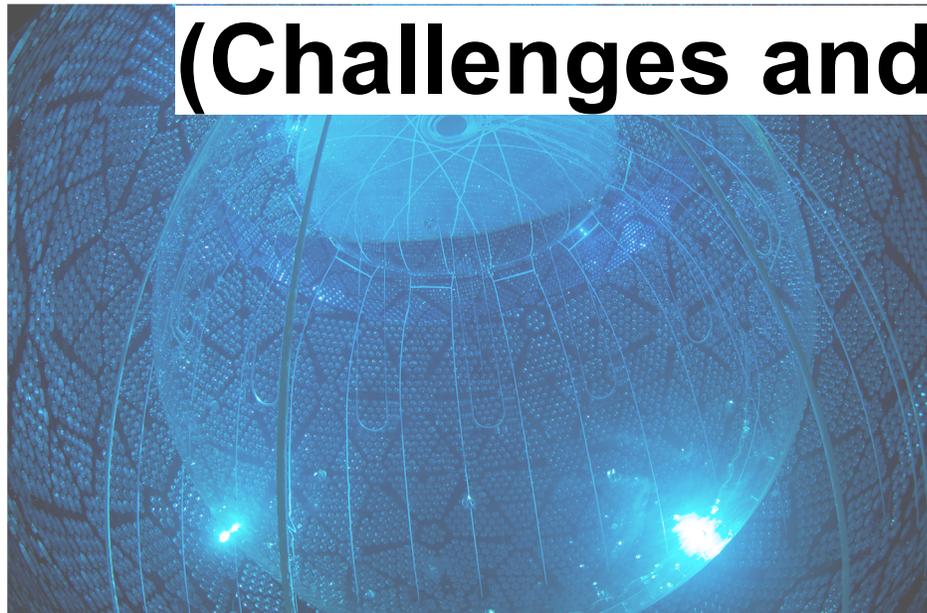


# Double Beta Decay Experiments (Challenges and Opportunities)

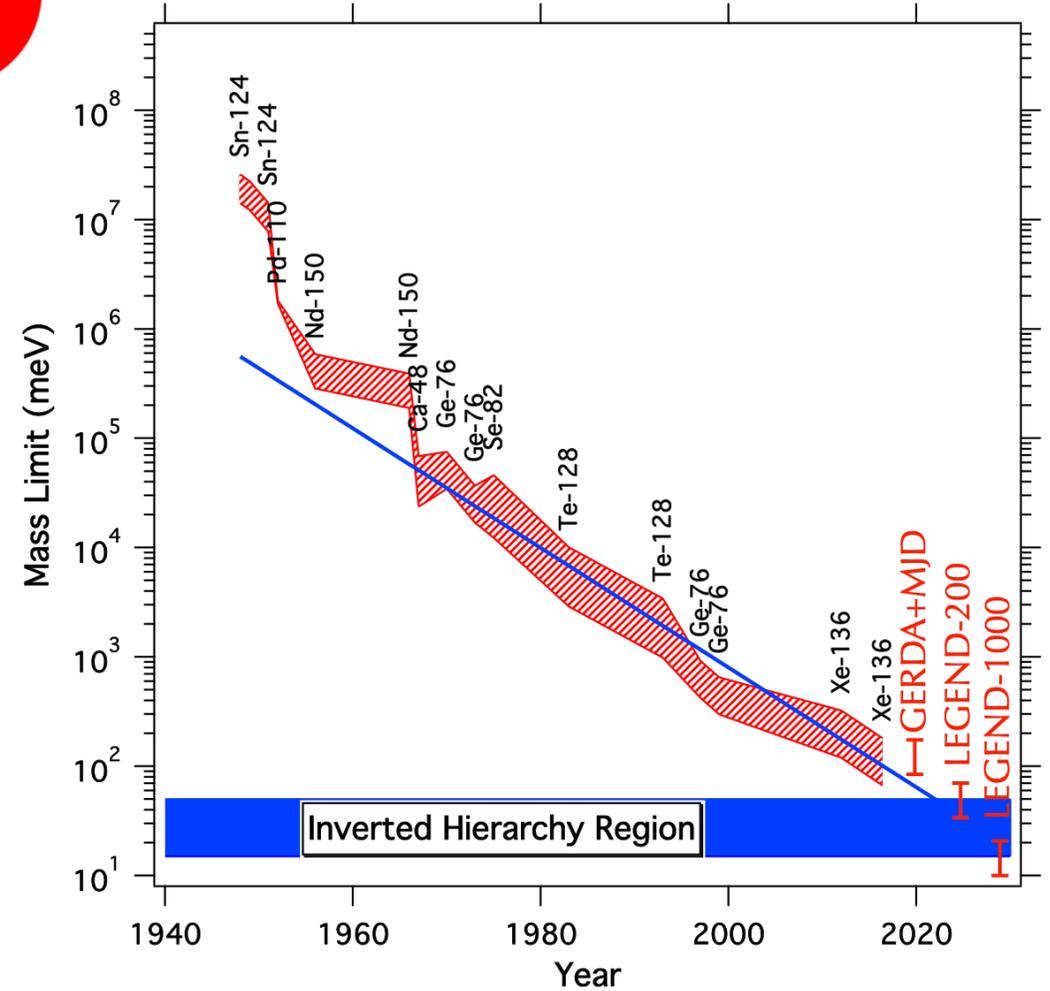
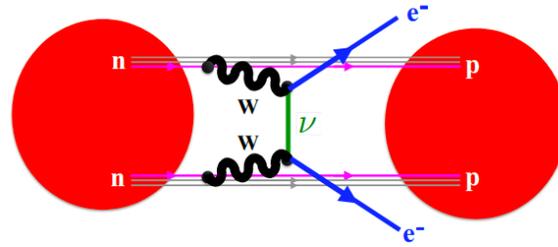


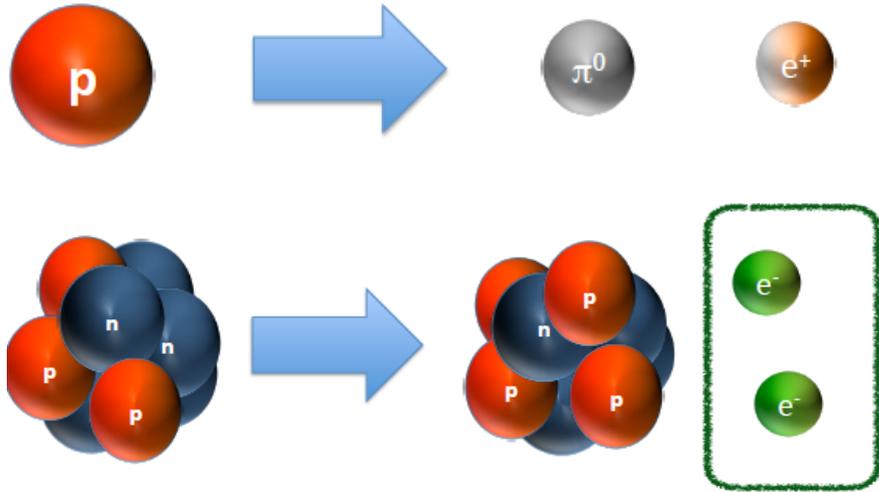
Ruben Saakyan  
University College London  
GdR-Neutrino  
23-Nov-2020



# Outline

- The Big Picture: Motivation and Context
- Current Constraints and Future Goals
- Challenges and Experimental Approaches
- Summary and Outlook

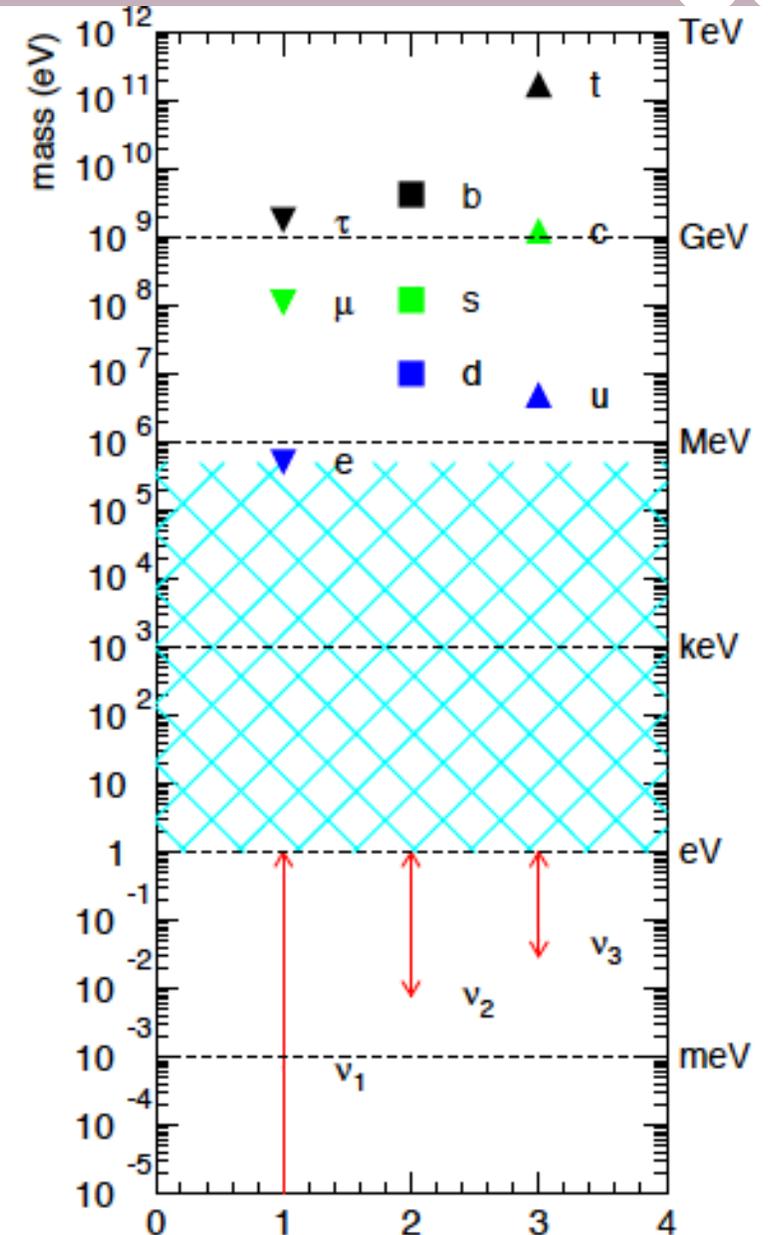


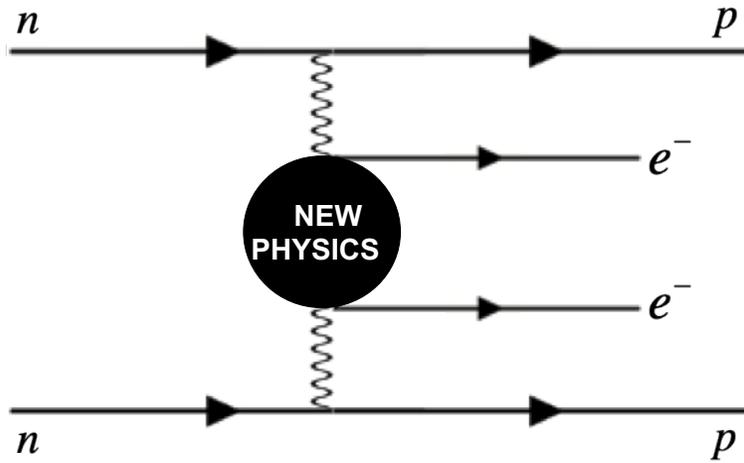


**Proton Decay:**  
 “Disappearance” of nucleons

**Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )**  
 “Creation” of electrons

- Crucial for understanding **dominance of matter** over anti-matter
- Crucial for understanding mechanism behind  **$\nu$ -mass** (*Majorana* vs Dirac)
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  is the most sensitive way to address **Lepton Number Violation** **regardless** of underlying mechanism



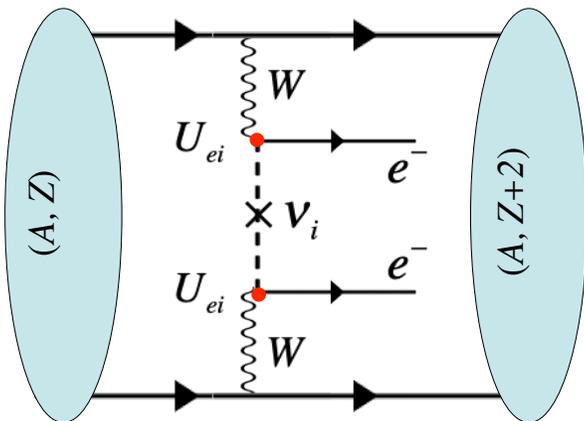


**NME:**  
Nasty Nuclear  
Matrix  
Element

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = G^{0\nu} (Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M^{0\nu}|^2 \eta^2$$

**LNV parameter**

Most discussed: Light Majorana Neutrino exchange



$\eta$  can be due to  $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ ,  $V + A$ , Majoron, SUSY,  $H^-$ , leptoquarks or a combination of them

➔ Connection with collider and neutrino physics

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = \left| \sum U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| = \left| U_{e1}^2 m_1 + U_{e2}^2 m_2 e^{i\alpha_{21}} + U_{e3}^2 m_3 e^{i\alpha_{31}} \right|$$

**Observation of LNV would have profound implications beyond neutrino physics**

# Double Beta Decay



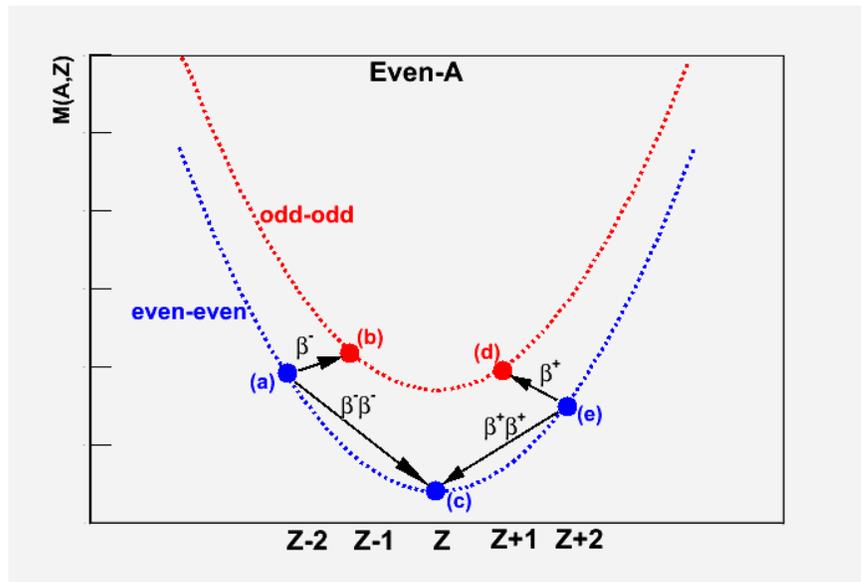
## Abstract

From the Fermi theory of  $\beta$ -disintegration the probability of simultaneous emission of two electrons (and two neutrinos) has been calculated. The result is that this process occurs sufficiently rarely to allow a half-life of over  $10^{17}$  years for a nucleus, even if its isobar of atomic number different by 2 were more stable by 20 times the electron mass.

