



# DARWIN

Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay  
with The Low-Background  
Low-Threshold Observatory

DARWIN

Marc Schumann *U Freiburg*  
*on behalf of the DARWIN collaboration*

APPEC Community Meeting on  $0\nu\beta\beta$   
London, October 31, 2019

[marc.schumann@physik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:marc.schumann@physik.uni-freiburg.de)  
[www.app.uni-freiburg.de](http://www.app.uni-freiburg.de)

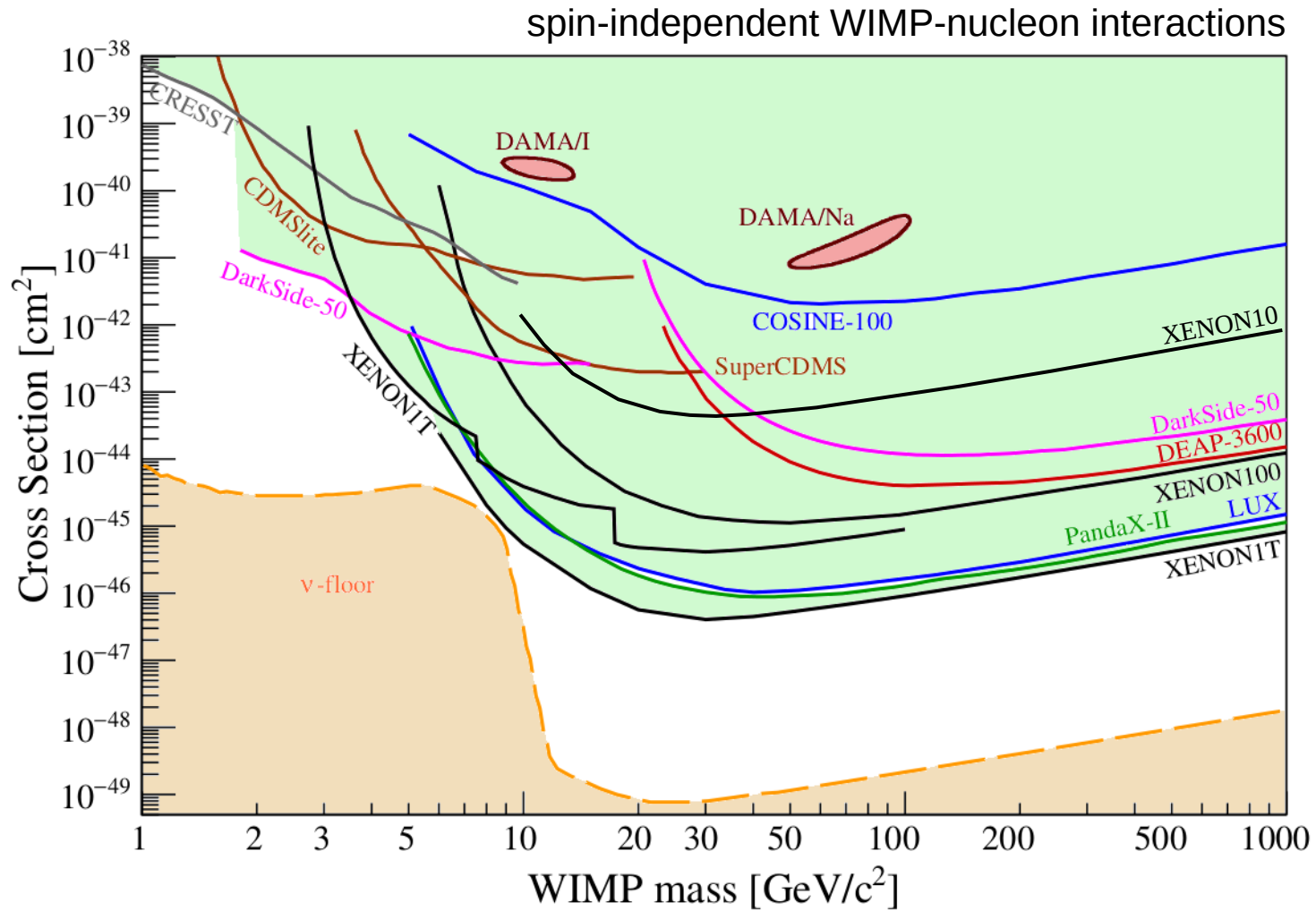


UNI  
FREIBURG



[www.darwin-observatory.org](http://www.darwin-observatory.org)

