Paleo-detectors for Galactic SN Neutrinos

Patrick Stengel

Stockholm University

July 31, 2020

1906.05800 [this talk] with S. Baum, T.D.P. Edwards, B.J. Kavanagh, A.K. Drukier, K. Freese, M. Górski and C. Weniger

2004.08394 [atmospheric ν's] with J.R. Jordan, S. Baum, A. Ferrari, M.C. Marone, P. Sala and J. Spitz

Galactic CC SN ν's can induce recoils in paleo-detectors

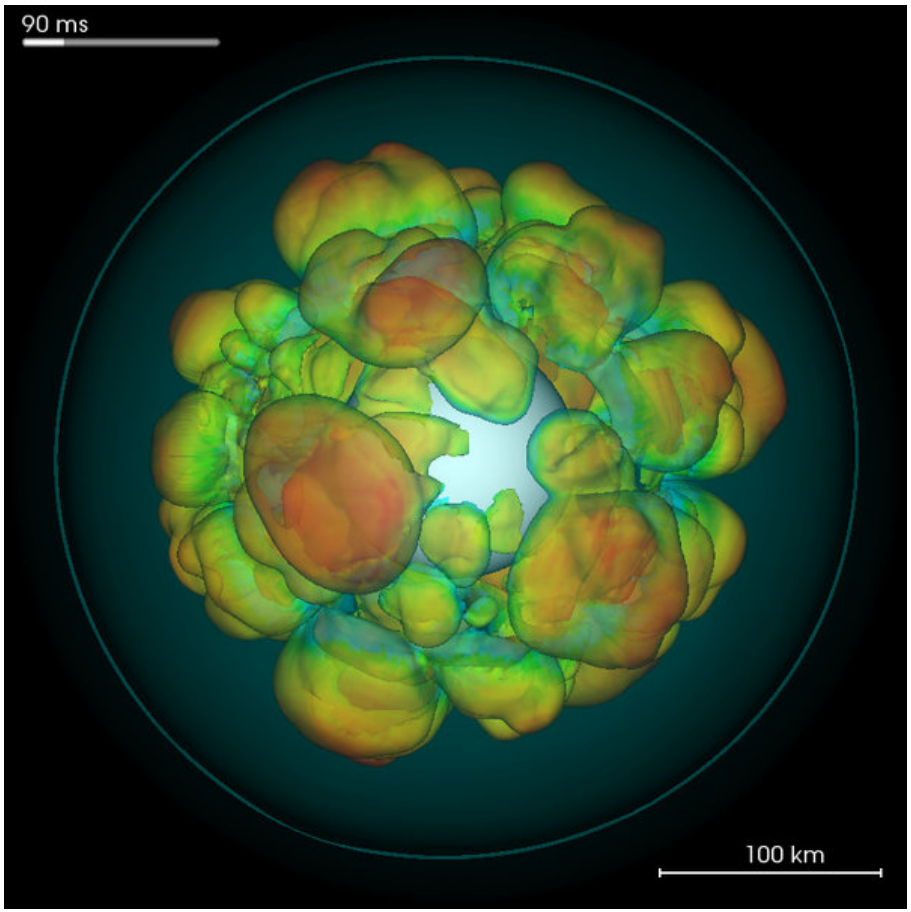
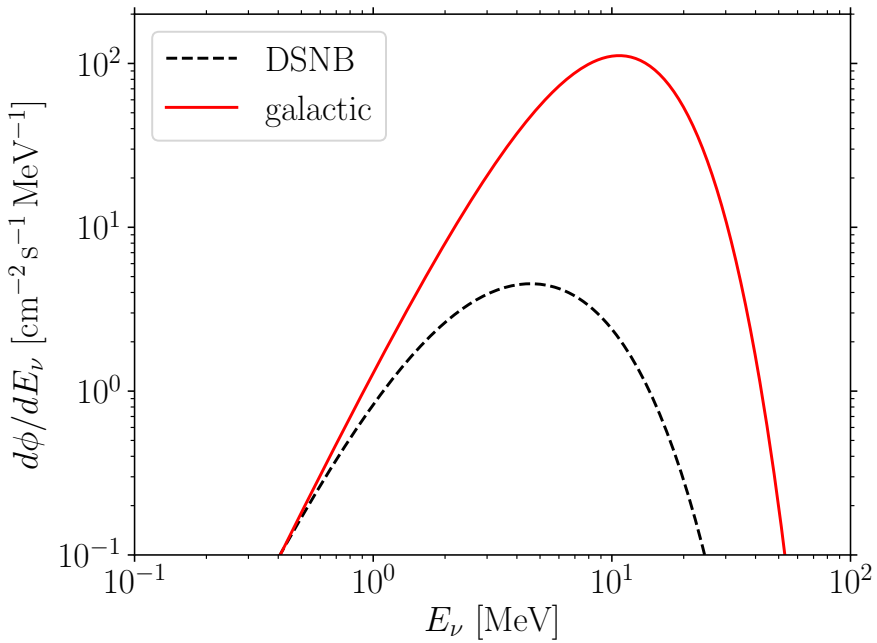


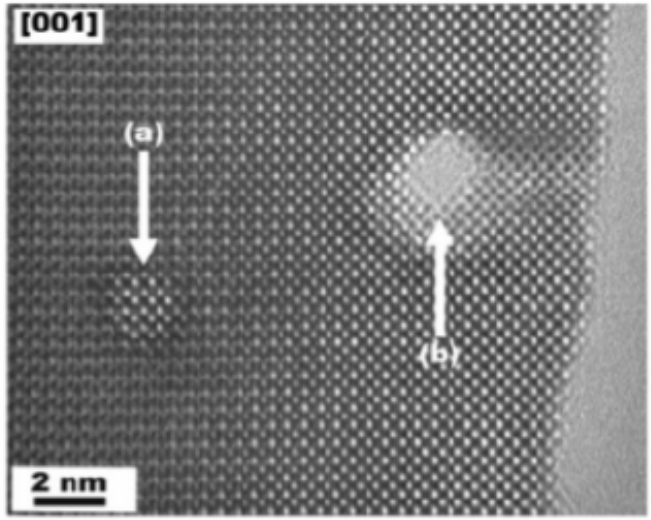
Figure: Supernova simulation after CC

Only $\sim$ 2 SN 1987A events/century

- Measure galactic CC SN rate
- Traces star formation history

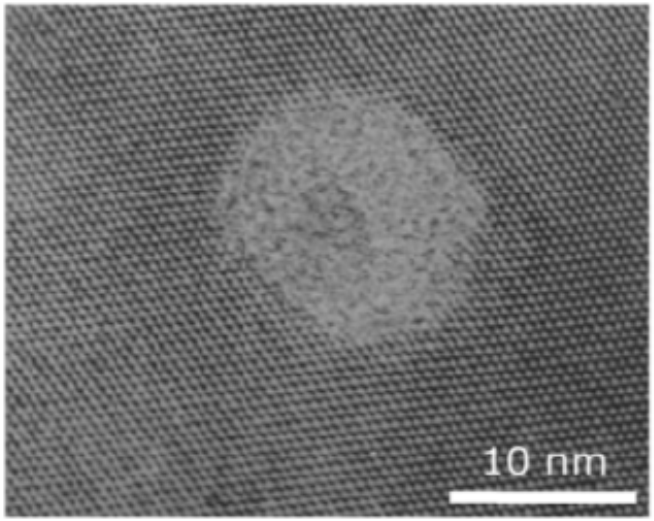


Modern TEM allows for accurate characterization of tracks

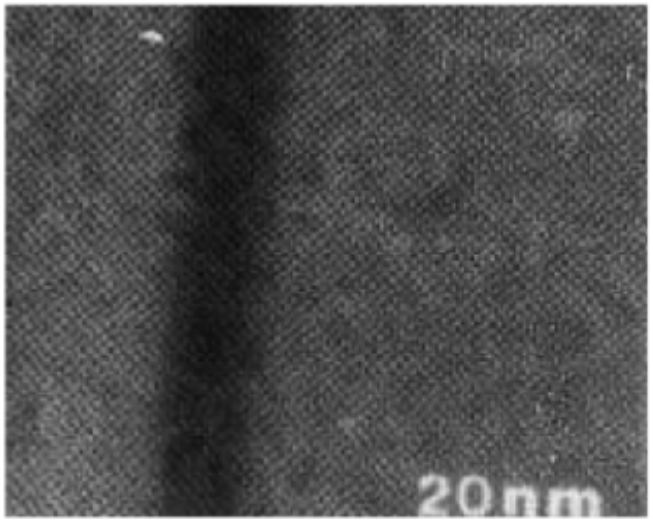


[Toulemonde+, '06]