M. Goeppert-Mayer

*Double beta-Disintegration, Phys.Rev. 48:512-16 (1935)*

Citations per year



Over **40 nuclei** can undergo  $\beta\beta$ -decay (including  $\beta^+\beta^+$  and 2K-capture)  
Only **~9** experimentally feasible for  $0\nu\beta\beta$

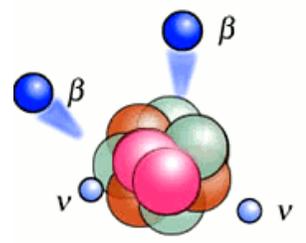
Isotope	Nat. Abundance (%)	$Q_{\beta\beta}$ (MeV)
Ca48	0.187	4.274
Ge76	7.8	2.039
Se82	9.2	2.996
Zr96	2.8	3.348
Mo100	9.6	3.035
Cd116	7.6	2.809
Te130	34.5	2.530
Xe136	8.9	2.462
Nd150	5.6	3.367

High  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  is good for

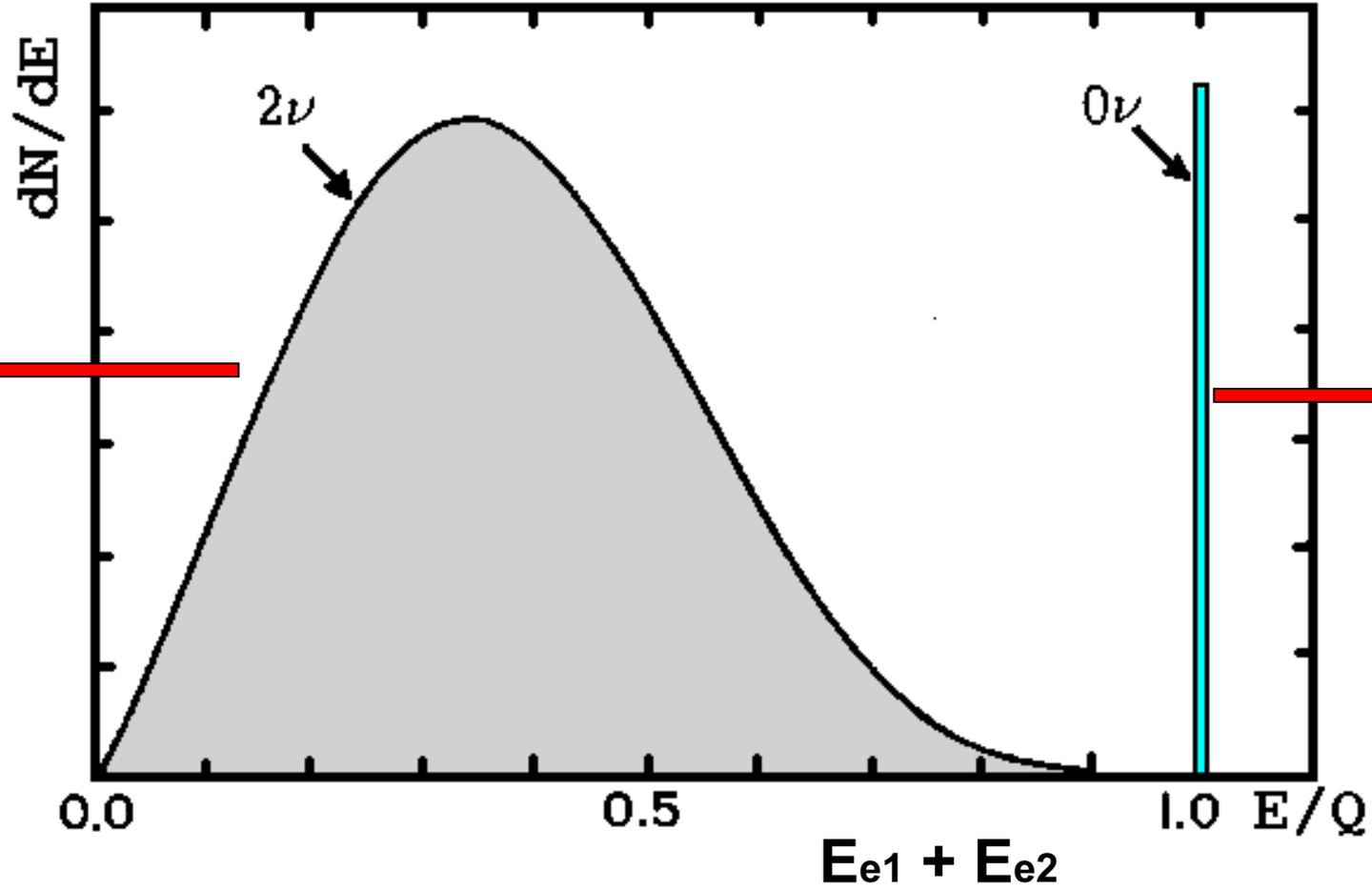
- Phase Space
- Suppressing natural radioactivity background

$$\Gamma^{2\nu} \propto G_F^4$$

$$T_{1/2} \sim 10^{19} - 10^{24} \text{ yr!}$$

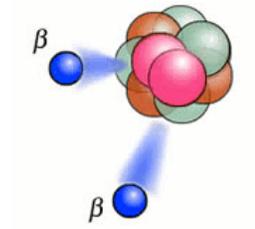


$2\nu\beta\beta(EC/\beta^+)$  has been detected in 13 nuclei!



$$\Gamma^{0\nu} \propto G_F^4 \cdot \eta_{LNV}^2$$

$$T_{1/2} > 10^{26} \text{ yr!}$$



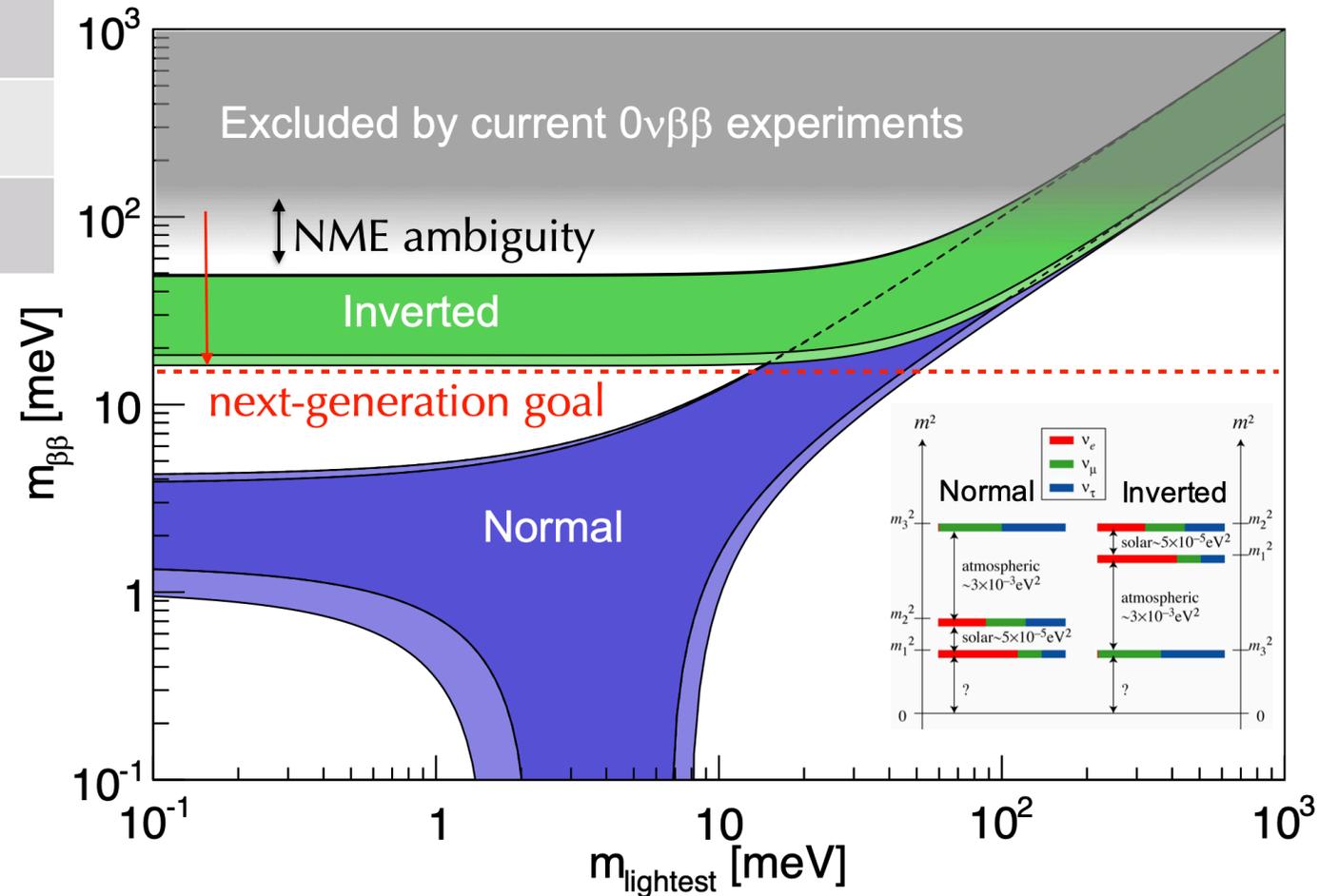
**Also: individual electron energies,  $E_{e1}$ ,  $E_{e2}$ , and angle  $\theta$  between them**

Isotope/Exp	$T_{1/2}$ yrs*	$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^*$ , eV
$^{136}\text{Xe}$ , Kamland-Zen	$> 10^{26}$	$< 0.06 - 0.16$
$^{76}\text{Ge}$ , GERDA	$> 1.8 \times 10^{26}$	$< 0.08 - 0.17$
$^{130}\text{Te}$ , CUORE	$> 3.2 \times 10^{25}$	$< 0.08 - 0.35$

\* 90% CL

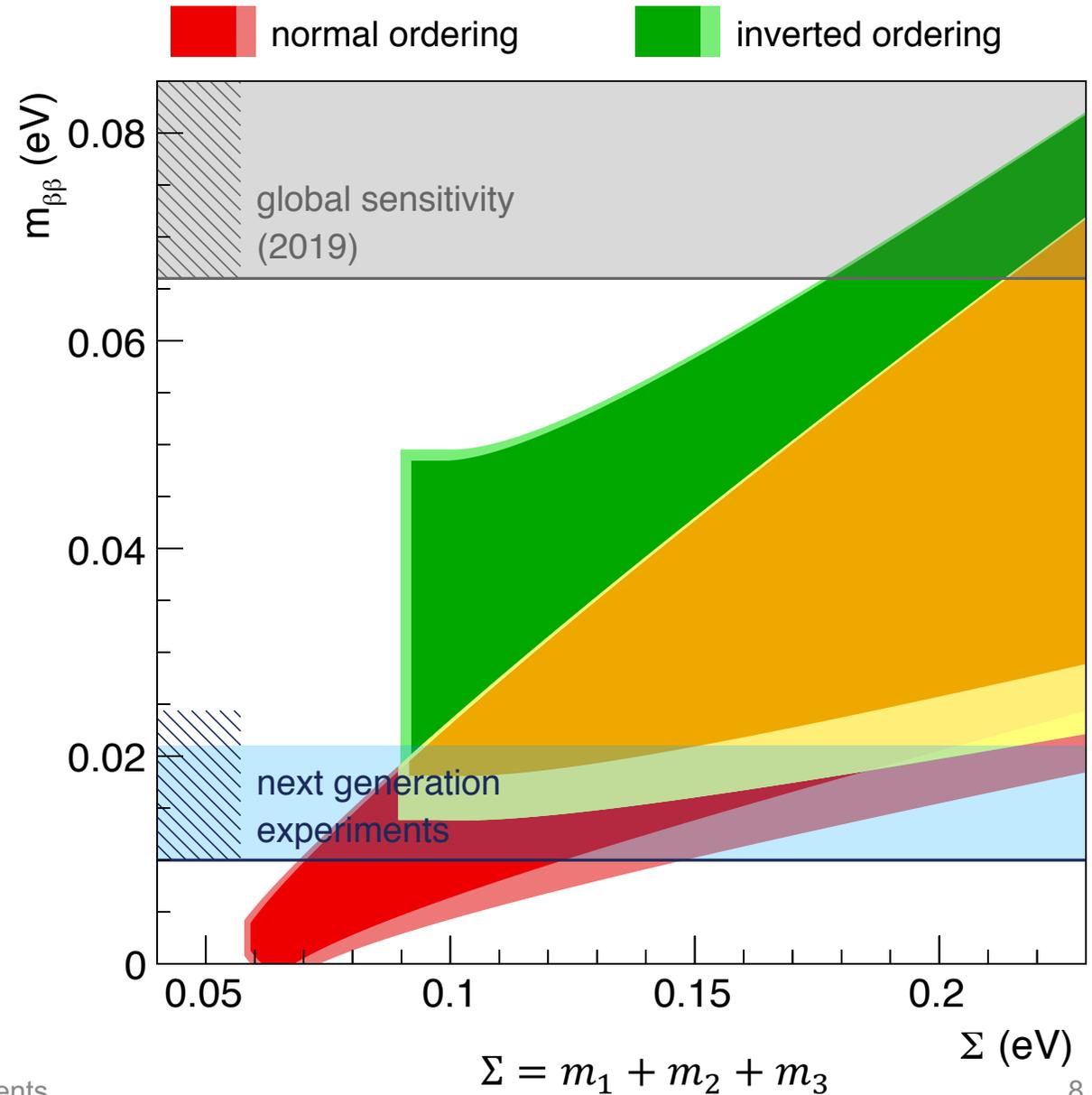
## Future Goals:

- $\times 100$  improvement in  $T_{1/2}$
- Cover IO with  $3\sigma$  discovery potential
- Up to 50% of NO



# Beware of log scales!

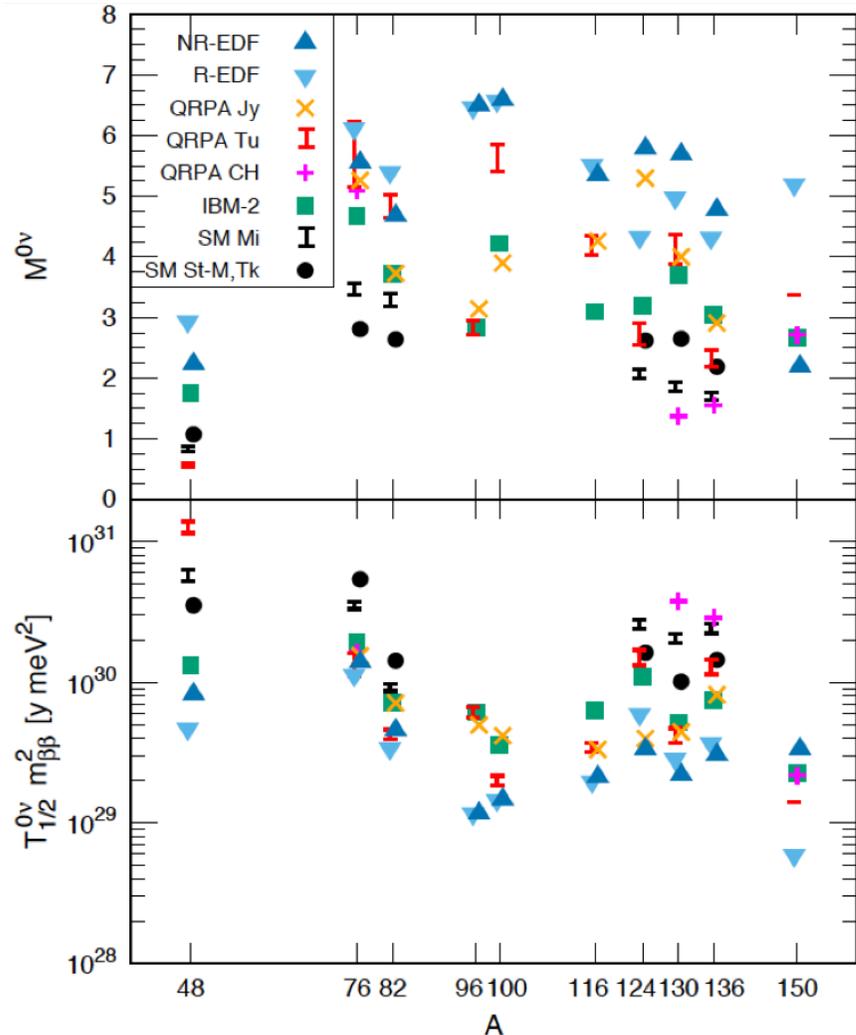
Next generation experiments will have a significant chance of discovering  $0\nu\beta\beta$  regardless of mass ordering!



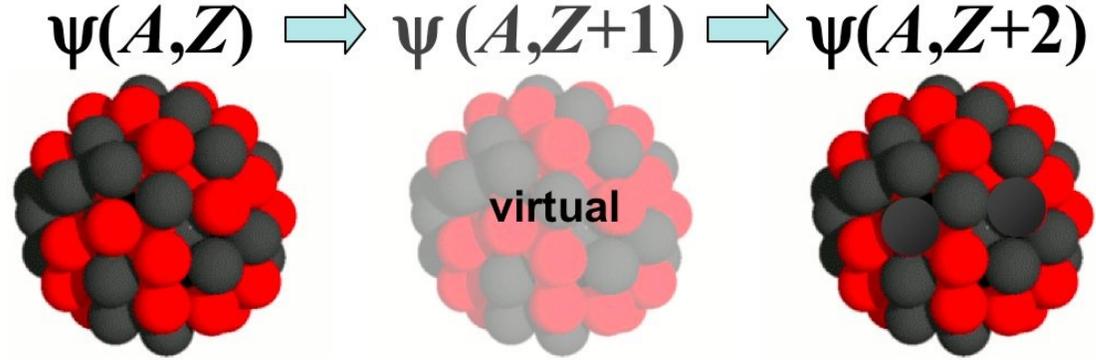
# Challenges

- Backgrounds, backgrounds, backgrounds
  - Radiopurity of components, external background, radon
  - Cosmogenic activation (underground depth)
  - $2\nu\beta\beta$ : Energy resolution
  - Particle ID and active shield
- Uncertainties in Nuclear Matrix Elements calculations
- Scalability
- Cost and feasibility





$$\Gamma^{0\nu} = G^{0\nu} g_A^4 \left( M^{0\nu} \right)^2 \langle m \rangle^2$$



- Significant effort from different groups and different nuclear models
- **Question of  $g_A$  quenching under study**
- No isotope has clear preference. Choice driven by experimental considerations.
- **Multiple isotope confirmation crucial**
- **Experimental input important**
  - »  **$2\nu\beta\beta$  decay**
  - » charge exchange reactions
  - » muon capture

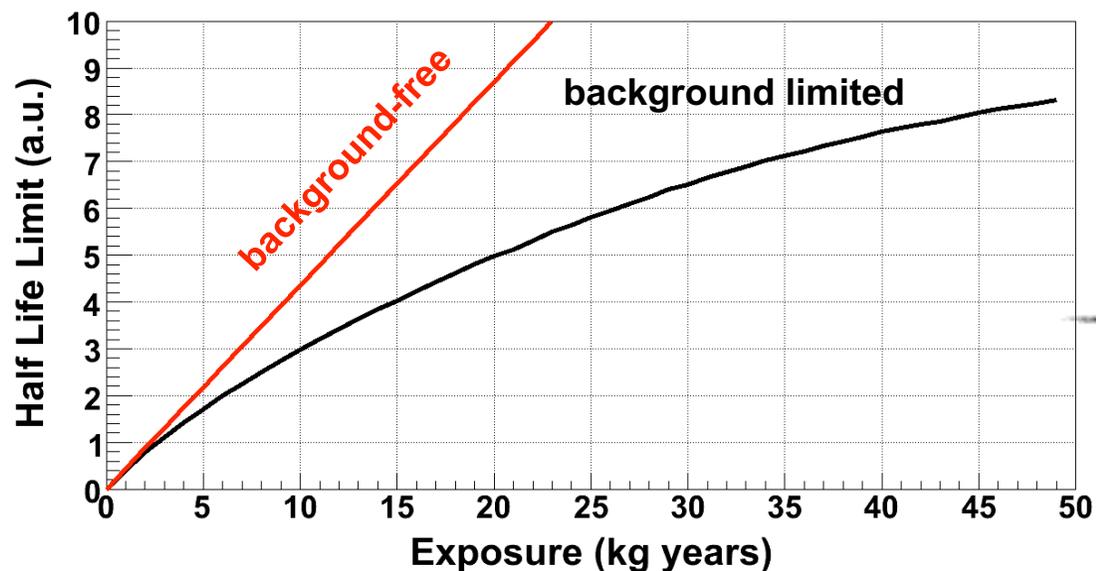
# Experimental Challenges

maximise efficiency & isotope abundance

maximise exposure = mass (isotope) × time

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (90\% \text{ C.L.}) = 2.54 \times 10^{26} \text{ y} \left( \frac{\epsilon \times a}{W} \right) \sqrt{\frac{M \times t}{b \times \Delta E}}$$

minimise background & energy resolution



$\beta\beta$  is about **background suppression!**

Backgrounds:

- Cosmic ray muons (underground lab is a must)
- Natural radioactivity  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ , neutrons,...
- $2\nu\beta\beta$

Take Home Message:  $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{26} \text{ yr}$  ( $\langle m_\nu \rangle \sim 50\text{-}100 \text{ meV}$ ) with 100kg isotope —  $\sim 1$  event/yr!