# Direct WIMP Detection Today

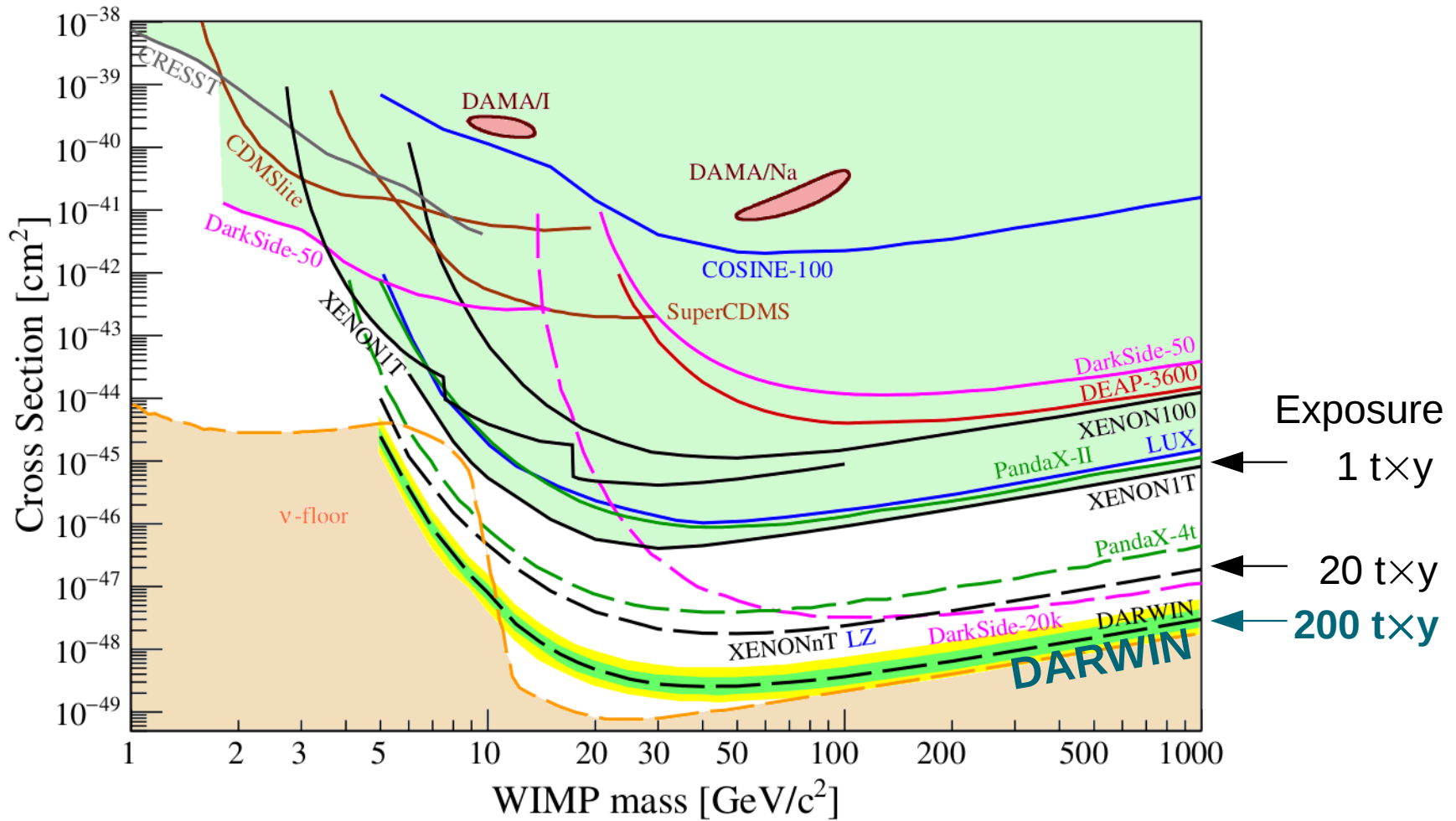


*some results are missing...*

# DARWIN The ultimate WIMP Detector



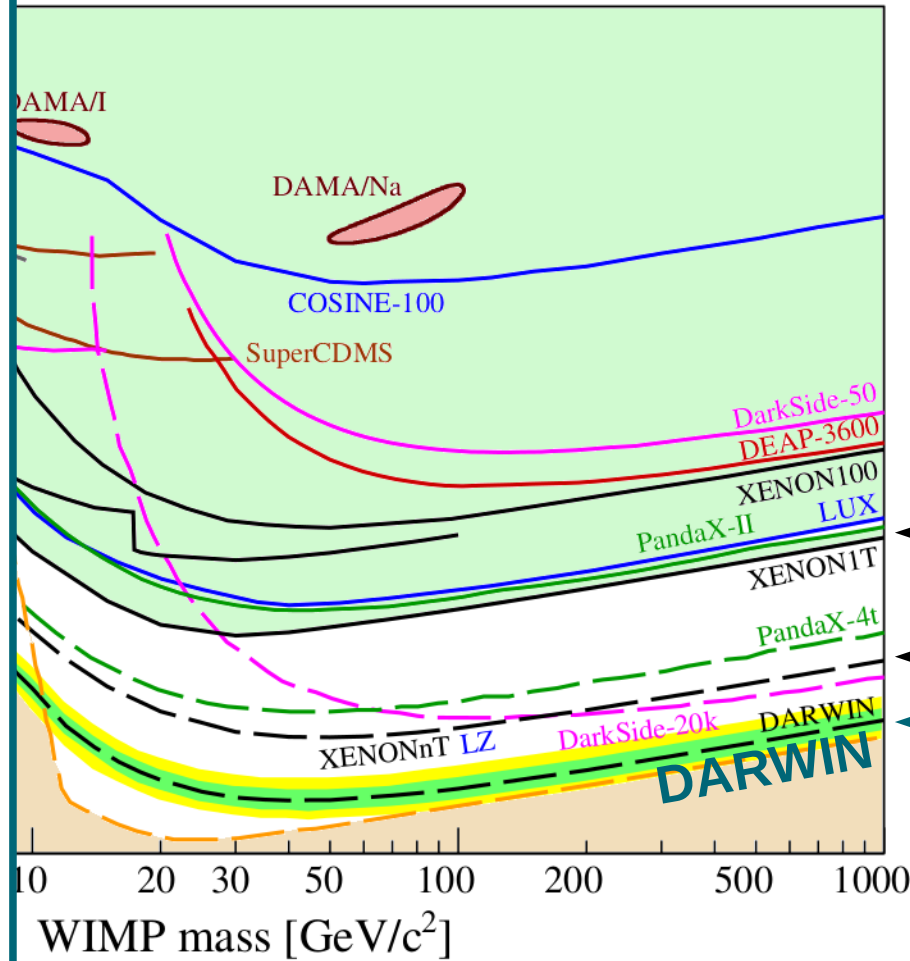
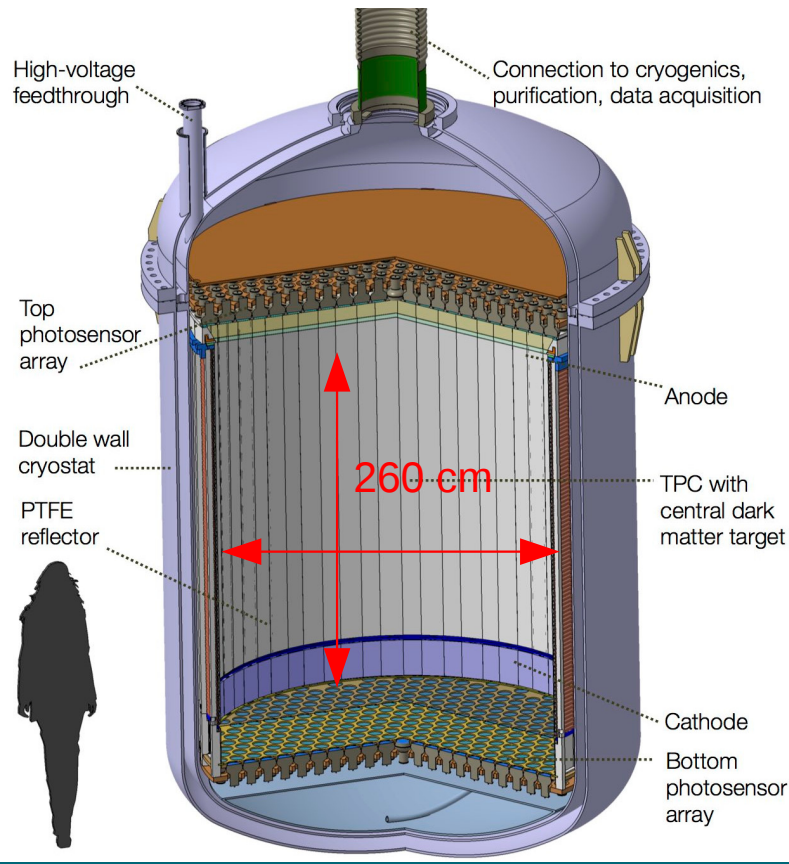
LXe-based



