

Detecting the undetectable

Technologies and challenges in rare-event searches

Cloé Girard-Carillo
LPSC



LAPP seminar 28/11/25



Let's start with some basics

I

II

III

Quark



up quark



charm quark



top quark



down quark



strange quark



bottom quark

Lepton



electron



muon



tau



electron neutrino



muon neutrino



tau neutrino

Gauge boson



photon



gluon



W and Z bosons

Higgs boson



Higgs boson

Exploration of Particle Physics and Cosmology with Neutrinos
<https://www-he.scphys.kyoto-u.ac.jp/nucosmos/en/index.html>

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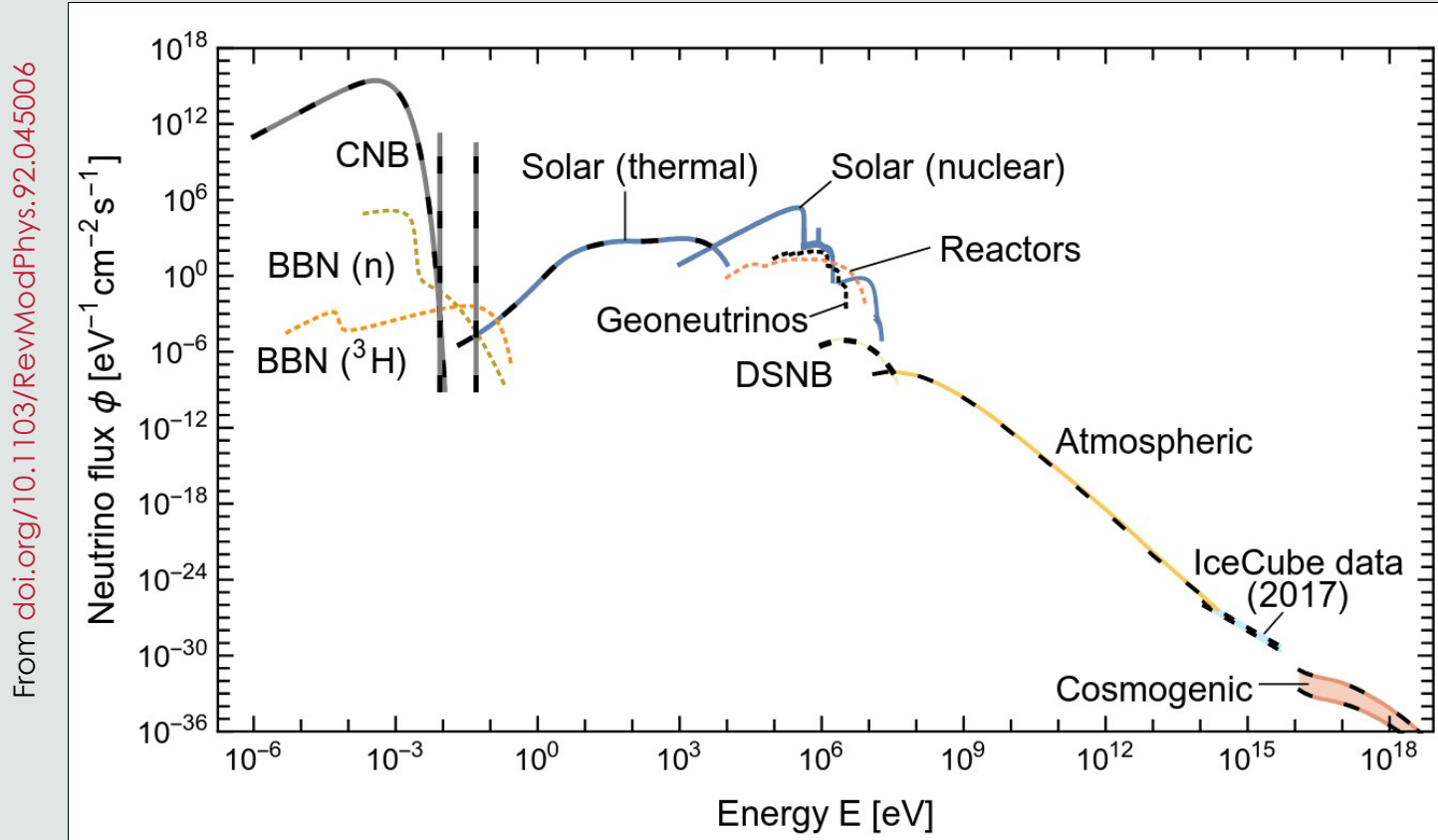


Higgs boson

Exploration of Particle Physics and Cosmology with Neutrinos
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The neutrino physics field

Neutrino physics spans a vast energy range, from sub-MeV (for solar / geoneutrinos) up to multi-GeV or TeV (for atmospheric, astrophysical, accelerator neutrinos), depending on the source.



A bit of history

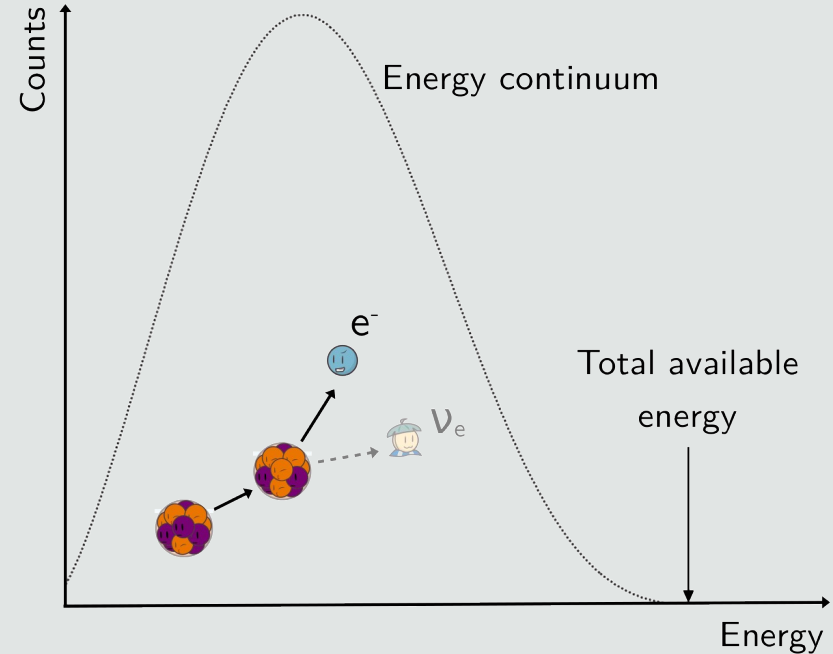
The discovery of neutrino



H. Becquerel (1896):
Discovery of radioactivity
1900: β decay



Lise Meitner (1911):
Beta energy spectrum
Only electron observed
Non conservation of total energy



Drawings: courtesy of Cwiosna Roques



A bit of history

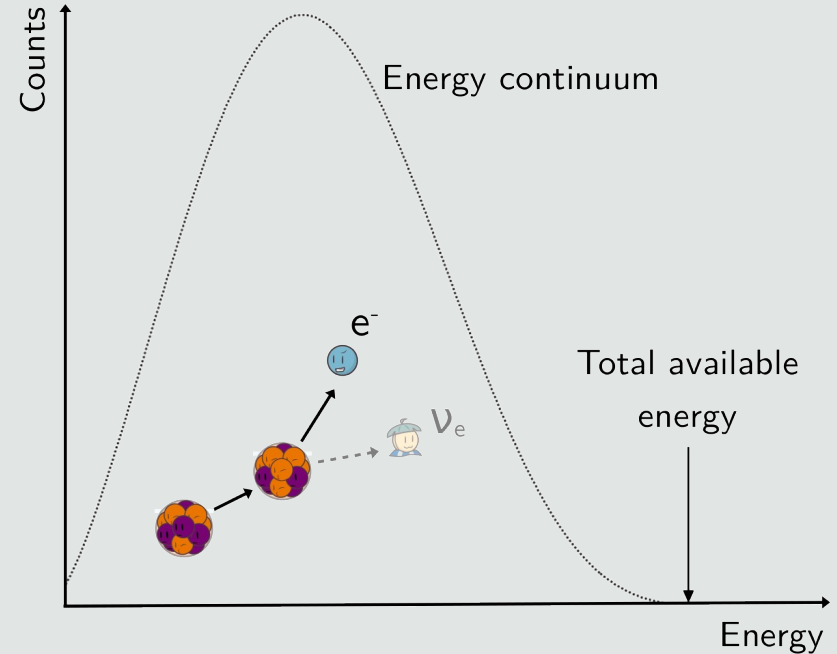
The discovery of neutrino



W. Pauli (1930):
Solution to conserve total energy
"**Neutrino**": small interaction probability,
neutral, spin 1/2, small or null mass



E. Fermi (1934):
Effective theory
Foundation stone of weak interaction



Drawings: courtesy of Cwiosna Roques



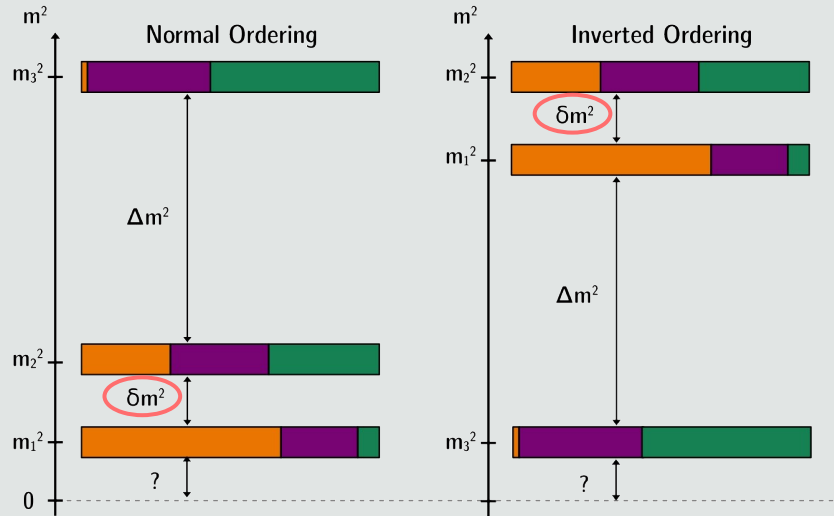
Neutrinos are some special creatures...

Flavor eigenstates \neq mass eigenstates

Oscillation probability (2 flavors):

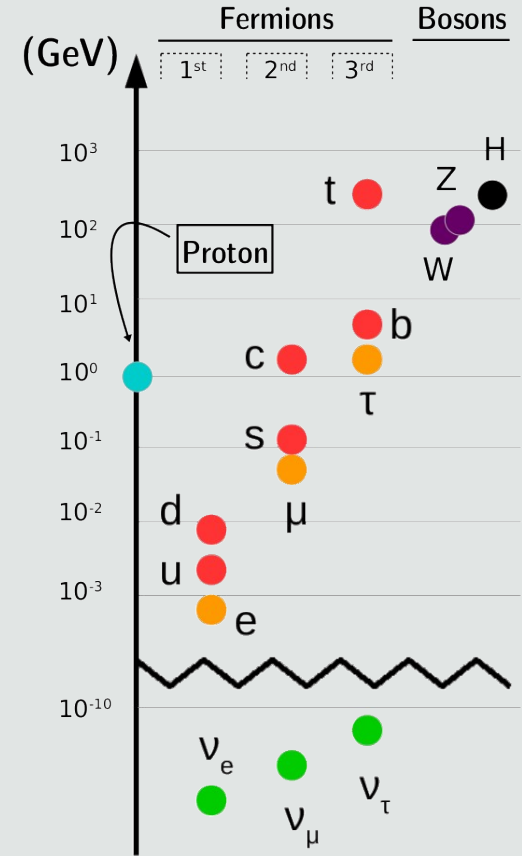
$$P_{\alpha\beta} = \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

└ $\neq 0 \rightarrow$ Non-zero neutrino masses and mixing



■ ν_e ■ ν_μ ■ ν_τ

Solar neutrinos:
 $\Delta m_{21}^2 \approx 7.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$
Atmospheric neutrinos:
 $|\Delta m_{31}^2| \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$



The nature of neutrinos: Dirac or Majorana?

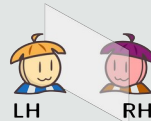
“Dirac” neutrinos

Neutrino & antineutrino **distinct particles**

As other fermions: mass \rightarrow **Higgs** mechanism:

$$\mathcal{L}_\nu^{\text{Dirac}} = -\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}}\bar{\nu}_L Y^\nu \nu_R + \text{h.c.}$$

\rightarrow Need to **extend** the SM with ν_R



“Majorana” neutrinos

The neutrino is its **own antiparticle**

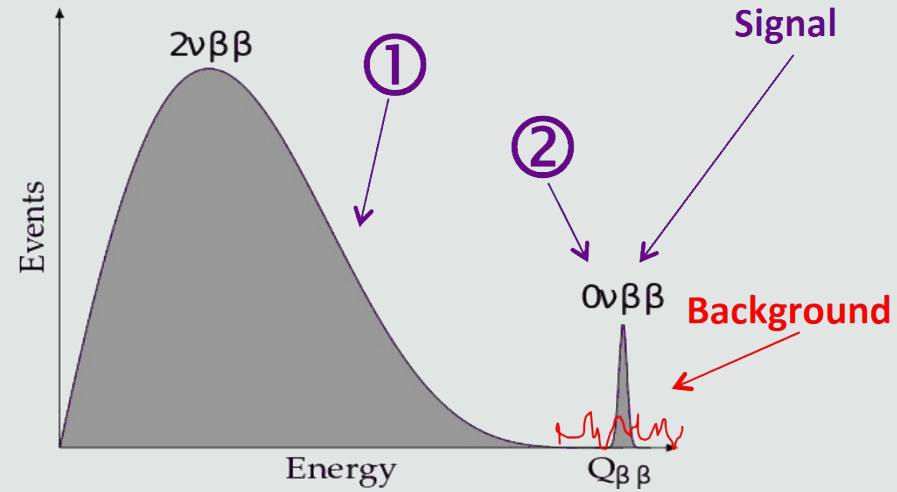
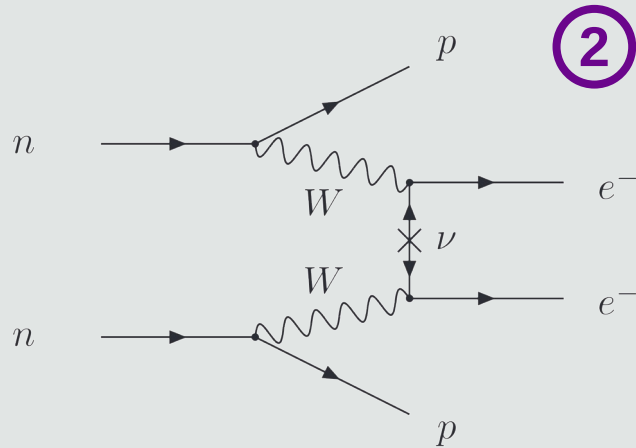
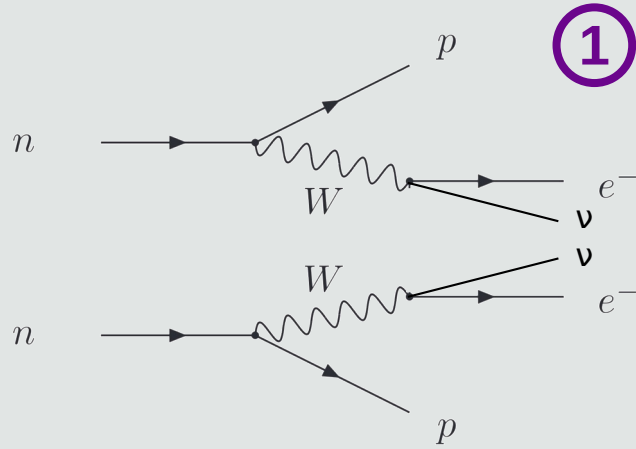
Majorana mass term in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_\nu^{\text{Majorana}} = \frac{1}{2}m_\nu\bar{\nu}_L^c\nu_L + \text{h.c.}$$

- ▶ **Lepton Number Violation** (LNV) $\Delta L=2$
- ▶ **Seesaw** mechanisms: smallness of neutrino masses

Probe: Neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$)

Neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$)



Best sensitivities on $T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{24-26}$ years

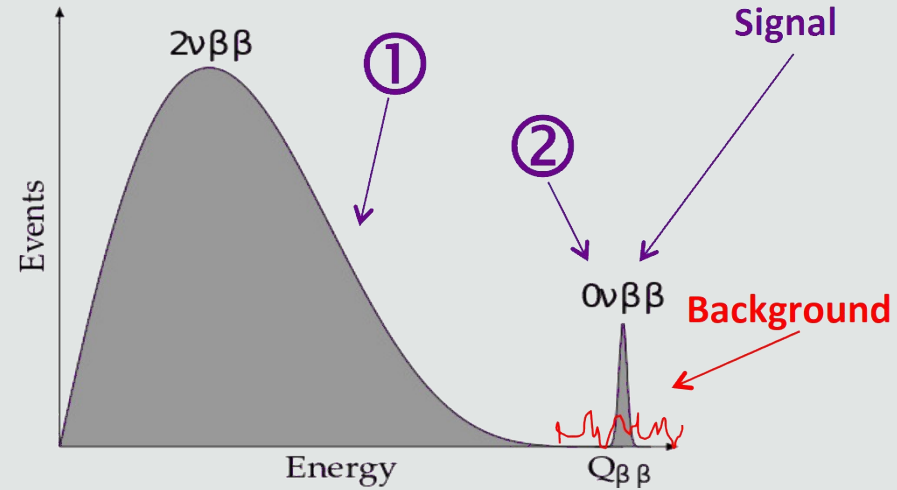
$T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{24} \text{ y} \longrightarrow \text{Hard}$

$T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{25} \text{ y} \longrightarrow \text{Harder}$

$T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{26} \text{ y} \longrightarrow \text{Even harder}$

Neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$)

Isotope	Q [keV]	nat. abund. [%]
^{48}Ca	4273.7	0.187
^{76}Ge	2039.1	7.8
^{82}Se	2995.5	9.2
^{96}Zr	3347.7	2.8
^{100}Mo	3035.0	9.6
^{110}Pd	2004.0	11.8
^{116}Cd	2809.1	7.6
^{124}Sn	2287.7	5.6
^{130}Te	2530.3	34.5
^{136}Xe	2461.9	8.9
^{150}Nd	3367.3	5.6



Best sensitivities on $T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{24-26}$ years

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The sensitivity of an experiment to $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

Sensitivity in exclusion to **half-life**

Signal detection efficiency $\beta\beta$ isotope mass Acquisition time

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > \frac{\ln 2 \times N_a \times a}{W} \times \frac{\varepsilon_{0\nu} \times M \times t}{N_{excl}}$$

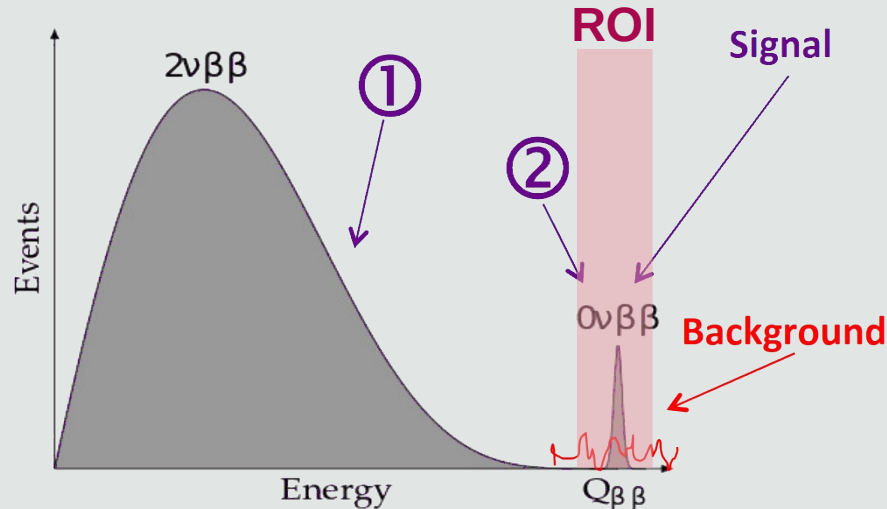
Upper limit on signal count
Number of **excluded** signal events
→ **Depends on number of background events**

Background-free → $T_{1/2} \propto \sqrt{M \times t}$

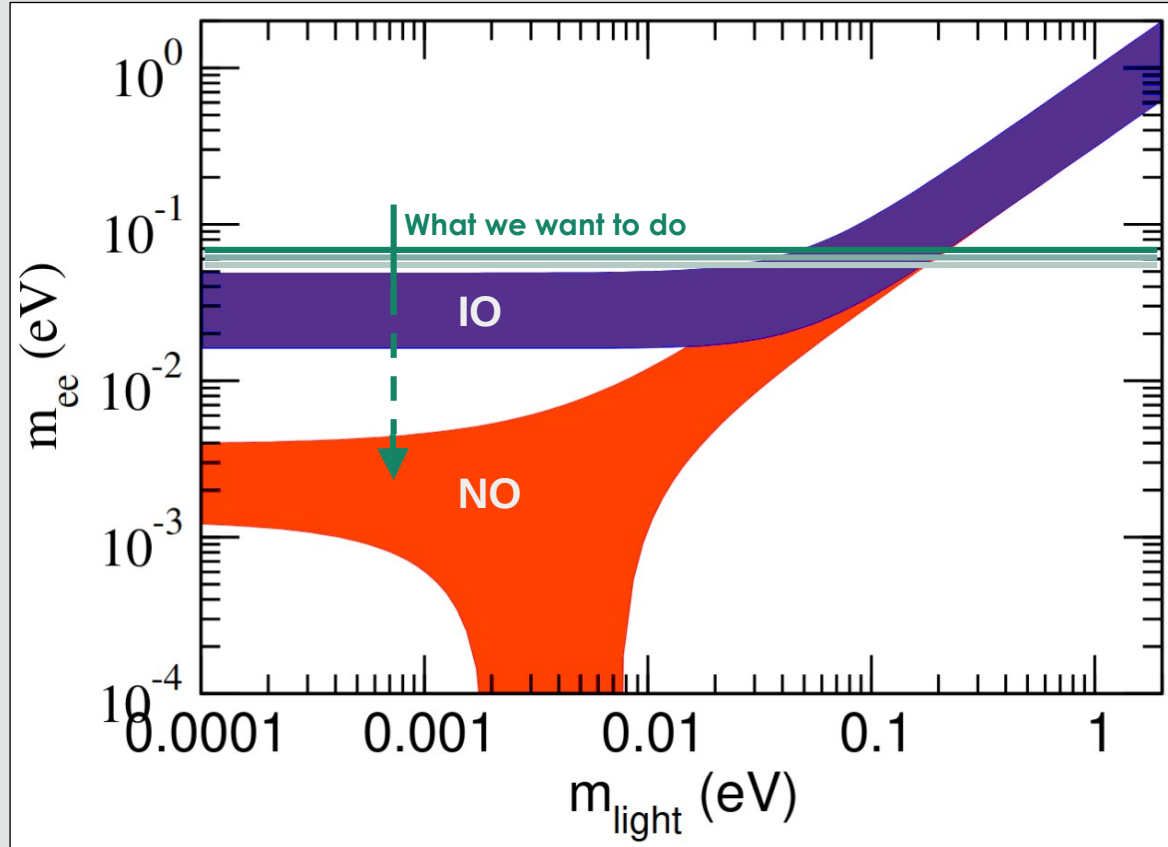
Background-limited → $T_{1/2} \propto M \times t$

Improve sensitivity by

- ▶ increasing exposure
- ▶ improving efficiency
- ▶ increasing isotopic abundance
- ▶ **reducing background index in ROI**
- ▶ narrowing ROI ΔE