- Large isotope mass
- Superior background suppression
- Good energy resolution

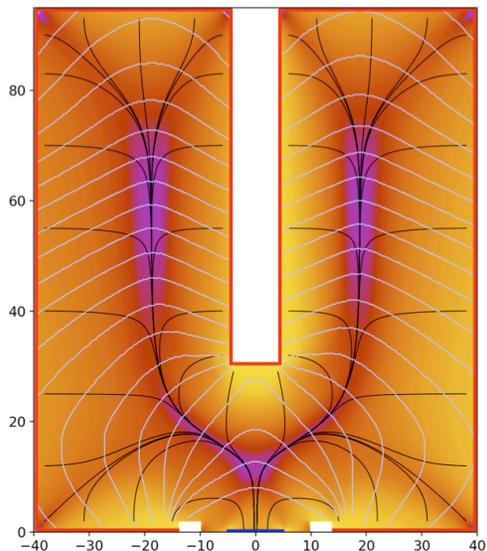
# Experimental Approaches

Collaboration	Isotope	Technique	mass ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ isotope)	Status
CANDLES-III	$^{48}\text{Ca}$	305 kg $\text{CaF}_2$ crystals in liquid scintillator	0.3 kg	Operating
CANDLES-IV	$^{48}\text{Ca}$	$\text{CaF}_2$ scintillating bolometers	TBD	R&D
GERDA	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	44 kg	Complete
Majorana Demonstrator	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in Lead	30 kg	Operating
LEGEND 200	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	200 kg	Construction
LEGEND 1000	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	1 tonne	R&D
SuperNEMO Demonstrator	$^{82}\text{Se}$	Foils with tracking	7 kg	Construction
SELENA	$^{82}\text{Se}$	Se CCDs	<1 kg	R&D
NvDex	$^{82}\text{Se}$	$\text{SeF}_6$ high pressure gas TPC	50 kg	R&D
ZICOS	$^{96}\text{Zr}$	10% $^{nat}\text{Zr}$ in liquid scintillator	45 kg	R&D
AMoRE-I	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$^{40}\text{CaMoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	6 kg	Construction
AMoRE-II	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	100 kg	Construction
CUPID	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	250 kg	R&D
COBRA	$^{116}\text{Cd}/^{130}\text{Te}$	CdZnTe detectors	10 kg	Operating
CUORE	$^{130}\text{Te}$	$\text{TeO}_2$ Bolometer	206 kg	Operating
SNO+	$^{130}\text{Te}$	0.5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	1300 kg	Construction
SNO+ Phase II	$^{130}\text{Te}$	2.5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	8 tonnes	R&D
Theia-Te	$^{130}\text{Te}$	5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	31 tonnes	R&D
KamLAND-Zen 400	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	370 kg	Complete
KamLAND-Zen 800	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	750 kg	Operating
KamLAND2-Zen	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	~tonne	R&D
EXO-200	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	Xe liquid TPC	160 kg	Complete
nEXO	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	Xe liquid TPC	5 tonnes	R&D
NEXT-WHITE	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~5 kg	Operating
NEXT-100	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	100 kg	Construction
PandaX	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~tonne	R&D
AXEL	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~tonne	R&D
DARWIN	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$^{nat}\text{Xe}$ liquid TPC	3.5 tonnes	R&D
LZ	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$^{nat}\text{Xe}$ liquid TPC		R&D
Theia-Xe	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	3% in liquid scintillator	50 tonnes	R&D

- Reach experimental landscape
- Multiple approaches are necessary
  - No isotope a clear winner, NME uncertainties
  - Discovery will constitute a handful of events (at best): need independent verification
  - Discovery with different isotopes may shed light on underlying mechanism

# Semi-conductors. HPGe. LEGEND Concept

$\beta\beta$  decay signal:  
single energy  
deposition in  
a 1 mm<sup>3</sup> volume

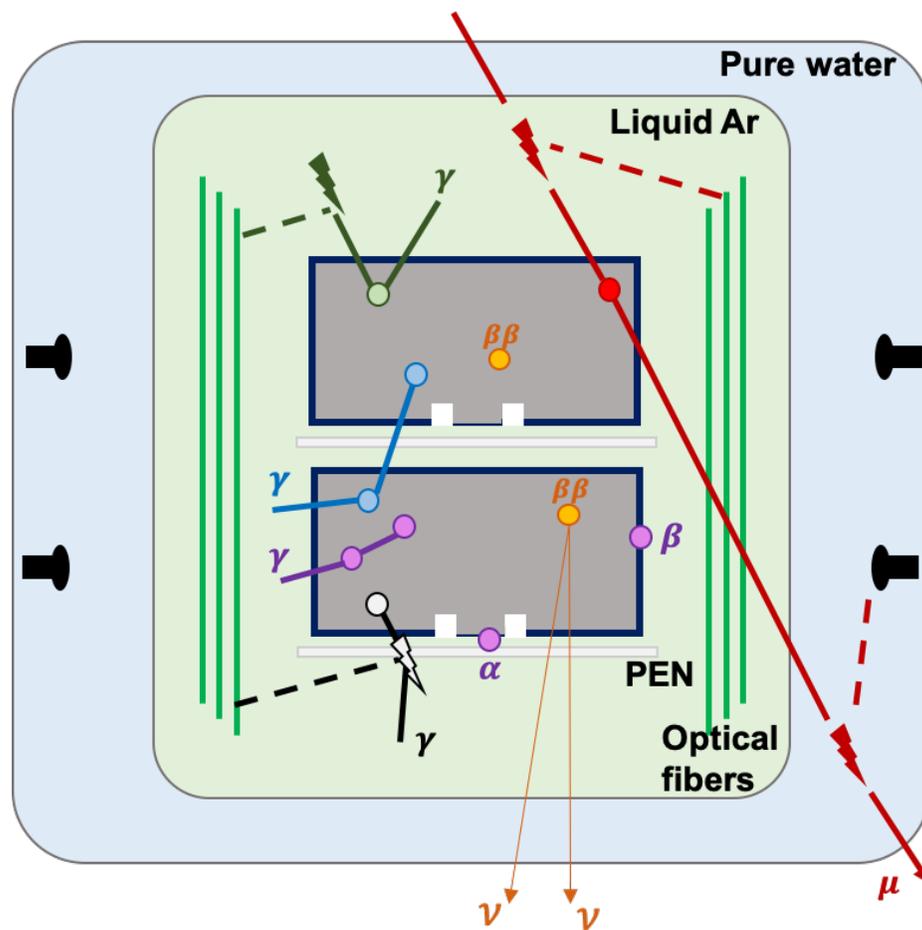


HPGe point-contact detectors:

- Event topology and fiducialization
- Excellent (~0.1%) energy resolution



## Background suppression strategy



- Pulse shape discrimination (PSD) for multi-site and surface  $\alpha$  events
- Ge detector anti-coincidence
- Scintillating PEN plate holder (under test)
- LAr veto based on Ar scintillation light read by fibers and PMT
- Muon veto based on Cherenkov light and/or plastic scintillator

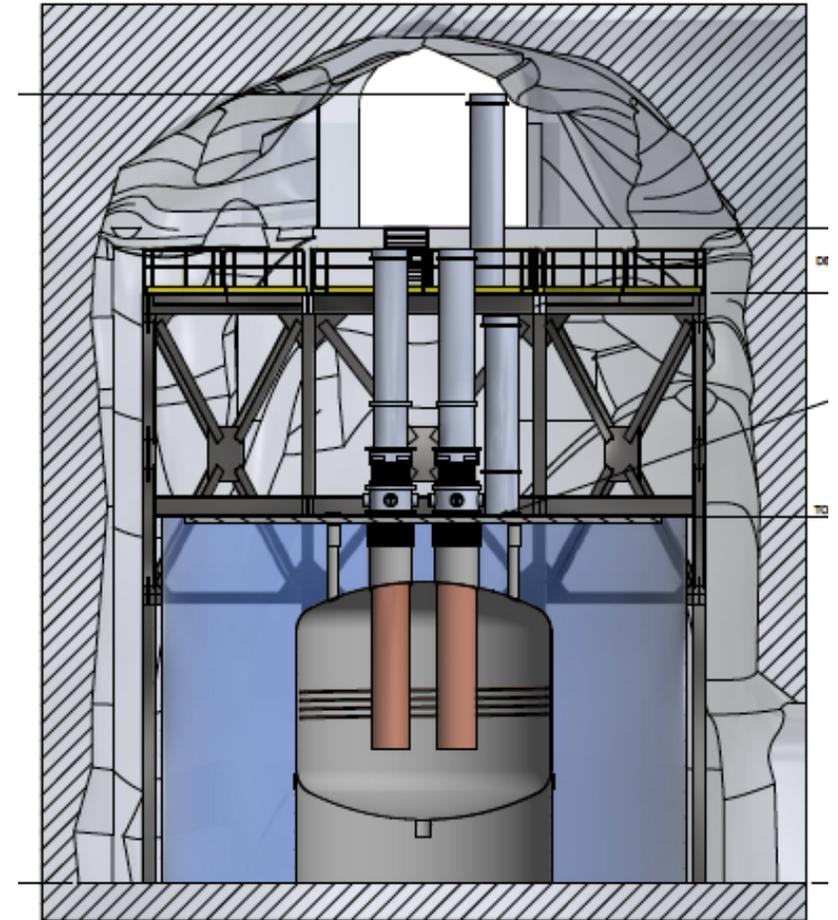
*Built on success of GERDA and Majorana  
See talk by C. Wiesinger tomorrow*



**LEGEND-200:**

- 200 kg in upgrade of existing infrastructure at Gran Sasso
- 2.5 keV FWHM resolution
- Background goal
  - <math><0.6 \text{ cts}/(\text{FWHM t yr})</math>
  - <math><2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})</math>
- Data start ~2021

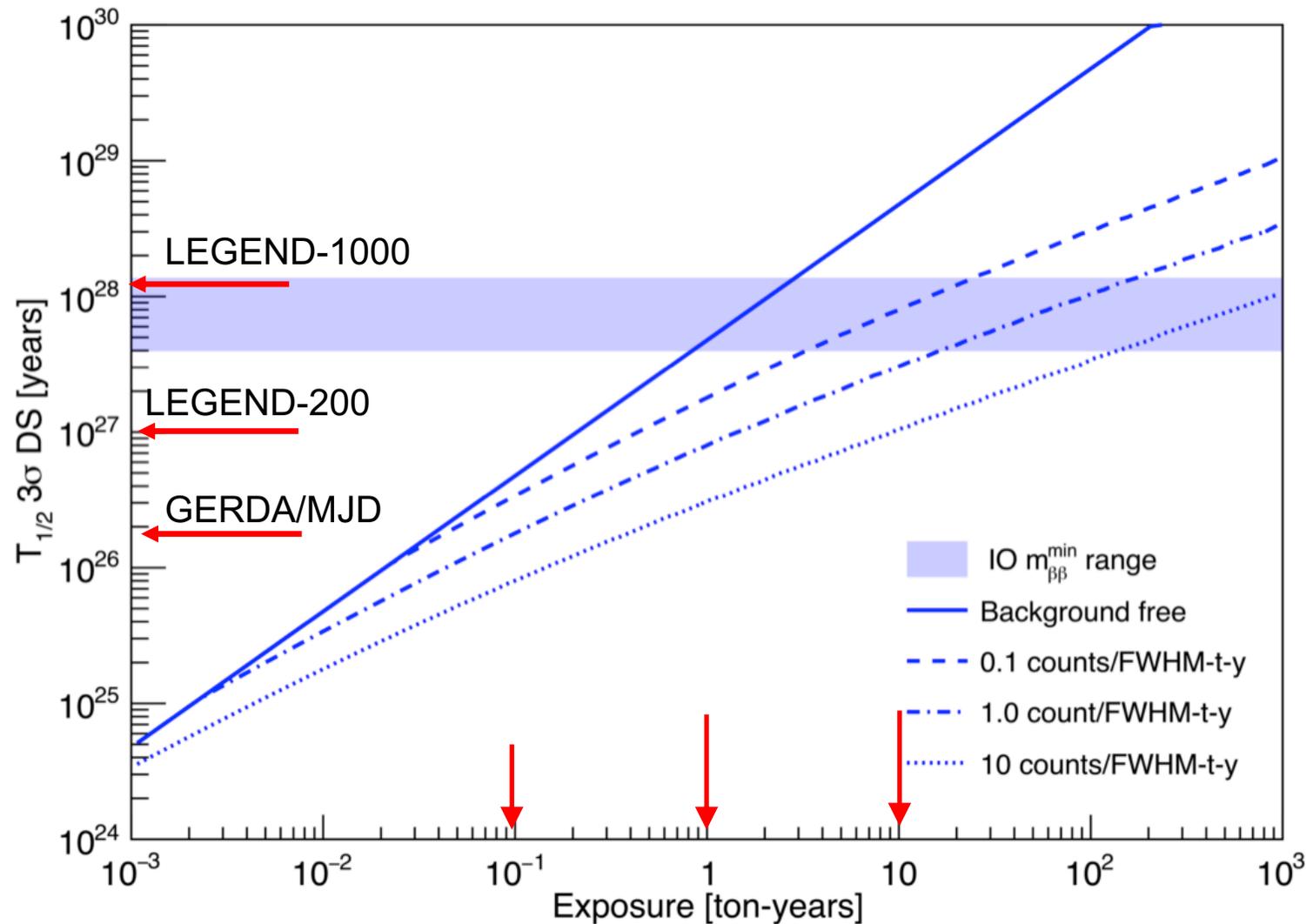
Only x3 below GERDA



**LEGEND-1000:**

- 1000 kg, staged via individual payloads
- Timeline connected to review process
- Background goal <math><0.03 \text{ cts}/(\text{FWHM t yr})</math>, <math><1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})</math>
- Location to be selected

$^{76}\text{Ge}$  (88% enr.)



$>10^{28}$  yr or  $m_{\beta\beta}=17$  meV\* for worst case matrix element of 3.5 and unquenched  $g_A$ .

