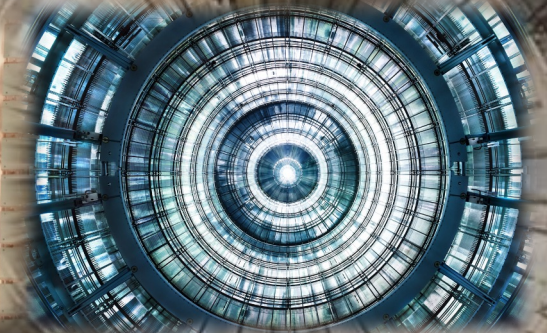
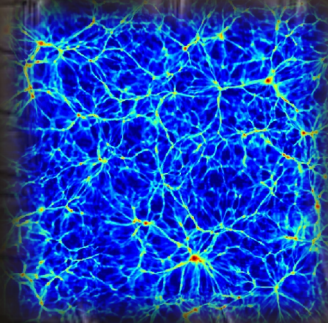


# $0\nu\beta\beta$ and direct neutrino mass measurements

ICHEP - 2024

---



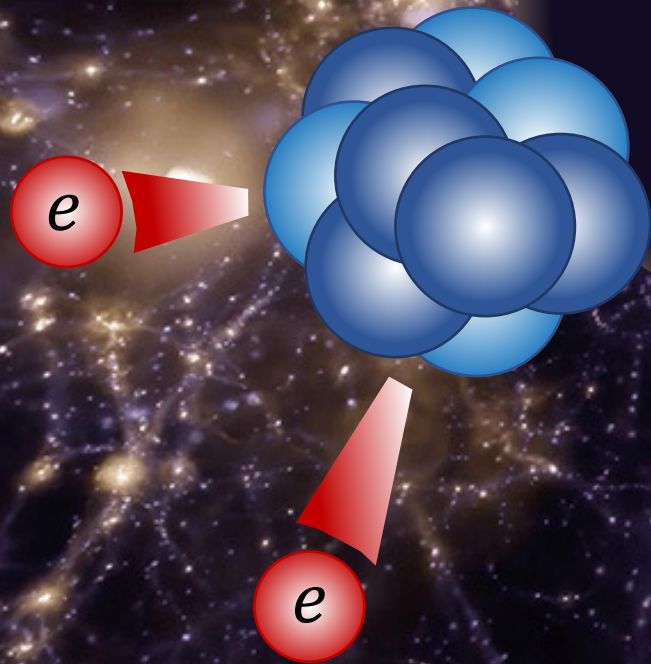
Prof. Dr. Susanne Mertens

Technical University Munich & Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics

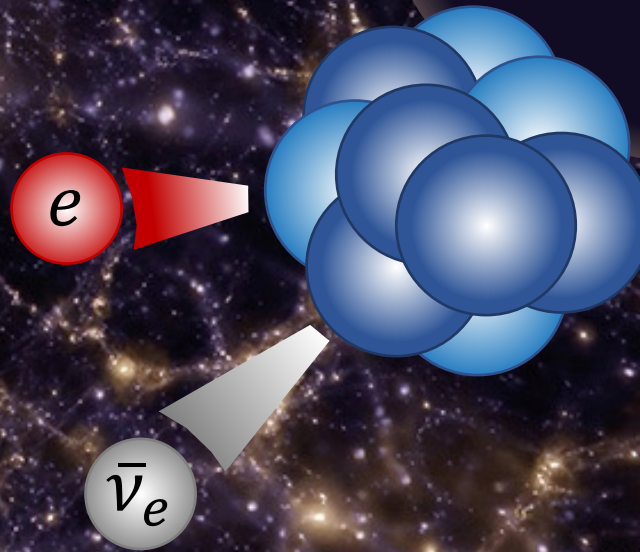


# Neutrinos – open questions

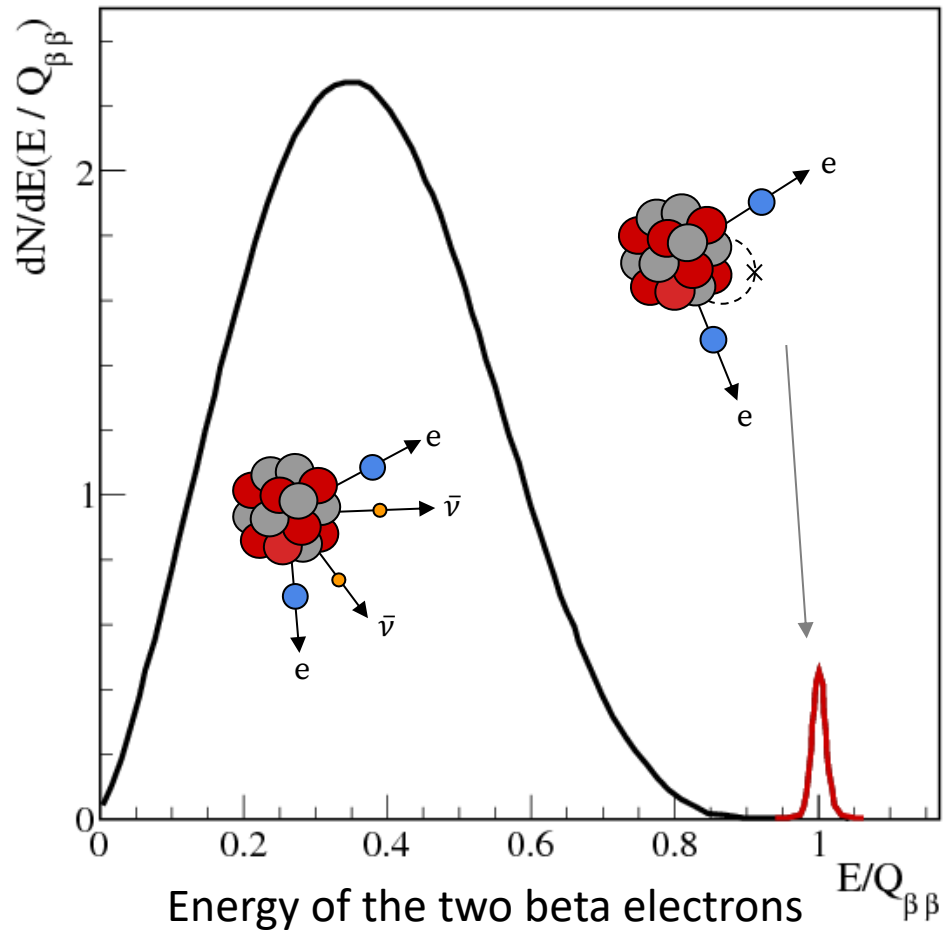
Are neutrinos  
their own anti-  
particle ?



What is the  
mass of  
neutrinos ?



# The signature



## Discovery of $0\nu\beta\beta$ :

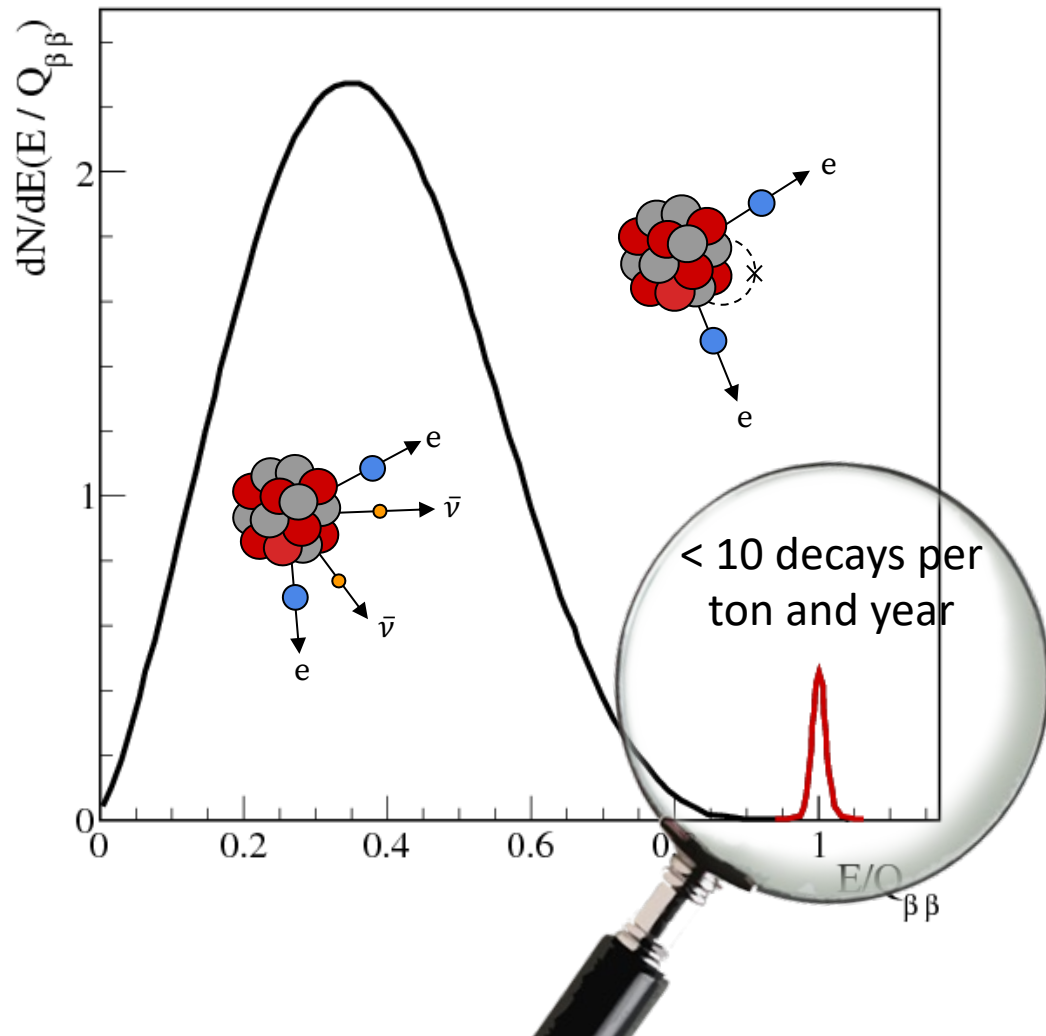
- Process which creates matter, without the balancing amount of anti-matter
- Neutrino is a Majorana particle
- Lepton-number violation
- Half life reveals neutrino mass:

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = G_{0\nu}(Q, Z) \cdot |M^{0\nu}|^2 \cdot m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

$^{48}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{82}\text{Se}$ ,  $^{96}\text{Zr}$ ,  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  
 $^{110}\text{Pd}$ ,  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ ,  $^{124}\text{Sn}$ ,  $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  
 $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{150}\text{Nd}$

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

# The challenge



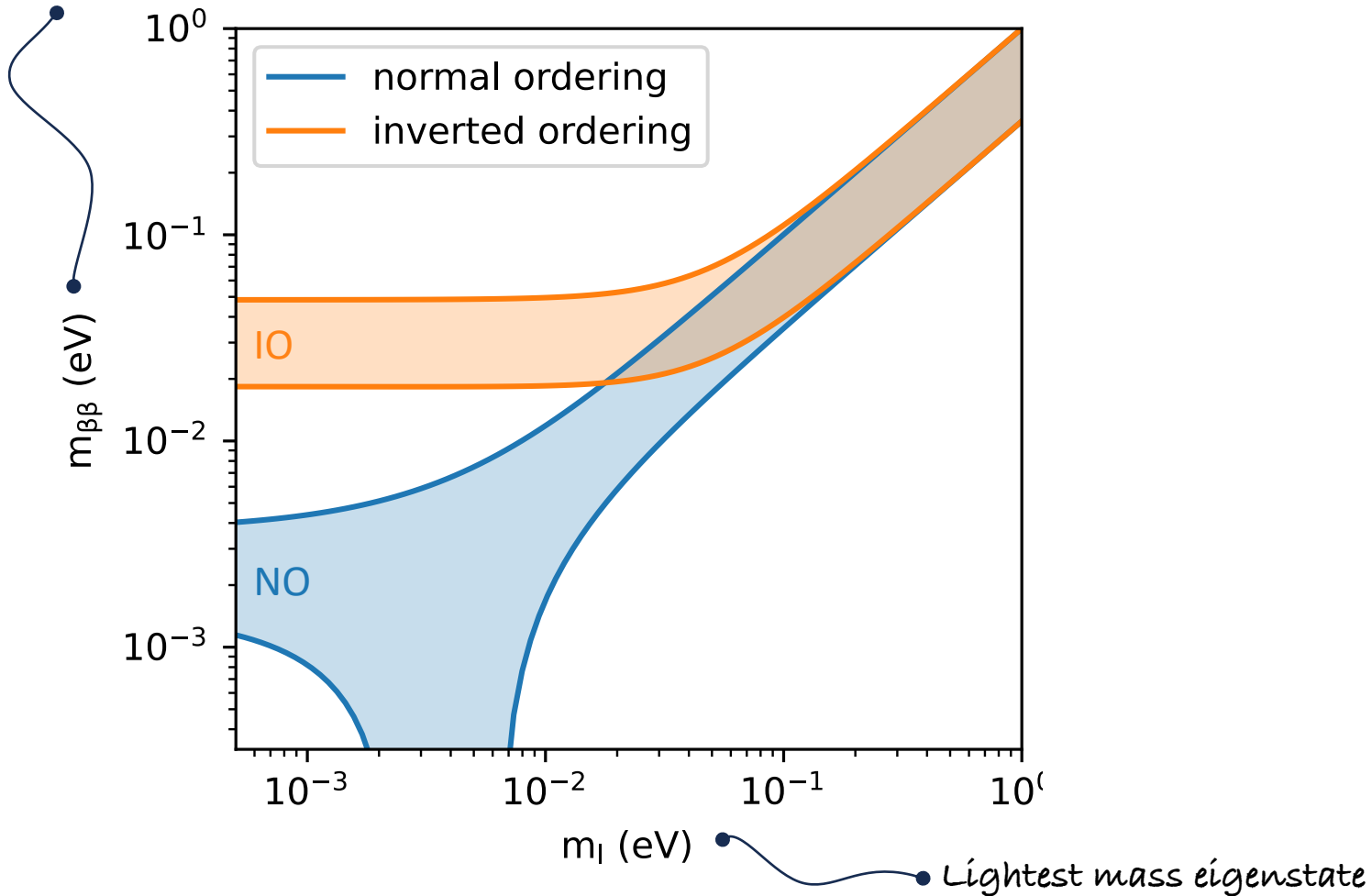
## Key requirements:

- Large exposure (ton-scale)
- Low background (< 1 cts/year/t/ROI)
- Excellent energy resolution (< 1% @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ )

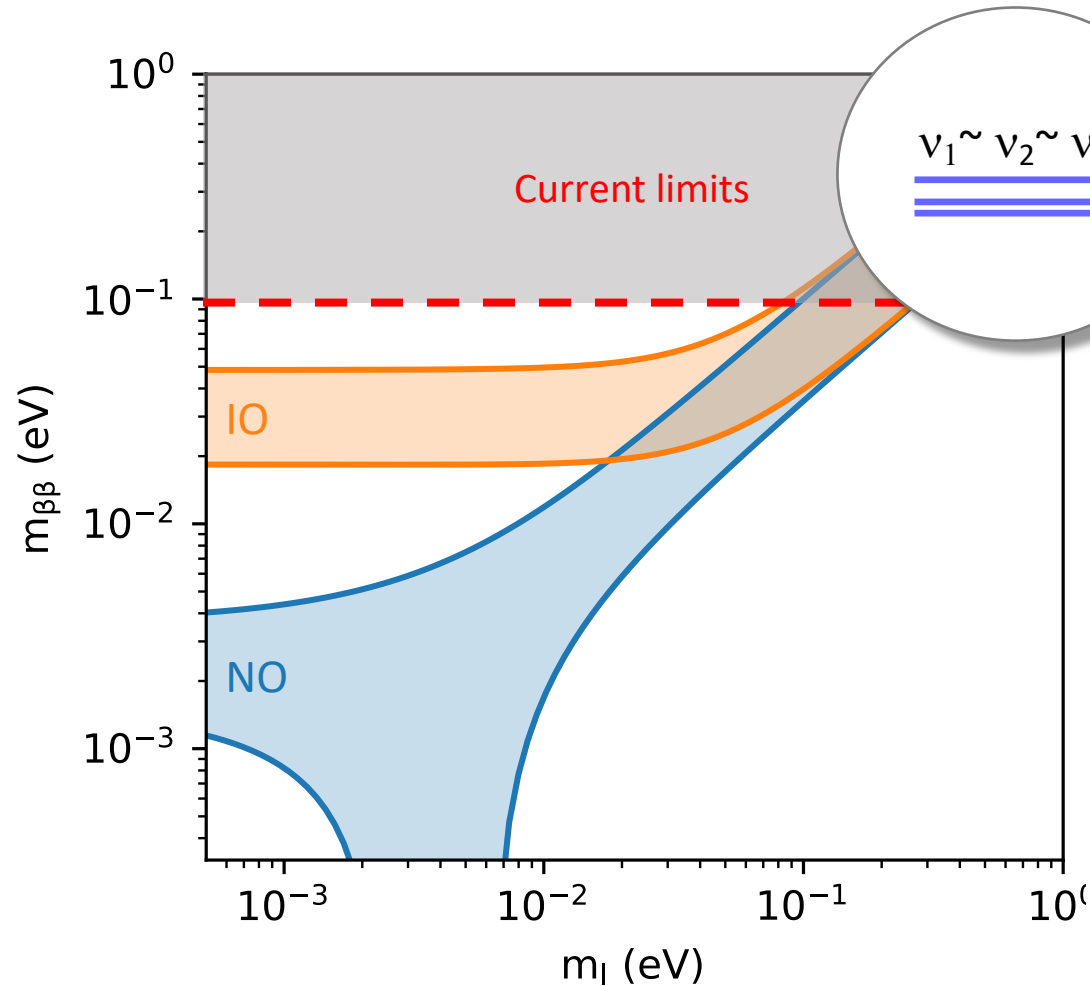


# Where do we stand?

Coherent sum of  
mass eigenstates



# Where do we stand?



- ongoing / completed projects probe degenerate regime  
e.g. [LEGEND-200](#), [CUORE](#), [EXO](#), [KamLAND-ZEN](#)



**KamLAND-Zen**

Xe-loaded liq. scintillator

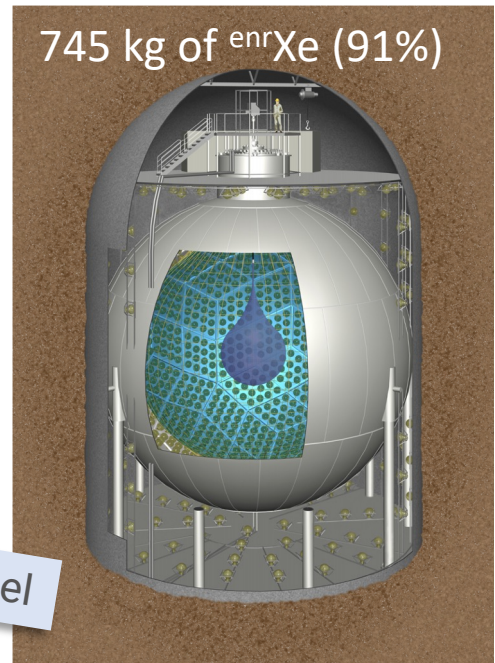
$$T_{1/2} > 3.8 \cdot 10^{26}$$



$$m_{\beta\beta} < 28 - 122 \text{ meV}^* \text{ (90\% CL)}$$

arXiv:2406.11438 (2024)

