

2024/10/24

Récontres de Blois

# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Experiments: Present and Future

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October 20–25

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S



A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a mix of dark grey panels and reddish-brown brickwork. In the foreground, a blue sign with the SNOLAB logo and name is mounted on a black pole. Several cars are parked in a lot in front of the building. Large evergreen trees are visible on both sides of the building. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

***SNOLAB is located on the traditional territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850, shared by the Indigenous people of the surrounding Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation as part of the larger Anishinabek Nation.***

***We acknowledge those who came before us and honour those who are the caretakers of this land and the waters. <sup>2</sup>***

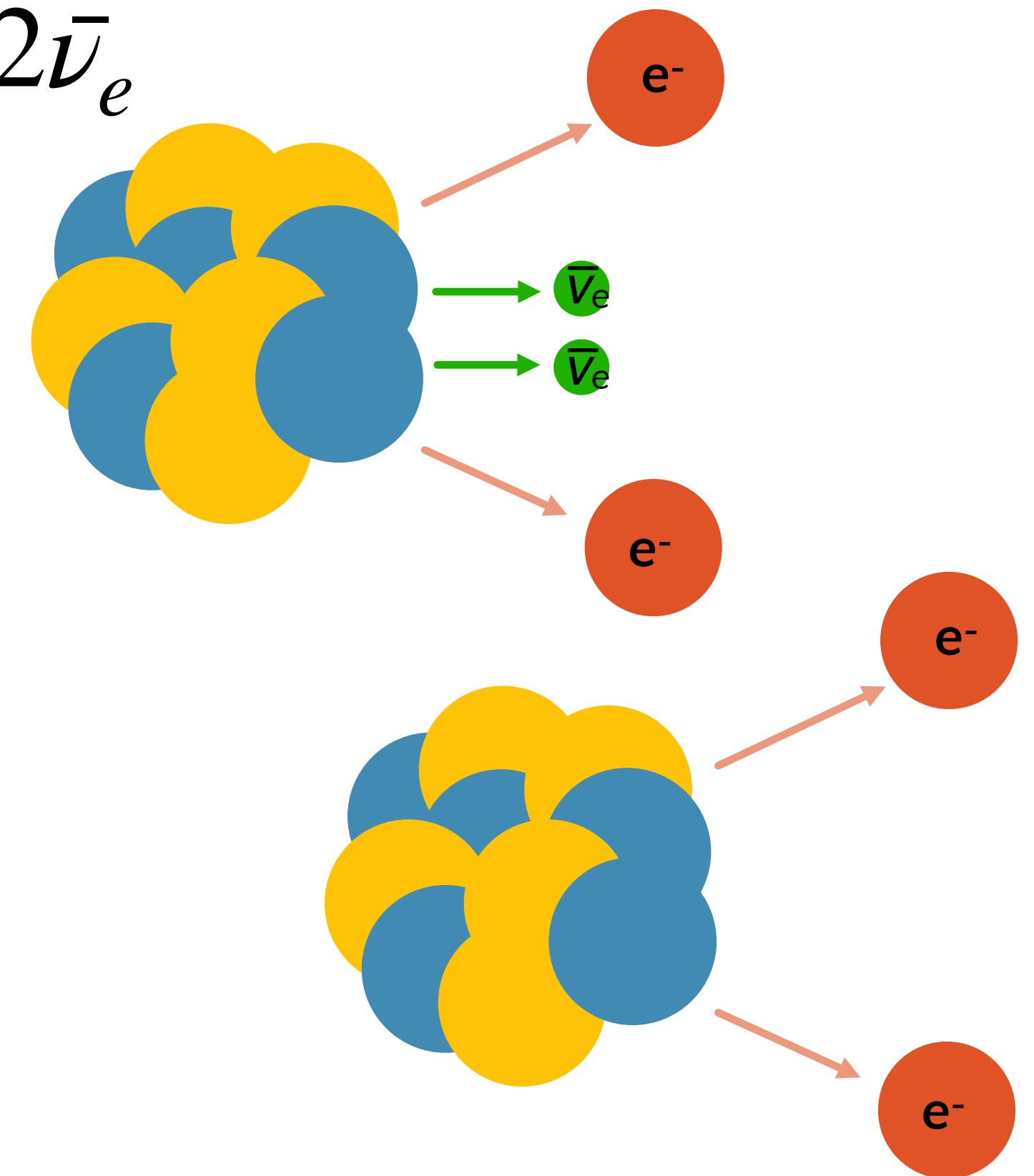
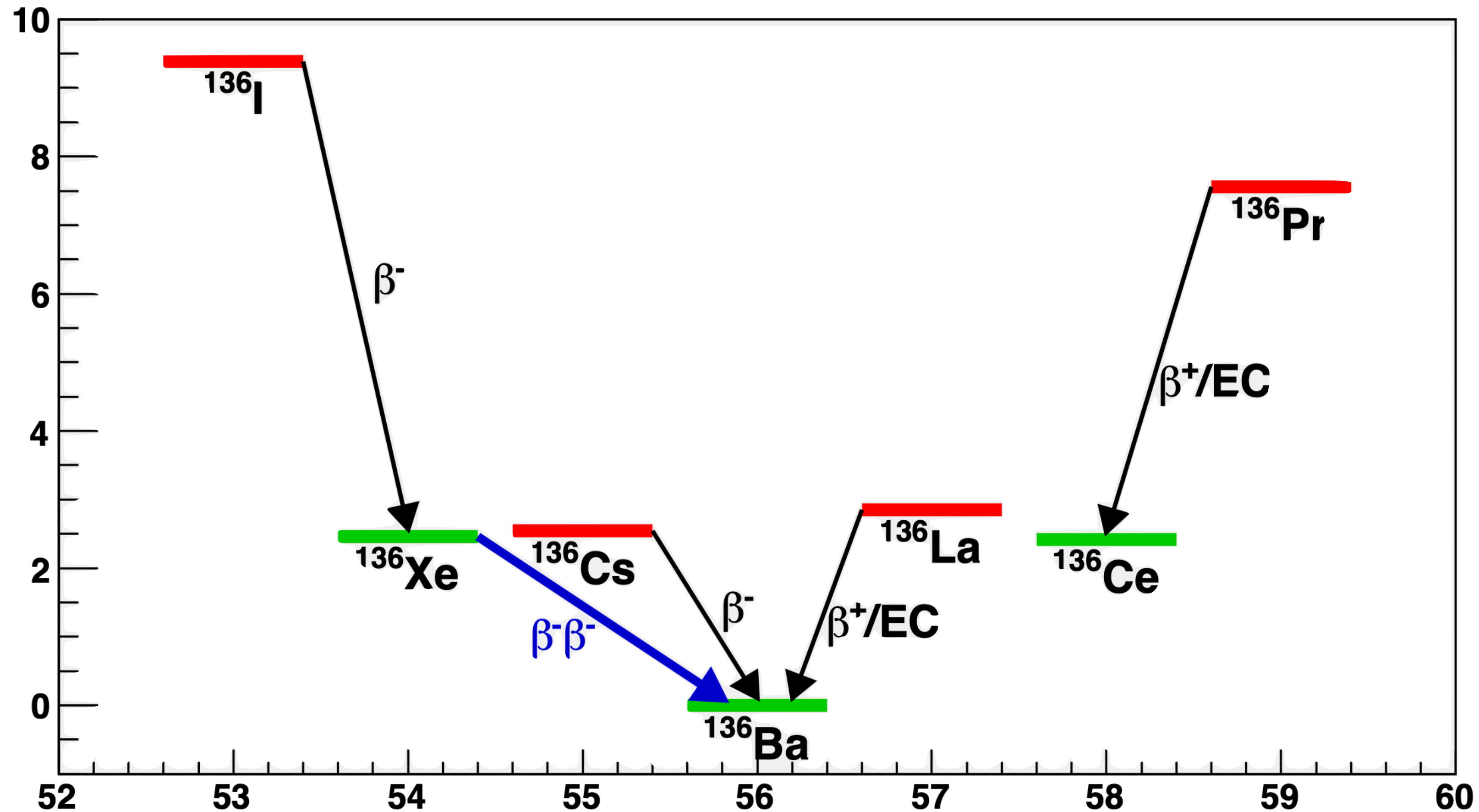
# Outline



- Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay
- Current Experiments
- Near Future Experiments
- Far Future Experiments

# Double Beta Decay

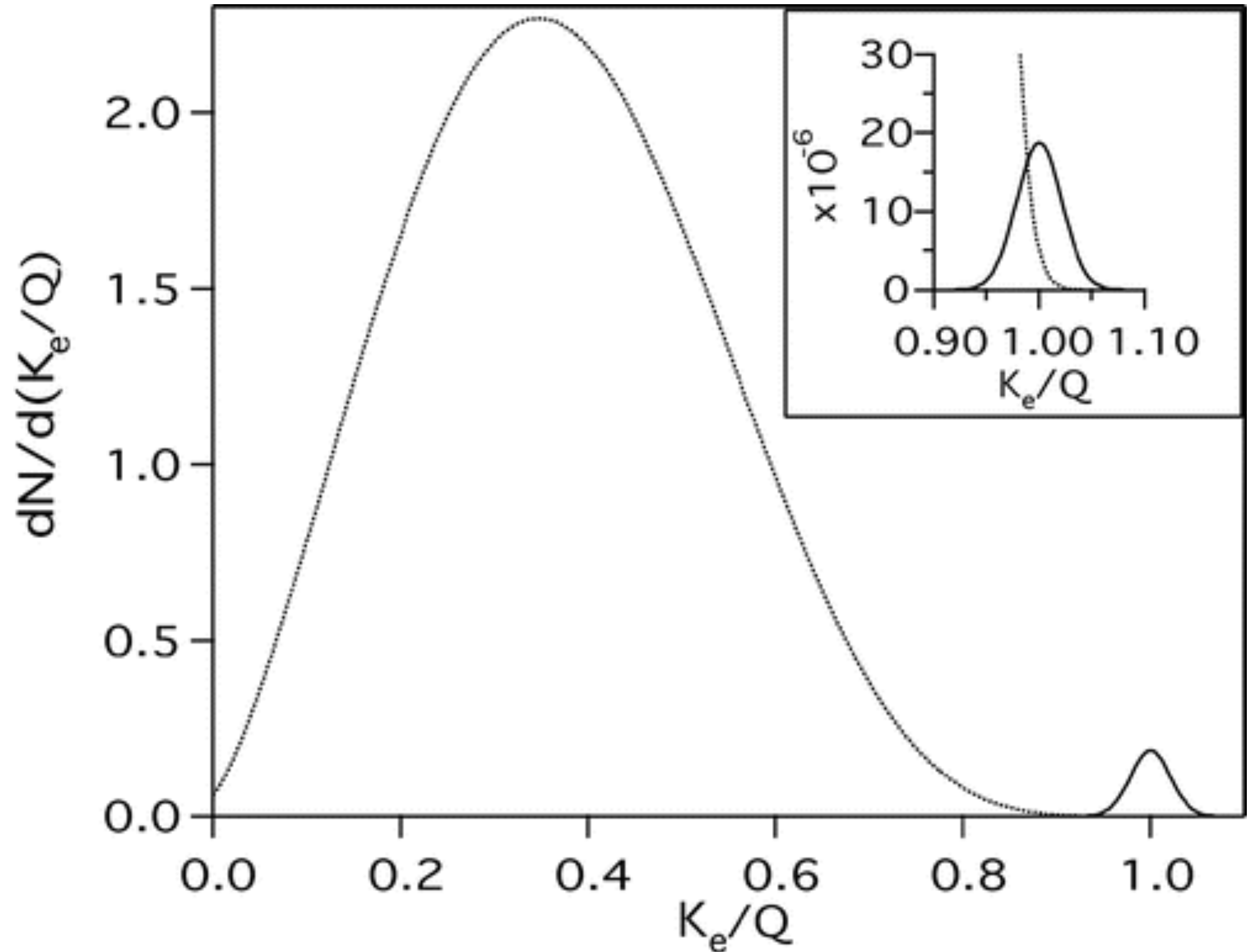
$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^{-} + 2\bar{\nu}_e$$



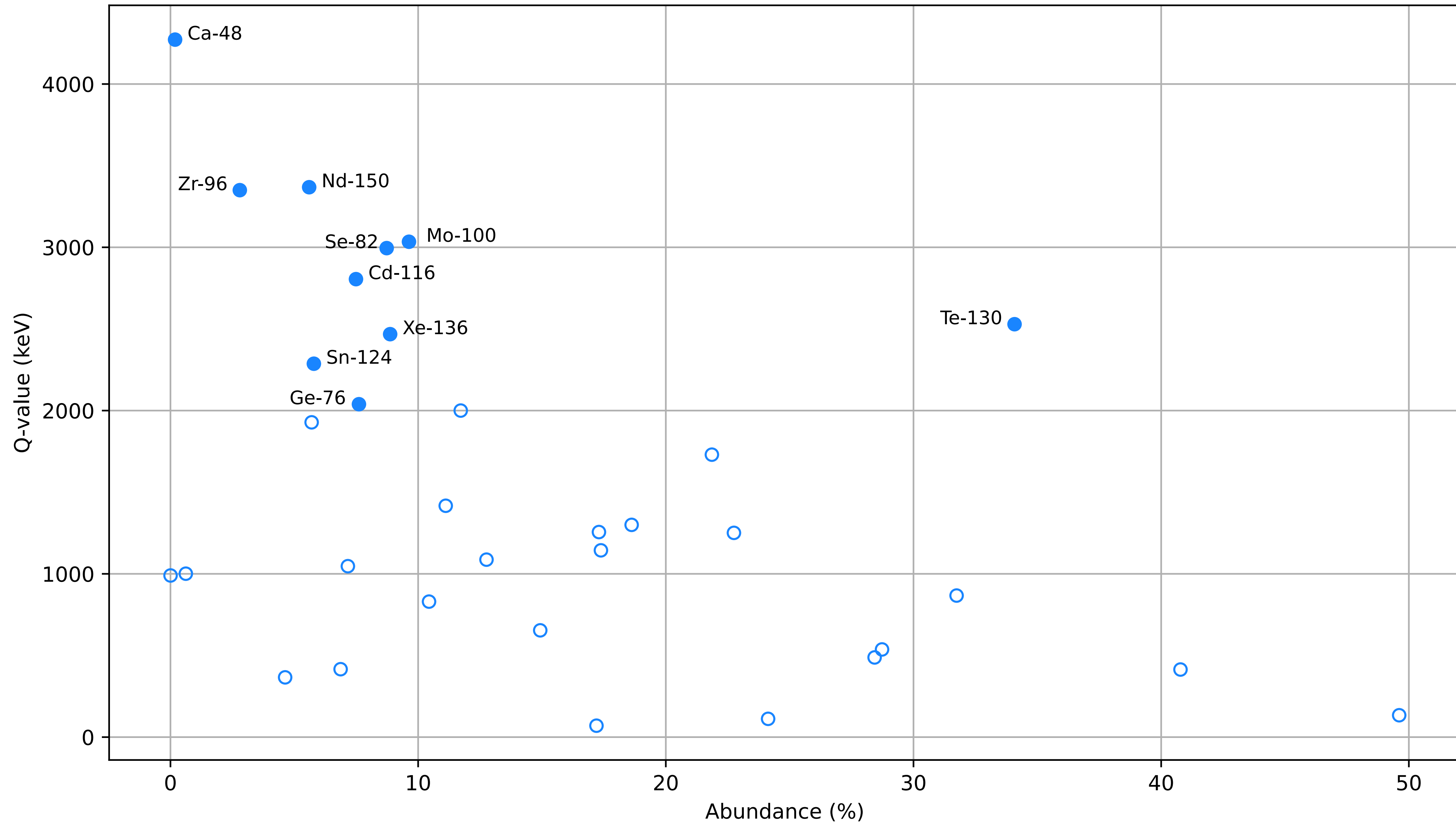
$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^{-}$$

# Double Beta Decay

- Key experimental signature for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  is a peak in visible energy at the Q-value of the nucleus, smeared by detector resolution.
- Experiments are designed to minimize backgrounds around the Q-value.



# Double Beta Decay Isotopes



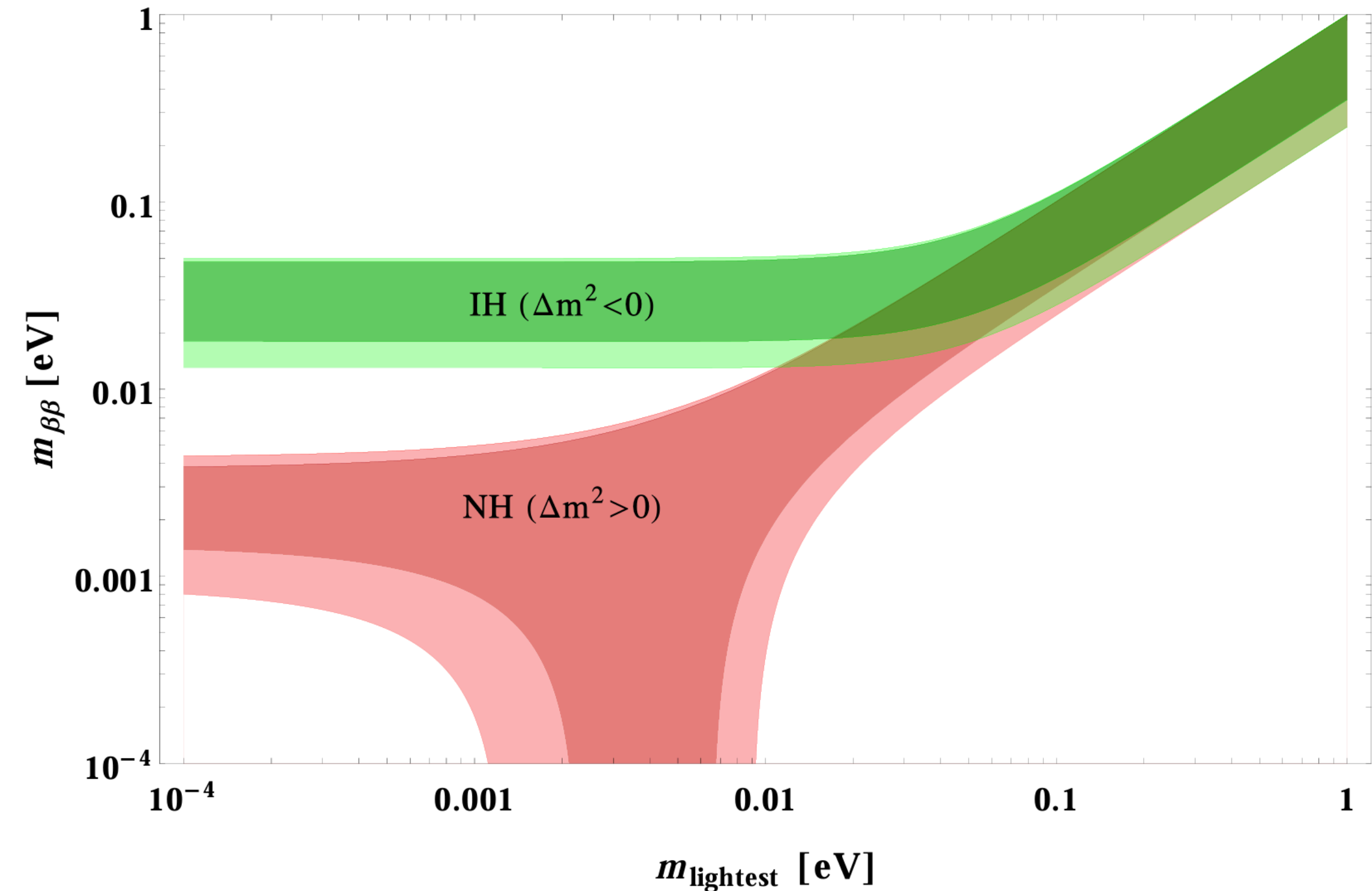
# There is no scenario in which observing $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay would not be a great discovery:



- Majorana neutrinos
- Lepton number violation
- Probe new mass mechanism up to the GUT scale
- Probe key ingredients in generating cosmic baryon asymmetry

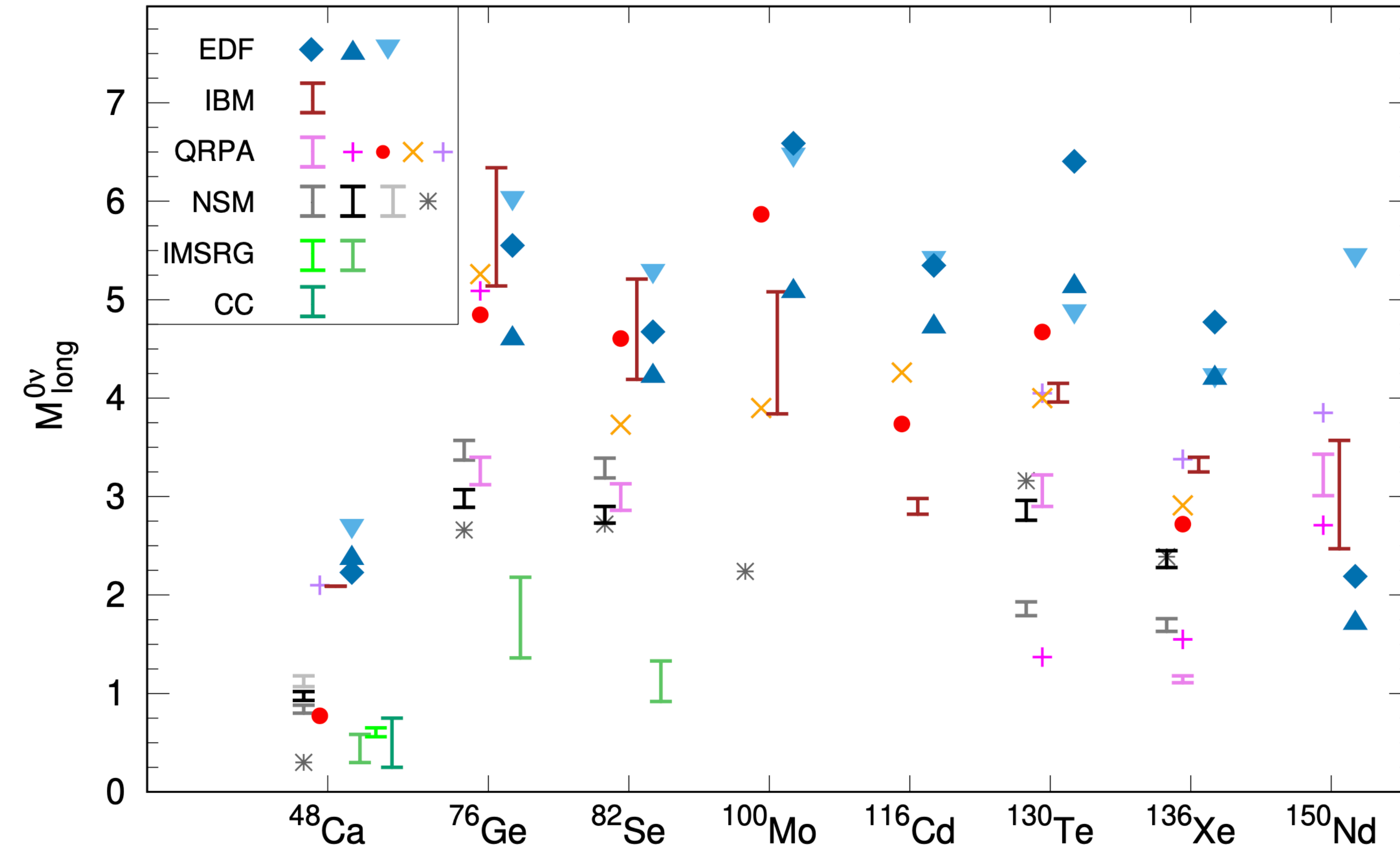
$$\left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu}\right)^{-1} = G^{0\nu}(Q, Z) |M^{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$

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



- The connection with the effective  $\nu$  mass also means that the observation of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay can provide information on the  $\nu$  mass scale, provided that:
  - The mechanism producing the decay is understood
  - The nuclear matrix element is calculated with sufficiently small uncertainty

# Nuclear Matrix Element Results



- The calculations vary by a factor of 2-3. Usually taken as an estimate of the uncertainty.
- It is not a true uncertainty because the different models neglect different physics.



# Important to International Communities



European  
Astroparticle Physics  
Strategy 2017-2026

A NEW ERA OF DISCOVERY  
THE 2023 LONG RANGE PLAN FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE  
2023 | VERSION 1.5

Canadian Subatomic Physics  
LONG-RANGE PLAN  
2022-2026

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**APPEC strongly supports the ... double-beta decay experiments selected in the US-European process.** The search for neutrino less double beta decay will primarily test the particle nature of neutrinos since this Beyond the Standard Model and lepton-number-violating process is only possible in the neutrinos are of Majorana-type. Its observation would additionally give information about the generation mechanism and neutrino mass spectrum. **Confirmation of discovery will require results from several isotopes and measurement technologies.**

## RECOMMENDATION 2

As the **highest priority for new experiment construction**, we recommend that the United States lead an international consortium that will **undertake a neutrinoless double beta decay campaign**, featuring the expeditious construction of ton-scale experiments, using different isotopes and complementary techniques. [...] Neutrinoless double beta decay experiments have the potential to dramatically change our understanding of the physical laws governing the universe.

## SCIENCE RECOMMENDATION 3

A broad experimental program is required to address the scientific drivers of subatomic physics research. We recommend pursuit of the following high-priority scientific directions: The **future program should include the further exploration of neutrino properties via neutrinoless double-beta decay experiments**, long baseline experiments and neutrino observatories.

# A healthy neutrinoless double-beta decay program requires more than one isotope.

- Nuclear matrix elements are not very well known and any given isotope could come with unknown liabilities
- Different isotopes correspond to vastly different experimental techniques
- 2 neutrino background is different for various isotopes
- Understanding the mechanism producing the decay requires the analysis of more than one isotope

# Currently Running Experiments

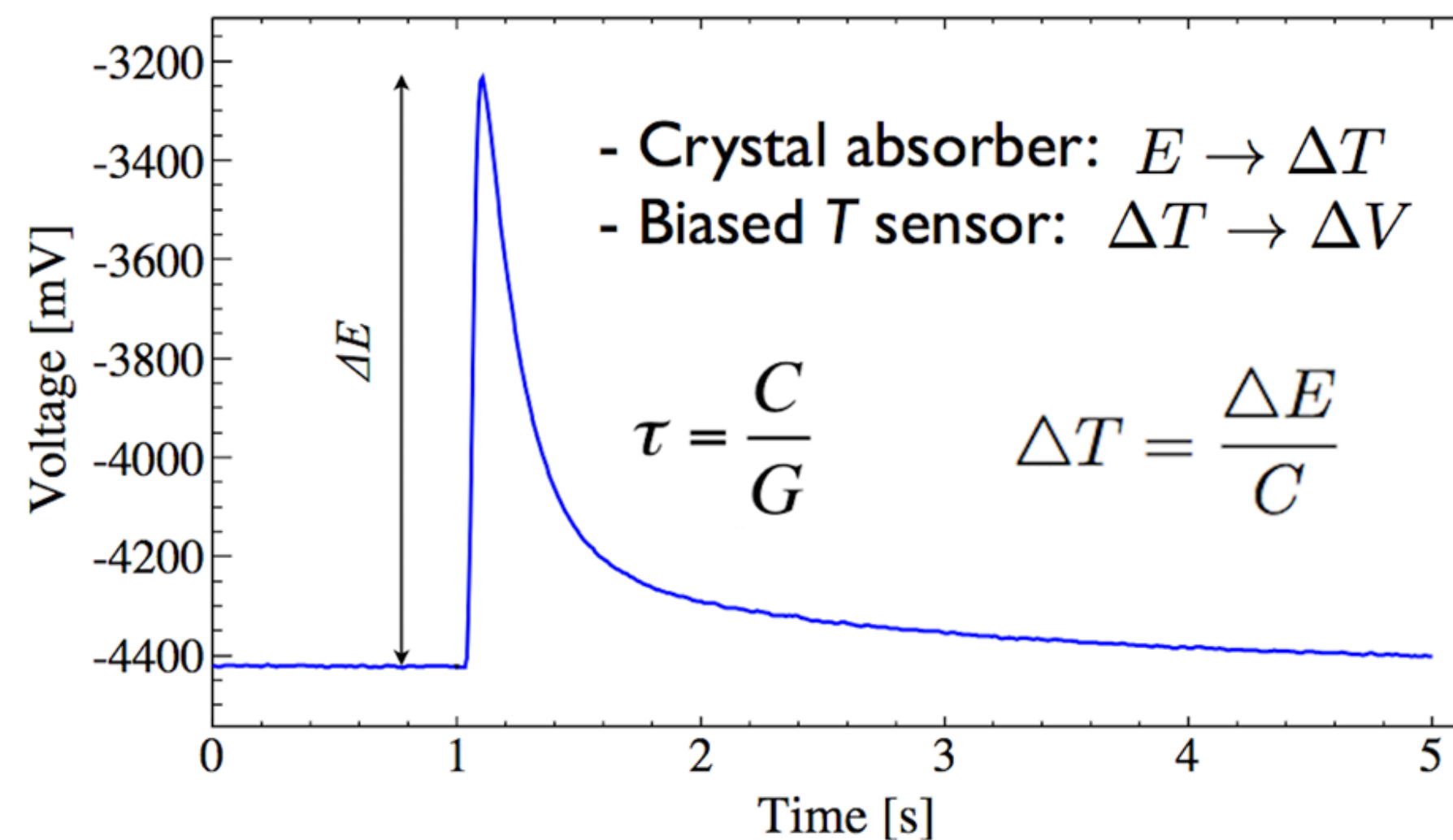
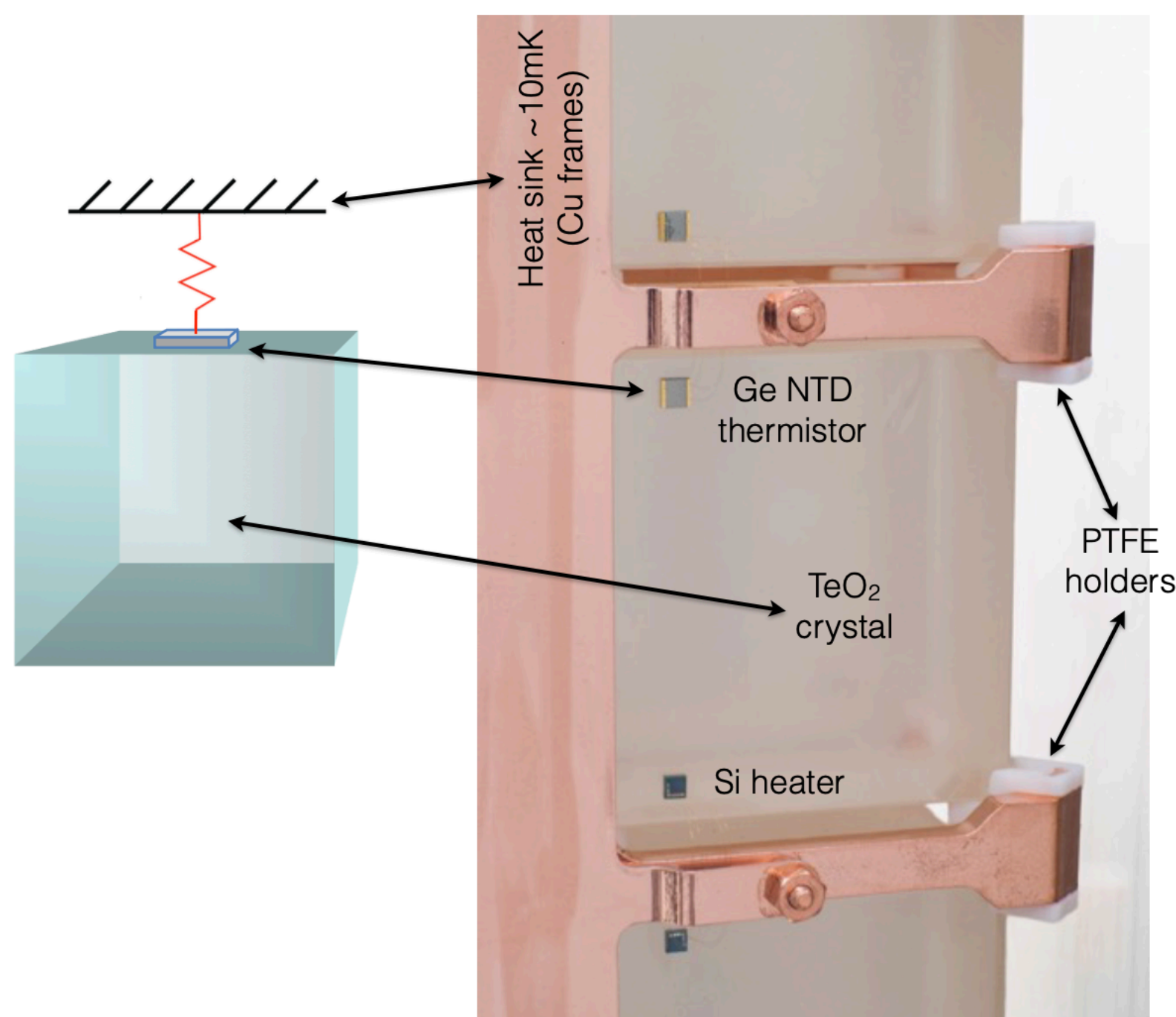


LEGEND - 200

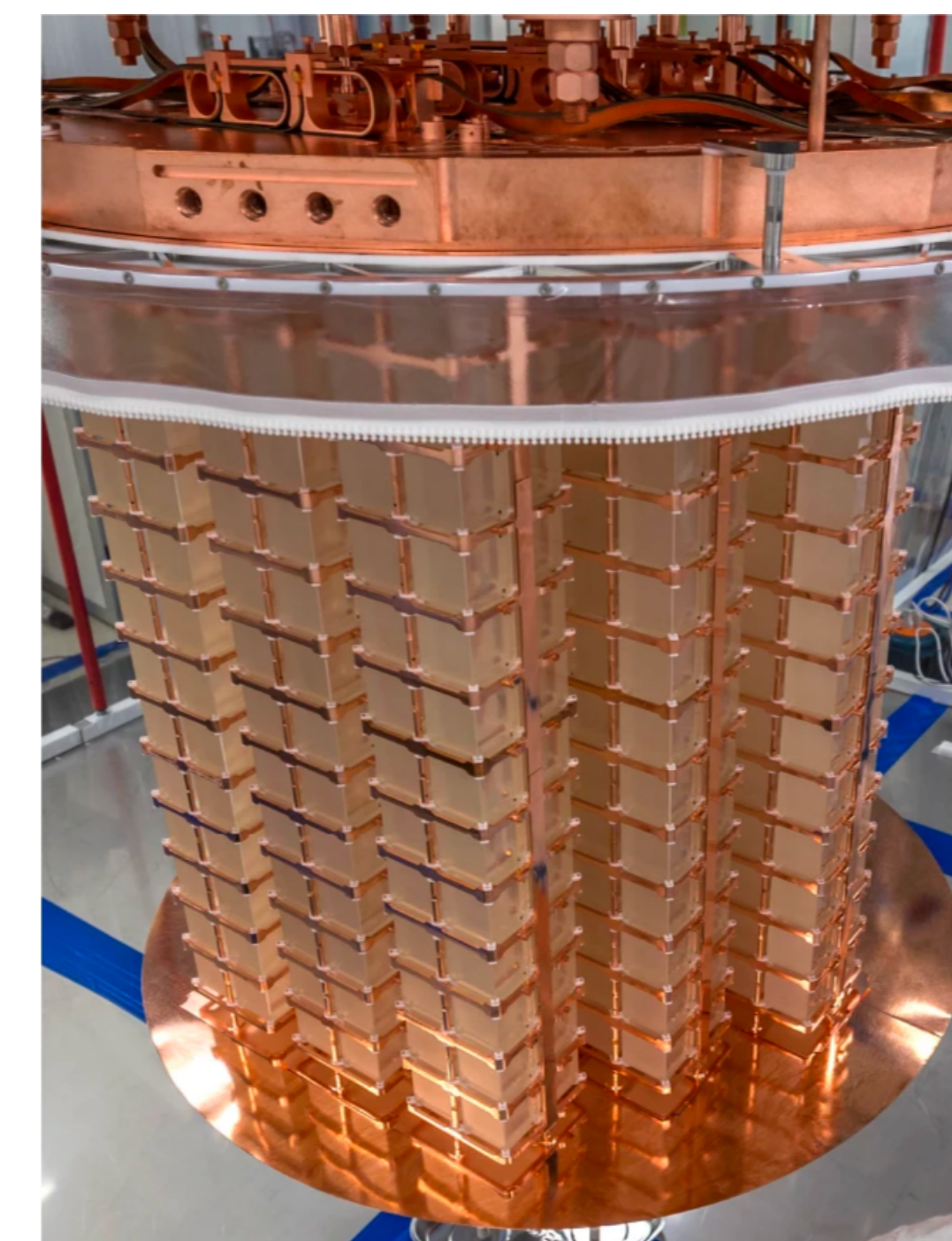


# Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

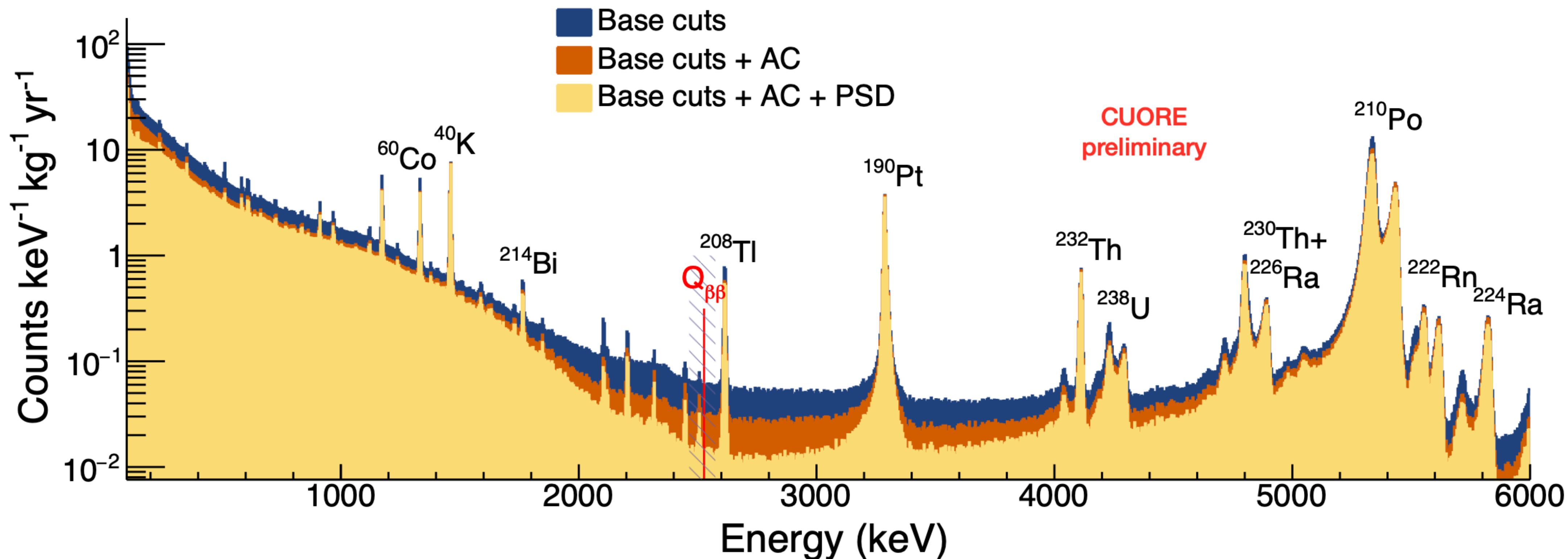
- 988 TeO<sub>2</sub> crystals in 19 towers
- 10 mK cryostat in LNGS (1400m, 3800 mwe)
- 206 kg of <sup>130</sup>Te, 188kg <sup>128</sup>Te
- Operating temperature: ~10 mK
- Energy Resolution ~0.3% (7.8 keV) @ Q<sub>ββ</sub>



