



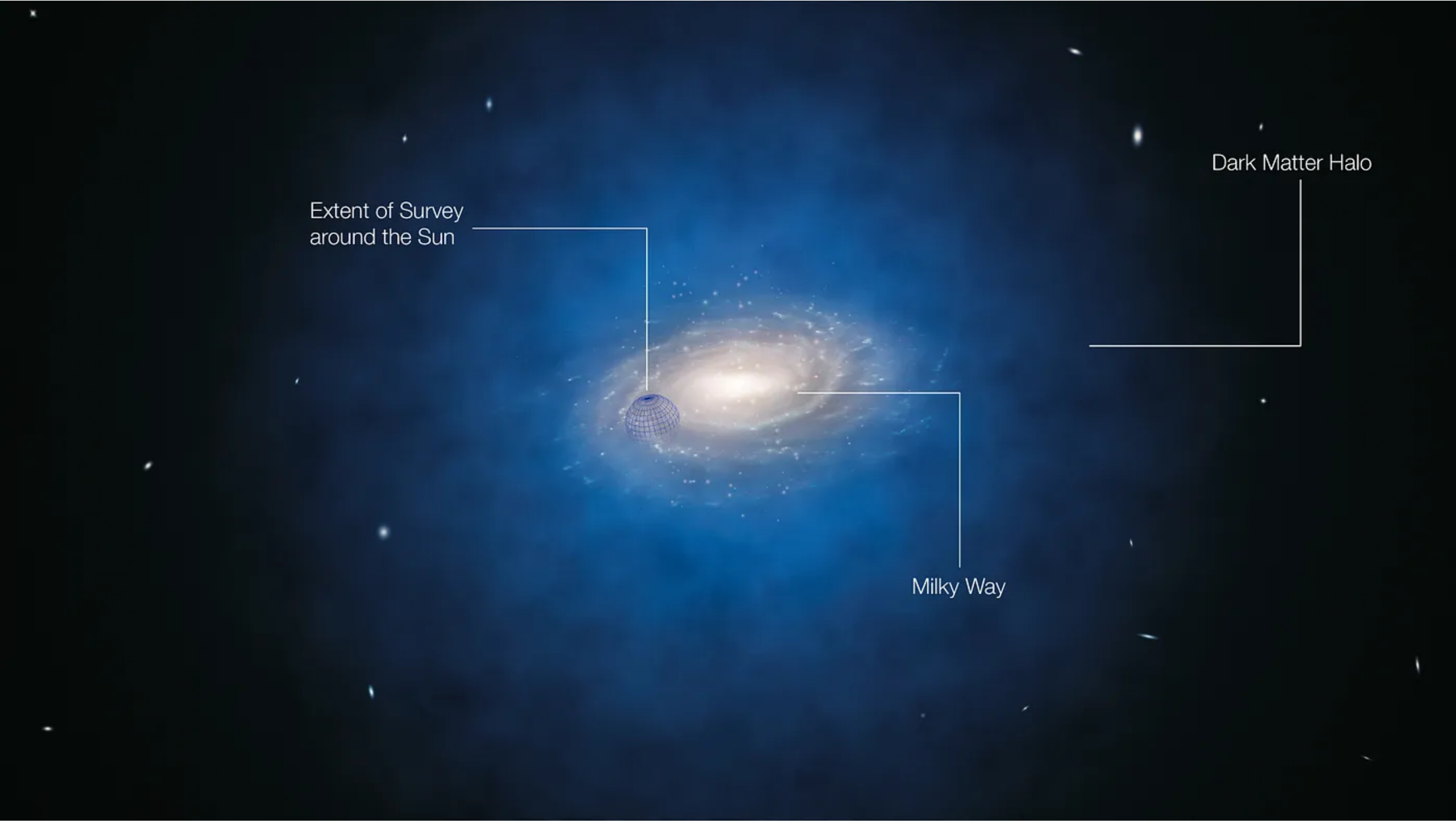
Dark Matter Direct Detection

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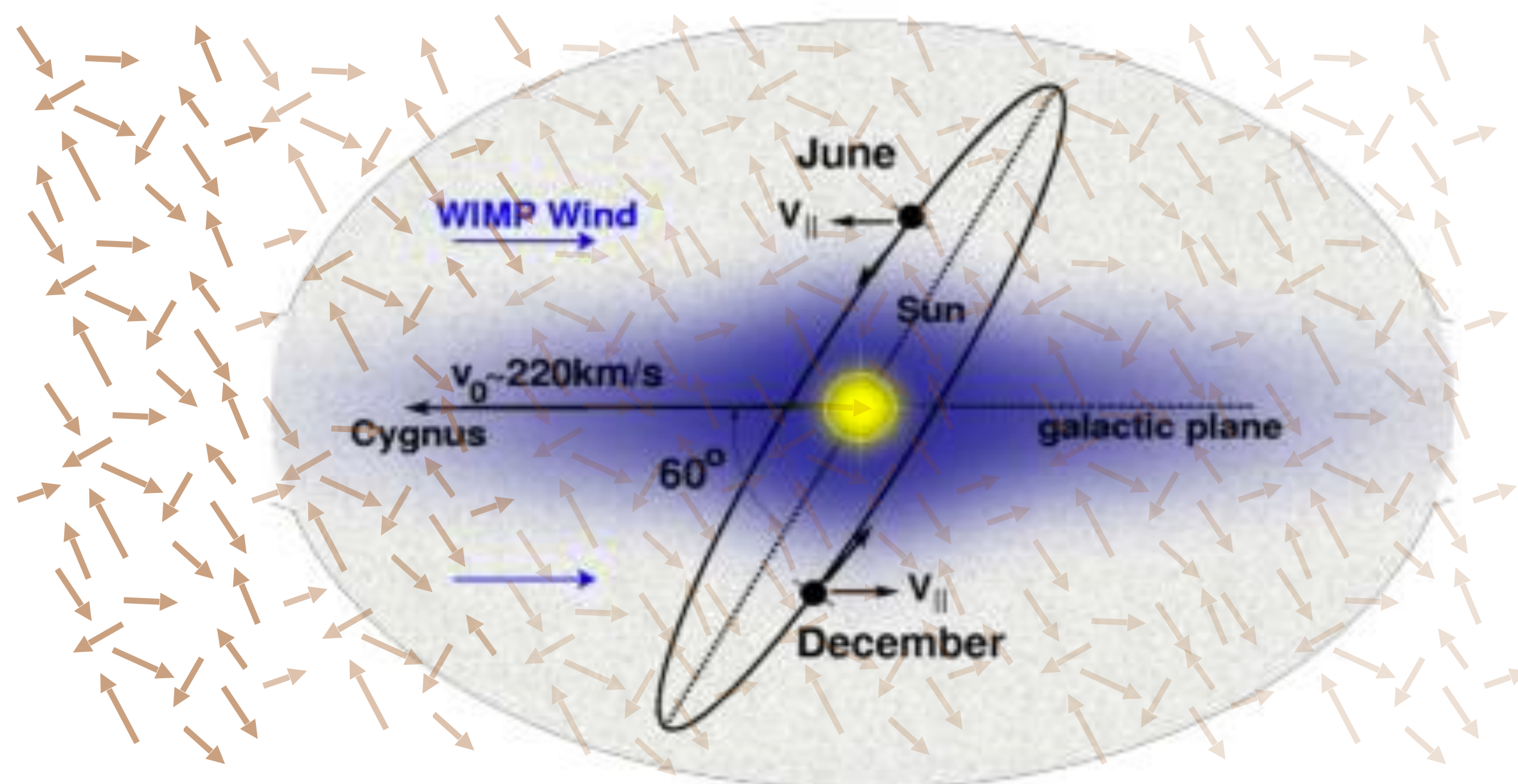
Halo des WIMPs



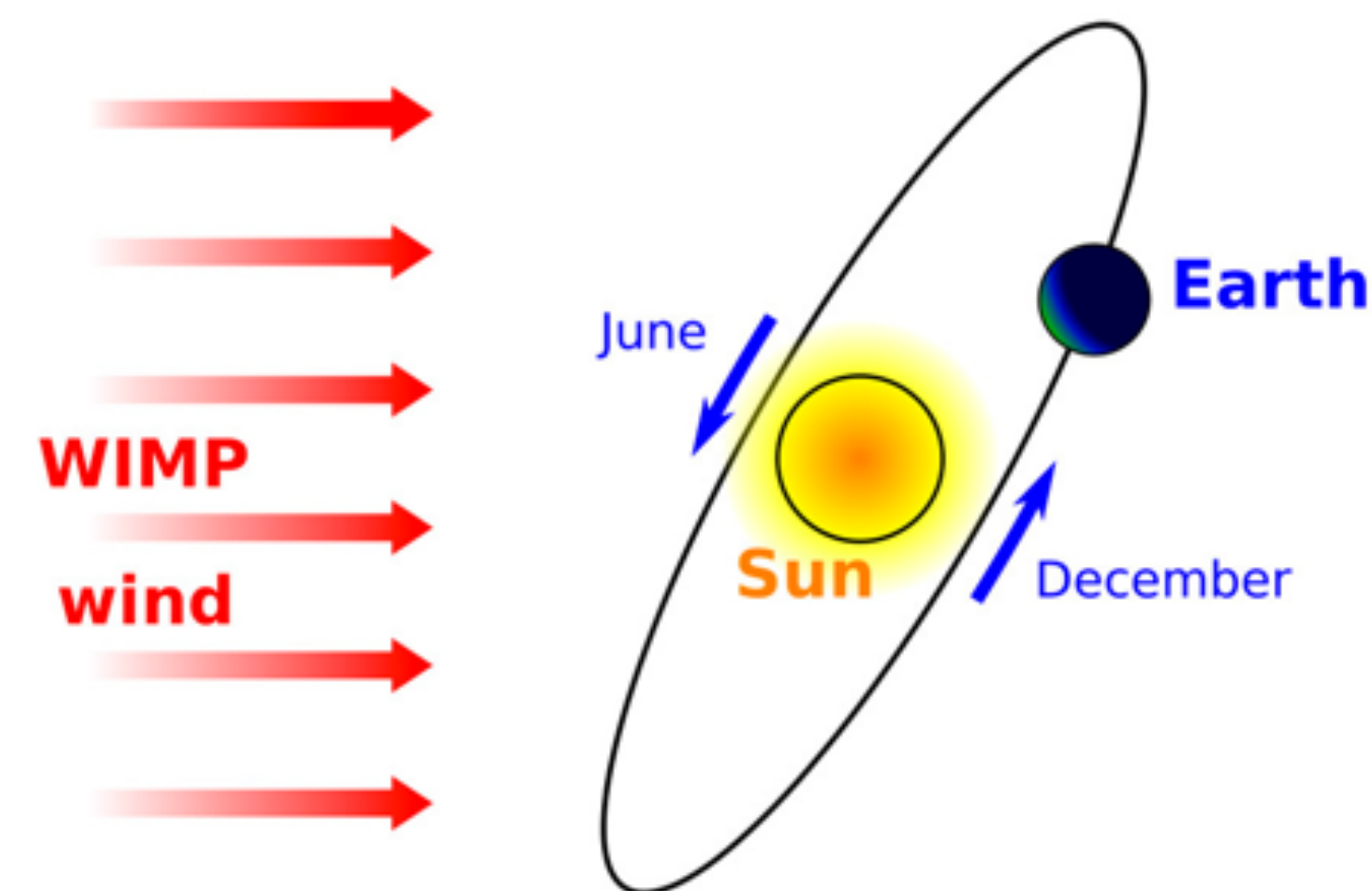


The WIMP halo

With respect to the galactic center



With respect to the Earth

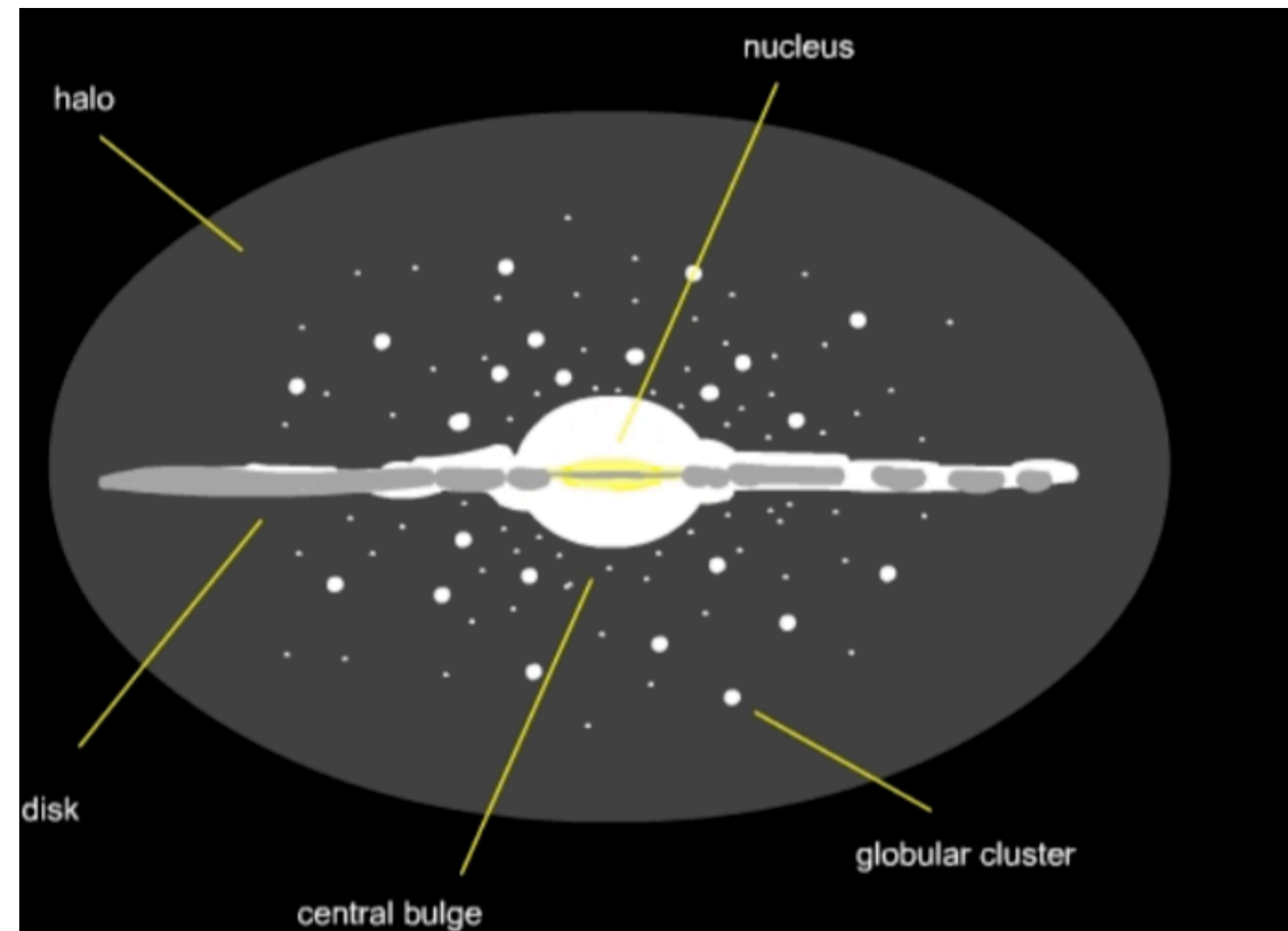
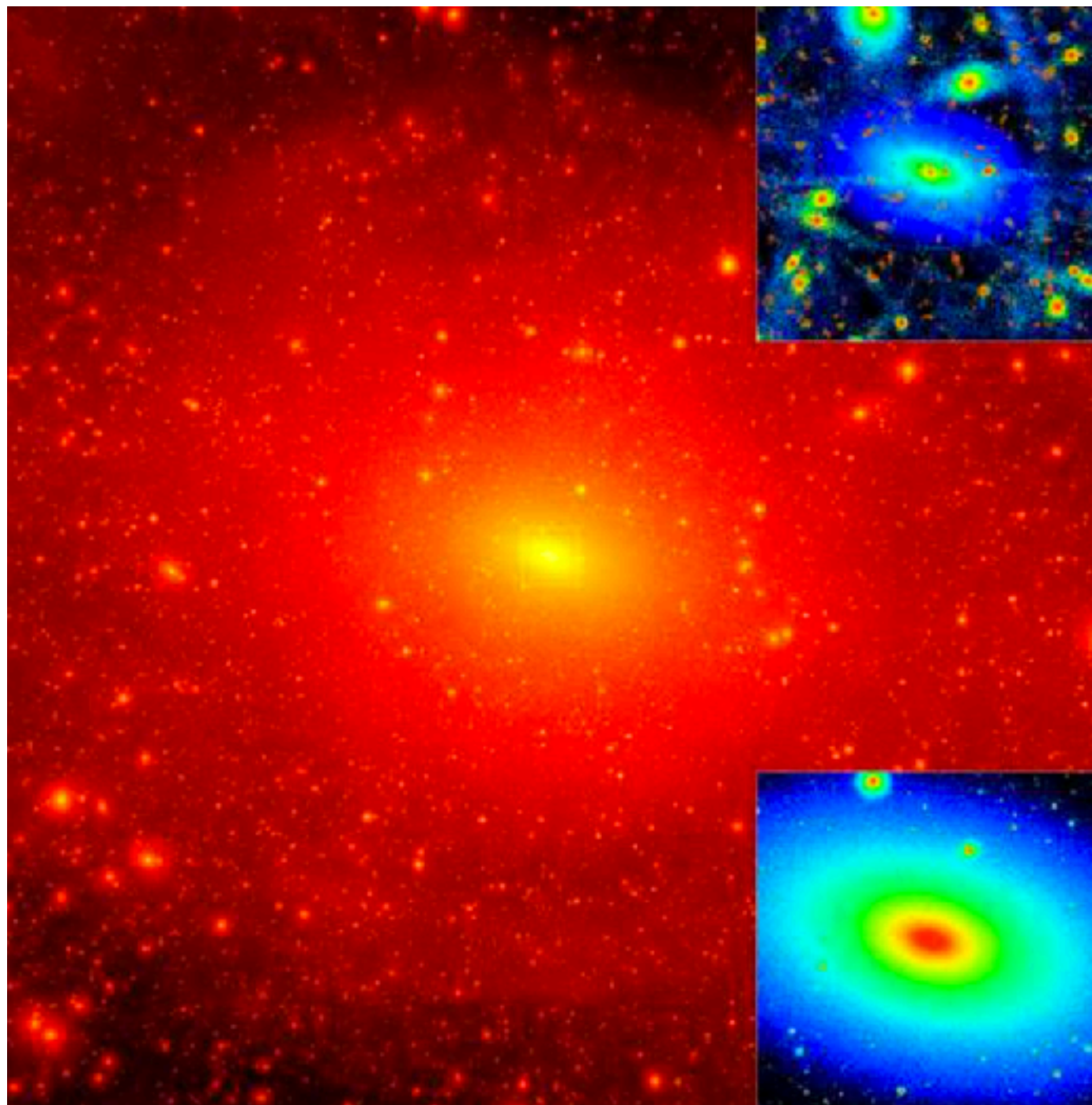




The stationary Halo?

“Standard” galaxy structure:

- baryonic component in central bulge and spiral disk
- embedded in a fairly smooth **spherical** and **stationary** halo of dark matter particles





The Halo parameters

- **Density** $\sim 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$

$$\rho(r) \propto 1/r^2$$

- non-rotating isothermal **sphere** with an isotropic Maxwell-Boltzmann velocity **distribution**:

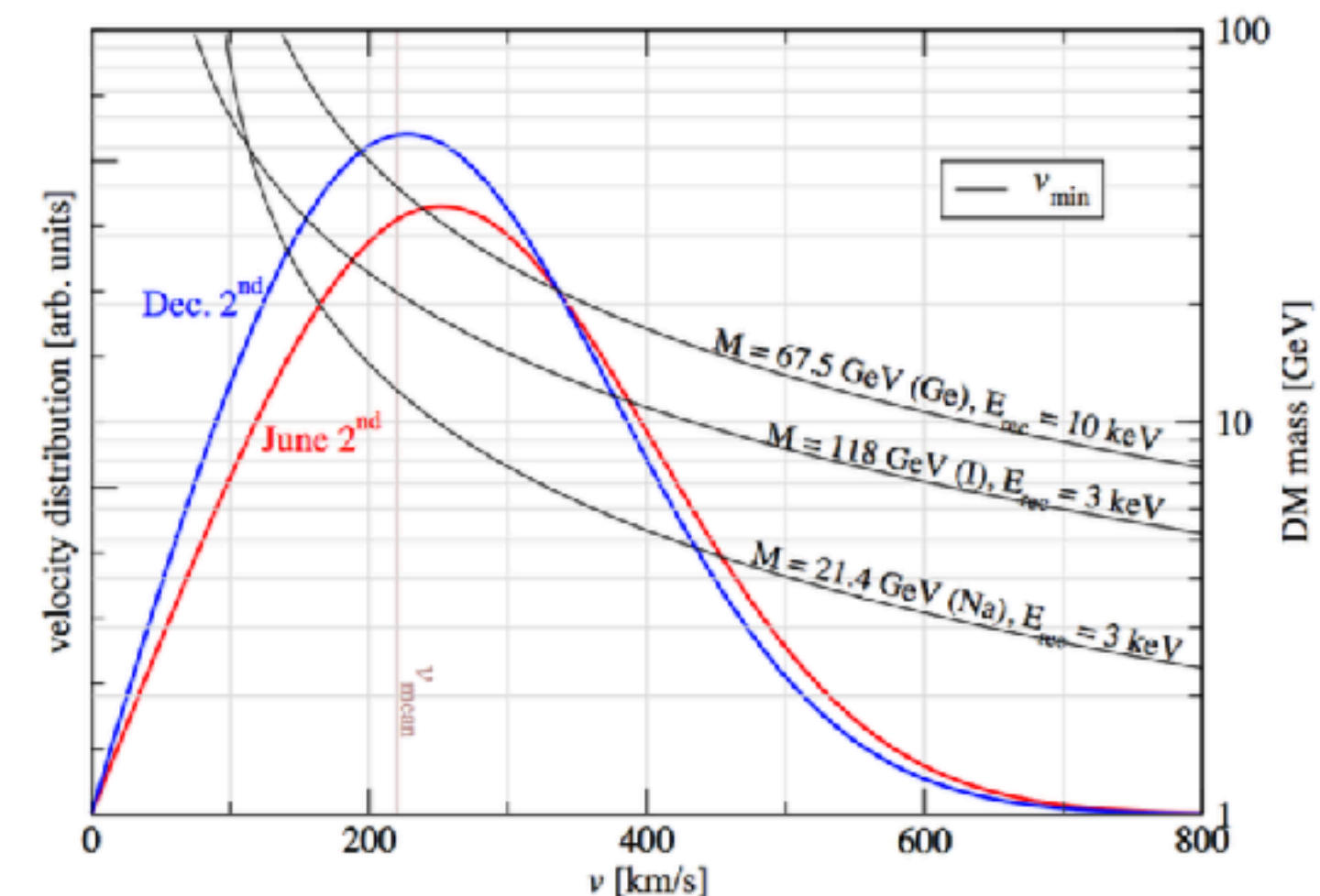
$$f(\mathbf{v}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N_{\text{esc}}} \left(\frac{3}{2\pi\sigma_v^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-3\mathbf{v}^2/2\sigma_v^2} & : |\mathbf{v}| < v_{\text{esc}} \\ 0 & : \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- σ_v is the rms velocity **dispersion**

- v_{esc} the **escape** velocity $\sim 544 \text{ km/s}$

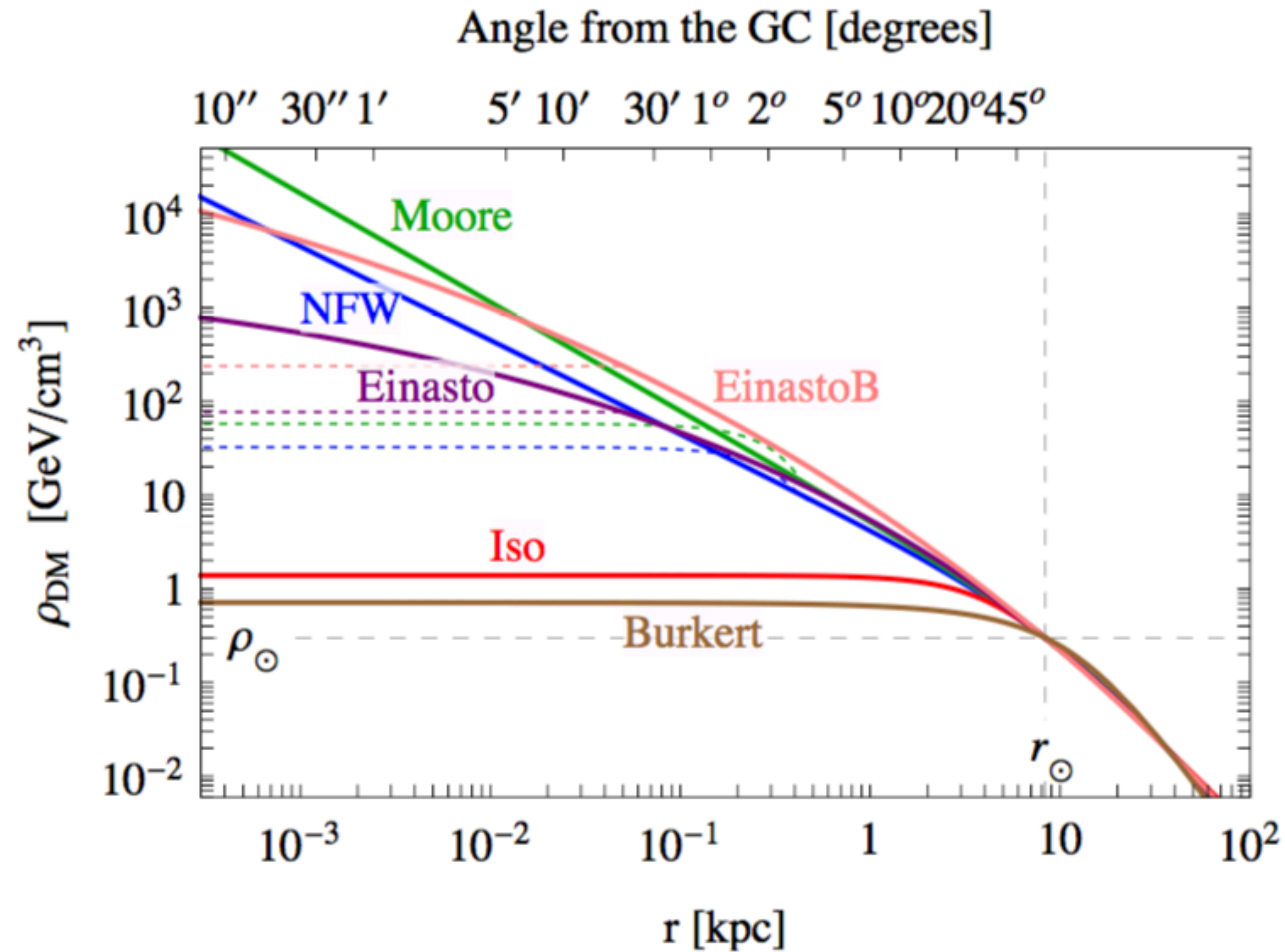
- v_0 the most **probable** velocity

$$v_0 = \sqrt{2/3}\sigma_v \approx 235 \text{ km/s}$$





The local density of dark matter



2.1 DM density distribution

For the galactic distribution $\rho(r)$ we list the functional forms considered more plausible:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{NFW : } \rho_{\text{NFW}}(r) &= \rho_s \frac{r_s}{r} \left(1 + \frac{r}{r_s}\right)^{-2} \\
 \text{Einasto : } \rho_{\text{Ein}}(r) &= \rho_s \exp \left\{ -\frac{2}{\alpha} \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_s}\right)^\alpha - 1 \right] \right\} \\
 \text{Isothermal : } \rho_{\text{Iso}}(r) &= \frac{\rho_s}{1 + (r/r_s)^2} \\
 \text{Burkert : } \rho_{\text{Bur}}(r) &= \frac{\rho_s}{(1 + r/r_s)(1 + (r/r_s)^2)} \\
 \text{Moore : } \rho_{\text{Moo}}(r) &= \rho_s \left(\frac{r_s}{r}\right)^{1.16} \left(1 + \frac{r}{r_s}\right)^{-1.84}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$



The Dark Matter Halo: Density and Flux

The expected WIMP flux on Earth can be estimated, under the assumption that Milky Way's dark matter is made of WIMPs

Standard value: $\rho_c \sim \mathbf{0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3}$ ($\pm 0.1 \text{ GeV/c}^3$) at the Sun location (with large uncertainties!)

Authors	Date	Ref.	$\rho_\odot [\text{GeV/cm}^3]$
Turner	1986	[21, 22]	0.28
Flores	1988	[23]	$0.3 \rightarrow 0.43$
Kuijken & Gilmore	1991	[24]	$0.42 (\pm 20\%)$
Widrow et al.	2008	[25]	0.304 ± 0.053
Catena & Ullio	2009	[26]	0.385 ± 0.027 0.389 ± 0.025
Weber & de Boer	2009	[27]	$0.2 \rightarrow 0.4$
Salucci et al.	2010	[28]	$0.43 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.10$
McMillan	2011	[29]	0.40 ± 0.04
Garbari et al.	2011	[30]	$0.11^{+0.34}_{-0.27}$ $1.25^{+0.30}_{-0.34}$
Iocco et al.	2011	[31]	$0.2 \rightarrow 0.56$
Bovy & Tremaine	2012	[32]	0.3 ± 0.1
Zhang et al.	2012	[33]	0.28 ± 0.08
Piffl et al.	2014	[34]	$0.59 (\pm 15\%)$

Equivalent to

- $10^6 M_\odot/\text{kpc}^3$
- 1 WIMP of $100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ mass in a coffee cup

WIMP flux on the Earth assuming WIMP mass of 100 GeV

$$\phi_\chi = \rho_\chi / M_\chi \langle v \rangle = 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3 / 100 \text{ GeV} \times 220 \text{ km/s} \approx \mathbf{6.6 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}}$$



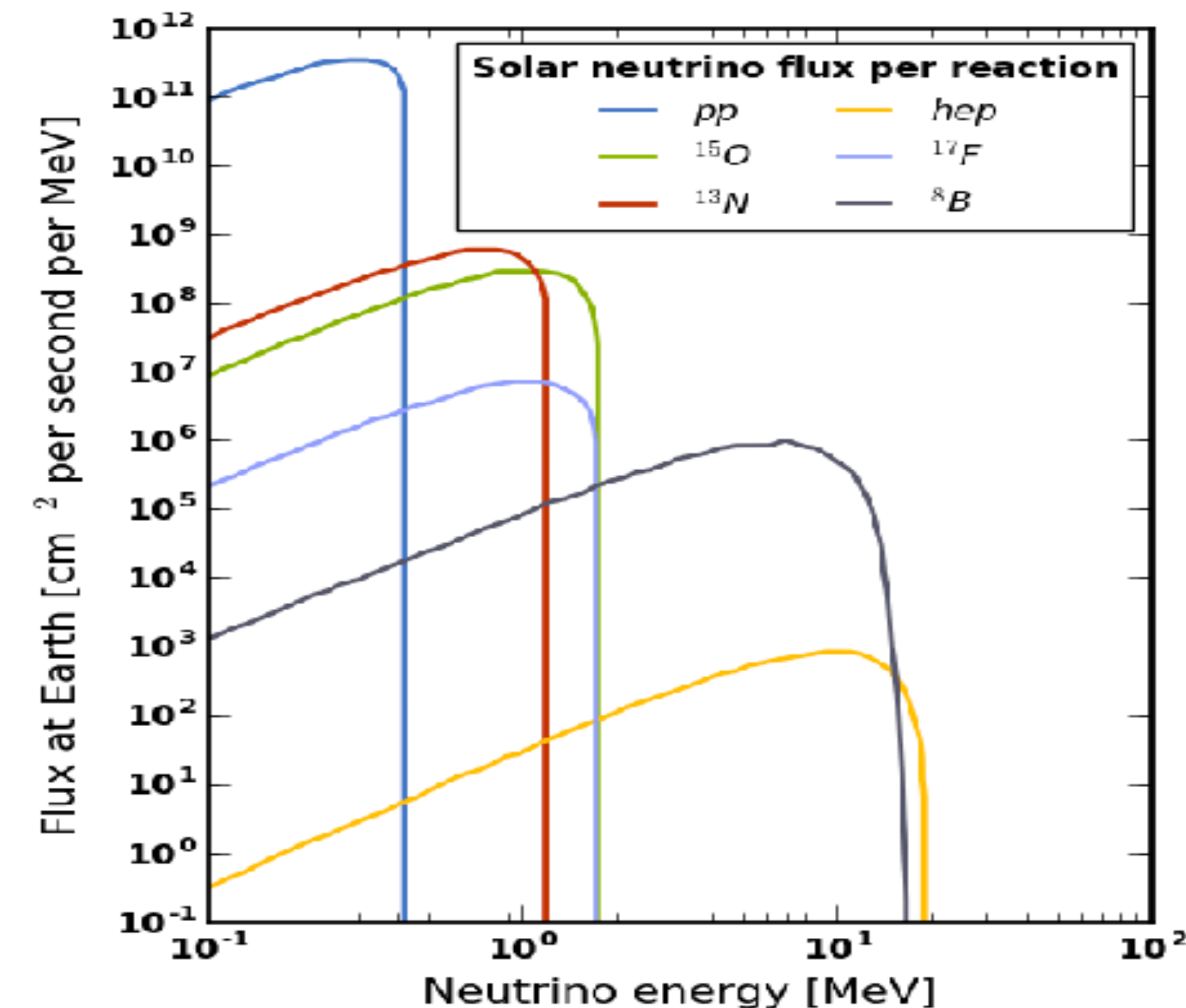
Dark Matter vs Neutrino Flux

$$\phi_\chi \approx 6.6 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

The flux is rather large. A fraction of WIMPs should elastically scatter off nuclei, inducing some nuclear recoils.

- Can we detect the energy deposited by nuclear recoils?
- Is this fraction of events sufficiently large to be “measured” in a detector?

Comparing with solar neutrinos



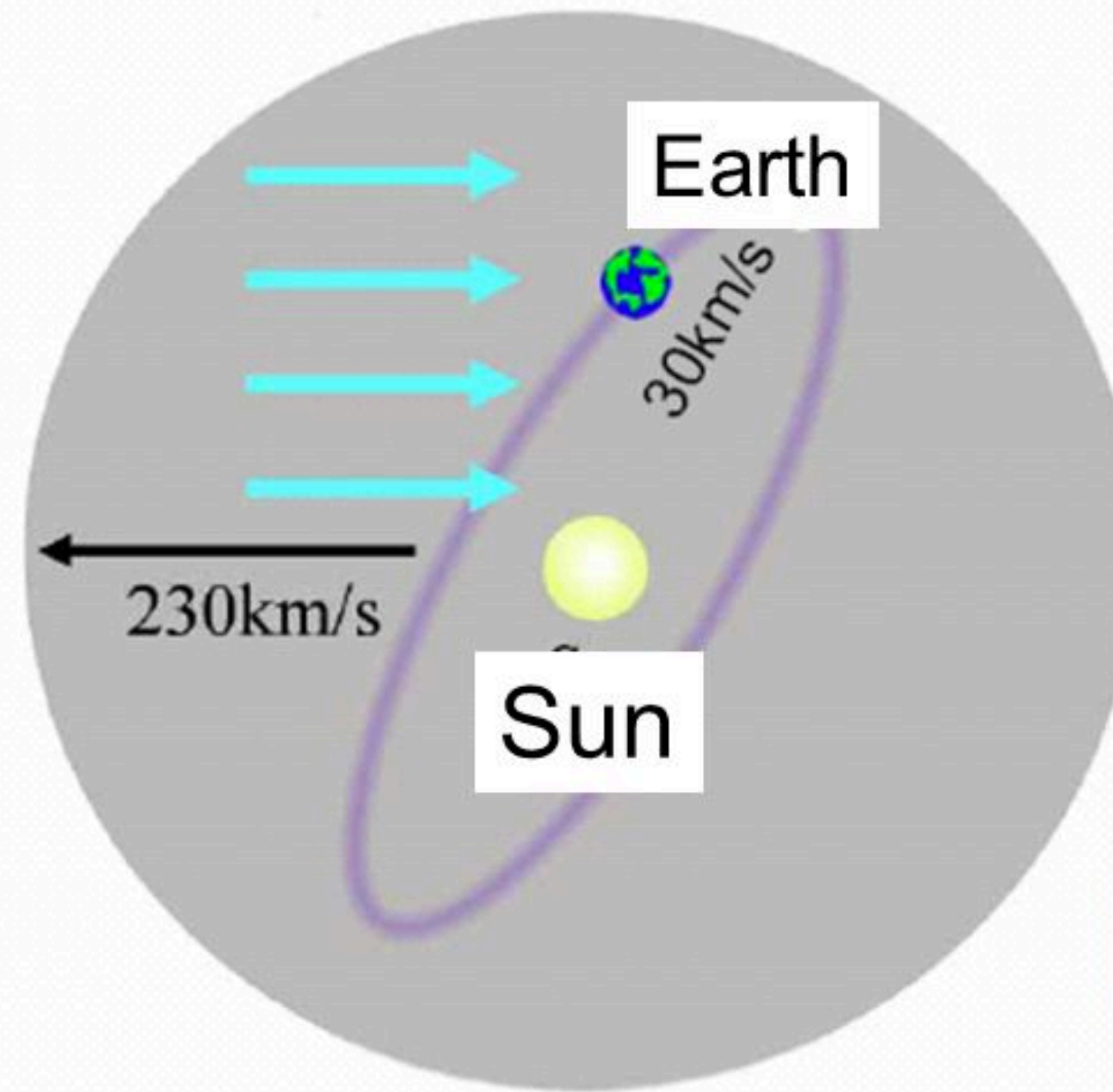
Expected rate assuming nucleus with atomic mass $A = 100$, scattering cross-section 10^{-38} cm^2

$$R = \frac{N_A}{A} \times \phi_\chi \times \sigma \sim 0.13 \text{ events/kg/year}$$



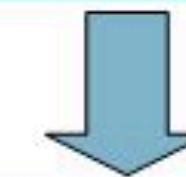
Earth motion wrt galactic center

Motion of WIMPs around us



WIMPs are randomly moving with Maxwell distribution $\langle v \rangle \sim 270 \text{ km/sec}$

The solar system is moving at $\sim 230 \text{ km/sec}$.
The earth is moving at $\sim 30 \text{ km/sec}$.
The earth is rotating.