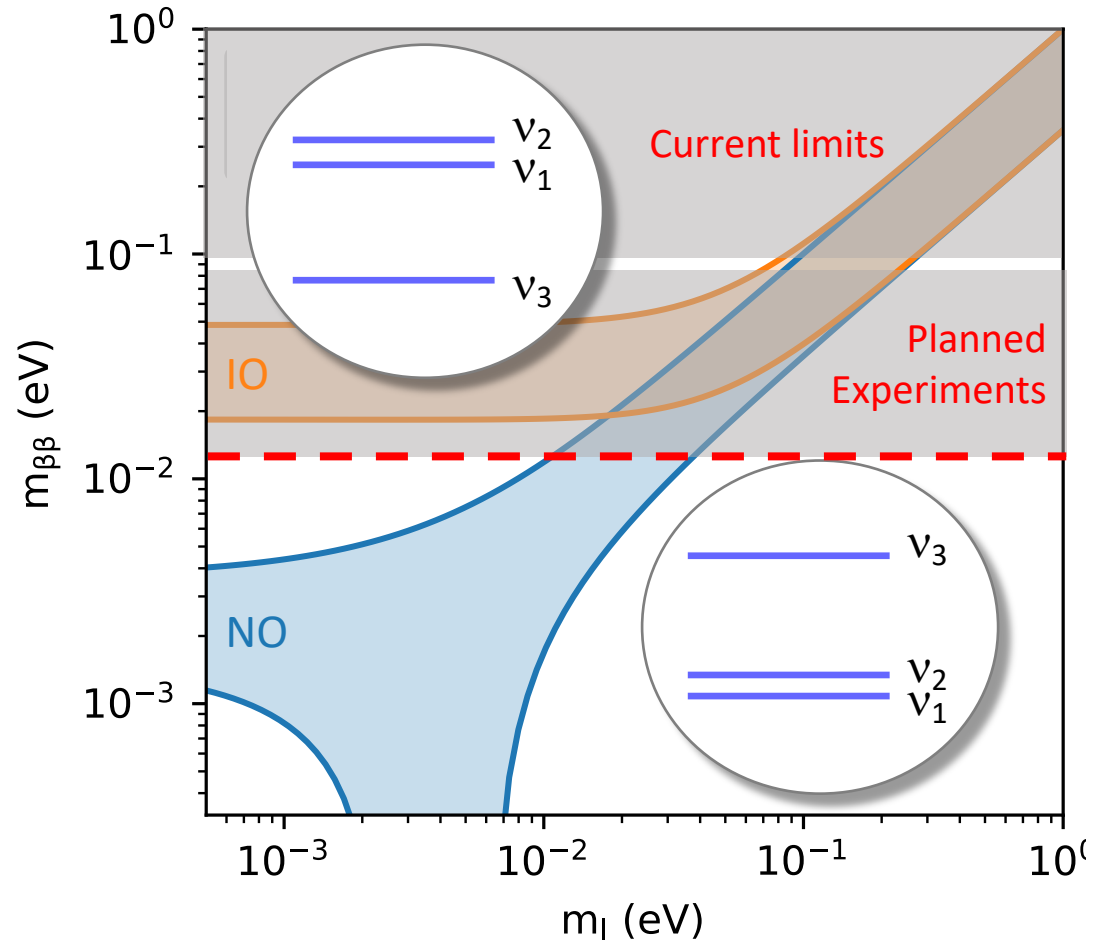
M. Eizuka, parallel



\*Exposure: 970 kg · y  $^{137}\text{Xe}$ , NME = 1.1 - 4.8

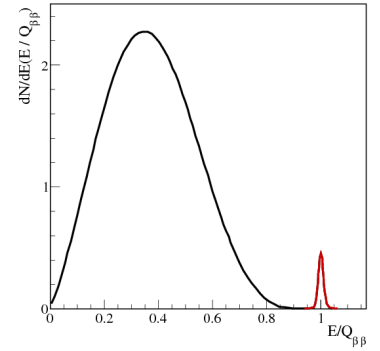
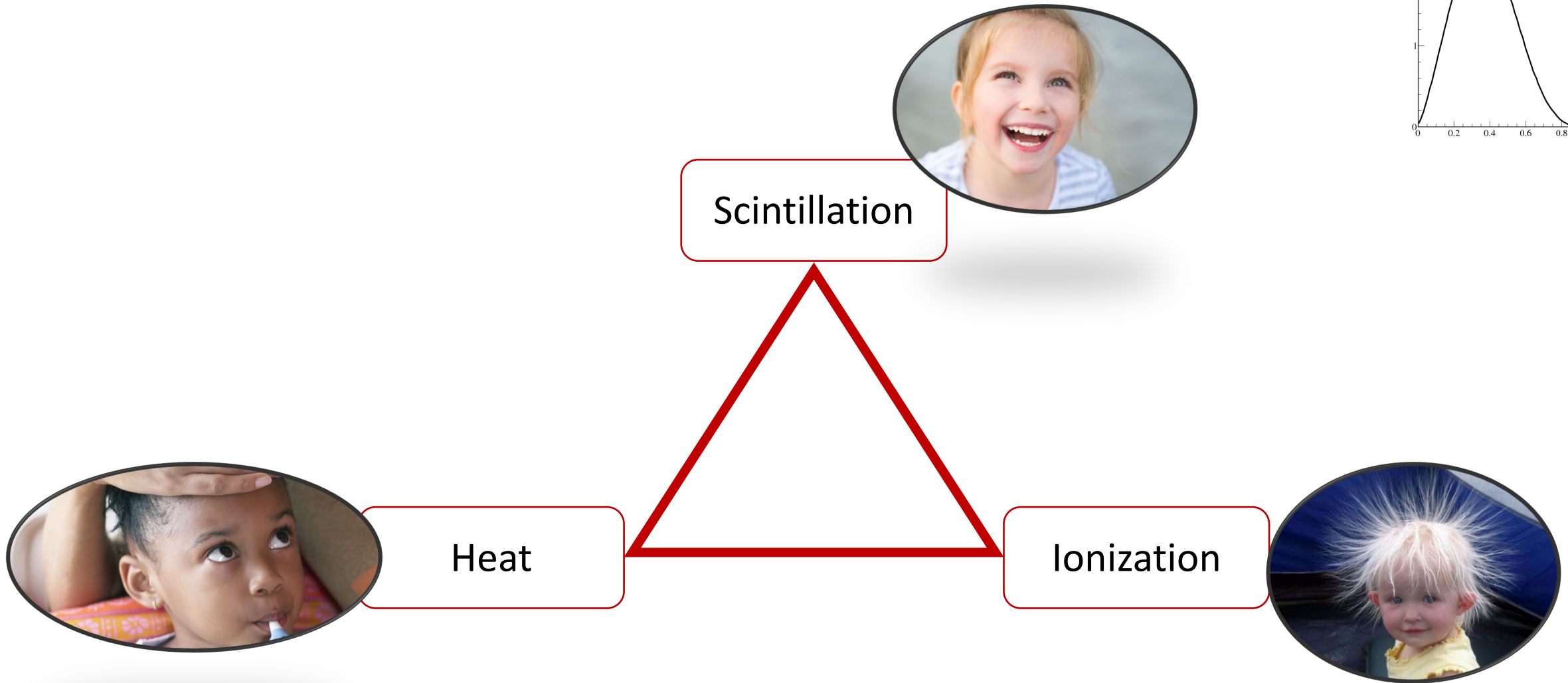


# Where do we stand?



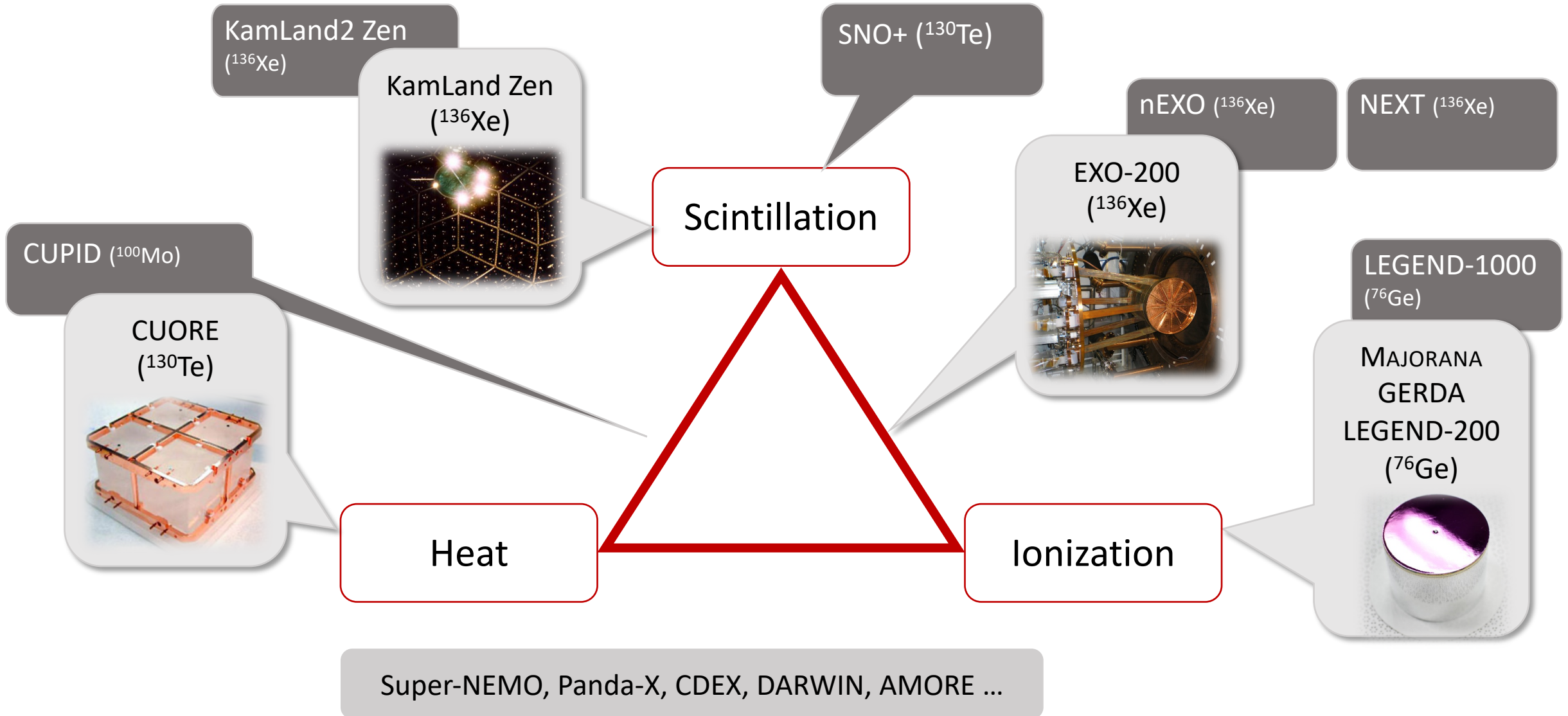
- ongoing / completed projects probe degenerate regime  
e.g. [LEGEND-200](#), [CUORE](#), [EXO](#), [KamLAND-ZEN](#)
- planned projects will fully cover the inverted ordering scenario  
e.g. [LEGEND-1000](#), [CUPID](#), [nEXO](#)

# Experimental efforts

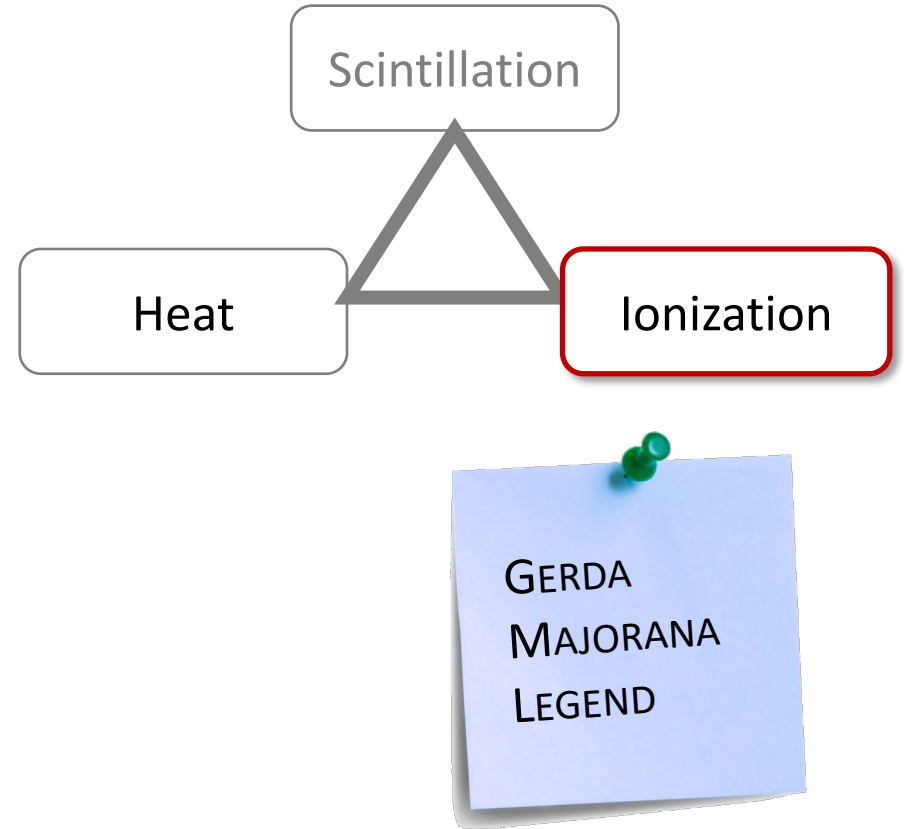
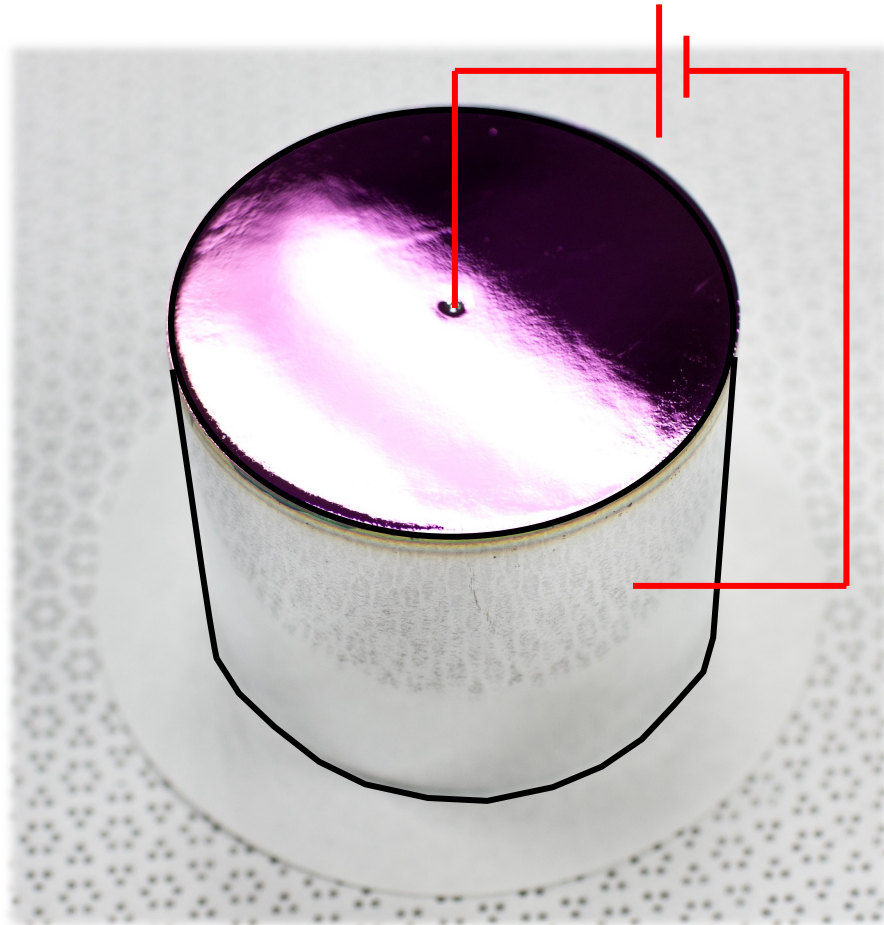




# Experimental efforts



# Experimental efforts



## Germanium Semiconductors

- ✓ Enrichment to > 90% in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  ( $Q_{\beta\beta}=2039$  keV)
- ✓ Excellent energy resolution (0.1 % FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ )
- ✓ Pulse-shape-discrimination against background



# Ge-Semiconductor

## LEGEND 200 @ LNGS (Italy)

- **Method:** HPGe detector in liquid Ar
- **Mass:** 142 kg <sup>enr</sup>Ge (later 200 kg)
- **Background:** 0.5 cts/keV/t/year
- **E-resolution:** ~0.1% FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** running

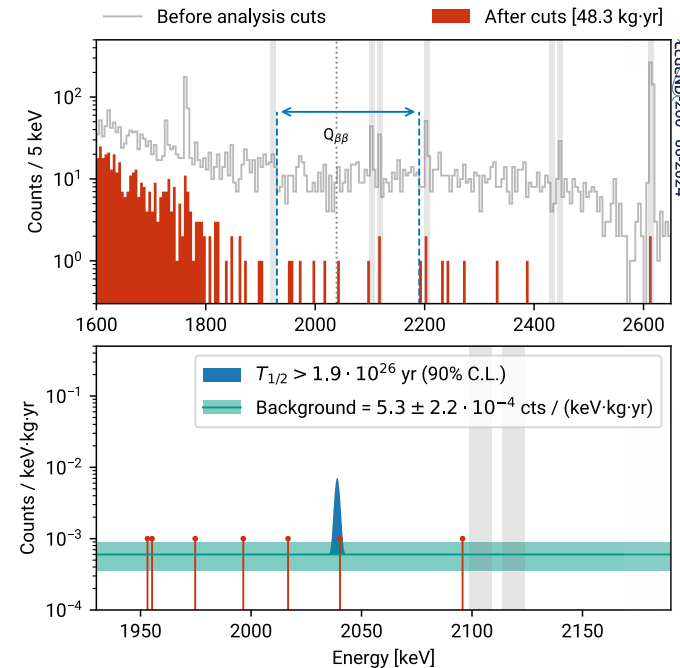
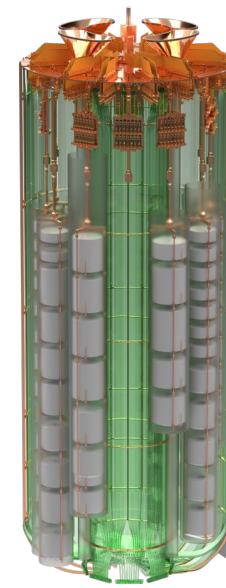


✓  $T_{1/2} > 1.9 \cdot 10^{26}$  (LEGEND + GERDA + MAJORANA)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 75 - 178$  meV\*

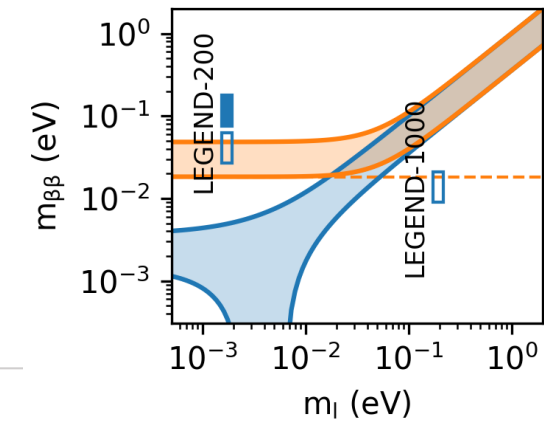


PRL 125, 252502 (2020)  
 PRL 130, 062501 (2022)  
 Neutrino-24 (2024)



\*Exposure: 240 kg · y <sup>76</sup>Ge, NME = 1.6 - 4.8

# Ge-Semiconductor



## LEGEND 200 @ LNGS (Italy)

- **Method:** HPGe detector in liquid Ar
- **Mass:** 142 kg  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  (later 200 kg)
- **Background:** 0.5 cts/keV/t/year
- **E-resolution:**  $\sim 0.1\%$  FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** running



✓  $T_{1/2} > 1.9 \cdot 10^{26}$  (LEGEND + GERDA + MAJORANA)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 75 - 178$  meV\*



PRL 125, 252502 (2020)

PRL 130, 062501 (2022)