$G$ : thermal coupling constant  
 $\Delta T$ : ~ 0.1-1 mK/MeV,  $\tau$ : ~ 0.1-1 s



[Te-130, Q<sub>ββ</sub> = 2528 keV, 34% NA]



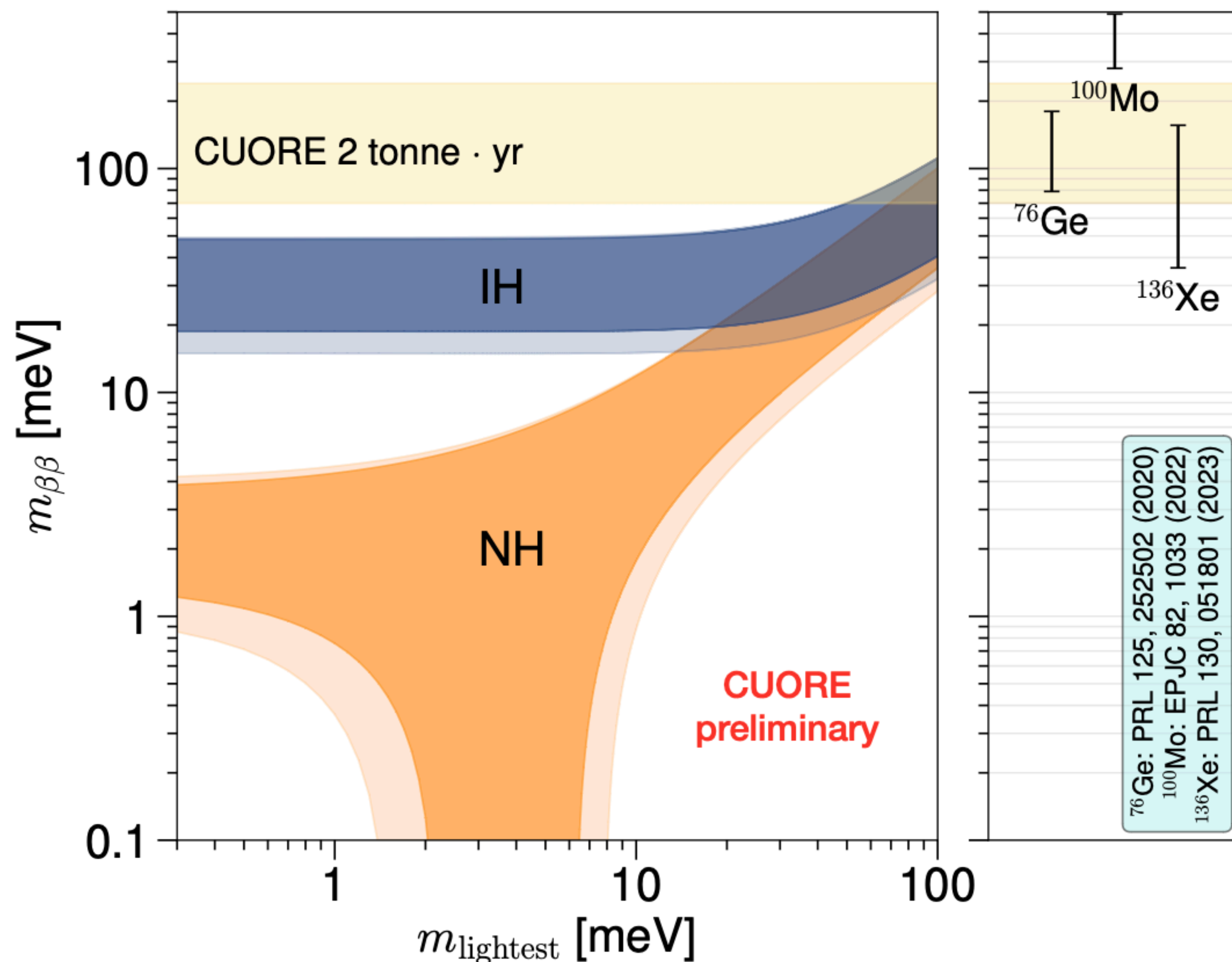
May 2017 to April 2023:

2039.0 kg · yr TeO<sub>2</sub> (567.0 kg · yr <sup>130</sup>Te)

- $T_{1/2}^{2\nu} = 9.323^{+0.052}_{-0.037} \times 10^{20}$  yr
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 3.8 \times 10^{25}$  yr (90%CL)
- $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (10-240)$  meV

Nature 604 (2022) 7904, 53-58;  
 Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 222501 (2022);  
 PRL 126, 171801 (2021);  
 arXiv:2404:04453

[Te-130,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2528$  keV, 34% NA]



2022:

309.33 kg·yr (78.6 kg·yr of  $^{128}\text{Te}$ )

- $T_{1/2}^{2\nu} = 2.19 \pm 0.07 \times 10^{24}$  yr
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 3.6 \times 10^{24}$  yr (90%CL)

**Continue collecting data until reaching 3 tonne · yr of analysed  $\text{TeO}_2$  exposure**

**-> proceed toward CUPID**

[Te-130,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2528$  keV, 34% NA]

[Te-128,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 866$  keV, 31.75% NA]

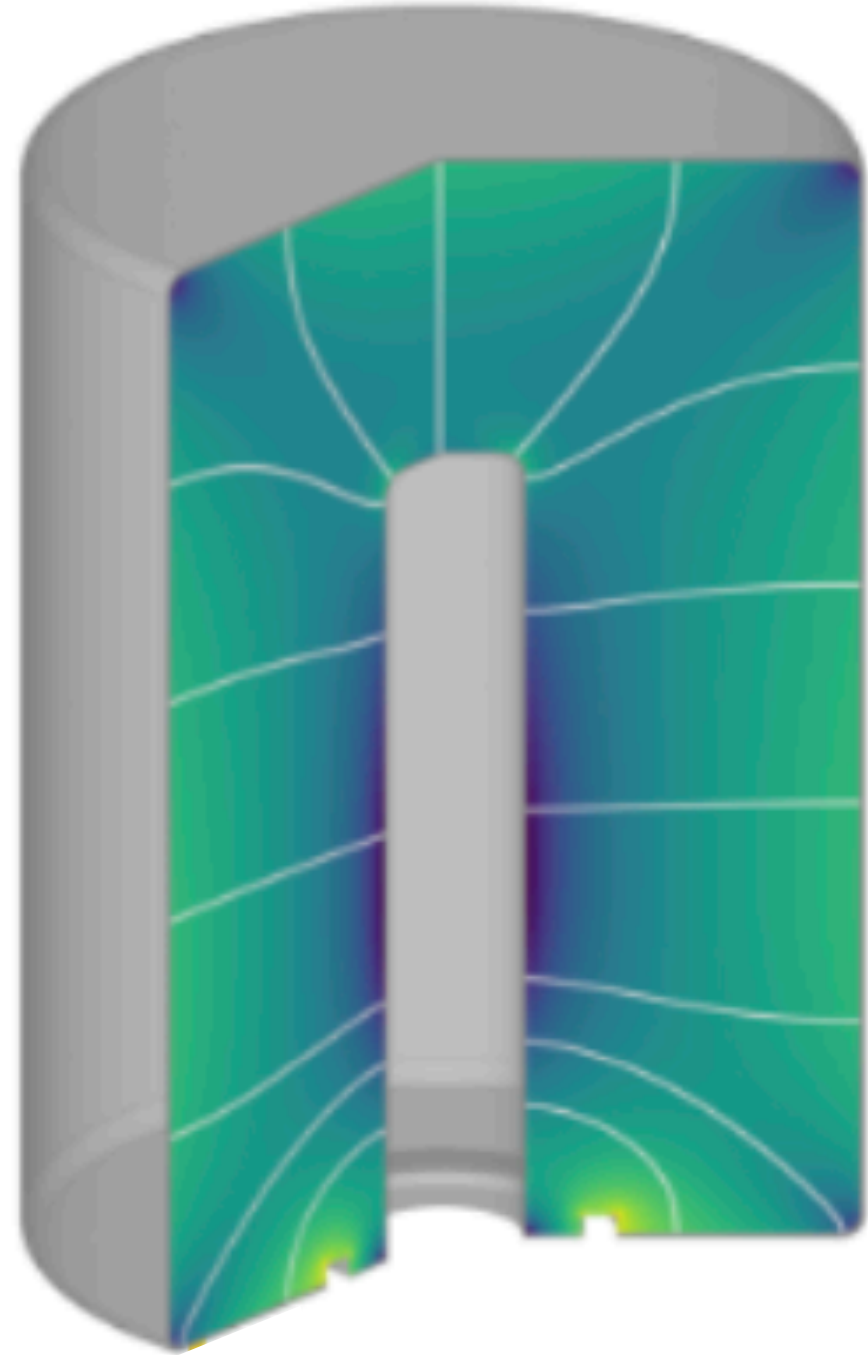
# LEGEND -200



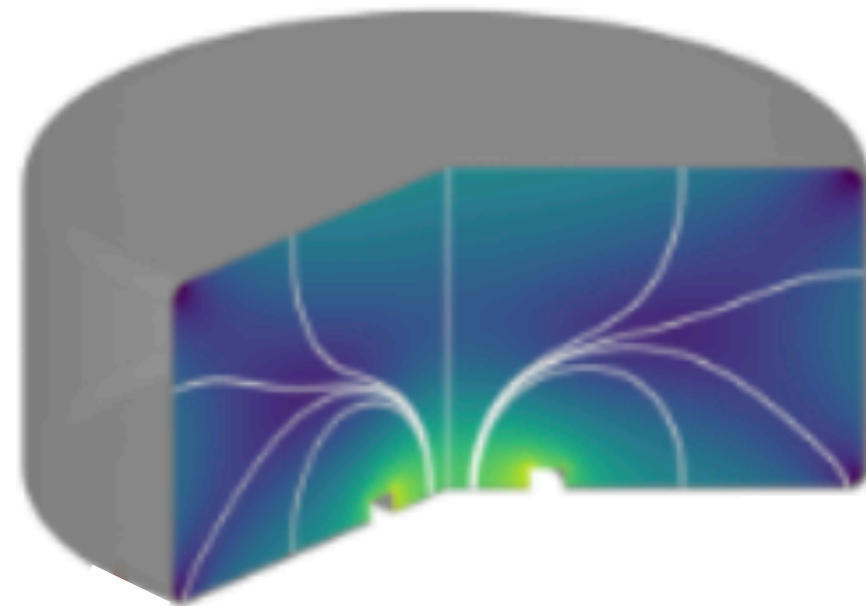
# LEGEND uses sophisticated large enriched Ge-76 detectors building on work by Majorana and GERDA



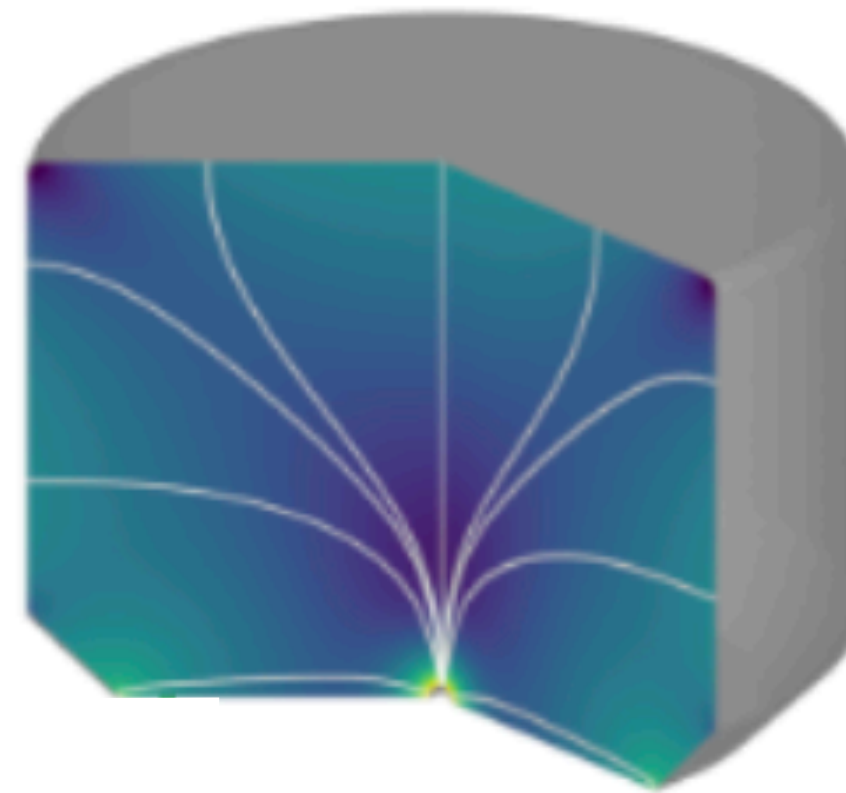
 Coax



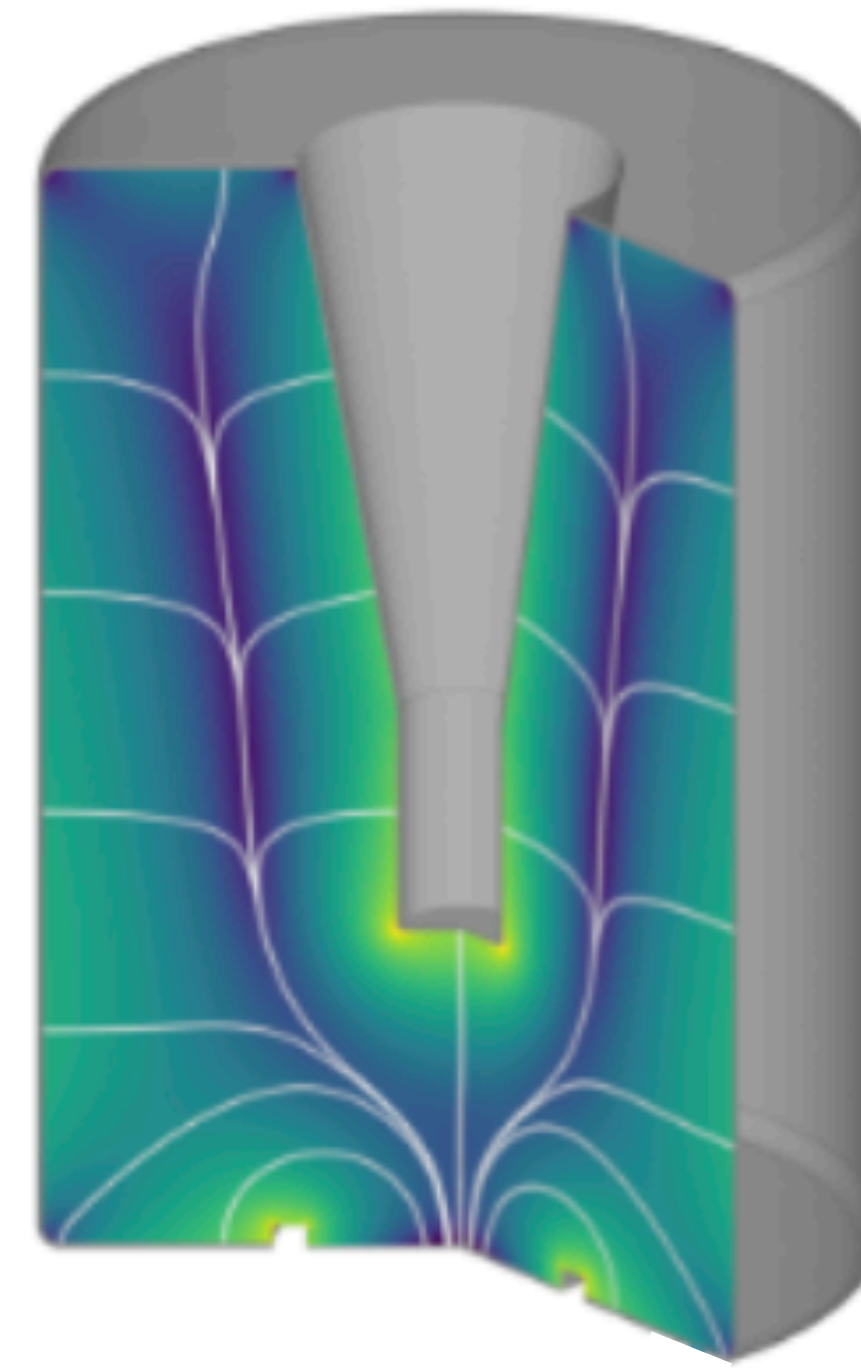
 BEGe



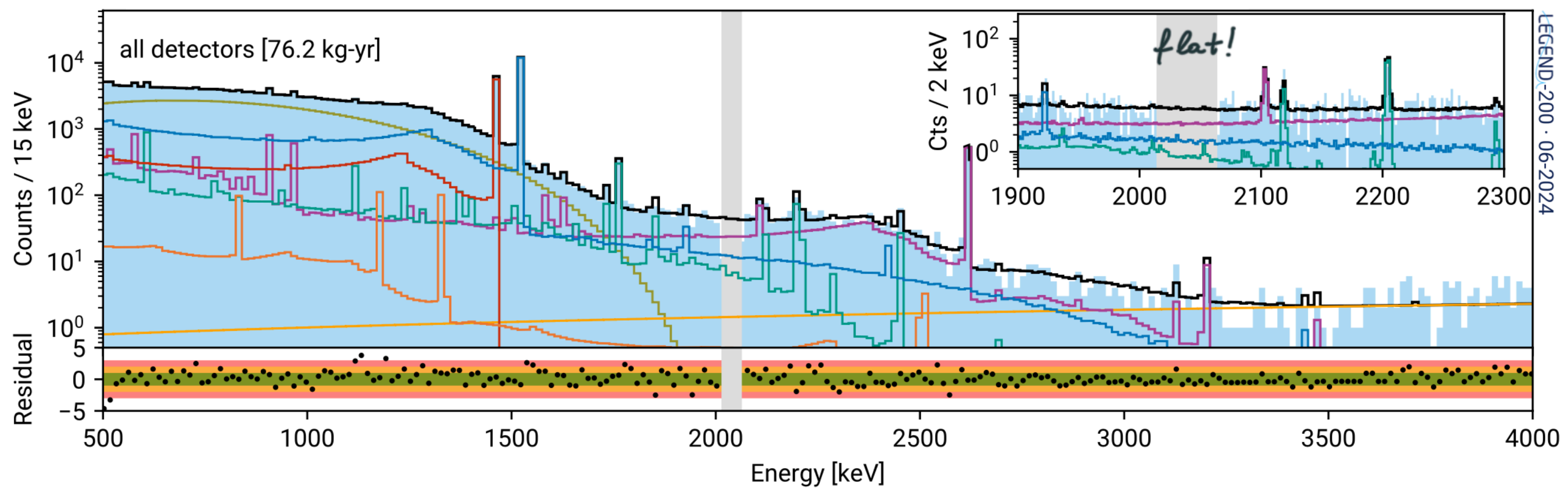
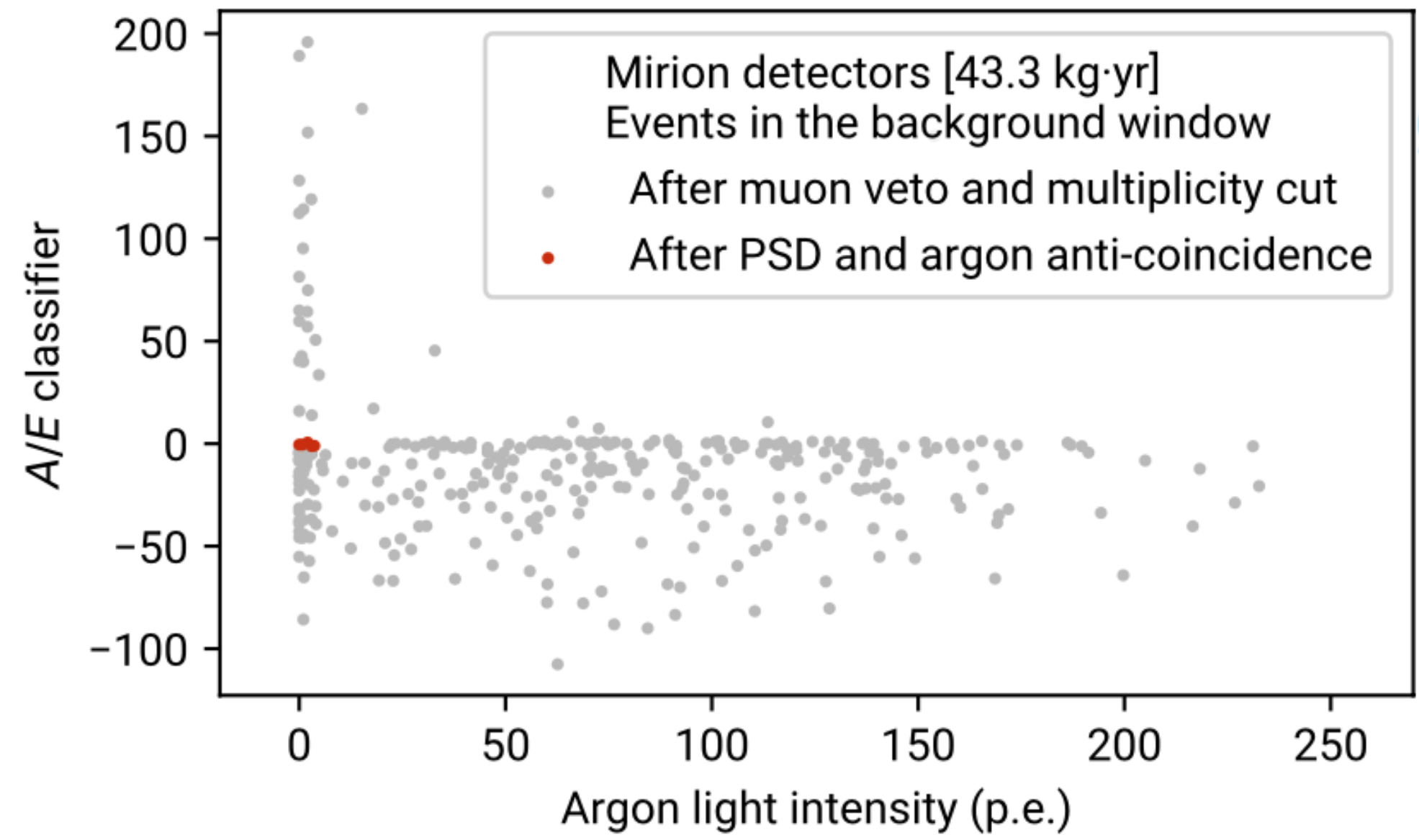
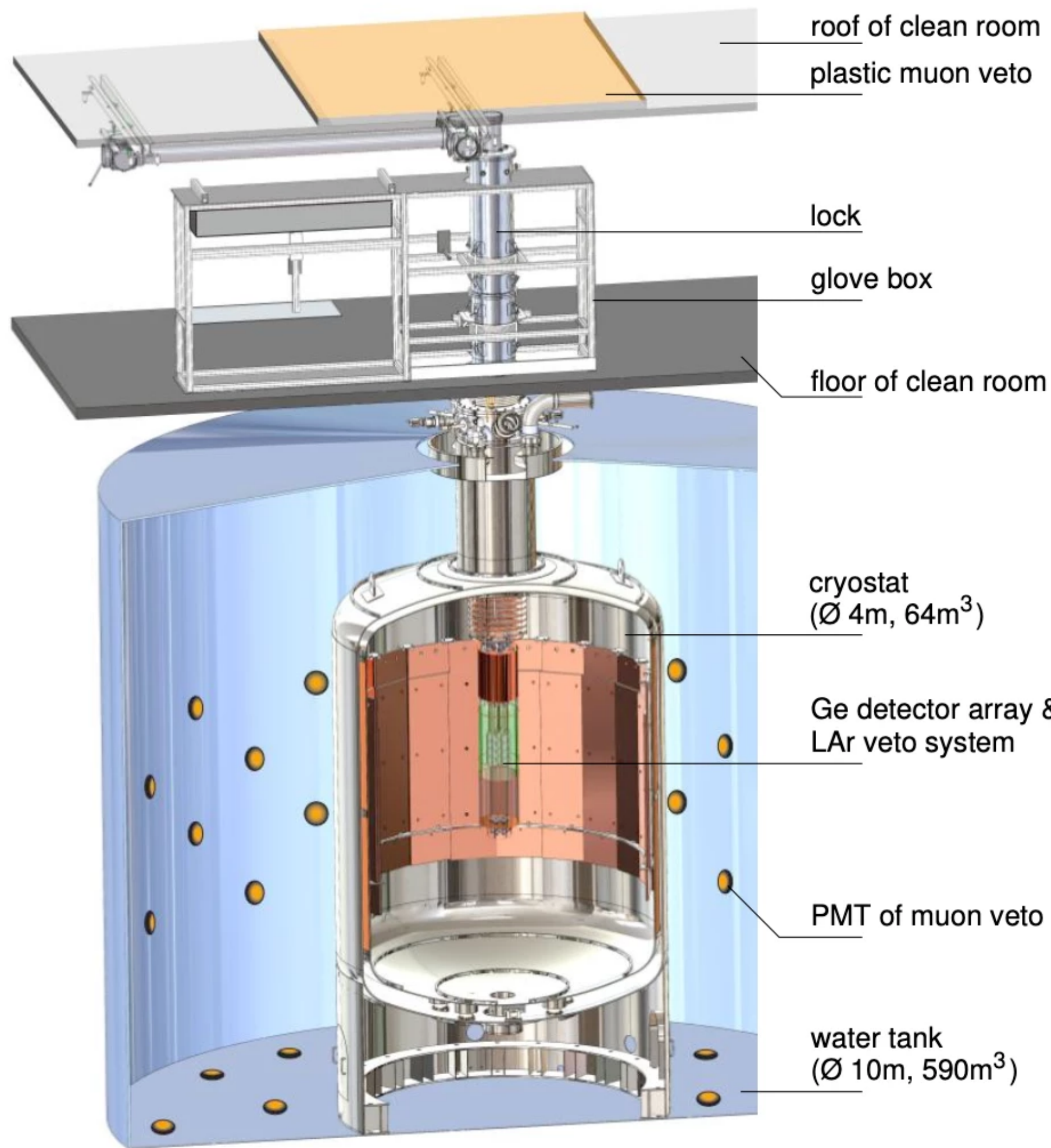
 PPC



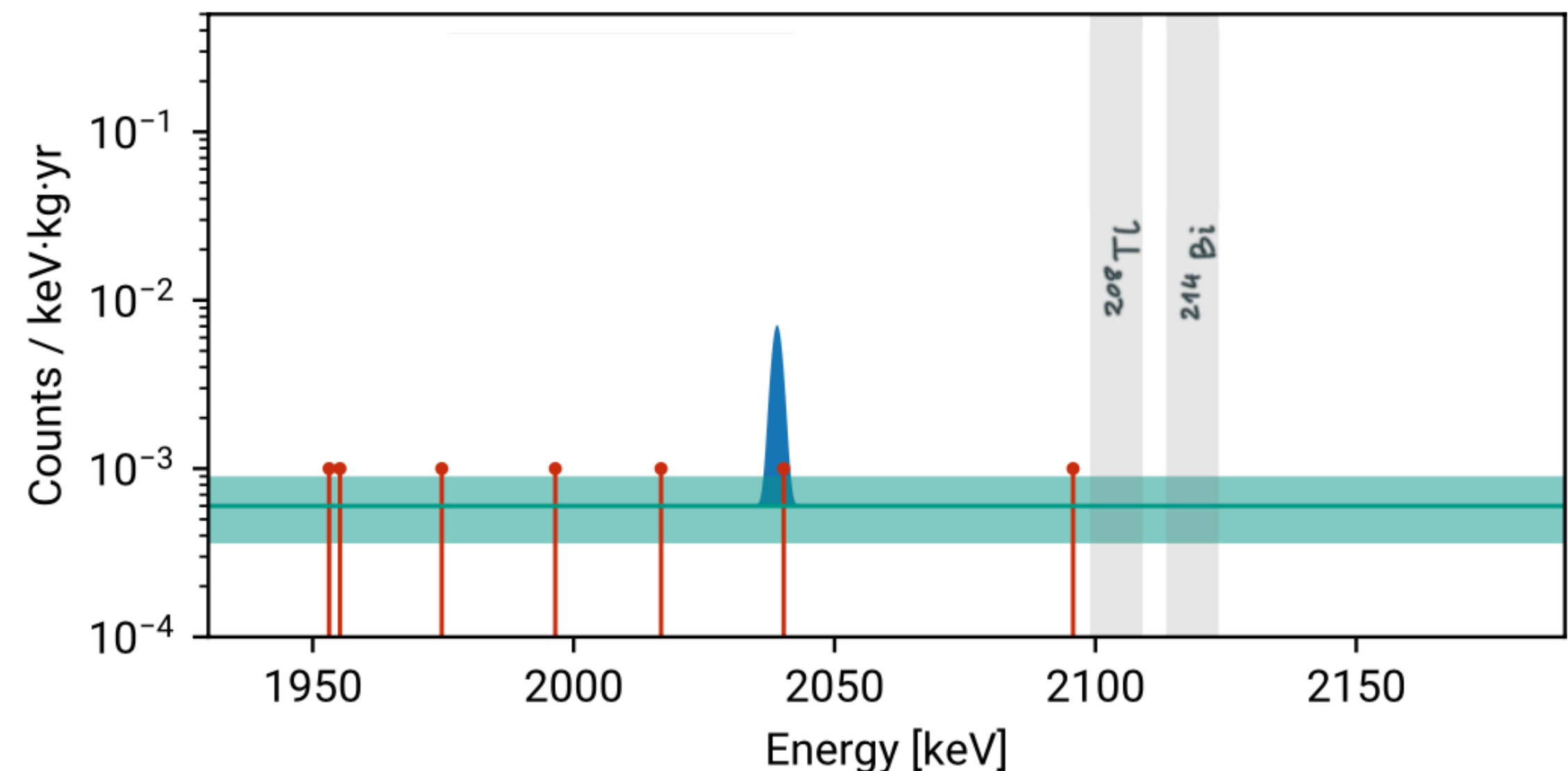
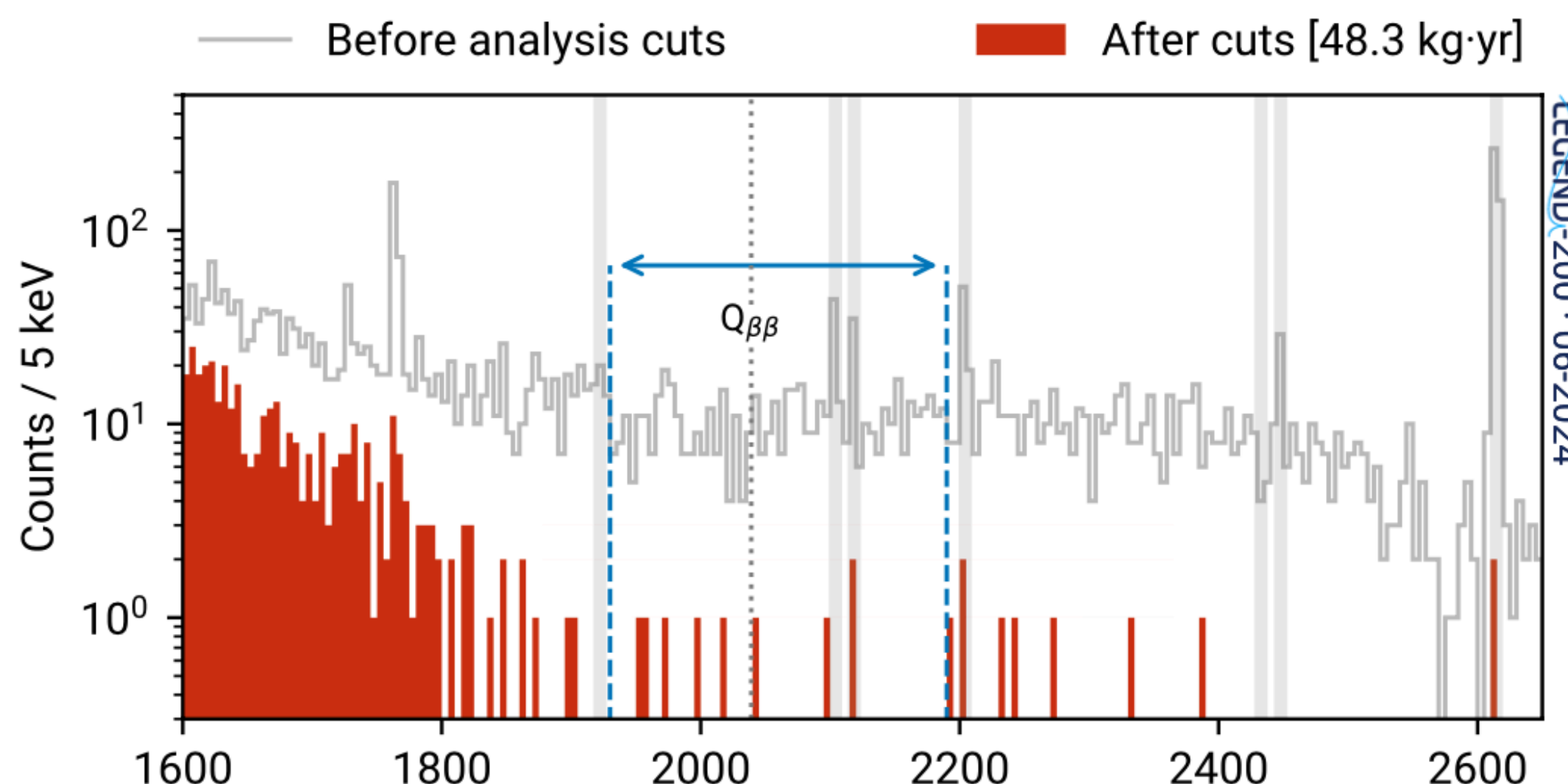
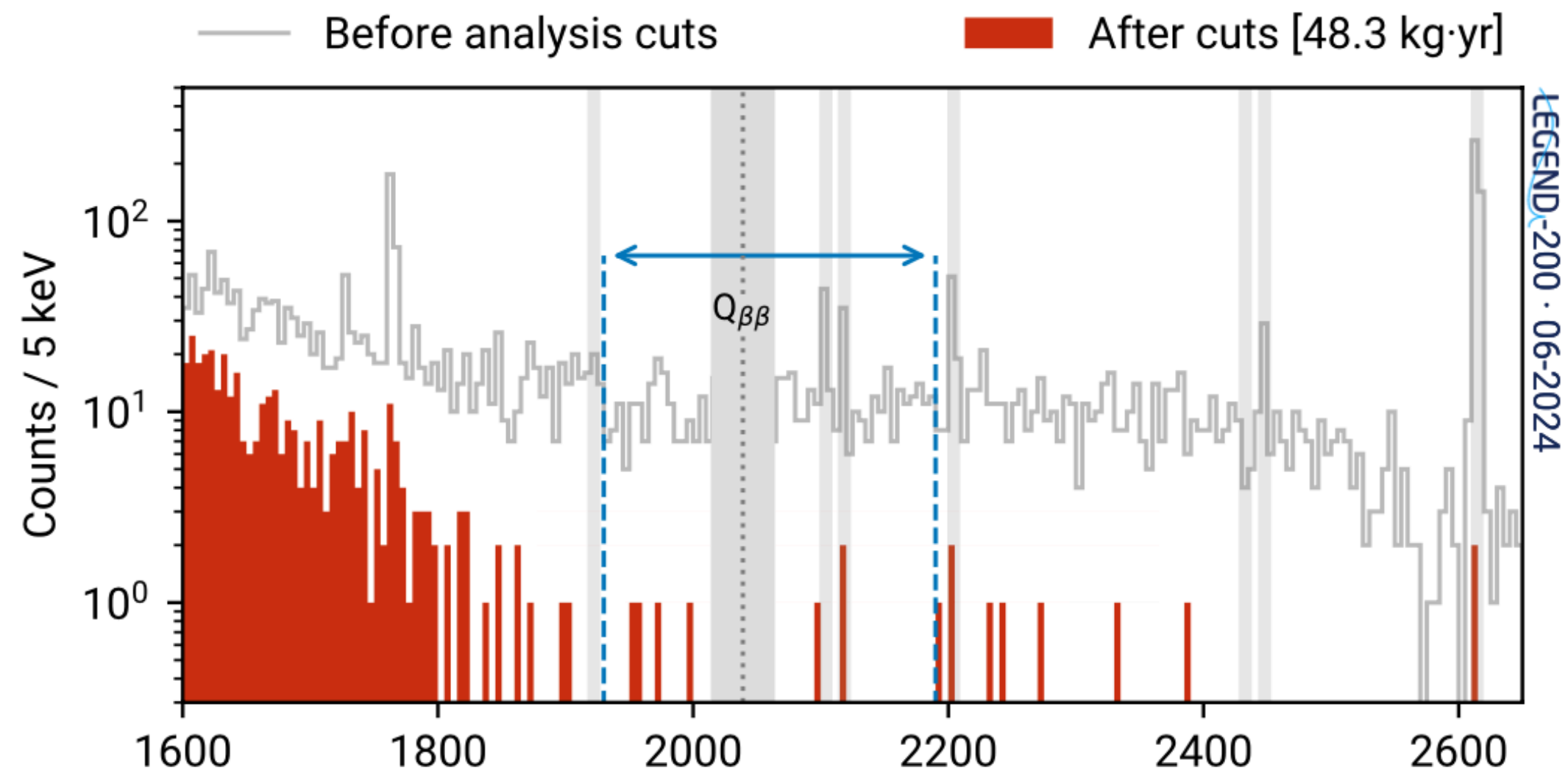
LEGEND IC