The sensitivity of an experiment to $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay



DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.110.030001

Effective Majorana **mass**:

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

Mixing matrix elements

Neutrino masses

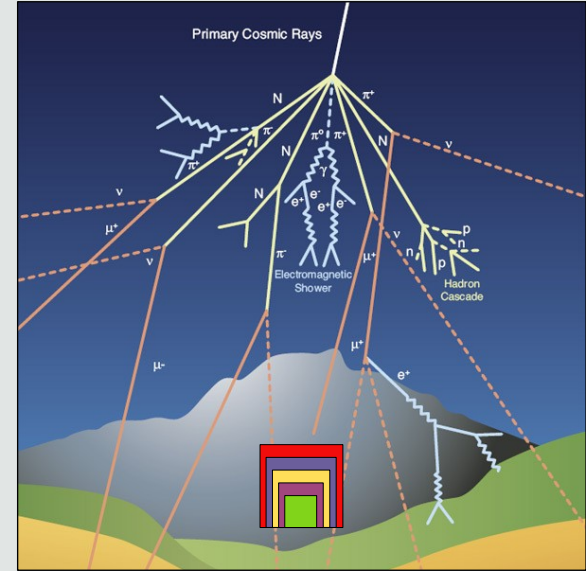
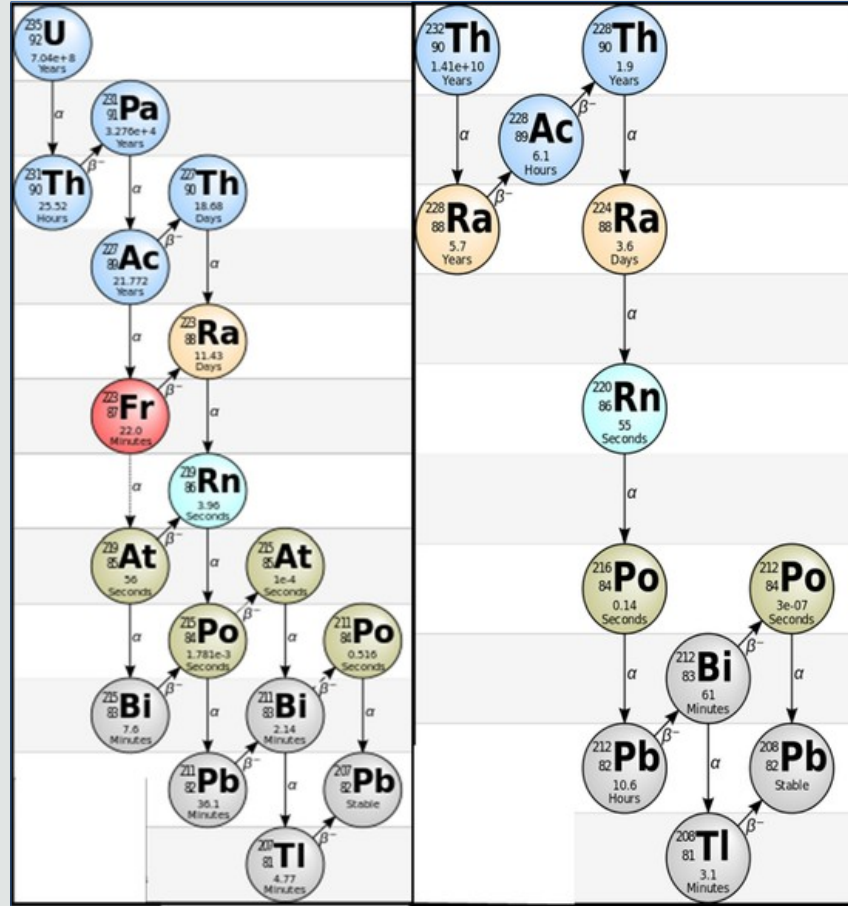
$0\nu\beta\beta$ decay **half-life**:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} = \frac{m_e^2}{G^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2}$$

Phase space factor

Nuclear
matrix elements

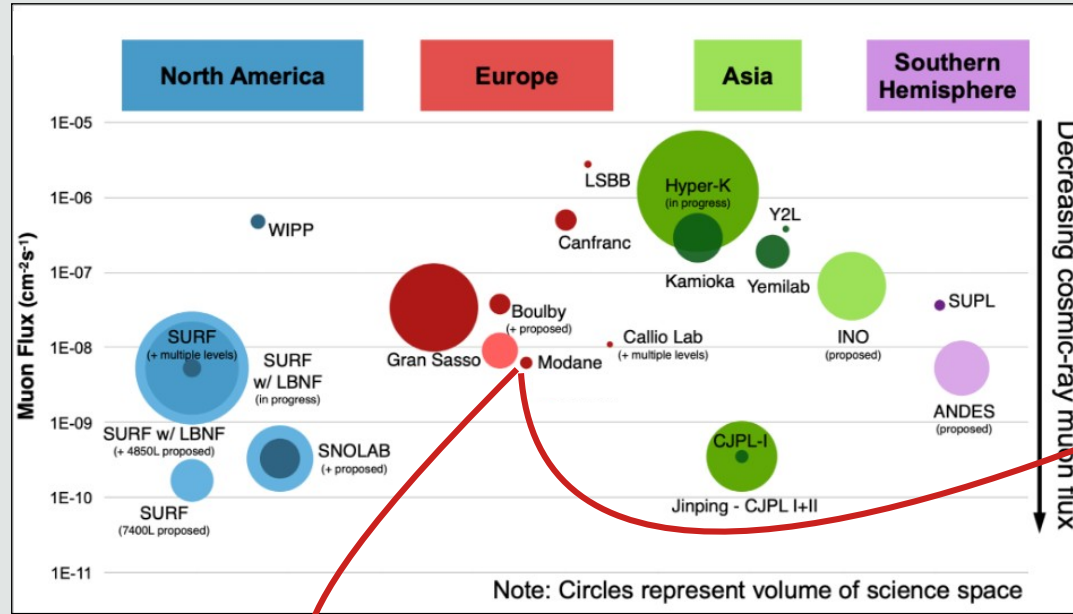
Many sources of background



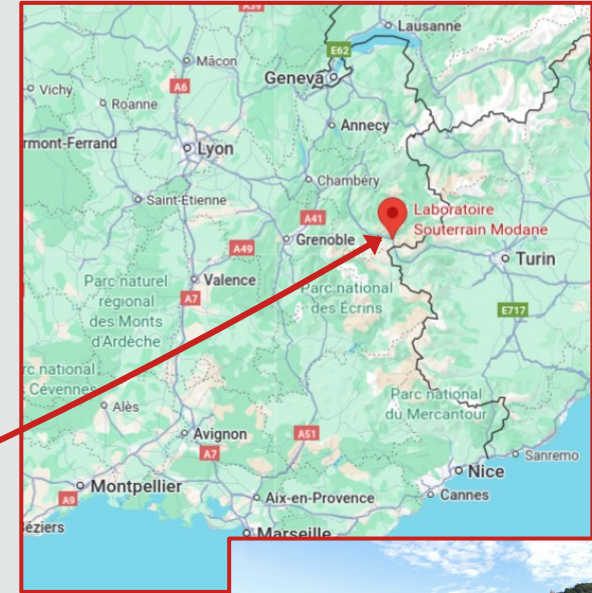
- ▶ Deep **underground** → shield from cosmic rays
 - ▶ Active and passive **shieldings**
 - ▶ **Anti-radon** techniques
 - ▶ **Radiopure** materials
 - ▶ Track past material exposure to cosmic rays
 - ▶ Many other things **depending on technology**
- Natural radioactivity** (^{238}U , ^{232}Th , ^{40}K)

Going underground to lower cosmic ray flux

Underground facilities provide unique environments for particle/astroparticle & multidisciplinary research with main feature being the **overburden protection from cosmic-ray muons**

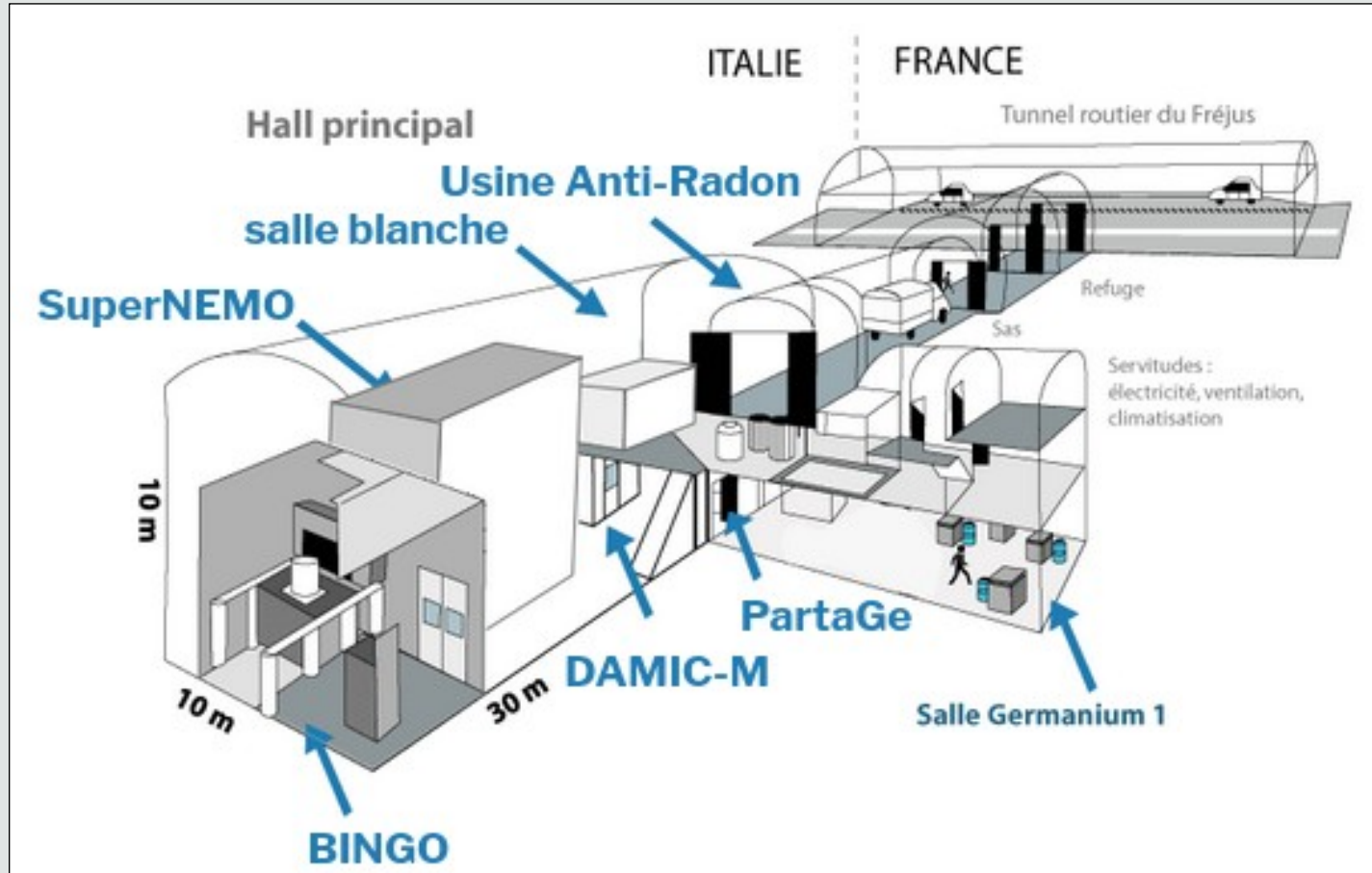


LSM underground lab

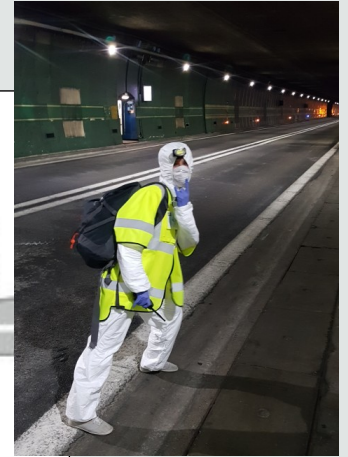
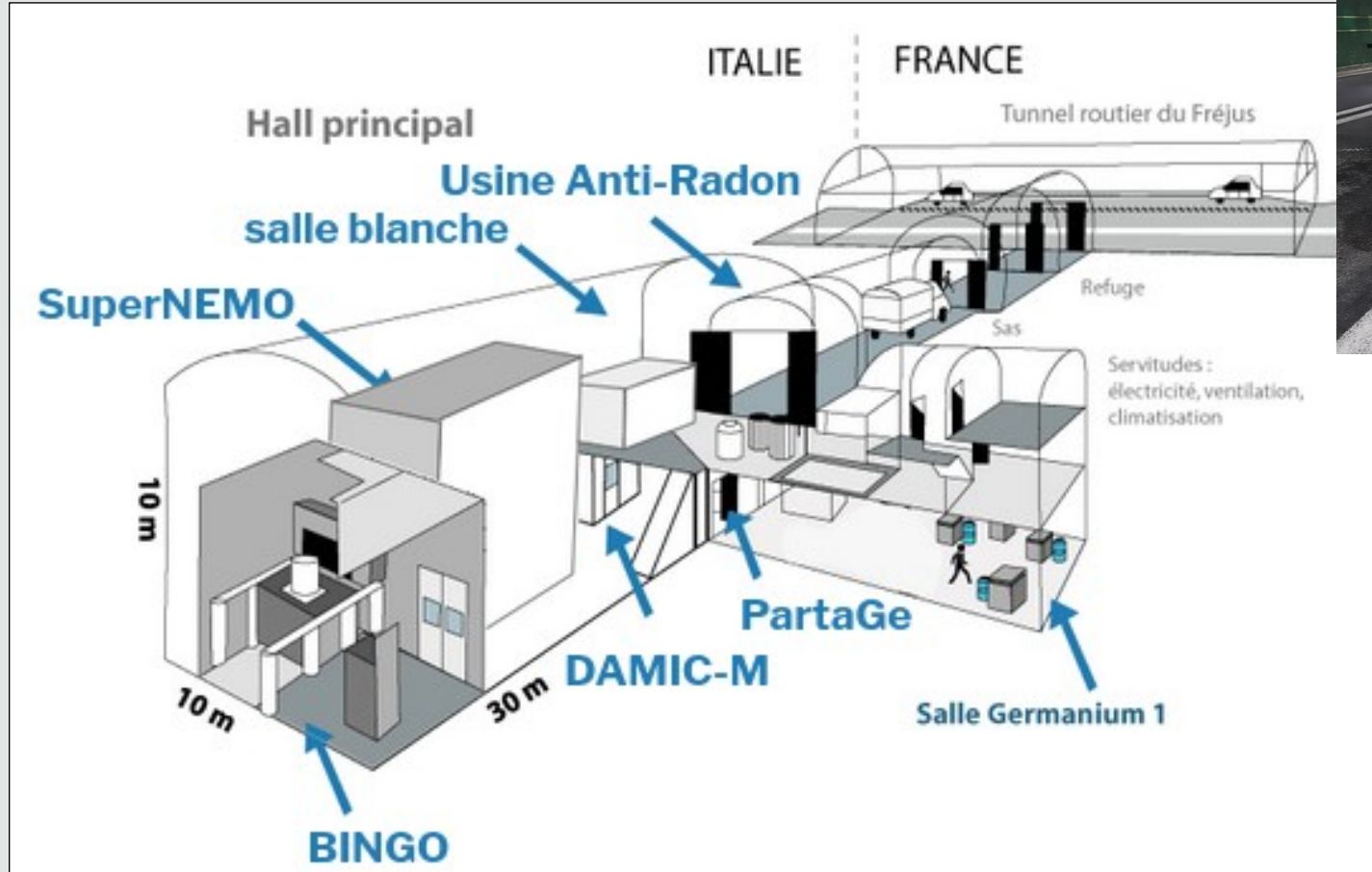


- **Deepest site in Europe** dedicated to astroparticle, nuclear & particle physics
- **4800 meter water equivalent (m.w.e)**: muon flux reduced by $>10^6$ relative to surface
- Flexible access (hall accessible to trucks up to 9m);
- Natural radioactivity due to radon of about $10\text{-}15 \text{ Bq/m}^3$

Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane



Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane

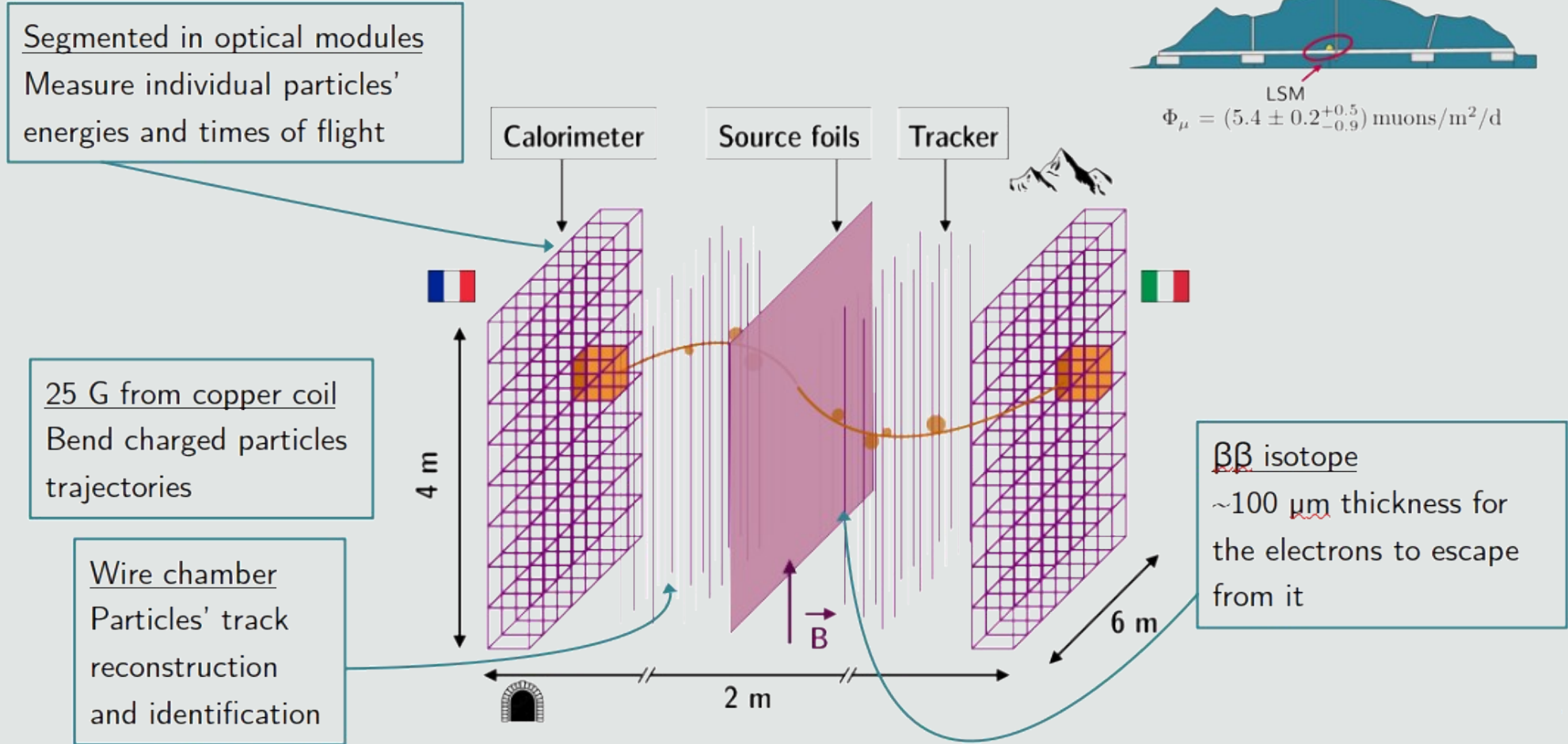


Tracker-calorimeter technology

The SuperNEMO demonstrator



The SuperNEMO demonstrator



The SuperNEMO demonstrator



Source

^{82}Se isotope: 6.11 kg

Transition energy $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2.99$ MeV



Tracker

4 sections

2034 cells



Calorimeter

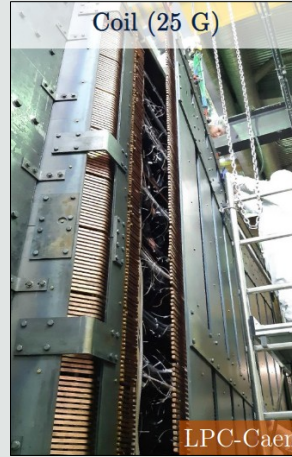
712 optical modules (OMs)

Closing of the detector : November 2018

The SuperNEMO demonstrator @LSM



During my PhD (~2019)