# DARWIN The ultimate WIMP Detector

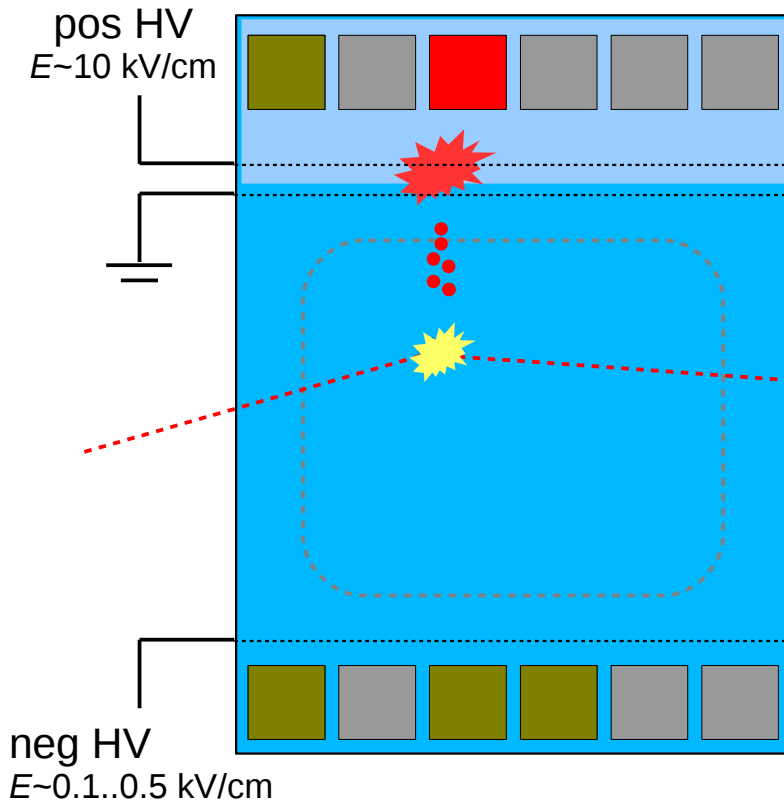
LXe-based

**Baseline scenario**  
 ~50t total LXe mass  
 ~40 t LXe TPC  
 ~30 t fiducial mass

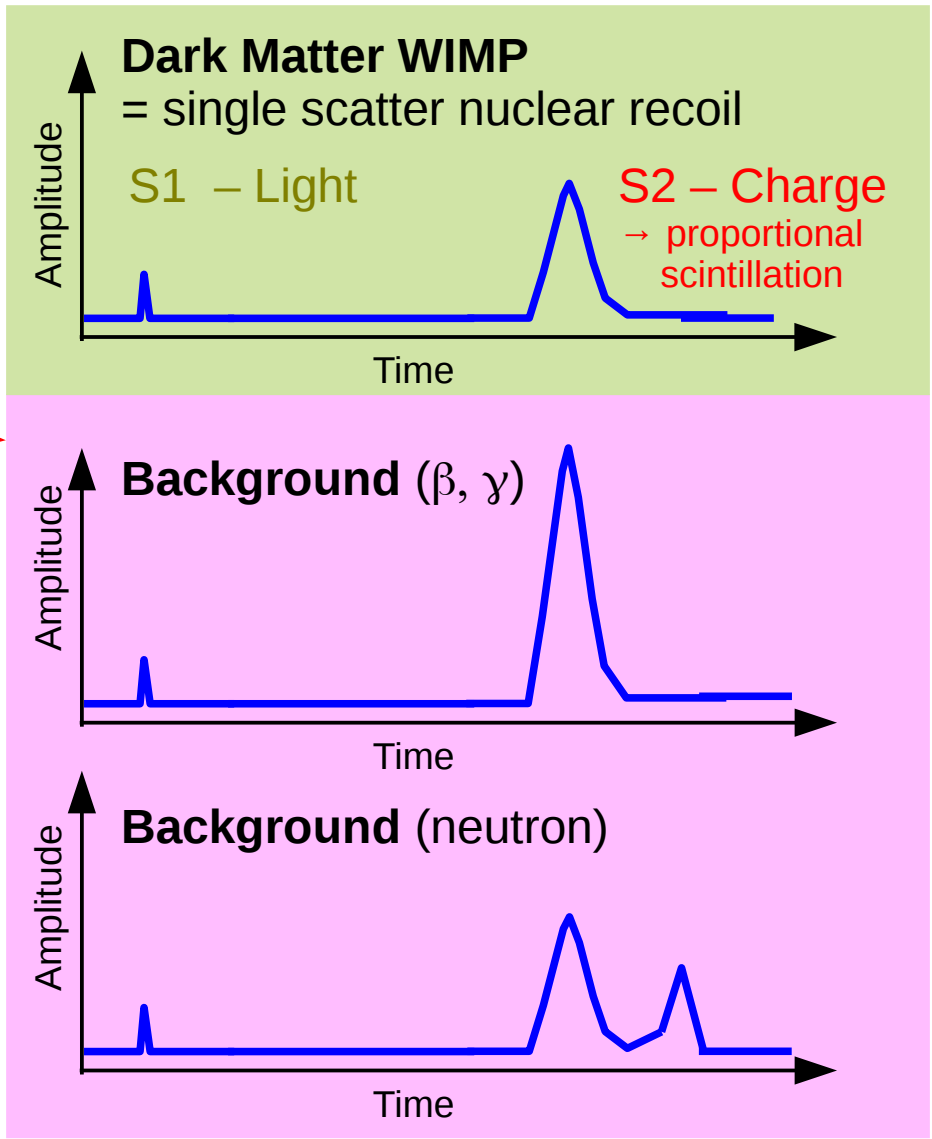


# Dual-Phase LXe TPC

TPC = time projection chamber

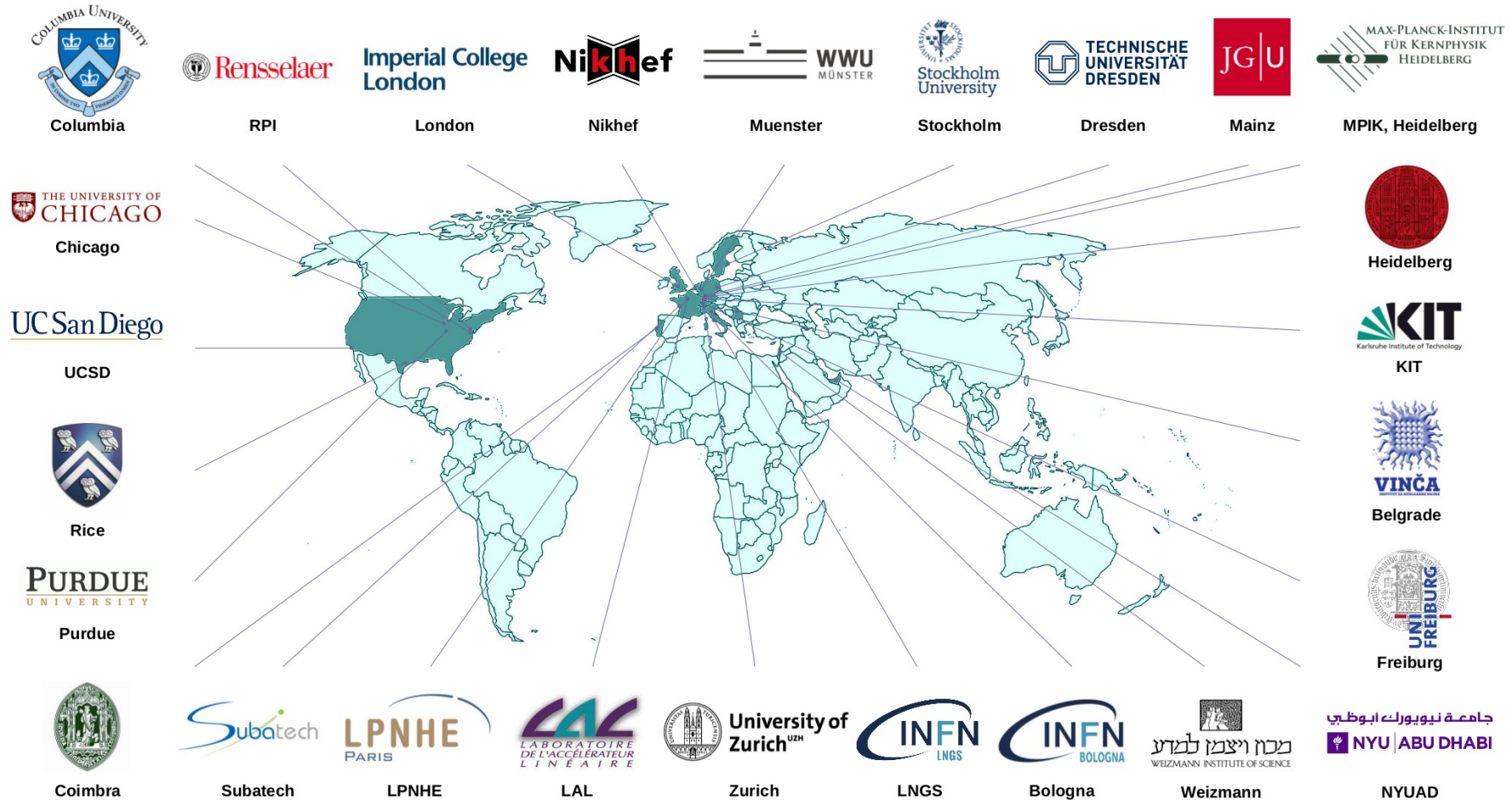


- 3d position reconstruction  
→ target fiducialization
- background rejection





# DARWIN Collaboration



- international collaboration, 26 groups, ~160 scientists → continuously growing
- most XENON plus new groups
- endorsed by several national and international agencies

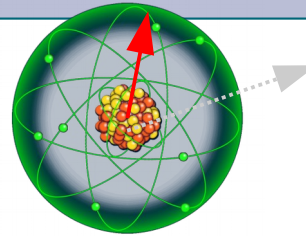
# DARWIN: Science Channels



## Nuclear Recoil Interactions

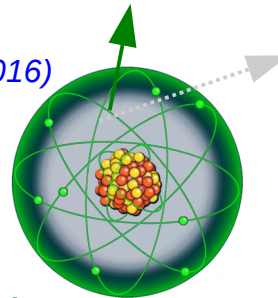
*WIMP dark matter* JCAP 10, 016 (2015)

- spin-independent (S1-S2, charge-only)
- spin-dependent
  - complementary with LHC, indirect det.
- various inelastic models, most EFT couplings



## Coherent neutrino-nucleon scattering (CNNS)

- $^8\text{B}$  neutrinos (low E), atmospheric (high E)
- supernova neutrinos
  - JCAP 1611, 017 (2016)
  - PRD 89, 013011 (2014), PRD 94, 103009 (2016)



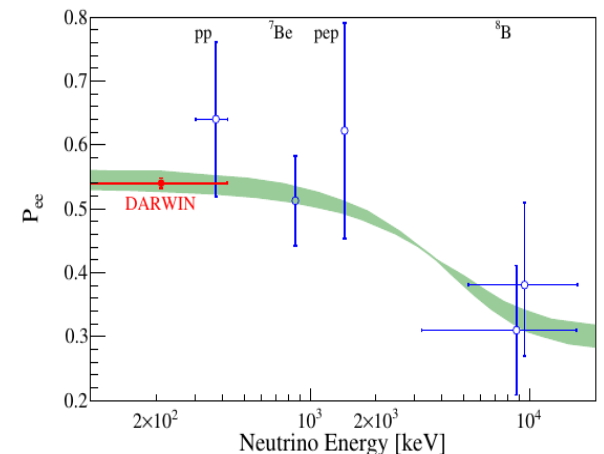
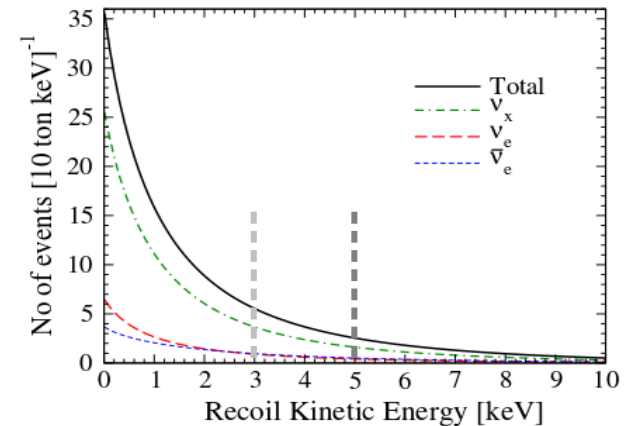
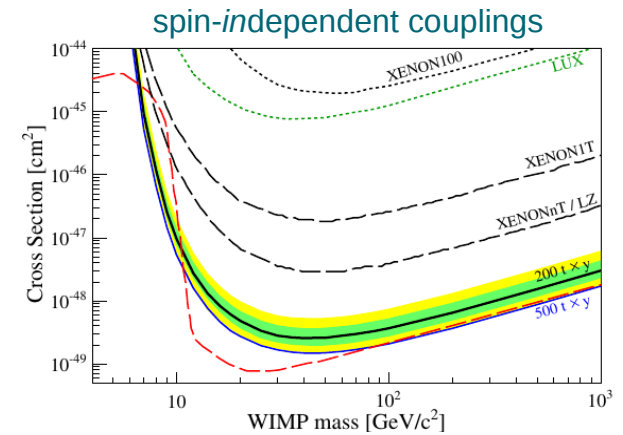
## Electronic Recoil Interactions