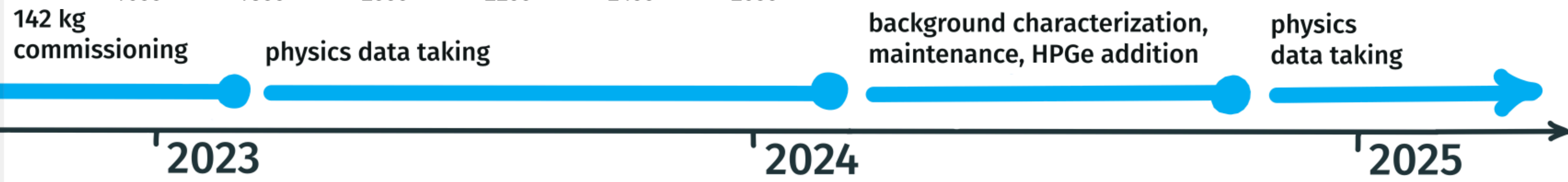
- Ge Crystals > 90% enriched in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$
- 140 kg
- Energy Resolution: 0.1% @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2039 \text{ keV}$
- 7.8% NA



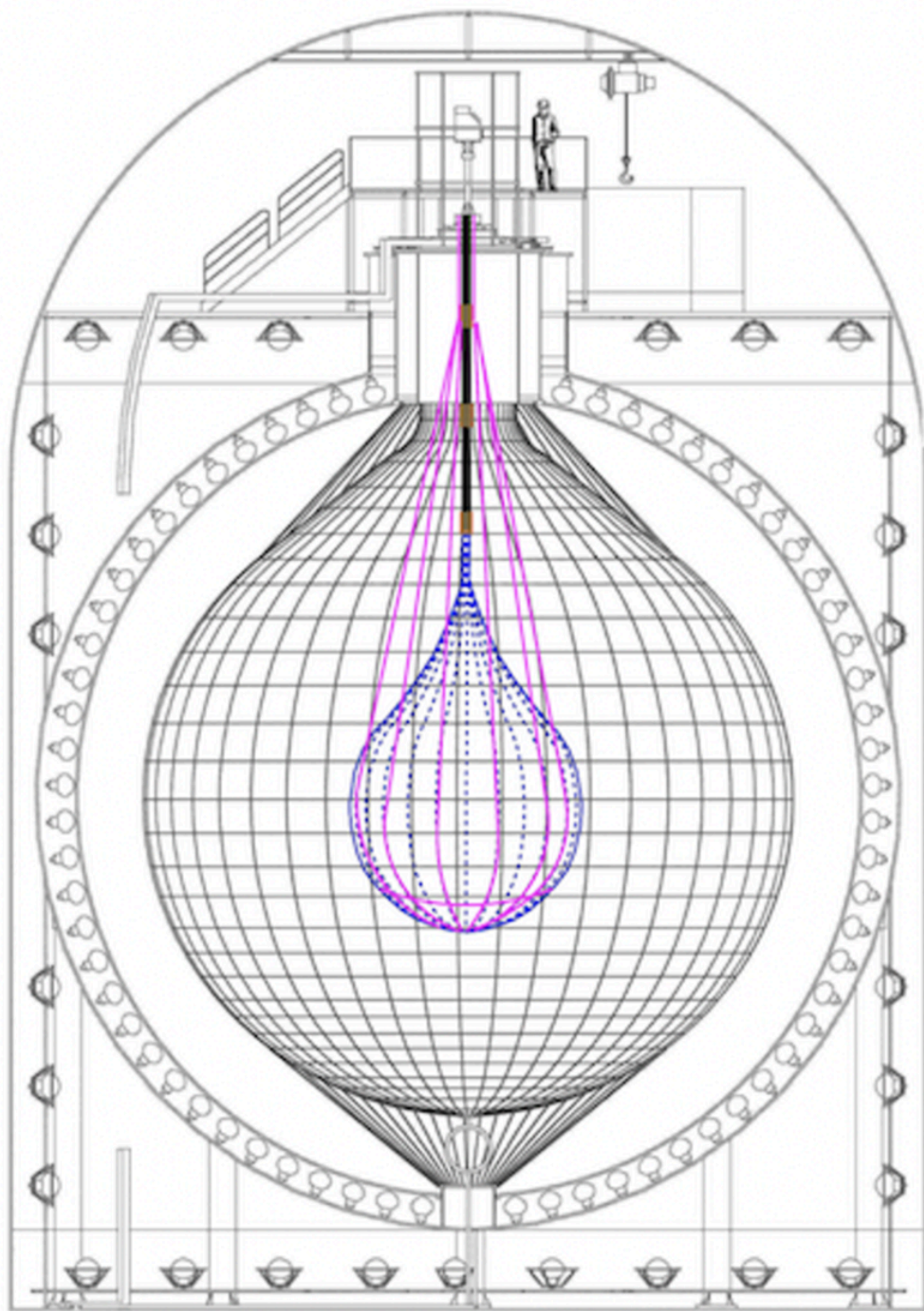
- Instrumented water tank
- Liquid argon shielding
  - Supplies an active veto / multi-site suppression & cools crystals



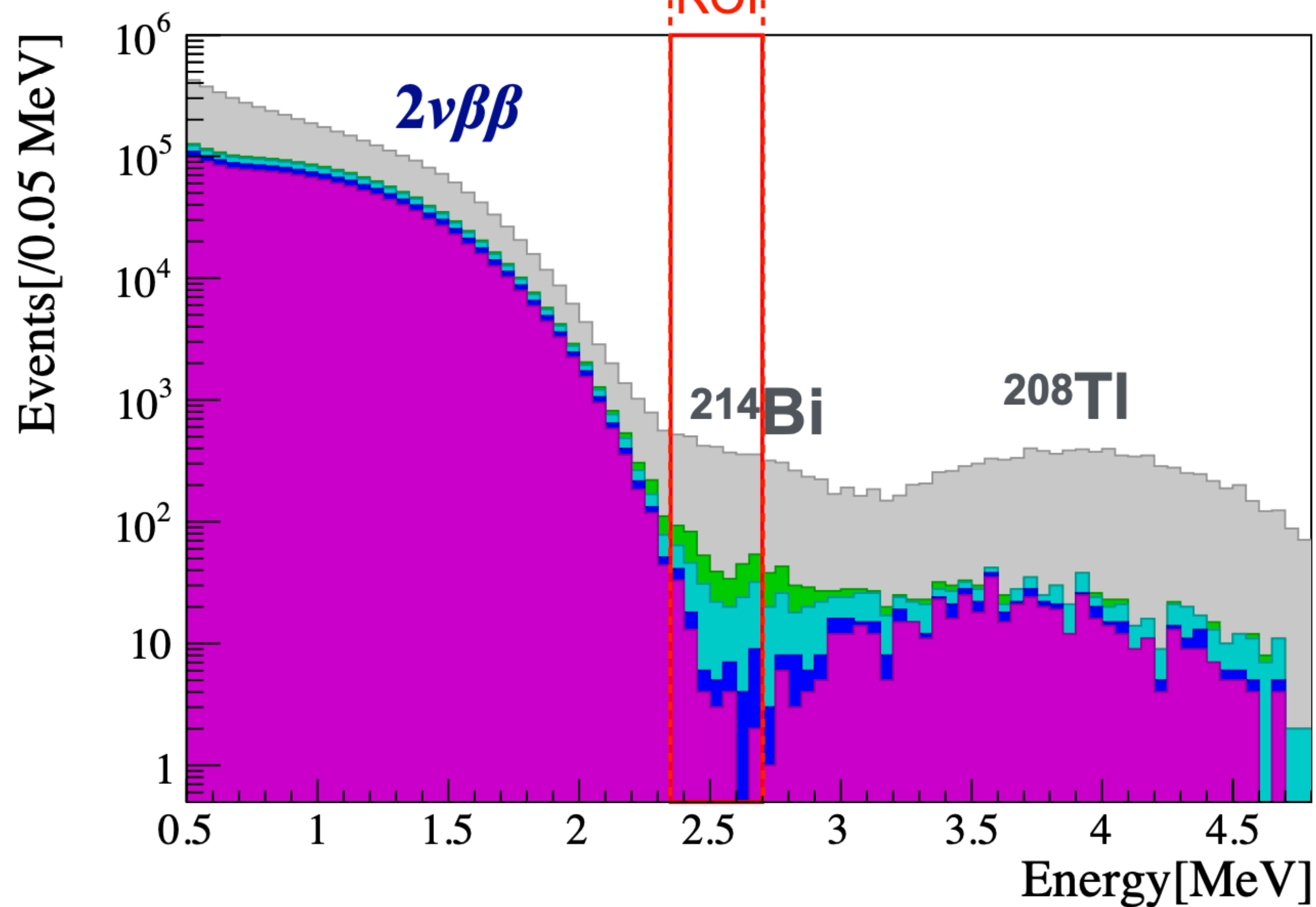
- 7 events surviving in ROI
- BG:  $5.3 \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$  counts/keV/kg/yr
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.9 \times 10^{26}$  y
- $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (35 - 80)$  meV



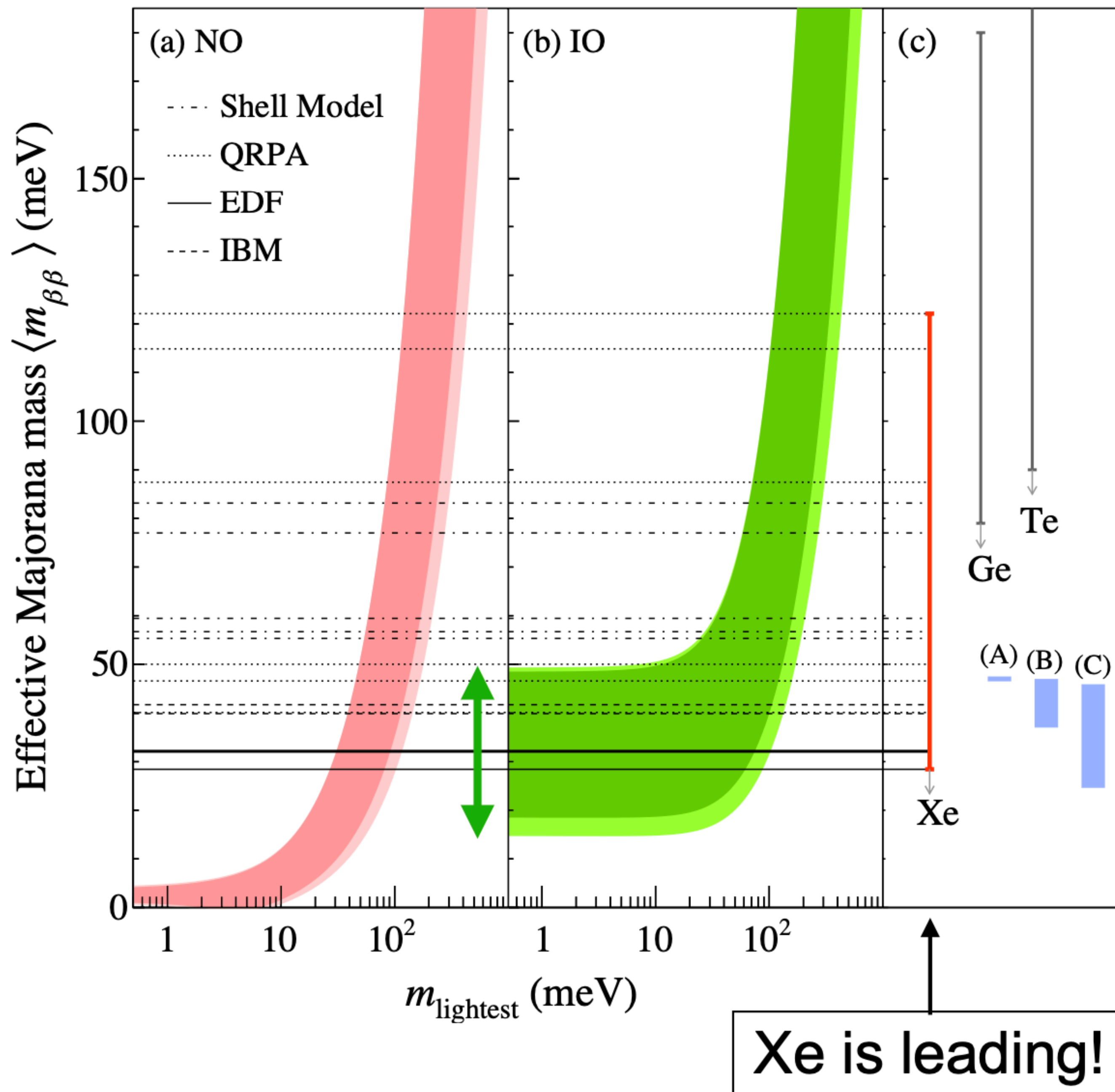




- KamLAND Detector, Kamioka Mine
  - 1,000 m, 2,700 mwe
- 1 kton Liquid Scintillator in 13-m-diameter transparent balloon
- 1,879 photomultiplier tubes
- Energy Resolution:  $6.7\%/\sqrt{E(\text{MeV})}$
- Vertex Resolution:  $13.7\text{cm}/\sqrt{E(\text{MeV})}$
- Water Cherenkov outer detector (for tagging muons)
- LMA Solution to Solar Neutrino Problem: [PRL 100, 221803 (2008)]
- First Observation of Geoneutrinos: [Nature 436, 499–503 (2005)]
- Inner Balloon: 745 kg Xe-loaded liquid scintillator (91% enrichment)

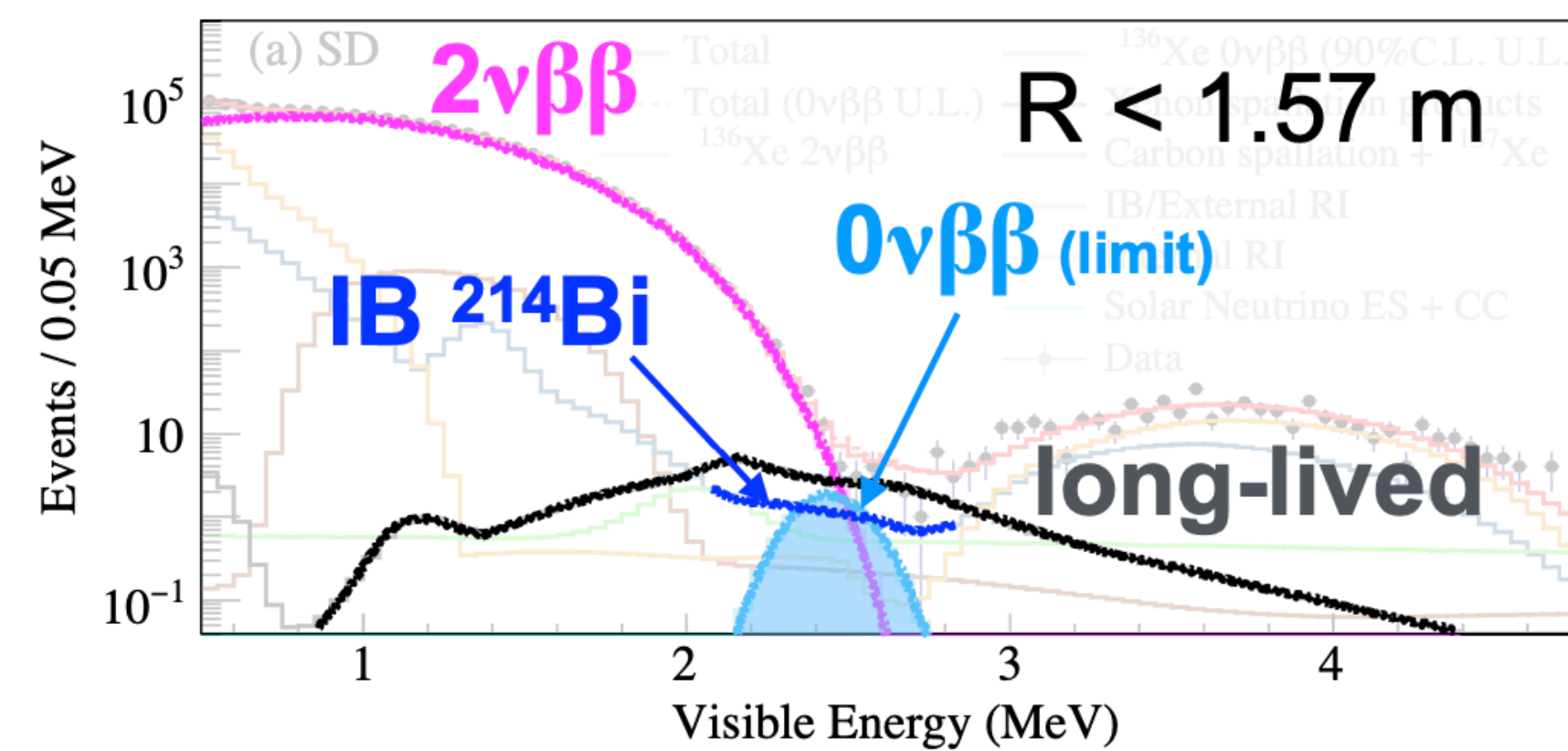


- $0\nu\beta\beta$  search : Feb. 5, 2019 – Jan. 12, 2024
- 745 kg Xe
- Volume Cut:  $R < 1.57$  m
- Rn Veto
- Short Lived Spallation ( $^{12}\text{C}$ )
- Long Lived Spallation ( $^{137}\text{Xe}$ )
- 1131 days of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  Candidates
- 30 events/Xe-ton/year of long lived BG rate in ROI
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 3.8 \times 10^{26}$  yr

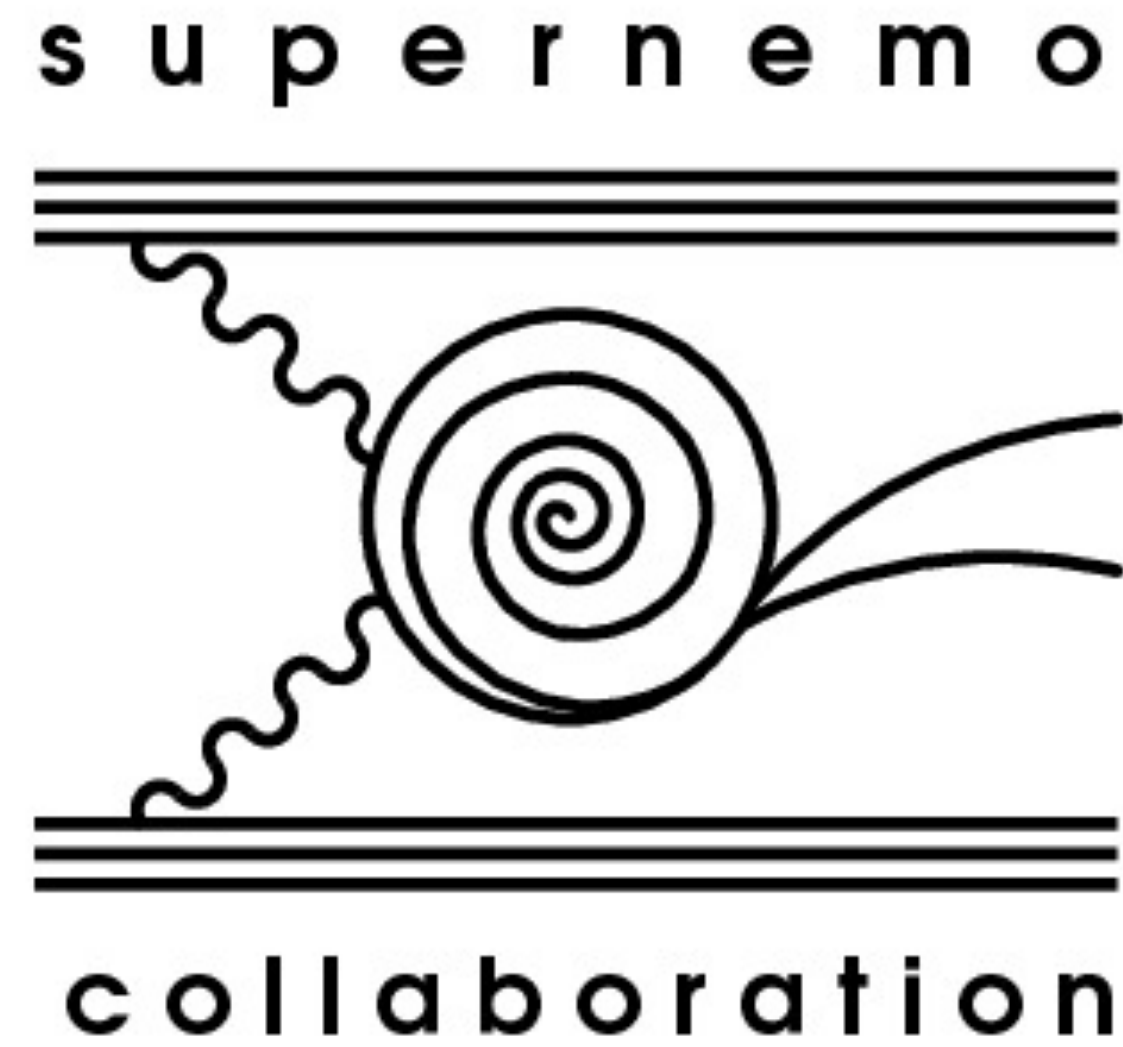


	Ref.	$M^{0\nu}$	$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ (meV)
Shell model	[1]	2.28, 2.45	59.4, 55.3
	[2]	1.63, 1.76	83.1, 77.0
	[3, 4]	2.39	56.7
QRPA	[5]	1.55	87.4
	[6]	2.91	46.6
	[7]	2.71	50.0
	[8]	1.11, 1.18	122, 115
	[9]	3.38	40.1
EDF theory	[10]	4.20	32.3
	[11]	4.77	28.4
	[12]	4.24	32.0
IBM	[13]	3.25	41.7
	[14]	3.40	39.9

- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 3.8 \times 10^{26}$  yr
- $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (28-122)$  meV
- $m_{\text{lightest}} < 84 - 353$  meV

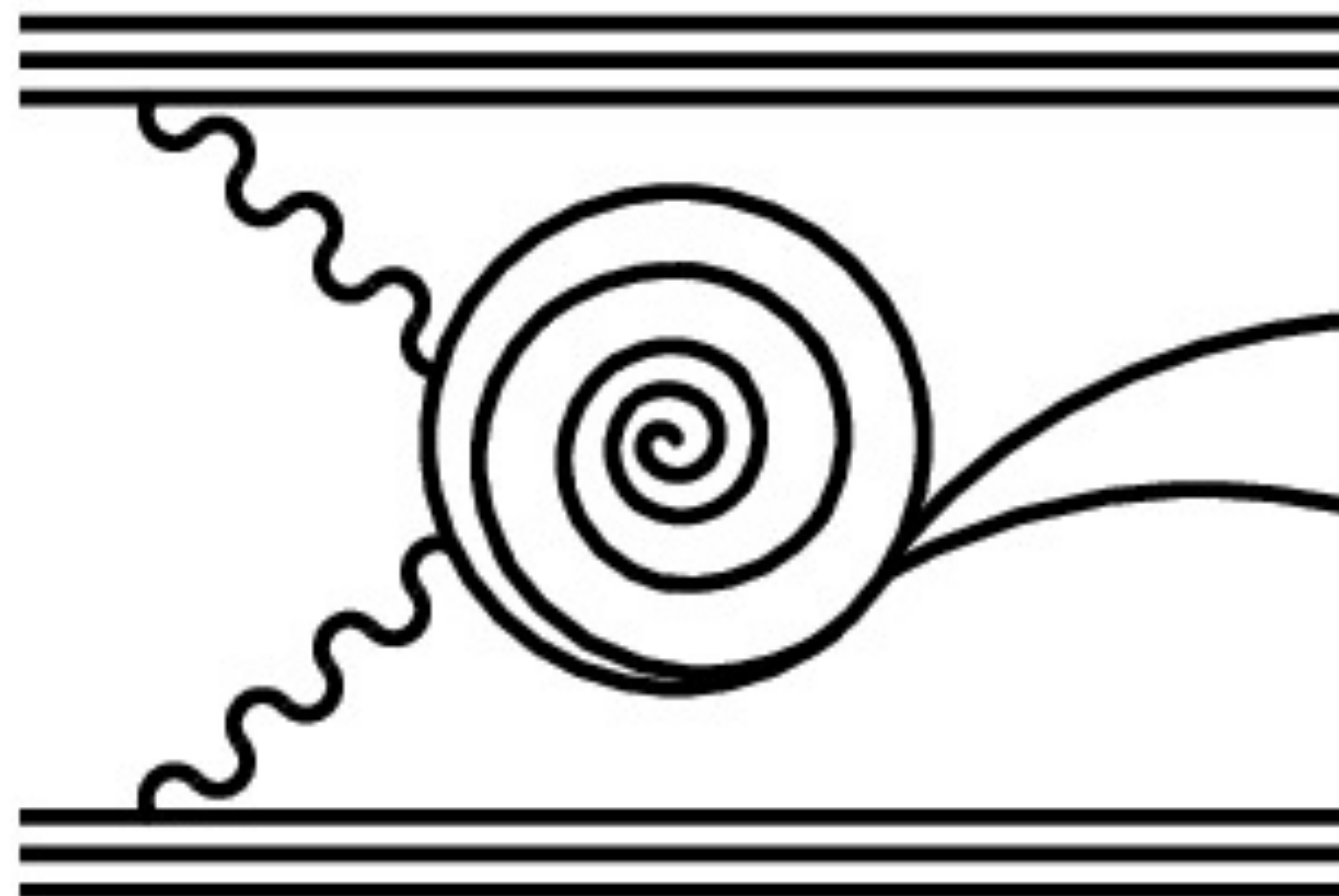


# Near Future Experiments

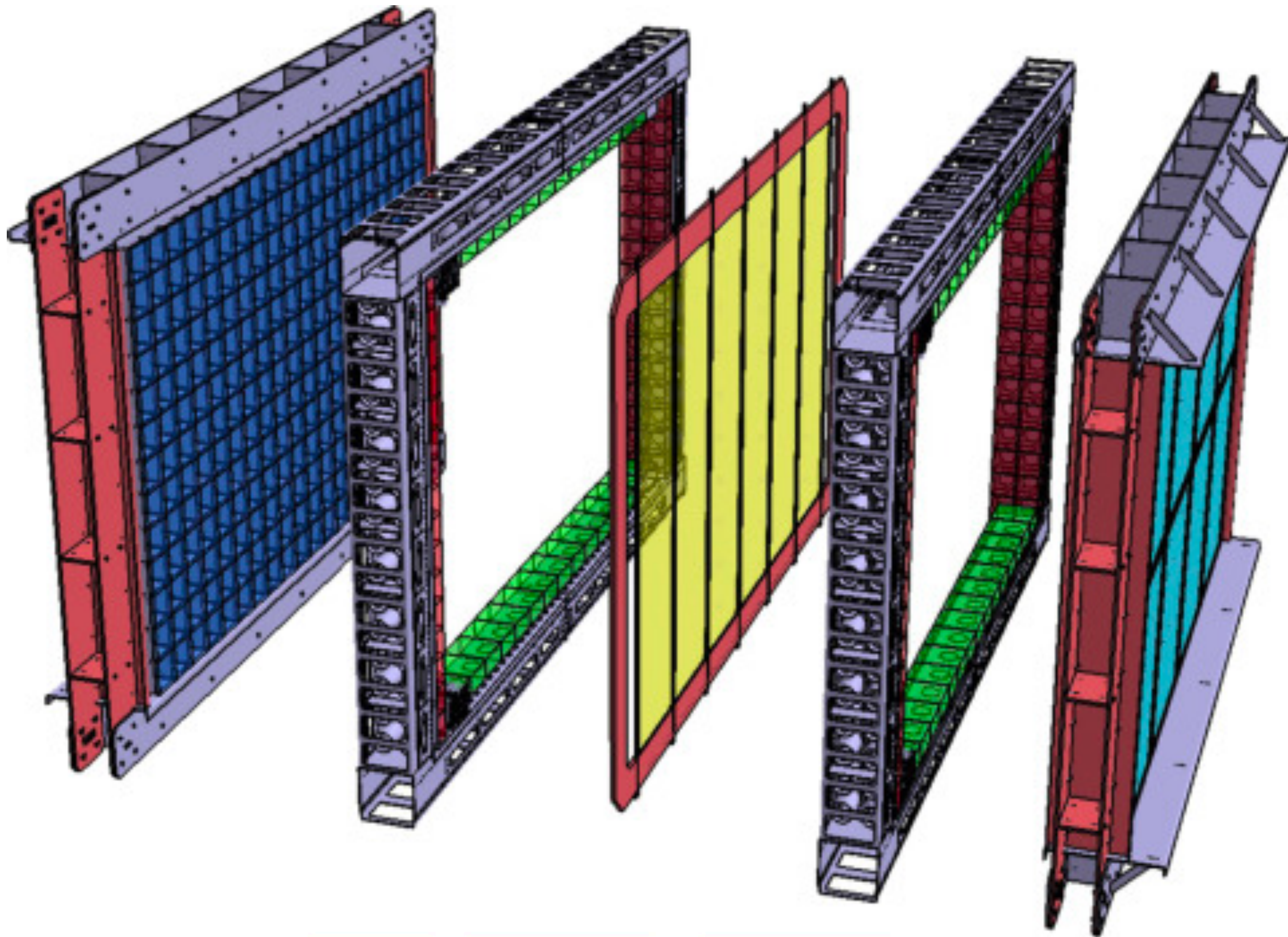




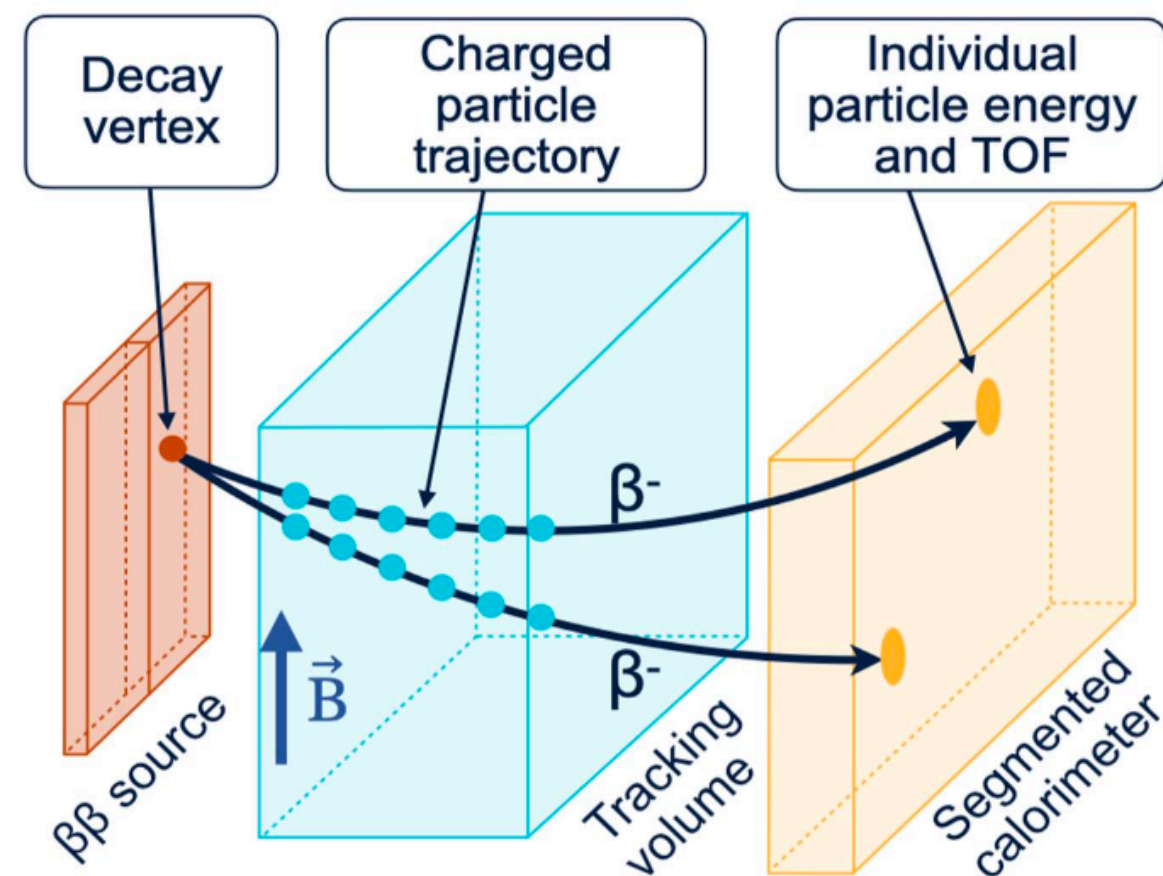
**s u p e r n e m o**



**c o l l a b o r a t i o n**

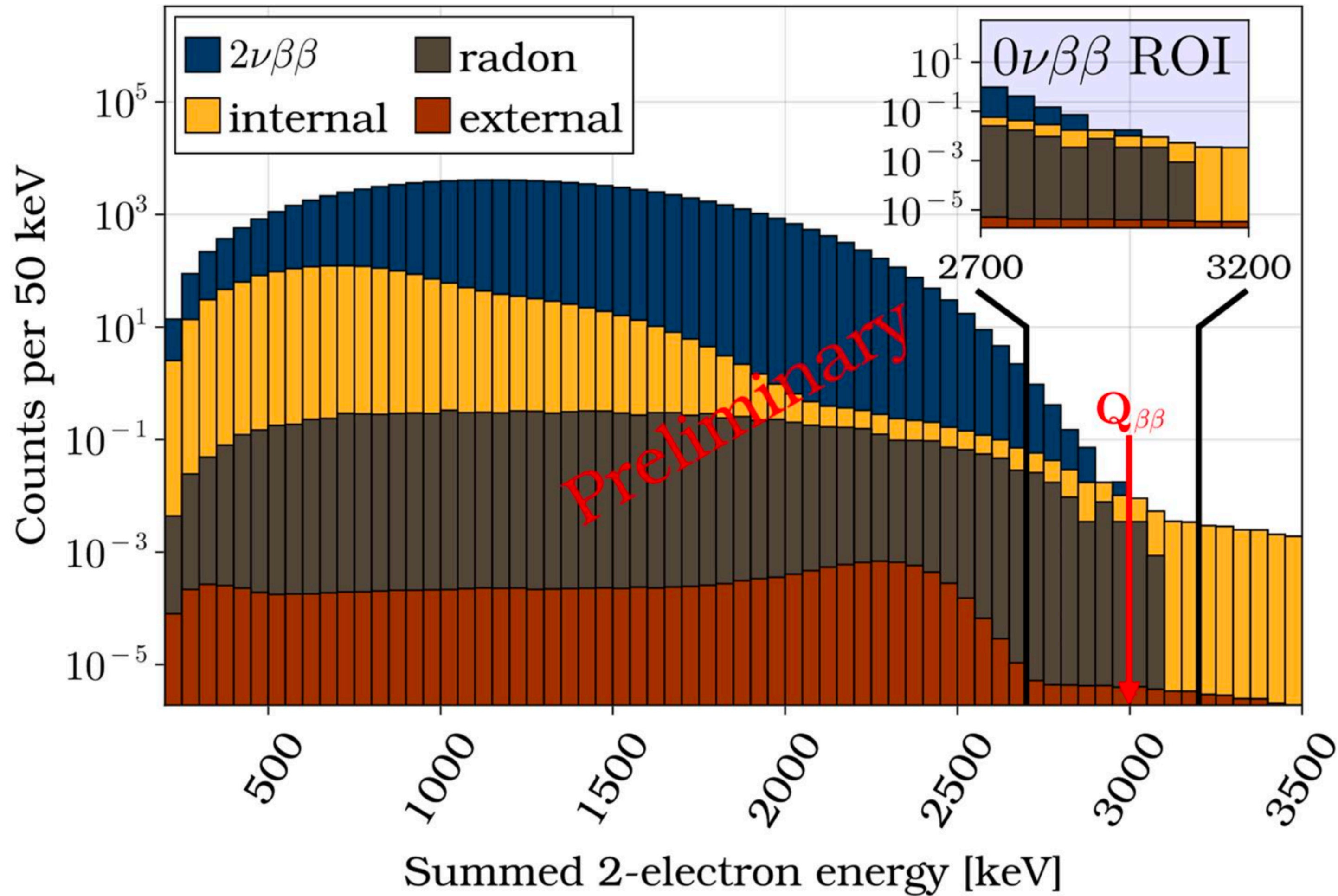


- Tracking Calorimeter
- Foil: 6kg solid  $^{82}\text{Se}$
- Tracker: 2034 Geiger Cells
  - Identification of  $e^-$ ,  $e^+$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta\beta$  kinematics & topology
- Calorimeter: 712 optical modules of plastic scintillator & PMTs
  - Individual  $e^-$  &  $\gamma$  energies
- Shielding: Iron, Water, Polyethylene, in a Rn tent
- Laboratoire Souterraine de Modane  
1700m, 4800 mwe