Cd on SnO_2

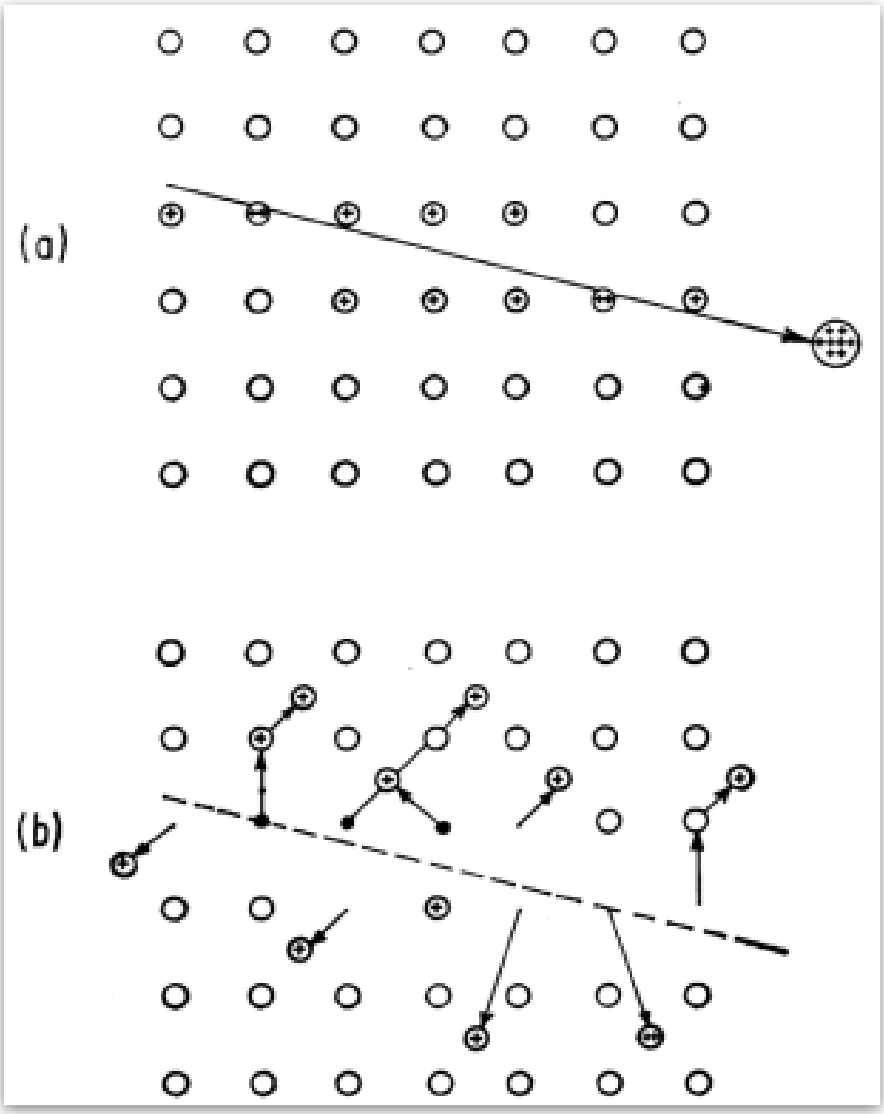


Pb on Mica



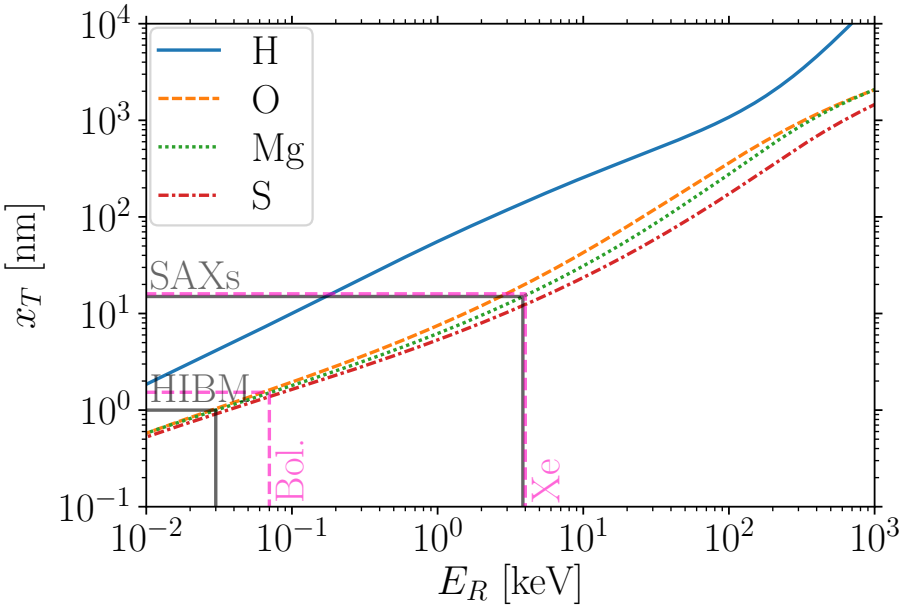
Xe on $Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$