Annual, sidereal modulation

“Wind” of Dark Matter

DM density $\sim 0.3 \text{ GeV/cc}$

$100 \text{ GeV WIMPs} \rightarrow 1 \text{ WIMP} / 7 \text{ cm cubic}, \Phi = 10^5 / \text{cm}^2 / \text{sec}$



Interaction Rate

$$\frac{dR}{dE}(E, t) = \frac{\rho_0}{m_\chi \cdot m_A} \cdot \int v \cdot f(\mathbf{v}, t) \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{dE}(E, v) d^3v$$

ρ_0 : local dark matter density

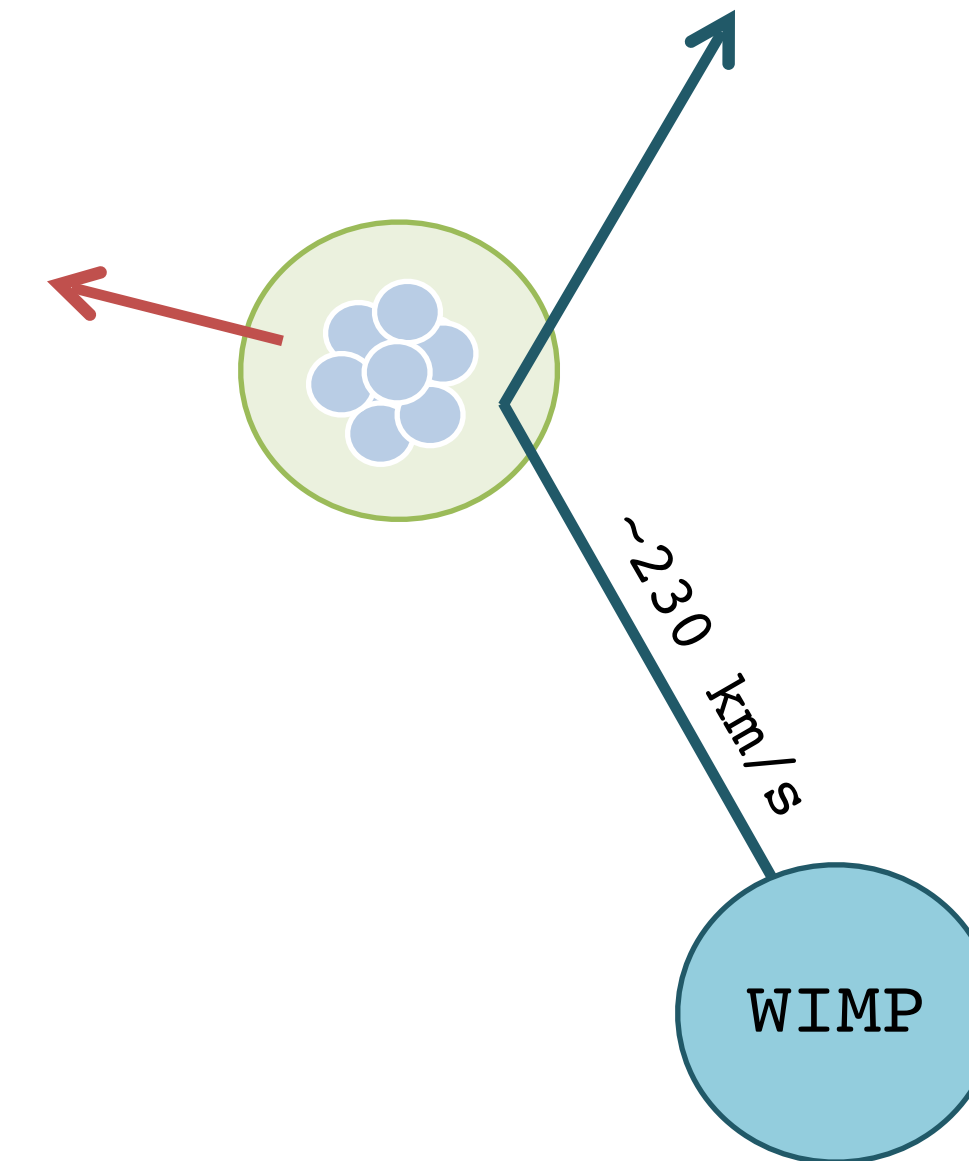
m_a : nucleus mass

m_χ : WIMP mass

$d\sigma/dE$: differential cross section

$f(\mathbf{v}, t)$: WIMP velocity distribution

\mathbf{v} : dark matter velocity wrt detector rest frame



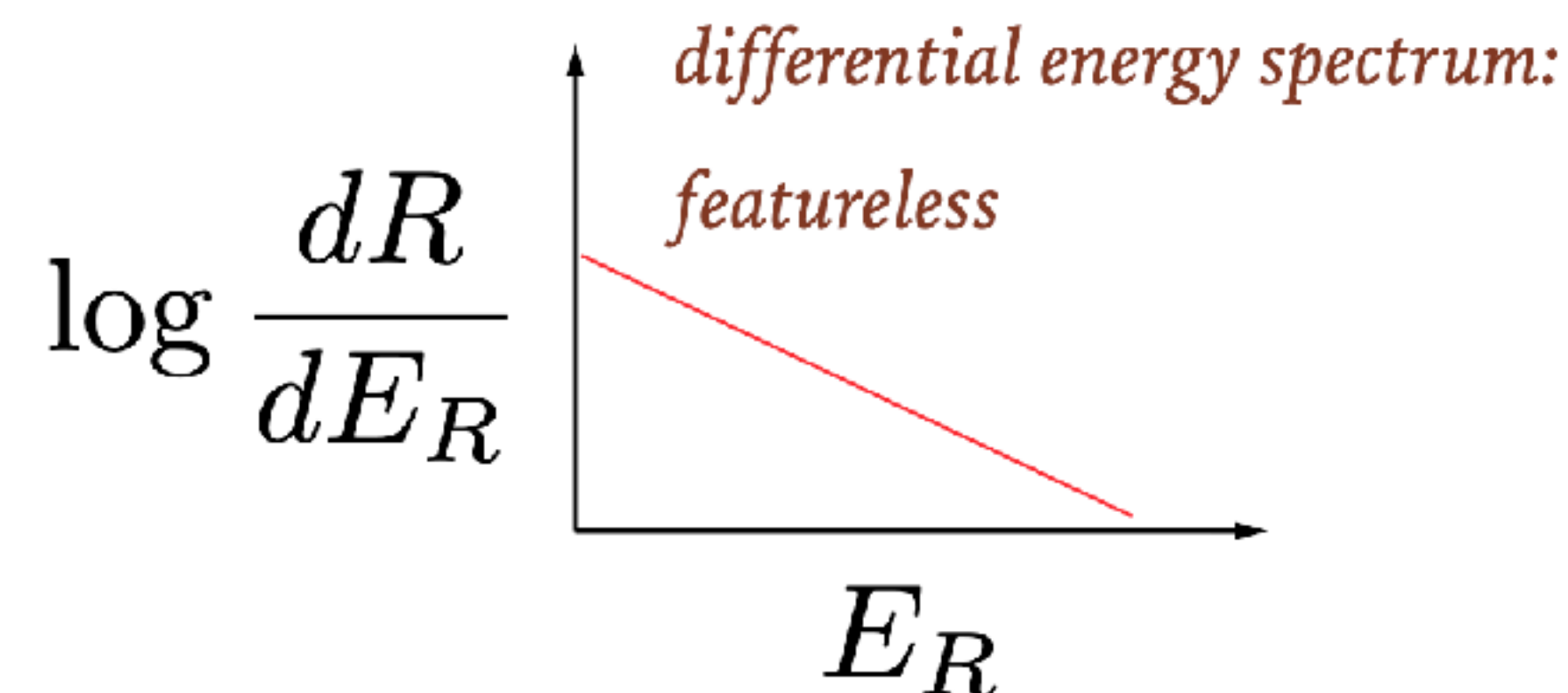


- The differential event rate for simplified WIMP interaction (a detector stationary in the galaxy) is given by:

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{R_0}{E_0 r} e^{-E_R/E_0 r}$$

event rate \downarrow $\frac{dR}{dE_R}$
 recoil energy \nearrow E_R
 total event rate \downarrow R_0
 most probable incident energy (Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution) \nearrow E_0
 kinematic factor \nearrow r

$r = \frac{4M_\chi M_N}{(M_\chi + M_N)^2}$



- The total event rate is given by

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{dR}{dE_R} dE_R = R_0$$

and the mean recoiling energy

$$\langle E_R \rangle = \int_0^\infty E_R \frac{dR}{dE_R} dE_R = E_0 r$$

From Jodi Cooley's slides



A quantitative example

- Assuming that WIMP and nucleus masses are identical:

$$m_\chi = m_N = 100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

→ kinematic factor:
$$r = \frac{4m_\chi m_N}{(m_\chi + m_N)^2} = 1$$

- Assuming stationary DM halo, Sun moves through the halo:

→ mean WIMP velocity relative to target $v \approx 220 \text{ km/s} = 0.75 \times 10^{-3} c$

$$\langle E_R \rangle = E_0 = \frac{1}{2} m_\chi v^2$$

$$\langle E_R \rangle = \frac{1}{2} 100 \frac{\text{GeV}}{c^2} (0.75 \times 10^{-3} c)^2$$

- Mean recoil energy deposited in a detector:

$$\langle E_R \rangle = 25 \text{ keV}$$

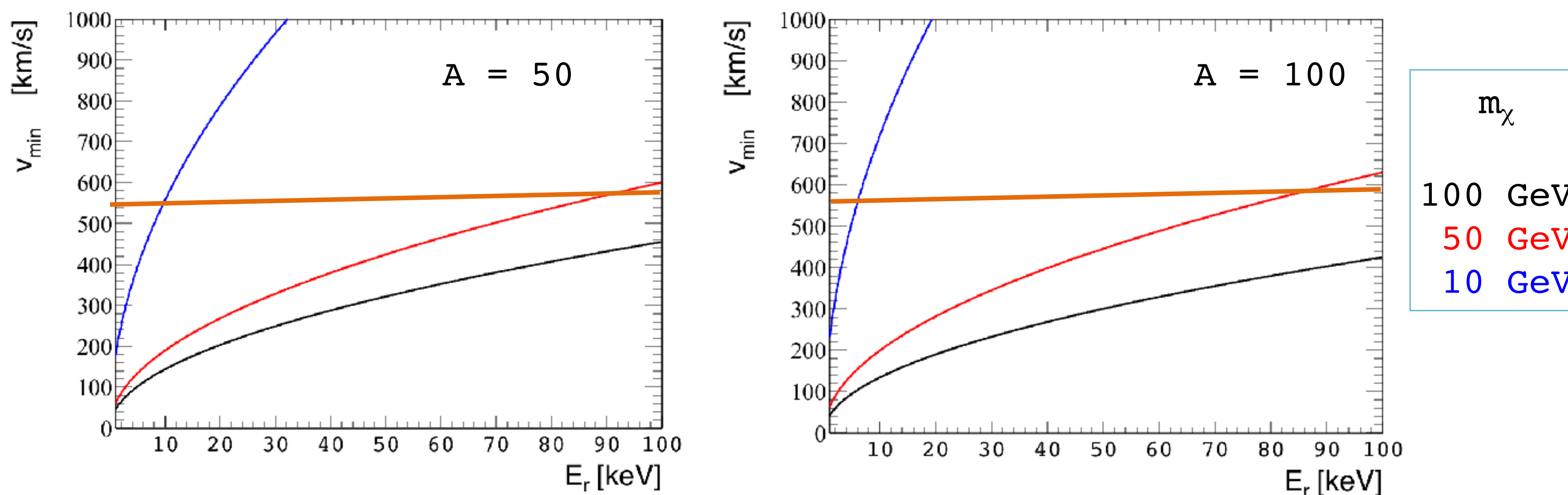


Recoil Energy

- Minimal velocity = the velocity that is required to produce a recoil energy E_R

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_R}{r \cdot m_\chi}} = \sqrt{\frac{E_R m_N}{2\mu^2}} = \frac{m_\chi + m_N}{m_\chi} \sqrt{\frac{E_R}{2m_N}}$$

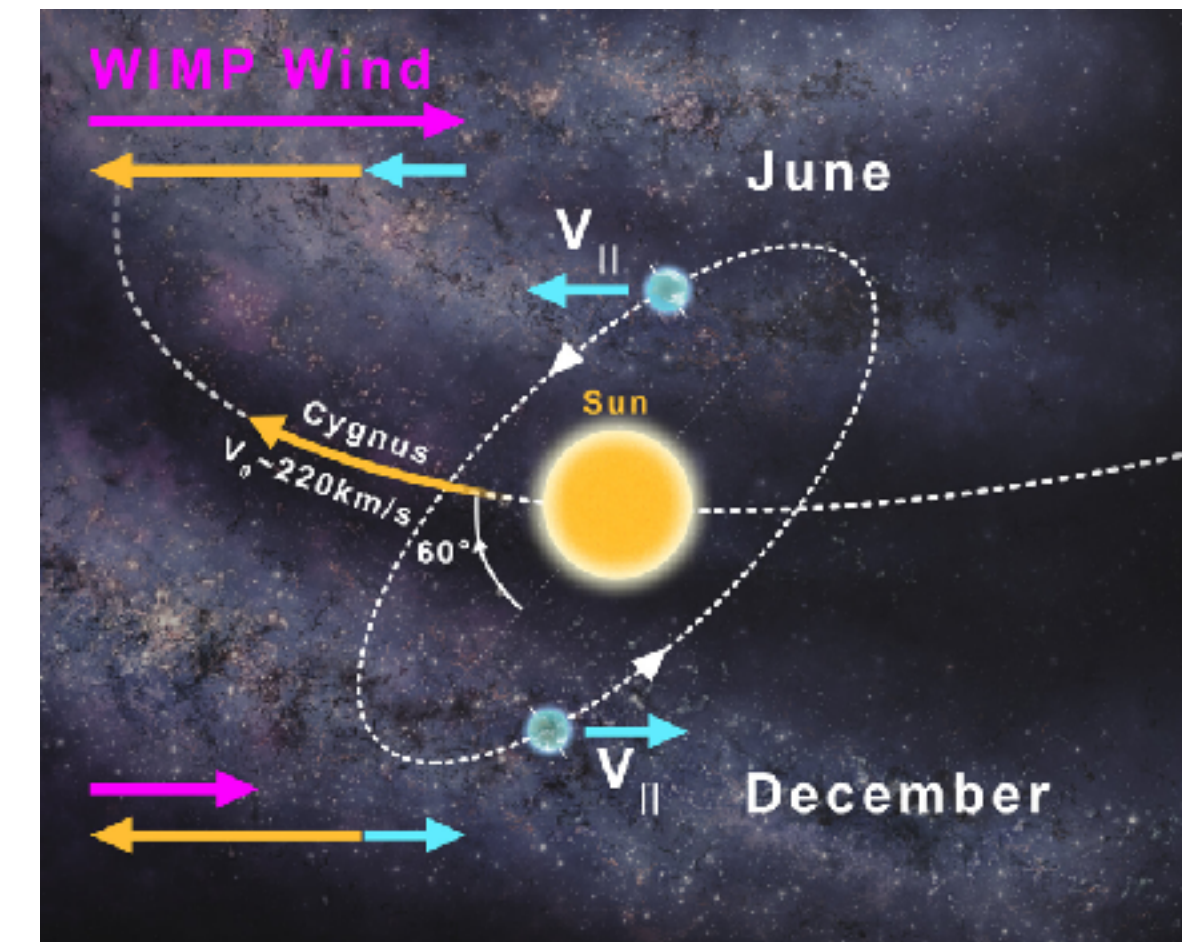
with $r = 4m_\chi m_N / (m_\chi + m_N)^2$. the Kinematic factor





Earth Velocity

$$v_E \simeq 244 + 15 \sin(2\pi y) \text{ km s}^{-1}$$



The $\sim 6\%$ velocity modulation
gives rise to a **$\sim 3\%$ modulation
in rate**



Cross Section

Spin-Independent

- Mediated by scalar or vector couplings
- Coherent scattering on all nucleons \rightarrow cross section scales as A^2
- Dominant in detectors with heavy targets (Xe, I, W)

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \frac{4}{\pi} \mu^2 [Z f_p + (A - Z) f_n]^2$$

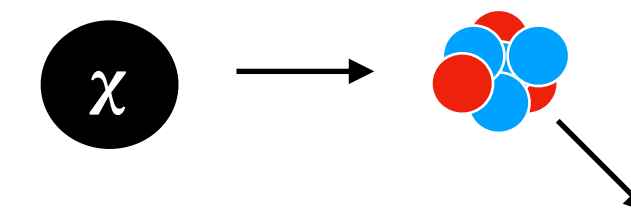
Spin-Dependent

- Mediated by axial-vector couplings
- Sensitive only to unpaired nucleon spins \rightarrow no coherence, no A^2
- Favours targets with high nuclear spin (e.g., ^{19}F , ^{127}I , ^{129}Xe)

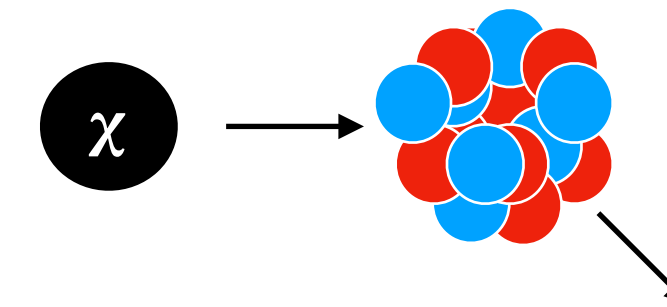
$$\sigma_0^{SD} = \frac{32}{\pi} G_F^2 \mu_N^2 \frac{J+1}{J} [a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle]^2$$

Form Factor

$\lambda \gtrsim 2R \rightarrow$ coherent scattering

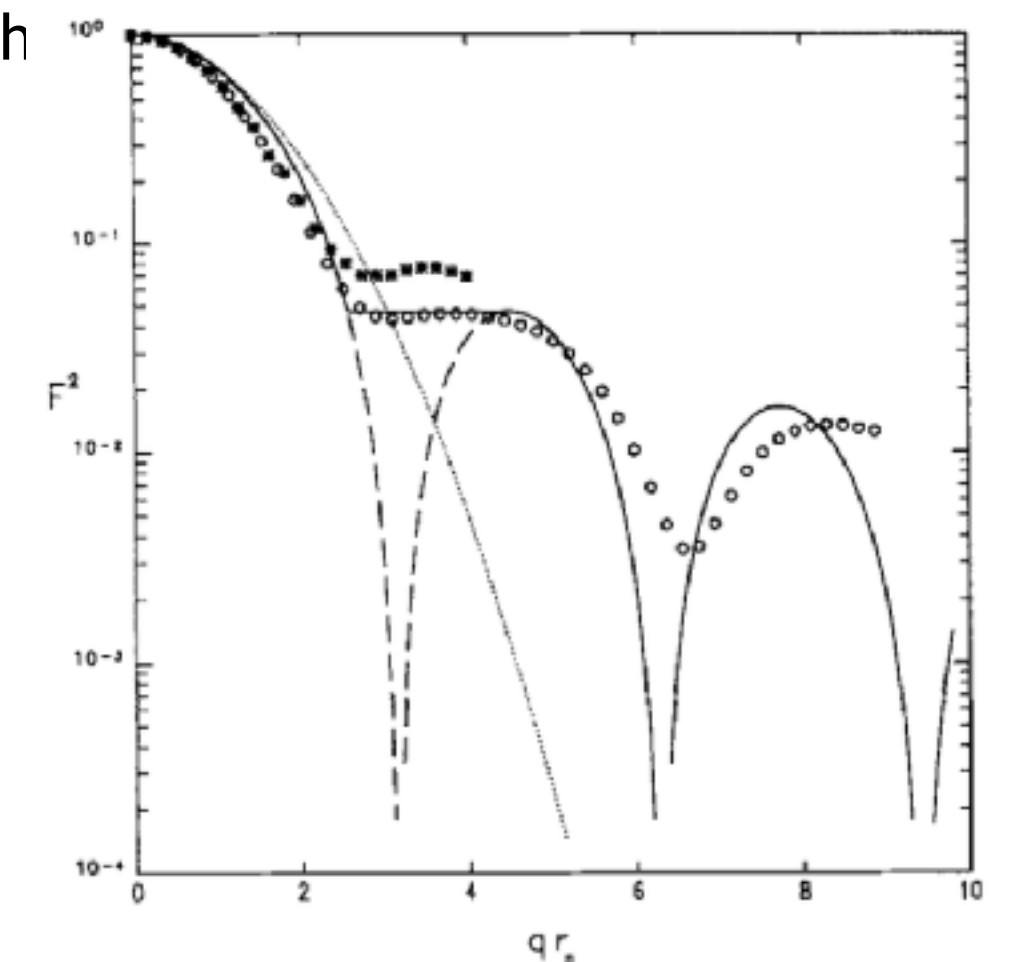


$\lambda \lesssim 2R \rightarrow$ incoherent scattering ($F^2(q) < 1$)



WIMP de Broglie wavelength
 λ (100 GeV) \approx 12 fm

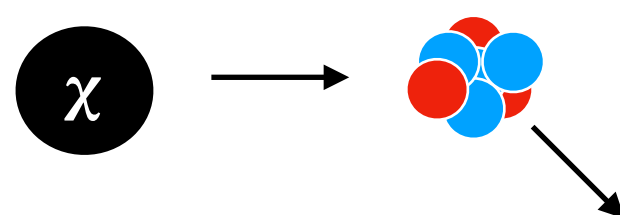
Nuclear radii:
 $R(^{28}\text{Si}) \approx 3.6$ fm
 $R(^{40}\text{Ar}) \approx 4.1$ fm
 $R(^{132}\text{Xe}) \approx 6.6$ fm



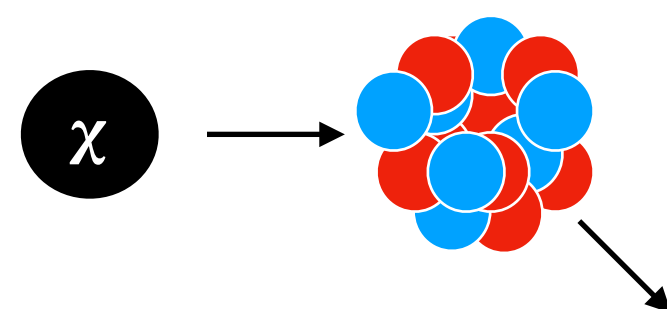


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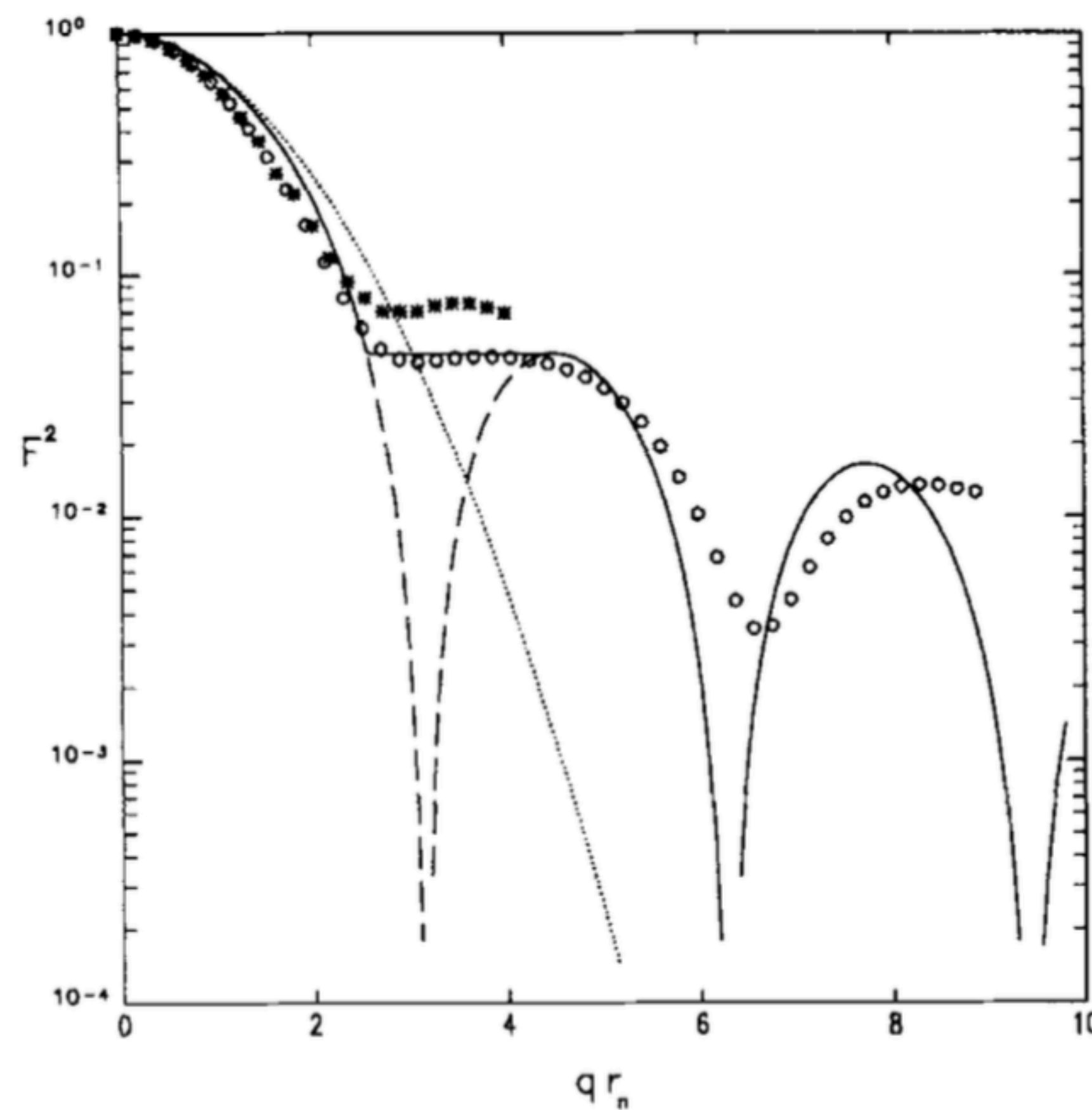


WIMP de Broglie wavelength:

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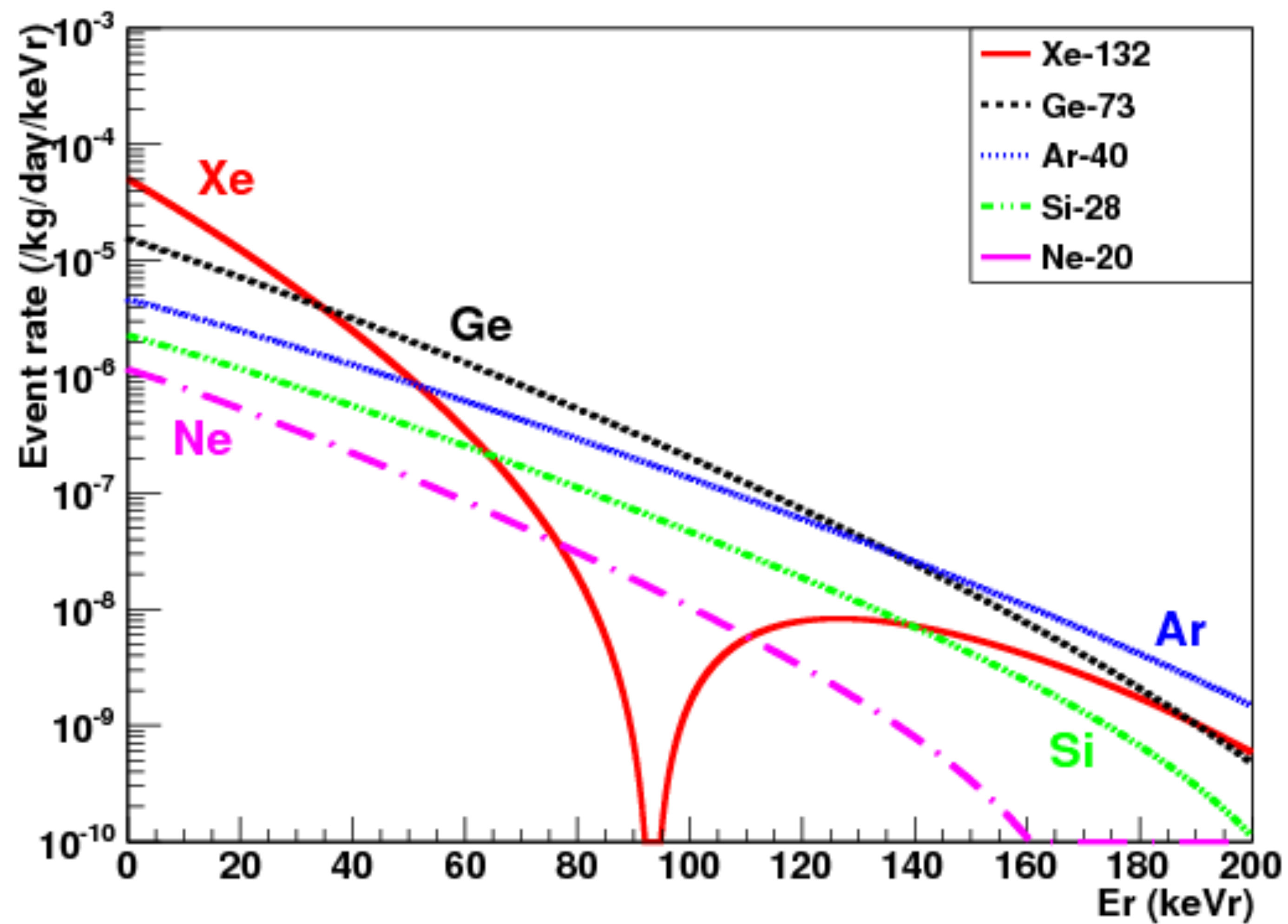
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Interaction Rate



Which target to use?



The Target

High-A Target:

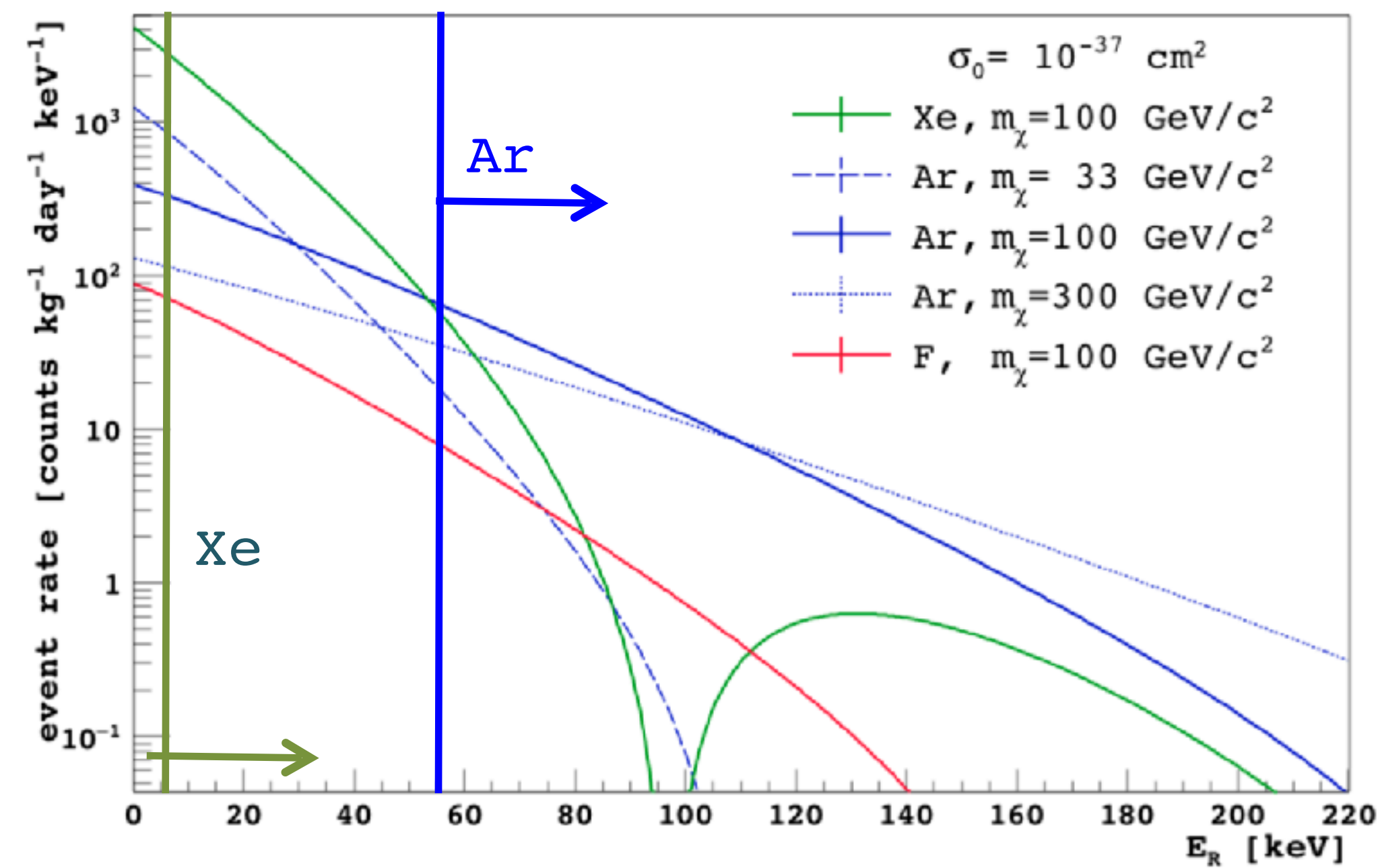
- higher cross section
- Lower nuclear recoil energy

Which is better?

Low-A Target:

- lower cross section
- higher nuclear recoil energy

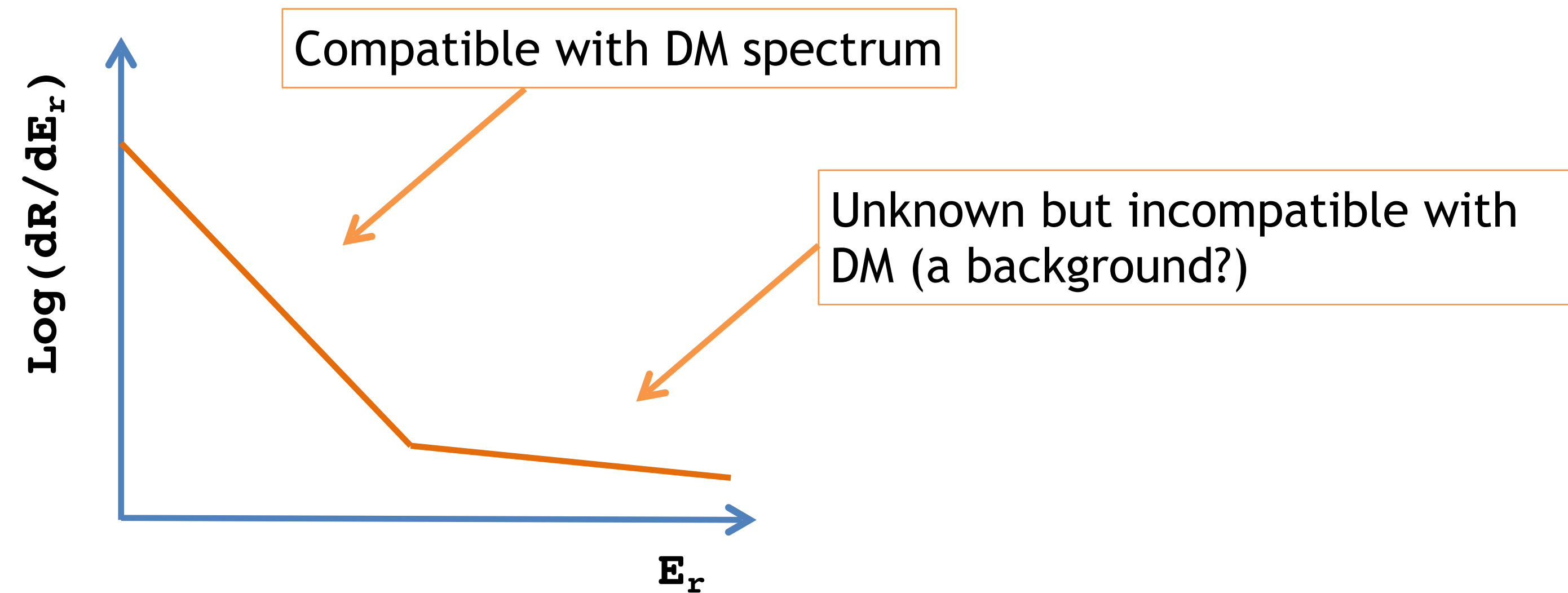
Depends on the detector threshold





The Signature

Suppose that a detector observes a spectrum like this:



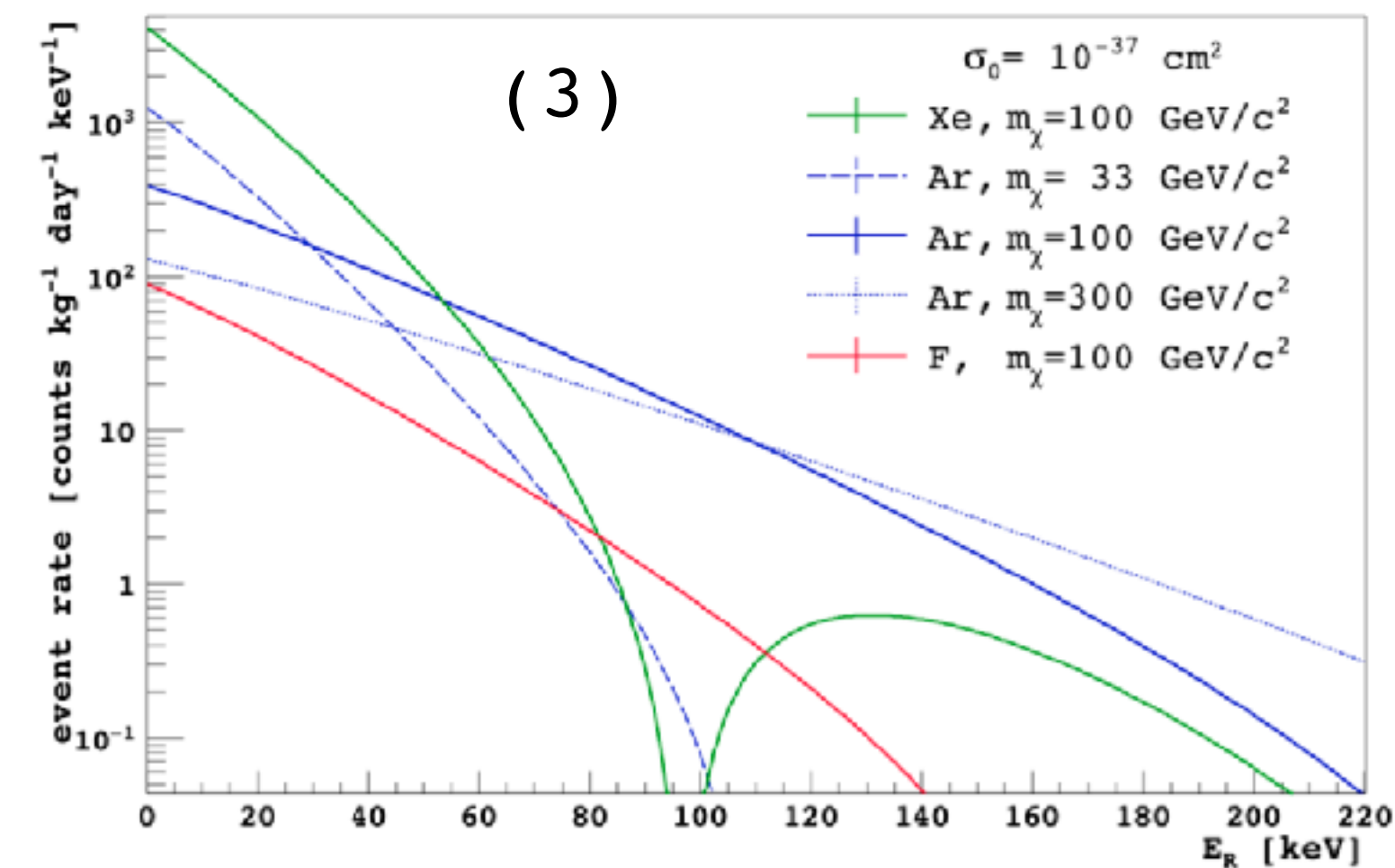
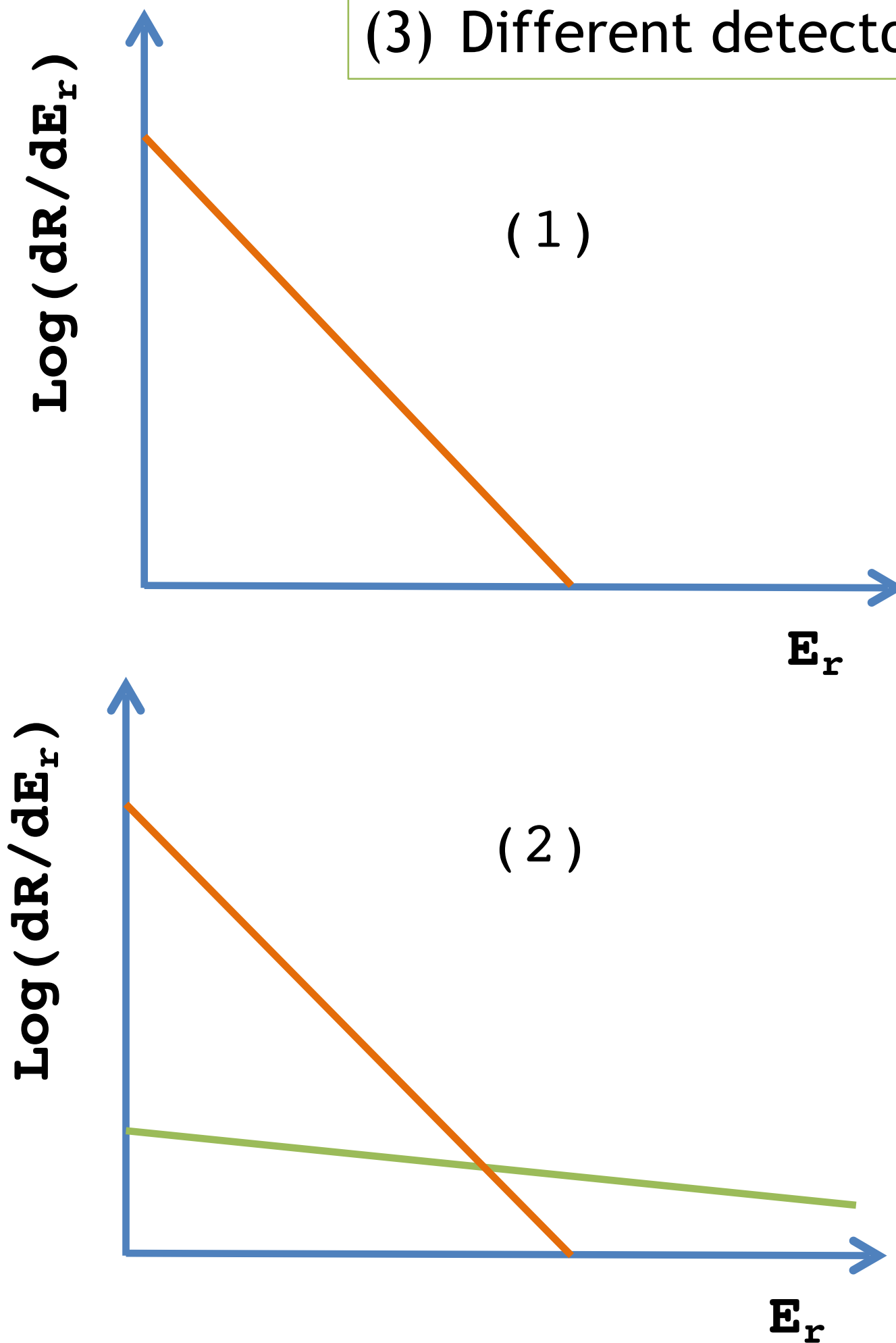
how can we claim for a dark matter evidence?