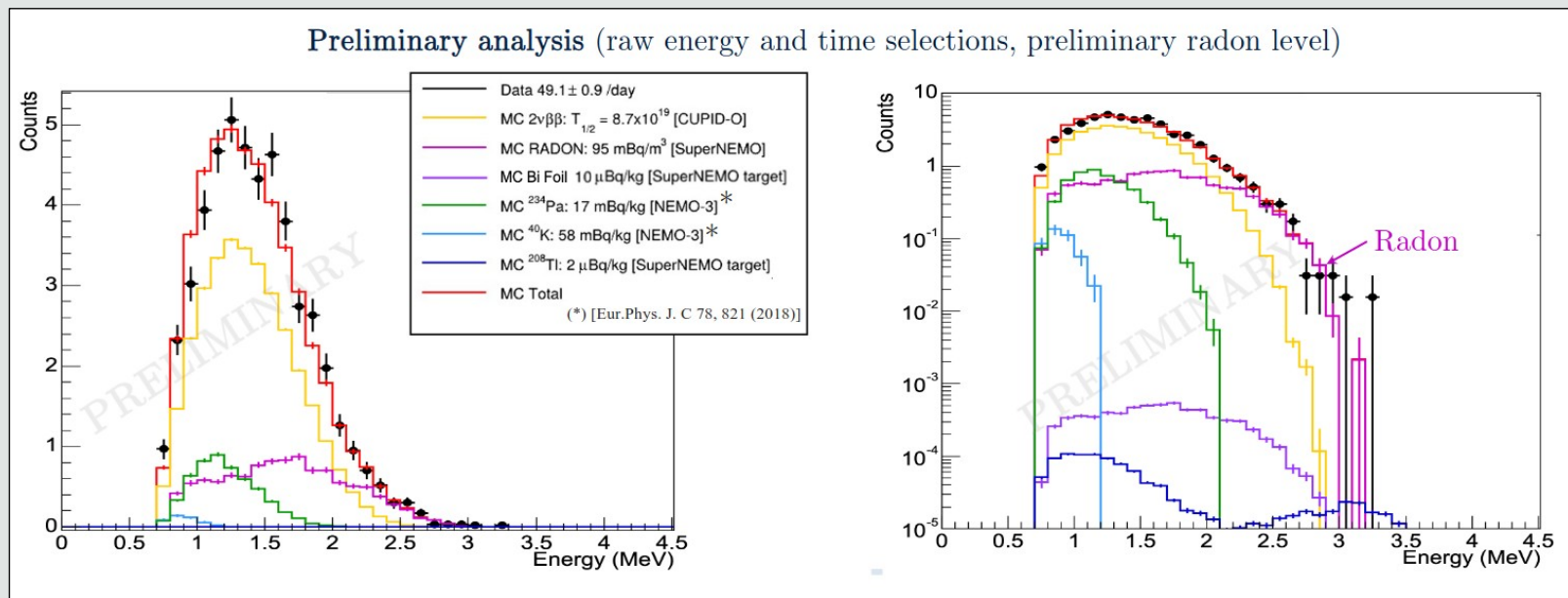


+ de-radonized air
from LSM
beginning of october

Now

The SuperNEMO demonstrator @LSM

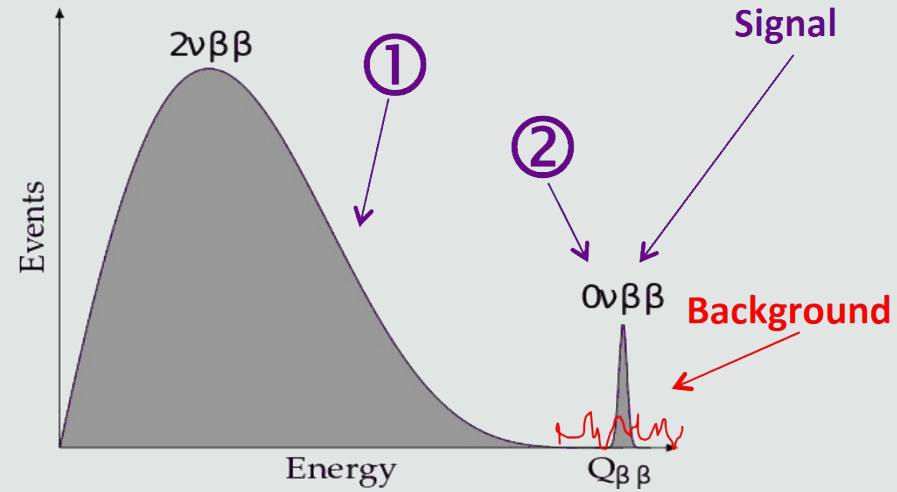
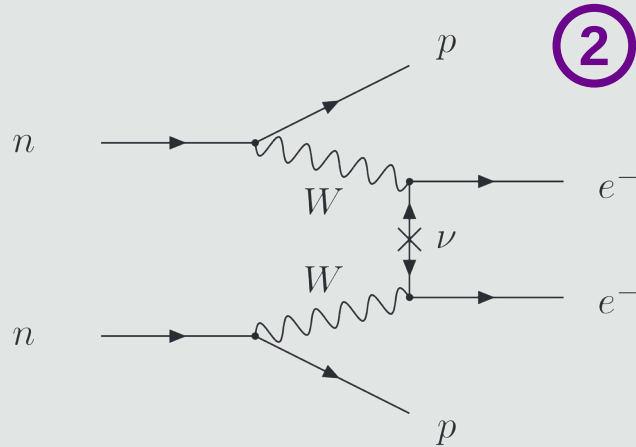
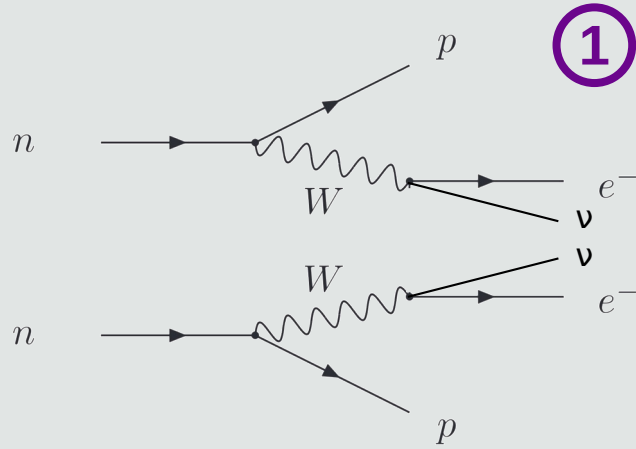
Start of data acquisition with the complete detector on April 10, 2025
2.37 kg.y exposure (radon-limited phase)



Slides presented at IN2P3 CS oct. 2025 by Christine Marquet

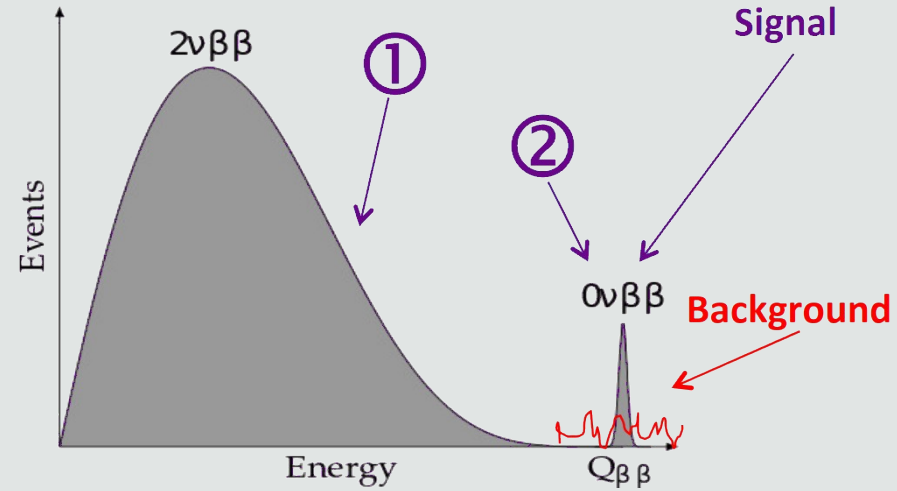
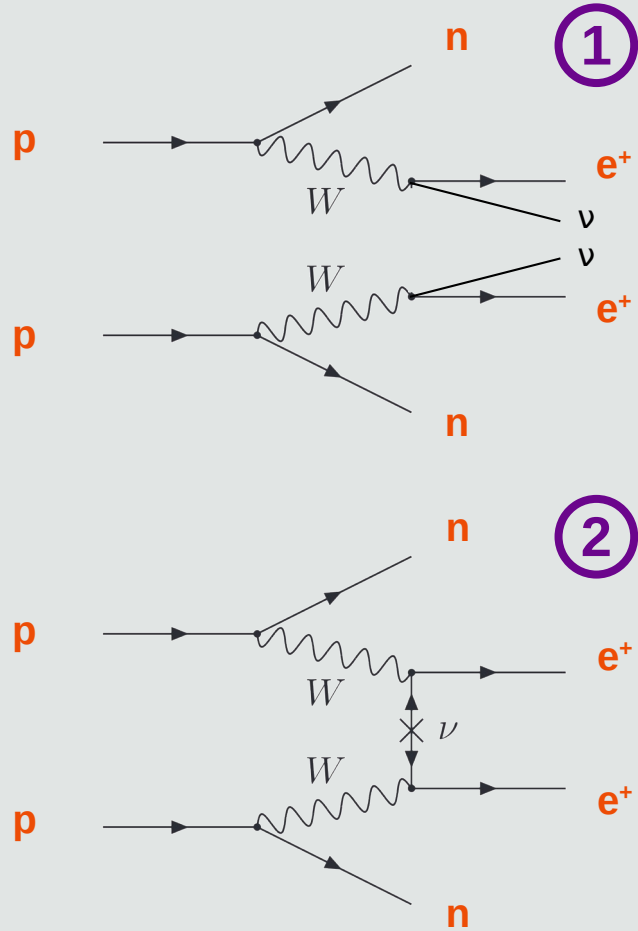
- Whole energy distribution dominated by the expected $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay shape with no events above 3.4 MeV
- Above 2 MeV: Radon dominates (expected without LSM radon-free air facility)

Neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$)



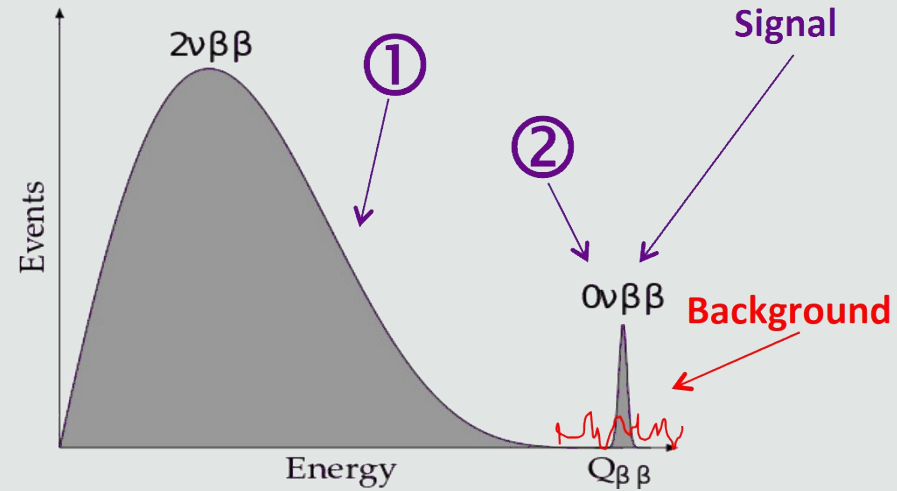
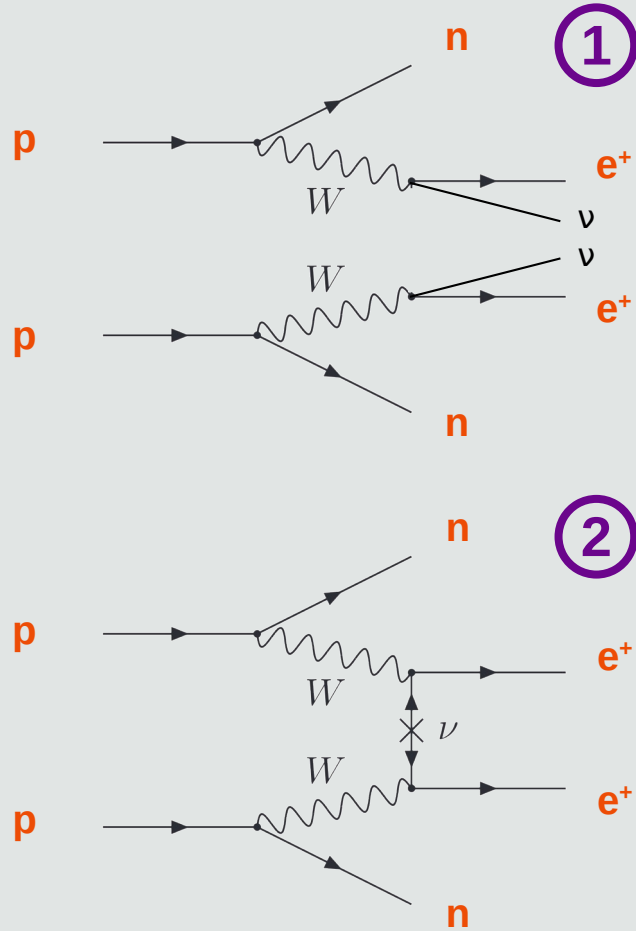
Best sensitivities on $T^{0\nu}_{1/2} > 10^{24-26}$ years

Neutrinoless double beta **plus** decay ($0\nu\beta\beta^{++}$)

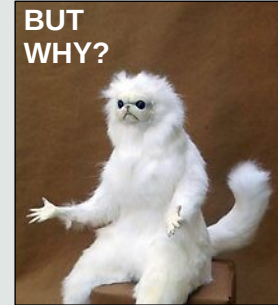


- Suppressed decay probabilities
- Less favorable Q-values
- Low natural abundances of nuclei
- Challenging signatures

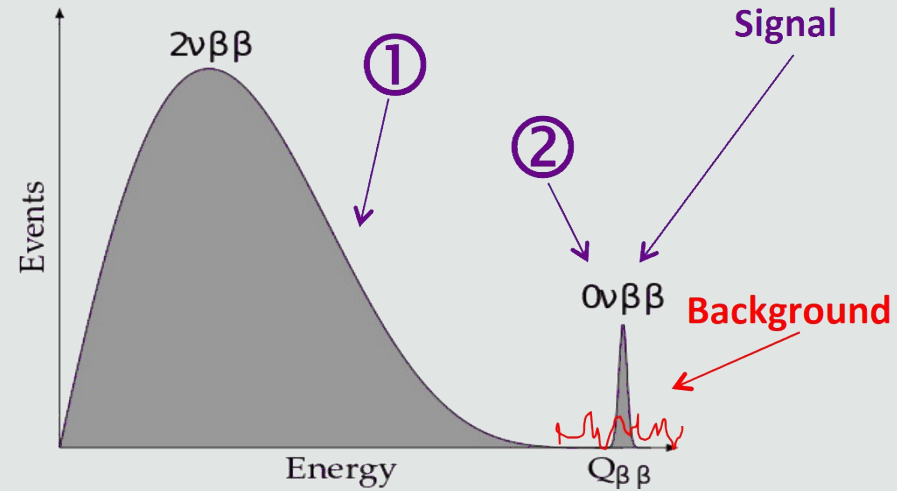
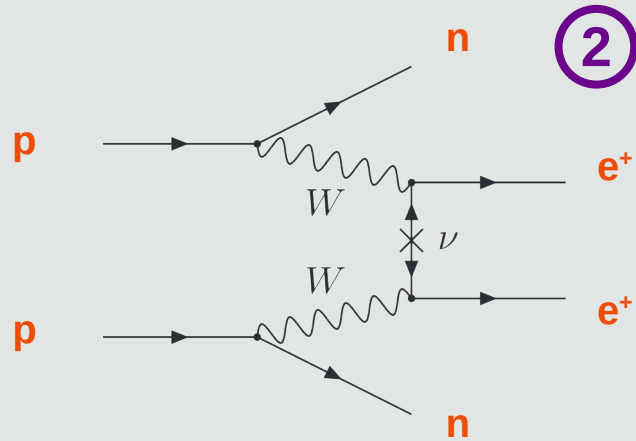
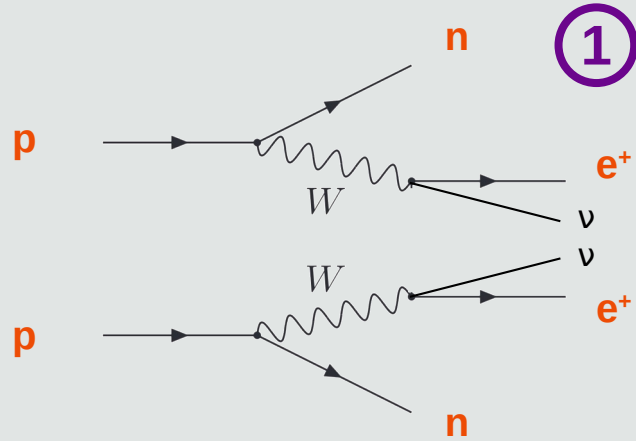
Neutrinoless double beta **plus** decay ($0\nu\beta\beta^{++}$)



- Suppressed decay probabilities
- Less favorable Q-values
- Low natural abundances of nuclei
- Challenging signatures

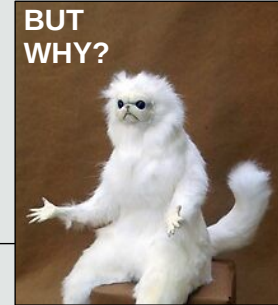


Neutrinoless double beta **plus** decay ($0\nu\beta\beta^{++}$)

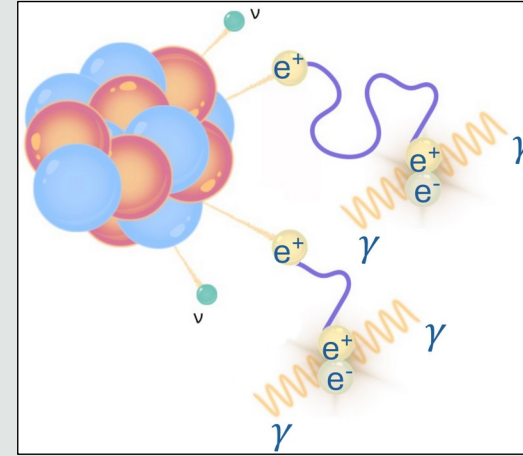
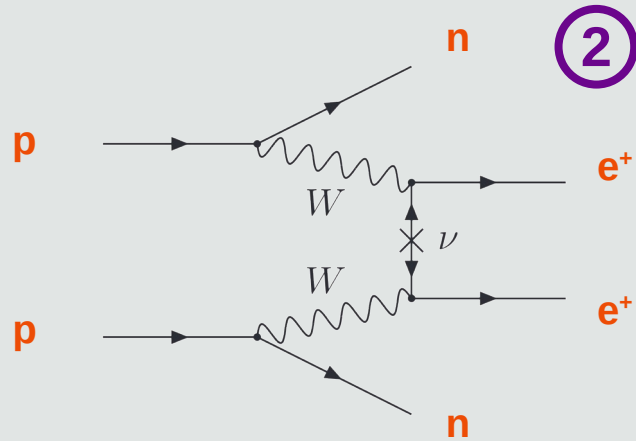
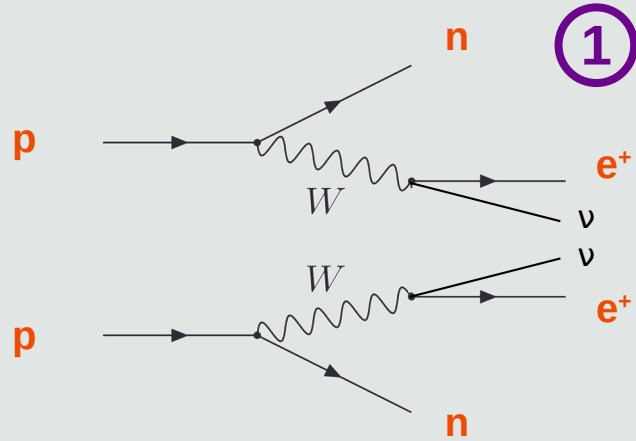


- Suppressed decay probabilities
- Less favorable Q-values
- Low natural abundances of nuclei
- Challenging signatures

- Studies of nuclear structure models
- Valuable constraints on theoretical models
→ deeper understanding of underlying nuclear physics



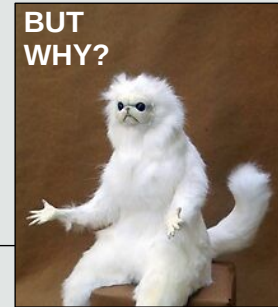
Neutrinoless double beta **plus** decay ($0\nu\beta\beta^{++}$)



Courtesy of S.Schoppmann

- Suppressed decay probabilities
- Less favorable Q-values
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- Studies of nuclear structure models
- Valuable constraints on theoretical models
→ deeper understanding of underlying nuclear physics



Newest developments in liquid scintillators

The NuDoubt⁺⁺ detector



Newest developments in **liquid scintillators**

The NuDoubt⁺⁺ detector



Transparent liquid scintillators

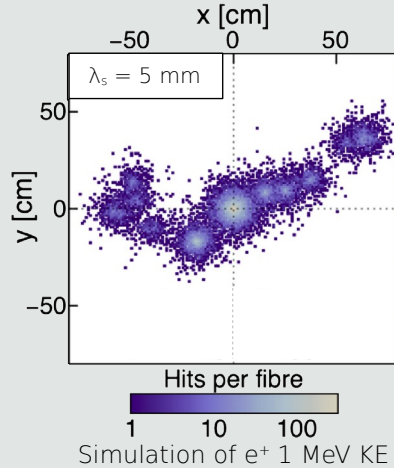


The SNO+ experiment

Exploring new detection technologies

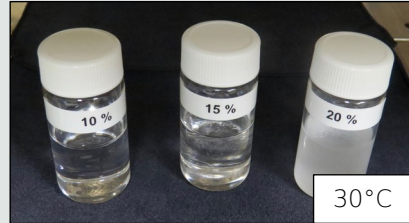
Opaque scintillator

Confine light around vertex

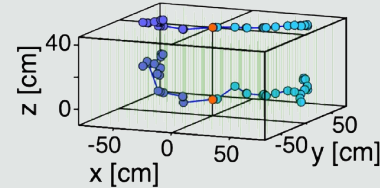


Readout with grid of
wavelength-shifting fibres & SiPMs

First implementation of
opaque scintillator: adding
wax to LS (NoWaSH)



Novel Opaque Scintillator for Neutrino
Detection C. Buck et al., 2019



Technology currently explored by **LiquidO** / AM-OTech / CLOUD

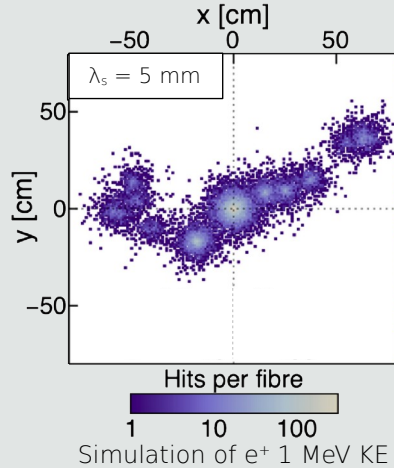
Advantages for $0\nu\beta\beta^{++}$

- **Good spatial resolution** (X,Y) \rightarrow PID capabilities
- Tunable opacity

Exploring new detection technologies

Opaque scintillator

Confine light around vertex



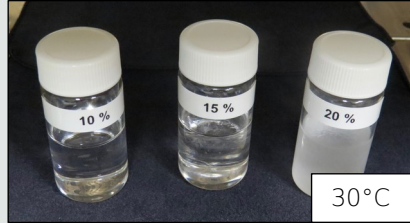
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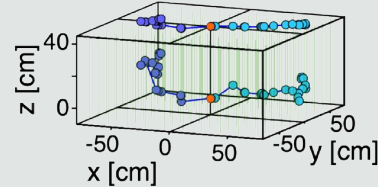
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First implementation of opaque scintillator: adding wax to LS (NoWaSH)



Novel Opaque Scintillator for Neutrino Detection C. Buck et al., 2019

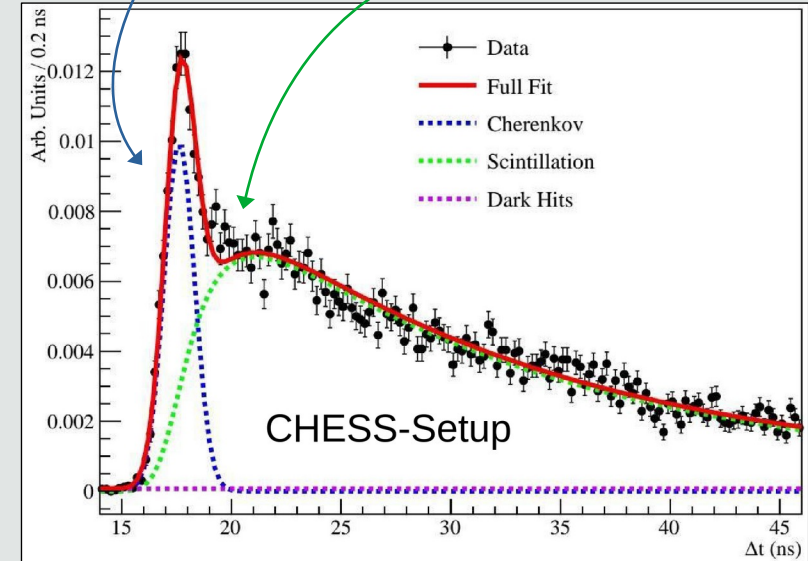


Slow scintillator

Separate Cherenkov and Scintillation light

Small Cherenkov peak visible in the beginning of light emission

Scintillation light delayed in time ($\tau > 10$ ns)

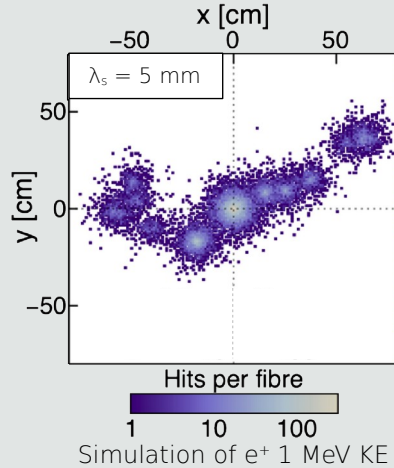


Development of a Bi-solvent Liquid Scintillator with Slow Light Emission, H.Th.J. Steiger et al., 2024