Paleo-detectors look for damage from recoiling nuclei



Track length from stopping power

$$x_T(E_R) = \int_0^{E_R} dE \left| \frac{dE}{dx_T}(E) \right|^{-1}$$



Cosmogenic backgrounds suppressed in deep boreholes

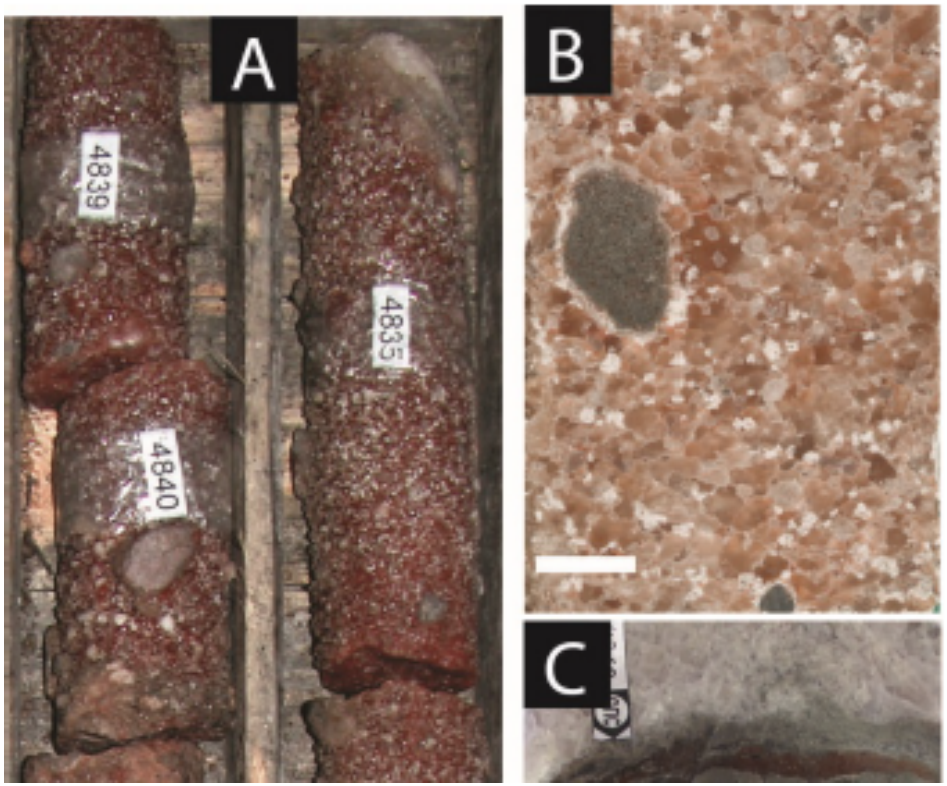


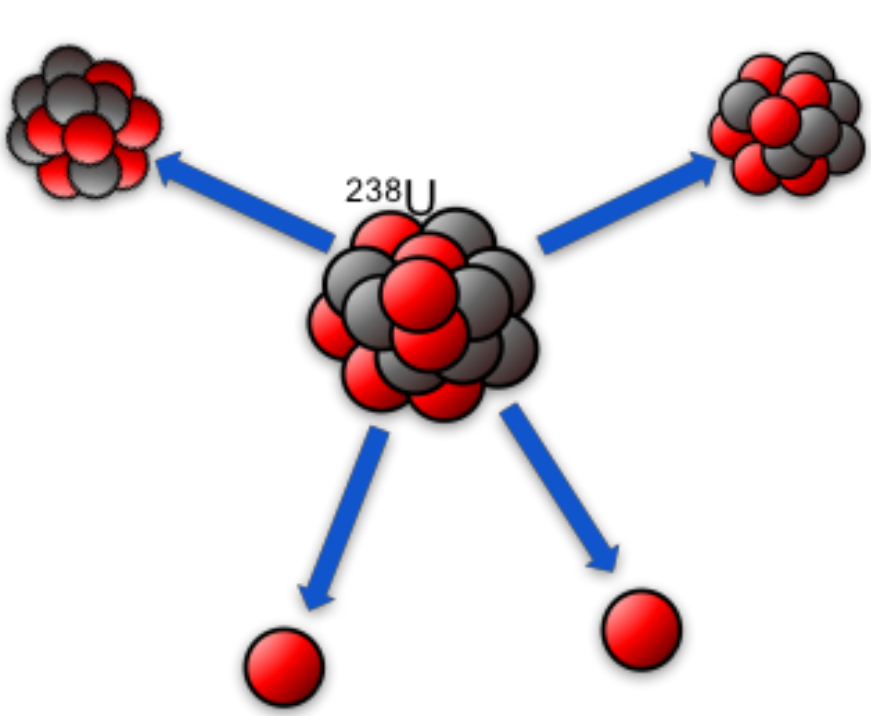
Figure: $\sim$ 2Gyr old Halite cores from $\sim$ 3km, as discussed in Blättler+ '18

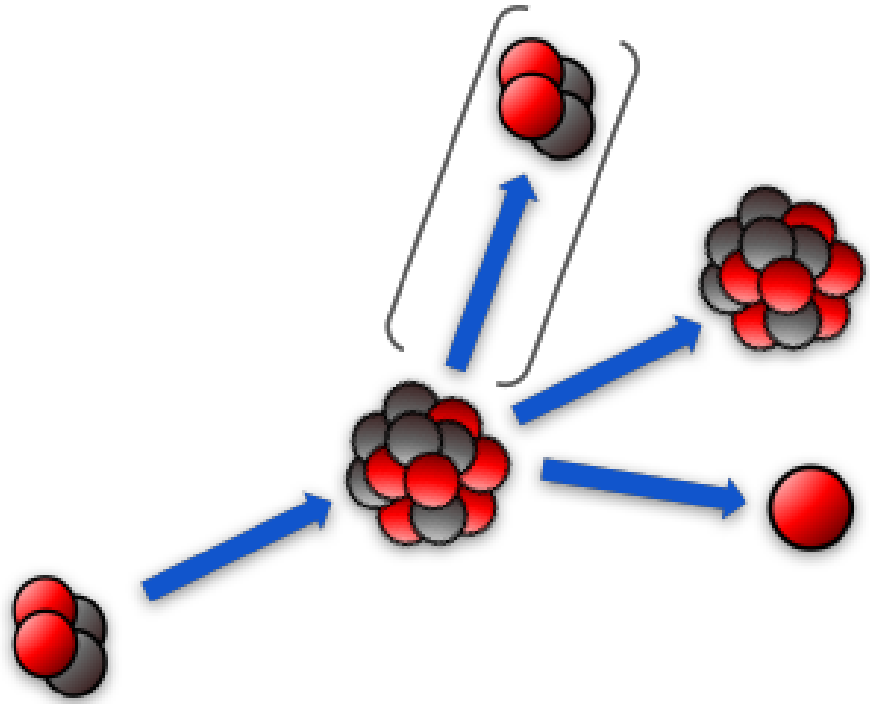
Depth	Neutron Flux
2 km	$10^6/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{Gyr}$
5 km	$10^2/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{Gyr}$
6 km	$10/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{Gyr}$
50 m	$70/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{yr}$
100 m	$30/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{yr}$
500 m	$2/\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{yr}$

Need minerals with low ^{238}U

- Marine evaporites with $C^{238} \gtrsim 0.01\,\mathrm{ppb}$
- Ultra-basic rocks from mantle, $C^{238} \gtrsim 0.1\,\mathrm{ppb}$