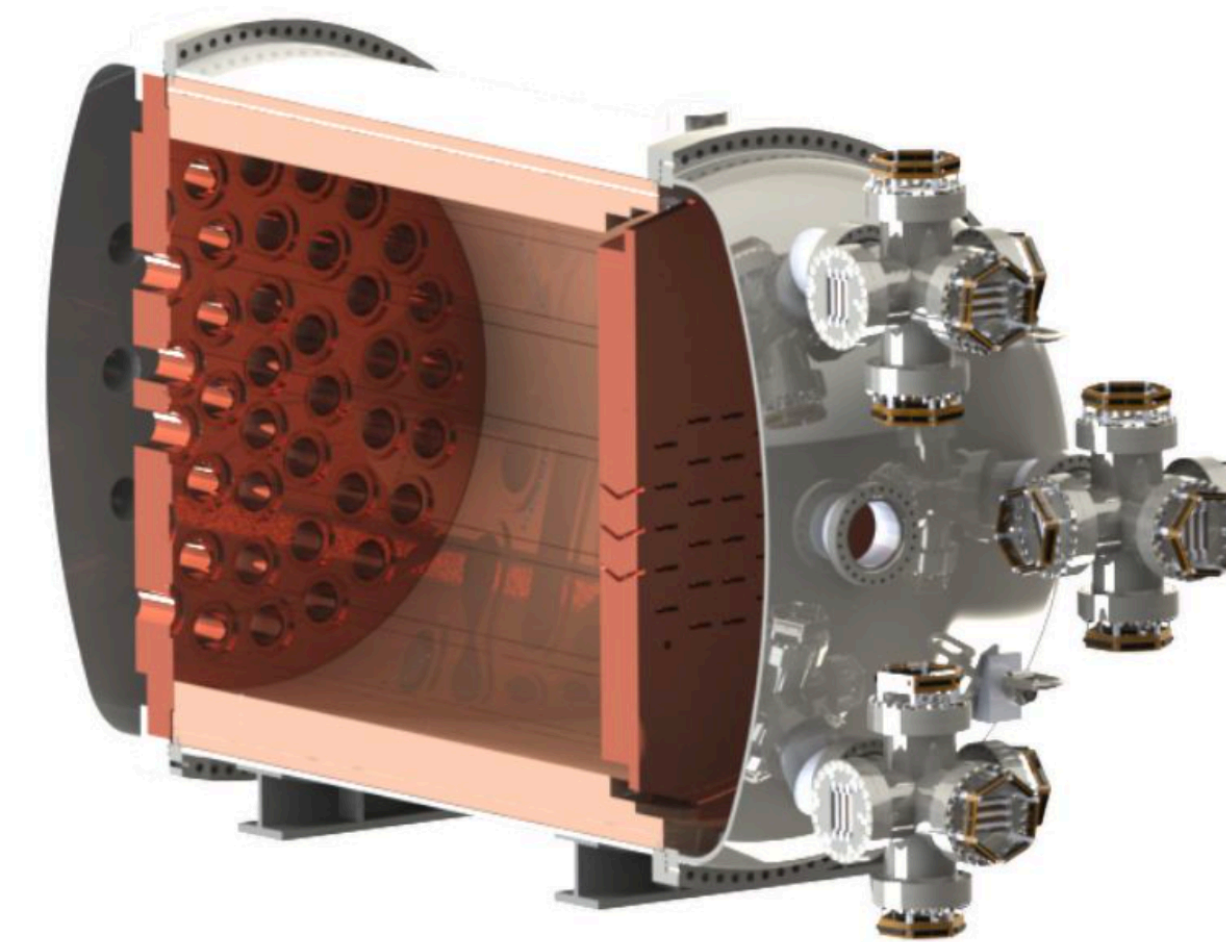
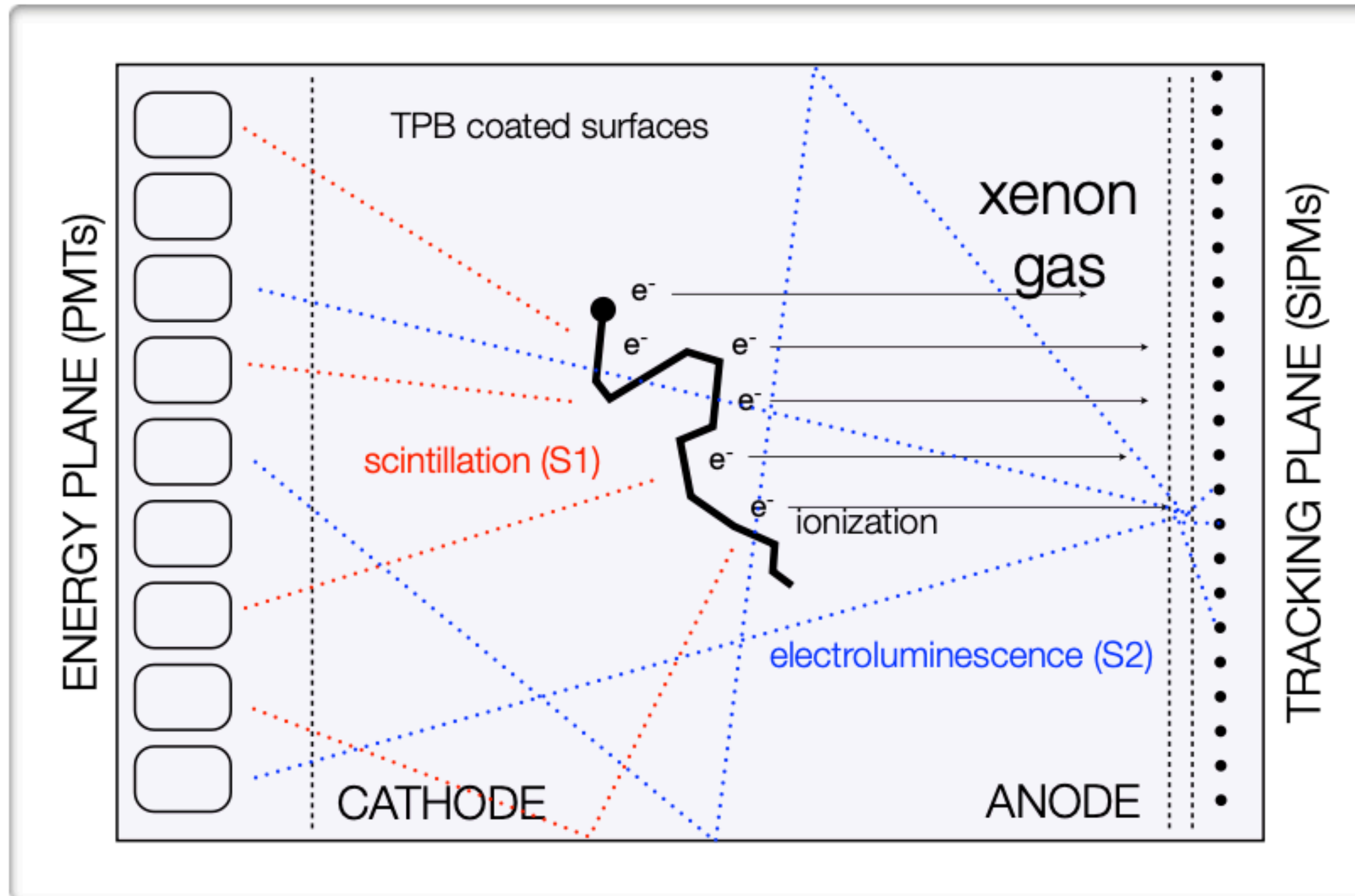
[Se-82,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2998$  keV, 8.8% NA]

Simulated SuperNEMO background; 17.5 kg.yr

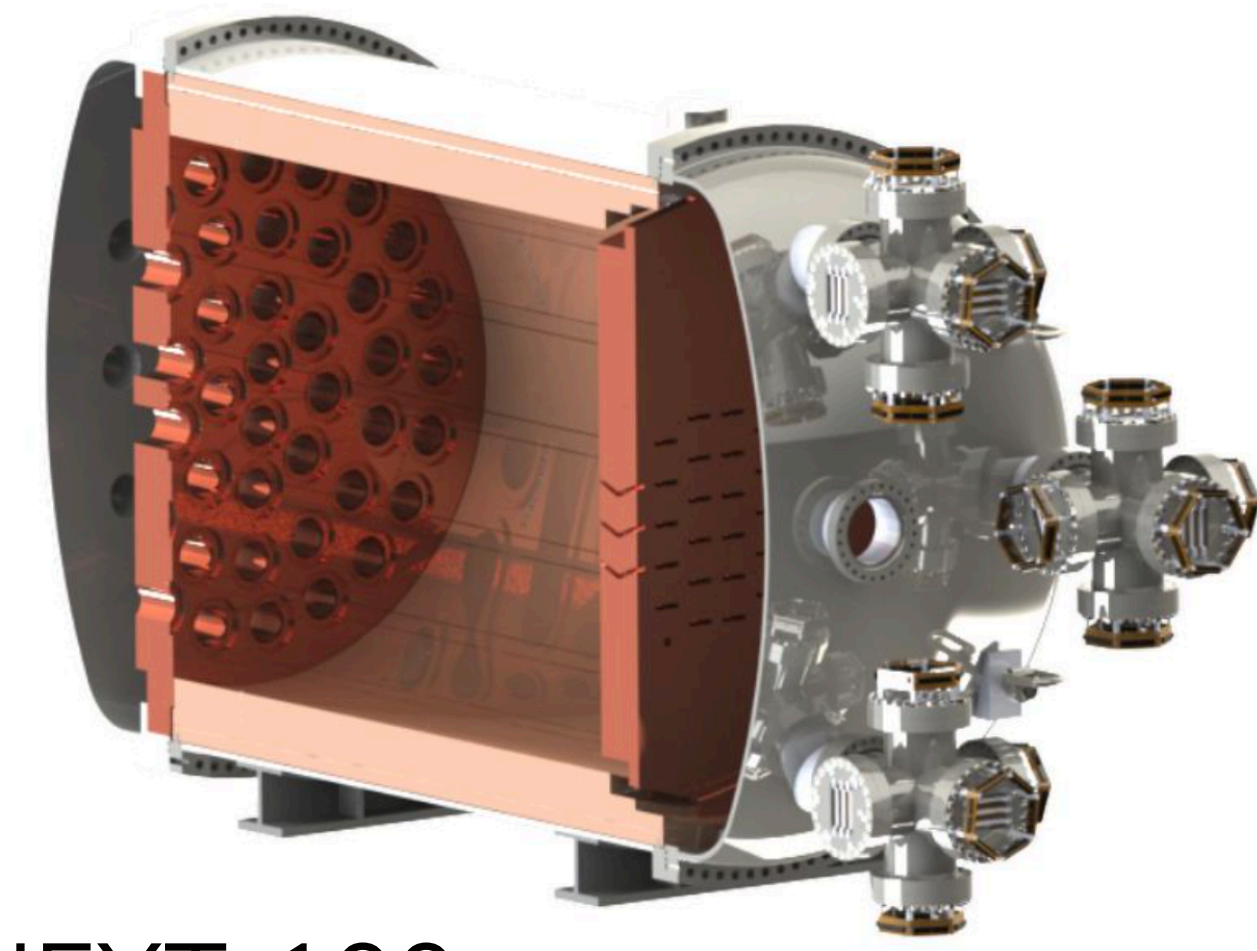
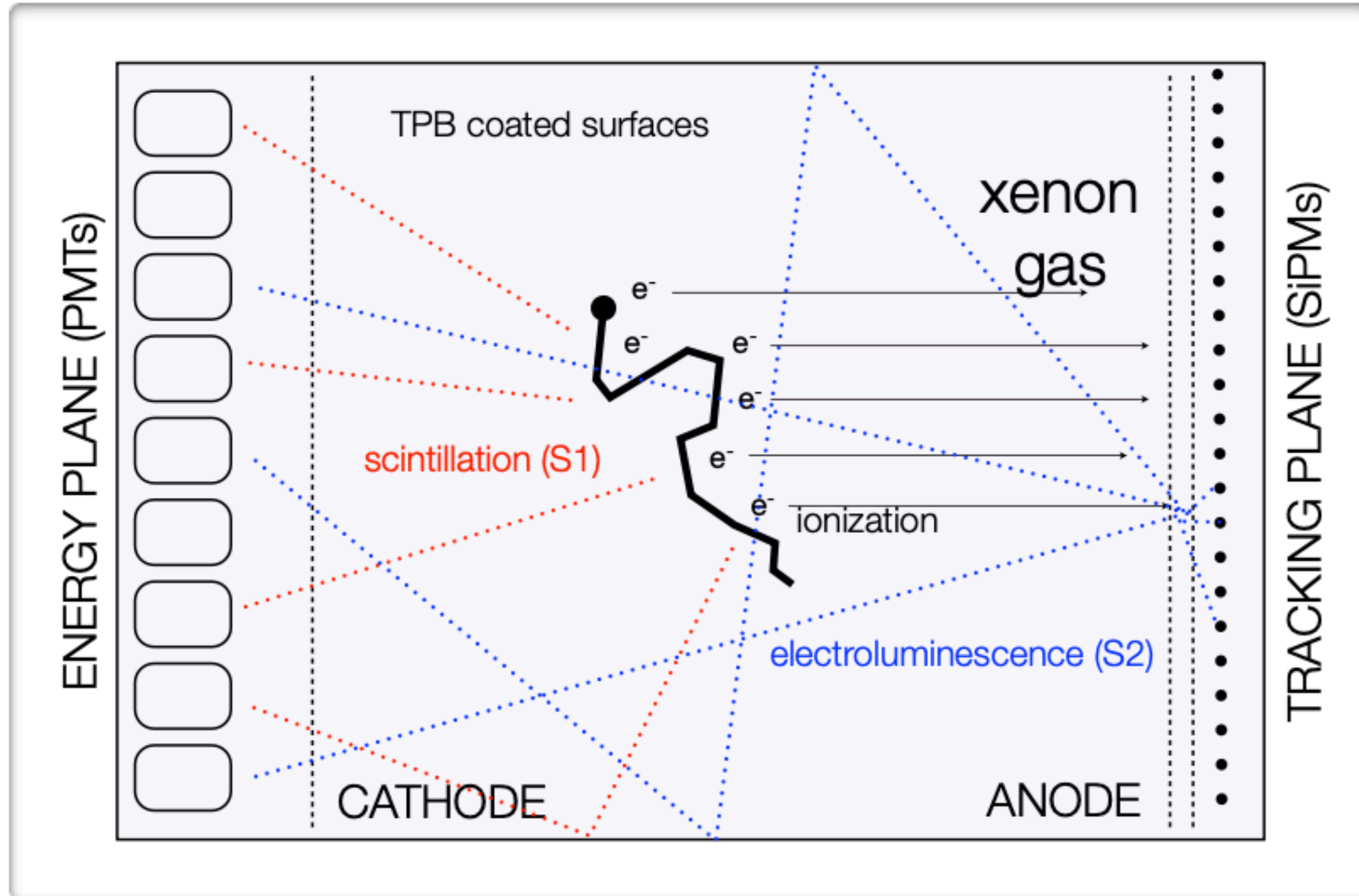


- From Sept. 2024: physics data taking
- Expected duration: 3 years
- Estimated  $2\nu\beta\beta$  events:  $\sim 10^4$ - $10^5$
- Expected bkg. in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ROI:  
 $10^{-4}$  counts/keV/kg/yr
- Expected sensitivity to  $0\nu\beta\beta$ :  
 $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 4.6 \times 10^{24}$  yr

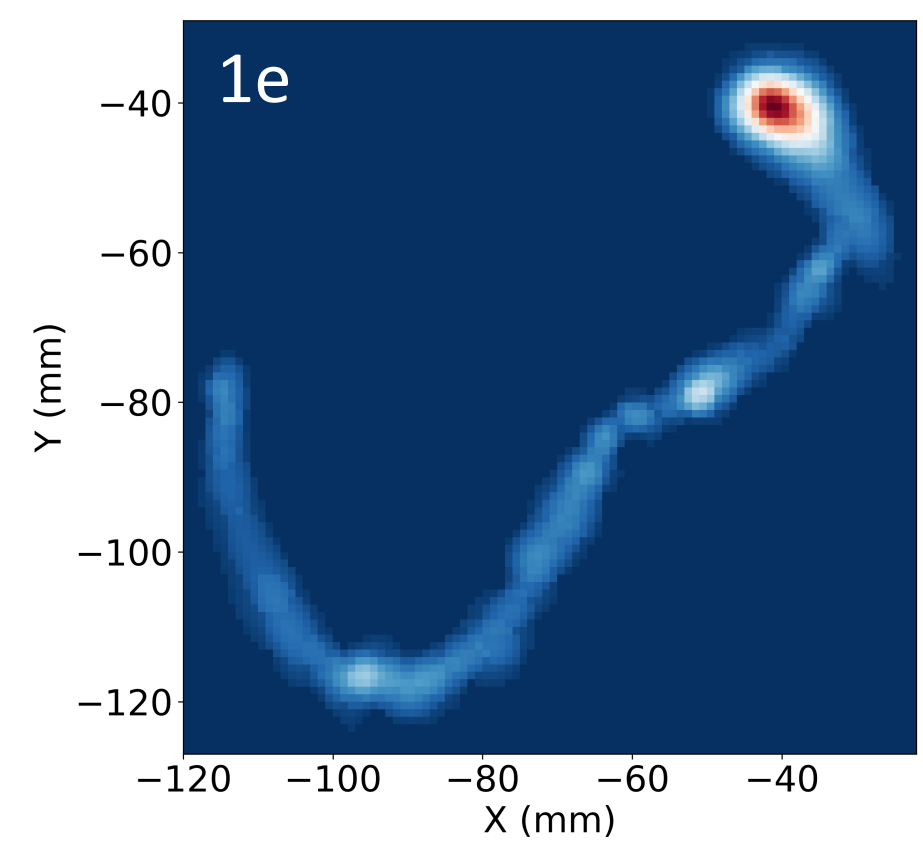
@next



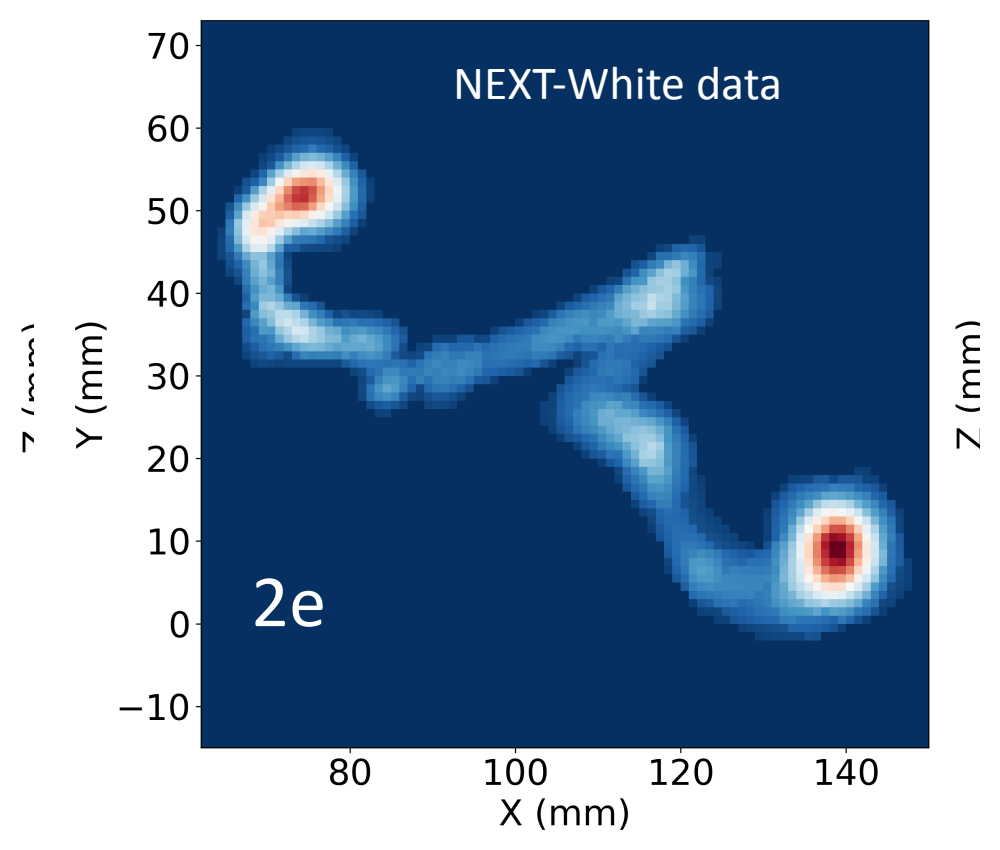
- NEXT-100
- Under Commissioning at the Laboratorio Subterráneo Canfranc
- Xe-136 Gas Time Projection Chamber with Electroluminescence
- 60 PMTs, 3584 SiPMs, 80kg Xe @ 15 bar



- NEXT-100
- Under Commissioning at the Laboratorio Subterráneo Canfranc
- Xe-136 Gas Time Projection Chamber with Electroluminescence
- 60 PMTs, 3584 SiPMs, 80kg Xe @ 15 bar
- TPC gives topological event identification
- Goals: demonstration of nearly background-free conditions for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  search, technology demonstrator for ton scale

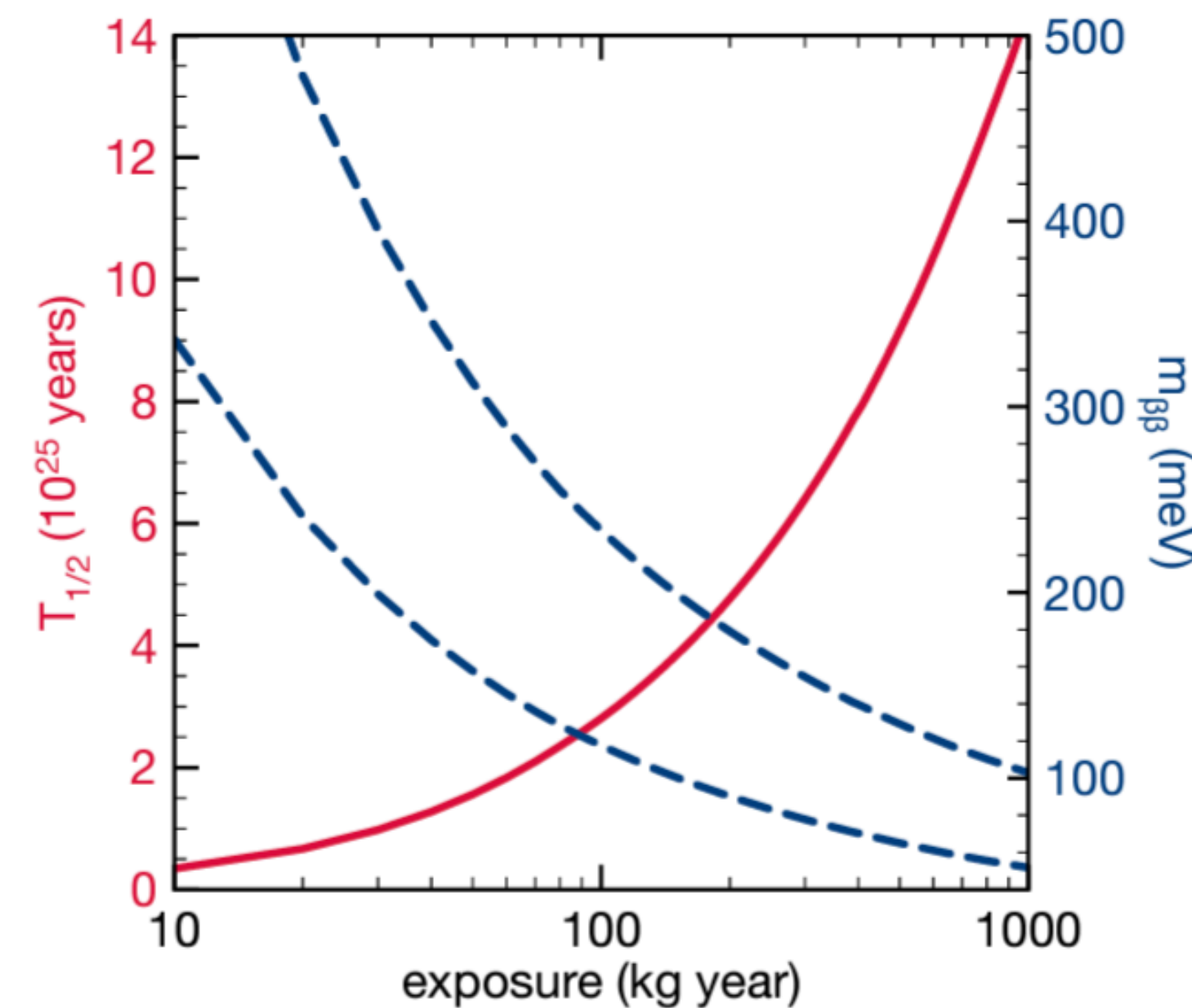
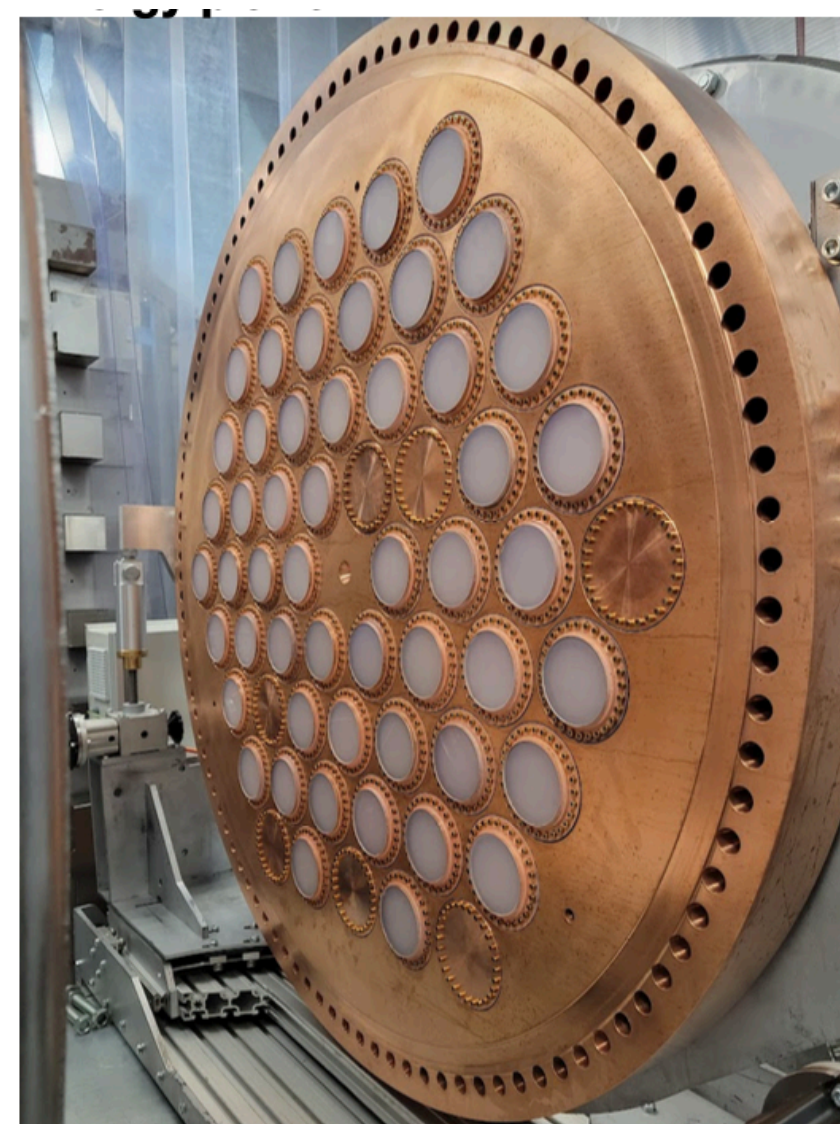
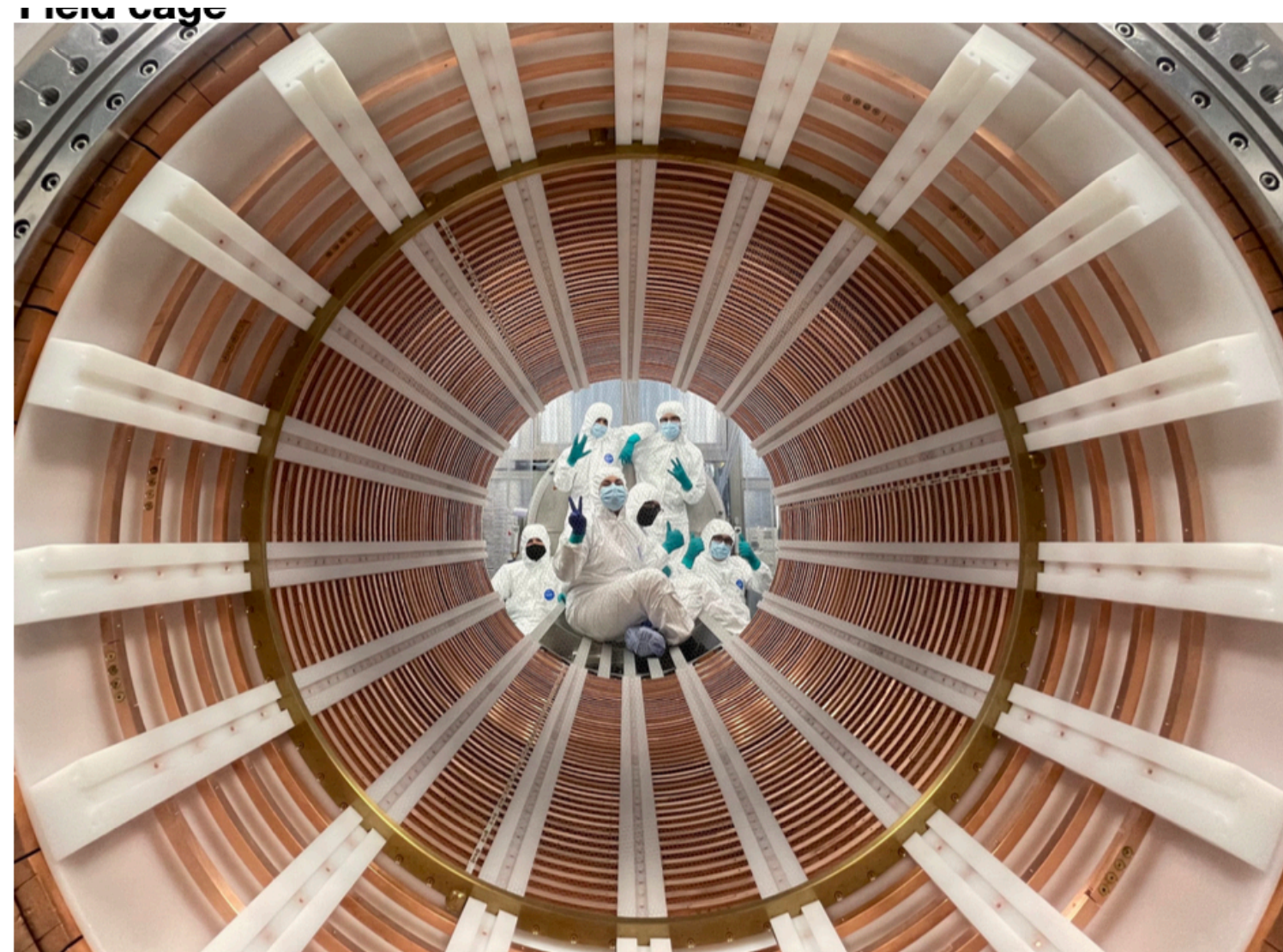
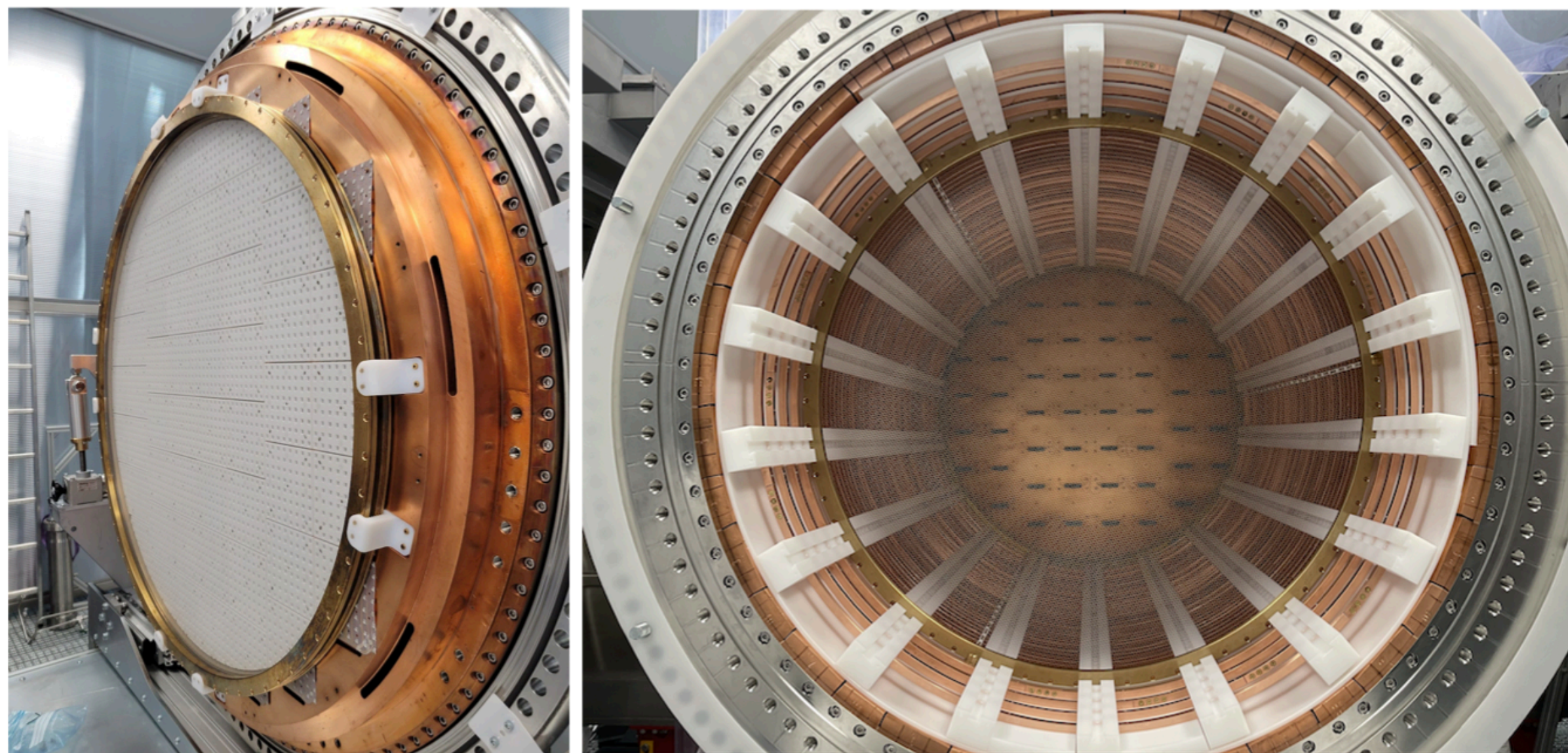


Background



2 $\nu$ BB Candidate

[Xe-136,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2458$  keV, 8.9% NA]



- Target background rate:  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  counts/(keV·kg·yr), or  $\sim 1$  count/(ROI·yr)
- NEXUS-100 sensitivity:  $6.0 \times 10^{25}$  yr
- Ar gas runs in May 2024
- Xenon runs to start shortly

[JHEP 05 (2016) 159]

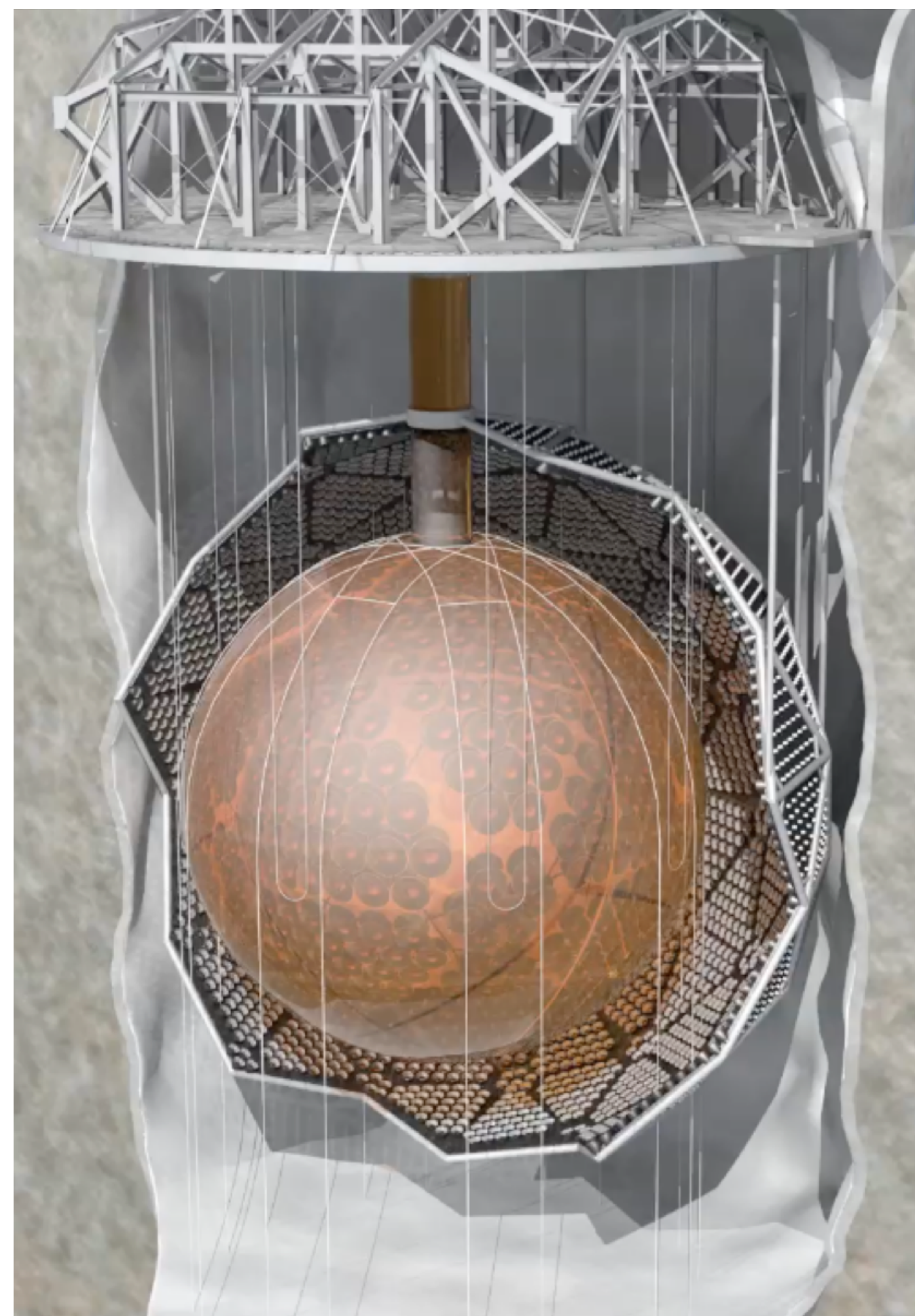
[Xe-136,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2458$  keV, 8.9% NA]

SNO+

The text "SNO+" is rendered in a large, bold, black font. The letter "O" is stylized as a dark blue circle with a light blue inner circle and a light blue vertical bar extending upwards from the top center. A black plus sign is positioned to the right of the "O".