### Non-WIMP dark matter and neutrino physics

- axions, ALPs JCAP 1611, 017 (2016)
- sterile neutrinos
  - JCAP 01, 044 (2014)
- pp,  $^7\text{Be}$ : precision flux measurements
- CNO neutrinos with  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ -depleted Xe PRD 99, 043006 (2019)

### Rare nuclear events

- $0\nu\beta\beta$  ( $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ),  $0\nu\text{EC}$  ( $^{124}\text{Xe}$ ), ...
  - JCAP 01, 044 (2014)



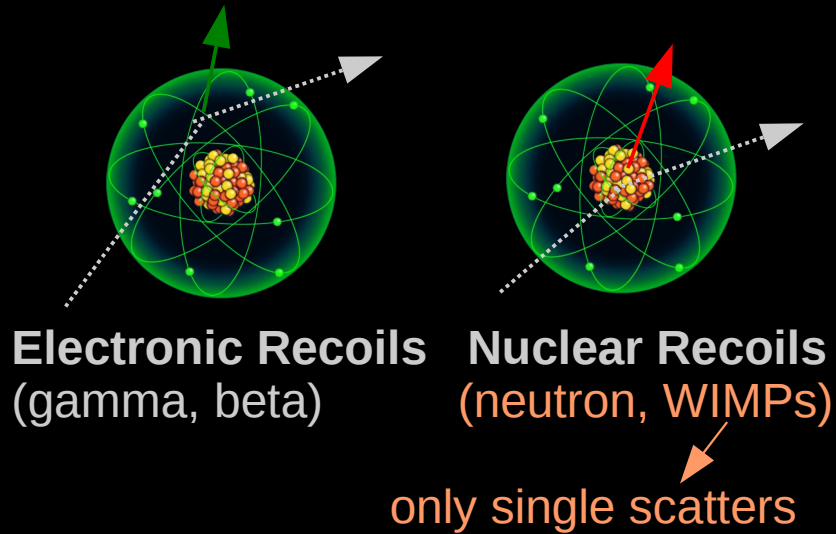
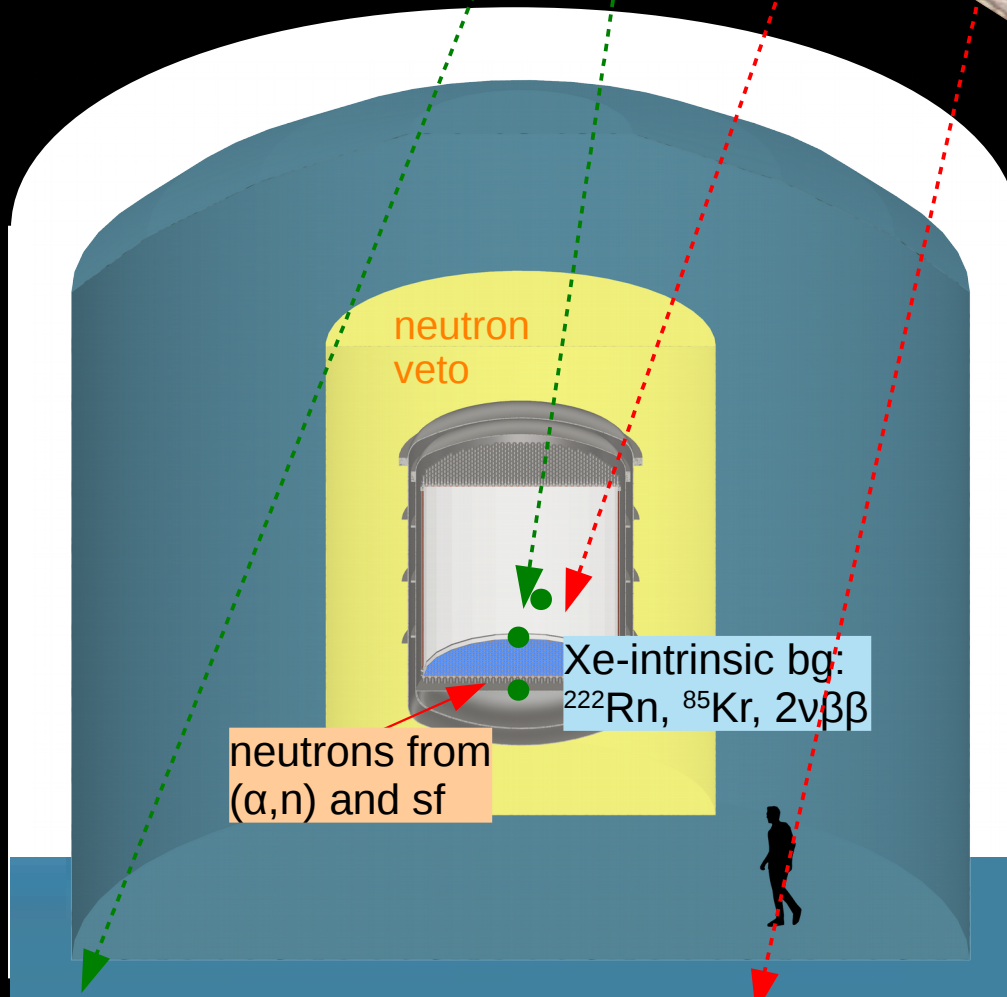
# DARWIN WIMP Backgrounds

pp+<sup>7</sup>Be neutrinos  
→ ER signature

high-E neutrinos  
→ CNNS bg  
→ NR signature

Remaining background sources:  
– Neutrinos (→ ERs and NRs)  
– Detector materials (→ n)  
– Xe-intrinsic isotopes (→ e<sup>-</sup>)  
(assume negligible  
μ-induced background)

*JCAP 10, 016 (2015)*

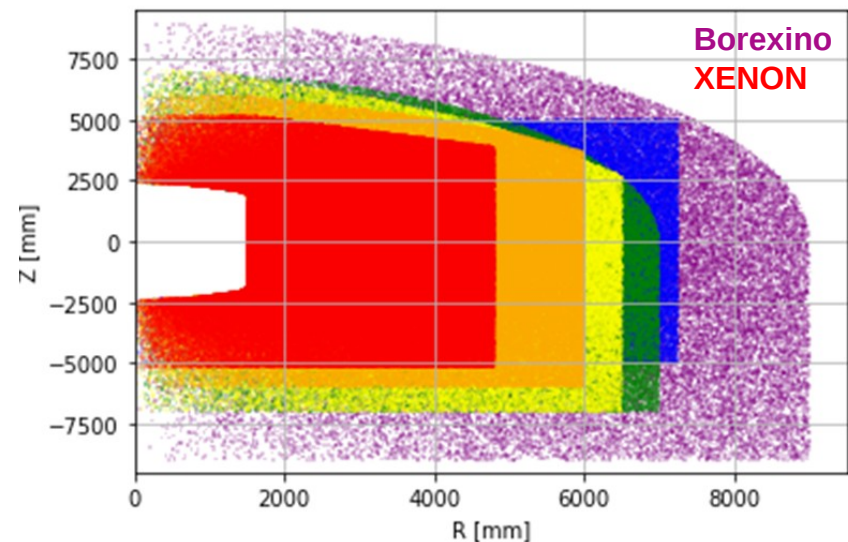
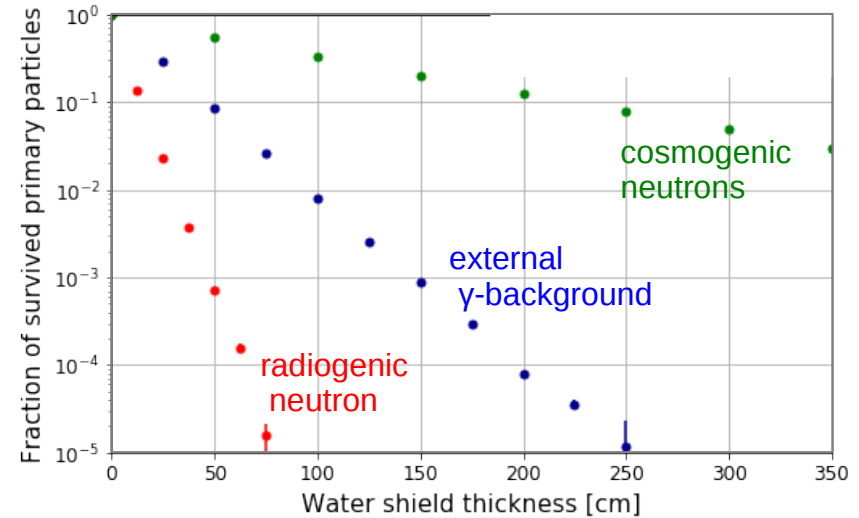