The Signature

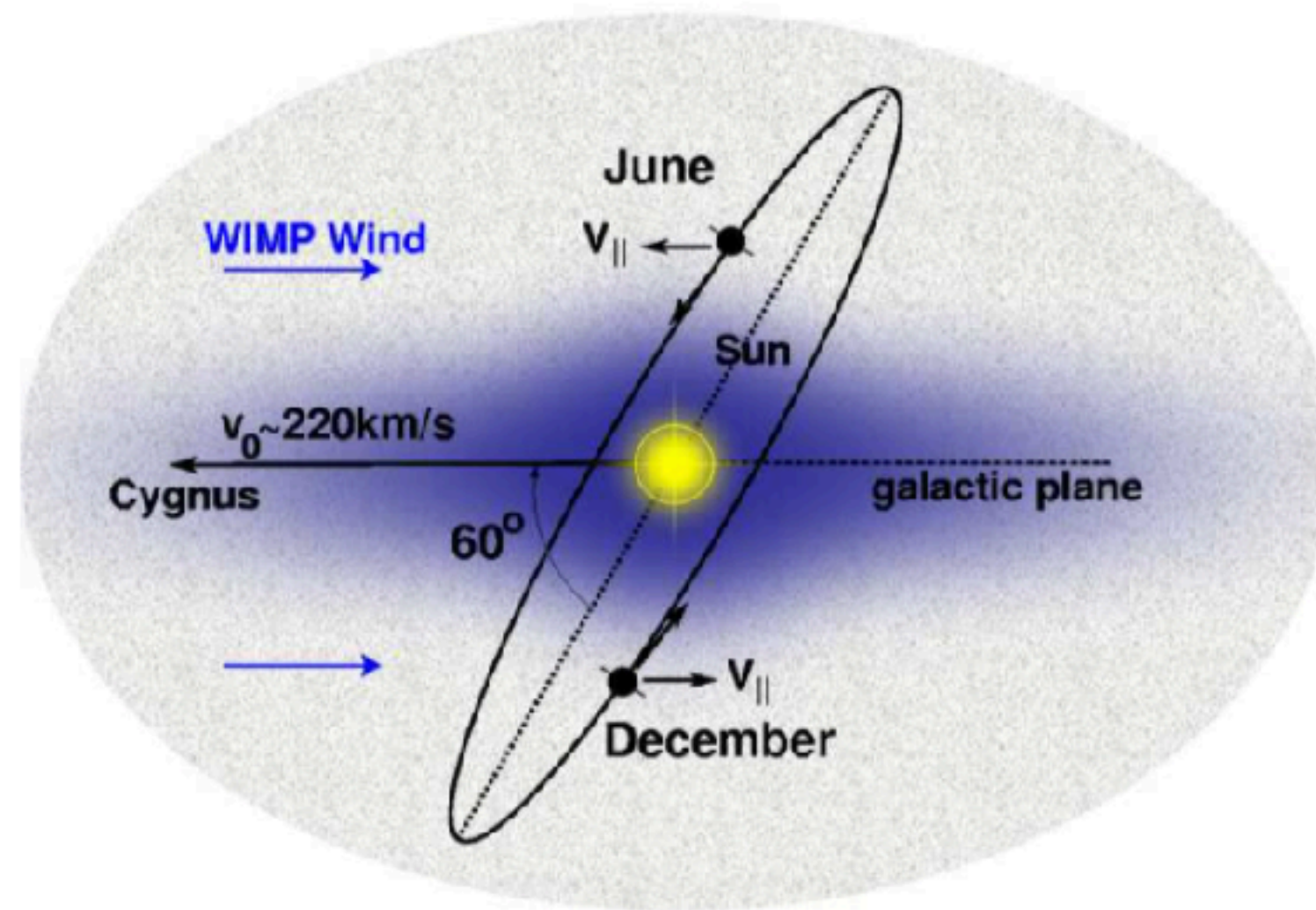
Three options:

- (1) There is no background
- (2) Background is very well known
- (3) Different detectors provide compatible excesses

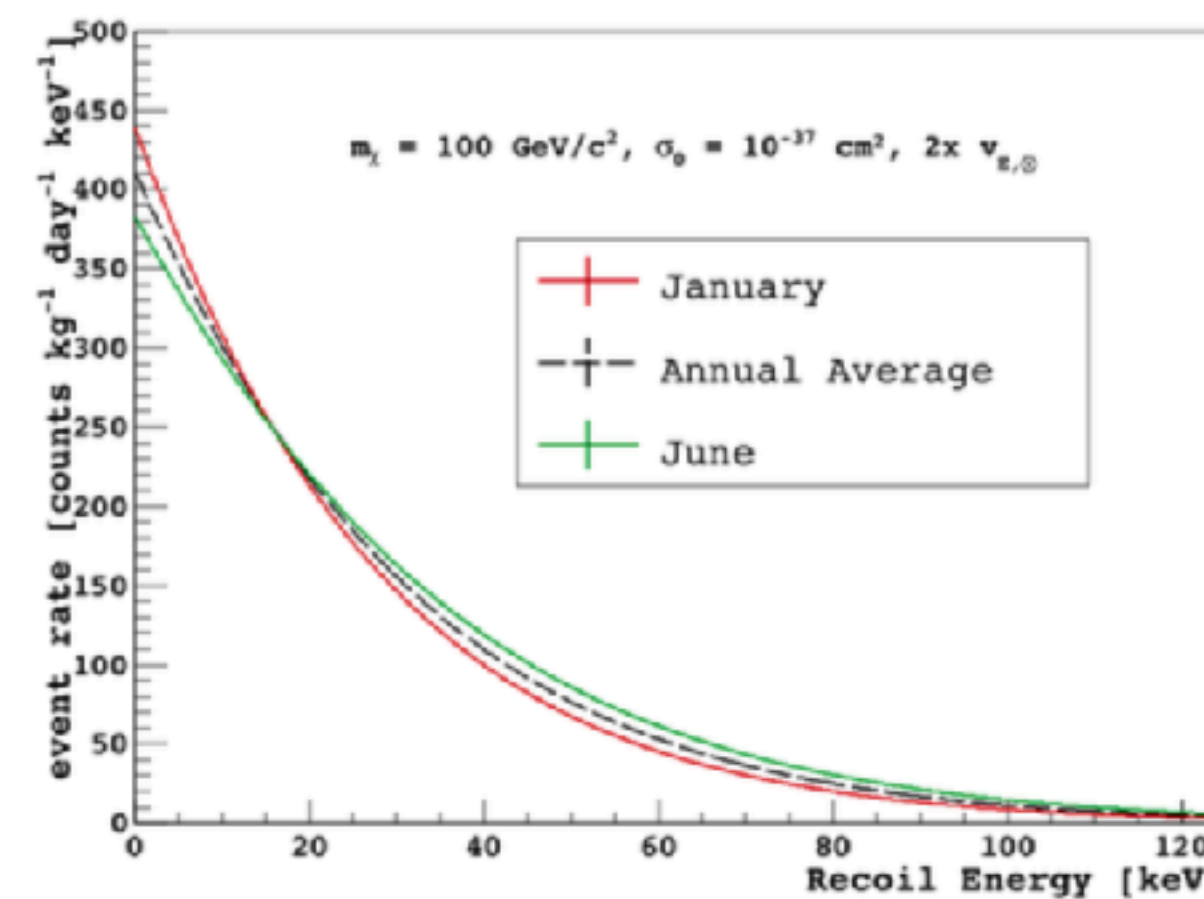




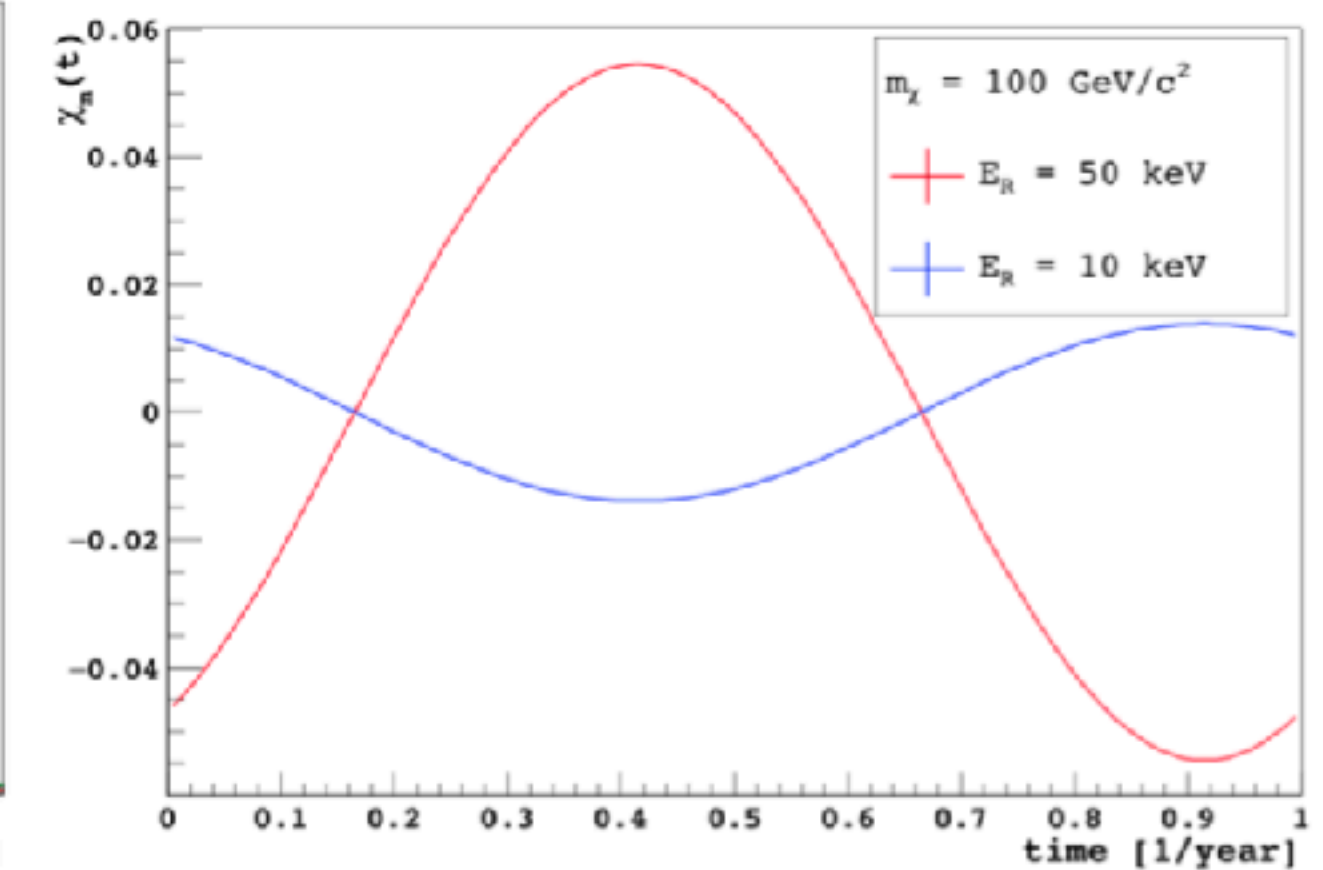
Signatures: Annual Modulation



$$\frac{dR}{dE_R}(E_R, t) \simeq \frac{dR}{dE_R}(E_R) \left[1 + \Delta(E_R) \cos \frac{2\pi(t - t_0)}{T} \right]$$



(a) Seasonal variation of $\frac{dR}{dE}(t)$



(b) Amplitude of the modulation



Signatures: Directionality

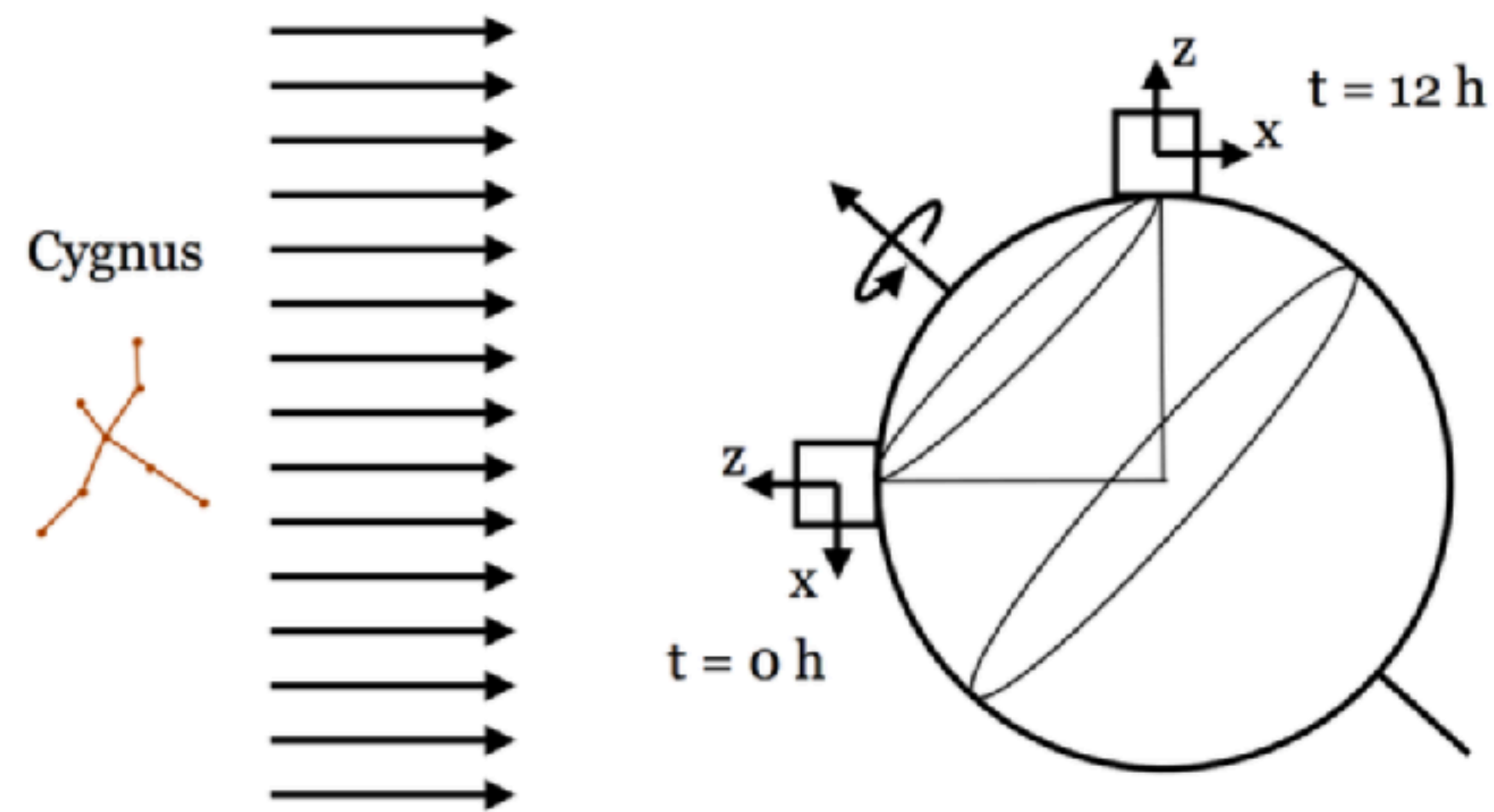


Fig. 1.8 The daily rotation of the Earth introduces a modulation in recoil angle, as measured in laboratory frame. [48]

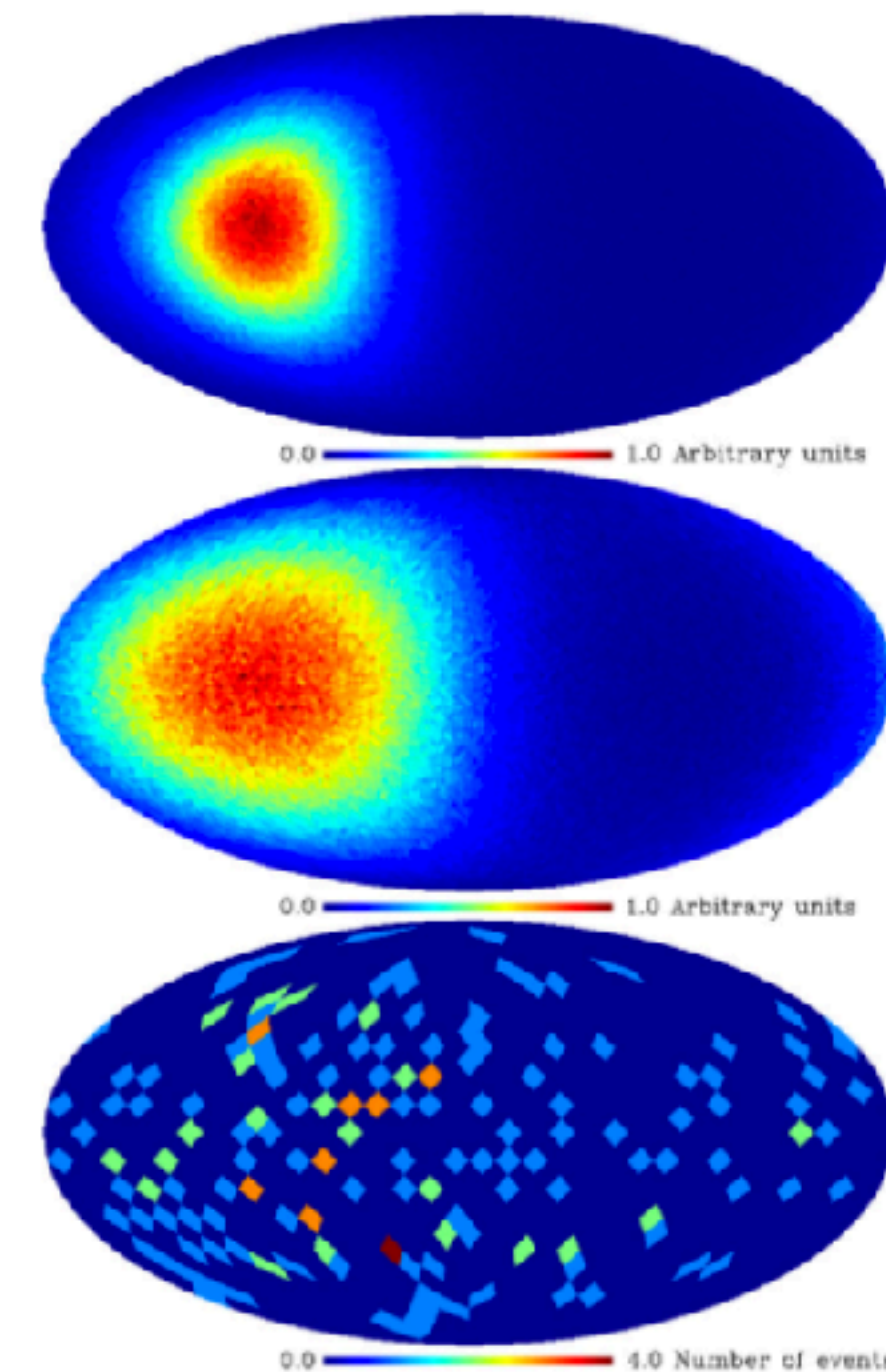


Figure from J. Billard *et al.* 2010

- WIMP flux in the case of an isothermal spherical halo
- WIMP-induced recoil distribution
- A typical simulated measurement:
100 WIMP recoils and
100 background events
(low angular resolution)



Signatures: Summary

Signature	Pros	Cons	Solution
Rate/Spectrum	"simplest"	Background?	Multi-target
Seasonal modulations	Smoking gun: background should be constant	Cosmogenic background is not constant	Repeating the experiment in the two hemispheres
Directionality	Background has not a preferred "direction" Recoils from dark matter have a "preference" towards Cygnus direction	Needs of some tens of events. Gaseous detectors can not reach large masses Liquid and solid detectors have to prove the existence of this signature	New technologies able to explore directionality with very large target masses



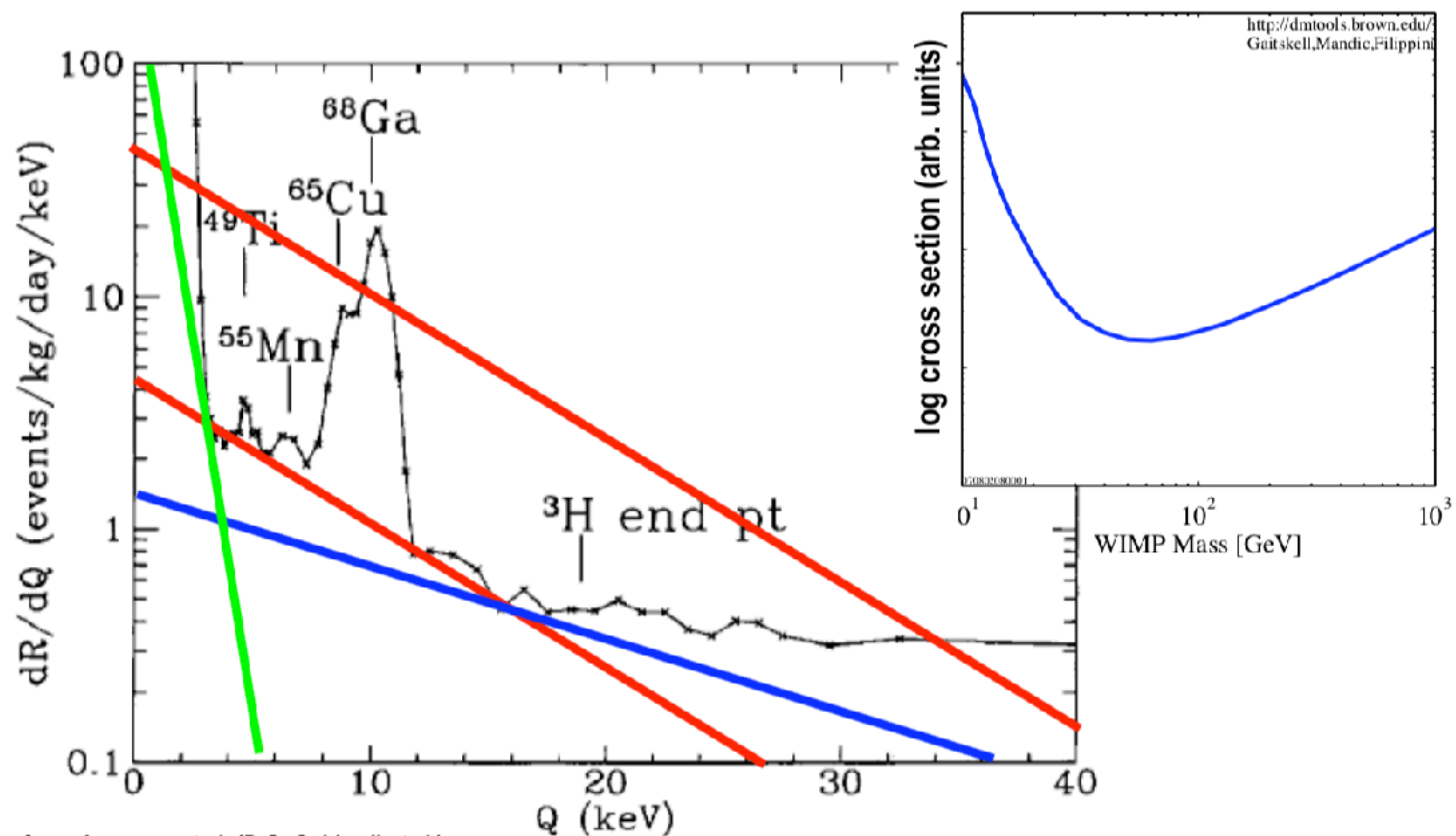
Pioneering experiments

Year (pub.)	Experiment	Technology	Primary Goal	Typical SI Limit [cm ²]
1987	Homestake NaI	NaI(Tl) scintillators	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-34}$
1990	UC Irvine / UKDMC	NaI(Tl), pulse shape discr.	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-35}$
1992	Heidelberg-Moscow	HPGe semiconductor diodes	0 ν $\beta\beta$ (⁷⁶ Ge) + WIMP	$\sim 10^{-36}$
1993	IGEX	HPGe detectors	0 ν $\beta\beta$ (⁷⁶ Ge) + WIMP	$\sim 10^{-36}$
1995	EDELWEISS (proto)	Cryogenic Ge bolometers	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-37}$
1996	DAMA/NaI	NaI(Tl) array	Annual modulation (WIMP)	$\sim 10^{-37}$
1999	CDMS (Stanford)	Ge/Si bolometers + ionization	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-38}$
1998	CRESST-I	Sapphire bolometers (phonons only)	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-37}$
2002	ZEPLIN-I	Liquid xenon scintillation	WIMP search	$\sim 10^{-36}$



The Sensitivity

- Germanium ionization detector (UCSB/UCB/LBL)



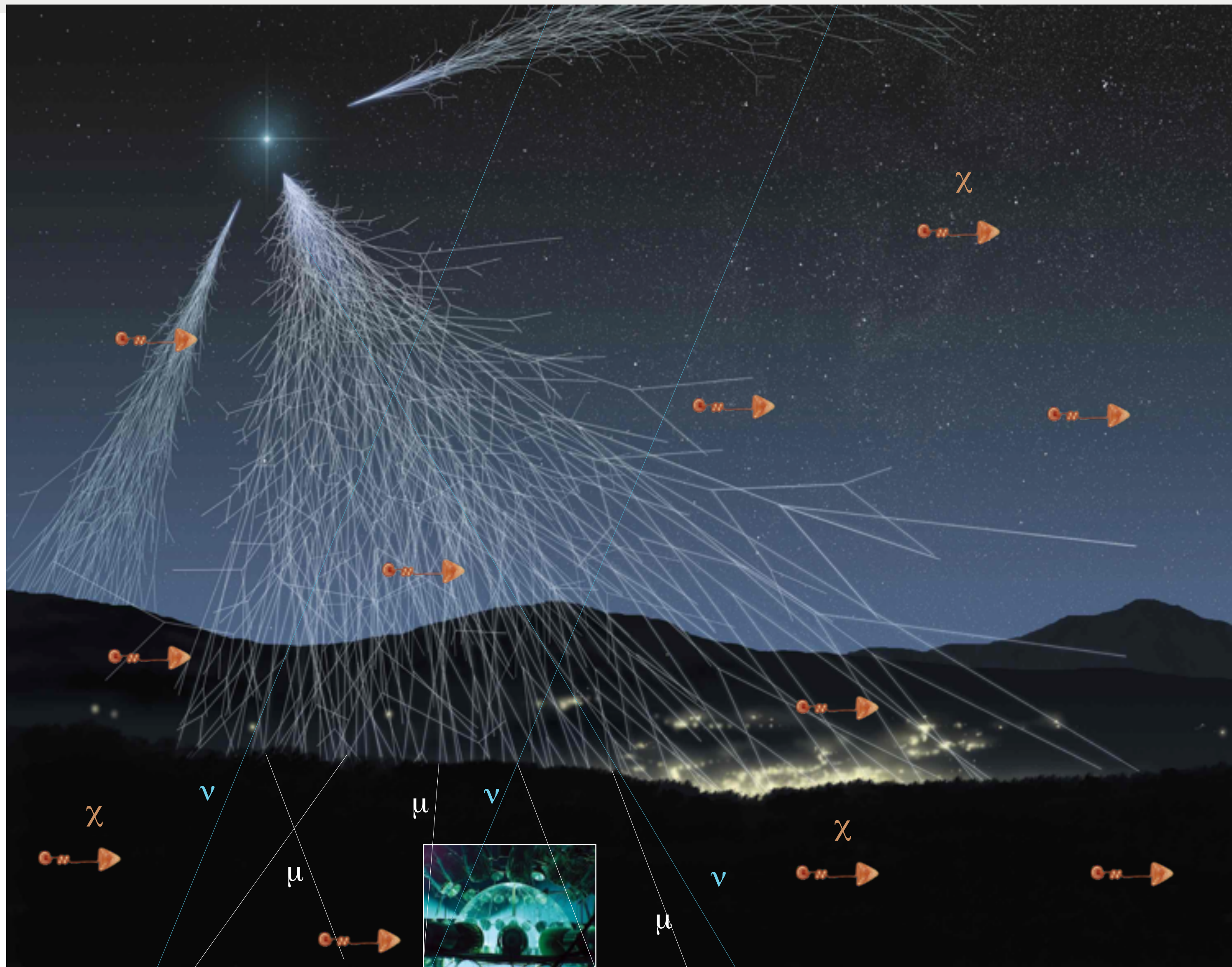


Expected signal and background

Searching for just a **handful of WIMP interactions** in **multi-tonne** targets, over **several years**

To compare with:

- Cosmic background at surface: ??? events / m^2 / s
- Radioactivity in rock: ??? events / kg / s
- Radioactivity in water: ??? events / liter / s
- Radioactivity in air: ??? events / m^3 / s



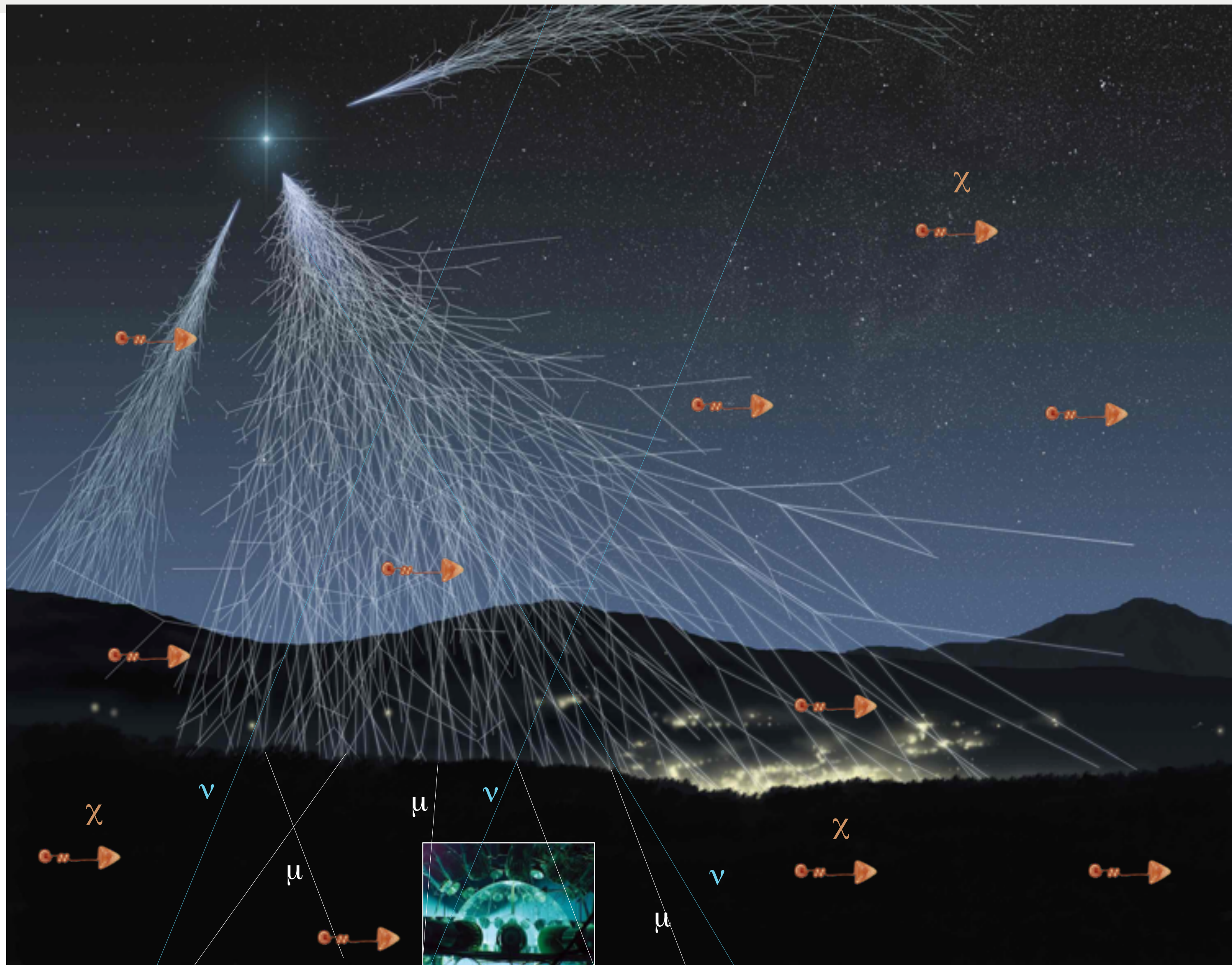


Expected signal and background

Searching for just a **handful of WIMP interactions** in **multi-tonne** targets, over **several years**

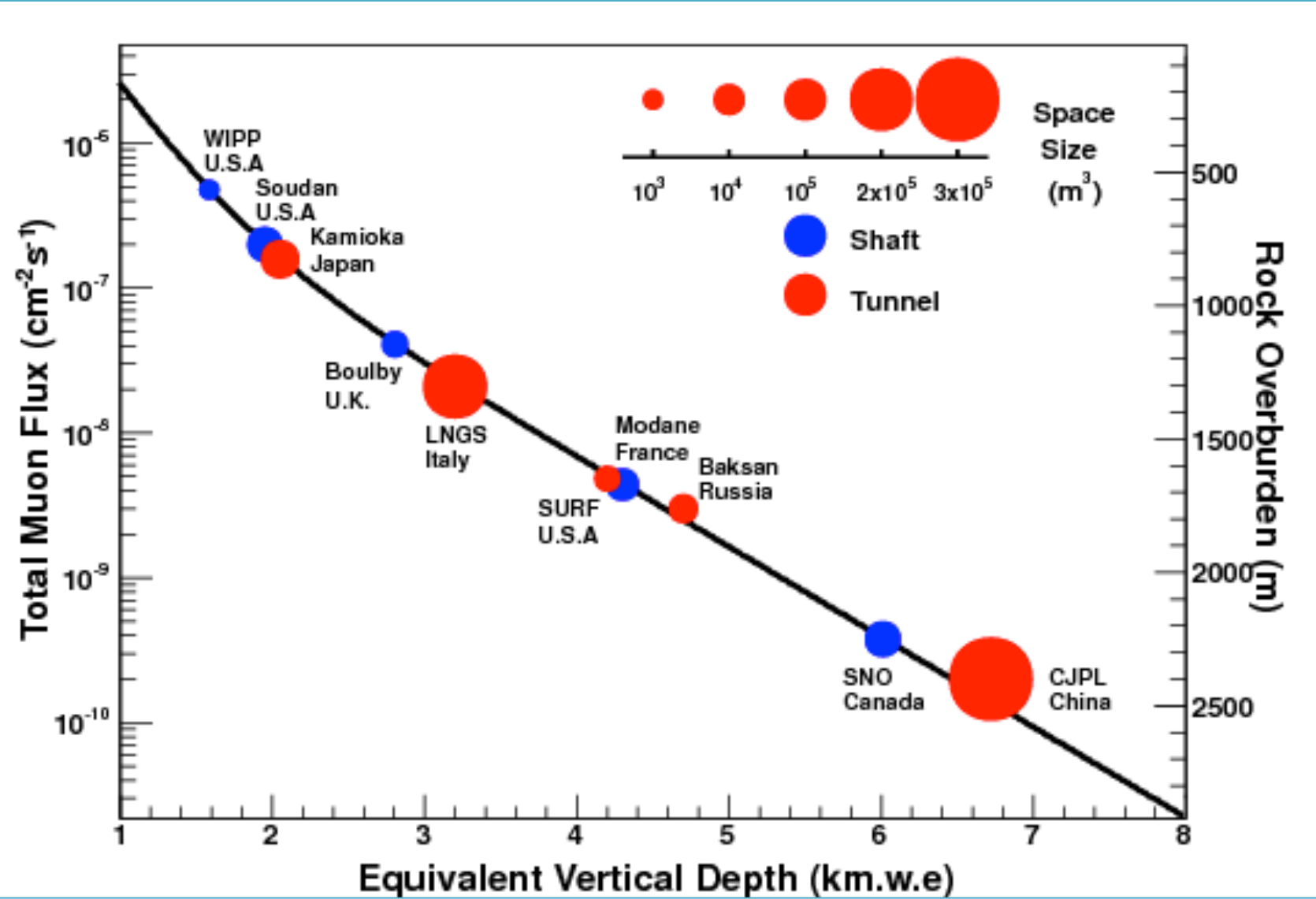
To compare with:

- Cosmic background at surface: **100** events / m^2 / s
- Radioactivity in rock: **1,000** events / kg / s
- Radioactivity in water: **10** events / liter / s
- Radioactivity in air: **10** events / m^3 / s





The Underground laboratories



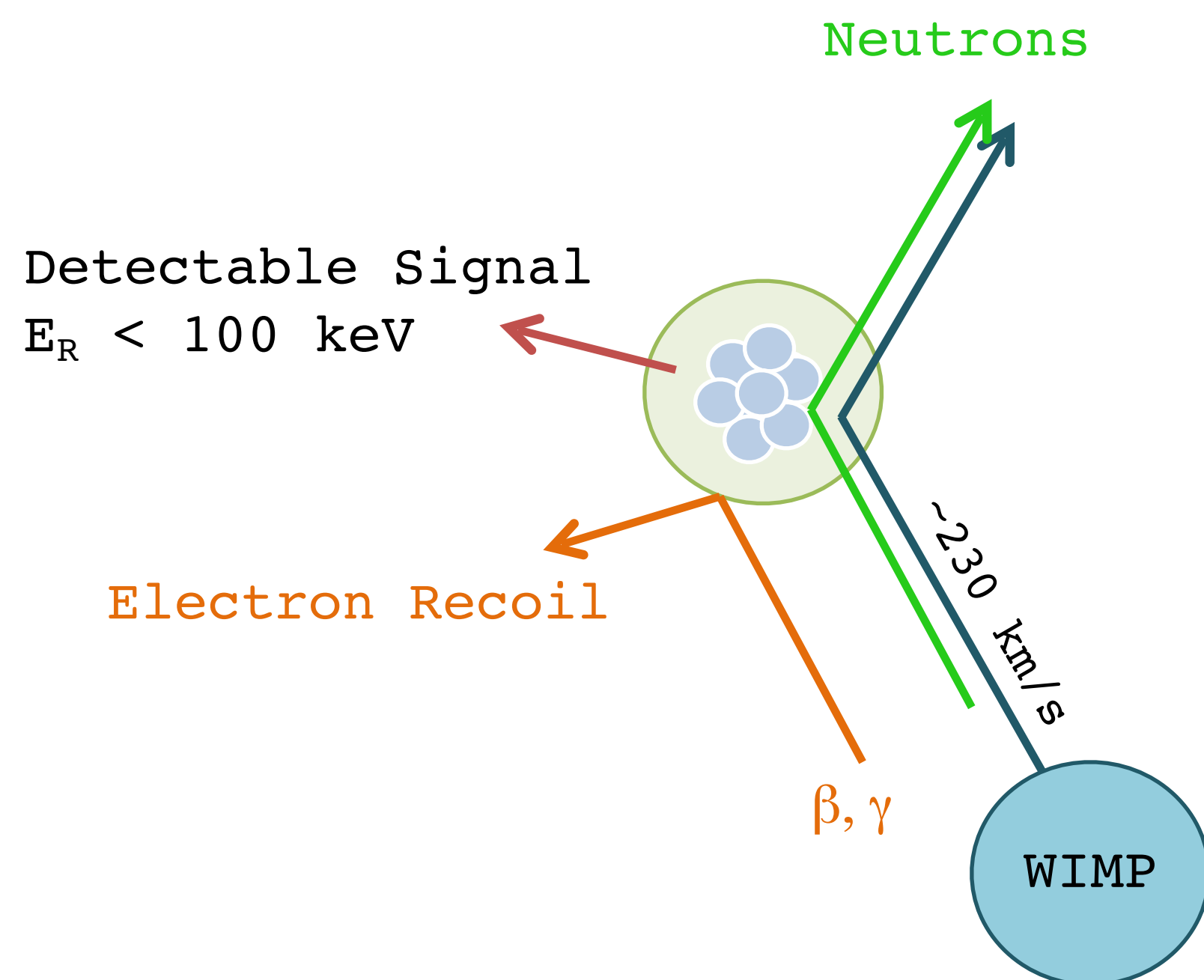


Expected Backgrounds

Cosmic rays and cosmogenic isotopes

Natural (^{238}U , ^{232}Th , ^{235}U , ^{222}Rn , ...) and anthropogenic (^{85}Kr , ^{137}Cs , ...) **radioactivity**

Neutrinos (solar, atmospheric, diffuse supernovae)



WIMP detector requirement:

- Large mass
- Low energy threshold
- Ultra-low background
- Signal/background discrimination

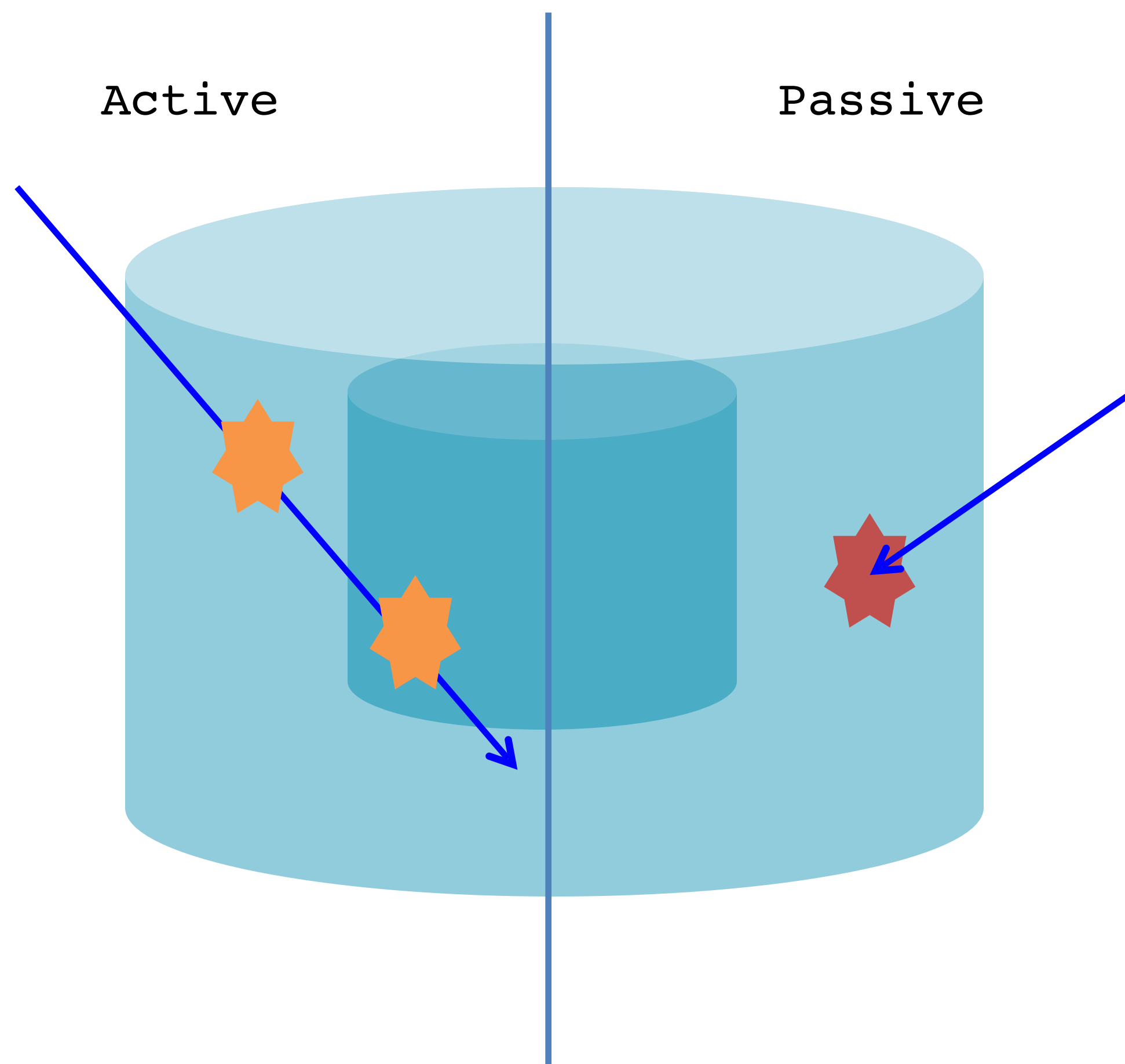


Either **background free** or perfectly constrained background

Or **clear signature** (annual modulation, directionality)

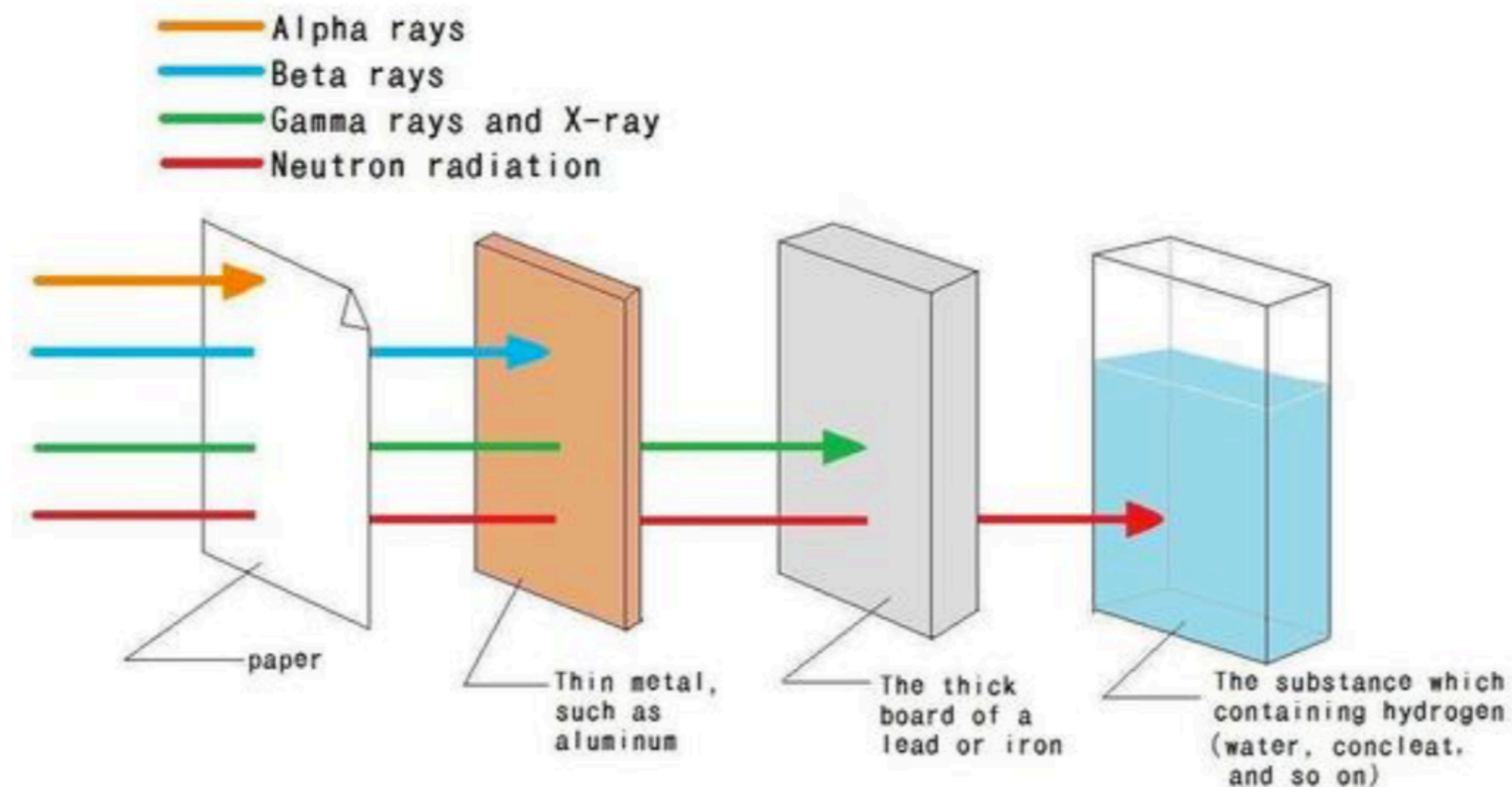


Active and Passive Shieldings





Passive Shielding: Attenuation Lengths



- ▶ muons – can not be stopped



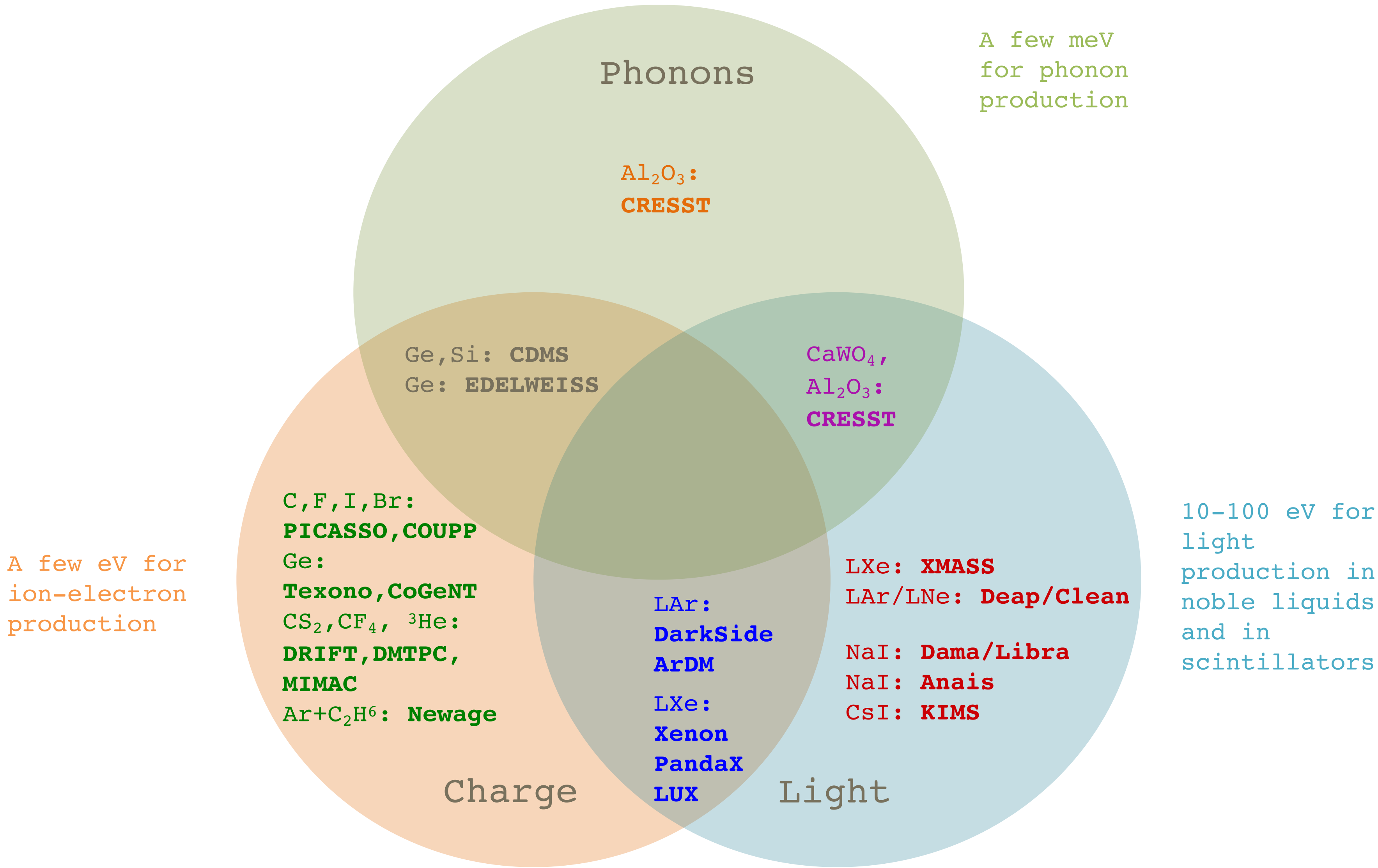
Radiopurity: the Roman lead



- Lead is ideal for shielding due to its high density and atomic number, but modern lead contains radioactive Pb-210.
- Ancient lead, however, is free from Pb-210 thanks to its 22.3-year half-life.
- A Roman shipwreck near Sardinia yielded ~1000 lead ingots (33 kg each);
- 150 were donated to INFN for use at LNGS, preserving the original Roman inscriptions.

