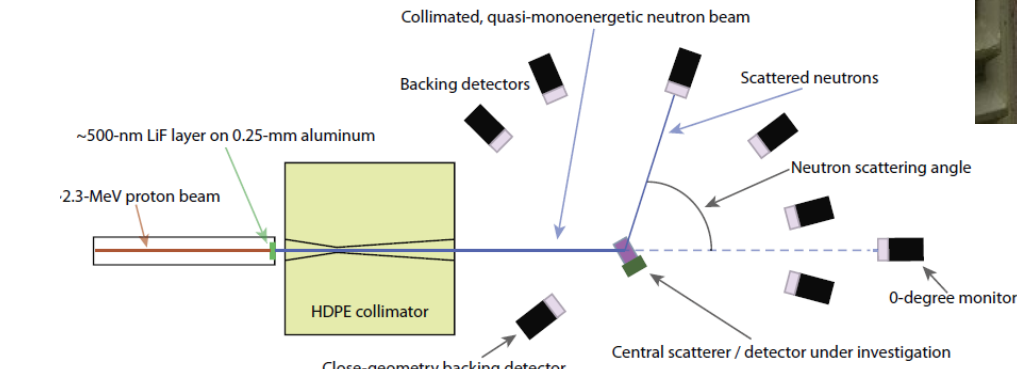
**Result:**  
 $QF_{Na} = 30\%$   
 $QF_I = 9\%$

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## ANAIS method 1

Measurements @ TUNL (Duke Univ.)  
 5 different NaI(Tl) crystals (ANAIS & Yale group of COSINE) in the same setup



- Similar response for the 5 crystals
- Noticeable differences for different energy calibrations (NaI non-linearity)
- Lower QF than DAMA/LIBRA measurement

[paper ready to be send to Phys. Rev. C]

# NR Quenching factor measurements

$$QF(E) = \frac{\text{signal}_{NR}/\text{keV}}{\text{signal}_{ER}/\text{keV}}$$



## DAMA/LIBRA

$^{252}\text{Cf}$  calibration

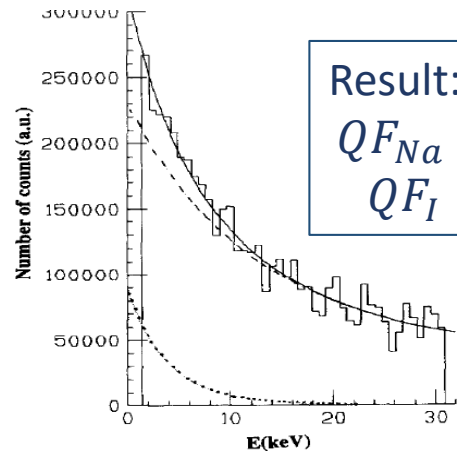
$$E_R = E_{det}/QF$$

Hypothesis: constant QF

Spectrum fitted to:

$$Y(E_{det}) = \alpha_{Na} G_{Na} \left( \frac{E_{det}}{q_{Na}} \right) + \alpha_1 G_1 \left( \frac{E_{det}}{q_1} \right)$$

$$G_X(E_R) = \exp(a_{1,X} E_R^3 + a_{2,X} E_R^2 + a_{3,X} E_R)$$



Result:

$$QF_{Na} = 30\%$$

$$QF_I = 9\%$$

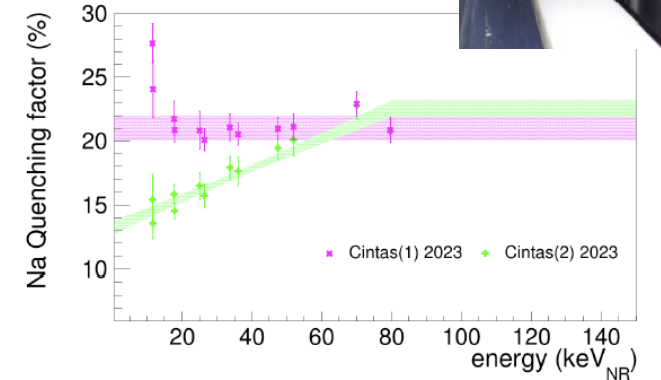
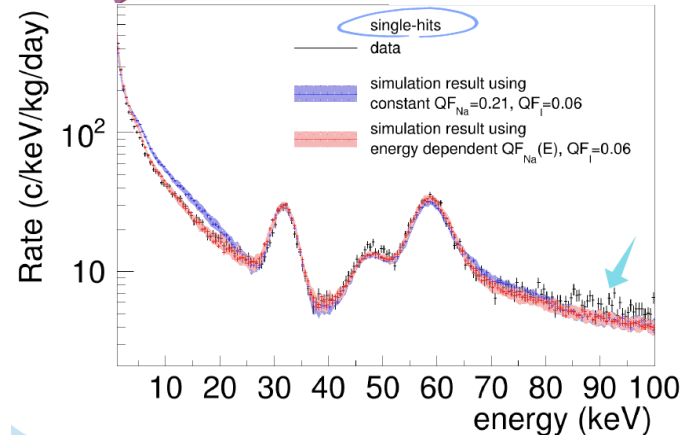
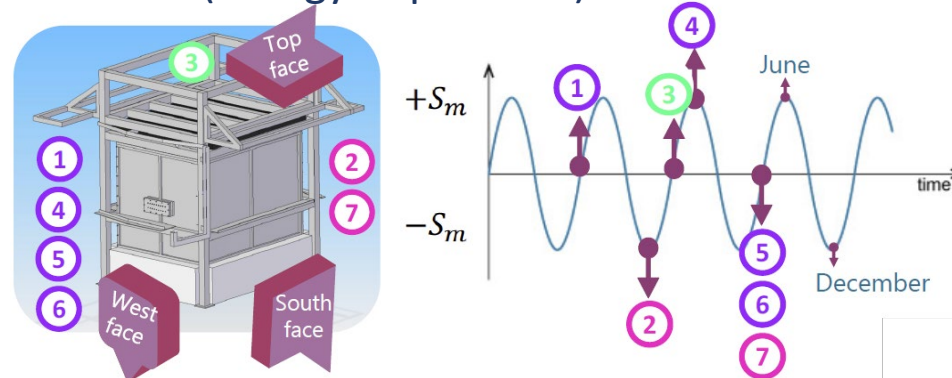
Phys. Lett. B 389 (1996) 757-766