Exploring new detection technologies

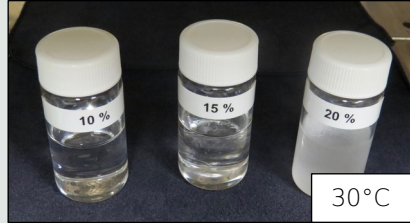
Opaque scintillator

Confine light around vertex

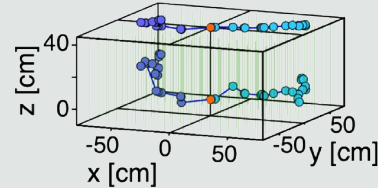


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Detection C. Buck et al., 2019



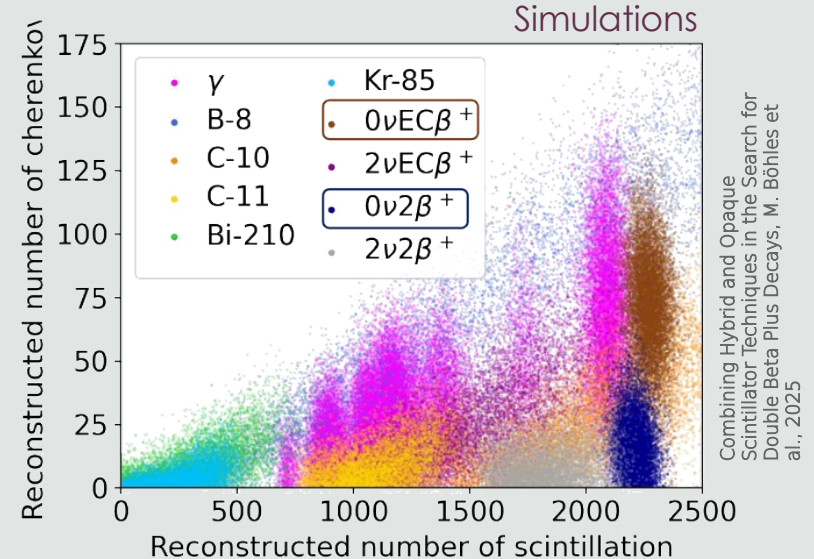
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Advantages for $0\nu\beta\beta++$

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- Tunable opacity

Slow scintillator

Separate Cherenkov and Scintillation light



Combining Hybrid and Opaque
Scintillator Techniques in the Search for
Double Beta Plus Decays, M. Böhles et
al., 2025

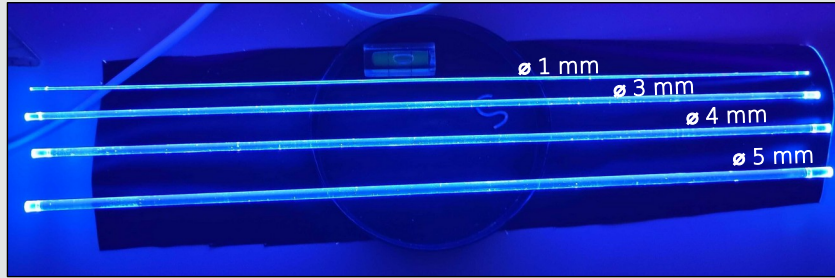
Advantages for $0\nu\beta\beta++$

- **PID using \check{C}/S ratio**
- **High scintillation LY** → good energy resolution
- Low energy threshold

Exploring new detection technologies

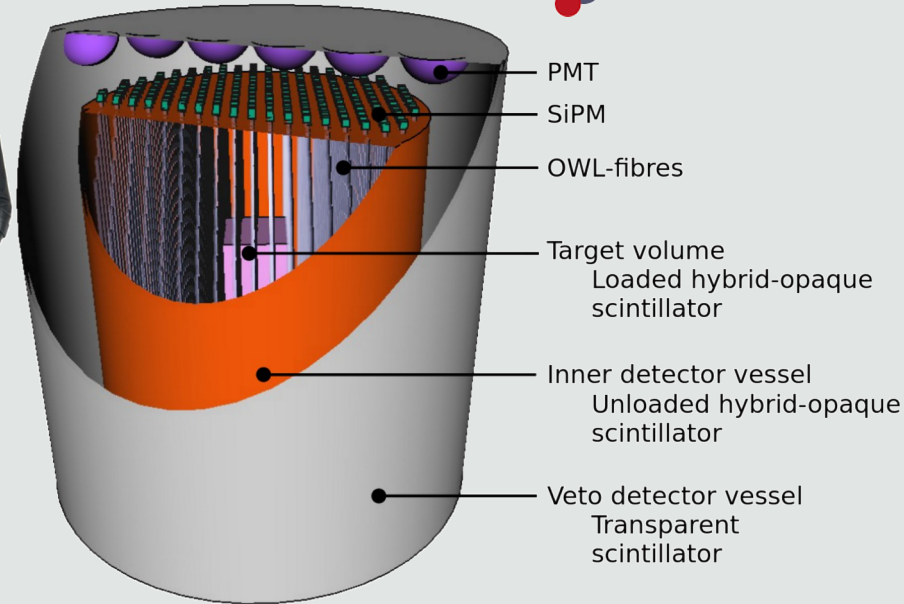
- ▶ 50% **enriched** krypton-78 gas
- ▶ 5 bar **overpressure**
- ▶ 10 kg (scintillator Mass) in central fiducial vessel

First prototypes of polystyrene-based **OWL-fibers**



OWL = Optimised Wavelength-shifting fibres
PMMA fibers of ~mm diameter, coated with wavelength-shifting paint

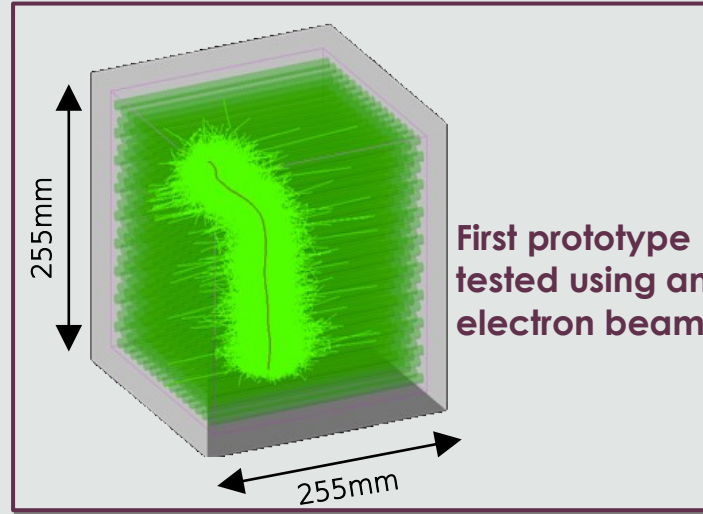
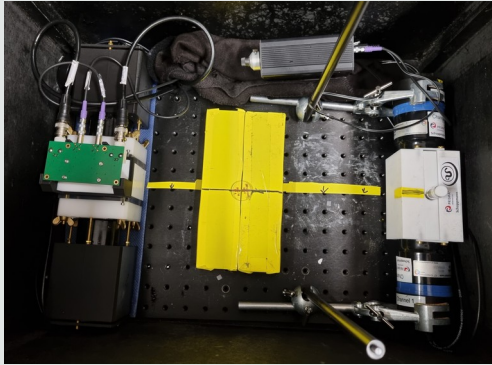
NuDubt++



JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

Current operations for NuDoubt⁺⁺

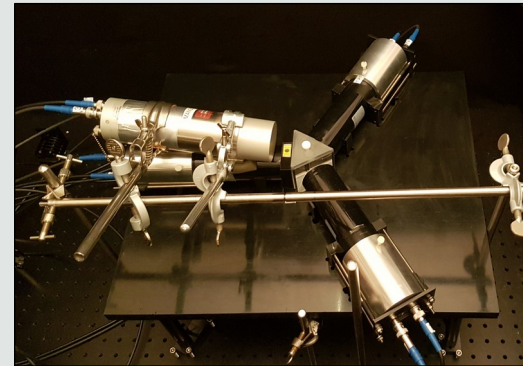
Fiber/scintillator test bench



Investigating gas loading with overpressure



Testing gas isotope composition with a proportional counter



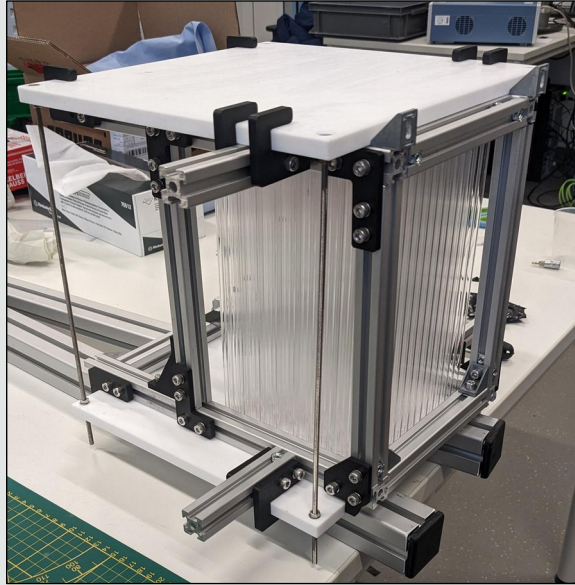
Studying Cherenkov-scintillation lights separation



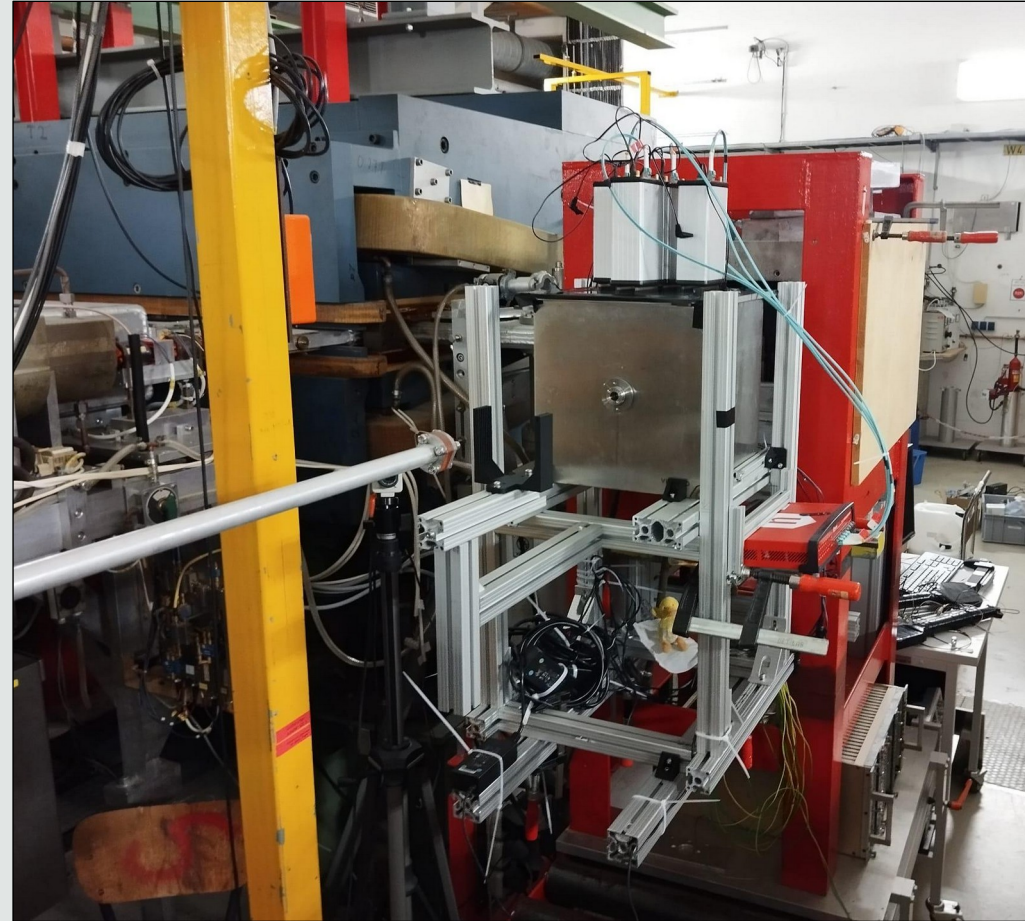
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1140/epjc/s10052-025-13847-1>

255 channels prototype @Mainz

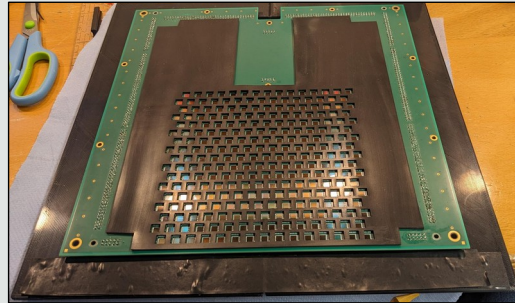
OWL fibers mounted in prototype



Prototype mounted a electron beamline



SiPM plate



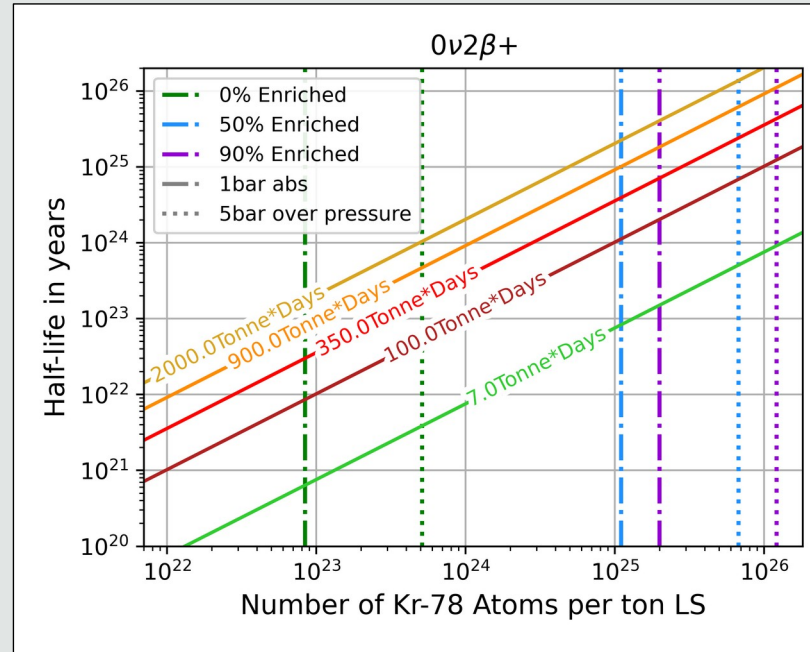
Expected sensitivity of NuDoubt⁺⁺

After **20kg.year** exposure (~1 year operation):

- Improvement of limits on neutrinoless modes by almost **3 orders of magnitude**

Assuming Gran Sasso overburden

Expected 90% C.L. exclusion sensitivity



Starting to contact deep underground labs

Physics: *exists*
Cats:



Remember the Standard Model

I

II

III

Quark



up quark



charm quark



top quark



down quark



strange quark



bottom quark

Lepton



electron



muon



tau



electron
neutrino



muon
neutrino



tau
neutrino

Gauge boson



photon



gluon



W and Z bosons

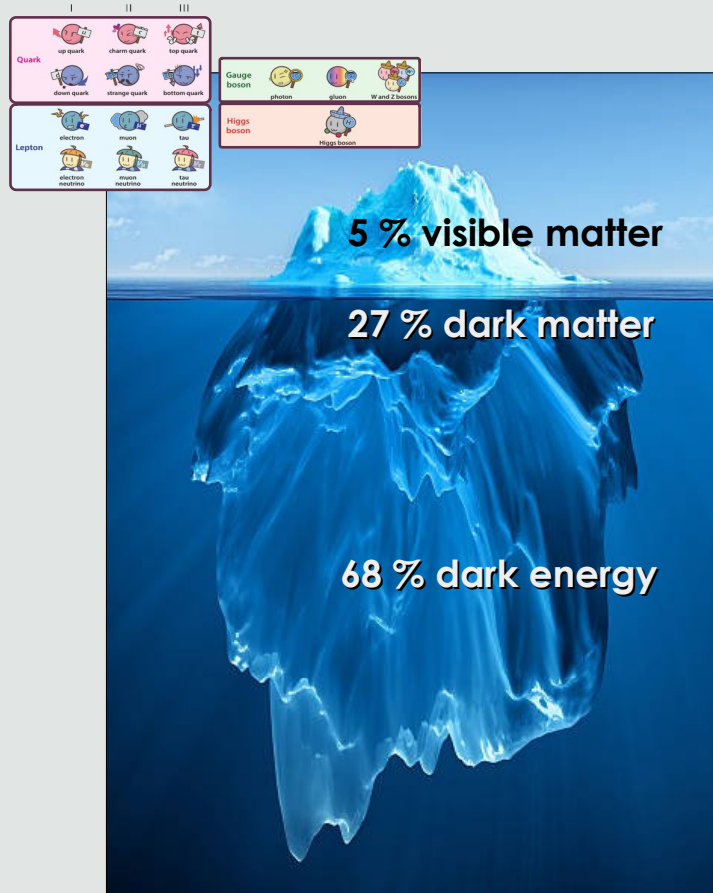
Higgs boson



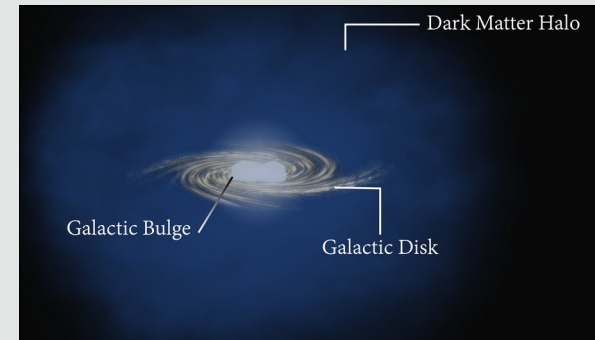
Higgs boson

Exploration of Particle Physics and Cosmology with Neutrinos
<https://www-he.scphys.kyoto-u.ac.jp/nucosmos/en/index.html>

Remember the Standard Model



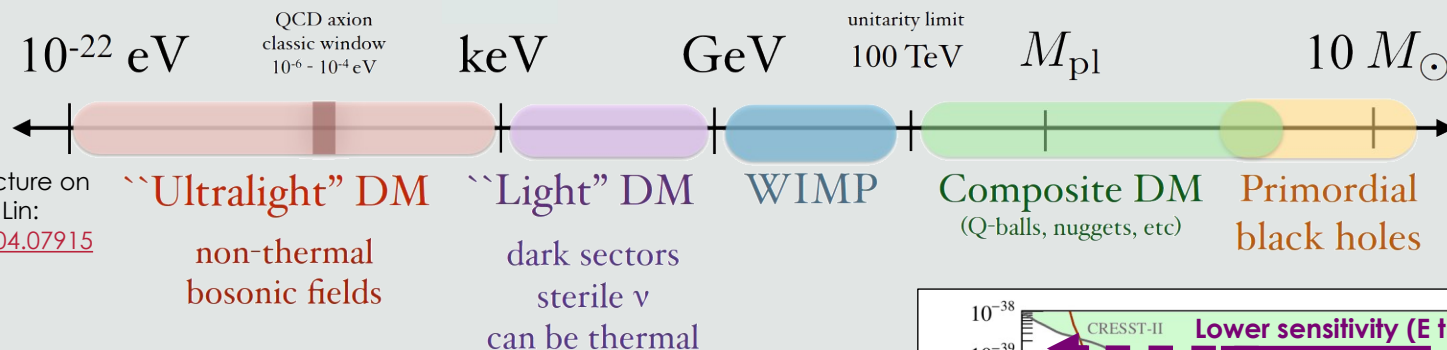
- ▶ **First evidence:** Galaxy cluster dynamics
Fritz Zwicky (1933): **Coma cluster galaxies move too fast** → visible mass cannot explain gravitational binding
→ First hint of “missing mass”
- ▶ **Galactic rotation curves**
Vera Rubin & Kent Ford: **Rotation curves of spiral galaxies stay flat at large radii** → need unseen mass extending far beyond the visible disk
- ▶ **Cosmic probes confirm DM**
CMB anisotropies (WMAP, Planck), large-scale structure, gravitational lensing, BAO
→ Precisely fitted cosmology: ~26% of the Universe is dark matter
- ▶ **We still don't know what it is**
No particle found yet → motivates **direct detection**, indirect detection, and collider searches



The mass scale of Dark Matter

Neutrino floor/fog: irreducible background from neutrino coherent scattering

If DM is elementary particle → **50 orders of magnitude in mass:**



Taken from a very nice lecture on DM direct detection by T. Lin:
doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1904.07915

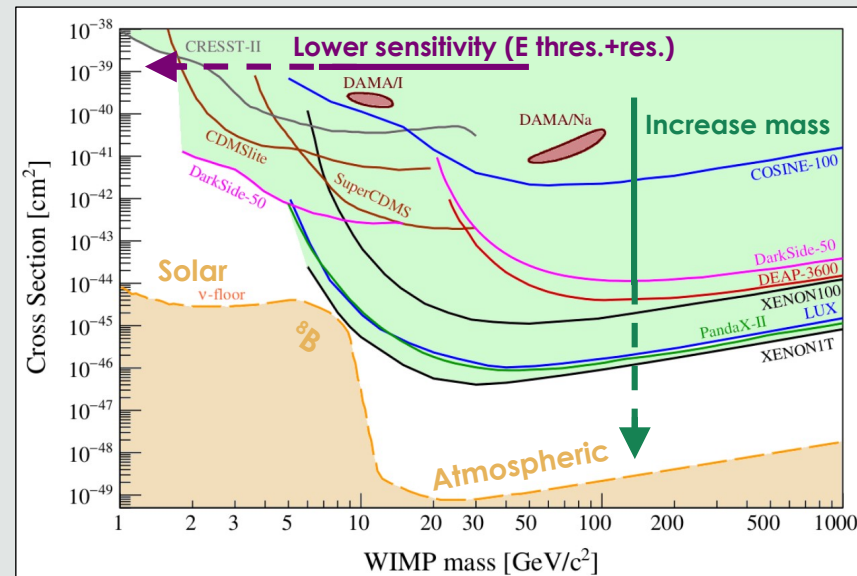
A lot of searches focus on

- ▶ **Axion** DM ($\mu\text{eV} - \text{meV}$)
- ▶ **WIMP** (GeV – TeV)

Both mass ranges for DM are highly motivated → Need to close the gap between those ranges

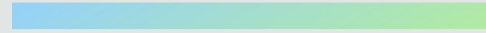
A lot of searches and improvements happen with nobles elements
 → approaching neutrino floor/fog

Once you’ve reached this bkg, very hard to go beyond
 (except with directionality)



Direct detection of DM particle

Nucleon scattering → **NRDM**



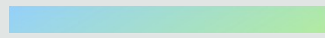
→ Elastic scattering : dark-matter particle scatters off a nucleus and transfers kinetic energy

Electromagnetic scattering → **ERDM**

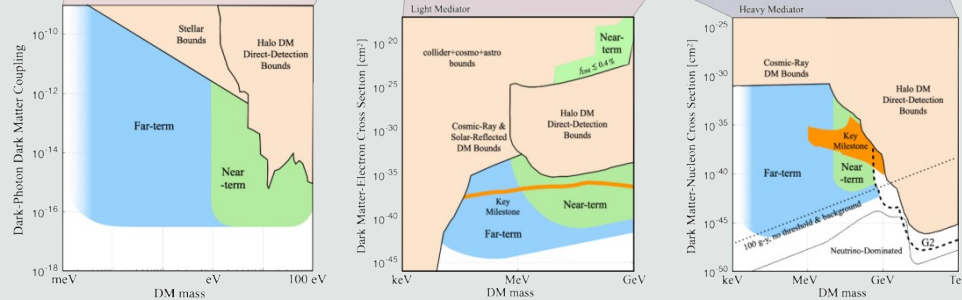


→ Inelastic scattering: dark-matter particle interacts with a bound electron in the atom