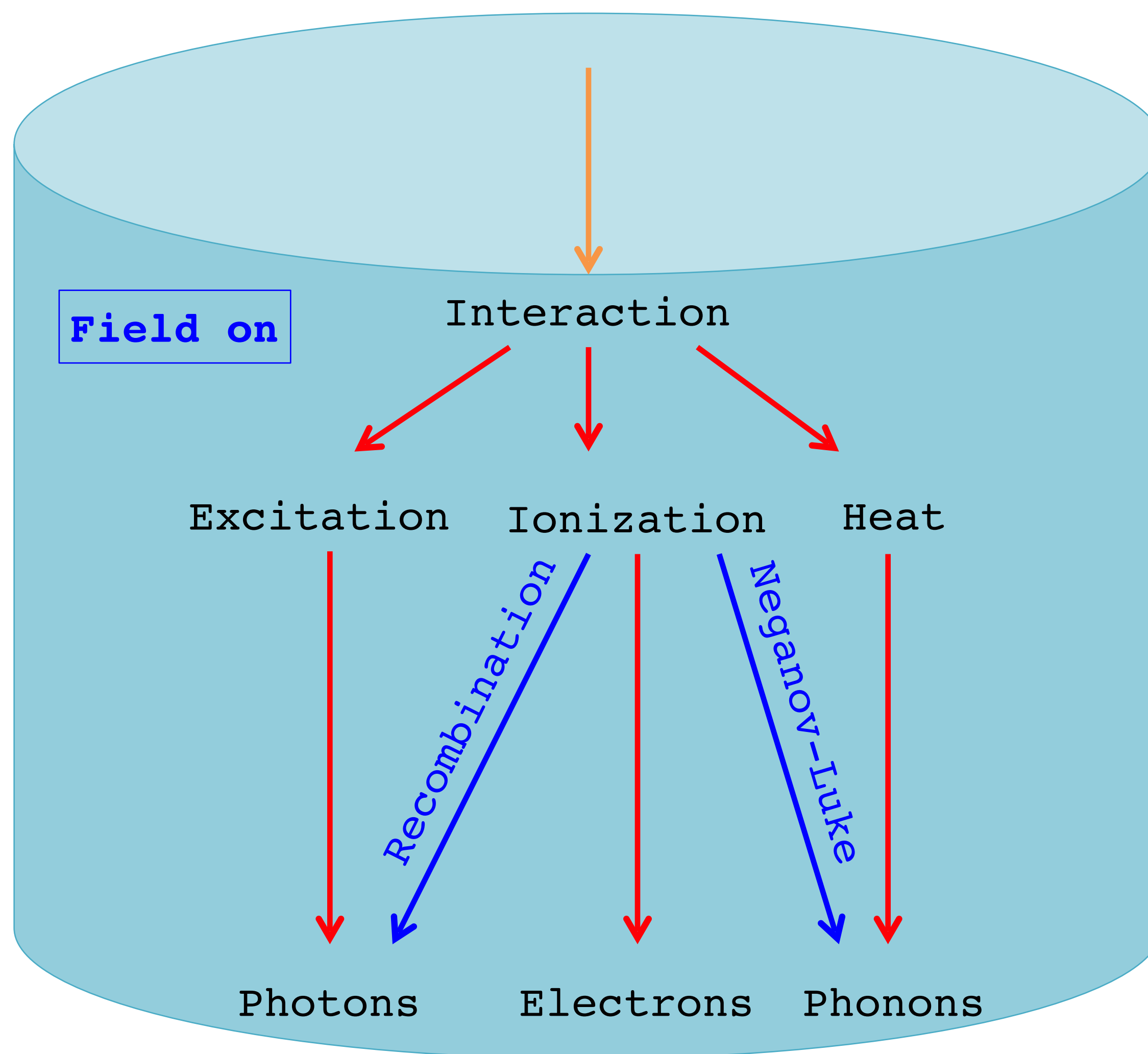


Direct Detection Techniques



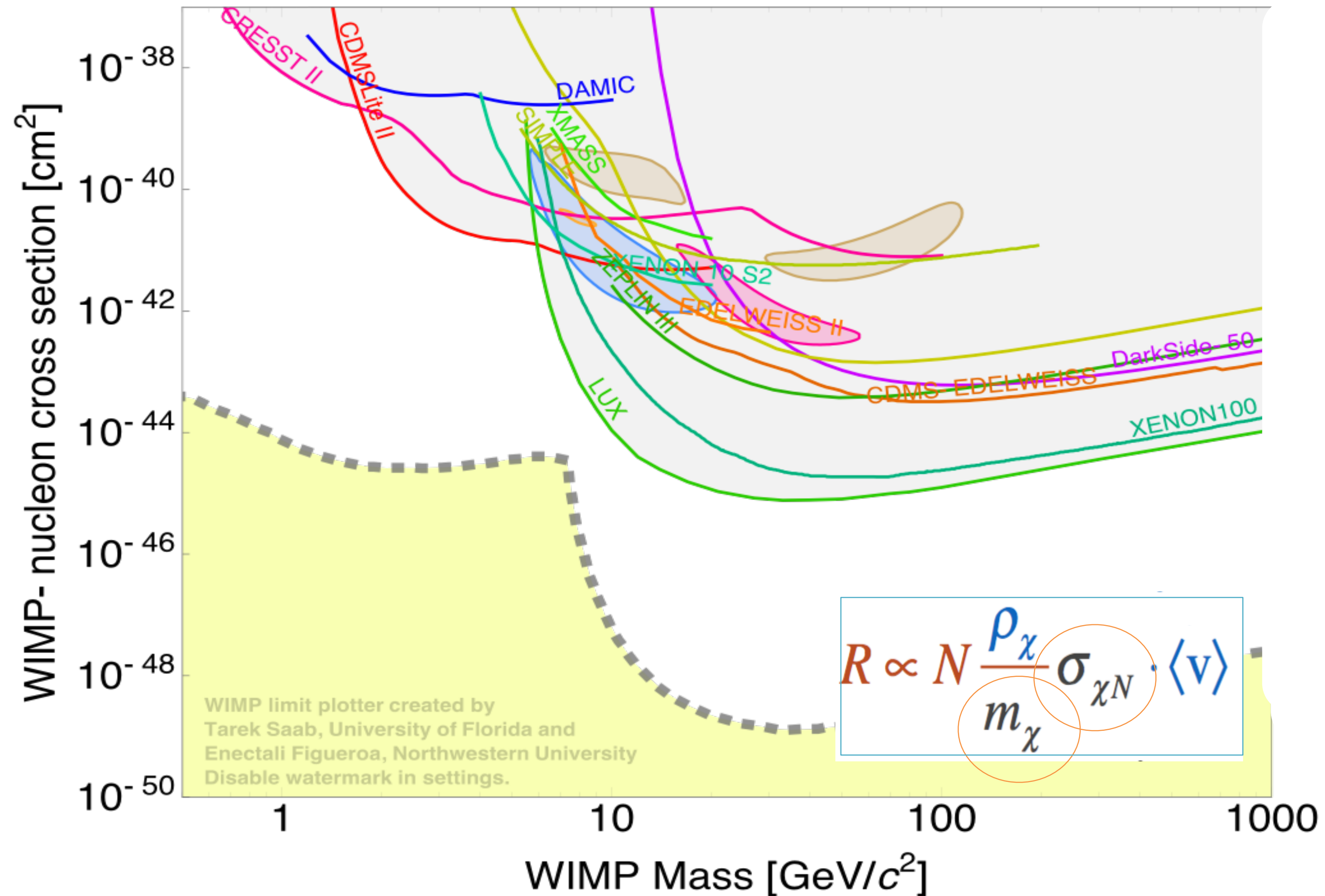


The Observables



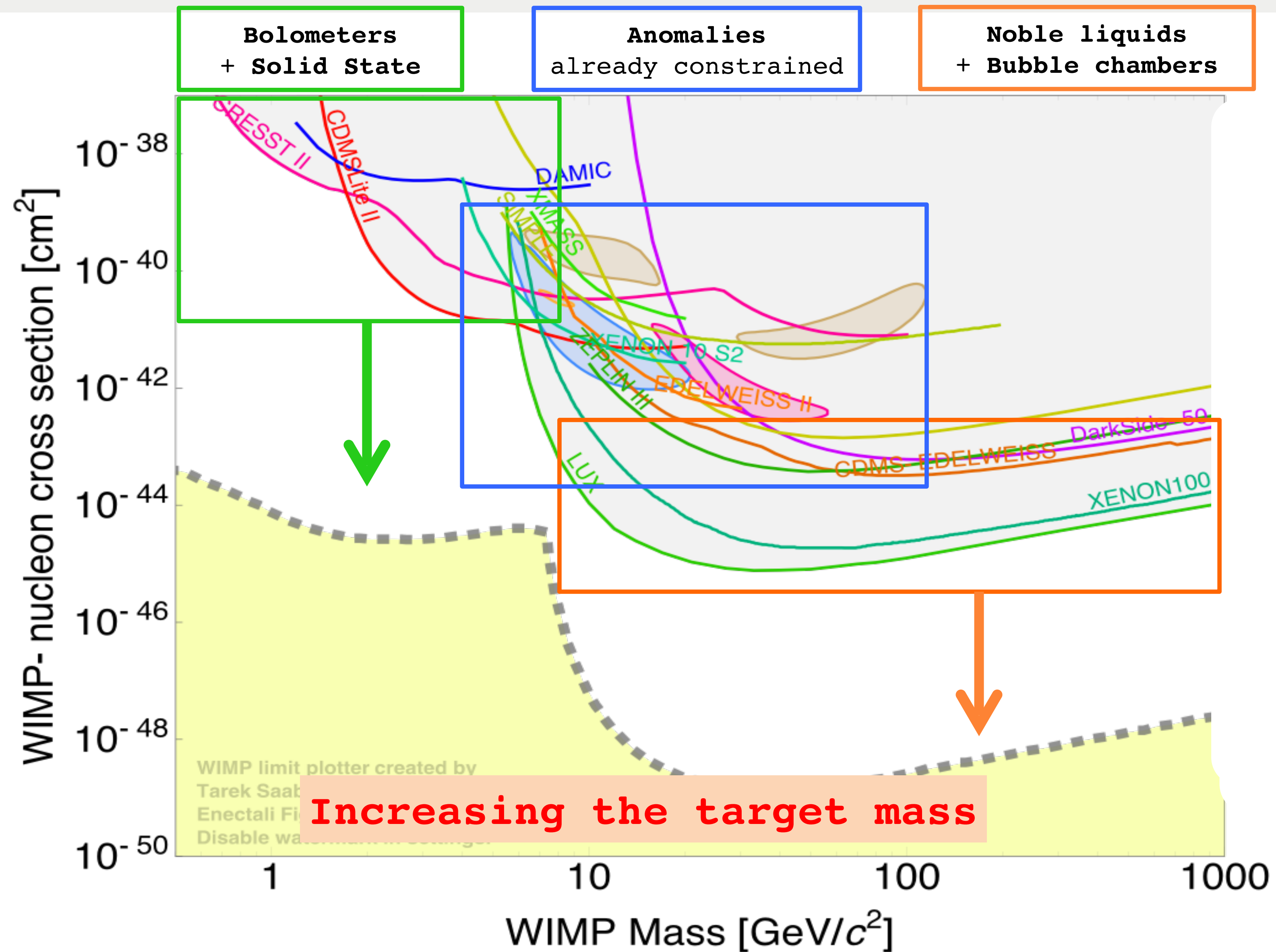


The Sensitivity



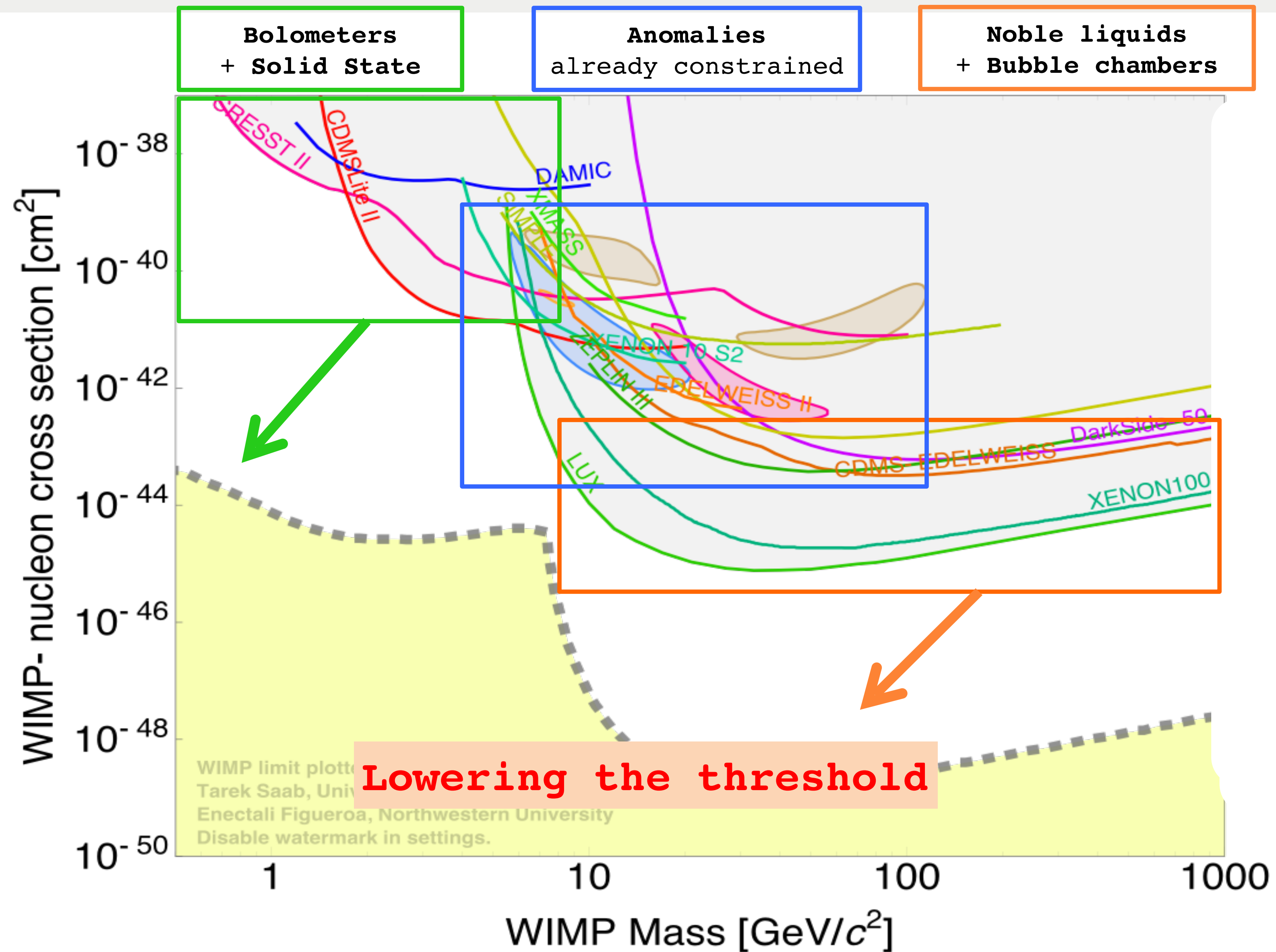


The Sensitivity





The Sensitivity





A few fundamental concepts

Quenching factor: ratio between observed energy and deposited energy

Yields (light yield, phonon yield, ionization yield): number of quanta per unit of energy

Trigger: set of criteria that must be fulfilled for acquiring an event

Trigger threshold: minimum energy required to “trigger” the detector

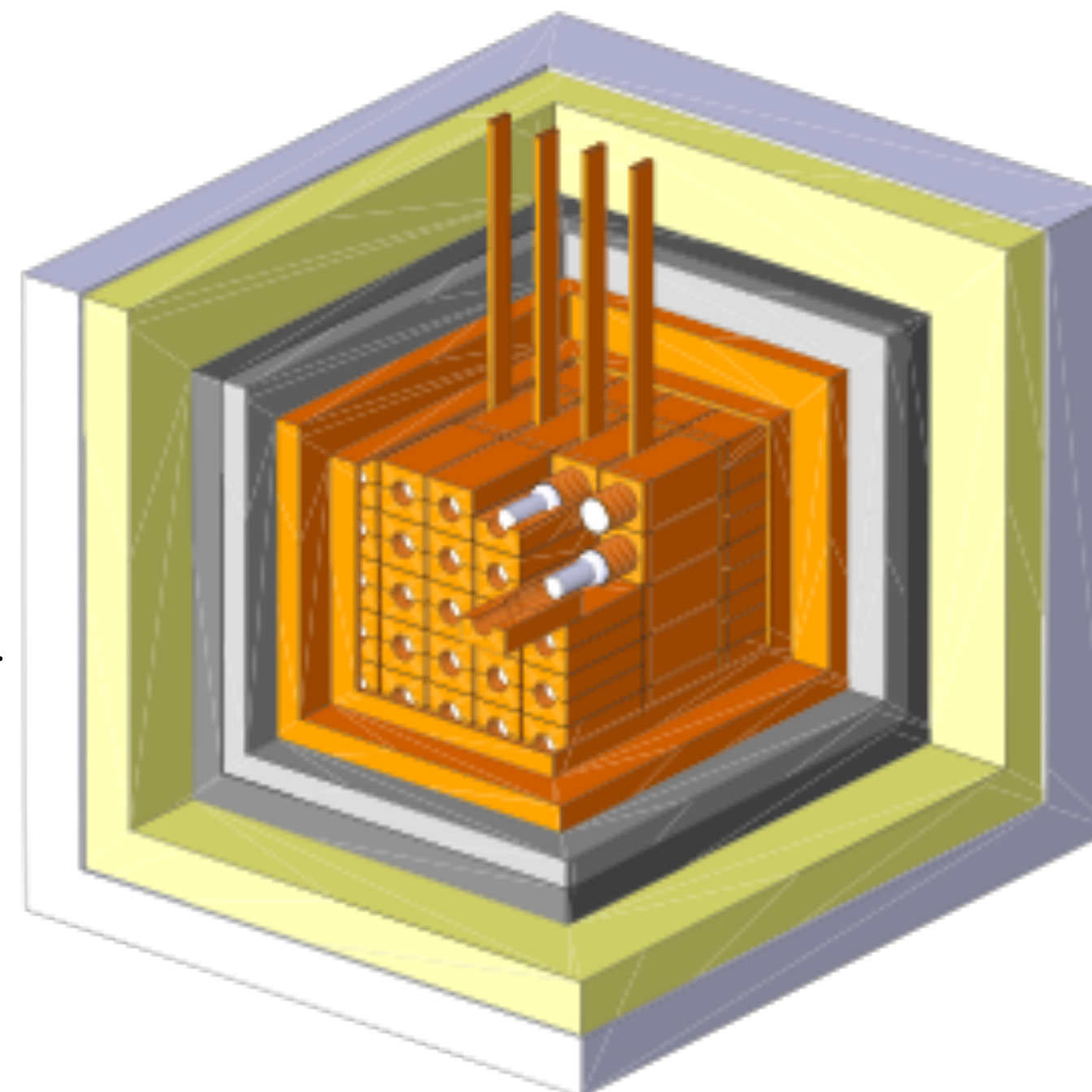
Analysis threshold: minimum energy used in the analysis



The DAMA observation

High purity NaI(Tl) crystals

- ▣ OFHC copper
- ▣ Low radioactivity lead
- ▣ Cu/Pb etched with acid in clean room
- ▣ Polyethylene/paraffin-Cadmium
- ▣ Flushed with HP N₂ Gas
- ▣ No muon veto (no active shielding).

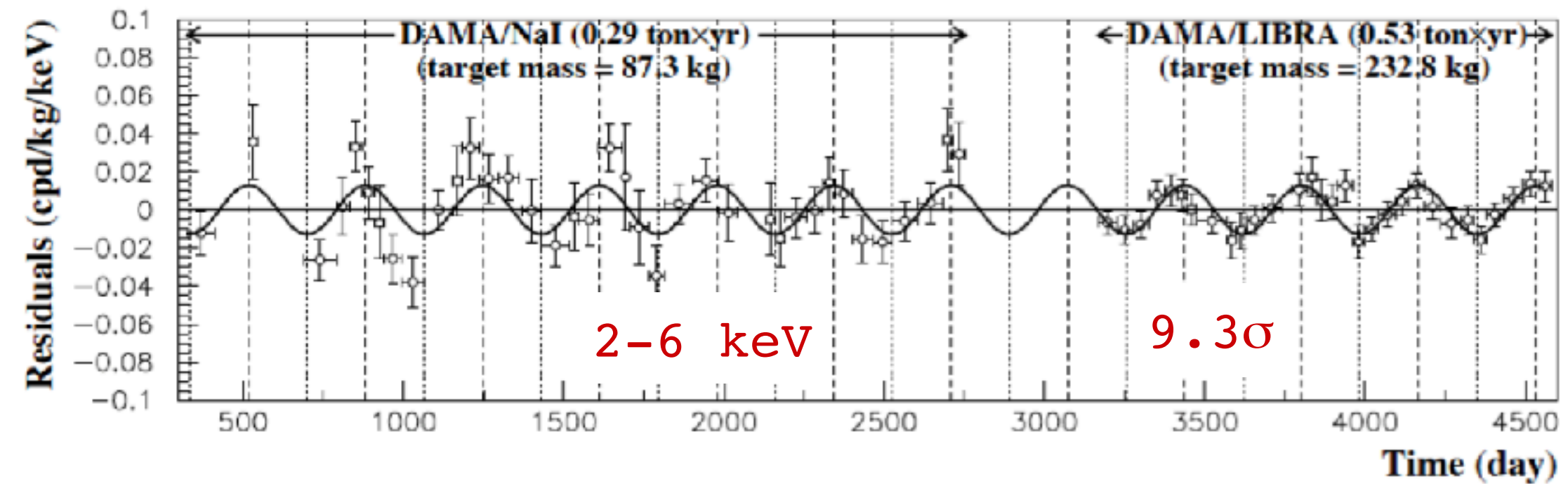
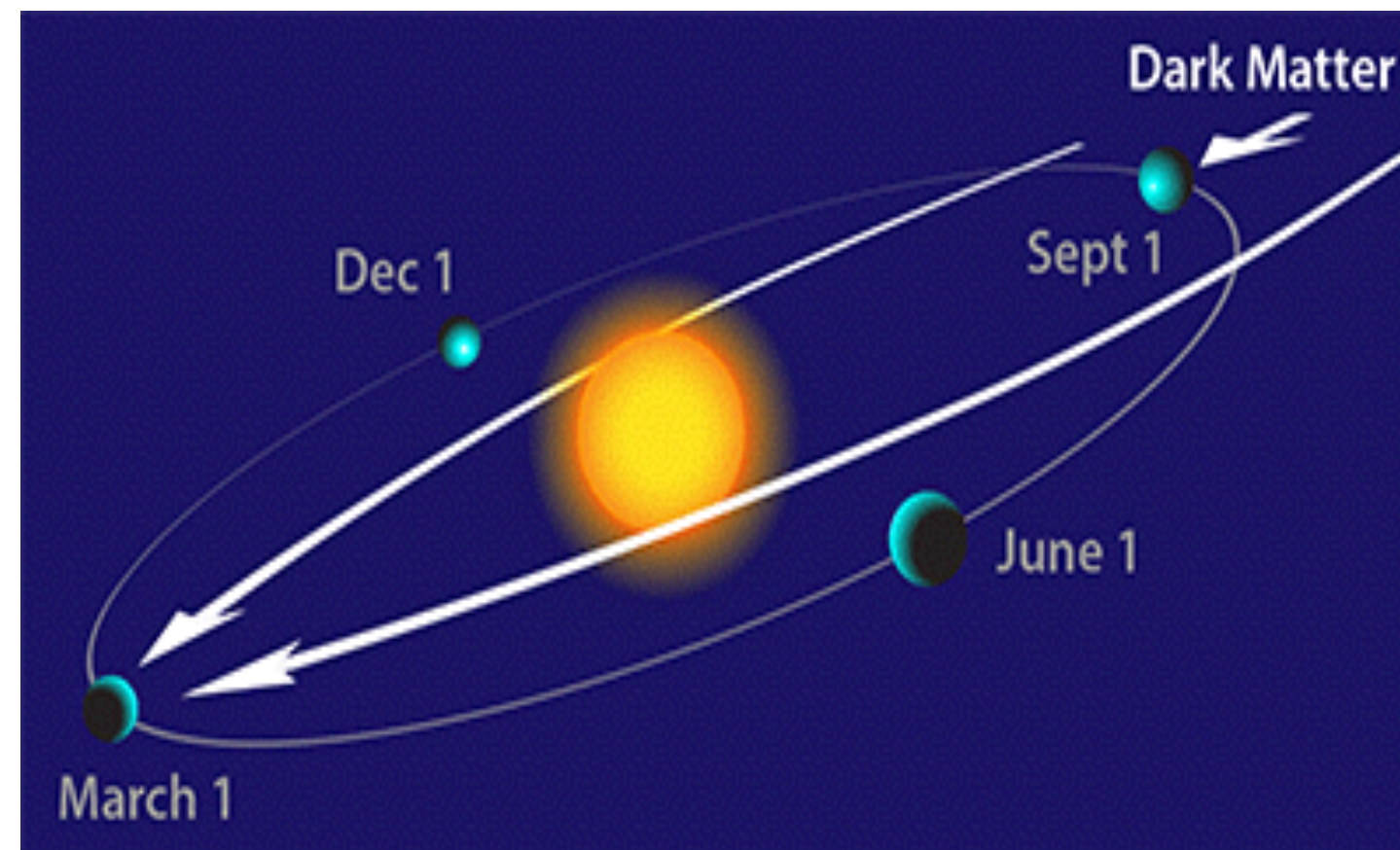


Characteristics

- Operating at room temperature
- High density (3-5 g/cm³): **large stopping power**
- High light yield: **low thresholds** ~0(keV)
- **Limited crystal size** (several cm³): several detectors for large masses
- **Limited background rejection** (only multiple crystal cut)



The DAMA observation



Target: ~250kg NaI(Tl)

- Signal: Annual modulation
 - Modulating: ~0.0112 (12) cpd/keV/kg
 - Signal region: 2-6 keV_{ee}
 - Non-modulating: ~ 1 cpd/keV/kg
 - No modulation above 6 keV.
- ~9.3σ significance 14 cycles (2013)
- Is this signal from dark matter interactions?



The DAMA observation

The annual modulation observed by DAMA-LIBRA is **consistent with motion of Sun-Earth system through dark matter halo:**

- The **amplitude** is $\sim 1\%$.
- The **period** is one year.
- The rate is maximum on day 144 ± 7 d (May 24). This is **within uncertainty of June 2**, the expected peak rate in dark matter.

Results are inconsistent with experiments using other targets. (LUX, XENON, CDMS)

Alternative explanations:

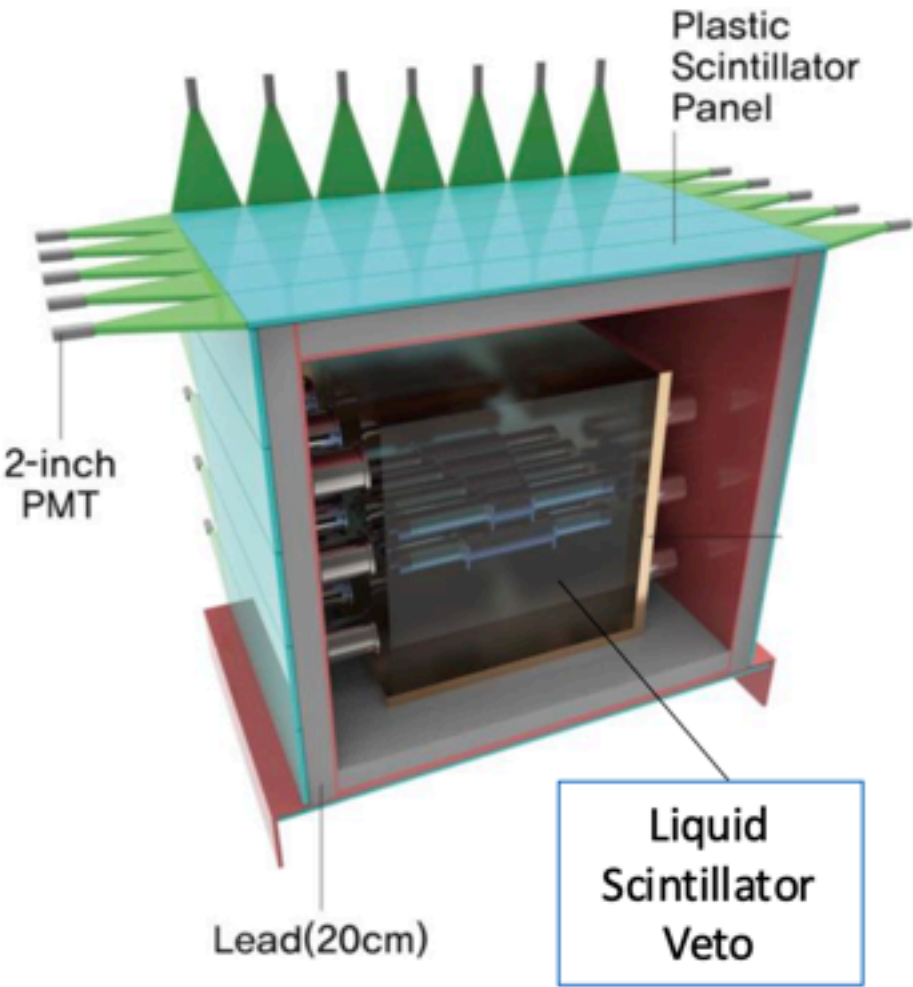
- Muon flux modulates due to the changing temperature of the atmosphere. Muon induced signal? The phase is slightly different
- Neutrinos also modulate (due to the Sun-Earth distance). Combination of muon-induced and neutrino flux?
- Varying rates of background neutrons?
- Experimental effects?



Rejecting the DAMA claim

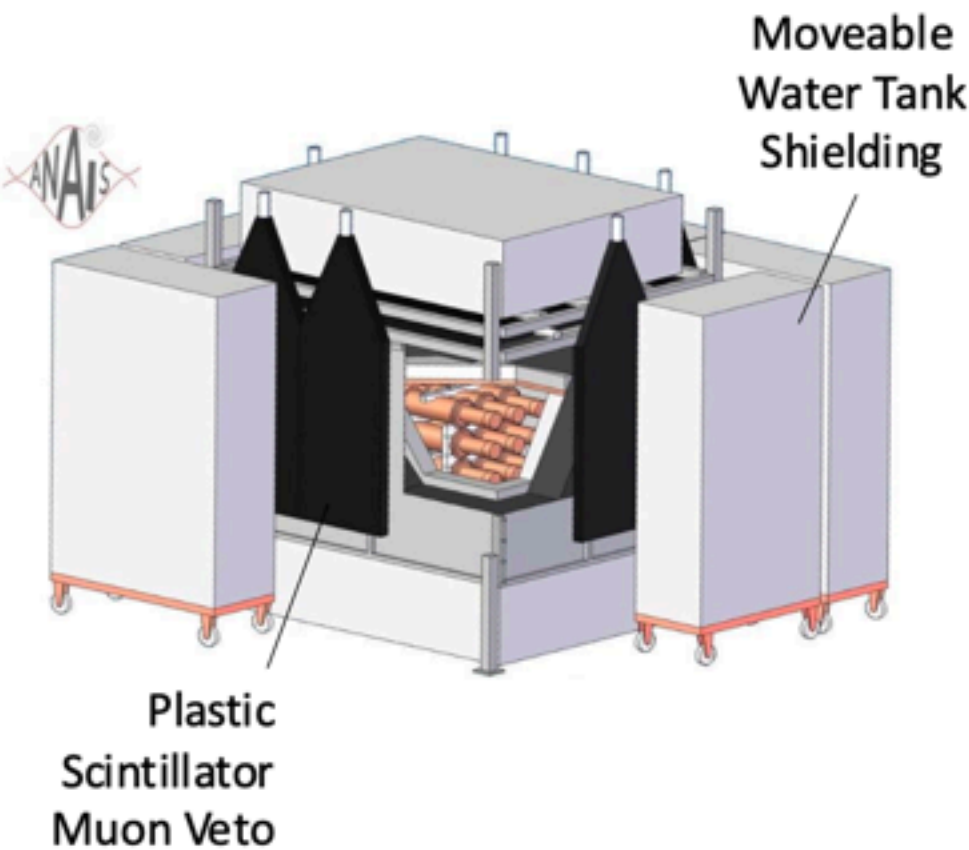
Combined analysis by COSINE-100 and ANAIS-112

COSINE-100

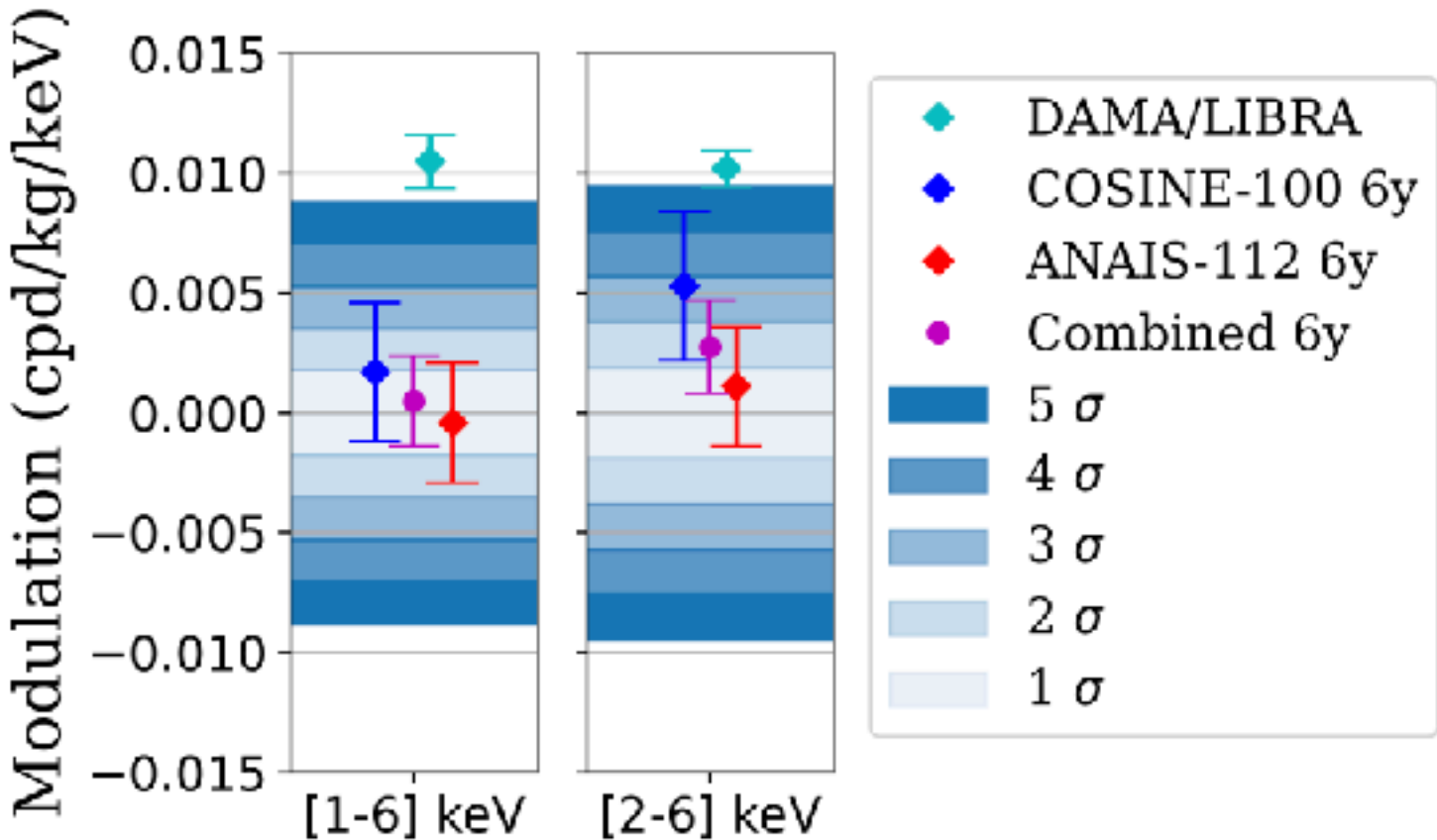
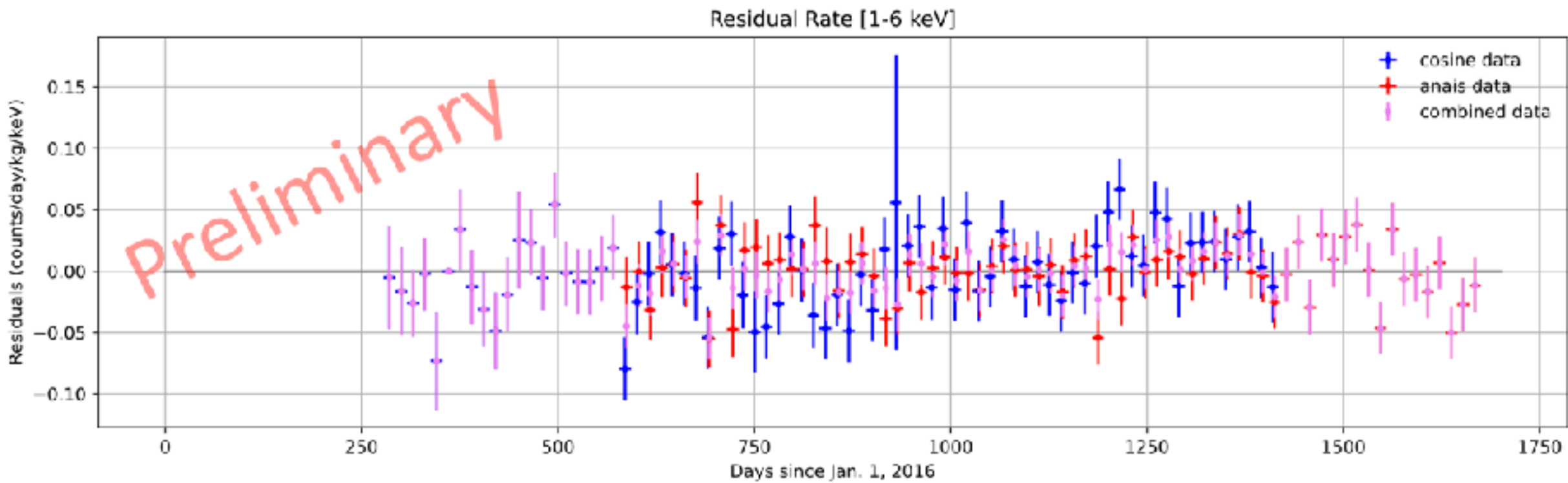