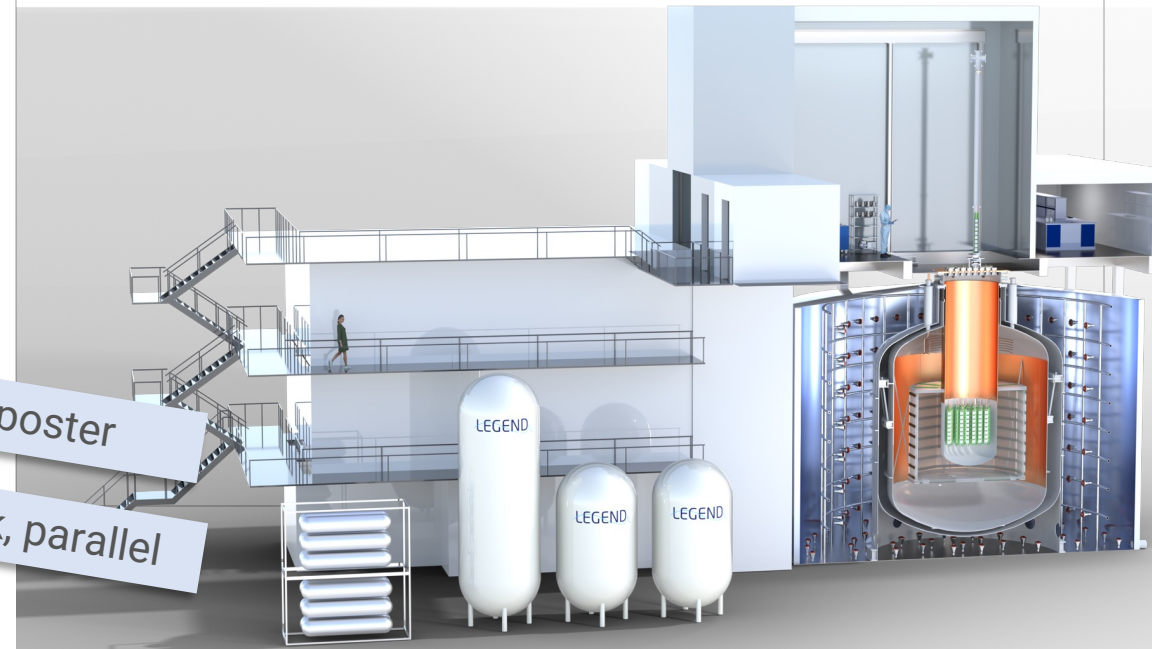
Neutrino-24 (2024)

## LEGEND 1000 arXiv:2107.11462

- **Upgrades:** 5 x more mass  
 $\div 20$  lower background
- **Goal:** cover IO ( $T_{1/2} > 10^{28}$  years)
- **Status:** construction starts 2025

S. Calgario, poster

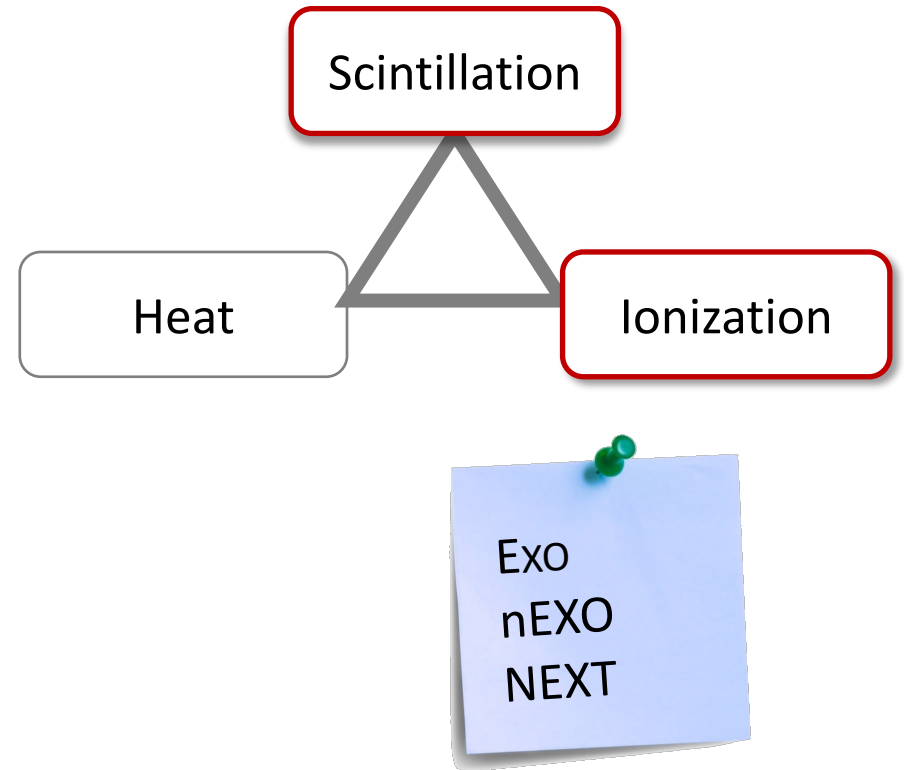
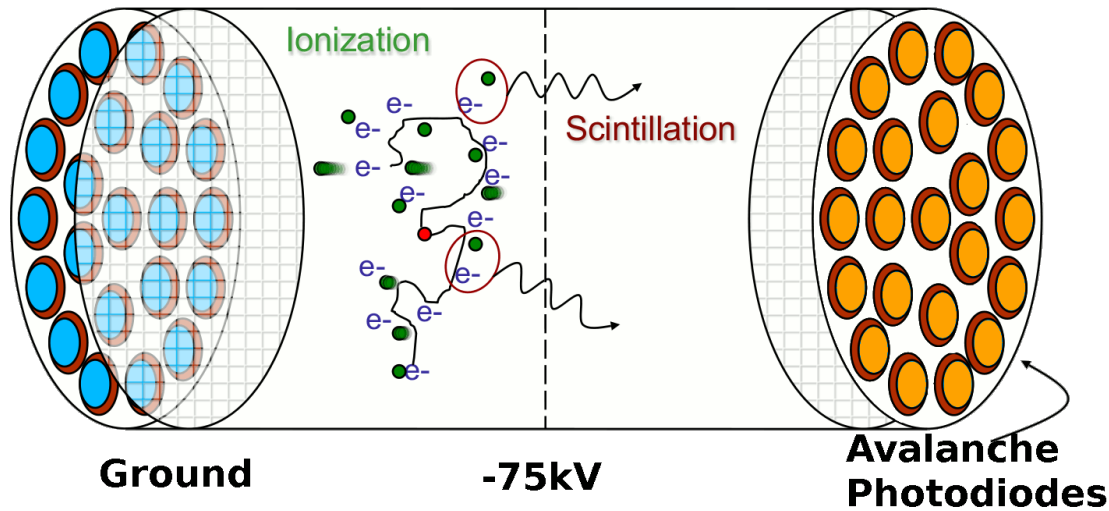
M. Redchuk, parallel



\*Exposure: 240 kg  $\cdot$  y  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ , NME = 1.6 - 4.8



# Experimental efforts



## Time projection chamber

- ✓ Liquid or gaseous xenon. Enrichment to  $> 90\%$  in  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  ( $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2458$  keV)
- ✓ Wrt. scintillation-only: improved **energy resolution** and **background discrimination**

# Xenon-based TPC

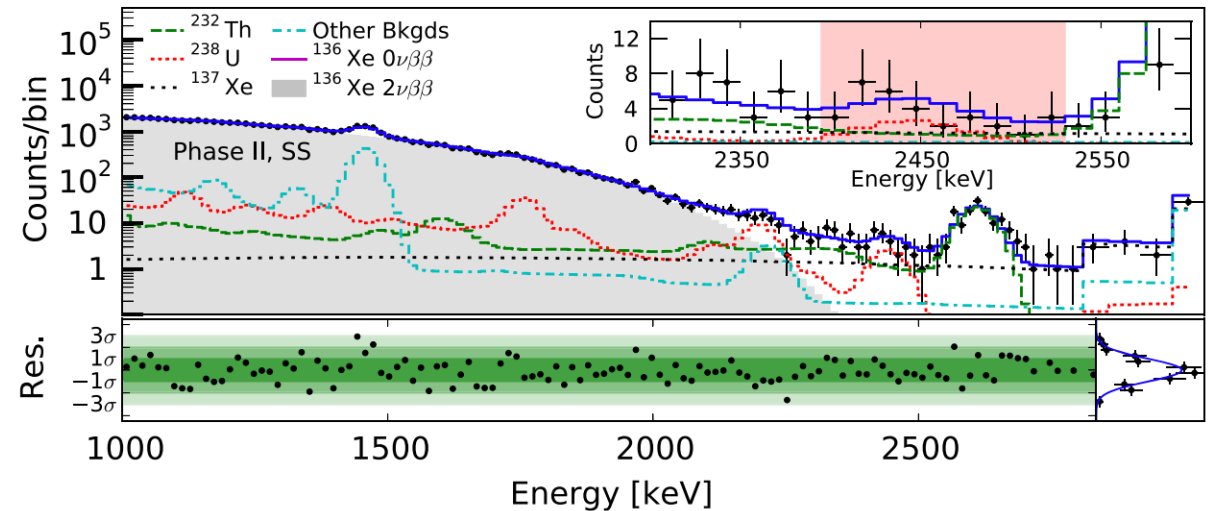
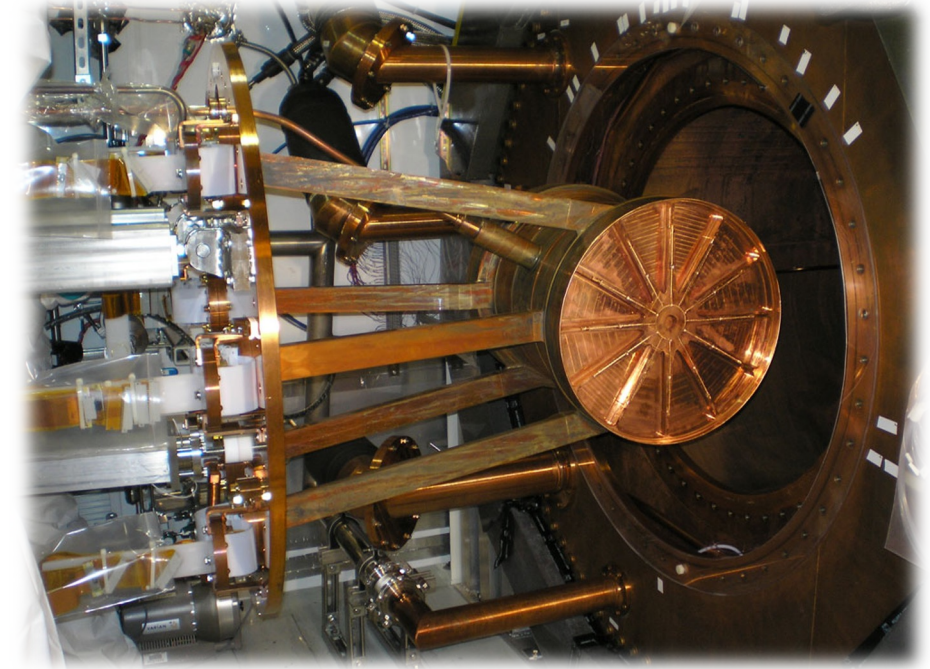
## EXO-200 @ WIPP (USA)

- **Method:** liquid Xe-TPC
- **Mass:** 75 kg of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$
- **Background:** 1.8 cts/keV/ton/year
- **E-resolution:** 2.7 % FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** completed

✓  $T_{1/2} > 3.5 \times 10^{25}$  y (90% CL - data)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 93 - 286$  meV\*

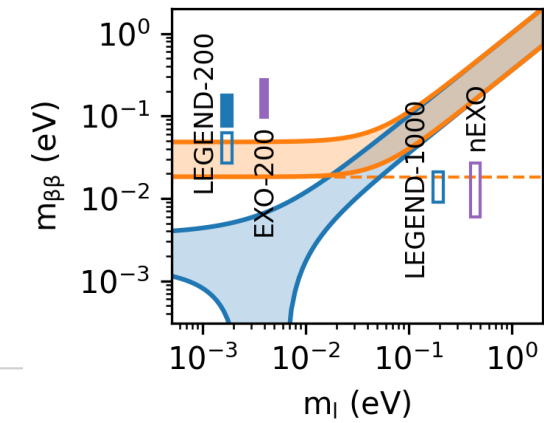
PRL 123, 161802 (2019)



\*Exposure: 234.1 kg · y  $^{137}\text{Xe}$ , NME = 1.4 - 6.4



# Xenon-based TPC



## EXO-200 @ WIPP (USA)

- **Method:** liquid Xe-TPC
- **Mass:** 75 kg of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$
- **Background:** 1.8 cts/keV/ton/year
- **E-resolution:** 2.7 % FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** completed

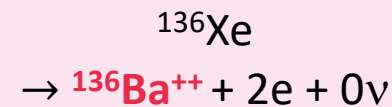
✓  $T_{1/2} > 3.5 \times 10^{25}$  y (90% CL - data)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 93 - 286$  meV\*

PRL 123, 161802 (2019)

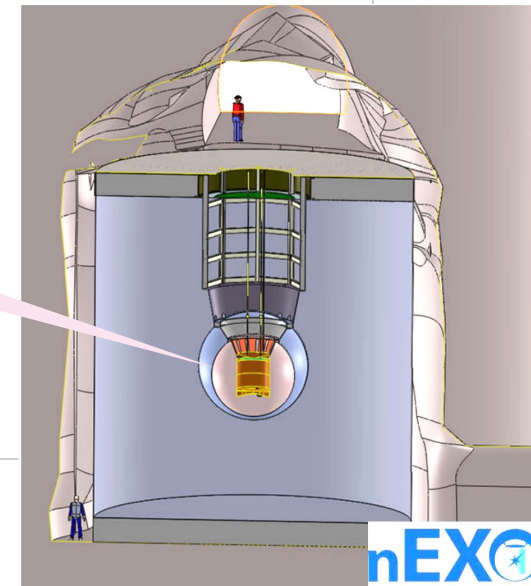
## nEXO

- **Upgrades:** 5 t liquid  $^{\text{enr}}\text{Xe}$
- **Goal:** cover IO ( $T_{1/2} > 10^{28}$  years)
- **Status:** preparations started
- Advances in barium tagging



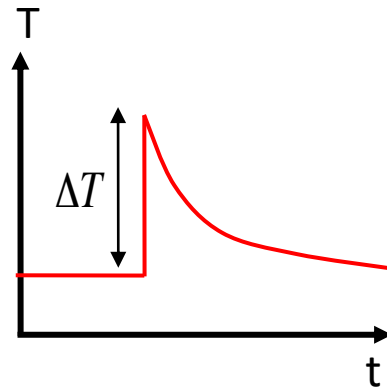
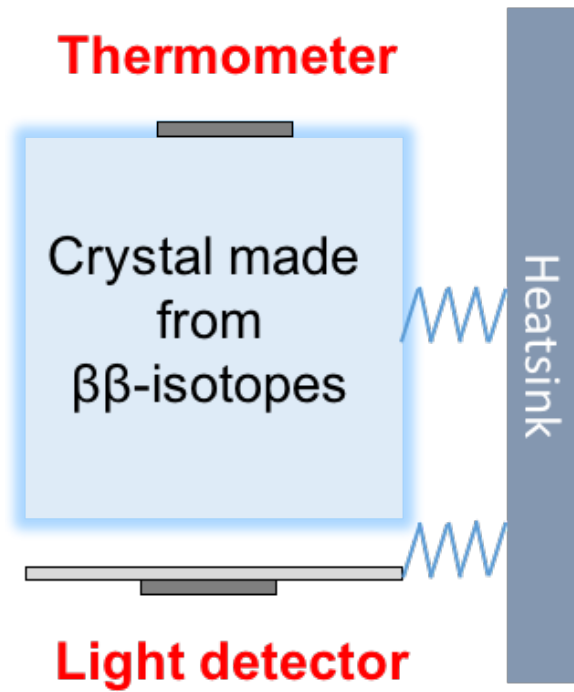
J.Phys.G 49 (2022) 1, 015104

Nature 569, 203–207 (2019)

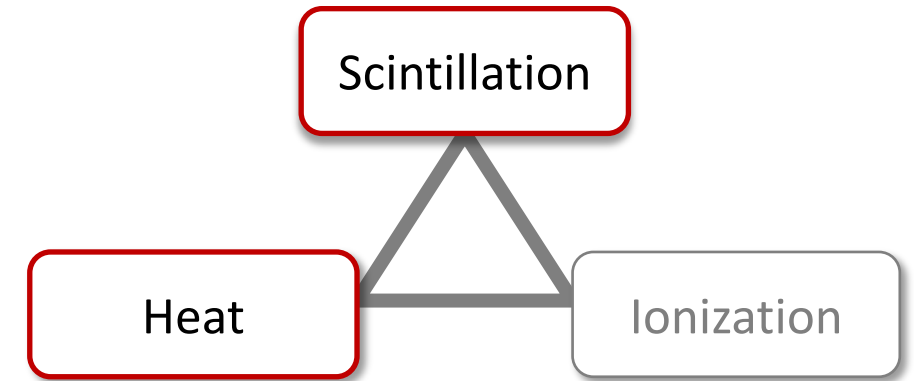


\*Exposure: 234.1 kg · y  $^{137}\text{Xe}$ , NME = 1.4 - 6.4

# Experimental efforts



CUORE  
CUPID



## Cryogenic (scintillating) calorimeter

- ✓ Possible with different isotopes
- ✓ Excellent energy resolution (0.3% - level)
- ✓ Background discrimination based on heat and light signal

# Cryogenic calorimeter

## CUORE @ LNGS (Italy)

- **Method:**  $\text{TeO}_2$  crystals (only heat)
- **Mass:** 206 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$
- **Background:** 14 cts/keV/ton/y
- **E-resolution:** 0.3 % FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** running

✓  $T_{1/2} > 3.8 \times 10^{25}$  y (90% CI - data)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 70 - 240$  meV\*

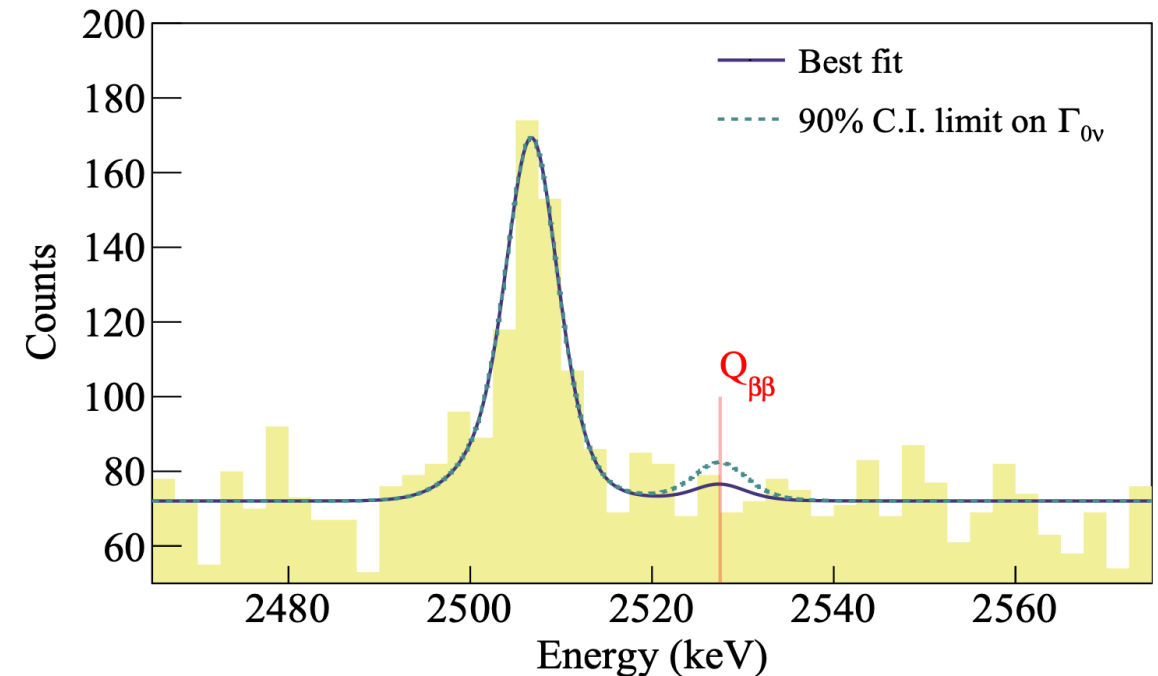
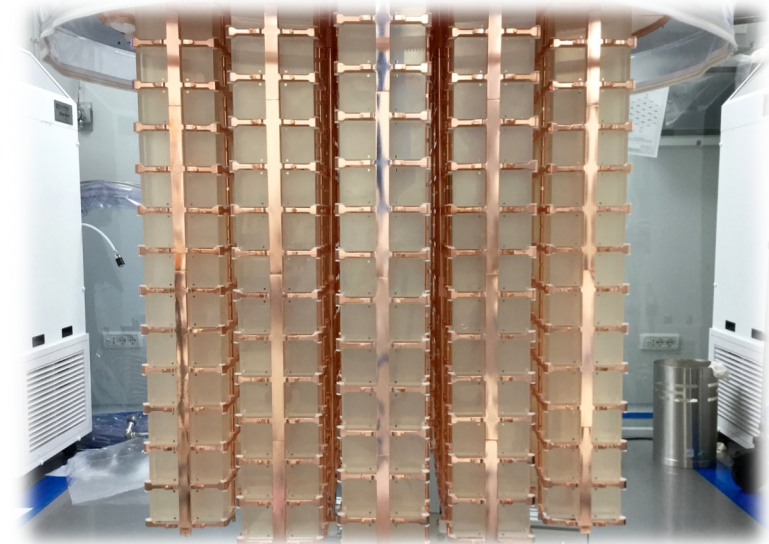


Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 122501 (2020)

Nature 604, 53 (2022)

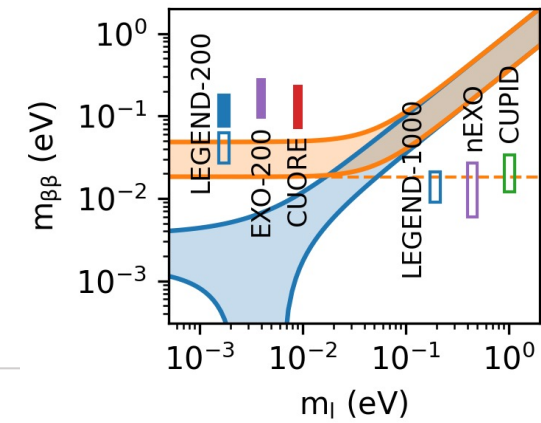
Neutrino-24 (2024), arXiv:2404.04453 (2024)

988 detectors at mK temperature





# Cryogenic calorimeter



## CUORE @ LNGS (Italy)

- **Method:**  $\text{TeO}_2$  crystals (only heat)
- **Mass:** 206 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$
- **Background:** 14 cts/keV/ton/y
- **E-resolution:** 0.3 % FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** running

✓  $T_{1/2} > 3.8 \times 10^{25}$  y (90% CI - data)

✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 70 - 240$  meV\*



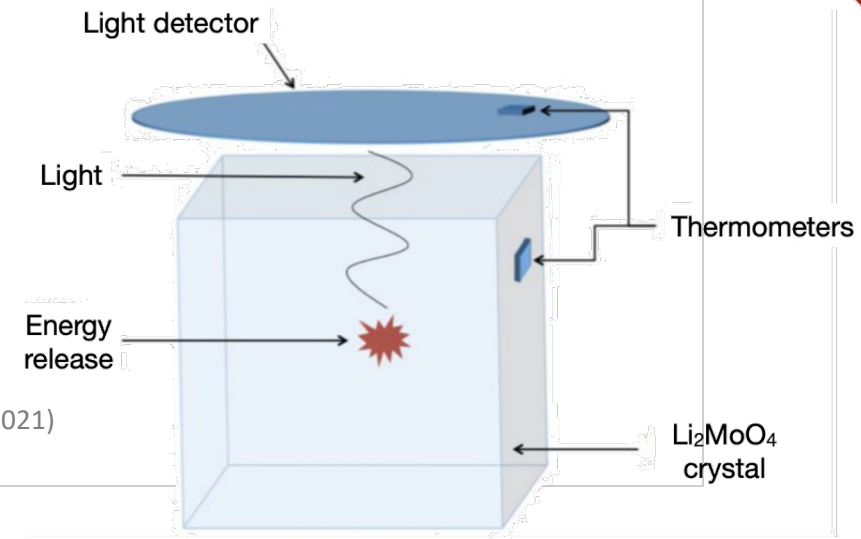
Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 122501 (2020)  
 Nature 604, 53 (2022)  
 Neutrino-24 (2024), arXiv:2404.04453 (2024)

## CUPID

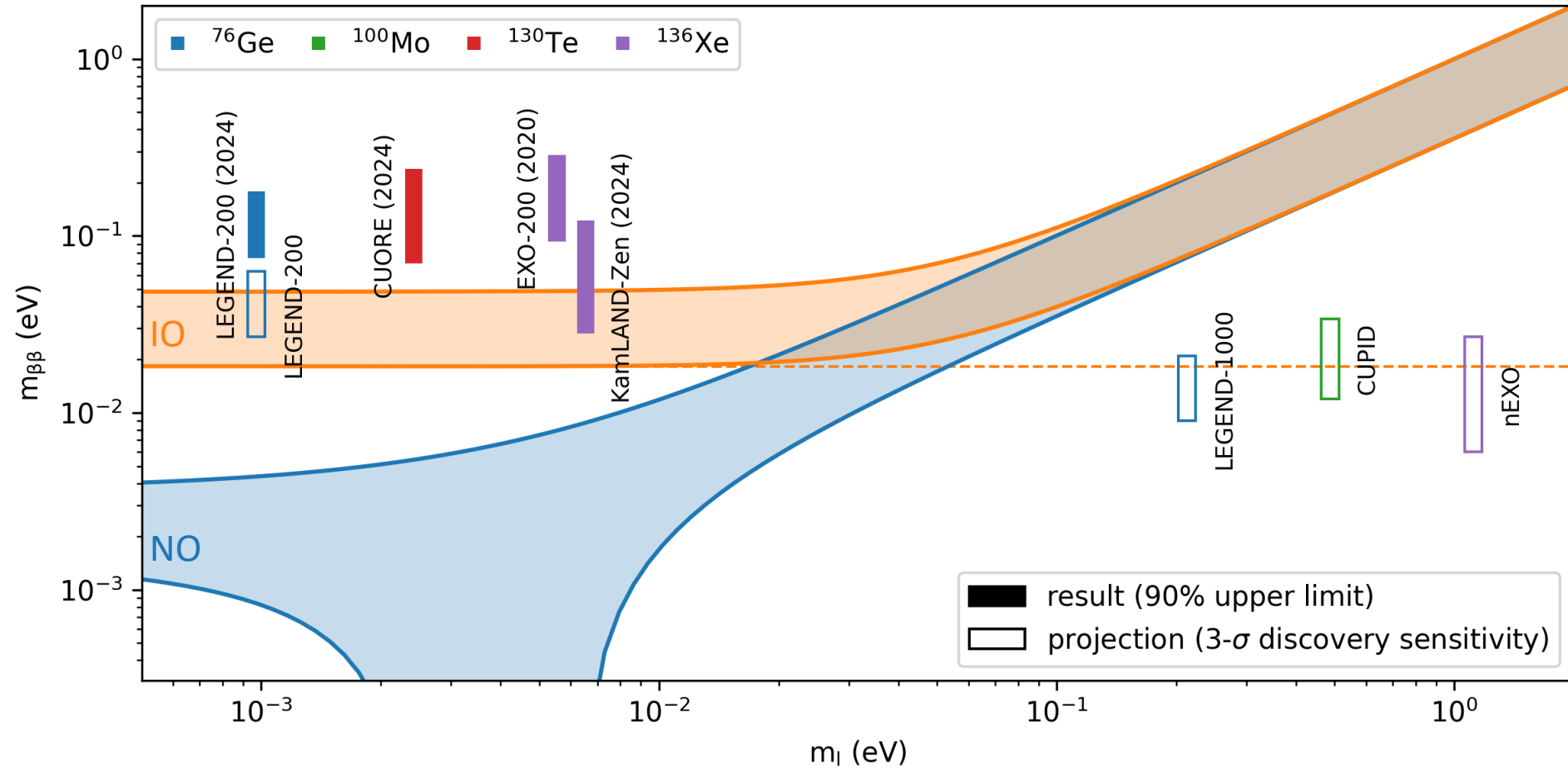
- **Upgrades:** heat and light readout ( $\text{bg} \div 100$ )  
 $^{100}\text{Mo}$  ( $Q_{\beta\beta} = 3034$  keV)
- **Goal:** cover IO
- **Status:** construction started

A. Campani, parallel  
 V. Berest, parallel

Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 181802 (2021)  
 arXiv:1907.09376 (2019)

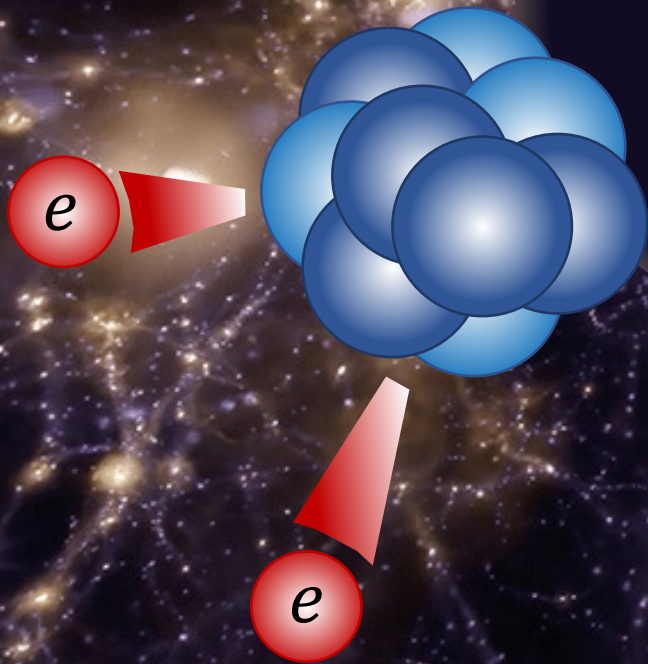


# Overview $0\nu\beta\beta$

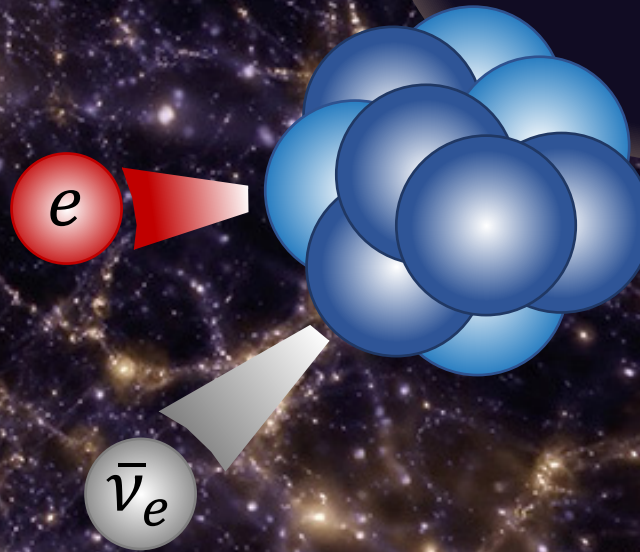


# Neutrinos – open questions

Are neutrinos  
their own anti-  
particle ?

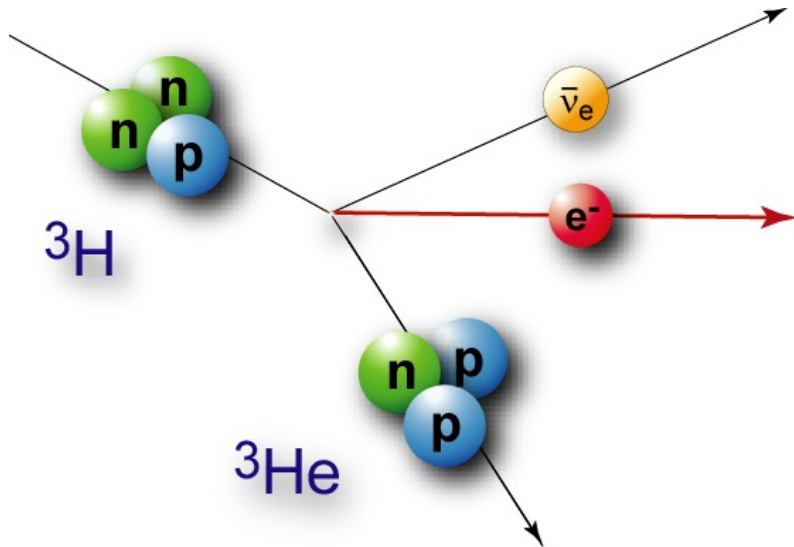


What is the  
mass of  
neutrinos ?

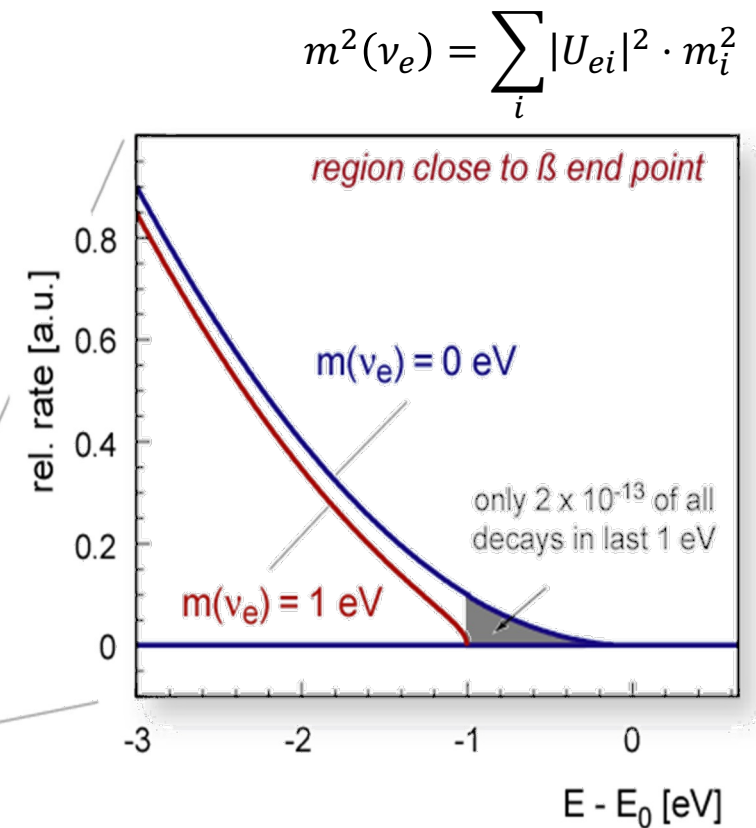
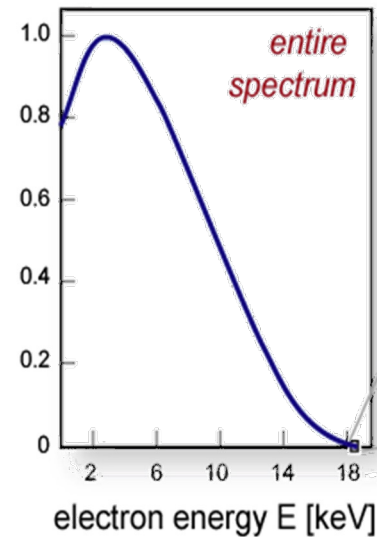




# The signature



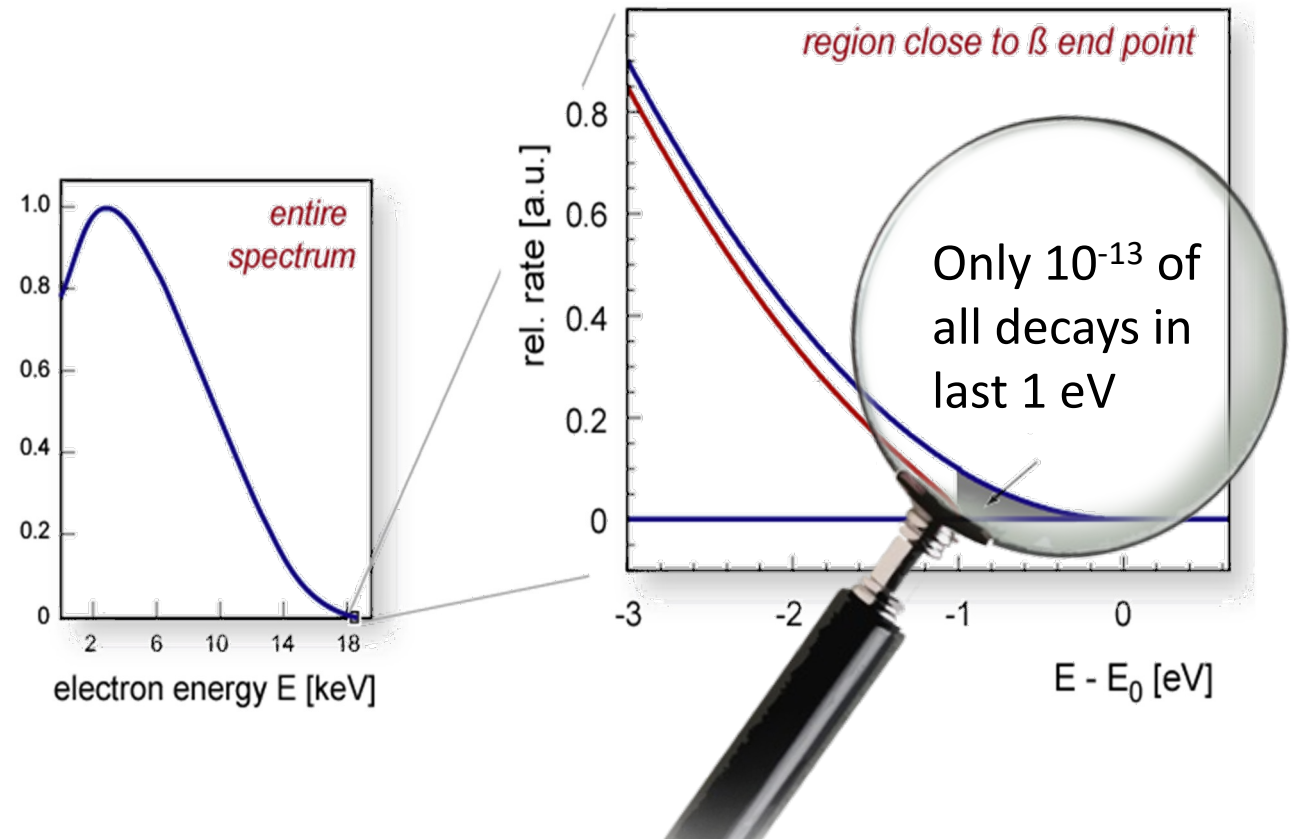
- ✓ Incoherent sum of neutrino masses
- ✓ Independent of neutrino nature (Dirac or Majorana)