Fast neutrons from SF and (α, n) interactions





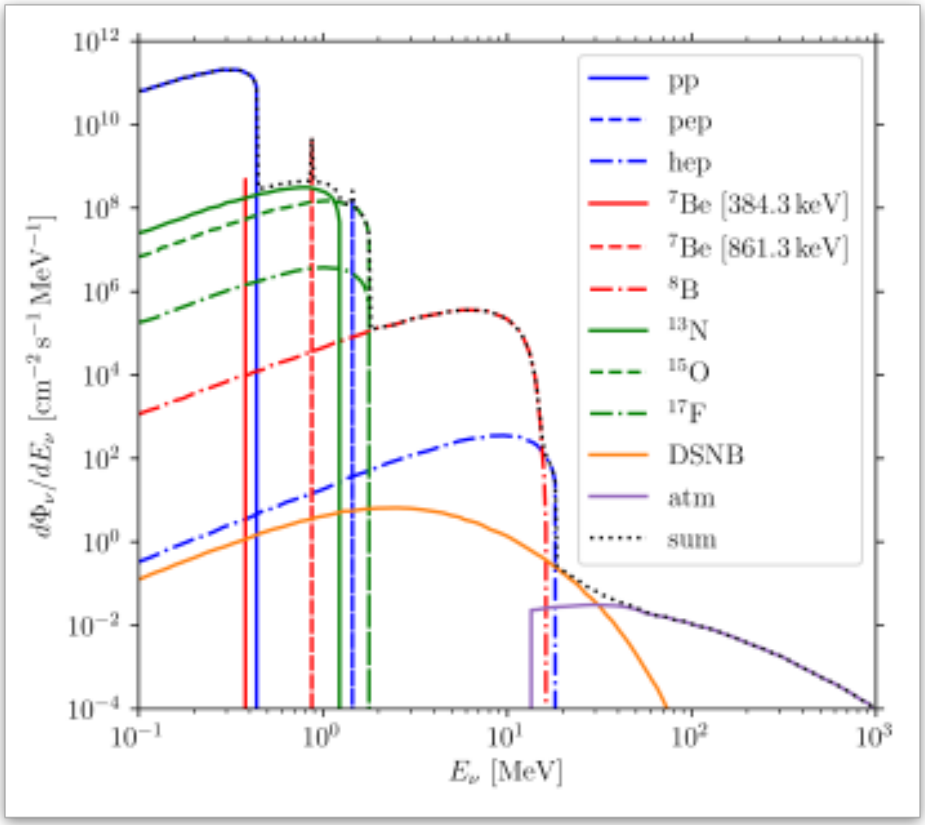
SF yields ∼2 neutrons with ∼MeV

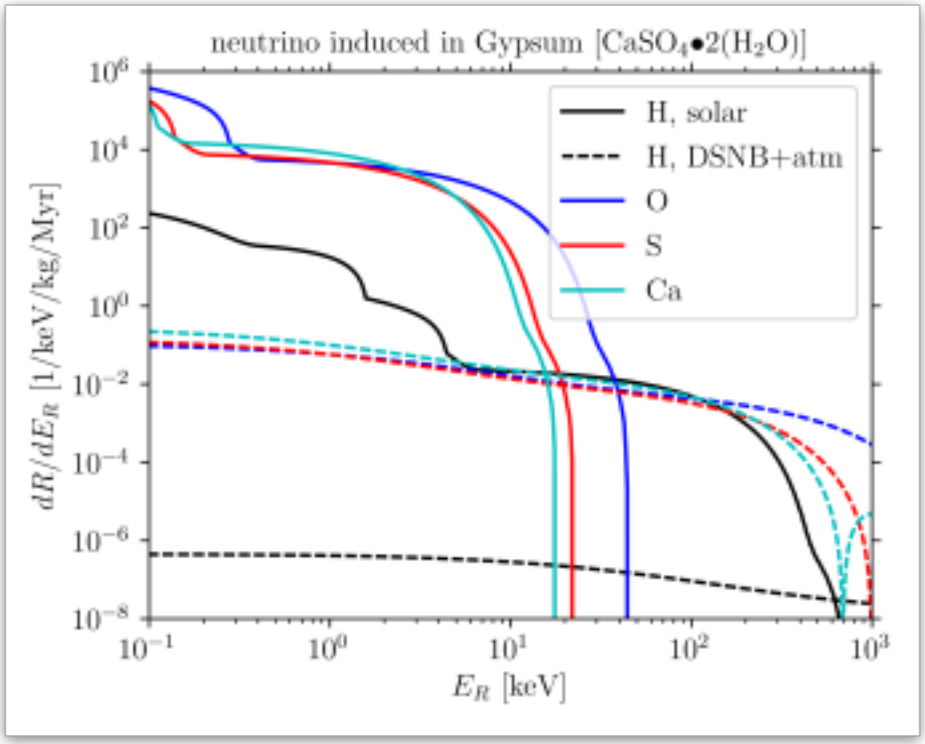
Each neutron will scatter elastically 10-1000 times before moderating

(α, n) rate low, many decay α's

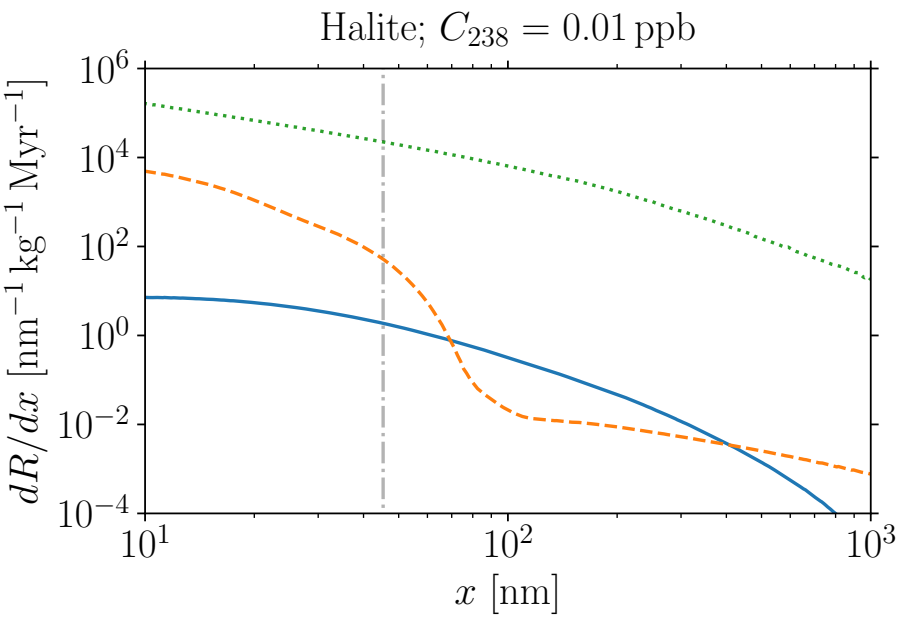
Heavy targets better for (α, n) and bad for neutron moderation, need H

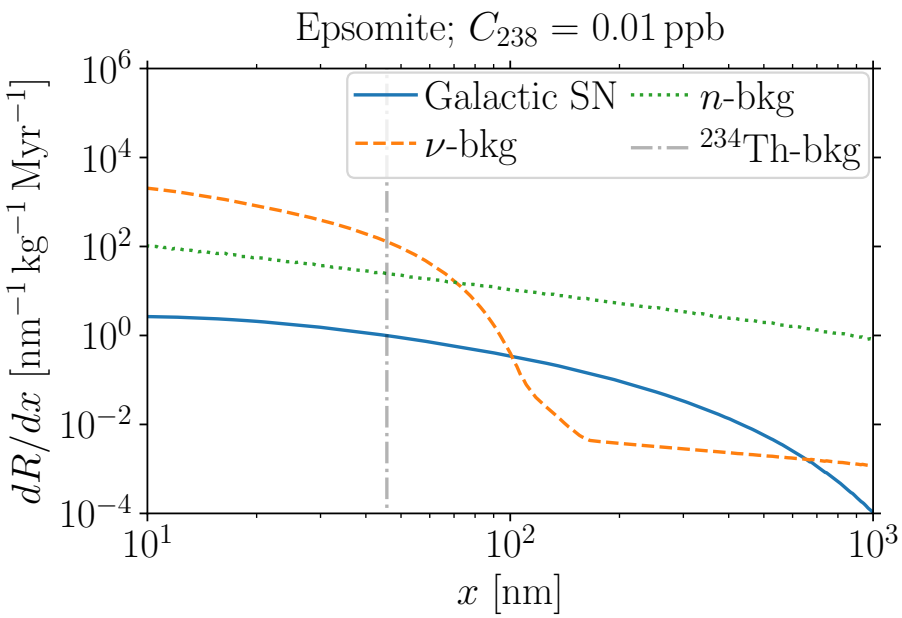
Solar and atmospheric ν background recoils bracket signal