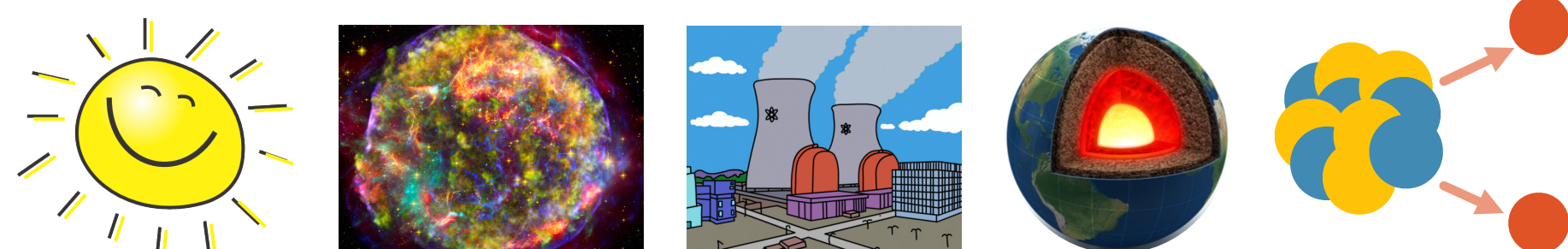


## Multi-purpose Physics Detector



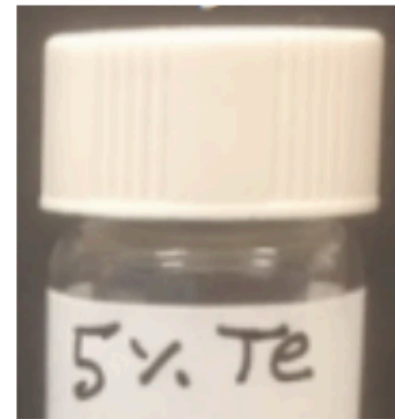
- 2 km rock overburden
- Acrylic Vessel  $\varnothing$  12 m
- 780 tonnes LAB
  - 2.2g/L PPO
  - bis-MSB, BHT
- 9300 photo-multiplier tubes
- 7000 tonnes water shielding
- [JINST **16** P08059]

- Measurement of  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrinos with full water phase: [arXiv:2407.17595]
- World-leading limits in invisible nucleon decay [Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) 11, 112012]
- High efficiency neutron detection in ultra pure water [Phys. Rev. C 102 014002 (2020)]
- Evidence of Antineutrinos from Distant Reactors using Pure Water at SNO+: [P.R.L. 130 (2023) 9, 091801]
- Scintillator Characterization: [JINST 16 P05009 (2021)]
- Event-by-Event Directionality in Scintillator: [Phys. Rev. D 109, 072002]
- Initial measurement of reactor antineutrino oscillation at SNO+: [arXiv:2405.19700]



# Tellurium Phase

- 0.5% by weight of Natural Tellurium: 3.9 tonnes
- 1,330 kg of  $^{130}\text{Te}$
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=2527$  keV
- Mix Te into ButaneDiol, soluble with DDA
- Scalable to higher loading without changing the detector
- Low Backgrounds
  - $5 \times 10^{-7}$  cts/yr/keV/kg
- Measured most backgrounds before Te is added
- Upgrades planned for 1.5%, 3%

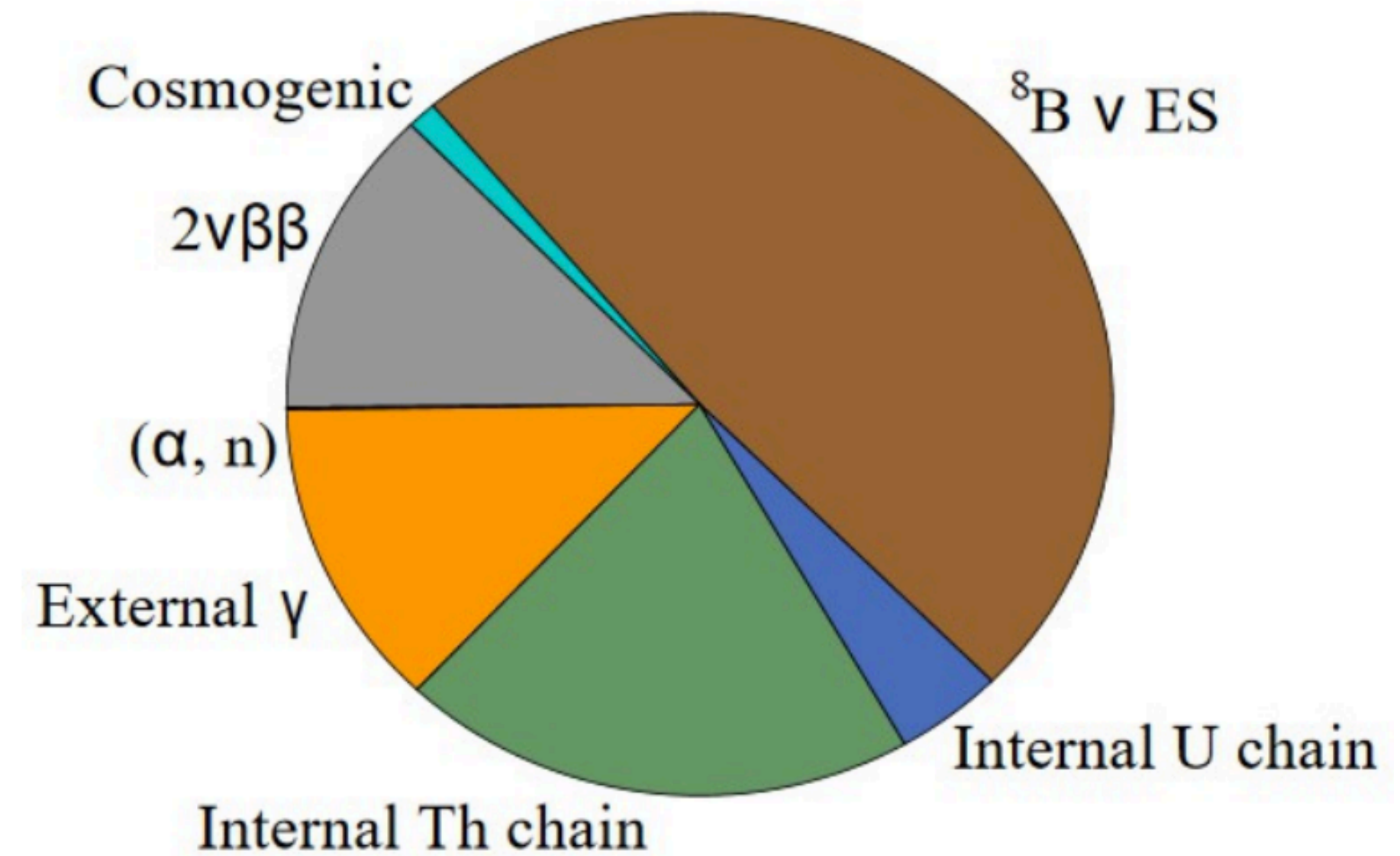
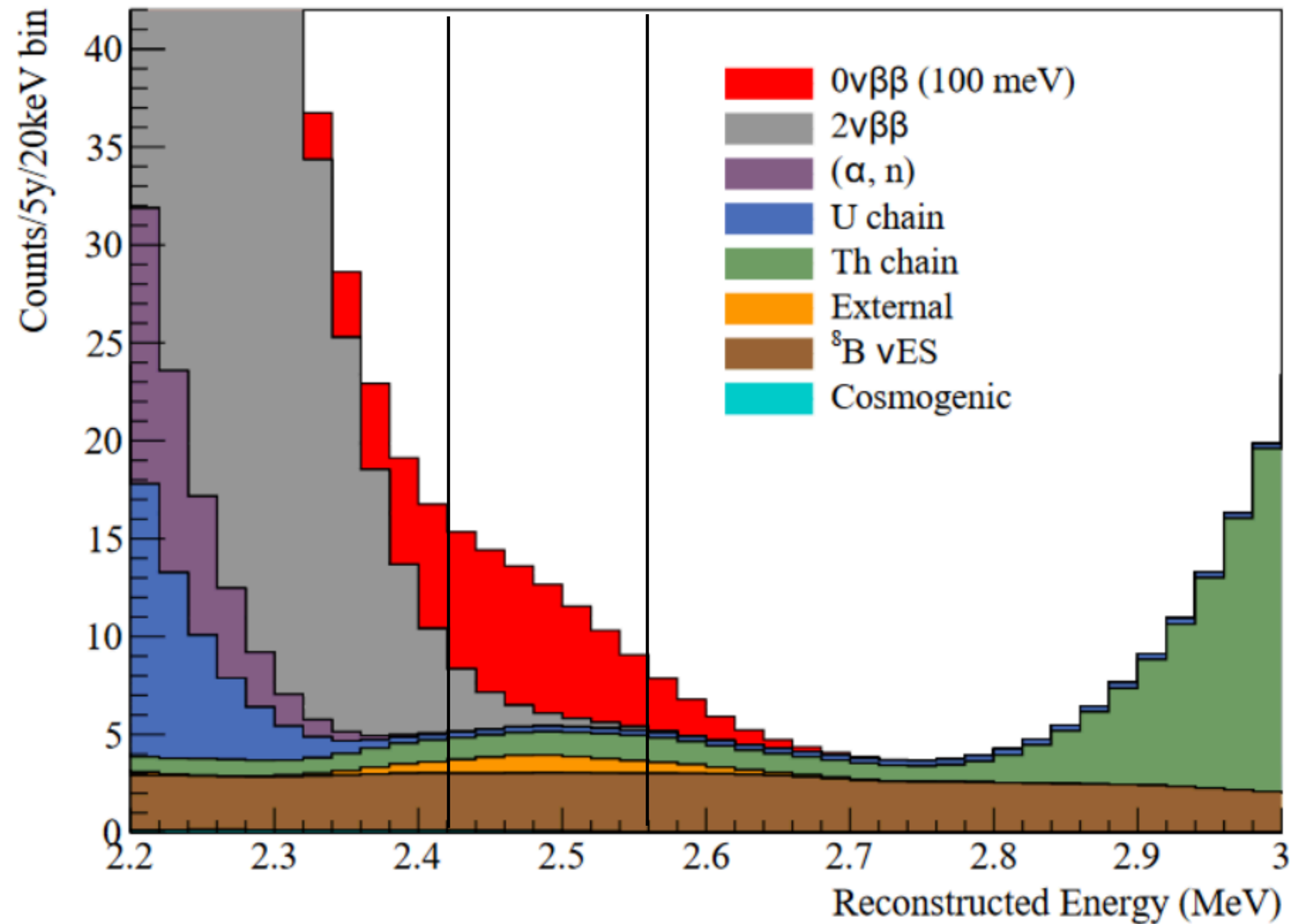


stable with high light yield



- **Telluric Acid Purification Plant Commissioned**
- Purify Telluric Acid in pH and temperature based reaction
- DDA Purified on Surface
- Synthesize ButaneDiol to combine purified Telluric Acid in scintillator
- **Tellurium Diol Plant Commissioning**

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay of $^{130}\text{Te}$ in SNO+

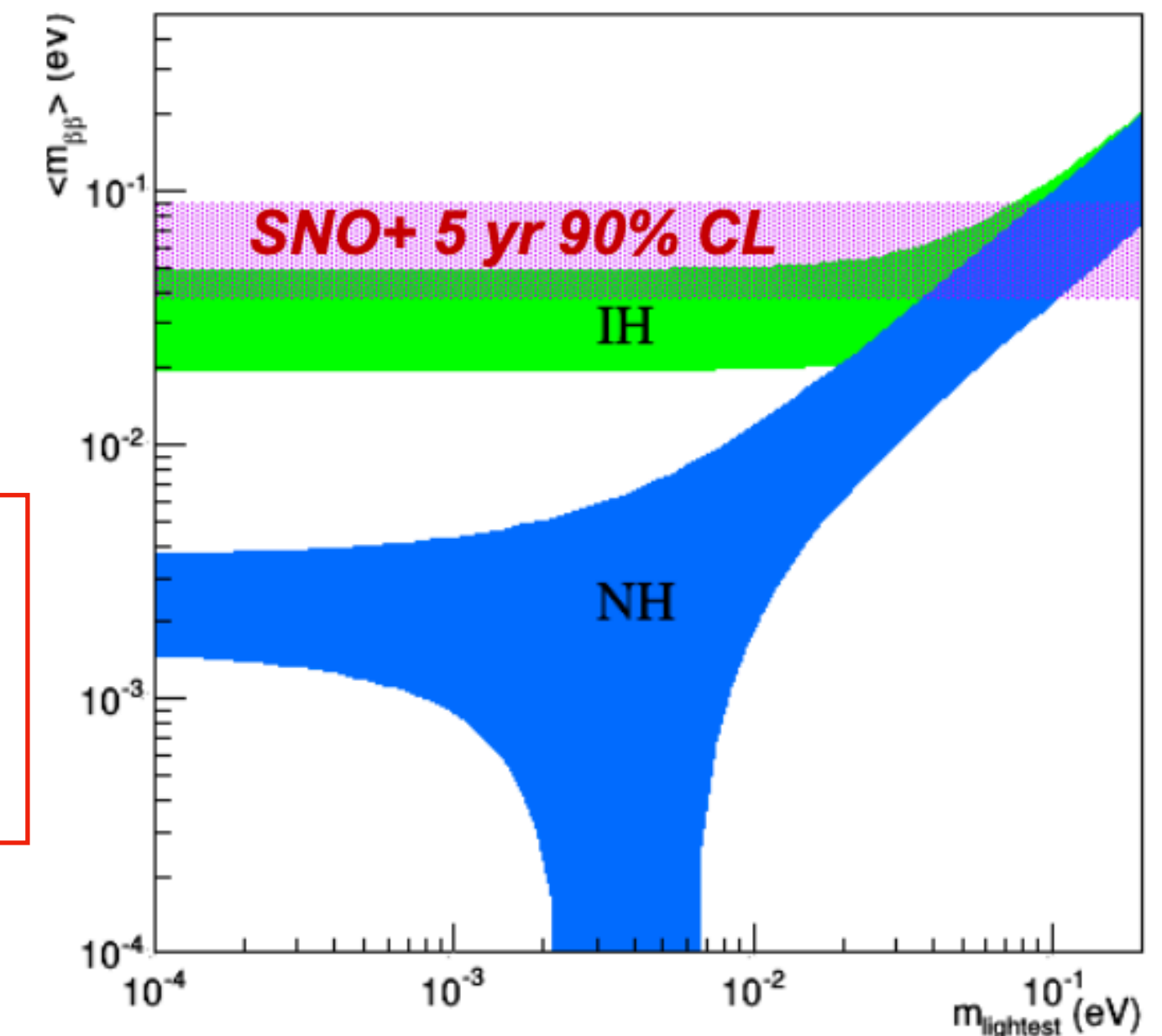


- 5 years of 0.5% loading
- Fiducial Radius: 3.3m

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.1 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr (90\% CL)}$$

$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (37 - 89) \text{ meV}$$

[Te-130,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2528 \text{ keV}$ , 34% NA]

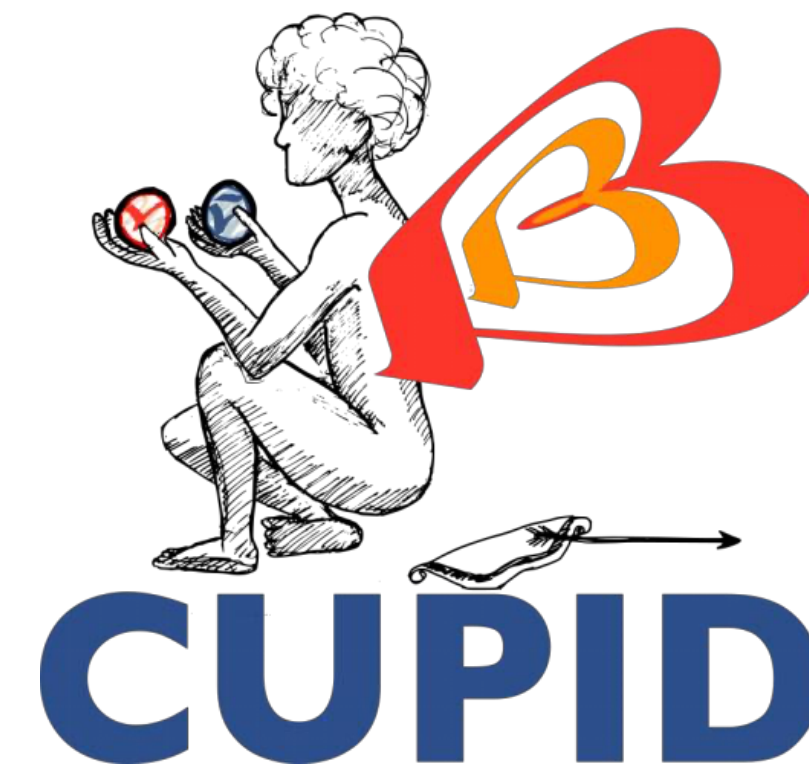


# Farther Future Experiments

**nEXO**

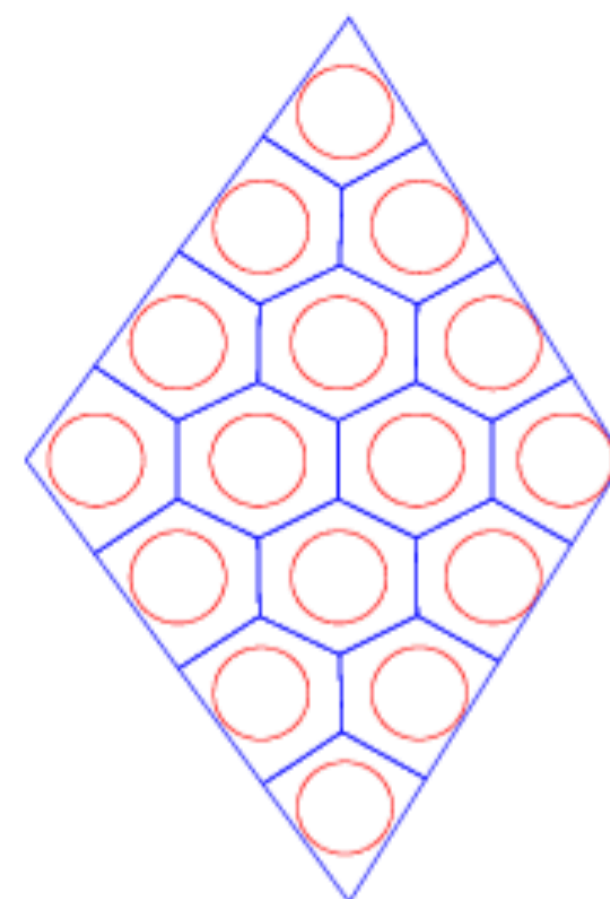
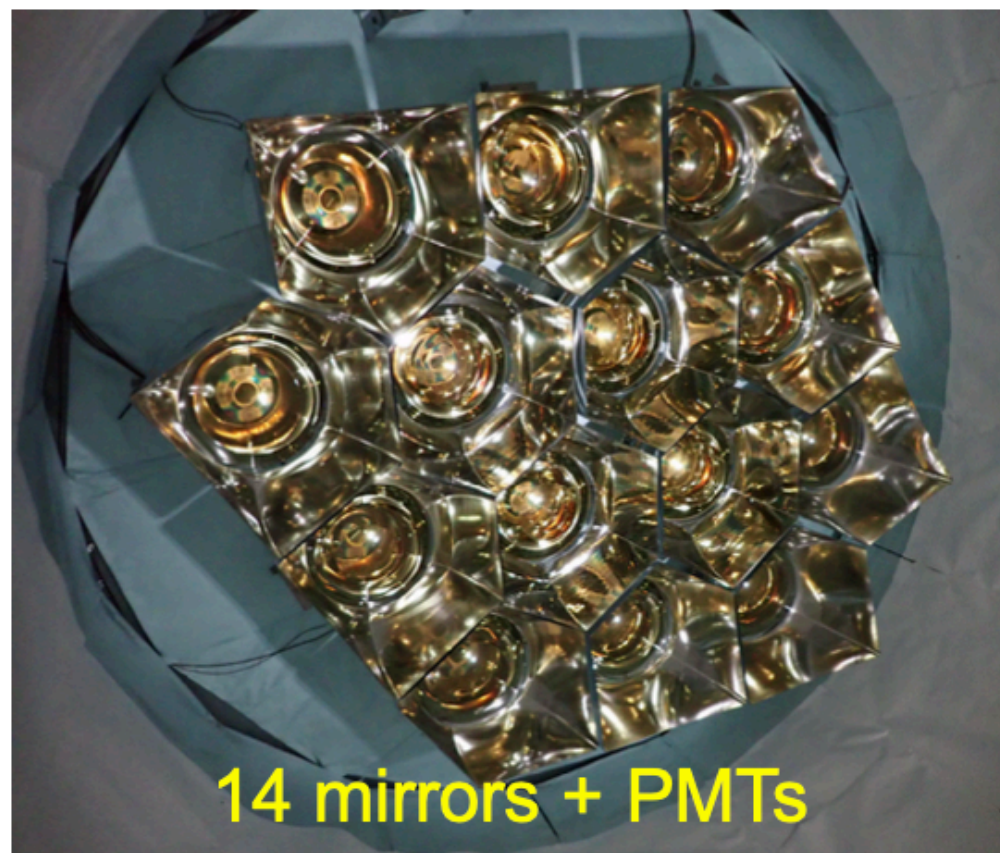


**LEGEND - 1000**





# KamLAND2 Prototype

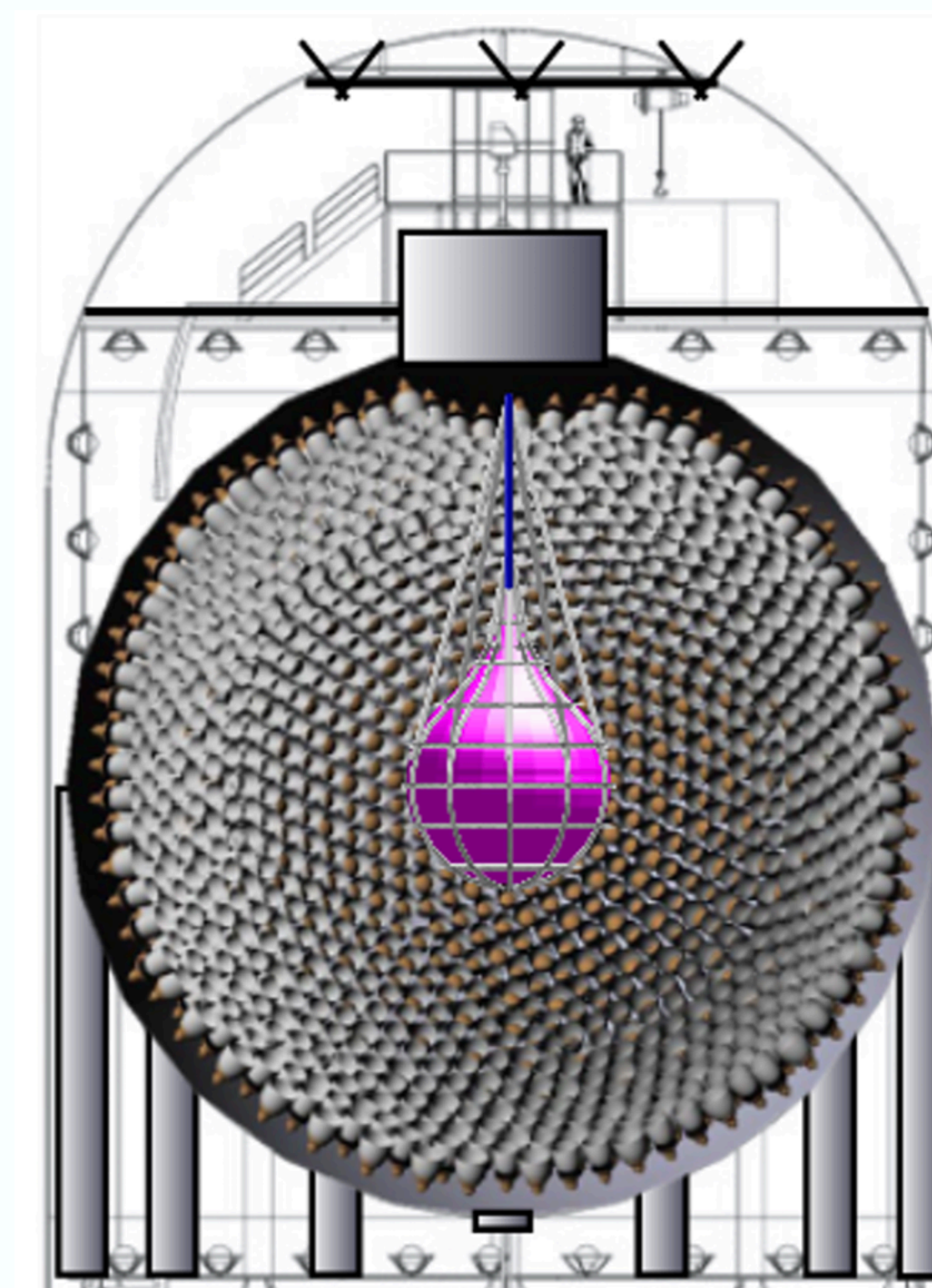
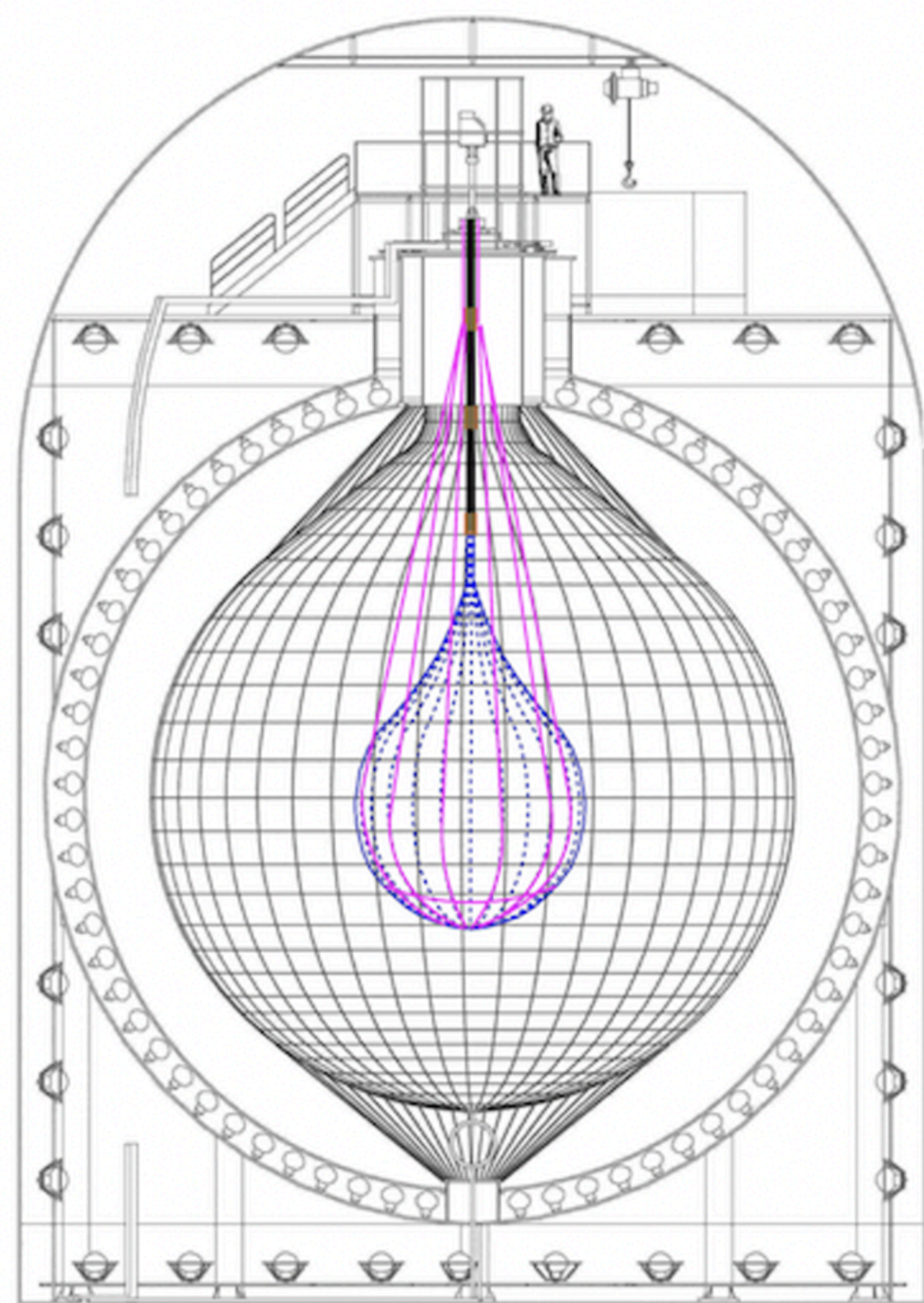


**PMT + Mirror**  
**100% coverage**

## New Liquid Scintillator

$\sigma_E$  @ Q-value = 2%

$2\nu\beta\beta$  BG Reduction:  $\sim 1/100$

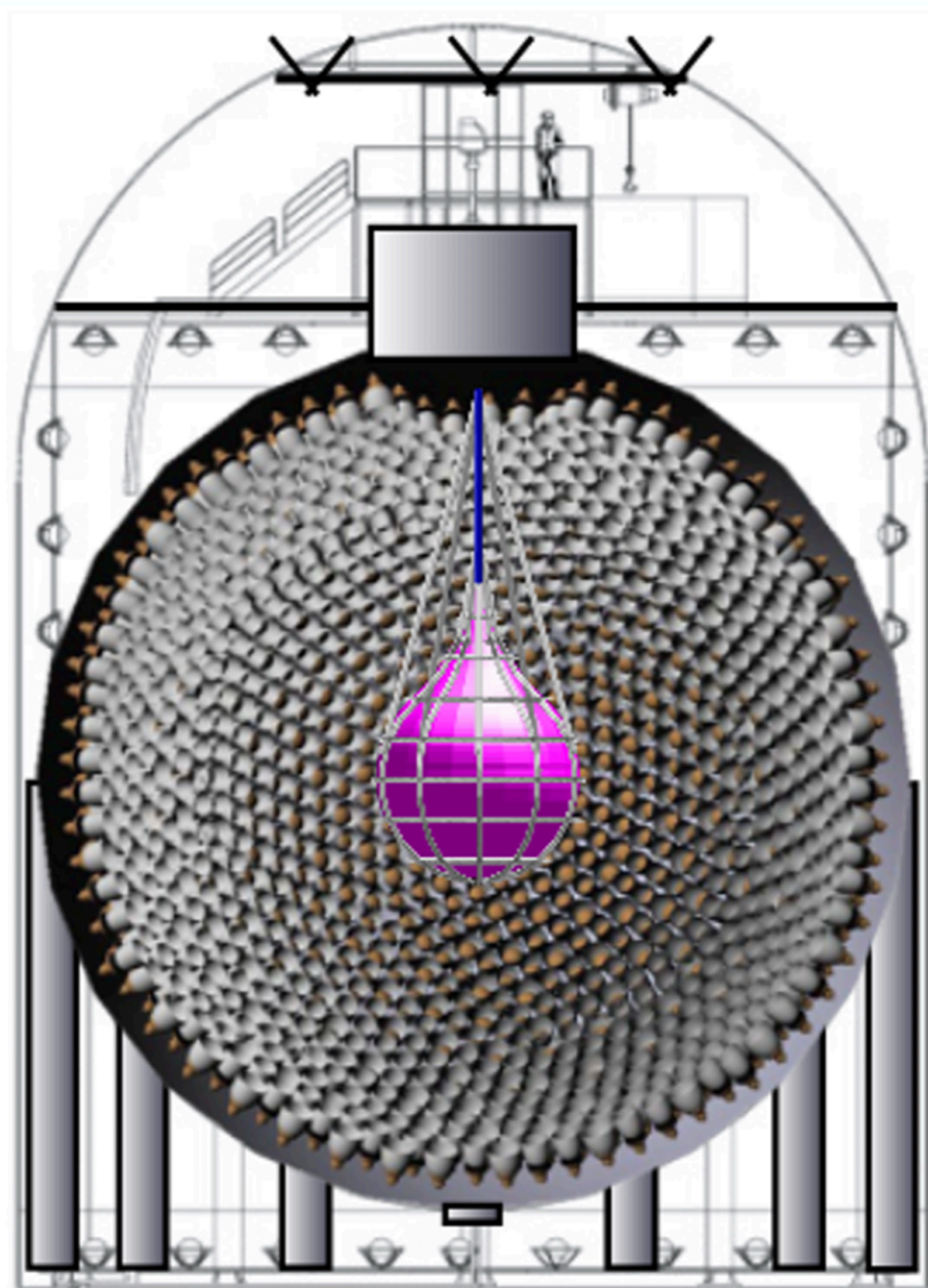


### New HQE PMTs

### Mirror Concentrators



**1 tonne  
of isotope**



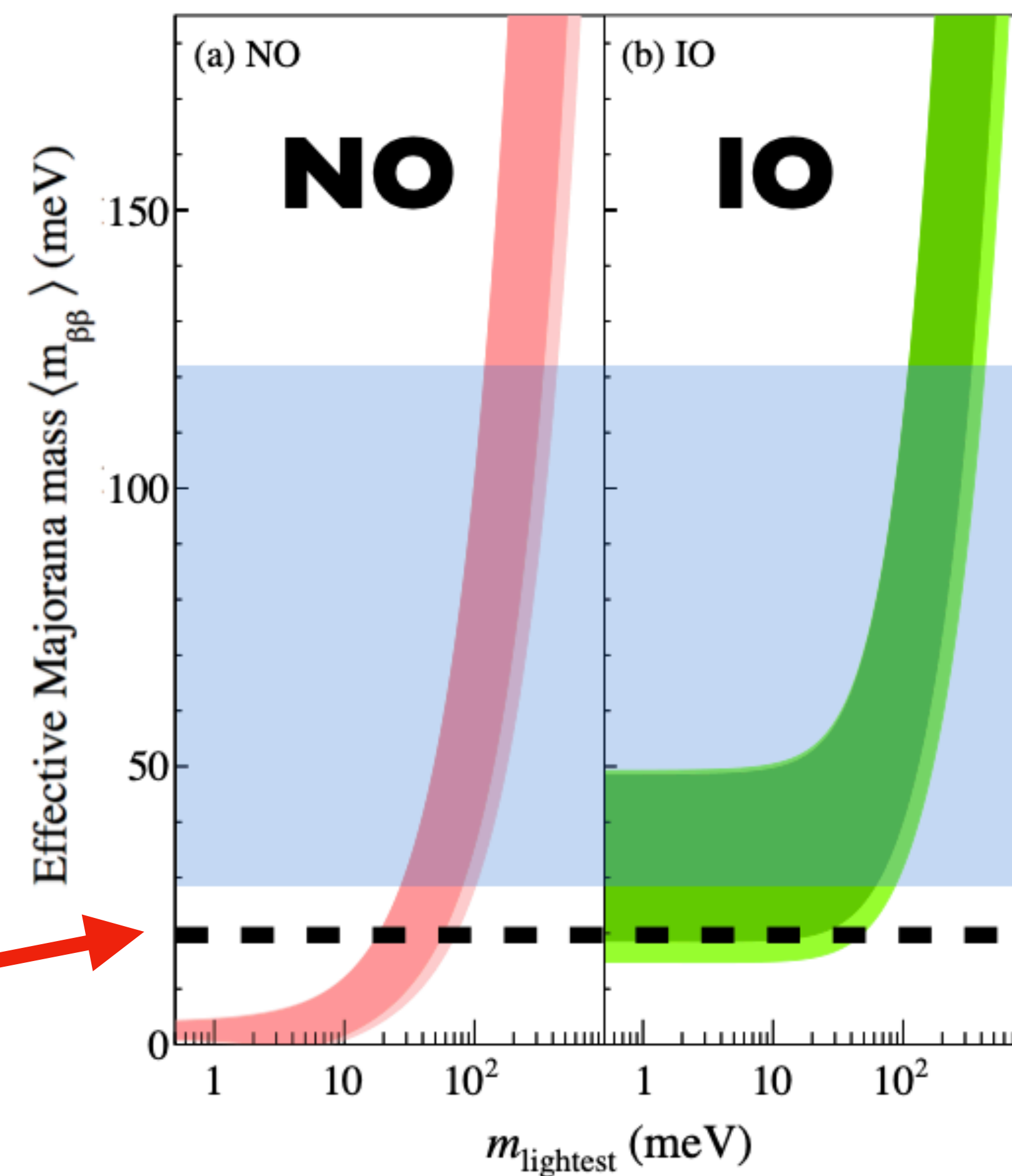
Scintillating Balloon:  
 $^{214}\text{Bi}$  BG reduction  $\rightarrow$   
 100% fiducial volume