Yangyang, South Korea	Location	Canfranc, Spain
September 2016	Comissioning	August 2017
61.3 kg 5 detectors	Active NaI(Tl) Mass	112.5 kg 9 detectors
~85%, 95% at 1.0, 1.5 keV	Efficiency	~25%, 80% at 1.0, 1.5 keV

ANAIS-112



arXiv:2503.19559



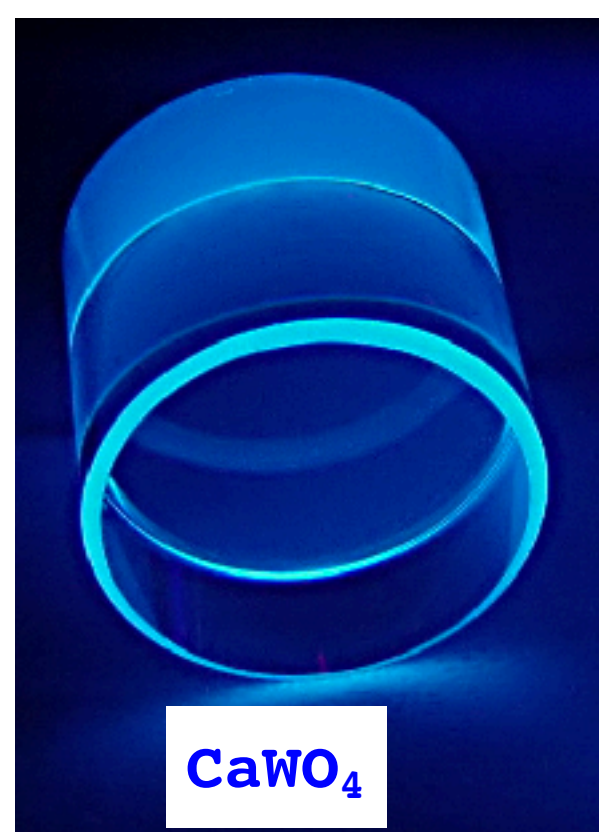


Bolometers

Characteristics

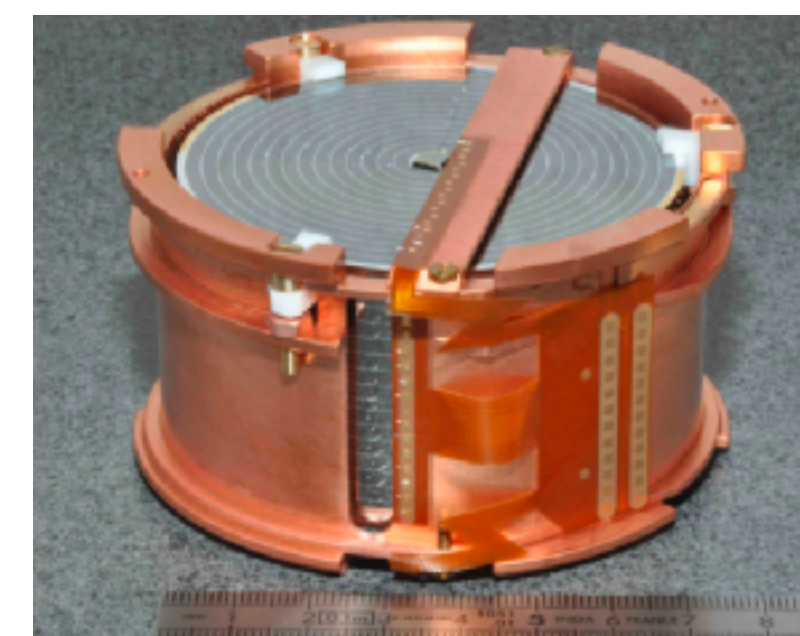
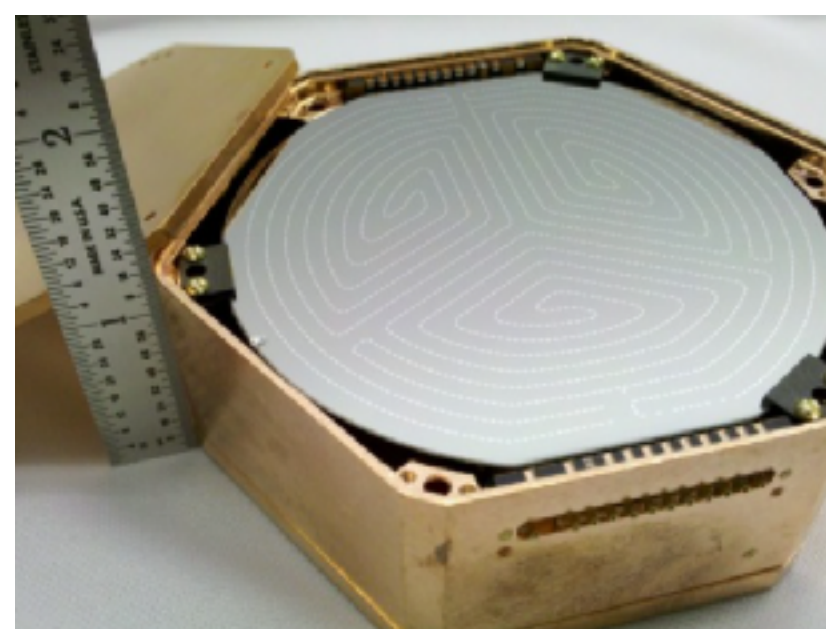
- Operating at **mK temperature**
- Excellent **energy resolution**
- Good radio-purity
- Very low thresholds **>0.2 keV**
- **Limited crystal sizes** (100 g – 1.4 Kg)
- **Good discrimination with phonon vs light/charge**
- Slow response: **not (yet) active vetoes**

Phonon vs Light

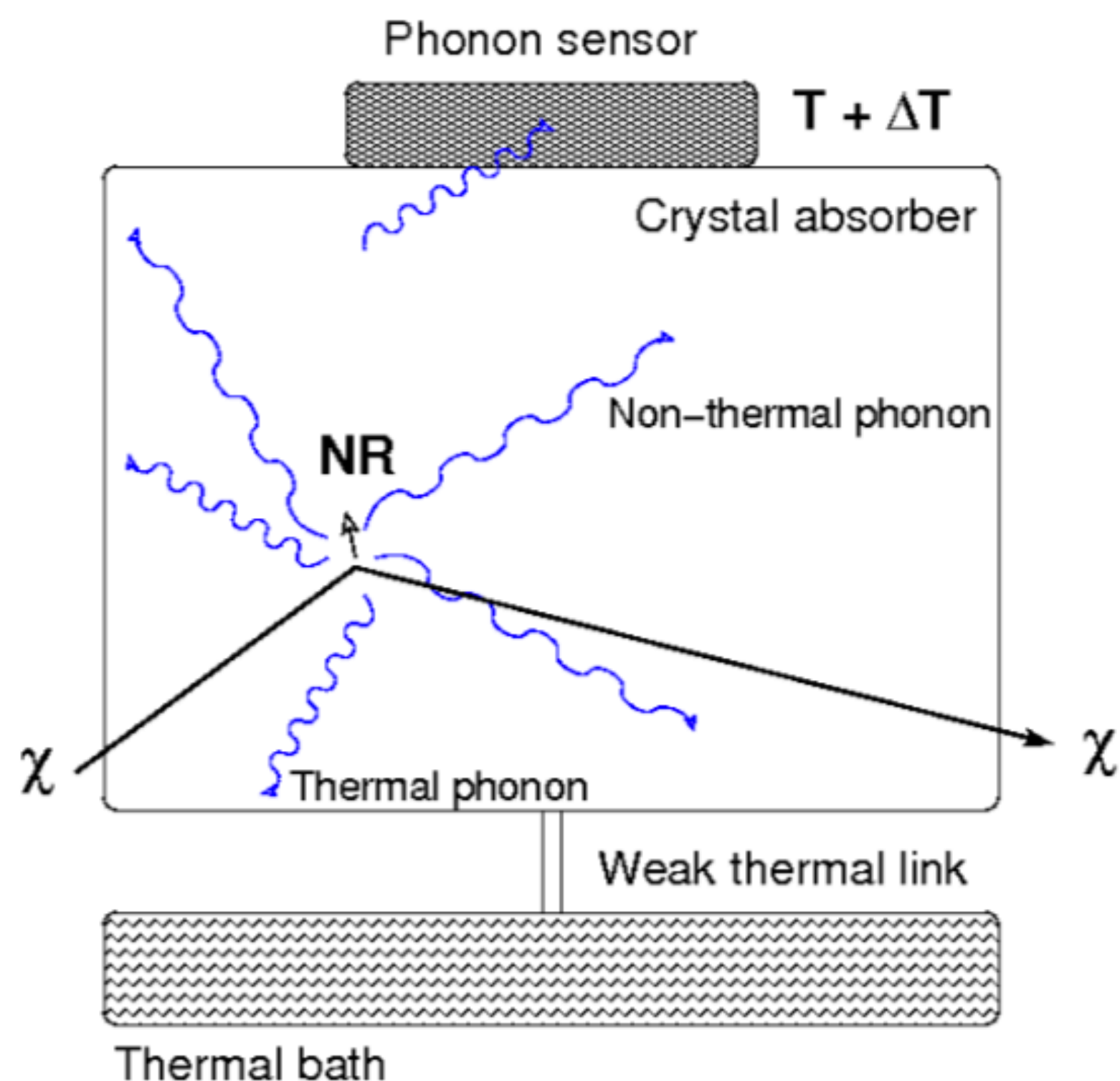


CRESST-II

Phonon vs Charge



SuperCDMS: Ge, Si
EDELWEISS-III: Ge

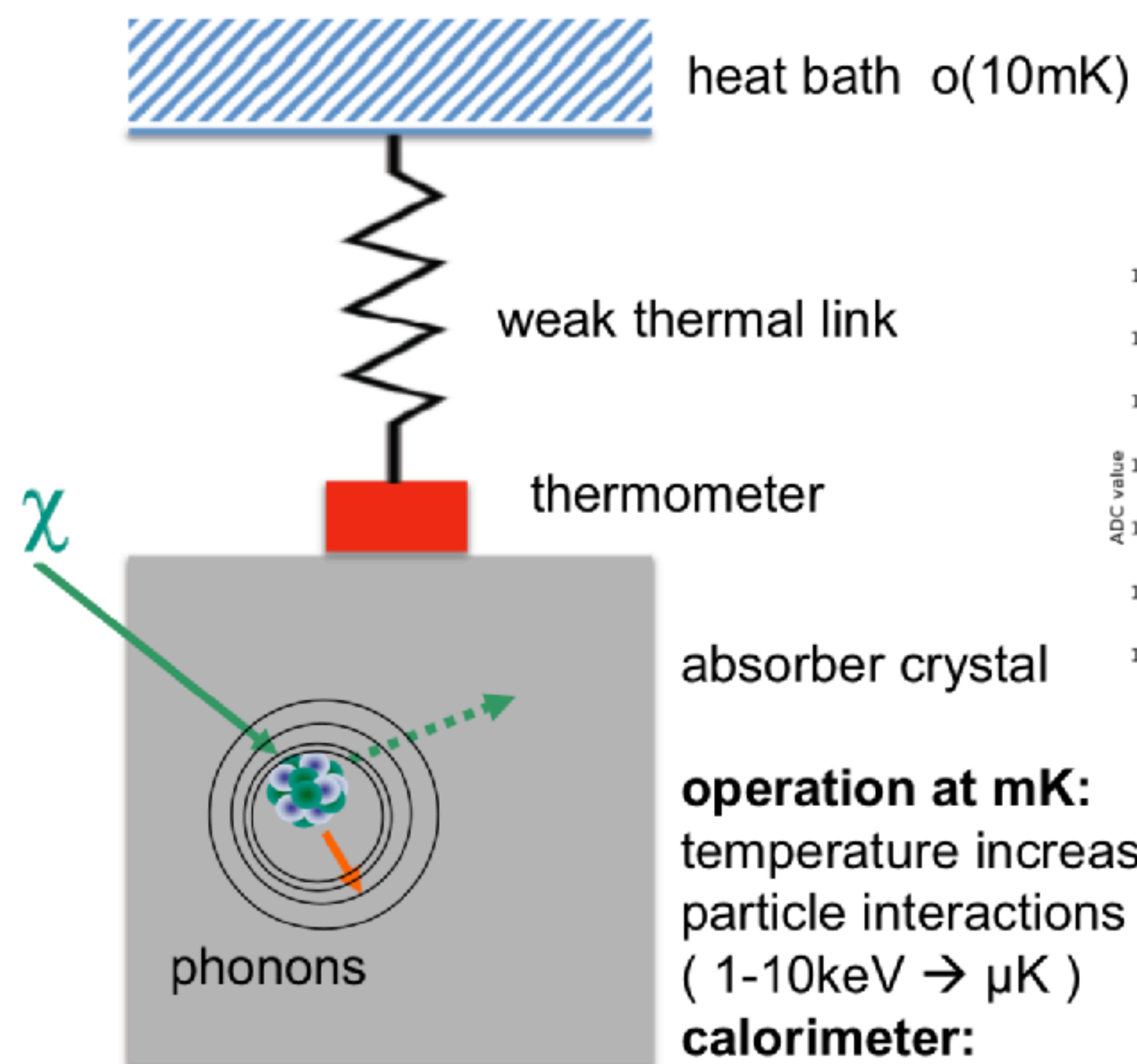


- Crystals at (10 – 100) mK
- Temperature rise:
 $\Delta T = E/C(T)$
E.g. Ge at 20 mK, $\Delta T = 20 \mu\text{K}$ for few keV recoil
- Measurements of ΔT
NTD: neutron transmutation-doped Ge sensors
TES: Transition edge sensors
- Discrimination: combination with light or charge read-out

$$\Delta T = \frac{E}{C(T)} \cdot \exp(-t/\tau)$$



Cryogenic detectors (crystals)

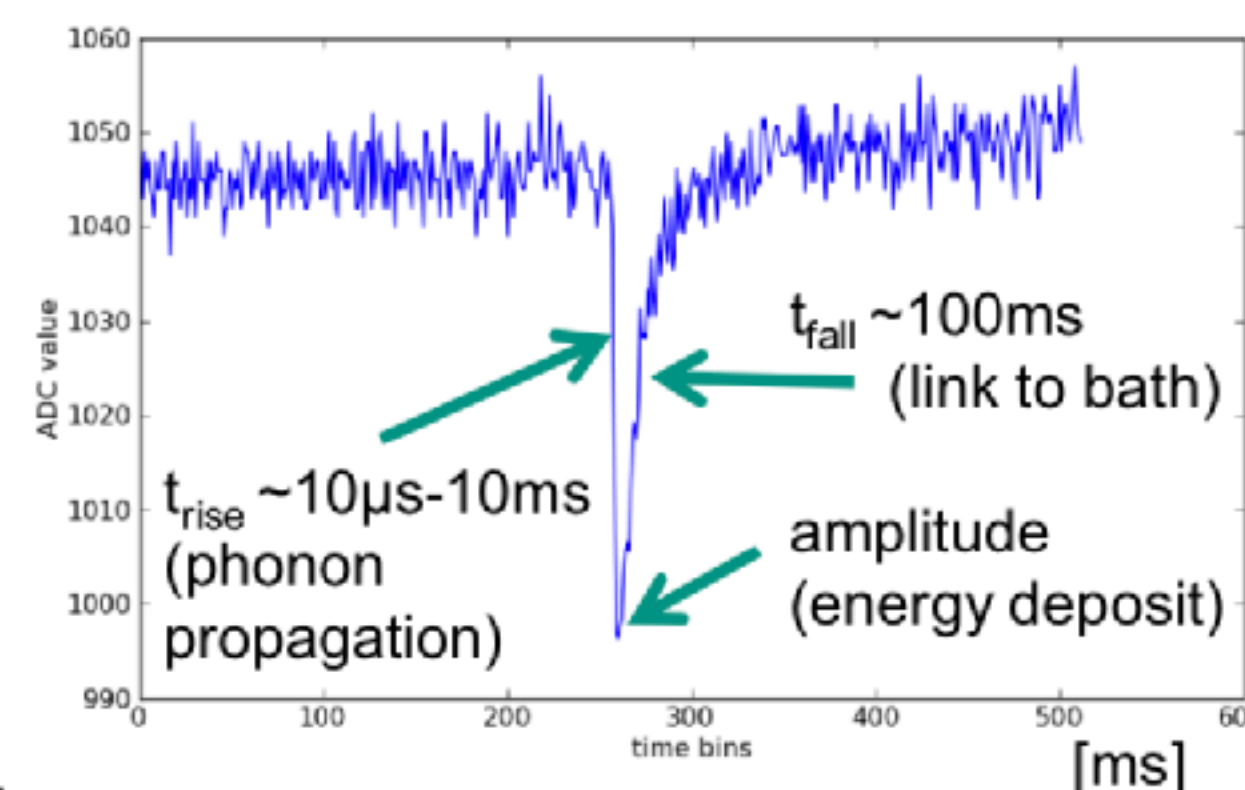


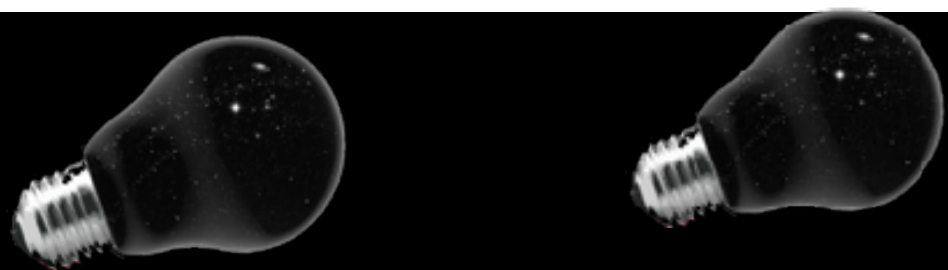
operation at mK:

temperature increase from
particle interactions can be measured!
(1-10keV \rightarrow μK)

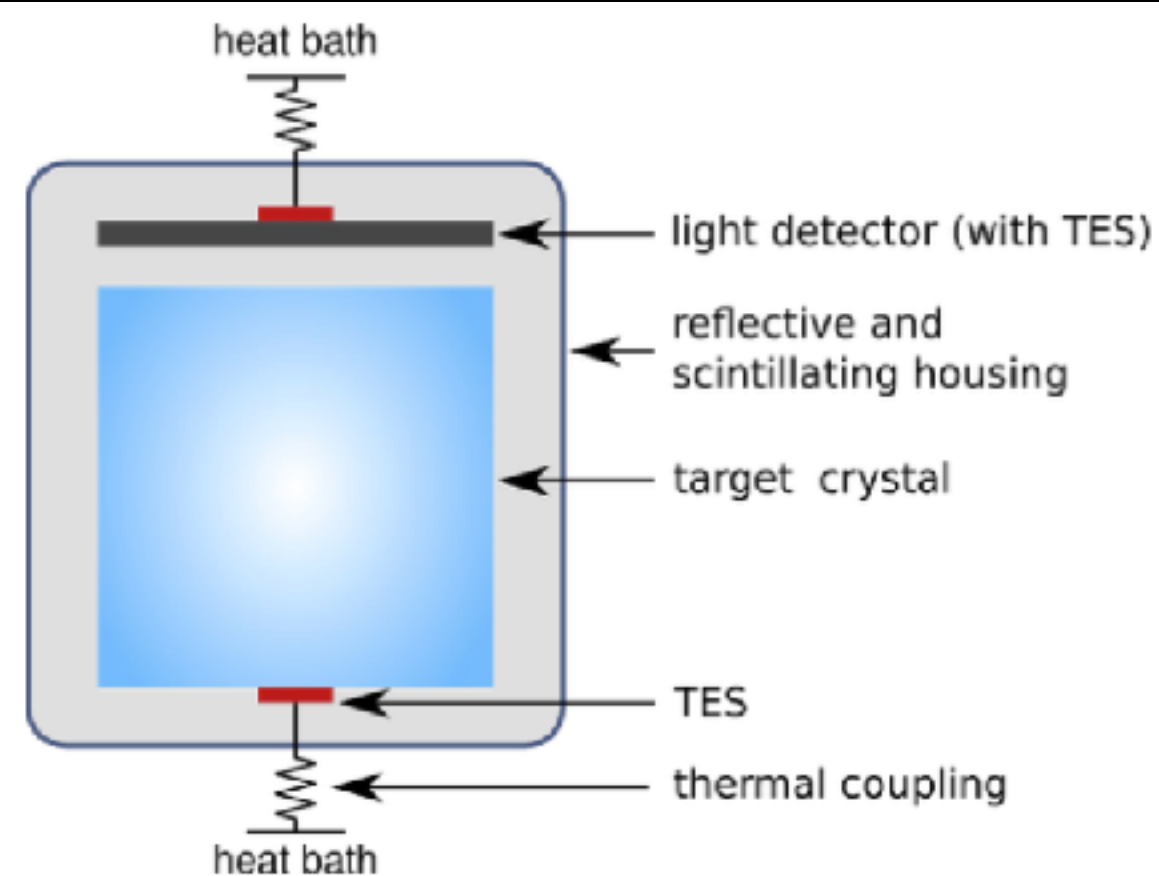
calorimeter:

direct measurement of total energy deposit!





Heat / Light



249 g CaWO_4 crystals operating
at ~ 10 mK at LNGS
Several passive shieldings +
active muon veto

Deposited energy converted
mainly in phonons \rightarrow

Reconstructed energy

Small fraction into
scintillation light \rightarrow **Particle
discrimination**

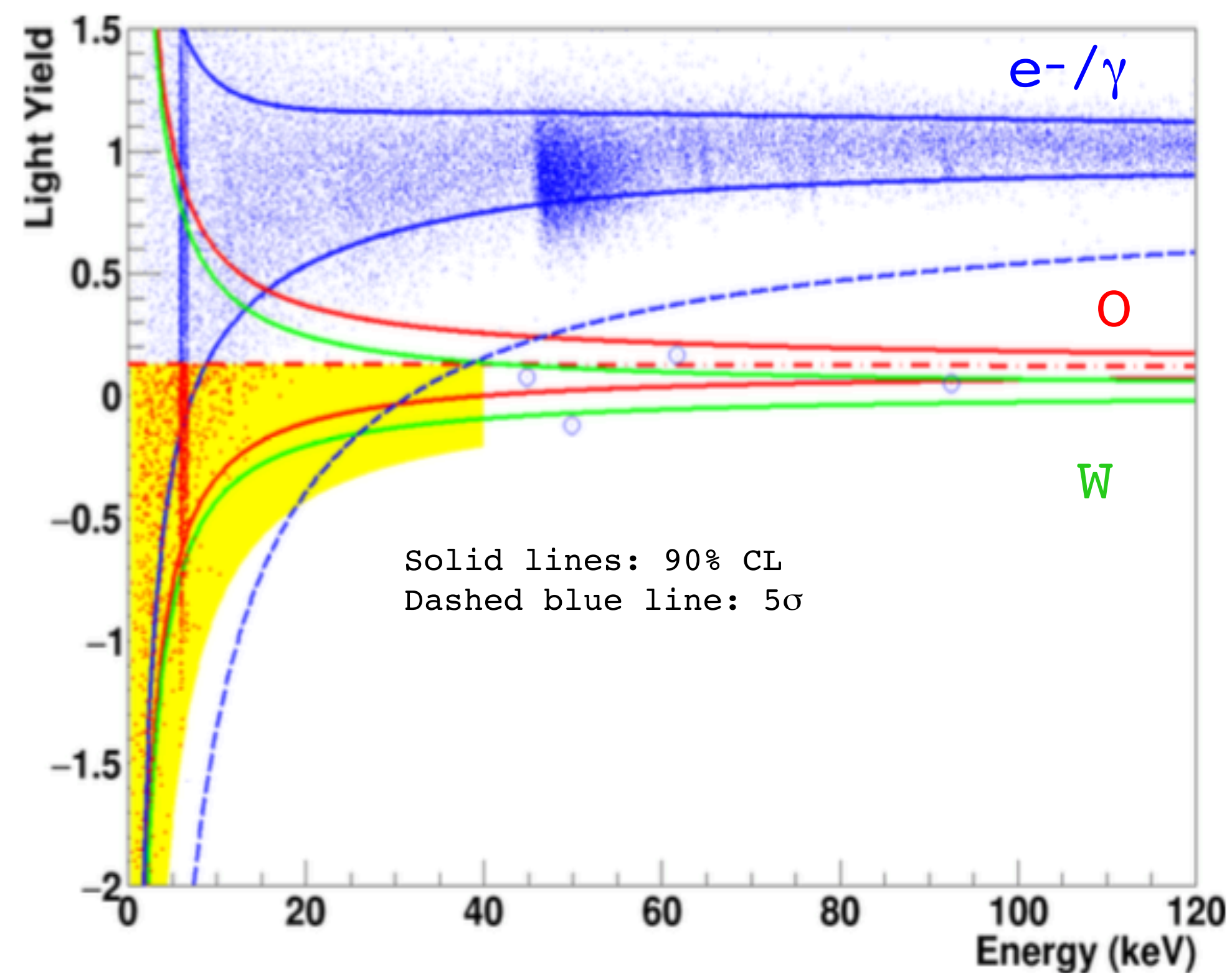
CRESST II Phase 2

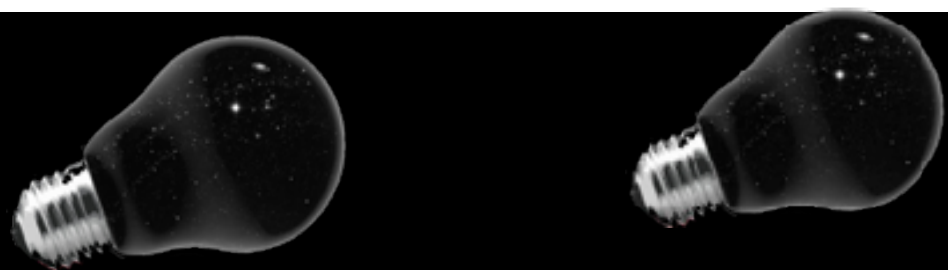
arXiv:1509.01515

Exposure: 52 kg day

Threshold: **0.3 keV**

Background level: 8.5 / (keV kg day)

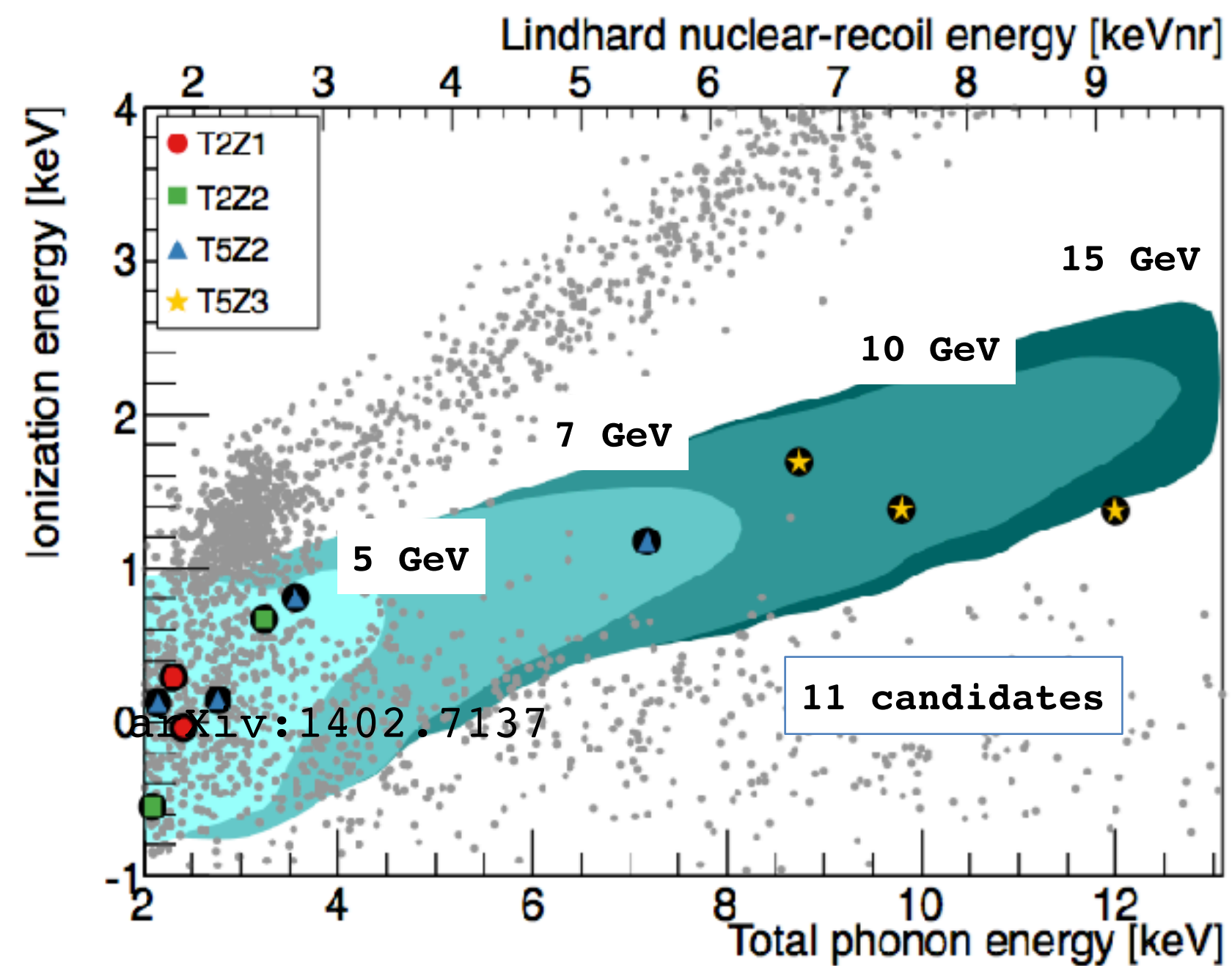




Heat / Ionization

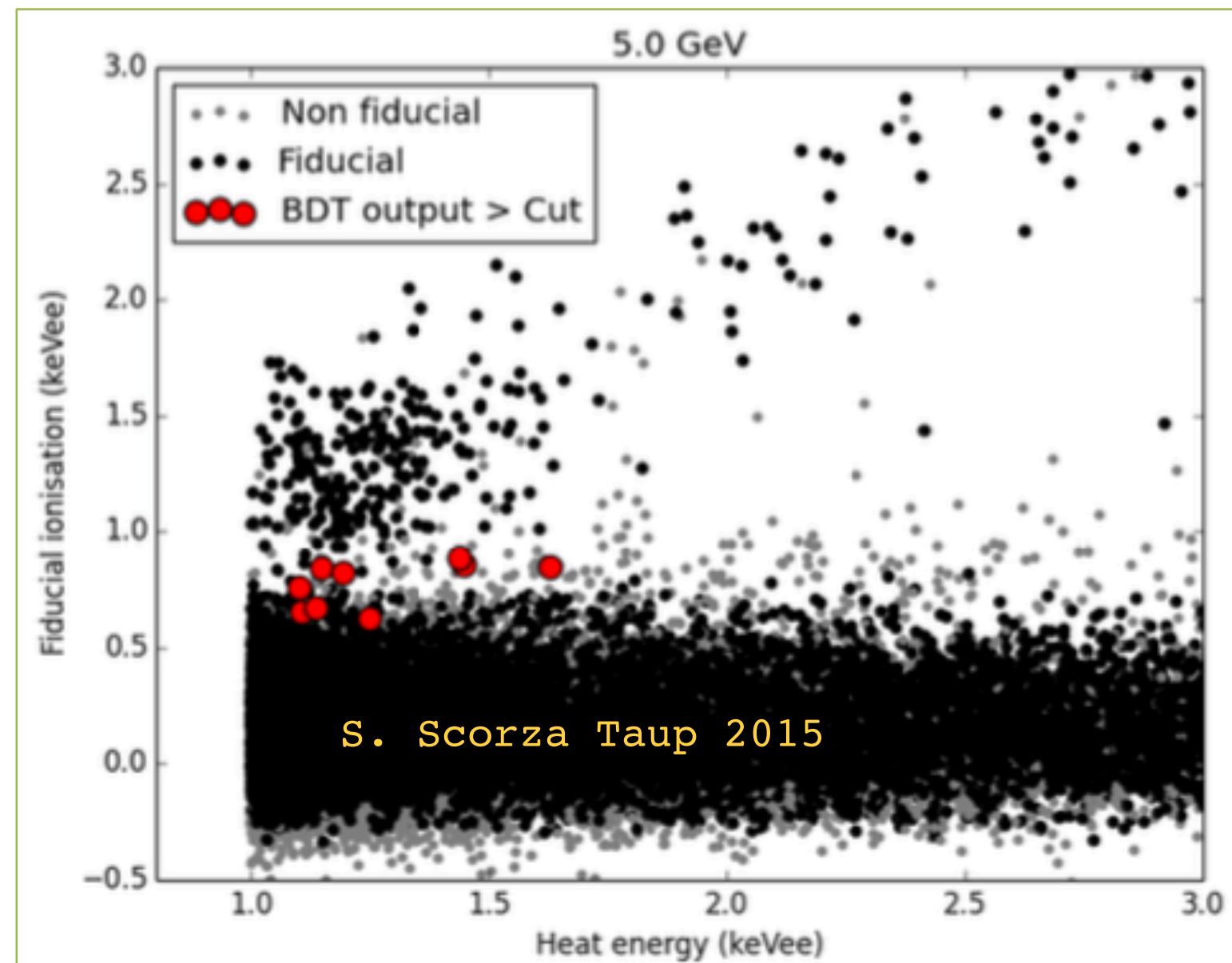
SuperCDMS at SOUDAN

- 15x0.6 kg iZIP Ge at 50 mK
- Exposure: **577 kg day**
- Energy RoI: **1.6 – 10 keV_{nr}**
- Efficient surface background rejection



EDELWEISS at LSM

- 8x0.8 kg HP Ge at 18 mK
- Exposure: **582 kg day**
- Energy RoI: **1 – 15 keV_{ee}**
- Surface background rejection with Boosted Decision Tree



Example at 5 GeV WIMP mass:
9 events in 4 detectors at 1keV_{ee}



CRESST-III



Status quo
 $m = 250\text{g}$
 $V = 32 \times 32 \times 40 \text{ mm}^3$

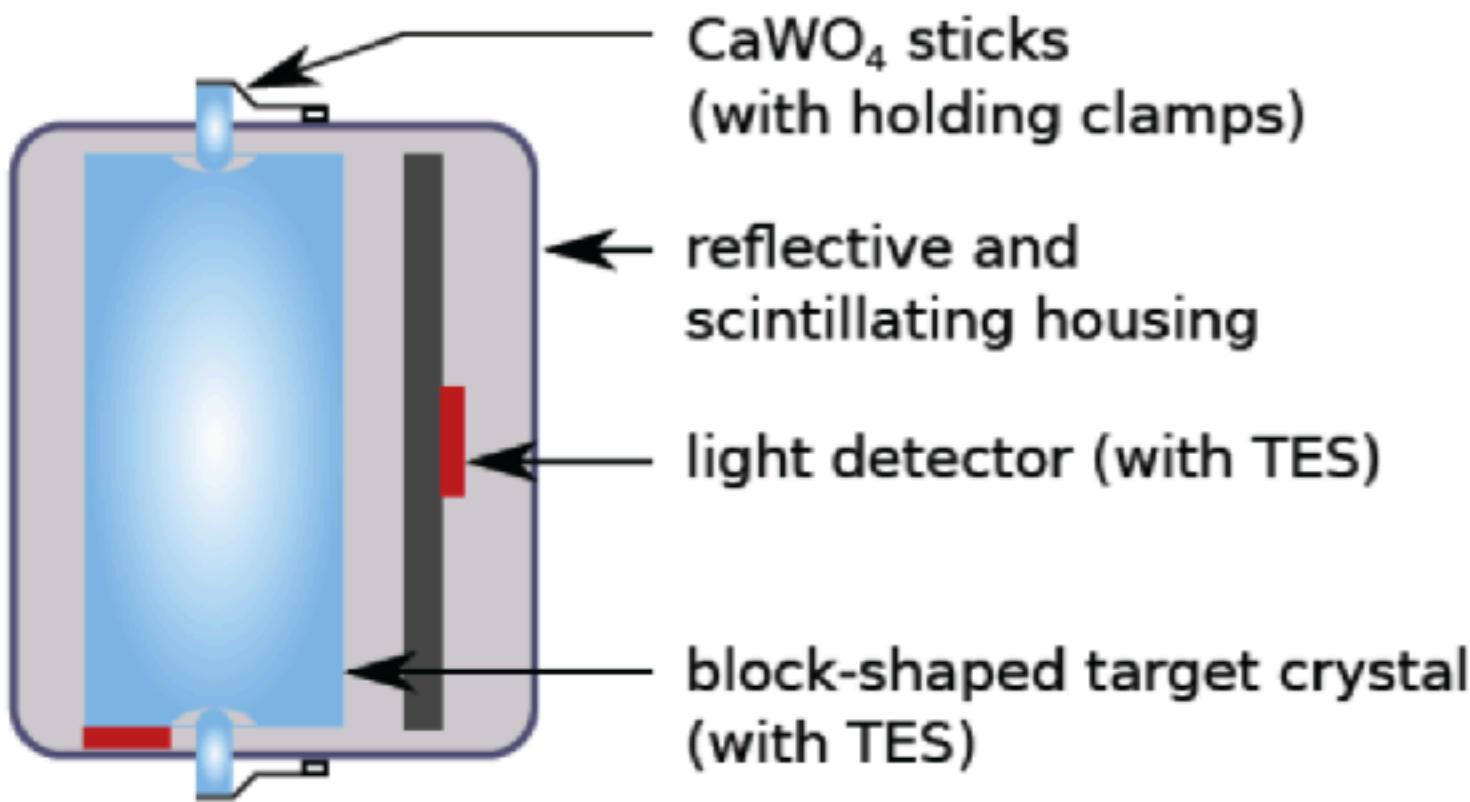
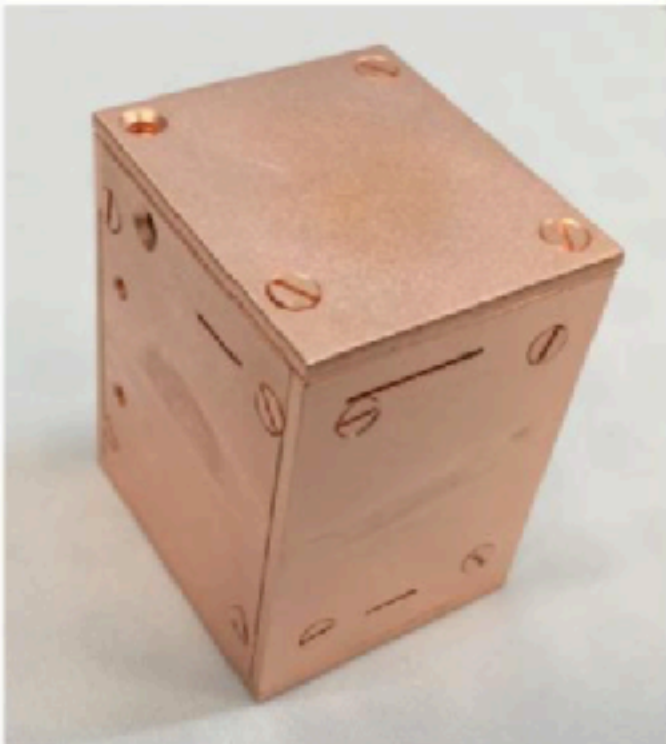
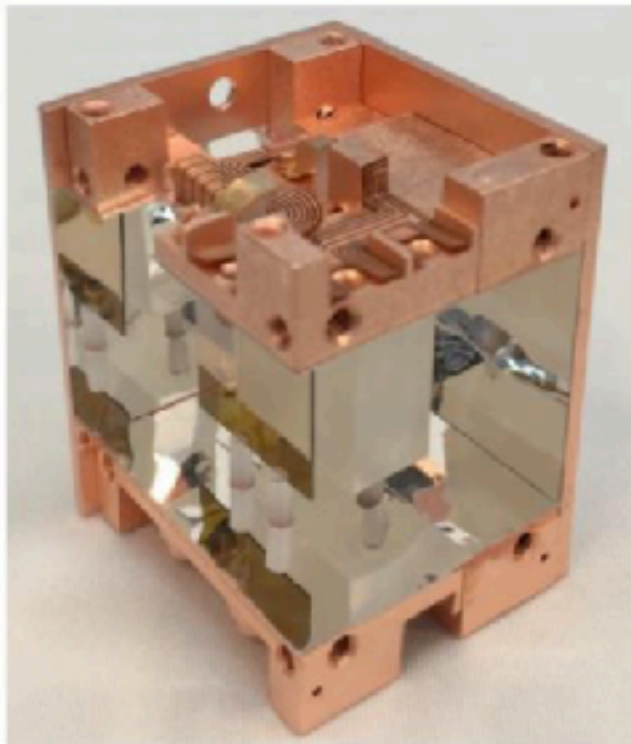