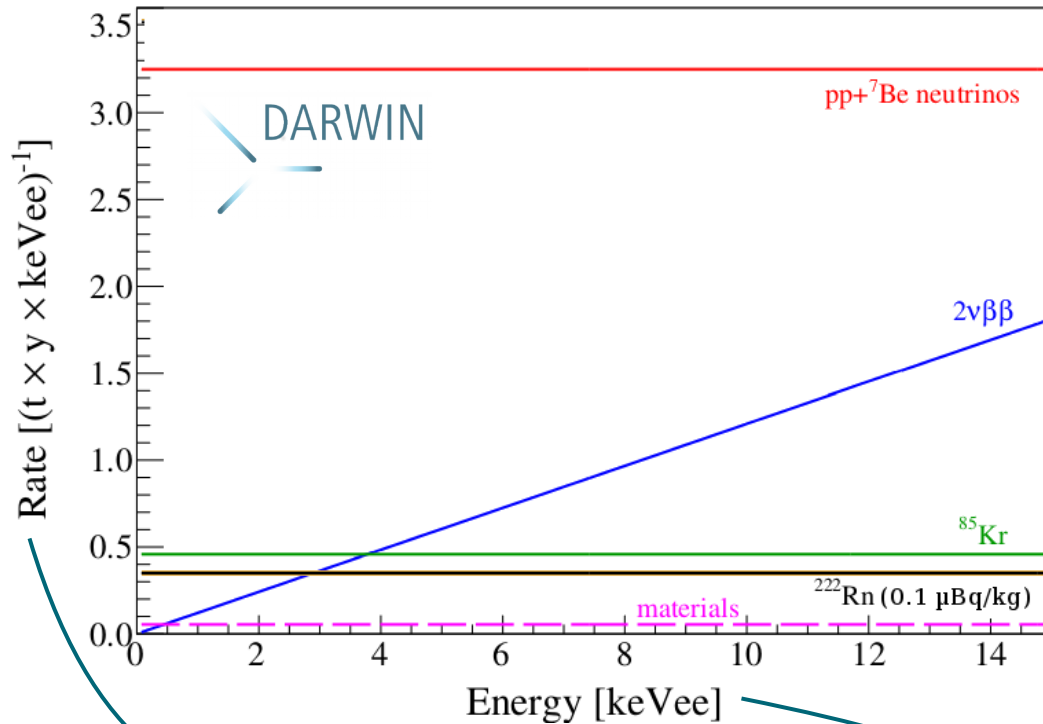
# Water Shield @ LNGS

## Full MC Simulation for 3600 mwe

- site not yet chosen, Lol to LNGS submitted
- external  $\gamma$ , n background irrelevant after  $>2.5\text{m}$
- critical:  $\mu$ -induced neutrons of high energy
- studied several water shield geometries between XENON and Borexino tank
- **12m tank:  $\sim 0.4 \text{ n}/(200 \text{ t}\times\text{y})$**   
**Borexino:  $< 0.05 \text{ n}/(200 \text{ t}\times\text{y})$**
- Gd-loaded water further reduces numbers
- **direct radiogenic and cosmogenic background irrelevant for  $0\nu\beta\beta$**
- **only muon-induced activation matters**



# DARWIN ER Background



- Kr removed by cryogenic distillation  
*EPJ. C 77, 275 (2017)*  
→ DARWIN goal already achieved!
- Rn removed by combination of
  - material production
  - material selection
  - surface treatment
  - detector design
  - cryogenic distillation  
*EPJ C 77, 358 (2017)*



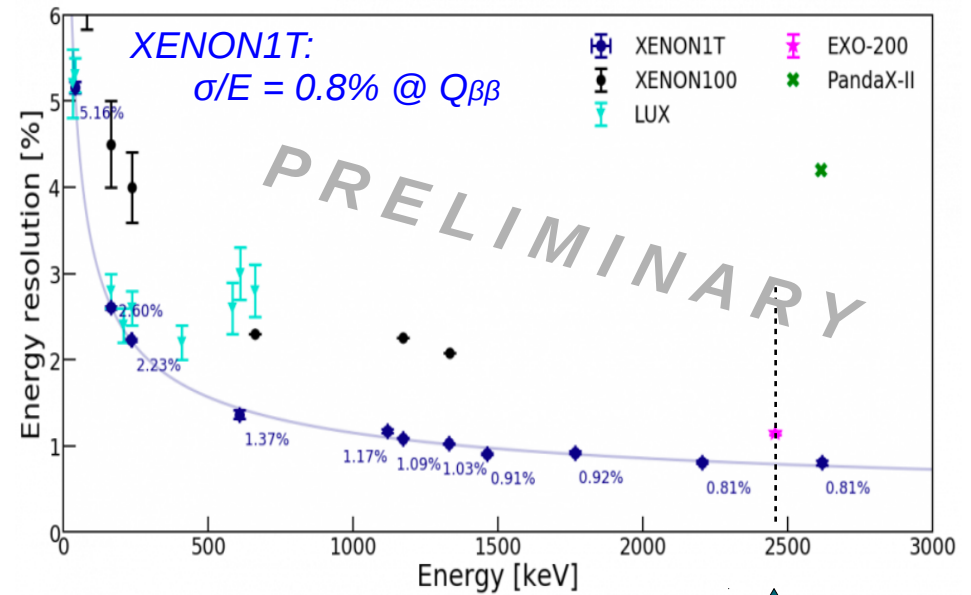
**DARWIN = A low-background, low-threshold observatory for astroparticle physics**

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ with DARWIN?!!!

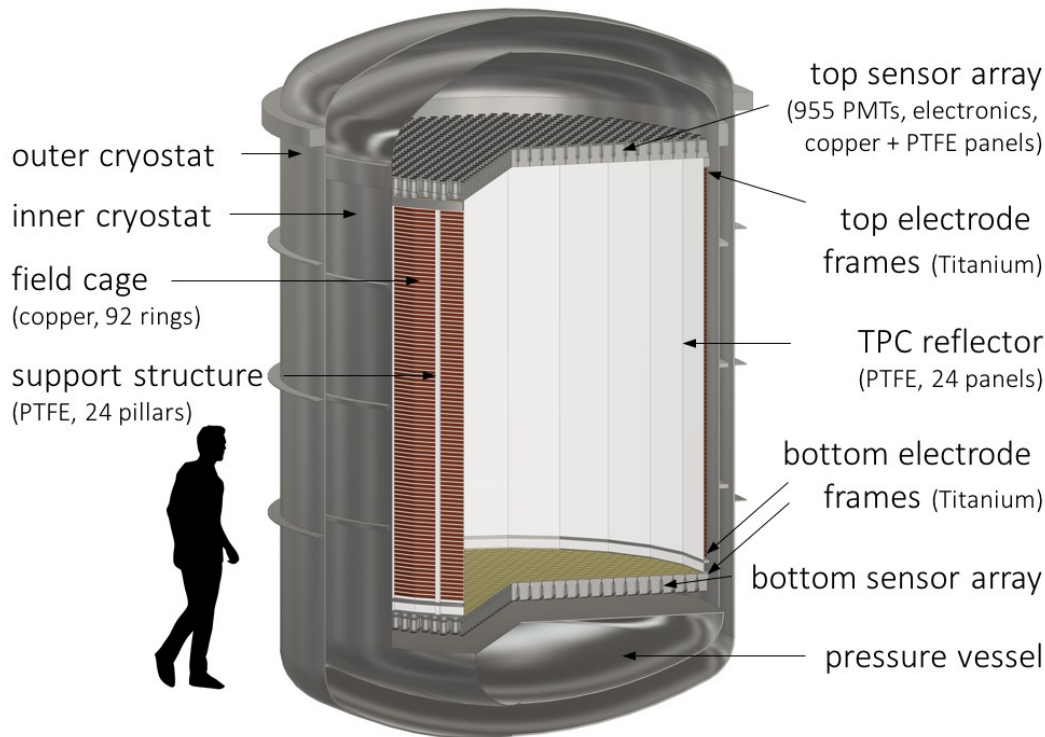
The 40t LXe target contains **3.5t of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$**  without any expensive enrichment.

immediate advantages:

- get  $0\nu\beta\beta$  detector „for free“
- fiducialization is much „cheaper“
- excellent  $E$ -resolution demonstrated by XENON1T