Track length spectra for detecting galactic CC SN ν's



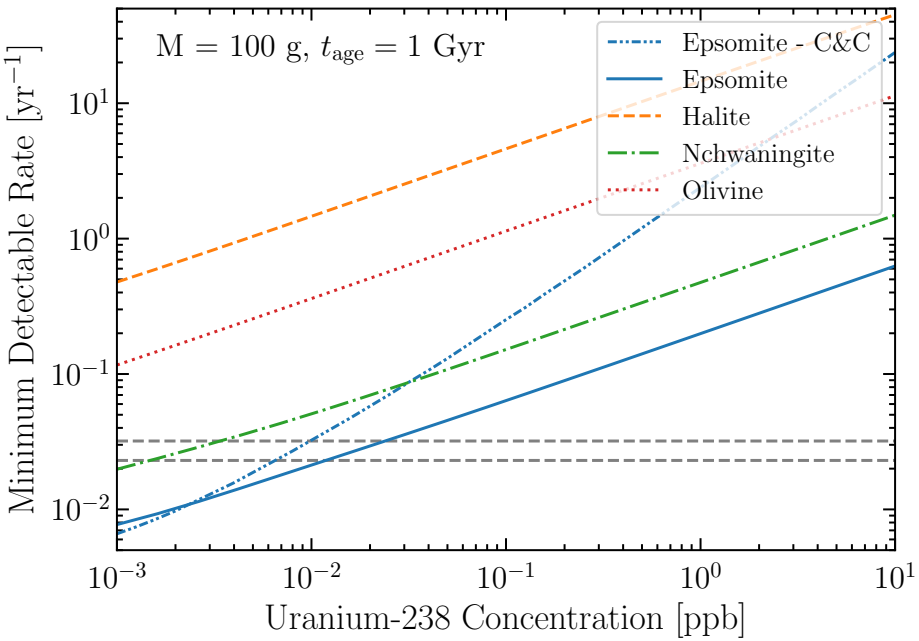


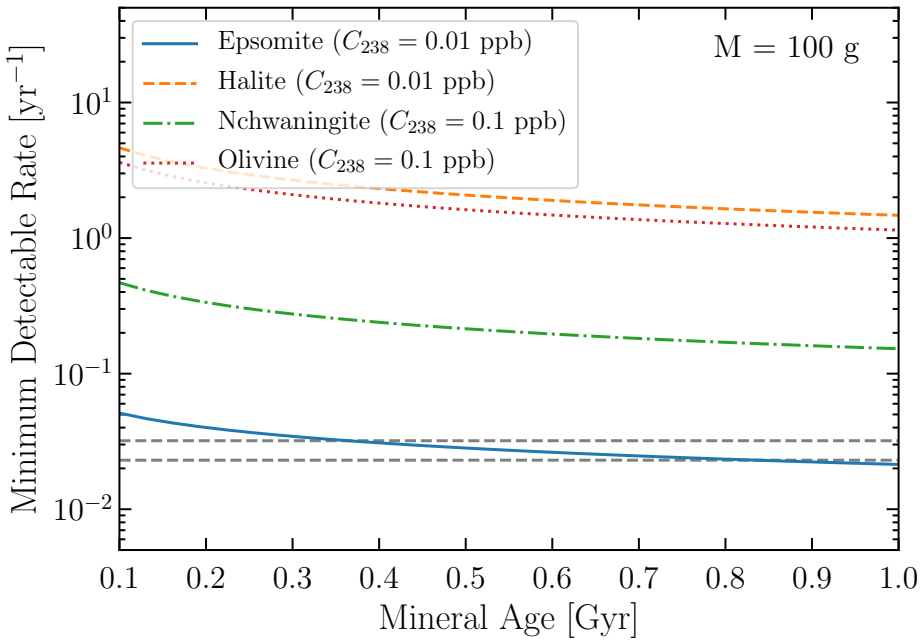
Large exposure probes rare events

- NOT background free, but can calibrate radiogenics in the lab
- Spectral information allows for reduction of bkg systematics

- Assume relative uncertainty 1% for normalization of n-bkg
- Solar and atmospheric ν-bkg assume 100% to account for time variation of fluxes

Sensitivity to galactic CC SN rate depends on C^{238}

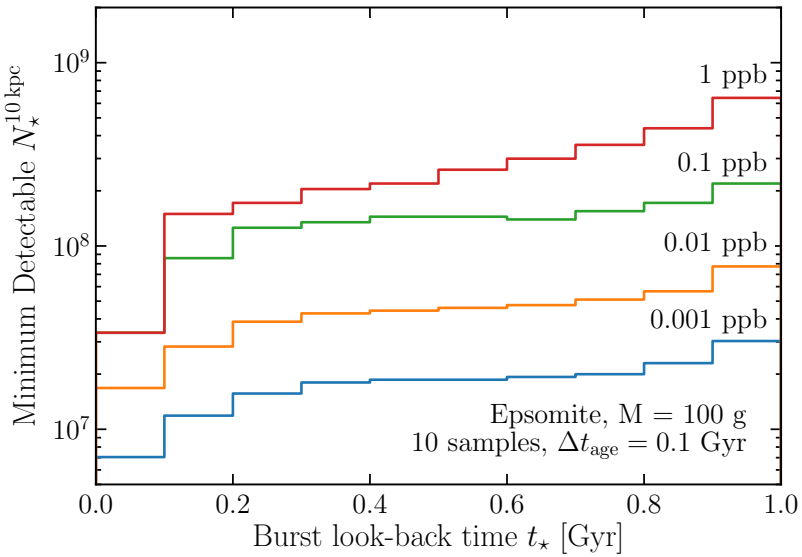


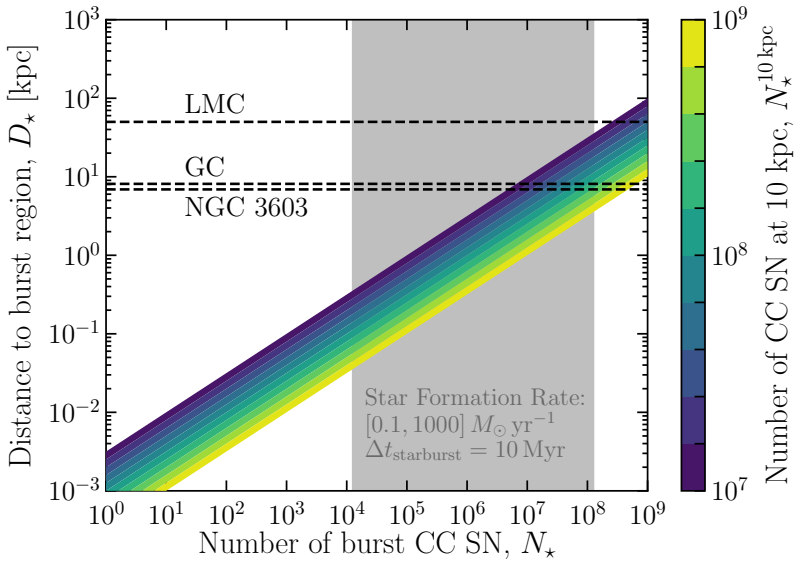


Epsomite [$Mg(SO_4)\cdot 7(H_2O)$]
Halite [NaCl]

Nchwaningite [$Mn_2^{2+}SiO_3(OH)_2\cdot(H_2O)$]
Olivine [$Mg_{1.6}Fe_{0.4}^{2+}(SiO_4)$]

Probe time averaged or localized star formation history





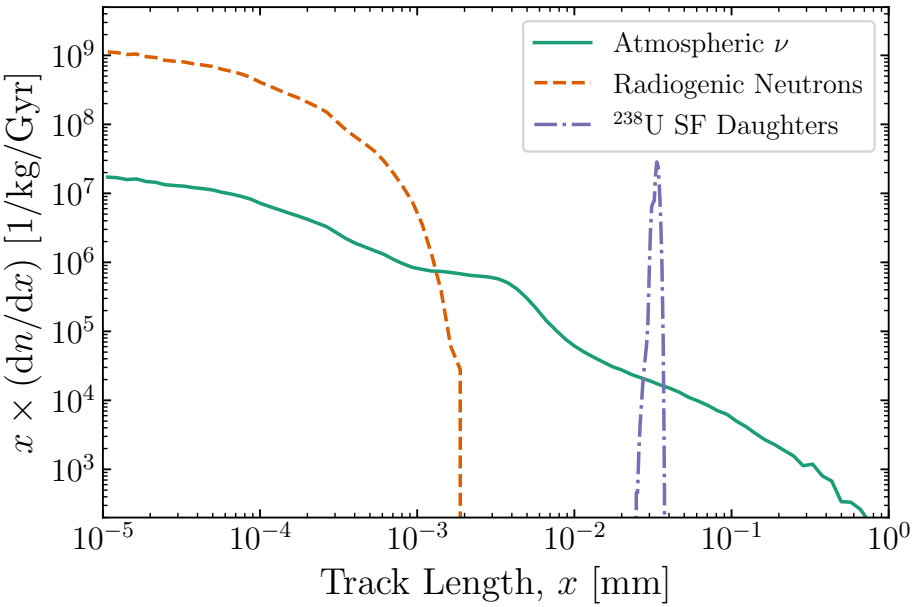
Feasability of paleo-detectors

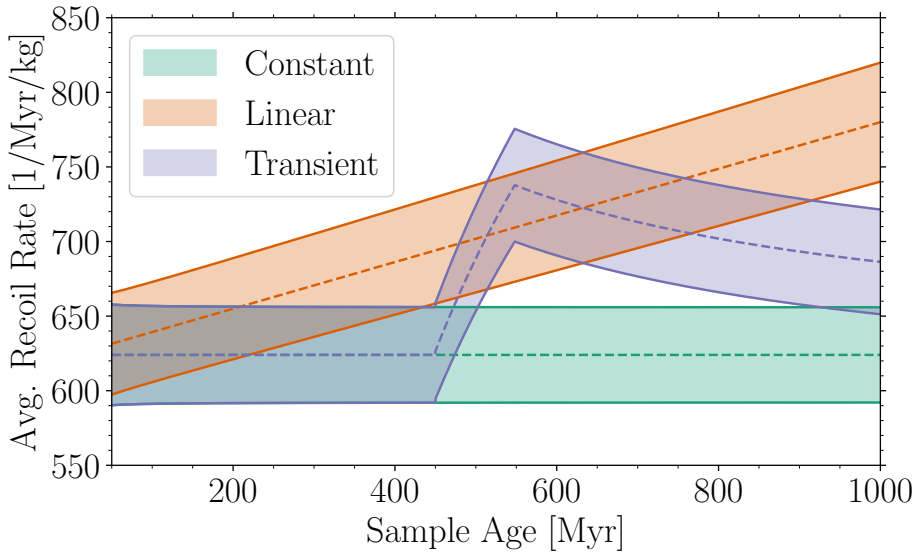
- Need model of geological history
- Preliminary mass spec indicates MEs with $C^{238} \lesssim 0.1\,\mathrm{ppb}$
- Determine efficiency of effective 3D recoil track reconstruction