Phonon threshold: $E_{th} \lesssim 500\text{eV}$

improvement by a factor of 5-10

Light-detector res.: $\sigma \approx 5 \text{ eV}$

improvement by a factor of 2





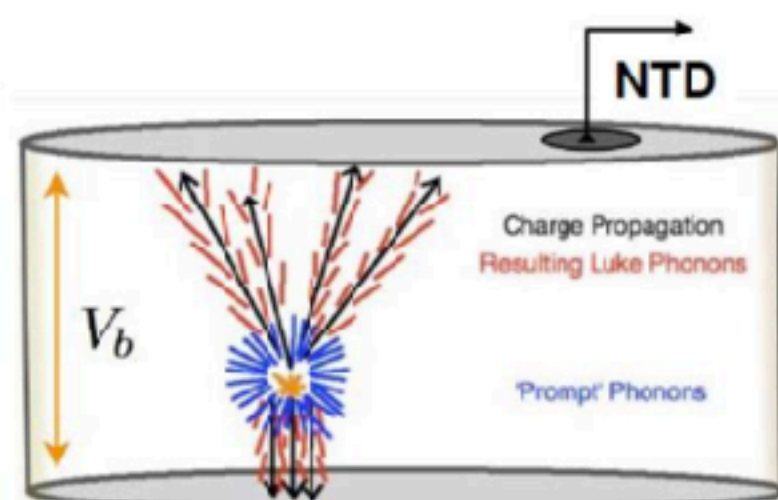
The Neganov-Luke effect

Edelweiss

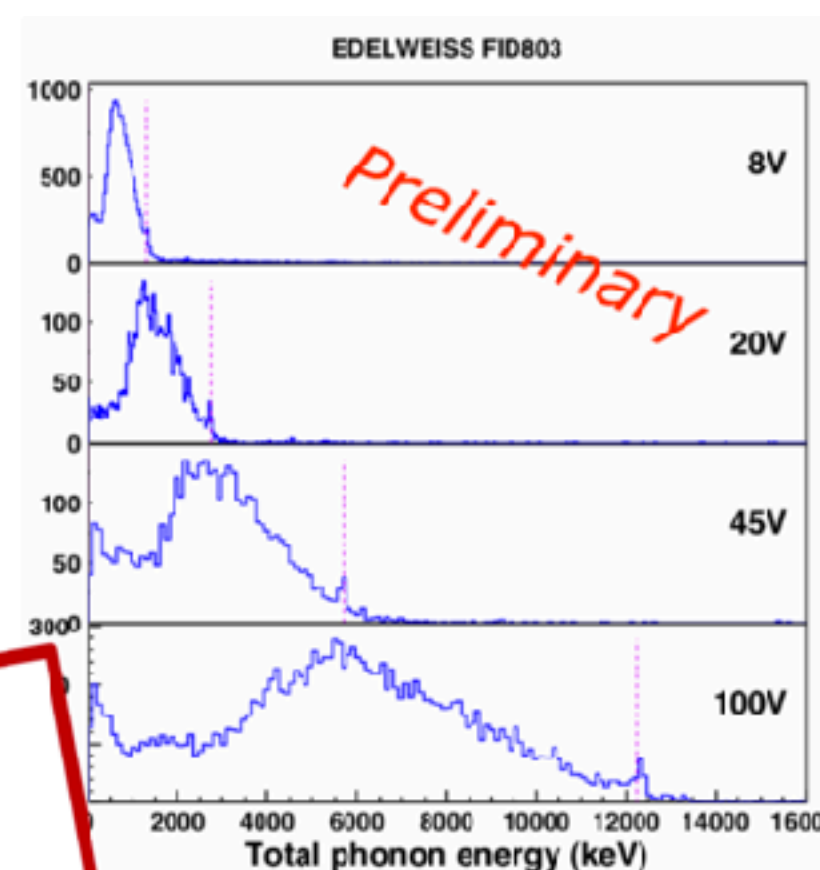
Applying high voltage

Neganov-Luke:

$$E_t = E_r + \frac{1}{3 \text{ eV}} E_Q \Delta V$$

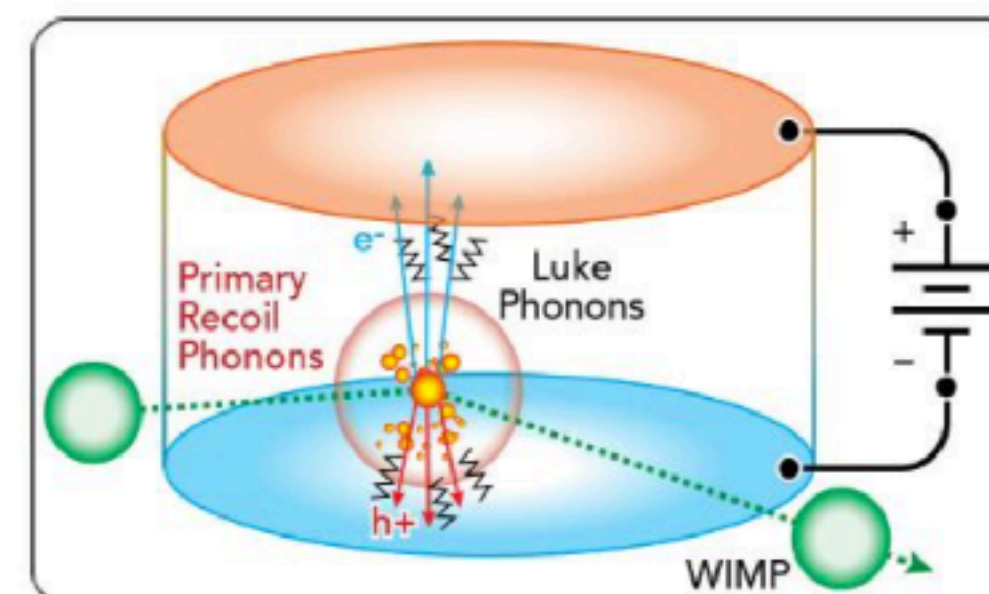


first measurements
in LSM with FID800
in NL-mode
 ^{133}Ba calib 356keV line



- up to 100V working → NL boost 35
- sensitivity to low mass WIMPs ($\sim 1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$)
- BUT: no electron/gamma suppression

CDMS Lite



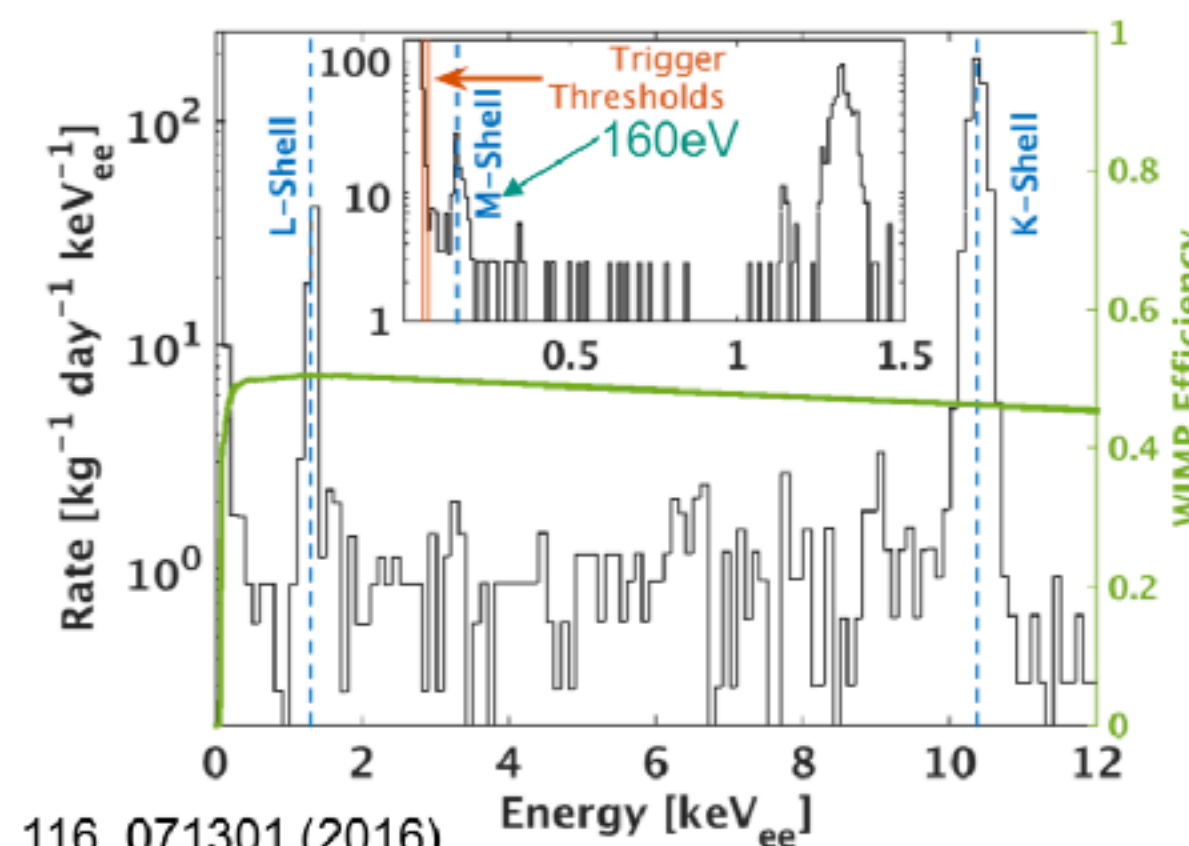
making use of Neganov-Luke effect:

$$E_t = E_r + \frac{1}{3 \text{ eV}} E_Q \Delta V$$

with $V=70\text{V}$ amplification of heat signal ~ 24
→ effective lowering the threshold

NL amplification:

- allows $E_{\text{thr}} \sim 50 \text{ eV}$
- opens window into $\sim \text{GeV}$ range
- loss of PID
- needs careful energy calib.

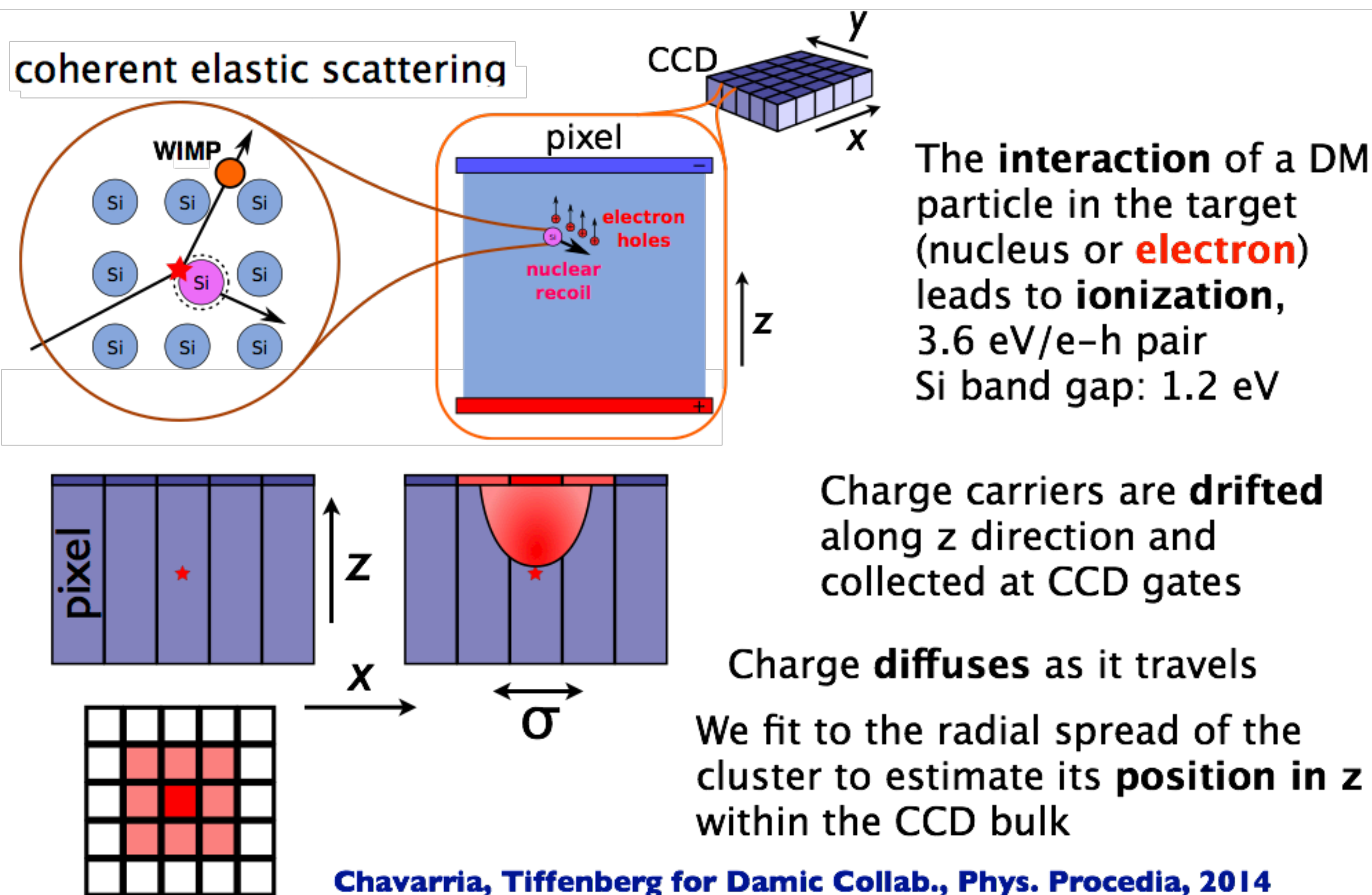


PRL 116, 071301 (2016)

Slides by Klaus Eitel



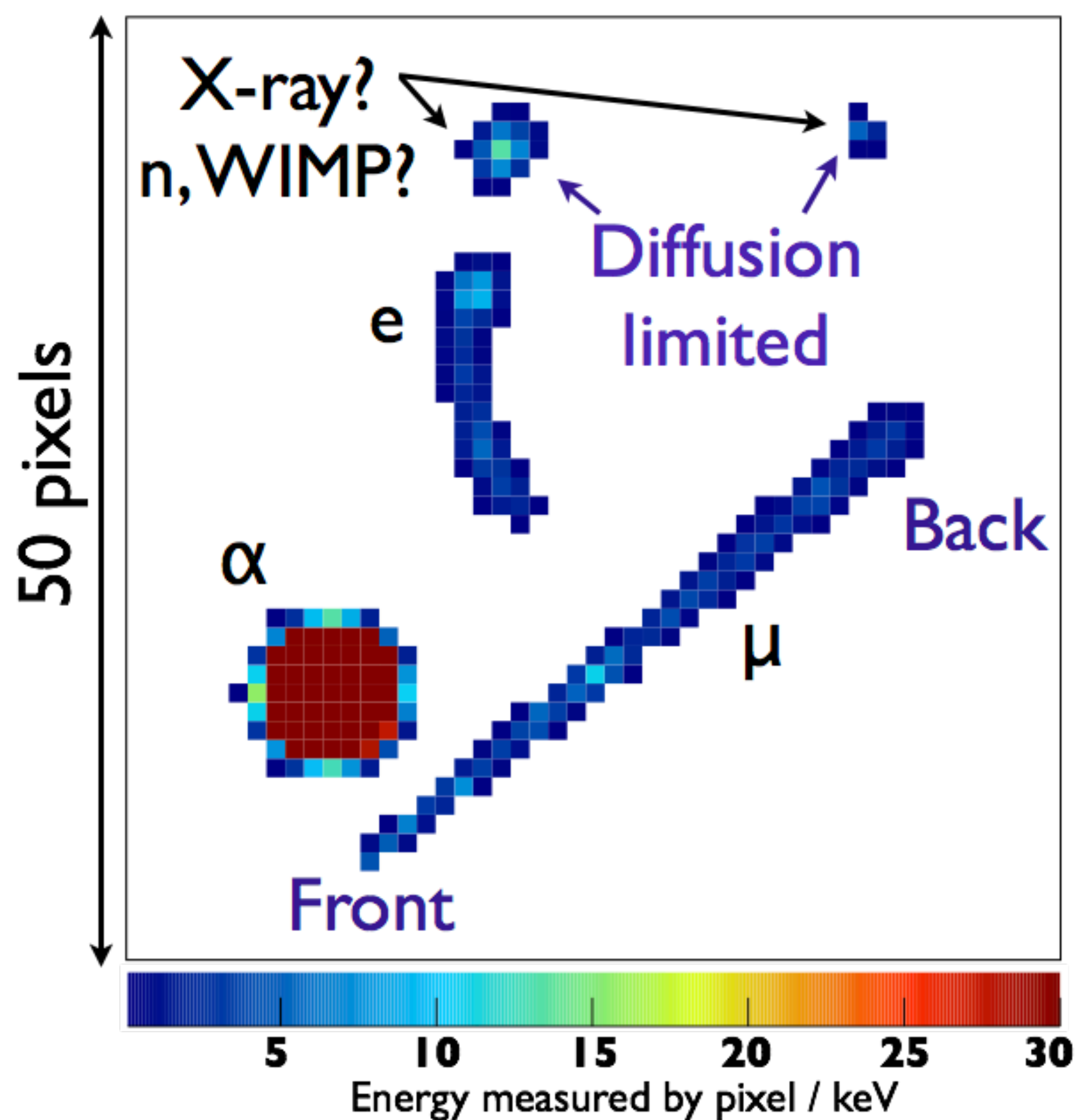
CCDs as dark matter detectors



x



Particles detected (at ground level)



Low energy electrons and nuclear recoils: **diffusion limited clusters**

(their spatial extension is dominated by charge diffusion)

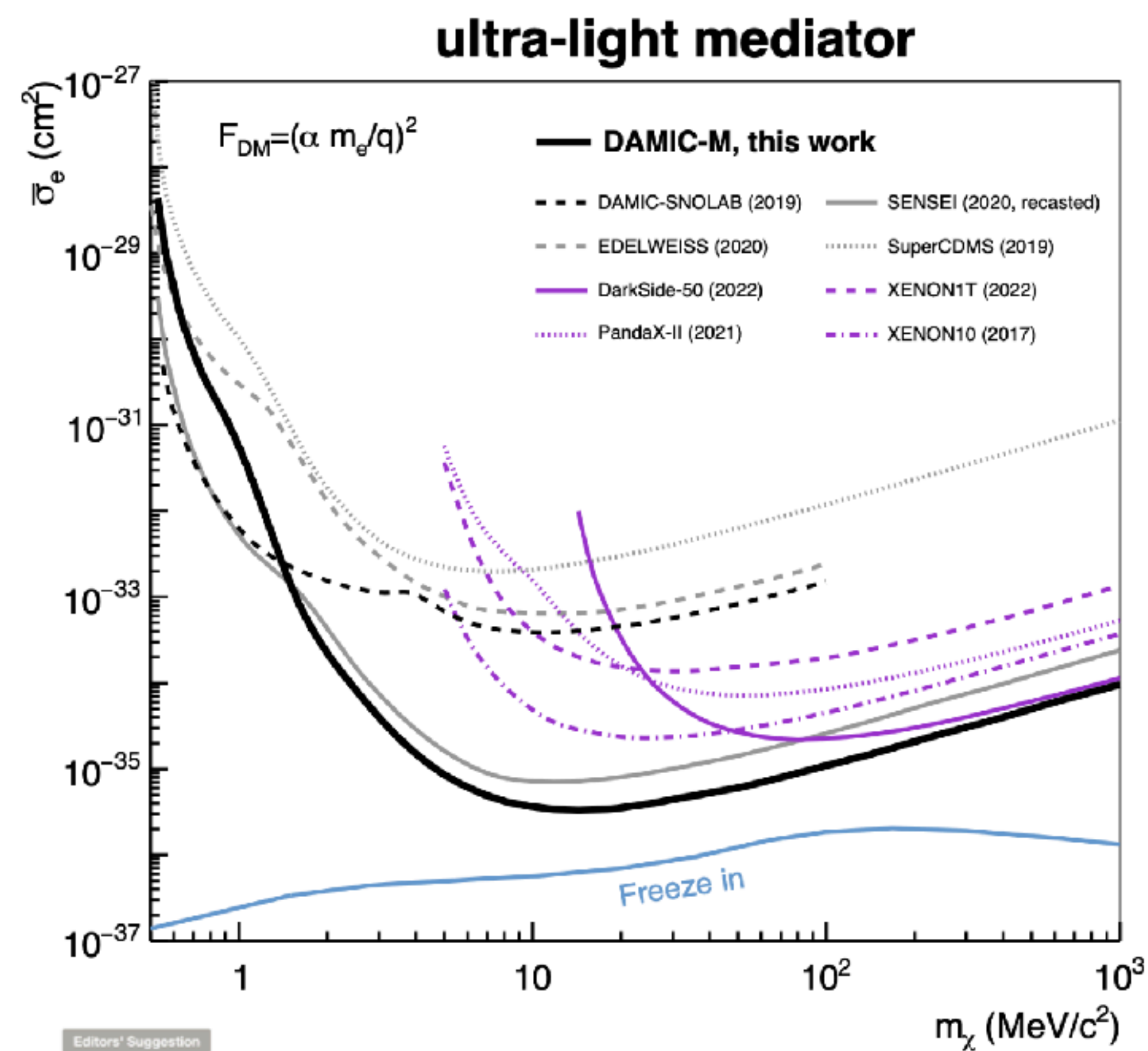
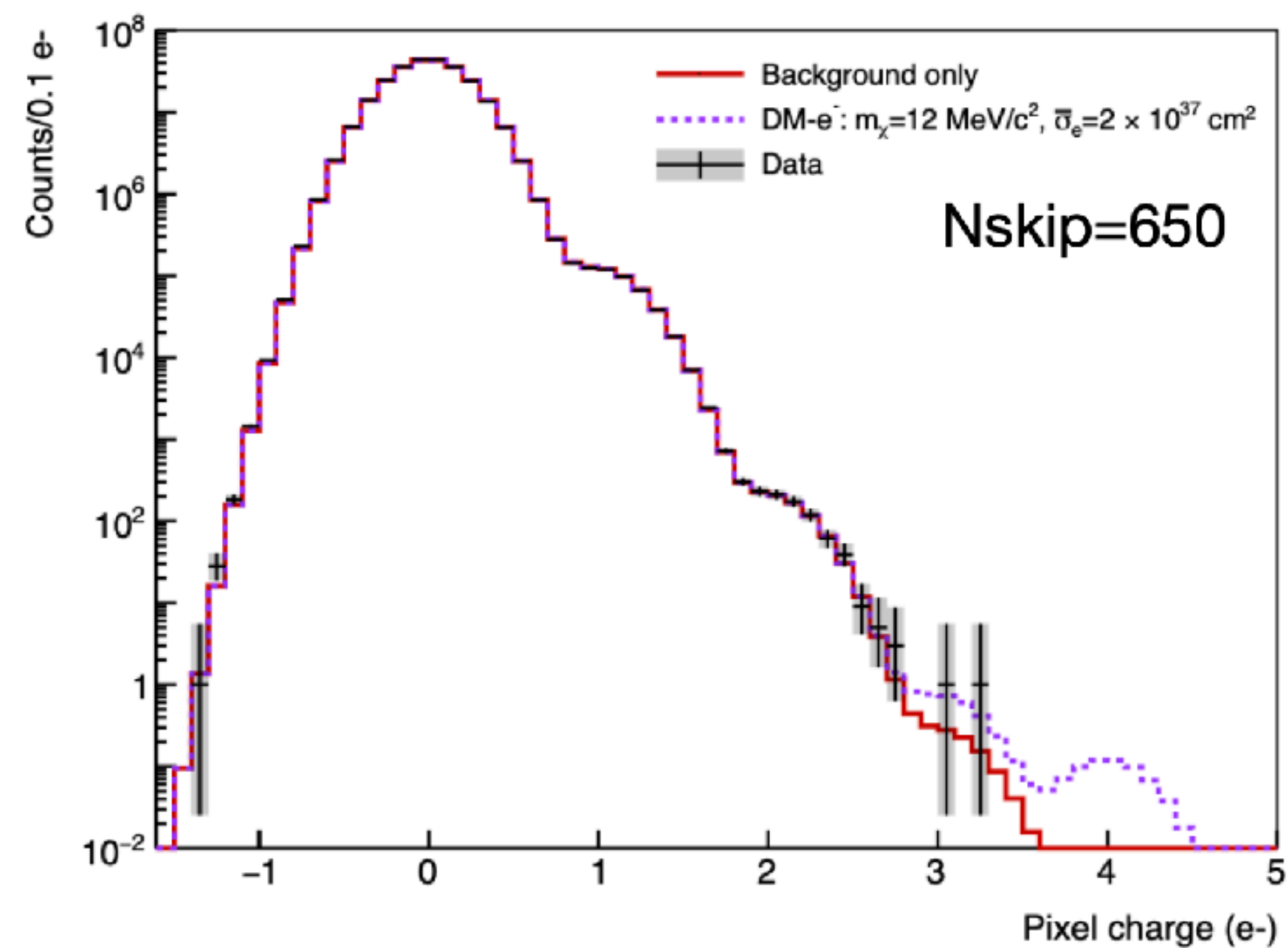
Higher energy **electrons** (Compton, β decay): extended tracks

α particles in the bulk or from the back: large round structures

cosmic **muons**: orientation of the track is evident

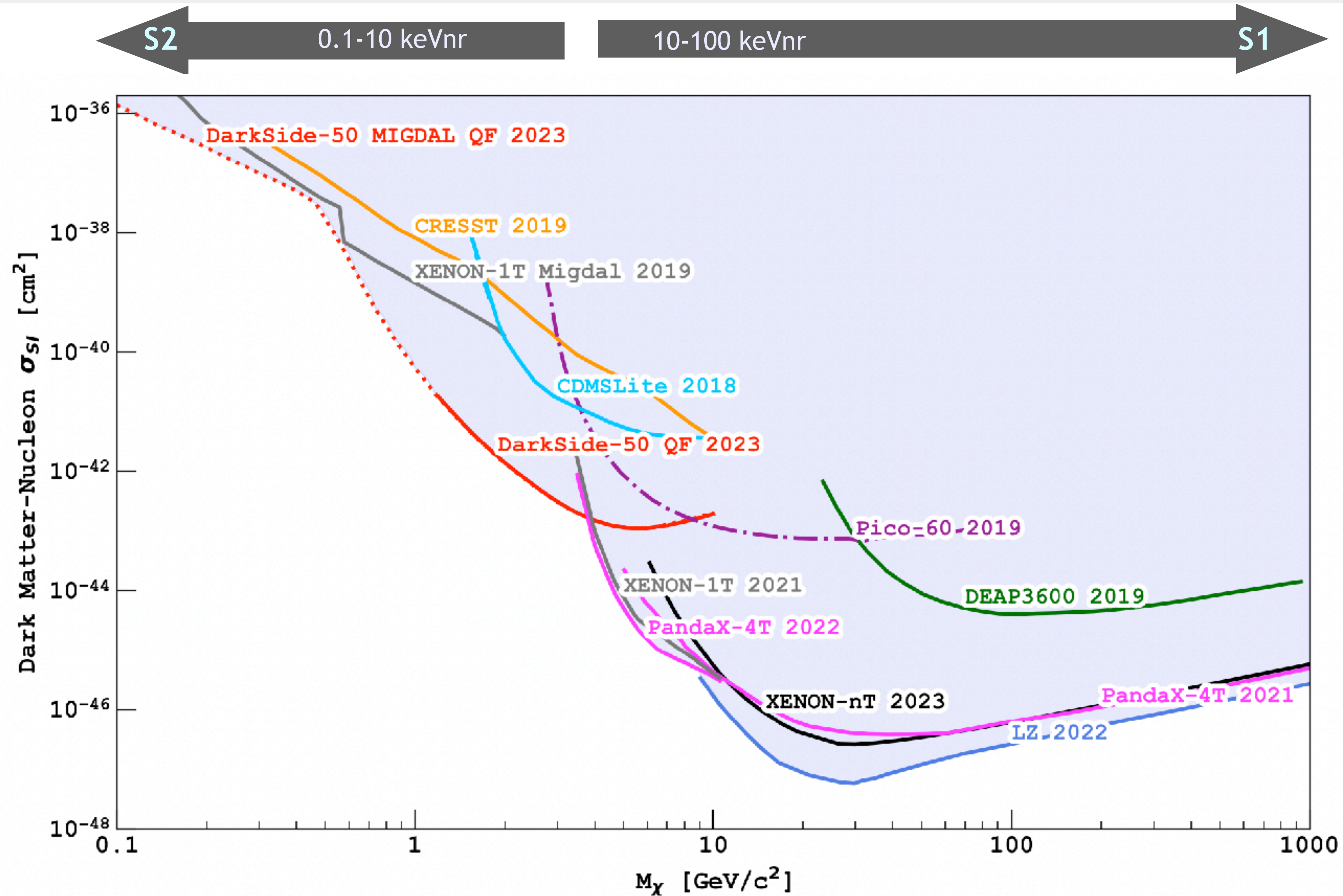


CCD camera: DAMIC-M



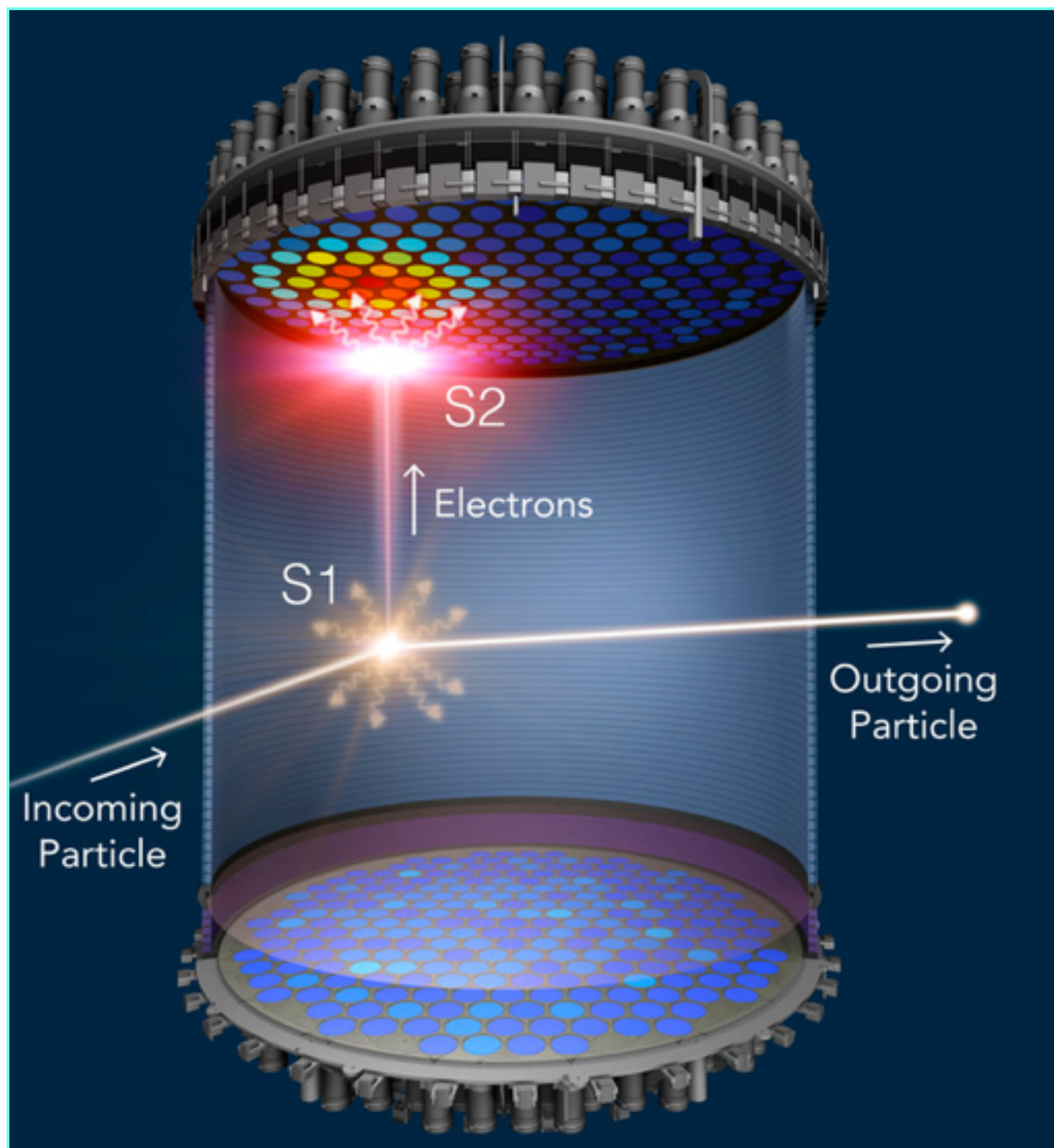


Why looking at very low-mass WIMPs?

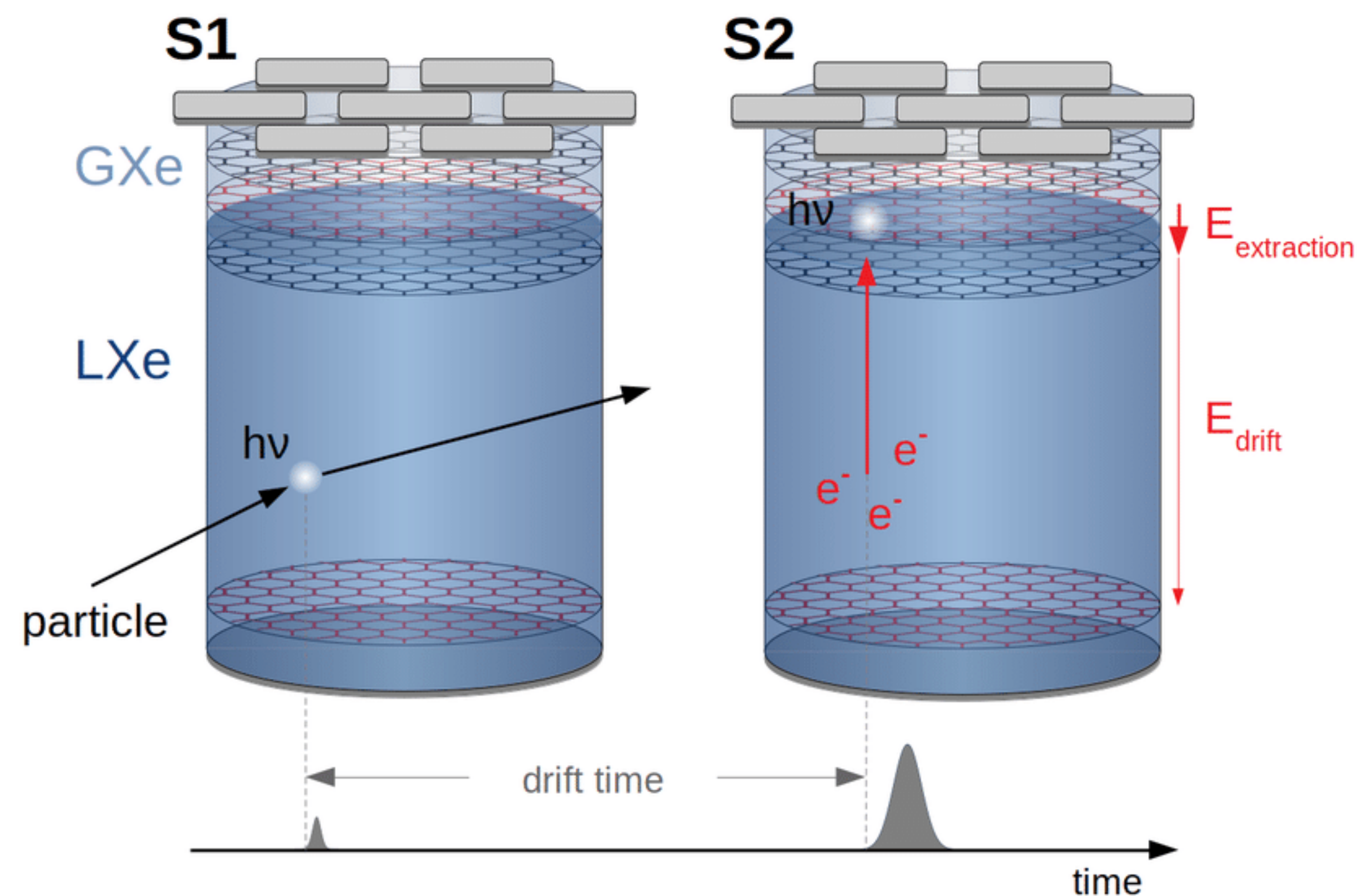




Dual-Phase Time Projection Chambers

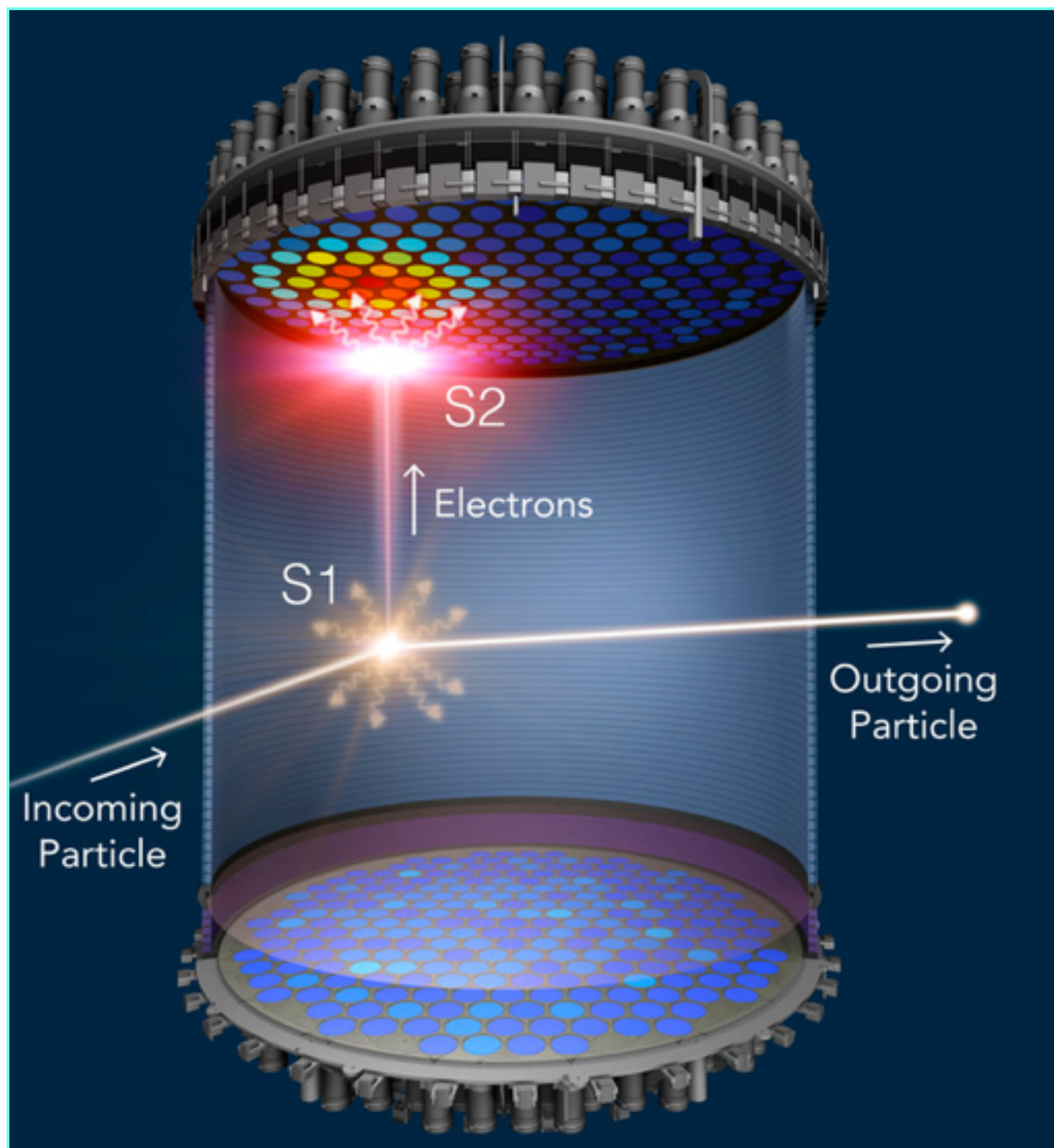


Excellent topology reconstruction

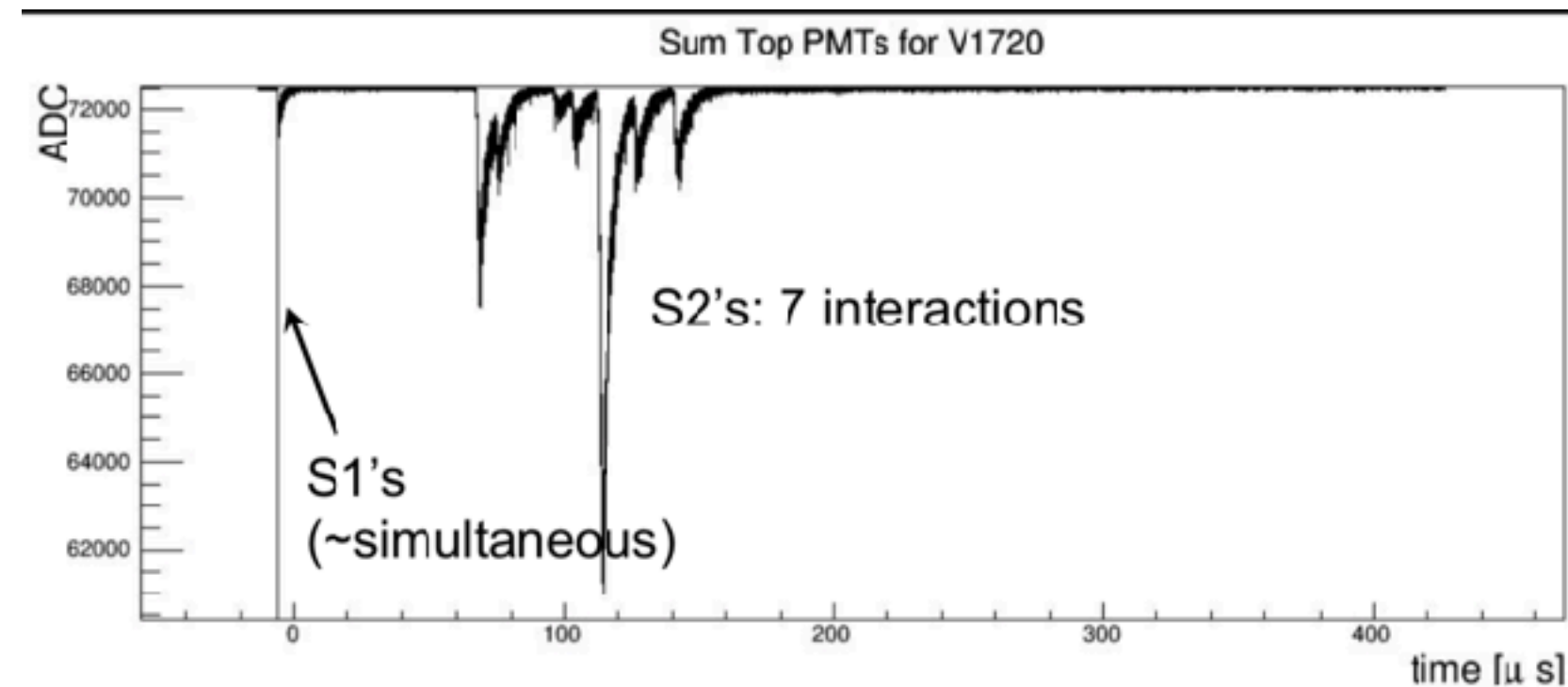
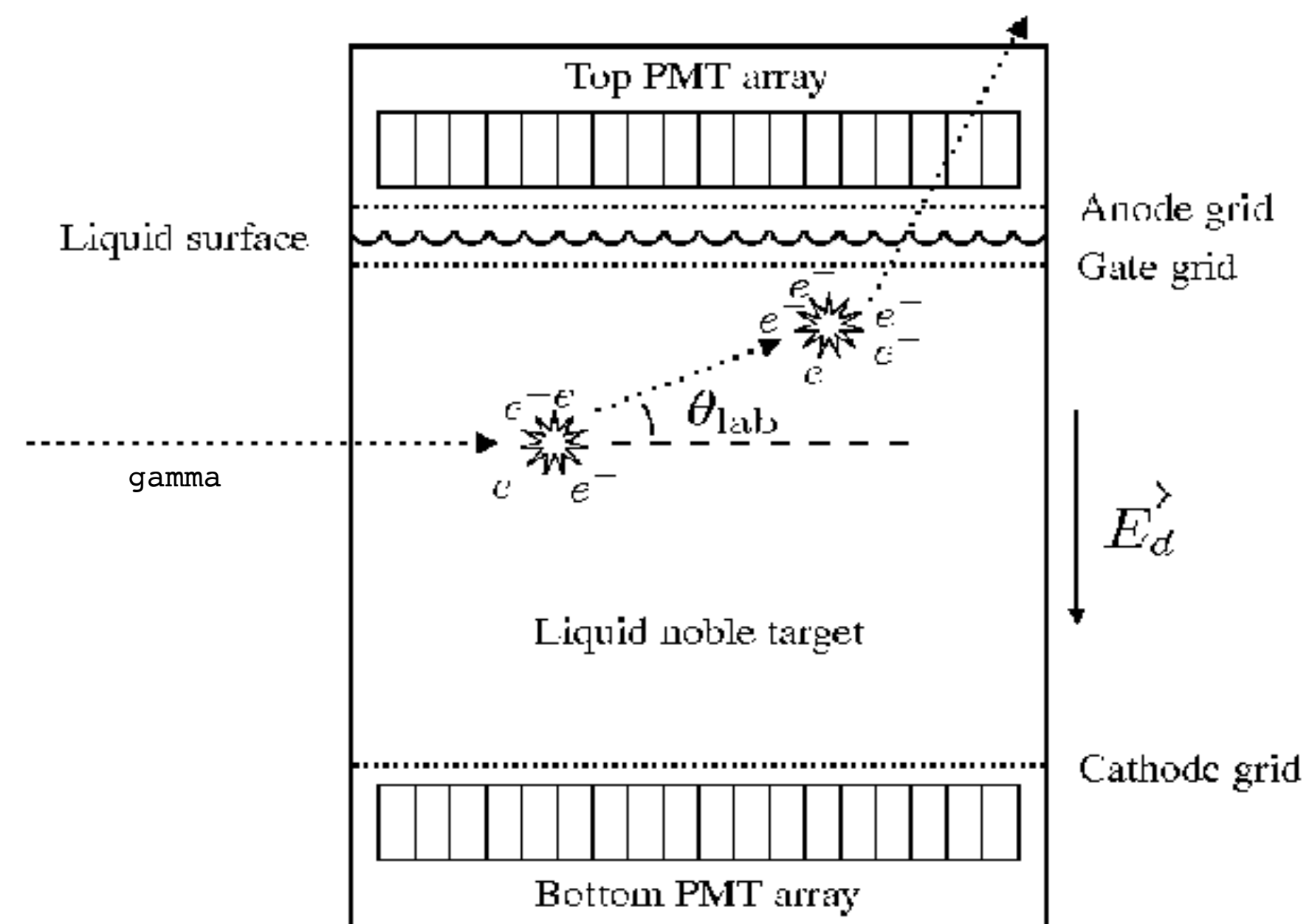