**3- $\sigma$  *discovery*** level to cover inverted ordering, given matrix element uncertainty.

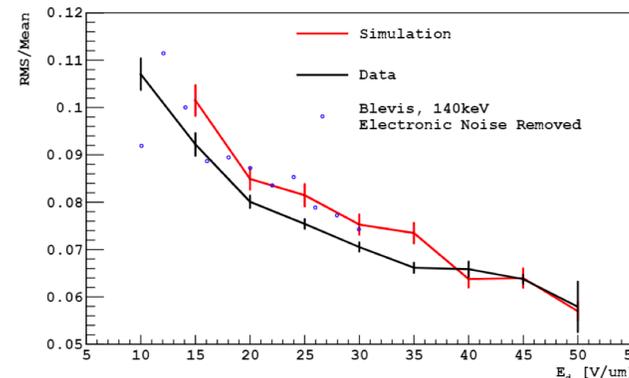
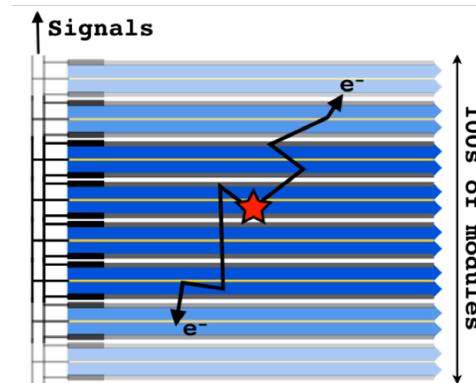
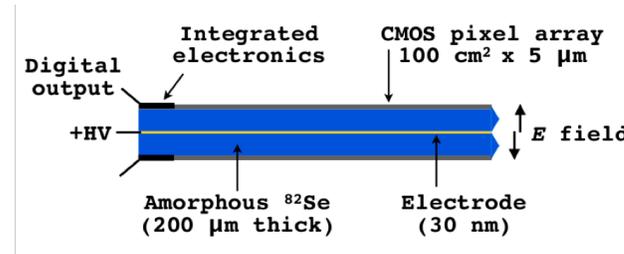
**Opportunities:** Clear path to bkg-free regime, discovery potential

**Challenges:** Cost, scaling below 10 meV

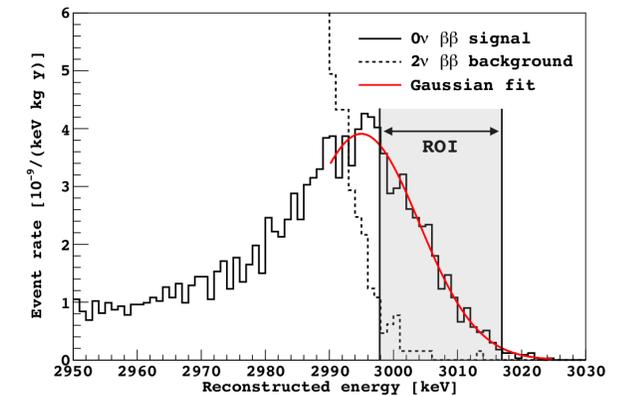
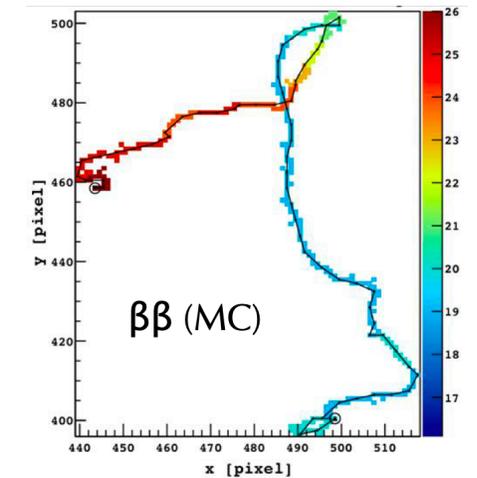
\* $m_{\beta\beta}\sim 9 - 17$  meV

# Semiconductors: CMOS imaging detectors

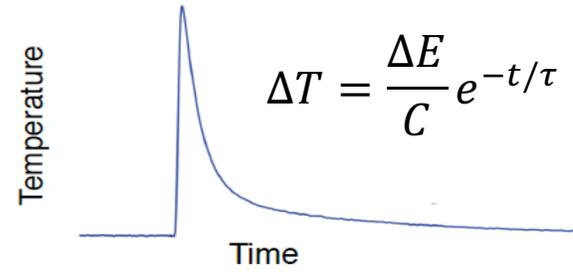
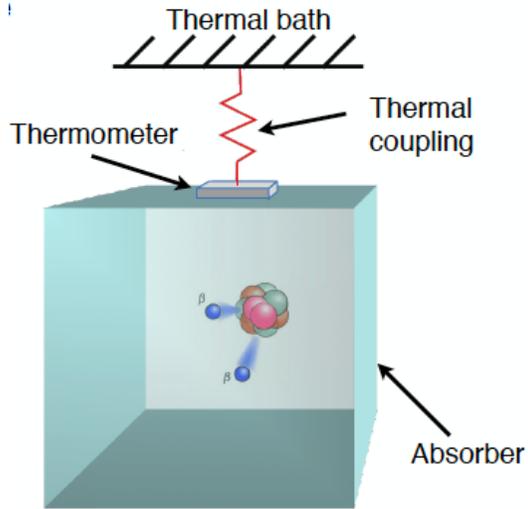
- Amorphous  $^{82}\text{Se}$  x-ray detectors readout by CMOS pixel array
  - Stack to achieve high density, high mass array
  - $5\ \mu\text{m}$  pixel size gives full track reconstruction
- Estimated background  $\sim 0.001\ \text{c}/(\text{FWHM t y})$  dominated by natural radioactivity
- **Opportunities:** Industrial production + low background indicates sensitivity to Normal Ordering mass scale
- **Challenges:** energy resolution, maturity for low-bkg applications



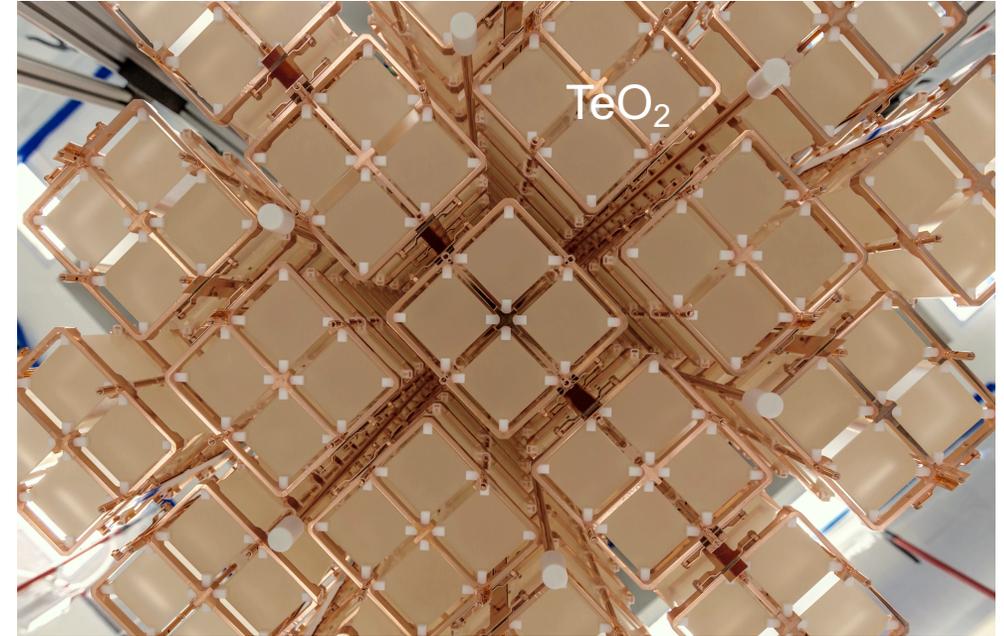
MC:  $\times 1000\ \beta$  rejection with 50%  $\beta\beta$  acceptance



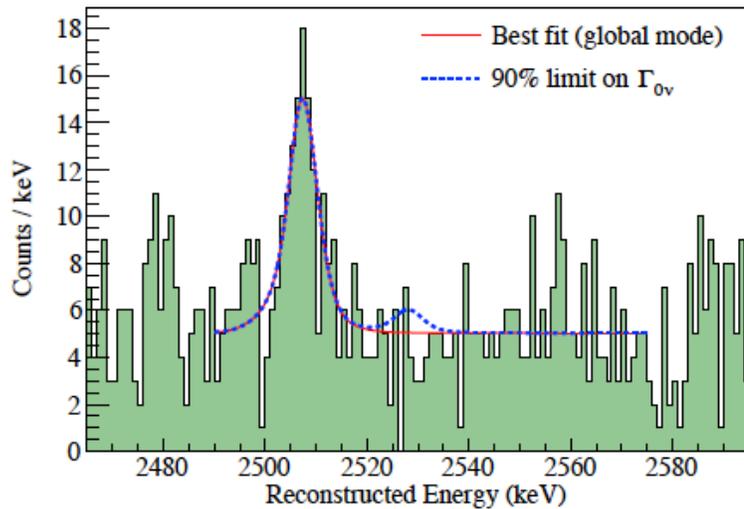
# Bolometers: CUORE



Heat capacity  $C \propto T^3$   
 Typically operated at  $\sim 10\text{mK}$   
 FWHM  $\sim 0.2\text{-}0.3\%$



CUORE ROI Spectrum



$^{130}\text{Te}$   
 $372.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{yr}$

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 3.2 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} < 75 - 350 \text{ meV}$$

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 122501 \(2020\)](#)

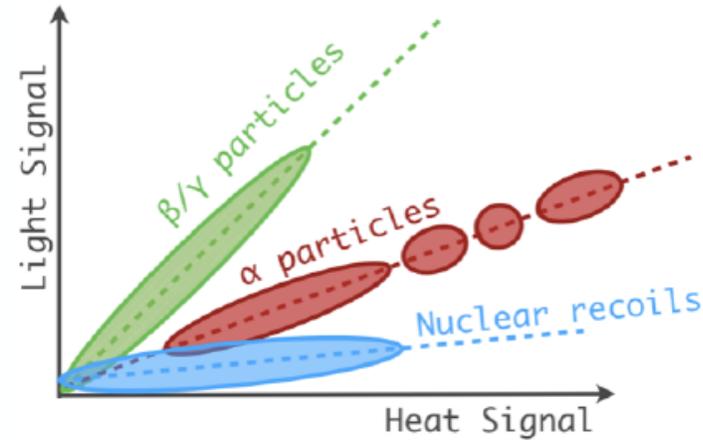
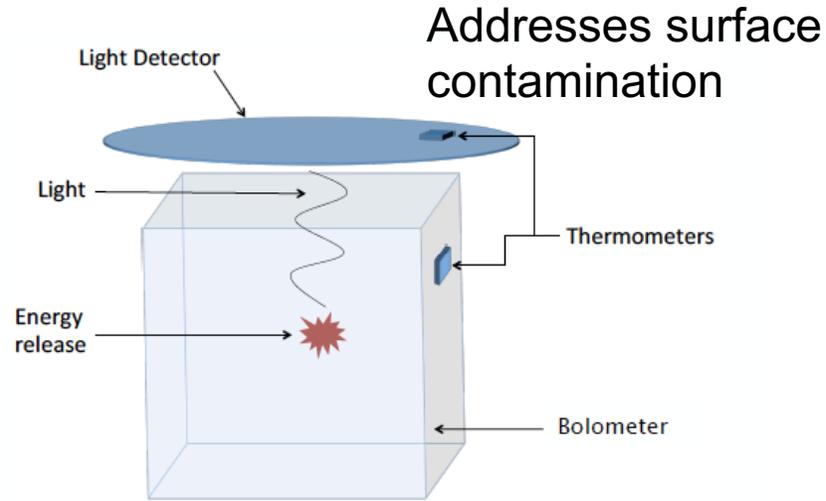
**Detector Performance Parameters**

Background Index  
 $(1.38 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-2} \text{ cnts}/(\text{keV} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{yr})$

Characteristic FWHM  $\Delta E$  at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$   
 $7.0 \pm 0.3 \text{ keV}$

Limiting factor: surface contamination

# Bolometers: CUORE → CUPID



- Particle ID technique robustly demonstrated by **CUPID-0** (ZnSe) and **CUPID-Mo** ( $\text{Li}_2^{100}\text{MoO}_4$ )
  - >99.9%  $\alpha$  rejection, >99.9%  $\beta/\gamma$  acceptance

## • CUPID:

- 250 kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  in 1500  $\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$  crystals in CUORE cryostat
- Good  $E$  resolution from phonons:  $\sim 5$  keV FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- Scintillation readout rejects background

- Background goal: 0.5 c/(FWHM t y) dominated by  $2\nu\beta\beta$  pile-up and U/Th  $\gamma$  summing

- Discovery sensitivity (10 years):  $T_{1/2} > 1.1 \times 10^{27}$  yr,  $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < 12\text{-}20$  meV

- pCDR online, planning for TDR in 2021, followed by 5 years construction at LNGS. 1 ton experiment under consideration

## CUPID-Mo Preliminary

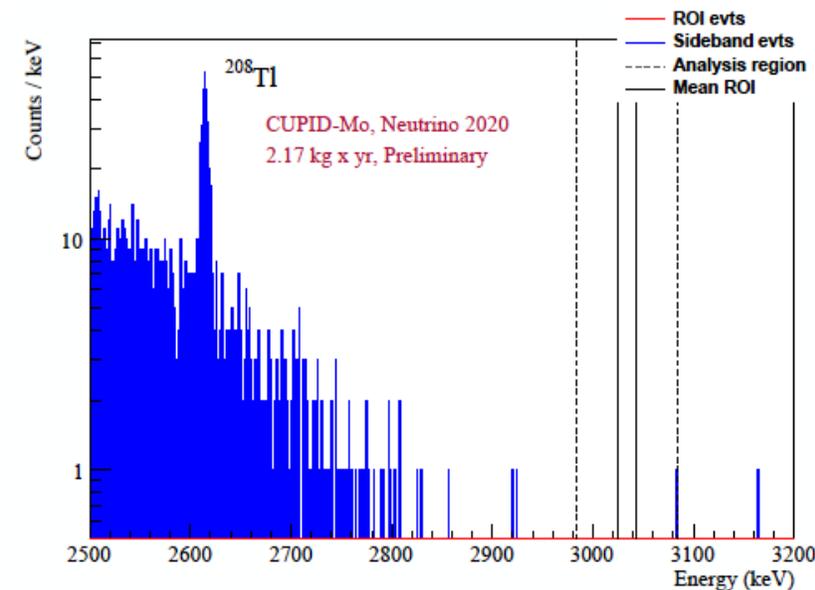
$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.4 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr (90\% c.i)}$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} < 310 - 540 \text{ meV}$$

## – CUPID-Mo Preliminary

$$\text{BI} : (4 \pm 2) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cnts/keV} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{yr}$$

See next talk by D. Poda



# Bolometers: AMoRE

- 100 kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  in  $>95\%$  enriched  $\text{Li}_2^{\text{enr}}\text{MoO}_4$  crystals

- Good  $E$  resolution from phonons
- Scintillation readout rejects background

- Scaling up from AMoRE-pilot

- Demonstrated MMC + SQUID readout
- Switching from  $^{40}\text{Ca}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  crystals

- Background goal:  $<0.05$  c/(keV t y)

dominated by  $2\nu\beta\beta$  pile-up

- Limit sensitivity (5 years):  $T_{1/2} > 8 \times 10^{26}$  yr

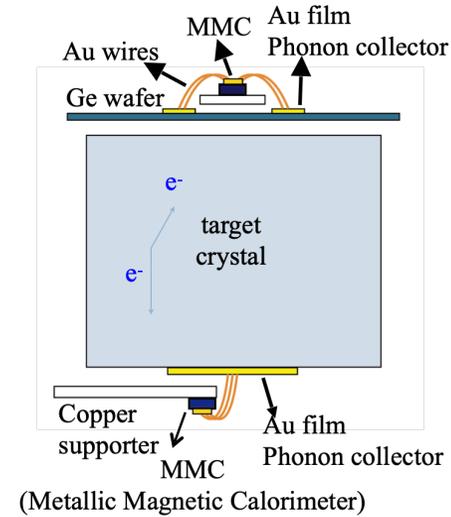
- AMoRE-I with 13  $\text{CaMoO}_4$  + 5  $\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$  (6 kg)

scheduled to start in 2020 at Y2L. BG goal:  $<1.5$  c/(keV t y).