# Sensitivity Studies



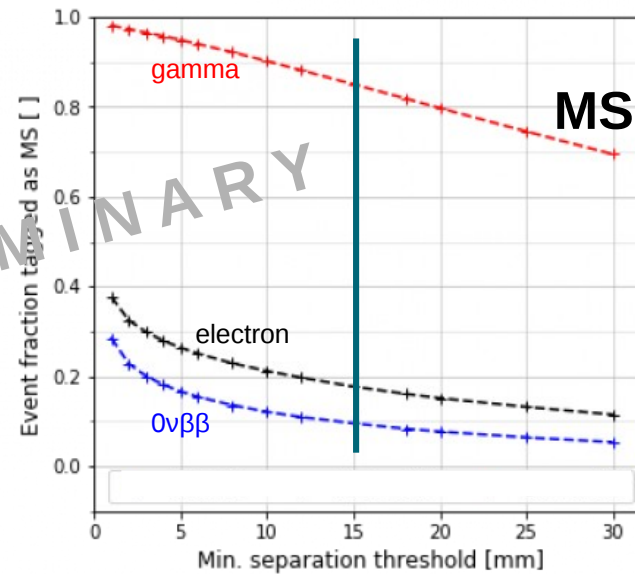
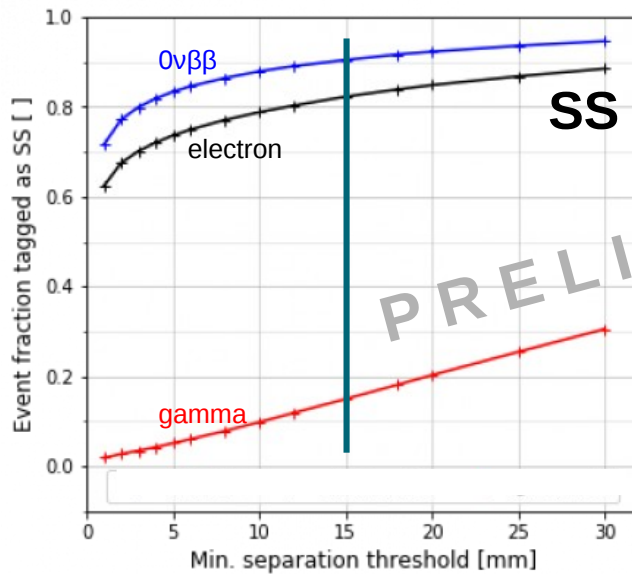
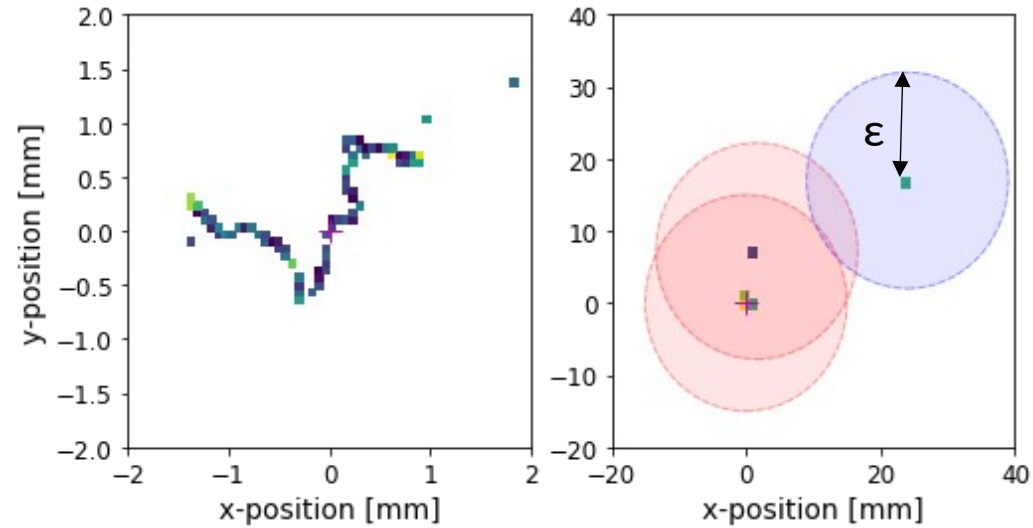
Element	Material	Mass
Outer Cryostat	Ti	3.04 t
Inner Cryostat	Ti	2.10 t
Bottom Pressure Vessel	Ti	0.38 t
LXe instrumented Target	LXe	39.3 t
LXe Buffer outside the TPC	LXe	9.00 t
LXe around Pressure Vessel	LXe	0.27 t
GXe in top dome + TPC top	GXe	30 kg
TPC Reflector (3mm thickness)	PTFE	146 kg
Structural support Pillars (24 units)	PTFE	84 kg
Electrode Frames	Ti	120 kg
Field Shaping Rings (92 units)	Copper	680 kg
Photosensor Arrays (2 disks):		
Disk structural support	Copper	520 kg
Reflector + sliding panels	PTFE	70 kg
Photosensors: 3" PMTs (1910 Units)	PMT	363 kg
Sensor Electronics (1910 Units)	composite	5.7 kg

- Geant4 model with reasonable level of details
  - Inputs: published materials from XENON1T (PTFE, Cu, R11410-21 PMTs+electronics)  
LZ (Ti + cosmogenic activation of  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ )
- **room for improvement**
- better materials (no optimization for  $0\nu\beta\beta$ )
  - upper limits considered as detection



# Event Topology

- treat  $0\nu\beta\beta$  as single-site (SS) event
  - not true if  $e^-$  emits Bremsstrahlung
  - event misidentified as MS and rejected
- gamma background mostly multi-site (MS)
- assume  $\epsilon=15$  mm for SS/MS identification
  - optimum probably smaller (especially in z)
  - diffusion limited → room for improvement



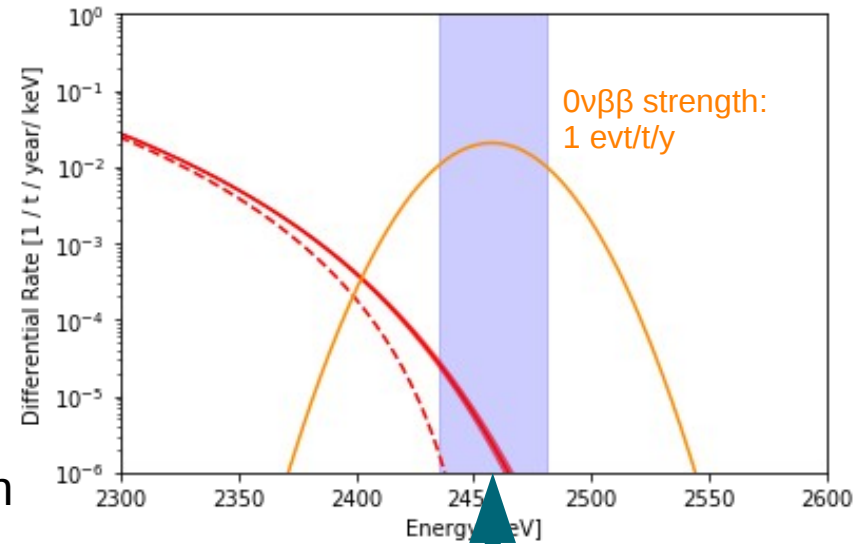
# Intrinsic Backgrounds

**$2\nu\beta\beta$ :** subdominant due to 0.8% E-resolution

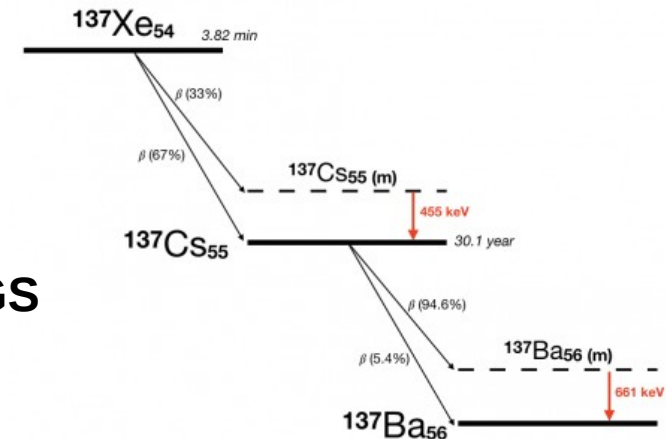
**$^8\text{B}$  neutrinos:** irreducible, flat background  
11% of intrinsic background at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$

**$^{222}\text{Rn}$  in LXe:** reduced to 0.1  $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$  for WIMP search  
„naked“  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  beta-decay (BR~20%)  
→ some SS/MS misidentification  
→ 99.8% suppression by BiPo tagging