Absorption



■ Near-term
■ Longer-term



All types of interactions DM can have with target material

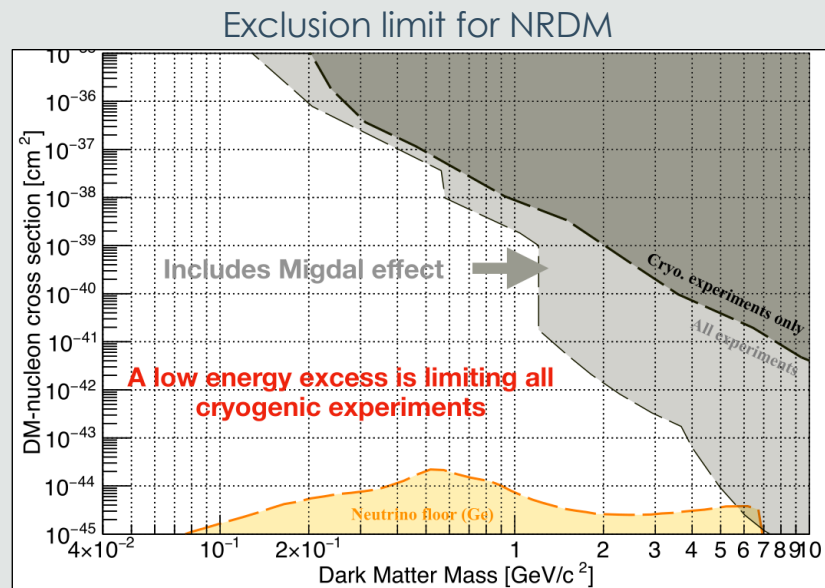
- **Nuclear recoils (NR)**: Nuclear interactions
ex.: WIMP searches
- **Electronic recoils (ER)**: electromagnetic interactions
→ favored for light DM
- **Absorption**: keeps all DM KE, released in detector

→ With all 3 interaction types: cover wide range from meV to TeV

Adapted from doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2024.116465
Itself adapted from arxiv.org/pdf/2203.08297

Low-mass Nuclear Recoil DM

Migdal effect: after NR, you kick out electron
→ boosting signal



- ▶ Only cryogenic experiments are measuring NR energy scale with no assumption
- ▶ Many other experiments (mainly liquid Xe or Ar experiments) take into account some systematics making assumptions on ionization yields or include Migdal effect

Cryogenic experiments was believed to take the lead on low-mass DM search

But when lowering energy thresholds up to 1 eV, we see **Low Energy Excess (LEE)** limiting all cryogenic experiments below 1 GeV mass scale (CRESST, Edelweiss, SuperCDMS)

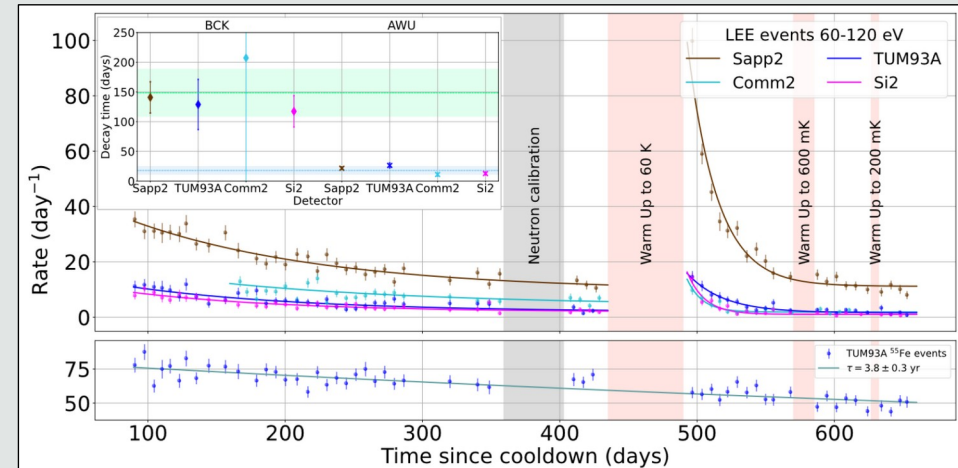
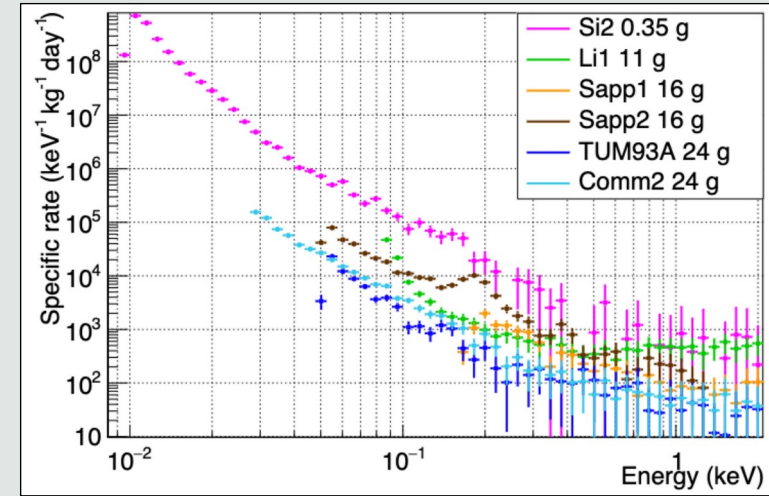
The Low Energy Excess

LEE or “Heat-only”



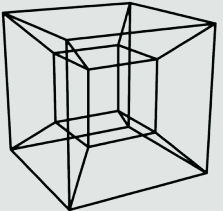
Rise in background rates below 1 keV → goes up to 10^8 DRU
→ Limiting DM sensitivity

- ▶ **Seen by all cryogenic experiments** (+ quantum computing)
- ▶ **Time dependent** → warming up = “recharging” background
Could happen in bulk of crystal or in sensor (to be answered)
- ▶ **Non-ionizing** (from Edelweiss)
→ can be rejected if measuring **heat** (phonons) + **ionization**
- ▶ Independent of the site



A multi-target experiment to search to low mass dark matter

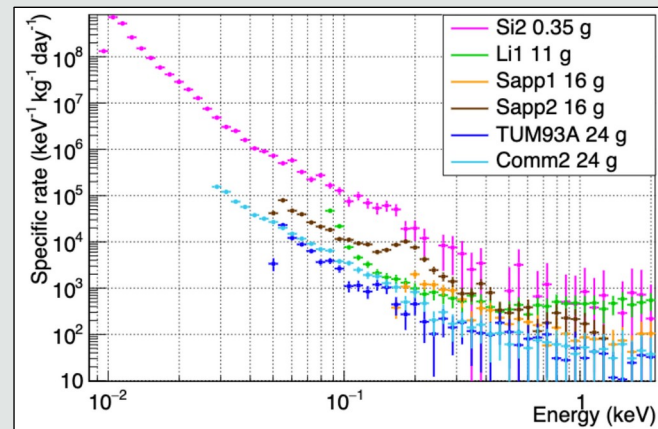
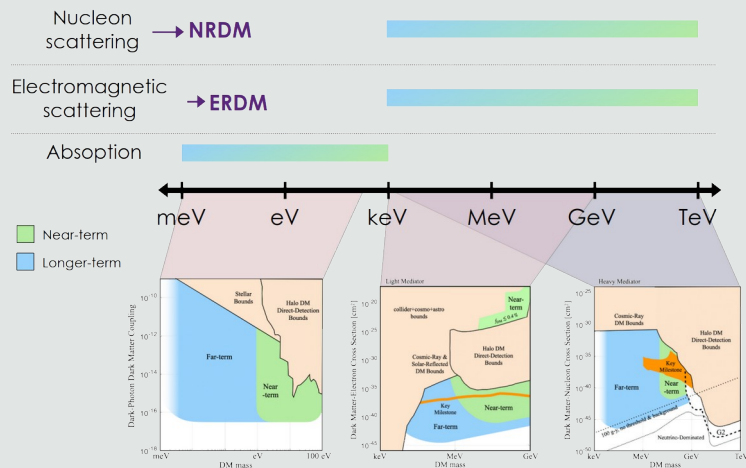
The TESSERACT experiment



TESSERACT

TESSERACT idea: have a broad search of DM

Transition Edge Sensors with Sub-Ev Resolution And Cryogenic Targets



Goal of TESSERACT

Extend DM search window from meV to GeV with cryogenic detectors with

- ▶ Multiple target (complementarity)
- ▶ PID (important for background rejection, very hard without PID)
→ Depending on technology

LEE: drives design of TESSERACT

- ▶ Ultra low threshold
- ▶ Find origin of LEE + mitigate it
- ▶ + Develop technics to reject this background

The TESSERACT collaboration and technologies

Transition Edge Sensors with Sub-Ev Resolution And Cryogenic Targets

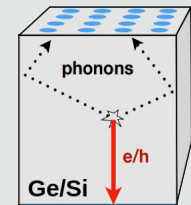
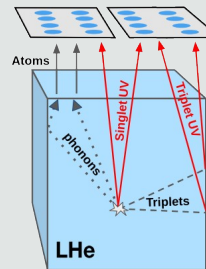
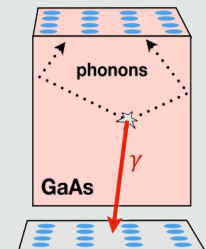
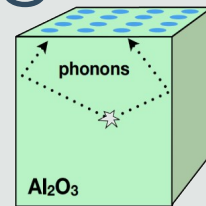
TESSERACT existing in U.S. since June 2020 for R&D development

→ 3 different technologies **using TES sensors** (Transition Edge Sensors): heat (phonon) sensors

- ▶ Polar crystals: sapphire (Al_2O_3)
- ▶ Gallium Arsenite (GaAs) → scintillation light + heat energy (as in CRESST)
- ▶ Liquid Helium target

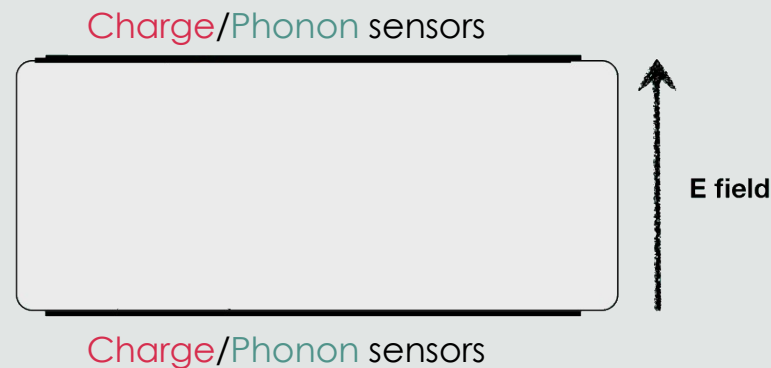
French part of collaboration benefits from Edelweiss / RICOCHET / CuPID with **low-background bolometer expertise**

- ▶ Add **Germanium bolometers** to TESSERACT technologies
 - ▶ **Installation at LSM**
- **TES4DM project**



Ge/Si bolometers

Phonons are **collective excitations** of the atoms in a solid or liquid
→ simplest example: sound waves in a medium

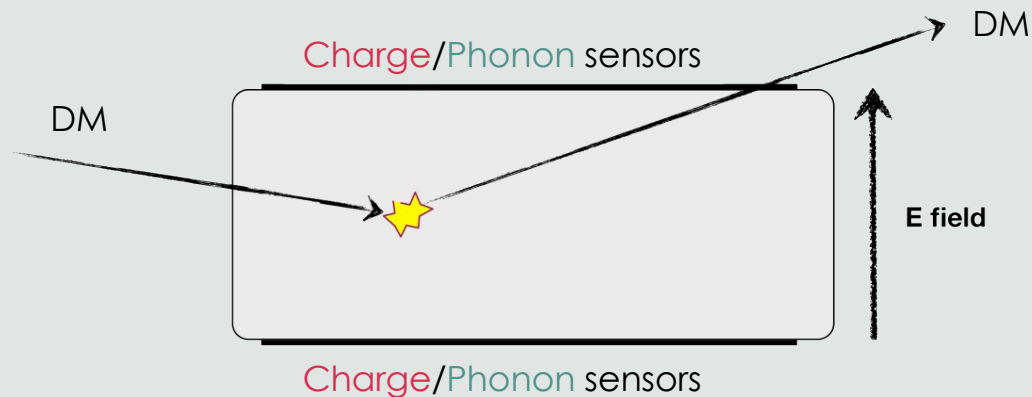


Ge/Si bolometers

Phonons are **collective excitations** of the atoms in a solid or liquid
→ simplest example: sound waves in a medium

1. Particle interacts in crystal

There are **charge** and **phonon** sensors on both sides allowing to apply electric field



Ge/Si bolometers

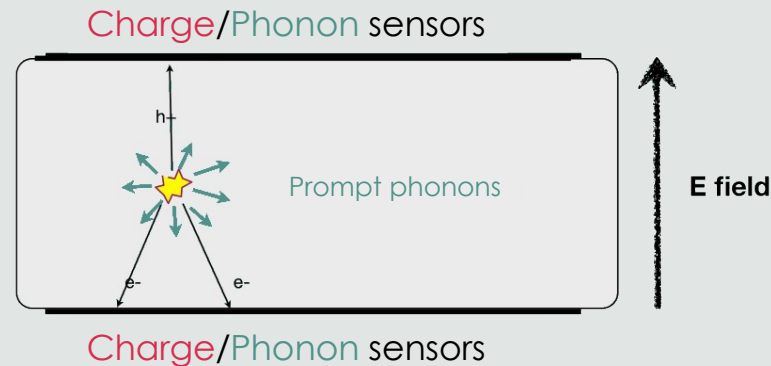
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2. After interaction → emission of

- prompt phonons **coming from recoil** energy
- + ionization creating electron-hole pairs



Ge/Si bolometers

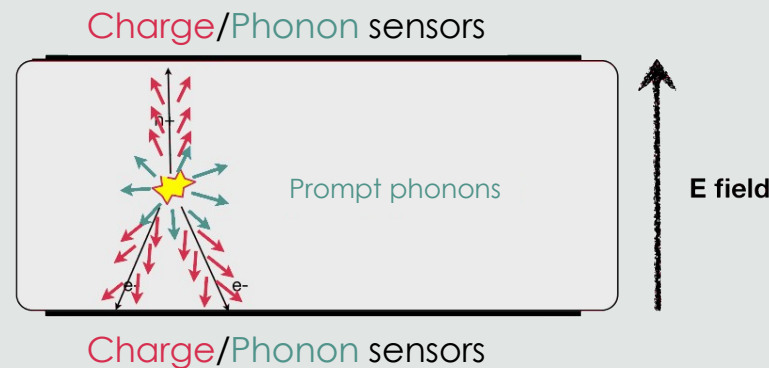
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- + ionization creating electron-hole pairs
→ e-h pairs will drift across electric field
→ will generate additional phonons (like Joules effect) called “Neganov-Luke-Trovimov phonons”



Ge/Si bolometers

Phonons are **collective excitations** of the atoms in a solid or liquid
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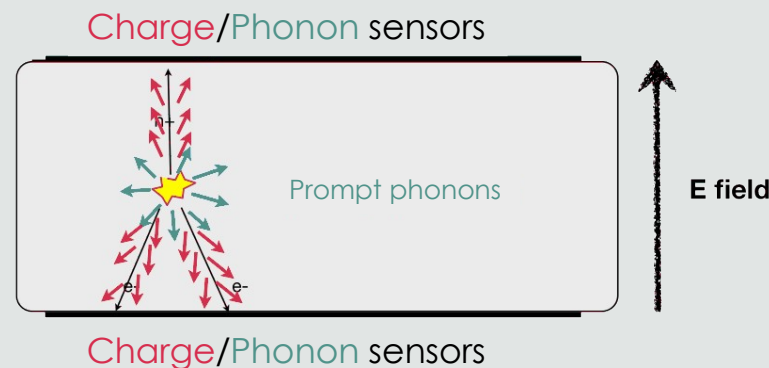
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→ e-h pairs will drift across electric field
→ will generate additional phonons (like Joules effect) called “Neganov-Luke-Trovimov phonons”

$$\begin{aligned} E_{total} &= E_{recoil} + E_{luke} \\ &= E_{recoil} + \frac{1}{3 \text{ eV}} E_{ion} \Delta V \end{aligned}$$

Measuring both **phonons (heat)** and **ionization**
→ can recover total energy, **model independent**

If increase Voltage, you boost NTL (Luke) contribution
→ “NTL” **signal amplification**



The TES sensors

Phonons are **collective excitations** of the atoms in a solid or liquid
→ simplest example: sound waves in a medium

A Cooper pair is a pair of fermions
bound together at low temperatures

Used in DM for some time (CRESST → TES, Edelweiss → NTD)

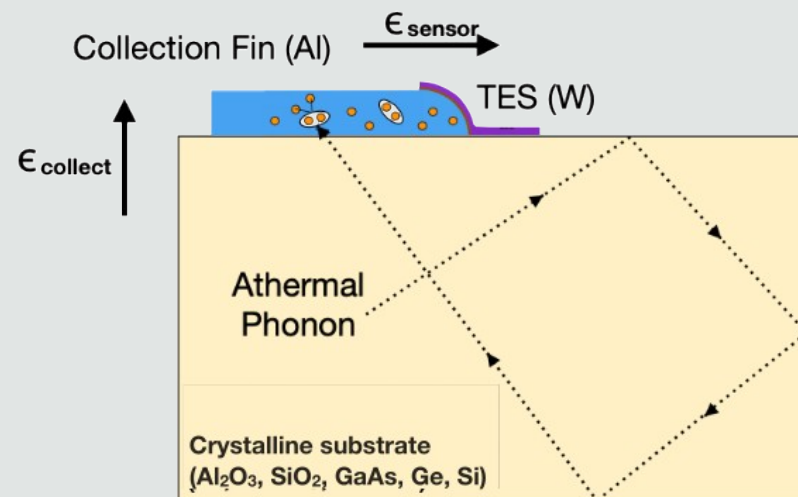
Principle:

- ▶ Interaction in target material, generating athermal **phonons** bouncing around in crystal
- ▶ Some phonons trapped in Collection Fin (Al) (Cooper pairs), **breaking the Cooper pairs**
- ▶ **Creates quasi-particles**, then drifting to TES sensor
- ▶ Quasi-particles absorption → **measurement of heat**

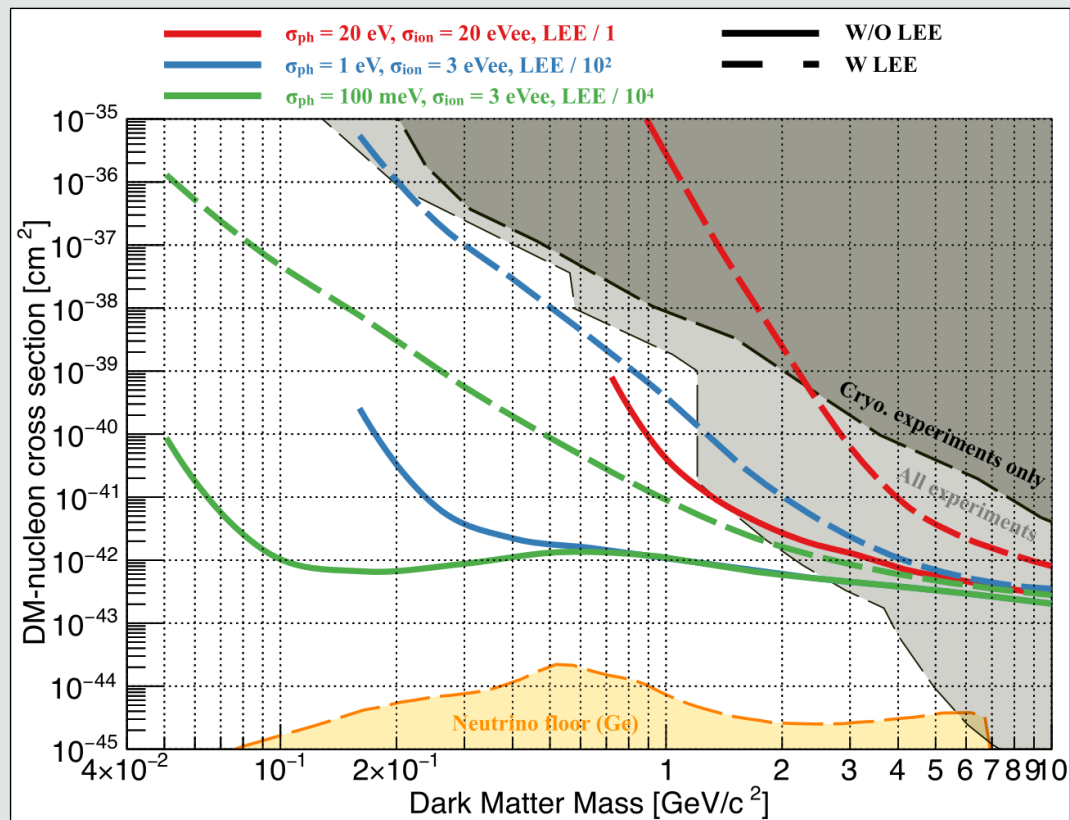
$$\sigma_E \propto V_{det}^{1/2} T_c^3$$

Energy threshold decreases
with detector mass

Energy threshold decreases very
quickly with critical temperature

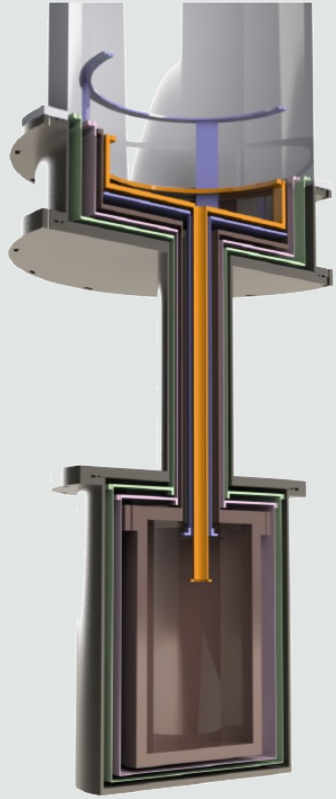


Germanium bolometers in TESSERACT



Ge bolometers (LV) technology in TESSERACT will allow to vastly extend NRDM searches down to 100 MeV with **particle ID** and **LEE** rejection in a region of the parameter space inaccessible to non-cryogenic experiments

The TES4DM project

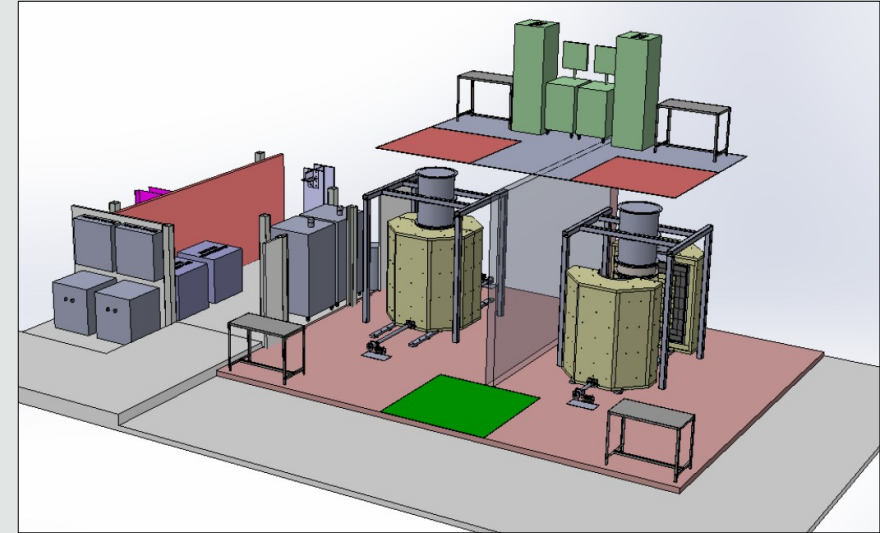


TESSERACT@LSM = 2 (cryostats+shielding) at LSM, **one** is paid by **TES4DM**
(French contribution)