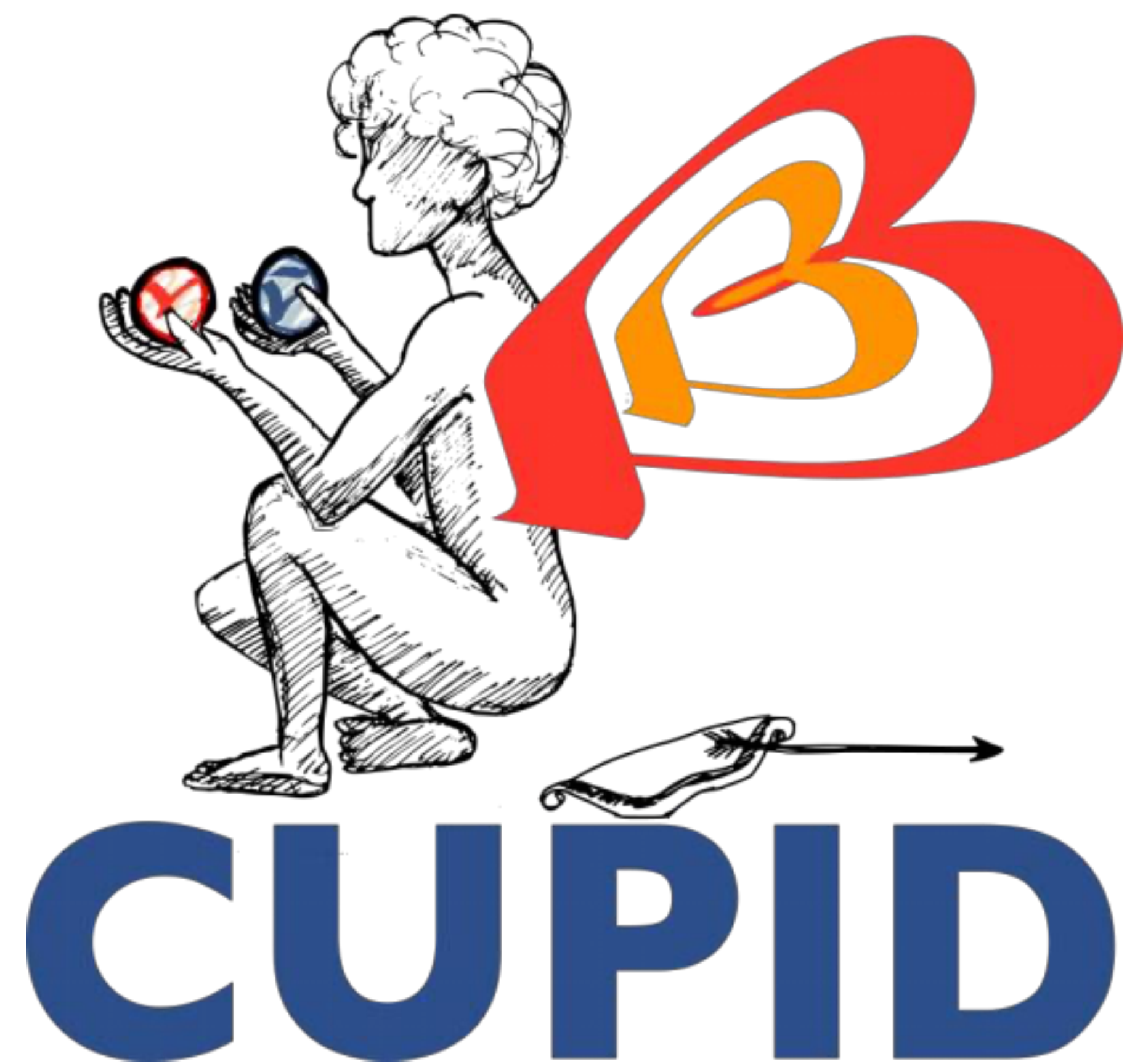
Projected Sensitivity:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1 \times 10^{27} \text{ y}$$

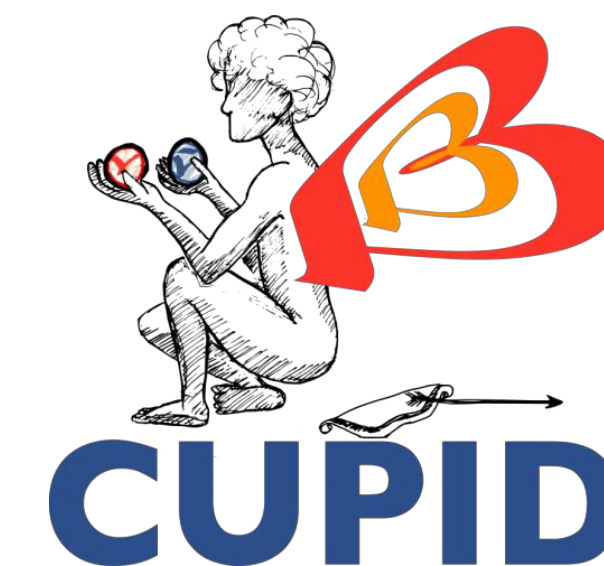
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < 20 \text{ meV}$$

in 5 years



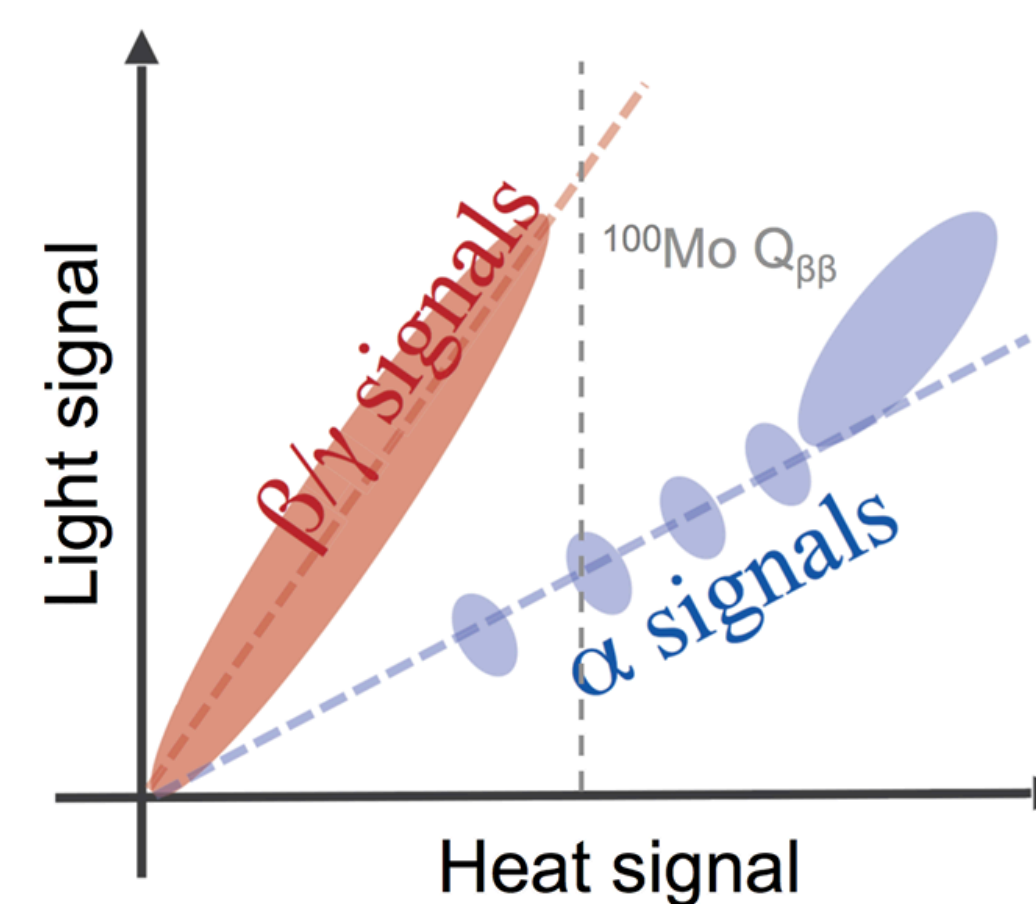
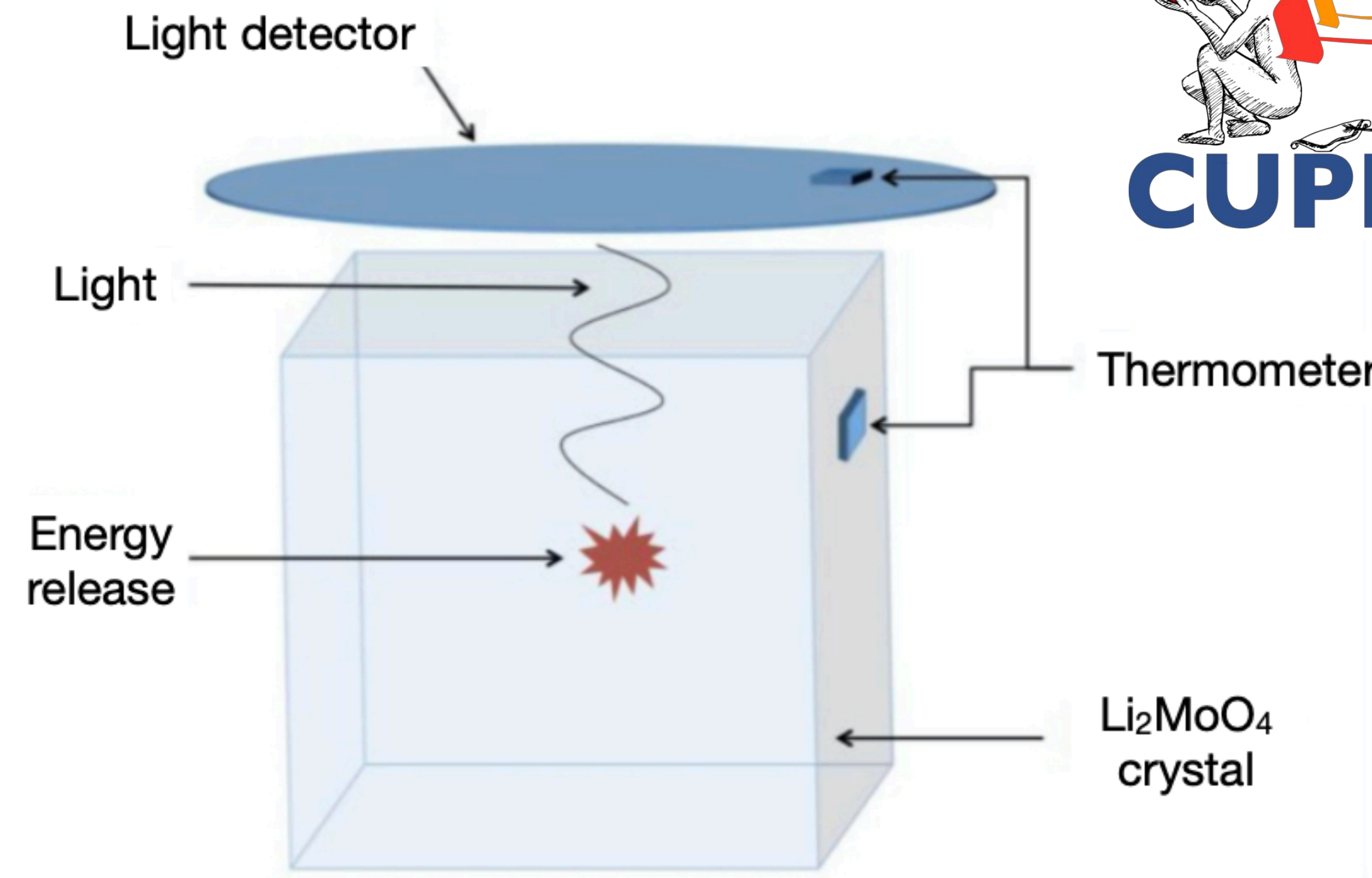






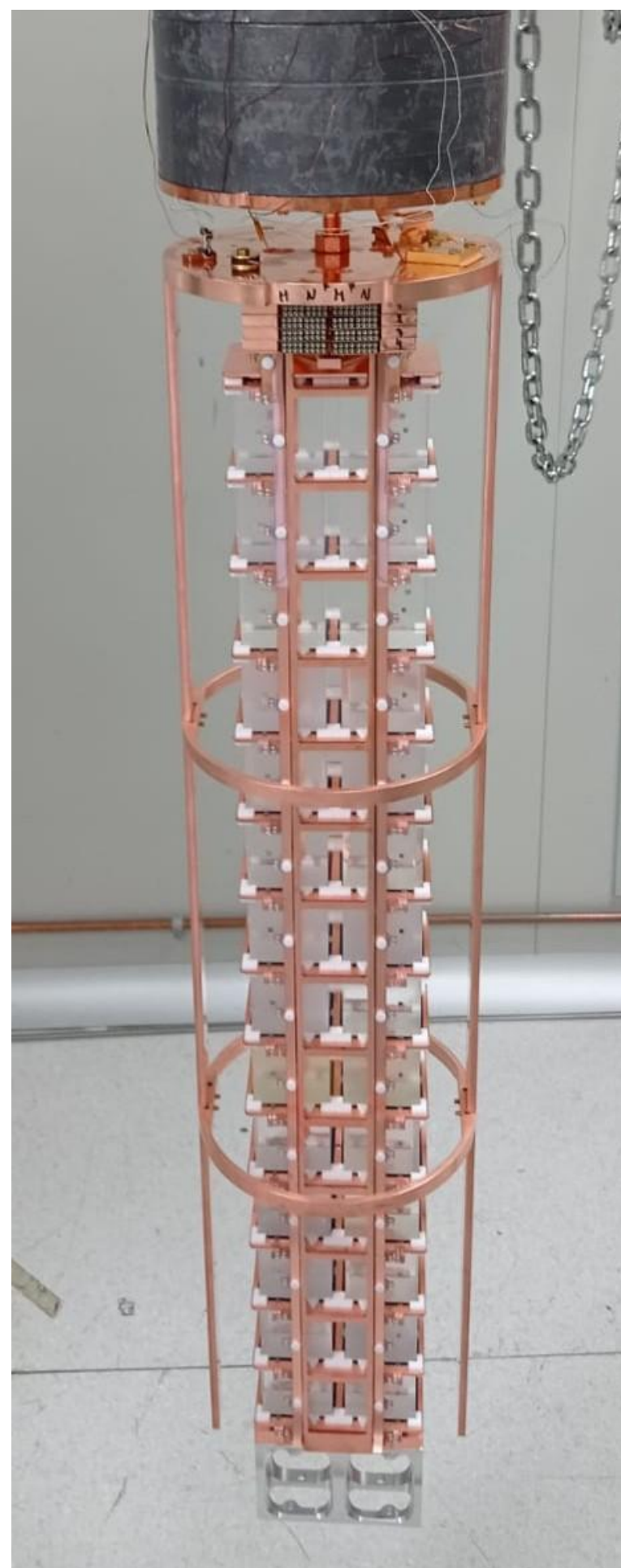
## CUPID: Cuore Upgrade with Particle ID

- 1596  $\text{Li}_2^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  crystals (45x45x45 mm<sup>3</sup>) assembled in 57 towers of 28 crystals each
- 240 kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  (>95% enrichment)
- Each crystal has top and bottom Ge light detectors with Neganov-Luke amplification
  - SiO anti-reflective coating to maximise light collection
  - Enhance the S/N ratio to reach pileup rejection capability through PSD.
- Will use CUORE cryostat at LNGS
  - Adding Muon Veto
  - Upgrading Pulse Tubes & coupling to Cryostat



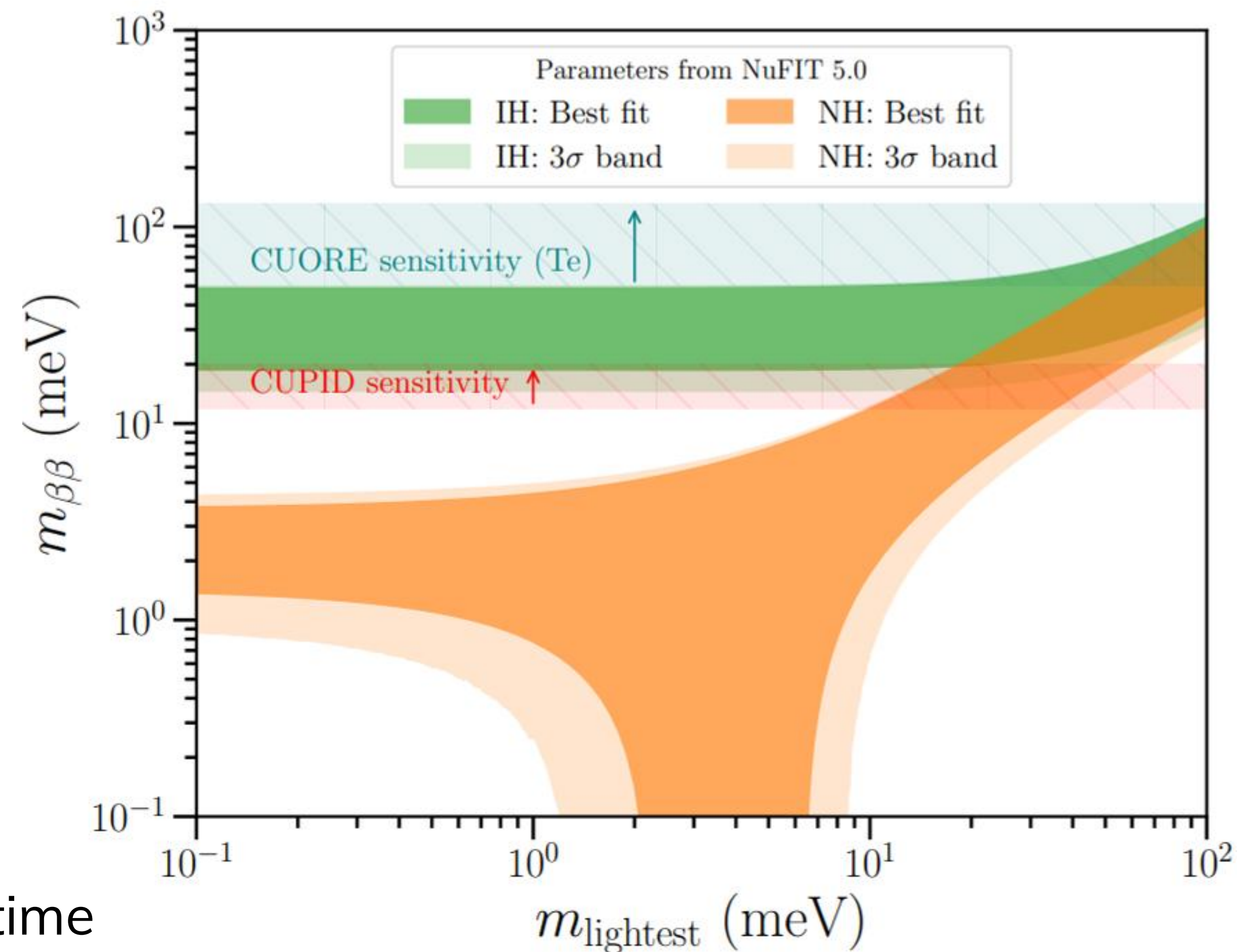
arXiv:1907.09376

[Mo-100,  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 3034$  keV, 9.7% NA]

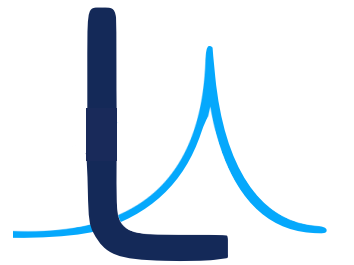


- $^{100}\text{Mo}$ :  $Q_{\beta\beta} = 3034 \text{ keV}$
  - Operate at 10-30 mK
    - Sensitive to  $\Delta T \sim 0.1 \text{ mK}$
  - High energy resolution:
    - $\sim 5 \text{ keV}$  (0.2%) @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
    - BG level of  $\sim 10^{-4} \text{ count/keV/kg/yr}$
- <- Baseline Design  
Prototype Tower

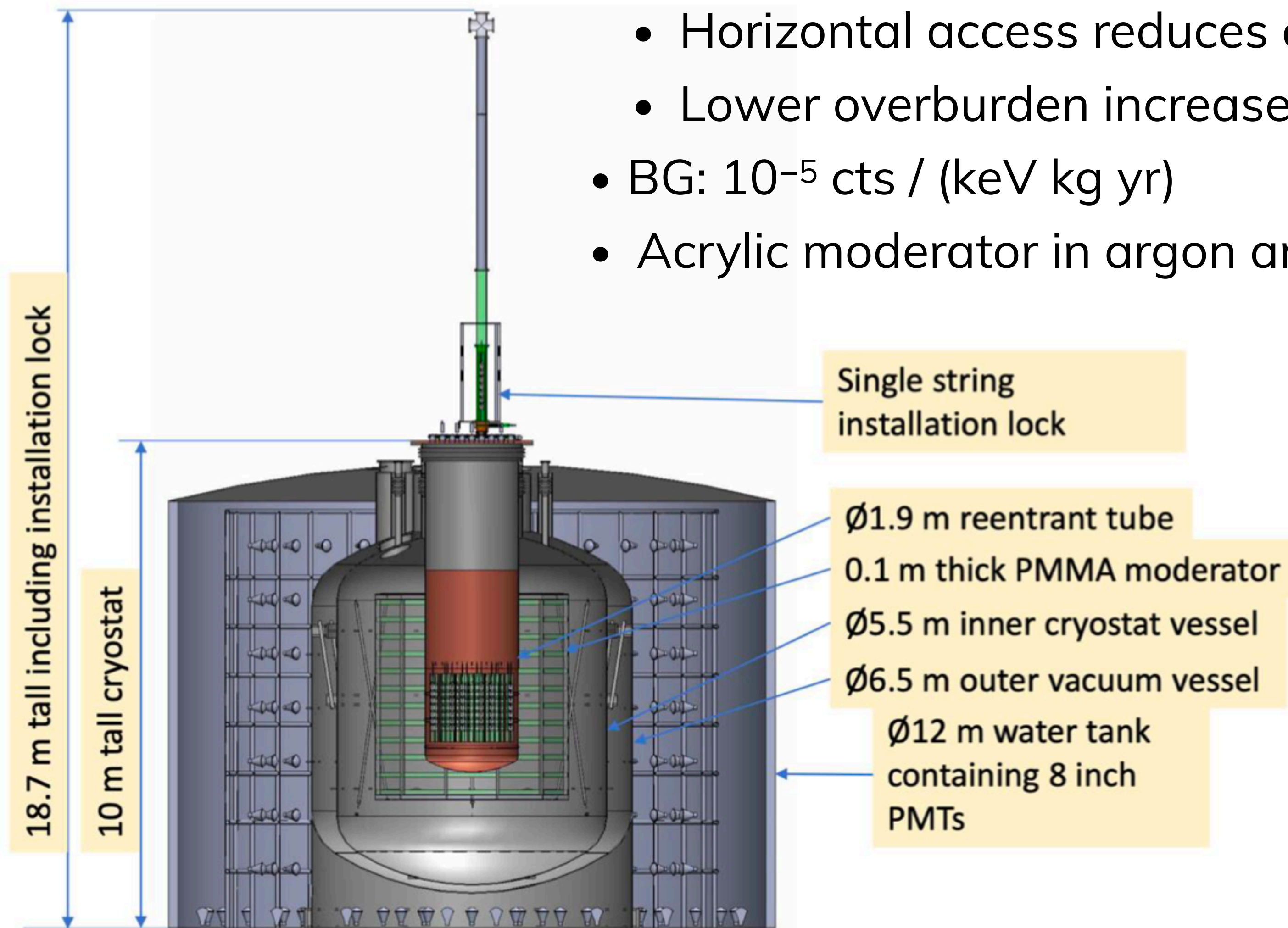
- Discovery sensitivity:
  - $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.1 \times 10^{-27}$  with 10 yr of live time
  - $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (12 - 20) \text{ meV}$



# LEGEND - 1000

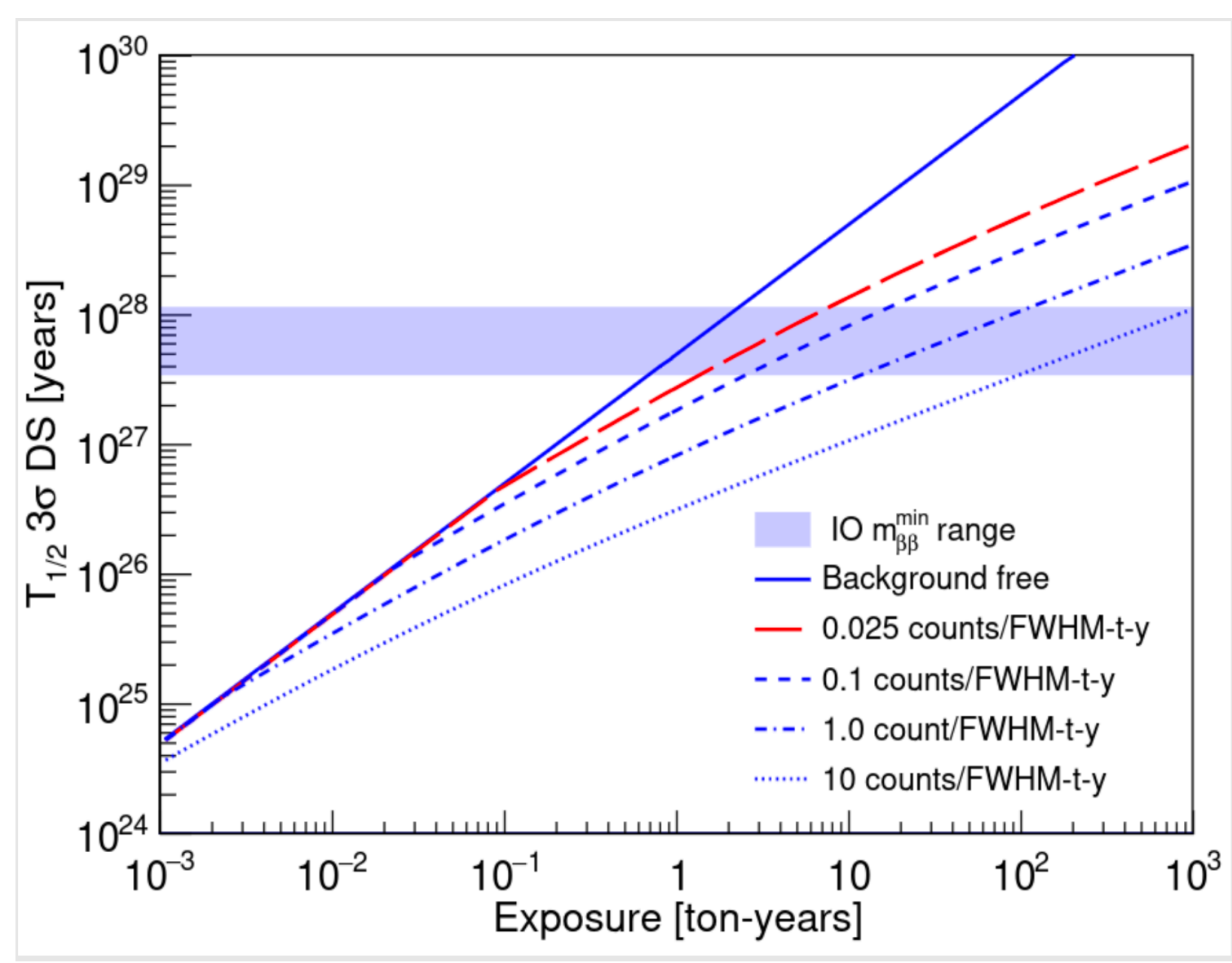
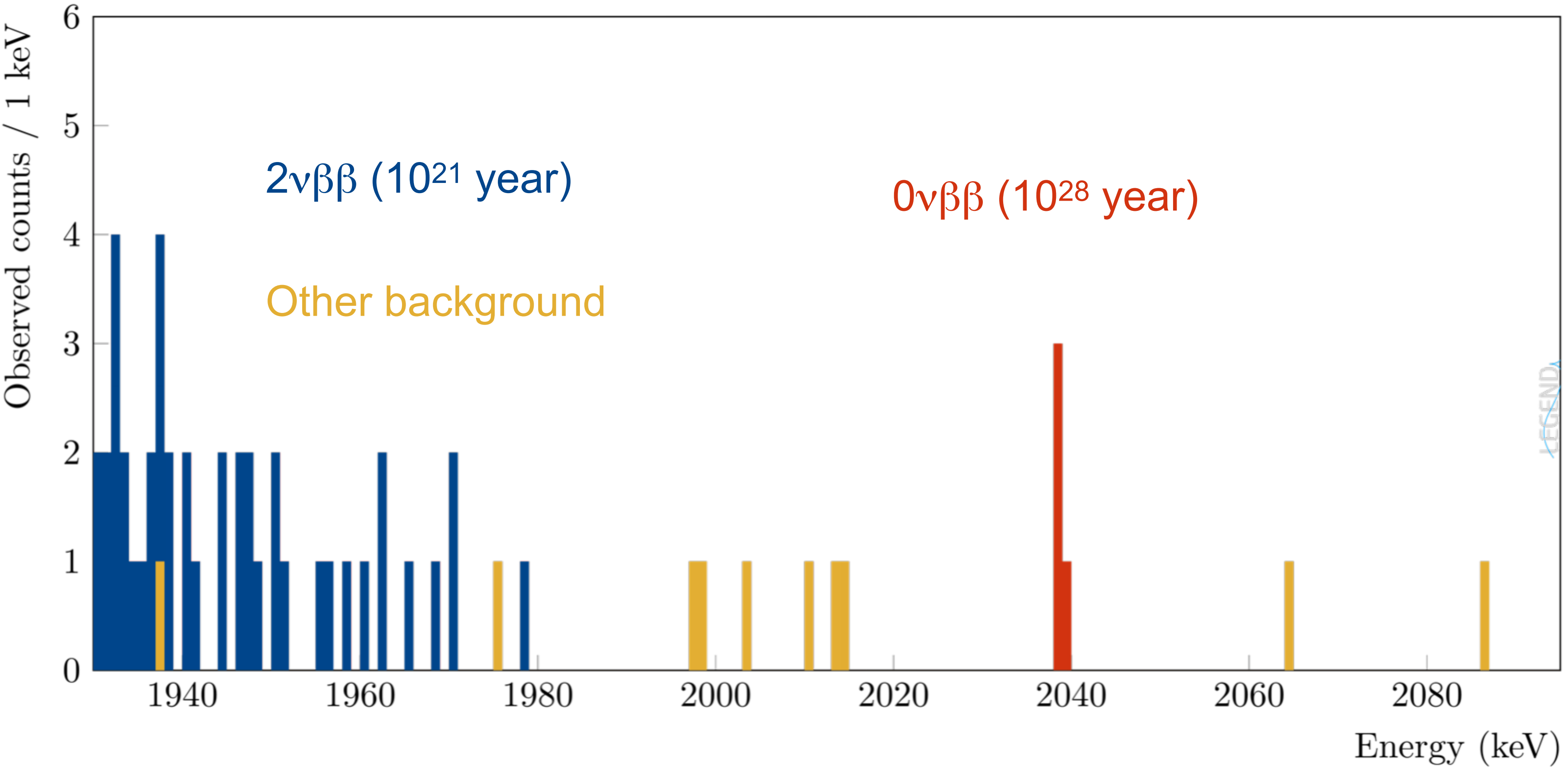
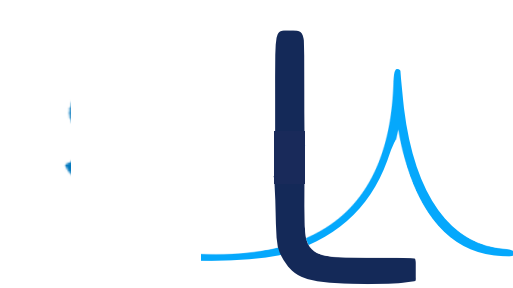


- To be Located at LNGS
  - Horizontal access reduces cost and schedule risk
  - Lower overburden increases background only slightly
- BG:  $10^{-5}$  cts / (keV kg yr)
- Acrylic moderator in argon and veto/tag with small loss in livetime

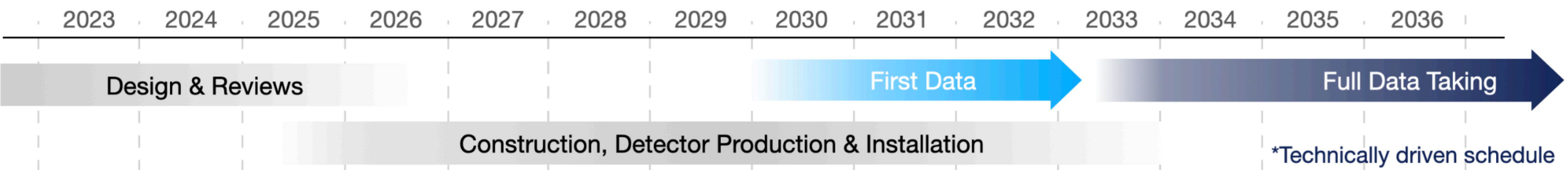


The LEGEND-1000 design for LNGS Hall C

- L-1000 will include 30 t of Underground Liquid Argon (UGAr) instrumented as an active veto with WLS and SiPMs, and used as Ge semiconductor cooling
- L-1000 will re-deploy 130 kg of L-200 ICPC detectors and **fabricate** 870 kg of new detectors.