Dual-Phase Time Projection Chambers

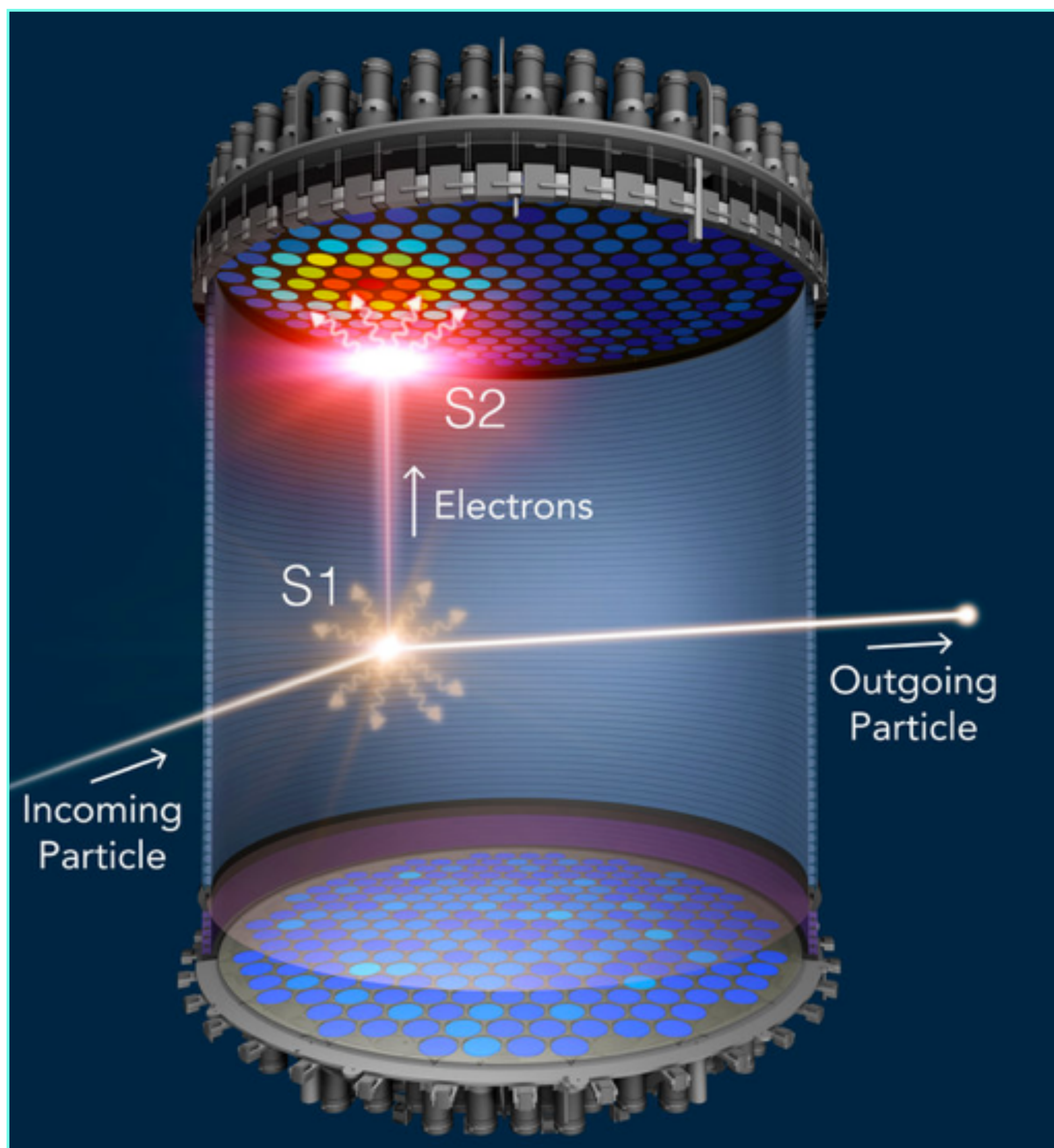


Rejection of multiple scattering particles

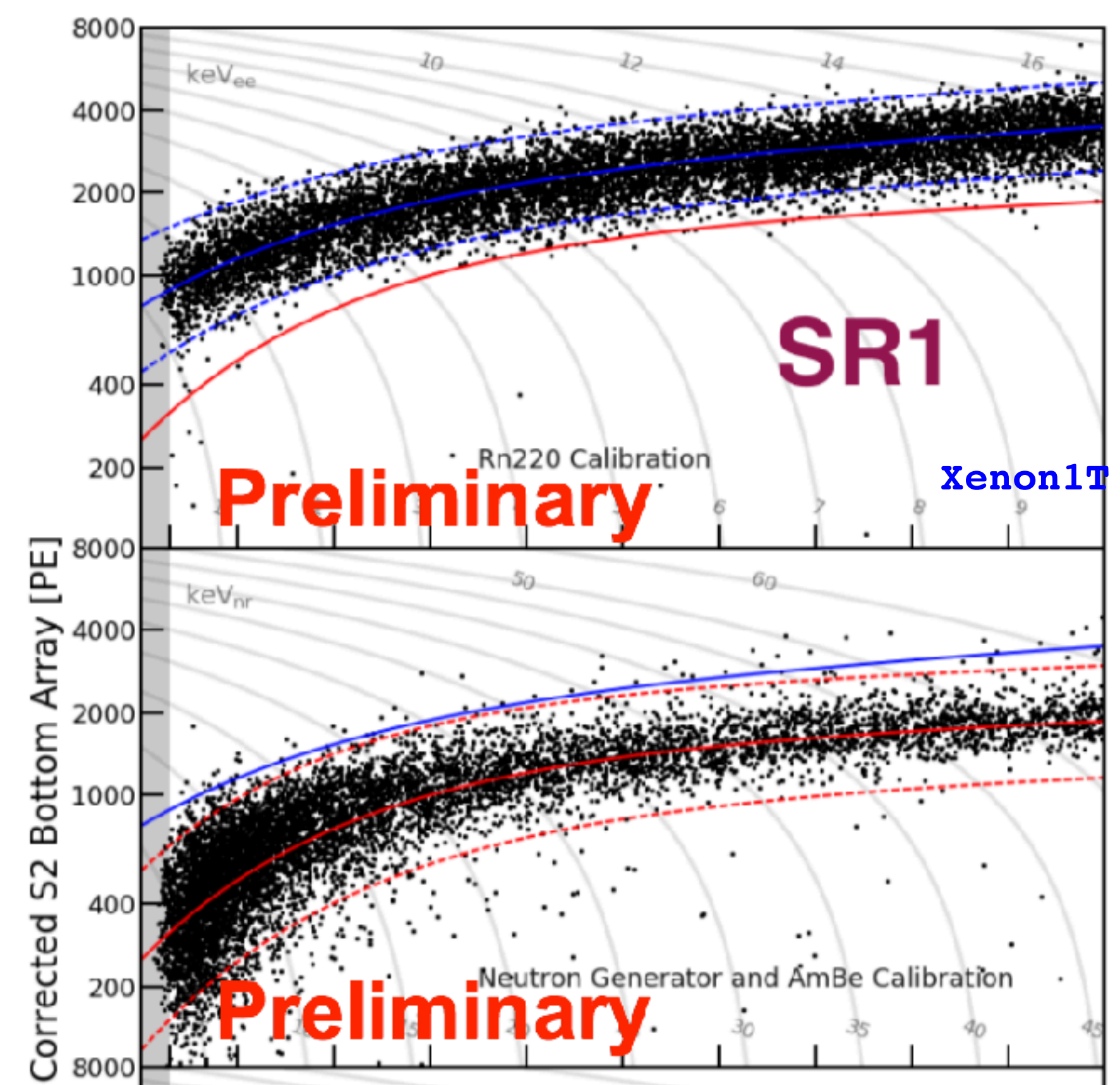




Dual-Phase Time Projection Chambers

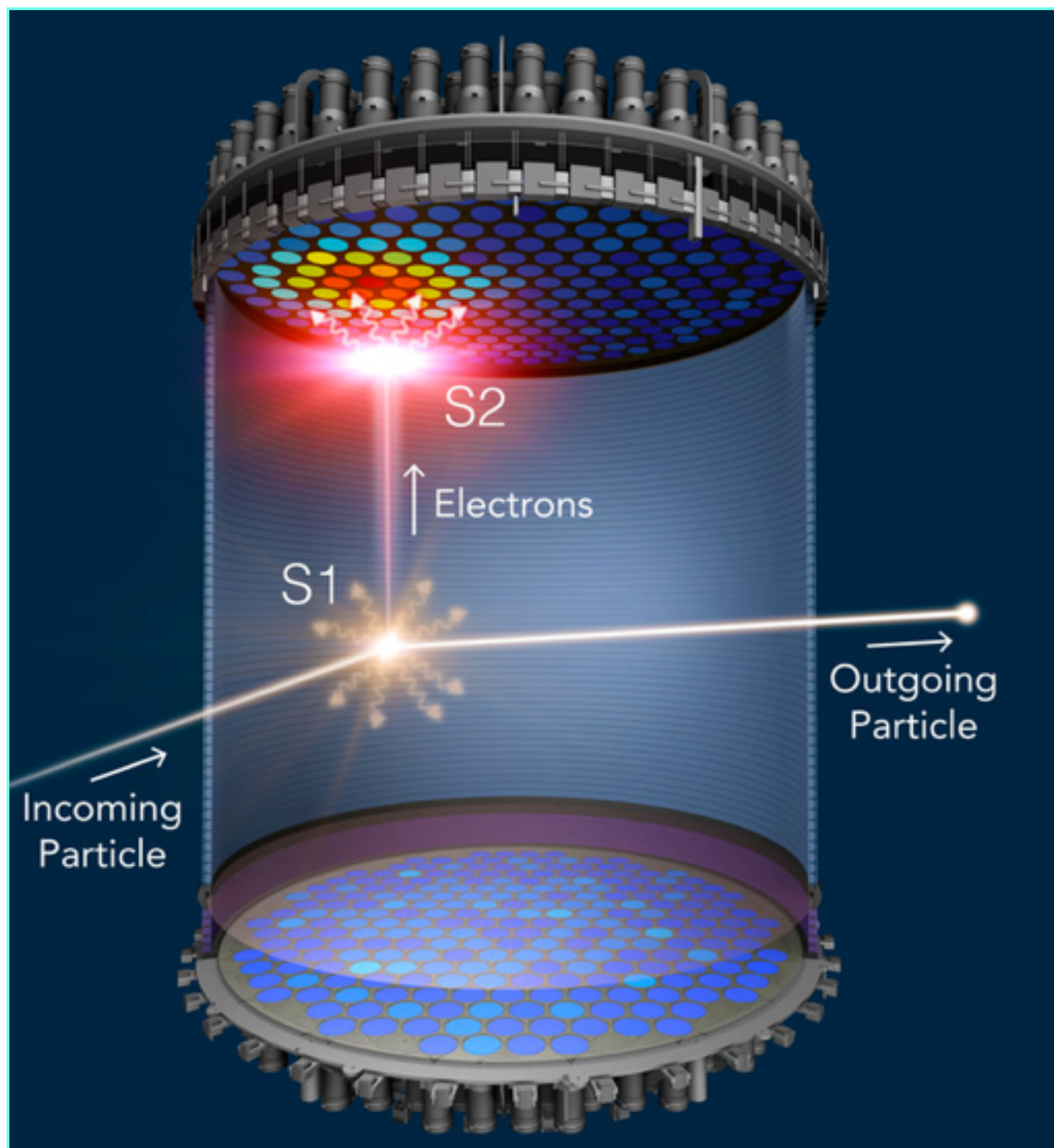


Electron to nuclear recoil discrimination

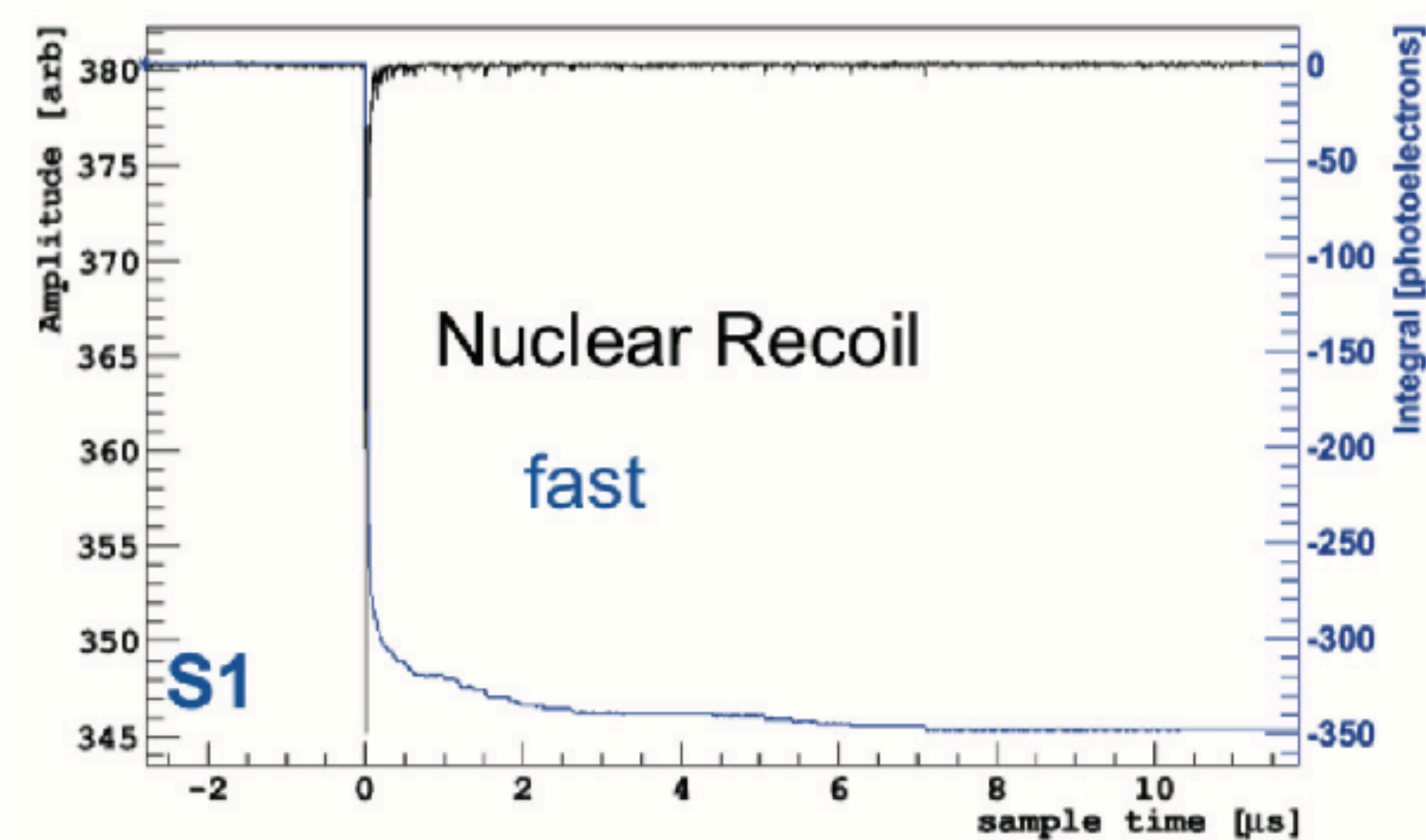
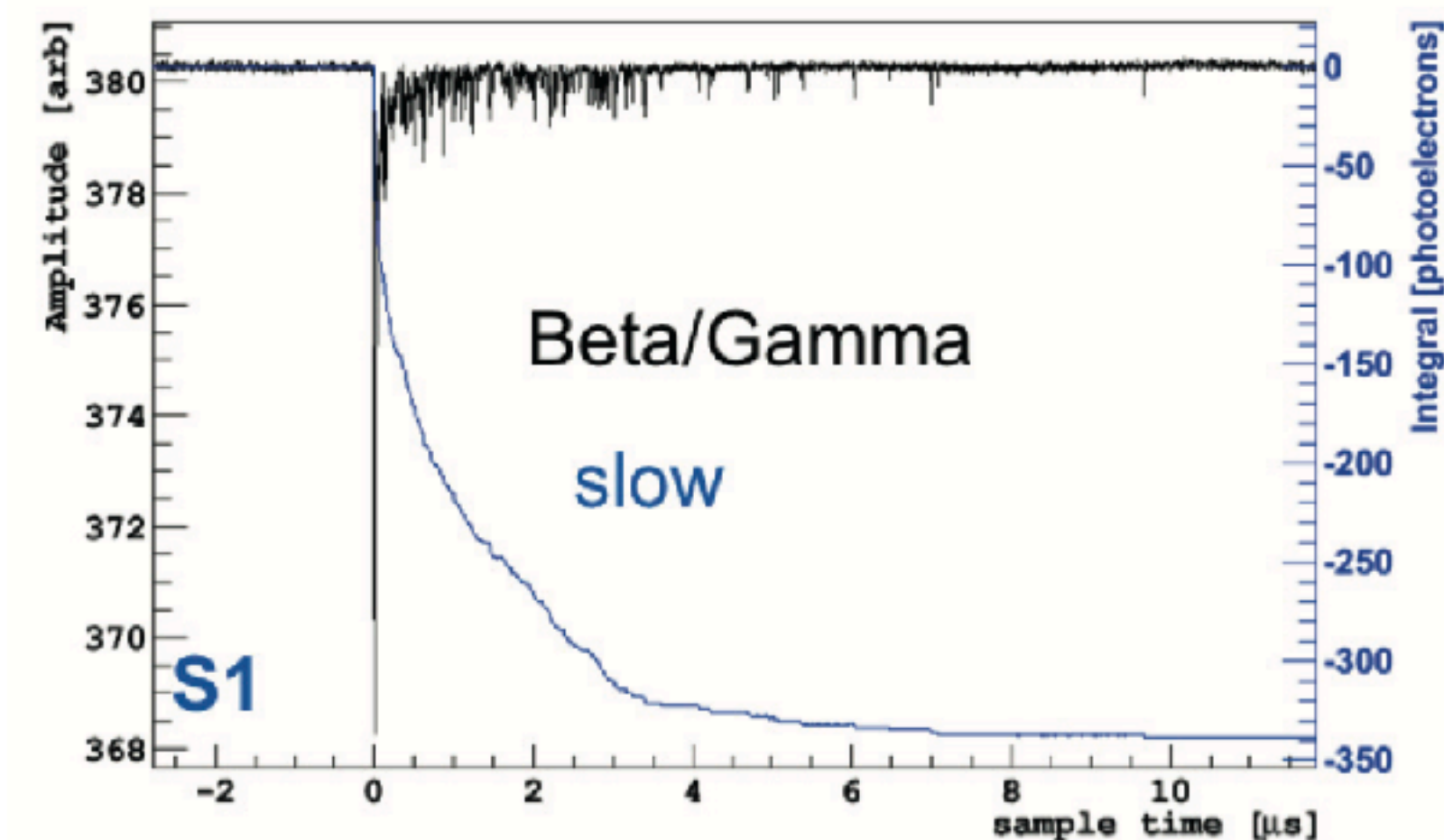




Dual-Phase Time Projection Chambers



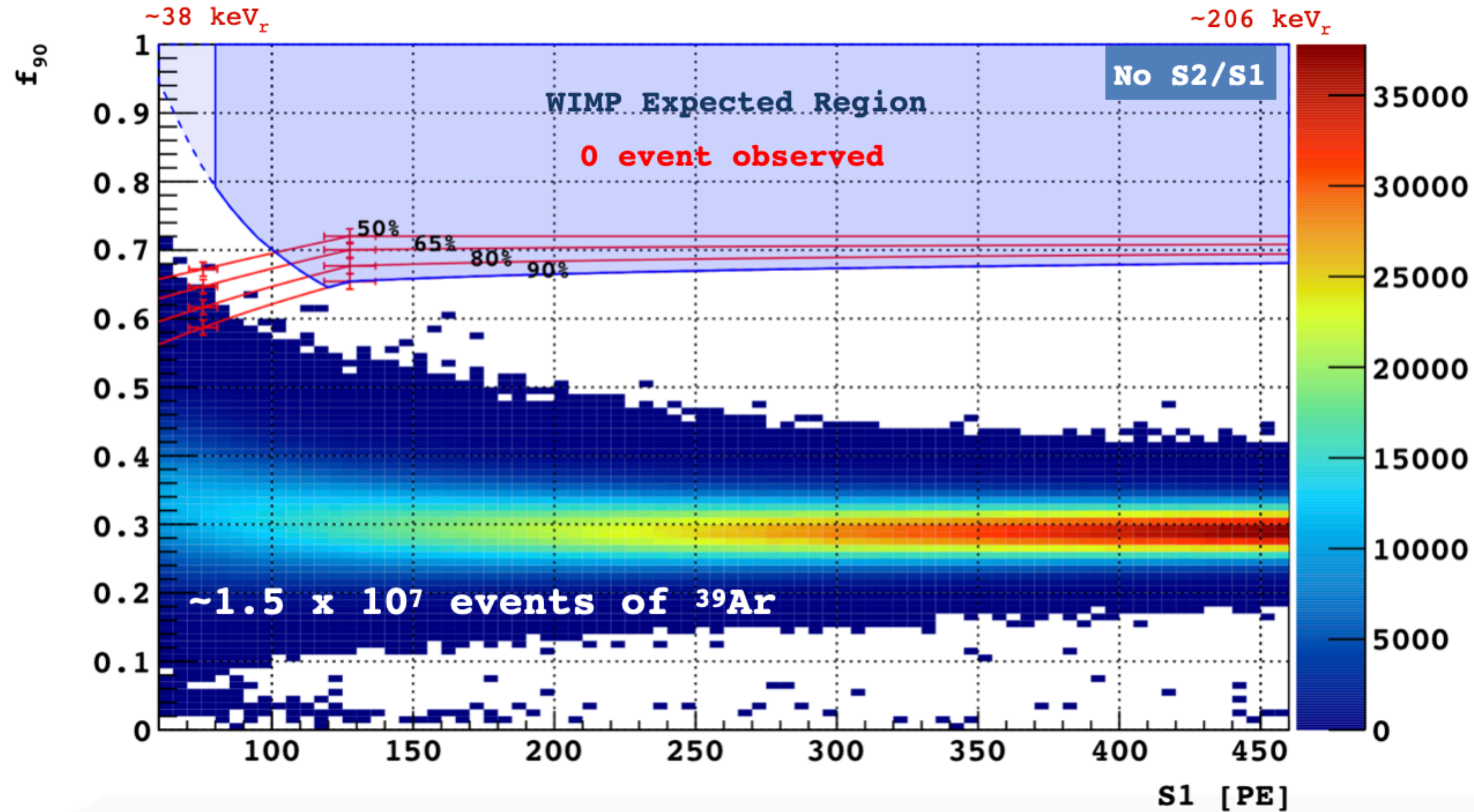
Liquid Argon





Liquid Argon

Grâce à la discrimination basée sur la forme de l'impulsion de scintillation, il est possible d'**identifier une interaction nucléaire parmi 100 millions d'interactions électroniques.**

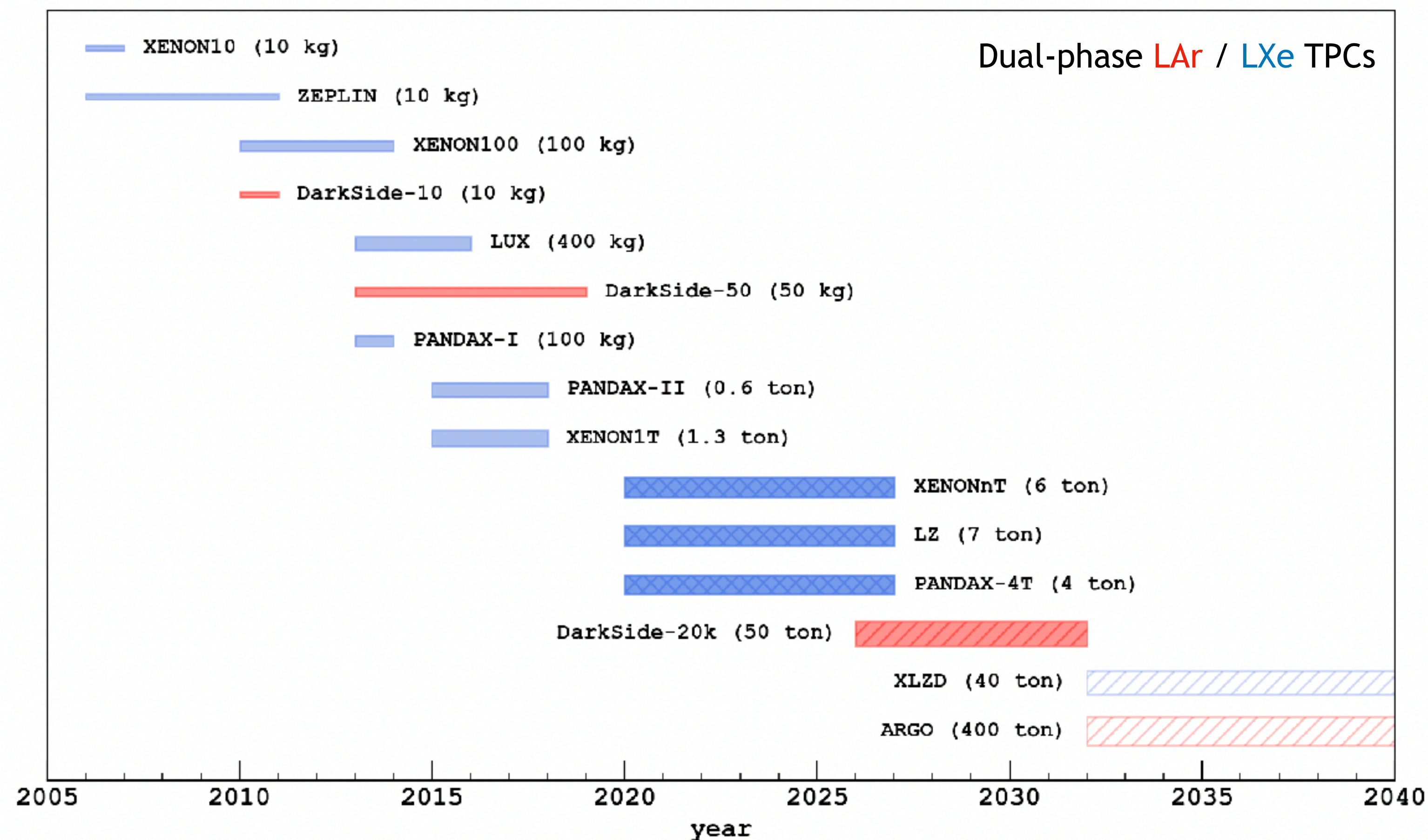




Dual-Phase Noble Liquid TPCs for Dark Matter Search

Noble Liquids

- Noble
=> no radiochemical impurities
- Scalable
=> O(10-100 ton)
- High scintillation yield (x 4 organic scintillator)
=> high resolution
- Excellent particle identification
=> background suppression
- High ionization yield
=> very low energy thresholds
- Low electron diffusion and mobility
=> accurate event topology in a TPC





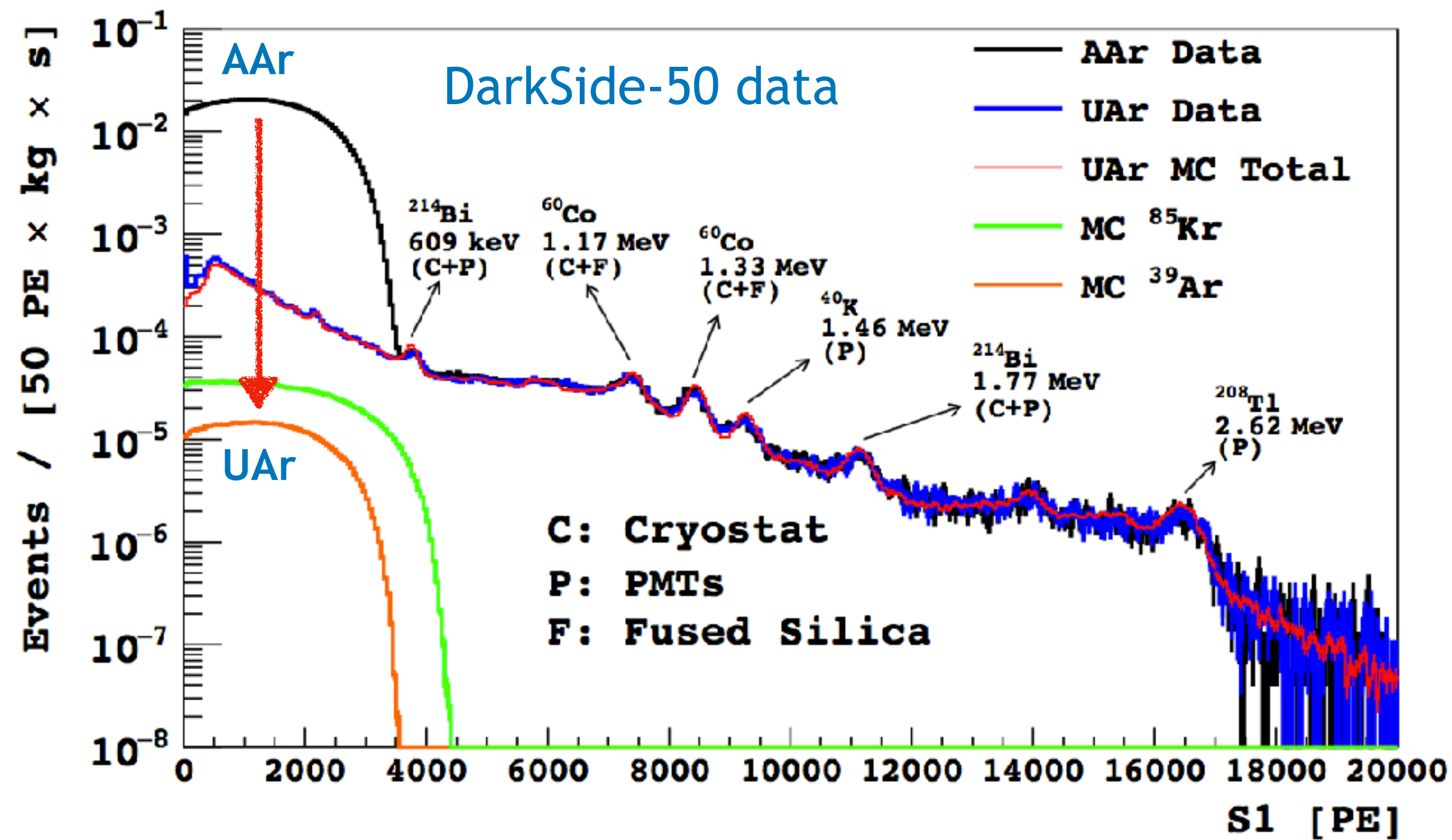
Noble Liquids: Xenon vs Argon

	LAr	LXe
WIMP SI cross section	Limited to large masses ($M_\chi > 10$ GeV)	Sensitive also to low masses
WIMP SD cross section	Not accessible	Accessible
Radio-purity	^{39}Ar contamination	Intrinsically pure
Density	1.4 g/cm ³	3.1 g/cm ³
Temperature	87.2 K (close to nitrogen)	166.4 K
S1 Pulse Shape Discrimination	Yes (singlet ~7 ns; triplet ~1600 ns)	Very limited (singlet: ~2 ns; triplet: ~27 ns)
Cost and availability	Generically cheap (~\$/kg) + extra costs for underground extraction Abundant	Expensive (~kDollar/kg) Limited world production



Why not liquid argon?

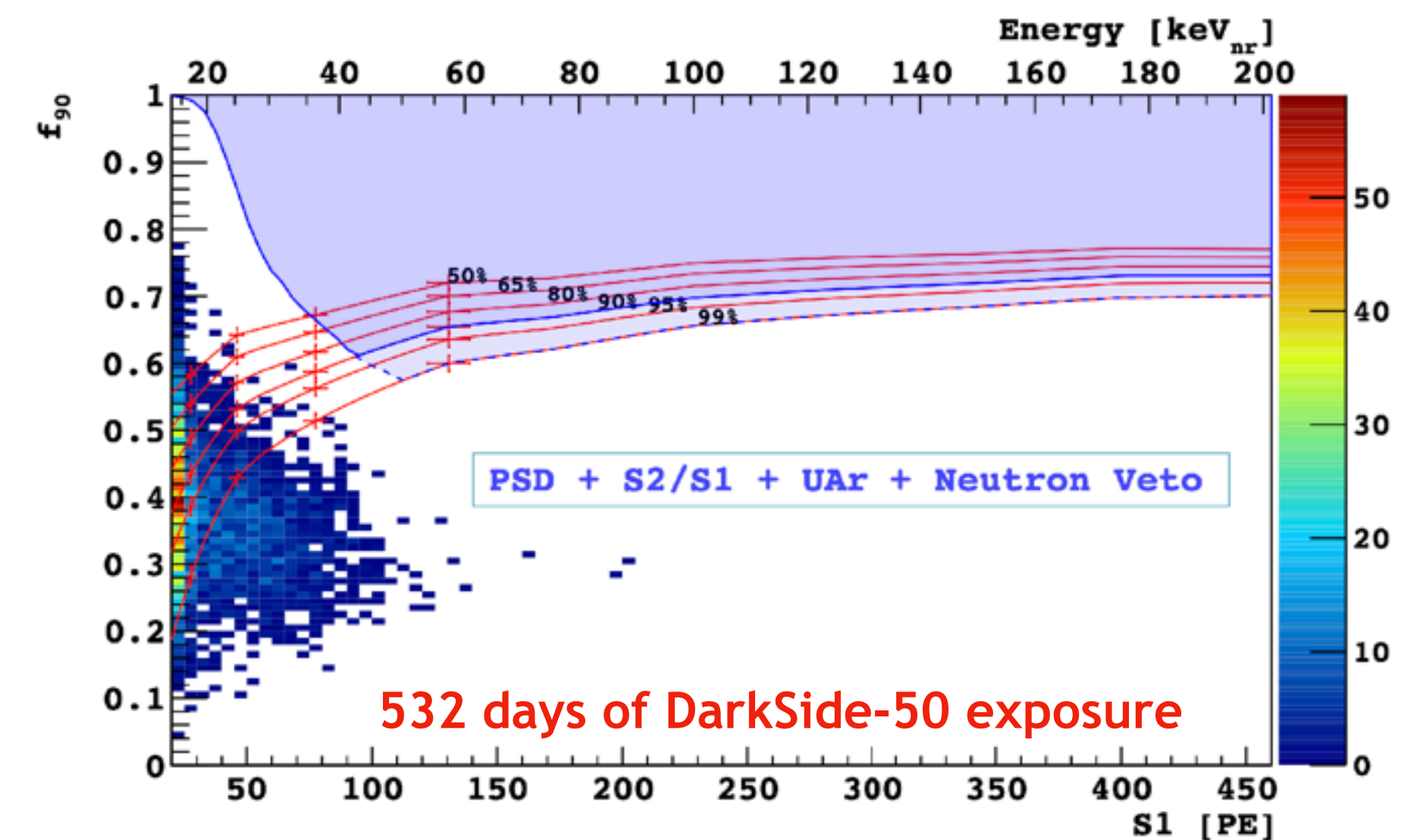
Underground Argon



^{39}Ar reduction factor in UAr: ~1400

Cosmogenic ^{39}Ar in atmospheric argon is the primary background ($\sim 1 \text{ Bq / kg}$)

Argon extracted from deep underground is naturally shielded against cosmic rays



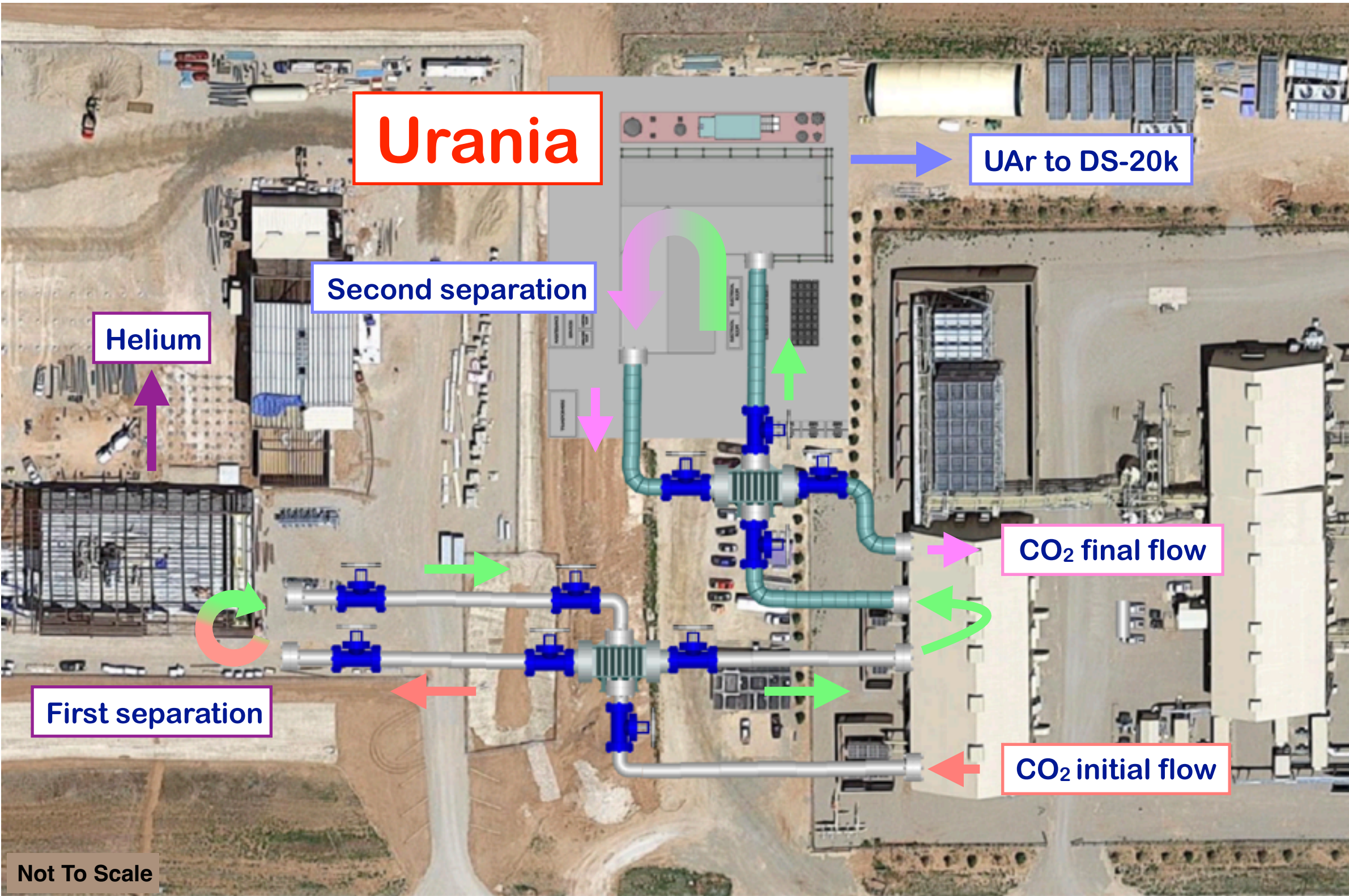


The Underground Argon

URANIA

Expansion de l'usine à échelle industrielle à Cortez, pour atteindre une capacité de 250 kg/jour d'argon souterrain