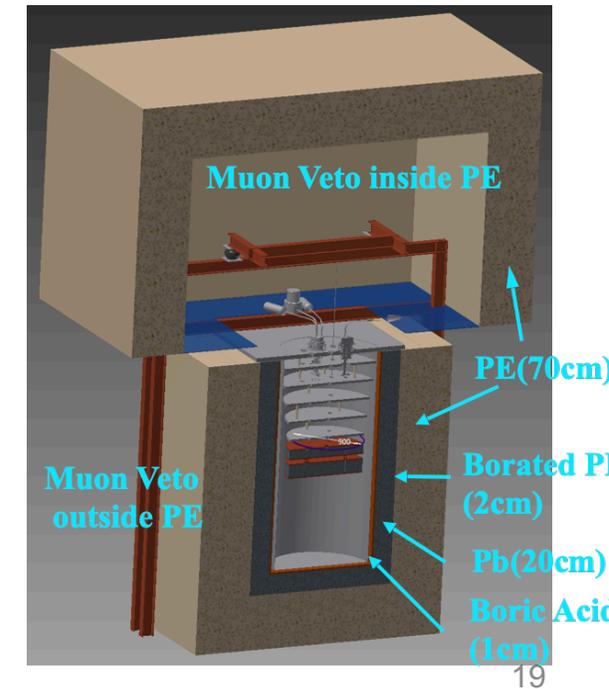
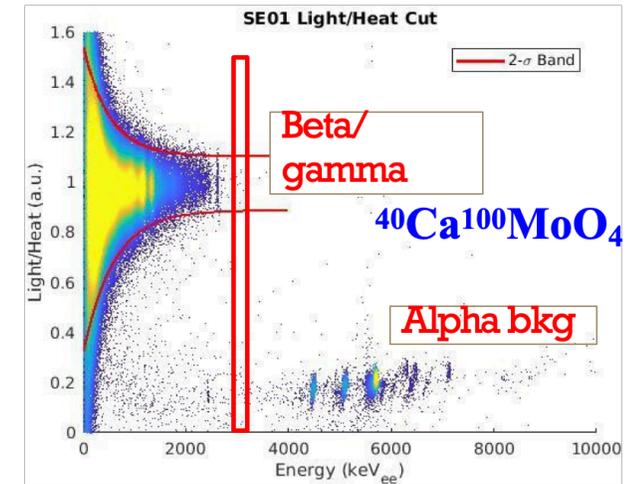
Full-scale AMoRE-II starts 2022 in YemiLab

**Opportunities:** Scalability, isotope flexibility

**Challenges:** Control pile-up and surface bkg, complex operation



**AMoRE-I**



# Bolometers: CANDLES

## •CaF<sub>2</sub> scintillating crystals

- Take advantage of <sup>48</sup>Ca's high  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ , "easy" NME
  - But: very low natural abundance (0.19%)
- CANDLES-III: immerse in liquid scintillator (TAUP 2019:  $T_{1/2} > 6 \times 10^{22}$  y)
- Next system: operate as scintillating bolometers with MMC phonon readout and Ge wafer for photons

## •Crystal performance measurements

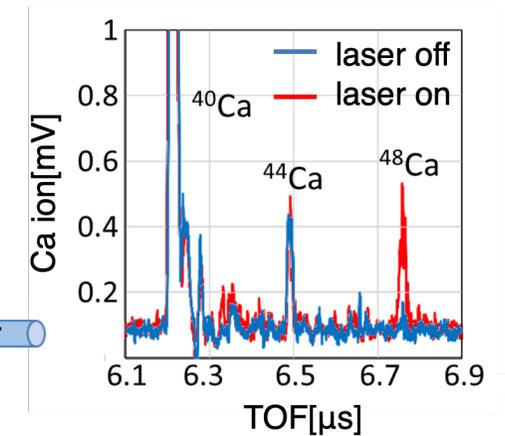
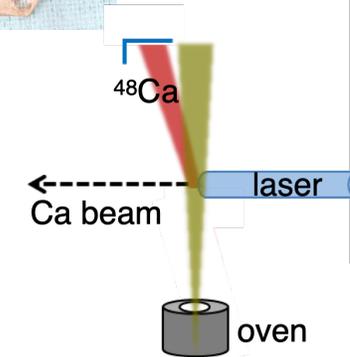
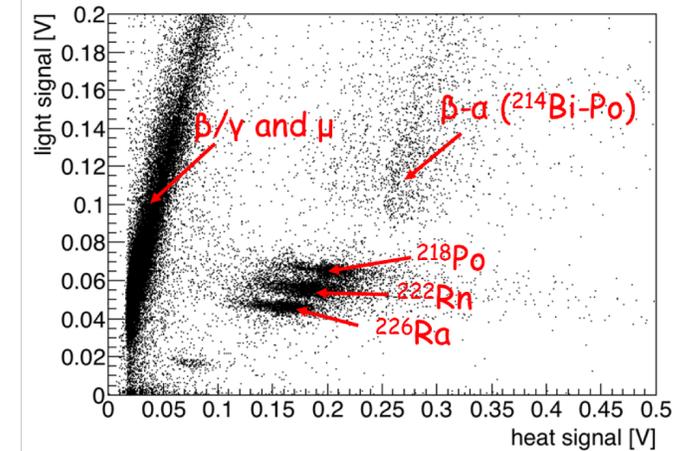
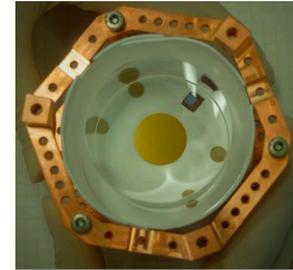
- Good  $\alpha$  discrimination
- $E$  resolution  $\sigma = 2\%$  at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  (position uniformity)
- Purity improved  $\times \sim 10$

## •<sup>48</sup>Ca enrichment: laser isotope separation

- Proof-of-principle complete
- Scaling up for mass-production

**Opportunities:** High  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ , low BG in ROI.

**Challenges:** E-resolution, scaling up isotope



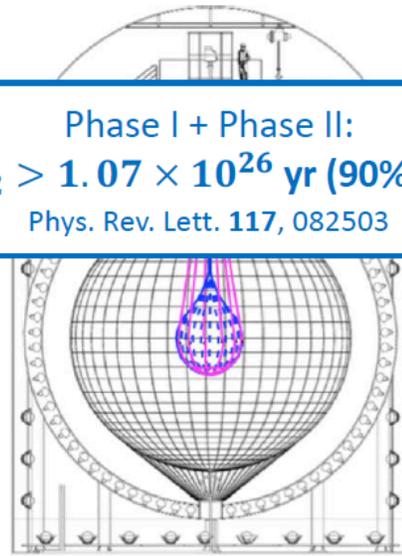
- Best current constraint on  $\langle m_\nu \rangle$  (0.06- 0.16 eV)

## KamLAND2-Zen:

- Background  $\sim 2$  c/(FWHM t y) dominated by  $2\nu\beta\beta$  tail and  $^8\text{B}$  solar  $\nu$  scattering
- Limit sensitivity (5 years):  
 $T_{1/2} > 2 \times 10^{27}$  yr,  $m_{\beta\beta} < 12$ -53 meV
- Upgrade preparations underway, will proceed following 5-year run of KamLAND-Zen 800

### Past

Phase I + Phase II:  
 $T_{1/2} > 1.07 \times 10^{26}$  yr (90% C.L.)  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 082503



KamLAND-Zen 400

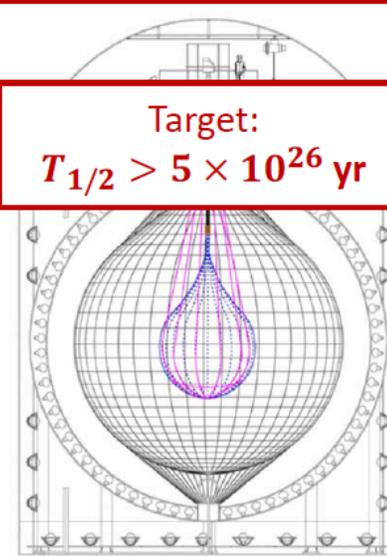
Mini-balloon Radius = 1.54 m

Xenon mass = 320 ~ 380 kg

2011 ~ 2015

### Current

Target:  
 $T_{1/2} > 5 \times 10^{26}$  yr



KamLAND-Zen 800

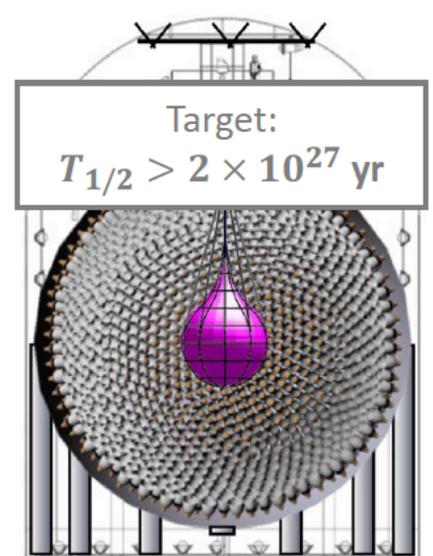
Mini-balloon Radius = 1.90 m

Xenon mass = 745 kg

Started January 2019

### Future

Target:  
 $T_{1/2} > 2 \times 10^{27}$  yr



KamLAND2-Zen

Xenon mass  $\sim 1$  ton

$\times 5$  increase in light collection

Scintillation balloon film

**Opportunities:** Scalability, cost, simplicity

**Challenges:** E-resolution, solar neutrinos

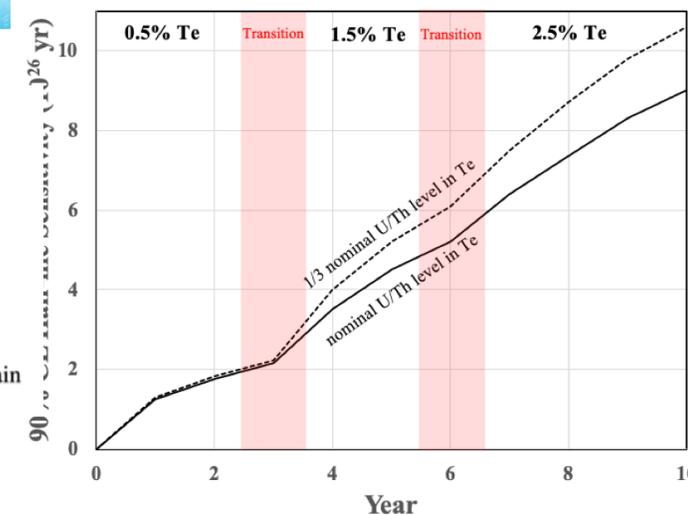
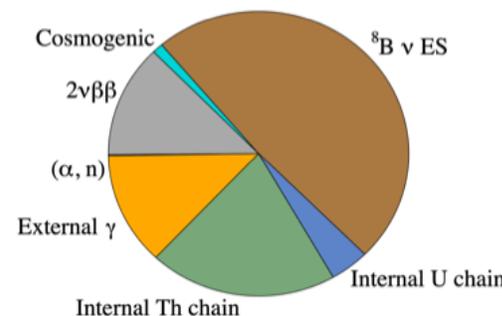
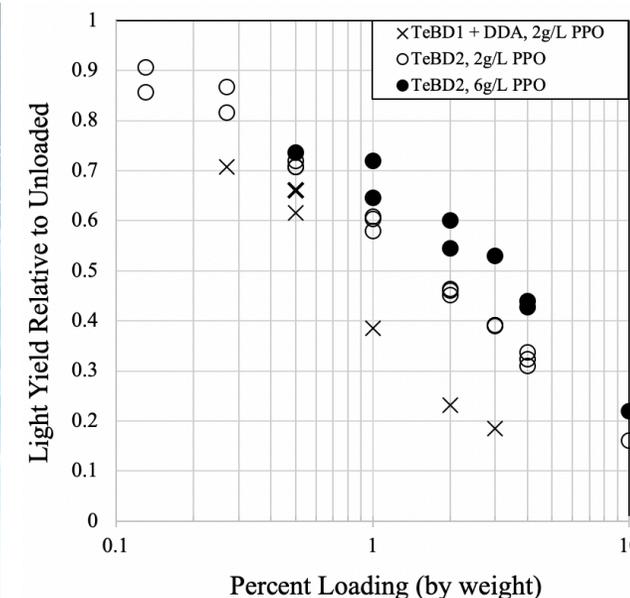
## Phase-I

- Using existing SNO detector and SNO infrastructure
- Water replaced with liquid scintillator (LAB)
- Natural Te loading to commence soon
- Phased approach: from 0.5% loading up
- Phase-I sensitivity:  $1.9 \times 10^{26}$  yr

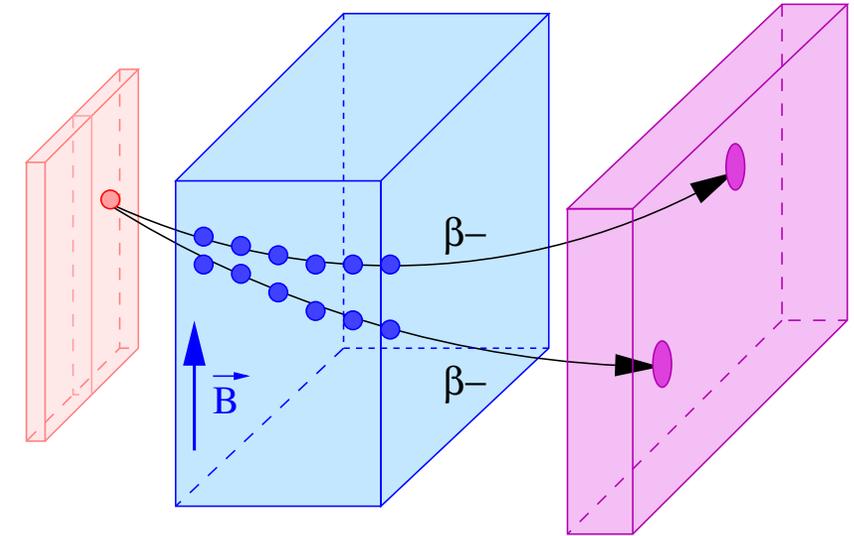
## Phase-II

- 4 t  $\rightarrow$  6.5 t  $^{130}\text{Te}$  via increased loading in LAB
  - Up to several percent with improved light yield
  - Can use existing SNO+ Phase I Te loading systems
- Inexpensive, no detector upgrade required
- Background  $\sim 10$  c/(FWHM t y) dominated by  $^8\text{B}$  solar  $\nu$  scattering
- Limit sensitivity (10 years):  $T_{1/2} > 10^{27}$  yr,  $m_{\beta\beta} < 13\text{-}63$  meV
- Plan to increase loading after only 2.5 years of running in Phase I (1.3 t  $^{130}\text{Te}$ )

natTe in 0.8 kT of LS



- Source separated from detector: (almost) any solid isotope can be hosted.
- Full topological event reconstruction including  $e^\pm$ ,  $\gamma$ -ray and  $\alpha$ -particle identification  $\rightarrow$  strong background control & mechanism probe.
- Successfully exploited by **NEMO-3** experiment:  $0\nu\beta\beta$  limits and  $2\nu\beta\beta$   $T_{1/2}$  for several isotopes.

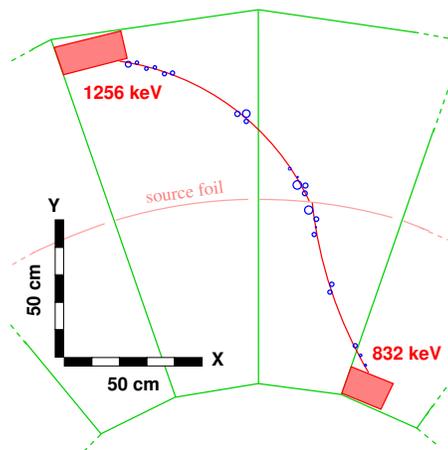


Kinematic probes of DBD mechanism (SSD/HSD)

EPJ C79, 440 (2019)

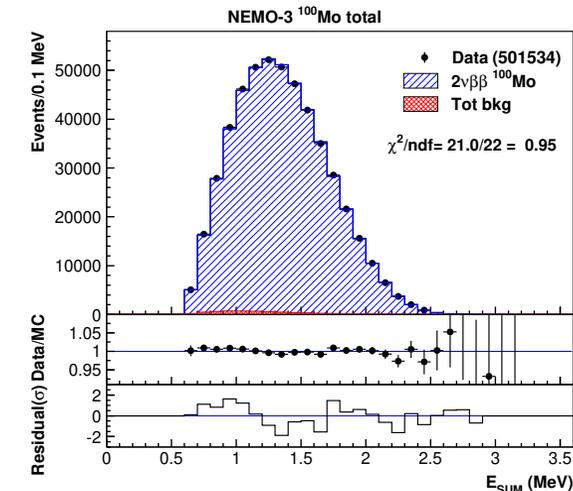
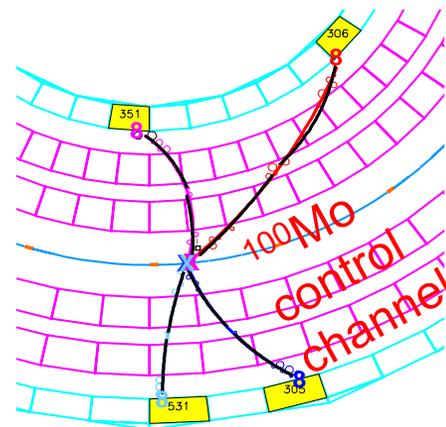
$10^{24}$  year limit with just 7kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$

PRD 92, 072011 (2015)