# The challenge

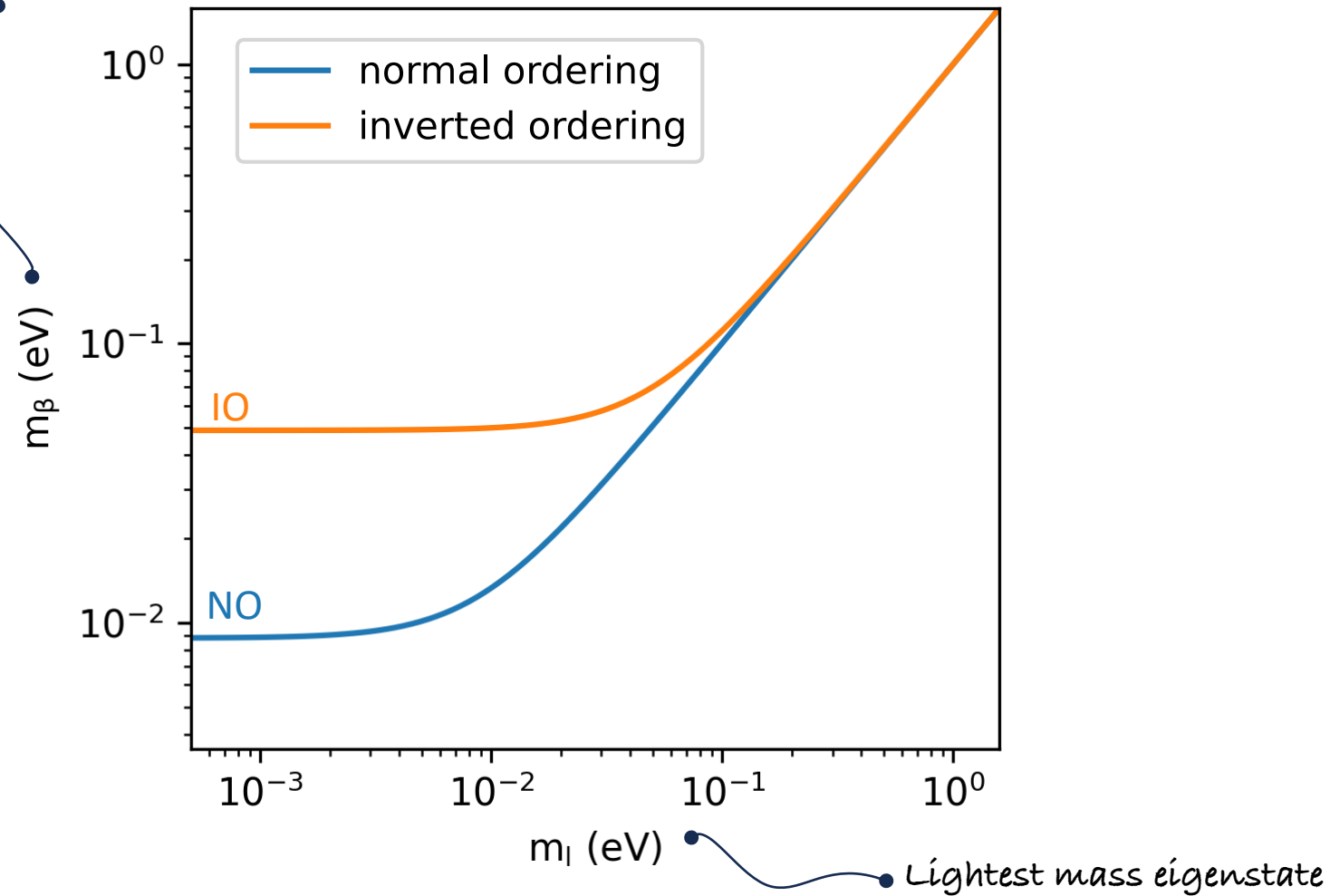
## Key requirements:

- Strong radioactive source
  - Tritium (12.3 years,  $E_0 = 18.6$  keV)
  - Holmium (4500 years,  $E_0 = 2.8$  keV)
- Excellent energy resolution ( $\sim 1$  eV)
- Low background ( $< 100$  mcps)
- Understanding of spectral shape



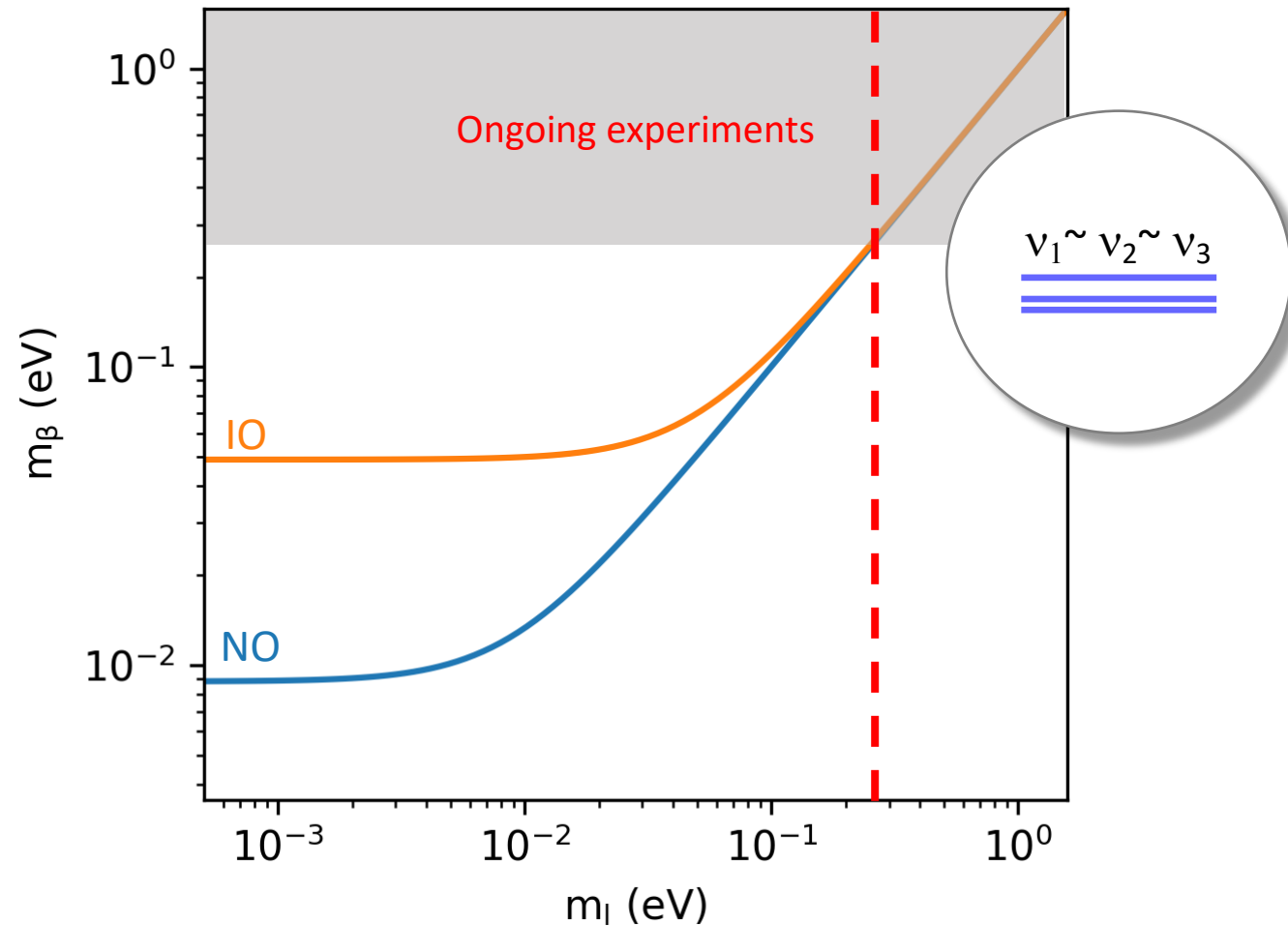
# Where do we stand?

Incoherent sum of  
mass eigenstates



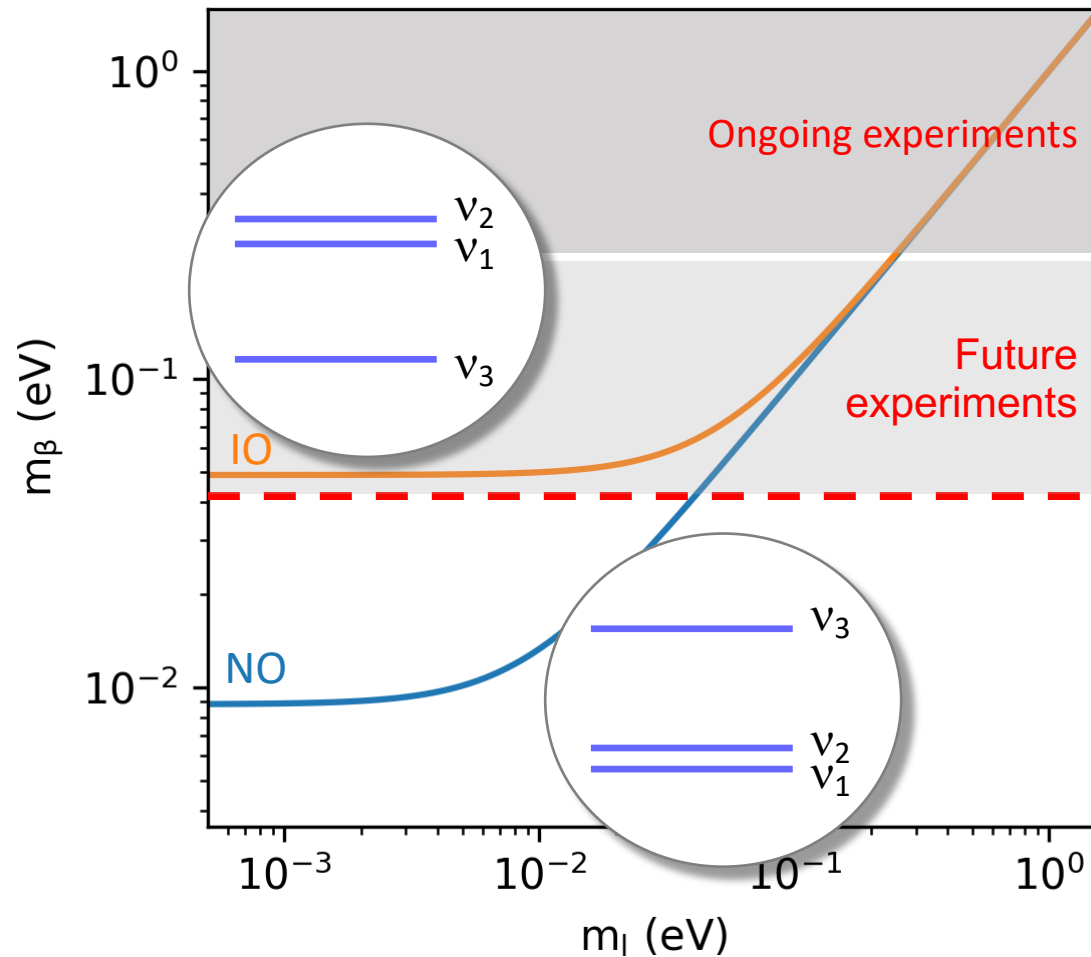


# Where do we stand?



- KATRIN final: **< 0.3 eV** (90% CL)  
Distinguish between **degenerate**  
and **hierarchical** scenario

# Where do we stand?



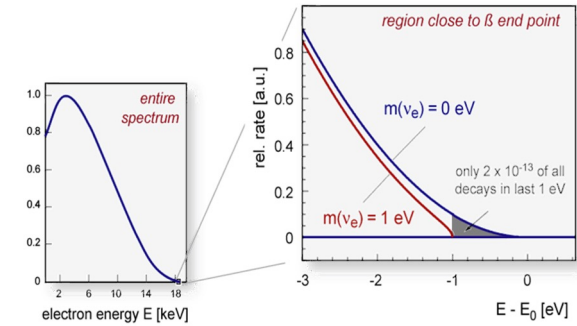
- KATRIN final: **< 0.3 eV** (90% CL)  
Distinguish between **degenerate** and **hierarchical** scenario
- Future experiments: **< 0.05 eV**  
Cover **inverted** ordering

# Experimental efforts



Electrostatic filter (MAC-E)

counting above threshold



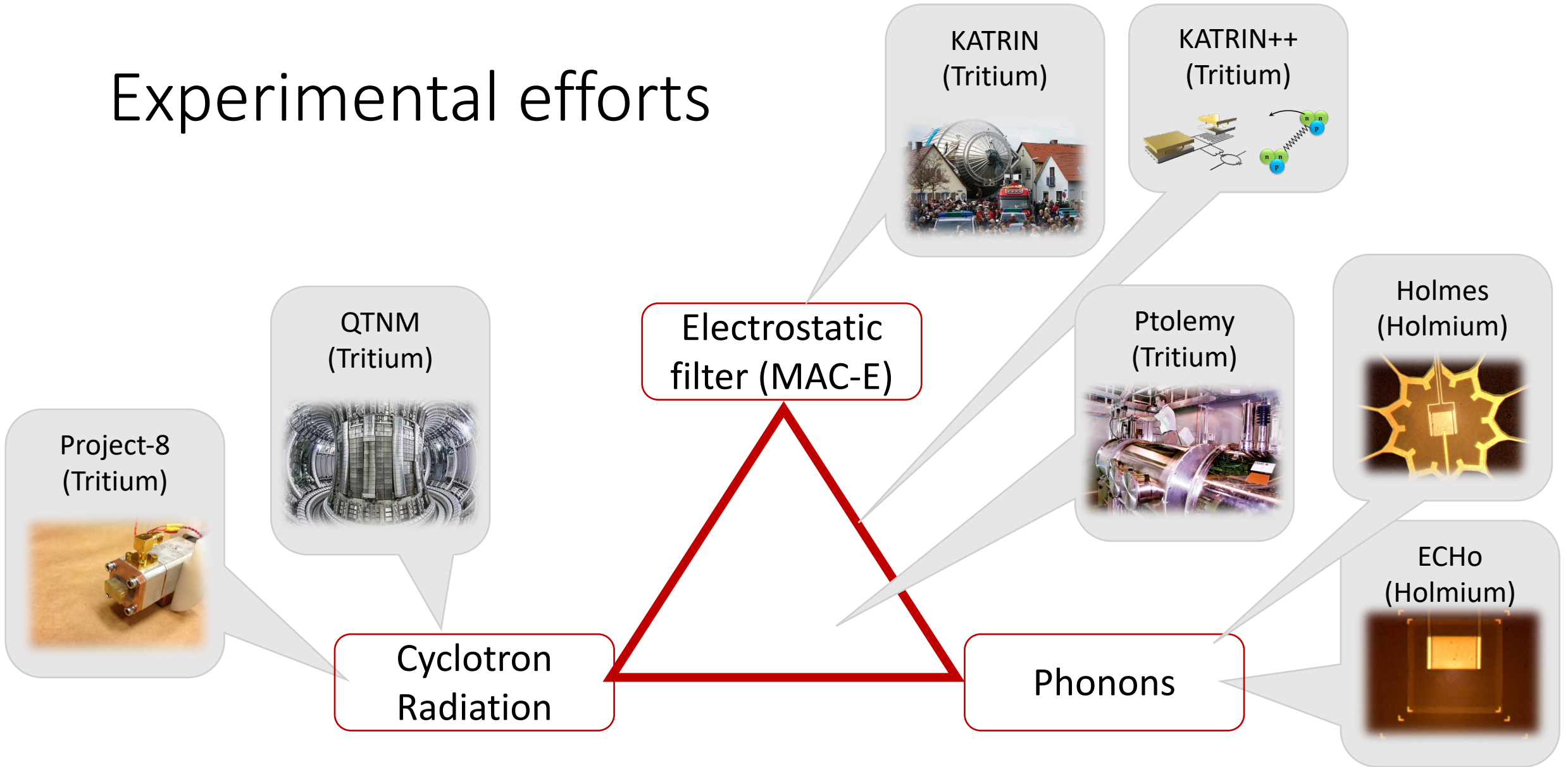
Cyclotron Radiation



Heat



# Experimental efforts



# Experimental efforts



Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment

KATRIN  
(Tritium)



Electrostatic  
filter (MAC-E)

Cyclotron  
Radiation

Heat

J. Storek, poster

C. Köhler, poster

M. Böttcher, poster

J. Lauer, poster

C. Wiesinger, parallel

C. Fengler, parallel

# Working Principle



## High-activity tritium source

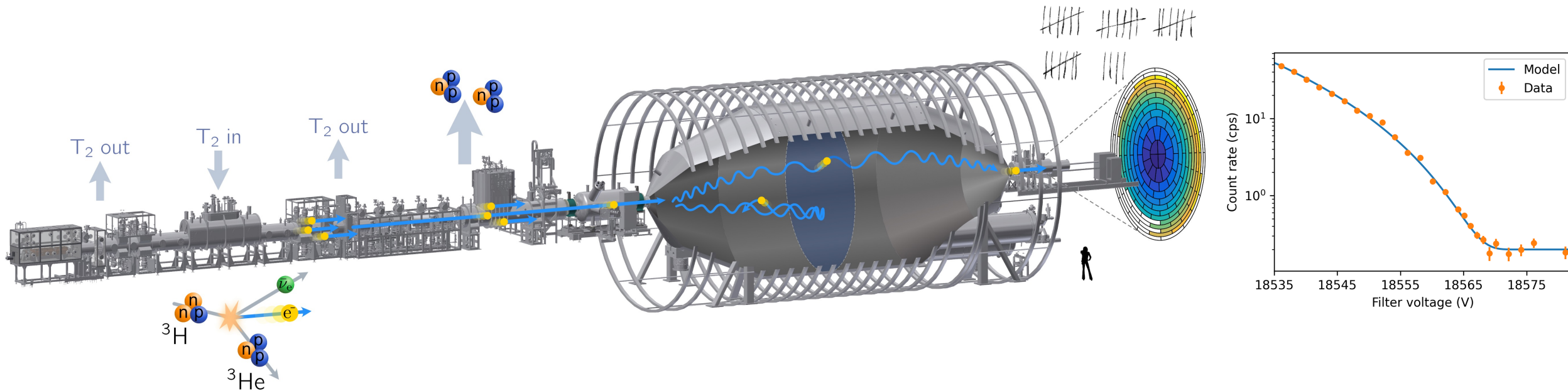
- 30  $\mu\text{g}$  of gaseous  $\text{T}_2$
- $10^{11}$   $\text{T}_2$  decays/s

## High-resolution spectrometer

- Electrostatic filter (MAC-E)
- Transmits e's above threshold

## Integral spectrum

- Rate versus filter voltage
- Fit theoretical spectrum



# New KATRIN result

## Data set:

- 250 days of data (5 campaigns)

## Result:

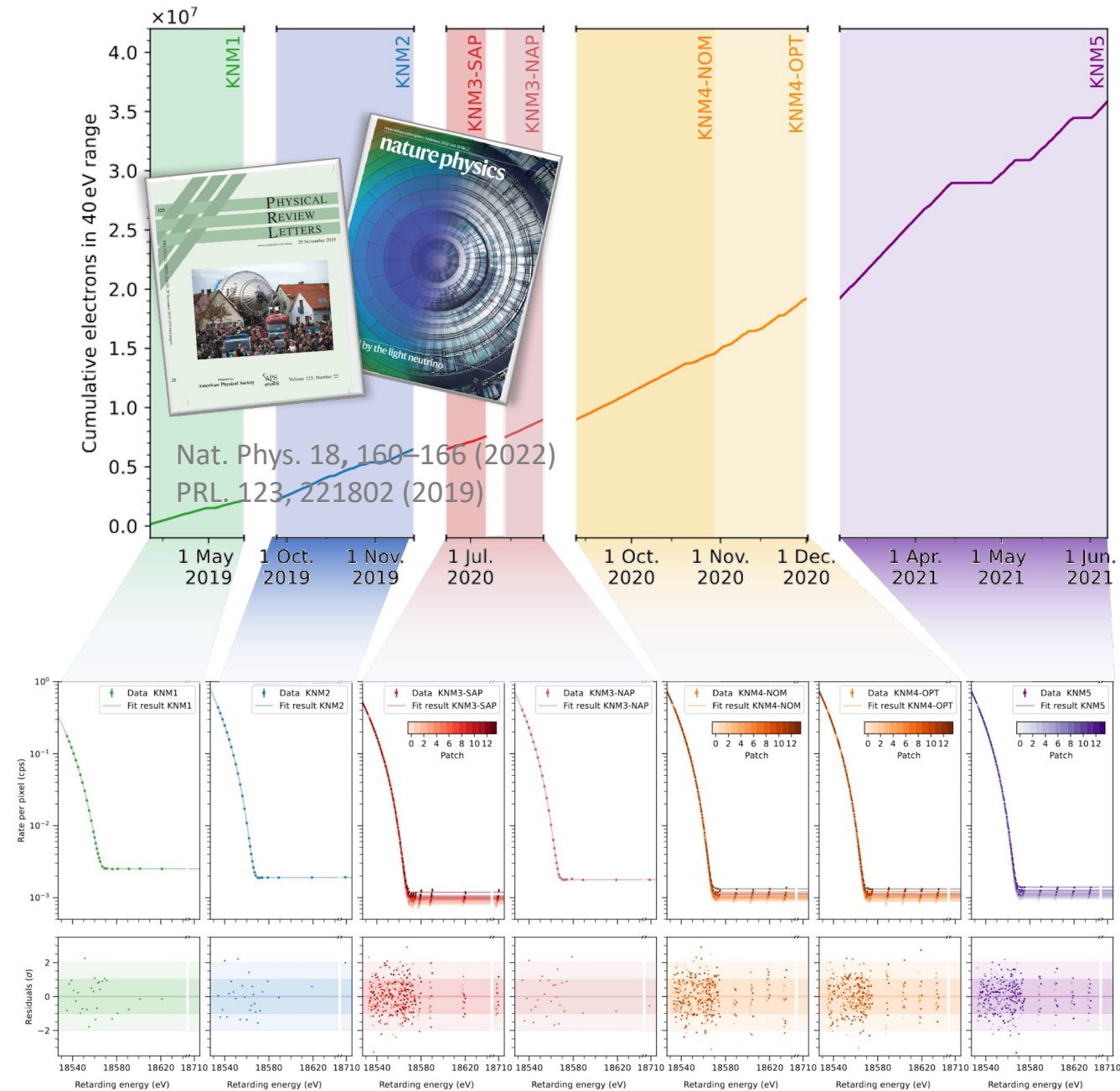
*C. Wiesinger, parallel*

- Best fit:  
 $m_\nu^2 = (-0.14_{-0.15}^{+0.13}) \text{eV}^2$  (stat. dom.)