A lot of challenges

- ▶ **Vibrations:** movement at nm scale
- ▶ **Electromagnetic interferences**
- ▶ **Cryogenic** performances **<10 mK**
- ▶ **Ultra-low radioactivity:** **<1 event/kg/day**

Preliminary
(& without clean rooms displayed)

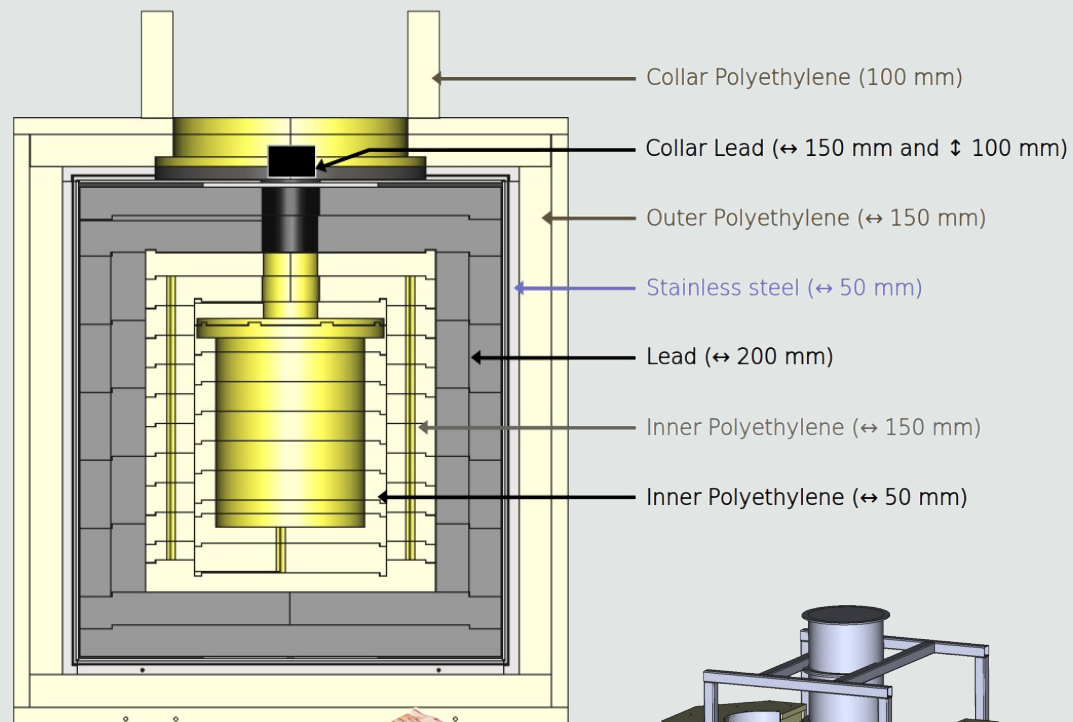


The TES4DM project: timeline

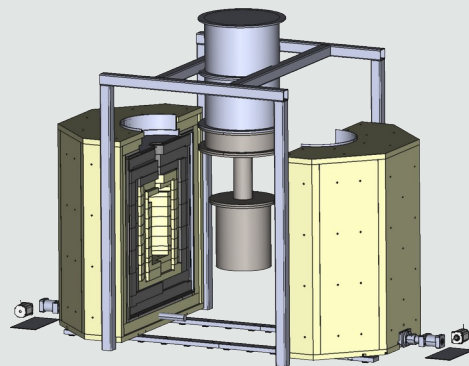
- ▶ Tender process ongoing for **cryostat**, should be finalized by the **end of 2025**
- ▶ Tender process for **shielding** will start early **2026**
- ▶ **Commissioning at LPSC** before integration at LSM
- ▶ **Installation at LSM planned for 2028**



The conception of the shielding for TESSERACT



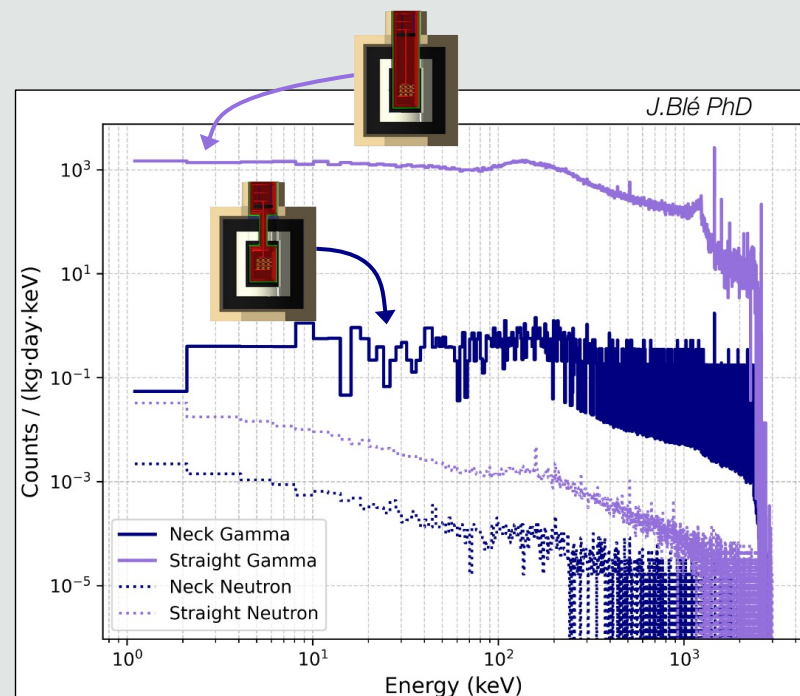
~20 T of



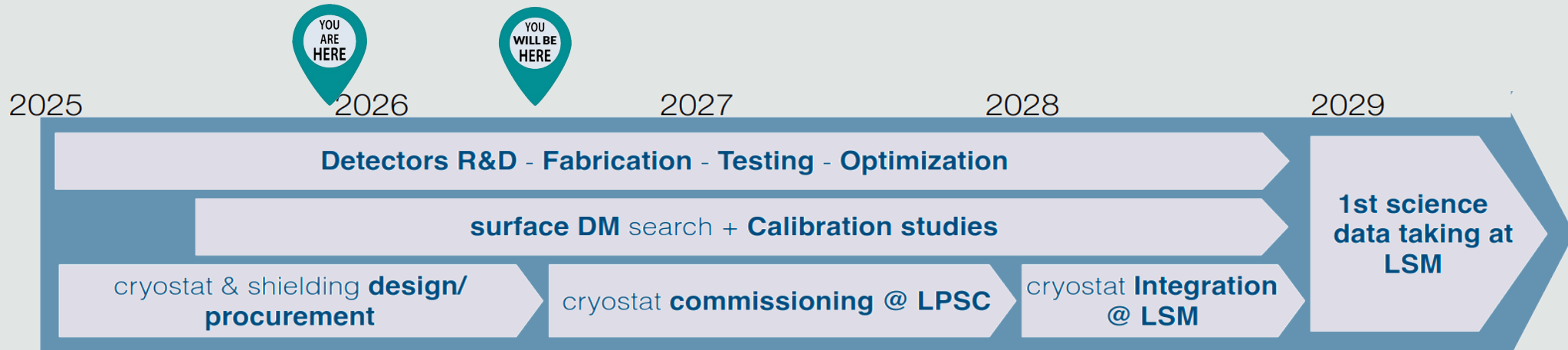
Work with U.S. and Zurich on design

A lot of G4 simulations ongoing

- Material of internal layer
- Radiopurity needed for different layers



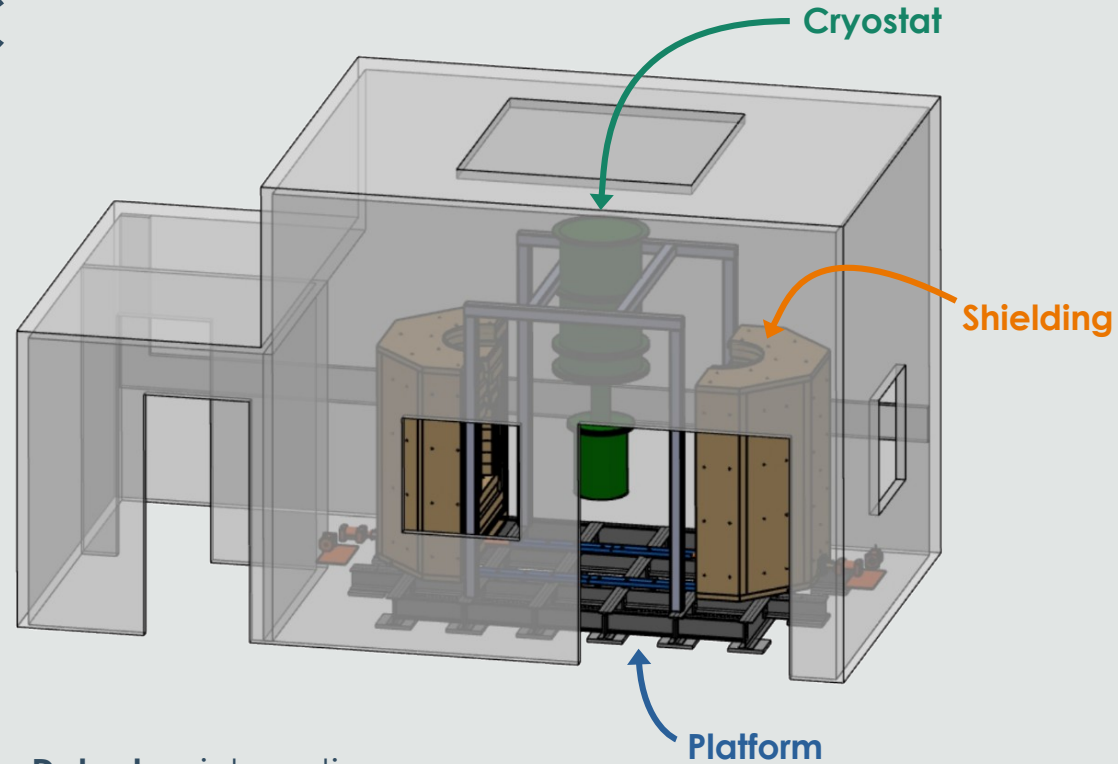
The TES4DM project: timeline



Commissioning at LPSC

Platform, shielding, and cryostat integration

- Installations
- Procedure drafting
- Commissioning



Detectors integration

- Installations
- Repetition of maneuvers
- Drafting of procedures
- Commissioning
- Performance validation

Which message to take home?

- ▶ Not that easy to detect particles/processes that may not exist
- ▶ We have to consider a lot of parameters
 - ▷ Some are common to several fields
 - ▷ Some are specific
- ▶ A lot of technologies, some are shared between Neutrino and Dark Matter physics fields

Both fields have a lot in common! (GDR DUPhy)

Which message to take home?

- ▶ Not that easy to detect particles/processes that may not exist
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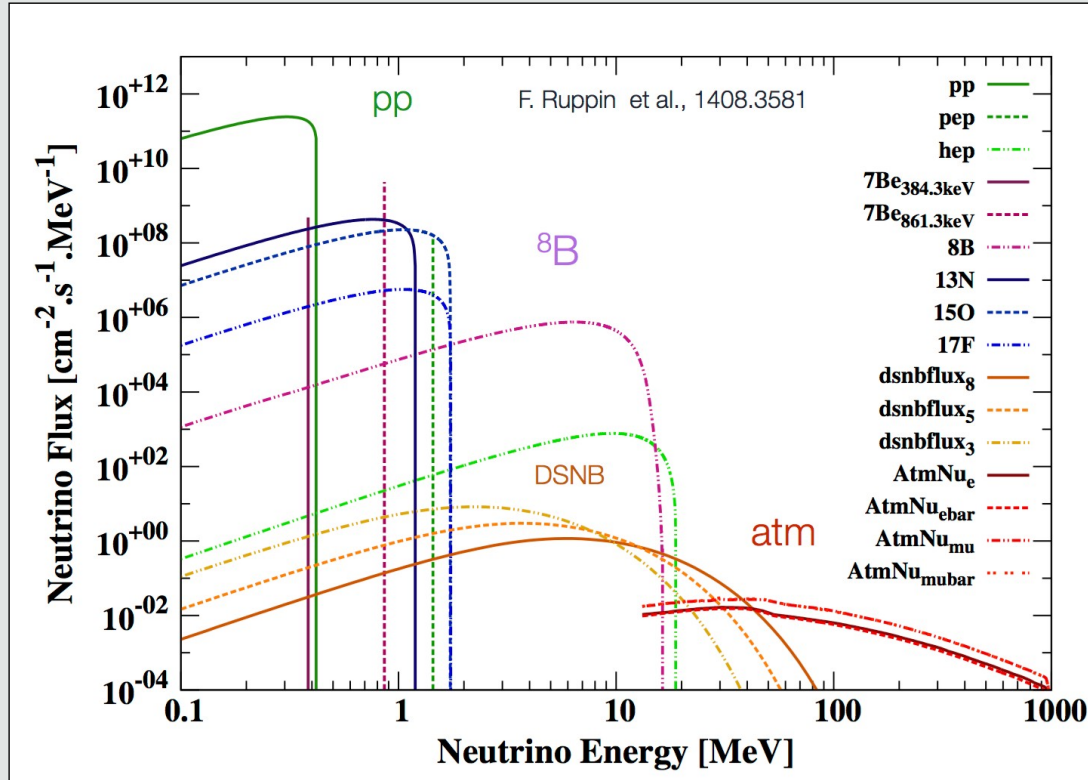
- ▶ OR Maybe we should do like cats and do not care too much about physics...



THANK YOU

Backup

Neutrino spectrum



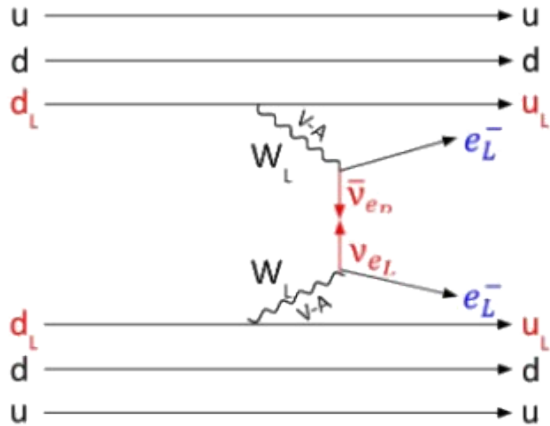
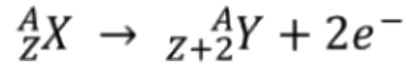
- Cosmic rays & cosmogenic activation of detector materials
- Natural radioactivity (^{238}U , ^{232}Th , ^{40}K): γ , e^- , n , α , β

Ultimately:

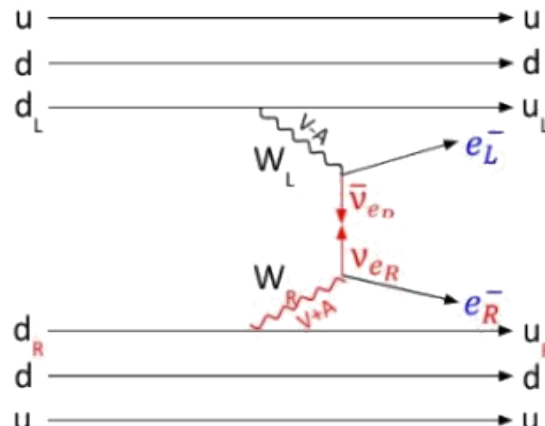
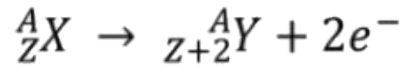
- neutrino-nucleus scattering (solar, atmospheric and supernovae neutrinos)

Neutrinoless double beta decays

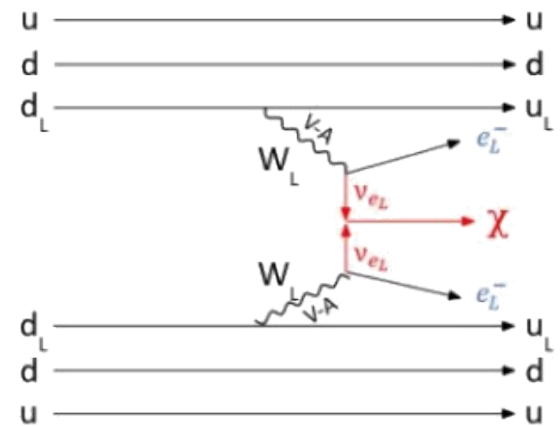
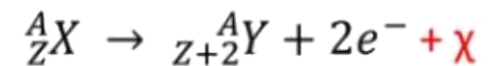
Many different models result in neutrinoless decay modes:



V-A current



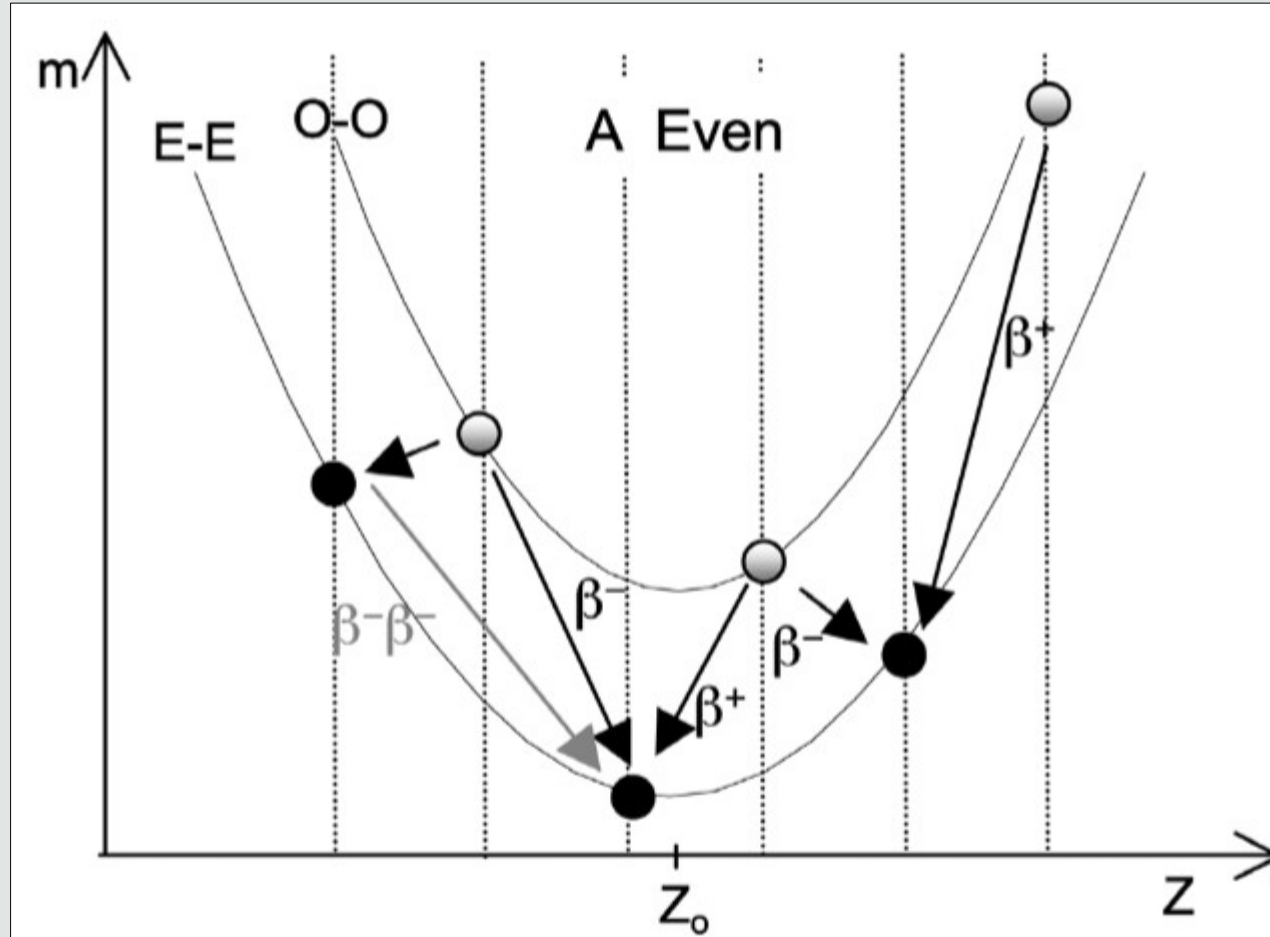
V+A current



Majoron emission

■ ■ ■

Double beta decays



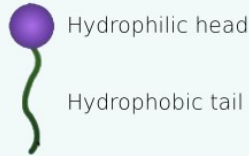
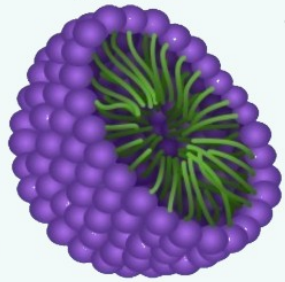
Simplified model of γ -ray flux in LSM

Isotope	γ -ray energy, keV	Flux, $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
^{40}K	1461	0.1
^{208}Tl	2615	0.04
^{214}Bi	1764	0.05
	1600	0.026
	1300	0.041
	1120	0.046
	609	0.109
Total		0.411

Hybrid liquid scintillator

Separate Cherenkov and scintillation lights

Water-based approach:



Micelles suspended in water with surfactant interface (1-10% scintillator loading)

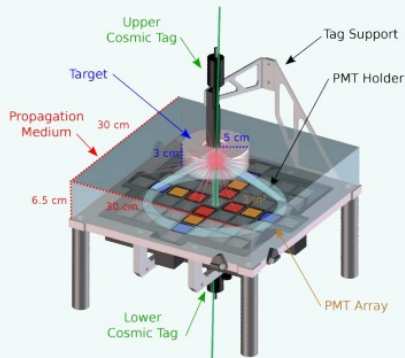
- ▶ Advantage: safe to handle
- ▶ Disadvantage: low light yield

Hybrid-slow approach: using slow solvents

Advantages:

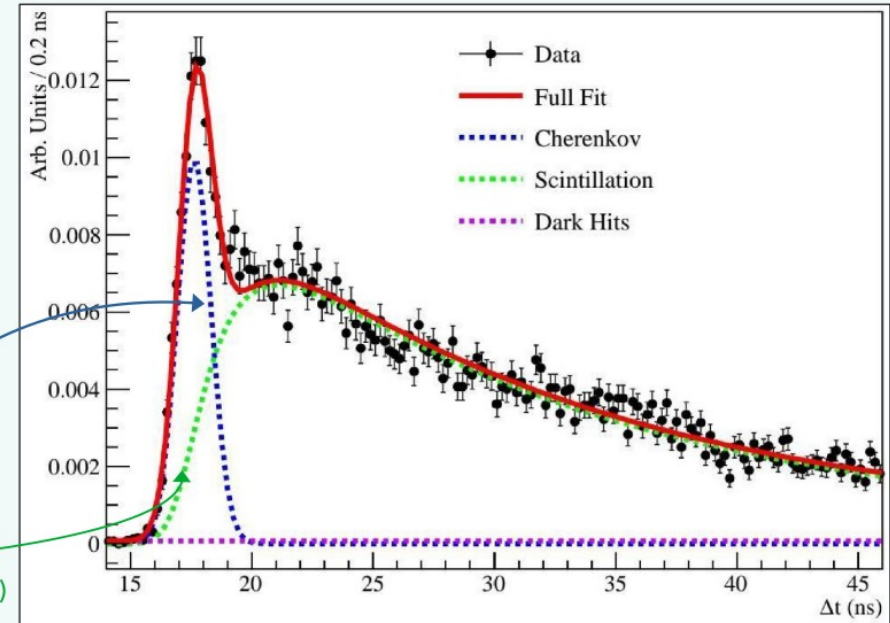
- ▶ High scintillation LY \rightarrow good energy resolution
- ▶ Low energy threshold