Access unique signatures, e.g.  $0\nu 4\beta$

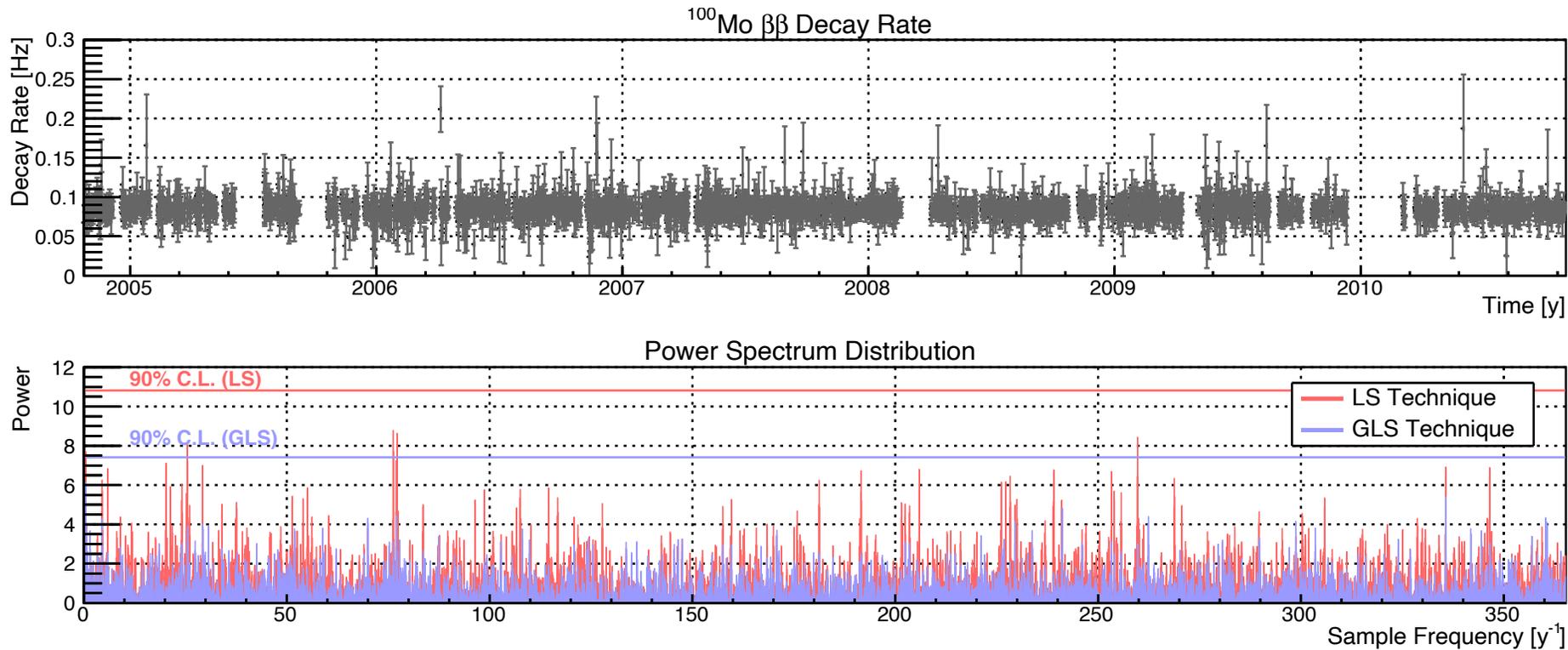
PRL 119, 041801 (2017)



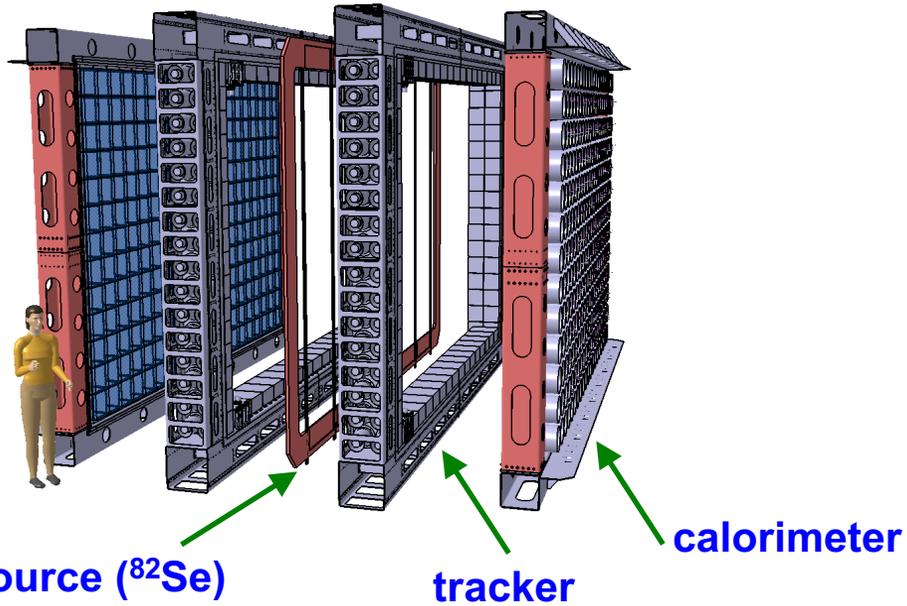
Many analyses still making use of *unique* approach:

- Search for double-beta decays of  $^{82}\text{Se}$  to excited states of  $^{82}\text{Kr}$  ( $2eN\gamma$  final state) which can have exceptionally low background.
- First ever search for periodic modulations in double-beta decay rate:

NPA 996, 121701 (2020)



Submitted to arXiv last week!



**SuperNEMO Demonstrator Module:**

final commissioning in progress

## Demonstrator Module (2.5 year run)

17.5 kg × yr initial exposure :

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 6.5 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr}$$

$$\langle m_\nu \rangle < 0.20 - 0.40 \text{ eV}$$

- Covid has delayed the turn-on but strong recent progress.
- The **Demonstrator Module** will have a unique physics programme: full event reconstruction of  $2\nu\beta\beta$  **gives access** to nuclear physics : e.g.  $g_A$  constraints.
- Can the technique be extended to **confirm a signal anywhere in the IH region? R&D and isotope developments** can point the way.

*Opportunities*

*Challenges  
(and opportunities)*

# LXe TPC

- Charge and light collection
- Scalable, excellent self-shielding
- PID, position reconstruction
- **nEXO**

- Upgrade of successful EXO-200 design, Improved light and charge collection
- Innermost region BG  $\sim 0.1$  c/(FWHM t y) dominated by natural radioactivity
- Discovery sensitivity for 10 years livetime (update coming soon):

$$T_{1/2} > 5.7 \times 10^{27} \text{ yr}, m_{\beta\beta} < 7-31 \text{ meV}$$

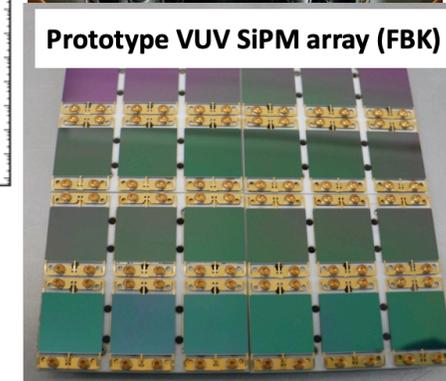
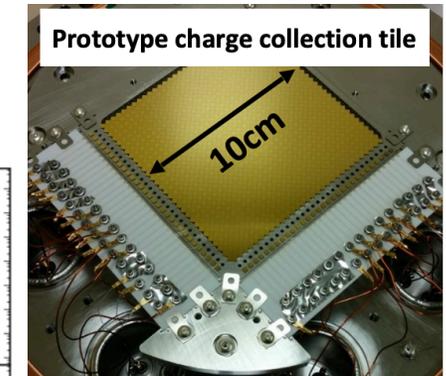
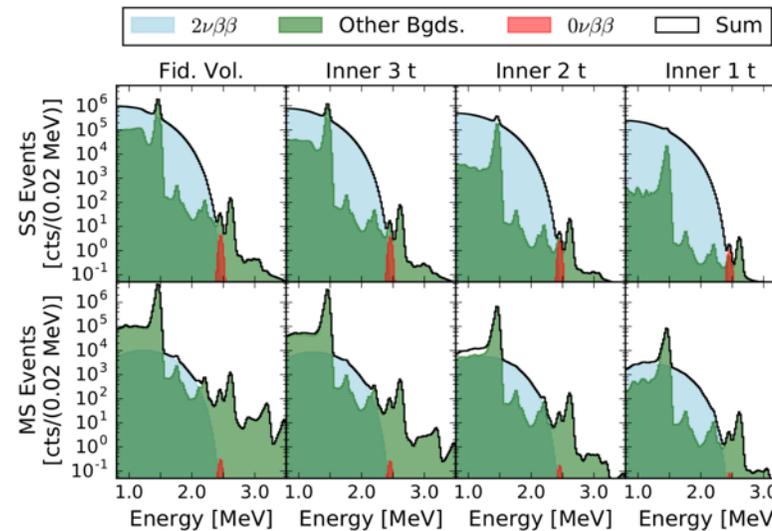
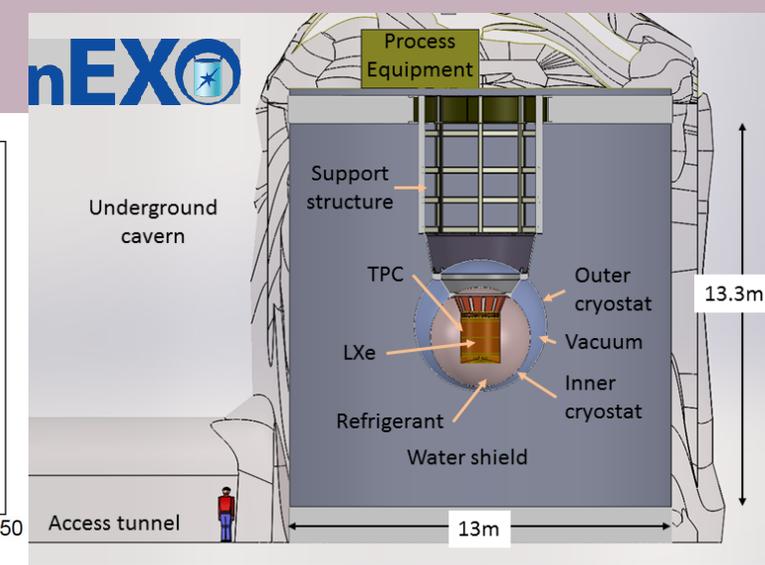
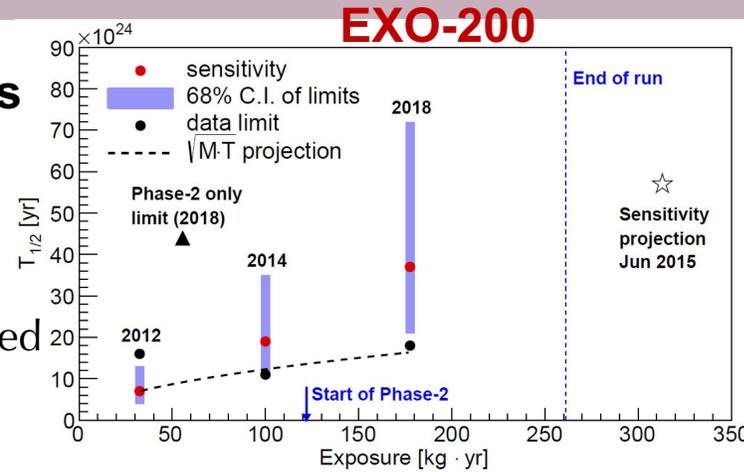
- PreCDR online. Planning to deploy in SNOLab. Timeline coordinated with US downselect.

## • **DARWIN/G3 Dark matter**

- Dual phase detectors, good E-resolution demonstrated
  - Low background observatory: DM +  $0\nu\beta\beta$
- $$T_{1/2} > 2.4 \times 10^{27} \text{ yr}, m_{\beta\beta} < 11-48 \text{ meV}$$

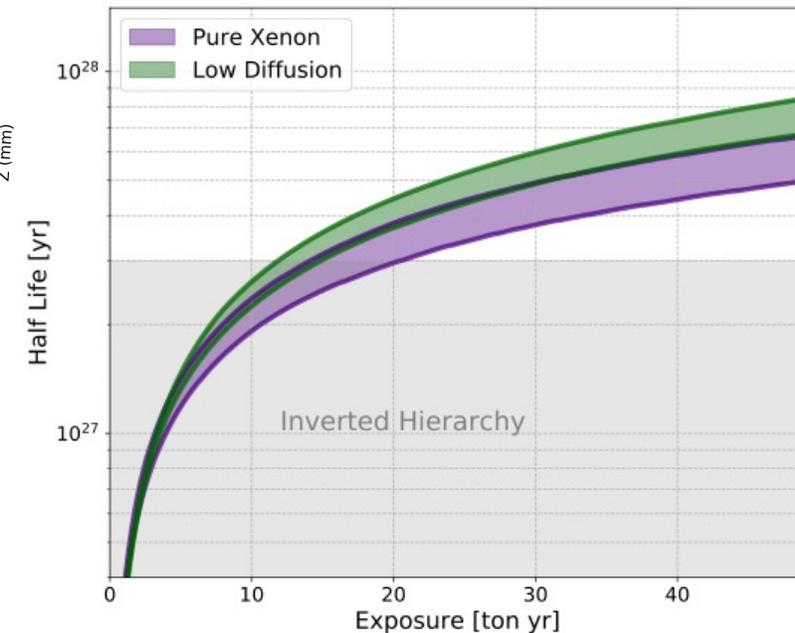
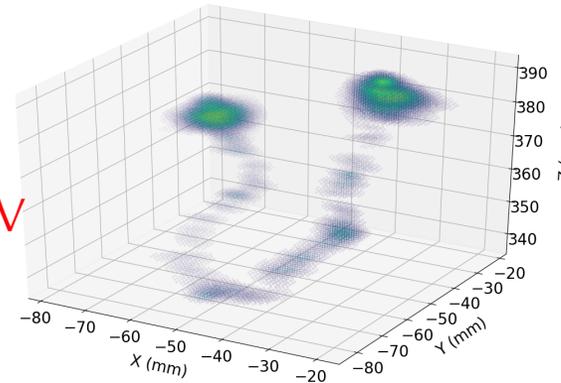
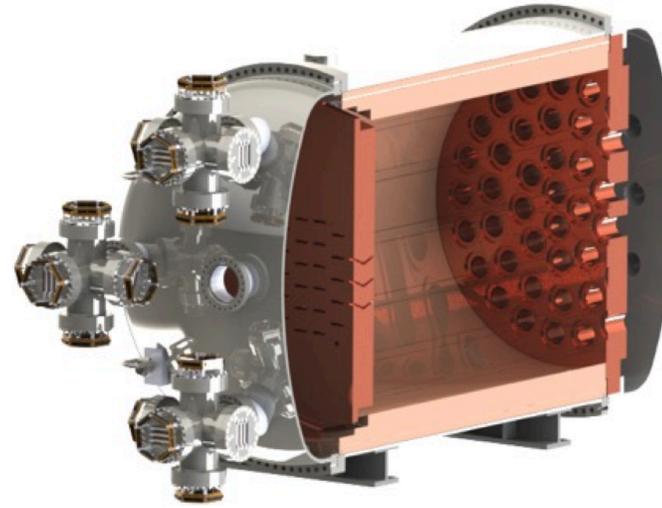
**Challenges:** E-resolution, BG lines near  $Q_{\beta\beta}$

## Opportunities



# Gas TPC: NEXT-HD

- High-pressure gas EL TPC with 1 ton  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ 
  - $E$  resolution 0.8% FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
  - Improved tracking over LXe TPC
- Extrapolation of NEXT-100 design
  - PMTs  $\rightarrow$  SiPMs with reduced radioactivity
  - Lower diffusion gas mixture (Xe/He)
- Background  $\sim 0.1$  c/(FWHM t y)  
dominated by natural radioactivity
- Limit sensitivity:  $T_{1/2} > 1.7 \times 10^{27}$  yr,  $m_{\beta\beta} < 13\text{-}57$  meV
- Will follow NEXT-100 (should start this year )

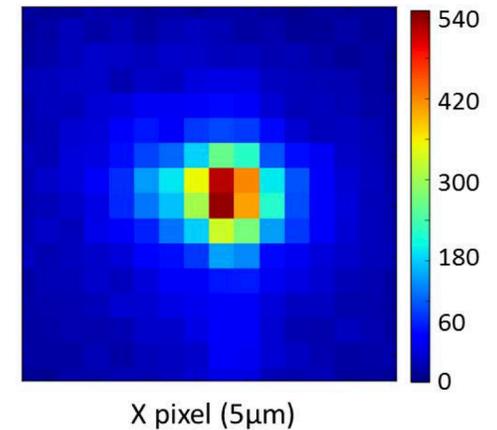
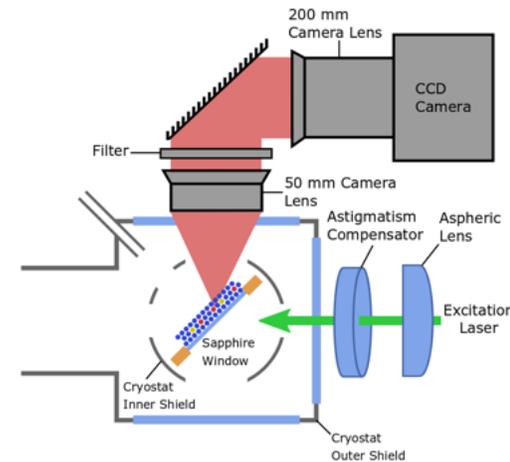
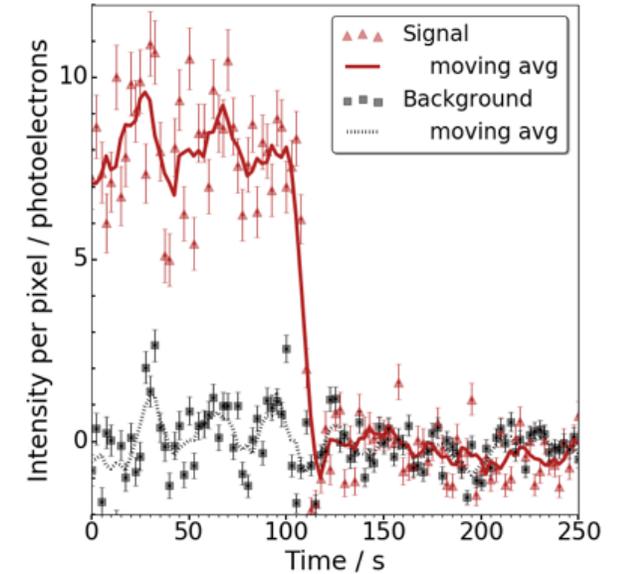
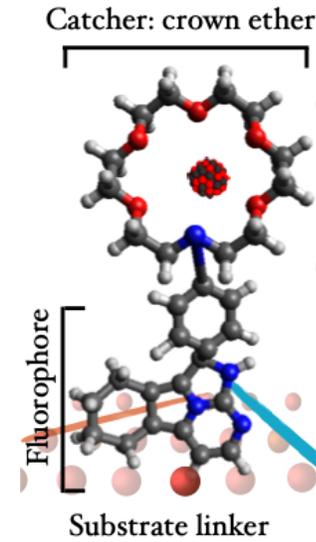


**Opportunities:** Energy resolution, topology reconstruction

**Challenges:** diffusion, modularity vs scalability, maturity for low BG

# $^{136}\text{Xe}$ Daughter Nucleus ( $^{136}\text{Ba}$ ) Tagging

- NEXT: radio frequency carpet sweeps ions to region with switched-fluorescent molecules. Single-molecule sensitivity demonstrated in Xe background.
- nEXO: freeze Ba in Xe, transport via probe to imaging stage, lase and image. Single-atom sensitivity demonstrated.
- Enables background-free searches **IF** high efficiency can be achieved.