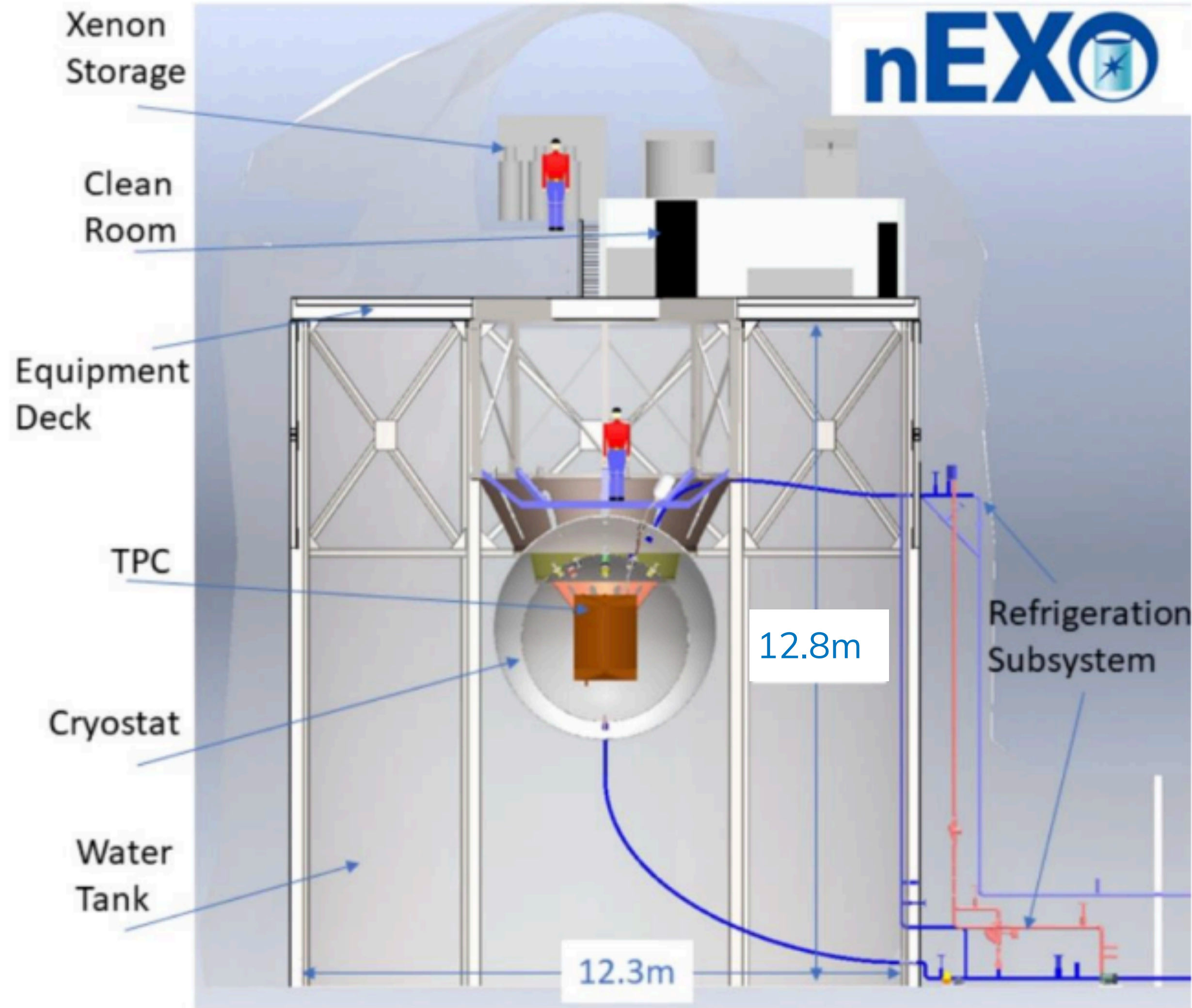
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 10^{28}$  with a 99.7% confidence level discovery sensitivity
- $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < (9 - 21)$  meV
- within 10 yr of live time



\*Technically driven schedule

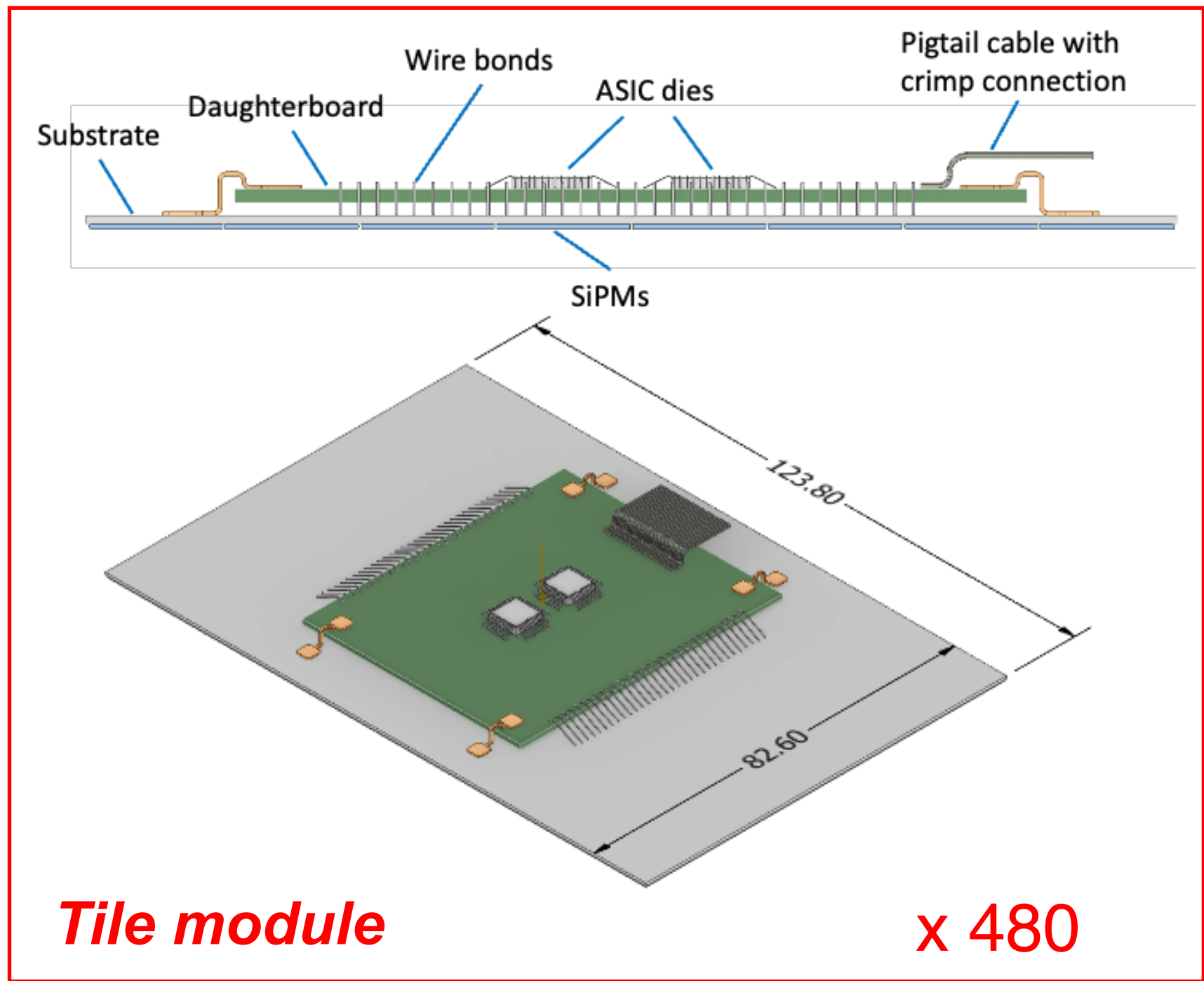
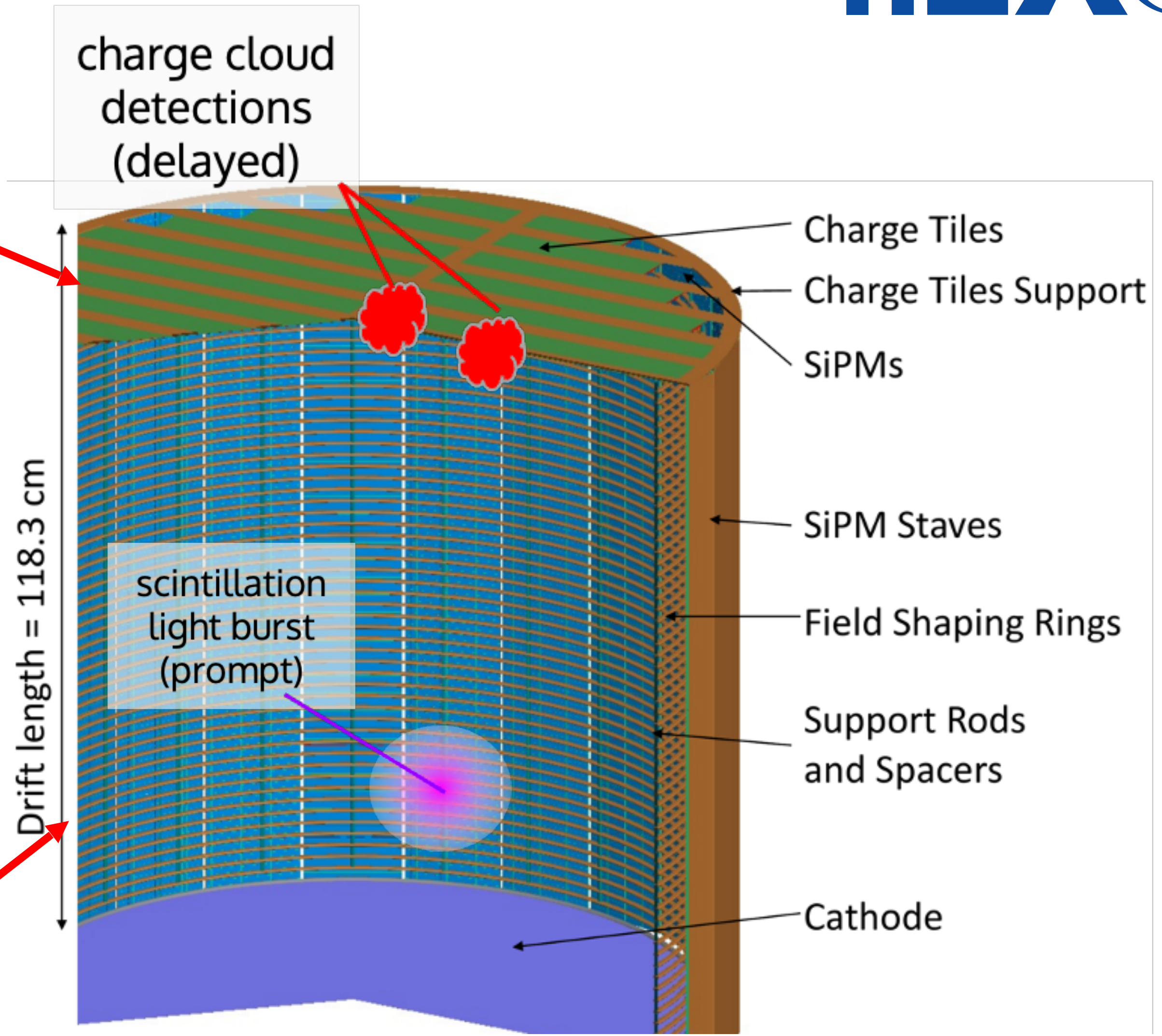
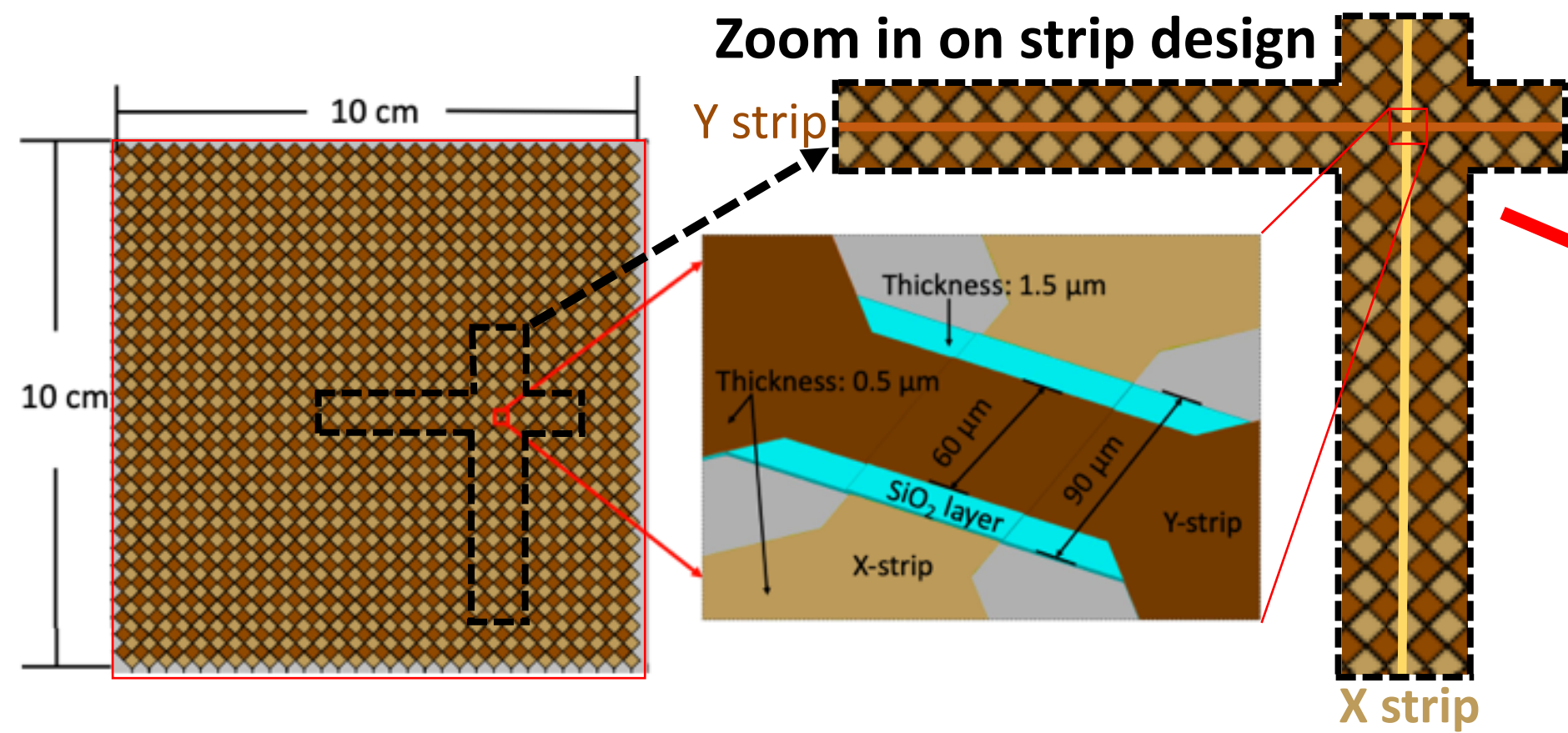
# nEXO



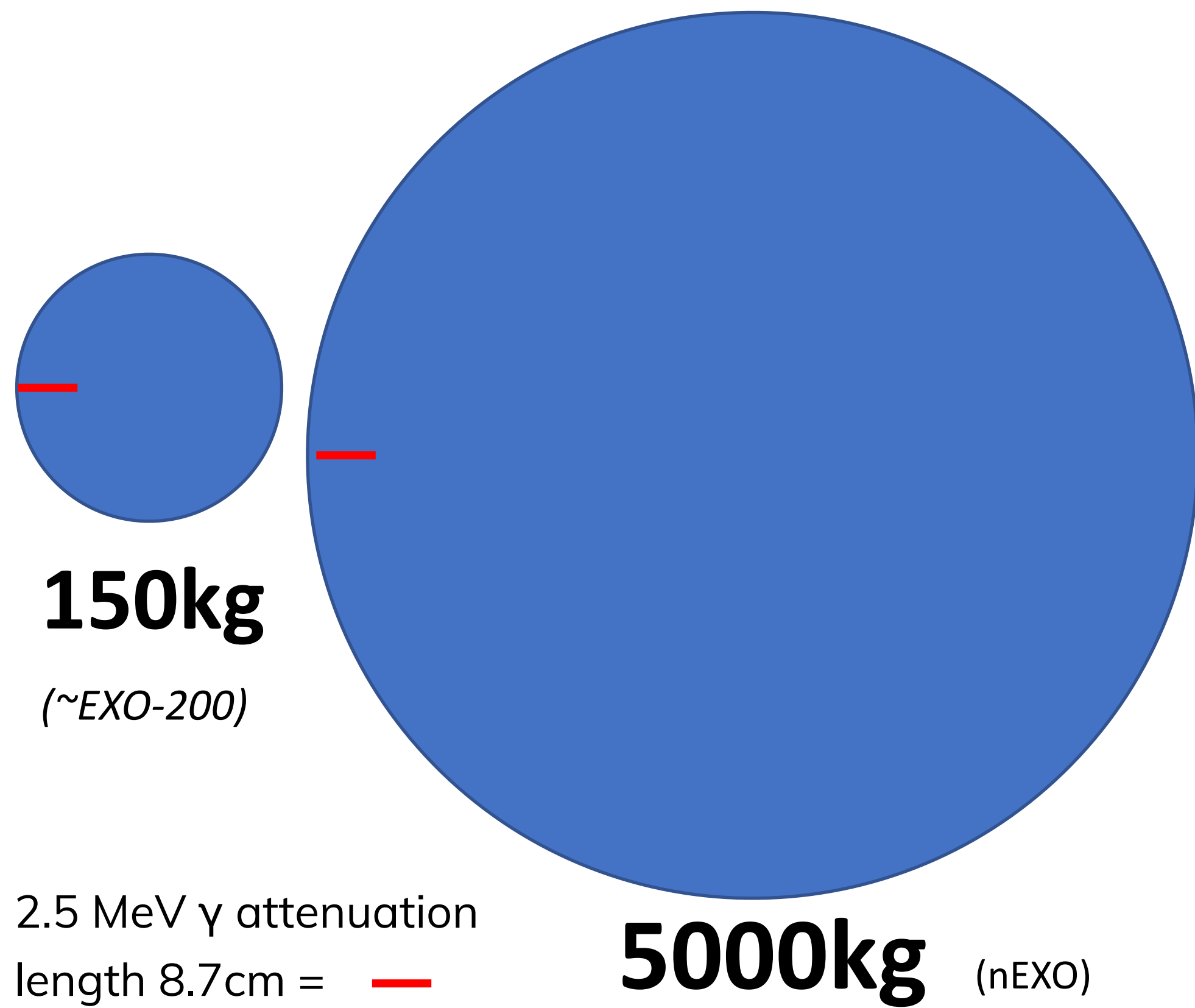


- Continuation of EXO-200 program
- nEXO: 5 tonne Liquid Xenon TPC, enriched 90%
- To be located in SNOLAB's Cryopit (6000 mwe)
- Combined Light and Charge readout
- Active Outer Detector to veto muons
- Low intrinsic background in Xenon
  - $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2457 \text{ keV}$

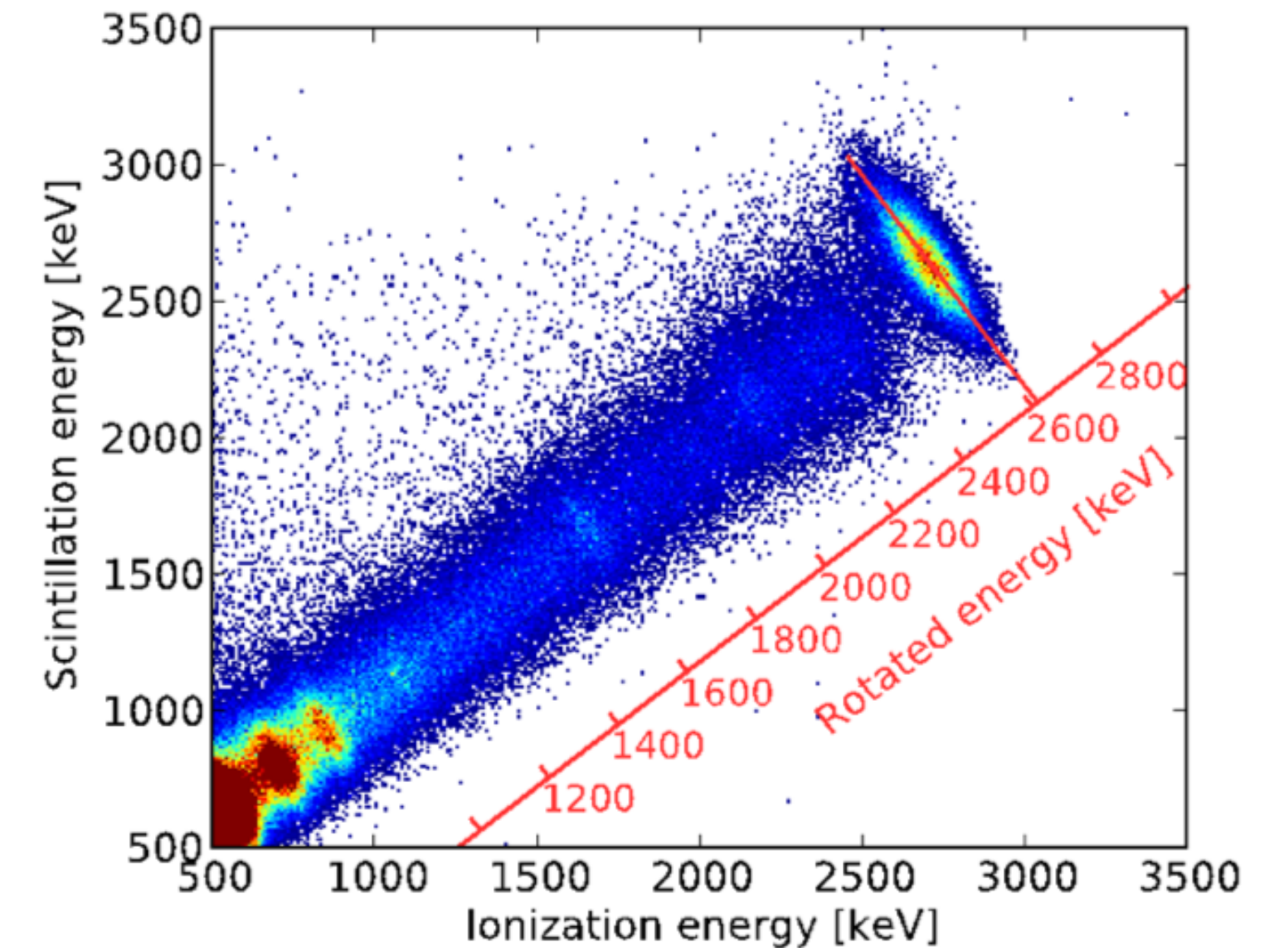
- SiPM for 175nm scintillation light detection,  $\sim 4.5 \text{ m}^2$  array in LXe
- Tiles for charge read-out in LXe



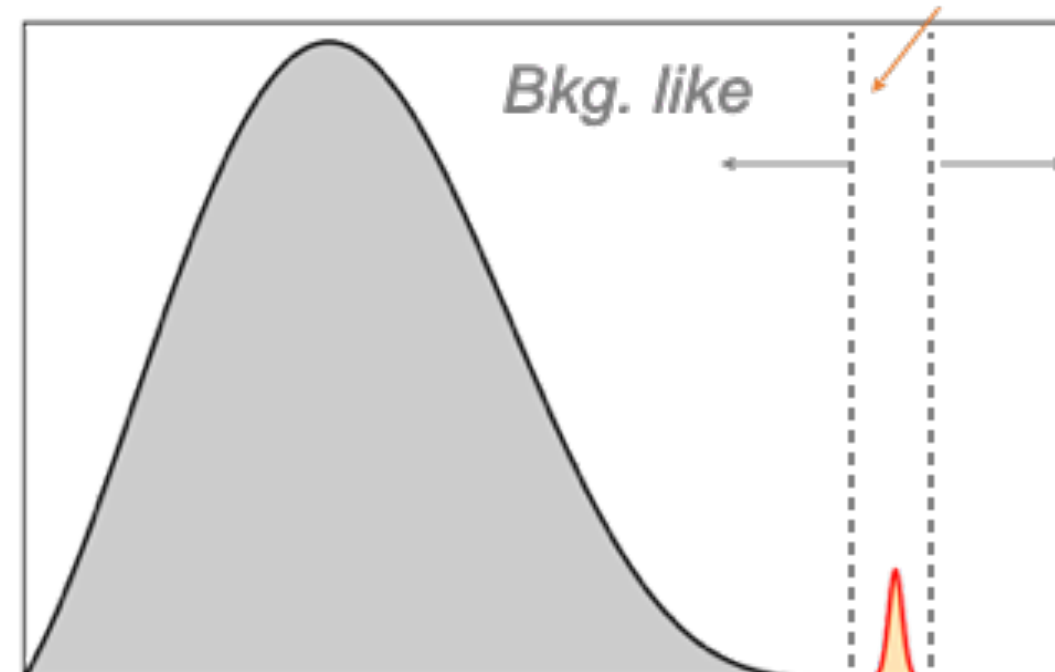




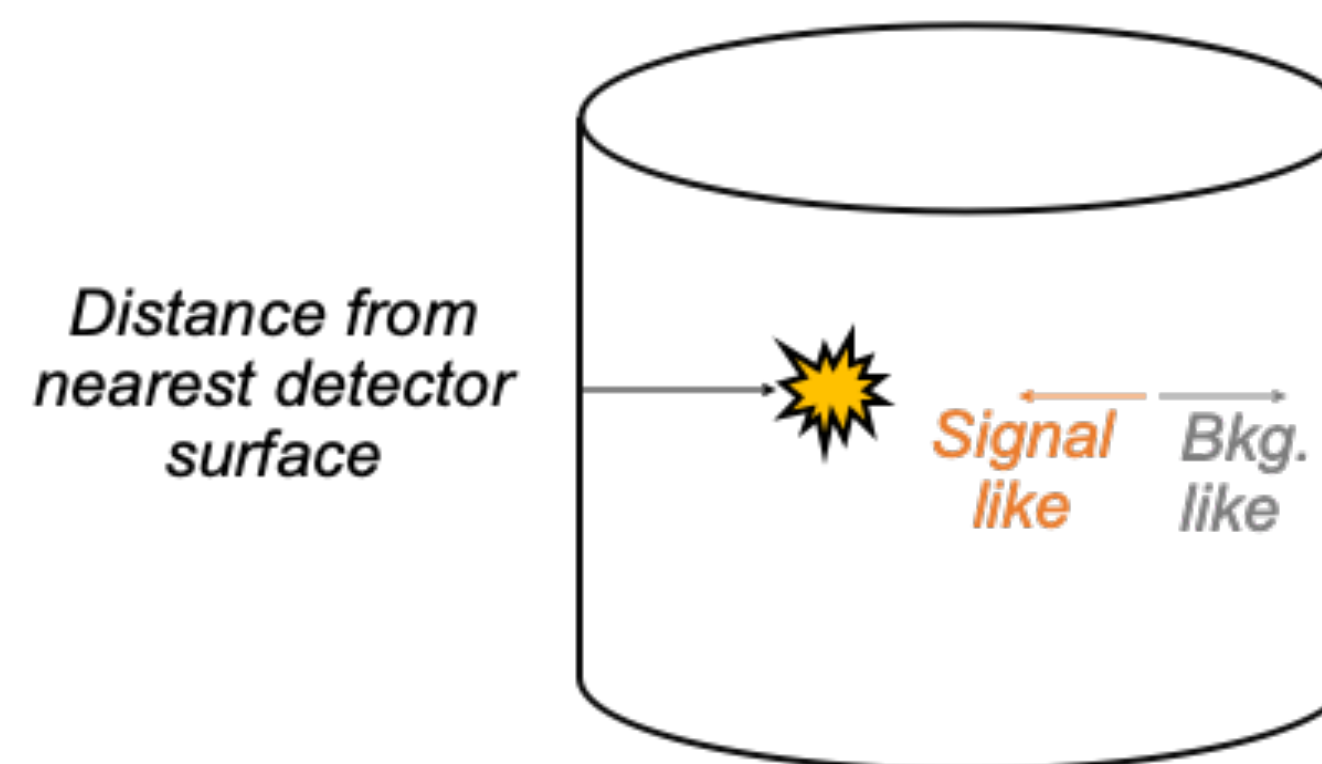
- Monolithic design means self-shielding from external backgrounds
- Rotated energy scale provides  $<1\%$  energy resolution
- Robust Multi-parameter Analysis



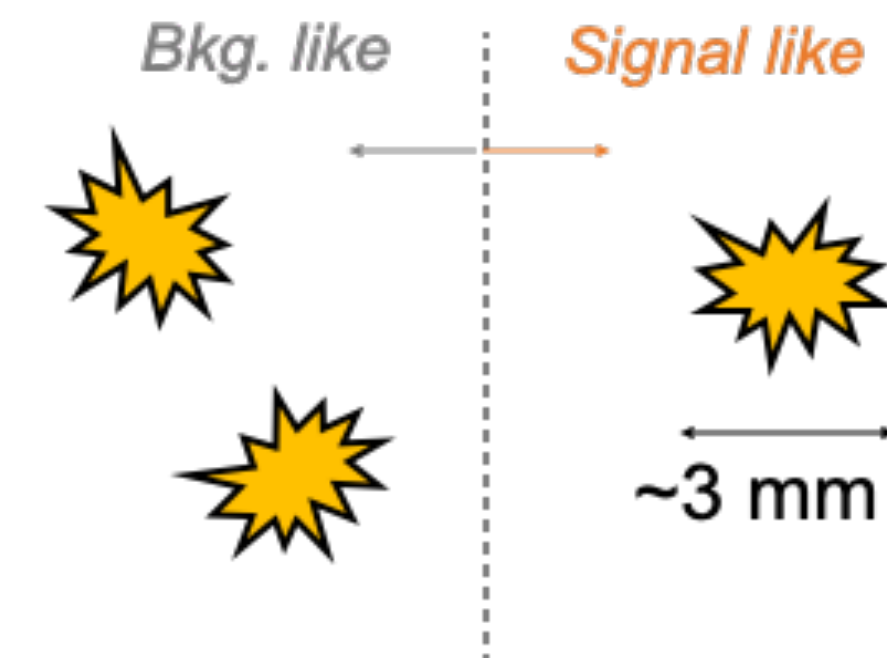
### Energy: Signal like

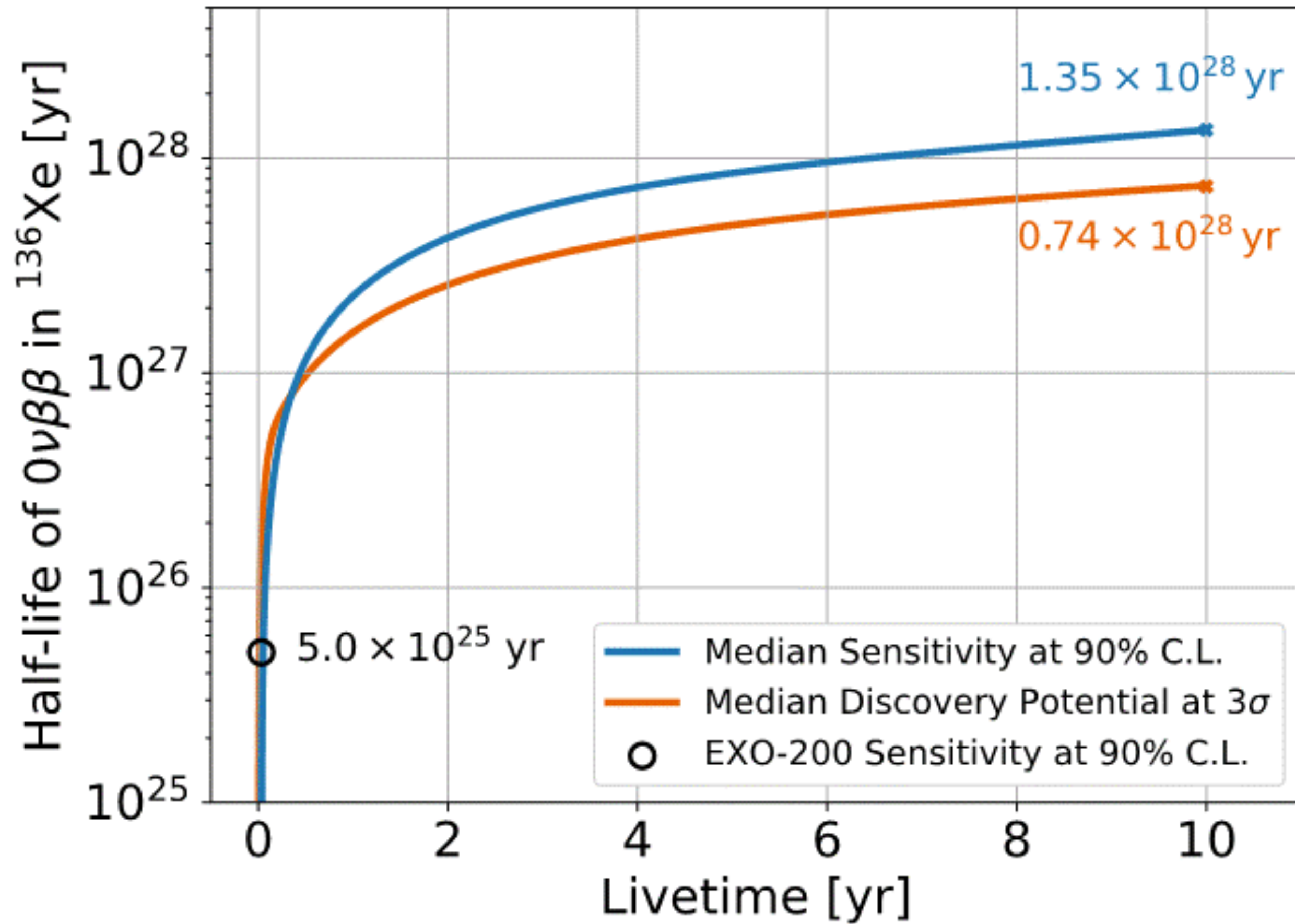


### Standoff:



### Topology:

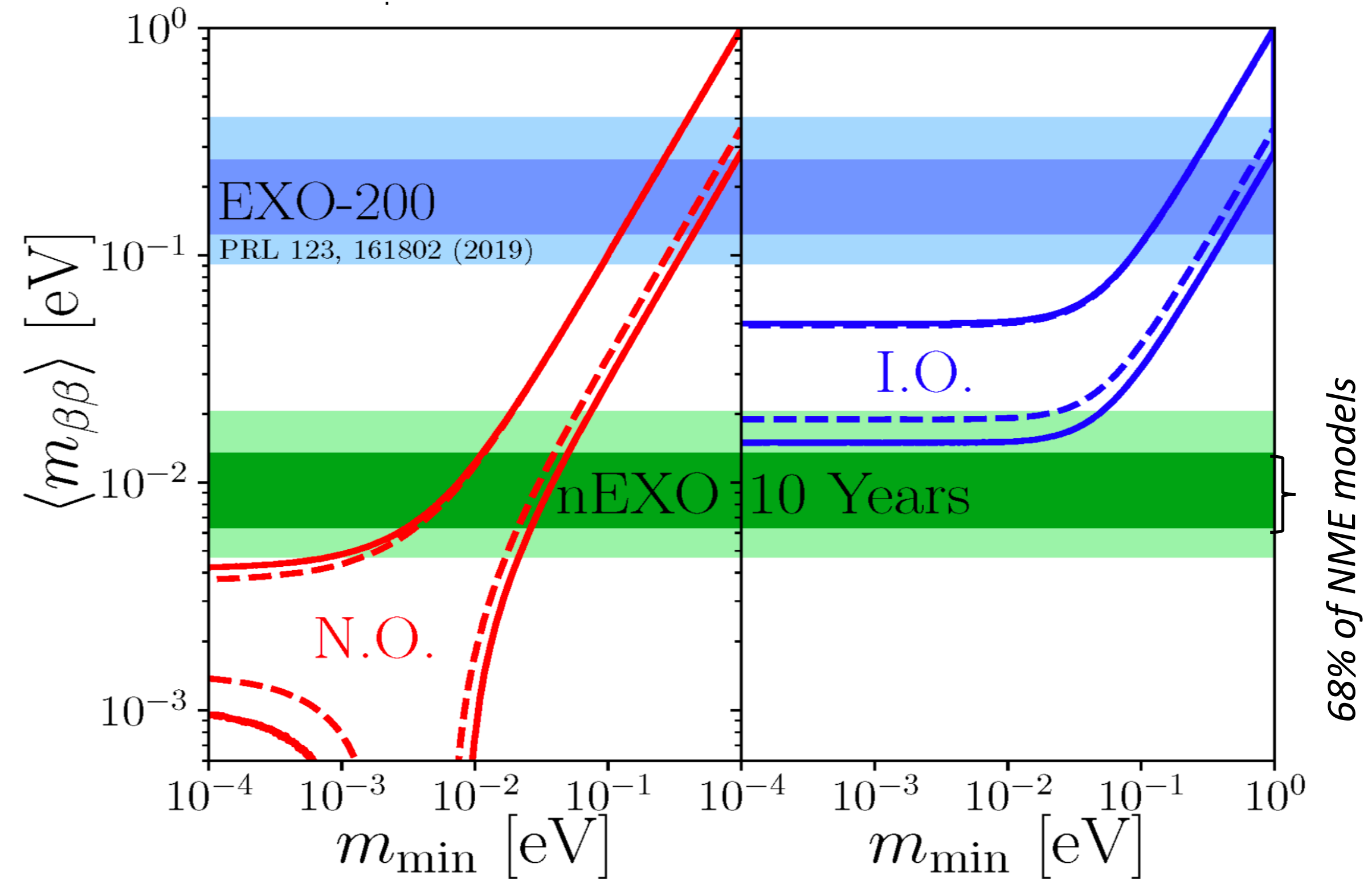




nEXO reaches  $10^{28}$  yr  
in 6.5 yr data taking

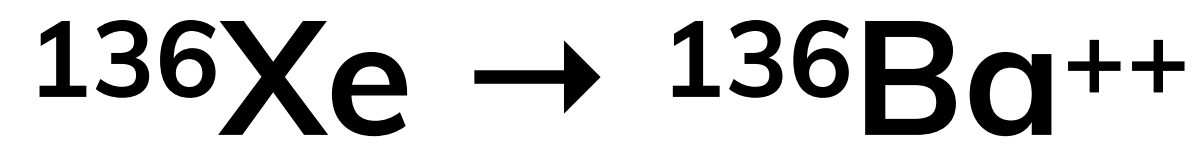


- Energy Resolution  $< 1\%$  at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- Limit:  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.35 \times 10^{28}$  y
- $m_{\beta\beta} < (4.7 - 20.3)$  meV