CHESS Setup:



Small Cherenkov peak visible in the beginning of light emission

Scintillation light delayed in time ($\tau > 10$ ns)



Development of a Bi-solvent Liquid Scintillator with Slow Light Emission, H.Th.J. Steiger et al., 2024

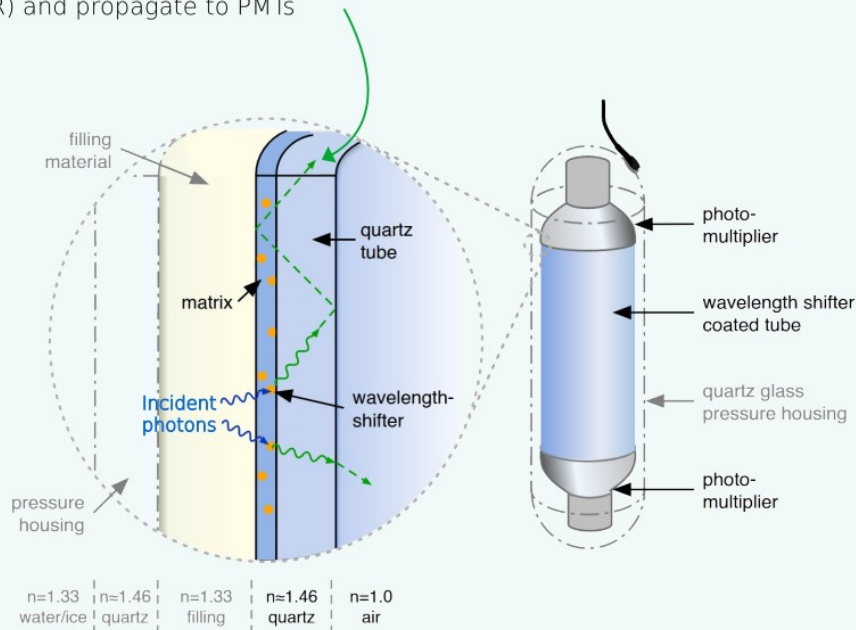
WOMs for IceCube Upgrade

Wavelength shifter only on surface of the tube

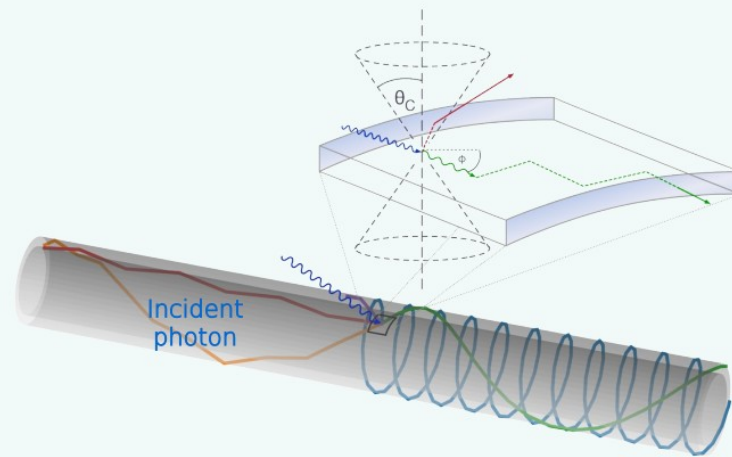
Goal: improve signal-to-noise ratio by maximizing light capture

Idea: decouple photosensitive area and cathode of PMT → Transparent tube + two PMTs at each end

Re-emitted optical photons can be captured by total internal reflection (TIR) and propagate to PMTs



These re-emitted photons can propagate with different paths in the coated tube:

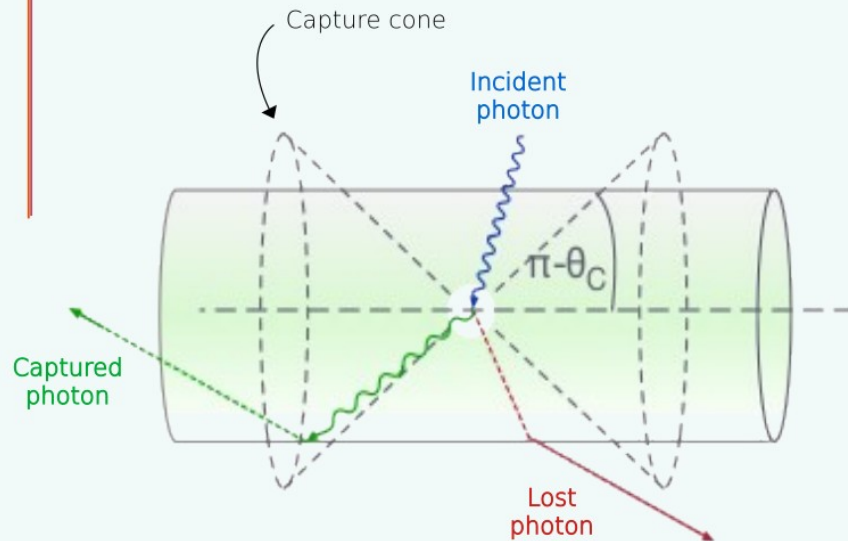


The Wavelength-Shifting Optical Module, B. Bastian-Querner et al., 2022

R&D on improved light readout

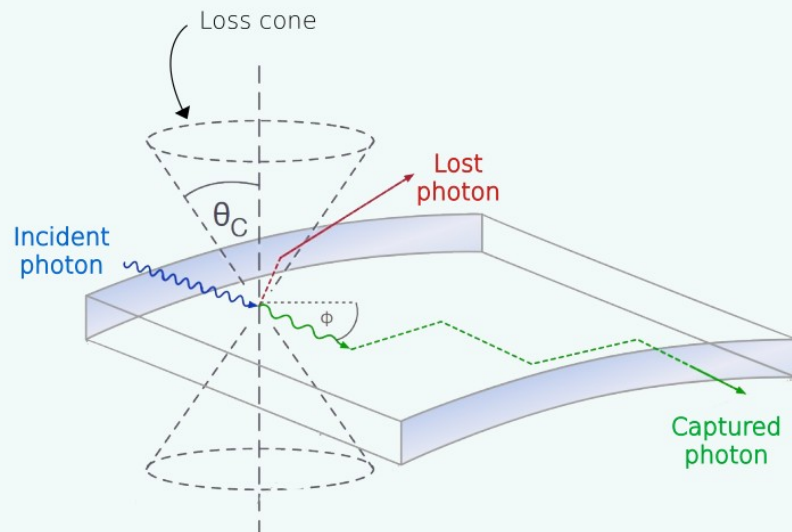
Commercial Wavelength-shifting fibers

For an incident photon in center of fiber:

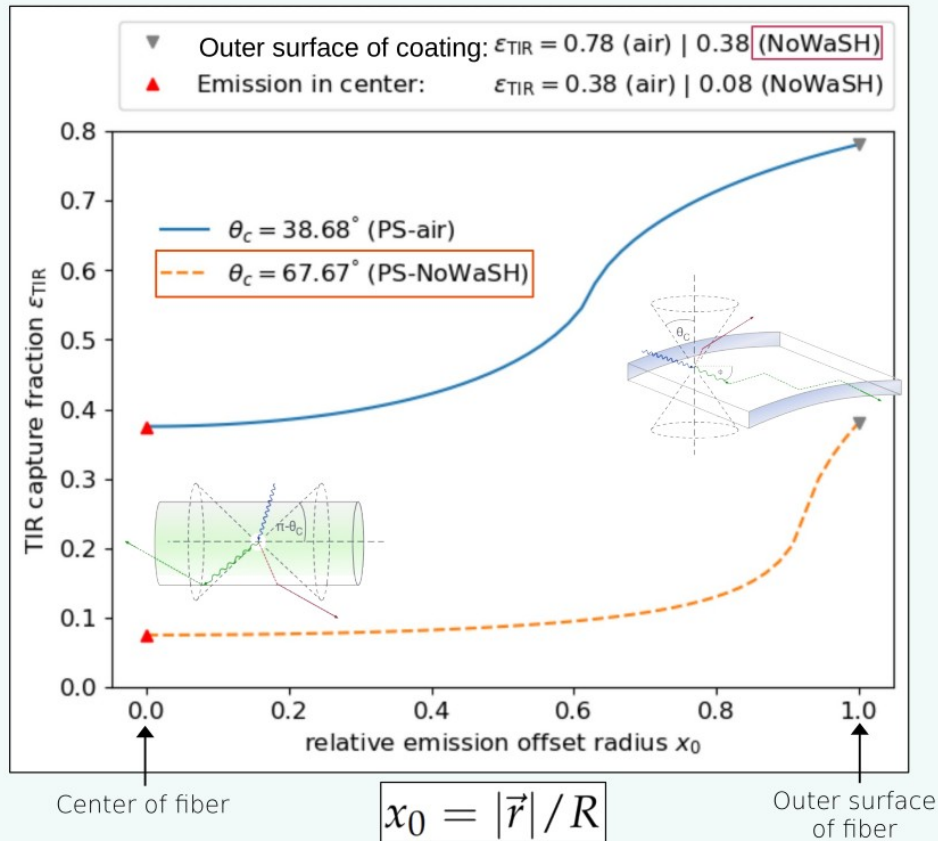


Modules developed for IceCube Upgrade

Incident photons on outer surface of fiber (tube) only

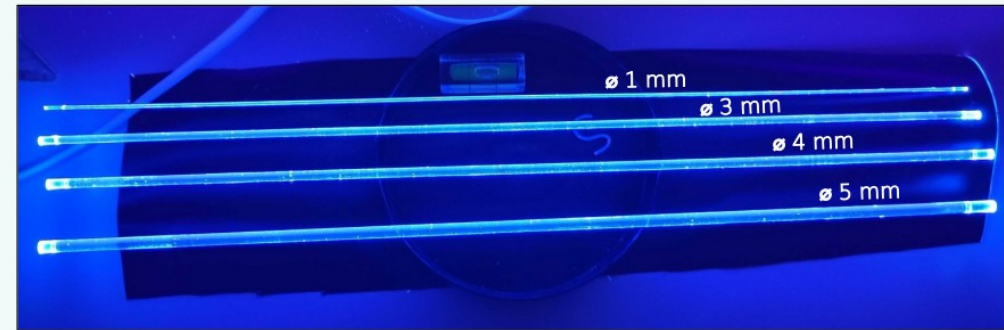


R&D on improved light readout



Photons absorbed and emitted on outer **surface of fibre** have **higher chance** of being captured by total internal reflection (TIR)

First prototypes of polystyrene-based **OWL-fibers**



OWL = Optimised Wavelength-shifting fibres
 PMMA fibers of \sim mm diameter, coated with wavelength-shifting paint

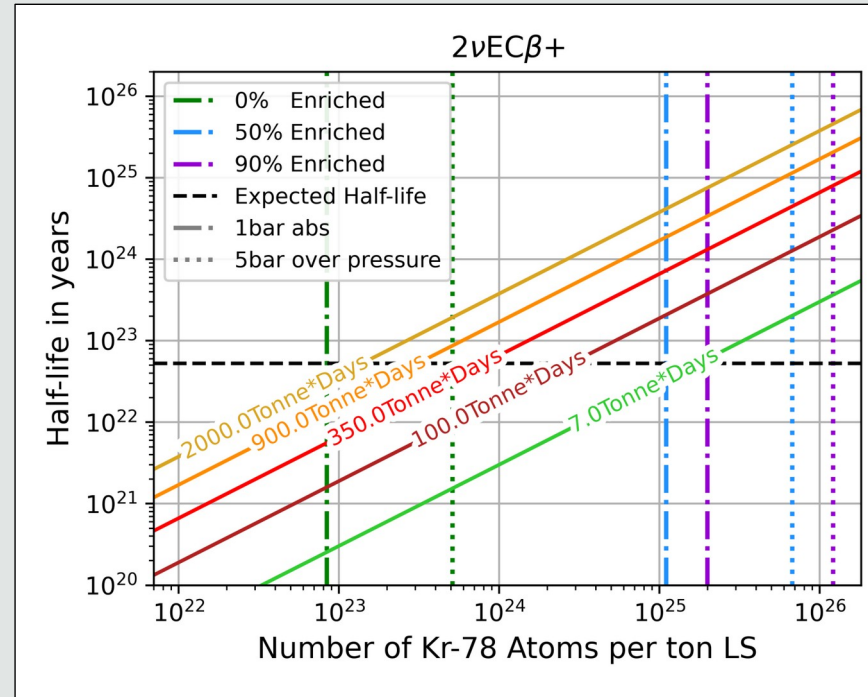
Expected sensitivity of NuDoubt⁺⁺

After **20kg.year** exposure (~1 year operation):

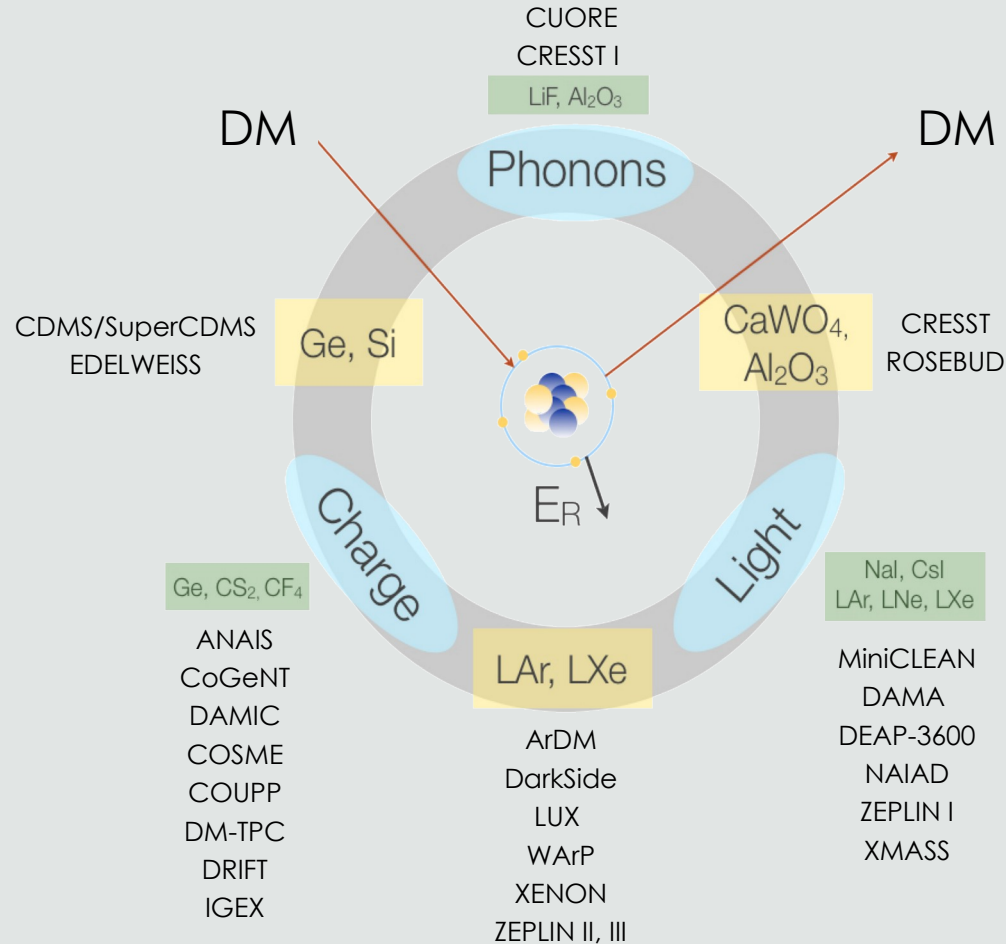
- First-time 5 σ observation of SM modes $2\nu\text{EC}\beta^+ / 2\nu 2\beta^+$

Assuming Gran Sasso overburden

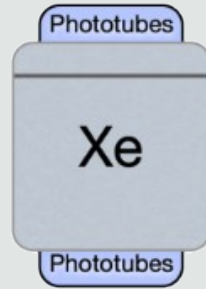
Expected 5 σ observation sensitivity



Dark Matter direct detection

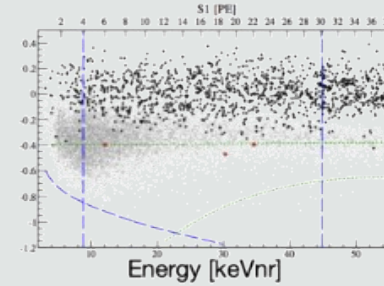


Dark Matter direct detection

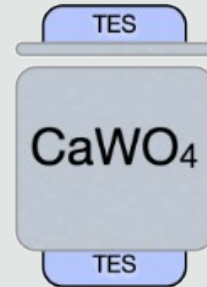
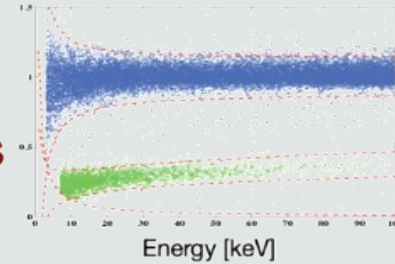


$$yield = \frac{E_{channel1}}{E_{channel2}}$$

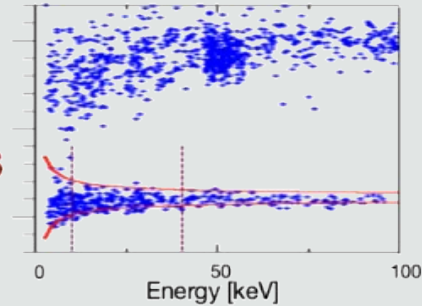
charge
photons



charge
phonons

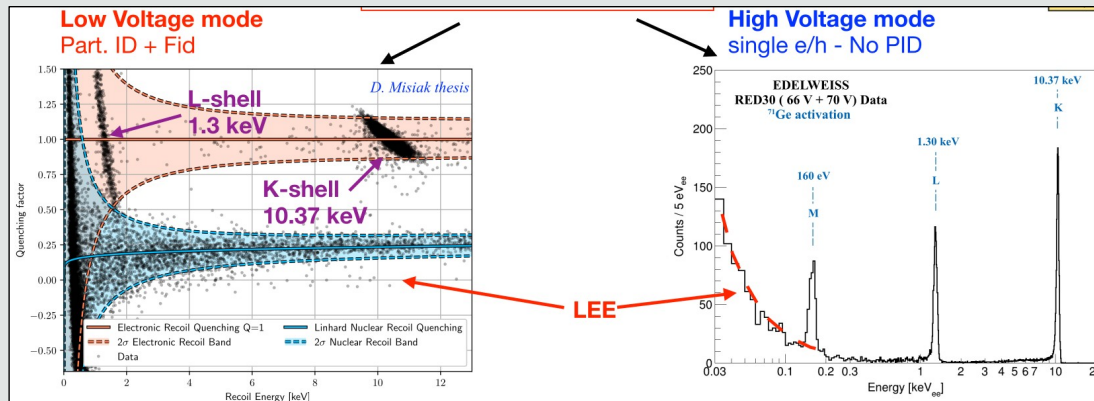


photons
phonons



Ge HV detector for TESSERACT

$$\begin{aligned} E_{total} &= E_{recoil} + E_{luke} \\ &= E_{recoil} + \frac{1}{3 \text{ eV}} E_{ion} \Delta V \end{aligned}$$



This technology was done in EDW, with 2 modes

- **Low Voltage** (LV) mode
- **High Voltage** (HV) mode

We see LEE in both cases

LV mode

- In orange: γ events centered around $Q = 1$ (due to calib)
- We see 1,3 keV and 10.37 keV lines from X-ray L- and K-lines from ^{71}Ge
- In blue: nuclear recoils

HV mode

Go to very low energy: observes K and L lines, but also M-shell line of ^{71}Ge (160 eV)

Ge HV detector for TESSERACT

→ Goal: enhance sensitivity to ERDM

- No PID
- Much lower threshold → ERDM

The scheme of electrodes gives ++ intense electric field near SSED (Superconducting Single Electron Detector) sensor

Most of Luke phonons at this location

SSED see burst of phonons coming from one electron → being able to tag one electron for an event

At 200 V (see CRYOSEL results)

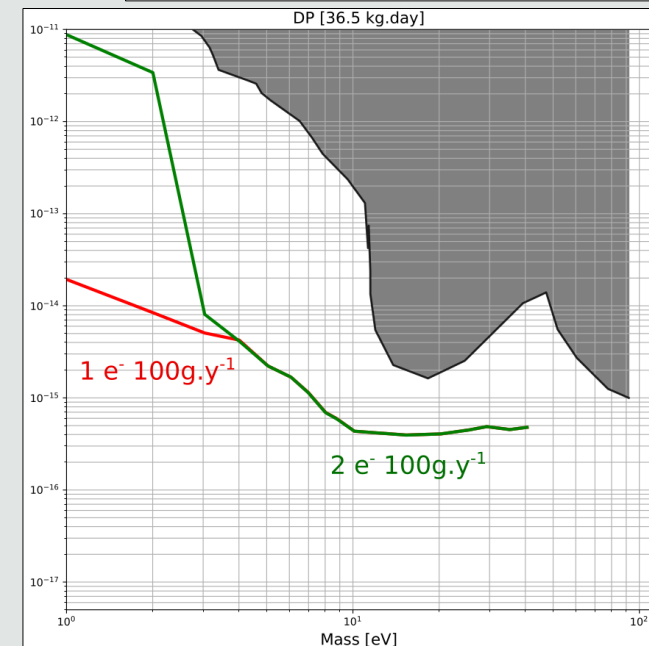
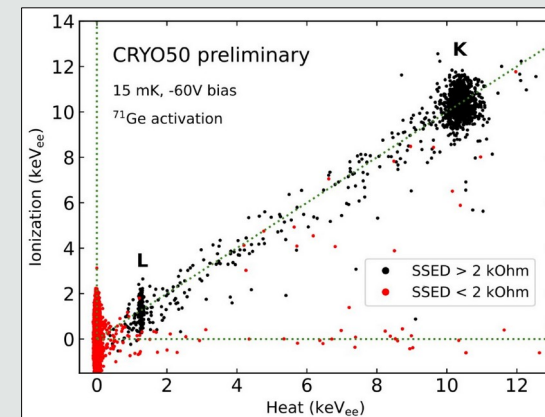
→ If you have single e-h sensitivity from heat (phonon) sensor