Searches for WIMPs and other ν's

- Sensitivity to DM potentially competitive with next generation DD experiments
- Could measure evolution of solar/atmospheric ν flux and probe history of sun/cosmic rays

Beyond coherent scattering with atmospheric ν's (FLUKA)





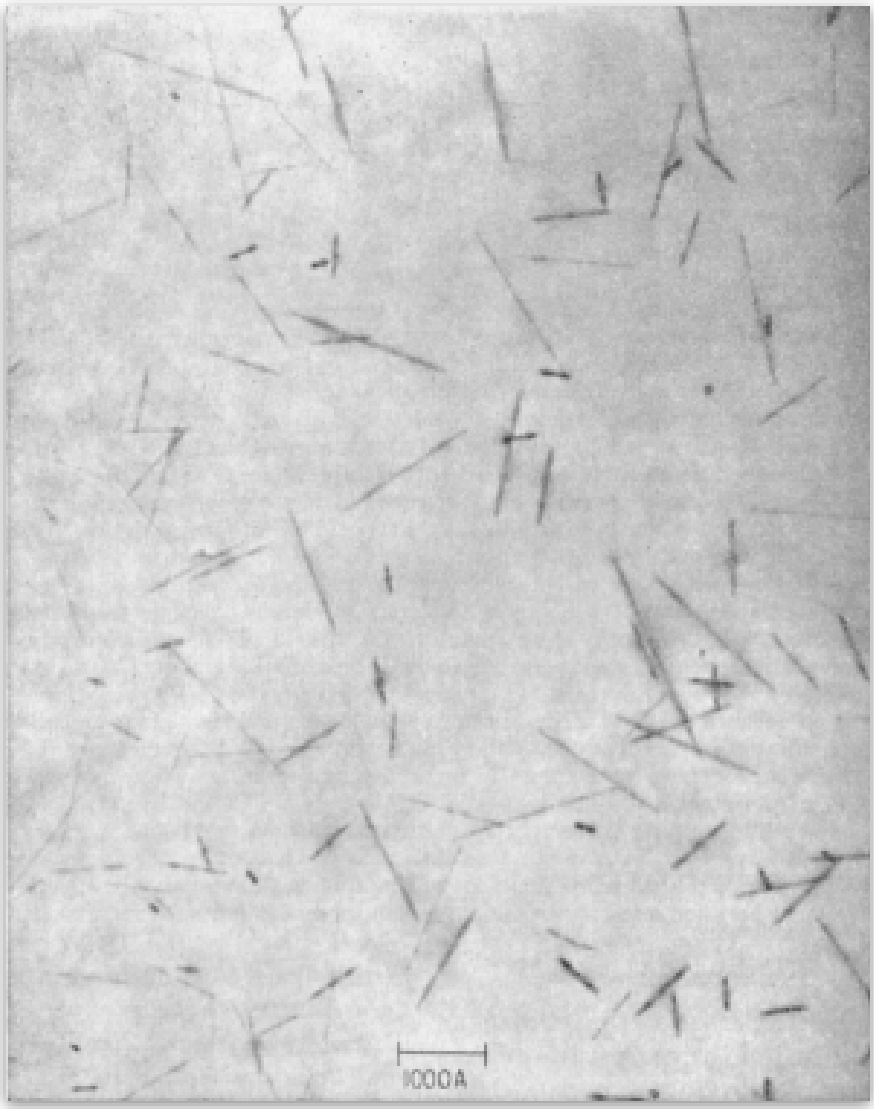
Background free spectra $x \gtrsim 1\,\mu$m

- $N \sim 10^4$ tracks in $100\,\mathrm{g} \times 1\,\mathrm{Gyr}$
- Less sensitive to target mineral
- Systematics from atmosphere, magnetic fields under control

Series of halite targets with (M_i, t_i)

- Averaged recoil rate $N_i/t_i M_i$
- Sensitivity limited by geological history, read-out systematics
- Assume $\Delta_t = 5\%$, $\Delta_M = 1\%$