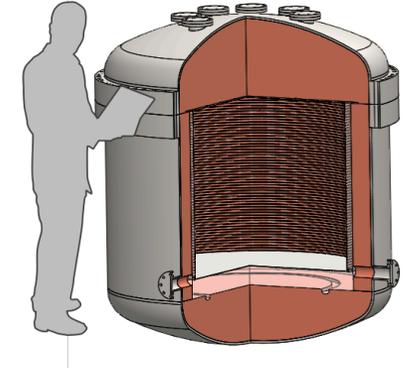
# TPCs: PandaX, AXEL, NuDEX

## •PandaX

- PandaX-4T (360 kg  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ): upgrade of PandaX-II dual-phase LXe TPC for DM @CJPL, commissioning by end of 2020. 30T upgrade in planning.
- PandaX-III:  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -focused HPGXe TPC with  $\sim 100$  kg  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  using micromegas readout. Limit sensitivity:  $9 \times 10^{25}$  y. Construction underway, commissioning in 2020. 1T upgrade in planning



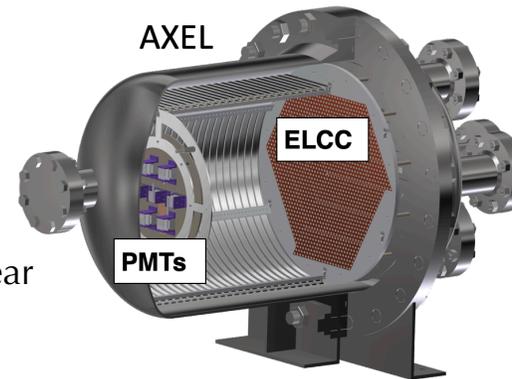
PandaX-4T LXe TPC



PandaX-III GXe TPC

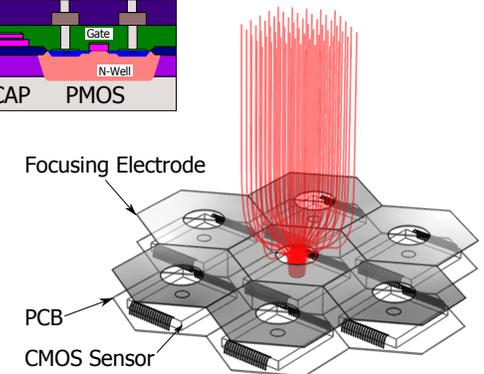
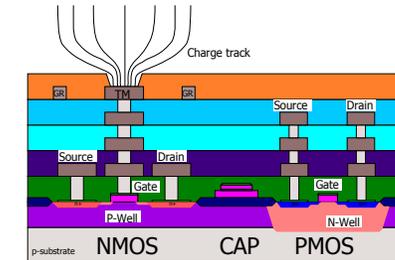
## •AXEL

- HPGXe TPC with Electroluminescence Light Collection Cell (ELCC) readout
- 10L proof-of-principle demonstrated. 180L prototype under construction at Kyoto U. 40 kg upgrade planned for  $\sim 2024$ .



## •NuDEX

- $^{82}\text{SeF}_6$  HP gas TPC with Topmetal CMOS readout
- 100 kg vessel designed, construction at CJPL starting next year



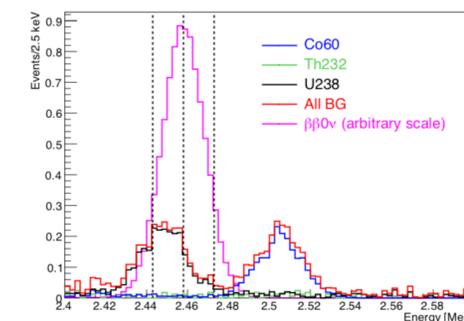
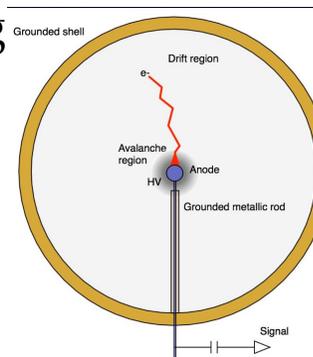
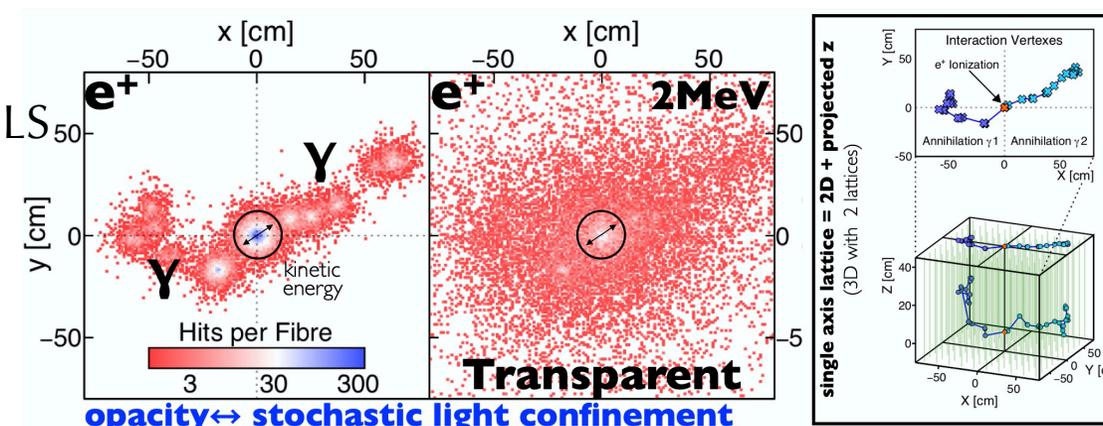
# Other exciting R&D underway: LiquidO, R2D2

## •LiquidO

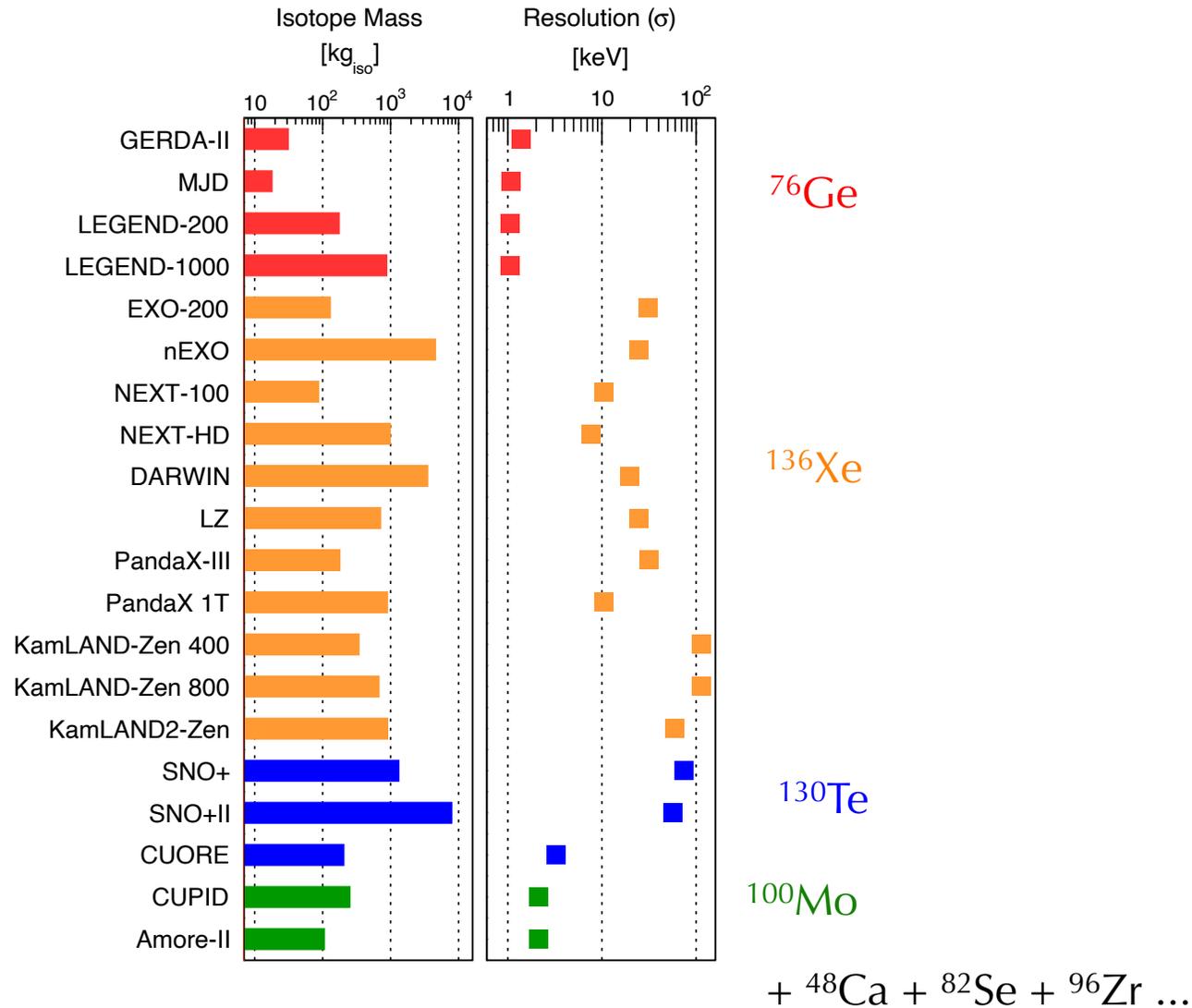
- Opaque loaded LS + WS fibers: tracking / PID in LS with very high loading
- Prototyping underway
- See arXiv:1908.02859, 1908.03334

## •R2D2

- Spherical Xenon gas TPC
- Test ongoing with 8 kg prototype, plans for 50 kg upgrade
- See JINST **13**, P01009 (2018)



# Experimental Outlook

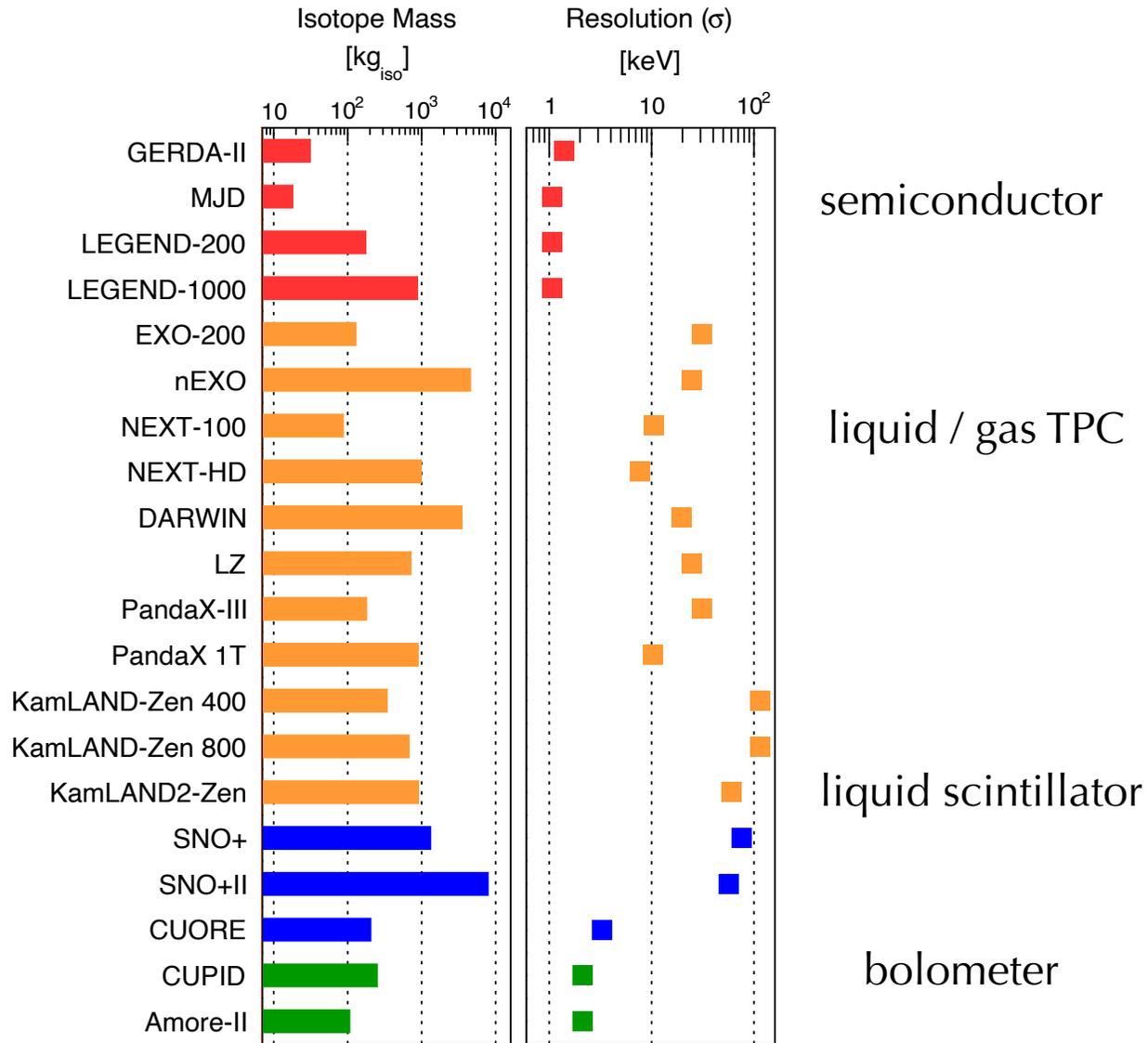


$$T_{1/2}^{3\sigma} = \ln 2 \frac{N_A \mathcal{E}}{m_a S_{3\sigma} (\mathcal{B} \mathcal{E})}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \epsilon m_{iso}^{FV} t \quad \mathcal{B} = N_{bg} / \mathcal{E}$$