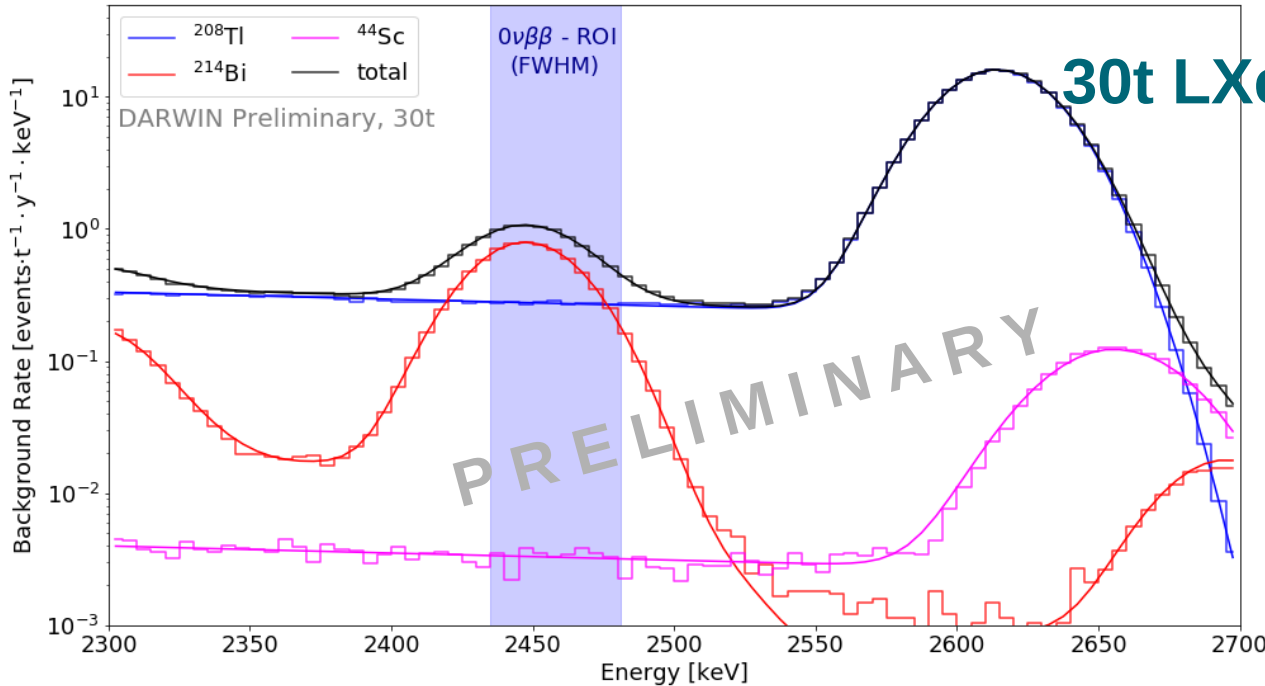
**$^{137}\text{Xe}$  decay:** production via  $^{136}\text{Xe} + n \rightarrow ^{137}\text{Xe} \rightarrow e^- + ^{137}\text{Cs}$   
production dominated by  $\mu$ -induced neutrons  
 $\tau=3.8$  min → hard to veto  
„naked“ beta-decay: BR=67%  
→ **if no further suppression, this is the dominating intrinsic background at LNGS**



**ROI = 1 FWHM  
= 2435-2481 keV**



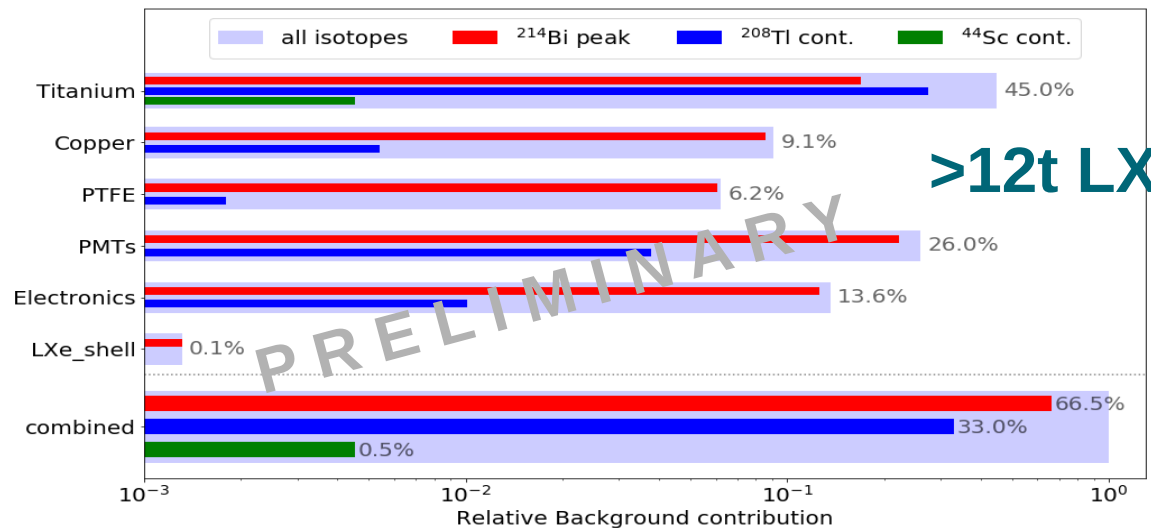
# External (Material) Background



External Background around  $Q_{\beta\beta}$

30t LXe

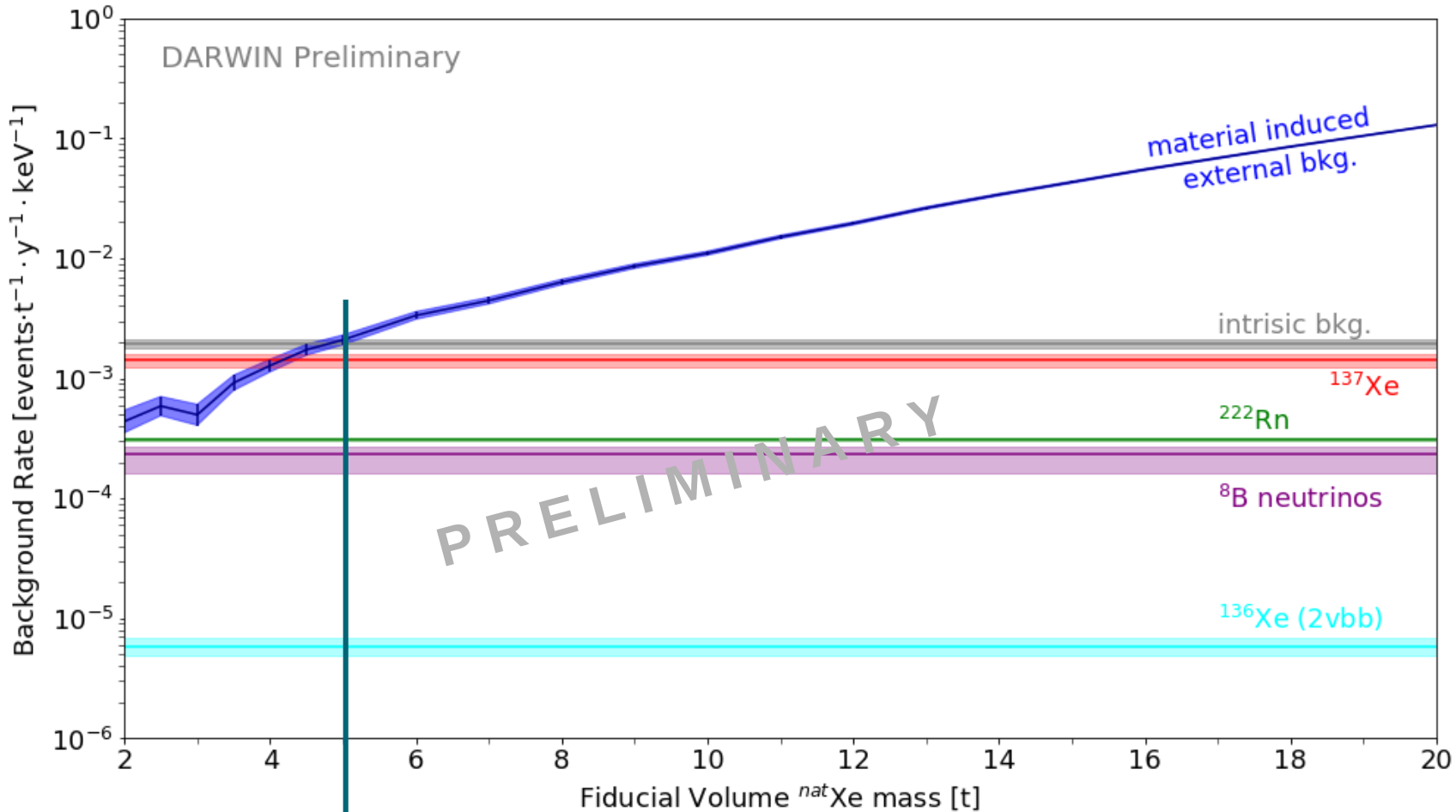
## External Background Sources



>12t LXe

→ Optimize Fiducialization to optimize Background

# Background Optimization



Sensitivity:  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} = \ln 2 \frac{\epsilon f_{ROI} \alpha N_A}{1.64 M_{Xe}} \frac{\sqrt{Mt}}{\sqrt{B\Delta E}}$  **B=4.1×10<sup>-6</sup> cts/kg/y/keV**