→ + this tagging from SSED

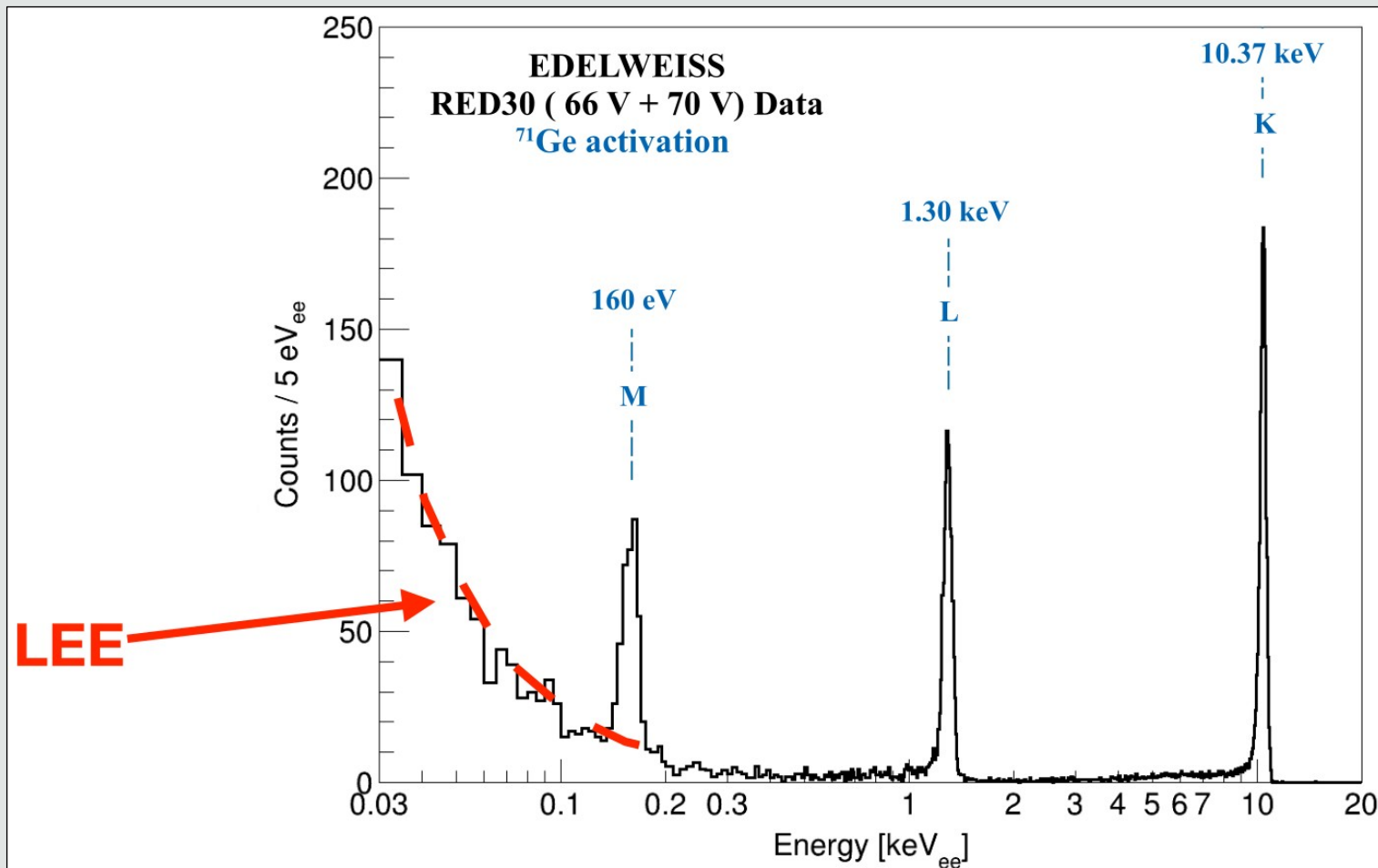
You reject all energy excess + very good single electron sensitivity

On top of that for TESSERACT:

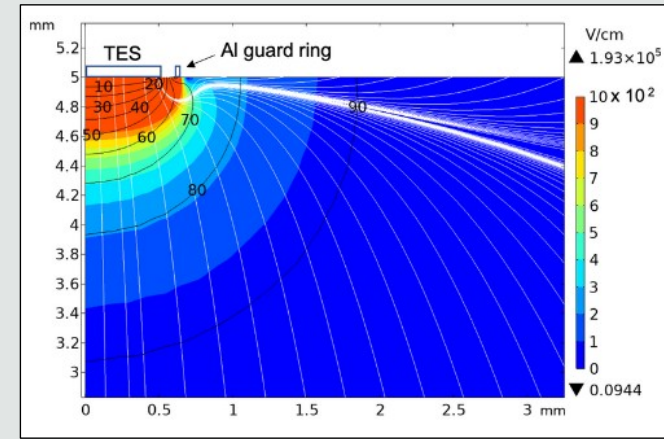
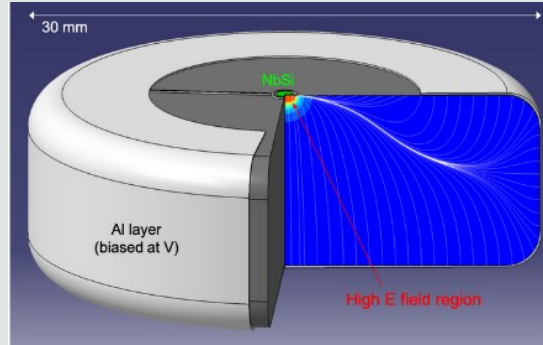
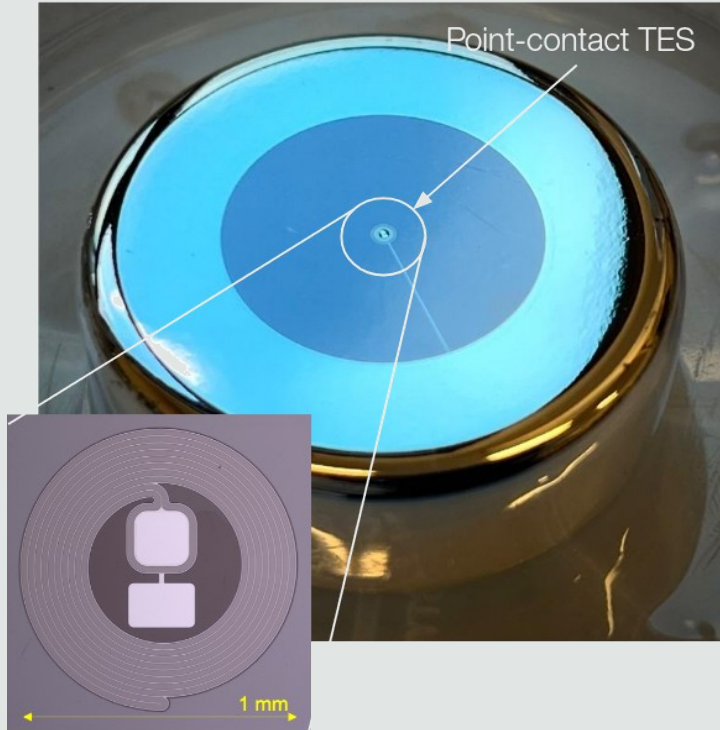
- Using TES for heat channel → sub-eV SSED energy threshold
 - Very good control of IR bkg
- very good sensitivities to ERDM processes with LEE discrimination



Ge HV detector for TESSERACT



Ge HV detector for TESSERACT



Ge LV detector for TESSERACT

→ Goal: PID

Measure independently heat + ionization energy

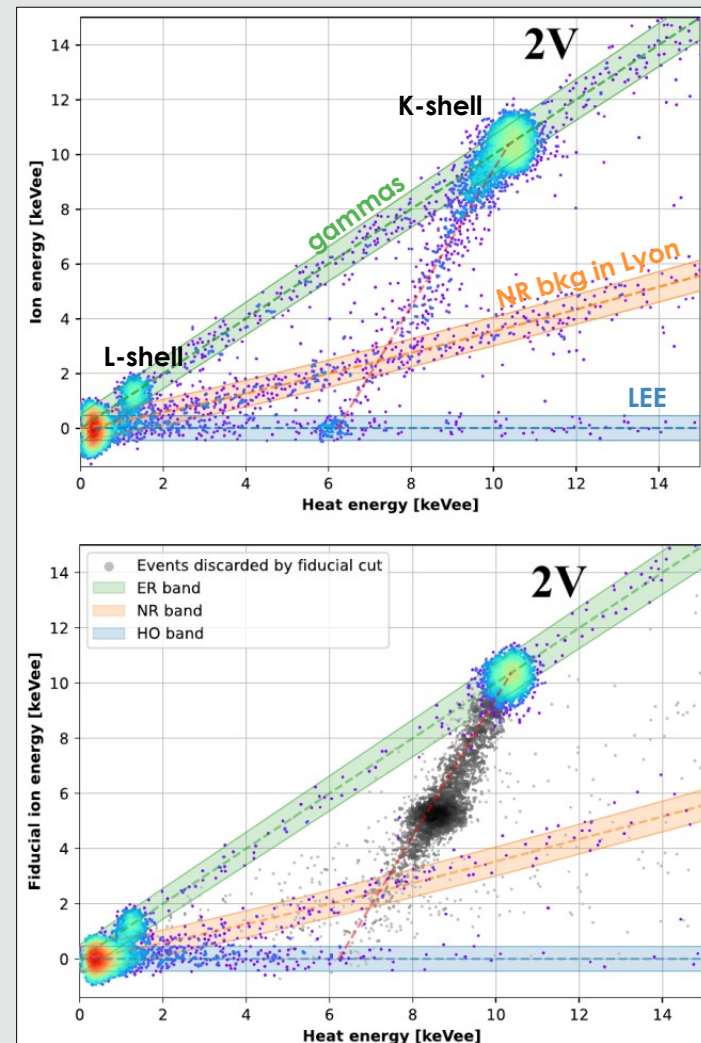
Work at low voltage to avoid too many Luke phonons

Classic config: electrodes on both sides of crystal, measure ionization + heat energy

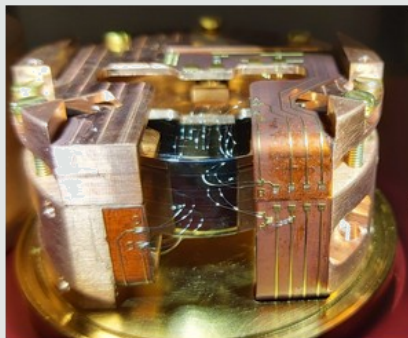
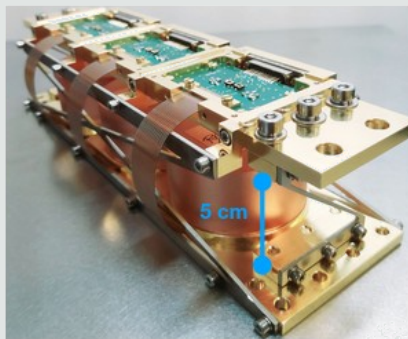
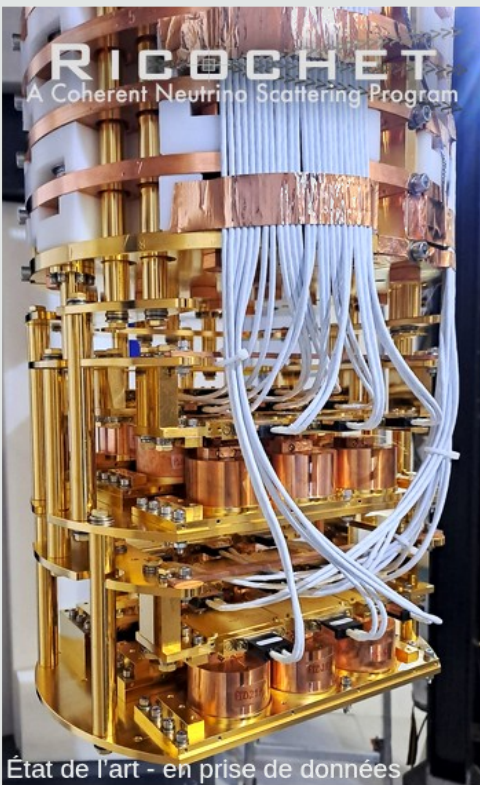
You see gamma population (K and L shell lines) + NR bkg in Lyon + LEE ("heat-only")

With FID electrode → rejecting surface events

Rejection surface bkg → proven by EDW



Ge LV detector for TESSERACT



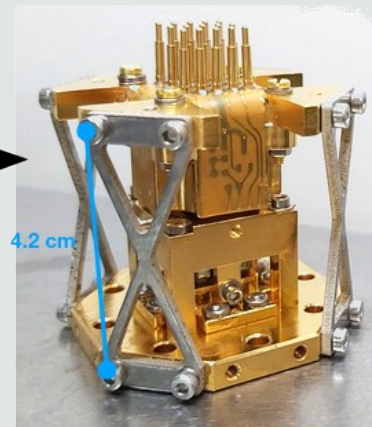
m 40 g
 C_{det} 10 pF
 C_{par} 40 pF
 σ_{heat} 30 eV_{ph}
 σ_{lon} 30 eV_{ee}

1ere étape - Faisabilité

m 5 g
 C_{det} 1 pF
 C_{par} <10 pF
 σ_{heat} 20 eV_{ph}
 σ_{lon} 20 eV_{ee}

2eme étape - Optimisation

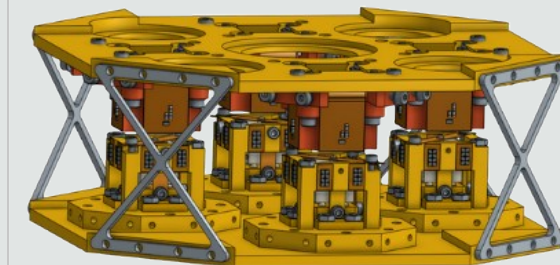
m 5 g
 C_{det} 1 pF
 C_{par} 1 pF
 σ_{heat} 10 eV_{ph}
 σ_{lon} 10 eV_{ee}



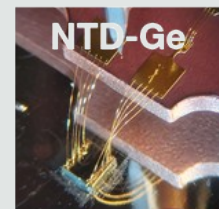
Technologie LV - Forme finale

Développement de la segmentation

4 x détecteur

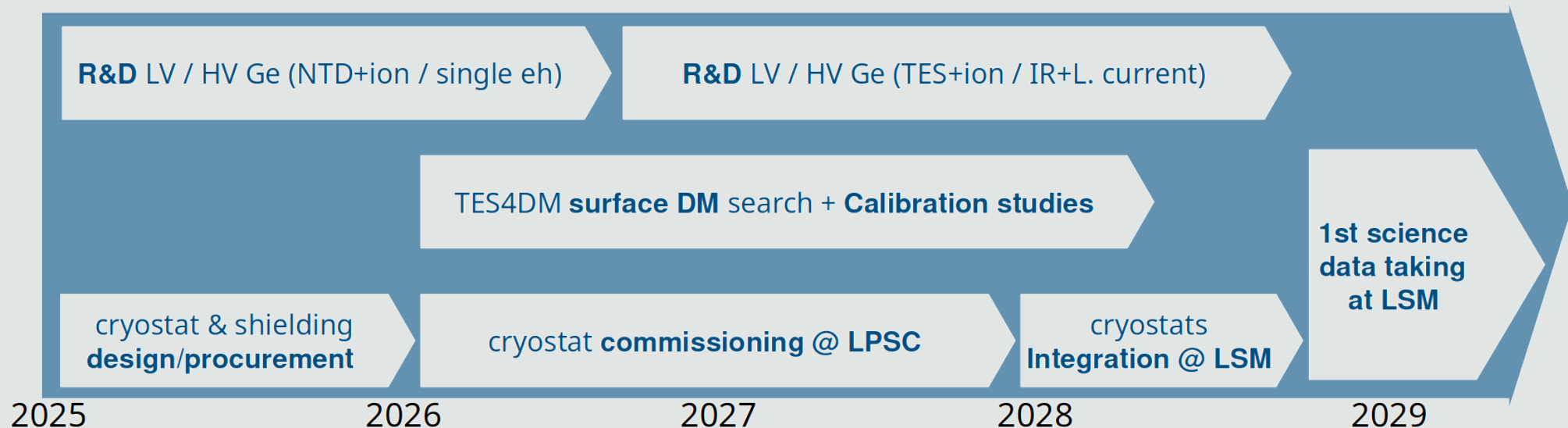


Transition technologique (LV-TES)



m 4x5 g
 C_{det} 1 pF
 C_{par} 1 pF
 σ_{heat} 0.1 eV_{ph}
 σ_{lon} 10 eV_{ee}

TESSERACT timeline with LV/HV



Summary of TESSERACT technologies

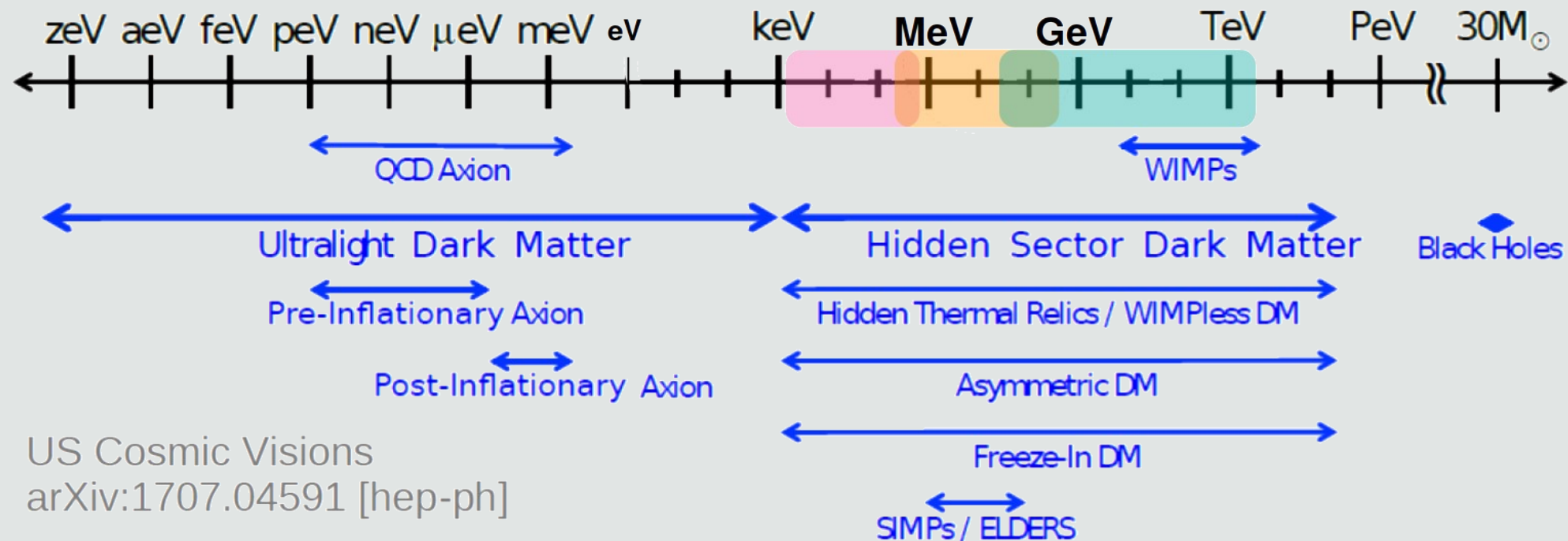
	Target	Search type	Mass range	LEE rejection	Particle ID
SPICE Polar crystals	Al ₂ O ₃ , SiO ₂	ERDM	100 meV - MeV	Dual TES channel	None
SPICE Scintillator	GaAs	NRDM/ ERDM	eV - MeV MeV - GeV	Phonon/ photon coincidence	Dual Phonon-photon readout
HeRALD LHe	He	NRDM	MeV - GeV	Multiple He4/photon detector	Pulse shape discrimination
Semicon. High V	Ge, Si	ERDM	eV - MeV	SSED	None
Semicon. Low V	Ge, Si, C	NRDM	MeV - GeV	Phonon/ Ionization coincidence	Dual phonon-ionisation readout

Dark matter candidates

DM-nucleus scattering (nuclear recoil)

DM-electron scattering (electron recoil)

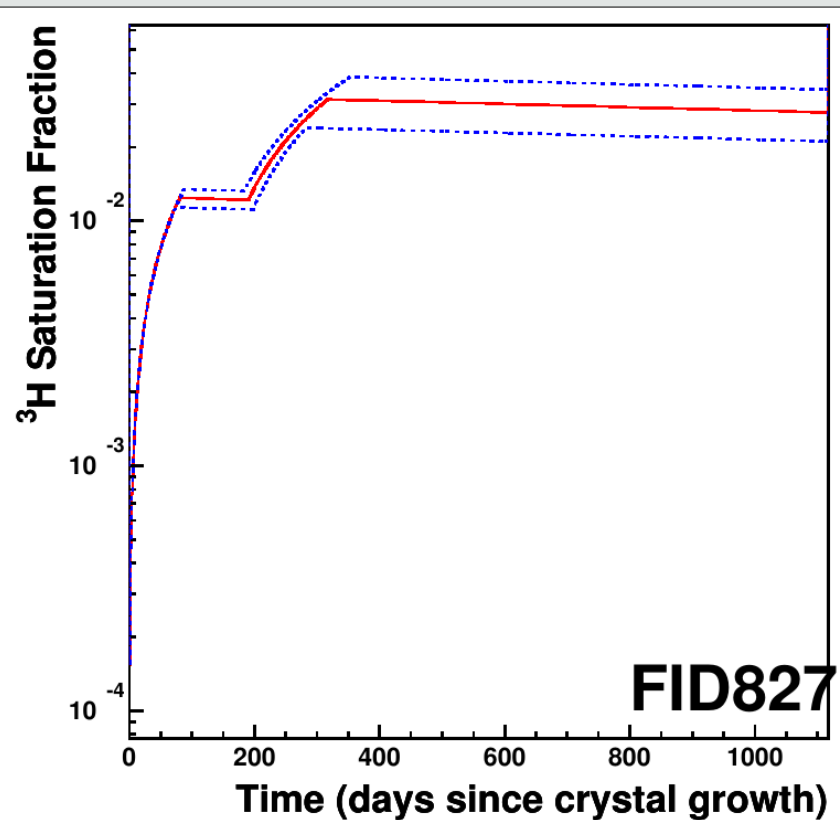
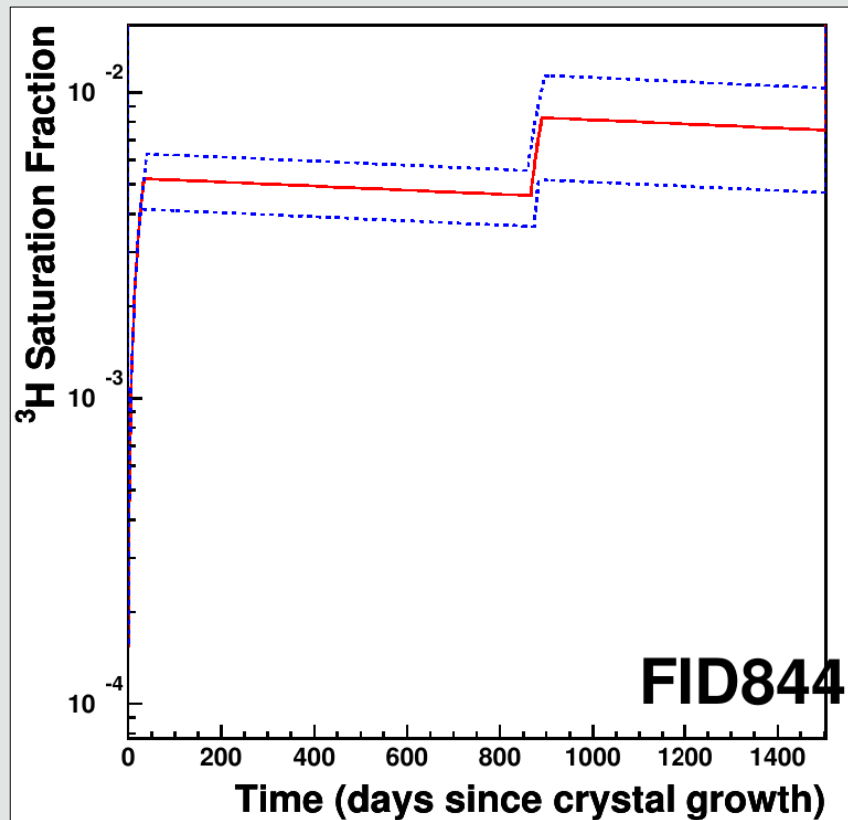
Absorption (electron recoil)



US Cosmic Visions

arXiv:1707.04591 [hep-ph]

Cosmogenic activation of Edelweiss Ge crystals



From *Measurement of the cosmogenic activation of germanium detectors in EDELWEISS-III, 2016*