- New limit:  
 $m_\nu < 0.45 \text{ eV}$  (90% CL)  
Neutrino-24 (2024), arXiv:2406.13516 (2024)

## Final goal (in 2026):

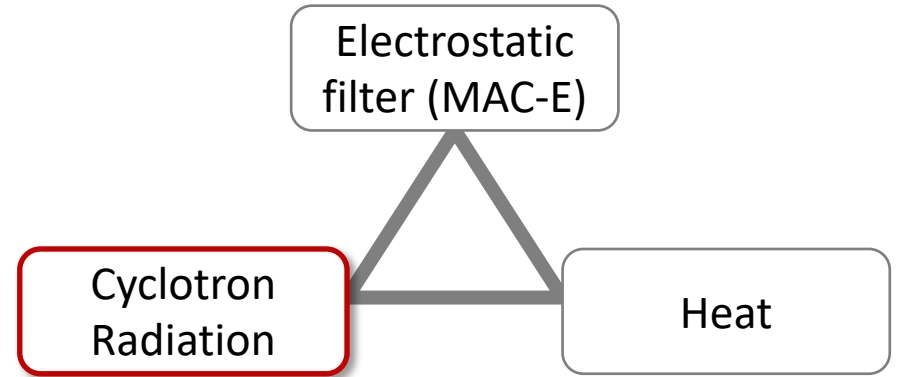
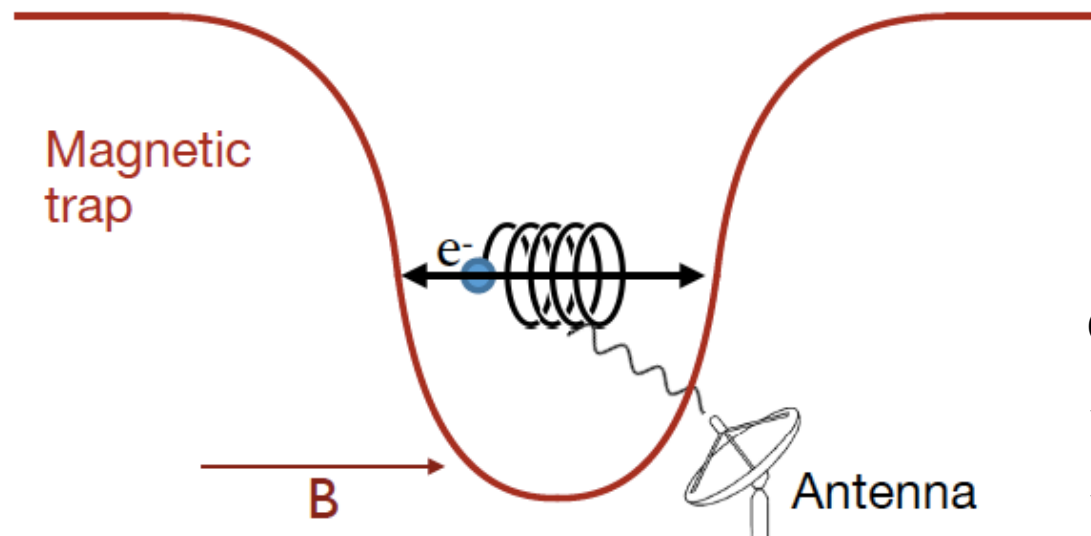
- $< 0.3 \text{ eV}$  sensitivity





# Experimental efforts

$$\omega(\gamma) = \frac{\omega_0}{\gamma} = \frac{eB}{E + m_e}$$



## Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

- ✓ (sub)-eV-scale differential measurement
- ✓ no electron beamline

# Project 8

- **Achievements:**

- ✓ Proof of CRES concept

D.M. Asner et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 162501 (2015)

- ✓ First neutrino mass limit:  $m_\beta < 152$  eV (90% CL)

PRL 131 (2023) 10, 102502

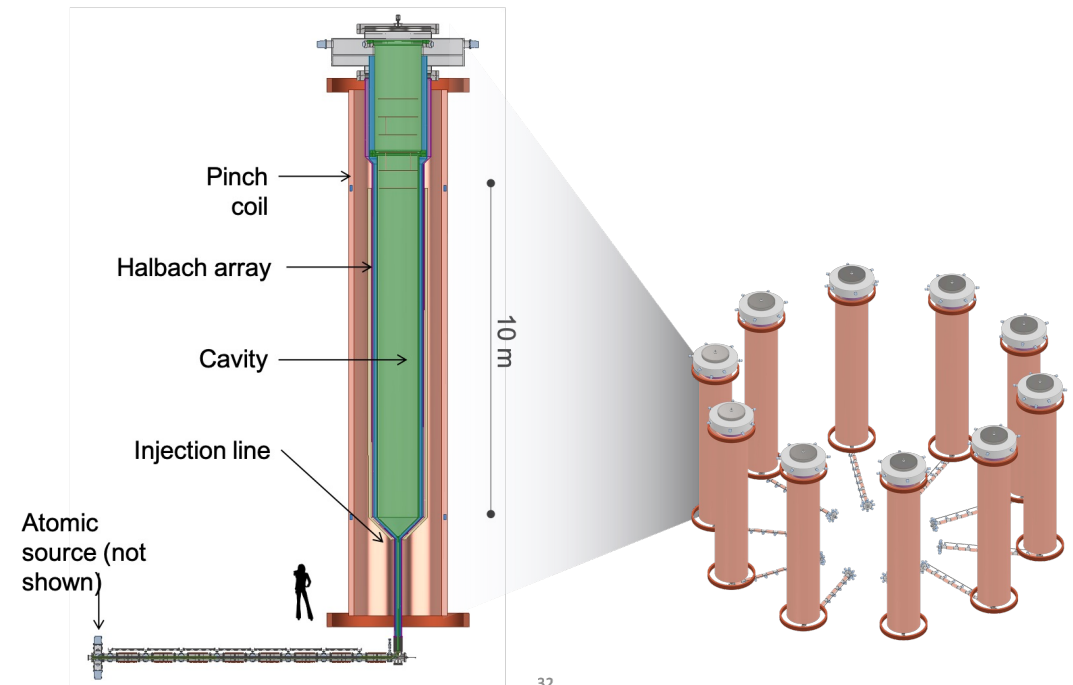
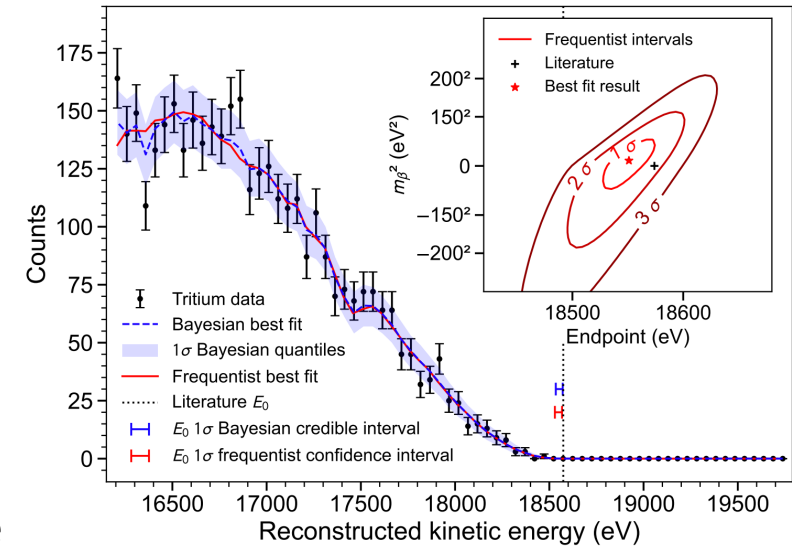
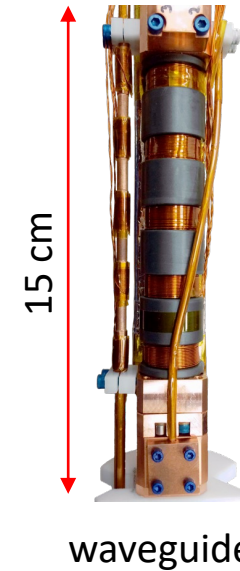
- **Next steps / challenges:**

- large-volume ( $m^3$ ) cavity resonator
- develop atomic tritium source

- **Ultimate goal:**

- Cover inverted ordering: 40 meV sensitivity

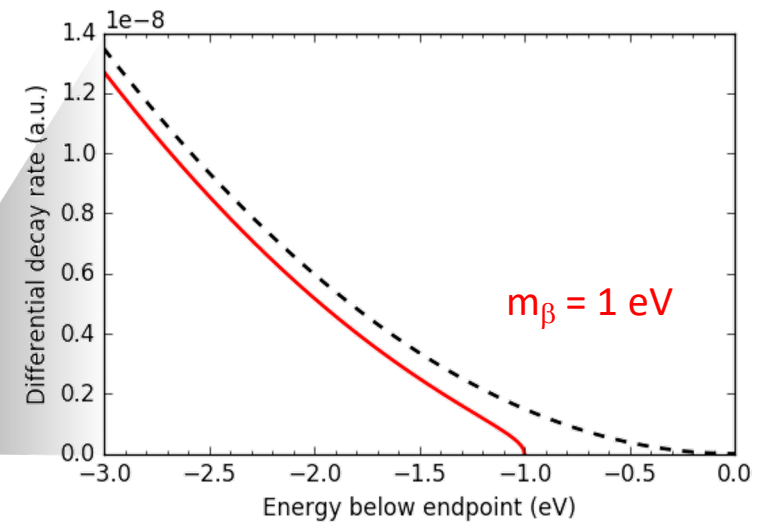
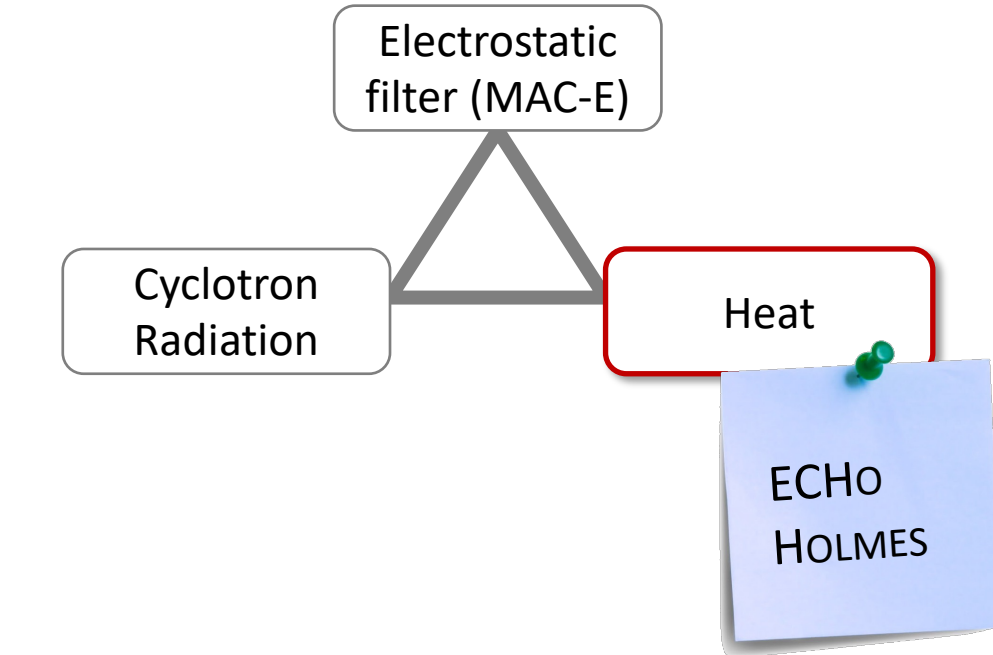
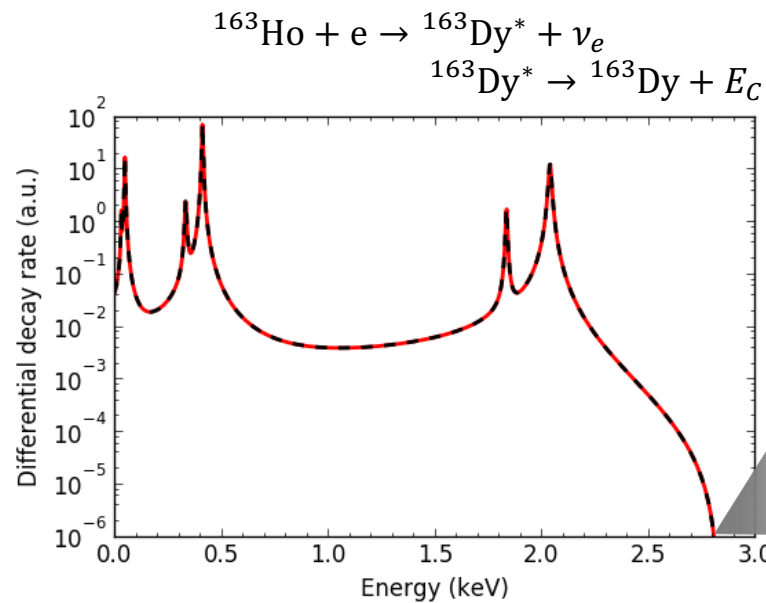
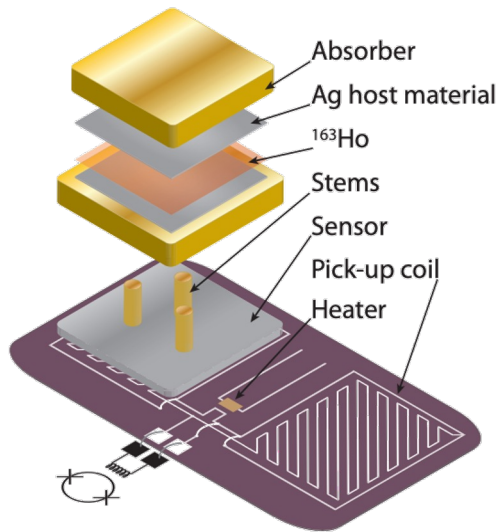
arXiv:2203.07349 (2022)



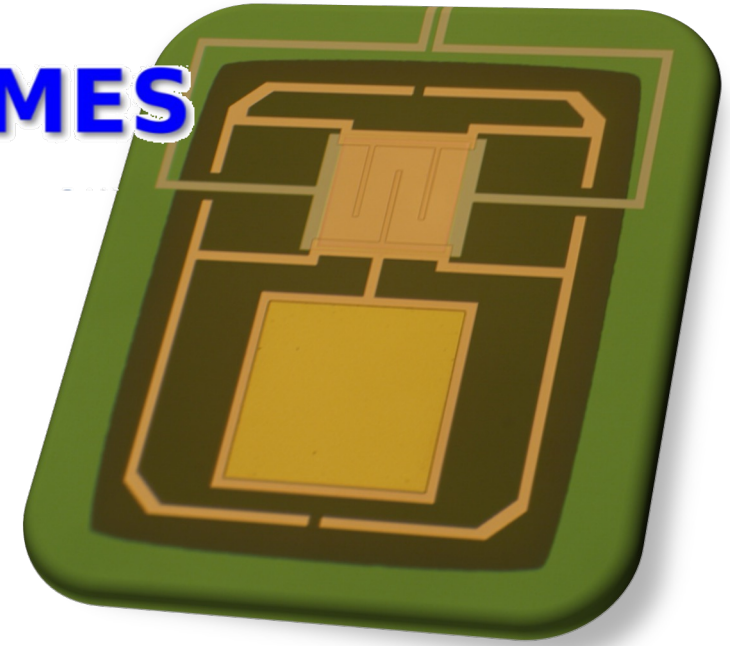
# Experimental efforts


## Low-temperature micro-calorimetry with holmium

- ✓ eV-scale energy measurement
- ✓ holmium source embedded in detector

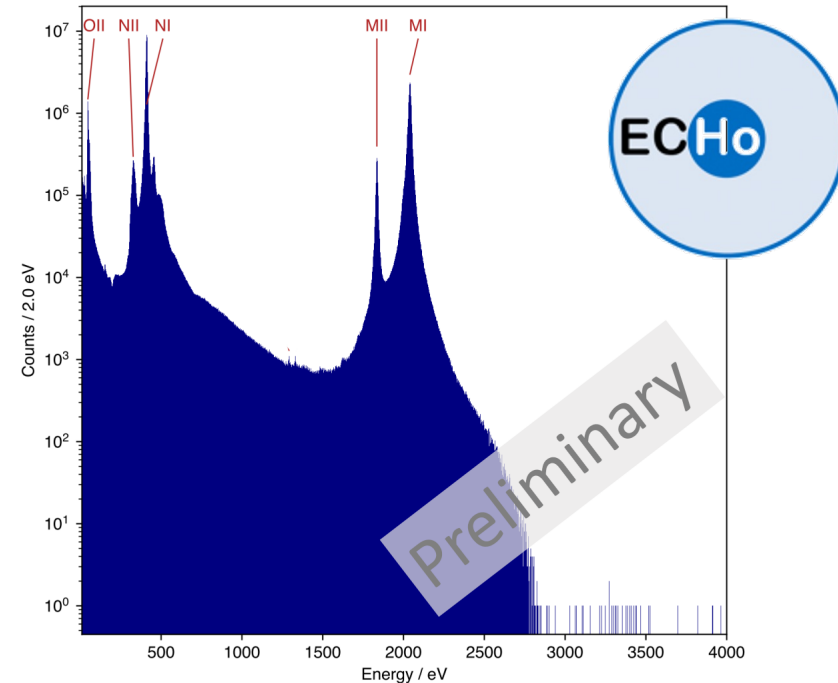


# EChO & Holmes



- **Proof of concept:** 
  - **EChO:**  $m_\beta < 19$  eV @ 90% CI (*prelim*)  
34 pixels and 0.7 Bq/pixel,  $10^9$  events
  - **Holmes:**  $m_\beta < 28$  eV @ 90% CI  
48 pixels with 0.3 Bq/pixel,  $10^8$  events

- **Next steps / challenges**
  - More activity, more pixels...
  - $10^5$  -  $10^6$  pixels for sub-eV sensitivity
- **Ultimate goal:**
  - sub-eV sensitivity