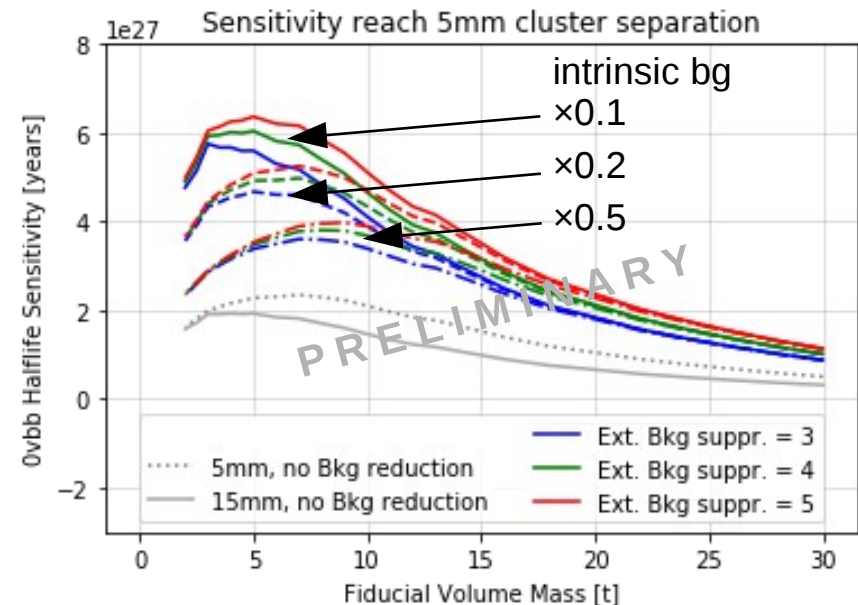
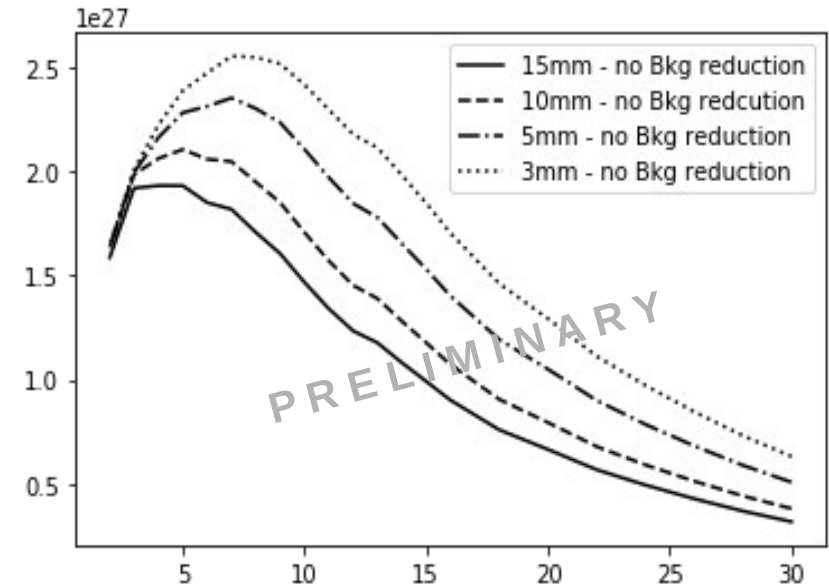
**$T_{1/2} > 2 \times 10^{27} \text{ y}$**  (4.4 t×y <sup>136</sup>Xe exposure)



# DARWIN Sensitivity Reach

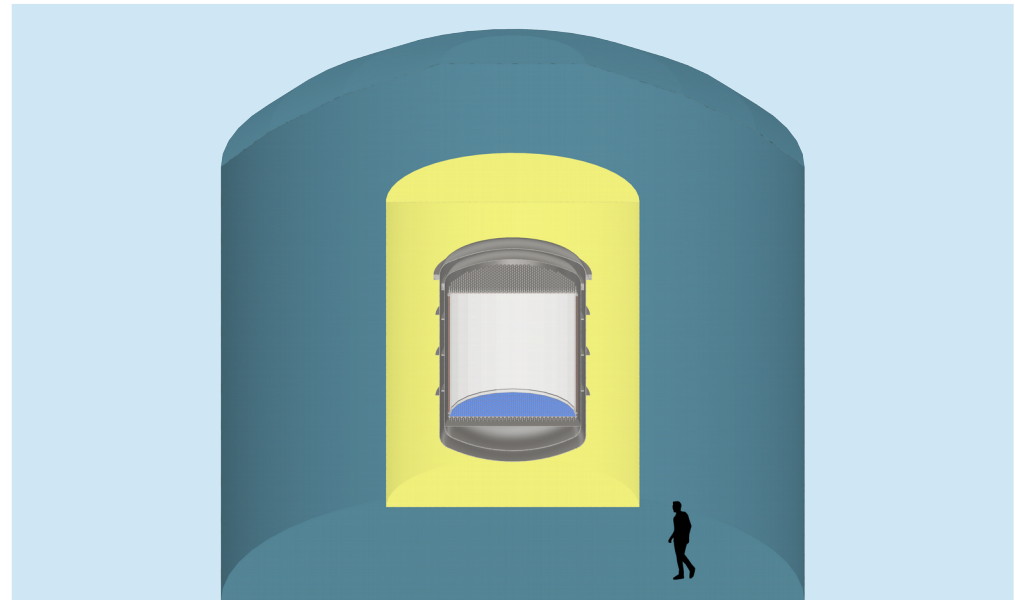
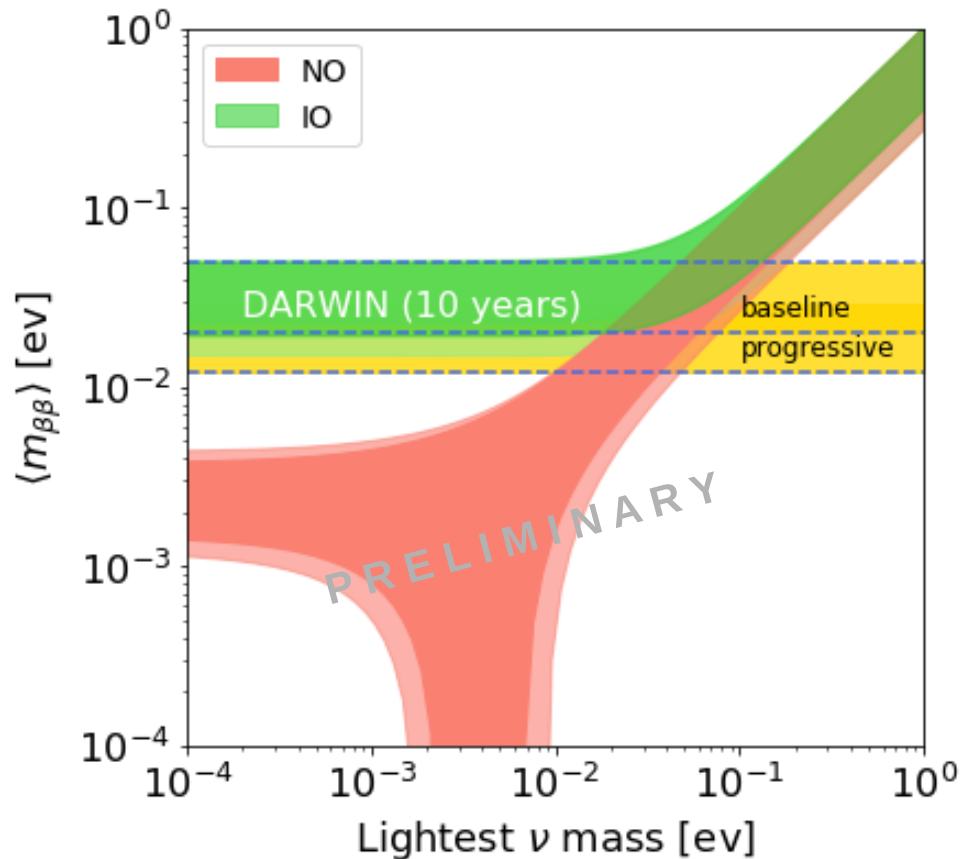


- current study not „optimized“ for  $0\nu\beta\beta$
- pre-achieved radioactivity levels
- What could possibly be improved?
  - top array made of SiPM
    - improve xy-resolution, reduce  $\epsilon$
    - factor 2 reduction of PMT background
  - identify cleaner materials
    - low-background R11410 PMTs
    - EXO-type PTFE
    - better cryostat, electronics
    - suppression of external bg
  - reduction of intrinsic background
    - veto for  $^{137}\text{Xe}$ ? (maybe factor  $\sim 2$ ?)
    - deeper lab (almost factor 10 possible)
  - improve energy reconstruction
    - mitigate detector effects
    - machine learning techniques



# Exciting $0\nu\beta\beta$ Opportunities

**DARWIN:** much more than  
**The ultimate Dark Matter Detector**  
 → **The low-background, low-threshold  
 Astroparticle Physics Observatory**  
 with competitive  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -sensitivity



- **DARWIN can be done at LNGS**  
 → need  $\geq 12m$  water shield
- Timeline: R&D and construction parallel to XENONnT data taking