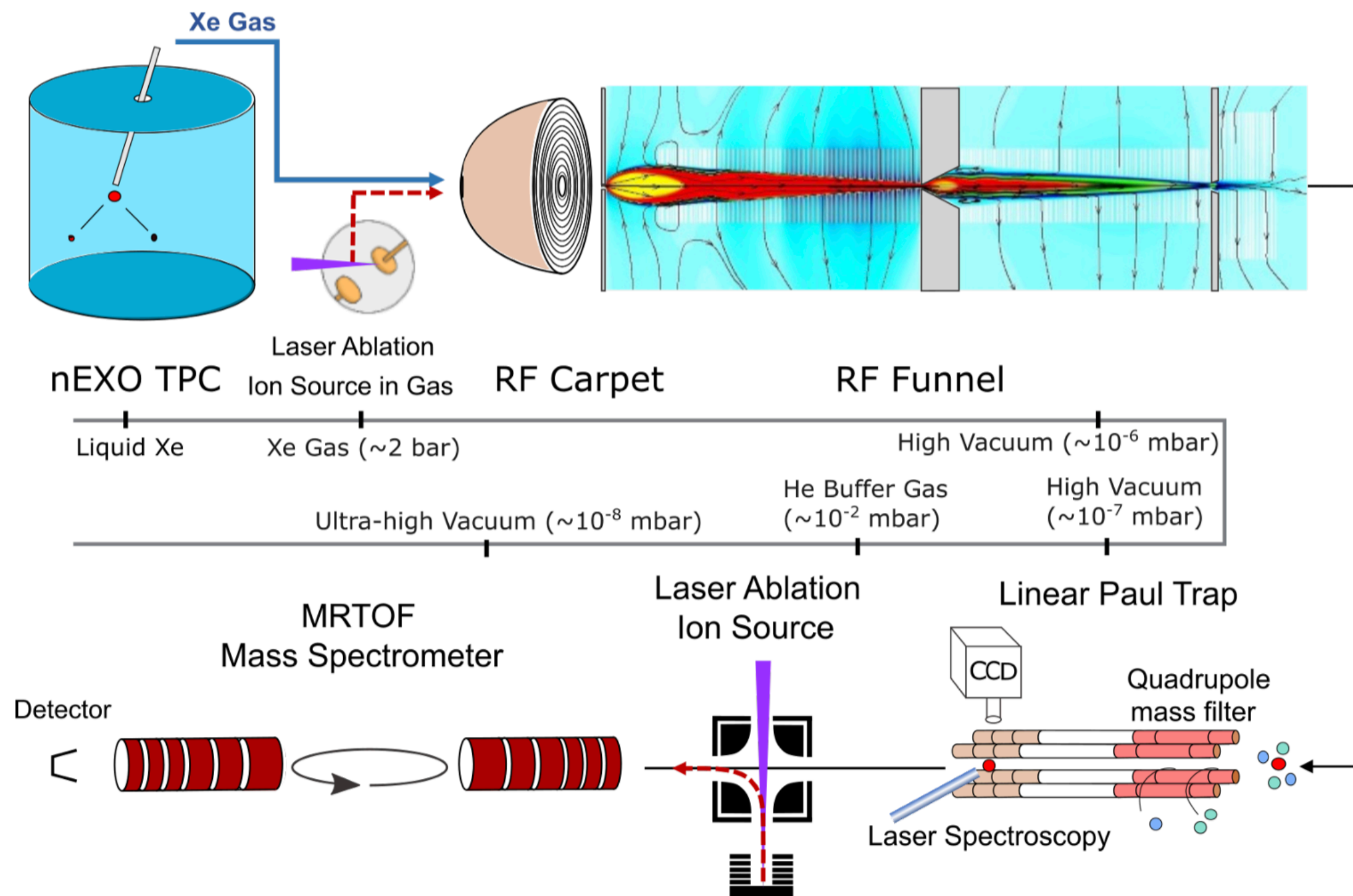
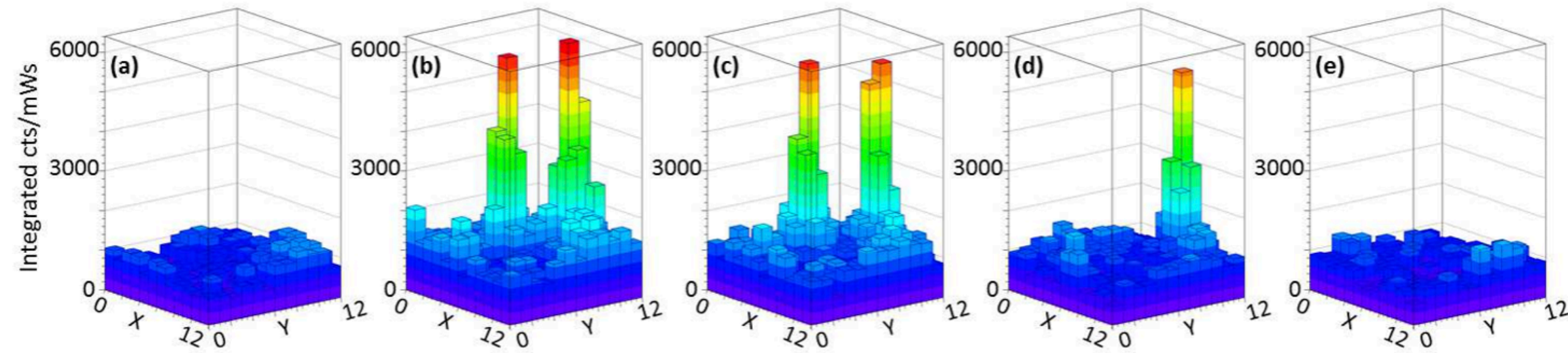


[J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 49 (2022) 015104]

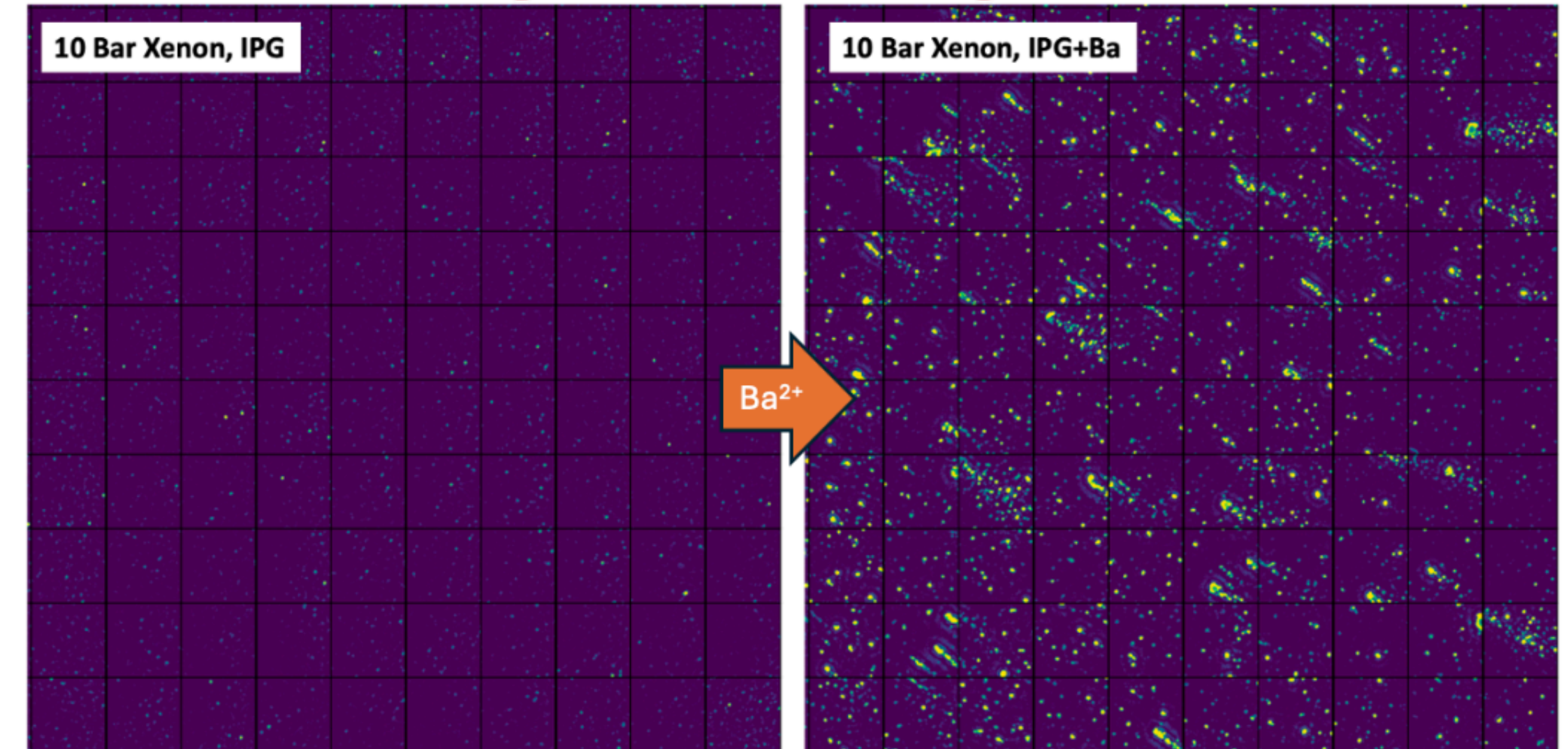
# Barium Tagging



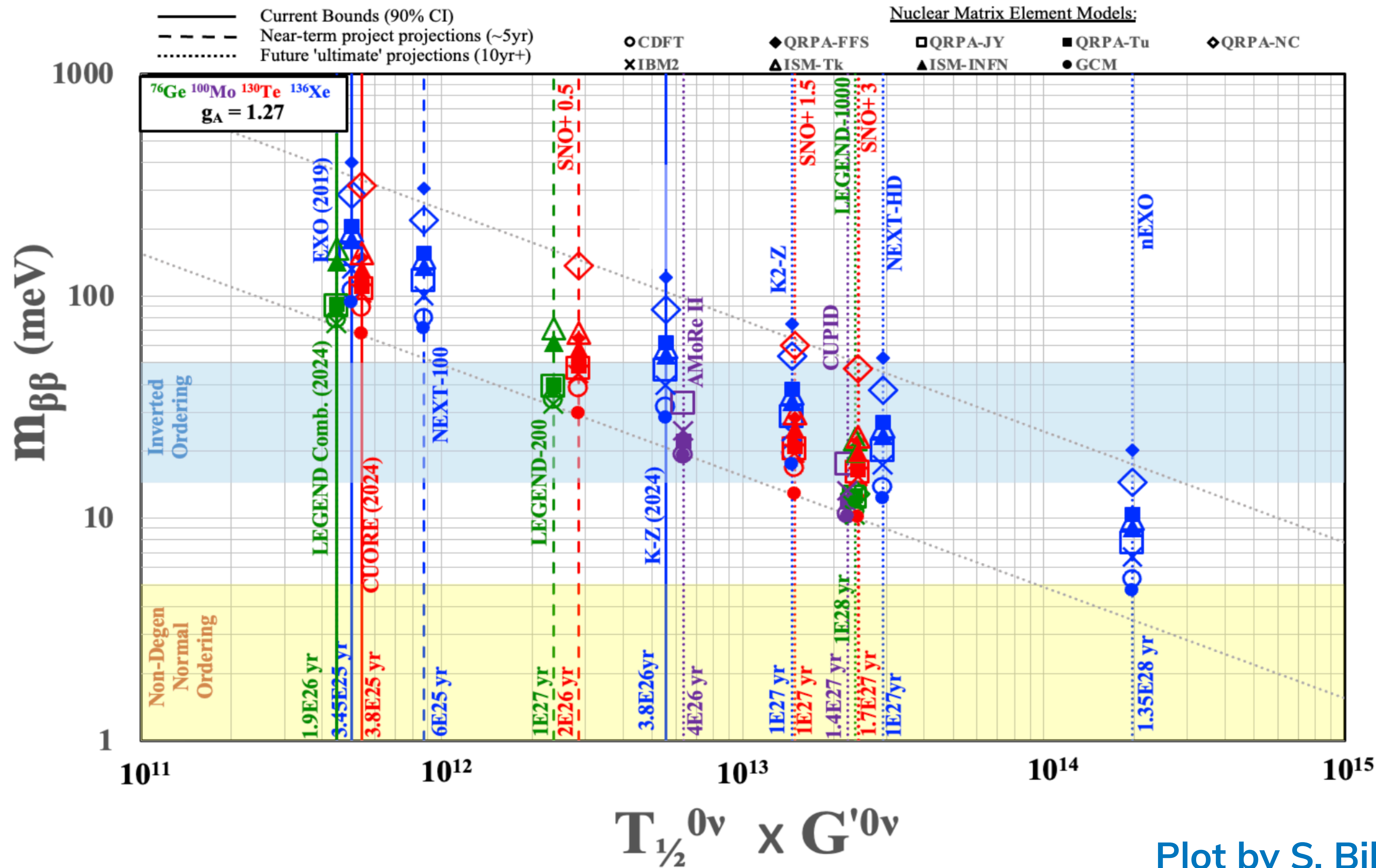
**\*Only\*** produced when  
Xe double beta decays



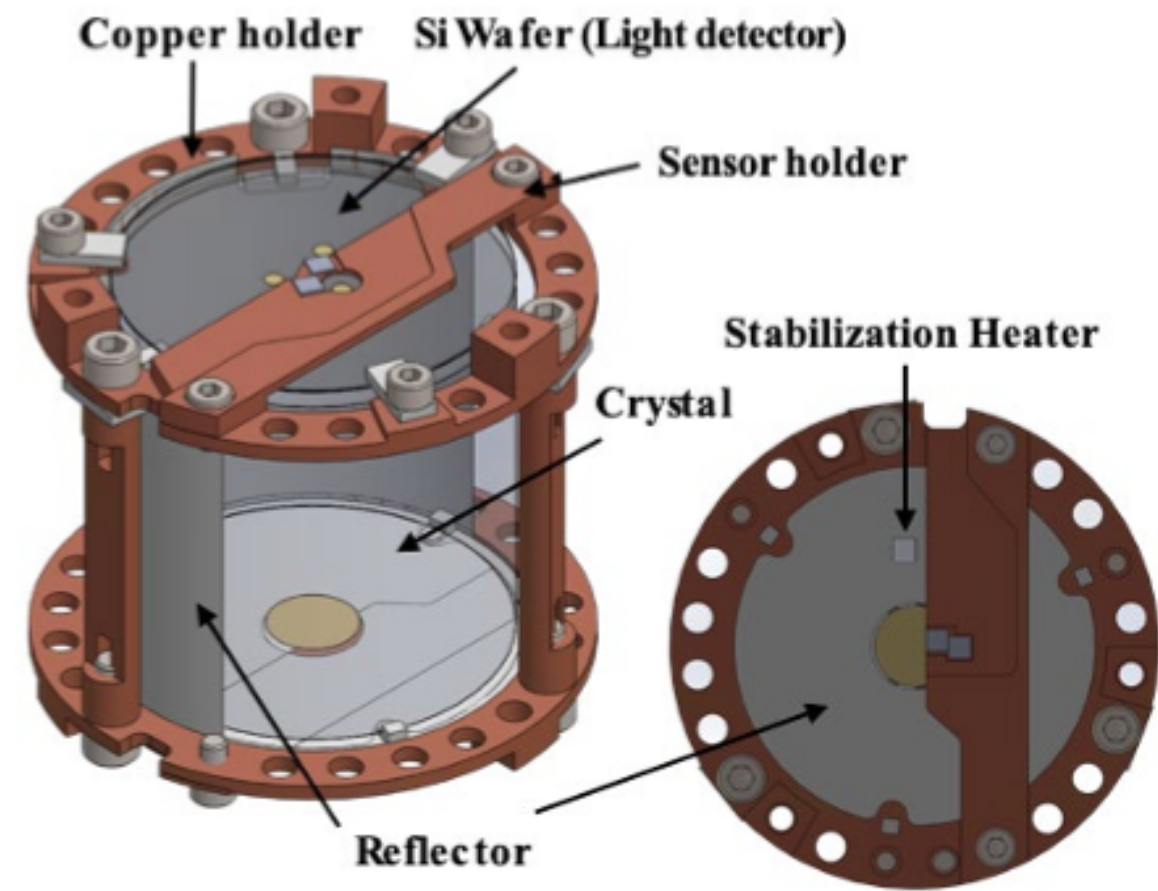
Individual Ba<sup>2+</sup> ions imaged in 10 bar of xenon gas



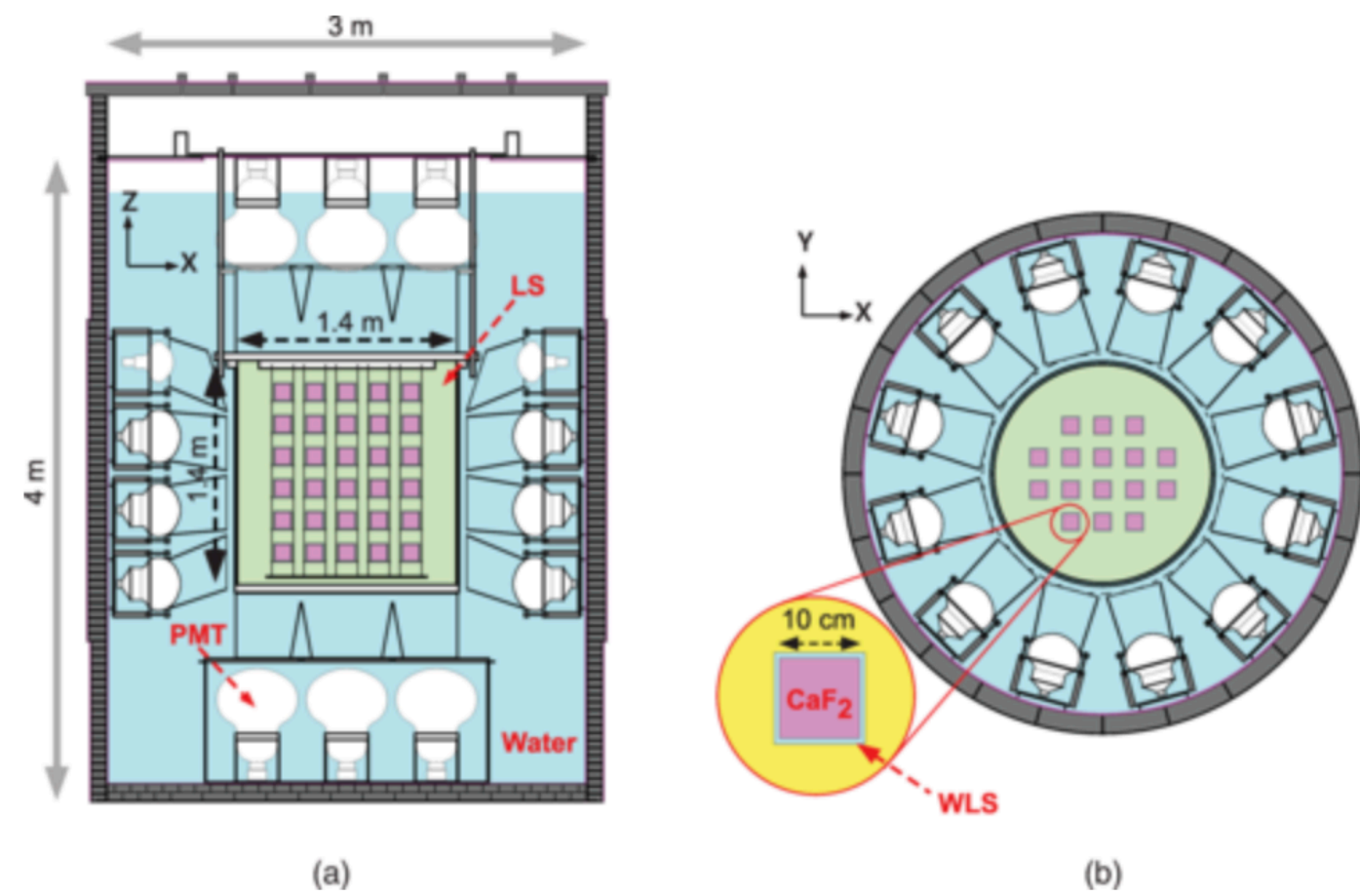
- Time-resolved Indicators
- Off-On Indicators
- Fluorescent Bi-color Indicators



### AMoRE: Mo Crystals in Yemilab



### CaNDLES: Ca crystals in Scintillator



### NEXT-HD

2026?

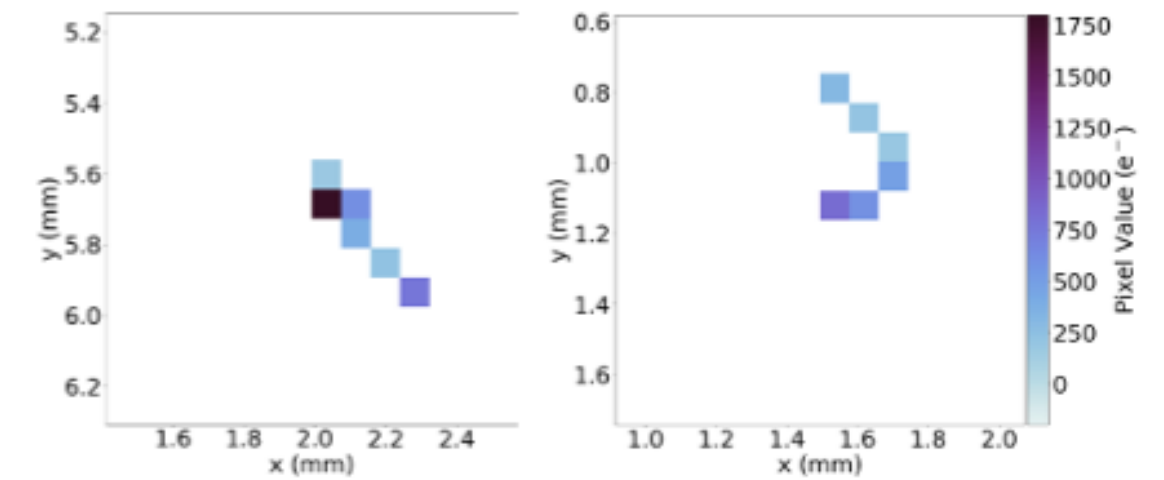
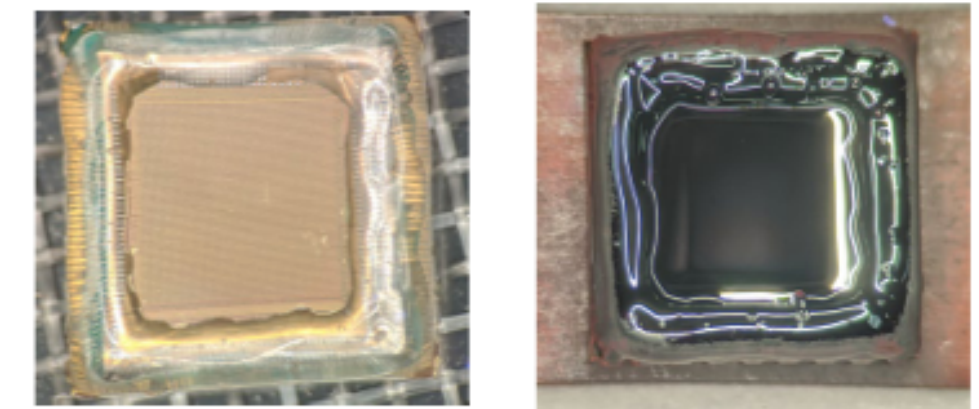
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  search through inverted  $\nu$  mass ordering



### NEXT-BOLD

- Barium tagging for bgr-free experiment

### Selena: $^{82}\text{Se}$ CMOS detectors

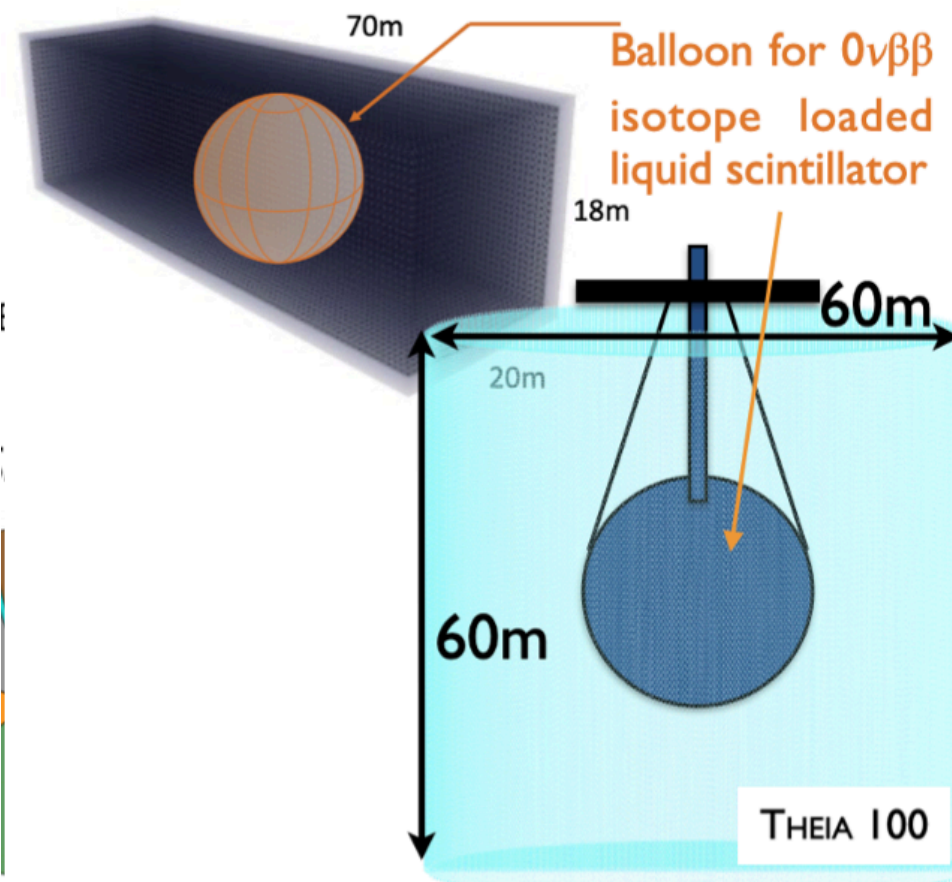


Demonstration of ~MeV electron tracks!

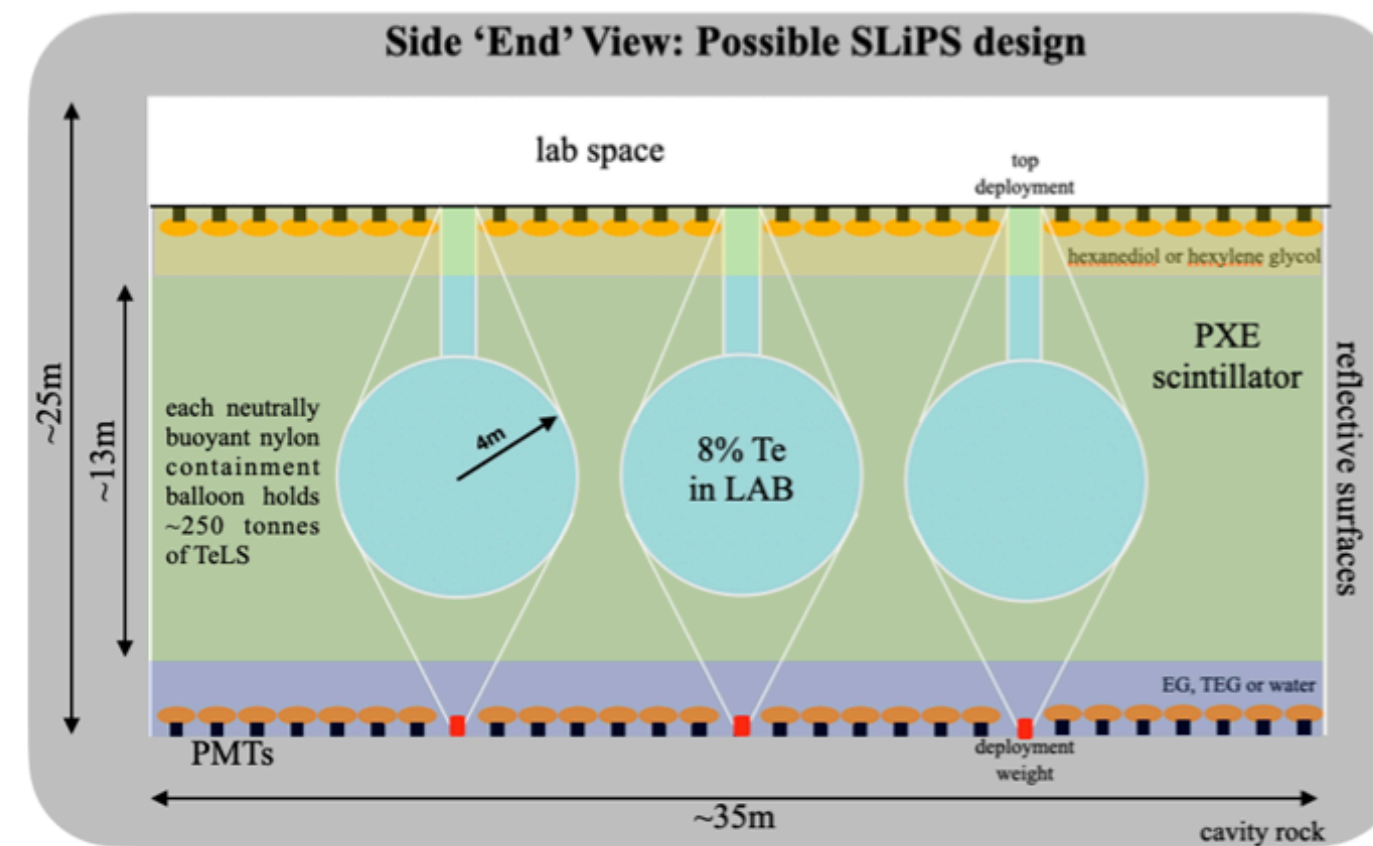
### NuDot: Quantum Dots Loaded in Scintillator



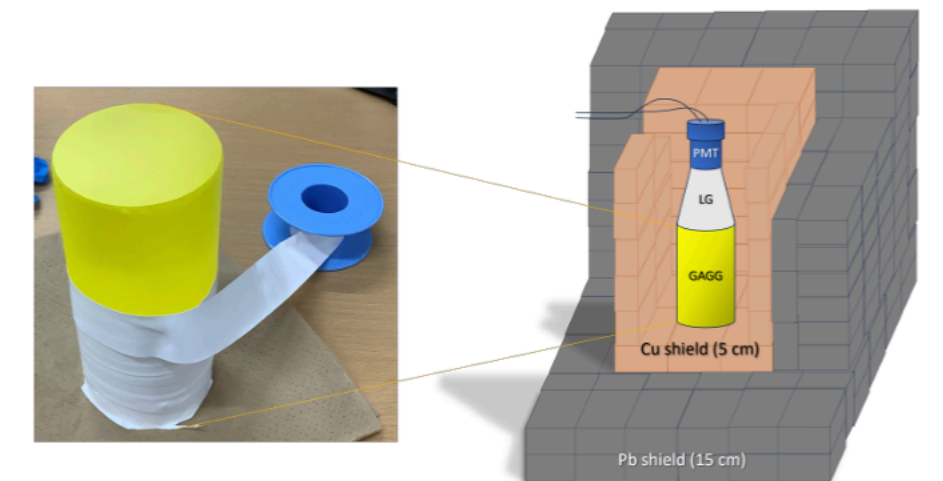
### Theia: Xe or Te Loaded Scintillator



### MANTIS: Many Te-Loaded Balloons








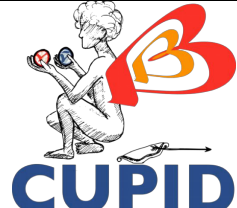




### PIKACHU: Gd crystals in Kamioka



$10^{15}$

# Summary of Experiments

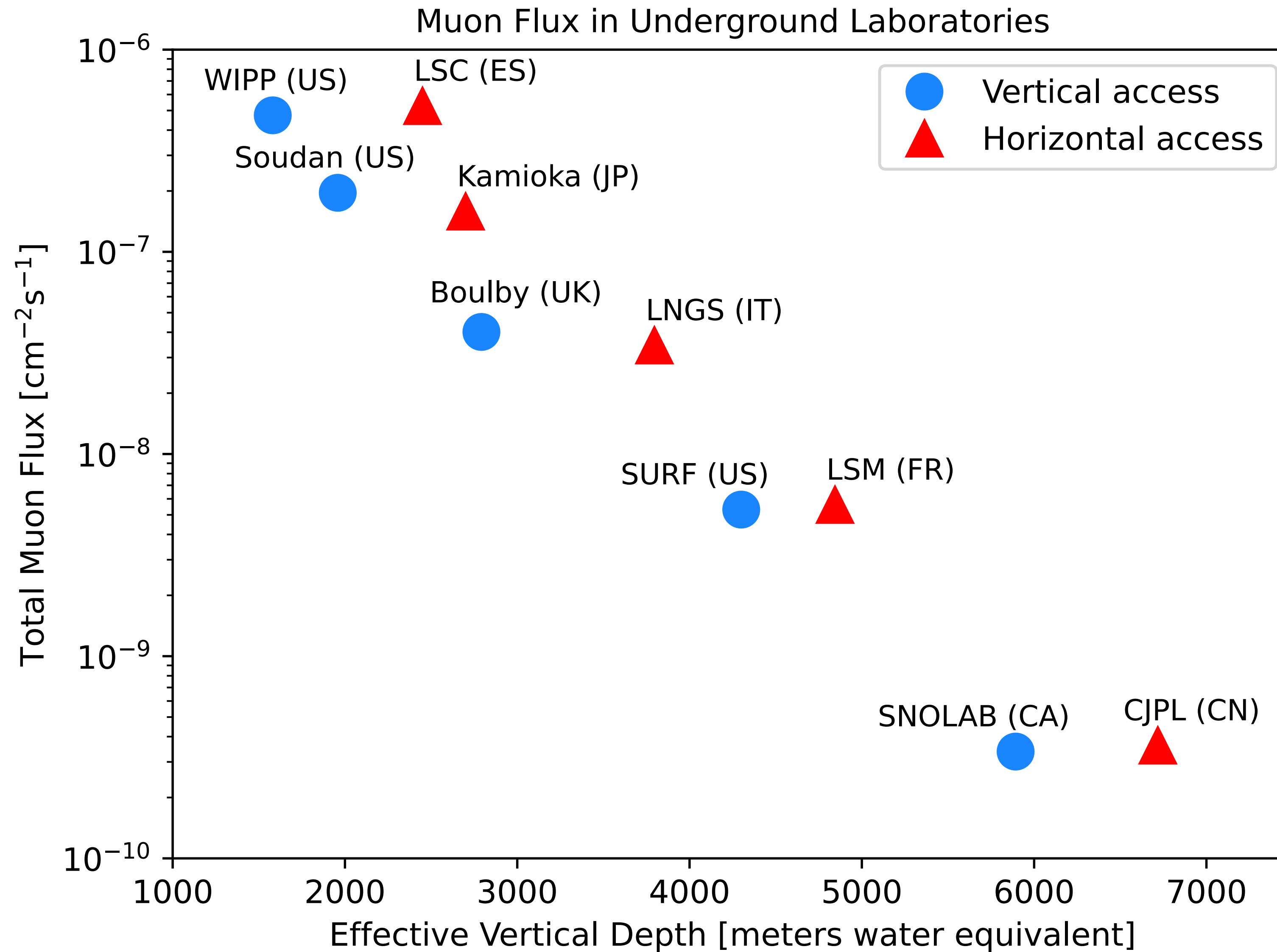
Experiment	Isotope	Isotope Mass [kg]	Technology	Current Sensitivity [y]	Projected Sensitivity [y]	Timeline
	Te-130	206	Bolometer	$> 3.8 \times 10^{25}$		
	Ge-76	146	Point Contact Detectors	$> 1.9 \times 10^{26}$		
	Xe-136	745	Liquid Scintillator	$> 2.6 \times 10^{26}$		
	Se-82	100	Tracking Calorimeter		$> 4.6 \times 10^{24}$	3 years of data
	Xe-136	100	Gas TPC		$> 6.0 \times 10^{25}$	3 years of data
	Te-130	1300	Liquid Scintillator		$> 2.1 \times 10^{26}$	5 years of data
	Xe-136	1000	Liquid Scintillator		$> 10^{27}$	5 years of data
	Mo-100	240	Scintillating Bolometer		$> 10^{27}$	10 years of data
	Ge-76	1000	Point Contact Detectors		$> 10^{28}$	10 years of data
	Xe-136	5000	Liquid TPC		$> 1.35 \times 10^{28}$	10 years of data

# Summary



- Neutrinoless double beta decay is a window to beyond the standard model physics
- There are many experiments with many technologies searching for this decay
- Multiple experiments are needed to disentangle nuclear uncertainties
- Technological upgrades are needed to probe the entire phase space
- The future is bright! Thank you!

# Where to Site your Experiment?





# 2ND INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA DECAY

Held in Sudbury, Canada in April, 2023



- The international stakeholders in neutrinoless double beta decay research who attended this summit (agencies representing Canada, France, Germany, Italy, UK, and USA) agree in principle the best chance for an unambiguous discovery is an international campaign with multiple isotopes and more than one large tonne-scale experiment implemented in the next decade.
- **These stakeholders agree on the need for a coordinated effort to efficiently and cost-effectively advance the field for the proposed double beta decay experiments, as well as the future of the field. To that purpose, these stakeholders agree that a structure for international collaboration on this research should be explored. (e.g., an international virtual observatory for neutrinoless double beta decay).**