Fission fragments can be seen by TEM/optical microscopes



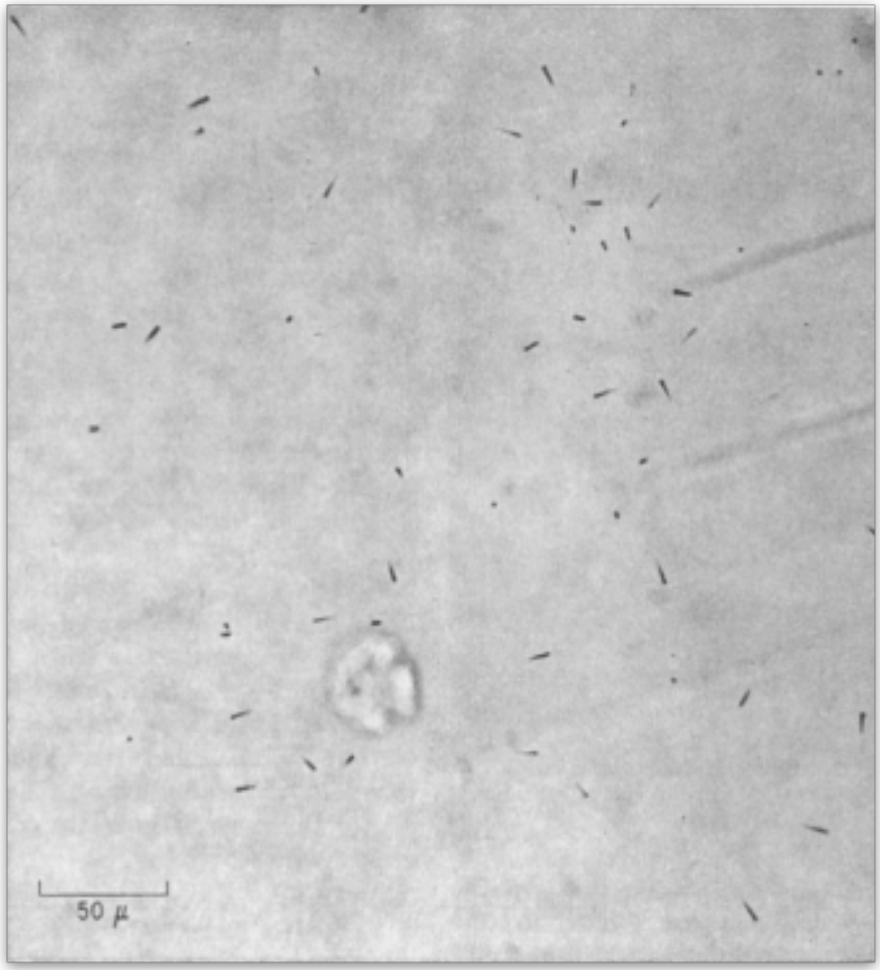


Figure: Price+Walker '63

Semi-analytic range calculations and SRIM agree with data

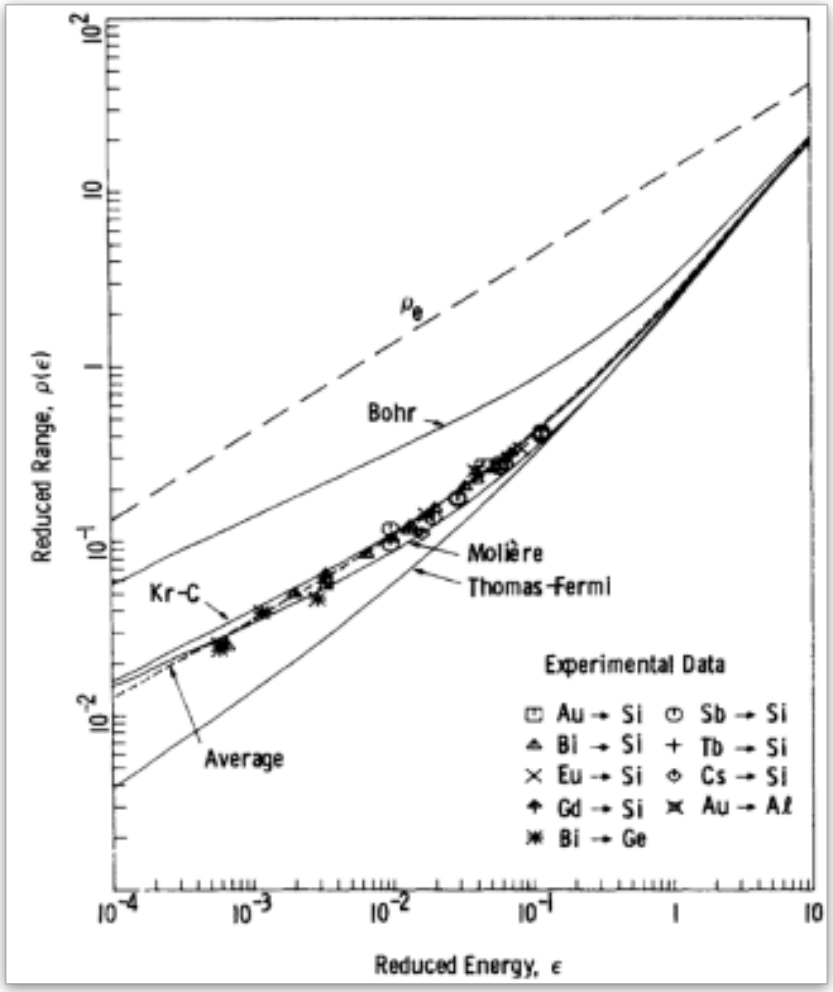
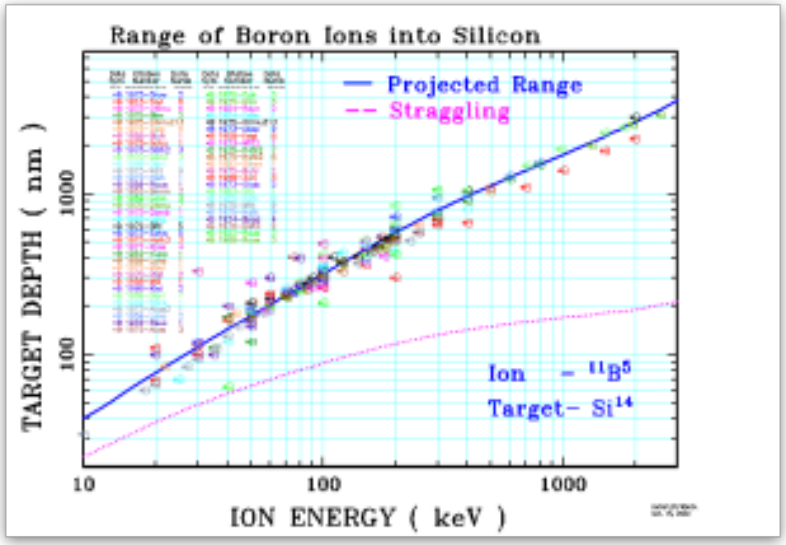
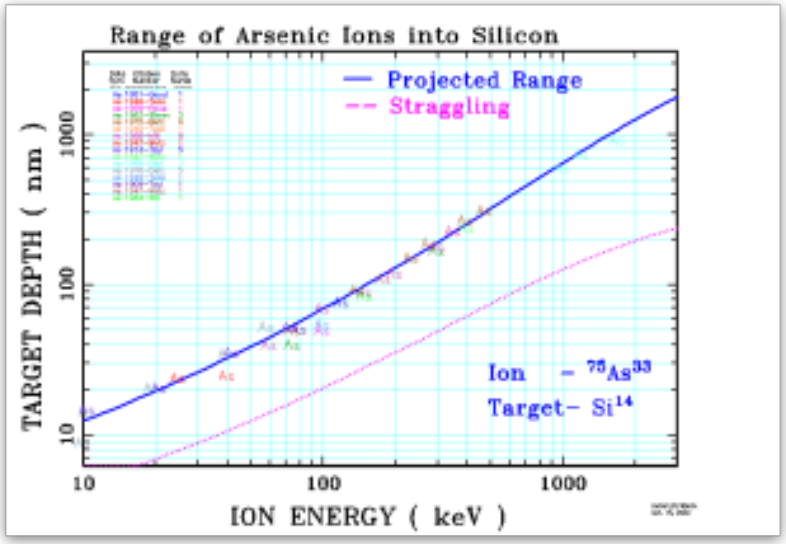


Figure: Wilson, Haggmark+ '76

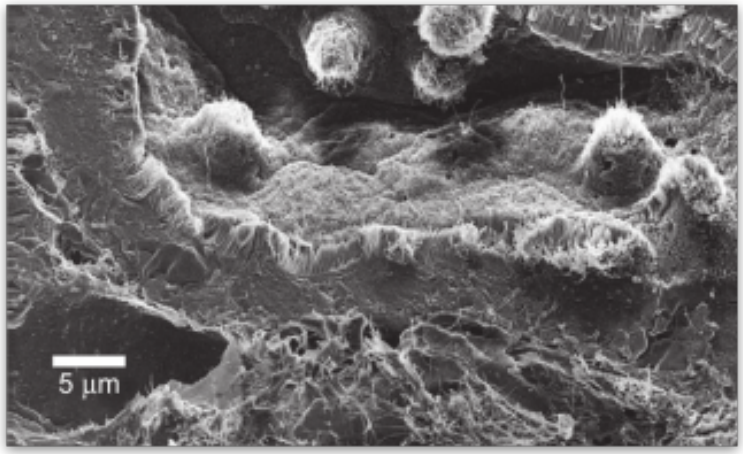




Cleaving and etching limits ϵ and can only reconstruct 2D

Readout scenarios for different x_T

- HIBM+pulsed laser could read out 10 mg with nm resolution
- SAXs at a synchrotron could resolve 15 nm in 3D for 100 g