Pureté initiale : 99,99%



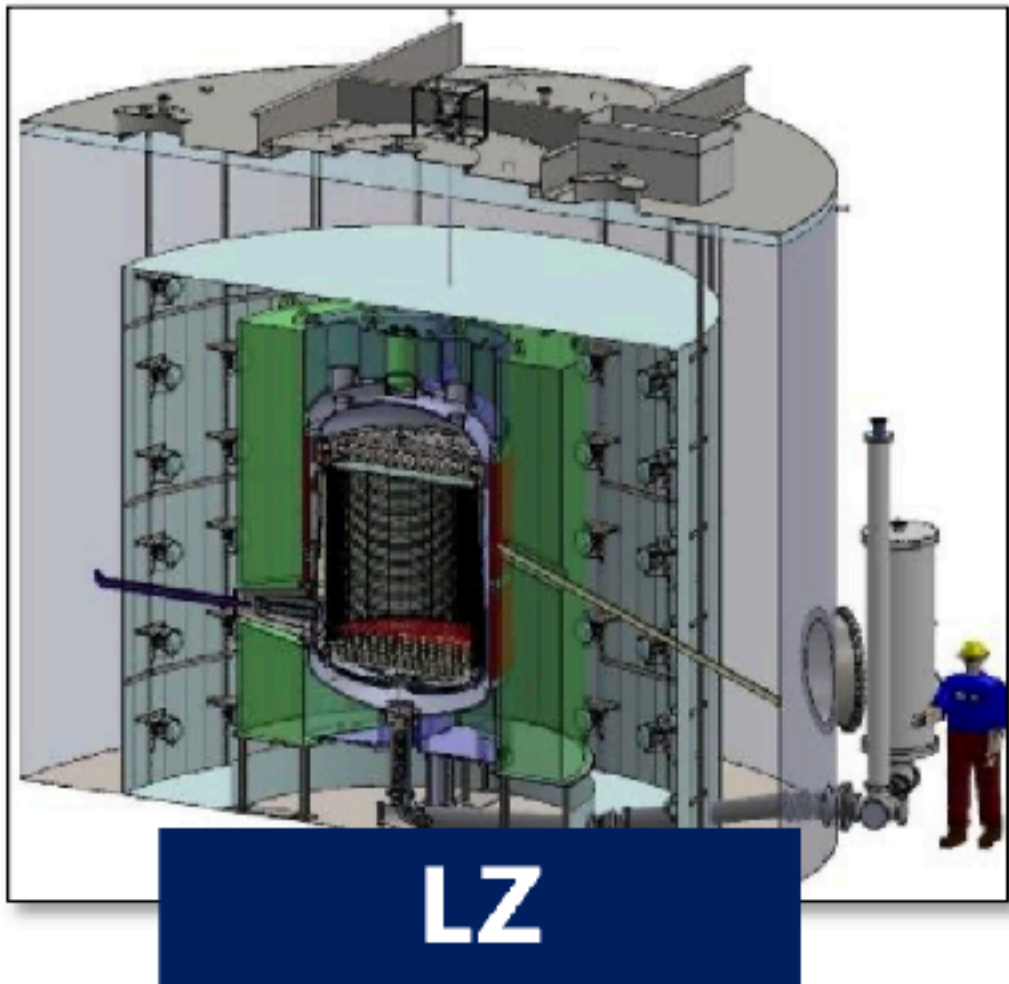


The LXe Experiments

- Multi-tonne scale xenon experiments



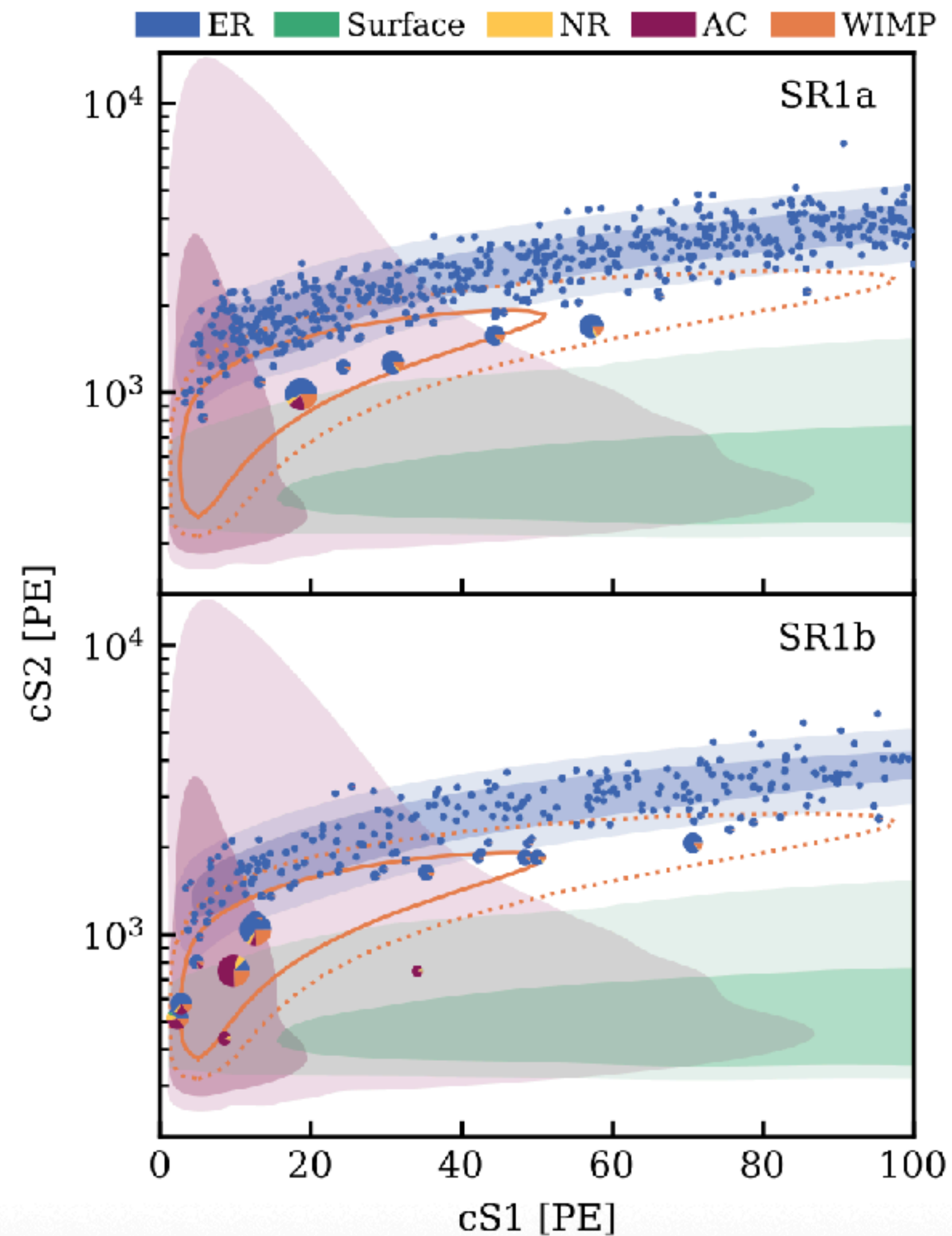
Experiment	Sensitive Volume	Fiducial Volume	Expected exposure	Expected Sensitivity
PandaX-4T	4 tonne	2.8 ton	5 tonne-year	10^{-47} cm^2
XENONnT	6 tonne	5 ton	20 tonne-year	$2 \times 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$
LZ	7 tonne	5.6 ton	20 tonne-year	$2 \times 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$



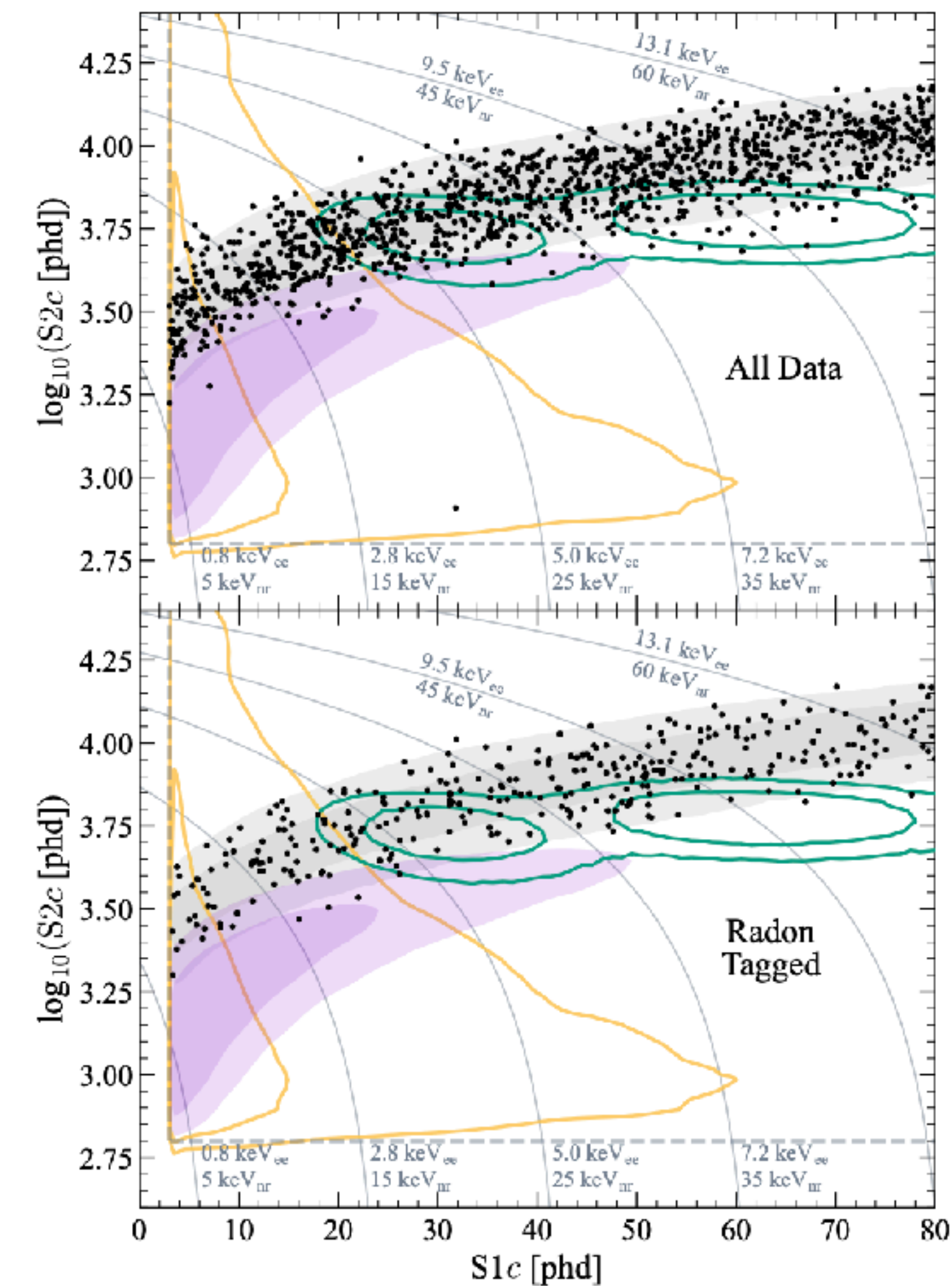


The High-Mass Sensitivity

XENONnT

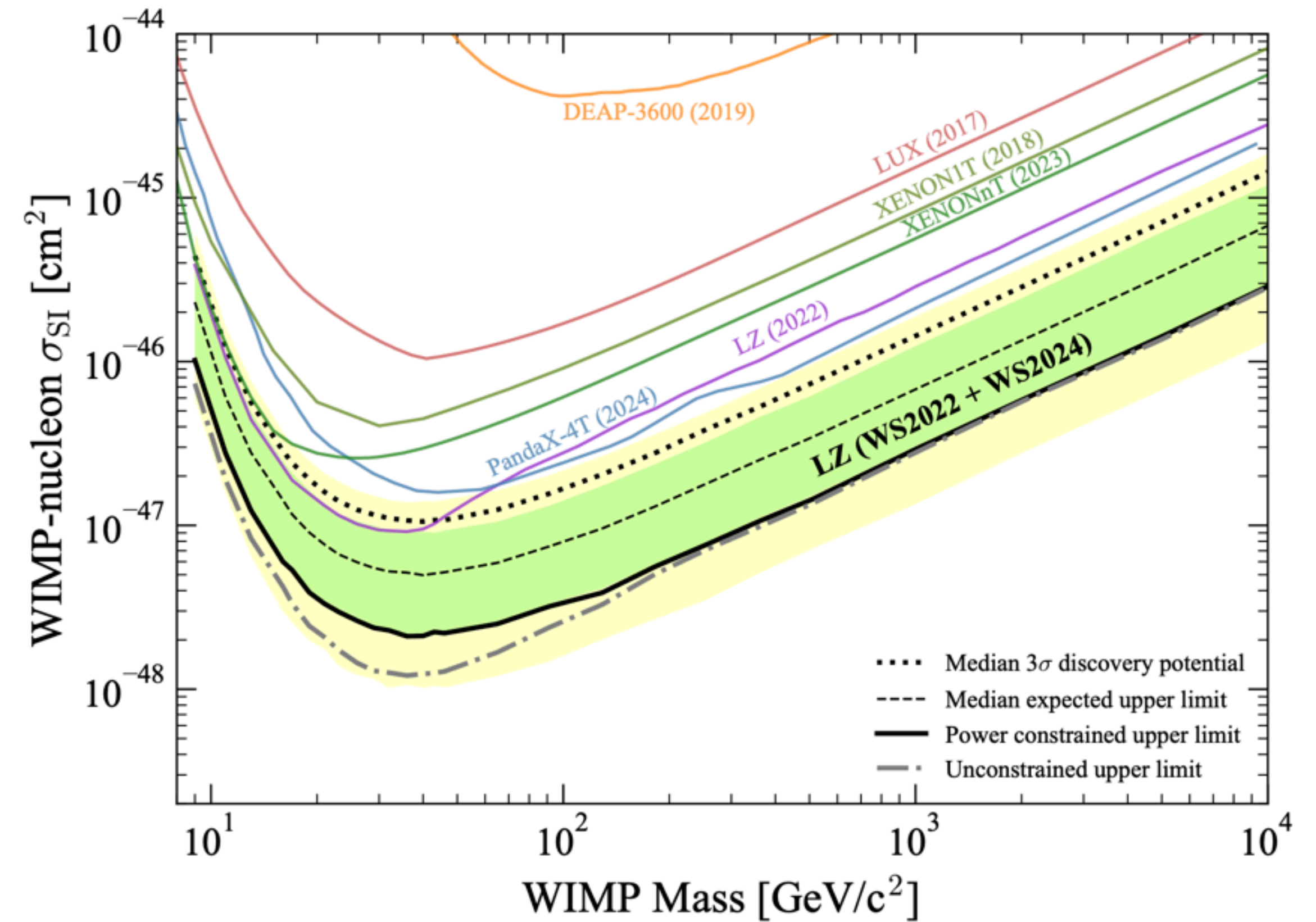
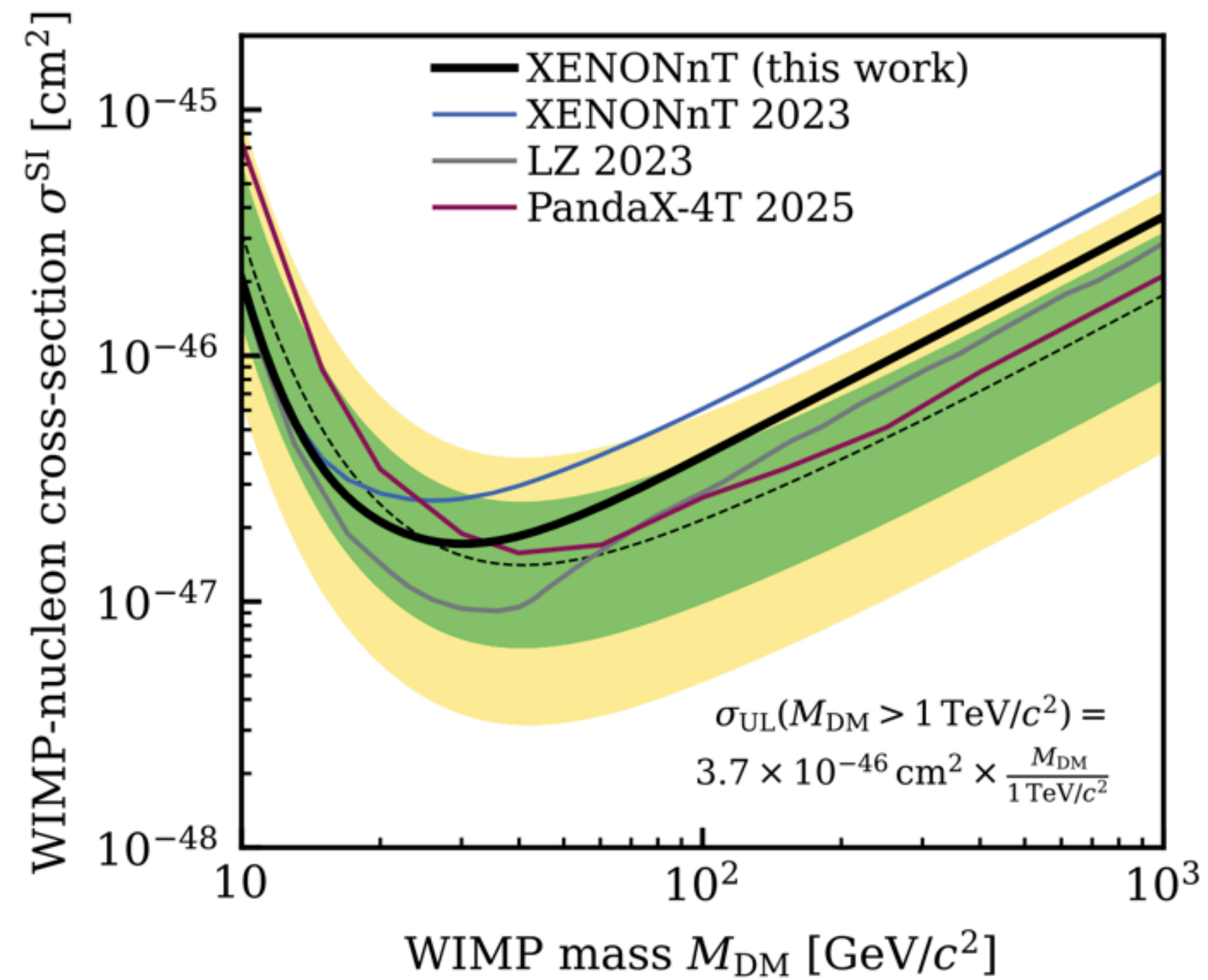


LZ





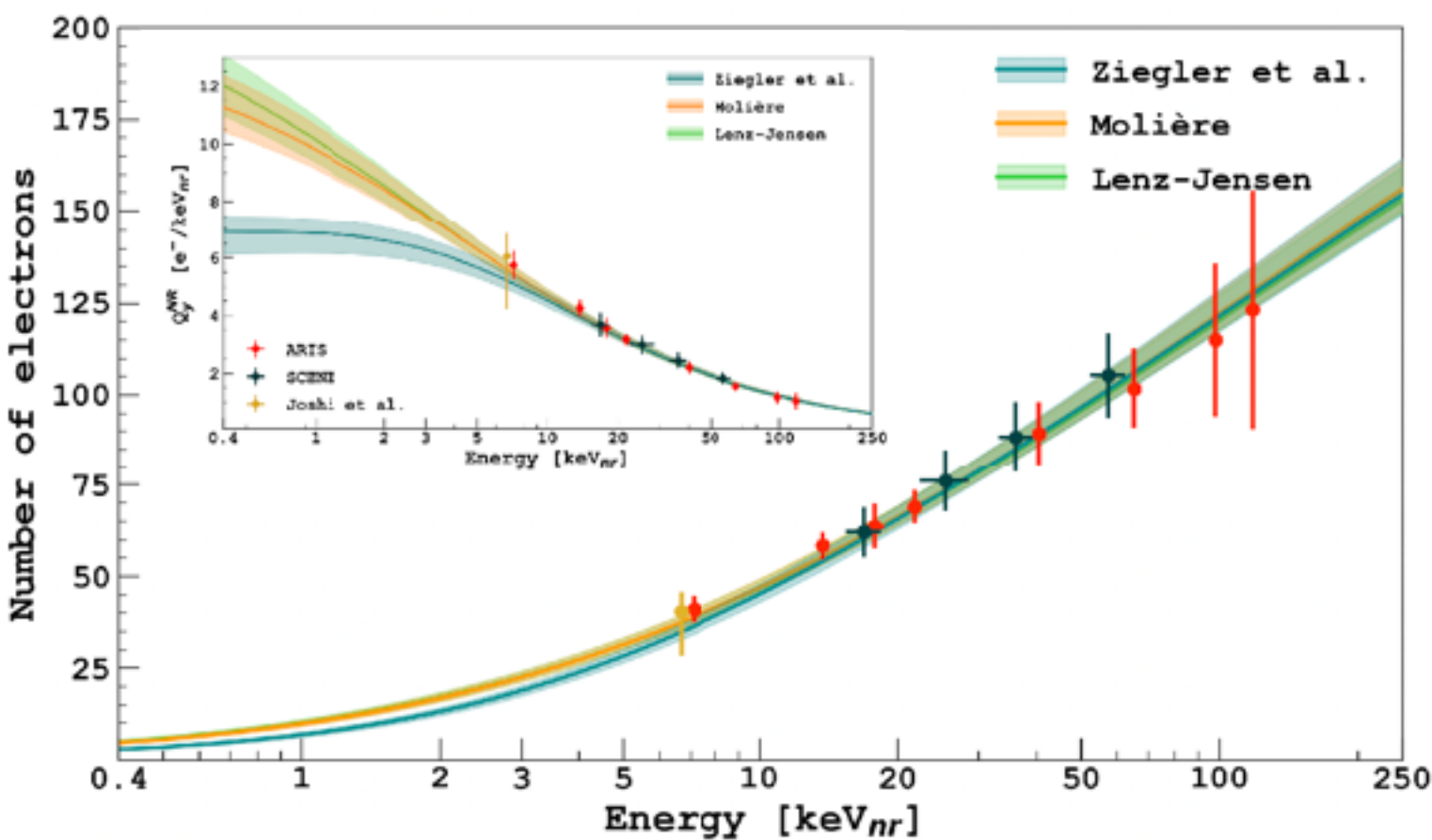
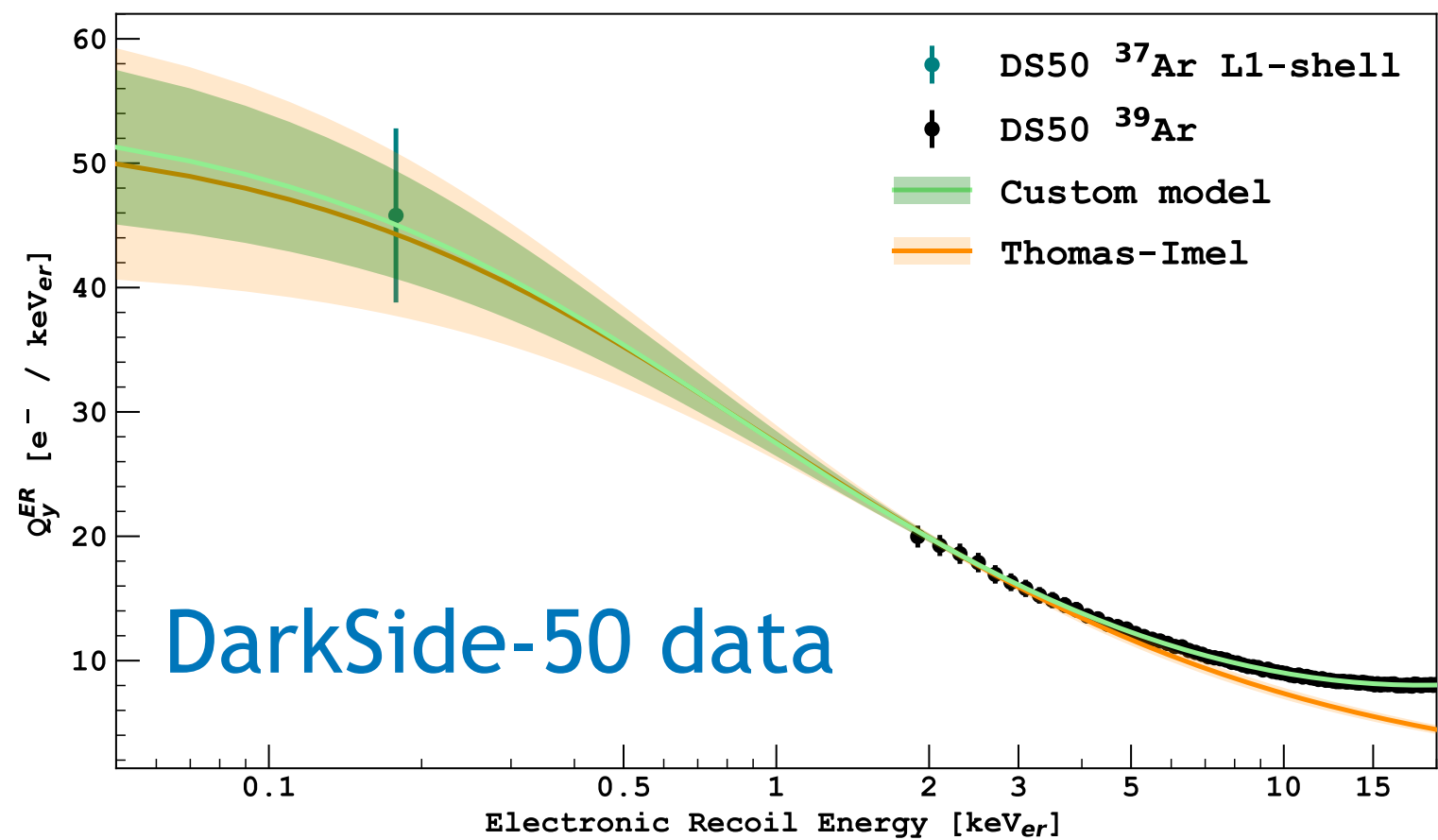
The High-Mass Sensitivity





Lowering the energy threshold

Low-energy calibration



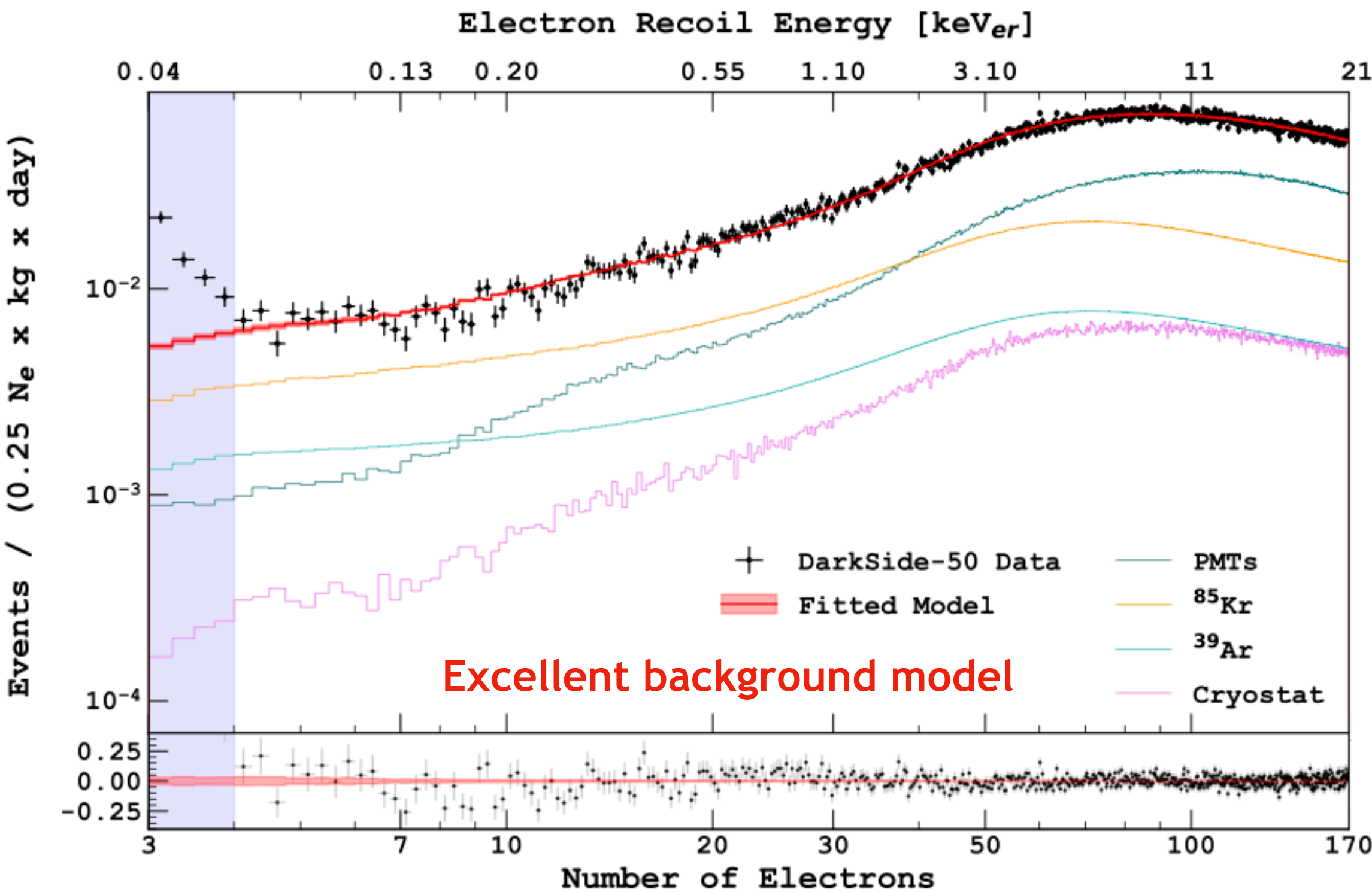
Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 8, 082005

Scintillation (S1)

- Detection efficiency (g1) ~ 16%

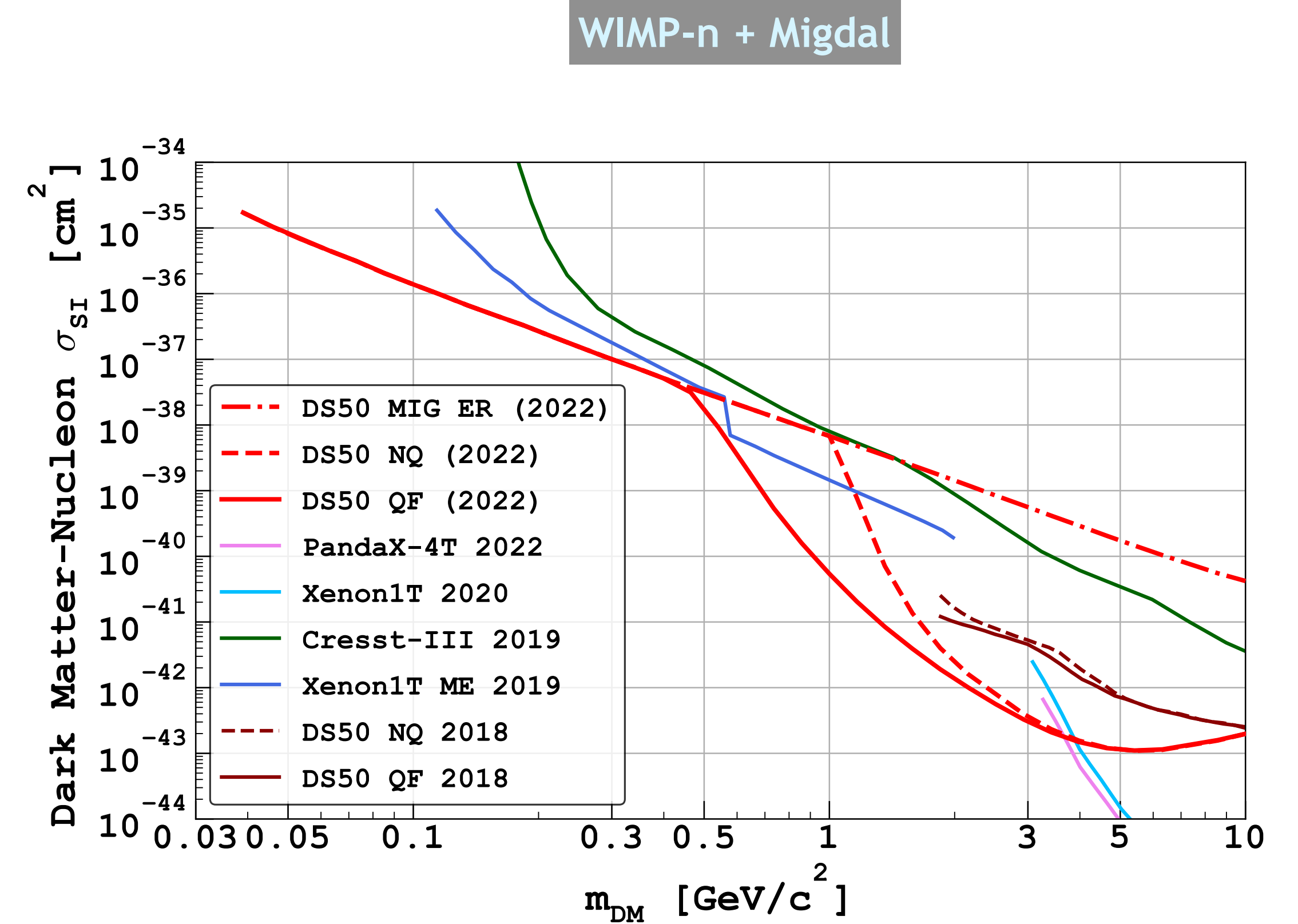
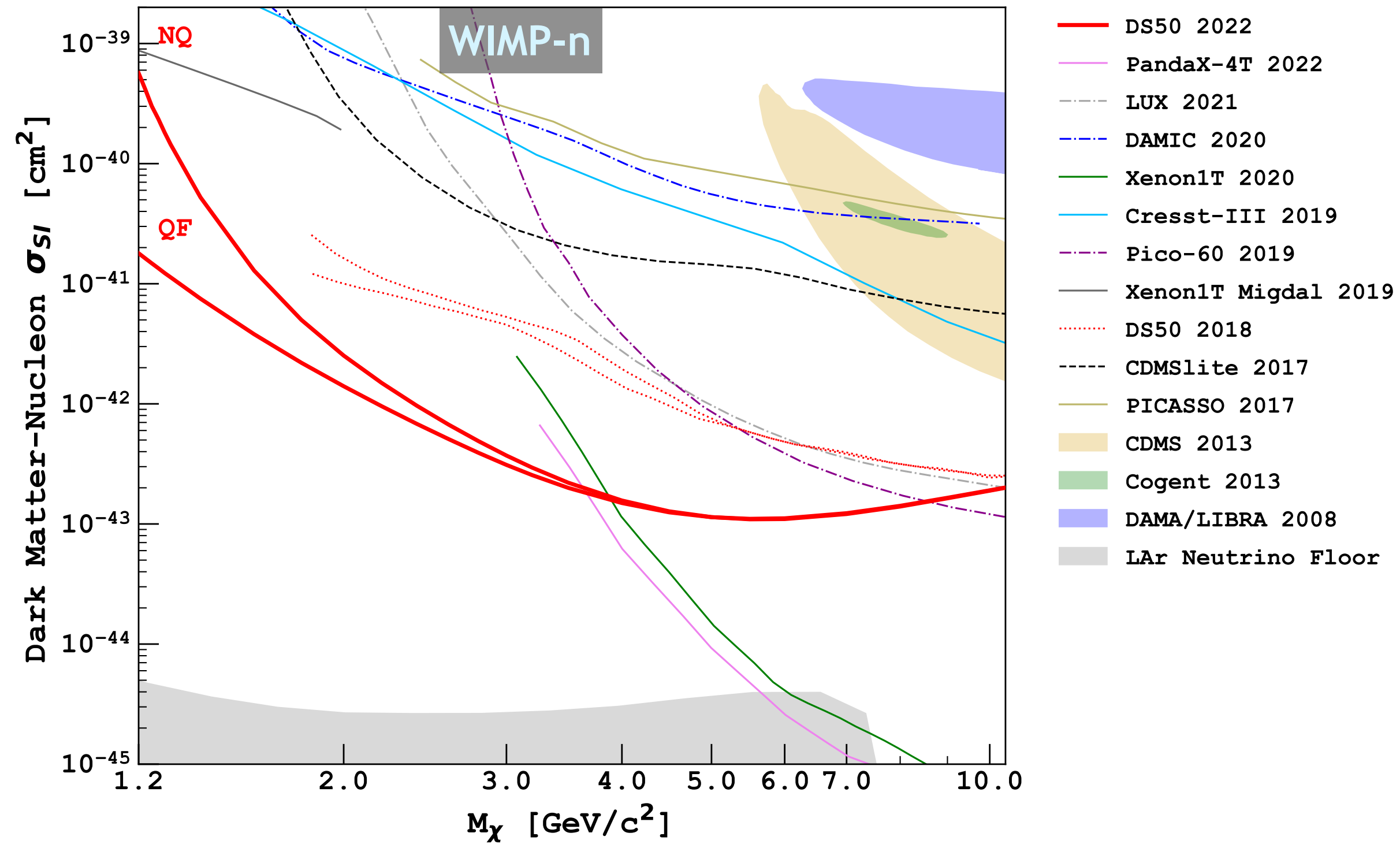
Ionization (S2)

- Efficiency to extract 1 e- in the gas pocket ~ 100%
- Amplification factor (g2) = ~23 pe / e-





The Low-Mass Sensitivity



[DarkSide-50, Phys. Rev. D 107 \(2023\) 063001](#)

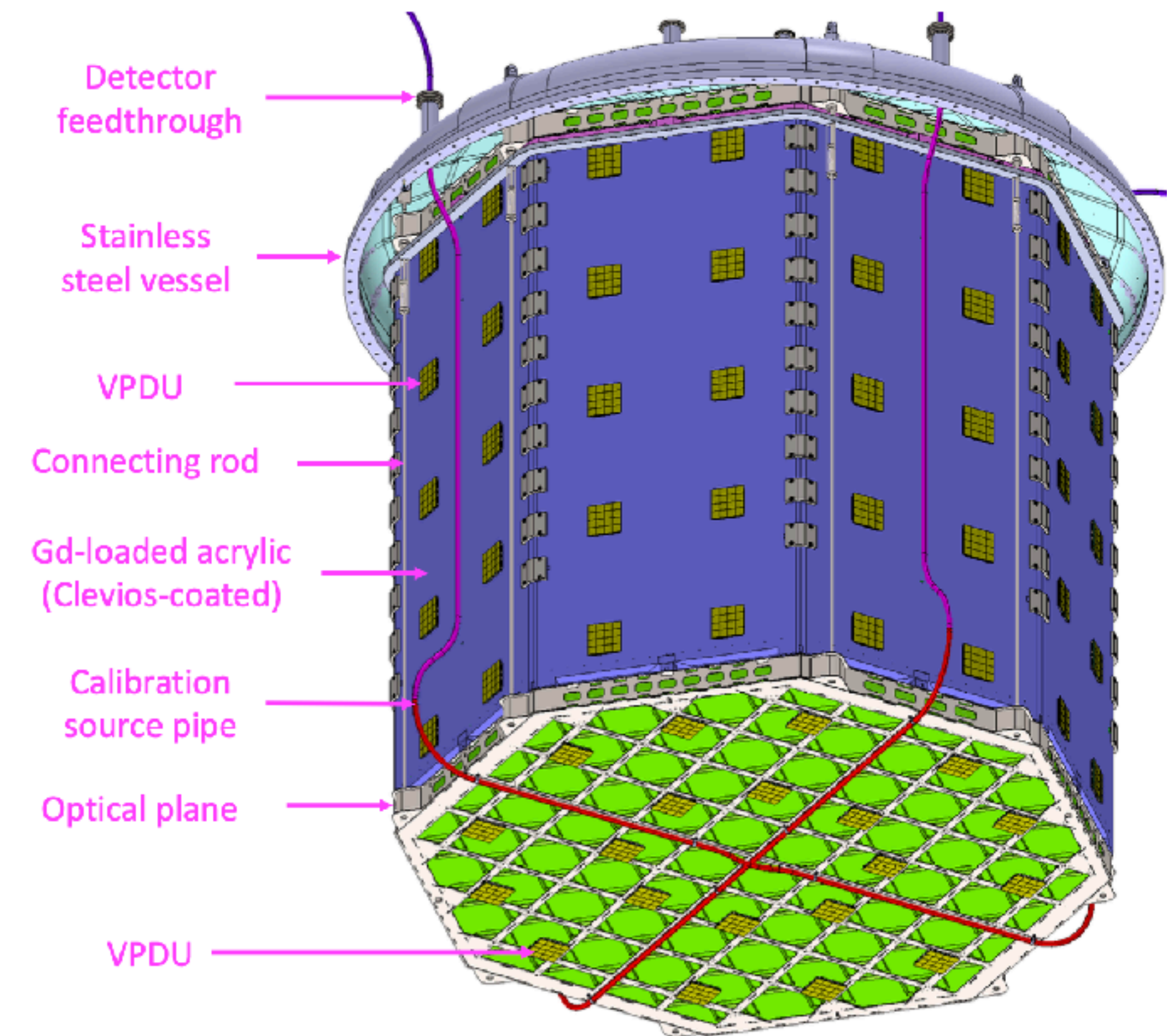
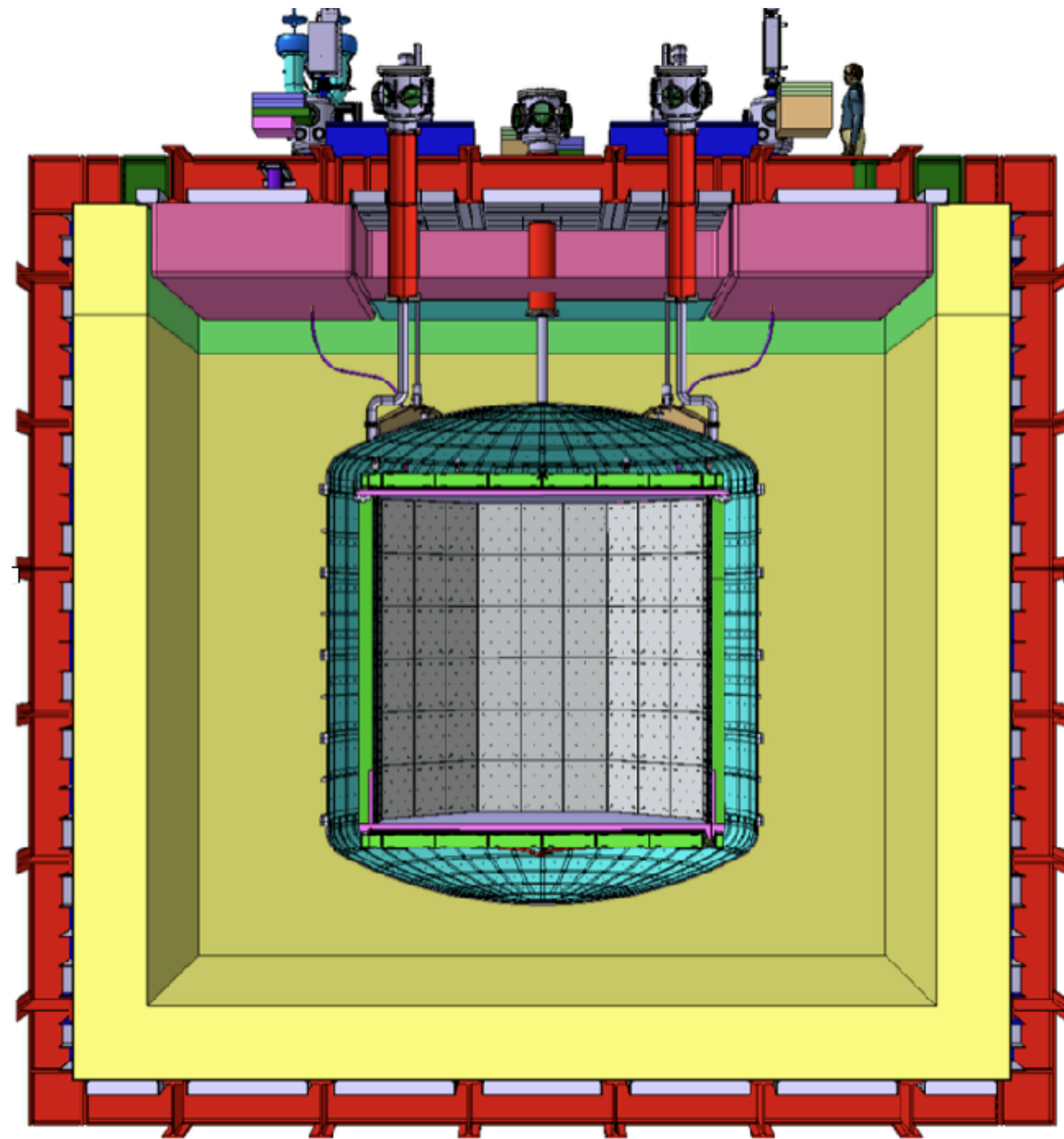
[DarkSide-50, Phys. Rev. Lett. 130 \(2023\) 101002](#)

[DarkSide-50, Phys. Rev. Lett. 130 \(2023\) 101001](#)



DarkSide-20k

50 tonnes d'argon souterrain





Dark matter is one of the main mysteries of the universe

- Dark matter is a cross-disciplinary topic of interest to cosmology, astrophysics, particle physics, and nuclear physics.
- There are multiple lines of evidence supporting the existence of dark matter, although some doubts remain (modification of the law of gravity?).
- Detectors are becoming increasingly sensitive: in the next five years, sensitivity is expected to improve by more than a factor of 10.