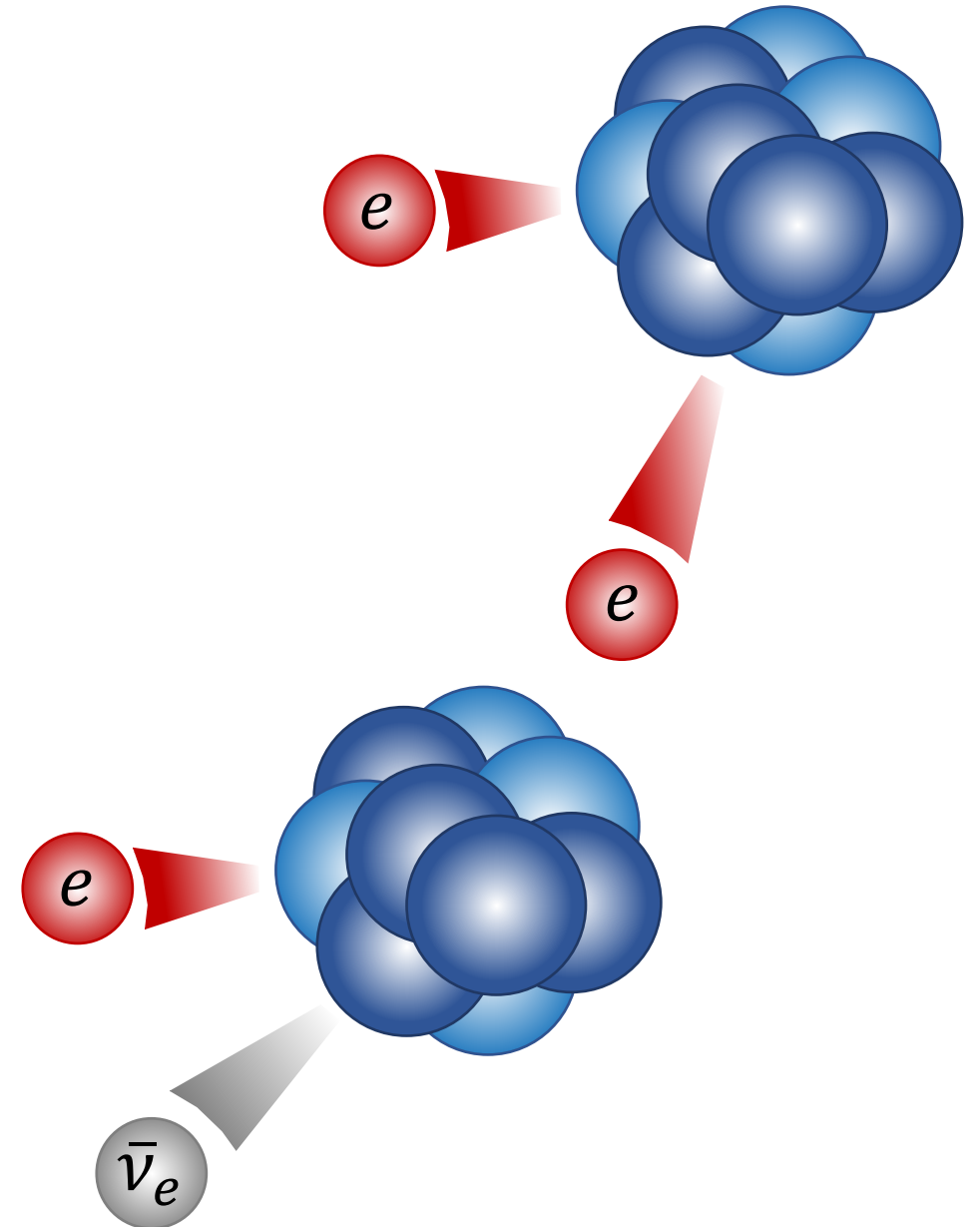


# Summary

- $0\nu\beta\beta$  and single  $\beta$  decay are **unique** and **complementary** probes of neutrino mass and nature



- **Many new results**, a.o.:
  - First data release of LEGEND-200
  - KamLAND-Zen starts probing the IO band
  - New limit of  $m_\beta < 0.45$  eV from KATRIN
- **High discovery potential** of future  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments and **exciting technology advancements** for a direct neutrino mass measurement



Thank you for your attention



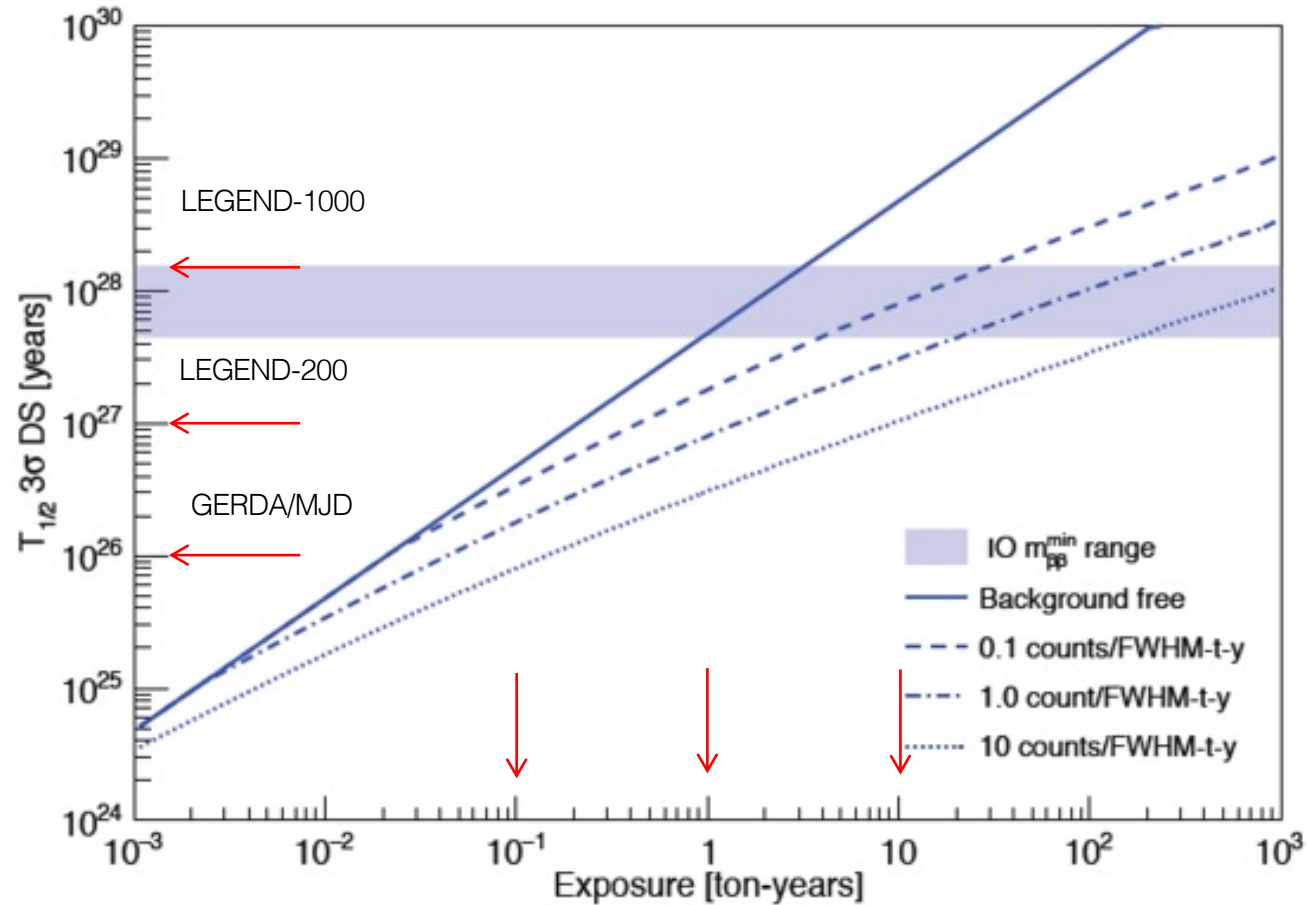
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Thanks to  
Steve, Giorgio, JJ, Maura, Matteo, Itaru,  
Christoph, Kathrin, Joe, Angelo  
...

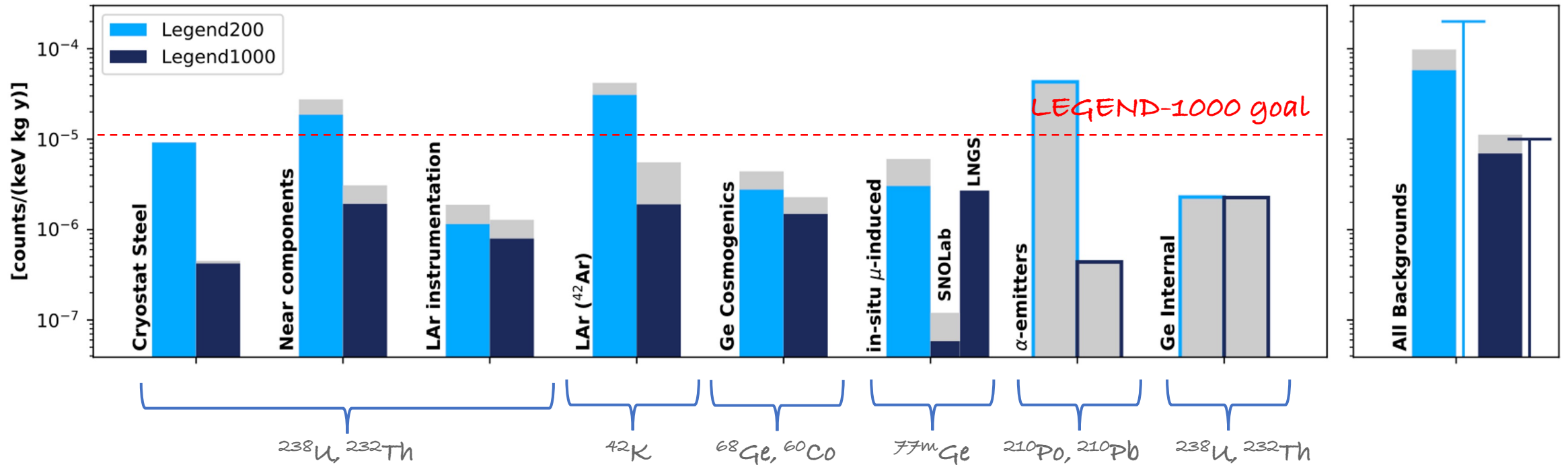
Susanne Mertens

Technical University Munich & Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics

# Importance of low background

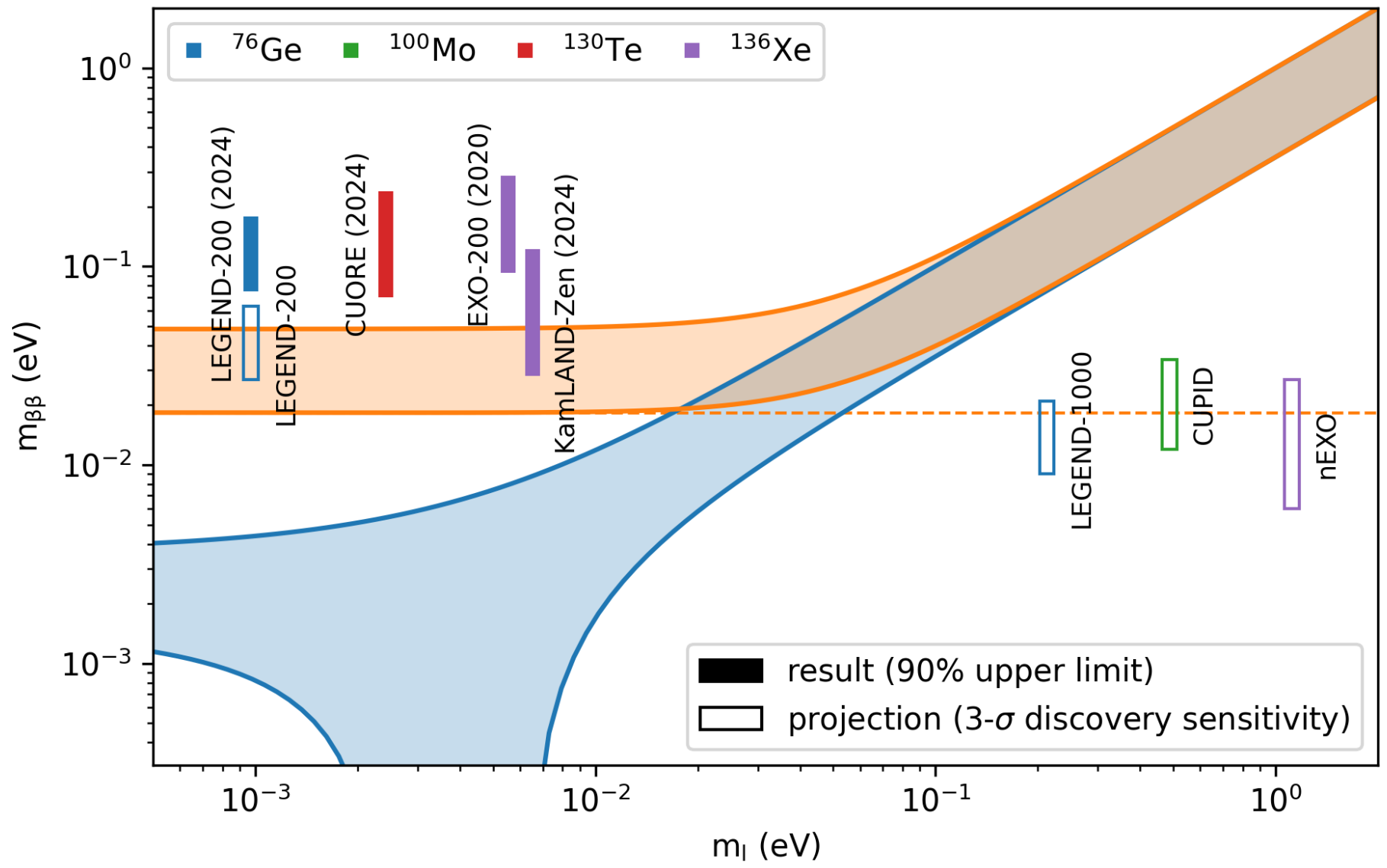


# LEGEND Background



➤ Legend-1000 is expected to meet the background goal 😊

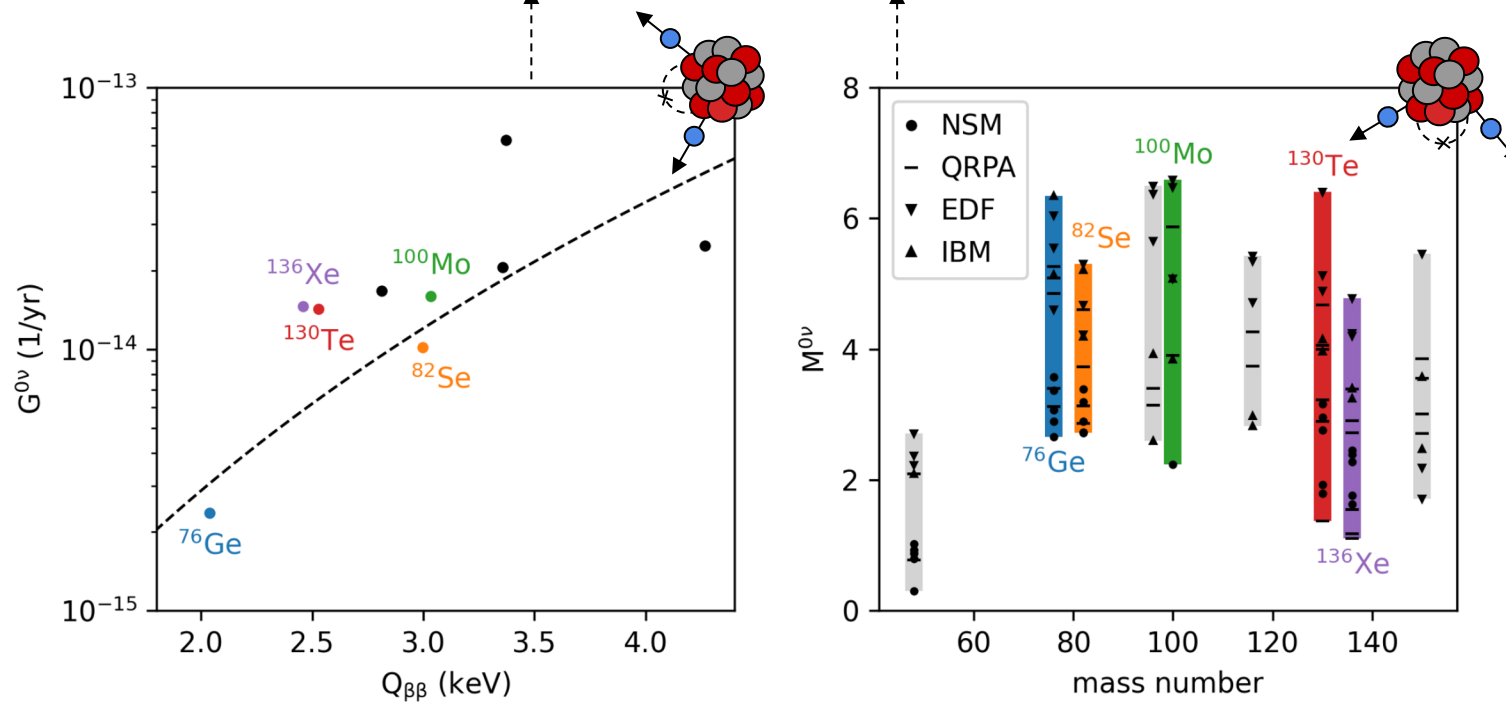




# Decay rate

- interplay of **LNV physics** and **isotope properties**

$$\Gamma^{0\nu} = \frac{N_A}{M(^A X)} \cdot G^{0\nu} \cdot \ln(2) \cdot |g_A^2 \mathcal{M}^{0\nu}|^2 \cdot \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

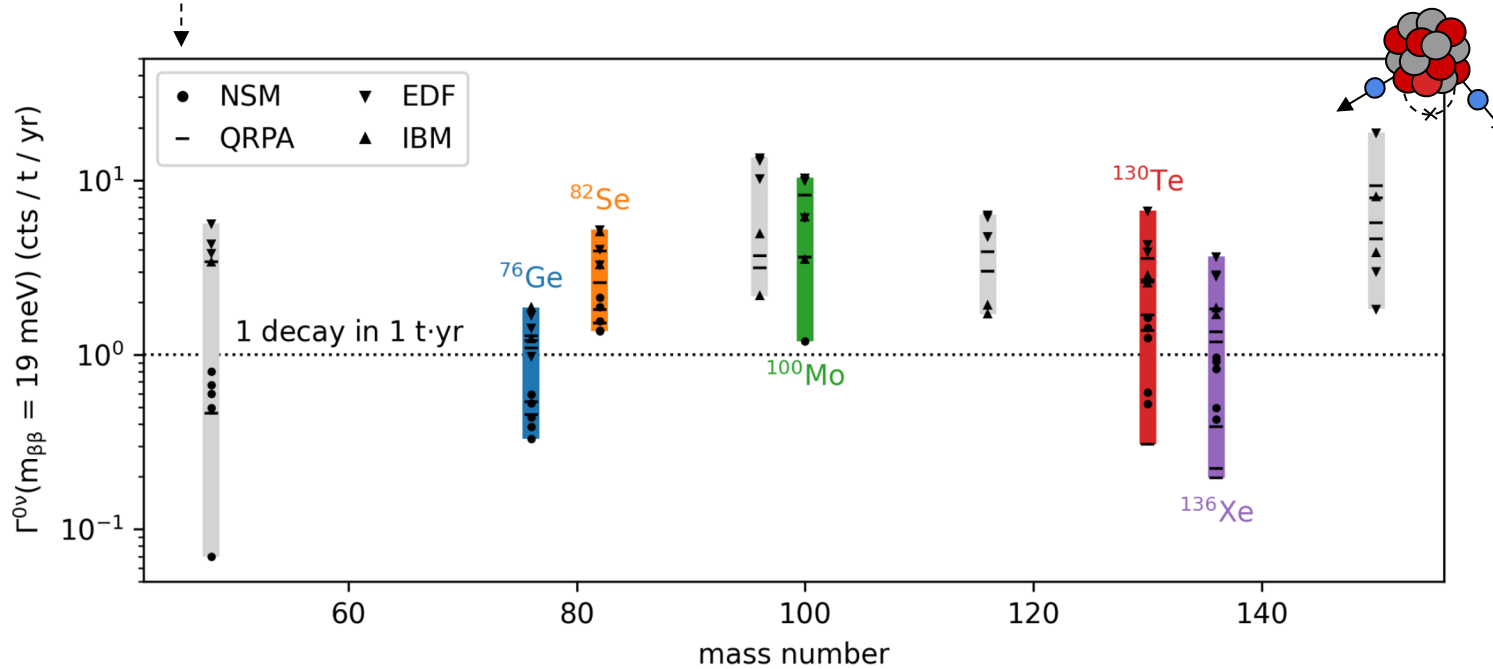


- accurate **phase space factor**, large Q-value favorable  
[Kotila, Iachello, PRC 85 (2012) 034316]
- different **nuclear matrix elements** using various **many-body methods**, significant spread  
[Agostini et al., Rev.Mod.Phys. 95 (2023) 2, 025002]