Agostini, Benato, Detwiler, Menendez, Vissani

# Experimental Outlook

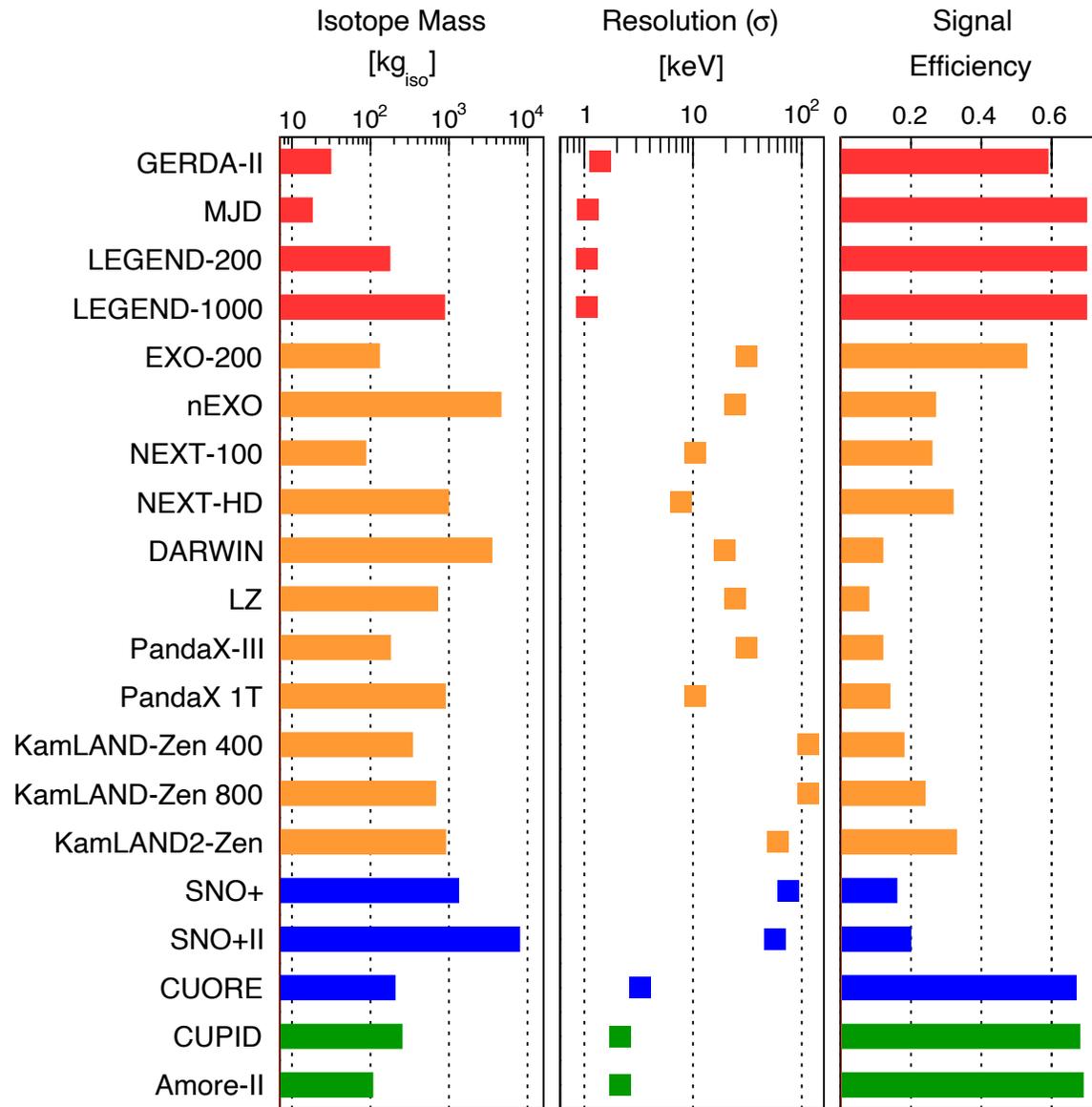


$$T_{1/2}^{3\sigma} = \ln 2 \frac{N_A \mathcal{E}}{m_a S_{3\sigma} (\mathcal{B} \mathcal{E})}$$

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Agostini, Benato, Detwiler, Menendez, Vissani

# Experimental Outlook



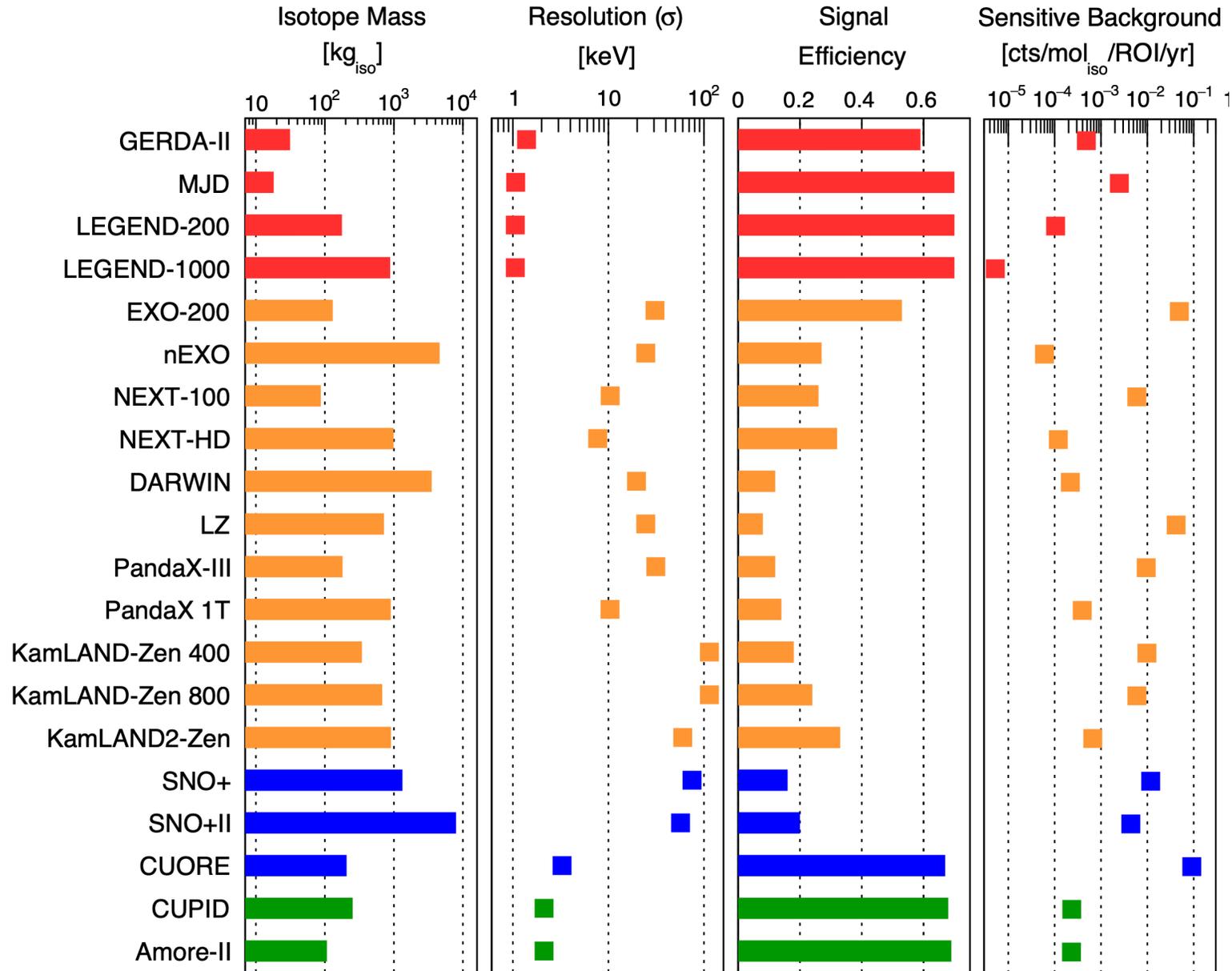
$$T_{1/2}^{3\sigma} = \ln 2 \frac{N_A \mathcal{E}}{m_a S_{3\sigma}(\mathcal{B}\mathcal{E})}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \epsilon m_{iso}^{FV} t \quad \mathcal{B} = N_{bg}/\mathcal{E}$$

Lower efficiency  
due primarily to  
fiducialization

Agostini, Benato, Detwiler, Menendez, Vissani

# Experimental Outlook



$$T_{1/2}^{3\sigma} = \ln 2 \frac{N_A \mathcal{E}}{m_a S_{3\sigma}(\mathcal{B}\mathcal{E})}$$

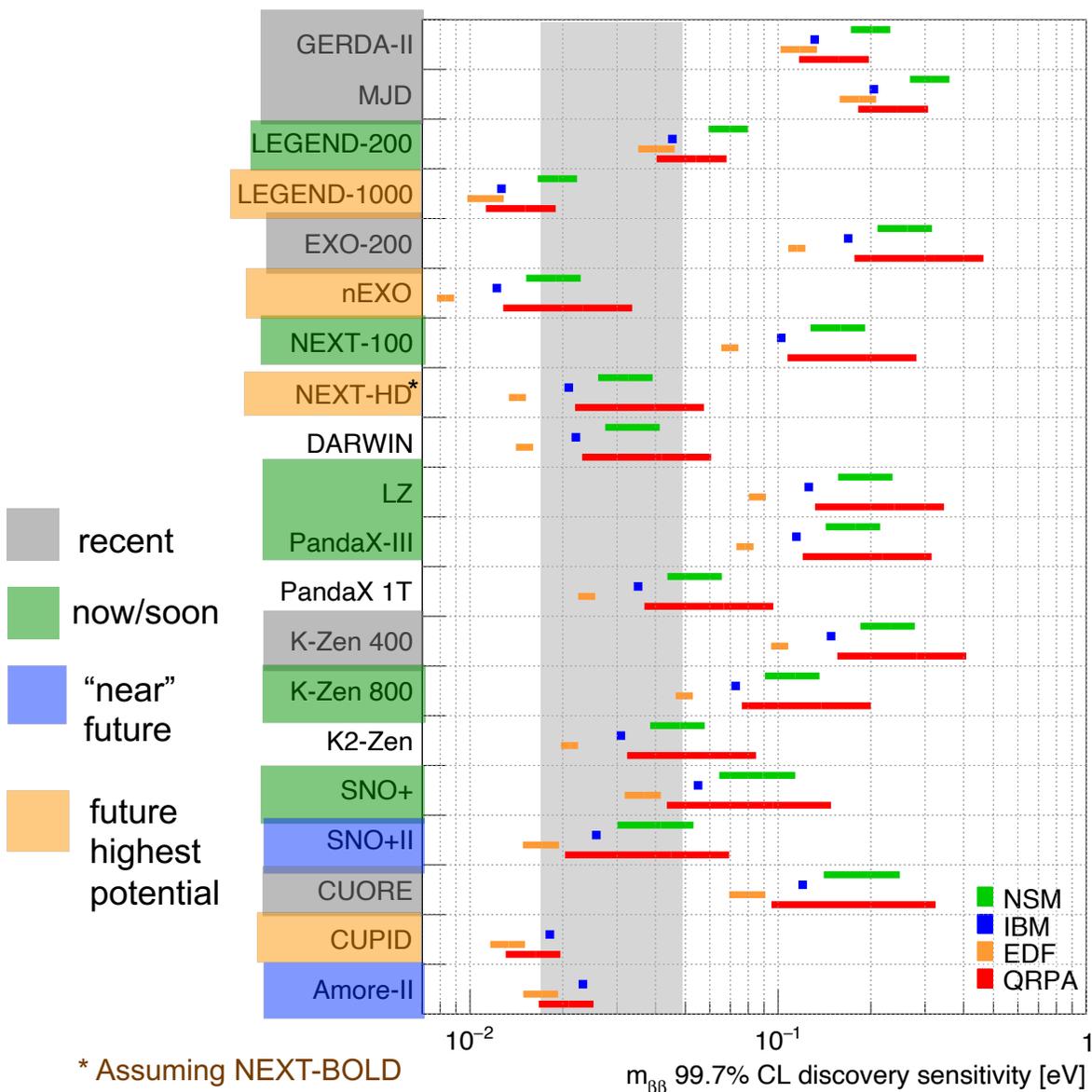
$$\mathcal{E} = \epsilon m_{iso}^{FV} t \quad \mathcal{B} = N_{bg}/\mathcal{E}$$

Next generation experiments:  
 <1 bkg count/year

- Special role of SuperNEMO if  $\langle m_\nu \rangle$  is in 50-100 meV region
  - Underlying mechanism
  - Multi-isotope

Agostini, Benato, Detwiler, Menendez, Vissani

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ Discovery Sensitivity: What lies ahead?

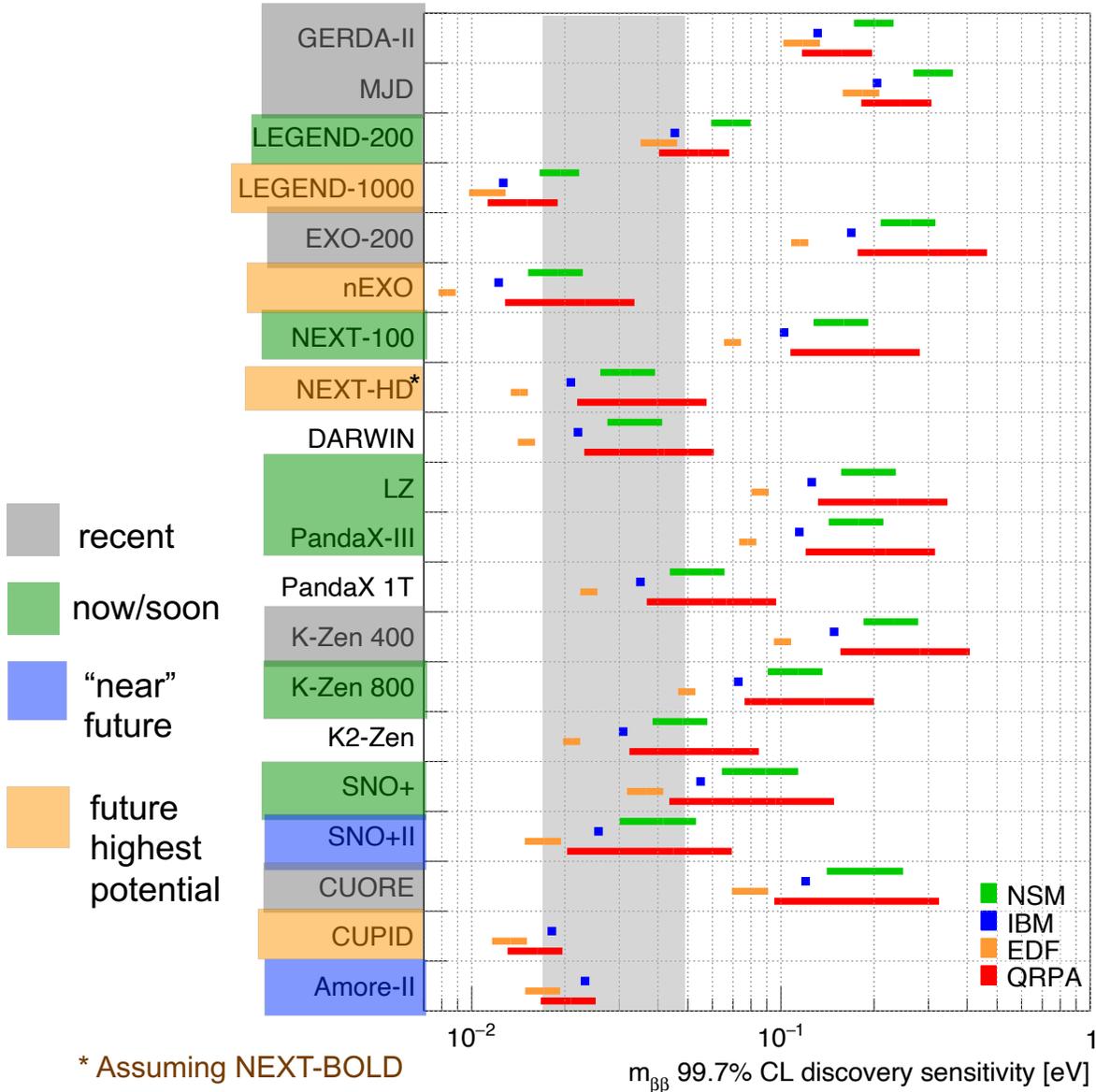


## Concluding Remarks

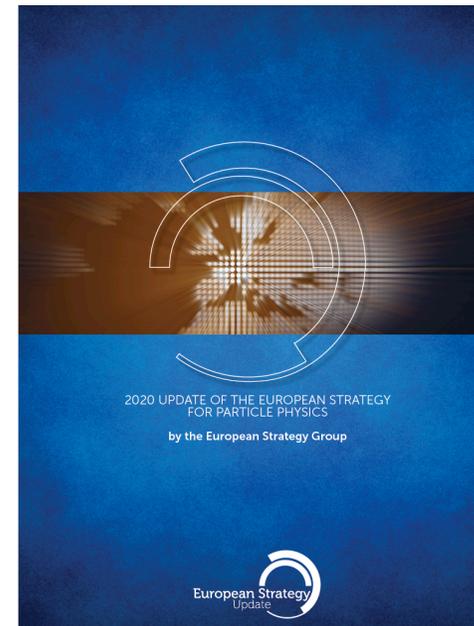
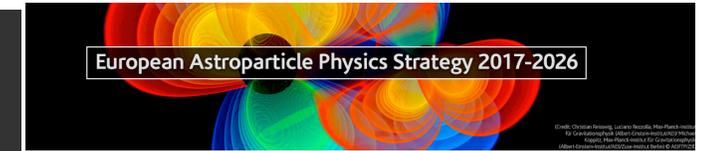
- Upcoming generation of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments will fully explore IO region
  - Testing new physics at 10-100 TeV scale!
- Focus on discovery (which could come at any time!)
- Must be open-minded about mechanism behind LNV (more than “just” neutrino physics).
- A multi-isotope program exploiting different technologies is necessary
  - Nuclear model uncertainties
  - Signal is just a few events
- R&D underway to reach  $m_{\beta\beta} \sim O(1 \text{ meV})$
- Difficult balance between diversity and focus of future programme
- The case for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  is clear (to us) but must be continuously made (to everyone else).

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ Discovery Sensitivity: What lies ahead?

## Crucial time for defining future $0\nu\beta\beta$ strategy



Agostini, Benato, Detwiler, Menendez, Vissani



### Double Beta Decay APPEC Committee Report

Version 3

February 11, 2020

Committee members: Andrea Giuliani, J.J. Gomez Cadenas, Silvia Pascoli (Chair), Ezio Previtali, Ruben Saakyan, Karoline Schäffner and Stefan Schönert

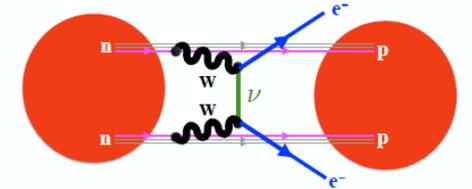


Figure 1: Schematic view of neutrinoless double beta decay.