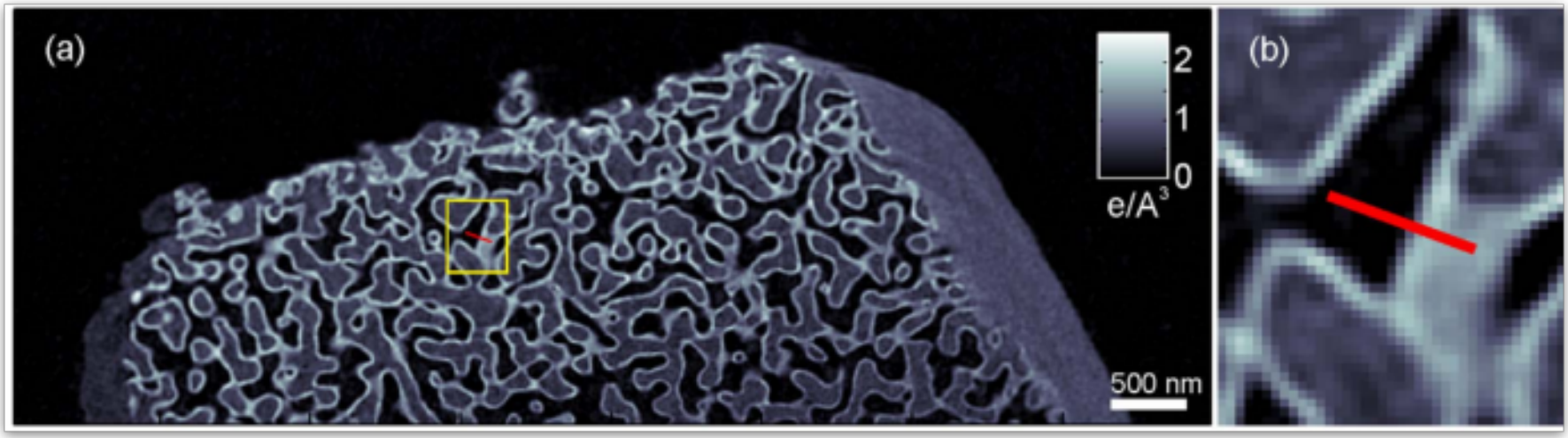
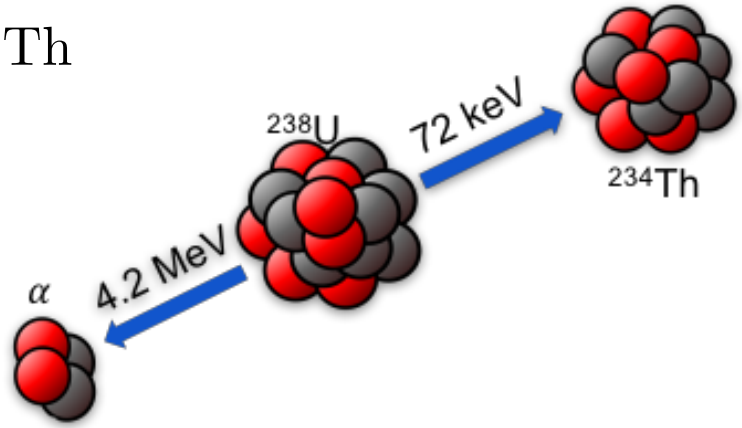


Figure: HIM rodent kidney Hill+ '12, SAXs nanoporous glass Holler+ '14

Radiogenic backgrounds from ^{238}U contamination

$$^{238}\mathrm{U} \xrightarrow{\alpha} {}^{234}\mathrm{Th} \xrightarrow{\beta^-} {}^{234\mathrm{m}}\mathrm{Pa} \xrightarrow{\beta^-} {}^{234}\mathrm{U} \xrightarrow{\alpha} {}^{230}\mathrm{Th} \xrightarrow{\alpha} {}^{226}\mathrm{Ra} \xrightarrow{\alpha} {}^{222}\mathrm{Rn} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \ldots \longrightarrow {}^{206}\mathrm{Pb}$$

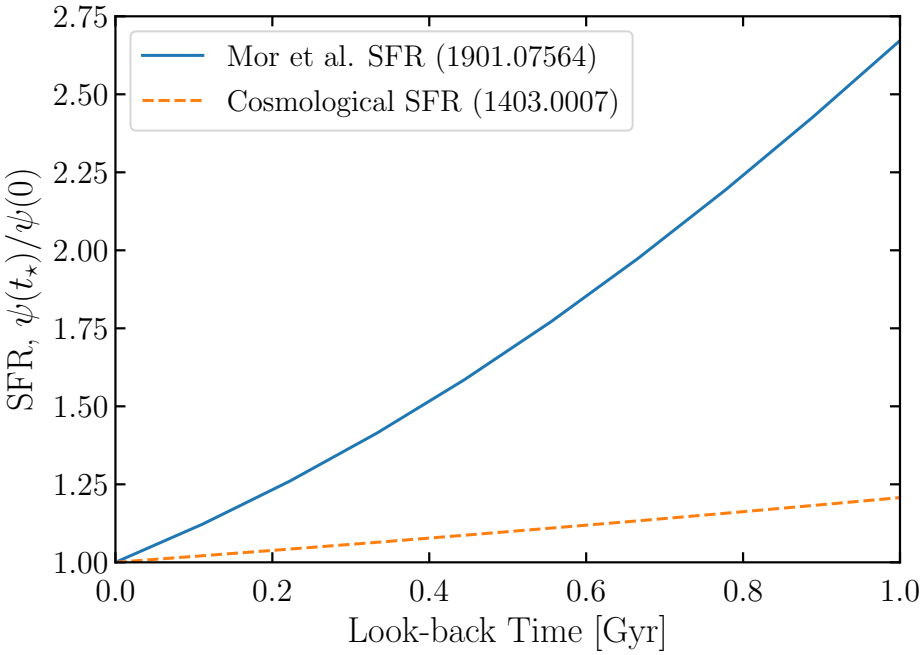


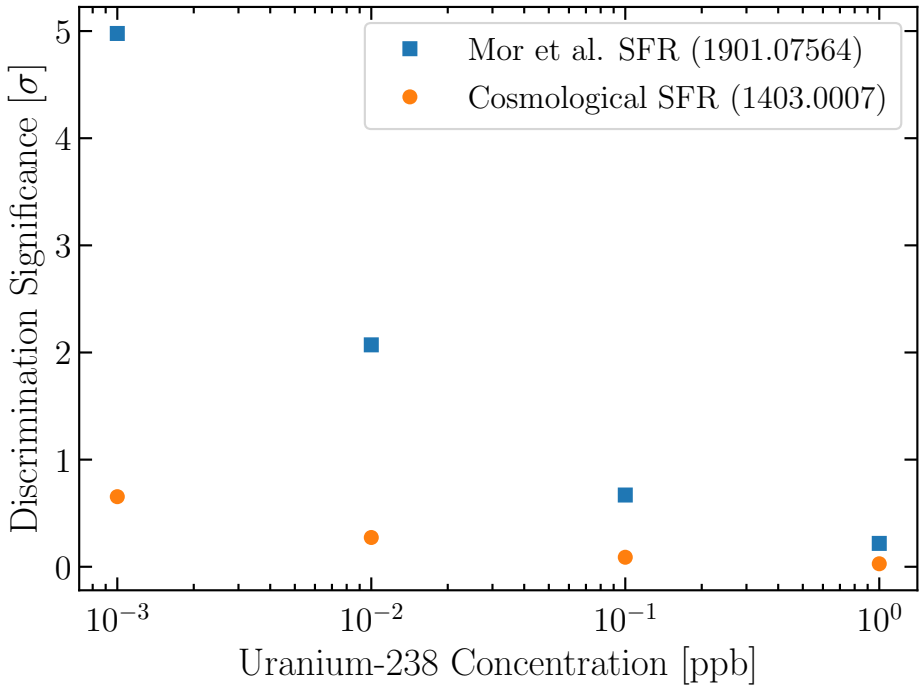
Nucleus	Decay mode	$T_{1/2}$
^{238}U	α	4.468×10^9 yr
	SF	8.2×10^{15} yr
^{234}Th	β^-	24.10 d
$^{234\mathrm{m}}$Pa	β^- (99.84 %)	1.159 min
	IT (0.16 %)	
^{234}Pa	β^-	6.70 d
^{234}U	α	2.455×10^5 yr

"1α" events difficult to reject without additional decays

- Reject $\sim 10\,\mu$m α tracks
- Without α tracks, filter out monoenergetic ^{234}Th

Difficult to pick out time evolution of galactic CC SN rate





Coarse grained cumulative time bins

- 10 Epsomite paleo-detectors
- 100 g each, $\Delta t_{\text{age}} \simeq 100\,\text{Myr}$

Determine σ rejecting constant rate

Could only make discrimination at 3σ for $\mathcal{O}(1)$ increase in star formation rate with $C^{238} \lesssim 5\,\text{ppt}$