# Decay rate

- interplay of **LNV physics** and **isotope properties**

$$\Gamma^{0\nu} = \frac{N_A}{M(^A X)} \cdot G^{0\nu} \cdot \ln(2) \cdot |g_A^2 \mathcal{M}^{0\nu}|^2 \cdot \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

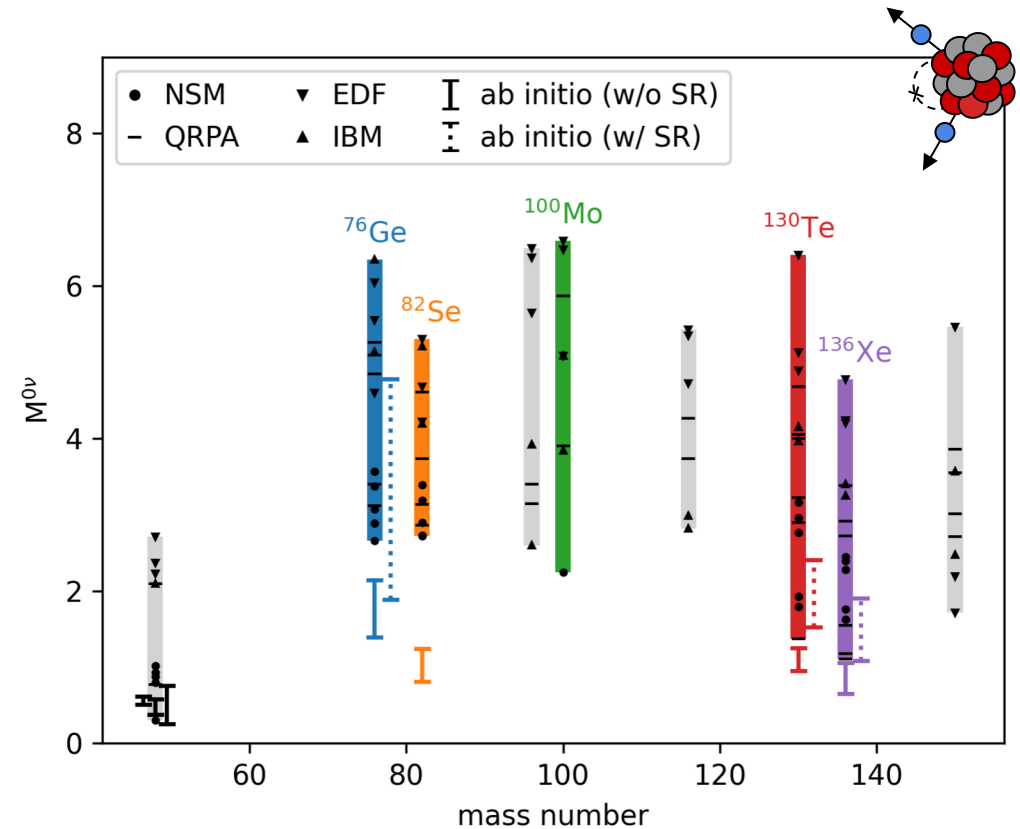


- probing **inverted ordering scenario** requires **tone-year exposure**
- isotope differences do not outweigh **experimental considerations**

*there is no super-isotope*

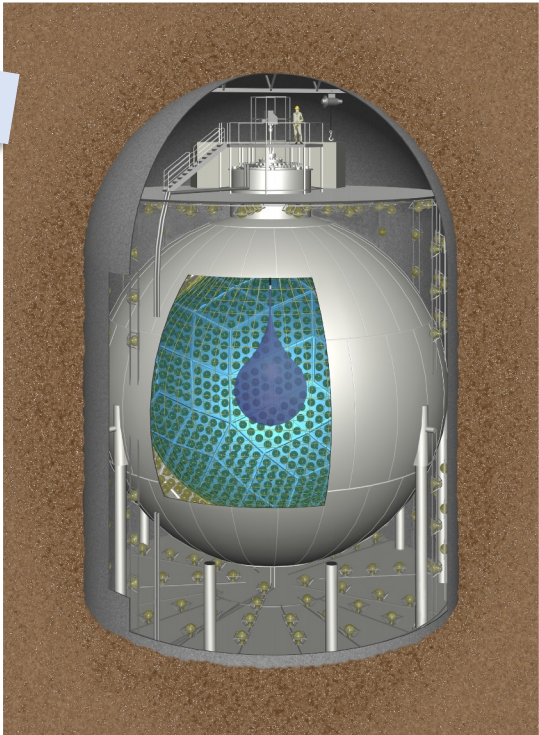
# Nuclear matrix elements

- first **ab initio calculations** available, could resolve **quenching issue**  
[Yao et al., PRL 124 (2020) 23, 232501; Belley et al., PRL 126 (2021) 4, 042502; Novario et al., PRL 126 (2021) 18, 182502]
- **short-range operator** under investigation  
[Cirigliano et al., PRL 120 (2018) 20, 202001; Belley et al., arXiv:2307.15156; Belley et al., arXiv:2308.15634]
- experimental input by ..
  - .. precision  **$2\nu\beta\beta$  decay** measurements  
[Gando et al., PRL 122 (2019) 19, 192501]
  - .. heavy-ion **double charge exchange** reactions  
[Cappuzzello et al., EPJ A 54 (2018) 5, 72]
  - .. ordinary **muon capture**  
[Zinatulina et al., PRC 99 (2019) 2, 024327]





M. Eizuka, parallel



# Liquid Scintillators

## KamLAND-Zen

- **Location:** Kamioka (JP)
- **Method:** Xe-loaded liquid scintillator
- **Mass:** 745 kg of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$
- **Background:** 24 events in  $2.35 < E < 2.70$  MeV
- **E-resolution:** 4.2 % @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- **Status:** completed

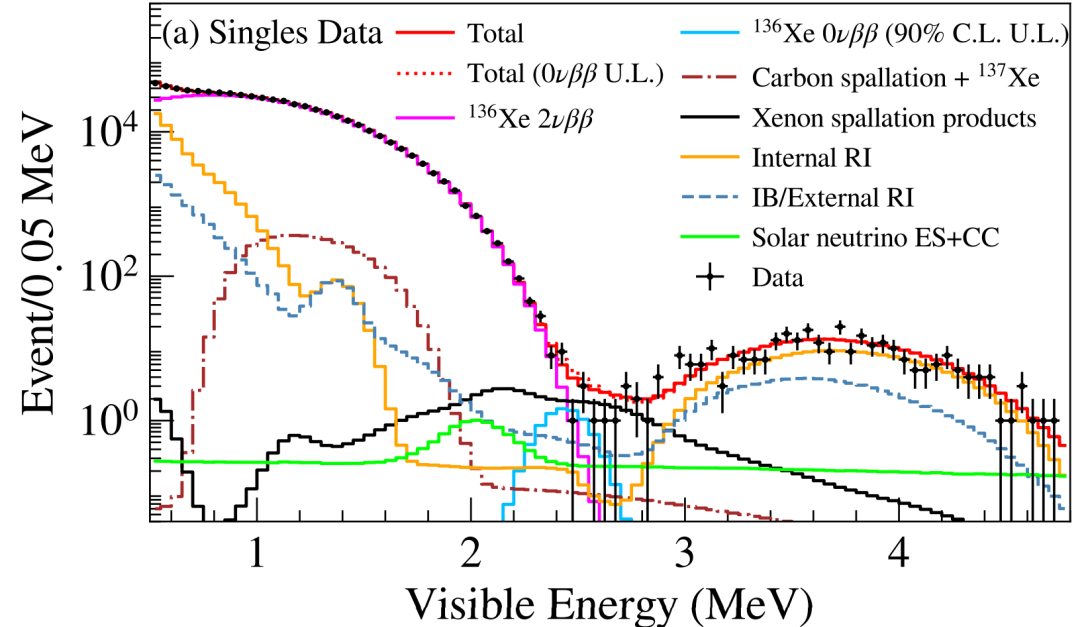
✓  $T_{1/2} > 3.8 \cdot 10^{26}$



✓  $m_{\beta\beta} < 28 - 122$  meV\*



Abe et al., PRL 130 (2023) 5, 051801  
Neutrino-24 (2024), arXiv:2406.11438 (2024)



\*Exposure: 970 kg · y  $^{137}\text{Xe}$ , NME = 1.1 - 4.8

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Abe et al., PRL 130 (2023) 5, 051801  
Neutrino-24 (2024), arXiv:2406.11438 (2024)

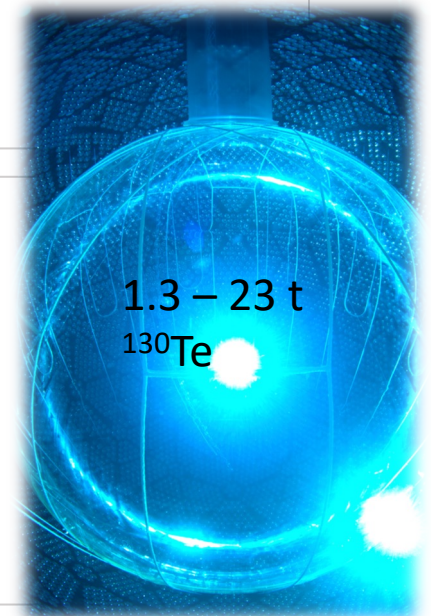
## KamLAND2-Zen

- **Upgrades:** Lower background
- **Status:** Start in 2027
- **Goal:** reach/cover IO

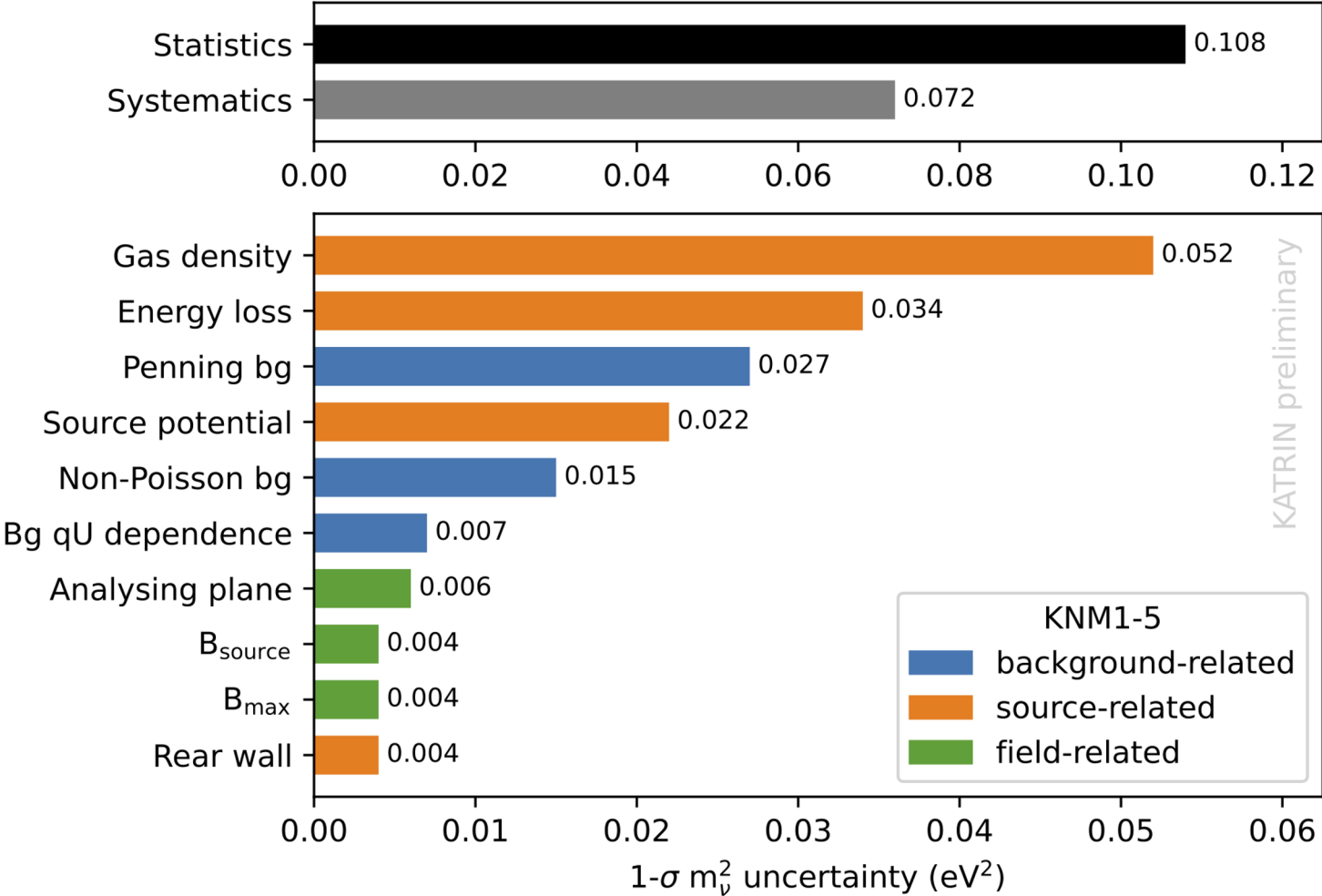
## SNO+

- Te-loaded (0.5 – 3 %) liq. Scin.
- **Status:** commissioning
- **Goal:** reach/cover IO

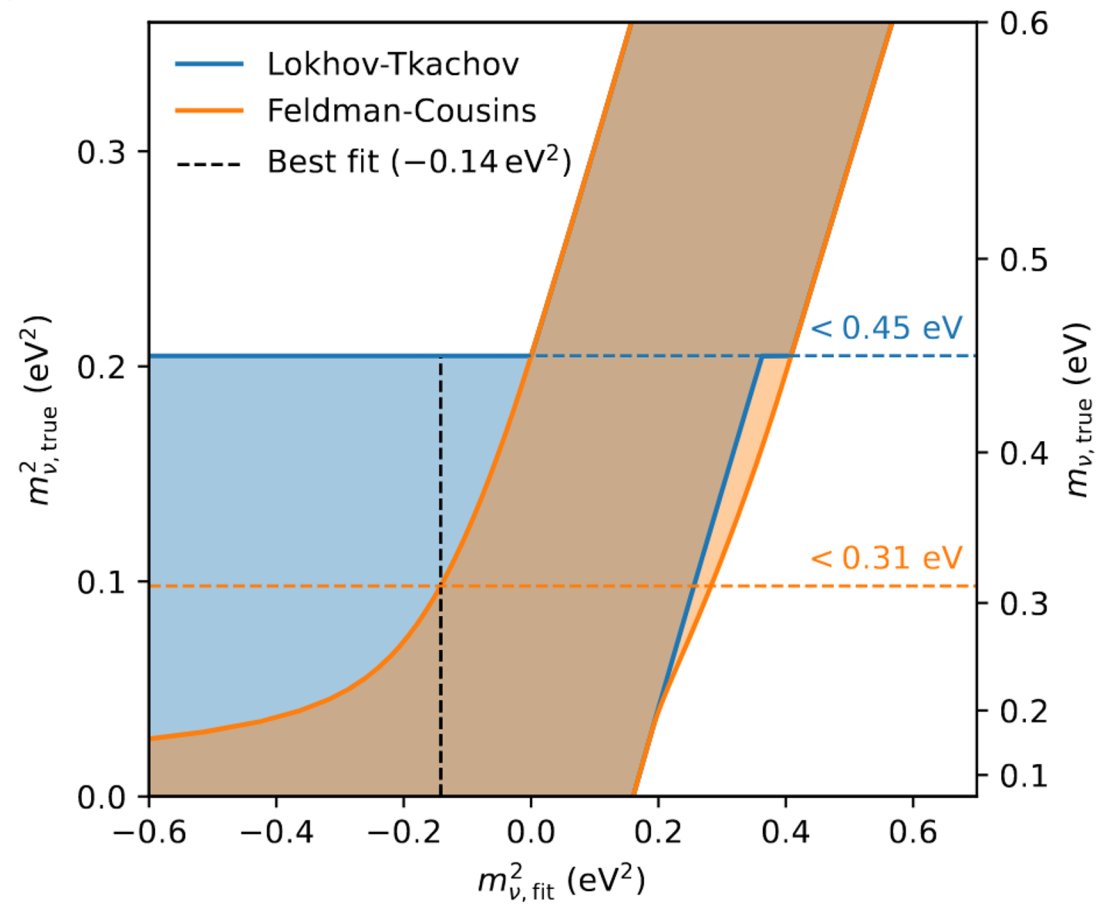
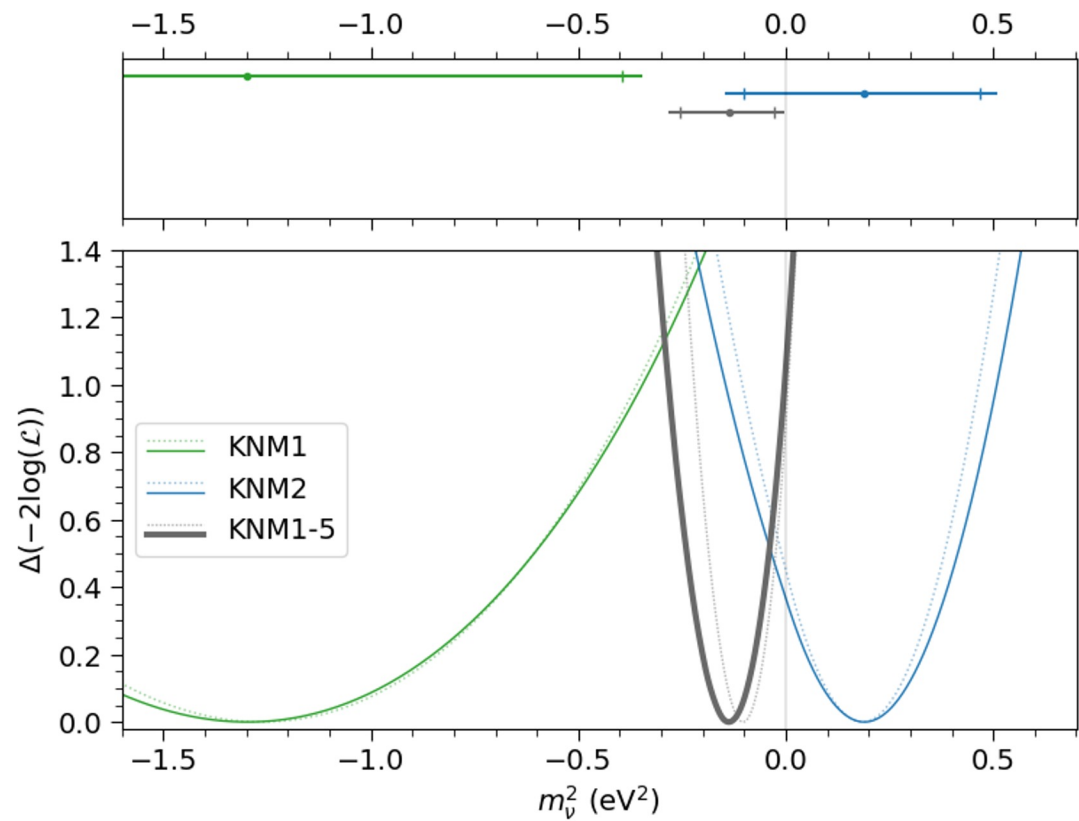
2021 JINST 16 P08059



# Systematic uncertainties



# KATRIN result





# KATRIN data taking continues

- 13 measurement campaigns completed on June 17
- > **150 Mio** counts recorded – **x4** of this release!
- More data to come in **2024-2025** + calibration/systematics improvements