## AN AIS method 2

$^{252}\text{Cf}$  onsite calibration

Method: Compare calibration data with MC simulation, assuming a certain QF (energy dependent)



- Very sensitive to the QF
- DAMA/LIBRA QF not compatible with ANAIS data
- Robust agreement with Method 1 (QF variable with energy favored over constant QF)

[analysis almost finished. Paper soon]



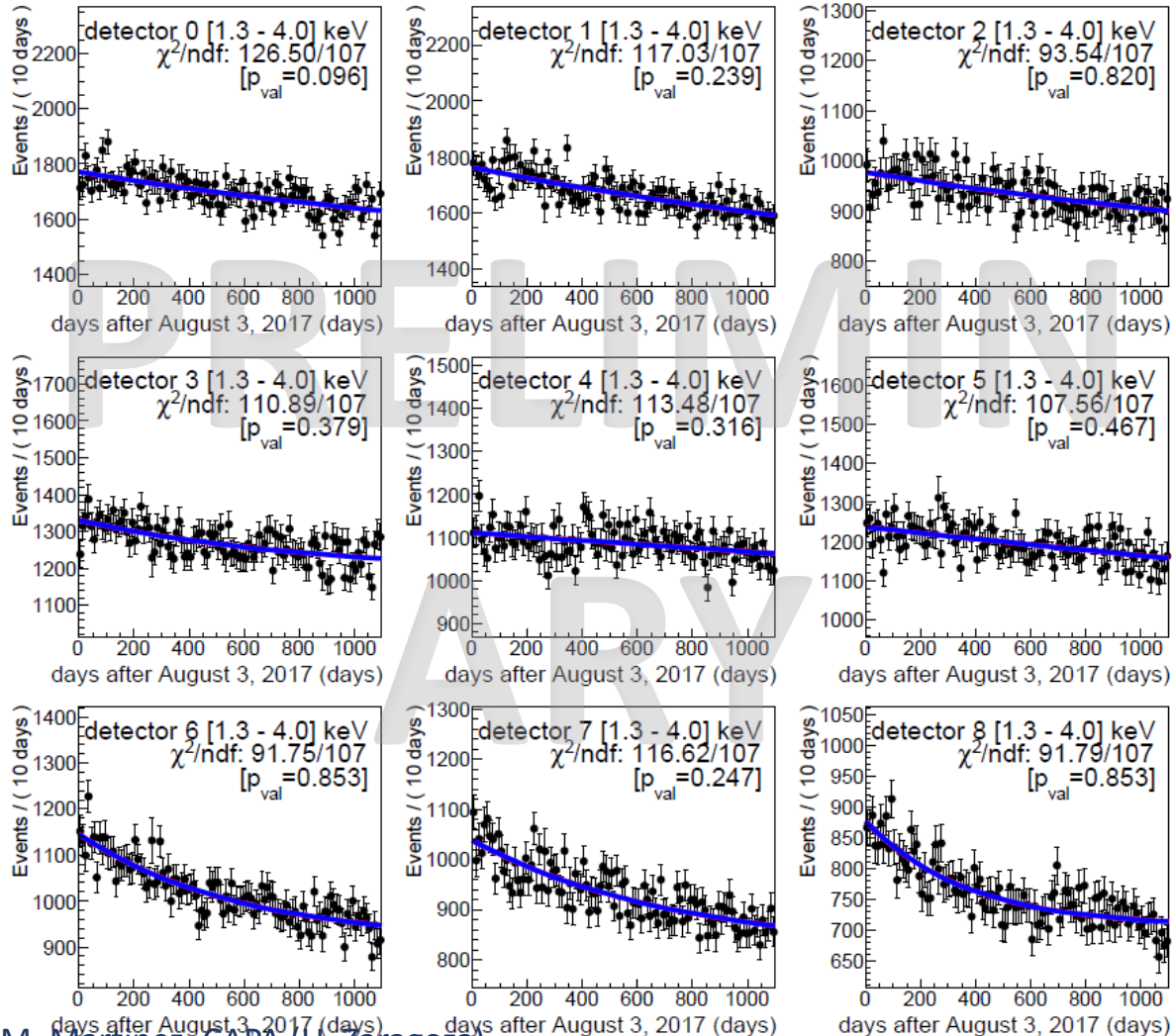
# 3 y modulation analysis in 1.3 – 4 keV



Null hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 968.31/963 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.446$ ]

Mod hyp  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ : 968.16/962 [ $p_{\text{val}}=0.438$ ]

$$S_m = (-0.0019 \pm 0.0050) \text{ (cpd/kg/keV)}$$



Supposing

DAMA/LIBRA  $Q_{Na} = 30\%$

ANAIS  $Q_{Na} = 20\%$

DAMA [2 – 6] keV → ANAIS [1.3 – 4] keV

ANAIS 3 years annual modulation fit:

$$S_m = -0.0019 \pm 0.0050$$

Considering Na Quenching difference:

- ANAIS compatible with no modulation
- ANAIS best fit incompatible with DAMA @  $2.4\sigma$  (sensitivity =  $2\sigma$ )